

memory is kept alive in the furnishings and portraits which are widely scattered among the descendants. Two pier mirrors once stood in the entrance hall at "Druid's Grove," one is now in Waco, Texas, and the other was inherited by Benjamin Donnell Peck of Athens.

The first record of the Binford family in America available was in the granting of acreage to Anthony Binford by Governor Berkley in 1665 in Lower Norfolk County, Va. Anthony's son, James, bought land in Charles City County (later Prince George County), Va., for which he paid two pounds of tobacco per acre. James' grandson, James Binford, married Margaret Mosby in 1745 and their son, John Mosby, came to Alabama before 1820.

John Mosby (1746-?) md. Eliza Frances Hardiman of Charles City County, Va. They moved to Northampton County, N. C., and he represented that county in the state legislature from 1798-1807. The Binfords brought at least three of their children to Limestone County with them. They were:

- I. James Addison (1780?) md. Sarah Bell and had: (1) Thomas D. (Feb. 4, 1816-?) md. first Sarah Ingram (Jan. 22, 1815-Oct. 23, 1843) and secondly, Mary Lou Brandon (Dec. 29, 1829-May 30, 1850) and third, Melvina Louisa Harrell (February 9, 1835-?). (2) James Addison. (3) Dr. Richard Littleberry md. first Sarah Elizabeth Richardson (see *Richardson House*) and had Richard Littleberry and William Richardson. He md. secondly, Martha Hays, n/c. (4) Peter d.y. (5) Lewis md. John Turner. (6) Lucy md. Dr. Thomas Brandon of Huntsville. (7) Mary Ann md. Dr. T. L. H. Maclin and had Addison Binford Maclin. (8) Margaret d.y. (9) Peter d.y.
- II. Abner (Dec. 25, 1794-?) md. Ann Elizabeth Jones on July 18, 1822, and had: (A) John Henry (Aug. 25, 1823-?) md. Amelia Matilda Allen, daughter of Aba Allen, and had (A) Ann Eliza (July 26, 1850-1908) md. R. G. Throne, (B) John Littleberry (Oct. 24, 1854-?) md. Annie Worley, (C) Matilda Allen (1860-1884), (D) Fannie (1862-1888), (E) Asa Allen (Sept. 24, 1864-?), (F) Burton (1867-1885), (G) Henry Newell (Dec. 3, 1872-June 7, 1958) md. Mary Louise Donnell (September 16, 1885-June 28, 1958) and had (a) Henry Newell, Jr. (1907-1908), and (b) Lucy Haywood, who md. Lt. Malcolm Sidney Adams, U.S.N., on June 15, 1933.
- III. Eliza Frances Hardiman md. James Chapelle Malone on Nov. 14, 1824, in Madison County. They were parents of Frances, who was the first graduate of the Tennessee Confederate Female Institution (later Athens College) and the young lady for whom the steamboat *Fanny Malone* was named. She married Samuel Henderson. Other children of the Malones were Elizabeth, Thomas, James, Julia, Mary, and Lucy.

BIBB-RANKIN-DUKE (ca. 1865)

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The Memphis and Charleston Railway postoffice at the end of Bibb's Lane was first named "Fertilis" at the suggestion of Thomas Hobbs. "It has this recommendation at least, that there is no other office in the Union of the same name," wrote Thomas Hobbs in 1856.

When the proposed route of the Memphis and Charleston was first made, the railroad would have come much closer to Mooresville, but the villagers opposed the noise

and dirt of the locomotives and the line was laid on the Bibb property some two miles north of the town. The colloquial name of "Belle Mina" was given to the post-office in 1872. Thomas Bibb had named his palatial mansion "Belle Manor," but local pronunciation soon changed it to "Belle Mina."



Thomas Bibb's son, Porter, presumably built this house around 1865 for his son Porter, Jr., soon after his marriage to Amelia Bradley in 1863. Amelia was the daughter of Nathan and Amanda (Taliaferro) Bradley, who had left Madison County several years previous to this time and settled in Marengo County, Ala. The house was sold in 1870 by Robert Bibb to Dr. J. C. M. Rankin.

Dr. Rankin, a native of Wayne County, Tenn., graduated in medicine from the University of Nashville in 1858. He married and lived in Tennessee for several years. Among his children by his first wife were William, who died unm.; Quinton, who according to family tradition was killed by nightriders; and Vichlorine, who married Henry Kellog Peebles (see *Peebles-Zeitler-McCrary House*). Dr. Rankin came to Alabama soon after the death of his first wife, married Julia Graham and had:

- I. Margaret md. Watkins Bradley.
- II. Annie md. William E. Duke and had: (1) Julia md. William Sourile and had Barry, who died recently in New York. (2) William F. md. Natalie ? and lives in California.
- III. James G. (Oct. 6, 1883-Oct. 5, 1942) md. Myrtle McGuire (see *Andrew Legg House*) and had Marian md. Charles R. Lawing of Mobile, who died on May 20, 1975. They had (a) James, (b) Susan md. first Rex Penrose and had Brett and Beth, and secondly Allen Dupuis, (c) Charles Rankin, and (d) Barbara.
- IV. Marvin md. Maude ?, n/c
- V. Campbell died unm.

SOUTHEAST

The LURE and LORE of LIMESTONE COUNTY (ALABAMA)

by Faye Axford & Chris Edwards for the Limestone County Historical Society (1978 / 1990 Addenda)

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