

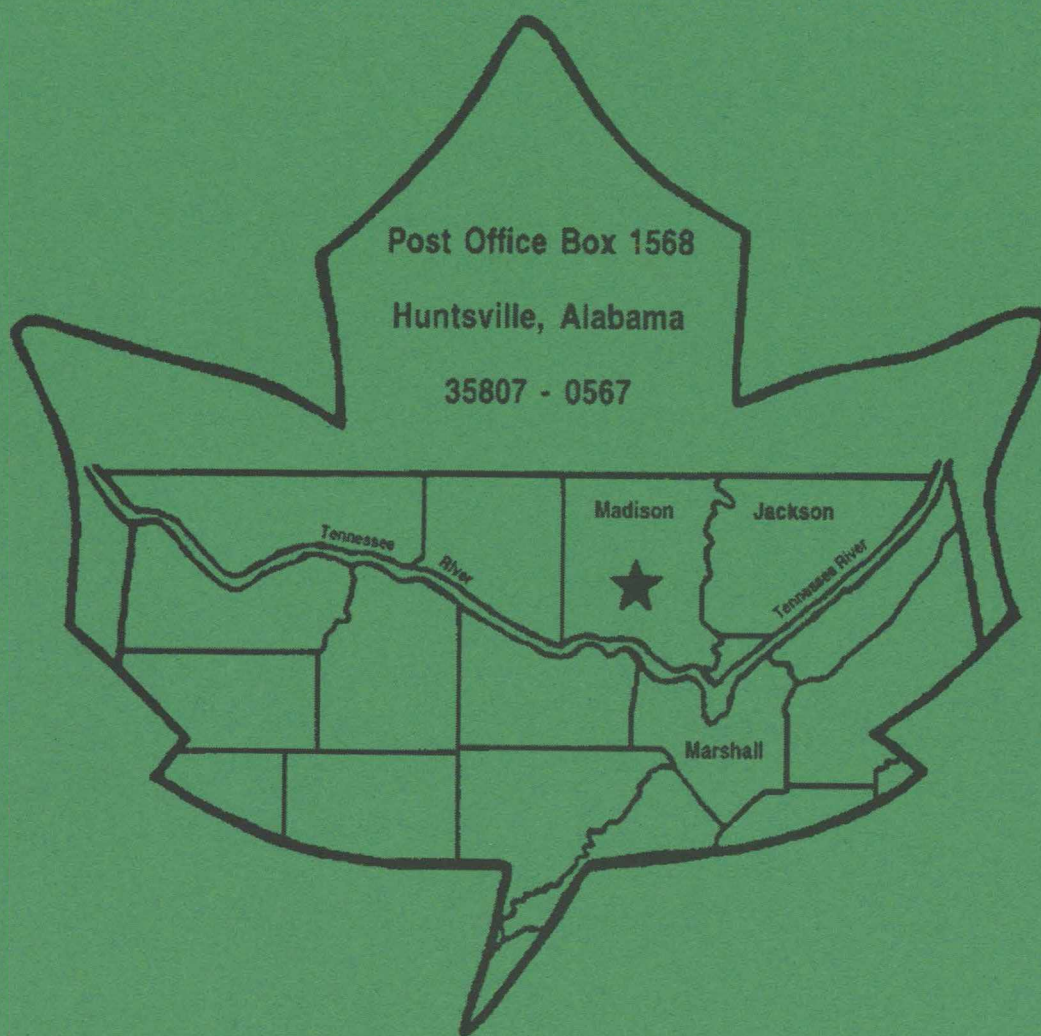
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(North Alabama)

# Valley Leaves

TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

QUARTERLY



Volume 40, Issue No. 2,

December 2005

# Valley Leaves

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# Jackson County

## James Adkins – His Death Notice, Eulogy, Will, and Claim for Civil War Damages

This interesting set of documents includes fascinating information on Jackson County resident James Adkins. In addition to his obituary and will, we have the eulogy given at his funeral by Methodist minister Rev. John C. Hunkapillar. An especially interesting addition to these papers are copies of the actual documents submitted to the Commissioners of Claims. Contributed by Dovie Rieff.

### Death Notice for James Adkins

from the *Scottsboro Fellow Citizen*

19 April 1878

ADKINS. Near Boyd's Switch, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1878 of dropsy, James Adkins, father of Dr. C. W. Adkins. He had been a sufferer for more than four years, and died as he lived, trusting in the same Jesus that he had for more than forty years.

### Eulogy for James Adkins

by Rev. John C. Hunkapillar

JAMES ADKINS, son of Richard and Rebecca Adkins, was born in Brunswick Co. VA, Oct. 28, 1802; moved to Giles Co. TN in 1812; joined the Methodist Church in 1822; married to Susan Brown the same year; died of dropsy in Jackson Co. AL, April 12, 1878, in his 76<sup>th</sup> year. Brother Adkins served the church officially about forty years, as steward, trustee, class-leader, etc. – always gave satisfaction of his ability. In fact, he was the right man in the right place. When the church divided in 1844, he became a member of the M. E. Church South. In the late war, his sympathies were with his own people. No man was more respected as a citizen than Brother Adkins. He was intelligent, industrious, liberal, kind to all, and unwary in all his purposes. I suppose none doubted the genuineness of his religion. I never heard aught against him as citizen or Christian. Brother Adkins was an oldtime camp meeting Methodist. He was a regular touter twenty-two years at the old Prospect Campground in Giles Co. TN. Doubtless, many of the old preachers of the Tennessee Conference remember this good man of God – especially his power in prayer. He used

to be called *the Camp ground Prayer*. He made a good steward, because he was an example of liberality. He loved his preachers, and often wished he could pay them \$100 himself. Just a few weeks before he died, he paid quarterage, \$5. When he could serve the church no longer, he turned over the stewardship to his only son, Dr. C. W. Adkins, and often admonished him to make a good steward in the Church of God. He was a good class leader, because he was so full of the Holy Ghost – never failing to exhort his people to grow in grace, and strive to enter in at the small gate. The last time he was at church he gave a warm exhortation, and admonished all to meet him in heaven, the home of the blessed. It is almost useless to say this good man died right – it could not be otherwise. Though afflicted long, he bore it with Christian patience, cheerful almost to the last. The writer visited him often, and always found him in the Spirit of his Master. He talked much about religion, and his prospects of a better country, and would often get happy and exclaim, *Religion is a fortune!* He said he had no fears of death; he only regretted to leave his dear wife, who had been his helpmate so long. His children, all being grown, could take care of themselves; yet he loved them, and committed them all into the hands of the Lord. The night previous to his death, Jacob-like, he straightened himself on his bed, and gave his children and grandchildren his dying charge – *Stick to the Church, be religious, meet me in heaven.* To his son he said, *Son, stick to the Church, make a good steward, meet me in heaven.* After this he talked but little. When the messenger came he found him ready; he closed

his own eyes, went to sleep without a struggle, to wake no more until the great rising day. So a good man passed over the river to rest from his labors. On the 13<sup>th</sup> his body was deposited at Smith's Chapel Cemetery, to await the resurrection morn. Brother Adkins leaves an aged wife, several children and grandchildren, to mourn; but not as they who have no hope. May the good Lord sustain and comfort them in their sad bereavement, is the prayer of the writer.

### Will of James Adkins

When James Adkins wrote his will, he left his entire estate to his wife Susan as a life estate. Susan (Brown) Adkins died 20 Mar 1884. The executors named by James Adkins, his son Dr. Charles Wesley Adkins, and son-in-law Felix Grundy Petty, filed the will and a petition to probate 12 Apr 1884.

James Adkins' will, written 10 Aug 1877, was filed 12 Apr 1884, and is found in the Jackson Co. Alabama Will Book H, Pages 545-547.

Adkins gave and bequeathed unto his "beloved wife Susan, the use improvement and income of all my real and personal property of every kind whatsoever to have and to hold for her for and during her natural life."

Adkins stated that after her death, "all the said property of every kind that may remain at her death" be advertised in a legal manner and sold at Public Sale for cash in hand and that "the proceeds of such sale shall be equally divided among my children and their heirs."

Allowances were to be made as claims against them respectively. To wit, Charles W. Adkins \$150; Ary A. Petty, wife of F. G. Petty \$200; Sarah C. King, late the wife of John R. King, \$600; Nancy M. Petty, the wife of Wm. G. Petty, \$330; Margary Nash, wife of A. S. Nash, \$882; Penelope Erwin, late the wife of Thomas Erwin, \$368. No interest was to be charged.

Charles W. Adkins, son of James Adkins, and Felix G. Petty, James' son-in-law, were appointed executors without bond.

The will was signed by James Adkins and witnessed by Jas. H. Young and Wm. N. Skelton.

### Petition to Probate Will of James Adkins

This petition was filed with John B. Talley, Judge of Probate on 12 April 1884. The account for final settlement was filed 26 Jan 1888 with John H. Norwood, Judge of Probate.

F. G. Petty, one of the executors, named the legatees giving their ages and residences:

Children of Alexander Adkins and grandchildren of James Adkins:

Nancy H. Allen, 21, wife of Charles H. Allen, Gilbertsboro P.O. Limestone Co., AL

Marthy A. Branum, 21, wife of Joseph Branum, Ozark, AR

Children of Penelope Erwin and grandchildren of James Adkins viz John Fletcher, Frank, Mary and Ann, all over 21, Arkansas.

Anna and India Gideon, children of Susan Gideon, child of Penelope Erwin.

Della A. Davis, over 21, wife of Jeff Davis, Marshall Co. AL, dau. of Sarah C. King, who was the dau. of James Adkins.

Wesley B. Hazlewood, over 21, son of Sarah C. King, Giles Co., TN

Lester, Catherine, and Minnie King, minors living with John A. King, Scottsboro, children of Sarah C. King and grandchildren of James Adkins.

Margie J. Nash, 21, wife of A. S. Nash, Jonesboro, AR and child of James Adkins.

Nancy Mildred Petty, over 21, wife of W. G. Petty Larkinsville, Jackson Co., AL, child of James Adkins.

Charles Wesley Adkins, over 21, Langston, AL,  
son of James Adkins.

Ary A. Petty, over 21, wife of F. G. Petty,  
Limrock, AL, dau. of James Adkins.

~~~~~  
**Appraisement Bill**

Estate of James Adkins

Filed with Probate Judge John B. Tally

Articles:

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 lot of corn 180 bu more or less | \$108.00 |
| 1 grindstone                      | .50      |
| 1 pony plow                       | .50      |
| 1 lot old wagon irons             | 1.50     |
| 2 old looms                       | .50      |
| 1 cub board                       | 1.00     |
| 1 spinning wheel                  | 1.00     |
| 1 book case                       | 2.00     |
| 1 ironing stand                   | 1.00     |
| 1 cutting knife                   | .25      |
| 1 lot of oats                     | 20.00    |
| 1 dozen old chains                | 2.25     |
| 1 water bucket & candle stick     | .10      |
| 1 clock                           | 1.00     |
| 1 bureau                          | 4.50     |
| 1 looking glass                   | .50      |
| 1 folding leaf table              | 4.00     |
| 1 dining table                    | .50      |
| 1 candle stand                    | 1.00     |
| 2 stone jars                      | .50      |
| 2 stone pitchers                  | .50      |
| 1 stone jug                       | .50      |
| 1 lot table ware                  | 2.00     |
| 1 wash kettle and tub             | 1.00     |
| 1 brass kettle                    | 1.00     |
| 1 pair sheep shears               | .50      |
| 1 grub hoe                        | .25      |
| 1 sausage grinder                 | 1.00     |
| 8 cover lids                      | 9.00     |
| 5 bed blankets                    | 2.50     |
| 2 counterpanes                    | 4.00     |
| 2 table cloths                    | .50      |
| 4 bed sheets                      | 1.00     |
| 9 bed quilts                      | 10.00    |

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 2 feather beds complete  | 16.00    |
| 1 feather bed, 2 pillows | 5.00     |
| 1 cow and calf           | 20.00    |
| Total                    | \$237.35 |

**Report of Sale of Personal Property  
Received**

\$207.89

**Report of Renting**

The lands of James Adkins, deceased, was  
rented to James A. Reaves for the year 1885 for  
\$75.00 due 1 Nov 1890.

~~~~~  
**Final Settlement - Estate of James Adkins**

Filed 26 January 1888 with

Probate Judge John H. Norwood

To Amt Debts	\$1,194.54
To Amt Credits	218.44
Total to be distributed	976.10

Advancements to:

C. W. Adkins	150.00
A. A. Petty	200.00
Sarah C. King	600.00
N. M. Petty	330.00
M. J. Nash	882.00
Penelope Erwin	368.00

Total	\$2,530.00
Grand Total (with amount to be distributed)	\$3,506.10

It appearing that S. C. King and M. J. Nash had  
received together \$1,482.00

Leaving to be divided among the five remaining  
heirs (to each \$404.82):

C. W. Adkins, less \$150 advance	25.48
A. A. Petty, less \$200 advance	20.48
N. M. Petty, less \$330 advance	7.48
P. Erwin, less \$368 advance	36.82
Heirs of Alie Adkins	404.82

## Civil War Damage Claim of James Adkins, Jackson County

The Southern Claims Commission received numerous claims from Jackson County residents between 1871 and 1880. James Adkins submitted claim No. 4085 on 18 August 1873 at age 70 while living near Larkinsville. When the claim was reviewed, it was denied based on the question of his loyalty during the Civil War.

Subsequent appeals were filed by Adkins' son-in-law Felix G. Petty, an Executor of his estate. Case number 10143 Motion for A New Trial on Loyalty was filed in the Court of Claims.

The brief submitted includes summaries of the original depositions as well as new depositions to support the appeal.

According to Washington attorneys for the claimant, Moyers and Consaul, further material evidence had been uncovered to refute the decision, made on 21 April 1902, that James Adkins had been disloyal to the Union. These interesting statements are included here:

**E. W. Reeves**, age 66, a neighbor of Adkins lived near Limrock. He stated that Adkins was a Union man throughout the war based on his conversations with him and he knew he treated Federal soldiers kindly. On the issue of Adkins' son being in the Confederate Army, Reeves said the son was over 21 and not living with his father when he enlisted.

**Mahala Carver**, age 72, who also lived near Limrock, ¼ mile from James Adkins, talked with him often. She said he opposed the war and his son's service, and was friendly with Yankee soldiers, entertaining them in his home. She said he did not give aid to the Confederacy.

**Logan Adkins**, age 60, a slave on Adkins' farm during the Civil War, stated Union officers stayed at his house often when camped near Larkinsville and he would visit them. He said Adkins was a plain farmer, a man who looked

after his own business and let others do the same.

**Mrs. A. A. Petty**, age 60, a daughter who lived with her father during the Civil War, said he was opposed to secession. She said her father and the Federal officers talked about the causes of the war and were in agreement. They dined with them, and when she was ill, a Federal surgeon had attended her for about two weeks. She knew Capt. George DeGrass of Battery A, Illinois Volunteers, and said General Smith gave him protection papers so he was not molested by Federal soldiers, except on one occasion when some malicious person made charges against him and several neighbors. They were arrested, sent to Stevenson where the charges were shown as false, and returned home after taking the Oath of Allegiance.

The affidavit of F. G. Petty, the formal party claimant, showed the testimony of Carver, Reeves, and Logan Adkins to be newly discovered.

Counsel for Claimant stated the earlier testimony had warranted a finding in favor of loyalty and asked that the adverse finding be withdrawn.

Counsel stated the facts as:

1. Claimant moved from Tennessee to Alabama late in 1860.
2. He took no part in the election in Alabama in 1861 and probably was not a qualified voter.
3. He did not believe in secession and so expressed himself, so far as he dared.
4. Being a new resident in Alabama, he did not know who to trust.
5. He opposed his son's enlistment in the Confederate Army, gave him no aid, and tried to persuade him to leave.
6. A son-in-law remained at home until conscripted and then worked in a saltpeter cave until Federals arrived.
7. With trustworthy persons, he spoke in opposition to the war.
8. He was socially friendly with Federal officers.



9. When Federal troops broke camp at Larkinsville, they gave him provisions.

10. New evidence included the treatment of his daughter when ill.

Counsel stated that his being arrested was not evidence of disloyalty nor was his son's service. A new finding was made on his loyalty.

Summary on Loyalty from the original Application:

**James Adkins** testified he came from Tennessee to Jackson County in 1860, stayed at the same residence, never took an oath to the Confederacy, but did take an oath to support the U. S. Constitution and afterwards took the Amnesty Oath. He was arrested on a rumor that he was getting up a company to confiscate property of Capt. Latham's men, but Capt. Latham released him and took him to Stevenson. Claimant said he fed many Union soldiers. He never received a pass from Confederates but did from the Federals. He said at the beginning of the Rebellion he sympathized with the old government and shed many a tear on account of it. After the state seceded, he still adhered to Union principles and had no part in the rebellion.

**Charles W. Adkins**, son of claimant, said he conversed often with him privately about the war. He tried to keep him from enlisting. He said claimant did not talk publicly about his views, but his loyal neighbors were friendly with him. Prudence and fear prevented him from making a blow-horn of his sentiments.

**Allen Isbell** testified he knew the claimant two or three years before the war and spoke with him on the war. Isbell stayed at home during the war, but had limited contact with him then and didn't know too much about his views.

**Jesse W. Isbell** testified he understood Claimant voted the Secession ticket, but he didn't know much on his views until later in the war when he talked as a Union man. Isbell was a Union soldier, and a member of Latham's Company. He had heard talk of the arrest.

**Mrs. Nannie M. Petty**, a daughter of Claimant, said she moved with her husband to Alabama in March 1862 and lived near him. She heard him talking frequently about the war. She heard him tell son-in-law, Wesley Hazelwood, not to go in the army. She said she never saw her brother during the war. Also she said Claimant advised his negroes to go to the Federals after he had no food for them.

**William G. Petty** lived in Tennessee until the Spring of 1862, then moved to Alabama near the Claimant who advised his children to keep out of the war. After General Mitchel was there in 1862, he had frequent conversations with the Claimant, his father-in-law. He did not go into the Confederate Army, but worked in the saltpeter works. Said the Alabamians in and around Larkinsville who joined the Federal Army were not as friendly as the regular soldiers.

**F. G. Petty** testified he knew Claimant in Tennessee before 1860. He himself moved to Alabama and married a daughter in 1866 and had served as Executor of the Claimant's estate. He served in the Confederate Army and was at the Claimant's house only once during the war, in the summer of 1863. He said the Claimant opposed Secession and voted against it.

**Ady A. Petty**, a daughter of Claimant who lived with him during the war and afterwards married F. G. Petty, said her brother was in the Confederate Army and also a brother-in-law, A. S. Nash. Two brothers-in-law, William Petty and Wesley Hazelwood, did not enlist but worked in the saltpeter mines. She said her father sided with the Union throughout. He owned 12 negroes and never sent any of them south or disposed of any. Mentions Lt. Low and Capt. DeGrass as staying with them. After the Spring of 1863, Federal soldiers gave him three old horses for plowing after they had taken his property. Said the Confederates did not molest or threaten Claimant during the war, but they did not come to his place as did the Union soldiers.

Unfortunately for James Adkins, and later for his heirs, the claim was denied. -END-

[FRONT PAGE.]

Before the Commissioners of Claims.

ACT OF CONGRESS, MARCH 3, 1871.

of James Adkins  
No. 4085

is hereby certified that on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August  
at Scottsboro, in the county of Jackson  
State of Alabama, personally came before me the following  
persons, viz:

James Adkins Claimant,  
G. S. Campbell Counsel, or Attorney,  
and Charles W. Atkins, Allen Bell, Mary  
Petty and Nancy Jane Allen  
Claimant's Witnesses,

for the purpose of a hearing in the above entitled cause.

Each and every deponent, previous to his or her examination, was  
and duly sworn or affirmed by me to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing  
but the truth, concerning the matters under examination; and the testimony of  
each deponent was written out by me, or in my presence, and as given before me,  
and subsequently read over to said deponent, by whom it was also subscribed in my  
presence.

Witness my hand and seal this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August  
1873.

 James H. Bow  
Special Commissioner of the Commissioners of Claims.

Deposition of James Adkins

In answer to the First General Interrogatory, the Deponent says:

My name is James Adkins, my age seventy  
years, my residence near Fortkinsville, in the State of  
Alabama, and my occupation a farmer;  
I am related to the claimant, James Adkins  
and have a beneficial interest in the claim.

[NOTE: The Claimant should always be first examined when present, in which case the words "related to" as printed immediately above, should be stricken out.]

DIRECTIONS.

- NOTE 1.—Insert number of the Claim.  
 2.—"Taken" or "furnished."  
 3.—Describe the military organization by name as fully and particularly as possible.  
 4.—State as well as can be done, the place to which the property was conveyed for the use of the army.  
 5.—State as fully and minutely as it is possible, the particular persons or commands using the property, and to what particular use it was applied.  
 6.—The claimant's name should be signed here, either by himself or his attorney.

No. 4085 1

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS,**

Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1871.

In the matter of the Claim of James Adkins  
 of Lexingtonville, in the County of Jackson  
 and State of Alabama

Comes now the claimant, before James W. Bond, Esq.,  
 Special Commissioner for the State of Alabama, and  
 represents that he has heretofore filed with the above-named Commissioners a  
 Petition for the allowance of a claim for property taken for the use of  
 the army of the United States, which claim, as stated below, does not exceed the  
 sum of five thousand dollars.

That the said claim, stated by items, and excluding therefrom all such items  
 as refer to the DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, and LOSS, and not the USE, of property,  
 to unauthorized or unnecessary DEPREDATIONS of troops and other persons upon  
 the property, or to RENT or compensation for the occupation of buildings, grounds,  
 or other real estate, is as follows:

No. of Item	QUANTITIES AND ARTICLES.	VALUE.	
		Dolls.	Cts.
1	Black Mare	4.00	00
2	1 Dark bay horse 6 years old	20.00	00
3	1 Black horse mule	20.00	00
4	1 Dark bay mare 140 <sup>lb</sup>	1.40	00
5	1 Bay pack	1.50	00
6	20 High fed Hogs 3 wks @ 10 <sup>cts</sup>	3.00	00
7	1 Saddle	1.00	00
8	200 pounds Saddle @ 2 <sup>cts</sup>	4.00	00
Total,		142.60	00

That, as stated in the Petition referred to, the property in question was taken from or furnished by claimant of Larkinsville, in the State of Alabama, for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as part of United States Army, and commanded by Genl. Wilson and that the persons who took or received the property, or who authorized or directed it to be taken or furnished, were the following:

NAME.	RANK.	CO.	Regiment, Corps or Station.
<u>Latham</u>	<u>capt.</u>		<u>1 Ala. Vidette Cavalry</u>
<u>Ames</u>	<u>Capt.</u>		<u>Washington</u>
<u>Crawford</u>	<u>Capt.</u>		

That the property was removed to (4) Larkinsville and used for or by (5) the army of the United States; all this on or about the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year 186234 as appears by the petition presented to the Commissioners.

That by the following named persons, the claimant expects to prove that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, his sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that he never, of his own free will and accord, did anything, or offered, or sought, or attempted to do anything, by word or deed, to injure said cause or retard its success, and that he was at all times ready and willing, when called upon, or if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union, or its supporters, so far as his means and power, and the circumstances of the case, permitted.

\_\_\_\_\_ of Allen Tabell of Larkinsville Ala  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

That, by the following named persons, the claimant expects to prove the taking or furnishing of the property for the use of the army of the United States:

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Jane Allen of Larkinsville Ala  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Sir A. Petty of Larkinsville Ala

The claimant now prays that the testimony of the witnesses just designated be taken and recorded, at such place and at such time as the Special Commissioner may designate, at the reasonable cost of the said claimant; and that due notice of the time and place of the taking thereof be given to the Claimant, or to his counsel.

Submitted on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 1873.

James Adkins Claimant.  
by G. D. Campbell

P. R. W. Walker Attorney  
P. O. Address of Attorney  
Scottdon, Ala  
Washington D.C.

## Elizabeth Walker vs. George Walker Divorce

The Jackson County Final Record Book 1 for 1847 to 1852 contains the following entries on a petition for divorce.

**Elizabeth Walker**  
vs  
**George Walker**

June Term 1850  
Divorce

In February 1840, Elizabeth married George Walker. Her living children by said marriage are:

1. James, age 7
2. Sarah, aged about 5 years
3. Mary, aged about 3 years
4. David, aged about 4 months

Elizabeth charges that George is a habitual drunkard and has been ill treating her since August last (1849). He drove her out of her home several times in the night, exposing her and the children to clemency of weather. He has repeatedly struck her with his fist and threatened her severely. She, through fear, left him five weeks ago and went to live with her brother, who lives about 30 miles from her husband's residence.

She had no transportation so she borrowed a horse from William Walker, her husband's brother who lived a mile away, and went to her

brother's home. George then went to William Walker's home and stabbed him several times.

George owns 500 acres on Crow Creek in Jackson County and nine slaves.

George is now in jail in Jackson County. He told her he would either break out of jail or get out on bond and then was going to abscond. Elizabeth believes he will do so unless restrained.

~~~~~

June Term, 1850

**Elizabeth Walker**  
vs  
**George Walker**

Divorce denied.

George's estate was put in the hands of a trustee as he was deemed unfit to run his own affairs or raise his own children. He is enjoined from interfering with the children or Elizabeth.

**Note:** In the August term of 1851, a year later, a suit was filed by George Walker vs. William A. Austin. It states that on 21 October 1848 while Walker "was in a state of insanity and confined in jail" he was induced by one Joiner Gentry to become his security on an appeal bond.

END

### Civil Register of County Officials 1821-1844

The final page of the Civil Register of County Officials, 1832-1844, Part 2, contributed by the late Mrs. Richard H. Gilliam, Jr., was inadvertently omitted in the Volume 40, Issue 1, September 2005 issue. The last page of this section is contained here.

| Official's Name       | Office           | Date/Comm.    | Remarks |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Armstrong, William C. | "                | "             |         |
| Witt, Charles         | "                | "             |         |
| Justice, John         | "                | "             |         |
| Proctor, William D.   | "                | "             |         |
| Belomy, William       | "                | "             |         |
| Kirby, Tho. W.        | "                | "             |         |
| McBroom, William      | "                | "             |         |
| Biggs, Joseph         | "                | "             |         |
| Brooks, William C.    | "                | "             |         |
| Mitchell, M. P.       | "                | "             |         |
| Scruggs, Tho.         | "                | "             |         |
| Price, Henderson      | "                | "             |         |
| Collins, A. W.        | "                | "             |         |
| Ivy, Clemens          | "                | "             |         |
| Hall, Tho.            | "                | "             |         |
| Griffin, William S.   | "                | "             |         |
| Snodgrass, Tho.       | Justice of Peace | 15 April 1841 |         |
| Gallott, William      | "                | "             |         |
| Allen, Wilson S.      | "                | "             |         |

Final

# Madison County

## 1870 Federal Census

### Part 2 of 3

Part of Madison County's 1870 census was inadvertently included in Marengo County in the microfilm rolls of that year. If your ancestors lived in the areas of Ryland, Brownsboro yet you can not find them in the Madison County census, it may be they are in the portion wrongly included in Marengo County. The following census excerpt was found in the Marengo County 1870 Census Reel No. M593-28 from the National Archives. Extract by Dorothy Scott Johnson. See March-June 2005 Issue for Part 1. Legend:

b – black                      hs – house                      occup – occupation                      sx – sex  
 f – female                      kp – keep                      rd – read    v – vote                      vote – can vote  
 fam – family                      lbr – laborer    wrt – write                      frm – farm                      m – mulatto  
 schl – in school                      servt – servant                      frmr – farmer

| No's                                               | Dwell &<br>Fam No | Name            | Age  | sx | race | born | Occup    | value/<br>mo. born | Schl   | Can not<br>rd wrt | Vote |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------|----|------|------|----------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|------|
| <b>Township 3, Range 2 East - Brownsboro P. O.</b> |                   |                 |      |    |      |      |          |                    |        |                   |      |
| 309/20                                             | 125/130           | Hank, James     | 45   | m  | w    | Al   | farmer   | \$4000/\$1000      |        |                   | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Sarah           | 37   | f  | w    | Tn   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | William         | 14   | m  | w    | Al   |          |                    | school |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Smith, Robert   | 11   | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
| 309/20                                             | 126/131           | Robertson, John | 60   | m  | b    | Al   | frm lbr  |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Susan           | 40   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | James           | 16   | m  | m    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Lena            | 12   | m  | m    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | John            | 10   | m  | m    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Jordan          | 8    | m  | m    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Peter           | 5    | m  | m    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Elizabeth       | 4/12 | f  | m    | Al   |          |                    | April  |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Keys, Martha    | 24   | f  | b    | Al   | no occup |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | John            | 4    | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Catherine       | 18   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    | 127/132           | Walker, Jane    | 35   | f  | b    | Tn   | farmer   |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Margaret        | 13   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Cambrey?        | 11   | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    |                   | Richard         | 1    | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        |                   |      |
|                                                    | 128/133           | Walls, Moris?   | 53   | m  | b    | Tn   | farmer   | --- /\$150         |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Sylvia          | 34   | f  | b    | NC   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Thomas          | 22   | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Caledonia       | 20   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Hester          | 17   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Mary Ella       | 13   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Emily           | 12   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    | 129/135           | Walls, Laura    | 20   | f  | b    | Al   | frm lbr  |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    | 130/135           | Adkins, Donice  | 22   | m  | b    | Al   | frm lbr  |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Smith           | 4    | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Battle, Agnes   | 35   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Luvice          | 15   | f  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | George          | 12   | m  | b    | Al   |          |                    |        | x                 | x    |
|                                                    |                   | Robert          | 10   | m  | b    | Al   | farmer   |                    |        | x                 | x    |

| No's                                                | Dwell & Fam No               | Name           | Age | sex | race | born | Occup                   | value/<br>mo. born | Schl       | Can<br>rd | not<br>wrt | can<br>Vote |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----|-----|------|------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Township 3, Range 2 East - Brownsboro P. O.-</b> |                              |                |     |     |      |      |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
| 131/136                                             | Strong, C.                   | George         | 33  | m   | b    | Al   | farmer                  |                    | school [?] |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Louisana       | 30  | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs                   |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Cornelia       | 14  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Septemus?      | 11  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
| 132/172                                             | Ruglon <sup>1</sup> , Joseph |                | 46  | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Mary           | 27  | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs                   |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Henrietta      | 8   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
| 310/21                                              | 172/169                      | Toney, Ann     | 40  | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs                   |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Daniel         | 17  | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Louisa         | 16  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Malinda        | 13  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | William        | 10  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | John           | 9   | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Indiana        | 7   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Sarah          | 5   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Richard        | 1   | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     | 173/170                      | Vinah          | 24  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Edmund         | 14  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Simona         | 12  | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Margaret       | 9   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
| <b>Township 5, Range 2 West - Triana P. O.</b>      |                              |                |     |     |      |      |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     | 174/171                      | Toney, Darkus  | 60  | f   | b    | Va   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Solomon        | 40  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          | x           |
|                                                     |                              | Oscar          | 12  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Beechy         | 5   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     | 175/172                      | Toney, Charles | 24  | m   | b    | Al   | farmer                  | --- /\$300         |            | x         | x          | x           |
|                                                     |                              | Sawney?        | 17  | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     | 176/173                      | Toney, Sarah   | 34  | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Kisah          | 14  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Viola          | 4   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Lee            | 2   | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Toney, Thorton | 15  | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr                 |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     | 177/174                      | Hiter, Allen   | 60  | m   | b    | Al   | farmer                  | --- / \$400        |            | x         | x          | x           |
|                                                     |                              | Mary           | 55  | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs                   |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Wyatt          | 16  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | John           | 14  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Matthew        | 11  | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Jefferson      | 7   | m   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Sophia         | 6   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     | 178                          | blank          |     |     |      |      |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
| 310/21                                              | 179/175                      | Miller, George | 45  | m   | b    | Al   | farmer                  | --- /\$500         |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Mary           | 47  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Laura          | 14  | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            | x         | x          |             |
|                                                     |                              | Elizabeth      | 6   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Melinda        | 3   | f   | b    | Al   |                         |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     | 180/176                      | Rowe, William  | 75  | m   | w    | Va   | farmer                  | \$10,000/\$1000    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | Nancy          | 64  | f   | w    | Va   | kp hs                   |                    |            |           |            |             |
|                                                     |                              | William        | 27  | m   | w    | Al   | Ret. dry goods merchant |                    |            |           |            |             |

<sup>1</sup> Could this be Ragland?



| No's                                           | Dwell &<br>Fam No | Name               | Age  | sx | race | born | Occup       | value/<br>mo. born | Schl   | Can not<br>rd wrt | can<br>Vote |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------|----|------|------|-------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Township 5, Range 2 West - Triana P. O.</b> |                   |                    |      |    |      |      |             |                    |        |                   |             |
| 310/22                                         |                   | Rowe, Melinda      | 40   | f  | w    | Al   | seamstress  |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Louisa             | 23   | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Nathaniel          | 23   | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                   | Mason, Elizabeth   | 45   | f  | w    | Al   | seamstress  |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Catherine          | 12   | f  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | William            | 6    | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Lewis, John        | 21   | m  | w    | Al   | ret. grocer |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                | 181/177           | Crane, James       | 21   | m  | w    | SC   | farmer      | --- /\$300         |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Jane               | 19   | f  | w    | Ga   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Braddock           | 3    | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                | 182/178           | Stroder, Jacob     | 37   | m  | b    | Ind  | farmer      |                    |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                   | Henrietta          | 36   | f  | b    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | America            | 3    | f  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Louisa             | 2    | f  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Binford, Fanny     | 13   | f  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Emeline            | 10   | f  | b    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Catherine          | 7    | f  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Jaames             | 6    | m  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                | 183/179           | Butler, Chauncey   | 25   | m  | b    | Ga   | farmer      |                    |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                   | Annie              | 20   | f  | b    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                | 184/180           | Bibb, William      | 21   | m  | b    | Al   |             | --- /\$500         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                   | Scruggs, Rebecca   | 23   | f  | b    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Coleman            | 8    | m  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Malone, Sarah      | 24   | f  | b    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | William            | 4    | m  | b    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
| 310/22                                         | 185/181           | Craig, Granville   | 40   | m  | m    | Al   | farmer      |                    |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                   | Martha             | 25   | f  | b    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Peyton             | 8    | m  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Ella               | 7    | f  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Eliza              | 5    | f  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | William            | 4    | m  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Porter             | 2    | m  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Louanna            | 6/12 | f  | m    | Al   |             |                    | Jany   |                   |             |
|                                                | 186/182           | Stetton, Archie    | 41   | m  | m    | Al   | shoemaker   |                    |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                   | Sarah              | 24   | f  | m    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Davis              | 8    | m  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Field              | 6    | m  | m    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                | 187/183           | Campbell, Pleasant | 40   | m  | w    | Tn   | farmer      | --- /\$400         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                   | Lucinda            | 37   | f  | w    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        | x x               |             |
| 311/23                                         |                   | William            | 20   | m  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Joseph             | 16   | m  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Eliza              | 12   | f  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Fanny              | 10   | f  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Susan              | 6    | f  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                | 188/184           | Maples, Scott      | 35   | m  | w    | Al   | farmer      |                    |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                   | Lucinda            | 28   | f  | w    | Al   | kp hs       |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | William            | 18   | m  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | James              | 16   | m  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Sail               | 14   | m  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                   | Eliza              | 12   | f  | w    | Al   | frm lbr     |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Fanny              | 10   | f  | w    | Al   |             |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Joseph             | 7    | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                   | Francis            | 4    | m  | w    | Al   |             |                    |        |                   |             |

| No's                                           | Dwell & Fam No | Name                | Age  | sex | race | born | Occup         | value/<br>mo. born | Schl   | Can not<br>rd wrt | can<br>Vote |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------|-----|------|------|---------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Township 5, Range 2 West – Triana P. O.</b> |                |                     |      |     |      |      |               |                    |        |                   |             |
| 189/185                                        |                | Vaughan, Martin     | 43   | m   | w    | NC   | farmer        | \$5000/\$1000      |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                | Fanny L.            | 34   | f   | w    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Eliza H.            | 9/12 | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    | Nov    |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Leftwich, Mary B.   | 12   | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Carry               | 6    | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
| 190/186                                        |                | Holder, Henry       | 55   | m   | b    | Al   | farmer        | ---/ \$400         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Lucy                | 50   | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Ellen               | 12   | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
| 191/187                                        |                | Huston, Francis     | 62   | m   | b    | NC   | farmer        | --- / \$250        |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Louisa              | 66   | f   | b    | Va   | kp hs         |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Boone, Victoria     | 18   | f   | m    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Sampson, Eliza      | 12   | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
| 192/188                                        |                | Blackburn, John     | 48   | m   | b    | Va   | farmer        | --- /              | 400    | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Pallas              | 25   | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Elijah              | 7    | m   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Lulie               | 4    | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Eliza               | 2    | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Johnson, William    | 8    | m   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
| 193/189                                        |                | Craig, Vinah        | 35   | f   | b    | Al   | farmer        |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Mary                | 15   | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Granville           | 14   | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Angeline            | 8    | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Ophelia             | 6/12 | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    | Jany   |                   |             |
| 311/23                                         | 194/190        | Watkins, William W. | 65   | m   | w    | Va   | farmer        | \$5000/\$1000      |        |                   | x           |
|                                                |                | Martha              | 39   | f   | w    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | William             | 14   | m   | w    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
| 311/24                                         |                | Carrie              | 12   | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Helen               | 10   | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    | school |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Edward              | 8    | m   | w    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Iona                | 6    | f   | w    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
| 195/192                                        |                | Chandler, William   | 50   | m   | w    | NC   | justice/peace |                    |        |                   | x           |
| 196/192                                        |                | McDowell, Alexander | 48   | m   | b    | Va   | farmer        | --- /\$150         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Mary                | 49   | f   | b    | NC   |               |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Allen, Gilbert      | 21   | m   | b    | Al   | farmer        |                    |        | x                 | x           |
|                                                |                | Margaret            | 16   | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x                 |             |
| 197/193                                        |                | Jones, Berry        | 26   | m   | b    | Al   | farmer        | --- /\$300         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Amanda              | 24   | f   | b    | Ky   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | William             | 9/12 | m   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Bledsoe, Jeremiah   | 38   | m   | b    | Al   | farmer        | --- /\$500         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Jane                | 40   | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        | x x               |             |
| 311/24                                         | [197/193]      | [Bledsoe], Mary J   | 16   | f   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x                 |             |
|                                                |                | Edward              | 14   | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x                 |             |
| 198/194                                        |                | Caudle, James       | 38   | m   | b    | Al   | farmer        | --- /\$600         |        | x x               | x           |
|                                                |                | Elliza              | 23   | f   | b    | Al   | kp hs         |                    |        | x x               |             |
|                                                |                | Patience            | 9    | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Wright              | 6    | m   | b    | Al   |               |                    |        |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Jane                | 3/12 | f   | b    | Al   |               |                    | April  |                   |             |
|                                                |                | Caudle, Richard     | 14   | m   | b    | Al   | frm lbr       |                    |        | x x               | -continued- |

## Steger Civil War Letter

This letter was transcribed from the original by Charles Rice. The original is in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library. It was written on thin, pale blue paper. Where the paper had torn along the creases, someone tried to repair it using ordinary Scotch tape. The tape has deteriorated only adding to the damage.

The letter is believed to have been written by Mary Elizabeth (Maddin) Steger, wife of Dr. Francis Eppes Harris [F. E. H.] Steger. It was written to her sister-in-law, Mary Elizabeth [Wall] Steger, wife of Kennon H. Steger of what is now Ryland, Alabama. Dr. F. E. H. Steger and Mary had been residents of Madison County, he having inherited his father's land, and the 1860 Federal census shows them living in the northeast portion of the county. At the time the letter was written, F. E. H. and Mary lived in Hamilton, Georgia. F. E. H. Steger graduated from LaGrange College in Alabama and also attended medical lectures at Louisville, Ky.

F. E. H. and Mary were married in Madison County 25 Feb 1841. She was the dau. of the Rev. Thomas Madden/Maddin [born Pa. ca 1795, a Methodist Episcopal minister] and his wife, Sarah [born Md. ca 1795]. Mary was born 13 March 1823 in Tenn. and died in Nashville on 17 April 1893.

After the Civil War, the F. E. H. Stegers moved to Nashville, Tennessee where Mary E. died. Her obituary states she was the wife of Dr. F. E. H. Steger, the mother of Capt. T. M. Steger and Dr. R. W. Steger; she was also the sister of Dr. T. J. Madden and Dr. J. W. Madden. Funeral services were conducted at the residence on Farrell St. on the 20<sup>th</sup> and burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Some punctuation has been added to clarify the material. Some of the genealogy of this family shown above has been taken from the manuscript work of Pauline (Jones) Gandrud and Kathleen Jones.

Hamilton, Georgia  
Feb'y 17<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear Mary Eliza,

I cannot tell you how much rejoiced I was yesterday to get letters from you and your Pa.

You cannot imagine the pleasure it afforded me to find out your whereabouts. I [went] to a deal of trouble to ascertain where you were but in vain. I wrote to Mr. Blalock last fall – no answer. I then sent Peter over to Greenville with a note to Judge Lovett but he saw Mr. Blalock in Greenville.<sup>1</sup> He informed me by note you were 16 miles below Montgomery but had forgotten your Post Office, so I was almost as bad off as before. I do feel so thankful you have at last written for you do not know how lonely I have been without hearing from you. Now, I do hope, as communication is again open, we will not feel as if we were so far separated. You see now from the trouble I have taken that I have been

more disturbed about you that you have about me, or in other words, "I love you better."

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of Dec. we removed to Hamilton [to] a very nice residence. Your Pa will remember it [as] the last house on the right of the street before you get to the Female College on the Columbus Road. We board the President (Bachelor) of the College and do not laugh – we have six young ladies boarding with us. It reminds me somewhat of old times. We board at \$6.00 per month and [are] paid in provisions at old rates. Corn \$1.00 per bu; Wheat the same; Bacon 12-1/2 cents per pound; Chicken 12-1/2 per piece; Potatoes 25 cts. per bu; Syrup 50 cts. per Gal. & etc. This enables us to get on very well. I am pleased with my new mode of life. Now if I just could have you all near me. I am much better satisfied than I was last year. My health has improved a great deal. I am able to see after my domestic affairs. Thanks to a kind Providence, I am well as I am.

<sup>1</sup> County seat of Butler Co., Ala.

Dr. S[teger] had a letter from Mr. Fowlks and I [had] a little note from Sallie a few days ago – which I intended answering but now I intend writing a long letter and it must be for all.

John is hired out for this year – so is Taylor. Peter is with us. We keep all of our own at home. Tilda has been quite sick but is up now. The servants are all getting on very well and appear better satisfied – but how they pine for N[orth] A[labama]<sup>2</sup>.

Dr. Steger is going a fine practice across the mountain – at our old home. Anne goes to college and is learning fast. Bobbie<sup>3</sup> is growing fast. Alice can run about and is very interesting.

Had three letters from Tommie<sup>4</sup> yesterday – two weeks before last and bro. Thomas sent me one he had received from him. His last was written 10<sup>th</sup> Jany. He thinks there will soon be an exchange of prisoners – writes to us to “let him know what little thing we want most of anything else. It must be small for several good reasons.” And then says not to be disappointed if he does not come. He is employing his time well and makes the best of everything. Until week before last we have not heard from him since Nov.

Now I do wish I could see you all – I could talk a week to you. What a pity we have to be separated. I do wish you were here at the College – and we could visit. I could get to see your Pa every few days – and you and Mattie could stay with me some and enjoy yourselves so much. We have had several parties in our town given to the Cadets who have been home on furlough.

I will correspond with Mrs. Stewart<sup>5</sup>. She gives me the N[orth] A[labama] news. Benja was at home last fall – but had to be very quiet. Yanks there. He brought me a letter from Sister.

<sup>2</sup> This entire paragraph refers to the servants.

<sup>3</sup> Bobbie is Robert W. Steger, their youngest son b. Al ca 1858 who became a physician.

<sup>4</sup> Tommie is the eldest son and is Capt. Thomas M. Steger (b. ca 1843 in Al) who was a POW in Johnsons Island, Ohio.

<sup>5</sup> This may be Ann Baylor (Barker), wife of William Stewart. She died suddenly of a heart attack at her Maysville residence 1 March 1883 (b. 30 June 1815) and her husband, William [b. 30 Mar 1803, d. 6 Nov 1887] is buried beside her in the Old Maysville Cemetery.

Since then, Wm. R. Stewart was there. B. Skelton & niece live at Wes Jones place – Mat Derrick at S. Rountree's. A. E. Hereford at Tom Taylor's place – Yanks at Paint Rock, none in H[untsville] – [none are] nearer [to Huntsville] than P[aint] R[ock] – left there while Wm. R. was in Maysville – after warning Mrs. Coles<sup>6</sup>, Mrs. Meads, Mrs. Redmans, Camps, Hu's and other houses. A[nne] Hereford went to H[untsville] in Sept and superintended the rooms for a Hospital. Anne then went to Old man Hereford. Stay[ed] there until Dec [when] she returned to me.

Tom Taylor's house health [is] bad<sup>7</sup>. The Yanks kind to her generally but after Tom Chambless was killed, a fiendish officer taunted her by saying he was in hell. Her negroes left her without any notice – failed to get off – were then in H[untsville] but a letter written later by Wm. R. states Sanders was dead and Anne had come to live with her mistress. Mrs. Fifer [named?] a son Bedford Forest. Some of the Yanks got mad at it, others thought it a good joke.

Jennie Hall, Mary Johnson, Mary Oneal, Sarah Anderson & her Mother. Mathilda & Polk Spriggs – had Yankee sweethearts, visited them at their camps. J. Hall & M. Oneal engaged to marry Lieut.

Fencing nearly all destroyed. Houses burnt – many of them. Number of persons murdered in cold blood and other enormity committed.

The first letter he said nothing about father & sister but they received another & since then he has been home so I proceed knowing it will interest you.

Bill Hess went to H[untsville] and got Mrs. Hereford's Anne to come home. Her husband was dead after two days illness and Anne was willing to go to her mistress.

He (Wm. R.) went to see father & Sis several times – say Sis does not mind the working but can't stand the washing. Her babe is the most incessant talker he ever heard – is beautiful and

<sup>6</sup> This may have been Anderson (1837-1888) and Lucy E. Cole (1842-1895) who lived south of New Market and are buried in the Rice Cemetery.

<sup>7</sup> This is believed to be the Thomas J. [I?] and Lockey Taylor family who lived next door to the Stegers at the time of the 1860 census. Thomas was a teacher.

father & Sis idolize her. Lark W. and Be live where Fifer lived – no negroes. Mary Miller & Felicia Nimmo do their work. Margaret Holder & Tom Adams (son of widow A.) married and gone to Kentucky. Mrs. Lawler the widow, her sister too. Miss Holder went with them.

A daughter of Williams married a Yankee. Bill Bradshaw and a daughter of widow Connally married. Mrs. Acuff is dead and report says Acuff will soon marry Mrs. Acuff's sister. Miss Jane Bone dead.

Claibe Hill, C. C. Camp, Geron Kirkpatrick, Price & Mitchell [s] of Jackson Co. dead.

Russell's regiment at one time killed 21 Jackson Co. Tories. The Yankees murdered Nugent, the widow Davis' son, H. J. Nance (a cripple and a bro. to Jack Nance), a man by the name of Clarke all near Maysville. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the only one not seriously impaired or totally injured in all the country near Maysville.

Dr. Jordan was shot at in his own house at night. The bullet lodged near him in the door frame. He returned the fire with a shot gun and the robbers left. John Cooper, George Yuckley and many other went off with the Yankees – some with & some without their families.

Mrs. Debow is dead. Mrs. Nat Connelly [is also dead]. Nat married a Miss Flanagan. It is feared Tim Morrow is a cripple for life. Bone lost 4 men, Lansom 8 – one left – Mat Derricks' all gone. Tom Hewlett, one. Col. Kelly, 60 negroes.<sup>8</sup> His wife stays in Winchester. He visits her occasionally.

Wm. Richard come very near being captured. He stopped to tell Father & Sis goodbye. They were at dinner and 2 Confed Officers at the table with them & their horses hitched at the gate. The Yanks came in & captured the horses and one of the Officers before they got up from the table. The other made his escape. They were taken by surprise. Didn't know any were about.

He was told Mrs. Anderson & Mrs. John. . . [torn] were the greatest Tories . . . [torn] Derrick told them that . . . [damaged] and had taken his negroes south but he would not let any of his go. [?] Mrs. A[nderson] & Sarah E. . . [torn] were very intimate with the Yankees but Pauline &

<sup>8</sup> This refers to the slaves that abandoned their masters

Martha Jane would never come downstairs when they were in the house. Pauline & her mother fell out about them and she left. She went back to her mother. Steve [Anderson] is in prison.<sup>9</sup>

Jim Johnson drinks – got along well with the Yanks. Mary Johnson was engaged to a Lieut & when they left she went out and screamed as loud as she could. Her sweetheart came back, gave her a horse. She then came back in the house and became composed.<sup>10</sup>

### Feb. 19, 1865

I had a letter from Fannie yesterday. Mr. Ahart called to see them. I am sorry he did not come to see us. She had heard from John and say . . . William Scruggs [?] . . . [damaged] died 16<sup>th</sup> Dec & buried in Huntsville.<sup>11</sup>

Bro. Allen is going back to Corinth with his family. John & Benja lost everything they had. Ben lost his fine mare (not Mollie. Fannie has her). Aleck was with them. They brought out Dr. Jordan's two sons – Jim Fowlkes and many others. They are now in service. The Yanks were conscripting all and put in their army. The boys did not say how William<sup>12</sup> died – without hope for the future. He had a hemorrhage a week before he died.

Bro Kennon's family all well. Mrs. Hancock is dead.

I have written a long letter to you and hope you will not neglect me so long again. I will certainly require that you write regularly once a month at least. I would be glad you would write every other week and if it were my privilege I would exact it of you. Don't you intend to visit me? . . . [torn] want to see her old Auntie. Tell

<sup>9</sup> This is the George Anderson family. He m. Nancy Ann Jones 12 Apr 1838 in Madison Co. Their ch. were Pauline (b. c 1841), Martha (b. c 1842), George (b. c 1843), Stephen (b. c 1845), Sarah (b. c 1848) and Virginia (b. c 1855).

<sup>10</sup> This is believed to be the James M. [b. Del] and Susan [b. Va] Johnson family. Their ch. were: Edward (b. c1840); Oliver (b. c 1845); Mary (b. c1847); Jesse (b. c1849); John (b. c 1851); Maria (b. c 1853); Ellen (b. c 1855); Eliza (b. c 1860).

<sup>11</sup> If he is buried in Huntsville it would be in Maple Hill Cemetery. There is no stone there with his name on it but he is probably buried there without a stone since he died during the Civil War

<sup>12</sup> Probably William Scruggs

the children Anne is getting to be better and is learning fast. Bobbie grows very rapidly and Baby Alice can run about and talk some. I know Rebecca is proud of her boy.

What are Willie, Tom & Sam doing? Mattie – Rosanna – and mischievous Better. How do they employ their time. Sister Sallie, what pleasure it would be to me to sit and talk with you today and Mrs. Cawthon too. Who does Rebecca's baby resemble? Sallie, I do wish you would weave me some nice dresses. Dr. S. bought a calico dress for me. Gave \$110.00 for it last fall – have not made it. How does cotton goods sell with you? Also calico & domestic? . . . [torn] to the war. How I do wish [we] were near enough to see each other these too long times. I hope when I write again I can tell you Tommie is at home. In his last [letter] he asked when he was here to tell Cousin Mattie that she owed him a letter. Direct [the letter to:]

Capt. T. M. Steger  
Prisoner of War  
Johnson's Island, Ohio

Inclose this in another envelope:  
Hon. Robert Oulds

Commissioner of Exchange  
Richmond, Va

You can seal the envelope direct to him, Mattie.  
Love to All –  
Aunt Mary

NOTE: The following was written upside down across the top of the pages:

"I have peas, Spinach, mustard & cabbage up. Have a large garden – strawberry bed – fruit trees. Asparagus bed. Tell Mary & Aunt Hennie

I hope it will not be long before we will all go home. Tell Paschal Mollie lives with her mother. All the children had the smallpox. Little Walter had one of his eyes put out.

Love to all the servants. Peter is well and doing well. Tommie & Anne Wortham correspond. [Note: The W. H. Wortham family were close neighbors of the Stegers when they lived in Madison Co. Ann was the 19 year old daughter.]

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Editor's Note: Johnson's Island Prison Camp near Sandusky, Ohio was established primarily, but not exclusively, to house Confederate officers. Several men from Madison County were held as prisoners there. In addition to Captain T. M. Stegar, mentioned in this letter, Thomas Jones Taylor (1829-1894), who was mentioned in footnote number 7, was also a prisoner there. When the Huntsville Depot was captured in April, 1862, the Confederate prisoners-of-war were sent to Champ Chase. The first soldiers to arrive at Johnson's Island were sent from Camp Chase and perhaps some of those same soldiers captured in Huntsville eventually ended up at Johnson's Island. Taylor became a judge and wrote an early history of Huntsville, Alabama. Two other captives from Limestone County who later became residents of Huntsville after the Civil War were Daniel Hundley and his brother Orville Hundley. Daniel Hundley published his memoirs of the war and his daring escape in "Prison Echoes of the Great Rebellion."

END

# Marshall County

## 1853 Estate Minutes

Part 8

Copied and contributed by Coy Michael

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 No. 2. Because the handwriting is difficult to read, question marks appear where words are unreadable.

### Appointment of Guardian

Page 94

The State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate, Special Term, 24 January 1853

This day comes here into open court Edward J. Coats a minor over the age of 14 years and a resident of said County and nominates William R. Steele as his guardian and the said William R. Steele having entered into bond as guardian of the estate of the said Edward J. Coats and John G. C. Coats, the latter a minor under the age of fourteen years and a resident of said County in the sum of \$30,000 made payable and conditioned as acquired by law with Isaac Whorton and Elijah Garrett as his securities which bond being in double the estimated value of said estates, ordered by the court that said bond with said securities be and the said is hereby appointed and the said William R. Steele having qualified as such guardian it is further ordered by the Court that said William Steele be and he is hereby appointed guardian of the estates of the said Edward J. Coats and John G. C. Coats ? children of John G. Coats, deceased.

### Bond

Page 94

Know all men by these present that William R. Steele, Isaac Whorton, and Elijah Garrett all of the County of Marshall in the State of

Alabama, are held and firmly bound unto Montgomery Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of said County and his successors in office in the sum of \$30,000 for the true payment of which he and each of us bind ourselves one and each of ? ? ? ? and firmly by these presents ? on hands and seals this the 24th day of January 1853. The condition of the ? obligation is such that whereas the ? bound William R. Steele has been duly appointed guardian of the Estate of Edward J. Coats and John G. C. Coats, minor children of John G. Coats, deceased. None of the ? bound William R. Steele shall faithfully perform all the duties required of his by-law as such guardian during the time he acts as such there the also obligation to the bond otherwise to remain in full force and offices.

William R. Steele (seal)  
Isaac Whorton (seal)  
Elijah Garrett (seal)

The above bond is approved by me, this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 1853.

M. Gilbreath  
Judge of Probate

### Order of Publication notifying guardian of intention to revoke his duties

Page 94

State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate, Special Term, 18 Oct 1855

Whereas William R. Steele has been appointed by this court guardian of the estates of Edward I. Coats and John G. C. Coats and having moved to another state, it is therefore ordered by the Court that publication be made at the Court house door of said County for ten days that the said William R. Steele will be removed and his letters as such guardian revoked unless he appears at a Special Term of the Court to be held for said County at the Courthouse thereof on the first Monday in November to show cause if any, why he should not be removed as such guardian.



The State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate Special Term, 5 November 1855

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the following notice has been put up on the Court house door for ten days to wit "Notice" Whereas William R. Steele has been appointed by the Court of Probate of Marshall County in the State of Alabama, guardian of the estate of Edward J. Coats and John G. C. Coats, and the said William R. Steele having removed from the state, Notice is therefore hereby given to the said William R. Steele guardian as aforesaid, that he will be removed as such guardian unless he appears at a Special Term of the Court of probate to be held for said County at the Court house thereof on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in November next and show cause why he should not be removed this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1855.

M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate for Marshall County

And that said notice is difficult and the said Steele not appearing, it is therefore ordered by the Court that the said William R. Steele guardian of the Estates of the said Edward J. Coats and John G. C. Coats be removed as such guardian and the letters of guardianship issued to him be, and they are, hereby revoked.

-End-

**Appointment of Administrator**

Page 96

The State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate Special Term, 27 January 1852

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that Sarah Blankenship, late of this county, died intestate and at the time of her death her mansion house and known place of residence was in said County, and whereas forty days have elapsed since the death of the said decedent, and the next of kin having failed to administer on the estate of said decedent, it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that David Ricketts is one of the principal creditors of said estate, administration of said estate is therefore tendered to him, who files his bond as administrator of said estate on this sum of \$2500 made payable and conditioned as the law requires on such case with Isham H. Turner and William Baker as his securities which bond being approved and the said David Ricketts having taken the oath as administrator of the estate of the said Sarah Blankenship in such cases as required by law. It is ordered by the Court that the said David Ricketts be and he is hereby appointed administrator of the estate of the said Sarah Blankenship.



**Order of Sale**

Page 96

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that it is necessary to sell the whole of the personal property belonging to the estate of the said Sarah Blankenship. It is therefore ordered and decreed that David Ricketts administrator of said estate be and he is hereby authorized to sell the whole of the personal property belonging to said intestate estate upon the terms and conditions and after the notice required by law in such case.





**Order of Appraisal**  
Page 96

Ordered that Masters, Bridges, Randolph Ivy and William Chisam be nominated and they are hereby nominated and appointed appraisors of the personal property belonging to the estate of Sarah Blankenship late of said County deceased, and they are required to ? these appraisments to this Court within thirty days from the date hereof.



**Bond**  
Page 96

Know all men by these presents that David Ricketts William Baker, and J. H. ? all of the County of Marshall in the State of Alabama are held and firmly bound unto Montgomery Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of said County and his successors in office in the sum of twenty five hundred dollars for the true payment of which we said each of us bind ourselves in and each of us our heirs jointly ? and firmly by these present Witness our hand and seal this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1852. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound David Ricketts has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Sarah Blankenship. Now if the above bound David Ricketts shall will and truly do and perform all the duties which are or may be by law required of him as such administrator then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force.

David Ricketts (seal)  
William Baker (seal)  
I. H. Turner (seal)

The above bond is this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1852 approved by M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate.



**Order to Record Appraisal**  
Page 97

State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate Special Term, 2 February 1852

This day the appraisal of the personal estate of Sarah Blankenship was filed which being sworn to by the appraisers, ordered that the ? be filed and recorded.



**Order to Record Inventory**  
Page 97

David Ricketts, administrator of the estate of Sarah Blankenship filed an inventory of the property belonging to said estate which being sworn to by him. Ordered that the said be filed and recorded.



**Appraisal**  
Page 97

We the undersigned being appointed by the Orphans Court of Marshall County to appraise the personal property belonging to the estate of Sarah Blankenship late of said County deceased proceed to perform that to wit as follows:

1 pair of work oxen	30.00
1 ox cart	15.00
1 ox yoke	.75
1 cow and calf	9.00
1 do do (ditto)	8.00
1 bay mare about 13 years old	15.00
1 bed of furniture	15.00
1 walnut bedstead	5.00

1 ladies saddle	12.00	3 augers	1.20
3 Cary plows	6.00	1 ring and staple for yoke	.50
1 shovel plow	1.00	1 falling ax	.50
1 bull tongue plow	1.00	1 pair sheep shears	.75
1 cotton harrow	2.50	1 sad iron	.60
1 sweep	1.00	1 chisel	.13
1 spinning wheel	1.00	1 rifle gun	10.00
2 ovens	1.00	1 water pail	.50
1 oven lid	.50	1 wash pan	.38
1 wash kettle	2.00	Total	166.76
4 chairs	1.20		
1 metal clock	5.00	State of Alabama)	
1 coffee mill	.75	Marshall County )	
1 pairs of plow gears	2.00	Personally appeared before me James T. Robinson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county William Chisom, Martin B. Bridges and Randolph Ivy and after first being duly sworn deposed and says that the above and foregoing list of property has this day been approved by us as set forth in the foregoing schedule belonging to the estate of Sarah Blankenship late of said County deceased this 31 day of January 1852.	
2 single trees	1.00	Sworn to and subscribed to before me the day and year. Filed in my office this the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of February 1852.	
2 cans	1.00	Teste M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate	
1 water can	.75		
2 tin buckets	1.00		
1 hand saw	.50		
1 drawing knife	.50		
1 looking glass	2.00		
1 churn	.75	<b>Inventory</b>	
1 shot gun	3.00	Page 98	
1 lot dresser ware	5.00	Inventory of the real and personal property of Sarah Blankenship of said County, deceased.	
1 3-year-old heifer	2.00	1 pair of oxen, ox cart, 1 ox yoke, 1 cow and calf, 1 do do, 1 bay mare, 1 bed of furniture, 1	

walnut bedstead, 1 ladies saddle, 3 cary plows, 1 shovel plow, 1 cotton harrow, 1 sweep, 1 spinning wheel, 2 ovens, 1 oven lid, 1 wash kettle, 4 chairs, 1 metal clock, 1 coffee mill, 2 pair plow gears, 2 single trees, 2 chisels, 1 water can, 2 tin buckets, 1 hand saw, 1 drawing knife, 1 looking glass, 1 churn, 1 shot gun, 1 lot dresser ware, 1 3-year-old heifer, 3 augers, 1 ring and staple for yoke, 1 falling ax, 1 pair sheep shears, 1 sad iron, 1 chisel, 1 rifle gun, 1 water pail, 1 wash pan, 1 note on J. H. ? due balance \$181.79, 1 note on T. H. ? due 1<sup>st</sup> January 1853 \$10,000.00, 1 ? on Colbert Blankenship 5.78, 1 written promise note on Micajah ? for six hundred dollars payable on contingencies balance 1892.00, 1 note J. C. Robinson due 2 December 1848 16.40. Real Estate, 1 tract of land containing one hundred and fifty four acres and 15/100 of an acre being the south east post of fractional section twenty on Township six ? three East in district of land subject to sale at Huntsville.

~~~~~  
State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Personally appeared before me James J. Robinson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County David Ricketts Administrator of the estate of Sarah Blankenship did and after being duly sworn deposed and sayeth that the above and foregoing inventory of the estate of Sarah Blankenship deceased is correct as it was given to him by the husband of the deceased on so far as comes to his immediate knowledge sworn and subscribed to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1852.

James L. Robinson      David Ricketts  
A Justice of the Peace    Administrator

Filed in my office this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1852  
Test M. Gilbreath  
Judge of Probate

Page 99

State of Alabama)  
Marshall County )

Court of Probate Special Term 27 March 1852

This day David Ricketts, Administrator of the estate of Sarah Blankenship filed his list of sale sworn to by him of the property sold by him belonging to the estate of said decedent ordered that the said be filed and recorded.

To the Hon. M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of the County of Marshall and State of Alabama, I herein record your account of sale of the personal estate of Sarah Blankenship late of said County, deceased to wit,

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 pair of oxen                        | 26.85        |
| 1 ox cart                             | 11.00        |
| 1 cow and calf                        | 8.45         |
| 1 ox valued to \$10, died before sale |              |
| 1 heifer                              | 3.00         |
| 1 bay mare                            | 10.25        |
| 1 bed of furniture                    | 12.00        |
| 1 walnut bed stead                    | 3.00         |
| 1 ladies saddle                       | (left blank) |
| 1 cary plow                           | 2.00         |
| 1 do (ditto)                          | .60          |
| 1 do                                  | .05          |
| 1 shovel plow and sweep               | .95          |
| 1 bulltongue plow                     | .10          |
| 1 cotton harrow                       | 1.50         |
| 1 cotton wheel                        | 1.20         |

|                     |      |                                                    |        |
|---------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2 ovens and lid     | 1.00 | 1 rifle gun                                        | 10.00  |
| 4 chairs            | 1.25 | 1 wash pan                                         | .20    |
| 1 wash kettle       | 2.00 | 1 water pail                                       | .20    |
| 1 metal clock       | 6.00 | Total                                              | 110.68 |
| 1 coffee mill       | .20  | State of Alabama)                                  |        |
| 1 pair plow gears   | .65  | Marshall County )                                  |        |
| 1 do (ditto)        | .30  | Personally appeared before me James Robinson       |        |
| 1 single tree       | .30  | an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said     |        |
| 1 LCO               | .30  | County David Ricketts administrator of the         |        |
| 1 ?                 | .45  | estate of Sarah Blankenship deceased after first   |        |
| 1 water can         | .35  | being duly sworn sayeth an oath that the above     |        |
| 2 tin buckets       | .30  | and foregoing account sale is correct and true     |        |
| 1 hand saw          | .10  | sworn and subscribed to this day.                  |        |
| 1 drawing knife     | .35  | David Ricketts                                     |        |
| 1 looking glass     | 2.00 | Filed in my office March 27, 1856                  |        |
| 1 churn             | .25  | Teste M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate               |        |
| 1 water pail        | .20  | Editor's Note: Notice that the date filed is 1856, |        |
| 1 shot gun          | .50  | although it was actually recorded on an unnamed    |        |
| 1 lot dresser ware  | 1.00 | date in 1852. These accounts are printed in        |        |
| 3 augers            | .55  | chronological order as they appear in the books.   |        |
| 1 ring and staple   | .18  |                                                    |        |
| 1 falling axe       | .05  |                                                    |        |
| 1 pair sheep shears | .55  |                                                    |        |
| 1 sad iron          | .40  |                                                    |        |
| 1 chisel            | .10  |                                                    |        |

~~~~~  
**Order of ? Per Settlement**

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State of Alabama) Court of Probate Special  
Marshall County ) Term, 22 November 1855

This day comes David Ricketts administrator of the Estate of Sarah Blankenship late of said County deceased and files his account and vouchers for an arrival of partial settlement ordered by the court that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in December next be set for said arrival or partial settlement and that notice of the filing of said account and vouchers and of the time and place approximated for said settlement begin by advertisements put up at the Court house door and three other public places.

**List of Heirs**

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Edmond Blankenship, husband

Colbert Blankenship

Demurius Blankenship

Nancy Robinson and her husband J. C. Robinson

David Blankenship - children and heirs of Sarah Blankenship, deceased, all of whom are of full age.

I, David Ricketts, do solemnly swear that the above is a true and correct list of the heirs of Sarah Blankenship, deceased, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David Ricketts

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1855.

Teste M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate



**Affidavit as to money**

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State of Alabama)  
Marshall County)

Personally appeared before me, M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate of said County.

David Ricketts, administrator of the estate of Sarah Blankenship, late of said County, deceased, who after being duly sworn says on oath that he has not used any of the funds of said

estate for his own benefit except \$26 of the funds which I used about 2 months previous to this time and \$15.00 and 6.00 ? of property sold to Margaret & ? Johnson which was due the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December 1852.

Sworn and subscribed before me this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1855.

Teste M. Gilbreath, Judge of Probate



**Account ?**

Page 100

Account current of the Estate of Sarah Blankenship deceased, David Ricketts, administrator.

To cash collected from Isham Turner 400.00

To sundry debts amount of sale personal property 131.13

To balance due of collected of Isham Turner 181.79

To interest on \$26 for 12 months 2.08

To interest on \$21.50 from 25 December 1852 to 17 December 1855 4.82

Total 719.82

END

## Things You Should Know

### Hurricane-Damaged Documents

A press release issued September 19 by U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein announced that help would be available to recover and help restore original documents in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana which were damaged by the two recent hurricanes. Experts have been sent to help assess the damage and offer help for as long as needed. Staff from the National Archives office have been working to identify the immediate needs as far as duplicates of property deeds, birth certificates, personal papers, rights and entitlements records, (social security and veterans benefits), and of course historic documents.

In addition, an emergency grant of \$25,000 has been allocated to help in these efforts.

Unfortunately, some of these records have been contaminated, making them a threat to the health and even the lives of humans, and will have to be destroyed.

Other genealogy organizations have generously offered money and assistance to help locate and preserve these irreplaceable documents. If you would like more information or would like to offer your assistance, contact GenCircles, Family Tree DNA, or Dead Fred at the following websites:

<http://www.gencircles.com>

<http://www.familytreedna.com>

<http://www.deadfred.com>

### National Archives - Southeast Region

For those of you looking for Federal records pertaining to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, they are now available in the Atlanta Records Centers in East Point and Ellenwood, Georgia. The Records Management program staff will be happy to help. For more information, contact them at:

1557 St. Joseph Avenue  
East Point, Georgia 30344-2593

or

4712 Southpark Blvd.  
Ellenwood, Georgia 30294

As long as you're in Georgia, you may as well spend another day at the archives in Morrow. They offer a microfilm research room as well as an archival research room. Records dating from 1716 to the 1980s include maps, photographs, architectural drawings as well as written documents. Their address is:

5780 Jonesboro Road  
Morrow, Georgia 30260  
Email: [Atlanta.archives@nara.gov](mailto:Atlanta.archives@nara.gov)\*

Family Tree Magazine has recommended the following websites for interesting information that you may not have realized, until now, that you needed!

## Things You Should Know

<http://www.britishwargraves.org.uk>

This website is sponsored by the British War Memorial Project and contains more than 98,000 photographs of British service members' gravestones by name, unit service number, service branch, cemetery, county and country.

<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jfd3a>

The Plymouth Colony Archive Project website allows you to research wills, probates, court records, biographies, and other documents to help you identify your Pilgrim ancestors.

<http://www.historic-deerfield.org>

Deerfield, Massachusetts' living history museum holds genealogy workshops and other events to help you research your ancestry. This website lists those events as well as Deerfield probate records and items you may find of interest in five area universities.

### Who is in that photograph?

Maureen A. Taylor, an expert photo historian, can help you solve a photo mystery in your old family photographs. By sending your picture according to the submission guidelines detailed at:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/photos/photohelp.htm>

you may get Maureen's advice on an approximate year the photograph was taken or who someone is by comparing other photographs of the person in question.

### Irish Blood in your Veins?

We know you're proud! Plan your vacation to the Emerald Isle in April and attend a writer's retreat. During this

workshop, you will learn how to get your writing project started, learn to write about life in Ireland, the Irish emigrant experience, your ancestors' arrival in America, Canada, or Australia, and learn how to keep the momentum going once you return home!

There will be discussion groups, individual writing time, one-on-one consultations, group tours, visits to historic sites, and the list goes on. For more information and to register for this workshop, go to the website:

<http://www.enchantingireland.com>

or

<http://www.youririshgenealogy.com>

## World War II Connections

Family Tree Magazine announces that help is available for those of you who would like to know more about your World War II ancestor's role in the years 1941-1945.

WW2 Connections promises to create a personalized profile of your ancestor and background of his or her unit in the war. Keep in mind that this is not a free service, but it is worthwhile to peruse the website for more specific information. They also offer advice to you if you would prefer to research the information yourself or if you have hit a snag in your work.

Even better, if you decide to hire WW2 Connections to help you, they will not take your order until they can estimate how much time it will take to find what you're looking for, based on what you already know.

For more information, call (973) 770-0250 or see their website:

<http://www.WW2Connections>

# 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 Elberta 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.



# First Families of the Tennessee Valley

**What do I have to prove?** Two things:

**First:** You must prove that, before 14 December 1819, one of your ancestors lived in one of the nine counties of Alabama served by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society. And,

**Secondly:** You must prove that you are a direct lineal descendant of that ancestor proving the bloodline in each and every generation.

**How do I apply?** Fill out the Application. Attach your documentation and a \$25.00 check made out to "TVGS - 1st Families." Send the package to: Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.; P. O. Box 1568; Huntsville AL 35807-0567; Attention: 1st Families Registrar.

**What are the rules?**

- No application will be considered if a valid check is not included with the submitted package.
- You are solely responsible for making sure that all submitted information is easily readable and all necessary information is included as part of the package. Unreadable submittals will be returned without consideration.
- Dates are to be written as dd mmm yyyy. Examples: 14 Dec 1819 or 06 Jul 1996.
- Locations (places) are to be shown as City/County/State/Country (if other than America). Examples: Huntsville/Madison/AL or Blairlogie/Stirlingshire/Scotland/UK.
- Do not enter a name, date or location which you cannot substantiate with documentation. If you cannot find documentation for an entry, mark it with "n/a." Mark estimated dates with a "ca."
- Preponderance of Evidence Arguments are accepted.
- No verbal or hearsay evidence will be considered. All claims have to be substantiated by documentation.
- Do not send any original documents. All documentation must be photocopies or certified transcripts.
- Do not submit any copyrighted material without identifying the author and source.
- No accepted information will be returned. All accepted information will become the property of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. and will, eventually, be permanently stored in publicly assessable files in the Huntsville Public Library or its successor. These files will always be open to researchers.
- Any and all retained information will be considered public information and may be used in various articles and publications, on a variety of subjects, and written by any number of authors without further notification.

**What standards will be used to judge an Application and documentation?** Generally, those used by reputable lineage societies, such as the DAR and SAR. (None of these societies are a part of this Certification process.)

**What is involved in the approval process?** Once your information and check are received, one of our Registrars reviews your application and documentation. Any or all of your documentation may be checked by one or more Verifiers to determine accuracy. In difficult cases, submitted information may be reviewed by more than one Registrar. If your application is approved you will receive your certificate. If your application is not approved you will be informed of the reason and permitted to submit more documentation to substantiate your claim. Appeals must be made in writing to the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society Executive Board.

**If I do not have complete information about my ancestry, can I send what I have and have you all complete what is needed?** No. To be considered for one of our Certificates, you will have to submit all necessary documentation to prove your case. Incomplete applications will be returned without any other review.

**Examples of accepted proof and evidence which can be used for documentation:**

Birth and Death Certificates showing the names and birth location of parents.

Wills, estate records, deeds, and other court records where parties are named and their relationship stated.

1850 to 1920 U. S. Census returns.

Photocopies of Lineage Societies' applications are permitted if the National and State numbers are identified and you include full documentation for the qualified ancestor and Generation #1.

Family Bibles can be used if the information recorded was contemporary to the event. Family relationships must be explicitly stated. Certified transcripts or photocopies of the information and the title page must be sent.

Family genealogies and histories and parts of copyrighted books can be used, but they must be properly annotated using reliable sources. Published sources must include a title page.

Marriage licenses, census records or estate records showing that a marriage was implied.

## Now Accepting Ads in *Valley Leaves*

As announced in the March 2003 issue of *Valley Leaves*, the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society is now accepting advertising from individuals and societies. The subject matter must pertain to genealogy or legitimate historical material. TVGS retains the right to refuse an ad from any individual or organization.

TVGS has published *Valley Leaves* for over 35 years. During that time, our reputation has built and our membership grown. We presently exchange with over 100 societies or libraries and boast several hundred paid members. Readership is in the thousands.

If you have just published a family history, advertising in *Valley Leaves* will make potential buyers aware of the existence of your product and promote sales due to our wide readership.

Since we are a non-profit organization, we are deliberately keeping our rates low: The rates quoted are for one-time ads:

		<u>Art Area</u>
Full page	\$50.00	6½ x 9 inches
Half page	\$25.00	6½ x 4½ inches
Quarter page (vertical)	\$12.50	3¼ x 4½ inches

We are not set up for color so all will be in black and white. Neither are we set up to print photographs at these prices. All ads will be at the back of each issue.

### Advertising Copy Must Be Received By:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
September	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
December	November 1 <sup>st</sup>
March	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
June	May 1 <sup>st</sup>

### Book Reviews

Book reviews are still free upon receipt of a book. Once the book is reviewed we donate it to the Huntsville Public Library. One might do well, however, to follow up the review with an ad in the following issue.

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# Valley Leaves Policies

## Contributions

Members of the Society are encouraged to submit *unpublished* primary source material of Jackson, Madison, and Marshall Counties. We focus on pre-1900 material.

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 three 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.

Courthouse records, diaries, church records, military records, minister's records, newspaper items, personal letters, tombstone inscriptions, etc. are of special interest to our readers.

## 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.**

**Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society**  
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