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The History of Camp Quick A Legacy of Scout Camping in North Alabama

By Chris Brightwell

The Boy Scouts of America brought Scouting to the Huntsville area in the latter half of 1914 with the initial charter of the Tennessee Valley Council. The council initially served Madison, Limestone, Morgan, and Cullman counties in Alabama, as well as Lincoln County, Tennessee. (1) There is some evidence that individual troops existed in the area as early as 1911 (2) and this marked the beginning of an organized council in the area.

On January 4, 1925, The Huntsville Times published an article outlining some of the plans this new council had for local Scouts. Among the notes of new units and social activities, a call is made here for establishing a permanent camp location for long-term camping. (3)

A few months later, the council announced that a location had been found on the Flint River thanks to the generosity of Mr. W. L. Quick, featuring forty acres of forest and more than a quarter-mile of waterfront. (4) Mr. Quick gave the Scouts a 99-year lease at no cost. (5) The land was located at the modern intersection of the Flint River and Walker Lane, just east of the "Site of Quick Airplane Construction and Flight" historical marker.

The council camping committee was responsible for finding the location, making plans for the camp, establishing the facilities, and install a properly trained staff. In 1925, that committee included Jack Moore, Laurence Goldsmith, A. W. White, P. S. Dunnivant, Douglas Taylor, and J. B. van Valkenburg. By May of

that year, the committee was meeting on a weekly basis. (6)

Dr. E. E. McDonald, National Camp Director, and Stanley A. Harris, Regional Scout Executive, traveled to Camp Quick on April 29th to inspect the grounds, review the camping committee's progress, and meet with local volunteers. The visiting executives deemed the property "highly satisfactory" and were happy with the progress being made across the council. (7)

On June 2nd, Council Scout Executive R. J. Seegers personally travelled to Louisville, Kentucky, to purchase patrol tents and other supplies. (8) He successfully purchased ten squad tents and one hundred cots. (9)

A formal opening of Camp Quick was held on June 25th, 1925. The council invited civics clubs from across the area for a big barbecue dinner and entertainment. Guests were greeted by a large dining hall, measuring 36x60 feet and lit by ten electric light bulbs. The dining hall included a pantry, a large kitchen area, and an impressive fireplace with chimney. Around the mess hall were group tents, each measuring 16x16 feet and hosting 10 cots for sleeping. Nearby, the boys of Troop 9 nailed donated lumber to a fallen tree to build a makeshift swimming area. (10) A tree near the dining hall was trimmed and fashioned into a flagpole, measuring nearly 30 feet. Four more electric light bulbs were installed around the camping area. (11)

During the opening festivities, Mr. Quick was presented with a handsome trophy in appreciation of his generosity to the local Scouts. The inscription on the cup read, "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Quick by the Tennessee Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, in appreciation of the gift of Camp Quick, June 25, 1925." Upon receiving this gift, Mr. Quick spoke briefly to the 300 visitors in attendance. He described his love for the

natural beauty of the area and his work to keep it as he had found it. He was glad to share the land and its beauty with the Scouts. (12) Mr. Quick's family still has the cup he received on that day.

During the first summer, plans were made to operate the camp for seven sessions, each ten days long and accommodating as many as 125 campers. Three sessions would be for the Boy Scouts, plus one session each for the Girl Scouts, younger boys (12 years old or under), a family camp, and a business women's camp. (10) The camp was also used by local churches and civic organizations for picnics, meetings, and outdoor activities.

The opening camp season was so successful that the Tennessee Valley Council hosted a Christmas Camp later that year, from December 26th through January 2nd. (13)

The 1926 camping season opened in July 1st and ran for five sessions. (14) There are reports that the swimming area had to be rebuilt before camp. After a series of training, J. W. Baxter and Jimmie Baxter were responsible for running camp. (15) One Scout reported losing a blanket roll between Huntsville and Camp Quick, offering a reward for its return. (16)

The Joe Bradley Band visited from Merrimack for a performance for 350 campers and visitors at Camp Quick on August 15th, 1926. (17) By the fall of 1926, local troops were making frequent use of Camp Quick for weekend camping during the off-season. While Scouts were not in camp, local church and community organizations continued to use the property for picnics, meetings, and other activities.

John Sparkman, an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 2, spent the night camping at Camp Quick with his

troop on March 4th, 1927. (18) Mr. Sparkman later became a successful politician and had a prominent role in the future of Huntsville and the surrounding area.

Prior to opening for the summer of 1927, a new entrance to Camp Quick was established and a new road through camp was cleared on higher ground than the usual route. The new route was named "Lake Side Drive" while the old throughway was closed to motor traffic and named "Black Bottom Avenue." Work was also done on a new dam due to high water levels on the Flint River during the season. (19) The camp director for 1927 was Maj. Howard Gaillard, who by then had succeeded R. J. Seeger as Council Scout Executive. (20)

Churches and civic groups were once again frequent guests to Camp Quick during the summer of 1927, sharing meals with the Scouts in camp and enjoying the outdoors.

The Tennessee Valley Council went through a structural and financial reorganization early in 1928. Edwin C. Hunt was selected to replace Maj. Gaillard as Scout Executive. (21) By late April, plans were underway to prepare camp for the summer, including plans to remove mud from the bottom of the swimming area. (22) The local Rotary Club donated floors for all of the tents. (26)

The fourth annual summer camp season opened at Camp Quick on June 28th, 1928, and was scheduled to conclude on August 7th. More than 350 Scouts were expected to attend camp that summer. Prior to opening, further improvements were made to the swimming area. (23) Camp was conducted jointly that summer with Middle Tennessee Council and Davy Crockett Council. (24) More than 400 boys attended Camp Quick in 1928,

helping the camp earn high marks on its national reviews. (25)

By February of 1929, plans were underway to conduct a fifth summer camp season at Camp Quick (27), but those plans were abandoned after the council camping committee visited the new Camp Westmoreland property near Florence, Alabama. (28) Local council professionals cited flooding and inadequate swimming facilities as a primary reason for leaving Camp Quick. (29) (31)

All of the equipment at Camp Quick was collected and transported to Camp Westmoreland to help prepare for camp. (30) Camp Westmoreland opened its inaugural summer camp season on July 2nd, 1929. (32) Scouts would continue to use Camp Westmoreland for summer camp through 1978. Today, Camp Westmoreland is still in use by local Scouting units as a training and weekend camping facility. (33)

A casual survey of newspapers during the time will reveal that Camp Quick continued to be used for meetings, socials, and dances through much of the 1930s. Beyond that, it is assumed that the camp fell into disrepair and was no longer suitable for these uses.

The story of Camp Quick has almost been lost to time, but its legacy can be seen in the 90+ year history of Camp Westmoreland. The successful program at Camp Quick also helped establish firm roots for the Scouting program in Huntsville and the surrounding area. This set the stage for tens of thousands of Scouts and Scout leaders to join the Scouting movement across North Alabama.



About the Author

Chris Brightwell is a native of Huntsville, a third-generation Eagle Scout, and an accidental Scouting historian. He currently serves the Greater Alabama Council as its history committee chair, Coosa Lodge as its history committee adviser, and the Scouting Memories Project as its national oral history lead. He is also a volunteer leader with Troop 361 and Pack 361, both chartered by Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville. When he isn't busy with Scouting, he enjoys traveling with his wife and son. You can find him online at www.southhistory.org.

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Contemporary historians often dismiss, as self-serving, a biography written by those responsible at the time but recorded in retrospect. Diaries, on the other hand, describe the events on or close to the day they occurred and provide insight that is not always captured in other sources. In a hundred years local historians may find our authors perceptive valuable to their understanding of a very dramatic year; 2020.

The essays are the impressions of the authors and not the position of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society. (The editor)

2020; Distortion, Social Conflict, Covid-19, Fear

By Arley McCormick

Introduction

Recorded history is a descriptive narrative that an author interprets regarding an event or era and the drama associated with 2020 is indeed indicative of how a Representative Democracy is messy. Madison County cannot avoid the national issues that shape the redistribution of our personal income. The impact is only mitigated with constructive political decisions that support the expectations of the population and everyone's expectations are never realized.

There are significant political events that have affected nearly every household in the country, the Civil War (1861-1865), the Spanish Flu pandemic (1918-1919), and WWII (1941-1945). Since WWII only portions of the population were affected by the calamity of natural and human induced events of the late 20th and early 21st Century.

In 2020 the COVID-19 virus consumed the world. Global warming, the Black Lives Matter movement, and revising Southern Heritage challenged our moral compass. Those issues were wrapped in a never-ending

cycle of misinformation and doomsday prognostication by the national media and the political parties vying for the Oval office.

The issues affecting our culture will not end on January 1, 2021 or when the next President takes office, but hopefully, solutions will be found.

As 2020 ends:

- Global warming is touted as contributing to wild fires in states on the west coast and others while a record number of hurricanes ravaged Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.
- The national media predictions of gloom and doom included both promoting and debunking COVID-19 virus ending vaccines, shaping the perception of the seated president, and both political events and social issues.
- Portions of the population believe police are killing black men at an alarming rate and not being held accountable.
- Confederate statues and monuments are destroying the lives of African Americans and must be removed.
- Politicians promoted their perspective on the Presidential race arguing the incumbent is ruining America or his opponent will create a socialist state. In November the socialist state won.
- Nearly 65% of the voting-population cast a vote in the Presidential Election; 161 million Americans, some of which were dead. It was the highest voter turnout in modern history and the incumbent lost while recording over 74,000,000 votes. Democratic victors claimed a landslide while 80,000,000 eligible Americans did not vote.

- The mainstream media admitted voter fraud in the election, but claim it didn't affect the result, yet there is no record of a legitimate third party investigation.
- 17.5 million Americans had been infected with COVID-19. Nearly every household knows someone that either contracted the virus or died while infected with the virus. 315,000 died. Over 99.9% of the population were not infected or survived COVID-19.
- COVID- 19 Inoculations began after the FDA's emergency approval and the media captured the debate on regarding the seated administration's vaccine allocation decisions and challenged the distribution, inoculation priorities, and support to Governors.
- The COVID-19 second wave was in progress and a third wave, possibly, a more violent mutated strain was anticipated.

Wildfires and Global Warming

California fights wild fires annually. When President Trump withdrew from the UN Global Warming Accord it gave his adversaries a political issue. In July, wild fires started and the largest was not contained until November. The fires destroyed 4,359,517 acres, killed 33 people, injured 37 and estate damages are still being calculated. The debate over firefighting policy is aggressive in every state that entertains wild fires each year. Some argue aggressive suppression of wild fires ensure fuel for future fires and argue the states do not manage its forests by instituting controlled burning to reduce the risk and this year at least two large wildfires were started by negligent humans.

Other states experiencing wildfires this year include Alaska, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah. Most scientists agree that where there is fuel the potential for fire exists. Forestry management is a low priority in most states, and population growth and arson contribute.

Climate change is a political football. President Trump withdrew the US from the Accord because the US was financing the UN initiative and the UN was allowing the three countries contributing most to gas emissions, Russia, China, and India to contribute less dollars to the Accord and were not required to reduce their emissions at a similar rate as the United States.

There were no wildfires reported in Alabama or Madison county contributed to Global Warming.

Understanding the Media

There is a reason a Judge presiding over a capitol murder case directs the jurors not to talk with, read, or view anything in the media regarding the case. Jurors are quizzed individually for their compliance before each session.

The Constitution of the United States protects the freedom of the press. And, the press is labeled a protagonist when it disputes a position presented by an aggrieved party.

The press recognizes its power to persuade and influence the public and a free press is absolutely essential to a democracy.

Journalism thrives, economically, only because of the capitalist environment they operate in and their protection under the constitution.

The media is a corporate entity that depends upon advertising and investors. The organizations are expected to maintain or grow a market share and they

**American Press
Institute defines**

Journalism:

The activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information.

** there is no implication that integrity or lack of bias is their responsibility.*

**Principles of Ethical
Journalism:**

- Truth and Accuracy. Journalists cannot always guarantee 'truth', but getting the facts right is the cardinal principle
- Independence is a Constitutional Guarantee
- Fairness and Impartiality
- Humanity
- Accountability

are always looking for the competitive advantage; the lead scoop of a news cycle. President Trump and the issues of 2020 made a great media year. Like any business, keeping your product in the public eye is critical.

Reporters are responsible to meet the deadlines and produce the word picture that entice viewers or listeners to stay tuned, become a loyal customer, and entice advertisement. They must sell their product. Consequently, they will tailor their bias toward those that purchase their papers, watch their newscasts, or invest in their companies, and, it is not a new phenomenon. For centuries the media has catered to their constituents with information

that accommodates their perspective.

Technology has changed our relationship with the media and it has impacted journalism employment statistics. The local newspaper of the last century has almost disappeared and partially replaced by the growth

The Journalist's Creed

"I believe in the profession of journalism. ... I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism. I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true."

of Social Media. Social Media is generally composed of subscribers with similar perspectives and competes with traditional news platforms.

Some Social Media platforms similar to Twitter and Facebook are openly censoring user contribution by their own standards. Could it be because the Trump administration is charging them with Anti-Trust violations?

The National Syndicated broadcast news is rated by watchdog companies as center left and all broadcast news use terms like possibly, alleged, or indicates, to predict the results or outcome of emotional events and emotional events drive the news cycle.

The media understand they influence the collective perspective of the Nation's population and they are skilled at shaping a fact applicable to a fraction of the population into a compelling argument appearing applicable to the entire Nation. Political polls are referred to as indicators rather than predictors primarily because the result of a poll of 1500 canvased individuals seen on a national news broadcast implies it is a true indicator of a national response.

Networks employ sophisticated concepts to distort truth and influence bias. The talking head state facts (maybe); the reporter just restates it. The media use terms that protect them from facts discovered by an investigation.

National news reports include information that support their bias and not information that clarifies intent or refutes that bias. An example; for 4 years President Trump was condemned as a racist because all the national news repeatedly reported his response to a question after an incident in Charlotte, NC where a person was killed. His response to the question was "There are good people on both sides of the issue." In

the next three sentences the President condemned White Nationalist organizations but those comments didn't fit the media bias and were never presented to the public.

Politicians and Bias Reporting

Since the creation of the Republic much has changed except the media. There is recognized bias in reporting. The major political parties' ultimate desire is control of all elements of an elected and appointed government and they are willing to deceive, distort, and hide any action that may reveal their true intent.

Bias in reporting shapes the perception of truth. When a politician says, "joining an international trade agreement will require restructuring." that translates into unemployment. Or, when a politician says, "doing away with one sector of the economy will be offset by employment in another sector", that translates into unemployment.

J.D. Salinger was quoted in the Williston, ND, Herald as saying, "It's funny, all you have to do is say something nobody understands and they'll do practically anything you want them to do." Most citizens are busy working and taking care of their families and trust their elected representatives to be responsible, consequently, they don't analyze a politician's statement and they may not recognize the relationship when, in a few months or years, they are unemployed.

America is a Nation of laws and the oath in a court of law: "State the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you god." is the standard most members of our society understand but not politicians or journalists.

Quisling deception is truth for a politician, particularly in an election year, and the complicit

accomplice are journalists. Responsible parents teach and expect more from their children and contemporaries than they receive from politicians and journalists; after all, the journalist standard is “what the journalist holds in his heart”. A much lower standard than fact and a politician will find the spin that sounds unthreatening to get what he wants; your vote.

Social Unrest

There is a reason Huntsville is considered a progressive city. Huntsville chooses economic stability and development. During discussions with the city long range planning staff and those attempting to attract business to the area they indicate the hardest topic to overcome is the city’s last name. If a company visits the area, they learn the stereotype associated with Alabama is not representative of the environment in Madison County.

During the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s, civil unrest experienced in Birmingham, Montgomery, and other cities in Alabama did not materialize here. There were sit-ins, marching, and civil disobedience but brutality was not a significant ingredient. City leaders agreed that an aggressive response to the Civil Rights movement proposed by the state leadership was not good for business.

By the mid 60’s, primarily because of the growth of Redstone Arsenal, millions of federal dollars and good paying jobs were flowing into the area. National coverage of blood in the streets would not attract the type of business growth the city and county leaders desired.

Representatives went to Montgomery and behind closed doors convinced Governor Wallace that

Huntsville would handle civil rights and integration in their own way. There was no blood in the streets of Huntsville.

Later in the decade the County Courthouse was rebuilt with the design departing from the traditional antebellum style of the South to a modern structure more closely associated with architecture found in the Northern states.

Black Lives Matter

On July 11th, 2019 the novelist Colson Whitehead was interviewed on CBS News Sunday Morning. He won the 2016 National Book Award for Fiction and the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He was born in 1972 and his parents had vivid recollection of the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era. He related to the interviewer, “My parents taught me; one, I can do whatever I want in the world if I put my mind to it, and two; the white world will be trying to destroy or dismantle your hopes and possibly kill you at the same time.”

George Floyd was no Colson Whitehead. But when the black card is played it gets the collective attention. Will Smith challenged the Oscar crowd for overlooking his potentially Oscar level performance in a film. Arguably the most liberal organization in America scrambled to avoid a similar challenge by a black actor in the future.

On the surface the black card is a radical act. But upon closer review the majority of responsible citizens agree that excessive police force should not be condoned and an officer guilty of improper use of force should be held accountable. The media hysteria surrounding the death of George Floyd gave Black Lives Matter (BLM), a clear voice to fight for freedom, liberation and justice, and the overwhelming public support attracted other

organizations such as Hope Incorporated, and Global Exchange.

Facts seldom alter the actions of emotionally charged leaders and their followers. The facts, depending upon the year; almost twice as many white men are killed by the police as black men and black on black killing is far greater than police violence against black men.

Facts are lost on the media that prefer to focus on catastrophic and socially antagonistic events rather than offer stabilizing facts. Their job is to magnify the fissures between policy and governance.

After weeks of wanton destruction and looting in various cities around the country a responsible leader and one of the founders of BLM interviewed on CBS News Sunday Morning opined that if she could revise the name, she would change it to Black Lives Matter Too. But few could anticipate the unintended consequences and the massive emotional response fed by the media and influenced by organizations with alterative motives. Anytime emotion takes to the street the potential for violence is heightened. Add gigantic crowds during a pandemic and the risk of death and illness increase.

Looking at the real issue, “police brutality”, in Huntsville, the BLM movement, while actively supported, resulted in minimum destruction and injuries and did cause a policy review by the police department resulting in significant recommendations. Recommendations, if implemented, will benefit everyone. Similarly, boiling down the emotional social issues to the basic issue and taking action benefits the entire population.

Southern Heritage

Another social issue captured the attention of the city and county residents and the economy won. For years the county and state wrestled with how to deal with the latest attack on Southern Heritage. The State passed a law prohibiting the removal of historical statues over 50 years old. But that did not satisfy protagonists as they continued a relentless pursuit of removal or destruction of Confederate monuments. One was destroyed by a driver who fell asleep at the wheel of his patrol car in South Alabama. Others were vandalized and some were moved by municipalities. Huntsville struggled for a solution too.

The local politicians assured the public they would follow the law. After consultation with political and civic leaders including the Committee of 100; a business organization of 270+ CEOs and professionals – including 50 young professionals committed to long-term strategies that support economic development, high-quality public education, and cooperative local government, political leaders sent a letter to the state proposing to move the Confederate statue on the courthouse square to a more appropriate location.

After 90 days without a response and in the dead of night on Thursday, October 22nd, 2020 the Confederate Statue was removed to Maple Hill cemetery.

While the deed is done a conflicting sentiment remains. In early 2019 an unofficial random inquiry with 20 black workers in and around the city and county revealed that none of them could provide the exact location of the Buffalo Soldier monument and neither could they pinpoint the location of the Confederate Soldier statue. This begs the question; Who was actually aggrieved by the statue?

Near the end of November, the State Attorney General sued Madison County for moving the Confederate Statue.

The Presidential Election

The United States Military is the only portion of the United States Government that train and fight every day for the citizens of the United States. National politicians do not, yet they are absolutely essential to the success of a democracy.

America could not predict or avoid the Pandemic and it played a role in the presidential election of 2020 and many would argue the fight for the presidency began on

Ross Perot for President

- 1992 Independent Party Candidate against Bill Clinton.
- Born in 1930 in Texarkana, Texas; Graduated from the Naval Academy and served as a surface warfare officer.
- Business career began with IBM
- 1962 founded Electronic Data Systems and Perot Systems
- Vietnam War energized his political insight.
- Launched mercenaries to save his employees who were arrested and detained by the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran.
- Didn't agree with the North American Free Trade Agreement, or the Gulf War,
- Declared his candidacy for president in 1992
- Constrained his campaigning after threats to his life and finished with the highest number of votes ever cast for an independent candidate.

the day the President took office in January 2017 after defeating Hillary Clinton in November 2016. It was the day after he took office the Washington Post declared impeachment was in his future. The most unique aspect of the 2016 election was Donald Trump, a political outsider and a successful businessman who took on professional politicians; first to win over the Republican Party and then to defeat the Democratic Party. His victory

depended upon the result of the electoral college vote which prompted a challenge from the Democrats to revise voting rules or discard the Electoral College altogether.

President Joe Biden

- Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1942 and raised in New Castle county Delaware.
- He achieved a law degree from Syracuse University in 1968.
- Began his political Career in 1970; never worked in the private sector since.
- His political focus was on foreign relations, criminal justice, and drug policy.
- He pursued the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, but withdrew after plagiarism of a speech became known.
- His 2008 presidential campaign never gained momentum.
- Barack Obama chose him as a running mate against the Republican Candidate.

It wasn't the first time that a businessman with no political background attempted to defeat professional politicians. Ross Perot, a Texas prodigy in electronics, was anything but ordinary. Donald Trump may have taken Perot's play book and determined he couldn't beat the Republican and the Democratic Party and decided to co-op the Republican Party. He had the financial resources.

Professional National level politicians are skilled communicators, but also have goals that are not shared with the voting public; their goals are party first, themselves,

second, and their financial supporters third. On issues that could give the opposing party an advantage they are in lock step to block every effort. It's strange how fifty of your closest friends may not agree on an issue but a politician will not express an opposing vote to the party unless there is personal benefit. It's also strange that they exempt themselves from laws that could

negatively impact them while the average citizen must suck it up. But, don't worry if they increase taxes for the rich because rich will not include politicians; it's just above their pay scale. They can benefit from personal Foundations and never share how their personal non-profits earn millions while they are in office.

One time in history when a political party gave away the White House was 1876. The Democrats made a deal with the Republicans. The Democrats proposed to soften their pitch for their candidate and let the Republicans win the election if Federal troops would be removed from the former Confederate states. The Republicans won the White House and the troops were removed, opening the way for Jim Crow and second-class status for African Americans for almost a century.

Professional politicians are ruthless but sophisticated in their attacks. They use the law most of which they wrote, tout the Constitution, and smile as they go after each other's seat. In 2016 it was allegedly Russian meddling that caused Clinton's defeat and the Russians and Chinese are the interlopers in the 2020 elections.

There are examples in our history when a seated president was vilified by opposing and sometimes their own political party i.e., Abraham Lincoln, while fighting the Civil War was constantly challenged by his own Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, was the first to be impeached, Bill Clinton, a Democrat, was the second seated president to be impeached, Richard Nixon, a Republican, resigned rather than face impeachment over the Watergate scandal, and Donald Trump became the third president to survive impeachment.

Professional politicians are well positioned with financial resources to demonize their opponents. Even

in primary elections each party seek to find issues and conduct clandestine investigations with the intent of discovering information they can use to hit a public nerve that will sway votes in their favor. And, when the election is over it is publicly less antagonistic than fan rivalry between Alabama and Auburn, but the thirst for party advantage never stops. Each political party will use the law to continue the pursuit of the goal to seat their candidate in the Oval office.

A community the size of Madison County cannot escape National level issues. Alabama, Madison County, and Huntsville, are currently Republican enclaves. Locally, the scenario played out as a Republican candidate with a name and reputation shadowed any accomplishments of the Democratic incumbent and won the Senate seat. Through all the National political turmoil in our community, responsible citizens and politicians found a way to benefit the community while recognizing and understanding differences of opinion exist.

In the polarizing year of 2020, the National Political landscape was filled with landmines. Conspiracy theories were boundless and included public servants and rich citizens benefiting from the Pandemic, intentional political destruction of a vibrant economy, external financial sources paying radicals to plunder and destroy our cities, and while the National media acknowledged there was fraud associated with the National election there just was not enough to overturn the results of the election.

While recognizing and trying to make sense of the National issues, COVID-19 hit home hard as friends and associates stayed at home, to avoid COVID-19 by postponing Christmas until hopefully, January, and cheering for Alabama football.

Meanwhile on 14 December, reports indicate the largest percentage of the population since the election at the turn of the 19th Century turned out; President Trump received 74,115,722 votes — or 46.9 per cent of all ballots counted. Meanwhile Joe Biden, became the President-elect with 81,056,268 votes — or 51.3 per cent of the ballots cast. All legal avenues to challenge the outcome of the election were pursued.

An interesting perspective was offered by 80,000,000 eligible non-voting Americans according to This Week News Magazine. Their sentiments were expressed by responding to each of these 7 topics; 29% were not registered, 23% have no interest in politics, 20% didn't like the candidates, 16% feel their vote wouldn't count, 10% could not decide who to vote for, 8% feared contracting COVID-19, and the most unnerving of all, over 40,000,000 (53%) nonvoters indicated "it makes no difference; things go on like it did before."

Spanish Flu



John M. Barry researched the Pandemic of 1918 and wrote; "The Great Influenza 1918 "the flu" was not a reportable disease, but in January 1918, a doctor in Haskell County, Kansas reported unusual flu activity to the U.S. Public Health Service. By March, it had spread to nearby Fort Riley. On the morning of March 11th, an Army private reported symptoms of fever, sore throat, and headache. By lunch that day, more than 100 soldiers on the base had fallen sick".

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all schools, public and private churches, Theaters, moving picture Halls, Pool Rooms, and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed till further notice.

All public meetings of ten or more are prohibited.

October 1918

Huntsville Mayor

The flu made it to the



battlefields of Europe and soldiers in all the belligerent armies were affected. Spain was worst hit, consequently, it became titled the Spanish Flu. And that was the first round, two rounds later five hundred

million people worldwide were infected. Six hundred and seventy-five thousand Americans died. But the death count in the US is just an educated estimate. The counting was not closely regimented. In Huntsville the official count was maintained by a volunteer aid organization and while they did their best distinguishing between deaths related to the flu and other ailments, it is acknowledged that counting errors occurred.

Mortality rates were higher in children under 5 years old, healthy 20-40-year-old patients, and patients over 65, and primarily because the properties of the infection were not well understood. There was no vaccine nor antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections. Those contaminated were isolated, quarantined, and residents were encouraged to practice good personal hygiene, use disinfectants, and limit public gatherings.

In Madison County, October through December 1918 was the deadliest months. An estimated 500 people died and thousands more became ill. Industry was impacted and schools and churches closed. Masking was encouraged and social distancing practiced. At least two doctors and other health workers died aiding the flu victims. Wards were established in tents when the beds available in hospitals could not accommodate the infected.



The principle factors affecting the impact of the Spanish Flu were the war effort and limited scientific knowledge.

The lessons learned include:

- No known treatment
- Healthy most vulnerable
- Doctors and nurses died treating patients
- Governor Charles Henderson closed businesses where people congregate
- Safety guidelines included social isolation and face covering
- Long term impact;
 - people work when they are sick
 - specific cause unknown
 - more recent pandemics were all derivatives of the Spanish Flu:
 - 1957-1958 Pandemic (H2N2 virus)
 - 1968 Pandemic (H3N2 virus)
 - 2009 H1N1 Pandemic (H1N1pdm09 virus)

COVID-19

Every uncertain experience includes a cycle of learning and adapting. The truth changes frequently based upon the latest information and we came to learn quickly that COVID-19 is a killer virus.

Every day was a good news day for the media adept at finding the fissures in public policy and action, amplifying the negative, and spreading fear throughout the land. They were effective.

The initial action with regard to the Pandemic rested with the country of origin, China, and the World Health Organization (WHO). The responsibility of WHO is to determine the risk to the world, provide lifesaving guidance and methods of treatment. Their understanding defines the threat to the world.

On 31 December 2019 the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission, China, reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, Hubei Province and WHO subsequently established an Incident Management Support Team to address the outbreak. In early January 2020 social media reported the pneumonia cases did not involve deaths. Throughout January WHO's top priority was to understand the severity and impact of the new virus and determine the guidance to issue to health workers based upon the genetic sequence of COVID-19. A case was confirmed in Thailand and caution was advised with regard to human-to-human transmission similar to that experienced with SARS, MERS and other respiratory pathogens.

A field visit was conducted to Wuhan validating the evidence of human-to-human transmission and by the last week in January WHO was seriously concerned regarding the possibility of a pandemic. A delegation met with China's leadership to garner support for an

international team of leading scientists to meet in China and better understand the context, the overall response, and exchange information and experience.

On 30 January 2020 WHO advised the outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and declared 7818 total confirmed cases worldwide, with the majority of these in China, and 82 cases reported in 18 countries outside China. The risk assessment was very high for China and high at the global level.

On 3 February WHO released a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and followed in mid-February with a Research and Innovation Forum on COVID-19. The Forum included more than 400 experts and funders from around the world. Later a Joint mission including the US and 7 other countries visited Beijing, Wuhan and other cities.

WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March and launched effort to collect data from around the world to find the most effective treatments for COVID-19 and it appears the first reported U.S. case occurred when a Washington man became ill on January 19th after returning from Wuhan, China. In early March the Department of Homeland Security began medical screening at Los Angeles International Airport as a safety precaution and the Governor of New York announced a case in the state. One hundred cases were reported later involving individuals repatriated from Wuhan, China to the United States. The number of states reporting patients increased in March and the President signed an \$8.3 billion bill providing \$7.76 billion to federal, state, and local agencies for combating the coronavirus, and authorizing an additional \$500 million in waivers for Medicare health restrictions. The President and Vice President met with top health

insurance companies and secured a commitment to waive co-pays for coronavirus testing and treatment and by mid-March the number of patients in the US reached 1500 with deaths at 41. Living began to change for everyone. Education, sports, commercial businesses, as we know it, began to affect everyone and in Alabama despite no recorded cases Universities decided to go to online courses. The 1st case reported in Alabama was on 3 March in Montgomery County and the first case reported in Madison County was on 17 March.

The rest of the year was a roller coaster of action affecting every aspect of life including economic shut downs, delays in college and professional sports, mandated social distancing (6 feet apart), wearing protective masks, and stay at home orders. Temperature checks became routine and commercial organizations placed Plexiglas partitions between customers and cashiers, touching and hugs ceased. Government services continued but individuals deemed non-essential were required to work from home.

Jobs were lost, particularly small businesses in the personal service industries, theaters, and restaurants. There were innovations that became common place: restaurants modified their business plans to include carryout service. Home deliveries, like Pizza, were delivered with no customer/agent touching. Long haul trucking increased, toilet paper disappeared initially from the shelves. Parts for autos and household appliances were scarce because of production delays in overseas companies. And in spite of everything, the gloom and doom media sustained a constant barrage of bad news both real and potential.

On media talk shows hosts and guests were separated by 6 feet and some allowed only a ZOOM (*electronic video*)

conferencing platform) audience. Visiting the elderly in nursing homes was curtailed and as the death toll grew, rules and enforcement became a source for personal confrontations.

In March, politicians rushed to close businesses that generated the most personal contact like restaurants, sports, recreation, concerts, etc., the decision impacted over 22 million families. Working mothers had to take a leave of absence to stay home with their children, nurseries closed, assisted living facilities were sequestered. Some industries benefited particularly the electronic industry. ZOOM teleconferencing became the norm. Long haul trucking expanded as on line ordering increased and the Federal Government kicked in financial support packages to help working families, and support small business. But, like almost every government program it hurt in some cases more than it helped. The weekly checks to the unemployed were often more than their skills would justify in industry so they ceased looking for work and there was work available. Checks were delayed for some and insufficient to cover their losses. Small businesses filed for bankruptcy, particularly the personal service industry i.e., gyms, restaurants, and museums. Non-Profit organizations ceased in person meetings and relied on ZOOM.

In spite of all the dreaded impact, people shared, gave of their time and money to help those in the community hit the hardest by the government sanctions.

On 27 March President Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package to support people employed in various sectors of the economy.

The national news and opposition party continued a relentless attack on the administration. No matter what the logic was that influenced decision making it was

wrong. It was not enough or too much. If the President didn't speak, he should have. If he did speak it wasn't the right words or the wrong words. The only way to know if the administration was right was if the opposition said nothing, but their opinion was mostly; it should have been more, faster, different. And, if they were in charge it would be better.

In our community, under the logic of saving lives and protecting limited medical resources, the decisions implemented by politicians to stay at home and close businesses caused a series of unintended consequences and illustrated both how fragile and, in some cases, the resilience of the small business community. Many restaurants closed for good while others modified their business model. Gyms closed and national chains filed for bankruptcy. The personal services industries either closed, filed for bankruptcy or began operating clandestinely to support their wanting public.

The death count for the Spanish Flu is questionable because the volunteer health service organizations maintained the records. In 2020 the records were maintained by health service professionals and reported daily but there were still irregularities. The health services industry in the United States is robust compared to 1918, but it was stressed to accommodate those infected with COVID-19. Government and insurance payouts based on a diagnosis of treatment for COVID-19 was as much as \$35,000 per patient prompting physicians to label "death by COVID-19" for almost any death where preexisting conditions or similar symptoms could be related to COVID-19.

By the end of 2020 99.982% of the American population that contracted COVID-19 survived. As much as 22,000,000 families working in small business industries were financially impacted, many losing their

homes along with their livelihood, and reduced to feeding their family at food banks. \$8.3 trillion was added to the national deficit to limit the death toll to 349,391, less than 1% of the US population. In Madison County the death toll as a percentage of the population was even smaller.

The good news: the number of patients treated for seasonal flu systems was down by 80%.

2020 a summary;

Global Warming is a trend that has occurred before in the history of our orb and the current emphasis on a solution at the expense of America's industry may be correct and the emphasis on renewable energy sources may benefit the future, but it is certainly painful for many families.

Forest management is a low priority and given the volume of forests in many states it would be expensive to manage to a degree that would reduce the impact of wildfires. Aggressive management would add to the growing tax burden of most families.

The free national media is a necessary element of a Representative Democracy. Everyone must learn how to manage their lives and the daily barrage of useless predictions and biased issues because occasionally there is a piece of information that could be useful.

Most responsible Americans agree with the principles of the Constitution and alternative views, when understood, normally produce a stronger union over time. We are responsible for selecting the political leaders that sell our industry, give away our competitive advantage to the world, and regulate aspects of our lives without fostering a feeling of inclusion to every citizen. Social injustice exists and addressing it constructively is better for everyone.

The presidential election illustrated a country where almost two thirds of the population is equally divided in political philosophy and another third, over 80,000,000 potential voters have little interest in participating in the spectacle.

COVID-19 impacted everyone more than any single topic of 2020. The lessons included a healthy respect for first responders and those engaged in the health services industry. The measures to reduce the spread and deaths associated with COVID-19 destroyed a very fragile element of our economy; small businesses. Those that survive on collective participation like restaurants, gyms, personal services, and museums at best struggled to survive. And those that provided their products via the internet enjoyed the best sales year ever.

There were positive aspects of the pandemic. Electronics grew more critical and internet retail sales increased. The retail distribution system expanded. Brick and mortar retail establishments were struggling to compete with the internet before the pandemic and the pandemic dramatized a more challenging future for the traditional retail storefront. And, arguably the health industry, although far more sophisticated than in 1918, was occasionally challenged to accommodate the volume of patients that needed care. Doctors, in some locations, were reduced to deciding which patient would be provided lifesaving care.

By the end of 2020 99.982% of the American population that contracted COVID-19 survived. As many as 22,000,000 families in the work force were financially impacted, many losing their homes along with their livelihood, and they were reduced to feeding their family at food banks. \$8.3 trillion was added to the public deficit to limit the death toll to 349,391.

In Madison County, a population of approximately 366,519; 186 residents died from COVID-19 soon after 2020. The number of family's lives that were shattered by political decisions will never be reported.



The Four Horsemen and Me

by Robert S. Davis

At the end of 2019, on Facebook, I wished everyone a better year. Now it is hard to remember just how awful 2019 had been. My circumstances are unusual and so 2020 has had peculiar turns.

I am the senior professor of History at a community college. Many years ago, I was hired to teach genealogy and to run trips for continuing education sightseeing and research. The college also built a great family history library with a staff to help the public. Across the country, I spoke to different groups, did some television appearances, and published articles and books on genealogy, history, and research.

After the president who hired me had retired, the new administration and the state board cut back on a great many things. The college's enrollment had seriously declined by 2019—our first horseman of the apocalypse. By then, I was only paid to teach history classes. I still run a genealogy library on a much smaller budget and I have one to two people working for me. My history classroom is a former auditorium that I have fixed up as a very special place.

Just before covid-19 hit, someone infected the college servers with malware. The college did not pay the ransom but instead invested in converting all of the college's computers to a Windows 10 network--the second horseman of the apocalypse. The results will be a burden on the faculty and students for years to come; even the email remains messed up. Our IT cannot fix poorly designed, inadequately tested, and otherwise faulty software, no matter how expensive.

To add to the above problems, the state board has undertaken new policies to gain greater control over the community college system but especially through

computers—the third horseman of the apocalypse. Despite the pandemic crisis, the state board continues in these policies and even hopes to use the covid-19 stimulus money to achieve these unrelated aims. As faculty has scrambled to meet the Board's demands for all online classes, it also imposed a complicated election system to decide which system like Blackboard, canvas etc. Most faculty only know one system and some colleges regard changing systems as another expensive burden at the worst time.

When covid-19 arrived—the fourth horseman—my college and the state board were already in the midst of a crisis management. Decisions on what to do came down that were blamed on the college accreditation, the Chancellor, the State Board, the President of the College, the dean etc. no one knew the truth. The classes all went to “hybrid” (partly online and partly not) but almost always, that actually meant online.

Many people were retiring but even more after the changes implemented by the virus. Replacing those skilled people is a challenge made worse by the college's already shrinking enrollment and correspondingly declining budget. My history classes started with a healthy number of students somewhere north of 130 for the fall semester but half way through the semester, we may be down to half that number. The requirements, whomever requires them, are too much for many students and I have experienced a lot that I hope I never have to do again.

What did I experience personally? The Chancellor cancelled all in person classes for the summer semester. I would have been in desperate straits financially except for turning sixty-six and thereby qualifying for Social Security just, coincidentally, as the virus took off. During the summer I ran my genealogy program for free and

learned how to do Blackboard, Collaborate, and Respondus so as to teach online classes in the fall semester.

No one paid me and the college was unwilling to use covid-19 funds for any of these needs, or for the needs of the students. The so-called expert that the college hired likely gave up on me when I had to ask what she meant by “file” and “module” in Blackboard.

The results are strange and contradictory. I have learned that online classes are sometimes a scam by the worst sort of “teachers, a way of mechanizing “teaching” whereby the “instructor” basically pushes a few buttons every semester. I require essay assignments of my students and then give them the chances to improve and resubmit their answers.

Many of the students face technical problems made worse by my errors and inexperience. I help where I can but I feel like that little boy I heard about on the radio who groans every morning: “not virtual school again!” If I ever teach real world classes again, however, I might incorporate online essay questions and tests but without a Big Brother program like Respondus.

Our library’s staff has been cut to the bone but it is still open and although the number of our genealogy visitors continues to decline, as it has for years before the virus. I no longer have genealogy classes but we still have a budget and people still come here for research! We have made progress on establishing a local historical archive in the college library despite the challenges of the virus.

Last summer, I came within seconds of retiring over a Blackboard policy issue. I have stayed on and, during the summer, put a dent in years of research projects. The biggest thing that I have learned from that is I am so far behind. My efforts at publishing last summer’s

output have had more downs than ups but when I have something written up, I can always eventually find a way to get it out there, especially in our new internet age.

I almost never attended employee and faculty meetings before the virus. Having no excuse to miss them now, I remember why I quit going. If I never hear the words “Teams” or “Zoom” again, it will be too soon. I cannot go to genealogy or historical society meeting because these always come when I have to be on line to review my online students for their next assignments and tests.

I have asked the President of the college to omit from these meetings anything not better handled in an email. She agreed and, to all of us, asked for comments and has responded positively to my complaints about years of poor-quality professional development offerings and the terrible conditions of the college’s parking lots and streets.

A friend of mine who is retired said that she counts herself so lucky. She owns her home, lives alone, has money for all of her bills, has no reason to go anywhere, and has plenty to eat. I appreciate what she means. A brother of mine in Georgia has a large household that came down with covid-19 and nearly gave it to his ninety-one-year-old mother-in-law. A sister of ours in Georgia and her family have also had it and a niece in Florida overcame it who still cannot taste anything. My oldest granddaughter lost her healthy twelve-year-old friend to the disease.

I am blessed. staying on means that I can finish setting up the historical archives and that I can easily use the facilities for my projects. A full paycheck and social security, with my wife’s disability check, means that I can pay down my debts and fix up my house for

refinancing when other people cannot put food on the table and are being evicted from their homes with nowhere to go. Politicians who I blame for mishandling this crisis had already lost my vote before covid-19 showed up.

That my wife and I have not gotten the virus is a miracle. Most of the week she keeps our two youngest granddaughters. Their parents work in a fast food restraint to bring down their debts. My stepdaughter, the mother of the two oldest granddaughters work in a nursing home where people are dying from the virus and the staff is disappearing from being out with the disease or quitting to find a safer job.

From accounts of the suffering by young adults that I have heard on the radio, I doubt that I would survive the virus. My whole life I have struggled to breathe. With diabetes, my weight, age, and other factors, my odds are bad.

On my one research trip, I spent one night in Georgia at a motel and feared for my life. My other brother and I usually have dinner together when I am in Atlanta. I cancelled out of fear of the disease. He has a wife with a heart condition and weight problem but works with special needs kids while he works for a print shop.

My wife and I wear a mask and social distance but I still do not do enough. At home, it is just us and our grocery needs are every few days at best and that scares me, especially seeing so many not wearing masks and seemingly wanting to get so close to you that I think, in New Mexico, they could be charged with sexual assault! (A Joke.). We go to restaurants just to get out and have somewhere to go. I love movies but I quit going to movies before the theaters closed although I have finally started streaming.

It is petty of me to talk about how the virus has affected me as a researcher but my love of historical research and writing up what I find has seen me through many dark days long before covid-19 and it keeps me going now, with some qualifications. Some libraries that I need are not open and some are not open to their own staffs to help people, or like the National Archives, not even open to its employees. Some libraries are open to people connected to their respective university, as if they are somehow immune to the virus.

My trip to Atlanta was representative. The Rose Library of Emory University is closed except for persons affiliated with the university. The Atlanta History Center required extreme measures for visitors, the Hargrett Library less so. I chose not to go to the Georgia Archives as its books and microfilms are closed due to the virus.

My backlog of projects and the kindness of archivists and librarians allowed to work in their materials has kept me going, although libraries have been cutting back and even shutting down in recent years. I have been helping in the failed attempt to keep libraries from being shut down in Birmingham because of the virus and perhaps laying off employees indefinitely. Two libraries that I need to visit were closed down in every way, months before the virus, for repairs and now will reopen who knows when? I know that the archives and libraries that I need will reopen one day and maybe not so far in the future and that I have plenty of time to make lists of what I need.

Maybe one of my projects will earn me some special recognition and maybe some money. That would be a dream come true. I have my acceptance speech ready. Just do not expect me to thank the covid-19 virus.
Robert S Davis, Jr <robert.davis@wallacestate.edu



Perspective on the year 2020

By Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

The year 2020 is not a year any of us will soon forget. As I write this, however, it appears that 2020 isn't finished with us yet. In fact, 2021 may be "2020, Part 2." One thing I do predict though, is that in the future, we will recall events as having happened either "before the virus, or after the virus." The virus has changed how we all have lived, no doubt about that. I fear we will have a repeat of the Spanish Flu, in that viral mutations may clobber us again, as did the Spanish Flu, which circled the planet several times.

Not a single day or newscast has aired, since early March, without the mention of the virus and its devastating effects. Couple that with social unrest, and a presidential election that has soured us all on politics and politicians. In response, I turned off the news and turned to cooking good food, clearing out clutter, attacking weeds, and sewing up a storm.

Tourism took a hit last year, and for me, the end result was an excess of free time and less income. There are those who fared better than I did, financially, but scores more who are far worse off than me. One can't put a price on the life of a friend or family member, and so in retrospect, I have absolutely no reason to complain.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and it could translate into creating new ways to make a living. I started the Huntsville Ghost Walk in 2009 because of the financial crisis of that time. With two fabulous partners and outstanding guides, it has been fun and successful. In 2020, I sewed close to 50 Halloween-themed masks to supplement our tour income, which

was drastically reduced due to the virus. Others are using their skills in ways no one could imagine.

I believe that most people around my age would agree, when asked, that their lives didn't follow the path they expected as young adults. I can say that about myself, times ten! Exciting careers, perfect families that never get sick, and houses that never get dirty are only in 1950s sitcoms. If we can say that the good outweighs the bad, we've worked hard and left the world a better place for having lived here, then we are successful. Throw in a positive attitude and you'll never be without an abundance of friends. Whatever 2021 brings us, I know that God is watching over us. In the meantime, wash your hands, wear your mask, and be kind to others.



Trees Cut in Downtown Huntsville, 1828

By David Byers

The court records of old Madison County hold many remarkable stories. A complaint, received by Sheriff John P. Neale on 31 May 1826, 21 years after John Hunt rode in, tells of the theft of trees from the land of John Brahan. John Brahan was the largest land owner in those years.

At the original land sale, September 1809, 320 acres were purchased by John S. Williamson, who sold to John T. Winston, and then to John Brahan. The price was \$2.00 per acre and he took sixteen years to pay the federal government to receive the deed.

The property description was the north-half of Section 2, Township 4, Range 1 West. On today's Huntsville map that would include north of Governors Drive the Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall, old Stone Middle School and Glenwood Cemetery.

The Complaint:

This is an action on the special case to recover damages of the defendants- First for that the defendants from the 1 day of January last until the day of the date of this writ upon the land of the plaintiff , the north half of section 2 of township 4 in range one west, in Madison County, cut down, carried away and destroyed, without the plaintiff's consent, a large number of large growing trees, to wit 145 white oaks one black walnut, and 269 trees of other kinds contrary to the statute such case made. Whereby and according to said statute they forfeited and are bound to pay the plaintiff ten dollars for each of said white oaks and black walnut and three dollars for each of said trees of other kinds.

*Secondly, for that the defendants from the said 1 day of January last until the appearance of this writ, upon the same lands, without the plaintiff's consent wasted and destroyed and suffered to be wasted and destroyed another large number of trees thereon growing, to wit, 415 white oaks, black walnuts, red oaks, Spanish oaks, hiccories and trees of various other kinds. Bale in \$ 1828 required per plaintiff's affidavit filed.
L Meade, Clerk County Court*

Notes and signatures, verbatim, at the bottom of the complaint

4950 2

Cap: as resp:

John Brahan

vs

Joseph Williams

John N. Mitchell

John Norwood

case

Epeccated & copy delivered to each Defendant 2nd June 1826

Thos. Cain & Wm. Bibb

Bail

John P. Neale Sheriff

by his Deputy

John M. Boroges

Tray

K27508

Recorded & Companis



1st Lieutenant Edmund I. Mastin of Huntsville and the Alabama 25 of the Immortal 600

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

There are many horrors in wars perpetrated by the opponents both unintentional and intentional. The Union made many false excuses for their cruelty to the Confederate soldiers they captured and imprisoned. Captain John Ogden Murray of the 11th Virginia Cavalry, one of the 600 who survived the brutality wrote about his experience in, *The Immortal Six-Hundred*, printed in 1905. Even though it was published 40 years after the fact, one can read the pain he carried all those years. Mauriel Phillips Joslyn published a book in 1996, *Immortal Captives*, providing much more detail on the evilness.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton along with Ulysses Grant chose to forbid prisoner exchange because Southerners would go back to their companies to fight where Northerners rarely did; there were more men to spend for war in the North's 23 states than the South's 13 states; and the politicians believed the exchange of prisoners would show recognition of the South's status as a nation which was not acceptable to the North. Their decision caused all prisons, North and South, to become inundated with men. The South was struggling to feed itself and found the added population of the prisoners caused an even greater burden. The Confederate government requested prisoner exchange on humanitarian grounds many times, but the North turned a deaf ear to the pleas.

Walt Whitman wrote about the Union's stand on the refusal of exchange, "In my opinion Secretary (Stanton) has taken and obstinately held a position of cold-blooded policy in this matter, more cruel than anything done by the Secessionists." The Confederacy sent six Union prisoners to Washington. They were there for three days yet President Lincoln refused to meet with them. Edward Wellington Boate, 42nd New York Infantry, Andersonville prisoner, wrote "I cannot help stating that the lives of some ten or twelve

thousand men might have been spared had an exchange justly, I will not add generously, taken place at this period.”

Edward Boate, wrote “Our government made medicine a contraband of war...indicated, on the part of our rulers, both ignorance and barbaric cruelty.” Prisoner 2nd Lieutenant James Page, 6th Michigan Cavalry, a prisoner at Andersonville, “The Confederate Government itself was suffering for the want of food, clothing, and medicine.” He felt the surgeons and Captain Wiring was not to blame for the deaths at Andersonville, “They did their duty like Christians and like men.” The same can not be said for the Union yet the Union refuses to accept any responsibility, even today.

The North expressed outrage over the South putting Northern prisoners in houses in Charleston, South Carolina, where the Yankees were firing cannons at the city. Some of the prisoners wrote that they were very well treated and had plenty of what was needed to sustain themselves. The rumors of the horror of Andersonville added to the hate of Southerners. Northern prisons withheld blankets, food, medicine, and supplies implementing a policy of “retaliation” even though the North had plenty to spare. The 38th United States Congress agreed with the Lane Resolution that the Confederate prisoners should be starve to death, given no shelter, and be given unhealthy food to develop disease. It became the Union policy.

Union General John Foster acknowledged the Charleston Union prisoners were not in the area that was under fire yet requested 600 Confederate officers from Northern prisons to be used for retaliation. August 12th, 1864, the prisoners were given the idea that they would be sent to Charleston Harbor, South Carolina to be exchanged yet the 600 men from Fort Delaware prison were transported to Morris Island, between Wagner and Gregg, to be used as hostages, serve as shields and living breastworks for the Union troops.

The prisoners from Alabama:

- 1st LIEUTENANT Richard Henry Adams, Jr., C.S.

Engineers Corps, captured near Columbia, TN on September 25, 1863. Born 1841, Atwood, Marengo County, AL. His prison diary can be found at <http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/digital/collection/p15821coll11/id/3779>

- 2nd LIEUTENANT William H. Allen, Co E 49th AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, on July, 9, 1863. Buried at Haney's Chapel Cemetery, Marshall County.
- 1st LIEUTENANT James J. Andrews, Co F, 4th AL Cav, captured in Florence, S.C., on November 30, 1863. Andrews was born and raised on "Forks of Cypress" Plantation. <https://moconfederacy.pastperfectonline.com/byperson?keyword=Andrews%2C+James+J.>
- 1st LIEUTENANT Andrew J. Armstrong, Co I, 46th AL Inf, captured at Champion Hill, MS, on May 16, 1863. Buried in Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery, Headland, Henry County, AL
- 2nd LIEUTENANT Washington P. Bass, Co A, 15th AL Inf, captured in the Wilderness, VA, on May 6, 1864.
- 1st LIEUTENANT Dwight E. Bates, Jeff Davis AL Artillery, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864. Born in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. Buried in Marion Cemetery, Marion, AL
- 2nd LIEUTENANT William Henry Bedell, Co E, 1st AL Cav, Capture at McMinnville, TN, on October 23, 1863. Born in GA, April 4, 1839, buried as Reverent in Waverly Cemetery, Lee County, AL in 1919.
- 1st LIEUTENANT William Tillman Bishop, Co G, 16th AL Inf, captured at Baxter, AL, on June 20, 1863. Born in Bibb County, September 25, 1823, died October 1, 1891 in Marion County, AL http://genealogytrails.com/ala/marion/military_cvlwr_individual_bishopwt.html
- 1st LIEUTENANT Julien D. Bond, Co G, 59th AL Inf, captured at Petersburg, VA, on June 17, 1864.

- 1st LIEUTENANT John P. Breedlove, Co B, 4th AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 4, 1863. Born August 1, 1840, buried in Tuskegee City Cemetery, Tuskegee, AL, March 14, 1901.
- CAPTAIN John W. Burton, Co D, 6th AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 4, 1863. Birth 1817, buried in Brooks Family Cemetery, Sikes, Alabama
- CAPTAIN Richard Franklin Campbell, Co I, 49th AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, July 9, 1863. Born April 21, 1836, buried Remlap Methodist Church Cemetery, Remlap, AL, February 26, 1879.
- 1st LIEUTENANT Henry Chadbourne, Co C, 10th AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 2, 1863. Born in Cumberland County, Maine, buried in Old Oxmoor Cemetery, Oxmoor, AL on June 19, 1893.
- CAPTAIN Charles E. Chambers, Co B, 13th AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 3, 1863.
- CAPTAIN John N. Chisholm, Co I, 9th AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, July 2, 1863. Born March 27, 1835. Died March 16, 1865, buried at Florence Cemetery, Florence, AL.
- CAPTAIN Lewis S. Chitwood, Co A, 5th AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864. Born May 7, 1842 in GA, buried at Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, GA, March 22, 1918.
- 1st LIEUTENANT Paul H. Earl, Co G, 28th AL Inf, captured at Missionary Ridge, TN, on January 23, 1863.
- CAPTAIN George H. Ellison, Co E, 3rd AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864. Escaped by swimming in shark infested waters to shore. Died in Texas on November 9, 1931.
- <https://3almartin.wordpress.com/tag/immortal-600/>
- CAPTAIN James W. Fannin, Co A, 61st AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864. Died May 10, 1883, Tuskegee City Cemetery, Tuskegee, AL
- MAJOR Lamar Fontaine, F&S 4th AL Cav, captured at

Ringgold, GA, on November 27, 1863. Born on October 11, 1941 in Washington County, TX, buried October 1, 1921 in Grange Cemetery, Clarksdale, MS.

- 2nd LIEUTENANT Anthony C. Foster, Co B, 4th AL Cav, captured at Florence, AL, on November 30, 1863.
- 1st LIEUTENANT John L. Haynes, Co I, 14th AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864.
- 1st LIEUTENANT Alexander Jackson Kirkman, Co D. 4th AL Cav, captured at Florence, AL, on October 30, 1863. Born in 1842 Florence, AL, died on May 11, 1909.
- 1st LIEUTENANT William N. Ledyard, Co A, 3rd AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA on July 1, 1863.
- 1st LIEUTENANT Edmund I. Mastin, Staff to Gen Kelly, captured at Charleston, TN, on December 28, 1863. Born in Huntsville, Madison County, AL
- CAPTAIN James D. Meadows, Co A, 1st AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, on July 9, 1863. Born in Thomaston, GA, January 9, 1827. Died January 14, 1900, John Johnston Cemetery, Walnut Hill, AL.
- Exchanged on August 3, 1864: COLONEL William Henry Forney, 10th AL Inf. Promoted to Brig Gen. before the war was over. Born in 1823, buried January 16, 1894 in Jacksonville City Cemetery, Jacksonville, AL.

On August 20th, 1864, when the men were shipped out, several officers purchased their way thinking they were being exchanged. Lieutenant Mastin, of Alabama gave a gold watch, which cost him three hundred dollars. The militia home guards serving as prisoner guards were the 110th Ohio under Captain Webster and 157th Ohio under Captain James Prentiss. The prisoners were shipped on *The Crescent City* steamship. The bunks on the boat took up every inch of space with four prisoners to a bunk in the hottest month of the year. A guard was heard to say "A dog couldn't stand this." The water provided was sea water condensed in the ships and issued out scalding hot in small amounts. About three/fourths of the prisoners became seasick shortly after

the steamship got on its way and vomited everywhere making the atmosphere even worst within the ship.

While in Port Royal Harbor, several officers attempted an escape, but most were caught. One of the detriments were sharks, the harbor and all the inlets were full of sharks. Captain George H. Ellison, 3rd Alabama Infantry from Mobile, swam 11 miles in shark infested water succeeding in escaping and returned to his regiment being paroled with his command in 1865. When the ship's prisoners were unloaded an old colored woman, a stewardess on the ship, recognized Colonel Woolfolk, Kentucky Cavalry, because he was her young master at one time. She hid him in her room until the ship returned to New York, smuggled him ashore and gave him money to travel on. He made it to Canada, then to England, and then back to the South. Captain Webster imposed crueller treatment with every attempt or escape made.

Captain Bedford, 3rd Missouri Cavalry, wrote, "We are guarded by 157th Ohio Militia and a company of deserters commanded by Captain Prentiss, an overbearing tyrannical rascal who let his men pillage our baggage and rob us. He talks to his men as though they were dogs." The water was undrinkable, and the prisoners were fed old crackers and raw bacon twice a day. They experienced having no water for forty hours. The water closet was in the wheelhouse requiring the prisoners go up a ladder, through the hatch, and over the deck with only one man allowed at a time. Many were not able to stand in line or go that far so relieved themselves where they could. The Union provided no cleaning for the ship increasing the smell of filth.

The prisoners were in the hold of the boat shut out from light and fresh air in the heat of the summer. They also had to contend with a heated steam boiler. On August 27 the guards were changed and the new regiment, 157th New York, treated them like humans. The ship was cleaned, provisions and water were given to the prisoners. These Union soldiers treated the prisoners with respect. Forty of the wounded were transferred to a Federal Military hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Finally, the *Crescent City* set sail again on its way to Charleston Harbor arriving on September 1, 1864. Foster had the ship anchored under fire by Battery Gregg and Wagner. Lieutenant Ford, 20th Virginia Cavalry wrote, “The roaring of artillery and the explosion of shells over the city of Charleston and the walls of Sumpter may be heard and seen all day and night.” On September 7th the 560 prisoners were transported to Morris Island into a one and half acre stockade formally a battlefield where many had been killed.

After 17 days confinement in cramped quarters on the ship, many of the prisoners were weak and had difficulty walking the 3 miles to the new prison camp. Captain McRae, 7th North Carolina Infantry, stated in seeing follow prisoners, “We were astonished to note the ravages made by the terrible heat and the nauseous confinement. One could scarcely recognize one’s best friends.” They were now being guarded by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Troup under commander Captain Hallowell. He had full power over the prisoners, not monitored by higher ups. He chose to use psychological tactics to break the prisoners’ morale. Hallowell was described by Colonel Shaw as a typical white officer of the 54th Massachusetts, an abolitionist with an obsessive hatred for the South.

Besides nature providing gnats and mosquitoes, war delivered cannon shots from Batteries Gregg and Wagner, which were answered by Fort Moultrie, Battery Simkins, and the Confederate artillery on James’ Island. Some shells burst over the camp showering the area; no prisoners were harmed even though they had to survive the agony of possible death at any moment. They were now officially the breastworks for the enemy. They were fed three crackers and one tablespoon of rice in the morning; one half pint of soup with two crackers at noon; supper consisted of two ounces of bacon and two crackers. When the rations were reduced, it resulted in various intestinal disorders and weakness. The prisoners’ mail was withheld, and they were continuously harassed to take the oath of loyalty to the Union.

The tents sat up were made for two occupants, but four officers were made to share each tent. Straw covered sand

inside the tents where the heat was intense but outside was equally intolerable. Prisoners were not allowed out of their tents at night no matter what the problem. On September 27th, 1864, 1st Lieutenant W. P. Callahan, 25th Tennessee Cavalry, died of starvation caused from chronic diarrhea with several more following.

In the third week in October, after 3 months, word had finally gotten to the Yankee Provost Marshal. When it was investigated, the finding was Hallowell had not been issuing what was ordered and the starvation diet was changed. Mail began to be allowed to be delivered. The Ladies Aid Society of Charleston could send boxes of needed articles to the prisoners. With the change of temperature, there was a need for more clothing and blankets were ordered on September 9th, but never made it to the prisoners.

Foster was ordered to quit shelling Charleston and removed to take a defensive position. Now he had no excuse to keep the 555 Confederate Officers for retaliation. October 21st, 1864, the prisoners were put on two schooners with the 157th New York as guards and Colonel Brown in charge. The prisoners were glad to be leaving Hallowell and Foster with hopes of better days ahead. Colonel Brown was fair with the prisoners.

On the way to a two-acre site at Fort Pulaski, Richard Adams, Alabama, tried escaping with several others by jumping into the cold water off Tybee Island. They were rescued from the water before they drowned and returned to the ship. The prisoners were housed in the damp, cold casements at Fort Pulaski. The rations were increased and the prisoners received their mail including any packages sent to them. It was a much better environment except for the boring days and the coldness of winter. On November 12th, 1864, Lieutenant Burney, 49th Georgia Infantry, died at the hospital. Next was Lieutenant George E. Fitzgerald of VA. Three-fourths of the men developed scurvy with diarrhea and rheumatism. November 19th, 1864, 200 men were moved to Hilton Head, South Carolina due to overcrowding. It was labeled as a sanitary move. These men were moved to the beach in tents with whipping cold winter winds. Finally, they

were moved into a stockade.

Under Colonel Brown, some of the very sick were allowed to be exchanged. With the very sick, some officers with connections were added to the list. On December 14th, 1864, thirty soldiers could leave for exchange. Six of the officers wrote a thank you in the Charleston *Daily Courier* to Colonel Brown for his kindness at Fort Pulaski. This caused him to be reprimanded by Major General Foster on Hilton Head Island. General Order No. 11 demanded Brown to put the prisoners on half rations again with no mail privileges. Scurvy increased among the prisoners and winter brought on pneumonia, bronchitis, and rheumatism but the surgeon was not allowed to treat the prisoners' illness. They were at the mercy of the best government of the world! Captain Dunkle, 25th Virginia Infantry wrote "It indeed seemed that we were deserted by God and man, been given over to demons and devils to be tormented." 2nd Lieutenant Gordon, 4th South Carolina Cavalry wrote "It is murder of the most terrible kind and I don't think it has any parallel."

The retaliation treatment continued to claim lives. The stronger ones looked after the sick and they all worked together for survival. The men were not given blankets or wood for fire to keep warm during the winter months. With so little rations, the prisoners caught rats, cats, and dogs to eat. Those that became so weak and resolved to take the oath were considered cowards and traitors.

On March 4th, 1865, the *Asland* picked up the prisoners on Fort Pulaski and sailed to Hilton Head for the rest. The men were told the retaliation was over, they had paid a high price for their loyalty to their comrades and home. Their greetings to their separated comrades were, "ain't dead yet" and "you are hard to kill." The ones not expected to survive were left to die. With prisoners now on the boat, the captain refused to sail out into the open waters because the boat was too small.

They were transferred to the *Illinois*. They sailed into Norfolk Harbor and sat there watching prisoners sailing to Richmond to be exchanged. Doctors came onboard, checked them out and exited. Finally, they heard that the Doctors

claimed they were in too horrible condition to be exchanged and they were taken on to Fort Delaware. There were only 430 officers remaining of the 600. Every day they were brought out for roll call and told to take the oath, seventeen took the oath before Lee's surrender. Even after the surrender of all the Southern Generals, many of the Immortals stood their ground refusing to take the oath. Though the war was over, Confederate prisoners were still held in Fort Delaware prison. By July 1865, all the prisoners that were still there were released to make their way back on their own.

Captain Dunkle, 25th Virginia Infantry, wrote "Those days of anguish are too detestable to be forced upon the memory: and I shudder, when called upon to narrate the facts. They often haunt me in my dreams, and make vivid to my mind the shrieks of pain, the groans of misery, the cries of despair, and the wailings of agony of the six hundred."



References:

- Murray, J. Ogden, *The Immortal Six Hundred*. The Neale Publishing Co. © 1905.
- Joslyn, Mauriel P. *Immortal Captives*. White Mane Publishing Company, Inc © 1996 and 2008.

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The HMCHS was formed more than 65 years ago by thoughtful citizens who were concerned about preserving the unique heritage of this area. The richness and diversity of 200 years of local history indeed should be shared and celebrated. To that end; the Historical Society has been collecting, preserving, recording and promoting history since 1951.

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The Huntsville Historical Review; Editorial Policy

The Huntsville Historical Review, a biyearly journal sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, is the primary voice for local historians to document Madison County history. This journal reflects the richness and diversity of Madison County and North Alabama and this editor will endeavor to maintain the policy established by his predecessor with regard to the primary focus of the Review as well as material included in it. A casual examination of every community in the world reveals the character of its citizens and, if you look closely, voices from the past express their expectations for the future. Today is based upon our collective experience and the socialization of our ancestor's existence.

Although this publication focuses on local history, we cannot forget that what happens here has roots often connected by state, regional, national, and international events. In an effort to build on past traditions and continue the quality of our *Review*, an editorial policy will be implemented to guide contributors who wish to

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Review Content and Style

- In matters of form and style, a good guide is the fourteenth or fifteenth edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- If you choose to include footnotes the preferred citation method for full articles would be best.
- Manuscripts should be in 12-point font and in Times New Roman. Microsoft Word
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Please limit your book review to topics relevant to local, state, or southern history. A good review should clearly and concisely describe the nature, scope, and thesis of a book that would be relevant to Madison County history. Emphasis on local and regional history will be given in order to help readers expand and

contextualize their knowledge. Your review should be helpful to the general reader interested in Madison County or North Alabama and here are some good rules to follow when writing a book review:

- Your first obligation in a book review is to explain the subject of the book and the author's central thesis or main points.
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Please limited to 250 words and include contact information. If you are making an inquiry or asking a question. The editor has the right to change or delete wording or information.

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- Write in the active voice, and the past tense.
- Cast your sentences in the positive.
- Topic sentences should be clear and straightforward statements of what the paragraph is about. Every sentence in a paragraph should work to explain the topic sentence.
- Write in the third person.

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