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(North Alabama)

# Valley Leaves

TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Volume 50, Issues 1-2

Fall 2015

# Valley Leaves

## Back Issues Price List

Volumes 1 through 13 (1966-1980) *now available on CD!* ..... \$ 10 per volume  
Volumes 14 through 35 (1980-2001) ..... 10 per volume  
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TVGS © December 1969 ..... 12.00

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*Old Land Records of Madison County, Alabama,* Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1979,  
Reprinted 2005, 477 pages ..... 35.00  
*Old Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama,* Margaret Matthews Cowart  
Reprinted 2014 ..... 25.00  
Note: Land records books are full name indexed and have a county map at the beginning of each  
Township and Range intersection.  
*Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, Volume 2,* 377 pages, Dorothy Scott Johnson, © 1978 ..... 30.00

**Note: All publications have full name indexes. Prices include postage.**

Books may be ordered by writing to TVGS at the address below or by going to [www.tvgs.org](http://www.tvgs.org) and clicking on publications and then click on “Order Form”.

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Volume 50, Issues No. 1-2      Fall 2015

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TVGS meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library (915 Monroe St.) unless announced otherwise on the fourth Thursday of January, April, July, and October.

**TVGS Web Site:**  
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Looking for a unique gift for someone? Consider a one year membership to the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society. Send \$25 to TVGS, P.O. Box 1568, Huntsville, AL 35807-0568, along with the name, address and e-mail address of the recipient.

**Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016**  
**7 p.m.**

**Huntsville Public Library Auditorium**  
Nancy Billings will present a program on Genealogy: “Is It Bigger Than A Bread Box?”

**TVGS SPRING SEMINAR**  
**Saturday, April 2, 2016**  
**Huntsville Public Library Auditorium**  
**9 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, is a genealogist with a law degree who writes and lectures on topics ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist<sup>SM</sup> and Certified Genealogical Lecturer<sup>SM</sup>. Her blog is at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com>

**Thursday, April 28, 2016**  
**7 p.m.**

**Huntsville Public Library Auditorium**  
Dr. John Kvach, Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, will present “Understanding Dixie: Abraham Lincoln and his Southern Roots.

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Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society  
2016 Spring Seminar

**The Legal Genealogist**  
**Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL**

April 2, 2016  
Huntsville/Madison County Public Library  
Auditorium  
9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$40, includes a catered lunch



Topics:

- Building a Family from Circumstantial Evidence
- Widows and Orphans Under the Law
- Using Court Records to Tell Family Stories
- Where There is, or Isn't a Will

*The Legal Genealogist* Judy G. Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. A Colorado native with roots deep in the American south on her mother's side and entirely in Germany on her father's side, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous state and regional genealogical societies. She has written for the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and *National Genealogical Society Magazine*, among other publications. On the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Alabama, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist<sup>SM</sup> and Certified Genealogical Lecturer<sup>SM</sup>. Her blog – chosen as one of the American Bar Association's top 100 in 2013 and 2014 – appears at *The Legal Genealogist* website (<http://www.legalgenealogist.com>).

Book sales will be on site.

Registration opens on **January 1, 2016**. Register early to guarantee your enrollment!

## **Memorials To Our Fallen Leaves**

Dorothy Pearl Scott Johnson of Huntsville passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015. She was 84. Dot was preceded in death by her parents Clark and Mildred Scott of Putnam County, Missouri and her step-mother Helen Scott of Wichita, Kansas. Dot is survived by her husband of over 50 years, Walter H. Johnson, daughter Vicki Metzger of Salem, Oregon, and son, Scott F. Haas (Joni) of Madison, Alabama. She was blessed with four grandchildren, Natalie Johnson, Chris Metzger, Matt Metzger, and Brad Spruiell, and three great-grandchildren.

Dot was a celebrated genealogist and author. Her works include many genealogical reference books that are in more than 100 libraries worldwide. She spent hundreds of hours scouring the cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, copying the inscriptions from every tombstone and cataloging and indexing the names and dates. From this research she became the foremost expert on the cemeteries in the area, and was often called upon to give a history on small plots that became uncovered during construction. In addition, she was editor of Valley Leaves (Quarterly of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society) for six years.

Dot's other love was riding, showing and spoiling her American Saddlebred Long John, winning numerous medals and trophies in English Pleasure including two Kansas state championships and a runner-up.

There will be a special celebration of Dot's life on Oct. 24, 2015, at the Huntsville Public Library Heritage Room with a private family gathering to spread her ashes at a later date. Dot wanted donations to be made to the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Heritage Room, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

Dorothy Scott Johnson's education is from Wichita Business College and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She held executive secretarial positions with oil, insurance, and aerospace firms in Wichita; owner and operator, Johnson Historical Publications. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dorothy Johnson for paving the way for future Madison County historians and researchers.

The Officers and Board Members of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society express our deepest heart-felt sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy Johnson. The loss of our TVGS members and their family members are undoubtedly great; however, the contributions they made to all whom they encountered will forever be a tribute to their lives.

**JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!**

Just print off and mail the application found on the TVGS

Website at: <http://www.tvgs.org>

## Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society Meetings

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
7 p.m.  
Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

**Nancy Billings**

**Genealogy: “Is It Bigger Than A Bread Box?”**



Nancy Billings has been interested in family history since she was an early teen. She holds three certificates from the NSDAR and four certificates from the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University which is co-sponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Nancy's genealogical research focuses on families primarily in Virginia and Southern states. She coaches individuals in developing documentation of their family history. She has assisted more than 90 prospective DAR members. Nancy has presented genealogical research seminars and workshops to a variety of organizations such as the DAR, SAR, and family associations.

Thursday, April 28, 2016  
7 p.m.  
Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

**Dr. John Kvach,**

Associate Professor of History, University of Alabama in Huntsville

**Understanding Dixie: Abraham Lincoln and his Southern Roots**

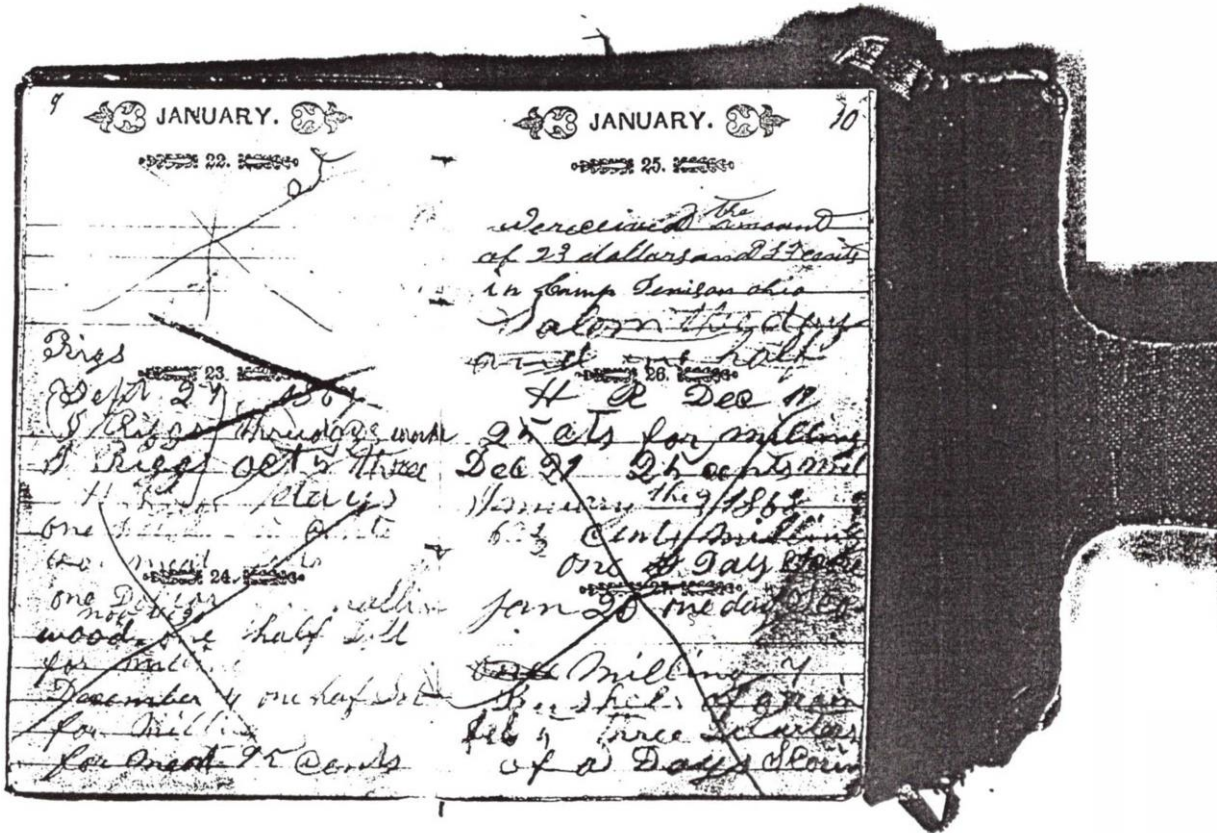


John F. Kvach, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. His teaching fields and research focus on the nineteenth-century South, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Public History. He has written numerous articles, conference papers, and book chapters on the antebellum and post-bellum South. He is the author of *De Bow's Review: The Antebellum Vision of a New South* (2013), published by the University Press of Kentucky for its New Directions in Southern History series.

Dr. Kvach teaches a wide variety of courses in American and Public History. He also founded and currently serves as the director of UAH's Public History program, the first accredited program in the state of Alabama. Dr. Kvach has received national grants from the History Channel, Smithsonian Institution, and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and currently serves on numerous state and local boards that promote history. He has also arranged more than 40 internships for his public history students since 2008. Dr. Kvach won the Daughters of the American Revolution National Medal for Historic Preservation in 2013.



# Jackson County



## Diary of a Yankee Soldier

The following contains excerpts from the diary of Henry Clay Ott, a Yankee soldier who came to Jackson County, Alabama, with the Federal Army, married a Southern girl, returned to Pennsylvania for a while, then came back to Jackson County.

Volunteered Sept. 1, 1861

**1862**

Jan. 25 - We received the amount of \$23.23 in Camp Denison, Ohio

Feb 4, Battery drill, very muddy

Feb 6, Rained last night

Feb 14, Snow fell about 4 inches deep

Feb 17 - Dark and Cloudy the snow giving

-----

Feb 18 - has been a fine day

Feb 19 - Rained all day have been in Camp Denison 4 months

Feb 20 - Some snow fell last night, went off today

Feb 21 - Went to Cincinnati to Celebrate Washington birthday and had a huge time

Feb 22 - We went back to Camp Denison got there at 10 o'clock in the knight

Feb 24 - Warm and muddy

Feb 25 - A fine clear day mud very deep

Feb 26 Drilled today with the prices (peices?) very raw air

Feb 28 - Mustard for pay this morning. Drilled in the afternoon

March 1 - The air is cold



March 4 - James Lisk Difealt died today from a cold on the Measas?  
March 7 - Marching orders don't know where we'll go.  
March 8 - Quite a lot of excitement today  
March 7 - Marched from Camp Denison, Ohio by way of railroad to Parkersburg  
March 10 - Reached Parkersburg, Virginia loaded our battery on the cars and had a hugh time with the girls.  
March 11 - Waiting for transportation  
March 12 - Weather very fine. Had a fine walk with the girls on this place  
March 13 - Received a letter today  
March 14 - Inspection of horses and harness  
March 15 - Went from Parkersburg out to Wood L. Burges 12 miles  
March 16 - Went back to Parkersburg  
March 17 - Cold & cloudy  
March 18 - Left Parkersburg and Marched by way of Grafton on the Biltmore & Ohio Railroad. Run all night  
March 19 - Cold and Cloudy  
March 22 - Sleeting-very disagreeable  
March 24 - Snowing a little  
March 26 - Samuel Piscane(Piccane?) died today. The second death in this Company  
March 27 - Got marching orders today  
March 29 - We reached New Creek and left the right section to go to Morefield, Hardy County  
March 30 - We laid all day at Green Spring Station unloaded our battery & got ready to march  
March 31 - We marched all day to the wire suspencion bridge by way of a little village named Springfield. We crossed the South Branch of the Potomac  
April 1 - Nice & warm  
April 2 - Dry & windy  
April 3 - Warm day, inspection of clothing  
April 6 - Marched to Rummny from the Suspencion Bridge  
April 7 - Cold, wind, rain, snow, we are quartered in a church house in Rummy

April 10 - Cleared up muddy  
April 12 - We received \$26 from the government, Romney, Va.  
April 14 - Raining  
April 15 - Ditto  
April 16 - Marched from Romney to Morefield - 7 miles  
April 18 - Marched 8 miles  
April 19 - Reached it, camped near the Potomac  
April 21 - Capt. Dibeck took one piece of art out 18 miles to Grocassy Lick the rebels was routed went back one mile  
April 22 - We went back to Camp our march was for nothing  
April 26 - Marched from Morefield to Petersburg, Hardy County, Va.  
April 27 - All still  
4-30-62 - Was mustered for pay  
May 2, 1862 - Started to Franklin, could not cross the river, went back and camped on the old place  
May 3, 1862 - Crossed the river marched 7 miles and camped  
May 4, 1862 - Marched 14 miles and camped slept on the ground  
May 5, 1862 - Marched 12 miles and reached Frankling the county seat of Pendleton Co., Va.  
May 6, 1862 - Laid in camp all day cooked and ate.  
May 7, 1862 - Marched 18 miles on a forced march to reinforce General Milroy at Camp McDavid  
May 8, 1862 - Marched 10 miles and reached camp Macdowd at 4 o'clock. The battle begun at 1 in the nite. We retreated marched 18 miles and stopped.  
MAY 9, 1862 - Marched 7 miles and camped in the valley staid that day and that knight.  
May 10, 1862 - Fell book 2 miles and maid a stand at Frankling the Rebels drove in our pickets and stoped.  
May 11, 1862 - Still scirmishing, nothing to eat

May 12, 1862 - no grub, still scrimishing  
May 13, 1862 - nothing to eat but hard  
crackers and coffee without sugar  
May 14, 1862 - We got reinforced with  
Freemonts Corp. still crackers and coffee  
to eat.  
May 15, 1862 - Still crackers and coffee.  
The rebels left the valley  
May 16, 1862 - no crackers, and the boys  
howling crackers at every officer that  
passed  
May 17, 1862 - Got a few crackers and a  
little beef  
May 18, 1862 - Paid off, coffee, crackers  
and a little beef. We received \$57 from  
the government  
May 19, 1862 - Went out and shot at target  
May 20, 1862 - All still crackers and coffee  
without sugar and a little beef  
May 24, 1862 - got marching orders  
May 25, 1862 - Marched down the valley  
toward Petersburg marched 11 miles and  
staid all night  
May 26, 1862 - We reached Petersburg,  
stoped overnight and fixed up for a  
march  
May 27, - Marched 11 miles to Morefield,  
camped at dark. The Capt and Lt.  
Haskins had a fuss  
May 28, 1862 - Marched 10 miles and  
camped on the mountain. Paid \$1 for a  
pound of cheese  
May 29, 1862 - We marched 6 miles and  
met Jackson and had a fight with him he  
run and we followed him  
May 31, 1862 - We followed the retreating  
rebels. We took some prisoners all along  
the road  
June 1, 1862 - We reached a little village  
called Woodstock. Camped overnight.  
June 2, 1862 - Still after the rebels passed  
Edensburg and camped the other side  
June 3, 1862 - Went through Mount Jackson  
- still after the rebels  
June 4, 1862 - Went through New Market -  
Still after the rebels

June 5, 1862 - Staid at Mount Jackson  
bridge and waited for the Pontoon bridge  
June 6, 1862 - The water rose and broke the  
bridge  
June 7, 1862 - Fixed the bridge, Crossed the  
river and marched to Harrisburg  
June 8, 1862 - Marched to Cross Keys and  
had a fight with the rebels. They  
retreated  
June 9, 1862 - The rebels retreated and  
crossed the bridge at North Republic and  
burned the bridge and went on.  
June 10, 1862 - We rested that knight,  
started back to wait for grub, marched to  
Harrisburg  
June 11, 1862 - Went back to Mount  
Jackson and there we stopped to get  
some rest and something to eat.  
June 12, 1862 - All still, went a swimming  
the water was cold  
June 14, 1862 - We changed camps and  
went to the wheatfield  
June 16, 1862 - all still  
June 17, 1862 - ditto  
June 18, 1862 - False alarm this morning in  
camp  
June 19, 1862 - Marched by way of  
Edenburg to Woodstock 10 miles  
June 20, 1862 - Marched 12 miles to  
Strawsburg  
June 21, 1862 - All still a fine day  
June 23, 1862 - A very warm day  
June 24, 1862 - Marched 7 miles to  
Middletown and camped  
June 27, 1862 - we went out to shoot at  
target shot 74 times  
June 29, 1862 - rained a little  
July 3, 1862 - inspoction  
July 4, 1862 - Boys had a huge time at  
Middletown  
July 6, 1862 - Marching orders - Leave in  
the morning  
July 7, 1862 - We started on our march to  
Sperryville, went 13 miles to front rail

July 8, 1862 - Marched 12 miles from front rail, staid overnight had a swing lost my pocketbook  
July 9, 1862 - Marched to Lura in the Lura Valley  
July 10, 1862 - Crossed the Blue Ridge to Sperryville, had lots of cherries on the road  
July 1?, 1862 - all still in camp  
July 16, 1862 - ditto  
July 18, 1862 - rain  
July 24, 1862 - went out to shoot at target and shot 69 times went back to camp in the rain  
July 28, 1862 - Had inspection today  
July 29, 1862 - went out and had a sham battle all went off well  
July 30, 1862 - all still  
July 31, 1862 - Salutes fired to Martin Van Buren lately deceased  
August 1, 1862 - all still fair wheather  
August 2, 1862 - very hot  
August 7, 1862 - marching orders  
August 8, 1862 - Got orders to march at sunset, marched all night to daylight  
August 9, 1862 - we stoped daylight and took breakfast marched on to Culpepper went on to Leder? Mountain  
August 10, 1862 - Lay on the battlefield all day a flag of truth was sent in scrimshlng  
August 11, 1862 - The flag of truth continued I was on the battleground and saw a rebel  
August 12, 1862 - Jackson retreating one brigade after him.  
August 13, 1862 - we got orders to follow him, orders was counterbanded  
August 14, 1862 - we lay still all day  
August 15, 1862 - We went after him, marched 8 miles to the Rapids River, where he burned the bridge  
August 16, 1862 - we went into camp  
August 19, 1862 - orders to fall back, we started at one o'clock marched all night stopped and got breakfast

August 20, 1862 - Marched to Culpepper and threw went on till 9 o'clock at night-camped  
August 21, 1862 - We marched to Great White Sulphur Springs, camped overnight  
August 22, 1862 - Got orders to go and meet the rebels, marched 7 miles and stopped on the field.  
August 23, 1862 - We was sent up the river to drive the rebels from their position with heavy loss on both sides  
August 24, 1862 - This is my birthday, heavy fireing on the left, we was ordered to reinforce got there at 1 o'clock in the night  
August 25, 1862 - Went out 1 mile and had a huge fight, drove the rebels from their ground, run out of ammuniton another battery took our place.  
August 26, 1862 - We shelled the rebels from the camp at dark, got orders to march to Warrington (Warrenton?) we marched right off all night  
August 27, 1862 - Tjano Headlee deceased at Fairfos county, Va. He died with a fever. We reached Warrington at daylight  
August 28, 1862 - Marched to Bullrun had a little fight with no loss dark stopped us from fighting  
August 29, 1862 - opened on their battery and found a warm reception the battle raged all day, all still at night  
August 30, 1862 - Shelled their camp and they maid no reply till two o'clock. They was reinforced and we drove on the left  
August 31, 1862 - A little scirmishing in fron today found us at Tentersville.  
September  
Sept. 1, 1862 - all still  
Sept. 2, 1862 - a little scirmishing on the right  
Sept. 3, 1862 - Fell back to Alexandre and staid all night  
Sept. 4, 1862 - marched to Washington City, camped near the chain bridge

Sept. 5, 1862 - crossed the chain bridge into Maryland  
Sept. 6, 1862 - All still in Maryland  
Sept. 13, 1862 - marched 7 miles to Fort Buffalo and went in the fort with the battery  
Sept. 14, 1862 - All still, drew a dollars worth of letter checks and had a huge time.  
Sept. 18, 1862 - Went out to pass a review  
Sept. 19, 1862 - Got orders to march to Arlington Heights and camped  
Sept. 25, 1862 - We exchanged our steal battery for a brass battery and moved to Fairfax and camped  
Sept. 27, 1862 - We received \$54 from the government of the United States  
Sept. 28, 1862 - Had a big time half the company drunk  
October  
Oct 4, 1862 - Drew some new horses  
Oct 6, 1862 - drilled in the afternoon  
Oct 7, 1862 - Drilled in the afternoon  
Oct 8, 1862 - General inspection of core by General Banks  
October 9, 1862 - Some of the boys on extra duty  
Oct 11, 1862 - drew our shelter tents  
Oct 13, 1862 - all still went up to town and got fry and cider  
Oct 14, 1862 - We changed camps and I went a chestnut hunting got 1 doz chestnuts  
Oct 20, 1862 - a general review and had a sham fight all went off well.  
Oct 26, 1862 - rained all day and the wind was cold  
Oct 29, 1862 - Pleasant, got a pass and went a chestnut hunting  
Oct 31, 1862 - Passed a general review ... Secretary Stanton was on the field. In the afternoon was mustared for pay at night we had a hugh time with the setter(?) (Sutler civilian merchants, peddlers).  
November

Nov 1, 1862 - Had to police the camp grounds  
Nov 2, 1862 - got orders to march to centersville 8 miles. Staid all night all most froze.  
Nov 3, 1862 - Marched to Gainesville 8 miles - camped over night killed a pig had a fine supper  
Nov 4, 1862 - Marched out a mile went into camp had a good time.  
Nov 5, 1862 - All still in camp  
Nov 6, 1862 - a fine day went out on picket, found some honey all we could eat, a good time.  
Nov 7, 1862 - Snowed and the wind was cold went into camp all most froze  
Nov 8, 1862 - Got 3 days rations of whiskey, some of the boys got tight  
Nov 9, 1862 - Marched 7 miles to Hopewell Gap and camped  
Nov 13, 1862 - Upped a settler. got a lot of sweet wine  
Nov 14, 1862 - Went to the guardhouse - 13 of us for the upping of the settler  
Nov 15, 1862 - All still in the guard house  
Nov 16, 1862 - Still in the guard house, got released went to the battery in the afternoon  
Nov 17, 1862 - Got orders to fall back to Centersville marched to Bullrun bridge and camped all night  
Nov 18, 1862 - Marched to Camp Chantilly 3 miles north of Centersville  
Nov 20, 1862 - had inspection  
Nov 24, 1862 - Ground froze very hard  
Nov 25, 1862 - had a game of town ball  
Nov 27, 1862 - Got orders to march at 2 o'clock  
Nov 28, 1862 - went out on a rick snorting party. Staid all day all night 12 miles from camp  
Nov 29, 1862 - Went back to camp got there at sun set  
Nov 30, 1862 - Marched to Centersville  
December  
Dec 1, 1862 - All still at Centersville

Dec 4, 1862 - Was inspection of the battery and horses  
Dec 5, 1862 - Snow fell about 4 inches deep  
Dec 7, 1862 - Went out of camp, caught 2 rabbits had a hugh supper  
Dec 8, 1862 - Went out and shot 4 rabbits with my little revolver  
Dec 9, 1862 - Marched from Centersville to Chantilly  
Dec 10, 1862 - Marched from Camp Chantilly to Fairfax and camped over night  
Dec 11, 1862 - Marched 7 miles and camped overnight mud belly deep  
Dec 12, 1862 - Marched 8 miles crossed the Occuan(?) Creek and camped on the south side.  
Dec 13, 1862 - Marched 8 miles to Dumpharyss camped over night  
Dec 14, 1862 - Marched 8 miles camped in sight of Burnsid's pickets  
Dec 15, 1862 - Marched to Stover's (?) Courthouse got some food for the horses today Marched seven miles and camped  
Dec 16, 1862 - Marched 2 miles in sight of Fredricksburg. Stopped to rest went out and got hay for our horses  
Dec 17, 1862 - Marched back to Stover's Court House and camped  
Dec 18, 1862 - All still in camp  
Dec 21, 1862 - Drawed 10 new horses for the battery  
Dec 22, 1862 - All still fair wheather  
Dec 24, 1862 - Drilled on the manuel of the piece  
Dec 25, 1862 - a dry Christmas  
DEC 27, 1862 - Fine weather  
DEC 28, 1862 - all still in camp  
Dec 31, 1862 - All still I think we will have a dry new year.

**1863**

Jan 1. 1863 - It is a very dry new years  
Jan 1, 1863 - Stafford's Abbott House Virginia. A very dry New Year nothing going on in camp

Jan 2, 1863 - Had to police the camp, the settler came to camp and had a keg of whiskey  
Jan 4 - The whiskey is all gone  
Jan 5, - all still I am not very well  
Jan 9 -  
Jan 10 - A drowsey day, drilled on the field -----  
Ezra Ott sent one hundred and fifty dollars to mother at one time.  
Jan 12, - Salem sent mother a check on the bank at Wainesburg for two hundred and twenty five dollars  
Jan 19, - Marching orders  
Jan 20 - Marched from Stafords C. H. to Bell Sumet and camped in the quarters of the ? U.S.A battery  
Jan 21 - a rainy day very muddy  
Jan 24, - left the camp of the Lariat and went into camp a half mile off  
Jan 28 - Fell a snow a foot deep  
Jan 29 - The road very muddy, went with ten horses to one wagon to get forage  
Jan 30 - All still in camp  
Feb 4 - Marched from Bell Summit to Brook station  
Feb 5, - We all arrived at Brook  
Feb 6 - Building winter quarters  
Feb 7 - still at work at the winter quarters  
Feb 8 - Bilt a comisary  
Feb 9 - Built the chaplin of the 55 regt a shanty  
Feb 10 - Built stables for the horses  
Feb 11 - Washed off our guns and moved the battery  
Feb 12 - all still  
Feb 16 - Grand Review by General Booker and General Sigel  
Feb 17 - Snowing and sleeting. Got some meal to make a pone  
Feb 22 - Fell a big snow. Fixed a tailcoat - Washington's birthday  
Feb 28 - The snowing is an hour old. The settler brought a new stock of goods  
March 1 - a very fine day

March 10 - A man of words and not of deeds  
is like a garden full of weeds  
March 15 - Had inspection of the battery  
April 5 - A very white Easter and a very dry  
one.  
April 6 - All still only the boys is a snow  
balling and charging like children  
April 9 - Had ginerall review of this 11  
Corps  
April 10 - Pass a review by President  
Lincoln  
April 11 - Orders to be ready to march at a  
moments warning  
April 26 - we received a 6 months pay and  
got ready to march and we was tairing  
around all knight  
April 27 - started on the march to Kelyes  
Ford marched 13 miles and camped over  
night  
April 28 - Still on the march, marched to  
Kelyes ford 18 miles which maid 31  
miles and garded the river till the  
pontoon bridge was laid, then we fell  
back and let the infantry cross.  
April 29<sup>th</sup> - Started back to Hartford Church  
passed Hartford Church at 3 o'clock and  
camped at Barier Church four miles  
from falmouth this day we marched 26  
miles and camped  
April 30 - All still in camp at Brier Church  
May 1 - All still on this side of the river.  
Some fighting on the other side of  
Raphannock River between Kelyes ford  
and the United States ford. Went down  
to Falmouth to express some money  
May 2 - Marched 4 miles, crossed the river  
and marched 8 miles to Chancellorsvill  
and had a fight the rebels two to one.  
Was hard for us and we had to fall back  
for reinforcement the battle raged all  
night  
May 3 - Sunday in the morning we took  
position on the new line of Battle.  
Fought all day advanced

May 4 - Still fighting wit artillery and  
calvelry, Jackson killed reported by the  
prisoners  
May 5 - Crossed the river back marched 20  
miles to Brok Station, had a very hard  
hail storm, I staid all night in a stone mill  
house had fresh fish for supper  
May 6 - We went into camp and had a good  
time. Hooker fell back across the river.  
May 7 - Got leave to go to Brook Station  
and got a paper  
May 8 - Sent more money to the express  
office  
May 11 - turned over two pieces of our  
artillery and the men that was detached  
went back to heir regments  
May 12 - Capt. DeBeck papers reached here  
today. Also Lt. Hirend started home  
today, they both resigned and they will  
go to Manetta(Marietta?)  
May 13 - Had a fine time today  
May 14 - Changed camp, went in a pine  
thicket, plenty of shade  
May 15 - went to Whope Landing and got  
some fish  
May 18 - Lots of peddlers  
May 21 - we built a shanty today and it is  
very hot  
May 22 - All is still in camp. 3 men went  
home on furlow namely, Daniel Heron,  
Thomas Campbell, Sergt McHenry, they  
are going to Parkersburg.  
May 23 - Crossed the Creek at Brook  
Station, changed camps, very warm day  
May 24 - The camp had to be policed. A  
fine Sunday  
May 25 - All still in camp. Cavalry going  
out on a reconoicence we suppose they  
are going to Dumprieve(?)  
May 28 - 17 new men came from camp  
Cleveland. Reached here today and they  
are all stout men  
May 30 - We went out on picket today and  
had a big time.  
May 31 - Came in off of picket and it is very  
windy

June 1 - Monday, I was detailed for orderly duty for Capt. Hedrick  
June 5 - Heavy firing at Fredericksburg  
June 6 - 2 corps reported across the river  
June 7 - Got marching orders be ready at a moments warning. we will turn over our extra clothing  
June 8 - still under marching orders  
June 11 - went out on picket was ordered in to march. Started to march at 2 a.m. marched 12 miles to Hartwood church  
June 12 - Started on the march to Cat Lick Station, marched all day hard  
June 13 - Reached Catlick station, camped in a nice place.  
June 14 - We started on the march, marched to Centerville by way of Manassas Junction.  
June 15 - We started on the march at 5 in the morning. Marched 3 miles, camped on the east side of Centerville  
June 16 - All still waiting for the reliefs. Some firing southeast may be at Dumphihie? and mav be at Dquisa? Creek  
June 17 - We left Senterville and marched to Gum Springs and from there 12 miles to Goose Creek. Camped overnight, heard heavy firing in the mountains  
June 18 - We lay at Goose Creek till in the afternoon, when we moved back about a mile, and went in camp. We had a little shower of rain.  
June 19 - A very bright very warm day, sunshiney and nice. We heard heavy firing, suppose to be at Harpers Ferry.  
June 20 - A damp drizzley morning a cool nice day, all still in camp today.  
June 21 - Still in Camp at Goose Creek  
June 23 - we got our mail  
June 24 - Marched to Edwards Ferry on the Potomac river 4 miles from where we are camped.  
June 25 - Crossed the Potomac river marched through Porterville? at 8

o'clock, passed Sugarloaf Mt. at 2 o'clock, am.  
Crossed the Manopackay river at Grienfields mills camped near Jefferson  
June 26 - Started on the march at 9 p.m. marched to Middletown and camped seen lots of union girls  
June 27 - we marched 2 miles and wnt into camp  
June 28<sup>th</sup> - marched from Middletown to Fredricks City, camped all night, I was not very well.  
June 29 - we left Fredrick and marched to Srigersville?, took dinner marched to Emets Burg camped overnight  
June 30 - Marched one mile west of the village and camped overnight lots of the boys drinking today.  
July 1 - Left Emmets Burge passed the local grave mills at 10 o'clock to Getyeville at 2 o'clock had a fight, lost 2 pieces, 3 men killed, 10 wounded  
July 2 - We left Getyesburg this morning and marched to Tenley town 13 miles and camped. The fight was hard today. The rebels pressed our left wing.  
July 3 - All still Battery K 13 miles in the rear disabled  
July 4 - Left Tenely town, marched 12 miles to Westminister and camped, passed through Frivelville at 11 o'clock a very dry 4th 2,500 prisoners pass here today (In Canole Co. Md)  
July 5 - All still in camp at Westminister  
July 6 - Left Westminister and marched to Uniontown 7 miles went in position and looked for Stewards Cavelry.  
July 7 - Left Uniontown to march to Fredrick and went through Johntown and Liberty at 12 a.m. Got to Fredrick at 5 in the evening. Seen a spy that was hung.  
July 8 - It is a very wet morning. We started from Frederic City to march to Middletown at 12 o'clock at night got there at 3 in the morning.



July 9 - We left Middletown and marched to Cooperburrow? crossed the Sout? Mt. camped near Boonesburow.

July 10 - We left Boonesburow today and marched to the Antidam battlefield and camped overnight.

July 11 - we are all laying about at our ease.

July 12 - we started and marched to Hagerstown, Md., the rebels still scirmishing in our front.

July 13 - We left Hagertown and went 2 miles to the rear behind breast work. Still scirmishing

July 14 - We marched through Hahertown and stopped at Williamsport on the Conachago Creek.

July 15 - We left Cononoche Creek and marched to Uniontown, Md, passed through H<sub>a</sub>gertown at 10 o'clock

July 16 - We left Middleton this morning and marched four miles to the right of Harpers Ferry. Passed through Jefferson at 8:00 a.m. got here at 9 o'clock all still in camp the officers is making out the payrolls.

July 18 - We started on the march at 7 o'clock crossed the Potomac River at camped in Va.

July 19 - We started in the morning went through Covettsville.

At 6 o'clock passed Watersford at 9 o'clock went into camp at 11 o'clock, marched 11 miles

July 20 - Started on the march at 4 in the morning marched through the woods till 11 o'clock, camped on the north western pike near Goose creek

July 21 - We lay still in camp today at little river or Goose Creek

July 22 - We lay still camped at little river near Mountsville the is building a bridge across the river

July 23 - We left Mountville this morning marched all day came to New Baltimore at 12 in the night. Camped, nothing to

eat but crackers and coffee passed Middletown at 2 o'clock

July 24 - We lay still in camp at New Baltimore. I'm not very well.

July 25 - Started on the march at 3 in the morning marched through Grinage and from there to Catlic Station, camped

July 26 - all still, water is very scarce we have to get a pass to get water to drink.

July 27 - All still in camp, a very fine day

July 29 - Still in the old camp, only the 3rd Division changed camps

July 31 - Capt. Heckman went home on sick furlow a very warm day

August 1 - We changed camp today, it is the warmest day we have had one wheel of the Caison broke down

August 2 - we changed camps marched one mile went into look, grave, still warm & dry

August 3 - all still in camp. We heard heavy firing in the direction of Culpepper. Bufords Cavelry fighting the rebels .

August 4 - All still in camp we greased our harness today

August 5 - We washed our gun carages today and got them ready for fighting, a very dry spell of weather

August 6 - All still only one brigade left here today, and I don't know where they are going.

August 9 - We had to drill from 5 till 7 o'clock this morning. We was paid two months pay. I had a fine time

August 10 - Still have to drill, sent \$25 to mother in a letter

August 16 - we got orders to march at an hours notice

August 17 - marched from Catlick station to Britts Station

August 18 - marched from Brights station to Manassas Junction. Went into a fort looking for the rebel cavelry

August 21 - Half of the battery was tight today

August 22 - We got orders to go into action at an hours notice, we had inspection today most of our harness condemned by the major.

August 26 - We had to detail cattle, guards to watch the cattle.

August 27 - we marched from Manassis Junction to Catlick station

August 28 - We are picking up our camp and bunk

August 29 - We had to police our camp we made it shine like a barnyard

August 30 - We had inspection and a short drill. We didn't pass inspection very well.

August 31 - We was mustared for pay today we looked very well and fine.

Sept. 1 - A fine day.. we had a little drill this morning.

Sept. 4 - We got a tailor today. He is a very fine Irishman.

Sept. 5 - Policed the ground in camp

Sept. 6 - A very fine Sunday morning. I got two pictures taken today

Sept. 7 - All still. Drilled today

Sept. 8 - Still have to drill

Sept. 9 - Still drilling

Sept. 10 - Alls well. we went out to the front of the hill

Sept. 11 - All still fixed up the camp

Sept. 12 - We had a review today. General HUNT reveiwed all of the batterys in a very hard rain

Sept. 13 - Still in camp, a fireing in front

Sept. 17 - We changed camps today. We got 2 months pay

Sept. 18 - we marched to Capahonock Station 15 miles from Catlick Station camped

Sept. 24 - we got orders to march and marched to Sentersville. we marched all night.

Sept. 25 - Still marching. We marched 60 miles in less than 24 hrs

Sept. 26 - we carried our battery to Alexandria, Va. and we rode all night in

the R.R. cars. We took supper at the Soldiers Retreat

Sept. 27 - We took breakfast at Martinsburg this morning. We took supper at New Creek

Sept. 28 - We crossed the Alloghany mountains at night and I think it is pretty cold for me to stay outside of the cars.

Sept. 29 - we took breakfast at Graften this morning at Littleton Station I got off and went home and staid all night courted three girls

Sept. 30 - Got on the cars at Belton Station and went on to Comonocock Crossed the river and slept in the cars

Oct 1 - Bellair W. Virginia, started on the way to Nashville, Tenn, Seen lots of pretty girls, we run all night

Oct 2 - Passed Dayton, Ohio this morning. Came to Richmond, Indiana about 12 o'clock, came to Tentersville at 3. we was treated to all that we could eat by the women of Tentersville.

Oct 3 - We are in Indianapolis today. We left Indianapolis this morning, we went to Jeffersonville at daylight across the Ohio to Louisville. It is good lite at Louisville.

Oct 4 - Came in light of Nashville, Tenn at daylight, the cars run off of the track broke the engin pretty bad. We are now waiting for another engine this city is on the Cumberland river.

Oct 5 - Started from Nashville today got to Bridgeport today got off the cars and fixed supper. Well this is a nice place on the Tennessee river.

Oct 6 - All still in camp. Reports that the bridge is burnt at Murfreesborro.

Oct 7 - Had to police the camp today

Oct 10 - made a swing today had a lot of fun

Oct 11 - Made a larger swing today had a lot of fun. Drawed a hand mill

Oct 13 - all the Ohio boys went to Stevenson to vote for Governor Brough? it is a raining all day.

Oct 14 - still raining  
Oct 15 - still a raining Lt. came up today and he is ten days behind us.  
Oct 17 - All still in camp, a very fine day. Sargent Thomastons came up to the battery today. We ragged them very bad for being in the guard house at Nashville.  
Oct 18 - A fine day today the stragglers was on extra duty.  
Oct 19 - A fine day. The horses came up today and the driver is pretty near tired out.  
Oct 20 - We fixed our camp today and had a fine days work. It's as nice as we've had  
Oct 22 - we had to work on the railroad today, ten men of us  
Oct 24 - still at work on the railroad  
Oct 25 - General Howard says today is Sunday. We got marching orders to march at nine o'clock tomorrow morning  
Oct 26 - We started on the march today at daylight went 13 miles and camped. We heard the pickets firing  
Oct 27 - Still marching, we went 8 miles to a ford and camped a fine day  
Oct 28 - a fine day General Palmers division came here today  
Oct 29 - General Palmers division of the 4th corps left here today to march to Shellmont  
Oct 30 - We left the Ferry today to march to Shellmont crossed the mountain, marched 2 miles up the river and camped  
Oct 31 - Started on the march at day light this morning at 6 o'clock marched 6 miles to Whitesides and camped all night  
Nov 1 - A very fine morning. We are waiting orders.. got orders at dark, started on the march at 11 o'clock at night marched 10 miles camped opposite the point of Lookout Mountain. We changed camps and a mile to Curriers stand, went in to camp and pitched our tents.

Nov 3 - Still in the same camp. Hear firing off of Lookout Point. The Rebels shells our train everyday we can see their picks  
Nov 4 - All still, only we are working on our fort for our battery, the rebels is still shelling.  
Nov 5 - It is a raining and we are still working on the fort. The Rebels still shelling off of Lookout Mountain  
Nov 6 - The rebels is still shelling our train, we quit working on the fort till amno. We were found out up the creek  
Nov 7 - The boys won't work till they get grub. A fine day  
Nov 8 - I had a big hunt for fresh pork and got none. Came back to the camp and went to work on another fort worked till night and got a gay supper  
Nov 9 - Still at work on the fort  
Nov 10 - Finished the fort and had a gay supper  
Nov 11 - Our horses and drivers was out and was fired on by the Rebels and they captured three wagons, We signed the payrolls today.  
Nov 12 - A fine day our men attacked the rebels on Lookout Mountain but did not go up to fight them  
Nov 13 - We moved across the valley to the foot of Lookout Mountain  
Nov 14 - The rebels shelled right over us at the battery but they didn't do any harm  
Nov 15 - The rebels still shelling us  
Nov 16 - We moved our camp today, we're right up on the hillside  
Nov 17 - We got 2 months pay today \$27.30  
Nov 18 - Still laying the same camp heavy cannon aiding in the direction of White Sides  
Nov 21 - The infantry got marching orders  
Nov 22 - The infantry marched today, we detailed all the horses to haul another battery.

Nov 24 - we had a fight on Lookout Mt today. We run all the rebels off and held the hill.  
Nov 25 - we marched on after the rebels  
Nov 26 - we had a big fight on Missionary Ridge today. The rebels run like funny.  
Nov 27 - We went into camp and I went to a house and had a long chat about rebellions  
Nov 28 - Still laying in camp at Nashville  
Nov 29 - Lots of prisoners are coming back. I went out and came to a house where there was a kind lady  
Nov 30 - We marched back to camp today, got here at 3 o'clock in the afternoon  
Dec 1 - All still in the old camp in Lookout Valley, put up a fine tent  
Dec 5 - we commenced building winter quarters, a fine warm day.  
Dec 6 - Got our shanty done, went out and got some forage hand a fine day.  
Dec 7 - Started on the march from Lookout Valley to Bridgeport. Marched 10 miles to WhiteSides camped all night.  
Dec 8 - Started on the march. Marched four miles, camped. Left the cannons at Running Water bridge  
Dec 9 - We marched to Shellmound with the pieces. Staid all knight  
Dec 10 - Went back and mooved our cassons on the railroads. Staid here all night.  
Dec 11 - Carried our cannons and run to Bridgeport. And later went back to Shellmound after the pieces brought them by car to Bridgeport  
Dec 14 - Some of the boys commenced building winter quarters  
Dec 15 - I commenced our winter quarters today, Got the logs cut and the foundation laid.  
Dec 16 - Still at work on our shanty. We slept in our house tonight  
Dec 17 - Got our winter quarters done cept a little furniture. We have quite a

comfortable shanty and a good fire to sit by tonight

Dec 21 - We had inspection

Dec 31 - We had inspection and was mustard for pay this time we got 2 months pay.

### 1864

Jan 1 - In camp at Bridgeport, The driest new year day that I ever saw. Last night was as cold as Greenland

Jan 4 - I went to work on a new shanty. I gotoo much of living crowded

Jan 6 - 3 recruits came in today. We . . . . .

Jan 7 - I finished my nice little house today. I made a mud fireplace in place of a stone. We moved today.

Jan 8 - We went to work to build horse stables and we have no horses and we ain't going to have

Jan 9 - Still at work on the stables

Jan 14 - Still knocking away at the stables

Jan 16 - Had to wash the gun carridges and fix up in General

Jan 17 - Had inspection of the men & batteries

Jan 18 - Went to work again today on the stables

Jan 19 - Detachment #7 went to the woods to cut timber

Jan 24 - nothing to do

Jan 27 - nothing to do again, only to study the deaf and dumb alphabet

Jan 31 - Had inspection, a fine day

Feb 1 - All is a calm

Feb 11 - Had to oil the harness, the Veterians? Volunteers was muster out and in for three years longer. They also signed their payrolls

Feb 12 - Gave the battery another coat of paint and also drew some clothing

Feb 14 - bright Sabbath

Feb 19 - A fine day. Had to get up in the night and take position with the battery

Feb 20 - Moved the battery to the station

Feb 22 - we went over to Bridgeport and put the battery into position and had to lay around the place  
Feb 27 - We got 2 months pay. The veterans went home today. They are a mary set of boys  
Feb 28 - All still the guariles not a coming this time, the men went back to the old camp  
Feb 29 - Was mustered for pay  
March 2 - S. F. Moore started home on sick furlough  
March 17 - Battery K & J from Michigan passed Bridgeport on their way front marched from Nashville  
March 21 - heavy snow falling  
March 23 - Snow is going fast. Capt. Whickers battery got back from Veterions furlough  
March 24 - all still  
March 30 - All still had inspection  
March 31 - one new recruit came in today  
April 3 - Aunt Sarah 65  
April 4 - a fine day. 20 of our veterions got back today  
April 7 - I'm detailed to movlng Colonel Lawrence in his new quarters and wrote one letter  
April 12 - Policing, for a new camp  
April 20 - Got marching orders  
April 23 - marched 10 miles to Stevenson, Alabama  
April 26 - drilled two hours  
April 30 - was mustared for pay  
May 1 - 2 regiments left this place to go to the front.  
Kay 2 - We changed camp to the infantry camp  
May 5 - about 20,000 troops passed here on their way to the front  
May 6 - About 15 companies of Calvelry passed here on their way to Chattanooga.  
May 9 - Getting out timber to build a magazine in the fort  
May 12 - I sent one letter to Mary Ann, Powhatan Point, Belmont County, Ohio

May 13 - all hands at work  
May 17 - A serious accident, a woman shot by a drunk soldier, one of our boys arrested on suspicion. Sargent Fairshiaast was wounded by accident  
May 19 - wounded men on their way to Nashville  
May 25 - Rained and I got caught(kot) out in it  
May 31 - Got 4 months pay, sent \$50 home by Addams Express co.  
July 1 - Fished all day and caught none  
July 2 - I'm on guard  
July 3 - Went out and picked a lot of berries for the fourth  
July 4 - We fired 87 rounds in the morning and at noon the same and six rounds when the old flag went up over fort. Also fired 34 rounds at sunset. Heard 2 excellent speeches Lots of girls in camp today.  
July 10 - Went out and got some blackberries  
July 12 - wrote one letter home, a fine day  
July 19 - The Pennsylvania 72 left here for Whitesides and they are a mary lot of boys  
July 20 - we got 2 months pay  
July 21 - The boys is pretty near all tight  
July 24 - Went out and got my dinner  
July 25 - Ditto, and had a chat with the girls  
July 30 - Went out and visited my Little Sary  
June 1 - Maid boards to cover our shanty  
June 10 - Had a big rain and a heavy wind  
June 30 - I went out to visit little Sary the first time  
August 4 - Visited Sara again a fine day  
August 7 - Went out and took a sick girl home and had a chat with Sary  
Aug 9 - Went out to see my girl and sparked all day and all night  
Aug 11 - A fine day on guard today  
Aug 12 - Went out and stayed all night with Sary C. Shrader  
Aug 13 - All still in camp

Aug 14 - Went out on a pass and got some peaches  
Aug 15 - On guard, and a very hot day, had a big time hunting the guards up and could not find all of them.  
Aug 16 - All still in camp, wrote one letter to S. A. S.,  
Aug 19 - Went out and planned the wedding with little Sary, took her home and staid all night with her  
Aug 21 - Rainy day went out and staid all day and all night with Sary  
Aug 23 - Went out and seen about getting my licens to get married.  
Aug 25 - My birthday went and got my liscens, and got Bro Bottoms (Brothers?) to do the job at 1 p.m.  
Aug 25 - Was married between the hours of 12 & 1  
Aug 26 - Spent the whole day with my wife, went to camp at six .  
Aug 30 - Went out and staid all night with Sary  
Sept. 3 - Went out and staid all day and all night  
Sept. 4 - A fine day finished my shanty  
Sept. 10 - Went out to see my wife  
Sept. 11 - Some of the battery boys went home, their time is out.  
Sept. 14 - Went out and staid all night, took the mumps today.  
Sept. 15 - Staid all day with Sarah  
Sept. 18 - Went out home and staid all day  
Sept. 24 - A fine day. I am well of the mumps  
Sept. 29 - Went back to camp today  
Sept. 30 - Went out to see my wife  
Oct. 21 - Had lots of company , Arinda Blancett, Martha Johnson  
Oct 22 - Still plenty of company  
Oct 24 - All still, went out to Papas  
Nov 3 - Looking to get started home  
Nov 13 - Went out to bid my father-in-laws family good bye  
Nov 14 - Anxiously awaiting for our papers

Nov 22 - Me and Sarah went out to papas and pretty near froze. No papers yet.  
Nov 28 - Went out to papas  
Dec 2 - Got reinforcements got 15 thousand  
Dec 3 - Troops came in to camp  
Dec 5 - Had a railroad accident 4 men was killed, and several wounded, a mule run into the cars and caused the wreck  
Dec 10 - I and Sarah went out to her Papas  
Dec 12 - Chopped wood until noon, drew one overcoat  
Dec 13 - Went out to meet Sarah and found her sick  
Dec 14 - Still was sick  
Dec 15 - about the same  
Dec 22 - Started home  
Dec 25 - Slept all the afternoon, on duty before noon  
Dec 26 - a Drowsey day  
Dec 31 - some of the boys goes a gal-ing

### 1865

Jan 1 - All still - only a few tight folks  
Jan 6 - 10 started home got as far as the station then went back  
Jan 7 - Had a quarrel with Capt. Heckman but went on duty.  
Jan 11 - We started to Nashville on our road home  
Jan 13 - all day in the city  
The Probate Judge, Robert I. Gentry, has examined the original diaries (1862-1865) of Henry Clay Ott, a Union soldier from Pennsylvania and found that the foregoing is a true and complete copy. The original diaries are in the hands of his great granddaughter, Mrs. Joy Thornhill, Pisgah, Alabama.



Wendell Page signed

5-28-91 date

Diary provided by Jennifer Petty of the Jackson County Heritage Center





## Story of Woodville

By Glenda (Bit) Hodges

Records indicate that the first white men to see the present site of Woodville were probably from North Carolina, but no one knows who came first or what date this part of the country was discovered. We know Indians had possession of the territory. Archaeological diggings at Cathedral Caverns indicate life existed in the area hundreds of years ago.

Most of the data prior to 1946 was taken from J.R. Kennamer's book "The Story of Woodville", The data in the book states there were three or four log cabins in the community when Henry Derrick (& family including three girls) settled in Woodville in 1815, where Union Cemetery is now located. It is not known whether the Indians or white men built these cabins; however, Indians had built a cabin in Kennamer Cove, which was settled by Hans Kennamer circa 1798.

Woodville was located on the Old Stage Coach Road that curved around the mountain on its circuitous route from Huntsville to Sauta and on to Bellefonte. The Cherokee Indians ceded this land to the National Government, Feb 27, 1819. In the 1820s, settlers came from other areas such as the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia and Tennessee. Men came and occupied and claimed land without a legal title.

Woodville is the oldest town in Jackson County. Jackson County was created one day before Alabama became a state. The community of Woodville was named after Richard Wood and his wife Annie, who were members of the Primitive Baptist Church. Old Woodville was built on land first owned by Henry Derrick. Present Town

of Woodville is on land first owned by Dr. Frances Dillard.

An Act of the Legislature in 1821 created Decatur County from portions of Jackson and Madison (from Flint River to Sauta and Tennessee line). A commission appointed by the Legislature selected Woodville as the County Seat. Woodville remained the County Seat until abolished, Dec 28, 1825, after a survey indicated it did not possess the territory required by the constitution to be a county. (Governors during this time were Bibb and Pickens). However, this part of the state was not surveyed until 1822 and subsequent years. At this time there were many white families living among the Indians. Some earlier settlers in the area were:

Hans Kennamer - Kennamer Cove  
John Peters — Peters' Cove  
Isham Wright - Wright's Cove  
Henry Derrick — Old Woodville  
Samuel Butler - Butler Hollow  
Capt James Cotton - Cotton Cove

Life for the early settlers was not easy. Most built two-room cabins near a spring of water. Tallow candles, pine knots, and a thread wick placed in a pan of grease provided the only light. If fires went out they had to travel to a neighbor's house to obtain some coals of fire. There were no matches at this time. Pots and pans were few. Food was preserved by using beeswax to seal stone jars. Diet was simple. All members of the family used the same gourd dipper to drink from. Clothing was made from raw materials by spinning, weaving and knitting, tanning leather etc. Guns were muzzle loaders, since shells were not available at this time. A larger home, and probably the oldest home, was built for D.L.

Derrick in Old Woodville. This home was occupied for over 100 years, then torn down sometime during the 1980s.

The area was a wilderness with overgrown cane breaks and dense undergrowth and rich fertile soils. Cedar, hickory, oak, ash, and other timber were a source of the economy. Early settlers sold tracts of land at various prices. A tract of 317 acres sold for \$4,000 in 1855.

Farming was the “main stay” with emphasis on corn. Cotton was grown, but not in a commercial manner. Hay was grown for feeding purposes. Hemp was grown to make ropes. It was in the late 1840s before anyone grew sorghum cane to make molasses. The cane was ground on a mill with wooden rollers that made a sound that could be heard for miles around.

The settlers were not content with only farming and timber work, but were visionary and an active part of the community. Soon there were blacksmith shops, sawmills, carpentry shops, grist mills and general stores. The first general store was owned and operated by Alfred Moore. Stick candy was the only kind sold. Before the Civil War grocery stores sold liquor. Liquor sold from 18 to 22 cents per gallon and would retail for 25 cents per quart or 75 cents per gallon. To run a saloon was not considered a great evil by many. Possession of liquor was common, even among religious people. In 1909, Woodville voted strongly against putting prohibition in the State Constitution, which failed to carry, yet the people were as sober and law abiding as anywhere in the County.

Possible result of liquor: Hy and Jim Whitecotton were killed Jun 24, 1869 at a Masonic Picnic near Paint Rock in a fight with Dave and Pleas Woodall.

In the early days men wore knee breeches or doublets tied at the knee with long fay ribbons or other strings. Both men and women wore shawls or capes. A bonnet and hoop petticoats were common for the women. A man who could have home-spun jeans, with horn or leather buttons was well dressed.

The first major change in Woodville came in 1850, when the Memphis and Charleston (Southern) railway was chartered, surveyed and work begun. The people of Woodville and the entire community, using wise foresight, took great interest in building the railroad. They bought shares, \$25 each, totaling more than \$100,000. One of the 4 depots built in this area was located at Woodville. The railroad was a boost to the economy and added to the social life. The social life consisted of walking, horseback riding, card playing, all-day singings, parlor organ music, hunting, fishing, and ballgames. However, in the 1850s, one could stroll down, up, across, or around the Depot on a Sunday afternoon to chat with friends, talk with passengers, or wave as the train went by. The Depot was a prominent gathering place.

After the coming of the railroad, old businesses prospered and new businesses began which included:

- Coffins (\$7 ea incl burial - 1853)
- Nursery (1859)
- Steam sawmill (1870)
- Cotton Gin (1870)
- Rat Exterminator (1870 - sold in Drug Stores - money back guarantee)
- Government Distillery (1871)
- Hooppole Industry (1880)
- Barber shop
- Hotel
- Doctors
- Other mills

Although there were no major Civil War battles fought in the Woodville Community, there were some skirmishes. One was near the Paint Rock River Bridge - reinforcements were called in from Vina (New Hope). The Yankees pilfered many homes and took whatever they wanted.

Woodville was incorporated in 1880 and the 1890 census indicated a population of 819. Again by an Act of the Legislature the incorporation was killed Feb 18, 1897. However the Town again incorporated in 1912. Today's population, within the corporate limits is around 920, almost the same as 1880.

During the early years, Woodville always had a resident physician. Dr. Andres Moore served as the first in 1833. Others that served the area prior to the Civil War included: Presley Woodall; Francis Lee Dillard; Albert B. Clofton; Solomon B. Stevens; William A. Allen; and Lafayette Derrick. Doctors after the Civil War included: Thomas Wright; J.N. Scott; Dave H. Little; Hezzi Martin; J. Mack Dicus; Henry F. Gattis; George T. Hays; John W. Boggess; Wate Esslinger; Joe Cahoon; J.H. Sherrell; J.J. McGahee; Rayford Hodges; Julian Hodges; J.N. Shipp; Dr. Zimmerman; and A Carl Collins. There has not been a resident physician since the 1940s.

Some of the social organizations in the early days were: Masons, Grange, Woodmen of the World and the Odd fellows. The Ku Klux Klan was never successful in getting membership in the area.

There was never a church house erected in Old Woodville. It was 20 years after the town was settled before the Primitive Baptist Church was built in 1835 at Union

Cemetery. A Missionary Baptist Church was begun in 1839 or 1840, but not completed because they did not have a clear title. There was a Primitive Baptist Church at Pisgah Cemetery in 1824 (Kennamer Cove). The first church built within the Town of Woodville was in 1873 by the Methodists. The present Methodist Chapel was built in 1912 and now belongs to the Town of Woodville. The Church of Christ was erected in 1913 and the Missionary Baptists built a church in 1931 (\$460); and in 2002 built a new church on AL Hwy 35 (\$400,000). In subsequent years other denominations built churches.

The Post Office was established Sept. 3, 1823 (eight years after known settlers in the area), with William Haney as the first Postmaster. The PO was discontinued Feb. 14, 1870 and reestablished June 1, 1870 with William Guynar as postmaster. Woodville was fortunate to be situated on the first mail route established from Huntsville, to pass through Jackson County. The route was established May 13, 1820 and came by Maysville to Woodville, to Sauta, to Ross's Landing, to Washington in Rhea County, Tenn. Mail probably was delivered once a week or every two weeks. The Post Office has been housed in a number of buildings; the latest is the present building constructed in March 1964 and is now inadequate in size. Due to the growth in the delivery area there are three Rural Routes. Since the Post Office was established there have been two Acting Postmasters, three Officer-in-Charge and 43 appointed postmasters.

The first telephone system was a private adventure in 1910 and preceded the next major change for Woodville, which was the building of Federal Highway 72 in 1933 (now AL 35). The change both hurt and helped the community. The citizens began to

see how to best capitalize on change and to continue a progressive movement. Some of the old businesses, such as blacksmith shops, delivery keepers, etc. had already been affected by the change. Some businesses closed and others opened. Woodville began to build around the new highway, just as it did when the railroad was built. The depot, long a center of activity, was later closed, as a result of the changes in transportation. The building was later moved to AL 35 and used as a supermarket and then restaurant prior to closing.

Before the Civil War, school was taught in a log house near the D.C. Kennamer home. A schoolhouse was built on land owned by Mr. Dillard but later moved to Rufus Jones' land' "Tick Ridge". In 1880 a building was constructed in the northern part of town. In 1905 a new and better building, consisting of three rooms, was constructed a mile west of town near the railroad - this was known as Woodville School. In 1923 the first high school was built, which consisted of six rooms and an auditorium, costing approximately \$16,000. The first principal was Miss Mary Shipp. The first graduating class was in 1924, consisting of 17 graduates (Wendell Page etc.) In 1924, all schools were consolidated. In 1927 a gymnasium was built. The school was accredited in 1935 by the State of Alabama. In 1944 a combination lunchroom and Home Economics Building were added.

On Dec. 1, 1948, disaster struck - the school building burned. In 1949, the present facility was constructed at a cost of \$100,000. A vocational agriculture program and building were added in 1955. A new home economics and lunch room were constructed. In 1966 more classrooms were added; a special education program was started (G. Hodges as first teacher). A new library was built in 1987, a new gymnasium

in 1989, accredited by the Southern Association in 1986. A pre-K program has also been added to the school program. The enrollment of the school is approximately 575 - 600 students in pre-K-12; with a faculty of 55 to 60 teachers. There is an active Booster Club and parent organization which supports school activities. A football program began in 2006 with games being played at other schools. However, a football field was constructed in 2013 across from the school.

Some of the social activities included the Woodville Culture club, which was organized March 12, 1936 with Mrs. J.W. Maples as president. Objective of the Club was "Growth through cultural studies and comradeship, and to promote worthy community projects." The Culture Club also sponsored "The Junior Study Club" in Woodville High School. The Raritan Club was organized by the men of the community and was active for a number of years.

The people of Woodville continued to make progress in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sidewalks were built during the time of the W.P.A. Streets were paved during the 1940s and in the 1960s a water system was installed in portions of the town. A law enforcement program was also started.

The Woodville Volunteer Fire Department was organized June 2, 1958 and is still active today. The WVFD sponsored the organizing of the Limrock-Aspel Volunteer Fire Department which is the pride of that community.

Other businesses established during this era included:

- Gasoline stations
- Restaurant
- Dairy Bar
- Branch Bank

Supermarket  
General Store  
Washerette  
Car lot  
Theater (which was used for HS graduation after the school burned)  
Garage  
Construction company  
Town Hall & Fire Hall  
Housing project  
Cleaners  
Plating shop  
Other businesses

Again, Woodville was to have another major problem or change with the announcement in 1973 that a U.S. highway would bypass the town by approximately 3/4 mile. The citizens of Woodville had concern for their town in relation to the bypass and the changes that would subsequently follow. Woodville had flourished with the railroad, adjusted to U.S. 72 (now AL 35) and now there was another obstacle to overcome as businesses would close or move to another location. However, there was a steadfast determination about the people of Woodville - a people who have grown together as a small community since 1815. With this kind of staunch tradition, the people will continually strive to keep the town strong. It takes the combined effort of everyone.

As time marched on, demographics changed, and other areas began to grow. Madison County was booming and Scottsboro, in Jackson County, was also growing. The grocery stores and general merchandise closed - people drove to nearby supermarkets and stores. Some service stations closed or moved to other locations. Also, some manufacturing plants moved or closed. However, all was not doom - other things began to happen and other business and industry opened including:

Service station with a café  
New branch bank (FNB)  
Two machine shops  
WWW Fabrication  
Pizza place  
The Ole Depot restaurant  
Some new churches  
EnSaTec  
Sewer system installed  
Petting zoo in southern part of town  
Cable TV

The Town of Woodville was the recipient of a historic building (1913), from Congressman Bob Jones, to be used as a Community Center. The building was a general merchandise store until closing in the 1970s. Rep. Jones purchased the building to store memorabilia he had accumulated during his 30 years as our U.S. Congressman, until a building near his residence could be completed. There was much work to be done to restore. A committee was formed to raise funds for the restoration effort. The town received a grant for \$50,000, from the State (Gov. Wallace), to accomplish the work. The BJCC grand opening was held in August 1984 with hundreds in attendance. There is much that is original inside. The counters used in the store, the wainscoting on the walls, etc. The part of the building that was used for feed and seed is now a kitchen, with restroom facilities and a museum containing artifacts of early Woodville. The building is almost constantly booked for community events, social gatherings, reunions, weddings, receptions, etc. Around 1998, a committee raised \$20,000 for maintenance and to upgrade the facility. The Board of Directors has always been very active in keeping the facility in tip-top shape as well as the park and adjacent lot which was the former location of a furniture store. The owner later donated this lot to the town and it is beautifully landscaped. The Gazebo, in the

park across from the BJCC, has recently been restored and is useful for patrons of the park or the BJCC.

Next door to the BJCC is Hodges Barber Shop, which has been restored to its original condition. Inside you will find the old barber chair, straight razor and strap, shoe last where the barber repaired shoes when not busy, a gone fishing and gone hunting sign. The shop was last operated by H.L. Hodges. In front of the barber shop is the old town well, where water was obtained, as well as where the horses and mules were tied up while their owners shopped.

The Woodville Methodist Church (Chapel) was built in 1912 and is of Gothic architecture. Due to decline in attendance, the church closed its doors after 125 years of worship. A final service was held June 9, 1996. Both the church facility and the parsonage were donated to the town. The parsonage was in such disrepair that it had to be torn down and the area is used for parking space for activities at the Chapel. There was much repair to be done to the church. Since the town did not have funds for the repair, a committee was appointed to raise the money. The Chapel is used for weddings, family gatherings, lectures, etc. The facility has an organ, a piano, restrooms, kitchen and dining room furniture from the parsonage. The town has added HVAC to the facility.

The Woodville Library was established as a branch of the Scottsboro Library by a resolution dated Oct 2, 1984. The library was first housed in the feed and seed room of the BJCC, but soon that space became too small. The first librarian was Beth Hilliard. In 1989, the library was moved across the street to its present location. An active "Friends of the Library" committee has provided funds for many improvements.

Small grants and funding have been received from our legislative delegation, the Alabama Public Library Service, and the Jackson County Commission. The library has 12,000 to 15,000 books, Internet service, a heritage room for genealogy research, a reading room, and a children's section. An average of 2,000 plus books are checked out each month.

Another area of interest is the Union Cemetery, established in the early 1800s, located in Woodville at the foothills of mountains. This cemetery has perpetual care. Because of the concern of many, the Woodville Union Cemetery Association, Inc. was formed in 1981 to oversee the maintenance and burials at the cemetery. The bylaws were written and a Board of Trustees was appointed. One task undertaken by the Union Cemetery Association was to place a marker at every person's grave that had served in any war. These markers include those who served in the Indian Wars, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Peacetime, including Iraq and Afghanistan. For a number of years on the Saturday before Memorial Day and Veterans Day, a service was held at the cemetery to honor those who have so bravely served. Many times a covered dish luncheon followed at the BJCC.

Woodville - a community settled in 1815 and incorporated as a town May 12, 1890 - was once the hub of activity, but has seen many changes. There have been 16 mayors who were elected and six that were appointed. While we lost much of the retail source of income, we want to stay more than a bedroom community for larger areas. As recently as 2012-2013, a Dollar General store opened and is doing a good business; Also, the North Alabama Health Services, Inc. has opened a clinic in Woodville that

will serve Woodville and the surrounding area. We have a few places of employment, but retail sources are needed. Also, the historic aspect of the area should bring in some tourism as well as the Walls of Jericho, Birding Trails, Cathedral Caverns, etc.

This information about the Town of Woodville is what I have been able to gather

from reading various articles as well as the J.R. Kennamer Sr. "Story of Woodville". I have lived in Woodville all of my adult life and have had the opportunity to serve the town in a number of ways such as mayor, county commissioner, Silver-Haired Legislator, and as a member of various boards and committees. Woodville is a great place to live and raise a family.

## Woodville's Historic Barber Shop

By Brenda Austin

This building was built in 1922 by H.L. Hodges, who became known to all as "Barber Hodges." He was the son of James and Mattie Hodges. He married Millard Lee Page in 1911. Barber was the father of Grover Hodges of Scottsboro, Alabama, and Elsie Hodges Kennamer of Abilene, Texas.

In 1922 haircuts were 15 cents and a shave was a dime. During the depression Barber half-soled shoes in his spare time to help provide a living for his family. He also filed saws and sharpened tools.

Barber Hodges was the biggest sportsman in Woodville. He would hang a sign on his door, "Gone Fishing" or "Gone Hunting," to let people know where he was. He was well known and liked by people from all over the area. Many stopped in to visit Barber whether they needed a haircut or not. They would tie their horse up to the hitching rail and let the horse drink from the watering trough in front of the barber shop while they got their haircut or just sat around chatting with Barber and his wife Millard.

Today, as people pass by the western-style building they fondly remember Barber



Hodges for his work and friendship. In front of the building remains the original pump in a well that was dug in the mid 1850s.

Barber retired in 1966 and sold his shop. He lived until 1972, some 50 years after he built the barber shop. In 2001 the Town of Woodville was able to purchase the building and restore it as a treasured historic landmark.



**Woodville Bicentennial**



## Cunningham-Maples-Lawson House in Paint Rock Valley



Cunningham-Maples-Lawson House on Dry Creek Road (Co Rd 4) NW of Mt. Nebo Church



2010



Cunningham-Maples-Lawson House



2010



Log Smokehouse



**Jackson County's Old Courthouse**



## Madison County

### James (John) Ditto: “Can One Man Make A Difference?”

By Ann Whitt

Our country’s history is filled with stories of our forefathers who left their native land, coming to America, migrating from the East Coast to the West Coast. How different it was in Alabama (Mississippi Territory) during the early 1800s for a man named James (John) Ditto to leave Chatham County, N.C., and relocate on the banks of the Tennessee River in Indian Territory which today is northeastern Alabama.

Mr. George Swartz on April 26, 1930 told Kathleen Paul Jones, a descendent of the Ditto family, about an old captain, Tom Miller (a Shoals pilot) who, in 1897, lived near Lock 2, Mussel Shoals Canal. Tom Miller was born in 1805 and at the age of 15 began to follow the river and often stayed at Copper’s Tavern on the south side of the square at Huntsville, where he heard much discussion about the first man to settle there.

This Tom Miller said in the fall of 1802 James (John) Ditto came and built a pole lean-to near the spring, but soon moved on to the river. Ditto was living among the Indians as a trader at “Ditto’s Landing,” also known as “Chickasaw Old Fields” near Chickasaw Island (Hobbs Island today) as early as 1802. Mr. Miller said he was 15 years old when he saw the Atlas, the first steamboat to come up the Tennessee River. He also said he personally heard John Hunt say that when he reached the Big Spring in 1804, he found the pole lean-to that Ditto had abandoned.

After reaching the Tennessee River and looked out in the distance where the river bends, James (John) Ditto had found his home. Here he established a ferry and later a yard, where he built keel and flat boats. I am sure that it never occurred to him that in a few years he would be ferrying troops for General Jackson and his troops during the War of 1812.

Mr. Swartz has a copy of the Mellish Map (1813-14) which shows three ferries on the river: Ross, now Chattanooga, Ditto’s and Colbert’s. Mr. Swartz states the heel of the new Whitesburg bridge is on the exact spot of the ferry. He says Matthew K. Mahan married a Cooper in 1830 and began to work for “Salt” White. Later this land was called Whitesburg, named after James White who came from Virginia to Ditto’s Landing and had made his fortune from salt mines. He was known as the Salt King of Abingdon, Va. Of course, the town of Whitesburg does not exist anymore.

Records investigated so far reveal that Ditto was born around 1743. The family in Alabama and other sources record that he died in October, 1828. Therefore he was approximately 85 years old at his death. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, where various members of the Ditto family first settled in America. His family migrated into Chatham County, N.C., and finally we find James Ditto in Alabama (Mississippi Territory). He had eight children but we do not know of his wife. Perhaps she died in North Carolina and this may have influenced him to relocate to this area.

During the War of 1812 which is referred to as “The Second Revolutionary War,” Ditto’s Landing played an important part in the transportation of troops of Andrew Jackson, General Coffee, and David Crockett. Archived in the Library of Congress and written by James Ditto is his letter to Andrew Jackson concerning the moving of troops and supplies at Ditto’s Landing during the year of 1813. The letter of Nov. 13, 1813 is apparently in response to an earlier query from Jackson’s command. The letter reads as follows:

Dear General

The ferry on Tennessee River is very badly attended too. People has frequently to wait half a day on the South side of the River, let their business be ever so urgent, and then perhaps Give an Extravagant fee to Get over.

I would suppose that all persons going or coming who is attached to the army would have their ferages paid by the publick, should your Honor think it ought to be the case. I would wish to appoint suitable hands to be Ready at all times to work the flat or canoe as the case may Require. I would only add that I have kept a ferry six years at this and the Lower Landing; therefore, my Two sons must be well acquainted-with the management of a flat & should your honor direct me to have it done, it shoud be done with punctuality. The work is Laborious. Shoud your Honour, say so much p’r day or so much p’r man & horse & also for foot faringers—p’r day is much the easiest Ac’t (Accounting). I am with due Esteem your most obedient Servant.

(signed) James Ditto  
Ms’r General Jackson

P.S. Maj’r Alex’r Gilbreath is acquainted with me - wind at west & the River East - 3 hours will do - high tide will take five, boat is heavy.

Ferrying Jackson’s troops made transportation much faster than hacking trails through the forest. Time was of essence and moving his troops was of greatest importance as Jackson would ultimately be on his way to meet General Packenham and his British troops at the famous “Battle of New Orleans.” The Treaty of Ghent had already been signed but news traveled slowly during the War of 1812 and Jackson had heard that the British were coming to take New Orleans.

Jackson hated the British! When he was 14 years old he and his younger brother were captured by British soldiers and taken as prisoners. One of the British soldiers asked Andrew to polish his shoes. Andrew refused to polish the soldier’s shoes and responded “I am a prisoner of War and I expect to be treated as such.” The British soldier drew his sword and as the sword came toward Andrew he caught the point of the sword between his fingers. This injury left permanent scars on his fingers. The British soldier then asked Andrew’s brother to polish his shoes and his brother refused. This angered the British soldier so much that he took his sword and hit Andrew’s brother over the head leaving an open wound. His mother traveled 45 miles riding a horse and leading another to the prison camp in order to retrieve her sons. Andrew had to walk all the way home with bare feet as the British soldiers had taken his shoes. The open head wound of Andrew’s brother was never given medical attention in the prison camp. After returning home Andrew’s brother died of this infected head wound.

After the death of his brother and Andrew was well enough to be left alone, his mother left to care for some of the Crawford children who were very sick. Andrew never saw his mother again. Her clothes were sent to him but he never knew where his mother was buried. He had lost his father and older brother during the Revolutionary War and now his mother and younger brother were gone because of the British. He was orphaned at the age of 14 and Andrew Jackson had already learned to be tough. Life had not been easy. This early encounter with the British left Andrew Jackson with a vengeance to stop the British. The British must be stopped and Jackson accomplished his mission at the Battle of New Orleans.

It was a very cold day Jan. 8, 1815, when the British met their fate in this great Battle of New Orleans. General Pakenham and his soldiers numbering 5,300 came in their ships to seize New Orleans and take control of the Mississippi River. Jackson and his rag tag soldiers numbering about 4,000 men consisting of frontiersmen, American Indians, slaves, free blacks and Creoles, were ready. The battle was over quickly and New Orleans was saved and so was our country. Uncovered recently in British archives are records revealing the purpose of the British sending troops to New Orleans. General Pakenham had been given orders from Bathurst from the War Department in England to take New Orleans. If the British captured New Orleans, then the Louisiana Purchase would be null and void. The Treaty of Ghent would only be worth the paper it was written upon. We would be living under British Rule. The British lost 291 killed, including Pakenham, 1,262 wounded, and 48 prisoners; American losses on both sides of the river were only 13 killed, 39 wounded, and 19 prisoners. The surviving British troops withdrew to

Lake Borgne and embarked on Jan. 27 for Mobile, where on Feb. 14 they learned that the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war, had been signed on Dec. 24, 1814.

What if James Ditto had not come to Alabama and what can one man do? Ditto's Landing became the central point of the area's transportation network. Practically all supplies were shipped down the Tennessee River from further north and put off at Ditto's Landing, about 10 miles south of the Whitesburg Settlement. James Ditto was there with his ferry to do what he could to help facilitate the ferrying of troops during the War of 1812. This saved time for Jackson and the battles he fought on his way to New Orleans, arriving in New Orleans in time to prepare for the British.

Jackson gained fame because of his victories and went on to become President of the United States and James Ditto lives on in our memories as he left us "Ditto's Landing," a beautiful area enjoyed by all. James Ditto did not leave many possessions: a couple of books, one bed, two trunks, one oven, and one tin canister, all of which appraised for \$5.75. Although Ditto never held title to Ditto's Landing, he did live on the 160 acres of land with his family in the southeast quarter of section 28, township 5 south, range 1 east of the Huntsville Meridian Line. For a short time he made payments on the property then transferred it to his son Michael, who eventually received title to the acreage. His wealth cannot be measured by money but this unassuming man named James Ditto left us with the knowledge that one man can make a difference.

References: History of the Ditto Families 1700-2000 by Robert Shean Riley; the Heritage of Madison County, Alabama, submitted by Ralph B. Garrison Huntsville, Al a descendant of James Ditto; Madison, Morgan, and Marshall Counties Census and Marriage Records; Andrew Jackson Papers Library of Congress Washington, D.C.; William J. Stubno "In search of a Man Named Ditto" the Huntsville Historical Review, Vol 15, No. 1 & 2 Spring-Fall;

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Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.

Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.

The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.

If you are the last living link between your grandparents and your grandchildren—don't break the chain.

If you don't want your descendants to put a twisted spin on your life story, write it yourself!

If you're the family photographer (and not showing up in photos), your family historian descendants will become upset with you.

To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first place.

Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

Your children may not thank you, but if you preserve the family genealogy your great great great great descendants will remember you as super-great!



## **Who Was Bob Wallace?**

By Linda Bayer Allen

Bob Wallace Avenue wends its way across Huntsville, Alabama, as a minor arterial street providing access to hundreds of businesses and residences and is traveled daily by thousands of people. A few of those travelers, in particular those who drive it daily, have wondered, who was Bob Wallace? Local lore holds that he was the nephew of a developer, but which developer and which nephew and when?

It all began with Edward L. Pulley, a Huntsville lawyer turned entrepreneur. Pulley, born 1870 in Huntsville, the son of Robert Lackey Pulley and his wife Georgia Strong Pulley, was the sixth of seven surviving children. His parents had farmed in the county but apparently did well enough to purchase the antebellum Isaiah Dill house on Calhoun Street in 1867. This remained the Pulley family residence until 1920 and was where Edward, or E.L. as he was often known, spent his childhood and resided as late as 1896. Robert, his father, shifted from farmer to merchant with the opening of R. L. Pulley & Son, a dry goods and notions store on South Side Square. At least two of his sons worked in the store, but E.L. had in mind a more grandiose future.

E.L.'s higher education is a little murky, but apparently he graduated from Vanderbilt University circa 1888 with a B.A. degree. When and where he completed a law degree has not been determined, but in 1891 he began a two-year term as the Huntsville city attorney. In 1894 he enlisted in the Alabama National Guard and served under William Brandon (who was appointed adjutant general of the guard in 1899). In 1895, the Alabama General Assembly authorized Pulley and two of his brothers to incorporate as the Madison Loan and Trust Company with a capital stock of \$50,000. They took offices on West Side Square and placed an ad in the 1896-97 city directory naming Edward L. as president and his brother Charles H. Pulley as secretary-treasurer and announcing the firm's availability to act as assignee, trustee, receiver, agent or in any other fiduciary capacity in real estate, stocks, bonds, and general brokerage.

That was just the start: in 1898 E.L. was elected to a four-year term as state senator representing Madison County, thereby elevating himself to a position where he could hobnob with influential Alabama movers and shakers. During this period he moved out of the family residence on Calhoun and took rooms on Eustis Street for both his office and residence.

But 1908 was the year Pulley put in play the first of his truly ambitious plans. In January he, his sister Jimmie Lowry, and his brother-in-law N.O. Wallace incorporated as the South Huntsville Development Company; two weeks later Pulley purchased from the Rhett family 175 acres lying on the west side of Whitesburg Pike; and three days after that, he sold the Rhett property to the South Huntsville Development Co. for the price he had paid, \$5,000. Later that year he, Jimmie Lowry, N.O. Wallace, and his brothers Dr. William J. Pulley and C.H. Pulley created a second corporation impressively titled the Huntsville, Chattanooga and Birmingham Interurban Railway Light and Power Company with the intention of constructing railways to Chattanooga and Birmingham as well as furnishing light and power along the tracks and to the cities at either end.

The first phase of the Huntsville electric street car system was already in operation, and development was booming in southwest Huntsville; the Pulleys intended to be major players in this exciting new industry. To that end the Interurban Company reached an agreement with T.C. du Pont to purchase 90 percent of the stock of the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company for \$54,500. The siblings harbored a grand vision not only of expanding the local electric car line to better serve their newly purchased property and the county fairground lying west of it, but also to construct interurban extensions connecting Huntsville with nearby metropolitan centers.

The following year, 1909, E.L. Pulley recorded the first subdivision, the Clerk and Salaried Man's Addition, in the Whitesburg acreage and sold the first lot. (The plat was so recorded, but scribes ever since have been silently altering the name; the 1929 Quigley map labels it the Clerks and Salaried Men's Addition.) Shortly after, in September 1910, the family's plans deteriorated quickly when E.L. fell sick and died at age 40 of kidney failure. He had not married and left no children. His will of 1897 bequeathed to his brother Dr. William Pulley of New York City all his property, real and personal, and nominated another brother, Robert S. Pulley, as executor.

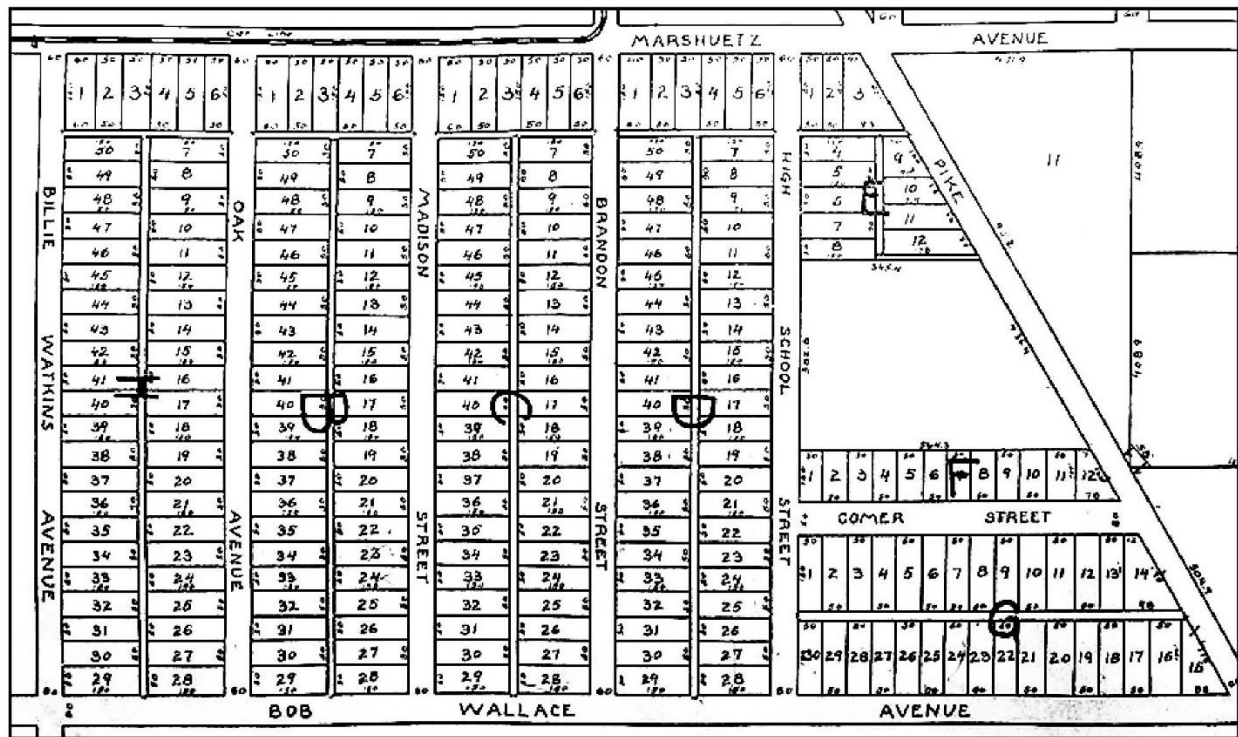
When the estate went through probate, all Pulley's grand schemes unraveled. An accounting of his assets and debts revealed that his estate was insolvent, even after his personal and real property had been sold. Thousands of dollars still owed to du Pont were in default because the Interurban Company had no funds - which ended the dream of a regional railway. (Oddly, the Clerks & Salaried Men's plat shows the "car line" running along Marshuetz; it is assumed that the line was not then in place, that it was planned, like the streets, but not yet built.) After making some 38 sales in the subdivision and quit claiming right-of-way for expansion of the local street railway, the surviving stockholders dissolved the South Huntsville Development Co. in 1913. The only bright spot in all this might have been the annual Tennessee Valley Fair which closed a few days after Pulley's death. He had been secretary of the fair association, an original incorporator, and a huge supporter; the 1910 fair was considered a financial success which was largely attributed to his efforts.

In the end, all that the Pulley siblings, acting as the South Huntsville Development Co., bequeathed Huntsville was the almost empty Clerks and Salaried Men's neighborhood which began at Whitesburg Pike, extended west five blocks, and was divided into 254 lots and eight streets plus one large unnumbered lot. The newly platted streets were Comer, High School, Brandon, Madison, and Oak, with Billie Watkins as the west boundary, Marshuetz as the north boundary, and Bob Wallace as the south boundary. (The subdivision also included a block lying in the V between Whitesburg and Franklin, but this study does not include that block.)

This original 1909 five-block-long portion of Bob Wallace Avenue remained that length until 1928 when it was platted eastward to its intersection with Sunset Drive in College Hill Addition; but, Sunset Drive was never constructed so Bob Wallace ended then, as now, at Lytle Street. (Today a different Sunset Avenue runs for three blocks south off Bob Wallace.)

The west end of Bob Wallace stopped at Billie Watkins until the late-1950s when an enormous influx of residents forced massive changes in the city and, in particular, the street

system. Bob Wallace Avenue was pushed westward to connect with Thirteenth Avenue and then with Madison Pike in West Huntsville, thereby joining the two sides of the city across the south. After Sparkman Drive was constructed, Bob Wallace was connected to its southern end to create a partial ring road, but the Bob Wallace name was dropped where the road turned north. It had taken nearly half a century for Bob Wallace Avenue to reach its current configuration and status as a minor arterial street running from Lytle to Sparkman. (Farther south, Drake Avenue also was extended westward but not until the 1960s when it was connected first with Donegan Lane and later with Ridgcrest Street under the name Drake Avenue.)



Above is the 1909 subdivision, as it was platted, showing the original portion of Bob Wallace Avenue. The diagonal street labeled Pike is Whitesburg. It is presumed that Pulley dreamed of selling the large lot fronting on High School Street to the city for its first public high school, a coup that would have made the subdivision lots highly desirable. Comer Street probably was never opened, and by 1929 it had disappeared from the city map. Note the correct spelling of Marshuetz Avenue; the 1949 Sanborn map continued the original spelling while noting that the street west of Brandon was still not open. The dashed line running along the middle of Marshuetz is labeled "car line." Block A has been omitted from this illustration.

As late as 1940 the city directory shows no addresses on Bob Wallace, partially because all of the lots faced the north-south streets except those in Block G. Even the 1949 update of the Sanborn fire insurance map shows only a scattering of houses in the Clerks & Salaried Men's Addition, but the phenomenal growth of the city during the 1950s created a demand for every lot and forced the construction of a greatly expanded street network. It was not until 1958 that the city addressed the confusing tangle of street names in a city-wide ordinance that changed several of the names in the Clerks & Salaried Men's Addition. The boundary street names were retained:

Marshuetz, Billie Watkins, Whitesburg, and Bob Wallace. But Oak Street became Gallatin, Madison became Poincianna, and High School became Pansy. Comer Street disappeared, and Brandon Street extended north two blocks to Longwood. By the end of the 1950s, nearly all the lots west of Pansy Street had been filled with houses.

What was the inspiration for the original names? We can only make educated guesses, but some names seem obvious. Whitesburg, of course, already existed as did Oak and Madison streets; the logical assumption was that the already established downtown portions of Oak (now Fountain Circle) and Madison would be pushed south to connect with the new subdivision streets of the same name, but that didn't happen. High School Street was a fantasy that was dashed when the first public high school was located on West Clinton Street in 1916; ironically, the third Huntsville High School building was erected on Billie Watkins in 1954, and the fourth was recently completed on Bob Wallace Avenue. Pulley was a man ahead of his time.

Comer Street was probably named for the sitting Alabama governor, Braxton Bragg Comer, (1907-1911), and Brandon Street could have honored William W. Brandon, the state adjutant general (1899-1907) and member of the state house of representatives where he served three terms beginning in 1896. Pulley would have known both of these men through his military and political activities, and his senate term coincided with Brandon's time in the House. Although Pulley did not live to see it, Brandon went on to be elected governor in 1922. Pulley likely speculated that Comer and Brandon could prove useful to him in his future financial and real estate pursuits.

Today's Marsheutz [*sic*] Avenue is a little more problematical. Leo J. Marshuetz [*sic*] lived on Lincoln Street in the 1890s and was associated with J. Klaus & Co., a clothier on North Side Square. He also dealt in real estate, including the purchase of the first lot sold in the Clerks & Salaried Men's Addition. He paid \$100 for a lot that fronted on Marshuetz [*sic*]—which prompts one to ask what was the connection between the street name and the buyer as the two names were then identical. Only later did the city misspell the street name. A cursory search reveals no Marshuetz family members among the Pulley relatives, but it is an unusual name to be a random choice. At any rate, Leo didn't stay in Huntsville but relocated to Montgomery before 1920.

That leaves Billie Watkins and Bob Wallace streets unaccounted for. The assumption made here is that Pulley selected the names Comer and Brandon, but the South Huntsville Development Co. had two other partners, N.O. Wallace and Jimmie Lowry, who presumably had street name suggestions of their own. As it turns out, Nathaniel Odell Wallace had married Pulley's sister Mary Wade Pulley in 1893, and they had a son named Robert Pulley Wallace, born 1898 in Lincoln County, Tennessee. The Wallaces lived on Mulberry Avenue in Fayetteville, where N.O. was a son of the founder and editor of the local newspaper, which he and his brothers inherited from their father. From Robert Wallace's 1918 World War I draft registration, we learn that he was a pre-med student at Vanderbilt University. The 1940 federal census reveals that he was a surgeon in private practice living on East 79th Street in Manhattan, had married Jeanne Hopton in 1933, and they were the parents of a daughter Mary Louise born in 1938. Robert Pulley Wallace died in New York of heart failure in 1957 - the precise period when Bob Wallace Avenue became a major thoroughfare.

**Dr. Robert P. Wallace**

Dr. Robert P. Wallace, a specialist in internal medicine and medical director of the Sinclair Oil Corporation, died yesterday in Doctors Hospital. His age was 59. He lived at 240 East Seventy-ninth Street and had his office at 277 Park Avenue.

A fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Wallace also was a member of the Academy of Medicine, the New York Gastroenterological Society and the Bellevue Alumni. He was on the medical board of Doctors Hospital. Dr. Wallace received his medical degree from University and Bellevue Hospital Medical School in 1924.

Surviving are his widow, Jeanne, and a daughter, Miss Mary Louise Wallace.

*New York Times Obituary, Oct. 10, 1957*

So, the local lore appears to be correct. Bob Wallace was a nephew of not one, but two, developers, E.L. Pulley and Jimmie Lowry, and the son of the third firm member, N.O. Wallace. Robert Wallace, or Bob as we casually refer to him, never lived in Huntsville and consequently was lost to civic memory.

But who was Billie Watkins?

That is a story for another day....

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## Jeremiah S. Calvert, in Alabama 6th Great-Grandson of Lord Baltimore

By Bettye Perrine

According to Jeremiah Calvert's tombstone in Seguin, Texas, he came to Alabama in 1818. As shown in *Record of Wills, Inventories and other Returns of Executors, Administrators, and Guardians 1818-19*, Pages 105 and 150, he did just that. This was the settlement of the Estate of Benjamin Eddins, probated in October 1818 where Jeremiah S. Calvert was a purchaser of one lock chain for \$7.00.



**It reads: "Born Sept. 10th, 1791 in Culpeper County, Va.  
Resided in North Alabama 27 years  
Removed to Texas in 1845 and settled in Seguin.  
Died April 18, 1867. Aged 76"**

In several places in *Alabama Records*, over 100 volumes of records, Jeremiah S. Calvert was a Justice of the Peace in Limestone and Madison Counties, even marrying a couple. He also served many times as a witness to court cases, as an appraiser of property, and as a commissioner in Court cases in both counties.

In the Limestone County records, no deed

records were found.

Deeds for Property Sold To Jeremiah Calvert in Madison County were as follows: **Madison County Courthouse, Book O, Page 43 & 44.**

03 Nov 1831 from Richard Forsey and wife for \$550.00

The south west quarter of the north west quarter of section No. five, Township three, Range one west of the basis meridian line containing forty acres more or less. Also the

fraction of one other tract or parcel of land adjoining the same on the east containing forty acres more or less, the two tracts making the south half of the aforesaid quarter section.

**Madison County Courthouse, Book O, Page 455**

03 Jun 1833 from Jesse Hix and Mary

his wife for \$150.00

The North half of the South west Quarter of section Five in Township three of Range One west containing Eighty acres and one half More or less.

Deeds for Property Sold to Jeremiah Calvert in Lawrence County were as follows:

**Moulton, Alabama Archives, Book I Page 410-11**

03 Dec 1839 from James G. Armstrong, of Moulton for \$900.00 Moulton, Alabama Archives

**Moulton, Alabama Archives, Book K, Pages 194-93**

24 Apr 1841 from James Hodges for and in consideration of a certain agreement made Moulton, Alabama Archives

Property sold by Jeremiah Calvert in Lawrence County

**Moulton, Alabama Archives, Book K, Pages 193-194**

24 Mar 1842 to James G. Armstrong, of Mississippi for \$1,400.00

... the following lots of land North and near the Town of Moulton in Section Thirty Two, in Township Seven of Range Seven West and bounded as follows to wit: beginning at a point 22 poles South of the North West corner of said Section 32 and running South on said Section line forty one poles, thence East 6 degrees North 17 poles to the road leading from Browns Ferry to Moulton thence North 6 degrees West along said

Road eight and l fifth poles, thence E. 6" North 43 ¾ poles thence North 6 degrees North 43 ¾ thence North 6 degrees West 44 poles thence West 6 degrees South 38 poles thence South 6 degrees 22 poles thence ? 6 degrees south 22 poles to the beginning containing by computation Nineteen and 1/100 acres. Also the following described lot of land to wit beginning at South West Corner of the parcel of land, and running South on said line which is now the Courtland Road Four hundred and seventy eight feet nine inches to the lane or alley between which William W. Bogar now lives and the place intended to be conveyed on which said Calvert now resides, thence east 280 feet 6 inches, thence North 478 feet 9 inches and to the line of the first named Tract of Land thence west and along said line 280 feet 6 inches to the beginning containing by computation 3 acres including the Houses, Shop, Garden to where said Calvert at this time resides..

**Moulton, Alabama Archives, Book I, Page 476**

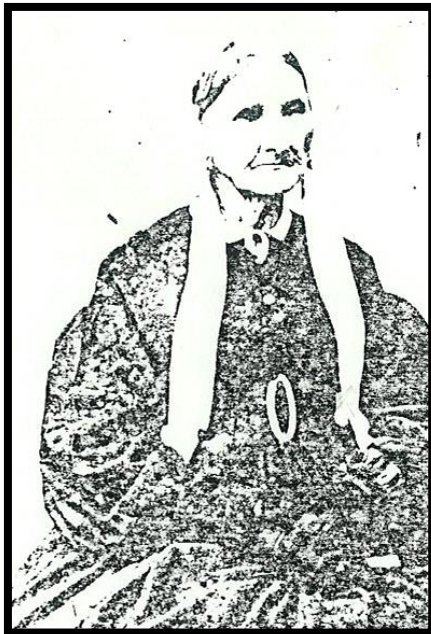
13 Oct 1845 to John M. Cummings for \$50.00 Book L. Page 253

A certain forty acre tract of land on the West side of the Courtland Road in Lawrence County Alabama and two and a half miles north from Moulton being the fourth of



one quarter Section of land the east boundary whereof adjoining the Road the particular number is not known but being the only tract or forty acre piece of land I ever owned in the Section twenty of Township six of Range seven west...

Jeremiah Strother Calvert and Priscilla Smither were married in Loudoun County, Va., on April 8, 1816. The first of their 11 children was born in Culpepper County, Va., before moving to Alabama, in 1818 prior to statehood Dec. 14, 1819. Although none of his descendants has registered to become First Families of the Tennessee Valley, they certainly would qualify.



**Priscilla Smither Calvert**

Jeremiah Strother Calvert and Priscilla Smither Calvert had 11 children. They are as follows:

**Mary Ann Calvert**, b. Jan. 16, 1817 in Culpepper County, Va. She married James Coleman Watkins Oct. 1, 1845 in Lawrence County Alabama. They had six children. She

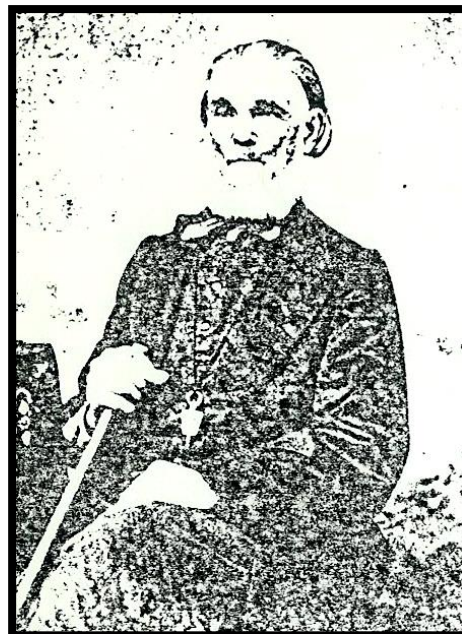
died in October, 1888 in Sequin, Texas, where they had moved after her parents went there in 1845.

**Sarah Hunt Calvert**, b. May 9, 1819 and died April 2, 1833, probably all in Madison County, Alabama. No gravestone found yet.

**Eliza Jane Calvert**, b. Oct. 18, 1821 d. Dec. 15, 1821, probably all in Madison County, Alabama. No gravestone found yet.

**Katherine Kennerly Calvert**, b. Jan. 21, 1823, married Thomas Dickey Johnston, Jan. 31, 1848 in Seguin, Texas. They had four children. Died in Seguin, date unknown.

**James Lockhart Calvert**, b. Sept. 19, 1825, married Anna Frances Tabor April 6, 1853 in Texas. They had two children: Thomas J. Calvert and Elizabeth Twohig Calvert. James Lockhart is buried in the



**Jeremiah Strother Calvert**

Karnes City Cemetery, Karnes, Texas. He was born Sept. 19, 1825 and died March 10, 1894 with the inscription, "Write me down as one who loved his fellow man." His son, Thomas J., is also there. His dates are b. Feb. 5, 1855, d. April 29, 1914. It is a "Woodmen of the World Memorial" grave.



His name is listed as Thomas Johnston Calvert.

**Susan Sophia Calvert**, b. Feb. 2, 1827 in Alabama and died in Alameda, Calif. She married John "Jack" Coffee Hays April 29, 1847 in Sequin, Texas. They had five children, only two of whom survived to maturity. They were John Caperton Hays and Bettye Hays, both marrying siblings of the McMullin family.

**Samuel Ralls Calvert**, b. July 21, 1831 in Alabama. Never married. Died 1888 in Sequin.

**Elizabeth Priscilla Calvert**, b. Dec. 7, 1832 in Alabama and married John Twohig April 6, 1853 in Texas. They both died in San Antonio and were childless.

**William Lancelot Strother Calvert**, b. Jan. 21, 1835 in Alabama. He was injured during the Civil War while serving with the 4th Texas Regiment, in the engagement at the first Coal Harbor of the Battle of Chickahominy River, June 27, 1862, dying from his injuries on Aug. 24, 1862 at Waynesboro, Va.

**Martha Frances Calvert**, b. June 26, 1837 in Alabama. She married Alfred Shelby Dec. 19, 1854. They had nine children. Death dates unknown.

**Edward Pendleton Calvert**, b. Aug. 15, 1840 in Alabama. He joined the Civil War on March 22, 1862 in Guadalupe County, Texas. He became a sargeant in Company C, 36th Texas Cavalry. By November of 1862 he was on detached service to John Twohig in San Antonio where he served until Sept. 26, 1863. He was killed on April 12, 1864 in the Battle of Blair's Landing, Louisiana with Wood's 36th Texas Cavalry.

Jeremiah and Priscilla Calvert left Alabama with their nine living children, leaving behind the graves of two other children. All of these nine children were born in Alabama, except Mary Ann, the first who was born in Virginia in 1817. They

reached Texas in 1845 according to the tombstone of Jeremiah.

In researching Priscilla Smither Calvert and her husband Jeremiah Strother Calvert, there were several references to Jeremiah being related to Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore. Searching the internet on several sites, they all gave the same general information as follows:

#### **Jeremiah's Ancestors**

**8th Great-grandfather:** John Calvert of Danby Wiske, England on an estate called Kiplin, in the valley of the Swale, Yorkshire. m. Dorothy Margarie Leonard.

**7th Great-grandfather:** Leonard Calvert of Danby Wiske, England b. 1550, Kiplin Swale, Yorkshire, England d. 1611 m. Alicia de Crosland about 1575.

**6th Great-grandfather:** Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, b. 1578/80 near Bolton Castle, Yorkshire, d. April 15, 1632 in London, m. Anne Mynne, b. Nov. 20, 1579, d. Aug. 12, 1622.

**5th Great-grandfather:** Leonard Calvert, second son of the first Lord Baltimore. b. 1606 in England, d. June 9, 1647 in Maryland. Came to America in 1634, became the first Governor of the State of Maryland 1633-1643, m. Anne Brent 1642 in England, he was a younger brother of Cecillius (Cecil), the 2nd Lord Baltimore who established the colony which became Maryland.

**4th Great-grandfather:** William Calvert, b. 1642/3 in England, d. Jan. 10, 1682, Lived St. Mary's County, Maryland, m. Elizabeth Stone 1661/2. He came to the Province of Maryland in 1661, received a large grant of land from his uncle (Cecil) Lord Baltimore. He was Principal Secretary of Maryland. He drowned when he was trying to ford the swollen Wicomico River. He was a member of the House of Burgesses and of the Council; he was also Deputy

Governor of the Province of Maryland.

**3rd Great-grandfather:** George Calvert, b. 1668 in Charles County, Maryland, d. after 1739 in Stafford County, Virginia, m. Elizabeth Doyne c. 1690.

**2nd Great-grandfather:** John Calvert, b. 1690/92, d. 1739 in Prince William County, Virginia. He was granted land in Prince William County, Va., July 16, 1724. He m. Elizabeth Harrison ca. 1711. (supposedly the daughter of Benjamin Harrison III, of Virginia.)

**1st Great-grandfather:** George Calvert Jr., b. 1712, d. May 19, 1782 in Culpepper County, Va., having moved from Prince William County before the Revolutionary War. After the death of Frederick, sixth and last Lord Baltimore, in 1771, he was the next heir to the title, but he never put forth a claim and soon after cast in his lot with the revolting Colonies. He lived at "Deep Hole Farm," Prince William County, across the Potomac River from Maryland; he died at "The Horse Shoe," in Culpepper County. When Benedict Arnold invaded the Valley of Virginia in 1782 he was commissioned Captain of a Company of Militia in Culpepper County by Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia. First commission signed by Jefferson on May 19, 1781. He m. Anne Crupper ca. 1740 and m. (2) 1779 Mary Strother Deatherage.

**Grandfather:** George Calvert. b. Feb. 6, 1744 d. May 23, 1821 in Culpepper County, Va., m. Lydia Beck Ralls Feb. 7, 1764 in Culpepper County, Va. He was a Captain in the War of the Revolution.

**Father:** Ralls Calvert, b. Oct. 9, 1767, m. Mary Wade Strother Nov. 15, 1790 in Culpepper County, Va., died June 29, 1815 in Culpepper County, Va., where he lived all his life.

**Son:** Jeremiah Strother Calvert, b. Sept. 10, 1791 in Culpepper County, Va. Lived in Virginia, Madison and Lawrence Counties, Alabama and Seguin, Guadalupe, Texas, d.

April 18, 1867 in Texas, m. Priscilla Smither April 8, 1816 in Loudoun County, Va.

**Sources:**

Information gleaned from various Internet Genealogies

Maryland Genealogies: a consolidation of articles from the Maryland historical magazine, Vol. 1, published 1980 by Genealogical Pub. Co., pages 132-155. Book found in the Huntsville Public Library.

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[www.seguin.net/heritage](http://www.seguin.net/heritage)

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Pictures of the Calverts from the work of David Newton Grimwood. Other photos by the author

## Marshall County

### Dr. Marx Edgeworth Lazarus, the “Sand Mountain Hermit”

By Keith Finley

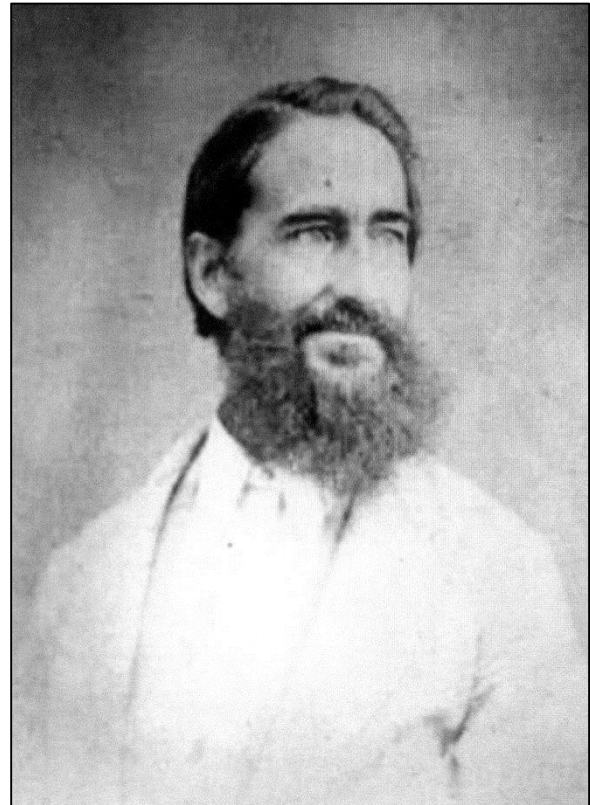
The following obituary appeared on the front page of the Sunday Edition of the *Chicago Tribune* on May 24, 1896:

#### “SAND MOUNTAIN HERMIT” IS DEAD

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 23, - [special] - Dr. Lazarus, the “Sand Mountain Hermit,” widely known for his peculiar mode of life, died in his cabin on Sand Mountain, Jackson County, Ala. Mrs. Hugh Carlisle, wife of Maj. Carlisle, a wealthy railroad builder, in return for skillful professional services rendered her in New York by Dr. Lazarus twenty years ago, bore all the funeral expenses and buried the remains in the cemetery at Guntersville, Ala.

He was a very quaint character, and had diplomas from the best medical schools of New York London, Paris, Berlin, and Edinburg. His father was at one time a wealthy shipowner of Wilmington, N.C., whose ships visited the ports of the Old World.

The son became an able writer, and contributed to a number of foreign journals in several languages, but he fell a victim to communistic views, which ultimately exiled him from society. He became a misogynist, cursing the human race, and for years has lived remote from civilization. His steed was a saddled ox, and the sharers of his habitation the mountain goats on whose milk together with wild roots he eked out an existence.”



At the time of his death Dr. Lazarus was 74 years old having been born on Feb. 6, 1822 at Wilmington, N.C. and dying at Guntersville, Alabama, on May 22, 1896. He was the oldest of four children of Jewish parents, Aaron and Rachel Mordecai Lazarus. He never lived in Jackson County but rather spent his time in Alabama in Marshall County.

As early as August 1815 Rachel had corresponded with Maria Edgeworth in Ireland who was an authoress whom Rachel greatly admired. She admired her so much that she named her son Marx Edgeworth Lazarus. The two of them continued to correspond until June 1838. On June 23 of that year Rachel died. In their

correspondence when Rachel referred to her son by his name she always called him “Edgeworth.” In their correspondence Rachel mentioned him 12 times from the time he was two until he was 15 years old. According to her correspondence he was a very intelligent child.

To describe him as “quaint” was a good description because as he grew he became a very unusual person. Mrs. Carlisle, the sister of Dr. John Allan Wyeth, had traveled to New York to be treated by her brother who happened to be in Europe when she arrived. She met then with Dr. Lazarus, who, according to family history, had been in the Confederate Army and had apparently met Dr. Wyeth who was also a Confederate veteran. There have been no records found thus far to indicate that Lazarus ever served in the Confederate Army. Whatever the case, he correctly diagnosed her condition and healed her illness. Mrs. Carlisle and Dr. Lazarus became lifelong friends and that relationship was probably the reason Lazarus decided to move to Alabama.

Sometime prior to 1852 Dr. Lazarus had developed an interest in anarchism and during that year he published, at his own expense, his thoughts on the subject of marriage in a book with the title *Love vs. Marriage*. He joined the Oneida Community but became disillusioned with its leadership. One of the community’s anarchist ideas was that one should be able to love whomever they happened to love at the time and not be hindered by some legal point. Interestingly, the Oneida Community based their belief in “free love” upon a statement by Jesus found in the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Matthew when he was asked about the woman who had been married to seven brothers. “...in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven?” Jesus replied “...in the resurrection they neither marry,

nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven”. The Oneida Community took the position that physical relationships would continue in Heaven and one could love whomever they wanted and not be bound by marriage. This was one of his main points in his book *Love vs. Marriage* and he quoted this passage. However, in 1854 or 1855, when he was in his early thirties, he fell in love and married an Indiana 19-year-old girl by the name of Mary Laurie. His marriage was frowned upon by his fellow unbelievers in wedlock and they called him a traitor. The outcome of that marriage is unknown but she may appear again later.

Dr. John Allan Wyeth did not go to New York to study and practice until after 1872 according to his autobiography. Dr. Lazarus appeared in Guntersville, according to the local newspaper and a man who knew him, sometime between 1875 and 1880. This would indicate that Dr. Lazarus treated Mrs. Carlisle sometime in the early 1870s. No record has been found that would indicate that he owned any property in Marshall County. This suggests that he may well have lived in a cabin that was located on Wyeth property on Sand Mountain where they owned a house and property. This would have been likely because of his friendship with Mrs. Carlisle. This is further suggested since, according to his family, he had spent all of his money publishing his books and pamphlets on anarchism.

Katherine Duncan and Larry Smith did research on Dr. Lazarus and reported their findings in their book *The History of Marshall County, Alabama* published in 1969. According to their findings, before he became a hermit, he resembled a French count and acted as such. However, after he arrived in Alabama his appearance and actions changed. He had a goat pen in his

front yard and the goats had free run of his cabin. For transportation he rode a bull when he made a home visit or came to Guntersville for supplies. His dress was only his red flannel underwear, often wore no shoes, and was never seen wearing a hat.

However, in May of 1889, at the age of 67, Dr. Lazarus decided to make a change in his life style. On Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> Dr. Lazarus came riding into Guntersville in a hired buggy with a strange woman, that is, no one in town had ever seen her before. She was introduced as "Mrs. Lazarus". It seems that he had been corresponding with her and she had agreed to meet him in Chattanooga and, according to local talk, they would get married there. In his book *General History of Marshall County, Alabama*, J.S. Thomason of Arab tells of an interview he had with A.M. (Big Albert) Smith of the East Lake community in Guntersville concerning this "marriage". Mr. Smith had known Dr. Lazarus and had gone on some of his house calls with him. Mr. Smith remembered the situation this way:

"...she agreed to meet him in Chattanooga. The doctor put on a nice suit over his red flannel underwear and met her.

They came by train from Chattanooga to Scottsboro, then to Guntersville by a hired buggy and driver. They got to Guntersville about 4 P.M. and he asked her which she had rather do, walk or go to his residence in a buggy. She asked how far it was and he said, "Oh, just a pleasant walk." It was about four miles up a mountain. They got home about 10 that night.

When they got to his cabin she looked in she said "What have I done?" (Apparently Dr. Lazarus had failed to mention the goats)

He said "You have done well if you only knew it."

She asked "How can I get back home?"

He said, "Lady, if you are not satisfied, I have a chair and a cot. You can have your choice for the balance of the night."

She said "I'll take the chair."

The next day Dr. Lazarus asked a friend to bring her to Guntersville where she stayed at the Miller Hotel to wait for a steamer so she could start her trip back to New York.

A representative of the Guntersville *Democrat* called at the hotel and interviewed her, thinking that a talk with a foreigner would be of interest to the local readers. According to the paper her name was "Mary Louise" and that she was originally from France. She explained that she was returning to New York to look after the packing of her books and furniture and that she would return in a short while with her things and have a comfortable house built. She indicated that she belonged to the school of Individualism which advocated "free thought, free speech, and freedom from all laws and government."

A search of Tennessee records failed to find any indication that they obtained a marriage license in that state.

She arranged passage on the next steamboat to Chattanooga and no one in Guntersville ever saw her or her trunk again.

It seems very possible that "Mary Louise" was in fact "Mary Laurie" whom Dr. Lazarus had married in Indiana in the mid-1850s. Perhaps this was an attempt at reconciliation. Since they were both from

New York and held the same ideas this seems likely.

According to A.M. Smith when Dr. Lazarus became sick in 1896 he decided that he should go to New York for treatment and that he wanted Mrs. Carlisle to go with him. He got on the train at Lane Switch at the top of Sand Mountain and got off in Guntersville but he was too ill to continue the trip. Smith said that he told Mrs. Carlisle that he wasn't able to make the trip and would like to go to her mountain home for the few more days that he had to live. She sent him to the Wyeths' house on

Wyeth Mountain and hired two nurses to be with him day and night. He died on May 22nd. "I helped dress him for burial," Smith said, "He was buried in the Guntersville Cemetery with services by Rev. Wood, a Presbyterian preacher of Guntersville."

Major and Mrs. Carlisle are buried in the Guntersville City Cemetery. There is an unmarked space next to Mrs. Carlisle's grave. It is believed that it is the final resting place of the Sand Mountain Hermit, another of Guntersville's quaint residents.

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Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society  
Page, First !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## Martling Community

Information taken from *The Guntersville Democrat*

By Betty Taylor

Martling, Alabama, is a small community northeast of Guntersville. The county seat of Marshall County, Alabama, is Guntersville.

Legend has it that the community may have been started in the 1800s by pioneers from Georgia who were making their way across Sand Mountain headed west. A baby of one family became sick and died. They stopped to bury the baby and some of the families decided to stay in the area.

Many of these first pioneers became prominent citizens of Marshall County, Alabama.

In February of 1887 the community was improving from a siege of the grippe, called influenza today. One important citizen of 1887, W.T. Beard, was actually given up for dead, but fortunately survived. A lady 116 years old succumbed and was laid to rest in Martling Cemetery in January. Bill Strange's child was sick but survived.

On a more pleasant note, Walter Wynne of Brown's Valley visited the community. Miss Emma Stone of Rayburn Switch paid a visit to her cousin Miss Laura Rains.

In the second week of July 1887 R.Y. Rains had a child who was dangerously ill. Farmers were in good spirits on the question of farming. They were wanting to try experiments to improve their crops. Cotton stalks in George M. Rains's field were 3 feet 4 inches and contained 73 squares. Mr. Oliver D. Street opened school.

Singing schools, conventions, alliances and celebrations took the thoughts and time of those who were up with their work.

The New Bethel Sunday School held their celebration in August. This was a great event and many members of the community participated in the program. E.A. Gardner offered the prayer at the beginning. Everyone joined in the singing. The address to parents was by W.P. Johnson.

Several people had speeches prepared. Those who spoke were George Rains, Jr., William Dickson, D. Abney, Walter Roden, Johnie Harris, Tom Robertson, John Selvidge, Street Province, Jack Conaway, Montie Shipp, Louis Conaway, Horace Jenkins, Obediah Selvidge and Joe Slaton.

The female members of the Sunday School Class who wrote and delivered essays were Mattie Mitchell, Eva Rains, Mary Payne and Mary Shipp.

**Legend has it that the community may have been started in the 1800s by pioneers from Georgia who were making their way across Sand Mountain headed west. A baby of one family became sick and died. They stopped to bury the baby and some of the families decided to stay in the area.**

Recitations were given by Mattie Conaway, Dido Critcher, Laura Rains, Fannie Payne, Martha Dickson, Emma Rains, Susie Mitchell, Lee Rains, Alice Payne, Clemmie Robertson and Mary Abney.

A good bountiful dinner was served at noon. Lemonade stands run by T. Reed and Joseph Whitehead were greatly appreciated. After dinner the school was then called to order and interesting talks were made by J.H. Hendrix, and a minister, Jerome Bailey. Superintendent W.C. Rains closed the meeting.

The reporter for *The Democrat* said that he was introduced to a large and well grown potato pie and retreated to the shade of a tree and skillfully introduced the said pie to the interior of a very capacious mouth.

The reporter noticed several from different communities attended the celebration. Among those were Josie and Chattie Small of Nicholson's Gap. Miss Josie graduated from Ward's Seminary at Nashville and had a teaching job at Whiton. Miss Chattie was teaching in a good school near Whiton.

Haney's Chapel was represented by J.K.P. Cooper, Henry Jacob, W.A. Moore, J.C. and W.M. Coleman and Jerome and T. Bailey.

George M. Rains, purchased a most elegant banner for the school and presented it at the celebration.

December of 1887 saw several people going to Texas. Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Provence, Willie Rains, Elisha Sullivan, Mrs. John Rains and Mrs. Hill are the people who went together.

Mr. W.T. Osborne's school had 50 students at this particular time of the year.

By the end of December 1887 Mr. Osborne's school had 65 students. The reporter for *The Democrat* visited the school and was very pleased with what he saw among the bright little faces.

The end of 1887 saw the people of Martling in good spirits as they were nearer out of debt than ever before. The circuit preacher was scheduled to preach his first sermon the next Sunday. The wheat was looking well and more of it than usual. Economy had begun in the community. *End*  
1887

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## Early Marshall County, Alabama, Sheriffs

By Margene H. Black

Joel Higgins was the second sheriff of Marshall County, Alabama. His term began in 1838 and lasted until 1841. Joel was a native of Kentucky but he left there and went to Mississippi before removing to Marshall County.

There were many Joel Higgins in this line. According to an application to the Sons of the Revolution Ensign Joel Higgins was born in 1745 in King William County, Virginia. He was recommended by the County Court of Caroline County, Virginia to be an Ensign in the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War.

According to this same application, William Higgins, grandfather of Ensign Joel Higgins, and his seven sons and one daughter, were the first to move to Kentucky.

The sons were William, Moses, Aaron, Captain James, John, Joel and Jesse. All were probably Revolutionary soldiers. According to the Bible record found in the Kentucky Historical Society and donated by Anna Gertrude Carter, William was born May 29, 1786 and married Lydia Smith on Jan. 7, 1808. Lydia was born May 28, 1790. William died Oct. 26, 1847 and Lydia died March 13, 1841. William and Lydia were the parents of the following children:

1. Aaron Durette Higgins was born Oct. 17, 1808. He married Elizabeth Shy on July 11, 1841 according to Bible records found in a family file at the Kentucky Historical Society. Aaron was the first to go to Kentucky where he claimed a settlement and pre-emption of land for himself and his brother Captain James. This land was not ready to be sold, but the person having this

pre-emption had the right to buy it when it was ready. The land was on the South Fork off Licking River and the year was 1776. Aaron died March 20, 1853.

2. Mary Ann Amanda Higgins was born Jan. 5, 1811. She married Thomas L. Moore, Jan. 29, 1829. She died February 1835.

3. Frances Smith Higgins, born Mary 31, 1813 in Kentucky and died Oct. 25, 1841.

4. Malinda Catherine Higgins was born June 8, 1815, in Kentucky and died April 29, 1843 in Kentucky. She married Thomas L. Moore following the death of her sister.

5. William Franklin Higgins was born July 17, 1817. He died in Kentucky on June 27, 1824.

6. Eliza Jane Higgins was born Dec. 26, 1819 and died March 6, 1839 in Kentucky.

7. Drucilla Winn Higgins was born Dec. 25, 1822 and died March 17, 1846.

8. Charles Thomas Higgins was born Feb. 27, 1832 and died Jan. 21, 1856.

In 1785, William, with his entire family, left Pittsburg on flatboats, came down the Ohio River into Licking River, landed and built a fort called the Higgins Blockhouse. William Higgins had land in Kentucky surveyed for him by William County, Virginia in 1720. The family lived at this fort until their pre-empted land was ready for them to move to. An Indian attack on Higgins Fort is described in Collins History of Kentucky, Volume 2 p. 328. This fort consisted of seven or eight log houses built on dangerously high rocks 30 feet high with

a strong picket fence on the exposed sides. In this fort the Higgins brothers lived until their pre-empted land was surveyed for them. Aaron was the first to remove to Kentucky. There he claimed a settlement and pre-emption of land for himself and his brother, Captain James, on the South Fork of Licking River in the year 1776. See Fayette Preemptions, Book 1. pages 227-228. After this he went back to Virginia, but returned to Kentucky in 1783 with all his family.

Ensign Joel Higgins was in the Revolutionary War in Virginia. After the surrender of Cornwallis he migrated with his brother to Kentucky according to the Sons of the American Revolution Records. He married Drucilla Ann Winn in 1757 in Caroline County, Virginia. Drucilla Ann was the daughter of Benjamin Winn and Ann Tavender Winn. She was born about 1740 in Caroline County, Virginia and died before 1769 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia according to records found on Ancestry.com.

These are the known children of Ensign Joel and Drucilla Ann Higgins:

1. Richard Higgins, was born in Carolina County, Virginia on Sept. 7, 1770 and died Sept. 20, 1843 in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. Richard was married to Sally Wisdom Allen on Aug. 27, 1792. She was born in Virginia on Jan. 16, 1772 and died on Dec. 19, 1832. Richard was prominent in all the affairs of early Lexington. He served as a justice of the peace, county surveyor and sheriff of the county. In all of these offices, he was held in high esteem by everyone he came in contact with. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, serving in the battle of the Thames. In 1786, Richard and Sally settled in the South Elkhorn neighborhood.

Richard and Sally's children were:

A. Syria Higgins, born Oct. 16, 1798, and died Dec. 9, 1854. She married William Richardson, born May 15, 1791, and died Jan. 23 1863. They are both buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. They had one son, William Allen Richardson, born Feb. 20, 1819 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and died in 1892. He is also buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

B. Caroline Virginia Higgins, born Jan. 29, 1801, in Fayette County, Lexington, Kentucky and died April 7 1876, in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. She married Thomas Harrison Waters who was born Sept. 16, 1791 in Washington County, Kentucky. He died Aug. 27, 1872 in Fayette County, Lexington, Kentucky. They had one daughter, Mary Wickliffe Waters, who married William W. Van Ness.

C. Joel Higgins, born Nov. 27, 1803, married Ann Louisa Gibson, and died Oct. 27, 1859. (More about him later.)

D. Ann America Higgins, born March 20, 1805, and died March 6, 1882. She resided in Staunton, Virginia, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama and Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. She served as matron of the East Kentucky Lunatic Asylum until her death. She married Alexander Gibson Morgan who was born in 1802 and died in 1847. They had one son who was also Alexander Gibson Morgan.

E. Richard Higgins, who was born Jan. 10, 1812 and died Oct. 15, 1868. He married Jane Nash Legrand on Sept. 16, 1840. They had four children; Joel Higgins, 1842-1843; Legrand Higgins, 1844-1846; Sally Higgins 1846-1851; Frank C. Higgins, 1848-1851; Fanny Allen Higgins, born March 1, 1853 in Fayette County, Lexington, Kentucky, and

died in 1930 in New Jersey. She married William V.A. Kemp who was born in 1846 and died in New York March 6, 1897. They are buried in the Lexington, Kentucky Cemetery.

**Joel Higgins  
Second Sheriff  
of Marshall County, Alabama  
1838-1841**

Joel Higgins was born Nov. 7, 1802 in Fayette County, Lexington, Kentucky. He attended Transylvania College. He left Kentucky and went to Vicksburg, Mississippi where he met and married his wife. She was Ann Louisa Gibson, born in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi in 1804. She was the daughter of a minister, Randal Gibson (1766-1836) and his wife, Harriett McKinley (1771-1837). Harriett's parents were John McKinley and Mary Connelly, who were married in Cork, Ireland in 1763. They immigrated to Mount Royal Forge, Maryland where most of their children were born. This information was taken from the Bible records found in a family file at the Kentucky Historical Society. John McKinley was a captain in the Revolutionary War and afterwards joined Colonel Crawford's ill-fated expedition against the Indians where he was captured and killed.

Ann Louise was the granddaughter of Gideon Gibson and Mary O'Connell.

This couple were married in Virginia then moved to South Carolina and then removed to Sumner County, Tennessee. They built flatboats in Holstein County, Tennessee and began to travel up the Cumberland River. They were pursued by such an attack from the Indians that they had to drift out into midstream and go down the river to Ohio, finally getting into the Ohio River and then the Mississippi River

according to the Kentucky Historical Society. The final landing of this group was Natchez, Mississippi.

Randall Gibson brought Methodism into Mississippi and endowed a college in the Mississippi territory.

Joel and Ann Louisa Gibson Higgins moved from Vicksburg, Mississippi following their marriage April 8, 1823. Their marriage record was found in Mississippi Marriages, 1776-1935.

Joel began his office as sheriff in 1838. There is no record that shows his move to Marshall County. His family is listed in the 1840 Marshall County, Alabama Federal Census. The occupants were listed as follows:

- free white person - male 20-30 (Joel)
- 1 free white person - female under 5 (unknown)
- 1 free white person - female 15-19 (Ann)
- 1 slave - male 24-35
- 1 slave - female under 10
- 2 free white persons under 20 (brothers?)
- 1 free white person 20-49 (brother?)
- Total free white persons - 3
- Total slaves - 2

In the Marshall County, Alabama Deed Book A, pp. 295-296, there is a Deed of Trust listing William Higgins, 1st part; Joel Higgins 2nd part, with John J. Bain, 3<sup>rd</sup> part. One debt is for \$260.00. The second debt is for \$500.00 and the following was mortgaged: 50 hogs, 15 cattle, 4 cows with calf, and 1 male named Thomas, 60 years old, 1 female named Lydia, 60 years old. This deed was signed: William Higgins, Joel Higgins, and Nathan Long (X). It was recorded Feb. 23, 1839.

In the same Deed Book A, pp. 436-438, there is a record of James M. Gee and Standifer, a Deed of Trust James Ligon & John T. Rather from the Branch of the Bank of State of Alabama at Decatur, on Sept. 20, 1839 along with some other debts. One note on Gable & Murrah for \$3000.00 was endorsed by Richard Golden & Joel Higgins. Security for these debts: Reuben, about 21 years old, Jack, about 12 years old, Sylva, about 12 years old, together with a quantity of merchandise. All debts were signed by: James M. Gee of Gee and Standifer, James Ligon, John T. Rather, S.O. Nelson, cashier of the bank. Recorded: Sept. 28, 1839.

These two records show how the owners of slaves used them as property to sell or use as security on debts. These were recorded in 1839.

On page 553: Joel Higgins, Sheriff of Marshall County, Alabama, by court order from the circuit Court on Oct. 29, 1839, in favor of Joseph G. Garrett against John A. Maroney, did charge and sell to Arthur C. Beard for \$400.00. Signed: Joel Higgins. Recorded on March 2, 1840.

Pages 608 - 609: Joel Higgins, Sheriff, by order of the County Court of Morgan County, Alabama, commanded to charge on the Goods and Chattels, lands and Tenements of M.S. Kile & David Ricketts, J.H. Kile & Rhea & Ross. The debt was for \$471.82 plus \$30.60 for damages from the Branch of the Bank of Decatur.

Property of M.S. Kile & Jesse H. Kile was taken and sold to John T. Rather, agent. Signed: Joel Higgins, Sheriff, Recorded April 29, 1840 by Randles.

Sheriff Higgins is listed in the U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907, on July 1, 1845, purchasing land. He bought:

- 160.42 acres, Huntsville Meridian, Alabama;
- Marshall County;
- Township 9 South;
- Range 2 East;
- Section 26;
- Accession Number AL3620\_374;
- Metes and bounds, No;
- Land Office Huntsville;
- Canceled, No;
- Mineral Rights Reserved, No;
- Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale - Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566);
- Document Number, 12545.

In the record, *Alabama, Homestead and Cash Entry Patents, Pre-1908*, it shows:

- Joel Higgins in the Land Office at Huntsville
- Document Number, 12545;
- Date: 1 July 1845
- Mineral Rights Reserved, No;
- Metes and Bounds, No;
- Statutory Reference, 3 Stat. 566;
- Multiple Warrantees names, No;
- Act or Treaty, April 24, 1820;
- Multiple Patentee Names, Yes;
- Remark, Samuel Morris;
- Land Description, 1 South West Huntsville;
- Number 9 South, 2 East, 26.

This land is in the Diamond Community of Marshall County.

The family left the area of Marshall County sometime between 1845 and 1850. The next time we find this family is in the 1850 Fayette County, District 2, Kentucky; Census Roll: M432 199; Page 215; Aug. 3, 1850; taken by John M. Munroe.

1. Joel Higgins 47 male \$55,000  
Farmer Kentucky
2. Ann L. Higgins 45 female  
Mississippi
3. Randall G. Higgins 20 male Planter  
Mississippi
4. John A. Higgins 18 male Student  
Mississippi
5. Joel Higgins 16 male Student  
Kentucky
6. William Higgins 14 male Kentucky

In Ancestry.com, Personal Family Tree, Joel Higgins was born Nov. 27, 1802 in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky and died Oct. 27, 1859 in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. The cause of his death in the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules. 1850-1885 was Heart Disease. The beautiful Lexington Cemetery is the resting place of Joel Higgins. He was one of those who helped to incorporate the cemetery in 1849 and chose the spot for himself and his family. His grave is marked by an impressive tombstone.

Ann Louisa Gibson Higgins was living in the household of her son, Joel Higgins, in the 1880 South Elkhorn, Fayette County, Kentucky Census but she must have left shortly after this census was taken because she went to live with her son, Randall G. Higgins, who lived at Eutacia Landing in Mississippi and died there on March 9, 1881.

1. Randall G. Higgins was the oldest child of Joel and Ann Carolina Gibson Higgins. He was born in Mississippi and was living in District 2, Fayette County, Kentucky. He was 29 years old and listed as a planter. He was born in Mississippi. He was living in the household with his mother, father, and three brothers.

We find in the Mississippi Marriages. 1776-1935, Randall G. Higgins married Sarah E. Maury, in Adams County, Mississippi on May 17, 1855.

The great conflict, War Between the States, began and Randall Higgins served with the Confederate Troops. The Regiment name he was listed as being in was: General and Staff Officers, Corps, Division and Brigade Staffs, Non-com. Staffs and Bands, Enlisted Men, Staff Departments, C.S.A.

The Regiment's expanded name was: The General and Staff Officers, Non-Regimental Enlisted Men, CSA. His Rank was Major in both of these regiments.

This information was found in the *U.S. Civil War Soldiers. 1861-1865*, and can be found on the Original data at: *National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System*, online at Original data: *National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System*. The roll number of this information is: M818 roll 11.

While going through many reports of battles, Major Randall Higgins was given many commendations for his bravery and leading the men who were fighting the battles. It also shows he had close ties to Lt. General Randall Gibson, who was a family member on his mother's side. Following the war it seems Randall Higgins took up his occupation as being a planter. He was a prolific cotton farmer before and after the war. The following reports were found in *U.S. IRA Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918*.

Mississippi, October 1866  
Name: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Article or Occupation: Cotton  
No. of Abstract: 38  
Quantity or Valuation: 5758

Rate of Tax: 3  
Amount of Tax on Particular Article:  
Total: 172.74

Mississippi, November 1886  
Name: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Article or Occupation: Cotton  
Number in Abstract: 32  
Quantity or Valuation: 45665  
Rate of Tax: 3  
Amount of Tax on Particular Article:  
Total: 1369.95

Mississippi, December 1866  
Name: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Article or Occupation: Cotton  
No. of Abstract: 32  
Quantity or Valuation: 7661  
Rate of Tax: 3  
Amount of Tax on Particular Article:  
Total: 22980

Mississippi, December 1866  
Name: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Article or occupation: 5766  
Rate of Tax: 3  
Amount of Tax on Particular Article:  
15498  
Total: 1384.81

The following *Special U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918*. from District 5, Kentucky.

District 5, Kentucky.  
Name: Anna L. Higgins  
Agent: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Fayette County  
Post Office: Lexington  
Article or Occupation: Gold Watch  
Number in Appraisalment: 272  
Quantity or Valuation: 1  
Rate of Tax: 1

Amount of Tax upon Particular Article:  
1.00  
Total: 1.00

Agent: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Lexington  
Article or Occupation: silver Plate  
Number in Appraisalment: 271  
Quantity or Valuation: 26 oz.  
Rate of Tax: 5 c  
Amount of Tax upon Particular Article:  
13.00  
Total: 13.00

Name: Anna L. Higgins  
Agent: R.G. Higgins  
Location: Fayette County  
Post Office: Lexington  
Article or Occupation: Piano  
Number in Appraisalment: 267  
Quantity or Valuation: 1  
Rate of Tax: 2  
Amount of Tax upon Particular Article:  
2.00  
Total: 2.00

We find Randall Higgins listed as B.G. Higgins in the census in 1870. *Family History Library Film: 552250r:1870; Census Place: Vicksburg Ward 7. Warren, Mississippi; Roll: M593 751; Page: 306B; Image: 61.*

Name: B.G. Higgins Planter Real Estate  
6600  
Personal Estate 10,1110

Birth Year: Abt. 1830  
Birthplace: Mississippi  
Home in 1870: Vicksburg Ward 7,  
Warren, Mississippi  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Post Office: Vicksburg  
Value of real estate: 6,600 Personal  
Estate: 10,000

B.G. Higgins 40 MS

S.E. Higgins 36 MS

Household Members: Skinner, H. 20 MS  
Servant m m

Skinner, S. 25 MS Servant f m

Bowman, A. 22 MS f w

There has not been a death date found for Randall Higgins, it is known that he was alive on Wednesday, March 9, 1881 when the death of his mother was reported in the *Daily Commercial* newspaper that was located in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This paper states that his mother was living with him at the time of her death. He lived at Eustacia Landing which was located about 33 miles above Vicksburg. He sent his mother's body first to Vicksburg and then on to Lexington, Kentucky so that she could be buried by the side of many of her relatives including her husband.

2. John Allen Higgins was born Oct. 24, 1831 in either Fayette County, Kentucky or Warren County, Mississippi. He was listed as a student in the 1850 Fayette County, Kentucky census. John Allen married Bettie Chin Webb in September 1852 in Scott County, Kentucky. Bettie was born Feb. 1, 1832 in Scott County, Kentucky. Bettie was used as a nickname for Elizabeth.

The following were the children of John Allen and Bettie Chin Higgins:

1. Sue Higgins born in 1854 and was listed in the 1870 Lexington Ward 4. Fayette County. Kentucky Census, 16 years old and living in the household of her mother and father. In the 1880 Dog Fennel. Fayette County. Kentucky Census, she was 26 years old and single. She was still living in the household of her mother and father. Her death date is unknown.

2. The next child was Lou Higgins, who was born Oct. 4, 1856 in Fayette County, Kentucky. According to the U.S. Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications. 1889-1970, she married Joseph Granville Smith, who was born July 9, 1855 in Kentucky and died Feb. 19, 1931 in Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas. This marriage took place in 1884. Lou Higgins Smith died Jan. 23, 1943 in Dallas, Texas.

The following are the children of Joseph Granville and Lou Higgins Smith as found on the Ancestry.com web site.

- a. Lucy Smith, born 1874.
- b. Carrie Smith, born 1876.
- c. Mary E. Smith, born 1880.
- d. Marie Smith, born 1885.
- e. Joseph Dennis Smith, born 1887.
- f. Joseph Granville Smith, Jr., 1887-1943.
- g. John Allen Higgins Smith, Sr., 1889-1951
- h. Maude Smith, 1890.
- i. Samuel Poyntz Cochran Smith, 1891.

3. Joel Higgins, son of Joel and Ann Higgins, is listed in the *1850 District 2, Fayette County; Kentucky Census* as being 16 years old. He was born Feb. 19, 1835. Joel married Ellen Curran in Mobile, Alabama on July 3, 1865 according to *Alabama Select marriages 1816-1957*. The family has not been found in the 1860 census and we know Joel died in 1859. Ann L. Higgins is listed in the U.S. IRS Tax Assessments List in September 1865 (listed earlier under Randall Higgins).

The writing in the *1870 Knox County. Kentucky Census, Subdivision 93* was so light that the details could not be read. These are the details listed on Ancestry.com.

According to another Higgins researcher of Joel and Ann Higgins, their belief was that they had a daughter, Elizabeth. There is a female listed as being under 5 in the *1840 Marshall County, Alabama Census*. The census above seems to back up the fact that Elizabeth Higgins was a member of the family, but she was too old to have been the daughter of Joel and Ann Carolina Gibson Higgins. She may have been a sister to Joel Higgins. Elizabeth married Isham Israel in Marshall County, Alabama Nov. 25, 1836. Elizabeth Higgins and her husband, Isham (Isom) Israel are listed in the *1870 Knox County, Kentucky Census* as follows:

1. Isom (Isham) Israel 38 Male Blacksmith N. Carolina
2. Elizabeth Israel 40 female ?
3. Rachel A. Israel 10 female Kentucky
4. Nancy A. Israel 7 female Kentucky
5. Franklin R. Israel 9 male Kentucky
6. Sarah H. Israel 5 female Kentucky
7. John H. Israel 3 male Kentucky
8. Eliza E. Israel 1 female Kentucky

The next household in this census is:

- Ann Higgins Farmer born Kentucky (Ann Carolina)
- Emily born Kentucky
- Male (cannot read) born Kentucky

The *1880 South Elkhorn Area of the Fayette County, Kentucky Census* shows the former Sheriff Joel Higgins is missing from the census but Ann is living and is 75 years old. Her status is widowed. Her father's birthplace is Kentucky and her mother's is Ireland. The household is listed below.

1. Joel Higgins age 46 (son of Joel and Ann, Widower)
2. Anna Higgins age 10
3. Emma Higgins age 8
4. Curran Higgins age 6

5. Mrs. L. McClellan age 75 (mother)
4. William Higgins, son of Joel and Ann C. Higgins, was born about 1836. He was living with his family in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1850.

"A drawing from the book "Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky" by Clay Lancaster, page 209 states the following from "Old Houses of Lexington" by C. Frank Dunn:

Joel Higgins' Mansion, Lexington Avenue, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky {note originally faced onto High Street with a long driveway}. Built in 1826, "Higgins' Mansion", so called in the 1838 Directory, came into being a few years after Joel Higgins married Ann Louise Gibson, of Mississippi, in 1826. He was a native of Fayette County and was educated in old Transylvania University. Joel Higgins, Sr., as he signed himself when he made his will in 1858 (he died in 1859), had bought a large acreage here in the Elijah Smith tract - he latter being bounded by Limestone, High and Rose Streets and flanking John Maxwell's property (Maxwell St.) - from Joseph Patterson and other Smith heirs. Higgins built his mansion facing High Street (as the columns show) and had a long driveway lined with cedar trees leading to the mansion. He took part in the leading affairs of Lexington, was one of the incorporators of beautiful Lexington Cemetery (1849) and reared his family in this house. After his death, his widow continued to live here and the home was in her possession until 1867 when John Allen Higgins, her son, purchased the property from the widow and the other heirs. John Allen Higgins (b. 1831 - d. 1880), also educated in Transylvania University, divided his time between his plantation in Arkansas, on the Mississippi River, and his farm in Fayette County. Joel Higgins, Jr., (b.



February 19, 1835), one of five sons, enlisted in the Confederate Army at Camp Boone, Tennessee, July, 1861. Elected 1st Lieut. of Co. B 2nd Kentucky Infantry, he was promoted to Captain and then to Major. His regiment was part of the "Orphan Brigade", successively commanded by Hanson, Helm and Lewis, of Breckinridge's Division, Hardee's Corp, and Army of Tennessee. He was in the battle of Fort Donelson (was captured there) Hartsville, Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, in the Campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta, Jonesboro and in the Mounted engagements. He surrendered at Jackson, Mississippi, May, 1865. He resided in Mobile, Alabama, for a while after the war, but later returned

to Lexington and died here. The mansion has been converted in recent years into an apartment house, fronting on Lexington Avenue, but the side yard has been retained, thus preserving in part the dignity of its former massive front. The interior, with its substantial wood work of more than a century ago, is an interesting exhibit today. One of the old wooden keys, among other relics, has been preserved. Wm. Lowry, in 1877, platted this section and laid out Lexington Avenue. He owned the Higgins' mansion and the property on both sides of the street. Source: Old Houses of Lexington. C. Frank Dunn, and typescript copied from the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

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"Southerners are so devoted to genealogy that we see a family tree under every bush." - **Florence King**

"We've uncovered some embarrassing ancestors in the not-too-distant past. Some horse thieves, and some people killed on Saturday nights. One of my relatives, unfortunately, was even in the newspaper business." - **Jimmy Carter**

"Everyone has ancestors and it is only a question of going back far enough to find a good one." - **Howard Kenneth Nixon**

"It is a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors." - **Plutarch**

## **Joseph G. Garrett: 3rd Sheriff Of Marshall County, Alabama**

By Margene Black

Researching [Ancestry.com](#), shows that Joseph G. Garrett was the son of William Garrett. William was listed in the [Sons of the American Revolution Application](#), and it is stated there that he was born on Aug. 12, 1760 in Amherst County, Virginia, United States. This document states that William was 16 when he married Georgie Ann Goodwin who was born in 1759 in Caroline County, Virginia.

William Garrett entered the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War at the age of 16 and served under Captain Everard Meade as a private in the Second Virginia Regiment under Colonel Alexander Spotswood. After the war William and Georgie Ann moved to Davidson County near Nashville, Tennessee, then to Alabama where both he and his wife died and are buried. [Sons of the American Revolution Application](#).

The wife of William was Georgie Ann Goodwin. They married in 1776 in Virginia. William went off to war soon after their marriage.

Records found in the [U.S. House of Representatives, Volume I](#), tells that William Garrett was paid for a horse that was lost during his service with the United States.

William died on March 21, 1829 and his wife, Georgie Ann, died in July, 1842 in Decatur, Alabama.

### **Years Served As Sheriff, 1844-1846 Joseph G. Garrett, 1850**

According to the [The History of Jackson County, Alabama](#), by John Robert Kennamer, Decatur, Alabama, 1935  
“Claysville became the first county seat of Marshall County. This territory was settled at



a very early date with an excellent class of people from Virginia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee. Some of the settlers prior to 1830 were: David Ricketts, William Barclay, Hezekiah Bayles, Edmond Bridges, James Fletcher, George Green, James Cotton, Isham H. Fennell, Abraham G. Holt, and Thomas Manning, who settled in lower Paint Rock Valley and Honey Comb Valley; Hans Kennamer, and sons, Samuel, Stephen, Levi, Zachary, and Jacob, Presley R. Woodall, Isham Wright, Jabez Perkins, Robert Chandler, and Willis Woodall in Kennamer's Cove; William Black, Bryant Cobb, Joseph G. Garrett, Hugh Henry, John C. Johnson, William McKee, Peter Stearnes, William S. Todd, Isaac Tidwell, Dr. Andrew Moore, William H.E. Wheeler, Arthur C. Beard, Washington T. May, James Randles, James Boggess, Eli Freemster, and Percival M. Bush, at Claysville and in the valley near; David Boshart, Spencer Benson, Lewis Manning, James McDonald and William A. McCamey, in the Boshart Community.”

The earliest Township and Range Public Land Survey in Alabama, in Huntsville Meridian (northern part of Alabama) shows Joseph Garrett receiving land.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Township Plats of Selected States; Series #: T1234; Roll: 2: Description range of Ranges and Townships: S and W R1 T1 - S and W R17 T22. Records were found on [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), U.S. Early Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898. This database can be found online with the following description.

“These township plat maps began with the Public Lands Survey in the United States initiated by the Land Ordinance Act of 1785, and this collection includes maps for all or parts of Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. Maps were prepared from survey field notes taken by deputy surveyors and can include section lines, section numbers, acreage of holdings and sometimes names of landholders.” In this information we find Joseph G. Garrett having land in Ranges 3 and 4, in Madison County, Alabama.

Joseph G. Garrett was in Madison County, Alabama on July 12, 1827. This is the date that he married Harriett McLeod. They were married by William F. Mahan. Joseph was born in Amherst County, Virginia about 1799-1805.

Joseph and Harriett were still in Madison County according to the 1830 Census. They were listed as the following:

- Free White Persons – Males – Under 5: 1
- Free White Persons – Males – 20-29: 1
- Free White Persons – Males – 40-49
- Free White Persons – Females – Under 5: 1
- Free White Persons – Females -20-29: 1
- Free White Persons – Females 70-79: 1
- Slaves – Males -24 thru 35: 1
- Slaves – Females – Under 10: 3
- Slaves – Females – 10 thru 23: 1
- Slaves – Females – 24 thru 35: 1
- Free White Persons – Under 20: 2
- Free White Persons – 20 thru 49: 3
- Total Free White Persons: 6
- Total Slaves: 6
- Total All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): 12

Joseph received land through the Homestead Act in Madison County, Alabama in 1831.

The 1840 Census shows that Joseph G. and Harriett, with their family, had moved to Marshall County. The listing has the misspelling of Carrett.

**Joseph G. Garrett, Marshall County, Alabama, 1840 Census**

- Free White Persons – Males – Under 5: 1
- Free White Persons – Males – 5 thru 9: 1
- Free White Persons – Males – 10 thru 4: 1
- Free White Persons – Males – 20 thru 29: 1

- Free White Persons – Males – 30 thru 39: 1
- Free White Persons – Females – Under 5: 2
- Free White Persons – Females -5 thru 9: 2
- Free White Persons – Females -30-39: 1
- Slaves – Males – Under 10: 2
- Slaves – Males – 10 thru 23: 1
- Slaves – Males – 36 thru 54: 1
- Slaves – Females – Under 10: 4
- Slaves – Females – 24 thru 35: 1
- Slaves – Females -36 thru 54: 1
- Persons Employed in Agriculture: 4
- Persons Employed in Commerce: 1
- No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write: 1
- Free White Persons – Under 20: 7
- Free White Persons – 20 thru 49: 3
- Total Free White Persons: 10
- Total Slaves: 10
- Total All Persons – Free White, Free Colored, Slaves: 20

•  
**Source Citation:** Year: 1840; Census Place: *Marshall, Alabama*; Roll: 13; Page: 99; Image: 204; Family History Library Film: 0002335

According to Marshall County, Deed Book A, Joseph G. Garrett was a business partner at one time with James M. McFarlane. Another time he was mentioned as a partner in trade. The business was known as Garrett & Taylor (Edmund G. Taylor).

The following records were taken from the Marshall County Deed Book A – Genealogical Information, compiled by Betty Taylor from the original Deed Book A. This shows that Joseph and Harriett have made their move to Marshall County. The

pages listed are the pages the transactions are found in the original book.

This first entry shows that Joseph G. Garrett and Harriett bought 79.25 acres of land from George W. & Cynthia Allen on Feb. 6, 1837. This may be the date the family first settled in Marshall County from Madison County.

Pages 55-56 original book - George W. & Cynthia Allen to **Joseph G. Garrett**. On 2-6-1837, they sold 79.25 acres of land for \$1500.00 as follows: NE part of Tract. Sec. 35 TS 7 R 3E. The north boundary of same was purchased by Andrew Moore from Archibald R. Barclay. This land was surveyed by James Haynie, Dep. Surveyor. Signed: George & Cynthia Allen in front of Booker Smith, JP. Rec. 2-16-1837 37 by Randles.

The following entry shows the Garretts in partnership with a Hill family, selling land in the same area:

Pages 211-212 – James W. & Mary Ann Hill & **Joseph G. & Harriett Garrett**, to Burgess McGaha on 7-2-1838, for \$2500.00 the following: NW ¼ Sec 24 TS 6 R 2E containing 160.90 acres; bract. Part of Sec 13 on N Side Paint Rock R in Madison Co, AL, TS 6 R 2E containing 87.25 acres; on S side Paint Rock R. in Marshall Co., All; NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec 24 TS 6 R 2E containing 40.25 acres. Signed: James & Mary Ann Hill, **J. G. & Harriett Garrett**.

Joseph was a partner at one time with James M. McFarlane and also Edmund J. Taylor. They were in the merchandise business:

Pages 235-237 – Spencer Patterson Deed of Trust. John B. Finley, 2<sup>nd</sup> on 12-26-1839, with **Joseph G. Garrett**, surviving partner

of McFarlane & Garrett (James M. McFarlane, **Joseph G. Garrett & Joseph G. Garrett** & Edmund J. Taylor, partners in trade under the style of Garrett & Taylor), parties of the 3<sup>rd</sup> part. The debt was for \$71.90 and the following was mortgaged: 1 black mare, 1 black colt, 25 hogs, and 2 beds with furniture. Signed: Spencer Patterson x, William H.E. Wheeler, **Joseph G. Garrett**, surviving partner. Edmund Taylor. Rec: 1-21-1839.

In this entry, there is a description of land that is described as a lot where Joseph and Harriett lived in 1839.

Pages 264-266 original book – John W. Easton, Deed of Trust. Booker Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> on 1-14-1839, with Benjamin Dickinson, Daniel S. Dickinson, partners trading under the name and firm of Benjamin and Daniel S. Dickinson and Daniel S. Dickinson & John D. Barclay, partners under the firm name of Dickinson and Barclay, parties of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> part. The total debt of \$117.77 with interest, was secured with the following: 1 lot of land in Claysville known as lot # 8, bounded by the principal street in front, 200 feet back and 60 feet front on same, now occupied by Easton as a family residence and joining the lot owned by Chandler Jones and occupied by **Joseph G. Garrett** on the SW and the lot belonging to Thomas G. Morris, lately the property of Abner Vaughn and occupied by Hezekiah Dennis. 1 china cupboard, 1 clock, 1 folding leaf table, 1 heifer yearling and her future increase. Signed: John W. Easton, Booker Smith, Benjamin Dickinson by his agent A.B. Dickinson, Daniel Dickinson by his agent A.B. Dickinson. Rec: 2-2-1839 by Randles.

Pages 454-455 original book – On 10-19-1839, there was the unusual naming of a

slave in the deed book. Her name was Clarrisa and she was about 16 years old.

Pages 628 – 630 –William A. and Sarah Sibley, a future sheriff of Marshall County, had a Deed of Trust listed on 4-15-1840. James Sheffield, 2<sup>nd</sup>, with **Joseph G. Garrett** & Edmund Taylor, parties of the 3<sup>rd</sup> part. The debt for \$136.50 was secured with the following: E ½ of SW ¼ Sec 11 TS 7 R 2E consisting of 80 acres. Signed: William A. & Sarah x Sibley, James Sheffield, **Joseph G. Garrett**, and Edmund Taylor. Wit: John O. Barclay. Rec: 5-12-1840 by Randles.

In Deed Book B, Marshall County, Alabama, in the year 1840, there are more slaves listed. China, female, about 26 years old, Easter, female, about 25 years old, Washington, male, about 2 years old, son of Easter. Listed in another area of this deed these slaves can be found. They are probably a family. Stephen, male, about 38, Celia, female, about 35, Henry, male, about 14, Alley, female, about 10, Lucinda, female, about 8, Caroline, female, about 6, Polly, female, about 2.

By the time the 1850 census was taken, Joseph and his family were living in Tallapoosa County, Alabama. This information was not easy to find because the last name of the family was misspelled. This is how it is listed in the census.

Township 20, 27 December 1850, Household 1348, under the name of Gravett.

- Joseph Garrett: age 41 (would make him born in different year), farmer, born in South Carolina.
- Harriett Garrett: age 39, female born in South Carolina
- Nancy Garrett: age 17, female born in South Carolina

- Marshall Garrett: age 16, male farmer born in Alabama
- Thomas J. Garrett: age 12, male born in Alabama
- Charlseay E. Garrett: age 10, female born in Alabama
- William B. Garrett: age 8, male born in Alabama
- James K. Garrett: age 6, male born in Alabama
- Eugenia Garrett: age 3, female born in Alabama

It is not known why Joseph moved his family to Tallapoosa County, but those who do research on their families know that the families moved around often. One thing that is found in the research on Tallapoosa County, is that there was gold found in this county. Also, there may have been better farm land in the area.

At the time the family was living in Tallapoosa County, Joseph was listed in The Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, 1<sup>st</sup>, To Joseph G. Garrett, sheriff of Marshall County, eighty cents, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Joseph G. Garrett, sheriff of Marshall County, 33 dollars, for making returns of Congressional Elections. These payments must have been late payments from the State to Joseph.

What we do know is that by the 1860 Tuscaloosa County, Alabama Census, the Joseph Garrett had moved on to this county. The family lived in the Western Division of Tuscaloosa.

Again, the family's name was misspelled. This time the last name was spelled Genette.

1860 Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, Foster's Division, Page 734, 4 August, Pages 148-149, Household 1077.

- Joseph Garrett 65: farmer, \$450, born South Carolina
- Harriett Garrett: 60, female born South Carolina
- Thomas: 23, male born Alabama
- Caroline: 16, female born Alabama
- William B.: 12, male born Alabama
- James K.: 10, male born Alabama
- Adeline: 9, female born Alabama
- Mary A.: 8, female born Alabama
- Wilson: 5, male born Alabama

The death of Joseph G. Garrett has not been found in this research but other researchers have him dying in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama in 1869. Further searching on his wife Harriett, has her living with a son, James K. Garrett in the 1880 Lee County, Mississippi Census with her age listed as 69. There are several children in close vicinity in Lee County where they are listed as farmers.

The following is what can be found on Joseph G. and Harriett McLeod Garrett's children in Ancestry.com. Some of these records may have mistaken in them because it is hard to follow the lines back when there may be other children with the same names in the Garrett family.

1. Frances Eugenia Garrett – Born May 20, 1830 in Alabama, Died July 9, 1871, in Industry, Texas. Eugenia married Stephen Lewis Dodson on May 15, 1854 in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. Stephen was born June 30, 1820 in Milton, Caswell, North Carolina. Their children were Mary Ellen Dodson, Nannie Garrett Dodson, Stepha Lewis Dodson, Stephen Mayfield Dodson, Charles Russell Dodson, Joseph Garrett Dodson, and Ida Elizabeth Dodson.

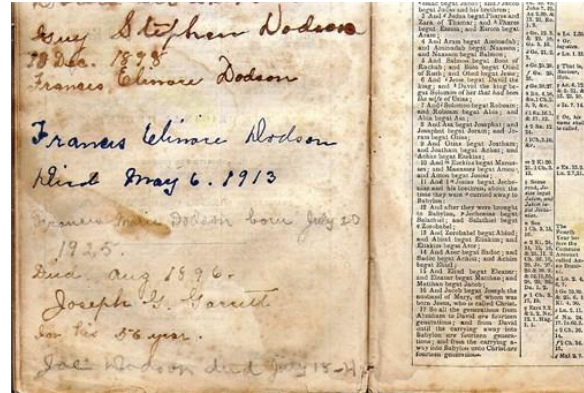


2. Nancy Garrett – Born about 1831 in Alabama. Nothing further could be found that could be positive about Nancy’s history.

3. Marshall Garrett – Born about 1835 in Marshall County, Alabama, Died in 1903 in Lee County, Mississippi. Marshall was married twice. The name of his first wife is unknown but he married Mary Jane Estes on Feb. 17, 1884, in Lee County, Mississippi. He had several children by his first wife, whose name has not been found at this time. They were: James Freeman Garrett, Mariah J. Garrett, Leathey A. Garrett, William Henry Garrett, Albert G. Garrett, Jesse M. Garrett, Rittie H. Garrett and Joseph M. Garrett. According to the 1880 Lee County, Mississippi census, Marshall and his family lived in Township 9, Range 7. This census was taken June 5, 1880 and his family was listed on page 102. Marshall was listed as being single. His first wife was probably dead.

4. Thomas Jefferson Garrett – Born March 21, 1936, Marshall County, Alabama, Died April 23, 1905 in the Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma. He was buried in the Wright Cemetery. The following were the children by his first wife: Francis Marion, John T., Wiley E., James Powell, Henry Marshall and Mary E. The following were the children by Thomas Jefferson and his second wife: Nellie Caroline Turner whom he married in 1878 in Lee County, Mississippi. Nellie was born in 1861 and died in 1944.

5. Charlsey Garrett – Born November 1837, Alabama, Died July 22, 1932 in



**Scan of handwritten page from the personal Bible of Joseph G. Garrett, given to him by his sister, Lizzie G. Parsons. Joseph’s widow wrote the date and his name herself.**

Wister, LeFlore, Oklahoma. She married someone named Chiva first. Then she married Jessie Mathis Adcock on May 3, 1883 in Miller, Arkansas. She was the second wife of Jessie and no children were found for them. He had children by his first marriage.

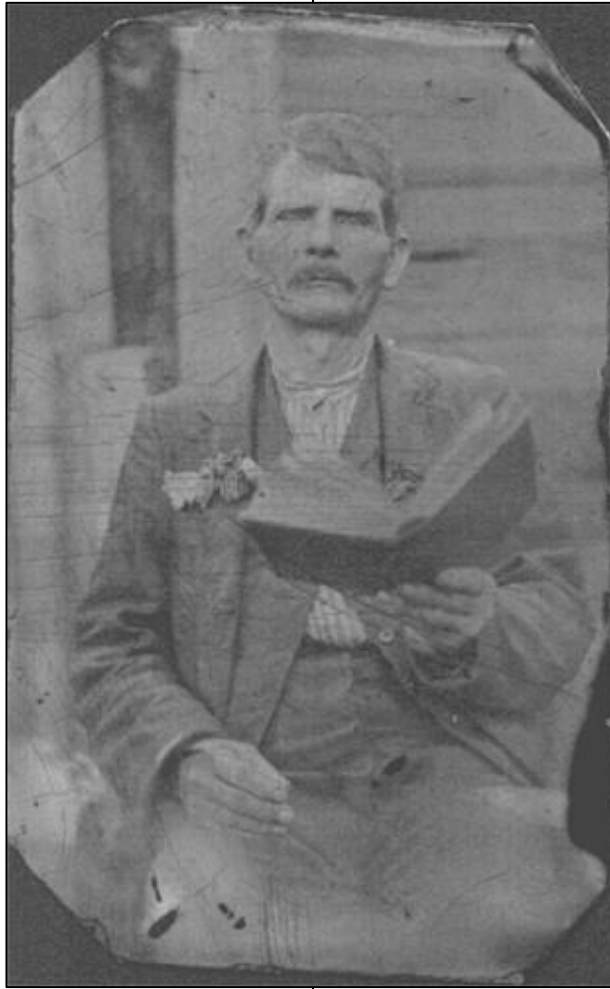
6. Sarah Virginia Garrett – Born 1842 in Alabama, Died 1869 in Kaufman, Texas.





7. Caroline Ellen Garrett – Born 1844 in Alabama, and died 1878, in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama.

8. William B. Garrett – Born March 9, 1845, in Alabama and died 1900 in Kully Chaha, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. The name of William's first wife is unknown. They were the parents of two children; James N. and Jesse. William married his second wife, Mary Frances Aikens on Oct. 21, 1874 in Lee County, Mississippi. Their children were: Calvin C., William Thomas and Alma Della.



9. Elizabeth Garrett – Born 1846, Alabama.

10. James K. Garrett – Born Oct. 11, 1847 in Alabama and died June 25, 1924 in Gilmore, Le Flore County, Oklahoma. He is buried in the Vaughn Memorial Cemetery. James K. was first married to Angeline Ann Merchant and then to Samantha Adaline Gardner of the following children: Marshall Lee, Houston Faustas, Nona Belle, Helen May, Melverdia, Alma, Austin, William Oscar, Grace Ethel, Leonard Curtis and

Lillian Pearl. Following the death of his father, his mother moved to Lee County, Mississippi to make her home with him.

**Congratulations!!!!!!** Scott Perrine, TVGS member for the publication of your article, *A Divided Perrine Family: Correcting the Record* published in The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, May 2015, Vol. 90 Number 2.

A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots. Genealogists.com

If you think your family is normal, you probably aren't a genealogist! Mary Harrell-Sesniak

If you shake your family tree, watch for the nuts to fall. Genealogybank.com

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.” Mark Twain

## Communities Of Our Ancestors

By Macey Taylor

In and around Marshall County. Directions for many of these old communities can be found on line.

**Alder Springs** – Named for the alder bushes in the hollow where first church was located.

**Aldridge Gap** – Warrenton/Blount Co. Rd. To Aldridge Gap Rd. - Ridgway cemetery located there

**Allens Cross Roads** – South of Morgan City on Highway 231 to Arab.

**Asbury**- Church and community named for one of the first Methodist bishops.

**Askey/Askea Grove** (For the Askea family)

**Bartlett** –Arab area

**Beards Bluff**- East side of Ga Mt. aprox 1 mile up from Tennessee river (between Warrenton and Manchester, overlooking the big bend of the Tennessee. (Cherokee Bluff/ Fort-Scene of battle with Creeks) later known as Street's Bluff

**Big Spring**- Highway 79 south of Guntersville near Minnow Farm- the creek (east of Gunters Village/Guntersville and now covered by the lake) ran from Tennessee River then appeared further down in a bubbling spring near Marshall/ Blount County line. also known as the Moving Spring.

**Big Spring** –At Warranton/ Diamond area - ran from Tennessee River toward Blount County on west side of Gunters Village and Browns Valley. Now covered by lake. Site of Mission School where Caterine Brown taught.

**Black Springs** – On Greenbriar Cove Road.

**Blow Gourd (Oleander)**

**Blue Bend** – Take 227 Martling Area toward Albertville

**Blue Rock**- At the Tennessee River turn on Parches Cove off Union Grove Road to Tennessee River.

**Bottle Holler (Hollow)**

**Boshart** –Grant Mountain

**Brashiers Chapel** – Near Arab, named for Hiram Brashier family who arrived in 1855 and donated land for cemetery and church. Named for the NC Brashiers/Braziers/Beashers, brothers whose name spelling changed.

**Brasher Chapel** -Sand Mountain left off 431- Named for the NC Brashiers/Braziers/Beashers, brothers whose name spelling changed.

**Briscoe** –Red Hill area

**Browns Valley**- The lowland area from Tennessee River into Blount County between Sand Mountain and Brindle Mountain. Originally Cherokee Indian Territory. Named for Richard Brown.

**Bucks Pocket** -Past State Park Highway 227

**Bucksnot** – About 8 miles S.W. of Grant.

**Butlers Mill**-In Paint Rock Valley near Grant and Woodville

**Campbell Mill** – In the Columbus City area off Highway 69 North on Guntersville

**Canaan** - South of Arab off 231 near Cullman County line

**Cartersville**-Sand Mountain

**Cathedral Cavern's** - In Kenamer's Cove-boasts world's largest cave mouth, largest frozen waterfall, world's largest stalagmite forest, world's most improbable stalactite

**Center Grove** –Near Hanceville, Cullman County.

**Claysville** – Early settlement part of "North" before creation of Marshall County and was first county seat. Named Claysville in 1919 for Whig leader Henry Clay.

**Click Hollow (Holler)** Grant

**Coal Mountain** – Shoal Creek and Town Creek

**Columbus City**- A city by name only. 1892 in honor of Columbus' discovery of America, 400th anniversary. Near where

Jackson Paving is now; Old Prospect School located here. An attempt to develop into a city failed in mid to late 1880s.

**Corbinville** - Near Albertville AL

**Cottonville** - Highway 431 north past Honeycomb.

**Cranford** - About 17 miles from Albertville Airport

**Creek Path** - Runs from Tennessee River to Beech Creek, includes Thompson Falls, Diamond, Warrenton, Lake Shore Drive to lake, Gunters Landing proper (all Gunters Landing area ), Russell Cemetery in lake and.....

**Cross Roads**

**Cusa/Cusada** - Native American village on Pine Island. Mostly under water since 1939

**Diamond**, Warrenton Road, Diamond Road off 69 - Cemetery, Anderson/Diamond/Griffin. named for sparkly quartz turned up in farming soil.

**Double Bridges** – 1891 near Albertville, AL

**Douglas** – A town on Highway 75 to Oneonta and Birmingham.

**East Lake**- Hwy 227 just east of Guntersville

**Eddy** – Near Arab, AL

**Egypt** – 2.8 miles. NW of Arab

**Foster Landing**, Georgia Mountain Fos. Landing Dg Road; to Mt Carmel Road and Cemetery and on to Manchester Cemetery end of Manchester Road

**Five Points** - Highway 227 and past state park

**Fowler** - Blount County, AL.

**Friendship** – Near Arab Brindlee Mountain

**Friendship** – Sand Mountain

**Frog Pond**

**Fry** - Near Red Hill, off Warrenton Road

**Fort Deposit** – At mouth of Thompson Creek - south side of river; now under water

**Georgia Mountain** - For the state from where 11 families had come. Settled after the Civil War. Highway 69 west of Guntersville.

**Get Up** - At Blount/Marshall County Line near Arab

**Gilliam/Gillum**

**Grant /Grant Mountain** - Named for Ulysses S. Grant, 18th president, Grant Road off 431 at Honeycomb

**Grassy** - 1882 named for a grassy field and pond that were near

**Greenbriar Cove** - Greenbriar Cove, Newsome Sinks, is in the extreme northwest corner of Marshall County, about 4 miles east of the Marshall-Morgan County Line. Greenbriar Cove is almost due east of Morgan City, on the Tennessee River. Morgan City is on Brindlee Mountain, Hwy 231.

**Gunters Landing** – South side at Guntersville where Veterans Memorial/George Houston Bridge is now located.

**Gunters Landing** - on Buck Island; golf club and housing development near Guntersville Airport: See Gunters Village.

**Gunters Mountain** - Going into Grant off 431

**Gunters Village** - Area where John Gunter settled after Treaty Of 1817. Area became Guntersville

**Hebron** - 431 North toward Huntsville in the New Hope area.

**Helicon** - Old Post Office named for Gunter's Village

**Henry Island** - The larger of two islands (see Mckee) in the Tennessee River near Gunters Landing; it ran about 1 mile and extended under where the Guntersville Bridge is now. Flooded in 1939 with building of the Guntersville Dam and Reservoir.

**Henryville** - Just north and adjoining Claysville. Named for the Hugh Henry family.

**High Mound** - Blount County

**High Point** - Sand Mountain near Douglas and Horton; the dividing ridge

**Hillions/Hillians** - At Lanston area

**Honey Comb** - May be named for honey comb like markings on rock formations caves or the abundant honey bees in the area. Hwy 431 north of Guntersville.

**Hog Jaw** - Hog Jaw Road just outside of Arab, AL. (Marshall County)

**Holly Grove**

**Hopewell** - South of Arab off 231 in Blount County

**Hopewell** - Near Geraldine

**Horton** - Sand Mountain

**Humpton** - West of Grant; Humpton Cemetery there.

**Hustleville** - Home of the Red Mill

**Hyatt** - Hyatt Cemetery, Liberty Hill. Named for Samuel H. Hyatt, one of the first settlers.

**Jaybird** - In Union Grove area

**Jagger Branch** - Off 431 near end of White Elephant Road

**Johnson Mill**

**Joppa** - West of Arab Highway 69

**Keel** - 15 miles S.W. of Guntersville

**Kenamer's Cove** - Swearingin area; Cove between Grant Mountain and Woodville. Cathedral Caverns and Pisgah Cemetery located here. In Jackson and Marshall counties.

**Kirby and Kirby Town** - Kirby family owned plantation there and a brick kiln. 227 past park

**Kusa-Nunnahi** - Native name for Gunter's Village

**Lakeveiw**

**Langston** - 227 past state park toward Fort Payne Road.

**Larkins Landing** - At tip of northeast end of Pine Island; under water after 1939

**Lattiwood** - Latimer and Earwood families who donated land toward the building of Lattiwood School

**Law's Landing** - Was directly east of Columbus City between Guntersville and Pine Island. Or 227 past state park. Under water since 1939

**Ledbetter Hollow** - Off 431 north of Guntersville near New Hope

**Liberty Hill** - Hyatt, near Nixon Chapel. Had old church and school

**Lick Skillet** - Near state park

**Lindsey Creek** - Honey Comb; wild area

**Little New York** - For state of same. Illegal liquid was mainstay. Now a spring water business thrives there; has its own zip code.

**Lond Hollow** - Near Snow Point, Georgia Mountain area, Cemetery Mt. Carmel

**Long Island/Bryant** - At foot of Sand Mountain

**Long Hollow** - Near Georgia Mountain

**Lot** - Near Albertville.

**Martling** - Off 227 to Albertville

**Manchester** - Foot of Brindlee Mountain; under water. Manchester and Cooley Cemeteries

**Martling** - Off 227 to Albertville

**Marshall/Old Marshall** - Early county seat when moved from Claysville

**Mckee Island** - Now under water, smaller island along side Henry Island, near Guntersville Bridge. Reservation/Ross's Bluff overlooks area. Inhabited until the building of Guntersville Dam.

**McVille** - Near Boaz on Sand Mountain

**Meltonsville** - Past state park off 227

**Merrill Mountain** - Bordered by Paint Rock and Tennessee Rivers. Named for Benjamin Merrill, first Cherokee Indian to receive land in the Treaty of 1817. 640 acres known as Merrill Reservation

**Mid** - Between Guntersville and Langston (Mt. Moriah/Murphy Hill area)

**Mill Village** - Once a housing area for the Saratoga Cotton Mills, Now part of Guntersville.

**Minorville** - Was a designated post office in 1887

**Modene Hollow** - Red Hill area, Browns Valley

**Morrows Mill**

**Murphy Hill** - Area once Culbert property Hwy 227 past state park at Mid, near Five Points

**Mt. Carmel** - Georgia Mountain.

**Mt. Hebron** - Sand Mountain.

**Mt. High** - Top of Sand Mountain on Old 205

**Mt. Moriah** - One of oldest Mission Church Schools (1820)

**Mt. Olive** - Highway 231 between Huntsville and Arab

**Mt. Shade** - Top of Grant Mountain

**Mt. Tabor** - Off Rescue Road. West Marshall County near Morgan County.

**Mt. Veiw** - On 205 off 431 between Guntersville and Albertville

**Nabors Mill** - Ragsdale Falls, then Nabors, now Union Grove (this may be falls at road to dam)

**Needmore** - halfway between Oleander and Warrenton on Somerville Road. One drug store, school house, church, drygoods and blacksmith shop.

**Neighbors Mill and Falls /Ragsdale Mill And Falls** - In Union Grove area at road to Guntersville Dam.

**New Canan** - off Highway 231 south of Arab near Cullman County line.

**New Hope** - 431 between Huntsville and Guntersville

**Newsome/Nuesom Sinks** - Newsome Sinks is located in the eastern part of Morgan County. It sits between Apple Grove Road and Pine Ridge Road.

**Nixon Chapel** - Named for Dr. Francis Nixon who settled there about 824. His office (cabin) still standing in 2015.

**North** - Marshall County area north of Tennessee River included Claysville, Bakers Chapel Henryville and.....

**Oleander** - Hwy 231 between Arab and Morgan City.

**Parches Cove** - Named for Chickasaw Indian Parch Corn, earliest resident in cove. Originally Parch Corn Cove. He remained in valley after Trail of Tears.

**Park's Store**

**Paint Rock** - Area at River Bottoms NW side of Georgia Mountain

**Pine Island and Larkins Landing** - Early Native American village; mostly submerged by 1941

**Pleasant Grove** - For the groves of trees left along the edge of fields (Plasant Feeling); Pleasant Grove Church near the old William Sampson farm.

**Poplar Ridge** - Between Woodville and Newhope off 431

**Poplar Springs** - Bucks Pocket area

**Possum Hollow/Holler**

**Pole Cat Hollow /Holler** - East Lake

**Preston**

**Preston Island** - Off highway 79 north

**Pull Tight** - On Sand Mountain in Etowah County

**Pumpkin Holler (Hollow)** - On north side of Tennessee River across river from Georgia Mountain

**Rabbit Town** - Ca1845 A Creek village, may be a derogatory name given by outsiders

**Rayburn** - On Highway 227 inside Guntersville city limits

**Ragsdale** - Named for owner of mill there. Became Nabors Mill, then Union Grove community.

**Reed Break** - Near Douglas, Marshall County. Concord Baptist Church, Liberty Hill and Nixon Chapel larger cemeteries in area.

**Red Apple** - Go 431 to 168 left just north of Boaz to Summerville Road.

**Red Hill** - Warrenton Road toward Blount County line; cemetery. Red Hill Church and cemetery name given by Indians for the color of the soil found there.

**Red Hill** - Grant / Butlers Mill area.

**Reservation Bluff/Ross's Bluff** - County and TVA property; grave yard there. Civil War site. Cannons fired on Guntersville from this ridge. North end of Guntersville's George S. Houston/Veterans Bridge.

**Rice** - S.E. of Arab.

**Romans Landing** - A line between the towns of Grant (in Marshall County) and Langston (in Jackson County). Roman's Landing is today in the middle of the river (Guntersville Lake). It is at a point very close to where present day Marshall, Jackson and DeKalb counties all join. Named for the Roman family; source: Early Alabama History.

**Rock Springs** - Has oldest Baptist church on Sand Mountain. On road to Hyatt and Nixon Chapel.

**Rocky Ridge**

**Ruth** - off 231 near Arab

**Sand Valley** - DeKalb County

**Saratoga** - Near Albertville

**Searight**

**Scant City** - Ca. 1935 area bootleggers were selling their liquid just shy of a full pint. Disgruntled patrons termed this a "scant pint" and the name Scant City stuck.

**Scurrum/ Scurham** - DeKalb County, between Crossville and Geraldine

**Short Creek** - First body of water after East Lake and over and down mountain 227. Also called Second Creek and in 1822 was Salt Water Creek.

**Sidney** - Highway 79 south of Guntersville in Blount County.

**Sims Community** - From the Sims family whose ancestors migrated to our shores from England

**Sleepy Holler (Hollow)**

**Snug Harbor** - Honey Comb; 431 between Guntersville and Huntsville

**Solitude** - Near Albertville.

**Southtown** - South end of Guntersville. Was Wyeth City before becoming part of the city of Guntersville.

**Straw Pin** - In Marshall County, AL. Hwy 79 south of Guntersville not far from the Blount County line

**Street Bluff** - Off Cha La Kee Road, Georgia Mountain overlooking Tennessee River

**Street** - On Sand Mountain 10 miles SE of Guntersville, 9 miles west of Albertville between n. prong of Hog Creek and bow of mountain.

**Suck Egg** - In Browns Valley off Warrenton Road to Highway 79 to Blountsville.

**Sydney** - Just over the Marshall County line in Blount County

**Taylor Mountain** - 227 state park area.

**Thompson Falls** - off Warrenton/Diamond Road near Red Hill area in Browns Valley. Old Native American village.

**Thompson** - Arab area

**Thompson** - Martling area.

**Town Creek** - On lake off 227 before state park.

**Trotter**

**Union Grove** - Ca 1880 name changed from Ragsdale to Union Grove. Once called Needmore. Ragsdale family had a store and mill there.

**Village Ford** - On Town Creek; second water mill there

**Warrenton** - Originally part of Jackson County until Marshall was formed in 1836. County seat from 1841-1848. Named for Warren County, Va. Located in Browns Valley.

**Wakefield** - Hwy 227 past state park near Kirbytown area; near the Jackson DeKalb line. Monsanto plant in area

**Wesson Branch**

**Wills Valley** - In DeKalb and Etowah County. Lands of the Cherokee.

**White Oak** - Off 75 between Douglas and Albertville

**Whitesville** - On Sand Mountain

**Woodall Hollow** - Near Woodville, Marshall and Jackson Counties

**Wright** - Up Grant Mountain off Highway 79 North toward Scottsboro

## Book Reviews

Nancy M. Rohr, **Free People of Color in Madison County, Alabama**. Huntsville, Alabama: Huntsville Historical Collection, 2015. 160 pages, softbound. \$12.95

Local historian and author Nancy Rohr offers a wealth of genealogical material for those with Madison County free people of color in their family trees, along with a fascinating look at how this fractured group coped with life in difficult times. These people were not enslaved, but not really free either, always careful to minimize the resentment and suspicion of their enslaved or free white neighbors.

The introductory material in the book contains an overview and history of their situation, citing numerous court records, legislative acts, and church records from about 1800 until emancipation. It is followed by a detailed chart of data from the Madison County 1830 through 1860 U.S. censuses, noting every free person of color who appeared on any of these census records. Name, age, sex, which census(es) the person was recorded on, occupation, and state of birth are included.

The largest section of the book is of particular interest – the 1865 Huntsville section of the U.S. census transcribed from *Records of the Field Offices for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872*. While the book's text focuses on those people already free, this section lists (presumably) all people of color in the city of Huntsville, showing names, street (residence), occupation, and either name of former owner or whether free before emancipation. Finally, the book includes a listing of free people of color who appeared in newspapers

or court records, giving us a brief look at their lives, which included their interactions with society, the courts, and their white or enslaved families and friends.

Rohr's book is detailed and well documented, and is thus an excellent source for tracing this often-overlooked group of Madison County residents.

Katharine Garstka

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Sarah Huff Fisk, **The Huntsville Parker**, originally published by Huntsville Manufacturing Company, Huntsville, Alabama, 1955. Reprinted by Huntsville Historical Collection, 2013. 47 pages, softbound. \$10.00

The original issue of *The Huntsville Parker*, Volume 8, Number 1, September 1955, was designated as a Historical Edition to mark Huntsville's Sesquicentennial Year, to "Review the Important Role played by Huntsville Manufacturing Company and its Predecessor, Merrimack Manufacturing Company in the History and Progress of Huntsville, Alabama." The name of the publication, *The Huntsville Parker*, stems from the designation of the village as "Huntsville Park." Originally called Merrimack village, for the Merrimack mills, it was changed about 1946, when the mills were sold to M. Lowenstein and Company and renamed to the Huntsville Manufacturing Company.

In this publication, numerous pictures of life and work in the old mill villages and factories are combined with history of the mills to create a fascinating look at an important phase in the history of Huntsville.



Information on local transportation, schools, churches, and leisure activities such as baseball and bands fill us in on what life was like in a mill village from 1900 to 1955. It's a slim volume, but it's packed with pictures of many types of buildings when they were under construction in the area, along with photos of old autos, street cars, stores, and many photos of the looms and other interior views of the textile mills themselves.

We also see people at play, picnicking at Brahan Spring (complete with hats and parasols), performing in the band or on the ball field, and in church groups. Many of the people in the pictures are identified, plus a number of the first employees of both mill #1 and #2 are listed, making the publication especially interesting to those with family members who worked there, as well as anyone interested in the history of the textile industry in Huntsville and the South.

Katharine Garstka

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Patricia H. Ryan, **Northern Dollars for Huntsville Spindles**. Huntsville, Alabama: Reprinted by Huntsville History Collection.org, 2003. 46 pages, soft bound. \$10.00

By the 1880s Huntsville was well known for its cotton production, but there were no industries to turn this cotton into a finished product. Raw cotton had to be shipped to other areas to be processed. The town fathers acted as the Chamber of Commerce does today and sought investors and textiles mills to locate to Huntsville. Huntsville became an important cotton mill center by 1890s continuing through the 1920s. Much of Huntsville's early growth came during

this period. The demand for supplemental goods and services caused by this growth advanced secondary businesses as well.

Dependence on northern capital to finance cotton mill construction and operations is one of the prime elements to this book. Many northern men contributed time and money to bring the cotton mills to Huntsville; Tracy W. Pratt's efforts were exemplary. Ryan covers much of Pratt's history as well as many other influential men of this era along with the rise of the mills.

Ryan has provided a thought-provoking history of the mills and investors, adding pictures of both men and mills. There are numerous maps also. Reading the article *Five Points, Our Streets and Avenues*, Page 128 in the spring 2014 Valley Leaves as a companion piece will enhance both book and article. For historian and genealogists of Huntsville-Madison County History these are a must.

Susy Jacks

Are you looking for a genealogy book? More Than 40,000 digital genealogy books now fully searchable and downloadable for free at [GenGophers.com](http://GenGophers.com). I had a chance to use the site for a while today and will say that I am impressed. I have been using Google Books, Archive.org, and numerous sources of digitized books for years. The new GenGophers web site searches **genealogy books and only genealogy books**, looking for the information you specify. Best of all, the site is available to all free of charge.

## **Things You Should Know**

### **Come Join Our Pioneer Families New Members Being Added!!! First Families of the Tennessee Valley**

First Families is a project of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society to find those persons who lived in the Tennessee Valley prior to statehood, Dec. 14, 1819. **Four new people** are researching documentation proving they are a direct lineal descendant, proving the bloodline in each generation, which proves their ancestor lived in one of the northern counties of Alabama served by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society prior to statehood. Two are researching **Augustin Andrew Hewlett** and **Moses Speer**, can you help them? See our web site, <http://www.tvgs.org/>; around 200 are listed. You just might find one of your ancestors listed there.

Many families moved into the area now called the Tennessee Valley well before statehood. This area was first Indian Territory. In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was created by an act of Congress which included all the territory now in Alabama and Mississippi north of 31 degrees and south of 32 degrees 28 minutes. Madison County became a county in 1809. Then during the war of 1812, Congress seized the Mobile District of West Florida, thus completing the territory.

The act of March 3, 1817 created the Alabama Territory establishing its boundaries, making Mississippi Territorial law applicable and making St. Stephens the new capital. Alabama grew so rapidly that there were only two sessions of the territorial legislature before statehood. President Monroe signed the bill for Alabama's admission as a state on Dec. 14, 1819.

Email us at [kgarstka101@gmail.com](mailto:kgarstka101@gmail.com) to request forms, information, and help. Add your family to these pioneer families.

Bettye Perrine, Registrar

**Certificate awarded to sisters, descendants of Levi Methvin, early pioneer of North Alabama!**



**TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
**First Families Of The Tennessee Valley**

(Information must be typewritten or block printed in black ink)

I, (*Applicant's name as it will appear on Certificate*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, certify that I am a descendant of (*Ancestor's name*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ who resided in what  
later became \_\_\_\_\_ County, Alabama before 14 December 1819.  
**Gen. 1.** I was born (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_.  
If married; *your spouse's name*: \_\_\_\_\_ when married (*date*):  
\_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gen. 2.** I am the child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 3.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 4.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 5.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 6.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 7.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 8.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gen. 9.** The child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was: *Born* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If) married* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Died* \_\_\_\_\_ at (*place*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary**

**PROOF OF DESCENT**

Identify each item of documentation used for each generation. Number each sheet of documentation with the generation number it supports.

Gen. 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ 199\_\_ TVGS Member? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Typed or Printed Name of Applicant for Certificate*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address where Certificate is to be sent*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address where Certificate is to be sent*

**Send completed application and \$25.00 check to: Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 156; Huntsville AL 35807-0567; Attention: 1st Families Registrar**

The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society's 1st Families is pleased to announce the acceptance of a new early settler, William Jobe of Lawrence County. His descendent Larry Dan Jordan of Mesquite, Texas, sent his application and packet of documents. This brings our total of accepted ancestors to 61, investigated by 212 descendants. These ancestors are scattered over a six-county area of the Tennessee Valley: Madison, Jackson, Marshall, Lawrence, Morgan and Limestone. To see a list of these ancestors, check our web site at <http://www.tvgs.org>. For applications and information to begin your packet of documents for acceptance of your ancestor as an original settler of the Tennessee Valley, find them in this issue or write to TVGS, P.O. Box 1568, Huntsville, AL 35807-0568. We are looking to find all ancestors who lived in the Tennessee Valley prior to statehood on Dec. 14, 1819.

### Alabama Genealogical Society News

From <[www.algensoc.org/news](http://www.algensoc.org/news)>.

#### Web Site Updates

If you have not visited our website recently you might be interested in some updates. The *Topics Index* of magazine articles we printed in last year's Winter edition has been placed on the web with two companion documents:

(1) a focus on *county-by-county* related topics and (2) a focus on *people-names* found in topics. These three PDF documents provide a reference from which you can order article reprints from AGS. The index covers our magazines back to 1967.

The First Families of Alabama (FFA) certificate listing has an updated companion index of 995 unique surnames for all 394 certificates issued to date.

Both the *Topics* and *FFA Names* documents can be found in a redesigned section of our site by clicking on the menu item Digital Library.



The War of 1812 Pension Applications for [surnames A through L \(and partially M\) are now available to be searched for FREE on fold3.com](#). We are 63% through this project. Help to preserve these applications and make them FREE forever.

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## Valley Leaves

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*To have a sense of history one must consider  
oneself a piece of history... Alfred Kazin*

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