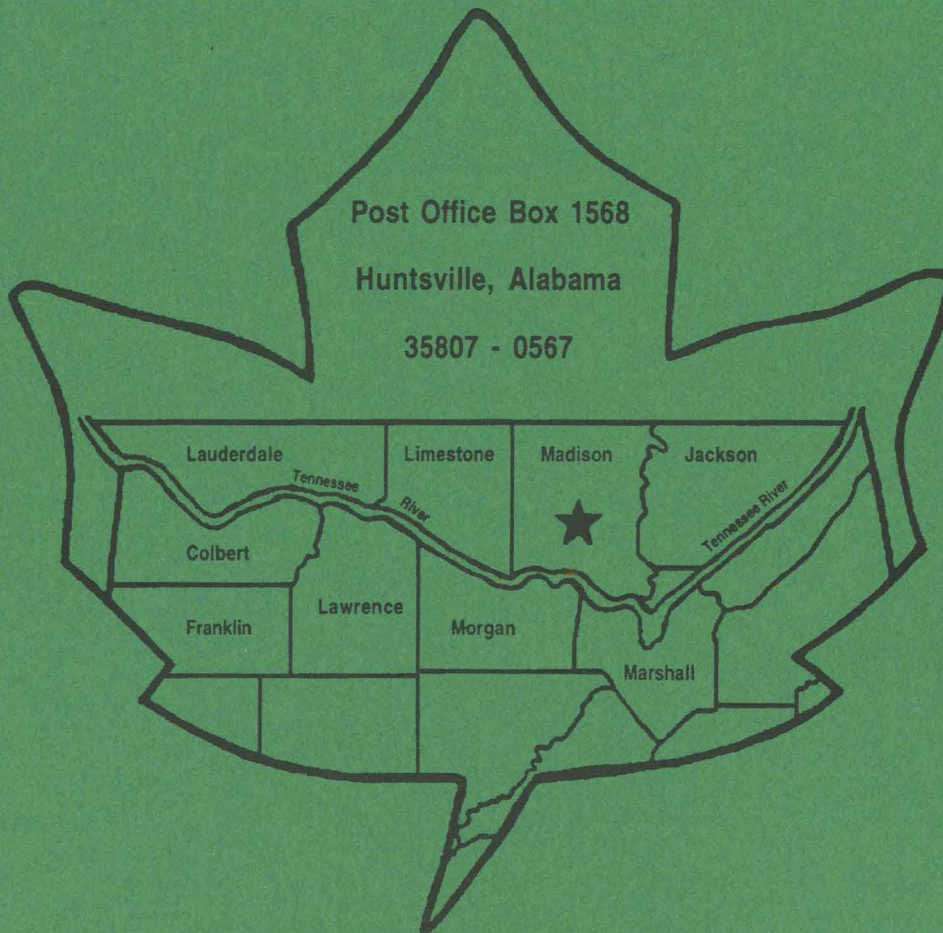

(North Alabama)

Valley Leaves

TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

QUARTERLY



Volume 40, Issue No.1,

September 2005

Valley Leaves

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Volume 40, Issue No. 1 Sept. 2005

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September Meeting

Thursday, September 22

7 p.m.

first floor, Huntsville/

Madison County Public Library

Refreshments provided!

TVGS meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of July, Sept., Jan., March and May.

Sometimes there is no November meeting due to Thanksgiving. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library (915 Monroe St.) unless announced otherwise.

TVGS Web Site:

<http://www.tvgs.org>

Civil Register of County Officials 1832 – 1844

Part 2

Contributed by
Mrs. Richard H. Gilliam, Jr.

The earliest Register of Civil Appointments found in the Alabama Department of Archives and History is from 1819 – 1832. That series was run in Volumes 5 and 6 of *Valley Leaves*. For an introduction to that series, see *Valley Leaves*, Vol. 5, No. 1, page 22.

The current series is from the Civil Register of County Officials, Volume II, 1832-1844 and is also housed in the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Gilliam, past president of TVGS and past editor of *Valley Leaves* for this information. This work is especially important in counties such as Jackson due to the loss of so many early records. We inadvertently used Part 5 in Vol. 38, No's 3 & 4 instead of part 2. Continued here from Vol. 38, No's. 3 & 4.

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Official's Name	Office	Date/Comm.	Remarks
Justin*, John	“	“	*Listed as Justice in 1830 and 1840 censuses.

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Swink, George	Clk Circuit Ct	15 Sept 1834	
Riddle, Alexander	Sheriff	“	
Jones, Moses	Clk Circuit Ct	29 Aug 1836	
Rector, Thompson M.	Judge Co Court	2 July 1839	
Jones, Moses	Clk Co Court	14 Aug 1840	
Coffee, John R.	Sheriff	“	

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Witt, Charles	Justice of Peace	1 May 1835	
Holland, John	“	“	
Brooks, William C.	“	“	
Smart, James	“	“	
Woodsley, James	“	“	
Rush [Rash?], Benjamin	“	“	
Yeatt, Richard	“	“	
Wheeler, William H. C.*	“	“	*Written H. E. in earlier records
Smith, Booker	“	“	
McFarland, Alexander	“	“	

Official's Name	Office	Date/Comm.	Remarks
Williams, James	"	"	
Allen, Hiram	"	"	
Rash, William	"	"	
Dickerson, Duncan	"	"	
Beason, Alfred	"	"	
Groves, Jacob	"	"	
Lindsey, Oliver J.	"	"	Resigned
Randles, R. S.	"	"	
Clifton, William M.	"	"	
McCoy, Andrew	"	"	
Jacoway, Archibald	"	"	
Vanzant, Abraham	"	"	
Fowler, Fermin	"	"	
Berry, John	"	"	
Bynum, John	"	"	
Caffey [Coffey?], A.	"	"	
Bridges, Ephraim	"	"	
Williams, E. W.	"	"	
Lewis, Joel D.	Justice of Peace	1 May 1835	
Thomas, William C.	"	"	
Gross, Jacob	"	"	
Therman, Daniel	"	"	
Hammons, Woodson	"	"	
King, Wm. M.	"	"	
Russell, Andrew	"	"	
Smith, Ellison	"	"	
Lidden, William A.	"	"	
White, Andrew	"	"	
Bridges, Edmund	"	"	
Brown, George	"	"	
Wammack, Josiah	"	"	

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Official's Name	Office	Date/Comm.	Remarks
Barnes, William	"	"	
Cunningham, Josiah	"	"	
Stephens, William	"	"	
Evans, Samuel	"	"	
McCutchin, William W.	"	"	
Allison, William	"	"	

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Griffin, George R.	Justice of Peace	13 Oct 1836	
Hardwick, Thomas	"	12 Nov 1836	
Barnes, William	"	"	
Cunningham, Josiah	"	"	
Stephens, William	"	"	
Evans, Samuel	"	"	
McCutchin, William W.	"	"	
Allison, William	"	"	

Page 147

Griffin, George R.	Justice of Peace	13 Oct 1836	
Hardwick, Thomas	"	12 Nov 1836	
Barnes, William	"	"	
Cunningham, Josiah	"	"	
Stephens, William	"	"	
Evans, Samuel	"	"	
McCutchin, William W.	"	"	
Allison, William	"	"	

Page 147

Griffin, George R.	Justice of Peace	13 Oct 1836	
Hardwick, Thomas	"	12 Nov 1836	
Gunn, William	"	23 Jan 1837	
Busby, Thomas	"	17 Feb 1837	
Mitchell, Humphrey B.	"	"	
Bynum, John W.	"	6 Nov 1837	
James, Samuel	"	25 Nov 1837	

Official's Name	Office	Date/Comm.	Remarks
Hembree, Benjamin	"	"	
Coffee, Joel	"	1 Dec 1837	
Snodgrass, Thomas	"	19 Jan 1838	
Page 150			
Summers, Matthew	Justice of Peace	3 April 1838	
Roach, Charles	"	"	
Wann, Joshua	"	"	
Lilliland, Robt. S.	"	"	
Russell, Andrew	"	"	
Latham, Jonathan	"	"	
Smith, Washington H.	"	"	
Holland, John	"	"	
Glascock, ...[illegible*] H.	"	22 May 1838	*Lions?
Humbell, Benjamin	"	"	
Page 150			
Malloy, David	"	"	Vice: Jno. Holland
Hunt, William B.	Justice of Peace	30 July 1838	Vice: Woodliff Shelton
Peacock, Jourdan	"	"	Vice: Wm. W. Mahan
Clay, Isham	"	28 Sept 1838	Vice: John Vaught
Woosley, James	"	26 Dec 1838	
Warren, Noel B.	"	"	
Chipon [?], Samuel G.	"	"	Vice: Arch ^d Fortus, decd.
Griggs, Thomas	"	"	Vice: Andrew Russell
Moore, James L.	"	28 Feb 1839	Vice: Benjamin Rush
Stephens, William	"	14 March 1839	Vice: John P. Smith
Carr, John	"	"	Vice: Solomon Hogue
Self, Adman M.	"	4 April 1839	
Hall, Thos.	"	"	
Calton, Thos.	"	"	
Jones, Pleasant W.	"	19 Nov 1839	Vice: Silas Hampton
Kirby, Thomas H.	"	26 Feb 1840	Vice: John Carr

-Continued-

Minutes of the Circuit Court Part 10

Continued from the Sept & Dec 2004 issue of *Valley Leaves*. Contributed by Wendell Page of Scottsboro and abstracted by Dorothy Scott Johnson. For a complete introduction to this material please see Vol. 39, No. 1 & 2, Sept & Dec 2004.

Many of these minutes were not clear and some terms used were not in *Black's Law Dictionary*. Judge William D. Page of the Madison County Circuit Court has kindly clarified these terms for which we are most grateful.

PAGE 103.

Billing, Roof & Washington)
vs)
A. C. Austin, A. A. Russell,)
James Cox and Alex Harriss)

Case No. 1523. 10 April 1866. Came plaintiffs by their attorney. Defendants, being solemnly called, came not but makes default. The Court then ordered plaintiffs to recover of defendants \$922.24 debt plus \$312.20 damages plus costs in this case expended.

State of Alabama, use & etc.)
vs)
John J. Dillard, A. S. Bibb &)
Joel P. Ledbetter)

Case No. 1524, 10 April 1866. John J. Dillard is dead. The judge ordered this case abated as it pertains to Dillard. The other defendants being solemnly called came not but makes default. The plaintiff, by his attorney, "remits all the debt and damages." The Court orders that plaintiff have judgment to recover of defendants the costs in this case expended.

James J. Chadwick)
vs)
Robert L. Hembree)

Case No. 1529. 10 apr 1866. Continued.

Page 104

Gabriel B. Dewol)
vs)
"H. C. Bradford & others")

Case No. 1536. 10 April 1866. The plaintiff moved to dismiss his suit. Defendant assumes the costs. Plaintiff to recover the costs from defendant.

T. G. H. Kirby)
vs)
Memphis & Charleston RR)

Case No. 1540. 10 April 1866. This case is revived in the name of Clinton Kirby and Arabella Kirby, administrator and administratrix. of T. G. H. Kirby, decd. Case continued.

Mary Ann Kirkpatrick)
vs)
John F. Clark)

Case No. 1546. 10 April 1866. Mary Ann Kirkpatrick has died. It is, therefore, considered by the court that this cause abate. [Note in margin: Recorded in Book D. page33.]

G. W. Phillips)
vs)
John Bryant)
A. L. Griffith)

Case No. 1547. 10 April 1866. G. W. Phillips has died. The Court ruled that this case abate.

Page 105

William Micholds)
vs)
William Thornton)

William Micholds [Michaels?] has died. The Court orders this cause to abate.

Elizabeth Scott, extx.)
vs)
Thomas B. Griffin)

Case No. 1555. 10 April 1866. Plaintiff dismissed case. The Court ordered that plaintiff pay the costs in this case expended.

Allison Anderson & Co.

Madison County

Grove Sammons

Southern Claims Commission
Abstracted by Dorothy Scott Johnson

The Southern Claims Commission was established by the United States Government to reimburse Northern sympathizers living in the South for losses they sustained at the hands of Union forces during the Civil War. To be reimbursed, one had to prove absolute loyalty to the United States for the duration of the war and prove the losses sustained.

These claims are great sources for contemporary information on "how things were" during the Civil War. Duplicate testimonies are omitted for the sake of space.

This particular claim is unusual because it gives names and explicitly describes dogs being set on Southern deserters, killings, thefts, and other atrocities. It gives information on families that can be found nowhere else.

Remarks by Commissioner of Claims

Grove Sammons, claimant, lived near Paint Rock in Jackson County, Alabama. It was reputedly the worst place in the Country; any man suspected of being a Union man was in danger of losing his life. Four men were taken out and killed for being Union men. [Martin]Honey, Sammons's brother-in-law, was one.

Sammons had a worthless, drinking son in the Rebel army and his wife was deranged. He had two children younger than his son, one of whom was blind and the other an infant. With such a burden of trouble upon him, he might have escaped persecution through pity. If he had, under such sorrowful circumstances, been silent—or even had feigned to be Confederate—it would have been excusable.

Testimony of G. W. N. Stovall, states he was introduced to Sammons in 1861 and rode in company with him three or four miles. At that time Stovall states claimant expressed disloyal sentiments but this is weak evidence. A loyal man might talk so to a stranger in such a community.

Large bodies of Federal troops were camped on or near claimant's 400-acre farm from 1862 to 1865. "We think the items allowed are all that are satisfactorily proved – in all, \$1185.00."

Walter B. Click Deposition

4 March 1878

Walter B. Click, age 31, a farmer, has been a resident of Marshall County for the last two years. Before that, he was a lifelong resident of Madison County. He is not related in any way to the claimant but has known him intimately 23 years. Click lived with Sammons about two months during the war and about 4 or 5 miles from him the balance of the time.

James E. Schrimsher

James first testified that he knew Sammons to be totally disloyal to the Union. Schrimsher had been conscripted and sent to Mobile but deserted and came home. He accused Sammons of being part of a group who hunted him with dogs. Later, he changed his testimony as shown in a deposition taken

by John D. Brandon, attorney for Grove Sammons:

"When I was examined before Special Agent Richmond, I did not say, or intend to say, that Mr. Grove Sammons was in any crow[d] that hunted me with dogs. I said I was hunted down with dogs and I heard they belonged to the Drakes and I said further I knew nothing particular about Mr. Sammons, only thought he was like everybody else, a Confederate."

Anderson Redford was with Schrimsher and recognized the dogs as belonging to the Drakes. Schrimsher further states:

"Well, the Drakes were regular Bushwhackers—regular Devils. They lived right over there by Sammons; were born and raised together."

Schrimsher was in the rebel service having been conscripted in Huntsville in March 1863 and sent to Mobile, Alabama where he remained until the 10th of July 1863. "I just walked off from the service," he said.

"It was in the latter part of July or first of August 1863 that I was run by dogs. I knew Sammons crossed the mountain the day I was run by the dogs. I was forty or fifty yards of the public road on the mountain as he passed going towards Huntsville. I don't know where he went to. The Confederates had possession of Huntsville and the surrounding country at that time.

"There was one man with Mr. Sammons when I saw him on the mountain [but I] don't know his name. I was hid out in the bushes and they did not see me. They were not armed as I seen. I did not see Sammons in company with the Drakes that day. I don't remember of ever hearing of Sammons being out with Drake's company.

"All I know about it is that Sammons lived over there in Drake's neighborhood and that they were a rough set and I could not see how a Union man could live there and not be molested by them.

"No, I never heard of him being molested by them. I lived in the edge of Huntsville at that time but had lived in Sammons's neighborhood before and up to the beginning of the war."

Andrew J. Schrimsher

Huntsville, Al—28 Apr 1879

Andrew says he lived 12 to 15 miles from Sammons during the war and saw him frequently. Sammons did not live a great distance from Vienna. Schrimsher states claimant came to Huntsville for protection and believes he brought his family with him.

Andrew J. knows of no other Union men living in Sammons's neighborhood. John Ogden was a Union man and lived between Schrimsher and Sammons.

When asked if all the men in Sammons's neighborhood were either in the "bushwhacking command of Whitecotton & Cotton,¹ or their aiders and abettors," he replied that between Paint Rock and Flint River was the worst place in the country. "A man's life was not safe there if he was suspected of being for the Union. Pete Whitecotton was one and Milus E. Johnston was terrible. About Vienna, and on up to Sammons—in fact from the Tennessee River up was just as bad as it could be. They took out and killed two men that they thought was giving information to the Federals."

Schrimsher knows J. E. Schrimsher who is his nephew. Andrew J. says he got J. E. away from Mobile. He had

¹ Cotton and Whitecotton should not be confused as they are two separate families.

gone there for his son who had been conscripted and got him and brought him home. About a week after he got home, J. E. arrived. He and F. M. Eddy had run away.

The two men taken out and killed were Frank Hornbuckle and Bar Devitt. Ben Brandon, a blacksmith, was taken out and killed. Henry Roberts was taken out and killed.

Schrimsher² states he "arrested two men who belonged to the rebel posse, John Vann and Tyree Drake."

Schrimsher was asked if he ever knew of "Whitecotton, Johnston or Cotton, or any of that murdering crowd, to let a Union man go to the Federal lines if they got a chance at him?" He answered that he didn't think they ever let many escape if they were satisfied they were Union men.

Schrimsher further states that Ogden was the only one he knew they let stay at home. Schrimsher heard Ogden's life was threatened and told Ogden, who lived six or seven miles from him, of the threat. Schrimsher told Sammons he was a Union man but asked him not to talk about it because he was afraid of the bushwhackers.

Grove Sammons

Haden's Store - 6 Oct 1871

Grove Sammons, age about 60, a farmer, resides near Paint Rock, Jackson Co.³ He lived there continuously during the war except for about three months before the close of the war when he was in Huntsville inside the Federal lines.

Johnston's Bushwhackers, a company of Confederate troops,

² Andrew J. Schrimsher was appointed Sheriff by the Governor and served 1865-1866.

³ According to the 1860 census he was a Madison County resident at the time it was taken.

threatened Sammons by sending him a message saying he had lived long enough and they were going to hang him. He immediately went to the Union lines at Huntsville. The Bushwhackers took his property and called him a "d—d Union s-n bitch."

Sammons stated he carried provisions of all kinds to sick men in the Federal Army at Paint Rock Bridge in Jackson County.

He has always sympathized with the Union cause and voted for Douglass and other Union men in 1860.

Others who can testify to his loyalty are Harriet Summers, Wilson Salmons ("colored"), Martin Atchley, Edmond Terry, William L. Sutton and Edward E. Douglass.

Capt. Milus Johnston was present when some of his property was taken. Most of it was taken to the Federal camp at Paint Rock Bridge. He saw some of his cattle in a pen there and saw some of his horses being ridden by soldiers. Two of his horses were taken to Brownsboro. He complained to the officers when it was taken but was told they were compelled to take it as they were in great need.

The Federals were camped as close as two miles from the Sammons house from 1862 until 1865.

Grove Sammons

24 May 1874

Capt. Daniel B. Turner told Sammons that Lincoln was not an abolitionist while all others said he was.

[Sidney] Bibb's Company was the first to go war from Jackson County.

Sammons states he lost his wife at the commencement of the war and she left him with one little blind girl and a little baby which kept him at home. He doesn't recall attending any recruitment

meetings but did attend a little dinner where Bibb was drilling his company between his house and Paint Rock Station. It was a basket dinner; some took their dinner and some didn't take anything. Sammons took nothing. His wife was deranged, afterwards died, and was then in no condition to fix anything to take or to go anywhere. He stayed until "they got drunk."

He was vilified and laughed at but he told them he was in no position to contribute anything and ought to be at home.

He talked to one man, name forgotten, who also wanted the Union to stand. They took him up and tried him before "old Squire Hill." Sammons and Squire Hill were very friendly

His son, Andrew Sammons, between age 25 and 30, went into the Confederate service but was not living at home at the time. He volunteered from Bellefonte and went to Port Morgan for a year. At that time, Sammons only had one son. Andrew went away with Bradford and came back when his 12 months were up then stayed "with a company up there at the Bridge awhile-[with] a man named Capt. [Milus] Johnston who was Federal. Andrew talked of enlisting with Johnston but "I told him if he did I would be killed." Old "Martin Honey's son enlisted and he was killed in his cotton patch within a half a mile of me."⁴ He was my last wife's brother-in-law. They sent [some of Mrs. Honey's children] for me in half an hour after the gun fired but I was afraid to go. I didn't go near him after he was killed. The neighbors buried him. He was a Union man. I know they hauled him right by

⁴ Sammon's field abutted the cotton patch Honey was killed in according to later testimony.

my house to bury him.⁵ I didn't go to the burying." Honey had one son killed in the Union Army "and one died somewhere else."

When asked what excuse Sammons had for letting strangers bury his brother-in-law he blamed his wife's raving. There were other neighbors closer. He doesn't know where Mrs. Honey is, perhaps back North.

Sammons had no control over his son and could do nothing with him. He stayed with Capt. Johnston until Johnston had to evacuate from Huntsville. After that he was carried off and sent into the army somewhere. He didn't know Andrew was raising a company. "He always done so bad when he was about home that I didn't want to see him." He was always drinking and gambling, going where he pleased and doing what he pleased.

Sammons had let Andrew do pretty much as he pleased while growing up, unfortunately. He would borrow money from people and they would come to Sammons to repay it. He would take Sammons's horse and sell it or do just what he pleased. He never lacked money in his young days. He just laid about drinking and was finally captured and sent to Rock Island, [Illinois Federal] prison. He enlisted there in order to get out of prison and was sent out to the Indian country. He came home about a year after the war closed.

The Rebels kept sending Sammons word that he was too good to Northern soldiers and they were about his house too much. Sammons could not help it as they were camped on the road and guarding the bridge and would be at

⁵ He was probably buried in the Bethel Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Martin Honey married Manerva Elizabeth Bryant 3 May 1843 in Madison County.

Sammons's house every day or night. When the Northern soldiers weren't there the Rebels would run in, curse him for having Yankees about, and take away what little the soldiers had given. They Rebels took "some horses that Col. Roberts gave me to make a crop with. He gave me three or four. They were some old broke down horses that would do to plow. I mended them up and got them so they would do to plow and the Rebels took them away. I don't know who they were. They would come in bands, five or six at a time. Capt. [Milus E.] Johnston's men stayed there longer than anybody."

The Rebels didn't like the Honeys who lived close to him. He hired one of the Honey boys to work for him but the boy went into the U. S. army as he was nearly of age.⁶ Sammons paid the boy's father what he owed him in wages.

Sammons traded a gold watch to a non-military man for a horse. He thinks the man's name was Mock. Sammons was a horse trader and traded a lot with Major Douglass who was the Sheriff when [General Ormsby M.] Mitchell's army came. Douglass sawed lumber for Mitchell as long as his army stayed there.

Six Confederate soldiers came to his home and took a bushel of meal and some meat. One cocked his gun and said he ought to kill Sammons because the Yankees stayed there and ate with him. "Half the time we were annoyed by Northern men and half the night with thieves until I didn't have half sense. It run my wife deranged and she died."

Nancy Johnson

Nancy Johnson, age 39, is a farmer residing near Gurleyville in Jackson Co.

She lived with Sammons in 1863 and worked for him. She saw U. S. soldiers take his property, saw them killing hogs then put them on wagons and haul them away. She also testified he had taken provisions and produce to sick soldiers and officers camped at Paint Rock Bridge [Union].

Martin Atchley

Martin Atchley states he is age 23, a farmer and resides near Paint Rock in Jackson County. He worked for Grove Sammons from October 1864 until about October 1865. He testified to the same things as Nancy Johnson.

Wilson Salmons ("Colored")

Wilson Salmons is about 31 years old, a farmer, and resides in Madison County near Paint Rock, Al. He was formerly the property of Grove Sammons and lived on Sammons's farm in Madison County about five or six miles from Paint Rock and Woodville during 1863 and 1864. During that time, Yankees were camped at these two places along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. He attests to the Yankees taking Mr. Sammons's livestock and grain and says they also took lumber used to build a cotton picking room and took the flooring of the gin house.

Joseph C. Bradley

Joseph C. Bradley is 61, a farmer, and a resident of Huntsville, Al. He has known Sammons about 35 years. He states Sammons was opposed to the Rebel cause before and during the war. Bradley was in the Confederate lines in 1863 through 1865 and from what he heard among the Rebels on the south side of the Tennessee River he was very

⁶ This was probably Henry Honey who was age 14 in 1860.

apprehensive for Sammons's personal safety and believes his life was in danger.

Benjamin Jolley

Benjamin Jolley is 61, a farmer, and resides in Huntsville, Al. He has known Sammons 31 years. Sammons never failed to express himself as opposed to secession and as being for the Union. Jolley was also a Union man, arrested by the Rebels, [and tried?] in their court and held to bail for being friendly to and trading with the Federals.

Peter M. Dox

Peter M. Dox is 58, a resident of Huntsville and a member of Congress. Dox says he returned to Huntsville in the winter or spring of 1864 and met Sammons, who represented himself as a Union man and was so treated by others. Sammons had sought refuge inside the Federal lines for safety at the time. Dox was a Union man all through the war.

Edward E. Douglass

Edward E. Douglass, age 49, a farmer, is a resident of Madison County living near Paint Rock Station Post Office. He has known Sammons over 30 years and lived within two miles of him for 16 years. Sammons was bitterly opposed to the rebellion and dissolution of the Union. It was not safe to talk publicly against the Confederacy but it was discussed privately among loyal Union men.

In 1864, Martin Honea, a Union man in Douglass's neighborhood was killed and two Rebels came to his house and told him they intended to kill Sammons also because he was Union. They were hunting him then.

Douglass was told later that the Rebels intended to kill him too for his

Union beliefs. The threats became so dangerous that Sammons finally took refuge inside Federal lines in Huntsville. Douglass knows Sammons often fed squads of Federals in his home.

Hiram N. Roberts

Hiram N. Roberts, age 53, a farmer and mechanic, resides in Huntsville and has for 13 years. Before that, he lived in the southeastern part of the county. He has known Sammons since 1856 or 1857. Until the latter part of 1861,⁷ Roberts lived within six miles of him, then until 1864 they lived about nine miles apart. After September 1864 they both lived in Huntsville.

Roberts knows of nothing Sammons has done against the Union except what George W. Stovall said. Stovall's deposition is on file. In a deposition taken in Huntsville on 28 April 1879 Roberts said he lived at Vienna [New Hope] at the beginning of the war. It was "the center point for the people of that neighborhood to assemble in." They met there once a week to discuss secession, recruit soldiers and hear about the war but he doesn't remember if Sammons was there.

Sammons was considered a fair farmer as far a property was concerned. He owned several slaves. Before he became a farmer he was an overseer.

Roberts says he knew every Union man in that neighborhood who openly expressed himself. Roberts kept away from Rebel gatherings.

He knows of no good Union men in the vicinity of Sammons except Ned Douglas⁸.

⁷ This was perhaps the year Sammons moved his residence to Jackson County.

⁸ This was Edward E. Douglass whose testimony is above.

R. B. Austin

Special Agent, Claims Comm.

Austin tries to make a case against Sammons and claims he was not loyal to the U. S. He states, Paint Rock and the neighborhood "was just as bad as it could be during the war. Parson [Milus] Johnston, Pete Whitecotton and Cotton had about them three setts [sic] of as cold-blooded, cowardly murderers as could be" found anywhere. Frank Gurley was believed to be not much better, and Col. [Lemuel G.] Meade about as bad. All these shifted about in the mountains, far or near the railroad, according to circumstances. To be suspected of leaning to the Federal side was a crime punishable with death."

R. B. Austin

5 March 1878

John Phillips is 43 years old and is a Huntsville resident where he has lived the past nine years. He is a merchant.

During the war he was in the Federal army as a Union Scout and was referred to claimant. He and another scout went to Sammons's home twice and were fed. He told them to go no further because if they were caught the Rebels would hang or shoot them. Sammons told them that he too would be hung or shot if the Rebels found out he had advised them what to do. Sammons said he wanted to live and die under the old flag that his forefathers had fought for.

Walton Bollick

Bollick was a U. S. Army soldier with Capt. Ephraim Latham's Company of Independent Vidette Cavalry from which he was discharged 16 June 1864.

After he was discharged, he went to Mr. Sammons's house and asked for

work while still in uniform. He was hired.

One morning seven Rebels came to Sammons's house but he kept Bollick from being captured by hiding his uniform. Some of the Union soldiers stayed on his farm nearly a month without any charge. Sammons secreted a Federal soldier from the Confederates as they were about to capture him, according to talk he heard in the neighborhood.

Other loyal people in the neighborhood who could testify for Sammons are James Hill, John Dilworth, James E. Butler and George W. Martin.

Editorial Notes

Grove Sammons married first, in Madison County, Miomy "Oney" Christian, the daughter of Allen and Margaret Christian. She is the mother of Andrew whom Grove talks about in his depositions. Miomy is buried in the Beason Cemetery in Madison County. Her headstone reads:

Myomy Salmons
Departed this life the
10th day of May 1851
Aged
34 yr., 4 mo., 10 ds.

Grove married second Kizziah J. True on 10 August 1852. She was the mother of the blind daughter, Miomy, born about 1857, and Daniel born about 1858. A tombstone could not be located for her.

Grove married third, Adaline Bullman on 13 September 1862 and it was Adaline whom Grove describes as "deranged" and who died during the first part of the Civil War. No tombstone could be found for her either in Jackson or Madison County.

Grove Sammons Home

A letter dated 23 July 1990 to Rane Pruitt from the late Harvie Jones, a renowned historical-reconstruction architect, describes the Grove Sammons house as a log, dog-trot home located on the south side of Cherry Tree Road about one half mile west of its intersection with New Hope-Cedar Point Road. More research is needed to determine just when he moved to Jackson County.

-End-

Source: *The National Banner & Nashville Whig*

Saturday 8 July 1826
Married in Madison, Alabama, Rev. Isaac Sullivan to Miss Mary B. Harris.

Saturday 5 August 1826
Married in Utica, N. Y., Mr. E. H. Boardman of Huntsville, Alabama to Miss Lucretia Miller.

Tuesday 10 February 1829
Married in Madison Co., Alabama, Mr. David Wells of New Orleans to Miss Ann M. Raney.

Tuesday 20 May 1830
Married in Huntsville, Alabama, Thomas J. Sumner, Esq., editor of *The Democrat*, to Miss Louisa A. Lanier.

Thursday 3 June 1830
Married in Madison County, Alabama, Mr. L. L. Stone of Lincoln County, Tennessee to Miss Eveline Drake.

Thursday 1 September 1830
Died in Madison County, Alabama, Mrs. Sarah H. Estes, wife of Mr. John Estes and daughter of Capt. John Standerfer.

Thursday 2 September 1830
Died in Madison County, Alabama, Miss Prudence E. Jones, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Jones.

Thursday 4 November 1830
Died in Madison County, Alabama, Mrs. Ann Cheatham, aged 49.

Monday 22 November 1830
Died in Huntsville, Alabama, Mr. Roger Stephens.

Monday 17 January 1831, *The Huntsville Advocate*, Died on the night of the 5th instant at Hazel Green, Hiram Niblet, formerly of South Carolina. Thought death occasioned by a blow received from William Welbourn, Jr., stricken on side of head with a large stick yielded by Welbourn and expired about 32 hours later.

Wednesday 26 January 1831
Died at the residence of Major J. P. Hickman in Davidson County, Tennessee on 19th instant, Mrs. Elizabeth Rice, consort of Mr. Joel Rice of [Madison County] Alabama.

Friday 25 February 1831
Died in Madison County, Alabama, Hopkins Lacy, Esq. (no date given).

Wednesday 3 May 1826
Died in Madison County, Alabama, Mr. Thomas G. Watts, Mr. William L. Hammond, Mrs. Catherine Scruggs, the wife of Col. Oglesby Scruggs (no dates given).

-End-

Marshall County

1851 Estate Minutes

Part 7

Copied and contributed by Coy Michael
Abstracted by Dorothy Scott Johnson
and Jacquelyn Procter Gray

These records are continued from copies obtained from the office of Probate Judge in the courthouse in Guntersville. The first of this series appeared in *Valley Leaves*, Vol. 37, Issue 2. Unfortunately, due to the quality of the printer as well as the difficult handwriting, there are many question marks where the words could not be clearly read.

William Morton Estate Regarding Final Settlement

Page 83

8 December 1851

William Morton lately died intestate. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that the heirs of said estate are of full age and that the family who resided with decedent at his place of residence up to his death consisted of three daughters of the decedent.

There are horses, cattle, and hogs which require, at this season of the year, considerable attention. For this cause, administration is granted before the lapse of fourteen days from decedent's death.

William M. Morton, the oldest heir of said decedent, who resides in this state, makes application to be appointed administrator of the estate of said decedent. He gave bond in the sum of twenty four hundred dollars with Marshall Morton Stephen Hallmark as his securities.

Ordered that said bond be approved & that William M. Morton be and he is hereby appointed administrator of the estate of William Morton, deceased.

Zachariah White, Thomas Palmore and Thomas Barker are hereby appointed appraisers of the personal estate of William Morton, deceased, are required to make return of this appointment to the next term

of this court to be held for said county on the 2nd Monday in January 1860.

It is necessary to sell the whole of the personal property belonging to said estate. William M. Morton, administrator, is hereby authorized to sell the personal property after the notice agreed by law has been given.

Bond

Know all men by these presents that William M. Morton of Marshall County and Marshall Morton and Stephen Hallmark of Blount County, all in the state of Alabama, are held and firmly bound unto Montgomery Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of the County of Marshall, in the sum of \$2400 for the true payment of which we and each of us bind ourselves.

Witness our hands and seals, this the 8th day of December 1851. The condition of the above obligation is that William M. Morton has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of William Morton deceased. If the said William M. Morton shall well and truly perform all the duties which are or may be by law required of him as such administration, then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force.

William M. Morton Stephen Hallmark
Marshall Morton

The above bond is this the 8th day of
December 1851, approved by me.

/s/ M. Gilbreath Judge of Probate



Assets of the Estate of William Morton

Page 84
Court of Probate Special Term
8 January 1852

No. 239 Order to Record Appraisment:

This day the appraisers heretofore
appointed to appraise the personal estate of
William Morton, deceased, filed this
appraisment of said estate sworn to by them.
It is ordered that the said appraisment be
filed and recorded.

No. 239

Page 84

Appraisment:

Marshall County Alabama, 11 December
1851. The appraisment of William Morton
deceased:

15 head of sheep	18.75
1 red cow and calf	12.00
1 pied cow and calf	12.00
1 bull and calf	14.00
1 yellow pied cow and calf	11.00
1 heifer, bull, and steer yearlings	12.00
1 ?	4.00
1500 bundles of oats more or less	15.00
1500 bundles of fodder	15.00
1 gray colt	50.00
1 chestnut sorrel mare	75.00
1 yellow sorrel mare	50.00
6 pork hogs	48.00
1 plantation wagon and ? gears	60.00
1 set blacksmith tools	20.00
150 bushels corn more or less	90.00
1 pen of shucks	5.00
25 bushels wheat more or less	25.00
1 ? Cradle	3.00

2 ?	3.00
1 grind stone	1.00
2 pews, 2 chairs, 2 ??	4.50
1 log chain	1.00
1 pair of stretchers	75.00
1 lot hoes & spades drawing knife & (rest unreadable)	6.00
1 double barrel gun	20.00
1 single barrel gun	6.00
1 musket	5.00
1 metal clock	20.00
3 guns and 1 ?	3.00
2 sets of plow gear	3.00
Smoke house furniture	10.00
1 barrel of vinegar	5.00
2 bushels of oats	2.00
1 mare's saddle	5.00
1 loom and furniture	10.00
1 cup stand	3.00
Ovens pots and kitchen furniture	20.00
2 spinning wheels	4.00
11 sitting chairs	4.00
3 feather beds & furniture	100.00
1 set fire irons	1.00
12 lbs. wood more or less	2.00
2 ?	2.00
Total	781.00

Zachariah White
Jonathan Morton
Robert T. Palmore

Sworn to and subscribed to before Mr.
Robert Walker, Justice of the Peace, January
7th, 1852

Robert Walker
Justice of the Peace

Filed in my office this the 7th January 1852.

M. Gilbreath
Judge of Probate



(Unreadable)
No. 239
Page 85

The State of Alabama Marshall County,
To any Sheriff of said State, Greetings

You are hereby commended to summon William M. Morton administrator of the estate of William Morton, late of said county, deceased, to file his account and vouchers for partial or final settlement of his administration of said estate in this office of the Judge of Probate of said County of Marshall, on or before the first day of February next. M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of said county as officer, this the 9th day of January 1855.

M. Gilbreath, Judge
of Probate

Executed the 11th day of January 1855 by
leaving a copy.

B.S. Clapp Sheriff

Order of Publication for Final Settlement
No. 239
Page 85

The State of Alabama) Court of Probate
Marshall County) Special Term April
) 21st 1855

This day comes William M. Morton administrator of the estate of William Morton, deceased, and files his account and vouchers for final settlement of said estate. Ordered by the court that the 2nd Monday in June next be set for said final settlement to be made at the courthouse of said county, and the notice of the filing of said account and vouchers and of the time and places appointed for the same be given by

publication in the *Marshall Eagle*, a newspaper published in said county, for three successive weeks.

Account of Sales
No. 239
Page 85

Account of sales of the estate of William Morton, deceased, sold on the premises on the 15th January 1852, in pursuance of the order of the Probate Court of Marshall County, State of Alabama, on a credit of 12 months for all sums of five dollars and upwards, with note and approved security, and for cash for all sums under five dollars by William M. Morton, Administrator.

Editor's Note: Because the list of items and especially names at this point are difficult to read and subject to error in interpretation, the editor has decided not to list the items verbatim. However, the list includes interesting personal effects, such as sides of leather, a lot of tallow, buckets, chaff, pot racks, several coffee pots, tea cups, a side saddle, blacksmith tools, an umbrella, a bee stand, and other items that belonged to a man of apparent means. Of special interest is that fact that many of the people listed who bought his possessions were his children.

While Mr. Morton's assets were appraised for a total of \$781.00, his estate was sold off, piecemeal, for \$774.60.

A full list of these items can be found on pages 85 through 88.

List of Heirs
No. 239
Page 88

State of Alabama) Personally approved
Marshall County) before me.
M. Gilbreath,
Judge of Probate of
Marshall County,
Alabama

William M. Morton, administrator of the estate of William Morton, late of said county, deceased, who being first duly sworn, deposes that the said decedent left the following children, his heirs to wit:

1. Jeremiah Morton,
 2. William M. Morton,
 3. Rebecca intermarried with Thomas Neill,
 4. Mary intermarried with Stephen Hallmark,
 5. Marshall Morton,
 6. Nancy intermarried with Francis Samuels,
 7. Elizabeth intermarried with Calvin Hallmark,
 8. Jemima intermarried with John McNeal,
 9. Martha Morton,
 10. Delila Morton,
- all of whom are over the age of 21 years. Jeremiah Morton resides in Ripley County, Missouri. Nancy intermarried with Francis Samuels. Elizabeth (editor's note: this name is crossed out, but sentence is continued) resides in Polk County, Arkansas. The others reside in the State of Alabama. Rebecca, Nancy, Mary, Elizabeth and Jemima are married women as stated. The said decedent left no widow, nor children who died before him, and all the above married children are now alive as this affidavit believes.

William M. Morton

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st April 1855, M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate.

(Unreadable)
No. 239
Page 89

State of Alabama) Court of Probate
Marshall County) Regular Term 2nd
Monday in June, 1855

Ordered by the Court that the final settlement of the estate of William Morton be continued.

Editor's Note: The same order was registered again in the regular court term in July, but not reproduced here.

(Unreadable)
William M. Morton
Calvin Hallmark
Marshall Morton
Stephen Hallmark
No. 239
Page 89

We the children and heirs of William Morton, late of Marshall County, deceased, do hereby acknowledge that we received from the said William Morton in his lifetime, property to the amounts appropriate. Our respective names to wit:

Marshall Morton, a horse and calves at \$55.00, also \$12.00 in other property. In all \$67.00 dollars.

Stephen Hallmark, in right of his wife Mary, daughter of said William Morton deceased, a cow and calf at \$10.00, feathers for a bed estimated at \$7.50, two sheep at \$2.00. In all, \$19.50.

Calvin Hallmark, in right of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of said William Morton, deceased, a cow and calf at \$10.00, ? at \$10.00, ewe and lamb at \$2.00. In all amounting to \$22.00.

William M. Morton, a horse of the value of \$40.00, a cow and calf at \$10.00. In all \$50.00.

William M. Morton
Calvin Hallmark
his
Marshall + Morton
mark
Stephen Hallmark

August 13, 1855
Witness Louis Wyeth

Thomas & Rebecca Hill
No. 239
Page 89

We acknowledge that we received from my father William Morton, late of Marshall County, Alabama, deceased, in his lifetime as an advancement of property to the amount of \$20.00. Given under our hands this August the 11th, 1855.

his
Thomas + Hill
mark
his
Rebecca + Hill
mark

Editor's Note: notice that Rebecca Hill's husband placed *his* mark next to her name.

No. 239
(Unreadable)
Page 89

Personally appeared before me, G. Greenwood, a Justice of the Peace for said

county, James Morton of Blount County, who being duly sworn before Alphoses Hayes states he was acquainted with the deceased William Morton, late of Marshall County, who was his brother; that he is also acquainted with Jeremiah Morton who was the oldest son of said decedent and that in the lifetime of said William Morton he gave to the said Jeremiah, his son, a horse as an advancement of the value at the time given of almost \$40.00 to the best of his knowledge and belief.

his
James + Morton
mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 13th day of August 1855.

G. Greenwood
Justice of the Peace

Proof of Advancement
to F. Samuels
No. 239
Page 90

The State of Alabama) Personally
Marshall County) appeared before me
M. Gilbreath Judge of the Court of Probate of said county, William Samuels who after being duly sworn says on oath that some few years after the marriage of Francis Samuels with Nancy Morton, who was the daughter of William Morton, late of said county, deceased, he heard the said William Morton say that he intended to deduct the amount of \$50.00 from the amount of a payment that the said Francis Samuels had become bound to said Morton for land in consideration of making the advancements as nearly equal as he could between his children that had married, and he heard the said Francis

Samuels afterwards say that the said William Morton did deduct the sum of \$50.00 from the amount which he was to pay for the land sworn to and subscribed before me this the 9th day of July 1855.

Teste M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate

his
William + Samuels
mark

(Unreadable)
No. 239
Page 90

The administration account of William Morton, administrator of the estate of William Morton, deceased, late of Marshall County, Alabama, accountant charges himself as follows to wit:

The amount of sales of personal property made 15th January 1852 on a credit of 12 months \$774.60

20 cash collected from Joel Sullivan April 2 (about) 3.00

Accountant asks to be allowed the following credits to wit:

1. Amount paid Dr. Andrew Moore on his account, 1 July 1854 56.32

2. Amount paid A. ? account, 5 December 1852 24.30

3. Amount paid Joshua Morton for cutting oats 11 November 1852 1.60

4. Cash paid Louis Wyeth's account March and July 1854 10.00

5. Cash paid John ? account 25 November 1852 1.00

6. Cash paid James ? account, 4 March 16.60

7. Cash paid C. G. ? Tax Collector for taxes of 1852 1.32

8. Cash paid White & Sons account 17 July 1853 23.90

9. Cash paid ? Morton 12 January 1853 5.30

10. Cash paid George White's account 17 August 1853 42.00

11. Cash paid William A. Chambers (?) account 28 October 1853 9.27

12. Cash paid Stephen B. Sullivan 9 January 1853 2.00

13. Cash paid David Morton on note about November 1852 18.91

14. Expenses cash paid in attending court and transferring land warrant 11.90

15. B. S. Clapps fee for ? citation .50

16. Amount paid Louis Wyeth his account for legal services on this settlement 10.00

17. Amount paid James E. Peebles, advertising this settlement in Eagle 4.00

18. Amount paid witness for proving advancements 8.00

- Amount of fees in probate court on this settlement 18.25

- Allowance to administrator his services and expenses 50.00

William Morton, administrator of the estate of William Morton, late of said county, deceased, who being first duly sworn, deposes that the forgoing account is correct and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

William M. Morton

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 21st day of April 1855
Teste M. Gilbreath Judge of Probate



Decree on final
Settlement
No. 239
Page 91

The State of Alabama) Court of Probate
Marshall County) Regular Term 2nd
Monday in September 1855 being the 10th
day of same month.

This day comes William M. Morton, administrator of the estate of William Morton, deceased, who having heretofore filed his accounts and vouchers for final settlement now asks the Court to allow the same in appearing to the satisfaction of the court that notice of the filing of said accounts and vouchers for final settlement and of the time and place appointed for said settlement has been given by publication in the *Marshall Eagle*, a newspaper, published in said county for three successive weeks, and this being the day to which said settlement has been continued.

The court proceeded to examine said account and vouchers and finds that the said William M. Morton, administrator of the estate of the said William Morton, deceased, is chargeable with the sum \$777.60 and entitled to credits amounting to the sum of \$315.28 leaving a balance in the amount of

\$462.32; that the sum of \$268.50 has been brought into said estate, being the aggregate of advancements received by distribution of said estate, making the whole sum for distribution \$730.82. No one objected to the allowance of said account as stated aforesaid.

It is ordered by the court that the said account, as so stated as aforesaid, be allowed and that the said sum of \$730.82 be distributed and paid out as follows:

Marshall Morton

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the distributions of Marshall Morton one of the distributees of said estate amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½ and that he has heretofore received of his father, William Morton, deceased, by way of advancement, the sum of \$67. It is therefore ordered and decreed by the court that the said William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay over to the said Marshall Morton the sum of \$6.08 ½.

Mary and Stephen Hallmark

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the distributed share of Mary and Stephen Hallmark by said estate, amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½ and that they received from decedent in his lifetime, by way of advancement, the sum of \$19.50. It is therefore ordered by the court that the said William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay to the said Mary and Stephen Hallmark, the sum of \$53.58 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Mary.

Elizabeth and Calvin Hallmark

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the distributive share of Elizabeth and Calvin Hallmark of said estate amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½, and that they

received from the deceased in his lifetime, by way of advancement, the sum of \$22. It is ordered and decreed by the court that the said William M. Morton, administrator of said estate, pay to the said Elizabeth and Calvin Hallmark the sum of \$51.08 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Elizabeth.

William Morton

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that William M. Morton's distributive share of said estate amounts to the sum of \$72.08 ½, and that he received by way of advancement from the deceased in his lifetime, the sum of \$50.00 It is ordered that he receive in his hands the sum of \$23.08 ½, the balance of his said distributive share of said estate.

Rebecca and Thomas Hill

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the distributive share of Rebecca and Thomas Hill of said estate amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½, and that they have received by way of advancement from the deceased, in his lifetime, \$20.00 leaving the amount of \$53.08 ½, now due them upon this settlement. It is therefore ordered and decreed by the court that the said William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay over to the said Rebecca and Thomas Hill the sum of \$53.08 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Rebecca.

Jeremiah Morton

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the distributive share of Jeremiah Morton amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½, and that he received from his father the deceased, in his lifetime by way of advancement, the sum of \$40.00, leaving the sum of \$33.08 ½ now due him upon this settlement. Ordered and decreed by the court

that William M. Morton, administrator of aforesaid, pay to the said Jeremiah Morton the said sum of \$33.08 ½.

Nancy and Francis Samuels

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the distributive share of Nancy and Francis Samuels in said estate, amounts to the sum of \$73.08 ½, and that they have received by way of advancement from the decedent in his lifetime, the sum of \$50.00, leaving the sum of \$23.08 ½ now due them on the settlement. Ordered and decreed that William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay to the said Nancy and Francis Samuels the said sum of \$23.08 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Nancy.

Jemima and John McNeal

Ordered and decreed by the court that William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay over to Jemima, daughter of the deceased and her husband John McNeal, the sum of \$73.08 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Jemima.

Mary Hallmark

Ordered and decreed by the court that William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay over to Mary Hallmark and her husband (left blank) Hallmark, the sum of \$73.08 ½ for the use and benefit of the said Mary.

Delila Morton

Ordered and decreed by the court that said William M. Morton, administrator as aforesaid, pay to Delila Morton, daughter of the deceased, the sum of \$73.08 ½ her distributive share of said estate.

-The End-

Book Review

Old Land Records of Madison County, Alabama (GLO)

By
Margaret Matthews Cowart

*Old Land Records of Madison County,
Alabama (GLO).*

Authored by Margaret Matthews Cowart.

486 pages, 8-1/2 x 11, offset, full name index, soft cover. \$35.00

Old Land Records of Madison County, Alabama has been out of print for many years. Those of you who have the first edition may feel you already have all the information that is in this edition. Not so! This huge book is far superior to the first edition and makes the first edition obsolete.

Researchers would do well to read and absorb every word of the foreword. No source of genealogical information is more overlooked than land records.

In the first place, as I have said about other volumes written by Mrs. Cowart, the forward is worth the price of the book and this one is no different.

In the front of the book, Mrs. Cowart lists the abbreviations used in this book such as "GLO" used in the title. (It stands for Government Land Office.)

She has included a section entitled "Things I Want to Talk About." In this section, Mrs. Cowart begins with a brief history of Madison County and follows with a copy of a letter from Thomas Freeman to the Hon. Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury. An explanation is given of the Register of Applications and Permissions of 1809 and the 1809 Squatter Census is discussed. [See *Valley Leaves*, Vol. 6, issue No. 4, pages 179-196 for a true copy of the 1809 Squatter Census and also a true copy of the 1809 Register of Applications and Permissions.] An explanation of credit sales, local, state and federal land tract books, school lands, Indian treaties and schools, the Homestead Act, Military Bounty Land, and many other items helpful to the researcher in understanding his ancestors' role as Madison County's first settlers is included. Townships are broken into chapters and each chapter shows a detailed county highway map and a township plat on which you may plot your family's land.

This volume is a boon to determining all the First Settlers. It not only lists the person obtaining the patent (the person making the last payment to the

Government) but also all those persons who attempted to buy a given parcel of land including the selling price.

For instance the first edition shows Absalom G. Winsett patenting the E/2 of the NE/4 of Section 7-1-1W. This edition shows the name to be *Abraham G. Winsett* who paid 12-1/2 cents per acre obtaining the patent 15 Nov 1858.

It was not unusual for a land "owner" to sell his equity in a tract and move on. Some of the tracts of land had numerous "owners" before a patent was finally obtained.

The NW/4 of Sec. 13-1-1W was patented by David Moore at \$2 per acre on 20 Nov 1818. The current edition shows that Stephen Neal of Madison Co. was the original purchaser but he assigned his interest to Thomas McGehee who assigned it to David Moore. In other words, there were two previous "owners" before David Moore.

The first edition shows that Thomas *Arnett's* "heirs" patented the SE/4 of Sec. 8-5-2W but the current volume not only lists the original purchaser as Ann Greed (paid \$15.01 per acre) who assigned it to John Lindsay, admr. Of Thomas *Arnett*. This edition names Arnett's heirs.

There are hundreds of names in this book's index that were not shown in the first edition. For instance, in this index, in the "A's" only, 25 more names appear in this book than in the first edition.

As a professional genealogist, I literally wore out my copy of the first edition – it was hanging to life by a thread. You can well imagine my delight at having been the first purchaser of this edition. I am stunned at the increase in the number of names added to this one.

Enjoy!

Reviewed by Dorothy Scott Johnson

You can order a copy from Margaret Cowart by sending a \$35 check, which includes the cost of postage, to:

7801 Tea Garden Rd. SE
Huntsville, AL 35802

Things You Should Know

Upcoming Book

A much anticipated book should be out by October 1, in time to close the chapter on Huntsville's year-long Bicentennial Celebration. *Eden of the South* is a chronological history of Huntsville's 200 years, and is the result of research and writing of many local people. Huntsville/Madison County Library's archivist, Ranee' Pruitt spearheaded the project of notable highlights culled from old newspapers, court records, and history books about Huntsville.

This project has taken over a year to complete and has a great balance of, not only the news, but everyday life and interesting side notes. Old photographs from the archives are scattered throughout.

Eden of the South not only promises to be a great reference, an entertaining list of trivia, but even more important, a way to raise funds for the library. All proceeds from this book (cost unknown at this time) will go back to the library to help support researchers from Huntsville and around the world.

Are you a Taphophile?

If you are, no need to seek help from your physician. Taphophiles are people who are interested in cemeteries. Family Tree Magazine has announced that a new magazine has been published for people who enjoy searching through cemeteries as well as those who research

for practical purposes, such as to find out more about their own ancestors.

Epitaphs: The Magazine for Cemetery Lovers By Cemetery Lovers, is a new quarterly which features specific cemeteries and also has a question and answer column, a place for readers' experiences, poetry, photography, artwork, resources listings, and book reviews. Anyone who would like to submit a story or see what the magazine is about can peruse the website:

<http://www.thecemeteryclub.com>.

Civil War Military Maps

Military maps prepared by Union forces or northern companies make up a new collection in the Library of Congress.

This project was sponsored by the Library of Congress, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Library of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 Civil War era maps, charts, atlases, and sketchbooks are available on-line at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps.

Army Engineer Corps maps of Virginia show roads, bridges, waterways, and even major buildings. Farms and plantations are identified, as well as the diary and scrapbook of Robert K. Sneden, a private in the Army of the Potomac, who created several of the maps. These can be found on the website of the Virginia Historical Society at <http://www.vahistorical.org>.

Your Genealogy can be made available at Fort Wayne, Indiana's Public Library!

The Allen County/Fort Wayne, Indiana Public Library has the distinction of being the second largest genealogical library in the United States.

Via their free internet newsletter, they have announced that anyone who would like to have their genealogy kept in a central place where anyone can access it, is invited to send an unbound master copy to the Historical Genealogy Department. For your effort, the department will photocopy one for their collection and send the compiler the original manuscript, plus one bound photocopy.

This is a great idea for several reasons: if the writer loses the original in a computer disaster or a act of nature, for example, one will always be available in the safety of the library's walls.

If you are interested, mail an unbound "master copy" to:

Steve Myers, Assistant Manager
Historical Genealogy Department
P. O. Box 2270
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801-2270

Attach a reference to the Photocopy Exchange Program for clarification.

New Website to Identify New England Settlers

The Great Migration Study Project, under the direction of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEGHS) now has a website to identify the 20,000

settlers who went to New England between 1620 and 1643.

A list of Great Migration publications is available on the website <http://www.greatmigration.org> which also has limited biographies on approximately 200 families. By subscribing to the quarterly newsletter, researchers will find even more information. The online newsletter will cost \$20 for non-NEHGS members and \$10 for members.

A three-volume book entitled *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* is also available for \$125. Contact the New England Historic Genealogical Society for more information.

Naturalization Records in St. Louis

During the Great Depression, employees of the federally funded Works Progress Administration created index cards from naturalization records. These records can be accessed at <http://stlgs.org/natsearch.aspx> by identifying the ancestor's name, address, country, year of naturalization, or last name of the witness.

Before you get excited, keep in mind that your immigrant is recorded here only if he/she settled in St. Louis or became a U.S. citizen before heading out west to homestead.

Over 93,000 index cards from city court naturalization records dating from 1816 to 1906 have been posted. After 1906, the federal government took over the job.

-End -

First Families of the Tennessee Valley

Awarded by:

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 1568

Huntsville Alabama 35807-0567



Who qualifies?

A proven direct lineal descendant of any:
Rich man, Poor man, Beggar man, Thief,
Doctor, Lawyer, or Indian Chief,
Preacher, Teacher, Politician, Slave,
Farmer, Foreman, Merchant, or Knave

- or anybody else of either sex -

who, before 14 December 1819, was living in that area of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, The Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Lands, Mississippi Territory, or Alabama Territory that became Colbert, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall or Morgan Counties, Alabama. (Including Catoosa, Decatur, and Elbert Counties and that part of the original Blount County that became Marshall County.)

Your ancestor didn't have to stay here. Your ancestor didn't have to be here after that date. You just have to prove that your ancestor lived here before that date.

Valley Leaves Policies

Contributions

Members of the Society are encouraged to submit *unpublished* primary source material of the nine northernmost counties of Alabama. We focus on pre-1900 material in all counties except Franklin. Early 1900s material is welcome in that county due to the many fires that burned early records.

We are a nonprofit organization and cannot pay for contributions.

We especially appreciate material from other counties or states that pertain to one of our nine covered counties.

TVGS does not pay for contributions but we do acknowledge the contributor and give bylines.

We prefer typewritten material but if you have a legible hand, handwritten information is acceptable. Please do not send computer discs.

Materials we like to get include courthouse records, diaries, church records, military records, minister's records, newspaper items, personal letters, tombstone inscriptions, etc.

Tombstone Inscriptions

If you send tombstone inscriptions, please give the location of the cemetery, how to get to it, and if you copied all the stones or only a portion of them. Other genealogical material concerning the persons enumerated is encouraged but not necessary.

Do NOT put the inscriptions in alphabetical order but leave them in the order in which are buried. By putting them in alphabetical order, important relationships can be lost.

Bible Records

If you send a Bible record, we would like to have a photocopy of it plus your interpretation of each name. We like to include a photocopy of the Bible in *Valley Leaves* as this is helpful to persons proving their lineage for membership in DAR, etc. If there is a *title page* and *date of publication* in the Bible it is imperative that you include them when you submit the record.

Queries

We no longer have a Queries "section," however, if you have a query pertaining to Jackson, Madison or Marshall Counties, we will work it into the main body of the appropriate chapter.

Book Reviews

Books will be reviewed in *Valley Leaves* if the author donates a copy to TVGS. After the review, the book is given to the Heritage Room of the Huntsville- Madison County Public Library.

Quarterlies will be reviewed *only* upon receipt of a *full volume*.

Mailing Address

Please let us know of changes of address as soon as possible. If an issue is lost in the mail due to an address change or the lack of a nine-digit ZIP CODE, a replacement copy will cost \$2.

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