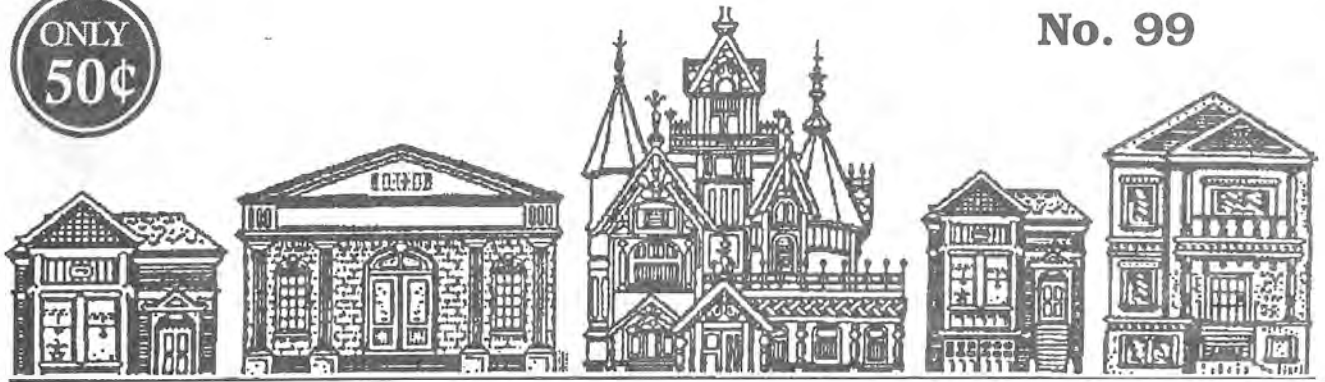


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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



Free Born

She was born a Cherokee and then sold into slavery where she had two children, one by her white master and the other by an Indian.

Now the court had to decide if her children were slaves or free born, entitled to the same rights as any other person.

Maby Davis was about to discover that although there were laws for both Blacks and Whites, there were none for the Indians.

Also in this issue: Life On The Old Plantation

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The Huntsville Hotel ca. 1909
Corner of Jefferson and Spring Street



Old Timer's Sale



Free Born

The house was silent as James Fisher crouched on the floor, laboriously tracing the words on a note. If all went well he would be leaving Huntsville early in the morning with a pass in hand from his mistress, Mrs. Lane, stating that James, her slave, had permission to travel.

James flinched inwardly as he thought of the word "slave." Although he had been held in bondage for all of his life, he never thought of himself as a slave. He was a full-blooded Cherokee, determined to do what the courts had failed to do - set himself free.

Indian slaves were part of our country's horrible past that most historians have chosen to ignore. Almost from the very beginning of settlement in this country Indians were seized and sold into slavery. In North Carolina the practice was so widespread that some historians have estimated that fully half of the Cherokee population were captured and sold.

In the years preceding the Revolutionary War, the Indian slave trade was one of the colonies' most profitable commercial

enterprises. Vast caravans of captured Indians were marched to Savannah and Charleston where they were sold and shipped to the West Indies, New York and New England. Years later, when most of the Northern states did away with slavery, many of these Indians were "sold south" to the very places where they had been captured.

Ironically, many of these Indian slaves were sold to firms engaged in the importation of Black slaves from Africa, where they would actually be used to help capture the Africans. In return, the Black slaves were often used to help capture the Indians in this country. It was a vicious cycle driven by high profits and the need for an inexhaustible supply of cheap labor.

Although the Indians provided cheap labor, they were never considered adequate for the hard work required on the Southern plantations. They were highly susceptible to the white man's diseases and did not have the physique required for hard physical labor. As a result, the Indians were used primarily as domestic help while the Africans toiled in the fields.

By the beginning of the 1800s the practice of seizing and selling Indians into slavery had largely stopped, mostly due to financial reasons. An Indian would bring a



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price of about \$400.00 on the auction block while a strapping African in good health would often sell for \$2000.00.

Another major cause for the decline of Indian slavery was the fact that the courts never would decide exactly who could be sold as a slave. While there were strict laws governing the practice of African slavery, the issue of Indians fell somewhere in a gray area. Many states had laws stating that anyone held in servitude, as well as their children, was automatically a slave. Virginia had a law stating it was illegal to sell Indians unless they were slaves but declined to state what made someone a slave.

Most often the whole issue came down to what the supposed owner claimed, as once an Indian was deemed a slave he had no recourse in the courts.

In the early 1800s a young full-blooded Indian girl by the name of Maby Davis was living with a family near Knoxville, Tennessee. According to what she later related, her parents had experienced hardships and were no longer able to take care of her when a white family living nearby volunteered to raise her. She was treated as a loving member of the family, doing the same chores and enjoying the same liberties as the rest of the family.

After living with the family for several years, tragedy struck when the parents died. A short while later the couple's son took Maby to Nashville, where she was sold as a slave. Although Maby protested violently, it was to no avail. Although technically she could have pursued her case in court, in reality it was impossible.

To press her case she would have to get a white person to sign a bond, then find a lawyer and pay his fee. All of these things were

impossible, and illegal, without the permission of the slave's owner.

Maby's new master, Eli Young, owned a boarding house in Nashville where she was used as a servant. Young owned several other slaves, one of which was Thomas Fisher, also a full-blooded Cherokee Indian. In 1816, Maby bore a son by Fisher, much to the owner's delight who now owned another slave. The father was evidently less than thrilled as he fled from bondage the same year. The following year, according to court papers, Maby bore a daughter by her master.

At about this time, Maby's owner agreed to let her take in laundry. Although he kept most of the money, she was able to hoard the few nickels and dimes that she received as tips. Her life was probably as content as possible for a slave. She had her two children, her master was not overly cruel and she was slowly but surely saving money.

Her life was shattered, however, when her owner announced his intentions of selling the family at a slave sale. He had suffered severe business losses and Maby and her children were practically his only remaining assets.

The daughter was sold to a plantation near Nashville and Judge George W. Lane of Huntsville purchased James, the son. Maby's owner, probably out of remorse, agreed to let her buy her freedom. Using the small amount of money she had been able to save as a down payment, Maby agreed to pay a certain amount each month with the loan secured by a mortgage on herself. If she missed a payment she would be repossessed.

Maby worked frantically over the next six years trying to earn every penny she could. Seven

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days a week she washed and ironed clothes, often into the wee hours of the morning with only a flickering lantern to keep her company.

Finally the day came when she was able to make the last payment on her freedom. Instead of rejoicing, however, she began to work even harder, putting in even longer hours and doing without necessities in order to save every penny.

In 1832 Maby hired an attorney by the name of Thomas Crump. Patiently she explained how she had been sold into slavery, had a son by another Cherokee and a daughter by her master. She told how the children were torn from her and sold at auction. All she wanted now, she

explained, was to have her children back.

Crump filed suit in court alleging that since Maby was born free she could not have been a slave. Therefore her offspring were entitled to their liberty, too. Papers were sent to Judge Lane in Huntsville who replied that he had purchased the son, James, in good faith and had no knowledge of the boy's Indian heritage. He asked that the suit be dismissed.

When the case came up in court it was immediately thrown out with the explanation that even if she had been born free, and there was no evidence that she was, the fact that she knowingly paid for her freedom acknowledged the fact that she recognized, and accepted, her status as a slave.

The attorney explained that for Maby to prove her children were free she would have to prove first that she was enslaved wrongfully. Once again Maby went back to work, again hoarding every penny to pay the attorney's fees.

Slowly her attorney began to

collect statements from people who had known Maby when she was a child. The evidence supporting her claims appeared overwhelming but the attorney urged caution. Rather than file suit for both children, it was decided to sue for the release of the son first and use that judgment as a basis for acquiring the daughter's freedom.

Again, Judge Lane was served papers and again he replied, disclaiming all knowledge, and asking for the suit to be dismissed. A short while later the court ruled that although Maby was born free, the fact that she had a child by a slave, even though he was an Indian, made the child a slave too.

Although the law stated that a child born to a White woman, or a Black woman, followed the status of its mother, it was vague about the status of an Indian woman bearing children by a slave. The court used the argument that since Maby was neither Black nor White, the laws did not apply to her case. In addition, the court argued a law that dated from pre-Revolutionary War times stating that any Indian held as a slave shall always be a slave, as shall their offspring.

Maby was devastated by the news, even though her attorney said he was sure they would win on appeal. In the meantime they would file suit for the daughter's freedom. The court's ruling, and the fact that the girl was fathered by a white man, seemed to ensure a favorable verdict.

Meanwhile, she went back to the wash board, working harder than ever to earn money for the legal fees. However tired she became, she took comfort in the fact that her daughter would soon be with her.

In Huntsville, Judge Lane was closely following the case. Besides

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the boy, James, he owned another Cherokee slave, and an unfavorable ruling could cause him to lose a considerable investment in "fancy slaves." These slaves, with light complexion, long black hair and trained for housework were a rage among wealthy Southerners at the time.

After acquiring James and training him as a servant, Mrs. Lane decided she also wanted a "fancy serving girl". She soon learned of a Cherokee girl in nearby Athens and began to badger her husband to buy her. Judge Lane was reluctant, however, arguing that the person did not possess a clear title and it could be costly if the girl was ever set free.

Regardless, Lane finally consented to buying the girl, but only after getting the seller to post a bond stating that if she was ever freed Lane would be reimbursed for the purchase price.

James was aware of his mother's fight to gain his freedom although it was difficult to learn many details. Maby was forbidden to enter the state of Alabama as a freed slave, unless a bond was posted in her behalf. Most of what he knew was overheard in the Lane household or gossip passed on by other slaves in Huntsville. After teaching himself to read and write he wrote several letters to his mother, but when Lane learned of it he was punished severely, along with being threatened with being sent to Louisiana where Lane owned an interest in another plantation.

In 1836 Maby's suit for her daughter's freedom finally went before a Nashville court. Her attorney argued passionately that as Maby was "free born" and the father of her child was also free born, and white, there was no justification for the daughter to be de-

clared a slave.

The defense, however, had anticipated this line of argument. They offered rebuttal stating it was against the law for whites and Indians to have sexual relations and, strange as it may sound, since the alleged white father was never charged with a crime, therefore a crime could not have been committed. In support, an affidavit was offered to the court by Maby's ex-owner stating he had no idea who the father was.

Maby's attorney countered by arguing that the daughter's light complexion alone showed she was fathered by a white man.

The court ordered the daughter, only thirteen years old at the time, to be brought before the bench where she was ordered to disrobe. So-called experts, slave traders, doctors and probably anyone else interested, examined the young girl, feeling her muscles, peering into her mouth, measuring her buttocks and even snipping samples of her hair to examine more closely.

In the end, the experts ruled that, although the girl was light complexioned, there was no overwhelming evidence that she had been fathered by a white man. Most likely, they concluded, her fa-

ther was an anonymous slave which meant the daughter was a slave too and not entitled to the same privileges as a free born person.

The courts quoted a colonial Virginia law which stated that any Indian held as a slave shall be a slave forever, as shall as their offspring.

At about the same time, the courts heard Maby's appeal on her son's behalf. In short, the court ruled it was a moot issue as Tennessee could not impose its jurisdiction on a slave who resided, and was owned by someone living in another state. If Maby wanted to continue her fight she would have to do so in the Alabama district courts, most likely in the same district over which Judge Lane presided.

For the first time in her long struggle, Maby felt like giving up. Even though her attorney insisted they would win on appeal, Maby knew the process could take years and by then her children could be anywhere.

In Huntsville, it was several

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9:00 Bible Study

10:30 Worship (Broadcast live on WHNT Channel 19)

5:00 Discipleship Training

6:30 Worship

Wednesday

5:00 Fellowship Supper

5:45 Prayer Meeting

"Your Place For Life"

months later when James overheard the Judge and his wife discussing the outcome of the court case, that he learned of the final verdict. During all the many years that his mother had fought the case through courts, James lived with the idea that one day he would be a free man. Now that day seemed so far in the future as to be impossible.

Discarding all thoughts of the courts ever setting him free, James began to make preparations to flee. Numerous times in the past his mistress had given him passes, allowing him to run errands to outlying plantations. By studying them carefully he had learned to imitate her handwriting.

One day, while Judge Lane was out of town, his wife entered James' room and caught him practicing writing. In a sudden flash of anger she snatched the pencil and paper from James' hand and ordered another slave to go get her brother, Nicholas Davis. When he arrived, she asked that James' be given a flogging and told of catching him practicing reading and writing.

Davis ordered James brought before him, and without any explanation, began beating him with the edge of a heavy board. James

grabbed the board from Davis and began hitting him back. Terrified that a slave would have the audacity to strike a white man, Davis ran from the room. Mrs. Lane then sent a servant to fetch her father, Captain Davis. In a short while the servant returned saying that Captain Davis was busy but would be there the next morning.

James knew he was in serious trouble. The elder Davis had often expressed a desire to give the Indian boy a beating and was noted for his brutal thrashings. It was said that he had killed a slave named Reuben, and a girl named Rachel, by excessive beatings. He had lately struck, with a heavy board, an old man who used to tend him when he was a baby.

As soon as James finished his

Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. *The Crimson Tide* - An illustrated history of Alabama football by Winston Groom, \$39.95.

2. *The Coalwood Way* - The further adventures of the Rocket Boys by Huntsvillian Homer Hickam, \$23.95.

3. *Huntsville In Vintage Postcards* - Over 200 postcards depicting scenes of Huntsville's past, \$18.99.

4. *Sins of Madison County* - The Lynching Era of 1878 to 1904 by Fred B. Simpson, \$28.95.

5. *Main Rooster and Other Short Stories: Booger Town - Paint Rock Valley - Country Stores - Country Churches - Country Cures* by Marlin Tucker, \$14.95.

6. *WPA Guide to 1930s Alabama* - First published in 1941, \$24.95.

7. *Railroad War* - Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid through Northern Alabama by Robert Dunnivant, Jr., \$17.95.

8. *Historic Limestone County* - a collection of stories and history by Robert Dunnivant, Jr., \$17.95.

9. *History of Jackson County, Alabama* by John Robert Kennamer, Sr., \$25.00.

10. *Killingsworth Cove on Hurricane Creek, 1898-1998* by Joe Floyd Broyles (\$10.95).

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chores that evening, he wrote a note and signed his mistress's name to it. Walking the few blocks to the stage office he asked if he might take a stage to Nashville the next morning. The clerk demanded his pass, whereas James showed it while explaining that his mistress was not used to writing passes for servants and she wanted him to look at it and see that it was done right. The clerk obediently wrote the proper instructions on the back of the pass.

Returning to his room James read the instructions and wrote himself a new pass. Hours later he was on the stage bound for Nashville.

If James was hoping for a family reunion, it was not meant to be.

Ironically, after Maby Davis had spent years in court to prove herself a free born Cherokee Indian, that very fact was used against her when she was ordered West on the Trail of Tears.

Nothing was ever heard of the daughter again. Probably she was sold to an owner in another state where she disappeared forever. James Fisher eventually made his way to Boston, Mass., where he told his story to a newspaper editor. It was published in 1848.

Judge Charles Lane later earned the dubious honor of being one of the most famous traitors in Madison County during the Civil War. After first supporting the Confederacy, Lane changed sides and became a staunch Union man. He died a disgraced and broken man.

Did you know that by drinking just one cup of black or green tea per day can cut your risk of heart attack by nearly half?

NOTICE FOR BIDS

County wishes to purchase distilled liquors for Madison County Dispensary

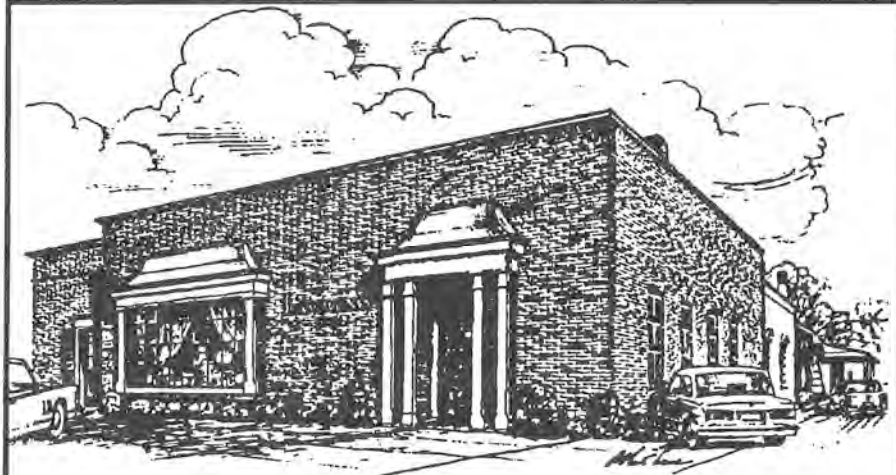
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received on Saturday, February 9, 1907, at the office of the Court of County Commissioners at the county courthouse in Huntsville, Alabama for pure distilled liquors in barrel quantities from 3 to 5 years old to be used in the Madison County Dispensary.

Said liquors to be delivered as needed by said Dispensary. The contract will be for cash and will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and a bond will be required as guaranty that the goods offered will be up to the standard required.

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from 1907 Huntsville Newspaper



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Mysterious Photograph Appears After Lightning Storm

During a heavy thunderstorm that visited Sand Mountain, the evening of July 18, Miss Lillian Paul was in the dining room of her father's house when she noticed a gleaming tray about which reflections from the lightning flashed incessantly almost like a flame.

Reaching for the tray to remove it, there came a flash of extreme brilliancy when she placed the tray under the table and left the room. The next morning it was noticed that the tray bore upon its centre a profile of the young lady's head and face.

Mr. Leo Doff, the inventor of the electrical motor which bears his name, holds that "the picture was printed by light and not by heat, and that the flash was reflected from the face to the inside of the opposite window pane and thence thrown upon the tray, producing an actinic portrait."

However curious this may be, this result is not peculiar to Alabama lightning, as the following incident, related by a northern newspaper:

"We have heretofore published an account of a portrait supposed to have been photographed by lightning on a pane of glass in the window of an old farm house in this county."

Another instance of the same curious phenomenon has been found in the window of the Mansion House on the "Mount Eagle" farm, more generally known as the "Gentry Place."

The portraits of four persons

are plainly discernible - two men, a woman and a child. The faces are not all on one pane, that of one of the men and the woman being on adjoining glasses, the face of the other man on another, and that of the child on one of the lower panes; and the theory is that the party were all looking through the window during a thunderstorm, when a sudden flash of lightning. By some mysterious process, instantaneously fixed their features on the glass.

The existence of the portraits are of comparatively recent discovery, and have attracted many visitors as well as experts from across the Southern states who all express their bewilderment.

from 1886 newspaper

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Advice For The Farm

from 1887 newspaper

Exercise for Hens

It is a well known fact that the hen, to do her best, must have exercise. She wants to do some scratching, so give her a chance. Make her work for part of her feed in straw strewn on the feeding floor. Hens, like all other creatures, if they find that they can get a living without working for it, are going to take it that way, but if they find they must do some scratching in order to get their breakfast or dinner, they will scratch and be glad to do so, and the more scratching a hen does, the healthier she will be, and the more eggs she will lay.

Salting Down Meat

Curing meat for future consumption is one of the annual jobs on the farm. In some sections of the country, the problem of salting down meat is difficult

because of the heat. Oftentimes there are winters when there is very little cold weather and it is not until late that hogs may be slaughtered. Here is a receipt which is said to be a good one.

For 1,000 pounds of meat take ten quarts of saltpeter, one pound of pepper and two pounds of yellow sugar. Mix well, put in a tub or some suitable vessel, and then apply the mixture well to the meat. Care should be taken to apply it thoroughly in the cracks and around the edges. After the meat has taken all the salt possible, hang it up and powder it with powdered borax. Then smoke the meat. This is said to be the most successful method of salting meat there is, both from a standpoint of purity and flavor.

For Fresh Rabbit

When planting your fall garden allow several extra places near brush piles or thorn thickets for small patches of greens. Place your traps on the edge of the patch, not in it. Be careful not to over trap, allowing yourself one rabbit each month per patch. This will assure you of fresh rabbit throughout the winter months.



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News Of The Absurd

* When the Smith and Wesson Company opened a golf driving range in 1984 in Springfield, Massachusetts, they didn't consider the sea gulls in the area. The driving range was forced to close a week later after flocks of the birds began bombarding company executives, motorists and neighbors with hundreds of golf balls they would pick up, fly into the air with, and drop.

* One group that quickly responded to an appeal to donate clothing to survivors of an earthquake in Armenia was a Washington, D.C., nudist club.

* A lady in Birmingham, Alabama filed a lawsuit against the maker of hair care products after her hair burst into flames, as she was standing in 96 degree weather waiting for a bus. A passing policeman worked fast to help put out the flames, but the lady claimed to have suffered permanent disfigurement.

* Randy Myer, city public information director in Lexington, Kentucky, paid \$400 for a set of steel-belted tires that were "bulletproof, spikeproof and bombproof." A month later he had a flat running over a ball-point pen. "It still wrote," he claimed.

* Researchers at Georgia Tech paid volunteers \$15 to fall down

a flight of stairs as part of a project to find out how a body falls.

* A man by the name of Lawler Samson was arrested in Florida after a woman reported

that the 65 year old man was hugging and kissing trees and telephone poles. His \$32 fine was suspended with the understanding that he would not break any other laws for a year.



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- * Entering into an Agreement of understanding with the American Red Cross to provide a Disaster Animal Relief Team (DART) to enter tornado areas to help victims with injured and lost pets.
- * Starting a "Buddy Program" with Huntsville Obedience Training Club for teens required to perform community service.
- * Starting the very first juvenile spray/neuter program with Animal Medical Clinic to ensure all animals adopted from the Ark are sprayed/neutered before adoption.
- * Promote public awareness through our Channel-31 Needy Paws Telethon of the importance of pet ownership responsibility.
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Tips From Earlene

* While in your car, to feel how cold or hot it is outside just touch the inside of the windows - in no time you'll be able to judge the actual temperature outside by touching.

* Place a charcoal briquette in your tool box—it will absorb much of the moisture and keep your tools from rusting.

* In the summertime, to kill unwanted grass, just pour a little Heinz vinegar (white) in crevices and between bricks.

* For a great diamond polish just put one Efferdent tablet in a glass of water and let your diamonds soak for about 5 minutes.

* To make your hangers glide over your closet rods just spray a coating of WD 40 on the rod (move clothes out of the way and don't spray too heavily) and wipe lightly with a rag.

* To get those mineral deposits out of your steam iron, just fill the water compartment with white vinegar, then steam iron a soft rag until the vinegar level drops to low—fill up with water and do it again. Your iron will be like new!

* To keep hair coloring from staining your face and neck, just rub the area with a bit of Vaseline before you start to color. When finished, just wipe off the Vaseline.

* Use a level teaspoon of Nestea mixed with two teaspoons of water—make a paste and use it with a cotton ball to get scratches out of wooden furniture.

* Put petroleum jelly around the top of your nail polish bottle to keep it from ever sticking shut.

* Try something new with Coca Cola. Pour a bottle of Coke into your toilet bowl, let it sit for an hour. Brush it out good and flush. Coke takes stains out of vitreous china, according to Heloise.

* Eat two servings of yogurt a day and canker sores will soon disappear.

* To keep shoelaces from fray-

ing, dip the ends into a dab of Elmer's glue.

* If you have an ailing plant, give it two teaspoons of Geritol per week. In a few months you should begin to see fresh and healthy green growth.

* To prevent lint from sticking to your clothes in the dryer, just throw a pair of Leggs pantyhose into the dryer along with your clothes.

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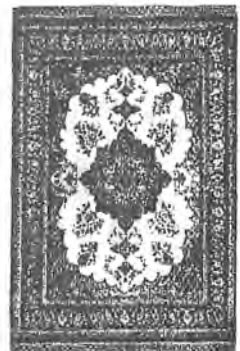


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WAR

The Way It Really Was

Charles Wills, a Union Army officer from Illinois, was delightfully honest in his letters home. He settled in Louisiana after the War Between the States and died there of fever in 1883 when he was only 42. Wills' sister later published his letters exactly as he had written them in a book called *Army Life of an Illinois Soldier*. His comments from Alabama still make fascinating and informative reading.

Wills could be surprisingly sympathetic towards the Southern civilians and was frequently critical of his soldier comrades. While on the march in Mississippi, for example, he described the Union soldiers' conduct to his sister:

"Rebels though they are," he said, "'tis shocking and enough to make one's blood boil to see the manner in which some of the folks have treated them. Trunks have been knocked to pieces with muskets when the women stood by offering the keys, bureau drawers drawn out, the contents turned on the floor, and the drawers thrown through the window, bed clothing and ladies' clothing carried off and all manner of devilry imaginable perpetrated. Of course, the scoundrels who do this kind of work would be severely


punished, if caught, but the latter is almost impossible. Most of the mischief is done by advance of the army, though, God knows, the infantry is bad enough. The d—n thieves even steal from the slaves (which is lower business than I ever thought possible for a white man to be guilty of), and many of them are learning to hate the Yankees as much as our "Southern brethren" do. This army is becoming awfully depraved. How the civilized home folk will ever be able to live with them after the war is, I think, something of a question. If we don't degenerate into a nation of thieves, 'twill not be for lack of example set by a fair portion of our army."

Stationed at Tuscumbia shortly thereafter in August of 1862, Wills again expressed his dismay with what he saw, though he tried to persuade himself that it was proper. "Orders have been given us to put every woman and child (imprison the men) across the line that speaks or acts secesh, and burn down their property, and to destroy all their crops, cut down the corn growing, and burn the cribs. That is some-

thing like war.

"'Tis devilish hard for one like me to assist in such work, but I believe it is necessary to our course... I'd hate like the devil to burn the houses of some secesh I know here, but at the same time, I don't doubt the justice of the thing. One of them has lent us his cook, or rather his wife did; and they don't talk their secessionism to you unless you ask them to."

Later at Scottsboro in January, 1864, Wills' infantry regiment was temporarily mounted and became a part of Sherman's no-



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torious army.

"I think that today," wrote Wills, "(Generals) Sherman, Logan or Ewing would not trust a detachment of this brigade on sore-backed mules if they had only three legs. This little squad of 500 men in the two months they have been mounted have committed more devilment than two divisions of regular cavalry could in five years. Everything you can think of from shooting Negroes, or marrying these simple country women, down to stealing babies' diapers. From taking \$2,700 in gold, to snatching a brass ring off the finger of the woman who handed a drink of water. From taking the last old mare the widow had to carry her grist to the mill, to robbing the bed of its cords for halters, and taking the clothes line and bedding to boot. I'll venture that before we were dismounted, not a well rope, trace chain, or a piece of cord of any kind strong enough to hold a horse could be found in the districts through which we have foraged."

This is the Civil War as it actually was.



I gave up jogging when my thighs kept rubbing together and setting my pantyhose on fire.

October

- 5 Chester A Arthur
- 6 George Westinghouse
- 11 Eleanor Roosevelt
- 14 William Penn
- 22 Sarah Bernhardt
- 25 Admiral Richard Byrd
- 27 Theodore Roosevelt
- 28 James Salk
- 30 John Adams



Birthdays

Grand Shine Dry Cleaners

One of Huntsville's unique attractions in the late 1940s was, believe it or not, a dry cleaning establishment. Owned by a Mr. Johnson, the Grand Shine Dry Cleaners offered on the spot dry cleaning and pressing for the individual with a busy schedule.

Unfortunately, many of his clients were farmers who only owned one suit, and it was the one they wore to town to do their shopping. Many of these farmers wanted to have their suit cleaned while in town, but, not having another change of clothes, were forced to hide in the restroom while the employees hastily dry cleaned the suit.

In an effort to rectify the problem, Mr. Johnson acquired a large barrel which he placed in the front lobby of his establishment. The front of the barrel was fitted with a hinged door allowing customers

to enter, where they could remove their clothes and wait for them to be cleaned.

It also gave the customers a chance to converse with other people who had business in the shop.

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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

*With pearls of wisdom
contributed by the Liar's Table*



Well, hello everybody. Summer is gone, and it felt like winter is going to come on full force. That first cold day about knocked me off my feet. It was so cold my arthritis stopped me from moving around for a few hours until I heated up!

Lots of things have happened this last month: **Mayor Loretta Spencer** was sworn in office for a second term—Great lady. Congratulations goes out to **Sandra Moon** as she was made President of the City Council. And to **Glenn Watson**, keep doing a good job for us. Thank you all.

My 81st birthday came up on me so fast, but what a wonderful day it was. Thanks to **Channel 19** and **Robert Reeves** for coming out at 5 o'clock in the morning and staying until 8:30. Many of our Channel 19 friends came out and we all had a great time. Also, thank you to **Channels 31** and **48** for coming out. There was so much fun with flowers, cake, and friends. Robert, you're one of a

kind. I love all of you so much.

My youngest brother **John** had his 70th birthday. Congratulations. He's my only brother now.

It sure was great to see my nephew and his wife from Tampa, Florida. They came to see me recently. **Ferrell Jenkins** and **Elizabeth**. Sweet kids.

A special word for **Ed** and **Sted Bradshaw** who are moving to Florida. Ed has been an active member of the **Golden K Kiwanis** for years and was always the first person to donate his time for any charitable cause. Your friends are going to miss both of you.

Cathey Carney brought her new granddaughter, **Hannah Troup** to see us. She is so beautiful and sweet, but if you knew her mother, **Stephanie**, you'd know where her beauty comes from. Stef is so pretty. **Tom** and **Cathey** should be proud.

I've been working hard for **Mike Gillespie**, who is running for reelection as the chairman of

the Madison County Commission.

We also have been working hard for **Jane Smith**. She will replace **Mr. Billy Harbin**. We're going to miss you Mr. Billy. Jane is a great lady and a real hard worker. Good luck to you.

Congratulations goes out to our friend, Mr. Olin King who has been inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame. Great!

We were saddened when our old Channel 19 pal **Mike Motley** passed away. He was our weather man for a long time. I just loved for him to come see us with our old friend, the late **Grady Reeves**.

Our sympathy to **Mrs. Ruby Marsh** in her illness. Get well soon and come on down soon and have some breakfast with me. Bring your sister, **Chris Bridges** with you.

I am so glad to know our friend, **Jean Reeves** is doing well after having an emergency operation.

We had a nice reunion here recently: **Mary Bridges**, **Johnnie LaBarde**, **Tee Shores**, **Betty**

Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the picture of this handsome lad wins a free breakfast at Eunice's Country Kitchen. So stop on by and tell Aunt Eunice who you think it is!

Hint: Seen by thousands of people every day!



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Sandra Steele, President

Bridges, Marjorie and Art Williams had not been together for a long time, and boy did they have fun. Great! Great!

Rebeka Reed is teaching school at Gurley now and she says she LOVES it! She is the kind of teacher all kids should have.

Bill Easterling's new book, *A Locust Leaves Its Shell* will soon be available at **Shaver's Bookstore** and other fine outlets. Since I started this column, Bill and his lovely wife **Pat** have come by to see me. Bill looks great and he is fixing to start a new treatment soon. I love Bill so much. I ask God every day to let him stay with us much longer.

I bet the political talk is heating up Floyd Hardin's barber shop these days. When it gets down to those last few weeks, you know the fur (or hair) really starts to fly!

For all of you folks that have computers, check out <http://huntsville.about.com>. My column appears in it every month

I hear my dear friend **Cecil Ashburn** stopped by to see **Tom and Bo** at **Old Huntsville Magazine**. They said that he was doing fine and stayed quite some time telling old stories about himself and his buddies. Cecil, I'm sure glad to hear you're out and about. Come see me.

Thought for the day: With all the talk about schools these days, shouldn't we just do what's best for the children?

A big Happy Birthday to **Margaret Tucker** who just turned 70. Margaret is married to **J.B. Tucker**, also known as the **Mayor of Hurricane Creek**.

We hear that **Bobby Bragg** is raising a big patch of turnip greens. That will be some good eating after we have a good frost.

Congratulations go out to **Jean Brandau** who is the new guild president for the Burritt Museum. Look for the big Christmas

extravaganza they're planning.

Mary Jane Caylor has been by to see me a few times lately. She's looking good. Love you.

We've all been enjoying the many new picture I have on the wall. My last one is **John Walsh**. All are real nice.

Please, everybody remember to vote in November. We're having a party for **Bud Cramer** the morning of the election. Come by and see Bud, and then we're all going down to vote. Please Vote!

The Crime Prevention classes are now in session. It's sure wonderful for seniors. We need to know all we can on how to protect ourselves.

Jerry Craig came by and visited with me. I'm so proud of Jerry. He does such a wonderful job for his community. Jerry was a great part of my family when my children were young. Job well done!!

Well, that's all for now. Remember, "**Be Sure To Vote,**" and I love you all.

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Hearty Autumn Fare

Chicken Teriyaki

- 1/2 c. soy sauce
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 T. ginger
- 1 T. vegetable oil
- 2 T. sherry
- 2 lbs. deboned chicken breast

Mix all your ingredients in a large bowl, add the chicken and chill for 4 hours. Take a shallow baking pan and place the chicken and liquid. Bake uncovered at 325 degrees for about an hour and chicken is done.

Skewered Chicken Livers

- 1 lb. chicken livers
- Bacon, cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces
- salt and pepper
- Seasoned pepper
- Olive oil
- Seasoned bread crumbs
- Clean, wash, pat dry the livers. Cut each in half, alternate

liver halves and bacon pieces on the skewers, beginning and ending with the bacon. Salt and pepper to taste, then brush with olive oil and roll in the bread crumbs. Broil about 4 minutes on each side, cook til pink in center.

Salmon Loaf

- 1 15 1/2-oz. can salmon
- 1/2 c. self-rising corn meal
- 1/4 c. crushed cracker crumbs
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1 c. buttermilk
- salt and pepper to taste

Drain your salmon, flake and remove bones. Mix all ingredients well, pour into a greased 1 1/2 quart casserole dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes and set, light brown on top.

Garlic Pecans

- 2 c. pecan halves
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 t. garlic powder

salt to taste

Place pecans in a 12x17 inch pan in 250 degree oven. Toast for 30 minutes dry, then add the butter, sliced. Let pecans get totally buttery, stirring twice. When buttered, sprinkle pecans with the garlic and salt, stirring often. Toast pecans on hour or more to desired taste til butter has been absorbed and pecans are crisp - be careful not to burn these.

Extra Cheesy Macaroni

- 1 8-oz. package elbow macaroni
- 2 c. creamy cottage cheese
- 1 8-oz. carton sour cream
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 t. salt
- 4 c. shredded Cheddar cheese, divided in half
- Dash pepper
- Paprika, garlic powder

Cook the macaroni for 8 minutes in boiling water, rinse with cold water and set aside. Combine the next 6 ingredients using 2 cups of the shredded cheese. Pour into greased 2-quart casserole and top with the remaining 2 cups cheese, sprinkle with paprika and garlic powder. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Grilled Ham and Sauce

- 1/4 c. mustard
- 1/4 c. pineapple juice
- 2 T. sugar

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1 t. horseradish

Dash salt

1 lb. pre-cooked ham steak,
1" thick

Mix the first 5 ingredients in small saucepan and heat for 10 minutes. Place ham steak in large frying pan, greased, and warm slowly over medium heat. Pour juice over ham and let cook for about 10 minutes.

Triple Fudge Cake

1 3-oz. pkg. chocolate pudding

1 18 1/2-oz. box devils food cake mix

1/2 c. semi-sweet chocolate pieces

1/2 c. chopped pecans

Whipped cream

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 pan. In a sauce pan cook the pudding as directed, stir cake mix into the hot pudding. Beat 2 minutes on medium speed and pour into pan. Sprinkle chocolate pieces and nuts on top, bake for 40 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream.

Angels Pie

1/2 pint whipping cream

1/3 c. sugar

juice of 2 lemons

1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk

1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained

1 c. chopped pecans

2 9-inch pie shells, thawed

and baked for 10 minutes at 350 degrees

Whip the cream and add sugar, set aside. Stir lemon juice into the Eagle brand milk, add pineapple and nuts. Fold mixture into whipped cream. Pour into pie shells and chill for at least 2 hours prior to serving.

Cinnamon Cookies

1 c. butter

1 c. sugar

2 eggs, separated

1 t. vanilla extract

2 c. all-purpose flour

2 t. cinnamon

1 c. chopped nuts

Cream your butter and sugar, add the egg yolks and vanilla. Fold in the flour and cinnamon, press dough onto a large cookie sheet, press nuts on top and press in. Beat the egg whites til frothy and brush top of dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, cut into strips while still hot and remove from cookie sheet at once.

Old Southern Orange Balls

1 6-oz. can orange juice, undiluted

1 stick butter, room temps

1 box powdered sugar

1 can coconut

1 c. chopped nuts

1 box vanilla wafers, crushed

Mix the juice, butter and sugar

in an electric mixer, refrigerate for an hour. Add nuts and wafers, roll into balls the size of a small walnut and then roll in coconut. Makes 16 dozen balls.



Questions

* Why do psychics have to ask your name?

* How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

* Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?

* If the #2 pencil is so popular, why is it still #2?

* If most car accidents occur within five miles of home, why doesn't everyone just move 10 miles away?

* If you write a book about failure and it doesn't sell, is it a success?

* If white wine goes with fish, do white grapes go with sushi?

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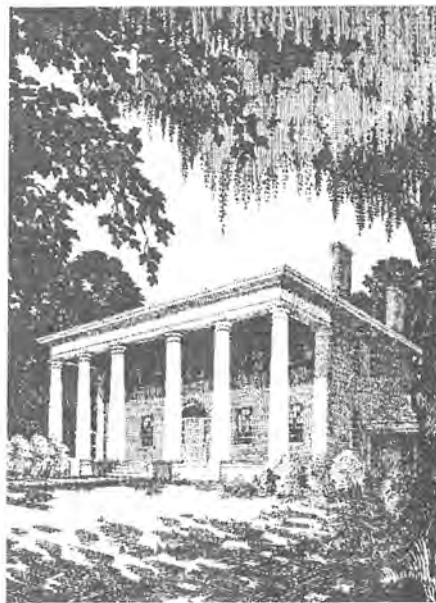
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Growing Up On The Old Plantation

by Charles R. Wells

On Highway 72 west of Huntsville on the south side of the road just past where Rideout Road crosses the highway, there used to be a large farm called the "Beasley Plantation." The area is now occupied by a shopping center, Research Park, several auto dealers and residential subdivisions. During the 1930s, in the Great Depression, this was a large self-contained community working, living and surviving during some of this country's worst times.



Sometime prior to 1929, Mr. Clarence Beasley had owned a large farm somewhere in Mississippi. He purchased the farm on Highway 72 in early 1929 and brought several of his field hands from Mississippi with him. Some

of the older ones had been born into slavery or were children of slaves. I remember sitting on their front porches with them where they rocked and smoked their corncob pipes and told stories of olden times when the Yankees came down and took over the country.

The farm was quite large. It began about where Madison Square is now and ran west to a little beyond Indian Creek. Its northern boundary was Old Monrovia Road and ran south to Old Madison Pike. The farm contained several hundred acres. The main crops grown were cotton, corn, potatoes, peanuts and a little tobacco.

The farm had its own gin, grist mill, blacksmith shop and machinery repair shop. My uncle, Robert Anderson, was the farm mechanic. Most of the houses

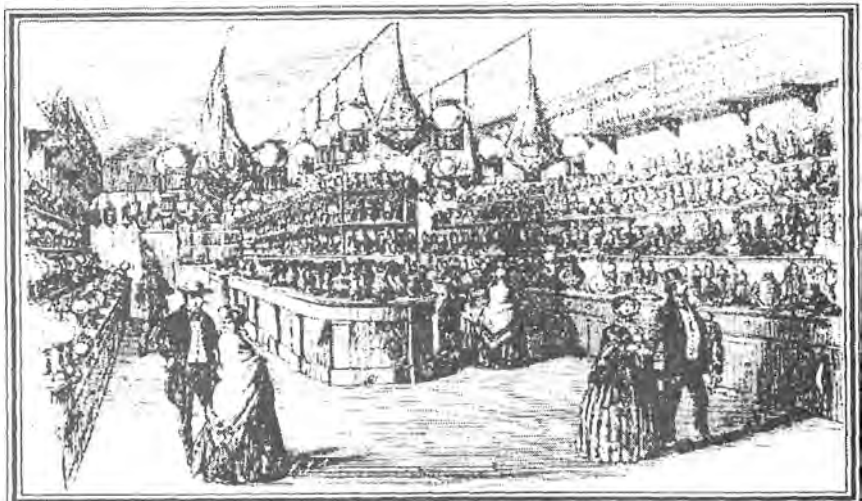
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were heated by fireplaces, and wood for this purpose was cut from trees on the south side of the farm, hauled and stacked by each house. This chore was done mostly in the late fall after all crops were harvested.

My father, William R. (Bill) Wells, was hired to oversee the farm for a fixed salary plus supplies to live on. He and my mother, Roberta A. (Birdie) Wells, and their children, moved into the large white house on the hill.

I don't remember much about the activities of my older brothers and sister, but a couple of things do come to mind about brother Joe. One of the older hands would come to the house each day, go into the kitchen, and pick up the container (slop bucket) of table scraps to feed to the hogs. If Mama had a pan of baked sweet potatoes cooling on the stove, he would stop and put a couple in his pocket. Joe developed a desire for his pipe, and one day after the hand laid the pipe on the porch railing outside the kitchen door, as he always did, Joe swiped it and took it under the house. He hid it under the steps leading to the kitchen porch and claims he never smoked it. He says it may still be there.

On another occasion when the older children had built themselves a playhouse under the floor by hanging up tow sacks as partitions, they would not let him play with them. So Joe got a box of matches and set their house on fire. Jim Buck and Alice Blackman, who lived directly behind the big house, saw the fire and rushed over and put it out. Joe got his britches fanned, too.

The big house was located about 1000 feet off the highway on a gravel drive running through a grove of large trees. The house sat on a small hill. Just behind

the house and running toward the east was a row of small cabins. These could have been slave quarters in times gone by.

Supplies were brought out once each month from Huntsville. These included foodstuffs, gas, oil, and kerosene (coal oil). These were distributed to all the families.

The Madison County Health Department came out to the farm each spring to give all of the children, black and white, and some adults too, their immunization shots. They would set up a row of tables and run each of us down the row for a shot at each table.

The area between the house and highway was heavily wooded, and sometimes during the spring and summer months, travelers would stop and camp overnight in the woods. Gypsies would often park their colorful wagons there, build a large fire and sing and dance and make music. We were warned to stay away from them because they sometimes

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stole children.

In order for my dad to get around to all the areas on the farm he rode a large reddish-looking horse. He wore knee-high leather boots, riding breeches, a leather jacket and a Stetson hat. This was his working uniform.

There was a small wooded knoll on the west side of the farm near Indian Creek. It was rumored that just as the Yankees came into the country, someone buried a pot of money in a grave there. Sometimes as Daddy would make his rounds of the farm on horseback, he would go by the graveyard and see a freshly dug hole. This continued for some time until finally, in the last hole, one could see the impression of what must have been an iron pot in the bottom. Who did the digging and what they found was never known.

Several times people would walk up the lane to the big house and ask for something to eat and

a place to rest. Mama would feed them what she could and before they left would give them two or three baked sweet potatoes. We ate a lot of pinto beans, cornbread, turnip greens and baked sweet potatoes in those days.

The farm being a self-contained community, there had to be some way of telling all the workers when to start their workday. To do this, there was a large bell mounted on a tall post behind the big house. It was rung in the morning to tell the workers to go to the fields or to their assigned workplaces and again a little before noon for the noonday meal. After the meal the bell signaled it was time to return to the fields and finally, late in the afternoon, it was rung a final time as a signal that the work day was over and the workers could head for the barn and home. The bell was the time-keeper for the farm and could be heard anywhere on the farm. The job of keeping up with the right

time and ringing the-bell was my mother's. Although someone else could pull the rope and ring the bell, Mama gave the orders as to when.

The gin was located behind the

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big house in sort of a flat hollow area. It was a two-story structure about 80 feet by 80 feet with all the gin machinery on the bottom floor. There were stalls for cotton storage on the upper floor. The cotton was brought in from the fields in large split white oak baskets which were woven on the farm. These were about three feet across and two and a half feet high. They were hoisted up to the upper floor and emptied into stalls that lined each side of a central passageway. There was a duct on the outside wall of each stall, and in the middle of this duct was a small door. This door would be opened and the cotton fed into the opening using a pitchfork. Suction in this duct carried the cotton and dropped it into the ginning machinery.

One of the hardest jobs around the gin was starting the engine in the morning. It was a one-cylinder diesel that used a hot plug for starting. It stood about five feet tall and had on each side a six or seven-foot flywheel. To get the engine started, they had to take the plug out and heat it up and put it back in the engine. Then they would climb up on the flywheel to get it to turning slowly. Then they would stand on the floor and pull on the flywheel spokes. All of the gin machinery was driven by a system of drive shafts, pulleys, and reduction gears. The main drive shaft ran almost the full length of the building. Each piece of equipment had its own drive belt. You could not run every piece of equipment all the time. The engine just would not pull it. Most bales averaged weighing around 425 pounds. As each bale was finished, it was taken to a large pier on the south side of the gin. After a number of bales had been finished, they were hauled by flat-bed truck to Huntsville for sale or stor-

age.

Hay to feed the livestock was cut and allowed to cure in the field. It was then raked and loaded on wagons with large hay-frames and hauled to barns to be put in the barn lofts. The loaded wagons would be pulled to one end of the barn and a large three-pronged hook would be lowered and the hook points shoved into the hay. To lower the hook, the mule hitched to this contraption had to back up about 50 feet. A specially trained mule was required for this job. After the hooks were in place, the mule was driven forward and the load of hay was raised to the top of the barn, then down the top to some point inside where someone pulled a trip rope and dumped the loose hay in the loft. The men would take turns working with the inside man stacking the hay because it was a hot, sweaty job.

During the summertime we would all go down to Indian Creek to swim and cool off and eat a big watermelon. Sometimes I would scare my Aunt Lucy by jumping in the creek, holding my breath and floating to the top face down, then waiting for Aunt Lucy to start yelling, "Somebody jump in and save him." I would then straighten up and swim out.

All of these things happened many years ago, but in my memory they are as vivid as if they happened five years ago, one year ago, or ... yesterday.

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A Noble Instance of Devotion

from 1887 newspaper

L. Page and son cutting wood near Decatur noticed for several days that a number of birds remained constantly upon a tree near them, some going and coming from time to time.

Upon cutting down the tree they discovered a limb with a hollow cavity, two feet in length and three or four inches in diameter, in which were two full grown birds of some goodly sized species.

There was a small aperture through which the birds were supplied with food from their mates. The limb was cut and the birds liberated. They were neither of them able to fly, having evidently never been out of their imprisonment.

How they came inside is the question. It is probably that the mother bird was small and though able to make her nest in the hollow of the tree and rear her young, could not extricate them, and they did not gain strength enough to help themselves until the hollow had so closed that escape was impossible.

Those who examined the birds think they are about two years old. They have been fed from their birth by their bird fellows through the aperture in the limb of the tree. A nobler instance of devotion the human family never exhibited. Man-kind could greatly benefit from the lessons of these feathered friends.

Dallas Village Upset Over Cow Law



There is a popular outcry in Dallas village against the enforcement of the city ordinance which forbids allowing cows on the streets of Huntsville and it appears likely that a test case will be had in the courts at an early date.

Since Mayor Smith gave instructions for the strict enforcement of the ordinance there have been about fifteen or more cows belonging to residents of Dallas taken up. Several of the owners have been placed under arrest when they appeared to pay the fine for impounding and they have been fined in the city court.

The residents of the village al-

low their cows to graze on the common and they claim that the animals ought not to be taken up because of this.

Some of the people of the village have set about to make up a purse with which to employ a lawyer and take the question into court.

from 1907 newspaper

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For every lawsuit, a filing cost is charged by the state or the federal government just to file, usually called a 'filing fee' or 'docket fee'. Like other expenses associated with litigation, these costs are increasing. Seven years ago, the cost for filing a suit in Small Claims Court was only \$25; now it can be as much as \$117. At the same time, Circuit Court rose from \$110 to \$149. Now, another fee of \$20 has been added for the Sheriff to serve notice of the suit on the other party. In addition, some counties have added local fees to the filing costs to pay for local projects, such as the construction of new jails. In Federal

Court, just a few years ago it cost \$90 to file a bankruptcy; now it costs \$200.

Compared to the costs of representation by an attorney and other litigation expenses, filing costs are relatively small, but they can sometimes prevent a low-income person from being able to gain access to the courts when needed. For that reason, certain procedures have long been established in both the Alabama and federal courts to help provide justice whereby an individual can seek permission to proceed with a lawsuit without prepayment of the court filing fee. In the old days, such procedures were known as "*in forma Pauperis*". Today, Alabama's Judicial System provides a special Official Form C-10 or "Affidavit of Substantial Hardship," which is in the form of a sworn questionnaire, to help a judge determine if prepayment of filing costs will be waived by Order of the Court. Of course, once approved, it still doesn't waive the fee itself, which can still be billed at the end of the case, usually to the losing party.

Generally, there are no hard-and-fast standards for approval of a request for waiver of prepayment of the Court filing fees. The Court will consider each request on a case-by-case basis. However under Alabama Law,

a Court should approve a request for waiver when a victim of domestic violence applies for a Protection from Abuse order, if the individual receives public benefits (Family Assistance, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, etc). Unfortunately, a few Courts are not authorized to waive prepayment of Court filing fees. For example, Federal Bankruptcy filing fees cannot be waived, but arrangements can be made to pay the fee in installments over time.

Even though Court filing fees are increasing, no person in our community should be prevented from getting his/her day in court simply because they cannot afford to pay the filing fee.

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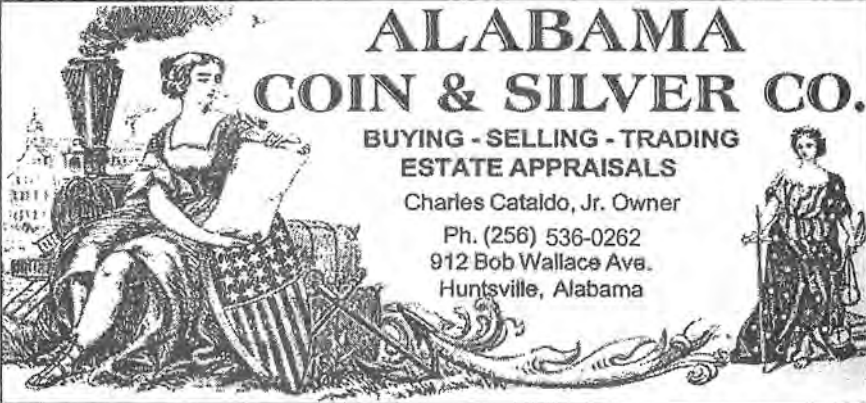
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Newspaper Clippings From 1907

In the recorder's court this morning Peter Stevens, arrested for disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and costs.

John Williams, an old man who was arrested a few days ago for drunkenness, was ordered released and directed to leave Huntsville at once. Williams is quite an old man being 72 years of age and Mayor Smith took pity on him.

By reason of an open switch on the Southern railway freight train No. 306 - J. Edward, engineer and switch train No 431 with Conductor Miller in charge - collided on the side track on Meridian Street late yesterday afternoon, wrecking and derailing two cars of the regular train, demolishing the pilots of both engines, smashing the front of a car and the trucks of the end of the switch train. No one was hurt.

Hon. W. T. Lawler, probate judge of Madison County, entered upon his 4th year of office on Monday morning with every deed mortgage left on the books from the past year. Business is brisk and ahead of the numbers that were posted at this time last year.

Mrs. Elma Wesley died of apo-

plexy in Merrimack. A long time resident of Merrimack Village, she died last night after a few days illness with apoplexy. She left three daughters.

R.C. Smallwood, sixty years, died last night at his residence in the Rowe Mill Village of pneumonia.

The bursting of a water main leading from the city pumping station to the standpipe caused no end of trouble Saturday and Sunday. A leak was found in front of the Schiffman Building on the southeast corner of the square early Saturday morning and a force of men set to work to dig down and make the necessary repair. The job was bigger than they thought it to be. When the hard crust of the macadamized street was removed the escaping water burst forth and flooded the street.

The flood washed out a bed down the gutter and being unable to get in the storm sewer at Randolph Street, passed on down to Clinton and flooded that corner. City officials stated yesterday that they hoped all repairs could be finished within the week.



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The Little Gem Hamburger

Walter S. Terry

When I was overseas during World War II, I dreamed not of Mom's apple pie or Southern fried chicken; I dreamed of "Little Gems." There were times when I would have hocked my soul for just one Little Gem- juiced up a bit, or course. There are probably other places in the world where these culinary delights are made, but if there are places besides Huntsville, I've never been lucky enough to find them.

Several places in Huntsville sold french fried hamburgers over the years, including "Major Hoople's Owl Club"- but "The Little Gem Cafe" (presided over by chef supreme Tooney Summers)

in the front of Mr. Bill Payne's pool hall, east side Courthouse Square, was hamburger heaven to me. Later my wife and children came to enjoy them as much as me, until we were shattered by its closing in the 1960s. And though there are places like Big Spring Cafe and Mullin's Drive-in which would carry on the tradition, I decided to do the same in my own kitchen.

The ingredients:

- * hamburger meat
- * Wesson Oil
- * buns
- * mustard
- * chopped onions

The Process:

Fry hamburger patties in dry skillet on high heat, both sides to seal in juices-about one minute each side. Drop patties in Wesson Oil preheated in deep pan to hot but not boiling vigorously. Oil should completely cover the patties. Let simmer for at least one hour, but longer if desired.

The Eating:

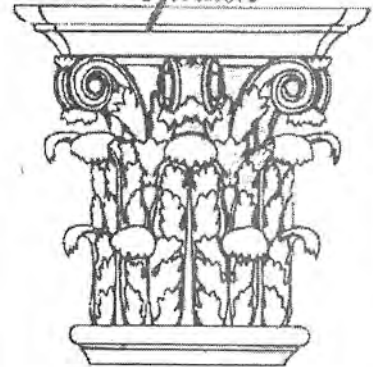
Fish out patties, place on bun, juice bun a little by splashing with spatula, if juice is your thing.

Add mustard and chopped onions, close bun.

Have a joyous and ecstatic experience by biting sensually into this mouth-watering morsel.

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The Suffrage Movement In Alabama

by Susan Trentham

The Woman Suffrage movement started comparatively late in the South. In New York, the first Women's Rights Convention was held in 1848, and in the West women were allowed to vote shortly after the Civil War. But throughout the South agitation for equal suffrage was virtually nonexistent before about 1890, and it was not until 1910 that the crusade attracted widespread attention.

The root of the woman suffrage movement in Alabama reaches back to the Reconstruction era. National records reveal that the society had an appointed representative at Huntsville in the 1870s, a Mrs. Priscilla Holmes Drake. No extant facts indicate her work here, and it is perhaps safe to assume that she accomplished very little in the state. Judging from occasional contemporary editorial comment, sentiment was almost unanimous in opposition to Mrs. Drake's struggle to win voting rights for women.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century a change in attitude could be observed, however, for in 1892 the first woman suffrage association in Alabama was organized in Decatur. During the next few years similar groups were established in Verbena, Huntsville, Gadsden, Calera, probably Montgomery, and possibly elsewhere. In 1893 a state organization was brought into being with Mrs. Ellen Stephens Breth, a kindergarten teacher who moved from St. Louis

to Decatur, as president, and it became affiliated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The work of these early Alabama suffragists was very limited. Newspapers in Columbiana and Decatur regularly granted the organization space during 1893-1894, but no Alabama journalist is known to have come out openly for equal rights. Public lectures in Huntsville and New Decatur in 1895 by two nationally known suffragists, Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt, attracted only local attention. Interest in suffrage increased in 1897 after Alberta C. Taylor of Huntsville visited Colorado where women were allowed to vote. Taylor revived the organization in Huntsville, which elected one of Alabama's most distinguished women, Virginia Clay Clopton, President. Clopton had married Clement C. Clay, United States Senator from Alabama, in 1834; after his death she married David Clopton, chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. She was author of *A Belle of the Fif-*

ties (1904), a reminiscence of Washington society in the decade before the Civil War. Unfortunately, the activity of this organization was still limited because of the strong anti-suffrage sentiment that still existed in the state.

Frances Griffin of Verbena became the state president in 1901, and under her leadership the organization became slightly more active. Griffin was educated at Judson College and taught school in Montgomery. She left her career as a school teacher in 1885 to work for the Woman's Christian

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Temperance Union. By the 1890s she added suffrage to her interests and was soon in great demand as a speaker and organizer.

The climax to this brief era of activity came in 1901, when the Alabama Constitutional Convention met in Montgomery. Delegate Benjamin H. Craig presented a resolution providing for woman suffrage in the new organ. A public hearing was given to the women on June 10, 1901, and Miss Frances Griffin ably presented the women's views.

In her half-hour speech, she based her argument on the abstract principles of justice, namely that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. She stated, "Now comes the declaration that women as well as men belong to the 'governed,' and upon that belief, I ground my demand to the application of the principle to citizens regardless of sex." The condition of woman had changed, she said, from being that of a ward of the state to being "an agent of intelligence where she touches the Government all the way along her life, and the Government touches her." Griffin believed that women should have a voice in the adoption of laws and the appropriation of taxes. In short, she argued that men and women should be equal in the eyes of the law.

Griffin also argued that men and women were different. She said that women were asking for

the ballot not because they thought men were unjust or unfair or that men were unwilling to speak for women. But women needed the vote because they should be able to speak for themselves. "Men," she said, "by their very nature never can speak for women. It would be impossible for all men to understand the needs of women and to care for their interests as it would be for all women to understand the needs of men and care for the interests of them."

In addition, she refuted the common arguments against woman suffrage. To objections that politics was too corrupt for women, her answer was that women would purify politics. To claims that women were not able to vote intelligently, she pointed out that a higher percentage of women than men had a grade school education, and that women were as capable of voting as recently naturalized citizens. She also added that women "neither steep themselves in tobacco nor

besot themselves with liquor, so that whatever brains they have are kept intact." To arguments that women should not vote because they did not bear arms, her answer was that many men did not do so either, yet they could vote. Some men advanced the ar-

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gument that voting would place an added burden on women. On the contrary, Griffin said, the "immense work in which women are engaged, in charities and reforms and in the constant repairing of the damages of society, would be infinitely less, if they had some power to prevent the evil." Others suggested that only a handful of women wanted the vote. Her answer was "fights are not measured by the number who want them. So long as there is one woman who wants the right to vote, she is, according to the spirit of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, entitled to that fight."

Griffin closed by pointing out that women needed to be able to protect themselves. They resented being classed with traitors, idiots, criminals, and children. She said that women want full justice before the law; they want equal pay for equal work. She stressed that there were some women who have no men to represent them. "I live in a household of women, educated women. My sisters are widows and I am an old maid; we have no representation at the polls. There is not a man on the face of the earth interested particularly in how the affairs of our household go. ... I should like to remind you gentlemen that so long as laws affect both men and women, men and women should

together make those laws."

At the conclusion of the speech Griffin was warmly applauded by the delegates as well as the audience in the gallery. The press, however, refused to take her efforts seriously. For example, the June 15, 1901 issue of the *Huntsville Republican* commented, "No matter how modest a constitutional convention is nowadays some female suffragist will find it out and insist on making a speech." When the showdown vote was taken in August, the women were denied the ballot by an overwhelming vote of 87 to 22.

But this was only the beginning.



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Recipe For Delicious Possum

from 1898 cookbook

Put 1/2 cup lime in about 1 gallon of boiling water and scald quickly, and pull off hair while hot. Scrape well, remove feet, tail and entrails - like you would a pig. Cut off ears, remove eyes and head if desired. Pour hot water over it and clean thoroughly.

Put 1 cup salt in sufficient cold water to cover possum, add one pod red pepper and let stand overnight. In the morning remove salt water and pour boiling water over it. Cook in enough boiling water to boil up over possum but not enough to cover. Cook until skin can be pierced with a fork easily, and let stand in water until ready for baking.

When ready to bake, place possum in pan with skin side up. Bake in a moderate oven until crisp and brown. If fire is too, hot skin will blister and burn.

Carve possum and surround with potatoes (sliced or quartered) which have been previously baked.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt's
favorite food was fried
cornmeal mush.

Growing Up In Hard Times

by Don Wynn

When I was growing up, my Dad was constantly telling me and my brothers stories about how hard it was when he was a kid. They plowed their fields with mules, carried water from the well and had a coal stove to cook with and to heat the house. It was cold in the winter time and hot in the summer. Air conditioning meant opening the windows and doors. It must have been hard but I grew tired of hearing about it.

Now, I am telling my kids stories about my childhood. Mama didn't drive us everywhere we wanted to go. We walked a lot and rode bicycles when we had them. We only had one TV and it was a small black & white. For the first few years that we had a TV, we

could only get one station which meant that we never argued about what we were going to watch. We were outside all day, every day. We did get to go to a movie every week or two to see Roy Rodgers or Gene Autry. They even showed cartoons before the movies in those days.

At the end of my speech about "hard times," I always tell my kids that we had to walk about 2 miles back and forth to school and it *was up hill both ways!*

A Mixed Up Family Affair



from 1919 newspaper

Mr. George Mann, a highly respected and well-to-do citizen of Unionville, who is 70 years old, was a few days ago happily united in marriage to a charming and vivacious young girl of 15, named Miss Jackson. Quite a contrast in their ages, but they are living happily together on the farm of Mr. Mann, on the Little Towaliga River. They seem to be perfectly congenial in their relations.

Another thing which makes the marriage of this couple more

interesting is the fact that his son, Oscar Mann, several months ago married an older sister of the bride. So you can see that Mr. Mann's son is his brother-in-law and his daughter-in-law is his sister-in-law, and his wife is the mother in-law of her older sister.

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The No-Show Wedding

by Helen Miller

Of all the family gatherings we had, none was ever larger or caused as much excitement, hysteria and embarrassment as the wedding of my cousin Lucile Whaley, Aunt Mary's daughter.

I remember it well - it was a beautiful day out at the house where I was born near Grandpa and Grandma's farm. Cars were parked alongside horses and buggies under the trees in the shade. Men folks were grouped about discussing politics, how hot it was, and wondering all about this fellow Lucile was about to marry.

We children were instructed to stay out of the house because there was too much going on inside. We chose the porch and joggled on the joggling board that Mama and Daddy had left out there when they moved into town. After what seemed like a half-day,

curiosity finally got the best of me and I slipped into the house to get firsthand info on what was going on. Clara Mae and Sudie wouldn't dare disobey Mama's instructions to stay outside. There were women and more women all dolled up and everyone busy as a bee. At the end of the living room there was a small table with white lace and candles. They called it an "improvised altar" with beautiful flowers placed around the mantle in the background.

Lucile's father was a Baptist minister who would perform the ceremony and this was the spot they would say, "I do." In the dining room there were more tables with white cloths and one with a big wedding cake in the center. On the other tables there was food of all kinds - turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, salads, and breads.

I remember the women whispering to each other and looking at their watches saying something about, "over an hour late now." I was sent back out on the porch and it was easy to see that the men folks were getting impatient too. The whole problem was the groom was late - very late! In fact, some folks had begun to leave.

I slipped back inside and heard a lot of commotion coming from one of the bedrooms and just got a quick peek inside long enough to see Lucile sitting on the

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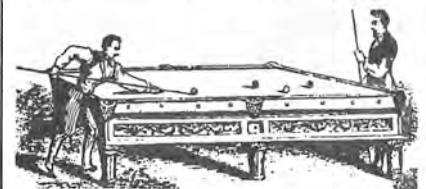
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side of a bed in her white dress crying hysterically with a bunch of womenfolk trying desperately to console her. Daddy's brother, Uncle John, must have figured it all out, however, and saved face for the disastrous situation. He left the house for a while, then drove up in the yard, got out of his car, hurried up the steps, came into the living room and called everyone together. He then pulled a yellow Western Union telegram from his inside pocket, put on his glasses and began to read. I don't remember all the words but it said something about being "unavoidably delayed" and they would have to be married at a later date. By then it was almost dark and everyone left, disappointed and feeling very sorry for Lucile. It was the topic of conversation for weeks afterwards.

They did marry later, but I never saw her again.

Civil War News From Jackson County

from 1864 newspaper

From Jackson County, Alabama. Recent advises from Jackson County, Ala., represent the terrible devastation throughout the county, except where there are mountain defiles and fastnesses favorable for guerrilla operations. We are told that Maj. Lemuel G. Mead is operating in that county with five companies, and that he, recently, captured and brought out 20 prisoners. He remains, with his men, in the county and subsists them there, at points, where it would be dangerous for the Yankees to travel and they are discreet enough not to attempt it. There are three Tory companies there — the

Yankees feel contempt for them and stigmatize them as the 1st Alabama Tory Battalion. We are told that one of the miscreants — Sam by name, not long since, went to the house of Elias Barbour, a true Southerner, and beat Mrs. Barbour with a hickory withe, and only desisted when her daughter, heroically, seized an axe and drove him off. We are, also, told that an old "Rebel" woman, living near Bellefonte, was struck by a Yankee, with a stick, on the back of her neck, breaking it. The Courthouse and all of the block on the West side of the Square, have been burnt by the Yankees. One of the parties from whom we get our information, represents that he was under arrest at Stevenson and had an opportunity of learning the sentiments of Sherman's Corps on the question of reenlistment, and they, generally, declared that they would not reenlist.



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The State of The Indian Nation

Indian Agents were required by law to submit a report once a year detailing the condition of the tribe under their care, John Allen, the author of this report resided in Huntsville and was agent for the Chickasaws.

February 7th 1830

Sir:

In conformity with your request of the 29th January, to give the Dept of War, the information of which I may be in possession, touching the condition of the Indians within the Chickasaw Agency. I will do it with pleasure; but regret my inability to do the Subject that Justice which its importance So Justly demands, and on which the Genl Govt and the Indian Nations in General — are so deeply enlisted.

Before I proceed in detail to answer the different Interrogatories, I presume that the situation of the Chickasaw will be better understood, were I to give a brief, but, correct description of the Country that they have inhabited ever since they have been known to the whites as a Nation.

This may be decided entirely unnecessary by the officers of the War Dept, as well as many of the members of Congress from the circumstances of their being personally acquainted with the facts hereafter states but as this information is not intended for them, but for members of Congress who are seeking information on this important Subject, I respectfully Submit the following.

The Chickasaw Nation is bounded as follows (to wit) on the east by Tennessee river, on the North by the State of Tennessee until the line strikes the Mississippi, thence down Said River until it strikes the Choctaw Line in the State of Mississippi for compliment, So as to include a Small portion of North Alabama.

The Climate is temperate, the lands on the Tennessee, Mississippi, and Tom Bigby rivers, are of a superior quality; and a large portion of the interior of the Nation is of the Second Qualityed Land, the balance is poor Sandy Soil wood Land, fit for nothing but summer range except on the water courses, which is well grown over with Cane or reed, and affords an excellent winter range for

Horses, Cattle &c all of which subsists well without any food from their owners during the winter season or throughout the year.

The buffalo, and Bare are gone, and there are but few Deer, not sufficient to satisfy and Indian to depend upon for support, more particularly those that have family. Consequently the Chickasaws are compelled to subsist by a different means than that of the chase.

They (The Chickasaws) have a plenty of Horses of a superior quality as at least as well adapted to the use of Indians, they use

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them on their farms with much less food that is generally given those Animals that are raised and used by the whites, and when traveling through their country, they travel from thirty to fifty miles per day never feed them but let them subsist entirely on what grass or Cane they can procure for themselves when hobbled out at Night.

They have large herds of Cattle Swine Sheep and Goats, and poultry of every description that are in use generally in that section of the Country. The Country is well watered; and is well adapted to the Culture of Cotton, Corn, wheat oats peas potatoes Beans &c.

Cotton, beef, and pork are the principal articles for exportation. There will be Cotton exported from the Nation this year probably to the amount of 1 000 bales. Beef, and pork to no inconsiderable amount.

The proceeds from the sales of Cotton, Horses, Beef Cattle, Hogs &c after retaining a sufficiency for their home consumption is Generally applied to the purchase of necessaries and Luxuries of life; (to wit) Slaves, Sugar, and Coffee, as well as dry goods of various descriptions, which are calculated to render them comfortable and ornament their persons.

The time has come when they no longer depend on the rifle for support, but it is used more for their recreation, and amusement than for the means of sustenance.

Every family cultivates the earth more or less, as his thirst for gain, or his imaginary or real wants increases,

Much to the honor of the Chickasaws, for the last eight years, the practice of the men requiring the women to perform all the labours in the field is much

changed, the men now (with a few exceptions) cultivate the earth themselves, while the female part of the family is engaged in the household affairs. They spin weave make their own clothing, Milk Cows make butter cheese &c. They keep themselves decent and clean and in many instances particular attention is paid to fashions that are in use by the whites. It is their constant practice to appear in their best apparel at their public meetings, also when they visit the country villages in the white settlements.

Many of the Chickasaws profess Christianity. I attended a



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Camp meeting in Nov., last at the Missionaries. Divine worship was performed alternately by white, and red men, in the English and Indian Languages; and for the first time I saw the Sacraments taken by the Indians. Every thing was Conducted with the utmost good order, and decorum.

As a Nation the Men are brave, and honest, the women (the half breeds in particular) are beautiful and virtuous; and I am of the opinion that there has been greater advancement in Civilization in the last eight years than there was in twenty previous.

I think the present state of education does not meet the wishes or expectations of the Chiefs and head men of the Nation. The evil I believe does exist, but I am not at this time prepared to point it out and suggest to you the best plan to remove it. Whether it be for the want of funds, or a improper application of them or a remissness of duty of those persons to whom the education of those children are intrusted is well worthy of the attention of the Genl Govt.

Education is confined generally to the half breeds and youths generally of the first promise. There are at this time several white men that have identified themselves with the Indians by Marriage, and Several half breeds

that have sufficient education to enable them to transact a considerable portion of the business of the Nation.

The Municipal laws of the Chickasaws consists in written Laws, or resolutions Commanding that which is right; and prohibiting that which they Conceive to be wrong.

As I have already mentioned the state of agriculture I have only now to say something on the Subject of the Mechanic arts, the knowledge of which are Generally confined to white men that have identified themselves with the Indians, particularly of the highest grade proposed among them (to wit) House Carpenter wheel right Mill rights Blacksmiths &c All the arts necessary for farming use, Stacking plows, helving axes,

hoes, making Slides, Truck wheels, draw bars Gates &c is generally confined to the common Indians, and Slaves. As it has been the wish of the Genl Govt, many years to promote the interest, and better the situation of the Chickasaw Nation, I am sorry to have it to say that the Indians and the Genl Govt have been greatly disappointed, from the unfortunate Circumstances of their having made two bad appointments of Agents in succession for the Chickasaws, who have ruled the Nation with Despotism for the last eight or ten years, they have not stopped at the meanest acts of depravity that the human mind is capable of conceiving. They have oppressed, they have Slandered, and they have Cheated both them and the Genl Govt, thoroughly



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weakening their faith towards Civilized man in general; and any other Agent that may preside over their future destiny.

The Chickasaws being surrounded by the white inhabitants, I have found it a difficult matter to restrain the whites from violating the Intercourse Law, by driving their Stock over line upon the Indian Land, making settlements, trading with the Indians in a manner that is prohibited by Law as well as Stealing their Negroes, Horses, Cattle &c but I am proud to have it in my power to say that those white persons who are So trouble Some to the Indians are Generally men of the lowest grade and dregs of Society. Such men as are always unwilling to conform to the Laws that govern the Civilized World.

I have had a conversation with the principal Chiefs and head men of the Nation, at a Council that I called, on the 10th of November last; After the business was settled for which they were convened, they conversed freely with me on the subject of the States of Mississippi, and Alabama extending their Laws over them, of which they were awfully afraid.

They all stated that they were much attached to their Country, they were the first that occupied it, and had always been faithful to Genl Govt of the United State and on them grounds they bot-tomed a strong hope that they would be specially favored by the present men in power.

They (the Principal Chiefs) also stated that if the Laws were extended over them, they had no belief that they would be placed upon an equal footing with the whites; and if they made so by Law, all the officers of the Law would be composed of white men, and as they were unskilled in Law-

suits; and the whites would be partial to each other, they had no belief that they would be able to with stand the encroachments of the whites upon them, and if they did attempt it, that in a few years they would not have a vestige of property left. Consequently they would exchange their country for any they could get rather than as they conceived, loose their native freedom.

I have the honor to be Sir
Very respectfully Your
Obet Sevt

John L Allen
Sub Agent for the Chickasaws



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from 1890 newspaper

Henry Matthews, a local widower, aged eighty-two years, was introduced to a sixty-five year old widow named Sarah Smith last Friday. He resolved to marry her, and wished twenty-four hour of courtship to be ended with a visit to the preacher Saturday night.

On Sunday, they were great attraction in church. When he went home he gave his bride \$1,000 in addition to the jewels already bestowed. It appeared to onlookers as if the love grew in proportion to the gifts.

On Monday after a heavy breakfast, she packed her bags and left Matthews a note saying

she was going West and would send for him later when she wanted him.

Matthews is still waiting.

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Dear Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the copy of Old Huntsville Magazine. I think you did an excellent job on telling the story of Fanny Madison.

In regard to your question about why Fanny lived in a boarding house I can only answer with what has been handed down through generations. When Fanny and her husband moved to Madison County it was supposed to have been a temporary move. The family's plans had been to stay there long enough to cash in on the land sales and then continue to New Orleans where Dr. Rose had relatives.

According to family tales, Fanny wanted to settle and build a home but Rose was against it, wanting to put it off until he had made his fortune. As you correctly pointed out, Rose managed to squander the family's money before a home could be built.

The final breaking point in the marriage came when Rose attempted to sell several slaves that belonged to Fanny, without telling her.

When she returned to a boarding house in Huntsville it was again supposed to have been a temporary stay. She had been in contact with her family in Virginia and was making plans to move there when she died.

There is also an interesting story concerning James Madison, Fanny's son. As you stated, he died at the Alamo but there was also another Rose there (no kin)

who became infamous as the coward who fled the Alamo.

For years, newspapers incorrectly reported James as being the coward. In 1852 two of his brothers filed a lawsuit against several newspapers for libel. The case dragged on for years but eventually the papers were forced to print a public apology.

Thank you again for your fine publication.

Irene Madison Howard
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your story about Vance Morris. When my husband and I moved here in 1959 we had three children and barely had enough money to pay the first month's rent. The same week our car broke down. I believe it was about \$60.00 to get it fixed but it was more than we had.

Mr. Morris fixed our car and told us to pay him when we could. We finally paid him but we never forgot his kindness.

Evelyn Rodgers, Huntsville



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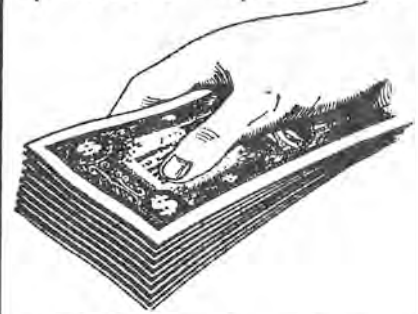
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