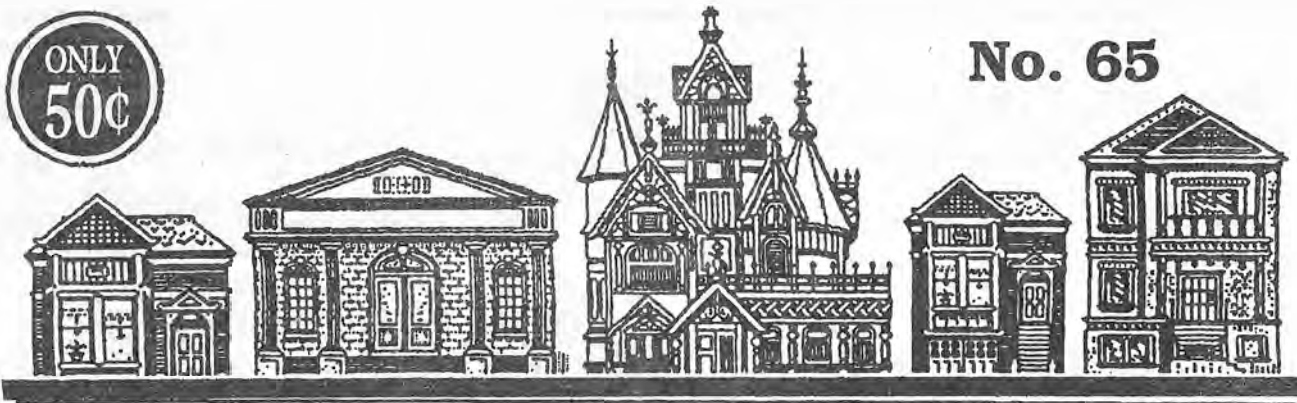


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Old Huntsville

John Beatty, The Yankee Who Burned Paint Rock

by Jim Coleman

Colonel Beatty declared to the citizens of the little town: "Every time a telegraph wire is cut, we shall burn a house; every time a train is fired upon, we shall hang a man." He was a man of his word. In April of 1862 he put Paint Rock to the torch.



John Beatty, The Yankee Who Burned Paint Rock

by Jim Coleman

When Colonel John Beatty arrived in Huntsville in April 1862 at the head of his 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, he felt his organization would never see combat.

"After all," he wrote in his diary, "nineteen years earlier the 3rd went all the way to Mexico and saw no fighting."

What Beatty had no way of knowing was that he would spend only four months with General Ormsby Mitchel's occupation forces in Huntsville.

In August he would receive orders for his regiment to move northward where he would take part in all the major battles in the west, with the exception of Shiloh.

Before coming to Huntsville, Beatty found camp life boring in Kentucky and Tennessee, but he attempted to overcome it with a wry sense of humor. "The water is bad," he said, "whiskey is scarce, dust is abundant, and the air loaded with the scent and melody of a thousand mules."

His uniform had become so tattered in the battle zone by 1862, he wrote home to his wife, "My pantaloons are in a revolutionary condition, the seat having seceded." The most exciting action he saw during his tenure in Huntsville was when he ordered the burning of Paint Rock. Confederate guerrillas caused



General John Beatty, 1864

him some anxiety there as well as at Decatur, Bridgeport and Stevenson. But the worst indignity he suffered up to that time was having his wife's letters intercepted and read by Morgan's Raiders in Tennessee.

Yet, Beatty made the best of his light duties in Huntsville. He served two months as Provost Marshal of the town before coming down with jaundice, a bile disorder probably caused by hepatitis. One of his close friends and fellow officers, General James A. Garfield, also contracted jaundice.

But Beatty, who said when writing his memoirs later, he'd rather write about everyday happenings, rumors and observations than describe the tactical operations of armies. True to his word while in Huntsville, Beatty expressed his interest and fascination with the ways of the Southern people, white and colored. He obviously sympathized with the plight of the Negro, but enjoyed quoting their dialect and spelling Negro in lower case letters, both practices accepted in that era.



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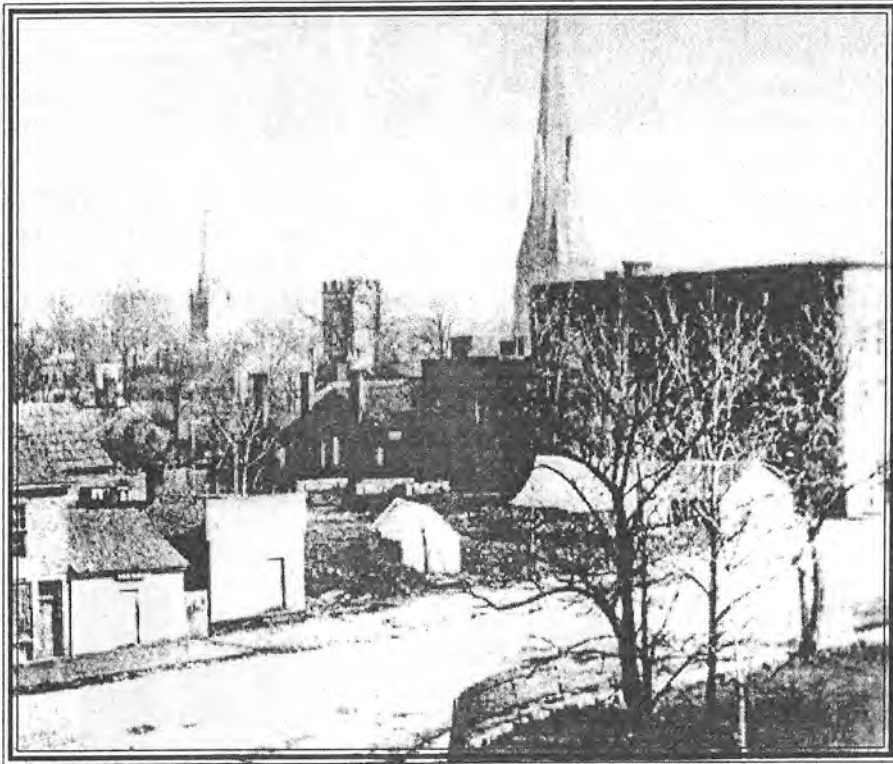
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As Union forces poured into Huntsville, they soon took over the whole town. Pictured here are tents of Union soldiers downtown near the Episcopal Church of The Nativity.

"The busiest time in the Provost Marshal's office," he said, "is between eight in the morning and noon. Then many persons apply for passes to go outside the line and for guards to protect property. Others come to make complaints that houses have been broken open, or that horses, dogs, and negroes, have strayed away or been stolen."

In June, he said, "The men of Huntsville have settled down to a patient endurance of military rule. They say but little, and treat us with all politeness. The women, however, are outspoken in their hostility, and marvelously bitter. A flag of truce of rebels came in last night from Chattanooga, and the bearers were overwhelmed with visits and favors from the ladies. When they took supper at the Huntsville Hotel, the large dining room was crowded with fair faces and bright eyes; but the men pru-

dently "held aloof."

"A day or two ago one of our Confederate prisoners died. The ladies filled the hearse to overflowing with flowers, and a large number of them accompanied the soldier to his last resting place.

"The foolish, yet absolute, devotion of the women to the Southern cause does much to keep it alive. It encourages, nay forces, the young to enter the army, and compels them to continue what the more sensible Southerners know to be a hopeless struggle. But we must not judge these Huntsville women too harshly. Here are the families of many of the leading men of Alabama; of generals, colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants in the Confederate army; of men, even who hold cabinet positions at Richmond, and of many young men who are clerks in the departments of the

rebel Government. Their wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts feel, doubtless, that the honor of these gentleman, and possibly their lives, depend upon the success of the Confederacy."

Back home in Columbus, Ohio, where Beatty and his brother, William, operated a thriving bank, he rarely saw a colored person. He obviously took an interest in the colored person's common sense pronouncements, especially about nature and animals. While relaxing in a camp chair outside his tent near Huntsville, Beatty observed, "Among the curiosities in camp are two young coons and a pet opossum. The latter is the property of Augustus Caesar, a servant of Adjutant Wilson. Caesar restrains the opossum with string, and looks forward with great pleasure to the time when he will be fat enough to eat. The coons are just now playing on the wild cherry tree in front of my tent, and several colored boys are watching them with great interest.

One of these native Alabamians tells me, 'De coon am a great fiter; he can wip a dog berry often; but de possum can wip de coon, for he jist takes one holt on de coon, goes to sleep, an' nebber lets go; de coon he scratch an' bite, shuts his eyes, and bimeby de coon he knocks under. You can tote a possum, but you can't tote a coon, he scratch an' bite so'."

On another occasion, Beatty sat near his tent in Huntsville enjoying a watermelon. He says, "I have eaten almost the whole of a watermelon today, and I am somewhat satiated. The melon had a cross (+) on the rind. I enquired of the negro who brought it in, what the mark meant, and he replied, 'De patch

war owned principally by a good many slaves, sah, an' dey dewided dem afore day got ripe an' put de marke on the rine, to show dat de p'tic'lar melon belonged to a p'tic'lar boy, sah'."

On April 14, 1862, as various regiments converged on Huntsville from the north progress was slow because of bad roads. Beatty said, "We bivouacked for the night near a distillery. Many of the men drunk;

the 10th Ohio particularly wild."

The next day Beatty's men resumed the march at six in the morning. He remarked, "Passed the plantation of Leonidas Polk Walker. He is said to be the wealthiest man in North Alabama. His domain extends for fifteen miles along the road. The overseer's house and the negro huts near it make quite a village.

"Met a good many young men (Confederates) returning from

Corinth and Pittsburg Landing. Quite a number of them had been in the Sunday's battle (Shiloh), and being wounded, had been sent back to Huntsville. General Mitchel had captured and released them on parole. Some had their heads bandaged, others their arms, while others, unable to walk, were conveyed in wagons. As they passed, our men made many good-natured remarks, as, "Well, boys, you're

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tired of soldiering, ar'n't you?" "Goin' home on furlough, eh?" "Played out." "Another bold soger boy!" "See the soger!"

"As the 10th Ohio approached Huntsville, at one point a hundred or more colored people, consisting of men, women, and children, flocked to the roadside. The band struck up, and they accompanied the regiment for a mile or more, crowding and jostling each other in their endeavors to keep abreast of the music. "They boys were wonderfully amused."

"As we approach the Alabama line we find fewer, but handsomer, houses; larger plantations, and negroes more numerous. We saw droves of women working in the fields. When their ears caught the first notes of the music, they would drop the hoe and come running to the road, their faces all aglow with pleasure. May we not hope that their darkened minds caught glimpses of the sun of a better life, now rising for them."

Beatty entered the following in his diary, "Reached Huntsville at five in the afternoon. Just after sunset Colonel Keifer and I strolled into the town, stopped at the hotel for a moment, where we saw a rebel officer in his gray uniform running about on parole. Visited the railroad depot, where some two hundred rebels are confined. The prisoners were variously engaged; some chatting, others playing cards, while a few of a more devotional turn were singing."

By his timely arrival General Mitchel cut a division of rebel troops in two. Four thousand got by, and were thus enabled to join the rebel army at Corinth, while about the same number were obliged to return to Chattanooga.

"We're now at Decatur," Beatty wrote. "The Memphis and Charleston Railroad crosses the Tennessee River at this point. The town is a dilapidated old concern, as ugly as Huntsville is handsome.

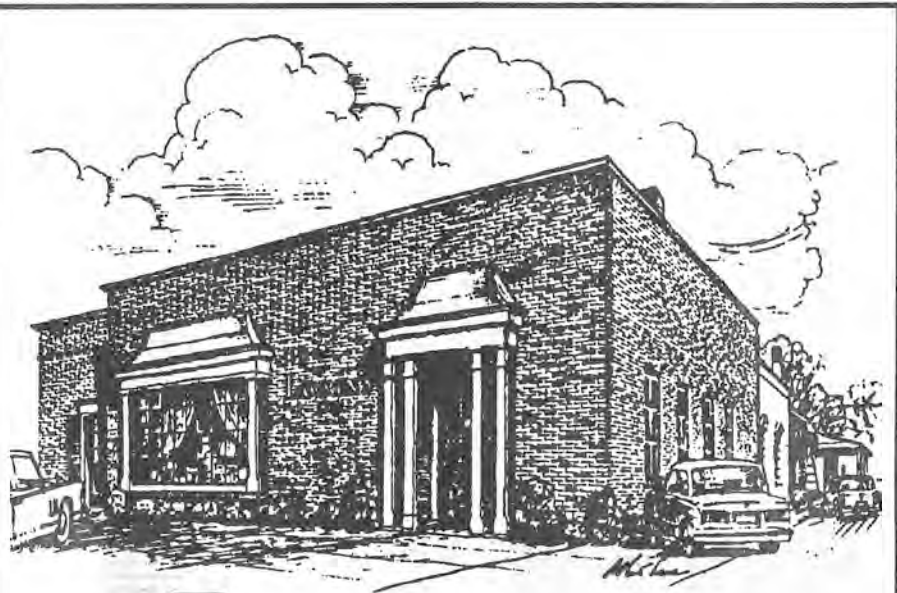
"A detachment went to Somerville yesterday. While searching for buried arms, \$4,200 in gold, silver, and bank notes, were found. The money is, undoubtedly, private property, and will, I presume, be returned to the owner.

"Fine, large fish are caught in the Tennessee. We have a buffalo

for supper - a good sort of fish - weighing six pounds.

"General Mitchel has been made a major general. He is a deserving officer. No other man with so few troops had ventured so far into the enemy's country, and accomplished so much.

"Colonel Keifer and I have been on horseback most of the afternoon, examining all the roads leading from Decatur. On our way back we called at Mr. Rather's. He was a member of the Alabama Senate, favored the secession movement, but claims



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now to be heartily sorry for it. He received us cordially; introduced us to Mrs. Rather, brought in wine of his own manufacture, and urged us to drink heartily.

"The enemy, three hundred strong, made a dash on our picket last night, wounded one man, and made an unsuccessful effort to retake a bridge.

"Our forces are on the alert. I lay down in my clothes last night, or rather this morning, for it was between one and two o'clock when I retired. The division is stretched over a hundred miles of railway, but in position to concentrate in a few hours.

"Before leaving this place, the rebels built a cotton fort, using in its construction probably 500 bales.

"Today we filled the bridge over the Tennessee with combustible material, and put it in condition to burn readily, in case we find it necessary to retire to the north side.

"A man with his son and two daughters arrived tonight from

Chattanooga, having come all the way - 150 miles probably - in a small skiff.

"Started at nine o'clock p.m. for Stevenson; marched all night. Whenever we stopped on the way to rest, the boys would fall asleep on the roadside, and we found much difficulty in getting them through."

On May 1, Beatty wrote, "Moved to Bellefonte. Took the cars for Huntsville. At Paint Rock the train was fired upon, and six or eight men wounded. As soon as it could be done, I had the train stopped, and, taking a file of soldiers, returned to the village. The telegraph line had been cut, and the wire was lying in the street. Calling the citizens together, I said to them that this bushwhacking must cease. The Federal troops had tolerated it already too long. Hereafter every time the telegraph wire was cut we would burn a house; every time a train was fired upon we should hang a man; and we would continue to do this until

Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. Found Among The Fragments - Courageous Women in Yankee occupied Huntsville by Sarah Huff Fisk (\$15.95).
2. Hartley and Drayton's 1861 map of Huntsville, Ala. (\$10.00).
3. Mr. Anderson's Monument - Meridian Street, Lincoln Mill & Lincoln Village by Tillman Hill (\$19.95).
4. True Tales of Old Madison County - Historic Huntsville Foundation (\$6.95).
5. Hard Times - The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama by Charles Rice (\$16.95).
6. Wildflowers of North Alabama / Full Color Guide (\$19.95).
7. Railroad War - Nathan Bedford Forrest in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee by Bob Dunnivant (\$16.95).
8. Decatur Alabama: Yankee Foothold in Dixie by Bob Dunnivant (\$16.95).
9. Glimpses into Antebellum Homes of Huntsville & Madison County, 8th Edition (\$10.95).
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every house was burned and every man hanged between Decatur and Bridgeport. If they wanted to fight they should enter the army, must us like honorable men, and not, assassin-like, fire at us from the woods and run. We proposed to hold the citizens responsible for these cowardly assaults, and if they did not drive these bushwhackers from amongst them, we should make them more uncomfortable that they would be in hell. I then set fire to the town, took three citizens with me, returned to the train, and proceeded to Huntsville."

"Paint Rock has long been a rendezvous for bushwhackers and bridge burners. One of the men taken is a notorious guerilla, and was of the party that made a dash on our wagon train at Nashville.

"The week has been an active one. On last Saturday night I slept a few hours on the bridge at Decatur. The next night I bivouacked in a cotton field; the next I lay from midnight until four in the

morning on the railroad track; the next I slept at Bridgeport on the soft side of a board, and on the return to Stevenson I did not sleep at all. My health is excellent."

On May 1, Beatty said, "Captain Cunard was sent yesterday to Paint Rock to arrest certain parties suspected of burning bridges, tearing up the railroad track, and bushwhacking soldiers. Today he returned with 26 prisoners.

"General Mitchel is well pleased with my action in the Paint Rock matter. The burning of the town has created a sensation, and is spoken of approvingly by the officers and enthusiastically by the men. It is the inauguration of the true policy, and the only one that will preserve us from constant annoyance.

"The general rode into our camp this evening, and made us a stirring speech, in which he dilated upon the rapidity of our movements and the invincibility of our division.

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"The road to Shelbyville is unsafe for small parties. Guerilla bands are very active. Two or three of our supply trains have been captured and destroyed. Detachments are sent out every day to capture or disperse the citizen cutthroats.

On May 10, Beatty was appointed President of a Board of Administration for the post of Huntsville. After an ineffectual effort to get the members of the Board together, he concluded to spend a day out of camp, the first for more than six months. "I strolled over to the hotel," he said, "took a bath, ate dinner, smoked, read, and slept until supper time, dispatched that meal, and returned to my quarters in the cool of the evening.

"The gentleman of the South have a great fondness for jewelry, canes, cigars and dogs. Out of forty white men thirty-nine, at least, will have canes, and on Sunday the fortieth will have one also. White men rarely work here. There are, it is true, tailors, merchants, saddlers, and jewelers, but the whites never drive teams, work in the fields, or engage in what may be termed rough work.

"Judging from the number of stores and present stocks, Huntsville, in the better times, does a heavier retail jewelry business than Cleveland or Columbus. Every planter, and every wealthy or even well-to-do man, has plate. Diamonds, rings, gold watches, chains, and bracelets are to be found in every family. The negroes buy large amounts of cheap jewelry, and the trade in this branch is enormous. One may walk a whole day in a Northern city without seeing a ruffled shirt. Here they are very common.

"We have in our camp a su-

perabundance of negroes. One of these, a Georgian belonged to a captain of rebel cavalry, and fell into our hands at Bridgeport. Since that affair he has attached himself to me. The other negroes I do not know. In fact they are too numerous to mention. Whence they came or whither they are going it is impossible to say. They lie around contentedly, and are delighted when we give them an opportunity to serve us. All the colored people of Alabama are anxious to go

"wid you and wait on you folks." There are not fifty negroes in the South who would not risk their lives for freedom. The man who affirms that they are contented and happy, and do not desire to escape, is either a falsifier or a fool."

On May 11, Beatty attended church services with Captain McDougal at the Presbyterian Church. "The edifice is very fine, he said. "The audience was small; the sermon tolerable. 'Troubles', the preacher said, 'were sent to

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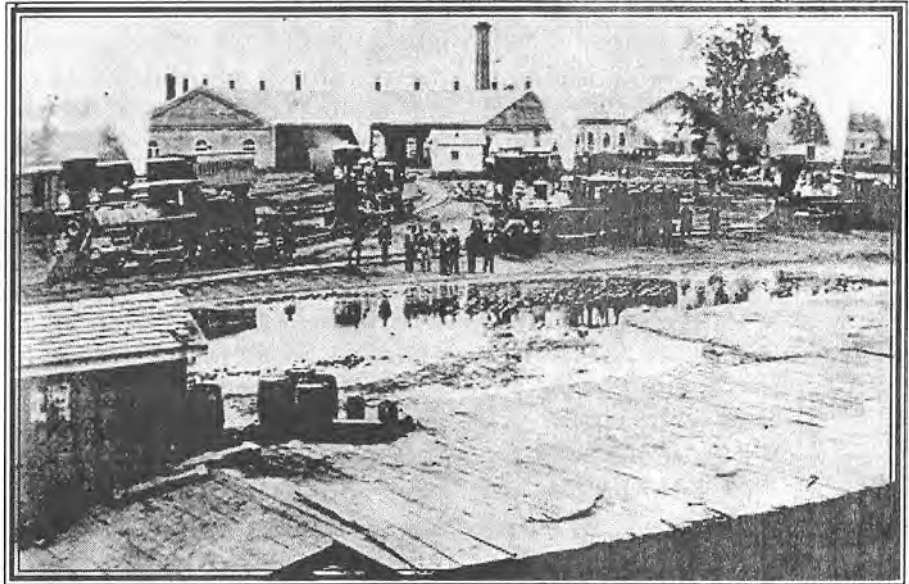
discipline us. The army was of God; they should, therefore, submit to it, not as slaves, but as Christians, just as they submitted to other distasteful and calamitous dispensations'."

On Monday, Beatty tells of his letters from home falling into the hands of John Morgan, "The envelopes were picked up in the road and forwarded to me. My wife should feel encouraged. It is not everybody's letters that are pounced upon at midnight, taken at the point of the bayonet, and read by the flickering light of the campfire.

"Moved at two o'clock this afternoon. Reached Athens after night fall, and bivouacked on the Fair Ground."

Back in Huntsville, Beatty states that he and Captain Mitchell were invited to a strawberry supper at Judge Lane's. "Found General Mitchel and staff, Colonel Kennett, Lieutenant Colonel Birdsall, and Captain Loomis, of the army, there," he said. "Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Colonel and Major Davis, and a general, whose name I can not recall, were the only citizens present. General Mitchel monopolized the conversation. He was determined to make all understand that he was the greatest of living soldiers. Had his counsel prevailed, the Confederacy would have been knocked to pieces long ago.

"A few days ago we had John Morgan utterly annihilated; but he seems to have gathered up the dispersed atoms and rebuilt himself. In the destruction of our supply trains he imagines, doubtless, that he is inflicting a great injury upon our division; but he is mistaken. The bread and meat we fail to get from the loyal States are made good to us from the smokehouses and gra-



The railroads of Huntsville were of primary importance to both Union and Confederate forces. Pictured above is the roundhouse, long since torn down.

naries of the disloyal. Our boys find Alabama hams better than Uncle Sam's sidemeat, and bread better than hard crackers. So that every time this dashing cavalryman destroys a provision train, their hearts are gladdened, and they shout 'Bully for Morgan!'

On May 19, Beatty reported, "Rumor says that Richmond is in the hands of our troops; and from the same source we learn that a large force of the enemy is between us and Nashville. Fifteen hundred mounted men were within 17 miles of Huntsville yesterday. A regiment with four pieces of artillery, under command of Colonel Lytle, was sent toward Fayetteville to look after them.

Rumors began to float into camp at Huntsville. On July 2, Beatty said, "We know, or think we know, that a great battle has been fought near Richmond, but the result for some reason is withheld. We speculate, talk, and compare notes, but this makes us only the more eager for definite information. An At-

lanta paper of the 1st instant says the Confederates have won a decisive victory at Richmond. No northern papers have been allowed to come into camp.

"It is exceedingly dull; we are resting as quietly and leisurely as we could at home. There are no drills, and no expeditions. The army is holding its breath in anxiety to hear from Richmond. If McClellan has been whipped, the country must in time know it; if successful, it would be rejoiced to hear it. Why, therefore, should the particulars, and even the result of the fighting, be suppressed.

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Rumor gives us a thousand conflicting stories of the battle, but rumor has many tongues and lies with all.

"General Mitchel departed for Washington yesterday. The rebels at Chattanooga claim that McClellan has been terribly whipped, and fired guns along their whole line, within hearing of our troops, in honor of the victory.

"A lieutenant of the 19th Illinois, who fell into the enemy's hands, has just returned on parole, and claims to have seen a dispatch from the Adjutant General of the southern Confederacy, stating that McClellan had been defeated and his army cut to pieces. He believes it.

"Toward the end of July, the Ohio 10th went on a foraging expedition, under Colonel Keifer, and was some fifteen miles from Huntsville, in the direction of the Tennessee River.

"At one o'clock last night our picket was confronted by about one hundred and fifty of the enemy's cavalry; but no shots were exchanged.

"The rebel cavalry were riding in the mountains south of us last night. A heavy mounted

patrol of our troops was making the rounds at midnight. There was some picket firing along toward morning; but nothing occurred of importance.

To the Union camp site on the east slope of Monte Sano, Beatty wrote, "A negro came in about four o'clock to report that the enemy's pickets were at his master's house, five miles from here, at the foot of the other slope of the mountain. He was such an ignorant fellow that his report was hardly intelligible. We sent him back, telling him to bring us

more definite information. He was a field hand, barefooted, horny-handed, and very black, but he knew all about, "de mountings; dey can't kotch me nohow. If de sesech am at Massa Bob's when I get back, I come tonight an' tell yer all." With these words, this poor proprietor of a dilapidated pair of pants and shirt, started over the mountains. What are his thoughts about the war, and its probable effects on his own fortunes, as he trudges along over the hills? Is it the desire for freedom, or

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the dislike for his overseer that prompts him to run five miles on a Sunday to give this information? Possibly both."

On August 25, 1862, General Mitchel ordered Beatty's regiment to move. Four days later the 10th Ohio was at Decherd, Tennessee, and on October 8 arrived at Perryville, Kentucky, where they engaged the Confederate forces of General Bragg.

"The next day," Beatty said, "we went to the field where the fight occurred. We found a hundred men of the 10th and 15th (Ohio) lying stiff and cold. Besides these, there were many wounded whom we picked up tenderly, carry off and provide for. Men are already digging trenches, and in a little while the dead are gathered together for interment. We hear convulsive sobs, see eyes swollen and streaming with tears as our fallen comrades are deposited in their narrow grave."

This was Beatty's first taste of combat and he had acquitted himself well. Next, he won the hearts of his men also at

Murphreesboro where he had two horses shot from under him. Promoted to brigadier general, he continued to show his mettle at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Then, like a thunderbolt, word came to him that his men were needed for a special operation. Beatty felt cheated. His troops would go to northeast Alabama where Colonel Abel D. Streight would proceed east from Muscle Shoals to Rome, Georgia, on a secret mission to slip in with his men between Atlanta and Chattanooga and wreak havoc with rail and telegraph lines. Later, Beatty was appalled when he learned that Forrest had overtaken and captured Streight and all his men in the secret group.

Beatty continued with his new regiment under General Rosecrans until January 1, 1864, when he resigned and returned to his home in Columbus, Ohio, where his brother William was running their bank. Beatty had promised his brother that he would return and allow him to get a taste of army life. William entered the army in 1864

and rose to the rank of major before the end of the war.

In 1868 Beatty was elected to fill an unexpired term in the U.S. Congress. He was reelected to two full terms before returning to Columbus to establish another bank where he served as president for 30 years. In 1884 he ran unsuccessfully for governor on the Republican ticket. He died in Columbus in 1914, five days after his 86th birthday and was buried in Sandusky.

The above material came primarily from the book, The Citizen Soldier; or Memoirs of a Volunteer, by John Beatty, published first in 1879. The photograph of Beatty was obtained from the Ohio Historical Society.

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ABSURD NEWS

A 17-year-old Memphis woman was married for four months before discovering that her husband was a woman, age 19. According to a priest involved in the case, the woman claimed that her husband never let her see "him" naked because he had been deformed by a football injury. The bride became suspicious when some of her husband's friends referred to him as "Harriet."

Pro-golfer Homero Blancas once hit a ball out of the rough during a tournament and watched it hit a palm tree and become lodged in the bra of a female spectator. Blancas asked fellow golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez what he should do, Rodriguez reportedly replied, "I think you should play it."

A jury in Nassau County, New York, awarded \$425,000 to a 24-year-old bookkeeper who claimed she lost her hair from the shock of biting into a squirming beetle in her yogurt. The woman was watching TV and spooning some raspberry yogurt when, according to her attorney, Abraham Ficksberg, "she felt a piece of for-

eign matter in her mouth. She knew it was to hard to be a raspberry, and besides it was moving.

The Irish palmist Patrick Cullen died at the age of 69 in 1980. He spent the 1970s developing the practice of "Mammarmism," or "chest clairvoyance." He claimed that he was able to read the future of his female clients by painting their breasts and pressing them against a sheet of paper to get an imprint which he then studied.

A judge in Tennessee decided a jury went a little far in recommending a sentence of 5,005 years for a man they convicted of five robberies and a kidnapping. The judge reduced the sentence to 1,001 years.

Unlike other Mata Haris of the Civil War era, Confederate spy Nancy Hart wasn't any cross-dresser. But that label certainly applied to the unfortunate Union man who held her hostage in 1861, threatening from time to time to let his troops have their way with her. Though Hart managed to escape unscathed, she never forgot her tormentor's face. The next time she met up with the miserable oaf, she tethered him to her horse, forced him to don one of her gowns, and paraded the corsetted captive around town for hours.

After drinking a quantity of vodka, a workman named Stobb tried to blow out a match with which he was lighting a cigarette, with fatal result. Flames shot out from his mouth. An explosion followed,

with Stobb falling to the floor unconscious and dying shortly afterward.

A gentleman was declared dead and was buried. Six hours later his brother ordered an interment and the man was revived. He lived seventy more years, dying at the age of 105 from a cold contracted while "serenading the lady of his heart all night long."

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Confederates March On Washington

From 1917 newspaper

The fierce "Rebel Yell," blending in cadence with the inspiring strains of "The Star Spangled Banner," will awaken the echoes and arouse patriotic enthusiasm at the twenty-seventh annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans to be held at Washington, D.C., the week beginning June 4.

As the men in gray parade over the wide stretches of Pennsylvania Avenue, sometimes termed the "national boulevard," the impulse will come to sound their battle cry of more than 50 years ago, when this country was engaged in a great internecine war. At this time when the U.S., is at war with a great foreign power, the picture of the parading units of the armies of Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, and other Southern generals will be an object lesson worthwhile. The venerable veterans of Dixie will be participants in the making of moving pictures of a past age on the nation's screen at Washington.

Col. Robert N. Harpert, chairman of the general committee of citizens in charge of the reunion, announces that plans for the great gathering are progressing notwithstanding the patriotic activities incident to the declaration of war against Germany. It has been definitely decided that the big parade shall take place, Thursday, June 7 at 11 o'clock p.m., by direction of General



Reunion of Captain Gurley's Fourth Alabama Cavalry

George Harrison, commander. Business sessions of the organization including the annual election of officers, will be held June 5, 6 and 7.

Other events in the same week will be the conventions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Confederated Southern Memorial Association,

besides regimental reunions, and the social functions which always are elaborate features of the reunions. The citizens of Washington are responding liberally to the call of Mr. H. F. Cary, chairman of the finance committee, for funds to entertain and care for their guests from the sunny Southland.

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Local News

from 1889



Our city fathers have passed an ordinance, which has been on the statute book for some time, forbidding hog pens in the city limits, yet the nuisance is kept up in defiance of the law by persons who should know better.

George Hardy, aged 37, has been committed for trial on \$2,500 bail, on a charge of grand larceny, preferred by his sister-in-law, Dora Rane, who alleges that he stole \$50 from her pocket on the day of his marriage to her sister. The accused denied the charge, and said it was a case of spite. When arrested he had over \$1,200 in his possession. It was said Hardy made a practice of marrying women for money and leaving them on their wedding day. The detectives say he is wanted for a similar charge in Birmingham.

Since the arrest of one or two men last week charged with burglary the Huntsville police have had things their way. Saturday night there was an unusually large number of men employed and some were hid out while others patrolled the street. This is told because it is a warning to some poor devil who may think he can burglarize a store in the near future and get away with it. Our boys in blue will be out in number, especially on Friday and Saturday nights and will not tolerate any suspicious activity.

This is a warning to any who would be thinking of foul play in the near future.

"Common Nail Problems of the Foot"

Dr. R. Lee Freeman has been treating patients in North Alabama since 1979 and is currently associated with **Dr. Angela W. Murphy**

The nails of the foot are exposed to a good deal of trauma over a lifetime. This trauma may result in painful, thickened nails that are discolored and infected with a fungus; or more simply, an in-grown nail which may be infected by bacteria. Nail problems of the foot should not be ignored. They can lead to severe infections that may affect the bone.

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Unusual but Savory Vegetarian

Penne with Garlic Spinach and Chick Peas

- 1 10-oz. package spinach, fresh or frozen
- 1 lb. penne (quill-shaped) pasta
- 1/3 c. olive oil
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 medium tomatoes, cored and diced
- 1 15-oz. can drained chick (garbanzo) peas, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese

Prepare spinach til wilted. If frozen, cook and drain well. Cook the pasta 8-12 minutes, til just firm. Make the sauce: Heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and red pepper flakes, cook for 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and chick peas and cook for 2 more minutes. Add the spinach, salt and 1/4 cup of the boiling pasta water, stir well. Cook 3 minutes.

Drain the pasta when done, return it to pot. Spoon on the sauce and mix, sprinkle on the Parmesan cheese, toss and serve with more cheese.

This makes a hearty, nutritious meal.

Noodles with Shredded Vegetables

- 1 lb. noodles (spaghetti, linguine or fresh Chinese noodles)
- 4 T. tamari soy sauce
- 4 T. oriental sesame oil
- 1 T. Chinese rice vinegar (or white vinegar)
- 1 T. sugar
- 1/2 t. chili oil
- 1 red bell pepper, cored & shredded
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, grated

Cook the noodles in boiling water for about 8 minutes, or just firm to the bite. If you are using fresh Chinese noodles, cook only a few minutes.

Mix together the soy sauce, sesame oil, vinegar, sugar and chili oil. When your noodles are done, drain them well and drop them in a large bowl. Pour on the sauce and toss carefully to coat well. Marinate in fridge for at least 2 hours. When ready to serve, bring the noodles to room temperature and mix the remaining tablespoon soy sauce and 1 tablespoon sesame oil. Pour over the noodles and mound them on a large plate. Surround with the vegetables and serve.



Images

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Blue Cheese Lovers

- 1 lb. spaghetti
- 3 T. unsalted butter
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 1 c. minced fresh parsley
- 1 c. (4 oz.) crumbled blue cheese

Cook the spaghetti til just firm (al dente). Melt the butter with olive oil in small pot, remove from heat and stir in parsley. Drain the spaghetti, place in a large bowl. Pour on the parsley sauce, toss. Sprinkle on the blue cheese, toss again. Serve right away.

Provençal Potatoes

- 4 medium red potatoes
- 3 T. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- salt to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper

Peel the potatoes, slice them in half lengthwise, then into 1/4" thick half-moons. Heat the olive oil in skillet over medium heat and add the potatoes. Cook, tossing frequently, for about 15 minutes and evenly browned.

Reduce heat to medium, sprinkle on the garlic and scallion. Cook, keep tossing, for 2 more minutes. Season with salt and pepper and serve immediately.

Tortellini with Cream Sauce

- 1 lb. fresh or frozen cheese tortellini
- 2 t. unsalted butter
- 6 scallions, thinly sliced
- 2 medium tomatoes, cored, seeded and diced
- 2/3 c. sour cream
- 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 t. salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Cook the tortellini til tender but not mushy. Melt the butter in skillet, add scallions and tomatoes, saute 2 minutes. Set aside. In another bowl mix the sour cream, Parmesan cheese and salt/pepper. Drain the tortellini well, return it to the pot. Pour on the sour cream mixture, toss well. Spoon the tortellini onto serving plates, spoon some of the tomato/scallion mixture in the center of each serving.

Greek Pizza

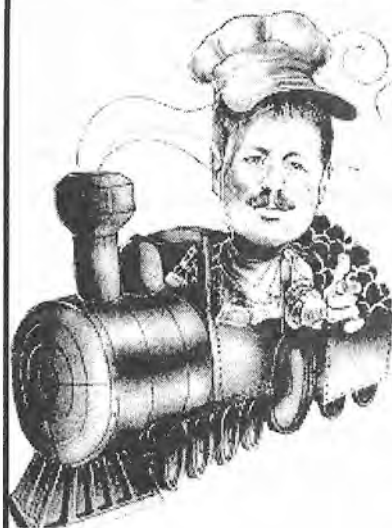
- 4 6-inch pita breads
- 6 oz. feta cheese
- 1 1/4 t. dried oregano
- 4 slices onion, paper-thin and separated into rings
- 2 T. olive oil

Preheat your broiler and place the pita breads on a baking sheet with the concave side

up. Sprinkle feta cheese on top of the bread, sprinkle on the oregano, top with onion rings. Drizzle olive oil over all. Broil for 5 minutes til the cheese softens and the edges of the bread begin to brown. When ready to serve put pita breads on cutting board and slice in half. Serve hot.

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Cane Pole Fishing

by Chip Knight

When I was growing up, we didn't do many things together as a family. When we went on vacation, my father put my mother, my two sisters and me on an L&N train called the Pan American, and we went from Decatur overnight, to Mobile. I remember going through Birmingham; the steel mills were still really active then, and you could feel the heat of the furnaces inside the car. It was like sitting in front of a blazing fireplace. I first saw the state capitol from the train. It was night, but the capitol dome was lighted, showing the national, state, and Confederate battle flags. I was young and I was impressed.

The end of the trip, long after I had gone to bed in the Pullman birth, was when the train reached Mobile. I don't know at what time of the morning, but

the car was cut loose at Mobile and I woke up in a Pullman car sitting quietly on a siding.

Well, so much for what we didn't do as a family. Just about the only thing we did all do together was to go fishing.

Fishing then was a little different from what we do now, with Bass boats and high performance casting rods and the plastic bait of the month. We stuffed a bunch of cane poles in the car, with the tips sticking out of the rear window, went to the bait shop and got some worms, crickets, or whatever we were fishing with, then went down to Byrd Spring.

The Byrd Spring Rod and Gun Club was an interesting situation. The club owned a swamp, not ordinarily an attractive piece of real estate. This one, however, had a stream flowing through it that was full of fish, mostly bream, an occasional bass, and, in season, crappie, which we called "goggle eye." It was a

closely held membership club and my uncle had been a member. Upon his death, the membership had gone to my father, it being a male thing at the time and my aunt not being able to assume the membership. The place was a swamp. Yes, it had a stream flowing through it, but it was a proper swamp, with snakes and turtles and all the things one finds in a swamp.

The roads through it were graveled, and had been raised so that the swamp was lower than the road on either side. There was a main road which ran from the caretaker's house to who knows where, and, at a point, a side road which cut off at ninety degrees and ran across the main stream. A wooden bridge had been built across the stream, and on both sides of the stream, both upstream and down, wooden walkways had been constructed. Water flowed beneath them; it was the only way to fish in the swamp.

You could really catch some fish there. We would get the cane poles out of the car with their lines carefully wrapped around them and with a skinny little float that sort of looked like a soda straw and a little piece of lead for weight ahead of a small hook. On the hook we hung a piece of bait, whatever we were using that day, and waited. Sometimes it came quickly, and sometimes it didn't come at all, perhaps a playing. The float would bob a little bit, hesitantly, then dive deeply as the bait was taken. Not even a fly rod can equal the thrill of a hefty bream on a line attached to a long, thin cane pole. It's like deep sea fishing at home.

A child's greatest thrill and greatest heartache is for his parents to screw something up

where he can witness it. It is a thrill because your parents are always telling you what to do and what not to do, are generally right, and if you disagree strongly, they are bigger than you are and will wallop you. The heartache is that they are your parents, they are your heroes, and it is very embarrassing to see them fall. It is truly the death of a god.

My grand opportunity was one day when we were fishing at Byrd Spring. My younger sister dropped a string of fish and my Mama tried to catch it before it went into the water. In doing so, she fell against the guardrail which was actually a small sapling about two and a half inches in diameter with the limbs and bark gone. It broke and in she went.

Mama didn't know how to swim (I always feel awkward say-
cont. on page 27



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Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley
and His Unidentified Sources



Johnny Tona has relocated his popular smoke-free family billiards parlor to 1400 North Parkway at Arcadia Circle, near Channel 48. Collegian **David Westbrook** was there on opening day.

Maybe we need a "**check your gun**" sign in the City Council chambers. Rumor has it that one of our city councilmen is in the habit of packing a gun at meetings.

Businesses Downtown should be ecstatic now that the city council have unhooded the parking meters. They no longer have to worry about crowds fighting to patronize their businesses.

Yeah, right... our wise and

esteemed leaders have spoken.

A refreshingly new coffee house and eatery, **Jamo's**, has opened on Jordan Lane near Fratelli's and is already attracting an interesting adult crowd.

UAB medical student **Daniel Cobb** is part of the work force at **Dr. William English's** office during breaks.

Bill Wilson, a journalist from Maine, recently spent several weeks in Huntsville investigating laundered political contributions. Look for the book out this summer. It may have lots of names you will recognize.

Clifton Critelli, the sous chef

who prepared all those tasty meals at Vici's on the Square, has taken his talents to the popular Cafe Berlin on Airport Road.

THIS IS Be Nice to Tracey Blackmon Farley Week. She's assistant boss at Alabama Balloon Co., owned by her mama, **Vivacious Jeune**.

When the talented **Mark O'Connor** fiddled here with Huntsville Symphony on New Year's Eve it was to a sold-out house.

Thanks to the Sunshiners of Southside Baptist Church for inviting me to be their luncheon speaker on March 11. I

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will keep my talk to a short 20 minutes, since I have always subscribed to the Baptist philosophy of stand up, speak up and shut up.

My neighbor **Daniel Smartt** has returned home from the Marines until March 9, then it's back to the school grind.

A recent conversation with a city leader: "We need more places of entertainment downtown but I don't want any places that sell alcohol, has music, or where people can gather."

Our New York theatrical pals **Graham Chambers and Todd Goode** have bought a house on Clinton Avenue for use when they're in town. We were part of the crowd that helped warm it during the holidays.

Speaking of the holidays, our party hat gets tipped to **David and Janet Milly** of Theatrical Lighting Service and their attorney pal **Phillip Price** for bringing the great singing legends, *The Impressions*, to town for their holiday party. Our Old Huntsville staff was happy to be among the 800 guests. Meanwhile, **Louie Tippett** of United Cleaning Services teamed with **Doc Redcliff's** Keystone Construction & Repair to present a giant cajun Christmas party, complete with a cajun band. Most impressive.

If you like "back when" popular music, then hit the trail any Friday night (7:30 to 11:30) to the Hilton lobby, where the Charlie Lyle Combo plays exactly that. Our galpal **Willa McWhirter** shows up often and does here Satchmo impersonation. Last week she brought the legendary **Hank Gannon** with

her. He guested on piano. Hank was the Napoleon's Nook entertainer years ago, after a career with the Les Brown Band of Renown. Also on Friday nights is when **Nancy Marie Luce** plays singalong piano for a fun-loving crowd at Finnegan's Irish Pub.

It was interesting the other night to visit with **Tony and Faye DeLoach**. They had just received a letter from the unsinkable **Dottie Brown**, who lives in St. Petersburg these days. Dottie was our pal years ago when she worked at Tokyo Army Hospital and I was fighting the Korean War.

The honeymoon is over for **Ms. Mayor**. Talk around the coffee table has it that she passed up some exceptionally qualified people for several appointments.

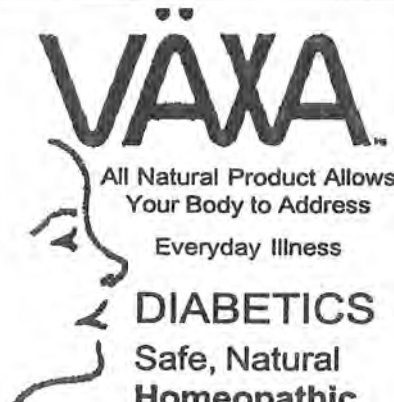
Our publisher, **Cathey Carney**, has learned the downside of owning a Jaguar. Thirteen hundred bucks for a set of floormats!

A story that recently passed across our desk: "How to use campaign contributions to

murder your husband."

It may be true but no one in Huntsville is going to print it!

That's all for now! We love you, Aunt Eunice.



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A Dream Come True

The Story of Huntsville and Madison County, 1819 to 1824

by James Record

Madison County and its county seat, Huntsville, feeling its way as the first capital and afterwards, may well have been the most sophisticated, advanced town in the state in 1819.

The Nashville Dramatic Corps proposed in February 1819 to build a theater in Huntsville. And in November 1819, "Huntsville Thespians gave their first public performance at the theater." The play was a comedy, "Speed the Plough." A Haydn Society, also, gave a concert at the Huntsville Inn for the benefit of a fire engine in 1819. The outstanding event, however, was the appearance of the legitimate theater in 1819. Noah Ludlow, a professional actor, organized a

makeshift theatre company in Nashville in 1818 and brought the troupe to Huntsville for the first professional theatre show.

Ludlow had among his troupe a 15 year old orphan boy; two cabinetmakers; a tailor from Pittsburgh; another tailor from Nashville, and a sailor with one leg, plus Ludlow's wife. They played in a room over a confectionery store used occasionally for dances. This was Constitutional Hall, scene of the 1819 Constitutional Convention.

The year 1819, too, seemed to be another year of Cupid in Madison County. Records show there were 170 marriages in the county during the year, compared with only 23 in 1809.

Andrew Jackson, in Huntsville in 1819 on a mission to

comfort his dying friend and partner, John Hutchings, again showed his humanitarian side by taking his friend's son after his death, managing his estate and rearing Andrew Jackson Hutchings, the six year old son.

Running afoul of the law in Madison County proved something less than a novelty for the offenders during the early years, if records are any indication. In early 1820, for instance, Judge Clement Comer Clay gave one convicted slave stealer what he considered a break. Instead of a death sentence which could have been dealt under the law, he meted out six months in jail, ordered the thief to be branded on the right hand with the letter "T" and to receive 39 lashes for stealing two Negro men.

In the terminology of the day the lashes were to be "well laid on."

In another case, a white person convicted of perjury was fined \$300, made to stand at the pillory in the square for two hours, in addition to receiving 39 lashes. These sentences were meted out



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at the first session of the new court, under the new Alabama law.

The first public pillory had been built on the Northwest corner of the courthouse grounds in early 1819. The public was invited to witness punishment.

But entertainment for the thirsty population was much in evidence, particularly for the sportsmen. At Green Bottom Turf, advertised by John Connally, horse races were run November 7, 1820, with something more than a few friendly bets tossed around.

The Masonic order, as always, was busy. An act of 1820 authorized a lottery to be conducted for them to build a hall, with the act later extended December 31, 1822. Trustees of the lottery were Edward Kyle, David Moore, Alexander C. Erskine, Edwin Hickman, William Atwood, and Edwin Jones.

And a little money, it seems, went quite a way in those days. Bacon, for example, for 10 cents a pound; butter 25 cents a pound and cotton was 17 cents a pound. But coffee was 62.5 cents a pound.

By the end of 1820, the census showed 1,364 in Huntsville, 17,481 in Madison County, 127,901 in Alabama, and 9,538,191 in the United States. The capital was moved from Huntsville but Huntsville's boom appeared to only be beginning.

The town was made a terminus for the first through stage line in Alabama in 1820. Of interest in the human relations field this year, the Alabama legislature, which had been granting divorces, passed an act on December 21, requiring circuit judges to first issue the decree, thence to be approved by legislative act. The stage line referred to was the main route between Knoxville and Nashville.


At first, the stage serviced only one weekly trip, but by 1823, it was two trips a week, and by 1825, three weekly trips were made and the line extended to Tusculumbia - By May of 1820, Congress had established a mail route from

Washington, Tennessee to Huntsville and to St. Stephens.

There were other "firsts" in store for Alabama in 1820-1821, in Madison County, including organization of the first African Baptist Church in the state at Huntsville by slave William Harris, the first pastor. The church was the forerunner of St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church.

Another first was the incor-

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poration of the first canal company, the Indian River Navigation Company, by act of December 21, 1820, with LeRoy Pope, Thomas Fearn, Stephen Ewing, Henry Cobb and Sam Hazard designated as Commissioners to sell stock.

Another first, not for Alabama, but for Huntsville, was the construction of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1821, being the first church building constructed in the town. It was built on the West side of Gallatin Street between Clinton and Holmes streets. Practically all church meetings up to that time in Huntsville had been at the Courthouse or private homes.

Other communities in Madi-

son County would incorporate. Hazel Green joined the ranks of incorporated cities June 15, 1821. The town of Brownsborough, although not incorporated then, was platted by James and John McCartney, on the site where John Brown had built a dam in 1821. The lots were offered for sale on July 23, 1821.

Also, Alexander Wason advertised 10 building lots of one half acre each adjoining Huntsville on the west, lying in the village of Mechanicsville, on the left side of the street leading to Athens and Brown Ferry. This ad appeared in 1824. The village was not incorporated.

It would seem that the early

townsfolks had a yen for the fine art of gambling. Judge Clement Comer Clay fined a defendant \$500 for operating a roulette table and sentenced him to stand at the town square pillory one hour each day between 1 and 3 p.m., for three days and forever, if necessary, until the fine and costs were paid. Jurors of today's time would have been unhappy at the judge, too, because he fined James H. Clear, Woodward Hilliard, Edmund Pettus and Thomas Carroll \$2 each for not attending as jurors when summoned in January 1823.

Four miles west of Huntsville, Lewis H. Deloney figured a new race track was needed. He was to call the track Fairfield. The track apparently opened, but somehow failed to receive enough support and folded.

A historic landmark would die in 1821 in Huntsville, however. The original Constitution Hall was torn down. A theatre, the first "designed" theater in Alabama, was built in its place by Sannoner and Weakly, but burned to the ground August 5, 1821. A temporary theater opened in its place August 7, 1822. Huntsvillians were determined to have their theater.

Although Huntsville was mushrooming, the town had still not gotten around to obtaining the much desired fire engine, but it was successful in 1822, prior to the Huntsville Fire Engines Company being authorized by an act of December 10, 1822.

Apparently the new 1819 jail was not too much to brag about, either. In a five day period, April 4 to April 9, 1821, fifteen prisoners broke jail, the first in a long line of jail escapes in Madison County, almost every year. The county took action, after

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temporary repairs in 1821, for a major repair job on the jail, authorized on February 2, 1824.

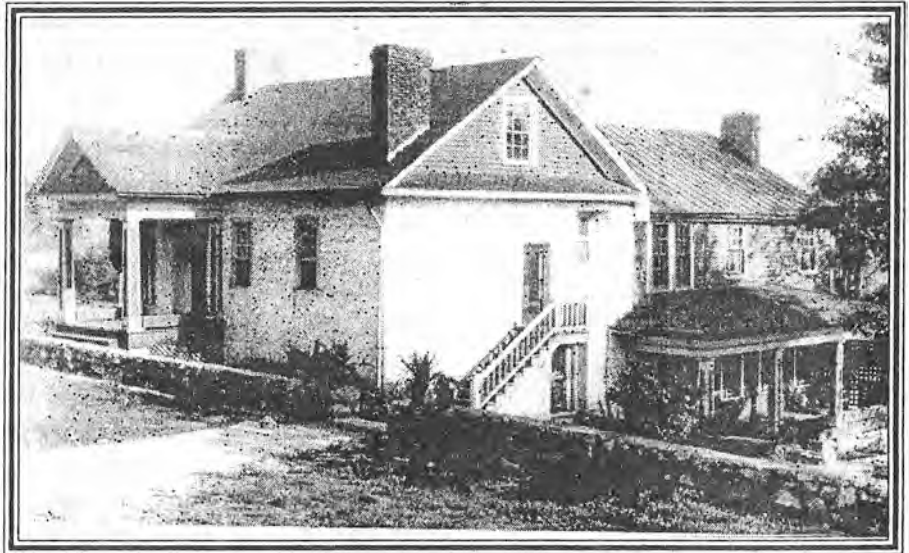
Politics being what it was in those days, it didn't take long before the power structure (it is called "the organization" nowadays) would bemoan a most familiar cry today: inadequate representation in the legislature based upon population. Backers stormed to the courthouse for a meeting on April 14, 1821 to protest the legislature failing to reapportion. On hand were LeRoy Pope, Lemuel Mead, Dr. Thomas Fearn, Beverly Hughes and a Mr. McClung.

Another meeting was held at the "Bell Tavern," now called that since John Bell, Walker Otey and John Moseley had bought it in 1819. This same tavern, to be used for many years for public meetings, had previously gone by the name of "Cheatham's Tavern," and subsequently "Turner's." What these protesters finally got for their efforts for certain wasn't what they had in mind. They may have done better to have kept their mouths shut. The legislature obligingly agreed to reapportion on December 14, 1821 and Madison County wound up reduced from eight to seven representatives!

Early Madison Countians were grateful for a good job done by their public servants and on April 10, 1821, the first public tribute affair to a Madison County official was given in honor of John Williams Walker.

The same year, 1821, the first town to be incorporated in Jackson County was Bellafonte.

Progress in Madison County had been on the upswing since an 1819 census had shown that Madison County's population had stood at 19,501, including 6,362 white males, 4,740 white



The Green Bottom Inn, where General Andrew Jackson raced horses. It was located on the site of present day Alabama A. and M.

females, 9,255 slaves and 54 free colored persons. Acres under cultivation had been shown to be 69,938, with 6,402 farm hands busy with the plough and furrow.

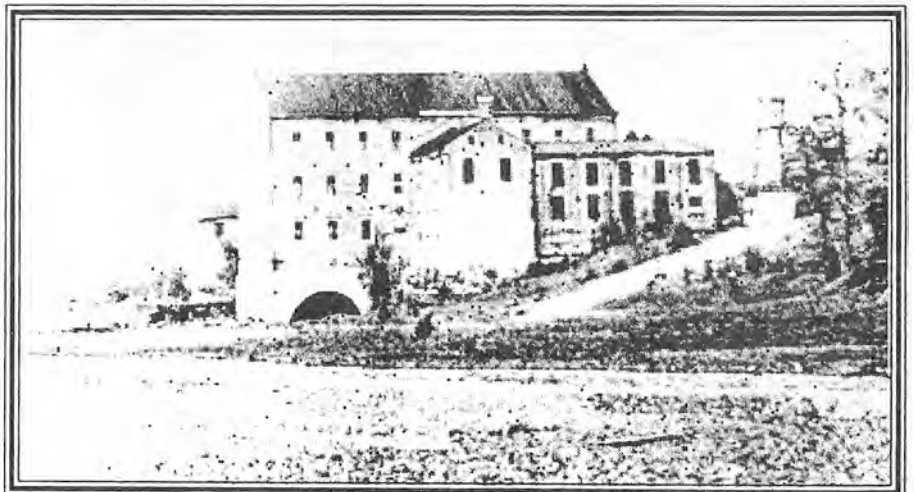
Huntsville's boastful claims of "first" wasn't always the kind of thing to mouth around. It managed another on a rather suspicious occasion October 13, 1824, with the first bank robbery in the county. Planters and Merchants Bank was held up and robbed of approximately \$25,000. LeRoy Pope, bank president, offered a \$2,000 reward, but whether the bandits

were ever caught isn't recorded.

That, by the way, had followed on the heels of another "first" in April that same year when the first recorded mail robbery in Madison County occurred. The carrier to Bennett's Store was robbed, in 1821. But life went on as usual.

The town of Whitesburg was again incorporated in 1824, with trustees to be elected in January 1825. James A. Wall, John Ballew, John Turner and John Hardie were named to supervise the election.

Dr. James Manning began



Bell Factory, located near the Three Forks of Flint, was the first cotton mill chartered in Alabama.

construction of the "Grove," in 1824, a brick mansion that would see many Huntsville parties over the years. Also in 1824, Joseph Harding erected a cotton spinning factory at Dr. Ford's Mills on the mountain fork of Flint River, 18 miles from Huntsville; M. Munn leased the Bass Mills at Three Forks of Flint to grind wheat and corn, and the Jones Cotton Factory at Three Forks of Flint, with five carding engines and 342 spindles, began operation.

In 1816, Maple Hill Cemetery, later to be thus named, was begun, with the transfer of property to the city by LeRoy Pope, coming in 1822, at the corner of Wells and California. The old cemetery on what is now Green Street, was moved to the location.

Pope also, in 1823, transferred 3,300 square feet of ground to the Masons, their present location, and they began construction of a Temple in 1823, laying their cornerstone on November 22, 1823. They had a statewide meeting in Huntsville in 1824 and Huntsville's A. Hutchison was

elected Grand Knight.

The elements had not been too good to Huntsville, however. A tornado struck in 1820 and 1822. Lightning struck the Courthouse on April 15, 1822, but fortunately only broke out windows.

In 1823, Huntsville's Ferdinand Sannoner had published a map of Alabama and in 1824, Finlay's Map of Alabama showed the communities of Hillsborough, Meridianville, Huntsville, and Ditto's Landing, the same year that Huntsville shivered, in February, with a temperature of five degrees below zero.

Also in 1823, *The Democrat* newspaper was begun by William B. Long. He was succeeded by Philip Woodson Jr. in 1825, who in turn was succeeded by John Withers Clay in 1856. Clay continued until 1896. The paper's name was changed to *The Huntsville Confederate* (in 1862, when the Union Army occupied Huntsville) when it moved to Chattanooga and subsequently to Marietta, then Dalton, Georgia in January 1864. The paper's name was

changed again in 1863 to *The Daily Huntsville Confederate* (first daily in our history), then again to *The Weekly Democrat* in October 1866, then *The Huntsville Weekly Democrat* in 1874, with John Withers Clay still editor until 1896. His daughters subsequently took over and operated the paper until 1919, thus having been published for 96 years.

The End

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A Last Will and Testament

from 1902 newspaper

A Morgan County lady recently died at the advanced age of 90. Her will contained this provision: "I leave to my physician, whose enlightened care and wise prescription's have made me live so long, all that is contained in the oak chest of my boudoir. The key to the chest will be found under the mattress of my bed."

The family was somewhat anxious. The fortunate physician finally arrived. The chest was opened, and found to contain solely all the drugs and potions, still intact, which the doctor had given his patient for years back.

Fishing

cont. from page 19

ing that because it seems like swimming is something you do naturally if you wind up in the water), or, at least she said she didn't, so there was an awkward moment until she was out of the water. The string of fish was lost, and it seems like cruel and unusual punishment to just leave a string of fish in the water, never mind that the fish might think that eating them is rather cruel and unusual.

I got to play hero and peel down to my underwear and go into that swamp and dive after the fish. I found them after a few minutes and nothing dangerous or otherwise nasty found me. So, there I was, small town hero and at the same time, terribly embarrassed for my mother who was standing soaking wet with all that does to your clothes, hair and so forth.

All dignity lost, we went home very quietly.

I no longer have the privileges of Byrd Spring. I was only nineteen when my father died, so I don't know if I was eligible to assume the membership, or if it didn't occur to anyone in my crazy, mixed up family that I might care about things like Byrd Spring and country living-and myself.

The End

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Going to Town: Memories of Mrs. Lola Haney

Julia Haney, Mrs. Haney's great, great granddaughter, recorded these remembrances in 1995.

I was born in 1898, in a two-room log cabin near Paint Rock. My Daddy grew cotton and tobacco. One of my earliest memories is my Mother carrying me to the fields and placing me on a blanket in the shade of a tree while she helped Daddy in the fields.

By the time I was 6 or 7 years old, I had to help in the fields, too. Daddy made me a cotton picking sack out of old pillow cases and I helped pick cotton. My other job was fetching water for the field hands. My cousin and I were both expected

to pick a certain amount of cotton each day. One day, realizing we didn't have enough, we decided to put some heavy rocks in our bags to make them weigh more.

When Daddy got home from

the gin he took a belt to both of us. We learned later that the rocks had tore the gin up.

Daddy also raised honey bees. After he robbed the hives every fall he would take the honey to Huntsville where he would trade it with Mr. Harrison (Harrison Brothers Hardware). We also dug ginseng to trade in town.

Going to town was always a big event for us. The night before Daddy would load the wagon with crock jars full of honey packed with straw so they wouldn't break. The next morning we would get up before daylight, and after Daddy had hitched the wagon up, we would start for town. Mother always placed a quilt behind the wagon seat and I would curl up back there listening to all the honey jars rattle.

About lunch time we would stop at a creek to eat our biscuits. Mother had prepared the night before. Sometimes there would be other families stopped there and it was always a good time to visit with them. There was a wooden box nailed to a tree next to the creek where people would leave messages for other people. Lots of time people would leave a note asking you to pick up something in town.

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Late in the afternoon we would get to Huntsville Mountain (Chapman Mountain). The road going up the mountain was washed out most of the time and very steep. There was a double-hitch station at the foot of the mountain where people could rent another set of mules to help pull their wagons up the mountain. Our wagon wasn't that heavy and we always made it up with our own mules.

Our first stop in town was at the Big Spring. All the people from out in the county camped out there when they went to town. Daddy had a piece of canvas he would make a tent out of, and that's where we spent the night. It was always great fun with all the campfires and everyone visiting back and forth.

One night it came up a terrible storm and Daddy took me and Mother to the hotel to spend the night. He had to go back and stay with the wagon to make sure the honey wasn't stolen. Once someone stole a dog from someone camped next to us and there was almost a shooting before it got resolved.

The next morning we would hitch the wagon and take the honey up to Harrison's (Harrison Brothers). Daddy and the man who had the store would always argue and shout for what seemed like hours and finally they would make a deal. We got paid in half cash and half trade out. Next we would look up a man by the name of Foster, who always bought our ginseng. He didn't have a store or an office, but was always hanging around the Courthouse square. He would look at it real carefully and if he liked it, we would go to another place where they would weigh it. I think we got paid by the ounce and it was always in cash money.

While Daddy got supplies from Mr. Harrison, Mother and I would go shopping at the other stores. I still remember the first store-bought dress I ever had. Before that they were always made from flour sacks.

When we got done we would always meet Daddy in the Courthouse yard. He had already taken the wagon and mules back to the Big Spring and he would always spend the rest of the day talking to the other men who were also waiting for their families to finish shopping. I never knew for sure but I always suspected the men were drinking whiskey.

Someone later told me they had deer in the Courthouse yard back then but I don't remember it. The only thing I remember about any animals there is stepping in mule droppings and Mother washing my shoes under the pump. There were lots of pigeons too. I remember you could throw a piece of bread on the ground and hundreds of pigeons would fight over it.

They hung a man once while we were in town but I don't remember his name. Daddy made me go back to the wagon and stay while they went and watched. There was a preacher holding a revival at the Spring on the same day but more people were interested in the hanging than salvation. The preacher finally gave up and went to watch the hanging, too.

Once Daddy carried us to a hotel for dinner and we had oysters. Daddy liked them but Mother and I got sick. A large piece of peach cobbler made me feel much better, though. Most times, however, we just ate at the Spring whatever Mother cooked.

The next morning, before the sun came up, we would start

for home. On the way we always stopped at the creek again and had crackers and cheese that Mother had purchased in town for lunch. Going to town was fun but after being gone for three days, it was always good to be back home.

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Members of the Asiatic Fleet Dispatched to Chinese Port

MANILA DEC. 11:—Five destroyers of the American Asiatic fleet left here this afternoon bound for Hong Kong. The vessels were ordered to the Chinese port in connection with the situation at Canton and vicinity.

The destroyer, Perry, flagship of the squadron of the 43rd division of the Asiatic fleet, heads the detachment, which includes the destroyers Polk, Pillsbury, Preston and Sicard. They are expected to arrive at Hong Kong, Thursday morning.

MORE PROHIBITION VIOLATORS BEING SENT TO PRISON

MONTGOMERY, ALA., DEC. 26:—During the first two months of the present fiscal year, a total of 150 prisoners who came to the Alabama penitentiary were convicted of violating the prohibition law. In the entire fiscal year, 1922-1923 a total of only 270 prisoners were committed to the penitentiary convicted of the same offense, according to a report released today by the state board of administration. The detail of the report follows: "Thirty-nine prisoners were sentenced for grand larceny, and 33 for burglary. There were 21 new prisoners sentenced for murder in the second degree, and 17 of assault to murder. Five of the 230 new prisoners were convicted of having more than one wife."

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OLD HUNTSVILLE - YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY

Eleven-Year-Old Youth Is

"Boy Trotsky"

Leo Granoff, 11-year-old New York City boy and referred to as the "Boy Trotsky," has been paroled to appear later in Children's Court. He was picked up by a policeman with his pockets stuffed with anarchist literature. When questioned, the boy admitted he was a Communist and that he had a large class of Communists among his ten to twelve-year-old companions. "Freedom is only for the rich," he declared. The National Security League joined hands with the police to put down the "conspiracy" of the children Communists to, "overthrow the government." Sound spankings by mothers and fathers saved America.

MOBILE CHIEF IS ARRESTED AGAIN

MOBILE, ALA., DEC. 26:—Former Chief of Police P. J. O'Shaughnessy, previously arrested on six charges of conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws, growing out of federal indictments, was rearrested today on a federal warrant, charging him with conspiracy to violate the prohibition law with Robert Johnson. Bond in the latter case against the chief was fixed at \$5,000, making the total bond that the ex-police official is under \$28,000. Johnson has been arrested and is out on a \$5,000 bond.

ESCAPED PRISONER CAPTURED LAST FRIDAY

Rodolphus McCullers, who escaped from the sheriff here a few months ago, was captured in LaFayette last Friday by the sheriff of that county. Sheriff Parris and Chief Deputy Daverson left Sunday morning for LaFayette and returned early Monday morning with their prisoner. McCullers had been sentenced to nine months labor for the county and when Sheriff Parris granted him privilege to go into a room and talk to his wife, he jumped through a window and made his get away. Sheriff Parris soon had a dog on his trail and, with the aid of his deputies and several citizens who joined in the chase, succeeded in coming in sight of McCullers about dark, but the dogs and posse were almost exhausted and were unable to follow him farther through the dense woods in which he had taken refuge, and the chase was

called off. McCullers was taken to the Etowah road camp Monday afternoon to begin his sentence.

Albertville fights Guntersville to a draw

The Albertville Reserves met the Guntersville Reserves last Saturday in one of the hardest fought games of the entire football season. The teams were evenly matched, as the score indicates, and neither team was able to gain much ground over the other. Most of the game was played in midfield, however the S.S.A.S. Reserves managed to get within scoring distance once and lost the ball on a fumble. The game was played for the benefit of Howard Hamil, who has been in the Birmingham General Hospital for some time, and about \$100 was realized from the gate receipts.



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A Deserting Husband gets Rotten Eggs for Slandering His Wife

from 1881 newspaper

A man living near Gurley has had something of a sensation.

A year ago Abraham Meyers, a tailor, left the town, deserting his wife and little son. Recently he returned, accompanied by a lawyer, and announced his intention to secure possession of his boy and take him to another State.

The deserted wife bears an unblemished reputation, and when Meyers and the attorney were heard questioning her chastity they soon found themselves surrounded by a crowd of determined men armed with some antiquated eggs.

The lawyer pleaded so hard that he was not molested after he promised to leave the town. Meyers, however, became the very unwilling target for the eggs and was a sorry sight when he got on board a passenger train to leave. The conductor at once put him off, out of consideration for the other passengers who immediately began to complain of the smell. Meyers escaped by the aid of a brakeman on a freight train, who loaded him in a box car and hauled him out of town. There was no attempt made to arrest any of the participants in the mob, and their work is generally approved in the town and vicinity.



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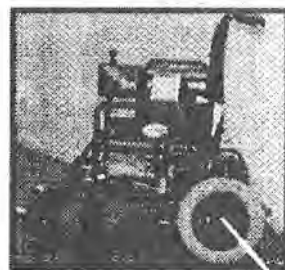
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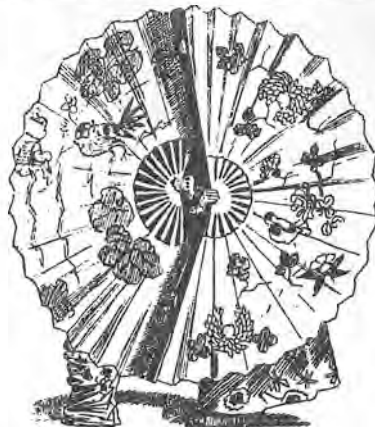
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Huntsville, Ala., C.S.A

by Charles Rice

The west bound train of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad rolled to a stop at the Huntsville depot.

Traveling aboard was no less than the President elect of the new Confederate States of America, the Honorable Jefferson Davis of Mississippi. "This distinguished gentleman," reported the Huntsville Democrat on February 20, 1861, "was greeted with cheers loud and prolonged. Such was the throng to accord him welcome, that it was difficult for him to alight from the cars. Immediately on obtaining a footing on terra firma, silence reigned supreme

during his delivery of a few sentences."

A reluctant secessionist himself, Jefferson Davis had been a United States Senator when Mississippi withdrew from the Union. He had attracted favorable attention for his moving speech upon his resignation from the Senate. Now, much to his own surprise, Davis had been made the Confederate chief executive.

President Davis alluded briefly to the causes that had necessitated the formation of a Southern Republic. "The South," Davis reminded his listeners, "desired no hostilities with any section of this great continent." On the contrary, all they wanted

was to be allowed to conduct their own affairs in peace. While offering friendship to the North, the South was nevertheless ready to fight for its independence. "The North," said Davis, "would find that while their best customers in peace, we would become their worst enemies in war."

"After partaking of slight refreshment," continued the Democrat, "the President-elect resumed his seat in the car, but was not permitted to remain quiet; he cheerfully responded, again, to the kindly and enthusiastic manifestations of the concourse assembled.

"He stated that the Southern Confederacy, like the cars, was



Confederate Veterans reunion in Huntsville, June 7, 1938. The following names appear on the photo, left to right: Ketchum, Chumley, Sanguimate, Dr. Jones, Thompson, Cume, J.R. Kernidy, Boatrite, Dixon.

just on the start, as well as on the right track. It was freighted with patriotic and chivalrous sons, who knew their rights, and were prepared to maintain them."

If the Border States had seceded, Davis believed, "peace would have been secured; the result, now time alone could solve. But he was certain that while a drop of southern blood remained, it would never cease in defence of our rights." Still, Jefferson Davis was confident, and he predicted, that in less than sixty days, the Confederate States would number not less than fifteen."

It was appropriate that Jefferson Davis spoke in Huntsville, for there actually was a serious movement to make the little North Alabama city the capital of the new Confederate States of America.

"The City of Huntsville, has now, more substantial claim for becoming the Capital of the Southern Confederacy, than any other of its competitors," wrote the Florence Gazette in February 1861. "It is just large enough. Its situation is healthy, and the sur-

rounding country highly picturesque and romantic. The citizens are liberal and refined. It is highly accessible, and the prettiest town of its size in the world. In short, it has every recommendation that could be desired, but one, and that is, it has taken most of her people entirely too long to wake up and see the dangers that environed them. But in spite of this her only, but really grave drawback, we are for Huntsville first, and last, and all the time."

Editor William B. Figures of the Huntsville Southern Advocate properly responded by asking how Huntsville differed from Florence in its reluctance to secede. In truth, all of North Alabama had been dragged somewhat reluctantly out of the Union. All that remained now was to make the best of the situation.

Founded by pioneer settler John Hunt, who had built his log cabin at the Big Spring in 1806, Huntsville had grown by 1860 into a thriving community of 3,600. Situated some ten miles above the Tennessee River, the city was on the Memphis and

Charleston Railroad—virtually the only rail connection between the eastern Confederacy and the Mississippi River. Huntsville's location would become strategic during the great war soon to come.

Huntsville, Alabama, was indeed a beautiful city, if we can believe contemporary writers. Reverend Milus E. Johnston, a Methodist circuit rider from Tennessee, called it "one of the neatest and most beautiful little cities to be found in any country."

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Chaplain George W. Pepper of the 80th Ohio Infantry, who would visit the city as an invading enemy, agreed. "This town of Huntsville is truly the gem of the Southern Confederacy. It is a most charming and delightful place."

Wrote Pepper, "The mansions of the wealthy nabobs vie in picturesque splendor, with the lordly residences of European aristocrats."

Set in a fertile valley surrounded by verdant mountains, Huntsville was a center of culture in the region. The city could boast of the Huntsville Female College and the Huntsville Female Seminary, plus its Green Academy for boys. The North Alabama College for men was also under construction when the war began. Huntsville probably had more fine homes than almost any other Southern city of its size.

Ironically, Huntsville was the birthplace of six future generals of the War Between the States—three on each side! Most famous, of course, is Major General John Hunt Morgan, the dashing Confederate raider. Morgan, born in 1825 on Huntsville's Franklin Street, had grown to manhood in Lexington, Kentucky. LeRoy Pope Walker, the first Secretary of the War of the Confederacy and briefly a brigadier general, also claimed Huntsville as his home. So, too, did Major General Jones M. Withers, a West Point graduate who had left Huntsville to reside in Mobile.

Less well known, and certainly less honored, are the Birney brothers, David and William. Their father, the Southern abolitionist leader William G. Birney, had freed his slaves and left Huntsville to live in the North. David and William Birney

would both become generals in blue, David from Pennsylvania and William from New Jersey.

Thomas T. Crittenden, born in Huntsville in 1825 during a brief residency here by his parents, also had a less than distinguished career as a Union general.

Unlike the cotton growing counties of South Alabama, North Alabama had not been anxious to rush into secession. In fact, during the 1860 Christmas day vote for delegates to the proposed the Alabama secession convention, "cooperationist" candidates Nicholas Davis and Jeremiah Clemens easily defeated the secessionists George P. Beirne and Dr. M. P. Roberts. The cooperationists argued that the entire South should act together in unison rather than each State leaving the Union on its own. However, the cooperationists were out voted 61 to 39 at the Montgomery convention in January 1861, and Alabama withdrew from the Federal Union. Huntsville's Jere Clemens finally signed the secession ordinance in a spirit of unity, but Nicholas Davis refused to put his name on the docu-

ment.

Many people in Huntsville regretted seeing the old familiar flag hauled down from the Courthouse. In fact, in some North Alabama cities, most notably Athens, the Stars and Stripes continued to fly a while longer in protest against the convention's refusal to submit secession to a popular vote. But most Huntsvillians accepted the inevitable. Alabama's admission to the Confederate States calmed most of the fears, and the choice of Huntsville's LeRoy Pope Walker for a cabinet post was popular.

Walker, now Confederate Secretary of War, insisted that there would be no conflict between North and South. He confidently asserted that he would wipe up all the blood that might be shed with his own handkerchief. It was a foolish remark that would soon come back to haunt him.

On March 13, 1861, one day after Alabama's admission to the Confederate States of America, the Huntsville Democrat reported the local reaction.

"Every day gives new indications of the loyalty of the people of North Alabama to our new government. Here in Huntsville—



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where the first news of the expected passage of the Ordinance of Secession without a reference to the people at the ballot box, caused an indignation meeting of the Union-savers—a Flag of the Confederacy was run up, on Friday evening last, on the top of Spotswoods and Erskine's Store, at the corner of the Public Square, amid cheers of a crowd that hastily assembled to witness it. Not satisfied with the dimensions of the first flag, another, of more approved proportions was run up at the same point on Saturday.

"At 4 p.m., the Madison Rifles came out with an addition of ten new members and when their flag bearer brought out a flag of the Confederacy for them to march under for the first time, they saluted it in military style and loudly cheered it. The cannon was fired one hundred times—every shot resounding among our mountains, hills, and valleys, a requiem to submission and a stern defiance to our Abolition foes and their traitorous abettors."

Like it or not, Alabama was now part of a new nation.

Huntsville adapted to the situation as best it could. The local militia company, the Madison Rifles, telegraphed Governor Andrew B. Moore to offer their services in defence of the state. The offer was quickly accepted and the Rifles left for Mobile.

Unfortunately, the newly inaugurated President in Washington, a little-known Illinois Republican named Abraham Lincoln, was not about to let the South to depart in peace. Lincoln chose to make a stand at Charleston, South Carolina, where that State was demanding the surrender of the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter.

Forced by Lincoln to either fight or give up its claim to sovereignty, the Confederate government had little choice but to go to war. It was a tragic decision that might have been avoided had Lincoln been willing to compromise. However, the man from Illinois had already decided that war was inevitable, and he was determined to make the South fire the first shot. He soon succeeded.

On April 11, 1861, Secretary of War LeRoy Pope Walker telegraphed an order from Montgomery to Brigadier General Pierre G. T. Beauregard at Charleston. Federal reinforcements were reportedly on the way, and the matter had to be settled before they arrived. Walker left it up to Beauregard.

"Do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumter," said Walker. "If Major Anderson will state the time at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that in the mean time he will not use his guns against us unless ours should be employed against Fort Sumter, you are authorized to avoid the effu-

sion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judgement decides to be most practicable."

Two days later, when Major Robert Anderson still had not left the fort, the Confederates opened fire. The Civil War had begun.

Huntsville patriotically responded by raising two more



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companies, the Huntsville Guards and the North Alabamians. Both companies went into the 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment and departed for Virginia. Other companies began forming in Madison County and all across North Alabama. Young men naively worried that the war would be over before they had a chance to take part. Had they but realized what they were getting into, most would probably have stayed at home.

In July 1861, Alabama Governor Andrew B. Moore established two camps of instructions for the Alabama volunteers. One was located at Auburn. The other, because of the important railroad connections, was to be at Huntsville.

Trains carrying the recruits

began arriving in early August. The volunteers all came from central Alabama—Blount, Cherokee, Jefferson, and Pickens Counties.

Jeremiah Clemens, now commanding general of the Alabama militia, selected the location for the camp. It was on the branch below the Big Spring, not far from today's Von Braun Civic Center. Clemens named the camp after the hero of the hour, Colonel Egbert J. Jones of Huntsville. Egbert Jones had led the 4th Alabama Infantry to glory in the recent victory at the Battle of Manassas, Virginia.

Lieutenant W. E. Hill, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, arrived to supervise the men's training. Huntsville began to take on an unfamiliar military

appearance.

"The camp is located in the beautiful grove, belonging to the estate of the late Martin Miller," said the Huntsville Democrat. "The alternate sunlight and shade, level expanse for parade ground, and the convenience to excellent water and supplies, render the location very appropriate. There are eleven companies of the sturdiest, most athletic, civil, well-behaved men, the very bone and sinew of the land. With proper instruction, they will make one of the finest regiments in the service."

The regiment at Camp Jones would soon be designated the 19th Alabama Infantry. Appointed colonel was a young lieutenant only a few years out of West Point, Joseph Wheeler.

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Wheeler owed his position to his friendship with Secretary of War Walker.

One of Wheeler's first acts was to move the training site from Camp Jones to the old militia training ground at Blue Springs, several miles north of Huntsville. Wheeler felt that Camp Jones was simply too close to town to maintain proper military discipline. He named the new post Camp Bradford, after Mrs. Martha Bradford, a local widow who had set up hospitals for the soldiers during the measles epidemic that ravaged the 19th Alabama. It was a gesture Huntsville appreciated.

Huntsville's Nick Davis was offered the position of lieutenant colonel of the 19th Alabama, but he declined the honor. Davis meant to raise his own infantry regiment. It, like the 19th, was intended to become part of the brigade of General LeRoy Pope Walker, who had now resigned his cabinet post. However, neither Davis nor Walker were destined for military glory. Joe Wheeler, on the other hand, would become one of Alabama's

dominant figures for the next fifty years.

On November 11, 1861, the 19th Alabama Regiment left Huntsville for Mobile. Both the 14th Alabama and the 18th Alabama stopped in Huntsville briefly. Then a new unit was formed at Camp Bradford. It was the 1st Alabama Infantry Battalion of Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Davis, the man who had refused to sign the secession ordinance. Soon Davis' Battalion, too, departed for Mobile and Camp Bradford was abandoned. The war seemed to have left Huntsville behind.

But appearances can all too often be deceiving.

Mr. Charles Rice is the author of "Hard Times, The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama."

Mr. Rice's reputation as a meticulous researcher has made this book the definitive study of the Civil War in this area.

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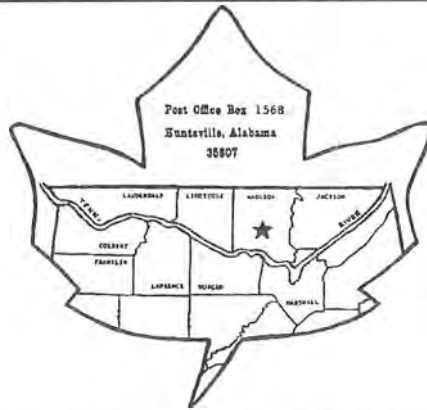


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Searching For Our Ancestors



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COLLIER • JONES

Seeking identity of Sally M. Jones; her son Bouldin Collier Jones died at age 6 Was she Martha Collier, daughter of Col. James Collier and Elizabeth Bouldin Collier? James & Elizabeth Collier who d Madison Co AL had 10 children: Bouldin; Wyatt; Martha; James; Eliza; William; Henry (Governor of AL 1838-1850); Thomas (my 2g grandfather); Charles; and Alford. Will exchange information with anyone connected to Sally M. Jones' family.

Mrs. Belle Dean, 251

Marshall Road, Rainsville, AL

GIBBS • WADKINS • BOWMAN • WOOTEN • PEITY • HULME • TANT • BURCHFIELD


Seeking information on parents/family of James M. Gibbs (b 1819/20 SC) or Elvira Wadkins Gibbs (b 1819/20 GA). This family listed on Cherokee Co AL 1850 Federal Census; Limestone Co. AL 1860; and Madison Co AL 1870. Ch: Mary E. b 1839 (m John Bowman); Sarah b 1842 (m George Wooten); James b 1844; Andrew (Ace/Asa) b 1849

(m Sylvester Petty); Benjamin P b 1853 (m Sarah J. Hulme); John Thomas b 1856 (m Margaret Susan Allison); Nancy Jane b 1859 (m Henry Clay Tant); Moses Calvin b 1861 (m 1st Margaret Burchfield in AL) (m 2nd Frances Thompson in TX); Robert b 1862 m Molly Petty (?); Elvira had a brother: William Wadkins (wife Jane); sister: Nancy Wadkins. Will exchange information (reimbursing for copies & postage) with anyone having info on parents/siblings of either James or Elvira, where buried etc.

S. M. German, 5500 Stoney Glen Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150

WISDOM • MORGAN • WALKER • SELLERS • BURT

Seeking information on ancestors of Jonathan (John) Elsberry Wisdom b 16 Mar 1865 at Tuscumbia, Colbert Co, AL. He was left by his father near Iuka, Tishomingo, MS with an Uncle, Redding Burt when he was c7 years old. A known sister, Jenny Wisdom Stone, married a Penecostal preacher. John



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said his family was from Colbert & Lauderdale Co AL. John m 1887 Iuka, MS Frances Azilla Morgan b 1871 dau. of Alfred Morgan b 1823 & Mary Frances Walker b 1848. Her grandparents were John Boyd Walker b 1824 & Sarah Caroline Sellers b 1826. The Sellers family was from Pride Station (Colbert Co) AL where her father owned a mill. Does anyone know anything about any of these families? Will appreciate any help and exchange information; will reimburse for copies and postage.

S. M. German, 5500 Stony Glen Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150

HUDSON • CHANEY • HARDIN • TRAYLOR

I am researching the Hudson Family. Peter B. Hudson b c1770 m Mary Chaney. They lived in TN; sons: Howell Hudson m Jeanette Hardin and Peter B. Hudson Jr. m Sarah Hardin. Howell and Peter B. joined the War of 1812 in AL. They moved to MS then TX. Wish to exchange information on these families.

Catherine Swoyer, 3480 E. Star Lane, Manhattan, KS 66502

BALDRIDGE

Would like to make contact with descendants of William Franklin Baldrige b 1809 TN d 1891 Collin Co TX. He lived in Madison Co AL from 1850s until 1870s when he migrated to TX.

Mrs. Gene Aldridge, 7 Forest Park, Richardson, TX 75080

SPAIN • MAXWELL • AYCOCK • JONES

Seeking information on the following ancestors. Joseph Spain b 1810 NC m 1837 Morgan Co AL Sarah C. Maxwell b 1812 TN. Joseph's father:

Frederic Spain; his mother was Sarah Aycock. Sarah Maxwell's father was John Wesley Maxwell and his mother was Martha Jones. Any information appreciated and all correspondence answered. Wish to contact any descendants.

Dollyie M. Martin, 511 Boyd Mill Ave., Franklin, TN 37064

TURNEY • MOTE

Seeking information on Joseph Turney b 1787 TN d 1868 Morgan Co AL m Nancy Mote(?). When and Where? She b 1796 TN d 1852 Morgan Co AL. Both buried Turney Cemetery (Morgan Co) AL. Wish to contact any de-

scendants. All information appreciated and all correspondence answered.

Dollyie M. Martin, 511 Boyd Mill Ave., Franklin, TN 37064

ROBINSON • TUCKER

Seeking information on James Robinson of Coffee Co TN m Sarah Elizabeth Tucker b 6 Oct 1848 Manchester TN, dau. of John Tucker. Sarah and James had three sons: Thomas; James; and Simon. Sarah and 2 sons moved to Oregon c1900. Sarah d Dec 1934 in Oregon.

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Never put a rubberband around your silverware or you'll have a permanent mark on it.

To make your home smell great, lay some tangerine peels

and whole cloves on a baking pan, stick in the oven at 200 degrees for an hour or so.

Try making your own flavored olives - take ripe or green olives and place them in a clean container. Pour just a bit of olive oil over them, then a dash of garlic or onion powder. Shake the olives in the mixture and let stand for an hour before you serve your guests.

If you cover your mouth while yawning, evil spirits can't get in.

Wear a piece of silver around your neck on a piece of string to avoid getting a cold.

Ladies who wear red garters will not get arthritis.

If you have to get out and walk on icy sidewalks or driveways, pull a heavy sock or leg warmer over each of your shoes, all the way past your toes so that it covers the entire bottom of your shoe. The rough surface will prevent your sliding, but if you walk too far, ice will form on your socks and that could be slick.

Put a couple of pieces of chalk in with your good silver and this will prevent tarnishing.

Keep small cans of paint from tipping by gluing them to old paper plates.

Try a used cork for scouring cutlery - just dip an end in baking powder and scrub.

When you feel that you may be getting a cold, get yourself a bottle of chewable Vitamin C tabs (500 mg) and take 2-4 a day. Also, taking zinc seems to be a good method for shortening the lifespan of a cold - 1-2 a day.

Try adding a bit of grape jelly to your spaghetti sauce - you'll



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Keeping the Fires Aglow

by Martha Marshall

The fireplace was usually the center of life in rural areas. In earlier days much of the cooking was done in heavy iron pots over the open fire.

As the men gathered their firewood for the coming winter months, they set aside the larger logs for "back sticks." The smaller logs were, "split and ricked." Firewood was stored in a woodshed or covered to dry out.

Before retiring the family permitted the fire to die down and covered the coals and ashes. While sitting around the evening fire the family members would share the "kindling" to boost the coals in the morning. (Toys or novelties were sometimes made from the curly shavings.)

It was very important to cover the embers carefully, as matches were rare. Sometimes the neighbors shared the warm embers to keep their fires going.

In the evening, the family would sit in a semicircle around the open fire or stove. It was comfortable here listening to the wood crack as it resisted the heat. Smooth rocks often lay in front of the fire. These were heated and wrapped in coarse sacking to be placed at the foot of the bed at night. Wet shoes and boots were left to dry. More affluent families might afford a metal "bed warmer," a box with a long handle which carried hot



coals. In large families individual beds were not often found.

Feather beds filled with goose-down were found in most homes. Mattresses made from corn husks or straw were fitted to the spring-less "corn beds."

Recently I was reminded of

the custom of women who stood in front of the fire in the evening, facing out, skirts hiked up, warming their derrieres, a practice rarely used in polite society any more.

Most rural families retired early and arose early. A place around the hearth became the habit of family members with Mother in a rocking chair directly in front and Father near the wood and kindling box.

*Constructive criticism is
when I criticize you.
Destructive criticism is
when you criticize me.*

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Housekeeper's Helpers

There is a greenness in onions and potatoes that renders them hard to digest. For health's sake put them in warm water for an hour before cooking.

The only kind of stove with which you can preserve a uniform heat is a gas stove; with it you can simmer a pot for an hour, or boil it at the same rate for twenty minutes.

Good flour is not tested by its color. White flour may not be the best. The test of good flour is by the amount of water it absorbs.

In cooking a fowl, to ascertain when it is done, put a skewer into the breast, and if the breast is tender the fowl is done.

A few dried cherries, with stones out, are the very best thing for garnishing sweet dishes.

Single cream is cream that has stood on the milk twelve hours. It is best for tea and coffee. Double cream stands on its milk twenty-four hours, and

cream for butter frequently stands forty-eight hours. Cream that is to be whipped should not be butter cream, lest in whipping it changes to butter.

To beat the whites of eggs quickly, put in a pinch of salt. The cooler the eggs the quicker they will froth. Salt cools and also freshens them.

In boiling eggs hard put them in boiling water. It will prevent the yolk from coloring black.

You must never attempt to boil the dressing of a clear soup in the stock, for it will always discolor the soup.

In making any sauce, put the butter and flour in together, and your sauce will never be lumpy. Whenever you see your sauce boil from the sides of the pan you may know your flour or corn starch is done.

Boiled fowl with sauce, over which grate the yolk of eggs, is a magnificent dish for luncheon.

Tepid water is produced by combining two-thirds cold and one-third boiling water.

To make macaroni tender, put it in cold water and bring it

to a boil. It will then be much more tender than if put into hot water or stewed in milk.

The yolk of eggs binds the crust much better than the whites. Apply it to the edges with a brush.

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From 1888 newspaper



A curious accidental shooting occurred about a mile north of New Market. Oscar Kroger, living at that village, started out squirrel hunting and while passing through the woods noticed an object in a tree. He thought it was a squirrel and let go a load from his shotgun. To his surprise, down came a human form, which proved to be Clifford Seward, aged 20 years, who had climbed the tree in search of a bird's nest. Upon examination it was found that he had received the full load of shot in the face and will lose the sight of one eye, besides being badly disfigured for life.



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GIANT

Huntsville's Generals:

EDWARD DORR TRACY

No less than eight Civil War generals could claim Huntsville and Madison County as their birthplace. Oddly enough, they were evenly divided -- four on each side. Without doubt, the most distinguished were Confederates John Hunt Morgan and Edward Dorr Tracy. Morgan's career as a cavalry raider is well known. However, infantryman Tracy is often overlooked. Tracy was a courageous leader, and his war record deserves to be better known.

A first rate fighting man, Ed-



ward Dorr Tracy (1833-1863), was a native of Macon, Georgia. However, he made his home in Huntsville from the mid-1850s. A lawyer by profession, he had graduated from the University of Georgia at the age of seventeen. In 1855 Tracy married Ellen Steele, a daughter of George

Steele, Huntsville's noted antebellum architect. In April 1861, Tracy went to war as captain of a company of Huntsville volunteers known as the "North Alabamians." The unit went by rail to Georgia, where it became Company I of Col. Egbert J. Jones' famous 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment. In July 1861, Tracy led his company at the Battle of Manassas, Virginia, but shortly thereafter accepted the position of major in the 12th Alabama Infantry. In October 1861, he became lieutenant colonel of the new 19th Alabama Infantry, serving under then Colonel Joseph Wheeler. Tracy commanded the 19th Alabama at the Battle of Shiloh, having his horse killed under him. He was next sent with his regiment to East Tennessee to reinforce General Edmund Kirby Smith's Army. Recommended for promotion by Smith, Tracy was commissioned a brigadier general on August 16, 1862.

General Tracy commanded a brigade of five Alabama regiments: the 20th, 23rd, 30th, 31st, and 46th. He led his men into battle for the last time at Port Gibson, Mississippi, on May 1, 1863. Fatally struck by a minnie ball, Tracy "fell near the front line, pierced through the breast, and died instantly without uttering a word," wrote one of his men. Since Huntsville was then threatened by Union cavalry raiders, General Tracy's remains was buried in Macon, Georgia. The Huntsville hero was interred with both military and Masonic honors.

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tomorrow.*



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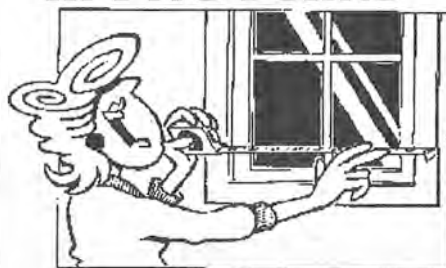
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Final Words For A Yankee Tyrant

Union General Orsmy MacKnight Mitchel led the Northern troops that captured Huntsville in April, 1862 and occupied the city for four months. It seems Mitchel didn't make many friends, since this is the way the Daily Huntsville Confederate announced his demise in its issue of November 12, 1862:

"A telegram from Richmond, three or four days since, announced intelligence, through Northern papers, of the death at Beaufort, S. C., on the 31st ult., of his detestable lowness, Maj. Gen. O. M. Mitchel. No man ever had more winning ways to excite people's hatred than he. We have not space to do justice to his vices -- virtues he showed none, in his dealings with the people of North Alabama. He was "an undevout astronomer," who can-

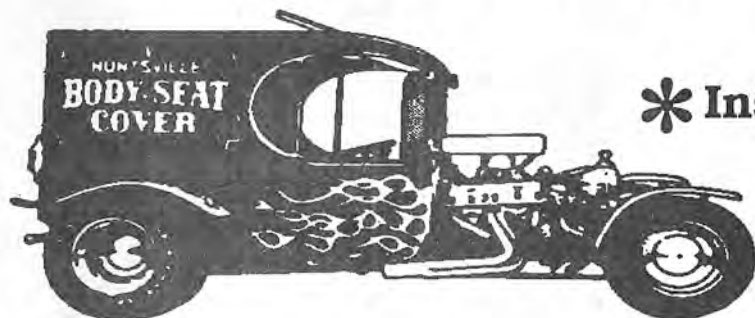
not be otherwise than "mad" -- a military cockscorn, without skill, theoretical or practical -- proud, vain, vindictive, vile, barbarous, who made war on women and children, and was, of course, a coward, who skulked from the presence of armed men. A single instance of his cowardice, was his personal retreat on the railway train from Athens to this place, for reinforcements, while a portion of his army was engaged, at Athens,

with an inferior Confederate force, and his failure to return thither with the reinforcements. No tears were shed here for his reported demise, but fears were generally expressed that it was not so. A patriotic sufferer, in the noble county of Jackson, from Mitchel's insolence and barbarity, on hearing of his death, remarked that he had often said that a new hell would have to be established for the Yankees, and that he thought Mitchel or Turchin would be President, and he supposed the choice had fallen on Mitchel."

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