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THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Huntsville, Alabama

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ATTITUDES IN NORTH ALABAMA TO THE CONFEDERACY

By Angela Ferguson

The Civil War witnessed the virtual consumption of North Alabama's Southern men by the Confederate cause and war machine. Those persons who stayed at home were usually women and black slaves, or, among the white males, Union sympathizers and leaders. Within this Southern civilian population during the war there existed divisions in sentiment, manifested in diverse ways, toward the Confederacy.

Walter Lynwood Fleming, author of Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama, assets that in an account of life on the plantations and farms in the South during the war the white men may almost be left out.[1] While their sons and husbands fought in the army, the Southern women fell heir to the responsibility of managing the family affairs on the plantations or small dirt farms. Plantation women had the added responsibility of the black slaves who were in turn charged by their masters with the obligation of protecting and obeying their mistresses.

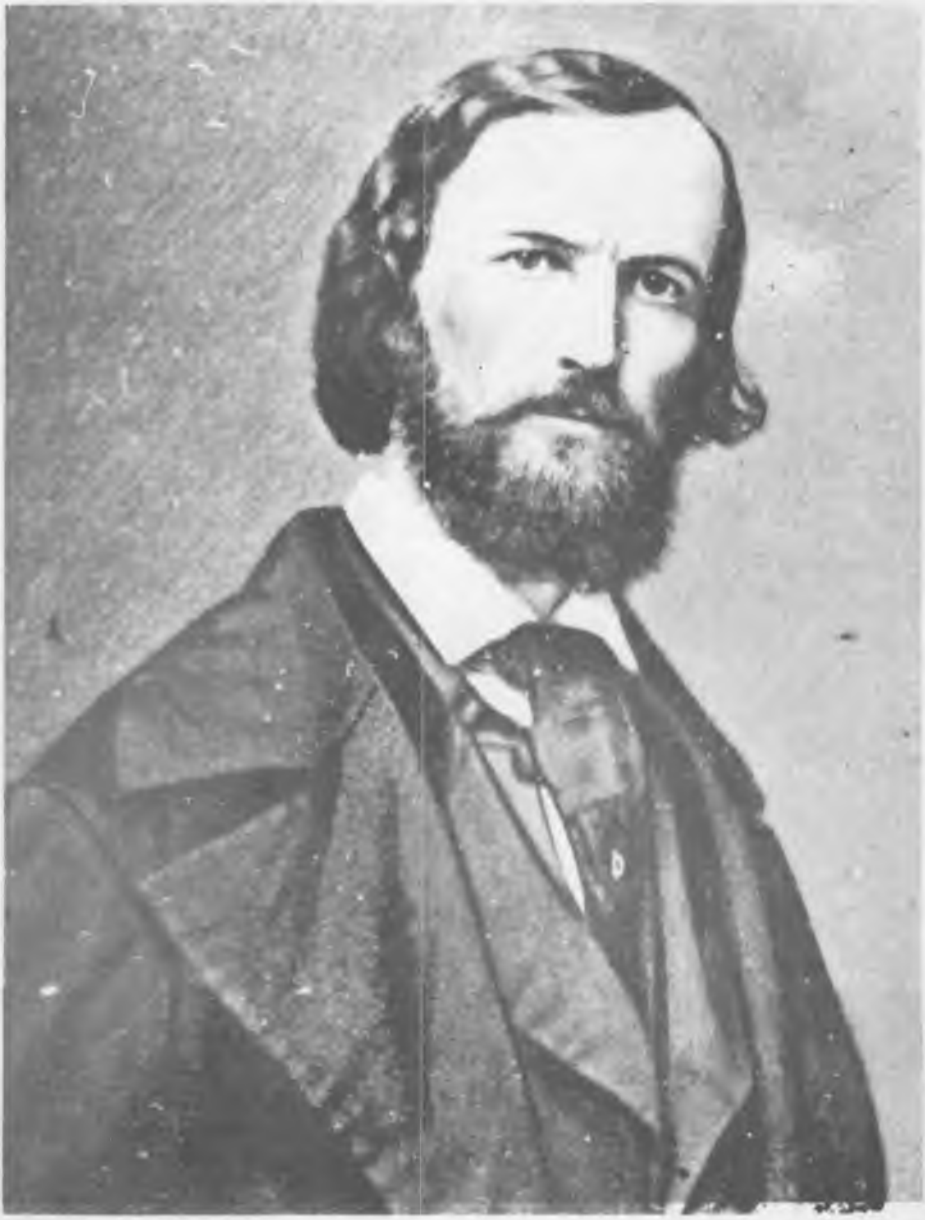
The women constituted the largest pro-Confederate element in North Alabama. Before the war actually broke out, the women sewed banners and cockades for secessionists to wear. Once war began, the women displayed their approval of the cause by supporting the soldiers in as many ways as they could. In addition, through acts of Confederate patriotism during the occupation of North Alabama, the women revealed a strong sentiment to the Southern cause.

Aside from the duties in managing the business affairs of their families, the women took on the task of providing as much clothing, blankets and edibles to the soldiers as was possible. They formed themselves into societies to sew materials for the army's use. "Spinning, weaving, sewing and knitting military apparel of every description" occupied much of the Alabama woman's spare time.[2] Not only did the women provide clothing for the army, but they also made flags and standards to lead the men into battle. Precious scraps of material were donated to the making of a flag. One woman even donated her wedding dress.[3]

One form of support lavished freely on the soldiers, especially officers, was the admiration of the women. Bordering on "hero" worship, the women greatly admired Confederate leaders. Totally dedicated to the Confederate cause, Mrs. William D. Chadick, of Huntsville, remained in the city throughout Federal occupation. She reported in her diary that, during Yankee occupation in 1862, wounded and imprisioned Confederate soldiers shipped to Huntsville, "...received great attention from the ladies..." This caused discontent among the ignored Union officers who thought military victory should open the Huntsville social circle to them.[4] In a demonstration of love and devotion, a Rebel Captain, Frank Gurley, was crowned with a laurel wreath on the square of Huntsville, August 31, 1862, by the citizens, predominantly women.[5] Gurley, known as a guerilla fighter by the Union, was considered a type of folk hero by many Huntsville women.

Generally, the sentiment of Alabama women to "Northerners" was one of intense hatred. However, a few Union soldiers were able to establish some rapport with the women. Mrs. Chadick reported becoming a warm friend with a Yankee soldier; she even admitted feeding him.[6]

Confederate women remained faithful not only to the army and its leaders but to prominent leaders' wives as



Clement Claiborne Clay of Huntsville served in both the United States and Confederates States Senates.

well. During the 1862 occupation of Huntsville, when Union General Omsby McKnight Mitchell was in command, he moved his family into the city, confiscating for them what they desired. One of his daughters came into possession of a mare and riding habit owned by Mrs. Virginia Clay, the wife of the prominent former Congressman, Clement C. Clay, Jr. While riding the mare, Miss Mitchell was verbally assailed by Alice Spence, demanding that she "Git off Ginie Clay's mare! Git-off-Ginie Clay's ma-are!" For her outburst of loyalty to Mrs. Clay, Alice's brother was arrested to insure her good conduct thereafter.[7]

At least two young Huntsvillians were not afraid to admit to General Mitchell that they were Rebels. Miss Lallie Matthews and Miss Rowe Webster attached Confederate flags to their grace hoops and toyed with them as Yankee soldiers passed by. The young women were arrested and taken to Mitchell for an interview. When asked if they were Rebels, Miss Matthews replied "over and above board."[8]

There were other instances of blatant defiances by women of Union demands. Mrs. Chadick noted conversations in which she refused to give up supplies or open her home to the occupation forces. Mrs. Septimus D. Cabaniss asserted herself by keeping her front gate locked. Though the fence had been burned by Yankees and the yard was used as a camp ground, the family "...was required to use the key to open and close the gate as they went to and from the house."[9]

North Alabama women held not only Yankees in contempt, but also the few white men who had not gone to war. Before hostilities broke out, the women had been instrumental in encouraging sons, husbands and sweethearts to fill the army ranks. Those who did not comply faced social ostracization.[10] After the war began, Mrs. Chadick commented on some army holdouts: "It must be so humiliating to the men--reckon some of them wish

they had gone to the war and saved their reputations."

Slave owners in North Alabama who complied with the females' demands to join the army, and those who joined of their own volition, often left their families, plantations and farms largely to the care of their blacks. The slaves generally proved faithful to the trust placed in them, though some realized freedom would be a result of a Union victory. Fleming felt that the blacks were faithful because they were trained to be obedient. Insurrection was almost impossible among the slaves because they lacked organization and leadership. Religious beliefs, encouraged by his white master and his ministers of both races, compelled the slave to do his duty.[12] An historian who was born a slave but raised a free man,[13] John W. Beverly, concluded that in recorded history there is "...no case where any (black man) proved false to the trust."[14]

Legends exist in the South about slaves who risked their own lives to protect members of the white family from the Union soldiers. Mrs. Bessie King Russell, a long time Huntsville resident, relates a family tale of her grandmother's slave. "Aunt Tesh", so the story goes, was talking to a Yankee soldier, telling how she wished his army would hurry and free the slaves. The soldier and several others were searching the premise of Mrs. Russell's grandmother's home for a Confederate soldier believed to be hiding there. The mistress, overhearing Tesh's declarations, was upset because she thought the slave was happy over the prospects of being set free. After the soldiers left, the mistress asked Tesh what *she had* meant. Tesh replied, "Well, I had to," and, lifting her skirts she revealed the feet of the young Rebel soldier protruding out from under the porch. Tesh had set herself up as a decoy to protect a member of the white family which owned her.[15]

Black male slaves sometimes accompanied their masters to the battle ground as body servants. Reports exist that each servant courageously stood by his master, searching for him after encounters with the enemy,

nursing his wounds, burying him if he was dead, if possible carrying his body home for burial and even firing into the northern lines when a gun was available.[16]

Yankee forces impressed black labor to build fortifications. In Huntsville, slaves were gathered and sent to Nashville. Those who were made to work in Huntsville were drilled every day before beginning their work. Some of the blacks were willing to work for the Yankees, while others would run and hide.[17]

During the first occupation of Huntsville in 1862 by the Union Army, Mrs. Chadick reported in her diary that servants were giving information to Northern officers on all concealed arms and soldiers. From time to time, she mentioned slaves that had run away to join the other side. One in particular, Corinna, left the Chadick home, returned, and left again. By May 12, 1864, only Uncle Tom, an aged slave, remained with the Chadicks. Technically, Tom only resided with her because he had been impressed to build the Huntsville fortress.[18]

Black slaves were not allowed to enlist, though many were willing to serve in the Confederate Army. Free Southern blacks, however, were "...nearly all...engaged in some way in the Confederate service..." as cooks, teamsters or artisans. They paid their taxes and made contributions to the cause. Although it is estimated that there were three regiments of blacks who joined the Union Army in North Alabama,[20] most remained faithful to the established system of slave and master until the final defeat of the South.

North Alabama, it should be noted, was not a solid Confederate bloc. From the beginning of the war, there were outposts of Union sympathizers and Tories, persons hostile to the Confederacy. In some areas, in fact, Unionists vastly outnumbered Secessionists. One estimate claims Unionists outnumbered Confederates three to one in Morgan, Blount, Winston, Marion, Walker, Fayette and Jefferson counties. Winston County was re-

ferred to as the "Free State of Winston" due to its preponderance of Unionists.[21]

Alabamians who were favorable to the Federals wanted a small force of Yankees to which they could attach themselves for protection and assist in suppressing the rebellion.[22] Colonel Abel D. Streight in July, 1862, asked permission to organize the willing Unionists into regiments to fight the Rebels. He argued that they needed, and deserved, to be able to protect themselves as a reward for their loyalty despite a one year lapse of communication. Concerning North Alabama Unionists, Streight remarked that he had never "...witnessed such an outpouring of devoted and determined patriotism..."[23]

Unionists became quite active and outspoken when Huntsville was placed under Federal occupation. Prominent sympathizers supplied names of loyal Confederates to General Mitchell so he could send the Rebels to Northern prisons. Two of these prominent Unionists were General Jeremiah Clemens and Judge George W. Lane, both of Madison County.[24] Jeremiah Clemens, a former United States Senator from Huntsville, began the war on the Secessionist side, despite the fact that he favored cooperation as a delegate to the Secessionist Convention in 1860. He briefly held the rank of Major-General of the Alabama militia. But in 1862, Clemens changed his mind and crossed behind Federal lines, residing in Nashville and Philadelphia. Before the war was over, Clemens, a life long Democrat was actively supporting Lincoln's reelection.[25] Lane was probably the Alabamian most loyal to the Union. He never recognized the political existence of the Confederate States of America. Appointed as a Federal judge by President Lincoln, Lane flew the American flag in Huntsville until his death in 1864.[26]

In the countryside, Tories and Confederate Army deserters expressed their sentiment in violent terms of plunder, murder and theft. Several people were mur-

dered in cold blood and at least one was burned to death. Bands of Unionists dubbed themselves with such titles as "Destroying Angels" and "Prowling Brigades". At first, their violence was aimed at Confederate sympathizers. However, as the war dragged on, they roamed indiscriminately over North Alabama.[27]

Strangely, the Confederate government and the Alabama state government neglected to act decisively in moving against the violent Unionist minorities. This lack of action, combined with a conflict between the two governments, weakened both and encouraged open defiance on the part of the disaffected toward the loyal citizens.[28]

After the Confederate military reverses of 1863 at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the elusive dream of Southern independence lost some of its initial glamour. It was increasingly clear that the war would not be a short, romantic triumph of the South over the Northern invader. Alabama women finally settled into the real world of a war which took its toll on their menfolk. Their responsibility remained in maintaining farms and plantations and sending supply packages to the needy Confederate Army. The freed or runaway blacks eventually tended to follow the Federal soldiers who they considered to be their liberators.

The formation of secret societies which were dedicated to peace was one sign of "formidable discontent."[29] As anti-war sentiment grew, the people became increasingly anxious to accept peace on the terms offered them by the Union. It is quite possible that had the war continued through the August, 1865 elections, a state administration would have been elected on a platform against further support to the Confederacy. This was particularly true in North Alabama, plagued as the section was the Unionists marauders, and Federal military power. One may, therefore, be hard pressed to find a definable attitude in North Alabama toward the Confederacy, as her political fortunes ebbed and flowed into history.

[1]Walter Lynwood Fleming, Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama. Micro Offset Book (New York: Peter Smith, 1949), 239.

[2]H. E. Sterkx, Partners in Rebellion: Alabama Women in the Civil War. (Canbury, N. J.: Associated University Presses, Inc., 1970), 94.

[3]Ibid., 37-9.

[4]Mrs. William D. Chadick, "Civil War Days in Huntsville," the Huntsville Times, 1934, entry for May 12, 1862.

[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid., entry for June 30, 1862.

[7]Malcolm Cook McMillan, The Alabama Confederate Reader. (University, Al.: University of Alabama Press, 1963), 178-9.

[8]Chadick, entry for June 20, 1962.

[9]Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women, Glimpses Into Ante-Bellum Homes of Historic Huntsville, Alabama, Revised (Huntsville, Al.: By the Organization, 1968), 23.

[10]Sterkx, Chapter 2.

[11]Chadick, entry for April 21, 1862.

[12]Fleming, 209-11.

[13]Henry S. Marks, Who Was Who in Alabama. (Huntsville, Al.: Strode Publishers, 1972), 28.

[14]John W. Beverly, History Of Alabama, (Montgomery, Al.: By the Author, 1901), 201-2.

[15]Bessie King Russell, interview at the home of Frank Gurley Hall, July 25, 1974.

[16]Beverly, 200 and Fleming, 207.

[17]Chadick, entries for August 4 and 11, 1862.

[18]Ibid., facts gleaned throughout.

[19]Fleming, 207-8.

[20]Beverly, 200.

[21]McMillan, 172-75.

[22]Georgia Lee Tatum, Disloyalty in the Confederacy. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1934), 54-5.

[23]McMillan, 175-6.

[24]Tatum, 56.

[25]Fleming, 125.

[26]Fleming, Clemens is regarded as one of the most brilliant men in Alabama politics. He was also an author of some note and performed bravely in the Mexican War. But he was overly ambitious, vacillating, and unreliable to his colleagues and constituents. It is suspected that his interest in Lincoln's re-election was motivated by his personal desire to be military Governor of Alabama when the war was over. Interestingly, Clemens once wrote Confederate Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker that Lane's acceptance of a Federal Judgeship was treason and that "North Alabama men would gladly hang him." 125-6.

[27]Fleming, 119-120.

[28]Tatum, 59.

[29]Fleming, 137.

FROM COTTON TO MISSILES: MADISON COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES

By James Record

Prior to the creation of Madison County in 1808, King Cotton already played an influential role in the development of the Southern States. The King was destined to affect the growth of the county and its governmental processes. In 1811, The National Intelligencer, in Washington, D. C., gave the county national attention by carrying an article stating that Madison County had doubled the cotton production of any county its size in the United States. At that time there were 48,463 acres of land under private ownership with 696 families holding title. Twenty nine per cent of these families also owned slaves. This was in the year that Huntsville became the first incorporated city in what was to become Alabama, only seven years following settlement of the county. Cotton, therefore, was grown long before the first public official was appointed or the county officially created. The King had come a long way from the first successful cultivation in Pakistan 6,000 years ago, some 4,000 years before the first county government was formed.

Natives of the New World already knew about cotton and its beneficial effect to their mode of living. Explorers in the 1600's reported that the Indians were already growing cotton and making cotton clothing. On a local basis, Cherokee Indians certainly recognized the importance of cotton when they ceded their lands to the United States in 1806. As a part of their price, they required the government to give them

"a machine that cleans cotton." This was 3 years after Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, and three years after Abram Mordeciah established the first successful gin operation in Alabama near Coosada Bluffs. In 1810, twenty two cotton factories were operating within the Mississippi Territory, just twelve years after creation of the territory and appointment of its first officials. An 1814 report showed eighteen cotton gins operating in Madison County, only five years after the first homemade gin began production in the county. Today there are twenty gins.

Legislation concerning cotton was adopted in the Mississippi Territory shortly after laws passed setting up public offices. A law passed on October 5, 1799, related to the inspection of gins, cotton presses and cotton entered for transportation from the territory.

At the time Madison County was created on December 13, 1808, laws were already on the books establishing the county offices of Constable; Sheriff; Coroner; Justice of the Peace; Treasurer; Militia; Notary Public; Tax Assessor and Collector; Jailor and Court Clerks. A few days later the Territorial Governor appointed the first officials for the county. Stephen Neal was Sheriff, and Thomas Freeman, Justice of the Peace. Further appointments followed, but not as rapidly as the Governor wished. Correspondence shows he depended on advice of friends. Appointments in 1809 included William Winston, County Court Clerk; Peter Perkins, Circuit (Superior) Court Clerk; Nicholas Perkins as Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Militia; and the County Governing Body known as Justices of the Peace and Quorum, consisting of William Dickson, Edward Ward, Peter Perkins, LeRoy Pope and Thomas Bibb.

In 1810, appointments included Gabriel Moore, Tax Assessor and Collector; John Hunt, Huntsville's first settler, Coroner; and David Cobb, Constable. Bennett Wood became Treasurer. John B. Haynes received an appointment as Jailor, serving until 1814. By 1811, then, all offices provided for by the Sergeants Code of 1799 had been filled in Madison

County, with one possible exception. It is known that Peter Perkins was appointed as a Notary Public in 1813, but no record for a Notary appointment prior to that time is known for sure.

In the interim period, legislation passed in 1809 providing for an Attorney General and Superior Court Judge for Madison County. Louis Winston was appointed Attorney General in 1809, and Obadiah Jones became Judge in 1810. Legislation in 1812 provided for a County Ranger, William W. Parham. The office of Ranger (sometimes referred to as Straymaster) was abolished in 1819, and the County Court Clerk assumed the functions. Also receiving appointments by virtue of 1805 legislation were John Martin, Road Apportioner, and David Cobb and Joel Rice, as Overseers of the Poor. Madison County acquired its first poorhouse in 1829 and appointed John Power as superintendent. Doctors Thomas Fearn and Alexander Erskine were appointed as physicians for the facility. A poorhouse was continued here until 1935, when its functions were assumed by the Welfare Department. A bill in 1811 set up the Sheriff and County Court Clerk as a Jury Commission, but this system changed over the years, designating different officials, until 1909, when the present day Jury Commission was established, comprised of A. J. Esslinger, Charles L. Toney and George C. Blanton. The office of County Surveyor was also established in 1811 with Hugh McVay appointed. This office was discontinued in 1935. Two new offices were created in 1816, when John Martin became Keeper of Weights and Measures, and Thomas Austin was appointed Inspector of Flour at Ditto's Landing. Both offices were also later discontinued.

Formation of the infant State of Alabama in 1819, surprisingly, found relatively few changes made in the county government during the first year of statehood. The Superior Court Judge and Clerk became the Circuit Court Judge and Clerk, with Clement Comer Clay and Lemuel Mead assuming those offices, respectively. A Solicitor replaced the District Attorney, Joseph Fastland receiving the new title. In-

Cotton Market - Fall of 1895

cidentally, the Solicitor name was changed to District Attorney by a Constitutional Amendment of 1965. The County Governing Body was renamed Justices of the County Court in 1819, the first members being David Moore, LeRoy Pope, Charles Betts, John Withers and John M. Taylor. Pope was appointed Chief of the Orphans Court. A completely new office created in 1819 was titled County Auctioneer, with Andrew Veitch receiving the appointment. This office was discontinued in 1852. A major change in 1819 saw the county receiving appointment powers, including appointment of the Assessor and Collector; Surveyor; Treasurer and Auctioneer. They were designated to recommend a Coroner and Notaries Public to the Governor.

In the field of education, legislation in 1819 designated three school agents to be school trustees, while legislation of 1837 authorized the county to appoint three School Commissioners. It was not until 1854, however, that Madison County got its first Board of Education, consisting of two elected Commissioners and the Probate Judge. The County's first Board consisted of Charles H. Patton, William Wright, and Probate Judge Ferdinand Hammond. The first Superintendent of Education was William McVay, elected in 1856. In 1879, the system was changed to provide that the Superintendent of Education and two teachers constitute the Board. Legislation in 1903 provided that the Board consist of the Superintendent and four Trustees. The present form consisting of five elected members basically came into being with legislation enacted in 1915.

The 1820 law divided the county into road districts and the law, in essence, still exists. Although the 1820 County Governing Body appointed Apportioners to "apportion" lands, and Overseers to get the work done, the county today appoints a foreman for each road district. The Overseer system went out of existence in 1936. The early days found frequent reference to macadam roads, a process that was invented in England in 1816. Seven years later, in 1823, the first macadam road was laid in Madison County. They are still built here today, but are now called "crushed rock" roads.

An 1821 law brought the word "County Commissioner" into the Madison County government picture. Four Commissioners of Roads and Revenue, along with a County Court Judge, were designated as the County Governing Body, with the Commissioners having a one year term, changed to three years, by an 1827 law. The first Commissioners were Gross Scruggs, James Manning, Charles Betts and Samuel Walker. Samuel Chapman was County Court Judge. The body later became known as the Commissioners Court in 1850, with the Probate Judge serving as Chairman until 1919. This system was replaced in 1919 by a three-member Board of Revenue. Legislation of 1921 established the Madison County Board of Commissioners, whose name was changed in 1970 to the Madison County Commission. In the 1890's the members of the governing body, not including the Probate Judge, ran county-wide and for staggered terms, but 1921 legislation provided that they run only in their geographic districts for four-year terms, except the Chairman who was to run county-wide. Legislation in 1969, which went into effect in 1970, again required that the Commissioners run county-wide and live within a geographic district.

Until 1830, judges held office during good behavior, but that year a constitutional amendment placed their term at six years. An 1850 amendment made all judges elective, except Chancellors, which office was created in 1839. He appointed the county's first Register in Chancery, Septimus D. Cabiness. The Chancery Court was abolished in 1917, with the Circuit Court assuming the Chancellor's functions, and a new office, Register of the Circuit Court, was established, with Fannie Shepherd Cabiness the first Register.

The year 1848 brought about the first attempt at property tax equalization, a controversy which still rages today. The Tax Assessor and County Governing Body acted as a Board of Equalization, although legislation of 1868 placed the responsibility on the Probate Judge, County Commissioners, and Treasurer, or any three of them. The County Governing Body later assumed part of the function, acting as a Board of

Review, later aided by a Tax Commissioner and Tax Adjuster. The County's first Tax Commissioner, Henry P. Turner, assumed office in 1897. In 1909, a three-member Board of Equalization, similar to the 1970 system, was appointed. The first members of the 1909 Board were J. P. Powell, E. W. Burwell and R. S. McCrary.

An act during 1848 made the Tax Collector elective for a one-year term. This changed to two years in 1851; three years in 1868; four years in 1903; and six years in 1943. The office of Tax Assessor was made elective for a one year term in 1854; being changed to two years in 1860; three years in 1868; four years in 1903; and six years in 1943. The office of County Treasurer was made elective in 1852 and was abolished in 1917, to be succeeded by a County Depository, the system still in use today. The first depository was R. Rison Banking Company.

A constitutional amendment of 1850 created the office of Probate Judge, abolishing the office of County Court Judge. The office was changed to a salary system by another amendment of 1957. This set a trend for Madison County offices, with the offices of Tax Assessor and Tax Collector being placed on the salary system in 1965, and those of Sheriff, Register, and Circuit Court Clerk being so placed by 1969 legislation. The office of Coroner had previously been placed on a salary system in 1951.

Registration of voters on a coordinated basis was first begun in Alabama during 1868 by the Union Army. Legislation that year provided for an Assistant Registrar in each county, with Madison County's first being D. W. Burke. The present Board of Registrars system replaced the earlier system in 1901. The first members appointed in 1901 were John M. Hampton, James M. Massengale and Robert D. Eckberger. Legislation in 1975 has permitted registration on a full-time basis.

Following the Civil War, very little consequential legislation affecting the formation and development of Madison County government was passed until shortly after the be-

ginning of the 19th century - a period of nearly fifty years. The County had appointed its first County Health Board in 1859, but it was 1873 before the first County Health Officer, Dr. J. J. Dement, was selected. The first board consisted of Doctors Fleming Jordan, J. J. Dement, Lewis C. Pynchon, A. R. Erskine, A. R. Bassett, Henry A. Binford and D. Shelby. The board was frequently advised by the County's first County Attorney, James Robinson, appointed in 1867.

Four new county offices were created in 1907. J. M. Kirkpatrick became the Game and Fish Warden, while Frank C. Love was appointed Supervisor of Public Roads, under a new law. The Superintendent of Public Roads was succeeded by a County Engineer in 1929, with the office becoming full-time in 1930. A. J. Earl received the 1930 appointment. Also in 1907, Tancred Betts became the first Judge of the Law and Equity Court. The office was abolished in 1916, with Circuit Court assuming the function. The county, also in 1907, got its first liquor store as saloons went out the window. David D. Overton was appointed Dispenser. The State went bone dry in 1909, and that is the last time the County Governing Body has been in the liquor business.

The office of Court Stenographer was established during 1915, with Lily Hinds appointed. The office was succeeded by a Court Reporter, E. P. Kingsberry, in 1919. During 1911 - the same year Alabamians got their first auto license - the office of Treasurer of School Funds was created, with Robert Murphree getting the nod. The year 1911 was important, too, inasmuch as the Inferior Court was established, replacing the Huntsville Justices of the Peace, signalling the beginning of the end for Justices of the Peace in Madison County. Practically no Justices nor Constables have been elected in the county during the last decade and a constitutional amendment has now abolished the Justice position. To head the Inferior Court, Archibald McDonnell was chosen as the first Judge. The office was abolished in 1957 and its function absorbed by a new Madison County Court. James W. Baker became Judge of the new Court. The County Court has now

been supplanted by a General Sessions Court with two Judges. Back in 1912, Madison County got its first County Agent, with R. S. McCrary and Clarendon Davis sharing the honors jointly. Louise Thomas became the first Home Demonstration Agent in 1916.

Between 1920 and 1940 relatively few changes occurred in Madison County offices, although the state government had very significant changes in the 1930's. Legislation provided, for the first time, uniform accounting procedures and budgeting for county governments; authorized counties to acquire water systems, establish Public Welfare Boards, and T. B. sanitoriums. Madison County established its Public Welfare Board in 1935, with members being Mmes. C. T. Butler, Lawrence Goldsmith, Aaron Fleming, Thompson Kelly, Eva Quick, Harry Williamson and Phil Peeler. Mrs. Kimball Jones served as the first director of the department, although, in 1924, Mrs. Bess Williams had been appointed as a Child Welfare Director, which office was abolished in 1935. In 1939, a County Barber Board, consisting of Earl Wilson, Clarence H. Carroll, and W. C. Freeman, was appointed. Also in 1939, a constitutional amendment approved use of voting machines, with Charles M. Cason and H. E. Monroe, Sr., appointed Custodians of Voting Machines. In 1935, J. M. Robinson became the county's first License Inspector, appointed by the state, but in 1971, the County Governing Body was given the authority. In 1939, the county took over operation of the Farmers Market from the city, with Mrs. Lillie Maude Alexander acting chairman of the market committee. The county found it advisable to appoint a Gasoline Tax Inspector, Howard Caldwell, in 1936. The office was discontinued from 1947 to 1949 but was then re-established.

During the 1940's, Madison County again had few new offices formed, even though the coming of the Arsenals in 1941 rapidly accelerated the growth of the area. Three new offices were established, with Frank Rice becoming County Veterans Service Officer in 1945; J. E. Spencer Building Superintendent in 1948; and Dr. Carl A. Grote, Sr., and

Archie W. Hill, Sr., receiving appointment as Trustees of District 1 T. B. Sanitorium, in 1946. An act of significance to the Alabama Historical Association passed in 1943, authorizing counties to appropriate money for historical purposes. Madison County appropriately used the act to begin what has amounted to the first continuing historical marker program co-sponsored by a county in Alabama.

Significant additions to county government appeared in the 1950's shortly after the German Scientist Rocket Team moved to Madison County, from Fort Bliss, Texas, bringing another astronomical growth to the region. In spite of this, however, poverty still existed in the county and a Commodity Surplus program was begun in 1954, with appointment of John Tuck as Supervisor, to give free foodstuffs to the underprivileged of the county. This system was replaced later by a good stamp program. A 1955 action, also of intense interest to historians, was the embarkment of Madison County upon a program of microfilming of county records, dating back to 1811, along with an intensive restoration program for all old books. E. C. Sandlin was appointed Records Custodian to handle centralized microfilming and reproduction of records. At the same time a local Records Commission was organized to oversee proper handling of records. The year also saw creation of the Madison County Public Building Authority, with C. Butler England, H. E. Monroe, Sr., and Oscar Mason being appointed. A second circuit judgeship was also created with Harry L. Pennington becoming Judge. Madison County in 1927 had been constituted as the 23rd Judicial Circuit of the State of Alabama. The big event of 1956 for county government was creation of an Airport Authority, with J. Edgar Mitchell, Louis Grabensteder, Robert H. Baker, James R. Smith and Robert K. Bell, being appointed. John Alford was appointed Airport Manager.

The 1960's brought about the most significant increase in county offices since the county's formation in 1808. Even so, it can be noted that the Madison County governing body has not asked for a new tax and abolished another in the last fifteen

The Madison County Courthouse, 1836

years. More business and more building, plus - we like to say - efficient operation of governmental has made this possible. In 1963, another circuit court was created, called the Family Court, to handle marital and juvenile cases, previously handled by the County Court, and prior to that, the Probate Judge. J. W. Green was elected to the judgeship. A new Juvenile Detention Home was jointly built by the county and city, and Melvin Brooks was appointed as the first Superintendent in 1963. The same year Mrs. Ellen Batt became the first County Law Librarian. In 1965, another circuit court was created with Thomas Younger becoming the Judge. In that year, the county appointed its first Water and Fire Protection Authority. Appointed were George McCown, Charles Hughes, Gerry Smith, Warren Moore, Charles Cherches and Joe Worley. Robert L. Gunn was added that year as the county's Inter-governmental Relations Director, with the main objective of obtaining federal and state monies for the county and to coordinate activities with other governments. Construction of the new Madison County Courthouse in 1966 necessitated another new office, that of Equipment Supervisor to look after some one million dollars worth of machinery. Vern Jones got this job.

Urbanization of services began to show more and more in county government in the 1960's so far as Madison County was concerned. The county in 1962 began the first full-fledged county-wide garbage collection system in the United States. Earl Troglen is presently in charge of the program. Also, in 1965, the county began the first county-wide rural street and community lighting program in Alabama, and in 1964, began the first true county-wide recreation program in Alabama. A Recreation Board was appointed, consisting of Oscar Mason, Sam C. Broyles, Roy E. Blair, Gordon M. Mitchell and Erskine Payne. A Mental Health Board was established in 1967, the county appointees being Ralph Ford, Guy J. Reynolds, Darrell Norrell, Albert Mann, and John Hays. Another significant development of 1967 was acquisition by the county of about 800 acres earmarked for an industrial

district, with the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee designated as the agent for the county to sell the land to industry.

A Personnel Board was created in Madison County setting up a merit system. The Board, consisting of R. D. Haynes, William E. Harrison, and Oscar F. Underwood, Jr., was appointed in 1969. Elaine Osborne was appointed Personnel Director.

There have been, and are, other offices in Madison County government, but space has not permitted inclusion of all. There have been many changes in Madison County government since 1808 and the same can be said of cotton. Many changes yet lie ahead for both.

*NOTE: Practically all of the information I have used came from my book, A Dream Come True.

SEQUOYAH OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

By Henry Marks

Part of this paper was originally developed from a grant from the State of Alabama "To Ascertain The Volidity of Sequoyah as a Bona fide Resident of Alabama" (prepared for the Alabama Hall of Fame), 1965.

Historically, the Tennessee Valley, encompassing portions of Alabama and Tennessee, has produced many illustrious patriots of all races. This area was once partially inhabited by Cherokees, the Indian group noted for its accomplishments among the Five Civilzed Tribes. White missionary groups were well aware of the progressive civilization developed by the Cherokees in the nineteenth century and applauded their accomplishments. One group, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, established missions on a worldwide basis and published monthly bulletins such as "The Missionary Herald," that described in detail the Indians' various activities and mode of living. The Board at one time or another, maintained missions with many, if not all, of the important Indian groups in the United States. Thus, the Board, through its work, has made available to us today records, which contain a wealth of information that give one an insight into the social developments of the American Indians, as well as missionary activities.

The January, 1844, issue of the Herald succinctly summed up the accomplishments of the Cherokees in its

survey of the Board's five missions among the Cherokees by stating: "This is the first of our aboriginal tribes which has introduced at its own expense the printing press; the first to establish and sustain a system of free schools; and the only people, for thousands of years, that have invented for its own use an alphabet." Cherokee development during this period is largely credited to Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. Sequoyah was born about 1770 in the Cherokee village of Tuskegee, in Tennessee, near Fort Loudon on the Tennessee River.[1] He died in August, 1843, in San Fernando, Mexico (now Texas), while on an expedition to find a fabled lost tribe of Cherokees.[2] His English name was George Guess, the name of his white father, who evidently was an itinerant peddler.[3] In childhood, or young manhood, he moved to Will's Town where George Lowrey, a half-breed, was principal chief. Will's Town was located either on an upper branch of the Coosa River near Gadsden, or in Northeast Alabama, above Raccoon Mountain and Will's Creek (and known as Willston in 1838).[4] Named for Chief Red Headed Will, the town was an important Cherokee community of considerable activity.

In early life Sequoyah was a silver craftsman and evidently a farmer. Though crippled, he served with Andrew Jackson in his Creek campaign which culminated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend on March 27, 1814. There he was a soldier in the Mounted and Foot Cherokees, a part of Colonel Gideon Morgan's Regiment of Cherokees.[5] Later, he became a leader of the Western Cherokees, who had been moved by the Federal Government to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River during the 1830's. In the Act of Union of July 12, 1840, uniting the Western and Eastern branches of the Cherokees, Sequoyah was listed as the "President of the Western Cherokees."[6] Also, the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation, promulgated at the same time as the Act of Union, was marked by Sequoyah.

About 1809, Sequoyah performed his most noted accomplishment by formulating an alphabet, or syllabus, to provide a written language. He completed this project sometime in the early 1820's. He had moved to the Arkansas Territory in 1818, but returned to Will's Town in 1821 to convince George Lowrey that his phonetic syllabus of eighty-five symbols was feasible.[7] Realizing the significant effect of the alphabet to their citizens, the National Cherokee Council officially proclaimed the syllabus as the national Cherokee language syllabary.[8] Five sources made statements to this effect, giving ample testimony to the almost instantaneous success of the syllabus in the Cherokee Nation:

1. "Within a few months, (after the syllabus had been accepted) several thousand Cherokees had learned to read and write the symbols and were teaching others."[9]
2. "Guess's system of education has met, among the Cherokees, with universal approbation" and in a "few days, the older Indians, who had despaired of deriving an education by means of the schools, and who are not included in the existing school system as participators of its benefits, may <u>read and correspond</u>";[10]
3. "in a little over a year, thousands of hitherto Cherokees were able to read and write their own language";
4. "in a few months thousands of the illiterate were able to read and write in their own language";[12]
5. "so successful was the alphabet that boys and men who came to him (Guess) to learn the system were able within three days to read and write.."[13]

Sequoyah, it should be noted, partially developed and promulgated his alphabet while residing in the Tennessee Valley section of Alabama. The first step in accepting the syllabus by the Cherokee Nation was the personal approval given the document by Chief George Lowrey.

Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet

He, in turn, was instrumental in convincing the National Council of the importance the alphabet held to Cherokee development. Modern residents of the Tennessee Valley should recognize Guess and Lowery for their service to their people and mankind, and be proud of the fact that much of the development of the syllabus or alphabet occurred in this part of Alabama.

Regretfully, there are but few memorials or other forms of recognition attesting to these significant feats. Jackson County leads the way in this respect. Until recently a historical marker stood on Highway 72 near Larkinsville, east of Scottsboro. Erected in 1953 by the Alabama Historical Association, it stated that Sequoyah was the "Inventor of system of characters representing syllables in Cherokee language. This gave them only written Indian Language. Adopted here at Sauta in 1822. Cherokees used new written language to print the Bible, hymns and a newspaper named Cherokee Phoenix." According to a number of Jackson County historians, including Claude Thornhill, Sequoyah announced his alphabet to a group of Indian leaders at Sauta,[14] which was established in 1784 and became the first county seat of Jackson County. It was located near where North Sauta Creek enters the Tennessee River. Thus Sauta actually was located several miles south of Larkinsville and the marker was in error in placing the community at Highway 72. The marker has been removed from its former location, presumably to be placed at Sauta.[15]

A second tribute to Guess in Jackson County is the Sequoyah Scenic Motor Trail, which begins and ends at Scottsboro. The trail meanders through the foothills of the Cumberlands in Jackson County. Beginning at the Scottsboro freight depot, a minnie ball scarred building that withstood a Civil War skirmish, the trail leads westward past the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School at Grant, Woodville, Paint Rock and up the beautiful Paint Rock Valley (via Alabama highway 65). It then turns eastward on Alabama highway 146, which passes through the com-

munity of Skyline and past what is known as the Brick Factory, the first industry to be developed in Jackson County. The trail then follows highway 72 to Alabama highway 117, which passes through or near Sequoyah Caverns, Ta-Co-Bet or "God's Mountain," Jones Cove, Fern Cliff and the grave site of the Robert Scotts, founders of Scottsboro, before returning to the freight depot in Scottsboro. But these are the only significant forms of recognition of Sequoyah in Jackson or Madison counties. There certainly should be greater recognition given to Sequoyah in the Tennessee Valley, especially in Madison County, as America's national bicentennial approaches.

[1]Grant Foreman, Sequoyah (Norman; University of Oklahoma Press, 1938), 3. Sequoyah's date of birth is not definitely known.

[2]Emmet Starr, Early History of the Cherokees (privately published 1917), 47.

[3]Marion L. Starkey, The Cherokee Nation (New York; Alfred A. Knopf, 1946), 78.

[4]Map of Alabama, 1838, drawn by T. G. Bradford, located in Special Collections, University of Emory Library, Atlanta, Georgia and the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library.

[5]Foreman, op. cit., 3.

[6]Morris L. Wardell, A Political History of the Cherokee Nation 1838-1907, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1938), 28, and U. S. 27th Congress Indian Session, 1841-42, House Indian Affairs, Committee on Removel of the Cherokees West of the Mississippi, Rep. No. 1098.

[7]Henry Thompson Malone, Cherokee Civilization In The Lower Appalachians, Especially in North Georgia, Before 1830, unpublished master's thesis, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Sequoyah taught the syllabus to Lowrey in just one week.

[8]The National Cherokee Council was known by the Indian term of Tsalagi Tinilawiga, the Indian term for the National Council and the National Committee, the two legislative bodies of the Cherokee Nation.

[9]Ibid.

[10]Document B. Letter of Thomas L. McKenney to James Barbour, Secretary of War, December 13, 1825. Letter from the U. S. Secretary of War to the Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, Accompanied by a bill for the Preservation and Civilization of the Indian Tribes Within the United States, February 21, 1826 (Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1826), 19; found in Emory University Library, Atlanta, Georgia.

[11]Foreman, op. cit., 11.

[12]Starkey, op. cit., 78-79.

[13]Wardell, op. cit., 4 as quoted from the Cherokee Advocate, October 26, 1844.

[14]Walt Hammer, A Pictorial Walk Through Ol' High Jackson, (Collegedale, Tennessee: The College Press, 1967), 12-16.

[15]However, a map published in 1842 by Sidney E. Morse and Samuel Brease, now in the possession of the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library, shows Sauta well above the Tennessee, along the road from the then county seat of Jackson, Belefonte, to Claysville, but also below Larkinsville.

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