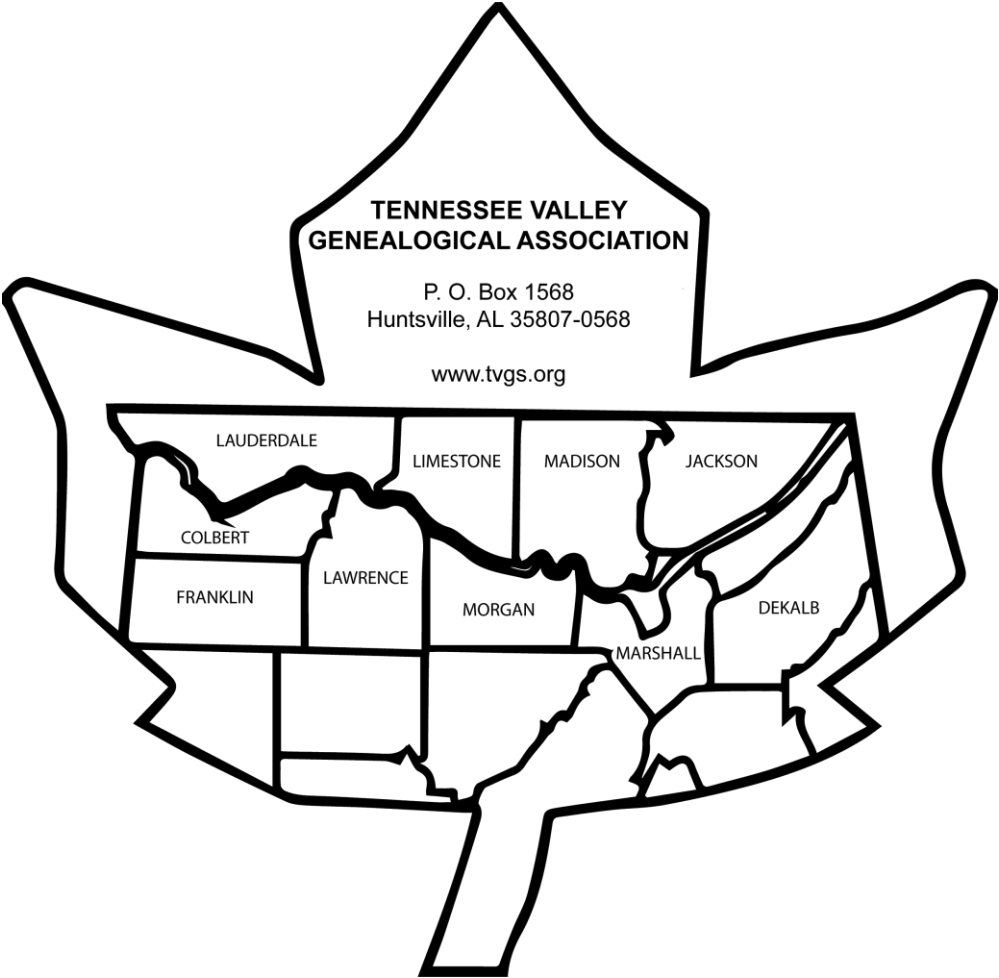


**TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
of North Alabama**

Valley Leaves

A BI-ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATION



Publications Available for Purchase

Back Issues

Volumes 1 through 13 (1966-1980) available on CD _____ \$10 per volume

Note: If ordering Vol. 4, there are three issues. The fourth is a special edition of Issue 2; which sells for \$12 separately.

Volumes 14 through 35 (1980-2001) _____ \$10 per volume

Volumes 36 through 47 (2001-2013) _____ \$25 per volume

Note: For Volumes 1-46, each volume usually contains four issues. Starting with Volume 47, two combined issues are published.

Other Publications for Sale

Ancestor Charts [Volumes 1,2,3 & 4] 5 generation charts full name index _____ \$15.00/volume

Minutes of the Baptist Church of Jesus Christ on Paint Rock River and Larkin Fork, Jackson

Co., AL. (96 pages, full name index) Anne Beason Gahan © 1991 _____ \$20.00

Lawrence Co., AL 1820 State Census, 42 pages, TVGS © _____ \$15.00

Enumeration of the Moon Cemetery and Byrd Cemetery, Owens Cross Roads,

Madison Co, AL. Carla Deramus © 1996 reprinted 2003 _____ \$15.00

1907 Confederate Census of Limestone, Morgan & Madison Counties Alabama, 52 pages,

Dorothy Scott Johnson, © 1981 _____ \$12.00

Death Notices From Limestone Co., AL., Newspapers, 1828-1891,

Eulalia Yancey Wellden © 1986, 2003 _____ \$25.00

1840 Limestone County Census, 2nd Edition, 66 pages [retyped], Eulalia Yancy Welde _____ \$20.00

Early History of Madison County, Valley Leaves, Special Edition,

A Companion to Vol. 4. TVGS, © December 1969 _____ \$15.00

Index to Wills of Madison County, AL. 1808-1900, 36 pages, A. Ezell Terry, © 1977 _____ \$12.00

Marriages of Morgan County, AL 1818-1896, 305 pages, Elbert Minter © 1986 _____ \$28.00

Battle of Buckhorne Tavern, Souvenir Program of the 1996 Re-enactment _____ \$ 2.00

Map: Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Madison County, AL. [black & white] _____ \$15.00

Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, Volume 2, 377 pages, Dorothy Scott Johnson, © 1978 _____ \$30.00

Marriage Records of Lauderdale County, Mississippi 1839-1864, Copyright: Jeanne Hand Henry _____ \$20.00

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Old Land Records of Colbert County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1985 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Franklin County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1986 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1988, 2014 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Lauderdale County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1996 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Lawrence County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1991 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Limestone County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1984 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Marshall County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1988 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Morgan County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1981 _____ \$25.00

Old Land Records of Madison County, Alabama, Margaret Matthews Cowart, © 1979, 2005 _____ \$35.00

All publications have full name indexes. Prices include postage.

Valley Leaves

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In need of a unique gift?

Give the gift of family history with a one-year membership to TVGS and *Valley Leaves*. Annual dues are only \$30 and include a subscription to this publication! To join, or give a gift membership, please use the Membership Application form found in the rear of this publications.

Contact Us

However you like to communicate, we're all ears!

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1568
Huntsville, AL 35807

Visit us online at TVGS.org, "like" us on Facebook, or email us at kgarstka@wowway.com

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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Regular Membership Meetings

Thursday, **May 31**, 2018, 7:00 pm
 (rescheduled from April)

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 provide informal appraisals of 1 or 2 items that attendees bring to the meeting.

Thursday, October 22, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

Using DNA Testing for Genealogical Research: An Overview. Angela R. Lucas, Certified Genealogist ® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists and specialist in northern Alabama and its surrounding areas, will focus primarily on types (not brands) of DNA tests and which one is best for a particular research goal.

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Things You Should Know

TVGS Meeting News

January Meeting

Choosing a Genealogical Software Program. TVGS members at the January 2018 membership meeting were treated to an introduction and demonstrations of RootsMagic and Family Tree Maker software by Dale Dawson and Toni Wright of our society. Attendees learned about how genealogical software can help organize research, create charts and reports, correct entry mistakes and visualize progress.

2018 Spring Seminar



The Society's Spring Seminar, **British and New England Resources and Strategies**, was presented April 24 by Claire V. Brisson-Banks, BS, MLIS, AG. The day-long program featured four topics: Scotland Research Strategies; The Quest for English Ancestors; Wales Online Resources; and **New England Ancestors**.

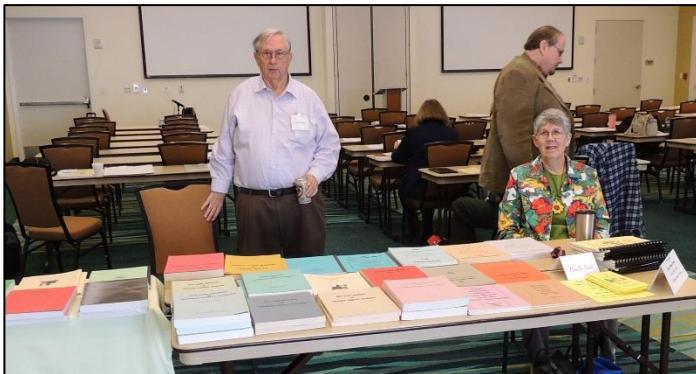
Attendees had the opportunity to purchase genealogical books and journals, win door prizes, and ate delicious boxed lunches from Newk's.



Fifteen door prizes were awarded; many of the winners lined up for a photo with TVGS President **Phyllis O'Donnell** (right).



LaBruce Lucas of Southern Historical Press offered an extensive assortment of genealogical books.



TVGS Historian **Howell Sims** also had books and journals for sale, as did **Priscilla Scott** with a local history book.



Rickey Butch Walker offered his books on Native Americans and their stories.

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 join us by visiting tvgs.org.

First Families Certificates Awarded

A number of TVGS members have completed the application requirements for this recognition. Congratulations to the awardees, with thanks to our hard-working Registrar, Karol Kapustka.



George Stone, whose ancestor was William Pruitt, and **Wilma Stone**, descendant of Ezekiel Craft, both of Madison County, were awarded certificates by TVGS President Phyllis O'Connell (far left) and Karol Kapustka, TVGS First Families Registrar (far right).

Don Wolfe, descendant of Zebulon Rainey, an early settler of Madison County, receives his First Families of the Tennessee Valley certificate from TVGS President Phyllis O'Connell.



Melvina Phillips, whose ancestors were John and Jane Jenet Dowdle Middleton of Madison County, received her certificate at the Spring Seminar from TVGS Past President Rhonda Larkin.



Betty Weir, descendant of John Love, early settler of Madison County, received her certificate from Phyllis O'Connell (left) and Karol Kapustka (right).

2018 Conferences, Institutes, and Seminars

By Angela R. Lucas



FGS 2017 Conference exhibit hall, Pittsburgh – photograph by Angela Lucas

Summer and fall is a busy time for genealogy education. Conferences, institutes, and seminars provide informative sessions and networking opportunities. Mark your calendars now!

Upcoming Conferences

If you missed the **National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference** in May, you can listen to or view session recordings until May 2019. Visit www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org for details.

31 July-3 August 2018 – 50th Annual BYU Conference on Family History & Genealogy, Provo, Utah: <https://familyhistory.ce.byu.edu>

22-25 August 2018 – Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, “On the Three Rivers: Past, Present, and Future,” Ft. Wayne, Indiana: www.fgs.org

27 February-2 March 2019 – RootsTech 2019, Salt Lake City, Utah: www.rootstech.org

Upcoming Institutes

Spaces are still available in some week-long institutes. Think of these as summer camp for genealogists! Attending an institute is a great way to immerse yourself in a topic of interest.

2-7 June 2018—Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Athens, Georgia:
www.ighr.gagensociety.org

24-29 June and 22-27 July 2018 – Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: www.gripitt.org

29 July-3 August 2018 – Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) in Amherst, New York: www.gripitt.org

16-20 July 2018 – Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed), Washington, D.C.:
www.gen-fed.org (Seats at Gen-Fed have been filled for 2018. Check their website or follow them on Facebook for their 2019 registration announcements.)

13-18 January 2019 – Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Salt Lake City, Utah – registration opens 7 July 2018, and courses fill quickly: <https://ugagenealogy.org>

Upcoming All-Day Seminars

13 October 2018 – Alabama Genealogical Society Fall Seminar, Montgomery:
www.algensoc.org – J. Mark Lowe, speaker – Topics include:

- Alabama Records & Migration: From Waldo Semon to Rosa Parks to Tallulah Brockman Bankhead – Using colonial, state, and territorial records to find your families and their neighbors and how they arrived
- Selling Spirituous Liquor Without a License and Other Wonderful Court Records
- Prepare to Use Court Records – Understanding terminology and organization of the courts, and developing strategies for discovering the rich information in the records
- Finding Uncle John by Talking to the Neighbors – Using census records, manuscripts, and land records to learn details about your ancestor’s neighborhood
- Dower, Dowry, and Detinue: Women and Their Men’s Property – Understanding how the legal system viewed our female ancestors, and learning the terminology, record types, and strategies for finding the records

17 November 2018 – Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society’s 30th Annual Seminar, Brentwood, Tennessee (south of Nashville). This event is open to the public:
<http://www.mtgs.org/calendar>. Several TVGS members make this a yearly event. Consider joining us this year! This year’s seminar features local speakers on a variety of topics:

- Dr. Dave Dowell – DNA
- Taneya Koonce – Internet & Computer Use in Genealogy
- Melissa Barker – Topic to be announced
- Martha Gerdeman – But They Didn’t Own Any Land! What’s in Deed Books Besides Deeds

Other Area Events

7-9 June 2018 – Annual Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Days, Cumberland Gap, TN.
Exhibits, lectures and parking are free to the public: <http://www.genealogyjamboree.us>

Alabama 200: Celebrating the State's 200th Birthday

By Angela R. Lucas

Have you heard of Alabama 200? It is Alabama's state-wide bicentennial celebration already under way. From now through 2019, Alabama 200 will be bringing educational programs, community activities, and statewide initiatives to the public.

How to Participate:

Local and statewide events provide a variety of opportunities. County committees are busy planning activities for residents and visitors. See the schedule of events at <http://www.alabama200.org/participate/events/events-calendar>.

PastPort: The Alabama Bicentennial PastPort is a 174-page "passport" to nearly 300 statewide destinations. Travelers can have their PastPort stamped at select sites in each of Alabama's 67 counties. A mobile app may soon be available for virtual visits.

Alabama Ancestry: This is Alabama Bicentennial Commission's family history project, which has joined forces with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the genealogical community to digitize publications documenting the state's past residents and events. The collection will mostly consist of the newsletters and journals produced by historical and genealogical organizations, such as Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society's *Valley Leaves*.

Making Alabama: Alabama's history, culture, and geography are featured in an impressive traveling show, the "Making Alabama" exhibit. It will travel to all 67 counties from March 2018 through November 2019 for a few weeks in each host community. The exhibit features collages, artifacts, interactive computer tablets, and audio recordings of song and spoken word, highlighting eight historical periods, particularly the decisions and turning points that shaped the state's future and affected its people.

After its March opening in Montgomery, the display moved to Cullman County where it will run through May 24 at Wallace State Community College's Evelyn Burrow Museum in Hanceville. Organizers are currently needing hosts for Madison, Jackson, Marshall, and other North Alabama counties. The exhibit must be easily accessible for the general public and requires a minimum 1000 square feet with 10-foot ceilings. Visit www.makingalabama.org, view the "Making Alabama" Facebook page, or follow on Twitter for exhibit dates and locations, photos, and other news. You can also sign up for an email newsletter.

For more information

Alabama turns 200 on Dec. 14, 2019. Visit Alabama 200's website (www.alabama200.org) or the Alabama 200 Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OfficialAlabama200) to see the latest news and find ways you can participate in the state's bicentennial celebrations.

Genealogy Resources on Facebook

By Angela R. Lucas

In our fast-paced lives, Facebook remains a good source for up-to-date genealogy news. Archives, libraries, conferences, institutes, and many genealogical societies have Facebook pages. By following them, you can learn about record collections, events, indexing projects, webinars, and other interesting tidbits. The list below provides a small sampling of Facebook pages to “like” or “follow.” Perhaps you will find a national, regional, or local interest page here:

National

- US National Archives: [facebook.com/usnationalarchives](https://www.facebook.com/usnationalarchives)
- Research at the US National Archives: [facebook.com/researchatusnationalarchives](https://www.facebook.com/researchatusnationalarchives)
- Library of Congress: [facebook.com/libraryofcongress](https://www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress)
- Ancestry (US): [facebook.com/AncestryUS](https://www.facebook.com/AncestryUS)
- FamilySearch: www.facebook.com/familysearch
- National Genealogical Society: [facebook.com/ngsgenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/ngsgenealogy)
- Federation of Genealogical Societies: [facebook.com/FGSgenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/FGSgenealogy)
- Virtual Institute of Genealogy: [facebook.com/virgenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/virgenealogy)

Regional

- National Archives at Atlanta: [facebook.com/nationalarchivesatlanta](https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchivesatlanta)
- Georgia Genealogical Society: [facebook.com/GaGenSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GaGenSociety)
- Georgia Archives: [facebook.com/Georgia-Archives](https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-Archives)
- State Archives of Florida: [facebook.com/statearchivesofflorida](https://www.facebook.com/statearchivesofflorida)
- State Archives of North Carolina: [facebook.com/State-Archives-of-North-Carolina](https://www.facebook.com/State-Archives-of-North-Carolina)
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History: [facebook.com/MDAHOOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/MDAHOOfficial)
- Tennessee State Library and Archives: www.facebook.com/TNStateLibraryArchives

Statewide

- Alabama Department of Archives and History: [facebook.com/AlabamaArchives](https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArchives)
- Alabama Genealogical Society: [facebook.com/Alabama-Genealogical-Society](https://www.facebook.com/Alabama-Genealogical-Society)
- Alabama 200: [facebook.com/OfficialAlabama200](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialAlabama200)
- Historic Alabama Online: www.facebook.com/HistoricAlabamaOnline

North Alabama

- Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society – TVGS: www.facebook.com/TVGSAlabama
- Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Special Collections: [facebook.com/HMCPL-Special-Collections](https://www.facebook.com/HMCPL-Special-Collections)
- Huntsville Public Library: [facebook.com/HMCPL](https://www.facebook.com/HMCPL)
- Limestone County Archives: [facebook.com/limestonecountyarchives](https://www.facebook.com/limestonecountyarchives)
- Madison County Records Center: [facebook.com/MCRCAL](https://www.facebook.com/MCRCAL)
- Marshall County, Alabama Archives: [facebook.com/marshallcountyalabamarchives](https://www.facebook.com/marshallcountyalabamarchives)
- Morgan County Archives: www.facebook.com/Morgan-County-Archives
- Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society: [facebook.com/neagslibrary](https://www.facebook.com/neagslibrary)
- Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center: [facebook.com/ScottsboroHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/ScottsboroHeritage)

How to locate other genealogy-related Facebook pages:

If you have a particular interest in a distant county, consider following a library, archive, or genealogical society in that location. For example, if your family lived near Meridian, Mississippi, you may be interested in the Lauderdale County (Mississippi) Department of Archives & History ([facebook.com/Lauderdale-County-Department-of-Archives-History-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/Lauderdale-County-Department-of-Archives-History-Inc)). To find Facebook pages in other locations not listed here, try Facebook's "Search" box. Another way to locate a page is to visit the organization's website and select their Facebook link, often marked with a blue, lower-case "f." Or, visit pages you already like or follow, and see what pages *they* follow; you may find another one of interest that way.

If you have a specific interest in another state or country, you are in luck. Katherine Willson, a professional genealogist in Michigan, compiled a list of genealogy pages on Facebook from all 50 states and numerous countries. She updates it periodically. You can find it on her website, SocialMediaGenealogy.com: <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>. Her list also includes special-interest pages, including DNA, lineage societies, genealogical education, military interests, surname groups, maps, newspapers, photographs, and cemeteries.

Researchers for Hire

Valley Leaves offers free listings for genealogical researchers to those seeking professional assistance. The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society does not endorse any particular researcher: we provide listings as a service to our members.



Angela R. Lucas, CG ®

Southern Folk Finder Research Services

Angela R. Lucas is a professional genealogist specializing in northern Alabama and its surrounding areas. She enjoys using court documents, military files, DNA test results, and land records to solve complex problems. Angela is a Certified Genealogist ® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Her name appears on several researchers' lists, including Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Association for Professional Genealogists (APG), and Alabama Genealogical Society. An avid learner, Angela regularly attends national conferences, institutes, and regional seminars to improve her genealogical research skills. In addition to TVGS and

APG, she is a member of the National Genealogical Society, Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, and the Alabama Genealogical Society.

- Website: www.southernfolkfinder.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southernfolkfinder>
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- Phone: 256-658-1616

North Alabama

The LaGrange Bell: A Shared History

By Dakota Cotton

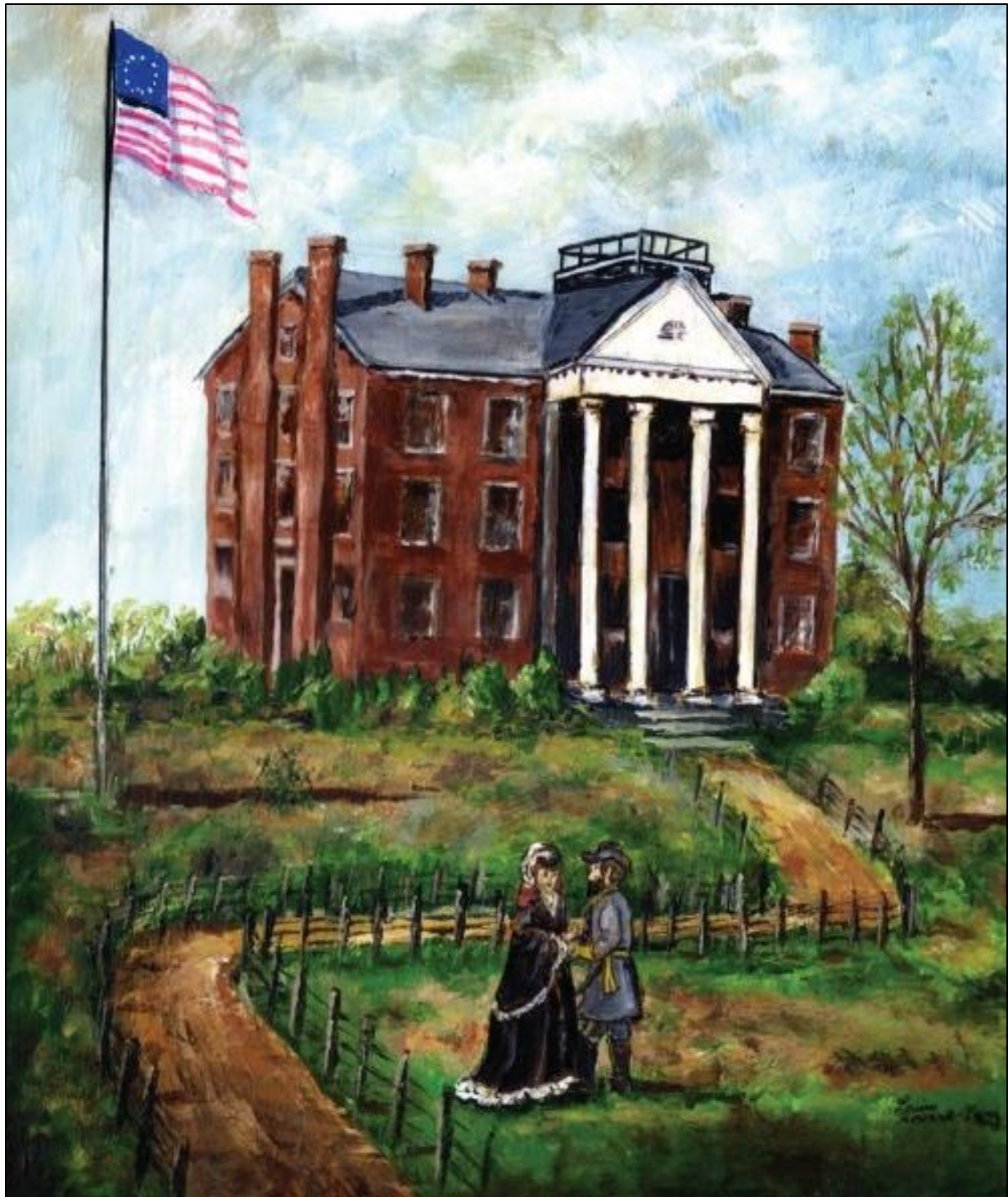
University Archivist, Athens State University

Research Assistance by Robby King, Archives Specialist

North Alabama is home to the oldest institutions of higher education in Alabama. One of the distinctive elements of these original colleges and universities was the ringing of the school bell throughout campus as a signal to students. The regular tolling of these bells became a fixture on campuses throughout the region and became ingrained in the historic memory of the schools. One such bell rang in the main school building on LaGrange Mountain in Leighton for the students of the “first state-chartered college in the state of Alabama (Steen, *History of LaGrange College*, pg. vi).” Beginning in 1830, LaGrange College was opened with the sponsorship of the Tennessee and Mississippi Conferences of the Methodist Church (Steen, *History of LaGrange*, pg. xiii, ch. 3). Prosperous in its original capacity for over 20 years, LaGrange saw many prominent graduates pass through its doors.

One such man was Thomas Hubbard Hobbs, an 1845 graduate and member of the founding families of what was then called Athens Female Institute of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Steen, *History of LaGrange*, pg. 39; McLin, *Athens State College History*, pg. 46). Son of Athens Female Institute President Rebecca Maclin Hobbs, Thomas H. Hobbs went on to be active on the Board of Trustees of Athens Female Institute, in the Alabama State Legislature, as well as in the development of “agriculture, music, poetry, politics, and the resources of Alabama (Axford, *Journals of Thomas Hubbard Hobbs*, pg. vi),” until his ill-fated service as Captain of Company F, 9th Alabama Infantry in the Civil War.

Thomas Hubbard Hobbs was only one of many distinguished individuals who would have heard the LaGrange Bell toll at its original site while also being closely tied to the Athens Female Institute. Students from the college located about 50 miles north east of LaGrange in Athens, Alabama would later hear that same bell toll on its campus. Established by prominent community members and initiating classes in 1822, the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church took on the responsibility of the Athens Female Institute in 1842 (McLin, pg. 9). A “pioneer in the field of establishing education for women in Alabama (Steen, *History of LaGrange*, pg. 18),” Dr. Daniel Perrin Bestor was the first President of the freshly minted female school in Athens (McLin, pg. 130). In 1826, after his tenure at Athens Female Institute, Bestor moved on to the LaGrange community’s LaFayette Female Academy which flourished under his administration (Steen, *History of LaGrange*, pg. 18; McGregor, pg. 4).



Artist depiction of LaGrange College grounds and main building. Used with permission of artist Louise Howard-Lenz of Leighton, Alabama.

Methodist Reverend Smith W. Moore taught at Athens Female Institute before briefly serving as President of the Institution in 1852 (McLin, pg. 198). He left in early 1853 to serve as a professor and interim President at LaGrange College (Steen, *History of LaGrange*, pg. 50). “Dr. R.H. Rivers, on whose faculty [Smith W. Moore] had served at Athens Female Institute, succeeded

him as President at LaGrange (ibid.).” Richard Henderson Rivers was the first President at Athens Female Institute after it accepted Methodist leadership and the first President to reside in the newly built Founders Hall (McLin, pg. 193). Serving Athens Female Institute until 1848, Dr. Rivers was a “well-respected scholar” who “believed in equal education for women and men (Busick, Sean; Fritze, Ronald; Love, Sara, 2009).”



R. H. Rivers and his young family. Photo Credit: Presidential Files: Rivers. Athens State University Archives. On Display in Burkhardt Rare Book Room. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611.

Dr. R. H. Rivers was an alumnus of LaGrange College before serving as its President in 1854. LaGrange College historian Robert S. Steen quotes Dr. Rivers in telling of his trip to LaGrange as a young man: “I can never forget the Monday afternoon when I arrived at the College. I was in a sad plight. I had been five days going one hundred and fifty miles. I had walked through mud and water for nearly ten (*History of LaGrange*, pg. 52).” Having already been ordained a deacon, Rivers graduated with honors from LaGrange before the age of 22 (*ibid*). Inheriting an increasingly indebted institution, Dr. Rivers served as President during a tumultuous time for LaGrange College. Dr. Elva McLin, founding Archivist of Athens State University, wrote:

“[Rivers] returned to Alabama in 1854 as President of his alma mater, LaGrange College for men on a mountain near Leighton... The Tennessee Conference, in a controversial move the following year, transferred that college to Florence, ostensibly to make the college more physically accessible. There were other incentives: Florence had promised to provide better buildings, to pay off college debts, and to provide immediately a \$40,000 endowment. Rivers became head of the new college, Florence Wesleyan, and took all but one of his faculty members with him (pg. 195).”

Robert Steen writes that Jim Sledge, a “slave of the second college President, Dr. Wardsworth” was a “true friend of the college” after the college split between Leighton and Florence, Mr. Sledge stayed at the original LaGrange College site and continued to ring the bell each day “until the signals were given by a drum instead of a college bell” preceding the training of Confederate troops at LaGrange (*History of UNA Bells*, pg. 6). With or without the move to Florence, the history of all institutions in the region was soon profoundly shifted by the onset of the Civil War. Soon after the majority of the faculty and students had moved to Florence, LaGrange became a prominent military academy at its original site in Leighton before eventually being burned down by the Union armies in 1863 (McGregor, pg. 12).

It is around this time when the LaGrange Bell, having survived the destruction of war, was rescued. President Mary Norman Moore McCoy of Athens Female College describes the rescuer of the bell as “the old sexton,... who climbed to the belfry and saved the bell... which remained in his possession until he gave it to a small rural Baptist Church in the area. (McCoy, Mary Norman Moore, Athens State Archives, n.d.). It was not until decades later in 1926, when President Mary Norman Moore McCoy was visiting Florence, Alabama when news of the LaGrange Bell resurfaced. As the President of Athens Female College, the oldest continuously operating institution of higher learning in Alabama, and at the time a Methodist institution as LaGrange had been, President Moore McCoy swiftly sought out the Bell:

“Mr. F. R. King of Tusculumbia accompanied [President McCoy]... to the Baptist church where the bell was kept, but had never been hung, and the pastor of the church in view of the fact that Dr. R. H. Rivers, first [Methodist] President of Athens College had once been President of LaGrange, consented to give the bell to Athens. Mr. King was known to the pastor, and only through his assistance could this priceless historic treasure have been secured (McCoy, n.d).”

With that, the “first college bell to peal out its summons to students of higher learning in the state of Alabama” found use again at Athens Female College (McCoy, n.d).

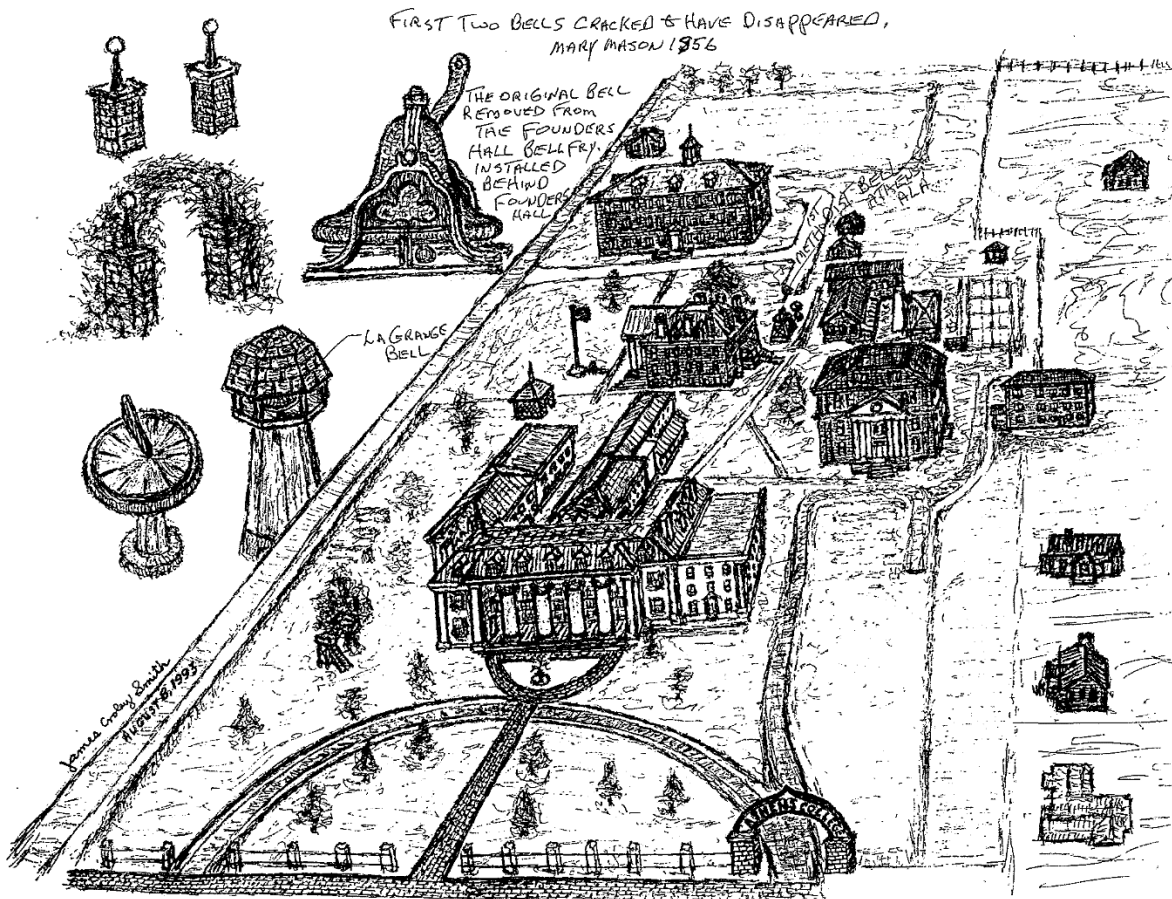


President Mary Norman Moore McCoy (1904-1916, 1925-1930), circa 1909. Photo Credit: Presidential Files: Moore McCoy. Athens State University Archives. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611.

President Moore McCoy served two successful tenures as President at Athens Female College, although her first term was marked by tragedy. A typhoid epidemic struck the campus in 1909, spurring a quarantine of the campus and many students to return home. One young teacher and secretary, Florence Brown, remained at the campus to care for sick girls and later herself succumbed to the disease. “Mary Norman Moore wanted to turn the tragedy around, to make Florence’s life count more than her death, and she immediately arranged a loan on her personal endorsement for a new Greek style dormitory, to be named Florence Brown Hall (McLin, pg. 238).” Brown Hall, completed in 1912, is the second oldest building on the Athens State University campus and its “interesting architectural design is said to be that of the main hall of Methodism’s first college in Alabama, LaGrange at Leighton (ibid.)” President Moore McCoy’s apparent admiration for LaGrange and respect for their shared histories remains evident in the historic architecture of Brown Hall and in her commitment to maintaining that college’s bell.

Only photos and memories from students of the original bells of Athens Female College remain, as they were reportedly cracked and vanished over time. In 1956 Mary E. Mason affectionately describes an original Athens College bell that was “hung in a wooden frame...and for years the seniors would file out from the stage at graduation time and each would give the old bell a last loving tap with the gong (“Writer Describes Athens College...”). Soon after its arrival in Athens, a freestanding wooden belfry was made for the LaGrange Bell and placed between McCandless and Founders Hall (Steen, *History of UNA Bells*, pg. 7; “The Old LaGrange Bell,” Athens State Archives). “After

calling students to class for decades, the bell was retired to the library in the 1960s (Steen, *History of UNA Bells*, pg. 7).”



Artistic depiction of Athens College campus and landmarks by James Croley Smith. Photo Credit: James Croley Smith Collection. Athens State University Archives. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611.

After many decades of Methodist leadership, Athens State University transitioned to its current status as an institution of the state of Alabama in 1975. Unlike so many of its peer institutions, Athens State University never ceased operations despite dire financial straits, disease epidemics, and devastating wars. This complex history serves to illuminate, in part, why the LaGrange Bell was so treasured at the Athens campus. As a rare artifact of a lost kindred college on LaGrange Mountain and a long history unique to Northern Alabama, safekeeping of the LaGrange Bell was prioritized by the historians and archivists at Athens State University.



The belfry for the LaGrange Bell made by the Young Women’s Christian Association in Athens, circa 1950s. Photo Credit: Building Files: LaGrange Bell/ McCandless Hall. Athens State University Archives. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611.

“In 1998, Bruce Fogg of Athens graciously cleaned and restored the bell to its original state (Steen, *History of UNA Bells*, pg. 7),” and “Randy Vinson, an Athens State Carpenter, designed and constructed the oak pedestal on which the bell is displayed (“The Old LaGrange Bell”, 2004).” While the LaGrange Bell was maintained and exhibited at the Athens State University Archives in the campus library, back in Leighton the LaGrange Living Historical Association had been busy restoring the original site of LaGrange College for public use since 1988 (Steen, *History of LaGrange*. Pg. ix).

Due to the diligence of founding members L.C. and Louise Lenz and the rest of the LaGrange Living Historical Association, “by early 2015 the LaGrange College site had become a well-preserved and widely known historical park and tourism destination (ibid.)” This hilltop site is described in McGregor’s original history of the founding of LaGrange as: “crowned with romantic forests of pine and oak...which serve to complete a scene of as much blended sublimity and beauty as any in the western country (pg. 12).” In the absence of appropriate caretakers at the Bell’s original home in Leighton, Athens State University kept and maintained the Bell for nearly one hundred years out of deference for the legacy of LaGrange College and their shared history with that institution. The work of the LaGrange Living Historical Association, however, provided an appropriate location and public venue so that the Bell was able to return to its original home on LaGrange Mountain in 2018.



Librarians Epsie Horn and Hallie Carson examine the prize artifacts of the Athens State Archives in the 1960s. Photo Credit: Building Files: LaGrange Bell. Athens State University Archives. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611.

On the eve of Athens State University's bicentennial celebrations, the administration of President Robert K. Glenn of Athens State agreed to place the LaGrange Bell on permanent loan to be publicly displayed at LaGrange College historic site in Leighton. The Bell that was loved by students for decades at LaGrange and then at Athens State University now has the occasion to toll once again where its long history began.

BY GLYN JENKINS

OLD BELL

When earth was young thou were
A part of its foundation,
Steeped within its heart,
Born with creation,
Till man's power did your heart stir.

He gave you form and shaped
This rounding tower,
Made he from soil
This stanch molded bower,
And placed within a heart that waked.

New birth poured forth in melody,
Child of senseless earth,
Became a voice,
Rivers' moan, and dearth
Of earth's remorse,
Became a song, a lyre of ecstasy!

Full life you lived and done,
Your message is spent;
A bystander,
Gray and bent,
Yet an age grander,
For having toiled for men, and won.

A student poem dedicated to the "Old Bell" from the 1929 yearbook. Photo Credit: 1929 Maid of Athens, pg. 120. Yearbook Collection. Athens State University Archives. 300 N Beaty St. Athens, AL, 35611

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Jackson County

Lewis R. Adkins of Jackson County: Settlement of Estate, 1863-1880

Transcribed by Howell Sims from the Jackson County, Alabama, Probate Court and Limestone County Archives

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minutes Book B p. 240-241

February ... 186...Comes W. C. Wright a citizen of said county and makes application to court for letters of administration on the Estate of Lewis R. Adkins late of said county decd and it appearing to the court that said Adkins has been dead over sixty days, and that the widow knows of this application and wages no objection, and that said W. C. Wright is a suitable person to act as such Administrator And he having filed his bond in the ... sum of three thousand dollars with James B. Wright and S.E. Kennemore as his Securities, which bond is accepted and approved by the Court. It is ordered by the Court that said W. C. Wright be and he is hereby appointed administrator of the Estate. Lewis R. Adkins decd: and that letters of administration Issue to him accordingly.

It is further ordered by the court that Brooks Smith, James B. Wright, and Jire Brown, be and they are hereby appointed appraisers to appraise the personal property & real estate belonging to said estate, and that they make due return of this said appointment to the office with Sixty days from this date.

It is further ordered by the Court that W. C. Wright the administrator of Lewis R. Adkins proceed to sell for cash in hand after giving thirty days notice by written order testament at the Court House & three other public places in said county, the perishable property (except Slaves) belonging to said estate at public auction, and the cotton crop of said estate may be sold at either public ... Sale as may Seem best to said Administrator and this property is ordered to be sold for the purpose of paying the debts and Supporting the family of said decedent; and that he make due return of such sales within sixty days from this date &c.

Cowes, W.C. Wright Administrators of the Estate of L. R. Adkins deceased and files his petition in writing Setting forth therein that said intestate died leaving a widow, Caroline Adkins, and five minor children, viz, Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cargile and Cleopatra Adkins, as his only heirs at Law.

Also that said decedent owned at the time of his death the following described land and negro property Count The South East $\frac{1}{4}$ of the South West $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section No two in Township five of Range 4 East, lying and being in Jackson County State of Alabama, containing forty acres. Also one Share of \$25 in the Tennessee & Alabama Central Railroad Company.

Also one Negro woman, Caroline, aged 18 years, and her child aged two years.

Said petition alleges that it is necessary to sell the above described property for the purpose of paying the debts due and owing by said Decedent's estate.

Therefore it is ordered by the court that Monday the third day of March next, be set for hearing and determining the matters alleged in said petition.

Lewis R. Adkins Decd) Probate Court of Jackson County

Estate of) Alabama January 1st 1863

Order to rent land) This day W.C. Wright admin in this Court of same estate applies for an order to rent by private contract, the land belonging to same estate for the year 1863, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that said application should be granted: It is therefore ordered and decreed by the court that said administrator do proceed and rent privately, the said land belonging to same estate for the year 1863, and that he make ... report of his action under this order as the law requires &c.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minutes Book B p. 250 - 251

Probate Court of Jackson County Alabama, March 3d 1862

This being the day Set by a former order of this court to hear and determine the matter & things Set forth in the petition of W.C. Wright, Administrator of the Estate of L. R. Adkins deceased, heretofore filed in this court, praying for the sale of certain lands, Slaves, & Railroad Stock, particularly set forth & described in said former order of this court, for the purpose of paying the debts & charges against said Estate. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that notice of this application has been given in all respects conforming to the stated in such cases made & provided and to the former order of this court. And Leroy H. Brewer, who had been duly appointed (& certified said appointment) the guardian ad litem of the minor children of said L. R. Adkins deceased having filed his answer in writing, denying the allegations of Said petition, & otherwise defending for said minors, comes the said W.C. Wright Admin as aforesaid, and moves the court for an order of sale according to the terms and term of the said petition. And it also appearing to the court that, Caroline Adkins, the widow of said decedent has been cited to appear before this court on this day, and she failing to come into court and ... objections to this proceeding.

It is therefore ordered and adjudged and decreed by the court, that said application be granted. It is further ordered by the court that W.C. Wright proceed & sell at the late residence of Lewis R. Adkins decd, on a credit of eleven months at public auction, after having 1st given lawful notice of the time, place & terms of Sale, by written advertisement posted at the Court House & three other public places in said county, the following property, to wit, The South East ¼ of the South West ¼ of Section 2 Township 5 of Range 4 East continuing for forty acres, move Cass. Also one Share of twenty five dollars in the capital Stock of the Tennessee & Alabama Railroad Company, also one Negro woman Caroline, aged 18 years & her child 2 years old, being the same property described in said application for the purpose of paying the debts & charges against said Estate. &c

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minutes Book B p. 283 - 284

The aforesaid Administrator here now applies for an order to sell the horses, hogs, cattle one clock & one watch ... belonging to said estate for the purpose of paying the debt against said estate; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that it is necessary to sell said property for the purpose herein stated; It is therefore ordered by the court that said administrator do proceed and sell at public outcry the aforesaid property on a credit of twelve months, taking bond with two good and sufficient securities for the purchase money; and that due notice of the time, place & terms of sale be given for at least 30 days before the day of sale by written acknowledgement

posted at the court house door & three other public places in the county & that said administrator return a time at court of said sales to this office written 60 days from this date.

L. R. Adkins) Probate court state of Alabama Jackson

Estate of) County, Sept. 25th, 1862.

Report of Sales &c)

This day comes W.C. Wright, adm, & filed his account of the sale of the perishable property of said Estate, which was ordered to be sold by a decree of this court made & ordered on the 1st day of February 1862; and also his account of the sale of forty acres of land, twenty-five dollars worth of RR stock and one negro woman and her child, sold by an order of this court, made and entered on the 3rd day of March 1862- and the said accounts being duly sworn to and having been inspected by the court: It is now ordered that the same be recorded for future reference &c.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minutes Book B p. 396

L.R. Adkins, deceased) Probate Court May 21?, 18??

Estate of) this day the administrator for

report of land rent) W.C. Wright presented his report ...of the rent of land belonging to said estate ... gives said real estate for ... years 1863 it is a ... the said that it ... and ... said land for rent \$30

Jackson County, Alabama Will Book M page 47

Louis R. Adkins, deceased

To the Honorable Milton P. Brown Judge of the court of Probate for Jackson County, Alabama.

The undersigned administrator of the estate of Louis R. Adkins deceased, respectfully represents unto Your Honor that he rents out the lands of said estate at Public outcry and Luther Gideon become the renter of the same at the sum of forty nine dollars payable on the 1st day of January 1867 all of which is respectfully submitted ©

Sworn to and subscribed) W.C. Wright

before me July 3rd 1866)

M. P. Brown)

Judge P.C.)

Jackson County, Alabama Will Book M page 436

Louis R. Adkins, deceased Estate of

Petition to Compromise doubtful debts

To the Hon Judge of the Court of Probate of Jackson County Alabama, The petition of Wm C. Wright who is the administrator in this court of the estate of Louis R. Adkins deceased, respectfully Shows that said estate has a debt or claim due to it from one H. F. Smith and B. B. Smith for the Sum of two hundred and twelve 25/100 dollars, which was given by Said makers for confederate Money then borrowed from Said estate by them, to wit: on the 3rd day of December 1862. Your petitioner believes he can Compromise Said claim if authority Should be

given or Confirmed upon him for that purpose, for a fair and equitable Sum, which he believes would be greatly to the interest of Said estate and of all parties interested therein.

In consideration of all which, and of the proofs to be Submitted to the Court in reference thereto, your petitioners pray that Such orders and decrees may be had and made in the premises as will be proper and necessary to authorize him to Settle and compromise Said claim according to the Statute in Such cases made and provided, and as is duty bound he will even pray &c

Subscribed & Sworn to before) W.C. Wright
 Me June 21st 1867)
 M. P. Powers Judge P.C.)

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Record Book L page 259-page 261

State of Alabama)
 Jackson County)

To the Honorable Judge of Probate Court of said County.)

) The undersigned, administrator of the Estate of Louis R. Adkins late of said County deceased, return the following unto your Honor, and an inventory and appraisement of the property real, and personal of the said decedent, which he ask your Honor to receive, record and file-

To Wit --

1 gray horse Jim aged 15 years	Value	\$10.00
1 Lot of farming tools	"	10.00
Oat Stack	"	7.00
1 Wheat garner	"	5.00
1 Lot plank	"	3.00
7219 lbs seed Cotton	"	72.00
The rent of 25 acres cleared land	"	52.00
1 Small Spring clock	"	1.00
40 acres of Land SE ¼ SW ½ Sec 2 Township 5 Range 4	"	200.00
1 Negro Woman, Caroline, aged 18 years	"	
And girl child Caldona 3 years	"	1000.00
1 Share of 25 dollars in Capital Stock of the Tennessee & Alabama Central Railroad Com.	"	1.00

Appraisement of, exempt from administration, and left for the use of Widow and children.

4 Beds with Steads and furniture	Value	\$100.00
2 plows and gloves and 2 hoes	"	4.00
2 Cows and calves	"	40.00
Sow and 7 pigs	"	10.00
100 pounds fodder	"	10.00
20 Bushels of corn	"	40.00

Spinning wheel and cards	“	3.00
2 tables, safe and looking glass	“	8.00
1 chest and 9 chairs & kitchen furniture	“	8.00
1 Mule	“	100.00

We the undersigned appraisers of property personal and real of the Estate of Louis R. Adkins late Jackson deceased, agreeable to order issued from the Honorable Probate Court on the first day February 1862 met at residence of said decedent on the 4th of March and appraised the property of Decedent the prices annexed to each article.

Given under our hands and seal &c.

Jeremiah Brown

Brooks Smith

James B. Wright

I certify that the above named appraisers the property of Louis Adkins estate, came by Wm Stockton an acting justice of the peace of County and State of Alabama, and after being sworn say the hereto annexed appraisement by them without favor or affection to the best of knowledge.

Wm Stockton J.P.

To the Hon. James M. Hudgins Judge of the Probate Court in and for said county of Jackson in the State of Alabama.

Your petitioner M. C. Wright a citizen of Said County, who is by appointment of your Honorable Court the administrator of the Estate of one L. R. Adkins late deceased of said County Respectfully represents unto your honor, that his said decedent died Seized and possessed of the following described Real & personal property lying situate in said County and State Viz. -

Negro woman Caroline 18 years old. Negro child about 2 years old, also and share in the Rail Road Company for twenty five dollars.

That the said L. R. Adkins left the following named persons surviving him who are the only heirs and distributees at law of his Estate Viz, Caroline Adkins widow & Relict of said decedent and Milly Adkins, Alexander Adkins, Washington Adkins, Cargile Adkins and [Cleopatra] Adkins [Louis Adkins an unborn child at this date] children of said deceased who are minors and all of whom reside in said county of Jackson. Your petitioners further alleges that it is necessary to sell all the above described property for the purpose of paying the debts due from said Estate and to that end he prays your Honor to appoint a day to hear and determine the application and the proof that may be submitted in support of the same, to appoint Guardians ad Litem to represent and protect the interests of said Minors interested in this proceeding and to make all such other orders in the premises as may be proper and right, and as in duty bound he will ever pray &c.

M.C. Wright

Sworn to & Subscribed Feb. 1st 1862.

J. M. Hudgins

Judge

Jackson County State of Alabama

The undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Louis Adkins (also of said county. Agreeable to an order of sale issued by the Honorable Court, on the 1st day of February 1862 after giving the Notice required by law by posting up Notice of sale at the Court house and other places proceed on the 4th of March between the hours of 12 & 5 O'clock to sell for cash the following articles to the following persons they being highest and best bidders.

James Daniel 1 Hand saw	\$1.50
auger 25 degrees 1 square 45 degrees	.70

John ...

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 50

Lewis R. Adkins decd)	Probate Court
Estate of)	Jackson County
As to a Compromise)	Alabama
)	July 28 th , 1868.

This day comes William C. Wright the administrator of Said estate and filed his petition in writing and under oath praying for an order authorizing him to Compromise certain matters with Henry F. Smith, alleging in his Said petition that in the Fall of 1860 his intestate purchased from Said H.F. Smith eighty acres of land described in Said petition for the Sum of one thousand Dollars , one half payable January 1st 1861 and the balance on the 1st January 1862, that Said intestate went into possession of Said land under Said contract and took bond of said Smith for the title upon the payment of the purchase money' that he petitions completed the payment of the amount thereof remaining unpaid at decedents death amounting to Seven hundred and Seventy-seven and 75/100 dollars, which Sum he paid as administrator in confederate money out of the assets of Said estate; that Said Smith now refuses to make title to Said lands for the reason that the larger amount of Said purchase money was paid in Confederate Currency; and petitioner alleges further that he now holds a note on Said Smith due to Said estate for the Sum of Two hundred and twelve & 25/100 dollars, due at one day and dated Dec 3 1862, the Consideration of which was Confederate Currency, and that Said Smith now proposes that he petitions-will Surrender Said note and pay to him Said Smith fifty dollars he will make title to the Said land: And it now appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court that Said proposition of Said Smith, if carried out, would be greatly beneficial to the interest of Said estate. It is now therefore ordered and adjudged and decreed by the Court that the Said administrators be and he is hereby authorized to make a Compromise with Said Smith in accordance with Said proposition of Said Smith, and that he make repair of his action under this order; for further Judgment of the Court. It is further ordered that the 28th day of August 1868 be appointed a day for hearing and determining as to the Confirmation of Said Compromises, and that notice of the nature of, and of the time above set to hear and determine the matter of Said Compromise & c. be given for three weeks by publication in the *Jackson County Herald*, a newspaper published in Scottsboro Said County.

It is further ordered that M. L. Swan be and he is hereby appointed Guardian ad Litem for and to protect the interest of the minors of Said decedent Concerned in this proceeding and that Said Guardian ad Litem have notice of his appointment.

It is further ordered that Said application be seconded to be referenced to if necessary as part of the foregoing order.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 83

Lewis R. Adkins Deceased) Probate Court Jackson
Estate of) County Alabama
Orders Confirming Compromise) August 28th 1868

This being the day appointed By the former order of this Court made and entered on the _____ day of _____ 1868 for hearing the application of W.C. Wright filed in this Court by him as Administrator of Said Estate praying for leave to Compromise a matter between Said Decedent and H.L. Smith mention and described in Said applications and in Said former order Now comes the Said Administrator and files his report in writing Showing the terms upon which Said Compromise was effected and it appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court from the report and proof now Submitted that Said Estate and the Interest of all parties connected therewith has been prorated by Said Compromise. It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed that Said compromise be and is hereby confirmed and ratified in all things according to Said report.

It is further ordered that Said report and also papers relating to Said Compromise be placed in record in this office.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 84

Louis Adkins, decd) Probate Court
Estate of) Jackson County Alabama
Horder Setting Clay) August 29th 1868
To hear Petition to Sell Land)

William C. Wright administrator of Said Estate having this day filed his application in writing and under oath praying for an order and proceedings to Sell certain real Estate in Said Petition described of the property of Said decedent at the time of his death for the purpose of paying the debts due from Said Estate; upon the ground that the personal property of Said Estate is insufficient for that purpose and it appearing from an inspection of Said petition that the only heirs of Said deceased are his widow and Six children: named as follows Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Lewis R. Adkins all of which with the widow of Said decedent Reside in Giles County, Tennessee

It is therefore ordered that the 2nd Monday in October it being the 12th day of Said month be and is hereby appointed a day for hearing the Said application and the proofs which may be Submitted in Support of the same. It is further ordered that due notice of the nature of application and of the time above Set for the hearing thereof, be given at least thirty days before the day of hearing thereof by publication in the *Jackson County Herald* a newspaper published in Said county for all persons interested to appear and contest Said application if they think proper.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 176- 177

Lewis R. Atkins deced) Probate Court Jackson
Estate) County, Alabama
Adm to Sell land) 1 Dec 1868

This being the day appointed more than forty days Since hearing the application of Said estate for an order to Sell certain land hereinafter described for the purpose of paying the debts due from Said estate upon the ground that the personal property is insufficient therefore, and the Said widow of Said decedent and his children Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Lewis R. Adkins, all whom are non residents of the State having been duly brought into Court by Publication in the *Jackson County Herald* a newspaper published in Said county in all respects Strickly according to the orders of this court made and entered in the premises on the 29th day of August 1867. Now comes Said administrator, and moves the court that Said application be granted: and also comes Nelson Kyle guardian Ad Litem for said county who is 2nd of kin to said administrator nor in any way interested in this proceedings and who has been heretofore duly appointed and has consented to act as the Guardian ad Litem to represent and protect the interest of Said Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Lewis R. Adkins minors who are interested in this proceeding and the said ad Litem having filed his answer in writing as such guardian on the 1st day of December 1868 denying the allegations contained in said application:

And it having been p... to the satisfaction of the court by the oaths of H. F. Smith and A.S. Nash who are disinterested witnesses and whose testimony has been taken by deposition and upon direct and cross interrogatories as in Chancery Cases and which testimony has been filed of record in this proceeding that the personal property is insufficient to pay the debts of said estate and that it is Necessary will be to the interest of Said estate that that the lands described as follows to wit Southeast fourth of the S West quarter of Section 1 Township 5 Range 4 and the South west fourth of the South east quarter of section 2 township 5 known as the John Venasd Tract less Fifty acres Should be sold for the Purpose of paying the debts of Said estate according to the prayer of Said application: It is therefore ordered of adjudged and decreed that Said application be granted and said administrator is hereby ordered to Sell the above described land at public outcry in manner and form as the law directs in such cases after having given notice for at least three Successive weeks of the time place and terms of the sale together with a description of the land in the *Scottsboro Herald* a newspaper published in such said to be made upon the following terms one half cash and the balance on credit of twelve Months to be Secured as the law directs.

It is further ordered that said petition and all papers relating to this proceeding be secured.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 243

Louis R. Adkins decd) Probate Court
Estate of) Jackson County,
Report of the Rent of land for 1868) Ala 25 Jan 1869

This day comes W. R. Wright Administrator of the Said estate of Louis R. Adkins and files his report of the renting of the lands belonging to Said estate for the year 1868, duly Verified by oath.

It is ordered that Said renting be approved by the court and that Said report be recorded and filed with the papers of said estate.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Minute Book EE page 244

Louis R. Adkins deced) Probate Court
Estate of) Jackson County
Confirmation of Sale of land) Alabama January 25 1869

This day comes W C Wright the administrator of Said estate and files his report in writing and under oath Setting forth among other things that on this 2nd day of January 1869, did after giving the legal notice required by law proceeded in pursuance of and orders & decree of this Court made and entered on the 31st day of December 1868 and Sell between the hours of 12 O'clock and five o'clock in the afternoon at public outcry on the premises the lands Set forth and particularly describes in Said former order and decree and that Said land was purchased at Said Sale by Oscar Grubbs for the Sum of Two hundred and fifty one dollars and fifty cents. And it appearing to the Satisfaction of the Court from said report, and from the evidence now therewith Submitted that Said amount So bid for Said land by Said Oscar Grubbs was the highest and best bid for the Same: that Said sum So bid was not greatly less as disproportionate to its real value: that Said Sale was legally and fairly made conducted and ... : and that the proportion of the purchase money So bid which was requested to be paid in cash by Said former order and decree has been duly paid and that the balance of Said purchase money has been Secured Sufficiently and according to law and Said decree of Sale:

It is ordered adjudged and decreed that Said sale be and the same hereby is appraised and in all things confirmed & satisfied by the order of and authority of this Court. It is further ordered that Said report and all other papers on file relating to this proceeding by recorded. It is further ordered that Said Administrator pay the cost of this proceeding

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Record Book? page 422

Louis R Adkins Estate

Report payment purchase money to the Hon. David Tate Judge of the county of Probate for the county of Jackson Alabama.

William C. Wright the administrator upon the estate of Louis R Adkins late decedent would most respectfully represent unto your Honor that on the 2 day of January 1869 acting under the order & decree of the said court of Probate be exposed to sale the lands of decedent Situated in Said county and that Oscar D Grubb become the purchaser thereof at and for the sum of Five hundred and three dollars payable one half in cash and the residue thereof upon the expiration of twelve months which said lands was duly given the said purchaser has now made full and complete payment of all the purchase money upon said lands amounting in the aggregate to Five hundred four Dollars & fifty cents he is entitled to have conveyance made unto him of the lands he purchased... Your Honor is invoked to make and enter a decree in said cause directing this

administrate to make a proper conveyance unto said purchaser. The said O. D. Grubb comes representing himself presents that the moneys wherewith he has discharged this same purchase was and is the money of the Separate estate of his wife Mary A. Grubbs formerly Mary A. Harpes and discuss the conveyance as made to him. All of which is Respectfully Submitted Sum to Subscribe) WC Wright

Before me March 18 1870) Admr

David Tate Judge)

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book EE page 360

L.R. Adkins dec'd) Probate Court Jackson County Alabama

Estate of) August 3rd, 1866

Partial Settlement)

This being the day Set to hear and pass upon the account Henceforth filed by Wm C Wright as the administrator of Said estate for a partial Settlement of his administration thereof. Now comes the said Wright and moves the Court to proceed with such settlement, and that said account be passed and allowed. And it appearing to the Court that due notice of the time and nature of this settlement has been given as required by law, and M. L. Swan, now appearing in open court and consenting to act as guardian ad litem for and to protect the interest of the minors who are heirs of Said deceased, and said settlement; and the Court proceeds to examine said accounts and to hear the proof in relation thereto: Whereupon it is found that said administrator has received in cash of the assets of said estate the sum of Thirteen hundred and forty-eight dollars and thirty-five cents; that he has justly expended in and about the costs and charges settlement upon said administration and in paying the just debts of said deceased the sum of Thirteen hundred and eight dollars and thirty-eight cents, leaving in hands the sum of Thirty nine dollars and ninety-seven cents:

It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed by the Court that said account be and the same is hereby in all things passed and allowed as above states.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book XX page 454

Lewis R. Adkins dec'd) Probate Court Jackson County

Estate of) Alabama October 2nd 1866

Orders to rent lands) Comes W.C. Wright

) administrator of Said estate

And applies to the Court for an order to rent the lands of Said estate for the year 1867: and it now appearing from evidence Satisfactory to the Court that it would be beneficial to the interest of Said estate that the lands thereof should be so rented:

It is therefore ordered and decreed by the Court that Said administrator proceed to rent Said lands for the year 1867, at public outcry on the premises on a credit of twelve months after having terms weeks notice of the time place and terms of such renting by such notice whereof for such length of terms at three public places in this county, and that the money for the rent of Said land be properly secured, and that Said administrators make due report to this Court of his action under this order

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book ? p. 52

Petition of W.C. Wright and Louis R. Adkins

To Sell land.

Hon. David Tate Judge of the Probate Court of Jackson County The undersign Administrator of the estate of Louis R. Adkins would respectfully represent unto Your Honor that the personal property of Said estate is insufficient to pay the debt due from Said estate and that it will be Necessary to sell the lands belonging to Said estate for that purpose Said lands are situated in this County and described as follows to wit – the south east fourth of the South west fourth of Section 1 Township 5 Range 4 and the South west fourth of the South east fourth of Section 2 Township 4 Range 5.

Petitioners further represents unto Your Honor that the only heirs of Said decedent are his widow Adkins and Six children to wit Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Louis R. Adkins all orphans and under the age of Twenty one Years and reside with their mother in Giles County, Tennessee.

Your petitioner therefore prays Your Honor that such orders and decrees May be had and made as willed necessary & requisite for the Sale of Said lands)

Submitted & Subscribed)
 before me this 29 August, 1868) W.C. Wright
 David Tate) Admin
 Judge)

W.C. Wright adm.) In Probate court Jackson
 VS) County, Alabama

... at Law of Louis R. Adkins) I Nelson Kyle Guardian ad Litem of said
 County now currant to act as such Guardian for the infant defendants, Milley , Alexander,
 Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Louis R. Adkins.

December 1st 1868 N. Kyle

The answer of Milley , Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargile and Louis R. Adkins infant defendants to the application of W. C. Wright admin. of Louis R. Adkins filed in Probate Court of Jackson County, Alabama for the sale of Certain lands thus respondents by their Guardians ad Litem now say that they Know nothing as to their rights and interest in Said proceeding and now ...all the allegations contained in said application and witness upon and direct & legal proof

Nelson Kyle
 Guardian ad Litem

W.C. Wright – admin)
 vs) Pending in the Probate court

Heirs Louis R. Adkins deced) of Jackson County Alabama

The plaintiff ... the following interrogatories to Henry F. Smith and A.S. Nash residing in Jackson County where evidences will be offered on the hearing of this Cause.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book ? p. 53

Interrogatory 1st are ... acquainted with the parties to this proceeding where do they reside are they over or under Twenty one Years

Interrogatory 2nd Has not all the personal property of Said estate been disposed of & found in Sufficient to pay the debts thereof

Interrogatory 3 will it not be necessary to sell the lands of Said estate to pay the debts now due and owing by Said estate

H.L. Park Attorney
For Plaintiff

The plaintiff nominated Jas H. Young of Larkensville as a Suitable commissioner to take this deposition

HLP.
For plff

W.C. Wright admin)
Vs) Probate Court of said County.
Louis R. Adkins.) To

James W. Young Esquire Know ye that we in confidence of your prudence and fidelity have appointed you and by this presence do give you full power and authority to examine H.F. Smith & A.S. Nash as witness in a cause as proceedings now pending in our Said court entitle as is set forth in the caption hereof: and therefore we commission you that you do cause the said U. F. Smith & A.S. Nash to come before you and then and there examine him and each of them on oath as witnesses in the cause aforesaid upon the ... direct & cross interrogatories And that you do take such examination and caused the same to be reduced to writing and return the same unused to this cleared up under Your seal into our Said Court of Probate with all convenient speed.

Witness David Tate Judge of said Court ... office this 2nd day of October 1868

David Tate Judge

Sr... at answers of A.S. Nash one of the witnesses named in the accompanying commission to the following Interrogatories

Int. 1st I am acquainted with the parties to this proceeding. They live at this time in Limestone County, Alabama all under the age of twenty one years

Inter 2 The personal property of the estate has all been disposed of and was not sufficient to pay the indebtedness of the estate

Interrogatory 3 It will be necessary to sell the lands of the estate to pay the debts now due and owing in the estate

A.S. Nash

The separate answer of H.F. Smith one of the witnesses named in the accompanying commission to the following Interrogations

Answer to Inter 1st I am acquainted with the parties to the proceeding do not know where they reside. They are all under the age of twenty one years.

Inter 2 The personal property of the estate has all been sold and was not sufficient to pay the debts of said lot

Inter 3 It will be necessary to sell the lands of the estate to pay the debts now due and owing by the estate H... F. Smith...

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book ? p. 54

State of Alabama) ... office in Larkinsville in said

Jackson County) county and state.

I James H. Young the commissioner named and appointed in the foregoing commission to me directed from the Hon. Probate Court of Said County & State wherein W. C. Wright as the admin of the estate of Louis R. Adkins ... an application to said Court for an order to sell the lands of said estate to pay the indebtedness thereof do hereby certify that I have this day called and caused to appear before me A.S. Nash & H.F. Smith the witnesses named in Said commission and who are personally known to me after having them duly sworn they each of them separately deposed as in Set forth in this answers to the Inter therein propounded and were read to them and signed and appeared in my ...

Given under my hand this Oct 16th

1868 James H. Young

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court Book XX p. 308

Lewis R. Adkins dec'd) Probate Court Jackson County Alabama

Estate of) July 3rd 1866.

Setting day for Settlement) William C. Wright, administrator of the estate of Lewis R. Adkins deceased having filed his account and vouchers with the Judge of said Court for annual settlement:

Ordered that notice be given for three consecutive weeks that it is the intention of the said Wm. C Wright as aforesaid to have said account presented to the said court for allowance, at the Term of said court to be held at the courthouse of said county on the 3rd day of August 1866, when and where all persons interested in the settlement of said administration, are required to appear and make exceptions to said account if they think proper.

M. P. Brown Judge P.C.

L.R. Adkins decd) Probate Court July 3rd 1866

Estate of) This day comes W.C. Wright administrator

Report of Rent 1866) of said estate and makes his report of the rent of the land of said estate in due form and under oath.

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

M. P. Brown
 Judge P.C.

Lewis R. Adkins Estate Accounts for Final Settlement Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court page 420

William C. Wright Administrator of the estate of Lewis R. Adkins deceased in account current and a final Settlement of his administration upon Said decedent Estate herewith the Court of Probate of the county of Jackson State of Alabama on the day of March 1870

Administrator's Creditors

By and paid Taxes for 1868 as per March Interest to Settlement	1	\$1.85
By and paid Taxes for 1867	2	1.80
By and paid David Tate 3 Mar 1869	3	1.50
By and paid M. P. Brown 24 Mar 1868	4	5.10
By and paid H.L. Parks 31 Mar 1869	5	25.00
By and paid Parks & Robinson 24 Mar 1868	6	10.00
By and paid J. J. Jones attorney for Jas L. Haney	7	40.24
By and paid James Adkins 17 Mar 1868	8	17.00
By and paid David Tate Judge 25 Jan 1869	9	9.00
By and paid H.L. Parks Administrator 3 Mar 1860	10	39.50
By and paid James M. Hudgins Sep 1866	11	9.25
By and paid Brook Smith 20 Mar 1867	12	29.25
By and paid C.C. Shelton 14 Jan 1867	13	8.78
By and paid Howard & Bradford 25 Jan 1869	14	16.00
By and paid James W. Young 4 Jan 1867	15	2.50
By and paid H.F. Smith on Compromise 4 Dec 1868	16	50.00
By and paid Luther Gideon Jan 1867	17	9.00
By and paid H.F. Smith on 4 Jan 1869	18	31.00
By and paid M. P. Brown 3 Mar 1869	19	4.00
By and paid P. J. Murry 7 Aug 1867	20	54.00
By and paid A. Snodgrass 25 Jan 1867	21	5.00
By and paid Net return to H. F. Smith the maker for Money in order to get deed to the land	22	212.25
By and paid Probate Court fees	23	42.50
By and paid Robinson & Parks	24	15.00
By and paid Administrator Commissions		35.00
By and paid Amt paid Tax 1866	25	2.00
By and paid A Snodgrass	26	4.00
By and paid Expense account Administrator	27	6.80
By and paid Making deed Stamps etc.		5.00

		687.12

Administrators Debts

To this amount found to be due on partial Settlement	
had with court 3 Aug 1866	39.97
had Amount rent from Wesdon Nov 1865	20.00
had with Amount Luther Gideon 1866	49.00
had with Amount Luther Gideon 1867	49.00
had with Amount James Adkins 1868	40.00
Proceeds sale land 1869	251.50

Lewis R. Adkins Amount Debts Back forward Jackson County, Alabama Probate Court
page 421T \$448.47

Amount received on sale of lands 15 Feb 1870	\$254.55
Balance due on the land 2 nd – O.H. Grubb	1.50
To Earn in change for Voucher No 9	9.00

Total amount of assess	714.52

Recapitulations

To amount record of assets of Said estate	714.52
By amount Paid out-as per Vouchers	697.12
This amount for distribution	27.40
Of which the widow is entitled to one sixth	4.56
This amount to be divided into Six equal parts of three dollars and Eighty cents	22.84
To Mely Adkins	3.80
Alexander Adkins	3.80
Washington Adkins	3.80
Car Adkins	3.80
Cleopatra Adkins	3.80
Louis R. Adkins	3.80

	22.84

State of Alabama)

Jackson County) Before me David Tate Judge of the Probate Court

In and for Said county came W.C. Wright administrator of the estate of Lewis R. Adkins who being Sworn makes oath that he has not used the Money of Said estate for his own individual use nor has he made any profit from thereon the following named persons or the heirs at law & distributes of Said decedent Caroline Adkins the widow who is of full age Milley Atkins, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargal and Lewis R. Adkins all of whom are minors under the age of twenty one years of age and reside with their mother Caroline in Limestone County Alabama are the only heirs & distributes of Said estate, the Said account residence is true and correct

Sworn to and Subscribed) W.C. Wright before me 18 Mar 1870)

David Tate Judge)

A of guardian ad litem

W.C. Wright administrator) In Probate Court

Vs. March 18th 1870

Heirs at law of L.R. Adkins Deced) I Nelson Kyle general guardian Ad Litem for said county now consent to act as the ad Litem for the infant Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargal, and Lewis R. Adkins minors

Nelson Kyle

The answer of Milley, Alexander, Washington, Cleopatra, Cargal, and Lewis R. Adkins infant defendants to the account amount filed in Probate Court by W.C. Wright administrator of Lewis R. Adkins for a final Settlement of his administration these respondents by this guardian ad Litem duty all the Statements made and items entered in said account and it rest upon Strict proof in support of the ...

Nelson Kyle Guardian ad Litem

Estate of Lewis R. Atkins Petition to sell Railroad Stock Filed 14 Dec 1880 Fele 119 in the office of John W. Townsend Judge of Probate Court

State of Alabama) In the Probate Court

Limestone County)

To Hon John W. Townsend Judge of Probate in and for the county of Limestone State of Alabama) Your petition would be respectfully referred that Louis R. Atkins departed this life in the county of Limestone & state of Alabama as this is enfor Several years ago. That said estate now consists of one share of Twenty five dollars of N&D Rail Road Stock once the c are ... once that it is necessary to special letters of administrator to sell said Rail Road Stock & collect Your petition must to grant Special letter of Administration to him by General administrator to sell said Rail Road Stock & collect the dividends and distribution the ...once for all other relief.

Judge J. Townsend petitioner ...

Submitted & Subscribed before me this day this 14th day Dec 1880

Jno W. Townsend Judge

State of Alabama))In the Probate Court Limestone County)

Of Hon John W. Townsend Judge of Probate in and for the County of Limestone and State of Alabama)

Your petition as special Administrator of the estate of Lewis R Atkins would be respectfully referred unto your Honor that he an administrator before said have in his ... one share of Twenty five dollars of the Stock of the Nashville & Decatur RR Stock. Once your petition further represents unto your honor that said stock is & in public Your petition therefore... .. an order to sell such RR Stock for cash in ... of the State of Alabama enter at Public once for all and for all other relief and burial he ... over ...

John J. Townsend
Special Administrator

Madison County

Cooper – Lea – Harris House

A Vintage Vignette by John P. Rankin

November 15, 2007



Photo from *Memories of Madison: A Connected Community, 1857-200*, page 73. Near the crest of the hill at 104 Metaire Lane, on the north side of Eastview Drive, sits a large house with an Alabama Historical Commission marker in the front yard. A photo of the house, along with a synopsis of its history, is on page 73 of Madison's sesquicentennial book *Memories of Madison: A Connected Community*. The story of the house goes back to the early days of settlement of Madison County. Today the house is home to Ann Marie Lacy, Madison's City Attorney. It was not built at its present location.

James Cooper constructed the house a mile north of the Tennessee River in the southern part of today's Redstone Arsenal. He began a two-story house with brick brought down the river from Chattanooga for his bride, Charity Allison. They married in 1832 when she was about 30 and he was about 40. Charity was born in Ireland and came with her parents William and Isabella Allison to Madison County in 1817. That was about the same time that James arrived and began buying land for a plantation that eventually totaled about 640 acres.

According to an article written by Pat Jones in the *Huntsville Times* (March 5, 1933), James committed suicide just two years after his marriage to Charity. The reason for his action is unknown, but the method was highly unusual. He walked with a large iron pot the mile from his home to the river on a cold December 7 in 1834. He fastened the pot to his head and jumped into the river to drown.

James left the plantation to Charity, and she married neighbor Houston Lea 6 years later. Before the marriage Charity recorded an agreement that banned Houston from inheriting her property. Yet, it was Houston who expanded the house to become an impressive mansion by adding to the brick structure built by Cooper. The pre-nup was unnecessary. Charity outlived Houston, who was 5 years younger but left her with combined lands of over 2000 acres when he died in 1853. Charity herself died in 1872, after falling on hard times, losing her plantation in a sheriff's sale for debts in the 1860s.

Charity Cooper was in the 1839 list of William Allison's heirs. Charity's brother John was executor of William's will. Her brother David had a daughter named Isabella (after his mother). Isabella married the Reverend Alexander Penland, now buried at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church on Hobbs Island Road, where Charity had her first husband interred following initial burial in the plantation's Cooper-Penland Cemetery. Charity's sister Mary Jane Allison married Edward Parker, while her sister Catharine Ann Allison married U. S. Congressman Williamson R. W. Cobb. Charity's sister

Martha married Dr. James W. Fennell. Another sister, Isabella, married James' brother Francis Fennell. The Fennell brothers bought Charity's plantation at the sheriff's sale, but the land was sold to several different owners thereafter, with Joseph B. Harris buying some of the land and the house by 1920. The house was known as the Harris House when the army obtained the property.

It should be noted that not only the house connects to Madison, but the Fennell brothers were closely related to Isham Fennell, whose daughter Charlotte married William Lanford and lived in the Landford-Slaughter mansion. Her granddaughter "Lottie" married Jim Cain in Madison. Early censuses show that Charity's neighbors included William Lehman (father-in-law of

George Martin, first lot owner and storekeeper of Madison), along with Clement Lanier and Alexander Gray Wall. Clement was closely related to the Laniers of Madison, and Alexander was the progenitor of the family for which Wall Highway is named. In fact, Alexander Wall married Mary Cooper, sister of James, the first husband of Charity. Even the Darwins were connected via arsenal Lanier ancestry and the fact that Tyler lived on the pre-arsenal lands of Thomas Jamar and Thomas Owen, who were enumerated next door to Thomas Beadle, who lived adjacent to Houston and Charity Lea in the 1850 census. Obviously, the old Cooper-Lea-Harris House had many owners and visitors with a number of connections to early Madison.

Documents Pertaining to the Application of Jack I. Drake to Practice Law in Alabama, 1902

Ala. 42--Application for License to Practice Law. Walsh, Evans & Cogswell Co., Print., Charleston, S. C.

The State of Alabama, } *Chancery* COURT,
 } *Madison* County. } SS. *March* Term, 1902.

TO THE HON. *Wm H. Simpson*,
 Presiding *at Huntsville* of said Court:

Comes *Jack I Drake* a citizen of the United States
 and a resident of said County and State, above the age of twenty-one years, and makes this his application to said
 Court for License to Practice Law as an Attorney and Counsellor in the various Courts of Law and Equity of the
 State of Alabama; and therefore prays that due inquiry be made as to his qualifications, and that such proceedings
 may be had and orders entered as required by law for obtaining said License.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.

Jack I. Drake Applicant.

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In the Matter of the Application of J. I. Drake

Said applicant having made application in writing to the Court at this time for license to practice as an Attorney and Counsellor at Law and the Court having inquired into the qualifications and moral character of said applicant and upon said inquiry, doth find and adjudge that said applicant is possessed of all the necessary qualifications except legal learning to be licensed to practice law in the Courts of this State.

March 17, 1902.

W. H. Simpson
Chancellor

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To: Superior Court, Alabama

I, Wm H. Simpson, Chancellor of the Northern Chancery Division of Alabama hereby certify that the written and foregoing examination was taken before me and in my presence in conformity to Section 1 of an act of the General Assembly approved Feb. 18, 1897.

This the 19th day of March 1902.

*W. H. Simpson
Chancellor*

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We, the undersigned Justices of the Supreme Court of Alabama, after due consideration of the written examination of the applicant, J. I. Drake, are of the opinion, and it is our judgment and conclusion, that it does not appear from the examination that the applicant possesses sufficient legal learning to entitle him to license to practice law in the courts of this State.

Montgomery, Ala. Apr. 19, 1902

*Thos N. McClellan
J. R. Tyson
H A. Sharpe
J. R. Dowdell*

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Madison County Slaves sent to Fort Henry in 1862

Transcribed by Coy E. Michael

A List of Slaves furnished by the Citizens of Madison County, Alabama for service at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Received Jan. 6, 1862 and Jan. 13, 1862.

Information from Madison County, Alabama, Deed Book DD, pages 408 - 410. Thanks to Madison County Record Center.

January 6, 1862

Name of Owner	Slave Name	Age	Complexion	Weight	Value
O D Sledge	Daniel	33	Black	149	812
OD Sledge	Lewis	21	Mulato	163	1100
V G Pruitt	William	25	Black	201	1250
Samuel Smither	Davy	25	Mulato	161	1100
R C Buckel	Allen	20	Mulato	144	1000
R C Buckel	Jeff	24	Black	163	1000
C W Strong	Jim	35	Black	189	1000
John Penny	Henry	21	Black	162	1200
W M Roper	John	20	Black	148	1050
W H Timmons	Ephraim	23	Black	186	1100
Thomas B Strong	Frank	22	Yellow	155	1000
Isham J Fennel	Wiley	24	Black	162	1050
W D Humphrey	Sam	23	Black	162	800
Thomas S McCalley	Henry	34	Black	178	900
Archie McDonald	Essex	43	Copper	169	700
John R Drake	Henry	35	Black	150	900
William J. McCalley	Nathan	30	Black	160	950
Jesse Stone	Alfred	25	Black	179	850
George C Sanders	Alfred	25	Yellow	165	900
Willis Blankenship	Ted	38	Black	154	750
P H Lewis	George	24	Black	172	950
W E Payne	Daniel	22	Black	145	800
James H Humphrey	Surry	28	Black	179	1150
James H Humphrey	Henry	24	Black	152	1000
Theo Lacy	Alfred	23	Black	178	1250
Thomas H Hewlett	Patrick	34	Black	165	900
John Simpson	Levi	21	Black	155	1150
J D Battle	Abram	30	Black	153	800
J D Battle	Reuben	19	Black	145	1000
William Wright	Aaron	19	Black	148	1100
John Allison	Bery	30	Black	184	800
James N Harris	Harry	23	Yellow	148	1000

Name of Owner	Slave Name	Age	Complexion	Weight	Value
John Patton (free boy)	John	18	Yellow	180	
G P Bernee (free boy)	Wesley	25	Black	135	
J H G L Mastin	The	28	Black	171	1000
F T Mastin	Granville	28	Black	168	600
F T Mastin	Tom Jeff	28	Black	185	900
F T Mastin	Arch	40	Black	202	700
Clara B Lightfoot	Gwene (?)	25	Sand	171	1100
James L Watkins (free)	Ike	30	Sand	179	
G L Sandedge	Henry	39	Black	191	700
Thomas W White	James	47	Black	150	600
Thomas McBraig	Washington	30	Yellow	142	700
Stephen W Harris	Frank	33	Black	144	850
Stephen W Harris	Elleck	29	Black	170	1000
John M Eldridge	Tom	24	Black	165	800
Danl B Friend	Albert	39	Yellow	180	750
Russell J Kelley	Lewis	21	Yellow	152	1100
Russell J Kelley	Gus	21	Yellow	152	1000
Isham H Hobbs	Stephen	33	Black	141	750
Dr. Thomas Fearn	Ephraim	24	Yellow	157	1100
J J Donegan	Dick	23	Black	160	1000
Wm M Otey	Madison	24	Black	153	1050
James B Robinson	Sydney	23	Black	193	1200
Elizabeth Strong	Wiley	25	Black	148	1000
Charety Lee	Albert	35	Black	149	600
Alex Lacy	Cesor	33	Black	157	800
Margaret McClung	Dick	30	Black	166	900
(?) Manomd Ford	Bill Green	21	Black	174	1000
G W Drake	Samuel	19	Black	152	1050
Matt Steele	Frank	20	Yellow	171	1150
John L Fariss	Marshal	31	Black	168	1000
Isham H Hobbs	Daniel	35	Black	153	800
A J Esslinger	Elleck	22	Black	158	1050
Charles H Patton	Andrew	20	Black	188	1250
Charles H Patton	Alfred	32	Black	168	1000
William H Timmons	Tom	23	Black	170	1200
John T Lowry	Edmond	36	Yellow	154	900
Isham Fennell	Bill	22	Yellow	151	1100
David Moore	Calvin	20	Black	158	1100

January 13, 1862

Name of Owner	Slave Name	Age	Complexion	Weight	Value
Edmond Toney	Nick	50	Black	166	600
Berry Lawler	Ellick	23	Copper	135	Free Boy
Hambrick Bradford	Willis	39	Copper	155	800
J H Pride	Peter	30	Black	169	900
Margaret Toney	George	29	Black	180	1000
Canada Butler	Isaac	27	Copper	160	1000
William M Holding	Calvin	26	Black	142	900
William M Holding	Frank	27	Black	169	950
William Lanford	Reuben	32	Black	162	1000
Melba Jenkins	Charley	21	Black	180	1150
J A Lanier & bros	Moses	34	Copper	147	900
J A Lanier & bros	Willis	26	Black	165	900
Dr Fleming Jordon	Wilson	28	Copper	230	1100
Dr Fleming Jordon	Tom	28	Black	182	1200
Dr Fleming Jordon	Rufus	35	Black	169	900
Dr Fleming Jordon	Bill	30	Black	156	650
Dr Fleming Jordon	Lewis	21	Black	183	1150
Dr Fleming Jordon	Charles	27	Black	159	950
Est. George O Ragland	Hardin	35	Copper	163	1050
Richard A Wiggins	Ben	34	Copper	137	850
John Derrick	Nelson	31	Black	147	950
Rev M H Bone	Jim	22	Copper	161	1100
A D Lansden	Bill	21	Black	164	1100
J A Beasley	Caleb	21	Black	144	800
John W Scruggs	Tom	27	Black	147	850
David Allison	George	35	Black	126	550
Caroline P Robinson Odom	Ben	21	Copper	152	1100
Reuben Chapman	Isaac	33	Copper	145	950
C H Patton trustee for Cape Moore	Claborn	43	Black	167	850
C H Patton trustee for Cape Moore	Jacob	26	Black	167	1000
C H Patton (self)	Jim	22	Black	157	1050
C H Patton (self)	John	25	Black	169	800

State of Alabama, Madison County

We the undersigned being appointed by Green B. Strother, the commissioner authorized by the Governor to the State to value the slaves subscribed by the County of Madison, state aforesaid for service at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River having been duly sworn, state that the foregoing is a correct statement of the owners and description and value of slaves subscribed by the citizens of the said county this day subscribed to and sworn before me January 13, 1862.

Signed by O. D. Sledge, Thomas H. Hewlett and Aleven Eason.

J. B. Strother appointed by J. G. Shorter, Governor of the state to have the slaves valued.

Note: Fort Henry was situated in a bend of the Tennessee River, where the Confederates hoped to control a three-mile-long stretch of water and stop unwanted traffic from heading south. This fort was separated by a narrow strip of land from Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Since Fort Henry was located on low ground, it was decided to construct another fort, Fort Heiman, on a high bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. Work was started by sending a number of slaves from Alabama and Mississippi there in January of 1862.

Union forces realized that capturing the two major forts would flank the Confederate forts in Kentucky at Bowling Green and Columbus and create a Union opportunity for the invasion of middle Tennessee. The Battle of Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, was the first significant Union victory of the war. Ten days later, Fort Donelson, with about 12,000 troops who surrendered, also fell. Fort Heiman, which was unfinished at the time, was not defended, as the troops stationed there had been moved back to Henry when it was attacked.

References:

HistoryNet.com: <http://www.historynet.com/fort-henry>

The Civil War Picket: <http://civil-war-picket.blogspot.com/2012/02/forgotten-fort-heiman-briefly-stood-as.html>

AndyThomas.com: <https://www.andythomas.com/an-unfinished-fort.aspx>

A thesis by Susan Hawkins of the National Park Service entitled *Forts Henry, Heiman, and Donelson: The African-American Experience* provides an excellent overview and analysis of how African-American enslaved people were affected by the events surrounding the building and capture of these forts. She discusses the fall of the forts and resulting opportunities for the newly-freed people of the area. It can be read in its entirety on the National Park Service website at: <http://npshistory.com/publications/fodo/hawkins.pdf>

Katharine Garstka

Reuben Crutcher

A Vintage Vignette by John P. Rankin

My own encounter with Reuben Crutcher began about 1994 with the discovery of a fallen tombstone buried underneath years of overgrowth in the old Bailey Cemetery south of the west end of Mill Road. The tombstone was inscribed with R. W. CRUTCHER; A BELOVED MINISTER OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH; BORN April 2, 1812; DIED Jan. 10, 1867. I was there to examine the Bailey family burials and became intrigued about the additional surnames found in the small cemetery. Historical public records soon revealed that R. W. Crutcher was Reuben William Henry Crutcher. Reuben was married in 1833 to Mary, daughter of James and Sarah Bailey, who were the original owners of the land around the cemetery. Mary died in 1848 at age 35, and she and at least two of their children are buried in the cemetery beside Reuben. A single tombstone has the inscriptions for Mary and her children Sarah E. (died 6 months old) and James Bailey Crutcher, who died at the age of 8 years.

Before her death in 1971, Mary Irby Mastin compiled a booklet of almost 200 pages about the genealogies of the Crutcher, Bolling, and Spragins families. Mary, born in 1883, was a daughter of Alexander and Lucy Anne Spragins. Mary's grandparents were Robert Stith Bolling Spragins and Sarah Agnes Crutcher (1835-1916). Sarah was a half-sister of the Reuben Crutcher who married Mary Bailey. There were several Reuben Crutchers in the area then, but the subject of this article is the one who married Mary Bailey. Without Mary Mastin's booklet, it would be almost impossible to keep the Reuben Crutchers separated in some of the public records.

Mastin was a spinster, but she carefully and extensively documented the recollections of Susan A. Dupree Crutcher (born 1840, married John Lawler in 1882), daughter of Reuben and Mary Bailey Crutcher. Mastin also had access to an old Crutcher family Bible that documented the line back to Henry of Essex County, Virginia. Henry's third child was a Reuben Crutcher, 1741-1819, who married Elizabeth Cheaney. Their son William married Susanna Dupree and had three children (including another Reuben) before Susanna died in Kentucky (1814) on the way to Madison County, Alabama. William and his children returned from Kentucky to Virginia, where he married Mrs. Tabitha Bruce Harris Fulks, a widow with two small children. The family came to Madison County before 1822, initially settling in the New Market and Plevna area. Several other descendants of Henry Crutcher had come earlier to Madison and Limestone Counties, resulting in the multiple Reuben Crutchers being found the area.

Reuben and Mary Bailey Crutcher had seven children, three of whom were named above. The others were Ann Frances (married James Wesley Farley), William Henry (married Mary James, then Mary Jane Pride, and finally Rowena Crutcher, a cousin), Andrew Benton (married Henry Ellen Gay, then Annie Johnson), and Joseph Robert Hollaway Crutcher. In the 1860 census, Reuben and his unmarried daughter Susan were listed in the household of Reuben's son-in-law, James Wesley Farley. Reuben was listed as a Baptist Minister (as his father William had been), while Susan was a schoolteacher. Madison notables Jim Bronaugh and Robert Shelton had ties to the Crutcher line in local history.

The Case of the Sweet Potatoes

STATE OF ALABAMA

In the Inferior Court of Huntsville

To any Lawful Officer of Said County: Greetings

MADISON COUNTY

Summons W. H. Morris to appear before the Inferior Court of Huntsville on the 14th day of December 1925 at the place of Holding the same to answer to the complaint of Robert Weaver and T.J. Kelley and then and there make return of this summons, Issued the 30th day of November 1925.

CLERK OF INFERIOR COURT

-----COMPLAINT.
ROBERT WEAVER AND T.J. KELLEY -----PLAINTIFF, VS.
W. H. MORRIS -----DEFENDANT.

1. Plaintiff sues to recover of the defendant the following personal property to wit: Forty Bushels of Sweet Potatoes with the value of hire or use thereof during the detention from the 1st day of October 1925.
2. The plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of One hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the conversion by the defendant on or about the 1st day of October 1925 of the following personal property to wit: Forty Bushels of Sweet Potatoes, the property of the plaintiff.
3. The plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) for wrongfully taking the following goods and chattels, the property of the plaintiff viz.: Forty Bushels of sweet potatoes.

Robert Milner

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Marshall County

The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919

By Keith Finley
Marshall County Alabama Archivist

Pandemics of Past History

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, has on file three major plague pandemics. One started in 541 A.D. and was followed by frequent outbreaks over the next 200 years killing an estimated three million people.

The next one was known as the “Black Death” plague which began in 1334 in China and then made its way to Europe where it claimed an estimated 60 percent of the European population. Entire towns were wiped out, not leaving enough people in some communities to bury the dead.

The last major plague pandemic also began in China in the 1860s. It appeared again in 1894 in Hong Kong and over the next 20 years it was spread around the world by rats on steamships. About 10 million people died.

Fortunately, today in 2018 these bacterial disease plagues can be treated with antibiotics. They can be prevented from spreading by treatment and control of flea carriers such as rats.

Definition of Pandemic

An epidemic is an outbreak of a disease that affects a large number of people at one time but is confined to a limited area. On the other hand, a pandemic is a disease that affects a much larger number of people at the same time over a much larger area of the world.

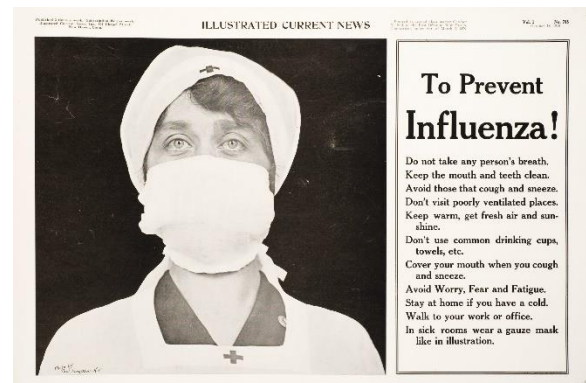
The 1918 influenza disease was a pandemic.

The Spanish Flu

There had been an outbreak of flu in the United States as early as January 1918. It infected a large number of people, but it was weak and rarely killed. By May and June of that year the British Naval Fleet admitted a little over 10,000 sailors to sick bay with the flu but only four had died. The only attention that it got in the press came from the fact that it swept through Spain and was thus called “Spanish Flu.”

The 1918 Flu

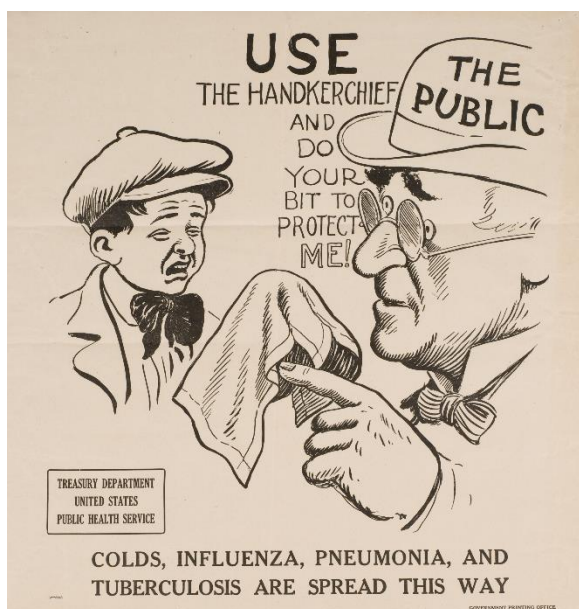
The 1918 flu virus infected cells in the upper respiratory tract, and migrated deeply into the lungs damaging tissue and often leading to pneumonia. This disease caused the lungs to fill with fluid and the patient often died of suffocation.



In the hospital at army Camp Devens, 35 miles from Boston, the total number of patients it could accommodate at one time was about 1,200. On Sept. 1, 1918, it held 84. At the peak of the flu pandemic it had 1,543 soldiers in the hospital ill with flu. The hospital had to turn down ill patients no matter how sick they were, leaving

thousands more soldiers sick and dying in barracks.

The doctors at that hospital said patients developed the most vicious type of pneumonia that had ever been seen. Two hours after admission they had mahogany spots over the cheek bones and a few hours later they could see them turning blue from lack of oxygen extending from their ears and spreading all over the face. In a matter of a few hours death would come. They had so many deaths there were not enough coffins and the bodies piled up.



This pandemic infected some five million people around the world resulting in the deaths of 50 to 100 million people. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history up until that time. More than 25 percent of the United States population became sick and about 675,000 Americans died during the pandemic. At that time there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer flu strain or prevent the spread.

Marshall and Surrounding Counties in Alabama Were Affected

The local paper, *The Guntersville Advertiser*, in January 1918 reported a lot of sickness, but it was not recognized as flu at that time. Most people survived the first round of the sickness.

By very early in September 1918 the virus had been identified in northeast Alabama, northwest Georgia and southern middle Tennessee. Very shortly the disease was raging! Many people contracted the flu and were strong enough to fight it, but those who were not so strong, died.

The following is a list of people who suffered in 1918 from this disease. They are listed by communities to show how widespread the flu was in the Marshall County area of Alabama. The newspapers from Albertville and Boaz were not available for research.

Guntersville

In the first list of dead that came out in *The Guntersville Advertiser* one of the most popular merchants in town, Will H. Carter, died from complications of the flu. Mr. Carter's descendants are still living in the town. Mrs. Cora Carter Gamblin's father, John H. Carter, was related to Mr. Will H. Carter.

Mrs. L. S. Long, wife of Mayor Luther Long, died the same day as Mr. Carter.



Two beloved Guntersville doctors, Dr. R. H. Haden and his brother Dr. A. W. Haden, died in October. This left the town short on doctors in the middle of the epidemic.

Mrs. Howard Irby died the next day about 11:30 at her home on Blount Street and was buried at Paint Rock. She was only 26 years old.

Another important man, Wood Cunningham, a conductor on the N.C. & St. L. Railroad, died the same week as the doctors. James R. Mayne, who had been named the most skilled and talented cabinet maker in Marshall County, died after a lingering, painful flu illness. Mr. Mayne was Betty Taylor's great-grandfather.

Will Wiggs, a popular black man, died in the prime of his life from flu. Others of the black community who died from flu were Bessie Erskine, John Hampton, Delia Reed and Mary Lee.

Louie Smith, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Smith of South Guntersville, died and was buried in the City Cemetery.

J. Millard Moon died in South town on October 21. He was buried in the Warrenton Cemetery.

Alder Springs

Dayton Moore, son of L. Moore, was buried in the Alder Springs Cemetery.

Grady Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Smith, died and was buried in the family cemetery near Alder Springs.

Arab

Mrs. Hassie Hyatt was very ill, and Mrs. Louis Wheeler and Mrs. Frank Cranford died in October. In November Mrs. Lewis Wheeler and Mrs. Frank Waldrip were listed as being ill. In December, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Harden's baby died.

Bend of Paint Rock River

Several families had sickness and death from flu. The Stovers, Matt McKinley's and Tommy Vann's families were all very ill. The baby of Mr. and Mrs. Ross McKinney was buried in Walker Cemetery.

Columbus City

D. L. King was visiting the home of his brother-in-law, Dr. John Harris, and died from flu. D. L. was the son of Tom J. King of Meltonsville.

Diamond

Mrs. Lon Wallace died on October 19 and was buried in Diamond Cemetery.

Eddy

The very first inkling of flu in the community of Eddy was found in the Oct. 29, 1918, issue of *The Advertiser*. Mrs. Hutchison was reported to be very sick with flu. The paper did not follow up on her condition and it is not known whether she died or recovered.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Perkins and Mrs. Dura Nabors were very sick with flu.

Fry

Several members of the Fry community contracted flu but survived: Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Maples, M L. Leak, Dr. John Gober, J. J. Bain, L. S. and Mrs. Wessenger, Mrs. Mattie Harper and S. A. Dochamy. Mr. Green did not survive.

Grant

Mr. W. F. Hill was very sick, and Robert Smith died and was buried in Prospect Cemetery.

Grassy

Mamon Terrell's baby died as did Mrs. Grady Clemons and James Henson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Henson. These deaths occurred in late December 1918 and the paper reported that flu was still raging in the community. Thomas Ellenburg, a

prominent member of the community, had several members of his family with flu, and Will Allen was seriously ill.

Horton

I. F. Cornelius died on October 24 and was buried at Concord Cemetery.

Haney

The only child, a boy, of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Boofer died and was buried in Haney Cemetery.

Liberty Hill

The wife of Claud Benefield and Davie Mahan died. J. E. Smith and Gordon Cahill died, and both were buried at Rock Springs.

Meltonsville

Mrs. Curtis Johnson, wife of Dr. Curtis Johnson died and was buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Joe Beam and Joe Connally were both down with flu and pneumonia in November.

Nixon's Chapel

Cecil B. Jackson died at Camp Hancock and buried at Nixon's Chapel.

Rehobeth

John Tot Grayson died of flu and was buried in the Rehobeth Cemetery.

Sidney

Clarence and Ollie Burgett, sons of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Burgett, died of flu.

Solitude

Henry Gilley died of flu. Mattie Isbell Boatman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Isbell of Gunter'sville, died.

Sweet Home Cemetery

Mrs. Susie Evans and Homer Cook died, and both were buried in Sweet Home Cemetery.

Union Grove

Mrs. Clyde Johnson Turner, beloved by all who knew her, was only 19 years old. She was buried at Union Grove.

Author's Note:

The previous list is only a fraction of the number of people who contracted the Spanish Flu and did or did not recover. Most of the people who recovered were weak and in poor health for weeks or even months until they regained their former strength.

In 1919 there were several cases of flu, but it was subsiding and not as many people developed complications and died. World War I was over and there was not as much traffic around the world.

Remember that the newspapers sometimes did not spell names correctly and also, they did not even get the information correct and occasionally reported that someone had died when he or she was very much alive. Please forgive any errors found.

History of the Telephone 1885-1951 in Marshall County, Alabama

By Betty Taylor
Marshall County Archives

Source: The Guntersville Newspapers – All information was transcribed from *The Guntersville Democrat* if not named.

7-16-1885

The Gadsden News had the following to say of the projected Telephone Line:

“The prospect is that a telephone line will be established between Attalla and Guntersville by October next. Gadsden merchants think it would be to their advantage. We understand that the citizens of Guntersville have been quietly agitating the question and are anxious for the line.

The citizens of Guntersville can get assistance from Gadsden, Alabama, to build the line. It is estimated that the line can be built and equipped for \$2,500.00.”

6-27-1889

The telephone wire had been put up as far as Hillian’s Store. There were only 16 miles further to go.

7-4-1889

The telephone line was completed in July of 1889. “The wire is up and ready for the instruments. Scottsboro and Guntersville may each be congratulated on the event and now proceed to discuss the Guntersville and Scottsboro R.R. The instruments are expected in a few days.”

7-15-1889

“Guntersville and Scottsboro are at last connected by wire. The telephone wires are completed and the instruments are in place. The outside world may now reach us at a moment’s notice by telegraphing to Scottsboro, Alabama, and having the

message repeated over the telephone to this place. Meltonsville, Hillian’s Store and Langston are the immediate points supplied with telephones.”

7-25-1889

During the progress of the work and since the completion of the telephone line there had been hearings of depredations and obstructions being committed in Oak Grove and put in the way of successful communication. The telephone line was a public good and the erection was an enterprise of high merit in the interest of progress and for the promotion of the welfare of the public.

“The public should not only feel thankful to the men who have invested in their communities in which they live but to humanity. All the people are interested, but more especially the immediate localities in which the offences are committed. The good people of Oak Grove ought to catch the guilty parties.”

8-1-1889

The telephone contractor, Mr. Watson, and his assistants, Bunk and Pink Wells, completed a telephone line from the Guntersville office to Mrs. Lewis Wyeth’s mountain home.

8-17-1889

Col. J. E. Brown will have the Bell Telephones put in on the Scottsboro and Guntersville line, owing to the satisfactory service rendered by the present instruments.

8-22-1889

The representatives of Mr. W. F. Baldrige and associates at Huntsville came looking after the placing of some stocks in a new telephone company to run from Huntsville

to Gadsden. No definite action has been taken except the giving of right a-way through Marshall County.

9-5-1889

A telephone line was projected from Huntsville to Guntersville via Brownsboro, Gurley, Paint Rock, Woodville and New Hope. There would be eight stations. Mrs. G. A. Lippincott and C. W. Thornbury and associates were the movers in this enterprise and would be owners and managers.

12-26-1889

“New Hope has a telephone line now and can talk to Huntsville, Whitesburg, Gurley, Paint Rock, Woodville and Maysville. The line will be extended on to Cottonville and Guntersville right away. They propose to build through to Gadsden taking in Manchester, Warrenton, Boaz and Attalla. A telephone station will be made in Esquire Allen’s house at Cottonville by the Huntsville and Guntersville Telephone Company.”

1-30-1890

On Jan. 21, 1890, a telephone line was organized. Huntsville, Guntersville and Gadsden Telephone Company were organized by election: Pres. Frank B. Gurley, VP David Wise, Treas. Archie L. Rison and Sec. W. H. Raymond. Now, the line was operating, and paying, to Manchester.

2-13-1890

The new telephone was in good working operation. Guntersville could now talk to Warrenton, Manchester, Deposit, New Hope, Woodville, Gurley and Huntsville.

8-28-1890

“The new telephone line between Guntersville and Albertville has been completed and is in good working order.

“The Guntersville office is in the Scottsboro and Guntersville telephone office adjoining the law office of Brown, Holiday and Street. The Albertville office is in the store of W. T. McCord & Brother on Main Street.”

9-25-1890

Fred Konrad and Billy Jordon had put up the phone extension from the central office to the wharf boat at the landing, Shippers on the mountain could talk directly to the steam boat agent without any trouble.

12-4-1890

“The Guntersville and Albertville telephone line has been bought by Jasper Smith, who will attach it to the Guntersville and Huntsville line. The phones will be placed in the rear office at Jasper Smith’s store, next door to the Bank of Guntersville, and will connect Guntersville with the wharf boat at the landing, with Albertville, Warrenton, Deposit, New Hope, Paint Rock, Woodville, Gurley and Huntsville.”

1-29-1891

“At the annual meeting of the Huntsville, Guntersville and Gadsden Telephone Co., held in the Huntsville Hotel last week, it was decided to extend the line from Albertville, its present terminus, to Gadsden, and to put in better transmitters at the principal stations. They will shortly have their stations listed on the Western Union books so as to prevent assault or trespass of business handled over the wire.

The Board of Directors for 1891 is: G. A. Lippincott, W. F. Baldridge and D. Wise, Huntsville; F. B. Gurley and W. H. Beason, Gurley; R. L. Butler, New Hope; C. C. Nesmith, Manchester and Hugh Carlisle, Guntersville.

Capt. Frank Gurley is president, C. C. Nesmith is manager and G. A. Lippincott is secretary.

11-10-1892

The telephone office moved from Smith and Goodwin to J. L. Burke's office. Lee Taylor would attend to the telephone.

11-28-1895

The telephone exchange was removed from the Southern Hotel to Dr. W. L. Thomason's drug store. Pearce Thomason would look after it and the central location would prove more convenient than heretofore. G. F. Arnet the telephone lineman who takes care of the line between Guntersville and Deposit came and changed the line to the drug store.

11-2-1899

Dr. Phocian Lusk put in a long-distance telephone transmitter to connect his new house (on the corner of Gunter and Brown Streets, BJT note) with his office in Thomason's Drug Store.

1-10-1901

J. C. Drake and W. P. Thomason arranged for Supt. Moore of the Guntersville-Huntsville telephone line to put in a telephone exchange at Guntersville. Mr. Drake secured 27 subscribers who paid \$2.00 a month for residential phones and \$3.00 a month for business phones. Mr. Drake was to be in charge of the central office over Thomason's drug store.

2-14-1901

"Supt. R. A. Moore of the telephone company has delivered to W. P. Thomason and John C. Drake 30 of the latest improved long-distance Bell telephones for use in Guntersville.

The central office will be over Thomason's drug store. John C. Drake will be manager and night operator and his sister Miss Bulah Drake will be day operator. A day and night service is thus insured."

2-28-1901

Thirty-six phones had been put in inaugurating the Guntersville Exchange of the Southern Bell Telephone Company and the Exchange was to be open for business in February of 1901. The central office was over Thomason's drug store. Miss Bulah Drake was day operator and John C. Drake manager.

"District Manager, W. A. Moore of Huntsville and his assistant, James R. Jenkins, were here to aid the Guntersville boys get the switch board and instruments into good shape. Mr. Moore was well pleased with the progress made and complimented our boys for their hustling ability. W. P. Thomason is secretary and superintendent and John C. Drake is manager of the Guntersville Exchange. The poles and wires were put up by Luke Mitchell, Albert Ayres, James Thomason, James Jenkins and others. Twenty-two miles of wire are used in town. The Guntersville Exchange has all the latest improved appliances, metallic circuit and long-distance transmitter, and each subscriber can talk in his own office or home to Nashville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Atlanta, Gadsden, Huntsville and other points on the Southern Bell Telephone system.

Public pay stations are established at Capt. Glover's Hotel, The Cedars and at the Alabama Hotel of Mrs. T. L. Mitchell. Transients may use the long-distance phone upon the deposit into the slot machine at either hotel of the charges fixed for a given point. Slots are made for half dollar, a quarter, a nickel, a penny, etc., and a different gong is rung by each thus telling the central office exactly how much is paid in by the stranger. Central will then give him the connection requested.

Thirty-six phones are already up and Messrs. Thomason and Drake desire to express their appreciation of the patronage

given the new enterprise and they ask that others will also become patrons.

The List Of The Patrons

Ayres, Judge A. M., Probate Office
Kirkland, W. M.

Bank of Guntersville
Knight, Henry & Co. Office

Bishop, J. F., Post Office
Lowery, J. M. & Co.

Cantrell, W. M.
Lusk, John A. Office & Res.

Davis, J. D., Office
Lusk, Dr. P. B. Office & Res.

Drake, S. L.
Mitchell & Sims Livery Stable

Glover's Hotel, Joseph
Moore, Sam. A.

Greenwood's, J. H. Livery Stable
Moss, Edward

Guntersville Democrat
N.C. & St. L. RR Depot

Guntersville Dry Goods, Co.
Parrish, Rev. S. J.

Henderson Bros. Office
Rayburn, W. C.

Henry, A. G., Res.
Springer, Charles W.

Henry, Sam, Store & Res.
Street & Isbell Office

Hooper, A. R. & Co.
Street, O. D.

Jordan, Dr. D. C.
Thomason, W. P. Office & Res.

Kelley, Wilson Office"

5-30-1901

Telephone manager R. A. Moore came over from Huntsville on May 23 and wired up the Guntersville central switch board for 10

more local phones. His son Wallace came with him.

6-13-1901

Manager John C. Drake installed phones at the homes of J. H. Greenwood, Clarence Miller Taylor and H. M. Long.

6-27-1901

Jamie Thomason and Ed Holt were night and day operators in charge of the Guntersville Telephone Exchange.

9-5-1901

The number of *The Democrat* was #5

9-12-1901

Manager Jamie Thomason put in new phones as follows: W. L. Boggus' meat market #43, Charles Carpenter, Res. #42, John D. Chandler's store #47, Dr. Howard Gunn's office #46, A. R. Hooper's Res. #12, Jim Pepper's barber shop #14. A public pay station was placed in the post office; fee 5 cents for any connection in Guntersville and Wyeth City.

11-7-1901

The Citizens Telephone Company of Guntersville now had a through telephone connection with Ft. Payne and intermediate points.

The central office was at S. L. Drake's residence on the public square. He was in charge of the Guntersville office

1-9-1902

The Post Office received a phone installed by James Thomason. The number was 47.

1-23-1902

A public telephone was installed in the hall at the court house for the benefit of those who needed to use it. A slot was attached so the central office could know the amount paid; the cost being five cents for local calls and the regular tariff for long distance use.

9-11-1902

“If your telephone is not answered promptly or if it will not work, notify # 33 at once. Don’t tell someone else to tell Jabe – tell him yourself.”

11-23-1905

The local telephone exchange sold out its lines and franchises to Southern Bell Company. The latter company put the line in working order, and the hope was that a better service would materialize in the near future.

10-18-1906

“Our telephone system is so unsatisfactory that it is next to impossible to hear central. The service is prompt and obliging but the old thing will not work.”

11-9-1906

“The telephone operator in this place is prompt and obliging enough but the line for some reason is too worrisome to worry with. A conversation over it sounds like whisper from the tomb of progress.” (Editor’s comment)

11-22-1906

The Bell Telephone force was in town for several days erecting poles and doing other things which improved the service so that one could converse without having to send a boy back and forth to get the conversation.

11-29-1906

“The telephone people have put in a cable at this place. We hear that the new switch board has been placed, but there is still a break which occurs during conversation that gives a familiar voice the sound of a badly injured bumble bee in a very deep barrel.” (Editor’s comment)

12-20-1906

According to the paper the local telephone exchange was in better condition than ever

before. A new switch board was put in, a cable erected, and the subscriptions largely increased.

8-15-1907

Complaints regarding the telephone line from here to Huntsville were that the line was in poor order and that it was impossible on recent occasion to get an important message through.

6-4-1908

“Judge Ayres is constructing the telephone line from his place on the mountain to Guntersville where he will go on the regular exchange.

Other lines are running to different parts of the county, but they are all independent and not connected with the exchange. Such lines are a great convenience for the people both in town and in the county. “

7-23-1908

The telephone line from Gunter’s Mountain to Guntersville was in construction.

1-28-1909

E. T. Sheftall of the Bell Telephone Company made arrangements for telephone service on the North side of the river all the way to the community of Grant where S. J. Walls was to assume charge.

4-15-1909

“The people on the north side have gotten a move on themselves and built a telephone line from Grant to connect with the Guntersville Exchange. We may now reach by this new line W. M. Lewis, J. B. Starnes, Willie Thomas, C. A. Starnes, J. B. Parker, C. C. Walls and S. J. Walls.

This is great convenience to our neighbors who may often save a trip to town by a message. We lived in the country in this county long enough to know how necessary it is to hear from town at certain times. It

places us in close touch with gentlemen who do not get here very often.”

8-19-09

Mr. Wade of the Telephone service stationed in Guntersville, brought his wife, son and baby with him. They were looking to find a suitable house.

9-16-1909

“The most important use we have for a telephone is to communicate with the depot and while our instrument is in working order the one at the depot is all wrong. We can still call up central and learn that we can go no farther.”(Editor of the *Democrat*)

1-12-11

Gus May of Bean Rock spent the night in town. He was not complimentary of the telephone service in the country.

5-18-1911

A telephone wire across Blount Street leading to Mr. Grizzell’s residence drooped down so low that one had to stoop to pass under it. The marshal discovered it and had it corrected.

7-6-1911

Since Mrs. Jennie Bailey left the telephone office complaints at the service were frequent and rather fierce. It was quite easy to get central, but after that, the operator would lose all interest in the transaction and forget or neglect to make a connection and the caller could stand and hold the receiver as long as he liked. The comment was made that if you had to wait half an hour for a connection it could have been cheaper to carry your message or write a postal card.

11-25-1915

The Southern Bell people moved the central office from the Bottling Works to the Citizens Bank.

2-8-1916

“Mrs. Jennie Bailey, the efficient and accommodating manager of the local telephone exchange, received from the Southern Bell Telephone Co., last week a gold service button. These buttons are given only to employees that have been in the service of the company 10 years. Mrs. Bailey has the distinction of being the only employee in this district entitled to a button. This district includes Guntersville, Albertville, Attalla and Gadsden.”

6-5-1917

Mrs. Jennie Bailey who had been chief operator at the telephone exchange in Guntersville for more than 10 years was married to W. C. Story. The wedding was in June of 1917. They were to make their home in LaGrange, Georgia.

6-5-1917

Mrs. Kate Pegues was employed to take the place of Jennie Bailey Story at the telephone exchange and Miss Eddie Singleton became the new night operator. Miss Tennie Crow, chief operator from Gadsden, came and instructed the ladies.

7-22-1919

Annie Ridge was on vacation and Lillie Hyde substituted for her at the telephone exchange.

2-1-1921

The Southern Bell Telephone Company was granted permission by Alabama Public Service Commission the last week of January to increase rates. In Guntersville the rates went up from \$3.25 to \$3.75 for business and \$2.00 to \$2.30 for residence phones. (*Advertiser*)

3-5-1930

The Southern Bell Telephone Company had a crew of men at work rebuilding their lines in Guntersville. New cables were being strung on the poles of the Alabama Power

Company, which had a construction crew busy for several weeks replacing the old poles with new ones. (*Advertiser-Democrat*)

12-28-1938

The Southern Bell Telephone Company had several crews working in the vicinity changing the lines and removing poles from the low lands that will soon to be overflowed by backwater from the TVA dam below Guntersville.

Other crews that were employed on the new dial system being installed in Guntersville. (*Advertiser-Democrat*)

2-15-1939

“The Southern Bell Company announces that the Guntersville telephone exchange will be changed to dial on Wednesday Feb. 22, 1939. For several months crews have been making the necessary changes in wiring.

The new system means that all calls will be made by numbers and you will have to refer to the telephone directory for correct numbers. Representatives have been calling on subscribers for the past day or two explaining how the system will work. The directions were very different from the old operator connection. To make a call, the representatives said, you will lift your receiver and first listen for the dial tone, a steady humming sound, which indicates that the equipment is ready for dialing. Immediately on hearing the dial tone, start dialing your number. If, after you start dialing, you discover you have made a mistake, or if your finger should slip out of the dial opening before the dial is turned around to the finger stop, then, hang up the receiver and start over again.

Do not jiggle the receiver hook or turn the dial after you have finished dialing or while you are talking, if you do, it will cut you off and it will be necessary to dial the number

again. Be sure to replace the receiver on the hook when you have finished talking.

If you are on a party line and wish to call someone on the same line with you, dial the number in the regular way, but after you have finished dialing the number and hear the busy signal, hang up your receiver. Your bell, as well as the bell of the other party on your line will then ring. When your bell stops ringing, you will know the other party has answered and you should at once lift your receiver and begin your conversation. If your bell continues to ring you will know there is no one at the other end. To stop your bell from ringing and free the line, remove your receiver from the hook for a moment and then replace it.

To make a long-distance call or to report your telephone out of order and secure a number not listed in the directory dial OPERATOR.” (*Advertiser-Democrat*)

2-22-1939

“With the passing of the ring central we will miss our close contact with the pleasant, kind, patient and efficient operators. We cannot say enough in praise of their service.” (*Advertiser-Democrat*)

5-15-1941

In 1940 Guntersville was calling for more lines and in December Southern Bell put in 20 additional lines. That made 320 and Southern Bell thought surely that would carry the town for another year or two. Demand for service had kept on increasing and every line was in use. The only vacancies were on some party lines which were not yet full, so all you could get is a party line phone.

Due to the growth of Guntersville, Southern Bell was to install 60 more phone lines here in the next six weeks. This will be an extension of about 25 per cent.

R. B. Centerfit of Gadsden, district manager for Southern Bell, said the 60 new lines were scheduled to be added by July 1, bringing the total line to 380. The delay had been due to the defense program as the service at army camps and munitions plants needed the lines.

9-15-1944

The telephone line from Guntersville to Grant was to be finished the middle of the week and was expected to be connected by the end of the week.

The DAR school would have the first phone. One or two other phones would be installed at other points on Gunter Mountain.

7-26-1946

“The Chamber of Commerce directors wrote a letter to the Southern Bell’s district office about the telephone service at Guntersville. They said many complaints have been made about the service. They asked for advice as to what to do about getting better service.

The answer from Telephone Manager R. B. Centerfit explained that the condition occurs when there is an unprecedented volume of calls handled by equipment that is already heavily loaded. This does not mean the telephone is out of order from 9 to 12 noon and 6 to 8 p.m. These times are the busiest conditions affecting the dial equipment. The telephone company is exerting every effort to manufacture and install the necessary equipment to handle the increasing volume of local calls with the pre-war standard of speed. In the meantime telephone users can help by always waiting for the dial tone before dialing and by keeping conversations short.”

11-29-1946

“F. M. Malone, Southern Bell manager of Alabama spoke to the Guntersville Chamber of Commerce and promised better local and long-distance service by the end of August.

He said that the present control office in the rear of the Palace Theatre is handling a maximum capacity of 600 phones and it cannot be added to and must be replaced entirely. This will require a new location. He promised to look into it.

Mr. Malone said that Guntersville had 105 phones in 1923, 210 in 1936, 463 in 1938, 345 in 1940 and 600 now. The town will have over 2,000 in 20 years. He said that just about every community in Alabama is experiencing this kind of growth.”

9-10-1947

All Guntersville homes and business places received new phone numbers. There new numbers were listed in a new directory and distributed a day or two before the system was connected with the new switchboard. Sixty- five new phones were connected at that time. The company hopes to be able to provide phone service to everybody in the county wanting it by the end of the year

9-19-1947

Guntersville’s new phone switchboard, which was expected to end the trouble caused by the overcrowded condition of the last few years went into Sept. 20, 1947, at six o’clock A.M.

Service was interrupted about two minutes during the switch-over from the old plant behind the Palace theatre to the new one back of the city hall.

“New numbers have been given and if all will remember to use the new numbers in the directory everything will go smoothly. The 65 new phones will be connected at this time.” (*Advertiser*)

The new equipment was the very modern Jack-Per-Station system. Mr. R. B. Centerfit also informed the town that additional long-distance lines would be opened to Guntersville in the next few weeks.

9-24-1947

“The siren sound that the phones sometimes make since the new exchange was installed is an indication that there is no such number as the one you have dialed. Many are calling it the “screaming meemies.”

Another change with the new system is that when you try to dial a phone that has been disconnected you now get the operator. With the old exchange it just sounded like it was ringing but nobody was home.”

11-3-1950

The telephone company intends to get a line to East Lake soon. The city council said that it must be soon or they would appeal to the Alabama Public Service Commission.

3-16-1951

Guntersville has 1,320 telephones in service as compared with 392 in 1940. Mr. J. O. Gilmore, group manager for the Southern Bell Telephone Company, gave this report. He said that the greatest period of progress had been in the postwar years.

Southern Bell first provided telephone service to Guntersville in 1905.

6-6-1951

In 1949 Southern Bell enlarged the telephone service to Guntersville thinking that would be enough to meet the need for years to come, but the demand has continued to grow making further expansion necessary. More central office equipment will be added and completed by next February.

Marshall County Obituary Index for 1940

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

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Death Date</i> <i>1940 unless noted</i> <i>otherwise</i>	<i>Date, Name of Paper</i> <i>all dates 1940</i>
Abercrombie	Fred Alvin	Sept. 04	Sept. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Aldridge	F. Gaines	Oct. 28	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Alexander	Bye	Aug. 18	Sept. 05, <i>The Arab News</i>
Alexander	Howard Robert	Aug. 29	Sept. 04, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Alexander	Thelma	Dec. 25, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Amos	Bob	July 10	July 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Anderson	Elbert	April 07	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Anderson	Mrs. Willie	April 26	May 02, <i>The Arab News</i>
Austin	James A.	April 02	April 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Ayres	Child of O. D. Ayres	April 21	April 24, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Bailey	Alvin	Dec. 14	Dec. 18, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Bailey	Robert Luther	July 09	July 11, <i>The Arab News</i>
Barksdale	W. M. "Red"	Dec. 01	Dec. 04, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Baughn	Walter L.	April 20	April 24, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Baker	Sarah V.	Dec. 26, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Belvin	Alonzo	Feb. 01	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Berry	Mrs. Collis	Jan. 03	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Birdwell	Mrs. John	Sept. 05	Sept. 12, <i>The Arab News</i>
Bishop	Dave	June 04	June 05, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Bishop	Patricia Ann	Jan. 07	Jan. 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Bogges	Dr. John W., Sr.	Dec. 02	Dec. 04, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Boggus	Mrs. J. O.	Jan. 15	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Bolt	Nancy	March 24	<i>Democrat</i>
Brasher	Hendricks	Dec. 12	Dec. 19, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Brashier	John Q. D. C.'s 34-year-old son	Jan. 17	Jan. 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brewer	son	April 10	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brewer	Mrs. W. L. Ellen	Sept. 25	Oct. 02, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Briscoe	James E.	Jan. 30	Feb. 08, <i>The Arab News</i>
Brittain	J. C.	May 25	May 29, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brooks	Betty Sue	April 09	July 11, <i>The Arab News</i>

Brooks	H. W.	June 01	June 05, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brown	David Harvey	Feb. 19	Feb. 29, <i>The Arab News</i>
Brown	Arthur A.	Jan. 08	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brown	Mrs. S. E.	Dec. 26, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Brown	William Johnston	March 04	March 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Bruce	James Herbert	Nov. 18	Nov. 21, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Buisch	Louis	Feb. 06	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Bunley	John H.	Aug. 08	Aug. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Burgess	Eunice	Sept.	Sept. 26, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Bynum	Mrs. W. H.	Nov. 18	Nov. 21, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Cagle	William G.	Nov. 12	Nov. 21, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Campbell	John Pryor	April 21	April 24, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 20, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Carter	Emma	March 18	
Carter	Mary M.	April 08	April 11, <i>The Arab News</i>
Chrisman	Joe	April 24	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Christian	Billy Mac	July 19	July 25, <i>The Arab News</i>
Church	Paul	Feb. 03	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Claburn	V. A.	Jan. 31	Jan. 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Clack	Jessie Gwennette	Oct. 25	Oct. 31, <i>The Arab News</i>
Cleckler	Lottie	Aug. 03	Aug. 08, <i>The Arab News</i>
Cobb	Otis	Oct. 20	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Collier	Willie B.	Nov. 22	Nov. 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Collins	Ruth	June 27	July 04, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Cook	J. F.	March 06	March 14, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Cornelius	Elbert	Oct. 13	Oct. 16, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cornelius	Gracie	Dec. 29, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cornelius	Mrs. M. L.	March 31	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cowan	Edna	Jan. 09	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cox	Carl	Feb. 09	Feb. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cox	Sara J.	March 16	March 21, <i>The Arab News</i>
Craft	William G.	Feb. 18	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cranford	Erby T.	Nov. 28	Dec. 04, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cryar	Buster	Sept. 23	Sept. 25, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Cowansey	Nov. 1	Nov. 06, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Davis	J. Mercer	March 10	March 14, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Dickey	Jack	Aug. 28	Sept. 05, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Dickson	Wilsie Ailene	March 28	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Dispennett	Martha	April 29	May 08, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>

Marshall County

Dobbins	Allen Homer	Jan. 28	Jan. 25, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Dobbins	Barbara Helen	March 09	March 21, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Dyar	Franklin Delano	March 09	March 14, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Edmonds	Mrs. Lazinker Cloud	June 24	July 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Edmondson	Minnie	Jan. 03	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Ennis	Barnard Ray	April 13	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 06, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Erskine	Walter	Feb. 28	<i>Democrat</i>
Estes	Freddie Lou	Aug. 11	Aug. 15, <i>The Arab News</i>
Eubanks	Mrs. L. D.	July 16	July 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Evans	Barbara Delois	Feb. 22	Feb. 28, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Farmer	James Lee	July 29	Aug. 7, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fennell	Caius G.	Feb. 06	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Ferguson	Grover	Sept. 02	Sept. 04, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fillmore	John	March 28	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fite	Bert	March 31	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fowler	Wiley Monroe	Jan. 20	Jan. 25, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Fowler	James A.	May	May 02, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Folsom	Shirley J.	Feb. 20	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Franklin	Mrs. Leroy	Jan. 02	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fulcher	Joseph T.	June 22	June 26, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Fulks	Robert	Sept. 23	Sept. 25, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Garrard	Kermit Lenns	July 02	July 04, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Garrett	Mrs. J. H.	April 01	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gaskin	Mrs. Jessie	April 14	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gibson	Supt. S. L.	Feb. 15	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gilbreath	Ernest W.	May 24	May 30, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Gilbreath	Judge Gordon	Oct. 23	Oct. 23, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Goodman	J. L.	Dec. 29, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gothard	Nellie Ruth	Sept. 06	Sept. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gourin	Quentin L.	Dec. 31, 1939	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gregg	Buren	Aug. 01	Aug. 08, <i>The Arab News</i>
Gullion	Harve	Sept. 06	Sept. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Gunnels	W. F	July 08	July 18, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Gunnels	Bud	July, 1940	Dec. 12, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Halbrooks	Lucy	April 13	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Halcomb	Sarah Ann	June 07	June 12, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>

Hamby	Emily Caroline	March 16	March 20, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hamil	Howard	Dec. 01	Dec. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hampton	Manila	April 09	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hardcastle	Mrs. C. L.	Aug. 27	Sept. 4, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Harden	Mrs. Lee	April 15	April 25, <i>The Arab News</i>
Harvey	Zeed	June 15	June 27, <i>The Arab News</i>
Hawk	Millie G.	Jan. 07	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hawkins	C. W.	April 25	May 02, <i>The Arab News</i>
Hayes	Beatrice	Feb. 04	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Head	Sylvester	Jan. 03	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hefner	Riley P.	Jan. 06	Jan. 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Henderson	W. S.	Feb. 28	March 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Hendrix	Anne	Jan. 13	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hendrix	George W.	Sept. 10	Sept. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hendrix	Mrs. M. D.	Jan. 02	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hendrix	Mary Dorothy	Jan. 02	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hilburn	Charlie Isom	Sept. 04	Sept. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hill	Aaron Levi	April 27	May 08, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hill	J. H.	Dec. 19	Dec. 26, <i>The Arab News</i>
Hill	Henry	Dec. 01	Dec. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Holland	J. C. & J. T.	March 19	March 21, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Holmes	Mary Frances	Feb. 29	March 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i> March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hooper	Samuel A.	March 20	<i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hopkins	Herbert	June 27	July 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hornsby	Liddie	Dec. 24, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hudson	John L.	Jan. 07	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hudson	Tommie James	Dec. 08	Dec. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Humphries	Garland	Dec. 31, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Hunter	Roxie Hazel	April 03	April 04, <i>The Arab News</i>
Isdell	J. S. "Uncle Joe)	May 08	May 15, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Jarvis	John Henry	April 11	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Jenkins	John Ronnie	Jan. 06	Jan. 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Johnson	Sylvester	April	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Jones	Charles	March 27	April 04, <i>The Arab News</i>
Kelley	Fannie E.	Jan. 31	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Kenamer	Sallie	Dec. 17	Dec. 18, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Kennedy	Harvey	May 11	May 16, <i>The Arab News</i>

Kilpatrick	Jessie Lee	Feb. 14	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Kinney	John W.	Sept. 08	Sept. 19, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Kirkland	George	March 29	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Lang	Margaret	Nov. 23	Nov. 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Latham	Liza	March 20	March 28, <i>The Arab News</i>
Law	W. P.	March 26	April 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Lawson	Josephine	Oct. 20	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Leach	Martin E.	July 26	Aug. 08, <i>The Arab News</i>
McCoy	James Ellis	Oct. 06	Oct. 16, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
McNeal	John Michael	Jan. 04	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Manley	John W.	Dec. 31, 1939	Jan. 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Martin	Barber	Nov. 08	Nov. 13, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Matchen	Julia	Feb. 03	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
May	Cora Amanda	April 25	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Maynard	Ofebell	Sept. 27	Oct. 09, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Miller	Mrs. Andrew Robert	Oct. 19	Oct. 24, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Miller	Mrs. Jacob	Dec. 11	Dec. 19, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Mitchell	Nellie	Feb. 18	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Moon	D. A.	Jan. 20	Jan. 25, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Moore	Mattie L.	Jan. 10	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Moore	Sam	March 24	<i>Democrat</i>
Morton	Mrs. Joe	Feb. 06	Feb. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Murdock	Evie Kimberlee	April 13	April 18, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Nesmith	William L.	Feb. 13	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 20, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Nichols	Hiram Curtis	March 13	
Nixon	Mrs. Jim N.	Sept. 15	Sept. 18, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Oden	Juanita	Sept. 25	Oct. 03, <i>The Arab News</i>
Olive	Eugene	Dec. 01	Dec. 05, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Owens	Eliza Emaline	March 04	March 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Owens	N. C.	July 03	July 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Painter	Mary	Feb. 05	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Parker	Henry	July 31	July 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Patterson	Lucy	Jan. 11	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Peppers	Dan M.	Aug. 17	Aug. 22, <i>Boaz Leader</i>

Perkins	R. M.	Oct. 17	Oct. 30, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Phillips	George D.	Jan. 30	Feb. 15, <i>The Arab News</i>
Phillips	J. W.	Oct. 14	Oct. 16, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Phillips	R. B.	Oct. 17	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Piper	Henry H.	Feb. 07	Feb. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Pittman	Sarah Jane	March 14	March 21, <i>The Arab News</i>
Plunkett	Cora Nell	Feb. 29	Feb. 29, <i>The Arab News</i>
Powell	India	June 09	June 13, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Prance	Joseph Benjamin	Sept. 06	Sept. 12, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Prickett	Willie Ruth	Feb. 20	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Prichard	Lucinda	April 09	April 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Proctor	J. L.	Nov. 05	Nov. 06, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Rains	Betty C.	Oct. 03	Oct. 10, <i>The Arab News</i>
Reed	Mrs. R. T.	Nov. 04	Nov. 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Reno	Peggy Joy	Sept. 09	Sept. 12, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Rice	Russell	July 04	July 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Rigsby	John	Nov.	Nov. 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Roberts	Jack	April 18	April 24, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Roberts	W. M.	Jan. 23	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Robertson	Mrs. J. S.	Aug. 09	Aug. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Roden	Norman L.	July 31	Aug. 08, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Saine	Ludie Williams	Sept. 15	Sept. 25, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Sanford	Judge Wm. H.	Feb. 02	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Saunders	Mary Jane	Dec. 05	Dec. 11, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Scoles	Kitty	July 25	July 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Sellers	Kenneth A.	April	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Shumate	Martha	Aug. 09	Aug. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Simmons	Baby of H. C.	March 30	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 20, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Simpson	Zona	March 13	<i>Democrat</i>
Sims	James "Uncle Jim"	June 11	June 12, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Smith	James M.	Jan. 15	Jan. 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Smith	Nancy Carroll	Jan. 02	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Smith	Nellie Fay	March 10	March 14, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Smith	Mrs. W. J.	April 22	April 25, <i>The Arab News</i>
Smith	Wat	March	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Smith	William C.	Aug. 18	Aug. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Southerland	Willie A.	March 01	March 14, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Spivey	Mrs. Claude	March 06	March 6, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>

Stanfield	Barbara	Jan. 08	Jan. 10, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Stewart	Lola	June	June 27, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Strawn	Robert S.	Jan. 04	Jan. 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Sunday	Caroline Joyce	July 08	July 25, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Teal	Burvena	April 24	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Teal	John W.	March 24	
Templeton	Joseph Young	Oct. 21	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i> March 13, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Terrell	C. A.	March 06	
Thomason	George W.	May 27	June 12, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Thomason	Mrs. J. M.	May 03	May 08, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Thompson	Arthur	May 29	June 12, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Thompson	Darwin	Feb. 22	Feb. 29, <i>The Arab News</i>
Thrasher	Jane	March 27	April 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Tidmore	Lee Aner	Aug. 30	Sept. 05, <i>The Arab News</i>
Tidmore	Martha June	Oct. 27	Oct. 31, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Tucker	Billie	Feb. 07	Feb. 14, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Turner	James W.	Dec. 31, 1939	Feb. 07, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Turner	Thomas Walter	Jan. 25	Jan. 31, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Vanzandt	Herschel	March 19	March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Vaughn	Child of Glenn	July 15	July 17, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Vaughn	Joe	March 19	March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Vest	John, Jr.	March 26	March 27, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Warthy	Ben. J.	March 02	March 07, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Webb	Alex	April 25	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Webb	Annie Mae	Feb. 16	Feb. 21, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i> March 20, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Wells	John	March 14	
Wells	Willie Belle	Aug. 15	Aug. 22, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Wheeler	John Valentine	Nov. 23	Dec. 25, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
White	Betty Jean	Jan. 30	Feb. 08, <i>The Arab News</i>
White	Gordon Wayne	April 19	May 01, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Whitman	Mrs. H. R.	June 24	July 03, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
Wiggins	Ransom E.	April 10	April 11, <i>Boaz Leader</i>
Williams	Mrs. Thomas W.	Feb. 19	Feb. 28, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>

Marshall County

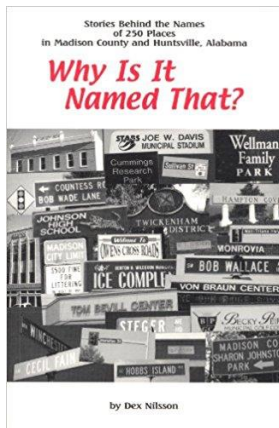
Wilson	J. F.	Jan. 12	Jan. 18, <i>The Arab News</i>
Wilson	Rebecca	Aug. 09	Aug. 15, <i>The Arab News</i>
Wright	Robert I.	Dec. 08	Dec. 25, <i>Advertiser-Democrat</i>
York	B. I.	Feb. 22	Feb. 29, <i>The Arab News</i>

Book Review

Why Is It Named That?

Stories behind the Names of 250 Places in Madison County and Huntsville, Alabama

John Dexter Nilsson, *Why Is It Named That? Stories behind the Names of 250 Places in Madison County and Huntsville, Alabama*. Twinbrook Communications, Huntsville, Alabama 35805. Copyright 2003, 2005. 129 pages. Softbound. \$13.95.



Where did the name of that street come from? Or the county? Or that park? Dex Nilsson asked those same questions, and then answers them in this book. The first chapter briefly explaining the beginning of Madison County and Huntsville. The rest of the chapters are divided up into specific topics of interest with the names in alphabetical order. There are a couple of pages with pictures with brief explanations. The book also contains a bibliography, corrections and comments, and an index.

The author wrote this book as a result of curiosity. Who was that street named after? That building? Mountain? Park? He says “it’s not a formal history,” but “contains a lot of history.” Much of the research was obtained from local libraries, cemetery records, and internet files.

Nilsson was born in Washington D.C. and raised in Indiana. He moved to Huntsville in 1954 when he went to work for Thiokol Chemical Corporation’s Redstone Division. In 1966, he and his family moved to Maryland, where he wrote and published *Discover Why It’s Called..., how 190 places on the Maryland Eastern Shore got their names*. He also wrote *The Names of Washington, D.C.*, containing 275 stories about places in the capital city. In 2001 he retired and moved back to Alabama and wrote this current book. Since no one person can write a book like this alone he graciously acknowledges those who helped bring this to fruition.

I love this book! There is enough information to keep you interested and not feel like you are reading a textbook. A definite must for a coffee table of long-term residents or a “go to” guide for those new to the Huntsville and Madison County area. When I moved to Huntsville I noticed Spragins Street downtown. My husband’s great grandmother was a Spragins, so needless to say I was thrilled when I saw the research in this book!

For a sneak peek: how did Pill Hill get its name? How about Bide-A-Wee Drive and Neal Road?

Pill Hill. The hilly area from Governors Drive, south to Drake Avenue, and east of Whitesburg Drive is known as Pill Hill because of the many doctors who have homes there.

Bide-A-Wee Drive. It's Scottish and to a Scot, the name means “stay a while longer” or “linger awhile.” A literal translation might be “stay a while.”

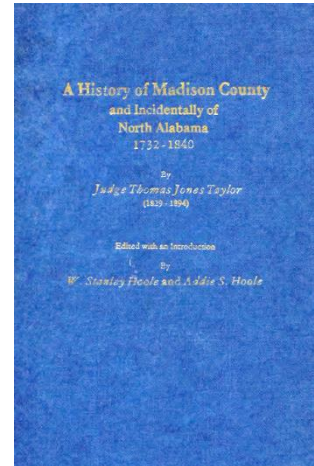
Neal Road. You will have to look in the book for that answer.

Toni Wright

A History of Madison County and Incidentally Of North Alabama 1732 - 1840

Judge Thomas Jones Taylor, *A History of Madison County and Incidentally of North Alabama 1732 – 1840*. Edited by W. Stanley Hoole and Addie S. Hoole. University, Alabama. Confederate Publishing Company, 1976. 121 pages, softbound.

Judge Thomas Jones Taylor provides an insightful first person account of the history and the early settlement of Madison County. Beginning with the occupation of the lands by the Chickasaw and Cherokee and the subsequent cession of their homeland at differing timeframes, he skillfully describes the transition of ownership claims from the State of Georgia, corrupt land companies, to the United States sale of the land and recognition as the Mississippi Territory, and finally as the Alabama Territory which quickly transitioned to the State of Alabama in 1819. Judge Taylor peppers his narrative with the names of early settlers and their descendants, and it is interesting to note that many of these names are recognizable today through the continuation of family ties and geographic names of communities, roads and historic cemeteries.



The book is divided into two major parts. *Part I, The Early History, 1732-1820*, describes the beginnings of region to the Tennessee Valley from 1818 to 1820. *Part II, The Later History, 1820 – 1840*, provides the reader with an understanding of the rapid growth that occurred from that small settlement beginning at the Big Spring, or even earlier at New Market, to the opening of New Madison for settlement. Throughout the author’s personal weaving of stories, the reader gains an understanding of those early pioneers and the names associated with the settlement of the lands that currently span the borders of Madison County. Judge Taylor’s narrative not only describes the settlement of the territory, but he also writes about events that closely paralleled the history of the United States. From westward expansion, the War of 1812, and the final removal of the ancient tribal groups, he describes the lives of those hardy pioneers and how they cleared the land and began the successful formation of communities and a governance that continued to expand with the growth of Madison County, Alabama.

Judge Taylor originally wrote the content of the book as a series of articles for the *Huntsville Weekly Independent*. The editors, W. Stanley Hoole and Addie S. Hoole, diligently researched and located partial files in the Elbert H. Parsons Public Law Library and the University of Alabama Library. They later discovered six additional chapters that were privately owned by Miss Ida Hamner whose brother, Dr. George W. Hamner, meticulously copied the complete version of Judge Taylor’s work. The editors skillfully organized the individual articles into the current book version.

This writer originally read the manuscript in *Valley Leaves* (TVGS, 1969) and finds the organization of the current book conducive for easy reading and research of early Madison County history. As a descendant of early pioneers mentioned such as the Ledbetters, Brazeltons, Allisons, Birdwells, Colliers and McGahas, I read with pronounced interest of their early location and roles with settling the lands of Big Cove and New Madison. Any individual

interested in learning information of early Madison County settlers that is not found in most descriptions of current history books will enjoy reading this account. The author takes the reader on a personal journey into the lives of Madison County's earliest settlers and creates a better understanding of how this county evolved from tribal hunting grounds to early communities and governing councils that opened the way to the Madison County, which flourishes today.

As with any work of history, this writer encourages the reader to read with attention to detail. Maintain an open mind to the accuracy of the work and continue to search for documents that will substantiate the stories so skillfully woven into this engaging history. As this reader discovered there are some inaccuracies of family relationships described in the book. Read the book with interest, but with attention to detail.

Melvina Pritchett Phillips

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



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Valley Leaves

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