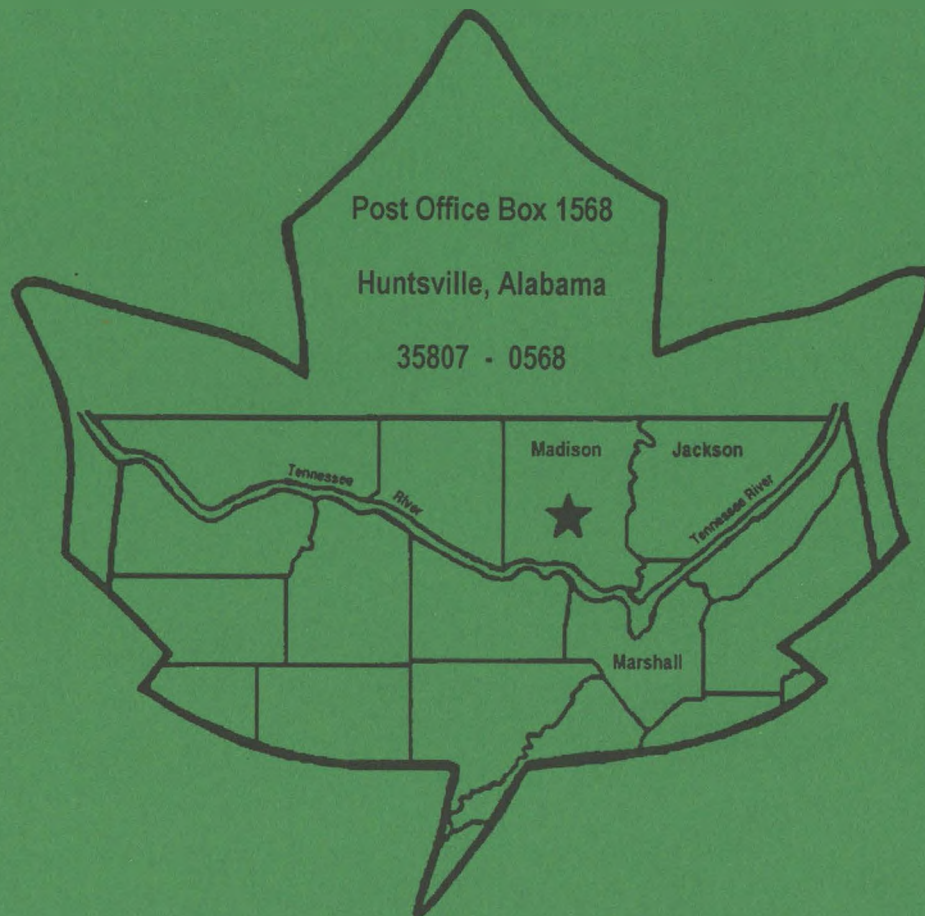

(North Alabama)

Valley Leaves

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Valley Leaves

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Jackson County

Hall Family Records

Copied, Abstracted, and Contributed by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

Part 1

The following records were donated to the Huntsville/Madison County Library by the family of the late Addie Stovall Shaver. The following story, written by Della Hall of Princeton, *is not the kind of information we usually publish in Valley Leaves*. This story, however, is particularly interesting and contains names of neighbors as well as descriptions of houses, a school, and topography in and around the Princeton area. It also has a surprise ending! We are fortunate that much information is available about the Hall family, including personal recollections. While the entire story by Della Hall Walker Green is fascinating, it has been condensed in this publication.

The Life Story of Della Hall Walker Green

I was born on March 22, 1887 near Princeton, Alabama in the beautiful Paint Rock Valley, the daughter of John and Annie Hall. My memory goes back to when I was five years old.

We lived in Reed's Cove, just about one mile from my Grandfather Reed's, my mother's father. When we went to his house, we walked across the hill called Deadener. For what reason it was called that I do not know, unless there had been a lot of trees there that had died. My grandfather lived on such a high hill that the front porch was so high off the ground that a tall man could have stood under the edge of it.

His family consisted at that time of five – he and his wife, my step-grandmother; Aunt Mary, who was an old, old maid, and Uncle John and Aunt Bea who were their children. Down the hill just a little distance was a spring that bubbled lots of water all the time. Also

close by there were bee stands that made lots of honey. At the foot of the hill which was real close by, the nice large barn stood on perfectly level ground. Lick Fork Creek ran close by, at the foot of the hill.

While we lived at this place, my mother and my sister became very ill. Mother had the disease that was called flux at that time. I was never told what disease my sister Nora had who was nine years old. She became so ill that she died, and of course the whole family was terribly grieved, especially Mother. She was crying and I just had to cry too but didn't want anybody to see me so I went out behind the house. In that day, the bodies of the families' dead were kept in the home until they left for the cemetery and were buried.

Nora had been going to school in Princeton so when the funeral procession passed the school building, the teacher, Will Bridges, and all the students were standing by the road with black arm bands, showing the utmost respect.

My father was a farmer and a renter so that fall we moved to Robertson's Cove several miles from there. I was six years old and started to school at Bouldin's Hill, a very timid little girl that hardly knew how to act at any time. *Editor's Note:* her teacher was Charlie Garland.

We lived there just one year. Then my father had a small house built consisting of one large room with upstairs and a room on the side for cooking and eating. We lived there a long time and went to school at Larkin. This school was a long building with a partition dividing it into rooms. We lived just about one mile from school but we had a rough, rocky road and a steep hill going down to the school and of course it was just as steep going back up the hill. All grades went to this school, grown boys and girls as well as the younger ones. In those days everyone took their lunch.

Nothing especially important happened until 1898 when my father became very ill with dropsy or Bright's Disease. He was unable to do anything for several months before he died. He was confined to the house under the care of Dr. Grant but he steadily grew worse and died in March 1898, leaving Mother with six children, the eldest fourteen and the youngest three months.

I was 12 years old at that time. Father was 36 and Mother 33. They had married quite young, she was 16 and he 19, owning nothing at all. Mother had to cook over the fire because they were not able to buy a cook stove.

The Halls were all Baptist and practiced their religion every day. My father attended church most every Sunday at the Freedom Baptist Church which was a good 10 miles away. The family didn't go because, I guess, we didn't have the clothes to wear. I've never understood why they had a local

Methodist to preach his funeral instead of the Baptist pastor.

He had accumulated very little over the years except a large family of children and was just starting to pick up a bit when he died. He had a pair of mules, Collie and Ide, some cattle and hogs and farming tools of his own, and owed no debts to anybody. But now Mother had such a burden on her. There was no social security and no help for anybody. So we just had to do the best we could, which wasn't too well. I remember Ad Grahame buying us a sack of flour once. My 14 year old brother worked on the farm with our Uncle Arch Hall and made enough to feed the stock. But that didn't prove too satisfactory, so we had to find land to rent somewhere nearby. Mother's father, Grandfather Reed, heard about our predicament and rented land from a certain Mr. Henshaw for us to cultivate and live on.

Mr. Henshaw's wife had died, leaving him with three children, two boys, Olin and Virgil, and a daughter, Nannie. They all had what was called scald head, which was a soreness all over the scalp, but they were cured before they were grown. *Editor's Note:* this may have been what we now call ringworm.

I don't know how this came about, but while we were farming the Henshaw's land, someone suggested to Mother that she plant a very few acres of cotton. I don't know where she got the seed, cotton was not grown in Northern Alabama at that time, but somehow she got it and planted it with her own hands. When the time came to pick it, we gave a cotton pickin' and a few neighbors came and picked all day for nothing. In the afternoon, a stranger came through the field, a man from Texas, perhaps 40 or 45 years old. He picked for awhile and my, didn't we think he could pick

fast. After that we didn't try raising any more cotton.

My uncle, Jim Reed, had a store in Trenton and once he sent Mother word to bring the children to see him and he would pay us for the trip. So on a certain Saturday, we all got in the wagon and drove the distance of 12 miles to the store. His gifts to Mother and the four girls were material to make each of us a dress. Mother's was black and white, mine was blue satin, Maymie's was pink satin, but I don't remember Sallye's and Ethel's. The boys got shirts.

I am sure we had trouble getting all of those dresses made. Mother didn't sew and I hadn't started sewing yet. Aunt Bobbie Butler and Gladys Isaacs did all of mine before I married, and never did charge anything for it.

Tom and Eliza Hall were my father's parents. They lived at the north end of the valley on Larkin's Fork Creek. They usually attended services on Saturday and Sunday both. They rode horseback past our house on their way to church. Grandmother rode sidesaddle in a long black riding skirt that covered her entirely from the waist down. Even her feet were hidden. I saw her call to us so many times as she rode by. In my father's lifetime we would spend Christmas with them. Grandfather would always have peppermint candy for us and so much nice food, a banquet at every meal. They were farmers and had a good house with lots of flowers in the yard and a nice orchard full of fruit.



Thomas Washington Hall (1837-1912)
Confederate veteran, grandfather of
Della Hall Walker Green, buried at
Butler Cemetery, Paint Rock Valley



Elizabeth Collins Hall (1841-1923)
grandmother of Dell Hall Walker Green,
buried at Butler Cemetery, Paint Rock
Valley



Elizabeth Collins Hall in younger years

We didn't go to church an awful lot then. Mother hardly went at all although she belonged to the Baptist church at Freedom. We children usually went to Bostic Hill because it was closer but one Sunday Ethel happened to be at the Freedom church with someone while they were discussing turning out all the people who hadn't attended in a long time. They brought up Mother's name and there was Ethel hearing all this. But a man by the name of Captain Jim Henshaw stood up and said, "I don't believe I would do that. Mrs. Hall is a widow with a large family. It is just possible that she can't come." So they did not take her name off the list of members.

Uncle Arch and his family lived across the valley from us. The Paint Rock River ran close to their house. In fact, their farm was across the river from them, so they kept a boat to cross it in. So often my mother, in her loneliness would go over there and spend the night. Just imagine people, most of them small children, coming in just anytime. I know Uncle Arch's wife, Aunt Sue, was a very kind woman. I don't remember ever

seeing her displeased because of our coming in unannounced.

We kept living in the little house on the hill and attending the Larkin School. When I was 13, still in the primary department, our teacher, Barbara Collins asked the class to memorize all the states and capitals of the United States. She offered to give each one that did a small gift. I was the only one in the class that did and I can remember until this day standing there naming them all. My gift was a small lead pencil.

Another thing that happened while I was in that room was that a boy by the name of George Fowler wrote me a little note saying that if I would love him, he would love me. So, silly me, I cried and took the note to the teacher. She did an awful thing: she tacked the note on the wall and had all the children read it. I am sure if he is still living, George Fowler hates me yet, and I can't say I blame him.

The next year I went to Bouldin Hill again. Uncle John Bouldin and his wife, my grandmother Hall's sister, wanted me to stay at their house and go to school there. Of course, they didn't charge for room and board, so I stayed with them. Miss Lillian Musiter was the teacher.

The Bouldins had raised ten children, four girls and six boys, and had given them all a college education. The girls all became teachers. Two of the boys made lawyers, one a doctor, one a missionary to Japan, two farmers, and the youngest son who was about my age, traveled for International Harvester in South America. They lived on a farm in a big two-story house.

I finished my schooling at Bouldin Hill and started going with Will Walker about the same time. I first met Will at school. He had a first cousin, Mary

Hatchet, that lived close to us and was a good friend of our family so she might have helped a little in the romance. Anyway, we decided to get married. That, of course, called for a wedding dress for me.

My father's sister, my Aunt Sallie and her family lived at Mud Creek, Alabama, across the mountain from us. I wrote her that I was getting married and needed a dress, would she please make it for me? Of course, she was glad to, so brother George went over with me on the mules and then led mine back home with him. We went to Scottsboro to buy material. It being winter, we bought light blue cashmere and trimmed it in taffeta and bought some kind of a hat to go with it and shoes that were too large for me. When George came after me, I was all set for my wedding day, February 24, 1904. Will was 19 and I was 16.

Rev. W. W. Thompson, pastor of the Presbyterian Church officiated. The wedding was a four in the afternoon at home with the little house practically overflowing with people. We went to Will's father's house for the reception. Several of the guests went with us in the buggy Will's father had lent him for the wedding.

Will's father's first wife had died, leaving him with four living children. He had married again and had one child by the second wife. Since he had two farms, he gave one of them to his four children by the first wife. Will bought his sister's share and his brother Walter bought the other brother's share, making them co-owners. There was no house on it so in a short time they started building one. But they were quite some time in getting it built so we lived with his parents for four months. When we moved into the new house, Walter moved in with us. He was older than Will but wasn't married.

Everything seemed to be going fairly well except that Will felt badly so much of the time.

One Saturday in June 1905, he took a load of corn to the railroad, a distance of 20 miles. On his way home, he had a hemorrhage of the nose. He stopped to see a doctor in Trenton who managed to stop the nosebleed, but when he got home he was still feeling very badly. He went to bed and was there a week. Then his father came and moved him to his house. They carried him in a rocking chair about a quarter of a mile to the house. We had our local Dr. Stanly treat him, then we called Dr. Brewer from Trenton but he never got any better and died at the end of the week on a Saturday and was buried on Monday. We hadn't paid his sister for her part of the farm but with the money he left I paid her very shortly.

The crop had been started and not finished. Mr. Walker wanted me to stay there so Walter could finish it. He asked a cousin of his, a widow of 55 to come and stay with us, and she did. It only took a few weeks and then there was nothing for me to do, a 17 year old widow, but to move back home.

In that day and age, when one lost one of the family or a woman lost her husband, they wore mourning for quite some time. I wore black for two years and shall never forget the hat I got. It was a black roll brim straw with a beautiful black flowing veil and a band of crepe around the edge. I was quite miserable. There was no group suited for me to run around with. Those my age were too frivolous, and the old too old. So I was very unhappy But we bought a sewing machine and I started sewing for our family of four girls and Mother. Even if we didn't buy very much, it took

a lot of time to make five dresses, one for each of us, so I was kept busy.

Soon after Will's death, Walter married and he and his wife lived in the house on their farm. But he had tuberculosis when he married and lived just a year, leaving his wife pregnant. A little boy was born to her in due time and she, like I, went back home to live with her mother. Soon she wanted to sell her part of the farm to me. I bought it and right away we moved to it. The house had four rooms with an upstairs over all with no partitions.

We made the move to the farm in 1907 and in 1908 I decided to go to Winchester, Tennessee to try to find a job in a dressmaker's shop. There was a family, the W. J. Swains (did she mean Swaim?), from our part of the valley that ran a boarding house there where I planned to stay. On a Saturday my brother went with me to Huntland, a distance of 20 miles, and I caught a train to Winchester. On Monday morning, I found a job at the first place I stopped, Miss Margaret Leary's Dress Shop. I didn't stay long because I couldn't make enough to pay room and board and yet have enough left to pay me to keep working. So I returned home.

After both his boys had died and he was getting up in years, Will's father decided to move to Princeton and go into business. Soon after I returned home, I went to Mr. Walker's store to buy material for a dress. To my surprise, he told me to wait on myself, and before I left he asked me to go to work for him at once. I worked in his store, which handled most everything – farming tools, hardware, groceries, men's work clothes and piece goods for seven years.

I would stay in his home from Monday morning until Saturday evening. My folks lived close enough that I could

walk home on Saturday. The Presbyterian Church was real close to the store. I, with my sisters, attended it for several years. In fact, I taught a class of grown young people and school teachers for quite some time. I have wondered why they asked me and why I accepted.

About that time for some reason our postmaster, D. V. Enochs, lost his office. The postmaster at the main office in Scottsboro asked my father's first cousin, Virgil Bouldin, to recommend someone for the office and he recommended me. Word was sent by a friend saying that if I wanted the office, I should make application. I did that right away and had the position within a very few days. Space was made for the office in the front of Mr. Walker's store.

I decided I would help my sisters go to school so they could become teachers and make a living for themselves. I knew that if they didn't due my mother's circumstances, they would have very little.

At this time, Maymie, the oldest, had gone as far as she could go in the Princeton School so we decided to send her to Fort Payne on Sand Mountain. She attended there for two years, passed her teacher's examination, and started teaching. My next sister, Sallye, attended Alabama girl's Industrial School in Montevallo until she got her certificate. Then it was time for Ethel to go. She went to Florence Normal in Florence, Alabama. I was very glad to have helped my three sisters get an education so they could support themselves.

Sallye and Ethel had the beauty of the family. They were both quite pretty, well dressed and popular. Of course, I bought the material for their clothes and made them up nicely.

All the family had some musical talent except George and me. But Ethel was the only one that pursued a musical career. She took her first lessons from a friend, Verta Swain (Swaim?). We had no piano so she drew piano keys on a piece of cardboard and practiced on that.

After she went away to school and Dr. Robertson and Maymie were married, he took an interest in her musical education and paid for her music and voice lessons. When she returned from Florence Normal, he paid her expenses to ride the bus to Paint Rock three times a week for lessons. It paid off in the long run; she sang and played beautifully all her life until her health finally took everything from her.

George, our oldest brother, and Pearl Robertson married April 22, 1907. They had seven children: Bernice, Blanche, John, Howard, Annie, Pearl, Ethel, and Thomas. They all married except Blanche, but she has been wonderful to help take care of her father and mother. When her father became ill she quit her job and went home to help her mother take care of him until he died, February 10, 1966, at the age of 80. Then, Pearl took sick and she cared for her until she died April 19, 1971. Blanche was such a wonderful daughter and a good woman.

Maymie taught a few years before she married Dr. Robertson on October 23, 1910. They had three children, Juanita, Harvey, and Robert. The doctor was a good man and a good father. He practiced in the valley all of his life and was so kind to the very poor who so often didn't pay their bills. He never even said anything about it. On August 24, 1932, returning home from Birmingham where he had taken a patient for surgery, his car was hit by a woman coming from a side road, and he was killed almost instantly.

They had given Juanita her education, and she was teaching near home but after his death, they decided to move to Scottsboro so Maymie could run a boarding house. They built a six bedroom home and were quite successful for several years until Maymie lost her health. Juanita, who had by then married N.O. Thompson, took her mother to her home in Baltimore, Maryland, where she died July 6, 1963.

During the time I was working to put the girls through school, Lem Green appeared on the scene. He had grown up in Princeton and his mother and father still lived there. When he was 21, he had entered the fighting in the Spanish-American War and had stayed until its close in 1898. After coming home, he and a first cousin, Walter Green, decided to go to Manila. Walter opened a shoe store there and stayed, but Lem was not so satisfied and went back to California. His first job there was with a surveying company which surveyed the Yosemite Valley Railroad. Later he was a streetcar conductor in Oakland, California. From there he went to work for a lumber company.

When I first met him, on a trip back to Alabama from California, he had just visited his relatives in Swenson, Texas. He had two married brothers and a married sister in Texas. His brother Dick had married a Texas woman whom I had met when she was visiting in Alabama the year before. She told Lem when he was in Texas, to go back to Alabama and marry that Miss Della Walker. She must have impressed him with the idea because shortly after he arrived in Princeton, he came to the store, bringing along a friend to introduce us. He came by the store every day and soon wanted to drive me home after work. The distance home was about a mile and a

half, so I was quite willing for him to take me.

By the time he left Alabama, six weeks later, we were engaged to be married. However he wasn't ready to be married and neither was I, so he went back to California and stayed for another two and a half years. But when he returned, I still wasn't ready to get married because I hadn't finished putting the girls through school and I was determined to complete the job. So he returned to California once again, and I kept working.

About this time, a teacher by the name of Ralph E. Porter came to Princeton. He was superintendent of the school and came into the store quite often for his mail. We naturally became well acquainted and before school was out that year we began going together. He taught two years there and we saw lot of each other. Finally, he began to talk of marriage. He planned to become a doctor and I told him that he was, or would be, a highly educated man, and since I had no education that was reason enough for us not to marry. I was also five years older than he was and we never became engaged. He made a doctor all right, and practiced in Brooklyn, New York. He eventually came back to Mobile.

Jess Wheeler followed him as superintendent. He was much interested in Lucille. They married while he was superintendent at Princeton and are still living on Sand Mountain.

By the year 1915, we had been living on my farm almost nine years. During that time I bought a mare named Molly so we girls would have something to ride. One weekend, sister Maymie rode Molly to Francisco with a group of friends and upon returning home, Molly threw her hip out of place crossing

Larkins Creek. I then bought a buggy which we hitched Ide to until I bought Blaze, a beautiful young stallion.

Christmas 1915, Lem came back home again. I had finished my job of helping the family so we decided to get married. Lem came to the house on January 5, 1916 and spent the night prior to our trip to Huntsville to be married. Back in those days, we had livery stables where one could always get a horse when needed. Early the next morning, Lem had a driver bring a surrey from the livery to pick up him, me and Ethel, whom we had asked to accompany us. We caught a train for Huntsville from Gurley. The first thing we did when we arrived was to go shopping for my wedding clothes. I bought a brown broadcloth suit with blouse and hat to match.

At 4 o'clock, we drove to the parsonage of Reverend Ricky, a pastor of the Methodist Church there, and were married. Afterward, we drove Ethel to the depot to catch a train back to Gurley. We spent the night in the Twickenham Hotel. The next morning we returned to Princeton and did some visiting with my folks

We left Alabama for Swenson, Texas on January 19th. Lem and a brother-in-law, John Jones, had bought a farm of 160 acres. The farm was about one and a half miles from town and very sandy, with a two room house in it. When we arrived in Swenson, the Freemans met us and took us to their house. They had three boys, Ernest, Lem, and Gordon, all teenagers. Naturally the boys were all eyes looking at Uncle Lem's new wife, but we got the verdict of only one of them. Gordon, the youngest, told his mother the next morning, "I think I'm gonna like Uncle Lem's wife, but ain't she ugly?"

Swenson was a nice little country town in those days with a bank, lumber yard, furniture store one good store for ready-to-wear and piece goods, several good groceries and garages galore. We attended both Baptist and Methodist churches since each had services only half the time and the Methodists didn't have a Sunday School yet.

The Sunday that Lem and I walked downtown to attend our first church service together we happened to run into the Ernest Brannens. He was working in the bank there. He and Lem disappeared for a while that morning and I had to walk to the church with Mrs. Brannen, feeling terribly hurt. I thought surely, since I was a new bride and knew no one at all, Lem would have been there to walk to church with me and sit with me. Soon after, Mrs. Brannen and I were seated, and Lem came in with his brother-in-law and sat with him. At first, I was hurt, then I got mad, and I am sure I heard very little of that sermon. After the service was over, I walked over to Lem and let him know I was in a very bad mood. We had company from church that day and at dinner I told them an old bachelor didn't know how to treat a wife!

Another Sunday, on our way to church, I announced I was going to stop by the post office. Lem told me not to do it, saying that people would talk about me. I replied, "Let them talk. I'm going anyway." So we went to the post office. He was a bachelor of 38 years when we married and very much set in his ways.

Lem had grown up on the farm in Alabama but had been away from it for so long - 15 years - that he knew nothing at all about farming, not nearly as much as I did. We made very little to speak of and then the drought of 1918

came upon us and we made nothing at all.

I had gotten pregnant but the baby, a little girl, was born prematurely on June 6th, and died. So we buried her and times were pretty hard. In the meantime, Lem wrote one of his friends in California, Cos Cole, and by return mail he sent him a check to go out there on to work. He left July 1 for California and I went back to Alabama to stay with my folks. He returned to Alabama just before Christmas and after visiting there through the holidays, we returned to Texas with a little expense money. It had rained and the country was beautiful. Our pasture was a carpet of wild blooming flowers. That year we made a fairly good crop.

My sister Ethel came in November 1920 to spend a while with us. There was a rancher by the name of J. T. Ward who kept a governess in the home for his two daughters' education, since he lived such a distance from town and school. He employed Ethel to come and teach. While she was there, he was killed when his horse stepped in a hole while he was riding the ranch. She didn't work there very long after that. However, she had begun going with his son, Reece, and they were married on September 14, 1920. He was working in the Swenson bank at that time and continued to work in the bank until it closed.

My brother Robert, the youngest child in the family, and Vera Reid married December 29, 1919 and settled in Texas around 1924.

Lem's father and mother moved to Texas shortly after we did since all their children were in Texas, four of them living in and around Swenson. They came to our house and lived with us the first year they were there. While they were there, my first mother-in-law and

her two children came to visit me so I had two mothers-in-law to entertain at the same time. They had been neighbors in Princeton and were good friends.

They came during a terrible drought. Lem and our neighbor decided to dig a well hoping to at least get drinking water. They finally found a little but not enough to amount to anything. They put a ladder down the well and would go down and dip up one bucket of water at a time.

Mrs. Walker told the folks when she got back to Alabama that she had drunk water which she would not have washed her feet in at home, and I knew it was true. There is such an abundance of fresh water back there.

The latter part of 1920, I having gotten pregnant again, we bought a house downtown and moved there. On January 24, 1921, Howard was born. From a very young age, Howard wanted me to read to him.

When Howard was 15, we decided we must move somewhere for him to finish high school and go to college. We had lived in Swenson for 20 years and hadn't done too well. We were cotton farmers and the price of cotton was low then.

Now 36 years later, the little burg is almost entirely abandoned. The old timers who were there when we were there have all died and the young people didn't stay.

We made up our minds to move to Abilene in 1936. Howard was in his junior year, having passed the state examination and entered Abilene High at 15. He graduated in 1939 and entered McMurry College the following fall. He started working for the *Reporter News* before he finished high school. When he entered McMurry, he became the regular sports writer for the *Reporter*, working

at night and going to school during the day.

My mother broke up housekeeping in the early 20s and lived in Alabama with my sister Maymie for some time. I brought her to Texas on a trip back from Alabama. She stayed three years and then returned to Alabama. She made several trips to Texas for extended visits like that until late 1944 when her son-in-law, Oscar Proctor, accompanied her because she had become too old to travel alone. After that, she always spent her winters with me and her summers with the folks in Swenson.

In 1949, while she was with me, she broke her hip just a couple of days before she was to go to Swenson for Mother's Day. She was 83 years old and the fall was terribly hard on her. The doctor took x-rays and said she had not broken the hip, but she got along so poorly and suffered so much I took her back in a few days for more x-rays and they found she had a bad break and required surgery at once. She was in the hospital 14 days and at my house for a year.

Mother lived three years after she broke her hip. She died in her 86th year on June 29, 1953. We took her body back to Princeton, Alabama for burial since that was her request. Lem, Robert and I accompanied her body. She was buried in the Clay Cemetery where most of the rest of the family were buried.

Howard graduated in the spring of 1943 and went into the Air Force and served in England until the war was over. After the war, he organized the Abilene Blue Sox and sold the club to Mack Eplin.

Howard was a sports writer for the *Abilene Reporter News* for eight years, a baseball executive for ten, and in public service the last 16 years, ten as a state

representative and six as county judge of Tarrant County.

Lem's health had gotten so poor that on February 13, 1957, he went to the V.A. hospital in Big Spring. He died on October 30, 1957.

I came home and began trying to adjust myself to living completely alone. Christmas 1958, I went back to Alabama for a few weeks to visit relatives. In the summer of 1963, I went back for a nice long stay. My sister Mayme died while I was there and I attended her funeral. All told, I have made 13 trips to Alabama since I came to Texas in 1916. I had made so many trips to Alabama it seemed I had really gone as much as I needed to go. My family was almost all gone and it didn't seem like going back home anymore.

Editor's Note: she wrote at length about her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her granddaughter, Leslie, married Jim Hawke. Their child, Ethan was born November 6, 1970.

I have been living completely alone for the last 15 years since my husband died and have done the best I could without him. It is now 1973 and on March 22, I had my 86th birthday. I know I am in the very late evening of life and that death could come most any time but somehow I am not worried. I am so thankful that I am still able to live alone and take care of the house and myself and can read the mail and newspaper and a few other things. I enjoy having friends in for coffee and going out occasionally when I have the opportunity.

I find the mail is one of my greatest pleasures. I wait anxiously every day for the postman's arrival just hoping I will get a letter. I don't like holidays because the mail doesn't come. My son Howard has always been good to write and Leslie is too. I also have some nieces and a few

friends I hear from quite often so all in all, the mail means a lot to me. I have always enjoyed writing letters myself and now that is my greatest pastime.

I have enjoyed writing this biography very much indeed and am sure I haven't written everything of significance that has happened in this very long life of mine. Life has been good to me. I must say goodbye now, good luck, and God bless each of you who happens to read this.

May 3, 1973

Della Hall Walker Green died October 22, 1976 in Abilene, Texas

Della's mother, Nancy Ann "Annie" Reed Hall (1866-1952) is buried in the Clay Cemetery, Jackson County.

Della's father, John Henry Hall (1862-1899) is also buried there, along with Della's sister, Nora (1883 - September 11, 1892).



Howard Lemuel Green, (1924-2005) served 5 terms in the Texas Legislature

Howard Lemuel Green, 84, died Oct. 13, 2005, of complications of an aneurysm at a Fort Worth hospital.

Howard Green, was the father of Leslie Green, who spent much of her childhood with Della. Leslie Green married James Hawke, though they separated in 1974. They were the parents of Ethan Hawke, a movie star, once married to actress Uma Thurman. Ethan Hawke's best known film was *Dead Poets' Society*, though he has been in numerous other films.



Actor, director, screenwriter, and novelist Ethan Hawke, great-grandson of Della Hall Walker Green, was born in Austin, Texas on November 6, 1970

Hall Family Notes

By Addie Stovall Shaver

This very large family is hard to trace and many people are involved in this project. It is said that there were many Hall brothers possibly who made their way from the Carolinas and Kentucky

with at least three or four to Jackson and Madison County, Alabama.

Most of these seem to have passed through bordering Tennessee counties and lived there for a while, before coming to Alabama. We know for sure that two of these brothers must have been in Paint Rock Valley. The widow of one definitely was here very near James Hall who was one of the earliest settlers.

James Hall was born ca. 1787 in either Virginia or North Carolina. He died 5 August 1870 at Swaim, Alabama in Paint Rock Valley. There is evidence that he lived in Tennessee in 1814. His War of 1812 pension record states he was drafted ca. 1813 at Fayetteville, Tennessee in Lincoln County. His first marriage was to Mary "Polly" Williams, no proof as to where this marriage took place is known.

James moved to Paint Rock Valley ca. 1820 and appears in the minutes of the Old Paint Rock Primitive Baptist Church on Larkin Fork in 1824. This church was very near or possibly on his land. He also was ordained as a minister here in 1824.

James and Polly are said to be buried in the Old Prince Point Cemetery in large unmarked rock tombs. This cemetery is located on Highway 65 near Swaim Community.

John Williams and wife Theresa were also in their church; John was an early member. I believe Polly Hall was closely related, possibly a daughter to John and Theresa.

Polly Hall was said to be Black Dutch, this is sometimes a term to describe Indians and I know there was Indian heritage in the Williams family.

James and Polly are said to have had 19 children. Polly and some of them died with typhoid fever and are buried in

some cemetery without markers that James and Polly are buried in. We know the names of 16 of these children.

Boyd Hall of Princeton was a descendant of James and Polly and these children scattered all over Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, and elsewhere. There are many still living in Paint Rock Valley. It is not possible to give all the descendants but will try to give children and grandchildren that are known.

Children of James and Mary "Polly" Williams Hall were:

I. Elizabeth Hall born 1801 – 1810(?) Died 1839-1840, married John D. Taylor in Birmingham, Alabama. This probably is not the Birmingham that we know today. There once was a village in Jackson County, Alabama named Birmingham. It was located near Stevenson. When railroads were built they did not go through Birmingham so the town died and later Birmingham, Alabama in Jefferson County was heard to be a good coal mining town.

John D. Taylor was married to Elizabeth Hall, his second wife and after her death, he was married a third time to Nancy Roberts. John D. Taylor was the son of James Taylor and Nancy Whitten. John moved to Oregon County, Missouri in 1844. Children of John D. and Elizabeth Hall Taylor were:

1. Elijah Zachary "Lige" Taylor born 24 December 1834 Jackson County, died 21 May 1875, buried near Leadmine, Dallas County, Missouri. He married 13 July 1854 in Jackson County to Matilda Iredell Justice. Their children: (a) Mary Adeline Taylor married Marion Lawson. Mary Adeline married secondly Theodore Dugan. (b) Sarah Ann Taylor, (c) John

Alexander Taylor, unknown spouse (d) James Albert Taylor, (e) Margaret Jane Taylor, (f) Elijah Zachary Taylor, Jr., (g) Matilda Barbara Taylor, married 1st Eli Dryer, 2nd Albert Williams, (h) Cordelia Iredell "Delia" Taylor.

John D. Taylor, Sr. married second, Mary Taylor. Mary Jane Taylor was born 2 February 1837 at Birmingham, Jackson County, Alabama, died 13 April, 1924, buried Myrtle, Oregon County, Missouri, and married October 1853 to George Washington Robinson. Children:

1. William Jesse Robinson married Lucy Cloy.
2. George Washington Robinson married six times according to what records we have. He was married to Sally Fore, Elizabeth Hutson, Lottie Reed, Eliza Ellen Holland, Catherine Arther, and Mag Dodd.
3. John Robinson married Mary Robinson
4. Sarah Robinson
5. Thomas B. Robinson
6. Allen Robinson married Emmie Roberts
7. Mary Ann Robinson married Sebwen Holt
8. Sammie S. Robinson married Sallie E. Adams

II. John W. Hall, born 1810-11 in Tennessee, died 1860-70 lived in Jobe Township, Oregon County, Missouri in 1860-70, married Nancy Hall born 1814-15 in Kentucky.

1. Sarah Ann Hall born 1833-34 in Alabama
2. Mary A. Hall born 1835-40 in Alabama

3. Margaret Hall born 1838-40 in Alabama
4. Melissa Hall born 1840-42 in Tennessee
5. John Henry Hall born September 1844 in Tennessee. Married June 1869 to Margaret Hodges
6. Martha S. Hall born 1847-48 in Missouri or Tennessee
7. Thomas B. Hall born 1850-51 in Missouri.

III. Thomas W. Hall, Sr. was born 23 May 1812 in Tennessee, died October 1897, buried Prince Cemetery on Larkin's Fork. He married Sarah A. Taylor, born 6 July 1813 in Kentucky, died 13 March 1896 also buried at Prince Cemetery with her husband. Their children:

1. Nancy Hall born 19 October 1832 died 2 December 1886 married Samuel Butler. Both are buried at Butler Cemetery on Larkin's Fork in Swaim Community. Their son, Robert L. Butler, was born 10 September 1866, died 11 April 1911. Married 30 October 1889 in Franklin County, Tennessee to Owen Victoria Reynolds.
2. William H. Hall born 1845 married 18 May 1864 to Amanda Frazier. Nothing else known.
3. Thomas W. Hall, Jr. born 19 March 1837, died 18 March 1912 at Swaim, Alabama, married 15 November 1860 to Eliza M. Collins, born 1841 daughter of Archibald W. Collins and M? Reed. Their children: (a) Archibald Woods Hall born 2 August 186?, died 8 August 1915, buried Clay Cemetery, Princeton Alabama. Married Mary Susan Robertson, daughter of Richard C. Robertson and Mary S. Eustace. Their children

were (i) Richard Hall, married Mary Reed. Richard was postmaster at Swaim, Alabama for many years and also ran a country store that the post office was located in. The building is still standing today. (ii) Vera Hall married Jim Prince and also raised family at Swaim, Alabama. (iii) Cora Hall married two Swaim brothers, sons of William J. Pete Swaim and Mary Jane Prince. She 1st married Tillman Swaim and after his death, married Pat Swaim. By Tillman she had two sons and a daughter, and she and Pat had no children. Both Tillman and Pat are buried in the Prince Cemetery on Hurricane Creek and Cora outlived them and died in Huntsville, Alabama. (iv) John Hall married Velma Treice. They lived all their lives at Swaim, Alabama. Velma was twin sister of Thelma Treice Henshaw, wife of Sam Henshaw. John and Velma had twins, I believe, that died at birth. (v) Erskin Hall married Willie Bell Swaim, also lived at Swaim and ran a store. Willie Bell was daughter of Joe Swaim. Erskin and Willie had one daughter, Joyce, who lives in Franklin County, Tennessee. After Willie's death, Erskin married a woman named Katie. I do not remember her last name. Erskin and Willie B. are buried at Clay Cemetery at Princeton. (b) John H. Hall was born 3 September 1862, died March 1899 buried Prince Cemetery, Larkins Fork. Married Nora Anne Reed. Rather than write more about this family, I am going to include here a history written by a daughter of John H. and Nora Annie. She was Dora who married

first a Walker and after his death, Lem Green and moved to Texas. *Editor's Note: see beginning of this section.* (c) William T. Hall, born 4 May 1865, died 25 June 1949. Buried Clay Cemetery, Princeton, married first Bessie McCullough and second Ida Cunningham. Bessie Hall was daughter of Andy McCullough and wife. She died April 13, 1891 in childbirth and is buried at the old McCullough Cemetery along with her infant. William then married Ida Ann Cunningham, daughter of John Cunningham, who lived on Dry Creek. Ida was born 10 September 1865, died 25 June 1949. Their children were: (i) Alva F. Hall born 27 January 1885, died 4 September 1960. Married Lucille W. Womack, born 12 December 1897 One child died at birth. Both are buried at Clay Cemetery. (ii) William Ellis Hall, born 2 May 1897, died 9 April 1951, married 26 December 1917. They had two girls and a boy. (iii) John T. Hall born 1899, married 19 November 1932 to Macoa Fanning Sparkman. Macoa was a second wife and his first wife named Maude. They had a son, Kenneth, who died at five years of age and is buried at Clay Cemetery. William T. Hall also has an infant son by Bessie McCullough who was born and died 22 May 1888. He is buried at Butler Cemetery. (d) Nancy J. Hall born 11 April 1869, died 20 September 1949, buried Butler Cemetery, married Turner Clonn. One son, Walter Clonn. Nancy and Walter Clonn lived at Princeton and Walter never married. He ran a store in Princeton for several years. (e) James

Franklin Hall born 14 May 1872, died 18 November 1948, buried at Clay Cemetery. Married first Mary S. Prince, daughter of Jesse and Nancy Hinshaw Prince. Married second Mollie Green, daughter of Newt Green, born 1874, died 1955. Children (i) Lector Ann Hall born 3 November 1906, died 27 December 1966, never married. (ii) Boyd Hall, born 27 March 1924 married Inez Bostick. Boyd died January 1993. They have three daughters. Boyd has always lived in the area at Princeton for many years and was very knowledgeable about the Hall family. Two daughters still live at Princeton.

4. Martha J. Hall born 1842. Nothing else known of her.
5. John Jackson "Jack" Hall born 1840. Nothing else known.
6. Josiah S. "Isaac" Hall, born 6 May 1847, died 26 September 1929, buried at Butler Cemetery. Married 23 August, 1866 to Martha Jane Hinshaw, born 8 February 1847, died 5 September 1918, both buried at Butler Cemetery. Martha Jane was the daughter of William and Nancy Robertson Hinshaw. Children: (a) William Thomas Hall, born 23 October 1868, died 2 July 1940. Married first Hannah Prince born 20 July 1873, died 28 December 1906, daughter of William H. Prince and Eliza J. Trice. She is buried at Prince Cemetery, Estill Fork, Alabama. Children were (i) William Hall born 18 December 1891, died 23 July 1953, married Alta Graham at Princeton, Alabama 21 November 1909. Harvey (did she mean William?) and Alta Hall had a store and post office at Princeton,

Alabama for several years. He was also Worshipful Master in Masons for many years. Harvey and Alta had one son, (illegible). Alta Graham Hall died at Scottsboro on 28 February 1974. (ii) Mary Jane Hall was the daughter of Rev. William T. Hall and Hannah. She was born 26 June 1902, married Fred M. Davenport at Huntland, Tennessee 26 December 1924.

Rev. William Thomas Hall married second to Flora Kennedy, daughter of E. J. and Mary S. Kennedy. Flora was born 14 April, 1885 and died 14 April 1979 at Langdale, Alabama. Their children were: (iii) Joe Daniel Hall born 7 August 1908, died 1975 and is buried at Huntland, Tennessee. Joe D. never married and was a teacher in Alabama schools for many years. Their daughter (iv) Lennis Kathelene Hall was born 18 October 1913.

Rev. Hall was a teacher and also a Baptist Minister. He graduated from Huntland High School, Huntland, Tennessee, attended Winchester Normal in Winchester, Tennessee, 1889-90 and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky 1911-1912. He was converted at Freedom Baptist Church, Estill Fork, Alabama at age 14 in 1882. He was ordained as deacon there in 1902. He pastored many churches in the area, including Freedom Baptist Church, Estill Fork, Alabama; Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Hollytree, Alabama; Trenton Baptist Church, Trenton, Alabama; Gurley Baptist Church, Gurley, Alabama; Carnes Baptist Church, Carnes, Alabama; Fackler Baptist Church, Fackler,

Alabama; Beech Grove Baptist Church, Francisco, Alabama; Elora Baptist Church, Elora, Tennessee; Plevna Baptist Church, Plevna, Alabama; Fairview Baptist Church, Plevna Alabama; Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Huntland, Tennessee. Rev. Hall was much loved and admired by many people in the Tennessee Valley. (b) Sarah Eliza Hall born 31 January 1873, died 18 January 1898, married Jim Robertson, buried Butler Cemetery. (c) James Robert Hall born 8 February 1876, died 13 October 1900, buried Butler Cemetery, (d) Samuel Hall born 9 February 1876, died 11 February 1876. Samuel and James Robert were twins and both buried at Butler Cemetery. (e) Nancy Ellen Hall born 19 July 1881, died 16 December 1909, buried Butler Cemetery, married Ike Erwin. (f) Joseph Felix Hall born 7 January 1885, died 18 November 1900. Unmarried, buried at Butler Cemetery. (g) Hewey Lee Hall born 6 January 1887, died 3 March 1963 at Swaim, Alabama. Buried Mt. Carmel, Huntland, Tennessee, married Ella Mae Prince Ella who was born 9 February 1890, died 5 September 1968 in Sewanee, Tennessee. Buried by husband at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Their children: (i) Robert Lee Hall, married Lillian Maples (ii) Joe D. Hall married Helen White. Both are deceased but have children. (iii) Henry Loyd Hall married Oline Dowling. Henry Loyd is deceased. (iv) James Ralph Hall married first Nellie Sue Sharp and secondly, Mrs. Bessie Larkin Robertson, widow of Warner Robertson, Jr. Ralph lives at his father's old home

place and has one son. Henry Lee Hall had a store for many years near his home. (h) Samuel H. Hall born 10 November 1855, died 7 September 1883, buried at Prince Cemetery Larkin's Fork. He was married to Mary (last name unknown). Josiah Hall married second Dora Grimmett, no children.

IV. Jesse Hall, born 1 April 1815 Alabama or Tennessee, died 20 March 1896 in Springfield, Green County, Missouri. Jesse is said to have moved from Jackson County, Tennessee to Jackson County, Alabama between 1835-37. He then migrated to Robertson County, Missouri between 1844 and 1846. He was a Baptist Minister. He married Margaret S. Taylor, born January 1819 in Kentucky. She died 4 November 1877 in Greene County, Missouri. Jesse married second on 17 September 1879 to Frances A. Wise Carver. Children:

1. John W. Hall born 18 June 1836 in Bedford County, Tennessee, died 19 December 1905 in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. Married 26 March 1857 Margaret Lucinda Legg.
2. Sarah Jane Hall born 10 August in Jackson County, Alabama, died 2 June 1895 Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. Married 6 April 1860 to Steven Chandler.
3. George W. Hall born 1839 in Jackson County, Alabama, died 29 October 1899, married 15 February 1865 to Nancy Ann Firlen and secondly on 6 November 1882 to Louise L. Lappley.
4. William Pleasant Hall, born 23 May 1842, died 14 August 1914.

Buried Springfield, Missouri, married 2 January 1870 to Susan E. Blevins.

5. Josiah J. Hall, born 4 July 1844, died 21 February 1908, buried Springfield, Missouri, 4 July 1871 (1879?) Viola T. Lowe.
6. James K. Hall, born 1846 Greene County, Missouri, married 12 September 1872 to Martha Clanton.
7. Sarah Jane Hall, born 10 October 1849 Greene County, Missouri, died 7 November 1917, buried Springfield, Missouri. Married 25 December 1897 to John Henry Webb.
8. Rachel E. (Minerva) Hall, born 20 May 1852, Greene County, Missouri, died 8 September 1927, buried Springfield, Missouri. Married 3 January 1870 to George W. Blevins.
9. James Rufus Hall, born 1856 Greene County, Missouri, married 6 August 1897 to Mollie Bessie Shelley.
10. David Hall, born 25 September 1858 Greene County, Missouri, died 28 November 1917, buried Springfield, Missouri. Married January 1878 to Virginia W. Lester and secondly to Margaret Hall.

V. Jerutha (Ruth/Ruthie) Hall born 1815 in Tennessee, married James Taylor, born around 1806 in North Carolina. Children:

1. Mary Taylor, born around 1833 in Jackson County, Alabama, married 1 July 1852, lived in Paint Rock Valley.
2. James Taylor born around 1837 in Tennessee.

3. Margaret Taylor, born around 1840 in Jackson County, Alabama.
4. Rachel Taylor, born around 1842.
5. Permelia Taylor, born around 1844, married A. Allen.
6. Shadrack Taylor born around 1846.
7. Martha Taylor, born around 1849, married 8 February 1842 to John Bouldin as his first wife. Ruth Taylor was a widow in 1870 living with Thomas J. Langston.

VI. Elisha P. Hall, born 1818-20 in Lincoln County, Tennessee (probably born on 16 March 1819 as was said to be twin to Elijah born on this day.) He married first, probably in Jackson County, Alabama to Jemimah Ball and she died 1 February 1887. He married second in Social Hill, Hot Springs County, Arkansas to Mrs. Sarah Higgenbotham, widow of John Higgenbotham. They married 7 September 1889. Elisha died at Social Hill on 9 November 1889. Elisha was a veteran of War of 1812.

VII. Elijah Hall, born 16 March 1819 twin of Elisha. He died 14 December 1884 and buried in Gainesville, Texas. He married Mrs. Mary Hall, born around 1826. Children:

1. Thomas F. Hall, born ca. 1849 in Alabama
2. James W. Hall, born ca. 1850 in Alabama
3. Mary A. Hall, born ca. 1852
4. John R. Hall, born ca. 1854 in Texas
5. Robert R. Hall, born ca. 1856 in Texas

6. Charles M. Hall, born ca. 1859 in Texas
7. Starling G. Hall, born ca. 1861 in Texas
8. Elizabeth F. Hall, born ca. 1863 in Texas
9. Martha Jane Hall, born ca. 1865 in Texas
10. Sarah J. Hall, born ca. 1868 in Texas

VIII. Permelia Hall, born February 1820-21 in Alabama or Tennessee, died 1904, buried possibly at Prince Point Cemetery with parents James and Della Hall. Married 1852 to William M. Vandiver. Children:

1. Cynthia Hall, born 1842-45 in Missouri, married Robert Allison
2. Martha Hall, born 1845-46 in Missouri
3. Margaret M. Hall, born ca. 1859-60 in Missouri

~ to be continued ~

A great big thank you to Coy Michael, who has researched, abstracted, and provided the information for the Marshall County section of *Valley Leaves* for the last 8 years. He will be taking a much-needed break. His contribution to the society, as well as *Valley Leaves*, has been immeasurable!

Madison County

Copied, Abstracted, and Contributed by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

Information found in probate packets, third floor of the Huntsville/Madison County Library, offer fascinating insight into the lives of our ancestors. Look closely enough and you might find signatures of our more prominent citizens.

Sunday, December 3
The Huntsville Times

Mrs. Coleman Funeral Held
Daughter of Pioneers Buried Here This
Morning

Funeral services for Mrs. Mamie Fletcher Coleman, who died at her residence at 425 McClung Street at 9:30 o'clock Saturday night, were held this morning at 11 o'clock at the home of Robert J. Lowe, a nephew.

Mrs. Coleman was the daughter of the late Mrs. and Mrs. A(lgernon) S(ydney) Fletcher, pioneer settlers in Madison County. She had been ill several weeks.

Funeral rites were conducted by the Rev. Randolph R. Claiborne, rector of the Church of the Nativity. Burial was made in Maple Hill Cemetery, with Laughlin Service in charge of arrangements.

Besides the nephew, Mr. Lowe, Mrs. Coleman is survived by a brother, Charles Fletcher.

She was a sister of the late William Holding Fletcher and Shelby S. Fletcher.

Pallbearers were Milton Lanier, Harry M. Rhett, Addison White, Shelby White, W. W. Newman, W. L. Lyle, George Darwin, and Oliver B. Patton.

Editor's Note: Shelby Fletcher had been state senator from Madison County for several years. Mamie's obituary was on front page of newspaper December 3 and again on the front page December 4.

Mamie Fletcher Coleman Estate

The following information is found in the Estate Case File, case number 9030, for the year 1939:

Statement
Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 22, 1939
Mr. Charles Fletcher, Executor
Estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman,
deceased
Laughlin-Service Funeral Home
Operated by
Brown-Service Funeral Homes Co., Inc.,
Birmingham

Itemized funeral expenses for Dec. 4 funeral:

Casket	1473.00
Steel vault	145.00
Embalming	35.00
Personal Services	25.00
Vault pad & grave lining	6.25
Door floral	3.00
Opening grave, Maple Hill	10.00
Limousine for colored bearers	

and white coats rented for them	5.00
Shampoo and manicure	3.50
Chairs and drayage	4.25
Ambulance service	5.00
Hearse Service	25.00
Alabama Sales Tax	32.48
 Total	 1772.48

Editor's Note: A Receipt for Claim indicates this bill was paid on December 22, 1939, signed by W. E. Butler, Judge of Probate

Verification of Claim

State of Alabama
Madison County
March 1, 1940

Before me, G. S. Butler, Notary Public, in and for said county in said state, this day personally appeared (blank) who being first duly sworn deposes and says that he has personal knowledge of the correctness of the foregoing claim of Dr. J. E. Whitaker against the estate of Mamie Coleman, deceased; that the sum of \$122.70 dollars is justly due thereon after allowing all proper credits.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 1 day of March, 1940

Signed by G. S. Butler and Anne W. Clark

Dr. J. E. Whitaker
Ninth Floor Times Building

Huntsville, Ala. February 28, 1940

To: Administrator for Mrs. Levert Coleman, Huntsville, Alabama.

To Professional Services \$122.70

Editor's Note: Levert Coleman was Mamie's mother, who had predeceased her. The wrong name was a mistake, perhaps, on the part of the doctor's bookkeeper.

Last Will and Testament **State of Alabama** **Madison County** **July 29, 1937**

I, Mamie Fletcher Coleman, a resident and inhabitant of Madison County, Alabama, over the age of twenty-one years, of sound mind and disposing memory do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament.

I.

I hereby revoke any former will that may have heretofore been made by me.

II.

I direct that my just debts and all costs and expenses incident to the administration of my estate, and all State and Federal inheritance and estate tax for which my estate may be liable, be paid by my executors hereinafter named, as soon after my death as practicable.

III.

After the payment of the obligations provided for in the second paragraph of this will, all the residue of my estate, of every kind and description, real, personal and mixed and wheresoever located, I give, devise and bequeath to

my brother, Charles Fletcher, absolutely and in fee simple.

IV.

I do hereby nominate and appoint my brother, Charles Fletcher, and my friend, Milton H. Lanier, as Executors of this my last will and testament, and do hereby expressly exempt them from giving bond as such.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 29th day of July, 1937.

Mamie Fletcher Coleman

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman, as and for her last will and testament and we, in her presence, and at her request, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our hands as witnesses.

Rachel Tomlinson

State of Alabama
Madison County
In the Probate Court
December 12, 1939

To the Honorable W. E. Butler, Probate Judge

The petition of Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier, respectfully represents unto your Honor, that Mamie Fletcher Coleman, a resident and inhabitant of Madison County, Alabama, who was over the age of twenty-one years, died in Madison County, Alabama on the 2 day of December 1939; that said Mamie Fletcher Coleman at the time of her death was seized and possessed of certain properties located in the County of Madison, State of Alabama, and left a

last will and testament dated the 29 day of July 1937, witnessed by Rachel Tomlinson and M. H. Lanier;

That the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman at the time of her death left surviving her no husband, no children or their issue, and that her heirs at law and next of kin are one of the petitioners, a brother, Charles Fletcher, who resides in Madison County, Alabama, and a nephew, Robert J. Lowe, who also resides in Madison County, Alabama, both of whom are over the age of twenty-one years; that the subscribing witnesses to said last will and testament both reside in Madison County, Alabama.

That by the terms of said last will and testament of said Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, she named petitioners, Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier as Executors, and expressly exempted them from giving bond as such.

Wherefore, petitioners herewith submit and file in this court, said last will and testament of said Mamie Fletcher Coleman deceased, and respectfully request that a time be set for the hearing of this petition, and that all due and proper notice be given of the filing of this petition and the time set for the hearing thereof, and that all requisite proceedings be had for the proper proof and probate of said instrument, as and for the last will and testament of the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman deceased.

Signed by Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier

State of Alabama
Madison County
December 12, 1939

Before me, Rachel Tomlinson, a Notary Public in and for said county and state this day personally appeared before me Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier, who being by me first duly sworn depose and say that the allegations of the foregoing petition are true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 12 day of December, 1939.

**State of Alabama
Madison County
In the Probate Court
December 18, 1939**

To the Honorable W. E. Butler, Probate Judge:

The undersigned, Milton H. Lanier, does hereby renounce the right to act as Executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased.

Signed by Milton H. Lanier

**State of Alabama
Madison County
December 18, 1939**

I, Rachel Tomlinson, a Notary public in and for said county and state, hereby certify that Milton H. Lanier, whose name is signed to the foregoing instrument, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that being informed of the contents of the instrument, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand this the 18th day of December, 1939.

Signed by Rachel Tomlinson

**State of Alabama
Madison County
December 12, 1939**

To the Honorable W. E. Butler, Probate Judge

Comes Charles Fletcher and Robert J. Lowe, and hereby accept service of notice of the filing in this court on the 12 day of December 1939, of the petition of Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier, for the proof and probate of an instrument in writing dated the 29th day of July, 1937 witnessed by Rachel Tomlinson and M. H. Lanier, purporting to be the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased; and expressly waive any further or additional notice of the filing of said petition and the hearing thereof and

The undersigned do hereby respectfully represent to the Court that said instrument is in fact the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, and that the undersigned Charles Fletcher and Robert J. Lowe are the next of kin and heirs at law of said Mamie Fletcher Coleman and the undersigned do hereby expressly agree that such instrument be admitted to probate as and for the last will and testament of the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased.

This the 20th day of December, 1939

Signed by Charles Fletcher and Robert J. Lowe



425 McClung Avenue

**To the Honorable W. E. Butler, Judge
 of Probate of Madison County:**

Comes Charles Fletcher, as Executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, and herewith presents to the Court a full inventory of all the goods, chattels and other properties coming into his possession or under his control, composing the assets of the estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, and respectfully requests that appraisers by appointed by this court to make due and proper appraisalment of said properties; said properties are particularly set out and listed as follows:

- 10,000 State of Alabama Bonds, 4% Ren. Coup bonds
- 25,000 State of Alabama Coupon Bonds
- 40,000 State of Alabama Highway Bonds
- Cash in First National Bank of Huntsville, \$706.11.
- 200 shares U.S. Steel common stock.
- 16 shares stock First National Bank of Huntsville.
- Buick car, 1939 model.

Personal Property in Apartment as follows:

Bedroom #1:

3 wicker tables	1.50
3 pair Boudoir lamps	1.50
1 lamp	.50
12 pictures	12.00
1 mirror	.50
3 pair vases	3.00
1 pr candlesticks, silver-plate	2.00
1 pr small vases	no value
3 clocks	5.00
1 sewing basket	no value
2 dressing tables	8.00
1 dressing table seat	1.00
1 small chest drawers	1.50
2 beds complete	10.00
2 rocking chairs	1.00
1 wicker chair	.50
5 old rugs	10.00
1 bedroom chair	1.00
5 powder boxes	no value
5 pin trays	no value
1 hat brush	no value
1 jewelry box	no value
1 silver card case	no value
3 pieces costume jewelry	no value
1 broken string of pearls	no value
2 costume bracelets	no value
1 strand beads	no value
2 compacts	no value
1 silver mesh bag	no value
1 perfume container	no value
1 handkerchief case	no value
1 perfume atomizer	no value
Brass fender and set	5.00
1 magazine rack tin	no value
3 venetian blinds	4.50
1 light fixture	5.00
1 fire screen	no value
1 clothes basket	1.50
1 steamer trunk	1.50
1 comfort	2.50

Bath Room:

1 pair scales	.50
3 perfume bottles	no value
1 venetian blind	2.00

Bed Room #2

3 venetian blinds	1.25
8 pictures	no value
1 fire screen	no value
1 fire side bench	1.00
1 pair glass candle sticks	2.00
1 pair bronze bases	5.00
4 vases	1.00
1 clock	.50
2 pr Boudoir lamps	2.00
2 dressing tables with seats	15.00
1 bed complete	12.50
1 chest of drawers	7.50
1 candy jar	no value
2 toilet sets	5.00
2 powder boxes	no value
1 perfume bottle	
1 tray mirror	1.00
1 Chaise lounge	2.50
2 tables	1.50
2 wall brackets	1.00
2 comforts	2.00
16 old rugs	7.50
1 trunk	.50
1 hat box	1.00
1 light fixture	5.00
1 brass flower stand	1.00

Hall:

7 rugs	7.00
3 upholstered chairs	6.00
7 straight chairs	14.00
3 tables	5.00
2 stands	1.00
1 sofa	10.00
2 end tables	2.00
2 china boxes	no value
4 lamps	8.00

1 radio	7.50
1 mirror	1.50
4 brass candle sticks	4.00
2 incense burners	1.50
1 ash stand	no value
12 pictures	6.00
12 pieces brick a brac	no value
1 secretary with books	10.00
Globe	no value
2 clocks	1.00
2 perfume bottles	no value
1 flower basket	no value
13 ash trays	no value
2 cigarette cases	no value
1 tobacco box	no value
2 vases brass	1.00
1 brass bowl	.50
1 Vase holder	no value
2 gongs	1.00
1 pr. book ends	1.00
1 rack of books	1.00
1 screen	4.00
1 book case	3.00
2 pieces tapestry	20.00

Parlor:

13 pictures	13.00
1 mirror	5.00
2 pr candle sticks	2.00
2 pr vases	2.00
1 fire screen	5.00
1 clock	.50
1 small mirror	.50
10 pieces brick a brac	no value
4 statues	2.00
1 sofa	5.00
8 chairs	25.00
2 end tables	2.00
4 stands	2.00
1 pedestal	.50
2 vases	5.00
2 pr lamps	2.00
1 tea table	4.00
1 coffee table	4.00
1 corner stand	.50

5 rugs	20.00
2 light fixtures	7.50
6 ash trays	no value
1 cigarette box	no value
1 Electrola	5.00
2 venetian blinds	5.00

Dining Room and Breakfast Room:

7 rugs	15.00
1 venetian blind	2.50
1 light fixture	3.50
1 mirror	5.00
5 pictures	2.50
8 dining chairs	16.00
1 screen large	7.50
1 screen fire	.50
1 cabinet	10.00
1 china cabinet	7.50
5 pr candle sticks	10.00
1 pair vases	5.00
2 fruit bowls	.50
3 cake plates	1.00
1 table mirror	.50
2 salt and pepper sets	2.00
4 bells	2.00
22 side board silver	100.00
1 decanter	2.00
1 tureen and tray	10.00
1 cocktail shaker	1.00
1 glass ornament	no value
1 cabinet silver, china and glassware	25.00
1 blue tea set	2.50
1 sofa	7.50
9 sofa pillows	no value
17 pcs silver on serving Table	85.00
1 glass bowl on serving Table	1.00
1 drawer flat silver	50.00
3 drawers table linens	5.00
2 compartments glass and china	5.00
10 nut cups	no value
47 pcs glassware on	

dining table	5.00
1 set andirons, flower pot and 2 jars on hearth	10.00
1 breakfast room cabinet glassware, odds and ends	50.00
1 breakfast room closet, glassware, odds and ends	25.00
1 basket kitchen cutlery	.50
1 floor cover	no value
3 tables	3.50
5 chairs	2.50
2 shades and curtains	1.00

Kitchen:

2 clocks	1.00
1 cabinet utensils	2.00
1 electric stove	20.00
2 electric refrigerators	65.00
1 utility cabinet with dishes	5.00
2 bread boxes	no value
3 shades	no value
1 ironing board	no value

Servants Room:

1 bed complete	4.00
1 table	.50
2 chairs	.50
1 ladder	no value
2 shades and curtains	no value
1 mirror	.50
3 linoleum rugs	no value

Entrance:

2 rugs	3.00
1 chair	
1 lamp	no value
2 trunks	2.00
9 sofa pillows	no value

Personal Effects:

1 new suit	25.00
1 fur neck piece	25.00

1 fur cape	50.00
1 fur coat – old	no value
2 negligees and bed room xlippers	no value
4 coats, summer and winter – old	no value
1 velvet dress and hat	10.00
6 pr shoes worn	no value
Underwear	no value
12 dresses, old	no value
8 hats, old	no value
4 rings	5.00
3 watches	1.00
1 bracelet	1.00
1 brooch	5.00
 GRAND TOTAL	 \$109,519.86

**State of Alabama
Madison County
January 25, 1940**

Before me, Rachel Tomlinson, a Notary Public in and for said county and state this day personally appeared Charles Fletcher, known to me, who being first duly sworn, makes oath that he is the Executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, that the foregoing inventory embraces a correct list of all the goods, chattels and properties composing the estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, coming into his possession or under his control, or of which he has knowledge.

Charles Fletcher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 25th day of January 1940.

Rachel Tomlinson
Notary Public

**State of Alabama
Madison County
In the Probate Court of Madison
County
January 27, 1940**

In the matter of the administration of the estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased.

Charles Fletcher, as executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, having filed under oath, an inventory of the goods, chattels, debts, moneys and other properties of the decedent coming into his possession or of which he has knowledge, comprising the estate of the said decedent, Mamie Fletcher Coleman, it is now Ordered, Adjudged, and Decreed that Milton Cummings, Milton Tate and T. G. Melson, all of Madison County, Alabama, be, and they are hereby appointed as appraisers and are directed to make an appraisal of all the assets of the decedent set forth and specified in said inventory, and make a return of such appraisal under oath to this court.

Made this the 27 day of January, 1940.
W. E. Butler
Probate Judge

**State of Alabama
Madison County
In the Probate Court
March 19, 1940**

In the Matter of the Estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased

REPORT OF APPRAISERS:

This day came Milton Cummings, Milton Tate, and T. G. Melson, who were heretofore appointed as appraisers to appraise the assets of the estate of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, and filed their report as such appraisers.

ORDERED by the court that the same be filed and recorded.

W. E. Butler
Judge of Probate

**In the Matter of the Administration of
the Estate of Mamie Fletcher
Coleman, deceased**

Decree

The petition of Charles Fletcher as the Executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, filed in this cause, coming on to be heard.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Mamie Fletcher Coleman died on the 2 day of December, 1939, and was at the time of her death a resident and inhabitant of Madison County, Alabama, and that she, the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman left a last will and testament which has been duly proven and admitted to Probate in this the Probate Court of Madison County, Alabama.

That by the terms of such will the said Mamie Fletcher Coleman nominated and appointed Charles Fletcher and Milton H. Lanier, of Madison County, Alabama, as Executors and that Milton H. Lanier renounced his right to act as one of such Executors, and that Charles Fletcher was duly appointed and qualified as the sole Executor of such will, and has been

administering said estate under the orders and decrees of this Court, and is now the duly qualified Executor of said will.

It further appearing that more than six months have elapsed since the appointment and qualification of Charles Fletcher as such Executor, and that the time has passed for the filing and presentation of claims against said estate, and that all claims against said estate including all Federal, Estate and inheritance or succession taxes have been paid and satisfied.

It further appearing that by the terms of such last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, she devised and bequeathed all or her properties to the said Charles Fletcher and that there is now on hand as a part of the assets of said estate:

One hundred (100) shares of the common capital stock of the United States Steel Corporation, evidenced by Certificate No. N38758.

One hundred (100) shares of the common capital stock of the United States Steel Corporation, evidenced by Certificate No. N38759.

Sixteen (16) shares of stock of the First National Bank of Huntsville, Alabama, evidenced by Certificate No. 438, which said properties are free of liens or claims or said estate and rightfully belong to Charles Fletcher by the terms of said last will and testament, and that said Charles Fletcher as such Executor desires to have authority from this Court to transfer and assign to himself individually, said stock.

The Court being of the opinion that the prayer of the petition should be granted, and the Executor should be authorized to transfer such stock to himself.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that Charles Fletcher as the

Executor of the last will and testament of Mamie Fletcher Coleman, deceased, is now authorized and empowered to transfer, assign and set over to himself said stocks hereinabove particularly described and to do all things necessary for the vesting of full and complete title thereto in and to himself.

Made this 12 day of May 1941.

Thomas W. Jones
Judge of Probate of
Madison Co., Alabama

~~~~~end~~~~~

**State of Alabama**  
**Madison County**  
**In the Probate Court**  
**May 25, 1917**

**Alabama Power Company, applicant**  
**vs. Roger W. Atwood, defendant**

To the Alabama Power Company or  
Spragins and Speake, its attorneys:

You are hereby notified that Roger W. Atwood has appealed to the Circuit Court of Madison County, Alabama from an order of condemnation rendered against him in the above cause on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1917, by the said Probate Court.

Roger Atwood  
Taylor Watts, Attorneys

Roger W. Atwood hereby demands a trial of this cause by jury, and this demand is made at the time of taking the above appeal. This 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1917. Taylor Watts, attorney for Roger W. Atwood.

**Alabama Power Company**  
**vs. Roger W. Atwood, et al**

**In the Court of the Probate of**  
**Madison County, Alabama**  
**August 23, 1917**

Whereas, an application was heretofore filed by the Alabama Power Company against Roger W. Atwood and others, in the Court of Probate of Madison County, Alabama, seeking to condemn to its use certain rights of way and easements over and across certain lands therein described, in which cause said court made an order granting the application, and commissioners were appointed by said court, who assessed the damage and compensation of the defendant, Roger W. Atwood, mentioned as the owner of the lands described in paragraph one of Article Four of the petition and application, at one hundred seventy five dollars, which sum has been heretofore deposited in money in said Court of Probate by said petitioner and applicant, Alabama Power Company:

And whereas, the said defendant, Roger W. Atwood, has taken an appeal to the Circuit Court of Madison County, Alabama from the order made by said Court of Probate condemning the lands described in said paragraph one of Article Fourth of said petition and application and belonging to said defendant;

And whereas, all differences between the said parties, including the amount of damages and compensation of the said defendant, have been compromised and settled.

It is, therefore, agreed by the parties hereto that the Judge of said Court of Probate, or the clerk of said Circuit Court of Madison County, is hereby authorized and directed to pay over to the said defendant, Roger W. Atwood, or



his attorneys of record, Taylor and Watts, the said sum of \$175 being the damages and compensation assessed for said defendant, Roger W. Atwood, as the owner of the lands described in said paragraph one of Article Fourth of said petition and application and that the appeal so taken by the said defendant is hereby withdrawn and dismissed by him at the petitioners cost.

And it is further agreed between the parties that the order of condemnation heretofore rendered in said cause by said Court of Probate, from which said appeal was taken, is and shall remain in full force and effect.

And it is further understood that this agreement shall be filed in the said Circuit Court of Probate and that no final record in the cause shall be made in said Circuit Court of Madison County.

Witness this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 1917  
Alabama Power Company

Editor's Note: The following are miscellaneous pieces of information found in the probate packet, mostly bills that were submitted against Atwood's estate. It gives us some indication of his personal life.

**Estate of William Atwood  
1836**

**Case no. 195**

Wm. Veitch And Company  
September 16

1 pair linen pants vest and socks \$6.88

The above articles were grave clothes for W. Atwood. Rec. Payment of P. T. Posey, administrator of the estate of William Atwood, deceased, February 27, 1837, signed by Wm. Veitch & Co.

\*\*\*

Received 3 October 1837, of P. T. Posey, administrator of the estate of William Atwood, deceased, \$13.25 in full of the corporation taxes levied against said estate for the year 1837.

\*\*\*

B. M. Lowe, 1837 submitted a bill to the Estate of Wm. Atwood Deceased, 1836, September 11, for 10 yards white cambric at \$7.50; ribbon and lace, 4 yards, \$.25 for total of \$7.50.

\*\*\*

On the last day of January 1837, we or either of us promise to pay John Smith ? order \$100 for hire of negro boy Wiley. The said boy we bind ourselves to furnish three good suits of clothes, two for summer and one of woolen for winter two pair strong shoes, two pair woolen socks one wool hat and one large stout blanket and return said boy on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December next as interest our hands and seals this 11 January 1836. Signed by Wm. Atwood and P. T. Posey

*Presented 25 January 1837, received Huntsville 20<sup>th</sup> Feby 1839 of P. T. Posey as the security to the within note \$100 principal and \$17 interest on the within note. Signed by John Read*

\*\*\*

**State of Alabama  
Madison County  
July 18, 1838**

This day personally appeared before me ?, an acting justice of the peace for said county, P. T. Posey and made oath that Doctors Fearn and Erskine were in the habit of attending to the family of William Atwood, deceased, for some years previous to his death and that they

were his attending physicians during his last illness, which commenced sometime about the last of May or first of June 1836. He therefore believes the above account to be just and due after all just credits and that \$72.50 of the same was for services during his last illness.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1838.

(The bill shows visits on June 10, 18, 20 (cutting gums for negroe child, 1.00), July 4, 7, 9, 12, 17, August 14, 17, 21, 23, 26, 30, September 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 for 1836 and 1837, \$91.27 (Editor's note: there is an obvious discrepancy of almost \$20 difference between the bill and the request.

\*\*\*

For printing 100 funeral tickets: 5.00  
Ad to creditors and debtors 3.50  
Ad for Philis, a negro woman for sale 2.25  
Ad for house and lot for sale 8.00  
Total 18.75

\*\*\*

To David Moore, Dr.

To rent of house and lot in the town of Huntsville from 22 day of Dec. 1830 until 11 day of Feb. 1832 at \$230 per annum 1 year 19 days: \$261.30  
(By cash received 15 February 1832 \$50.00.)

Total due: \$211.30  
By 9 days at 6.3 cents 5.24  
By postage 20.60  
By amount paid ? for repairs 24.62 ½

Total 160.83 paid March 22 in part of the within 60.00 signed by David Moore, on another day, received in part, \$40.00 presented April 3, 1838 to P.T. Posey, administrator.

William Atwood died intestate (meaning without a will) in 1836. The physical description of his land is typical for that time: beginning at the northwest corner of James Donegan's lot, then 50

degrees west through three chains to a stake ?, north forty degrees to ? chains and fifty four links to a stake, then north fifty degrees, east three chains to a stake then south forty degrees. The property had been sold to William Atwood by Elias P. Smith and his wife. Atwood also owned the lot connected by William Feeney's lot.

\*\*\*

Children and heirs of William Atwood are William P. Atwood, Elizabeth B. Atwood, Caroline P. Atwood, ? I. Atwood and Henry P. Atwood who are all infants under the age of 21 years and reside in state of Alabama. Pharis T. Posey asked that real estate be sold to pay debts against estate.

\*\*\*

On March 15, 1838, George Steele signed an affidavit asserting that Thomas Bibb had work done (by William Wilson) in 1835 for William Atwood, for a brick addition to his dwelling house. George Steele signed that William Wilson "was the undertaker and caused the wood work to be done in and about the said job." It was submitted to Atwood's estate for payment. Balance of work and labor done due the first January 1835 was \$206.00 interest up to this day (Sept. 18, 1841) was \$110.31, for a total of \$316.31.

Before me, John Eldridge, an acting Justice of the Peace, this day personally appeared George Steele and made oath that he has lost or mislaid the note of which the above amount is a balance including interest from date which was presented to the administrator of William Atwood, deceased as shown in his memorandum book under date of December 7, 1837. Sworn and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1841, signed by George Steele and John B. Eldridge, JP.

# Madison County

## Death Certificates Of White People Buried in Maple Hill Cemetery 1908 – 1916 (Last Names beginning with “S”)

Part 12 - continued from Volume 46, Issue No. 4

Copied, Abstracted, and Contributed by Dorothy Scott Johnson

### Scholle, Hermon

Died: 3 Aug 1910 at 2:00 a.m.  
Born: Germany  
Place died: West Holmes, 1<sup>st</sup>  
ward  
Had lived there 10 years before  
death  
Cause of death: Typhoid fever  
Occupation: Baker  
Age: 56  
Reporter: L. E. Boedrick

### Schrimcher infant

Died: 11 Dec 1911 at 7:00 p.m.  
Place died: Wells Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward,  
Huntsville, Madison Co., Al  
Cause of death: Stillborn  
Father: J. L. Schrimcher, b. Ala  
Mother: Cora Schrimcher, b. Ala  
Reporter: J. F. Burnam

### Schrimcher infant (male)

Died: 21 March 1913  
Place died: Arnett St., Huntsville  
Cause of death: Premature  
Age: One hour  
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Henry  
Schrimcher  
Reporter: F. B. Wilson, M. D.

### Schrimcher, Brooks

Died: 25 Oct 1911 at 11:00 a.m.  
Place died: Monte Sano  
Had resided there entire life  
Place Born: Alabama  
Duration of illness: Month  
Cause of death: Bowel trouble  
Age 1 yr., 3 mo.  
Father: Newman Schrimcher, b.  
Ala  
Mother: Margarette Schrimcher,  
b. Ala

### Schrimcher, Earl

Died: 3 Sept 1912 at 10:00 a.m.  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: West Huntsville  
Had lived there entire life  
Duration of illness: One month  
Cause of death: Ileocolitis  
Age: 2 yr., 3 mo.  
Father: Walter Schrimcher, b.  
Ala.  
Mother: Lily Schrimcher, b.  
Tenn.  
Reporter: O. J. Brooks

### Schrimcher, Jesse

Died: 8 Nov 1922 at 6:30 p.m.

Place died: Huntsville, Alabama  
 Duration of illness: 2 weeks  
 Age: 11 mo.  
 Father: Shelby Schrimcher, b. Ala  
 Mother: Allie Schrimcher, b. Ga.  
 Reporter: Zimmermann

**Schrimcher, Jim (Mrs.)**

Died: 11 Oct 1912 at 9:00 a.m.  
 Born: Alabama  
 Place died: Madison County  
 Had lived there one year  
 Occupation: Housewife  
 Duration of illness: 2 weeks  
 Cause of death: Malarial Hae  
 Maturia [hematuria?]  
 Age: 44 yr.  
 Reporter: O. J. Brooks

**Scott, Della**

Died: 13 Feb 1909 at 4:00 a.m.  
 Place died: Chattanooga, Tenn  
 Cause of death: Pneumonia  
 Age: 16 yr.  
 Buried: Single space, Section 3  
 Reporter: Frank L. Ward,  
 Chattanooga

**Scott, Luther**

Died: 28 July 1913 at 3:00 a.m.  
 Born: Alabama  
 Place died: 309 Rison, Dallas  
 Village  
 Had lived there 18 mo.  
 Duration of illness: About 8 mo.  
 Cause of death: Pulmonary  
 Tuberculosis  
 Age: 22 years  
 Married  
 W. B. England, M. D.

**Schrimcher infant**

Died: 15 Sept 1910  
 Born: Ala  
 Place died: Wells Ave.

Cause of death: Premature birth,  
 six mo. gestation.  
 Age: ¼ day.  
 Father: J. P. Schrimcher, b. Ala  
 Mother: Cora Schrimcher, b. Ala  
 Reporter: W. W. Haden

**Scrimcher, Alven**

Died: 8 June 1908 at 8:00 a.m.  
 Born: Alabama  
 Place died: Brakes Hill, Madison  
 Co., Al  
 Had lived there 8 years before  
 death  
 Cause of death: Bowel trouble  
 Occupation: Farmer  
 Age 69 years, 4 mo.  
 Father: Jim Scrimcher, b. Ala  
 Mother: Polly Scrimcher, b. Ala  
 Buried Section 13. W  
 Reporter: H. C. Laughlin

**Scrimcher, Lina**

Died: 29 May 1910 at 12: 30  
 a.m.  
 Born: Ala  
 Place died: Huntsville, Al  
 Had lived there two years  
 Duration of illness: 2 years  
 Cause of death: Senile debility  
 Contributory cause: Confirmed  
 doper  
 Age: 74 years  
 Single  
 Father: Jim Scrimcher, b. Ala  
 Mother: Polly Scrimcher, b. Ala  
 Buried Lot 13  
 Reporter: Wm. Scrimcher,  
 Relative

**Scruggs, J. Waddy**

Died: 26 March 1908  
 Born: Madison Co., Ala  
 Place died: Huntsville 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
 Cause of death: Cancer of face  
 Occupation: Clerk

Age 55 yr  
Single  
Buried Section 13, Lot 8  
Reporter: F. E. Baldridge, M. D.

**Seat, James E.**

Died: 29 July 1908 at 10:30 a.m.  
Born: Tenn  
Place died: Clinton St.,  
Huntsville  
Had lived there about 30 years  
Duration of illness: 3 mo.  
Cause of death: Senility  
Contributory cause: Chronic  
Cystitis.  
Age: 82  
Widower  
Father: John Seat  
Mother Abbie Seat  
Buried: Section 7, Block 3  
Reporter: O. J. Brooks

**Shands, Charlotte (Mrs.)**

Died: 21 June 1914  
Born: (not stated)  
Place died: Huntsville, Al  
Occupation: Widow  
Cause of death: Senility  
Age: 88 years  
Reporter: T. E. Dryer, H. O.

**Sharp infant**

Died: 21 July 1909  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: McCullough Ave  
Duration of illness: 24 hrs.  
Cause of death: Blue baby<sup>1</sup>  
Father: Linn Sharp, b. Ala  
Mother: Fannie Sharp, b. Ky  
Reporter: O. J. Brooks, M. D.

**Sheffman, Isaac**

Died: 12 June 1910 at 11:00 a.m.

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<sup>1</sup> A child born with a heart defect that causes the blood from veins and arteries to mix, resulting in a blue cast to the baby's skin.

Born: Germany  
Place died: Clinton Ave.,  
Huntsville  
Had lived there 30 years  
Duration of illness: One day  
Cause of death: Organic heart  
disease  
Occupation: Banker  
Age: 54 years  
Married  
Reporter: H. D. Westmoreland

**Shields, Henry W.**

Died: 25 March 1914 at 2:00  
p.m.  
Born: Georgia  
Place died: West Clinton,  
Huntsville  
Occupation: Merchant  
Had lived where died 8 years  
Cause of death: Pneumonia  
Contributory cause: La Grippe –  
Exposure  
Age: 46 years  
Father: A. A. Shields, born Ga.  
Mother: Mary W. Shields, b. Ga.  
Reporter: J. L. Darwin, M. D.

**Simmons, Peter**

Died: 26 Dec 1913 at 4 p.m.  
Born: (not given)  
Place died: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Ward 2,  
Huntsville  
Occupation: Retired  
Had lived at place died about two  
years  
Duration of illness: 5 weeks  
Cause of death: Uremia  
Contributory cause: Malaria  
Age: 77  
Married  
Reporter: W. B. England

**Skinner, Josiah W.**

Died: 9 Nov 1913 at 3:00 a.m.  
Born: New York

Place died: Clinton Ave.,  
Huntsville  
Had lived there about 45 years  
Occupation: Carriage  
Manufacturer  
Duration of illness: 4 days  
Cause of death: Pneumonia  
Age: 76 years  
Married  
Father: Chester A. Skinner, b.  
New York  
Mother: Mary Skinner, b. New  
York  
Reporter: T. E. Dryer, M. D.

**Slade, F. Widner**

Died: 1 Jan 1914  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Huntsville  
Occupation: Mill hand  
Cause of death: Acute Nephritis  
Contributory cause: Malaria  
Age: 36 years  
Reporter: F. B. Wilson, M. D.

**Slaton, Thos. Benton**

Died: 26 Feb 1910 at 8:00 a.m.  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Green St., Huntsville  
Had lived there entire lifetime  
Duration of illness: 2 weeks  
Cause of death: Gangrene of  
knee joint.  
Contributory cause: Injury  
incurred at some time not  
known  
Surgery: Yes, slight wound was  
opened and irrigated.  
Age: 4 years  
Father: Thomas Slaton, b. Ala  
Mother: Fannie Strong Slaton, b.  
Ala  
Remarks: Reporter did not see  
case early; was examined by X-  
ray with negative results.  
Reporter: J. L. Darwin, M. D.

**Slaughter, Elizabeth**

Died: 22 Jan 1913  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Madison, Alabama  
Had lived there entire lifetime  
Occupation: Housewife  
Age: Not given  
Widow  
[No other info. given.]  
Reporter: L. L. Wikle, M. D.

**Sledge, Emity (Mrs.)**

Died: 3 Oct 1911 at 7:00 a.m.  
Place born: Tennessee  
Place died: 517 Mills St.,  
Huntsville  
Had lived there 7 years  
Duration of illness: 3 mo.  
Cause of death: Paralysis  
Age: 67 years  
Widower  
Reporter: W. W. Haden

**Sledge, Matilda**

Died: 21 July 1914  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: North Mill St., Ward  
1, Huntsville  
Cause of death: Accidentally fell  
out of bed and broke her neck  
Age: 1 year  
Father: Samuel Sledge, b. Ala  
Mother: Mrs. Samuel Sledge, b.  
Miss  
Remarks: Had no physician  
Reporter: H. C. Laughlin, County  
Coroner

**Smelcer infant**

Died: 25 June 1913 at 3:00 p.m.  
Place died: McCullough St.  
Cause of death: Stillborn  
Parents: Hugh & Mattie, both b.  
Ala  
Reporter: H. H. Thomas, M. D.

**Smelcer, Pearl**

Died: 31 Dec 1912 at 4:00 a.m.  
Born: Tenn  
Place died: In county near town  
(Huntsville)  
Had lived there 6 years  
Duration of illness: One week  
Cause of death: La grippe &  
Bronchial pneumonia.  
Contributory cause: Organic  
heart disease  
Age: 18 years  
Father: George Smelcer, b. Tenn  
Mother: Georgia Smelcer, b.  
Tenn

**Smith, David N.**

Died: 16 July 1914  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Tuscaloosa, Ala  
Occupation: Night Watchman  
Cause of death: Apoplexy  
Age: 57  
Married  
Remarks: Died at Bryce  
Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
Reporter: T. Lawrence,  
Tuscaloosa, Al

**Smith, George M.**

Died: 29 Sept 1912  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Birmingham, Al  
Cause of death: Pneumonia  
Age: 1 yr., 11 mo.  
Reporter: R. V. Morly, B'ham.,  
Al

**Smith, Lillie May**

Died: 9 Sept 1913 at 8:00 p.m.  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Madison, Al  
Had lived there one week  
Where disease contracted: Sick  
when she was born  
Duration of illness: Several

weeks

Cause of death: Ileocolitis  
Contributory cause: Inanition  
Age: 4 months  
Father: John T. Smith, b. Tenn  
Mother: Sarah Lee Smith, b. Ala  
Reporter: T. E. Dryer

**Smith, Mattie M.**

Died: 23 July 1912  
Born: Indiana  
Place died: Rosedale, Jefferson  
Co., Al  
Occupation: Housewife  
Cause of death: Tuberculosis  
Age: 47  
Reporter: W. F. Black

**Smith, May**

Died: 13 Sept 1910  
Place died: Huntsville  
Cause of death: Stillborn  
Father: "Don't know."  
Mother: Mary Smith, b. Tenn  
Reporter: H. C. Laughlin,  
Coroner

**Smith, Ruth**

Died: 28 May 1910  
Born: North Carolina  
Place died: Huntsville, Al  
Had lived there 3 months  
Duration of illness: 2 weeks  
Cause of death: Cholera infantum  
Contributory disease:  
Malnutrition  
Age: 7 mo.  
Father: John H. Smith, b. Ga  
Mother: Bernice Smith, b. Ga  
Reporter: F. J. Burnam

**Smith, Susan**

Died: 13 Feb 1914 at 8:00 p.m.  
Born: Ala  
Place died: Walker St., Ward 2,  
Huntsville

Had lived there all her life  
Occupation: Stenographer  
Cause of death: Tuberculosis  
Surgery: "Removal of dermoid  
cyst of ovary in 1913."  
Age: 24  
Single  
Reporter: F. E. Baldrige, M. D.

**Smith, Susie Russell**

Died: 14 Sept 1912  
Born: Ala  
Place died: Madison County,  
Alabama  
Had resided there two weeks  
Where was disease contracted:  
Before her arrival  
Duration of illness: 4 weeks  
Cause of death: Ileocolitis  
Age: 3 years  
Father: John T. Smith, b. Tenn  
Mother: Sarah Lee Smith, b. Ala

**Snyder, Haywood**

Died: 11 May 1908  
Born: Tenn  
Place died: Triana Pike, Madison  
Co.  
Cause of death: Bright's  
Disease  
Contributory cause: Tuberculosis  
Occupation: Farmer  
Age: 55  
Married  
Buried Section E, Lot 80  
Reporter: W. W. Haden, M. D.

**Snyder, Rahson**

Died: 2 Sept 1912 at 12:00 a.m.  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Randolph St., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
ward, H'ville.  
Had lived there entire lifetime  
Occupation: Farmer  
Duration of illness: Two years  
Cause of death: Tuberculosis

Contributory cause: Pleurisy  
Age: 26  
Single  
Reporter: J. L. Darwin

**Solter, Roy**

Died: 4 Sept 1912 at 10:00 a.m.  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Huntsville, Al  
Had lived there 5 mo.  
Duration of illness: One week  
Cause of death: Ileocolitis  
Contributory cause: Error in  
nutrition  
Age: 1 yr., 7 mo., 5 days  
Father: Jams Anderson Solter,  
b. Ga.  
Mother: Fannie Solter, b. Ga  
Buried Pauper plot  
Reporter: W. B. England

**Solway, Eugene**

Died: 3 Jan 1914  
Born: Alabama  
Place died: Ward Ave.,  
Huntsville  
Had lived there about 6 weeks  
before death  
Duration of illness: about 7 mo.  
Cause of death: "Intermittis"  
Contributory cause: Acute  
nephritis  
Age: 3 years  
Reporter: W. B. England, M. D.

~~~~to be continued~~~~

Do you need help finding your long lost
ancestors? Contact Coy Michael at
michael63@juno.com for help.

Marshall County Deed Record Book A

Part 31

Continued from Volume 46, Issue Number 4

Copied, Abstracted and Contributed by Coy Michael

Editor's note: Copies were previously taken from very large, aged books in the Marshall County Court House. Most of the deed books now are replaced by electronic duplication and printed to letter sized paper and placed in small books. Unfortunately, these recent copies are much more difficult to read. Question marks will be placed after names that cannot be readily interpreted.

Deed of Trust

N. B. Clark, N. G. Hamilton, B. D. Woodall

April 13, 1839

Pages 373, 374

This indenture made April 13, 1839 between N. B. Clark of the first part and N. G. Hamilton of the second part and B. D. Woodall of the third part.

Whereas that N. B. Clark is indebted to B. D. Woodall by one note for the sum of \$29.00 executed the first day of March 1839 and due the first day of December 1839 with interest from date and whereas the said N. B. Clark is desirous and willing to secure the payment of said note to the B. D. Woodall he, the N. B. Clark doth give and execute a deed in trust upon the following described property: one Bay horse eight years old.

Witness that the said N.B. Clark of the first part in consideration of the sum of one dollar cash to him in hand paid by the said N. G. Hamilton, Trustee, the receipt is hereby acknowledged and upon condition that the said N. B. Clark shall fail to pay off or discharge the

above described note by the first day of December next then the described property will be sold at auction to the highest bidder after ten days' notice by advertisement at one or more public places.

The signatures acknowledged before me this 13th of April 1839, signed, William W. Griffin, Justice of the Peace of Marshall County.

Signatures: N. B. Clark, N. G. Hamilton and B. D. Woodall.

R. S. Randles, Clerk of the Court, recorded this document May 18th, 1839 in Deed Book A on pages 373 and 374.

Deed of Trust

Edward Powers, John B. Finley, B. J. Woodall

May 13, 1839

Pages 375, 376

Whereas Edward Powers is justly indebted to John B. Finley in the sum of Thirty-three dollars due by note given one day after date and dated the 13th day of May 1839. Whereas the said Edward Powers is desirous to secure of the said John B. Finley in the sum of thirty-three

dollars by giving him a Lien on the property.

Now this indenture made and entered into this 19th day of May, 1839 between the said Edward Powers of the first part and the said John B. Finley of the second part and B. J. Woodall who is hereby appointed a Trustee in this deed of the third part.

Witnesseth that the said Edward Powers for and in consideration of the promise and the sum of one dollar paid to him in hand paid by the said B. D. Woodall, the Trustee, as aforesaid hath granted, bargained and sold unto the said B. D. Woodall the following property to wit: one sorrel yearling and one young male colt to have and to hold said property in trust.

It is agreed by both parties that the said property to remain in quiet and peaceable possession of the said Edward Powers unless default upon payment of the above stated sum by the 25th day of December next. If upon default the said B. D. Powers the said B. D. Woodall will take possession of above stated property and after giving ten days' notice at one or more public places in Marshall County and sell at public auction.

The document was signed by Edward (his mark) Powers, John B. Finley and B. D. Woodall. Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, witnessed the signatures and recorded this document in Deed Book A on pages 375 and 376 on May 16, 1839.

Land Deed

**Arthur C. Beard and Jane P. Beard to
Thomas Fearn, Arthur J. Hopkins
and Alexander Erskin**

April 22, 1839

Pages 376-378

This indenture made April 22, 1839 between Arthur C. Beard and Jane P. Beard, his wife, of the County of Marshall of this one part and Thomas Fearn, Arthur J. Hopkins and Alexander Erskin of the "Town of Huntsville", of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Arthur C. Beard and Jane, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of \$3,575.00 to them in hand paid the receipt is hereby acknowledged have this day granted, bargained and sold the following lands:

Editor's Note: The descriptions of lands sold in this deed is too lengthy to include in this article.

William M. Griffin, an acting Justice of the Peace called Jane Beard, wife of Arthur C. Beard, aside for a private examination for her to acknowledge that she agreed with this land sale without and threat or compulsion of her said husband given under her hand and seal April 22, 1839.

The deed contained the signatures of Arthur C. Beard and Jane P. Beard. R. S. Randles, Clerk of the Court, recorded this deed in Deed Book A on pages 376, 377 and 378 on May 18, 1839.

Deed of Trust

**David McAlexander, Richard Golden,
J. R. Roberts**

May 18, 1839

Pages 378, 379

This indenture made and entered into this May 18, 1839 between David Mc Alexander of the first part and Richard Golden of the second part and J. R. Roberts of the third part. Whereas the said David McAlexander is justly indebted to the said Richard Golden in the sum of \$30.00 by one note of hand dated May 15, 1839 due one day after

date, also five dollars on open account, the said David McAlexander being desirous to secure to the said Richard Golden.

Know ye that I, David McAlexander do bargain, grant and sell unto the said Richard Golden the following property to wit: one feather bed and furniture, one bedstead, one clock, one table, one kettle, two ovens together with all my household and kitchen furniture and the said Richard Golden on his part agrees that the said McAlexander shall retain in quiet possession the said property until the first Monday in March 1840 at which time should the said McAlexander make default to pay and satisfy the above mentioned debt, then in that case the property will be exposed to public sale after giving 15 days' notice at three public places.

Signed: David McAlexander, Richard Golden and J. R. Roberts

Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, personally witnessed the above signatures and recorded the document in Deed Book A on pages 378 and 379 on May 20, 1839.

Deed of Gift

John Cooper to John H. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper

May 22, 1839

Pages 379, 380

Know all men by these presents that I, John Cooper, for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I bare to John H. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper and for further consideration on one dollar to me in hand paid by the said John H. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper, the receipt is justly acknowledged, I do grant and give unto the said John B. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper the following property: one

brown mare and colt, four head of cattle, 100 bushels of corn and fodder stock, one wagon, one pot, one oven, one skillet to have and to hold the above described property.

Signed: John (his mark) Cooper, Witnesses were R. C Martin and Thomas Hooper. Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, witnessed the signatures and recorded this Deed of Gift in Deed Book A on pages 379 and 380 on May 22, 1839.

Agreement of Obligation

John C. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper to John Cooper

April 20, 1839

Pages 380, 381

Know all men by these presents that John C. Cooper, Jr. and Obediah B. Cooper are held firmly unto John Cooper, Sr. in the sum of \$250.00 to be paid to the said John Cooper, Sr., by this seal on this April 20, 1839.

The condition of the above obligation is such whereas I, the said John Cooper, Sr., being old and unable to work for my living and having but little property having this day giving it all up to my two sons, John C. Cooper, Jr., and Obediah B. Cooper on condition that they maintain me and their mother through life, now if the said sons do maintain or cause to be maintained me and their mother through life then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and affect against them. I have set my hand and seal this April 20, 1839.

Signed J. C. Cooper and O. B. Cooper.

Before me, Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, personally appeared the parties for giving bond and I acknowledge the signing, sealing and delivery of the same. I set my seal this

May 22, 1839. This transaction was recorded in Deed Book A on pages 380 and 381 May 22, 1839.

Deed

William Green, John Green, Reuben Green, Moses Rush

April 17, 1836

Pages 381, 382

This indenture made and entered into this 17th day of April 1836 between William Green, John Green, Reuben Green and Moses Rush, who intermarried with Frances Green, all heirs of Burket Green deceased under his will and are now citizens of the County of Madison of the first part and John Baker of the second part.

Witnesseth that the said William Green, John Green, Reuben Green and Moses Rush for and in consideration of the sum of \$25.00 to each of the above named heirs of the said Burket Green, deceased, to them in hand paid by the said John Baker hath this day bargained, sold and conveyed to the said John Baker a certain tract of land described as the SE part of fractional section 34 in Township seven of Range three East in the district of land subject to swale at Huntsville containing 44 acres.

Signed by William Green and John (his mark) Green and Moses Rush.

Booker Smith, Justice of the Peace witnessed the above signatures.

Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, and recorded this deed in Deed Book A on pages 380 and 381 on May 24th, 1839.

Deed

Richard Griffin and Norcisso Griffin to Isham H. Fennell

January 21, 1839

Pages 382, 384

This indenture made and entered into January 21, 1839 between Richard Griffin and Norcisso Griffin, his wife, of the first part and Isham H. Fennell of the second part.

Witness that Richard Griffin and Norcisso Griffin, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of \$5,500.00 to them paid in hand the receipt acknowledged hath this day bargained, sold and conveyed to the said Isham H. Fennell that certain tract or parcel of land as described: that part marked "C" in Fractional Section 17, Township 7 of Range 3 East containing 111 and 72/100 acres, also part of Fractional Section 18 of Township 7 of Range 3 East marked in part "C" containing 12 acres.

Signatures: Richard Griffin and Norcisso (her mark) Griffin.

William M. Griffin, Justice of the Peace, witnessed the signatures. Norcisso Griffin was called apart and examined to determine that she signed without any fear or threat of her husband.

Richard S. Randles, Clerk of the County Court, certified the above document was filed in his office and recorded in Deed Book A on pages 382 and 383 on May 24, 1839.

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Part 10

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Transcribed by Coy Michael

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Marshall County

Abstracts of the Joel Ledbetter Family

Copied, Abstracted and Contributed by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves

First Families of the Tennessee Valley was established to document and recognize the earliest settlers of North Alabama, those who arrived before Alabama attained statehood on December 14, 1819, as well as their descendants. Everyone who is eligible for membership is encouraged to apply. Much interesting information has been gleaned from the applications and proofs, and this issue of Valley Leaves will focus on the Joel Ledbetter family from Marshall County. For information on those families that have already been proven, see the TVGS website.

Joel Ledbetter

Joel Ledbetter was the son of Reverend Henry Ledbetter, a Calvinist minister. Although originally from Virginia, Rev. Henry Ledbetter's journeys can be traced to North Carolina and South Carolina. Henry was shown on the tax list of Orange County/Caswell County, North Carolina. Part of the county was reorganized in 1777 and Caswell County was created.

Joel grew up in Orange County, North Carolina. In 1792 the family moved to Franklin County, Georgia. There was a great migration to Georgia and South Carolina during this time period and the Ledbetters moved with others in search of cheaper land. The family moved to Oglethorpe County, Georgia in 1794 and to Pendleton District, South Carolina in 1798. (note: one source says Egbert County, Georgia.)

Joel was listed on the 1800 census of Pendleton District, South Carolina (later named Anderson County) and indicated he was over 45 years old, as was his wife, Kitty/Catherine (Brazelton). In the family were six white males, six white females, and four slaves.

A few years later, in 1810, Joel and his wife sold their homestead of 650 acres of land on Richland Creek to his son, John. The family then immediately departed for Elbert County, Georgia and soon continued their journey to Madison County, Mississippi Territory. The community now known as New Hope was first known as Vienna. The deed for Joel Ledbetter's property was recorded on April 8, 1814 in Book H, page 418 of the Deed Records of Madison County, Alabama.

At the time Joel Ledbetter made his way into the Alabama Territory, his oldest son, John, stayed in Anderson County. Joel gave John 650 acres, noted to be his home place, in the Pendleton District, South Carolina. This information was recorded in Anderson County Deed Records Vol. K - 128 and also at Walhalla, Oconee County, north of Anderson County.

Joel, Sr. divided 160 acres of land and made settlement with his sons, Joel, Jr, Ephraim, Daniel and his youngest son, Henry Burford, then a minor.

Joel Ledbetter apparently died in Madison County, Mississippi Territory in or before 1815, when his estate was

settled. It is believed that Joel is buried in an unmarked grave in the Wright Cemetery near the community of Berkeley, in Madison County.

At his death, it was ordered by the court that "Joel Ledbetter, Jr. and Henry Brasselton have leave to administer on the Estate of Joel Ledbetter, Sen., their having given Bond and Security and the law direct ---- (part of page worn away) -- Grayson, Francis Adams and Stephen Debo be appointed appraiser of said Estate and it is further ordered by said Court that the administration have leave to sell the perishable property belonging to said Estate by giving Notice as the Law directs. November 20, 1815. Justices: Thomas Bibb, Abner Tatum and David Moore. Madison Co., Mississippi Territory."

Many descendants lived near the Marshall County community of Cottonville and the nearby Madison County community of Vienna/New Hope.

Among the assumed 12 children was Ephraim Ledbetter, born in 1784 in Caswell County, North Carolina. He married Hester Thurston Smith at Elbert County, Georgia on January 24, 1808 and died on July 4, 1841 in Pope County, Arkansas.

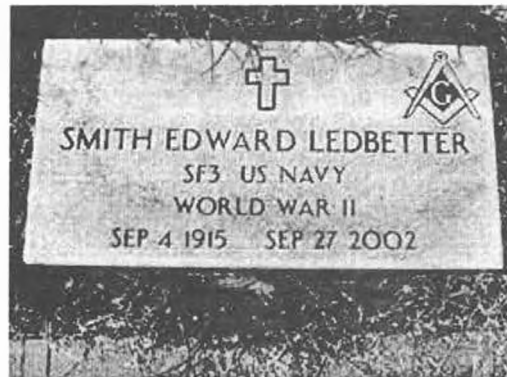
Their son, Solomon Smith Ledbetter, born October 16, 1824 in Madison County, married Elizabeth Douglass in 1849 and died April 2, 1885 in Marshall County.

Their son, Edward Douglas Ledbetter, was born July 30, 1853 in Madison County, married Nancy Jane Walker on June 10, 1875 in Marshall County, and died June 19, 1917 in Marshall County.

Their son, Oscar Smith Ledbetter, was born in Madison County on May 10, 1881, married August 1, 1909 to Maxie

Nelson Overton in Cottonville, and died February 21, 1942 in New Hope.

Their son, Smith Edward Ledbetter, member of First Families of the Tennessee Valley, was born in Cottonville, married Elizabeth Jordan at New Hope, and died September 27, 2002. He is buried in the Walker Cemetery in Marshall County.



A family Bible, attributed to Oscar Smith Ledbetter and Maxie Nelson Overton, indicates their date of marriage was August 1, 1809 in Cottonville, Alabama. This Bible records much valuable family information:

Solomon Smith Ledbetter b. October 16, 1824, d. April 2, 1885 (note: his headstone at the New Hope City Cemetery has the Masonic emblem inscribed on it. He was a constable in Marshall County in 1858 and in 1870, he served as the tax collector. He was an officer in Nathan B. Forrest's Cavalry and fought at the Battle of Shiloh).

Elizabeth Walker Ledbetter, b. October 6, 1826, d. January 14, 1893 (note: records from the New Hope City Cemetery indicate she was born October 6, 1827 and died January 14, 1893. Another record indicates her name was Elizabeth Douglas).

Laura James Ledbetter, b. November 9, 1849, d. October 9, 1917

Ephraim Ledbetter, b. June 10, 1851, d. August 16, 1896

Edward Douglas Ledbetter, b. July 30, 1853, d. June 19, 1917 (note: one source says he was born in 1854 in Marshall County, married Miss Nancy Walker, had three sons, four daughters, and in 1914, the family lived in Grant, Marshall County).

Nancy J. Ledbetter, b. September 15, 1853, d. January 11, 1905

Minnie W. Ledbetter, b. May 1, 1875, d. April 6, 1890

Mollie B. Ledbetter, b. May 19, 1876

Jas. M. Ledbetter, b. November 10, 1877

Laura F. Ledbetter, b. April 2, 1880

Oscar Smith Ledbetter, b. May 10, 1881, died February 21, 1942

Willie M. Ledbetter, b. June 23, 1883

Lucy K. Ledbetter, b. January 29, 1885

Edward G. Ledbetter, b. February 22, 1887

Maxie Overton Ledbetter Walker, b. August 2, 1888, d. March 8, 1971

Annie B. Ledbetter, b. April 27, 1889

Jno. E. Ledbetter, born October 14, 1891

Delphia Ledbetter, b. May 14, 1910

Verna Gladys Ledbetter, b. October 26, 1912

Smith E. Ledbetter, b. September 4, 1915 (member of First Families of the Tennessee Valley.)

Oscar S. Ledbetter, b. October 31, 1924

Joe Overton Ledbetter, b. February 1, 1927

Polly Edith Ledbetter, b. December 26, 1928, died November 10, 1929.

Other interesting family records:

Ephrame (perhaps Ephraim was named for him?) married January 24, 1808 in Elbert County Georgia to Hester Smith who was born in 1790 in South Carolina. Ephrame died after 1850 in Marshall County, Alabama. They had nine sons and three daughters. He was the father of Solomon Smith Ledbetter.

Of Ephrame's children, Gardner Caswell Ledbetter was born in South Carolina in 1808 and died in Rome, Georgia in 1892. He served in the Confederate Army and was a prisoner of war at Ft. Donaldson. He taught school, worked as a merchant, and a farmer. In was in the 1840 and 1850 census in Madison County, but the 1860 and 1870 census of Marshall County indicates he was living there.

Archie Ledbetter was killed in Limestone County by a man named McKinney. His older brother, Gardner Caswell Ledbetter followed McKinney to Arkansas, but was unable to apprehend him.

Joel Ledbetter and his brother-in-law, J. J. Dillard, graded the first railroad built in North Alabama.

Edward Douglas Ledbetter (1853-1917), married to Nancy Walker, had 10 children. Of those, Minnie Ledbetter, Jas. M. Ledbetter, and Laura Ledbetter, died young.

Nancy Walker Ledbetter had a brother, John Williams Walker, who married Mary Elizabeth Robinson. Although obviously not the same person, this John Williams Walker has been confused with the John Williams Walker of Madison County, who died at the age of 39 and was one of Alabama's first senators.

Prominent People of Guntersville

While much of the information we publish has to do with lists and names, we thought it would be interesting to have a little background on the names that appear so often in Marshall County records. Our first name is perhaps the earliest of many famous people who eventually came to this part of Marshall County.

Larry J. Smith, in his book "Guntersville Remembered," gives us an interesting look back to the year 1539. Hernando DeSoto, along with about 700 other Spaniards, landed near present-day Tampa, Florida in search of North American gold. A national commission appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to establish DeSoto's route found that while he did not go through many places originally thought to be on his route, De Soto did come into the area where Guntersville is now located.

What DeSoto and his men found was an Indian village on Pine Island, where Indian and Spanish artifacts have been discovered, and the McKee Island village of Tali. According to extensive research, DeSoto and his men spent the night of Saturday, July 10, 1540 on Henry Island.

Unfortunately, this may remain another of the many mysteries and unproven myths in history. Several accounts, written by men who were on the expedition, do not agree with each other. For now, the artifacts of that era will have to speak for themselves.

John Gunter (ca. 1765 – 1835) Marshall County, Alabama

Donna Causey, editor of www.alabamapioneers.com has provided the following research on John Gunter,

the namesake of the Marshall County city of Guntersville, Alabama.

One of the first persons to settle in Marshall County was John Gunter, a Scotsman who migrated from North Carolina after the Revolutionary War around 1785. He found a salt deposit and decided to settle near the Tennessee River and trade with the Cherokees. The Cherokees originally had a village near the site of Red Hill, a point about twelve miles southeast from Guntersville. The town of Guntersville is named after John Gunter.

"Chief Bushyhead, head of the Paint Clan, brought his beautiful 15 year old daughter, GHE-GO-HE-LI, to exchange for Gunter's salt. Gunter accepted the offer and changed his bride's name to Katherine and Chief Bushyhead and Gunter signed a treaty stating "as long as the grass grows and the waters flow the Indians can have salt."

John and Katherine Gunter had seven children. His son Edward Gunter served with Gen. Andrew Jackson at the battle of Horseshoe Bend and stayed with him throughout the war. He stated a ferry across the Tennessee River in 1818 and had seven children by two marriages. At times, he was also called Edmond or Ned.

Sam Gunter, another son, died on Town Creek in Alabama about 1835. He left a son George Gunter, who became a captain in the Second Cherokee Mounted Guards during the Civil War.

His third son, John Gunter, Jr. became a leader among his people and was his father's favorite. "He was described as a wild and reckless spender. He moved to the Indian Territory and operated a store at Webber Falls and also owned a steamboat that plied between Cincinnati, Ohio, and his home town of Gunter's

Landing. He died aboard his boat of smallpox and was buried below Morrilton on the Arkansas River."

John and Katherine had four daughters and only Aky was not mentioned in the will. She may have died early after she married Alexander McCoy. They did not have children.

Their daughter Catherine Gunter was born in 1811 in Alabama and moved to the Indian Territory in 1838. She married Oliver W. Lipe the following year and they operated a store at Tahlequah. They had six children: Dewitt Clinton Lipe, born Feb. 17, 1840; Nance Gunter Lipe, born in 1844 and killed in a skirmish near Fort Gibson in 1826; Jennie Lipe, born in 1846 and married P. M. Blackstone, died in 1894; Clark C. Lipe, born in 1853, died in 1901; Oliver Lipe died in infancy and Fanny Lipe, born 1853, died when she was 16.

Another daughter, Elizabeth Gunter was born in 1804. She married Martin M. Shrimsher at Creek Path in 1831. They had a son John Gunter Shrimsher, born in 1835 who served as captain in the Confederate Army and was twice sheriff of Cooweescoowee District, Indian Territory. He later served as judge and senator of that district but was killed by lightning July 5, 1905. His mother Elizabeth Gunter Shrimsher died in his home near Claremore in 1877.

A third daughter, Martha Gunter married Hugh Henry. He was the father of the present heads of the house of Henry in Madison County. Her father John Gunter evidently disliked Hugh Henry because in his will he left Martha

the same amount of money as his other children but that her brothers be in charge of it so Hugh Henry could not get it. Martha later married Dick Blackburn and moved to Indian Territory, and settled at Fort Smith, Arkansas. Albert G. Henry and Patrick Henry were two of their children or grandchildren and were reliable, safe merchants in the wholesale markets in Marshall County.

"John Gunter was described as a man of great ability and exemplary character. The Cherokees admired him and accepted him into their tribe. After other white settlers arrived, Gunter was called on by both the whites and Indians to act as a mediator in disputes and treaties. Before his death in 1835, He became a wealthy land owner and an influential person in the area."

John and Katherine's home was located at the foot of the hill near the present George Houston Bridge for many years. The large double-story house had a "dog trot" hall between the double partitions. The house was "L" shaped and had a large smokehouse at the end of the "L" It was the largest structure in the county for many years, and when John Gunter, Jr. acquired it, he painted it white and it became known as the white house.

Do you have interesting, never-before-published family history relating to Madison, Marshall, or Jackson Counties? We'd love to publish it in a future issue of *Valley Leaves*!

The John W. Walker Descendants, Marshall County, Alabama, 1792 – 1982

Part 1

The book of this title was written by Frankie Ann Walker Roberts of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The index for this book has been compiled and graciously shared by Priscilla J. Scott, a volunteer at the New Hope Library as well as a member of the TVGS Board of Directors.

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~to be continued~

Things You Should Know

Tour of Redstone Arsenal

Due to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, access to Redstone Arsenal was dramatically cut until just recently. Members of Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society went on a tour on September 22, 2012 of a few plantation sites and cemeteries. Stops on the tour, as well as much background information on them, is listed below:

Stop 1: Oakendale Plantation

| Dates Owned | Owner |
|--------------------|--|
| 1809-1820 | William Thompson |
| 1820-1837 | James Manning |
| 1837-1844 | George F. and Peyton T. Manning (sons of James) |
| 1844-1845 | Gen. Bartley M. Lowe (brother-in-law of George and Peyton) |
| 1845-1845 | Thomas W. White |
| 1845-1873 | Luke and Lucy Matthews |
| 1873-1892 | James P. Matthews (son of Luke) |
| 1892-1896 | Elizabeth Davis |
| 1896-1920 | Congressman Lowndes H. Davis (son of Elizabeth) |
| 1920-1924 | Clarendon Davis (son of Lowndes) |
| 1924-1942 | Mayburn G. Chaney |
| 1942-present | U.S. Army |

Stop 2: Boardman's Mills and Lipscomb Cemetery

| Dates Owned | Owner |
|--------------------|---|
| 1818-1846 | Elijah Henry Boardman (operated Boardman's Mills with his brother John) |
| 1846-1870 | Richard Lipscomb |
| 1870-1910? | George W. Ward |
| 1910?-1942 | Mollie W. Jones |
| 1942-present | U.S. Army |

John and Elijah Boardman were originally from Whitesborough, NY. They arrived in north Alabama in 1818. John served as County Clerk in Morgan (then Cotaco) County before moving to Huntsville and becoming a printer. He printed the first Alabama Constitution in 1819 and edited the *Alabama Republican*. Elijah established a plantation on over 1000 acres and became a celebrated horse breeder. Elijah and his family owned 35 slaves by 1830.

Stop 3: Mullin's Flat and Center Grove Methodist-Episcopal Church

Mullin's Flat stretched from the base of Madkin Mountain to Huntsville Spring Branch, west to Indian Creek and east to McDonnell Branch. The community center included a blacksmith shop, casket maker, and country store and a couple churches including the Pine Tree Colored Baptist Church and the Centre Grove Methodist-Episcopal Church. A Rosenwald School, known as the Silver Hill School, stood to the south along what is now Dodd Road in the midst of several parcels owned by black farmers.

Stop 4: Cooper-Lea-Harris Plantation

- 1818 – 25-year-old James Cooper acquires 155.16 acres
- ~1818 – Cooper builds first phase of plantation house
- 1832 – Cooper marries Charity Allison
- 1834 – Cooper kills himself, Charity begins managing plantation
- 1840 – Charity marries Houston Lea, transferring ownership of the plantation in a prenuptial agreement to her brother-in-law, James W. Fennell
- 1841 – Charity and Houston add an I-house to the original structure
- 1853 – Houston Lea dies
- 1860 – census indicates that Charity owned 37 slaves and \$30,000 worth of real estate
- 1862 – Charity detained by Union troops after Confederate bushwhackers burn her cotton crop which she had sold to the Union Army
- 1867 – Plantation sold at sheriff's auction to Fennell family to cover Charity's debt
- 1900 – property sold out of Fennell/Allison family
- 1920 – J. B. Harris acquires property
- 1927 – J. B. Harris builds Harris House
- 1941 – Army assumes ownership of the Lea Mansion and Harris House
- 1973 – Most of the mansion moved to Madison

Stop 5: Timmons Plantation and Cemetery

- 1818 – 28-year-old John Timmons begins buying up land in the area
- 1830 – John marries Catherine "Kittie" Quay Finch, daughter of Hugh Finch, a local planter
- 1840 – John's wife Catherine dies; John Timmons is shown as owning 51 slaves
- 1845 – John Timmons dies leaving his six-year-old son William an orphan
- 1845-1860 – William is cared for by his aunt Margaret Finch under the guardianship of John Simpson; Houston Lea managed the Timmons estate including the plantation slaves which numbered 92 by 1860
- ca. 1857 – William fathers a child with Louisa, a slave on the Timmons Plantation
- 1860 - Margaret Finch and her sister petition William Timmons to sell their commonly-owned slave, Silva and her children to settle debts

- ca. 1861 – William marries Annie Eliza Latham; William borrows money from Annie to pay someone to enlist in the CSA in his stead; William and Annie have their first child and name her Kittie Quay after William's mother
- 1865 – William files for a presidential pardon for contributing to the CSA; William files for a marriage license with Louisa, the former Timmons slave
- 1869 – William sells plantation land to several former slaves, including William Joiner at between \$9.00 and \$11.60 per acre
- ca. 1870 – Louisa marries William Joiner
- 1899 – Margaret Finch dies (possibly buried in NE corner of Timmons Cemetery)
- 1905 – Annie Eliza Latham Timmons dies at age 69
- 1906 – William Timmons dies at age 67, 7 months after his white wife
- 1913 – H. Holmes Crebbs purchases the 1165.53 acre Timmons Plantation from the Timmons heirs and operates the plantation as an absentee owner
- 1918 – Crebbs loses land to the W.R. Rison Company who sells it to John and William Pitman

Stop 6: Percy Joiner House

- 1912 – Percy Joiner, son of Louisa and William Timmon's son Alexander and Pearl Jacobs, marries Ellen Lacy
- 1917 – Percy's brother Claudie drafted for World War I
- 1918 – Percy Joiner purchases the land from John and William Pitman; his brother Claudie purchases land right across the road
- 1924 – Claudie Joiner dies
- 1941 – Percy sells land to the US Army

Stop 7: Frank Jacobs House/Rankin-Dixon Cemetery

- ca. 1818 – James Dickson arrives with his children in area from Virginia via Tennessee
- ca. 1820 – Burwell Jacobs arrives in Madison County from North Carolina
- 1836 – James Dickson purchases the property; his daughter Nancy marries James B. Graham
- 1840 – John Simpson marries James and Keziah's daughter, Margaret Ann
- 1843 – James Dickson dies at age 63; his daughter Nancy purchases the property and manages it from her husband's plantation in Somerville
- 1849 – James B. Graham dies and is buried in Somerville, leaving Nancy to manage farm and raise their five children
- ca. 1855 – Nancy and her children move back to site 1Ma618
- 1862 – Dickson Graham musters into the 4th Alabama Cavalry Regiment (Russell's); Dickson was captured during the war and interned at Camp Douglas near Chicago where he contracted tuberculosis

- 1891 – Nancy dies, willing the land to her daughter Juriah and Juriah's husband Charles A. Fowler
- ca. 1910 – Juriah dies and is buried in Somerville, willing the land to her sister Julia's children, Annie, James, Thomas, and Marvin Rankin
- 1913 – the Rankin children sell the land to Frank Jacobs
- 1914 – Frank married Addie Jacobs, granddaughter of Burwell Jacobs
- 1941 – Army purchases 566.03 acres of land from Frank and Addie

Stop 8: Lacey/Joiner Cemetery

Oral history indicates that this cemetery was the slave cemetery of the Timmons Plantation. It was used by the local black population well into the 20th century. Known 1920's and 1930's burials include Maria Elle, Lottie, and Shelby Timmons, Homer Walls, Jim Turner, Joe Walker, Vernal Robinson, Aaron Tate, Pearl Jacobs (Percy and Claudie's mother), Grace and Claudie Joiner.

Interesting News from the *Pinellas Genealogist*

In Volume 35, Issue 2 (Summer 2012) of the *Pinellas Genealogist*, published in Largo, Florida, there is an interesting article written by Kari Schroeder, that helps narrow down the unknown genealogy of American Indians. There has been an ongoing debate regarding whether or not Indians emigrated at one time or over several different eras from Europe and/or Asia. After studying DNA samples from dozens of Indian Tribes and Eurasian groups, it appears that all have a similar ancestry, however most American Indians are closely related, in ancestral terms, *to each other!*

Kari Britt Schroeder, who lectures at the University of California in Davis has written, "Our work provides strong evidence that, in general, Native Americans are more closely related to each other than to any other existing Asian populations, except those that live at the very edge of the Bering Strait."

She went on to say that "A distinct DNA signature was found among all but one of the populations." Of the 23

populations tested, only the Fox Tribe was the exception. A common allele is found in 41 populations from Alaska to Chile, the Inuits in Greenland, and the Chukchi and Koryak people on the western side of the Bering Strait. That same allele was not present in the 54 Eurasian, African, and Oceanian populations that were tested.

Naturalization Records

If you need to locate Naturalization Records (after September 27, 1906), contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20536. For records that precede 1906, you can contact the court that issued the certificate of citizenship.

Military Records

War records are kept at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. 20408. Submit your request on NATF Form 80,

which can be found in your local library, on the internet, or through the National Archives.

Remember that many records are constantly added on internet websites, such as ancestry.com. If you don't want to pay for your own membership, you can go to the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, and use your library card number to log onto a public computer for one-hour increments of time. The cost to you – nothing!

Bar Codes on Tombstones

It sounds rather strange, but the day may come when all headstones have bar codes that are laser engraved and protected by a glass cover. If you have a smart phone, scan the bar code and a memorial site can be accessed that has information about the deceased. Like a website, information can be added by a webmaster, along with photos and just about any other record you can imagine. The possibilities are endless!

2013 TVGS Programs

1/24/13 – Dr. John Kvach, UAH

Topic: “A Professional Historian Using Genealogical Tools and Practices. . . Gasp! Conducting Research on the Nineteenth Century South.”

Biography: Dr. John F. Kvach teaches southern history, public history, and nineteenth-century American History at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He is currently finishing up a manuscript for the University Press of Kentucky on J.D.B. De Bow and the creation of the nineteenth-century New South. He also has another manuscript under consideration by the University of Tennessee press in which he studied the historical development of Tuckaleechee

Cove, Tennessee, (now called Townsend) using federal and state census records from 1790 to 1930.

3/2/13 (Saturday Seminar) – Mr. Jim Douthat, Mountain Press

Topics in morning: Researching East Tennessee and Appalachian Migration Routes

Topic in afternoon: Cherokee Removal Records

Biography: Mr. Douthat holds undergraduate degrees in Biology and a Masters of Divinity from Emory University and a M.A. in counseling from Tennessee Tech. in Cookeville, Tennessee. He served as a United Methodist Minister for 25 years, and now is the owner of Mountain Press, a publishing company for genealogical and historical materials. Mr. Douthat is also the Director of Institute of Historic Research, and editor of five different publications including: Southern Roots and Shoots, and Appalachian Families.

4/25/13 – Dr. Robert Davis

Topic: Ethnic Settlements in Eastern North Carolina, including the Moravians and the Quakers.

Biography: Robert Scott Davis is the director of the Genealogy Program of Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, Alabama. His duties include organizing field trips for his classes to libraries throughout the country; helping to build one of the South's most extensive genealogical collections; operating a microfilming facility; and teaching genealogy. In 2006, this program that he built received the Award for Outstanding Leadership in History from the American Association for State and Local History. Professor Davis also teaches survey courses in geography and history.

He holds a Master of Education degree in history from North Georgia College and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Bob is also a graduate of the Institute of Documentary Editing of the National Historical Records Publications Commission. His more than 1,000 publications on records and research include a number of books and more than 100 articles and reviews in professional historical, library, education, and archival journals. Robert S. Davis has been quoted in Time, Smithsonian, CNN, NBC, and the Wall Street Journal. He also wrote the chapters on Alabama and Georgia for the current edition of Ancestry's Redbook. His genealogical articles have appeared in such periodicals as Ancestry, The American Genealogist, Heritage Quest, The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal, and The National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

In Alabama and Georgia, Bob has worked to raise public awareness on saving local government records and has been a member of the Alabama governor's historical records commission. He has been the guest speaker at hundreds of meetings of civic, genealogical, and historical organizations.

7/25/13 – Cynthia Guffey

Topic: Scottish Genealogy: Tracing Your Emigrant Using 21st Century Techniques.

Family Bible Records

In previous issues of *Valley Leaves*, we have published inscriptions in the Bibles of various Madison County families. A new article has come to light from the Spring 2012 issue of *St. Louis*

Genealogical Society Quarterly, written by Viki Fagyal.

She writes that more than 1,000 entries can be found on the DAR Online Library Catalog. Type "Bible" in the subject line after accessing www.dar.org/library.

Look on the Family Search on-line records, and you will find 10,000 entries. Their website is:

<https://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc>.

See the Virginia Historical Society's website (<http://vhs3.vahistorical.org/starweb/vhs/servlet.starweb>) for 2500 entries, including the family Bible information for Stonewall Jackson's family.

For Abraham Lincoln's family Bible, see the Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov/topics).

Look at these websites for other interesting facts.

Early American Wedding Customs

The *Hopkins County Heritage*, published in Sulpher Springs, Texas, had a recent article that explained some of our early American wedding customs. Though just about anything goes these days, there were definite rules in our distant past.

It was not unusual to have a wedding at 8:00 a.m. Traditional reception food was bacon, eggs, toast, and coffee.

Evening weddings were more popular in the South and West.

The long standing rule was that receptions were to be held at the home of the bride's parents or some other relative of the bride. It was also customary that the wedding breakfast and the bride's trousseau were provided by the bride's family.

Thank you notes for gifts were to be hand-written by the bride as promptly as

possible. An engraved thank you or acknowledgement of the gift was considered a breach of etiquette.

The bride customarily accompanied the groom to buy her wedding ring and if the groom wished to have a ring, the bride would buy a plain gold band for him to wear either on the third or little finger of his left hand.

Ceremonies that were performed at the parsonage of the church (the minister's home), were called marriages, and not weddings. No reception would be held after a ceremony of this kind.

If the wedding ceremony was performed by a justice of the peace, it was not considered proper for the bride to wear a wedding dress.

The bride absolutely would not pay anything toward the cost of a honeymoon. "There is no law more inflexible than that the wedding journey shall be the undivided responsibility of the groom."

Fashionable weddings had four to six bridesmaids, but at the very least, one matron (or maid) of honor.

If the groom did not have a brother to serve as his best man, he would ask a brother of the bride.

Going-away clothing would be chosen with good taste in mind, and should not scream "just married!" to all who see them.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

Bettye Perrine

The conference was held for the nation's genealogists at the Jefferson Convention Center in Birmingham from Wednesday, August 29 through Saturday, September the 1st hosted by

the Alabama Genealogical Society. The theme this year was "Indians, Squatters, Settlers and Soldiers in the Old Southwest."

On Wednesday evening, we were bused to the historic Alabama Theatre where we enjoyed light refreshments in the spacious lobby and viewed the grandeur of one of the few remaining iconic theaters in America, with an organ music recital on the old Wurlitzer. We were treated to music by Bobby Horton who was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. He sang, told stories, and played multiple instruments: banjos, guitars, a violin and a small horn. His lifelong passion for music and history was evident, even to dressing the part. You have probably heard his music as he provided the music for many of Ken Burns' productions.

A second outing was planned as a trip to Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark. We would have learned the processes and effort that went into the production of pig iron. Unfortunately due to Hurricane Isaac, this trip had to be canceled due to the heavy rain which was expected with no covering for the participants. As it turned out, we could have gone, but it was not something that could be done at the last minute.

The Wednesday programs were geared toward helping societies, including sessions on: The Big Picture, Programs, Philanthropy & Publicity, Paths to Promotion, Preservation & Pioneer Programs, Publishing & Products for Productivity, and People, People, People! The early general meeting was Transforming Your Society into a Dynamic 21st Century Destination by D. Joshua Taylor, a dynamic, knowledgeable young man.

The Thursday, Friday and Saturday programs were for the individual

genealogist. The programs were about an hour and a half long, with 8 or 9 to choose from for each time period. They included the following selection of sections: Southern Research, Genetics, Strategies & Techniques, Records, Records, Writing and Preservation, Technology, African-American, and Soldiers. The 68 presenters were knowledgeable, entertaining, diverse and from around the United States. J. Mark Lowe and Robert Davis were among the speakers.

Each day there was a choice of 3 or 4 luncheons to attend with more good speakers. Some of us attended the Walkabouts and Chicken Men: Tales of the U. S. Census Takers by Elizabeth Shown Mills, a very qualified and entertaining speaker. Several attended the luncheon where the speaker was Connie Potter, a reference archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration in D.C. She spoke on The 1940 Census and the Great Depression.

In the Exhibit Hall, there were 70 plus commercial exhibitors including book, magazine, and software sellers, genealogical subscription services, genetic testing services, genealogical jewelry and clothes, to name a few. There were also 20 or so genealogical societies. It took a lot of time to peruse all of the vendors. You did not know whether to attend the informative sessions or to spend time seeking counsel from and seeing the new ideas for genealogists. Many of the vendors gave door prizes away on Friday night. Some were small but some were very hefty, i.e. an attendance at next year's conference or a year's subscription to Ancestry.com. Our own Kim Keller won a couple of door prizes.

Each day there were vendor demos and two hour workshops. If we had one criticism of the conference it would be that there was not enough time and it was hard to make the best choice of what to attend. The conference was closed by a Sunday farewell brunch for all.

The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society had five members in attendance: Cynthia Guffey, Kim and Cookie Keller, and Scott and Bettye Perrine. Richard White, Director of the Heritage Room of the Huntsville Public Library, attended also. All of us met others from Madison County – potential members for TVGS!

Next year's conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 21-24, 2013. The theme will be "journey.through. generations." We can go early or stay late and do research at the Allen County Public Library. See you there!



L-R: Cynthia Guffey, Richard White, Kim Keller, Scott Perrine, Cookie Keller

A Synopsis of the Original Records Published in Valley Leaves

Synopsis was compiled by Sue Bright Richter

Part 4

see <http://www.tvgs.org> for complete list

The following is a synopsis of material published in the back issues of Valley Leaves. Editorials, tidbits, book reviews, queries and introductions (which are not outlined here) can prove as valuable as the material presented. Individual and family records often span several counties but are shown in the county under which the material appeared. Queries are in all issues and Book Reviews are in most issues. All volumes consist of 200 pages plus a full-name index. Volumes prior to 13 are now available on CD.

VOLUME 11 (1976-1977) \$10.00

available on CD

North Alabama: County formation maps; Wilhite - Johnson Cemetery; reference material

Colbert: 1833 marriages & deaths; 1870 mortality schedule; North Alabamian 1833 news items; Leighton News 1899 marriages; Thompson & Gilbert letters.

Colbert - Franklin: 1855 state census.

Franklin: 1890 - 1897 marriage record.

Jackson: Clark and Smith cemeteries; 1851 - 65 marriages; 1866 Pre. Rec; 1865 Stevenson newspaper; muster roll.

Lauderdale: CSA; Liberty Cemetery; Florence Guards of 1861; Lauderdale Times marriages of 1871.

Lawrence: Letters at Courtland P. O. in 1840; Guardian Bonds/ Abstracts of 1845 - 50; Moulton Whig news items.

Limestone: McKinney - David Cemetery; tax delinquencies 1841 - 58; Marriages 1841- 58; marriages 1841 - 48; Round Island Baptist church.

Madison: Methodist conference Camper, Nale, Roberts, Rodman, Pickens & White Cemeteries; births 1886 - 93; Wills 1840; news notes.

Marshall: Cemeteries buried under water; Fennel, Griffin, Walker cemeteries; William Ditto Account Book; History of.

Morgan: Blue Spring Baptist Church Cemetery; Lamons, Lassiter & Morrow Cemeteries; County Court Record; Deeds; 1860-72 marriages.

Misc: Cleere, Kirk, Roberts, Miller - Reed - Blackburn, Shackelford & Owen Bibles; Archer, Bone, Crayten, Isom, Jones, and King estates; Fennell, Hodges, Keel, & Oates families; Jones marriage; McKinney, McClellan, Cleaves, O'Neal, Stockton, Rice, Shive obits; Vann family info.

How to: order 1900 census

VOLUME 12 (1977-1978) \$10.00

available on CD

North Alabama: University of Virginia Students from North Alabama, 1825 - 1877.

Colbert: North Alabamian 1833 news items; Tuscumbia Patriot news items 1827.

Colbert/Franklin: 1855 State census.

Franklin: 1890- 1897 marriage records.

Jackson: Chaney's Chapel Methodist Church cemetery; 1851 - 56 marriages record; 1855-1856 probate records.

Lauderdale: Liberty, Killen cemeteries; Deaths from Lauderdale Times 1871; Florence Times news 1895; Inventory Book A-1 1818 - 1822; legal ads in American Democrat 1856.

Lawrence: Christian Herald 1865 - 66; marriages 1865; grand jury report 1865; Guardian Bonds & Abstracts 1845 - 50; letters left at Moulton P. O. 1833; Moulton Advertiser character sketches on McKelvey & White Family; 1865 Grand Jury Report.

VOLUME 13 (1978-1979) \$15.00

Colbert: Charles D. Woodson Obit; Shaw Cemetery; White Bible; Extracts from 1827 Tuscumbia Patriot; Patrick H. Sheffield Tombstone; Robert Marley White Cemetery.

Franklin: Ezell Cemetery; Vinson Bible; Vinson-Hughes family. Franklin-Colbert: 1855 State Census

Jackson: Marriage Record Book 1851-56; Bynum Cemetery; Chaney's Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery; Extracts from The Jackson County Democrat; Keel Bible; Bostick Hill Church Cemetery; Probate Records, 1856-1857; 1870 Mortality Schedule; Allen Clark Property Sold.

Lawrence: Character Sketches: (1911) Judge T. M. Peters, Asa Hodges, Dr. Van Eaton, Pickett Family, John Kitchens, Werts Family, William Kirk Wallace; Almon Family, Daugherty Family, Charles Gibson, Charles Reese Gibson, Isaac N. and Frank C. Owen.

Limestone: Marriages 1856-1859; Deed Record 1, 1819-1825; Bernard Bible; A. G. Williams Obituary.

Madison: 1833 Letters left at Huntsville Post Office; Peyton S. Wyatt Headright Certificate; Register of Births, 1886-1902; Big Cove Mount Pleasant Session Book; Naturalization Records before 1850; Obits from Memphis Avalanche, 1867; Obits from the Southern Advocate.

Marshall: Probate Minutes, 1836-1839; Orphans Court Minutes, 1836-1837; Click Cemetery, Morris Cemetery, Ditto Account Book.

Morgan: Rock Creek Cemetery, Prince Cemetery, Jones Bible, Compton Cemetery, Hobson Bible, Saints Cemetery; Deed Book A, 1826-1827; Jemima (Menifee) Heard Headright Certificate, Texas.

Misc: Alexander Berryman; Indenture of Legitimacy; Gray Bible; William Hodges, Rev. soldier; Extracts from The Huntsville Weekly Mercury; James B. Speake Obit; James Burleson Sr. Headright Certificate (Gone to Texas); 1882 Petition on Buckner Walker Shackelford's "Red Rovers" at Goliad; Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Membership Certificates; Dr. B. F. Newsum death notice; Dillard, Shewbart, & Key Bible records.

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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.

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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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