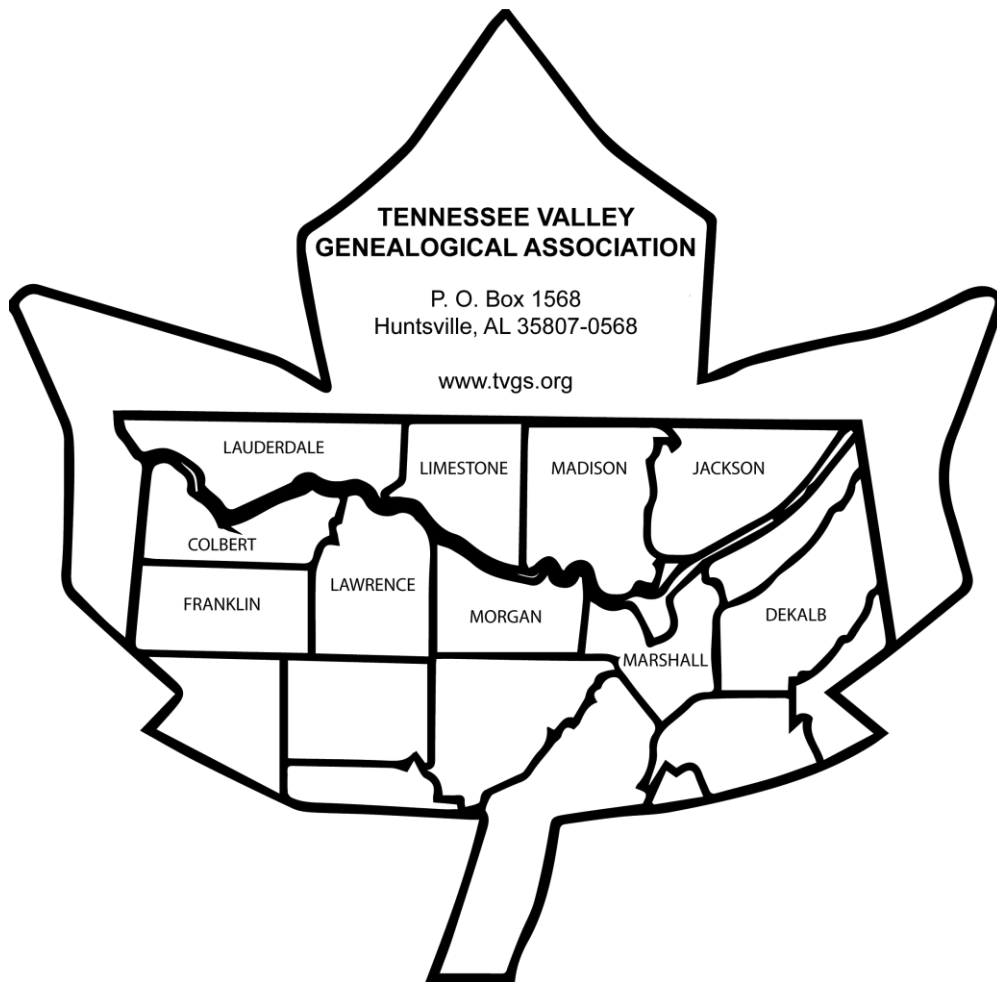


TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
of North Alabama

Valley Leaves

A BI-ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATION



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Valley Leaves

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 3-4
SPRING 2019

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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.

Regular Membership Meetings

Thursday, July 25, 2019, 7:00 pm
Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

Genealogy Roadshow 2019 -- Dr. George Marchelos, a certified appraiser of antiques and personal property, will return for this popular event. Bring an antique or vintage item for a value assessment, or just watch and learn!

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7:00 pm
Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

The Sarah Huff Fisk Collection -- John Rankin will discuss his latest digitizing efforts to catalog this large manuscript collection featuring many local families of Madison County and the surrounding area.

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Things You Should Know

TVGS Needs New Officers and Board Members

Without You, There Is No TVGS

In July of 2020, TVGS will have a 90% turnover in officers and board members. We need members to volunteer to assume an office or become a board member so those presently serving will have the time to assist and mentor those volunteering. Please email TVGS at kgarstka@wowway.com and we will answer any questions and concerns you may have. There are many opportunities to serve; this is *your* society, and your participation is vital if TVGS is to continue serving genealogists in the North Alabama area. Please contact us today!

TVGS Renewals are due in July

Don't forget to pay your dues! Use the form on page 124 to send with your dues to make sure you keep up with all the TVGS news. Thank you.

TVGS Meeting News



The January meeting featured Archivist/Lecturer Drew Adan and Reagan Grimsley, Head of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. They discussed the basics of searching archival collections, highlighted new acquisitions in their local history holdings, and presented an update on the Dr. Frances Roberts papers.

The April Program, *Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Special Collections Tour*, was a great opportunity for members to see the library's genealogical treasures and learn how to access them. The tour covered the Special Collections department, which includes the Heritage Collection, Archives, and Microfilm collections. TVGS members were allowed to tour the archives room, see rare books, community collections, and rare pictures. Archivist Shalis Worthy showed us the archives; Caitlin Monroe talked about the family files and book collections, and David Lilly described the map and microfilm collections.



The tour started with an introduction by Archivist Shalis Worthy in the Rane Pruitt Room on the third floor. From there we broke into two groups to visit the Archives room and other areas of the Heritage Collection.



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 December 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 December 14, 1819. If one of your ancestors qualifies, please join us by visiting tvgs.org.

First Families Certificates Awarded



Billy Clyde Moring and Alta Ann Moring Sanderson, both descendants of Joseph Criner, are presented with certificates by TVGS Past President and Corresponding Secretary Rhonda Larkin.



Dean Marlin, whose ancestor is Javan McVay, receives his certificate from TVGS First Vice President Angela Lucas.

TVGS Board Members Registered Attendees at *Family History Gaps: DNA for Health & Heritage*, an Alabama Bicentennial Conference last February



TVGS board members were on hand to register attendees at *Family History Gaps: DNA for Health & Heritage*, an Alabama Bicentennial Conference held February 2, 2019 at UAHuntsville. From left to right: Angela Lucas, Phyllis O'Connell, Rhonda Larkin, Cynthia Guffey, and Toni Wright. TVGS was a supporting partner for the conference.

TVGS Researcher now working for Ancestry ProGenealogists

Angela Lucas, previously our TVGS researcher for hire, is leaving that position and will no longer be serving in that capacity or taking private clients. She has accepted a job with Ancestry ProGenealogists and will be working on one of their Southern research teams. We wish her all the best!

Madison County

This article is from Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Dept. of Archives/Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama. It is transcribed by Coy Michael. Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of *Valley Leaves*.

Early Settlement and Development of North Madison County, Alabama, Part 1

By Alice McCrary Thomas

Madison County, which lies in the “great bend of the Tennessee River,” was claimed by the Cherokees and the Chickasaw Indians and had been claimed, at different times in its history, by France, Spain and England.

After the American Revolution, although most of the states ceded their claim to the government, Georgia refused to do so and held on to the claim she had of lands which included most of the present states of Mississippi and Alabama.¹

By an act of December 21, 1789, Georgia granted 25,400,000 acres of this land to three private companies for the total amount of \$207,580.00.² The Tennessee Company, one of the companies in this grant, acquired 4,000,000 acres for \$46,875.00. The present county of Madison was included in this purchase.³

Final payment by the companies, in depreciated paper money, was refused by Georgia. The companies could not make payment in specie and their preemption then lapsed. In 1795 Georgia again sold the land. In this sale four companies were included. The Tennessee Company again acquired

approximately the same area of land for which they had formerly negotiated. It was estimated that the price charged was two and one-third cent per acre, but it came nearer to being one and one-half cent.⁴ A general protest arose in Georgia over this sale. Although it was not known whether the sale was corrupt, the opinion was the action was ill-advised. When it was found that, with one exception, every member who voted for the grant was interested in some one of the companies, resentment of the act mounted to new heights, and when the legislature met February 13, 1796, the legislation was rescinded as having been in violation of the constitution.⁵ On April 24, 1802, through the efforts of President Thomas Jefferson, the Articles of Agreement and Cession were signed by the State of Georgia by which the United States agreed to pay \$1,250,000 for this land.⁶

The Cherokee and Chickasaw Indians’ claims to this land then had to be settled. The United States did not undertake to determine which of the conflicting claims were valid, but instead obtained treaties from each of the tribes. The title of the Chickasaws was acquired by the Treaty of

¹ Payton Jackson Treat, The National Land System 1785-1820. {New York, 1910}. p.357.

² *Ibid.*, p. 356.

³ Charles H Haskins, “The Yazoo Land Companies” Publication of American Historical Association -Vol 5. 1891. pp. 61-103. as found in Payton Jackson Treat, The National Land System 1785-1820. {New York, 1910} p.356 and map showing claim of

Tennessee Company, p. 348.

⁴ *Treat. op. cit.*, pp.356-357.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 358.

⁶ Clarence Edwin Carter (ed.) The Territorial Papers of the United States. The Territory of Mississippi 1798-1817. vol. V. (Washington, D.C., 1937), pp. 142-146

July 23, 1805 and the Cherokees conveyed their rights to the government in the Treaty of January 7, 1806. Both of these agreements were ratified on May 22, 1807, by the United States Senate.⁷

After the settlement of the Indian and Georgia claims, there were still private claims to be settled. Some of the claims had been made on the basis of the early companies who bought the land from Georgia and then sold it to individuals. Such settlements had to be confirmed or rejected.

Arrangements also had to be made for settlers who had moved into this region before the land was ready for public sale.⁸

In a letter dated March 30, 1807, Albert Gallatin, Secretary of Treasury, wrote Seth Pease, the Surveyor General, that an act providing for an establishment of a land sale office, in the ‘bend of the Tennessee’ had been passed. He informed Pease that he had contacted the Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn, as to what measures he intended taking, and that Dearborn was instructing Thomas Freeman, who was in the Mississippi Territory, to “proceed to the Tennessee River in order to run the said Indian boundary lines.” Gallatin suggested that as Thomas Freeman was also qualified to survey the land that he be allowed to do so while in that part of the territory.⁹

In a letter dated June 15, 1807, Thomas Freeman, then in Natchez, informed the Secretary of War that he would proceed to the “frontier” and establish the “boundaries between these Nations and the State of Tennessee agreeably to late treaties.”¹⁰

In a letter from the Secretary to Seth Pease dated August 31, 1808, he indicated that it

was very necessary that the survey of lands south of the Tennessee be completed because, he stated, “Settlers are on the land; on what grounds I do not know; but some have expressed anxiety for speedy public sales; and it is essential on many accounts that they should not be delayed.”¹¹

On October 25, 1808, Gallatin informed Freeman of an act to prevent settlement being made on lands ceded to the government until authorized by law. He explained that this act was to be used in discriminating between people who were on the land but made no claim of ownership and those who were there by force and did not intend to buy the land at the public land sale. He stated that the people who wished to remain on the land until the sale, with the idea of participating in it, were to be allowed to remain as “tenants at will” if they made application to this land to a Register. Gallatin authorized Thomas Freeman to act in the capacity of Register until one could be appointed.¹²

Madison County was officially created on December 13, 1808, by proclamation of Governor Robert Williams of the Mississippi Territory. In the proclamation, he stated, there “were several thousand inhabitants, having as yet no laws or officers among them.” He proclaimed the county created, “to the end that the inhabitants residing in the said tract of country may have the benefit of the law.” By an act approved February 27, 1809 The Territorial Legislature formally extended the laws of the Mississippi Territory to the newly created county of Madison.¹³

⁷ Richard Peters, Esq. (ed.) Treaties Between the United States and the Indian Tribes. Public Statues at Large of United States, Vol. VII. (Boston, 1846), p. 89 and pp. 101-104.

⁸ Treat., op. cit.,p. 167.

⁹ Carter., op. cit., pp. 540-541.

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 553-554.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 636-637.

¹² Ibid., pp. 658-660.

¹³ Harry Toulmin, Esq., A Digest of the Laws of the

On March 4, 1809, Thomas Freeman sent a communication to Gallatin from Nashville and enclosed the Madison County census taken in January of that year. As enumerated there were 2,223 white and 322 slave inhabitants in the county. There were 353 heads of families.¹⁴ In the same communication Freeman stated, "Other families are yet coming into the county tho strictly forbidden to make new settlements since the first day of January last - agreeable to my instructions on that subject."¹⁵

James Madison, President of the United States, issued a Proclamation of Public Land Sales on April 5, 1809. This sale was to take place in Nashville, Tennessee, and to begin the first Monday in August.¹⁶ John Brahan was appointed Receiver of Public Monies and William Dickson was appointed Register of the Sale.¹⁷

When the auction of lands of Madison County began on August 7, 1809, in Nashville, Tennessee, Township Two, Range One, East (the area used in the scope of this paper) was one of the first to go on sale.

In this Township, 36 men had made application to Thomas Freeman in January and February 1809.¹⁸ Of these 36 men only five bought. Two of these bought in 1809, but the other three did not buy until 1810. Of the five men buying in these land sales only one man, Jacob Pruitt, bought more than 160 acres. He bought a section of land at this time and then in 1810 added another quarter

section. He had registered in the January Census as having 15 slaves.

Of the 353 heads of families registering in the census only nine of these were people who bought land in Township Two, Range One East. This would indicate that most of the men who bought land in this area came to the county after the land was put on sale in Nashville.

Hezekiah Ford made the first purchase of land in this township, buying a quarter section on August 8, 1809. In this year, 25 settlers bought land in the Township. The amount bought by an individual ranged from one quarter section to a section of land. In 1810, 20 new settlers came into the township; in 1811, 24 settlers and by 1816 all but 560 acres had been bought in the township. The last of the 560 acres were bought in 80-acre plots. Most of the men who secured the small acreage were already owning land in the Township. In all there were 92 original settlers.¹⁹

In the 1815 Tax Census for Madison County, Mississippi Territory, 61 of the original settlers registered as having taxable land. Of these, only 10 registered as having a section of land or over; 14 registered as having 10 slaves or more. Most of the men had from 160 to 320 acres of land and from three to seven slaves. Nineteen did not register any slaves. The largest number of slaves registered was by James Fanning who listed 62.²⁰

State of Alabama. (Cahawba, Alabama, 1823). pp. 80-81.

¹⁴ Carter., op. cit., pp. 684-692.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 720.

¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 724-725.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 727.

¹⁸ Records of United States House of Representatives. Record Group 233.

Documents Relating to Mississippi Territory and Alabama, Madison County. "A Register of Application and Permission in Madison County,

Mississippi Territory - January - February, 1809.

National Archives and Record Service. General Service Administration (Washington, 1954). Microfilm.

¹⁹ Plat Book - Range East., Madison Court House - Huntsville, Alabama.

²⁰ 1815 Tax Census - List of Taxable Property of Madison County for the years 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1815. Department of Archives and History. State of Alabama. (1953) (Microfilm)

From the rather brief survey of available court and census records it seems evident that this Township was sold rapidly because of its fertile land. From these records it also appears that considerable amount of land were accumulated by men who owned, as a whole, fewer than 10 slaves when they came into the county.

Probate Court records and other available material in the county give some indication of the type of men who originally settled this Township. Of these men, five had been Revolutionary soldiers; they were Uriah Bass, Richard Cavitt, William Petty, Ruben Stone, and Major Daniel Wright.²¹

Uriah Bass, from indications in his will and in the settlement of his estate, came to this county from North Carolina. In one of the recordings of settlement of his estate, entitled "Inventory of Bonds, notes and accounts," there is a statement which reads; "Most of the foregoing accounts are old and out of date and good many old Bonds due in North Carolina."²² In the 1815 Tax Census, Bass gave the amount of his taxable land as 2000 1/4 acres and the number of slaves as 23. In the inventory of his estate which was probated on September 11, 1819, 68 slaves were listed and their names given.²³

An interesting picture of plantation life of that time may be glimpsed in the personal property recorded in the inventory of his estate. Among plantation items listed were; 58 head of cattle; 418 hogs; 10 horses; one set of blacksmith tools; 36 weeding hoes; 10 feather beds and furniture; three tables and two dozen "setting chairs;" three pairs of "hand irons;" one and one-half dozen large silver spoons; two dozen small silver

spoons; two dozen knives and forks; "1 pr. cards - 2 guns and one case pistols."²⁴

In his will Bass asks that his executors "lay off one year provisions for my white family and for the negroes which are hereinafter given to my wife". He also said "I lend unto my wife the plantation whereon I now live ... including the mill and the mill seat at the three fork of Flint river ..."

For each of his five unmarried daughters he left one half section of land. He left the following instructions concerning his sons; "It is also my desire that my Executor should give my sons a "Classical Education." In this will, he left 11 quarter sections of land in Franklin County to be sold for \$100,000. He left his married daughter 2000 weight of pork to be delivered the "ensuing season."

In all he left in Franklin and Madison Counties more than 4000 acres of land. In 1835, 16 years after the death of Bass, the slaves were divided among the sons. The division was in three lots. There were 55 slaves valued at \$21,900 which gave each legatee a value of \$7,800. Two sons, Uriah and William, drew lots but exchanged. Richard Bass, the third son, had died, but his lot was drawn by a representative.²⁵

In 1839 the final settlement was recorded on the Bass estate.²⁶ The Administrator was chargeable with \$40,428.33 and expended \$26,600.40, leaving a balance due the estate of \$13,827.93. Bass had come to this section of North Madison County in 1811 and had bought from the government one quarter section. In 1813 he acquired three more quarter sections through land patents. At his

²¹ Daughters of the American Revolution Roster - Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Madison County. Marker, North Side of Courthouse, Madison County, Alabama.

²² Probate Record, Vol. 2-5. Madison County, Alabama, Court House, pp. 112-116

²³ Probate Record, Vol. 3. pp. 32-34.

²⁴ Wills and Inventories - January 1818 to January 1820. pp.144-149.

²⁵ Probate Record., Vol. 7. p. 90.

²⁶ Probate Record., Vol. 8. pp. 9-15.

death he had lived in North Alabama 10 years.

Acquiring land about the same time as Uriah Bass was another Revolutionary soldier, Major Daniel Wright, who first patented a half section of land in the Township in 1809. This land adjoined that which Bass bought in 1813. In 1811 Daniel Wright's brother, William Wright, came and bought a quarter section and in 1813 acquired a quarter section adjoining that land. Daniel Wright's son, John Wright, Jr., also bought, in 1809, a quarter section of land adjoining that of his father's.

The Wrights came to North Madison County from Surrey County, North Carolina, although family records show that Daniel Wright was born on his grandfather's estate, "Pine View" in Farquier County, Virginia.²⁷ In an article on the Wright family entitled "The Wright family of Madison County, Alabama - Some descendants of Col. John Washington of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and of Richard Wright, of Northumberland County, Virginia and London." It is stated that the Wright brothers were the sixth generation to live in America - the son of Daniel being the seventh.²⁸ It is believed that Daniel Wright's father left Virginia and settled in Surrey County, North Carolina, because of family differences. Daniel was 15 years of age when he went with his family to North Carolina, and 17 when he enlisted in the 4th N.C. Regiment of the Continental Army with his father and brother, Thomas.²⁹

In the 1810 Tax Census Daniel gave as his acreage 960 and the number of slaves as

seven. He died in 1839 at the age of 79 having lived in North Madison County 29 years.

His will, made on July 2, 1837, mentioned five children and three grandchildren. It would seem from the settlement of the estate that he left his property to his children. To his daughter, Nancy Shackelford, whose husband was one of the original settlers in this part of the county but she died in 1817,³⁰ he left along with other land, his plantation home. He asked that his "old cook" Ann be set free at his death to be at liberty to live "with who she may please." On each of his grandchildren he settled \$500.³¹

In 1822 John Wright sold the quarter section of land he bought originally.³² And shortly after his father's death he and his wife Mary Yarwell Wood Wright sold the part of the estate left him by his father³³ and moved to Mississippi where he died in 1847.³⁴

William Wright came to the county at the age of 32. In the 1815 Tax Census, he gave the amount of land he owned as 160 1/4 acres and the number of slaves as eight. He died August 12, 1825, at the age of 54 and left a personal estate valued at \$8,776.25. Included in the estate were 22 slaves.³⁵

Another of the original settlers who became closely associated with both of the Wright brothers was Thomas McCrary, who entered two quarter sections of land in 1809 and another quarter section in 1810. His land lay between the two brothers and he later married a daughter of each. McCrary, a native of South Carolina, was only 20 years

²⁷ Charles Arthur Hoppin, "Some Descendants of Richard Wright, Gentleman, of London, England and Northumberland, Va. 1688" *Tylers' Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. (July 1919-Apr. 1920.)

²⁸ *Tylers' Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. Vol. 8. pp. 194-290.

²⁹ James Long Wright, Sr. *The Wright Family History*

and Genealogy. 1633-1946. "Santa Barbara, CA." p. 49.

³⁰ *Orphan Court Minutes*. = 1817. pp. 89-90

³¹ *Probate Record*., Vol. 8. pp. 354-355.

³² *Deed Book*. Vol. N. p. 378.

³³ *Deed Book*. Vol. R. p. 144.

³⁴ Wright., op. cit., p. 51.

³⁵ *Probate Record*. Vol. 3. p 327.

old when he came to this township.³⁶ Records indicate that he paid cash for his land.³⁷ Thomas McCrary married Betsy Wright, daughter of Daniel in 1812.³⁸ They had three daughters and a son, who died in infancy. The daughters married into families of early north Madison settlers.³⁹

In the 1815 Tax Census, McCrary gave as the amount of taxable land, 400 1/4 acres and the number of slaves as nine.

In 1823 he married Nancy, daughter of William Wright, Betsy having died in 1821.

By 1840 Thomas McCrary had 65 slaves, 34 were employed in agriculture and three in manufacturing.⁴⁰

In the 1850 Census Thomas McCrary gave his age as 59; he listed a son, William, his wife and two of his wife's sisters as members of his family. He gave his occupation as "farmer."⁴¹ In the Slave Census of that year he listed 89 slaves along with their ages.⁴² In the Agriculture Census he listed improved land as 950 acres and unimproved as 1300. He gave the cash value of this real estate at \$15,000. He valued his farm implements at \$1,000; and gave the following information on his livestock, which he valued at \$3,932; mules 15; cows 16; work oxen 14; other cattle 49; sheep 50; swine 360. as to products raised he gave the following information; Indian corn 9,000 bushels; oats 2,100 pounds; bales of cotton

155; wool 150 pounds; peas and beans 800 bushels; Irish potatoes 130 bushels; sweet potatoes 500 bushels; butter 800 pounds; wheat 70 bushels; rye 10 bushels. He valued home-made merchandise at \$300 and slaughtered animals at \$600.⁴³

In the 1860 Census McCrary again listed his occupation as "farmer," although by that time he had interests in several businesses.⁴⁴ He valued his real estate at that time at \$41,600 and his personal estate at \$130,670.⁴⁵ Thomas McCrary died August 31, 1865, just at the end of the War Between the States, and left no will. His estate was declared insolvent and a partial settlement under a decree of insolvency was ordered by the courts. The last settlement found was dated November 29, 1870, at which time, \$13,496.78 was paid out, by the estate, to creditors.⁴⁶ He died at the age of 76 and had lived in North Madison County 56 years.

One of the wealthiest settlers coming into this township was Robert Thompson. He came from Petersburg, Georgia, and entered a section of land in 1809.⁴⁷ In the 1815 Census the amount of taxable land was given as 1,120 acres and the amount of slaves owned as 44 (the average number of slaves in this Township at this time was between five and 10.) He died in 1829, having lived in this county for 20 years. On June 16, 1829, he made a nuncupative will, Emily Pleasants wrote it at his dictation and

³⁶ 1850 Census Population Schedule. Alabama. National Archives. Microfilm No. T6. Roll 8. (Washington, DC)

³⁷ Receiver Ledger Credit System - Huntsville, M.T. Vol. A. dated 1809-1811

³⁸ Thomas McCrary. Family Bible.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ 1840 Population Census. 6th Census of the United States. National Archives and Record Service Administration. (Washington, 1934) (Microfilm)

⁴¹ 1850 Census. op. cit.

⁴² 1850 Population Schedule. Alabama. National Archives. Microfilm No. T6. Roll 16. (Washington, D.C.)

⁴³ 1850 Agriculture Census. Alabama Federal Census. Madison County. Book No. One. Agriculture Census 1850. Vol. #11. (Department of Archives and History, State Alabama. 1953). (Microfilm)

⁴⁴ Thomas McCrary Family Records and Huntsville Directory 1859.

⁴⁵ 1860 Population Schedule. Alabama. National Archives. Microfilm No. T7. Roll No. 3. (Washington, D.C.)

⁴⁶ Guardian Settlement. Vol. 2. pp. 684-685. and Probate Minute Book. Vol. 13. p. 517.

⁴⁷ Receiver Ledger Credit System- Huntsville, M.T. Vol. A. Dated 1809-1811.

Thomas Bibb and Dr. James Manning were present when it was written. He asked in his will that one of his slaves and the slave's wife be liberated and given \$100. He left Judge Chapman a house and lot and \$500; he left John C. Thompson a horse, saddle and bridle and the sum of \$500. All the remainder of his property he left to be divided between Thomas Bibb and Dr. Manning. Judge Chapman would have no part of the will, but Bibb and Manning accepted the bequest and became administrators of the estate. At his death his personal estate was worth \$59, 504.49.⁴⁸

Editor's Notes: Errata in the Daniel Wright article:

1. Daughter Nancy Shackleford was alive in October 1838 when she signed a document in the will papers of her father's will administration. She did not die in 1817 as reported by the author.

2. The article implied that Daniel Wright may have left his plantation to his daughter, Nancy Shackleford, but his will states that he gave both real and personal property to his children.

WILSON- -WARD — Married at the Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Jan. 25, 1872, by Rev. Dr. Banister, Mr. Leroy H. Wilson, to Miss Ellen Ward, daughter of Mrs. Ellen Ward – all of Huntsville. The newly wedded have our best wishes that they may experience long life and perfect bliss.

Huntsville Weekly Democrat, February 1872

Dissolution of Co-Partnership

The Co-Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, in the Homeopathic Practice, was dissolved on the first day of January '62, by mutual consent.

A. R. Burritt, M.D.

Sam'l P. Hunt, M.D.

Jan8 '62.

N.B. All settlements of accounts with Burritt and Hunt, must be made with the undersigned or an Agent appointed by him.

A. R. Burritt, M.D.

The Democrat (Huntsville, Alabama), February 19, 1862

⁴⁸ Probate Record. Vol. 4. pp. 460-461.

Henry Cook and Jane Lavinia Shelton

By Bettie Barnes Liebzeit
Third-great granddaughter

Henry Cook (1782-1850) was an early merchant in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. He was also a land speculator, an agent for the disposal of Native American lands in Mississippi when the Chickasaw were removed, active in Huntsville civic affairs and one of the developers of the Indian Creek Canal. By 1817 the Henry Cook family had moved to Huntsville, Alabama, with Henry Cook established enough to advertise his store goods in a local newspaper. His presence in Huntsville can be documented from as early as 1817 through 1829.

Henry Cook and Jane Lavinia Shelton were married in either Madison County, Virginia, or Orange County, Virginia. Virginia marriage records document the marriage of Henry Cook and Jane Lavinia Shelton November 25, 1805 in Madison County, Virginia.⁴⁹ A page in the Richard Shelton Cook and Elizabeth Mary Bond family Bible records, “Henry Cook, Father of R. S. Cook, was born in Rockingham Va. May 21st of 1782. Jane Shelton Mother of R. S. Cook was born in Spotsylvania Virginia, May 18th, 1785. Married to Henry Cook in Orange County, Virginia, on the 6th November 1805.”⁵⁰ A biography of Felix Grundy Norman, husband of their daughter, Jane Lavinia Cook, states that Henry and Jane were from Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

After their marriage in 1805, Henry and Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook moved first to Tennessee and then to Huntsville. They had the following known children: Mary Susan, John Henry, Amanda Catherine, William Oscar, Beverly Allensworth, Jane Lavinia, and Richard Shelton Cook, according to the heirs named in Henry Cook’s estate probate. The family followed a typical naming pattern for their children, using family names.

A reconstructed map of Huntsville from 1819 using land records shows the “store and dwelling of Henry Cook, merchant, cotton factor, and Clerk of the Corporation.” The building was located at the corner of Randolph Street and Washington Street, diagonally from Madison County Court House.⁵¹

Newspaper articles from the time document the merchant activities of Henry Cook in Huntsville. In 1817, he advertised merchandise from Philadelphia in his store on the North corner of the

⁴⁹ Ancestry.com, Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940 (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014), Ancestry.com, Record for Jane Shelton. <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FS1VirginiaMarriages&h=4134678&indiv=try>.

⁵⁰ Copy of family Bible pages, emailed by Wiley Clarkson to Bettie Liebzeit, August 17, 2017. Although not conclusively proven, sources state that Jane Lavinia Shelton’s parents were John Shelton and Susan Hord. (Whitaker, Mildred Campbell. *A History of the Shelton Family in England and America*. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1941. pg. 180.) The parents of Henry Cook are also not conclusively known. Some speculate the Henry Cook was son of Henry Cook (aka Heinrich Koch, 1755-1808) and Mary Magdalene Hudlow (1768-1825), both buried in the Cook-Dovel Cemetery, McGaheysville, Rockingham County, Virginia. (Information from Walter C Burgner, e-mail to Bettie Liebzeit, April 13, 2017. He lists the children of Henry Cook & Mary Magdalene Hudlow as 1. Jacob Cook, 2. John Cook, 3. Henry Cook, 4. Sarah Cook, 5. George Cook, 6. Elizabeth Cook, 7. Susannah Cook and 8. Margaret Cook.) Jacob C. Cook’s will, written in Sumner County, Tennessee, in 1825, appointed Henry Cook of Huntsville, Alabama as one of the executors of his estate and guardian of his minor children. The will was probated in 1842. (Sumner Co., TN, Abstracts of Will Books 1 & 2 (1788-1842)

⁵¹ Retrieved from <http://huntsvillehistorycollection.org/hh/index.php?title=1819> Huntsville Map by Sarah Huff Fisk.

public square.⁵² The ads appeared in weekly editions of the *Huntsville Republican* from September 16, 1817 through January 27, 1818. He also advertised “Feathers, Shoes, and Rye Whiskey, Kentucky Linsey Socks, a few barrels of ‘new’ flour, and a choice lot of Foreign Spirits, in trade for cotton during the season at its value.” He reminded his creditors, “Those in arrearages for last year will recollect my best efforts were requisite to indulge them, now in return theirs is looked for.”⁵³ In February, 1825, Boots & Brooks, Taylors, advertised that they had moved to the front end of Dr. Owen’s building, next door to Capt. Cook’s store. And in October 1827, Jared I. Sample advertised his blacksmith work on the north side of the public square, immediately back of H. Cook’s store.⁵⁴

Henry Cook was also involved in the civic affairs of Huntsville. November 20, 1819, Captain Cook was assigned to Beat No. 3, Battalion 2 of the Madison County militia.⁵⁵ On January 26, 1821, he signed a public notice as Secretary calling an election in February for five Trustees for Huntsville.⁵⁶ In February 1826, Henry Cook announced that he was running for Huntsville trustee. (It is not known if he was elected).⁵⁷

⁵² *Huntsville Republican* (Huntsville, Alabama), 16 Dec. 1817, Tuesday, pg 4. www.newspapers.com accessed Jan. 15, 2108 “FOR SALE BY THE PIECE OR OTHERWISE Direct from Philadelphia an entire fresh and well selected assortment of Merchandize consisting of such articles as are usually kept in stores; purchased with cash and great care during the great sacrifices made last winter on importations into our eastern Cities. The citizens of Huntsville and county of Madison, will please accept my best wishes for their very distinguished patronage, since my residence, I flatter myself, that an augmented continuance shall not prove inimical to your interest, knowing how it exists as respects your shopkeeper. H. Cook, Huntsville, N. corner public square. July 10.”

⁵³ Fisk, Sarah Huff. “1819 Huntsville as a Trading Center.” *Huntsville Historical Review*, vol. 33, # 1, Winter, Spring 2008, pg. 29

⁵⁴ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, AL) 23 Nov. 1827, Fri. page 4. www.newspapers.com accessed Jan 13, 2018. “BLACKSMITHS WORK. The undersigned returns his thanks to a generous public for the liberal patronage he has received from them, and solicits a continuance of the same; he having it now in his power to execute all orders in his line of business with neatness and dispatch. He intends keeping the best workmen in the country, can afford and by strict attention to business in person, to merit a share of public patronage. He keeps his establishment at the old stand, on the north side of the public square, and immediately back of H. Cook’s store, where HORSE-SHOEING will be done in the neatest manner. Planters and Farmers who wish to contract for their work for the ensuing year are invited to call and see him. JARED I. SAMPLE, Sept 27, 1827. N.B.—I have a lot adjoining my shop convenient for a wagon maker’s shop, which for that purpose can be had gratis.”

⁵⁵ *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, vol. 6, Summer Issue, 1944, pg 199.

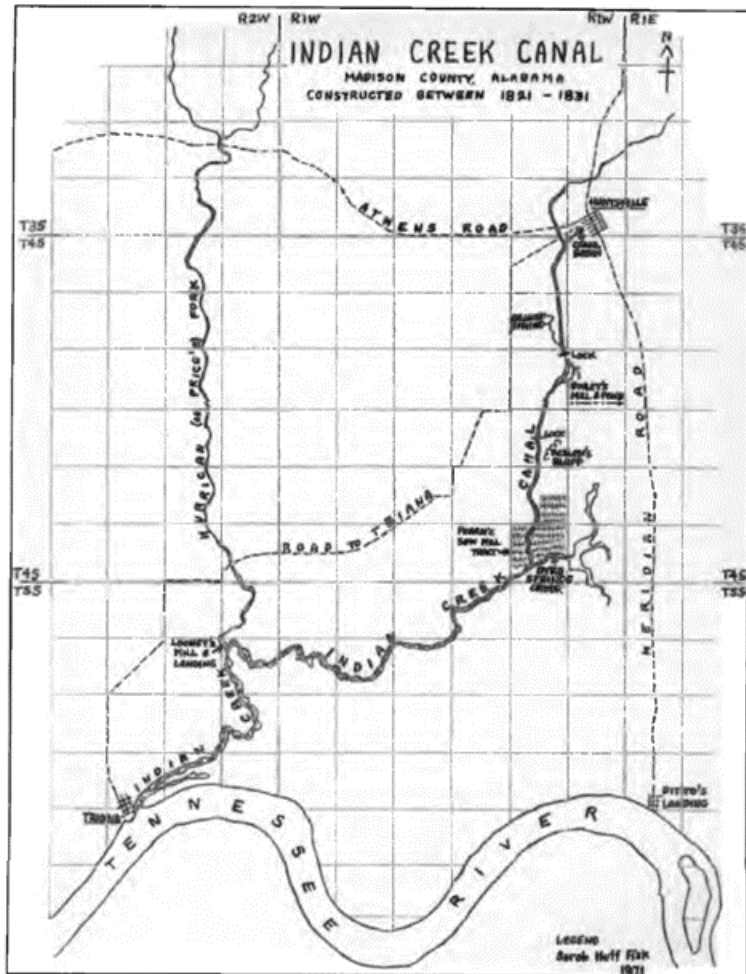
⁵⁶ Fisk, Sarah Huff. “Madison County’s First Courthouse.” *Huntsville Historical Review*, vol. 33, # 1, Winter, Spring 2008, pg. 34, quoting *Alabama Republican*, Jan. 26, 1821: Notice. . .On the first Monday in February next an election will be holden [sic] at the courthouse in Huntsville for the purpose of choosing five Trustees for said Town for the ensuing year. . .H. Cook, Secty..”

⁵⁷ *The Democrat*, (Huntsville, AL), 3 Feb 1826 Fri. page 3. www.newspapers.com accessed Jan. 15, 2018. “The friends to good order, intend running the following Gentlemen for Trustees for the town of Huntsville the ensuing election—John Beardman, Henry Cook, John Estell, B.S. Pope and Mathias Munn.”

Huntsville, in Madison County, is located north of the Tennessee River. Thomas Fearn, LeRoy Pope, Stephen S. Ewing, Henry Cook and Samuel Hazard established a company in 1820 to construct a canal on Indian Creek from the spring at Huntsville to the Tennessee River town of Triana. The goal was to lower the cost of transporting cotton overland to market. On December 21, 1820, the Alabama legislature chartered the Indian Creek Navigation Company. The developers were named as commissioners with power to sell shares of \$50 each in the corporation. They were given the right of eminent domain, and the creek was to be made navigable for boats drawing ten inches of water. They were also given the right to levy tolls on boats using the canal at the rate of two dollars for every ton of freight a boat carried.

On March 30, 1821, an advertisement for the stock sale appeared in the *Alabama Republican* (Huntsville) signed by Pope, Fear, Ewing, Cook and Hazard. By August 31, 1821, the newspaper reported that the canal construction was proceeding rapidly. However, construction required more locks than anticipated, and by 1822 the enterprise slowed due to lack of money. To generate funds, a lottery was announced in 1825 which was unsuccessful, and by December 31, a refund was available to those who had purchased lottery tickets. Although the canal was not completely finished in 1827, an advertisement appeared in the *Southern Advocate* that stated, “The Indian Creek Navigation Company is prepared to ship cotton to the Tennessee river. It is not completely finished, but will admit the passage of boats.” At this point, Dr. Thomas Fearn and his brother, George, took over the project and invested their own funds.

The canal was finally finished in 1831. “On Tuesday, the 5th of April, 1831, intense excitement prevailed throughout the community. This epoch-marking event, greeted by assembled hosts, was embellished by the picturesque exhibition of two keel boats gliding up the canal and landing at the wharfs by the head of the Big Spring, where the cargo of supplies was discharged from one of them which had come from the river. The boats had a capacity of eighty to one hundred bales of cotton and fifty passengers.”



Indian Creek Canal, Sarah Huff Fisk, *Huntsville Historical Review*, Winter-Spring 2008, Vol 33 #1.

It is not known if Henry Cook sustained his investment in the canal to 1831 as Thomas and George Fearn seem to be the primary movers for the canal. The Panic of 1837 caused major financial losses, and George Fearn had to mortgage his property including his investments in the canal and the Huntsville Water Works which he owned. In addition, railroads were being built, and the canal never seemed to materialize into much.⁵⁸

Henry Cook invested in land sales. In 1822, he began buying city lots in Cold Water, now Tuscumbia, Alabama, site of a Cherokee village founded in 1780 named Oka Kapassa. On November 26, 1822, he bought lots 561, 562, 566, 572, 573, 598, 599, (Township 4-S, Range 11-2, section 9) and lots 474, 483 and 618. He continued his land purchases in Cold Water on May 1, 1824, with lots number 26, 22 and 44 where he was the assignee of William Donelson, Calvin Morgan and William W. Parham, respectively.⁵⁹

Cook's land purchases in Huntsville also continued. In 1827 he bought, at public auction, lot # 72 in Huntsville's historic Williams Street district which was originally purchased by LeRoy Pope in 1809. The lot was sold by Pope in 1816 to Alexander Wasson for \$60.00. In 1818, Wasson sold the lot to Jesse Searcy for \$700, and eight months later, Searcy sold the lot to John I. Winston for almost \$1400. In 1825, Catherine G. Brown bought the lot for \$1650, but in 1827, the lot was sold at public auction to cover her debts. Henry Cook was the highest bidder and paid \$525 for the lot. The lot continued to change owners and in 1830, Bartley M Lowe bought it for \$400.⁶⁰

In another land deal, on Feb. 22, 1826, a Samuel McGraw purchased land in Madison County from Leroy and Judith Pope. On Jan. 27, 1827, he gave Henry Cook and William Derrick a mortgage on a home in Huntsville.⁶¹ Henry Cook's other deed records spanning the years 1818 to 1832 include section 6, township 3, range 2 west (180 acres and stock—1818), unspecified land and slaves (1820), lots Eustis & Lincoln St, Huntsville (1825), lots 31 and 72 Huntsville (1827), lot 67 Huntsville (1828), and land in section 2, township 4 range 1 W (14.15 acres in 1832).

Besides investing in town lots in Tuscumbia and Huntsville, Henry Cook was also a land speculator in the Chickasaw Cession in Mississippi. Mary Elizabeth Young includes a table of original purchases of Chickasaw allotments over 10,000 acres. Included are Henry Cook, Pontotoc, Mississippi with 22,819.51 acres and Armisted Barton, (Cook's son-in-law), Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who entered 73,417,87 acres.⁶² The Bureau of Land Management has at least 28 entries to Henry Cook in the Chickasaw cession dating from 1838 to 1845.⁶³

⁵⁸ Betts, Edward Chambers. *Early History of Huntsville, Alabama, 1804 to 1870*. Montgomery: Brown Printing Co., 1909, revised 1916, pages 66-69. Betts cites newspaper articles in *The Alabama Republican* and *Southern Advocate* for information. Also, Fisk, Sarah Huff. "Huntsville's Indian Creek Canal." *Huntsville Historical Review*, vol. 33, # 1, Winter, Spring, 2008, pages 43-51

⁵⁹ Bureau of Land Management records, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>.

⁶⁰ , Fisk, Sarah Huff. "The Williams Street Area in the Early 1800's." *Huntsville Historical Review*, vol. 1, # 1, Jan. 1971, pages 19-20.

⁶¹ Coe, Carl Robert. *The Coe Families of Maryland and Virginia*. Updated 9-10-2017. www.rootsweb.com Notes about Letitia H. Coe.

⁶² Young, Mary Elizabeth. *Redskins Ruffleshirts and Rednecks, Indian Allotments in Alabama and Mississippi, 1830-1860*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961, pg 131.

⁶³ Bureau of Land Management Records. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov> for Mississippi, accessed 17 Feb 2018. The Itawamba Historical Society, Inc. "Early Deeds of Itawamba County, Mississippi." The Itawamba Historical Society Online. <http://www.itawambahistory.org/herald2.html> (Feb. 16, 2018).

The Chickasaw lands in Mississippi were offered for sale by 1834. In the 1820s and 1830s the leading Chickasaw politician was a “half-blood” named Levi Colbert. There was a conflict within the Chickasaw nation about Colbert’s influence and policies especially regarding the Chickasaw treaty under the Indian Removal Act. The issue was whether certain tribal leaders would be able to sell their land individually or if the lands were held by the entire tribe and the proceeds be used for the entire group. Colbert and others he led tried to defeat the ratification of the treaty. Failing that, they tried to block execution of the treaty and were successful in getting the treaty terms renegotiated.

“The role of white land speculators in this controversy is suggestive. John Terrell, a planter of Marion County, Alabama, had long served as a ‘special agent’ to propagate a spirit of emigration among the Chickasaws and Choctaws. Henry Cook was a Tuscumbia, Alabama, merchant who later speculated heavily in Chickasaw allotments. On October 10, 1832, Terrell informed Cook that Levi Colbert was completely dissatisfied with the treaty, since Coffee [John Coffee, US government treaty negotiator] had refused to listen to any Chickasaw proposals. He asked that Cook be present at a meeting to be held at the Monroe County courthouse the first Monday in November, 1832, where a formal protest against the treaty would be prepared. ‘I know you have the confidence of Levi,’ Terrell exulted. ‘Nothing can be lost but much can be gained. ... I gave Coffee rope. Now let us draw it up.’”⁶⁴

It is not known if Henry Cook attended the meeting, since his wife, Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook, died on Tuesday, November 6, 1832. However, the connection between Levi Colbert and Henry Cook is also documented in a letter in the Draper Collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society in which Josiah Walton, brother of Catherine Walton Cook (Henry Cook’s daughter-in-law) stated he knew of Levi Colbert selling Henry Cook of Huntsville, Alabama, “. . .800 of the finest steers I ever saw.”⁶⁵

References to Henry Cook can be found in court cases. On May 22, 1829, the *Democrat* newspaper advertised a sale by the sheriff to the title or interests of George Campbell in a 35 acre land tract in “the Hickory Flat” to “satisfy said *fi fa* in favor of Henry Cook.”⁶⁶ In May 1829 newspapers described a case in the circuit court of Madison County, Henry Cook versus John H. Lewis and others including a James Armour who is not a resident of the county. The court

⁶⁴ Young, pg 43.

⁶⁵ E-mail correspondence between Lynette Schroeder and Bob F. Thompson, great-great grandson of Susan Walton Miller, July 2000. Mr. Thompson states that William Oscar Cook’s farm near Okolona, MS, was listed in the tax rolls as initially owned by Henry Cook. Mr. Thompson donated the extensive Hugh Reid Miller papers to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Catalog Z/2215.000/S/

⁶⁶ *The Democrat* Huntsville, Alabama) 22 May 1829, Friday, page 4. www.newspapers.com, accessed Jan 13, 2018. *Fi fa* is short for *fieri facies* which is a writ of execution after a judgement is obtained in a legal action for debts or damages.

orders that Armour appears to the court by October to answer the complaint. The nature of the complaint is not described in this article.⁶⁷

The Cook family was still in Huntsville in December 1825 when the eldest daughter, Mary Susan, daughter of Capt. Henry Cook, was married to Reverend John M. Holland.⁶⁸

By 1829, the Cook family seems to have moved from Huntsville to Tuscumbia, Alabama. *The Democrat*, a Huntsville, Alabama, newspaper, carried the story of Amanda C. Cook marrying Armstead Barton on January 20, 1829, in Tuscumbia.⁶⁹ Therefore, by the 1830 census, both Mary Susan and Amanda Catherine were married and not at home.

The 1830 Federal Census, Franklin Co. Alabama: Henry Cooke: 10 whites and 16 slaves listed for a total of 26 persons in the household. Whites: 1 male between 40-49 (Henry, aged 48) 1 boy under 5 (probably Richard Shelton, age 2), 1 boy aged 5-9 (?), 1 boy aged 10-14 (probably Beverly Allensworth) 1 boy aged 15-19 (William Oscar, aged 19), 3 males between 20-19 (probably John Henry, aged 24, other 2 not known); females: 1 girl between 5 and 9 (Jane Lavinia, age 6); 1 female between 40-49 (Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook, age 45). It is possible that there were other children who died prior to the probate of Henry Cook's estate in 1850. Sixteen slaves are also listed.

Henry Cook continued to invest in transportation projects after moving to Tuscumbia. In 1830, the Alabama legislature passed an act of incorporation for the Tuscumbia Railroad Company. On May 1, 1830, the stockholders elected a Board of Directors: Micojah Tarver, A[rmstead] Barton, (son-in-law of Henry Cook) James Elliott, B. Merrill, Phillip G. Godley, John Kennedy, D.S. Goodloe, John Sutherland, Jr., John F. Pride, John Haynie (father-in-law of Beverly A. Cook), Henry Cook, Thomas Kennon and David Deshler. The railroad was built for two miles between Tuscumbia and the mouth of Spring Creek called the Tuscumbia Landing. The cars were pulled by horses and began operation in the spring 1832.

After the death of Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook, November 6, 1832,⁷⁰ Henry Cook seems to have focused his attention more on land speculation in eastern Mississippi. In 1834, a newspaper advertisement posted by W.R. Hunt, jailor in Huntsville, asked for Henry Cook to collect a slave girl.⁷¹ And in 1837, an advertisement appeared for sale of the tanning business of Abraham Long

⁶⁷ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Alabama) 24 Jul 1829, Friday, page 1. www.newspapers.com, accessed Jan. 13 2018

⁶⁸ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Alabama). Fri., Jan 6, 1826, page 3. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/348638678>, accessed on January 15, 2018. "MARRIED-On Tuesday Evening by the Rev. Wm. M'Mahan, The Rev. John M Holland, Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to Miss Mary Susan the Eldest daughter of Cap. Henry Cook, all of this Town."

⁶⁹ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Alabama) 30 Jan 1829, Friday, page 3. www.newspapers.com Accessed Jan 13, 2018. "MARRIED—In Tuscumbia, on the 20th inst. By the Rev. Francis A. Owen, Mr. Armstead Barton, to Miss Amanda C. Cook, daughter of Capt. Henry Cook, all of that place."

⁷⁰. Her headstone reads, "Jane, Consort of Henry Cook. Born May 18, 1785. Died Nov. 6, 1832." Oakwood Cemetery, Tuscumbia, Alabama

⁷¹ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Alabama). 10 Sep 1834, pg 1. www.newspapers.com accessed 1-13-2018. "Committed to the Jail of Madison County, Ala: on the 27th of August, a negro girl, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 3 inches high, rather spare made, black complexion, states that she belongs to Henry Cook, of Tuscumbia. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take her away, or she will be dealt with as the law directs. W.R. Hunt, Jailor, Huntsville, Ala. September 2nd, 1834."

and Henry Cook in Tuscumbia. Henry Cook also was selling his “Negroes” with the Tannery as well as his residence and several lots.⁷²

The 1840 Federal Census, Franklin County, Alabama, lists Henry Cook, male 40 thru 49, by himself. (There is an age discrepancy between the 1830 and 1840 census records.) It is probable that after the death of Jane Shelton Cook in 1832, Henry and Jane Shelton Cook’s youngest children went to live with Amanda and Armstead Barton. The 1840 Federal Census for Armstead and Amanda Cook Barton lists 1 male 5-9 (son Henry Cook Barton, age 8); 1 male 10-14 (maybe Richard Shelton Cook, brother of Amanda, age about 12); 2 males 39-49 (Armstead age 40 and ?); 2 females under 5 (Susan Elizabeth Barton age 4 and Anna A. Barton age 1-- daughters of Amanda and Armstead); 1 female 15-19 (maybe Jane Lavinia Cook, age 16, sister of Amanda and Richard); 1 female 30-39-Amanda, age 31).

Henry Cook died on April 29, 1850 in Tishomingo Co., MS. According to the 1850 Federal Mortality Schedule, Henry Cook’s occupation was “merchant,” and he died of typhoid. He was 69 years old and had been ill for 40 days. His obituary in *The Southern Advocate* stated that Capt. Henry Cook was many years ago a resident of Huntsville.⁷³ His headstone states that he was born in Rockingham Co., Virginia, May 21, 1782 and died April 29, 1850. “Rest here in peace till God calls thee up.” Both Jane and Henry are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama.

There is an extensive probate file in Tishomingo County, Mississippi for Henry Cook. The probate documents the heirs of Henry Cook as his adult children and James H Dobbins as guardian and attorney for the children of Beverly Allensworth Cook, deceased.

In 1854, his heirs petitioned the probate court to sell extensive properties in a variety of Mississippi counties. The final settlement was made in 1857. A total of \$84,400.95 was available for distribution to the heirs which was divided into equal shares of \$14,410.85. Subtractions were made according to the amount each “brought into hotch potch.” Wikipedia explains that this term used when an individual dies without a will as “blending, combining or offsetting of property (usually gifts) to ensure equality in later division of property.”

Susan Ferguson (Mary Susan Cook) stated that after her first marriage her father gave her “six Negroes, a man about fifty years old, a woman about thirty years old with one arm much shorter than the other, a natural deformity, and four children from six years old down to three months old which Six Negroes my father often told me he had paid in Virginia One thousand dollars for.” She was also given a section of land near Holly Springs in Marshall County, MS and another section of land in the same area “in Bond.” All her property was sold to pay off her first husband’s debts. She could not say the value of the land and left it to her brothers and sisters to decide if she should be charged for the last section of land.

⁷² *North Alabamian* (Tuscumbia, Alabama), Fri. Feb 3, 1837, page 3. www.newspapers.com accessed 1-15-2018.

“Valuable Property for Sale. The terms of Copartnership first agreed upon between Abraham Long and Henry Cook, in the Tanning business in this place, carried on in the name of A. Long & Co., is about to expire. We would see the Establishment, with several fine LOTS attached. Mr. Cook proposes to let his NEGROES go with the Tannery, and, if desired, his RESIDENCE, which is well calculated for a house of Entertainment, Waggon-yard, [sic] drovers, &c. with several convenient Lots. Also, a few elevated Building Lots, for comfortable family residences. A. Long, H. Cook. Tuscumbia, January 27, 1837.

⁷³ 1850 Federal Mortality Schedule, Tishomingo Co., MS. *Southern Advocate*, Huntsville, Alabama, June 12, 1850. “DIED-In Tishomingo Co., Mi., [MS}, on the 28th, Capt Henry Cook, many years ago a resident of Huntsville.”

Daughter Amanda Cook Barton stated that she had been given five slaves in 1831. They were listed as Louisa, age 27, valued at \$400; John, age 11, \$300; Liza, age 30, \$400; Liza's two children, \$100 for a total value of \$1,200. "You can put just such price as you all may think the Negroes worth at that time."

In 1831, son John Henry Cook received three slaves and a section of land (\$2,000). The slaves he received were "Boy Bob (\$500), Girl Betsy (\$400) and Little Bob (\$200). The gifts totaled \$3,100.

During his life, son Beverly Allensworth Cook was gifted a section of land in Itawamba Co., MS (\$2,500), and four slaves: "Negro Boy Solomon (\$500), Negro woman Margaret and child (\$600) and Negro woman Ruby (\$500). The property totaled \$4,100.

Jane Lavinia Cook Norman was given \$575. Sons William Oscar and Richard Shelton are recorded with no gifts.

The value of these gifts were subtracted from \$14,410.85, and each heir received that amount. There were also numerous claims against the estate brought by persons to whom Henry Cook sold land who claimed they had never received a proper title for the land.⁷⁴

Children of Henry and Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook

Mary Susan Cook, who used Susan as her first name, was the eldest daughter of Henry and Jane Lavinia Shelton. Her date of birth on her headstone is given as September 5, 1806. (1806-1808 according to census records). She married Rev. John M. Holland in Huntsville in 1826. After the death of John M. Holland in 1841, Susan married Thomas J. Hubbard and third, Robert Berryman (Berriman) Furguson. She died in 1895 and is buried in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Religious ties as well as family helped to form a large group which included the children of Mary Susan Cook and John M. Holland, their aunts, uncles and cousins as the kinship group migrated to Texas.

John Henry Cook's (1808-1874) headstone in Bryant Station, Milam Co., Texas, states that he was born February 26, 1808 (1808-1810 according to census records) He married Susan Martha Maria Lightfoot (1813-1896, born in Virginia) on October 13, 1831, in Franklin County, Alabama. They were married by Rev. Haynie who became the father-in-law of Beverly Allensworth Cook. Susan was also part of an extended family who moved from Virginia to Alabama in the early 1800s. Her maternal grandparents were Joel Franklin (1757-1807) and Susanna Lewis (1770-1855). Her parents were Ann Margaret Hensley Franklin (1796-1868) and John Wesley Lightfoot (1781-1822).⁷⁵

⁷⁴ Tishomingo County, Mississippi probate records for Henry Cook; RS Cook & FG Norman, administrators.

⁷⁵ This line is documented through the following sources: Wellborn, Bettie Lightfoot. *Book of Ancestral Records (for her brother's children in 1893) Greenland, Phillips County, Ark. 1893. Tri-County Genealogy, Arkansas (Monroe, Lee, Phillips)*, Vol 11, # 1, Spring, 1996. "Copied from Aunt Susan L. Cook Bible in Abilene, Texas, June 22, 1895." And *Franklin Bible Record*, Copied Mar. 24, 1935, by Mrs. E. S. Gregory, Tuscumbia, ALA. Property of Misses Mary and Sallie Garner, Barton Ala. Bible record is to be credited to Colbert Chapter D.A.R. 1936. Alabama Surname Files Expanded, 1702-1981 for Mary E C Franklin. <https://ancestry.com>. Accessed 8-13-2018. And Bible of Kate Weatherwax of Moulton, AL., the great-granddaughter of Sally Franklin Atkisson, daughter of Joel Franklin and Susannah Lewis. Posted October 10, 1998 on ancestry.com message board, //boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.kentucky.counties.barren/2990/mb.ashx

John Henry and Susan Lightfoot Cook had a home in Buzzard Roost (Cherokee), Alabama, and subsequently moved to Tishomingo County, Mississippi, by 1840. By 1851 John Henry Cook purchased land in Bastrop County, Texas. After the death of John Henry Cook, Susan Lightfoot Cook moved to west Texas with the family of their youngest son, Henry Barton Cook. She died in Abilene, Texas, in 1896. Her headstone reads, "Our Virginia Grandmother, Susan Lightfoot Cook, 1813-1896."

The third known child of Henry and Jane Shelton Cook was Amanda Catherine Cook, born June 4, 1809, in Sumner County, Tennessee. Amanda married Armstead Barton, son of Hugh Barton and Mary Shirley in 1829.⁷⁶ Armstead Barton amassed a fortune, built Barton Hall which is still standing in Colbert County and also speculated in land sales. He died in 1847 while the home, built with slave labor, was under construction. In the 1850 Federal census, Amanda C. Barton, age 38, is head of household with a worth of \$127,000. She died on July 7, 1884 in Colbert Co. Alabama. Armstead and Amanda are both buried in Rutland Cemetery, outside of Tuscumbia, close to Barton Hall.⁷⁷

William Oscar Cook, was born about 1811 in Tennessee, according to the 1860, 1870 and 1880 Federal Census. (The 1850 Census lists his birthplace as Virginia about 1816.) He married Lucy Catharine Walton, daughter of Jesse Walton and Joanna Lawson Hobson, another prominent family. The couple reportedly married in Cotton Gin Port, Mississippi, in 1834. There are letters from Catharine to her sister, Susan Grey Walton Miller (wife of Hugh Reid Miller), in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The first extant letter is dated April 6, 1835. Catharine writes to Susan to ask William Oscar (Mr. Cook) to bring back a double wedding band with their marriage date inscribed when he returns from a business trip. Lucy died in 1862 in Okolona, Mississippi and is buried in Pontotoc City Cemetery, MS. William Oscar died after 1880, as he was living in Chickasaw Co. MS with son William H and daughter Kate Walton Cook. Neither his will nor his grave has been located,

Beverly Allensworth Cook was born about 1816. He purchased land in Itawamba County, Mississippi and is listed there in the 1840 Federal Census with a wife and two young daughters. He died before 1849 as that was the date his wife, Elizabeth Brooks Haynie, married James Harvey Dobbin, her second husband. The Haynie family was prominent in the Methodist religion, and the Haynie-Dobbin family moved to Texas with the children of Elizabeth Brooks Haynie and Beverly A. Cook.⁷⁸ A letter from Mary E. Caroline Franklin Harrison to Susan Lightfoot Cook, dated March 22, 1849, states, ". . . [P]oor Bet Cook I sincerely sympathize with her in her bereavement. Will she stay here or go to her Father? How many children has she, and what is the prospect for living?"⁷⁹

⁷⁶ *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Alabama). 30 January 1829, Fri. page 3. www.newspapers.com Accessed Jan. 13, 2018. "In Tuscumbia, on the 20th inst. By the Rev. Francis A. Owen, Mr. Armstead Barton, to Miss Amanda C. Cook, daughter of Capt. Henry Cook, all of that place."

⁷⁷ See Barton family vertical file, Florence-Lauderdale Al. Public Library. See also "The Bartons," *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 7, # 4, Winter Issue, 1945.

⁷⁸ Crisler, Ransom B. *History of the First United Methodist Church in Tuscumbia, 1822-1976*. Florence-Lauderdale County Public Library. 976.1915 RAN-SPC. and Rossman, Loyce Haynie. *Reverend John Haynie; Ancestry, Life and descendants, 1670-1963. A Haynie Genealogy, their 1670 Virginia Roots, 1839 Texas trunk, nine limbs, many branches, twigs and some leaves*. Fredericksburg, Texas, Radio Post Printer, 1963. Digital copy on-line in FHL, Salt Lake City, accessed 2-15-2018.

⁷⁹ Palmer, Heather. *The Family of Sukey Lewis in the Plantation South*. Sherman, Texas: The Sherman Preservation League Press, 2008. Pg 107.

The youngest known daughter of Henry and Jane Lavinia Shelton Cook was Jane Lavinia Cook, born 22 February 1824 in Alabama. She married Felix Grundy Norman (August 17, 1848, in Dickson, Alabama) who was prominent in both Tuscumbia and Alabama. The family history is well documented. Felix Grundy Norman was a lawyer, represented Franklin County in the Alabama legislature (1841-1845 and 1847-1848), mayor of Tuscumbia and the Grand High Priest and Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Alabama. The Norman house in Tuscumbia is listed on the National Historic Register.⁸⁰ Felix Grundy Norman died in 1885, and Jane Lavinia Cook Norman in 1901. They are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Tuscumbia.

Richard Shelton Cook, born October 12, 1827, in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, was the youngest known son. He married Elizabeth Mary Bond, daughter of Page Bond and Jane Holland in February 6, 1857 in Maury County, Tennessee. The Bond family intermarried with the Cook family, and Jane Holland was related to Susan Cook Holland's first husband, Rev. John M. Holland. The Richard Shelton Cook family moved to Texas by 1861 when their first daughter, Sue Barton Cook, was born. By 1870, Elizabeth Bond Cook died; Richard Shelton Cook married Mary F. Blount and moved back to Colbert County, Alabama. In the 1900 Federal Census, Richard and Mary lived in Tarrant County, Texas, where Richard's widow applied for a Confederate widow's pension in 1913. Her application stated that Richard Shelton Cook died June 5, 1907.

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⁸⁰ See the National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service for Felix Grundy Norman House/The Norman House, for complete references used in the application.

Huntsville's John Campbell Greenway (1872 – 1926)

By Gilbert G. White III



Photo from [Who's who in Arizona](#), Vol I. (1913); Jo Conners, ed. Tucson: Arizona Daily Star. p 466.

John Campbell Greenway was born in Huntsville, Alabama, to Dr. Gilbert C. Greenway Sr. and Alice White Greenway. Dr. Greenway ran a medical practice and raised his family on Adams Street near downtown. Dr. Greenway and his wife Alice are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery at the White/Greenway family property.⁸¹

As a boy, Greenway spent time on his grandfather Addison White's farms and hunting camps in Jackson and Limestone counties hunting and being in the outdoors. He left Huntsville at an early age to attend Phillips Academy in Andover, MD.

Family: On both sides, Greenway was a direct descendant of a line of notable Americans dating to before, and during, the Revolutionary War including William Campbell, Isaac Shelby, Samuel McDowell, Ephraim McDowell, and Addison White. Addison White was the son of Col. James White the salt merchant and plantation owner. The community of Whitesburg south of Huntsville and Whitesburg Drive are named after James White.

Greenway's brother was James C. Greenway Sr. who married Harriet Lauder Greenway of the Lauder Greenway Family. His nephews include renowned ornithologist and Naval Intelligence Officer James Cowan Greenway and arts patron G. Lauder Greenway, longtime chairman of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Education: Greenway attended Phillips Academy, Andover, MD, followed by the University of Virginia for his undergraduate degree before earning a PhD in 1895 from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.⁸² Greenway was a member of the Book and Snake secret society, president of his class, and a member of the noted Yale Football teams from 1892–1895 that went a combined 52–1–2 and were national champions four years in a row. Immediately following his graduation, Greenway joined the Carnegie Steel Company where he worked briefly before enlisting in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry of the US Army at the outset of the Spanish–American War.

⁸¹ Maple Hill Cemetery, Huntsville, Alabama: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/24196/maple-hill-cemetery>

⁸² Greenway Alumni Association: <https://www.greenwayraiders.org/who-was-john-c-greenway/>

Spanish-American War:

Greenway volunteered for service in 1898 and joined Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders (Troop A – 1st Lt.) in the Spanish–American War. Originally commissioned a second lieutenant, he was then promoted to brevet then acting captain in the field by Colonel Roosevelt. Greenway earned a Silver Star for his courageous service at the Battle of San Juan Hill.⁸³



Greenway is referenced on numerous occasions by Roosevelt in his book *The Rough Riders* and a book of Greenway's own correspondence was

Colonel Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the top of the hill which they captured, Battle of San Juan, by William Dinwiddie. 1898. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

turned into a book entitled *It Was the Grandest Sight I Ever Saw: Experiences of a Rough Rider As Recorded in the Letters of Lieutenant John Campbell Greenway*

Business Life: After being removed from active duty at the end of the Spanish–American War in 1899, Greenway returned to steel and mining and held executive positions in a number of mine, steel, and railroad companies. He supervised development of United States Steel's open pit Canisteo Mine and Trout Lake Washing Plant in Coleraine, Minnesota, one of the first large-scale iron ore beneficiation plants in the world.⁸⁴ Following the successful commissioning of the Trout Lake plant, in 1911 Greenway was recruited by the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company (led by US Steel executives, the combined entity created by J.P. Morgan which included Carnegie Steel) to develop their newly acquired New Cornelia Mine in Ajo, Arizona. He developed the Ajo town site and developed the New Cornelia into the first large open pit copper mine in Arizona. Greenway also served for one year as a regent of the University of Arizona before the United States entered World War I.

World War I: Greenway was returned to active service as a lieutenant colonel at the dawn of America entering World War I. Originally based at Toul Sector, Greenway partook in the Battle of Cantigny, the first large-scale counterattack on German lines by the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) with the 1st Battalion of the 26th Infantry commanded by Major Theodore

⁸³ The Spanish American War Centennial: <http://www.spanamwar.com/rrroster.htm>

⁸⁴ The National Mining Hall of Fame Museum: <https://mininghalloffame.org/page/john-campbell-greenway>

Roosevelt, Jr., the son of Greenway's commander during the Spanish–American War, Theodore Roosevelt. During the war, Greenway would fight in numerous battles including Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Battle of Château-Thierry. Greenway was especially praised for his heroic conduct in battle and was cited for bravery at Cambrai. France awarded him the Croix de Guerre, the Legion of Honor, and the Ordre de l'Étoile Noire for commanding the 101st Infantry Regiment during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He also received a Distinguished Service Cross and the World War I Victory Medal. In 1919 Greenway was promoted to the rank of colonel of the infantry, and three years later he was promoted to brigadier general. Greenway's post-war military career included work with the Office of Naval Intelligence, the oldest branch of America's United States Intelligence Community.⁸⁵

Honorifics: In 1930 Arizona placed Gutzon Borglum's statue of Greenway in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection.⁸⁶ The statue remained there until being replaced in 2015 by one of Barry Goldwater; the Greenway statue was moved to the Polly Rosenbaum Archives and History Building near the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix.⁸⁷ A statue of Greenway's great great grandfather, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, was placed in the National Statuary Hall in 1929 by Kentucky making them the only direct relatives to share the honor. Greenway Road in Phoenix, Arizona, Greenway High School in Phoenix, Greenway Public Schools in Coleraine, Minnesota, and Greenway Township, Itasca County, Minnesota are named in his honor.⁸⁸

Funeral: John Greenway's funeral was held in Ajo, Arizona on Saturday, January 26, 1926. Five Pullman cars arrived. Over 3000 people were at the funeral, believable since nearly all of Ajo would have turned out. 17 of the 18 living Arizona Rough Riders were in attendance. Governor George Wylie Hunt and ex-governor Thomas E. Campbell were there. P. G. Beckett, Vice President and General Manager, Western Organization, Phelps Dodge Corporation" was also in attendance. The President of the University of Arizona (Cloyd Heck Marvin) and the President of Valley National Bank (C. E. Mills) were there too. The funeral directors called it the funeral of the century. Bi-planes flew overhead dropping flowers on the gravesite.

⁸⁵ John Campbell Greenway: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Campbell_Greenway

⁸⁶ Architect of the Capital: <https://www.aoc.gov/art/replaced-statues/john-campbell-greenway-replaced>

⁸⁷ Architect of the Capital: <https://www.aoc.gov/art/replaced-statues/john-campbell-greenway-replaced>

⁸⁸ John Campbell Greenway: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Campbell_Greenway

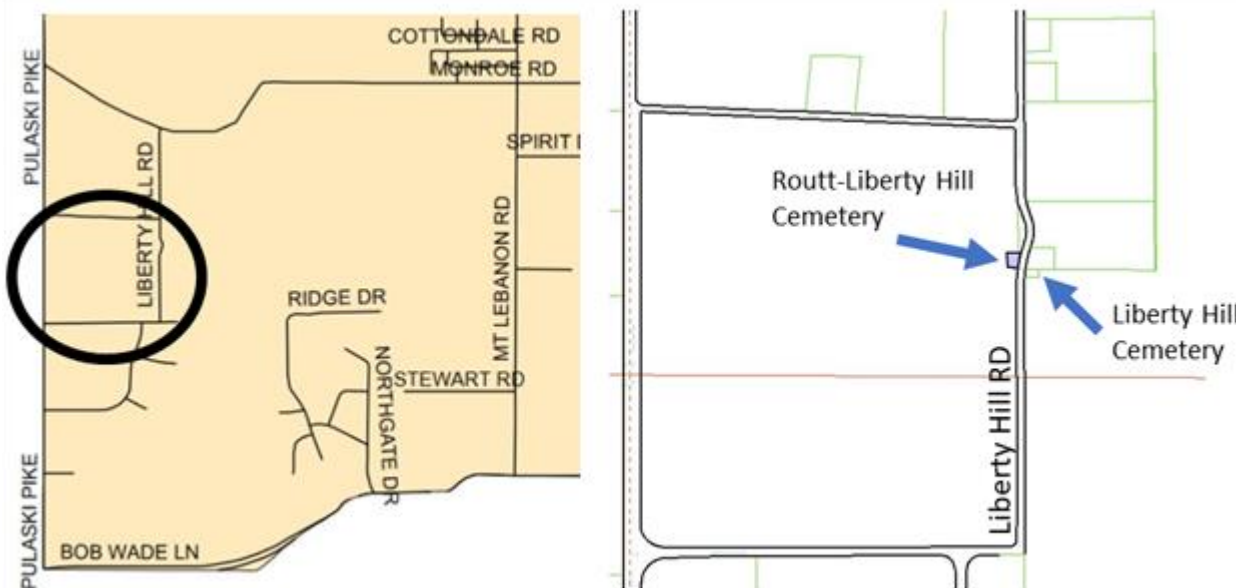
Reviving the Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery

Joy Caitlin Monroe

Joy Caitlin Monroe is an assistant in the Special Collections Department of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. She has a master's degree in public history with an emphasis in historic preservation from the University of North Alabama.

Madison County has hundreds of cemeteries and graveyards. Many are well-researched and well-kept, while others fall into disrepair. This is the story of one that, unfortunately, has not so gracefully withstood the tests of time. By being its caretaker, I hope to clean and map the cemetery, document its condition, add it to the state historic cemetery register, repair monuments, and establish a plan for its maintenance.

What and where is Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery? The cemetery is split into two sections, located on the east and west sides of Liberty Hill Road in Toney, Madison County, Alabama.



The image on the left is a portion of a Madison County District One map and shows a view of the area.⁸⁹ The image on the right is a portion of the tax assessor's map showing the cemetery's exact location.⁹⁰

Once considered a singular cemetery, it has over time become seen as two separate entities. There has been some debate regarding the name of the cemetery. Some modern sources name the west side as Routt Cemetery, while others call it Liberty Hill Cemetery.⁹¹ The east side seems to

⁸⁹ <https://www.madisoncountyal.gov/home/showdocument?id=64>

⁹⁰ <https://dreamaps.com/?site=madisoncoal&accesslevel=public>

⁹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2277532/routt-cemetery> Dorothy Scott Johnson's entry for "Liberty Hill Cemetery" in *Cemeteries of Madison County* lists the graves on both the east and west sides of the road and describe them as two portions of one cemetery. At some point, the cemeteries became seen as two separate entities, Routt on

have been consistently called Liberty Hill. It is the west side, comprised of 43 known graves, to which I have dedicated time and resources, and, for the purposes of this narrative, I will refer to it as the Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery.

The east and west sides have been treated differently where maintenance is concerned. Liberty Hill Cemetery, on the east side of the road, is currently in near-pristine condition; while the west-side Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery has fallen into ruin in recent years. I first became aware of the condition of the cemetery in the spring of 2017, while searching for a cemetery to document for a graduate school project. At the time, I was living and attending school in Florence and was unable to work on the cemetery in Madison County. When I moved back to Hazel Green in August 2018, I was finally able to do something about it.

When beginning a cemetery project, it is important to first identify the property owners and ask permission to work in the cemetery. In a previous cemetery project, this was simply done by using the tax assessor's online map.⁹² However, the owners of Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery proved much more difficult to identify. The tax assessor's map listed the owner as "Liberty Hill Cemetery," but what did that mean? How could a cemetery own itself? There was no contact person or information listed, and I could not find a record of any company by that name. I also had difficulty determining the district in which the cemetery belonged. Looking at a map, it could have been in Toney or Huntsville; however, I determined that the land surrounding the cemetery was owned by the city of Huntsville.⁹³ As such, I contacted the person in charge of city cemeteries, Joy McKee, city preservationist, Katie Stamps, and David Hitt, the president of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society. Each was helpful in guiding me along. In particular, I was reminded of the state cemetery law, which requires property owners to allow access to historic cemeteries for both descendants and researchers.⁹⁴ According to the law, I knew I should be allowed access. Fortunately, the cemetery is bordered by a public road, so I did not need to cross private property to reach it.

Those concerns abated, I turned to the next issue at hand: the cemetery's gate was chained and locked. Joy McKee informed me that the cemetery fell within Madison County District One and suggested I contact the commissioner since the county does not have a cemetery rehabilitation authority. Commissioner Jones and his assistant, Mrs. Moore, found contact information for Mr. Charles Brooks, the son of one of the interred individuals. After speaking with Mr. Brooks of Nashville, he gave me permission to access the cemetery and begin cleaning and documentation.

The cemetery was completely overgrown with weeds, brush, and small trees. I planned a clean-up day for February 16 and received a number of responses, but the weather was uncooperative. It rained most of the week, and that Saturday was bitterly cold and overcast. Despite the conditions, six resilient members of my family, a fellow public history graduate, and I put on our

the west side, Liberty Hill on the east.

Johnson, Dorothy Scott. *Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, Vol. 1*. (Huntsville: Johnson Historical Publications, 1971), 129-132.; Terry, Ezell Mr. & Mrs. "Liberty Hill Cemetery: Madison County, Alabama." *Valley Leaves: Volume 2, No. 3* (1968): 68-70.

⁹² <https://dreamaps.com/?site=madisoncoal&accesslevel=public>

⁹³ Toney is unincorporated, and its boundaries are difficult to define. The Huntsville city zoning map makes it appear the cemetery is bordered to the north by the city boundary and falls within the city

(<https://maps.huntsvilleal.gov/zoningdistricts/>). Also, the tax assessor's map shows the land surrounding the cemetery is owned by the city of Huntsville (<https://dreamaps.com/?site=madisoncoal&accesslevel=public>).

⁹⁴ [https://ahc.alabama.gov/cemeteryprogramPDFs/CemeteryAccess\(CodeofAlabama%C2%A735-1-4\).pdf](https://ahc.alabama.gov/cemeteryprogramPDFs/CemeteryAccess(CodeofAlabama%C2%A735-1-4).pdf)

coats and boots and spent the morning clearing the cemetery of all brush. With the brush out of the way, I was able to begin assessing the condition of the gravestones. Many of the stones are broken in pieces, and some appear to be missing altogether. I hope to eventually clean and repair the stones using methods and materials deemed safe by the Cemetery Conservators for United Standards.⁹⁵



Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery January 2019. This photograph was taken before cleanup began, looking north-northwest.

With cleaning under way, I next turned to gathering information about those interred in the cemetery. The application for the cemetery register requires a historical narrative. I began researching the cemetery and the individuals buried there this past winter. I have learned so much, yet I have only scratched the surface. Mr. Brooks told me there had once been a church somewhere near the cemetery. According to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church website, “On October 23, 1858, the congregations of the Bethlehem Church, near the Three Forks of Flint River, Madison County, Alabama and the Liberty Church nine miles west of Bethlehem, met in Meridianville, Alabama, with the Rev. W.D. Chadwick presiding, and organized the Meridianville Cumberland Presbyterian Church.”⁹⁶

Without more information, it is difficult to prove that Liberty Church was located near the cemetery. However, knowing the branch of the Flint River near Bell Factory was known as the Three Forks, I plotted a line from the intersection of Winchester Road and the Flint River over to the cemetery on Liberty Hill Road, approximately 8.7 miles. I also noticed many obituaries of

⁹⁵ <https://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/>

⁹⁶ <http://www.cumberland.org/hfepc/churches/MeridiAL.htm>

those interred at Routt-Liberty Hill remark that they were Cumberland Presbyterians. The obituary of Angeline C. Steele who died in 1854 describes her as a Cumberland Presbyterian and a member of the Liberty Church.⁹⁷ These clues suggest the cemetery may have begun as a church graveyard and transitioned to a family cemetery sometime after the congregation moved, though it will take further research to prove.



Robert Strong Monument. Robert Strong was the patriarch of the family buried at Routt-Liberty Hill Cemetery. His wife Lucy's gravestone has not yet been located.

Through initial research, I was able to trace a connection of most individuals buried in the cemetery to one couple: Robert and Lucy Strong. Robert Strong was born in Goochland, Virginia, November 20, 1802 and died May 22, 1856. Lucy J. Douglass was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, May 20, 1811 and died January 9, 1862.⁹⁸ Robert and Lucy were married by Henry W. Sale on January 15, 1828 in Madison County, Alabama.⁹⁹ The couple had nine known children, six of whom are buried at Routt-Liberty Hill.¹⁰⁰ The six are:

Martha Tabb (1828-1853), who married William Francis Hereford and had four children. Martha, William, and their daughter Lucy are buried in the cemetery.¹⁰¹

Mary Ann (1830-1905), who married William Thomas Johnson and had at least 10 children, five of whom are buried at Routt-Liberty Hill along with their parents. The Johnson children brought marriages and connections to the Darwin, Routt, Brooks, and Lawhon families which also populate the cemetery.¹⁰²

Lucy James (1839-1861), who married Isaac McClure Criner, the son of one of the first settlers of Madison County.¹⁰³ Though there is a discrepancy on her date of

⁹⁷ *The Southern Advocate*, March 22, 1854, p. 3.

⁹⁸ Vital dates for Robert and Lucy Strong were obtained from Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 132.

⁹⁹ Ancestry.com. *Alabama, Marriages, Deaths, Wills, Court, and Other Records, 1784-1920* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. This collection was indexed by Ancestry World Archives Project contributors.

¹⁰⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Lucy James Douglass Strong (20 May 1811–9 Jan 1862), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17751495](#), citing Routt Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor [46886992](#)). ; Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 132.

¹⁰¹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Martha Tabb Strong Hereford (25 Dec 1828–23 Jun 1853), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17941883](#), citing Routt Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor [46886992](#)). ; *The Southern Advocate*, July 20, 1853, p. 3. ; Terry, "Liberty Hill Cemetery," 69-70.

¹⁰² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Mary Ann Strong Johnson (18 Jul 1830–5 Sep 1905), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17751294](#), citing Routt Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor [46886992](#)). ; Terry, "Liberty Hill Cemetery," 69.

¹⁰³ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Lucy James Strong Criner (18 Aug 1839–22 Oct 1861), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17941797](#), citing Routt Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor

birth, the Criners had one daughter, Martha Sue (1862?-1943), before Lucy died in 1861 and Isaac in 1863.¹⁰⁴ Isaac and Lucy are both buried at Routt-Liberty Hill and have large obelisk gravestones, which stand out as unique among the other stones.

Susan (1845-1853)

Robert Donnell (1847-1863)

Margaret (1849-1852), who is the earliest known burial in the cemetery.¹⁰⁵

The remaining three Strong children, Georgia Ann Douglass Strong Pulley (1838-1919), Elizabeth Amanda Strong Kelso (1841-1927), and Edward Douglass Strong (1849-1919), were buried with their spouses elsewhere.¹⁰⁶ Georgia, her husband Robert, and four Pulley children are buried at Maple Hill Cemetery in downtown Huntsville, although, their eldest son, Tommie B. (1857-1858), is buried near Georgia's parents in Routt-Liberty Hill.¹⁰⁷

A possible child of Robert and Lucy Strong is also buried at Routt-Liberty Hill, though her genealogy has not yet been confirmed. Dorothy Scott Johnson's book on Madison County cemeteries includes notes stating Sarah J. Routt (1833-1915) was the sister of Martha Strong, and Andrew J. Routt married Sarah Strong on October 31, 1849.¹⁰⁸ If the aforementioned Martha Strong was, in fact, Martha Tabb Strong Hereford, then that would mean Sarah was her sister and another child of Robert and Lucy. It may be difficult to prove Sarah's lineage.¹⁰⁹ In the 1850 census she was already married and living with her husband, and an 1840 census would not have listed her by name.¹¹⁰ Given her maiden name, age, and the close proximity of her grave to those of Robert, Lucy, and many of their children, I believe we can assume Sarah was their child. That assumption would explain the connection to the Routt family. Given the Strongs had so many children who lived to marry and have children of their own, many of whom are buried with the family patriarch and matriarch, it is not difficult to see how this former church graveyard became dominated by one family.

One person not directly related to the Strongs interred at Routt-Liberty Hill was the mother of my Nashville informant, Charles Brooks. Mae Walsh Brooks (1896-1934) married J.W. Brooks and had five small

[46886992](#)).

; Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 130.

¹⁰⁴ Lucy James Strong Criner (18 Aug 1839–22 Oct 1861), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17941797](#)

¹⁰⁵ Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 132.

¹⁰⁶ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Robert Strong (20 Nov 1802–22 May 1856), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17942222](#), citing Routt Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor [46886992](#)) . ; Terry, "Liberty Hill Cemetery," 69-70.

¹⁰⁷ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Georgia Ann Douglas Strong Pulley (13 Jan 1838–27 Dec 1919), Find A Grave Memorial no. [13892885](#), citing Maple Hill Cemetery, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Bob & Kathy (contributor [46809234](#)) . ; Terry, "Liberty Hill Cemetery," 69.

¹⁰⁸ Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 131.

¹⁰⁹ The author was conducting further research on the Strongs at the time this article was submitted for publication.

¹¹⁰ Ancestry.com. *1850 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.



Roult-Liberty Hill Cemetery March 2019. This photograph was taken after cleanup from the edge of the cemetery looking north-northwest.

children at the time of her death.¹¹¹ The only other Brooks known to be in the cemetery is Mary Brooks, who married Henry Jones Johnson, the grandson of Robert and Lucy Strong.¹¹² It is likely the women were in-laws, though the exact link has yet to be discovered.

I have only discussed a portion of the individuals buried at Roult-Liberty Hill Cemetery, as a complete study will require much more research. I had hoped to include a list of graves; however, this has proven to be more difficult than expected. Many of the stones are broken with pieces scattered. Many of the standing stones are so weathered and covered with lichens and other growth that they are almost impossible to read. At this point, I feel any attempt at a list would result in error. Moving forward, I plan to continue my research, clean stones, locate unmarked graves, map the cemetery, and complete the application for the state register. For those who would like updates on the progress of this preservation project, please follow our Facebook page, Historic Roult-Liberty Hill Cemetery. If you are a descendant and would like to contribute either your time or information, please contact me through the Facebook page or at monroe.joy.c@gmail.com

¹¹¹ Johnson, *Cemeteries Madison County*, 130. ; *The Huntsville Times*, April 16, 1934, p.1.

¹¹²*Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 March 2019), memorial page for Mary Brooks Johnson (29 Aug 1879–12 Feb 1956), Find A Grave Memorial no. [17941896](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17941896), citing Roult Cemetery, Meridianville, Madison County, Alabama, USA ; Maintained by Kevin L. Averett (contributor [46886992](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46886992)) .

Marshall County

Captain Peebles

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

Compliments of Marshall County Archives

Wilmington-Clinton Republican

October 28, 1853

JAMES EDGAR PEEBLES, FORMERLY OF THIS TOWN, AND NOW PUBLISHER OF THE MARSHALL EAGLE, GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA, HAS LATELY BEEN ELECTED A MILITIA CAPTAIN. HE THUS ANNOUNCES THE FACT TO THE "CORPS EDITORIAL," IN THE LAST NUMBER OF THIS PAPER.

Be it known to the body of ambitious men and the "rest of mankind," that on the 12th day of September, in the year our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty three, the star of our future greater rare, and that we are no longer a common man, with eyes, head and ears, and let other people, but a real genius, glorifying in a fat office, in a big name, and no pay. On the memorable and ever glorious 12th we were made a Captain in the 83rd Regiment of Alabama Militia, Col. E. D. Nickles, Commander, and that now, henceforth, forever all common people may feel themselves especially fortunate and honored if caught in our company. Ahem! We intend to have the day celebrated hereafter with pop guns and firecrackers by all the diggings named above, and will make yearly pilgrimages to name noted here in order to call up by our mind the posthumous shades of our own great self in the future. Our momma always told us we were destined to make a great man and consequently fed us a purpose and made us go barefooted to mill like Henry Clay, that our physical faculties maybe be able to sustain our ponderous and world enlightened mind. Delinquent subscribers! Eyes right! Walk into the Captain's office and fork over! We're the line of promotion, and a few more grades, we'll put the world in a sling!

Company Roster

**From the Guntersville Democrat,
June 8, 1899**

**Transcribed by Barbara Snow,
Marshall County Archives**

At a recent meeting of Montgomery Gilbreath Camp United Confederate Veterans, Jonathan Gross of Warrenton was appointed to prepare a roster of the Confederates who went from Marshall County with a record for publication when complete. Mr. Gross can call the roll of Co. D, 48th Alabama Infantry, from memory, as he used to in the days of '63, and he has prepared a roster of this company which is given herewith.

He says that to the best of his recollection the companies organized in Marshall County were in the following order:

Capt. Sam Henry made up a company for the Ninth Alabama. Capt. Henry Miller's was of the Fourth Alabama. Capt. Montgomery Gilbreath's belonged to the 49th Alabama. Capt. James Fletcher made up a company for the 55th Alabama. Capt. Sam Cox, Co. D, 48th Alabama, Capt. Wm. Walker, Co. C, 48th Alabama, Capt. P. Taylor, Co. I, 4th Alabama Cavalry.

Reubin Ewing, captain, surrendered at Appomattox, lives in Cherokee County; P. A. Barnard, 1st lieutenant, resigned, lives at Oleander; James Smith, 2nd lieutenant, resigned 1862, lives in Texas; J. S. Ridgeway, 3rd lieutenant, was wounded and captured, lives at Frost, Texas; W. W. Collins, 2nd lieutenant, wounded at Chickamauga, died 1873 at Scottsboro; J. M. Hinds, 3rd lieutenant, killed near Petersburg, Va., 1864; T. J. Anderson, lives near Diamond; P. A. Bailey killed in Virginia, 1864; Pleasant Bailey, died in Virginia, 1862; Bud Baldwin, lost leg in Virginia, died in Texas, 1870; J. H. Alexander, lives in Falkville; Green Black,

Sr., surrendered at Appomattox, don't know where he lives; Green Black, Jr., surrendered at Appomattox, don't know where he lives; Vincent Bowman, died in hospital at Lynchburg, Va., 1862; Wm. Butler, discharged in 1862, supposed to have died in Illinois; G. W. Cheney, don't know where he is; James Cardwell, killed at Gettysburg, 1863; Reubin Cardwell, wounded at Gettysburg, deserted, and was killed near Red Hill; M. W. Cline, died in Arkansas; 1870; Riley Corbin, lives at Reedbrake; G. W. Coleman, died at Auburn, 1862; John Doss, lives in Blount County; Abram Doty, lives in Mississippi; Charles Fielder, died in Marshall County, 1866; John Fielder, surrendered at Appomattox, died in Marshall County, 1872; Henry Franklin, died near Petersburg, Va., 1863; J. F. French, lives in Texas; Wm. Gipson, died in Marshall County, 1871; Wm. Gilbert surrendered at Appomattox, don't know whether living; Jason Gladwell, died in Virginia, 1864; Jonathan Gross, wounded at Chickamauga, lives at Warrenton; G. W. Gross, surrendered at Appomattox, died at Warrenton, 1873; W. F. Gullion, lives in Texas; A. J. Haygood, lives in Tennessee; Olwin Haney, died in Marshall County, 1885; Allen Harper, don't know if living; John Huffstuttler, killed at Chickamauga, 1863; Wm. Hughes, lives in Tennessee; B. W. Hinds, lives in New Hope; Wm. Jones, died at Auburn; J. W. King, died near Warrenton, 1866; Wm. King, killed in Virginia, 1864; J. M. King, died near Warrenton, 1895; James Lyles, died in Marshall County, 1866; Wm. Lewis, killed at Sharpsburg, 1862; Henry Martin, surrendered at Appomattox, don't know where he lives; James McDermott, killed at Chickamauga, 1863; Seiburn Mitchell, died in Marshall County, 1880; Wm. Putman, surrendered at Appomattox, died in

Mississippi, 1895; Bart Renfro, lives in Tennessee; John Rogers, don't know whether living; Elisha Rogers, lives in North Carolina; T. J. Roumines, died in Richmond, Va., 1863; John Sanders, killed at Cedar Run, Va., 1862; Ned Sorter, killed at Cedar Run, Va., 1862; Dan Sorter, don't know if living; James Scruggs, lives in Marshall County, Ala.; Robert Scruggs, lives in Alabama; Joseph Smith, lives in Marshall County; F. M. Smallwood, died at Richmond, Va., 1864; Ayler Smith, lives in Dekalb County; Wm. Smith, killed at Chattanooga; Jerry Smith, killed in Marshall County, 1865; John Stewart, died of wounds in Virginia, 1862; Wm Stewart, lives in Marshall County; A. J. Tidwell, lives in Dekalb County; Booken Tipton, don't know; A. J. Turner, died in Marshall County, 1886; Jesse Wider, surrendered at Appomattox, don't know if living; John Wilson, died in Virginia, 1862; Samuel Wilson, lives at Oleander; Wm. Wood, don't know; W. P. Young, lives in Texas; Mumford Millirons, died of wounds in Marshall County.

Reported by Jonathan Gross of Camp Montgomery Gilbreath, No. 333, who was

duly appointed by said camp to get up a report of Confederate soldiers who enlisted in Marshall County, Ala.,--where enlisted, where died or was killed and where now residing, if living.

Respectfully submitted, this 3rd day of June, 1899.

Jonathan Gross
Warrenton, Ala.



Jonathan Gross

Marshall County After the Civil War: Hopelessness, Starvation, and Recovery 1865-1866

Barbara Snow

Researcher, Marshall County Archives

As early as May 13, 1865, Catherine Fennell, a teen diarist who lived at Deposit Ferry, wrote that northerners and southerners were meeting at Guntersville regarding ways to address the demise of the Confederacy. Emotionally, she said, “They have hoisted the old Stars and Stripes. . .amid cheers of several hundred of our citizens. Yes, they cheered the old flag when our hearts were almost breaking. . .” On May 16, 1865, approximately 500 people assembled at Guntersville to organize and seek ways to live with the transition. Labeled in the *Huntsville Independent* as a Union meeting in Marshall County, local dignitaries spoke in favor of allegiance to the United States. Major Arthur C. Beard, a former Confederate officer and aide to Governor John G. Shorter of Alabama, remarked: “We have met to bury the tomahawk—to smoke the calumet of peace. All of us ought to reverence that government which we could not destroy, and to which we have been compelled to submit. I shall do so cheerfully.” Following his remarks, Col. James L. Sheffield, a former officer of the 48th Alabama Infantry, told the crowd: “I have done all I could to establish the Southern Confederacy. I carried a musket for three years. I am whipped. I have been whipped for twelve months. The Southern Confederacy does not exist. I stand to-day like an erring child who has been whipped by his father.” With these compelling statements, the populace began the arduous task of re-building.

When the Civil War ended in April 1865, southern soldiers, who had been paroled in the field and/or released from prisoner of war camps, slowly made their way home.

With little access to speedy transportation, these men arrived too late in the year for planting season. Given the devastation and destruction in northern Alabama, including the burning of Guntersville and much of the surrounding area, the soldiers, even if they had reached Alabama in a timely manner, lacked the means to plant a crop. Since most of the livestock had been confiscated, lost, or killed during the war, plow animals were scarce. Likewise, seed and farm implements were in short supply or non-existent. Plus, these individuals lacked money and/or the resources to borrow funds to buy supplies. Indeed, banks, where they existed, lacked the capital to offer unsecured loans. Widows and orphans of deceased soldiers seemed to face the direst consequences of the war. Without the opportunity to plant a crop, the farmers and their families lacked the necessities to survive.

Because of the war and the drought of 1865, corn was in great demand for food to make bread for the table and for feeding the valued horses and mules necessary for plowing. By March 1866, corn had to be shipped from the West and sold for \$1.50 per bushel. Unfortunately, few from northern Alabama were able to purchase corn or any other supplies. Although the Freedman’s Bureau had as its mission to help the recently freed members of the black community, the agency offered meager supplies once the division was made among the indigent. Nor was the State of Alabama capable of providing aid. Parents in Marshall County were willing to let their children work for anyone who was willing to feed them. Adults who were able repaired fences, improved/rebuilt their homes, and cleared or plowed land to

prepare for planting with the hope of a successful crop. However, the *Montgomery Advertiser* in April 1866 estimated that “not 20 have the means to help others.”

Although Judge Louis Wyeth, a prominent attorney, had re-opened his law office in a make-shift building fashioned around a chimney, he had few clients but many appeals for help.

By the spring of 1866, he learned that “three helpless females” had actually died from starvation.

In a letter to Governor Robert M. Patton, dated April 2, 1866, Wyeth said he had accepted from the common court “a mission so foreign to my habits and feelings and one which I feel so inadequate, but God and my conscience and the starving people force me on.” He provided statistics furnished by the probate judge and the military commander of the region that 3,000 people were destitute and more desperately, the three deaths. Furthermore, he predicted many casualties unless speedy assistance was obtained. Within the letter, Wyeth included two major requests. First, he asked for an official decree explaining the “charge and mission” to be published in newspapers in Louisiana, Cincinnati, and Memphis plus others as the discretion of the State prior to Wyeth’s arrival in those cities. Secondly, Wyeth requested financial support from the State to help to pay for the freight to ship food, clothing, and supplies. Within this request he remarked that he had also appealed to the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Company to reduce the cartage fees on donated materials.

Moving quickly, Wyeth left Guntersville traveling to solicit donations from other cities to provide for the destitute. Known as a jurist and “Christian gentleman,” Wyeth had extensive contacts in the broader civic and religious community including family members in Illinois and Pennsylvania. He

ventured to Huntsville, Nashville, Louisville, Columbus, and Cincinnati to plea for contributions. Wyeth’s descriptions and requests for assistance were printed in newspapers from Boston to Buffalo to Wilmington to Chicago to Dubuque with graphic depictions of the troubles plaguing northern Alabama.

In the *Wilmington Journal* in North Carolina, W. T. May, the probate judge of Marshall County, was quoted regarding the desperation caused by the famine. May declared that 2,180 women, children, and “infirm” men in a population of less than 10,000 people faced “pitiable” conditions. An additional 2,000 individuals were unable to purchase supplies for farming operations. Judge May reported that rations for 438 individuals had been divided among the 2,180 people. Moreover, many of the needy had walked miles to obtain scanty supplies from the distributions while leaving small children at home alone.

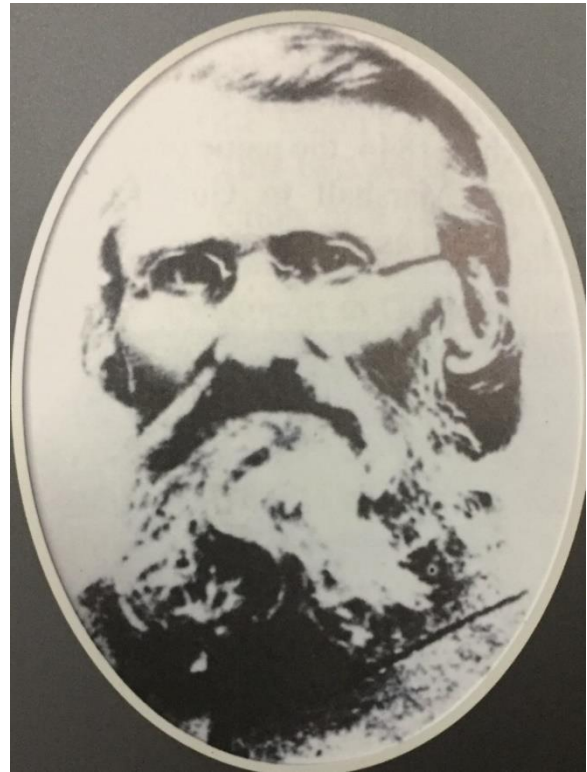
Traveling through Georgia and Alabama during June 1866, a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* encountered several children, ranging from four to 12 years, dressed “in what was an excuse for an undergarment.” Two females with “emaciated countenances” worked nearby picking wild vegetables, probably poke salat. Stopping his horse, the reporter asked, “Madam, can you accommodate me with dinner to-day?” Warily one of the women responded, “God knows that I would not turn a stranger and a traveler away, but there has not been an ounce of meal or meat in the house in five days; we and our children have lived entirely, during that period, upon boiled greens with neither salt or pepper. . . ; we cannot even get seed to plant our gardens.” Since the families, whose menfolk had died in the war, lived 20 miles from Guntersville, the woman explained the difficulty of carrying rations on her back for that distance and the frightful nature of walking alone.

After the conversation, the empathetic newspaperman gave the grateful women what food he had in his saddlebags—a peck (1/4 bushel) of meal (meant to feed his horse), corn bread and bacon for two days. He said that he had never heard, even on the battlefield, such a “reverent prayer” from the “lips of that illiterate woman.”

At Guntersville, the reporter engaged in conversation with another woman and inquired if she knew of any cases of starvation. She responded with, “Why, yes, the other day a woman walked 17 miles and she got a peck of meal; but she was so exhausted that she died before she got home. She was found by the roadside and buried. The neighbors went to her house and found one of her children dead.” When asked about why the women instead of men went to obtain the provisions at distribution sites, she retorted “Why there is not one man in 10 families; . . . they were all killed or died in the war.” A local boy, who said his father had died at “Mission Ridge,” explained that he, his two siblings, and mother had not had any meat “since last August” and had existed on a peck of meal per week. Pessimistically, the young fellow was quoted as saying, “We expect to starve unless the Yankees help us.” With these hard scrabble accounts and newspaper appeals asking for bread, money, or “assistance,” the dilemma was broadcast throughout the country. In communities far and wide, ministers presented the plight to their congregations while Chambers of Commerce recruited help from merchants.

Feeling the destitution and suffering, the sympathetic citizens of various towns sent money as well as railcars of food and clothing. The railroad companies transported the goods and waived the cost of the cartage. Although nearby rail sites were Decatur, Huntsville, and Scottsboro, Wyeth in his letter to the governor mentioned using Decatur as a collection point. Wyeth set up

distribution centers in Marshall, Blount, and DeKalb Counties to alleviate the anguish of the citizens. Donations from Nashville alone included \$1,454.28 plus 100 pounds of bacon, 50 pairs of shoes, 10 barrels of salt, 75 barrels of flour, and 750 sacks of corn. Communities, newspaper editors, and churches rallied with calls for help that said “everyone can contribute something to charity.” To raise money, one benefit in Montgomery sold 1500 tickets for an amateur theater production. The charity and humanity of these communities aided the people of northern Alabama to recover personally and financially.



Judge Louis Wyeth

In July 1866, Judge Wyeth wrote to Dr. J. L. McKee, a Presbyterian minister of Louisville, expressing gratitude for provisions and clothing provided by his congregation. In the letter, printed in the *Louisville Dailey Courier*. Wyeth conveyed that without the help that “madness,

plundering, riots, and even murder” would have occurred. He communicated that the hopelessness and starvation could have meant the death of thousands. Wyeth praised God for the good works of the Christian community and for “earthly food”. Additionally, he asked for materials for Sunday schools to help children and their parents with “spiritual food” to teach reading and provide religious instruction. In his entreaty Wyeth asked for old or worn testaments, hymn books, primers, and spelling books for approximately 2,000 children. With the commonality of child labor, the absence of public schools, and the lack of funding to purchase instructional materials, Wyeth asked for any and all religious books or tracts to offer some minimal educational opportunities and to teach children about a “kind and loving Saviour (sic).”

With grit and the hope given from strangers, northern Alabama managed to eek out an existence. With the harvest of 1866, the population breathed a sigh of relief as the communities managed to become more self-sufficient although complete recovery was actually years in the coming. The revival and survival of the area was founded on the kindness and generosity of others—some of whom had been members of the opposing army during the Civil War.

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The Marshall County Archives houses a wealth of valuable information. The accumulated history of the county exists in one location. Real documents like probate records, marriages, divorces, deaths, bound newspapers, and family files can be viewed from the beginning of Marshall County, some as early as 1836.

In its non-descript location, researchers can find a treasure trove of data. Individuals interested in researching a special event, pursuing family genealogy, or fondly investigating local history can find a true adventure. Volunteers, who are keenly involved in retrieving and maintaining the community’s past, are willing helpers for the novice and/or experienced investigator.

The Marshall County Archives, located on Worth Street in Guntersville, opens on Mondays from 9:00 A. M.-1:30 P. M.

Shooting at the Albertville Depot

**By Danny Maltbie
Albertville Museum**

The August 25, 1898, edition of the *Albertville Banner* had as a headline “Depot Agent W. D. Clark Was Shot By Albert Teague.”¹¹³

Clark was manager of the depot and a native of Tennessee. Teague was a lifelong resident of Albertville, Alabama.

The shooting happened on Monday, August 22, 1898, as the afternoon train departed heading south. The depot was deserted by all except the agent who sat at an open window reading a letter. As he sat in his office two young men approached the depot with shotguns. The older man was 19-year-old Joseph Albert Teague; the other was his brother Willie, who was about 15 years old.

W. M. “Bob” Coleman was outside the depot as the young men approached. Coleman asked where they were going with the guns and was told by Albert, “I’m going to kill me a man.” Willie was told by his brother to cover Coleman with his gun, left and approached the depot window where Clark was sitting. Albert shot into the open window as Coleman shouted at Clark. The shout caused Clark to duck and the shot only knocked his hat off instead of hitting his head. However, the second shot fired through the office door hit him in the hip and abdomen. After the two shots rang out the young men left the depot. Agent Clark was placed under a physician’s care but died on the next afternoon.

Joseph Albert and Willie Teague were arrested the next morning by Justice of the Peace J. P. Emmett and carried to Guntersville, Alabama, where Judge T. A. Street set their preliminary trial for

September 1, 1898. The brothers were to remain in the county jail until their trial.

This outrageous episode had started on the previous Saturday. Albert Teague went to the depot to send a telegram. He was told by Agent Clark that it would not be sent before payment was made. This upset Teague, who returned later and was told the same thing. On the third trip to the depot Teague developed a rage, tore the telegram into pieces and then abused Clark in profane language. At this time Clark forcibly removed Teague from the building.

Albert Teague had been formally employed as the telegraph agent at the depot. He would still have been employed if not for Railroad Superintendent Lane, who discovered that Teague was forming a dangerous liquor habit.

The *Albertville Banner* article stated “Albert Teague was under the influence of strong drink and had seen so much sorrow that he was lonely and desolate.” The article went on to say “The aged grandmother, Mrs. Miller, who waited in the rain for the boys on the fatal night was grief stricken.” The home that had seen so much sorrow was Martha Miller’s home. Her husband James C. had been killed in the Civil War, her father died in 1876, her mother died in 1895, and her daughter, the Teague boy’s mother, died in 1894.

Research has determined that the aged grandmother was Martha Ann Albert Miller and wife of James Cicero Miller. Mrs. Miller was the daughter of Thomas Albert, who is credited with naming the city of Albertville, Alabama, and being the first postmaster of the city.

¹¹³ *The Albertville Banner*, August 25, 1898

The Teague boys' parents were Sarah Elizabeth Miller and William T. Teague.

At the preliminary trial of the Teague boys, Willie was released on a bond of \$1000.00 and Albert's bond was set at \$4000.00 by Judge T. A. Street. The relatives of Albert brought in the bond three days later with signatures of a half dozen or more citizens on Sand Mountain. Inspection of the tax books revealed that Sheriff Paris refused the bond. Additional bondsmen were solicited by the prisoner's father, but Albert was not released and his trial was set for September 15, 1898, but was postponed until the October Third Week Circuit Court, according to *The Guntersville Democrat* of October 22, 1898.¹¹⁴

The trial was labeled State of Alabama vs. Albert Teague, and resulted in a jury verdict of murder in the first degree. The penalty was 35 years in the penitentiary.

Attorneys for Albert had 60 days to file an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. According to the February 23, 1899, edition of *The Guntersville Democrat* the Supreme Court affirmed the Marshall County Court decision. Albert Teague began serving his sentence of 35 years in February of that year.¹¹⁵

Albert's convict record states that he served a prison sentence of approximately one year and nine months. He was set free in November of 1900. No record has been found as to why he was pardoned. There is evidence of his father and his grandmother mortgaging property, and evidence of the property being foreclosed on in that period.

¹¹⁴ *The Guntersville Democrat*, October 22, 1898

¹¹⁵ *The Guntersville Democrat*, February 23, 1899

¹¹⁶ *Convict Record Book*, Marshall County, Alabama Archives, Guntersville, Alabama

¹¹⁷ *The Albertville Banner* 1916,

The property was eventually paid off by Andrew Miller, Albert's uncle.¹¹⁶

No record has been found indicating that Willie Teague was ever tried for the crime.

In a letter to *The Albertville Banner* in 1916, Albert wrote about visiting his home town and about the emotions, good and bad, that he felt on his return. He wrote of having a dream of one day owning a home around Albertville. He also stated that Sand Mountain had the best air and water of any place that he had ever known.¹¹⁷

At the time Albert wrote the letter he was a businessman in Bartlett, Tennessee. Bartlett is a town just east of Memphis.

Further investigation found a marriage license for J. A. Teague and Beatrice Palmer at Ancestry.com.¹¹⁸ In census records for 1920 they were living in Ripley, a town in Lauderdale County, Tennessee, and had four children with brothers Billie and Willie living with them.¹¹⁹ In 1930 the family had moved to Noxubee County, Mississippi, and his occupation was listed as a dairy farm manager. They had seven children living with them.

J. A. (Joseph Albert) Teague was appointed acting postmaster for the McLeod post office in Noxubee County, Mississippi, on April 11, 1933. He served until he died on July 23, 1939. On August 25, 1939, his wife Beatrice was appointed to serve out his term.¹²⁰

The children of J. A. and Beatrice Teague listed on the census records were: Beatrice born 1910, Lois born 1916, Grace born 1918, Memory born 1920, Hanson born

¹¹⁸ Tennessee Marriage Records. Ancestry.com

¹¹⁹ U.S. Federal Census, 1920, Lauderdale County, Tennessee for J. A. Teague

¹²⁰ Noxubee County, Mississippi, Records

1922, Florence born 1924, Mary born 1926, and Merrill born 1929.¹²¹

Nothing further has been found about the man who died from the gunshot wound, W. D. Clark, or his family.

Mr. Bob Coleman, who was not injured in the shooting, was Albertville's first mayor. He also served in the Alabama legislature.¹²²

Records in the Marshall County, Alabama archives show that Mr. Coleman first married Nancy Catherine Bailey on February 2, 1879. She died in 1907 and Mr. Coleman then married Francis Graham.¹²³

¹²¹ U.S. Federal Census, 1930, Noxubee County, Mississippi

¹²² *The Albertville Banner* 1898

¹²³ Marriage License File # 170, Marshall County Archives, Guntersville, Alabama.

Stocklaw

Barbara Snow

Researcher for Marshall County Archives

Prior to the convenience of air conditioning, the courthouse lawn at Guntersville, Alabama, on Saturdays acted as a meeting place. At the end of a long week of work, farmers and their families took time to go to town on Saturday. After a bit of shopping for necessities, locals, mostly men, joined in visiting with neighbors and friends to share news, banter amusing tidbits, barter or trade, chew tobacco, whittle, or delight in free entertainment. Depending on the season and year, the assemblage was pleased to hear gospel singing, speeches by politicians campaigning for office, or ministers preaching. Among the individuals selling wares, singing, or preaching happened to be one of the most recognized men in Marshall County—Stocklaw Johnson.

Arthur Johnson, A. P. or Stocklaw, arrived at the courthouse selling kindling which he had in his wheelbarrow and sought a spot on the courthouse lawn. He and his wife Dora, attired in her feed-sack dress and a head scarf, earned a bit more by putting a hat for donations, usually pennies, nickels, and dimes, while Stocklaw preached lengthy sermons “to sinners in the hands of an angry God” and the two of them sang for the crowd. On occasion, the two earned money when someone paid them to stop singing.



Stocklaw and Dora Johnson

He sold copies of the songs he had written including “Stocklaw,” “The Plow Song,” and “Pretty Fair Maidens All in the Garden.” In later years Stocklaw hocked pictures of himself and his wife made by a professional photographer. Meager though their life style was, Stocklaw and Dora appeared the happy couple.

Many humorous anecdotes have been spun about Stocklaw Johnson’s experiences. In one conflict with the railroad company, Johnson had a grievance over the death of a few of his goats. To prevent weeds and vines growing, the railroad workers sprayed herbicide along the tracks near Stocklaw’s house. When the goats ate the poisoned plants, the animals sickened and died. To regain his investment, Johnson asked the rail company to compensate him for the loss of his livestock. To that request, he was told that the company’s workers had posted signs and explained that the warning relieved the company of other responsibility. Stocklaw sued. On court day a team of lawyers appeared. On the witness stand, Stocklaw admitted that signs had

been posted but rebutted with, “I’ve never seen a goat that can read.” The railroad agreed to pay for the goats.

In another verbal exchange with a prisoner in the jail, Stocklaw bested the man who had yelled aspersions about a goat’s being ugly. The conversation ended when Stocklaw admitted the goat was indeed ugly; however, he praised the animal for not being “in jail” unlike the heckler.

In extremely desperate times, either a friend or relative convinced Stocklaw Johnson to apply for what was called “relief.” Seeking help from the government was a temporary means in the mind of A. P. Johnson. According to the story, he accepted payment for a very brief time—one or two months. After that, he appeared at the courthouse to repay the money he had received. Officials quickly stated that no repayment was required. Independent minded, Mr. Johnson did not accept their assurance and insisted on returning the money. Needless to say, his actions created distress for the accountants. No one knew how to handle the problem of an individual returning money to the government. After being unable to convince Stocklaw to keep the money and not finding a way to return it to Washington, Big Jim Folsom, who was the relief director, said he had the money “bundled” and forwarded to the U. S. Treasury. Later as governor, Folsom said in a letter to the *Advertiser-Gleam* in 1955 at the time of Johnson’s death that uncertainty existed on what happened to the money and that he had no knowledge it was ever deposited in the coffers of the United States government.

With these vivid memories, Folsom and many citizens of Marshall County fondly remembered Stocklaw Johnson as part of the fabric of Marshall County.

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Advertiser Gleam

Maze, Steve; “Stocklaw Johnson;” Arab, Alabama, “Yesterday’s Memories,” February, 2004. Vertical File, Marshall County Archives.

Yesterday's News from Guntersville

Newspaper articles mentioning Guntersville, Alabama
Compliments of the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

January 27, 1837

The Huntsville Democrat

During the last week five persons have been lodged in the jail of this place, charged with having fired upon a crowd of men at Gunter's Landing, whereby James M. MacFarlane was killed, and Eli Feemster mortally wounded, (since dead). Several other persons were severely wounded. We have not received the particulars in such form as to justify their publication—especially since the offenders are in custody. The excitement among the inhabitants was very great as they scoured the country in every direction in pursuit of those who escaped; four of whom have since surrendered.

March 31, 1838, The Huntsville Democrat

Horrid.—On Wednesday morning last about 11 o'clock, in the Town of Claysville, in Marshall County, Nathaniel and Graves Steele, whilst passing in a carriage, were shot dead with muskets fired from a house in the suburbs of the town—two other men (Alexander Steele and Wm. Collins) also in the carriage were wounded, the first apparently mortally, and the two latter severely in the head. Two perpetrators of this horrid deed are supposed to be Jesse Allan, Alexander and Arthur MacFarlane, and Daniel Dickerson, who immediately thereafter left this place. We presume a full detail of facts and circumstances will be handed in for publication, and therefore refrain from further notice at this time, more than to observe, that the individuals killed

were themselves of a party who last year killed, by shooting, James M. Macfarlane and another person, which produced great excitement and bad feeling in that large community.

**January 5, 1852, The Marshall Eagle
Dancing Academy**

Mons. H. Gaylord announces to the public that he will open a Dancing School on Tuesday, the 11th of January, in Guntersville, where he will teach Dances of the day—including the Shottish (sic), Polka, Highland Fling, Spanish Dances, Waltzes, Cotillions, &c.

Mons. Gaylord can be seen at the Union House, where he will receive all persons desiring his instruction.

Editorial comment about Mons. Gaylord

Mons. Gaylord, the polite and accomplished Dancing Master, has commenced his instruction to the pupils who comprise his School. We have read an author who once said that a "willing mind made a light heel," and we acknowledge the truth of his assertion, for those who court not the Terpsichorean Muse, seldom feel the witchery of his charms. Success to you, Monsieur, and all those who patronize our enlivening art.

**June 9, 1854, The Marshall Eagle
Fare Reduced-Montgomery Hack Line six
times a week except Tuesday between
Goshen & Gunter's Landing**

Connecting at Gunter's Landing with the Dailey Steamboat Line from Chattanooga to Decatur—also connecting with J. R. Powell's Dailey Mail Stages at Goshen, 15 miles north of Jacksonville between Montgomery and Rome, Georgia.

New coaches and horses have been placed on this line together with accommodating drivers, and the Proprietors have spared labor nor expense to make it a cheap, expeditious, and comfortable route for passengers.

The line passes VanBuren, Blue Pond, Centre, Jacksonville, Talledega, Sylacauga, and Wetumpka. Fare: Gunter's Landing to Montgomery--\$13.00; to Rome, Georgia--\$7.00. Reference: Col. E. D. Nickles and Col. Thos. Craft, Guntersville, Ala.\

**January 5, 1855, The Marshall Eagle
Marshall Institute, D. L. Larkin,
Principal**

The Institute is situated in a pleasant grove one mile from Claysville and enjoys the advantages of a retired and healthy location. Orthography, Reading, Writing, Mental Arithmetic, and first lessons in Geography, &c for \$5.00 per term. English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, and first lessons in Philosophy, &c for \$12.00 per term. Higher Mathematics, Philosophy, Astronomy, Latin, and Greek for \$16.00 per term. Board can be had at from \$5 to \$8 per term.

**December 16, 1856, Marion Star, South
Carolina
Robbing and Counterfeiting**

The Tennessee Valley, published at Guntersville, Marshall County, Ala., says great excitement prevails there in consequence of the formation of robbing and counterfeiting associations in that county.

**June 3, 1865, Salem Observer
Speeches of Paroled Rebel Officers**

At a Union meeting at Guntersville, Marshall County, Alabama, on the 16th of May, Major A. C. Beard, late of the Rebel army, made the following speech:

“We have met to bury the tomahawk—to smoke the calumet of peace. All of us ought to reverence that government which we could not destroy, and to which we have been compelled to submit. I shall do so cheerfully.”

He was succeeded by Col. J. L. Sheffield, late of the 48th Alabama Regiment, who said:

“I have done all I could to establish the Southern Confederacy. I carried a musket for three years. I am whipped. I have been whipped for 12 months. The Southern Confederacy does not exist. I stand today like an erring child who has been whipped by his father.”

**April 12, 1866, Dubuque Daily
Suffering in Marshall County,
Alabama—A Horrible state of Affairs**

We clip from the *Huntsville Independent* of April 3d:

“When a poor unfortunate being meets us upon the highway, our sympathies are in his behalf, and unless our hearts are totally selfish and unfeeling, we throw him a mite to supply his urgent wants, but here is a whole community of people whom the ravages of a prolonged war left without food, or the means to make a living, who appeal to you, through their representative, for bread to keep them from starving!

Judge Wyeth, an old and prominent citizen of Guntersville, is now in the city, setting before the people, that actual appalling state of affairs, and soliciting aid for the starving. Three actual cases of starvation have already

occurred! and there are several hundred more who must perish if speedy relief is not furnished. We have seen statement over the signature of the Probate Judge of Marshall County, setting forth the destitution of those people, which is really horrible and must cause painfull (sic) emotions to the heart that dwells upon it.

They call for bread alone—bread to sustain life. Think of it and respond to the appeal for assistance with the impulse of generosity which the suffering must arouse in the bosom. Some of these destitute ones belong to the families of deceased soldiers, and all, of whatever destitutes, claim our sympathy and aid. It gives us pleasure to know the contributions on yesterday of money and provisions were quite liberal, and we hope no one that is at all able will fail to contribute something.

Judge Wyeth will visit Nashville and other points north of this and present the cause of the destitute to the people, and we commend him as a worthy Christian gentleman, have the entire confidence and esteem of all who know him.

July 25, 1878, Russell Register, Seale, Alabama

Mr. Andy Culbert, living two miles below Hillian's Store, in Marshall county, struck a young man named Reese with a fence rail on Monday, the 8th, and broke his skull, from which injury he died. The circumstances are given as these: Reese was driving the mules in the thresher of J. G. Winston, threshing the wheat crop of Mr. Culbert, to whom some of the mules belonged. The latter concluded that Reese was rushing the stock to their injury and went to him to remonstrate, when Reese jumped off the thresher and made at Culbert with a drawn knife and the latter defended himself with the result as stated. Mr. Culbert went to

Guntersville and was tried by a justice of the peace and acquitted.

May 24, 1879, Jacksonville Republican, Jacksonville, Alabama

A negro girl, charged with burning the barn of W. McFarlane, filled with \$1,000 worth of corn, in Marshall county was lodged in jail at Guntersville last week.

June 26, 1879, Wellington Enterprise Cornstalk's Bonanza

We are having considerable excitement over lead and silver discoveries in one of the old Indian mounds on the Patterson place, two miles south of Guntersville. An Indian by the name of Cornstalk, son of an Indian of the same name, and well known to many of our old citizens, came here from the Nation, claiming, when a boy, he saw large quantities of ore taken from the mound. He told Mr. Patterson that he would soon come to white sand and fire coals where they had a furnace to refine the crude ore. The white sand and fire coals were found just as he had stated they would be, and several pieces of the ore, some of which has been sent to New York for analysis. One piece of the ore was taken there by Mr. Well (or Weil) of Huntsville, and found to contain 12 1/8 (or 12 1/3) percent silver, most of the rest lead. Mr. Patterson has been very liberal in his terms and proposes to give the Indians two-thirds of the profits as he is the discoverer. Cornstalk seems to have no doubt at all of the complete success of the project.

May 20, 1880, Huntsville Independent, Huntsville, Alabama

There is no local news of importance in Marshall county. Farmers are at work with all their might, and are getting very well up with their crops. Rust is damaging wheat in

this section of country. The horses recently stolen on Town Creek in this county have been recovered and two men, who formerly resided here and who are well connected, were brought from Pulaski, Tenn., and placed in the Guntersville jail charge with stealing stock. As they have had no trial so far prudence demands silence as to their guilt or innocence.

The names of the parties arrested are Sol and Alex Bledsoe, one of whom was at one time in the mercantile business, in Guntersville.

**July 27, 1880, The Tennessean
The North Alabama Democracy**

Guntersville, Ala.,--Yesterday was a great day for the Democracy in this part of the country. Never was there such an outpouring of the people of North Alabama. Not less than 5,000 came together at this place to hear the Hon. Jno. T. Morgan upon the political issues of the day and nobly did the great orator come up to the highest expectations of the most enthusiastic admirers. Radicalism and Greenbackism had nowhere to stand when the speaker closed. . . .

**September 17, 1880, Montgomery
Advertiser**

The *Scottsboro Herald* says that a horse ran away with a buggy, at or near Guntersville, in Marshall county, one day last week, with the wife and daughter of Hon. Louis Wyeth, Judge of the Circuit, and that the leg or thigh of Mrs. Wyeth was broken and also the shoulder of the daughter. We regret very much this accident, and hope and trust that the injuries are less serious than reported.

**October 30, 1880, Chicago Tribune
Fatal Explosion**

Chattanooga, Tennessee, Oct. 29—A *Times* special from Guntersville says: Two persons were killed and several injured by the explosion of a boiler in the mill of Jasper Smith.

**November 2, 1880, Montgomery
Advertiser**

The *Guntersville Democrat* reports a fatal shooting affair between two brothers-in-law, named Hugh Collins and James Sneed, the man killed being an innocent bystander. It says that they had difficulty on last Saturday somewhere in the neighborhood, and had agreed to meet at the mill on Monday and settle their differences with shotguns. Both parties come to time promptly, armed with guns, and as soon as they met exchanged shots. Sneed was shot in the arm, and Collins was unhurt, so far as is known, though it is said that his coat was peppered with shot. Mr. Pink Walker, a bystander, was shot in the back of his neck, and from the first the physicians attending him had no hopes of his recovery. He died Wednesday from the wound. We learn that Collins made his escape. We have since learned that Mr. Sneed's arm was amputated Wednesday.

**June 6, 1882, Star Tribune, Minneapolis,
Minnesota**

Guntersville, Ala., is the most fortunate town in America. It is absolutely without any government. It has been managed by a mayor, aldermen, and marshal, but there was so little to steal that they lost interest in the city affairs and finally ceased paying any attention to city matters altogether. Oh, happy Guntersville, how art thou blessed.

**July 4, 1882, Fort Wayne Daily Gazette,
Fort Wayne, Indiana**

From *Louisville Commercial*—An unknown species of fowl was captured on the 3rd inst. near Guntersville, Ala., by John Reed and Joe Manning, which has caused some wonder among the inhabitants. It was caught by Reed and Manning in the Tennessee River, being run down with a skiff. It is a water fowl, evidently of the goose kind, but no one who has seen it can name its species. From tip to tip of wings it measures twelve feet; it is five feet six inches high; has a bill thirty inches long with a pouch beneath that will hold a peck of fish. The bird was taken to Guntersville and placed on exhibition, where it occasions considerable curiosity.

September 8, 1882, Cherokee Advocate, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Since our last issue, Prof. J. L. Smith and family, accompanied by Mr. Patrick Henry all recently of Guntersville, Ala., have come, and for the present are with friends and relatives in Tahlequah. Mrs. Smith's father was the late Dempsey Fields. Mr. Henry, her half-brother, is the son of the late Hugh Henry, who for many years was the leading merchant in North Alabama. After the death of Dempsey Fields, the widow Mrs. Annie Claunch Fields married the young merchant Hugh Henry who had lost his wife. It is to this union Mr. P. Henry traces his Cherokee blood. (Remainder unreadable.)

October 25, 1883, The Pulaski Citizen, from the Guntersville Democrat

Some of our boys wondered amazingly what kept our Mr. Hansell away all last week, and here it is: R. C. Hansell, a handsome young man of Pulaski, Tenn., was in Guntersville several days last week, and was so charmed with some of the young ladies hereabout that he lingered till the steamer left him, and he

had to secure private conveyance to Woodville, Ala.

August 13, 1887, The Milan Exchange, Milan, Tennessee

Jim Beard and Hugh Greenwood, two prominent citizens, of Guntersville, Ala., quarreled a few nights ago, and Beard tried to shoot Greenwood with a gun. Greenwood snatched the weapon from Beard and shot him in the face and he died a short while later. Beard was county treasurer.

June 21, 1890, The Atlanta Constitution Slain by Colonel Sheffield

Columbus, Ga., (Special)—A special to the *Ledger* from Guntersville, Ala., says: Colonel J. L. Sheffield, chief clerk in the office of the state superintendent of education in Montgomery, shot and instantly killed Buck May, a prominent citizen of Guntersville. Colonel Sheffield is sixty years old, and the killing is rumored to have been caused by family troubles.

December 18, 1893, The Rock Island Argus and Daily Union, Rock Island, Illinois Walked Up and Filled Him with Buckshot

Birmingham, Ala.,--While Constable Childress was serving civil papers at Guntersville, Marshall county, William Bell walked up with a gun and filled him with buckshot, killing him instantly. Bell's only excuse was that he did not want the papers served.

May 23, 1895, The Islander, Friday Harbor, Washington A Rich Gold Strike in Alabama

Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 15—North Alabama is greatly excited over the find of gold on Sauta creek, near Guntersville, Marshall County, Ala. A vein has been struck, said to be three feet thick, and it is stated on the authority of leading citizens of that county, that the precious metal has been found in paying quantities.

July 11, 1895, The Wilson Advance, Wilson, North Carolina Warrenton, Ala., Tragedy—J. A. Sanford Kills Bill Mitchell at a Populist Meeting

Guntersville, Ala.,--At the populate speaking at Warrenton, this county, Saturday, Bill Mitchell, of Brindlee mountain, was shot and instantly killed by J. A. Sandford, late of Georgia. Sandford also received a painful gash on the head from a stone from Mitchell. Sandford is in jail.

July 16, 1895, The Asheville Weekly Citizen, Asheville, North Carolina How Is This? At Least, It's a story to Drive off a Dull Moment.

Taken from the *Guntersville Democrat*—A young man giving his name as G. W. Inscor from Marion, N. C., enlivened the air on the 6th with a romance which are interesting as well as improbable. He says his brother John, a miner, was authorized not long ago by one Charles Austin of Asheville, N. C., to proceed down the Tennessee River until he came to a bluff answering the description written on a 'way bill' left to Mrs. Austin by her father, a Mr. Boone, on his death bed. The narrative claimed that in time far past Boone had hidden six thousand in gold coin and one thousand dollars' worth of gold dust. The hiding place described corresponded with the ledge in the face of Paint Rock bluff, 16 miles below Guntersville. So the story goes that John Inscor stopped there and tapped the face of

the bluff 200 feet above the water until on July 4th he struck a cemented recess, which soon yielded to the blows of his hammer and revealed a small sheet iron box containing the treasure as alleged. The narrator claims that John Inscor left on the 8th for Asheville with the treasure.

July 27, 1895, The Age-Herald Dropped Dead-The Sad Ending of a Frolic Near Guntersville-Yesterday Morning

Gadsden, July 20-(Special)—Joe Lusk, aged 22 years, cousin of ex-solicitor John A. Lusk of this district, dropped dead four miles from Guntersville this morning. He and a party of friends were in a wagon going to a Sunday school convention. Arriving at an elbow in the road, Lusk and others proposed to run through a straight way and beat the wagon. When the party arrived at the wagon, Lusk was missing. Search found him lying in the road, death being caused by over-exertion. He was a leading young man in the community.

April 22, 1897, Leavenworth Times, Leavenworth, Kansas An Alabama Defaulter

Birmingham, Ala.—W. W. Kidd, superintendent of education of Marshall county, has absconded from Guntersville with \$2,000 of the county's funds in his possession, having been missing since Saturday. His total shortage is thought to be about \$4,000.

June 8, 1899, The Guntersville Democrat Let's Have One in Guntersville

The "Old Maid's Convention" is a new form of social amusement which seems to be very funny. A dozen or two young men and boys over twelve years old are rigged up in more

or less “fetching” feminine costumes and are introduced with fictitious names and after more or less fun, vocal and instrumental solos by the “Old Maids,” they are bid off and at once transformed into stalwart young men. Of the entertainment at the Marion, the Standard has the following to say:

“The Old Maid’s Convention” at the court house last Thursday evening has been unanimously voted to be the best thing of its kind even given in Marion. The appearance of the “Old Maids” as they entered the house brought forth shouts of laughter and indeed a sight of the costumes alone was well worth the price of admission. The president called the convention to order and the fun began. From start to finish the fine acting, the local hits and flashes of wit kept the audience in a roar of laughter. The beautiful and appropriate music called forth much applause, while the orchestral performance under the direction of the Fat Woman simply brought down the house. When at last Prof. Renewer Makeover appeared with his Remodeloscope and promised to transform these sisters of uncertain age into anything they desired, enthusiasm ran high, and even after the Fat Woman wrecked the machine and the curtain went down the audience still lingered, applauding and

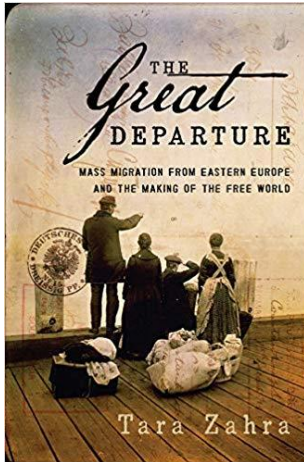
laughing and begging for ‘more.’ Every one present declared the price of admission too small, and begged for a repetition at \$1.00 per ticket.

**August 1, 1899, The Baltimore Sun
Eloped Over a Mountain-Lovers Drove
Forty-six Miles and Were Married**

Chattanooga, Tennessee—After an all-night drive of 46 miles over the Raccoon Mountains from Guntersville, Ala., pursued by father and brothers, James H. Cryer and Miss Willie Roden, of that town, arrived in Chattanooga today and were married in haste. The girl is about 16 years old and pretty. On account of her youth her parents objected to her marriage. After attending church last night, the couple eloped, starting for Chattanooga in a buggy. Riding all night, they arrived at noon. Two miles out of town their buggy broke down and the couple walked through the dusty roads to Chattanooga.

After their departure from Guntersville the father and brothers of the bride started on horseback to overtake the couple. They reached here this afternoon armed with shotguns, but the couple had married and returned home.

Book Review



The Great Departure; Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World

Tara Zahra, *The Great Departure; Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, © 2016. 392 pages. Hardbound.

When Americans think of the Great Migration, we tend to think of Western Europeans coming to the new world in the 1600s and 1700s. When we consider the later influx of Eastern Europeans, we picture Ellis Island and the millions of people arriving there in the 1800s and 1900s.

But these weren't the only large migrations of Europeans, and the U. S. was not the only destination for Eastern Europeans seeking a better life, or at least a better job. We may not realize that the countries they left behind were profoundly affected by this exodus. They had to cope with lack of military recruits and farm workers, and the costs of hiring replacements (often at a higher wage), usually from other nearby countries. All this moving about had a social cost, as well, as families were split up, villages died, and new people came into areas that had been relatively homogeneous.

These migrations within Europe, came about for the same reasons – bad harvests, lack of jobs, and lack of opportunities. For example, thousands of emigrants from the Austrian Empire's provinces of Galicia and Bukovina, and Hungary, moved to Germany, France, and Great Britain to work on farms or factories. The result was that countries began passing laws to limit emigration of their non-Jewish citizens. Most countries were happy to see the exit of their Jews, though finding a receptive new home was difficult. These laws and policies unfortunately laid the groundwork for the horrors of the Holocaust, as well as the closing of the Iron Curtain and the many tragedies of "ethnic cleansing" carried out in later years.

This book covers a lot of ground. It describes the realities of life in Eastern Europe during periods of high unemployment and privation, and the hostility many emigrants faced in the U.S., as well as the active discrimination against newcomers found almost world-wide.

The author, Tara Zahra, is a professor of modern European history at the University of Chicago, and is the author of two award-winning books: *The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II*, and *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900–1948*. She is also the coauthor (with Leora Auslander) of *Objects of War: The Material Culture of Conflict and Displacement*.

The Great Departure is a compelling look at Eastern European migrations and how they have impacted the modern world. It is well researched and footnoted. And I need to read it again.

--Katharine Garstka

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