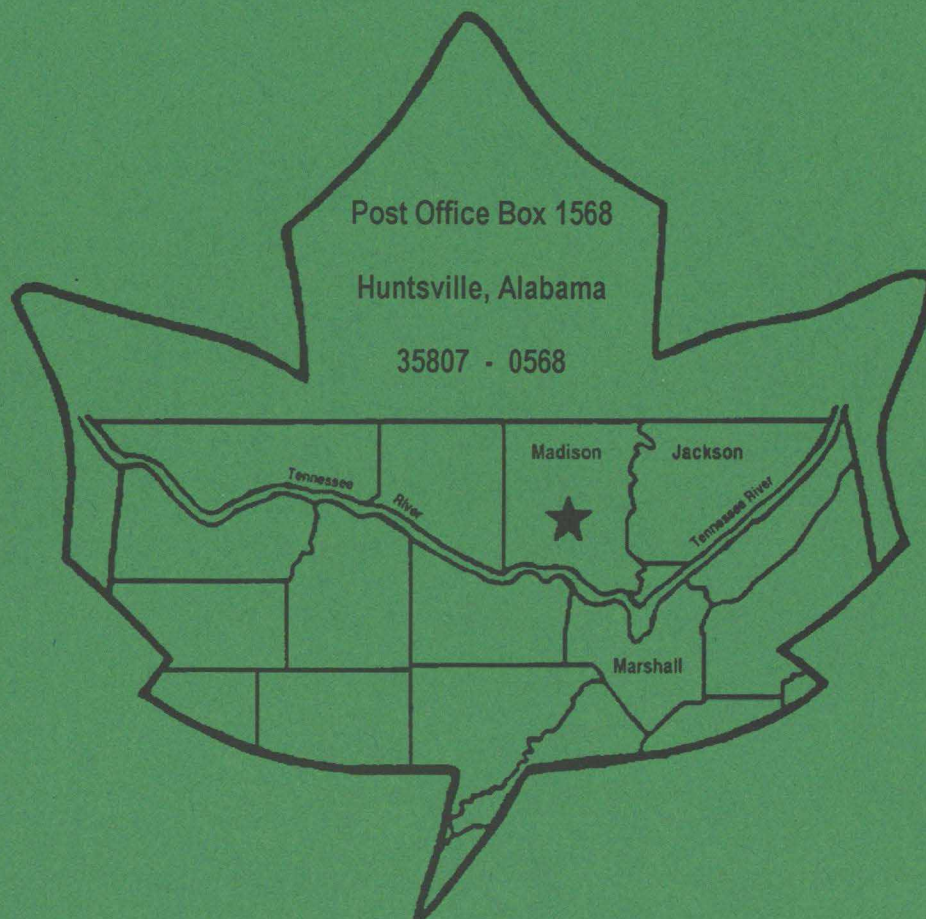

(North Alabama)

Valley Leaves

TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

QUARTERLY



Volume 45, Issue No. 1,

September 2010

Valley Leaves

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September 2010 Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 7:00 p.m.
Huntsville/Madison County
Public Library

TVGS meetings are held on the fourth
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May. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the
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Jackson County

War of 1812 Pension Application William Campbell

Edited by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

On February 14, 1871, survivors of the War of 1812 were allowed, by a Congressional Act, to apply for pensions for their service in the war. The following series of applications and letters on behalf of William Campbell of Jackson County indicate it was not easy to prove one's service, some 60 years later. He served as a fifer and was a substitute soldier for James Walker, as well as his own father, Theophilus Campbell. Misspelled words and incorrect words have been retained as written.

Pension Office July 31, 1852

Sir - The application of Wm. Campbell for Bounty Land under the act of 1850, No. 179.899, has been referred to the auditor for re-examination who reports, Theophilus Campbell a fifer in Capt. Stephen Griffith's Co., Mississippi Militia, entered service 2nd Nov. 1813 (term indef.) and served to 2nd Dec. 1813, the expiration of the service. He receipts the rolls for the whole period. No evidence of ? nor substitution mentioned on the rolls. The name of James Walker does not appear on rolls of Capt. Grief Johnson, Mississippi Militia in service from 2nd 1812 to Dec. 1813.

It will be necessary for William Campbell to furnish the affidavit of Theophilus Campbell that said William served as his substitute in Capt. Griffith's Co. for above period.

Very respectfully,
R. C. Austin, Esq.
Princeton, Jackson County, Alabama

State of Alabama County of Jackson

On this the 2nd day of September 1852 personally appeared before me Theophilus Campbell, who, after being by me duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical person whose name appears on the original muster rolls of Capt. Griffith's Co. Mississippi Militia, and further states that his son, William Campbell, took his place the same day that the company was mustered into the service (as a fifer) and served the length of about one month and receiving pay and a discharge in said deponent's name, which is lost or mislaid, and further states that William Campbell done all the service and is entitled to receive all the credit and bounty that should have been due my name on the roles, and states further that he has not applied for, nor received, bounty land under this nor no other act. Nor will he ever ? for bounty land for said service and waives the right to his son, William.

Sworn and subscribed to before me,
James C. Scott, Justice of the Peace.
Signed by Theophilus Campbell.

Bounty Land Claim

On this the 7th day of March, appeared before me James C. Scott, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the county and State aforesaid, William Campbell, aged about 65 years, a resident of Jackson in the State of Ala., who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical William Campbell, who was a substitute in the place of Theophilus Campbell in the company commanded by Captain Stephen Griffey in the Regiment of Infantry, commanded by Col. Burris in the War with Great Britain 1812 for the term of three months, and continued in actual service in said war for fourteen days. That he has heretofore made application for bounty land under act September 28th, 1850 and received a land warrant no. (not collected, application No. 179-899) for forty acres.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3, 1855. Not having applied for nor receiving bounty land only as above acknowledged under this nor no former act. Signed by William Campbell.

We, James Campbell and Joseph Hambrack, residents of Jackson in the State of Alabama, upon our oaths, declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by William Campbell in our presents, (sic) and that we believe from the appearance and statements of the applicant that he is the identical person he represents himself to be. Signed by James Campbell and Joseph Hambrack.

The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and I certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons; that the claimant is the person he represents himself to be, and that I have no interest in this claim. Signed by James C. Scott, Justice of the Peace.

The State of Alabama County of Jackson

I, J. G. Dixon, Judge of the Probate Court of said County, do hereby certify that James C. Scott, whose name appears to the above certificate, is and was at the time of signing the same, and of the acting Justices of the Peace, duly commissioned and qualified and that full faith and credit should be given all his official acts as such and that his signature thereto is genuine.

Given under my hand and the seal of my said office at Bellefonte in said County on this the 3rd day of September, A.D., 1855. J. G. Dixon, Judge.

Treasury Department Third Auditor's Office July 21, 18 (unreadable) No. 179099

Theophilus Campbell, a fifer in Captain Stephen Griffith's Co., Mississippi Militia, entered the service 2 November 1813, time indefinite, and served to 2 December 1813, the expiration of the service. He receipts the rolls for the whole period. No evidence of ?. No substitute mentioned on the rolls. The name of James Walker does not appear on the roles of Captain Grief Johnson, Mississippi Militia Co. in service from 2 Dec. 1813 to 17 Dec. 1813. (Signature unreadable) for Third Auditor.

**Letter to Commissioner of Pensions,
Washington, D.C.
September 24, 1855**

Enclosed please find the declarations of Joseph Williams, William Campbell, Lewis Freeman and William Archer and Ambrose Flanagan for Bounty and additional bounty land under the act approved March the 3rd, 1855 – the warrants, when issued, you will forward to my address (Princeton, Jackson County, Alabama) and oblige. Yours Respectfully, B. C. Austin.

**War of 1812
Declaration of Soldier for Pension
William Campbell
State of Alabama
County of Jackson**

On this third day of June, a.d. 1871, personally appeared before me, David Tate, Judge and Clerk of the Probate Court of said County, a Court of Record within and for the county and State aforesaid, William Campbell, aged about 71 or 72 years, a resident of Princeton, County of Jackson, State of Alabama who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is married; that his wife's name was Levina Methvin, to whom he was married at Salem, Franklin County, Tennessee, on the 5th day of August 1821, that he served the full period of 60 days in the volunteer frontier service of the United States in the war of 1812; that he is the identical William Campbell who enrolled as a substitute in Captain Stephen Griffey's company commanded by Col. Burris at or near New Market, Madison County, Alabama, in the latter part of summer 1814 and was honorably discharged at Frontier Post in ? on or about the latter days of December 1814, and that he first

served as a substitute in his father's place, Theophilus M. Campbell, as a musician in Captain Griffith's Co. and afterwards, Capt. Grief Johnson, came in and took charge of the Indian frontier post at which time he was transferred by consent to said Johnson's company as a substitute in the place of James Walker, who was a private of said company, as a musician and acted as such for the post until discharged in December 1814, and that his discharge is lost or misplaced.

That he, at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States, adhered to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort, or exercised the functions of any office whatever under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; and that he will support the Constitution of the United States; that he is not in receipt of a pension under any previous act; that he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States, under the provision of the act approved February 14, 1871, and he hereby constitutes and appoints, with full power of substitution and revocation.

Signed by R. W. Walker of Washington D.C., his true and lawful attorney to prosecute his claim and obtain the pension certificate that may be issued; that his post office is at Princeton County of Jackson, State of Alabama, that his domicile or place of abode is near Princeton, Alabama.

**Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office
April 10, 1872
Pension No. 25224**

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions with the information that the name of William

Campbell is not borne on the Rolls of Captain Stephen Griffith's Company of Tennessee Militia, War of 1812 on file in this office.

Signed by Allan Rutherford, auditor.

**Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office
October 5, 1872**

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions with the information that there are no Rolls of Captain S. Graffney (sic) or Grief Johnson's Company of Tennessee or Georgia Militia, War of 1812, on file in this office.

Signed by Allan Rutherford, auditor.

**Department of the Interior
Pension Office
Washington, D.C.
2 December 1872**

Sir, In the pension claim of William Campbell, No. 25224, as survivor of the War of 1812, under the act of February 14, 1871, he is requested to furnish this office affidavits of two competent witnesses who know personally the fact that he served as a substitute for Theophilus Campbell in Captain Stephen Griffith's Company, Mississippi Militia, also, for James Walker in Captain Grief Johnson's Company, stating their means of knowing that he rendered the several services, giving approximate dates of enlistment and discharge in both companies. Please return this letter therewith.

Very so respectfully, J. A. Barker,
Commissioner.

(editor's note: apparently this letter was forwarded, as it was attached to the following communication.)

**Department of the Interior
Pension Office, 1812 Division
February 13, 1873
No. 25224**

Respectfully returned to the Third Auditor. Present with this request that he re-examine the records and inform this office whether the name of Theophilus M. Campbell is borne on the Rolls of Captain Stephen Griffith's Co., Mississippi Militia, and whether there is any evidence of his having furnished a substitute by the name of William Campbell.

By order of the Commissioner, Charles Slaton, Chief Clerk.

**Letter from Martin Clay
Post Master
Princeton, Alabama
April 9, 1873**

I, Martin A. Clay, Post Master at Princeton, Jackson County, Alabama, certify that I am personally acquainted to Mr. William Campbell, who is an applicant for Pension for War of 1812, who must be about 75 or 80 years of age, and that he is and has been a loyal man to the government of the United States, and I believe him to be the man he represents himself to be in his original declaration, and is a man of veracity.

And also personally acquainted with R. C. Austin and A. Lanzo Hamilton, who are witnesses to Campbell's original declaration, and Joseph Rice, whose affidavit is enclosed present, and know them to be men of undoubted veracity in this community.

Given under my hand at office, April 9, 1873. Martin A. Clay, Post Master at Princeton, Alabama.

**Letter to R. W. Walker, Esq.
Written from Scottsboro, AL
July 16, 1873**

Please find enclosed the papers in case Wm. Campbell for pension War 1812 – It is the best proof we can make. Mr. Campbell, although of the same name, is not related to me by blood nor marriage. I have thoroughly investigated the whole matter and I am fully satisfied that he is now and has ever been loyal to the Government of United States and that he served more than sixty days in each Company in which he enlisted and that he is justly entitled to the pension he claims under Act of Congress of the 14th Feby. 1871.

I am District Commissioner of the United States for Northern District Alabama and would certify upon my honor, that the above statements are true.

Signed by Green D. Campbell. Note. I am interested in above to amount of one half of ten dollars fee allowed – Campbell.

(Editor's Note: attached to this letter is another form. Contents of this form follow.)

To be certified to by an officer of the United States Court, a United States Commissioner, an Assessor, Assistant Assessor, Collector, Deputy Collector of Supervisor of Internal Revenue, or a Postmaster.

Official Certificate in regard to Witnesses.

In the matter of the Application of Wm. Campbell of Jackson County, State of Alabama, to be enrolled as a pensioner under the act of February 14, 1871, in which case Robert C. Austin and A. Hamilton are witnesses to testify

to the loyalty of said claimant, I hereby certify that, after a careful investigation, I am convinced that they are men of undoubted good character for truth and veracity and that their statements in the affidavit referred to are worthy of full faith and credit. (Signature and title are unreadable.)

**Department of the Interior
Pension Office
Washington D.C.
August 14, 1873
To the Third Auditor**

Sir, In the pension claim of William Campbell, No. 25224, as survivor of the War of 1812, under the act of February 14, 1871, claimant is requested to inform this office what rank he held, if any, while serving in Major Nathaniel Powers battalion, War of 1812.

Very respectfully, Jas. Sockey, Acting Commissioner. R. W. Walker, Esq., present.

**State of Alabama
County of Madison**

In the matter of claim for Pension of Wm. Campbell of Capt. Stephen Griffith's Co., Mississippi Militia, also Capt. Grief Johnson's Co., Maj. Nat Power commanding.

Personally came before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for aforesaid County and State, Ezekiel Griffith and Joseph Rice, citizens of the County of Madison, State of Alabama, reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declare in relation to aforesaid claim, as follows: Ezekiel Griffith states on oath that he was well acquainted with Mr. Campbell in Capt. Griffith's Co., he, Capt. Griffith, was his father and he frequently went to see him and to the

best of his knowledge, he served in the Co. of Capt. Grief Johnson and that he does not recollect the month but that it was in the fall of the year 1812 or 13. He has no knowledge of the time that he enlisted in Capt. Grief Johnson's Co., but is satisfied to the best of his knowledge that he was in said Co. Does not know how long he served, nor does not recollect the time of his discharge.

Joseph Rice states that the Co. of Capt. Griffith was formed in the fall of the year of 1812 and that he was acquainted with Wm. Campbell and saw him with the Company as fifer of said Company and has no recollection of seeing him with Capt. Grief Johnson's Company but that such a company was organized here and has no recollection when Wm. Campbell was discharged from said service.

They also both recognize him to be the identical man that is applying for the said pension.

They further declare that we have no interest in said claim and are not concerned in its prosecution. Signed by Ezekiel Griffith and Joseph Rice.

War of 1812

Declaration for pension under act of

February 14, 1871

State of Alabama

County of Madison

On this 28th day of July, A.D. 1876, Isaac Deloney appeared before me, (ink blotches obscure name of clerk) clerk of the Circuit Court, a court of record within and for the county and State aforesaid, William Campbell appeared aged about 78 years, a resident of Jackson County, State of Alabama, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is married; that his wife's name was Levina Methvin, to

whom he was married to at Salem, Franklin County, State of Tennessee on the 5th day of August 1820, that he served the full period of 60 days in the military service of the United States in the war of 1812; that he is the identical William Campbell who enlisted in Captain Stephen Griffith's company, Nathaniel Powers regiment, don't know brigade, don't know division, at New Market, Madison County, Mississippi Territory on the 2nd day of November 1813, and was honorably discharged at or near New Market, Ala. on the 2nd day of December 1813 that he served in Mississippi Territory Militia, musician; and after said discharge reenlisted in same command and served 60 days longer, and was then honorably discharged in Jan'y 1814. Served this time as musician.

Signed by G. A. Satterfield, Madison County, William Campbell, Ezekiel Griffith, and Joseph Rice.

Also personally appeared Ezekiel Griffith, age 75 years, residing at Sulphur Springs, Madison County, Alabama and Joseph Rice, age 79 years, residing at New Market, Alabama, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn say: They were present and saw William Campbell, the claimant, sign his name or make his mark to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintances with him, that he is the identical person he represents himself to be; that at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States did he adhere to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

I, Ezekiel Griffith, state that I have known said William Campbell since 1810, and I, Joseph Rice, stated I have known said Campbell since the year 1812. Sworn and subscribed before me this 25th day of July, 1876 and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration & c. were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing, including the words and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim. Signed by P.S. Satterfield, Justice of the Peace.

**Letter to Department of Interior
Pension Office
Washington, D.C.
August 1876**

Sirs: In pension claim of William Campbell under act of Feby. 1871, No. 25244, you are informed that the name of the soldier is not borne on the Rolls of Capt. Stephen Griffith's Company of Mississippi or Tennessee Militia, nor on the Rolls of Capt. Grief Johnson's Mississippi Militia, but one Theophilus M. Campbell served in Capt. Griffith's Company Mississippi Militia from Nov. 2 to Dec. 2, 1813 as Fifer. One William Campbell served in a company of Tennessee Militia under a Captain not named by claimant in which Regiment Nathaniel Powers was Major. The Land warrant to claimant was issued upon the service of Theophilus Campbell. Can the claimant by filing his signature, or by any other means identify himself with his service in Tennessee Militia under Captain not named? Please return this letter with the evidence. Very respectfully, J. W. Babson, Acting Commissioner.

**State of Alabama
Madison County
Letter from P. L. Satterfield
August 19, 1876**

P. L. Satterfield, Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Joseph Rice, and made oath in due form of law and says that where the name Theophilus Campbell occurs on the muster roll, ought to be William Campbell for he was the identical man who did the service. Served in Capt. Steven Griffith's Company as Fifer from the 2nd of Nov. to 2nd of Dec. 1813 also in Major Nathaniel Powers Regt. from Dec. 2 to Feb. 1814 – Grief Johnson Co. by referring to your Pension Rolls you will see that the witness who makes this statement draws a pension by reason of having been a soldier of 1812, sworn to before me this day Aug. 19th/76.

Signed by Joseph Rice and P. L. Satterfield, Justice of the Peace.

**Letter to J. A. Bently, Esq.
October 16, 1876**

Dear sir: I received a letter a few days ago concerning Mr. William Campbell; pension papers requiring him to mention the names of some other captains who belonged to the same Regt. I now at the inst. of Mr. Campbell give you the names of three other Captains, Captain Burris, Capt. Evans, and Capt. Hamilton all belonging to the same Regt. that I did; that Power being the Commander of the Regt. Joseph Rice stated to me that he is quite certain that he served the time that he stated in his affidavit and that he drew his land warrant which shows to any thinking mind that if he was entitled to his land warrant, he is also entitled to his pension. The claimant made oath that he served the full period of 60 days and

his oath was certified to by 2 witnesses that claimants oath was entitled to full credit. Both of the witnesses testified before me as Justice of the Peace that they saw claimant in the service, did not of course see him every day, but have every reason to believe that he served the full time which he says he did. If you grant his pension, you will not have it to pay long. I saw the old Gentleman a day or 2 ago who requested me to say to you when I wrote that he knows of a trust that he is justly entitled to his pension, and that he has made all the proof that he can, having lost his discharge and being very old and forgetful. The old man can not walk even one mile and is not able to do any work and destitute of a means of support and requests me to say to you if the evidence that he furnished is sufficient to grant him a pension, give it to him, and he will ever feel grateful (sic) to you for the same. If not, do as you think is wright (sic) and I will faithfully abide your decision. Please let me hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Address P. S. Satterfield at New Market, Al. as I live about 10 miles from any post office.

I am ever yours truly, William Campbell. (Note: not sure why this letter, obviously *not* written by Mr. Campbell, is attributed to him as author. The handwriting of Mr. Campbell was very feeble at this point, and it was not his handwriting.)

Power of Attorney and Articles of Agreement
March 22, 1877

Know all men by these presents, that I, William Campbell, late fifer in Grief Johnson's Company, Nathaniel Power's Regiment of Mississippi Militia, in the War of 1812 have made, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do

make, constitute, and appoint, George E. Lemon, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, my true and lawful Attorney, for me, and in my name, place, and stead, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute my claim for Pension No. 25224, hereby cancelling and revoking all previous Powers of Attorney, if any have been heretofore given, in this case.

Now, this Agreement witnesseth, that for and in consideration of services done and to be done in the premises, I hereby agree to allow my Attorney, George E. Lemon, of Washington, D.C., a fee of \$25, which fee shall include all amounts to be paid for any service in the prosecution of said claim before the Pension Office, and said fee shall not be demanded by, nor payable to, my said Attorney, except in case of the granting of my Pension by the Commissioner of Pensions, and then the same shall be paid to him in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4768 and 4769, Revised Statutes, approved June 22, 1874.

My Post Office address is New Market, Madison County, Alabama. Signed by William Campbell and witnessed by J. W. Cochran and A. W. Anderson.

I hereby consent to the revocation of the Power of Attorney heretofore given me, and to the substitution of George E. Lemon, of Washington, D.C., as the Attorney in Claim of Wm. Campbell, survivor War of 1812, Late Fifer, company Grief Johnson's regiment, Nat Power's volunteers, Number 25224. Signed by J. W. Cochran, Attorney of Record. Witnessed by W. G. Laxson and D. Lipscomb.

Another piece of correspondence regarding his pension application:

**New Market, Ala.
Oct. 9, 1877
George E. Lemon, Esq.
Washington, D.C.**

Dear Sir – I have with great patience been waiting to hear what the final result would be in reference to William Campbell's application for a pension as a Soldier in the War of 1812. Over twelve months ago Mr. Campbell, through me, made application for a pension who, from the proof made already, is unmistakably entitled to a pension, even portion of the proof that the pension law required has certainly been made, and no further demands so far as proof is concerned having been made and still no descision (sic) of his case can be had. Why this is the case, I must confess, I do not understand, but one thing I do know, some boddy (sic) is certainly at fault who it is I am unable to say. Now permit me to say one thing. I am personally acquainted with the applicant and know that he is very old and infirm and destitute of the comforts of life, and ere it is long will go down to the grave and will need no aid from the Government. Will you, as his ally in whom he has placed all confidence, look into the cause of delay that I may be able to give some reason for the delay when asked by Mr. Campbell. Please write me all about the whole matter. Also inform me what has been done with Samuel Kees' application. Please answer this letter with regard to both claims for the satisfaction of the old veterans. Resp. – P. L. Satterfield.

**Letter from Department of the
Interior
Pension Office
Washington, D.C.
Feby 26, 1880**

**Confidential
Addressed to Post Master
New Market, Alabama**

Sir: In pension claims of William Campbell under Act of March 9, 1878 No. 25224, you are requested if not inconvenient to inform this office whether there is a person of the above name residing in your vicinity who is reported to be a soldier of the War of 1812 and you will also please state his apparent age.

Please return this letter with your reply. Very respectfully, J. A. Bently, Commissioner.

War of 1812
William Campbell
Princeton, Jackson Co., Alabama
Capt. Stephen Griffith
Discharged December 1814
Rejected 5 Dec. 1874
Reopened: Feb. 26, 80

Editor's note: apparently his application was subsequently approved and his pay was awarded retroactively, according to the following communication:

**War of 1812
Survivors' Pension
Alabama**

William Campbell, who served as Theophilus Campbell, rank: Musician Fifer, Company: Stephen Griffiths, Regiment: Mississippi Militia.

Issued from Knoxville Agency. He was awarded \$8 per month commencing March 9, 1878. The certificate was dated April 12, 1880 and sent to the pension agent.

**Claim of Soldier for Bounty Land
State of Alabama
County of Jackson**

On this the 3rd day of November A.D., 1881 personally appeared before me, John B. Tally, Judge of Probate for said county the same being a court of record within and for the county and State foresaid, William Campbell, aged 79 years, a resident of Holly Tree in the County of Jackson in the State of Alabama, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical William Campbell who served under the name of William Campbell as a Musician in the company commanded by Captain Stephen Griffith in the Maj. Nat Powers regiment of Mississippi, commanded by Col. Perkins in the War of 1812; that he enlisted at Mississippi on or about the 2 day of November A.D. 1813 for the term of three months and continued in actual service in said war for the term of 30 days and was honorably discharged at Madison Co., Alabama on the 2nd day of December A.D. 1813.

That since his discharge from said service he has resided as follows, viz: Holly Tree, Jackson Co., Alabama.

The following was his description at the time of his enlistment, viz: I was a regular guard on the frontiers of the Mississippi Territory.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land (or the Additional Bounty Land) to which he may be entitled under the act approved March 3, 1855. He also declares that he has heretofore made application for, and obtained, 80 acres Bounty land and there is due me 80 acres Bounty land more.

He hereby appoints N. W. Fitzgerald & Co. of Washington D.C. his true and lawful Attorney, with power of substitution, to prosecute this, his claim for land, to receive the Certificate or Warrant when issued, and to do all other

acts necessary and proper in the premises.

Attest (signed by): Nicholas Woodfin, Tillmon Bryant, William Campbell.

Also personally appeared Nicholas Woodfin, aged 89 years, residing at Holly Tree in Jackson County, Alabama and Tillmon Bryant aged 59 years, residing at Holly Tree in Jackson County, Alabama, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say that they have known the said William Campbell for 15 years and 2 years, respectively; that they were present and saw him sign his name or make his mark.

Cemeteries of Madison Co., AL Volume 2

Limited printing of this 142 cemetery, 8-1/2 x11 book now available; 375 pp, approx. 9,000 listings in full-name index, soft bound. Covers NE quarter of county and includes **communities** of New Market, Harbinville, Skinem, Sulphur Springs, Hazel Green (east half), Roseboro, Meridianville, Mountain Fork, Steele Crossing, Hickory Flats (now Plevna), Hillsboro, Cedar Gap, Greenfield, Deposit, Maysville, Bell Factory, Three Forks of Flint, Moores Mill, Chase, Mercury, Ryland, Maysville, Brownsboro, Moontown and Monte Sano Mountain. Contains large cemeteries and tiny family cemeteries. Includes some "excepted" graveyards found mentioned in early deed books and few obituaries. Grave info. has been correlated with 1850 census and marriage records which records are also included and in some cases other family information. Send \$25.00 plus \$5.00 postage to:

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Soc.
P. O. Box 1568
Huntsville, AL 35807-0568

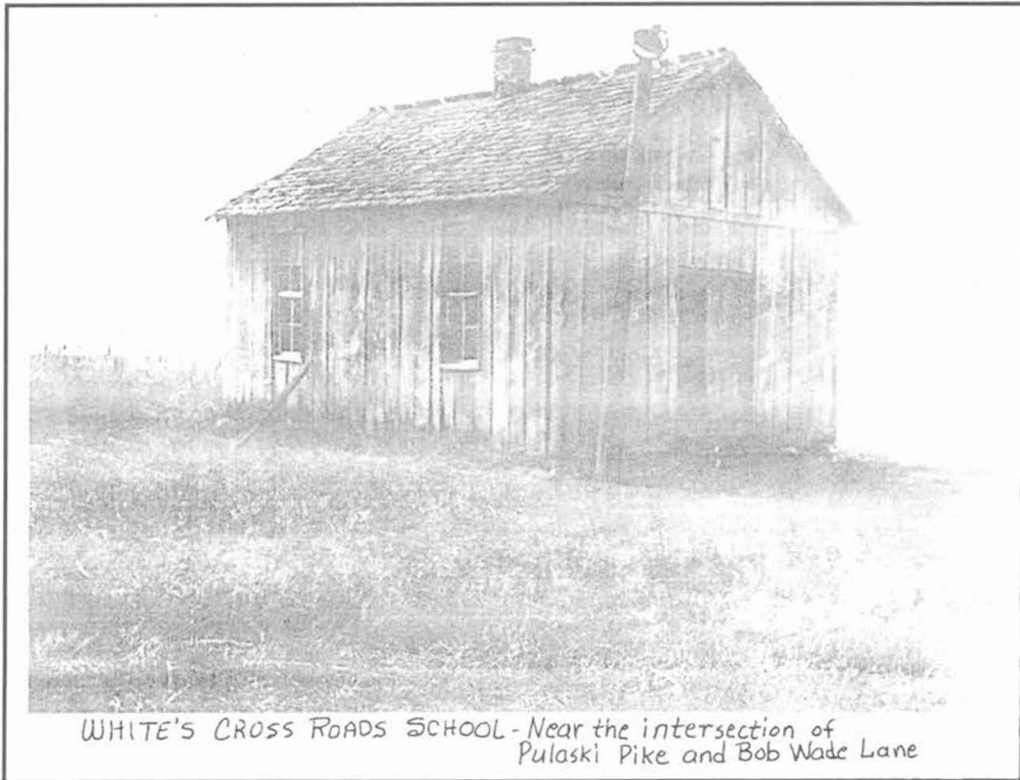
Madison County

White's Cross Roads School

Contributed by Bettye Perrine

Part 2

Editor's Note: Bettye Perrine has collected information on local schools from those who once attended them. Some of the information in the following story was gleaned from telephone calls with Robert Sublett White and his wife Joyce, as well as Donald Sublett. Some information was excerpted from pages 21 and 23 of a draft copy of the History of the Madison County Schools, an undated document written by Madison County teachers, found in the Huntsville Public Library. We also thank William Sibley and Barbara Brag for the use of their photographs. The picture of Alvie Lee Sublett is from the author's archives.



(photo courtesy William Sibley)

White's Cross Roads, a school located on Pulaski Pike, was located four miles north of Hewlett School. According to an early report card of Mr. Alvie Sublett, the school was known as the Liberty School at Whites Cross Roads. Whites Cross Roads was located where Bob Wade Lane now crosses Pulaski Pike. Information from old timers indicated that there was a school in the Liberty area as early as 1850.

Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education reported that on August 26, 1911, the matter of changing the location of the school in this district was brought before the board. The decision was made to locate the school "one-half mile north of the cross roads or when the road leaves the pike running west" (Carter's Gin Road?) provided the people build the "house" according to state plans and if the state appropriated \$200. If this did not work out, the county would provide funds for running the school, if the people would provide a house. We do not know what was done to provide a school for that term. However, on April 2, 1912, Mr. J. M. McDuffs [James M. McDuff] and Mr. G. W. White [George Washington White] and others requested some state aid toward completion of the school building they had begun, located near White's Store. This was not the location the board had recommended, and the approval of the location was left up to the Superintendent. The school site, as approved, was several hundred yards west of Pulaski Pike on the south side of Bob Wade Lane. It was situated on the Sublett farm, near the Fairview Methodist Church, which burned in the early 1980s.

The school house at White's Cross Roads was a typical one room school, with a bell on a pole at the front door to call the children "to books." Mr. Alvie

Sublett now owns the old bell and proudly displays it in his back yard. Of course, there was no indoor plumbing, but the outdoor facilities were located not more than a block behind the school. Miss Bessie Simler taught grades one through six.

When the school closed in 1919, the children were transported to the new consolidated school known as Pulaski Pike School, while others attended school at Monrovia. The old school building was used for church services until 1926.

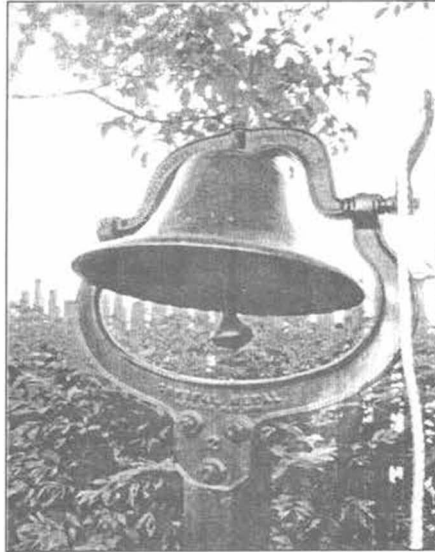
White's Store stood on the southeast corner of the intersection of Pulaski Pike and Bob Wade Lane. According to Robert Sublett White and Donald Sublett, nephew and son respectively of Alvie Sublett, during their early life, the store might have been owned by Edwin Burwell and, probably before this, by a family with the surname White. During the author's lifetime, it was owned by a black man, Arthur Jacob. He was displaced from his original property by the Redstone Arsenal and bought this store to run. The store ceased to be a business sometime in the 1960s or 70s, becoming a dilapidated building as the years passed. The store was torn down when Pulaski Pike was enlarged to a four lane highway, from Huntsville to this corner.

Robert Sublett White's wife was Joyce Moon, whose mother was Jimmie Lee McDuff Moon, and whose maternal grandparents were James M. McDuff and Mattie Mathus McDuff. The McDuffs lived west of the intersection on Wade Lane.

G. W. White is believed to be George Washington White, the great-uncle of both the author and Robert Sublett White. This family lived on Beaver Dam

Road about three miles north on Pulaski Pike.

The school bell is now hanging at the home of Barbara Bragg, Alvie Sublett's daughter.



Bell from White's Cross Roads School
(photo courtesy Barbara Bragg)



Alvie Lee Sublett 1911-2001
(photo courtesy of Bettye Perrine)

<i>Liberty</i> SCHOOL	
REPORT OF	
ATTENDANCE, DEPARTMENT, GENERAL STANDING	
<i>Alvie Shublett</i>	
NAME OF PUPIL	
<i>Bessie A. Simler</i> Teacher	
<i>First</i> Grade	
PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY TO THE TEACHER	
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	
1	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

For Term Beginning <i>Nov. 1</i>										
and Ending <i>April 1917</i> 19 <i>17</i>										
SUBJECTS	1 Mo.	2 Mo.	3 Mo.	4 Mo.	5 Mo.	6 Mo.	7 Mo.	8 Mo.	9 Mo.	AV.
Reading	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Orthography	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pennmanship	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Drawing										
Music										
Arithmetic	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Algebra										
Geometry										
Grammar										
Geography										
Civil Gov't										
U. S. History										
Ala. History										
Physics										
Physiology										
Agriculture										
Latin										
Pupil's Avr.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Examination										
Days Absent	3	1	0	4	1	0				
Days Present	21	19	20	21	19	10				
Times Tardy	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Conduct p. c.	100	100	100	100	100	100				

EXPLANATIONS:—100 Perfect; 95 Excellent; 90 Honor; 85 Good; 80 Medium; 70 Indifferent; Required for Promotion, 60.

Parents will please examine this report and if it is not good, call on the Teacher and see if it cannot be made better. If good, speak a word of encouragement to your child and thus you will assist both teacher and pupil.

This Certifies That the Pupil named in this Report is Promoted to _____ Grade _____

(photo courtesy Barbara Brag)

Madison County

Hiram Opie Smither Prisoner of War, CSA

Contributed by Bettye Perrine

Hiram Opie Smither was the youngest child of Samuel and Betsy Smither. He was born about 1844 in Madison County, Alabama, making him 17 when the Civil War began. Sometime before June, 1863, he joined Co. K, 4th Regiment of the Alabama Cavalry (Russell's). Andrew Hentz, brother-in-law to Hiram and administrator of Samuel Smither's estate in 1863, stated that Hiram was serving as a Confederate soldier in Tennessee. He was taken prisoner October 3, 1863 at Winchester, Tennessee. He was first taken to a prison camp at Louisville, Kentucky, and on March 14, 1864, he was transferred to Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River between Delaware and New Jersey about 70 miles south of Philadelphia.



Fort Delaware during the Civil War

Fort Delaware, completed in 1859, was built on the marshy island. The five-sided building and its grounds covered about six acres. It was originally built to protect the ports of Wilmington and Philadelphia.

During the Civil War, beginning in 1862, the island became a prison for captured Confederates as well as Southern sympathizers. They were housed in wooden barracks that soon covered much of the island. By August 1863, there were almost 13,000

prisoners. After the July, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, the number of prisoners increased, leading to horrible living conditions for the prisoners. By war's end, Fort Delaware held some 40,000 men. The conditions were predictably notorious, and about 2,900 prisoners died. Added to this was the commandant, General Albin F. Schoef, known by the soldiers as "General Terror" and dreaded by the Confederates.

The following is a letter written to President Andrew Johnson by Hiram Smither. It was found on Footnote.com.

“Fort Delaware Del May the 14th 1865

President Johnson

Sir

I, H. L. Smither of Co K 4th Ala Cavalry do hear by ask you to have me released on the Oath of Allegiance so as I can go home and take care of my old mother as she has no one to take care of her. She lost everything she had by fire last fall when Hood and his army was North of the Tennessee River. As soon as I heard of it I petitioned for the oath and I received a letter from my brother in Tennessee stating that he would get me a release if I would take the Oath and I wrote to him that I was willing to take it and he told me to write to President Lincoln and I did so but did not hear from him. I petitioned for the Oath before the downfall of Richmond. Please excuse all my bad spelling and writing and the paper that I wrote on. Let me hear from you soon. Please release me so

as I can go home to my old Mother in peace.

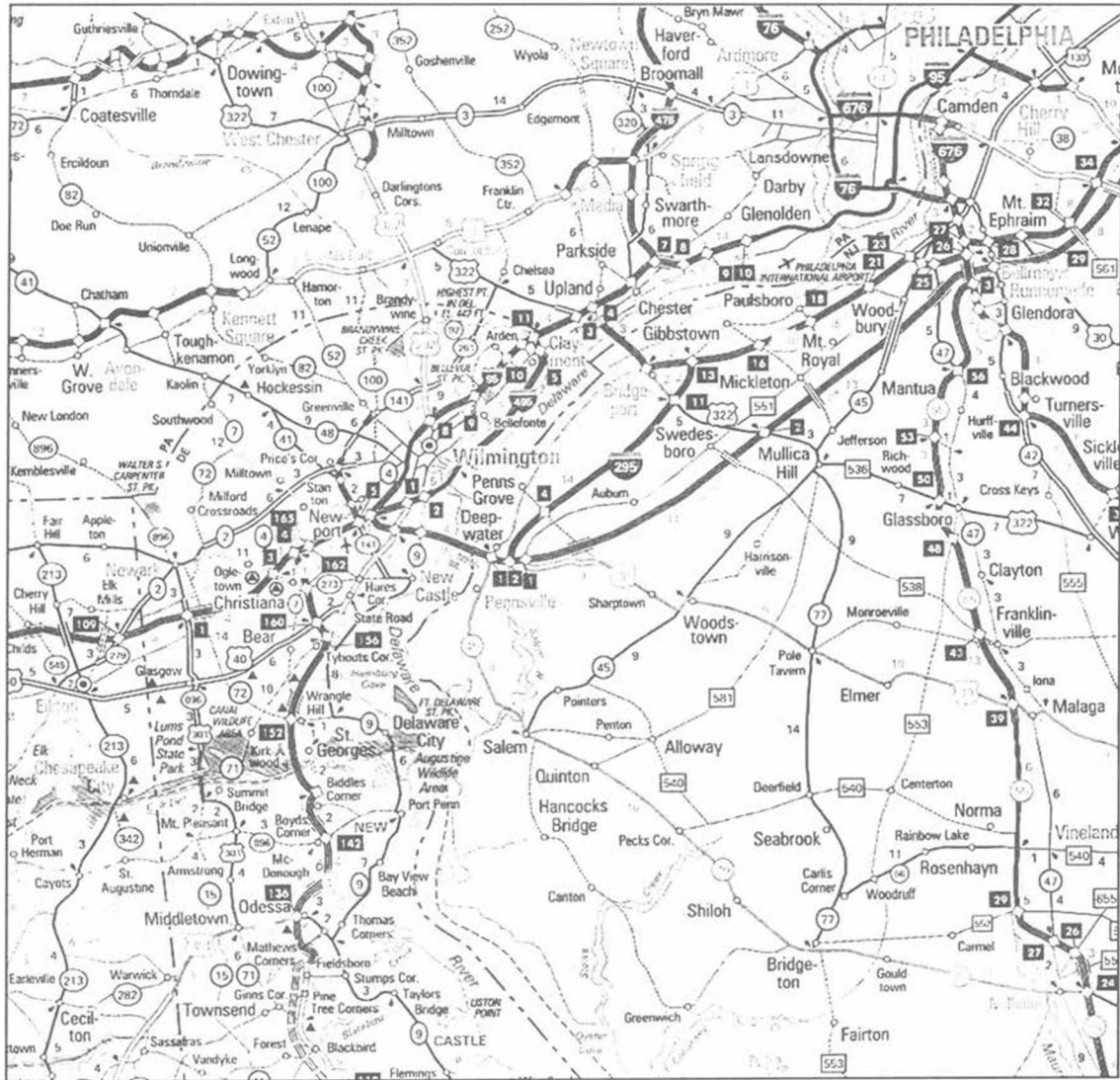
Yours Truly Friend until death

H. L. Smither, Co. K, 4th Ala Cavalry. I live at Huntsville, Ala.”

~~~~~

The Civil War officially ended April 9th, 1865 with the collapse of the Confederate forces and the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse. The last fighting took place May 13-14, 1865 at the Battle of Palmito Ranch in Cameron County, Texas. President Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded on April 14, 1865, and died early the following morning.

Hiram [Hiram] L. Smither was released on an Oath of Allegiance to the United States, subscribed to at Fort Delaware on June 10, 1865. Prisoners continued to suffer in confinement even though the war ended in April 1865. Apparently Hiram wasn't released by an order of either president.



Fort Delaware lies in the Delaware River just above Delaware City, the closest city. It would have been strategic for the protection of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware in event of attack by the river. According to the United States Senate web-site, the guns of Fort Delaware were never fired in its entire history.



Fort Delaware today  
(reprinted from an internet source)

*S* (Confederate.)  
*H Ala*  
*Harrison L. Smith*  
*Pvt. 4 Regt. Ala.*

Name appears as signature to an  
Oath of Allegiance  
to the United States, subscribed to at Fort  
Delaware, Del.

Place of residence *Hiles Co. Tenn*  
Complexion *Dark*; hair *Light*  
Eyes *Blue*; height *5* ft *9* in.  
Remarks: *Released June 10, 1865*

Number: *10*  
*A. J. B. Moore*  
Copy at

(from Footnote.com)

|                      |    |                |    |
|----------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Sailey, L. Russell   | 1  | Shirley, H. M. | 26 |
| Stacy, John          | 2  | Snyder, J. M.  | 27 |
| Stetson, Capt. B. T. | 2  | Smith, James   | 28 |
| Stewart, Andrew      | 4  | Smith, John    | 29 |
| Stevens, John        | 10 | Smith, William | 30 |
| Stewart, James       | 11 | Spencer, M. T. | 31 |
| Stewart, John        | 11 | Spencer, R. W. | 32 |
| Stewart, Robert      | 24 | Spencer, W. H. | 33 |
| Richardson, James M. | 22 | Spencer, W. M. | 34 |
| Stewart, John A.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 35 |
| Stewart, John B.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 36 |
| Stewart, John C.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 37 |
| Stewart, John D.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 38 |
| Stewart, John E.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 39 |
| Stewart, John F.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 40 |
| Stewart, John G.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 41 |
| Stewart, John H.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 42 |
| Stewart, John I.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 43 |
| Stewart, John J.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 44 |
| Stewart, John K.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 45 |
| Stewart, John L.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 46 |
| Stewart, John M.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 47 |
| Stewart, John N.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 48 |
| Stewart, John O.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 49 |
| Stewart, John P.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 50 |
| Stewart, John Q.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 51 |
| Stewart, John R.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 52 |
| Stewart, John S.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 53 |
| Stewart, John T.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 54 |
| Stewart, John U.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 55 |
| Stewart, John V.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 56 |
| Stewart, John W.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 57 |
| Stewart, John X.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 58 |
| Stewart, John Y.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 59 |
| Stewart, John Z.     | 24 | Spencer, W. M. | 60 |

Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1865, Confederate Selected Records of the War Department relating to Confederate Prisoners of War 1861-1865. Image # 33474, Ancestry.com



# Marshall County

## Edward Gunter's Reservations Land Claim Case

Contributed by Coy Michael

Marshall County was created by an act of the legislature January 9, 1836. Land from Jackson and Blount Counties as well as the last of the Cherokee lands formed Marshall County, named for Chief Justice John Marshall. It was later broken up to form Etowah County.

The following information was transcribed by Roy Boney, Jr. and was taken from National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microcopy 574, Roll 4. These letters deal with a dispute over Edward Gunter's property and accusations toward him for cheating the U.S. Government in order to obtain better property.

Gunter was the half-Cherokee son of John Gunter, for whom Guntersville was named. Edward (also known as Edmond and Ned in some sources) was wounded in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814, where he served as a Major, fighting with the Cherokees under General Andrew Jackson. Many of the Cherokee Gunter descendants were removed to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. John Gunter was also the great grandfather of Will Rogers.

### Edward Gunter's Reservation S182

(marker 0650)

Land Office Huntsville A

2 June 1832

Sir, with this you will be pleased to receive sundry documents filed in this office relative to John Gunter's and Edward Gunter's Reservations in Jackson County, and now forwarded by request of the party filing.

Very Respectfully,

Mob

B.J. Pope

(marker 0651)

### Edward Gunter's Land

Hugh Henry in February or March 1829 became acquainted with the place claimed by Edward Gunter. Thomas D.

Ackerman then lived there. Does not know where Gunter then lived, but in 1820 Gunter lived on the south side of the Tennessee. Never knew of his residing on his reservation

John Cox became acquainted with Edward Gunter in 1817, when he lived at his landing on the north side of the river – in 1818 Gunter resided on the south side of the river and has never lived on the north side since that time.

Edward Cox had known Edward Gunter since February 1817 when he lived on the tract now claimed by him. Removed to the south side of the river in the winter of 1818, 1819. Gunter removed his houses lower down the river.

Gilbreath Barton – First knew Gunter in December 1818 when he lived on his reserve north of the river. Witness rented some houses on the south side of river from Gunter until January 1819

when he removed in consequence of Gunter's wanting them. In February or March 1819, Gunter lived south of the river and has continued to reside there.

Elisha Clampett – In 1818, Gunter lived on his land north of the river, and in the latter part of 1819 and since that time, has resided on the south side. In 1821 Gunter rented his land north of the river and ever since except one year.

Robert Walker – First knew Gunter in 1818 or 1819, thinks 1819, when he lived south of the river. Kept the ferry for Gunter in part of 1819 and 1820. Gunter left the north for the south side of the river in 1819.

Alexander Gilbreath has known Gunter since 1808 or 1809. Does not know where he lived when the Treaty of 1819 was made, but in that year he lived south of the river.

Benjamin Roden became acquainted with E. Gunter in the summer of 1819 when he lived south of the river. Has heard Howel Rose and Saml. Tyler say they rented the land north of the river from Gunter and has seen the rent cow taken across the river.

David Ricketts – In the early part of 1820, Gunter lived south of the river and has continued to reside there.

John M. Cole knew Gunter 15 years ago when he lived north of the river. Same year moved to the south side of river and has resided there since that time. Thomas Aikman was Gunter's ferry man. Gunter, for the last 9 years, has not resided on the reserve.

George F. Reede became acquainted with Gunter in 1818 when he resided on the south side of the river opposite the place now claimed, and has lived on that side ever since. Gunter's houses were moved down the river near to his ferry landing in 1819.

(marker 0653)

### **Edward Gunter's claim to land as his ferry on the Tennessee River**

Mr. McKee testifies that in 1819 he moved his northern houses  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile lower down the river to the ferry landing. His land was cleared and the ferry kept previous to 1819. Since 1819 has lived south of the river.

Isaiah Walker first saw Gunter in 1814 when he was wounded by the Creek Indians. In February 1819, Gunter lived north of the river and had a fine plantation down from his house to the ferry. He moved his houses to the ferry, and they were made the center of survey of the reservation. Gunter got better land by removing.

Rob Walker – In 1819 Gunter lived on both sides of the river. He moved his houses about 300 or 330 yards down the river in 1819 to his ferry landing. His improvements then extended from his ferry up the river to within about 100 or 150 yards of the place for which he moved his houses. Has lived south of the river since that time. In making the survey the center was fixed at his houses.

David Parkhills - In 1819, Gunter had a house or lived north of the river about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from his landing, in the same year moved the houses to the landing and at that time his plantation extended to the ferry. Has got better land by moving the houses in the center of the reservation. Has lived south of the river since 1819.

Edmond Bridges – In 1819, Gunter and one of his wives lived south of the river, and one of his wives north of the river. His wife south of the river having died that year he moved his north wife over to the south side where he had since lived. In 1819, he moved his northern

houses about ¼ of a mile down the river to his ferry landing and got better land.

Edward Cox – testifies to the same effect as Bridges except with respect to his wives.

[From] this testimony it appears that prior to 1819, Gunter had a ferry across the Tennessee and lived and had plantations on both sides of the river. That in that year, he moved his houses about ¼ of a mile down the river to his landing but not out of his improvements. By this removal he has obtained better land. His house is now the center of the reservation – he has lived on the south side of the river.

It is not alleged that he has abandoned his ferry or the use and occupancy of his northern houses and plantation and the case seemed to depend entirely upon the fact whether his having lived since 1819 on the south side of his ferry is sufficient to constitute a fulfillment of his right to his northern plantation.

Edward Gunter is one of persons named in the Schedule referred to in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Convention of 1819, Land Laws page 169, to whose estates in fee simple are given.

(marker 0655)

**The State of Alabama**  
**March 12, 1831**  
**Jackson County**

This day personally appeared before me Mr. H. E. Wheeler, an acting justice of the peace in and for said county; Gilbreath Barton, Jeremiah Roden, Jr., Benjamin Roden, Alexander Gilbreath, William McKee, James Edwards, Sr., Samuel Webber, William Manning, David Parkhill, Nathan Crocket, David Ricketts, Charles Conerly, Robert Walker, Isaiah Walker, and George T. Read, who being duly sworn the truth to

relate respecting a reservation of land said to have been taken by the said Edward Gunter, embracing one mile square on the north side of Tennessee River, in the county of Jackson, and opposite the ferry, the said Edward Gunter keeps on said river. The said Mr. McKee states as follows:

**William McKee evidence:** I was living on the south side of the Tennessee River in the year of 1819 and in the spring of that year, Edward Gunter was living on the south side of the said river in what is now called the Cherokee Nation, but part of his family lived on this side of the river and he tended some land on this side of the river in what is now called Jackson County or at least they said it was Gunter's Corn though I never seen him or working at river.

B. Smith: do you know after the treaty was made public that Gunter pulled down his houses and moved them, and he pulled his houses down in the fall of the year 1819 or 1820, though I believe it was in 1819, and moved them something near one quarter of a mile down the river to his ferry landing?

Question by the same: Was not there (before the reservation was surveyed) a public surveyor who come through this county for that purpose?

Answer: It was some little time before I heard talk of its being surveyed though I never seen it surveyed.

Question by the same: Did not Mr. Gunter, by this moving of his houses, make an exchange of a very mean piece of land for a very good piece?

Answer: He got a first rate piece of land for a very mean piece for the distance, before measured, extending one mile in length.

Question by the same: Has Mr. Edward Gunter ever lived on this side of the river since he moved his houses?

Answer: Not as I know of.

Question by the same: Has it not been a talk amongst the people that Mr. Gunter defrauded the government by this removal of his house?

Answer: I have heard folks say that he got a first rate piece of land by this removal, and I always understood that the Treaty confined them to make their houses the center of their reservations.

Question by the same: Did you ever hear Mr. Gunter say anything about the rumors of his houses?

Answer: I don't recollect of ever hearing him say anything about them but I seen him when he was a moving them.

Question by Edward Gunter: Was not my plantation lying at the ferry landing when you was first acquainted at that place?

Answer: The first time that I ever was there, it was in the fall of 1816, and it was then in the woods and a cane track, and in the year 1819 I was there again, and your farm was then near about the ferry and I think Akiman told me that he had hoped to clear that land, and it was cleared when I came back in 1819, and he told me that he had been keeping the ferry for you.

Question by Gunter: Is the ferry landing now at the same place that it was in 1816?

Answer: I put in stock some distance above where the ferry landing is now in that year when I crop, but where you moved your houses it was the ferry landing in the year 1819.

Question by the same: Those houses that you speak of, did you see them pulled down?

Answer: I did not see them pulled down.

Question by the same: The plantation that was in the year of 1819, is it not the center on one side?

Answer: I don't know.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

William McKee (his mark)

Hon. H.E. Wheeler, Justice of the Peace

**Isaiah Walker evidence:** The first time, as well as my mind serves me at this time, I ever seen Edward Gunter was lying wounded, and I was told (it was) by the Creeks in 1814. The next time I seen him, he was living at what is called Gunter's Landing in the year 1819.

Question by Booker Smith: Do you know where Edward Gunter's place of residence were at the time the treaty was made between the United States and the Cherokee Nation, in the year of 1819?

Answer: It is a little above Hugh Henry's Gin on the north side of the Tennessee River.

Question by the same: Do you know anything about his pulling down his houses and moving them?

Answer: I don't.

Question by the same: Was you present at the surveying of that reservation claimed by Edward Gunter on the north side of Tennessee River?

Answer: I was.

Question by the same: Where did he make the center of that reservation?

Answer: About opposite to the Ferry Landing on the bank on this side of said river.

Question by the same: Do you or do you not think that Gunter, by moving his houses, exchanged some very indifferent land for some very good, fully the distance that he moved his houses, the full length of his reservation?

Answer: I had rather have the lower end of his land.

Question by Edward Gunter: Did not my plantation lay at the ferry landing the first time you were there?

Answer: In the year of 1819, I was at your house and there appeared to be a fine plantation down the river from your house. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> of February that I was there.

Question by Gunter: Were you present when the surveyor surveyed my reservation?

Answer: I was.

Question by the same: Did you not think, where he made the center, it was the center of my improvement?

Answer: There was cleared land above and below and the house was there where he made the center.

Question by the same: Did you not go clear round with the surveyor when he ran it out?

Answer: I did.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

Hon. H.E. Wheeler, Justice of the Peace

**Robert Walker evidence:** When I was on the south side of Tennessee River, where I and brothers made a crop early in the fall of 1819, Ward came to me by father as source of the Mr. Gunter that Edward Gunter was a wanting me to go down and attend to the ferry until Edward Gunter could go to a council or talk that was on land in the Cherokee Nation some where. The reply by me was that I had to gather corn.

Before long then some of them told me that a negro should gather corn in my place, then I readily consented to go and accordingly done so, and stayed there until some time I think late in January or quite early February, but I do not exactly recollect.

Close about that time though, I think this was the months of (illegible) the year 1820, but some time before this the reservation was surveyed by the surveyors and his hands.

Question by Booker Smith: Was you acquainted with Edward Gunter's place of residence in the year of 1819?

Answer: I believe he held a place of residence on both sides of the river.

Question by the same: Do you know of Mr. Gunter pulling down his houses and moving things from his residence on the north side of the river, and how far do you suppose he did move them?

Answer: I believe he pulled them down and moved them something near three hundred and thirty or forty yards.

Question by the same: Did you assist Mr. Gunter in the removal of the houses?

Answer: If I did, I don't now recollect. I might or I might not but I recollect that I ? him house there where my ? notes.

Question by the same: Was you not there at the time of this removal in the employ of Mr. Edward Gunter?

Answer: I was.

Question by the same: Did Mr. Gunter ever express to you the reason or object he had in moving them houses?

Answer: If he did I don't recollect.

Question by the same: Did not Mr. Gunter gain by this removal of his houses, a very excellent piece of land in lieu of a very indifferent piece the distance that you stated he moved them houses the full length of his reservation?

Answer: I had much rather have it.

Question by the same: What has been the language of the people on the subject of this removal?

Answer: I have never heard anything said about this removal, but I have heard people say that he had more land [than was] his right, they expected.

Question by the same: Where did the principal part of Mr. Gunter's plantation lye on the north side of Tennessee River at the time he moved his houses?

Answer: I think it extended from the ferry landing that now is upwards to within one hundred to one hundred and fifty yards of the place that he moved his houses from.

Question by the same: Do you know of Mr. Gunter's living on that reservation since the year 1819?

Answer: He does not.

Question by the same: Has not Mr. Gunter's residence been on the south side of the Tennessee River in the Cherokee Nation ever since the year of 1819?

Answer: He has ever since the time of his moving those houses.

Question by Edward Gunter: Did my plantation lie at the ferry landing at the time that you lived with me?

Answer: The ferry landing was near the low corner of your field, but there was a small field some distance below the creek something like two hundred yards to the nearest part of it.

Question by the same: Was you present when this place was surveyed by the surveyor?

Answer: I was.

Question by the same: Where did he make the center of the survey?

Answer: Close to the ferry landing (illegible) top of the bank at the house, he run his line from there up the river until he came near the place where you moved your houses from and I understood, from some of the company, that he was afraid of running in the river before he got his quote, and angled, then he run the same course over the ridge and cornered in the same sides (illegible) before he got to the river and went round until he came to the river.

Question by the same: Did you not think at that time that he placed the improvement as well [in] the center as he could have done it?

Answer: I think that he was particular in placing the compass in the center of the door of the house he removed, and the ferry landing.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

Hon. H.E. Wheeler, Justice of the Peace

**David Parkhill's evidence** - He states on oath that he (illegible) removed to the state of Alabama in the year of 1819 and landed at Gunter's Landing, and at that time, Edward Gunter lived or had a house on the north side of the Tennessee River, something like one quarter of a mile above the ferry landing claimed by him, and in the same year, moved his house down to the landing and has ever since lived on the south side of the river near said landing and in the Cherokee Nation, and by removing his houses, and making the center of the reservation claimed by him on the north side of the Tennessee River.

I have frequently heard the settlers say that Edward Gunter had, by removing his houses from where they were originally built, to the place where he rebuilt them near the ferry landing, had defrauded the government of the United States and thereby gotten a piece of land, in breadth, the distance he removed his houses, and in length, one mile of first rate quality of land instead of the same quantity of inferior land he otherwise would have gotten if he had not removed his houses, and in his opinion, by so doing, has departed from the spirit of the Treaty.

Question by Edward Gunter: Was there not a plantation on the north side of the river at the ferry landing at that time?

Answer: I think there was that extended as low as the landing.

Question by the same: Those houses you speak of being removed, did you see them removed?

Answer: I did not.

Question by the same: The ferry landing and the improvement - don't you believe them to be about the center of the reservation?

Answer: I don't know but I have always understood they were as near the center as practicable.

Question by Smith: Was the houses that [were] before mentioned, shortly after the treaty demolished and moved away?

Answer: I think it was in the year of 1819 they were removed from where I first seen them.

Question by the same: When you first moved to the country did you see any houses at the ferry landing?

Answer: I do not recollect, but my impression is there was not any there.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

Hon. H.E. Wheeler, Justice of the Peace

I certify under my hand and seal that the foregoing deposition was taken by and before me the day and date first above written and that the said William McKee, Isaiah Walker, Robert Walker and David Parkhill subscribed their names in my presence.

(marker 0667)  
The State of Alabama  
Jackson County  
March 21<sup>st</sup> 1831

This day personally appeared before me, Mr. H.E. Wheeler, acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county, Edward Cox and Edmond Bridges, who being duly sworn the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, to relate respecting a reservation of land said to

have been taken by the said Edward Gunter, embracing one mile square on the north side of Tennessee River in the county of Jackson, and opposite the ferry, the said Edward Gunter keeps on said river.

The said Edmond Bridges being first called, states: I was living on the south side of the Tennessee River in the year 1819. E. Gunter lived up the same side of the river in what is now called the Cherokee Nation, but there lived a woman on this side of said river which is the north side, in what is now Jackson County which was said by some people to be one of the said Gunter's two wives, think she lived near one quarter of a mile above the ferry landing then known by the name of Gunter's Landing.

The other woman, in which was said to be his other wife, lived on the south side of said landing with him. Some time [in] 1819, the woman on the south side died and Mr. Gunter removed the woman from the north side over to the south side where I believe she has lived ever since.

I have still lived in the neighborhood of said landing ever since the year 1819. In the fall of that year, Mr. Gunter removed his houses near one quarter of a mile down said river opposite his ferry landing, at or near the lower part of his improvements, which is said by some who profess to know, was made the center on the south side of his reservation and if it was according to my understanding of the treaty which granted reservation to said Gunter, the said Gunter got a very valuable tract of land in place of a very rocky barren tract, the full extent in width and one mile in length of the distance that he removed his houses down said river and according to the knowledge I have of the boundary, claimed by a reservation by

said Gunter, the place where the houses now stand was made the center.

Question by Smith: Was this removal of the houses before or after the treaty was concluded and made public?

Answer: It was after.

Question by the same: Has not Edward Gunter lived on the south side of the Tennessee River ever since the treaty was concluded in the year 1819 between the United States and the Cherokee Nation?

Answer: He always has lived on the south side of said river since the year 1819.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1831.

Hon. H.E. Wheeler

(marker 0669)

**Edward Cox** states as follows:

My acquaintance with Edward Gunter was early in the year of 1817 when I moved to the neighborhood of Gunter's Landing.

At that time, the said Gunter had no other improvement than a small log cabin which was built on the point of a rocky bluff on the north side of the Tennessee River. Directly thereafter, a treaty was in progress, say some few months, and concluded in 1819. Edward Gunter, some time [around] that date, moved his log cabins down the river about one quarter of a mile, first about the lower end of his improvements that he had made from my first acquaintance with him. I had frequent conversations with him and has to this day been friendly with him. He stated that it was improving the value of his reservation that he was about to have established at that place known as Gunter's Landing in the county of Jackson, Alabama state.

The said Gunter, some time previously, did move to the south side of the

Tennessee River and has remained ever since in the Cherokee Nation. He is a half breed himself. I do not recollect how long before the treaty, though sometime I am certain.

Question by Booker Smith: Did not Edward Gunter, by the removing of his houses, obtain in lieu of a very indifferent piece of land the distance he moved his houses down the river the full length of his reservation?

Answer: He did receive one quarter of a mile up and down the river and one mile out of the very first-rate land in place of a rocky bluff fronting the river and back a mile of very sterile worthless land.

Question by the same: Was it before or since the treaty was made public that he removed their houses?

Answer: It was just before the surveying of the reservations.

Question by the same: Has it not been a general talk through the neighborhood that Edward Gunter has, by this removal of his houses, defrauded the government of the United States?

Answer: It certainly has.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1831.

Hon. H.E. Wheeler (seal)

(marker 0671)

**Notice**

**Booker Smith and John Gilbreath vs. Edward Gunter**

Executed by handing a copy to Edward Gunter on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831

by David Richards, Constable

State of Alabama

Jackson County

Mr. Edward Gunter,

Sir, you will please to take notice that I will attend at the office of William H.E. Wheeler Esq., a Justice of the



Peace in and for the county aforesaid, on the twelfth day of the present month for the purpose of taking the evidence of Gilbreath Barton, Jeremiah Roden, Jr., Benjamin Roden, Alexander Gilbreath, William McKee, John Edwards Sr., Samuel Webber, William Manning, David Parkhill, Nathan Crockett, David Rickets, Charles Carnally, Robert Walker, Isaiah Walker, and George T. Read, respecting the right to a reservation, said to have been taken by you, embracing one mile of square on the north side of the Tennessee River in the county of Jackson and opposite the ferry you keep on said river. The evidence will be taken between the hours of eight o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon, on the above named day, at which time you may attend if you choose.

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1831

Booker Smith  
Mr. Gilbreath

(marker 0673)

**A notice to Edward Gunter**

I certify that I have served a true copy of this notice on Edward Gunter this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

Lt. Boshart

(marker 0674)

**Papers relative to Edward Gunter's Reservation**

The State of Alabama  
Jackson County  
Mr. Edward Gunter

Sir, take notice that we will attend at the office of William H.E. Wheeler, a Justice of the Peace in and for this county, on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of the present month for the purpose of taking the evidence of Edward Cox and Edmond Bridges, respecting a right to a

reservation of land said to have been taken by you on the north side of the Tennessee River opposite to Gunter's Landing in the County of Jackson, at which time and place you may attend if you choose.

March 14<sup>th</sup> 1831

Booker Smith  
John Gilbreath

(marker 0677)

Huntsville

12 July 1832

Edward Gunter

Forward copy of General Meigs' certificate that he is entitled to a few simple reservations under the Cherokee Treaty.

To the Hon. Elijah Hayward  
Commissioner of Genl. Land Office  
Washington City

Huntsville, Ala. July 12, '32

Commissioner of the General Land Office

Sir, I have been informed that there are some persons who have taken depositions and forwarded them to you, with a view of invalidating my title to a tract of land granted to me lying in Jackson County, Alabama, and known by the name of "Gunter's Reservation." I have been advised, by Counsel, that my title to said land is indisputable, and that it is unnecessary to take court depositions – but that it would not be amiss to send on to you the enclosed certificate.

Very respectfully, Edward Gunter

(marker 0679)

**A Certificate for Edward Gunter**

18<sup>th</sup> August 1819

Edward Gunter, a Cherokee having had a reservation of land granted to him by the treaty of the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1819 between the United States and the Cherokees, in fee simple on condition of his notification to remain on the same as a permanent settler and he having given the proper notification to remain, being the place where he now lives. He will consider himself as amenable to the laws of the United States, and under their protection.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Cherokee Agency the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 1819. Signed by Return G. Meigs (seal)

The State of Alabama  
Madison County

This day personally came before me John J. Coleman, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said county and state, duly elected commissioned and sworn, John Read, late Register of the Land Office of the District of Lands belonging to the United States of America, offered for sale at Huntsville Alabama, who on being duly sworn deposed and saith that the above is a correct copy of a certificate now in the hands of Edward Gunter from Return J. Meigs, late Cherokee Indian Agent, and that the whole of said document including the signature thereto is in the proper hand writing of said Return J. Meigs. Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1832. – signed by John Read and John J. Coleman J.P. (seal)

State of Alabama  
Madison County

I, Richard B. Pindon, clerk of the county court of said county, do certify that John J. Coleman, before whom the

forgoing affidavit was sworn, is now and was at this date of the same, an acting Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, duly commissioned as such and that full faith and credit due to all his official acts.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and office the seal of said county courts, at offices, in Huntsville, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April in 1832 and of American Independence the fifty-sixth.

Rich B. Pindon

~~~~to be continued~~~~

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Richard (Dick) Wall on the early morning of August 4, 2010. Dick was a long-time member of Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society and a most valuable member of the board. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his survivors: Martha, Rick, Gail, Mark, and Jane.

Things You Should Know

Free Seminar for Beginners

Mark your calendars for October 2! From 9:30 am to 12:00 noon, the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society is sponsoring a free seminar for beginning genealogists in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library.

There will be 4 sessions:

1. Getting Started - a discussion of how to get started and choosing a focus, by Shirley Greer

2. What's in a Name? by Bob Mixon

3. Census records, by Lois Robinson

4. Internet Resources, by Coy Michael

5. Question and Answers

Refreshments will be served and there will be books for sale. More information will be available as we get closer.

Did you know that your membership dues cover July 1 through June 30 of the following year? Please remember to send your dues in June. If you have not yet sent your dues for 2010-2011, please don't delay! Send a check for \$25 to TVGS, P.O. Box 1568, Huntsville, AL 35807-0568.

News from St. Clair Historical Society, Alabama

As of this summer, the St. Clair Historical Society is pleased to announce that they have received grant money to help restore the historic John Looney House, ca. 1820, and it is now open by

appointment, or you can visit the 2nd Saturday (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and the 2nd Sunday (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.) of each month. In addition, their mailing address has changed.

The Society is putting their quarterly publication called *Cherish*, on a facebook page, and mailing it to people who do not have internet access.

Members of the St. Clair Historical Society are encouraged to continue sending \$25 annual dues to help maintain the historic Looney House Museum, as well as continue to provide useful and interesting information to people whose ancestors may have left a footprint in St. Clair County.

Don't miss out – they are sponsoring a fall festival the second Saturday in October. If you have Facebook, search "St. Clair Historical Society" for more information.

Announcement from National Book Auctions

We have recently received a letter from David Hall, Business Manager of National Book Auctions, a company that helps sell collections of books, art, currency, stamps, and ephemera that you may no longer need. They will assess, appraise, catalog, market, sell, process payment, and delivery items you wish to dispose of. They will work with individuals, as well as libraries and historical societies and they promise discretion, when necessary.

Call (607) 269-0101 if you would like more information. Collections or items will be taken on consignment and if you are looking for unusual items, be sure to contact them.

<http://www.nationalbookauctions.com/upcomingauctions.htm>

It's Coming!

On April 2, 2012, the 1940 census will be digitized and released. Mark your calendar!

Help for Alabama's Earliest Capitals

Alabama's first capital, the territorial capital of St. Stephens (capital from 1817 to 1819), and Cahaba/Cahawba (capital from 1820 to 1826), the first permanent capital, are ghost towns in need of help. Both were abandoned by the mid-1800s, and although there is a small amount of money allocated to keep them accessible to visitors, more is needed to help restore and potentially rebuild at least a small portion of what was once there.

St. Stephens is undergoing some limited archaeological excavations by volunteers. Cahaba has three decaying columns left from a mansion that once stood there. (See the cover of *Dead Towns of Alabama* by W. Stuart Harris for another photograph of the columns.)



Photograph taken from the website for Old Cahawba Park

To find out how to donate to Old Cahawba's restoration, see:

http://www.cahawba.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=25

To find out how to donate to St. Stephens' restoration, see:

http://www.oldststephens.com/sponsorship_needed.htm

Genealogy Seminar - October

The Ohio Chapter Palatines to America German Genealogy Society will have a seminar on October 16 in Columbus, Ohio. Topics will cover indentured servitude and immigration to America in the 18th century. See <http://www.oh-palam.org/events.php> for more information.

Immigration Records

Many of us comb the records here in America looking for information on our ancestors who came over on early ships. We overlook, however, that there are records/applications from the ports they left from that will yield valuable information as well. America was concerned about the people who entered our ports, but immigrants' applications made out in "the old country" could provide the missing links from whence they came.

Exciting Breaking News

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has made available to the public a free index to Alabama death certificates (1908 to 1974). Before now, available indexes only went to 1959. This index includes names of the deceased but also indexes the names of the parents of the deceased. This index is included as part of the LDS project to index its 2.4 million

microfilm reels, frame by frame. This index, therefore, already includes much more than just this wonderful index to Alabama death certificates. To access this resource go to Familysearch.org, then go to Search; under Search click on Record Search Pilot. The link is:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

Bob Davis at Wallace State College has this to say, "These death records contain much family information. If you search a name you may also get death records of spouse and children. I found some deaths of children that I did not know existed. In rare instances you find a burial location. I searched for the surname only and scanned several pages. There is not a print option that I found. You click on a name and then you have the option to Copy to Clipboard. Then go to a word processing program and click paste."

Book Review

How Much Is That In Real Money? A Historical Commodity Price Index for Use as a Deflator of Money Values in the Economy of the United States, by John J. McCusker

So you found that deed to 4th great-granddaddy's property on the banks of the Tennessee, but the price he paid is £10 13s 20d sterling or maybe 10 pounds, 13 shillings and 20 pence current money of said state. And you wonder how to compare this to the value of current American dollars and cents to be more comprehensible, but how? This book is just what you need to help you answer this complex question.

The revised edition from the economic historian, John McCusker, is a ready reference for use by genealogists, researchers, teachers and students in converting prices from any time in the

American past as far back as 1665 to their comparable value in today's dollars. This small, easy to use "manual" presents a consistent commodity price index that extends across as much as possible of the history of the United States. McCusker's clear introduction discusses the theory and practice behind the construction of historical price indexes, while pointing out their uses and limitations. He provides clear, step-by-step, easy instructions and examples for making the conversion from past prices, even those expressed in colonial currency, to today's values.

This work supplies consumer price index tables for the United States since 1665 and comparable tables for Great Britain going back to 1600, making this valuable reference work even more useful. Furthermore, he explains how users may keep this reference tool current by obtaining the monthly and annual consumer price index figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the comparable agency in the United Kingdom. This useful work contains lavish footnotes and closes with a comprehensive bibliography of sources on historical prices and related subjects, allowing those interested to pursue the subject further.

In order to gauge the wealth of our ancestors compared to the present day, it is highly recommended that every genealogist, both amateur and professional, "shell" out the \$15, on Amazon.com.

Published in Worcester, Massachusetts: American Antiquarian Society, 2001. 142 pages, soft bound. \$15. ISBN 1-929545-01-0.

- Contributed by Bettye Perrine

Pounds to Dollars

Colonial Conversion Rates

Slave Sale *Estate of Hezekiah Rhodes*

| | | |
|----------------|------|-------------|
| Davie | £125 | \$25,505.34 |
| Cloe | £125 | \$25,505.34 |
| Bob | £125 | \$25,505.34 |
| George & Peter | £135 | \$27,545.76 |



Jesse Steed's Estate

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|---------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 saddle | £3.0.0 | \$612.19 | 1 pair Dito | £1.14.0 | \$346.84 | 1 Tobacco Box | £0.12.0 | \$122.40 |
| 1 ink stand | £0.2.4 | \$27.20 | 1 West Coat | £1.12.0 | \$326.44 | 1 Pen Knife | £0.4.0 | \$40.08 |
| 1 set razors | £0.12.0 | \$122.43 | 1 Dito | £1.12.6 | \$331.54 | 1 Chest | £0.16.6 | \$168.30 |
| 1 pair mens gloves | £0.7.6 | \$76.52 | 1 Dito | £2.3.0 | \$438.68 | 1 Great Coat | £3.1.0 | \$622.32 |
| 1 pair Worsted Stockings | £0.2.6 | \$25.50 | 5 yards fine Linnen | £3.5.0 | \$663.12 | 1 pair Silver Knee Buckles | £1.7.6 | \$280.54 |
| 1 pair dito | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 | 1 yd. Oznaburg | £0.3.0 | \$30.60 | 1 fine Hatt | £2.14.0 | \$550.88 |
| 1 pair Breeches | £1.18.0 | \$387.68 | 1 Silver Stock Buckle | £1.4.0 | \$244.84 | 1 handkerchief | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 |
| 1 pair stockings | £0.1.0 | \$10.20 | 1 pair Overalls | £0.5.0 | \$51.00 | 1 powderhorn & bag | £0.1.6 | \$15.30 |
| 1 Dito | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 | 1 fine shirt | £2.1.0 | \$418.28 | 1 ink stand | £0.4.0 | \$408.00 |
| 1 Dito | £0.1.0 | \$10.20 | 1 dito | £0.10.0 | \$102.00 | 1 Musket | £0.8.0 | \$81.60 |
| 1 Dito | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 | 1 dito | £1.4.3 | \$247.39 | 1 pair Boots | £0.10.0 | \$102.00 |
| 2 Stocks | £0.8.1 | \$86.72 | 1 fine shirt | £1.12.6 | \$331.54 | 1 pair Slippers | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 |
| 2 Dito | £0.13.2 | \$134.33 | 1 dito | £2.2.6 | \$433.58 | TOTAL | £1043.19.1 | |
| 1 over Coat | £1.3.4 | \$238.04 | 2 handkerchiefs | £2.0.0 | \$408.08 | | \$213,010.36 | |
| 1 pair Breeches | £0.6.7 | \$67.15 | 1 West Coat & Breeches | £3.11.6 | \$729.42 | | | |
| 1 pair Dito | £0.16.0 | \$163.20 | 1 dito | £0.5.0 | \$51.00 | | | |

1794 Tavern Rates

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| West Indies Rum | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Common Rum | £0.1.6 | \$15.30 |
| Whiskey | £0.1.0 | \$10.20 |
| French Brandy | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Ginn | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Medarie Wine | £0.2.6 | \$25.50 |
| Tenerif & Common Claret | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Strong Beer | £0.1.0 | \$10.20 |
| Small Beer | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 |
| Diner Warm | £0.2.6 | \$25.50 |
| Cold | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Breakfast Warm | £0.2.0 | \$20.40 |
| Cold | £0.1.6 | \$15.30 |
| Corn & Oats (per gallon) | £0.1.0 | \$10.20 |
| Stablidge | £0.1.3 | \$12.75 |
| One knights lodging | £0.0.6 | \$5.10 |

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Valley Leaves Policies

Contributions

Editorial Policy: The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, "Valley Leaves" is an educational publication committed to the compiling and printing of genealogical and historical articles and materials for the Counties of **Jackson, Marshall, and Madison** in the State of Alabama – including County and Municipal Records, Bible records, diaries, military records, newspaper items, personal letters, tombstone inscriptions, family histories, church and school records, research methodology and technology. The Society solicits primarily from among its membership unpublished source data but will accept previously published material if it is derived from rare, little-known, hard-to-find or out of print publications not readily available to researchers, provided that proper acknowledgement is given. An effort will be made to balance material among the three counties to broaden researcher interest. Materials prior to mid-20th Century are preferred. Family histories should be sufficiently comprehensive to interest researchers in methods of research, and possible connection to ancestors. In compiling submissions, all source references should be cited, including locations where known. The 15th Edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* should be used. While attempts are made to check submission for accuracy and originality, The Society, Editorial Board, and the TVGS *Valley Leaves* Editor shall not be held responsible for any such errors by contributors. Correction of proven errors will appear in subsequent issues of the publication.

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Submission Guidelines: All submissions should be sent via email in MS Word, JPEG or other PDFs can only be used for photos and scanned materials. Although all submissions must focus on areas of genealogical interest, as mentioned above, other articles may be considered. Tombstone inscriptions should give location, direction, whether copied entirely or partially. DO NOT put in alphabetical order. Bible records should include a photocopy of entries, title pages and date of publication, and interpretation of each name. Any submission previously published must include a signed release or email authorization from the original author, surviving heir, or publication editor. Send submissions to: jacqueprocter@aol.com.

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