
(North Alabama)

Valley Leaves

TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

QUARTERLY



Volume 45, Issue No. 3, March 2011

Valley Leaves

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Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.
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TVGS meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of July, Sept., Jan., March and May. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library (915 Monroe St.) unless announced otherwise.

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See registration information inside this issue for our April 2 seminar with Dr. Robert Davis. This Sesquicentennial Year of the Civil War is a good time to start researching information on your Civil War ancestors.

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Jackson County

1867 Probate Records
Part 2, continued from Vol. 4, No. 2

Copied, Abstracted, and Contributed by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

The following records were copied from the Probate Office of the Jackson County Courthouse in Scottsboro, record book for the year 1867.

A.W. Foster, deceased
Estate of
As to Dower, continued
Probate Court of Jackson County
January 5, 1867
Page 51

This being the day regularly appointed for hearing the application of David Gould, administrator of said estate for an order for the assignment of dower to Mary Atberry in the lands of said estate. And it now appearing that publication has not been made for a sufficient length of time from delay in the mails.

It is ordered that the hearing of said application be continued to the _ day of January 1867.

Bradford Smith, deceased
Estate of
Order to rent out land
January 7, 1867
Page 51

This day comes Jonathan F. Finney, administrator of said estate, and made application for an order to rent out the tillable lands belonging to said estate for the year 1867. And the Court having heard said application, and being fully satisfied from the proof submitted that such renting would be beneficial to the interests of said estate:

It is therefore ordered that said administrator proceed to rent out said lands for the present year at public outcry, after having first given three weeks notice of the day, place, and terms of such renting, by posting such notice thereof for such length of time at the Court house door and three other public places in this County.

Washington Young, deceased
Estate of
Report of Renting of Lands
January 7, 1867
Page 51

This day comes R. A. Coffey, administrator of said estate, and presented his report of the renting of the land and mill belonging to said estate for the present year, which is in due form and verified by oath.

It is ordered that said report be recorded and filed for future reference.

A.W. Foster, deceased
Estate of
In matter of Dower
Guardian ad Litem
January 26, 1867
Page 100

It now appearing that in pursuance of the former order of this Court made and

entered in the previous on the 1st day of December 1866, publication has been made and citations sent and served for Newton Foster, Mary Holland, Secundia Holland, Martha Holland, Julia Holland and Belinda Belamy who are minors and interested in a proceeding now pending in this Court for an allowance and assignment of Dower to Mary Atberry in the lands of said decedent: and ? ? having appeared to nominate to the Court a fit and proper person to act as Guardian ad Litem for said minors was for either of them and a reasonable time having elapsed for such purpose.

It is therefore ordered that James N. Powers, who is deemed by the Court a fit and proper person, and who is not of kin to the applicant nor in any way interested in the result of such proceeding, be, and he is hereby appointed Guardian ad Litem to represent and protect the interests of all of said minors on the hearing of the application of David Gold, administrator, for the assignment of his appointment.

A.W. Foster, deceased
Estate of
In a matter of Dower
Page 101
January 26th, 1867

This being the day to which was continued the hearing of the petition of David Gold, administrator of said estate praying for an allowance and assignment to Mary Atberry of dower in the lands described as follows, to wit: The S ½ of the E ½ of NE ¼ of Section 27 T.3 R. East. The E ½ of NW ¼ of Section 34, T 3 R 5 East, containing in all 153 12/100 acres; and it being now proven to the satisfaction of the Court that the parties in interest and who are particularly

referred to and designated in the order of this Court entered in the premises on the 1st day of December 1866, have each and all of them been duly notified of said petition and that the matter thereof would be this day heard and determined by the Court by publication and otherwise as required by law and in all particulars strictly in accordance with the requirement of said former orders. Now comes the said administrator by his attorney and also comes James N. Powers who has been duly appointed, and who now appears and consents to act as Guardian ad Litem for Newton Foster, Mary, Secundia, Martha and Julia Holland and Belinda Belamy, minors, and to protect their interests in this proceeding, and the said Guardian ad Litem, having filed his answer in writing for all of said minors, denying the allegations said petition contained, on motion of the said applicant by his attorney, the Court proceeds to hear the proof, and to determine the right of said Mary Atberry to dower in the above described lands, being the same described in said petition:

Whereupon it appears by due proof to the satisfaction of this Court that said Mary Atberry is the widow of said deceased, since his death intermarried with (no name given) Atberry, that said deceased was seized in fee during his marriage with the said Mary of the parcels of land above described in and to which said widow now relinquished her right of dower; that dower in said lands can be justly assigned by metes and bounds and that said decedent departed this life intestate.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that the said Mary Atberry is entitled to have an estate for her life set apart for and allotted to her in one third of all and singular(?) the lands

above described, that portion of said lands being now and judged by the Court to be her rightful dower interest therein.

It is further ordered for the purpose of carrying the above decree into effect that the Sheriff of this County be directed by a writing in due form and to him addressed in the nature of a writ of dower to summon five freeholders not connected with any of the parties to this proceeding by consanguinity or affinity to set off and allot by metes and bounds the said dower interest of said Mary Atberry in said lands having regard to the improvements and quality of the land as well as to the quantity of the dower and to perform all other duties required of them by law in relation thereof.

It is further ordered that said petition and all other papers and proceedings in this case be recorded to be referred to if necessary as part of this decree.

It is further ordered that said Mary Atberry pay all the cost of this proceeding.

Samuel Canady, deceased
Estate of
Order to rent out land
January 26, 1867
Page 102

Comes Jonathan Beason, administrator of said estate and makes application for an order to rent out the tillable lands of said estate for the year 1867; and the Court having heard said application and being fully satisfied from the proof submitted that such renting would be to the interest of said estate.

It is therefore ordered that said administrator proceed to rent out said lands for the present year at public outcry to the highest bidder after having first advertised the day, place and terms of such renting for ten days by posting

such notice thereof for such length of time at the Court house door and three other places in this County.

James C. Haile, deceased
Estate of
Report of Renting
January 26, 1868
Page 103

Comes W. H. Norwood, administrator with the will annexed(?) of said estate and presents his report of the renting of the lands thereof situated in this County, for the present year; and said report being in due form. It is ordered that the same be recorded and filed for future reference.

Winfield S. Mason, deceased
Estate of
Annual Settlement, continued
January 28, 1867
Page 103

This being the day to which was continued the matter of the annual settlement of the administration of James M. Buchanan, administrator of said estate, comes said administrator and this Settlement is ordered to be continued to the 22nd day of March, 1867.

Joseph Beedles, deceased
Estate of
In a matter of Dower
January 28, 1867
Page 103

This day comes John C. Black and Nancy Jane Beedles and filed their petition in writing alleging among other things, that the said Nancy Jane Beedles is the widow of said decedent and as such is entitled to have a life estate assigned to her in one third of certain

lands described in said petition for her dower interest therein. The same being lands of which her said deceased husband was seized in fee during her marriage with him in and to which she never relinquished her right of dower, and the said land being so situated that dower can be set off and justly assigned by metes and bounds; and it now being shown to the Court that those interested adversely to the said widow in her said claim for dower of the times when said petition would be filed and an order for the assignment of dower prayed for; and it appearing from an inspection of said petition that only heirs at law of said deceased are his three children: Martha Jane, Mary M.E., and Sarah Ann Beedles, all of whom are minors over the age of fourteen years and all reside with the said Nancy Jane Beedles in this County.

It is therefore ordered that the 20th day of February 1867 be and it is hereby appointed a day for hearing said application and the proofs which may be submitted in support of the same.

It is further ordered that said Martha Jane, Mary M.E., and Sarah Ann have notice of the filing and nature of said application and of the time above set for the hearing thereof, by citation to be personally served on them ten days before said day of hearing.

Willis J. Sanders, deceased
Estate of
Report of Sale of Permanent Property
January 29, 1867
Page 104

Comes David M. Martin, administrator of said estate and presents his report of the sales of the personal property belonging to said estate, in due form and properly verified. It is ordered that the

same be recorded and filed for future reference.

James Selby, deceased
Estate of
Confirmation of Sale
January 29, 1867
Page 104

This day comes James O. Selby, the administrator of said estate and files his report in writing and under oath setting forth, among other thing, that on the 29th day of November 1866, in pursuance of law in such cases, and in strict accordance with the terms and requirements of the former decree of this Court which was the ? of Sale made and entered in the premises the 27th day of October 1866, he proceeded and sold at public outcry, on the premises, all the lands belonging to said estate, particularly described in said former order and decree; and that at said sale, said lands were purchased by him, the said James O. Selby, for the sum of \$900.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court from said report and from the evidence now therewith submitted, that said amount so bid for said land by said James O. Selby was the highest and best bid for the same; that said sum so bid was not greatly less or disproportionate to its real value; that said sale was legally and fairly made, conducted, and concluded, and that the purchase money therefore is property secured by the administration bond(?) of said James O. Selby.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that said sale be and the same is hereby approved, and in all things satisfied and confirmed by the order and authority of this Court.

It is further ordered that said report and all other papers on file relating to this proceeding be recorded.

It is further ordered that said administrator pay the costs of this proceeding to be allowed to him against said estate.

John C. Collins, deceased
Estate of
Order to sell land
January 31, 1867
Page 105

This day comes P. H. Helton, administrator of said estate, and filed his report and application in writing and under oath, setting forth among other things, that on the 25th day of May 1863, he obtained an order from the Probate Court of this County to sell the lands belonging to said estate; that in pursuance of said order and decree, he advertised the same for sale; that on the day such sale was to be made, this County was occupied by the Federal Army, by reason of which said sale was unavoidably delayed; that said land as yet unsold, and praying for an order and decree empowering him now to proceed and make sale of said lands.

And it now appearing from an inspection of the Records of this Court that such an order and decree was made and entered on the day and year above stated, in all respects in pursuance of law and it further appearing from due proof to the satisfaction of the Court that said allegations in said petition are substantially true.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that said application be granted; and said administrator is hereby ordered to sell said lands at public outcry in manner and form as the law directs in such cases, and impart the same terms

and conditions required by said former decree of sale made and entered in the premises on said 25th day of May 1863; and that he make due report of such sale as the law directs.

Jeremiah Walker, deceased
Estate of
Report of Insolvency
Order setting day to hear
January 31, 1867
Page 106

This day comes John Walker, administrator of said estate and filed with the Judge of this Court his report and statement in writing duly verified by oath alleging that said estate is insolvent to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

It is therefore ordered by the Court that the 3rd Monday in March 1867, being the 18th day of said month, be and it is hereby appointed a day to hear and determine as to said report.

It is further ordered that notice of the filing of said report and of the day above appointed to hear and determine upon the same be given to the creditors of said estate by forwarding notices to them, to be placed in the mail, postage paid and properly addressed thirty days before said day of hearing when the residence is known by posting notice at the Court house door for the same length of time, and by publication a week for the same length of time in the *Huntsville Democrat*, a newspaper published in the City of Huntsville, Madison County in this State.

William Skelton
Guardian of John W. Skelton, a minor
As to new bond
January 31, 1868
Page 107

This being the date set to hear the application of R. L. Kirby, one of the sureties of William Skelton as Guardian of John W. Skelton, a minor, praying to be released and discharged from said bonds.

Now comes the said R. L. Kirby and moves the Court to hear said petition and the evidence to be adduced and also comes said William Skelton, and the Court having heard said petition, and being now satisfied that the same should be granted.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that said R. L. Kirby be from and after this day, discharged from liability on the Guardian Bond of said William Skelton.

It is further ordered that said William Skelton, as guardian of said John W. Skelton, be and he is hereby required to give a new bond for the faithful performance of his duties as such Guardian, and that he have until the 8th day of February 1867 to file such bond.

It is further ordered that said application be recorded.

Thomas Berry, deceased
Estate of
Settlement Continued
January 31, 1867
Page 107

This being the day to which was continued, the final settlement of the administration of Fennan Fowler on said estate, comes said administrator and the parties by this attorney, and it is ordered that this cause be continued to the 21st day of February 1867.

Jeremiah Walker, deceased
Estate of
Order to record report

January 31, 1867
Page 107

Comes John Walker, administrator of said estate, and presents his part of the renting of the lands of said estate for the years 1866 and 1867, which is in due form and c.

It is ordered that said report be recorded and filed for future reference.

A.J. Peacock, deceased
Estate of
Order to record appraisalment
January 31, 1867
Page 108

This day comes William I. Longacre, administrator of said estate, and presented the appraisalment thereof as made by William McMahan, J.L. Owens, and William Jacoway, which is in due form and properly verified. It is ordered that the same be recorded and filed for future reference.

Robert C. Parks, deceased
Estate of
Report of Sales, Supplemental
Inventory and Appraisements
Order to record each
February 1, 1867
Page 108

This day comes H. L. and Thos. B. Parks, administrators of said estate, and presented their report of the sales of personal property, also an inventory supplemental to the one heretofore filed by them and also the appraisalment of said estate made by James M. Hudgins, Jacob Coulson, and Abram Ropon, all of which are in due form and properly verified.

It is ordered that said sale list inventory and appraisal be each recorded and filed for future reference.

Agnes E. Gill, deceased
Who was Guardian of Belinda A. Renshaw, Minor settlement, cont'd
February 1, 1868
Page 108

This being the day to which was continued the final settlement of the guardianship of Agnes E. Gill, who in her lifetime was Guardian of the estate of Belinda A. Renshaw.

Comes R. C. T. Gill, administrator of the estate of the said Agnes E., and it is ordered that the matter of said final settlement be continued to the 15th day of February 1867.

Francis M. Skelton, deceased
Estate of
Report of Sales – order to record
February 1, 1867
Page 109

This day comes George J. Chisenhall, administrator of said estate and presented his report of the sales of the personal property of said estate which is in due form and properly verified.

It is ordered that the same be recorded and filed for future reference.

Lewis E. Lindsay, deceased
Estate of
Settlement of accounts
and continuance of administration
February 1, 1867
Page 109

The 31st day of December 1866, having been regarded by appointment for James M. Hudgins, the administrator

of said estate to appear and make settlement of the accounts of his past administration thereof, as required by law, and the matter of said settlement having been, by order of this Court, continued to this day and said estate having been heretofore declared insolvent. Now comes the said administrator and moves the Court to proceed with said settlement.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that due notice of the nature of and of the day appointed for said settlement has been given according to law, and strictly according to the direction of the former order of this Court made and entered in the previous on the 28th day of October 1866.

And it also being known to the Court that said account, vouchers and statements were duly filed more than ten days before this day, thereupon the Court proceeds to examine and audit said account, upon which auditing and examination it appears that said administrator has received of the assets of said estate the sum of \$119.69, in cash, and that he has legally and justly expended for said estate the sum of \$109.23 for the items of which expenditures he produces vouchers and other evidence satisfactory to the Court, having in his hands a balance of \$10.46 after allowing all proper vouchers and commissions to the administrator.

And the said administrator being now charged with the said sum of money, ascertains as aforesaid, to have been received by him, and credited by the amount so by him paid out and justly expended, including his commissions as aforesaid; and the said account appearing correct.

It is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that the same be in all things passed and allowed as above stated; and

that the same together with the vouchers and evidences thereof, and all other papers relating to the previous administration of said estate, be accorded. And none of the creditors of said estate, as their representatives having appealed at this settlement, and nominated to the Court any fit and proper person to administer upon the property rights and credits of said estate, which now remain unadministered.

It is ordered that James M. Hudgins, the former administrator of said estate, be, and he is hereby continued for the further administration of said estate, to administer the same as the law directs in relation to insolvent estates.

James H. Keith, deceased
Estate of
Settlement of accounts
And continuance of administration
February 2, 1867
Page 110

The 31st day of December 1866, having been regularly appointed for Sarah Jane Keith, the administratrix of said estate, to appear and make settlement of the account of her past administration thereof, as required by law, and the said settlement having by order of this Court been continued to this day, said estate having been declared insolvent.

Now comes the said administratrix, by her attorney, and moves the Court to proceed with said settlement. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that due notice of the nature of and of the day set aside for said settlement has been given according to law, and strictly according to the discretion of the former order of this Court, made and entered in the premises on the 28th day of October 1866, and the said account having been

heretofore filed, the Court proceeds to examine and audit said account; upon which auditing and examination it appears that said administratrix has received of the assets of said estate the sum of \$265.50 including \$215.50 in Confederate money, and that she has legally and justly expended for said estate, including her commission and the sum of \$207.75 in Confederate money now returned into court the sum of \$261.34 for the items of which expenditure she produces vouchers and other evidence satisfactory to the Court.

And the said administratrix being now charged with the said sum of money, ascertained as aforesaid to have been received by her and credit by the amount so by her justly paid out and expended including said sum of Confederate notes so returned into Court as aforesaid and for which she is by law entitled to be credited.

It is found by the Court that there is left in her hands belonging to said estate the sum of \$4.16 and the said account appearing correct. It is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that the same be in all things passed and allowed as above stated, and that the same, together with all other papers on file relating to said estate be recorded.

And none of the creditors of said estate as their representatives having attended at this settlement and nominated a fit and proper person to administer upon the property rights and credits of said estate which now remain unadministered.

It is ordered that Sarah Jane Keith, the former administratrix, be and she is hereby continued for the further administration of said estate to administer the same according the laws of the State of Alabama in relation to insolvent estates.

William Tipton, deceased
Estate of
Letters of Administration
February 4, 1868
Page 112

James M. Tipton, having filed his petition in writing and under oath, praying to be appointed to the administration of said estate, alleging in his said petition that he is a nephew of said decedent, who was an inhabitant of this County at the time of his death, that he departed this life intestate in the year 1863, leaving property in this State of about the value of \$2,000 to the best of petitioners' knowledge, information, and belief, and also showing and by said petition who are the heirs and next of kin of said deceased, and their respective ages, sex, condition, and residence so far as he knows.

And it being shown by evidence satisfactory to the Court that the allegations of said petition are substantially true; and it being duly made to appear that it is necessary that administration should be committed on said estate forthwith; and the said James M. Tipton, having given bond in the sum of \$4,000 with C. N. Stephens, W. C. Tipton, Thomas H. Hall, and John Snodgrass, Jr. as his securities therein, which bond has been taken and approved as good and sufficient by the judge of this Court.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that said James M. Tipton be, and he is hereby appointed administrator of said estate, and that the proper letters of administration do issue to him forthwith.

It is further ordered that an appraisalment of said estate be made and that Elish Stogsdill, Charles Roach, and William Ware be, and they are hereby

appointed and authorized to approve said estate.

Marsh & Company
Jenny Lind Table
Stevenson, Alabama
February 4, 1867
Page 112

H. J. Marsh and William P. Brown this day made application for and obtained a license to keep a Jenny Lind Table in the town of Stevenson for one year from and after this date – under the Firm name and style of Marsh & Co.

William Tipton, deceased
Estate of
Order to rent land out
February 4, 1867
Page 113

Comes James M. Tipton, administrator of said estate, and makes application for an order to rent out the lands of said estate for the present year and the Court having heard said application and being now fully satisfied from due proof that such renting would be to the interest of said estate.

It is therefore ordered by the Court that said administrator proceed to rent out said lands for the present year at public outcry to the highest bidder after having first given at least ten days notice of the day, place, and terms of such renting by posting such notice thereof for such length of time at the Courthouse door and three other public places in this County.

James E. Tubb, deceased
Estate of
Decree of Insolvency
And order to settle accounts

February 5, 1867
Page 113

The hearing and determining of the matter of the report and statements of the insolvency of said estate heretofore filed by Thomas Wilson, the administrator thereof, having been by the order of this Court continued to this day; now comes said administrator and moves the Court that said estate be declared insolvent in accordance with said report and statements.

And the Court being satisfied from due examination and proof that notice of the filing of said report and of the day set to hear and determine upon the same, has been given to the creditors of said estate, as required by law, and in all aspects as directed by the former order of this Court made and entered in the premises on the 24th day of November 1866, thereupon the Court proceeds to hear and determine upon the said report and now none of the creditors of said estate contesting the case ? of said report.

It is ordered, adjudged, and decreed that said estate be, and the same is hereby declared insolvent. It is further ordered that the said Thomas Wilson do file his accounts, vouchers and evidences within 30 days from this day for a settlement of his past administration of the said estate; and that the 22nd day of March 1867 be and it is hereby appointed a day for said administrator to appear and make settlement of said accounts and that notice of this order and decree and of the time set for making such settlement of said administration be given to the creditors of said estate by forwarding notices to them by mail, postage paid properly, addressed thirty days before said day of hearing in all cases where the residence is known, by posting notice on the Court house door

for the same length of time and by publication once a week for the same length of time in the *Huntsville Independent*, a newspaper published in the city of Huntsville, in the adjoining County of Madison.

Riley C. Chitty, deceased
Estate of
Appraisement order to record
February 5, 1867
Page 114

This day comes H. D. Tipton, Sheriff and ex-officio administrator of said estate by his attorney and presents the appraisement of said estate in due form and properly verified. It is ordered that the same be recorded and filed for future reference.

William Wallace, deceased
Estate of
Order to record inventory and report of sales
February 5, 1867
Page 114

This day comes Robert M. Wallace, administrator of said estate, and presented his inventory of the notes, accounts, and increased bank notes belonging to said estate and also his report of the sales of personal property, all in due form and properly verified. It is ordered that said inventory and report of sales be recorded and filed for future reference.

~~~to be continued~~~

# Madison County

## Estate Cases

Contributed by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

The Madison County Records Room, located on the third floor of the Huntsville Public Library, is chock full of fascinating information dating back to territory days. This Madison County issue of *Valley Leaves* features some of the more interesting files.

These records are available to the public and if you suspect there might be information on your family, it is well worth several hours of your time.

**William B. Figures**  
**Last Will and Testament**  
**Estate Case #3219**  
**1872**  
**Will Book 1, Page 488**

I, William B. Figures, of the County of Madison and State of Alabama, do make and constitute and publish this, my last will and testament, and do hereby dispose of all of my property, as follows:

First, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my beloved wife Harriet Figures, all of my property real person and mixed as her own absolute property and in this bequest I include all money that may or arise from any and all policies of insurance upon my life in all or any insurance companies.

Second, I hereby constitute my beloved wife Harriet Figures the executrix of this my last will and testament, and I hereby exempt her from giving bond and security and request that letters may be granted without witness my hand and seal this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1872.

W. B. Figures

The above will was signed, recorded and published by testator in the presence of each of us as his last will and testament and was by each of us signed as a subscribing witness in his presence on the day it bears date.

- John J. McDavid
- A. R. Burritt

**Harriet S. Figures**  
**Last Will and Testament**  
**Estate Case #4714**  
**1900**

I, Harriet S. Figures, of the County of Madison and State of Alabama, do make and publish this, my last will and testament, and hereby dispose of my property as follows:

I devise and bequeath to my daughter, Daisy Figures Echols, my home and my other two daughters Mattie Figures Allison and Nellie Figures Shelton are to have a home in it as long as they live. I do this to secure my daughters a home as long as they live.

If at any time they desire and agree to sell it, and invest the money in another home for all of them, they can do so. This home is a house and lot situated on Randolph Street in the City of

Huntsville, in the County of Madison and State of Alabama, being the same property deeded to William B. Figures by Lawrence B. Sheffey and Elizabeth White Sheffey on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord, 1850, minus 100 feet of the lower end of the garden, deeded to my three daughters several years ago.



William Figures, 52 at the time of his death, served as a mayor of Huntsville. His home at 423 Randolph was built ca. 1845 by architect George Steele. Figures was the editor and publisher of the *Huntsville Advocate*. This photograph, taken before extensive renovation, is from Alabama Mosaic, Huntsville Madison County Public Library: <http://collections.alabamamosaic.org/cdm4/results>

At the death of my three daughters, Daisy Figures Echols, Mattie Figures Allison, and Nellie Figures Shelton, I desire my home herein described, to be divided between my granddaughters and grandson, namely, Bacon Winston Figures, Mary Steele Figures and Helen Steele Figures, the three daughters of my son Otey Figures, and Emily Hillman Allison, the daughter of my daughter Mattie Figures Allison, and Otey Figures

Echols, the son of my daughter Daisy Figures Echols.

My farm in Madison County near Meridianville bought by William B. Figures from Dr. David Shelby and Mary Shelby his wife, and deeded to Harriet S. Figures, by Robert L. Hallonquist (our son-in-law), I leave to Daisy Figures Echols to manage and have the proceeds from as long as she lives, and then I will and bequeath the farm to my two grandchildren, namely Otey Figures Echols, the son of my daughter Daisy Figures Echols and Emily Hillman Allison, the daughter of my daughter Mattie Figures Allison.

To my four sons, I leave one dollar each, so this will cannot be broken, solely to secure my daughters a home as long as they live. My household effects my daughters may divide to suit themselves, only my silver, one dozen spoons and one dozen forks (all that I have not already given away) must be so arranged that whoever takes them must give them to my grandchildren, Otey Figures Echols and Emily Hillman Allison because they have the family name on them.

My family portraits have been given to my children all but one (the small one, in uniform of Confederate soldier), of my son Henry S. Figures, that is for my son Otey Figures. My son Otey Figures is to be my Executor. I feel the utmost confidence in him and am assured that he will do right and always befriend his sisters and brothers, as far as in his power lies.

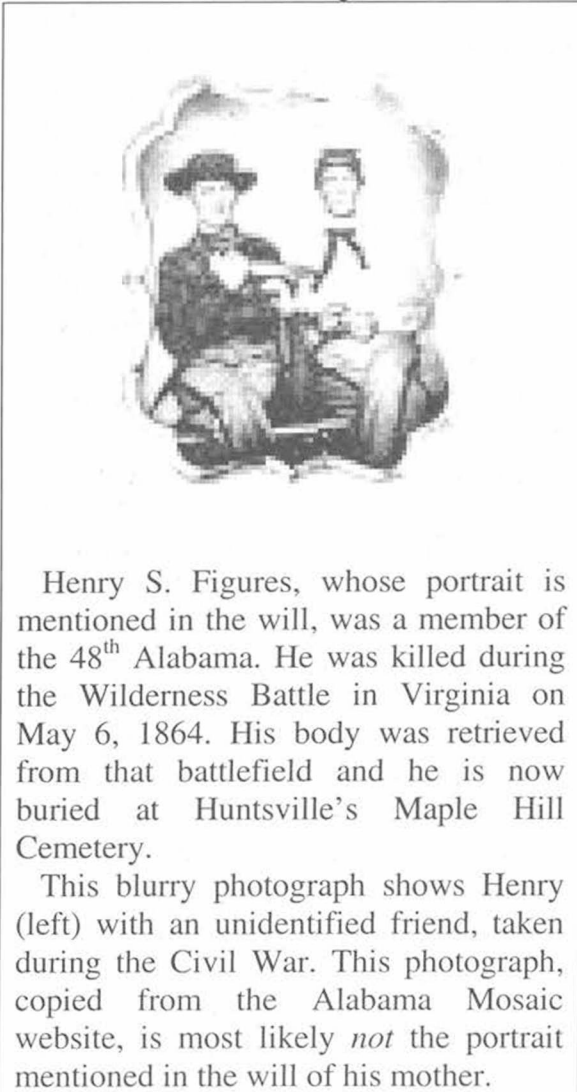
In witness whereof, I hereto set my hand and seal in presence of these witnesses, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord, 1900.

- Harriet S. Figures



Witnesses: J. W. Battle and G. B. Vandeventer, witnesses to the foregoing signature of Harriet S. Figures, deposed and say that they signed as witnesses to the signature of Harriet S. Figures and at her request. That she signed said paper in their presence and declared the same to be her last will and testament and that they as witnesses signed the same in her presence and in the presence of each other.

Filed July 24, 1900. S. M. Stewart, Judge of Probate, hereby certify that the foregoing will of Harriet S. Figures, deceased, was duly proven and ordered probated this October 5, 1900. Given under my hand this October 5, 1900. Recorded in Book 3, Page 125.



Henry S. Figures, whose portrait is mentioned in the will, was a member of the 48<sup>th</sup> Alabama. He was killed during the Wilderness Battle in Virginia on May 6, 1864. His body was retrieved from that battlefield and he is now buried at Huntsville's Maple Hill Cemetery.

This blurry photograph shows Henry (left) with an unidentified friend, taken during the Civil War. This photograph, copied from the Alabama Mosaic website, is most likely *not* the portrait mentioned in the will of his mother.

**The State of Alabama**  
**Madison County**  
**Probate Court**  
**Estate Case #4714**

To the Honorable S. Morgan Stewart,  
Judge of Probate of Said County.

The petition of the undersigned, Otey Figures, respectfully represents unto your Honor that Harriet S. Figures who was at the time of her death an inhabitant of this County, departed this life at Huntsville, Alabama on or about the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D., 1900, leaving assets in this State, and leaving a Last Will and Testament duly signed and published by said Harriet S. Figures and attested by J. W. Battle and George B. Vandeventer.

That your petitioner, as he verily believes, is named in said Will as Executor and does now herewith surrender said Will to the Court, and pray that after proper proceedings and proofs it may be probated and admitted to record as the true Last Will and Testament of said deceased. Your petitioner further represents that the names, ages, residence and condition of the next of kin are as follows, to-wit: Otey Figures, who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in Tuscumbia, Alabama; Mattie F. Allison, wife of James S. Allison, who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in Huntsville, Alabama; Claude Figures, who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in Savannah Georgia; Nellie F. Shelton who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in Huntsville, Alabama; Frank Figures who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and residents in LaTour, Arkansas, Daisy F. Echols, wife of E. Echols, over 21 years of age, residing in Huntsville, Alabama, Norman G. Figures, who is

over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in New Orleans, Louisiana; Lawrence F. Hallonquest, who is over 21 years of age, of sound mind and resides in Wetumpka, Alabama.

Your petitioner would further represent that the said attesting witness, J. W. Battle and George B. Vandeventer, reside in Huntsville Alabama, and therefore further prays that a day be set for a hearing of this petition, and that due notice thereof be given as required by law, to next of kin of said deceased; and that such other proceedings, orders, and decrees may be had and made in the premises as may be requisite and proper to effect the due Probate and Record of said Will according to law.

Signed by Otey Figures, sworn to and subscribed before me, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1900.

**Orville M. Hundley**  
**Estate Case #4974**  
**1903**  
**Madison County, Alabama**

To the Honorable S. M. Stewart, Judge of Probate:

Your petitioner, Mary E. Hundley, would respectfully show unto your honor, that she is the widow of Orville M. Hundley who was an inhabitant of Madison County, Alabama, and that said Orville M. Hundley, died intestate on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 1903.

Your petitioner would further show unto your Honor, that the said intestate, left surviving him, your petitioner and an only son, Oscar R. Hundley.

Your petitioner hereby renounces her right to qualify as administrator of the estate of the said Orville M. Hundley, and requests that your Honor appoint as such administrator, her son, Oscar R.

Hundley, who resides in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.

All of which is respectfully submitted,  
– Mary E. Hundley

**Orville M. Hundley**  
**Estate Case #4974**  
**1903**  
**Madison County, Alabama**  
**Probate Court**

Know all men by these presents, that we, Oscar R. Hundley, Mary E. Hundley, and Bossie O'Brien Hundley of the County and State aforesaid, are held and firmly bound unto S. M. Stewart, Judge of the Court of Probate for said County, and his successors in office, in the penal sum of \$10,000 dollars for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. And we waive in favor of this bond all right to claim any exemption of personal property allowed us by the Laws of the State of Alabama.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1903.

The condition of the above obligations is such that whereas the above bound Oscar R. Hundley has been appointed Administrator of the Estate of Orville M. Hundley.

Now, if the said Oscar R. Hundley shall well and truly 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.

Signed by Oscar R. Hundley, Mary E. Hundley, and Bossie O'Brien Hundley.

Taken, approved, and ordered to be recorded this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1903. – S. M. Stewart, Judge of Probate.

Orville Hundley was one of three brothers who fought for the Confederacy. Orville and his brother Daniel Hundley were captured by Union forces and spent time imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Ohio. Their brother, William Hundley, died as a result of injuries he received during the Civil War.

**Mary E. Hundley**  
**Estate Case #5106**  
**1905**

To the Honorable Thomas W. Jones, Judge of the Probate Court in and for said County in said State.

The undersigned, Oscar R. Hundley, hereby reports that on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1905, letters of administration were issued to him by the then Probate Judge of said County upon the estate of Mary E. Hundley, and that a notice of the issuance of letters of administration to him and for the filing of claims against said estate was duly advertised as required by law, and that all claims against said estate as well as all debts owing by the said decedent at the time of his death have been paid.

The undersigned further reports that he is the only heir at law of the said M. E. Hundley, that he has long since received his distributive share of said estate, and asks that he be discharged as such administrator.

Signed by Oscar R. Hundley as Administrator of the Estate of Mary E. Hundley, Deceased.

**Mary E. Hundley**  
**Estate Case #5106**  
**Probate Court Records**  
**1905**

Petition of Oscar R. Hundley for letters of administration upon the estate of Mary E. Hundley, deceased.

To the Honorable W. T. Lawler, Judge of Probate of said County: The petition of the undersigned Oscar R. Hundley respectfully represents that Mary E. Hundley departed this life in Huntsville, Alabama on or about the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1905, leaving no last will or testament, so far as your petitioner knows or believes, and that her death occurred more than fifteen days before this day; and this petition further shows that the said Mary E. Hundley was at the time of her death an inhabitant of this County and State, and died seized and possessed consisting chiefly of real estate and the personal estate being estimated to be worth \$5,000 and probably not more.

That your petitioner, being the only child of said deceased, an inhabitant of this State, above the age of 21 years and in no respect disqualified under the laws from serving as an administrator, believing that the said estate should be immediately administered to the end that the said property may be collected and preserved for those who shall appear to have a legal interest therein, does therefore, by virtue of his right under the statute, pray that your Honor will grant Letters of Administration to him on said estate upon his entering into a bond in such sum as is required by the statute, and with security or securities to be approved by your Honor. Signed by Oscar R. Hundley.

Oscar R. Hundley, being duly sworn deposeth, and say that the facts alleged in the above petition are true according to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1905. Signed by W. T. Lawler, Judge of Probate.

**Mary E. Hundley**  
**Estate Case #5106**  
**Probate Court Records**  
**1905**

Know all men by these presents, that we, Oscar R. Hundley, Frank P. O'Brien, and Indiana H. O'Brien of the County and State aforesaid, are held and firmly bound unto W. T. Lawler, Judge of Probate of said County, and his successor in office, in the penal sum of \$10,000, for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents; and we waive all right to claim any exemption of personal property allowed us by the laws of the State of Alabama.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this 10th day of July, 1905.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That, whereas, the above bounden Oscar R. Hundley has been appointed administrator of the estate of Mary E. Hundley.

Now, if the said Oscar R. Hundley shall well and truly perform all the duties which are or may be by law required of him as such administrator, then the above obligation is to be void; otherwise to remain in full force.

Signed by Oscar R. Hundley, Frank P. O'Brien, and Indiana H. O'Brien. Taken, approved, and ordered to be recorded, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1905. Signed by W. T. Lawler, Judge of Probate.



Home of Oscar Hundley at 401 Madison Street in Huntsville. It is now on the National Historic Register and is the law office of Doug Fees. Photograph taken from on-line buildings on the National Historic Register.

***The Huntsville Weekly Times***  
**July 24, 1930**  
**Page 10**

Huntsville's newest and most complete mortuary will be thrown open to the public for inspection and approval when Laughlin, Wood, and Co. hold their formal opening.

For weeks, workmen have been busy making the necessary changes that were to turn this magnificent residence [of Oscar Hundley, 401 Madison Street] into one of the most beautiful mortuaries in the South. Situated on the corner of Madison and Gates Streets, the building possesses every attribute for better and more perfect service.

A flight of stone stairs on the Madison Street side mark the entrance to the huge reception rooms, the stairs being flanked by beautiful ferns and potted plants. Entrance through the vestibule ushers

the guests into the Reception hall and two large rooms on the left. A staircase to the right leads to the showrooms on the second floor and at the rear hall is the Reposing room or the Family room. This room is provided with its own entrance – a convenience prompted by the consideration of the company. This room is tastefully and quietly furnished.

The reception rooms will seat a large number of persons and are to be used for services.

At the rear of the building with an entrance on the Gates Street side are the offices of the company.

A large lawn is situated on the right side of the building and in time is to be landscaped and will serve as a beautiful setting for the mortuary. At the rear of the lawn is a large six car garage where are housed the company's magnificent new ambulance, its automobiles and funeral cars.

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The following information describes the building originally known as the Oscar Hundley Building at 128 South Side Square, most recently renamed the Harvie Jones Building.

In 1930, the business located in the building was the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In 1940, it was Fleming-Thornton Real Estate Company; in 1960 it was Thornton and Thornton Real Estate; in 1980 it was American National Bank. It has recently opened as the third restaurant in recent years.

Mercury
April 29, 1896
Page 7

Hon. O. R. Hundley is having brick hauled to #1 Commercial Row,

preparatory to erecting a handsome two-story edifice.

Argus
May 7, 1896
Page 8

The work of razing the walls of the old dilapidated brick building on the corner of the Square and Franklin Street goes barely on, and pretty soon the work of raising the walls of a new and modern building will begin.

Mercury
August 12, 1896
Page 6

The lumber for the new store house of Mr. Hundley on the corner of the Square has arrived and the construction will now proceed.

Thomas G. Percy
Estate Case #493
Last Will and Testament
1832

In the name of God, amen. I, Thomas G. Percy, being of sound mind and in good bodily health, do make this my last will and testament hereby annulling any and every former will by me made. First, I appoint my friend and relation Nathaniel A. Ware and my dearly beloved wife, Maria Percy to be executor and executrix of this my last will.

Second, I appoint my wife Maria sole guardian of my infant children so long as she may remain a widow but in the event of her again entering into marriage, then my friend Ware to be sole guardian of my children. I recommend to my wife to take the advice of my friend Ware with

the regard to the management and education of my children.

Third, I hereby authorize and empower my executor to sell and convey all the property (or any part thereof) I may die possessed of in Washington County, Mississippi on such terms of credit as to them may appear best to reinvest the proceeds and again to change said investment should they deem it expedient.

Fourth, I enjoin it on my executor to pay all my just debts and deem it proper to particularize a debt to my friend Ware of something over \$5,000 for which he had ? three several notes of hand.

Sixth (there was no item #5), I give and bequeath to my wife, Maria, all my household furniture and books my carriage and carriage horses, also a negro woman named Minny and a mulatto housegirl named Harriet – together with such portion of my other estate as she would be entitled to under the laws of Alabama were I to die intestate, including a just equivalent for her right of dower in my plantation in Mississippi should the same be sold.

The residue of my estate, I give and bequeath in equal portions to my children, born in lawful wedlock. I recommend to my executors to keep my property together and that my family be maintained and educated from the common fund in the same measure they would be, were I still living.

I recommend them (my executor) to provide a common home for my wife and children and to retain for their use such of my servants as they may deem necessary and to divide off and give to each of my children on attaining the age of 21 years such child's separate portion and I hereby empower them to carry such recommendations into effect, but leave them at liberty to distribute my

estate at any time after my decease should they think it best to do so.

Seventh – being deeply impressed with the abiding advantages of a good education, I enjoin it on my executors to make the education of my children their first objective and empower them for the accomplishment of this most necessary object to employ such part of their inheritance as may be necessary.

I wish each of my heirs to receive a liberal education and some calling or profession that may enable him to maintain himself in ? of his inheritance.

May God in His infinite ? bless my dear children and keep them virtuous so they may be happy. To my faithful wife I leave my blessing, may the decline of her life be smooth and may she meet in her children with existing ? and affections, Amen.

In witness whereof, I hereto subscribe my name and affix any seal this 1st day of November, 1832. Signed and sealed in our presence and ? signed our names, hereto, as witnesses in the presence of each other, and of the testator. – signed by S. Cruse, B. Pope, John Boardman.

The last will and testament of Thomas G. Percy, late of said County, deceased having this day been proven by the oath of Samuel Cruse and Benjamin Pope, two of the subscribing witnesses thereto. It is ordered to be recorded.

Thomas G. Percy
Estate Case #493
Friday, 9th August 1844
Maria Percy, executrix of
Thomas G. Percy, deceased, and
John W. Percy and
Charles B. Percy, heirs
vs. Thomas G. Percy's heirs

Petition for sale of real estate on the petition of Maria Percy, Executrix of the

last will and testament of Thomas G. Percy, deceased, and of John W. Percy and Charles B. Percy, heirs and legatees of said Thomas G. Percy, deceased for the sale of a certain lot of land lying in and adjoining the town of Huntsville in said County of Madison known as the late residence of Thomas G. Percy, deceased, being the lot with a brick house thereon on the east side of Adams Avenue containing about fifteen acres including all the land on the east side of Adams Avenue aforesaid, as conveyed to John Boardman by LeRoy Pope and wife by deed bearing date 26th April 1824 except two lots containing about three and a half acres heretofore conveyed by said Boardman one to James W. McClung and the other to John H. Lewis. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that LeRoy P. Percy, Robert Henry Percy, William A. Percy, and Ellis W. Percy are all infants under the age of 21 years.

It is therefore ordered by the Court that John W. Otey of said County be appointed Guardian pendente lite of said infant heirs to answer and defend against said petitions.

And it is further ordered that said Guardian pendente lite be cited to be and appear before the judge of said court at the Courthouse in the town of Huntsville at a term thereof to be held on the second Monday in October next to show cause, if any, why an order for the sale of said house and lot shall not then be granted.

Thomas G. Percy
Estate Case File #493
Maria Percy, Executrix of
Thomas G. Percy, deceased
John W. Percy and
Charles B. Percy
vs. LeRoy P. Percy

Robert H. Percy
William A. Percy
Ellis W. Percy

Petition for sale of Real Estate. This day the petition of Maria Percy, Executrix of the last Will and Testament of Thomas G. Percy, deceased, and of John W. Percy and Charles B. Percy, adult heirs of said decedent for the sale of a certain lot of land lying in and adjoining the town of Huntsville in the County of Madison, known as the late residence of said decedent being the lot with a brick house thereon on the east side of Adams Avenue containing about 15 acres including all the land on the east side of Adams Avenue aforesaid as conveyed to John Boardman by LeRoy Pope and wife, by deed bearing date 26th April, 1824, except two lots containing about three acres and a half acres heretofore conveyed by said Boardman one to James A. McClung and the other to John H. Lewis, coming on for final hearing come the said Petitioners by their attorney and LeRoy P. Percy, Robert Henry Percy, William A. Percy, and Ellis W. Percy, infant heirs of said decedent by their Guardian ad litem John W. Otey, and the said cause is heard upon the said Petition, the answer of the said Guardian ad litem and the proofs on file and it being proved to the satisfaction of the Court by the depositions of Samuel Cruse and William H. Pope on file that the said estate of said decedent is indebted between six and seven thousand dollars to the Branch of the Bank of the State of Alabama at Huntsville. That said house and lot above described constitutes the only assets belonging to said estate within the jurisdiction of this Court, out of which said indebtedness can be discharged and it being moreover proved

to the satisfaction of the Court that to enable the said executrix to pay said debt it is necessary to convert the said house and lot into personal assets for the payment thereof are to resort to a sale of a portion of the slaves belonging to said decedent estates in the state of Mississippi and that the interest of said estate requires a sale of said house and lot in preference to sale of said slaves or any part thereof.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that the said Maria Percy as Executrix as aforesaid after giving at least 40 days notice of the time and place of sale cause all the right title and interest which the said Thomas G. Percy, deceased, at the time of his death had in and to the said house and lot above described together with all the rights, privileges, easements, and appurtenance thereunto belonging to be sold at the Courthouse door in the said Town of Huntsville to the highest bidder at Public auction for ready money and that she make report thereof to this Court at the next term thereafter.

Thomas G. Percy
Estate Case File #493
Monday 16th December 1844
Thomas G. Percy Executrix to
John W. Percy and
Charles B. Percy
vs. Thomas G. Percy, heirs

Come the petitioners by attorney and the dependants by their Guardian ad litem John W. Otey and the said Maria Percy, having made her report of the promises heretofore to directed to be sold and the same appearing fair and regular and no exceptions being taken thereto, it is ordered that said sale be

confirmed and that said report be recorded.

It is further ordered that the said Maria Percy, Executrix of Thomas G. Percy, deceased, convey to James Bradley all the right title and interest which the said Thomas G. Percy had in and to the said premises at the time of his death.

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

Marshall County

John Gunter's Estate

Contributed by Coy Michael

Part 3, Continued from Volume 45, Issue No. 2

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. It appears that Mr. Boney had trouble reading the handwriting. Much of the wording doesn't seem to make sense, although the editors have tried to correct obvious errors.

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.

(marker 0728)

**The case of John Gunter, Sr. against
John Gunter, Jr.
Entered and filed Oct. 1st 1837**

The valuing agents in this case valued the whole property of John Gunter Senr. to John Gunter Junr. in exclusion of the other states.

It appears by the proof in this case that John Gunter Senr., in the month of March 1833, made his last will and testament and therein divided his mill and plantation situated on the Brown's Creek, being the same he purchased of James Thompson. Also, in the same will, he provided that the home place at Gunter's Landing, with the plantation on the island, should be at the disposal of his wife during her life, but afterwards Catherine Gunter, his wife, died before

her said husband so that, the provision in the will ceased to be operative.

It further appears, that afterwards on the 21 February 1834, John Gunter Junr. by deed duly executed and recorded and registered in Jackson County and State of Alabama, for the consideration of \$6,000, expressed on the face of the deed, concerned (conceded?) all the property he then owned, to his father John Gunter, Senr. as so admit this morning before the commissioners, but alleges he never received the consideration, how that is the commissioners are unable to say, but if the same is fraudulent as to creditors it is binding between the parties to the deed that at the time of the death of John Gunter Senr. he held the title to all the premises valued by the valuing agents, to John Gunter Junr. It also appears that since the death of John Gunter Senr., John Gunter Junr. has purchased of

Scrimpsner & wife, McLasegth & wife, and Blackburn & wife, their places of said valuations, which together, with John Gunter shared of said valuations amounts to four seventh parts, of said valuations, making in the whole to the sum of \$6,310.20 and that the remaining sum of \$4,731.71, be credited on the register of payments, to the estate of John Gunter Senr. subject to the payment of the estate of the decedent (decedent?), and the balance if any to be paid warded Riddle Sheriff who in administration de bonis non, of John Gunter Senr. died and that the book of the Register of payments be made.

Decisions of the United States Commissioners under the Cherokee Treaty of 1835
The case of William Hicks, son of Nathan Hicks

The valuation in this case was made to William Hicks, son of Nathan Hicks, by Messrs Liddell and Shemphill on East Chickamauga Creek, in Walker County, Georgia, as will appear by book of said revaluations and it satisfactorily appears, by the testimony of Wilson R. Young, George Merck, and John J. Posey, witnesses of respectable character, that said valuation of the improvements was made to and in the name of William Hicks, son of said Nathan, to enable him (said Nathan) to defraud his creditors and particularly John White, one of them, whereupon all and singular the premises being seen, and fully understood, it is ordered and adjudged that said valuations be changed to Nathan Hicks and that the same so far as is necessary be applied, to the payment of the debts, of Nathan Hicks, for which certificates may issue, for the balance on said valuations, and having heretofore

paid William Hicks, the one half thereof before the commissioners had the testimony or were informed of the said fraud, committed in obtaining the same to be valued in the name of said William Hicks.

Adjudged on 19th May 1837
(marker 0731)

To conform thereto, and also it further appears, that John Gunter Junr. has paid debts for his father during his lifetime, and has also expended large sums of money in building houses on the property consigned to his father, all which amount to the sum of \$4,292.87, and it also appears, the said John Gunter Jr. has received the whole rents and profits of said estate, since the death of his father, which is three years, and three months and the aggregate amount thereof is \$3,900, which rights the equitably deducted from the same \$4,292.87 which leaves a balance in favor of John Gunter Junr. which rightfully belongs to him, and which it is right and proper should be charged to the estate of John Gunter Senr. and credited to John Gunter Junr. for which a certificate shall issue for John Gunter Jr. for the sum of \$392.87 out of the valuations due to the other heirs of John Gunter Senr., deceased.

N. B., having ascertained on further investigation, that there is an error as to the time to which John Gunter Jr. has been in possession of his father's whole estate having in the above opinion charged him with three years, and six months, possession thereof instead one year and eight months the true time, which amount, to \$2,000, right and is hereby credited to the said John Gunter Jr. in addition to the sum before stated, amounting in all to the sum of \$2,292.87, for which last mentioned sum

a certificate may issue in favor of John Gunter Junr. against the estate of John Gunter Senr. Decided.

(marker 0732)

**Bill of sale to
Riddle and Others vs. John Gunter**

To the Hon. Wilson ? and John Kennedy correspondence for the adjudication of claims under the last treaty with the Cherokee Indian now in session at New Echota.

Alexander Riddle administrator de bonis non of all and singular the goods and ? right and credits of John Gunter decided with the will answered – Samuel Gunter, Edward Gunter, Richard Blackburn and his wife Martha formerly Martha Gunter, Marten ? Schreinshen and wife Elizabeth formerly Elizabeth Gunter, James Braught and his wife Catherine formerly Catherine Gunter, respectfully represent that John Gunter, senior, deceased both of the Cherokee note on a father of the aforesaid Samuel, Edward, Martha, Elizabeth, and Catherine died about the month of August 1835.

Having duly made his last will and testament - a copy of which is hereto annexed marked Exhibit A and which they pray may be taken as a part of this title - they further represent that the executor therein named refused to prove said will and take on themselves the execution thereof – said John Gunter died allow the business of Jackson County in the state of Alabama. The court of said county granted administration on said Gunter estate to a certain William Potter who acted for a few months and then resigned said administration, whereupon the county court of said Jackson County granted administration on said estate to your

orator Alex Riddle who has taken on himself administration of said estate a copy of the letters of adm. he has ready to produce. Among other property said John Gunter, Senior had purchased a tract of land on which there was a well situated in Blount County state of Alabama, which property was forcibly detained from said John as they have been informed and which by the 2nd section of said well was ? unto your orator Samuel – depreciations were committed on said property by which was in the lifetime of said John Gunter for which spoliations on indemnity is clear under the last Cherokee Treaty. They further represent that John Gunter, Junior son of said John Gunter, deceased has as they are informed and believe presented a claim of his own home for said spoliation to the Cherokee Committee now in session in New Echota and has procured the sum to be granted by said Com. when in truth and in fact he has no claim to said indemnity as proof that the claim to said land and mill was in the home of John Gunter, Senior and not in the home of John Gunter, Junior they refer to a copy of a record from Blount County, Alabama which is hereto annexed marked Exhibit B and which they pray may be taken as a part of this sale. They expressly charge that said John Gunter, Junior occasionally attended to said land in Blount County as the agent of his father and never set upon claim to the property during the lifetime of his father or the claim. They further represent that said John Gunter, Junior on the 21st day of February 1834, executed to his father John Gunter, Senior a deed of conveyance for certain improvements and other property a copy of which is hereto annexed marked Exhibit C and which they pray may be taken as a part

of this bole (?). They here further charge as they are informed and claim that said John Gunter, Junior under a fraudulent instrument of writing purporting to be a conveyance from his father to him is now setting up a claim to said property and has caused the same to be valued in his own home and claims in his own right the amount of the valuation. They further represent that Catherine Gunter, wife of said John Gunter, Senior died about 15 or 16 days before her husband. They further represent that said John Gunter has caused all the improvements which belonged to John Gunter, Senior at the time of his death to be valued in his own name. By a reference to section 19 of the will aforesaid it will be seen that said John Gunter decided the place where he lived at the time of his death to be sold and of course his children would each be entitled to a share of the money arising from the sale. Yet the said John Gunter Junior holds possession on those claiming under him now hold possession of the place to the exclusion of the other heirs. They believe the yearly value of said place including the store house is worth more than \$12.00 (?). Richard Blackburn and his wife Martha, Martin M. Schreinshen and Elizabeth his wife, James B. Vaugtie and Catherine his wife represent that on the false and fraudulent representation of said John Gunter they were induced for a consideration grossly inadequate to contract for the sale of their share of the improvements possessed by John Gunter Senior at the time of his death. A small sum was paid to James B. Vaugtie towards his share of said improvements which he is ready to refund to said John Gunter with interest thereon but nothing has been paid to Blackburn or Schreinshen and the contracts with them are said first on the

ground that they were inclined into thro' the fraud of said John Gunter and succeeded by the non fulfillment of the stipulation on the part of said John. The said Alexander Riddle represents that since he became administrator he has called on said John Gunter for possession of the place on which the old man laid on the terms of this death to enable him to sell it agreeable to the provisions of the will. But said John refused to deliver possession saying he had the advantage of said Riddle and the co-heirs of said John Gunter deceased that he intended to have it. But frequently urged said Riddle to proceed to sale said place thus adversely possessed well knowing that no other person would quite value in that solution and he would be enabled to purchase and for a small sum has this corrupt license. The previous considered the complainants pray that the commissioners will ? the several matters and things stated in the foregoing bill that they will on final hearing ? to the complainants wherein equity and good conscience they are entitled to and that said John Gunter be made to account for the ? and ? of the several improvements aforesaid which he has had possession of & c & c. - John Williams, Attorney for complainants.

Alexander Riddle makes oath that the matters and things stated in the foregoing tell as of his own knowledge are ? and other things stated as that of his own knowledge be believes to be true from the information of his co-complainants.

A. Riddle of the estate of John Gunter Sworn to and subscribed 15th Dec. 1836 before J. Kennedy, one of the Commissioners.

~~~end~~~

## Extending Will Rogers's Schrimsher Ancestry

Contributed by Bettye Perrine

Will Rogers's more remote maternal ancestry for many years has been a mystery. His mother and her parents were well known but then it all became more uncertain and largely unknown. This paper will present new and conclusive evidence as to the identity of Will's maternal grandfather's father. It will be arranged in three parts. The first is a review of the known information from official sources, two from the Will Rogers's Memorial in Claremore, Oklahoma and one from the Cherokee Heritage Center at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. In the second part, the new evidence is presented. The third section presents some additional circumstantial evidence concerning this new great-grandfather's life and relatives and provides a direction for future research.

### Information from Official Sources

The three official sources are all well documented and reliably establish Will Rogers's ancestry and largely agree with each other but are somewhat abbreviated on his maternal side.

The first, *Will Rogers Official Genealogy and Bibliography*, was researched, assembled, and written by Pat Lowe, archivist-librarian for the Will Rogers Memorial Commission.<sup>1</sup> It states the following:

William Penn Adair Rogers, son of Clement Vann Rogers and Mary America Schrimsher, was born 04 Nov 1879. Will's mother, Mary America Schrimsher, was born in Tahlequah District, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory on her father's plantation 09 Oct 1839. Her father was Martin Matthew Schrimsher born in Blount

County, Tennessee 1806. He was married twice. His first wife, Pettie, (a Cherokee) and children were:

1. David
2. Susie, born 1828
2. Ann E., born abt. 1830



Elizabeth Hunt GUNTER SCHRIMSHER  
Maternal Grandmother of Will Rogers

(photo courtesy Bettye Perrine)

<sup>1</sup> Lowe, Pat, *Will Rogers Official Genealogy and Bibliography: Family Tree and Historic References*, Claremore, Oklahoma: Will Rogers Memorial, 1997.

He married his second wife, Elizabeth Hunt Gunter, 22 Sep 1831. Their children were:

1. John Gunter, born at Gunter's Landing, Alabama, 17 Sep 1839
2. Elizabeth Alabama, born 1837
3. Mary America, born 1839
4. Martha Lecretia, b.9 Dec 1845



Mary America Gunter  
(photo courtesy Bettye Perrine)

Pat Lowe does not list parents for Martin Matthew Schrimsher but suggests on page 15 that his father might be Jonathan Schrimsher, an unsubstantiated conjecture that has made the rounds among Schrimsher genealogists. Yet, on page 22, she does not list Jonathan but does refer to a letter from a descendant of Larritt, a sister of Martin M. Schrimsher, which lists the following as his siblings:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Robert | 5. Mille     |
| 2. John   | 6. Tilda     |
| 3. David  | 7. Martin M. |
| 4. Nancy  | 8. Larritt   |

The second official source, *Climbing*

*Will Rogers Family Tree*, was written by Dr. Reba Neighbors Collins, past director of the Will Rogers Memorial.<sup>2</sup> She had access to the materials collected over the years by Paula McSpadden Love, Will Roger's niece, who was curator of the Memorial from 1938 to 1973. Dr. Collins's material differs only slightly from that of Lowe's. Collins shows Ann E., child of Martin's first marriage, birth year as 183-. The second difference is the birth year for John Gunter, the first child of the second marriage, as 1835. This date is the same as on his tombstone in Woodlawn Cemetery in Claremore, Oklahoma. Two other differences, Dr. Collins has no birth date for Elizabeth Alabama. Dr. Collins lists the same siblings for Martin, but not in the same order as Lowe and states that they may not be listed by birth order.

Importantly, Dr. Collins writes, "The family seems to have left Blount Co., Tennessee sometime after the birth of Martin M. in 1806, moving to Blount Co., Al where they were living when Martin married Elizabeth Hunt Gunter of nearby Creek Path, Alabama." This traces Martin and his parents to specific locations in Tennessee and Alabama where more information has been found, which will be presented later.

The third source, a paper entitled "*Descendants of Martin Matthew Schrimsher*," published by the Family Research Center of the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, varies only slightly from the other two. This source adds Sarah Catherine to the list of children of Martin and Elizabeth. This addition is

<sup>2</sup> Collins, Reba Neighbors, *Climbing Will Rogers Family Tree*, Claremore, Oklahoma: Will Rogers Memorial, 1982.

reliable having been found in census record #374 of the Drennen Roll of 1852 and listed in Dr. Emmett Starr's *History of the Cherokee Indians* as pointed out by Gene Norris, Senior Genealogist of the Cherokee Family Research Center.<sup>3</sup> There is no reference to parents or siblings for Martin in this paper.



Will Rogers  
(photo courtesy Bettye Perrine)

### Will Roger's Great-Grandfather, James Schrimsher

A recent discovery in the National Archives in Washington D. C. disproves the belief that Jonathan Schrimsher was

<sup>3</sup> Drennen Roll of 1852 was the first census of the new arrivals of 1839 in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma after removal from the East, The Trail of Tears; Starr, Emmett, *History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folklore*, Muskogee, Oklahoma: Hoffman Publishing, originally published 1921; and Norris wrote in a personal communication, "Dr. Starr lists Sarah Catherine as a sibling to the children by Elizabeth Hunt Gunter but gives no dates. The date of birth for her in our records is an approximate date of birth and not exact. In his book, Dr. Starr places an asterisk by her name which indicates that she had no children and no spouse is listed. She apparently died young and unmarried and her exact dates of birth or death have been lost."

the father of Martin M. Schrimsher.<sup>4</sup>

During the Indian Removal to the West, the United States Government ordered evaluations of the vacated land including improvements of the Indian families to allow compensation. Martin Matthew Schrimsher, although a white man, had a wife and children of Indian descent and moved to Indian Territory. Hence, his property in Alabama was part of the evaluation, contained in a three page document in the Archives.

The first sentence of page one reads: "Residence one mile west from Creek Path Missionary." Amos J. Wright Jr. in *Historic Indian Towns in Alabama, 1540-1838* states that Creek Path was located in Brown's Valley on the east side of Brown's Creek east of present day Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama.<sup>5</sup> The site is now inundated by Guntersville Lake. In 1822 the Methodists established a school and mission at Creek Path.

The remaining part of this first page and the next two are a listing and evaluation for each of Martin's properties and their improvements, i.e. dwelling house, cabins, corn cribs, barns, smoke houses, stables, pastures, gardens, potato lots, cotton and corn fields, and extensive orchards. Total property evaluation was \$2,350.

The identity of Martin Matthew

<sup>4</sup> Record group #75 Cherokee Fourth Board, Entry 224, Property Valuations 1835-1839, Alabama Box I, Moore & Ricketts Book 26, No. 7, Matthew M. Schrimsher.

<sup>5</sup> Wright, *Historic Indian Towns in Alabama, 1540-1838*, Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 2003; and the official source's statement that Martin M. Schrimsher moved from Blount County, Tennessee to Blount County, Alabama is consistent with this because Marshall County was formed from Blount County, Alabama in Jan 1836.

Schrimsher's father is clearly stated in the first sentence at the top of the last page. It reads, "Improvement occupied by his father, James Schrimshear." This reliably adds a great-grandfather to Will Roger's maternal ancestry.

### **Additional Evidence Concerning the Life of James Schrimsher**

This section will present additional bits of information and circumstantial evidence concerning the life of James Schrimsher: his children, potentially his wife (hence another great-grandmother of Will Rogers), and, almost certainly, a brother.

The official sources, reviewed in the first section, list the names of the siblings of Martin Schrimsher, i.e. the children of James Schrimsher. This information was from a letter received from a descendent of one of these children, Larritt, and hence is reliable but nothing further about them was given: where they lived, where they were born, etc. The following is information about them and their connection to James Schrimsher.

The 1850 Census for Muddy Bayou, Conway County, Arkansas lists three of the siblings of Martin: David, John and Larritt were living on adjacent properties with their families.<sup>6</sup> Listed with David's family is a Jane Schrimshear, age 70, born in Tennessee. Although far from proof, it is consistent with early census records that this woman was the mother of these siblings and the widow of James Schrimsher. In the East Tennessee

<sup>6</sup> US Census for 1850, Arkansas, Conway County, Muddy Bayou Township, Ancestry.com, Image 2.

Thanks to Peggy Grisamore who called attention to the location of these siblings during this census.

Census of 1830 for Monroe County, James Schrimshire was 50-60 years old with a wife 40-50.<sup>7</sup> In the 1840 Census for Marshall County, Alabama, James Schrimshaw was 60-70 with a wife 50-60.<sup>8</sup> Schrimshear, Schrimshire and Schrimshaw are a few of the many spelling variations found for this family.

James must have died shortly after the 1840 census. Papers for the administration of his estate were filed in December of 1840 in Marshall County, Alabama, continuing into 1841. Unfortunately he must not have had enough property to divide as there was no estate settlement or a listing of heirs or mention of a wife.<sup>9</sup> This lack of property is consistent with the new information that James was living on holdings owned by his son, Martin.

Not only was evidence found of Martin being in Marshall County, Alabama but also some of his siblings. Larritt Schrimsher and David Anderson Fowler were issued a marriage license on 20 Mar 1844 in Marshall County.<sup>10</sup> Robert C. Schrimsher, listed as an early settler of Marshall County in 1844, was issued a Land Grant #7996 on 01 Jul 1845.<sup>11</sup> James M. Gee, assignee of

<sup>7</sup> *1830 Census for East Tennessee* transcribed, indexed, and published by Byron Sistler. Evanston, Illinois, 1969.

<sup>8</sup> 1840 US Census, Marshall County, Alabama. Ancestry.com, Image #65.

<sup>9</sup> Probate Records for Marshall County, Alabama Courthouse, Guntersville, Alabama. 1841 Box 24 Folder 1795.

<sup>10</sup> Pauline Jones Gandrud and Kathleen Paul Jones, Compilers, *Alabama Records*, Vol. 96, Page 25, 1980.

<sup>11</sup> Gregath: Ann Cochrane, *The Early Settlers of Marshall County, Alabama*, (Cullman, Alabama: Gregath Pub. Co., 1981), p. 16; Land Grant from *Marshall County, Alabama Ancestral Homesteads*, Compiled and Published by Bill and Sue Tubbs, Jasper, Alabama: 2000; and also found at BLM GLO Records.



David Schrimsher, was issued a Land Grant # 8148, 01 Oct 1845.<sup>12</sup> These two grants were for adjoining properties and were sold on 07 Mar 1845 to John Brooks.<sup>13</sup> (This seems to be a case of "after acquired title," in which a deed was executed for land before taking out the grant. When the grant was issued, title to the land immediately passed to the grantee in the deed.)<sup>14</sup> Perhaps Robert and David entered into these transactions to gain enough money to take their families to Arkansas by 1850. No census record has been found for Robert, but two of his children, Sam and Ad, were found later in Arkansas and Sam owned land in Faulkner County.<sup>15</sup> This suggests that the Schrimsher families moved to Arkansas between 1845 and 1850.

Recently in a personal communication from Shirley Carr, Jacksonville, Arkansas, a descendent of Larritt, she wrote that she had found a piece of paper listing some of her ancestors that was tucked in her grandparents' Bible. She was uncertain but believed its origin was from one of Larritt's sons, David Baxter Fowler, Shirley's great-grandfather. The paper included a list of Martin

<sup>12</sup> Land Grant source same as in note 11.

<sup>13</sup> Deed Record Book C, pages 9 & 10, Marshall County Courthouse Records Room, Guntersville, Alabama.

<sup>14</sup> Personal consultation with Dr. Robert Scott Davis, Professor of History and Head of the Genealogical Department at Wallace State Community, Hanceville, Alabama.

<sup>15</sup> References to Sam and Ad are found in: Collins, *Climbing Will Rogers Family Tree*; also U. S. Census for 1870, White County, Gray Township, Arkansas, Ancestry.com. Image 35; US Census for 1910, Faulkner County, Matthews Township, Dist. 33, Arkansas. Ancestry.com, Image 11; and Mortgage Book C. page 385 & Miscellaneous Deed Record Book A page 425, Faulkner County Courthouse, Conway, Arkansas.

Schrimsher's siblings that are the same as the official sources except for the order and Tilda was omitted.

All three of the official sources state that Martin Schrimsher was born in Blount County, Tennessee in 1806. Consistent with this, a long series of Court Cases between 1807 and 1819 are found in this county, to which James Schrimsher was either a party or a witness.<sup>16</sup>

Further, during this period, James obtained two Land Grants, No. 865 and No. 1004.<sup>17</sup> These land grants were on Nine Mile Creek in the French Broad-Holston area of Blount County, Tennessee. They were dated the 4th and 10th day of May, 1810. Land Grant No. 1004 was granted to James Schrimshire, assignee of Elizabeth Steel, Executrix of Joseph Steel. Making James an assignee implies a close relationship between James and the Steels. Perhaps Jane Schrimsher, born in Tennessee, mentioned in the 1850 Census in Arkansas, and who seems to be the wife of James, was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Steel.

Also evidence presented in the following paragraphs was found implying that James Schrimsher had a brother named William. The property description within Land Grant No. 865 states, "...49 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  west eight chains then with William Schrimshire south sixty four west four chains north..." Many other Schrimsher researchers believe James and William to be brothers. William came to Madison County, Alabama, the county just north

<sup>16</sup> Blount County, Tennessee Library, County Court Records, Book # 1, Vol. 1 (1804-1807) & Vol. 3 (1808-1811).

<sup>17</sup> Blount County, Tennessee Public Library, Tennessee Land Grants, Vol. II, Book 2-1, page 128 and Book 1-1, page 819.

of Marshall about 1820. He and his wife Elizabeth raised their children and died in Madison County in the 1850s.<sup>18</sup>

Sarah Schrimsher Wall stated the following in The Schrimsher Notebook, "I remember my father, Russell James Schrimsher, attended the Confederate Reunion at Louisville, Kentucky [1901].<sup>19</sup> While there, he met his cousin, John Schrimsher, son of Matthew Schrimsher from Oklahoma. This John Schrimsher was a Senator from Oklahoma."<sup>20</sup> In actuality they seem to be second cousins. The lines would run:

Brothers: James and William

1<sup>st</sup> Cousins: Martin and Wiley

2<sup>nd</sup> Cousins: John and Russell James

One additional piece of evidence indicating James and William were brothers is an application for lands and funds due individuals of Indian descent dated 22 Sep 1896, several petitioners are listed. On the cover sheet are the signatures of R. J. [Russell James] Schrimsher, Green Schrimsher and one illegible one, believed to be Wiley, [Jr.]. All three are grandsons of William, children of his son, Wiley, [Sr.] The application stated, "The petitioners

<sup>18</sup> Obituary of Elizabeth Schrimsher, *Southern Advocate Newspaper*, Feb. 9th 1853, Madison County Public Library, Huntsville, Alabama.

<sup>19</sup> In the 1960s-1970s, Ruth Schrimshire McCleskey began the challenging and daunting task of gathering material from all the Schrimsher descendents she could contact. Passing away before the job was finished, her husband, Charles S. McCleskey, finished her work and published *The Schrimsher Notebook* in 1976. This notebook represents a huge collected body of work of numerous hours that many family members spent attempting to learn more of their genealogical history.

<sup>20</sup> Lowe states, p. 19, "He was a Captain in the Confederate Army and a Senator in the Southern Cherokee Council during the Civil War."

claimed to be a mixture of white and Indian blood from their father, the late Wiley Schrimsher, who claimed to be and also his characteristics showed him to be about one fourth Cherokee Indian Blood: that the same Wiley Schrimsher was the son of Wm. Schrimsher and your petitioners had been informed by their father and others who knew the said Wm. Schrimsher [two words illegible] complexion and appearance was that of an Indian; and, your petitioners had been informed [illegible] when [illegible] Schrimsher who was petitioner's cousin, married in the 'old Gunter family' who lived in the old Cherokee nation now known as Madison and Marshall County, Alabama."<sup>21</sup> As stated in the official sources in the first section of this paper, Martin married Elizabeth Hunt Gunter. The last illegible name in this application is, therefore, very likely Martin.

The important discovery that Martin Matthew Schrimsher's father was James Schrimsher has the further significance of linking them to a whole body of research done on the Schrimshers that includes William, James' brother. Although beyond the scope of this paper, this research, with varying degrees of reliability, identifies other relatives of James and William, including their father and paternal grandparents.

<sup>21</sup> Copy made from microfilm of applications filed in 1896 to apply for Indian money and allotments of land in The Cherokee Nation, from The Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Many thanks to Jim Anderson for calling attention to this document and thanks to Peggy Grisamore for finding and sharing it with all of the Schrimsher descendents, both are descendents of Wiley Schrimsher, Sr.

# Things You Should Know

## Thinking about the Next Generation

In case you missed it, there was an incredible article written in the April 26, 2010 edition of *The Huntsville Times*. Allie Hulcher, who was at that time a senior at Buckhorn High School in Madison County, researched her family, which had been shortened from Holzschuher when they moved from Germany to the United States. She found that the name literally meant “wooden shoe,” but was changed when her great great grandfather Americanized the name.

In the process, Allie discovered a 400-year-old oil painting of her ancestor, Hieronymus Holzschuher, painted in 1526 by German Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer. Allie even shows a remarkable resemblance to her ancestor.

In her article, “Open eyes, ears to past – and learn who you are,” Allie promoted the value of searching one’s ancestry, starting with asking questions of our older relatives, searching through DAR records, and all of the wonderful easily accessible records now available to us.

I predict we will hear more from Allie Hulcher. She is an outstanding writer, attending college at Auburn University, and contemplating a future in journalism.

## Student Genealogy Grant

There is a grant available to one young person between the ages of 18

and 15, to attend a genealogy workshop in Burbank, California.

The Suzanne Winsor Freeman Memorial Student Genealogy Grant will be offered this year for the first time. By the time you read this, the deadline for application will have passed, but look for it on-line for next year if you know of any young person who might be interested in attending in the future.

For those of us with children and grandchildren, it is always a good idea to document what we can while we still can. We never know who might be looking for us in another 400 years.

## “Who Do You Think You Are?” Season Two

After a successful first season of “Who Do You Think You Are?” NBC has announced that another season will be forthcoming. Starting Fridays in February 2011, researchers will crack the genealogy of Tim McGraw, Lionel Richie, Rosie O’Donnell, Ashley Judd, Steve Buscemi, Vanessa Williams, Kim Cattrall, and Gwyneth Paltrow.

This show, which offers relief from some of the ridiculous reality shows now popular on television, has provided quite a boost in genealogy interest. According to FamilyTree.com, an average of 425 hours of research went into each show, a team of 30 genealogists, along with many researchers, worked on the show, and much footage was taken from other countries. Perhaps it will give you that push you need to start a new line in your own family!

### **ABS Spring Seminar**

The Alabama Genealogical Society Spring Seminar will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 8:30 a. m. – 3:00 p. m. at Samford University in Birmingham. The cost is \$40 for non-members and \$35 for members. Lunch is not included. Door prizes will be given out and you must be present to win. See [www.algensoc.org](http://www.algensoc.org) for more information.

The seminar speaker, Dr. Thomas W. Jones, will hold four sessions:

1. Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor
2. Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was
3. Going Beyond the Bare Bones: Reconstructing Your Ancestor's Lives
4. Finding Unfindable Ancestors

### **Digital Cameras and Genealogy**

The March 2011 *Family Tree Magazine* has a guide to using your digital camera for genealogical purposes—such as capturing images of gravestones, ancestral homes, family heirlooms and your ancestors' records.

It's not as simple as taking a quick snapshot, though. Before you start a genealogical photography session, create a shot list of the pictures you want. Here's what we recommend:

#### **Gravestones Shot List**

- cemetery entrance
- whole cemetery
- stones of interest, with nearby stones
- the whole gravestone, showing the inscription and carving
- close-ups of the inscription and carvings

- any creative shots you want of the beautiful artwork and scenes in graveyards

#### **Ancestral Homes Shot List**

- the entrance to the street (a view your ancestor may have seen every day)
- the house with neighboring buildings
- the whole house (we suggest first knocking on the door to let the current resident know why you're taking a picture of his house)
- as many sides of the house as you can capture without trespassing
- interesting architectural details
- the yard
- any features mentioned in family stories (such as the tree Grandpa fell out of as a boy)

#### **Heirlooms Shot List**

- full view of heirloom
- heirloom with a ruler to show size
- all sides of heirloom item
- close-ups of interesting details, such as carving or painting
- close-ups of manufacturer's marks
- close-ups of damage or other features affecting value

#### **Records and Documents Shot List**

- title page of film roll or book
- full record (be sure to get each page)
- close-ups of hard-to-read areas

# Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society

## 2011 Spring Seminar

**Date:** April 2, 2011

**Location:** Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

**Time:** Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Seminar: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Lunch:** Hot meal furnished

**Speaker;** Robert Scott "Bob" Davis from Wallace State College. Mr. Davis is well known for his lectures, his published books, his numerous articles published in many publications, his humor and his knowledge. He draws tremendous crowds when he speaks.

**Subject:** Researching your Civil War Ancestors

**Price:** Members of TVGS: \$35.00  
Non-Members: \$40.00

**Deadline:** March 28, 2011, registrations received after that date will be accepted, however there is no guarantee there will be enough food.

**Mail check and registration to:**

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society  
PO Box 1568  
Huntsville, AL 35807-0568

### TVGS 2011 Spring Seminar Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Submission amount:  TVGS member \$35.00  
 Non member \$40.00

Surnames researched: List four

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 have over one hundred paid members.

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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