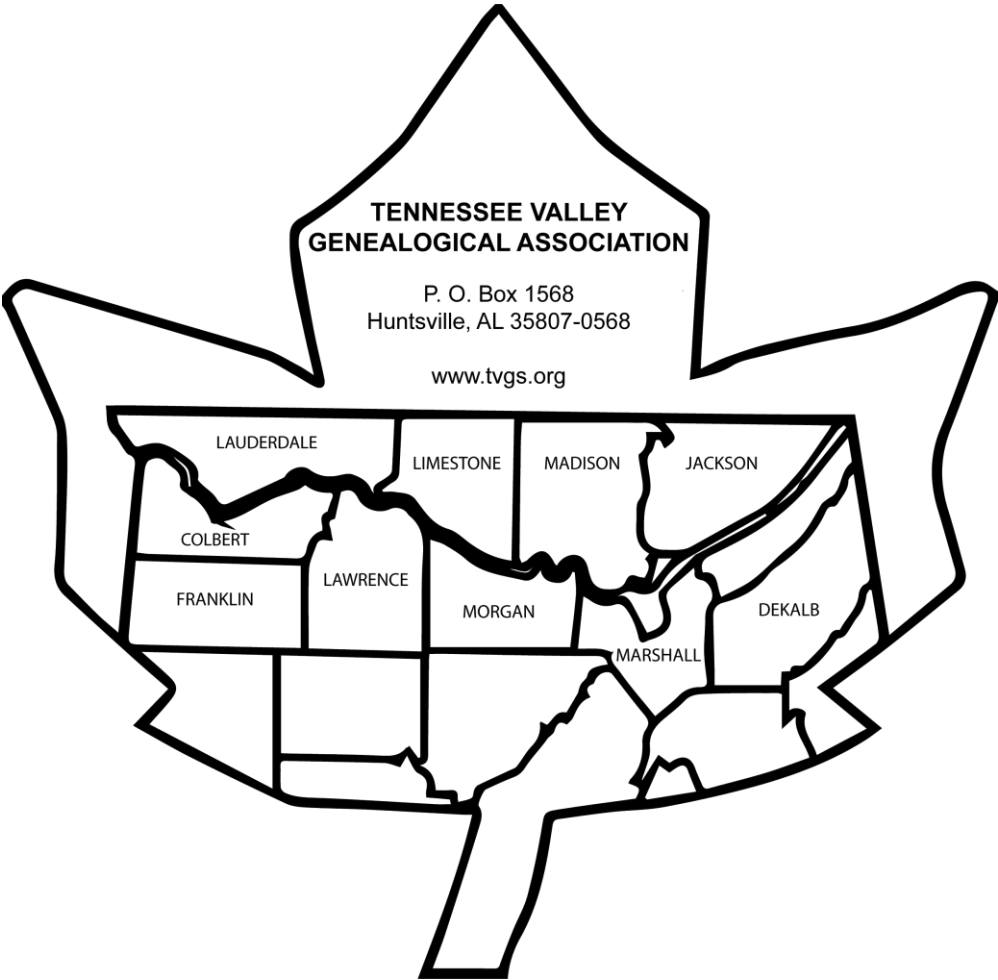


**TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
of North Alabama**

Valley Leaves

A BI-ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATION



Publications Available for Purchase

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Valley Leaves

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 1-2 FALL 2017

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Give the gift of family history with a one-year membership to TVGS and *Valley Leaves*. Annual dues are only \$25 (\$30 starting July 2018) and include a subscription to this publication! To register, please mail us the name, address, and email of the recipient along with their dues.

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P. O. Box 1568
Huntsville, AL 35807

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Annual TVGS Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Marriott Spring Hill Suites, Huntsville, Alabama

British and New England Resources and Strategies: Claire V. Brisson-Banks, BS, MLIS, AG
 Information about this program is on page 1.

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Regular Membership Meetings

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

Choosing a Genealogical Software Program: An introduction to genealogical software that will help organize your research, let you create charts and reports, correct entry mistakes and help you visualize your progress. Following the introduction, demonstrations of RootsMagic and Family Tree Maker software will be given on laptops.

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

The Worst Court House Ever: Finding Treasure in the National Archives? Bob Davis of Wallace State will speak on the possibilities for research in the National Archives to include guides to research, facilities, types of Federal records which include census, Indian, biographical, Federal court, regular army enlistments 1798-1914, etc.

Thursday, July 26, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Huntsville Public Library Auditorium
Genealogy Antique Roadshow. Dr. George Marchelos, a certified appraiser of personal and estate property, antiques and collectibles, will give you an informal appraisal of 1 or 2 items that you bring to the meeting.

Upcoming Events

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

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Annual TVGS Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Marriott Spring Hill Suites, Huntsville, Alabama
Registration fee required; lunch included

Claire V. Brisson-Banks, BS, MLIS, AG **British and New England Resources and Strategies**



Born in Rhode Island, Claire has lived in a variety of locations throughout the world with Missouri currently being her home. She is the owner of *Timeless Genealogies*, a provider of ancestral and forensic research services. She is accredited in English Research and U.S. Mountain States.

Currently an Online Family History Instructor for BYU-Idaho part time and part-time provider of tech support for *Ancestral Quest*, she also writes for multiple publications and blogs, is published in the *Library Journal* and assisted with the development of multiple pages in the FamilySearch Research Wiki concerning Youth, US and UK Wiki pages.

She lectures on a variety of topics connected to libraries, genealogy, family history, youth and technical computer skills. She is a Trustee for the International Society for British Genealogical Family History and belongs to many library and genealogical organizations including the Missouri State Genealogical Association. Claire will present four lectures at our seminar:

- Scotland Research Strategies – how to unravel a family legend, step by step, to prove its validity, along with a review of Scottish records, strategy tools and processes; presentation covers non-conformist and Church of Scotland records, censuses, land records, deeds, wills, testamentary, poor law, and military records.
- England, the Quest for English Ancestors – English civil and church records as well as census records make doing research back to 1837 more feasible. Pre-1837 requires a greater knowledge of little known resources taking one back to 1600s.
- Wales Online Resources – online (and some not online) resources available for those who have ancestors in Wales. Done live using the Internet.
- New England Ancestors – More than a quarter of ALL Americans have some New England ancestry. Our speaker will review each New England state's best genealogical assets to help researches locate their ancestors' origins, both online and all other media formats.

To learn more about Ms. Brisson-Banks, visit www.timelessgen.com. Registration opens Feb. 1, 2018; cost will be \$45, which includes refreshments, boxed lunch and seminar handout.

TVGS 2018 Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 21, 2018

SpringHill Suites Huntsville Downtown

745 Constellation Place Drive SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35801

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Reservations and payment must be received by **April 10, 2018**. Registration and lunch is \$45.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

List the ancestors or families you're researching, and you may find a match among today's attendees!

Name	Date of Birth	Birthplace	Date of Death	Location

A boxed lunch will be catered at the seminar. The registration price includes morning refreshments, lunch, dessert, and beverages. If you require a vegetarian option, please check here:

I require a vegetarian lunch option

Please complete the seminar registration form and mail it with your check to the address below:

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society

Attn: Spring Seminar

P.O. Box 1568

Huntsville, AL 35807

Registration must be received by April 10, 2018!

Jackson County

Before the Commissioners of Claims

Case of Mary Jane Pemberton

No. 3211

Transcribed by Jennifer Petty, Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center

It is hereby certified, that on the 15th day of October, 1873, at Scottsboro, in the county of Jackson and State of Alabama, personally came before me the following persons, viz: Mary Jane Pemberton (Claimant), ----- (Counsel or Attorney), and James Bundren, Shadrack Bray and Rebecca Ann Martin (Claimant's Witnesses), for the purpose of a hearing in the above entitled cause.

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

Witness my hand and seal this 18th day of October, 1873. (Seal) James H. Bone, Special Commissioner of the Commissioners of Claims.

Deposition of Mary Jane Pemberton

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

My name is Mary Jane Pemberton, my age about forty years, my residence near Bellefonte, Jackson County, in the State of Alabama, and my occupation farming; I am the claimant, Mary Jane Pemberton, and have a beneficial interest in the claim.

To the 2nd interrogatory, deponent says:

I lived on Paint Rock River Jackson County Alabama all the time during the war. I did not live on my own land. I lived on rented land. Well, the year 1863 that I lived on Paint Rock we made a crop. In 1861 & 1862 and up to the spring of 1863. I lived on the mountain in DeKalb County- near Valley Head. During the years 1864 and 1865 we lived at Stevenson Jackson County Alabama. We were farming in 1861- 2 & 3 and in 1864 we did not do much of anything- but in 1865 we farmed a little.

To the 3rd she says:

No sir. We never crossed back into the rebel lines after we crossed over to the federal lines.

To the 4th she says:

No sir.

To the 5th she says:

I never did.

To the 6th she says:

No sir.

To the 7th she says:

No sir.

To the 8th she says:

No indeed.

To the 9th she says:

Never.

To the 10th she says:

Why no.

To the 11th she says:

Never.

To the 12th she says:

No sir.

To the 13th she says:

No sir.

To the 14th she says:

No sir.

To the 15th she says:

No sir. I reckon not.

To the 16th she says:

No sir. Never aided the Rebels in any way.

To the 17th she says:

No sir.

To the 18th she says:

No sir- never furnished them anything of the kind- never gave them any information to aid them.

To the 19th she says:

No sir never in anyway employed by the Confederates.

To the 20th she says:

No sir, never.

To the 21st she says:

No, never.

To the 22nd she says:

No sir, but we came over into the federal lines. We left our home in DeKalb County Alabama in February 1863, or about that time and came over the Tennessee River and remained inside the federal lines until the close of the war.

To the 23rd she says:

No, never.

To the 24th she says:

No sir - never arrested by the Confederate authorities, no sir - never by the federals.

To the 25th she says:

The Rebels came in to our place on Paint Rock in 1863 and tore our house down and took right smart of things from our house and broke up a heap of things. Well, they done it I reckon because my husband was a Union man and they had a spite at him. They never paid me for anything they got.

To the 26th she says:

Yes, in 1863, the man we rented the property threatened us. He stabbed my husband. The Yankees had come through and taken this man's stuff and he said my husband was the cause of it. Samuel Kennedy was the name of the man we rented the land from. I can't recollect now what threats he did make. He injured my husband right smart. I did not see him stabbed, but when my husband came home he was bloody all over and was confined with his wounds for few days then he had to leave home from fear of the rebels.

To the 27th she says:

Yes, we were molested while we were in DeKalb. We had to leave that county on account of the threats made against us. Well, they were talking of forcing my husband in the rebel service. I can't remember anything else. They tore our house down up on Paint Rock and took several things out of our house: a pair of shoes, some dress patterns and a pocket book with some money. I can't recollect how much money there was.

To the 28th she says:

No sir, never contributed anything to aid the Union.

To the 29th she says:

No sir, nothing more than to treat the federal soldiers well, when they would be about me.

To the 30th she says:

Had no relatives in the rebel army, except a brother who was forced into the rebel army, but he did not stay but a little while when he left them and went over to Paint Rock to the federals. His name was John Bundren. He is now living in Texas. I never furnished him a thing of no kind when he went into the rebel army - Did not do anything to support him while in the rebel army.

To the 31st she says:

No, never- never did anything to sustain the credit of the Rebellion.

To the 32nd she says:

Never gave any aid or comfort to the rebellion.

To the 33rd she says:

No sir.

To the 34th she says:

No, never.

To the 35th she says:

No sir, never.

To the 36th she says:

No.

To the 37th she says:

No sir.

To the 38th she says:

No sir.

To the 39th she says:

No sir.

To the 40th she says:

I sympathized with the Union cause all the time - Well, my feelings were for the Union. I did not say much about the war no way. I exerted my influence on the Union side - I talked in favor of the Union - I still held on to the Union after my state had seceded.

To the 41st she says:

I do solemnly declare that from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof my feelings and sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that I never of my own free will and accord lent anything, or offered or sought or accepted to do anything by word or deed to injure said cause or retard its success, and that I was ready and willing when called upon to aid and assist the cause of the Union and its supporters so far as my -means and power and the circumstances of the case permitted.

To the 42nd she says:

I am single now. My Husband is dead. He was a loyal man to the government of the United States. His name was Jennings Pemberton. He was a Union Soldier in Captain Rufus Jordan's Company D 1st Alabama Vidette Cavalry. He entered the service in the latter part of 1863 or in the first days of 1864. He was never in the rebel army. He served about eight months in the federal army. He died in August 1863, about three weeks after he was mustered out of the service. We were married in 1850 or 1852. I have four children by my late husband. Rebecca Ann, she is 20 years old. James Anderson, 18 years old. Sarah Ann, 15 years old. Jennings, 12 years old and Able, 10 years. The property in my account belonged to my husband. There never was any administrator appointed upon his estate. He did not owe anything at his death. There was nothing to administer on but a little crop and one nag. I had this clause made out for the benefit of my children as well as myself. I have had the sole care and support of our children since my husband's death. Three of them are married now, the three oldest. My husband was never married until he married me. My Husband and I were born in Tennessee.

In answer to the Questions as to the taking

or garnishing of the property deponent to Question one says:

I was present when all the property was taken.

To the 2nd she says:

I seen the Yankees take the corn, ox, horse and yearling.

To the 3rd she says:

Well, the soldiers just camped by the corn and took it. Well, they just drove into the field and took the corn and drove outside in the big road and used it. I don't recollect what they said. I recollect they said we would get pay for it some day or other. That is all I recollect that they said. The cornfield was in sight of the house we lived in, about two hundred yards off- I reckon. Well, when the soldiers got ready to start they first got him out of the pasture and went on with him. He was taken by the same command who got the corn. Well, they just went in and put the bridle on him and went off with him. They went into the pasture where he was. They did not say anything. I was at home when he was taken. The pasture was not far from our house: in sight. Well, they had them there making use of them in their camps. I did not see them taken, but I saw them making use of them. Well, they were cooking and eating them. Well, they were fixing to make use of them. Well, I seen them butchering of them.

To the 4th she says:

This property was taken from Larkins Fork Paint Rock River Jackson County Alabama. It was taken in August 1863. It was General Johnsons command who took it. Yes, there was a good many soldiers taking of it. There must have been more than a thousand there. They were encamped right there for two or three days and they got this property while they were camped there. Well, I don't know how many helped to take it. It looked like

they all had a hand in it. They were there two or three days and they looked like they were taking it all the time.

To the 5th she says:

Olen Hill, Mrs. Coffee was there, my daughter, Becky Ann was there, and my husband was there a few days afterwards.

To the 6th she says:

I don't know whether there was officers present or not, but I reckon there was surely. I did not know who were officers at that time. I did not hear [illegible] any one order the soldiers to take property.

To the 7th she says:

Well, they just drove in the fields and took the corn, went into the pasture and took the horse, and they got the cattle outside in the woods and butchered them.

To the 8th she says:

Well, they took the corn in wagons and in sacks to their camps, and they were camped right by the side of the field in the road. The horse was rode off - the cattle were just took to their camps.

To the 9th she says:

The property was taken to their camps right there at the place where we lived. I seen them take it in their camps. I could see them from our house.

To the 10th she says:

They took the property to use themselves. Why I seen them using the property. I seen them feeding the corn and butchering the cattle and I seen them ride the horse away.

To the 11th she says:

My husband told me about talking to some one about the taking of the property. I don't know who it was, but it was some of the officers. My husband told me they said he would get pay for it some day. I did not hear

any complaint made.

To the 12th she says:

I don't know as any voucher or receipt was asked for. I don't know any was given. I did not hear any conversation about the taking of the property.

To the 13th she says:

It was taken in day time. It looked like all times of the day, none secretly.

To the 14th she says:

General Johnson's Division was camped right by the side of our cornfield by the big Road. They commenced taking it as soon as they came in. They remained two or three days. Did not know any of the officers or Quarter Masters, no skirmish or battle near there.

To the 15th she says:

The corn was in the field in the stock. It was just getting hard. They just pulled it off the stock and took it out and fed it. It was good corn. I don't know what it was worth a bushel. He was a large sorrel horse, about seven or eight years old, in very good order. He was sound. He was a good plough horse worth one hundred and fifty dollars. The ox was about five years old. He was tolerable large. He was fat. The yearling was a heifer in very good fit. It was tolerable large of its age. I do not know what beef was worth a pound.

To the 16th she says:

There was about seven hundred and fifty bushels of corn taken. That is what I have heard them say, my husband and my neighbors. Well, I don't know how many acres we had in corn, my husband worked two horses in making it. I don't know how much the ox or heifer would weigh. The ox, horse, and heifer were taken in my presence and so was most of the corn, but I don't suppose I seen it all taken.

(17-18 missing)

To the 19th she says:

No part of this claim has been paid. He never got no pay for anything the soldiers got nor I never got any either. - Mary Jane Pemberton (her mark)

* It is my understanding that my husband had a trade with the man from whom he rented the corn land by which he paid the rent. He rented it from Samuel Kennedy.

Deposition of James Bundren

My name is James Bundren. My age is sixty three years. Residence DeKalb County Alabama near Valley Head. Occupation a farmer. The claimant is my daughter and the deceased was my son in law. No beneficial interest in this claim. I had known the deceased ever since he was a little fellow. I lived within two miles of them in 1861 & 62 in the same neighborhood that he did. In 1863 he went across the Tennessee River. From that time until the close of the War they lived from twenty five to fifty miles from me. I very frequently talked with them about the war and its causes. I saw them frequently when they lived on the south side of the Tennessee River. I was an adherent to the Union cause. They regarded me as a Union man. He was mightily opposed to the war coming up. He was opposed to it in every shape. I have heard him say many a time he never would fight on the rebel side. Well, he said he had been raised under the old government and he wanted to live that way. They tried to get him into the Southern Army and he would not go into it at all. When the rebels were conscripting, a good many Union men he kept out of the way of the rebels and went north of the Tennessee River to avoid them. His wife the claimant agreed with him in every respect. He always

voted for the Union party and against them who were for secession. He voted for old man Douglas for president in 1860. His sympathies were always for the Old Stars and Stripes. I was so intimate with him and talked with him so much I know his sympathies were for the old government. Well, we were to ourselves and many times we were in crowds when we talked about the war. He always expressed very strong sentiments for the Union. His reputation was that of a Union man. He talked that way all the time until he had to leave the neighborhood on account of his principles. There was a heap of our citizens who talked at first for the Union but they did not hold out. He left our neighborhood in the spring or February 1863. I never seen him after he left our neighborhood until the winter of 1863 & 64, and then he came to my house as a soldier in the Union Army with his command, and that was the last time I seen him. He belonged to Captain Jordans Company 1st Alabama Regiment. He was threatened several times before he left our neighborhood. Well, secessionists who lived in the neighborhood threatened him and Fortneys men of the rebel army threatened him. Well, they were talking about charging him if he did not go into the rebel army and they did charge some Union men. The deceased went north of the Tennessee River to save his life. I told him and my son to go north of the river for the Federal army had been there and I told them it would be back again before fall and sure enough it did. The rebels never got hold of him but they would have done it if they could. I don't know as he did anything for the Union cause before he went across the river, for he did not have much to do with, but he afterwards joined the Federal Army. I don't think he aided the rebel army or cause a bit. I never heard of him doing such a thing. I heard of the rebels coming to his house and taking a gun when he was not at home. Oh, no sir, they never

owned any confederate bonds. Neither of them could have proven their loyalty to the confederacy if it had been maintained. He was a wicked man and I have heard him talk strong against the confederacy and he soldiered against the confederacy. Their children were all small during the war. Their oldest child is a girl and she is about twenty years old. - James Bundren

Deposition of Shadrack Bray

My name is Shadrack Bray. My age is fifty five years. Residence DeKalb County Alabama, near Valley Head. Occupation a farmer. I am in no way related to the claimant. No beneficial interest in the world in this claim. I had been acquainted with the claimants husband for some five or six years before the war came up. I knew the claimant since she was a small bit of a child. I was very well and intimately acquainted with him during the war till I went back north. I went north the 1st of the year 1864. Well from 1860 to 1862, I lived within some four or five miles of him. Then he moved rather out of my settlement some ten miles distant after he lived out the ten miles. I stayed all night with him twice and I conversed with him and his wife a good deal on this subject of the war. We were there together. I saw him along every four or five or six weeks during the years 1861 & 1862. See it was in 1861 or 1862 that I was close by him. In 1863 I saw him frequently. Oh yes, I was very well acquainted with him and his wife too. I was an advocate of the Union cause. Oh yes, he and his wife always held out the indication to me that they considered me a Union man. They were united on the same opinion about the war. He held up the warmest sympathies for the United States Army. You can say him and her both for that is the way they talked. He was in favor of

the old government [illegible]. Well, he opposed the rebellion in his conversations and appeared to be cheered when he heard of any of their places being taken by the Federal troops. His opinion was this, that the pressure upon the laboring class or the poor men would be considerable if the rebels had their way. His cause at the coming up of the war was against secession, and I did not see him cast his vote, but it was my understanding that he voted for the Union candidates. Well, sir our conversation on this subject would be when we were by ourselves and when I was at his house. At another time I met with him on the road in sixty three, about two or three weeks before the Yankees come in. He seemed to be rejoicing that there was a prospect of the Yankees Army in. He seemed to be praying for them to come as persecution about that time was getting to be very heavy. His general reputation was that of a Union man. Of course they could not regard him as anything else. Well, his loyal neighbors regarded him as a loyal man. I do not know, but I don't think he did contribute anything to aid the Union army. I mean he did not give any money or property to aid it. He was a soldier in the Union Army. He enlisted just a few weeks before I started north. I started north in the first of the year 1864 in February I think. Oh yes it was an every day business for me to see him after he enlisted for I was acquainted with his captain and nearly all of his company. I went north to the neighborhood of Seymour Indiana. I can say this much for I never heard or had any knowledge of him or his wife the claimant doing anything for the rebel cause. Oh I am satisfied they never used any confederate bonds. I don't think that he or his family or any other Union man could have lived in this county if the rebels had maintained their independence. - Shadrack Bray (his mark)

Deponent Shadrack Bray further deposes and says in answer to the Questions as to the

taking or garnishing of the property- I was not present when any of her property was taken.

To the 2nd he says:

I seen nothing taken.

I know that claimants husband raised a crop during the year 1863 on Larkins Fork on Paint Rock River. I saw the crop growing and after it had grown into maturity and after the soldiers had been there I know they owned the horse, or a horse and oxen.

I know the army was there. Their camps were all around there. I did not see the soldiers located in their camps, but I seen where their camps had been. I don't suppose it was six days after the army was camped there till I passed along there. When I passed there I passed right through the land they had cultivated. A portion of the corn was all gone out of the field stocks and all I could see the stubs of the stocks standing as thick as hemp all over the ground. The balance of it looked like the ears had been gathered off and the stocks left standing. I do not know how many acres there was in the field. It was a good crop of corn as you ever see grow anywhere. I am knowing to them having the oxen and horse before the army came in and after the army had been there they were gone. Oh yes the family told me they had been taken by the Yankees. My recollection now is that they told me the Yankees had taken everything they had. And the claimants husband told me he would rather the Yankees to have it for nothing than the rebels to have it for pay. -Shadrack Bray (his mark)

Deposition of Rebecca A. Martin

My name is Rebecca A. Martin. My residence is near Bellefonte Jackson County Alabama. My age is nineteen years. I am the

daughter of the claimant. I have a beneficial interest in this claim indirectly.

In answer to the Questions as to the taking or garnishing of the property deponent to Question she says:

I was present when the property in that claim was taken.

To the 2nd she says:

I seen it taken. I seen one field of corn, Horse, Ox and a heifer taken by the federals.

To the 3rd she says:

All I know about the taking of the corn is that I seen the federals in the field gathering it and the field looked mighty blue with them. They had wagons in the field which they were loading with the corn, then there was horseman in there with sacks and they got them full and carried them out on their horses. A heap of the corn they cut stock and all and loaded on their wagons. What they carried off in sacks they pulled the ears and left the stocks standing. They were in there nearly all the time for two or three days till they got the corn all out. I did not hear them say anything about the taking of the corn. The cornfield was in sight of the house some two or three hundred yards off. The horse was in pasture field and the soldiers went in and caught and put a bridle on him and led him out of the field. That is about all there was of it. They did not bring him to the house. I did not exactly see them take the cattle but we missed the cattle and saw them using beef. The cattle were there when the soldiers came in and I saw their hides after they had been killed. The hides were in their camps.

To the 4th she says:

The property was taken from the place where we was living on Paint Rock. In 1863, I don't remember the month. It was in the fall like. It was all taken by the same command. I heard everyone say they were

Johnsons men. The soldiers were all over the fields and up and down and camped all about there. I have no correct idea how many soldiers helped to take the corn. There was two soldiers who took the horse but there were others around. There were about days in taking the corn and I think it was along towards the last day that they got the horse. I do not know the day they killed the cattle.

To the 5th she says:

I don't remember any citizens being present. My mother was there. I remember that some of my younger sisters and brothers [missing].

To the 6th she says:

I don't remember any officers. I think from their dress there was officers present when the soldiers were getting the property. I did not hear anyone order the soldiers to take the property. I did not hear any of the soldiers say anything about the taking of the property.

To the 7th she says:

I don't know as I can describe it any fuller than I have already done.

To the 8th she says:

The corn was removed in wagons and in sacks on horses. The horse was led off as far as I seen the soldiers go with him. Don't know how they got the cattle to their camps.

To the 9th she says:

The property was taken into their camps right in sight of our house and right near trees. I saw them take the corn and horse into their camps.

To the 10th she says:

I don't know the use they took the property for except it was for use of the army. I seen them feeding each corn as they got from us. I seen them using beef and such things as

that too. I never seen the horse after he was led off by the soldiers.

To the 11th she says:

No complaint made to any officer about the taking of the property as I know of.

To the 12th she says:

No receipt or vouchers asked for to my knowledge. Do not know any was given. I don't remember of hearing any conversation between the claimant or my mother and the soldiers about the taking of the property.

To the 13th she says:

I do not know of any of it being taken in the night time. The corn was taken all through the day. I don't think any was taken secretly.

To the 14th she says:

There was federal camps all around us when the property was taken. It was General Johnsons Division that was encamped there. I don't remember any of the regiments or Brigades. They went to taking the corn as soon as they come. They remained some two or three days. There was no skirmish around there as I know of. Did not know any of the officers or Quartermasters for whose use the property was taken.

To the 15th she says:

The corn was just getting too hard for roasting ears. It was in the field in stocks. It was mighty good large corn. It was good bottom land. It had been well cultivated. We had not used any of it. I think the horse was about nine years old. He was a large nice horse. He was in very good fit, a good work horse. Well, I don't know exactly how much he was worth. The Ox was large, he was fat. I could not think what he would have weighed. The heifer was about two years old. It was in good fit, good size for her age. I don't know the price of corn at that time. Do not know what beef was worth a pound

at that time.

To the 16th she says:

They got about thirty acres of corn. I never seen the ground measured. It was all in one field and it was very large. I was raised on a farm and have some idea of the number of acres in a field from looking at it. That was a very favorable season and the corn was good. I have heard our neighbors talking about what such land would make per acre and they said fifty bushels a good season. The corn was all taken off this land. I seen them taking it from first to last. I seen them take the horse also. I wasn't give the weight of the cattle. - Rebecca A. Martin (her mark)

Deponent Shadrack Bray deposes and says further as to the quantity of land from which the federals took the corn, such land as that was under common farming with produce one year with another forty five or fifty bushels of corn an acre. The year 1863 was a very favorable season in that section of the country for corn. - Shadrack Bray (his mark)

The United States, To Mary Jane Pemberton of Ala.

For the amount allowed her by Act of Congress, Private No. 141 approved June 15th, 1878, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the payment of claims reported allowed by the Commissioners of Claims under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871: the Sum of Four hundred and seventy five dollars \$475.00. Payable in care of Tucker and Bishop, Washington D.C. Treasury Department, Second Comptroller's Office July 10th, 1878 B.F. French, Clerk. Treasury Department, Third Auditor's Office June 28, 1878, Doolittle, Clerk.

Claim documents from **The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration**, Record Group 217: *Records of the*

Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, 1775 - 1978. Series: Settled Case Files for Claims Approved by the Southern Claims Commission, 1871 - 1880. File Unit: Approved Claim Files from DeKalb County, Alabama: Pemberton, Mary Jane., Claim No. 48082

Moundville Archeological Park: A Visit to Alabama 1000 Years In the Past

By Jennifer Petty, Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center

If you haven't visited Moundville Archeological Park, which is owned by the University of Alabama, you should put it on your list of places to explore. There is a lot to learn from this ancient site that was once a political and religious center. The 320-acre park contains more than 26 pyramidal platform mounds. In the visitor center, you can see a video that explains how the park used to be the second largest settlement of the people of the Mississippian culture, dating from about 1,000 A.D. At its peak, there were about 1,000 people within its fenced area and as many as 10,000 people in the surrounding area.

Once you pay your park entrance fee and see the video, you are free to drive around the mounds, stopping to walk amongst them. There are two that you may climb to the top: Mound P and Mound B. Mound B is where the chief was believed to live and is the highest Native American mound in the state of Alabama.

After exploring the mounds, you can visit the museum, which contains some of the thousands of artifacts found at the site. As soon as you walk in the doors, you are carried 1,000 years into the past. As you walk through the museum looking at the craftsmanship of this advanced Mississippian culture, you are surrounded by murals showing what Moundville may have looked like at its peak.

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and *every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.* – Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you are lucky enough to be a genealogist, you are lucky enough. – Ruth Padilla

Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate. – Unknown

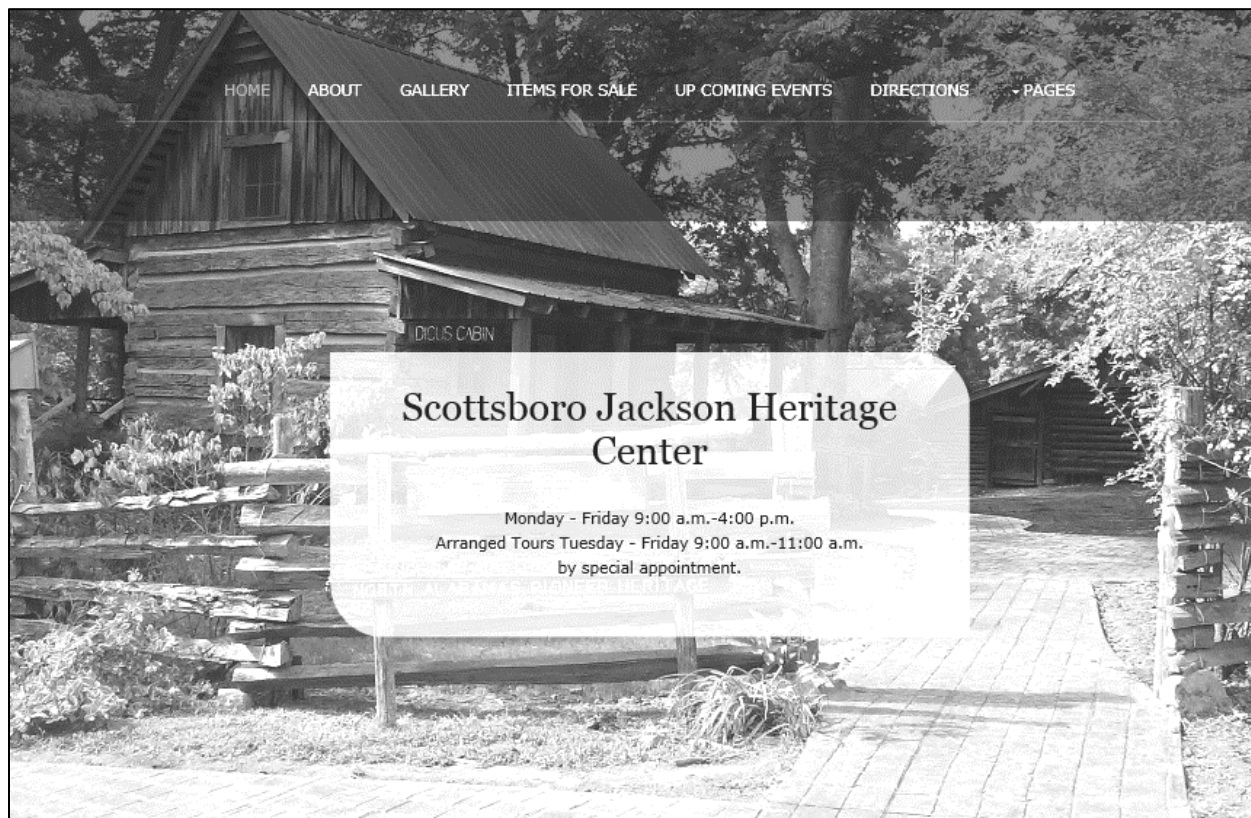
Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living. – Unknown

There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his. – Helen Keller

If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree. – Michael Crichton

Do You Have Scottsboro or Jackson County, Alabama Ancestors? Check out the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center Website

Visit the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center website at <http://www.sjhc.us/>



Click on **Pages** to see a list of resources for genealogy and other historical research.

The Jan Boyd Roberts Deaths Database: If you have an ancestor who died in Jackson County, it's likely that their name appears in this database, which provides the person's name, date their obituary appeared in the paper and the newspaper in which it appeared. Jan Boyd Roberts began this database years ago. She researched through microfilm and old Jackson County newspapers and entered each person with an obituary. The database is kept current with today's newspapers.

Links: Click on **Historic Jackson County, Al. Maps** to visit the Jackson County Mapping and Appraisal Department's website on historical maps of Jackson County and surrounding areas.

Local Cemetery Locations: This map contains many Jackson County cemetery locations.

If the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center can assist you with any of your research needs, you can contact us at:

Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center
208 South Houston Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768
Phone: 256-259-2122
Email: heritage@scottsboro.org

Madison County

Thomas Wilson White (1817 – 1890)

By Patricia White Nation

Frontier Huntsville

At the beginning of the 19th century the Alabama territory was a vast tree covered region populated with Native Americans. White settlers were few and were located primarily on the Gulf Coast and along the Coosa, Alabama, Tombigbee, Tallapoosa and Tennessee Rivers. The state was established in 1819 at the Constitutional Convention in Huntsville.

By 1830 the earliest settlers had been in the state over 20 years and state, county and municipal government infrastructures were established.

During the early years before and after statehood Alabama experienced a large influx of industrious people primarily from Georgia and Virginia seeking to acquire land and establish homesteads on virgin lands that were now available for purchase by the public. Alabama became an agrarian based society with numerous small family farms and large plantations.

The larger plantations were established most often by wealthy educated people from Virginia and Georgia who often had political office experience. They capitalized on the opportunity to acquire rich farm land at a low price.

In early North Alabama an aristocratic class of wealthy planters developed that included North Alabama families like the Bibbs, Popes, Manning, Whites and Matthews. During the 19th century Southern families participated in American politics at the highest levels and they sent their sons and daughters to elite Ivy League Universities and to West Point Military Academy. The White family members held some of the most prestigious political offices in America; they include John White, who was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Isaac Shelby, who was twice governor of Kentucky; and John D. White, U.S. House of Representatives.

By 1830 Thomas White's father, James White of Abingdon, Virginia, had established three large plantations in North Alabama. James White's young sons Addison White, Thomas W. White and Milton White inherited these plantations after their father's death in 1838 thereby defining the future of the many generations of the White family that followed.

Abingdon, Virginia, Roots

The White family had been established in Abingdon, Virginia, since the very late 1700s. For 80 years prior they lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. William White moved his family from Pennsylvania to Abingdon, Virginia, circa 1795. Later in 1817 his grandson Thomas Wilson White was born in Abingdon. Thomas' father and mother, James and Elizabeth (Eliza) White had 13 children. Thomas grew up in Abingdon, a small town on the edge of the frontier. The frontier "Great Road" ran directly through the small town and was one of the main arteries of transportation for settlers migrating west and into North Alabama.



James White operated a gristmill north of Abingdon and owned a mercantile store in the heart of town on the Great Road. He produced salt north of Abingdon near the present town of Saltville,

VA. Every day the Whites interacted with settlers traveling to Alabama. The family looked to frontier Alabama and saw business opportunity.

James White pushed into North Alabama and established mercantile stores along the Tennessee River and retail outlets for the large quantities of salt he produced in Washington County Virginia. James White became known as the Salt King of Abingdon and accumulated wealth that he used to acquire frontier Alabama land that he developed into profitable plantations.

It is said that James White “lived” in the saddle. He traveled extensively between his properties in Alabama and Virginia. With his father’s unexpected death in 1838 young Thomas faced challenges and opportunity.

Arrival in Alabama to Claim Inheritance

Thomas White moved to Huntsville, Alabama from Abingdon, Virginia, in 1839 at age 22, one year after his father’s death. Within the prior three years three of his brothers also died leaving Thomas and his two brothers (Addison and Milton) title to vast land holdings including plantations and commercial property in North Alabama. These operating plantations had been established by James White over the preceding 25 years. The three north Alabama plantations were located at Bellefonte in Jackson County, Whitesburg in Madison and Morgan Counties and in Limestone County near Mooresville. Each plantation was located on the Tennessee River. Thomas also later acquired a large plantation near Helena Arkansas south of Memphis, TN.

When Thomas arrived in Huntsville the city’s population was less than 4,000. Huntsville became Alabama's first capital when the state was admitted to the Union. This was a temporary designation for one legislative session only. Huntsville was the regional center of banking, politics and powerful families.

Although not the earliest residents of Huntsville, the White family was known to Huntsville’s elite. James White had operated businesses in Madison County for years both as a planter and a merchant who controlled and dominated the production and commercial sale of salt across the Tennessee Valley. Huntsville’s wealthy families took notice when Thomas moved to the small town, a young single man who owned large profitable cotton plantations. During this period Alabama cotton was a highly profitable crop enabling Thomas to build on his father’s success and accumulate wealth. Thomas moved in the highest social circles and was noticed by one powerful Alabama family in particular – Alabama’s first family - the Bibbs. Within three years of his arrival in Huntsville young Thomas W. White became part of the Bibb family.

When Thomas White arrived in Huntsville the White family had been in America 130 years, they had fought for American independence, were officers in the War of 1812, and held high state and federal government offices. Addison White, brother of Thomas, became a Kentucky congressman and a close friend of the great Henry Clay of Kentucky. Thomas W. White’s brother Addison White was in the room with Henry Clay when he died in Washington D.C. in June of 1852.

John White, Thomas’ cousin, was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and a protégé of Henry Clay. John White was involved in a physical brawl on the house floor in defense of Henry Clay. The White family were Whigs and were aligned politically with Henry Clay, and as such they were moderate, cautious and measured in their support for succession.

Henry Clay, with the support of the Kentucky delegation that included John White and Addison White, was responsible for the Great Compromise of 1850 that prevented Civil War. However,

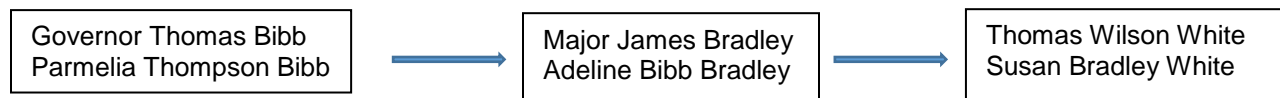
peace was not to last, and the country was at war 10 years later. The stage was set and the die was cast, and a remarkable future for this 130 year old American family and Thomas White lie ahead.

The Bibb Family Connection

In 1840 at age 24 Thomas Wilson White married Susan Bradley, the granddaughter of Alabama's second Governor Thomas Bibb. This union was characteristic of successful southern families over generations - success in marriage led to success in business. Well-considered marriages led to prosperity. While young Thomas W. White may have been too young to fully appreciate this, the Bibb family certainly did. The Bibbs understood how economics and marriage were related. Thomas W. White was the right young man, in the right place at the right time.

The Thomas Bibb family lived in Huntsville on Williams Avenue. Thomas Bibb also had a family home at his Limestone County Belle Mina plantation, a two-story brick mansion built in 1826. Both of these homes stand today as historic landmarks. Thomas W. White and Susan's wedding party was held at the Bibb Huntsville residence. This was then the home of Major James and Adeline Bibb Bradley, at 300 Williams Street in Huntsville. Their wedding was undoubtedly a gathering of Huntsville's oldest established families. A story is told that at the wedding dinner the serving table collapsed from being overloaded with fine food.

The Bibb Limestone County plantation in Belle Mina was adjacent to the White's Cave Place Limestone County plantation near the river town of Cotton Port and Mooresville. The relationship between the Whites and Bibbs was further established with their common membership in Alabama's aristocratic planter class. Then, with the marriage of Thomas to Susan Bradley, the granddaughter of Governor Bibb, they were one family.



As a new arrival to North Alabama, the Bibb family's experience, social standing, business relationships and political connections benefited Thomas in business and personal life. The Bibb family, being experienced cotton planters, mentored young Thomas in all aspects of plantation business, politics and Alabama society. One important family connection was Major James Bradley, the husband of Governor Thomas Bibb's daughter Adeline and the father-in-law of Thomas. Bradley was a cotton merchant and broker who was well known in both Huntsville and New Orleans. This gave Thomas White a family connection to one of the South's powerful cotton brokers and facilitated the optimal sale of Thomas' crops.

The relationship between the Whites and Bibbs is further evidenced in the 1860 Alabama census. The following Bibb family members were at that time living in Thomas White's home at 612 Eustis Avenue: Adeline Bibb Bradley (daughter of Governor Thomas Bibb), age 55, and her children, Sarah Bradley, age 30, Adeline Bradley, age 19 and John Bradley, age 12. Thomas became caregiver and provider for these Bibb family members after the death of Major James Bradley at age 57. They lived as one family.

Father of Twelve

Thomas and Susan White had their first child Adeline in the fall of 1841. The family grew to include 12 children born over a 28 year period. Their family home is located in Huntsville's Twickenham Historic District on a hillside overlooking the southwest corner of Eustis Avenue and White Street. The home was built in 1836.



Thomas and Susan White House

Photo courtesy of Diane White Hayes

Thomas purchased the property around 1844 and

added a side wing and detached slave buildings to the rear. The Whites raised their 12 children in this home including Alexander (Sandy), William and James who each fought in the Civil war. The L-shaped dwelling features an asphalt shingle gable roof, double-pile side hall floor plan, exterior end brick chimneys, brick load bearing walls, sash windows, and a masonry foundation. The house features an original basement. A brick sidewalk and curvilinear paved driveway connects to Eustis Avenue. A wrought iron fence with brick posts and gateposts lines Eustis Avenue. The property is also accessed from a driveway off White Street.



Fickling House

Photo courtesy of Gil White

Thomas White built a second home on White Street for his daughter Susan as a wedding gift upon her marriage to Frank Fickling. This beautiful vintage home located at 400 White Street is owned today by Deane and Carol Dayton. Both of these homes stand today in Huntsville's Twickenham Historical District.

The Thomas and Susan White home was a busy and happy place from 1844 up to the outset of the Civil War - a growing, loving family, successful business ventures, political connections and social

interaction. The family were active members of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity. There were five White sons living in the home of their parents James and Susan during this time. Their lives changed in 1860 when war came to Huntsville.

Alabama's Earliest Plantations

When James White died in 1838 his cotton plantations continued to operate with oversight by the White family from Abingdon, Virginia, until Thomas relocated to Huntsville in 1839. Details of the Whites' plantation business activities are found in the 1,100 pages of the "White Family Papers" that are archived in the Historical Collections Department at the University of Virginia. Brothers Thomas, Milton and Addison inherited North Alabama properties from their father. Thomas and Addison made Huntsville their home and continued to operate their plantations years beyond the Civil War. Milton continued to reside in Abingdon, VA. Some of these properties remained in the White family until circa 1950 giving an approximate 150 year ownership by the White family.

Bellefonte, Alabama Plantation: This plantation was located near the town of Bellefonte along the Tennessee River in Jackson County. Margaret Cowart's *Old Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama* shows that part of this plantation in an original patent/warrant in Cowart's book for Col. James White that was the patent for 39.83 acres near Bellefonte dated September 19, 1833. On November 25, 1847, White family members patented 79.66 acres about two miles from the 1833 purchase.

Thomas White's brother, Addison White began purchasing additional land around Bellefonte in 1855 and continued to do so until 1882. The Cowart book shows Addison White's total acreage via original patents as 801 acres. This included the entire 16th (school) section that he purchased on January 18, 1866. This property came to be known within the family as the "Hunting Camp."

The Bellefonte plantation continued to be a hunting camp for the Whites into the late 19th century. Earlier James White's son, James L. White, died unexpectedly at the Bellefonte Plantation in 1838, from disease, believed to be malaria. The local Snodgrass family ended up with a great deal of the White plantation property when the White family heirs disposed of it.

Whitesburg Alabama Plantation: Between 1800 and 1807 James Ditto of South Carolina migrated to the "Bend of the Tennessee" and eventually established a ferry in 1807 at a place which would be called Ditto's Landing, located along the northern banks of the Tennessee River. At the time that the landing was established, the tract upon which it stood was owned by the Federal Government. In 1812 LeRoy Pope entered the land and later assigned it to John Brahan who made the final installment payment prior to his receiving the patent or title to the land in 1817. Brahan later sold it to James White. White's plantation was located on both sides of the Tennessee River in Morgan and Madison counties.

On the North side of the River James White founded the river town of Whitesburg on land that he owned. Whitesburg became a regional shipping port. The town of Whitesburg was burned by the Union during the Civil War and never rebuilt. The area today is still known as Whitesburg. Thomas White inherited this property from his father and the family produced cotton well into the 20th century. The 1860 Slaveholder Census shows Thomas White owning 34 slaves in Madison County. The Whitesburg plantation was owned by White family members over four generations. One sad occurrence was the death of James Bradley White, Jr. (1881 – 1899) from a hunting accident at Whitesburg. Lawson Withers White operated a ferry at Whitesburg before the erection of the highway 231 bridge. About the same time in 1916 Lawson's young cousin Gilbert White obtained a charter to operate a ferry in Decatur, Alabama. Both ferries discontinued service when bridges were built over the river.

Cotton Port Alabama Plantation: The town of Cotton Port flourished in the early years of Limestone County. It was settled in 1818 and chartered in 1824. It was located near the point where Limestone Creek flowed into the Tennessee River and was a prime boat landing. Steamboats from East Tennessee brought much needed goods to this area. During high water, flatboats loaded with bales of cotton departing Cotton Port, could cross the river's rocky shoals and float to New Orleans. Cotton Port, once boasting a town square, handsome houses, brick stores, warehouses, and a racetrack, gradually ceased to exist. Residents left, fleeing malaria epidemics common to the location. By the 1850s no trace of it remained. The long forgotten town cemetery was unearthed by construction of Interstate 65.

James White acquired property near Cottonport circa 1815. This plantation has an unusual family story. It was west of the town of Mooresville and was bounded on the south by the Tennessee River. It was located in one of the most productive cotton producing areas of the south.

James White traded salt for this valuable land in the Tennessee River Valley. County Records show that J. W. Lane traded a large tract of Limestone County land near Mooresville to James White for 30,000 bushels of salt. Part of this tract was Section 11, Township 5, Range 4 West, which juts out into the Tennessee River. Milton White, son of James, sold this section to Luke Matthews. Matthews later willed the land and that adjoining it to his daughter, Lucy Spottswood Matthews. At James White's death his son Milton White inherited this property. The 1860 Slaveholder Census shows Milton White owning 92 slaves in Limestone County.

After Lucy's marriage in 1876 to Huntsville attorney David Irvine White (1853 – 1935 and grandson of James White), the property was again in the White family. It is believed that Lucy, who lived her life in Huntsville, never visited this idyllic spot, called The Cave Place after a cave was discovered on the property. A log cabin, evidently built as a caretaker's cottage, formed the nucleus of the Cave Place home structure, but its date of construction is not now known.

David and Lucy's youngest son Gilbert G. White Sr. (1890 – 1971) took possession of the property years later and continued to produce cotton. This property left the White family circa 1940 when Gilbert purchased the Bibb family Woodside plantation in Belle Mina. Woodside had been the property of Gilbert's wife Mae Witt White. Her father was John Witt who was recognized by the state as one of Alabama's "Master Farmers." Woodside was originally one of two Bibb family plantation and antebellum homes in Belle Mina. Both homes stand today.

Phillips County, Arkansas Plantation: Located 15 miles from Helena, AK, Thomas White acquired this plantation prior to the Civil War. His Bellefonte plantation in Alabama had become less productive from years of over farming. Thomas acquired the Phillips County property and relocated the majority of his slaves there. They traveled by train to Memphis then by riverboat to Phillips County. A plantation was built on vast undeveloped cane fields near the Mississippi River. The Civil War decimated this plantation and it was abandoned after the war. The purchase of, relocation to, and operation of this plantation is further documented by Watt McKinney as part of the Federal Writers' Project in late 1938.

Civil War and Military Occupation of Huntsville

During the Civil War, and the Union occupation of Huntsville, the Thomas White family along with all Huntsville citizens endured the oppression and hardships of military law. Private homes were occupied to quarter soldiers. Private property, livestock and foodstuffs were confiscated and crops were destroyed. Civil law had all but been eliminated and the populace was at the mercy of whichever commanding Union officer controlled Huntsville at the time. Entire towns

across North Alabama were burned and destroyed by the Union in North Alabama. Gurley, Paint Rock and other towns were destroyed but later rebuilt. The towns of Whitesburg and Bellefonte were burned and never rebuilt. In 1863 during the Union occupation of Huntsville, from the front steps of her home, Susan Bradley White was confronted by Federal troops demanding to know where her sons Alexander, William and James were. She replied, "They are in the Confederate Army in Virginia and I wish I has 36 more there." Shown here, the Southern Cross of Honor was a military decoration meant to honor the officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates for their valor in the armed forces of the Confederate States of America.

Susan Bradley White wrote her informative diary of life in Huntsville from her Eustis Avenue home. During occupation Union soldiers dug rifle pits in the Whites' front yard which brought their house and grounds within the Union fort. The war dominated all aspects of the Whites' life from 1860 to 1865. Every day the family lived with the fear of losing their sons and they had numerous friends killed or wounded. Family plantations were damaged, cotton stolen and property destroyed, resulting in great financial loss. By design and absent of any moral compass, the Union army prosecuted the war on the Alabama civilian population in blatant violation of established codes and ethics of war. Following the war Alabamans experienced the hardships of reconstruction, a dark and difficult time for all citizens.

Huntsville City Alderman and City President

Thomas White was a planter by profession and it is said that he was not highly political. However, considering his family legacy and his associations with Huntsville's elite he was in a position to participate in politics. In 1853 at the age of 36 Thomas was elected City Alderman in Huntsville. Huntsville's current office of Mayor was formally known as the office of President. Thomas was elected as President of Huntsville in 1882 at age 64. This was just after reconstruction and during a time when the textile industry came to Huntsville. Huntsville's growth escalated during Thomas White's administration.

Descendants of Thomas W. White

Having 12 children, Thomas and Susan naturally left a lasting legacy in Huntsville and North Alabama. Over the years and generations several Huntsville families married into the White family including: Brombly, Darwin, Greenway, Fickling, Hutchens, Patton, Spotswood, Richardson, Spragins, Walker, Watts, Withers and others. Many decedents of Thomas White live today in Huntsville and Madison County.



Photo courtesy of Gil White

They gather each year in October during the annual Maple Hill Cemetery stroll, at the two family cemetery properties of Thomas and his brother Addison, to honor their ancestors.

Maple Hill Cemetery

Thomas Wilson White died in May of 1890 in Huntsville at the age of 73. His wife Susan passed in September of 1896. Today it has been over 170 years since Thomas White first arrived in Huntsville. He lived in Huntsville for 59 years. Shown here, he and his wife Susan are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, the oldest continuously operated municipal cemetery in the

southeast United States, with several of their children buried around them. Their descendants over six generations are interred throughout this Cemetery. Thomas' brother, Congressman and Planter Addison White, is buried at his Maple Hill family plot near Thomas.

Maple Hill Cemetery connects all generations and brings focus to Huntsville's rich heritage and our people who are gone but not forgotten. Thomas White's family produced many remarkable and successful Alabama citizens. Huntsville carries the White family footprint today with Whitesburg Drive, White Street, and the community of Whitesburg, all named after them. The White family has been in America over 300 years and they continue in Huntsville today.

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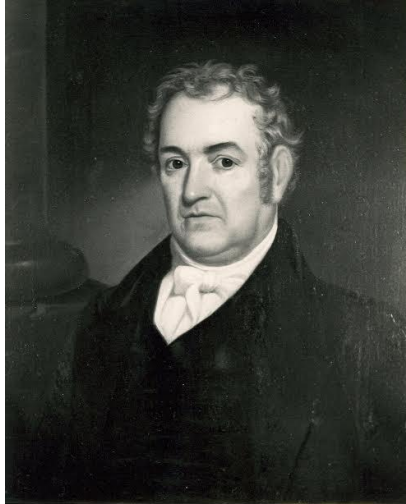
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This article also appears on the Huntsville History Collection website

[http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Thomas Wilson White \(1817 - 1890\)](http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Thomas%20Wilson%20White%20(1817%20-%201890))

James White the “Salt King” of Abingdon, Virginia

By Gilbert G. White III



Col. James White

PC # 5088

Before Alabama was a state, when the Tennessee River ran wild and free, frontier industrialist James White of Abingdon, Virginia pushed into the Tennessee Valley and established a successful chain of mercantile stores in river towns that may have been the first large retail store chain in America. He acquired large tracks of land and operated plantations in Jackson, Madison, Morgan and Limestone counties.

As a young 17-year-old James White left his home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and worked in Baltimore, America’s leading seaport. There he learned the business of mercantile, shipping, commerce and trade. America was moving west and White relocated to Abingdon, Virginia, the most western town in Virginia on the edge of the frontier, located on the “Great Road.” He married and started his family and business in Abingdon where his home stands today next to the Washington County, Virginia, Courthouse. He built and operated a gristmill and sold necessities to pioneer families traveling west. White looked to the Tennessee Valley and saw tremendous business potential.

Salt was a commodity in great demand in the American frontier. Salt was required for the preservation of meat and leather tanning and therefore was vital and indispensable to all frontier families. Circa 1802 James White began producing salt near the present town of Saltville, Virginia. White’s salt production operations were in proximity to the Holston River in Virginia. At that time America’s rivers were the main route for commerce. The Holston River provided White a gateway to the Tennessee River which was the natural highway for commerce into the Tennessee Valley. Not only did White master the transportation, distribution and retail sale of salt, he also controlled salt production, thereby giving him a total monopoly on salt across a large geographic area. In 1812 White opened one of his first of many mercantile retail stores in Huntsville adjacent to today’s Madison County Courthouse.

Huntsville became White’s second home. His business success in Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley made him one of the wealthiest men in America. At that time, circa 1810, Alabama frontier towns were located almost exclusively along the rivers and included the Alabama towns of Bellefonte, Gunter’s Landing (now Guntersville), Whitesburg at present day Dittos landing, Triana, Decatur, Florence, Town Creek and many others, along the 652 miles of the Tennessee River. James White personally owned and operated 55 mercantile retail stores mostly along the Tennessee River in these and other river towns. His business enterprise was the “Walmart” of the early 1800s.

The Cotton Port Plantation in Limestone County: Acquired by James White circa 1815 this property has an unusual family story. It was located near the river town of Cotton Port. Cotton Port, near Mooresville, was abandoned as a town because of frequent flooding by the Tennessee River. This plantation was west of the town of Mooresville and was bounded on the south by the

Tennessee River. It was located in one of the most productive cotton producing areas of the south.

James White traded salt for this valuable land in the Tennessee River Valley. Madison County Records show that J.W. Lane traded a large tract of Limestone County land near Mooresville to James White for 30,000 bushels of salt. Part of this tract was Section 11, Township 5, Range 4 West, which juts out into the Tennessee River. Milton White, son of James, sold this section to Luke Matthews. Matthews later willed the land and that adjoining it to his daughter, Lucy Spottswood Matthews.

After Lucy's marriage in 1876 to Huntsville attorney David Irvine White (1853 – 1935 and grandson of James White), the property was again in the White family. It is believed that Lucy, who lived her life in Huntsville, never visited this idyllic spot, called The Cave Place after a cave was discovered on the property. A log cabin, evidently built as a caretaker's cottage, formed the nucleus of the Cave Place home structure, but its date of construction is not now known.

David and Lucy's youngest son Gilbert G. White Sr. (1890 – 1971) took possession of the property years later and continued to produce cotton. This property left the White family circa 1940 when Gilbert purchased the Bibb family Woodside plantation in Belle Mina. Earlier, Woodside had been the property of John Witt, the father of Gilbert's wife Adie. John Witt was recognized by the state as one of Alabama's "Master Farmers." Woodside was originally one of two Bibb family plantation and antebellum homes in Belle Mina.

White's domination of the salt market led to him being called the "Salt King of Abingdon, Virginia." To survive in frontier Alabama families had to buy large quantities of salt each year. If you bought salt in North Alabama in the early 1800s you bought it from James White. He accumulated great wealth and acquired vast land holdings along the Tennessee River in both Tennessee and North Alabama that later became profitable family plantations in Jackson, Madison and Limestone counties. White founded the town of Whitesburg in 1824, just south of Huntsville. Whitesburg was on burned July 28, 1862 by Union forces leaving many families homeless.

Over his life James White made many extended visits to Madison and Limestone counties from his home in Abington, Virginia. With his slaves, employees and sons he traveled into the Tennessee Valley by flat barge river boat transporting salt and other goods to his chain of retail stores. His return trips back to Abington were on horseback. His land holding were so extensive that during the 337 mile trip from Huntsville to Abington he could always overnight on property he owned. It was said he lived in the saddle and was a driven enterprising entrepreneur with boundless energy. He spent much time in Huntsville away from his Abingdon home. James White and his wife Eliza had 7 sons and 3 daughters. Three of his sons, Addison, Thomas and Francis, graduated with law degrees from Princeton University and other Ivy League colleges. They later managed his retail businesses and plantations in the Tennessee Valley and beyond as far as Marvell, Arkansas.

In October 1813 General Andrew Jackson traveled to Huntsville on his way to the battle of Horseshoe Bend. Jackson's army camped near downtown Huntsville only a short distance from James White's business. James White was in Huntsville then and was in Huntsville during the summer of 1819 when the Alabama State Constitution was adopted and signed. The 44 delegates from 22 Alabama counties ratified Alabama's first state constitution only a short distance from James White's Huntsville business.

James White was a Colonel in the War of 1812. His ancestors and descendants fought in all major American wars and they were officers in the Continental Army - brave men and women who shaped our nation and state. James White's descendants include many notable people who are accomplished in their own right.

- Nephew Hugh Lawson White who succeeded Andrew Jackson in the U.S. Senate
- Nephew John White, Kentucky, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
- Nephew John Daugherty White, Kentucky, U.S. House of Representatives
- Son Addison White, Kentucky Congressman and Huntsville attorney
- Daughter-in-law Susan White who wrote a diary of Huntsville after the Civil War
- Great great grandson Addison White, Madison County District Attorney and Rhodes Scholar
- Grandson David I. White, prominent Huntsville attorney
- Son Thomas White, Mayor of Huntsville who brought the textile industry to Huntsville in the 1880s
- Grandson John Campbell Greenway who at the right side of Teddy Roosevelt led the famous charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War. Mr. Greenway's statue is in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC.
- Over a dozen men who served in the Confederate Army and officers in both World Wars I and II as well as the Vietnam War.

White Family Genealogy Chart	
James White (1770 – 1838)	Abingdon, VA
Congressman Addison White (1824 – 1909)	Huntsville, AL
Huntsville Attorney David I. White (1852 – 1935)	Huntsville, AL
Gilbert G. White Sr. (1890 – 1971)	Belle Mina, AL
Gilbert G. White Jr. (1921 – 1979)	Madison, AL
Gilbert G. White III (1956 – present)	Madison, AL

When James White died in 1838 at age 68, his estate was valued at over \$700,000. He was born into a modest Pennsylvania farming family and departed this world as one of the wealthiest men in America. His life's accumulated business and personal activities are well documented in his family papers that are maintained for historical research in the Special Collections Department at the University of Virginia library in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Today it has been 206 years since James White arrived in Huntsville on his first visit to the Tennessee Valley aboard a flat bottom riverboat. He and other family members are buried in the small private White Family Cemetery atop a beautiful hill in the heart of Abingdon, Virginia. Many of his descendants are interred at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, the oldest continuously operated municipal cemetery in the southeast United States. Maple Hill Cemetery connects all generations and brings focus to Huntsville's rich heritage and our people who are



*Photo of the White Family Cemetery in
Abingdon, Virginia, by Gil White*

gone but not forgotten. James White is one of many notable Huntsville citizens who are characterized and portrayed at the annual Huntsville Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll in October of each year.

From their Scottish ancestral roots, and their beginning as forced indentured servants who were sold to work on plantations in colonial America, James White's family produced many remarkable and successful Alabama citizens. Huntsville carries James White's footprint today with Whitesburg Drive, White Street and the community of

Whitesburg, all named after him – Huntsville's first entrepreneur, an Alabama frontier industrialist and the Salt King of Abingdon, Virginia.

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This article also appears on the Huntsville History Collection website:

http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=Huntsville%27s_First_Entrepreneur_-_The_%22Salt_King%22_of_Abingdon,_VA

John Rison Jones, Jr. Featured in a World War II History Book

Compiled by Coy E. Michael

The recently published book, *Operation Paperclip*, by Annie Jacobsen, is an in-depth description of activities during the ending of World War II when the Germans were destroying scientific documents and the British and Americans were moving in to recover any scientific knowledge and equipment available. The horrible slave labor camps were also described in great detail. John Rison Jones, Jr. was emotionally disturbed the remainder of his life by the sight of the forced labor camp at Nordhausen. "Operation Paperclip" was the codename for the plan to bring top German scientists to the United States for work on our space program.

John Rison Jones, Jr. was with the 104th Infantry Division in France as an infantry sharpshooter. He carried a new Leica III camera given to him prior to his entry into the military. His unit landed in France in September 1944. It was harsh winter conditions that the unit marched through on their way to Germany as they walked through France, Belgium and Holland. At times they were engaged in fierce fighting when he lost friends in battle.¹

Following is a paragraph from *Operation Paperclip*:

"No amount of fighting prepared John Risen Jones for what he saw through the lens of his Leica when his unit entered Nordhausen. The photographs he took documented the tragedy that had befallen thousands of V-2 rocket laborers condemned to die as slaves in the tunnels here. Hundreds of corpses were stretched out across the tunnel floors. Equally disturbing was the condition of

hundreds more still alive: emaciated humans covered with bruises and sores, too weak to even stand. 'It was a fabric of moans and whimpers of delirium and outright madness,' recalled fellow soldier Staff Sergeant Donald Schulz. John Risen Jones would not speak of it for fifty-one years."

(Note: His middle name is spelled "Rison;" it is incorrectly spelled "Risen" in Jacobsen's book.)

John Rison Jones, Jr. was born March 8, 1924 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. His parents were John Rison Jones, Sr. and Ruth Hudson Rhyne. They were married February 15, 1910 in Lexington, Holmes County, Mississippi.²

John Rison Jones Sr. was born March 23, 1884 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama and died June 5, 1961 in Huntsville. Ruth Hudson Rhyne was born April 18, 1892 in Lexington, Holmes County, Mississippi. She died June 1, 1984 in Huntsville.

The parents of John Rison Jones, Sr. were John Robert Jones and Myra James Erwin. John Robert Jones was born and died in Huntsville. He was born Feb. 9, 1855 and died May 7, 1909. Myra James Erwin was born June 21, 1859 in Davidson County, Tennessee and died Oct. 14, 1930 in Huntsville. They were married Dec. 7, 1881 in Huntsville. Myra was the daughter of Rev. Alexander Rodgers Erwin and Louisa Eleanor Boyd.

The parents of John Robert Jones were Leroy Jones and Mary Brandon. Leroy and Mary were married Dec. 7, 1881 in Huntsville.³

¹ *Operation Paperclip* by Annie Jacobsen

² Find A Grave website

³ Find A Grave website

Obituary of Dr. John Rison Jones, Jr.

Huntsville Times, Huntsville, AL, Friday,
November 7, 2008
March 8, 1924 - Nov. 5, 2008

Dr. John Rison Jones Jr., 84, of Huntsville
passed away Wednesday.

Dr. Jones was a fifth-generation resident of
Huntsville descending from two of the
earliest settlers of Huntsville and Madison
County: William Brandon in 1809 and Maj.
William Jones in 1818.

He graduated from Huntsville High School
in 1942 and attended Alabama Polytechnic
Institute, now Auburn, where he enlisted in
the U.S. Army on Dec. 7, 1942. He served
as a private first class in Co. L, 414th
Regiment, 104th Infantry Division in the
European theater. He was awarded the
Bronze Star for meritorious service.

He attended the University of the South,
now Sewanee, and graduated with highest
honors in 1949. He remained there for two
years to teach in the history department. He
graduated from the University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill with an M.A. degree
in 1952 and a Ph.D. in 1958 in modern
European history. While there, he was
awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study at
the University of Paris, where he remained
for two years. He taught at Washington &
Lee University following graduation from
UNC and entered the historical division of
the U.S. Department of State in 1959 as a
diplomatic historian. In 1960, he joined the
faculty at Southern Methodist University in
Dallas, where he directed the Ford
Foundation MA-3 honors program.

Concerned about approaching integration of
higher education, he joined Sergeant
Shriver's Office of Economic Opportunity to
develop the Upward Bound Program for
disadvantaged youths. Resigning from SMU

in 1967, he remained with the program after
its transfer to the Office of Education in the
Department of Health, Education and
Welfare. He served as program officer for
the Southwest. He received the highest
civilian award of HEW for outstanding
service in 1980. When the Office of
Education became the Department of
Education in 1980, he served as special
assistant to the assistant secretary for
postsecondary education in the Policy
Division. At his retirement in 1986, he was
senior education adviser to the assistant
secretary and officer in charge of the Trust
Territories of the Pacific Islands. He also
assisted the Office of Historic Black
Colleges and Universities.

Returning to Huntsville in 1987, he became
involved in a number of favorite activities.
He served on the boards of the Tennessee
Valley Genealogical Society, the Huntsville
Pilgrimage Society, and the Historic
Huntsville Foundation. He was president of
the Huntsville-Madison County Historical
Society and served as vice president for
programs for a number of years. There was
substantial growth of the Society in
membership in these years. In 1990, he was
appointed to the board of the Huntsville
Museum of Art and after 1996 he continued
on the board of the Huntsville Museum of
Art Foundation and delegate to the main
board. He was responsible for the creation of
the Acquisitions Committee in 1994 and
under his leadership more than 600 items
were acquired for the Permanent Collection
of the Museum with a value in excess of \$2
million dollars. He served as awards
chairman for the Greater Huntsville
Community Foundation for six years. He
also served on the historic marker committee
of the Historical Society for the Alabama
Historical Commission.

An avid historian and genealogist, he was
the author with Dr. Frances Roberts,
Dorothy Scott Johnson and Diane Robey of
"Maple Hill Cemetery: Phase One." He

wrote a number of articles for the historical society's bulletin including one on finding two Union generals of the Civil War buried at Maple Hill.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, where he served as historian for a number of years and a member of HOF, a group of native Huntsvillians of advanced age.

On Oct. 9, during celebrations on Founders Day and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of the South, he was awarded an honorary degree in civil law.

His parents and twin siblings, Dorothy Jones Cooper and John Robert Jones, predeceased him. He is survived by five loving nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. He also leaves a number of cousins.

The family wishes to thank Hospice Family Care of Huntsville and those who assisted with his care.

Memorials may be made to the Acquisition Committee of the Huntsville Museum of Art.

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts.
Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking.

~Author Unknown

I don't have to look up my family tree, because I know that I'm the sap.

~Fred Allen

Prohibition Search Warrants in Huntsville, 1926

AFFIDAVIT AND WRIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

State of Alabama
Madison County

Before me, *John B. Young*, Judge of the Inferior Court at Huntsville, personally appeared *W. B. Sanders*, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he has probable cause for believing, and does believe, that before the making of this affidavit, *Henry Binford* has on his person, or on his premises, described as follows: *Two room dwelling house and out houses, located on East side of Millers Street, known as Broom Factory Alley*, or in his vehicle, described as follows: An automobile, a more particular description of which is unknown to Affiant _____

_____ whisky or beer, or other spirituous liquors or beverages, contrary to law. And that a more specific description of said liquors is not obtainable.

Sworn to and subscribed before m this 16th day of April 1926.

W. B. Sanders

John B. Young
Judge of Inferior Court of Huntsville

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SEARCH WARRANT

State of Alabama
Madison County

TO THE SHERIFF OR CONSTABLE OF SAID COUNTY:

Proof by affidavit having this day been made by *W. B. Sanders*, that he has probable cause for believing, and does believe that *Henry Binford* has on his person, or on his premises, or in his vehicle, whisky or beer, or other spirituous liquors or beverages, contrary to law, you are therefore commanded in the day time to make immediate search on the person of *Henry Binford* or on the premises of *Henry Binford* described as follows: *Two room dwelling house and out houses, located on East side of Millers Street, known as Broom Factory Alley* or in the vehicle of _____ an Automobile, a more particular description is unknown to Affiant

_____ for whisky or beer, or other spirituous, malt or alcoholic liquors or beverages, and if you find the same, or that a more specific description of said liquors is not obtainable or any part thereof, to bring it forthwith before me at my office at Huntsville, Alabama.

Dated this 16th day of April 1926.

John B. Young
Judge of the Inferior Court of Huntsville

AFFIDAVIT AND WRIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

State of Alabama

Madison County

Before me, *John B. Young*, Judge of the Inferior Court at Huntsville, personally appeared *W. B. Sanders*, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he has probable cause for believing, and does believe, that before the making of this affidavit, *Mariah Battle* has on his person, or on his premises, described as follows: *Frame Dwelling House and out houses, located one mile North of Huntsville on south side of White Street, 1st house on left hand side of street, west of Caldwell's store*, or in his vehicle, described as follows: An automobile, a more particular description of which is unknown to Affiant

_____ whisky or beer, or other spirituous liquors or beverages, contrary to law. And that a more specific description of said liquors is not obtainable.

Sworn to and subscribed before m this 16th day of April 1926.

W. B. Sanders

John B. Young

Judge of Inferior Court of Huntsville

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SEARCH WARRANT

State of Alabama

Madison County

TO THE SHERIFF OR CONSTABLE OF SAID COUNTY:

Proof by affidavit having this day been made by *W. B. Sanders*, that he has probable cause for believing, and does believe that *Mariah Battle* has on his person, or on his premises, or in his vehicle, whisky or beer, or other spirituous liquors or beverages, contrary to law, you are therefore commanded in the day time to make immediate search on the person of *Mariah Battle* or on the premises of *Mariah Battle* described as follows: *Frame Dwelling House and out houses, located one mile North of Huntsville on south side of White Street, 1st house on left hand side of street, west of Caldwell's store* or in the vehicle of _____ an

Automobile, a more particular description is unknown to Affiant _____
_____ for whisky or beer, or other spirituous, malt or alcoholic liquors or beverages, and if you find the same, or that a more specific description of said liquors is not obtainable or any part thereof, to bring it forthwith before me at my office at Huntsville, Alabama.

Dated this 16th day of April 1926.

John B. Young

Judge of the Inferior Court of Huntsville

Notes on the back of both warrants state:

Executed 16 April 1926

Findings: nothing – no liquor.

Signed by D. M. Gardiner, Sheriff, W. B. Sanders, Deputy, John G. Allison, Deputy, and J. E. Beasley, Deputy.

The Beadles

A Vintage Vignette by John P. Rankin

When I encountered Jack Bullard of Louisville, Kentucky, in the Huntsville library several years ago and offered to help him with research of his local heritage, it began a genealogical journey of surprises. One of the more intriguing connections of his ancestry was Abraham Beadle, an uncle of Jack's great-grandfather Thomas Beadle. Thomas was a sheriff living in Triana in 1856, according to descendant Margaret Lowe of Florence. Thomas' wife was Ann Eliza Brewer. Thomas was listed as executor of Abraham Beadle's 1856 will, but Abraham's widow successfully contested the provisions of the will in 1858, since her use of the land was allowed only during her lifetime.

Abraham apparently intended to prohibit his widow Nancy from passing his properties out of the family, especially if she remarried. He stipulated that his nephew Thomas, along with other relatives, would inherit the properties after Nancy's death. Abe's record with marriage provides clues to his reasoning. He was born in Virginia in 1777. In 1804 he married a woman named Letitia, and they moved to Madison County by 1816, living on what became arsenal lands. In 1823, at the age of 46, Abe filed for divorce (a matter for the state legislature at that time) from Letitia, stating that she had run off with Thomas Roberts to Fayetteville, Tennessee. In 1826 Abe married Susan Grimes in Madison County, and in 1849 he married Nancy Graham, who became his widow in 1858. Nancy was 17 and Abe was 72 at the time of their marriage. She no doubt seized an opportunity to gain security by wedding an elderly affluent man with no children. In a sense, she became a local forerunner of Anna Nicole Smith.

When Abe made out his will 7 years after the marriage, he allowed Nancy to keep possession of all of his property during her lifetime, so long as she remained single. Upon her death the estate was to pass to his nephews and nieces, who lived in Madison County and in Tennessee. If Nancy remarried, the will allowed her to possess and utilize almost all of the estate until her decease. In that eventuality, Abe's nephews Thomas and Abraham Beadle were to get all but two of the slaves immediately. Still, all of the estate was to pass back to the nephews and nieces upon Nancy's death, even after remarriage.

Complications arose when Nancy contested the provisions of the will and acquired a full 50% as "widow's dower" without the control of Abe's nephew Thomas as executor. Soon afterward she remarried to neighbor John Jordan, who was about her own age. John and Nancy then sold her dower lands to neighbor Ezekiel Matkin, of the family for whom Madkin Mountain is named on the arsenal. The sale was contested by Abe's nephew Abraham in 1870. Nancy and John Jordan purchased the land at the resultant court-ordered public auction, owning it again. Nancy died in 1879, and John Jordan married Sarah Eliza Beadle. Sarah was a daughter of Abe's nephew Thomas. Therefore, Sarah's husband had been the second husband of the young widow of Sarah's father's elderly uncle.

These family connections related to the town of Madison at the time and in later generations. The Beadles, Brewers, and Jordans all had family members who lived in the immediate Madison area. In fact, probate papers show that Abe himself did business in 1856-7 with the Madison firm of Trotman & Nance, and he and his family

were treated several times by Dr. Isaac F. Deloney of Madison in 1857. Ferdinand Trotman of Madison had three wives, the second being Mary Alice Beadle, another daughter of Thomas and Ann Beadle. A third daughter of Thomas Beadle, Ada, married Madison resident William F. Garner. More details of the extensive interconnections of these local families can be found in the 1998 book, "The Heritage of Madison County, Alabama". Another excellent source of information is the 1999 book "Bullard Family and Related Families of Beadle, Jordan, Stover, Thornton, and Nelson" that Jack Bullard compiled and donated to the Huntsville library, kept in the Heritage Room.

October 21, 2007

Joshua and Thomas Beadle

A Vintage Vignette by John P. Rankin

I encountered a most remarkable man named Jack Bullard in 1997. Jack was born and initially raised here, but as a child during the Great Depression he lived a life of extreme poverty in Mississippi. By age 14 he was living on his own as a movie theater usher in Memphis. He rose from his subsequent riverboat deckhand career to become a Mississippi river pilot and then a vice president of the American Barge Line Company until his retirement in 1983. He was visiting Huntsville from his home in Louisville, Kentucky, to research his roots. Jack is a great grandson of Thomas Beadle, who was born about 1805, but he didn't know that when I met him in the library in Huntsville. Soon we compiled a lengthy list of Jack's ancestors in Madison County. In 1999 Jack compiled his family heritage into a book for his nieces and nephews, since he

has no children of his own. He also donated a copy to the library. His book is entitled *Bullard Family and Related Families: Beadle, Jordan, Stover, Thornton, and Nelson*.

My interest in learning of Jack's Beadle ancestry was based upon Madison connections to Joshua H. Beadle. Joshua married Paulina Landman, a daughter of William Landman who settled in the northeastern portion of the arsenal lands. His land was adjoined that of Thomas Beadle, who owned land along what today is Gray Road and Aerobee Road, plus the southern end of Ajax Road on the arsenal. The precise relationship between Thomas and Joshua is unknown to me, but I believe that they were cousins. They may possibly have been brothers. Thomas was reportedly born in Alabama in 1805 (per consistent census records) and Joshua was born in 1813 in Wilson County, Tennessee. Research indicates that Thomas was perhaps a son of William Beadle from Virginia, who lived in Wilson County and apparently came for a time to Madison County before returning to Tennessee. William's wife was Sara Owens. The 1850 census of Madison County shows another Thomas Beadle, born in 1818 Tennessee, living on southwestern arsenal lands beside Thomas Jamar and Thomas Owens, suggesting a link to the Owens family. This Thomas Beadle was not found in later censuses of Madison County. He could possibly have been the father of mulatto Daniel W. Beadle.

Joshua Beadle had extensive connections to pioneers of the Madison area. In the 1850 census, he and Paulina had a household of five Beadle girls and 14 young men. Joshua was listed as a merchant, and all but one of the men were listed as either merchants or clerks. The other man was a music teacher. These men in the Beadle household included pioneer names such as James Wiggins, Henry Landman, John Howell, and W. Lawler. Joshua in 1872 won a circuit court

judgment against Thomas and Elizabeth Bibb. This Thomas Bibb was not the one who served as Alabama's second governor, but he was an uncle of Madison's first councilman, James Bibb. Thomas and Elizabeth had purchased 140 acres where Oakwood College is now located. They lost it in a sheriff's sale to Joshua for \$350 to settle the court action. Thomas Bibb was a prominent veteran of the War of 1812, but in 1850 Joshua was living in Huntsville just two houses away from Isaiah Dill. Dill was an attorney and court official who likely had an influence in the 1872 case.

The family of Thomas Beadle likewise had extensive connections with Madison area pioneers. Thomas had five daughters and a son. His daughter Mary Alice married Ferdinand Trotman. Ada married William Garner. Sarah Emily Beadle in 1880 married John Jordan after his second wife, Nancy Graham Beadle, died in 1879. (In 1849 when she was 17 and he was 72, Nancy had first married Abraham Beadle, an uncle of Sarah's father Thomas Beadle.) Hester Proctor Beadle married Napoleon Powell, and William Robertson Beadle married Lizzie Latham Timmons. Most of these couples and their descendants lived in Madison and the surrounding areas, so the Beadle lineage is indelibly stamped on the western part of Madison County.

May 22, 2009

Daniel W. Beadle

A Vintage Vignette by John P. Rankin

At the intersection of Zierdt Road with Beadle Lane is a small cemetery with one marked grave and perhaps half a dozen unmarked grave depressions. The marked grave has two tombstones. One is a military marker, apparently recently supplied by the Veterans Administration. The other is a

homemade concrete marker. The concrete marker now rests near the middle of the grave depression, with a footstone at the west end. The military marker is located in the center of the little cemetery, a few feet from the grave. The concrete marker has the name "D. W. Beadle" and shows that he was born in 1854. The military marker shows the name "Daniel W. Beadle", with a birthdate of June 18, 1856. Both markers agree that he died in 1930, with no month or day of passing on either marker. The military marker further denotes that Daniel was a quartermaster sergeant in Company L of the 3rd Alabama Infantry with service in the Spanish-American War.

Since this Beadle grave suggests a namesake of Beadle Lane near Triana, further research was undertaken. The Beadle population of Madison County began with the arrival from Virginia (by way of Wilson County, Tennessee) of Abraham Beadle and his brothers Thomas, William, Osburn, John, Joel, and Edmund, along with their sister Elizabeth. A Vintage Vignette was printed in 2007 about Nancy Graham Beadle, bride of Abraham as his 3rd wife, when she was 17 and he was 72. The connection to Daniel Beadle comes through Abraham's unmarried sister, Elizabeth. She died in 1858 after making out her will. That was soon after Abraham died in the same year, also leaving a will. Both wills specified that Joshua H. Beadle was their nephew. Which brother was the father of Joshua has not yet been determined from historical records. Joshua inherited the majority of Elizabeth's estate and part of Abraham's. He lived in Huntsville, where he was a merchant with numerous connections to the pioneer families of the Madison area.

Elizabeth Beadle was born in Virginia about 1785. She and Abraham and several of their brothers lived on what became the northeastern part of Redstone Arsenal. In Elizabeth's will she specifically named a number of slaves. Two were left to her

niece, Louisa Beadle Graham. One was a boy named Daniel, whom she described as being about four years old in 1858. The other was Malinda, about 14 or 15. By 1865 the slaves had all been freed. The next census (1870) shows “Mulatto” Daniel Beadle as age 18 with Melinda Beadle, age 25, in his household. Subsequent censuses show that Daniel’s father was born in Alabama and his mother was born in Virginia. Mary Beadle, 33, born in Virginia, headed the household adjacent to Daniel in 1870. Mary’s household included an older Mary Beadle, 60, also born in Virginia, as was Emily Beadle, age 40 in that household. All of these names and correlating ages were mentioned as slaves in Elizabeth Beadle’s will. Any of these slave women could have been Daniel’s mother, but no white Beadle male was identified as born in Alabama and of an age to have been Daniel’s father.

The 1880 census shows that Daniel had a wife named Irene W. Beadle with three children and his mother-in-law Sally Ellison living with them. Deeds registered in 1889 show that Daniel and his wife purchased from Sally Ellison land in the northeast (cemetery location), northwest, and

southeast quarters of Section 16 of Township 5, Range 2W. The next available census in 1900 lists Daniel’s wife as Lou, with their marriage recorded as 1877. Lou was also the name on census records in 1910 and 1920, but she died before Daniel. The 1930 census shows Daniel living in the household of one of his granddaughters, Sallie Leslie Beadle Rice, wife of Alexander Rice. Daniel passed away in December of 1930, while owning the farmland and Lot 100 in the town of Triana. Sadly, his estate was valued as being less than he owed on mortgages plus the funeral expenses for himself and Lou. At least Daniel is buried on his own land.

May 21, 2009

Historian John P. Rankin’s *Vintage Vignettes*, Gilbert White’s *James White the “Salt King” of Abingdon, VA*, and Patricia White Nation’s *Thomas Wilson White (1817 – 1890)* all courtesy of The Huntsville History Collection (<http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/>), which is published in Cooperation with the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

A man who thinks too much about his ancestors is like a potato—the best part of him is underground. - Henry S F Cooper

My ancestors wandered lost in the wilderness for forty years because even in biblical times, men would not stop to ask for directions. - Elayne Boosler

We pay for the mistakes of our ancestors, and it seems only fair that they should leave us the money to pay with. - Don Marquis

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

Marshall County

William Levi Thomason, M.D. Marshall County, Alabama

by Betty Taylor, Director of Marshall
County, Alabama, Archives



EARLY LIFE

William Levi Thomason was born Nov. 22, 1849, to Dr. William B. And Sarah Ann Wilcoxon Thomason of Coweta County, Georgia.

William B. Thomason, the doctor's father, was educated at the Medical College of Georgia and graduated in 1851.

In 1855 William B. Thomason moved his family to Henry County, Alabama, in 1860 to Calhoun County, Alabama, and in 1863 to Bullock County, Alabama. W. L., James R., Sarah, Wiley R., Irene and Polly were reared in Alabama and each received a good education.

William Levi Thomason began the study of medicine under his father then attended the Augusta Medical School. He graduated from Nashville University Tennessee in 1871 and immediately located at Union Springs, Alabama. In 1875 William L. Thomason married Ida Pearce daughter of Tilman I. and Nancy Thomason Pearce of Columbus, Georgia, and moved to Blount County, Alabama, where he was engaged in the merchandising business and conducted a

farm. His friend Dr. A. W. Haden of Summit, Alabama, offered him a partnership in his medical practice and the family accepted the offer.



Eva Pearce Thomason

DR. THOMASON LOCATES IN GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA

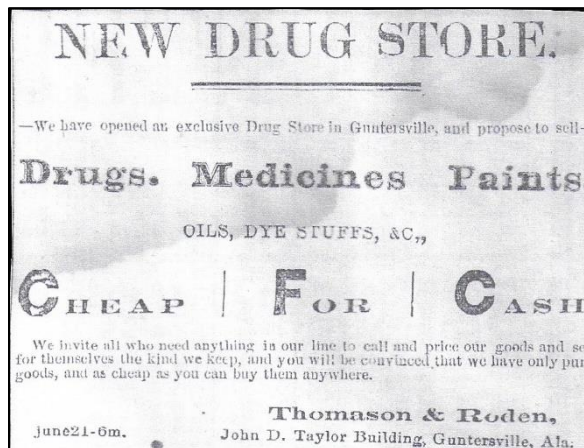
After practicing medicine a while with Dr. Haden, Dr. Thomason opened a drug store in Guntersville in 1882 under the name of Thomason and Roden. His practice greatly increased. He became the sole owner of the store in 1887 when Major Roden retired.

The people of Guntersville were glad to have a new doctor in town. The editor of *The Guntersville Democrat* wrote the following on Jan, 4, 1883: "Dr. W. L. Thomason arrived to practice in Guntersville. He had been practicing medicine at Summit for several years and

his reputation as a fine physician precedes him. We bespeak for a good practice and cordially welcome him as a citizen. Our people will expect him to be a physician second to none and a gentleman of superior culture.”

An ad was placed in *The Guntersville Democrat* on Jan. 4, 1883, which read in part: “When not on call Dr. Thomason will be found at his office in the business house of John D. Taylor or at his residence near- by:

Another ad in the August paper.



While Dr. Thomason attended to his patients Major Roden could always be found behind the counter at the drug store ready to serve up prescriptions to all who were ailing or otherwise afflicted.

In December of 1884 Thomason and Roden started excavation for a brick storehouse just below the establishment of their present drug store. Work was stopped in April of 1885 because of lack of brick masons but the doctor ordered some new men in and work was on again and completed. The building which was Thomason and Roden was removed.

John A. Lusk, a prominent lawyer, was taken to Nashville, Tennessee, by Dr. Thomason in December of 1885. He was to

have surgery on his leg and Dr. Thomason stayed with him about two weeks.

One of the finest physicians and surgeons was his reputation. In January of 1889 Dr. Thomason was called upon to remove a large cancer from a lady who lived on Brindley Mountain. The surgery was a success and credit was given to his ability as a skilled surgeon.

In May of 1891 *The Guntersville Democrat* revealed that Dr. W. L. Thomason had just sold an interest in his practice and in his stock of drugs and medicines to Dr. Phocian B. Lusk. He was the eldest son of Dr. L. D. Lusk and had just graduated with honors from Bellevue Medical College, New York. The firm would now operate under the name of Thomason and Lusk and the business and practice would assume still larger proportions. By January 1892 there was a change. Both men would continue as practicing physicians in partnership but Dr. Lusk would withdraw from the drug firm.

OTHER INTERESTS

Dr. Thomason was a member of the Methodist Church and he and his wife Ida attended many conferences. In November of 1885 he was elected by the Annual Conference as a lay delegate to attend the General Conference in Richmond, Virginia, in May 1886. He considered this quite an honor.

Fishing was a hobby. Many fishing seasons in and around Guntersville were opened by Dr. Thomason and friends such as Mr. Hugh Greenwood. They opened one season by taking seven trout from Short Creek.

Dr. Thomason was known as one of the best conversationalists in town. He was reported to be able to entertain a dozen persons at one time and make every one of them feel perfectly at home.

In November of 1888 he had the best roadster in town. He purchased a “Stocking

Leg” from Henry’s Livery Stable along with a super nice buggy and harness.

Thomason’s drug store purchased the first Soda Fountain to come to Guntersville. Dr. Thomason was known as one of the most enterprising citizens of town. He wanted a place for young people, as well as the older crowd, to go and enjoy themselves

DR. THOMASON’S OBITUARY

6-17-1897 The Guntersville Democrat

“Guntersville is again mourning the loss of a good and true man who will be greatly missed in city circles, and a man who has lived a busy life of public and private usefulness.

Dr. William L. Thomason has been laid to rest. For six months he has been a great sufferer from complicated ailments caused from a devotion to his profession which prevented a proper care for his own health. Loss of sleep, irregular hours for rest and meals, and exposure in all sorts of weather, combined to undermine his constitution. His health had been gradually failing for several years, but several months ago he told his family and friends that in his opinion he could not last six months. Since that time, January, he has been most of the time confined to his room.

Dr. Thomason died Sunday afternoon at a quarter before 8 in the presence of his family and of his aged parents Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomason of Aberfoil, Alabama. His last days were marked with pain, but he bore the suffering with fortitude and resignation.

Since 1882 Dr. Thomason has been a citizen of Guntersville. He was born November 22, 1819, in Coweta County, Georgia. At the age of 18 he commenced the study of medicine under his father. In 1869-70 he attended the Augusta Georgia Medical College and in 1871 he graduated in the medical course from Nashville Tennessee University. In 1875 Dr. Thomason was

married to Miss Ida, daughter of Hon. Tillman I. Pearce of Columbus, Georgia.

During the years which have seen Dr. Thomason a citizen of our town he has been a leading spirit in all questions pertaining to the morality and best interest of our town; he has been a leader in Masonic and K. of P. circles; he has done a great amount of service professionally; he was full of life and humor at social gatherings and he possessed a magnetic sympathy which made for him a host of friends.

Presiding Elder J. S. Glasgow preached the funeral sermon at 3 o’clock Monday afternoon. The Methodist church was crowded; the church to which he had given his best years and of which he was a steward and where for years he had been Sunday school superintendent. The burial was under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias.

Dr. Thomason leaves a devoted wife and eight children. W. P. Thomason, the oldest, is of age. Three other children are about grown, while the youngest child is about six years old.

Thus, has passed away a man whose absence will be very keenly felt and whose death will be mourned in many Marshall County homes. Let us emulate his virtues, and, dying, leave the world better by our example and influence.”

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM LEVI AND IDA PEARCE THOMASON

MARY THOMASON, born 1879 was the first child of William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason. She attended the public schools in Guntersville, Alabama, and attended college at The Atheneums, a girls’ school, in East Lake, Birmingham, Alabama.

On Oct. 28, 1898, the town attended a gala event at the Methodist Church. This was a double wedding. Eleanora Lane married

Wendolin Seibold and Mary Thomason married Dr. Phocian B. Lusk. The building was gorgeously decorated and filled to capacity with friends. Margaret Street and Mary Lee Bell “tripped gaily” in unrolling a broad white ribbon to divide the aisle. Eleanor and Wendolin walked down the right side and Mary and Phocian walked down the left side to the altar. After the ceremony both couples boarded the train to Atlanta and then another to points north.

Mary and Phocian Lusk were blessed with four children: Virginia married John Kernachan, Marilyn married John P. Willis, Lillian married John Holmes, and L. D. who died in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1922 from appendicitis.



The Phocian Lusk family of Guntersville in 1916. They are, from left: Mrs. Lusk; daughter Lillian, later Mrs. John Holmes; daughter Marilyn, now Mrs. J. P. Willis; Dr. Lusk; son L. D.; and daughter Virginia, now Mrs. John Kernachan.

MARY THOMASON LUSK OBITUARY

Mary Lusk’s death was reported in *The Advertiser-Gleam* March 18, 1955. She died on Thursday in her sleep at the home of her daughter Mrs. J. P. Willis. She had been an invalid for years. Husband, Dr. Phocian B. Lusk died in 1925.

Funeral services were held at Carr Funeral Home and burial in The Guntersville City Cemetery.

The survivors were: Marilyn Willis, Guntersville, Lillian Holmes and Virginia

Kernachan Huntsville, 8 grandchildren. 2 great-grandchildren and a brother Justin Thomason of Lynwood, California.

WILLIAM PEARCE THOMASON, born June 25, 1876, was the second child of William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason. Pearce was born while the family lived at Summit in Blount County, Alabama.

As a young man Pearce became interested in his father’s drug store and eventually became a partner. *The Guntersville Democrat* said: “Another young man just admitted to partnership is W. P. Thomason, oldest son of the Doctor, and best known as Pearce (his mother’s maiden name). He shows the careful attention to business details which commands success and has several years’ experience in the drug business. The new firm will be known as W. L. Thomason & Son.”

On Jan. 16, 1901, William Pearce Thomason was married to Eleanor Black of Bellbuckle, Tennessee. They were married at her home with Paul Thomason, Oscar Henry and Joe L. Henry, friends of the groom from Guntersville, in attendance. The happy couple would reside in Guntersville.

Unfortunately, Eleanor Black Thomason died on July 1, 1909, and was buried in the Guntersville City Cemetery with Methodist rites. No children had been born to the pair.

WILLIAM PEARCE OBITUARY

“On November 6, 1928, William Pearce Thomason, popular well-known druggist died at his home. He was fifty-two years of age. Pearce had taken full control of the Thomason drug business after his father died. In 1928 it was the oldest individual business in Guntersville. He united with the Methodist church in early life and always took an active part in the activities of the church. He also was a Mason of high rank.

Pearce was a kind, generous, friendly person and made friends easily and will be greatly missed in the community.

His funeral service was conducted at home by Henry M. Hurst, M.G. and S. L. Heath, M.G. and buried by Masonic rites in the Guntersville City Cemetery.

Survivors were his mother Mrs. Ida Thomason, brothers Dr. J. H. Thomason and W. J. Thomason; sisters, Mrs. Mary Lusk and Mrs. Lillian Murray.”

CAPT. PAUL THOMASON, born 1877, was the third child of William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason. He also was born while the family lived at Summit in Blount County, Alabama.

Paul Thomason received the title of Captain from his occupation on the river steamboats.

On Jan. 16, 1906, Paul Thomason and Sara Bell Miller were married. She was the daughter of Daniel J. Miller, Marshall County Alabama pioneer. Two children were born to Paul and Sara; Sara B. Jr. in 1903 and Mary M. in 1909. Paul and Sara divorced in 1914.

Daughter Sara B. Thomason married William Thomas Burnum on Sept. 1, 1926. Son Frank M. Burnum was born 1935 and died 1994. They also had two daughters; Doris Gayle born 1928 and married John Carlton Fowlkes Oct. 13, 1946, in Madison County, Alabama, and Mary born 1938 in Madison County and married Gentry O. Garner in December 1955. Mary and Gentry divorced in May 1975 in Comal, Texas. They had two children.

CAPT. PAUL THOMASON OBITUARY

“The *Advertiser* 12-10-1914 chronicles with sincere regret the death of Capt. Paul Thomason which occurred Dec. 8, 1914, at the residence of his mother Mrs. Ida Thomason. He was 39 years of age and had been in failing health for some months, but his friends did not think the end was near.

Capt. Paul leaves behind his two little girls, Sara Belle and Mary Miller, his mother, 4 brothers Drs. J. H. and W. P. Thomason, George and Justin Thomason and 2 sisters Mrs. P. B. (Mary) Lusk and Mrs. Robert F. (Lillian) Murray.”

JAMES HENRY THOMASON born in 1882 was the fourth child of Dr. William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason.

James Thomason grew up in Guntersville and followed in his father’s footsteps to become a well-beloved doctor.

Dr. James Henry Thomason and Miss Maud Louise Davis were married at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Davis of Talladega, Alabama, in July 1907. *The Guntersville Democrat*, issued July 18, 1907, greeted the bride and groom to Guntersville where they made their home.

The Talladega Reporter described the wedding as a “pretty home wedding with J. D. Gwaltney of the Baptist Church officiating. Only a few of the closest friends were present.”

Dr. Jim and Maud had three children but only one son, Paul, survived to adulthood.

Their son James D. Thomason was only 14 years of age when he drowned in the Tennessee River at a ferry operating to carry people from Guntersville to the north side. He either jumped or fell in and came up under a barge and drowned before he could be rescued. He was buried in his precious Boy Scout uniform in the Guntersville City Cemetery.

Paul Bomar Thomason was born 1925 in Guntersville, Alabama, and grew up in this community. Paul loved flying and admitted to being one of the daredevils who as a youth flew under the river bridge and once got an autographed baseball from Babe Ruth and his teammates. He spent most of his adult life in Birmingham, Alabama, with U.S. Steel and Barber Pure Milk Company.

He was an avid historian, a member of the Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, a member of the Drew Redden Sunday School Class and a member of Vestavia Country Club all located in Birmingham, Alabama.

About a year after Paul's father died the local paper reported that he had spent a week in Guntersville with his mother and returned to Lyons, New York.

Mrs. Maud Thomason visited Paul at Fort Miller, New York, in April 1940. She made a deal with Mr. and Mrs. Herman Drake of the TVA to occupy her house while away. She meant to stay until the wedding in May.

In the May 15, 1940, issue of the local paper, Mrs. Thomason was attending the wedding of son Paul and Arlene Washam in Hudson Falls, New York. Arlene was the daughter of W. L. Washam, Albertville, Alabama. The newly-weds were to set up housekeeping in Fort Miller.

Paul B. Thomason, native of Guntersville, died Jan. 13, 1998, in Birmingham where he had lived for the past 50 years. He was 82 years old.

He was survived by present wife, Blanche Seay Thomason, son James Shadrick Thomason of Valdosta, Georgia; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

JAMES HENRY THOMASON OBITUARY

Death came to Dr. Thomason on Sunday night, December 4, 1938.

Dr. Jim was one of Marshall County's leading doctors until he was forced to retire because of health problems. In November 1938 Dr. Jim had heart failure while at the breakfast table and passed a week later at his home in South Guntersville.

Funeral services were held December 6 at his residence by F. M. Barnes, M.G. and Dr. M. L. Harris. He was buried, with Masonic rites, in Guntersville City Cemetery.

Surviving Dr. Jim were his wife Maud, son Paul Thomason, two sisters, Mrs. Mary Lusk of Guntersville and Mrs. Lillian Murray, of Englewood, Colorado, and one brother W. J. "Babe" Thomason of Los Angeles, California.

LILLIAN THOMASON was William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason's fifth child. She was born 1886 in Guntersville, Alabama. Lillian received her education in the Guntersville schools.

In young womanhood Lillian belonged to the Miserable Club, a social organization composed of exceedingly intelligent and pretty ladies. It was this club, assisted by Mrs. Howell, who planned and decorated the Methodist Church for Lillian's wedding. This wedding was proclaimed by the local paper in Jan. 21, 1909, to be "the most impressive and beautiful ever witnessed in town." Lillian Thomason was the bride of Robert Fearn Murray, son of Malcomb and Mary F. Murray of New York City.

Four children were born to this couple: Theodosia in 1917, Ida Pearce in 1918, Mary M. in 1921 and Malcolm Reed in 1926.

Lillian's husband Robert Murray died July 27, 1945, at their home in Denver, Colorado. Robert once had operated the Fearn Farm in the area of Guntersville dam before he moved the family to Huntsville, Alabama, where he managed a jewelry store. Later, he entered the oil business and moved the family to Denver.

LILLIAN THOMASON MURRAY OBITUARY

"Mrs. Lillian Thomason Murray died April 19, 1950, of a heart condition in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Since husband Robert's death in 1945 she had lived with daughter Ida Root in Denver, Colorado, and was buried beside him in the Denver Masonic Cemetery.

Lillian was survived by her sister Mary (Mrs. P. B.) Lusk, Guntersville; brother Justin Thomason, California; son Malcomb Murray, Boulder, Colorado; daughters Mrs. Theodosia Foust, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Mrs. Mary Beeson, Walsh, Colorado, and Mrs. Ida Root, Denver.” *The Guntersville Advertiser-Gleam April 21, 1950*

GEORGE STANLEY THOMASON, born 1891 was William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason’s sixth child. He received his education in Guntersville.

On Oct. 6, 1916, George S. Thomason was married to Caroline “Carrie” Elizabeth Samuel. “Carrie” was the daughter of Ben and Kate Jachalis Samuel.

On Feb. 14, 1917, the following obituary appeared in *The Guntersville Democrat*: “George Thomason died at the home of Mrs. Kate Samuel Tuesday night, aged 27 years.

Mr. Thomason was married in October to Miss “Carrie Samuel.” He is survived by his wife, mother, two sisters Mrs. P. B. Lusk and Mrs. Robert Murray, three brothers Pearce, Dr. Jim and Justin Thomason with whom we sympathize.”

JUSTIN “Babe” WILEY THOMASON, born April 14, 1892 in Guntersville, was William L. and Ida Pearce Thomason’s seventh child.

Justin spent his early life in Guntersville. On Nov. 2, 1919, he married Etta Brittain of Summit, Alabama. They were married at the home of Dr. H. L. and Mrs. Gunn by S. L. Prickett, M.G. Justin and Etta moved to California. Justin was a watchman and Etta worked as a demonstrator for a meat packing company.

They were blessed with one son, Justin Wiley, Jr. He died Jan. 16, 2006, in Lehigh County, PA, as reported by Find A Grave.

On May 12, 1959, Mrs. Marilyn Lusk Willis of Guntersville received word of the death of her uncle, Justin Wiley Thomason. He

was in his late 60s and had been ill for a long time.

Justin’s California death certificate indicated the family was living in Los Angeles when he died. Etta died Aug. 14, 1977.

Sources: Various Federal Census Records, *The Guntersville Democrat*, *The Guntersville Advertiser*, *The Advertiser-Gleam*, Find a Grave records



Dr. Phocian B. and Mary Thomason Lusk Home on the corner of Brown Street and Gunter Avenue, Guntersville, Alabama



The Thomason Drug Store, far left, on Broad Street in 1900. Today, 2017, the street is Gunter Avenue. The building burned in early 2000 and now is part of Errol Allan Park.

Disclaimer: Some names and dates were hard to separate and may not be correct. Article and pictures used by permission of owner Betty Taylor.

Champion Farris, 11th Sheriff of Marshall County (1865)

By Margene Black
Researcher, Marshall County Archives



**Champion Farris and daughter (possibly
Margaret Ann Farris Copeland)**

Photo courtesy of Ralph L. Holloway. Mr. Holloway writes: I think this is Champion Farris and daughter Margaret Ann Farris Copeland. I received it from Della Johnson, the Great Granddaughter of Katherine Aileen Farris, who was the Great Granddaughter of Champion Farris.

According to *The Primitive Baptists of Alabama*, by Elder E. B. Watts, Champion Farris was born July 15, 1815 in Tennessee to George Farris and Margaret Ruth (Peggy) McCullough. George and Peggy were married Feb. 23, 1803; this marriage was recorded in the Thomas Farris Family Bible.

Champion Farris is a popular name in this family. An early Champion Farris was born to Nathan Farris and Charlotte Vaughan in Virginia, in the year 1766; the name was carried on before and after this Sheriff Champion Farris.

Champion Farris is listed in the Earliest Township and Range Public Land Survey in the Huntsville Meridian or Northern part of Alabama. The land he bought was in the Red Hill area of Marshall County.

Champion married Minerva (Minerva Lourana Chitty) while still in Tennessee. The birth of his son Edward in Alabama, would indicate that Champion came to Alabama around 1837-1839. The 1840 United States Federal Census shows the following people living in the Champion Farris household: 2 Free White Persons Male under 5; 1 Free White Person Male 20-29; 1 Free White Person Female 20-29; 1 Person Employed in Agriculture; No White Person over 20 Who Cannot Read or Write; 2 Free White Persons Under 20; 2 Free White Persons 20-49; Total Free White Persons 4; Total All Persons, Free White, Free Colored, Slaves, 4.

Gov. Lewis Eliphalet Parsons was appointed Governor of Alabama on Jan. 31, 1848. On this same date, Champion Farris was appointed Constable in Marshall County.

Champion Farris is listed in the 1850 Marshall County census as living in the Red Hill area of Marshall County. The household consisted of Champion, age 34; Minerva age 35, Joseph E. age 13, Edward N. age 11, Mary E. age 10, George D. age 8., Nathan T. age 5, Solomon J. age 3, Margaret, age 1, and the mother of Champion, Margaret, age 65. He was also the owner of a female slave, age 40, according to the 1850 Marshall County Slave Schedule.

In 1860 records we find that Farris was a farmer, with his farm valued at \$5,000 and personal property valued at \$2,230. The household of Champion Farris consisted of Champion, age 44, born about 1816 in Tennessee, living in the Western Division of Marshall County, post office, Guntersville, Minerva, wife, 45, Edward N., age 21, Mary E., age 19, George P., age 17, Nathan T., age 15, Solomon J., age 13, Margaret Ann, age 11, Minerva C., age 9, William T., age 8 and Champion's mother, Peggy, who is now listed as age 79.

Following the War Between the States a provisional government was appointed on June 21, 1865 by President Andrew Johnson. Farris was appointed as sheriff in June or July of that year; he served as the shortest acting sheriff written about in this sheriff series. He served until Galvin Black was elected sheriff in 1866.

In 1867, the Alabama Legislature House of Representatives authorized a Mr. Bush to give monetary relief to Champion Farris as the former sheriff of Marshall County.

By the time the 1870 census was taken, Farris was living in Township 9 range 2, Marshall County, Alabama. The Post Office is listed as being in Red Hill. The Farris household consisted of: Champion Farris, age 54, Minerva, age 55, Margaret A., age 20, William P., age 16, Elisabeth J. Sherard, age 28, who may have been helping in the household. Also listed are Martha A. Farris, age 15, black and Nancy A. Farris, age 13, black.

On Jan. 9, 1871 Zion Hill Primitive Baptist Church had its beginnings. Elder G. F. Ballew, Elder Champion Farris, with the clerk R. B. Elgin, began this church. The location of this meeting place was close to Horton, Alabama in Marshall County.

Farris was appointed as a Commissioner of Marshall County in 1876, but according to the book, *General History of Marshall*

County, Alabama by J. A. Thomason, Farris served in the years 1874 – 1877 and then from 1877 – 1880. Also in this book, it tells that Farris owned a water powered grist mill in Browns Valley.

The Probate Court Records of Marshall County show Champion Farris as guardian to the estates of Solomon Bodine, a minor child of Henry Bodine. Farris filed an account for the settlement of this account. The date of this account was May 6, 1876 and was overseen by T. A. Street.

The 1880 Marshall County Census shows that the family of Champion and Minerva are the only family members listed in the household. Champion and Minerva were both listed as being born in Tennessee. Champion was listed as being 64 years old and Minerva was 65.

Champion Farris was an Elder in the Primitive Baptist Church. There was a congregation at Oleander called Mount Pleasant. A large cemetery was located at the old church where the oldest settlers of the area were buried. The church disbanded and the membership moved to Rocky Mount located at Grassy. Farris is listed as being one of the Elders of this church.

On July 29, 1882 a small band of believers founded the Rocky Mount Primitive Church of Christ. The elders forming the church were Champion Farris and Claburn Whitworth. This church is still in operation, located between Guntersville and Arab.

The July 22, 1885 issue of *The Democrat* (Guntersville, Alabama) reported that "Reverend Champion Farris, one of the oldest and best citizens of Marshall County, was in Guntersville one day last week shaking hands with his friends upon his seventieth birthday. He received a birthday present of a fine hat from J. L. Jordan which he seemed to appreciate very much. We trust Mr. Farris may yet may live to enjoy many more birthdays."

The Oct. 29, 1885 issue of *The Democrat* (Guntersville, Alabama) reported that “Reverend C. Farris of near Red Hill, has been quite ill with pneumonia the past few weeks but he is improving slowly now.”

According to *The Primitive Baptist Churches of Alabama* by Elder E. B. Watts, Champion Farris died in 1886. No other record of his death has been found. Minerva was still living in 1889 as she was listed in the Marshall County Tax Assessors Records in that year.

Champion and Minerva were the parents of nine children. Following is a short history of these children.

1. Joseph E. Farris was born about April 17, 1837 in Tennessee. He married Thursa Ann Fry on Dec. 5, 1855 in Marshall County, Alabama. Thursa Ann was born April 12, 1832 and died April 24, 1884. Both Joe and Thursa are buried in the Huffman Methodist Church Cemetery in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. Their children were: William Champion “Champ” Farris, Georgia F. Farris, Eliza Anna “Liza” Farris, Margarete Etta Farris, Edward Calvin Farris, and Sarah Isabelle Farris.

2. Edward N. Farris was born in Marshall County, Alabama. He served in the 55th Regiment, Alabama Infantry Volunteers during the War Between the States. He died on Nov. 30, 1864 and is buried in the Confederate Cemetery, Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, Section 94, grave AL 96.

3. Mary E. Farris was born about 1841 in Marshall County, Alabama. Family research by others has her dying Nov. 20, 1918 in Talladega, Alabama.

4. George Dudley Farris was born about 1843 in Marshall County, Alabama. He volunteered in Company G, 55th Regiment, Alabama Infantry during the War Between the States. This Regiment was formed April 9, 1863 and served until Feb. 23, 1865.

George Farris died Oct. 12, 1863 in the Shelby Springs Confederate Hospital, Shelby Springs, Alabama. Most of the soldiers who died here are probably buried as unknowns in the Shelby Springs Cemetery.

5. Nathan Thomas Farris was born about 1845. Nathan enlisted in Company G, 56th Alabama Infantry at Jackson, Mississippi on May 1, 1863 and was captured July 4, 1863. He was paroled the following July 7, signing with an "X." Nathan married Mahala Caroline Welcher in Marshall County on July 5, 1868. This couple had one daughter, Carrie. Nathan and Caroline lived in Marshall County in 1870 where he was a farmer. According to the Pension Records of Nathan T., he died on July 5, 1898 in Ellis, Texas.

6. Solomon Jefferson Farris was born June 2, 1847 in Red Hill, Marshall County. Solomon served with Barbieri’s Battalion, Alabama Cavalry as a Private during the War Between the States. He and Cornelia Ann Bailey were married Nov. 21, 1867 in Marshall County. This couple was listed in the Red Hill area of Marshall County but had moved to Navarro, Texas by the 1880 census. By this census they had three children, Sallie Katherine, James C. and Newton Pleasant. Three more children were born following the move to Texas: George Wilson, J. B. “Sam,” and Charles Burt. Solomon Ferris followed in his father’s footsteps and became a lawyer in Texas.

7. Margaret Ann Farris was born Nov. 11, 1849 and died Aug. 28, 1920. These dates were taken from her grave marker found in the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery located at Red Hill, Marshall County, Alabama. Some other researchers have her born in September. Like her siblings, she was born at Red Hill and unlike them she lived there all her life. Margaret married William Jerome Copeland on Aug. 21, 1872 in Marshall County; the marriage

was performed by Elder G. T. Ballew. There were two children born to this family by the 1880 Marshall County Census: Alice, age 6 and Jasper, age 4. By 1900 there were three more children: William C., Bethie and Macil. William Jerome died Nov. 10, 1911 and is buried in Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

8. Minerva C. Farris was born about 1851 in Red Hill Community, Marshall County, Alabama. Nothing else can be found about her except her death was listed as being in Sylamore, Stone County, Arkansas.

9. William P. Farris was born Dec. 1, 1853 in Red Hill, Marshall County, Alabama. William moved to Georgia where he married Missouri A. Edwards in Randolph County, Georgia on Aug. 27, 1882. By the time of the 1900 census, this family lived on a farm with two children: Samuel H. Farris, age 14, and William LaGrande Farris, age 7. Missouri's mother, Teresa Edwards, was also living in the household. Missouri died on Sept. 9, 1928 and William P. died on May 11, 1929; both are buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.

Marshall County Obituary Index for 1939

Compiled by Betty Taylor, Marshall County Archives, Guntersville, Alabama

Last Name	First Name	Death Date ***1939***	Date, Name of Paper
Abney,	Ida	Mar. 14	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Abercrombie	Will	May	May 19, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Adams,	R. M.	Feb. 07	Feb. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Alexander,	Thelma Lucille	Dec. 25	Dec. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Allen,	Georg. E.	Feb. 18	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Allen,	Cecil	July	Oct. 04, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Amos,	Mrs. W. W.	Dec. 03	Dec. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Anderson,	William Noah	Mar. 13	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Artis,	W. A.	Mar. 15	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Austin,	Katie Nell	Feb. 12	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Austin,	W. R.	Aug. 07	Aug. 11, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Avery,	Judy L.	Mar. 12	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Baird,	John B.	Nov. 09	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Baker,	James W.	Feb. 27	Mar. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Baker,	James W.	Nov. 24	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Baker,	Sarah Victoria	Dec. 26	Dec. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Barnard,	Ola	Nov. 13	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Barnes,	Clara Mae	Oct. 24	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Barnes,	Sam	Nov. 29	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Batie,	Luberida	Nov. 23	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bell,	Mollie C.	Nov. 13	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Below,	Elma Ellis	Jun. 13	Jun. 16, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Berry,	N. Ben	May 15	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bishop,	George	Nov.	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bishop,	George W.	Jun. 16	Jun. 23, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Bishop,	Pearl	Feb. 27	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Black,	Martha Jane	Feb. 20	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Black,	Mrs. W. A.	Feb. 22	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bohler,	Bosa	Mar. 07	Mar. 10, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Bonds,	George W.	May 30	May 31, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bowen,	James Silus	Aug. 15	Aug. 18, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Boyd,	Wesley Laurance	Sept. 09	Sept. 15, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Brasier,	D. William	Mar. 25	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bright,	Burmah	Mar. 01	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Brock,	Ila Gertrude	Mar. 31	Apr. 07, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Brock,	Mary	Jul. 22	Jul 28, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Brown,	Mrs. A. J. E.	Decl 26	Dec. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Brown,	Nicey Ann	Jun. 18	Jun. 23, <i>Albertville Herald</i>

Bruce,	M. C.	Apr. 10	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Buchanan,	Jo Ann	Oct. 19	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Burgess,	Amanda	Apr. 24	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Burgett,	Matilda Brown	Apr. 24	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Burks,	Lois Helen	Dec. 10	Dec. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Burns,	Benjamin F.	May 08	May 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Bynum,	Jess Willard	Oct. 27	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cagle,	Frank J.	Aug. 15	Aug. 18, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Cantrell,	Benne F.	Nov. 12	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Castmer,	R. P.	Jul. 05	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Chandler,	Fred	May 11	May 17, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Chandler,	Hubert	Jun. 09	Jun. 14, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Chandler,	George F.	Sept. 17	Sept. 20, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Chaney,	Lydia	Sept. 23	Sept. 27, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Clay,	Sarah Elizabeth	Jul. 19	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cloud,	Walter D.	Feb. 06	Feb. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cobb,	Missouri Lee	Feb. 04	Feb. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cobb,	Ilonie	Oct. 08	Oct. 18, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cody,	Malcom Vernice	Oct. 09	Oct. 18, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Collier,	Flora	Aug. 23	Aug. 30, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Collins,	Mrs. Bill	Nov. 18	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cook,	Little Titus	Dec. 03	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Cooper,	James Velon	May 04	May 12, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Corbin,	M. Franklin	May 20	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Costner,	Rufus P.	Jun. 05	Jul. 14, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Cox,	H. M.	May 17	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Craig,	John Glenn	Jul, 19	Jul 21, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Curd,	Dolly	Aug. 29	Sept. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Davis,	Ethel	Feb. 21	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Davis,	H. M.	Oct. 20	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Dendy,	Buford	Mar. 19	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Dendy,	Deliah	Feb. 26	Mar. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Denty,	Frank	Jun. 22	Jun. 30, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Dilbeck,	W. J.	May 19	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Dinty,	Frank	Jun. 21	Jun. 28, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Dodd,	Celia Catherine	Nov. 23	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Douglas,	Betty Sue	Feb. 20	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Doyle,	Cora Lee	Mar. 20	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Dunson,	Marcus Marshall	Oct. 28	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Edwards,	Dave Y.	Nov. 01	Nov. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Eubanks,	Neal	May 09	May 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Eudy,	Mary	Sept. 25	Sept. 27, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>

Farmer,	Kennan Derral	Dec. 15	Dec. 20, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Floyd,	Clarence Eugene	Mar. 28	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Foster,	Mrs. C. A.	Nov. 26	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Franks,	John M.	Nov. 13	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Frazier,	Ruby	Nov. 03	Nov. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Freeman,	Ruthie Ann	Mar. 05	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gaddis,	Willie E.	Jul. 08	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gardner,	Myrtle Lee	Sept. 01	Sept. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gaskin,	James Floyd	Sept. 10	Sept. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gibson,	W. E.	Mar. 08	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gibson,	Eddie	Dec. 04	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gibson,	Robert	Apr. 15	Apr. 21, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Gibson,	W. Eugene	Mar. 08	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Gilbreath,	Will	Oct. 28	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Glassco,	Quinton	Feb. 09	Feb. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Goggins,	Major Lee	Aug. 14	Aug. 18, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Golden,	Willie Lee	Mar. 24	Mar. 31, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Gorman,	W. R.	Aug. 08	Aug. 11, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Grant,	Katie Elizabeth Mayne	Mar. 27	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Griffin,	Bonnie Lee	Apr. 26	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Guest,	Corrie M.	Nov. 09	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Guest,	Mrs. N. C.	Oct. 14	Dec. 08, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Hall,	Dallas R.	Jul. 05	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hallmark,	Minnie	Nov. 15	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hamby,	Ida	Apr. 09	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Harper,	Milda	Oct. 27	Nov. 10, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Harris,	Bobby Wayne	Nov. 29	Dec. 08, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Harris,	George Thomas	Feb. 19	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Harris,	Mrs. E. L.	Oct. 08	Oct. 13, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Harris,	Flora Elsie	Oct. 09	Oct. 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Heath,	Olin	Mar. 11	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Helton,	Lizzie	Nov. 03	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Henley,	J. A.	Mar. 03	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Henry,	Sam	Jun. 22	Jun. 28, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Henson,	Della Annie	Aug. 07	Aug. 11, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Henson,	John J.	Aug. 14	Aug. 16, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hill,	Grady	May 27.	Jun. 09, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Hood,	Emma Mae	Jul. 13	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hornsby,	Lillie	Dec. 24	Dec. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Horton,	Luther C.	Nov. 11	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Howard,	Margaret Sue	Aug. 19	Aug. 30, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Huff,	Charles H.	Jul. 08	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Humphries,	Frank	Nov. 22	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hunter,	Otis	Nov. 13	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>

Huskey,	Eva Willene	Sept. 29	Oct. 04, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hutchison,	John J.	Apr. 14	Mar. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hyatt,	D. G.	Mar. 07	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Hyde,	Eli	Mar. 21	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Isbell,	Col. D.	Mar. 14	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Jackson,	Roberta	Sept. 23	Sept. 27, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Jackson,	Leander	Dec. 02	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
James,	J. N.	Feb. 23	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Jarrell,	E. T.	Nov. 04	Nov. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Jarrett,	Margaret	Aug. 14	Aug. 16, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Johnson,	E. S.	Mar. 11	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Johnson,	Elizabeth	Jun. 13	Jun. 16, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Jones,	Mrs. Georgia B.	Mar. 25	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Jones,	Ima	Jul. 21	Aug. 04, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Jordan,	Dr. J. L.	Mar. 21	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Kearney,	Sarah	Mar. 26	Mar. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Kearney,	Samuel Hurley	Sept. 07	Sept. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Ken,	Allen	Feb. 12	Feb. 17, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Kenamer,	Allison	Feb. 12	Feb.15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Killingsworth,	Sam	Apr. 07	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
King,	Dillie	May 20.	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
King,	Susie Ann	Jun. 23	Jun. 28, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
King,	Richard Matthew	Nov. 20	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Kirkland,	Arthur	Oct. 27	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Knott,	G. W.	May 07.	May 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Landers,	Mr. T. A.	Dec. 16	Dec. 25, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Lang,	Beadie	May 08.	May 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Lee,	Forest C.	Dec. 06	Dec. 08, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Lee,	George	Feb. 22	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Lee,	Ola	Nov. 29	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Leeth,	Marcus J.	Aug. 10	Aug. 16, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Lewis,	John	Oct. 16	Oct. 18, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Lipham,	M. W.	Oct. 26	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Little,	Ermar Guy	Dec. 17	Dec. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Long,	Andrew Marshall	Jun. 18	Jun. 23, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Long,	John L.	Oct. 28	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Lowery,	Eliza Evelyn	Mar. 23	Mar. 31, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Lusk,	Betty	Oct. 16	Oct. 20, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Lusk,	Col. John A.	Nov. 04	Nov. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Machen,	Aaron B.	Apr. 25	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Machen,	John Henry	Jul. 20	Jul. 28, <i>Albertville Herald</i>

Mahan,	J. V.	Mar. 19	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Malone,	M. E. Curtis	Apr. 12	Apr. 14, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Mangam,	Wiley H.	Sept. 29	Oct. 04, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Masters,	Comer B.	Apr. 05	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Matthews,	Mrs. M. J.	Nov. 10	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
McCamey,	J. N.	May 30.	May 31, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
McDowell,	Charles	Nov. 28	Dec. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
McMinn,	Will	Oct. 07	Oct. 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Merritt,	Robert	Apr. 11	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Mitchell,	J. M.	Dec. 06	Dec. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Mitchem,	Susan C.	Mar. 17	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
			Nov. 08, Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Monday,	J. A.	Nov. 06	
Moon,	Julia A.	Apr. 23	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Moore,	Florence	Feb. 13	Feb. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Morgan,	James Blondin	Mar. 21	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Murdock,	Ronald	Apr. 03	Apr. 14, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Murray,	Mary Ann	Mar. 19	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Naler,	J. R.	Oct. 18	Oct. 20, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Napper,	Mary D.	Jul. 15	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Norton,	Ella J.	Jun. 16	Jun. 23, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Pankey,	Gurene	Mar. 17	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Parris,	Virginia	May. 01	May 03, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Parris,	Walter	Jun. 18	Jun. 21, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Patterson,	Annie May	Mar. 05	Mar. 17, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Patterson,	Mrs. J. M.	Mar. 20	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Perkins,	E. D.	Apr. 07	Apr. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Perry,	Grace Simpson	Jul. 16	Jul. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Pledger,	David A.	Feb. 21	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Ponder,	Jessie Lou	Jun. 20	Jun. 23, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Poole,	Mrs. W. H.	Nov. 10	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Pope,	Byrd	Mar. 20	Mar. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Powell,	Mazel	Apr. 14	Mar. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Price,	Mrs. T. Brent	Mar. 12	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Pritchett,	W. T.	Nov. 10	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Radford,	Willie	Jun. 12	Jun. 21, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Ragsdale,	Mary Nettie	Sept. 11	Sept. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Ray,	Inez	Apr. 10	Mar. 19, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Reed,	Alta Zora Craft	Apr. 05	Apr. 07, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Rigsby,	Sarah E.	Jun. 12	Jun. 21, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Rigsby,	A. J.	Jul. 06	Jul. 12, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Roberts,	John Edward	Mar. 06	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Roberts,	John C.	Sept. 06	Sept. 13, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>

Robins,	S+B308arah	Dec. 10	Dec. 20, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Roe,	Mrs. T. W.	Oct. 18	Oct. 20, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Rogers,	Joel Henry	Sept. 20	Sept. 22, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Roe,	Mrs. T. W.	Oct. 18	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Rollings,	J. V.	Feb. 09	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Romains,	John Preston	Nov. 12	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Rooks,	Ed F.	Nov. 25	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Ross,	Mrs. M. E.	Feb. 08	Feb. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Samuel,	Kate	Jul. 24	Aug. 02, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Sampson,	J. M.	Mar. 05	Mar. 10, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Scott,	Wilean	Sept. 12	Sept. 20, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Shores,	Mrs. J. D.	Oct. 29	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Simpson,	Hazel Louise	Mar. 01	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Sims,	Olin	Sept. 29	Oct. 04, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Singleton,	Sophie Ann	Jul. 17	Jul 21, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Smith,	Cleveland	May 20.	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Smith,	Annie Jo	Oct. 22	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Smith,	George A.	Oct. 20	Oct. 27, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Smith,	Joseph E.	Mar. 16	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Smith,	John Hendricks	Jul. 26	Jul. 28, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Sparks,	Ezekiel	Nov. 12	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
St. John	Harriett Emma	Nov. 19	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stanley,	E. J.	May 22.	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Starnes,	Elijah	Feb. 04	Feb. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stearmer,	J. Bush	Aug. 27	Aug. 30, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stephens,	Dave Y.	Sept. 23	Sept. 27, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stephens,	Ronald T.	May 10.	May 12, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Stewart,	Charles W.	Mar. 01	Mar. 03, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Stewart,	Johnnie L.	Mar. 28	Apr. 05, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stiefel,	Florence Early	Aug. 26	Aug. 30, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Stone,	James Lewis	May 21.	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Studdard,	Mrs. M. A.	Sept. 15	Sept. 20, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Summerlin,	John H.	Aut. 02	Aug. 18, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Summers,	Charles R.	Nov. 19	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Swords,	Sarah Jane	Oct. 05	Oct. 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Taylor,	Clarence Miller	Feb. 05	Feb. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Taylor,	Mary K.	May 08.	May 17, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Taylor,	John N.	Nov. 27	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Teal,	Mrs. L. A.	Nov. 12	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Thomas,	L. Whaley, Sr.	Aug. 29	Aug. 30, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Thomason,	Vincent D.	Nov. 26	Nov. 29, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Thompson,	Joe Sam	Jun. 21	Jun. 28, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Thrower,	John W.	Mar. 01	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Tinsley,	Melvina	Oct. 18	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>

Tipton,	Robert L.	May 09.	May 11, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Tompkins,	Emma E.	Jun. 28	Jul. 05, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Tucker,	Eula Ann	Nov. 17	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Turner,	Estell	Oct. 02	Sept. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Vaughn,	Cecil	Mar. 02	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Vaughn,	Charlie C.	Dec. 02	Dec. 08, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Walden,	Frances L.	Mar. 02	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Waldrop,	Nancy E.	May 18.	May 24, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Walker,	Lula Mayhall	Mar. 05	Mar. 08, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Wallace,	L. M.	Oct. 22	Oct. 25, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Washam,	Therman Gordon, Jr.	Dec. 26	Dec. 29, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Wedgeworth,	Edna Mae	Oct. 02	Oct. 04, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Wells,	Snowden Jasper	Apr. 02	Apr. 07, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Wells,	W. T.	Aug. 12	Aug. 16, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Wens,	M. O.	Mar. 10	Mar. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Whaley,	Louis Sr.	Aug. 28	Sept. 08, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Whatley,	James	Jul. 23	Jul. 28, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Whisenant,	Julia	Feb. 19	Feb. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Whitaker,	Irvin	Jun. 06	Jun. 07, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Whitaker,	Luther	Nov. 20	Nov. 22, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
White,	Gen. Cicero	Sept. 03	Sept. 06, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Williams,	Bryant M.	Oct. 29	Nov. 01, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Williams,	Mrs. J. T.	Mar. 19	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Wilson,	Roscoe	Apr. 24	Apr. 26, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>
Wright,	Anna	Mar. 21	Mar. 24, <i>Albertville Herald</i>
Wright,	Ovena Perkins	Nov. 12	Nov. 15, <i>Guntersville Advertiser</i>

Things to Know

Genealogy Antique Roadshow



Dr. George Marchelos presented his annual Genealogy Antique Roadshow on Thursday, July 27, 2017. Members brought one or two items to have informally appraised by Dr. Marchelos, who is a certified appraiser of personal and estate property, antiques, and collectibles. He is the originator of the UAH Certificate Series on

Antiques, and is a university instructor on antiques. He has experience with banks, museums, insurance claims, churches, and legal settlements. He is a frequent contributor to the *Antique Traders* column, “Ask the Expert.”

Dr. Marchelos will be with us again for our July 2018 meeting, when he will again appraise family history items for TVGS members.



July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018



TVGS Membership Application

Please complete and mail to:
Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1568
Huntsville, AL 35807

Application Type: ___ New ___ Renewal

Membership Fee: \$25.00 (\$30 as of July 2018)

Additional Donation (optional): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please detach and retain for your records.

TVGS Membership Year: ___ July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Dues: \$25.00/year Dues Paid: _____ Check Number: _____

TVGS Membership Includes:

- Subscription to our bi-annual genealogical publication *Valley Leaves*
- Meeting announcements and reminders
- Notification of other events of genealogical interest

Be sure to check our website and Facebook for more information about our programs.

www.tvgs.org

www.facebook.com/TVGSAAlabama

First Families Certificate Awarded



William Barton Smith receives his First Families of the Tennessee Valley certificate from Karol Kapustka, TVGS First Families Registrar. Mr. Smith is originally from the Tennessee Valley, but now lives in Burke, Virginia. His ancestors, Moses Speer, Elizabeth Martin Speer, and Zachariah Martin were early settlers of our area. Mr. Smith and his wife, genealogist Rosemary Hernandez Smith, were here attending the Genealogy Antiques Roadshow meeting in July 2017.

First Families of the Tennessee Valley

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

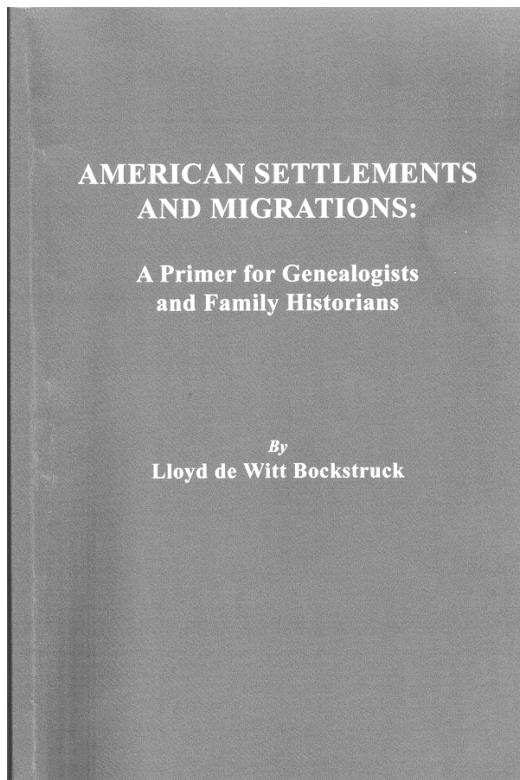
The Act of March 3, 1817 created the Alabama Territory, establishing its boundaries, making Mississippi Territorial law applicable, and making St. Stephens the new capital. Alabama grew so rapidly that there were only two sessions of the territorial legislature before statehood. President Monroe signed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

First Families is a project of the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society to find those persons who lived in the Tennessee Valley prior to Dec. 14, 1819. If one of your ancestors qualifies, please submit your application and join us by visiting tvgs.org.

Book Review

American Settlements and Migrations: a Primer for Genealogists and Family Historians

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, *American Settlements and Migrations: a Primer for Genealogists and Family Historians*. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, 2017. 108 pages, softbound. \$18.95



This compact book starts with a quick introduction to some of the earliest settlers in various parts of North America, along with an overview of the numerous factors leading to migration and population movement during the colonial and federal periods to the end of the 19th century. Numerous works are cited that provide in-depth studies of specific groups of people and the locations where they settled. Factors such as economic conditions, soil exhaustion, free lands, trading opportunities, religion, and slavery are briefly discussed, along with a look at the various modes of transport and means of transportation. Waterways, trails, horse paths, and eventually roads, all were critical determinants affecting migrations.

After the introductory sections, the book is organized by state, plus Quebec, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and the West Indies. Each short section includes a surprisingly detailed look at who arrived when, how they got there, who was displaced, and what they did for survival. Every time I came across a statement that made me want to know more, the author included a reference. When he mentioned that the only German settlement in Alabama was in Cullman in 1872, he also pointed to a 1941 USDA publication that treated the subject in detail. (It's available online at Hathitrust, as well as in hard copy in several libraries other than Huntsville). On the other hand, if you want to know more about the Huguenots who settled South Carolina, the author provides a number of useful references.

This latest book from Lloyd Bockstruck is a handy reference and quick introduction to the various groups of settlers who populated our very diverse portion of the earth.

Katharine Garstka

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“We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies.” – Shirley Abbott

“In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we have come from.” – Alex Haley

“Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future. We make discoveries about ourselves.” – Gail Lumet Buckley

“If at first you don’t succeed, search, search again. That’s why we call it research.” – Anonymous

“I am bound to them, though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices. I honor their history. I cherish their loves. I will tell their story. I will remember them.” - Anonymous

Valley Leaves

Policies

Contributions

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

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