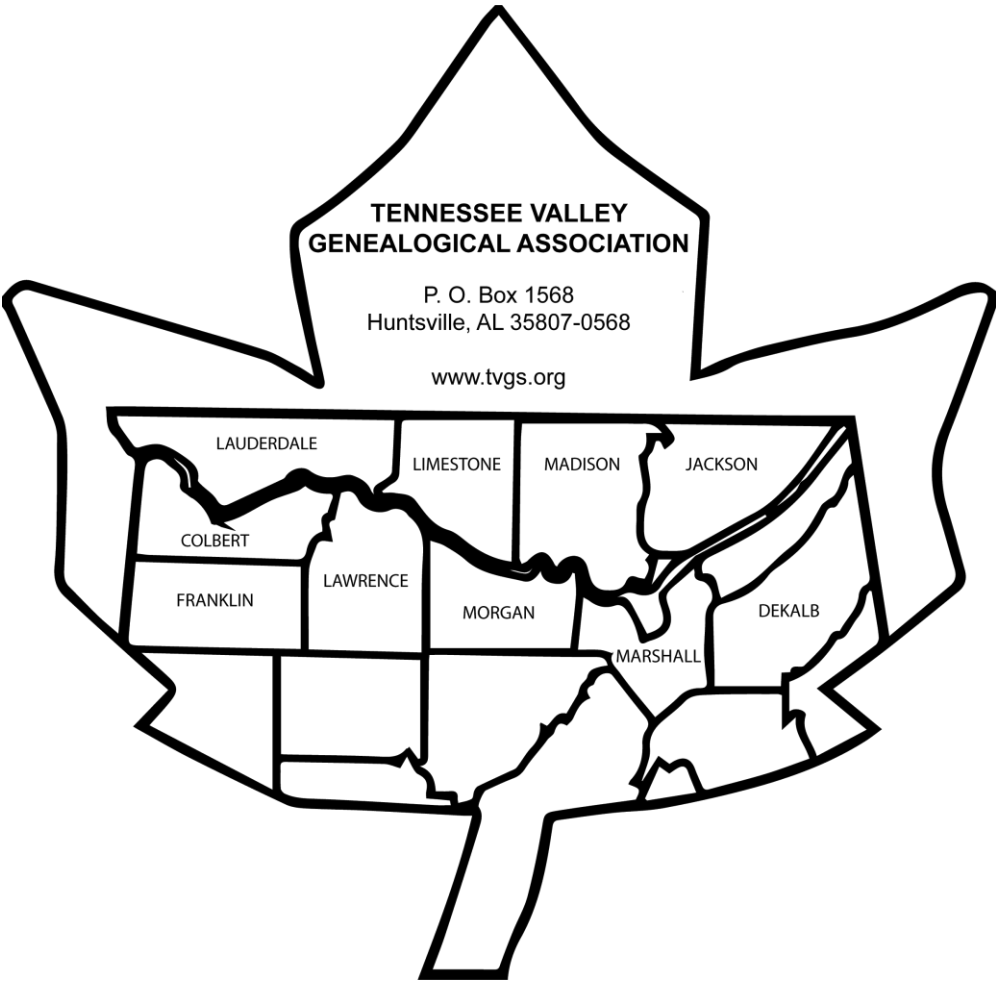


TENNESSEE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
of North Alabama

Valley Leaves

A BI-ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATION



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

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

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Valley Leaves

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 1-2

FALL 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, January 23, 2020, 7:00 pm

Solving Genealogical Brick Walls – TVGS members will provide a brick wall and participating members / researchers will share their experiences and knowledge to help solve those problems.

Thursday, April 23, 2020, 7:00 pm

Bob Davis, Wallace State Librarian and expert on Georgia genealogy, will present a topic to be determined later.

Thursday, July 23, 2020, 7:00 pm

Genealogy Antiques Roadshow with Dr. George Marchelos. Members can bring one or two items for "on the spot" appraisal.

Thursday, October 22, 2020, 7:00 pm

Program to be determined.

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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. We also need writers and editors for *Valley Leaves*. 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 Meeting News



In July we welcomed Dr. George Marchelos for our annual **Genealogy Antique Roadshow**. Dr. Marchelos, a certified appraiser of personal and estate property, antiques and collectibles, provided informal appraisals of items that attendees brought to the meeting. Dr. Marchelos is the originator of the UAH Certificate Series on Antiques, and is a university instructor on antiques. He has experience with banks, museums, insurance claims, churches, and legal settlements, and is a frequent contributor to the

Antique Traders column, “Ask the Expert.” He and his wife Beverly have presented several TVGS Genealogy Roadshow programs in the past few years.



TVGS members brought one or two items, with identification, for Dr. Marchelos to appraise. They were spread on a table at the front of the room for everyone to inspect before the program began.



In October, Historian John Rankin discussed his latest digitizing efforts to catalog The Sarah Huff Fisk Collection, a large manuscript collection featuring many local families of Madison County and the surrounding area. *Valley Leaves* often features his **Vintage Vignettes**, which highlight old Madison County families.

Upcoming TVGS Meetings: January 23, April 23, July 23

Our first meeting of 2020 will be January 23, and will feature several genealogists and researchers. They will discuss *Solving Genealogical Brick Walls*. TVGS members will provide a brick wall and participating members/researchers will share their experiences and knowledge to help solve those problems, using various techniques, tools, and forms. It would be helpful, but is not required, if members submit their "brick wall" to us by 15 January. You may email to kgarstka@wowway.com, with TVGS Brick Wall as the subject.

Our April 23 meeting brings Robert (Bob) Davis, Wallace State Librarian and expert on Georgia genealogy, presenting a topic to be determined later. Check our website for his selected topic choice.

The July 23 meeting is our always-popular Genealogy Antiques Roadshow with Dr. George Marchelos. Members are asked to bring one or two items for "on the spot" appraisal. Installation of officers will also take place at this meeting. (Have **you** signed up yet to help guide this organization?)

The final meeting of the year will be **October 22** – program to be determined.

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 First Families of the Tennessee Valley certificates by TVGS Past President and Corresponding Secretary Rhonda Larkin.

Jackson County

Finding My DAR and Mayflower Connections in Stevenson, Alabama

By Regena Campbell Dawson

When I began my genealogy journey in 2016, I thought that I would probably only find out information on a few generations in North Alabama. My father, Gene Shipp Campbell, was from New Market, Madison County, Alabama. My mother, Betty Faye Wynn, was from Stevenson, Jackson County, Alabama. Both had come from farm families that worked hard their whole lives. It just did not occur to me that before Alabama my ancestors had migrated from somewhere else.

My dear friend from church started a tree for me on Ancestry.com and talked me into going to a Hunt's Spring DAR meeting with her. Those wonderful DAR ladies were warm and welcoming. My friend was determined that we find a DAR ancestor in my direct line, so I joined Ancestry.com and started trying to fill in my tree by looking at the trees of other members who claimed to have the same ancestors. This was all conjecture at this point and I did not have proof of my possible ancestors, but it was a good place to start.

After a short while I had a pretty decent tree and shared it with our DAR historian, who immediately started doing most of the work to find out if I had any Revolutionary War Veterans in my direct line. It turned out that I had three good possibilities right off the bat, all with a document or two missing.

At this point I knew absolutely nothing about genealogy, but I was obsessed and could not put the research down. I have a computer background and though I am clueless in the library, I soon realized that I was really good at researching online. Through online research I kept finding documents and adding them to my tree, hoping to find enough information to join the DAR.

After filling out my tree a bit, it was determined that my best chance at joining the DAR was through my possible 5th Great Grandfather, Jonathan Fitch. He was already a proven DAR Patriot.

FITCH, JONATHAN

Ancestor #: A201388

Service: CONNECTICUT

Rank(s): CIVIL SERVICE, PATRIOTIC SERVICE

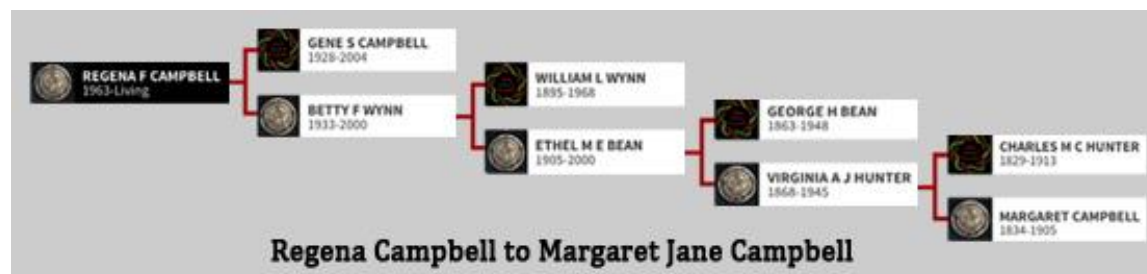
Birth: 2-15-1745 WINDSOR HARTFORD CO CONNECTICUT

Death: 4-8-1821 BAINBRIDGE CHENANGO CO NEW YORK

Service Source: MINER, HIST OF WYOMING, PP 191-192, 298, 488

Service Description: 1) SHERIFF AND REP TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CT

Now all I had to do was find all the documents from myself to Jonathan Fitch to prove that he was indeed my ancestor. My path to Jonathan Fitch was through my 2nd Great Grandmother, Margaret Jane Campbell, in my maternal line. She was my grandmother's, Ethel Mae Bean's, grandmother and she was from Stevenson, Jackson County, Alabama where my own grandmother had lived and my mother had grown up.



Margaret Jane Campbell was born on Oct. 1, 1834 in Crawford County, Pennsylvania to James Campbell and Sarah Fitch. She had married Darius Campbell (who may have been her first cousin) in 1852 and had four children; William, Charles, Peter and Hattie. She later got divorced and married Charles Magill Hunter Sr. Charles and Margaret ended up leaving Pennsylvania, moving to Franklin County, Tenn., and then moving to Stevenson. Margaret left her boys with their father, Darius and brought Hattie with her. She is sometimes listed as Hattie Campbell and sometimes as Hattie Hunter. Charles and Margaret also had four children together; Virginia, Charles, Patrick and James. Some were born in Tennessee and some in Alabama. Once they arrived in the Stevenson area, they seem to have stayed there. Margaret died on Aug. 24, 1905 in Jackson County, Alabama. Charles died in 1913 in Sunset, Jackson County, Alabama. Both are buried in Harmony Cemetery in Fackler, Jackson County, Alabama.

I had all the documents that I needed to prove my relationship to Margaret Jane Campbell. The DAR had proof of Jonathan Fitch as a Revolutionary War Patriot. So now I had to prove the connection from Margaret Jane Campbell to Jonathan Fitch (my 5th Great Grandfather). Unfortunately, there were a few gaps. There was very little to prove that Margaret was her father's, James Campbell's, child. There was also nothing to prove that Jonathan Fitch had a son named Amasa Fitch (my 4th Great Grandfather).



Thanks to Ancestry.com I found some of the missing information. I had contacted a member from San Francisco who was descended from Darius and Margaret Campbell. This made us half-

third cousins through Margaret Jane Campbell. He sent me death certificates that helped to prove that Margaret was the daughter of James Campbell. I also had the 1850 census that showed Margaret in the household of James, though it said she was a female named James. She went by Jane. These documents filled in that missing link. The DAR was able to help with the missing link between Amasa and Jonathan Fitch. Years ago, someone had joined the DAR through Jonathan Fitch's daughter, Sarah. At that time, they provided a Bible record and that record mentioned Amasa. So the DAR had the missing record that I needed.

I was able to join the DAR through Jonathan Fitch and also through his father-in-law, Jabez Sill (my 6th Great Grandfather). I was lucky in that Jabez was also already a proven patriot and known to be the father-in-law of Jonathan so no further documentation was needed. (National Number: 963289 proven through Amasa Fitch m Sarah Sally X)

SILL, JABEZ SR

Ancestor #: A103630

Service: CONNECTICUT

Rank(s): CIVIL SERVICE

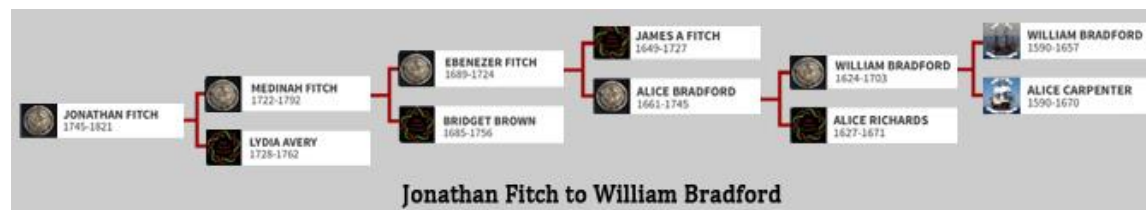
Birth: 8-4-1722 LYME NEW LONDON CO CONNECTICUT

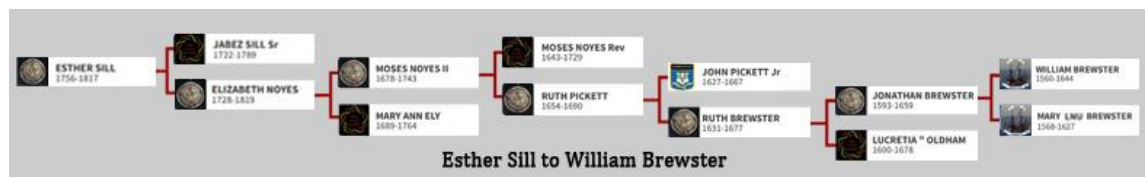
Death: 1-20-1790 LUZERNE CO PENNSYLVANIA

Service Source: MINER, HISTORY OF WYOMING, P 289

Service Description: 1) SELECTMAN

While finding information for the DAR, my San Francisco cousin informed me that through the Fitch line that I was able to get to the Mayflower. This was news to me and even now it is hard for me to believe. You just don't think about your family from rural Stevenson, Alabama as being descended from a Mayflower passenger. It turns out that Jonathan Fitch is descended from William Bradford (my 10th Great Grandfather). His wife, Esther Sill, is descended from William Brewster (my 11th Great Grandfather). What is interesting is that William Brewster was a lot like a father to William Bradford. Both Jonathan and Esther were already proven Mayflower descendants, so all I had to do was provide the same information that I provided to the DAR to the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Alabama (SMDAL). The SMDAL historian was extremely helpful and I was accepted into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD).





Another interesting tidbit is that Jonathan Fitch’s first Great Grandfather was Major James Fitch of Connecticut. He was an early patron of Yale College, where he is memorialized in an archway. He became a major in King Phillip’s War. He was also, at one time, a magistrate in New London, New London County, Connecticut. His second wife was Alice Bradford, granddaughter of William Bradford.

From one ancestral line, with help from the DAR and the GSMD, I was able to claim two Revolutionary War Patriots and three Mayflower ancestors, counting Mary Brewster. People in Jackson County who have Margaret Jane Campbell in their direct line might also be able to easily claim these ancestors and join these societies.

Documents:

Birth Certificates: Regena Faye Campbell, Billy Dwayne Dawson, Betty Faye Wynn, Gene Shipp Campbell

Death Certificates: James Loury Hunter, Charles McGill Hunter Jr, Virginia Jennie Hunter, George Henry Bean, Charles Magill Hunter Sr, Sarah Elizabeth Campbell Sippie, William Butler Campbell, Ethel Mae Wynn, William Lawrence Wynn, Betty Faye Wynn Campbell, Gene Campbell, Lydia Fitch Fullerton, William Landrum Hunter

Alabama Deaths and Burials Index 1881-1974 for Jennie Bean

Marriage Certificates:

1986 - Billy Dwayne Dawson & Regena Faye Campbell

1957 – Gene Shipp Campbell & Betty Faye Wynn, Walker County, GA

Marriage Index 1814-1935 for William Lawrence Wynn & Ethel Bean

Alabama Marriages 1809 – 1920 for George Henry Bean & Jennie Hunter Pruett

Tennessee State Marriages 1780-2002 for Finley Pruett and Jennie Hunter

Census Records:

1850 – James Campbell, Sarah, Jane, Woodcroft, Crawford, PA

1850 – Amasa Fitch, Sally, Richmond, Crawford, PA

1850 – William Hunter, Darcus Hunter, Vionesta, Venago, PA

1870 – Charles Magill Hunter, Jane Hunter, Jennie Hunter, Franklin, TN

1880 – Dorcus Hunter, Charles Magill Hunter, Jane Hunter, Jennie Hunter, Jackson, AL

1880 - James Campbell, Sarah, Woodcroft, Crawford, PA

1900 – Dorcus Lucinda Campbell Mosher, Venago, PA

1900 - Charles Magill Hunter, Jane Hunter, Jackson, AL

1900 – George Henry Bean, Jackson, AL

1910 – Charles Magill Hunter, Allison, Jackson, AL

1910 – William Lawrence Wynn, Jackson, AL

1940 – William Lawrence Wynn, Ethel Wynn, Jackson, AL

1890 – Dorcus Lucinda Campbell Mosher

Wills:

Jonathan Fitch Will

Amasa Fitch Will

Bible Records:

Magill Bible Record

References:

DAR

GSMD

Madison County

Amanda Carnes Camper

A Vintage Vignette

By John P. Rankin

April 20, 2007

Amanda Carnes Camper, from *Memories of Madison, A Connected Community, 1857-2007*, page 78.

In a little family cemetery behind the Casa Blanca Restaurant on Brown's Ferry Road just west of Hughes Road are two headstones for **Amanda C., Wife of B. G. Camper**. Both show the birth date of Oct. 1, 1885 and a death age as **about 49 years**. Both have the epithet as **Tho lost to sight, to memory dear**. The stones are not quite identical, as the scroll designs at the tops are inverted and the sentence wording breaks on the lines of the epithets are different between them. Other than that, and the fact that the stones are separated by about 25 feet on different graves, they are obviously to commemorate the same person.



Amanda Carnes Camper was a beautiful but determined-looking and richly dressed woman, according to her photograph in the Madison sesquicentennial book *Memories of Madison, A Connected Community, 1857-2007*. She married Blooming Goodner ("Goodwin", per marriage license, but called "Dunc" for "Duncan" by the family) in 1865. The 1860 census shows "Mandy" at age 21 in the household of her father William. Two houses away was the family of wagonmaker and mechanic Benjamin L. Camper, whose son Blooming G. was listed as age 14. The 1880 census shows Amanda's age as 44, while her husband "Duncan" is given as age 34 in that year. Either way, Amanda married a younger man – contrary to custom for the time.

Amanda's father-in-law had descendants who were significantly involved in the business and news of the area in the "old days". One of the Campers owned the Twickenham Hotel in Huntsville for a time, and he also had an exclusive men's tailoring shop. Another in the 1920s and 1930s owned the impressive Lanford – Slaughter mansion just north of Old Madison Pike on the east bank of Indian Creek, as also illustrated in the Madison sesquicentennial book. Yet another was involved in a notorious murder here, while another descendant provided land for a public school at the junction of Slaughter Road with Old Madison Pike, behind the location of the service station located there today. In fact, there was even another Camper family cemetery (now destroyed) in that area, on the east side of Slaughter Road, where it is known that Blooming's parents and a sister are buried.

During her short lifetime, Amanda Carnes Camper herself became the mother of several children, including daughters Ollie and Betty Hester. These daughters both married Madison resident Luke Landers, but not at the same time. Ollie married Luke in 1882, but she died in 1894. It was in 1910 that Betty Hester Camper married Luke Landers. Betty's tombstone has the most recent burial date (1955) of any in the Camper Cemetery (originally the Farrald family

cemetery) behind Casa Blanca. In fact, Betty's tombstone is very near the southernmost headstone for Amanda. The mystery of the dual headstones for Amanda was finally solved by contact with descendant Julius Walter Camper of Maryville, Tennessee. He related a story about the cemetery's tombstones all having been stolen many years ago. An ad was placed in the local newspaper by the family, stating that if the stones were returned by a certain date, then no questions would be asked. If not, then a significant monetary reward would be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprits.

The stones were returned, but while the headstones were being emplaced again the family split in a dispute about which grave was Amanda's. The two sides could not agree, so another stone was procured, and both factions erected a headstone where they thought she was buried. After hearing the story, I decided to look again at the graves. It was then that I found a footstone at the grave in the middle of the cemetery where Amanda's northernmost headstone was located. Careful examination of the footstone revealed the initials **AGC**. The initials were definitely not **ACC**, as would be expected for Amanda Carnes Camper. A check of Dorothy Scott Johnson's Volume 1 (1971) of her book series *Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama*, showed a listing for Annie G. Camper, daughter of B. F. and P. F. Camper. The grave is located within a bordered area for the family of B. F. Camper, and furthermore, the grave is not quite adult-sized. Dot Johnson's book shows that Annie's life span details were lost from the stone when she saw it, but the 1880 census shows her as age 12. It would fit that Annie died as a teenager and is buried at the northernmost grave marked for Amanda, while Amanda is near the south end of the cemetery, where the other marker is located. Apparently, Annie's headstone was never returned, and the family failed to notice that she was "missing," but at least we now know where Amanda is located.

Camper Clan Contribution

A Vintage Vignette

By John P. Rankin

March 8, 2008

The Campers came here from Lebanon, Tennessee, about 1824. Simon Camper was born in Virginia, a great grandson of John Kemper who was born in 1692 in Musen, Germany and in 1714 came to the Germanna Colony near Fredericksburg, Virginia. Simon's father John was born in the mid-1700s in Virginia and served in the Revolutionary War. Simon brought his family here and settled near Meridianville before moving to Warrenton in Marshall County before 1840, where he died. However, while Simon was here several of his children married and stayed.

One of Simon's children was Amanda Camper, who married Bryant Cobb, a War of 1812 soldier, postmaster, Overseer of the Poor, Justice of the Peace, and constable. Simon's children also included Benjamin L. and Jordan Howard Camper, both of whom lived in Madison. Among Benjamin's many children was a son named Robert Isaac Camper, who lived on the east side of Indian Creek immediately south of Old Madison Pike. Robert I. had sons Robert E. and William Olin Camper. According to a 1933 lawsuit, Robert E. was "doing business as" The Hotel Twickenham, which had 5 stories and was one of Huntsville's premier hotels, operating between 1915 and 1971. It was located at 118 Clinton Avenue, between Washington and Jefferson Streets, where today we have a city-owned parking garage. According to a 1914 lawsuit, Robert E. and his brother Olin were partners in The Toggery Shop of Huntsville, which advertised "Fine Tailoring". In 1910 Robert E. and his wife Marie deeded land for Union Hill School (also called Benson Hill School) in the northwestern corner of the junction of Slaughter Road with Old Madison Pike.

By 1919 William Olin Camper came into ownership of the Lanford-Slaughter house, one of the most imposing mansions of the county. It still stands north of Old Madison Pike and east of Indian Creek, looking south over the lands owned by Olin's father Robert Isaac Camper. In fact, it is surmised that R. I. Camper may well have planted in his yard the ancient dogwood that was recently moved to Huntsville's Botanical Garden to save it from planned development as the road is straightened and the new Catholic High School is constructed.

In her privately published book *Reflections of Madison, 1869-1999*, Gladys True wrote that there was a bedspread factory on the upper floor of the City Hall on Garner Street, but that "R. O. Camper was director of a recreation center occupying the first floor" in 1944. While the Camper clan contributed to commerce and recreation of the area, there were always lawsuits plaguing them. A 1914 suit pitted Apperson Ice Cream Company against Fred O. Camper, and a 1915 suit was pressed by a Texas company against Camper Brothers Garage. The garage was both a gasoline station and an automobile repair shop. It was a partnership of Jodie and George Camper. Earlier, in 1874, a suit was filed by some of Daniel Whitworth's descendants against Benjamin F. Camper and others regarding land purchased for back taxes owed by Daniel's estate. (Benjamin F. was a brother of Robert I. Camper.) Worst of all, in 1914 Jordan H. Camper was involved in a criminal case for murder of an Italian immigrant. However, that requires another story, with details to be revealed at a later time.

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 1 of this article appeared in the previous issue of *Valley Leaves*.

Early Settlement and Development of North Madison County, Alabama, Part 2

By Alice McCrary Thomas

The inventory and appraisal of Robert Thompson's personal estate will give some indications of values in 1829. Some of the items were as follows: one pair card tables - \$30: one broad cloth cloak- \$75: one gold watch - \$80: one musical box - \$5: one beaver hat - \$11: eighty gallons of whiskey at 80 cents per gallon - \$64: (one pair moulded celery's - \$3; one mantle clock - \$27; one lot Spanish Tobacco - \$6; one pair luster pitchers - \$3: one secretary - \$15: one coat, vest and pantaloons - \$50: one gold head walking cane - \$40.¹

Another original settler who seemed to have much wealth was Dr. James Manning who also came from Petersburg, Georgia. He bought his land through the credit system making his first payment in August of 1809 and his last in April 1816². At the same time Robert and James Jr. entered a quarter section. In the 1810 Tax Census he gave as taxable land 480 acres situated near Flint, and gave the number of slaves as 35. In the 1811 census he gave 800 acres of land and 45 slaves and in the 1815 census he listed 1280 1/4 acres of taxable land and 62 slaves.

In his will recorded 25 May 1841, he left his house, paintings and portraits to his wife, also his "four wheel pleasure carriage and carriage horses" and 14 slaves³. His will,

which indicated that he had a large estate in Marengo County, estimated what each child in the family would be entitled to, the total estimate was \$146,300. In the inventory of property in Marengo County, 135 slaves were listed and valued at \$60,550⁴.

It has been mentioned in histories of the "Tidewater Section" of Virginia of the "closed corporation" or intermarriages of a certain select group of that section. From available records the same is found to be true here in North Madison County. Thomas McCrary's marriage with both families of the Wright's has been mentioned. William Petty, one of the Revolutionary soldiers, had married Lucretia Wright, sister of the Wright brothers⁵ before coming to North Madison County: William Shackelford, one of the original settlers married Nancy Wright, daughter of Daniel: Mary Elizabeth McCrary, daughter of Thomas McCrary married Josiah Battle, son of Davis Battle, an original settler⁶: and Thomas McCrary had three daughters to marry into these original families - Betsy married Thomas Cavitt, son of Richard Cavitt, in 1817: Martha married Hugh McVay in 1819: and Mary married Larkin A. Kelly, son of Christopher, in 1832⁷. Richard Shackelford's daughter married Zachariah

¹ Probate Record Vol 4. pp. 466-469

² Receiver Ledger op. cit.

³ Probate Record Vol 9, p 474

⁴ Probate Record Vol 9. p. 575

⁵ Hoppin op. cit.

⁶ McCrary Family Bible

⁷ Marriage Records in order named. Vol. 1, p. 346; Vol. 2. p 329; Vol. 4, p. 68

Petty, son of William Petty.⁸ These are just a few of the many noted in the survey.

Their business deals, administrative duties, and appraisements, were also conducted among themselves, as were their wills and deeds. Among these: Thomas McCrary administered on Williams Wright's estate⁹: Reuben Stone was an appraiser of William Shackelford's estate along with Eli Petty, John Wright and Williams Wright. In the administration of the William Shackelford estate, Daniel and Nancy Wright Shakelford were appointed administrators, and according to the minutes of the orphan's court of 1817, they gave bond in the sum of \$10,000 with Williams Wright and Thomas McCrary as securities¹⁰. In the will of John Smith one of the executors was Major Robert Walton, an original settler.¹¹ and in the appraisal of the John Kelly estate, George Shakelford and John Smith were named as appraisers.¹² These are but a few of the many instances found in the Probate and Orphans Court records which indicate that these original settlers were as closely tied together in their business life as in their social life.

Four men prominent in the development of the county, who bought land in the Township, but probably did not reside there, but in Huntsville or near-by were: John W. Walker, a son-in-law of Leroy Pope; Thomas G. Percy, another son-in-law, Obadiah Jones, first Judge of the Orphans Court, and John Brahan who has been mentioned before as "Receiver of Public Monies" in the first land sale in Huntsville.

John W. Walker, in 1811, bought two quarter sections of land and according to the appraisal of his estate at his death in 1831 he

owned 840 acres in Township Two, Range One East, having acquired the three quarter sections originally owned by Robert Thompson. Thomas G. Percy and Matilda Walker, his widow, acted as administrators in the settlement of his estate and petitioned the court to have the lands sold so the estate might be equitably divided among his heirs. As the estate was solvent this was granted.¹³ He served in several important political offices in a territorial and state capacity, and as first United States Senator from Alabama from 1819 to 1822.¹⁴

In the 1815 census Thomas G. Percy was listed as having 1,440 taxable acres of land, however, he originally bought only one quarter section in Township Two, Range One East in the 1811 land sale.

Obadiah Jones bought one quarter section of land in this township in 1811. In the tax census he listed 960 1/4 acres and 10 slaves. He was appointed Judge of the Orphans Court through the recommendation of William Wyatt Bibb., at that time Congressman from Georgia. Jones was a native of Virginia but lived for some time in South Carolina and Georgia before coming to Madison County. He died in 1825¹⁵

John Brahan has been mentioned, in several instances, in Madison County History, as being a land speculator. He entered one quarter section in Township Two, Range One East in 1810 and then again in 1812 bought two more quarter sections, thus acquiring a section of land in this township. In the 1810 Tax Census he is credited with 3,136 acres of land and 13 slaves. In the 1815 census he gave 3,995 acres and 19 slaves. Brahan's estate as recorded in 1834 lists 48 slaves and an individual cash value

⁸ Probate Record Vol. 3, pp. 70-71

⁹ Probate Record Vol. 3 pp. 327-328

¹⁰ Minutes Orphans Court 1817, op. cit. pp. 89-90

¹¹ Wills and Inventories op. cit. p. 47

¹² Ibid pp. 58-60

¹³ Minutes of Orphan Court, Vol. 4, p. 460

¹⁴ Thomas M. Owens, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Vol. IV. (Chicago 1921) pp. 1716-1717.

¹⁵ Ibid., Vol., III., pp., 936-939

is given to each, the total value amounting to \$16,730.¹⁶ Also found in the Probate Court Records is a record of sale of 130 slaves valued at \$66,315.25.¹⁷ This sale took place November 1835. Brahan's estate was declared insolvent. In 1841, six years after his death, the estate was settled. Around \$150,000 was paid out to claimants. The seven children of Brahan's, his heirs, were left with an estate of \$106 each.¹⁸

Another settler of interest and one who helped to make history in the township was Bennett Wood. In 1809 he entered two quarter sections of land adjoining that of Uriah Bass. In the 1810 census he is credited with 1,280 acres and 21 slaves. He gave the location of his land as "near flint". In 1810 he was qualified by the Orphans Court to perform marriages in the Baptist Church.¹⁹ In the "History of Madison County" by Judge Thomas Taylor, he was mentioned as a "Baptist Minister and the original owner of the Bell Factory property on Flint River." Judge Taylor also stated that he was the County Treasurer in 1819. He is credited with building the first bridge across Flint River "at the Three Forks" in 1822. He built the bridge for \$1,000. He gave bond to keep it in good condition for seven years and there is no indication that he ever had to forfeit his bond.²⁰

William Houghton was another early settler to this township. He bought one quarter section in 1809 and two more in 1811. His land adjoined that of Uriah Bass and Bennett Wood. It was, also, to become a part of the Bell Factory property. He built a mill in

1812 which was used as the first voting place outside Huntsville.²¹

Two men who bought land in this Township served in the early state legislature. They were John Vinning and Epps Moody.²²

Other men besides Bennett Wood who were authorized by the Orphans Court to perform marriages in their respective churches, and the date of the authorization were: Richard Shackelford, Holy Church of Christ, 1819; George A. Kelly, Methodist, 1822; and Christopher Kelly, Cumberland Presbyterian, 1829.²³

By 1846, according to records, 27 of the original settlers of this Township had died.²⁴

The 1850 census gave, for District Thirty-Four, in which Township Two, Range One East was a part, a white population of 2,785 and a slave population of 2,094. In listing the occupations of this district "farmer" predominated with 277 giving this as their occupation. There were 178 who gave their occupation as "Laborer"; 16 teachers; 50 students; 15 carpenters; nine preachers; six saddlers; 21 overseers; 12 shoe makers; 13 blacksmiths; and eight doctors. Other occupations listed were: clerk, merchant; tailor; chair maker; mill wright; brick mason; inn keeper; grocer; hatter; gunsmith; machinist; lawyer; cabinet maker; distiller; poor house keeper; cotton manufacturer; weaver; dyer; and census taker.

In this same census 23 manufacturing establishments were listed in the district. They were evaluated for a total sum of \$69,005 and produced the following products: meal and flour, wagons and plows; lumber; woolen thread; cotton thread;

¹⁶ Probate Record., Vol., 7., p., 99

¹⁷ Probate Record., Vol., 7., p., 188

¹⁸ Probate Record., Vol., 9., p., 457

¹⁹ Minutes Orphans Court., Vol., 1., pp., 3-5

²⁰ Thomas J. Taylor., "History of Madison County" (Manuscript in possession of Taylor family)

²¹ Ibid

²² W. Brewer., Alabama - Her History Resources, War Records and Public Men, From 1540-1872. (Montgomery, 1872., p., 371

²³ Orphan Court Record: In order named: Vol. 1. pp. 62-63; Vol. 3. p. 380; Vol. IV. p. 339

²⁴ Probate Records, Vol. 1 through Vol. 9, Wills and Inventories, op. cit.

leather goods; and furniture. The largest manufacturing plant in the district was a cotton factory owned by Patton and Donegan with a capital investment of \$116,000 and a yearly production of \$37,400. The number of plantations listed in this census was 290.²⁵

Thus, it can be gleaned, from a rather brief survey of factual material available on this township, that its land was rich and that the men coming in were willing to pay for it. It would seem that these original settlers, most of them in the meridian of life, came to the township with the idea of settling here. They bought modest amounts of land and proceeded to increase this acreage by adding, if possible, lands adjoining their original purchase. They brought with them an average of five to 10 slaves, and

increased their slave holdings along with an increase in their land. In a short time the men who remained on the land had accumulated comfortable plantations which they built up through their acumen and the knowledge they brought with them from their native state. These men came to a rather primitive country and proceeded to produce a new life out of the rich soil of North Madison County. Briefly, it could be said of these original settlers, “they came, they saw, they conquered” the land.

Note: All Probate Records; Orphans Court; Will and Inventories; Guardian Settlements; and Deed Books referred are located in the Madison County Court House, Huntsville, Alabama.

²⁵ 1850 census, op. cit.

The Halsey Family

A Vintage Vignette

By John P. Rankin

December 6, 2008

When I was a child, I recall my mother using a rub board to wash clothes on our farm. I even learned to use the device for our family laundry before we obtained a more modern washing machine with “wringer-type” (button-crushing) rollers in the 1950s. Yet, washing machines apparently have been around much longer than I expected. In his book “A Dream Come True” Volume 1 (1970), James Record stated that in 1832 in Huntsville, John Halsey was advertising “the Revolving Steam Washer”. John Halsey was a carriage maker born in 1781 in Virginia per the censuses of 1850 and 1860. His son Samuel per the 1860 census became a merchant in the town of Madison, but John’s son William Irby (also shown as initial “J.”) Halsey was listed as a Huntsville portrait painter in 1850 and an artist in 1860. William was born in 1819 in Madison County, and he married Martha Ann, daughter of Thomas Cain, in 1840.

William and Martha had nine children listed in their household in 1860, including William L. Halsey, who was born in 1854 and married Laura Lanier of Madison area ancestry. The younger William and his brother Charles in 1884 became stockholders in the Nashville & North Alabama Railroad. In 1886 they became stockholders in the Monte Sano Hotel. The brothers also founded in January of 1879 the Halsey Wholesale Grocery Company, operated in Huntsville for over 100 years. The Halsey’s Huntsville store is on Jefferson Street, but the firm’s main office is now located in Madison on Lanier Road near the post office and Will Halsey Way. The Huntsville store was the site of a tragic double slaying in 1909, but that is best left to history. The Madison connection has included not only intermarriage with the Cain and Lanier families but also with the Nance, Lowry, Dedman, Blizzard, Dillard, and Acklen families.

The Halsey Family Genealogy Forum and other Internet web pages state that the first mentions of the name were as Lords of the Manor of Tanesley in Cornwall, England, in 1189. Henry VIII in 1545 bestowed 5,000 acres upon William Halsey. On that estate in 1591 was born Thomas Halsey, who in 1636 came to America. Thomas was an original patentee and founder of Southampton on Long Island, New York. Thomas Halsey’s wife was killed by Indians from Massachusetts who raided the Long Island settlement in 1649. Internet postings state that Thomas was the ancestor of all Halseys in America, including Admiral William Frederick (“Bull”) Halsey, who commanded the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Other famous persons who are shown in Ancestry.com’s files as being related to the Halsey line include Wernher von Braun, Sam Walton, Frank Lloyd Wright, Judy Garland, Raymond Massey, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Browning, Alfred Tennyson, Aldous Huxley, Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), and Francis Lightfoot Lee. Additionally, the Halsey line is connected per Ancestry.com data to notorious outlaws Sam Bass, John Wesley Hardin, and Frank James. Of course, it was Frank James who was tried in court at Huntsville for robbing a payroll train at Florence, Alabama. It is not known whether the Halsey family members living in Huntsville at the time were even aware of any relationship to the famous outlaw, much less whether or not they attended the trial. For those who may not know, Frank was acquitted because the witnesses all developed severe amnesia and

couldn't clearly identify the perpetrator. However, the Halsey family had several more prominent connections, with relationships now known to U. S. Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Gerald Ford. They also connected to Angelica Van Buren, daughter-in-law of President Martin Van Buren. Angelica hosted White House social events in place of the President's wife, who passed away in 1819 before he was in office (1837-1841). Additionally, the connections include Bess Truman, Rosalynn Carter, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as noted explorer John C. Fremont and the inventor of television, Philo T. Farnsworth. Altogether, the Halsey family has well served not only Madison County, but also the nation and the world in general.

Miss Hessie

A Vintage Vignette

By John P. Rankin

April 13, 2007



1934 photo of Miss Hessie

Nancy Hesseltine Gillespie was born in Tennessee in 1866, just after the Civil War. She became well-known as Madison's most beloved school teacher. Her family moved to Morgan County, Alabama in 1870, then to the Madison area in 1879. "Hessie" had one sister and six brothers, two of whom became physicians. Hessie graduated with honors from the Huntsville Female Seminary in 1888 and became a teacher. She married Joseph Bruce Farley in 1892, living in Madison. The couple had a daughter, Frances Lorinda Farley in 1893, but Bruce died of malaria in 1894 at the age of 28. Hessie never remarried. After Bruce's death, she went into partnership with her brother William Gillespie to run the Farley & Gillespie Drug Store in Madison. The store offered groceries, stationery, and hardware as well as medicines. The store was sold, and Hessie accepted a teaching job in Tuscumbia. In 1907 her mother Narcissa Lorinda Clarke Gillespie died, and in 1910 her father Campbell Milton Gillespie (a Confederate veteran) passed away. That left Hessie's sister, Narcissa Elizabeth ("Nora") Gillespie, who never married, alone on the family farm, so Hessie returned to Madison in 1911. She had a unique house constructed for herself, her daughter, and her sister at 313 Church Street, while the family farm was rented to a nephew, Clark Patton Gillespie. Hessie began to teach again in Madison and became affectionately known as "Miss Hessie" to her first grade pupils.

Hessie's daughter Lorinda married Herbert Lafayette Thornton in 1920, and in 1935 Herbert became a charter member of Alabama's new Highway Patrol. It took quite a while for Madison residents to become accustomed to seeing a highway patrol car regularly parked on Church Street. Even though Miss Hessie was a life-long Presbyterian, she taught Sunday School in the Baptist Church, attending whenever services were held. She was active in a number of organizations, including the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the

American Revolution (her grandfather William Cowan Gillespie served as a Lieutenant), the Eastern Star, the Home Demonstration Club, the Entre Nous Federated Women's Club (which she helped to found in Madison), and the P.T.A., the N.E.A., and the A.E.A. educational associations.

After a teaching career that spanned over 50 years, Miss Hessie dreaded the prospect of leaving the classroom to retire. However, that was not necessary, as she passed away in her home of a stroke during the Christmas break from school, dying on January 1, 1939, at the age of 72. It was a major shock to her young students, who lost their favorite teacher without warning. Mrs. Howard Hughes became her replacement, and Mrs. Hughes taught the class until her retirement in 1976. Accordingly, Madison's first grade had two teachers that covered more than a 65-year span.

Miss Hessie is buried beside her husband Bruce Farley in the Farley – Crutcher Cemetery south of Miller Plaza. Howard H. Hughes and his wife Lorene Howard Hughes are buried in the City Cemetery's new section, on the north side of Mill Road near the Hughes Road intersection. Miss Hessie's character was unique and impressive, as is her house which still stands on Church Street. Her legacy lives on, in the lives of Madison's students that she taught and inspired for several generations. May Madison's teachers always live up to her standards of care for her charges.

Virginia Clay-Clopton Historical Marker Rededicated



Photo by John Allen

An historical marker at Wildwood, on Highway 72 East at Gurley, the former home of Virginia Clay-Clopton, was rededicated this past summer. TVGS Corresponding Secretary Rhonda Larkin attended the ceremony.

The marker was first erected in 1958 by the Virginia Clay-Clopton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The rededication was sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the historic marker was unveiled by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society.

The marker reads:

“Wildwood”

Home of Virginia Clay Clopton (1825-1915)

Author and Social Leader who was known
in Washington society
as “The Belle of the Fifties”

Whose first husband,

Clement Claiborne Clay (1817-1882), was
United States Senator from Alabama (1853-1861)
and Confederate Leader (1861-1865)

and

Whose second husband, David Clopton (1820-1892),
was a United States Congressman
from Alabama (1859-1861)
and later Associate Justice
of the Supreme Court of Alabama.

Find Local Yearbooks at the Library's Special Collections Department



By Joy Caitlin Monroe

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

Did you know that the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Special Collections Department collects yearbooks? We have a large collection of elementary, high school, and college annuals from schools in Alabama. Annuals can be a great resource for many areas of research including genealogy. They can provide images of family members and help narrow down their age, as well as provide an interesting window into their young lives. Annuals also give snapshots of local history, particularly giving breath to the daily lives of students, educators, teams, and community members of Madison County.

We are always searching for yearbooks to add to our collection. More yearbooks mean more information for researchers and more pieces to their family and community puzzles! In particular, we are looking to expand our current collection by finding annuals that are from:

- Public & Private schools
- Madison City, Huntsville City, and Madison County
- Elementary, Middle, High School, & K-12
- Colleges & Technical Schools
- Schools that are still open and ones that are closed
- Have another kind of yearbook that you think will fit our collection? Let us know!

We would like to expand our collection to include more county schools. We understand that not everyone went to school in Huntsville! And we would like to be a resource to EVERYONE who

attended school in Madison County, not just the city dwellers. In particular, we are searching for yearbooks from the five county high schools:

- Buckhorn
- Hazel Green
- Madison County
- New Hope
- Sparkman

Madison County has seen the open and close of many schools over its 200 years. Some of these historic schools are more recent than you would expect! We would like to find yearbooks from these historic schools from the county and cities of Huntsville and Madison, such as:

- Central High School
- Councill High School
- Monrovia School
- Mount Lebanon School
- Rison School
- Toney School

Know of another historic school? Tell us about it!²⁶

What do we already have? We have a large collection of annuals for both Alabama and Auburn universities as well as small collections for other Alabama colleges such as: Alabama A&M, Athens State, University of North Alabama, and Jacksonville State. We also have a large collection of elementary school yearbooks and schools which includes all grades such as Bradley School, Weatherly Heights Elementary, and Randolph School. For a complete list, contact us or visit the Special Collections Department on the third floor of the downtown branch of the library. The following is a list of the annuals we have for high schools located in Madison County. We do not have every year for every school, so if you have something we are missing, let us know!

Name of School	Name of Annual	Years in our Collection
Bob Jones High School	Patriot	1996, 1997, 1999-2006, 2014
Butler High School	Rebel	1960-1984, 1986, 1988-1991, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2011
Columbia High School	The Talon	2008, 2019
Grissom High School	Invictus	1972, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1984-1991, 1994, 1995
Huntsville High School	Pierian	1937, 1938, 1941-1943, 1945-1948, 1955-1958, 1960, 1963-1995, 1997-2008, 2010-2012, 2017
James Clemens High	Rise	2013
Johnson High School	Harmony	1972, 1973, 1975, 1977-1979, 1981, 2002, 2003, 2009-2011, 2016

²⁶ To learn more about historic schools in Madison County, consult the following books in the Special Collections Department: *History of Madison County Schools* and *Teachers and Schools of Huntsville, Alabama 1859-1940*, by Ann Geiger Maulsby.

Name of School	Name of Annual	Years in our Collection
Lee High School	Silver Sabre	1969-1977, 1979-1992, 1996, 2000, 2002-2004
Madison High School	The Reflector	1944
New Hope High School	The Indian	1943, 1944
Pope John Paul Catholic High	Peregrine	2012
Riverton High School	Annual	1943, 1945-1956
Sparkman High School	Senator	1973

We deeply appreciate any and all donations to this collection. If you have historic yearbooks you are not ready to part with, please contact us and let us know what you have. Depending on what it is, we may be able to digitize it and let you keep it.

Special Collections Department
 Downtown Branch Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
 256-532-5969
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About the author: Cait 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.

Marshall County

Ernest and Mary Jane Montgomery

From the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

Born at Summit, Alabama, on March 2, 1894, Ernest Montgomery was the son of John and Eunice Horton Montgomery. In the 1910 Census, John Montgomery listed his occupation as farm labor. Seventeen-year-old Ernest's siblings were listed as Henry, Hattie, Chalmers, John, Fred, and Laroy. By 1913, Ernest worked for the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad with the responsibility of being a deck hand on a transfer boat. Prior to the completion of the tracks to Guntersville, the rail cars were loaded on steamboats at Ditto's Landing to make the connection to the tracks at Guntersville. Ernest ultimately retired from the company on Sept. 1, 1953, about the time the railroad discontinued this method when track was finally laid to complete the line.

In 1917, Ernest and Miss Mary Jane Edwards married in Guntersville, Alabama. Born at Manchester on June 15, 1895, Mary Jane was the daughter of William (Bill) Edwards and Ellen Fearn Edwards. As they began their married life, world events alerted expectations with the First World War and required more men for the military. Ernest entered the U. A. Army on April 27, 1918, and received basic training at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Following basic instruction, Ernest left for a year of service in France with the 324th Quartermaster Corps, Company C. He departed from Hoboken, New Jersey, on the ship *Manchuria* on July 10, 1918, and returned on the ship *Sierra* which left from St. Nazaire, France, on July 18, 1919.

Honorably discharged, he returned home and resumed his employment with the railroad.



Mary Jane Edwards Montgomery, wife of Ernest Montgomery, and mother of Callie and Ruby.

Ernest and Mary Jane Montgomery seemed to have prospered in spite of a lagging economy. They owned an automobile and transitioned from renting to owning a home. According to the census, the Montgomery family lived for a time in the 500 block of Guntersville. One entry in an interview indicated that Mary Jane worked for Cam Glover, Sr., at the Glover Hotel. In a contradictory remark, she was said to be a

housewife, so perhaps she contracted for a specific task like sewing or washing for the hotel. The family reported owning a home valued at \$700. When the TVA came to Guntersville, the Montgomery family sold property near the river and moved to Carlisle Avenue. The family built a stylish Mediterranean styled home valued at \$1,600.

Mary Jane and Ernest Montgomery became the parents of two daughters. The older child Callie Mae Montgomery attended elementary school in Guntersville. At that time, she had no opportunity for additional education in her home community as there was no high school for black children. To give her a formal education, they sent her to Selma, Alabama, at a secondary school and then to Dayton, Tennessee, where she graduated. Following the completion of high school, Callie Mae attended Booker T. Washington Business College two years for the study of business administration.

Callie and her parents wanted additional skills and more education. By that time, Roosevelt Williamson had been hired as principal of the Lakeview Junior and Senior High School in Guntersville. When Callie's father consulted Mr. Williamson for a recommendation of an appropriate college, he as an alumnus suggested Alabama State College. Callie attended Alabama State and later Kent State University. In Ohio, she met and married Dr. Gordon Smith, a practicing physician, who later worked at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D. C. In the nation's capital, Callie obtained employment in civil service. The Smiths had one daughter named Jennifer.

Mary Jane and Ernest Montgomery's younger daughter was named Ruby. While she had the benefit of attending school at home in Guntersville at Lakeview School, Ruby actually graduated from high school at

Austin High School in Knoxville, Tennessee.



Bill Edwards with his granddaughter, Ruby Montgomery.

Following graduation, she married James Bernard Pierson and had a son, James Bernard Pierson, Jr. The small family moved to Chicago, but the couple divorced three years later. Returning to Guntersville with her son, Ruby enrolled at Alabama A & M University and secured a bachelor's degree in 1955 and had the distinction of being one of the first black citizens to complete a four-year college. While teaching at Lakeview School, she met and married Joseph L. Greene. Shortly afterwards, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and taught in the public-school system.

When Ernest Montgomery retired from the railroad, he worked part-time for Stacey Gilmore Construction Company in Guntersville. On Nov. 3, 1971, while driving his 1966 Chevrolet, he had an automobile accident at the Highway 227/Blount intersection and suffered mortal injuries. After his death, Mary Jane Montgomery sold their home and rotated living with their daughters. In the winter months, she lived with the Smiths in Maryland while she went to Ohio in the summertime to stay with the Greene family. She died in Cleveland on Nov. 19, 1976, was returned home, and interred in the City Cemetery with her husband.

Education and self-improvement motivated the Montgomery family. Finding avenues to provide their daughters ways to obtain schooling and degrees caused them to send their children away from home, to lose their own personal time with them, and to consult others for recommendations regarding educational choices. The parents' goals and sacrifices manifested in the successes of their daughters.

About the author: A lifelong resident of Guntersville, Alabama, Barbara J. Snow retired after 45 years as a teacher/counselor at Arab High School. In addition to volunteering at the Marshall County Archives, she is a member of the Guntersville Historical Society and supports the Guntersville Museum, Friends of the Guntersville Public Library, and the Whole Backstage. Barbara has researched and written articles for the *Advertiser-Gleam*, *Valley Leaves*, and the *Huntsville Historical Review*. In 2018, she and her daughter Whitney A. Snow penned a book called *Lake Guntersville* for Arcadia's Images of America series. They have compiled and published *Wyeth City: Alabama's Model Industrial Experiment* this year. In addition to writing, Barbara enjoys traveling.

The Marshall Drive-In Theater

From the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

On Nov. 12, 1948, the *Guntersville Gleam* newspaper announced the construction of the Marshall Drive-In Theater which was located at the top of Sand Mountain between Guntersville and Albertville. The venue was built by Jake Hammonds and his brother as the second in a group of 10 theaters in north Alabama. The drive-in was located on a 20-acre site with audio spaces for 300 cars with rest-rooms, a playground, and a concession stand.

The owners said their plans included facilities for the “best equipped” drive-in theater in the South and projected it as the second largest event site of its kind. The largest was located at Daytona Beach, Florida. Determining the designation as one of the best theaters was governed by the dimensions of the screen’s size, the brightness of the projector, and the capacity for parking. The cost of the Marshall Drive-In Theater was estimated at \$7,500.



Concession and projector building in disrepair in the 1990s, eventually leveled

The grand opening happened during the spring of 1949. On May 25, 1949, the newspaper advertised “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” starring Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo, as the first show at the Marshall Drive-In. The theater proved a successful endeavor and offered families an inexpensive

excursion.

In July 1958, the Marshall Drive-In reported the completion of a new concession stand to replace one destroyed by a fire. The glass-fronted, diamonette building for concessions and the projector was proudly promoted as fire proof with Flexicor in the roof and ceiling with handsome aluminum trim on the outside. Going to the drive-in allowed consumers access to goodies at the concession stand. Customers, especially children, loved the candy, popcorn, colas, sandwiches, and burgers. Grill orders at the Marshall Drive-In were favorites and sometimes more fun than the movie.

In 1985, the Marshall Drive-In Theater was closed. The closing ended an era and coincided with the death of drive-in theaters. The waning of outdoor movie theaters occurred when air conditioning became more prevalent in homes; television provided home entertainment, and technology offered Beta and VHSs through movie rentals. As more people added electronics for home use, the participation at drive-ins ebbed.

Jake and Patty Hammond and their sons continued in the entertainment business until 1990. They had bought the Martin Theater walk-in at Albertville in 1966. With mall construction at Albertville, they built the Mall Garden twin theaters in 1974.

After the Hammonds sold their holdings, the theaters stayed open for a number of years but eventually also closed. The local communities lost one opportunity in the quiver of small-town amusements.

References:

- Guntersville Gleam*, Nov. 12, 1948
- Guntersville Gleam*, May 25, 1949
- Guntersville Advertiser-Gleam*, July 2, 1958
- Guntersville Advertiser-Gleam*, Nov. 10, 1990

The Second Battle of Corinth, Mississippi

From *The Confederate Veteran* (1896), published at Nashville; account by J. A. McKinstry,
Co. D, 42 Ala Reg

From the Marshall County Archives
Transcribed by Barbara Snow

Note: J. A. McKinstry was the father of Mrs. Katharine Duncan, noted Marshall County historian.

For 30 years I have been urged by comrades to put in print what I saw & did in the storming of Battery Robinette at Corinth, Miss. Oct. 4, 1862, but for reasons of my own I have until now reprinted to do so. In a recent issue of *The Confederate Veteran*, my name appears in connection with a mention of that terrible charge and my gifted college chum also gallant comrade, Dr. John A. Wyeth, of New York, renews the regiment that I give to surviving comrades a description of the charge and death of Col. Rogers, Capt. Foster and the brave 13 who fell with them, as I recollect it, and I consent. In doing so, I wish to preface my description by saying that I am not accustomed to write for publication and that I do not claim to be mathematically correct as to time, position, and distance in what I say but merely give the recollections that were indelibly impressed upon the mind of a barefooted boy, who went as far and who saw and felt as much as any one that day.

I was a private in Company D, Forty-second Ala. Regiment, Moore's Brigade, Maury's Division, Price's Corps, and Col. Rogers' Regiment (The second Texas) was a part of our brigade, and acted as skirmishers in that engagement. I was 17 years of age and weighed less than 100 lbs. Being the smallest member of the company, my position was on the extreme left, which rested upon the regimental colors. One Friday, Oct. 3, we stormed the outer works of the Federals and carried them. The first shot fired at our regiment was a shell that exploded a few feet in front of our colors. It killed & wounded 11 men, including the color bearer. I was knocked off my feet by the concussion, but not otherwise hurt. The flag was instantly raised by Corporal J. A. Going (now of Birmingham) and we were soon in possession of the works. We had several running fights during the day, as the Federals were driven from the outer to the inner fortifications. We lay on our guns during the night, and just before daylight we took position in a skirt of woods directly in front of Robinette and some 400 or 500 yards from it. We were discovered at dawn and Forts Williams, Robinette and College Hill opened a terrific enfilade fire of shot and shell upon us. We lay flat upon our faces, and the shells passed a few feet over us (we thought those felt mere only inches) doing but slight damage. We remained in this position, hugging the ground, for four mortal hours before the signal gun was fired and the order to charge was given. The forts caught the sound of the signal gun and ceased firing. We raised the Rebel yell and made a rush for the opening, some 50 yards in front. There we met a deadly volley of shrapnel shells from the 3 forts and our men fell dead and wounded all along the line.

The front of us was the most obstructive abatis that it was my misfortune to encounter or to see during the war. Beyond this in our front, to our right and our left, were the forts belching destruction into our ranks; yet our men did not waiver or bolt, but over the top, under the limbs, around the stumps, along the fallen trunks of the trees, like squirrels they scrambled in their efforts to reach the fort in front. Forts Williams and College Hill were soon devoting their attention to the columns in their respective fronts, and when about half through the abatis

Robinette changed shells for grape and canister on us. Our yells grew fainter and our men fell faster but at last we reached the unobstructed ground in front of the fort, which was still a 100 yards away. Minies (sic) had been added to the missiles of death by the battery's infantry support: still we moved onward, as our badly scattered forces rallied on the flag. 20 steps further and our colors went down again. Going had fallen with a bullet in his leg, Comrade Crawford, of Company A, dropped his gun and almost before the flag had touched the dust, had hoisted it again, and shouted, "On to the fort, boys!" A few steps further and the guns of the fort again changed: now whole bags of buckshot were being belched from the cannon's mouths into our now nearly annihilated ranks, and our flag went down the ill-fated third time to rise no more on that battlefield. (illegible word) Crawford had caught 9 buckshot, 7 in his breast and 2 in his arm but we, only a remnant now of those who started, pressed on and reached the outside of the fort, and for a moment had protection but before we could scarcely catch a breath hand grenades came flying thick and fast over the walls of the fort and falling in the dust, which was ankle deep, began to explode under our feet filling the air with dust and smoke and wounding our men. It took but a moment, however, to put a stop to this for having been educated in the tactics of fort defense we quickly answered the command of a comrade" to pick them up, boys, and pitch them back into the fort" and immediately these infernal machines were bursting upon the inside among those who first threw them. Some one at this juncture shouted, "over the walls, and drive them out," and up the steep embankment we clambered. Comrade Luke was on my right and Comrade Frank was on my left. As we scaled the top of the parapet a volley of musketry met us. Luke went on over, Frank was killed with a bullet in his forehead and as he fell backward, he clinched me around the neck and carried me tumbling back with him to the bottom of the ditch outside. I was considerably rattled by the fall but I heard Luke shout from the inside of the fort, "Come on, boys, here they are," and I picked up my gun to go back to him, when I saw a "blue coat" jump from behind a stump on the right of the fort, and run back in the direction of Corinth. He was only a few steps from me and I held my gun on him and tried to fire but could not. He soon got behind the fort so that I could not see him and I took my gun down to see what was the matter and found that in my excitement I had only half-cocked it. Firing had about ceased and I heard the shout of "Victory! Victory!" and I thought we had won the day. I ran to the left of the fort whence the shout of victory came and joined a small squad of our men that were standing a few paces from the fort. Col. Rogers and Capt. Foster were in this squad. On seeing a line of Federals approaching and before giving the situation a thought, I immediately raised my gun and fired full into the breast of a Federal sergeant who was in front of the column and only a short distance from us. Twas (sic) then that Capt. Foster shouted, "Cease firing, men, cease firing," and waved his handkerchief and I realized the true situation. Twas (sic) too late! That fatal volley had been turned on our little band from the muzzles of 1,500 muskets. I was still standing just as I was when I fired my last shot and within a few feet of Col. Rogers when a minie ball went crashing through my left hip and turned me half around, another went tearing through my right shoulder which changed my position to front and another ball crushed through my left shoulder causing me to drop my gun and my left arm to fall lying by my side. I looked and lo! every one of the 15 men who were standing with me had fallen in a heap. I looked again and not a confederate was in sight. The battle was lost and our men had fallen back to the cover of the woods. Desperation seemed to siege me and though the blood was spurting from 6 gaping wounds and I was already staggering from weakness. I took my dangling left arm up in my right and in the face of that deadly fire I turned and ran for a quarter (mile) in full view of that column of Federals who were popping away at me every step that I took and on for a ½ mile before I fell.

He who seems to take special care of the boys was certainly with me in my desperate flight for though hundreds of minies passed uncomfortably but 12 months from the near my ears, I was not hit in the back nor was I captured. I lay on my back 3 months without being able to turn over but 12 months from then I with a discharge in my pocket was again with Gen. Moore in the battle above the clouds and on with Johnston to Atlanta.

I only have to add that Crawford after being shot down saved our flag by bearing it from this sight, putting it in his bosom and crawling out with it. Luke was killed inside the fort. Of the 33 men belonging to our company who went into the charge that morning only 11 answered roll call next day.

Reading the accounts of the battle published in the papers afterwards and remembering to have heard Capt. Foster shout, "cease firing men" and seeing him after I fired waving his handkerchief I have always thought that perhaps if I had not fired my last shot that day we might have been permitted to surrender without being fired upon. Consequently, while I've always loved to talk about it. I've never thought that I would like to see my terrible experience in that battle put in print. So far as I know, I am the only person near Col. Rogers when he fell who was not killed with him.

The Guntersville Democrat

July 30, 1896

Marshall County Sailor Dead After Attack on Pearl Harbor

From the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

On Dec. 18, 1941, the *Guntersville Gleam* reported the death of Ireland Shores, Jr., a sailor stationed at Pearl Harbor. The parents, John Ireland and Lyda Shores, received word from the U. S. Navy that their son was killed during the Japanese attack on the naval station on Dec. 7, 1941. The younger Shores was the first combat casualty from Marshall County for World War II.

When he was 18 years old, Shores had joined the Navy in October 1940. His death truly brought the war home to Marshall County. At the time of the news of his loss, his parents made their home at Cottonville (Route 1, Grant) and formerly lived near Warrenton at Manchester. Shores' parents learned of his death from a telegram which read:

The Navy deeply regrets to inform you that your son, Ireland Shores, Jr., first class seaman, U. S. Navy, was lost in action in performance of his duty. The Navy Department extends to you its sincere sympathy in your great loss. To prevent possible aid to our enemies, please do not divulge the name of his ship. If his remains are recovered, we will wire you immediately.

His mother, Mrs. Lyda Shores, reflected patriotically in remembrance of her son, Ireland, "I loved my son as much as any mother could, but if I had six and it took the lives of all of them to win this war, I would gladly give them."

Survivors included the parents; two brothers, Gance and John, plus five sisters, Maxine, Lorene, Wille Hue, Yvonne, and Alta Dean. Seaman Shores was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu, Hawaii.

References:

1920, 1930 U. S. Census

Guntersville Gleam, December 18, 1941

U. S. Rosters of World War II Dead,
1939-1945

World War II and Korean Veterans Interred Overseas

World War II Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Casualties, 1941-1945

Glenn Vaughn Gets Concession at Dam

From the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

March 16, 1949

Advertiser-Glean

After nearly 13 years in the service station and garage business here, Glenn Vaughn is going to switch to a new line—opening a fishing camp and the concession stand below the dam.



View of Guntersville Dam from the south side of the Tennessee River.

The camp on the north side, which TVA calls Fearn Branch Camp was operated under an indefinite license to Dono Taylor from the time the dam was built until his death and then by Mrs. Taylor. Mr. Vaughn plans extensive improvements at both places. At the fishing camp, he will move the house 50 feet further from the river and turn it around to face the water. He will station a 20x60-foot barge at the bank for boats to land to and tie to. There will be a small house on the barge. He is going to re-work the road to the camp.

He will have motors to rent in addition to boats and will sell fishing tackle, minnows, worms, cigarettes, drinks, candy, etc.

Later on, he plans to build cabins for rent to fishermen.

On the south side, he will start work right away on construction of an attractive 20x32-foot frame building. He will handle fishing tackle, minnows, worms, cigarettes, drinks, candy, wrapped sandwiches, etc.

TVA has awarded him the license for the two places. There were 29 bidders.

His license is for an indefinite time. This is the first time the two places have been licensed together and the first time a license of indefinite duration has been given on the stand south of the river. During the two seasons since it has opened, it was granted on a one-basis, first to Short Bros. and last year to Norwood Dodd.



Glenn Vaughn fishing camp below Guntersville Dam on north side.

Both plan to be ready for business—although not completed—by Friday of next week. Both will give 24-hour service.

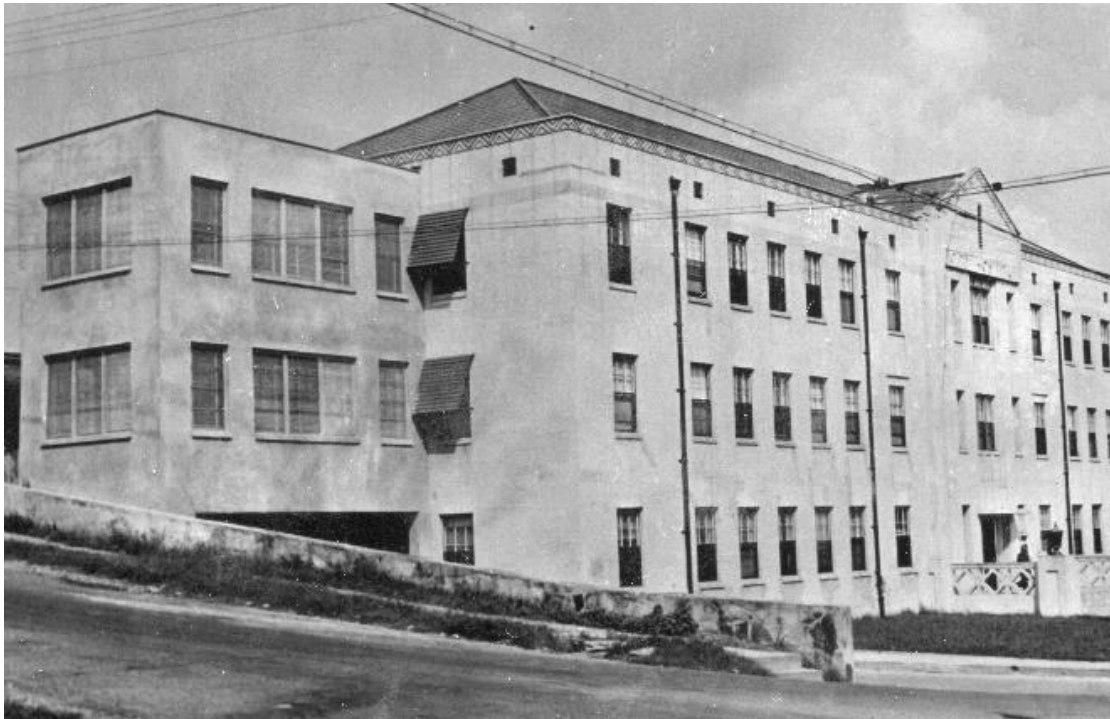
Mr. Vaughn plans to devote all his time to the fishing places. He will manage the north side. Tom Glover, Jr., who has been with him at the service station, will be in charge of the concession stand on the south side along with Doc Martin who was there with Mr. Dodd last year.

Guntersville's City Hospital: Technology and Medical Care in the 1940s

From the Marshall County Archives

Transcribed by Barbara Snow

Before the Marshall Medical System was established in 1990, hospital care existed in each small town. In Guntersville, the City Hospital was built in 1941, remodeled in 1948, and closed in the middle 1960s when a new facility was constructed. The attached article reflects technology and medical care in the 1940s when Guntersville's City Hospital was remodeled. The City Hospital iconic building on Ringold Street still exists as a complex of offices.



The Completed Hospital—The City Hospital is finally finished. When it was first opened in October, 1941, it had only 2 of 3 floors, and the basement in use. In 1947, a \$500,000 bond issue was voted by the people and construction was begun to complete the plant. The 3rd floor was equipped with private rooms and the other 2 floors and basement were extensively remodeled. Two sun rooms were added.

*“Everyone Invited to Hospital’s Open House,” Aug. 27, 1948, from *Guntersville Gleam & Marshall Times**

The City Hospital invites everybody to attend the formal opening that will be held Sunday in observance of the completion of the building.

The open house will be from 2 until 4 o'clock, Joe Starnes (note: Congressman), master of ceremonies, will give a short talk. The entire hospital staff will be on hand during the opening to show visitors through the building.

Since the \$500,000 bond issue was voted in 1947, improvements and enlargements have greatly improved the capacity and usefulness of the hospital. There are 46 beds compared to the 29 before. Most of these were added when the 3rd floor was converted to private rooms.

A new addition, containing 2 sun rooms, has been built on the west end of the building. The basement has been completely redone.

The rooms have been improved on all floors. They have been re-plastered, re-painted, sound-proofed, and built-in nurses' stations added on each room.

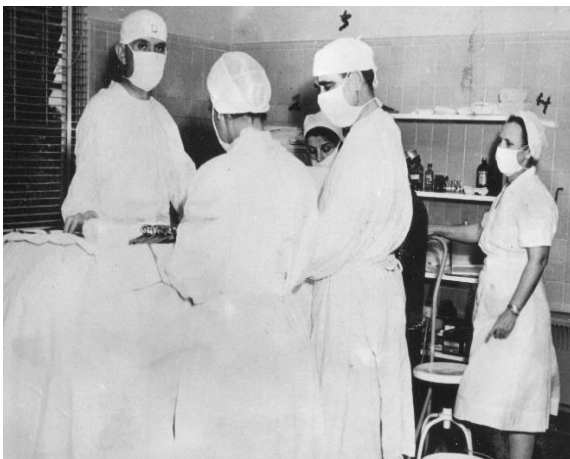
The furniture for the rooms on the 3rd floor was donated by local business men and organizations. A bronze plaque will bear the names of the donors.

A lot of equipment has been added. Besides that mentioned in the accompanying pictures, the new equipment includes: 2 oxygen tents, 2 diathermy machines for treating arthritis, 2 suction machines for removing mucous from the bronchial tracts, an instrument sterilizing machine, an emergency room for accidents and other cases that require immediate treatment, 4 new wheelchairs, a floor-to-floor communications system that operates like walkie-talkies but are fasten down; a complete stock of hospital drugs; 7 new bassinets in the nursery for a total of 12; 2 new incubators and a new delivery table.

In addition to the new equipment, the staff has been greatly increased. There are now 10 graduate nurses, 13 nurse aides, part-time laboratory pathologist and part-time lab technician, a dietician, 2 cooks, 3 maids, and 4 orderlies.

The graduate nurses are: Miss Kathryn Stemicz, Mrs. Vera Hilburn, Mrs. Nell Long, Miss Elizabeth Stemicz, Mrs. Caroline Plemmons, Mrs. Victoria Carter, Miss Euline Turner, Mrs. Louise Nabors, Mrs. Ann Hitchcock, and Mrs. Ruby Cornelius.

The nurse aides: Miss Eva Mae Horton, Miss Ozell Perkins, Miss Noma Smith, Mrs. Clara Derrick, Mrs. Dora Belle Reynolds, Mrs. Mable Gregory, Miss Peggy Chandler, Miss Junior Lee Sims, Mrs. Thelma Hall, Mrs. Tempie Thornton, and Miss Dean Hornsby.



This picture was made with a patient on the operating table just before the operation was to begin. Left to right: Dr. Thomas E. Martin, Elizabeth Stemicz, Kathryn Stemicz, Dr. Walter Alves, Vera Hilburn.

Hugh Glover is part-time technician and Dr. Walter C. Jones is part-time pathologist. Mrs. Katharine Garner is the dietician.

Cooks: Lo Moore and Arnold Cox.

Orderlies: Emmett Harris, Willie Fennell, Ernest Weatherly, and Morton Hampton.

Hall Maids: Odell Moore and Zeona Pickens.

Guntersville Bottling Company: A Chronology

Items about the Guntersville Bottling Company and the people who operated it from local newspapers, 1908 – 1922

From the Marshall County Archives Transcribed by Dr. Whitney A. Snow

Guntersville Democrat, May 7, 1908, p.3
“The latest enterprise in this place is The Guntersville Bottling Co. who will have something to say to our readers later on.”

Guntersville Democrat, May 14, 1908, p.3

“The Guntersville Bottling Co has installed its machinery, employed expert help and is in active operation. The machinery works to perfection, and the water is adapted to making carbonated drinks which the plant is turning out. The managers want to supply all local country stores and other parties who handle their line.”

Guntersville Democrat, June 11, 1908, p.3

“J.P. Morrow, Jr., of Guntersville Bottling Co., passed through here recently en route for Arab.”

Guntersville Democrat, July 23, 1908, p.3

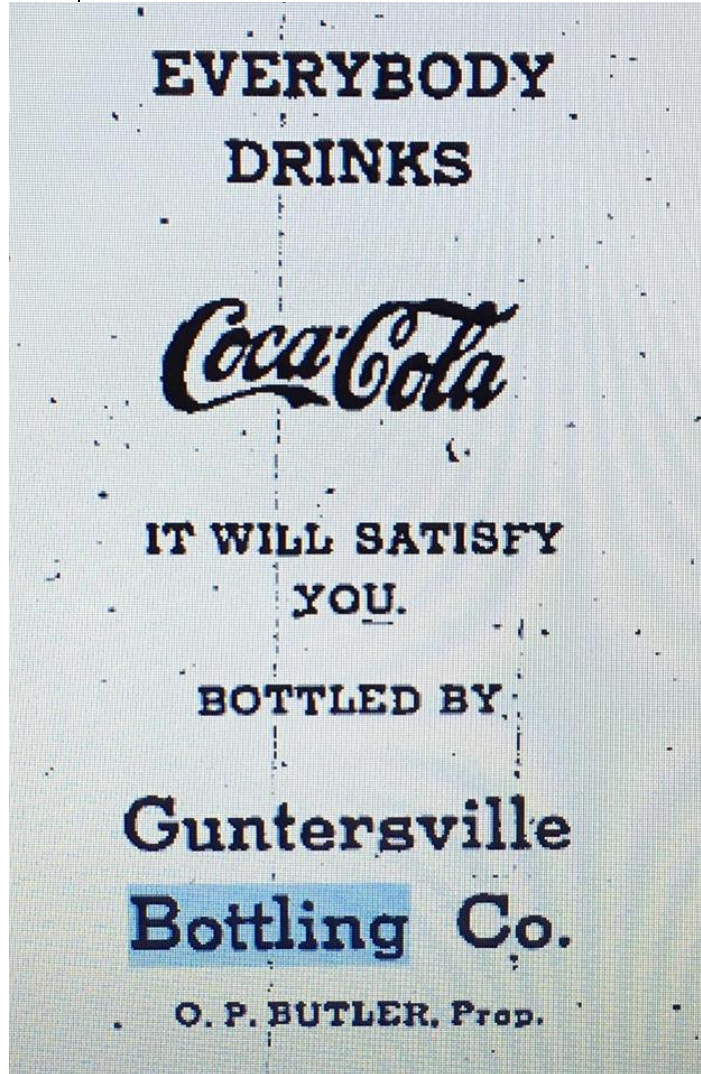
“The Guntersville Bottling Co. continues to dispense its exhilarating product to the trade in growing quantities.”

Guntersville Democrat, July 30, 1908, p.1

“J.P. Morrow, proprietor of the Guntersville Bottling works was quite busy in our town. We are always glad to welcome the good “Rye-ola King.”

Guntersville Democrat, Aug. 5, 1909, p.3

“The Guntersville Bottling Co., continues to turn out a full assortment of the favorite summer drinks. They keep busy.”



“Privilege Tax,” *Guntersville Democrat*, Jan. 27, 1910, p.1

“Be it ordained by the Town Council of Guntersville, Ala. that the following schedule be, and the same be hereby adopted, as a Privilege License for said town during the year 1910. An Aye and Nay voting was taken, and it was unanimously adopted:

3. Bottling soda water and delivering at wholesale by wagons \$25.00.

4. Retail dealers in soft drinks \$5.00.”

Guntersville Democrat, Dec. 1, 1910, p.3

“The Guntersville Bottling Co. is still doing business at the old stand*Butler & Adkins have succeeded J.P. Morrow who will soon move to some other point.”

Guntersville Democrat, April 20, 1911, p.3

“Measles is epidemic in this town and a number of people are quite sick with the malady. All of J.A. Morgan’s family, except Mrs. Morgan were down at one time, and Mr. Butler of the Bottling Works was the only member of his family that kept up. There are numerous others, but they have not been brought to our attention.”

Guntersville Democrat, May 11, 1911, p.3

“O.P. Butler of the Bottling Works is a new member of Mr. Street’s Baraca class.”

“Special Notices,” *Guntersville Democrat*, Aug. 17, 1911, p.3

“For Sale:--1 gal, Bottles, and Oak barrels suitable for sorghum. Guntersville Bottling Co.”

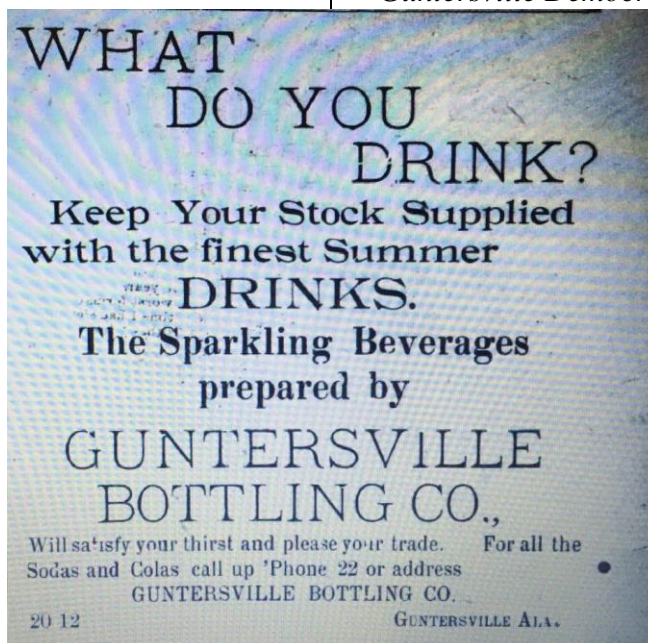
Guntersville Democrat, Sept. 14, 1911, p.3

“During a fierce thunder storm Monday afternoon, lightning struck and damaged the residence of Mr. Butler of the Bottling Co., and severely stunned his little daughter. It was sometime before the child revived.”

Guntersville Democrat, Dec. 7, 1911, p.3

“The Democrat is under obligations to Mr. Ragsdale of the Bottling works for expert assistance on our motive power.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 11, 1912, p.3



“Mr. Butler of the Bottling Co. says the bad weather does not help his business. Sunshine calls for soft drinks while snow demands booze.”

Guntersville Democrat, April 25, 1912, p.3

“The Guntersville Bottling Co. recently received a car load of bottles—the largest shipment of the kind that ever

came to the county.”

Guntersville Democrat, Sept. 5, 1912, p.3

“Frank Ragsdale, of the Guntersville Bottling Co., spent Sunday at Albertville, and took in the closing of the big meeting.”

Guntersville Democrat, Sept. 5, 1912, p.3

“For Sale—At Guntersville Bottling Co.’s office—A lot of Barrels, Kegs, and gallon bottles, suitable for syrup.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 30, 1913, p.3

“O.P. Butler of the Bottling works has returned from Atlanta where he went last week to attend a coca-cola convention.”

“It is Pure,” *Guntersville Democrat*, May 8, 1913, p.3

“Our bottled soda water—coca-cola and similar products are all made from pure Filtered Spring Water. It is pure and made purer by filtering. Guntersville Bottling Co.”

“New Bottle Washer,” *Guntersville Advertiser*, June 16, 1914, p.1

“The Guntersville Bottling Company has recently installed a new bottle washing machine of the latest type, and Mr. O.P. Butler, the manager, invites the public to visit the plant and see the machine at work.

The power for the machine is furnished by a gasoline engine and two hands are required to operate it. The machine has a large capacity and cleanses thoroughly every bottle that passes through it.

We will not attempt a description of the machine, but will state that after seeing it in operation one will be convinced of the absolute cleanliness of the beverages bottled by the Guntersville Bottling Company. Mr. Butler wants his patrons to have the best and no expense is being spared to this end.

Besides Coca Cola, this enterprising company bottles a number of other delicious and refreshing drinks.”

“A Soda Fountain in Your Home,” *Guntersville Democrat*, June 26, 1913, p.4

“A case of bottled soda water in your home and a few bottles on ice is really better than having a soda fountain in your own house. It is better because bottled soda water as we produce is better, more sanitary and more richly carbonated than the soda water that is delivered at most soda fountains.

Bottled soda water is practically the same soda water that you get at a fountain, as both kinds of soda water consist of carbonated water, cane sugar syrup and flavor.

There is this difference, however, in favor of the bottled soda water. The ingredients that go into it are mixed in large quantities in our sanitary laboratory and are dispensed into the bottles in absolutely uniform quantity by automatic bottling and crowning machines, instead of being subject to the whim of the boy behind the counter, who sometimes

dispenses too much sometimes too little syrup.

Another advantage is that our syrups when mixed are held in close earthen jars away from lights, air, dust and germs, while the syrups and fruits used at soda fountains are always more or less exposed to many unwholesome influences.

But the greatest of all the advantages of bottled soda water over fountain soda water is the fact no matter at what store you buy a bottle of our goods whether that store be clean or otherwise, the soda water itself is absolutely protected from all contamination by the sealed bottle.

When your children ask you for the money to buy soda water, the soda fountain they go to may or may not be sanitary; the people met at that place may or may not be fit companions for them; while with a case of soda water in your home, you know absolutely that the beverage the children drink is pure, that the glasses they drink from are clean and that they are in safe company.

There are some soda fountains in this town that are everything a fountain should be the beverages they dispense are absolutely beyond all criticism, but unfortunately, there are other fountains in the hands of ignorant, slovenly or absolutely vicious people, where it is unsafe for parents to allow their children to go.

A good way to keep the young folks at home and make them appreciate the joy of home is to have a good assortment of our Soda Water and Coca Cola and other flavors on ice and given the youngsters to understand that it is there for them to drink and that when they get thirsty for soda water there is the place for them to get it.

Guntersville Bottling Co.

O.P. Butler, Manager.”

Guntersville Advertiser, July 7, 1914, p.3

“Mr. Olin Ragsdale happened to a painful, but not serious accident a few days ago. While bottling Coca-cola at the Guntersville Works a bottle bursted and piece of glass struck him just above the eye, cutting a gash that required three stitches.”

Guntersville Democrat, Aug. 13, 1914, p.3

“Frank Ragsdale formerly of Guntersville Bottling Co., but now of Scottsboro was in town Thursday.”

Guntersville Democrat, Aug. 27, 1914, p.3

“O.P. Butler of the Bottling Co., now sports a handsome Overland touring car.”

Guntersville Democrat, Sept. 3, 1914, p.3

“Walter Copeland is now assisting O.P. Butler at the Bottling works.”

“For Sale,” *Guntersville Democrat*, Jan. 14, 1915, p.3

“At a bargain—My 7 room residence with good barn. One acre lot, well improved, cement walks, and water connections. Apply to O.P. Butler. Bottling Works.”

Guntersville Advertiser, March 30, 1915, p.3

“Mr. O.P. Butler, of Guntersville Bottling Co., went to Cullman last week on business.”

Guntersville Democrat, June 10, 1915, p.3

“Guntersville Bottling Co. has screened the bottling department so that it is absolutely free of flies.”

Guntersville Advertiser, Aug. 31, 1915, p.2

“The Senate is still considering that provision of the license bill which imposes a tax of ½ of one percent on every bottle of Coca-Cola bottled in Alabama. The bottlers contend that this tax is prohibitive and that if passed it will result in all bottling companies removing their plants from the State. A substitute has been offered basing the

taxation on bottling machines of certain capacity. The action of the Senate cannot be forecasted.”

Guntersville Democrat, Nov. 25, 1915, p.3

“The Southern Bell people have moved the Central office from the Bottling Works to the Citizens Bank.”

Guntersville Democrat, Dec. 23, 1915, p.3

“D.M. Cowley, the tireless Bottling Works foreman, has our thanks for a renewal.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 13, 1916, p.3

“Guntersville Bottling Co. has installed a dynamo and their plant is now operated by electricity.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 18, 1916, p.3

“The Guntersville Bottling Co. has just installed an electric motor and has now one of the most modern bottling plants in the state.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 27, 1916, p.3

“D.M. Cowley represented the Guntersville Bottling Co., at the Coca-Cola Convention which met in Atlanta last week. He says the delegates were a good humored jolly lot of fellows and they had a splendid meeting. Mr. Cowley reached home Friday.”

“For Sale,” *Guntersville Democrat*, Feb. 24, 1916, p.3

“Good 2 H.P. Gasoline engine—in good condition and 500 wat Dynamo. Offered because we use city current. Guntersville Bottling Co.”

Guntersville Advertiser, May 23, 1916, p.3

“O.P. Butler of the bottling works, together with a party of friends, motored to the Magic City Sunday afternoon.”

Guntersville Advertiser, June 6, 1916, p.3

“O.P. Butler, of Guntersville Bottling Works, is now sporting a big auto truck for use in his bottling business.”

Guntersville Democrat, June 7, 1916, p.3

“Among the recent local improvements we note that O.P. Butler has provided a motor truck for the Guntersville Bottling Co., which enables him to move his output more rapidly and in greater quantity. Mr. Butler is distinctively progressive.”

Guntersville Democrat, Sept. 13, 1916, p.3

“Rooms for rent over Guntersville Bottling works. See W.P. Thomason.”

Guntersville Advertiser, Nov. 28, 1916, p.3

“O.P. Butler last week sold the Guntersville Bottling Works to D.M. Cowley and Olin Ragsdale. Mr. Butler also sold his residence in south town recently and it is understood he will leave Guntersville within a short time.”

Guntersville Democrat, Nov. 29, 1916, p.3

“D.M. Cowley and Olin Ragsdale both practical men, have bought the Bottling Works of O.P. Butler. Mr. Butler will seek a new field of endeavor but has not decided where he will locate. Messrs Cowley and Ragsdale will continue to manufacture all the popular drinks and supply the large trade the business has worked up.”

Guntersville Advertiser, Dec. 5, 1916, p.3

O.P. Butler, who recently sold his bottling works and residence at this place, has located at Hartselle and will go into business there. Mr. Butler is a hustler and wide-awake business man and we predict that he will succeed in whatever he undertakes. Hartselle is fortunate in securing such desirable citizens as he and his estimate family. The Advertiser follows Mr. Butler to his new home.”

Guntersville Advertiser, Jan. 16, 1917, p.3

“D.M. Cowley, of the Bottling works, is on a business trip to Anniston this week.”

Guntersville Advertiser, Feb. 6, 1917, p.3

“The Alabama Coca Cola Bottling Co., of Anniston, has purchased an interest in the local bottling plant from Messrs. Cowley and Ragsdale and the business will be managed in future from the Anniston office.”

Guntersville Democrat, Oct. 3, 1917, p.3

“D.M. Cowley of the Bottling Works is suffering with an attack of blood poison on his hand.”

Guntersville Democrat, Jan. 16, 1918, p.3

“D.M. Cowley of the Bottling works also has thanks for an annual renewal.”

Guntersville Democrat, Aug. 7, 1918, p.3

“Mrs. Dave Cowley is chief operator and business manager of the bottling works while Mr. Cowley is away at Hot Springs.”

Guntersville Advertiser, April 8, 1919, p.3

“D.M. Cowley has resigned as manager of the Guntersville Bottling Works and accepted a position with the Chero-Cola Co. He is now sales manager of the Chero-Cola Co. in this territory.”

Guntersville Democrat, April 9, 1919, p.3

“Conrad Adkins of Albertville comes down twice each week to give Mr. Cowley a lift at the Bottling Works.”

“D.M. Cowley Dead,” *Guntersville Advertiser*, July 29, 1919, p.3

“D.M. Cowley died at an early hour Monday morning at Scottsboro, after several months suffering with a complication of diseases. The remains were interred at Scottsboro.

Mr. Cowley was until recently manager of the Guntersville bottling works. He was stricken with rheumatism about two months ago and taken to Hot Springs, Ark., returning to Scottsboro, his former home, two weeks ago. During his stay in Guntersville he made many friends who deeply regret to learn of his death.

His wife and young daughter are left to mourn his death and they have the sympathy of all in their bereavement.”

“Destructive Fire Late Wednesday,”
Guntersville Advertiser, April 27, 1920, p.5

“The Roden & Rollings Garage, together with several automobiles, was destroyed and the Thomason building next door, occupied by the local bottling works, was gutted by flames last Wednesday afternoon between five and six o’clock. Several hundred dollars worth of plate glass windows in the Henry building across the street was broken by heat and the frame building owned by Jas. Lafarlet nearby was damaged considerably. The fire started in the garage when some gasoline on the floor ignited from a spark from a piece of iron which was being welded and spread over the building rapidly. The garage owners lost a couple of new Overlands and five or six cars stored by local parties were lost. Good work was done by the fire fighters in confining the flames to the three buildings as it looked for a time that all buildings in that vicinity were doomed. The loss is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000.”

“R&R Garage Burned,” *Guntersville Democrat*, April 28, 1920, p.5

“An accident in Rollings & Roden’s garage Wednesday afternoon resulted in the most destructive fire we have had in some years.

The building was recently completed and the upper story was furnished and used as a dwelling so that in addition to their stock of tools, tires and accessories, and 13 cars which we learn were lost, their entire house furniture and clothing were destroyed. Thomason’s two story brick building, used as bottling plant, was gutted, and perhaps \$2,500 worth of plate glass was broken in Guntersville Hardware Co.’s windows just across the street.

A large touring car, which was disabled, was burned in the middle of the street.

Mr. Roden also sustained painful burns on his hands.

Mr. Rollings was away on a bridal tour and did not know of the fire until he came home.

There was no insurance unless some cars had policies on them. The Hardware Co. also had their plate glass insured.

The volunteer firemen did fine work in saving the adjoining building. A fine water pressure made this possible. General sympathy is felt for Rollings & Roden who lost so heavily.”

Guntersville Democrat, Aug. 23, 1922, p.3

“O.P. Butler who operated a bottling works here some years ago had his home dynamited Wednesday night and the house perforated with bullets. He lives near Hartselle.”

About the author: Originally from Guntersville, Alabama, Whitney A. Snow is an associate professor of history at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. She is a specialist in the 20th century South and has researched/ written numerous professional journal articles published in venues like *Alabama Review* and *Alabama Heritage*. Interested in the environment, Snow wrote *Cathedral Caverns* for Arcadia in 2017. In 2018, she and her mother Barbara J. Snow penned a book called *Lake Guntersville* for Arcadia’s Images of America series. This year, the writing duo have compiled and published *Wyeth City: Alabama’s Model Industrial Experiment*. She volunteers at the Marshall County Archives, writes newspaper articles and travelogues for the local paper, belongs to the Guntersville Historical Society, and supports the Whole Backstage.

Marshall County Alabama Inquests upon the Bodies of Persons of Questionable Deaths

By Betty Taylor

ALLEN, John Aug. 30, 1900. Examined by Dr. S. G. Bruman, Probate Judge A. M. Ayres.

ANDERSON, Charles Thomas July 21, 1900. Probate Judge A. M. Ayres, Justice of the Peace David L. Chambers.

ANDERTON, Berry, Nov. 19, 1870. Died from a lick on the head by William Young and his son Ivey Young. Examined by Dr. J. M. Jackson and Coroner E. Bailey.

BEASLY , Mary Ella & Mac Edward Jan. 7, 1876. The Jury: Isaac Childress, Thomas B. Gardner, Robert D. Gawin, Egbert B. Lee, Henry Slaton & Pinkney Slaton. Examined by Dr. J. M. Jackson. Notary Public ex off JP, John D. Taylor.

BRUMMET, Newton Oct. 9, 1879. Examined by James C. McCorkle. Probate Judge T. A. Street.

BULLARD, Louis Aug. 11, 1890. Jury: W. E. Bridges, John Gilbreath, Hugh Henry, Sam Henry, George W. Jones & Sam Tyler. Examined by Dr. Thomas S. May. Acting coroner J. L. Burke, Mayor of Guntersville, ex off. JP.

CANALLY, T. J. Feb. 6, 1876. Jury: Ephrian Alexander, James S. Alexander, Asa King, W. P. May, David McGlathery & Clark Ragsdale. Examined by Dr. W. G. Smith. Justice of the Peace W. L. Thompson.

DALRYMPLE, Henry July 19, 1900. Jury: T. M. Colvin, J. A. Gilbreath, G. R. Hulsey, J. S. McGriff, G. L. Maness & R. W. Roe. Examined by Dr. Daniel Parris. Justice of the Peace Davis L. Chambess.

The following were summoned to give evidence: H. L. Chambers, Henry

Dalrymple, Wallace Dalrymple, James Duckett, Martin Duckett, Preston Duckett, Sarah Duckett, W. J. Shirey & William Thompson. The jury's decision was that he died from some kind of internal disease.

DANCY, Allen Deceased 1889. Jury: William Earley, Thomas Hinds, Anderson Smith, Z. D. Smith & Ira Young. Examined by Dr. Drummond. Probate Judge T. A. Street.

DEAN, Henry Nov. 5, 1907. Examined by Dr. W. E. Bainard. Probate Judge J. H. Carter. Justice of the Peace James O. Johnston.

EDGAR, Infant May 14, 1891. Mother, Sally Edgar. Infant died at the home of John W. Edgar. Jury: J. E. Barclay, W. E. Gawin, W. B. Higgins, John P. Mayhall, & E. W. Whitaker. Examined by Dr. J. J. McGahey. Justice of the Peace H. D. Walls.

FEEMSTER, Samuel W. Jan. 12, 1875. Jury: J. L. Bently, James Bush, H. L. Miller, George R. Thomason & J. P. Whitman. Examined by W. T. Holt. NP ex off JP John D. Taylor.

GOODLOW, Bob Jan. 31, 1892. Jury: G. F. Arnett, T. B. Herrin, A. J. Rains, Bob Reed, & J. G. Spooner. Examined by Dr. P. B. Lusk. Probate Judge T. A. Street. Deputy Sheriff G. W. Clark.

HARRIS, George Dec. 4, 1898. Jury: R. B. Albert, G. W. Clark, M. Gilbreath, John H. Greenwood, W. R. McKinny & Ben Samuel. Examined by Dr. J. M. Jackson and Dr. D. C. Jordan. Mr. Harris had been shot by Robert Moody, but Lily Brunster testified that he had been sick several days with severe pain in his right side. Justice of the Peace H. L. Taylor.

HAYES, J. P. Nov. 7, 1898. Jury: S. J. Brannum & G. B. Trany. Probate Judge A. M. Ayres. Justice of the Peace Walter J. Johnson.

HENRY, William Jan. 15, 1906. Jury: John Fricke, A. R. Harper, Joe Isdell, Jack Ivey, Bob Moody & Buck Taylor. Examined by Dr. James Jackson. Baliff H. C. Huckaby. NP ex off Justice of the Peace H. L. Flynt. Probate Judge J. H. Carter.

HOLMES, Lee May 28, 1891. Jury: C. T. Calhoun, John H. Harrison, Thomas Riddle, John Romans, & Enow Swords. Examined by Dr. P. B. Lusk. Clerk Willis W. Curry.

HORTON, Infant Jan. 31, 1888. Mother, Sarah Ann Horton. Jury: S. B. Barnard, T. P. Barnard, James Holt, D. W. Keeton, William Keeton, & Peter McDonnal. Justice of the Peace D. R. Simpson. Witnesses C. Fennell, Sabra Furren & Ginnie Horton.

JACKSON, William Jan. 24, 1903. Jury Bose Norrell, Alfred Rainwater, John Tillman, S. H. Tyler, John Walden, & B. T. Wooley. Examined by Dr. D. C. Jordan. Justice of the Peace H. M. Long. Witnesses Amanda Jackson, John Jackson, H. H. King, William Oden. W. F. Bowling made the coffin. The jury decided that Mr. Jackson had drowned.

JONES, Dee May 30, 1891. Jury: G. W. Clark, A. L. Chisolum, J. J. Farmer, G. P. McCraw, & Dolp Rogers. Examined by Dr. P. B. Lusk. Acting Coroner John G. Winston, Jr., Constable T. -J. T. Sparks. Clerk Willis W. Curry.

LANG, Infant Dec. 10, 1907. Mother Mary J. Lang. Jury: C. Fricke, John Jackson, Will Lang, James McWhorter, & Will Walden. Examined by Dr. D. C. Jordan. Acting Coroner H. M. Long. Justice of the Peace Constable James Huckaby. James McWhorter made the coffin. Witnesses: Jim Bolding & wife, George Bonds & wife, Joe Chaney, Mr. Ensley, Mrs. S. A. Jackson,

Dick Lang, E. Lowery & wife, Robert Rainwater & wife, Jim Thomason, Cleo Walden.

LEWIS, Jim Dec. 29, 1929. Jury: Jim Bridges, Hobson Davis, Jim Hornbuckle, J. R. Jones, R. E. Walker, & Thurston Walker. Examined by Dr. J. H. Holliman. Justice of the Peace W. F. Irby.

RICHARDSON, J. W. 1889. Jury: F. P. Barnard, P. T. Barnard, S. B. Barnard, R. T. Coles, J. W. Keeton, & J. R. Simpson. Examined by Dr. J. R. Johnson. Justice of the Peace W. A. Butler.

RODEN, Tom May 2, 1908. Jury: John Holcomb, Allen Seibold, Charlie Seibold, A. C. Smith, & Bob Tidwell. Examined by Dr. Jackson. Probate Judge J. H. Carter.

ROSS, John No Date. Examined by Dr. J. J. Patterson. Justice of the Peace W. W. Curry.

RUDD, Francis M. July 24, 1892. He died at the home of W. P. Johnson. Jury: T. M. Corbin, John C. Cranford, H. P. Hicks, George M. Johnson, Robert M. Johnson, & F. M. Powell, Jr., foreman. Examined by Dr. Thomas H. Martin. Notary Public & ex off JP John A. Miller. The death was ruled a drowning

RUNYAN, Hugh C. Feb. 10, 1890. Jury: W. F. Brown, T. A. Clark, Tip Davis, W. T. Edwards, F. M. Marony, W. J. Scott. Examined by Dr. W. G. Able.

SPARKS, Dr. Russell Aug. 12, 1890. Jury: H. J. Benefield, A. C. Burt, W. W. Coggen, W. T. Gay, Joel Morton, & E. R. A. Smith.

STEGER, Tom Jan. 5, 1900. Jury: J. W. Clay, P. D. David, A. F. Kinney, H. J. McGehee, & G. W. Selvedge. Examined by Dr. H. R. Johnson, & S. R. M. Click

WHISENANT, York Feb. 12, 1889. Examined by Dr. Thomas May. Justice of the Peace S. K. Rayburn.

WILLIAMS, Tom March 19, 1874. Mr. Williams' body had been found in the Tennessee River. The men could not land the body where it was found so they floated it down to the Guntersville ferry where it was examined. He had been lost off the steamer *IDA* in January. The hands made up \$11.00 and buried the body. Jury: Jacob Bruster, J. L. Burke, J. S. Bush, J. E. Kilfoyle, E. B. Moore & S.M. Wallace. Examined by Dr. W. H. Ricketts, and the Mayor of Guntersville & ex off JP J. Walter Elliott.

UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

UNKNOWN

On Jan. 12, 1875, John Dykes Taylor, Notary Public & ex off JP, called together, in Beard's field at Brown's Creek, men to serve as jurors. Taylor made the statement "jurors have to be good lawful householders." These men were: J. L. Bently, James Bush, H. L. Miller, W. Singleton, George R. Thomason, & J. P. Whitman. Examined by W. J. Holt.

UNKNOWN BLACK MAN Aug. 12, 1890. Jury: R. T. Coles, M. K. Edmonds, J. M. Hughs, E. K. Moon, W. T. Edmonds, E. Sheffield, & James M. Stover. Justice of the Peace John L. Bright. The burial expenses were \$1.00.

UNKNOWN BLACK MAN Jan. 29, 1900. Jury: James Clay, J. C. Click, J. D. Davis, A. F. McKinnin, & G. W. Selvedge. Examined by Dr. J. R. Johnson. Acting Coroner and Justice of the Peace S. R. M. Click. The decision was that the man drowned in Paint Rock River.

SOURCE: This information was taken from the file folder labeled "Inquests" found in the Marshall County, Alabama Archives. The building is on the corner of Blount Avenue and Worth Street, Guntersville, Alabama. The archives is open on Mondays from 9 am to 1:30 p.m. Help with Marshall County genealogy is available.

Across the South

The Scots-Irish in the Southern United States: An Overview

By **Katharine Garstka**

The Southern United States today is home to people of many different cultural backgrounds, so that genealogical research in the area may lead one to ancestors of various nationalities. One of the principal groups of settlers, however, was the Scots-Irish, a group of people whose influence is still widely felt in the south. While many people have heard the term, perhaps in relation to their own heritage, not everyone knows precisely what it means.

Who were the Scots-Irish?

The term Scots-Irish is generally used to refer to people whose ancestors originated in Scotland, but who lived in Ireland, sometimes for several generations, before immigrating to America. They are also called Scotch-Irish or Ulster Scots.

Considering the impact this group of people made on the new world, a better term might be the one coined by historian David Hackett Fischer, writing in *Albion's Seed*, who called them borderers. Borderers encompassed a number of other settlers who shared many of the traits of those Scots who first settled in Northern Ireland and then migrated to North America. These closely related peoples were from the borderlands of northern England, southern Scotland, and the north of Ireland.

Once in America, they formed a more-or-less cohesive unit, if that can be said of a people who nurtured a proud and sometimes argumentative spirit, and a disdain for authority. They tended to settle in large kinship groups, and often shared the same surname, a fact that made record-keeping confusing and has continued to pose problems for genealogists. The beginning genealogist should not worry if he finds a woman

marrying a man of the same surname -- they were not necessarily first cousins, but were likely from the same large kinship group that had settled together in the new world, just as they had lived in neighboring areas of the old.

The Scottish Migration to Ulster

Why did these Scots go to Ireland in the first place? First of all, Scotland was a very poor country in the years prior to the 1600s—most of its inhabitants lived at subsistence level, working small farms and keeping a few sheep or cows. An expanding population wanted more and better land, and was prepared to go wherever it could be found. Starting around 1600, Scots began to migrate to northern part of Ireland, where there was fertile land that was only sparsely settled. It is a short journey of just a few miles across the sea from the lowlands of Scotland, and thus an easy trip to make.

This unofficial migration was only the beginning. After the first few years, the British government instituted the Plantation of Ulster in 1609. The Plantation was the organized colonization of land that had been confiscated from the O'Neills and O' Donnells as part of the pacification of Ireland. The English authorities intended to solve the problem of the rebellious Irish by encouraging English and Scottish settlers to move into the troubled area, and therefore colonists were required to be English-speaking and Protestant. From 1690 to 1700, an estimated 50,000 Scots migrated to Ulster, an area that includes all the counties that are currently in Northern Ireland today.

The Scots-Irish Migration to America

So why did they leave Ireland a few years, or in some cases, a few generations, later? The answer lies in the changes that took place in

Ulster starting around the turn of the century. The 1704 Test Act required that all crown officials be of the Anglican faith; this regulation eventually included all those in the military, or employed by civil service, municipal corporations, and educational institutions. The Scots-Irish, devoutly Presbyterian, were not only excluded from any sort of power, even their clergy was stripped of its authority to perform marriages. (Thus the genealogist seeking information may need to look at Anglican marriage records.)

Other factors were at work, too. Repressive trade laws favored England at the expense of the Irish exporters. Rack-renting, a system whereby land rents were raised exorbitantly whenever a lease expired, began to bankrupt farmers. Although the early settlers had leased their land for 31 years, these leases began to expire starting about 1718. In the years from 1714 to 1718, drought, sheep diseases, and smallpox took their tolls on the population; by 1718 they had had enough. That year 1,000 Scots-Irish emigrated to Boston, and from then on, ships took thousands to a new life in the new world. In fact, James Leyburn, writing in *The Scotch-Irish*, estimates that about 250,000 emigrants sailed to America between 1717 and 1775. The flood stopped briefly during the Revolution, but afterwards, even more left the northern counties of Ireland.

Migration within the American Colonies

Most of these early immigrants arrived in New England, making their way to Pennsylvania, largely because the Quaker-run colony was tolerant of different religious beliefs, whereas the Puritans of nearby areas were not so welcoming to newcomers. As more settlers arrived, they eventually filled in much of the backcountry, and then made their way south to Virginia and the Carolina Piedmont.

The Scots-Irish, as well as many German settlers, followed the Great Wagon Road that traversed the 600 miles from Pennsylvania to Georgia, many settling along that path. While



the Germans and the Scots-Irish were not openly hostile to each other, they were separated by culture and religion and thus tended not to intermarry. Gradually the Scots-Irish moved south to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, which became a launching point for further migration to the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Eventually, with so many Scots-Irish settling in the south, Charleston became the second most important arrival port (after New York) for ships from Ireland.

It's perhaps not surprising that the Scots-Irish would gravitate to the frontiers of American settlement, and that later, many of them were to be found on the rolls of Revolutionary War patriots. After carving out a new life in Ireland, their rewards were short-lived. Then, when faced with governmental oppression and untenable living conditions, they opted for a new start in America. Once here, they weren't about to start over a third time.

Irish or Scots-Irish?

If you have ancestors who came from Ireland, they may be Irish, or they may be Scots-Irish. There are a number of questions you can ask yourself. Was your ancestor Protestant (especially Presbyterian)? Did she depart from Ireland, but have a Scottish surname, like Campbell, McDonald, or Galloway? Did he have a Scottish first name, like Angus or Duncan? Did she come from the Ulster region, for example, County Antrim, or County

Down? Answers to these questions can yield important clues to guide you in your search.

One of the customs the Scots-Irish brought with them concerns the names they bestowed upon their children. An eldest son was frequently given the name of his paternal grandfather, while a daughter would carry the name of her grandmother. Thus it is common to find a John with a son Andrew, and a grandson John, followed in turn with another Andrew, etc. The choice of first names can also provide clues for the genealogist. The Scots-Irish often named their children from the Bible. They also used some Teutonic names like Robert and Richard, and were fond of border saints like Andrew, Patrick, and David. (St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.) Other favorites, like Archibald and Ronald, are not often found elsewhere. And of course Scottish heroes, like Wallace, Bruce, Percy, and Howard, lent their names to many Scots-Irish boys. Girls' names might also be taken from the Bible or a saint; common names for girls included Mary, Elizabeth, Anne, Catherine, Margaret, Janet, and Marion.

Another thing to consider is the path taken by your ancestors as a whole. Did they leave from ports in Northern Ireland, especially in Counties Antrim, Down, and Londonderry (Derry)? Upon arrival, did they live in Pennsylvania, with subsequent moves to Virginia, or the Carolinas? Did some of their descendants move farther south, or to the west into Tennessee, Alabama, or Texas? These are the paths that the majority of Scots-Irish traveled.

The Scots-Irish played a large role in the settlement of America, particularly in the southern United States. Their experiences in

settling new lands in Ireland, and then again in the American colonies, helped to develop a hard-working, fearless, and sometimes brash, spirit. Occasionally lawless and violent, the Scots-Irish nevertheless had a big influence on the history of the United States; their descendants populated many frontier areas, and aspects of their culture, customs, and speech are still visible in parts of the south today.

Some of the best resources for Scots-Irish research are:

Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America, by David Hackett Fischer (Oxford University Press, 1989)

Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, by William J. Roulston (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2005)

The Scotch-Irish, a Social History, by James G. Leyburn (University of North Carolina Press, 1962)

The Scotch-Irish, from the North of Ireland to the Making of America, by Ron Chepesiuk (McFarland & Company, 2000)

Tracing your Northern Irish Ancestors, by Ian Maxwell (Pen & Sword, 2010)

Online resources:

GENUKI (<http://www.genuki.org.uk/>) : This large, free site for genealogical information focuses on the United Kingdom and Ireland.

About the author: Katharine Garstka is a researcher, writer, and genealogist. She focuses on Southern families, though such research inevitably leads to other parts of the United States or overseas.

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The Scots-Irish on the Great Wagon Road

By Katharine Garstka

The American South is home to many people of Scots-Irish descent – a population whose ancestors originated in Scotland, but who had migrated in the 1600s and early 1700s to Northern Ireland. Large numbers of this group then immigrated to North America, and then following the Great Wagon Road overland from Pennsylvania to the Southern U.S.

Scots in Northern Ireland

Scots originally moved to Northern Ireland for the economic benefits of inexpensive, fertile land. They started this movement even before the British government encouraged such migration by instituting the Plantation of Ulster in 1609, which was intended to end the unrest by filling the land with English-speaking Protestants.

However, starting around the turn of the century, British Crown policies in Ireland changed, until the Ulster Scots became a repressed minority. Anglican authorities began systematized discrimination against Presbyterians, including the passage of repressive trade laws, such as suppressing export of Irish wool goods. Rack-renting, in which land rents were raised whenever a lease expired, also took their toll on the Scots-Irish farmers. Add drought, sheep disease, and smallpox to the mix, and by the early 1700s many people were looking for a better place to live.

Scots-Irish in North America

Thus when the Scots-Irish learned of the opportunities in the new world, they began a mass exodus. Most of the ships from Ireland landed in New England, so that the first stop for many Scots-Irish was Philadelphia. There they quickly learned that land was available in the Pennsylvania back country, and that the Quaker establishment was averse to religious discrimination, thus making it what seemed to be an ideal area in which to settle. Gradually, however, as the settlers poured in, land prices rose and the Quaker population became less welcoming, so the Scots-Irish then began to move south.

The Great Wagon Road

They followed the 600-mile Great Wagon Road, which ran from Pennsylvania to Georgia. The Scots-Irish were not the only ones to use this migration path, for the increasing floods of German settlers used it, too. The Germans tended to be Protestant, as well: Amish, Mennonites, Lutherans, Anabaptists, and Moravians. The Germans and Scots-Irish both created settlements along the Great Wagon Road, and they generally placed themselves in self-contained settlements, not mixing with each other, as they were separated by language, religious, and cultural differences.



The main portions of the Great Wagon Road.

Map: David Dilts, Wikimedia Commons.

The Great Wagon Road was actually a number of roads, from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and from there developing into a number of paths for migration to the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, and then areas to the west.



Conestoga wagon built in 1840 near Shippensburg. From "The Conestoga Six-Horse Bell Teams of Pennsylvania" by John Omwake, Cincinnati, 1930, p. 89. National Archives Catalog, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

The road started in Philadelphia, passed through Lancaster and York, and then to Mechanicsburg, which was named for the “mechanics” who built and maintained wagons. The road then crossed the Potomac River into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Going south, the road came to Roanoke, passed along the east side of the Blue Ridge Mountains and into North Carolina, and eventually reaching Augusta, Georgia. Another fork from Roanoke went into the New River Valley and from there to the upper Tennessee Valley. This, in turn, joined the Wilderness Road that went to Kentucky.

Settlements developed all along the various routes that made up the Great Wagon Road. In some cases the settlers set down permanent roots; in others they purchased land, kept it a few years, and then sold it and moved further south, so that gradually the entire area was settled.

The Great Wagon Road led multitudes of settlers into the southern and western states, where they found the land and freedoms they were seeking. Once there, they worked tirelessly to make a living in the backcountry, carving farms out of forests and woodlands, and creating lasting settlements.

Further reading:

The Great Wagon Road, by Parke Rouse, Jr. (McGraw-Hill, 1973)

The Scotch-Irish, a Social History, by James G. Leyburn (University of North Carolina Press, 1962)

The Scotch-Irish, from the North of Ireland to the Making of America, by Ron Chepesiuk (McFarland & Company, 2000)

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