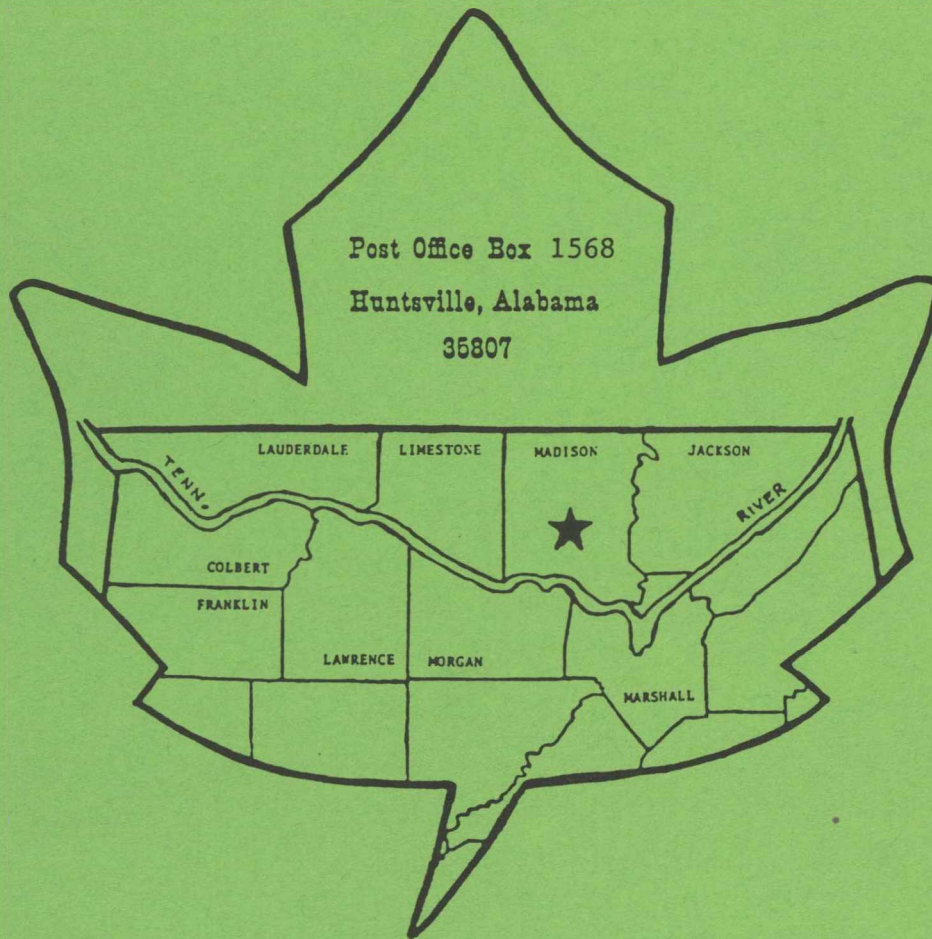


(North Alabama)

VALLEY LEAVES



TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Quarterly

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1991

VALLEY LEAVES

Covering the Tennessee River Valley Counties of North Alabama.

Published in September, December, March and June

Copyright 1990

PRICE LIST

Each volume of *Valley Leaves* is \$15 and has a full-name index. Volumes not listed are out of print.

Volume 13 (1978-79) 200 pages	Volume 20 (1985-86) 200 pages
Volume 14 (1979-80) 200 pages	Volume 21 (1986-87) 216 pages
Volume 15 (1980-81) 200 pages	Volume 22 (1987-88) 211 pages
Volume 16 (1981-82) 200 pages	Volume 23 (1988-89) 217 pages
Volume 17 (1982-83) 200 pages	Volume 24 (1989-90) 212 pages
Volume 18 (1983-84) 200 pages	Volume 25 (1990-91) 200 pages
Volume 19 (1984-85) 200 pages	Volume 26 (1991-92) (current volume)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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<i>Ancestor Charts</i> , Vol. 3 (Jan. 1979) 153 pages of charts, indexed	\$10.00
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<i>Death Notices from Limestone Co., Al. Newspapers 1828-1891</i> by Eulalia Yancey Wellden, 226 pp., 8½x11, full-name index (Pub. 1986)	\$18.00
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MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30 each year)

Presently: \$15 for individual and \$18. for family

As of July 1, 1991 dues will be as follow:

\$15. if paid BEFORE August 15th each year; \$18. if paid after August 15th

\$18. for family membership before Aug. 15 — \$20. thereafter.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of July, September, January and March. The November meeting is held on the 3rd Thursday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Meetings are held in the Auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library unless announced otherwise.

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TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1568

Huntsville, Alabama 35807

Valley Leaves

Published by the

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Post Office Box 1568

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Editor: Dorothy Scott Johnson

Associate Editor: (Lawrence Co.) Janet Baker Burks, CGRS

President's Page

A friend in London, England, sent an article from the 3 June 1991 issue of the *Daily Telegraph* that will be of interest to many members of TVGS. Quoted below is the article "Computer Aid to Tracing Irish Roots":

Churches on both sides of the Irish border have linked up via computer to offer the 70 million people around the world who claim Irish descent the chance to trace their roots, writes John Harlow.

Thirty-five database centres with computerised church and state records dating back hundreds of years are being set up across the island with everything from birth, marriage and death certificates to the records of convicts sent abroad.

Tourist Board surveys show that 25 per cent of those travelling to Ireland say ancestor-tracing is the main reason for their visit. More than three million people in mainland Britain claim Irish descent.

Officials believe that by the year 2000 the "roots business" could raise 100 million pounds in extra tourist income. All the database centres should have their records complete within three years.

Authorities on both sides of the border are collating the data on computer programmes with built-in safeguards to avoid the records being pirated abroad. Genealogists, state agencies, local research centres and parish authorities are also involved.

At the May meeting of our society, we were treated to a lecture and video presented by Dr. Mildred Caudle and Mrs. Faye Axford from Athens, Alabama. The program detailed the history of the General Joe Wheeler home in Decatur and told about plans that the Alabama Preservation Alliance and the Wheeler Foundation have for restoring that beautiful old mansion. For additional information concerning the already-developed plans (and about how you may assist), contact Dr. Mildred Caudle, 28 Sandra Lane, Athens AL 35611 or call her at 205-232-2975.

Our society has been fortunate to have faithful, hardworking members who serve as the "mailing crew." COL Jimmy D. Wiggs retired at the end of *Valley Leaves* year on June 30. However, we have continuing crew members Ruth Rowe and Jimmy Lee Hancock who will be supported by Evelyn Rochelle and Roy Maynard. This group attended a training course on bulk mailing that was provided by the U. S. Postal Service on 16 July and are beginning this 1991-92 year with enthusiasm. Having such dedicated members is a great asset to TVGS. Thanks y'all!


Jeanne Hand Henry
Certified Genealogist

Editor's Leaf

WE WERE LATE. When *Valley Leaves* is late I believe our membership has the right to know why. The June issue was late because the press broke down and the printer had to wait for an ordered part. Our apologies for the inconvenience but you must admit that it does not happen often.

LAWRENCE COUNTY OLD LAND RECORDS. Margaret Cowart is in the process of writing her introduction to the next book in her Old Land Record series, *Old Land Records of Lawrence County, Alabama*. This is a transcript of the Government Tract Book (also called Land Entry Records in other locales.) Mrs. Cowart's Introduction alone is worth the price of the book and we hope to see it on the market some time this fall.

LAWRENCE COUNTY ARCHIVES. Until recently, Lawrence County records were practically uncared for and crammed anywhere there was a spare nook. Some were kept in dark, dank closets in the basement and some loose records were even sold. All that has changed.

A group of concerned genealogists and historical-minded preservationists got together and formed the Lawrence County Historical Commission (publishers of *Old Lawrence Reminiscences*) and with perseverance convinced the county fathers of the need for an archives. To make a long story short, the county obtained an empty bank building across the street from the courthouse and the Lawrence County Archives was born. The old records are gradually being gathered and taken to this Archives. It is staffed by dedicated volunteers and the general public is welcome.

PAINT ROCK VALLEY CEMETERY BOOK REPRINTED. The book of tombstone inscriptions from all known cemeteries in the Paint Rock Valley of Jackson County (the western part of Jackson County) had been sold out for some time but has now been reprinted. This book was compiled by Addie Shaver, Evelyn Rochelle and Kittye Henshaw and is called *Paint Rock Pioneers*. It has nearly 300 pages, a full-name index, photographs, diagrams and maps—hard cover. \$25. May be ordered from Mrs. Shaver at 2105 Maysville Rd., Huntsville, Al 35811.

JACKSON COUNTY MARRIAGES. Addie Shaver and Sybil Hinman have copied and indexed the Jackson County marriage records to 1871 and it is at the printer now. It is a 214 page transcription of the earliest marriage book from 1851-1856 and the next one from 1859-71. There is a gap from 1856-1859 because that book is missing from the courthouse as are all earlier books. The transcription contains over 4000 names and we hope to have a review of it in the December issue of *Valley Leaves*. For more information you may contact Mrs. Shaver at 2105 Maysville Rd., Huntsville, Al 35811.

JACKSON COUNTY ORPHANS COURT BOOK, 1820-1830. The Jackson County Orphans Court Minute book, 1820-1830, has recently been found. It has been abstracted by Ann Chambless, and carried in the Jackson County Historical Society's Newsletter, *Jackson County Chronicles*, beginning in January 1990 (Vol. 3, Issue No. 6). For more information on how to order copies of the *Jackson County Chronicles* write to Wendell Page, Director, Heritage Center, P. O. Box 53, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768. Incidentally, "Chronicles" has been published since 1975 and we understand an index to them is about to be published. NEWS FLASH! See page viii of Book Reviews.

WANTED! BACK ISSUES OF "VALLEY LEAVES." There are many who would like a full set of *Valley Leaves* but we have none for sale prior to Volume 13. If you have back issues (Vol. 12 and before) that you do not want, we will be glad to put you in touch with a buyer. Volumes 1 through 5 should sell for around \$10 per volume and the rest for around \$15 per volume.


Dorothy Scott Johnson,
Editor

Book Reviews



Reviewed by Dorothy Scott Johnson

FOOTPRINTS IN THE INDIAN NATION by Helen Starr and O. E. Hill, 6 x 9, hard cover, 92 pages, \$25. May be ordered from O. E. Hill, HC 68, Box 640, Checotah, OK 74426.

A no-nonsense tell-it-like-it-was book on Indians and outlaws in and around the Indian Territory (now eastern Oklahoma) and about the lawmen who pursued them. All the stories are true and there is little doubt that a lot of excellent research went into each of the seven stories. The authors laid to rest many myths. For instance, they paint a different picture of Judge Isaac Parker, the "hanging judge" of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The thread that snakes through each of the seven chapters is "right vs. wrong." The authors have a strong sense of fairness as evidenced by the comment, "Crooked policemen and dishonest lawyers have traditionally been rated as the lowest form of criminal life and rightfully so." Nothing changes.

TVGS members will especially enjoy the chapter on the bloody vendetta between the Brooks family of Lawrence County, Alabama and Northern sympathizers. The Willis Brooks family lived near Cherokee, Alabama when Willis and his eldest son, John, were killed by Union men. The vendetta went on for many years and is well traced and explained in this book. Other north Alabama names appear throughout this informative work.

Some tribal laws are explained and show why there were bloody factions within the Indian Nation—something most of us never dreamed occurred. This book is in narrative form and is not indexed—but it is so thoroughly wonderful that I hardly noticed.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE DEED ABSTRACTS, 1799-1811, abstracted by Joyce Martin Murray (2921 Daniel, Dallas, TX 75205), 6 x 9, hard cover, 156 pages plus a full-name index, a place index and a slave index. \$30 plus \$2.50 postage.

This volume contains abstracts of Volume A, No. 1, A-2 and Volume B deed books covering territory that includes present Maury, Giles and part of Lawrence Counties, Tn. The author has abstracted every instrument in these volumes and instruments include, besides deeds, such genealogically significant documents as indentures, wills, deeds of gift, land grants, mortgages, powers of attorney, etc. Some refer to even earlier documents dated in the 1780's and 1790's. A very large number of Revolutionary War Service Grants were made in this area by the state of North Carolina beginning before that war ended. Another plus for this books is that many of Giles County's early records were burned and this might supplement what is left in that courthouse.

The full name index enables the researcher to see at a glance if that reference is of interest and the Index of Places has a very wide sweep of places of origin as well as places of current residence or ownership. If you are doing black research the Slave Index might prove helpful.

The abstracts in this book are thorough and Ms. Murray seems to have an excellent grasp of the meanings of the various documents. Many abbreviations are used in each entry but the author failed to provide a log showing the meaning of each. Genealogical source books should be geared also to the beginner and they might have trouble understanding the abbreviations used in this work.

This reviewer appreciates a question mark after a name of uncertain interpretation. This is quite helpful to the researcher and Ms. Murray has thoughtfully done this. Ms. Murray has also abstracted early deed books in Sumner County, Tennessee, Warren County, Kentucky and Red River County, Austin County and Washington County in Texas.

ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF HENRY THOMAS PERRY, 1893-1950 AND PEARL MAY GREENUP, 1895-1983 by Cortes L. Perry (P. O. Box 4325, Huntsville, Al 35815-4325), 8½ x 11, hard cover, pages not numbered and not indexed, price not given.

This tribute to the Perry family also includes the surnames of Wooten, Piper, Jackson, Wheat,

Book Reviews (-continued-)

Greenup and Blair. Mr. Perry traces his lineage back through Barron and Hart Counties, Kentucky with the Perry and Wooten lines to the early 1800's. He traces the Greenups back through Monroe Co., Ky., to Virginia and Maryland to 1707. The Wheats are traced back to 1805 through Monroe, Barren and Sullivan Counties, Tennessee.

Some of the documentation in this book is excellent and has been reproduced and included to substantiate the genealogy. Numerous Family Group Sheets have been included and most of them (not near all!) have the sources of information listed. The big plus is those wonderful marriage bonds, newspaper articles, death certificates and other official documents that are reproduced.

This book was published in a limited edition and anyone wishing to purchase a copy will have to make special arrangements with the author.

A nicely done book—but no index. Perhaps the author will add an index if he reprints.

SEQUATCHIE VALLEY SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR by Jerry Blevins, P. O. Box 4417, Huntsville, Alabama 35815. 8½ x 11, hard bound, 274 pages, surname index (exclusive of alphabetical list of soldiers in appendix). \$28 postage paid.

Mr. Blevins has made a significant contribution to history and Civil War studies by researching and preserving some of the stories from the Sequatchie Valley—that region encompassing the Tennessee Counties of Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe and Grundy and Jackson County in Alabama.

To aid the reader, Mr. Blevins has listed the abbreviations used throughout his book along with their definitions. Also included are photographs and a 140 page Appendix of Sequatchie Valley soldiers in alphabetical order. According to the author, the list is not believed to be complete nor is there conclusive proof of linkage to the region in every case. Beside each soldier's name is his rank, company, regiment, age at enlistment, service record, home county and a reference for each person.

The first 118 pages consist of four chapters of the history of the Civil War as it pertains to the Sequatchie region taken from first-hand accounts. It is chock-full of names of soldiers and what happened to them such as: "Some of the Jackson County Soldiers landed in the Federal Hospital at Saint Louis, Missouri, where Sergeant William Braden died of typhoid fever, Millige Gamble died of pneumonia and John McIntire died with bronchitis."

This book is very well written (good reading even to non-Civil War buffs) and just as well documented. One unique aspect of this history is that, where possible, Mr. Blevins has compared opposing sides' viewpoints concerning conflicts. For instance, a minor battle at Bridgeport, Ala., occurred on 28 April 1862. The author includes first-hand accounts of the skirmish by leaders of both the Federal and Confederate armies.

PHELPS FAMILY NEWSLETTER, Dallas L. Phelps, President/Editor (1002 Queen Street, Camden, S. C. 39030), 8½ x 11, 4 or 5 pages monthly, \$10 annual membership fee.

This is the newsletter of the Phelps Family Association of America. Included in the volumes submitted for review (parts of Volumes 3 and 4 covering one year) are new members' Phelps lineages, queries and brief biographies of some outstanding Phelps personalities.

This bulletin appears to be geared to providing the membership with Phelps source material along with some compiled genealogies. Many marriage records from throughout the country, cemetery index and probate indexes listing Phelps, War of 1812 records, Confederate and Federal soldiers, and many other records are carried throughout.

The many stories about Phelps family members are exceptionally well written and interesting even if you are not a Phelps. A wealth of information has been collected and disseminated in these newsletters.

It must be stressed that this newsletter is a *monthly* publication, not quarterly—a tremendous undertaking.

OLD LAWRENCE REMINISCENCES, a quarterly publication of the Lawrence County Historical Commission (P. O. Box 728, Moulton, Al 35650), Myra Thrasher Borden, Editor, 8½ x 11, annual membership \$15., family membership \$20.

Regular features are the Minutes of the Circuit Court, 1823-24, Minutes of the County Court, 1823-1827, and Deed Book C 1824-1829. From time to time, Bible records are included along with other miscellaneous items of historical and genealogical interest.

One outstanding article is the compilation of tombstone inscriptions and burials in the Roberts Cemetery. It is accompanied by a plat of the graveyard and was painstakingly compiled by Rayfort and Mary Hyatt. The authors were also able to determine burials of persons without tombstones.

OUR BLACKBURN BRANCH, 1759-1989 by the Association of Blackburn and Fry Families (Dru C. Sheldon, P. O. Box 26, Grapevine, TX 76051), 590 pages, 8½ x 11, hard cover, index plus an 8 page Supplement. \$40 plus \$5 shipping and handling (Texas residents add \$2.70 tax).

This is the family history and descendants of James A. Blackburn of Alabama with an emphasis on Joel Blackburn and Anna Fry. This beautifully typeset, laid-out book imparts a wealth of information spanning ten generations of Blackburns and several generations of Frys. It was compiled by Drusilla Cochran Shelton, Suzy Brown Burt, Euple Blackburn Walker and Erline Harwell Tackett.

James A Blackburn, Phillip Fry, their children and grandchildren were found in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. From there they have spread across the United States.

This is a beautiful book of 575 pages of text plus index and supplement, covering descendants to the present generation. At least 28 pages of photographs, usually 3 per page through generation IV. Index includes all surnames mentioned. A full name index is included for all Blackburns; others are indexed by surname only.

Along with the book for review, the authors sent the first two issues of the newsletter of the "Association of Blackburn and Fry Families" (\$6. per year, ABFF Newsletter, c/o Ahtrell Dalton, Route 2, Box 592, Commerce, Tx 75428). The first issue seems to be dedicated to updating material in the book (a marvelous idea!). The second issue also includes information on reunions and "unknown ties."

MASTER INDEX, OHIO SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORDS, Vol 1 by the Ohio DAR, 1985, edited by Carol Willsey Bell, C. G., 85 pages, 8½ x 11, soft cover. Distributed by Mrs. Thomas B. Clark, 24588 Framingham Dr., Westlake, Ohio 44145 (No price given.)

This is a list of the holdings in the Ohio State DAR Library in Columbus. It is a key to previously unindexed material compiled by the various chapters throughout the state. A list of abbreviations is given so that one might correctly interpret the various entries.

The work has been divided into three sections. A bibliography listing 1,141 pieces of material including many family Bible records and family genealogies makes up the first section. The second section is a full name index to the first section and is especially valuable to those looking for ancestors in Ohio. The third section, also quite valuable to researchers, is a locality index. It is alphabetical by state, then by county within the state. The amount of Material housed in the Ohio State DAR library from other states is amazing. An excellent research aid.

THE SLATEN BUNCH, A SUPPLEMENTAL SLATON/SLATEN FAMILY HISTORY by Joe J. Slaten, 5475 Coonen Dr., Riverside, California 92503. 8½ x 11, soft cover. No index. No price given.

Book Reviews (-continued-)

Apparently this is a supplement to a Slaton family history written by the author's great uncle although the answer to that is elusive. In his Introduction, Mr. Slaton states his work ". . . is well documented back to 1799," but this reviewer can find little documentation listed other than an occasional casual mention of a census, letter, marriage, etc.

The work is, on the other hand, interesting and folksy. After reading the book one has the feeling he has some insight into each person's personality and character; that person is more than a statistic in a formal genealogy. The author has maintained a great sense of humor about his kin. He has written accounts of the things that happened to family members that are normally lost to future generations. The author is an excellent story teller and makes his relatives come alive to the reader.

EARLY JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA BOOKS, Vol. 1 by Wendell Page (P. O. Box 53, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768), 8½ x 11, approx. 165 pages, very limited edition, \$30 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

A most unusual book. It is a series of indexes to ten different books and ledgers housed in the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center in Scottsboro. The indexes are for the following books:

1. Jackson County Orphan's Court, 1820-1830.
2. Caldwell and Mattox Ledger, Bellefonte, 1852-55.
3. H. Caldwell and Co. Ledger, Bellefonte, 1890.
4. The Wellborn Collection, Langston, 1836.
5. Store and Postoffice Day Book, Larkins' Fork, Al, 1853-54
6. Presley Woodall and Co. Ledger, Woodville, 1853.
7. W. H. Payne Drug Co. Ledgers and Day Books, Scottsboro, 1875, 1877, 1888 and 1890.

\$1 per page plus \$2 postage and handling will be charged for anyone wanting copies of pages from the Orphans Court ledger or the Wellborn Collection. Due to size, fragility and dimness the rest of the books can not be copied. All books are in the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center (a beautiful old mansion) and may be viewed there (but go to the BACK door). This index was originally done for the convenience of those persons researching at the Center. It met with enthusiasm and Mr. Page kindly made a few extra copies for the general public on a first-come, first-served basis.

NEWS FLASH! Just had great news for those interested in Jackson County. The Jackson Co. Orphans Court Book 1820-30 (abstracts done by Ann Chambless for the *Jackson County Chronicles* plus the index) is being published by itself and will be available Sept. 1st from above address. \$10 plus \$3 postage and handling.

A HISTORICAL AND PICTORIAL ACCOUNT OF NEGRO SCOUTING IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY COUNCIL, 1940-1965, by David W. Kelley, Huntsville, Al, 8½ x 11, spiral bound, 30 pages. 1991. Not for sale.

This booklet contains a series of articles which appeared in *Speaking Out*, our newspaper for and about the black community in Huntsville, Alabama. In 1943, Mr. Kelley became the Field Scout Executive serving the Negro Division in nine counties of North Alabama. When scouting was integrated in 1965 Mr. Kelley was a District Scout Executive for the Creek District which was the northern part of Madison County.

As well as the history of scouting and the camps used by the Blacks, there are lists of the sponsors of the troops and names of the scoutmasters. Included are articles about individuals who won awards for heroism and other high awards. This is of interest to Black genealogical researchers and is a valuable document for historians of Huntsville and North Alabama. [Reviewed by Ann G. Maulsby.]

North Alabama

CAPT. JOHN B. KENNAMER'S UNION SCOUT COMPANY

By
Charles Rice

While the cotton growing counties of South Alabama had rushed eagerly into secession in 1861, the more mountainous region of North Alabama had done so only reluctantly. Nevertheless, the majority of the people in northern Alabama quickly gave their support to their home state once the War Between the States began.

Not everyone, however, was actually willing to fight for the South. After the passage of the Confederate Conscription Act in 1862, some men dodged the draft by hiding out in the mountains or fleeing behind the enemy lines. A small number of Alabama citizens were so opposed to the war that they actually joined the Union army and served against their friends and neighbors. Among these "home-made Yankees" was John Kennamer of Jackson County.

John B. Kennamer (1820-1885) organized his Union scout company in Kennamer Cove, Jackson County, on July 1, 1864. Its purpose, according to Kennamer, was to "Scout the country, to act as vidett[e]s for Col. L. P. Lyons [Colonel William P. Lyons, 13th Wisconsin Infantry] to act in conjunction with any scouting parties of Federal Cavalry that should be in this section of the country." Never properly mustered into the Union army, the company was simply verbally discharged by General Robert S. Granger on May 17, 1865.

Unlike some other "Tory" leaders who viewed the war as an opportunity to rob and murder under the pretense of being soldiers, John Kennamer seems to have conducted himself honorably. To his credit, no atrocities have ever been charged to his men. In

fact, said Kennamer, "it was impossible for us to make anything and preserve any character among the community, for if we had seized upon the effects of our Secession neighbors and converted it to our use, yea made ourselves rich, . . . they would have proclaimed that all we wanted was their property. We taken comparatively nothing. . . . So we came home horseless and penniless." Kennamer struggled for five years after the war until the Federal government finally agreed to recognize his men as Union soldiers and pay them for their service.

Kennamer's company served primarily in Jackson and Madison counties, most often guarding the Memphis & Charleston Railroad against Confederate attack. While thus engaged it fought several small skirmishes with the Southern forces.

It was also present at Paint Rock bridge on December 31, 1864 when a small detachment of Colonel Lemuel G. Mead's Alabama partisan cavalry surprised and captured Company G of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry. Kennamer's men avoided being taken prisoner on that occasion by fleeing into the cold winter night clad only in their underwear.

John B. Kennamer and several of his men were wounded during their military service. However, none of the company was killed.

The following is the roster of Captain Kennamer's company, with the length of service of later recruits indicated:

Captain: John B. Kennamer
Lieutenant: Levi Kennamer
Sergeant: Silas P. Woodall

Kennamer's Union Scouts (-continued-)

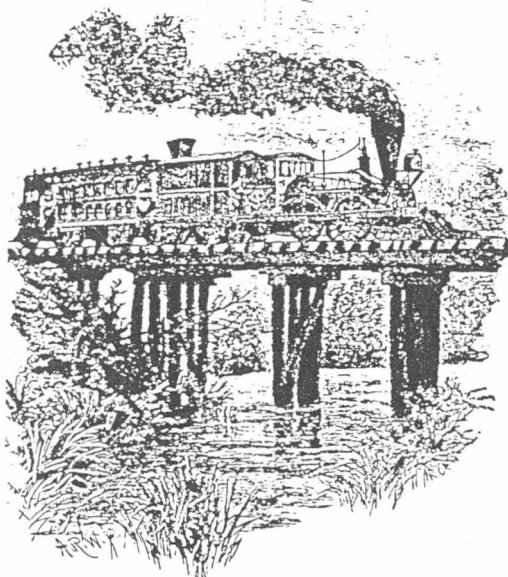
Privates:

Bird Ashburn (4 months)	Robert S. Kennamer
C. C. Ashburn (4 months)	S. D. Kennamer
Sampson Bishop	Seaborn F. Kennamer
John F. Bishop (6 months)	Zachary T. Kennamer
James Cornelius	Jefferson Maxfield
Abner Embree (4 months)	William McDaniel
F. W. Farmer	J. L. Morrison
John Guffee	J. P. Renfro (8 months)
Abner Honey (5½ months)	Asaph Rich (6 months)
John Johnson (5 months)	Thomas Sims
A. J. Jones	Crofferd Thompson (5 months)
Enoch Jones (6 months)	John Walls
Mich A. J. Jones (6 months)	C. C. Watson
David Kennamer	William Watson
George T. Kennamer	Ardill Wright (2 months)
Jacob L. Kennamer	Isaac Wright

Sources of information:

The Kennamer Family by John R. Kennamer and Lorris G. Kennamer, Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1924, pages 637-641.

Sergeant Silas P. Woodall gave a slightly different account of the company's origin. "It was made up," he said, "in Marshall County, Alabama, and some of the members belonged in Jackson County, Alabama." [Source: Southern Claim No. 2384, Moses Maples, request for repayment for supplies taken by the Union Army during the war. Woodall gave his testimony on February 26, 1874.]



Colbert

WILLIAM DENTON CLAIMS COMMISSION CLAIM

On March 23, 1865 the following items were taken from the farm of William Denton of what later became Colber County, Alabama. The items were:

Two mules, \$300.

100 bushels of corn, \$100.

22 sides of leather, \$88.

2400 lb. of fodder, \$24.

Total claim for \$793.25

One brood mare, \$150.

400 lb. bacon, hams & shoulders, \$100.

125 lb. of honey, \$31.25

Witnesses in this case are:

David Thompson, Franklin Co.

J. C. Goodloe, Colbert Co.

William M. Denton, Franklin Co.

William Pounders, Franklin Co.

Nancy Ann Denton, Franklin Co.

James H. Denton, Franklin Co.

WILLIAM DENTON DEPOSITION

William Denton gives his age as 52 yrs. He is a resident of Colbert Co., a U. S. native, a farmer and a tanner. He has never declared bankruptcy. His farm consists of 418 acres of which about 50 are in cultivation and the balance is woodland.

Denton states he was threatened by Southern sympathizers because of his adherence to the Northern cause. He states, "Confederate Soldiers belonging to Gen. Roddy's Cavalry often cursed me as a damned Union Man and said they would take what I had and let me go to where I belonged—to the Yankees—or would put me in the Rebel service. In reply I answered I would die before I would go into the Rebel service."

When asked what he had done for the Federal cause, Denton said: "I assisted Union men, viz, Claggett, Charles Warren, Reuben Taylor, Geo. W. Thorn & others to get out of the Confederate into the Union lines and furnished them rations to go on. All mentioned went into the Union Army. I also assisted their families while they were in said service. I also assisted Jno. C. Blasengame to get into the Federal lines. Blassengame & Geo. W. Thorn went into the 64th Illinois Regiment, Co. E, Yeates' Sharpshooters."

When asked if he had any relatives in the Confederate Army he stated he had no son

or brother but did have two nephews, Hiram Burford (now dead) and Wm. P. Denton of Colbert Co., Ala. as he has heard but he never furnished either of them with any military equipment, clothes or money nor did he contribute in any way to aid or support either of them while in service.

Mr. Denton stated that "When I was asked to go to the polls and vote for Jeff Davis as President of the Confederacy I refused to vote and stated that I then had a President of the United States—good enough for me. I persuaded my neighbor to vote as I did against Secession and for the Union."

The property of Mr. Denton was taken for use of the U. S. Army by Capt. Swicks who told Denton he would be paid for the property upon presenting his receipt which Swicks wrote out in pencil. Denton kept the receipt until it was worn out and so defaced that it was illegible.

DAVID W. THOMPSON DEPOSITION

David W. Thompson states his age is 37. He is a Colbert Co. resident, a farmer and a stone mason. He is a cousin to William Denton and has known him all his life. They were intimate until March, 1863 when he (Thompson) entered the Federal Army at Glendale, Miss. He joined the 64th Regt., Illinois, Yates's Sharp Shooters, Co. E, Col.

William Denton Claim (-continued-)

Morrill was regiment commander and Capt. Manning was company commander.

Thompson states he was captured by Gen. Forrest in 1864 while belonging to the Secret Service at Athens and brought back to Colbert County but escaped. Thompson then saw William Denton almost daily for six weeks as he was secreted near Denton's house awaiting an opportunity to return to his command. Denton knew him to be an escaped prisoner.

On Thompson's return to his command after escaping from capture he bore words of encouragement from Denton to his Union friends in his regiment. He said if he had to fight he would come and assist them.

Thompson resided within five miles of claimant Denton up to the time he went into the Federal service and lives about the same distance from him now.

WILLIAM M. DENTON DEPOSITION

William states he is 23 years of age, a Colbert County resident, a farmer, and a son of William Denton. He was present when all the property was taken from claimant.

[Note: As to taking the property, this deposition is essentially the same as that of his father, William.]

William M. states that besides he and the soldiers, Nancy Ann Denton (mother), James H. Denton (brother), Sarah C. Denton (sister), Margeana E. Denton (sister) and small children were there and witnessed the taking. The claimant told the soldiers he could not make a crop if they took his mules and corn but they said they were compelled to have them for the use of the army.

JAMES H. DENTON DEPOSITION

James H. Denton states he is 22 years of age, a Colbert Co. resident and a farmer. He is the son of claimant but does not reside with him. James H. was present when the property was taken.

[Note: Rest of testimony is repetitious of other testimonies.]

JOHN C. GOODLOE DEPOSITION

John C. Goodloe states he is 53 years of age, a Colbert County resident, and a farmer. He is not related to claimant but has known Denton about 40 years. During the War they lived about 10 miles apart and saw each other about once a month. They were intimate friends. Goodloe states he, too, was an adherent of the Union cause. He states: "I knew the claimant's Sympathies and opinions to be in favor of the Union by hearing him often express them, when in conversation with me alone and in the presence of other men who lived in the mountains—nearly all of whom coincided [agreed] with him."

Goodloe further stated, "I know that claimant once sent a number of Union Refugees to my house during the war and I was informed he requested me to assist in putting them across the Tennessee River into the Federal lines. He afterwards told me he had sent them and I informed him they had been put across according to his request."

REMARKS BY SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

"The foregoing depositions of William Denton, claimant, and of his witness David W. Thompson, William M. Denton, James H. Denton and John C. Goodloe, were taken at the time and place and in all respects as stated in my certificate.

"The witness Wm. Pounders (for the purpose of proving claimant's loyalty) did not attend. His witness, Nancy Ann Denton, (to prove the taking of property) also failed to attend on account of sickness and claimant waived the examination of both."

Signed by Richard S. Watkins,
Special Commissioner of Claims.

REMARKS

"Mr. Denton is about 53 years of age, a farmer & Tanner. He resided in Franklin (now Colbert) Co. during the war on his own farm of 428 acres. His feelings & language were in favor of the Union. He voted against secession & urged his neighbors to vote in the

-Continued on Page 50-

Franklin

THOMAS EVANS SOUTHERN CLAIMS COMMISSION CLAIM

On or about the 14th day of March, 1865, at the residence of Thomas Evans of Franklin County, Alabama, officers and soldiers of the United States Army took from Mr. Evans four horses valued at \$125. each., 150 bushels of corn at \$1. per bushel, 150 pounds bacon at 25 cents per pound, 125 pounds of lard at 20 cents per pound, three saddles at \$15 each and 30 gallons of molasses at \$1. per gallon.

All of the above property was taken by men commanded by Major General Wilson while on a raiding expedition while on a march. No vouchers or receipts were given.

March 3, 1871. Case No. 6491.

It is hereby certified that on the 25th day of July 1872 at my office in the town of Russellville, Franklin County, Alabama came before me the following named persons:

Thomas Evans, claimant
Miss Nancy Evans
Miss Cynthia Evans
Dr. Frederick H. Anderson
William Skinner

for the purpose of a hearing in the above cause.

Each and every deponent, previous to his or her examinations, was properly and duly sworn or affirmed by me, to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth concerning the matters under examination.

Signed: Richard S. Watkins, Special Commissioner of the Commission of Claims. 25 July 1872.

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS EVANS, CLAIMANT

Thomas Evans states he is 71 years old, resides 6¼ miles south of Russellville, Franklin County, Alabama. He is a farmer and has resided at the same place since before the War. The farm contains about 400 acres of which about 60 is cleared, about 25 to 40 acres are under cultivation and the balance is woodland. He did not move during the Civil War but remained on his farm.

On 2 October 1865 he took an oath of amnesty at Frankfort, Alabama before M. A. Hartley, 1st Lieut. of the 7th Illinois Cavalry. He took the oath as he thought it necessary to allow him to vote and not because he had done or said anything against the Government of the United States. He never asked for a pardon from the President.

Mr. Evans states he was never in any manner either directly or indirectly connected with the Civil Service of the Confederacy and never took any oath to support it.

A short time before the close of the war,

others whose names are unknown, came to Mr. Evans's residence and took from him, against his will and remonstrances, a fine young mare, forcing on him a \$100 bill of Confederate currency then about worthless. Frederick threatened Evans and told him that if he followed them with the intent of regaining the mare he would never get back. Evans does not recall the date of this happening. He got no further pay for the mare and has not seen Frederick or the mare since.

Evans states he frequently heard rumors of threats against him on account of his Union sentiments but none were made to him in person. He cannot state of his own personal knowledge that he was molested on account of his Union sentiments but feels that the mare and a considerable amount of horse feed were taken from because of that. Confederate soldiers rarely passed his house without poaching upon him and

Thomas Evans Claim (-continued-)

otherwise harassing him.

Mr. Evans was never in a financial condition to afford to contribute anything in aid of the United States or its army or soldiers other than occasionally give its soldiers food which he frequently did.

Two of Mr. Evans's sons, Fletcher Evans (now of Cook County, Texas) and Christopher C. Evans (of Franklin Co., Ala.), went into the Confederate army to avoid conscription. They took their own horses but afterwards, when they came home, they were furnished some clothes (of which they were greatly in need) by their mother and sisters. The clothes were given only because of the affection they had for their brothers and not in aid of the Confederate cause. No other aid was ever given to the rebellion by Evans or his family to his knowledge.

Evans once changed about \$300 of old issue of Confederate Treasury Notes for bonds, called funding, but never acquired any other interest in bonds or loans of the Confederate government.

Mr. Evans's sympathies were always strongly in favor of the Union and his language was always consistent therewith. His influence and vote was cast in favor of the maintenance of the Federal Union. He urged his neighbors to vote against secession and so voted himself. He never voted on the ratification of the ordinance of secession not having had an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Evans was present when the property charged for was taken. On 24 March 1865 that part of the U. S. Army under command of General Wilson on its march south, encamped at and close around deponent's residence in Franklin County and some of that command stayed there until the evening of 25 March 1865.

While the command was encamped, the soldiers belonging thereto, in large numbers, thronged about his place of residence and plantation and took all the items he is charging for.

Said property was taken without any

consultation with claimant. One soldier who rode one of the horses taken, rode into the yard and told Mr. Evans he did not feel right in keeping the horse and that if he was sure Mr. Evans could keep it he would leave it but Evans told him to go ahead and take it because if he left it the Rebels would take it and he would rather the U. S. Army have it than the Confederacy. The soldier rode off on it toward camp.

There were several hundred soldiers there at the time the property disappeared and all appeared engaged in taking corn, fowls and other property.

No one was present at the taking of the property except the family which included Mr. Evans's wife, Sarah C., and children:

Thomas W. Evans
Violet Evans
Sally Evans
Margaret Evans
Nancy Evans
Cynthia Evans
Five small grandchildren
Ross Hudson

Hudson now resides in Cook County, Texas and the other family members are Franklin County residents.

Evans states he does not know how to better describe the taking of the property than to state that the soldiers took possession of his smokehouse and premises and took and carried the property away. He saw it done and the soldiers paid little attention to him. The corn was carried on horses and in a wagon as was the molasses. The bacon and lard were carried on horses and by hand. It was taken in the direction of the military encampment which was about 200 yards from the Evans house.

On March 25, 1865 five or six officers of the U. S. Army, whose names and rank he does not recall, came to his house and asked if his name was Evans. He told them it was and some of them stated they had heard of him and that he should be paid for what the boys took, each making an entry in books

Thomas Evans Claim (-continued-)

they had with them. Mr. Evans did not ask for a receipt for the property taken nor was he offered one.

Evans was so troubled at the loss of the property and left in such a destitute condition that he did not think of the necessity of asking for a receipt.

All the horses were taken on the 25th of March between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning. The other property was taken at different times. The corn that was taken was husked and in general, unshelled. It had just been bought of William Hudson and John B. Drake and measured. The bacon was hanging in the smoke house and was good and sound. The molasses was in a 30-gallon barrel and the lard was a half barrel.

DEPOSITION OF MISS NANCY EVANS

Miss Nancy Evans states she is the daughter of the claimant, Thomas Evans, and is near 20 years of age. She is unmarried and resides with her family in Franklin County.

Nancy states she was present when all the property was taken. She saw the corn, bacon, lard and molasses taken and saw the horses and saddles in possession of soldiers soon after they were taken.

She states that her father, his wife, Sarah C. Evans, and their children were present. They were:

Sally Evans
Margaret Evans
Hannah Evans [not on Evans' list]
Cynthia Evans
Five small grandchildren, the children of Benjamin Hudson
Ross Hudson.

Nancy states she saw one officer come to the house but does not know his rank or regiment or the command he belonged to other than he was with General Wilson's Army. He ordered the soldiers out of the Evans home but heard him say nothing more.

Nancy's deposition, for the most part, reiterated what her father had already stated.

DEPOSITION OF CYNTHIA EVANS

Cynthia Evans, the daughter of Thomas Evans, states she is 18 years of age and lives at home with her family in Franklin Co.

Cynthia was present when the property was taken except the horses. She did not see them taken but saw them in possession of the soldiers. She saw the corn, bacon, lard and molasses taken and saw the horses and saddles in possession of the soldiers soon after they were taken.

Cynthia says her father, Mr. Evans, was present at the taking of the property along with his wife, Mrs. Sarah Evans,

deponent (Cynthia)
Nancy Evans
Thomas Evans
Sally Evans
Violet Evans
Margaret Evans
Hannah Evans
Five small grandchildren, children of Benjamin Hudson.

FREDERICK H. ANDERSON
DEPOSITION

Frederick H. Anderson states he is 69 years of age and now lives about one mile from Russellville, Franklin Co., Al. He is a physician and farmer and has known Thomas Evans for 20 years or more. Until about the first of the present year (1872) he lived about ten miles from Evans but now lives about 8 miles from him. They were political friends and on a good many occasions prior to and during the rebellion they had conversations about the war, its causes and progress. They were not otherwise intimate but Dr. Anderson had great confidence in Evans in his stability and reliability as a Union man. Evans spoke of secession as unwarranted and unholy and was brought about by a treasonable combination of conspirators to ruin the country. Anderson only knows Evans's opinions by their conversations and by sentiments of

-continued on Page

Thomas Evans Claim (-continued-)

Union sympathizers and by nearly all of Evans's neighbors, both Union and Confederate.

Rumors of threats against Union men in general prevailed during the whole of the war.

WILLIAM SKINNER DEPOSITION

William Skinner states he is 62 years of age and resides 2½ miles from Russelville. He is now Chancellor for the Northern Chancery Division of Alabama. His occupation prior to the war was that of lawyer and farmer.

Skinner's acquaintance with claimant commenced about 25 or 30 years ago and has continued since. During this time he lived from 6 to 8 miles from Evans and saw him weekly during the war.

Mr. Skinner recollects that on one occasion he spoke of what a shame it was that the Union flag, which typified so much good, should be abandoned by so many who

were engaged in an attempt to tear it down. Evans gave evidence of his sympathies and opinions by shedding tears.

REMARKS BY SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

The depositions of Thomas Evans, claimant, and Nancy Evans, Cynthia Evans, Frederick H. Anderson, and William Skinner, witnesses on his behalf, were taken down in writing substantially in all respects as spoken by said claimant and witnesses after each had been duly sworn to speak the truth.

The deposition of each, as set out and written, was read back to each. Each was examined apart from the other. Nothing occurred during the examinations of said deponents calculated to asaken suspicion as to their truthfulness. The deponents, and each of them, are reputed in their respective neighborhoods to be truthful and persons of respectable standing therein.

Given under my hand and seal this 25th day of July 1872.

Signed: Richard S. Watkins.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, That the Superintendent of Public Schools be, and he is hereby authorized and required to transfer a certain amount of money paid by Reece Hamilton, of the county of Franklin, to the credit of Township 9, Range 12, so that said amount may hereafter appear as belonging to Township 7, Range 12 in said county and issue his certificate accordingly. Approved Feb. 12, 1856.

[Source: *Acts of Alabama* 1855-56.]

Jackson

BELLEFONTE TOWN MINUTES

(Part 5)

Today when we think of Bellefonte we think of nuclear generators and huge cooling towers visible for many miles across Jackson County's misty hills. Although a ghost town today overcome by the nuclear age, Bellefonte was once a thriving social and commercial center that served as Jackson's seat of government. The shells of the old hotel and a store are all that remain of the buildings that were once a part of this community. The streets that once crisscrossed the town are gone but some well-worn paving bricks are still visible near the hotel. The county seat moved to Scottsboro after the Civil War leaving Bellefonte but a memory.

Some official records were burned during the Civil War by the United States Army and little contemporary documentation on Bellefonte remains today. It was, therefore, a genuine "Find" to discover 41 pages of town meeting minutes bound in the front of Minutes of the Circuit Court of the post-Civil War period. This book, found in the basement of the Jackson County Courthouse, has no front cover and the first 20 pages are missing—pages containing the minutes of the meetings prior to 1854. The minutes beginning on page 21 read, ". . . to read that any person convicted under said Ordinance shall be fined the sum of Forty dollars." We will probably never know what terrible deed would cause one to be fined \$40.00.

These minutes are significant genealogically and historically. Some names appear that are not on the 1850 census or other records. From them we discover the town was run by a City Council form of government with an Intendant who served as the city manager. We also learn Bellefonte was an incorporated town and that a newspaper, the *Bellefonte Democrat*, was published there in the mid-1850's. The town obtained its water supply, at least in part, from a spring which had to be cleaned periodically.

This series was begun in Volume 25, Issue No. 1. The minutes were abstracted and contributed by Dorothy Scott Johnson.

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7 September 1855

Present:

H. C. Cowan, Intendant

John Patton, Wm. McReynolds, and Robert C. T. Gill.

Ordered that the account presented by Joseph M. Burton and William Webb for certain services be allowed and that the Intendant be authorized to issue his warrant on the Treasurer for the sum of \$155 for payment of same. It is further ordered that said account be attached to these minutes. The following is a true copy:

Joseph M. Burton and William Webb.

For repairing Beaver Street from where Jackson Street crosses the same to the corporation line on the southeast side of said town \$70.00

-continued on next page-

Bellefonte Town Minutes (-continued-)

For repairing Adams Street & the sidewalk from the southwest corner of the public square to the top of the hill and said street opposite the Methodist Church \$65.00
 Adjourned.

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The first Wednesday evening in December, 1855.

Present:

H. C. Cowan, Intendant

C. B. Rountree, W. L. Shelton and R. C. T. Gill, councillors.

Ordered that the marshall of Bellefonte and the treasurer appear before the Board at its next meeting for the purpose of having an examination made into the financial condition of Bellefonte and for the purpose of having a final and complete settlement of the taxes of said town for the present year.

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Wednesday 6 February 1856.

Present:

H. C. Cowan, Intendant

R. C. T. Gill, C. B. Rountree, Wm. McReynolds and W. L. Shelton.

Ordered by the board that the marshall of Bellefonte appear before this board on Monday night next and make a full and complete settlement of the taxes.

11 February 1856.

Present:

H. C. Cowan, Intendant

C. B. Rountree, W. L. Shelton, Wm. McReynolds, John Patton and R. T. C. Gill, councilmen.

On motion of W. L. Shelton it was ordered that an account presented by R. C. T. Gill be referred to a committee for examination and thereupon the Intendant appointed councillors C. B. Rountree and Wm. McReynolds for said purpose. It was ordered that the said committee report their action at the next meeting.

Ordered by the board that the books of the marshall of this incorporated town be referred to committee for examination which committee, by order of the Intendant, is to consist of R. C. T. Gill, W. L. Shelton and John Patton, whose duty it shall be to report their action at the next term of this board. By agreement the next meeting is now fixed at the 22nd day of February 1856.

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24 February 1856.

Present:

Hugh C. Cowan, Intendant

William McReynolds, William L. Shelton, C. B. Rountree and John Patton.

Ordered by the board that the next regular meeting on the first Wednesday in March next be fixed as the definite time for settlement of dues of this town.

-To be continued in the December issue of *Valley Leaves*-

JACKSON COUNTY COURT MINUTES - 1867-1877

While rummaging in the records piled in the basement of the Jackson County Courthouse, I discovered an orphan: a 19-page section from a 11¼ x 17 inch County Court ledger. The parent ledger may still be there but the poor lighting and disarray of records made it impossible to find in the time allotted. Copied by Dorothy Scott Johnson.

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| State of Alabama
vs.
James P. Gullatt |)
)
) | Date: December term 1867
Charge: Assault and Battery |
| | | It appears to the satisfaction of the Court from the confession of the defendant that he is guilty and the following punishment is awarded: defendant fined One Cent plus costs. Joseph Burton and P. Ragland, Gullatt's security. |
| State of Alabama
vs.
Frank Vann |)
)
) | Date: Decr. Term 1867
Charge: Malicious Killing of a Hog. |
| | | On hearing the evidence it appears that the defendant is not guilty. It is therefore ordered that the defendant go hence discharged. |
| State of Alabama
vs.
John H. Norwood |)
)
) | Date: Dec. Term 1867
Charge: Affray or Fighting |
| | | Comes the State by its solititor and also comes the defendant and it appearing from the confession of the defendant that he is guilty. The Court fines the defendant 25 Cents plus costs. Norwood's securities were J. D. Dickerson and C. L. Tipson. |
| State of Alabama
vs.
W. L. Tipton |)
)
) | Date: Dec. Term 1867
Charge: Affray or Fighting |
| | | It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court from the confession of the defendant that he is guilty. The Court fines him 25 Cents plus costs. N. Kyle and Rufus Green are his securities. |
| State of Alabama
vs.
Rufus Green |)
)
) | Date: Dec. Term 1867
Charge: Permitting prisoners to escape & etc. |
| | | Comes the State by its soliticor, J. J. Jones, and also comes the defendant: the state declines to prosecute further and the defend- and is discharged. |
| State of Alabama
vs.
Drury Rorex |)
)
) | Date: April 6, 1868
Charge: Failing to report and pay taxes on whiskey distilled. |
| | | Comes the State by her Solicitor, Jasper J. Jones, and also comes the defendant. This case ordered continued until the next term of |

County Court Minutes - 1867-1877 (-continued-)

court. Allen Day, a witness for the State in this cause, failing to appear, was fined \$50 unless he appears at the next term of this Court to show cause to the contrary and it is ordered that notice issue to him. Signed: M. P. Brown, County Judge.

State of Alabama) Date: April Term 1868 (April 6, 1868)
vs.) Charge: Failing to report and pay the taxes on whiskey distilled.
John Rorex Jr.)

Comes the State by her solititor, Jasper J. Jones, and also comes the defendant; Case continued until next term of court. Milton P. Brown, County Judge.

State of Alabama) Date: April 6, 1868
vs.) Charge: Failing to report and pay taxes on whiskey distilled.
John Matthews) Continued to the next regular term of court. George Brown, a witness for the State failed to appear and was fined \$50 unless he appears at the next term and shows cause to the contrary.

State of Alabama) Date: April term 1868
vs.) Charge: Disturbing public worship.
Daniel McMahan)
On hearing the evidence, the Court is satisfied of the fault of the Defendant and fines McMahan \$20 plus costs; in default of payment he is ordered to jail for ten days.

State of Alabama) Date: 4 May 1868
vs.) Charge: Distilling whisky and failing to make report thereof and
John Matthews) pay the tax thereon.
On hearing the evidence the Court is satisfied that the defendant is not guilty and is discharged.

State of Alabama) Date: 4 May 1868
vs.) Charge: Distilling whisky and failing to pay the tax thereon.
Drury Rorex)
Came the State by her solicitor, Jasper J. Jones, who declined to prosecute. Court discharged Rorex.

State of Alabama) Date: 4 May 1868
vs.) Charge: Distilling whisky and failing to report and pay tax thereon.
John Rorex)
Came the State by her solicitor, Jasper J. Jones, who declined to prosecute. Court discharged Rorex.

(-To be continued in the December 1991 issue of *Valley Leaves*.-)

STATE (CRIMINAL) TRIAL DOCKET - 1866-1874

(Part 1)

1866-1867

This large docket book shows the defendant's name, the cause of action (murder, adultery, etc.) and disposition of the case. The plaintiff in all cases is the State of Alabama since this is a criminal docket. The first 51 pages of this book consists of the index and the Docket begins on page 52. In many cases, in the Remarks column, the handwriting is fast and illegible, therefore, we felt it wise to leave blanks rather than error in interpretation. This book is housed in the Jackson County Courthouse in the Probate Record Room on the first floor. Copied and contributed by Dorothy Scott Johnson.

Defendant's Name	Cause of Action	Remarks		
<u>Spring 1866</u>				
<u>Page 52</u>				
William Steely	Murder	Continued		
A. P. Daugharty				
R. L. Rinehart				
J. H. Carrol				
Andrew Horn			Scifa*	*Scifa: (Scire facias): The "most common application of this writ is as a process to revive a judgement after the lapse of a certain time; . . . a mode of proceeding against special bail on their recognizance . . ." [<i>Black's Law Dictionary</i> . Fifth Edition.]
S. P. Daugherty				
T. E. Brown				
Arthur Long				
W. T. Gunter				
Alexander Finney	Perjury			
Leroy Blancett	Carrying concealed pistol			
A. J. Connally	Assault to maim	"Continued from F. F. 1860. April 16. Abates".		
<u>Page 53</u>				
Robert Johnson	Assault & battery			
Charles Lastly	Gaming			
William Cluck	H. S.			
Joseph McCaleb	Assault & battery	(Three counts)		
<u>Page 54</u>				
Uriah Pruitt	Murder.	Confined to jail; since escaped.		
John Bryant	Assault to maim			
D. R. Melton	H. S.			
Jacob M. Williams	Dis[disorderly?]	Judgement for costs.		
James L. Allison	Dis.	Judgement for costs.		
E. H. Johnson	Retailing spirits, no lic.	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$20.		

→

State Criminal Trial Docket (-continued-)

Defendant	Cause of Action	Remarks
<u>Page 55</u>		
James Eshelby	Keeping gaming table	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$20.
James Eshelby	Retailing spirits, no lic.	[Note: Name might be James E. Shelby]
David A. Troup	Retailing spirits, no lic.	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$20.
D. C. Whiting	Retailing spirits, no lic.	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$20.
Joseph M. Burton	Adultry	"Forfeiture is James M. Henderson, Margaret Webb Brown."
Rutha Brown	Adultry	"Forfeiture is James M. Henderson, Margaret Webb Brown, defense witnesses."
<u>Page 56</u>		
James M. Hudgins	Adultry	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$100.
Susan Bromley	Adultry	
G. W. Newcomer	Adultry	Jury trial. Verdict: fined \$100.
Jane Ling	Adultry	
John Clayton	Retailing spirits, no lic.	
David Farmer	Assault.	
<u>Page 57</u>		
Walter Selby	Disturbing public worship	
G. E. Holder	Murder	Plead not guilty.
Samuel Smith	H. S.	
John Bynum	Assault to murder	
W. R. Ousbrooms & Martha Ousbrooms	Incest	
B. F. Hembree	Gambling.	
<u>Page 58</u>		
Reaves Kelly Fill Robinson Robert Ridley John Neal.	Burglarly. (all freeman)	All pleaded not guilty. Jury trial. Verdict: Guilty. Sentenced to 5 years each.
J. J. Jones & Jack Cunningham.	Grand Larceny	
Levi Pitts & Henry Pitts.	Assault & Battery.	Sentenced to state prison for 10 years.

-To be continued-

Lauderdale

DEED RECORD A-1

(Part 5)

The earliest deed book found in Lauderdale County appears to be Deed Book A-1 which is from 1822 to 1828. The first recorded instrument was *signed* on 30 March 1818 but the date the document was *recorded* is not given. The second instrument was recorded in July 1822 which leads us to believe this is actually a second book and that the preceeding one is missing since the county was established in 1818. Abstracted from photocopies by Dorothy Scott Johnson through the courtesy of Dr. Darrell Russell, editor of the *Natchez Trace Traveler*. Continued from Vol. 25, Issue No. 4.

- Pages 160-162 Apprentice Articles of Agreement - 22 March 1824
John Robertson binds his son, John Robertson [Jr.] to Elias E. Byrne and John W. Byrne, all of Lauderdale Co., Alabama, until he arrives at age 21 years. The Byrnes agree to give John Robertson Jr. 1½ years schooling and good, decent clothing. If he continues to stay with them they will give him a horse and saddle worth \$75. Elias E. and John W. Byrne each posted a \$1000 bond.
John Robertson signed with an X. The Byrnes signed their names.
Witness: Richard Perry and J. N. Baker.
Note on margin of page stated the parties had been released from the contract 7 April 1824.
- Pages 162-163 Bill of Sale
29 March 1824
David N. Evans sells to Thos. F. Taylor, both of Lauderdale Co., Ala., for \$300 one negro boy named James, aged 5 or 6 years. Evans warrants title and also warrants the boy to be free from all impediments.
Delivered to Thos. F. Taylor on 2 April 1824.
- Pages 163-164 Bill of Sale
30 March 1824
Benjamin Hardin of Wayne Co., Tennessee, for \$242.50, sell to John Tompkins a negro girl named Labe, aged about 7 or 8. Hardin warrants title and warrants that she is free of all impediments.
Witt: Thos Simpson and [illeg.] McFallen[?]
Recorded 31 March 1824.
- Pages 165-166 Bill of Sale
9 Oct. 1823
John H. Cornish of Lauderdale Co. sells to his brother, Thos. Cornish, one negro girl named Meriah (no age given) for \$400 and warrants that she is free of all impediments.
Witness: John Lewis[Linus?] and Wm. Cornish.
Ack. 30 March 1824 and Recorded 31 March 1824.

—————>

Deed Record A-1 (-continued-)

Pages 166-167

Bill of Sale

29 August 1820

Samuel Bryan sells to Nelson P. Jones a negro man named Moses, aged about 47, for \$700. and warrants title to same.

Witness: William Griffin and John Neale.

Proven by William Griffin and John *Neal* before W. W. Garrard on 31 March 1824. Recorded 7 April 1824.

Pages 167-168

Bill of Sale

10 April 1824

Benjamin Hardin of Wayne Co., Tn., for \$500. sells to Thos McDonald a negro man named Andrew, aged 34 years, and defends and warrants title to same and warrants him from all impediments.

Witnesses: Jno. Simpson and Thos H[?] Hawkins.

Pages 168-172

Deed of Trust

18 Feb. 1824

Thos. Williams of Lauderdale Co., sells to James Ernett of Waine [sic] County, Tenn. "for and in consideration of the affection for his present wife, Betsy Williams and his children Andrew B., Brin[?] M., James, Eliza, Amos, Elzira, Jessee and Polly on the body of his said wife lawfully begotten" and any further children by Betsy, the following property (said sale to ensure a comfortable maintainance and inheritance):

4 cows and calves and 5 head of other young cattle

2 mares, 1 horse, colt

45 head hogs

11 head sheep

3 featherbeds and furniture

1 loom with all the "fixings to it"

2 pots, 2 ovens, a lecky kettle

2 axes, 4 weeding hoes

2 ploughs and 2 pair geers

11 pewter plates

Said property dedeed to Ernett in trust for the absolute possession and enjoyment on behalf of Betsy and said children during Betsy's natural life, then to remain "to the possession, use and behoof" of the said children and future children.

Thos ^{his}
+ Williams
mark

Ack. April 1824; recorded 7 April 1824.

Pages 172-174

Bill of Sale

26 March 1824

For the sum of \$575. to be paid to Henry Anderson and Jacob Byler, Administrators of the estate of Jessee Evans, decd., by a 12-month note by William Kidd (all parties residents of Lauderdale Co.), Anderson and Byler sells to Kidd a negro man named Moses, aged about 20 years.

(-continued-) →

Deed Record A-1 (-continued-)

Witness: James Benham and Edw. Harrison
Proven 31 March 1824. Recorded 8 April 1824.

Pages 174-176

Bond
24 December 1822

I, Caleb S. Manly of Florence, Ala., am firmly bound to James Martin in the sum of \$880. The conditions of the bond are as follows:

Manly sold to Martin a lot in Florence, it beginning on the boundary of the military road and running down Court Street taking in half the front of the military road . . . thence running on a direct line back to the alley on which the said Manley's lot is bounded . . . to the beginning.

Payment for the lot is in the sum of \$441.86 worth of carpenter work received 24 Dec. 1822. Manly binds himself "to make a fee simple in full complete as soon as I shall receive my deed from the Cypress Land Company or else in three years and one month this obligation shall be void.

Witness: Benjamin Glover and Wm. Leary.

Proven by witnesses 14 April 1824 and recorded same day.

Pages 177-179

Emancipation of Milly Copenger of Georgia
6 March 1819

This indenture between Peter Day of Edgefield Dist., SC and James Hooper, guardian of a woman, Milly, of the city of Augusta, Georgia of the other part.

Penelope Coppenger, by her Last Will & Testament emancipated said Milly upon payment of \$200 to Peter Day. Therefore, "I, Peter Day do hereby emancipate and set free Milly according to the will."

Day further binds himself to release and quit claim Milly under a \$600 penalty to be paid to the said James Hooper, guardian of Milly, immediately on failure of above covenant.

Signed by Peter Day.

7 Nov. 1823
Bond.

Peter day of Edgefield Dist., SC is firmly bound to James Pearce and Harrison Dary[?] of Augusta, Ga. in the amount of \$400 which payment well he made. The conditions of the above obligation bond is such that whereas Mrs. Penelope Coppenger did by her Last Will & Testament bequeath the freedom of a certain negro woman slave named Milly on payment of \$200 to the said Peter Day or his wife, Mary Day, by said negro Milly. If Day relinquishes the said payment of \$200 then this bond is void, otherwise it is to be in full force.

his
Peter X Day
mark

Recorded 14 April 1824

→

Deed Record A-1 (-continued-)

Pages 180-185

Deed of Trust
 24 April 1824
 Geary Coalter, of first part
 James Irvin, of second part
 Geage[George?] Boggs, Jr. of third part

At the March term of Circuit Court, Thos. & James Kirkmon obtained a Judgment against Geary Coalter for \$1534.36½ debt, plus damages and costs. Geary Coalter took a Writ of Error upon said judgment to the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals and *Geary* Boggs was surety for *George* Coalter in a bond to said Thos. and James Kirkmon in the sum of \$3,068.73 for the purpose of obtaining a supersedeas* to stay and stop all proceedings of said judgment until it shall be examined and judgment given by the Supreme Court which bond is upon the condition that if the said Geary Coalter shall prosecute said Writ of Error to effect or in case of failure therein shall pay and satisfy judgment of said Supreme Court then obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.

Geary Coalter, wishing to secure George Boggs Jr., from all injury from the above bond, sells to James Irvine, in trust, a house and lot now occupied by [blank] Neale with its appertenances, plus one negro woman named Julia, one named Nancy, one girl named Delila, one library of books containing 160 volumes, and two lots now occupied by the said Geary Coalter with appertenances thereto.

Geary Coalter warrants and forever will defend title to said property but will nevertheless remain in peaceable possession of said property until he shall become liable to pay to Thos. and James Kirkmon \$1534.36½ with all damages and costs which may hereafter accrue.

If the Supreme Court reverses the judgment or if the whole debt shall be fully paid off and discharged to the said Kirkmons, this indenture is void, otherwise to be in full force.

Signed by Geary Coalter, James Irvine and Geage Boggs Jr.

Note written across margin of deed: "Delivered to Boggs 11 May 1824."

Witness: James Coalter.

Pages 185-188

Deed
 8 May 1824

Christopher Strong of Dickson Co., Tenn. sells to Thomas B. Hearlson of Lauderdale Co., Alabama for \$440, land in Lauderdale County:

The E/2 SW/4 Sec. 35-2-13W with appertenances.

Signed by Christopher Strong.

Witnesses: David Hubbard, Henry James Hawkins and W. W. Garrard.

Proven 8 May 1824 and recorded 10 May 1824.

* Supersedeas: The name of a writ containing a command to stay [halt] the proceedings at law . . . a writ directed to an officer commanding him to desist from enforcing the execution of another writ which he was about to execute or which might come in his hands . . . [*Black's Law Dictionary*, 5th Edition.] →

Deed Record A-1 (-continued-)

Pages 188-191

Bill of Sale
12 April 1824

Joseph N. Baker, Sheriff of Lauderdale Co., Alabama was directed by the Circuit Court of said county to sell slaves of the estate of Richard Wade by a judgment obtained by Allen Jones.

On 3 May 1824 the following slaves were sold at public auction to the highest bidder after having given 20 days public notice:

James, Charlotte and child - \$620

Lucy, Harriet and Sandy - \$365

Harvey - \$214

Arther - \$228

Hampton, a boy - \$176

Total \$1653.

James Jackson of Lauderdale County was the last and highest bidder and became purchaser; Sheriff Joseph N. Baker conveyed title to slaves to Jackson.

Delivered for recording 10 May 1824.

Pages 192-193

Bill of Sale
17 May 1824

James Elliott sells to Sarrah Hannah, both of Lauderdale County, Ala., a negro woman slave named Patsy, about 21 years of age, for the sum of \$400.

Witness: J. N. Baker and Saml. H. Byran.

Recorded 18 May 1824.

Pages 193-195

Deed
21 May 1824

Samuel Kinly sells to Thomas Kirkmon and James Kirkmon and to Thos. Ross and William Ross certain property. The Kirkmons paid \$214.62 and the Rosses paid \$138.37½ for a total of \$352.99½. The property is a lot on Court Street [in Florence] it being the quarter acre lot purchased by Ezekiel K. Hadnell[?] from the Cypress Land Company. A house on said lot is one story high and is presently occupied as a grocery store.

Signed Samuel Kinly

Recorded 21 May 1824.

Pages 195-200

Deed of Trust
12 April 1824
Reuben Caleb Hawkins, debtor
James Irvine, trustee
Richard Rapier and John Simpson, creditors

Caleb Hawkins owes Richard Rapier and John Simpson \$939.33¾ due on 1 November [1824], by two judgments Rapier and Simpson obtained against him at the March term of the Lauderdale County Circuit Court.

Hawkins wishes to secure said debt and deeds to James Irvine, in trust, the following negro slaves:

(1) Fannie, about the age of 40, and her two children, Sam (about

—→

Deed Record A-1 (-continued-)

8 years of age) and a boy age 3 [not named] .

(2) Meriah, age about 22.

(3) Jim, about 26 years of age.

If Hawkins defaults on the debt then Irvine to sell enough of the slaves to pay debt; sale will be to highest bidder at public auction after giving 15 days' notice.

This conveyance will not exclude Hawkins from disposing of one of the conveyed negroes and substituting another of equal value.

Pages 200-201

Power of Attorney

23 May 1824

William O. Perkins appoints Thomas Simpson his lawful attorney to transact his business in Alabama, and most particularly to execute any bond necessary in the arrangement of his business for the delivery of property. This is for the purpose of taking a Writ of Error.

Witness: Geary Coalter and A. H. Davis.

Pages 202-204

Deed

3 July 1819

John Ross of Lauderdale County, Alabama Territory, sells to Jessee Kirkland (of same County and Territory), for \$160., a certain grant or parcel of land in the Illinois Territory containing 160 acres, it being the SW/4 of Section 12, Township 6 north, Range 1 West, it being the bounty land granted the said John Ross by the U. S. Government by patent dated 31 Oct. 1818.

Witness: Deny [Dury?] Baker and Joseph Kirkland

Ack. 31 May 1824.

Note written across margin: Delivered to Kirkland 31 June 1824.

Pages 204-207

Bill of Sale

1 May 1824

Memorandum of Articles sold to Mr[?] Simpson & Co. included calf skins, shoemaker tools, leather, harness, etc., plus a looking glass for a total value of \$58.87.

I, Samuel Henly of Florence, Ala. for the sum of \$137.75 due and owing John Simpson, Thos. Simpson and Alexander McFadden, trading under the firm name of John Simpson & Co., have sold them all the foregoing mentioned goods, utensils, materials and implements listed in the Memorandum. Said property delivered. Signed by Samuel Henly.

Witness: G. Augustus Dawson and Marshall Calrk.

Ack. 30 May 1824 and Recorded 31 May 1824.

Page 208

Bill of Sale

5 June 1824

James Elliott sells to Elias King, both of Lauderdale Co., Ala., one negro man named Bob aged about 46 years, for the sum of \$350.

Recorded 5 June 1824.

-To be continued in the December issue-

Lawrence

KILLING OF REV. JAMES M. PICKENS

Source: The Huntsville Weekly Democrat, Vol. 15, No. 17. 9 February 1881.

On Thursday last, Rev. James M. Pickens, a minister of the Christian (Campbellite) Church, and the Greenback candidate for Gov. of Alabama at the election, was shot and killed by a man named Robert Letson near Mountain Home in Lawrence County.

Various and conflicting rumors, as to the circumstances of the killing, have reached us. The most authentic statement seems to be that Pickens and a neighbor named Davidson had been grinding an axe at Mr. French's and, when returning home, Letson overtook them and said to Davidson, in substance: "You have slandered my daughter, and if you don't take it back I will kill you." Davidson gave an evasive answer and Letson, drawing a revolver, shot Davidson and was about shooting again when Pickens struck up Letson's arm with the handle of the axe.

The revolver fell to the ground, Letson tried to recover it, and Pickens tried to prevent him. However, Letson got hold of the revolver and Pickens was scuffling with him to prevent his using it when Letson shot Pickens twice in the chest or abdomen.

Pickens ran off and Letson followed him 30 or 40 yards and shot him twice in the back, killing him instantly. Davidson was badly wounded but is likely to recover.

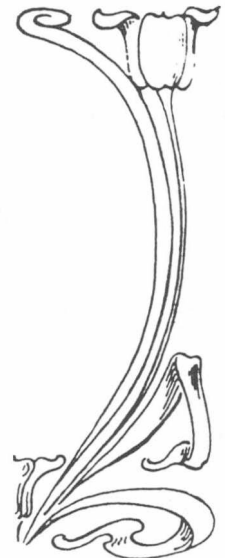
Letson went to Courtland and surrendered himself claiming, it is said, that he acted in self defence.

Mr. Pickens was about 45 years old, a man of some ability, and esteemed by his neighbors for his Christian character. We deeply regret his death, especially under such sad circumstances. [*Copied and contributed by Eulalia Yancy Wellden.*]



MOUNTAIN HOME MALE ACADEMY

This institution is located in Lawrence County, Alabama on the mountain south of the Tennessee Valley near the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, seven miles southeast of Courtland, and immediately on the road from Courtland to Moulton, between which points the mail stage passes regularly . . . Board, including lights, fuel, lodging and washing per month, \$20.00 — one-half payable in advance, the balance at the middle of each term. [*Athens Weekly Post*, 13 Feb., 1868.]



Bible Record

KEITH FAMILY

The following Bible Records were taken from an old Family Bible in the possession of Russell Keith, Argo, Ala. It is in very poor condition due to age. The Bible formerly belonged to James Keith of Pickens Dist., SC and was sent to Valley Leaves by Sandra Delashaw Warden, 136 East 58th St., Tulsa, OK 74105. Please see also the Delashaw Family Bible in Valley Leaves, Vol. 21, No. 4, June 1987.

Sarah Keith, Born 10/15/1799
Jane Keith (Wife of John) Died 8/17/1845
John Keith Born Virginia, Died 2/2/1853
William L. Keith, Died 5/20/1856
Mary E. Glenn, Died 6/20/1850
Jane Armstrong (age 103 or 104) Died 8/8/1843
John B. Keith, Born 5/12/1830, Died 8/30/1862?
James L. Keith, Born 3/30/1838, Died 5/23/1863
John Delashaw (Killed at Vicksburg, Miss.) Died 6/25/1863
Joseph L. Glenn, Died 7/28/1869
John D. Glenn (son of Joseph & Jane Glenn) Died 8/3/1861
Cornelius Keith, Died 6/13/1820
Cornelius Keith, Died 11/26/1847
William F. Keith, Died 5/13/1843
Isabella Jane Keith, Born 1/23/1846
Lemuel Keith, Born 2/8/1840
Mary E. Keith, (Dau. of James M.) Born 2/4/1836
Wm. M. Keith, (Son of James M.) Born 11/1/1828
James Keith, Born 3/30/1808
Jane Keith, Born Nov 1810, Died 1881
Rebecca Keith, Born 1813
Virginia Keith, Born 1800
William Keith, Born 1801
Mary Keith, Born 1801
Eliza Ann Keith, Born 12/25/1830

LAWRENCE COUNTY COURT MINUTE BOOK "B"

1823

Part 4

This series began in the December 1990 issue of *Valley Leaves*. Book "A"—the book preceding this one—was not in evidence in the courthouse and I was unable to locate it. Most of these entries are for recovery of debt and few details are given. Most entries are copied almost verbatim omitting only unnecessary or repetitious words. Continued from the June 1991 issue. Copied and abstracted by Dorothy Scott Johnson.

Page 18 - July 8, 1823

Alexander McAllister) Certiorari*
 vs.) On motion of the defendant's attorney and on suggestion of a dimi-
 Elijah Graham) nution of the record, it is ordered by the court that an alias certi-
 orari issue. [**A bill filed for purpose of removing a suit pending in an
 inferior court into Chancery Court on account of some alleged in-
 competency or inconvenience.* Black's Law Dictionary, 5th Edition.]

Page 19

A. W. Cotton) Certiorari
 vs.) On motion of the defendant's attorney and on suggestion of a dimi-
 Joel D. Harris) nution* of the record. It is ordered that an alias Certiotani. [*An act
 or process of diminishing; a word signifying that the record sent up
 from an inferior to a superior court for review is incomplete.* Black's
 Law Dictionary, 5th Edition.]

Robert Bransford) This day came the parties in person and prayed the said suit to be
 vs.) dismissed with each party paying half the cost. It is therefore ordered
 Ira Stout) by the Court that said suit be dismissed and that each pay half the
 cost of this suit.

Trotten & McGonegal) This day came the plaintiff by his attorney who prayed to withdraw
 vs.) said suit on the defendant paying court costs. And the defendant
 William Hicks) did so and case dismissed.

James Elam) Debt.
 vs.) This day came the plaintiff by his attorney. The defendants failed to
 John & Wm. Weather-) appear. The court ruled that the plaintiff is to recover against the
 ford & Joshu Samons) defendants \$60 debt plus \$2.80 damages plus costs.

Robert Bradford) This day came the parties and the plaintiff agreed to dismiss his suit
 vs.) against defendant each party paying half the costs. It is therefore
 Ira Stout) considered by the court that defendant recover against plaintiff one-
 half the costs by him paid.

Saml. Rhea & Co., Ass.) Case.
 vs.) Came the plaintiffs by their attorney. Defendant failed to appear.
 Thomas Glass) The court adjudged that plaintiffs recover against defendant \$166.
 plus costs.

County Court Minute Book "B" (-continued-)

- James M. Banks & Co.) This day came plaintiffs by their attorney and dismissed this suit
vs.) whereupon Thomas Ashford, one of the defendants, came into court
Thomas Ashford) and paid the costs of the suit. Plaintiff to recover his cost from the
defendant.
- J. Grey & Johnson) This day came the plaintiffs by their attorney and dismiss their
vs.) suit. It is considered by the Court that defendant be dismissed and
John Payne) recover his costs from plaintiff.
- George Morrow) This day came the plaintiffs by their attorney and the defendant
for the use of &^c) being solemnly called came not. It is therefore considered by the
Gregg & Johnson) Court that the plaintiff recover of the defendant.
vs.)
Thomas Haslip)
- Levi J. & A. G. Guest) This day came the plaintiffs by their attorney and the defendant being
vs.) solemnly called came not. It is therefore considered by the Court that
Wm. Carpenter and) the plaintiffs recover of the defendants \$591.63 debt with \$11.83
Enoch Carpenter) damages plus costs.
- Willis Pope, asse. &^c) This day came plaintiff by his attorney and dismisses the suit where-
vs.) upon the defendant came into court and assumes the payment of the
Bird Linticum) cost of said suit. It is considered by the court, therefore, that plaintiff
recover of the defendant his costs about his suit in this behalf.
- Noah Datart &^c) This day came the plaintiff by his attorney and the defendant comes
vs.) into court and acknowledges the plaintiff's case. Therefore it is con-
James McAllister) sidered by the Court that the plaintiff recover against the defendant
the sum of \$50 debt plus \$1.33 damages plus costs. Plaintiff agrees
to stay the execution of the Judgment until the [blank] day of
January next.
- D. W. McClung) This day came the plaintiff by his attorney and the defendant came
vs.) into court and acknowledges the plaintiff's action. Therefore it is con-
James McAllister) sidered by the Court that plaintiff recover from defendant \$50 plus
sum of 75 Cents damages plus costs. The plaintiff agrees to stay the
execution of undgement until the [blank] day of January next.

ORDERED that James M. Newsom be permitted to retail spirituous liquors for the term of 12 months from the date of his permit and that license issue to him accordingly.

ORDERED that Javan McVay be permitted to retail spirituous liquors for the term of 12 months from the date of his permit and that license issue accordingly.

-To be continued in the December 1991 issue of *Valley Leaves*-

INDEX TO DEED BOOK C, 1824-1829

Indexes are important for all the obvious reasons plus some not so obvious. Often it helps locate ancestors in an area in which one would never dream of looking. Too, if a county with extant early records (such as Lawrence) is next to a totally burned-out county (such as Franklin) then one might be pleasantly surprised to find records in the non burned-out county pertaining to the burned-out county. There are a number of deeds in this book pertaining to Franklin County residents. Many deeds of gift and other instruments of genealogical and historical significance are recorded. The Lawrence Co. Hist. Commission is running abstracts of this book in *Old Lawrence Reminiscences*.

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Limestone

The Alabama Courier.

BY COURIER PUBLISHING CO.

ROBT RAWLS -- EDITOR,

AUGUST 29, 1889.

The following article from *The Alabama Courier* was copied and contributed by Eulalia Wellden, formerly of Limestone County and currently of Madison County.

THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME

The reunion of old citizens last Thursday was not only grand in conception but was a splendid success in all of its appointments and designs. It was gotten up solely for the pleasure and entertainment of the old citizens, male and female, sixty years old and upward, of Limestone county. One hundred and eleven of the grandest old men and women came forward and had their names registered. It was a beautiful sight never before seen in Athens if indeed in the Southland and one never to be forgotten.

A large platform was erected in the court-house yard and was tastefully decorated with beautiful evergreens and ornaments with bright national flags. A selected choir of beautiful young ladies under the direction of Mrs. W. B. Russell and Miss Lizzie Shields at the the organ, were seated and furnished the music for the occasion while Dr. Will Hagan was taking down the names.

Mrs. Dr. McWilliams entertained the audience with quite a number of instrumental selections which she executed in her usual artistic manner and style which was highly appreciated by the vast crowd.

At 11:30 a.m. the meeting was called to order by the chairman, John T. Tanner. Rev. John Turrentine was too feeble to be present and Rev. D. M. Legg was requested to open

the service with prayer and the good old man seemed inspired for the occasion . . .

Rev. M. N. Morris, of the M. E. church of our town was next to take the stand. His speech was appropriate to the occasion and made a fine impression on the entire audience.

Short speeches, not longer than five minutes, were now in order in which Uncle John Carter, Capt. Bailey of Decatur, Capt. C. W. Raisler, Prof. Hanserd, W. W. Pearson and others participated.

. . . John T. Tanner, chairman, made the welcome address and announced that the hour for the banquet had arrived and at 1:30 the ladies were escorted to the spread on the green sward in the Court-house yard. The old men were next invited and then every one present was requested to participate regardless of age, including a number of old colored men who have long been residents. The ladies of the town prepared and served the feast and a more elegant and sumptuous repast was never had in Athens before. . . .

Marshall Todd was on the ground and contributed valuable service in carving at the table and by his presence alone preserved the peace and good order of the town.

The Model Church, solo, was loudly called for and Mrs. W. B. Russell rendered it as no one else could to the great applause

The Old Folks at Home (-continued-)

of the entire audience. . . .

The following are the names of those who were present:

D. M. Legg, 65
 A. Broadway, 64
 Daniel McElyen, 70
 A. B. King, 75
 T. J. Glaze, 79
 L. R. Weatherford, 77
 J. P. S. Wood, 65
 Mrs. Polly Sheriff, 65
 H. W. Tisdale, 70
 Mrs. E. Crouson, 78
 Wm. Knowles, 66
 N. E. Sheriff, 69
 Edward Smith, 61
 Caleb Smith, 69
 Thompson Davis, 63
 Jas. Lambert, 68
 D. O. Bentley, 66
 Soloman Crouch, 66
 M. G. Coffman, 69
 Mrs. Margaret Johnston, 66
 Adam Figures, 63
 Mrs. M. Broadway, 62
 Mrs. M. Figan, 62
 Mrs. A. Robertson, 71
 A. A. Clem, 72
 T. L. Terry, 66
 W. H. Gibson, 67
 J. T. Andrews, 71
 Clem W. Johnson, 68
 W. G. Lewis, 61
 T. T. Tweedy, 61
 C. F. Hardiman, 70
 Jno. P. Turner, 76
 J. D. Terry, 77
 A. P. Higgins, 67
 Dr. Wm. Leslie, 66
 P. H. D. Newby, 61
 E. H. Holland, 63
 J. E. Hoges, 61
 C. B. Hayes, 65
 Mrs. C. B. Hayes, 63
 J. W. Woodroof, 76
Mr. Mary Clardy, 60

B. S. McKinney, 72
 J. W. Hartsell, 69
 A. J. Weatherford, 74
 Dr. G. W. Johnson, 65
 Edward Legg, 61
 Mrs. S. C. Tanner, 72
 Allen Pool, 72
 L. J. Nixon, 65
 M. C. Isom, 65
 Emanuel Isom, 76
 Mrs. S. E. Owen, 66
 Mrs. C. Witty, 80
 D. M. Gordon, 68
 Mrs. L. J. Legg, 62
 Mrs. Eve McAllister, 73
 J. T. Tanner, 69
 Mrs. Jason O. Tanner, 60
 A. A. Greenhaw, 60
 Thos. Stewart, 69
 J. W. Christopher, 66
 W. S. Harvey, 60
 W. R. Hanserd, Sr., 77
 W. W. Phillips, 72
 Jno. Oblinger, 63
 W. G. Martin, 63
 S. T. Glaze, 61
 C. A. Hattchett, 68
 L. Buckner, 84
 R. A. Glaze, 89
 A. J. Venable, 61
 Anderson Clem, 66
 W. B. Holt, 73
 Richard Henderson, 82
 J. W. Clardy, 69
 T. J. Wales, 85
 J. W. Carter, 71
 A. D. Crawford, 66
 H. B. Graham, 75
 J. A. Johnson, 64
 J. W. Davis, 66
 T. J. Stewart, 79
 S. C. Jordon, 65
 S. W. Puryear, 79



The Old Folks at Home (-continued-)

T. F. Bates, 61
 Joe Kennemore, 69
 J. E. Hatchett, 64
 W. E. Malone, 63
 W. W. Peerson, 61
 W. Harrel, 71
 A. Smith, 71
 S. F. Davis, 60
 J. H. Collier, 61
 Lem Johnston, 62
 Mrs. Mary Bellew, 77
 Mrs. M. L. Johnston, 62

P. G. Dunovant, 60
 A. P. Davis, 63
 H. T. Tyler, 68
 Mrs. Melvin Martin, 78
 Allen Webb, 72
 Maj. A. C. Legg, 69
 N. C. Hodges, 71
 Mrs. Amelia Holt, 65
 Warren Mason, 66
 R. C. Stinnett, 61
 C. W. Raisler, 62
 Matthew Ramsey, 70

+++++

DR. JOSHUA P. COMAN APPOINTED PROBATE JUDGE

Dr. Joshua P. Coman has received the appointment of Judge of Probate for Limestone County, [replacing] Silas Thurlow, deceased. We mean no reflection on the other applicants when we say this is a good appointment. Dr. Coman is one of the oldest citizens in our county, is a high-toned, worthy gentleman, has served the people in various public capacities, always giving satisfaction, and we have no doubt this action of Gov. Smith will meet the approbation of the people generally. [*The Athens Weekly Post*, 19 December 1869.]

DEATH BY FREEZING

We learn that Mrs. Mary Menefee, a woman of bad repute, froze to death in the upper edge of this county on Christmas night. [*The Athens Weekly Post*, 2 January 1869.]

C. M. HAYES APPOINTED CLERK

Dr. J. P. Coman [Probate Judge] has secured the services of our young friend C. M. Hayes as clerk in the Probate Office. Mr. Hayes is an industrious, steady young man and we congratulate Judge Coman on having secured his services for he will discharge his duties satisfactorily because of his experience and familiarity with the clerical duties of the office—and his courtesy to those having business with him. [*The Athens Weekly Post*, Saturday, 2 January 1869.]

DEED BOOK 2
1825
(Part 5)

Deeds are an often-overlooked source of genealogy and history. The following deeds are from Deed Record Book 2 located in the Limestone County Archives in Athens, Alabama. They were abstracted and contributed by Dorothy Scott Johnson. All persons mentioned in these deeds were residents of Limestone County unless otherwise stated. This series began in Vol. 24 and is continued from the last issue of *Valley Leaves*.

Pages 66-68 Deed of Trust
3 June 1825
Ebenezer Darbey/Darby, debtor
Thomas Harris, trustee
James Inglis, trustee

Darby deeds to Harris and Inglis, in trust the following property:

One horse
35-40 head of hogs
one horse cart
8 head of sheep
plough and gear [sic]
4 yearlings [probably cattle]

Said property deeded in trust to secure the following debts:

Samuel McAllister - \$10.
Campbell Thach - \$18.
John Murphy - \$20.
John Dwyer - \$3.43³/₄
Dunkin & Edmondson - \$20.25
Wm. Dewoody & Co. - \$4.50
Keep & Looney - \$3.82
Amos Vincent & Co. - \$23.70
Enos Askew - \$15.
James D. Scott - \$4.
Joseph L. Sloss - \$20.
N. P. Bond - \$10.
Amos Vincent (as guardian for William Vincent for hire of negro) - \$30.
Bayne & Walker - \$3.

Darby is to remain in possession of property until 1 March 1826 after which time the trustees are to sell the property at public auction and pay the debts. If Darby pays the debts before 1 March 1826 then this deed is void.

Delivered for Recording 4 July 1825.

-To be continued-

ROUTH-McCLURE BIBLE

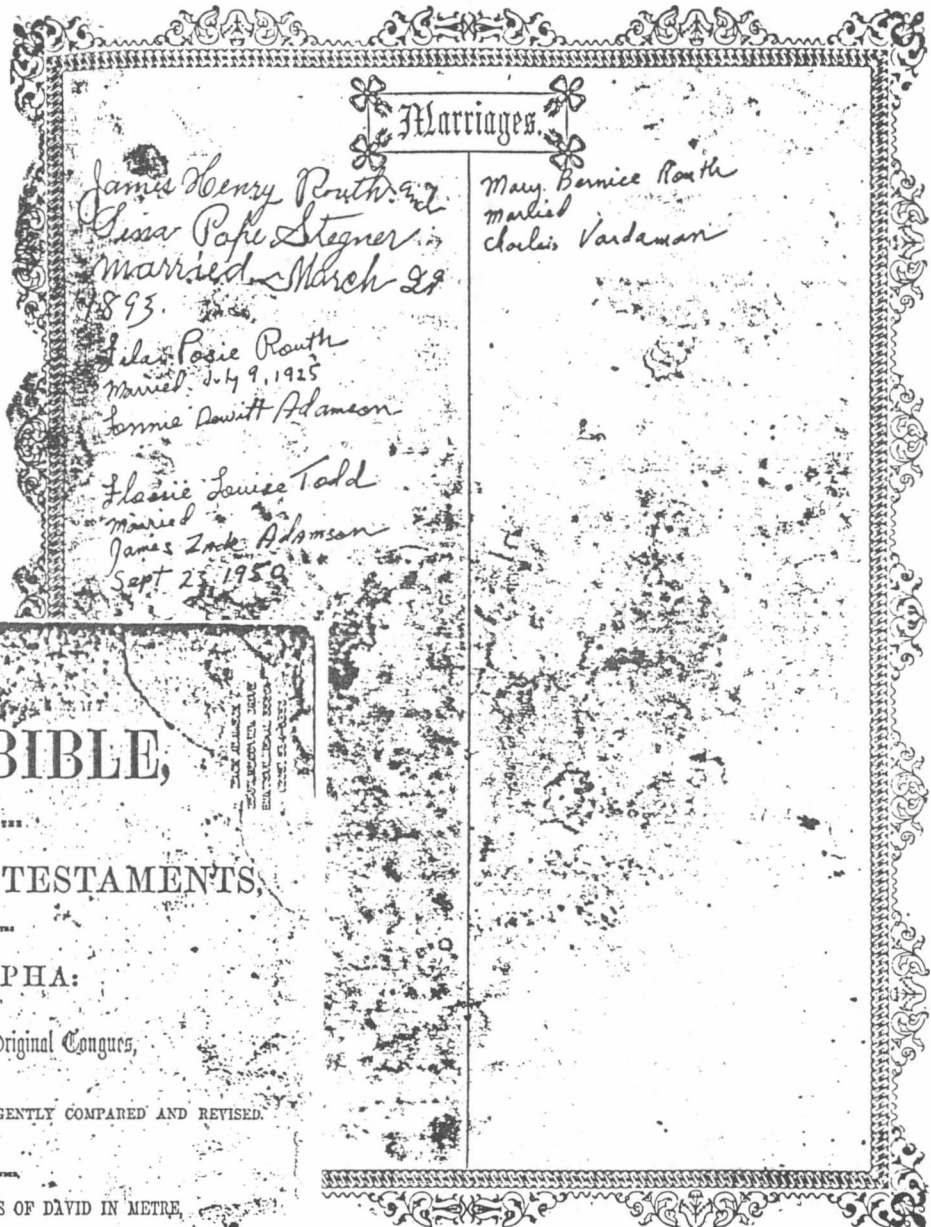
This Bible is owned by James Zack Adamson and contributed to TVGS by him through the courtesy of Joe Nalls, both of Huntsville. Bible published in 1855.

MARRIAGES

James Henry Routh and
Lena Pope Stogner
married March 29
1893.

Lila Posie Routh
married July 9, 1925
Lonnie Dewitt Adamson

Flossie Louise Todd
Married
James Zack Adamson
Sept. 23, 1950



Second column:
Mary Bernice Routh
married
Charles Vardaman

Routh-McClure Bible (-continued-)

BIRTHS

James Cannon Routh was born the 10th of April A. D., 1835.

Mary Routh was born the 27th of May A.D., 1834.

Henry Leonidas Routh was born the 6th of October 1861.

Lena Pope Routh was born the 17 Sept. A.D., 1872.

Mary Bernice Routh was born the 29 of Dec. A. D., 1893.

Lila Posie Routh was born the 14 Jan. A. D., 1901.

James Zack Adamson May 2, 1926.

James Michael Adamson Nov. 23, 1951.

Richard Todd Adamson May 25, 1954.

Lonnie Brian Adamson 13 Sept. 1959.

(Second Column)

Pleasant Miller Routh was born the 15th of October 1808.

Narcissus Routh was born the 26th of April 1813.

Elizabeth Eveline Routh was born the 21st June 1827.

Clarissa Harlow Routh was born the 13th of April 1813.

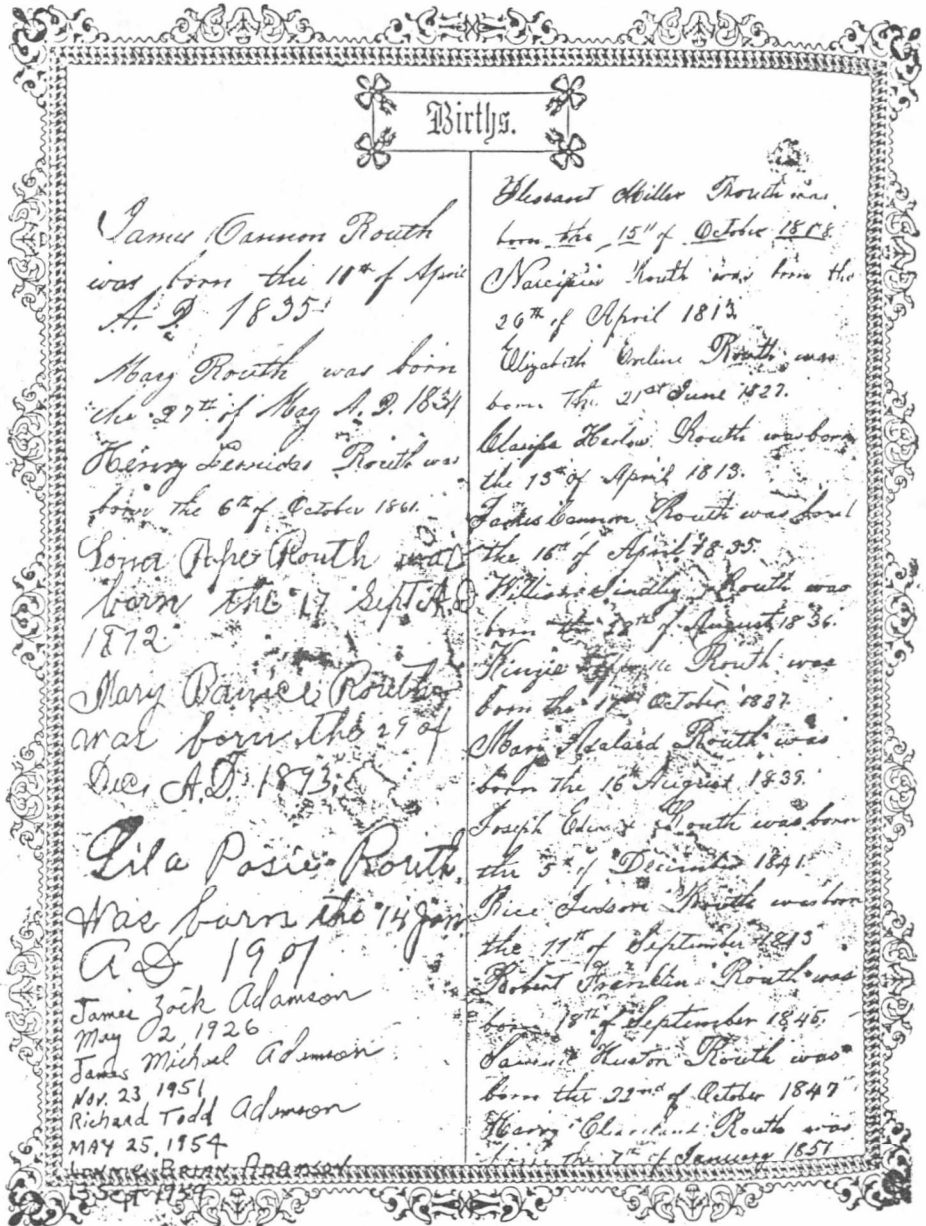
James Cannon Routh was born the 16th of April 1835.

William Sindley Routh was born the 28th of August 1836.

Kinzie J.....ille Routh was born the 17th October 1837.

Mary Adalaid Routh was born the 16th August 1839.

Joseph Edward Routh was born the 5th of December 1841.



Routh-McClure Bible (-continued-)

BIRTHS

Alfred Woodville Routh was born the 6th of September 1851.

Frances Adelia Josephine Routh was born the 25th of May 1853.

Ann Eliza Routh was born the 4th of July 1855.

Robert McClure was born the 27th of June 1809.

Martha McClure was born the 27th of June 1813.

Mary McClure was born the 27th May 1834.

Ruci McClure was born the 3rd of June 1835.

Sarah Ann McClure was born the 22nd of November 1836.

(Second Column)

Henry Campbell McClure was born the 4th of June 1839.

Harriet McClure was born the 10th of August 1841.

Emily Jane McClure was born the 23rd of April 1843.

John McClure was born the 23rd of April 1845.

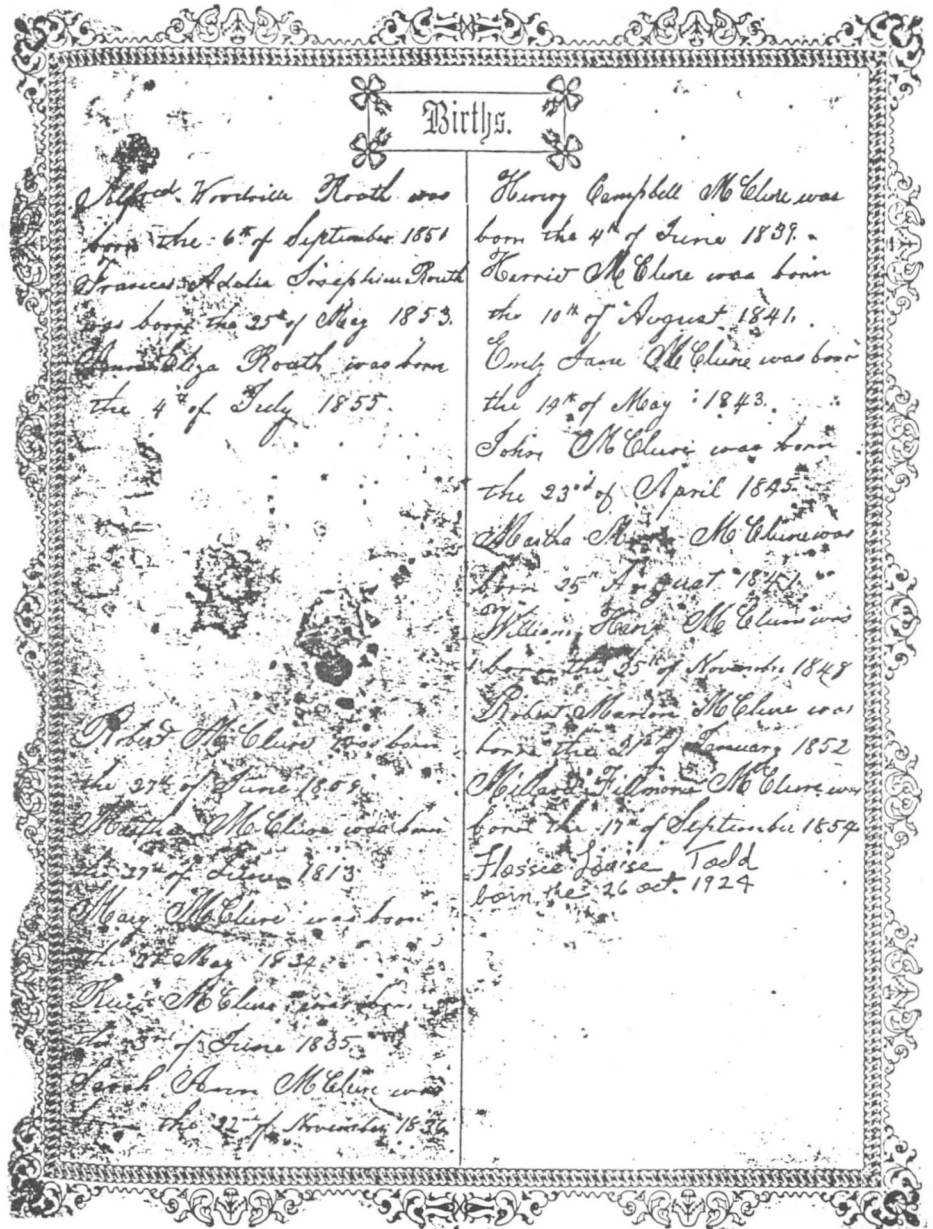
Martha M.....McClure was born 25th August 1841.

William Henry McClure was born the 25th of November 1848.

Robert Marion McClure was born the 21st of January 1852.

Millard Fillmore McClure was born the 17th of September 1854.

Flossie Louise Todd, born the 26 Oct. 1924.



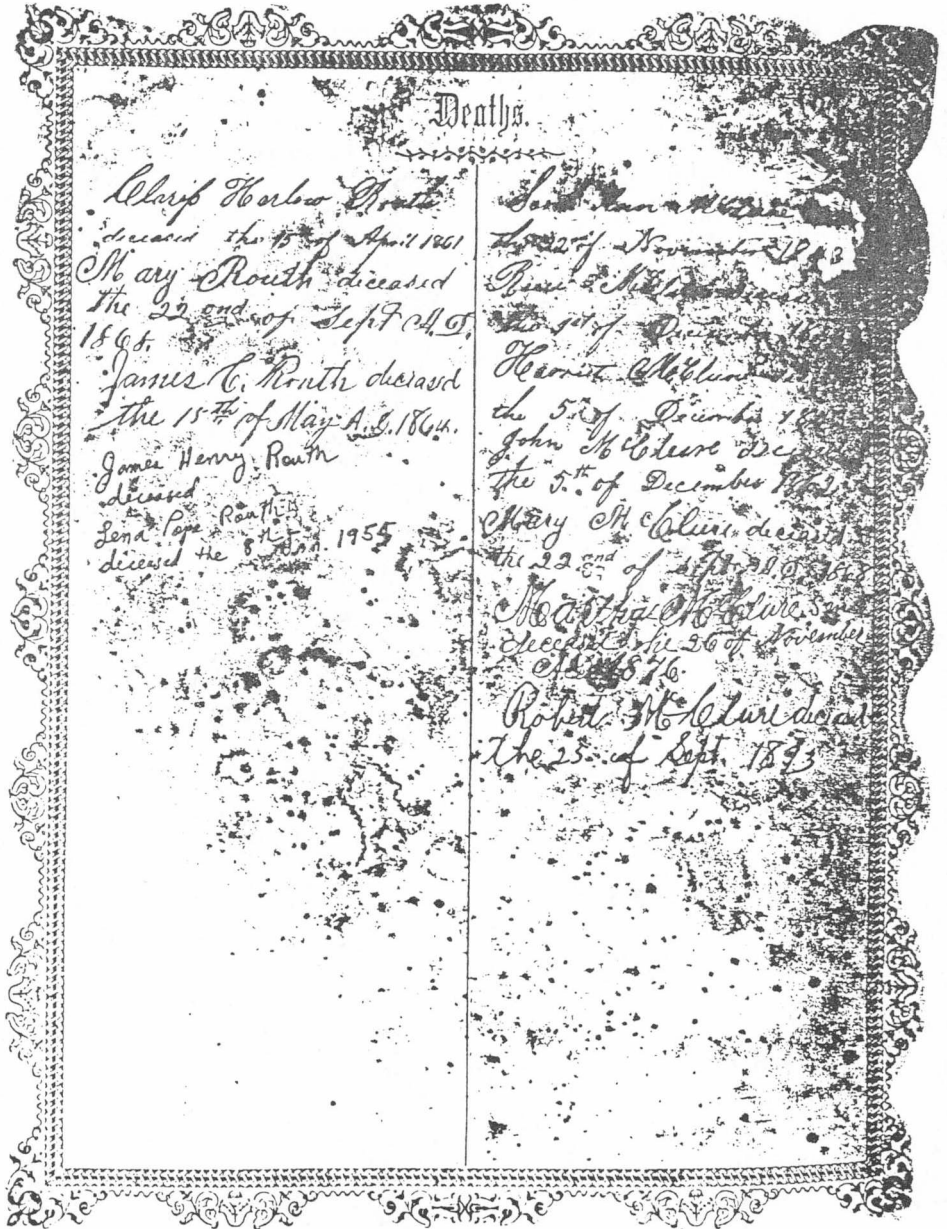
Routh-McClure Bible (-continued-)

DEATHS

Clariss Harlow Routh de-
 ceased the 15th of April 1861.
 Mary Routh deceased the
 22ond of Sept. A.D., 1868.
 James C. Routh deceased
 the 15th of May A. D. 1864.
 James Henry Routh de-
 ceased.
 Lena Pope Routh de-
 ceased the 8th Jan. 1955.

(Second Column)

Sarah Ann McClure de-
 ceased the 22nd of November
 1843.
 Reece McClure deceased
 the 1st of December, 1843.
 Harriet McClure deceased
 the 5th of December 1843.
 John McClure deceased
 the 5th of December 1862.
 Mary McClure deceased
 the 22ond of Sept. A. D.,
 1868.
 Martha McClure Sen. de-
 ceased the 26 of November
 A. D., 1876.
 Robert McClure deceased
 the 25 of Sept. 1893.



-End Routh-McClure Bible-

JOHN RHEA ESTATE (File No. 1006).

I promis to pay John Rhea gardeeen of John and Margret Wright airs of William Wright, deceased,
 it being thare part of thare grand fathers estate, two hundred and fifty nine Dollars and forty seven
 cents, with in trust from Date on or before the tenth of March 1831. [Dated Feb. 11th 1830.
 Signed by Hopkins Lacy.] Source: John Rhea Estate File No. 1006.

Marshall

September 1991

DEED BOOK "A" 1836-1840

(Part 4)

Marshall County was established in 1836 from what had been Cherokee land plus small portions from Blount and Jackson Counties. The portion taken from Jackson County was that land north of the Tennessee River that included the town of Claysville, the first county seat of Marshall County. Many of the early instruments recorded in this book are dated in Jackson County and were by persons who lived in that part of Marshall that was once Jackson.

As with most early north-Alabama deed books, you will find instruments recorded other than the various kinds of deeds; there are also mortgages, bills of sale, indentures of minors, and other instruments of genealogical significance. All persons mentioned are of Marshall County unless so stated.

Page 21
Warranty Deed
4 June 1836

Percival M. Bush sells to Arthur C. Beard for \$100 the following land in Marshall County:

SE part of Section 28-7-3E containing 179.22 acres.

Said parcel of land was purchased of Jno. Blackwood on 4 April 1835 and deeded by him to Beard and Bush. This deed is intended to convey Bush's interest to Beard.

Ack. by Bush 4 June 1836 and recorded same day.

Note: No wife mentioned and no relinquishment of dower.

Page 22
Warranty Deed
4 June 1836

Thomas Ricketts and Sarah Ricketts, his wife, for \$800 sell to Arthur C. Beard the following land in Marshall County:

N/2 SE/4 Sec. 27-7-3E containing 179.55 acres

Said land includes tenements and appurtenances.

Sarah relinquished her right of dower and the deed was acknowledged by Thomas on 4 June 1836. Recorded same day.

Pages 23-24
Warranty Deed
4 June 1836

Arthur C. Beard, and Jane F. Beard, his wife, and Percival M. Bush sell to John M. Tate for \$7,750., land in Marshall County [one tract containing 640 acres given in metes and bounds and not copied here], and:

the northern part of fractional Section 17-7-4E containing 39 acres; also the SE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 6-7-4E containing 40.08 acres.

Witness: Wm. H. C. Wheeler.

Acknowledged by Arthur C. Beard and Jane F. relinquished her right of dower on 4 June 1836.

Pages 24-26
Deed of Trust
14 May 1836

George Lay, Debtor
Manning & Ricketts, Creditors.

John A. Maroney, Trustee

Lay owes Manning & Ricketts one note in the amount of \$82.37½

Deed Book A, 1836-1840 (-continued-)

due 16 March last [1836]. Lay also owes the Branch of the Bank of Alabama in Decatur a note for \$600 plus interest on which Manning & Ricketts is his security.

Lay, wishing to secure Manning & Ricketts against loss, deeds to John A. Maroney, in trust, the following property:

The W/2 NW/4 Sec. 3-7-3E containing 81 acres.

Also a negro girl named Sally, age 7 years,

Two horses and six cows and calves.

If the amount of \$703, either in part or whole, is not repaid by 7 March 1837 then Maroney to sell property to the highest bidder at public auction and pay debt.

Recorded 7 June 1836.

Page 26
Ordination of S. W.
Woolard

State of Tennessee) The Baptist church on Bailing[?] of Elk River
) on conference September the 19th 1825 send
Franklin County) eth Greetings:

To all whom it may concern, know ye that we have called on beloved Brother Swaim W. Woolard to the labor of the Ministry with us and in the face of a full assembly met after necessary enquiry by a Presbytery, was according to our rittuals in use, ordained a preacher of the Gospel by Prayer and the laying on of hands by:

Elder William Martin

Elder Hezekiah Lasater, Junr.

Joseph Miller, Deacon

Barton Norman, Deacon.

Filed 8 June 1836 and recorded same day.

Pages 26-27
Deed of Trust
11 May 1836

Robert Steele, debtor
John C. Johnson, creditor
Swift Austin, trustee.

Robert Steele sells to Swift Austin, in trust, Land in Marshall Co., Alabama, it being bounded on the north side by the Tennessee River, on the east side by the improvements of Jane Edwards, on the south by a lagoon and on the west by an improvement formerly owned by one Mackmullen and being the improvement on which the said Robert Steele now lives, about 3/4 mile below Gunters Landing and containing about 25 acres more or less. The sale is made with the express condition as follows: Steele owes John C. Johnson \$65 and if the debt is not paid by 5 December next [1836] then Austin is to sell the property at public auction to the highest bidder for cash after giving ten days notice.

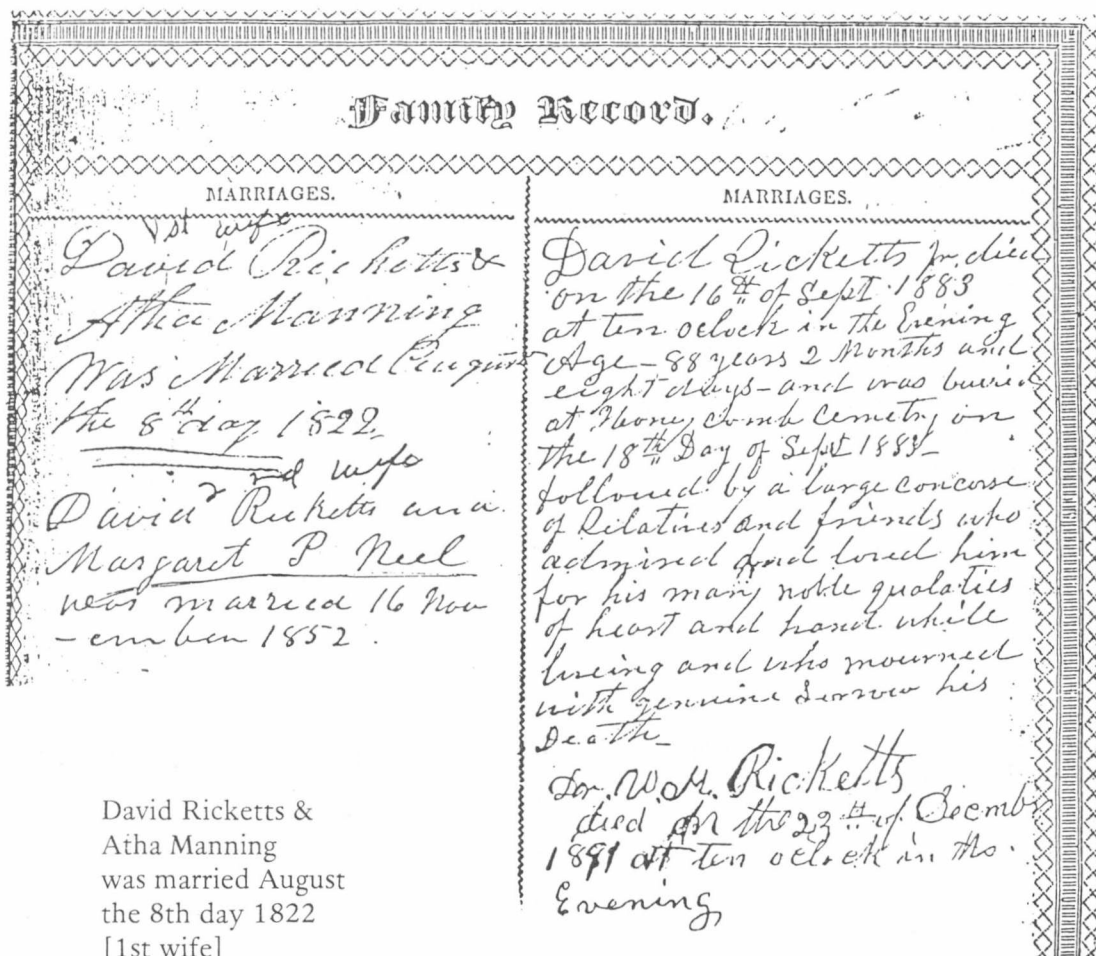
Witness: Swift Austin and Thomas D. Johnson.

-To be continued-



RICKETTS FAMILY BIBLE

The Ricketts Bible was contributed by Dawn (Ricketts) Oswalt of Guntersville, AL (5816 Leonard St. 35976). This family migrated from Virginia, via Jefferson Co., Tn., to the Honeycomb Valley in Marshall County.



David Ricketts &
Atha Manning
was married August
the 8th day 1822
[1st wife]

David Ricketts and
Margaret P. Neel
was married 16th Nov-
ember 1852

Second Column

David Ricketts jr. died
on the 16th of Sept. 1883
at ten oclock in the Evening
Age 88 years 2 months and
eight days—and was buried
at Honey comb cemetery on
the 18th Day of Sept. 1883
followd by a large concorse
of Relatives and friends who
admired and loved him

for his many noble qualaties
of heart and hand while
living and who mourned
with genuine sorrow his
Death.

Dr. W. M. Ricketts
died on the 23th of Secmbr
1891 at ten oclock in the
Evening.

Family Record.

DEATHS.

DEATHS.

Abel Ricketts was born October the 1st 1755 and died the 25th day of December 1804 and aged 49 years two months and 25 days

Abel Ricketts was born October the 1st 1755 and died the 25th day of December 1804 and aged 49 years two months and 25 days

Nancy Manning died the 16th of March 1845 in the 69th year of her age

Mary Ricketts was born the 29th day October 1756 and died the 19th day of August 1835 aged 78 years nine months and 20 days.

Mary Ricketts was born the 29th day October 1756 and died the 19th day of August 1835 aged 78 years nine months and 20 days

Atha Ricketts die October the 9th day 1849 aged 51 years 6 months 24 days at 7 o'clock P.M.

William Manning died the 25th day of February 1836 ... 1/2 after nine o'clock at night

William Manning died the 25th day of February 1836 1/2 after nine o'clock at night

Nancy Riche die 17th day April 1850

Elizabeth Baker died 22 February 1841 1/2 after 10 o'clock P. M.

Elizabeth Baker died 22 February 1841 1/2 after 10 o'clock P.M.

Margaret P Ricketts second wife of David Ricketts die the night of the 7th March 1856 at 1 o'clock A.M. aged 48 eight years 2 months and 19 days

Abel Ricketts died 23 day of February 1869 aged 46 years and eight months lacking 3 days.

Abel Ricketts died 23 day of February 1869 aged 46 years and eight months lacking 3 days

Thomas B Ricketts die 10th day of November 18... at 8 o'clock A.M. aged 2 years four months and three days

Second Column

Nancy Mammy died the 16 of March 1845 in the 69th year of her age

Margaret P. Ricketts, second wife of David Ricketts died the night of the 7th March 1856 at 1 o'clock A. M. aged 48 eight years 2 months and 19 days

Thomas B. Ricketts died 10th day of November 18... at 8 o'clock A. M. aged 2... years 4 months and three days.

Atha Ricketts died October the 9th day 1849 aged 51 years 6 months, 24 days at 7 o'clock P. M.

Family Record.

BIRTHS.

BIRTHS.

David Ricketts was born
July the 8th day 1795.

Atha Ricketts his
Wife was born March
the 16th day 1798

Stephen Manning
was born 26th day
September 1818

Abel L. J. Ricketts was
born June the 26th
day 1823

Maryann Ricketts
was born July the 9th
day 1825

Nancy Ricketts was
born September the
30th day 1827

Sarah Ricketts and
Elizabeth Ricketts
Twins was born
November the 18th
day 1829

Sarah 15 Minets the
Oldest

William M. Ricketts
was born the 20th day
of February 1833

Thomas Benton Ricketts
was born August the
4th 1836

John Ricketts was
born August the
31st 1838

Joannah Ricketts
was born the 16th
July 1841

Sarah Ricketts and
Elizabeth Ricketts
Twins was born
November the 18th [28th?]
day 1829.
Sarah 15 Minets the
oldest.

William M. Ricketts
was born the 20th day
of February 1833

Thomas Benton Ricketts
was born August the
7th 1836

John Ricketts was
born August the
31st 1838.

Joannah Ricketts
was born the 16th
July 1841

David Ricketts was born
July th 8th day 1795

Atha Ricketts, his
wife was born March
the 16th day 1798

Stephen Manning
was born 26th day
September 1818

Abel L. J. Ricketts was
born June the 26th
day 1823

Maryann Ricketts
was born July the 9th
day 1825

Nancy Ricketts was
born September the
30th day 1827

Family Record.

BIRTHS.

Margaret P Ricketts
 2nd wife of David
 Ricketts was born 17
 day of December 1807

Margaret P. Ricketts
 Second wife of David
 Ricketts was born 17
 day of December 1807

Second Column

DEATHS

Joannah Emaline Parkhill
 Died 28 June 1861 aged
 two months 22 days

Maryann Parkhill died
 5th day of December 1862
 aged thirty seven years
 twenty Six days

David Ricketts Parkhill
 died 22d august 1863
 aged thirteen years two
 months and nineteen
 days

Sarah Manning died
 14th March 1865 aged 34
 years 4 months and
 4 days

Joannah daughter of
 David and Atha Ricketts
 died July 22d 1866 aged
 25 years and Six days ma[?]
 buried by the Side of
 each other near the big
 Spring Marshall county Ala
 on Mr. Mahaffey's land

Deaths - BIRTHS.

Joannah Emaline Parkhill
 Died 28 June 1861 aged
 two months 22 days

Maryann Parkhill died
 5th day of December 1862
 aged thirty seven years
 twenty six days

David Ricketts Parkhill
 died 22 August 1863
 aged thirteen years two
 months and nineteen
 days

Sarah Manning died
 14th March 1865 aged 34
 years 4 months and
 4 days

Joannah daughter of
 David and Atha Ricketts
 died July 22 1866 aged
 25 years and six days ma
 buried by the Side of
 each other near the big
 Spring Marshall County Ala
 on Mr. Mahaffey's land

Sarah Ricketts was born
 July the 8th 1789 and died
 January the 15th 1867 aged
 Seventy seven years
 Six months and Seven
 days

Andy Moore died
 April 7 1950

Sarah Ricketts was born
 July the 8th 1789 and died
 January the 15th 1867 aged
 Seventy Seven years
 Six months and Seven
 days

Andy Moore died
 April 7, 1950

Morgan

RECORD BOOK 1

1821 - 1834

(Part 4)

In comparing Cotaco County Record Book 1 to Register 1 there appears to be some duplication in the beginning. After the first few pages, however, the type of material covered in Record Book 1 is entirely different from Register 1. For that reason we have chosen to run Record Book 1 in its entirety even though we have already published Register 1. Record Book 1 begins 7 May 1821 and ends 18 August 1834. Continued from the March, 1991 issue of *Valley Leaves*. Abstracted by Dorothy Scott Johnson.

Page 11

Ordered that the following men, to wit: William Dancy, James Gillespie, John Adams, Henry Johnson, Greenville Burnett, John Menifee & Henry W. Rhodes, be and they are hereby appointed a jury to view and work the road from Decatur to near the mouth of Mud Tavern[?] Creek.

Ordered that the following men, towit: Larkin Owens, Joseph Inman, Drury Stovall, John Martin, Joseph Easley, James Morrow and Jonathan Basham be appointed a jury to view and mark out a road from the mouth of Mud Tavern Creek thence as near a direction as practicable to the south west corner of the county near Basham's.

Ordered that Joseph Clift, Drury Stovall, Dennis Holmes, and William Lynn be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to view and report to the next term of this court agreeably to the Acts of Assembly, the turnpike road authorized to be cut by Thomas D. Crabb and his associates, leading from the southern boundary line of Township 8, Range 4 or 5 to the falls of Tuscaloosa River.

Page 12

Court adjourned.

A Special County Court began and held at the Courthouse in the Town of Somerville on the 20th day of November 1821. Present: Robert Tapscott, Esqr., Judge. The following list of overcharged, remained, and insolvent debtors for taxes for the year 1821 was reported by Matthew Cyrus, Esqr., Collector for the County:

Page 13

Cornelius Archer
Gabriel M. Barkley
James Felps
Jacob Jones
Atwell Summers
Littleton West
James Wright
Jesse Burnes
Robert Barkley
Marvin Kyle
John A. Rawlins
William Davis

Mason Burdon
Alisha Evans
Isaiah Hollingsworth
James Sanders
William S. Taylor
Joseph Wilson
Barnabas Wallace
Robert Fasem[?]
Joseph Taylor
Dunkin Patterson
Joel Lewis
Henry Maycock

Record Book 1 (-continued-)

(Page 13)	William McDaniel	Alexander Nelson
	Joseph Nelson	Wilson Oakes
	Jacob Pickles	John Russell
	Jonathan Starky	James Shields
	Abraham Jinkens	William Bradley
	Robert Ellison, Junr.	Joseph Rowe
	George Sharp	Stephen C. Renno[?]
	Alexander McFerrun[?]	William Folkus
	David Thomas	John McCutcheon (Overcharged)
	David Wilks.	

Certified November 20, 1821

Page 14 Sommerville, Monday, 14 Jan. 1822
Present: Robert Tapscott, Esq., Judge.

John Torry vs. William Griffin and Nath. W. Dandridge.

Suit dropped due to "the defendants having paid the debt." Plaintiff to recover his costs from defendants.

William Priddy obtained a Writ of Ad quod damnum* on the third day of December, 1821. William Priddy stated he owned the SE/4 of Section 24-6-4W in Morgan County upon which he wished to erect a mill and other useful water works. Said writ was excuted and a summons to the several interested parties and owners to appear at the next term of court to be held on the 2nd Monday in July next to show cause, if any, why said Priddy should not have permission to build his mill and dam.

This day came Stephen Heard, one of the subscribing witnesses to a Bill of Sale for a certain negro girl named Charity, sold by Thomas Johnson to Presly Rector. Heard swears he saw Johnson sign and acknowledge the same.

Page 15 Tuesday Morning, January 15, 1822.
Present: Robert Tapscott, Esq., Judge of the County Court.

William Robinson vs. Thomas G. Brown.

This day came the defendant by his attorney and the plaintiff being solemnly called came to prosecute his suit.

Verdict: The court found in favor of the defendant and ordered defendant to recover his costs from plaintiff. [Note: No particulars of the case given.]

*Ad quod damnum: a writ "commanding the Sheriff to make inquiry as to what damage a specified act, if done, would cause.

MARY FINERTY DIES

Died at Joppa near Decatur, Ala., Mary, daughter of Cephas and Mary Hall and wife of A. J. Finerty. She was born in Patterson, New Jersey and died October 26, 1863 aged 26 years and 3 mo's. [Source: *The Marshall Eagle*, Guntersville, Marshall Co., Al. Nov. 11, 1853. Vol. 3, No. 21. William E. Peebles, Editor. Contributed by Judge William D. Page.]

GARTH FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

While browsing in the Swem Library of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, TVGS member Nancy Rohr found the following two Garth letters written from Morgan County. One letter was written by Jesse Winston Garth and the other was written by his nephew from his home. He was the progenitor of this illustrious family in north Alabama. Jesse Winston Garth was born in Albemarle County, Virginia 17 October 1788. He emigrated to what is now Morgan County, Alabama in 1817 and died there 8 September 1868. His wife, the former Unity Spottswood Dandridge (the daughter of Nathaniel West Dandridge) was born in 1799 in Hanover County, Virginia and died in Morgan County, Alabama 24 October 1833 as a result of child birth.

These letters are published here with the permission of Swem Library, College of William and Mary. They were transcribed and contributed by Nancy Rohr of Huntsville. Only some paraphrasing has been added to make the content more understandable.

17 July 1819

Dear Uncle,

Perhaps it will not be uninteresting to learn the Prospects before us in Alabama: the times are peculiarly hard. Cotton has fallen one half from its price when I was with you: and provisions are uncommonly high: the Sales of public Lands continue and no doubt will be kept up during the next year:¹ I am inclined to Suspect that you never can do better from one of your Boys than to Send them to this place to attend the Land Sales: if you were to lend them a few hundred dollars and they were to use it with Judgment, in a couple of years a good property would be made: I have done But little for myself since I left Va. the weather Being very Bad travelling out has rendered my health indifferent and prevented me from attending to Business: I am now in usual health and hope to profit by the full Sales.

If you think proper to send one of your sons out to try his fortune he may have such interest in what we make: as the money he furnishes will enable him to (at the same time I will hold myself responsible that the money is not lost to you if you place it under my control). If you think proper to embrace this offer it will be unnecessary to send money by the one you Send, But deposite it in the hand of E. Anderson Richmond to be Drawn for in 90 days from the time he starts which will enable him time to get here and make arrangements before the money is used: he will have a rough life if he comes: and you may not start him for[th] in frolick. I hope you are well.

[Jesse] W[inston] Garth

The following letters were written by Jesse B. and Susan Garth to Jesse B's parents, Jesse and Elizabeth Garth in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Monday Morning, 7 October 1833. Morgan County, Alabama

Dear Father and Mother,

I set down to inform you that we have arrived safe at Cozen J. W. Garth's after breaking our axletree once more—the same new one I had [put on?] when I

¹ In July 1818 Jesse Winston Garth patented over 1479 acres in Morgan County and before he died he had patented over 7170 acres in Morgan County alone. This does not include land he purchased from individuals or land he patented and/or purchased from individuals in other counties or states. The 1850 census lists him as having 89 slaves and an estate valued at \$75,000. By 1860 he had 125 slaves and his estate was valued at \$225,000.

Garth Family Correspondence (-continued-)

wrote to you before: the first only lasted six day. we landed here last evening about an hour and a half [since?], found Aunt Unity very low in bed. she has been sick a week, she had a daughter last saturday and still lays very low the doctor think's her case doubtful.

Cozen Winston left here before she was taken sick nor did he expect she would be confined before his return from the land sales in Mississippi which will take place the 22nd inst. I shall set off in the morning for John H. McKennies. Cozen Winston requested me not to stay 15 minutes when I landed at his house as the time is short and it is very necessary to explore the county before the sales come on.

We were just 26 days coming here after loosing 1½ days on the road, our expenses were \$38.74½ cent, beside the horse swap I mentioned in my other letter. our horses performed fine. they are a little reduced but not more than could be expected as we traveled very fast—the last 8 days some time 33 miles per day averaging the whole distance 23 or 24 miles per day including the [time] lost.

I some times met an acquaintance. I saw an old man just 10 miles below Huntsville, where I broke my axletree the [second?] time, by the name of Rowland Gouch [Gooch].² he new you and every body else in Albemarle. he says he used to live at the [Barracks?] near whare Uncle Garland now live. he moved from there to louisa County, and from there to Alabama, and is doing well. he helped me to make a new axle tree, was very kind and asked me about you all. he belongs to the Methodist Church.

You all have better corn crops than I have seen my whole rout. Cotton crops are something like an average taking the whole country through, not so good in parts and better in other parts. I believe I must conclude. I shall write you again when I return from Mississippi. Susan was sick two or 3 days on the road but has got well again, and we are all well at this time.

I am your son with respect

J. B. Garth

The following letter was written by Jesse B's wife, Susan.

Dear Father and Mother—

Jesse has written you I believe all the news therefore I shall say very little only to tell you we have arrived here at last after a pleasant journey safe and well. I said a pleasant journey, pleasant I suppose to what some has. we had not more than a days rain on us all the way. we found Aunt Garth very low indeed. I question indeed if she ever gets over it. she is know [now] entirely deranged from fever, things are so troubled you must excuse my bad written spelling and . . . of the letter . . . when Jesse returns we will write more lengthly. I shall not write to my Father and Mother until Aunt gets better or worse. nothing more but give my love to al friends and believe me yours—

ever affectionate daughter

Susan Garth

²Roland Gooch settled in Madison County at what is now the town of Madison. According to his tombstone in the Gooch Cemetery at Madison, he was born April 22, 1778 and died Aug. 29, 1850. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of William and Martha McGhee, born April 16, 1780 and died Feb. 25, 1858.

Queries

Queries are free to members. A maximum of 175 words per year per member is allowed. A maximum of 175 words per non-member may be published for a \$2.00 fee as space allows. All queries are edited and published at the discretion of the editor and we reserve the right to refuse to publish any query submitted. At least one full name, date and location should be included in each query. No "surname only" queries will be accepted.

1. **BARCLAY, LEDBETTER.**

Wish to corres. with persons interested in Joseph Barclay (b. ca 1790 NC, d. after 1870), married Mary "Polly" Ledbetter (b. Dec. 1789 Caswell Co., NC, dau. of Joel Ledbetter, gr-dau. of Rev. Henry Ledbetter). Joseph and Polly married 12 Aug 1810 Rhea Co., Tn and resided in Ky and in Madison, Marshall and Jackson Counties, Al. Joseph had 12 children, two of whom (Henry Brazelton Barclay and Archibald Barclay) migrated to Texas.

Nancy LaBelle, 1500 Richmond Road, No. 90, Santa Paula, CA 93060.

2. **BUTLER.**

Wish to corres. with anyone descended from, or who has info. on, Darius H. Butler, a native of Bertie Co., NC who migrated to and lived in Lauderdale Co., Al from 1832 until his death in 1877. Did he have a son named Alfred Butler who also a Bertie Co., NC native and who was b. there ca 1824? Alfred served in the Alabama Volunteers during Mexican War; presume he came to Al as a child with parents. Was Darius Butler in War of 1812? Was he Alfred's father? I descend from Alfred Butler and am unable to trace line further back.

Steven R. Butler, 1114 Pacific Dr., Richardson, Tx 75081.

3. **JENKINS, MINTON.**

Augustus/Augustine Jenkins married Barbary Minton in Madison Co., Al in 1822. He died in Jackson Co., Al between 1830-1840. Are his brothers King and Mills Jenkins? Where does Augustus come from in NC? Who are his daughters? Can anyone help me?

POTTS, JENKINS.

Lorenzo D. Potts b. 1822, m. Eliza Jenkins ca 1844 in Jackson Co., Al. Is Lorenzo the son of John M. Potts who d. ca 1841-49 in Jackson Co? Are his brothers Calloway Potts and John C. Potts? Would like to corres. with anyone researching Potts surname.

Marie Williams, Rt. 1 - 1000 Parker Hill, Palmer, Tx 75152.

4. **HANNAH, SHUBERT.**

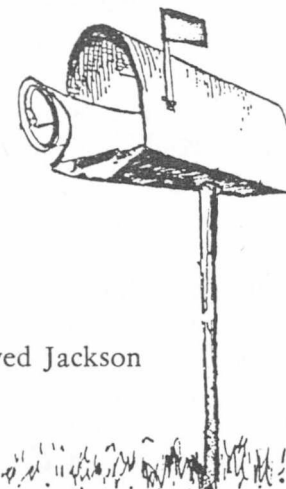
Need info. on Hamilton Evans Hannah, b. in Madison Co., Al and his wf Nellie Ann "Penelope" Shubert who were m. 18 Dec. 1877 in Madison Co., Al. Know of one son, Charles Anderson Hannah, b. 26 July 1887 in Huntsville, Al. Any info. appreciated.

Janetta Whitson, P. O. Box 1011, Menard, Tx 76859.

5. **BROWN, VAUGHT.**

Need info. on Isaac Vaught b. 1801 Tn and wife Mary; both b. Tn, lived Jackson Co., Al. Need parents of Tout B. Brown born 1862 in Alabama.

Linda Vaught, 2168 Grape Pl., Terrytown, La 70056



5. **NOBLE, LEWIS, MOORE, PRESLEY, FEEMSTER, YOUNG, HINDS**

Seek info. on ancestors who lived in Tenn. Valley area 1818-1918. NOBLE: Thomas, Nancy, Rebecca, Sarah, James R. and Yancy. LEWIS: Daniel A., William S., Mansell, Charlotte T., Susan M., Betsy Ann, and Icely. MOORE: Alexander, Martha, Nancy Matilda, Georgia Maria, James Riley, John L., G. A. and Tina B. PRESLEY: Thomas C., Jennie P., Dovie Ann, Elizabeth, Berry and Terry. FEEMSTER: John B., Nancy, Sarah Emmaline, Rachel, Eliza and Walter. YOUNG: William, Catherine, Betsy Ann, William Ira, Rachell Arena and Ruth M. HINDS: Byram, William, Levi, John, Carroll, Mary Anne, Sarah, Alfred Luther, Claiborne, Thirza Amanda, Benjamin Lindsey, Sarah, Wilburn Byram and Montgomery. Will exchange info.

Luther I. Wilbanks, Box 801, M/S 8044, McKinney, Tx 75069.

7. **COFFMAN, WILLIAMS, ABERNATHY.**

Who parents of Elige Coffman b. March 1846 in Al? Where in Al? He married Eliza Jane Williams between 1866-1872. Where? Possibly Tenn or Al? Eliza Jane b. 1850 Tn. Where in Tn? Who her parents? By 1870's Elige and Eliza Ann lived in Limestone Co., Al. All their ch b. Limestone Co. Children were: Edward, Kathy, Ida and William Coffman b. 27 Aug 1879. William m. Myrthle Abernathy between 1899-1900 in Athens, Al. Myrthle had twin bro named Claude and they b. 31 Jan 1882 in Tn. Where in Tn? Who their mother? Their fa was Robert C. Abernathy b. Aug. 1854 in Al. Where in Al? Who his parents? Will share, trade or exchange info.

Mrs. Robin Bartholomew, P. O. Box 1461, Zephyrhills, Fl 33539

8 **HENDERSON.**

Seek info. on Josiah Henderson b. ca 1799 SC, his parents foreign born, wife Edeline. Found in Green Co. Tn 1840, Walker Co., Ga 1850 and Cherokee Co., Al 1870. Oldest child was James Matthew Henderson b. Spartanburg, SC. Other ch: Josiah William, Martha Edeline, Elizabeth, Matilda, and David A. Henderson. What is Josiah's father's name?

COLE.

Is Baptist Cole fa of Benjamin Cole who first found 1820 Lancaster Co., SC in group with other Coles? Same group found in 1830 and 1840 Lancaster Co., SC censi. By 1850 had moved to Cherokee Co., Ga and by 1860 he was in Cherokee Co., Al where he died. Three of his ch. m. three of Josiah Henderson's ch. For years these families lived on Mt. Look Out near Collinsville, Al.

KENNEDY.

Stephen Kennedy b. ca 1773, married a Hendrix. First found Jackson Co., Al 1830 census. Where did he come from to Al? Rumor says possibly Cannon Co. or Franklin Co., Tn. Will share, trade or exchange info. Will ans. all who write.

Ruby Curtis, 5615 West Wilshire Dr., Phoenix, Az 85035.

9 **ROBERTS, BAILEY**

Henry Roberts in Lauderdale Co., Al. 1819 to 1830-something. Was in 1830 census. Had wife Elizabeth, three sons and four daughters. Two sons known: Benjamin, b. Ky 1790, Peter H. b. Pa. 1795 and m. 1824 in Lauderdale Co., Al to Sarah Bailey who b. Va ca 1800. Henry b. 1750 Culpeper Co., Va. Want info. on these persons or descendants.

Wm. L. Roberts, Route 2, Box 151A, Clay City, Ind. 47841.

10. STARNES, BOGGESS, BOND, BOSHART, CAMPBELL, EMBRY, LAUGHLIN, McCOY, McDONALD, RODEN, STEWART, and WALKER.

Looking for descendants of Peter and John Starnes b. 1781 and 1788 in SC. To Marshall Co. Al ca 1820 from Warren Co., Tn. Allied families: Boggess, Bond, Boshart, Campbell, Embry, Laughlin, McCoy, McDonald, Roden, Stewart and Walker. Starnes family history book to be published.

Jessie Ruth Starnes Russell, 5581 Forbes Ave., San Diego, CA 92120.

11. APLER/EPPLER, BRYANT, CLOER, HARVEY, JOHNSON, JONES, McKINNEY, MEARS, STEPP.

Jacob and Lucretia[?] Cloer, Lincoln Co., NC 1784. Youngest son b. in Tn 1808. Where? What county? John Baldwin Cloer m. 1828 Lauderdale Co., Al Frances Johnson and they resided Fayette Co. 1850-1860, later res. near Kennedy, Lamar Co., Al. When and where did they die? Jacob Cloer pur land Lauderdale Co., Al 1819. Is on 1830 census. To Ray/Carroll Co., Mo 1831 accompanied by dau's: Margaret (Cloer) Jones (1790-1885—my 3rd gr-grandmother), her four sons, and Sally (1794-1862) with her husband E. Benson Harvey, 2nd to die in DeWitt. Jacob Cloer sold land in Carroll Co., Mo. to William Mears in 1833. Families of Griffen Mears, George McKinney and Rial Bryant (all in Lauderdale Co., Al in 1830) also settled in DeWitt Twp. near Jonathan Eppler's Landing on Mo. River. Apler/Appler was in Giles Co., Tn in 1812, was a JP in north Ala in 1817, was a JP in Carroll Co., Mo in 1833. Need info. from 1806-1819. Will exchange data.

Mrs. Vinita (Jones) Lebedeff, 14073 Collingham Dr., Detroit, MI 48205.

Editor's Note: The following query is far too long and involved, however, since it pertains to the founder of Huntsville and many questions are still unanswered about John Hunt's background and family, and since we have the space we have chosen to use it in its entirety.

12 HUNT.

Would like info. on the John Hunt for whom Huntsville is named. He supposedly came to Madison Co., Al from either Hawkins or Claiborne Co., Tn. He supposedly sheriff of both counties in his pre-Alabama days. Where was he before that? Was he a Revolutionary Sol? If so, what unit and from what state did he serve? He definitely a captain in the Tennessee Militia ca 1790-1800. Where did he go when he left Huntsville? When did he leave Huntsville? Where is he buried? Was John Aspberry or Asaberry Hunt a son or grandson. Known ch were: John [Jr?], George, William, David, Elizabeth and Rebecca. He was first coroner of Madison Co. and charter member of Masonic Helion Lodge No. 1 in Huntsville; attended a Masonic reunion in Huntsville in 1821. What was his relation to George Emery Hunt, a Conf. vet who m. Flora Hastings? What his relation to fam of Conf. Gen. John Hunt Morgan? What his relationship to fam. of Stephen Neal (first Madison Co. Sheriff). His son, William Rufus Hunt was sheriff in early 1840's. Did he have a middle name or initial? The only traceable lineage I have found is the Acklen line by marriage to dau. Elizabeth. Harry Townes, the actor, is from this line. Any info. appreciated.

Herman G. Taylor, Jr., 8505 Hickory Hill Lane, SE, Huntsville Al 35802.

13. COX.

Is the Adam Cox with wife Mildred on 1850 Itawamba Co., Ms census the same Adam Cox who was in Limestone Co., Al by 1820 and still there in 1830? If so, where was he in 1840? Where and when did he die?

Dorothy Scott Johnson, 2409 Dairy Lane, Huntsville, Al 35811

14. WILLIAMSON, POUNDER, ALDRIDGE, MURPHY, FITZGERALD, BLEDSOE.

Can anyone link me to the information in the 1892 clipping (reproduced below) from *The Moulton Advertiser*? I am hoping someone can connect me to Mrs. George Williamson or Mrs. Bettie Pounder. My grandmother, Eliza Aldridge, wrote the information in 1931 that her grandmothers were Mrs. Winnie Murphy and Mrs. George Williamson. My father was Arthur Aldridge, his mother was Eliza (Fitzgerald) Aldridge, her mother was Mary (Bledsoe) Fitzgerald whose mother was Winnie (Winnifred) Murphy whose mother was Mrs. George Williamson I believe. Can anyone help me prove this or have information to verify this?

Source: *Moulton Advertiser* of 24 March 1892

Major Williamson, and old and honorable citizen of Mount Hope, was reported dying last Monday. His son, Mr. George Williamson of Decatur, passed through our town Monday to be with his aged sire in his last illness. He was accompanied from this place by Mrs. Bettie Pounder, a daughter of the dying man.

Mrs. John Hardin, Sr., 13003 Court St., Moulton, AL 35650

William Denton Claim
(-continued from Page 4-)

same way.

The confederates took cattle, corn & fodder from him & paid nothing—was threatened and cursed as a Union man. He assisted several Union men to get out of the Confederate & into the Union lines & furnished them with rations. These men went into the Union Army & he assisted their families while they were in the service. We think he was a Union man throughout the war.

“The property was taken in March 1865 from claimant’s premises by soldiers of Gen. Willson’s command. It is said the officer in command who took the property was asked for a receipt—gave one in pencil, which be-

came worn out, defaced & entirely destroyed. It is not stated that this receipt was for all the property nor that values were stated.

“The mules & mare are proved. The corn & fodder were taken to feed two companies of Cavalry horses—the hams & shoulders are proved, their weight estimated, & if hams & shoulders sold in Washington are a fair average they are estimated too high by half. Their value in March ’65 was 23 cents per pound. Honey is not an army supply. Leather was taken & we are informed it was of great use to the army.

“We recommend payment of \$568.”

End

TVGS POLICIES

QUERIES: Free to members; \$2.00 per query to non-members. Each member is entitled to one query per year, however, additional queries may be submitted and will be used as space is available. Please limit queries to 175 words or less. No surname only queries please. At least one full name, date and location should be included in each query. We reserve the right to edit all queries. Send them NOW. Work begins months before the date on the cover.

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To be considered for publication, an item submitted must have a reliable reference and not be based entirely on "tradition." We do *not* want items copied from books still in print, however, such references may be used as footnotes to clarify items.

Valley Leaves is most interested in securing for publication the following types of items:
[Send photocopy of original if possible]

Family Bible records (include title page with date Bible was published if page still exists), diaries, church records, military records, minister's records, cemetery readings (give location of cemetery and whether or not the listing is complete), courthouse records, old newspaper items (the earlier the better), Southern Claims Commission Records, etc.

Contributions of Bible records, wills, etc., which include a photocopy of the original record plus a typed transcription are usually published before records sent without a photocopy. We always reserve the right to edit.

BOOKS. Books will be reviewed in *Valley Leaves* only upon receiving a gift copy from the author or publisher; afterwards the book is given to the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library. We will review quarterlies *only* upon receipt of a *full volume*. We do not review single issues of quarterlies.

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