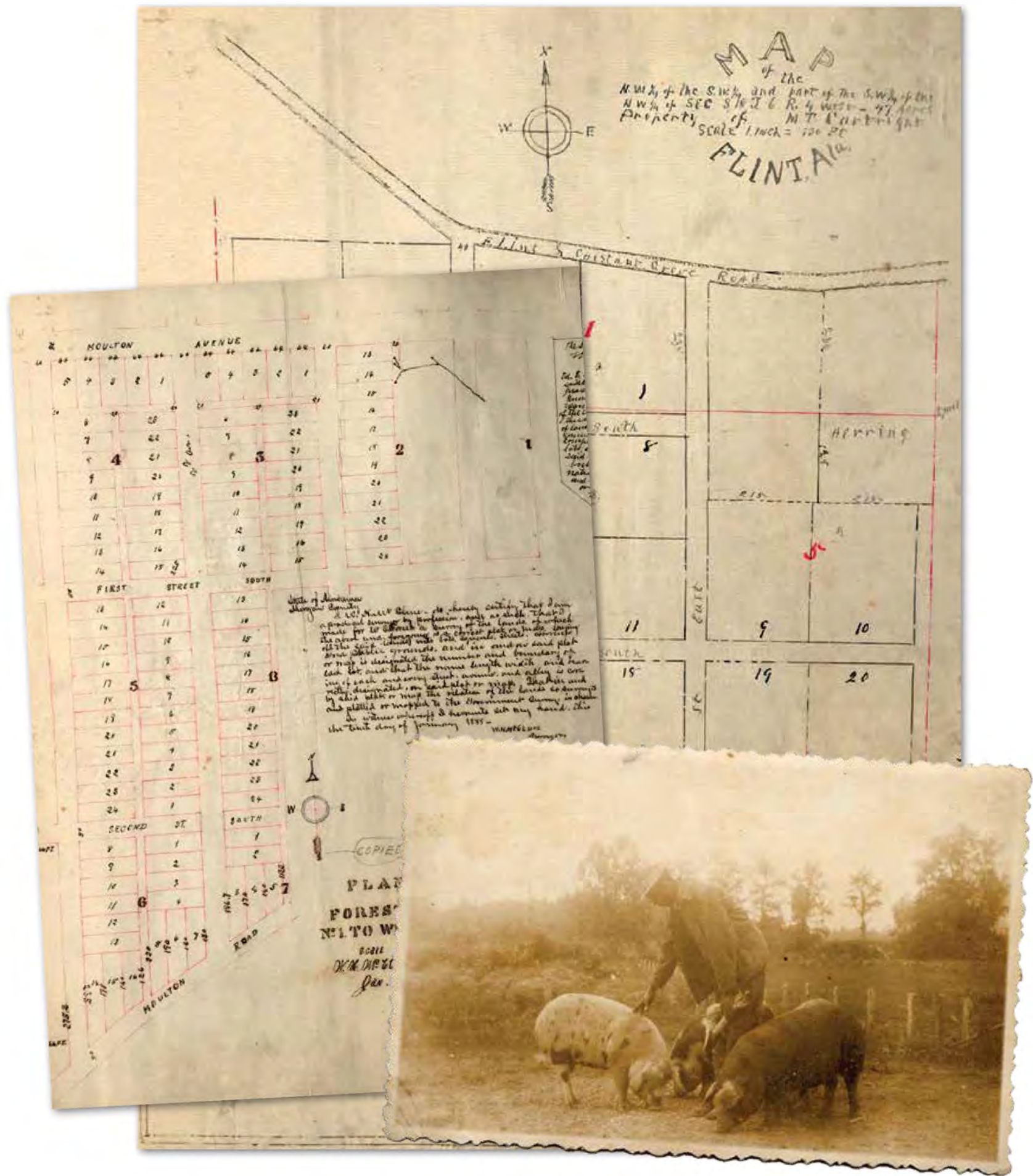


# FARMING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDOWNERSHIP IN NORTH ALABAMA





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(Above) Photograph from T. W. Bridges, Morgan County Extension Agent, Circa 1930s. (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

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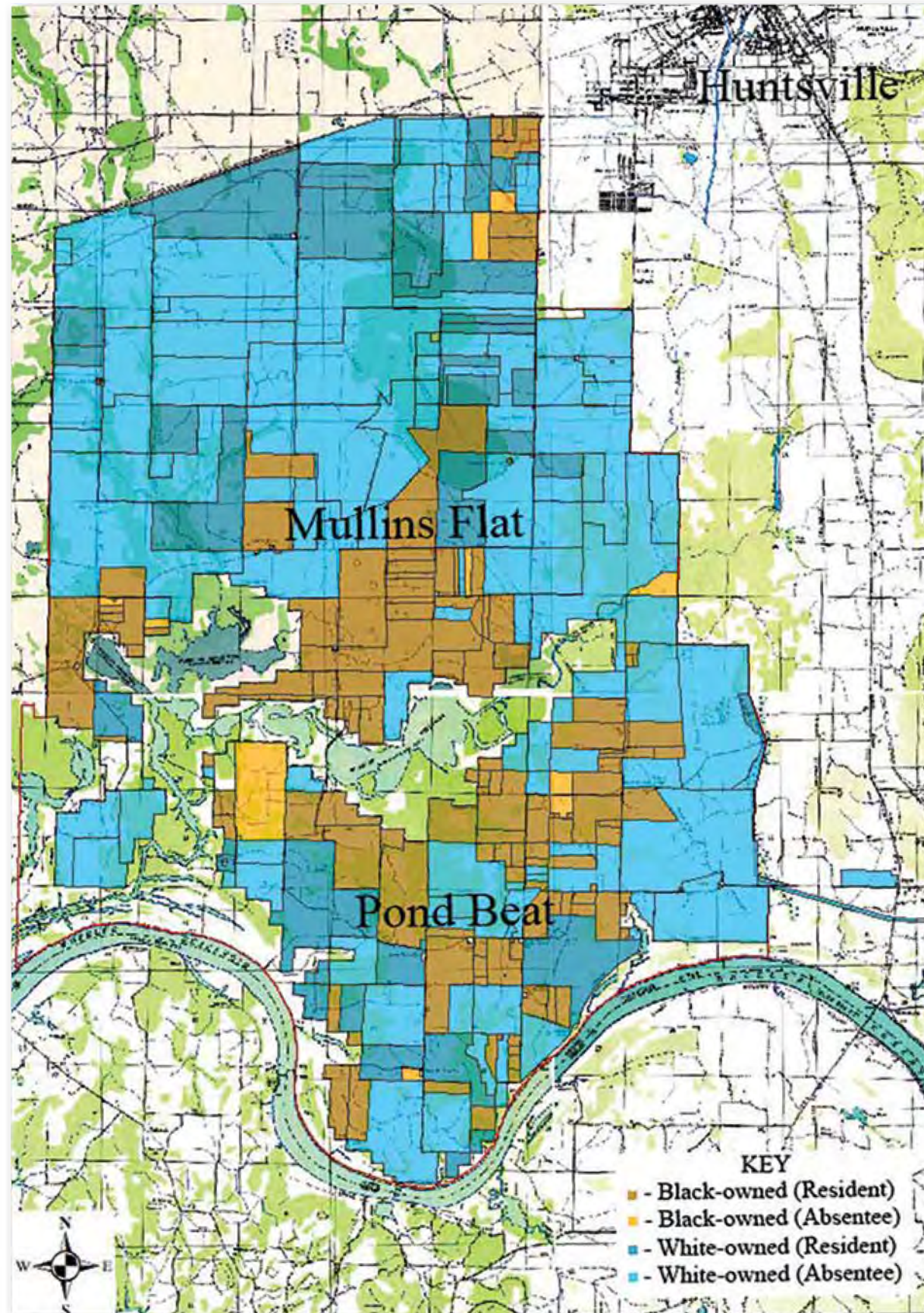
# FOREWORD

## Mitigation

This project had its origins in efforts by the U.S. Army Garrison at Redstone Arsenal and the FBI to comply with the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA, which is best known for establishing the National Register of Historic Places, requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic sites. In this case, it was the effects of leasing and constructing the FBI's Terrorist Explosive Devices Analytical Center (TEDAC) on Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville, Alabama. This proposed 453-acre facility would destroy the archaeological remains of three homesteads, all owned by African Americans in the early decades of the 20th century.

The NHPA lays out various criteria for determining if a historic site is significant or not. Some criteria are pretty straight forward, like being associated with a significant historical figure (Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, for example) or a famous architect (Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater), but others require a little more research and thought. In this case, all three homesteads were determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register because of two things – 1) their potential to tell us more about life in the early 20th century rural Middle Tennessee Valley based on their archaeological remains, and 2) their association with a significant but under-studied aspect of American history – namely, African American landownership in the era of Jim Crow.

(Right) Property Ownership prior to Redstone Arsenal Acquisition, by Race and Residence (Redstone Arsenal)



Mitigation measures for the loss of these three sites was easy to come up with for the first criterion – we set about excavating the three sites to capture as much archaeological data as possible before the sites were destroyed. The results were a treasure trove of artifacts and archaeological data that revealed just how industrious and affluent the historical occupants were. The artifacts they left behind indicated a high degree of economic engagement. The farming families that lived at these sites bought name-brand clothes, foodstuffs, toys, and even vehicles. At a time when most people in rural Alabama still relied on horses and mules for transportation, these people drove Fords and Chevrolets. They ate well and built for themselves small but sturdy homes. It was clear, that for these rural African Americans, even though they undoubtedly dealt with the injustices of segregation and bigotry of the Jim Crow South, owning land brought them a degree of independence, wealth, and social mobility that was denied many of their contemporaries.

(Artifacts) Items Found at the Home Sites of African American Landowners Provide a Glimpse into the Lives of Rural African Americans during the Era of Jim Crow in the Middle Tennessee Valley. (Courtesy Alexander Archaeological Consultants)



Mitigating for the other criterion required a little more creativity. On a national level, historians have long recognized the significance of landownership to African Americans in the South. After centuries of forced servitude, owning land provided newly freed African Americans a means for self-determination. If they owned land, they could produce food, raise crops, and enjoy relative freedom within the confines of their property. Even before emancipation, a surprising number of free people of color acquired real estate wherever it was not specifically outlawed. Several became quite economically successful, through farming or establishing businesses such as blacksmith shops and livery stables.

### Life in Pond Beat and Mullins Flat

The rural communities that were displaced by the establishment of Redstone Arsenal in the early 1940s were an interesting microcosm of the black experience in the Middle Tennessee Valley. When the U.S. Government began acquiring the land in 1941, 47% of the landowners were African American, but their properties made up only 24% of the total land area purchased by the U.S. Government. Most of the remainder including many of the largest parcels was owned by white absentee landowners, many of whom lived in Huntsville and other urban centers and were descended from the wealthy planter families that owned the cotton plantations there throughout the 19th century.



Despite the high rate of African American landownership in this part of Madison County, the numbers belie deeply entrenched racial inequalities. The distribution of black-owned land is one example. The northern half of what is now the Arsenal is well-drained level uplands known historically as Mullins Flat. This land was historically prime agricultural land, particularly suitable for growing cotton, and became the domain of several of the largest plantations in Madison County. By 1941, the vast majority of this land was still held by descendants of the

early 19th century planters, who by this time lived elsewhere off cash rent and crop shares from the various tenants and sharecroppers who farmed their land. Most of the black-owned land on the other hand, was on the southern half in the low swampy lands along Huntsville Spring Branch. The biggest concentration of black-owned land was between the Spring Branch and the Tennessee River in a district historically known as Pond Beat, a name that evokes the low swampy character of the landscape.



Black-owned parcels also tended to be much smaller than those owned by whites. The average African American owned parcel was a little over 58 acres, while the average white-owned parcel was nearly three times as big.

Interestingly, black landowners were compensated for their land at slightly better rates than their white neighbors. The U.S. Government compensated black landowners \$83.50 per acre on average (the equivalent of about \$1,430 per acre in today's dollars), while white landowners received an average of \$82.83 per acre (the modern equivalent of \$1,420). This was probably due, however, to the fact that more black landowners actually lived on their land and thus tended to add more improvements to their properties than the absentee white landowners. Only 8% of the black landowners were absentee owners, and most of those had recently inherited their land from parents who had lived on the property. That is contrasted with 74% of the white landowners who lived elsewhere.

One of the most striking indicators of historical inequalities, however, is the difference in how the land was acquired. Between September of 1941 and July of 1942, the government filed 14 declarations of taking to condemn land that the owners would not sell to the government outright. In all, 110 parcels out of a total of 335 were seized by eminent domain. The majority of these parcels were owned by white owners. In fact, white owners were almost 50% more likely to refuse the Government's initial

offers and end up having their land condemned. On average, this was to their financial benefit as the average compensation in the declarations of taking was \$17.04 more per acre than the average compensation for land sold outright. The hesitance of black landowners to refuse the Government's offer and hold out for a higher compensation is almost certainly the product of historic power inequalities. While their white neighbors could feel empowered to push back against governmental authority and assert their rights as landowners, 246 years of slavery followed by six decades of Jim Crow had provided the black population with innumerable historic examples of the dangers of resisting the white establishment.



These inequalities aside, many in the black communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat enjoyed a solidly middle class lifestyle. While schools and other public facilities were strictly segregated, the rural black communities invested heavily in their communities establishing local schools, donating land for churches and community cemeteries, and running successful businesses. A few in the community could even be considered affluent. Some acquired extensive farms and built some of the finest homes in the area. Frank and Addie Jacobs, for example, who with various business partners owned nearly 600 acres in Pond Beat lived in a large two story house with a full concrete basement. The Barley family owned 345 acres in Pond Beat by 1941, and those who grew up on the farm remember a tidy manicured homestead with white-trimmed buildings and flower beds with acres of rich farmland, forests for hunting, and a large pond for swimming and fishing. In addition to income from crops and rent, David Barley operated a sorghum mill where many in the community brought their cane for processing. Yancy Horton owned 380 acres. He was known as one of the wealthiest men in Pond Beat and donated the land for the Horton School with matched funding from the Rosenwald Foundation.



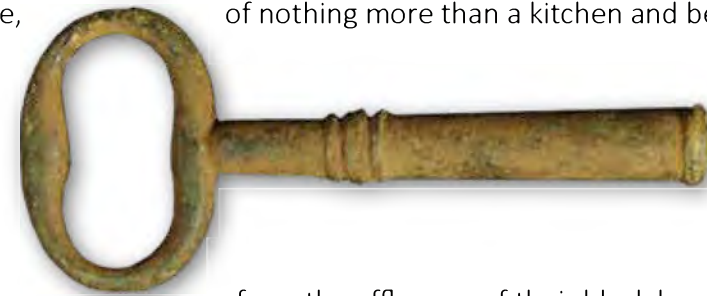
Archaeological excavations of the remains of rural homesteads on Redstone Arsenal support this picture of relative economic success. At homesteads once occupied by white and black owners alike, among the kitchen refuse, architectural debris, and other residues of mundane daily life are found fragments of jewelry, cosmetics, commercially-manufactured toys, pieces of musical instruments, Delco generator parts, car parts, farm machinery, pet collars, and many other items that would have been signs of a middle class lifestyle, particularly in the hard times of the 1930s.



blurred as far as which family members actually held title to the land. In fact, in many cases, people who are known landowners based on deeds are listed in the census as being renters, possibly implying that while they owned farms, they rented their homes, although more likely, this is a reflection of bias on the part of the enumerator against the likelihood of African Americans owning land.

Much of this success was tied directly to the land. Landownership permitted rent-free habitation. It allowed for subsistence food production from crops, gardening, livestock, hunting, and fishing. It created capital from rent and cash crops. It provided a stake in the success of the community which encouraged investment in infrastructure, education, and commercial enterprises.

For many residents of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, however, this level of affluence and economic engagement remained a distant aspiration. In 1940, only one out of every five black households in this part of Madison County owned their home. The majority owned no land. Many of these rented from black landlords, often members of their own family, and in these cases, their socio-economic status differed little from their land-owning neighbors. Others, however, were tenants or sharecroppers on large absentee farms, and for these families, there was little chance for social mobility.



Based on data from the 1940 U.S. federal census, around 70% of the families residing in Route 4 of Precinct 1 of Huntsville, the area encompassing Mullins Flat, rented their homes. A little over half of these were black. The disparity was even starker in Precinct 6 of Whitesburg west of Highway 38 which included the communities of Farley and Pond Beat, where 84% of the households rented their homes. Of these renters, 80% were black. Particularly in Pond Beat, the family names of many of the tenants were the same as those of landowners in the community and they were probably related. Often, the lines seem to have been

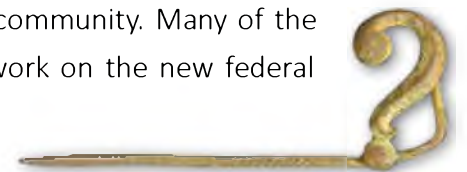
As with elsewhere in the post-bellum plantation South, sharecroppers in Pond Beat and Mullins Flat often found themselves indebted to their landlords. They had few legal rights. Landlords could evict them at will, and regularly did so just before the cotton crop was harvested, leaving them with little to show for their labor. Sharecropper accommodations were typically humble with two room houses consisting of nothing more than a kitchen and bedroom.

Despite their more modest means, however, even the tenants and sharecroppers benefitted from the affluence of their black land-owning neighbors. Tenants and landowners alike attended the same churches, and their children benefitted from the same schools that their more affluent neighbors helped establish. The archaeological evidence suggests there was little difference in the material culture between cash tenants and some of the more modest landowners, and without documentary evidence showing whether the occupants were owners or renters, it has been nearly impossible to distinguish a yeoman house from a tenant house based on the artifacts and archeological ruins alone. In general, both acquired the same commercial goods from the same sources, both ate the same types of food, both lived in similar houses, and both made a point of beautifying their homes with ornamental plants and perennial flowers, many of which still bloom every spring in carefully laid out beds.

While racial segregation marked African Americans for prejudice and discrimination and prevented them from accessing many of the

services that were available to their white neighbors, it also seems to have created solidarity among the black population. In general, black sharecroppers could expect better treatment if their landlords were also black. Former residents of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat describe very close-knit communities, and while they differentiate among the residents based on whether they were landowners or tenants, the lines are often blurred, and any memories of mistreatment are invariably at the hands of white landlords.

After the U.S. Government bought them out, many of the black landowners were able to acquire new farms in the surrounding area, and some went on to expand their economic success. The War Department allowed them to harvest that year's crops and salvage what they could of their buildings, and most were able to rebuild elsewhere. Although displaced, they were able to reestablish elements of their community – congregations built new churches, businesses were rebuilt, social ties were maintained. Much of the black community was able to establish new farms north and west of Huntsville along what is now Jordan Lane. Methodist congregants displaced from Mullins Flat and Pond Beat rebuilt the Center Grove Methodist Church north of the Arsenal which still boasts a thriving membership. Many of these former residents were ultimately buried in the Center Grove and Northside Cemeteries near the center of the transplanted community. Many of the former residents were able to find work on the new federal installation.



Tenants and sharecroppers, on the other hand, received no compensation, and were less likely to be reintegrated into the transplanted communities. The congregation of the Union Hill Church of Mullins Flat, for example, with its high proportion of tenants, found itself split between a reestablished Union Hill Church in Huntsville, and the St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Madison. For many, the displacement in the early 1940s was the catalyst that set them on the road to join the black diaspora from the rural South to urban centers around the country.



	Mullins Flat*	Pond Beat
Total Households Displaced#	359	238
Percentage Households Black†	~51%	~78%
Percentage Households Renting†	~70%	~84%
Percentage Renters Black†	~51%	~80%
Total Acres Acquired by US Government§	21,232.51	11,292.04
Percentage Acreage Black-owned	19%	35%

\*Includes communities of Elko, Union Hill, and Spring Hill

#Based on houses shown on 1936 USGS quadrangle maps as well as archaeological data

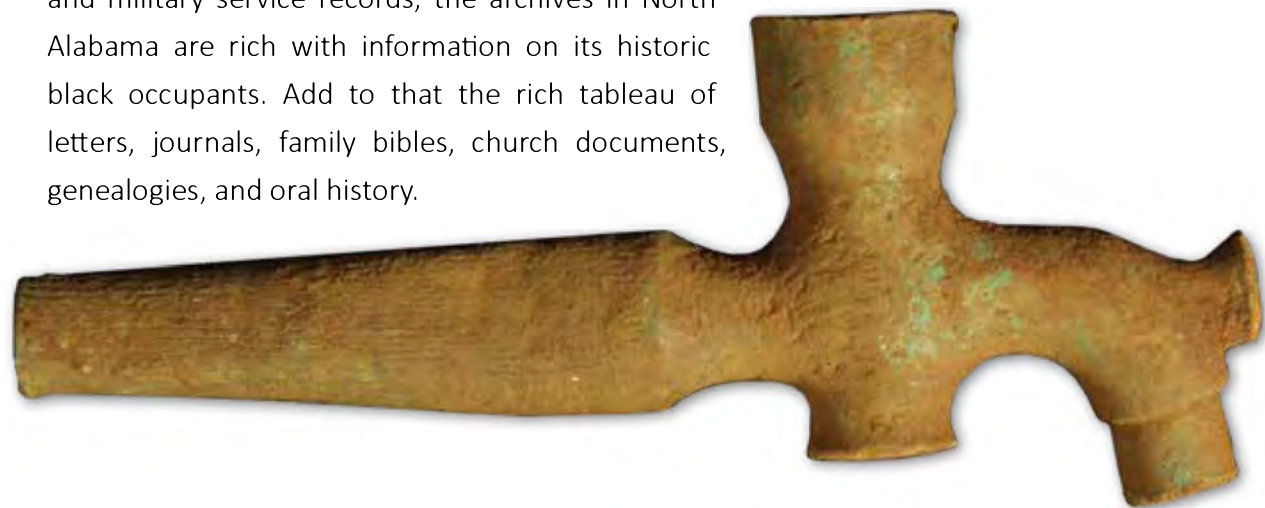
†Based on 1940 Federal Census for Madison County Precinct 4 Route 4 (Mullins Flat) and Precinct 6 west of Highway 38 (Pond Beat)

§From 1941-1942 – excludes land previously acquired by US Fish & Wildlife Service and TVA

## Filling a Void

Precious little of this history has been written down. With a few noteworthy exceptions, local African American history has been largely over-shadowed by the history of wealthy white planter families and later by the history of the Space Race and the accompanying technological and economic boom.

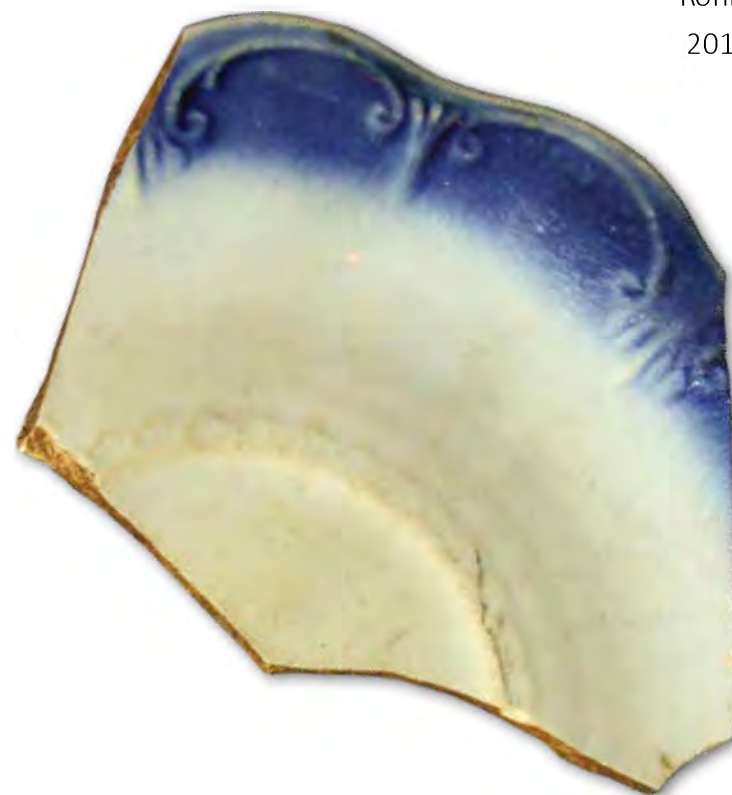
Much of this history survives only in the stories of those who experienced it, yet, there is no lack of primary source material. From tax records, slave schedules, and probate records, to Freedmen’s Bureau and census records, newspaper articles, court proceedings, real estate documents, and military service records, the archives in North Alabama are rich with information on its historic black occupants. Add to that the rich tableau of letters, journals, family bibles, church documents, genealogies, and oral history.



To mitigate the loss of three African American rural homesteads and their significance for the history of black landownership in the South, we have tried to pull together some of this information to create a picture of the historic black experience across the Middle Tennessee Valley and make the public aware of this rich history. This is not a deep analysis or a comprehensive history, but we hope it is a good overview and jumping off point for future researchers, genealogists, and the interested public. We hope in some small way, to contribute to the historical narrative of North Alabama and make it more equitable and representative of the diverse peoples and cultures that have contributed to our on-going story.

**-Benjamin J. Hoksbergen**

Cultural Resource Manager/Installation Archaeologist  
Redstone Arsenal



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(Preface Images) Various Examples of Local Research Resources Used in this Atlas."

# PREFACE

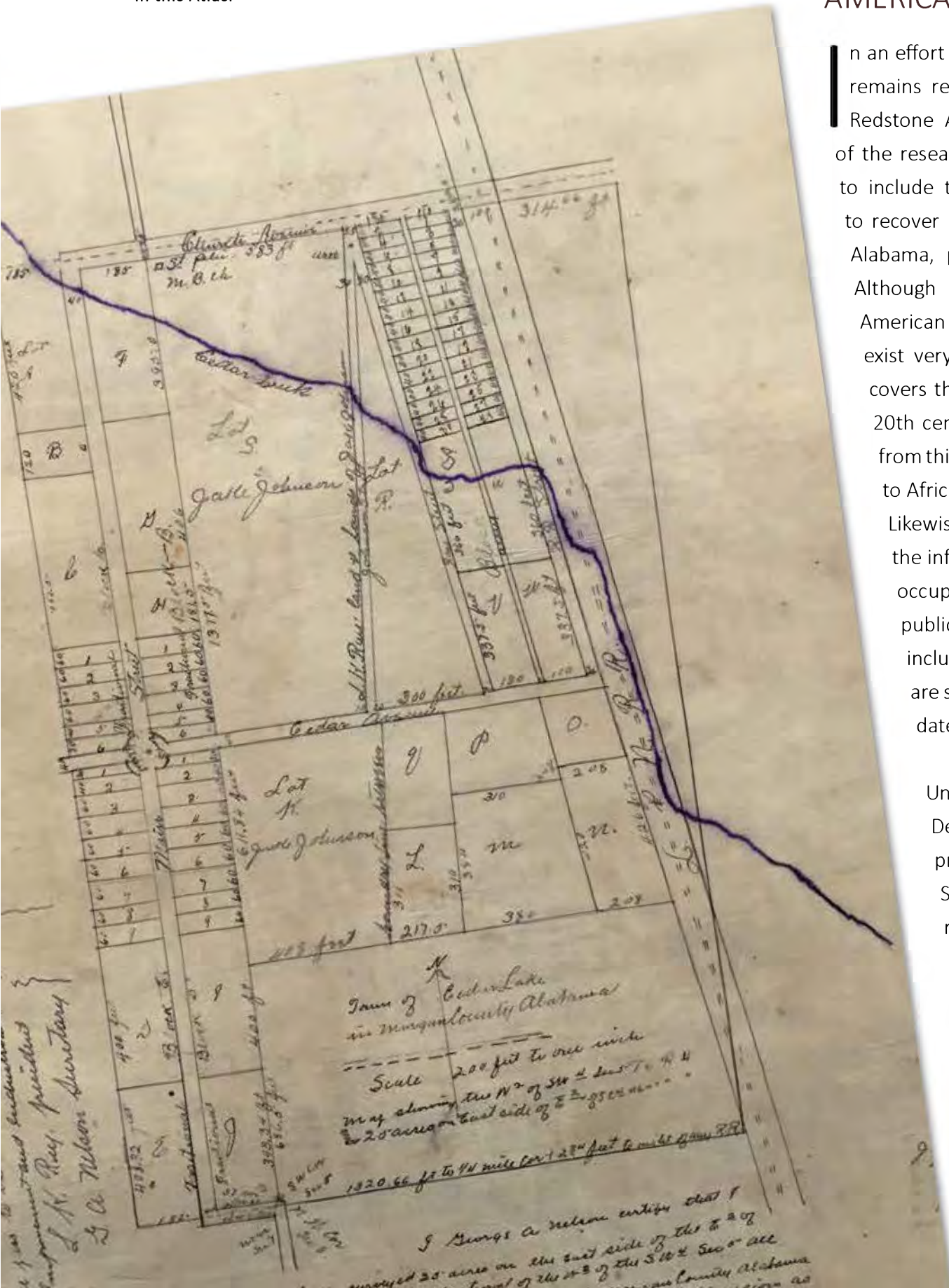
## RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

In an effort to uncover information to accompany the archaeological remains recovered from African American yeomen farm sites on Redstone Arsenal, historical research was conducted. The scope of the research was expanded beyond the boundary of the Arsenal to include the entire Middle Tennessee Valley. The objective was to recover historical information about African Americans in North Alabama, particularly in regards to landownership and farming. Although there is an abundance of information about African American communities and individuals in North Alabama, there exist very few comprehensive studies on the subject. This atlas covers the century from 1860 to 1960 with a focus on the early 20th century (1900-1940) due to the abundance of information from this period. Written records from the 19th century pertaining to African Americans farming landowners is a scarce commodity. Likewise, the U.S. census records prior to 1900 do not include all the information needed to determine race, landownership, and occupation. By the 20th century, the census is a more robust public document that can be used in tandem with other sources including oral histories. Because many people 80 years or older are still with us today, the last publicly available census records date from 1940, for privacy reasons.

Until the mid-20th century, most Southerners were farmers. Despite urbanization and other changes in our society, property ownership remains a status marker in America. Since before Emancipation the African American community regarded landownership with reverence and considered it a high priority and mark of citizenship. Successful farmers may have been able to achieve landownership and subsequently shared their wealth and opportunity with their community. When researching African American communities and landownership it becomes clear that landmarks such as churches, schools, and cemeteries

– the places and buildings that make up a community – indicate where people have invested in their cultural and physical landscape. African American communities were often self-sufficient due to segregation and discrimination. People of color were frequently left to their own means, prompting landowners to be responsible for donating or purchasing land for the creation of these landmarks. In North Alabama, there are several examples of African American farming landowners renting out or selling land to other people of color who were perhaps denied these opportunities by the white community. Oftentimes these landowners donated the necessary funds and/or land for the application of a Rosenwald school grant.

Landownership has always been a core value of the community of color. As Booker T. Washington outlined in a 1912 article, African American tenant farmers did not make a community, landowners made a community. After Emancipation, a major portion of former slaves and their descendants were still tied to the old plantation fields. "As might be expected there [was] a good deal of moving about of tenants on these big plantations. In the early days a Negro tenant felt he must move about more or less, merely in order to assure himself that he was actually free." Overall, communities of tenant farmers are not permanent.



SERIAL NUMBER 2129	1. NAME (Print) JOHN THOMAS BULLS	ORDER NUMBER 2103
2. ADDRESS (Print) 1-21159 KILLEN LAUDERDALE ALA.		
3. TELEPHONS	4. AGE IN YEARS 26	5. PLACE OF BIRTH LAUDERDALE ALA.
	DATE OF BIRTH 4-4-1914	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS DAGOLIA - NONE BULLS		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1-21159 KILLEN LAUDERDALE ALA.		
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME SNOW HILL INST.		
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1- SNOW HILL WILCOX, ALA.		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		John Thomas Bulls (Registrant's signature)



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940  
POPULATION SCHEDULE**

S. D. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E. D. No. 42-31 Sheet No. 19A  
Enumerated by me on \_\_\_\_\_, 1940. 466 Bertha Sandlin

State Alabama Incorporated place \_\_\_\_\_ Ward of city \_\_\_\_\_ Unincorporated place \_\_\_\_\_  
Township or other division of county Limestone, Beat 14 Institution \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA						NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935					MARRIAGE	PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	BIRTH-PLACE CODE	LIVING	READS AND WRITES	SPEAKS ENGLISH	CITIZEN	OCCUPATION CODE	
	1	2	3	4	5	6						7	8	9	10	11									12
	1	0	300	ya			Jane Sampkin	Head	F	neg	65	wd	72	0	Alabama	Same house	yes								
	2	R	1	ya			Luke Pebles	Head	M	neg	67	M	72	1	Alabama	Same house	yes								
							Laura Pebles	wife	F	neg	40	M	72	3	Alabama	Same house	yes								
							Alex Pickett	lodge	M	neg	25	M	72	1	Alabama	Same place	yes								
							Mattie Mae	lodge	F	neg	23	M	72	1	Alabama	Same place	yes								
	3	0	5000	ya			Elijah Pryor	Head	M	neg	51	M	72	4	Alabama	Same house	yes								
							Fannie Mae	wife	F	neg	45	M	72	4	Alabama	Same house	yes								
							James Ed	son	M	neg	11	S	72	1	Alabama	Same house	yes								

**NAMES OF PARENTS**

LAST: Stephenson FIRST: Johnnie A. MIDDLE: Bullie Bertrude

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
Landeraville 1  
Pt. Ala. 1

**BIRTH**

NAME OF CHILDREN	NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	YEAR	NO.	DA.	CODE 1	CODE 2	Gr. CODE	Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age
<u>Johnnie Pearl</u>	<u>Frog Pond</u>	<u>1/4</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>		<u>18</u>
<u>Beravis</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>1/4</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>		<u>7</u>
<u>Meroyde</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>1/4</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>			<u>9</u>

**\*BIRTHPLACE**  
1. United States  
2. Great Britain  
3. Canada  
4. Germany  
5. France  
6. Greece  
7. Italy  
8. Other

**AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE**  
1. Birth Certificate  
2. Bible Record  
3. Baptismal Certificate  
4. Parent's Statement  
5. Other

District or Block No. 19 COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

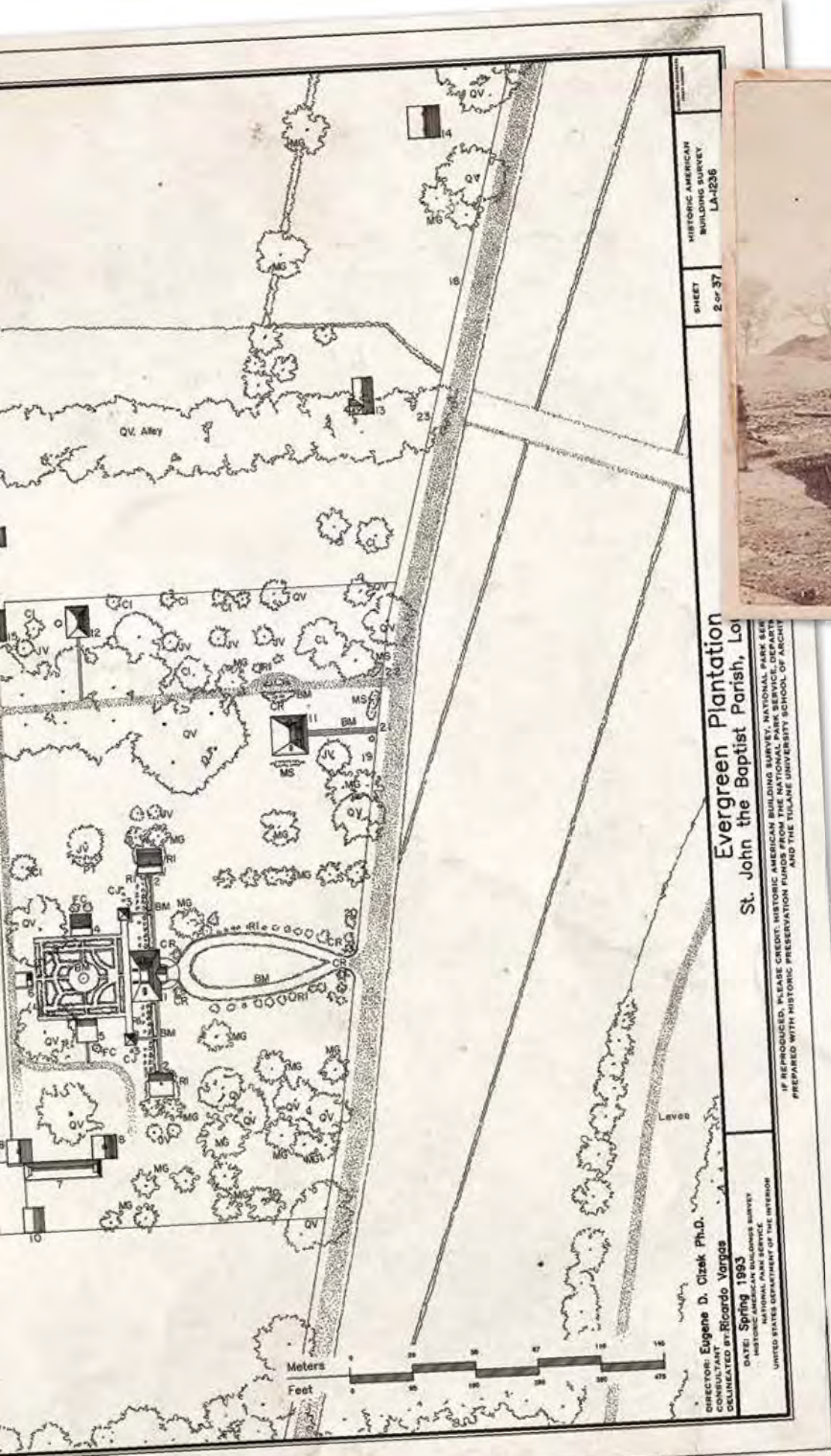
On the other hand, landowners invest in the land, financially and emotionally. These are the members that establish churches, schools, and cemeteries. In turn, these community amenities help to produce landowners. Washington credits the growing number of landowners of color to “the improvement of the colored public schools,” specifically Tuskegee Institute at the turn of the 20th century. Although formal education for African American communities was broadened to include academic liberal arts, the original focus of many grade schools, high schools, and colleges was on agricultural and domestic services. Institutions such as Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University and high schools such as Trinity (Limestone County), Trenholm and Sheffield (Colbert County), Burrell (Lauderdale County), and Morgan County Training School, were focused on teaching male students farming and animal husbandry and female students domestic tasks such as sewing and canning.

Education was an essential value to communities of color. It provided upcoming community members with the knowledge necessary for successful farming with landownership and community development in mind. Previously, landownership and formal education were a privilege denied people of color. Despite some successful endeavors to provide education to former slaves and their children during Reconstruction and

the following decades, by the turn of the 20th century, the monumental task was left largely to individual communities. The remnants of the African American communities’ efforts to provide education and a better future for the next generation can be evidenced across North Alabama. Schoolhouses – which often doubled as churches – remain as testament to the community-driven early education system, the success of which was often dependent on landownership. The building of schools and churches provided a tremendous drive to obtain land and reap the benefits of real property ownership. Landownership in turn could fuel the community and provide opportunity for commerce. The African American community of Athens, in Limestone County, grew around Trinity School and its strong influence on the significance of education. The community of Canaan in Florence, Lauderdale County, provided a base from which to launch dozens of entrepreneurial endeavors. The early political leaders of the African American community in Huntsville, Madison County, were landowners or the children of landowners.

Whereas successful African American businesses, schools, and politicians may have been the result of internal achievements, many external influences helped to shape the communities of color in North Alabama,





as well. The legacy of slavery from Emancipation through the mid-20th century was racial discrimination and segregation. This oppression affected every aspect of life for communities of color. In some cases segregation was the catalyst for the creation of planned communities intended to be separate and self-sufficient. Institutionalized racism is rife in historical documentation from county property and school records, to the federal census records, and in the policies and surveys of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) – all to great effect and often detriment to people of color. While institutional racism can appear to be benign, the status quo of Jim Crow on some occasions resulted in violence and unjust persecution, as in the case of the Scottsboro Boys trial.

### RESEARCHING AT YOUR LOCAL ARCHIVES

Nine counties in North Alabama are included in this study: Colbert, DeKalb, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan counties. Information was gathered from local libraries, archives, and individuals as well as online sources such as Ancestry.com. The following county archives and libraries were consulted:

<b>Colbert County</b>	Helen Keller Public Library
<b>Lauderdale County</b>	Florence Public Library; University of North Alabama, Collier Library
<b>Lawrence County</b>	Lawrence County Archives
<b>Limestone County</b>	Limestone County Archives
<b>Madison County</b>	Madison County Archives; Huntsville-Madison Public Library; University of Alabama-Huntsville, Salmon Library
<b>Morgan County</b>	Morgan County Archives

Many counties in Alabama have a county archive, but not all. In North Alabama, only four of the nine counties have an official archive. In Madison County, it is paired with the public library in Huntsville. Counties that do not have separate archives may have records stored at local libraries or courthouses. Many of the records for Lauderdale County are held at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. The research sources available in each county can differ greatly. Libraries in the county seat often have a heritage room with books and documents pertaining to local history and geared towards genealogy. The library staff are typically knowledgeable about searching records and most libraries have subscription services, such as Ancestry.com, available on public computers. One thing to keep in mind when researching original documents at repositories is that they often only have what has been donated to them or what the staff has actively reproduced on their own – records may not be complete and/or in the best condition.

Types of records that can be useful when researching individuals, families, or communities include, but are not limited to: land and tax maps, property books, historic photographs, school censuses, records on marriages, births, deaths, churches, and military service, and wills and probate records. Land and property records can be useful to determine who owned or lived in a particular place. Most cities and towns were surveyed and platted, including communities that never came to fruition. Maps and associated documentation for towns and neighborhoods may be on file at the archives. Accompanying the plat

and land maps of existing parcels are books that list the owners. These can be used as indexes to find a particular person. Many of these records will denote if an individual is a person or color, a common practice in the early 20th century. Personal records like those pertaining to marriages, births, and deaths can reveal family histories, but often only if these life events occurred in the county in which the archives are held.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in Montgomery, Alabama is a state archive with additional resources. The ADAH houses documents that might not be located at the county archives and libraries and many are digitized and available online. While not a local repository, the state archives is more likely to have information on large cities, events, and significant people. Located across the street from the state capital, the ADAH also offers the Museum of Alabama, which contains extensive exhibits encompassing the entire history of the state.

## RESEARCHING ONLINE

One of the most valuable resources for studying historic communities and individuals is the U.S. federal census, a statistical snapshot of the entire country conducted every ten years. While the census is a public record, it can appear to be difficult to access. Ancestry.com has digitized the census records and while it is a paid service, most public libraries and archives have computers with subscriptions available for public use. Although the information amassed with each census changes from year to year, at the least it contains individuals' names, race, age, sex, location, and occupation. Records from 1900 to 1940 include additional information such as in which state the person and their parents were born, marital status, education level, and home or farm ownership. Ancestry.com contains more than the federal census, but also city directories, military files through Fold3.com, some of the TVA records, and more. It is also useful for understanding family relations and accessing records beyond the county or state. Another online research tool is Findagrave.com. This crowdsourced database contains entries on most cemeteries and many records on individual graves. This information can also be

linked to Ancestry.com family trees or other online files. Photographs and obituaries are often posted to Findagrave.com.

There are several other online collections maintained by private, state, and federal institutions. The University of Alabama has a comprehensive online collection of historical maps, including those for fire insurance, and aerial photographs of Alabama and beyond. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) is the state historic preservation office in charge of historic preservation of buildings, cemeteries, and archaeological sites. The AHC has an interactive online database of historic places listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage. Some historic

TVA 1152  
Tennessee Valley Authority

CEMETERY REMOVAL RECORD  
Bridgeforth

Grave No.	Name	Age	Date	Nearest Relative		
				Name	Address	Relationship
1	Peggy Lucas	?	?	Adam Lucas, Cherry Malone, Richard Lucas	Tanner	Bro & Sister
2	Dennis Lucas	?	?	" " "	"	Nephew & Niece
3	Richard Lucas	?	?	" "	"	Bro & Sister
4	Meeley Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
5	Wyde Lucas	?	?	" "	"	Niece & Nephew
6	Nathan Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
7	Patsy Lucas	?	?	" "	"	Gr. Child
8	Ned Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
9	Elri Lucas	?	?	" "	"	Nephew
10	Fanny Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
1	Dalford Lucas	?	?	" "	"	Bro & Sister
2	Norris Lucas Jr.	?	?	Jim Lucas	"	Brother
3	Ann Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
4	Amey Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
5	Wyde Lucas	?	?	" "	"	"
6	Soyce Lucas	?	?	Adam Lucas, Cherry Malone, Richard Lucas	Tanner	Niece & Nephew
7						
8						
9	Sally Malone	?	?	Boy Jones, Wesley Campbell	Athens	Grand Son
20	Simon Townsend	?	?	Henry Townsend	Athens	Son

G | 12 | U.S.C.T.

Abraham Grigsby  
Co. B, 12 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on  
**Company Descriptive Book**  
of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 21 years; height 5 feet 4 inches.  
Complexion Dark  
Eyes Dark; hair Dark  
Where born Limestone, Alabama  
Occupation Servant

ENLISTMENT.

When July 31, 1863.  
Where Elk River, Tenn.  
By whom Chas. M. Jewell, term 3 y'rs.

Remarks:

J. D. Storris

(383p) Copyist.



often conduct public outreach on Facebook.com where the institutions and the community can share information, research tips and tools, and images. There are several community-driven projects and institutions such as the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library that have extensive collections posted to social media websites. The University of North Alabama has a public history degree program and is the steward of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area (MSNHA). A National Heritage Area is a site designated by Congress and the NPS with the intent of identifying and preserving historic, cultural, and natural resources which span beyond a single property to form a comprehensive landscape. The MSNHA covers most of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan counties and seeks to promote heritage tourism through education, conservation, and preservation. Two additional locally-run projects specifically focused on African American heritage and history are the Shoals Black History Project and Project Say Something, both of which collect local history and conduct oral histories from the Shoals area.

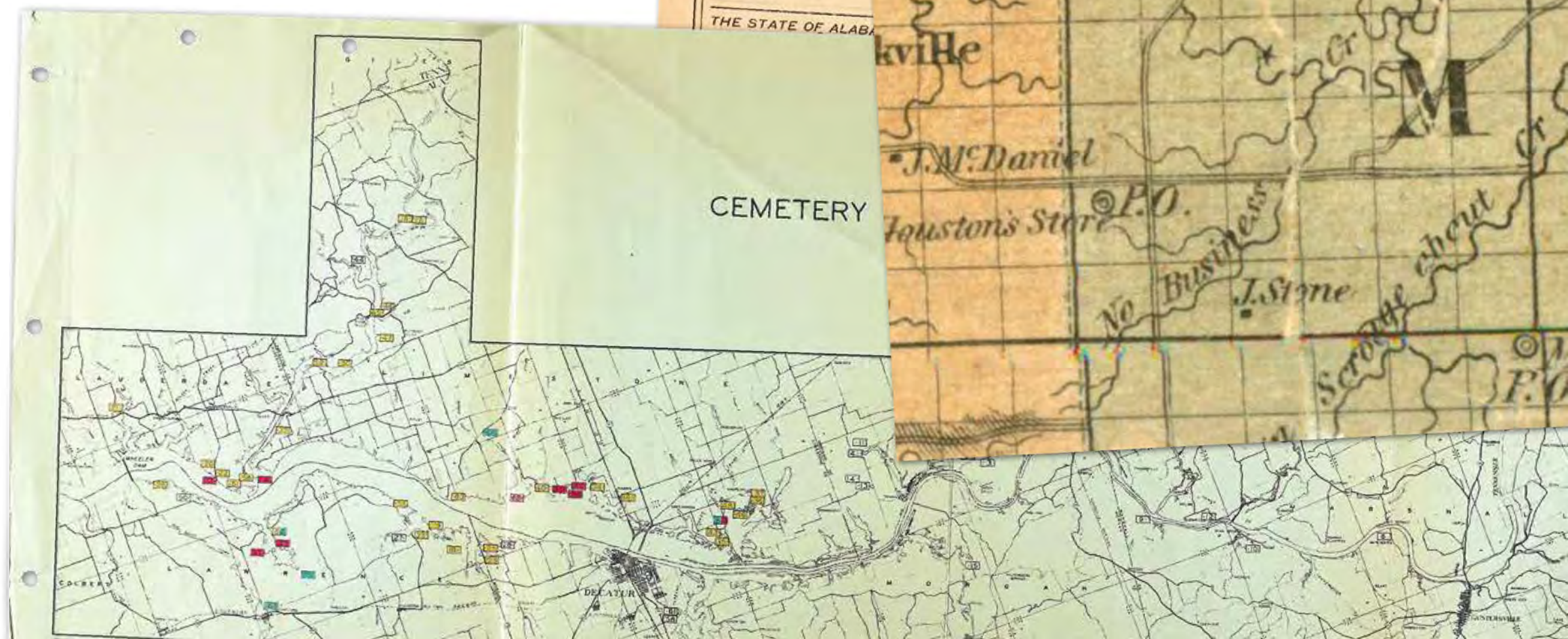
## HOW TO USE THIS ATLAS

This book is organized by county as a series of maps with points of interest. Chapters include an introduction to the county, a map of the points of interests followed by brief summaries of each point's historical significance to the community of color in North Alabama, and a topical essay. The points of interest include communities, churches, cemeteries, schools, and plantations, followed by information on significant events, people, and themes. All points of interest are mapped with color coded numbers that correlate with the text and are arranged alphabetically per chapter. Madison and Morgan counties include maps of African American landowner parcels. The counties of DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall have been combined into one chapter.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**COMMUNITIES:** People are the core of a community, but it is the places and institutions that they create which identify a community on the landscape. The federal census records were used to reveal statistical information about communities such as how many households comprised a town in a given year. Individuals identified as people of color and farm owners were tallied and studied further for possible associations with churches, cemeteries, schools, and plantations.

**CEMETERIES:** In 1901, the state of Alabama rewrote its constitution. In response to political and social changes prompted by Reconstruction and the success of a minority of an elite class of people of color in politics, business, and education, the new state constitution effectively disenfranchised people of color and legislated several segregationist



*R* | 14 | U.S.C.T.  
*James Raven*  
 Co. *H*, 14 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.  
 Appears on  
 Company Descriptive Book  
 of the organization named above.  
 DESCRIPTION.  
 Age *32* years; height *5* feet *8* inches.  
 Complexion *Yellow*  
 Eyes *Very*; hair *Black*  
 Where born *Morgan Co. Ala.*  
 Occupation *Fireman*  
 ENLISTMENT.  
 When *July 20*, 1864.  
 Where *Chattanooga, Tenn.*  
 By whom *M. Bellowsley*; term *3* y'rs.  
 Remarks: *Owner Mrs. Sarah*  
*Mr. Gray, Knoxville, Ala.*  
*Deceased at Knoxville, Tenn.*  
*Oct 6, 1865.*  
*J. L. Morris*  
 (380r) *Copyist.*

*R* | 14 | U.S.C.T.  
*Thadens Rogers*  
 Co. *B*, 14 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.  
 Appears on  
 Company Descriptive Book  
 of the organization named above.  
 DESCRIPTION.  
 Age *19* years; height *5* feet *6 1/2* inches.  
 Complexion *Brown*  
 Eyes *Blk*; hair *Blk*  
 Where born *Dugan Co. Ala.*  
 Occupation *Waiter*  
 ENLISTMENT.  
 When *Nov 1*, 1863.  
 Where *Gallatin Tenn*  
 By whom *A. P. Dunlap*; term *3* y'rs.  
 Remarks:  
*Arks:*  
*O'Leary*  
 (380r) *Copyist.*

*T* | 14 | U.S.C.T.  
*Asham Troup*  
 Co. *I*, 14 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.  
 Appears on  
 Company Descriptive Book  
 of the organization named above.  
 DESCRIPTION.  
 Age *23* years; height *5* feet *7* inches.  
 Complexion *Brown*  
 Eyes *Blk*; hair *Blk*  
 Where born *Morgan Co. Ala.*  
 Occupation *Farmer*  
 ENLISTMENT.  
 When *Dec. 15*, 1863.  
 Where *Gallatin, Tenn.*  
 By whom *A. P. Dunlap*; term *3* y'rs.  
 Remarks:  
*Arks:*  
*Stub*  
 (380r) *Copyist.*

policies – collectively known as Jim Crow laws. In regards to cemeteries, between 1901 and the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 it was illegal in Alabama to bury white people and people of color in the same cemetery. Whereas, the majority of community cemeteries established in the 19th century were mixed, the practice of segregated sections or separate cemeteries for the African American community were customary in this period.

a community has moved from the area or the community surrounding the church is no longer predominately African American, the church may remain active. Therefore, a church is one of the most resilient cultural landmarks of a community.

**PLANTATIONS:** Following Emancipation the large plantations once tended to by the enslaved were left without the labor needed to manage the tens or hundreds of acres. Likewise, agriculture was the only

Cemeteries provide a unique record of a community's past especially in a time when people did not travel far from their birthplace and were usually buried in the town where they passed away. Farmers and landowners are arguably more invested and attached to the land. Landowners were also known to provide the property needed for cemeteries, particularly during segregation.

**CHURCHES:** Booker T. Washington described the church as “the only distinctively Negro institution that existed” in the 19th century. Communities of color grew up around small churches, which served as the heart of social and political, as well as religious life. Other markers of a community such as cemeteries can be abandoned or left unkept and schools were institutionalized and incorporated into the county system. Conversely, churches are rarely abandoned and more often the building is proudly preserved or reconstructed when necessary. Even if

skill known to the majority of former slaves. Thus, former plantations were divided into plots for tenant farmers and sharecroppers. African American farmers often remained on or returned to the plantation where they were enslaved to tend the earth. Several landowners of color in North Alabama eventually owned land and established communities on the site of former plantations.

**SCHOOLS:** Around the turn of the 20th century, the school took the place of the church as the center of a community. This may have been partially due to the communal nature of the school, which brought together the two common denominations of the South – Baptist and Methodists. In the 19th century, it was common for religious charity organizations such as the American Methodist Association (AMA) or the Seventh-Day Adventist Church to establish schools and colleges. After Emancipation, these organizations took to founding institutions for people of color.

By the 20th century, states and counties controlled public education for grade schools, but most rural areas were difficult to reach and left to their own devices. Furthermore, the prosperity of a school was determined by the community, which resulted in a lack of schools, teachers, and supplies for children of color across the South. Recognizing the importance of education, the African American community habitually took it upon themselves to provide teachers, books, and a building for their children. Thousands of rural African American communities also benefited from the philanthropy of Julius Rosenwald, whose school building fund contributed more than \$4 million to help create over 5,000 schools, facilities, and teachers' homes across 14 southern states.

### A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

People with African descent have been referred to by several names over the centuries and decades. While the intent and connotation behind these words have changed with time, there are terms that were official and culturally accepted in their era. Currently, the term “people of color” is most acceptable. While this term has come to include all non-white people and those of mixed race, it can be preferred for its

non-presumptiveness. The term “African American” is also a currently acceptable term, however, it can be seen to have limitations for those who claim more than African ancestry. Throughout this atlas, the terms “people of color” and “African American” are used interchangeably. In some instances, such as the families that once lived on Redstone Arsenal or prominent families of Morgan County, “people of color” is the most accurate. The descendants of families from Redstone who participated in an oral history interview expressed their personal sentiment toward the identity of person of color. This identity allows for the inclusion of all ancestors who were white, African American, and Native American. Discussions of communities in Madison and Morgan counties deliberately use the term “people of color” and when it is used elsewhere, there is usually an indication of mixed-race ancestry.

Terms used in historical documents to refer to people of mixed ancestry include, “mulatto,” “yellow,” and “bright.” These last two terms may

not relate to how we think of them today. “Yellow” and “bright” are in reference to the light color of a person’s skin, i.e. “a bright negro” is a term often used to late 19th century obituaries referring to their skin, not their intelligence, and a “yellow complexion” is a light-skinned African American, not a person of Asian descent.

Historically, other terms such as “black,” “negro,” and “colored” have been used to refer to people of color with African ancestry. While the term “black” may still be culturally acceptable, it can be used in an offensive manner. In this research, it is occasionally used as an adjective to describe a noun, but never as a stand-alone term for people; e.g. “a black neighborhood”, but not “blacks.” The terms “negro” and “colored” were once official terms used on the census and other official documents as well as colloquially in newspapers or in the names of places. In this research they have been limited to quotations or discussions about segregation and discrimination. Terms used to describe people are a reflection of our current culture. The choices in terminology made for this atlas are intended to convey the utmost respect for those individuals and communities discussed within.

## THANK YOU

While conducting this research, many helpful and fascinating people stepped forward to generously share their knowledge and personal histories. A special thank you to Lee Freeman, librarian at the Florence Public Library; Brian Murphy, chairman on the board of Project Say Something; and Dr. Thomas Reidy of the University of Alabama-Huntsville for providing much needed information. Also, appreciation is extended to the archivists of North Alabama: John Allison of the Morgan County Archives, Wendy

Hazel of the Lawrence County Archives, Rebekah Davis of Limestone County Archives, and Shalis Worthy of the Madison County Archives. Likewise, Maureen Hill, Archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration in Atlanta. Last, but not least, a huge thank you to those who spontaneously volunteered to shared your intimate knowledge and provide oral history interviews. Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland is a fountain of knowledge concerning prominent families and remarkable individuals in North Alabama. Ms. Peggy Allen Towns was gracious enough to enlighten everyone about her research into the Scottsboro Boys Trial and Morgan County. Ms. Pearl Jackson Green kindly took the time to sit down and share some of her life’s stories. Also, Col. James L. Walker for patiently going over the history of African American education and communities in Limestone County, as well as his own family history.

Thanks and gratitude go to the descendants of the communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, formerly on Redstone Arsenal. In July 2018, a reunion was held in Huntsville and Harvest, Alabama organized by Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan, among many others. New South Associates was invited to attend the reception at the Davidson Center at the Marshall Flight Center and the picnic in Harvest where interested individuals and families were encouraged to tell their family histories and share photographs and documents. Thank you to those who shared their personal history including Ms. Maureen Davis Cathey, Dr. Victoria L. Joiner, Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan, Mr. John Jordan, Mr. Thomas Lyle, and Ms. Elaine Watkins Patton. And a special thank you to Ms. Deborah for inviting everyone to her home for the picnic and again for the group interview.

Overall, we are very grateful to the many independent and local researchers whose work has contributed to this combined volume in an effort to help future researchers to continue to explore the rich history of African American heritage in North Alabama. Also, to those who participated in oral history interviews, either formally or informally. Information and quotes from interviews were used to drive the research.



## Ms. Carolyn Wilson



Ms. Wilson was born in Courtland, Alabama in Lawrence County. Her father William Miller served in World War II. He told his daughter that he was present at the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. Upon returning home, he obtained a job with the TVA at a fertilizer plant. Mr. Miller worked at the plant for 40 years, becoming a supervisor. Her mother, Edna Stawart Miller, was born in 1916 in Birmingham, Alabama.

She went to school for cosmetology but ended up working for the Cooperative Extension Service for many years. Ms. Carolyn was the oldest of the siblings, born in 1949. Ms. Wilson's parents met in Town Creek in high school. She remembers her father always buying a new car, a luxury item at the time.

As a child, she and her siblings were close to their grandparents. Her paternal grandfather worked at Reynolds Metal Company in Muscle Shoals. Her grandmother, Lena Miller, attended Alabama A&M and became a teacher and principal. She instilled the importance of education in her children and grandchildren. The Miller children attended Rocky Hill School and would sometimes visit their maternal grandmother for summers in St. Louis, Missouri.

After graduating high school in 1968, Ms. Wilson attended Alabama A&M University where she worked in the cafeteria to make some money while earning a BS in Accounting and an MBA. She spent 30 years working for the Thiokol Corporation in Huntsville. Her brothers are quite accomplished as well. William "Bill" Miller was a nuclear engineer and Toby worked in the field of psychology. Ms. Wilson credits their father's intelligence for her siblings' success.

## Col. James L. Walker



Colonel James Levon Walker knows his history. His family has been in Limestone County, Alabama and neighboring Lincoln County, Tennessee for generations. He can trace one of his grandfathers, Tom Lane, to the mid-1800s when Lane ran away from the Green Plantation in Dellrose, Tennessee to join the Union Army. As a Corporal in the 111th U.S. Colored Troops, Lane was captured at Sulfur

Spring in Limestone County – an important historical event for locals. Col. Walker's paternal great-grandparents were Mat and Emma Walker. While they were born into slavery in Limestone County, their son, Matt Walker (born 1872) acquired 60 acres of land in Dellrose, Tennessee when he was 27 years old. By 1918 he bought 160 acres of land in south Limestone County – what was called "Bland Place" on Route 2, now Nuclear Plant Road. On his farm he grew cotton and corn and raised cattle and pigs.

Col. Walker's father was James Alvin "Bunt" Walker (1910-1989). He inherited the farm when Matt Walker died in 1930. For 10 years he farmed soybeans, cotton, and corn and raised cattle, pigs, and chickens. By 1940, he was farming 200-300 acres of cotton and about 500 total acres of land. Bunt married Ms. Lizzie Mae in 1933. She oversaw the one thousand chickens on the Walker farm, but her calling and profession was as a school teacher. Ms. Lizzie was born in Poplar Creek, Alabama to Jonas and Zoria Belle Yarborough Farrar. When her parents divorced, she and her mother moved into her grandparents' (Hence and Governor Yarbrough) house. Ms. Lizzie's mother met a man named Wes Matthew and moved to south Limestone to sharecrop for Mat Walker. There

she met Bunt Walker, but before she married she obtained her higher education.

**(Right)** Ms. Lizzie Mae Walker, Col. Walker's Mother



Ms. Lizzie Mae attended Alabama A&M from 1923 to 1929. With her college education, she came back to Limestone County and started teaching in Mooresville at Living Water School. She taught grade school for 40 years, mostly in one-room, rural schoolhouses with six classes at a time. Ms. Lizzie Mae taught her own children in school and instilled in them a love of learning. Col. Walker graduated from Trinity High School in Athens. Throughout his life he has earned a bachelor's degree and four Master's degrees. He also credits his mother for his love of travel. His life has taken him to Paris, France, London, England, Rome, Italy, Seoul, Korea, Osaka, Japan, Nairobi, Kenya, Salisbury, Australia, and many more places.

## Ms. Maureen Davis Cathey



Ms. Cathey was born in Madison County on what became Redstone Arsenal. Her parents were Parthenia and Connie Horton. The family lived on a farm they owned until Ms. Maureen was 11 years old. Her mother was a school teacher who taught for Madison County school system for 43 years. When the government purchased the land for the Arsenal, her parents moved to West Clinton Street in Huntsville where they



bought a smaller farm. Ms. Maureen’s brothers had little interest in carrying on their father’s farming profession. They went to Tuskegee University and Hampton University for a higher education.

Ms. Maureen graduated from Councill High School and then Alabama A&M University with a degree in accounting. She continued to work at A&M in the Accounts Receivable and Student Accounting departments for 25 years.

## Ms. Peggy Allen Towns



Ms. Peggy Allen Towns was born in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. She attended Cherry Street School and Lakeside High School, as well as Decatur High School – a unique experience bridging segregation and integration. Her parents were George Washington and Myrtle Lyle Allen. George Allen and his brother purchased a house in the 1940s on Church Street. Ms. Towns’ maternal family are the Lyles from Trinity, Alabama

in Morgan County. Her grandmother, Bertha Polk Lyle, was the daughter of a slave named Allen Polk (owned by President James K. Polk in Maury County, Tennessee). She was the first African American preacher pastor in Decatur. She received her license to pastor the church in 1953 after she started preaching in 1944. Ms. Towns’ father was from Jackson County, born in 1922. As a nine-year-old, he remembers the police

**(Right)** Ms. Bertha Polk Lyle, Ms. Allen's Grandmother



searching for the boys who would be held on trial as the Scottsboro Boys. George W. Allen left Jackson County and a job on a farm for a job on the railroad. He later ended up in Decatur working for the Southern Cotton Oil Mill and then Goodyear Tire & rubber Company before retiring at 62 years old. He continued his work as a deacon at the Bell-Nebo Primitive Baptist Church until his death.

Ms. Allen worked at a plant after college, but found she was better suited to the Agricultural Extension Service – at which she gave over 13 years of career. Afterwards, she worked for Congressman Bud Cramer for 20 years, retiring in 2011. In her retirement, she researches local African American history and has written two books. An ancestor on her parental side named George Allen was a member of the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. George’s pension records mention that he was captured on Coleman Hill at Fort Henderson in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama and taken to Mobile, Alabama as a POW. Research into George Allen culminated in Ms. Towns’ book, *Duty Driven: The Plight of North Alabama African Americans During the Civil War*. Although the infamous trials of nine young boys in the 1930s became known as the Scottsboro Boys, the majority of the trials took place in Decatur. Ms. Towns wrote her second book, *Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur’s Story*, about the impacts of the trials on the city of Decatur.

## Dr. Rev. Wylheme H. Ragland

Dr. Ragland is a retired United Methodist minister, freelance writer, and the curator of two collections of African American history. He writes extensively on the Schaudies-Banks family, a prominent African American family of Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. Dr. Ragland has lived in Decatur since 1977. That’s when he met Miss Athelyne Celeste Banks. He spent years as her pastor, confidante, and close friend. His love of history and Ms. Banks led to his research into the interesting family.

The Schaudies were from Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. Samuel Schaudies, Ms. Banks’ maternal grandfather,



**(Left)** Dr. Rev. Wylheme H. Ragland was enslaved by Frank Otto Schaudies, a shoemaker from Germany. Samuel was taught shoemaking, a trade he continued after Emancipation when he moved to Decatur. The Banks family is a “pre-Civil War” family from Decatur. Miss Banks’ paternal grandfather was Matthew Hewlett Banks, the second elected black city councilman in Decatur after Reconstruction. The Schaudies-

Banks family has many more remarkable members – landowners, a notary public, a World War I soldier, a doctor, founders of the King’s Memorial United Methodist Church. Ms. Banks, herself, was the first female of color in Decatur to be a school principal. The house where she was born, the Schaudies-Banks Cottage, still stands in Decatur.

The Reverend has delved into other areas of interest into the history of African Americans in Decatur, Morgan County, and North Alabama. Other interests include an early landowner of color named Robert Murphy, who owned over 300 acres in Morgan County and the Breeding family. The Breedings were a unique case of a mixed son receiving land from his white father’s inheritance – a local landmark case in 1899.

## Mr. John Patrick Jordan

Mr. Jordan was born in Huntsville in 1960, his family is originally from the Mullins Flat/Pond Beat area that is now Redstone Arsenal. His great-grandfather, James “Jim” Jordan married Elizabeth Jacobs. Together they had nine children – the eldest, Murphy Jordan, was John’s grandfather. Murphy married Helen Jones and had 17 children, creating a very large family. The Jordans were farmers on the Redstone land and Murphy bought a “substantial sized” farm to the west of the Redstone Arsenal boundary near Triana. Growing up, Mr. Jordan remembers the family



growing corn, cotton, and soybeans and raising hogs, cows, and goats. They rented a field for cotton that now has the Milton Frank Stadium built on it.

Mr. Jordan remembers his grandmother telling him stories about the family's time in Mullins Flat/Pond Beat. They attended the Center Grove Church and always helped each other in times of need or prosperity. The house built on

Redstone Arsenal was moved to the new home place in the 1940s. That house still stands although it no longer belongs to the many heirs of Murphy Jordan. Mr. Jordan is a first cousin to Ms. Elaine Patton.

### Ms. Renee Rice



Ms. Rice was born in Toledo, Ohio, but her mother's family is from the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat community that is now Redstone Arsenal. Among her relatives she counts the Timmons, Joiners, and Shields families. Her great-grandfather Shields owned a 400-acre farm in Pond Beat. Her mother lived there until she was about 10 years old. When the family moved they were only able to afford a 200-acre farm

in Ardmore, Madison County, Alabama. Her grandmother was Pearl Timmons Shields, the daughter of Wattie Timmons, "one of the pillars in

**(Right)** One of the Many Wonderful Family Photographs Provided by Ms. Renee Rice.

the community of Pond Beat." Ms. Rice's maternal great-grandmother was a Lacy, another prominent name in the area. On my grandfather's side, she is a descendant of William and Louisa Timmons. Their children – who took the last name of their step-father, Joiner – were very successful and well-known landowning farmers in the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat area.



Her uncle, Ed Jordan, had a substantial amount of land in Madison County. He married Ms. Rice's father's sister, Irene, and moved to Toledo, Ohio. Her father moved there after college and started his family. Her father was one of 14 children of a family that lived in downtown Huntsville. Every one of the children attended Alabama A&M University and many of them received advanced degrees from Columbia University.

Ms. Rice has been enthusiastically gathering the extensive family history including stories and photographs for years. Her research and family stories have led her and other family members to become more inclusive when describing their family tree. The extended family of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat often include African American, white, and Native American, such as the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw. The families are truly people of color.

### Ms. Parthenia Joiner Hardy

Ms. Hardy is the daughter of Percy and Ellen Joiner. She was 90 years old when she was interviewed in July 2018 and one of the few people still living that remembers growing up in the Pond Beat community.



She was about 12 years old when the family moved from the land they owned in south Madison County to an 80-acre farm outside of Huntsville. She remembers the church her family helped to build, one of the "twin" churches in the community where her father was a trustee. In Pond Beat, the Joiners grew everything you could eat—every kind of vegetable imaginable and many fruits as well.

Ms. Parthenia attended a one-room schoolhouse in Pond Beat. Her teacher was her Parthenia Joiner Horton, who she is named after. The older Parthenia was married to Claudie Joiner, the younger Parthenia's uncle. When Mr. Joiner passed away, Parthenia Joiner married Connie Horton—one of their children is Ms. Maureen Davis Cathey, who is like a sister to Ms. Hardy. Once she had completed school, Ms. Hardy worked at the Councill Training School in Normal, Alabama as a typist, then at Alabama A&M University as a switchboard operator, before beginning a 32-year career at the federal Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Parthenia married a Huntsville man in 1952 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio. She still visits Huntsville and family in Alabama on a regular basis.

### Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan

Ms. Deborah worked as the chairperson for the reunion held in July 2018 for the descendants of the families from Pond Beat and Mullins Flat. She offered her family's farm in Harvest, Alabama for the reunion's picnic and opened her home for a group oral history interview with several other members of the extended family. Ms. Deborah's grandmother, Celeste (born 1897) was from Pond Beat. She married James Horton, the son of Everett Horton, Sr, a prominent landowner in the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat area. By 1930, James had passed away and Celeste and



her son, James B. Horton moved to a house on Pulaski Pike. The family was made to move again in the 1960s due to a road project. This time, however, they moved their beloved house with them and relocated to Harvest where a family friend, Uncle Aaron Burns—another former resident of Pond Beat—owned land.

James B. Horton and Callie Sue Daniel Horton were Ms. Deborah’s parents. They made their home in Harvest and raised Ms. Deborah and her sisters, who now own the property and several houses on the idyllic Horton Family compound. While researching the extensive family history, Ms. Deborah has learned more about her Pond Beat/Mullins Flat extended family most of which reaches back to the union of William and Louisa Timmons. Ms. Jordan is the great-great-granddaughter of William and Louisa Timmons.

### Dr. Victoria L. Joiner

Dr. Joiner has conducted an impressive amount of research into her family’s history. A doctor of education, she can succinctly recount her family tree with two connections to the Pond Beat community. Like many other descendants, she is related to the Timmons as the great-great-granddaughter of William and Louisa through their son John (Timmons) Joiner. She is also related to another large and well-known family of Pond Beat, the Barleys. John Joiner and his wife Emma Jacobs married in 1891 and had eight children, one of which was Elijah Joiner. Elijah married Geneva Barley, daughter of David Dixon and Rhoda Lee Abernathy Barley.



**(Above and Right)** Dr. Victoria L. Joiner Shared Several Photograph which Testify to Life on the Barley Farm



### Mr. Thomas Lyle, Jr.

Mr. Lyle is the great-great-grandson of William and Louisa Timmons of the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat community on what is now Redstone Arsenal.

His ancestry connects through William and Louisa’s daughter Kate (Timmons) Joiner Lacy. Kate married Wyatt Lacy, another prominent family of landowners in Madison and Morgan counties. The Lacys may also have some Native American ancestry—Mr. Lyle’s grandfather was names James Pensacola Lacy and family stories indicate a connection to the Choctaw.



A resident of Huntsville, Mr. Lyle has delved into researching the tangled roots of the families of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat. He is particularly interested in the various relationships that resulted in his family’s inclusion of African American, white, and Native American ancestry. Mr. Lyle still lives in a house purchased by his grandparents, Amanda E. Lacy

and James P. Burns, perhaps adding to his interest in the family tree.

### Ms. Elaine Watkins Patton

Ms. Patton is a descendant of Murphy “Jim” and Helen Jones Jordan—landowners in the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat community before the land was Redstone Arsenal. Her family owned land in Harvest adjacent to Aaron Burns and the Hortons. She remembers the landscape of the large fields roaming with cattle. She also recalls coming to the Arsenal land at the end of Triana Boulevard before the Arsenal was completely fenced off. Her father, uncle, and grandmother would bring her down to participate in an Easter egg hunt.



In an effort to continue the family’s rich traditions, she has helped to organize several family reunions for both her mother’s and father’s families. She is particularly well-connected through her church community. Ms. Patton has attended the Center Grove United Methodist Church all her life. Her great uncle, Newman Jordan, was a minister in the United Methodist faith and passed on may stories about Pond Beat and Mullins Flat.

# INTRODUCTION

## AFRICAN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND LANDOWNERSHIP

### The Yeoman Farmer

The yeoman farmer is a self-sufficient farmer who owns his land on which he and his family work. The farm yields what the family needs for subsistence and some may produce a small profit as well. Traditionally, the ideal of the yeoman farmer comes from the English feudal system. This archetype carried its way to America and became a romantic notion often trumpeted by Thomas Jefferson as he heralded the small farmer as the backbone of America and its bright future. American independence was partly driven by the promise of landownership. The vision of the epitome of the American citizen plowing the new and fertile land to provide for his family, without being burdened by an overbearing and unfair government – and, very importantly, without being a burden to his fellow countrymen. Landownership was promised to every white,

**(Below)** African American Farmers Picking Cotton in South Carolina, 1902  
(Library of Congress) **(Right)** Mississippi Woman Hoeing Cotton, 1937  
(Library of Congress)



male citizen, even those of meager means. Westward expansion allowed for an abundance of land to be offered up to America's citizens for little to nothing. A citizen should be a landowner, but the promise went the other way as well, a landowner would be a true citizen.

A citizen has the right to his land, his family, his profits, and his vote. With landownership came wealth and influence in the early republic. Therefore, in many ways, landownership was the first step in becoming the ideal American. The African American yeoman farmer has a similar, yet different story. By the time of Emancipation, many white Americans were being toward burgeoning capitalistic cities. Profit and independence no longer lay in the countryside for many of that generation and the appeal of farming began to wear off by the latter half of the 19th century. Conversely, the average freedmen had spent generations in slavery and had not accumulated wealth or knowledge beyond the skills acquired on and for the plantation. The best hopes for freedom, independence, self-worth, and citizenship lay in farming and landownership.

The idea of the African American yeoman farmer has struggled with the juxtaposition of freedom and what appears similar to slavery. Juan Williams, journalist and author, wrote in a 2005 National Public Radio (NPR) article about African American farmers in America that "what looks like slavery is, in fact, the most courageous form of economic self-determination, and what looks like 'the simple life' is, in fact, a profoundly complex and risky economic undertaking." To take ownership of the land, to replace the master of the plantation with the men and women who reap and sow was the most powerful way to take charge of one's own financial freedom.



Williams goes on to say that to the former slaves "ownership of a farm meant more than owning a business: the deed to the land

signified the end of their days as slaves, as sharecroppers, as workers for someone else. To be a landowner meant status as a voter, taxpayer, and citizen. Thus, possession of land represented a defiant step toward racial equality with white farmers, who had constituted the heart of the ruling class in the early 1800s southland.”

To the generations of African Americans in the South – mostly former slaves and their decedents – the farm was more than land, more than food-producing soil, more than an economic investment. To them, the farm was a life of self-sufficiency and a social status of worth and emerging wealth. The African American yeoman farmer quickly became the symbol of a strong, independent African American man to whom the community could center around and look up to for inspiration and guidance. The independence of farming on land that one owned had the added benefit of providing for future family endeavors. The wealth of landownership eventually allowed for family members to open businesses, schools, and churches – integral pieces around which to form a community. These essential ties to the land and family create stable and long-lasting communities.

**(Below)** “Cotton on Porch of Sharecropper’s Home, Maria Plantation, Arkansas, October 1935.” (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections)



Landownership, therefore, is more than an economical investment, it is key to the cultural and political empowerment of a community. Studies during the 1970s on African American landownership affected by welfare programs of the Great Depression revealed that a landowner’s children were more likely to receive a higher education and work in white-collar jobs than a comparable tenant farmer. Landowners and the children of landowners were more likely to participate in the Civil Rights Movement as landowning farmers were their own bosses and not subjected to the pressure of losing their jobs and livelihoods if persecuted by white managers or landowners. The results of this statistical study are reflected in the historical documents of North Alabama, particularly in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) records.

### Forty Acres and a Mule

Despite federally-supported Reconstruction programs like the Freedmen’s Bureau, in the end, the government was not much help to the former slave as its moral obligations were effectively torn when it came to providing aid. On one hand, there were an estimated four million newly freed slaves who had nothing and no way to support themselves – but were willing if given initial assistance. On the other hand, the defeated Confederates who lost land and property – including



**(Left)** Drawing of “The Freedmen’s Bureau” by A.R. Waud, Harper’s Weekly, July 25, 1868 (Library of Congress) **(Above)** “Valley Land Corn Pickwick Reservoir;” November 3, 1937; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Photograph No. 3464 F.

enslaved persons – and demanded retribution from the very federal government they had succeeded from. What did both sides want? Land.

Immediately following an all-consuming war, the federal government was faced with the dilemma of whether to split up the confiscated Confederate lands and distribute them to the eager freedmen or to compensate the Southern landowners who the North fought so dearly to keep within the Union. In Savannah, Georgia, at the end of Sherman's March, the Union General and 20 prominent Southern African American religious leaders gathered to discuss what the freedmen wanted and needed. "The way to best take care of ourselves is to have land, and turn it and till it by our own labor... and we can soon maintain ourselves and

have something to spare... We want to be placed on land until we are able to buy it and make it our own," said the Baptist minister, Garrison Frazier in response to General Sherman's inquire.

This meeting of local Southern African American leaders with the triumphant General of the Union culminated in Special Field Order Number 15. Issued by Sherman on January 16, 1865, it commanded that the former slaves take up the land abandoned and confiscated from Confederate soldiers. This became the failed promise to provide every freed family with a plot of land to farm and a mule to do the work. Unfortunately, while some freedmen were initially given land on the sea islands of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, President Lincoln's



**(Left)** "Spring Plowing in Cut-Over Region South of Marshall, Texas, April 1939." (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections) **(Above)** "Ben Turner and Family in Their Wagon with Mule Team. Flint River Farms, Georgia. May 1939." (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections) **(Below)** "Daughter of Cube Walker, Negro TP Client Belzoni, Mississippi. Delta, Bringing Home Cow from the Fields in the Evening, Nov. 1939." (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections)





**(Above)** “Migratory Labors Cutting Celery, Belle Glade, Florida, January 1941.” (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections)

successor, Andrew Johnson, reneged on the order. Johnson favored the former rebels over the former slaves and the April 1862 federal bill that promised \$300 per lost slave to Southern slaveholders, remained in place.

Scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. writes in a discussion of “forty acres and a mule” to “try to imagine how profoundly different the history of race relations in the United States would have been had this policy been implemented and enforced; had the former slaves actually had access to the ownership of land, or property; if they had had a chance to be self-sufficient economically, to build, accrue, and pass on wealth.” By ultimately leaving the plantations intact and providing few long-lasting opportunities for freedmen to educate themselves or acquire land, they had little choice but to return to the plantations. This time, contracts were made with the landowners – facilitated by the government – to make the former slaves into wage workers. But this did not go over well with freedmen who feared entrapment of debt and unfair conditions. They hungered for independence and responsibility, a connection to

the land that would provide for each family – privacy, individuality, and freedom. They were working toward the yeoman ideal but had to settle for tenant farming, sharecropping, and debt peonage – hardly the American dream.

## Tenancy Farming

The yeoman ideal was not realized by all Americans, regardless of race. Rather than every man owning and tilling his own land, more often there were larger landowners and those who farmed that land. Tenant farming was the predominant form of farming in Alabama from the late 1800s through World War II. The word “tenancy” describes when the people who conduct the farming do not own the land. How they pay the owner of that land may differ and be incredibly complex. Sharecropping, a form of tenancy, involves the landowner renting land to a farmer who tends to the crops and gives a portion of the crop to the owner as payment; tenant farming – often cash renters in Alabama – had some

**(Below)** “Josh Taylor, Negro Foreman Who has been on Place for Fifty-Three Years, Knowlton Plantation, Perthshire, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi.” Circa 1930s. (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections) **(Right)** “A Mule and a Plow” Poster from the Resettlement Administration, 1935 (Library of Congress)



arrangement with the landowner as to how much would be paid for renting the land.

While tenancy systems were preferable to wage-working, which commanded extremely low pay while requiring the freedmen to live and work much as before Emancipation, tenancy ensured a life and



legacy of poverty and debt. Following Emancipation, it was rare for freedmen to have anything of their own, this meant that in order to farm land they would have to first borrow the land as well as the means to farm it. Landowners would provide tenants with the crop seed and implements to farm, along with necessities of life. These advances were on credit that would be taken out of the next crop, known as a crop-lien. A second crop-lien could be put upon the farmer by the furnishing merchant. This was someone who could provide the family with necessary furnishings on credit. Sometimes this was also the landowner either directly or indirectly. If the crop did not sell well enough to pay off the liens, debt would roll over to the next year with 10% interest, or more. Thus, began the terrible cycle of debt peonage that entrapped many African American farmers in poverty and unable to raise themselves up no matter how willing and industrious.

If a tenant farmer did manage to pay off a lien, the next step would be to purchase his own farm implements and draft animals so that he would be free of at least one obligation to the landowner. If a sharecropper had to borrow these things, then he was only able to keep one-third of the crop raised. But if he had his own implements and animals, then he could keep one-half of the crop. This brought up his socioeconomic status to that of a cash renter, though it did little to save him from debt peonage. As tenancy replaced slavery in the latter half of the 19th century, it reached a peak in Alabama in the 1920s. By the Great Depression, tenancy described over half of all Alabaman farmers, a quarter of whom were sharecroppers. That number continued to drop with the coming of

**(Upper Right)** The Booker T. Washington Agricultural School on Wheels, an iteration of the Movable School, Circa 1930s (National Archives and Records Administration) **(Lower Right)** "Wagon Load of Cotton Coming Out of the Field in the Evening, Mileston Plantation, Mississippi Delta, Oct. 1939." (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections)



World War II, which changed the agricultural economy substantially. Men who grew up on a tenant farm were drawn away by the draft, the TVA, or by the ordnance plants, like Redstone Arsenal. When they returned home, few of them went back to farming.

## African American Farmers and Landowners in North Alabama

The Tennessee River provides rich soil for crops such as cotton. Most of North Alabama, with the exception of DeKalb County and parts of Jackson and Marshall counties, has large, flat floodplains which are conducive to plantation agriculture. After Emancipation, North Alabama's communities of color were subsequently located in areas that were previously overspread with plantations. Ostensibly, the plantations did not disappear with the end of the Civil War and slavery. Large landowners were able to retain the majority of their land and slavery was replaced by sharecropping and tenant farming. King Cotton ruled the South well into the 20th century and the shadow of plantation slavery kept people of color disenfranchised.

Tenant farmers of North Alabama relied on cotton, but also corn to feed their families and their livestock. The agricultural censuses of 1870 and 1880 show that most of the time, farmers planted just as much corn as they did cotton. The U.S. Non-Population, or Agricultural, Census did not distinguish between farmers based on race until 1900. The categories devised for the 20th century included "white" and "non-white," which in some areas included Native American or Asian, but there were little to no people of these populations in North Alabama by that time. Overall, census records show that from 1900 to 1920, the number of non-white farming landowners increases. By 1920 there was a peak in the number of non-white landowners; although, 1910 was the peak for the number of acres owned by non-white people in the South. In that year,

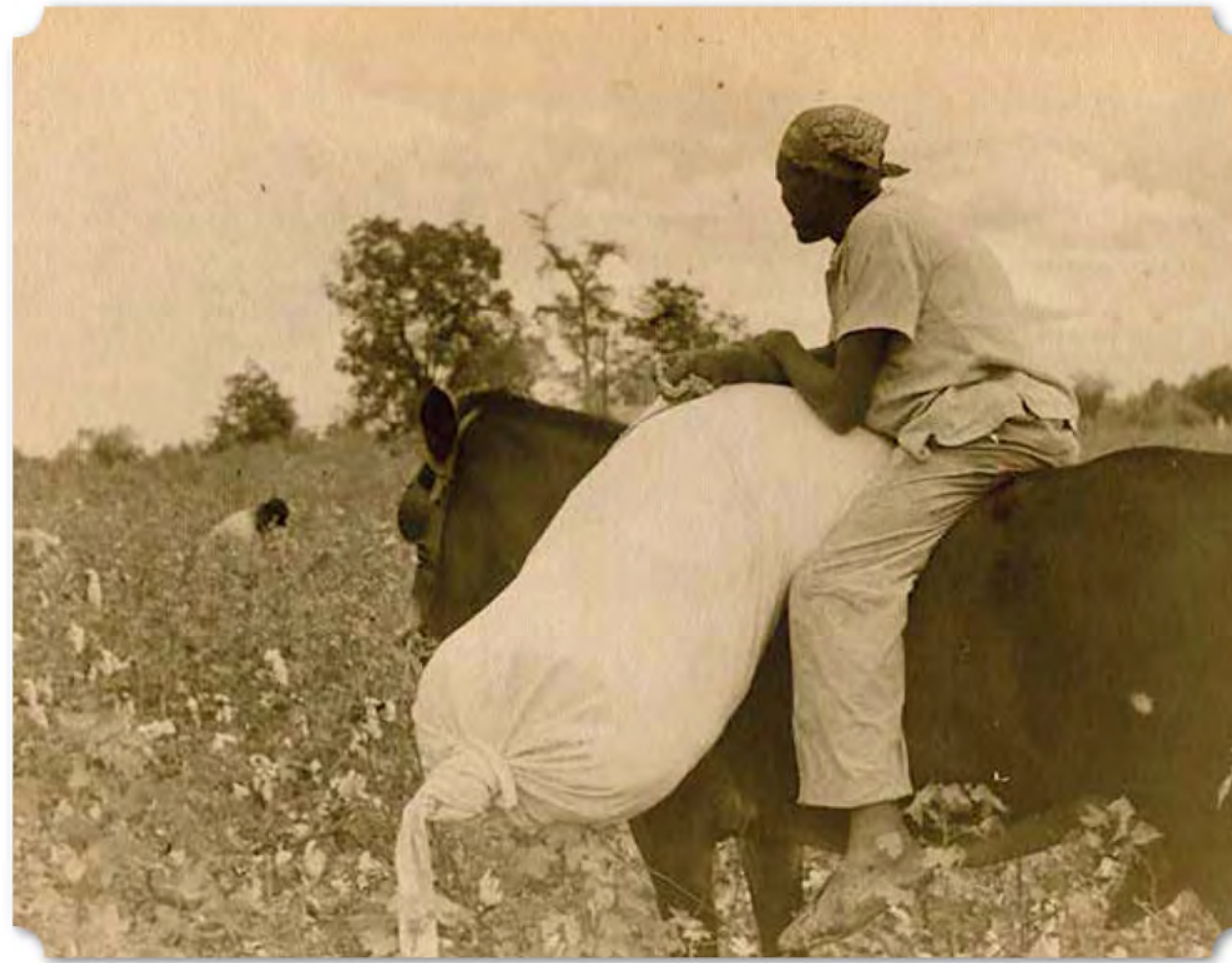


12.8 million acres were owned by non-white farmers in the South – 175,290 acres fully owned and 43,177 partly owned (mortgaged).

The success of early 20th century African American farmers can be partly attributed to institutions of higher learning for people of color, such as the Tuskegee Institute and Alabama A&M University, which came to the aid of rural farmers. This aid was in the form of educational programs, such as the Movable School and the demonstration farms program. The Movable School was a mobile exhibit that conveyed education on agriculture and mechanics to rural farmers. It was established by famed professor George Washington Carver and later headed by Thomas Monroe Campbell, a graduate of Tuskegee and the first African American extension agent. In one incarnation or another, the mobile school continued to educate rural African American farmers until 1944. The demonstration farms promoted by A&M were usually located nearby the school in North Huntsville, such as the David and Lucy Crutcher's farm. These farms were owned and operated by people of color and were used to instruct students and other local farmers in the most productive methods of agriculture.

During the Great Depression, African American landownership in Alabama increased due to diminished land value and the return of some migrants to the South, however, the farms tended to be smaller than the typical white-owned farms. From 1920 to 1930, the overall average acres fell slightly from 75 to 68 acres and tenancy increased from 58%

to 65%. The Depression prompted many rural farmers to leave the country for the urban areas, like Huntsville and the Quad-



**(Above)** "African American Cotton Plantation Worker, Hired as a Day Laborer, Riding a Mule and Holding Down a Sack of Cotton in the Cotton Field at Nugent Plantation, Benoit, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi, October 1939." (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Digital Collections)

cities. By the late 1930s, the effects of the economy reached the urban centers and people fled back to the depleted and eroded soils in hopes of growing a cash crop.

## Agriculture in North Alabama

Cotton: the crop that fueled the South and the early American economy – and the institution of slavery. For most of America's history, cotton was the most profitable crop. It grows well in the limestone-rich soils of the Tennessee River Valley in the state's most condensed area for row crops. From the time of Alabama's settlement in the 1810s, through to the mid-20th century, cotton was king. Despite soil depletion and erosion and the boll weevil, all nine counties of North Alabama counted cotton

as their number one crop through to 1950. But times changed and a post-WWII economy was forcing Alabama and the South to diversify.

Between 1949 and 2010, the top agricultural products of North Alabama changed dramatically. Alabama no longer has the large agricultural industry that it once did. Where cotton once reigned, now poultry farms are the top producers and new products like soybeans and grains join cattle. The amount of land devoted to crops has drastically decreased and farmers do not rely solely on the agricultural products of the past couple of centuries. The latter half of the 20th century saw a turn from agriculture toward industry across the country, this was true for Alabama as well. By the 1960s, most of Alabama's farms were relying more heavily on mechanical harvesters and feeders than on human labor. Farm labor was siphoned from agriculture to more concentrated industry – displacing many rural African American workers at a time of great social tension.

In 2015, there were about 42,700 farms in the state, taking up 8.8 million acres – a little over 200 acres a farm on average. Most of the \$5.5 billion industry is from poultry (65%), another 11% is cattle, followed by 8% for greenhouse or nursery crops, and only 4% is cotton. This is a severe decline as fifty years ago, cotton accounted for 45% of Alabama's agricultural output. In North Alabama, soybean, corn, wheat, and cattle have been added to the repertoire in the past decades, however, Lawrence, Limestone, and Madison counties still retain numerous acres of cotton. Farmland adjacent to urban areas such as Huntsville, Athens, Decatur, and Florence have decreased due to urban expansion. What farms are left are frequently over 2,000 acres of crops tended to by only three or four workers – highly trained and highly paid.





Ward of city .....  
Unincorporated place .....  
Block Nos. ....  
Institution .....

Enumerated by me on April 12, 1940  
Wainbaur, Ralph L. Enumerator.

RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1939										OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER							INCOME IN 1939						
	Sex	Marital status	Grade	Year completed		State or Territory	County	City, town, or village	Population	State or Territory	County	City, town, or village	Population	Industry	Occupation	Class	Code	From all sources	From agriculture	From non-agriculture	Total								
Daughter	F	N	8	S	Ya	Nebraska	Same house	447																					
Daughter	F	N	6	S	No	Tennessee	Same house	447																					
Daughter	F	N	2	S	No	Tennessee																							
Head	M	N	35	M	No	Alabama	Valhalla	Colbert	Alabama	No	44	Yes					40	Harney, Georgia	I. U. A.	W		52	120	20					
Wife	F	N	39	M	No	Tennessee	Same house										40	Painter	T. V. A.	W		52	120	20					
Head	M	N	30	M	No	Tennessee	Tuscumbea	Colbert	Alabama	No	44	Yes					40	Operator	T. V. A.	W		52	150	20					
Wife	F	N	35	M	No	Alabama	Same house										40					0	0	20					
Head	M	N	26	M	No	Alabama	Tuscumbea	Colbert	Alabama	No	44	Yes					40					0	0	20					
Wife	F	N	23	M	No	Alabama	Same house																						
Son	F	N	3	S	No	Alabama											40												
Head	M	N	29	M	No	Alabama	Sheffield	Colbert	Alabama	No	44	Yes					40												
Wife	F	N	27	M	No	Alabama	Same house																						
Daughter	F	N	6	S	No	Alabama	Same house																						
Son	M	N	5	S	No	Alabama																							



Productions of Agriculture in Eastern Subdivision in the County of Franklin in the State of Tennessee

ACRES OF LAND		CASH VALUE OF FARM		VALUE OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY		LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1				
Improved	Unimproved	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
125	235	2000	125	1	2	3				
157	307	3000	160		4	4			10	
1400	1400	40000	1800	6	33	25	14	20		

### Colbert County

- 1. African Americans at Work: Colbert County's Rich Landscape
- 2. Places of Interest
- 3. Themes, People, and Events
- 4. North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley Authority



### U. S. NITRATE PLANT No. 2 MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

Color or Race: English  
Age at last birthday: April 1940  
Highest grade of school completed: High school, 12 to 12th year  
Citizenship of the foreign born: Naturalized  
Was this person at work? Yes  
Did this person have a job? Yes  
Class of worker: Wage or salary worker in private work

# 1. AFRICAN AMERICANS AT WORK COLBERT COUNTY'S RICH LANDSCAPE

The major highways that carry visitors to Colbert County from the east cut straight through the rural landscape and completely bypass the historic towns. Still, it would be hard to miss the signs that indicate the Tri-City area where Tuscumbia, Sheffield, and Muscle Shoals come together. Two large parallel boulevards run north-south through the Tri-Cities. Woodward Avenue/Lee Highway leads directly through Muscle Shoals' contemporary commercial drag where there are some important historic landmarks within sight of all the newer development like the FAME Recording Studios at the corner of Avalon Avenue.

Three cities, the heart of Colbert County, are set snug along the east side of a bend in the Tennessee River, and have three distinct downtown cores with the veins of railroads and avenues webbed between them. The flat expanse of the valley is evident when driving along the open commercial-lined highways but turn off onto any of the residential streets and the roads between are tree-lined and narrow. Tuscumbia's gridded streets are thronged with bungalows and large manors left over from the 19th century. Most of the old development of Tuscumbia is north and east of downtown and the Big Spring which drew settlers to the first city of what would be Colbert County. The section south of 6th Street and east of Dickson Street is the primarily historically African American community of Tuscumbia. Sheffield is little different with bungalow-covered neighborhoods and gridded streets laid out in six

directions resembling a snow angel on the landscape. The southeast quarter of Sheffield is similarly known as the historically African American neighborhood.

Colbert County has been shaped by the Shoals of the Tennessee River that lend their name to the 20th century city of Muscle Shoals and the surrounding area. The river's energy and minerals enticed the U.S. Army, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and private industry to build a dam, nitrate plants, and aluminum factory in the Shoals. Muscle Shoals wasn't established until 1923 and was intended for industry. The town grew alongside the nitrate plant, then it was part of Henry Ford's failed vision of a 75-mile-long industrial corridor. The majority of the town was

developed in the mid-20th century in neat, gridded lines. In the second half of the 20th century the town began to draw musical producers and artists who sought to develop the Muscle Shoals "Sound."

The rest of saddle-shaped Colbert County is much like all of North Alabama along the Tennessee River – flat, low-lying plains in the north, closest to the river, and gradually giving way to a hillier environment in the southern half. African American history in this county follows agriculture and the majority of African American communities are historically located in the northern, agricultural fields of Colbert County.

**(Below)** Fishing Boats in Tailrace Below Wilson Dam, July 5, 1948 (National Archives and Records Administration, Atlanta)



The 19th century history of Colbert County revolves around agriculture. Similar to most of the Middle Tennessee Valley, it was covered in large cotton plantations that took advantage of the river as an easy means of transporting goods to the Mississippi River and beyond. After Emancipation and the Civil War, the large plantations were reduced to smaller plots maintained by sharecroppers and tenant farmers. The dependency on agriculture led to a depletion of the soil; by the early 20th century much of the rich farmland along the river valley had been exhausted of its nutrients.

During World War I, the federal government began construction of the Wilson Dam across the Tennessee River to generate electrical power. The dam then provided power to the two nitrate plants built in Colbert County to supply materials for explosives used in the war. America's involvement in the First World War, however, was relatively short and by the end of 1918, the war was over and the need for explosives deferred. But the mineral-rich deposits along the Tennessee River were not to be wasted. While the Nitrate Plants No. 1 and No. 2 stood dormant for over a decade, their use was eventually switched to the production of fertilizers. By 1933, the TVA had taken over the plants and the dam and instituted programs to revive the topsoil and aid farmers by conducting social studies on health and finances among other things. Later, fueled by the onset of World War II, another large industrial complex joined the nitrate plants and dam – Reynolds Metal. This aluminum factory was one of five in the country that produced the crucial metal needed for military aircraft.

The TVA's actions in the 1930s and 1940s could not have come soon enough. The Great Depression coupled with decreased agricultural production meant great hardships for farmers across the country. While African American landownership in Colbert County may have risen from 1900 to 1920, many who owned their land would be forced to rent



**(Above) Men Working at Reynolds Metal Company, Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama, August 1942 (Library of Congress)**

or mortgage their farm by 1930. At the same time, the Tri-Cities grew larger, changing farmland into gridded subdivisions and reducing the acres of open land left in the area. Colbert County farmers increasingly turned toward industry as their economic salvation. Even if a family owned their farm, they might have younger children and/or hired hands work on the farm while the head of house and owner of the land would also work at Nitrate Plant No. 2 or Reynolds Metal.

While there are abundant resources about Wilson Dam, the nitrate plants, the TVA, and Reynolds Metal, information identifying who lived, worked, and contributed to these large projects and factories are not specific enough to learn much about the African American community's involvement without deeper research. Yet, documentary photography

was liberally used during the same time period and it provides some insight into who made up the workforce. Although there were relatively few men of color who were able to join the work crews, they were definitely present and their inclusion speaks to the changes that occurred in the early 20th century.

For example, brothers Paul E. and Lincoln C. Johnson are featured in a photograph taken sometime in the late 1930s. The brothers were both foremen for the TVA, but their father, Clements Johnson, owned a farm on 6th Street in Tusculumbia from at least 1910 to 1940. However, most likely due to a combination of the economy, land prices, and the profitability of a farm whose soil needed an infusion of nitrogen and other nutrients, the Johnsons, like so many other families, decided their faith was better placed in industrial work rather than the farm.

The involvement of African Americans – many of whom were rural residents and farmers – in the industry surrounding the Shoals had as much to do

with economic depression as it did with the industrial connection to the war effort, particularly of World War II. The participation of African American men in the war effort was in part a conscious act intended to combat prejudice and racism. Known as the “Double ‘V’” of victory over fascism abroad and over racism in America, African Americans hoped that their hard work and support would be rewarded with equal rights and eased racial tensions. In the U.S. and across the Jim Crow South, everything was racially segregated, even the military and other organized war efforts. The construction villages for the Wilson Dam and the nitrate plants were segregated by race. The TVA designated picnic grounds, schools, housing, and other facilities by race. The crews at the nitrate plants and Reynolds Metal were divided by race. Despite this fact, in the imagery distributed by the U.S. government and documentary photography, African Americans were depicted as equal members in the war efforts and racial tensions non-existent.

**(Right)** "United We Win." Photograph by Alexander Liberman, 1942, Printed by the Government Printing Office for the War Manpower Commission. (National Archives and Records Administration)

It's difficult to know the particular state of race relations in the Shoals during World War II without more personal anecdotes, memoirs, or oral histories. There is no evidence that there were people of color who worked at Nitrate Plant No. 1. The worker's village for Plant No. 1 is still intact and has been annexed into the city of Sheffield, however, the village for Plant No. 2, which definitively housed some workers of color and their families is no longer extant. Documentary photographs indicate that part of the construction crew for the Wilson Dam was African American and that there were teams of African American men who worked at Reynolds Metal as well. A local resident of Hatton in northeast Colbert County recalled those who worked for Reynolds or the TVA – his father among them – would wear their work badges to church and other public outings as a symbol of their employment and no doubt their contribution to the country.

Colbert County lacks an official county archives but still has an abundance of historical resources. The old cities of Sheffield and Tuscumbia both offer wonderful public libraries with rooms set aside for local heritage research. In Tuscumbia, the Helen Keller Public Library is the oldest chartered library in the state of Alabama that has provided continuous service. Chartered in October of 1893, the library was named in honor of Tuscumbia's famous citizen and currently located about a block from Ivy Green, the plantation of Arthur H. Keller and the birthplace of Helen Keller. The library began as a small association of readers including Helen Keller's mother and aunt. Books and bookcases were donated from all over Alabama and the United



States, and the members volunteered as librarians. Now the library is a member of the public library system and offers a home to thousands of volumes on local, county, and state history.

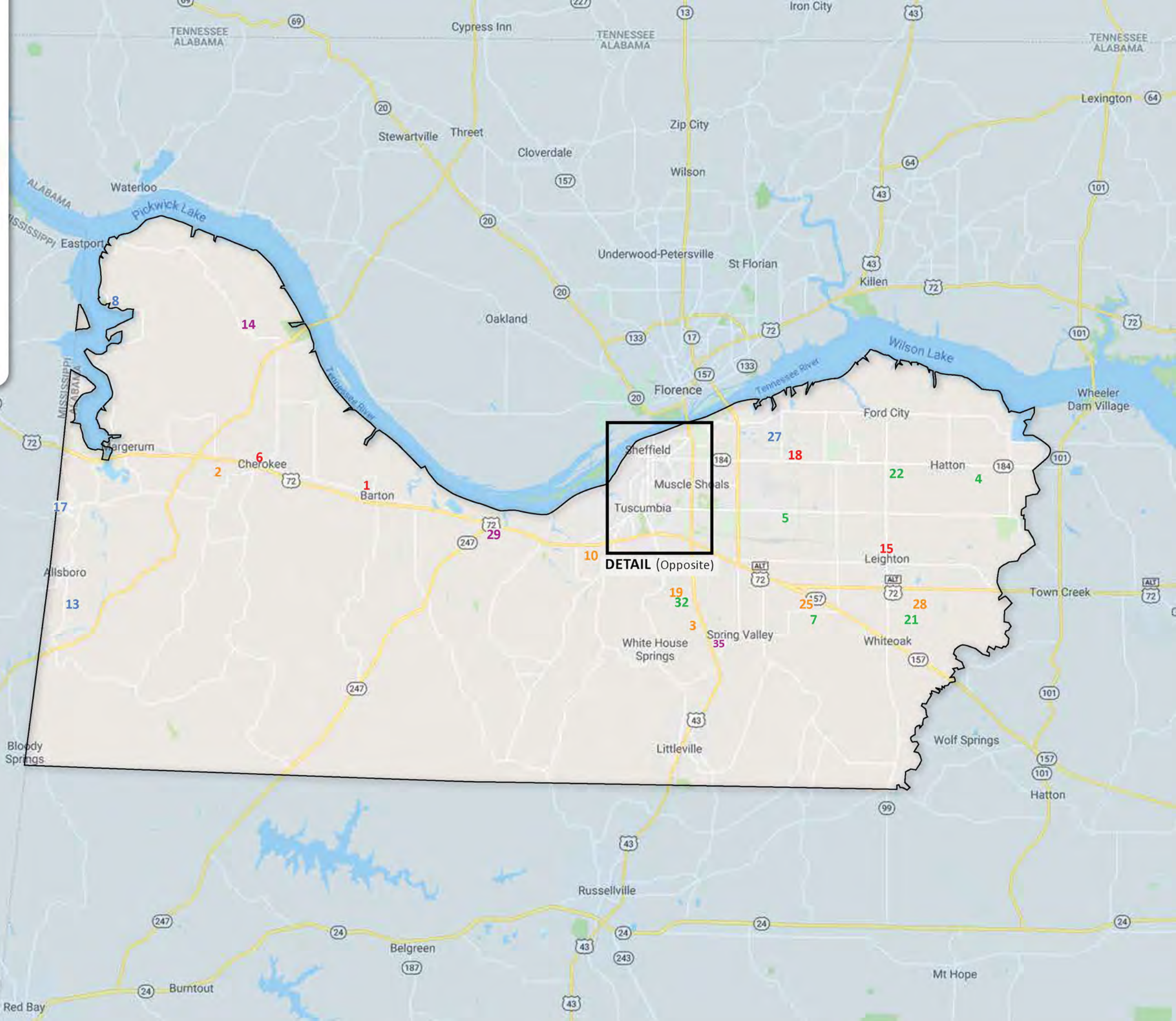
Colbert County is also within the Muscle Shoals Heritage Area (MSHA). Designated by Congress and advised by the National Park Service, a National Heritage Area is a place "where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes." In contrast to the largely uninhabited national parks most citizens are familiar with, National Heritage Areas are lived-in parts of the country that possess special historic and cultural significance to their communities. The communities within the heritage areas help to conserve and develop these national treasures. The goal of a National Heritage Area is to combine heritage conservation, recreation, education, and economic development. The MSHA is the only one in Alabama and covers Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan counties. The University of North Alabama (UNA) in neighboring Lauderdale County hosts the MSHA since it was approved by Congress in 2009. The Heritage Area focuses on three main themes deemed important to the region: music, Native American heritage, and the Tennessee River. Within these themes, there are several categories of heritage that are explored and promoted by the MSHA including African American, architectural, Civil War, cultural, Natchez Trace, natural, and transportation heritages.



# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

## COLBERT COUNTY, AL





# KEY

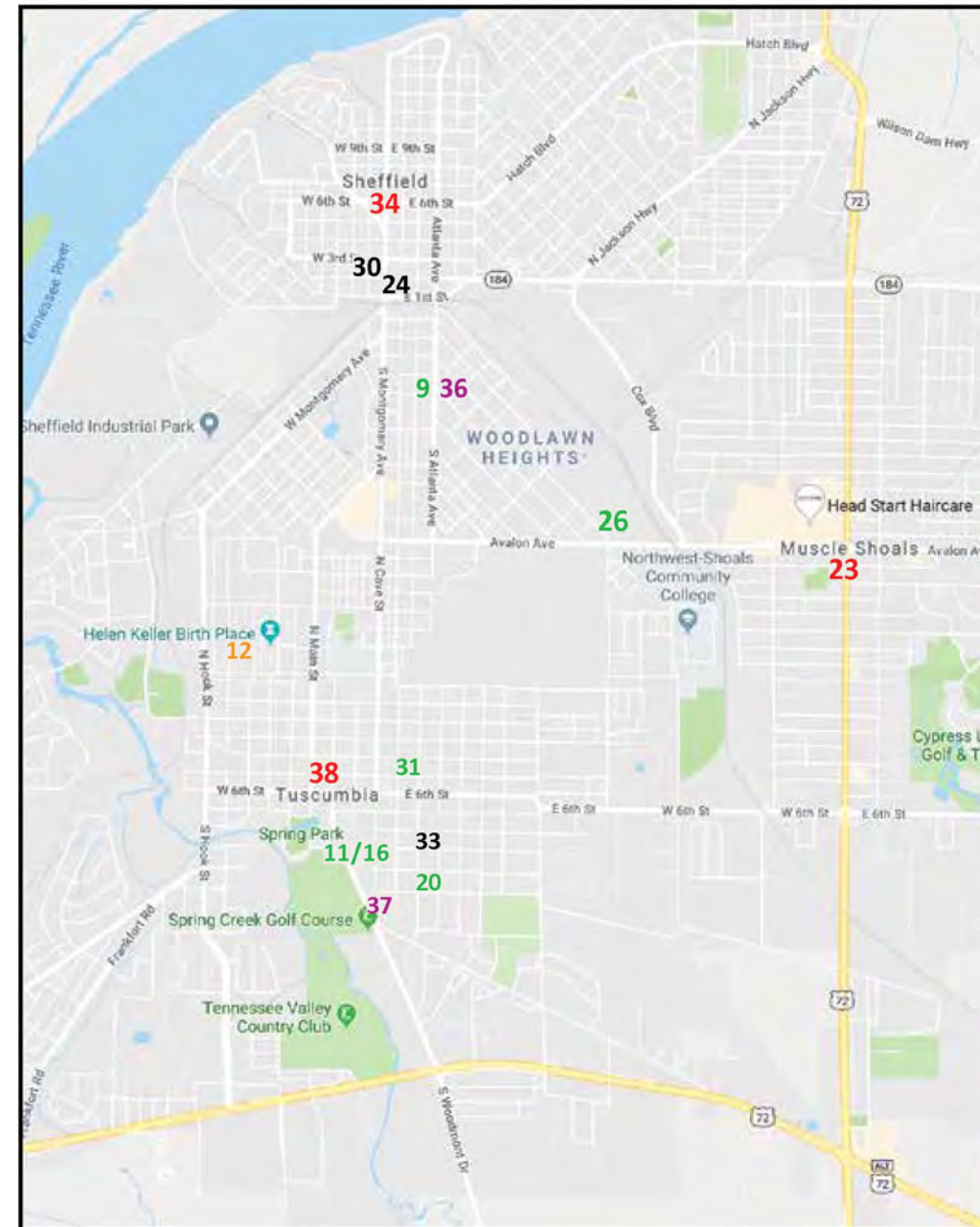
- Communities
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- Plantations
- Schools
- Other

1. Barton
2. Barton Hall
3. Belmont Plantation
4. Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church and Bethel Community Cemeteries
5. Cave Spring Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery
6. Cherokee
7. Church of Christ and Ricks Cemetery
8. Douthit Cemetery
9. First Missionary Baptist Church of Tuscumbia
10. Glencoe Plantation\*
11. High Street Church of Christ
12. Ivy Green
13. Johnson Cemetery
14. Lane Springs School\*
15. Leighton
16. Lesley Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
17. Liberty Cemetery
18. Listerhill
19. Melrose Plantation\*
20. Mount Carmel Baptist Church
21. Mount New Home Missionary Baptist Church\*
22. Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, and School\*
23. Muscle Shoals
24. North Alabama Recording Studios (NORALA)
25. The Oaks Plantation
26. Our Lady of Grace
27. Pearsall Cemetery
28. Preuit Oaks Plantation
29. Pride School\*
30. Ritz Theatre
31. St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
32. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, and School (Rosenwald)\*
33. Shady Dell (Dr. A. W. Davis House)
34. Sheffield
35. Spring Valley School (Rosenwald)\*
36. Sterling High School\*
37. Trenholm High School\*
38. Tuscumbia

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

## Detail of, SHEFFIELD, MUSCLE SHOALS AND TUSCUMBIA

Scale = 4000 Feet



map data©2018 Google



# 2.

## DETAILS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

### 1 ■

#### Barton

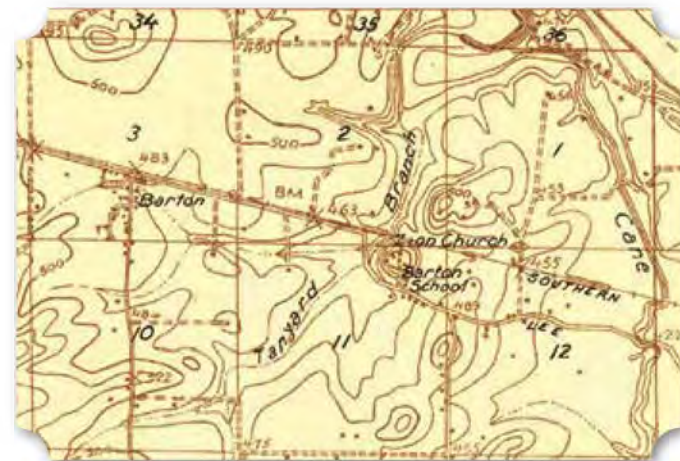
The African American community of Barton was located near the intersection of US 72 and Red Rock Road. Originally settled as “Barton Station” or “Barton Depot” along the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, the area got its name from Armistead Barton and his family who came in the 1820s and constructed Barton Hall nearby by 1840. Due to the railroad and the prominent plantation economy, the area was the site of several skirmishes during the Civil War. Barton became a main stop on the railroad and had its own post office by 1859, however, the area never developed much beyond a community.

In the early 20th century, the census district of Barton was sparsely populated, much like today. The total number of households never exceeded more than 234 individual families. In 1900, Barton possessed 54% African American households. This number steadily declined to 31% in 1940 but was still higher than many districts in North Alabama. Although Barton’s African American population held fairly steady from 1900 to 1940, the number of those households that owned a farm fluctuated in the first half of the 20th century. In 1900, there were only seven African American-owned farms in Barton, representing about 7% of the African American households. In 1910, there were twice as many farms owned by African American families – one out of every five African

American households. In the decade when most other areas of North Alabama were experiencing the highest rate of African American-owned farms, there were only 12 farms owned by African American families in Barton in 1920. By 1930, the number of farms in the African American community peaked at 20 farms, or 22% of the African American households. This trend held through 1940.

Most of the African American-owned farms in Barton were owned by separate families of which only one family member owned a farm. There were a few common surnames that had two members who owned a farm – usually a father and son – as well as one family who owned four farms in 1930. The Garner family owned two farms from 1900 to 1920. In 1910, the Watkins and Harden families also owned two farms. The Watkins family was the only African American family in Barton to have four members own farms – which they did in 1930. That year the Pride and Oates families also owned two farms in the area. In 1940, the Watkins still owned two farms, as did the Morris and Goodloe families, while the Pride family had three members who owned farms in Barton.

The Barton School was located on the northeast side of Church Loop where it met Cheyenne Drive. It was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Colbert County. When exactly it was built is not mentioned in the Fisk-Rosenwald database because it was built under the direction of Tuskegee Institute. Other



(Above) 1926 USGS Topographic Map of Barton, Barton, Alabama Quadrangle

Tuskegee Rosenwald schools in North Alabama were constructed in the late 1910s and early 1920s, which may be true for this one as well.



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Barton, Pride, Alabama Quadrangle

The Barton School was a two-teacher, two-room schoolhouse. It cost a total of \$2,484 - \$1,084 from the African American community, \$700 from public donations, and \$700 from the Rosenwald Fund. The school is labeled on a 1936 topographic map. It is also depicted on the 1954 (updated in 1958) topographic map but is not included on the 1971 topographic map. In 1970, integration meant the closing of schools for children of color, particularly of the small, rural schoolhouses. Additionally, the Barton School may have been associated with a church in the beginning. On the 1936 topographic map, there is an unlabeled church directly adjacent to the school. However, this church was not present on the 1954 topographic map.

Two African American churches are located in close proximity to Barton. The multiple churches most likely gave the road its name – Church Loop. Church Loop is located to the east of Barton where Red Rock Road meets with Old Lee Highway and US 72. Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church is located on the south side of Church Loop. According to the Alabama Atlas, the church was first established in 1876, although it does not appear on an 1896 map of Colbert County. The church first appears on topographic maps in 1926, however it is not labeled until the 1936 TVA topographic map – which labeled it “Nazare”

Church. This was corrected to Nazareth Church by 1954.

The Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church is associated with the Nazareth Cemetery located across the road to the north of the church. According to the *Alabama Historical Atlas*, there were at least 50 graves as of 2008, but only nine graves are recorded on Findagrave.com and seven of these postdate the publication of the Atlas. The earliest interment is said to be Winne Pride, who died in 1912.

Located on the west end of Church Loop between Old Lee Highway and US 72 is Zion No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church. The Zion Church was a white Baptist church before the Civil War and was used by Union troops as a hospital. After the war, the church was sold and became the home to the African American congregation, which used to meet on the other side of the railroad tracks. The original building still stands with additions over the decades. The Zion Church is noted on an 1896 land map of Colbert County, but is first labeled on the 1926 topographic map.

The Zion Missionary Baptist Church is associated with a cemetery that dates to when the African American congregation purchased the church. In some records, the adjacent cemetery is noted as having exclusively African American members of the church. However, according to Findagrave.com, two of the earliest recorded burials are those of Lemuel Dillard Thomas (1843-1882) and his wife, Elizabeth Rutland Thomas (1845-1881) – white resident of Barton and a Confederate veteran. Thomas’ father, Isaac Henry Thomas (born 1811) owned land adjacent to where the church and cemetery are located. Perhaps the Thomas’ made arrangements to be buried on their former land. The next oldest burial is that of Stephen Morris (1876-1899), who was a person of color.

The large cemetery has over 300 graves, many belonging to the Brown, Darby, Garner, Goodloe, Hodges, Johnson, Loveless, Oates, Pride, and Thompson families. Several members of the Garner family buried here were landowning farmers including Richard Garner (1843-1924) who owned a farm in Barton from at least 1900 to 1920 and most likely

#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

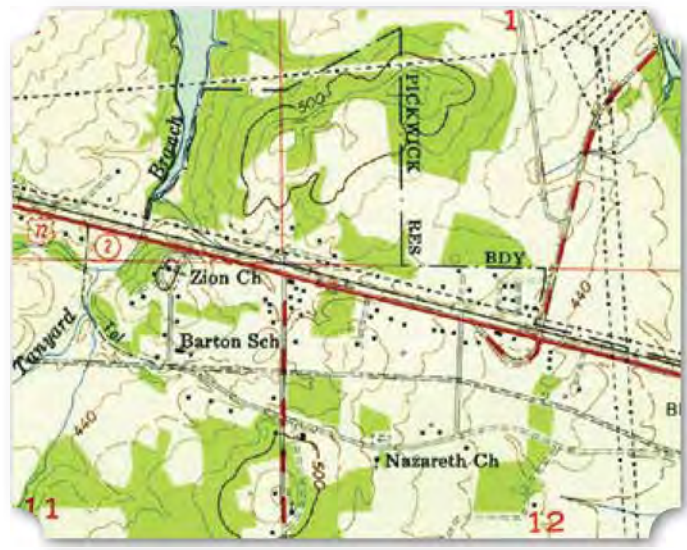
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Above) Aerial Photograph of Barton in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Below) 1954 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Barton, Pride, Alabama Quadrangle (Below Right) 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Barton, Pride, Alabama Quadrangle

until he passed away; John H. Garner (1872-1943) owned a farm in the area from at least 1910 to 1920; and Reason Garner, Sr. (1875-1852) owned a farm in

1940. Other African American farming landowners laid to rest here include Henry L. Harden (1867-1963) who owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940; Ashton Webster (1847-1920) who owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1910; Emmitt C. Oates (1880-1930) who owned a farm from at least 1920 to 1930 when he passed away; Alex Pride (1846-1951) and his wife, Hattie Pride (1887-1942) who owned a farm from



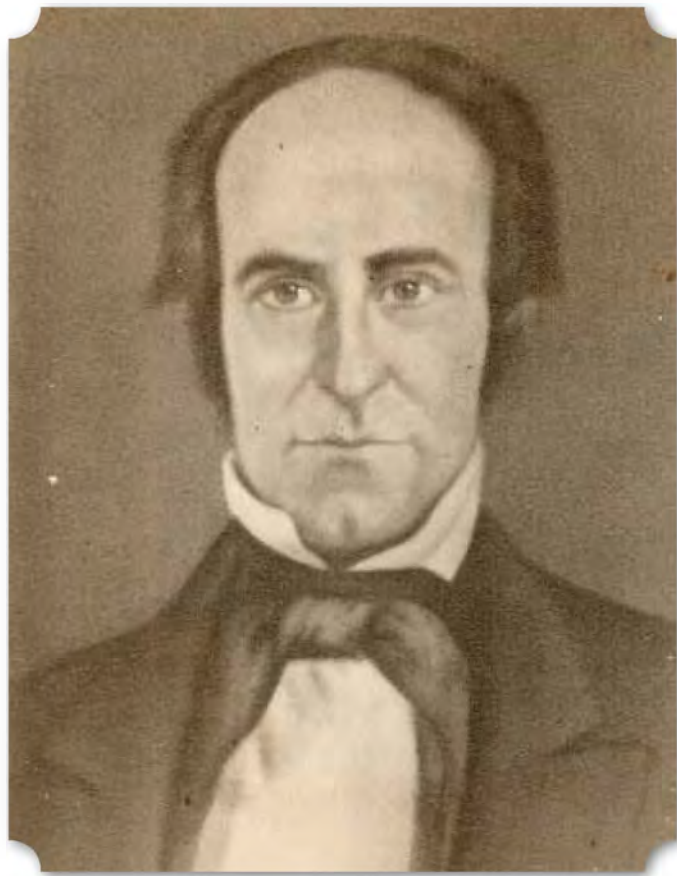
## 2 ■ Barton Hall

Barton Hall was also known as the Cunningham Plantation when it was photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey (AL-337) in 1935. The



Cunninghams are related by marriage to Dr. Hugh Barton (1775-1856). Originally from Virginia, Dr. Barton and his family made their way to Tuscumbia, Alabama by 1825. His son, Armistead Barton (1800-1847), settled in the area with his father and married Amanda Cook (1809-1884) in 1829. Armistead Barton purchased about 40,000 acres of land and began to construct Barton Hall in 1840. The Greek Revival manor was not finished when Barton died in 1847 but took two more years to complete under the supervision of his widow.

(Below) National Register for Historic Places, Barton Hall, 1973 (NRHP Inventory Database-Online)



According to the slave schedules, Armistead Barton owned 21 slaves in 1840 when he first settled down with plans to build his manor. A decade later, his widow, Mrs. Amanda C. Barton, was recorded owning 155 slaves. By the eve of the Civil War, the slave schedules record Mrs. Barton owning 106 slaves and her son, Henry C. Barton, owning another 61 slaves.

Amanda Barton continued to live in Barton Hall until her death in 1884. The house stayed in the family until 1908, when it was sold to a Mr. Johnston according to the National Register nomination. The new owner may have been related to the family by marriage in some way because by 1916, Barton Hall was owned by Turner Goodloe Rutland – a descendant of Dr. Hugh Barton – and her husband, Benjamin Weakley Cunningham. Barton Hall still stands in a bucolic setting southwest of the town of Cherokee. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (#73000337) in 1973.

**(Left)** Drawing of Armistead Barton (Findagrave.com, User Steve Nicklas) **(Below)** Excerpt from 1836 Tract Book Recording One of Armistead Barton's Land Holdings (U.S. Bureau of Land Management Database) **(Bottom)** 1870 Non-Population, Agricultural Census Showing H.C. Barton Owning 800 Acres of Land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Right)** Historic American Buildings Survey, Barton Hall, Alex Bush- Photographer, January 25, 1935 Old Slave Quarters and Kitchen



*Offered at Public Sale October 5-1836.*

SECTION	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	ACRES	100THS	DOLLS.	CTS.	DOLLS.	CTS.	NAME OF ENTRYMAN	DATE OF ENTRY	NUMBER	
	1	4 S.	14 W.										
NE				160	00	1	25	200	00	Daniel Gilchrist	November 28-1836	7388	Daniel Gilchrist. Patd. May 6-1839. Vol. 15. Page 36
NW				160	00	-	50	80	00	John McClanahan Lewis	October 5-1838	9958	John McClanahan Lewis. Patd. April 9-1842. Vol. 20. Page 4
SE				160	00		12 1/2	20	00	Whitnell Rutland	October 5-1840	15828	Whitnell Rutland. Patd. Aug. 14-1844. Vol. 32. Page 3
SW				160	00		12 1/2	20	00	James Williams Doaks	May 4-1854	{ 07 } 24095	Richard W. Anderson. Patd. Pat. 115 5670 700. 17, 1557
	2	4	14										
NE				160	00	-	50	80	00	John McClanahan Lewis	October 6-1838	9972	John McClanahan Lewis. Patd. April 9-1842. Vol. 20. Page 4
NW				160	00	1	25	200	00	John Alexander Candler	October 5-1836	4398	John Alexander Candler. Aug. 14-1838. Vol. 9. Page 3
SE				160	00		12 1/2	20	00	Armistead Barton	December 10-1842	15694	Armistead Barton. Patd. Jan. 13-1845. Vol. 38. Page 3
SW				160	00	1	25	200	00	Grace Warren	October 5-1836	4486	John Rutland. Patd. Aug. 14-1838. Vol. 9. Page 470

28	Barton H. Co.	300	350	150	600	700	600	3	2	3	30	655	700	800	700	28
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**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

# 3

## Belmont Plantation

Also referred to as the Belle Mont Mansion, Belmont Plantation has been described as “a rare Southern example of architectural ‘Jeffersonian Classicism’” for its near direct connection to the architectural styles and families of Virginia. The house was built for Dr. Alexander W. Mitchell of Virginia sometime between 1830 and 1833. Mitchell quickly sold the house and 1,680-acre property to Isaac Winston (1795-1863),

another Virginia-born planter who settled in Tuscumbia in the 1820s.

According to the 1830 federal census, Winston’s household included 31 slaves. By 1840 when he moved to the large manor, he owned 62 slaves. In 1850, Winston’s plantation had no less than 99 slaves. At the end of his life and the beginning of the Civil War, Isaac Winston owned two plantations, one in the vicinity of Tuscumbia – Belmont, which by then was 2,800 acres and had at least 23 slaves – and another in Courtland, Lawrence County, Alabama, which had at least 17 slaves on 2,000 acres.



(Below) 1860 Non-Population, Agricultural Census Showing Isaac Winston’s Land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(Above) Barn at Belmont, 1936 (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress) (Right) Cabin at Belmont, 1936 (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress)

Page No. 15

**SCHEDULE 4.—Productions of Agriculture in** *Eastern Subdivision* **in the County of** *Franklin* **in the** *Tuscumbia*

NAME OF OWNER, AGENT, OR MANAGER OF THE FARM.	ACRES OF LAND.		Cash value of Farm.	Value of Farming Implements and Machinery.	LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1860								PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR								
	Improved.	Unimproved.			Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Milch Cows.	Working Oxen.	Other Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Value of Live Stock.	Wheat, bushels of.	Rye, bushels of.	Indian Corn, bushels of.	Oats, bushels of.	Rice, lbs. of.	Tobacco, lbs. of.	Ginned Cotton, bales of 400 lbs. each.	Wool, lbs. of.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
<i>W. C. Bond</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>25</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>3 1/5</i>					<i>12</i>	
<i>John C. Daley</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>1500</i>	<i>150</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>10</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>700</i>			<i>500</i>					<i>25</i>	
<i>Isaac Winston</i>	<i>1400</i>	<i>1400</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>1800</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>5300</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>14,000</i>	<i>400</i>				<i>250</i>	<i>27</i>

Isaac Winston died in 1863 when he was sent home from the Confederate army due to an illness. His wife, Catherine, lived at Belmont until her death in 1884. Afterwards, the house and land went to their daughters, one of whom was Ella Winston Thornton. According to the National Register nomination, in 1901, Mrs. Thornton deeded a five-acre parcel to a woman named Bertha Witkins (Watkins). Ms. Watkins was a woman of color to whom Mrs. Thornton deeded the land "as a reward of her faithful service in the past." A woman named Bertha Watkins lived in Tuscumbia in 1900 with her husband, Rush, on a farm that they rented. Ms. Watkins was 65 years old in 1900, indicating that she was most likely born a slave in 1835. In 1910, the census records Rush Watkins living on a farm he owns free of mortgage in the Tuscumbia area, however, Bertha may have passed away as Rush is then married to a woman named Rosa.

Belmont stayed in the Winston family until 1941, although they did not always live there. The manor was photographed and documented with measured drawings as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey (AL-388) in 1937. At that time, Belmont appeared to be abandoned and in need of repair. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (82002003) in 1982 a decade after

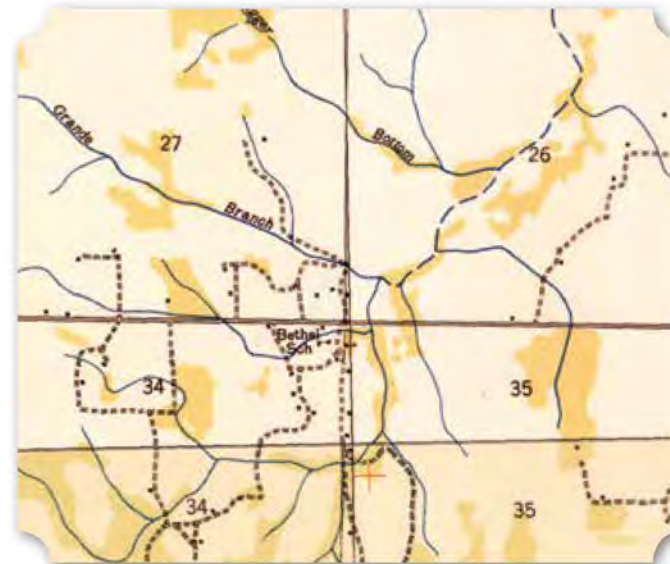
**(Below)** 1900 Federal Census Showing Bertha Watkins and Husband Rush **(Bottom)** 1910 Federal Census Showing Rush Watkins Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

it had been heavily vandalized. The house and 33 surrounding acres were donated to the Alabama Historical Commission the following year. The Commission restored the manor.

## 4 ■ ■ Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church and Bethel Community Cemeteries

The community of Bethel is small. On a map, you can find it at the intersection of 2nd Street and Bethel Church Road northeast of Leighton. The road is named for the Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church, which has been in this location since at least 1896. Several maps indicate the Bethel School was located across the street to the west. An 1896 Colbert County land map depicts Bethel Church and School in northeast Colbert County, a part that was once Lawrence County. The church or school is labeled on the topographic maps from 1914 through 1952. The church is still in the same location and serves the

**(Top Right)** Excerpt of Map of Colbert County, Alabama, 1896, Showing Bethel Church and School (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online via Geological Survey of Alabama) **(Right)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Bethel School, Wheeler Dam and Towns Creek, Alabama Quadrangles



African American community. According to Mr. Huston Cobb, Jr. in an interview with local historian Butch Walker, the church used a pool in the Kittiakaska Creek as a baptizing hole in the early 20th century. Huston, himself, was baptized there in 1935 by Rev. Willie A. Ashford. Later, the church used a location near Foster's Bridge.

The Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery is located at the end of Bethel Church Road. The cemetery is also known as the (Old) Bethel Colbert Cemetery. It can be confused for the Bethel Community Cemetery or the Old Bethel Cemetery – a white cemetery near the Franklin County border. According to the sign posted for the cemetery, it was established in 1953. It first appears on the 1971 USGS topographic map. According to the Alabama Atlas, the first known interment is that of Robert E. Cockburn (1830-1888), and members of the Hurd, Pate, and Vaden families are found here. There are only 34 graves recorded on Findagrave.com, the earliest being from 1987. O. C. Stanley, Sr. (1904-1987) – recorded on the census as "Ocie" Stanley – was a farmer who owned his own land in 1940.

About a quarter mile to the southwest of Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery is the Bethel Community Cemetery. Also known as the Bethel Cemetery, this cemetery was established in 1912, per its sign. Although the cemetery was already established, it is not included on the USGS topographic maps until 1950. This cemetery is also

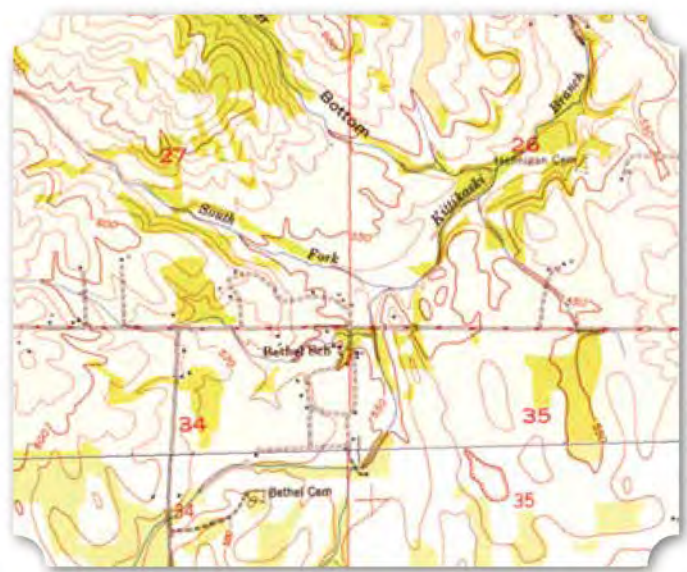
23	226 239	Watkins, Rush W	Head	B	M		60	M	±	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			1-1-0-0-1-2	0	Yes	No	Yes	R	8	146	23
24		Bertha	Wife	B	F		63	M	± 8 6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					No	No	Yes				24
25		Mania	Daughter	B	F	May 1861	19	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					Yes	Yes	Yes				25
26		Robert	Son	B	M	Dec 1873	26	M	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					Yes	Yes	Yes				26

45	29 30	Watkins, Rush W	Head	M	B	73	M	2	4	Alabama	Tennessee	Virginia	English	Farmer	General Farm A+		No	No	No	No	1	7	25	45
46		Rosa	Wife	F	B	52	M	11	7	2	Alabama	Virginia	North Carolina	English	None		No	No	No	No				46
47		Miller, Amelia A	Daughter	F	B	76	M	17	3	Alabama	North Carolina	Ohio	English	None		No	No	No	No				47	

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
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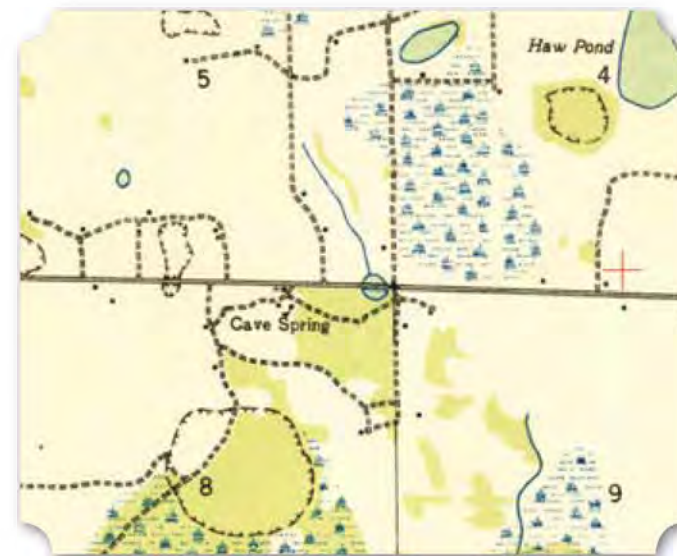
(Top) 1950/1952 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Bethel School and Cemetery, Wheeler Dam and Towns Creek, Alabama Quadrangles (Above) 1971/19574 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Bethel Church and Cemetery, Wheeler Dam and Towns Creek, Alabama Quadrangles (Below) 1940 Federal Census Showing Ocie (O.C.) Stanley Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com

associated with the Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church and serves the African American communities of Hatton, Bethel, and Leighton. It can sometime be confused with the Old Bethel or Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church cemeteries. The Bethel Community Cemetery has about 71 graves, the earliest being Alex Stanley in 1915. Other surnames include Bates, Brown, Jones, and Nunery. According to a local historian who shared information on Findagrave.com, the cemetery has the potential for many more unmarked burials as oftentimes old graves were encountered when preparing new ones.

Interestingly, there are several markers that include the seal of the Mosaic Templars of America (MTA), an African American fraternal organization. The organization was founded by two former slaves in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1882. Little is known about the individual chapters of the MTA, however, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock is using burial markers as one way to help reconstruct the historical records. According to one marker in the Bethel Community Cemetery, there was a local chapter called Bates Chamber #3200 in Leighton.

## 5 ■ ■ Cave Spring Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery

Cave Spring Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery are located south of 6th Street between South Wilson Dam Highway and Gnat Pond Road, east of Muscle Shoals. According to the *Alabama Historical Atlas*, it is an African American church organized in the early 1880s. However, the History of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association from 1820 to 1890 published



(Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Cave Spring, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle (Left Below) 1952 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Cave Spring, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle

in 1891 recounts the founding of the church in November 1889. The Cave Spring Church joined the Baptist Association in 1890 with 17 members. The book also includes the biographies of the various ministers. The early ministers of Cave Spring Church were white men. It is unclear when the church was purchased by the African American community or when the accompanying cemetery was established.

The church is labeled on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map alongside a school. The next topographic map from 1952 indicates that the school is no longer there, but the cemetery is marked. The number of graves contained in the cemetery is unknown- only 29 of them from 2007 to present are recorded on Findagrave.com. The cemetery and church serves the African American community of Cave Spring today. It is likely that the school once served the children of color of the area in the early to mid-20th century as well. It was a common occurrence to conduct a school inside of a church and, as the center of the community, a cemetery would be established nearby.

## 6 ■ Cherokee

The community of Cherokee is located in the western half of the county along Lee Highway. Cherokee was originally called Buzzard Roost when it was settled in the early 1800s. The area was adjacent to the land reserved for the Chickasaw Indians and controlled

35	270	300	yes	standby	Otis	Male	35	m	no	5	Alabama	same house	yes	no	yes	60	farmer	own	farm	all	0	0	yes	35
36					Oliver	Male	33	m	no	5	Alabama	same house	no	no	no	5					0	0	no	36
37					Annie	Female	16	f	no	0	Alabama	same house	no	no	no	1					0	0	no	37
38					Hattie	Female	13	f	no	8	Alabama	same house	no	no	no	1					0	0	no	38
39					Nannie	Female	11	f	no	8	Alabama	same house	no	no	no	1					0	0	no	39
40					Henry	Male	9	m	no	6	Alabama	same house	no	no	no	1					0	0	no	40



**(Above) 1924/1925 USGS Topographic Maps of Cherokee, Gravelly Springs and Barton, Alabama Quadrangles**

by the Indian Agency. Once the Chickasaw land was annexed, the population of Cherokee grew into a substantial community – the post office was moved from the Chickasaw Indian Agency to Cherokee in late 1856. The U.S. Postal Service gave the post the name of Cherokee – presumably after the Native Tribe although the land was actually Chickasaw territory. About the same time, the booming cotton industry prompted the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to be built through the town. The following year, a depot was constructed and the town was laid out around it. According to the historical marker for Cherokee, Dr. William C. Cross and John W. Rutland drew the town plat out of their plantation lands. Main Street was formed from the boundary line between their plantations.

Having a railroad in the mid-1800s made the town a target for the Union Army during the Civil War.

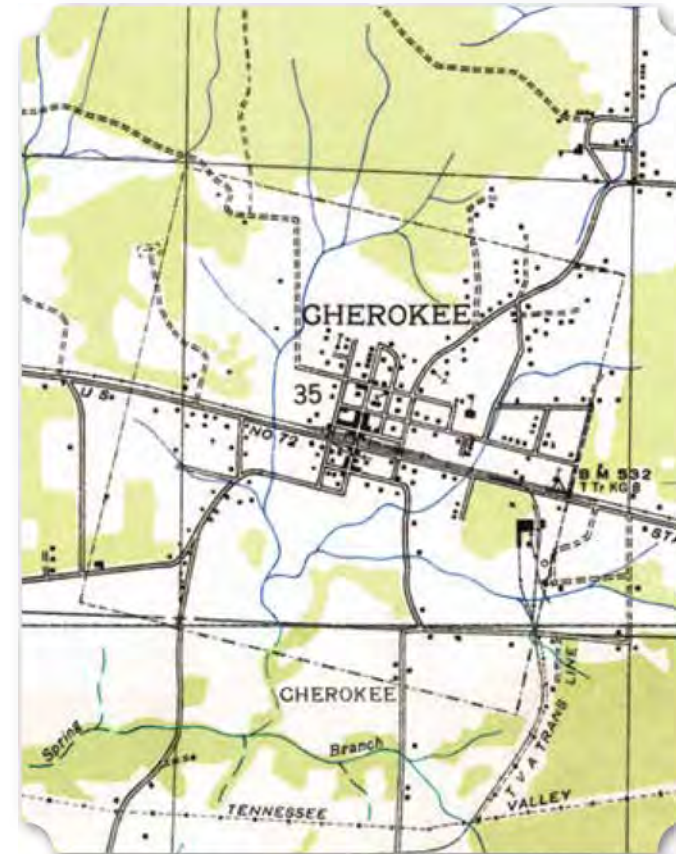
Cherokee was occupied by the Union no less than three times. While the area did not do well in the years that followed the War, the town survived Reconstruction and continued to develop into the turn-of-the-twentieth-century. By 1914, Cherokee had a telephone line and by 1920, it had electricity. Unfortunately, as the nearby Quad City area grew, business was drawn away from Cherokee.

Today (as of 2010), Cherokee has a population of 1,048 people with 18.3% of those people identifying as African American. That’s about 191 people. While the town began as mostly agricultural, now only about 1.1% of the population works in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mineral extraction combined. Most people (23.9%) work in the manufacturing industry.

Cherokee is also a census district used to enumerate the households within the town of Cherokee and its surrounding area. From 1900 to 1940 the population of Cherokee grew from 357 households to 601 households. As the population grew, the percentage of African American households declined from 32% in 1900 to 20% in 1940. Although a third to a fifth of the total households in Cherokee were African American, the number of those households that owned and operated a farm were fewer. As of 1900, there were only seven African American landowning farmers in the area of Cherokee. This represented only 6% of the African American households. The number of African American-owned farms peaked in 1920 when 26 households were farms owned by African American families – one-fourth of all African American households. The number of African American farms declined again in 1930 and 1940. In those years, only 17 and 16 African American landowning farmers lived in the Cherokee area, respectively.

Many of the surnames of African American landowning farmers in the Cherokee area are familiar

**(Top Right) 1935/1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Cherokee, Cherokee and Barton, Alabama Quadrangles (Right) 1954/1968 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Cherokee, Cherokee and Barton, Alabama Quadrangles**



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

to large families in North Alabama and many of the plantation owners in Colbert County. The Rutland family owned multiple farms from 1900 to 1920. William D. Rutland (born circa 1862) owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1920. Sam Hayes (born circa 1968) owned a farm on Tuscumbia Pike from at least 1910 to 1940. Ed Fant owned a farm on Cove Road, south of Cherokee, from at least 1920 and 1940. In fact, when the census divided the enumeration district into north and south sections in 1920, the majority of African American-owned farms were south of U.S. 72 and the town of Cherokee.

Cherokee High School began as Cherokee School, one of the seven Rosenwald schools in the county. It was a two-teacher schoolhouse budgeted for the 1921-1922 fiscal year. The school was deeded five acres instead of the required two acres of land for the Rosenwald fund. Cherokee School cost a total of \$2,900 - \$1,200 was provided by the local African American community, \$900 from public donations “raised through nickel and dime donations, individual church gifts, picnic sales, and ball-game admissions” and \$800 from the Rosenwald Fund. After the building was complete, the county school board agreed to operate the school.

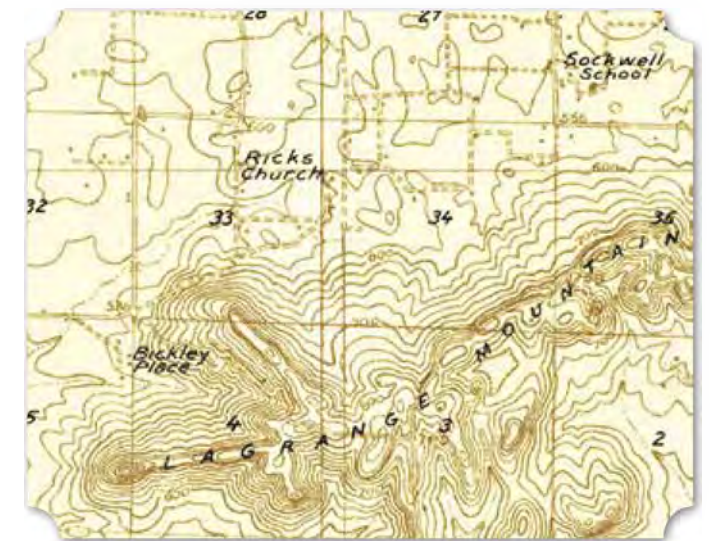
The school grew and with time added more teachers and classrooms. According to the historical marker associated with the school, students from smaller, primary schools such as Lane Springs (north of Cherokee), Barton, Pride (east of Cherokee and Barton), and even Carter Branch, Mississippi were able to continue their education at Cherokee for the higher grade levels. The first class to graduate from Cherokee School was in 1938. Integration brought about changes in the school system, the school was closed and the students were routed to Cherokee Vocational High School. The last class graduated in 1968. Cherokee School graduated more than 500 students in its 30 years of service to the African American community. The school was later reopened as a middle school. It closed permanently in 2007 when classes were consolidated into Cherokee Elementary School and Cherokee High School.

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource





(Left) "School Buses Cherokee High School Colbert County, Alabama;" November 3, 1937 (National Archives and Records Administration, Atlanta. TVA Historic Photograph Collection, Colbert Co., Alabama Photograph No. 3464 A) (Lower Left) Aerial Photograph of Cherokee in 1950 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



(Above) 1924 USGS Topographic Map of Ricks Church, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle

## 7 Church of Christ and Ricks Cemetery

Located southwest of Leighton and University of North Alabama Highway

is Ricks Lane. Nearby is the antebellum plantation, The Oaks, owned by Abraham Ricks in the mid-19th century. The church is said to have been built by Ricks, a member of the Church of Christ, for his slaves sometime around 1825. Contrarily, according to the *Restoration Journal* by the Church of Christ, the church was built by Abraham Ricks, Jr. sometime after his father's death in 1852. Regardless which date is correct, the Ricks Church is one of the oldest African American churches in Colbert County and North Alabama.

Several churches were established from the original Ricks Church, which was then deemed the "Mother Church" and the others referred to as "Branches." These branches include the High Street Church

of Christ in Tuscumbia, Cherokee Church of Christ in Cherokee, Sterling Boulevard Church of Christ in Sheffield, West Church of Christ in Leighton, Reedtown Church of Christ in Russellville (Franklin County), and the Church of Christ in Fayetteville (Talladega County). The Mother Church was considered the home of the African American Church of Christ congregation and the members of all other African American churches in the area used to come back to the Ricks Church once a year for a service.

The Church also served as a school for slaves and later, freed children of African Americans. The school was called The Oaks, like the plantation, or The Oaks School, and later, Ricks School. Abraham Ricks' wife, Charlotte Ricks, was known to teach Bible classes to the Ricks slaves before the church was established. The school grew with time and eventually taught classes from kindergarten through ninth grades. Some of the teachers known to have taught at The Oaks School in the 1930s were: Ms. Ophelia Coffee in 1931, followed by Ms. Virginia Mayes, then Ms. Lizzie Steele in 1934, and Ms. Griffin taught until the school was closed in 1937. Former known students of The Oaks School are: Sadie Cobb, Mattie Crawley-Gunn, Frankie Mullins Davis, Otelia Long, J. B. and Ellis Marvin, Susan McClam, Alfred and Gladys Mullins, Marvin Ricks, Abie and George D. Sledge, Rosie Vinson, and Emma Jean King-White.



Some of the original attendees of the church were the George Ricks family. George Ricks was taught to read and write by Charlotte Ricks and later traveled extensively in North Alabama to preach. As of 1885, Ricks Church, or the Christian Home, had 96 members and six preachers. George Ricks baptized over 300 people as the church's Parson, the title for all preachers of color at the time.

Parson George Ricks rose from a slave on The Oaks Plantation to become one of the earliest African American landowners in North Alabama. Abraham Ricks, Jr. is said to have given his slaves land to farm after the Civil War. Parson Ricks grew cotton and purchased 320 acres of land near the plantation. He also deeded half an acre of his land for the use of a cemetery, now the George Ricks Cemetery. The majority of those buried there are the former slaves of Abraham Ricks and their descendants.

The cemetery's first marked interment is that of Eliza Ricks (1831-1899), the wife of Parson George Ricks.

However, the cemetery's entrance reads 1873. The majority of the early graves are marked simply with fieldstones and cinderblocks. Several of the concrete markers are handmade, inscribed with the name, date of birth, and date of death. This was a fairly common practice for African American communities in the South in the early 20th century.

The George Ricks Cemetery is still active and has at least 72 marked graves and an unknown number of unmarked graves. It is located at the end of Ricks Cemetery Road, south of Ricks Lane. Besides George Ricks and his family, other common surnames in Ricks Cemetery include, Brow, Deloney, Hosendove, Long, Mullins, Sledge, and Underwood. Abie Sledge (1908-2000) is the only former student of The Oaks School known to be buried at the cemetery. His grandmother, also buried there, was Emma Ricks Sledge (1866-1954). Ms. Emma Sledge was a cook at The Oaks and

**(Below)** Photograph of the Entrance of George Ricks Cemetery, 2012 (Findagrave.com, User Anna Popejoy)

a midwife to both white and people of color. She was interviewed by the Library of Congress in 1930 when The Oaks was also photographed.

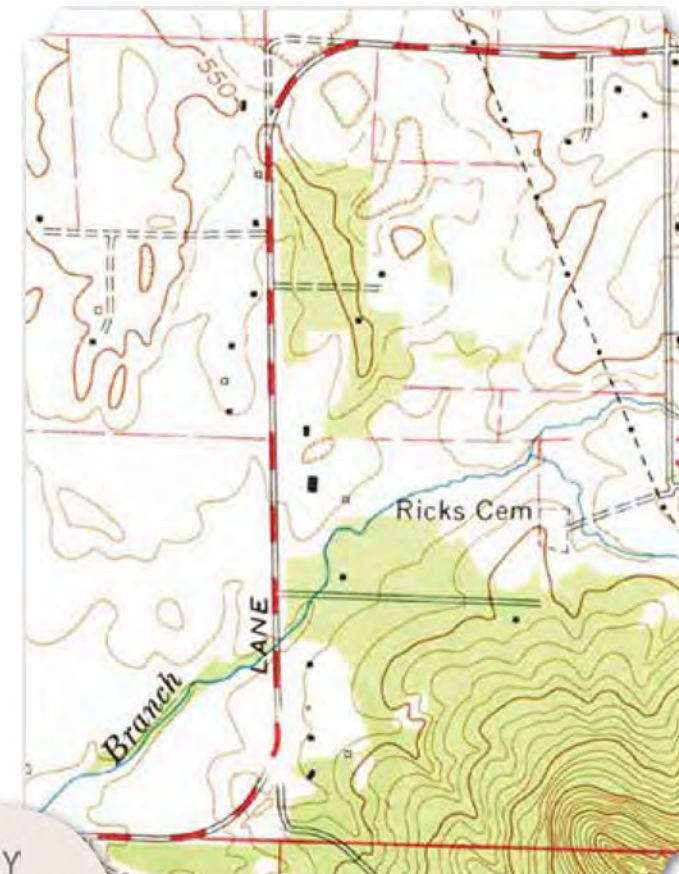


**(Above)** The Pulpit and Pews of Ricks Church (Ancestry.com, User Laura Corbett) **(Below)** 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Ricks Church and Cemetery, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle



**(Above)** Photograph of Rick's Church of Christ (Google Street View, July 2014)

The church and "Geo." Ricks' land is marked on an 1896 map of Colbert County. "Ricks Church" is labeled on a 1924 and 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. Although present since at least the late 19th century, Ricks Cemetery is first mapped on the 1971 USGS topographic map. The church that stands today is the third iteration of the building dating from 1940. After the first log church built by Abraham Ricks in 1825, the building was rebuilt at some unknown time. That second building was used until at least 1937. Many of the materials, including the pews, of the second church were used in creating the third. The church and its accompanying cemetery were listed on the Alabama Register in 1988.



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

## 8 ■ Douthit Cemetery

The Douthit Cemetery is located in northwest Colbert County on the edge of Pickwick Lake at the Alabama-Mississippi border between Riverton Rose Trail and Colbert County Park. The cemetery presently has about 165 graves. When the WPA surveyed the

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

WPA Douthit Cemetery Survey about 1930 to 1933

Last Name	First Name	Birth Year	Death Year	Notes
Abernathy	Horace	1876	1904	Son of Eliza & G. A. Abernathy
Abernathy	Walter	1884	1911	
Bowling	Albert	1876	1928	
Bowling	Lota	1880	1924	
Craig	Arminta	1909	1922	
Craig	Jack	1896	1922	
Craig	Martha	1877	1923	
Craig	Ophelia	1913	1924	
Craig	Sarah	1898	1922	
Holiday	Ella	-	-	Wife of Lee Holiday
Holiday	Richard	1864	1933	Age 69 Years
Holiday	Sherman	1890	1911	
Holiday	Sunie	-	-	Aged 8 Month, Daughter of Rofe & Lavenea Holiday
Holiday	W.	1853	1908	Age 55 Years
Hurd	Elizabeth	-	1895	Wife of Benjamin Hurd
Hurd	Eliza J.	1865	1904	Wife of W. D. Hurd
Johnson	Arthur	1895	1929	
Johnson	Hester	1902	1921	
Johnson	Mary	1873	1927	
Johnson	Rosie	1872	1929	
Menace	May Belle	1898	1925	
Payne	Eddie	-	1906	Son of Andy & Martha Payne
Shannon	Mary	1879	1924	Age 45 Years
Trotter	Hannah	-	1902	Wife of John Trotter
White	Peggie	-	1896	Wife of Frank White
White	Sophia	1875	1923	
Williams	Florence	1878	1898	Wife of John Williams
Woodruff	Mary	1849	1927	



(Above) 1953 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Douthit Cemetery, Margerum, Alabama Quadrangle

cemetery in the early 1930s, there were only 28 graves present. Despite being surveyed a few years earlier, the cemetery does not appear on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. It is first recorded on the 1953 topographic map.

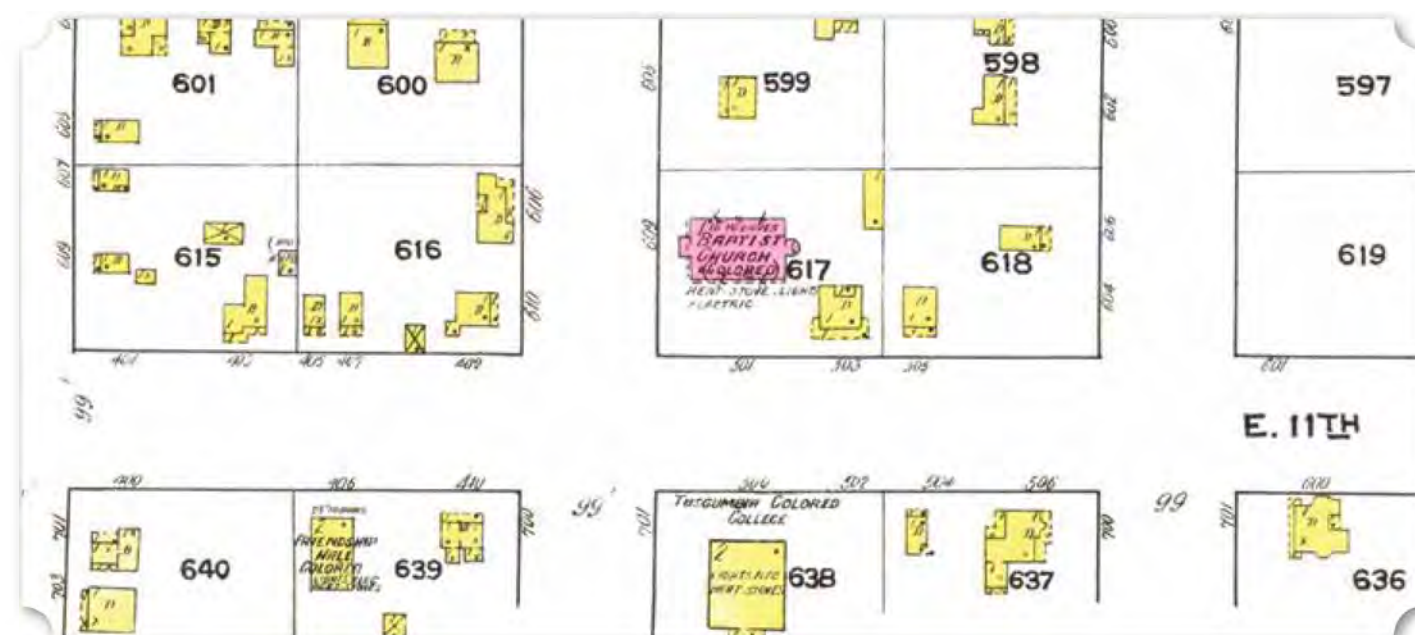
This cemetery is thought to date as early as the 1850s and most likely contains numerous unmarked graves. The earliest marked grave is that of Elizabeth Hurd (died 1895), wife of Benjamin Hurd. Other family names include Craig, Holiday, and Johnson.

The Douthit Cemetery began as the African American section of the larger, integrated cemetery that it is today. From 1901 to 1968, Alabama state law prohibited the burial of African Americans and white people in the same cemetery. While many integrated cemeteries existed in the 19th century, this law forced communities to either create new burial grounds or establish adjacent African American sections within existing cemeteries. Following the Civil Rights Act of 1968, this active cemetery eventually became integrated.

## 9 ■ First Missionary Baptist Church of Tuscumbia

Located in southeast Tuscumbia in a historically African American neighborhood, the First Baptist Church of Tuscumbia is situated on the northeast

(Below) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Tuscumbia, Colbert County, 1921. Showing First Missionary Baptist Church of Tuscumbia as “Baptist Church (Colored)” and Trenholm High School as “Tuscumbia Colored College.” (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



corner of 11th and High streets. The congregation is one of the oldest in North Alabama, established at the end of the Civil War by the Elder W. E. Northcross. Northcross was a Colbert County native, born in 1840 and ordained into the Baptist ministry in 1867 by Rev. Slater (white) and Rev. Henry Bynum (African American). Cited for pioneering many churches in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Morgan counties, Northcross often worked alongside Dr. Joseph Shackelford, a white minister. He is credited with establishing the African American Baptist churches in Tuscumbia, Sheffield, and Barton in Colbert County.

The church originally had no particular meeting place, but eventually was able to purchase a lot on the corner of 11th and High streets. A building was constructed on that corner in 1892. The church grew quickly and became the largest African American congregation in the county. The church also served as a school for African Americans at the turn of the 20th century. The church is defined on a 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as a large brick building across the street from Tuscumbia Colored College, later Trenholm High School.

## 10 ■

### Glencoe Plantation\*

The Glencoe Plantation was located just south of Tuscumbia in the early days of Colbert County, when it was Franklin County. The plantation was owned by Col. James T. McDonald (1781-1827), a veteran of the War of 1812, known to his military men as "Bully" McDonald. He married Eliza Aylette Moore, sister-in-law to David Keller (1788-1837), the grandfather of Helen Keller. The Keller and McDonald families both moved to the Tuscumbia area about 1817. McDonald purchased a large plantation that he called Glencoe after an ancestral castle of the MacDonald clan in Scotland.

The only piece of the plantation left is the Glencoe (Plantation) Cemetery. Now located in the center of

an open mining operation, the cemetery was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1986. The cemetery contains Col. James McDonald and Col. David Keller as well as six other members of the Keller-McDonald family. The sign over the cemetery states it was established circa 1816 and according to the grave markers, the last burial was in 1854.

The cemetery was rediscovered in 1983 on the property of Walker Lumber Company, leased to Vulcan Materials Company. The Vulcan Company restored the cemetery with permission from the descendants. According to the Alabama Register nomination form, Vulcan "tore down the surrounding wall, removed the tomb stones and cut out all trees and vines. [Vulcan] then put one foot of good top soil on the site, planted sod and replaced the tombs in the exact spot they came from. [Vulcan] then reconstructed the wall back to original size and put up a steel gate." The restoration helped to maintain the cemetery and clearly mark it from future disturbances. The original stone wall was cut and laid by slaves of the Glencoe Plantation, but has been replaced by a reconstruction.

## 11 ■

### High Street Church of Christ

Located in a historically African American neighborhood in southeast Tuscumbia, the High Street Church of Christ was one of the "branches" of the "Mother Church," Ricks Church of Christ. The congregation met in various places as it grew. First, in the house of one of its members, before moving to the Odd Fellows Hall, and then to Trenholm High School. Plans for a permanent home began about 1921. Located at the southwest corner of 9th and High streets, the church was first recorded in this location on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. The building that stands today is the same late 1920s church.

**(Right) Front of Old Slave Kitchen at Helen Keller House, 1935 (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress)**

## 12 ■

### Ivy Green

Ivy Green is a plantation in Tuscumbia. The house was built in the early days of the state of Alabama by David (1788-1837) and Mary Fairfax Moore Keller (1796-1875) in 1820. David and Mary were the grandparents of Helen Adams Keller (1880-1968), who was born on the property. In 1830, the household of David Keller included 47 slaves. David Keller passed away in 1837, but his widow, Mary F. Keller, owned 35 slaves in 1840. Although the Kellers lived at Ivy Green their whole lives, records for 1850 and 1860 were not located. The house was given to David and Mary's son, Arthur Henley Keller (1836-1896). By 1880, Arthur owned 430 acres of land with his wife, Catherine Everett Adams Keller (1856-1921).

In addition to the age of the house and its unique Southern Virginian architecture, the story of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan and the "miracle" breakthrough in communication that occurred on the property lead to Ivy Green's inclusion in the Historic American Buildings Survey (AL-317) in 1934. The City of Tuscumbia acquired the property in 1954 and opened it to the public as a museum. In 1970, the property was added to the National Register for Historic Places (#70000101) with the main house, cottage, and water pump as contributing features to the property. The property also includes what is now called the "Cook's House," but was referred to as the Old Slave Kitchen in 1934.

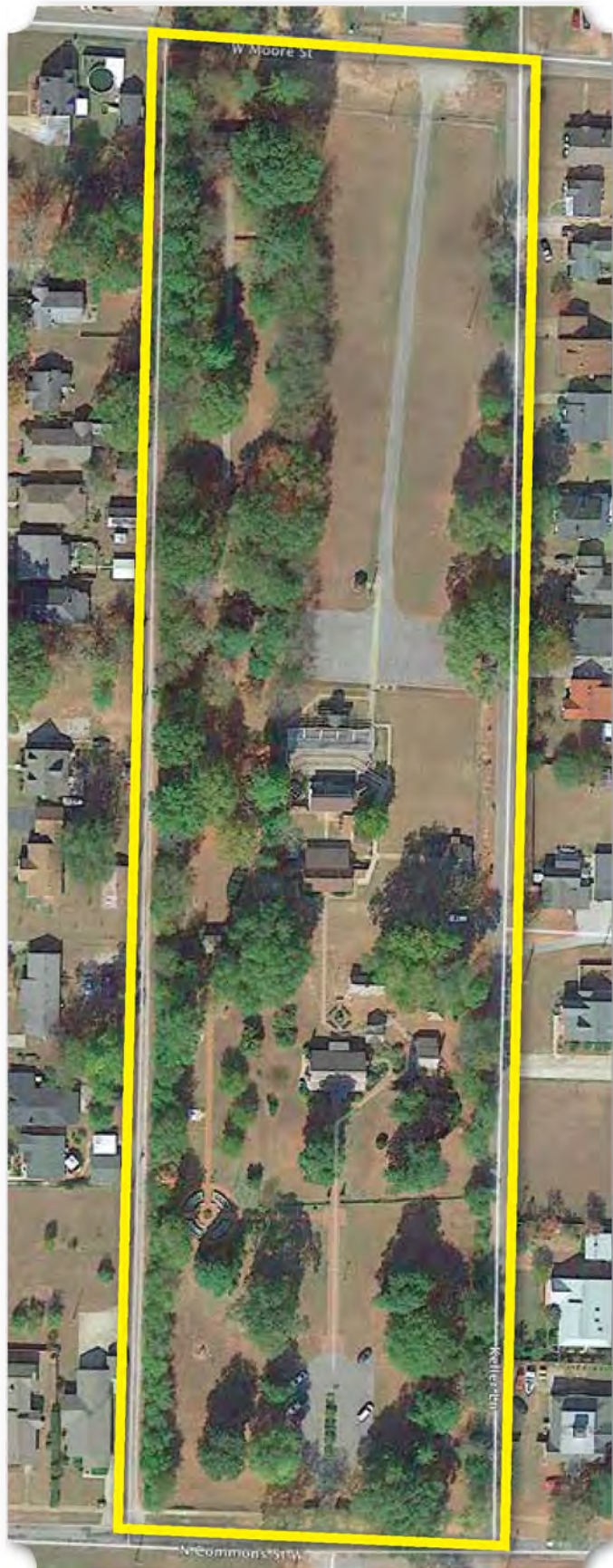
The Slave Kitchen/Cook's House is a simple frame structure with two rooms containing the kitchen and the cook's living quarters. According to a survey of African American history in the Muscle Shoals



#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



1	OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				FARM VALUES.			FENCES.		LABOR.				ACREAGE 1879.	
	THE NAME.	TENURE.		IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.		Of farm, including land, fences, and buildings.	Of farming implements and machinery.	Of Live Stock.	Cost of building and repairing in 1879.	Cost of fertilizers purchased in 1879.	Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879, including value of board.	Weeks hired labor in 1879 upon farm (and dairy) excluding house-work.		Estimated value of all farm productions (incl. consumed, or on hand) for 1879.	Mown.	Not Mown.	
		Owner.	Rents for fixed money rental.	Rents for shares of products.	Tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation, (whether pasture or meadow.)	Permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards, vineyards.	Woodland and forest.							Other unimproved, including "old fields" not growing wood.	WHITE.				COLORS.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
1	Fields Isaac	1		61				1,000.00	70	230		300		156	1,804				
2	<del>Fields Isaac</del>			<del>29</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>35</del>	<del>2,000</del>							<del>00</del>				
3	Waetzel Sean	1		60	1		42	1,200	50	125		60		14	321				
4	Schmidt Henry	1		22					15	105		40		8	272				
5	Brand John	1		27		40	180	5000	50	415		200		52	355				
6	Keller Arthur H.	1		17		260	160	4000	150	400		200		52	384				
7	Hutton James	1		65	315	00		5000	50	420		150		52	960				
8	McMillan Henry	1		30				400	35	115		12		9	300				
9	Winstone Edward	1		20				16,000	35	285		100		24	305				
10	Ben Benjamin		1	65					10	220		150		20	120				

(Left) Aerial Photograph of What is Preserved of Ivy Green, 2016 (Google Earth) (Above 1880 Non-Population, Agricultural Census Showing Arthur H. Keller (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1900 Federal Census Excerpt Showing W. J. Johnson and His Brother (?) Levy Johnson Owning Adjacent Farms (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



National Heritage Area by Katie S. Randall, "Sophia Napier Watkins (1854-1917), wife of Reverend Fred W. Watkins who pastored Bethel Lauderdale Missionary Baptist Church in Florence from 1901 to 1911, was the Keller's cook."

86	John	Levy	Head	B. Pa.	Oct	1846	54	22	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
87		Livina	Daughter	B. Pa.	June	1874	23	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
88		Lanetta	Daughter	B. Pa.	Dec	1878	20	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
89		John Jr.	Son	B. Pa.	Aug	1850	19	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
90		Terrell	Son	B. Pa.	Aug	1852	17	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
91		Mattie	Daughter	B. Pa.	Dec	1840	15	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
92		John	Son	B. Pa.	June	1872	12	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
93		W. J.	Head	B. Pa.	Oct	1858	57	20	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
94		Gray	Wife	B. Pa.	July	1871	29	20	Mississippi	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
95		Bob	Daughter	B. Pa.	July	1874	23	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
96		John	Son	B. Pa.	June	1859	11	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
97		Charley	Son	B. Pa.	July	1873	6	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
98		Arthur	Son	B. Pa.	June	1878	5	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
99		Lillie	Daughter	B. Pa.	Oct	1874	3	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
100		Mindy	Daughter	B. Pa.	Apr	1860	2	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	

Surveyed by the WPA from about 1930 to 1933

Last Name	First Name	Birth Year	Death Year	Notes
Johnson	Burt	1878	1878	Son of Eliza & G. A. Abernathy
Johnson	Callie			Aged about 70 years
Johnson	Caroline V.	1805	1876	Aged 71 years
Johnson	Grant	1880	1899	Son of W.J & Mary Johnson
Johnson	Stark		1908	
Johnson	W.J.	1842	1925	

## 13 ■ Johnson Cemetery

The Johnson Cemetery is located near the Mississippi border on the east side of Allsboro Road. It is a small family cemetery on private land behind a home. In the 1930s, the WPA surveyed Colbert County cemeteries and identified the Johnson cemetery as one of the

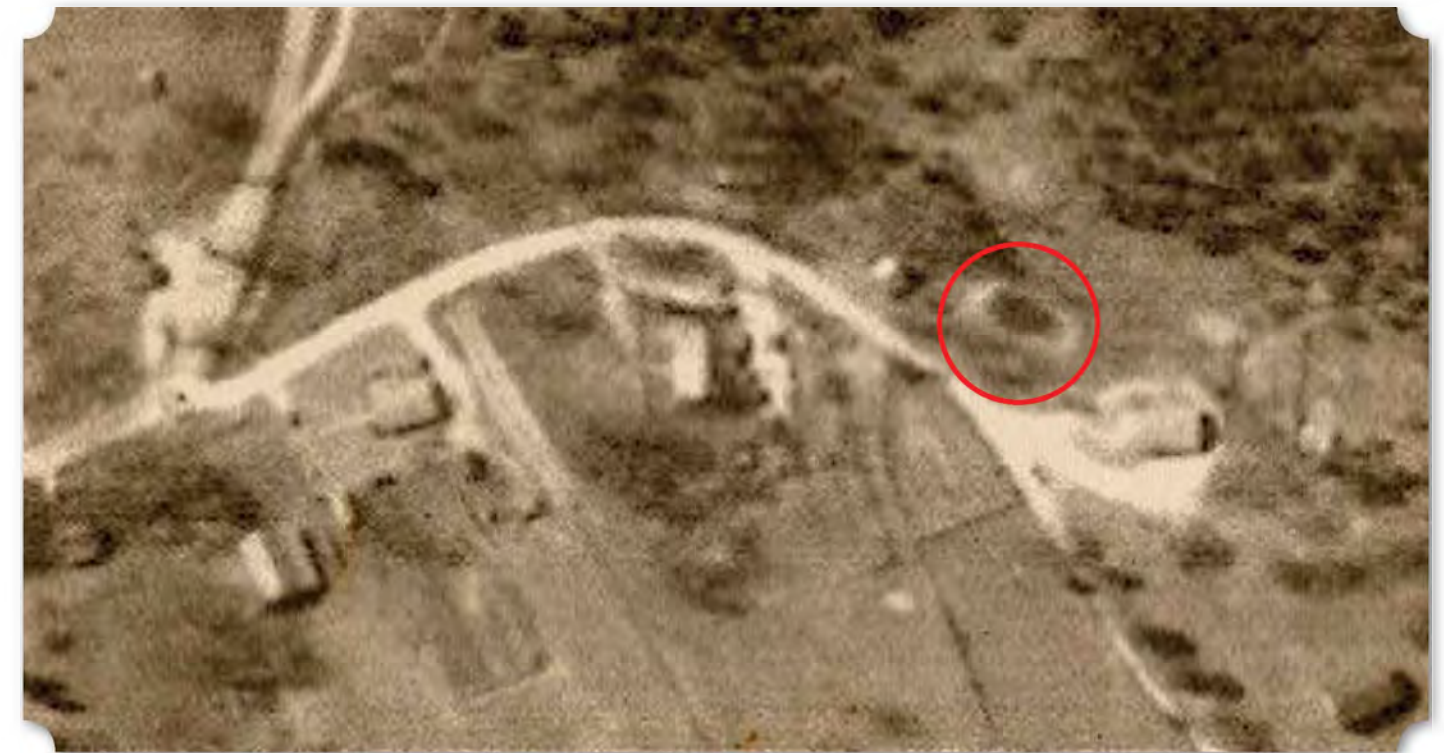
few solely African American cemeteries in the county. At that time, six graves were recorded – all Johnsons – dating from 1876 to 1925. This is not an active cemetery but one other grave has been recorded there - that of Albert Bowling, Sr, however, there are no dates associated with this grave.

**(Below Left)** Excerpt of 1908 Map of Colbert and Franklin Counties, Alabama Showing W. J. Johnson and L. B. (Levy?) Johnson Owning Land in Section 27 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online via Geological Survey of Alabama) **(Below)** 1926 USGS Topographic Map of Lane Springs, Gravelly Springs, Alabama Quadrangle



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER



**(Above)** Aerial Photograph of Lane Springs School in 1958 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

## 14 ■ Lane Springs School (Rosenwald)\*

The Lane Springs School was one of the eight Rosenwald schools in Colbert County. It was a one-room, one-teacher school located in Lane Springs, about five and a half miles north of Cherokee along present-day Rutland Chapel Lane and Riverton Rose Trail. The school's application was made for the years 1925-1926. It cost a total of \$2,000 to build with \$1,150 of donations from the African American community, \$450 from public funds, and \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund. The schoolhouse was insured for \$1,350. According to the historical marker for Cherokee High School, the Lane Springs School

is said to be one of the grammar schools that sent graduates on to Cherokee High School.

The nearby Rutland Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery are adjacent to the former location of the school and most likely served the same community. The church is labeled on the 1924 USGS topographic map, just prior to the construction of the school. On the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, the school and cemetery are labeled, but there is no church. Finally, the 1954 USGS topographic map labels only the church and cemetery. While the cemetery dates to at least 1935, there are few graves recorded for the Rutland Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery – all dating after 1975.



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

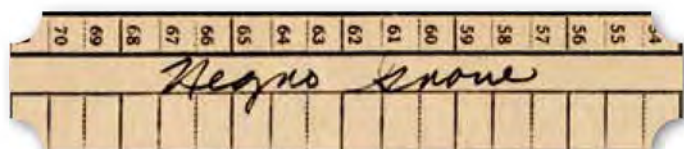
# 15

## Leighton

Leighton and its census district in the early 20th century was densely populated with over 500 households in 1900 and 761 total households in 1940. From 1900 to 1920, as the overall population grew, so too did the African American community. But by 1930, the African American population had plateaued. The overall population of Leighton and the surrounding area in the 20th century into the 21st century has been about half African American. In 1900, 44% of all households were African American. This percentage peaked in 1920 at 62% before dropping back down to 44% in 1940. According to the census information, it appears that the majority of people of color in Leighton lived south of the railroad, on the west side of town. This is where a large Rosenwald school would later be located. The 1940 census dubbed this area “Negro Grove.” As of the latest census in 2010, Leighton had a total of 53.2% African American population.

African American farm ownership followed the same pattern of growth and plateau as the overall African American population with the exception of the year 1900. In that year, there were 38 African American-owned farms in the Leighton district, which accounted for 13% of the total households. While the number of farms dropped in 1910, it peaked in 1920 when 50 African American households owned a farm. But due to population growth, the 50 farms still accounted for only 14% of the total households. Between 1920 and 1930 there was a drastic downturn in the number of African American-owned farm. While there had been 50 farms in 1920, there were only 18 farms in 1930 –

**(Below)** Excerpt from 1940 Federal Census Labeling the African American Area of Leighton as “Negro Grove” (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



**(Above)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Leighton, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle (Leighton School in Red and Old Highway 20 in Blue)

a low of 5% of all the households of Leighton. These numbers did not rebound in 1940.

Starting in 1920, the census divided the Leighton district into north and south of Old Highway 20. While the majority of African American households lived on the north side of town, the majority of African American-owned farms were located on the south side. The year 1920 had the most farms owned by African American households (50) and many of them appear to be neighboring farms owned by family members. With such a high rate of African American farm ownership, there are several families with more than one member who owns a farm. Based on ages, many farms were owned by a father and son, brothers, a widowed mother and son, or a father and widowed daughter-in-law.

The Preuit family had three members that owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1920. The Jackson, Ricks, and Vinson families all owned more than one farm in 1900 and 1910. By 1920, when 50 African American households owned farms in Leighton, the Ricks and

Abernathy families each owned four farms. The King and Jackson families owned three each as well. Between 1920 and 1930, 32 African American-owned farms were either lost or families moved from the Leighton area. There were no families that had more than one member owning a farm in 1930.



### Leighton School

Leighton School, also referred to as Leighton Training School or (Colbert) County Training School, was one of the seven Rosenwald schools built in Colbert County. Only two acres of land were required to apply for the Rosenwald Fund, but the African American community of Leighton acquired five acres for the school. The school was the largest in the county, a five-teacher/ five-room school – rare in North Alabama. The school was funded for the 1928-1929 year and cost a total of \$10,950. A sum of \$6,500 was donated by the African American community, \$1,000 from the local white community, \$2,000 additional dollars in public funds from the county, and \$1,450 from the Rosenwald Fund. The school was insured for \$8,000.

The County Training School was unique for having been made of brick instead of the usual wood frame and weatherboard. The school had a U-shaped plan and Colonial Revival elements to its architecture. True to the Nashville Plan drawn up by the Rosenwald Fund, the school faced east for the best lighting.

**(Below)** Aerial Photograph of Leighton School in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

Although the school was larger than most Rosenwald schools, it still had a very simple design and lacked a cafeteria or kitchen. Students relied on home cooked lunches provided by a group of local women.

The Leighton Training School was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1997. Over the 68 years between construction and the state

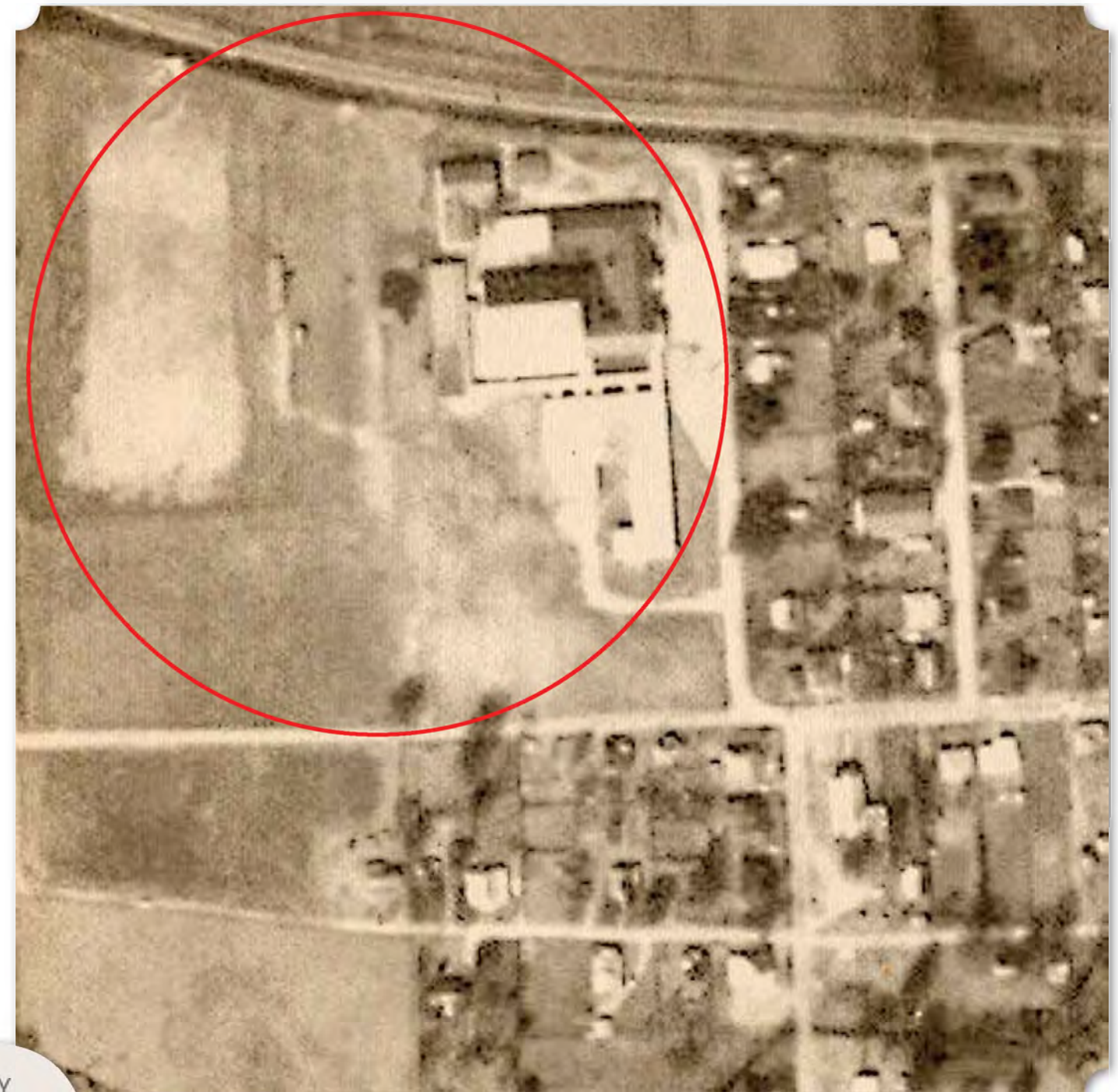
nomination, the school had grown from five to six classrooms and then into a complex of four buildings situated on 11 acres. Classrooms were added to the rear of the building in 1937. Two decades later, a gymnasium, a utility room, and restrooms were added. Also, about that time, the campus expanded to include an athletic field and stadium to the west. In 1961, six additional classrooms, a library, and a

lunchroom were built to the south – completing the majority of the complex.

According to the Alabama Register nomination form, the local African American children of Leighton were first taught lessons in the Galilee Baptist Church as early as 1892. Other locations known to have served the community include: “Ricks’ Place (a house on

the northwest side of town), the Clay Mound (later leveled for brick making), the Grove Church, and the Masonic Lodge (used for around 20 years).”

**(Left) Aerial Photograph of Leighton School in 1949 (Right) Aerial Photograph of Leighton School in 1963 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)**



**KEY**

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- CEMETERIES
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- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



A permanent place for the education of African American children came about in 1928 when a local landowner, Dick King, offered up 10 acres of land to be sold to the African American community for a school. The building committee for the new school included Mr. D. D. Mullins, Mr. Frank King, Mr. Emmett Wallace, Mr. Adam Horn, and Mr. Andrew Hankins. Of these five men, all of them owned their own property in Leighton during the early 20th century. D. D. Mullins could be identified as Doyle Mullins who owned a farm in 1930; King owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1940; Wallace owned a farm in 1930; Horn was recorded as a farmer with his own property in 1930, however it was noted as not a farm; and Hankins owned a house and worked as a day laborer.

The school began with five teachers and grades one through eleven. A total of 192 students were enrolled

in the first years. Early faculty included: Mr. M. P. McDonald (1st grade), Ms. Carrie Pierce (2nd and 3rd grades), Ms. Albertha Bahnston (4th, 5th, and 6th grades), Ms. Ethel W. Lawson (7th, 8th, and 9th grades), and Mr. R. S. Childs (10th and 11th grades, principal). Other principals included Mr. W. C. Ross

(Top) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Doyle (D. D.) Mullins and Wife, Ella, Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Second) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Frank King Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Third) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Emmett Wallace (Fourth) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Carrie Pierce and Her Sister as Teachers in a Public School (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Ross left the school to join the military during World War II and Mrs. Sadie M. Hicks became principal. Following the war, Mr. S. N. Nance headed the school. Local parents were heavily involved in the school as well. The early P.T.A. officers were Ms. Myrtle McDonald (President), Ms. Blanche Madden (Vice President), Ms. Inez Campbell (Secretary), Ms. Minnie P. McDonald (Assistant Secretary), and Ms. Ella Mullins (Treasurer), wife of Mr. Doyle Mullins.

According to the nomination, students came from far away to attend Leighton Training School, including: Cave Springs, Colbert, Bethel, Lake Johnson, Buck Bridge, and Foster's Bridge. The first graduates of the school who completed the 12th grade were Ms. Mary Pearl Pruitt, Ms. Edna L. Wallace (granddaughter of Emmett Wallace), and Ms. Methal King Davis.

School Motto – “Give Light and The People Will Find Their Own Way”

School Slogan – “Character Building Thru the Love of Nature and the Appreciation of Farm Life”

15	15	Mullins, Doyle	Head	0	1900	24	May	57	M	22	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	11	Yes	Farmer	Gen. Farm	VVVV	0	Yes	12	7	
		Ella	Wife - H		x	7	May	52	F	18	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	12	Yes	None							
		Doyle Jr	Son		x	24	May	23	M	1	714	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	13	Yes	Farmer	Like Farm	VVVV	MF				
		Waller F	Son		x	22	May	20	M	1	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	14	Yes	None							
		James E	Yng. Son		x	24	May	12	M	8	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	15	Yes	None							

50	173	173	King, Frank	Head	0	1900	24	May	60	M	26	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	16	Yes	Farmer	General Farm	VVVV	0	Yes	12	50
----	-----	-----	-------------	------	---	------	----	-----	----	---	----	-----	-----	---------	---------	---------	----	-----	--------	--------------	------	---	-----	----	----

189	194	Pierce, Jane	Head	0	1000	710	27	May	56	M	26	710	Yes	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	17	Yes	Farmer	General Farm	VVVV	0	Yes	12	710
		Sue	Wife - H		x	7	May	51	M	21	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	18	Yes	Farmer	At Home	576	6	Yes			
		Sutie	Daughter		x	7	May	25	S	10	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	Yes	Teacher	Public School	4446	1	Yes			
		Sadie	Daughter		x	3	May	24	S	10	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	20	Yes	Farmer	General Farm	959	6	Yes			
		Carrie	Daughter		x	2	May	21	S	7	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	21	Yes	Teacher	Public School	4446	1	Yes			
		Mattie	Daughter		x	7	May	18	S	7	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	22	Yes	Farmer	At Home	576	6	Yes			
		Sillie	Daughter		x	7	May	16	S	7	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	23	Yes	Farmer	At Home	576	6	Yes			

43	47	Wallace, Emmett	Head	0	1900	24	May	57	M	26	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	24	Yes	Farmer	Gen. Farm	VVVV	0	Yes	12	46	
		Edna F	Wife - H		x	7	May	18	S	10	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	25	Yes	None							
		Edgar	Son		x	24	May	16	M	1	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	26	Yes	None							
		Emmett	Son		x	24	May	10	M	1	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	27	Yes	None							
		Sherrid, Doyle	Daughter		x	24	May	11	S	8	710	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	28	Yes	None							

However, the school's most notable alumni may be Leighton-born singer Percy Sledge who would have graduated in the late 1950s. The last class graduated from Leighton Training School in 1970 when schools were integrated. Following desegregation, the school was converted into Leighton Middle School. Low enrollment forced the school to close its doors in 1994. The school has sat vacant ever since and in 2010 much of the campus was demolished, including the original Rosenwald building.

**Mt. New Home Baptist Church & New Home Cemetery**

The town of Leighton contains several other historically significant places associated with the African American community, particularly in the northwest quadrant created by the crossroads of County Line Road/Main Street and Old Highway 20/ Joe Wheeler Highway. Mt. New Home Baptist Church is located just southwest of the Leighton School on the north side of Wheeler Highway. There is little information on the church, which was built sometime after 1963. The church is not labeled on any historical or current topographic map. The church may have a cemetery associated with it, New Home Cemetery. According to the *Historical Atlas of Alabama*, the

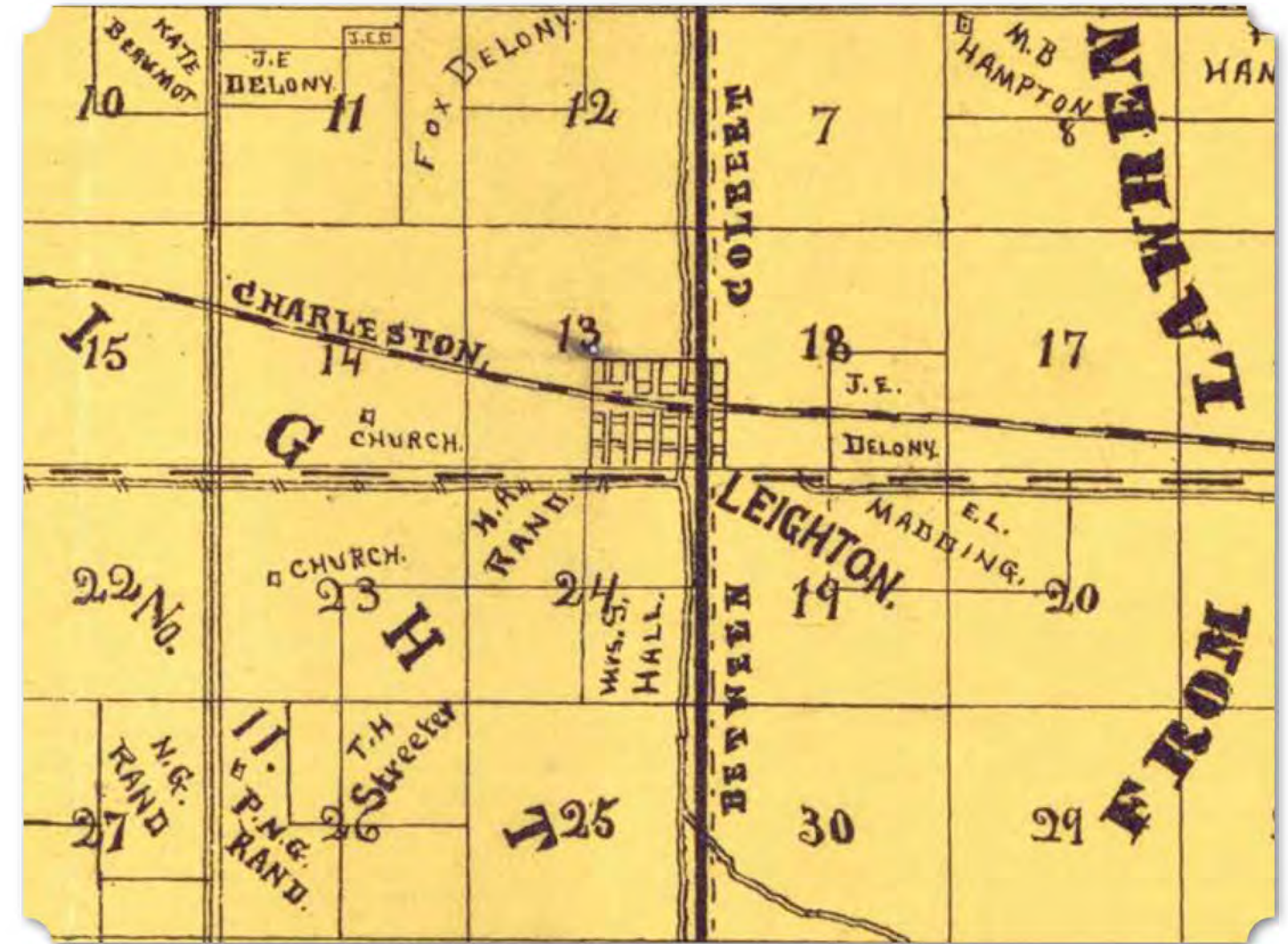
location of the New Home Cemetery is not known and could not be located on any historical maps. However, the *Atlas* states that the cemetery dates back to at least 1886, is inactive, and used by African American members of the community. The cemetery was recorded by the WPA in 1933, which documented 39 graves dating from 1812 to 1930.

Common surnames in the New Home Cemetery are Bates, Fennel, Jones, and Mullins. There are a few members of the community buried here that owned a farm in the early 20th century. Mr. Bose (Boke) Jones Fennel (1858-1913) owned a farm in the Leighton district in 1900; Mr. Mat Bates (1853-1924) owned a farm in 1910; and Mr. Riley Preuit (died 1926) owned a farm in 1920.

**Galilee Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery**

To the immediate west of Mt. New Home Baptist Church is Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery. According to the nomination form for the Leighton Training School, local African American children were taught classes in this church as early as 1892. The presence of the church in the late 1800s

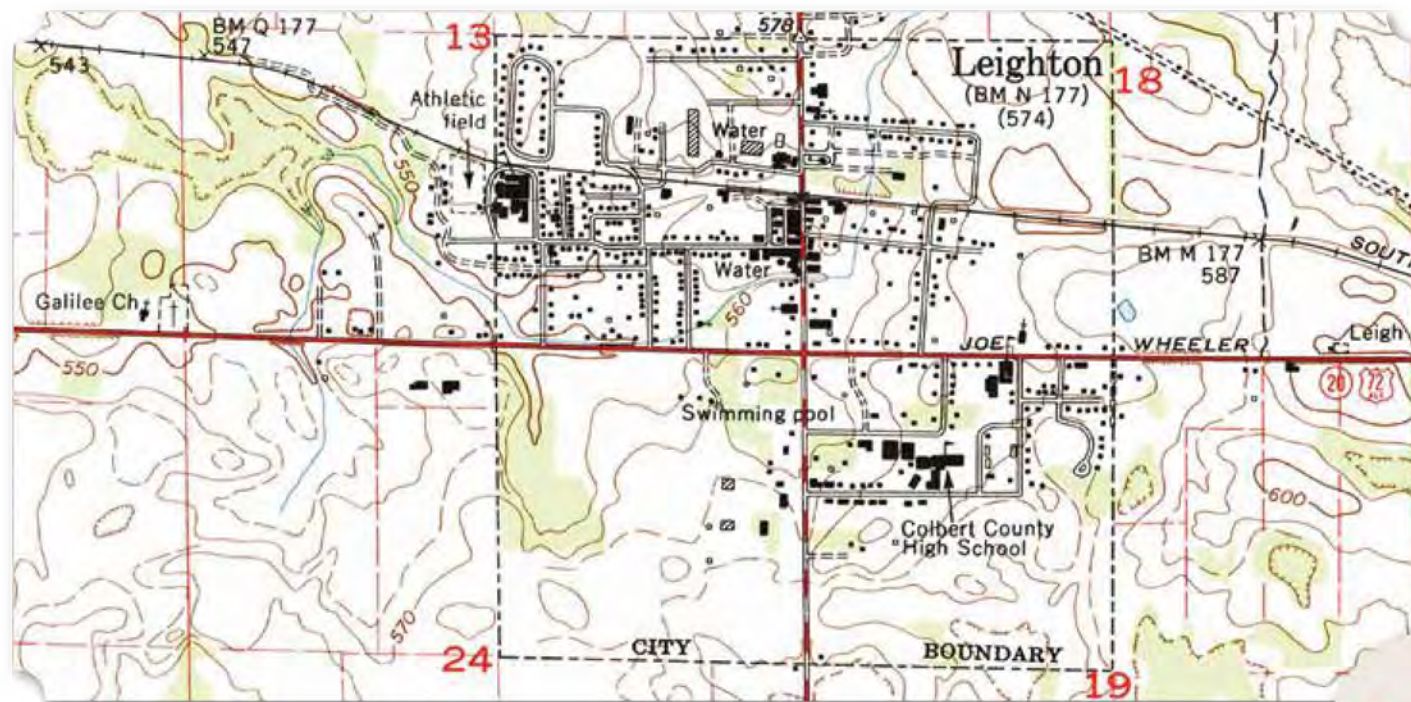
(Below) 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Leighton, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle



(Above) Excerpt of Map of Colbert County, Alabama, 1896, Showing Leighton (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online via Geological Survey of Alabama)

is confirmed by an 1896 map of Colbert County on which the Galilee Church is one of the only marked features around Leighton.

The Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, also known simply as Galilee Cemetery, has at least 83 interments including the families of Barnett, Bates, Hughes, King, Lewis, Mullins, and Stanley. The oldest grave known is that of Bob Randolph from 1919. Others interred at the Galilee Cemetery include the Vinson family with Richard "Dick" Vinson (1862-1925), his wife Lizzie (1857-1944), and their daughter, Margaret Vinson Hankins (1902-1990). Richard Vinson owned his own farm near the old county line in Leighton from at least 1900 to 1910. Authur Neloms (1887-1965) and his wife, Susie (1891-1974), owned a farm northwest of Leighton in the Brick census district from at least 1930 to 1940. Their grandson, Arthur Curtis Neloms (Nelons) (1932-1953) is also laid to rest at the Galilee Cemetery.

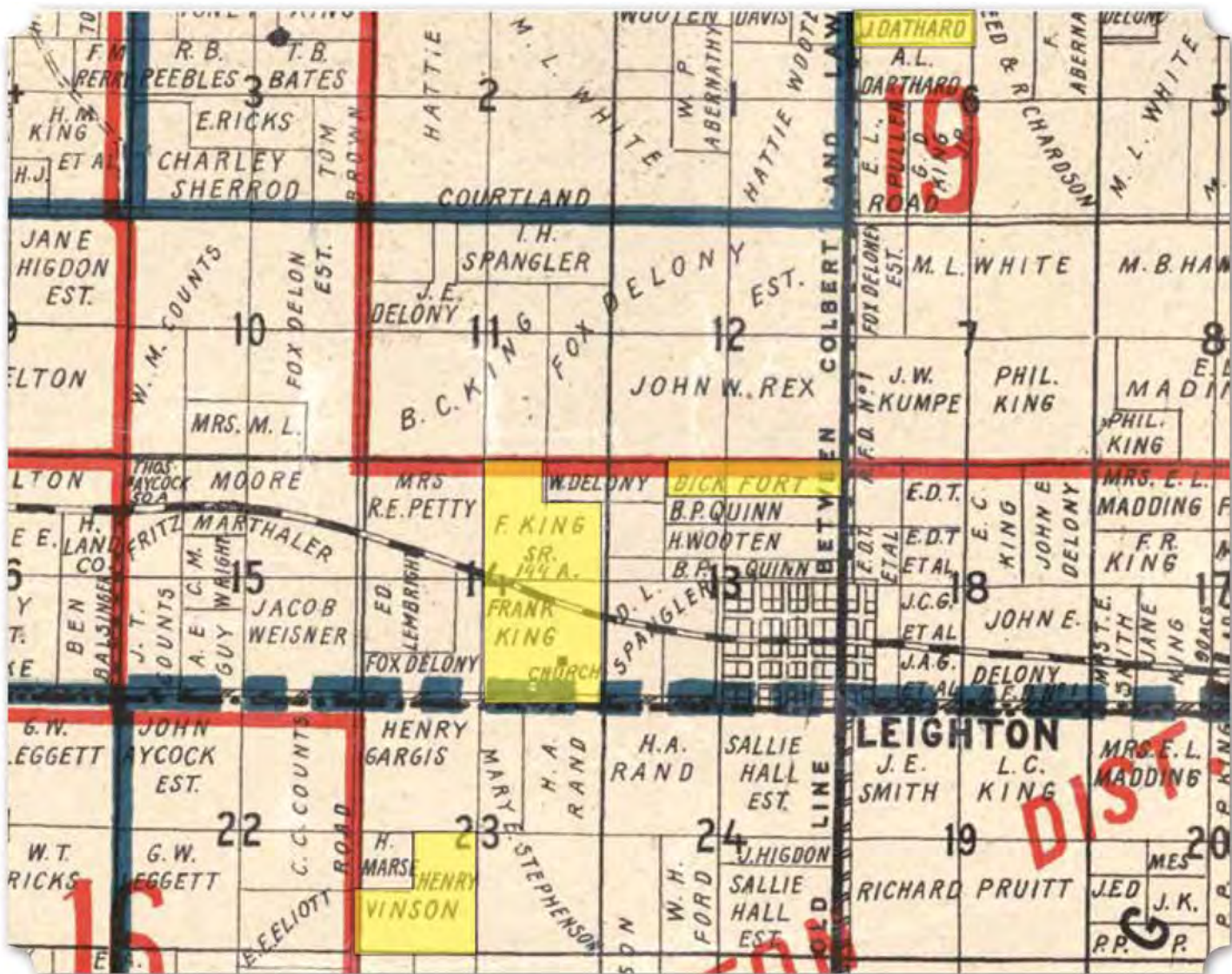


\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



176	177	Vinson Richard	Head	78	78	1	33	Alabama	North Carolina	Tennessee	English	Farmer	General Farm	Imp	70	70	0	70	5
		Siggie	Wife	7	7	48	71	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	W	70	0	70	70	
		Richard Jr.	Son	7	7	21	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Machinist	Rail Road Shop	7	420	0	420	420	
		Vie	Daughter	7	7	18	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	7	70	0	70	70	
		Percy	Son	7	7	17	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	7	70	0	70	70	
		Lula M.	Daughter	7	7	15	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	7	70	0	70	70	
		Mozella	Daughter	7	7	13	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	7	70	0	70	70	
		Ally	Son	7	7	10	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm	7	70	0	70	70	
		Margaret	Daughter	7	7	8	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none							

68	1500	Neloms Arthur	Head	M	47	50	6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	Own Farm	0	0	0	0	64
69		Dessie	Wife	F	47	47	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English			0	0	0	0	69
70		Arthur	Son	M	6	6	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English							70
71		Harbo Lucile	Daughter	F	11	11	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English							71



(Top) 1910 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Richard "Dick" Vinson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Arthur Neloms Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Left) Excerpt of Map of Colbert and Franklin Counties, Alabama, 1908, Showing Leighton with Local African American Landowners Highlighted (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online via Geological Survey of Alabama)

American congregation. The 1921 map also indicates that the church was a wooden structure at the time. This was most likely the time when it was known as "Black Paper Church" for the building paper used to cover the exterior of the building. By the mid-20th century, this southeast section of Tuscumbia was well established as a historically African American neighborhood. The church was remodeled at some point as the current building is brick with a bell tower and decorative arched windows.

## 16 ■ Lesley Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

(Below) Photograph of Lesley Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church as It Stands Today (Google Street View, April 2014)

Lesley Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was first formed about 1880 by its namesake Pastor Lesley. The church was originally located in an area known as Gin Hill somewhere south of Tuscumbia along Woodmont Drive/Old Jackson Highway. Supposedly, the church was rebuilt and possibly relocated in 1927. According to a 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, Lesley's Temple C.M.E. Church was already located at the corner of 10th and High streets, however, the church is not denoted as "Colored," as was the custom at the time. Perhaps the church began as a white church and was bought by an African



# 17

## Liberty Cemetery

The Liberty Cemetery is located in western Colbert County near the Mississippi border at the intersection of State Line and Liberty roads, in Section 9 of township 4S, Range 15W, southwest of Cherokee. Liberty Cemetery has several unmarked graves and most likely dates to earlier than the first marked grave – that of Ruben Rodgers (1817-1881). According to the 1880 Agricultural Census, Rodgers (or Rogers) owned a small farm of about 30 acres by the time he passed away.

While there are few marked graves at Liberty Cemetery, many of those that are marked and recorded belong to African American farming landowners. Landowning farmers interred here include the Alexander family headed by Brad C. Alexander, who was born in 1886 and owned a farm in the Allsboro area from at least 1930 to 1940 and passed away sometime after 1958. Brad Alexander's mother, Laura (1850-1932), his wife, Lular E. (1889-1960), and his brother, Bids (1874-1943), lived with him in 1920 and 1930 and are buried at Liberty Cemetery as well. Fannie Carter (1872-1960) is also buried at Liberty Cemetery. Her husband, Dude Carter, owned a farm on Cherokee Road in Margerum

in 1940. In that year, Bids Alexander was a boarder in their home. Harvey Fant (1849-1923) owned a farm in Cherokee in 1920. Robert Hordges (Hodges) (1844-1919) owned a farm in the neighboring town of Tishomingo, Mississippi in 1910.

Clarence Ed Tiers (1874-1965) and his wife, Minnie Rogers Tiers (1886-1964) owned almost 150 acres of land west of Cherokee in 1935 when the TVA surveyed them about the acquisition of about 20 acres of land for the Pickwick Reservoir. The Tiers (sometimes spelled "Tires") lived in a five-room house and tended to mules, horses, cattle, hogs, and chickens on their farm as well as grew corn, cotton, sorghum, peaches, sweet potatoes, and hay. They also rented out land to two sharecroppers – Gertrude Morgan (Tiers' daughter) and Richard Carter. By the time the TVA interviewed them, they had paid off their mortgage, possessed no debts, and made a good income from their farm. Despite losing some of their land to the reservoir, the Tiers still had 65 acres of cultivable land and had no intentions of moving or making their tenants move. The Tiers were one of the fortunate families that did respectively well during the Great Depression and were little affected by the TVA's reconstruction of North Alabama.

(Below) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Brad C. Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

TVA 970 9-4-35 <sup>177</sup>  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Schedule No. 0622  
 County Colbert

SURVEY OF FAMILIES  
 Social and Economic Division  
 Fieldman Stewart  
 Date 7/20/35

1. Name Ed Tiers

2. P. O. address Cherokee, Tennessee Highway or road Alabama-Margerum

3. Miles from home to nearest elementary school 1 High school 8 Church 1

4. Chief trade center for family Cherokee  
 Miles from home 1 Average number of trips there per month 4

5. Years lived at present residence 23 In present community 60; all of life

6. Information concerning house:  
 Rented or owned own Material limestone Bath facilities sew. tub  
 No. of rooms 5 Heating facilities stove Painted? yes  
 No. of sleeping rooms 3 Fuel used wood Condition of repair fair  
 Age 50 Lighting facilities house  
 Type 2 1/2 story Telephone no

7. Source of water supply: Well  Cistern  Spring  Other  Yards from house 1

8. Toilet facilities: Inside  Outside  None

9. Does family own a car? No Make None Age None Years owned None

10. Check ownership of following personal possessions: Piano  Phonograph   
 Sewing Machine  Organ  Radio  Electric appliances  Other

11. State approximate value of furniture: \$ 100 Condition fair

12. Approximate number of books in the home: 6

13. Newspapers and magazines that household receives regu'  
 Newspapers None Magazine None

14. Church preference: Baptist

15. Membership in other organizations: None

16. What is husband's occupation? Farming

17. Husband's employment during past 10 yrs. (Exclude  
 Dates Kind of Work Earnings Where Empl.  
None None None None

18. Family's land:

Tenure	Within Taking Line (Acres)			Outside Taking Line (Acres)			Total Acres
	Cleared	Wooded	Total	Cleared	Wooded	Total	
Rented							
Owned	15		15	55	20	51	126
Rented Out	10		10	35	5	40	50

**TIERS, ED**  
6/24/36 (Kennedy)

Ed Tiers is a negro farmer who has 65 acres of tillable land outside of the taking line. This will be sufficient for his needs, and he does not contemplate relocation. He will also continue to provide land for Gertrude Morgan, share-cropper, and possibly for Richard Carter, share-cropper.

(Left) Excerpt of Handwritten TVA Questionnaire for Ed Tiers (Tires) (Family Removal Files, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Excerpt of Typewritten TVA Case Notes for Ed Tiers (Tires) (Family Removal Files, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Clarence E. (Ed) and Minnie Tiers (Tires) Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

1935	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Marital	Color	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Occupation	Home Ownership	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
186	Alexander, Brad C	Head	44	M	Mar	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Owned	700	90	20				
	Lula	Wife-H	38	F	Mar	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None								
	L. Willard	Daughter	21	F	Single	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None								
	Annis M	Daughter	19	F	Single	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None								
	Willie B	Daughter	15	F	Single	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None								
	Sammy B	Son	9	M	Single	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None								
	Bids	Brother	32	M	Mar	W	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Rent	700						

1	10800	yes	Tiers, Clarence E	Head	M	Mar	4	Alabama	same house	yes	yes	-	-	-	20	Farmer	owner	OA	52	0	yes	1
2			Minnie	Wife <th>F</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>4</th> <th>Alabama</th> <th>same house</th> <th>yes</th> <th>no</th> <th>no</th> <th>no</th> <th>no</th> <th>H</th> <th>housework</th> <th>none</th> <th>RP</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>no</th> <th>2</th>	F	Mar	4	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	H	housework	none	RP	0	0	no	2
3			Rogers, Sue	mother-in-law <th>F</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>3</th> <th>Mississippi</th> <th>same house</th> <th>yes</th> <th>no</th> <th>no</th> <th>no</th> <th>H</th> <th>housework</th> <th>none</th> <th>RP</th> <th>0</th> <th>0</th> <th>no</th> <th>3</th>	F	Mar	3	Mississippi	same house	yes	no	no	no	H	housework	none	RP	0	0	no	3	
4			Bertha May	niece <th>F</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>0</th> <th>Alabama</th> <th>R</th> <th>yes</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>4</th>	F	Mar	0	Alabama	R	yes												4

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

According to the *Historical Atlas of Alabama*, Liberty Cemetery was once associated with the Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church. The cemetery appears on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map east of a Liberty School nearer the intersection of current-day Allsboro and Buddy Durham roads. By 1951, the Liberty School is replaced with Liberty Church, now Liberty Missionary Baptist Church. The cemetery may be associated with this church and the church may have held a school in the 20th century.

contributions to the completion of the metal plant. The original Reynolds plant produced aluminum for the production of airplanes for the military during World War II. During the war effort, public housing was often provided for workers in the vicinity of large plants. Even if the facility where the people worked employed both white and African American workers, the teams were often segregated and more than 75% of the public housing provided for the war workers was completely segregated. This was the case at Reynolds Metal plant at Listerhill.

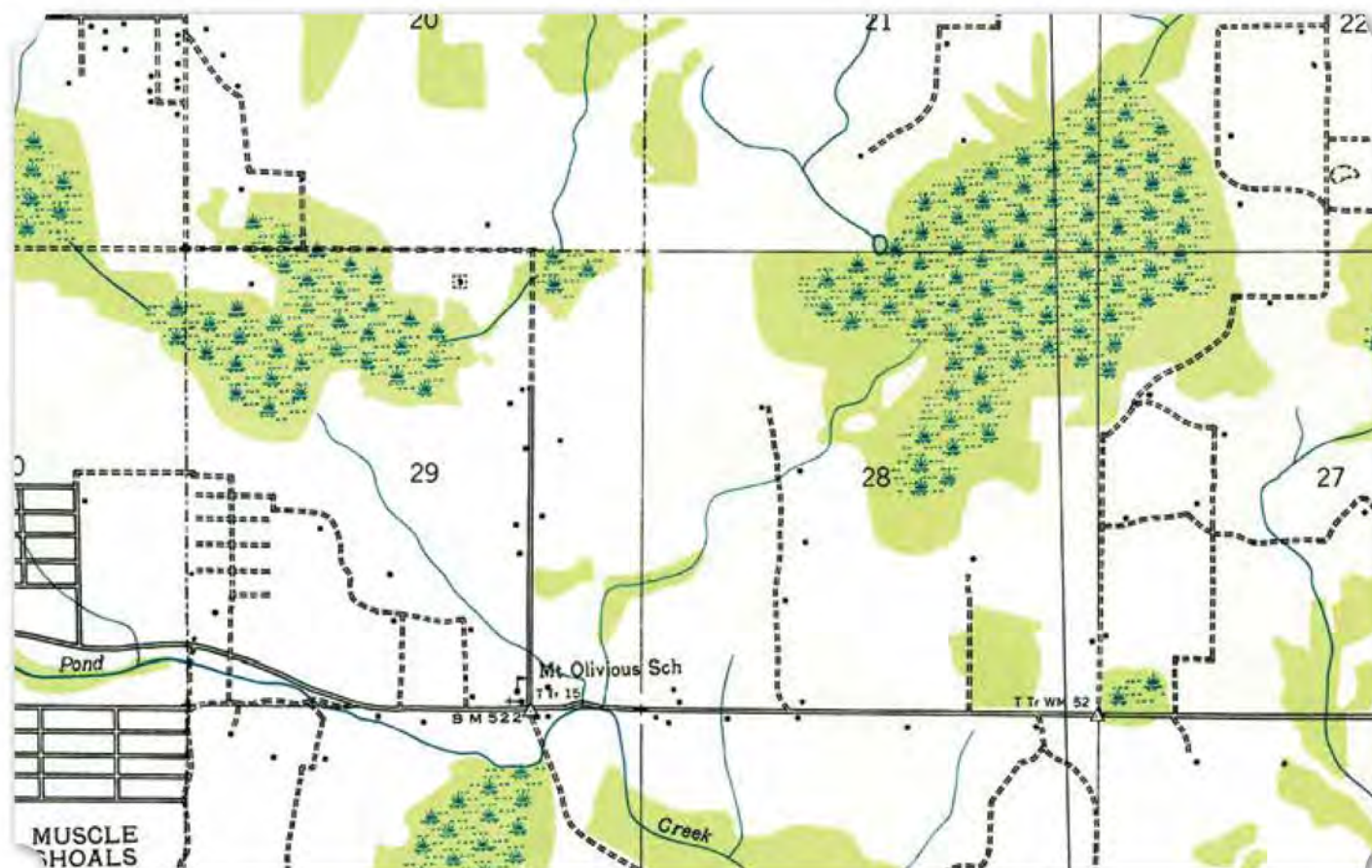
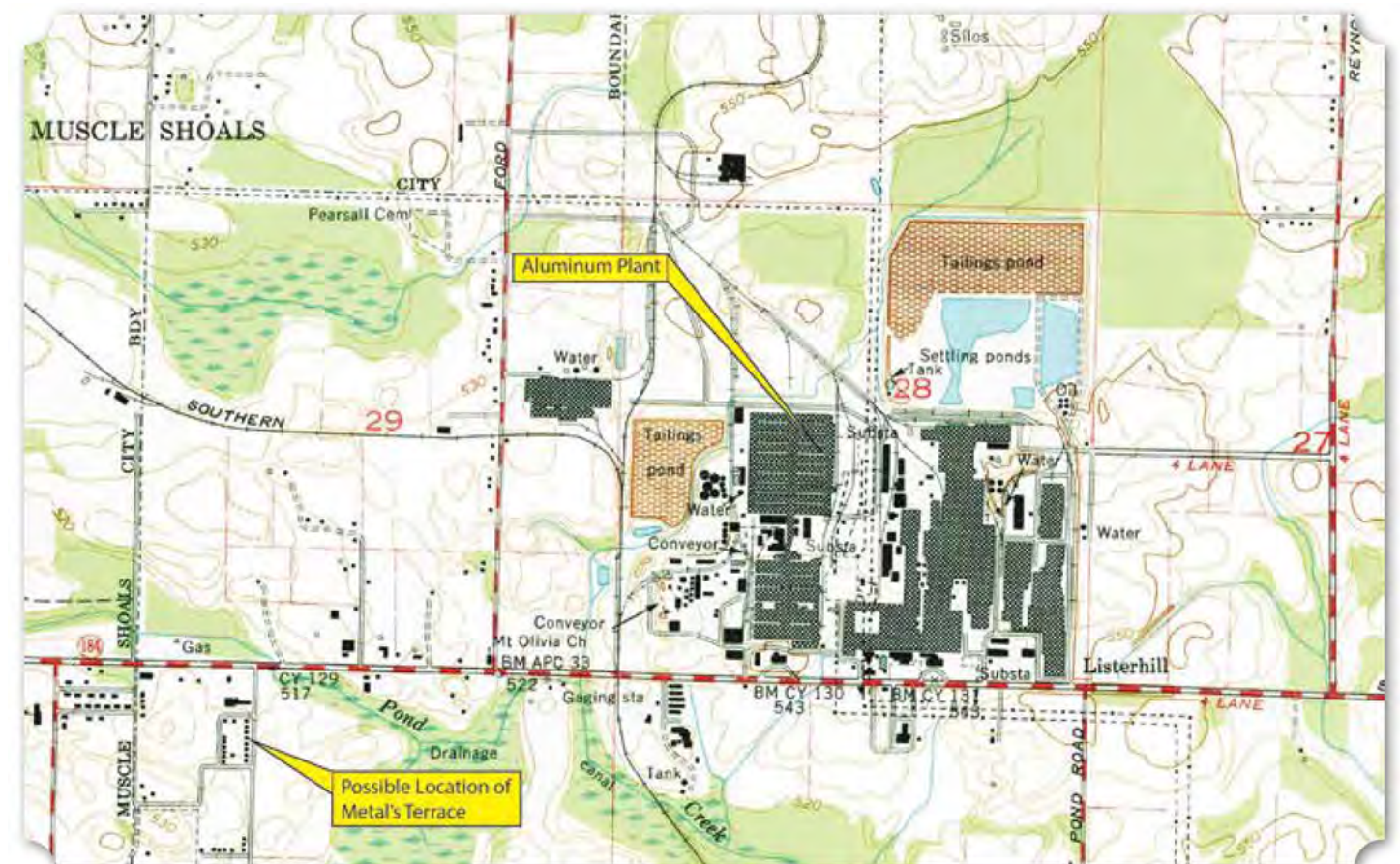
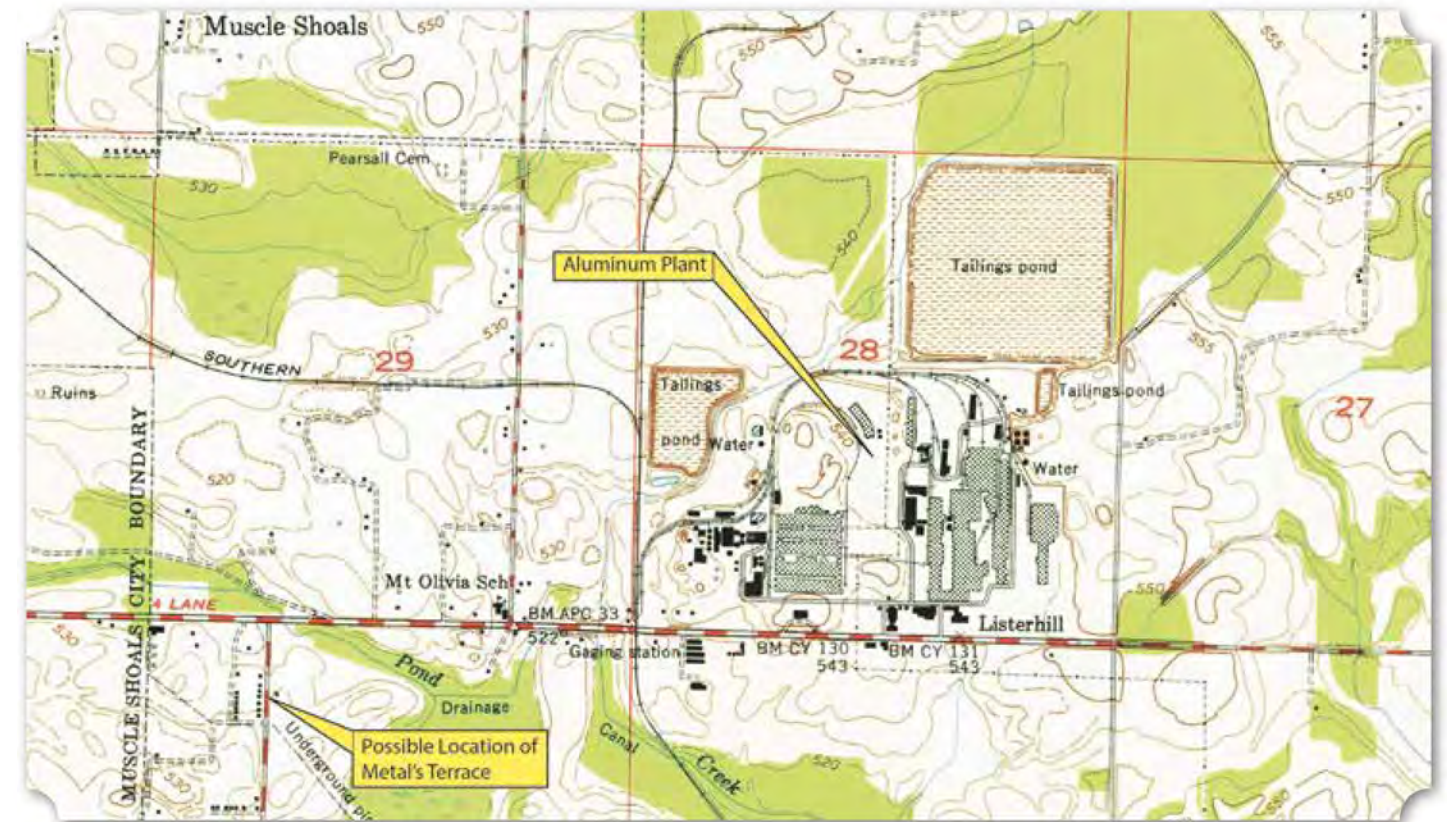
# 18 ■ Listerhill

Listerhill is located east of Muscle Shoals along East 2nd Street. The area is less of a community than an industrial complex dominated Wise Alloys, formerly a Reynolds Metal Company plant. Listerhill is named for former U.S. Senator Joseph Lister Hill in honor of his

### Metal's Terrace\*

The African American housing project for the Reynolds Metal Co. Plant was known officially as part of War Housing Project Ala 1213, but colloquially

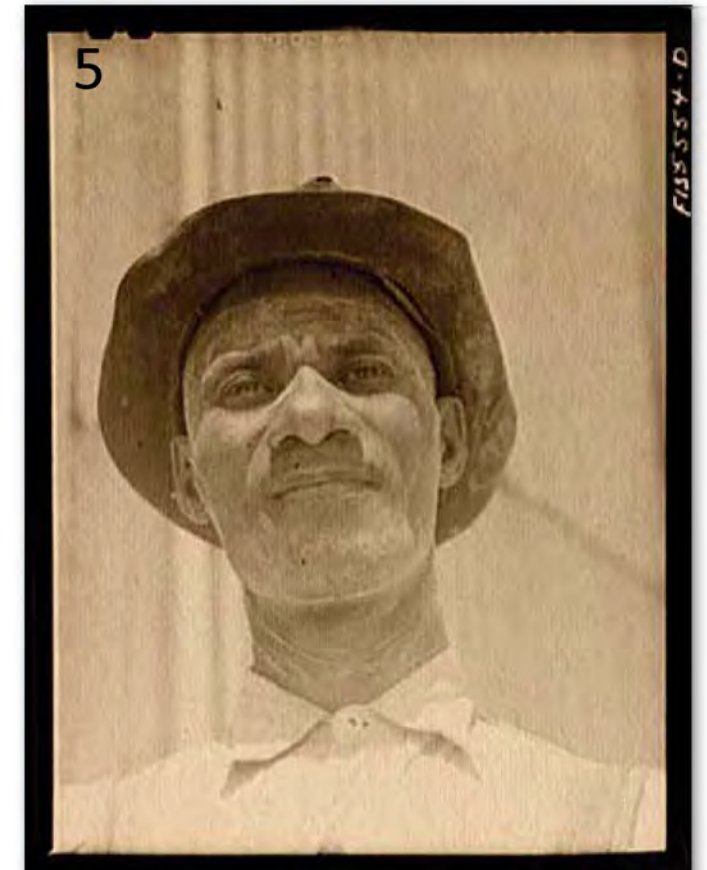
**(Below)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Listerhill, Killen, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Right)** 1953 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Listerhill, Killen, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Lower Right)** 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Listerhill, Killen, Alabama Quadrangle



as Metal's Terrace. A total of 32 acres was set aside and construction begun on August 24, 1943. Within a year, 48 buildings were completed, 36 of which were residential units. The housing units were accompanied by stores, barbers, and a community center – resembling a settlement. Metal's Terrace is said to have been located adjacent to Reynolds Metal Co. Plant, however, the housing project could not be positively located on historical maps and aerials.

The Reynolds Metal Plant was one of the private industrial plants that manufactured materials for the war effort during World War II. The nearby shoals and their potential for hydroelectric power had brought the U.S. government to Colbert County during World War I. The federal government built Wilson Dam to control the river and generate power. The dam powered the nitrate plants in Sheffield and Muscle Shoals but were left idle after WWI concluded. The TVA took control of the dam and Nitrate Plant No. 2 in 1933 for the production of fertilizer. With the onset of WWII, the nitrate plant resumed munitions manufacturing and Reynolds Metal joined in to produce aluminum. While not TVA controlled, the metal factory shared many similarities with the government-funded plants

(Below) Aerial Photograph of Reynolds Metal in 1949  
(University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



Photographs by Jack Delano, Reynolds Alloys Company, Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama, August 1942 (Library of Congress) (1) Change of Shift (2) Workmen Entering Gate During Change of Shifts (3) Pouring Aluminum into Pig Molds at the Cast House (4) Pouring Liquid Aluminum into Pig Molds from a Ladle at the Cast House (5) Workman in Reduction Plant. The White Powder on His Face is Alumina (6) Workman in the Cast House stops for a Drink of Water (7-9) Workmen who are Employed in one of the Pot Rooms

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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- OTHER

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nearby and while it was not mandated for people of color to be hired at Reynolds, there were several crews of African American men. Located to the west of Wise Alloys (Reynolds Metal Co.) at the northwest

corner of East 2nd Street and Ford Road is the Mt. Olivia School. The school was one of eight Rosenwald schools in Colbert County. It was a two-teacher type school budgeted for the 1920-1921 school year. It



cost a total of \$2,900 with \$1,200 contributed by the African American community, \$900 in public donations, and \$800 from the Rosenwald Fund.

**Mt. Olivia School \***

Mt. Olivia School has been referred to by a few names. Some local sources refer to the school by the nearby Pond Creek – i.e. Pond Creek School. The 1914 USGS and 1936 USGS/TVA topographic maps label the school as “Mt. Olivious” School. Other references, including the Fisk-Rosenwald database, refer to this school as Mt. Olivia. On the 1936 map, the school is adjacent to an unnamed church. The 1953 USGS topographic map indicates that the building may have had an addition. Like many rural African American schools, Mt. Olivia was closed by 1970 and the building is not included on the 1971 topographic map. The adjacent church, however, is labeled as Mt. Olivia Church. In the past decade or so, the Mount Olivia Missionary Baptist Church built a new building where the school was located and the original church building was expanded and became a funeral home.

**19** ■  
Melrose Plantation\*

Melrose Plantation was located southeast of Tuscumbia. Most likely it was built by David Short Goodloe (1776-1845). Born in North Carolina, Goodloe moved to the Tuscumbia area in about 1820. Shortly thereafter, he purchased the quarter section of land in 1823 from the federal government. Goodloe and his family only lived there until 1837 when he moved to the western portion of the county where his three sons owned plantations. There, David Goodloe built another house called Myrtle Hall. The only census to capture Goodloe at Melrose was the census of 1830. The Goodloe household included 88 slaves that year.

of Landmarks and Heritage in 1985, but none of the outbuildings from its plantation days survived. The house itself was demolished in April of 2016.

# 20 ■ Mount Carmel Baptist Church

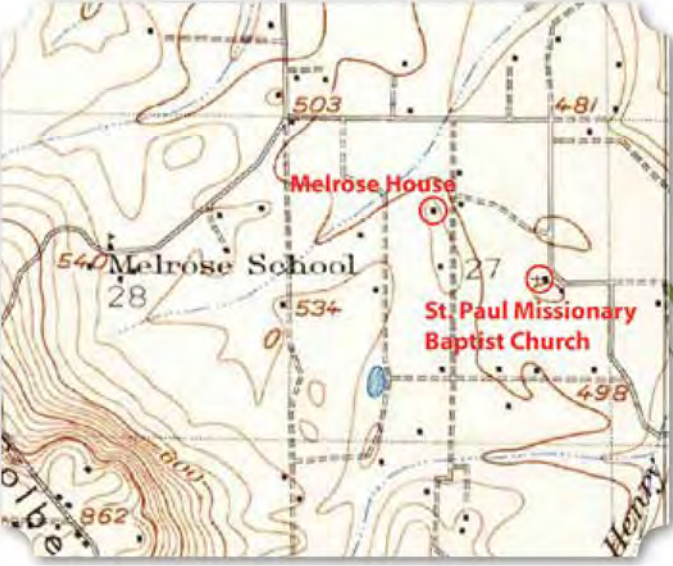
Mount Carmel Baptist Church is located at the northwest corner of 11th/Trenholm Memorial Drive and Mulberry Street in a historically African American neighborhood in southeast Tuscumbia. It was originally established in 1929 and met in the home of Mr. Mingo White, Sr. Later, the congregation rented a store for services and eventually were able to construct their own church. The building that stands today was remodeled and restored in 1960.

The first map to depict the Mount Carmel Baptist Church is the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. This map shows an unlabeled church on Mulberry Street adjacent to a large building on the corner of the intersection. A 1952 USGS topographic map also depicts the church on Mulberry Street, but not the corner. It is not until 1971 that the church is depicted at its current location, indicating that the 1960 remodeling may actually have been the construction of a new building adjacent to the first. Aerial photographs confirms this.

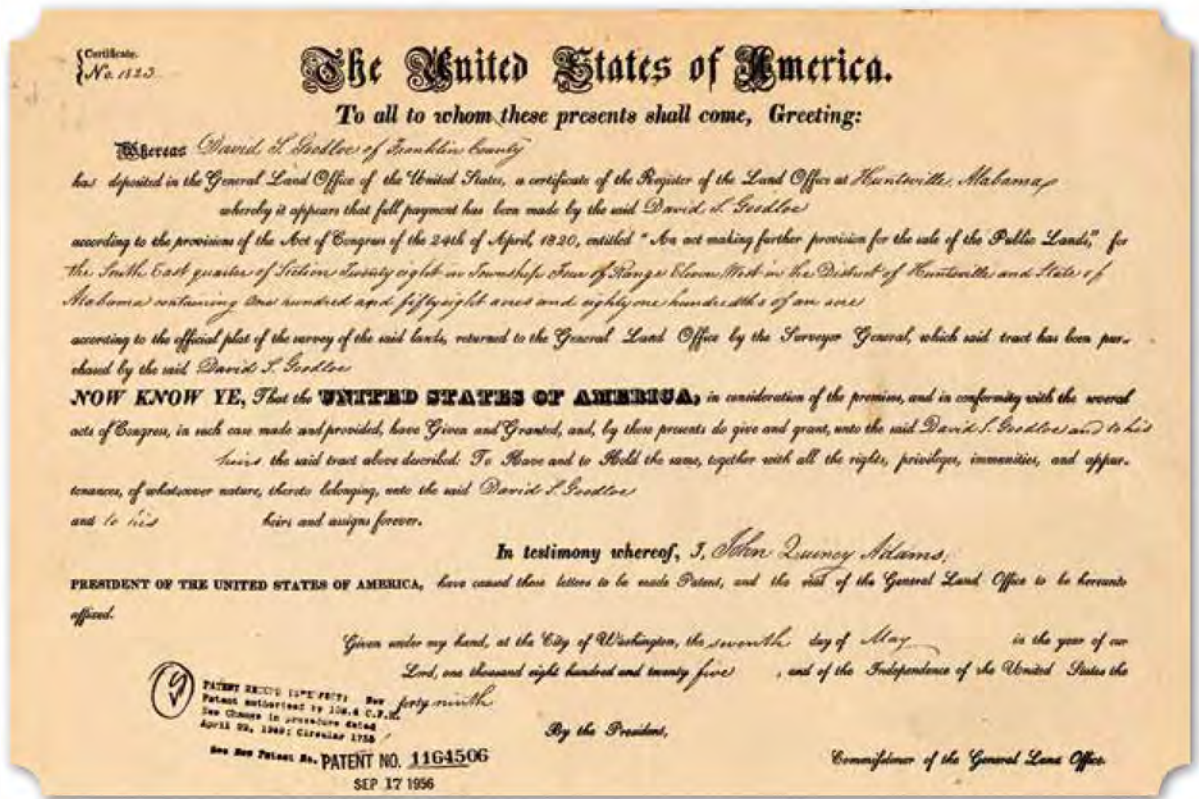
**(Below)** 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Mingo White as a "School House Janitor" and His Daughter, Dora Alice, as a "City School System School Teacher" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**(Opposite Top)** Aerial Photograph of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Opposite Bottom)** Aerial Photograph of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in 1962 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

The second owner of the house was Peter Fontaine Armistead II (1810-1898), who, according to the Alabama Register nomination, most likely gave the plantation the name Melrose. Armistead's family was



**(Above)** 1924 USGS Topographic Map of Melrose, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle **(Below)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Melrose, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle



**(Above)** Excerpt from Original Patent Awarded to David Goodloe for 158 Acres in 1825 (U.S. Bureau of Land Management Database) **(Left)** Land Map Showing Goodloe's 1923 Purchase as Well as Neighboring Fountain Armistead and Isaac Winston land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com. U.S., Indexed Township Plats)



originally from Virginia but had settled in the Florence area some time before. Peter married Mary Susan Winston (1822-1879), daughter of Isaac Winston of Belmont Plantation. Census records detail that Armistead had 21 slaves at Melrose in 1850 and 41 slaves in 1860.

The Armisteads are said to have lived out the rest of their lives at Melrose. After Peter Armistead's death, the house was sold out of the family and soon fell into disrepair. It was added to the Alabama Register

Leaves Blank		Name		Sex		Age		Education		Marriage		Color		Property		Occupation		Remarks								
77		Mingo	White	M		45		3	Common	TT		Same house	No	Yes	-	-	1	45	Janitor	School House	7/40/91	36	270	No	77	
78	16 0 2000			F		16	0					Same house	No	No	No	No	H								No	78
79				F		50			Alabama			Same house	No	No	No	No	H								No	79
80				F		22			Alabama			Same house	No	Yes	-	-		1	30	School Teacher	City School	8/21/12	21	250	No	80

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER



# 21

## Mount New Home Missionary Baptist Church\* and Cemetery and New Found School\*

Located southeast of Leighton along Cottontown Lane in the vicinity of the former Preuit Oaks Plantation, was the Mount New Home Missionary Baptist Church. The church is accompanied by a cemetery, known as the Mount New Home Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, and in the early 20th century by a school known as New Found School. The origins of the church, cemetery, and school are not known. They must predate 1924 when the earliest topographic map depicts all three side-by-side with the cemetery to the west, the school in the middle. And the church to the east. The 1936, the USGS/TVA topographic map

(Below) 1924 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. New Home Church, School, and Cemetery, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle

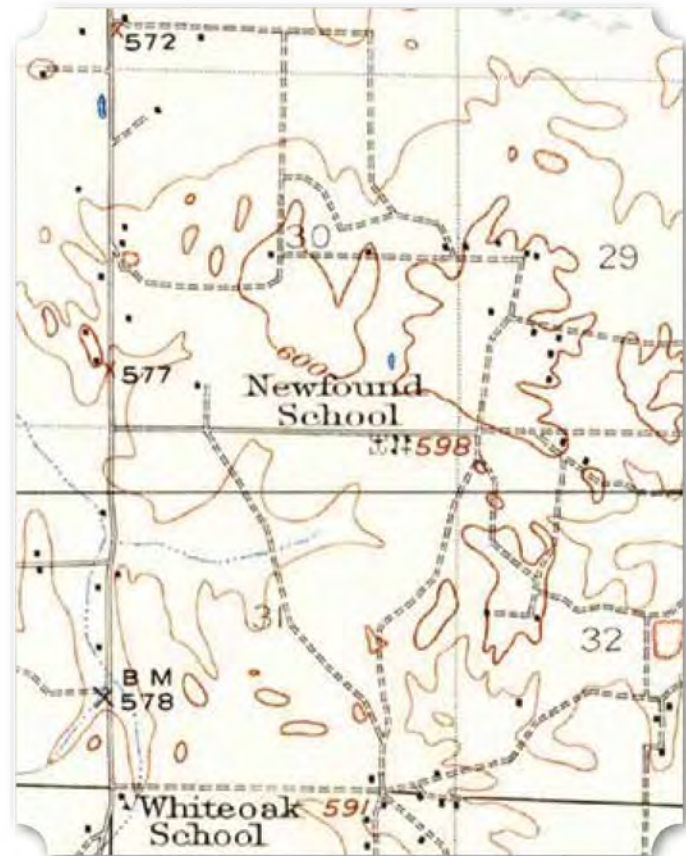


(Top Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. New Home Church and School (Above) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. New Home Church, School, and Cemetery (Left) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. New Home Church and Cemetery, Leighton, Alabama Quadrangle



labels "Newfound" School to the east of the church, but with no cemetery. In 1952, all three are depicted. The cemetery is outlined as being fairly large and the school is labeled as "Mt New Home School." Like many rural African American schools, the Mt New Home School was not mapped in 1971. By that time the school systems had integrated and small schoolhouses were no longer needed. The Mt New Home Church was demolished in 2015.

While the school and church are no longer extant, the cemetery is still active. Although the cemetery has been in use since at least 1924, few burials have been recorded. The earliest recorded grave is that of Private Major S. King (1894-1961), a World War I veteran from Leighton. Other common family names found in this cemetery include Anderson, Bates, Ford, Hampton, and Stanley.

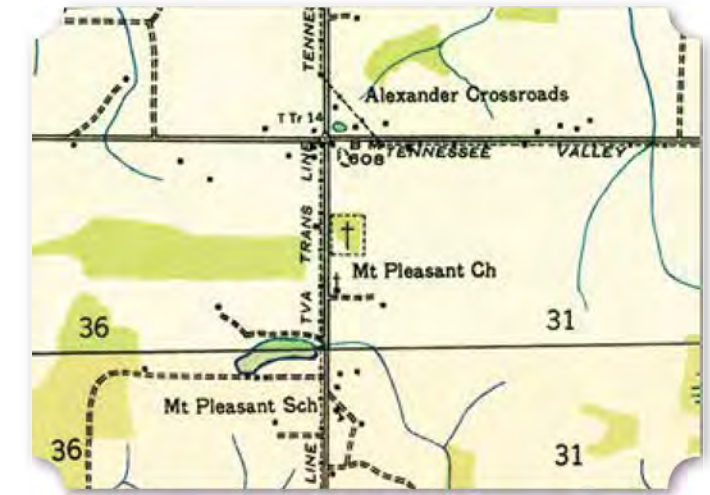
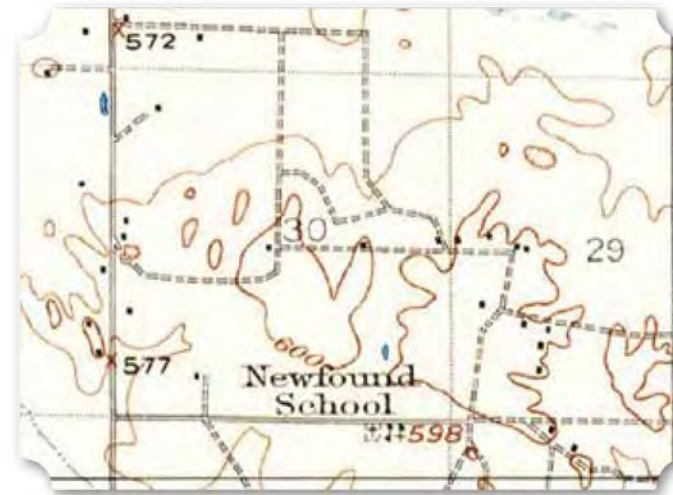


### Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, and School\*

Tracing the location of Mt. Pleasant on historical maps can be difficult due to the ubiquitous naming of things "Mt. Pleasant." The Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, cemetery, and school associated with the African American community is located just south of the intersection of 2nd Street and County Line Road. On the earliest USGS topographic maps from 1914

and 1916, Mt. Pleasant School is identified on the opposite side of County Line Road from an unlabeled church. The 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map names this area "Alexander Crossroads" and clearly depicts the Mt. Pleasant Church and adjacent cemetery. However, the Mt. Pleasant School is no longer across the road, but located to the south, on the east side of County Line Road. This move apparently occurred

(Right) 1914 and 1924 USGS Topographic Maps of Mt. Pleasant Area, Muscle Shoals and Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangles (Far Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Mt. Pleasant Area, Killen and Leighton, Alabama Quadrangles



362	376	Hernathy, Fleming	Head	13 M	Feb 1875	25	16	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	H.A. Farmer	0-0	0	2/10	2/10	2/10	0	2	242
		Laura J.	wife	13 F	July 1875	24	16	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				2/10	2/10	2/10			
		Lucella	Daughter	13 F	Feb 1898	2			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
		Cellustine	Daughter	13 F	Jan 1899	1			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
		Bravooley, Mary	Servant	13 F	Feb 1891	9			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									

43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50													
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0-0	0	2/10	2/10	2/10	0	2	136
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				2/10	2/10	2/10			
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labour			2/10	2/10	2/10			
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labour			No	No	2/10			
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labour			No	No	2/10			
									Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labour			No	No	2/10			

201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

sometime between 1916 and 1924 – when the school appears in this location but is not labeled. This relocation can cause confusion because there are no 1920s maps for the northern portion of this area.

The Mt. Pleasant church, cemetery, and school are present on the 1952/1953 USGS topographic map, which identifies the area as “Underwood Crossroads” – as it is today. By the 1950s, there are three churches along County Line Road named Mt. Pleasant Church. By 1971, the school is no longer labeled; Mt. Pleasant School most likely closed due to integration.

The Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery is located just north of the church. The cemetery has 81 burials on record, although there are doubtless many more graves in the five-acre cemetery that are either not marked or not recorded fully. Interestingly, the two earliest burials on record are those of the infant son of Allen and Annie Abernathy in 1911 – an African American child – and the infant son of Charles and Katie Lou Jordan Harrison in 1913 – a white child. From 1901 to 1968, the state of Alabama’s Constitution mandated that cemeteries be segregated. These two burials indicate at least some integration in the early 20th century occurred. Perhaps with further research it can be determined the full extent of this cemetery’s history.

Those buried at the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery include some local farming landowners. Flem J. Abernathy (1879-1953) owned a farm in the Leighton area in 1900. William (W.) I. Abernathy (1868-1927) owned a farm in the Brick census district to the north from at least 1900 to 1920. His grave monument is a large and impressive obelisk adorned with the symbol of the Free Masons. James H. Bean (1888-1936) grew up on his father’s

**(Opposite Page, Exerpts) (Top)** 1900 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Flem Abernathy Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Middle)** 1900 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Will Abernathy Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** 1910 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Charley Bean Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

farm in Brick – Charley Bean owned his farm from at least 1910 to 1930. James Henry Bean was also a Mason. His son, Walter James Bean (1915-1957) is buried in the cemetery with his father. Walter was a WWII veteran. Lastly, other family names in the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery include Brawley, Eggleston, Jarmon, Koger, Madden, and Stanley.

The Mt. Pleasant School was one of the eight Rosenwald schools in Colbert County. It was an early school built under the instruction of the Tuskegee Institute most likely in the mid-1910s. It was a small, one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse. The school cost a total of \$1,100 to build with \$500 donated from the African American community, \$300 from public funds, and another \$300 from the Rosenwald Fund.

## 23 ■ Muscle Shoals



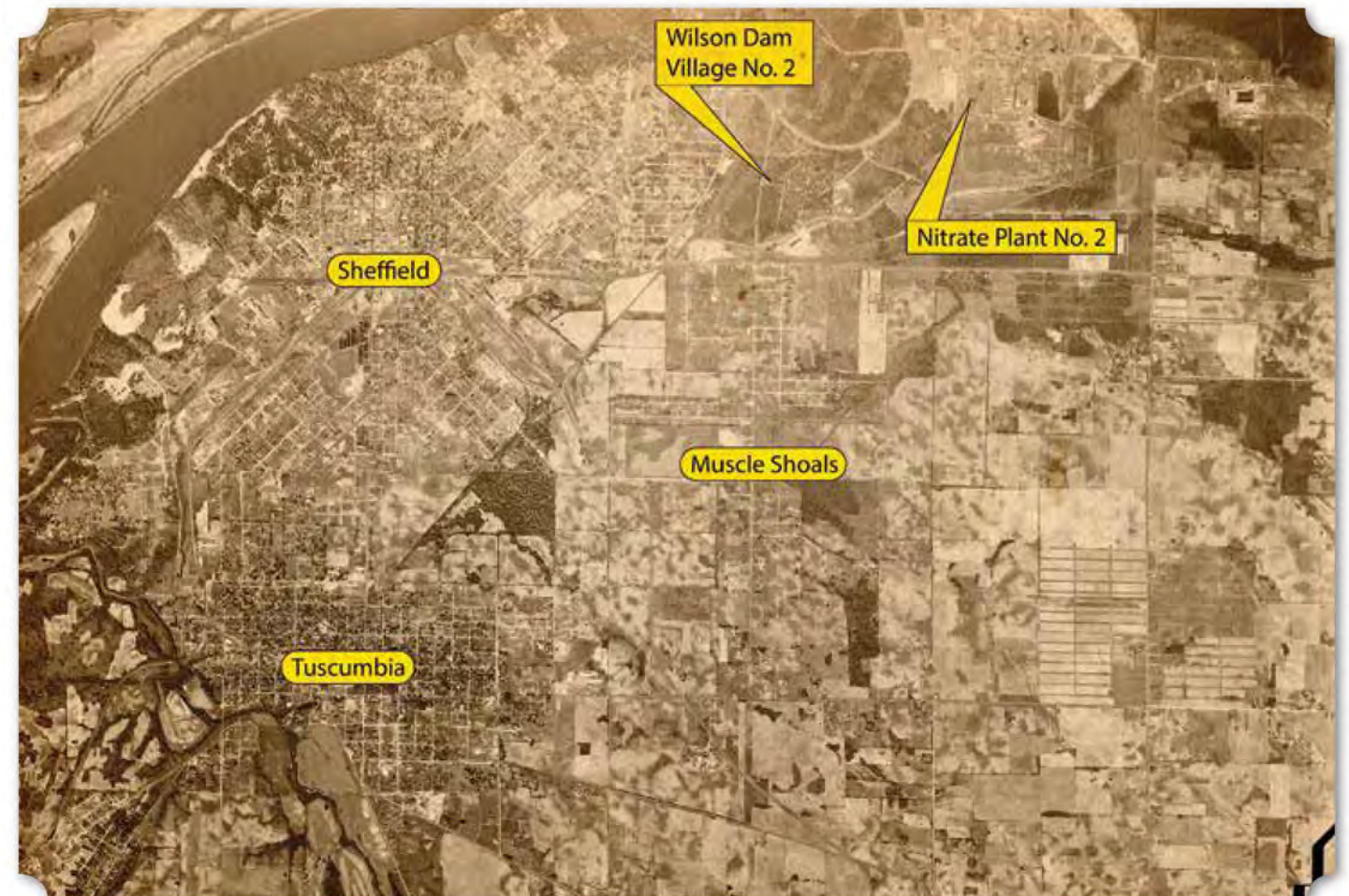
**(Above)** The Sign that Welcomes All to the City of Muscle Shoals (AtlanticRecords.com)

Named for the mussels in the Tennessee River, Muscle Shoals began on the outskirts of Sheffield with the construction of U.S. Nitrate Plant No. 2 and Wilson Dam in 1918. While the plant was created for the war effort, by 1921 the plant was idle and motor giant Henry Ford had plans to buy a large area around the plant and dam and build a “city 75 miles long and employ one million people.” While Ford’s plans never completely came to fruition, a real estate boom

started and many of the cotton fields were bought by developers and transformed into subdivisions. This development continued to expand into the mid-20th century, and soon Muscle Shoals, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield were connected into one large “Tri-City” area.

Muscle Shoals was officially established in 1923 and became known more for industry rather than agriculture. Wilson Dam and the TVA supplied power to large plants like Reynolds Metals, Union Carbide, Diamond Shamrock, and Ford Motor Company. Nonetheless, some of the southern and eastern extents of the area farther away from the Tri-City retains some agriculture. While Muscle Shoals was

**(Below)** Aerial Photograph of the Tri-City Area – Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals – in 1953 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



enumerated as a separate district in the 1920 census, there were no landowners and the majority of those individuals counted were living and/or working at the Nitrate Plant. In 1930, there were 155 households enumerated, 44 (28%) of which were African American. Of these African American households, nine of them were farmers who owned their own land – 20% of the African American community of Muscle Shoals. Four of the households were owned by members of the Pearsall family. By 1940, there were 399 households enumerated in Muscle Shoals. A total of 117 (29%) of these households were African American and 21 of them owned a farm.

Muscle Shoals is known for its rich history of music, the “Muscle Shoals Sound.” Florence native William C. Handy is often credited with beginning a musical revolution when he popularized a sound that combined African American traditional, spiritual songs with secular tones to create the Blues. There

were several Shoals natives that contributed to the "Sound," such as Percy Sledge. The sound eventually went on to influence many great American and British artists such as Chuck Berry and the Beatles.

**(Below)** Percy Sledge, 1960s (Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives) **(Right)** FAME Recording Studios, 2010, Photographer Carol M. Highsmith (Library of Congress)



**Florence Alabama Music Enterprises (FAME)**

Several recording studios emerged in Muscle Shoals and the Quad City area, one of which was Florence Alabama Music Enterprises, later to be known simply as FAME Recording Studios. Established in 1961 by Rick Hall, FAME had its beginnings across the river in Florence where Hall partnered with Tom Stafford who owned Stafford Producing and Recording (SPAR). Despite some success, Hall eventually set out on his own in Muscle Shoals where he found greater success in Arthur Alexander's "You Better Move On," which allowed him the funds to buy the now-

famous studio. In the early years, FAME recorded and released musical artists such as Jimmy Hughes, cousin of Percy Sledge, who wrote and sang "Steal Away;" Aretha Franklin, who recorded "I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)" in 1967; Clarence Carter, a Montgomery native who sang "Slip Away" in 1968; and Etta James' "Tell Mama" that same year. African American artists from all over began to come to Muscle Shoals to get in on the Sound from Little Richard, to Otis Redding to Wilson Pickett

**(Below)** The Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, 2010, Photographer Carol M. Highsmith (Library of Congress)



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
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- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Above) Studio at 3614 Jackson Highway, 2010. Photographer Carol M. Highsmith (Library of Congress)

and B. B. King. FAME is significant for the numerous African American artists who would have their own music recorded and produced at FAME through the 1960s and 1970s. While the studio does not produce exclusively African American musicians, it certainly has helped to solidify the legacy of many African American artists, who in turn have shaped and solidified the fame of FAME Recording Studios.

**Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (MSSS)**

The vocal artists at FAME were usually backed by the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section (MSRS), founded in 1959 by Rick Hall and former partners Billy Sherrill and Tom Stafford. The MSRS provided the music for many of the vocal artists and were talented in pop, rock, blues, soul, and country music. In 1969, four men of MSRS went out on their own to open a studio at 3614 North Jackson Highway, known as the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (MSSS) – technically in nearby Sheffield today. One of the first songs produced at the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio was R. B. Greaves “Take a Letter Maria,” which hit number two on the Billboard Chart in 1969 and earned a gold record. From 1969 and 1978, the MSRS continued to work with African American artists and producers in defiance of Southern racial relations to create the “Sound.”

While the MSRS and the MSSS were not the first to create and record the “Muscle Shoals Sound,” the studio and its collaborators did much to promote the

unique style by deliberately naming their enterprise for the Muscle Shoals area in a time when regional independent recording styles were at a peak. In an effort to distinguish themselves from FAME and claim intellectual property over the “Sound,” MSSS began to attract artists who performed the rhythm and blues.

The original MSSS building at 3614 Jackson Highway was added to the National Register of Historic Places

in 2006. The MSRS moved from that location in 1978 and built a new studio in Sheffield. The old studio was purchased in the early 2000s and is operational again.

**WLAY-AM**

Also, in the realm of music, the WLAY-AM radio station broadcasted on 1450-AM in the Shoals area from 1933 to 2014. Originally, the station aired a

mix of gospel, country, and African American artists, which was refer to as “race music” at the time. WLAY became known for its open acceptance of music performed by white and African American artists. Renowned record producer, Sam Phillips of Florence, was a DJ and radio engineer at WLAY in the early 1940s. Because of this “open format” his career and success would continue to promote the “Muscle Shoals Sound” and African American artists

at radio stations across the South. WLAY was often the first to play many of the records produced at the sound studios of the Shoals. Producer Quin Ivy, owner of NORALA Recording Studios and Quinvy Studios, was a DJ at WLAY before striking out on his own and finding a big hit in African American singer Percy Sledge.

The station was located on Second Street in Muscle Shoals at the height of its success and influence. In 2007, the Alabama Historical Commission deemed it a Historic Landmark, however, WLAY ceased broadcasting in 2014 and now the original studio is on exhibit at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

**U.S. NITRATE PLANT No. 2  
MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA**

**REGIONAL MAP**  
**VICINITY MAP**  
**SITE MAP**

*U.S.N.P. No. 2 c. 1936*  
*Based on a Photograph from TVA Special Report #66 A*

*U.S.N.P. No. 2 stands today only as a shell of its original industrial grandeur. One of the largest collections of equipment ever assembled for the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen has since been removed, scrapped, or buried.*

*This recording project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long range program to document the engineering, industrial, and transportation heritage of the United States. The HAER program is administered by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record Division (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Tennessee Valley Authority-Muscle Shoals Recording Project was cosponsored during the summer of 1994 by HAER under the general direction of Robert J. Kasoch, Chief of HABS/HAER and by the Tennessee Valley Authority with the assistance of Charles Tichy, Historic Architect and the staff of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Environmental Research Center, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.*

*The field work, measured drawings, historical report and photographs were prepared under the direction of Eric N. DeLony, Chief of HAER and Project Leader; Richard O'Connor, Project Historian; Jet Lowe, HAER Photographer; and Craig N. Strong, Project Architect. The recording team consisted of Tom Behrens, Field Supervisor; Baliza Krikovszky (ICOMOS) and Sergio Sanchez, Architects; Brian F. Coffey, Historian; and Susie B. Leong, Illustrator.*

(Left) United States Nitrate Plant No. 2, Reservation Road, Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama, Thomas M. Behrens - Creator, 1994 (Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress)



(Above) Aerial Photograph of Wilson Dam Village #2, Muscle Shoals, 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

#### The TVA in Muscle Shoals

Besides music, the Shoals area is also known for work completed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), including the Wilson Dam, U.S. Nitrate Plants, and the worker villages that accompanied TVA projects. The TVA was tasked, among other things, to mine the mineral deposits. The minerals found in the valley are useful for the manufacture of fertilizers, which were essential in reviving the depleted topsoil of agricultural fields, increasing crop production. The nitrate plants were supported by villages specially constructed to house workers for the dam and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The construction of Wilson Dam was prompted by World War I, and the nitrate plants began in 1918. The valley's minerals were used to produce nitrate, needed



(Above) Wilson Village #2, Homes, 1937; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta (Right) An Advertisement for Shoals City, which May Have Been Wilson Dam Village #2 or Another Proposed Town near Muscle Shoals' U.S.N.P.#2 (Florence Times, Friday, September 6, 1918)



(Above) Community Buildings at Wilson Village #2, 1937  
(Below) A Typical Garage at Wilson Village #2, 1937 (National Archives and Records Administration)



for explosives for the war effort. The war was quickly concluded and the U.S. Nitrate Plant No. 2 (U.S.N.P.#2) – on the east side of Sheffield, to the north of Muscle Shoals – sat idle until 1933 when it was turned over to the TVA. The TVA used the plant for the production of fertilizers with the objective of helping farmers with depleted soils.

The plant also prompted the building of workers' housing. What was called Wilson Dam Village No. 2 accompanied the plant at the northeast corner of present-day 2nd Street and Woodward Avenue. The village had approximately 160 houses in a two-part neighborhood plan. With both the Great Depression and World War II over, the village was no longer needed and by the 1950s, it no longer existed. Some of the paved streets of Village No. 2 are still visible in current aerial photographs.

**SHOALS CITY**  
**OUR NEW TOWN**  
 FOR  
**Colored People**  
 Two Hundred Beautiful Lots Located  
 Near No. 2 Nitrate Plant  
 Muscle Shoals

Buy now; the opportunity is offered you today and is knocking at your door. The best chance and the best property without a doubt that has ever been offered you. Located right in the richest district in America. All big lots, 50x140 each, except business lots.

**Price, \$150 and Up**  
 Terms, \$30 Cash and \$15 per month;  
 no interest, no taxes until paid for.

"A well-placed investment is sometimes worth a lifetime of labor."  
 Booker T. Washington advised his people in every speech he made to own Real Estate in order to be a good citizen.

We Want Some Live Agents to Help Sell These Lots

**Tyler Realty Co.**  
 Office, 105 East Third Street  
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 SHEFFIELD ALABAMA

#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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A photograph of Paul and Lincoln Johnson, brothers who worked at the U.S.N.P #2, often emerges when looking for African American workers for the TVA in the Shoals. The caption for this photograph reads: "Paul Johnson, of Tuscumbia, has progressed since 1935 through six classifications to carbide-handling foreman at the TVA nitrate plant. He is the first negro to have this job. He is chairman of the negro auxiliary of the Operating Engineers' Union (AFL). Lincoln C. Johnson, also of Tuscumbia, Paul Johnson's brother, has risen from concrete laborer to sub-labor foreman. He is vice president of the Hod Carriers' Union (AFL). Both have excellent attendance records at the nitrate plant."

The 1940 federal census confirms that Paul Johnson is a 26-year-old living with his wife on Mulberry Street in southeast Tuscumbia. He and Sallie Mae rent a house; he is noted as a foreman for the TVA and she owns a beauty salon. Lincoln Johnson is L. C. Johnson on the 1940 census. He is 30-years-old and rents a house with his wife, Louise. The census only states that he works for TVA, but neglects to mention a position. The Johnson brothers grew up with a large family on a farm on 6th Street in Tuscumbia. Their parents, Clement and Bettie Johnson owned their farm since at least 1910 to 1940, although his father no longer farmed the land by 1930, but most likely rented it out.



**(Above)** Paul Johnson and His Brother, Lincoln. Nitrate Negatives. Circa 1942. Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta. **(Below)** 1920 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Johnson Brothers in the Household of Their Father, Clemmons Johnson, Who Owned a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Paul Johnson as "Tennessee Valley Authority Foreman" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

53	1089	10	15	Clemmons Johnson	Head	M	13	44	no	yes	Alabama	Mississippi	Mississippi	yes	Home	Home	00	11	02
54				Bettie C	Wife	F	13	43	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				53
55				Allice S	Daughter	F	13	19	3	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				54
56				John A	Son	M	13	17	9	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				55
57				Willie B	Daughter	F	13	14	3	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				56
58				Lillie C	Son	M	13	10	3	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				57
59				Paul F	Son	M	13	5	3	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home				58

39	508	1273	7	Johnson, Paul	Head	M	26	46	M	4-4	Alabama	Some place	No	Yes	-	-	-	40	Foreman	Tennessee Valley	610	16	07	52	1620	No	39
40				Sallie Mae	Wife	F	24	54	M	10-1	Alabama		No	Yes	-	-	-	24	Beauty Specialist	Clanet	700	07	52		No	40	

**KEY**

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- OTHER

## 24 ■ North Alabama Recording Studios (NORALA)

Quin Ivy, music producer and owner of NORALA and Quinvy Studios, began as a record store owner and WLAY DJ. He established North Alabama Recording Studios (NORALA) in Sheffield on 2nd Street in 1965. One of Ivy's first and biggest stars was Percy Sledge, a young African American hospital orderly from Leighton. It was at Ivy's studio in 1966 that Sledge recorded the hit "When A Man Loves A Woman." Once Ivy shared the recording with Rick Hall of FAME Recording Studios, connections were made with Atlantic Records. The song ended up #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Sledge made Ivy so successful, that he was able to upgrade his studios

from the egg carton-lined NORALA to a full-equipped studio by 1968.

He named this new studio Quinvy. NORALA no longer stands, but an Alabama Historical Society marker is near the site.



**(Left)** A Label for a Vinyl Record Produced by NORALA (Roots of American Music Trail, Musictrail.una.edu)

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource





**(Above)** Quin Ivy Stands in Front of the Newly Unveiled Historic Marker Commemorating NORALA, Quinvy Studios, and His Work. On the Reverse Side is a Tribute to Percy Sledge and the Song "When a Man Loves a Woman," 2014 (*Times Daily*, September 30, 2014 – Jim Hannon)



**(Above)** Slave Cabin at The Oaks, 1933 (Library of Congress) **(Right)** Old Slave Kitchen next to The Oaks, 1976 (National Register of Historic Places Nomination)

## 25 ■ The Oaks Plantation

The Oaks Plantation, also referred to as Abraham Ricks Plantation for its owner, is located southwest of Leighton along Ricks Lane. Abraham Ricks (1791-1852) was originally from Halifax, North Carolina. He, his

family, and his slaves moved to then-Franklin County in the early 1820s. Ricks first purchased a large plantation known as Cotton Garden but he quickly sold it in 1826 in favor of what would become The Oaks. When Ricks purchased the property, there was already a log house on site. The family moved into the log house while a large addition was added – as a whole this became the manor at The Oaks, which still

**(Below)** 1860 Non-Population, Agricultural Census Showing Abraham Ricks Owning 2600 Acres of Land and Wife, Charlotte, Owning Another 660 Acres of Land with a Combined Value of over \$55,000 (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

stands today. The manor took two years to build and was completed by 1832.

The Oaks Plantation grew to be one of the largest in Franklin/Colbert County. According to the National Register nomination, by the time Abraham Ricks died in 1852, he owned several thousand acres of land and over 300 slaves. The census and slave schedules record Ricks owning 49 slaves in 1830 and 104 slaves in 1840. By 1850, Abraham Ricks' real estate



38	Machine Shop	600	360	25,000	500	10	10	10	10	10	100	1400	70	6000	400	70	60	38	
39	Charlotte B Ricks	510	150	13,320	200	4	7	5	4	8	40	100	1400	70	6000	400	70	60	39
40	Abraham Ricks	1600	1000	42,000	300	8	25	10	8	20	80	200	3675	60	10,000	1200	130	120	40



was valued at \$55,000 and he owned 208 slaves. After his death, he passed some of his wealth to his widow, Charlotte Bryan Fort Ricks (1795-1874) and to his youngest son, Abraham Ricks, Jr. (1825-1878). The 1860 agricultural census recorded Abraham, Jr. owning 44,900 acres of land, which among other things produced 10,000 acres of corn and 52,000 lbs. of cotton. Mrs. Ricks owned 56 slaves that year and Abraham, Jr. owned 19 slaves.

The manor was documented for the Historic American Buildings Survey (AL-362) in 1935. At the time, the house was vacant and in disrepair, however, an old slave cabin was still standing. The house stayed in the Ricks family until 1966 when it was sold to William Kimbrough who restored it. It was added to the National Register for Historic Places (#76000319) in 1976. At that time, the old kitchen with a stone chimney was still intact. Sometime in the 1980s or 1990s, an addition was added to the west side of the house where the kitchen once stood.

Just south of The Oaks Plantation, but not part of the NRHP property, is the Ricks Church, or Church of Christ. This church is said to have been established by Abraham Ricks or his son in the mid-19th century for the slaves or former slaves of the Ricks' plantation. The church also held classes for African American children in the late 19th and early 20th century, known as The Oaks (School).

The Catholic churches of the Shoals have a shared history. Our Lady of Grace, at first referred to as Our Lady's Mission, began across the river in Florence. According to Dr. Suzanne Thurman Makowski in her work, *One Hundred Years of Work and Prayer: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Florence, Alabama 1898-1998*, "During the early war years [of World War II], Rev. Isadore Fussnecker's work was part of the broader attempt of the Catholic Church to reach out to non-white Catholics in response to a 1936 letter from the Sacred Consistorial Congregation encouraging the establishment of more 'Colored Missions' in the United States. American bishops took this admonition to heart, and in 1941 'an intense program on behalf of the Negroes [was] undertaken by' the Bishop of Mobile, Thomas Toolen, D. D., whose diocese [had] 29 'Colored Missions' at the beginning of the year."

The first Catholic church of people of color in the Shoals area was in Florence and was founded between 1945 and 1955 by Father Isadore. Prominent African American entrepreneur and businesswoman, Ms. Bessie Rapier Foster (1882-1963), lent assistance

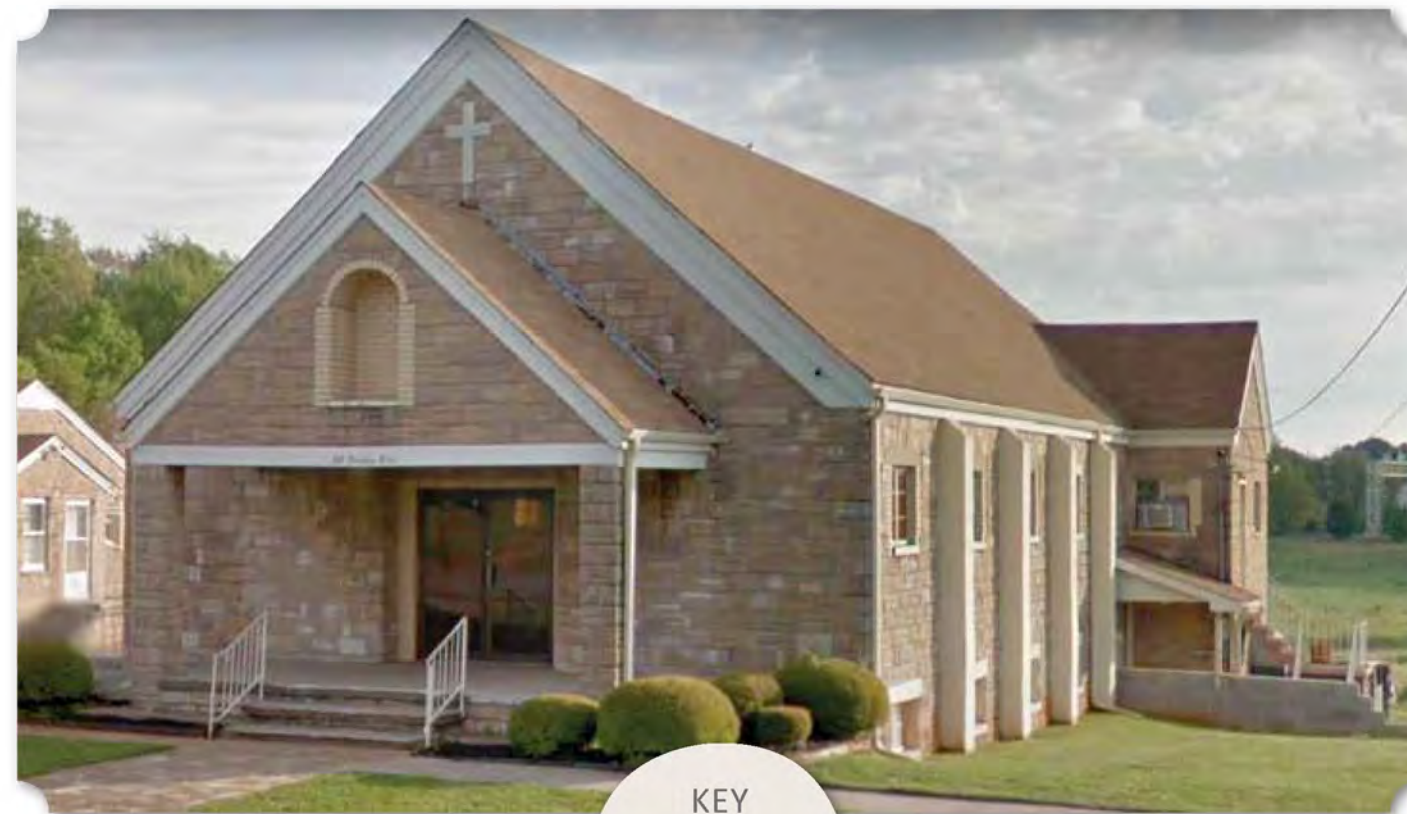


(Above) Photograph of the Interior of Our Lady of Grace Church when it Served the Catholic Church ([www.ourladyoftheshoals.org](http://www.ourladyoftheshoals.org)) (Below) Present-day Sterling Boulevard Church of Christ, Formerly, Our Lady of Grace (Google Street View, April 2014)

to this mission's founding. By 1959, the mission moved south to Sheffield. The church that stands on 19th Street, was built by Father Germaine Taylor with help from the Catholic Church Extension Society and Cardinal Cushing. The community raised money for the new church, the biggest contribution came from W. C. Handy, Florence's most renown Blues musician. Handy put on a benefit concert on Sunday June 12, 1949 at the Princess Theatre in Florence – built in 1928 and partly owned by Louis Rosenbaum. A total of \$11,000 was raised by the crowd that came from all over North Alabama. The official groundbreaking was attended by several Tri-City families, both white and of color.

The mission was short lived however. Once Father Germaine passed away in 1959, the parish was served by Father Brice Joyce, who stayed from 1960 to 1967. Afterwards, the members of Our Lady of Grace joined with Our Lady of the Shoals in Tusculmbia. The church building was sold and it is now Sterling Boulevard Church of Christ.

(Below) Photograph of Father Germaine Blessing the Cornerstone of Our Lady of Grace ([www.ourladyoftheshoals.org](http://www.ourladyoftheshoals.org))



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER



## 26 ■ Our Lady of Grace

One thing you might not expect to find in the "Baptist Bottom" of Sheffield is a Catholic church. Contrary to much of the history of Alabama, and as noted previously, the Shoals were first settled by the French – most of whom were Catholic. As the Tri-Cities grew, a significant portion of the communities remained Catholic and had an active role in the creation of parishes and missions. The short-lived Our Lady of Grace was once located on the southern end of Sterling Boulevard, or 19th Street.

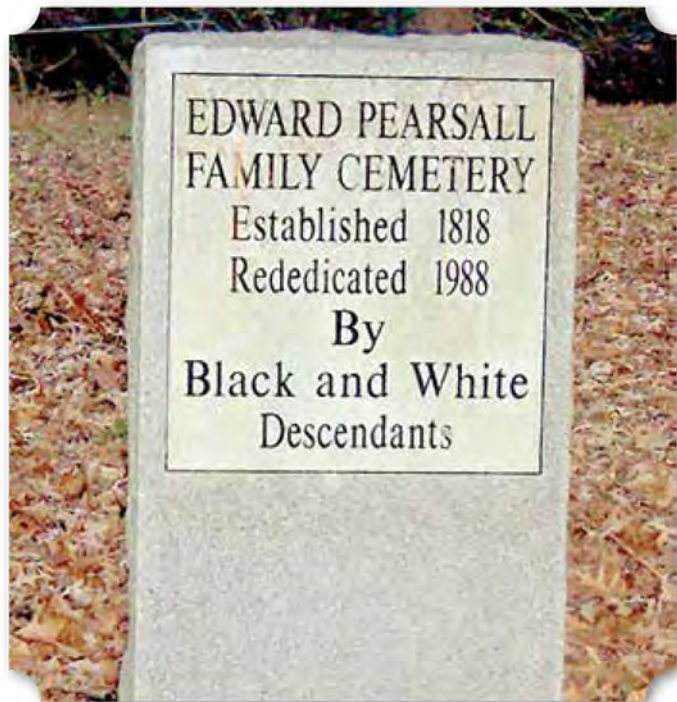
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

## Pearsall Cemetery

The Pearsall Cemetery contains the graves of black and white descendants of Edward Pearsall (1785-1853). Pearsall, originally from North Carolina, came to North Alabama by 1840 when he and his household of nine others were recorded on the census for Franklin County. That year Pearsall owned 47 slaves. By 1850, Pearsall owned a total of 62 slaves. After Edward Pearsall passed away in 1853, his estate appears to have been divided among his family. The 1860 slave schedule records his wife, P. (Parthenia), with 16 slaves; his son, N. G. (Nathan Gregg) with 5 slaves; and daughter, Mary A., with 12 slaves. Whether the Pearsall descendants of color are biologically related to Edward Pearsall is not clear.

While the cemetery was established by at least 1842 with the burial of Sarah Pearsall Gregg (1795-1842), Edward's sister, the large cemetery most likely has many unmarked graves. According to a sign posted

**(Below)** Monument Placed at the Edward Pearsall Family Cemetery (Findagrave.com via User Kemu, 2009)



outside the cemetery, the Pearsall Cemetery was active until 1900 before the grounds went unused for several decades. In 1988, the cemetery was rededicated and interments resumed. The majority of the more recent interments are from the African American community.

While few of the burials are properly recorded, one descendant, Sam Pearsall (1891-1968), grew up on a farm in Sheffield that his father and mother, Sampson and Henrietta Fitzgerald Pearsall operated, in 1920. By 1930, Sam and his wife, Ophelia, owned a farm in the Muscle Shoals area. Other surnames included at this cemetery include Burns, Burt, Hale, Horrison, and Mayes.

The Pearsall Cemetery is located on the west side of Ford Road north of 2nd Street in northeast Muscle Shoals in an area called Listerhill. The 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map is the earliest map to record the Pearsall Cemetery as a small plot. The 1953 USGS topographic map is the first to label "Pearsall Cem."

## Preuit Oaks Plantation

The Preuit Oaks Plantation is located to the southeast of Leighton on the east side of County Line Road in what used to be Lawrence County. This area, known as the "Town Creek Triangle," was prized for its levelness making it prime cropland. The land of Preuit Oaks was originally owned by Aldridge Myatt, whose daughter, Mary Curtis Myatt married a wealthy planter in 1833 named Dr. John S. Napier (1817-1889). The Napiers most likely built the 1847 plantation house which was purchased in the 1850s by William Richard Preuit (1808-1882) of North Carolina.

William Preuit is difficult to locate on the federal census, possibly due to the various spellings of Preuit. According to the National Register nomination, Preuit's real estate was valued at over \$15,000 in 1850. A decade later, Preuit Oaks produced 600 bales of cotton on 1,500 acres with 66 slaves. By the time

Preuit passed away in 1882, his estate was pared down to 400 acres, which he passed on to his son, P. Pryor Preuit.

The plantation was included in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1978 and in the National Register for Historic Places (NRHP) in 1986. The NRHP nomination describes how the significance of Preuit Oaks is centered on the completeness of the plantation complex, which demonstrated the self-sufficiency of an isolated plantation. In 1986, the plantation house, ten supporting wooden structures, a family cemetery, and a slave cemetery survived. The outbuildings included a circa 1850 slave house and a cook's house, which was most likely used by a slave or former slave. The slave cemetery was not mentioned in the Alabama Register nomination form.

Many of the outbuildings are no longer present at Preuit Oaks. The slave cabin was demolished sometime in the early 2000s. Although the family

cemetery is marked on topographic maps, recorded on Findagrave.com, and easily identifiable from aerial images, the slave cemetery is the only cemetery recorded in the National Register nomination. The slave cemetery is briefly mentioned in the text and included on the sketch drawing, however, there were no photographs of the slave cemetery. It is not noticeable on aerial views, although it may be located within the wooded areas.

The main house, some of the outbuildings, and sense of the changing landscape can be gleaned from the topographical maps. Preuit Oaks is depicted on the 1924, 1936, 1952, and 1971 USGS/TVA maps. The plantation is located in close proximity of Mount New Home Church, cemetery, and a former school for the African American community.

**(Below)** The Kitchen at Preuit Oaks Plantation, 1986 (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form)



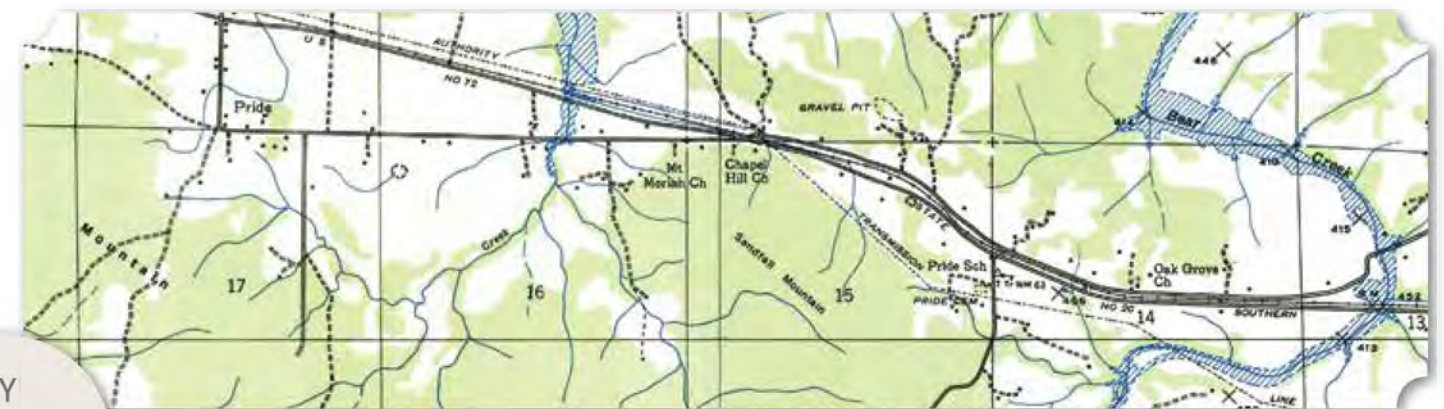
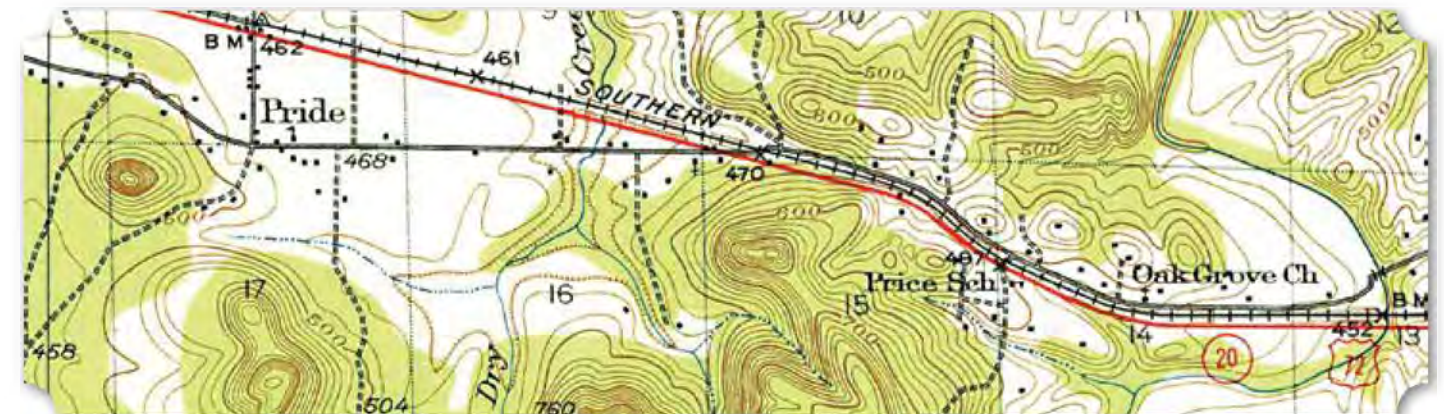


**(Left)** The Slave House and Pond at Preuit Oaks Plantation, 1986 (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form) **(Bottom Left)** The Slave House Turned Tenant House at Preuit Oaks Plantation, 1986 (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form)

## 29 ■ Pride School\*

Pride School was a rural African American schoolhouse located on the east side of Hawk Pride Mountain Road, south of Lee Highway, about 2.5 miles east of the community of Pride. The earliest topographic map of the area is from 1925, which labels the school "Price School." This spelling mistake is corrected the following year. However, the Pride School is not depicted on the 1954 USGS topographic map. According to the historical marker for Cherokee

**(Below)** 1925 USGS Topographic Map of Pride, Barton, Alabama Quadrangle **(Bottom)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Pride, Pride, Alabama Quadrangle



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

High School, Pride School was one of several smaller grammar schools that matriculated into Cherokee School.

## 30 ■ Ritz Theatre

Located on 3rd Street and Montgomery Avenue in downtown Sheffield is the Ritz Theatre. Opened in the summer of 1928, the theatre was one of several owned by Jewish business owner, Louis Rosenbaum. A Polish immigrant, Rosenbaum moved to Florence with his family in 1919. The Rosenbaums had one son, Stanley, who grew up in Florence and is known for his Usonian house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. According to an oral history given by Ms. Anita Cobb of Lauderdale County, the Jewish community was important to the well-being of the African American community. Ms. Cobb refers to leaders of the African American community meeting at "the Rosenbaum house" during the Civil Rights Movement.

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



Like all public spaces in the first half of the 20th century, which allowed people of color, the Ritz Theatre was segregated. It could seat some 680-plus guests with 110 of those seats reserved only for people of color in a section upstairs. Since the theatre went out of business in 1951, the segregated sections remained the whole time it was a movie theatre. It was several decades before the Tennessee Valley Arts Association purchased the theatre and reopened it for local plays and concerts.

**(Left)** Photograph of the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield, Alabama in 1939 (jonathanrosenbaum.net) **(Below)** The Ritz Theatre, Sheffield, Alabama, 2010 (Library of Congress)



# 31 ■

## St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church is located in east Tuscumbia on the southwest corner of 4th and Washington streets. It can be easily confused with the Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in southwest Florence, across the river in Lauderdale County. While more history is known about the St. Paul AME in Florence, the two appear to be related as they share a name and similar signage. The establishment date of the Tuscumbia St. Paul AME Church is not clear, however, it is depicted on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Tuscumbia as "M. E. Church Colored." According to this map, the building was wooden and had the characteristic double, square towers common on other historical AME churches. In a historic aerial photograph from

**(Below)** Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama, 1921, Showing Saint Paul AME Church as "M.E. Church Colored." (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Top Right)** Aerial Photograph of Saint Paul AME Church in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Right)** Aerial Photograph of Saint Paul AME Church in 1962 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



1949, the church appears to have the double towers. The current building is brick veneer with a gabled roof and no towers. The house depicted just south of the church is now attached to the extended church building. The building may have been remodeled or replaced in the mid-20th century.

## 32

### St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, & School (Rosenwald)\*

St. Paul, or St. Paul's, Missionary Baptist Church is located just under 5 miles south of Muscle Shoals near the former Melrose Plantation, east of Cook Lane. The church was founded in 1891 along with an adjacent cemetery and a school in the early 20th century. The St. Paul School was one of eight Rosenwald schools in Colbert County. It was a one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse built in 1925. The school cost a total of \$2,000 to build using funds gathered from the community - \$1,150 from the African American community, \$450 from public county funds, and \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund. The school building was insured for a total of \$1,350. It was in use from 1925 to about 1970.

The St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery was most likely established at the turn of the 20th century alongside the church. The one-acre cemetery is immediately in front of the church to the west and certainly contains more than the 19 graves on record. The earliest recorded grave is that of Sallie Beulah Nolan (1907-1970), but most are from the current century. According to a local historian, several of the early unmarked graves are known to the church members and are filled in as needed. Common surnames buried here include Belue, Byrd, Freedman, Hillman, and Winston. Belue is very common, most

likely descendants of the slaves of the Belues as this area was once known as Beluetown before the Civil War.

The church first appears unlabeled on the 1926 USGS topographic map. By 1936, the USGS/TVA topographic map clearly labels the St. Paul School as a separate building from the adjacent church and cemetery. However, like most rural African American schoolhouses, the St. Paul School is no longer in use since 1971 although the building survived for some time after.

## 33

### Shady Dell (Dr. A. W. Davis House)

The name "SHADY DELL" is neatly inscribed into the concrete step leading to the circa 1920 Tuscumbia home of Dr. Arthur W. Davis, the first African American physician in northwest Alabama. Dr. Davis' parents, Hannibal and Mary Davis, both most likely born slaves in the 1850s, were from Perry, Alabama. His father is listed a carpenter on the 1880 census. By 1900, Dr. Davis was still living with his parents in Perry and working as a teacher. In the following years he moved to the Tuscumbia area, where he presumably meet his wife, Hattie L. Jackson, of Tuscumbia. They married in 1906.

By 1910, Arthur Davis is recorded to be a doctor living with his wife and young daughter, Sadie, on Washington Street. The 1920 census for Tuscumbia was recorded in January of that year. By then, the Davis family had already moved into their home at 606 8th Street – Shady Dell. Dr. Davis passed away in January of 1941. The Dutch Colonial Revivalist home Davis built in southeast Tuscumbia in a historically African American neighborhood still stands but is in dire need of preservation.



(Below) 1920 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Arthur W. Davis as "Physician" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(Above) Aerial Photograph of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, and School, 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

8	606/155217	Davis	Arthur W	Head	DF	M	19	44	7m		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	42	Physician	60
			Hattie J.	Wife		F	36	36	7m		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	42	None	
			Sadie	Daughter		F	13	3	7m		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	42	None	

#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Above) Photograph of Shady Dell, 2015 (Sam Keiser, University of North Alabama via Omeka at Auburn)

In the latter half of the 19th century, the town grew through industry. The Sheffield Land, Iron, and Coal Company was started in 1883 with intentions to create a competitive industrial city. Sheffield was incorporated in 1885 and named after the city in

(Below) 1952/57 Topographic Maps of Southeast Sheffield, Florence and Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangles (Bottom) 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Southeast Sheffield, Florence and Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangles

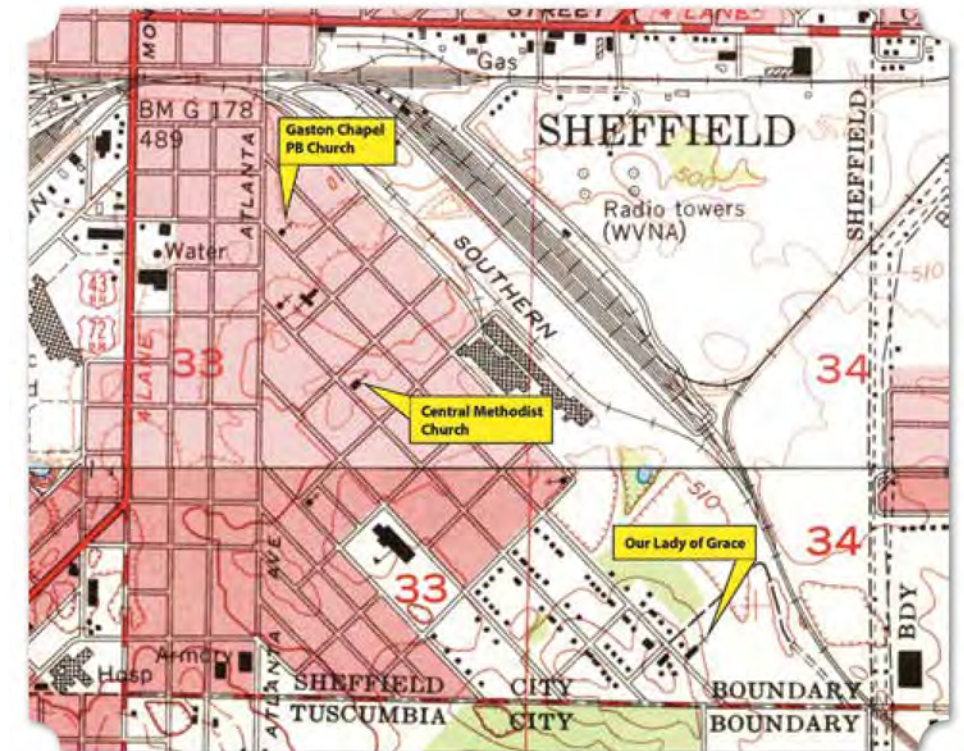
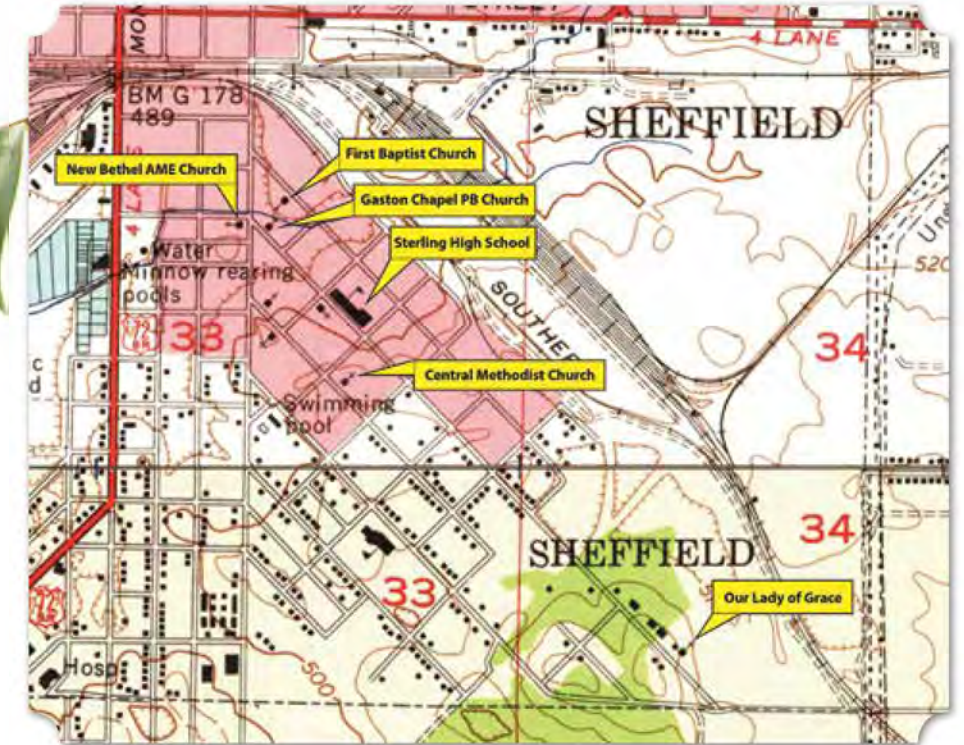
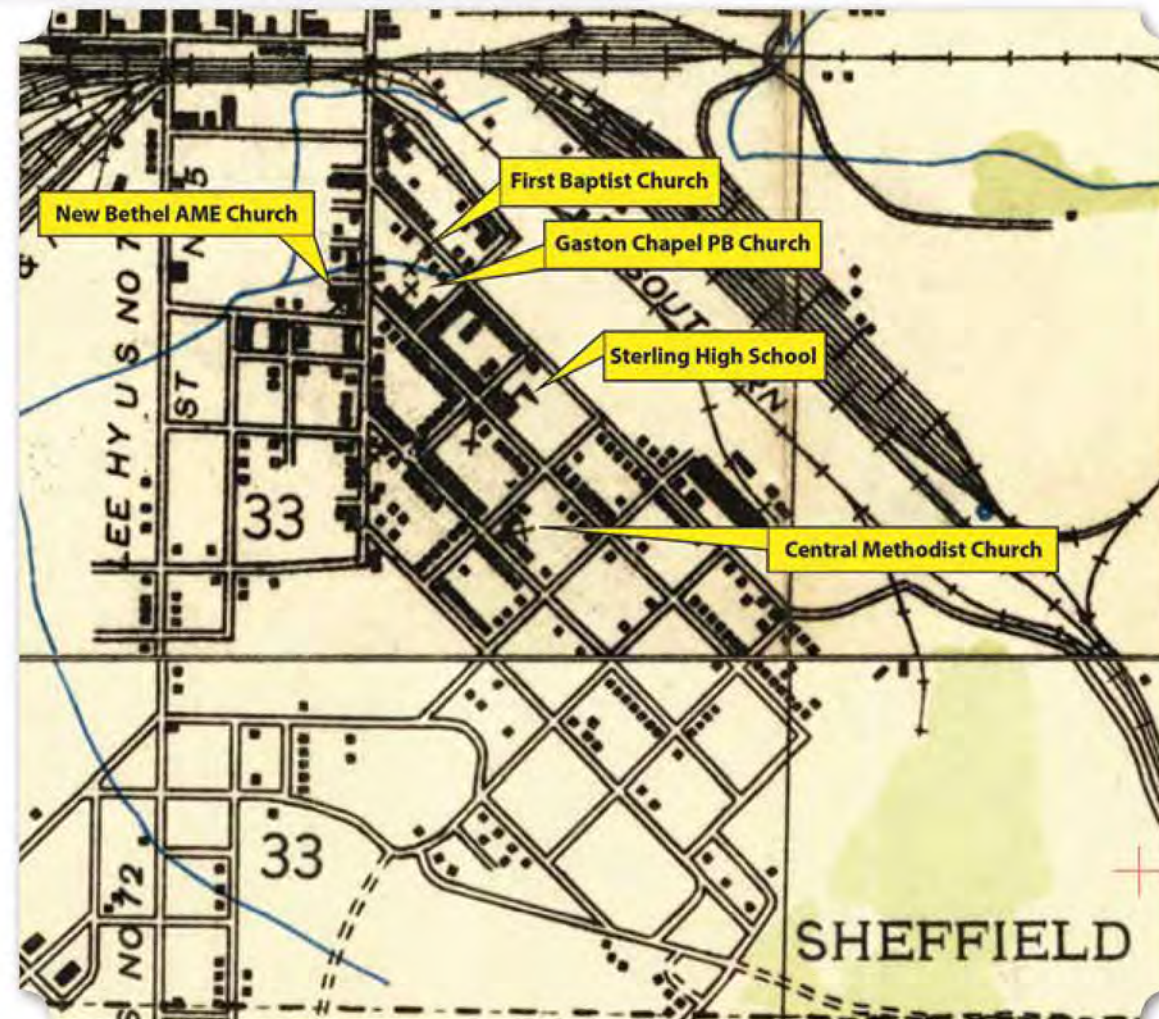


# 34

Sheffield

Sheffield has a history longer than the state of Alabama. This area has long been used as a ford and landing for the Tennessee River. The first Europeans to settle the area were French in the 1780s. Forty years later, the town of York Bluff was laid out and plantation owners from the eastern U.S. began to buy large tracts of land. Sheffield's beginnings were truly sparked by the railroad in the early 1830s, which terminated at what was then called Tuscumbia Landing. Like the rest of North Alabama along the Tennessee River, cotton was big from the 1840s through to the 1860s. While North Alabama was fiercely fought over during the Civil War in order to gain control of the river and the railroad, Sheffield saw no major battles or skirmishes.

(Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Southeast Sheffield, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle



England, known for its steel production. Throughout the turn of the 20th century, Sheffield and nearby Tuscumbia and Florence (Tri-City) continued to thrive based on its rail connections and potential industrial production. To move all the workers needed for this industrial production, electric streetcars connected areas of the Tri-Cities from 1904-1933. World War I brought the U.S. Army to the Shoals to build two large nitrate plants and the Wilson Dam in 1918. One of the plants is located to the west of Sheffield and another to the east – now considered Muscle Shoals.

Although the present city of Sheffield is completely built out with houses, railroads, and commercial and industrial properties, it once was farmland. In the 19th century and into the early 20th century, the city of Sheffield had some farmland surrounding the town, however, by 1930, the entire area from the river's edge to the limits of adjacent Tuscumbia and Muscle Shoals, was completely developed. From 1900 to 1920, the total number of households in Sheffield dropped from 184 to 139 - probably the result of rezoning in the Tri-City area. The percentage of African American households similarly declined from about 68% of the total households in 1900 to 60% in

1920. While there was a total of 19 African American-owned farms in 1900 and 1910, only four of those farms were continually owned by the same person.

Much of the turnover in ownership may be due to fathers/heads of household passing away and leaving their farm to their widow and/or children. In 1900, there were four women who owned a farm – all widows. In 1910, there were two widows who owned farms. By 1920, there were 12 farms owned by African American households, half of which were headed by widowed women. Only one farmer owned his land from at least 1900 to 1920 – Fred Jones (born c. 1872). Sheffield also 'lost' some of its land to the development of the city of Muscle Shoals, which grew out of the industry that was spilling over from Sheffield. At present, it is difficult to know where Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscles Shoals end and another begins.

**(Below)** Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama. Sanborn Map Company, 1921. Showing "Colored Neighborhood." **(Right)** Zoning Map for the City of Sheffield, 1942, with Historically African American Neighborhood Highlighted (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



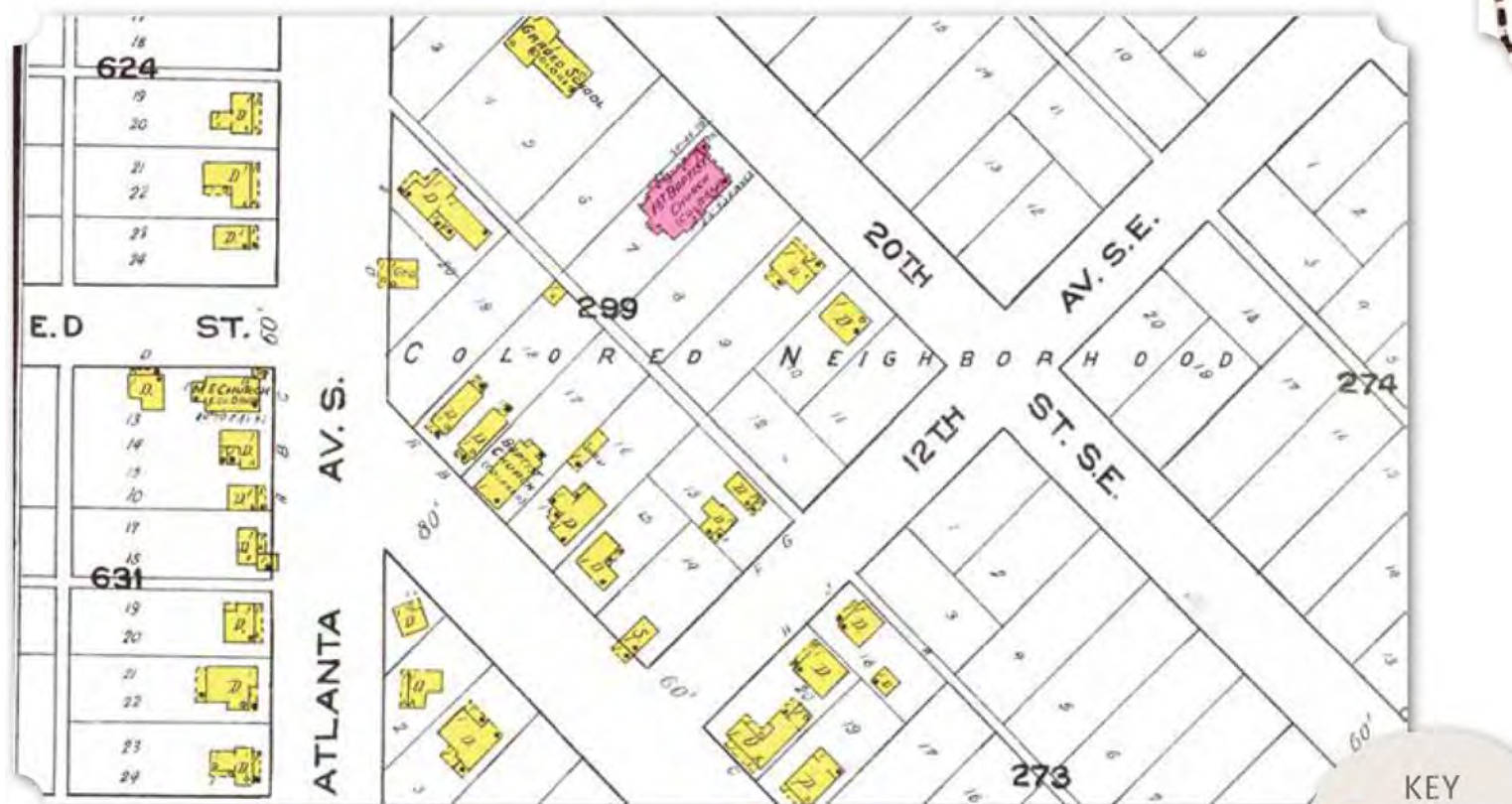
### Sheffield's "Colored" Neighborhood

The neighborhood to the southeast of Sheffield is labeled on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as "Colored Neighborhood." The area is called Woodlawn Heights today and abuts the railroad and an industrial park. The neighborhood developed in the early 20th century, although the 1921 Sanborn map shows the streets laid out, but sparse buildings. The majority of the houses standing today are of two types: bungalows from the 1900s to the 1930s and small FHA houses from the 1940s and 1950s. The houses indicate two periods of growth within the neighborhood as well as a focus on economical home ownership.

Only a portion of the neighborhood is depicted on the 1921 map. Besides houses, there are several churches – many of which stand today. At 10th

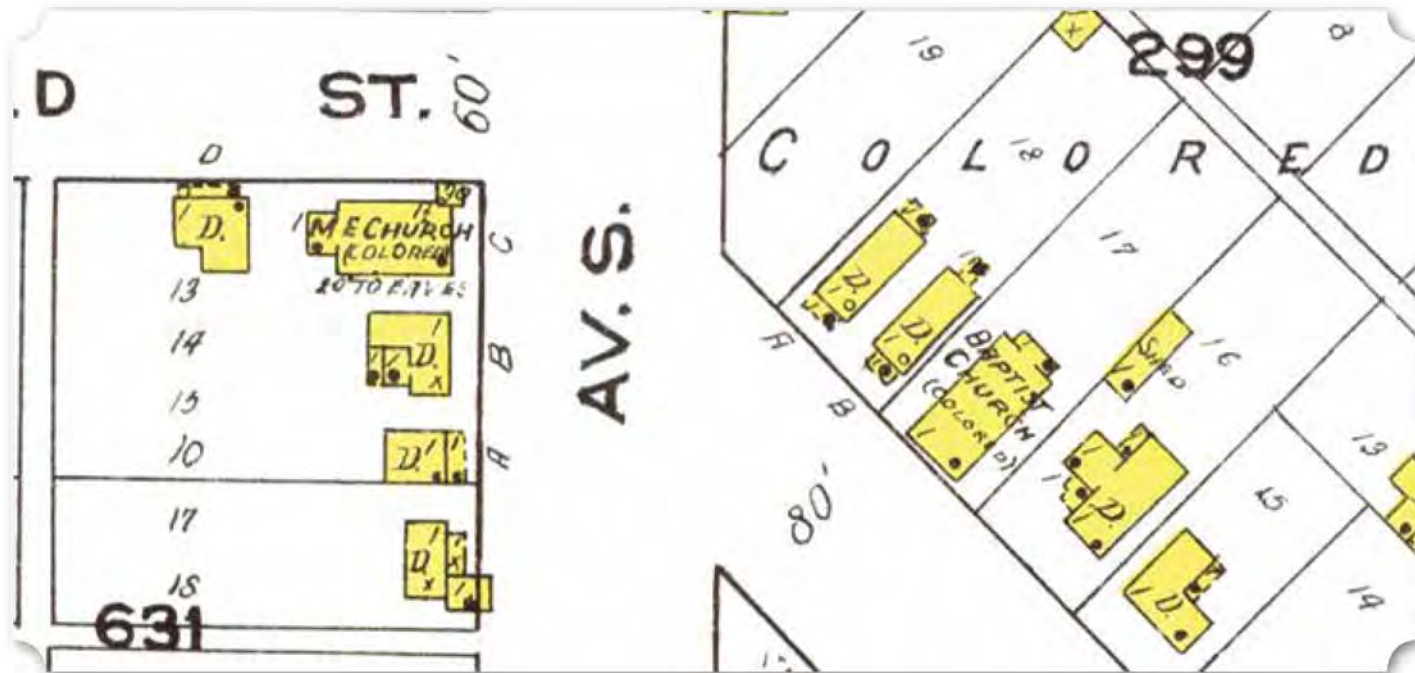
Avenue and 18th Street is the "Central Methodist Church (Colored)," a small brick building. Now this is the home of Brown Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. On the southwest corner of Atlanta Avenue and Cohen Street is New Bethel AME Church, labeled as the "M.E. Church (Colored)." Across Atlanta Avenue at 19th Street is Gaston Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, simply labeled "Baptist Church (Colored)." Gaston Chapel was first organized in 1914 by Rev. W. M. Gaston. The church standing today was built in 1945. Behind Gaston Chapel, on 20th Street, is "1st Baptist Church (Colored)." This is now gone; an open field is all that remains. According to USGS topographic maps, the church was still present in 1957, but is no longer there by 1971.

A few other pieces of the neighborhood have been relegated to the past. No neighborhood is complete without homes, churches, and schools. A "Graded

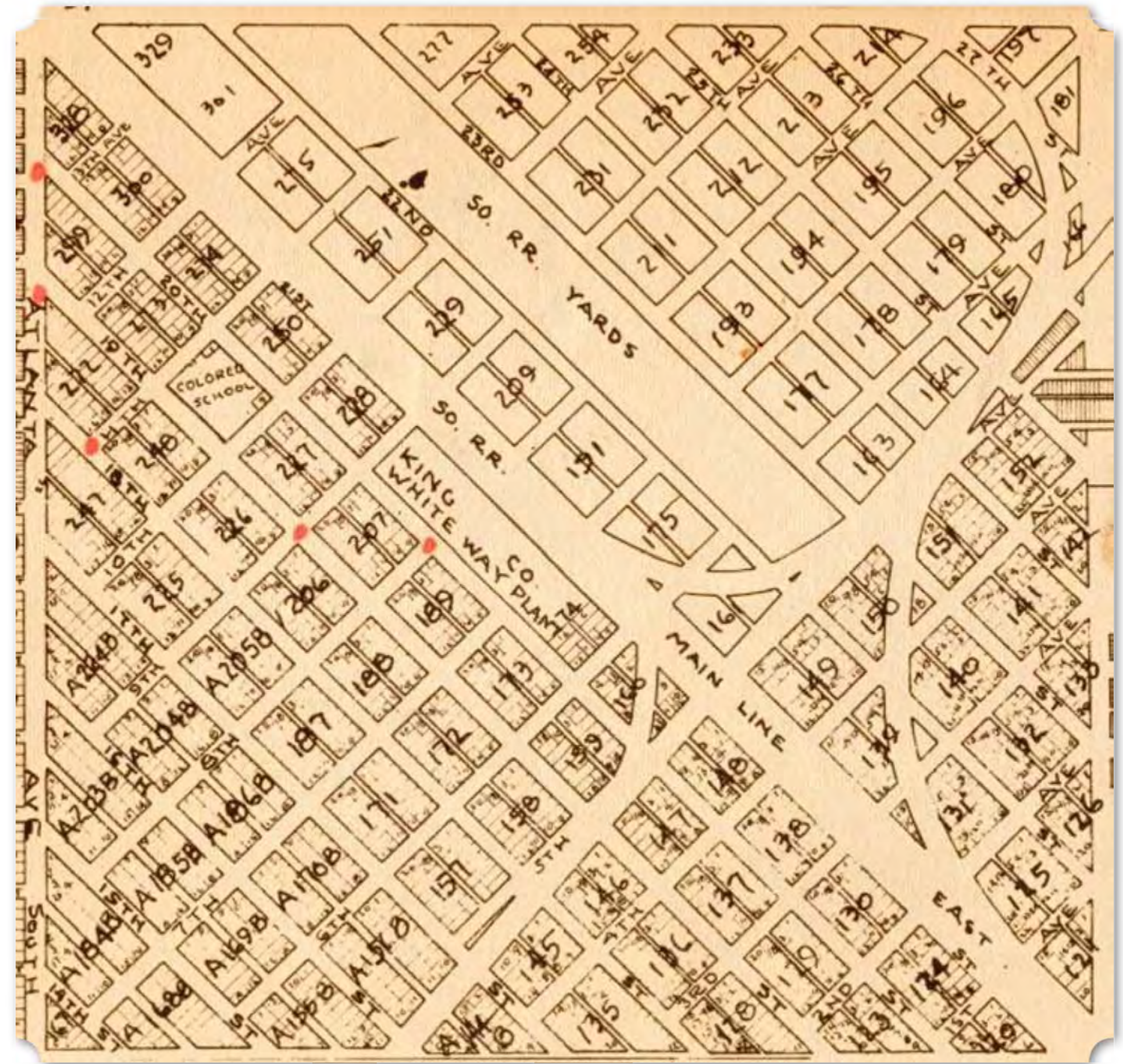


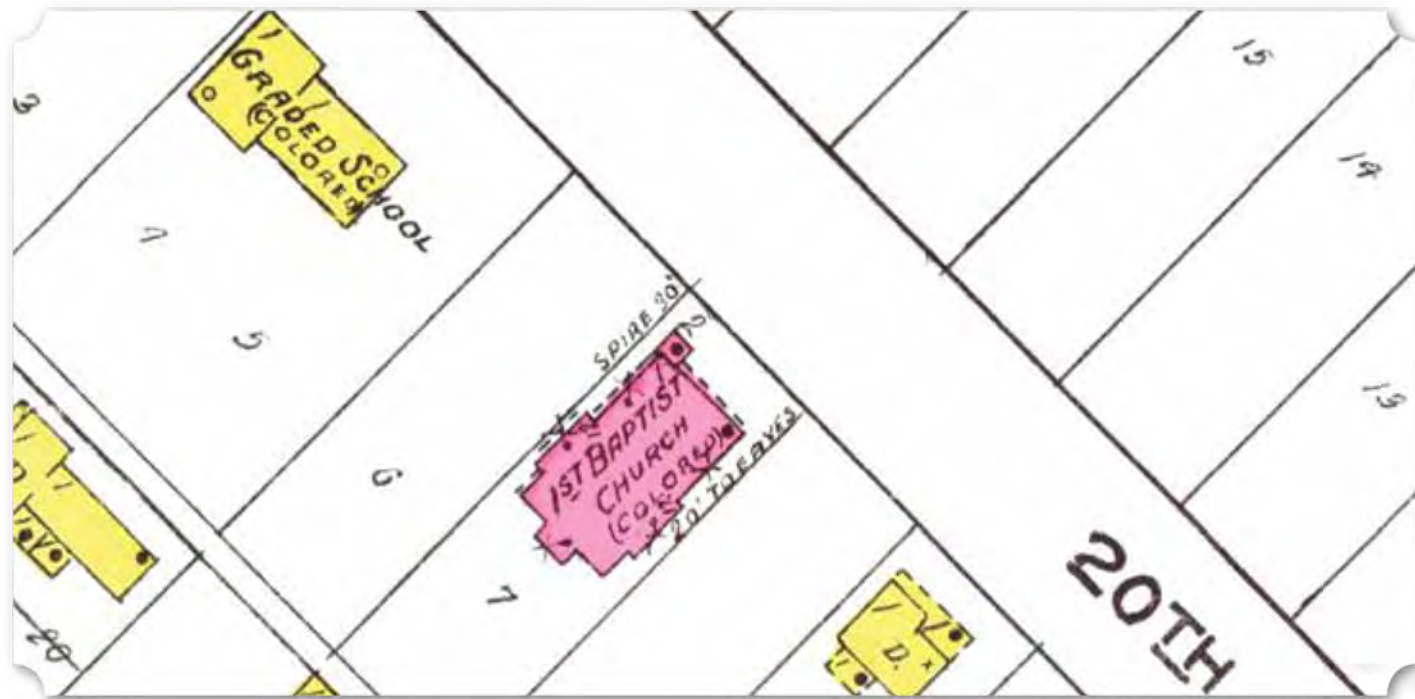
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource





(Left) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama. Sanborn Map Company, 1921. Showing "Central Methodist Church (Colored)." (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Bottom Left) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama. Sanborn Map Company, 1921. Showing New Bethel AME Church as "M. E. Church (Colored)" and Gaston Chapel as "Baptist Church (Colored)." (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Below) Excerpt of Southeast Sheffield Neighborhood from Sheffield, Alabama Map by Roger W. Autrey, 1950 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

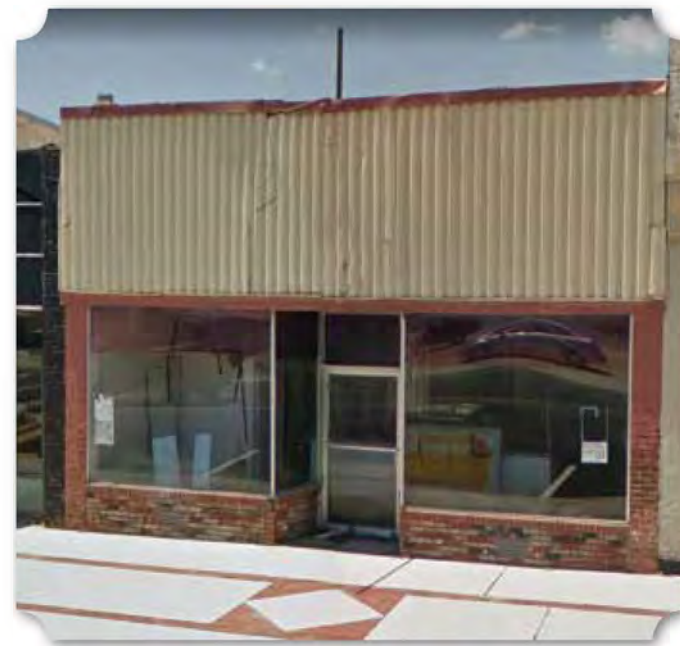




**(Above)** Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Sheffield, Colbert County, Alabama, 1921. Showing “1st Baptist Church (Colored)” and “Graded School (Colored).” (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

School (Colored)” was at the corner of 20th Street and Atlanta Avenue in 1921. This school was likely one of the incarnations of Sheffield Colored School before it was finally located on 19th Street between 10th and 11th avenues. The school later became Sterling High School in 1942 and 19th Street became Sterling Boulevard. The large high school for African American students was closed in 1968 and demolished a decade later.

**(Below)** 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Paris B. Swoopes as “Proprietor” of Tailoring (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Right)** Swoopes Dry Cleaners as it Stands Today (Google Street View, June 2014)

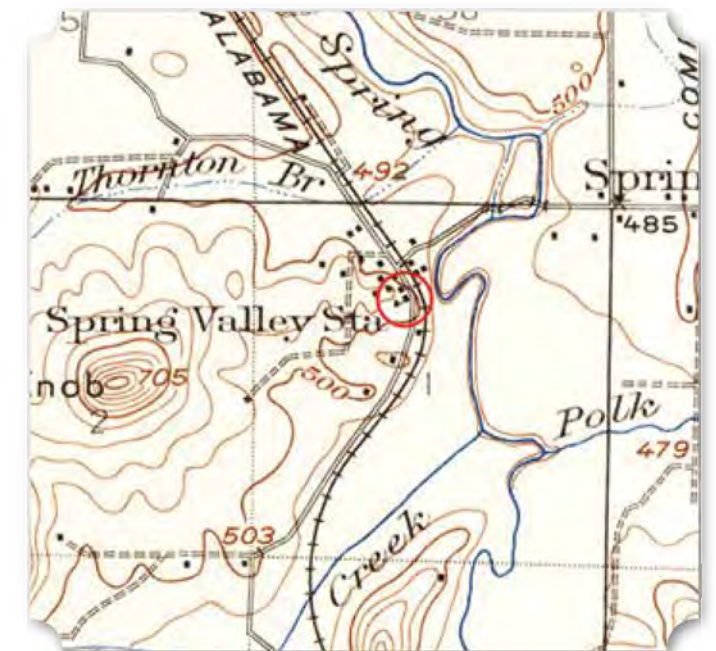


### P.B. Swoopes Tailor and Dry Cleaner

Located in downtown Sheffield at 105 Montgomery Avenue is the P. B. Swoopes Tailor and Dry Cleaner. Paris B. Swoopes (c.1900-2000) was one of the first successful African American entrepreneurs and businessmen. A graduate of Sheffield Colored School and Tuskegee Institute, Swoopes was the only tailor in Sheffield. He served both African American and white clients in a shop that he opened in 1927. This unusual crossing of the color line in the early 20th century could have been dangerous for Swoopes. He was known for fitting clients in the front window of his shop in clear view of the street – for his own protection against unsubstantiated racial violence. Large store windows can still be viewed at the location on Montgomery. Swoopes moved his business to this location in 1942. The rundown storefront still bears a hand-painted sign of “Swoopes Tailoring.”

one is to the east of Spring Valley along the north side of Spring Valley Road next to a church; the other is to the west of Spring Valley where Spring Valley Lane and Cook Lane come together. They are both marked on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, however, neither one is explicitly labeled as Spring Valley School. The eastern location is most likely a school for white children as the building is indicated as a large school on the 1952 USGS topographic map. Also, the church adjacent to that school – Spring Valley Church of Christ – is a church servicing the white community. The location to the west of Spring Valley is more likely to have been the Rosenwald school because the school is no longer depicted on the 1971 USGS topographic map, as by that time integration had closed most small, rural schools for African American children. Furthermore, the western

**(Below)** 1924 USGS Topographic Map of Spring Valley, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle



## 35 ■ Spring Valley School (Rosenwald)\*

One of eight Rosenwald schools constructed in Colbert County, the Spring Valley School was a one-room, one-teacher type schoolhouse built in 1926. It cost a total of \$1,700 with contributions of \$750 from the African American community, \$100 from the white community, \$450 from public funds, and \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund. The school was insured for \$1,125 according to the Rosenwald-Fisk database.

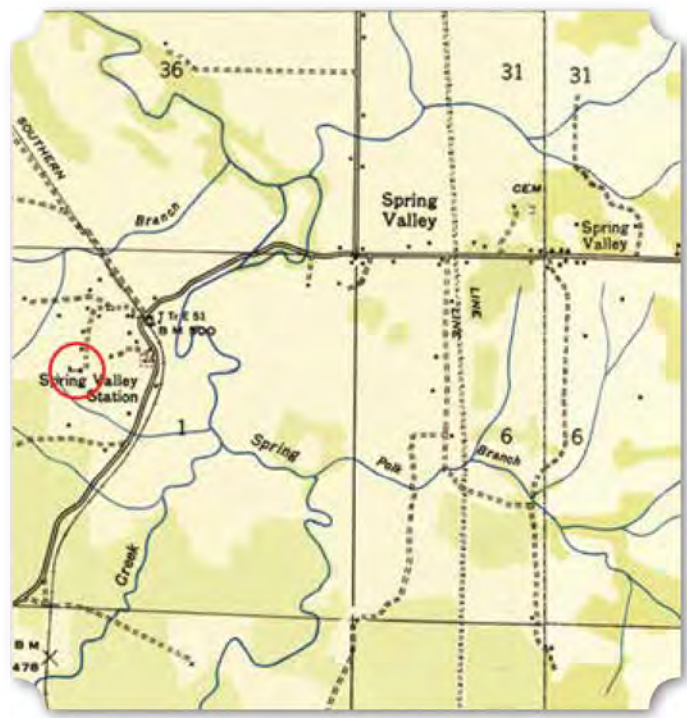
The community of Spring Valley is located about seven miles southeast of Tuscumbia near the community of Ricks. The exact location of the Spring Valley School is unclear, though there are two possible locations:

2304	1000	no	Swoopes, Paris B	Head	M	Aug	36	M	no	04	7	Alabama	Some Home	700	-	-	-	-	66	Proprietor Tailoring	6	52	300	62
			Mary	Wife	F	Aug	32	M	no	07		Alabama	Some Home	120	no	no	no	H				0	300	63
			Paris B Jr	Son	M	Aug	11	S	no	04		Alabama	Some Home											64
			Deloris	Daughter	F	Aug	9	S	no	03		Alabama	Some Home											65
			Hellon	Daughter	F	Aug	6	S	no	01		Alabama	Some Home											66
			Robert	Son	M	Aug	3	S	no	00		Ala	Some Home											67

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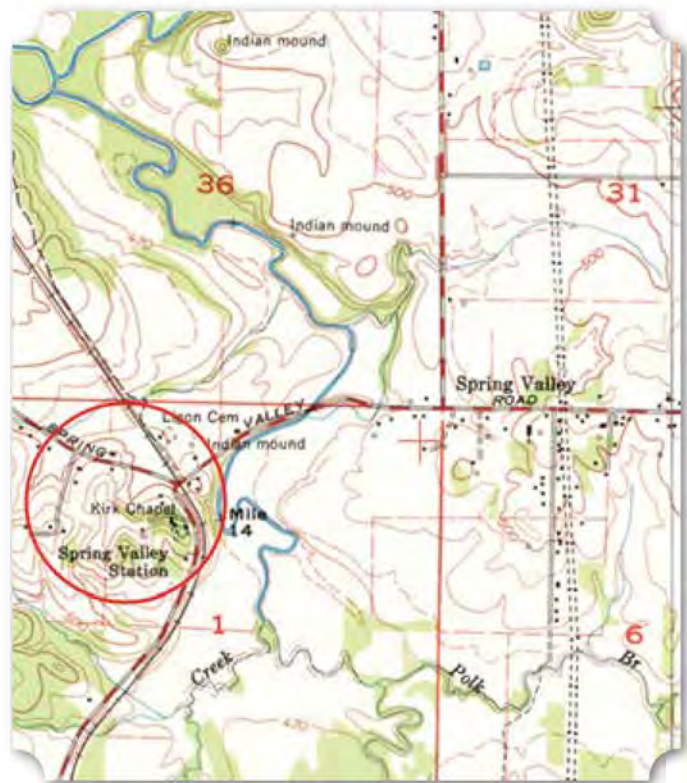
**(Left)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Spring Valley, Tusculumbia and Leighton, Alabama Quadrangles **(Lower Left)** 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Spring Valley, Tusculumbia and Leighton, Alabama Quadrangles

location is logically equidistant from the other two closest African American schoolhouses – St. Pauls and Ricks schools.

## 36 ■ Sterling High School\*

According to the Alabama Historical Commission’s marker for Sterling High School, public education for African American children in Sheffield began in 1889. The first school was located in southeast Sheffield at the corner of 20th Street and Atlanta Avenue – perhaps in the same location shown on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as “Graded Colored School.” The first teacher at this school was Mr. Henry Hopkins and the school only had five students. In 1896, a former slave named Benjamin J. Sterling (1847-1941) became principal of the school. This first school was reported burned and the students moved into one of the nearby churches.

The Sheffield Colored School was built in 1918, most likely in the same location as the first school. Sheffield Colored School first served as an elementary school and then as a high school sometime between 1920 and 1922. When the school became Sheffield Colored High School, it had 13 students. The first high school graduates were Ms. Marion C. McDaniel and Mr. P. B. Swoopes – who would go on to graduate from Tuskegee Institute and become a successful Sheffield businessman. Shortly thereafter, the school building was crowded and in ill-repair. The community came together to donate land on 19th Street for the



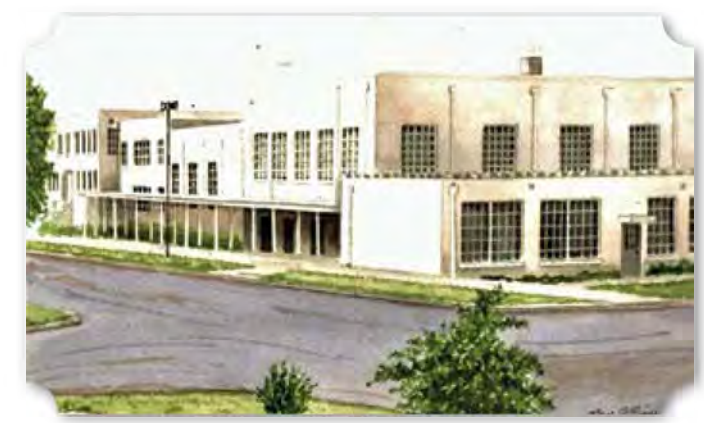
Sheffield Board of Education to build a larger, modern, brick building for African American children in 1923.

This new building was designed by architect Dallas Lafayette (D. L.) Sigmon, a white craftsman from North Carolina, who owned a shop in Sheffield at the time, and constructed by the Florence Lumber Company. The school cost over \$20,000 and contained all 12 grades. In 1942, the school was renamed in honor of Professor Sterling, who continued to teach until 1936. Sterling High School’s Board of Trustees and the community worked tirelessly to find and keep quality teachers and become an accredited institution. Rev. Richard A. Stewart served as principal from 1944 to 1968.

The school also established a competitive athletics program, including basketball, track, and football – teams that would play against Trenholm High School. In 1946, land for an athletic field and playground was added to the property. By 1950, the school had a gymnasium and dining room – rare amenities for an African American school. The entire building was renovated in 1959 and the first six grades were moved to a new school. The school band was renowned and had the privilege to greet President John F. Kennedy in 1963 when he was visiting the TVA.

Sterling High School was closed in 1968 due to integration, and its 225 students and one dozen teachers were sent to Sheffield Junior and Senior High Schools. The building and its grounds sat vacant for another decade before the school was razed in 1978. Now all that remains on this spot is an empty lot and a historical marker reminding the public about what was once the heart of a community.

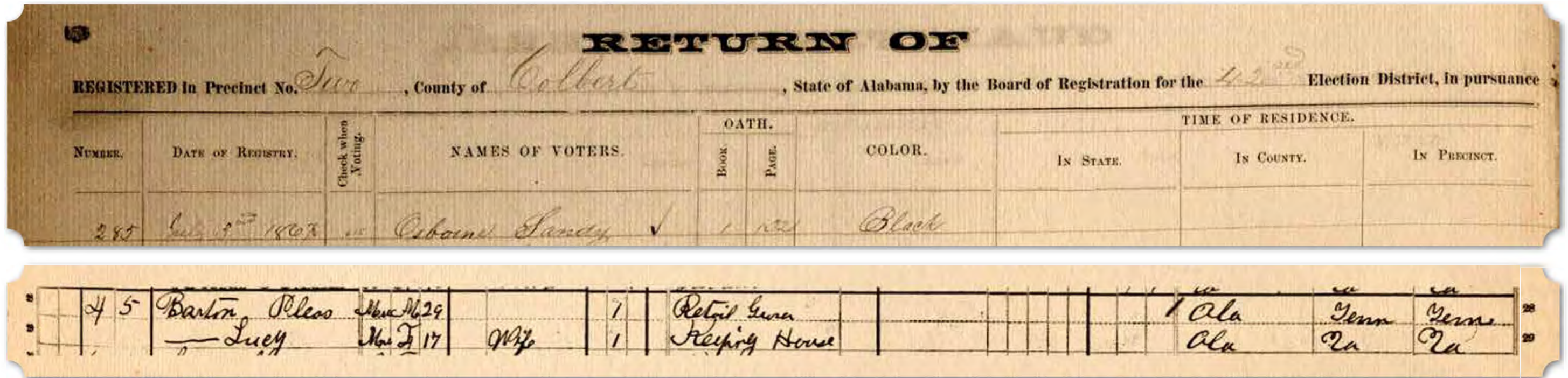
**(Below)** 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Ben J. Sterling as a “Public School Teacher” (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



**(Top)** Photograph of Sterling High School Allison (via Times Daily, August 29, 2018) **(Above)** Painting of Sterling High School by Clay Allison (via Times Daily, August 29, 2018)

17	X 115	123	Pauland Emory	nephew		M	B	22	S		yr	yr	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yr	Deliveryman R. Thomas	W.	17
18	X 116	124	Sterling Ben J.	head	0	F	M	B	55	WD	yr	yr	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yr	teacher Public school	W.	18
19	X 116	124	Jesse J.	head	1	R	M	B	28	M	yr	yr	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yr	Labour oil mill	W.	19





# 37

## Trenholm High School\*

Trenholm High School was the end result of a long history of public education of African American children in Tuscumbia. This history began during Reconstruction when the Freeman School started in 1870 and was headed by Mr. Judge Mingo and his daughter in church at a place called Delony Hill. By the summer of 1877, the African American community had established their own school, named the Osborne Colored Academy for Sandy Osborne, a local African American man who was a barber, grocer, and trustee. A decade later, the Tuscumbia Colored School was opened. Mr. Pleas Barton, a former trustee of Osborne Academy, was made principal.

Tuscumbia Colored School was moved to 11th Street between High and Washington streets in Southeast Tuscumbia in 1905. It was this institution and location that was named Trenholm High School in honor of the third principal of the school – Dr. George Washington Trenholm. The historical marker in front of the school's former site states that the school's name was changed in 1921, however, a Sanborn Fire Insurance

(Top) Excerpt of 1867 Alabama Voter Registration Showing Sandy Osborne (Alabama 1867 Voter Registration Records Database. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1880 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Pleas Barton as a "Retail Grocer" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

map from that year labels the school "Tuscumbia Colored College" – yet another name for the school.

Like other large African American high schools, Trenholm expanded beyond classroom education to provide a well-rounded curriculum. The school supported various clubs, contests, plays, and competitions. The athletics program included basketball, football, and track. Trenholm High School's athletes were the Wildcats and they often competed against Sterling High School in Sheffield, Burrell-Slater in Florence, and Trinity High in Athens. Some of the school's athletic trophies and jerseys are preserved at Alabama A&M including the 1955 North Alabama High School Athletics Association championship football trophy, a couple of basketball jerseys, and a football jersey.

The school and its facilities were essential to the community which it supported and

(Below) (Left) Trenholm High School Basketball Jersey #30, 1960s (Alabama A&M University, University Archives and Special Collections, Trenholm High School) (Middle) Trenholm High School North Alabama High School Athletics Association Football Championship, 1955 (Alabama A&M University, University Archives and Special Collections, Trenholm High School) (Right) Trenholm High School Football Jersey #38, 1960s (Alabama A&M University, University Archives and Special Collections, Trenholm High School)



**KEY**

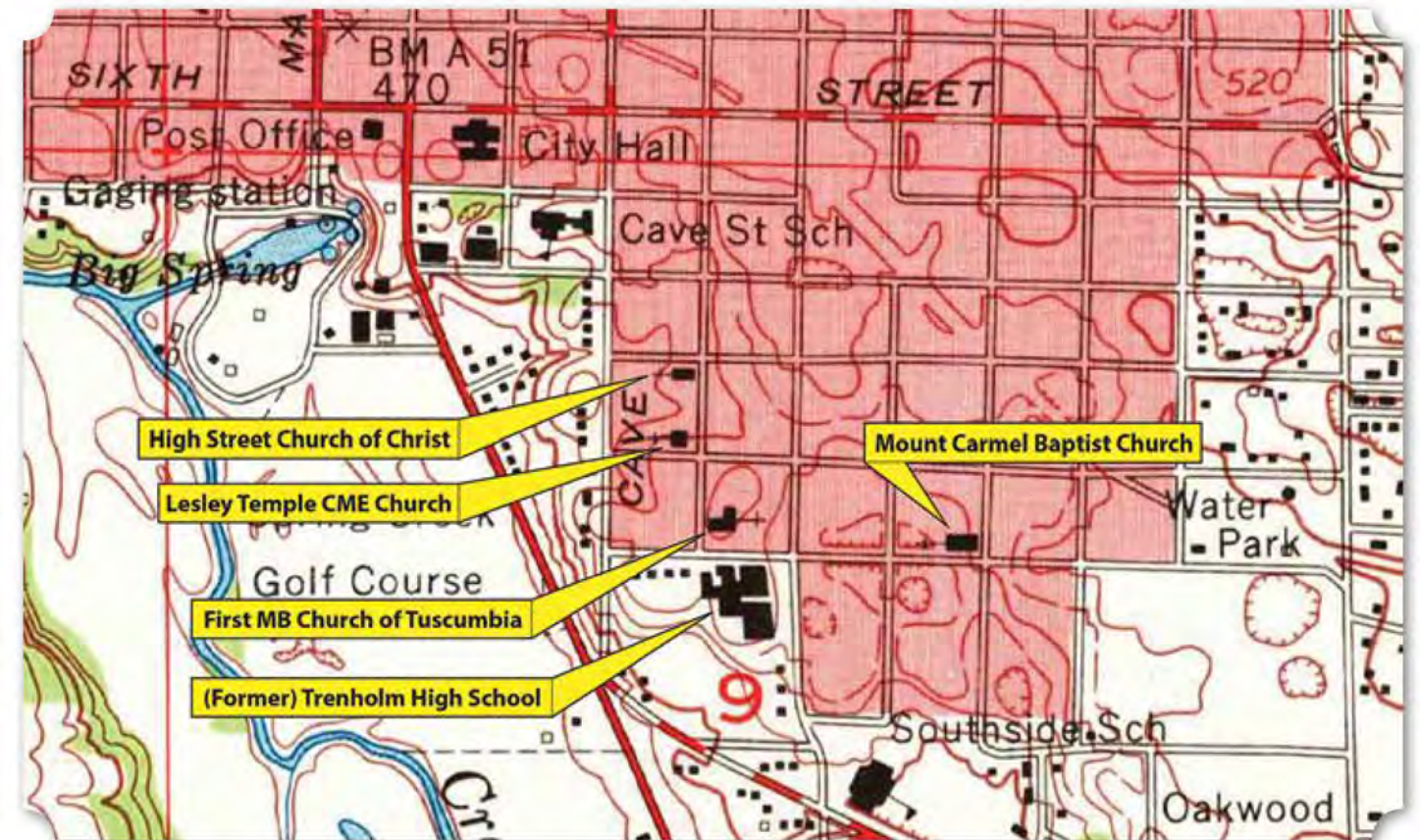
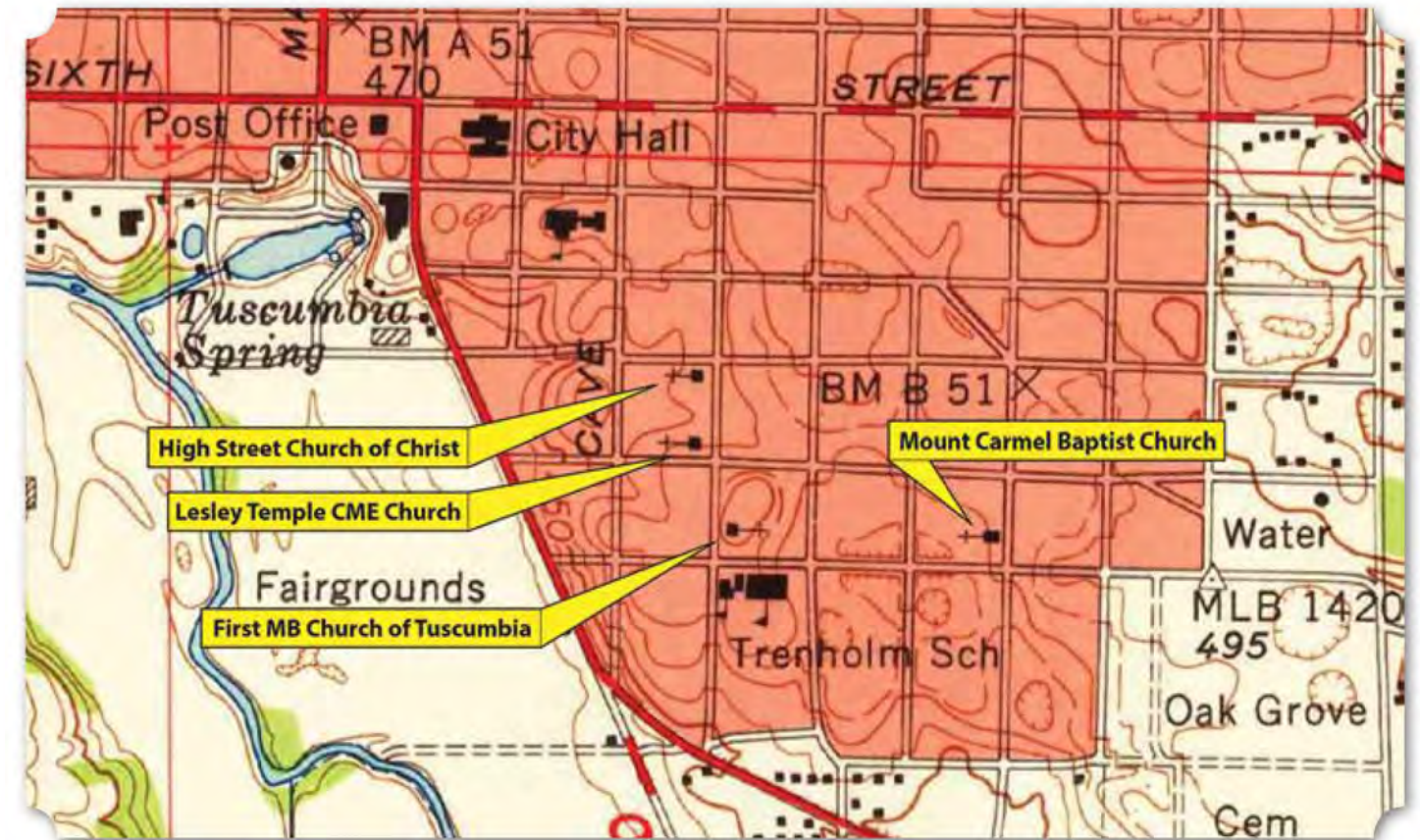
- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

received support from the community in return. Trenholm High School served as a center for the community until 1969 when desegregation plans closed the school's doors and students and faculty were moved to Deshler High School on the north side of Tuscumbia. Trenholm High School was subsequently torn down, but the school has an active alumni association which erected a historical marker and a plaque listing all the former principals at the site where the school once stood. A walkway around the markers bears inscriptions of memorials, commemorations of alumni, and school activities. Reunions are usually held on Labor Day weekend.

up by urban development. As the total households of rural Tuscumbia was between 514 and 444, the percentage of African American households in the area amounted to 37% in 1900, 39% in 1910, and 51% in 1920. Despite constituting half of the households in Tuscumbia in 1920, only one in five African American households owned a farm. That year the majority of African American households lived on the east side of the Tuscumbia and Russellville Pike, closer to the Muscle Shoals area that was still developing.

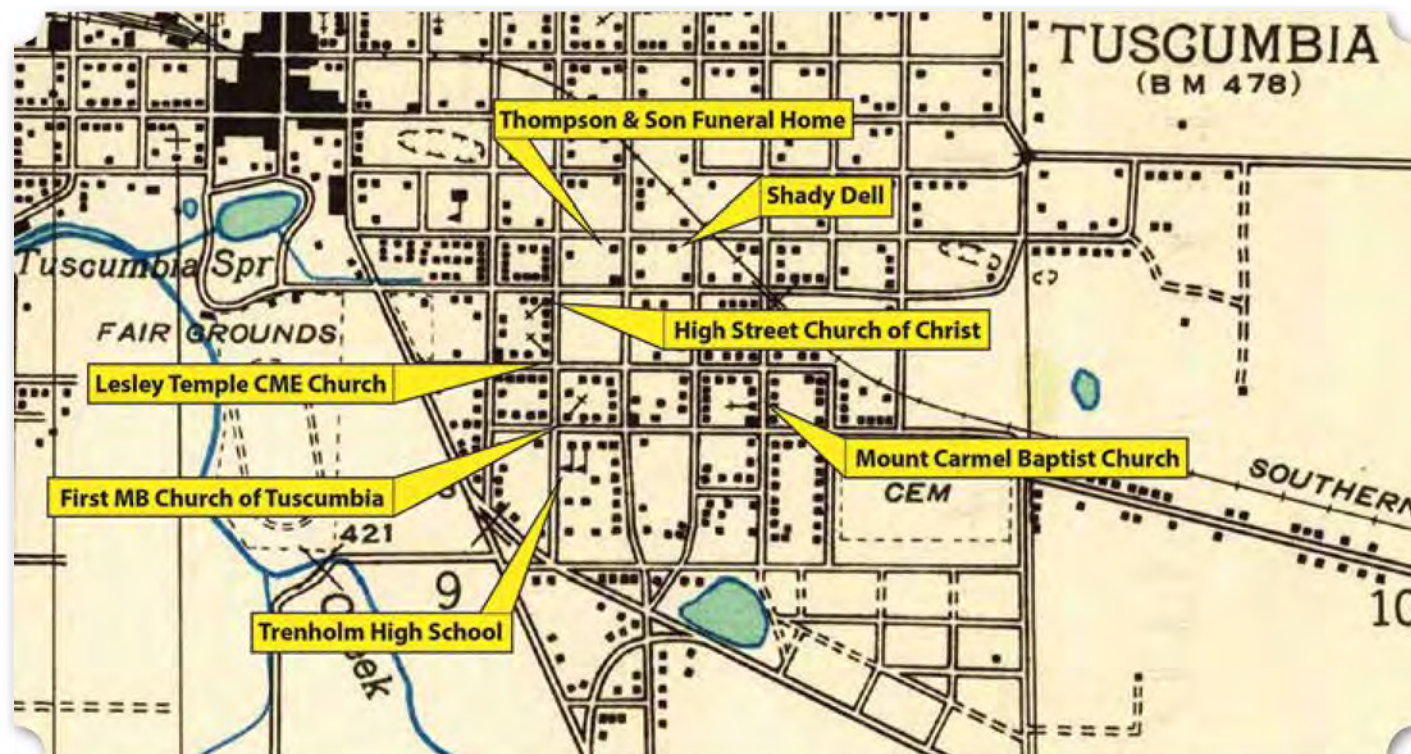
In 1900, there were 25 African American-owned farms, although few families had more than one member who owned a farm. The exception was the Byrd family who owned three farms and the Ragland family who owned two farms. By 1910, there were 29 farms owned by African American farmers. The Byrd, Ragland, and Ricks families owned two farms



## 38 Tuscumbia

According to census records, the area around Tuscumbia still had some agricultural land from 1900 to 1920 before becoming almost entirely urban. The total number of households in the rural area around Tuscumbia held about the same as the population grew but agricultural land was taken

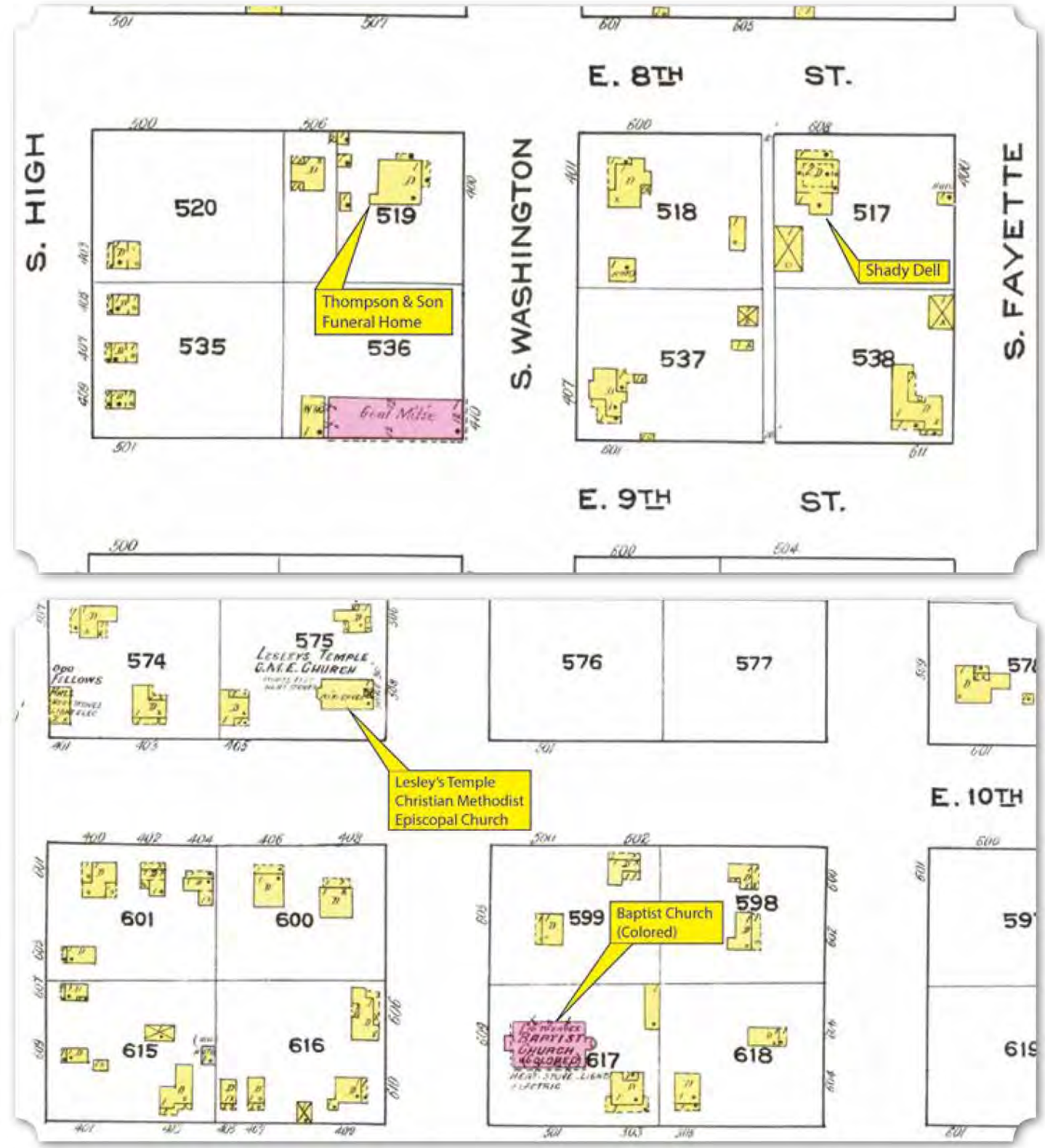
(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Tuscumbia, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle Aerial Photograph of Southeast Tuscumbia in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Top Right) 1952 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Tuscumbia, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Right) 1971 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Tuscumbia, Tuscumbia, Alabama Quadrangle



per family and the Haskins and Belue families owned three each. By 1920 there were a total of 47 African American-owned farms on the outskirts of Tuscumbia. Many of the same families owned farms at that time including the Belue and Byrd families who owned four farms and the Raglands who still owned two farms. Other families include the Browns with four farms and the Nolan, Freeman, Walker, and Rice families who owned two farms each. There were seven African

American farmers who owned a farm from 1900 to 1920 in the Tuscumbia area – William Brown, Rufus Byrd, Frank Hubbard, Robert King, Foster Nolan, Timothy Ricks, and Andrew Smith.

**(Below)** Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama. Sanborn Map Company, 1921. Showing the Southeast Quarter of Tuscumbia (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



**(Top)** Detail 1 of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Showing Lesley Temple CME Church as “Lesley’s Temple C.M.E. Church” and the First Missionary Baptist Church (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Above)** Detail 2 of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Showing Thompson & Son Funeral Home and Shady Dell (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

The town of Tuscumbia was first settled by European Americans about 1780 – like Sheffield, it was originally a French settlement. The town was later laid out in 1820 and named Big Spring in 1821 for the large fresh water spring just south of downtown. By 1822, the town was called Tuscumbia in honor of a local Chickasaw chief. Before the Civil War, Tuscumbia thrived on the cotton economy and the Tuscumbia Railroad Company. It was well-connected to the Tennessee River and the rest of North Alabama. During the Civil War, the town was occupied by Union troops and some skirmishes were fought in the area. After the war, Colbert County was created from the northern half of Franklin County, and Tuscumbia became the seat of the new county.

**(Below) Aerial Photograph of Southeast Tuscumbia in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)**

**Tuscumbia's Historical Neighborhood of Color**

Despite having seen some fighting during the Civil War, Tuscumbia is well intact. There are numerous historic buildings, homes, and churches – at least a hundred of them are from the antebellum period – and the town boasts a National Register-listed historic district. Within Tuscumbia’s long history, the southeast portion of the town became the home of the African American community. From Reconstruction to well into the 20th century, this area has housed churches, schools, and homes that form the heart of a community. The earliest known African American church in the area is the First Missionary Baptist Church of Tuscumbia. The congregation formed at the end of the Civil War under the leadership of Rev. Wilson Northcross. By 1900, it was the county’s largest congregation with an estimated 900 members. Another early church was the

Tuscumbia Shed Church – so named because it had its beginnings in a cotton gin shed near downtown in about 1870. It was a non-denominational church as many of the African American Christian community did not yet have permanent places to worship. The church was located somewhere near present-day South Dickson and East 8th streets.

Lesley Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was another 19th century church, established about 1880. Its current church still stands at the corner of High and 10th streets. Originally located elsewhere in the vicinity of Tuscumbia, the church moved to the southeast quarter in the 1920s. Other historically significant landmarks in the southeastern Tuscumbia community, while perhaps having roots in the 19th century, were established in this area in the early 20th century. By the 1920s, Tuscumbia Colored School (Trenholm High School) was established on High and 11th streets, the High Street Church of Christ had formed from the “Mother Church” in the Ricks Community, and Mount Carmel Baptist Church had erected a building off 11th Street. Also, during this time, Dr. A. W. Davis’s home, Shady Dell, on 8th Street was built nearby what would become the Thompson & Son Funeral Home.



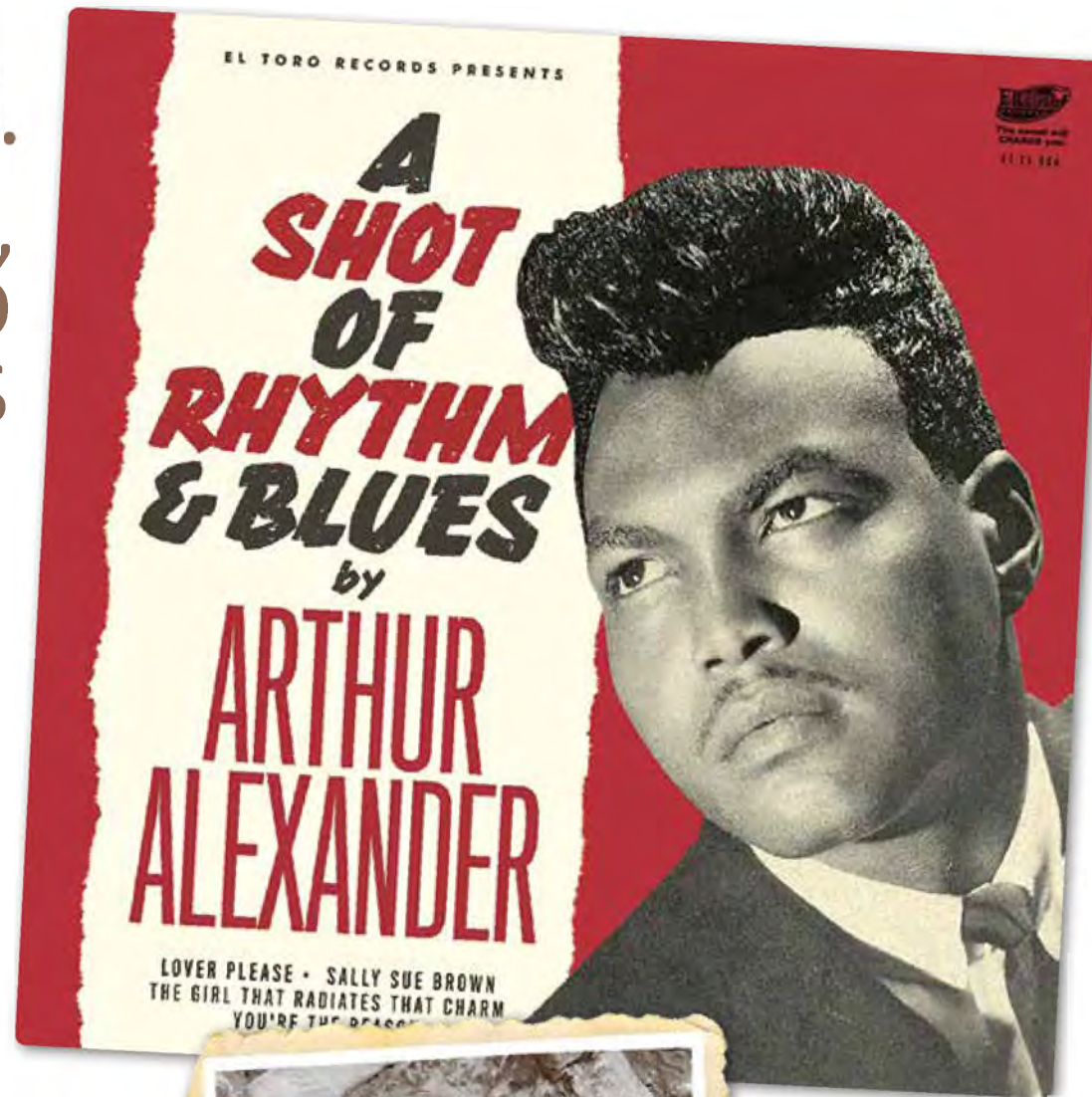
# 3. THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## Arthur Alexander (1940-1993)

Arthur "June" Alexander grew up in a predominately white neighborhood in East Florence in Lauderdale County. His father, Arthur Alexander, Sr. worked on Wilson Dam in the 1920s before marrying Alexander's mother, Fannie Scott Springer Alexander. After his mother's death in 1943, Alexander's father moved him and his sister across the river to Sheffield. The family then lived in the African American neighborhood of Baptist Bottom while his father worked for Reynolds Metal.

Alexander attended Sterling High School until grade nine. Afterwards, in his late teens, he picked cotton and then worked as a bellhop at the Sheffield Hotel. Meanwhile, Alexander had been writing and recording with Tom Stafford at SPAR Studio in Florence. In 1959, the two produced "Sally Sue Brown." But it was in 1962, at the age of 22, that Alexander helped to ignite the popularity of the "Muscle Shoals Sound," when he recorded "You Better Move On" at FAME Studios. This song would later be covered by the Rolling Stones, initiating a lasting relationship between the African American music of the Shoals and the British Invasion music that became popular in the 1960s.

Arthur Alexander continued to create music through the 1970s but retired from the business for a decade or so. He and many of his former associates experienced a revival of popularity in the early 1990s. However, Alexander suffered a heart attack in 1993 and did not get a chance to fully enjoy the



resurgence. He is buried in the Florence Cemetery in Lauderdale County. Alexander is remembered not only for his musical talent but also for the strides his music made in helping to integrate the South and better race relations.

**(Left)** The Cover for a Release on Vinyl of Arthur Alexander's "A Shot of Rhythm & Blues" (ElToroRecords.com) **(Bottom Left)** Photograph of Alexander in the 1970s (Encyclopedia of Alabama via Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Photograph by Dick Cooper)



## The Cobb Family

In early January of 2013, local historian, Butch Walker interviewed Huston Cobb, Jr. about his family's history. Much of the family's story is complicated and hard to come by through publicly available records – validating the value of oral history. Huston Cobb, Jr. was born in 1925 to Huston Cobb, Sr. (1902-1985) and Nazareth Carter Cobb (1902-1962). Huston Cobb, Sr. was born, lived, and passed away within the vicinity of the community of Bethel. The Cobb family lived most of the time near present-day Cobb Drive south of 2nd Street.

Before Huston, Jr. was born, the Cobbs lived and farmed on Hog Island. Hog Island was never much of an island. It was bordered by the Tennessee River on the north side and Town Creek flowed on the south side. When Wilson Dam was completed the land was inundated under a few feet of water. According to Huston, Jr., many African American families lived and farmed there. They all had to move sometime after 1923. The Cobbs moved about a mile south of Bethel.



**(Above)** The Cobb Family – Nazareth Carter Cobb, Houston Cobb, Sr., and Salley Cobb Griffin – in Front of the 1929 Chevrolet (Ricky Butch Walker's Blog, Via Mr. Huston Cobb, Jr.)

Huston Cobb, Sr. was born to Mack Griffin (died 1923) and Mattie Eggleston Cobb. Mr. Griffin and Ms. Cobb were not married; neither were Ms. Cobb's parents, Shirley Eggleston and Callie Cobb. Therefore, oral history straight from the family is the best way to understand the relationships and contributions of the Cobbs. Callie Cobb was the daughter of a man named Archie Cobb. According to the 1870 census, the family lived in the area known as South Florence near Sheffield. Archie Cobb was 57 years old in 1870, indicating he was most likely born a slave in 1817. Mack Griffin was the son of Mary Griffin from the Moulton, Lawrence County area. They were most likely descendants of the slaves of the G. W. Griffin plantation located in Lawrence County. When Mack Griffin passed away, he left 21 acres of his 42 acres of land to Huston Cobb, Sr.

This land helped the Cobb family to be as useful and influential in the community as they were. The Cobbs were members of the Bethel Colbert Baptist Church. The children most likely attended Bethel School because the family is said to have housed the teachers of the school in their home. Most of the teachers of color working at rural African American schoolhouses were from Sheffield and Tuscumbia – a fact corroborated by the census records. Teachers would board with the Cobb family during the week and return home on the weekends.



14	200 311	Vobb Houston	Head	W	yes	m	neg	27	m	no	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	14	yes	Farmer	Gen Farm	VVVV	0	yes	no	22		
15		Nazarene	Wife	H		F	neg	27	m	no	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	15	yes	Farmer laborer	Farm	VVVV	no	yes	no	23		
16		Iracine	Daughter			F	neg	6	S	yes			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	16		None							24	
17		Houston Jr	son			m	neg	5	S	no			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	17		None								25
18		Leo M.	son			m	neg	2 1/2	S	no			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	18		None								26
19		Ernest B	son			m	neg	2 1/2	S	no			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19		None								27

22	266 15	Houston	Head	W	yes	m	neg	36	m	no	4	4	Alabama	same place	XOV3	yes	no	no	yes	1	60	farmer	farm	no	44	236	yes	22
23		Nazareth	wife	H		F	neg	36	m	no	7	7	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no	H	5				0	0	yes	23
24		Iracine	daughter			F	neg	16	S	yes	8	8	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no	S	6		field work	1/2	0	0	yes	24
25		Houston Jr	son			m	neg	14	S	yes	8	8	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no	S	6		field work	1/2	0	0	yes	25
26		Leo Mack	son			m	neg	12	S	yes	6	6	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no	S	6				0	0	yes	26
27		Ernest B	son			m	neg	10	S	yes	6	6	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no						0	0	yes	27
28		Gold	son			m	neg	9	S	yes	3	3	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no						0	0	yes	28
29		Mattie	daughter			F	neg	6	S	yes	1	1	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no						0	0	yes	29
30		Willie	son			m	neg	5	S	no	0	0	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no						0	0	yes	30
31		Newson	cousin			m	neg	25	m	no	5	5	Alabama	same place	XOV3	yes	no	no	yes	1	40	part time operator	JVA	Put 1919	25	1300	no	31
32		Genevieve	daughter			F	neg	9	m	no	0	0	Alabama	same place	XOV3	no	no	no	no	H	5				0	0	yes	32
33		Gladys	daughter			F	neg	4	S	no	0	0	Alabama	same place														33
34		Rosella	daughter			F	neg	3	S	no	0	0	Alabama	same place														34

(Top) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing the Cobb Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1940 Federal Census Excerpt Showing the Cobb Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Marriage license for Houston Cobb Sr. and Nazareth Carter, 1923 (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Marriage License for Houston Cobb Jr. and Sadie Mae Long, 1947 (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

### MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, COLBERT COUNTY.

To HON. Geo B. Lockwell Judge of Probate of said County.

The undersigned respectfully applies for Marriage License for the following parties, and being duly sworn, on oath, states that the answers to the following questions concerning said parties are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, to-wit:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GROOM</b></p> <p>Full name <u>Houston Cobb Jr.</u></p> <p>Place of residence <u>Leighton</u> (City or town) <u>Ala</u> (State)</p> <p>Color <u>Colored</u> Age <u>22</u> Date of birth <u>3-10-1925</u></p> <p>Place of birth <u>Leighton, Ala.</u></p> <p>Occupation <u>Farmer</u></p> <p>Full name of father <u>Houston Cobb Sr.</u></p> <p>Full maiden name of mother <u>Nazareth Carter</u></p> <p>Number of proposed marriage <u>1st</u></p> <p>Is applicant divorced? _____</p> <p>Where? _____</p> <p>When? _____</p> <p>Is there any blood relationship between parties? <u>no</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRIDE</b></p> <p>Full name <u>Sadie Mae Long</u></p> <p>Place of residence <u>Sheffield</u> (City or town) <u>Ala.</u> (State)</p> <p>Color <u>Colored</u> Age <u>21</u> Date of birth <u>Dec 16 - 1925</u></p> <p>Place of birth <u>Sheffield, Ala.</u></p> <p>Occupation _____</p> <p>Full name of father <u>Harry Long</u></p> <p>Full maiden name of mother <u>Mary Ellen</u></p> <p>Number of proposed marriage <u>1st</u></p> <p>Is applicant divorced? _____</p> <p>Where? _____</p> <p>When? _____</p> <p>Is there any blood relationship between parties? <u>no</u></p>
--	--

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 29th day of September, 1947.

Applicant: Houston Cobb Jr.

Notary Public: Marquerite Robinson

Physician's Certificate: R. D. Wright being a legally licensed physician, do certify that I have this 29 day of September, 1947 made a thorough examination of Houston Cobb Jr. and believe him to be free from all venereal diseases. R. D. Wright M.D. Physician.

Marriage License issued by Judge of Probate, Colbert County, Alabama, for month of June 1923.

Name of Man Houston Cobb

Name of Woman Nazareth Carter

Age of man 21 Age of woman 20 Color of man B Color of woman B

Height of man 5-6 Height of woman 5ft Weight of Man 152 Weight of woman 145

Nativity of man Ala Nativity of woman Ala

Occupation of man Farmer Occupation of woman \_\_\_\_\_

Number of marriages of man 1st Number of marriages of woman 1st

Blood relationship betwixt parties None

Religious belief of man Prot Religious belief of woman Prot

Residence of man Saur Creek R. 2 Residence of woman Saur Creek R. 2

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Houston Cobb bought a 1929 Chevrolet car, almost new. According to Butch Walker, “the 1929 car was purchased from Emmitt King of Leighton; Emmitt was the son of Claude King. Houston’s car was the only new car owned by a black family that people both black and white would seek for transportation within miles of the community. White and black folks would come to Houston’s house and get him to carry them to doctors, funerals, or even on dates for young men to see their girlfriends.” The Cobbs were also known to help transport Rev. Ashford from Courtland or Town Creek, probably using this vital asset.

Although Houston Cobb, Sr. worked for the TVA at Wheeler Dam in the early 1930s – making \$0.35/ hour as a jackhammer man – and later went to work at the Nitrate Plant No. 2, though he continued to farm in Bethel. Huston, Jr. attests that his father would borrow \$300 per year to make a crop and was made to mortgage his property, but that the family “really did not know [they] were poor, but [they] were better off than most black and white families. [His] family went to church every Sunday; many of the TVA workers would wear their badge to church to show that they had a job.”

Huston Cobb, Jr. still lives near the family farm. Also, nearby is the Houston Cobb Sr. Family Cemetery. Houston Cobb, Sr. (1902-1985) is buried there on the Cobb land. Also, buried with him are his wife, Nazareth (1902-1962), and his other children, Leo Mack (1927-2018), Ernest (1929-2000), and Carl Elbert (1931-2014). Mack Griffin is interred there as well. He was originally buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Ford City but was reinterred in 2006 at the Cobb Family Cemetery near Bethel Church – a recognized and much appreciated member of the Cobb family.

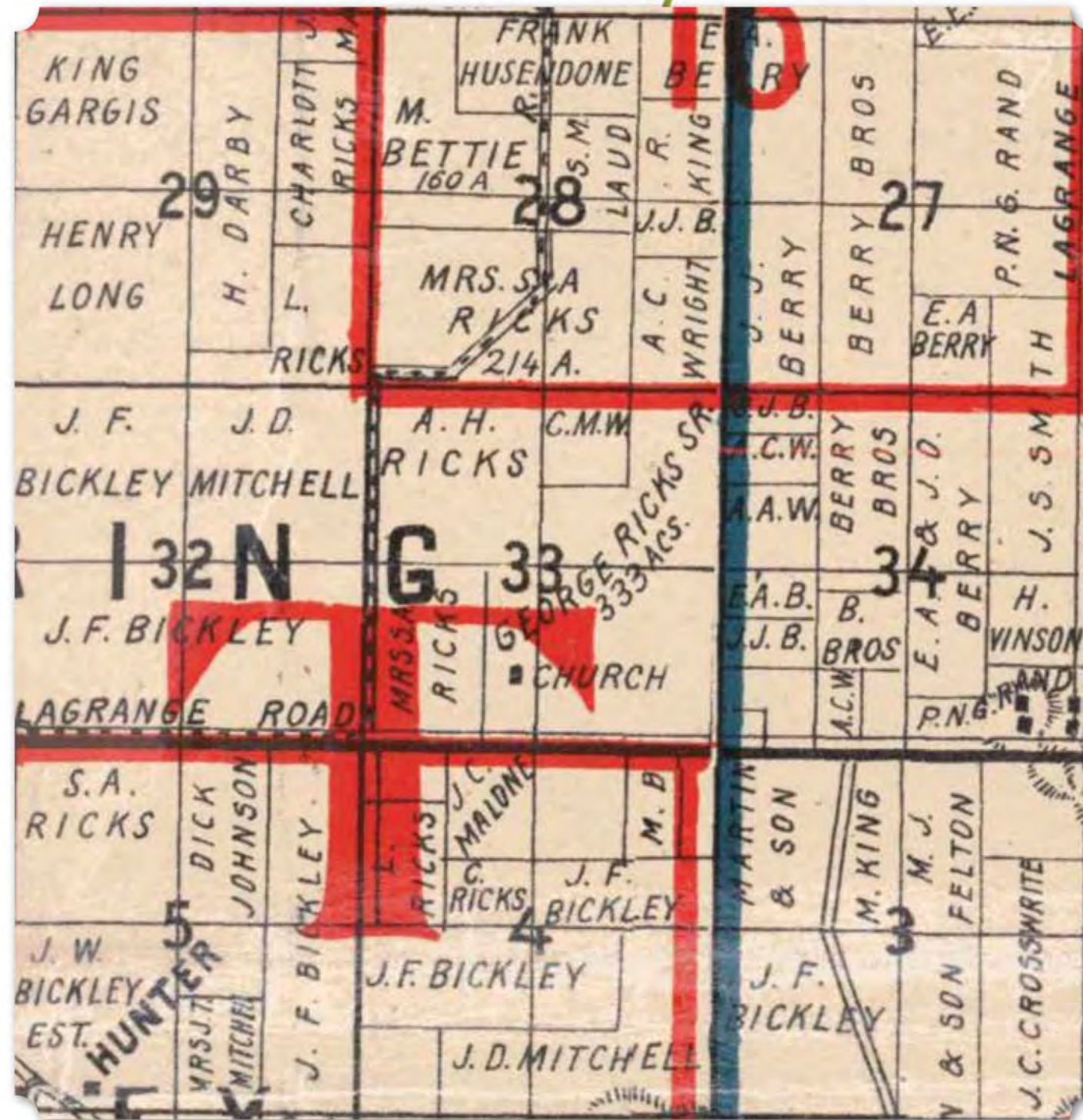
### George Ricks (1838-1908)

George Ricks was the earliest known African American landowner in North Alabama and Colbert County. Ricks was born a slave in about 1838 (per his headstone) or possibly 1847 (per a plaque at this grave). Some accounts say he was born in Liberia.

He was a slave on The Oaks Plantation, owned by Abraham Ricks and his son, Abraham, Jr. Abraham Sr. and his wife, Charlotte Ricks, were members of the Church of Christ and allowed their slaves to learn to read in order to better learn the Bible. Charlotte Ricks taught some of the slave children, including George Ricks, to read and write in a small school. By about



(Below) Excerpt of 1908 Map of Colbert and Franklin Counties, Alabama Showing George Ricks Sr. Owning 333 Acres of Land in Section 33 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online via Geological Survey of Alabama)



1867, George Ricks began preaching and traveled North Alabama extensively, visiting various churches. As of 1885, Ricks Church, or the Christian Home, had about 100 members and George Ricks was one of the parsons there, known as Elder Ricks.

Elder George Ricks rose from a slave to become one of the earliest African American landowners in North Alabama. Abraham Ricks, Jr. is said to have given his slaves land to farm after the Civil War – whether as tenants or sharecroppers or owners is unclear. However, Elder Ricks grew cotton and amassed enough money to purchase 320 acres of land near The Oaks Plantation and Ricks Church. Sometime, likely in the late 19th century, Elder Ricks deeded half an acre of his land for the use of a cemetery, now the George Ricks Cemetery.

The cemetery’s first marked interment is that of Eliza Ricks (1831-1899), the wife of Elder George Ricks. Although, the cemetery was likely in use before 1899, as it is labeled on an 1896 map of Colbert County. The George Ricks Cemetery is located at the end of Ricks Cemetery Road, south of Ricks Lane. Besides George Ricks and his family, many other former slaves of The Oaks and their descendants are buried there. Rick’s headstone is a large stone column, which stands out from the rest of the cemetery. It is accompanied by a plaque describing his achievements. It reads: “George Ricks was brought in 1846 from Liberia to Jamestown, Virginia and sold as a slave to Abraham Ricks. He became the first black landowner in North Alabama by planting cotton on Saturday evenings and picking it by the moon light. Of his first 53 acres purchased he gave three acres to bury black slaves of this community.”

The Ricks Church and “Geo.” Ricks’ land are marked on an 1896 map of Colbert County. Although present since at least the last 19th century, Ricks Cemetery is first mapped on the 1971 USGS topographic map. The church and its accompanying cemetery were listed on the Alabama Register in 1988. The Ricks Church and cemetery remain as a testament to this well-beloved and respected former slave that was able to give to his community and ensure their needs and souls were well cared for.

State of Alabama,  
Colbert County.

Probate Court.

Know all Men by These Presents, That we, Grant Ricks, George Ricks  
A. C. Ricks, Ohio Housdove & J. B. Ricks  
of the County and State aforesaid, are held and firmly bound unto Lucas G. Simpson, Judge of the  
Court of Probate for said County, and his successors in office, in the penal sum of One Thousand DOLLARS,  
for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally,  
firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this 26 day of January, 1909

The Condition of the Above Obligation is Such, That whereas, the above bound  
Grant Ricks  
has been appointed Administrator of the estate of George Ricks, deceased

Now, if the said Grant Ricks shall well  
and truly perform all the duties which are or may be by law required of him as such Administrator, then the  
above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force.

Grant Ricks [L.S.]  
George Ricks, A. C. Ricks [L.S.]  
Ohio Housdove [L.S.]  
J. B. Ricks [L.S.]

Taken, approved, and ordered to be recorded this 26 day of Jan, 1909  
Lucas G. Simpson, Judge of Probate

Page No. 29 } Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all)  
merely by an affirmative mark, as follows.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Township Four Range Five, in the County of Colbert, State  
of Alabama, enumerated by me on the 10 day of July, 1870. 27

Post Office: Tuscumbea H. W. Creamer, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
							Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate		Parental	Other								
1	193/193	Ricks George	30	W	Head	Farm Labor	400		Alabama										
2		— Caliza	40	F	Wife	Keeping house			Alabama										
3		— Ohio	12	M	at Home				Alabama										
4		— Annison	10	M	at Home				Alabama										
5		— Johnston	8	M					Alabama										
6		— Grant	6	M					Alabama										
7		— George	4	M					Alabama										
8		— Lottie	1	F					Alabama										

(Left) 1909 Probate Court Settlement of George Ricks' Estate, Left to His Children (Ancestry.com, User Laura Corbett) (Above) 1870 Federal Census Excerpt Showing George Ricks and His Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1900 Federal Census Excerpt Showing George Ricks Owning a Farm and a Few of His Sons Living Nearby, Presumably on His Land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

P. B. Swoopes (1902-2000)

Paris Baker Swoopes was one of the most prominent African American citizens of Sheffield in the early- to mid-20th century. Mr. Swoopes grew up on the east side of the city of Sheffield, born about 1902 to John and Eliza Swoopes. In 1910, the family was living in Sheffield where John Swoopes owned a house and his own barbershop. A decade later, Swoopes' mother was remarried to James Anderson. Swoopes and his younger sister, lived in a house on 13th 1/2 Street owned by their step-father, who was a fireman for the railroad. In his youth, Swoopes attended Sheffield Colored School and was one of the first students, along with Ms. Marion C. McDaniel, to graduate from the high school. He went on to study at Tuskegee Institute before returning home to Sheffield.

In 1927, P. B. Swoopes opened a tailoring shop in downtown Sheffield on 2nd Street. His shop was a success and he moved his business to 105 Montgomery Avenue in 1941. Swoopes was the only tailor in the city. His clients were both white and people of color. Residents remember his shop on Montgomery for the large windows in the front where Mr. Swoopes would measure and mark his customers. During the Jim Crow era and even afterwards, it was best practice for Mr. Swoopes to be seen conducting

112	715	Ricks George	Head	6	Mar	1828	66	72	44	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Caliza	Wife	3	Mar	1831	67	22	48	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Lottie	Daughter	3	Mar	1862	23	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Annison	Son	3	Mar	1858	12	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
113	716	Ricks Indiana	Head	12	Mar	1853	26	21	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Julia	Wife	6	Mar	1850	20	22	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Grant	Daughter	5	Mar	1860	14	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
114	717	Ricks Grant	Head	6	Mar	1862	28	22	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Mary	Wife	6	Mar	1875	25	22	12	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Ethell	Daughter	3	Mar	1878	12	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— John	Son	6	Mar	1870	10	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Percy	Son	6	Mar	1873	7	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Mary	Daughter	4	Mar	1876	6	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Grant	Son	3	Mar	1878	2	2		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
115	718	Ricks Lemuel	Head	6	Mar	1871	29	21		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— George	Wife	3	Mar	1875	25	22	6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— William J	Son	3	Mar	1878	8	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Rachel	Daughter	3	Mar	1875	5	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
		— Sabra	Daughter	3	Mar	1876	4	4		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								

his business – for his safety and the community’s. He eventually turned his business into a dry cleaner as well.

P. B. Swoopes is beloved by the community for more than being one of the first African American businessmen in the Shoals. Mr. Swoopes was a Boy



(Above) Portrait of Mr. P. B. Swoopes Taken By Ansel Adams’ Student Mariana Cook and Later Presented to the Sheffield Public Library (Matt McKean, *Times Daily*, April 24, 2018) (Below) 1910 Federal Census Excerpt Showing John Swoopes as a “Barber” with His “Own Shop” with 7-Year-Old Son, Paris (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)**

<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b> T 495	<b>1. NAME (Print)</b> PARIS BAKER SWOOPES (First) (Middle) (Last)	<b>ORDER NUMBER</b> T 10652
<b>2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)</b> 2404-13 1/2 AVE, SHEFFIELD, COLBERT, ALA. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
<b>3. MAILING ADDRESS</b> Same [Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]		
<b>4. TELEPHONE</b> 6078 (Home) 9128 - Business	<b>5. AGE IN YEARS</b> 37 <b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> Feb 26 1904 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	<b>6. PLACE OF BIRTH</b> Sheffield, Ala. (Town or county) (State or country)
<b>7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS</b> Wife, Mrs. Mary G. Swoopes, same as above		
<b>8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</b> Own Business - 105 - Montgomery Ave. Sheffield, Ala.		
<b>9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS</b> 105 - Montgomery Ave. Sheffield Colbert Ala. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. P.B. Swoopes (Registrant's signature)		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1		

(Above) Paris Baker (P. B.) Swoopes World War II Registration Card (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Scout, a Mason, and a supporter of war bonds and the March of Dimes. He was a Worshipful Master of Unity for the masonic lodge and a trustee of the grand lodge. He headed the Tuskegee Alumni Club for the Shoals area and lead the March of Dimes campaign for at least 23 years. According to the *Times Daily*, “Swoopes was the first African American to sit on a Colbert County grand jury and as president of the Colbert County Voters League, was the first in the county to bring political candidates before a panel of

voters. Swoopes received a special award for his sale of war bonds during WWII.”

A portrait of Mr. P. B. Swoopes was taken in 1996 by Mariana Cook, a pupil of Ansel Adams. She recalled that Mr. Swoopes mentioned that he only ever made one suit for himself and it’s the one in the photograph as well as what he was buried in. Swoopes passed away in 2000 at the age of 98. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Sheffield next to his wife, Mary G. Swoopes (1905-1986). Their daughter, Deloris Swoops Jones Nash became a teacher and wrote the local play “Determined, The Life of W. C. Handy,”

which has become a staple of the entertainment enjoyed annually at the Handy Festival in Florence.

The building on Montgomery Avenue is still standing, although it is dilapidated and neglected. The large glass windows remain on the store front, reminding those who can still recall Mr. P. B. Swoopes and his tailoring shop. In the window of the abandoned store rests a hand painted sign of “P. B. Swoopes Tailoring.”

### Thompson & Son Funeral Home

The Thompson & Son Funeral Home in Tuscumbia is located on the southwest corner of 8th and Washington streets. Originally called Thompson and Ricks Funeral Home, the business was first established about 1920 by Mr. Bruce Thompson and Mr. Tim Ricks. The entrepreneurs were very young, Thompson was born circa 1905 and Ricks in 1899. Timothy Ricks, Jr. and his wife, Mary, lived along the Southern Railroad on his parents’ farm in 1920. Timothy Ricks, Sr. was most likely born a slave sometime before 1865. By 1900, he and his wife, Sarah, owned a farm outside of Tuscumbia. Bruce Thompson was living with his mother and step-father in a house on 9th Street in Tuscumbia in 1920.

By 1922, Ricks departed the venture and the business than became solely Thompson Funeral Home. The 1930 census records Bruce Thompson, wife, Ella, son, Bruce, Jr., and widowed step-father, Frank Meredith, living in the house that Meredith owned on 9th Street. Thompson’s occupation is proprietor and undertaker. When Bruce, Jr. grew up, he received an education at Worsham College of Embalming outside of Chicago, becoming “the first

33	737	John Swoopes	Head	M	28	Feb 26 1904	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Barber	Own Shop	105 - Montgomery Ave. Sheffield, Ala.	15-55X-1
34		Emma Swoopes	Wife	F	34	3/27/70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
35		William Swoopes	Child	M	18		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
36		Marion Swoopes	Child	F	10		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
37		Paris Swoopes	Child	M	7		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
38		Kellan Swoopes	Child	F	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
39		Mary Swoopes	Child	F	20		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
40		Esther Swoopes	Child	F	7		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			

63	126/69	Dawidta Young	Head	0 F	26	28	32	35	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	31	Mail	City	
63		Polly	Wife	F	6	33	22	32	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	31	Home		
64		Bruce	Son	M	16	15		20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	31	Home		

(Above) 1920 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Bruce Thompson Living with Step-Father Frank Meredith (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Left) City Directory for Tuscumbia, 1926, with Bruce and Ella Thompson Highlighted (Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

between the Tennessee Valley Historical society and the University of North Alabama. Col. Graves discussed how he grew up in a segregated Tuscumbia. He and his siblings attended Trenholm High School. Every school had hand-me-down books, desks, and athletic equipment and clothes from the local white schools, even though Trenholm was one of the best schools for African Americans in the North Alabama in the early 20th century. The Colonel recalls how there were no libraries, laboratories, or school counselors available to the community. The lack of these commodities reinforced the importance of parents who subscribed to magazines, teachers who purchased their own books and supplies, and principals that assisted students in reaching the next level of education. His parents, like others in the community, focused their interest on not just the academic performance of the students, but also on the extra-curricular activities such as plays, choir, football, and recitations. These are the life experiences that he remembers the most.

G. W. Trenholm (1871-1925)

George Washington Trenholm is best known as the principal of Tuscumbia Colored School from 1896 to 1916. Mr. Trenholm was born in Colara, Alabama in 1871. By the time he was 25 years old, he had moved to Tuscumbia and took the position as Tuscumbia

(Below) City Directory for Tuscumbia, 1913, with George and Ellen Trenholm Highlighted (Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

Col. Graves remembers that his older brothers all left Trenholm to go to high school programs at Tuskegee Institute and all his older sisters left to go to Spellman College in Atlanta. Col. Graves and his younger sister were the only ones to complete high school at Trenholm before he went on to Tuskegee Institute.

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 M. JEROME CARTER, President Florence, Alabama

**TUSCUMBIA CITY DIRECTORY (1926)**

Taylor Timothy L. (Ida) ptrnr h307 N Water  
 Tennent Wm T. (Jessie A) lighting systems h206 E 2d  
 Tennessee Valley Bank Building 102½ W 6th  
**TENNESSEE VALLEY BANK THE, E J Henninger V-  
 Pres 129 S Main, Phone 44 (See back cover, right top  
 lines and page 19)**  
 Tennessee Valley Country Club C J Alley pres T R Jones  
 v-pres Presley Rebsman sec W H Richeson treas S  
 end Main  
 Tennessee Valley Fair Association grounds S end of Main  
 Tennessee Valley Tribune newspaper (weekly) A M Eaton  
 editor and publ 112 W 5th  
 Thigpen Chas G (Martha) county meat and milk insp r h  
 807 E 6th  
 Thomason Elmer L hlpr r102 N Main  
 Thompkin Arth cook h718 S Washington  
 Thompkins Philip driver h Jackson Highway nr Commons  
 Thompson Annie cook h321 N Hooks  
 Thompson Bruce (Ella) undtcr h S Mulberry nr 11th av  
 Thompson D Edwin (Rosa) carp t W 11th nr Hooks  
 Thompson Danl E Jr student r W 11th nr Hooks  
 Thompson Edw (Betty) hlpr h S Webb nr Government  
 bldg  
 Thompson Henrietta dom r W 4th cor Hooks  
 Thompson Henry (Ella) porter h S Cave cor 11th  
 Thompson Humphrey B r101 E Almon av  
 Thompson Jos N (Lucy N) h101 E Almon av  
 Thompson Mary E student r S Lafayette nr 9th  
 Thompson Monroe (Rosa) farmer h E 8th nr Davis E  
 Tuscumbia  
 Thompson R Earl (Madeline) supt Deshler High Sch h102  
 N High  
 Thompson Sarah cashr White's Lunch Room res Valosta  
 Thompson Sylvia cook h508 E 6th  
 Thompson Wm J (Aurelia) brkmm h1001 E 3d  
 Thorn Clarence C (Mabel) cranemn r607 E 9th  
 Thornton Della cook h E 8th nr High  
 Thornton Laura r608 E 4th  
 Thornton Meredith clk Sou Ry System r608 E 4th  
 Threet Callie h E 8th cor Broad  
 Threet Geo lab r E 8th cor Broad  
 Throckmorton Eliz A tchr Deshler High Sch r200 S Mil-  
 ton

**A. G. MILAM TRANSFER & STORAGE CO.**  
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**TROWBRIDGE CREAMERY CO.**  
 Dairy Products -- Ice Cream  
 FLORENCE, ALA. PHONE 192

**WATSON TIRE CO.**  
 VULCANIZING  
 Phone 101 Watch Us Run

college-trained embalmer and funeral director in Northwest Alabama." Junior then joined his father in the business and it became Thompson & Son Funeral Home.

Thompson & Son moved to its current location – the circa 1912 home of a Tuscumbia doctor – in 1938. The business did well through the mid-20th century and in 1962, after her husband’s death, Mrs. Thompson built and opened a second location on Poplar Street in Florence. As of 1982, the business was owned by Col. Arthur D. Graves and his wife, Ms. Jean Long Graves, a retired Air Force officer and a former educator. Both locations are still in operation.

In November 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Graves gave an oral history interview to a collaboration

(Below) 1930 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Bruce Thompson as an "Undertaker" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1920 Federal Census Excerpt Showing Tim Ricks Renting on His Father's Land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**Call Lucas & Simmons**  
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258 R. L. POLK & CO.'S DIRECTORY

Thornton Laura, h 4th s w cor Fayette  
 Threat Callie (wid), Indrs, h n s 8th 1 e of Dickson  
 \*Threat George, lab, b Callie Threat  
 \*Threat Lula, b Callie Threat  
 Throckmorton T Wood, pharmacist Palace Drug Store,  
 b Mrs Julia Goodloe  
 \*Thurkill Robert (m), lab, h e s Mulberry 4th s of 11th  
 \*Thurston John W (m), porter P O, h w s High 1 s of  
 10th  
 \*Tipton Martha (wid), Indrs, h e s St Car line 1 s of  
 County rd  
 \*Tolman Jacob (m), lab, h e s Cave 2 s of 8th  
 \*Tomkins Arthur, lab, h w s Washington 8 s of 11th  
 Tompkins Nathaniel P (Mary B), furniture and under-  
 taker, s s 6th 2 w of Main, h 2d n e cor Indian  
 \*Toney Timp (m), lab, h 7th n e cor Hickory  
 \*Topps Harry (m), tmstr, h e s High 1 s of 8th  
 \*Townsend Walter, porter Hotel Parshall  
 \*Trenholm George W (Ellen), prin colored schools, h  
 Washington s w cor 11th  
 \*Tripp Lovenia, Indrs, h Hickory s e cor 10th  
 Trump Wilson E (Adina) pastor First Presbyterian

74	101/106	Thompson, Bruce	Head	0	1500	no	26	28	32	35	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Proprietor	Undertaker	1920	E	no	76		
75		Bela	Wife	F		7	25	20	30	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	no						75	
76		Bruce, Jr	Son	M		14	5	10	15	20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	no						76	
77		Meredith, Frank	Step father	M		41	60	60	60	60	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	no	Mail	Car	City	Jessie	1897	no	77

189	119	Ricks Timothy	head	0					57			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	farmer	general farm		GA	187
		Sarah	wife	F					38			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	man				
		Scott	son	M					18			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	farmer	labour	farm		
189	120	Ricks Timothy Jr	head	0					21			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	farmer	labour	working out		
		Mary	wife	F					20			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	man				



**(Left) Photograph of the Grave of Prof. G. W. Trenholm and His Son, Dr. Harper Council Trenholm at Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery, Alabama (Findagrave.com, User Lonewalker)**

Colored School's third principal. In 1899, he married Ellen T. Brown (1873-1948). In addition to being the principal of the Tuscumbia Colored School, Professor Trenholm was the editor of *The American Star*, an African American newspaper published bi-weekly on Wednesdays in Tuscumbia in the early years of the 20th century. Mrs. Trenholm was the associate editor for a time as well.

Professor Trenholm oversaw the move of the Tuscumbia Colored School from Delony Hill to the corner of 11th and High streets in southeast Tuscumbia in 1905. When he left the position, his

next career was as the president of Alabama State Teacher's College for Negroes – later Alabama State University – in Montgomery, Alabama. Professor Trenholm had earned a Ph.D and a M.S. during his career as an educator. When he retired, his son, Dr. Harper Council Trenholm took over that position.

Tuscumbia Colored School was renamed for Professor Trenholm after he passed away. Trenholm High School was known for its excellence academically and athletically throughout North Alabama. Trenholm High School closed in 1968 due to integration. An elementary school just to the south of the former Trenholm High School on Joe Wheeler Drive was named Southside School in 1971. Sometime later, it was renamed to the current GW Trenholm Primary School in honor of Professor Trenholm.





# 4. NORTH ALABAMA and the TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

The economic crash in late 1929 rang in the decade-long Great Depression, which affected even the most affluent of citizens. African Americans living in the rural South, depending on the age-old occupation of farming and already having the disadvantage of segregation, discrimination, and Jim Crow, laws were arguably some of the worst off. The Tennessee Valley was considerably more economically bleak than most places in the country even before the depression. Farmland along the Tennessee River was undesirable due to the constant, unpredictable, and inevitable flooding and soil erosion. Most of the land in the valley had been intensively cultivated with nutrient-robbing crops like cotton and corn, and fallow winter fields were being washed away by the floodwaters. The average family made less than \$650 per year on their crops and supplemental income, a portion of the population's households subsisted on as little as \$100 annually. By the early 20th century, what topsoil was present was severely lacking in nutrients, and crops were under-producing affecting livelihoods and family health. In addition, about a third of those living in the valley were plagued by malaria. The birth rate in the valley was about 30% higher than the national average, meanwhile, literacy levels were well below average. Only 3% of farms had any electricity and the majority of the work force consisted of unskilled labor.

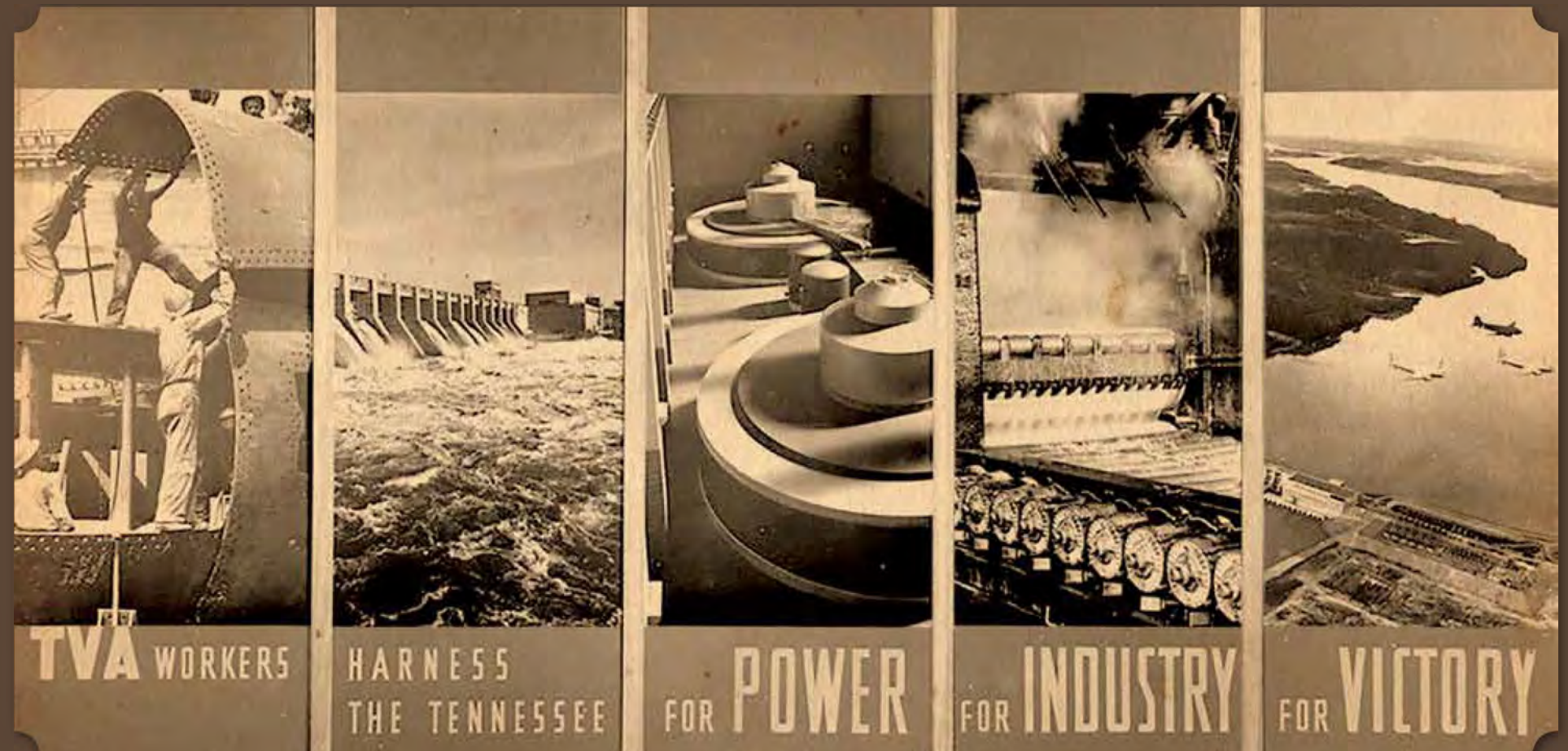
In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president of the United States and within his famous "First 100 Days" put into motion many of the New Deal programs. At least two bills proposing something along the lines of

the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were previously vetoed by former presidents in the early 20th century. However, the depression helped to change the public's attitude toward socialist programs and FDR had taken a special interest in the valley and visited the Shoals as President-elect. On May 18, 1933, President Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act which was intended "for the especial purpose of bringing about in said Tennessee drainage basin and adjoining territory... the maximum amount of flood control; the maximum development... for navigation purposes; the maximum generation of electric power consistent with flood control and navigation; the proper use of marginal lands; the proper method of reforestation... and the economic and social well-being of the people living in said river basin; and to provide for the national defense." The TVA became a federally owned corporation controlling the Tennessee River and its watershed in most of the state of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

The sixth largest river in the country, the Tennessee River was known for its disruptive flooding. One particularly troublesome portion of the river is the Shoals in North Alabama, which made transport further up the river all but impossible. The federal government had had their eye on the Shoals long before the TVA was established. Wilson Dam began construction in 1918, intended to power the nitrate plants in Sheffield. But the dam was not completed until 1924, well after the war concluded. While the dam helped some of the navigability of the river, it was not producing its full potential of electric power.

Nearby and powered by Wilson Dam is U.S. Nitrate Plant No. 2. The nitrate plants of the Shoals were originally constructed for a dual purpose in war

**(Below) The Tennessee Valley Authority Used Poster, Flyers, Billboards, and Other Propaganda to Promote Their Participation in the War Effort, 1942; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 7130538**







**(Above)** Wilson Dam Construction – Photographs of Crews Show Workmen Were Segregated by Race, 1922-1925; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 6125743

and in peace time. In war times, the plant would manufacture essential products for ammunitions inside the U.S., decreasing reliance on foreign suppliers. In peace time, the nitrates would be used to create fertilizers for the nation's farmland, however, after World War I the plants likewise went unused. After February 1919, the 2,306-acre site and all its auxiliary properties sat idle for 14 years. Although the federal government did attempt to sell off its surplus wartime properties, the factories and dams of the Shoals among them, no bids were accepted. One of the more famous of the bids came from Henry Ford. The motor giant aspired to make a new Detroit of the South in the quickly developing town of Muscle Shoals. In 1920, Ford made a visit to the area with another well-known industrialist, Thomas Edison. Ford offered the government \$5 million for the entire property with plans to create an industrial corridor some 75 miles long, starting in Muscle Shoals and running along the river. Ford's and all other offers was rejected and little was done with the Shoals for over a decade – until the creation of the TVA.

## TVA and Its Many Goals and Programs

The 1933 TVA Act outlined the various goals of the authority many of which had a cascading effect and lead to more and more projects and programs aimed at elevating the economic status of the valley. The largest objective of the TVA was to engineer control over the Tennessee River and many of its smaller tributaries by constructing dams, locks, and lakes. These dams would in turn generate hydroelectric power, which could be used to power factories or be sold to customers. Contributing to the valley's agricultural decline was decades of intense farming, deforestation, and soil erosion. In response, the TVA initiated programs of reforestation and soil restoration. In addition to the political, military, and environmental objectives of the TVA, the agency aimed to alleviate the strains of the depression on the people of the valley. These primary objectives necessitated several other projects, surveys, and programs.

## Dams, Water Control, and Power

The central objective of the TVA was to control the Tennessee River by constructing dams and creating a navigable deep-water route for shipping transport. In North Alabama, three dams were either constructed or controlled by the TVA: Gunterville Dam in Marshall County, Wheeler Dam between Lawrence and Lauderdale counties, and Wilson Dam between Colbert and Lauderdale counties. These dams each created a corresponding lake of the same name. The dams and locks effectively solved the issue with the shallow shoals and improved the navigability of the river. Alongside enhanced navigability, the dams created hydroelectricity which could be sold at a reasonable price in a time when some power bills were in excess of a resident's mortgage. Electric power became the backbone of the TVA; it is still one of the largest power suppliers in the country today.

One of the purposes of the authority's creation during the depression was to improve the overall economic and social conditions of the people living in the valley. Differing from private corporations, the authority did not only sell power at an extremely discounted rate, but it engaged in a campaign for rural electrification. In the 1920s, only about 3% of rural

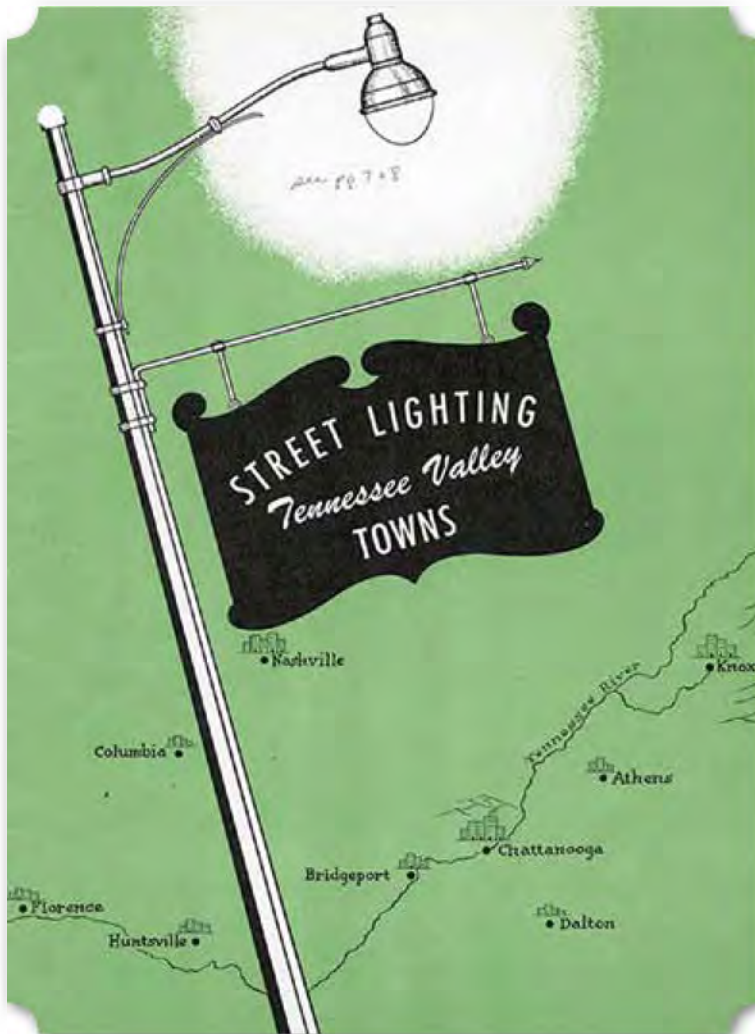
residents in the Tennessee Valley had electricity. According to census data, as of 1934, about one in every 30 Alabama farms had electricity. TVA and its cheap power helped to reduce that number to 1 in 7 farms by 1939 and TVA was supplying power to more than 400,000 residents in North Alabama by 1940. The North Alabama dams produced half of all the kilowatts produced by TVA in their initial operation – more than 480,000 kilowatts of power. The rate of rural electrification after World War II increased dramatically, with more farms lighted in a two-month period in 1949 than had been accomplished since the TVA was created in 1933.

In order to accomplish the widespread rural electrification, TVA needed to inform people of the benefits of electricity and electrical appliances. Many rural farmers understood electricity to be a luxury, something for city folk, but not anything essential to the needs of a farm. TVA conducted surveys, sent demonstration agents to set up model kitchens, dairies, and farms to illustrate the usefulness of labor-saving appliances. The TVA distributed pamphlets and flyers in which “emphasis [was] placed on adequate wiring, the use of electricity to increase income, and the ways it can be used to save some of the long hours farm women spend in the kitchen and laundry” and sought “to promote better health, refrigeration, electric cooking, and especially running water for the farm.” The introduction of specifically farm-related tools like haydriers and hay hoists, electric hotbeds, and poultry house lighting were intended to convince the farmers that electricity was a need that would save labor, raise production, and pay for itself.

Previous to the TVA, private corporations had considered rural areas to be too costly to develop. The potential revenue from the isolated rural farmstead was not sufficient enough to warrant the costs associated with wiring and supplying to remote areas. But TVA had government support and through their demonstrations and favorable rates they collected loyal customers. Some power companies attempted to move into the valley after TVA had already established transmission lines, however, some recall that the loyal TVA consumers chopped down potential competitors' poles and lines.



**(Above)** Guntersville Dam, Marshall County, March 22, 1940; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 7130538, Photograph 1102 G. **(Left)** Street Lighting Tennessee Valley Towns, TVA Pamphlet, Circa 1952; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 281490.



**(Right)** A Dad in Hartsville, Morgan County, Shows His Children How to Use the Electric Iron, Circa 1940s; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 7130435. **(Below)** Photograph of an Educational Meeting for Homemakers in Mississippi, Circa 1949, from "Power and People: On the Farm," TVA Pamphlet; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 890185.

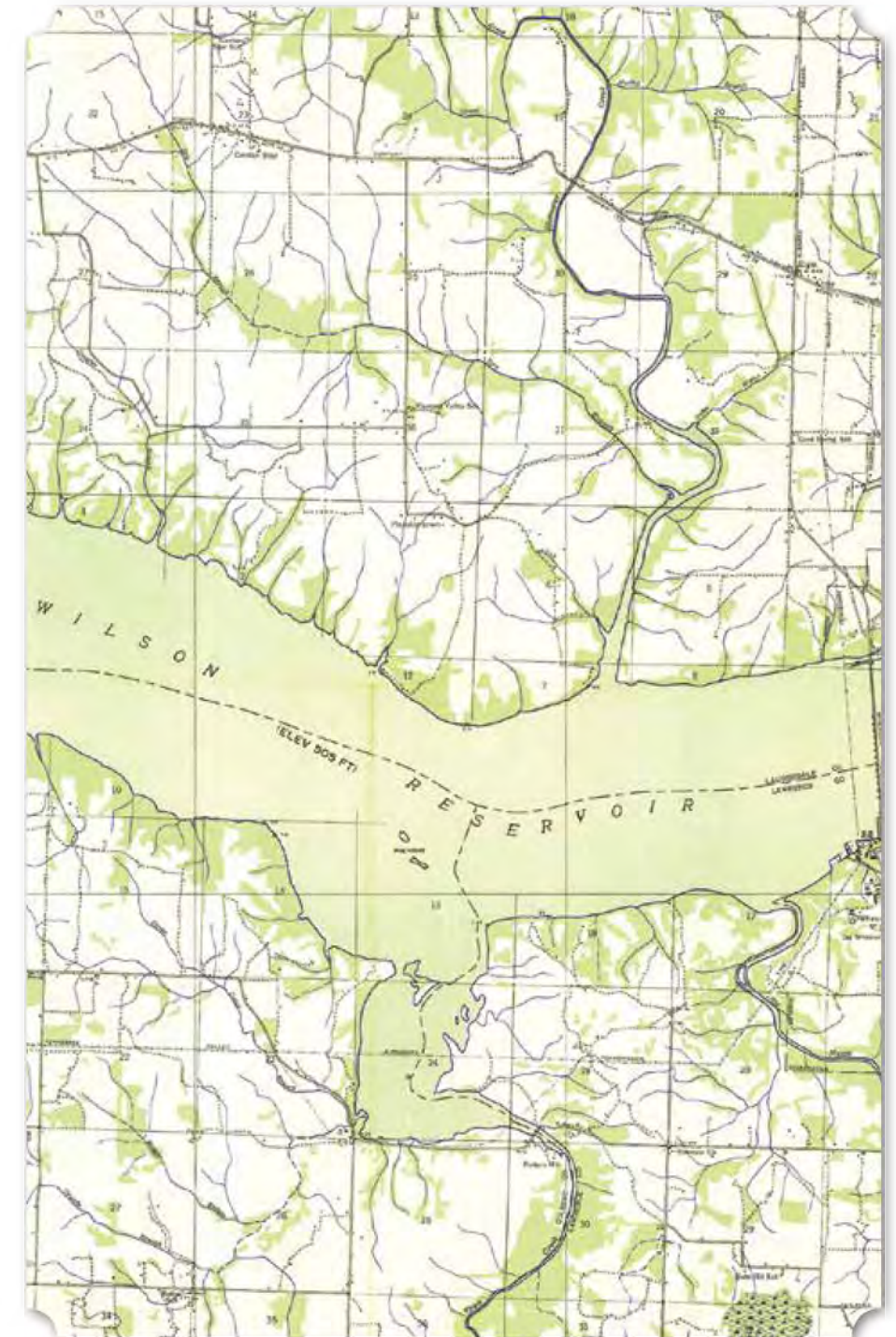
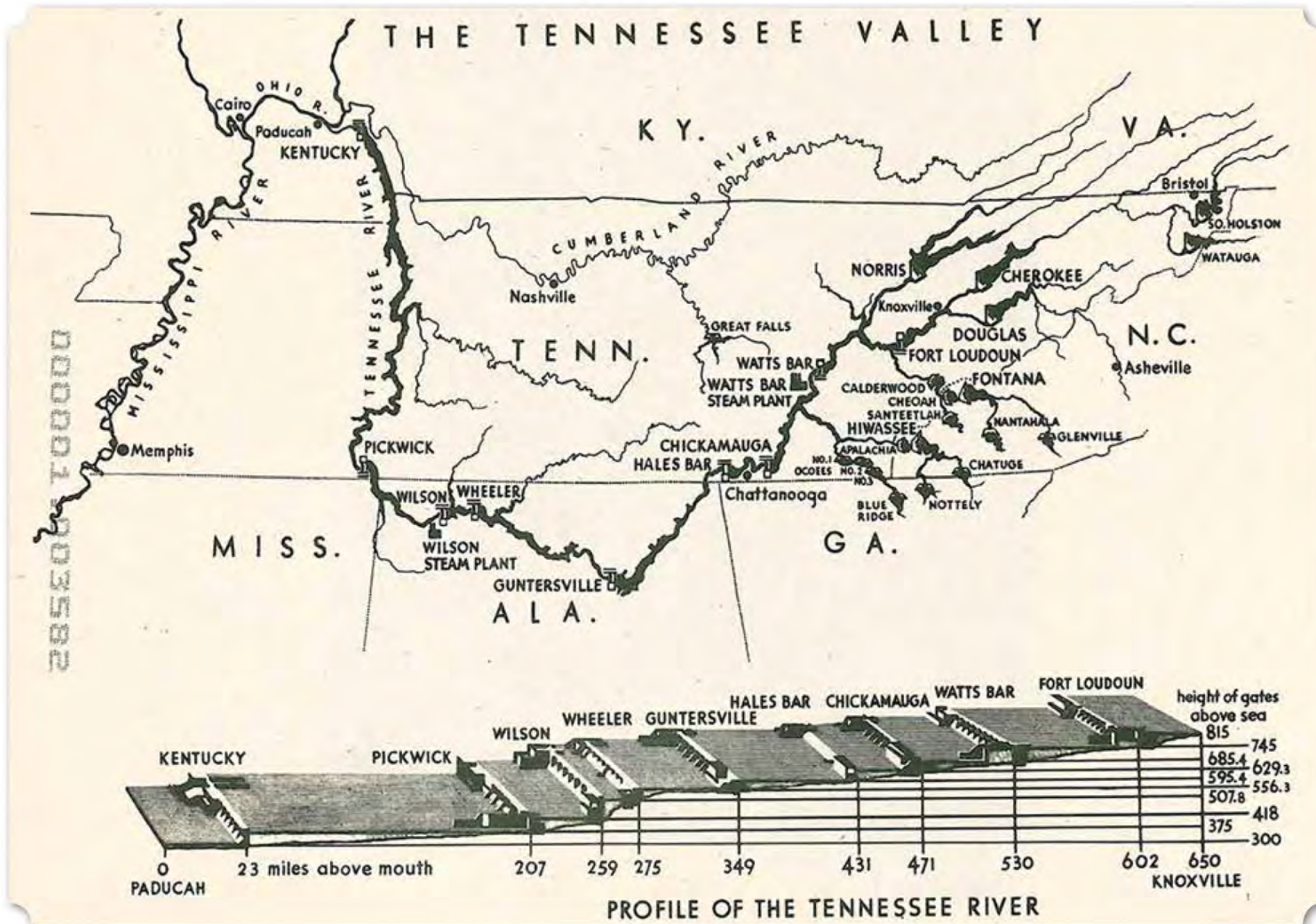


## Mapping the Valley

Before dams, locks, and lakes could be constructed forever changing the landscape of the Tennessee River Valley the entire watershed needed to be mapped. The U.S. Geological Survey previously surveyed and mapped the Middle Tennessee Valley in North Alabama in the early 20th century. These maps were at a scale of 1:48000 or 1:62500, however, TVA was in need of more detailed maps and aerial photography on a

scale of 1:24000. This partnering between the USGS and TVA began in 1933 and by 1936, most of the Middle Tennessee Valley maps were published, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the region just after the damming and flooding. The mapping assisted in land acquisition, topography for dam sites, construction camps, and recreational areas, surveys for transmission lines, railroad, highway, and cemetery relocations, among other things.

**(Bottom Left)** Map of the Tennessee Valley and TVA Projects, TVA Pamphlet "Kentucky Dam," 1945; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 281490. **(Bottom Right)** 1936 Topographic Map Made by TVA and U.S. Geological Survey at a Scale of 1:24000, this Map is of Wheeler Dam in Lawrence County (USGS/TVA, Wheeler Dam, Alabama Quadrangle)



## Family and Cemetery Relocation

The damming of the river created lakes and permanently flooded some areas. This necessitated the need to acquire portions or the whole of people's properties – their farms, sometimes their homes. Mapping and surveying served the purpose of identifying parcels within the "taking" line. Those residents living along the river were visited by case workers who would assess how much the resident would be affected by the construction, flooding, and/or relocation. Landowners and

(Below) A Family of Color Standing in the Doorway of Their Home before TVA Relocation (Tennessee Valley, Historic Photograph Collection, 1933-1980, Circa 1935; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)



tenants alike were evaluated for their ability to relocate, to find a new landlord, or to purchase new property. Case workers would fill out an extensive, multi-page questionnaire detailing the family's lives including their race, whether they owned or rented or rented out, what crops the family grew, and what income this afforded. The family was casually assessed for literacy by noting how many books were in the home and

(623)

TVA 970, 7-10-35  
Tennessee Valley Authority

Schedule No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Map \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 7-19-35

INFORMATION

Fieldman Hawell  
County Lauderdale  
Beat \_\_\_\_\_

CONCERNING FAMILIES

1. Name John Johnson

2. P. O. address Wetzel, Ala 3. Key map number 128

4. Years lived at present residence 14 In present community Life

5. Information concerning house:  
Rented or owned Owned Material Board Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of rooms 5 Heating facilities Stove Bath facilities Tub  
No. sleeping rooms 2 Fuel used Wood Condition, house Fair  
Age of house 14 Use of basement \_\_\_\_\_ " other bldgs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of house 1-2-2-2 Electricity \_\_\_\_\_ " yard \_\_\_\_\_

6. Source of water supply: Well  Cistern \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from house 120 yards.

7. Toilet facilities: Inside \_\_\_\_\_ Outside  None \_\_\_\_\_

8. Marital status: M.  S. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_ Sep. \_\_\_\_\_ W. \_\_\_\_\_ Race Negro

9. Information concerning husband and wife:

	Age Now	Age When First Married	No. Times Married	Birthplace		Highest School Grade Reached	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
				County	State		
Husband	39	20	1	<u>Lauderdale</u>	<u>Ala.</u>	5 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Good</u>
Wife	36	17	1	"	"	5 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Good</u>

10. No. of children born: Boys 1 Girls 4 No. who have died: Boys 0 Girls 0

11. The newspapers and magazines that the household receives regularly:  
Newspapers: \_\_\_\_\_ Magazines: \_\_\_\_\_

12. The approximate number of all books in the home 12

13. Denominational preference Methodist Name and location of church attended, if any, \_\_\_\_\_ Membership in other organizations Masses

14. Amount of insurance: Life \$150.00 Accident and Health \_\_\_\_\_  
Burial \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$150.00

15. Liabilities: Mortgages on real estate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other mortgages \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Taxes \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other debts \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

16. Information concerning deaths in the family during past ten years:

Name of Person Who Died	Date of Death	Relation	Residence at Time of Death	Cause of Death	Where Buried
<u>Fannie Jordan</u>	<u>9-7-1935</u>	<u>wife's</u>	<u>Waterloo</u>	<u>Heart Failure</u>	_____

17. How many members of family had malaria 1934-35? None

18. Does the family own a car? No If so, state the make \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have they owned it? \_\_\_\_\_

what magazines and newspapers they subscribed to. The family's debts and incomes were tallied along with a description of the house and its facilities. Even the informant's perception of the TVA itself was recorded; very little was overlooked. Oftentimes the worker would need to check back with the family and ensure they were resettled and assess whether they were well-adjusted to their new circumstances.

(Left) Example of a Handwritten Questionnaire for TVA Family Removal, John Johnson of Waterloo, Lauderdale County, 1935 (Tennessee Valley Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) List of Cemeteries Surveyed for the Wheeler Reservoir, Lawrence and Lauderdale Counties, Circa 1935 (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

CEMETERYS SURVEYED  
WHEELER RESERVOIR  
HUNTSVILLE UNIT

- Name: Private(Negro) Owner: Andy Cowan. Graves: 35. Elevation of lowest corner 570. Location: Photo 478-70 in middle of S 1/2 of NE 1/4 Sec. 2, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Moores Cemetery, (Negro) Owner: T. J. Young. Graves: 109. Elevation of lowest corner 580. Location: Photo 478-34 in West line of section in SW 1/4 of Sec. 31, T4S, R1W.
- Name: Private(White) Owner: Stella Tolbert. Graves: 12. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 477-77 in the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W, and south of the Triana Road.
- Name: Rowe Cemetery, (White) Owner: W.C. & R.H. Rowe. Graves: 22. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 479-96 in the NW corner of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 8, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Public(Negro) Owner: J.B. Harris. Graves: 105. Elevation of lowest corner 572. Location: Photo 478-14 in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W.
- Name: Private(White) Owner: J.B. Harris. Graves: 8. Elevation of lowest corner 595. Location: Photo 478-14 in the S 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T6S, R1W.
- Name: Private(Negro) Owner: Mary Toney. Graves: 89. Elevation of lowest corner 588. Location: Photo 478-69 at SE corner of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 2, T6S, R2W, or at the NE corner of NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 11, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Fennel Cemetery, (White) Owner: William G. Jordan. Graves: 32. Elevation of lowest corner 595. Location: Photo 471-31 in the SE corner of Sec. 17, T7S, R3E.
- Name: Black Cemetery, (White) Owner: E. P. Couch. Graves: 11. Elevation of lowest corner 588. Location: Photo 475-28 in the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 21, T6S, R1E.
- Name: Public(White) Owner: J.P. Couch. Graves: 175. Elevation of lowest corner 625. Location: Photo 475-79 in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 6, T7S, R2E.
- Name: Wiggins Cemetery, (White) Owner: J.R. Stevens. Graves: 16. Elevation of lowest corner 570. Location: Photo 479-98 in the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 5, T6S, R2W.
- Name: Cloud Cemetery, (White) Owner: C.A. Cloud. Graves: 47. Elevation of lowest corner 575. Location: Photo 474-31 in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26, T6S, R1E.

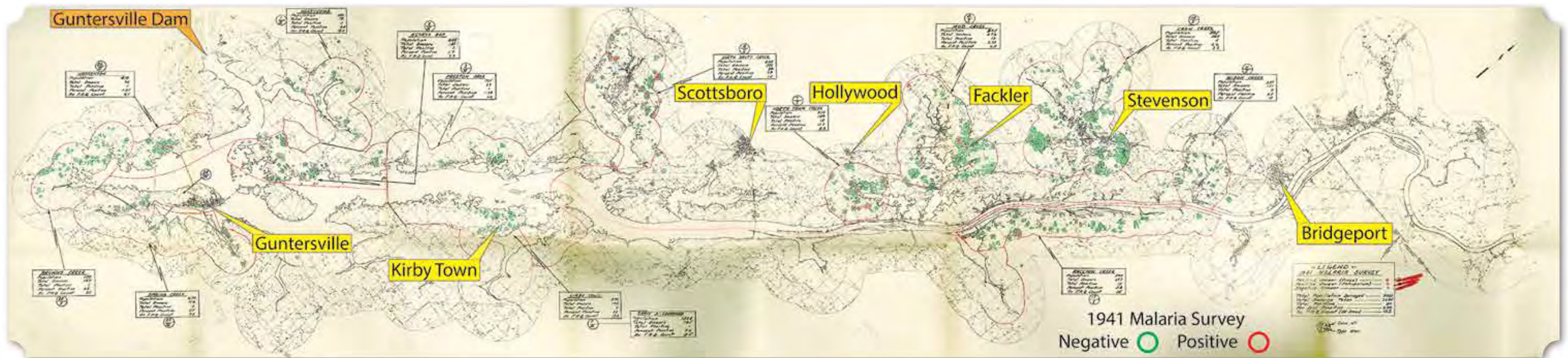
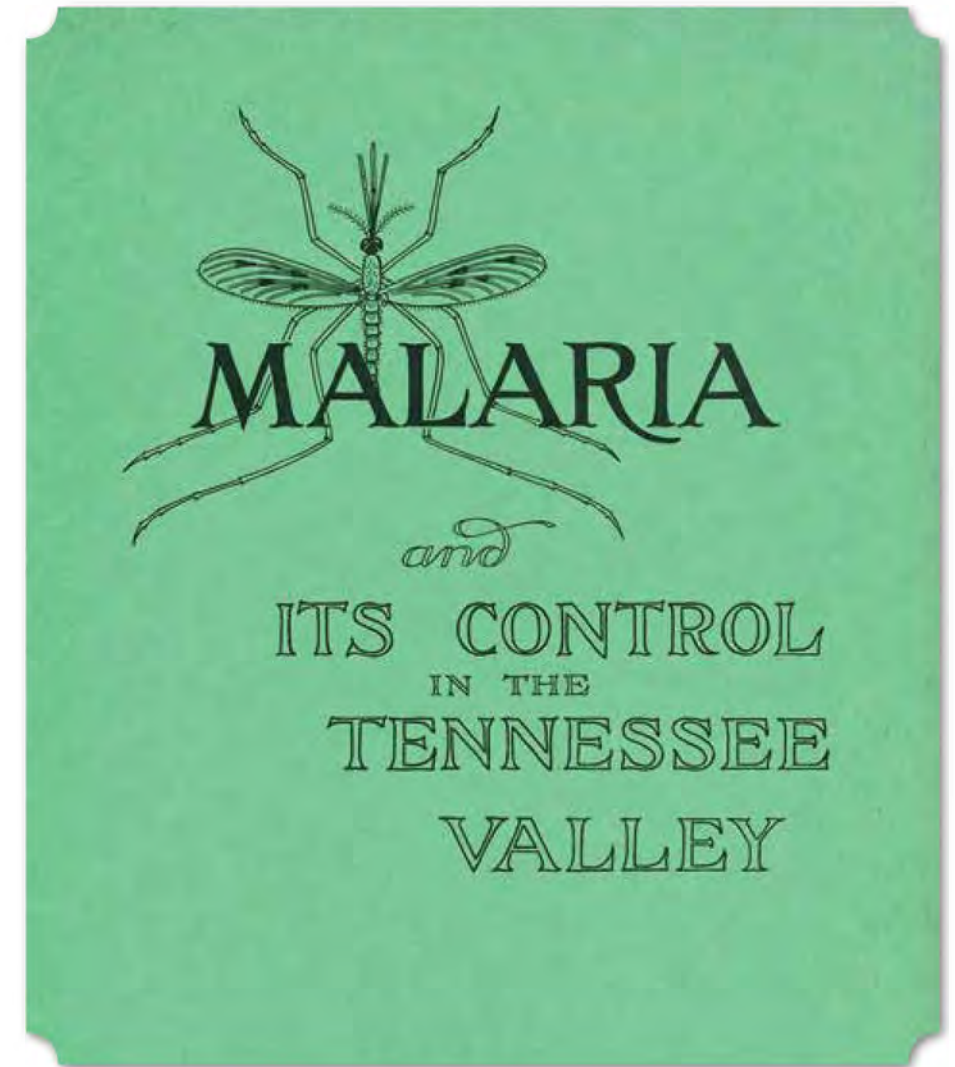
Another consequence of the flooding was the location of many archaeological sites and cemeteries. Alabama has a long history of human occupation and had been settled as a state for more than 100 years by the time TVA flooded the valley. A survey of known archaeological sites and cemeteries was conducted within the flood zone. Many of the cemeteries within North Alabama were African American and when the water rose, the cemeteries would be underwater or difficult to access. TVA recorded careful notes for each cemetery including all legible names and inscriptions, a general count of the graves, and in some cases when the cemetery was large, a drawing was produced. TVA then contacted the nearest kin, when possible, who would determine whether or not the cemetery would be moved to a new location. In every case in North Alabama in which the cemetery was known to be exclusively used by people of color, the family decided to leave the cemetery and their ancestors be; no cemeteries for people of color are known to have been moved by the TVA.

### Malaria Control

Malaria, an infectious disease spread by mosquitoes, was a particular concern for everyone in the Tennessee Valley. The disease had long troubled residents of the valley affecting their well-being and ability to

work. The creation of dams and lakes would only increase the risk of infection if left uncontrolled. TVA identified the worst-affected area as being in the Middle Tennessee Valley – specifically from Guntersville in Marshall County to Pickwick, Tennessee, west of Lauderdale County. Thorough studies were conducted on the disease, information was distributed, and precautions were taken to reduce or eliminate the disease. Mosquito-proofing of houses with nets, destruction of favorable breeding grounds, and fumigation were used in the effort. Although some of these measures would benefit all who lived in the valley, TVA literature expresses particular concern for white people. Although today scientists know of a correlation between a lower rate of malaria and people with African ancestry due to the prevalence of sickle cell anemia which interferes with the parasite that causes malaria, this does not account for the lack of concern for people of color in the Middle Tennessee Valley. Several of the family relocation cases in North Alabama mention families of color suffering from malaria.

**(Right)** Cover of TVA Pamphlet “Malaria and Its Control in the Tennessee Valley,” 1942; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier No. 281495. **(Below)** 1941 Malaria Survey Map; “This Map Shows the Results of the Malaria Control Program’s Survey for Malaria in the Guntersville Reservoir Region,” March 10, 1942; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta.



## Nitrates and Farming

For the most part, soil fertility was considered a Southern problem. In the West and North, there was still plenty of virgin and uncultivated land suitable for farming. The South, on the other hand, had been the center of agricultural production since colonization. Fertilizers were not needed or used in much of the South until after the Civil War. By then, the land had been leached of its nutrients, particularly from cash crops like cotton. In the latter half of the 19th century, fields were revived with the use of guano, which restored nitrogen among other essential nutrients. Low-producing cotton fields suddenly yielded three to five times as much per acre, resulting in an extended reign of King Cotton.

Nineteenth century efficiency and demand for cotton encouraged people to plant as much as possible. Cotton was always in demand and could be sold worldwide, unlike perishable crops which had to be sold in limited local urban centers. More and more land was cleared for crops planted from property edge to edge and as close to the house and outbuildings as possible. Despite fertilizing, the system was unsustainable. Nutrients were not being replaced as quickly as they were being pulled from the soil. At the time, soil nutrients were still not well understood, for instance the understanding of which crops took which nutrients and how much from the soil each year.

Soil science was in its infancy when commercial fertilizers came to the market at least by 1843 when a company in England manufactured and sold superphosphate, followed shortly thereafter by a plant in Baltimore. These “complete” fertilizers were comprised of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash and minimally guaranteed to produce a better crop – if only in the short term. In the U.S. nitrate was imported from Chile starting in 1861 and potash from Germany in 1870. The basis of that original process continued to be the standard of phosphate production into the mid-20th century.

Unfortunately, by 1880, capitalistic profit and short term gain encouraged charlatan tactics when selling fertilizers to economically depressed and uneducated farmers. Fertilizer companies were duping farmers by

selling them dubious products mixed with fillers like sand and peanut hulls and additives like fish scraps to make it appear more “rich and fertile.” Farmers were essentially paying all they had for a portion of the real fertilizer they needed. The farmers’ problem was compounded by their reliance on the cash crops to pay for the fertilizers and supplies they used to produce their crops. While landowners may have been better off than sharecroppers or tenants who had to give part of their crop or cash to the landowner, some independent landowners still needed to rent implements and tools and pay for seed and fertilizer. Abuses of advertising and false claims by fertilizer companies brought about regulation by various state departments of agriculture.

**(Below) Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Demonstration, 1937; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Photograph No. 1462 K.**



But soil nutrients and fertilization were not the only things to be conscious of when maintaining a healthy agricultural economy. Crops can be hard on the land- turning soil, planting, leaching, and harvesting can leave fallow fields vulnerable to erosion in the wet winter. This is a fact of farming and does not necessarily indicate that cotton and other intense crops are bad or should not be produced; rather it is the system of farming focused on a cash crop return with little regard for the soil

structure and the health of the land which is at fault. Slope, moisture, organic matter content, cropping practices – all need to be included in the study of soil restoration, one of TVA’s goals.

The enacting of the TVA was in part a response to the fertilizer industry’s pursuit of profit over the public interest. TVA and its soil restoration and fertilizer programs were intended to restore and stabilize farm soil for the long term. These programs were constructed around three basic pillars: research and development of new products and processes for manufacturing fertilizers, the enacting of test-demonstration activities made to illustrate the need, effect, and best practices of fertilizer as an economic return, and the distribution of TVA-manufactured fertilizers to the farmers directly.

Muscle Shoals became the center for research for the TVA’s fertilizer manufacture and programs. By 1933, Nitrate Plant No. 1 was obsolete and would take too much refurbishing and upgrading to suit the needs of the TVA and fertilizer production. This led to the importance of Nitrate Plant No. 2, one of two such plants in the county by the time it was operational. While the nitrate plant was efficient and cost effective, TVA fertilizer research was aimed at accumulation of information and understanding of the soil and its needs in the long term, not strictly profit.

As noted, fertilizer alone would not correct the farming conditions of the South. Better farming practices, such as crop rotation, particularly with nitrogen-fixing legumes such as soybeans, would ensure that soils would not be depleted or lose their structure. To promote better practices, TVA instituted what they called “Test-Demonstration” farms which would “provide an important educational device in demonstrating to other farmers the opportunities in making sound adjustments on their own farms. A major objective of the test-demonstrations is adoption by all farmers in a community of better farming systems which will improve soil fertility through a continuous process of experimentation, education, and introduction on practical farms of more efficient farming methods and techniques.”



**(Top)** Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Cooperative near Decatur, Morgan County, 1938 **(Above)** Man Driving a Cart of Cotton, Tennessee Valley, Historic Photograph Collection, 1933-1980, Circa 1935 (Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)

## Wilson Dam and Nitrate Plant No. 2

In 1933, the TVA was given control of its first dam – Wilson Dam – straddling the Tennessee River between Colbert and Lauderdale counties. The TVA also took control of the adjacent U. S. Nitrate Plant No. 2 (U.S.N.P.2), which it converted to the production of fertilizer. Between the dam and the nitrate plant in the Shoals, TVA was well on its way towards fulfilling one of its main goals – restoration of farmland. In order to staff these facilities, workers were hired by the hundreds, usually from the surrounding area as part of the overall New Deal/Depression-era public works program to put people to work and restart the economy. In a time and place that mainly relied on agriculture and lacked extensive roadways, public transportation, and individual car ownership, collecting workers at the dam and plant involved housing and many of the amenities that come along with a community.

Wilson Dam Village No. 2 was located to the southwest of U.S.N.P.2, north of the city of Muscle Shoals. It was constructed as semi-permanent housing. In 1918, there was a village of temporary housing built to house construction workers, although the exact location is unknown. The temporary housing was designed to hold multiple families in one low, simple building. The semi-permanent housing built by TVA included individual homes complete with yards and street lighting. Although Wilson Dam Village No. 2 is no longer extant, there were some worker villages designed to be permanent, like the town of Norris in Tennessee which accompanied Norris Dam or what became Fontana Village in North Carolina. Evidenced by photographs and topographic maps, some aspects of the design of these villages appear to have been at Wilson Dam Village No. 2 as well.

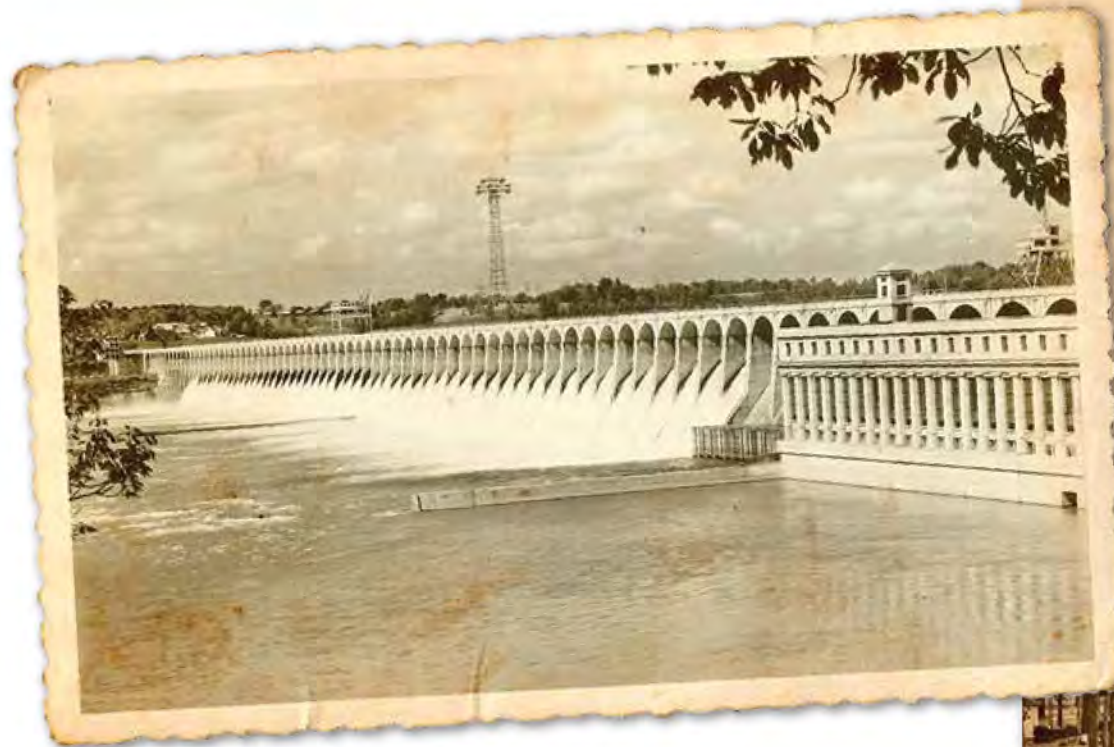
When considering the construction of a workers' village, the TVA took into account the accessibility to the dam or other construction sites, avoidance of rugged terrain, land nearby that was suitable for cultivation, as well as a nearby community or larger urban center that might be able to provide things not found in the worker's village. Most of the houses were individual, single-family homes with some larger apartment housing and boarding houses for single, unmarried employees. The

houses would sit on a lot about 0.3-acres each, with narrow frontage to reduce the cost of roadways, sewer, water mains, and street lighting, although the lots would be deep to provide a feeling of private space.

TVA wanted to build curvilinear roads that follow the natural contour of the land with several culs-de-sac or dead-ends to discourage through traffic. The roads would be clear of billboards, shacks, and small roadside vendors to ensure the natural beauty of the valley. The roads would also be paved and there would be no street curbs or sidewalks, only gutters for durability and low maintenance. Street lighting and other services would be located in the rear of the houses and underground as to not interfere with the trees. Only native plants would be used for ornamental plantings.

In line with TVA policies on the importance of farming, each village would be provided with about a 4-acre plot within easy access for all residences for which employees could practice subsistence farming if desired. Finally, the village should have a protective zone around it to protect it from random and uncontrolled growth thought to threaten the maintenance, standards, and land use of the community. Wilson Dam Village No. 2 appears to have had several of these characteristics when it was in operation. It may have also had some auxiliary buildings to help support the worker community like public parks or recreational spaces, a public hall, administration building, stores, gas stations, service garages, and a public school. If these elements were not at Wilson Dam Village No. 2, then some of them most likely were found at various other worker villages supporting Wheeler or Guntersville dams.

In addition to the workers' village and whatever amenities that community might offer, employees of TVA at Wilson Dam and U.S.N.P.2 were offered training programs during their leisure hours which were scheduled to accommodate all shifts. These programs furthered training for the positions already obtained as well as provided an opportunity to explore vocational interests or obtain information for positions outside the TVA. Instruction was provided on topics such as agriculture, construction work, engineering, other trades, and general education, as well as recreation and home planning and management for women.



**(Opposite Page) (Top Left)** Wilson Dam, Colbert and Lauderdale Counties, Circa 1943 (Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta) **(Bottom Left)** U. S. Nitrate Plant Construction Village, Colored Village, Reservation Road, Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama, May 6, 1918. (Historic American Building Survey, Library of Congress) **(Top Middle)** Wilson Village #2, Homes, 1937 **(Bottom Middle)** Wilson Village #2, Homes, 1937 **(Top Right)** Negro Recreation Hall, Wilson Village #2, 1936 **(Bottom Right)** Garage, Negro Recreation Hall, Wilson Village #2, 1936 (Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)



## African Americans and the TVA

A short article published in *Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life* in 1934 entitled “The TVA and the Race Problem,” expresses the gaps between the TVA’s expectations –the public’s and of itself – and the realities played out in the early months of the agency. According to the official policy of the TVA, African Americans were to be hired in proportion to their number in the surrounding area’s population, although the applicants would be subjected to the same tests and standards as all others applying for the same position. This policy was intended to reflect equality of employment, but as the author, Cranston Clayton, points out the TVA often fell short of these goals in practice. Frequently, TVA received complaints from the African American community about the lack of African American workers at specific projects or in specific positions. Furthermore, there was evidence that people of color were excluded from many of the secondary benefits of the TVA such as training, farm demonstrations, model poultry plants, and dairy farm pasteurizing plants.

The status quo of segregation was often inhibiting to the TVA. Although the federal government mandated that the agency employ a percentage of African American workers, this required separate facilities to be built. It appears that if the percentage of the population of African Americans in the area was too small and the cost of building and maintaining separate facilities was too great, people of color may not have been employed at all. This appeared to be true of some of the places in Eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. For example, Knoxville’s Norris Dam employee base consisted of less than 2% African American workers despite the surrounding counties’ over 7% African American demographic. This deficiency was chalked up to the low number of qualified workers among the African American population. Local people of color claimed that they had no knowledge of the examinations necessary to qualify for positions. If they had known, they had been explicitly told by local white people that they need not bother applying. This notion was confirmed by the TVA’s lack of intention to use workers of color on the Norris Dam construction itself. Apparently building separate facilities for so few African American workers was not economical.

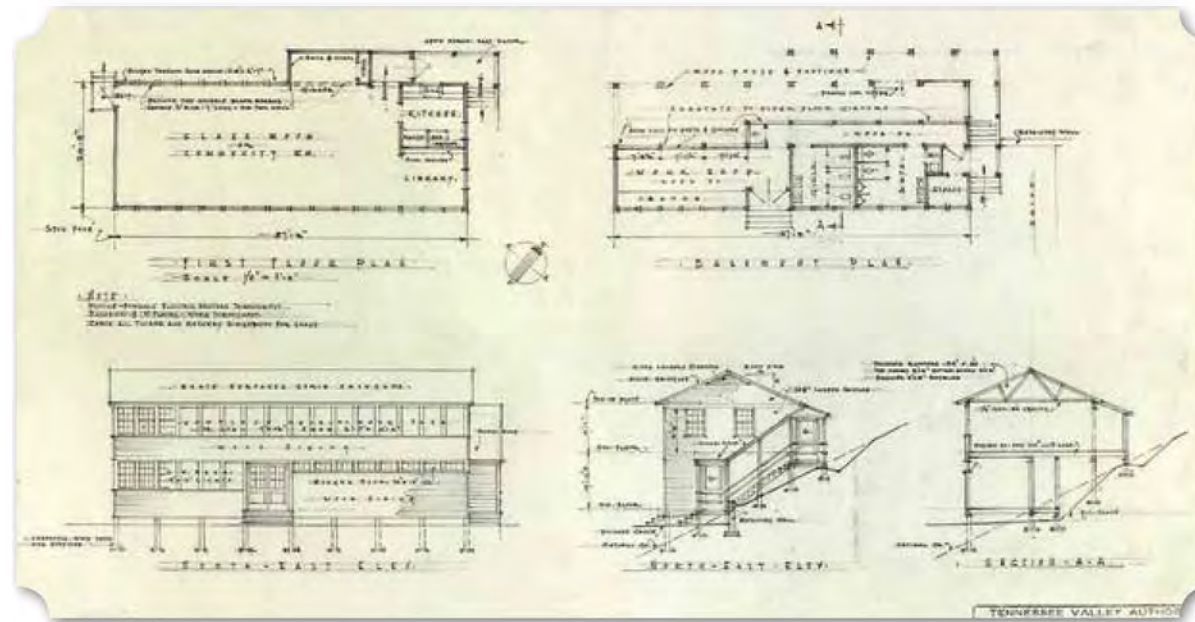
Boldfaced racism and violence occurred on occasion in areas where the two populations had little contact until the TVA projects. Fontana Dam in North Carolina had no African American residents within 30 miles of the work site. People of color intended to work on the dam needed to be recruited when the dormitories and cafeteria facilities for their exclusive use were complete and functional. At that time, a total of 192 African Americans were supposed to be recruited, however, the local white population resented this decision. Correspondence between the Principal Personnel Officer at Fontana Dam and Chief of the TVA Employment Division stated: “Rumors had reached this office that [the white workers] would not permit [workers of color] to work on this project, but as we had experienced rumors of this type on several other projects, and as nothing was ever done to prevent the employment of Negroes, we put very little credence in the rumors.” The memo went on to detail the events that occurred in early July, referred to as the “Negro Situation” when a mob of about 75 white workers descended on the 21 African American men newly arrived at their dormitories. TVA safety officers succeeded in dispersing the crowd that night, but violent threats and rock throwing took place the next day. Although only one man was injured by the violence, the group of African American workers were successfully scared off the job, only 6 reported for duty. As of the time of the memo most of the violence had dissipated and future troubles were not expected.

Another example of racial discrimination is detailed in correspondence dated November 1943 through February 1944 between John W. Reed, “an American citizen, tax-payer and one who voted for public powers,” and Mr. Gordon R. Clapp - responding on behalf of Mr. David E. Lilienthal, Chairman of the TVA. Mr. Reed wrote to voice concerns about the hiring – or the lack thereof – of African American carpenters on TVA projects. Mr. Reed wrote that “since the birth of the T.V.A., there [has] never been a negro employed as a carpenter on the construction of any one of the dams, although they have been called upon for interviews. About seventy-five (75) Negro carpenters were employed at Pickwick in 1935 to build a village, as I have been informed, to house Negro employees, but which they never did occupy.” Mr. Reed also mentioned the known employment of ten African American carpenters in the summer of

1942 in Knoxville, however, their positions were terminated six months later. Again, in August of 1943, eight African American carpenters were employed in Clifton, Tennessee, but had no jobs by November. At the end of the letter Mr. Reed questioned why the TVA does not seem to be employing African American carpenters (presumably a position of great need and importance in nearly all projects conducted by the TVA), ending with: “My generation grew up disappointed. Will we let the next generation do likewise?”

The official stance of the TVA was that its policy and practice is “to employ Negroes in proportion to their population ratio in the Tennessee Valley, to employ Negroes in broad categories of work in which they are experienced, and further, to seek methods of increasing the employment of Negroes in categories of work in which, as a group, they are not experienced and for which they require additional training. This policy has involved aggressive recruitment and training activities without which many of the present 2500 or more Negro employees would not now hold their present positions. The Tennessee Valley Authority intends to continue and to extend its activities in this regard, with the assistance of its employees and the communities in which Tennessee Valley Authority employees live.” However, it appears that even though these well-intentioned policies may have been the official position of TVA, they were not always put into practice.

In this particular situation, it was argued that none of the men from the African American population were suited for the work needed at the time – “heavy” construction, instead of “light” construction. Contrarily, Mr. Reed found this a “flimsy” and “undemocratic” excuse stating that “if all applications were filled with reference to any other subject except as to ‘COLOR’ there would have never been any cause for this complaint nor for many others that preceded it.” Mr. Reed coolly denounced the notion that there were not enough qualified African American carpenters to fill needed positions in the TVA and ends his correspondence demanding, “Now I would like very much to know why, IN THE WHOLE SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, THERE ARE NO NEGROES EMPLOYED AS CARPENTERS? I trust that you can give the true answer.” But there is no response on record.



(Above) Excerpt of Map of Fontana Village, North Carolina, Showing Segregated Section for African American Workers, 1943 (Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta) (Top Right) Plans for “Negro School and Community Building” at Fontana Village, North Carolina, 1942 (Right) Welch Cove Negro School at Fontana Village, North Carolina, 1944 (Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)

## TVA and North Alabama

While racial discrimination and violence was surely not unknown to the TVA and all other aspects of American life, particularly during segregation, the projects of North Alabama and the Middle Tennessee Valley are quiet on such accounts. There is no apparent evidence that the Wilson, Wheeler, and Guntersville dams and other projects in North Alabama did not employ the proper percentage of workers of color. Wheeler Dam, in Lawrence County, is known to have employed 523 men in 1934 – the appropriate percentage of them were men of color. The workmen were paid 45 cents for unskilled labor and \$1.00 for skilled labor (presumably a day), the same rates were applied to all workers regardless of race. Census records, documentary photographs, and known anecdotes suggest that the discrimination people of color experienced in other parts of the valley did not occur to such a degree in the Middle Tennessee Valley. This may be because the majority of people of color in the valley resided – and reside still – in the Middle Tennessee Valley of North Alabama and in west Tennessee. Perhaps, their relatively high numbers made it easier for the TVA to achieve their policy of racial equality – or at least racial proportions – uninhibited by the financial burdens of providing separate facilities for so few individuals. Whereas there is not abundant evidence of negative effects of the TVA on people of color in North Alabama, that does not mean that no family of color experienced negative consequences.

North Alabama lacks well-documented cases of violence or discrimination against people of color by the TVA. Despite the official policy to treat all residents of the valley equally, institutional segregation and discrimination affected the community of color nonetheless. Primarily, the family removal that occurred along the river in preparation of the dams was undoubtedly arranged in favor of more wealthy landowners over poorer landowners and tenants, regardless of race. Consider the following: landowners of color were a small percentage of a minority of the population; they often did not own large amounts of land; their farmland was primarily subsistence and did not offer a large surplus income; and a disproportionate number of these landowners owned the most undesirable land along the constantly-flooding river. Therefore,

even if a family of color owned their farm, it was unlikely they had the means to control their futures by moving to comparable or improved land elsewhere or to an urban center. Also, while factory work was available, offered, and accepted by many people of color, at the same time, farming families of color were forced to give up their preferred way of life when the TVA came to North Alabama.

According to Dr. Melissa Walker in a 1998 journal article, *African Americans and TVA Reservoir Property Removal: Race in a New Deal Program*, “The TVA’s vision for the appropriate shape of valley agriculture was one of mechanized, commercial farms. The agency’s directors believed that it benefited the entire regional economy to move poor ineffective farmers off the land in order to free up resources to help more prosperous farmers expand.” Dr. Walker also outlines the various hardships encountered in regards to conscious or unconscious prejudice against people of color. All TVA case workers were white and while the early case workers may have been from the nearby communities, in an effort to approach the tasks professionally and systematically, by the late 1930s, all case workers were educated outsiders with little insight or sympathy for the communities they serviced. Many case file notes dictate the racial discrimination, which was probably perceived as mild by the case workers themselves. The case file notes make assumptions and remarks about the client’s presumed activeness, work ethic, and/or intelligence. The prejudice against people of color for their lack of education was a widespread occurrence in the valley and many agents falsely assumed that families of color were not going to be affected by the removal, were not being forced to leave deep-rooted communities, and that they would be more than willing and eager to leave farming all together.

The family removal records for people of color in North Alabama contained few follow ups that detailed the new lives of those who were made to move making it difficult to discern just how disruptive this event was on the population at large. Renters were arguably better off as their wealthy white landlords usually owned a large amount of land, some of which was likely to be outside of the taking zone proposed by the TVA. Many records referred to landowners making a blanket

assurance that their tenants would be taken care of. If relations were not amiable between tenants and landowners, then oftentimes an adjacent landowner may take on the extra tenant. Some owners opted to move their house to another portion of their own land or to a new parcel if possible. In some cases, landowners of color were unable to find new land with their resources and were forced to rent.

Dr. Walker discusses the lack of understanding and recognition of a community of color on behalf of the TVA case workers. In many instances in East Tennessee, the case files remark on landowners moving from their own well-established property to rented property within an African American neighborhood. The case worker seemed pleased and well-assured that the family would be settled quickly because they would be among their own race. “Workers assumed that, because African Americans were excluded from community leadership posts and from the white community, they did not have a community of their own and did not suffer from community displacement after relocation. Workers used ‘community’ to refer only to the white community.” The lack of realization of the existence of a community of color may also speak to why no farmers of color were included in the test-demonstration farms or sometimes in the training – these benefits were meant to better the community and worked through community cooperatives, for which the community of color was thought to have none. Furthermore, no concern was given for the fact that the family had to leave their own community or give up the advantage of property ownership.

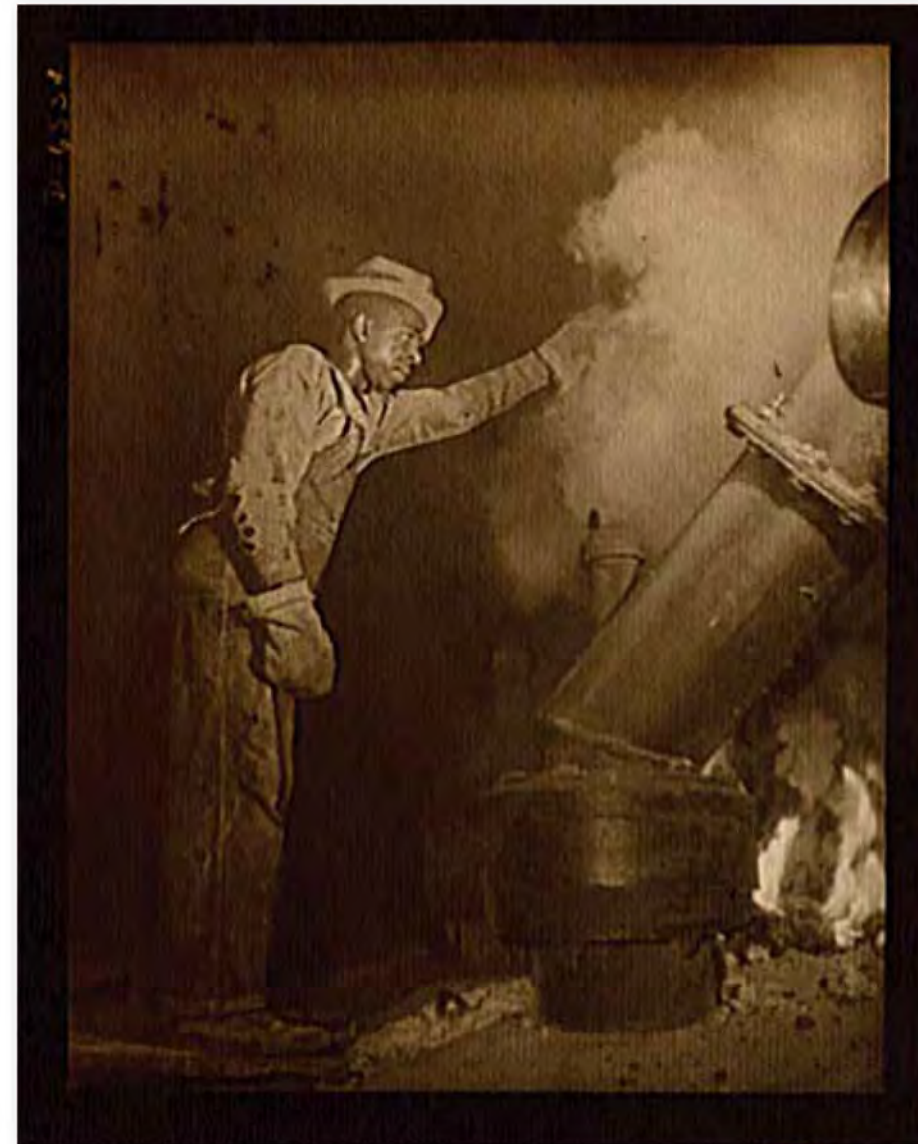
Most houses owned by landowners were reported to be in better shape with better furniture than renters. Similarly, the clothing and health of owners was reportedly above average for people of color in the area. The case workers often reported that most people of color were pleasant and agreeable toward them and generally supportive or ambivalent to the TVA as a whole. This might seem surprising for how disruptive relocation must have been, particularly for landowners who had worked towards having their own land, just to have it taken away. The TVA case workers were not intended to be support networks or even facilitate any aid for the people they surveyed. Although there is often evidence that case workers would refer white families to other divisions from which

they could receive aid. Only one example is known of a case worker suggesting and facilitating a family of color who was renting their farm in Lawrence County to contact the county's Resettlement Administration in Moulton for assistance.

The TVA and its practices did have a great effect on North Alabama and Colbert County, particularly from its practice of clearing so-called ineffective farmers off the land to make way for the expansion of more prosperous farmers. This may be evident in the 1940 agricultural census



**(Above)** "Negroes Speed War Work for Tennessee Valley Authority. (Left to Right) Paul L. Imes, Samuel C. Watkins, and George W. Richardson are Employed as Laboratory Technicians by TVA at Its Plant at Muscle Shoals. They are Doing High-Grade Sub-Professional Work and Are in Training for Professional Positions." Palmer, Alfred T., Photographer. Nitrate Negatives. 1942. From Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, *Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives*



**(Above and Right)** "Tennessee Valley Authority Production. Elemental Phosphorus. A Negro Worker Tending an Electric Phosphate Smelting Furnace which is Producing Elemental Phosphorus at a TVA Chemical Plant in the Muscle Shoals Area. The Phosphorus, Used in the Manufacture of Incendiary Bombs and Shells and of Material for 'Smoke,' is Produced by Smelting Phosphate Rocks, Coke and Silica Together in the Electric Furnaces and Condensing the Resulting Phosphorus Gases. When Surplus Phosphorus is Available it is Converted into Highly Concentrated Phosphate Fertilizer, Much of which is Shipped Abroad under Provisions of the Lend-Lease Bill." Palmer, Alfred T., Photographer. Nitrate Negatives. June 1942. From Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, *Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives.*



which shows that from 1930 to 1940, the overall number of farms in Colbert County decreased from 2,900 to just over 2,200 farms. Simultaneously, the total number of acres of farmland in the county increased nearly 125% from an excess of 181,000 acres to over 228,000

**(Below)** Army-Navy "E" Award for Nitrate Plant #2, Presented to War Industries for Excellence in Manufacturing, 1943; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Identifier 6120911



acres. The estimated average farm size in the county increased by 38.3 acres in that decade indicating the consolidation of farmland into fewer, but larger farms. By 1940, there were fewer than 500 farms operated by people of color in Colbert County; of these, only 158 were owned or partially owned by a person of color.

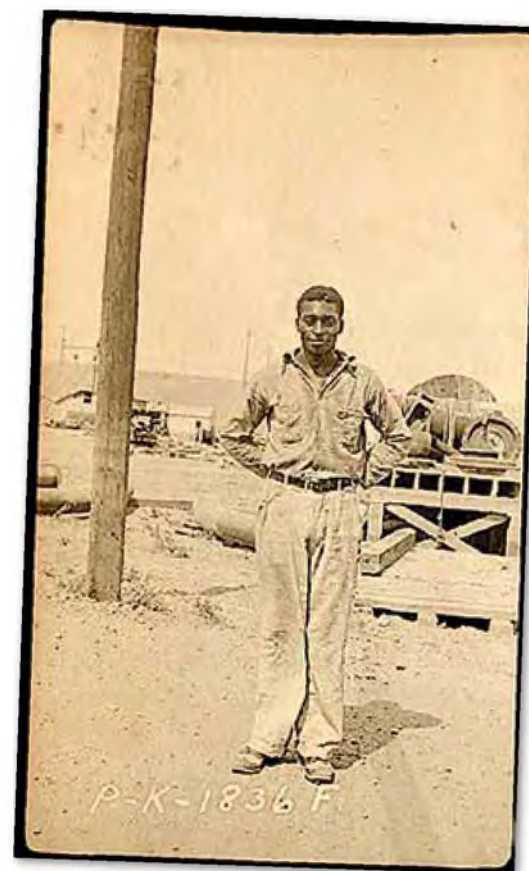
The population census records detail the people of Colbert County who worked for TVA at Wilson Dam and U.S.N.P.2, some of whom were people of color. The census also records where people lived, whether they owned their property, and if that property was a farm. However, Huston Cobb, Jr, resident of Leighton, conveyed to local historian Butch Walker that his father, Houston Cobb, Sr. owned a farm while working for the TVA. Better, more reliable pay may have been had at the dam and plant, which could supplement the income of subsistence farming left at home for younger children and wives to contend with. Mr. Cobb, Jr. recalls that this was true for many of the men in the community at the time. Everyone who attended church would wear their work badge to specify they had a job. The community of color had many proud, rural farmers taking on more and more to make ends meet. So if the TVA set out to change the valley, they succeeded.

**(Below)** "Negroes Speed War Work for Tennessee Valley Authority. Alonzo Bankston is a Furnace Operator in the TVA Plant Producing Carbide for Use of Plants Manufacturing Synthetic Rubber." Palmer, Alfred T., Photographer. Nitrate Negatives. June 1942. From Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives.





**(Left)** "Negroes Speed War Work for Tennessee Valley Authority. Lincoln C. Johnson, Sub-Labor Foreman at Wilson Dam, is in Charge of an Expert Crew Responsible for Unloading Carbide Drums and Having Them on Hand for Reloading. Speedy Work Saves TVA Money by Avoiding Demurrage on Railway Cars. He is Vice-President of the Hot Carriers' Local Union and in the Last Few Months has Been a Business Agent." Palmer, Alfred T., Photographer. Nitrate Negatives. June 1942. From Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, *Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives.*



**(Left)** "Mr. Rufus Steel; TVA Employee who Guarded a Fallen Electrical Wire until Repaired," 1936; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta, Photograph No. P-K-1836 F.





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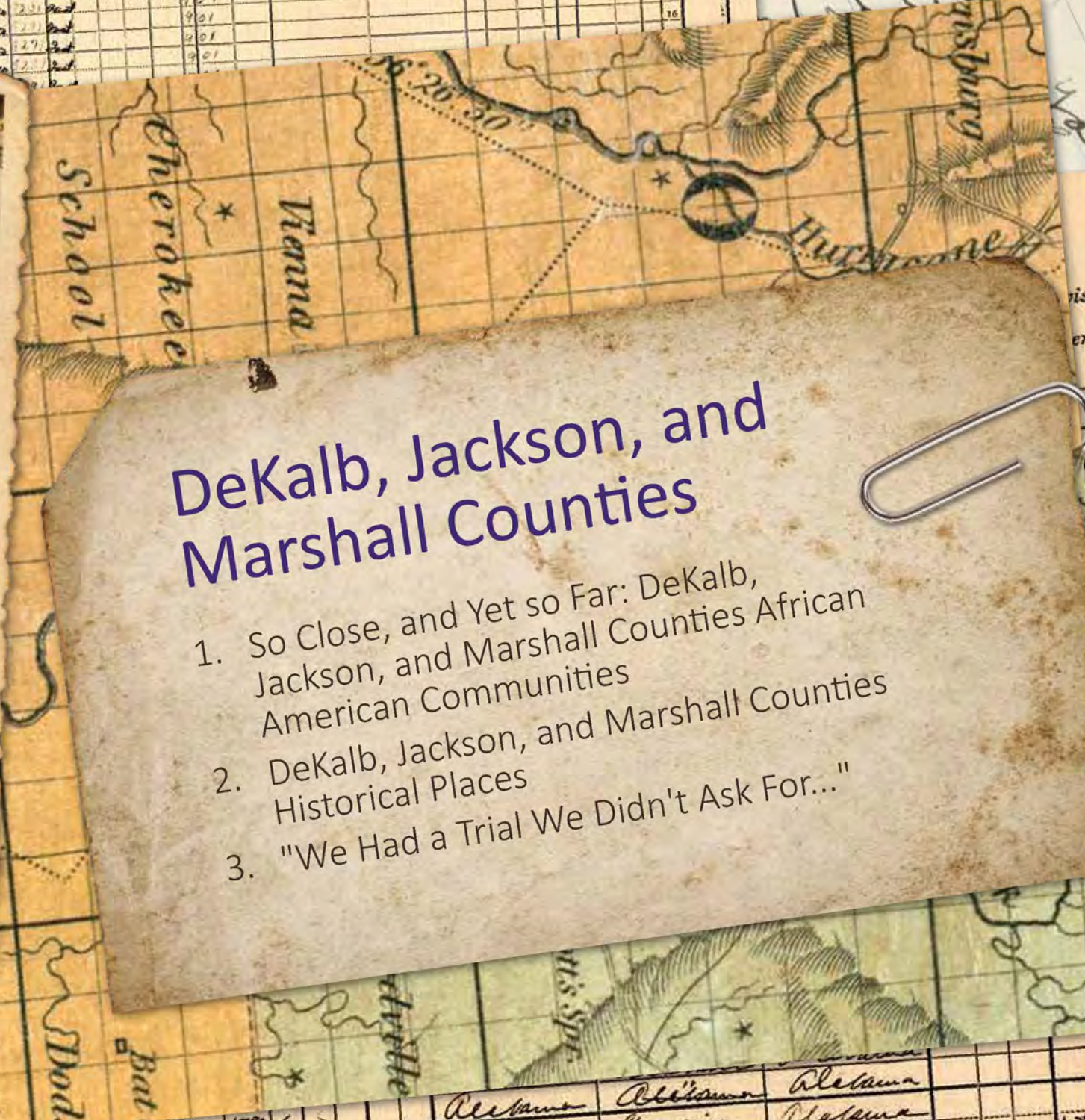
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POPULATION SCHEDULE  
 Wm. Bessie Campbell  
 Enumerator

Ward of city  
 Division of county  
 Census of Alabama, April 1, 1950  
 PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS

NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	COUNTY	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE STATUS	MILITARY SERVICE	OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLAIM OF WORKER															
										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties				Alabama	DeKalb	M	33																		
Cherokee				Alabama	Cherokee	M	28																		
Marshall				Alabama	Marshall	F	28																		

I have been right with you  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right  
 I do not know right



# DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties

1. So Close, and Yet so Far: DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties African American Communities
2. DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties Historical Places
3. "We Had a Trial We Didn't Ask For..."

A  
 Supervisor's District No. 7 33 Sheet No. 11  
 Enumeration District No. 55  
 Ward of city

OCCUPATION	EDUCATION				OWNERSHIP OF HOME				
	Months not employed	Attended school in month	Can read	Can write	Can speak English	Owned or rented	Owned free or mortgaged	Farm or house	Number of farm schedule
10	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
DeKalb							7	7	29
Marshall									
Cherokee									
DeKalb School	3								
Cherokee School	3								
Marshall School	5								
DeKalb School	2								

SUPPLEMENT QUESTION  
 NAME  
 STATE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES  
 PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH PERSON AND PARCELS OF EACH PERSON OF STATE, GIVE THE STATE OR TERRITORY; IF OF FOREIGN BIRTH

# 1. SO CLOSE, AND YET SO FAR: SEARCHING FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN DEKALB, JACKSON, AND MARSHALL COUNTIES

The borders of DeKalb County are positioned so that long, narrow valleys and ridges traverse the length of it from the northeast border with Georgia to the southern border with Etowah County. Several of the first towns in DeKalb County were settled in these valleys. The Little Wills Valley, sometimes labeled Railroad Valley, contains Valley Head, Fort Payne, and Collinsville, which were connected by rail in the late 1890s. The rest of the county is fairly mountainous with roads that twist and turn on switchbacks leading into the greater Tennessee River Valley. The terrain of DeKalb County surely sets it apart from the rest of North Alabama.

The landscape of Jackson County is lush and rural like most of North Alabama. The highway runs a path from Chattanooga along the north side of the Tennessee River passing by Bridgeport, Stevenson, and Scottsboro before curving west to Huntsville, Madison County. The old towns all started because of the lure of the Tennessee River and its verdant floodplain. In the early 19th century, this area was covered in an Alabama “summer snow” from the cotton fields. Despite this, Jackson County and its towns were constantly vying for a piece of that Southern

economic pie with more prosperous cities like Huntsville and Florence. When the railroad started west of the Appalachians, Jackson County and its river towns were the first to benefit. Now the county highway follows the length between the river and the railroad as it bypasses the towns whose good fortune of river and rail brought about destruction during the Civil War. When the troops cleared out, the area was slow to recover, but eventually managed to carry on like the rest of the valley.

Marshall County contains more of the Tennessee River and its valley than most counties because the river dips and bends in this area. Since the Tennessee Valley Authority constructed the Guntersville Dam and Reservoir, the county is even more impacted by the river. What parts are not underwater are gently rolling hills that fan out to flat, low-lying floodplain from east to west. The hills are the last remnants of the Appalachian Mountains that reach through Eastern Tennessee and into north Georgia and Alabama. While DeKalb’s terrain may differ from the rest of the region, Jackson and Marshall counties, however, have similar landscapes and agricultural history yet, these three counties practically lack present-day African American communities.

When compared with the other counties, cities, and towns across the Tennessee River Valley, only small pockets of communities of color remain in northeast Alabama. As of 2010, only 2% of the total population within DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties considered themselves to be African American. When compared with other North Alabama counties, the difference becomes apparent. Madison County has an overall 25% African American or mixed population. Its largest city, Huntsville is comprised of over 30% African Americans or people of mixed heritage. The same is true for some of Madison County’s rural towns as well, such as Harvest. Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan counties all have a 12-14% African American population. The county seats and largest cities all have substantial populations of people of color - Moulton has 13% African Americans; Muscle Shoals, Athens, and Florence all have 15-19% African Americans; Decatur, Sheffield, and Tusculumbia have nearly a quarter of the population or more denoted as African American; and there are many cities and towns where one-third to one-half of the population is people of color, such as Town Creek

(34%), Courtland (40%), and Leighton (55%); and finally, Hillsboro (82%) and North Courtland (98%) are majority African American.

In contrast, the largest cities in Jackson County have a smaller population than expected for a landscape that mirrors much of North Alabama. Stevenson has the largest African American population with 17% in 2010. However, Bridgeport and Scottsboro only have 9% and less than 5% respectively. Similarly, only one of DeKalb County’s largest cities, Collinsville, has a population of 16% African American. Fort Payne, the county seat, has 5% people of color, but there are two other cities which have no African Americans - Henagar and Rainsville. Marshall County’s largest cities have an even smaller population of African Americans - Guntersville has 8%, Albertville has 2%, Boaz has 1%, and Arab has 0.1% people of color. The majority of the African American population in this area reside not on rural farms, but in city neighborhoods. These statistics may be from the 21st century, but the cause of this difference lies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The 21st century population statistics illustrate the diverse communities of North Alabama and are meaningful for the present-day communities as much as for the historical ones. As demonstrated in other chapters, the communities of color in North Alabama have deep roots which often reach to the founding of the state, counties, cities, and towns in which these communities are a part. The lack of present-day communities in some areas in northeast Alabama appear to be the result of deliberate choices either on the part of the white community of DeKalb, Marshall, and Jackson counties or the community of color in this area. It is true that the hills of Appalachia spread across the three counties and made much of the area unsuitable for large plantations, however, there were still numerous slave owners and slaves enumerated in 1860 for DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties. DeKalb County had approximately 193 slave owners in 1860 and a total of 993 slaves; Jackson County had 2,364 slaves owned by 352 individuals; and Marshall County listed about 1,663 slaves and 222 slave owners. While these numbers do not compare with adjacent counties such as Madison, which enumerated 14,573 slaves in 1860, there was still a sizable community of slaves in the tri-counties. The average slave owner had 5-7 slaves with a few owners listed with

several dozen slaves, such as C. C. Clay of Jackson County who had 71 slaves.

But why did former slaves of other North Alabama counties form deep-rooted communities complete with churches, schools, and cemeteries at or nearby the plantations that enslaved them for generations while the tri-counties of DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall lack such landmarks in the 20th century and today? Seeing as the history of this tri-county area began the same as the rest of North Alabama, it appears that sometime in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the community of color left the area. Some of the loss of population can be attributed to the Great Migration and the Great Depression, but some of it may be due to racial expulsion. According to Elliot Jaspin, journalist and Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America," racial expulsions were not always accompanied by large riots or lynchings. A pattern of subtler forcing out of unwanted people took place quietly across the South.

It can be difficult, to nearly impossible, to find evidence of conscious efforts to purge a county of people of color, however, Jaspin's years of research through newspapers and local documents revealed that purges can be indicated by the African American population disappearing while the white population holds its numbers or continues to grow or if the number of African American families remains small after a sudden collapse of the population. Some areas of the tri-counties may fit this description. What rings truest when trying to determine if racial expulsion is the cause of the lack of African Americans in the area is what Jaspin describes as "an archipelago of white or virtually all-white counties...[where] blacks remain all but absent...even when neighboring counties have sizable black populations." This certainly describes DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties whose African American communities and community markers are all but nonexistent.

Communities that expelled people of color or were created with specific restrictions excluding them are known as "sundown towns." According



(Left) Crowd in the Courtroom in Decatur, 1934 (Morgan County Archives)

to author James W. Loewen, such towns were common between 1890 and 1968, not just in the South but across the nation. Like Jaspin, Loewen refers to the history of racial explosion as "hidden" in his book, "Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism." In the introduction, he states that "most Americans have no idea such towns or counties exist...historians omit the fact intentionally, knowing that it would reflect badly on their communities if publicized abroad." Loewen continues an online database of America's sundown towns which has an entry for Arab, Marshall County and Sand Mountain, a region covering parts of the tri-county area. According to his research and recent oral history, a threatening sign stating Arab was a sundown town was posted as recently as the 1990s and such signs remain in place in parts of Sand Mountain.

Creating and maintaining sundown towns through jurisdiction, violence, and repression of civil rights is deliberate and taxing on a community. Jaspin describes how some purges were not considered complete or successful such as Dothan, Alabama where African Americans were driven out of the town but not the county, or in Lincoln County, Nebraska where people were expelled but eventually returned. At least

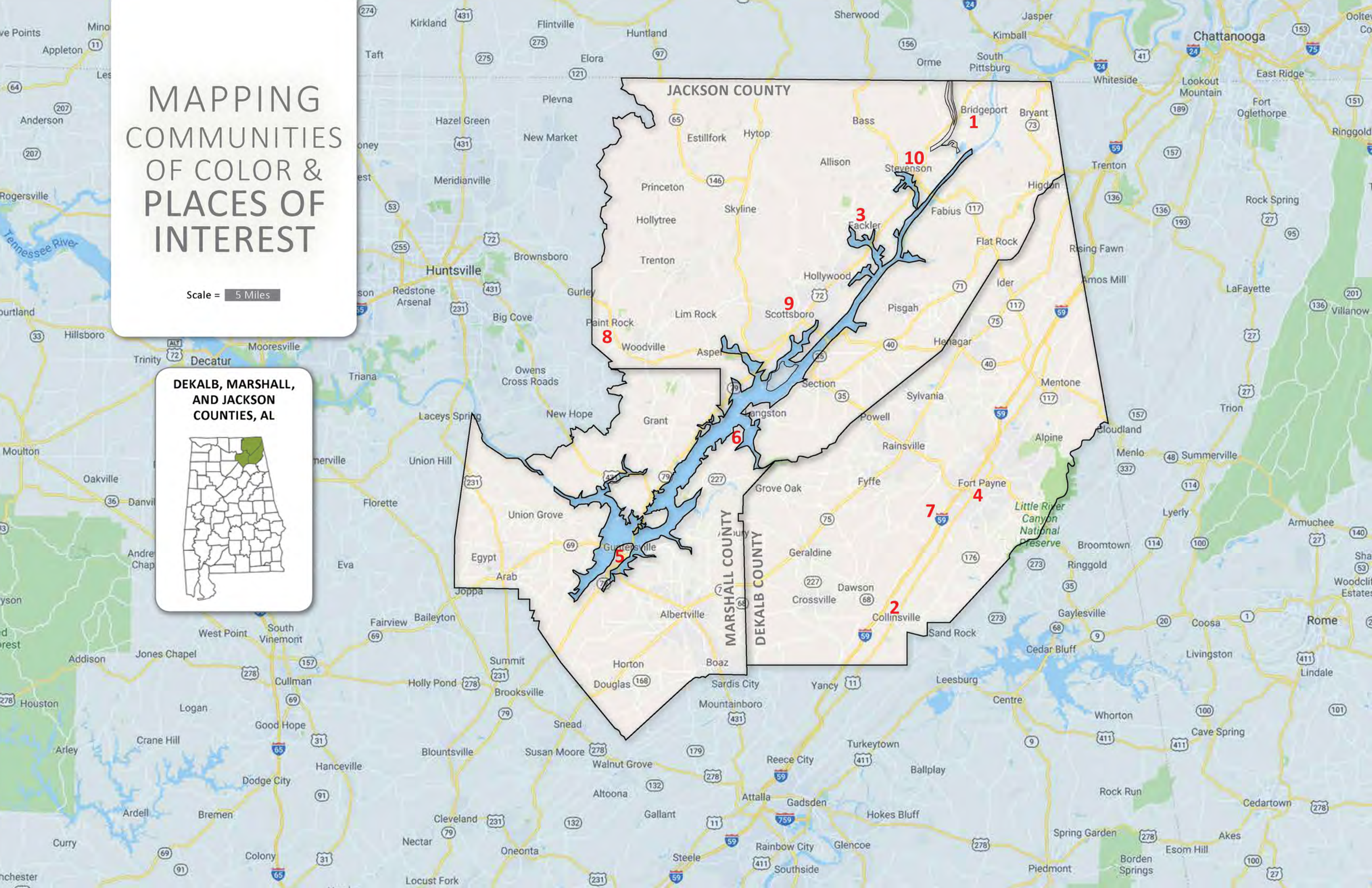
in one case in Humphreys, Tennessee, the white community sought farmland owned by African Americans and succeeded in running them off their land, but not the entire county's population. When considering African American landowners and racial expulsion, there are two things to take into account. For one, landowners may be more invested in staying in one place, but their landownership makes them vulnerable as they may be perceived as a threat. On the other hand, landowners were probably the only people in a community of color with the means to leave if so needed or wished. Sharecroppers and tenants often suffered in debt peonage and were not financially able to pick up and move somewhere more favorable.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to know why people of color did not settle or stay in the tri-county area. Oftentimes there is no known historical documentation as to what happened to the population of color; how or if they were driven from their homes. More often than not, racial expulsions were not well planned and orchestrated affairs designed by the Ku Klux Klan or executed on a national scale, but rather a general aligning of the larger community sometimes fueled by stressful events. One such racially charged event was the accusation of rape and subsequent trials of the Scottsboro Boys. The initial events and the years of trials that focused on race uncovered many injustices in local, state, and federal law but also set many members of the white community on edge. While North Alabama appears to be separate from other parts of the state better known for segregation and civil unrest such as Birmingham, Montgomery, and the Black Belt, it is no stranger to these things. Ms. Peggy Allen Towns documents in her book, "Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur's Story," fiery crosses burned on the front lawns of prominent people of color during the trial. Such displays of terror and harassment were fairly commonplace through to the 1960s at least.

# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 5 Miles

DEKALB, MARSHALL, AND JACKSON COUNTIES, AL





## KEY

	Communities
	Cemeteries
	Churches
	Plantations
	Schools
	Other

1. Bridgeport
2. Collinsville
3. Fackler
4. Fort Payne
5. Guntersville
6. Kirbytown
7. Lebanon
8. Paint Rock
9. Scottsboro
10. Stevenson

# 2.

## DEKALB, JACKSON, AND MARSHALL COUNTIES HISTORICAL PLACES

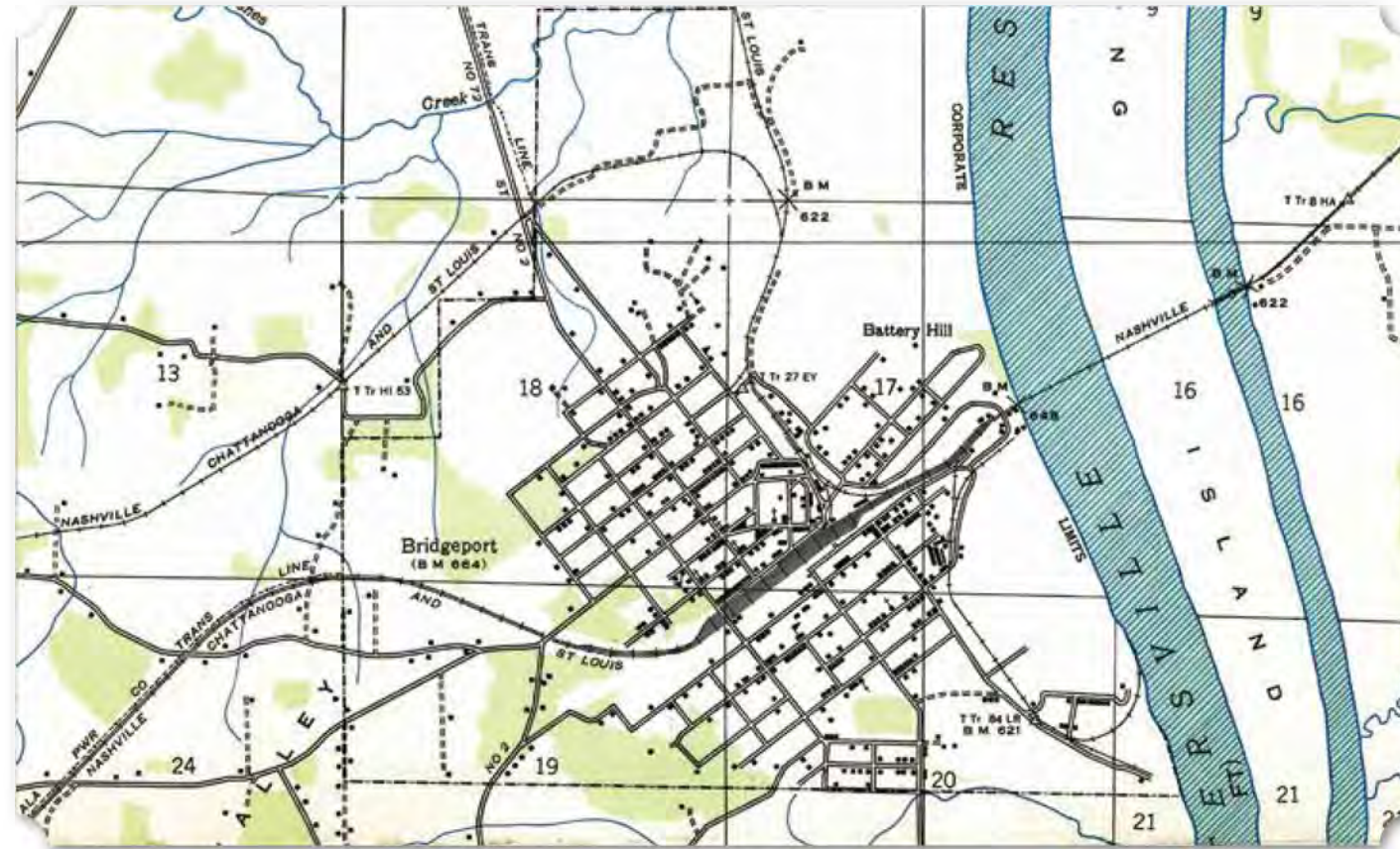
### 1 ■

#### Bridgeport

The city of Bridgeport is located in northeast Jackson County along the Tennessee River near the Tennessee border. Its African American population was only 15% (61 households) in 1900, the peak number percentage in the early 20th century. The total number of African American households declined to 52 (9%) in 1910 and then further to 49 (8%) in 1920 and 1930. There were only 40 (6%) households of color in Bridgeport in 1940 and all of them lived on the north side of the city proper.

The trend in African American landowning farmers differed from the overall population but was never greater than seven total landowners. In 1900, there were five African American landowning farmers in the area. By 1910, there were only four, two of whom owned previously. In 1920, there were seven total landowners. However, by 1930, there were no African American landowning farmers in Bridgeport. While there were some families who owned houses in the town, there were no families of color living outside

(Top Right) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Alabama Quadrangle (Right) 1945 USGS Topographic Map of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, Alabama Quadrangle



the town and none owning a farm. Furthermore, by 1940, all families of color were living exclusively on the north side of Bridgeport town.

The surnames of owners include: Hill, Gilliam, McFarland, Cubbs, Price, Sharp, Walker, Berry, Bingham, and Slaughter. There was only one surname with two members, William B. and Alex Hill. Alexander Hill owned a farm in Bridgeport from at least 1900 to 1920. George S. Gilliam owned a farm from 1900 to 1910. Thomas Sharp and William Hill owned in 1910 and 1920.

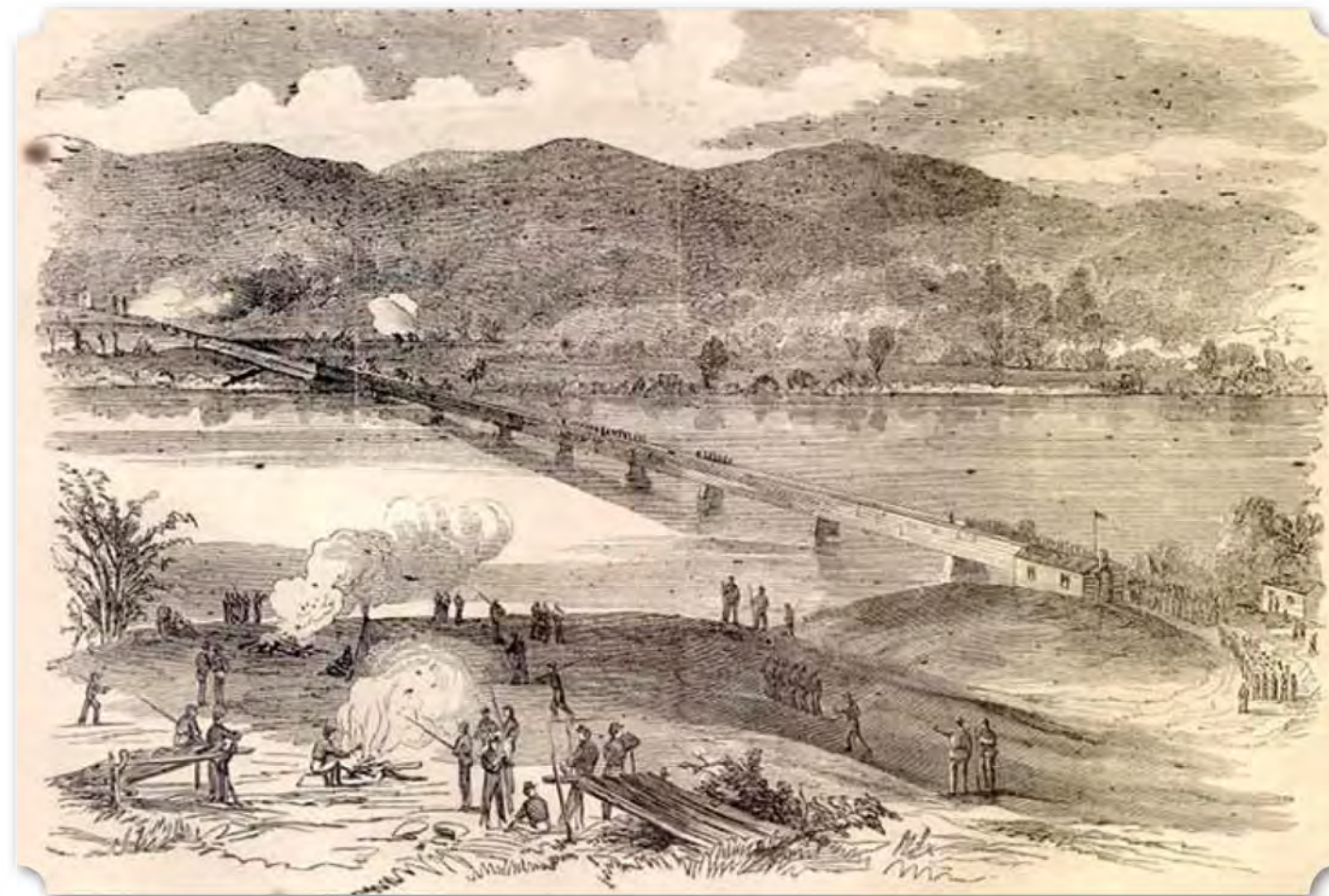
Bridgeport's early history focused on agriculture, like the rest of North Alabama. While Huntsville and Florence were large ports for the distribution of cotton via the Tennessee River, Bridgeport sought to benefit as well by establishing a river landing. By 1853, the town no longer needed to rely solely on the river for transportation because the Nashville & Chattanooga (N & C) Railroad built a line and a bridge through what was then called Jonesville. This bridge proved so important that the town was renamed for it - Bridgeport. However, this benefit to the area soon became a point of contention as the Civil War broke out. Bridgeport was eyed as a strategic point of control by both the Union and Confederate armies for its railroad and river access. The Union forces took control of the town in April 1862, but by the summer of 1863, a battle broke out and the Confederate troops burned much of Bridgeport as they retreated. During the Union's occupation, Bridgeport served as a field hospital and a shipyard for building steamships as well as providing supplies to General Sherman across the state line in Georgia via the river.

After the war, the economy of Bridgeport shifted from agriculture to industry and the town experienced a large boom in the 1890s. The busy railroad had 18 passenger trains a day pass through Bridgeport in 1891 and a total of 28 passenger trains a day by 1900. More factories and wealthy homes than farms and fields, Bridgeport became a bustling city along the river in the early 20th century. The downtown area was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Included in the district is the railroad depot with a unique Mission Revival style built for the N & C

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

93	94	95	96													
98	99	00	01													
06	07	08	09													
00	01	02	03													
06	07	08	09													
00	01	02	03													

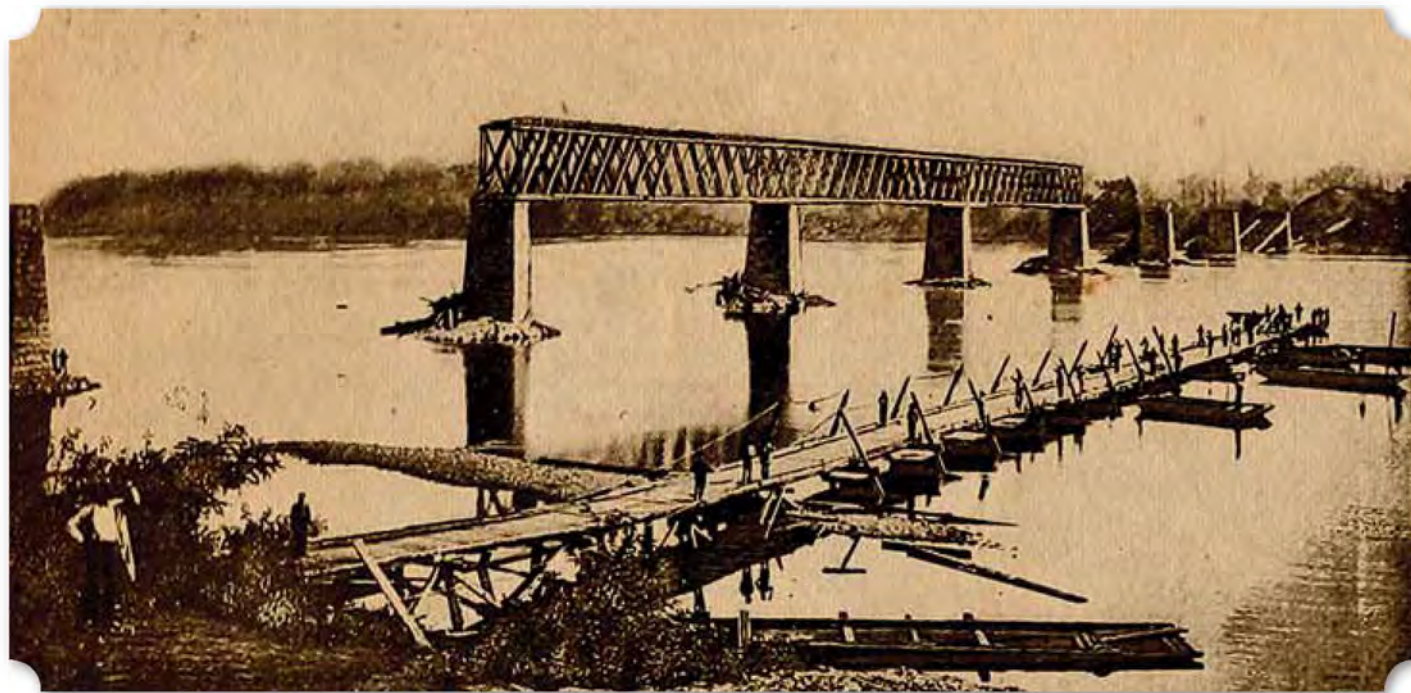
Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Top)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Alex Hill Owning a Farm **(Middle)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing William Hill Owning a Farm **(Above)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Thomas J. Sharpe Owning a Farm **(Right)** A Drawing of the Original Bridge of Bridgeport, Circa 1860 (Terry Platt, Digital Alabama)



Railroad in 1917, and a Rosenwald school - one of the three in Jackson County.

**Bridgeport School\***

According to the Fisk-Rosenwald database, the Bridgeport School was a two-teacher, two-room schoolhouse built in 1929. It cost a total of \$3,080 to construct with \$830 coming from the African American community, \$500 from the white community, \$1,250 of public funds, and \$500 from the Rosenwald Fund. It was also insured for \$2,235. The building was still intact when the National Register district was nominated in 2002, but has since been rebuilt or extensively refurbished by the Apostle Church of Jesus Christ located on Fifth Street, south of Erich Avenue.



(Left) Photograph of the Destroyed Railway Bridge in Bridgeport, 1861 (Lower Left) Bridgeport Depot, 2010 (Flickr, User Brent Moore)

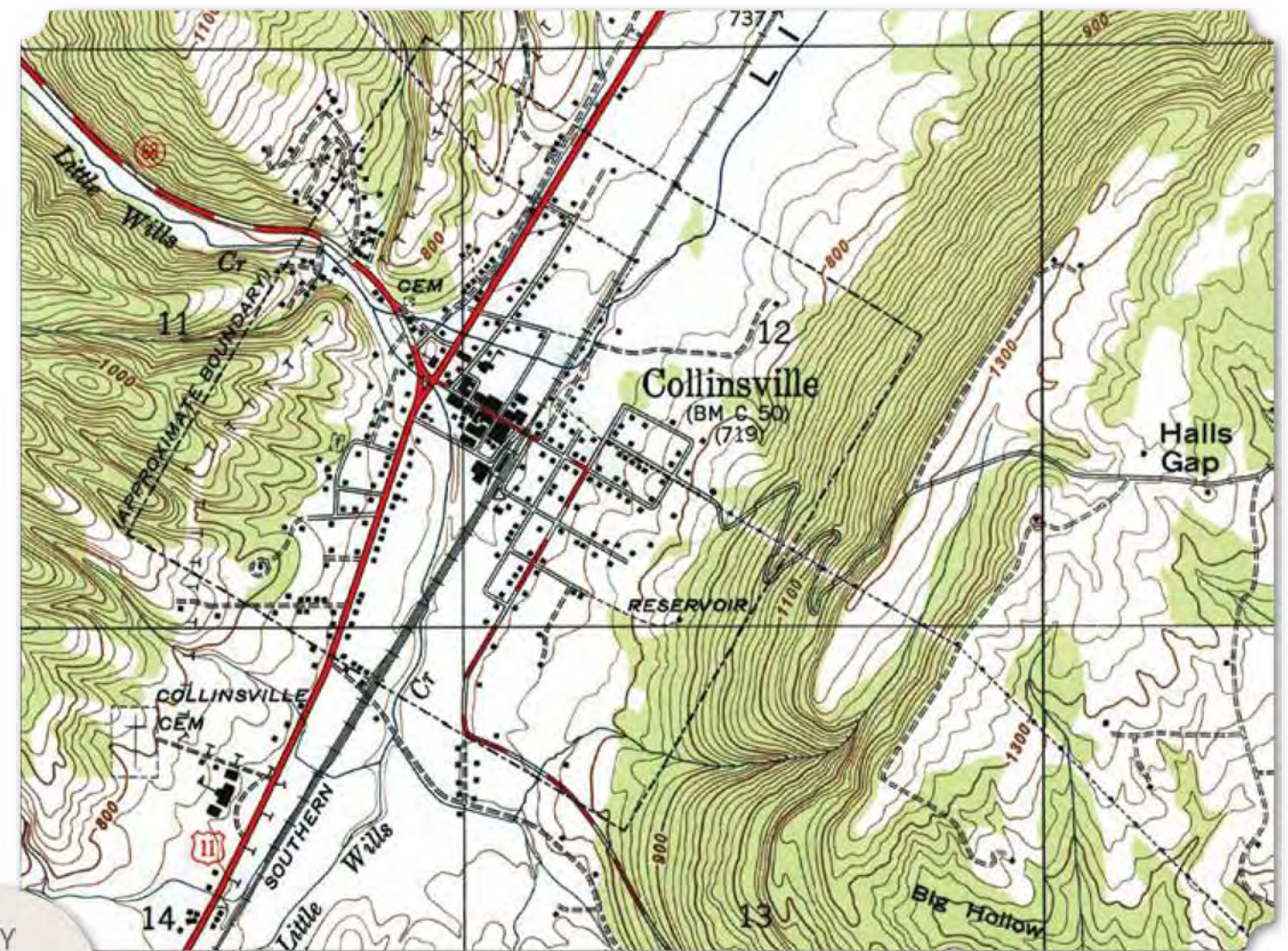
## 2 ■ Collinsville

Collinsville is located on the southern edge of DeKalb County. It is situated in the Little Wills Valley rather than the Tennessee River Valley. While communities here do not depend on row crop agriculture as much as in the larger, richer river valley, there are some African American communities with a few farming landowners among them. Collinsville is one of the few towns on DeKalb County to have a sizable African American population in the early 20th century.

From 1900 to 1940, the town and surrounding area of Collinsville grew from 201 households to 425 households. The total African American households remained at 47 families from 1900 to 1920 - roughly about 20-25% of the overall population. The peak number of African American households occurred in 1920 when 81 (34%) of 238 total households were families of color. When the population rose substantially in 1940, the majority of that population increase was from the white community, while the community of color slightly decreased.

Although the overall population of Collinsville and the number of African American households within it increased over the decades of the 20th century,

(Below) 1947 USGS Topographic Map of Collinsville, Portersville, Alabama Quadrangle



KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

7	157/158	Wate	Daughter	W	7	Mar	1878	12	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	0	yes	yes	yes	0	7
8	157/158	Sibert, P. R.	Head	B	M	Apr	1837	7	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School teacher	7	yes	yes	yes	0	7
9		Julia	Wife	B	7	Apr	1834	7	M	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia			yes	yes	yes	0	9
10		Essie	Daughter	B	7	Feb	1882	15	S	Alabama	Alabama	Georgia			yes	yes	yes	0	10
11		Annie	Daughter	B	7	July	1892	7		Alabama	Alabama	Georgia							11
12	158/159	Kirby, Jas	Head	B	M	Apr	1841	49	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	1	yes	yes	yes	0	7
13		Meredith	Wife	B	M	Jan	1853	47	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	yes	yes	0	13
14		Justina	Daughter	B	7	Apr	1880	20	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	yes	yes	0	14
15		Clinton	Son	B	M	June	1881	18	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	5	yes	yes	yes	0	15
16		Dovie	Daughter	B	7	Oct	1873	16	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	2	yes	yes	yes	0	16
17		Luther	Son	B	M	May	1886	14	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	6	yes	yes	yes	0	17
18		Tera	Daughter	B	7	Jan	1896	13	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	5	yes	yes	yes	0	18
19		Eva	Daughter	B	7	Jan	1892	5	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							19
20	159/160	Carr, Peter	Head	B	M	Mar	1838	62	M	Alabama	N Carolina	Virginia	Farmer	1	no	no	yes	0	7
21		Margaret	Wife	B	7	May	1845	62	M	Alabama	N Carolina	N Carolina			yes	yes	yes	0	21
22		Guy	Son	B	M	Jan	1876	14	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wh School	5	yes	yes	yes	0	22
23		Maud	Daughter	B	7	May	1890	10	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	23
24	160/168	Graves, Clay	Head	B	M	July	1874	40	M	Georgia	Missouri	Missouri	Farmer	1	no	no	yes	0	7
25		Charlotte	Wife	B	7	X	1840	50	M	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri			no	no	yes	0	25
26		Eveline	Daughter	B	7	Apr	1872	19	P	Alabama	Alabama	Missouri			no	no	yes	0	26
27		Nannie	Daughter	B	7	Jan	1876	14	S	Al					no	no	yes	0	27
28		Harriet	Son	B	7	Apr	1855	15	P	Al									28
29		John	Son	B	M	May	1875	25	P	Al									29
30		Bill	Son	B	M	June	1889	20	P	Al									30



Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Top) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing P. R. Sibert, James Kirby, and Peter Carr Owning Farms (Above) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Clay Graves Owning a Farm (Right) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Tom Wofford Owning a Farm

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Alabama County DeKalb County Supervisor's District No. 7 33 Sheet No. 11  
 Township or other division of county Princeton No 5 Collinsville Enumeration District No. 55  
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division Collinsville Town Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enumerated by me on the 19th day of June, 1900, Wm Cornell Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE			
			SEX	RACE	AGE	YEARS IN PRESENT PLACE	YEARS IN THIS PLACE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person							
1	Wofford, Tom	Head	M	W	40	10	10	Georgia	Missouri	Missouri	Farmer	1	no	no	yes	0	7
2	Mary	Wife	B	W	35	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	2
3	James	Son	B	W	15	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	3
4	John	Son	B	W	12	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	4
5	William	Son	B	W	10	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	5
6	Thomas	Son	B	W	8	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	6
7	James	Son	B	W	6	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	7
8	John	Son	B	W	4	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	8
9	William	Son	B	W	2	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	9
10	Thomas	Son	B	W	1	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	10
11	John	Son	B	W	0	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	11
12	William	Son	B	W	0	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	12
13	Thomas	Son	B	W	0	10	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no	no	yes	0	13

Slave ID	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Origin	Community	Language	Occupation	Notes	Yes/No	Other
70-99	William, Tony	Son	13	M	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	none	yes	6-7-24
	———, Lizzie	Wife	12	F	Tennessee	Tennessee	English	none	none	no	al
	Johnson, Lizzie	Granddaughter	13	F	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Laundress at home	al	yes
	———, Dora	Grandson	10	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Laborer Railroad	W no o	yes
	———, Mary	Granddaughter	12	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Tommie	Grandson	7	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none	yes	yes
	———, Harry	Grandson	10	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none	yes	yes
	———, Sarah	Granddaughter	10	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Ella	Granddaughter	10	F	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	none	none	yes	yes
	———, John Boy	Grandson	10	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Willie	Grandson	8	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none	yes	yes
	Edmond, Mattie	Grandson	21	M	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	English	Laborer Railroad	W no 15	yes
	———, Walter	Grandson	13	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Leather Maker	W no 0	yes
	———, Ed	Nephew	14	M	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	English	Leather Maker	W no 0	yes
99-100	Robertson, Gilda	Wife	41	F	Alabama	South Carolina	Tennessee	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Annie	Son	29	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Blacksmith Shoemaker	W no 0	yes
	———, Willie	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Laundress at home	W no 25	yes
	———, Ella	Wife	41	F	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Leather Maker	W no 0	yes
	———, Amanda	Wife	41	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes

Slave ID	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Origin	Community	Language	Occupation	Notes	Yes/No	Other
68-70	Leopold, Jack	Son	13	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer General Farm	al	yes
	———, Marie	Wife	14	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Laundress Private Family	W no 9	yes
	———, Fanny	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Leather Maker Private Family	W no 15	yes
	———, Garret	Son	16	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Willie	Son	15	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
68-71	Sibert, Pompey	Son	13	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Shoemaker at home	W no 15	yes
	———, Julia	Wife	41	F	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Andrew	Grandson	13	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Mary	Granddaughter	16	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Annie	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Leather Maker Private Family	W no 15	yes
68-72	Kelly, Joseph	Son	13	M	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	Farmer General Farm	al	yes
	———, Anson	Wife	41	F	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Julia	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, David	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Vera	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Eva	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Luther	Son	12	M	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	Wagon Driver	W no 0	yes
	———, Beth	Grandson	12	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes

Slave ID	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Origin	Community	Language	Occupation	Notes	Yes/No	Other
68-76	Wright, Mary	Wife	41	F	Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	Farmer General Farm	al	yes
	———, Fanny	Wife	41	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Charlotte	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Mary	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Fanny	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Fanny	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes
	———, Fanny	Daughter	11	F	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	yes	yes

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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- OTHER

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(Opposite Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(First) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Toney Collins and Tilda Robertson Owning a Farm (Second) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Jack Copeland, Pomfey Sibert, and Joseph Kelly Owning Farms (Third) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Henry Hoke Owning a Farm



24	1 06 189	Petty, Bertie	Wife	M	13	70	M	4		Alabama	Georgia	Virginia	English	Drayman	None	W	700	500	0 = 4	25
25		Margaret	Wife	F	13	66	M	4		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						26
26		Maude	Daughter	F	7	23	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						27
27		Bertie	Daughter	F	13	14	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						28
28	1 06 189	Toney Collins	Head	M	42	70	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						29

7	1 06 189	Joseph Kelly	Head	M	34	72	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None					8
8		Belle	Wife	F	26	66	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						9
9		Bob	Son	M	4	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						10
10		Bob	Son	M	7	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						11
11		Edna	Daughter	F	6	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						12
12		Sam	Son	M	4	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						13
13		Mattie	Son	M	15	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						14
14		Peter	Wife	F	30	62	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						15
15		Bob	Son	M	23	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						16

30	1 06 189	Wofford Tommie	Head	M	66	74	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None					31
31		Maggie	Wife	F	65	74	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						32
32		Wade	Daughter	F	30	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						33
33		A. B.	Son	M	26	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						34
34		Linard	Son	M	25	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						35
35		Pratt	Daughter	F	25	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						36
36		Wifford	Son	M	35	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						37
37		William	Son	M	42	8	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						38
38	1 06 189	Wifford Tommie	Head	M	36	74	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None					39
39		Cherley	Son	M	36	74	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						40
40		Powell Della	Wife	F	30	74	M	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None						41

(This Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (First) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Peter Kelly Owning a Farm (Second) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Guy Kelly Owning a Farm (Third) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Tommie and June Wofford Owning a Farm (Fourth) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Tom Abernathy and Fred Webb Owning a Farm

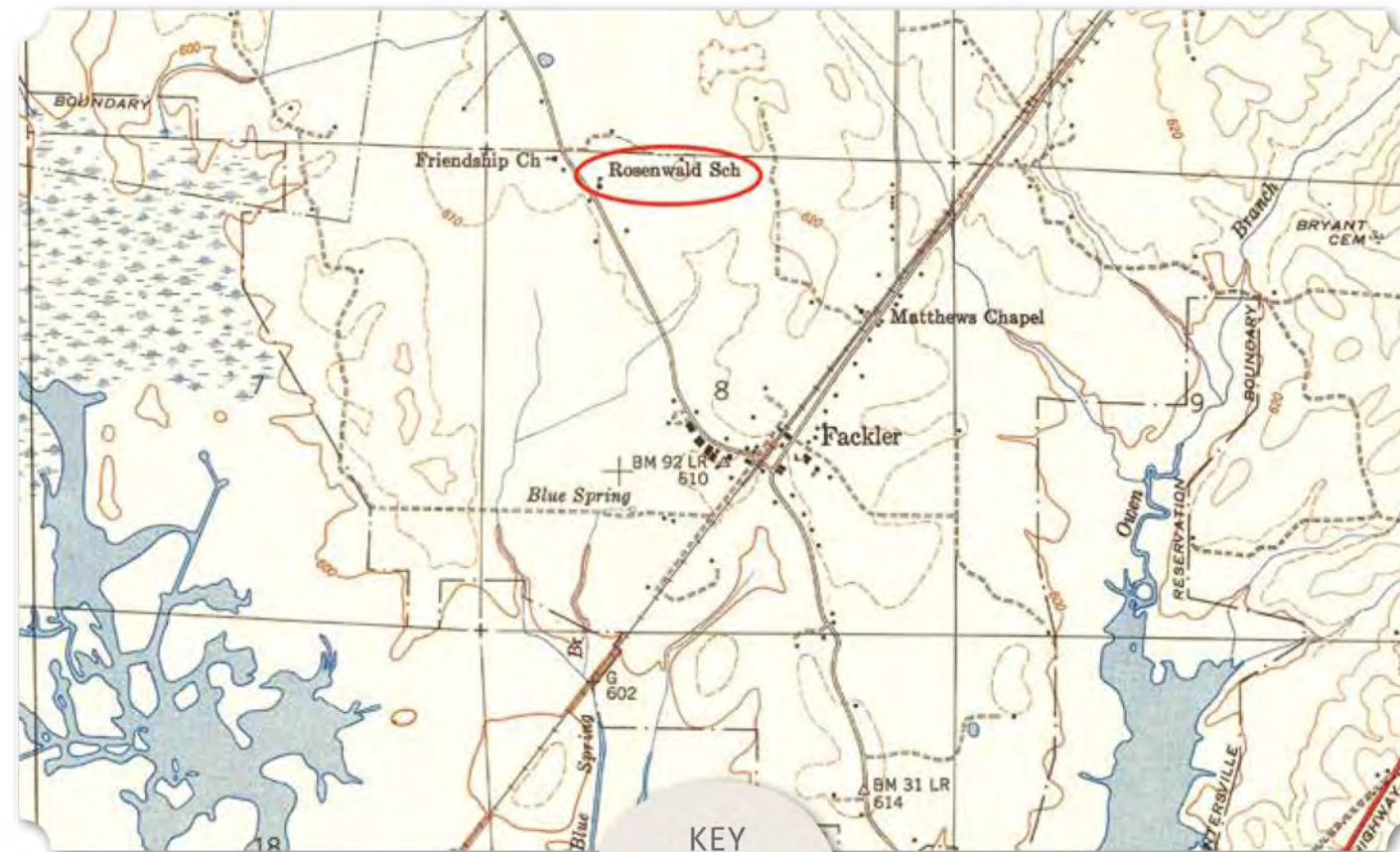
23	24 0 1800 40	Gordon John	Head	M	71	70	M	10	10	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	Farmer	Farmer	PA 000	44	52	0	9
24	25 0 500 40	Abernathy Tom	Head	M	70	70	M	8	1	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	Farmer	Farmer	PA		0	10	
25		Lila	Wife	F	60	70	M	1	1	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	None			0	70	
26		Stipp	Cousin	M	39	70	M	8	8	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	None			0	70	
27		Margaret	Cousin	F	27	70	M	2	2	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	None			0	70	
28	26 0 300 40	Webb Fred	Head	M	60	70	M	0	0	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	Farmer	Farmer	PA 000	44	52	500	
29		Stella	Wife	F	55	70	M	6	6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None	None			0	70	
30		John	Head	M	42	70	M	3	3	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	None			0	70	
31		Paimy	Wife	F	36	70	M	2	2	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	None			0	70	

the number of landowners decreased with time. In 1900, there were 12 African American landowning farmers in Collinsville. They represented only 6% of the total households, but more than a quarter of the households of color. The following decade the number of landowners dropped to 10 or 4% of the total households and 21% of the African American households. The trend continued in 1920 - there were only 7 landowners - and bottomed out at 3 farming landowners of color in 1930 and 1940. They represent less than 1% of the total households.

Although there were not as many landowning farmers as elsewhere in North Alabama, there were several families that owned a farm for several decades. For instance, Tony Wofford (born c. 1857) owned a farm in Collinsville from at least 1900 to 1940. The census offered no notation other than "Old Highway" for their location. Tom Abernathy (born c.1870) and wife, Lela, owned a farm in Collinsville from at least 1930 to 1940. The same is true for Fred Webb (born c. 1880) and his wife, Stella. Sol Kelly (born c. 1873) and wife, Sarah, owned a farm on Lookout Street in Collinsville in 1910 and 1920. Peter Kelly (born c. 1840) owned a farm in 1910 and passed it on to his son, Guy Kelly, who is recorded as owning a farm in 1920. Also, Henry Hoke (born c. 1861), and wife, Jane, owned a farm in Collinsville from at least 1900 to 1910; as did Joseph Kelly (Kesley) (born c. 1851) and his wife, Missouri. Finally, Tony Collins (born c. 1820) and wife, Elizabeth, who were most likely born into slavery, owned a farm in 1900 and 1910. In 1910, he was about 90 years old, and she was 83 years old.

### 3 ■ Fackler

The community of Fackler is located in eastern Jackson County along the Tennessee River, southwest of Stevenson. In the early 20th century, Fackler was comprised of approximately one quarter African American households. The peak number of households of color occurred in 1910, but the peak number of farms owned by African American farmers was in 1920 when 30 of the 70 households owned a



**(Left)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Fackler, Wannville, Alabama Quadrangle **(Bottom Left)** 1950 USGS Topographic Map of Fackler, Wannville, Alabama Quadrangle

farm - or 12% of the overall households and 43% of the African American households. In 1940, the last year of the available census, the population of Fackler constituted 291 total households. A total of 79 (27%) of these were families of color and 33 families (11%) owned their own farm.

The rate of retention of farms from decade to decade was fairly high in Fackler in the early 20th century. Eight of the 23 farms owned in 1910 were owned in 1900; by 1920, a total of 14 of the 30 farms were owned since 1910 and 4 of those were owned since 1900. The trend continues in 1930 with 14 of the 24 farms owned in 1930 were owned in 1920; 6 of those 24 were owned in 1910 and 2 of those 6 were owned since 1900. By 1940, there were 13 of the 33 farms owned in 1930; 8 of 13 were owned in 1920; half of those were owned since 1910; and one farm, was owned by Henry Wagner from at least 1900 to 1940.

African American households in Fackler in 1900 made up 26% of the population, or 63 of 240 households. The total households peaked in 1930 with 307 families in Fackler. Meanwhile, the African American population rose to 29% in 1910 and fell to a low of 21% (64 of 307) by 1930 and recovered to 27% (79 of 291 total households) in 1940. Although the percentage of African American households held relatively steady throughout the early 20th century, the number of African American-owned farms fluctuated from decade to decade. Overall, the number of farms owned by African Americans in Fackler grew from 15 in 1900 to 33 in 1940. While the highest number of farms were owned in 1940, the highest percentage of farms owned by African Americans compared to the total households and to the number of African American households was in 1920. In that year, 30 African American farmers owned their farms. These 30 farms consisted of 12% of the overall households in Fackler and 43% of all African American households. The following two decades continued with over a third of the African

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Top) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Henson and Pleas Tally Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(Bottom) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Several Farmers in Fackler (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

58	154	156	Tally Henson	Head	M	May 1832	68	M	36	Alabama	Alabama	N. Carolina	Farmer	0	Ma	Mo	yea	O	F	F	115
59			Luey A.	Wife	F	Aug 1847	52	M	36	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee			yea	Mo	yea				
60			Jahn A.	Son	M	June 1882	17	A		Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee	Farmer laborer	5	0	yea	Mo	yea			
61			Emma	Daughter	F	Sept 1846	13	F		Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee		2	yea	yea	yea				
62			Walter E.	Son	M	May 1890	9	A		Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee									
63	157	157	Tally Pleas	Head	M	Nov 1872	27	M	9	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee	Farmer	0	yea	yea	yea	O	F	F	114
64			Marinah	Wife	F	Dec 1877	28	M	9	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee			yea	yea	yea				
65			Lessa	Daughter	F	Apr 1892	8	A		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
66			Nancy	Daughter	F	Mar 1894	6	A		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
67			Pleas	Son	M	Sept 1896	3	A		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
68			Willie	Son	M	Mar 1898	2	A		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									

69	160	162	George B. Cross	Head	M	73	M			Alabama	US	US	Farmer	0	yea	yea	yea	O	F	F	119
70			George	Wife	F	18	M			US	US	US			yea	yea	yea				
71	161	163	William E. Cross	Head	M	37	M			Alabama	US	US	Farmer	0	yea	yea	yea	O	F	F	120
72			George	Wife	F	34	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
73			Oscar L.	Son	M	17	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
74			Harmon B.	Son	M	16	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
75			George L.	Son	M	12	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
76			Emma	Daughter	F	10	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
77			Uta	Daughter	F	7	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
78			Christiana	Daughter	F	5	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
79			William	Son	M	4	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
80			Mary	Daughter	F	4	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
81			Stacey	Wife	F	16	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
82			Ella	Wife	F	14	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
83			Joseph B.	Nephew	M	10	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
84			Bertha	Wife	F	8	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
85			Leon D.	Nephew	M	5	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
86	164	164	Robert Henry	Head	M	62	M			South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	Farmer	0	yea	yea	yea	O	F	F	121
87			Nancy	Wife	F	37	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
88			George	Son	M	18	M			Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
89			Simford	Son	M	14	M			Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
90			Margaret	Daughter	F	13	M			Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
91			Ella	Daughter	F	12	M			Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
92	165	165	Jeffery William R.	Head	M	65	M			Alabama	US	Kentucky	Farmer	0	yea	yea	yea	O	F	F	122
93			Jennie	Wife	F	62	M			Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
94			Bessie Annie	Daughter	F	30	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
95			Mary	Granddaughter	F	6	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				
96			Margaret	Granddaughter	F	4	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yea	yea	yea				

American households owning a farm. Common surnames of African American landowning farmers in the early 20th century include Wagner, Harris, Jackson, Ward, Coffey, and Stewart/Steward.

**Fackler School\***

Fackler had one of the three Rosenwald schools in Jackson County. It was a one-teacher school set on

a two-acre lot and constructed in 1922 or 1923. The school cost a total of \$1,750 to build with \$800 coming from the community of color, \$450 from public funds, and another \$500 from the Rosenwald Foundation. The school was located north of the crossroads of Fackler on the east side of County Road 42 but all that remains is a wooded lot. The school appeared on the 1936 and 1950 USGS topographic maps as "Rosenwald School," but was absent by 1970.

# 4

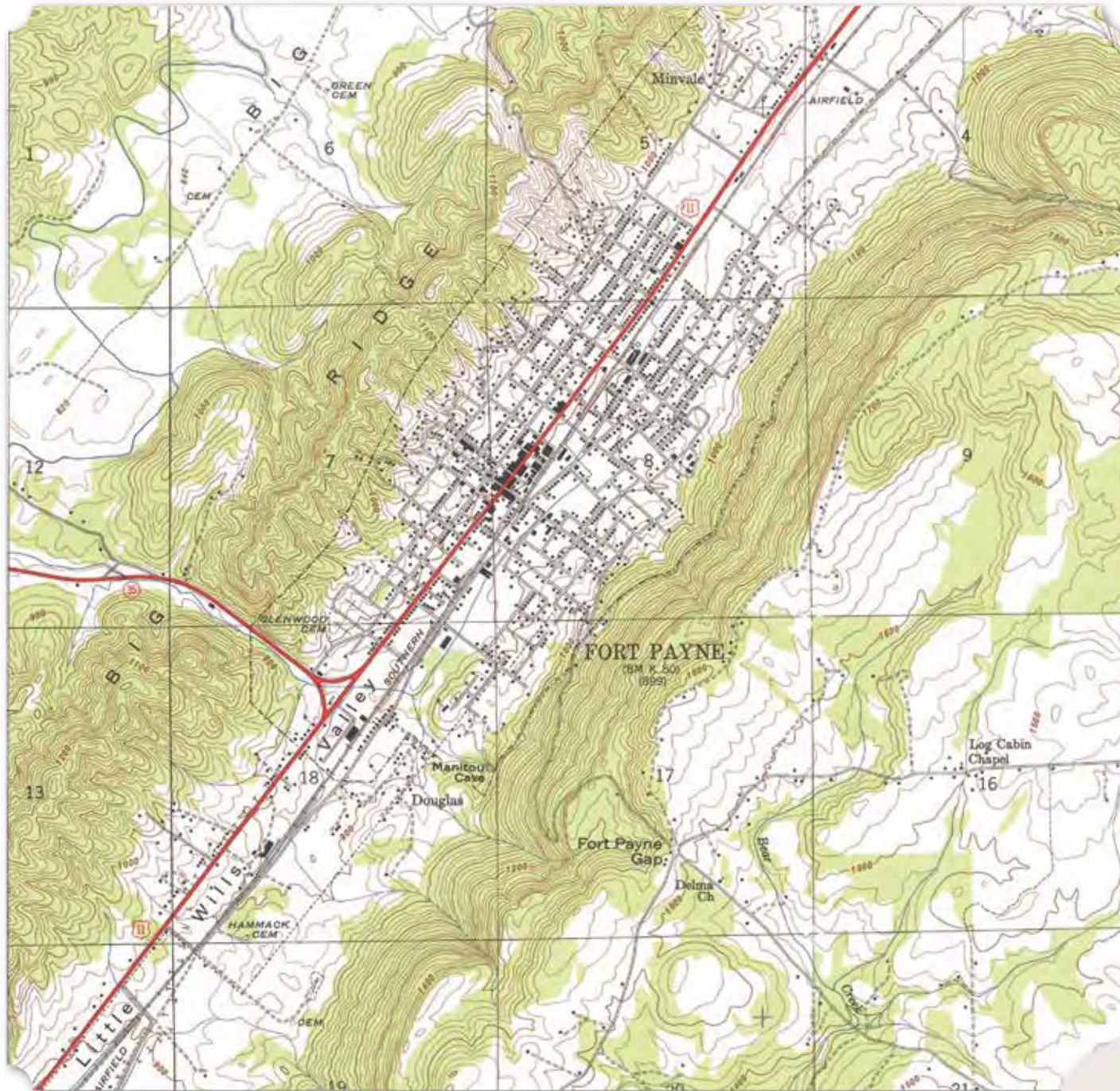
## Fort Payne

Fort Payne is located in the approximate center of the Little Wills Valley, which stretches the length of DeKalb County. It became the seat of the county in 1878. The nearby community of Lebanon previously had the honor. The early history of Fort Payne is closely associated with the Cherokee who inhabited the land until Indian Removal in the 1830s forced all American Indians to move west to Oklahoma on the Trail of tears. In fact, Fort Payne was established as a federal post to help expedite the removal of Cherokee from the land.

**(Left)** 1947 USGS Topographic Map of Fort Payne, Fort Payne, Alabama Quadrangle **(Below)** Fort Payne Depot, 2010 (Flickr, User Brent Moore)

In the early 20th century, Fort Payne was home to a small population of African Americans. From 1900 to 1940, the total number of households steadily rose from 484 to 948 households. However, the number of African American households in Fort Payne fluctuated during this time, but ultimately dropped in relative percentage over time. At the start of the century there were 73 households of color, or 15% of the total households. Over the decades, the number of households peaked at 50 in 1920 and bottomed out

**(Opposite Page)** Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(First)** Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing William Williamson Owning a Farm **(Second)** Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Tom Chambliss Owning a Farm **(Third)** Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Robert Hightower Owning a Farm **(Fourth)** Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Charley Sparks Owning a Farm



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

24	Stinson	Frank S B	M	W	10	20	1888	12	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer laborer	None	yes	
25	86 87	Williamson Wm	Head	B	M				9	Georgia			Farmer	yes	yes	yes
26		Synthia	Wife	B	F	July	1874	25	9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes
27		Oscar C	Son	B	M	Oct	1880	19	8	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	Farm laborer	yes	yes	yes
28		Bessie	Daughter	B	F	Feb	1883	17	8	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia		yes	yes	yes
29	87	Wm														

43	7 7	William D	Head	M	B	39	M	16		Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	English	farmer	General farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
44		George A	Wife	F	B	37	M	16	12	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none					yes	yes	
45		Herman	Son	M	B	17	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
46		Bertha	Son	M	B	16	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	no
47		Acey	Son	M	B	14	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
48		Presley M	Daughter	F	B	13	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
49		Essie	Daughter	F	B	12	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
50		Ramon	Son	M	B	9	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes

STATE Alabama DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 157 SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 7 SHEET NO. 4 A  
 COUNTY DeKalb THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 40  
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Precinct 9 Excluding Fort Payne city NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE X WARD OF CITY X  
 NAME OF INSTITUTION X ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 19th DAY OF April 1910. Paul E. Hammack ENUMERATOR.

1	2	3	4	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION						NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP		17	OCCUPATION			EDUCATION			SCHEDULE OF BIRTH				
				5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	48 49	Hightower Robert	Head	M	B	37	M	0		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	English	farmer	General farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes					
2		Loza	Wife	F	M	42	M	0	6	0	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	English	none				yes	no						
3		Edwards Vic	Son	M	M	21	S			Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	English	Servant	Private family	W	700	0	yes	yes						
4		Edwards	Daughter	F	M	4	S			Alabama	Georgia	Georgia		none												

42	41 41	Frank	Head	M	B	42	M	0		Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	English	farmer	General farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
43		Ma	Wife	F	B	36	M	5	3	3	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes
44		Emma	Daughter	F	B	18	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
45		Lillian	Daughter	F	B	16	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
46		Mary B.	Daughter	F	B	10	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	700	0	yes	yes	yes
47		Bertie	Uncle	F	B	7	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none							

30	Apr 137	Chamberlain	Head	7	M	B	47	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Farmer	Farm	Calif	30
31	✓	—	Wife	7	F	B	46	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				31
32	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	18	S	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				32
33	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	16	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				33
34	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	15	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				34
35	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	13	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				35
36	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	11	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				36
37	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	10	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				37
38	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	8	S	Yes	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				38
39	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	6	S	No	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				39
40	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	5	S	No	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				40
41	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41

2	Apr 130	William Bell	Head	7	M	B	61	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Yes	Farmer	Farm	Calif	2
3	✓	—	Wife	7	F	B	36	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				3
4	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	25	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				4
5	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	19	S	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Preacher	Pres club	W	5
6	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	17	S	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Preacher	Pres club	W	6
7	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	15	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				7
8	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	13	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				8
9	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	7	S	Yes	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				9
10	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	2	S	Yes	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				10
11	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	12	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				11
12	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12

67	Apr 124	Ed	Head	10	M	B	44	S	No	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Farmer	Farm	Calif	67
68	✓	Fielder Wiley	Head	10	M	B	51	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	Yes				68
69	✓	—	Wife	7	F	B	31	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	Yes				69
70	✓	—	Son	7	M	B	12	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				70
71	✓	—	Boarder	7	M	B	28	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Preacher			71
72	✓	—	Wife	7	F	B	29	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				72
73	✓	—	Daughter	7	F	B	6	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				73

49	Apr 131	Clarence	Head	10	M	B	44	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Farmer	Farm	Calif	49
50	✓	—	Head	10	M	B	46	M	No	Yes	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes				50

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

40	78	78	Magie Tom	Head	10	M	39	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Farm	1913	40
41			Ann	Wife		F	37	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Landless	at Home	W	41
42			Grace	Daughter		F	13	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				42
43			Ruth	Daughter		F	11	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				43
44			Charles	Daughter		F	9	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				44
45			Thomas	Son		M	7	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				45
46			Clara	Daughter		F	6	J				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				46
47			Nellie	Daughter		F	3	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				47
48			Ray	Daughter		F	14	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				48
49	79	79	Ray	Head	10	M	39	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Farm	1913	49

80			Moore Ruff	Head	10	M	33	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Farm	1914	80
81			Gertha	Wife		F	30	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			81
82			Clara	Sister		F	45	W				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Cook	Private Family	W	82
83												Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				83

64	83	83	Connitcher Bob	Head	10	M	70	W				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Janitor	Courthouse	W	64
65	84	84	Parks Ida	Head	10	F	45	W				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Cook	Private Family	W	65
66			Maybe	Daughter		F	19	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Landless	at Home	W	66
67			Eller Joseph	Niece		F	16	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				67
68			Charles	Nephew		M	14	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				68
69			Lucretia	Niece		F	11	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				69
70			Arthur Lucie	Niece		F	6	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				70
71	85	85	Franklin Ben	Head	10	M	54	J				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Retired Farmer			71

(Opposite Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (First) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Tom Chambliss Owning a Farm (Second) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Green Coleman Owning a Farm (Third) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Wiley Fielder Owning a Farm (Fourth) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing L. J. Judkins Owning a Farm

(This Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (First) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Tom Magbie Owning a Farm (Second) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Ruff Moore Owning a Farm (Third) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Ida Parks Owning a Farm

at 22 in 1930 before rising again to 48 in 1940. Due to the rapid growth of the town, the percentage of African American households declined from 15% to 5% overall.

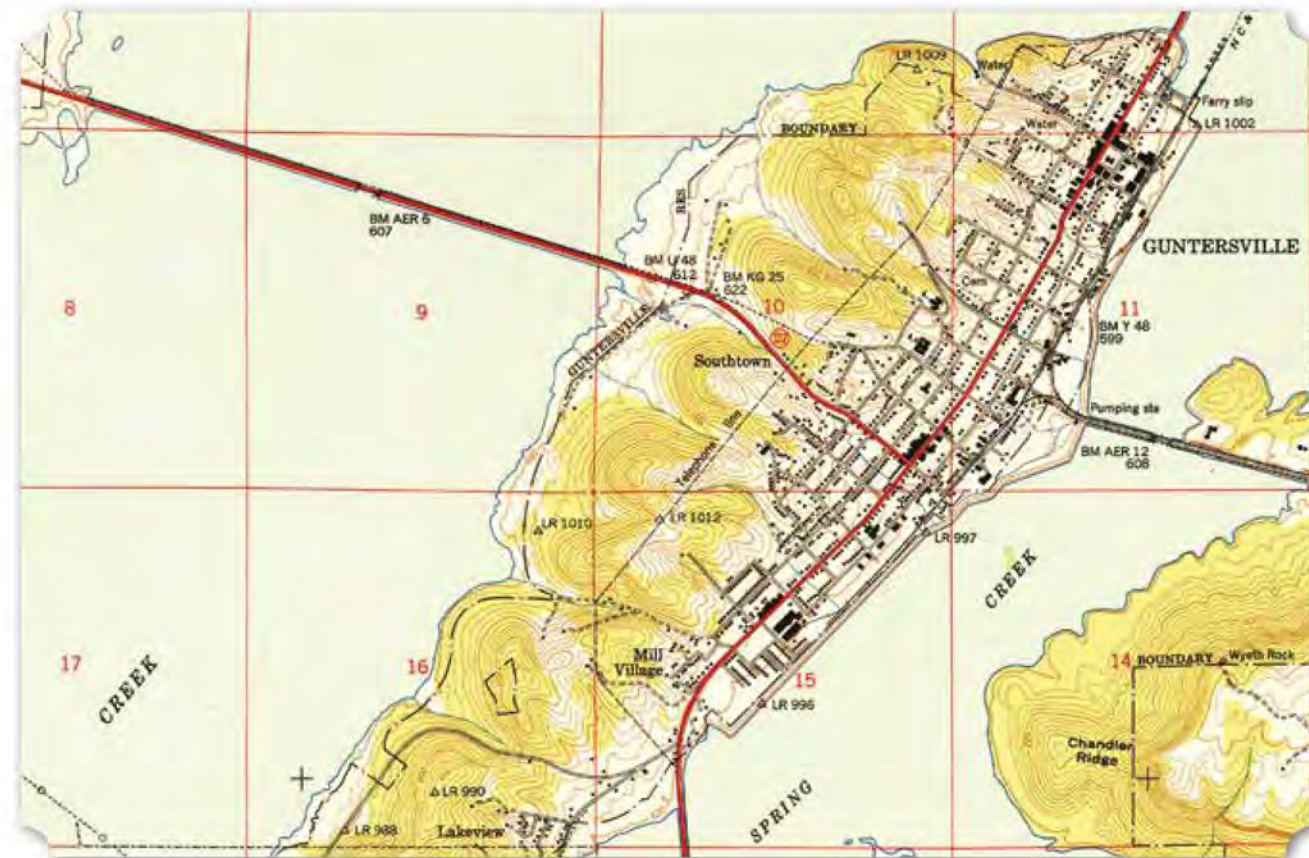
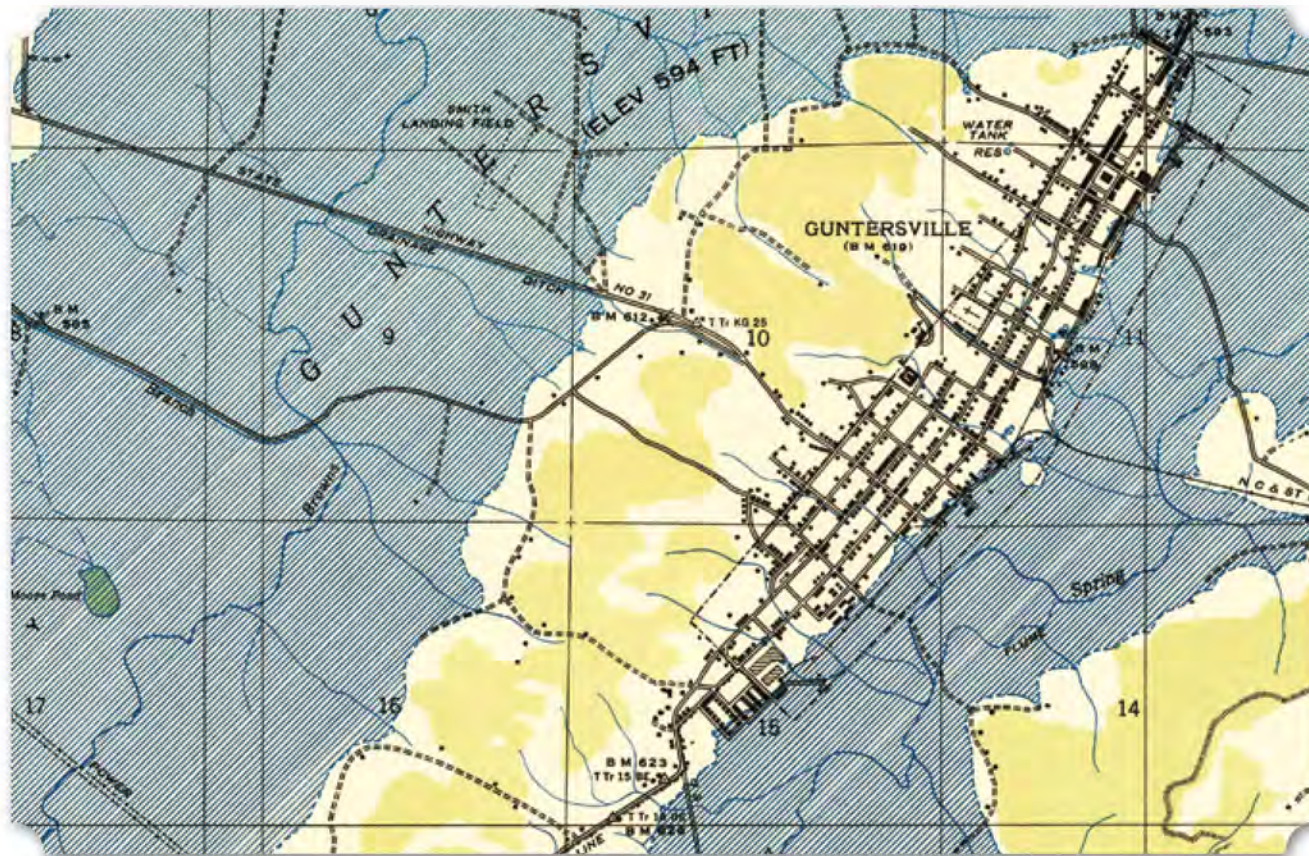
Among the households of color were very few farmers who owned their own land. Most African American families lived within the city of Fort Payne and rented their homes. In 1900, there was only one man who owned his farm, William Williamson. No further information could be found about him. The following decade, there

were three landowners: Tom Chambliss, Charlie Sparks, and Robert Hightower. While representing less than 1% of the overall households, they made up 6% of the households of color in 1910. The greatest number of farming landowners was recorded in 1920. That year, there were seven families with farms including those of Tom Magbie, Ida Parks, Lewis J. Judkins, Wiley Fielder, Green Coleman, Tom Chambliss, and Ruff Moore. These farms were representative of 1% of the total households and 14% of the African American households. By 1930, the African American population of Fort Payne dropped significantly, leaving only one landowner - Tom Chambliss.

This was true of 1940 as well although by then Chambliss' son owned a farm as well.

Tom Chambliss (1877-unknown) owned his farm from at least 1910 to 1940. In 1910, he owned a farm on the west side of Fort Payne, but by 1920 had settled on Dugout Valley Road on the north side near Minvale. Herman Chambliss (1892-1957) was Tom Chambliss' son. He owned a farm on Big Valley Road in 1940. The Chambliss family is buried in the large public cemetery in Fort Payne called Glenwood. Another landowner, Green Coleman (born c. 1864) and his wife, Mattie, owned a house in Fort Payne from at least 1900 to 1910 before





creation of Guntersville Lake, the small town became a recreation destination.

In the early 20th century, Guntersville grew at a great rate from 1900 to 1940, from a total of 267 households in 1900 to 1066 households in 1940. The majority of the households were white and the percentage of African Americans declined with time. In 1900, there were 72 (27%) African American households. While the number of households of color increased steadily to a peak of 169 households in 1940, the percentage of the total households gradually declined to only 16%. The number of those households of color that owned farms were even fewer. Although the census district of Guntersville primarily contained the city, there were a few rural farmers. There were 4 African American landowning

**(Left)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Guntersville, Guntersville, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Lower Left)** 1950 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Guntersville, Guntersville, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Below)** Guntersville Depot, 2010 (Flickr, User Brent Moore)

farmers in 1900 - Bob Moore within the city limits and Anderson Erskin, Lizzie Starnes, and Mack Cochran outside the city. These farms represented only 1% of the total households and 6% of the total African American households. There were no landowners of color reported on the 1910 census, however, there were 10 on record in 1920. This was the peak number of African American farming landowners in Guntersville. They still only represented 2% of the total households and 11% of the total households of color. From 1930 to 1940, there was only one landowning farmer of color in all of the 739 and 1066 households in the area.

Earsie (Ersie) Vaughn (1882, 1888, or 1896-1946) was a farmer outside of Guntersville and the only African American landowning farmer in the census district of Guntersville in 1930 and 1940. The road names have changed, but in 1930 Vaughn lived on Arab Highway; in 1940 his address was Carlisle Boulevard. Vaughn was a veteran of WWI and is buried in the Warrenton Cemetery, across the lake to the northwest.



30	82 107	Majesty	daughter	0	2000	V	M	4	38	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					30
31		Wynn, Henry	Head			M	M	48	7	22	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				John	Rebel Tent	4591	W		31
32		Melvin	Wife H			V	M	46	21	10	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					32
33	83 108	Vaughn	Frase	Head	0		M	48	21	28	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Garner	General Farm	VVVV			33
34		Odean	Wife			V	M	36	11	16	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				John Sabers	General Farm	VVVV	W		34
35		Medford	Wife			V	M	12	5		yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					35
36		Carl	son			V	M	8	5		yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					36
37		Edward	son			V	M	7	5		no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					37
38		John	son			V	M	5	5		no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					38
39		Dell	son			V	M	2	5		no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				None					39

67	186 D 350 48	George	son			M	M	19	30	4	4	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	100	VV	4	4	67
68		Doris	Wife			M	M	17	27	5	5	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	88	VV	5	5	68
69		Carl	Son			M	M	15	15	3	3	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	88	VV	5	5	69
70		John Albert	Son			M	M	14	14	5	5	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	88	VV	5	5	70
71		P.D.	Son			M	M	16	16	5	5	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	88	VV	5	5	71
72		Mary Ann	Daughter			M	M	8	8	4	4	Alabama	82	same house				Boaz	None	98	52	1	4	72
73		William	Head			M	M	21	21	2	2	Alabama	82	same place				Boaz	Wise house	98	52	1	4	73
74		Mildred	Wife			M	M	22	22	7	7	Alabama	82	same place				Boaz	Wise house	98	52	1	4	74
75		Edith	Son			M	M	1	1	1	1	Alabama	82	same place				Boaz	Wise house	98	52	1	4	75
76						M	M	1	1	1	1	Alabama	82	same place				Boaz	Wise house	98	52	1	4	76

(Top) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Earsie Vaughn Owing a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Earsie Vaughn Owing a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

In the early 20th century, there were no public schools for Marshall County's or Guntersville's African American children. By the 1930s, the city of Guntersville had an elementary and high school for white children but there were only two small, community-organized schools for children of color held in churches. It was not until 1940 that the city built a public high school for African Americans by way of an agreement with the TVA which had become heavily involved in city planning due to the great impact the dam would have on the area. Known initially as Guntersville Negro High School, the school was constructed in the Lakeview community, located on the southwest edge of the city along the southern

shore of the peninsula. Later, the community gave its name to the school which became Lakeview High School. The school operated as part of the city school system until it was consolidated with the county system in the 1950s. A man named E. E. Cox, who was principal of the white elementary school became the city superintendent in charge of Lakeview High School as well.

From 1940 until the late 1960s, Lakeview was Marshall County's only public school for children of color. Students from neighboring communities such as Claysville and Warrenton, and as far away as Boaz, Albertville, and Kirbytown would be bussed to Guntersville to attend Lakeview. In 1940, the last publicly available census and the year Lakeview was built, Albertville had only 25 African American households. All of those households lived within the city limits and all but four lived in a community on the east side of

town - an indication of extreme segregation. Only 19 households had children of an age that might have attended Lakeview High School in the 1940s and 1950s. None of the families owned farms and only about a quarter of them owned their homes. Boaz, which is even further away from the river, was a sizable town of 538 households in 1940. But it only had 17 African American families, few with school-aged children, and none of which owned property or farmed. The rural area surrounding Boaz was exclusively white.

The nearby communities of Claysville and Warrenton were not much different. Claysville, across the river from Guntersville, had few African American families in 1940. Some of them had school-aged children and none of them owned their own land. Warrenton also had few families of color and only four of them owned a farm in 1940: Charlie Jordan, William Staten, Greenberry Staten, Sr., and Greenberry Staten, Jr.

The low population of African American households reveals why there may have been a lack of concern for the creation of a public school. However, the presence of the TVA drew some men of color to Guntersville to work on the dam. The Authority's policy of hiring local workers in proportion to the local population and of providing resources the communities lacked appears to have greatly helped the African American community of Marshall County.

In the late 1960s the schools were integrated and African American students from Lakeview were sent to the white schools in Guntersville or their hometown affecting the enrollment of Lakeview. The senior grades at Lakeview were discontinued and in 1969 the school closed its doors. The building sat vacant for five years until the city decided to demolish the old school. However, before a contract could be finished for the demolition, the abandoned and vandalized building caught fire and burned on Thursday July 25, 1974.

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER



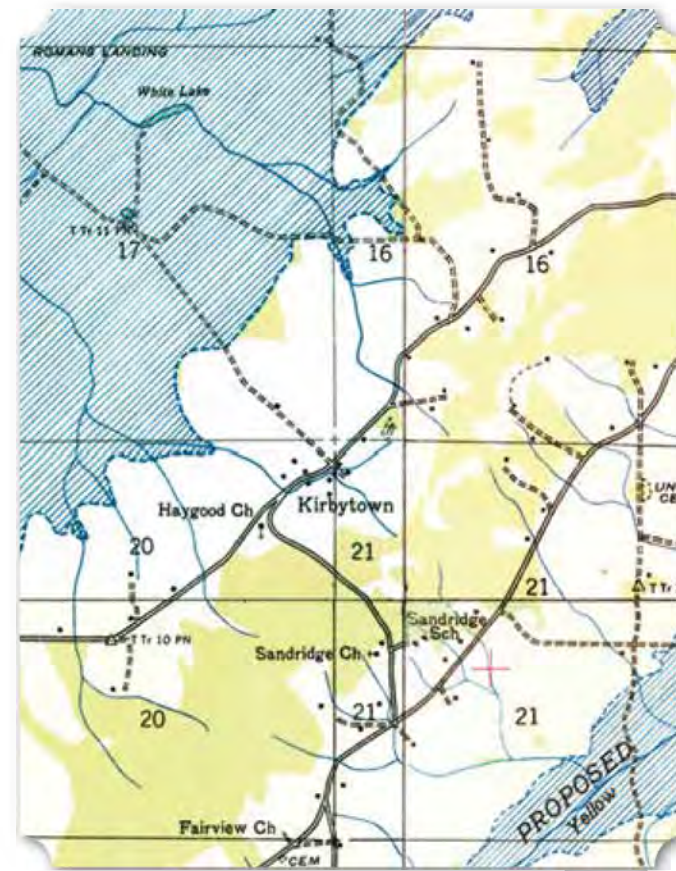
Images from the TVA Photograph Collection at National Archives and Records Administration, Atlanta  
**(Left Top)** Photograph of the Rear of the "Negro Dormitory" at the Guntersville Dam Construction Camp, March 1939  
**(Left Bottom)** Children Gathered at the TVA's "Colored Picnic Area" at the Guntersville Dam Reservoir, June 1949  
**(Right Top)** People Gathered at the TVA's "Colored Picnic Area" at the Guntersville Dam Reservoir, June 1949  
**(Right Middle)** A View across the Dam near the "Colored Picnic Area" at the Guntersville Dam Reservoir, June 1949  
**(Right Bottom)** People Swimming near the "Colored Picnic Area" at the Guntersville Dam Reservoir, June 1949



While a photograph of Lakeview High School could not be located, the TVA photograph collection housed at the National Archives in Atlanta had one image noted as the “Guntersville Dam Construction Camp – Path Back of Negro Dormitory,” dated March 1, 1939. Another facility created by the TVA for exclusive use by African Americans was a picnic area. The modest grounds were cleared of underbrush among thin pine trees and outfitted with simple wooden picnic tables and metal trash cans.

## 6 ■ Kirbytown

Kirbytown was a community in eastern Marshall County on what became a peninsula when the Guntersville Dam was constructed by the TVA. The community is now considered part of Langston, across an inlet in Jackson County. In the early 20th century the area known as Kirby never had more than 300 households or a large population of African American families. In 1900, there were 212 total households, 27 (13%) of which were African American. The peak number of households in Kirby occurred in 1920 with 293 total households. That year, there were 21 (7%) African American families. By 1940, the population had declined to only 145 households, 13 (9%) of which were African American.



**(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Kirbytown, Columbus City, Grove Oak, Langston, and Swarengin, Alabama Quadrangles (Top Right) 1949/1950 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Kirbytown, Columbus City, Grove Oak, Langston, and Swarengin, Alabama Quadrangles**



While the highest number of African American households lived in Kirby in 1910, the highest number of African Americans who owned farms was recorded in 1920. In that year, 14 of the 21 households of color were landowning farmers. They constituted 5% of

the total households, but 67% of all African American households. Overall, there was a high rate of farm ownership among the African American community of Kirby throughout the early 20th century. Only 4 families owned in 1900 - James Sandridge, Jesse Kirby, Marion Lovelady, and Jack Doss. Five other families owned in 1910 in addition to those who owned since at least 1900. By 1920, the high number of farm owners can be partly attributed to the passing of a father who left his farm to four of his sons. Although the number of owners declined by 1930 and again by 1940, the number of farm owners remained approximately 45% of the households of color.

Many of the African American landowners in Kirby in the early 20th century were a tight-knit, related community of families that often passed land onto children and spouses. James Sandridge (1844-1910) owned a farm in Kirby from at least 1900 until his death. His sons, William, James, Elijah, and Manning inherited portions of his farm. Jesse B. Kirby (1870-1929) owned a farm from at least 1900 until his death, after which his wife, Caldonia Kirby (1872-1939), took ownership until her death. Also, John Sotherland (1860-1917) owned a farm from at least 1910 until his death, and then his wife, Mollie

**(Below) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing James Sandridge Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)**

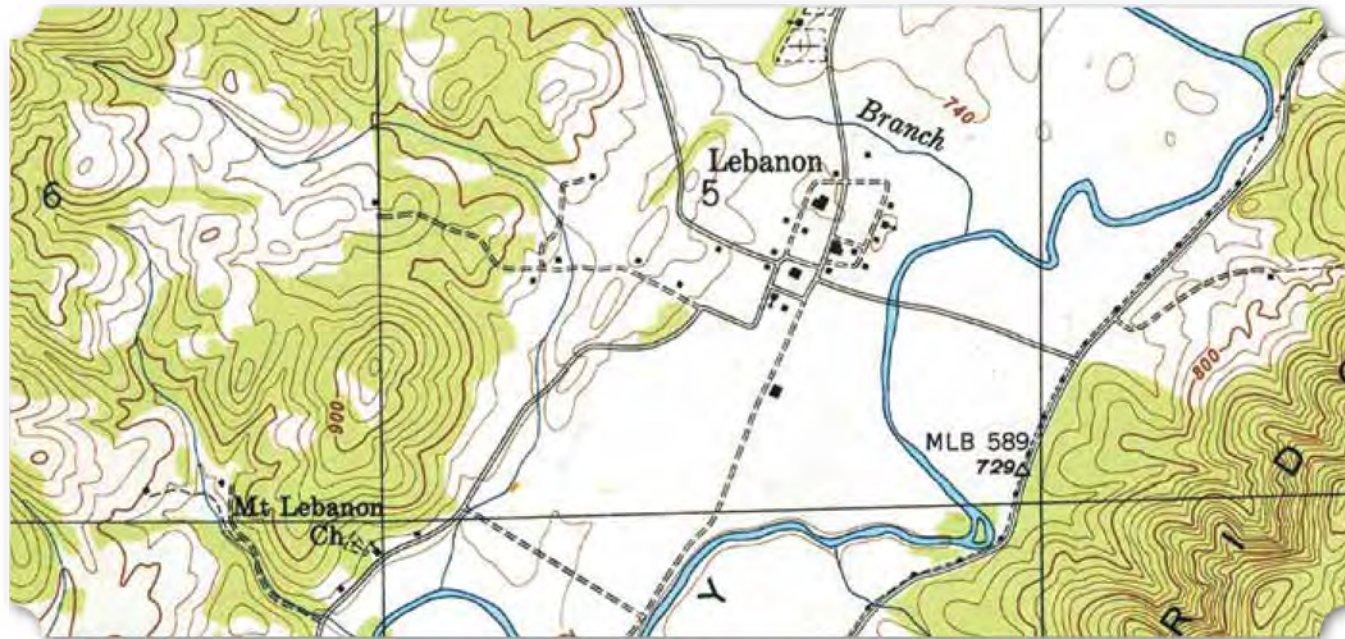
4	22	22	USA	James Sandridge	Head	18	M	Nov	1842	57	M	37	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	1 - Farm	no	no	yes	O	F	F	22
5				Sarah	wife	18	F	June	1850	57	M	31	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	no	no	yes				
6				Ada	daughter	18	F	Jan	1871	29	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
7				Francis	son	18	M	Aug	1874	26	8		Alabama	Alabama	Ala	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
8				William	son	18	M	Oct	1877	22	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
9				James	son	18	M	Feb	1880	20	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
10				Elizabeth	daughter	18	F	Mar	1882	18	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
11				Manon	son	18	M	Apr	1884	16	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
12				Elisha	daughter	18	M	Feb	1889	11	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farm labor	yes	yes	yes				
13				Clarence	son	18	M	Feb	1892	8	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	1 - Farm	no	no	yes				
14																							

### KEY

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(Left) 1947 USGS Topographic Map of Lebanon, Portersville, Alabama Quadrangle

as with the decrease in overall population, there came a decline in landowning farmers. By 1910, there were only 6 African American farms who owned their land. Noah Kelly, Sam Bynum, and George Hammock kept their farms while three new landowners were recorded as well. A pattern of retention appears by 1920.

While many of the early farming landowners of Lebanon were fairly senior in 1900, many of them most likely born slaves in the previous century, it appears that many did not pass on their farms to another generation. Beginning in 1920, the census records indicate that a few families stayed in the area and passed on the land to siblings,

(This Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com (Below) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Amanda Bynum and Jordan Malory Owing Farms (Bottom) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Sam Bynum and George and Charles Hammock Owing Farms

(Opposite Page) Excerpts from the Federal Census from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com (First) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing William and Benton Malone Owing Farms (Second) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Noah Kelly Owing a farm (Third) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Noah Kelly and Rufus M. Alexander Owing Farms (Fourth) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Reuben Malone and Tom Moore Owing Farms

Household	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Year of Birth	Month of Birth	Day of Birth	Year of Birth	Month of Birth	Day of Birth	State of Birth	State of Birth	State of Birth	Occupation	Owns Farm	Owns Home	Owns Land	Owns Other	Other	
6869	Bynum Amos	Head	M	38	Mar	1856	5	3	1856	5	3	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Farmer	0	No	No	No	0	53
	Martin Anna	Daughter	F	11	Mar	1869	3	1	1869	3	1	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	Farm Laborer	6	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Mattie	Daughter	F	18	Mar	1882	1	8	1882	1	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	6	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Rupert E.	Grandson	M	7	Mar	1873	7	5	1873	7	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
	Wendell	Grandson	M	4	Mar	1876	4	5	1876	4	5	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama							
6970	Malory Jordan	Head	M	24	Mar	1847	2	4	1847	2	4	Alabama	Virginia	Virginia	Farmer	4	No	No	Yes	0	54
	Susan	Wife	F	28	Mar	1849	5	7	1849	5	7	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama			No	No	Yes		
	Jeff	Son	M	24	Mar	1875	2	4	1875	2	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	9	No	No	Yes		
	John	Son	M	25	Mar	1875	2	5	1875	2	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	9	No	No	Yes		

Household	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Year of Birth	Month of Birth	Day of Birth	Year of Birth	Month of Birth	Day of Birth	State of Birth	State of Birth	State of Birth	Occupation	Owns Farm	Owns Home	Owns Land	Owns Other	Other	
7778	Bynum Amos	Head	M	47	Mar	1831	4	7	1831	4	7	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Farmer	0	No	No	Yes	0	63
	Sylvia	Wife	F	30	Mar	1848	3	0	1848	3	0	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama			Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Sam	Son	M	4	Mar	1895	4	5	1895	4	5	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee							
	Malvinia	Daughter	F	12	Mar	1877	1	2	1877	1	2	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee							
	Adams Dora	S. Daughter	F	5	Mar	1885	5	5	1885	5	5	Georgia	Georgia	Tennessee	Farm Laborer	3	Yes	Yes	Yes		
7879	Hammock Geo	Head	M	25	Mar	1854	2	5	1854	2	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	64
7980	Hammock Chas	Head	M	31	Mar	1849	3	1	1849	3	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	65
	Sarah	Wife	F	21	Mar	1878	2	1	1878	2	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Margaret	Step Mother	F	21	Mar	1878	2	1	1878	2	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	0	Yes	No	Yes		
	Clara	Sister	F	22	Mar	1878	2	2	1878	2	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	0	Yes	No	Yes		
	Willie	Brother	M	5	Mar	1874	5	5	1874	5	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							

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54	36 36	Malone W. Head	B M	Apr. 1831	69	W	Georgia	Unknown	Georgia	Farmer	10	No	No	Yes	O M F 19	54
55	37 37	Malone B. Head	B M	Apr. 1847	53	M	Alabama	Unknown	Kentucky	Farmer	10	No	No	Yes	O M F 20	55
56		Lizell wife	B F	Apr. 1852	48	M	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina			No	No	Yes		56
57		Kettie Daughter	B F	Mar. 1879	21	S	Alabama	Alabama	S. Carolina	Farm Laborer	6	Yes	Yes	Yes		57
58		Katie Daughter	B F	May 1882	18	S	Alabama	Alabama	S. Carolina	Farm Laborer	6	Yes	Yes	Yes		58
59		Quill son	B M	Mar. 1889	11	S	Alabama	Alabama	S. Carolina	Farm Laborer	8	Yes	Yes	Yes		59
60		Ellis Thomas S-in-law	B M	Aug. 1866	33	W	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	Farm Laborer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes		60
61		Lizzie daughter	B F	Nov. 1894	3	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							61

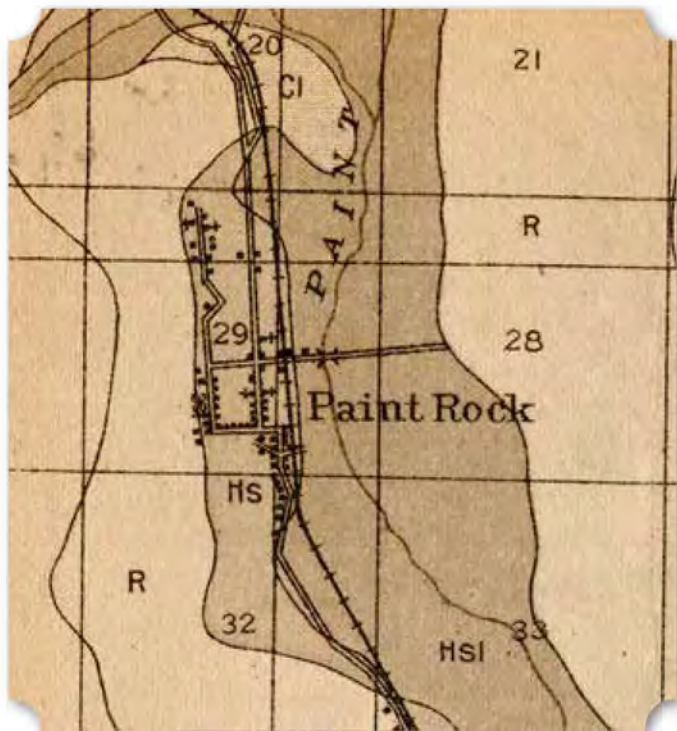
96	123 124	Kesley Nash Head	B M	Nov. 1854	46	M	Alabama	Unknown	Alabama	Farmer	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	O M F 10	96
97		Bellie wife	B F	Nov. 1853	47	M	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			No	No	Yes		97
98		Bessie daughter	B F	Mar. 1889	11	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm Laborer	9	No	No	Yes		98
99		Emma daughter	B F	Feb. 1894	6	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							99
100		Smith Katie wife	B F	Jan. 1892	15	S	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	Farm Laborer	9	No	No	Yes		100

40	13 13	Kelley Nash L. Head	M M	53	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 13	40
41		Blissy M. wife	F F	35	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes	2200	41
42		Hamor Shollett mother in law	F F	60	W		Alabama	Unknown	Unknown	English	None					42	
43		William son in law	M M	16	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes	2200	43
44		Kelley Emma F. daughter	F F	16	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes	2200	44
45		Wife daughter	F F	14	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		45
46	14 14	Shandler James Head	M M	51	M	29	Alabama	Alabama	Georgia	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O F F 14	46
47		Ellen wife	F F	45	M	29	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	English	None					47	
48		Minnie M. daughter	F F	14	S		Alabama	Alabama	Georgia	English	Farmer	Home farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 14	48
49	15 15	Alexandra Rufus M. Head	M M	55	M	29	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 15	49
50		Mary J. wife	F F	46	M	29	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes	2200	50

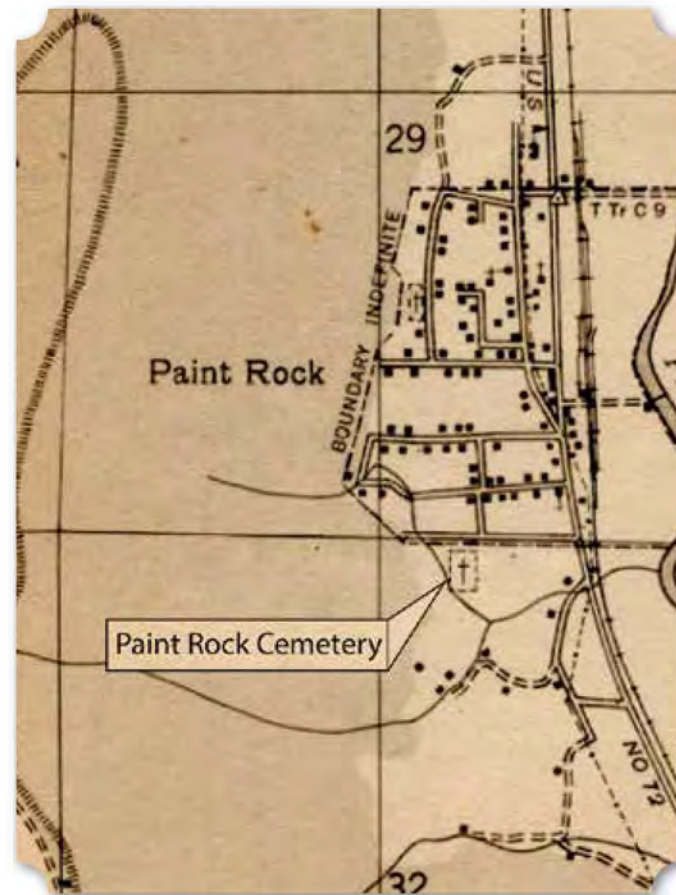
15	39 39	Malone William Huber	M M	22	S		Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 39	15
16		Malone Ramon Head	M M	40	W		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 39	16
17		Effie daughter	F F	19	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		17
18		Blanch wife	F F	16	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		18
19		Blaine son	M M	13	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		19
20		Oliver daughter	F F	10	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		20
21		Opie daughter	F F	7	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None					21	
22		Clarence grand-son	M M	7	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama							22	
23	40 40	Mona Perry Head	M M	44	M	10	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	English	Farmer	general farm	10	Yes	Yes	O M F 40	23
24		Mary wife	F F	40	M	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	home farm	10	Yes	Yes		24







(Above) Excerpt of 1911 USGS Soil Map of Paint Rock (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Paint Rock, Paint Rock, Alabama Quadrangle



In the 21st century, Paint Rock is less than one percent African American, but in the early 20th century, much of the surrounding farmland was operated by African Americans and a few owned their farms. In 1900, about 23% of the total 244 households in Paint Rock were African American. The peak percentage of households of color was in 1910 when 33% of the 178 households were of color. However, the African American population dropped in 1920 and never really recovered. In that year, 38 (19%) of the 204 households were of color. There were only 13% and 17% African American households in 1930 and 1940, respectively.

The most African American landowners in Paint Rock lived in the area in 1920. While there were six landowning farmers of color in 1900 and 1910, there were 13 landowners in 1920. This number dropped off to only 9 in 1930 and 7 in 1940, however, several individuals owned their farms for more than a decade. The Smithers family had eight members who owned farms between 1900 and 1940. Everett, Sandy, George, and James A. Smithers were brothers who all owned a farm in Paint Rock in 1900. The 1860 census

records them living with their mother, Prudence - all of them described as "mulatto" and free inhabitants of Jackson County. Everett must have passed away before 1910 and Everett, Jr. took over the farm by 1920. Sandy gave up his farm and moved in with his son, Earnest, who worked at the pencil mill, but took up farming by 1940. George owned his until at least 1920. James continued to own his farm until 1920, after which he passed away and his widow, Sallie Smithers, owned the farm through 1940. Jake Smithers was either the son of James or George and he owned a farm from at least 1920 to 1940.

Despite so many members of one family being free before Emancipation and owning farms, very little is known about the Smithers family. Records of James Smithers and several of his family members

(Below) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Emilie Rowan and James A. Smithers Owning Farms (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing E\* Smithers Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

16	1920	Rowan - Emilie	Head	37	May 1850	50	7	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	0	0	0	9	9	96
17		Mary	Daughter	24	Apr 1861	19	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
18		Conroy - Creed	Daughter	19	Apr 1879	20	7		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	4						
19	1930	Smithers - Jas A	Head	28	Apr 1846	54	7		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	0	0	0	7	7	97
20		Alexander	Son	21	Aug 1882	17	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	4						
21		Lou	Daughter	14	Apr 1886	14	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
22		Ruth	Daughter	9	Apr 1890	9	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								
23		Mrs F	Wife	46	Apr 1894	46	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								

14	1891	Smithers - Ernestine	Head	25	May 1874	25	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	0	0	0	7	7
15		Belle	Wife	27	Apr 1878	27	2	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
16		Lucinda	Daughter	17	Apr 1894	17	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
17		Harriet	Son	15	Apr 1899	15	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
18		Harriet	Mother	45	Apr 1855	45	5	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							

KEY

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# Smithers

A funeral was held Tuesday, November 21, 1972, for Ernest Smithers, 88, in the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. W. P. Pettey officiating. Burial was in Paint Rock Cemetery.

A resident of Paint Rock, he died Thursday, November 16, at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Smithers; and a daughter, Mrs. Catherine Brock, of Springfield, Ohio.

are recorded in the tribal enrollment applications ledger from the turn-of-the-20th-century. James A. Smithers applied for Cherokee tribal membership for himself and three of his children. The records note that he and his family were rejected on the basis that "no ancestor ever enrolled. No ancestor party to treaties of 1835-6 and 1846. Shows no connection with Eastern Cherokees." Apparently, whatever information lead Mr. Smithers to believe he had Cherokee ancestry was not sufficient for the tribal government. His rejection lead to the rejection of his daughter, Ellie Smithers, three of his brothers, George W., H. C., and Sandy A. Smithers, his sister, Emily Rowan, and two nieces, Josie Shepard and Mamie Conyers.

**(Left)** Obituary for Ernest Smithers (1884-1972) (Findagrave.com, User Annette Bradford) **(Below)** Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing George Smithers Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Handy Smithers Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

## Paint Rock Cemetery

Death records and location of burial could not be identified for most of the Smithers family. Earnest (Ernest) Smithers (1884-1972) had an obituary in the *Jackson County Advertiser* on November 22, 1972, which says he was buried at the Paint Rock Cemetery but he has no marker there. The Paint Rock Cemetery is still in use by the Paint Rock community. A sign indicates that it was established in 1918; the earliest marker dates to 1920. It is the city cemetery and its over 700 graves belong to both the white and African American communities.

## Pleasant Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery

More of the African American landowning community can be found at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Also known as the Rhyne Cemetery, this old African American cemetery is associated with the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church across the road. Located down County Road 237 off of U.S. 72 on the north side of Paint Rock, the cemetery has at least 57 marked graves and probably numerous unmarked

graves. The first known interment is John Williamson (1896-1909) and the last known interment is B. E. Williamson (1903-1982). Other surnames common here include Kelley, Massey, Owens, Smithers, and Williamson.

Landowning farmers laid to rest at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Cemetery include Jake Smithers (1879-1956) and his wife, Carrie Smithers (1883-1964), the son of either James A. or George W. Smithers. Creed Conyers (dates unknown) owned a farm in Paint Rock from at least 1920 to 1940. Antney Kelley (1866-1943), recorded as Anthony Kelly in most census records, owned his farm from at least 1930 to 1940, and probably until his death. Finally, Rich Hunter (dates unknown) was another landowning farmer in 1940.

## Clay Cemetery

Clay Cemetery is located northwest of Paint Rock and just east of the Jackson County line in the town of Gurley, which is mostly in Madison County. It appears on the 1936 USGS topographic map as a symbol with no name but on the subsequent maps in 1950

51	198205	Smithers Geo	Head	B M Aug 1844	55	M	27			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	7	7	100	51
52		Nancy	Wife	B F May 1855	45	F	27	9	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes				52	
53		Auburn	Son	B M Apr 1878	22	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes				53	
54		Joe	Son	B M Aug 1877	20	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer Laborer	4	yes	yes	yes				54	
55		Joir	Daughter	B F May 1884	16	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				at school	4	yes	yes	yes				55	
56		Aloy	Son	B M Aug 1890	9	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				at school	4	yes	yes	yes				56	
57		Geo.	Son	B M Aug 1891	8	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						2	no	no	yes				57
58		Williv	Grand Son	B M July 1892	7	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						1	no	no	yes				58
59		Keenan Geo	Boarder	B M Apr 1884	16	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Laborer		no	no	yes				59	

78	184197	Smithers Handy	Head	B M Mar 1854	46	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	7	7	91	78
79		Earnest	Son	B M Mar 1885	15	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer Laborer	6	no	no	yes				79	
80		Shelby	Son	B M Mar 1887	11	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer Laborer	6	no	no	yes				80	

839. James A. Smithers and 3 children, Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. No ancestor ever enrolled. No ancestor party to treaties of 1835-6 and 1846. Shows no connection with Eastern Cherokees. Misc. test. p. 777.
840. Ellie Smithers, Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Daughter of #34839 and claims through same source.
5184. George W. Smithers, and 2 children. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Brother of #34839, and claims through the same ancestors.
5185. Josie Shephard, and 1 child. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Niece of #34839, and claims through the same ancestors.
5186. Mamie Conyers, and 1 child. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Niece of #34839 and claims through the same ancestors.
- 5B67. Emily Rowan. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Sister of #34839, and claims through the same ancestors.
5188. H. C. Smithers. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Brother of #34839, and claims through the same source.
5189. Sandy A. Smithers, and 2 children. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Brother of #34839, and claims through the same ancestors.
5170. Nancy Smithers, and 2 children. Paint Rock, Ala.  
Rejected. Claimant nor ancestors do not appear on any Cherokee Roll. Fails to establish any connection with or recognition by Eastern Cherokees parties to treaties of 1835-6-46.

(Above) Excerpt Enrollment Applicant for Tribal Membership of Several Members of the Smithers Family (National Archives and Records Administration, Applications for Enrollment of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914 via Ancestry.com)

and 1974 as Clay Cemetery - named either after the surname or the nearby cove. The earliest grave is that of Allie Idela Shepard in 1912. The cemetery has about 137 graves and is still in use. It was added to the Alabama Historical Commission's Historic Cemetery Register in 2013.

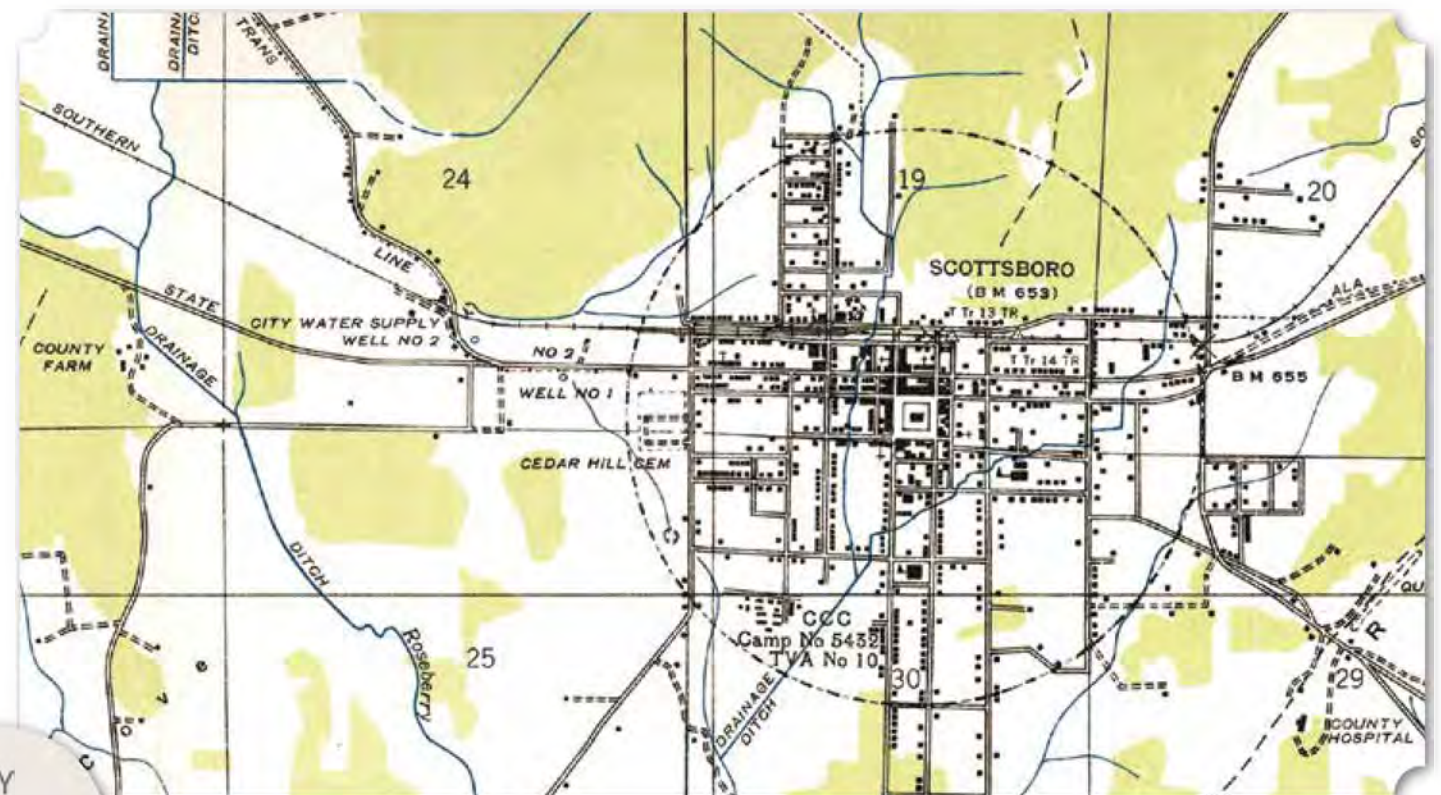
The cemetery has some of the many landowning farmers of color of the early 20th century. Most of them lived on the Madison side of Gurley and owned farms from at least 1920 to 1940. When recorded on the census, several of them were just one landowning farmer surrounded by a handful of other people of color who owned a farm in Gurley. Some of those buried here include: Dave Bostic (1873-1969), who owned a farm in Gurley, Madison County, from at least 1920 to 1940. As did Thomas F. Conyers (1888 - unknown) and his wife, Lela B. Conyers (1892-1952). The 1920 census

shows Conyers having at least five neighbors of color who also owned a farm. To continue the trend, James T. Douglas (1877-1964) and wife, Ella Douglas (1878-1959), owned a farm in Gurley during the same time period and were also surrounded by other landowners.

sawmills and cotton gins followed by schools, hotels, an opera house, newspaper, stores, and offices. Scottsboro's original depot still stands near the downtown square.

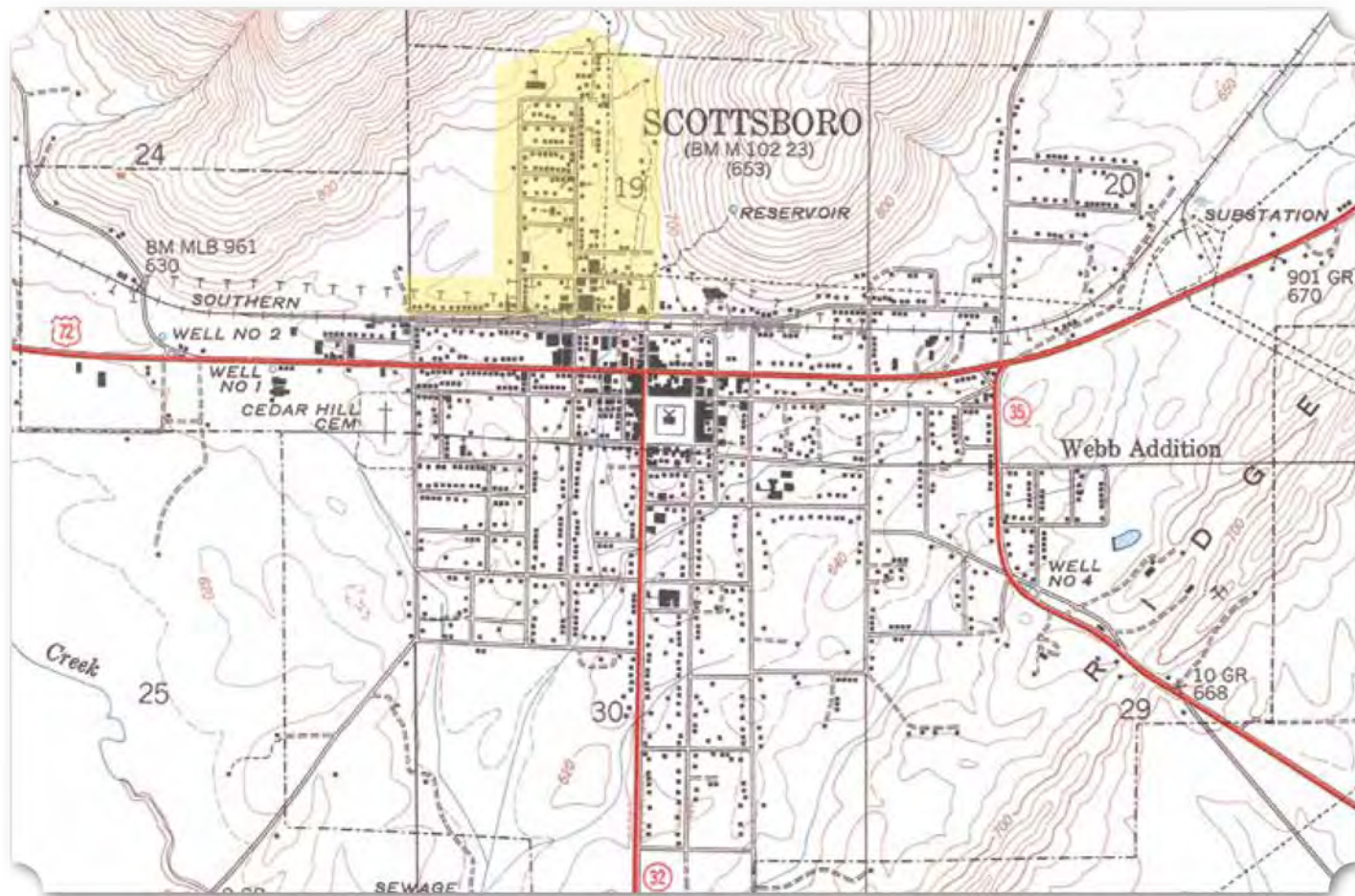
The Memphis & Charleston Railroad runs through Scottsboro and was the only east-west line available to the Confederacy during the Civil War, making it a great asset for delivering supplies and men. Thus, the Union Army sought to safeguard the tracks and Scottsboro. Several small clashes occurred around Scottsboro including one that took place in January 1865 at the railroad depot itself. The Scottsboro Memphis and Charleston Railroad Depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. According to the nomination, the skirmish consisted of 29 soldiers of the 101st U.S. Colored Infantry (USCI) and 25 soldiers of the 110th USCI commanded by a white First Lieutenant named John Hull. The small group of men were charged with guarding the depot and the water supply when a Confederate

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Scottsboro, Scottsboro, Alabama Quadrangle



KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER



force led by Brigadier-General H. B. Lyon attacked the Union soldiers. The troops were able to fight off the Confederates' attacks no less than three times. Upon retreating for the third time, the Confederate soldiers set fire to the depot with the Union men inside. The fire was put out and the men and building were saved as Lyon's men moved on to Guntersville. Many of the men in the 101st and 110th USCI were from North Alabama and almost exclusively farmers.

In the early 20th century, there were never more than 20% African American households in Scottsboro. There were 107 (18%) African American households out of a total of nearly 600 households in Scottsboro in 1900. While the total households dropped in 1910, there remained 18% African Americans. The peak percentage of households of color was in 1920 when 19% of the 668 households were African American, however, the overall population of Scottsboro

**(Left)** 1957 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Scottsboro, Scottsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (With African American Neighborhood Highlighted) **(Below)** Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Paris Davis Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

continued to grow. In 1930, there were almost 900 households, 150 (17%) of them were African American. Even after the Scottsboro Boys trial, there were 164 (13%) households of color in Scottsboro, a city of over 1,200 households by that time.

While the number and percentage of African American households in Scottsboro rose overall through the early 20th century, the number of landowning farmers drastically declined in 1920. In 1900 and 1910, there were 13 and 16 landowning African American farmers in and around Scottsboro, respectively. A decade later, in 1920, there were only 6 African American landowners. By 1930 and 1940, there were four landowners of color in 900 and 1,200 households.

Of more interest may be that few families owned more than one farm and few individuals retained ownership of their farms in this area for more than a decade. In 1900, there were two members of the Mathews and the Davis families who owned a farm, but only one out of 16 farmers in 1910 had previously owned his farm in 1900 - Jim Beard. In 1910, Henry and Dan Campbell owned a farm, as well as John and

80	121	122	Davis Paris	Head	B M	Feb 1848	51	M	28	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	M	Fi	112	80
81			Mahala	Wife	B F	Jan 1852	48	M	28	Alabama	Alabama	North Carolina		0	No	No	yes					81
82			John	son	B M	Aug 1874	25	M		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama	Farm laborer	0	yes	yes	yes					82
83			May G	Daughter	B F	May 1876	24	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	yes	yes	yes					83
84			Spence	son	B M	May 1878	22	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama	Farm laborer	0	No	No	yes					84
85			Julia	Daughter	B F	July 1879	20	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	yes	yes	yes					85
86			Emma	Daughter	B F	Aug 1879	20	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	yes	yes	yes					86
87			Lucky	son	B M	Apr 1882	18	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama	Farm laborer	0	yes	yes	yes					87
88			Lizzie	Daughter	B F	Dec 1883	16	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	No	No	yes					88
89			Dallas	son	B M	Dec 1885	14	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama	Farm laborer	0	No	No	yes					89
90			Annis B	Daughter	B F	Oct 1887	12	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	No	No	yes					90
91			Jimmie P	Daughter	B F	Feb 1889	11	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	No	No	yes					91
92			Laura F	Daughter	B F	Oct 1890	9	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0	No	No	yes					92
93			Bascal H	son	B M	Jan 1893	7	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0								93
94			Ocher G	Daughter	B F	Dec 1897	2	S		Alabama	Georgia	Alabama		0								94

98	247-250	248-249	Mathews John H. #1	Head 2 <sup>c</sup>	B	M	Jan 1871	29	M	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	F	F	228	98
99			Mary	Wife	B	F	July 1876	23	M	3	2	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				yes	yes	yes				99
100			Larry	Daughter	B	F	Sept 1897	2				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				yes	yes	yes				100	

84	124-126	125	Campbell Henry	Head 1	0	H	M	30	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	F	F	228	84
85			Mary	Wife		H	M	33	M			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				yes	yes	yes				85	
86			John	Nephew		M	B	30	D			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				yes	yes	yes				86	
87	125-128	126	Campbell David	Head 1	0	H	M	37	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		Farmer	0	yes	yes	yes	0	F	F	228	87
88			David	Wife		H	B	30	H			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				yes	yes	yes				88	

(Top) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing John H. Matthews Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Henry Campbell Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

owned by 1930 and all four owners in 1940 did not own in 1930. It appears that the retention of African American landowning farmers around Scottsboro in the early 20th century was likely to be less than 10 years.

**Scottsboro's African American Neighborhood**

The town of Scottsboro has always been divided, as many southern towns are, by the railroad. The African American community established itself on the

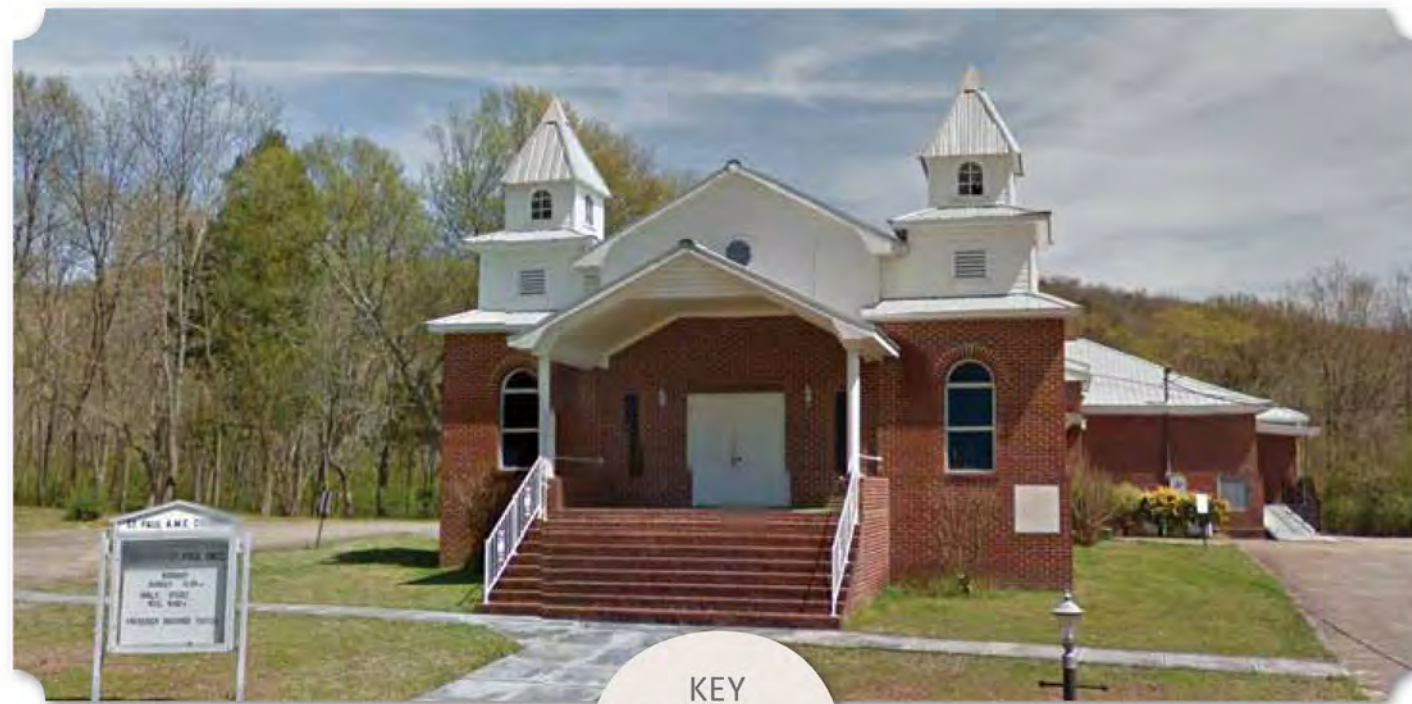
north side of the railroad tracks. Today, the majority of the town is situated to the south, but there are a few pieces of the African American community still in Scottsboro. The neighborhood centered around present-day Martin Luther King, Jr. Street and North Houston Street was established in the early 20th century. It contains St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church, which may have been established in Scottsboro well before the church was built on North Houston Street sometime between 1936 and 1950. An unnamed school located in the community in 1936

was most likely a school for African American children. It was located at the north end of MLK Street. A circa 1970 addition to the school still stands, but the original school and its 1950s replacement are both torn down.

**The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center**

Scottsboro remained under the radar until 1931 when the city, as the county seat, was the site of the first trials of what would become known as the Scottsboro Boys. Nine young African American men were accused of raping two white women while they all traveled on the train from Chattanooga through Jackson County. A fight between the boys and some white men occurred somewhere near Scottsboro, but the conductor was not notified of any incident until further down the tracks. The train stopped in Paint Rock and a search for the boys began. When they were found, the nine boys were brought to Scottsboro for trial. The media deemed them the "Scottsboro Boys." Regardless of their innocence, there would be years of trials and theatrics ahead for the nine young men, ages 12 to 19 years old. While only the first trials happened in Scottsboro and the rest in Decatur, Morgan County, the name stuck with them.

(Far Left) Aerial Photograph of the African American Neighborhood in North Scottsboro, 1958 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Left) St. Paul AME Church in Scottsboro (Google Street View, 2014)



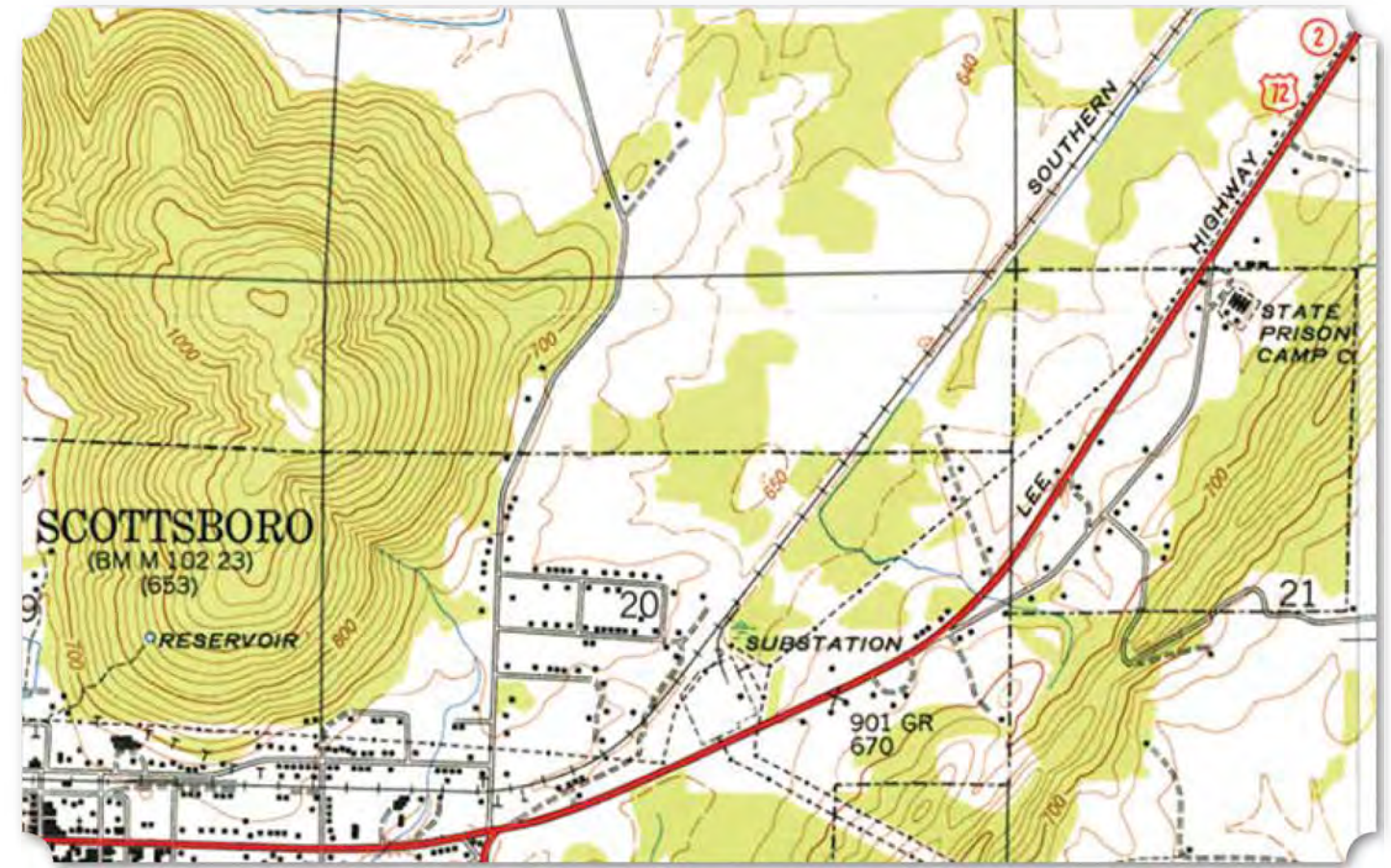
**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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- OTHER



(Top) The Present-Day Scottsboro Boys Museum & Cultural Center (Google Street View, 2014) (Above) The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of Scottsboro, Circa 1948, when the West Wing was Added (Scottsboro Boys Museum & Cultural Center Website)

Located just south of the neighborhood and railroad tracks on West Willow Street near North Cedar Hill Drive, is the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center. Formerly the Joyce Chapel United Methodist Church, the building now houses exhibits and collections on the historic events surrounding the Scottsboro Boys and the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century. According to the website for the museum, the church was originally built in 1878 by former slaves and originally held the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of Scottsboro. This church was built in 1904, making it the oldest African American church still standing in Jackson County. The African American community lived in shotgun houses to the north of the church and the congregation continued to use the church until 2009 when their numbers dwindled and they found a new owner in the Scottsboro Multicultural Foundation.



(Above) 1947 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Scottsboro and State Prison Camp C, Scottsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) Excerpt from Alabama State Convict Records of J. C. Ward of Morgan County Discharged from Camp C in 1937 (Alabama Department of Archives and History via Ancestry.com)

Name <u>J.C. Ward</u>		County <u>Morgan</u>	13
Alias	Crime <u>Burglary</u>	Escaped	
	Sentence Began <u>March 6, 1936</u>	Recaptured	
	Term <u>2 years to 30 months</u>		
Received <u>29-36</u>		Date of Death	
Serial No. <u>24557</u>		Cause and Place	
Race <u>W-10</u>	1st Time <u>Sept 6, 1938</u>	Discharged <u>Nov 1-27-37 from Burg C.</u>	
Sex <u>Male</u>	2nd Time <u>March 6, 1938</u>	Temporary Paroles	
Age <u>21</u>	Time		
Court No. <u>2399</u>	Time		
Hold Over			
	Ex Convict	Remarks	
Tr. Book <u>104</u>	Page <u>94</u>		

Line No.	SEX	AGE	RACE	MARRIAGE	HIGHER GRADE	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940	PERIODS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS																																			
												17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36																
1	M	77	W		77	Pugent, Edmund	Friend		77	Alabama	Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	M	73	W		73	Wilmington, Arthur	Friend		73	Alabama	Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
3	M	70	W		70	Campbell, William	Friend		70	Alabama	Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS										FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER													FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED				FOR OFFICE USE ONLY—DO NOT WRITE IN THESE COLUMNS																				
NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER		MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE)	VETERAN	SOCIAL SECURITY	MARRIAGE HISTORY	BIRTHS OF CHILDREN		TOTAL INCREASE	TOTAL DECREASE	CROSS BIRTHS	MARRIAGE		CHILDREN		EMPLOYMENT STATUS																															
	FATHER	MOTHER					1935-39	1930-34				1925-29	1920-24	1915-19	1910-14	1905-09	1900-04	1895-99	1890-94	1885-89	1880-84	1875-79	1870-74	1865-69	1860-64	1855-59	1850-54	1845-49	1840-44	1835-39																	
Campbell, Robert	United States	United States	English				70	70																																							
Campbell, Eliza	United States	United States	English				70	70																																							

STANDARD EXPLANATORY NOTES

KEY  
 COMMUNITIES  
 CEMETERIES  
 CHURCHES  
 PLANTATIONS  
 SCHOOLS  
 OTHER

(Left) A Page from the 1940 Census Records Enumerating Inmates at Camp C, "Alabama Institution for Negro Convicts" (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Jackson County Poorhouse  
 On the outskirts of Scottsboro were two undesirable public facilities – to the west, the “poorhouse” turned tuberculosis hospital and to the east, an Alabama prison camp. Located just over one and a half miles from downtown is the eastern edge of Poorhouse Mountain, aptly named. In the early 20th century, the County Farm was where Jackson County would house citizens that were unable to pay their own way in life for various reasons. Most counties had an institution for this purpose, sometimes called an “alms house,” “poor house,” or farm because people housed here would work on a farm to provide for themselves and pay for their boarding. On the census records, the residents were referred to as “inmates.” While not strictly for people of color, due to institutionalized racial discrimination and the overall disadvantages imposed on people of color, these county farms were often populated with African Americans.

Prison Camp "C"

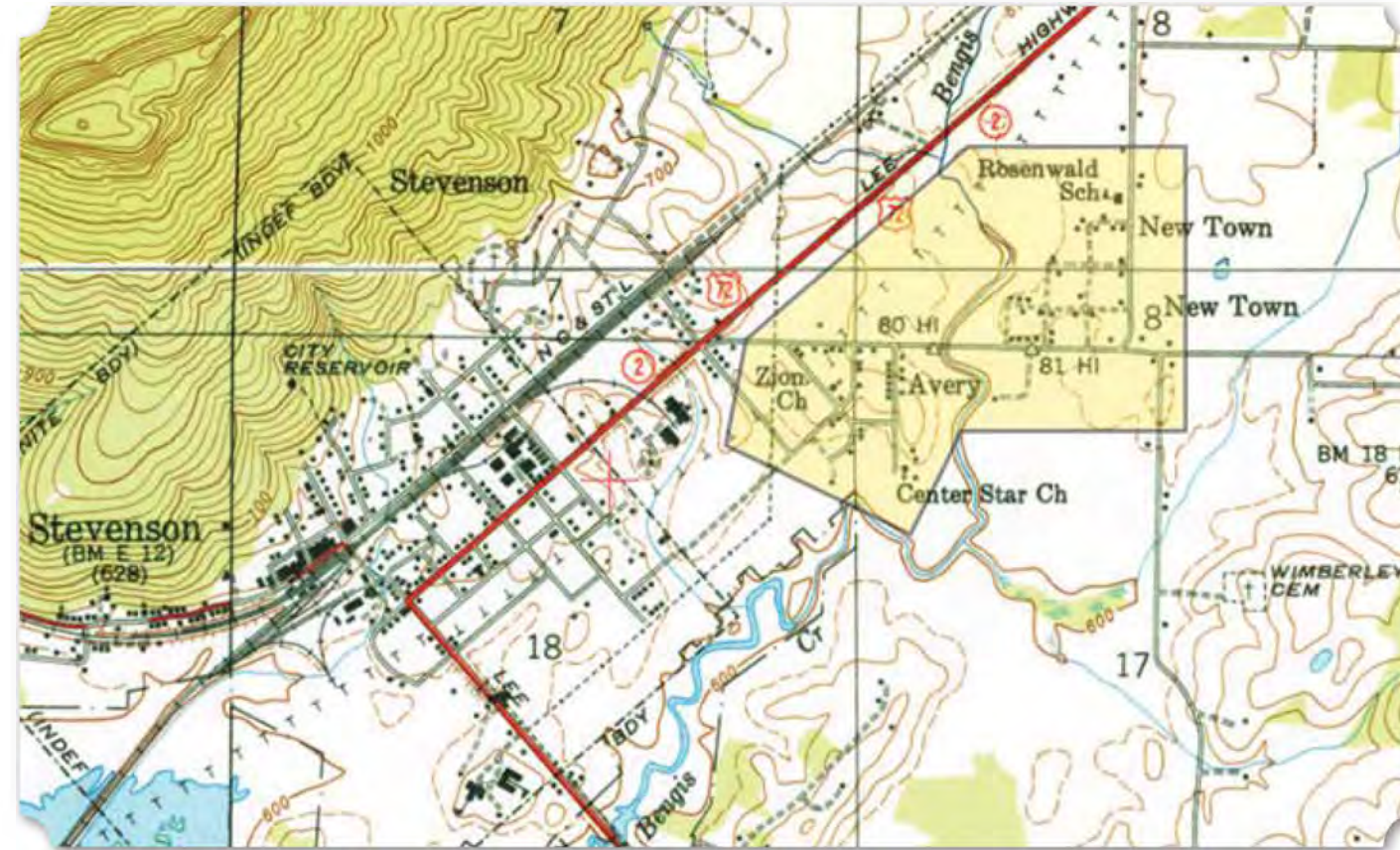
To the northeast of Scottsboro, along U.S. 72, was one of the several Alabama state prison camps. This Jackson County facility was denoted as “Camp C” in both prison records and on the USGS maps from 1947. The prison camps were not strictly for African American men, however, those in North Alabama were mostly populated with men of color and some were exclusively segregated units. The Scottsboro camp was exclusively for convicts of color as illustrated by the 1940 census which labels the institution the “Camp Scottsboro Alabama Institution for Negro Convicts.”

# 10

## Stevenson

Stevenson is located approximately three miles north of the Tennessee River along the railroad and highway that follows the river on the southeast edge of Jackson County south of Bridgeport and north of Fackler. A familiar story to the North Alabama, the area of Stevenson was originally Cherokee land before the forced removal in the 1830s. However, unlike the more mountainous areas to the south of the river, people began to settle Jackson County and Stevenson before the land was legally available. By the 1850s, the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad paralleled the river and connected the many growing settlements. In another familiar story, the river and railroad proved to be strategic assets during the Civil War, making

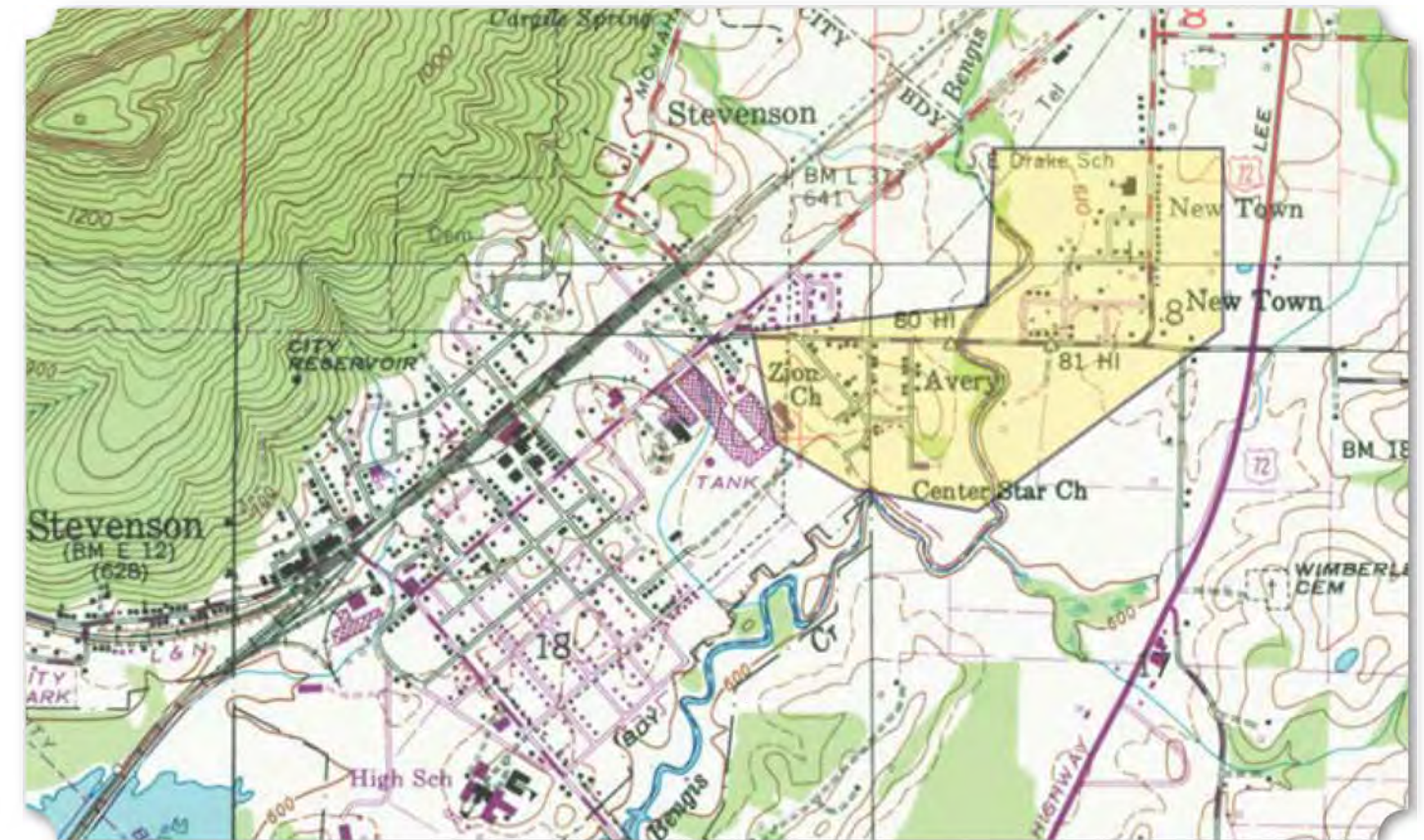
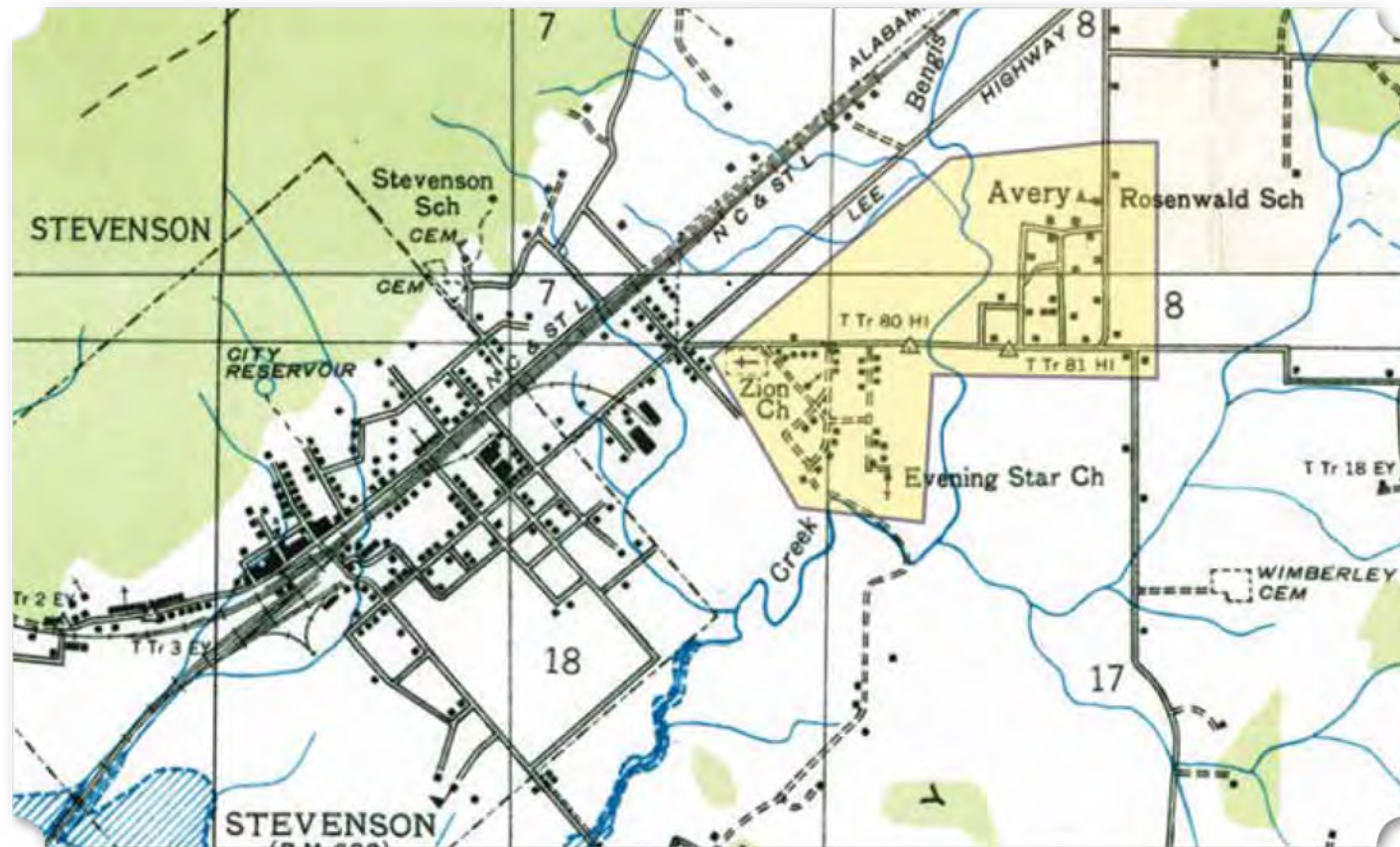
USGS/TVA Topographic Maps of Stevenson, Stevenson, Alabama Quadrangle with African American Neighborhood Highlighted (Below) 1936 Map (Right) 1950 Map (Far Right) 1972 Map



Stevenson a pawn to be fought over. Essential to holding Stevenson was Fort Harker. Following the Civil War, Stevenson became home to a community of freedmen called Averyville where a Quaker missionary established a school for newly freed slaves. In the early 20th century, Stevenson would revive interest in African American education with a Rosenwald school, built in the same area in the 1920s.

In the early 20th century the town of Stevenson grew from a total of 292 households to 743 households from 1900 to 1940. The population of African American households also grew steadily from 86 (29%) households in 1900 to 129 (17%) households in 1940. However, the growth of the community of color did not match that of the overall white community and while African American homes made up nearly a third of households at the beginning of the century, they represented less than 20% of the households by 1940.

The number of African American-owned farms did not follow a steady trend from 1900 to 1940, but





**KEY**

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rather increased sharply and then fluctuated. At the beginning of the century there were only 4 households that owned farms in Stevenson - Philip Matthews, Isaac Walls, Nelson Lamberson, and Jacob Tally. Together these farms represented less than 1% of the total households and 5% of the African American households. By 1910, there were 28 (7%) African American-owned farms in Stevenson and that number peaked at 55 (11%) farms in 1920. While the African American-owned farms only accounted for 11% of the total households at their peak, the farms represented a large portion of the African American households. From 1910 to 1940, farms owned by people of color made up at least a quarter of all households of color and as much as 43% in 1920. On the 1940 census, three neighborhoods are notable for their concentration of African American farming landowners. One is labeled simply "New Town," which is adjacent to "Avery" and the other neighborhood known as "Avery Negro Town."

George Tally (c. 1867-1944) owned a farm in Stevenson from at least 1910 to 1940 and most likely his death. Tally lived in Avery Negro Town alongside others with the surname Tally, either immediate family members to George Tally and others are unknown relations. On the 1940 census, two of George's daughters lived next door on their own farms. Emma Lee Tally Joiner (1898-1977) and Ella Mae Tally Buckner (1905-1991) are widowed and divorced, respectively. Ella Mae was married to Ulysses Van Buckner (1898-1968) who was the brother of Joseph Early Buckner (1889-1965). Buckner also owned a farm in Stevenson on Lee Highway in 1940. The decade prior, Buckner owned a farm in the neighboring community of Bass on Bass-Anderson Road. A veteran of World War I, Buckner and his wife, Ollie Mae (1902-1964), are buried in Long Acre Cemetery west of Stevenson south of County Road 53.

Matthew Tally (born c. 1875) owned a farm in Stevenson from at least 1920 to 1940, but his relationship to George Tally, if there is any, is unknown. The same is true for Andy Tally (born c. 1855) who owned a farm from at least 1930 to 1940.

**(Left)** Stevenson Depot, 2010 (Flickr, User Brent Moore)





Rebecca Harris (c. 1879-1956), another landowner lived in Avery Negro Town in 1940. Harris and her daughter, Jessie, washed laundry in their home while her son, Herman, and grandchildren probably ran the family farm. Rebecca's husband, Lee Harris (born c.1880), bought the farm in the 1920s and Lee passed away in the 1930s. Their son, Jessie and his family own a farm next door to Rebecca in 1940, most likely on land that was originally his parents' farm.

**Averyville**

Originally known as Averyville, the community east of Stevenson later shortened to simply Avery was established during Reconstruction by a Quaker missionary named Wilmer Walton. Using funds from a Quaker foundation called "Friends' Association for Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen," Walton worked to open a school for freedmen and their children as early as 1865. The school and subsequent community were named for Charles Avery, a Pennsylvania minister and businessman who was known for his support of African American education. The school successfully enrolled about 75 students, however, it closed by

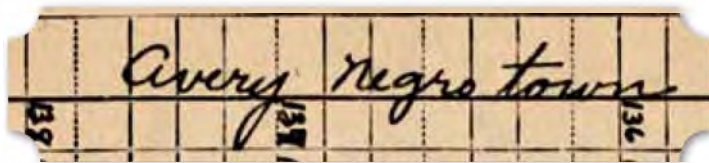
**(Left)** Photograph of Union Troops at Stevenson Depot, Circa 1863 (Public Domain) **(Below)** Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing George Tally Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

the early 1870s due to KKK violence and threats that drove away teachers and some students.

During the short-lived Averyville School, one noteworthy student to attend was William Hooper Council (1848-1909). Council attended the school for about three years before becoming a teacher and beginning his highly successful career as an educator. By 1869, he moved to Huntsville and established the Lincoln Normal School for teachers of color. Four years later, Dr. Council, whose only formal education was received at Averyville School, opened the Huntsville State Normal School for Negroes—what would later be Alabama A&M University.

The name Avery appears to have been associated with Stevenson's African American community since the establishment of the original freedmen's colony in the 1860s. While the location of Avery is immediately east of Stevenson along Old Mount Carmel Road, according to various maps throughout the 20th century, Avery was most likely originally positioned where New Town is today. The USGS topographic map from 1936 marks Avery as the area to the northwest of County Road 75 and County Road 85, including the Rosenwald school. Sometime between 1940 and 1950, the neighborhood on the south side of Old Mount Carmel became Avery and the neighborhood containing the Rosenwald school was labeled New Town. This change may be

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS																																
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION																																
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY <i>Princeton's Station</i>										NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE										SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. <i>8</i>						SHEET NO. <i>8 B</i>						
																				ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. <i>23</i>						WARD OF CITY <i>X</i>						
																				ENumerated BY ME ON THE <i>23</i> DAY OF <i>April</i> 1910.						ENUMERATOR <i>John H. B... 4674</i>						
EDUCATION.	SEX		RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.						NATIVITY.			SPEECH.		OCCUPATION.				EDUCATION.			RECORD OF HOME.			REMARKS.							
	Males.	Females.		Age at last birthday.	Color or race.	Whether unable to read, write, or speak English.	Whether deaf or dumb.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.	Whether able to speak English, or, if not, give language spoken.	Trade or profession, or particular kind of work done by this person, an artisan, workman, farmer, etc.	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, or where sold, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Whether employed on farm or in any other establishment.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Whether attended school since 1900.	Whether attended school since 1905.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Whether married.	Whether single.	Whether ever married.									
<i>135 162</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
			<i>Wife</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>None</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
			<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Railroad</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
			<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
			<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
			<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
			<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>Alabama</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Home farm</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>



Excerpts of the Census from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com **(Above)** Excerpt of the 1940 Census Labeling "Avery Negro Town" in Stevenson **(Below)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Emery E. Buckner Owning a Farm **(Bottom)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing George Tally, Willey Grimes, and Lee Harris Owning Farms on Dixie Highway

what is reflected in the various names provided on the 1940s census records.

### Stevenson Rosenwald School\*

Stevenson had one of three Rosenwald schools in Jackson County. It was located east of downtown between East 2nd Street and Old Mount Carmel Road in Avery/New Town. The Rosenwald School was expanded and renamed J. E. Drake School by 1967. The original building is gone and the present-day Stevenson Elementary School is now in that

location. The school was constructed about 1920 as a two-teacher, two-room schoolhouse. It cost a total of \$2,800 - considerably more than the other two Jackson County Rosenwald schools. The African American community contributed \$1,350, while the Rosenwald Fund covered \$800, and the county paid \$650.

### Fort Harker

The Union Army occupied Stevenson from 1862 until the end of the war and Fort Harker was designed

and constructed by Union troops to protect the town from Confederate attacks. Located about a half mile southwest of the Stevenson depot, the fort consists mostly of a wall rising about 14 feet on top of a hill. It is roughly square with clay and earth walls and originally had 7 barbettes, a powder magazine, and a so-called bombproof keep. The defensive structure is named for Col. C. G. Harker, Army of the Ohio, 20th Brigade, who was in charge of Stevenson in the Spring of 1862. According to the National Register nomination, Col. Harker "impressed all Negroes

Form 12-a  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930  
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Alabama Incorporated place \_\_\_\_\_  
County Jackson Ward of city \_\_\_\_\_ Block No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Towship or other division of county Across Precinct No. 7. Unincorporated place \_\_\_\_\_  
Enumeration District No. 36-9 Sheet No. 6A  
Supervisor's District No. 2 Enumerated by me on April 11, 1930 Larry H. Harker

PLACES OF ABODE	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH			MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN)	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.				OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY				EMPLOYMENT		VETERANS	
						PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER		Language spoken in home before coming to the United States	Year of immigration	Naturalized	Year of naturalization	Occupation	Industry	Code	Class	Whether actually at work on this date	Whether a veteran of U. S. military or naval service	Year of service	Number of years of service
48 101	Buckner Emery E.	Head	0	M 40	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					Farmer	General Farm	VVVV O	14	Yes	1862	83	
2	Wife	Wife		F 26	26	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
3	Wife	Wife		F 7	7	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
4	Wife	Daughter		F 9	9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
5	Wife	Son		M 9	9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
6	Wife	Daughter		F 7	7	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							

Dixie Highway

73	Wife	Wife		F 3	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
74	Wife	Wife		F 8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
75	Wife	Wife		F 8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
76	Wife	Wife		F 8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
77	Wife	Wife		F 8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
78	Wife	Wife		F 13	13	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
79	Wife	Wife		F 65	65	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					Farmer	General Farm	VVVV O	14	Yes	1862	52	
80	Wife	Wife		F 60	60	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
81	Wife	Wife		F 20	20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
82	Wife	Wife		F 22	22	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
83	Wife	Wife		F 17	17	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
84	Wife	Wife		F 27	27	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					Farmer	General Farm	VVVV O	14	Yes	1862	53	
85	Wife	Wife		F 36	36	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
86	Wife	Wife		F 30	30	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
87	Wife	Wife		F 51	51	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
88	Wife	Wife		F 14	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
89	Wife	Wife		F 15	15	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
90	Wife	Wife		F 14	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
91	Wife	Wife		F 16	16	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
92	Wife	Wife		F 12	12	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							
93	Wife	Wife		F 8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English					None							

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS
- OTHER

within a radius of 6 to 7 miles but found only 40, and, consequently, General Buell [Col. Harker's

Excerpts of the Census from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com (Below)  
 Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Several African American Farm Owners in the Neighborhood of Avery (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Several African American Farm Owners in the Neighborhood of New Town

commanding officer] directed 400 Negroes from the Northwest railroad to Stevenson to complete all orders. In addition to Fort Harker, which commanded to village, the supply depot and the approaches thereto, a companion, Fort Mitchell, was constructed as were 7 blockhouses." Whether the men impressed into service were slaves or freedmen is unclear, also there is no known mention of a U.S. Colored Troop regiment.

Ultimately, the fort was involved in a skirmish and then quickly regained by the Union and reinforced with heavy artillery. The fort was not needed after 1864 but served as a rallying point before most troops marched to Chattanooga. Fort Harker is presently an archaeological site owned by the TVA with plans to gift it to the City of Stevenson to become a city park. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Prior it its nomination, archaeological

investigations were carried out by David H. Hannah, an archaeologist with the National Parks Service. He and his team uncovered a round wooden stock tank in the southeast corner which possibly served as a domestic water reservoir and may have held water for swabbing cannons during combat. There has not been any recent work on the history or archaeology of the fort.

Line	Address	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital	Color	State	Place	Occupation	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
45	13 Thomas & Rudder road	Bud Jr.	son	M	16	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT						45
46		Louise	daughter	F	14	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	H&F						46
47		Eveline	daughter	F	11	S	W	Alabama	Same Place							47
48		Doris Ann	daughter	F	2	S	W	Alabama	Same Place							48
49		Talley mat	Head	M	64	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	10					49
50		Mattie	wife	F	64	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	H						50
51		Hubley Mary Jane	Head	F	65	W	W	Alabama	Same Place	LL	7					51
52	Ruddick Mark	Head	M	51	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	1					52	
53	Rudder Louella	wife	F	48	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	H						53	
54	Jimm Frank	daughter	F	32	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					54	

Line	Address	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital	Color	State	Place	Occupation	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
52	Avery	Montgomery Lovie	Head	F	52	W	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT						52
53		Sam	wife	M	14	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					53
54		Carter John	Head	M	28	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	LL	7					54
55		White Ellie B.	Head	F	32	W	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	20					55
56		Inez	daughter	F	15	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					56
57		Jones Tom	Head	M	71	M	W	South Carolina	Same Place	LL	1					57
58		Leslie	wife	F	60	M	W	Tennessee	Same Place	OT	10					58
59		Carter Clemmure	daughter	F	11	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						59
60		Mary Lucy	daughter	F	6	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						60
61		Langford Pemb	Head	F	45	W	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	40					61
62		Laura My	wife	F	15	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					62
63		William	son	M	15	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					63
64		Stearling Jr.	son	M	13	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						64
65	Imonia	daughter	F	11	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						65	
66	Lillie Pearl	daughter	F	7	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						66	
67	115 O 400	Winston Van	Head	M	30	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	40					67
68	Lizzie	wife	F	26	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	H						68	
69	Henry	son	M	5	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						69	
70	Van Jr.	son	M	5	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						70	
71	116 R 2	Wisdom Walter	Head	M	56	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	30					71
72	Elizabeth	wife	F	44	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	40					72	
73	Willie Belle	daughter	F	16	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					73	
74	Lula Pearl	daughter	F	14	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S	6					74	
75	Erney May	daughter	F	11	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						75	
76	Dorthea	daughter	F	9	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						76	
77	Dollie Lee	daughter	F	5	S	W	Alabama	Same Place	S						77	
78	117 O 500	Roberson Frank	Head	M	68	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	OT	1					78
79	Sophia	wife	F	64	M	W	Alabama	Same Place	LL	7					79	

3.

## "WE HAD A TRIAL WE DIDN'T ASK FOR..."

### The Story of The Scottsboro Boys Trial in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama

There have been many renditions of the history revolving the Scottsboro Boys trial. Despite the books, articles, documentaries, and a musical, the history is not well-known by the general public. It's a story swept under the rug, forgotten, and not often sought out. While there are many sources on what happened in the 1930s in North Alabama, one local resident, Ms. Peggy Allen Towns, has done some digging of her own. The results of her research goes beyond Scottsboro to focus on the city of Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama and the impact the trial had on the African American middle-class.

**(Below)** The Scottsboro Boys during a Visit from Juanita E. Jackson (Fourth from Left) of the NAACP, January 1937 (National Archives and Records Administration)

Growing up in Decatur's historically African American neighborhood of Old Town, her mother, Mrs. Mrytle Lyle Allen, instilled in her "the value of knowing our history." Required reading in the Allen household included Dan T. Carter's *Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South*. Originally published nearly 40 years after the alleged crime, the book brought renewed interest to injustice in the South. After retiring from decades of service for a U.S. Congressman, Ms. Towns began researching the trial in a more personal and local way. Her book, *Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur's Story*, brings the citizens of Decatur front and center. She has subsequently put together an exhibit in the Morgan County Archives complete with photographs and some original artifacts from the Decatur trials. In an interview, Ms. Town's succinctly sums up the story of the Scottsboro Boys trial:

*"The Scottsboro Boys trial was in 1931. Some hobos jumped a train coming from Chattanooga. Just as they crossed the state lines, a fight broke out between the white and black hobos. The white hobos jumped off the train, reported the fight to a station master, who called ahead to the sheriff's office to stop the train. At Paint Rock [Alabama] the train came to a screeching halt and nine black youth were pulled off the train. Also, on the*

*train were three whites. Two of them were women disguised as men.*

*They pulled the blacks off the train, hauled them to the Scottsboro jail. In 12 days, they were accused, falsely accused, of raping two white women. At the trials, eight of the young boys were sentenced to life in prison. One, the youngest, who was 12 years old, Roy Wright, was not sentenced to life. They went to Kilby prison [outside*



**(Above)** The Scottsboro Boys Conferring with Their Lawyer under Guard (Morgan County Archives)

*of Montgomery] after they had an appeal in late 1932, the trials were transferred to Decatur, Alabama in 1933, because of a supreme court ruling [that deemed their lawyers incompetent,] their attorneys, one was a drunk and one was a senile. The supreme court ruling stated that anyone coming up for a criminal trial should have competent attorneys. Then the attorney asked for a change of venue. That brought the trials here to Decatur, Alabama. All the trials were held here in Decatur except the first. It was held in Scottsboro. That's where they get their name, the 'Scottsboro Boys.' As they were definitely boys, the oldest was only 19 years old. The trials named for them are the longest in history, from 1931 to 1937. All the trials were held in Decatur from 1933 to 1937."*





**(Above)** 19-year-old Haywood Patterson During the Second Trial in April 1933. New York Attorney, Samuel Leibowitz is to the Left (National Archives and Records Administration) **(Below)** Victoria Price on the Witness Stand during the 1933 Trial of Haywood Patterson (National Archives and Records Administration)



The trial of the nine boys arrested in Scottsboro, Alabama brought to the surface many of the ugly realities of racial tension, segregation, and Jim Crow laws in the early 20th century. Ms. Towns makes clear the racial bias surrounding the initial allegations, according to her:

*“the fact that these two women were alleged prostitutes, they did not have a good moral character. Had it been black women, nothing would have been done at all. Had they been white men, nothing would have been done, because of the character of these two women. But it showed us that in the South no matter what moral character you were, you could lie and because of that lie, nine men were accused, falsely accused of rape and sentenced to die in Alabama’s electric chair, Yellow Mama.”*

Despite the racist bias of the time, some truly profound changes to the federal court system came as a result of the injustices of this trial. The 1932 ruling required that criminal representation be provided for those who could not afford it and that the defendant’s lawyers must be competent. The other ruling referred to jury selection. The Scottsboro boys were not allowed to be judged by a jury of their peers. In the Jim Crow South, people of color were never chosen for jury duty. While researching, Ms. Towns says that

*“one of the most outstanding things that I’ve found, because of a 1935 supreme court ruling, Cree Conyers was the first African American to ever sit on a jury in Jackson County, [Alabama]. But then, I found the first blacks, who sat on a jury here in Morgan County. That kind of information was just astounding to me.”*

### "Because of These Brave Men..."

The educated, prosperous, and respected members of the African American community in Decatur were pivotal in changing this nation’s jury selection laws. While Ms. Towns has long known the story of the



**(Above)** Dr. R.R. Bridges, Who Initially Examined the Accusers, on the Witness Stand in 1933 with Judge James E. Horton Leaning behind Him (National Archives and Records Administration)

Scottsboro Boys, it was when she was conducting local research for a walking tour that she stumbled across some pertinent information. She recalls:

*“That’s when I found out about the 11 blacks, who testified, to say ‘Yes, blacks are competent to serve on Alabama juries.’ Now, at that time, no black served on juries in the South unless it was a federal jury. And because of these brave men, because of their testimony, the whole dynamics of our legal system changed, because from their testimony came another supreme court ruling. We call it simply ‘jury of your peers,’ but what it did was say that no one can be barred from a jury because of their race.”*

Ms. Towns continues with caution, “keep in mind, this was a time when women did not serve on juries – period. In Alabama, they actually did not start serving on a jury until 1966.”

Ms. Towns' research uncovered transcripts from the court records of the 11 men who testified. She says that they essentially

*"tell about their qualifications to serve as jurors. Most of them had two or more college degrees. They were*

*professionals, who lived in the Old Town community, which is actually the oldest community in Decatur, Alabama. They were doctors. They were dentists. They were high school principals. They were business owners, just professional men. It took a lot of courage."*

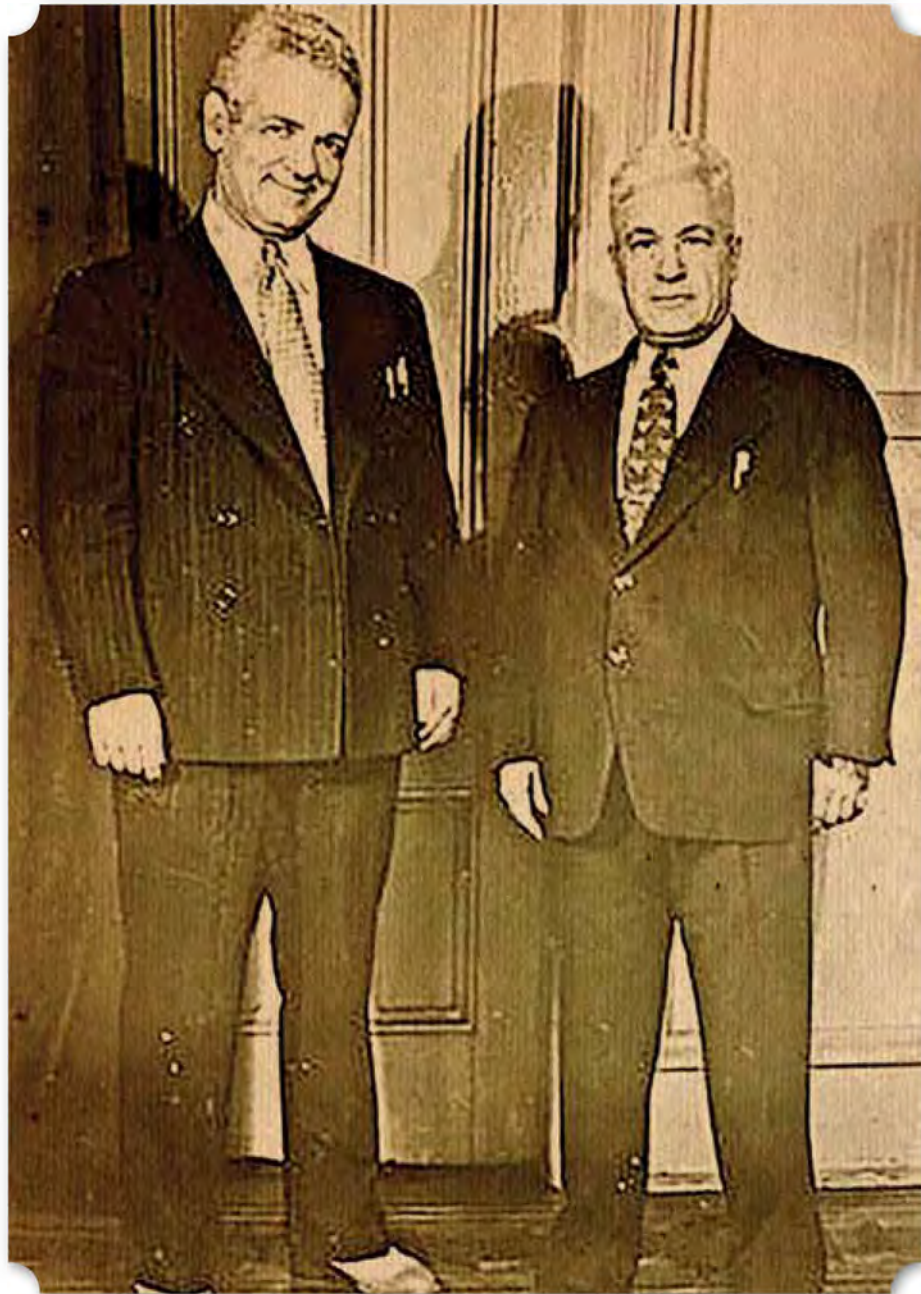
But even more surprising for Ms. Towns than coming across a little-known piece of history is that she knew many of these men growing up as a child - several that testified, several that were on the lists of qualified potential jurors. She attests to the fact that "most writers that talk about the Scottsboro trial, they only mention the list of names that Dr. Frank Sykes had" testified to, but Dr. Newlyn E. Cashin, a physician, Hewlett J. Banks, a plasterer, and Reverend Lester R. Womack of the First Baptist Church on Vine Street all testified and provided a list of qualified African American jurors.



**(Left)** Unknown African American Witness on the Stand, 1935 (Morgan County Archives) **(Above)** Dr. Frank Sykes at trial in Decatur, 1933 (Morgan County Archives)

Testifying in court may seem pedestrian enough to readers today, but Ms. Towns urges everyone to "keep in mind, this is in the 1930s and the Klan, it was rampant during the trials." The KKK tried, and often succeeded, to intimidate people of color. "Crosses were burned in front of Dr. Frank Sykes' house. Crosses were burned here on Bank Street [Decatur], down the street. And crosses were burned at the train depot," she says as she points around in the general direction of these local landmarks.





**(Above)** Brothers Dr. Newlyn E. Cashin and James Cashin at the Time of the Trial (Morgan County Archives)

“We had a trial that we didn’t ask for,” Ms. Towns speaks for Decatur in the 1930s. Decatur was chosen as the site of the trials and the local community considered it had nothing to do with them. Although the violence and terror brought upon the African American community of Old Town was understandably most unwanted, the community eventually came together to stand against those who would prefer to

keep them silent. Along with the change of venue for the trial, came a new lawyer, a Jewish man from New York City. According to Ms. Towns, one of the first things Mr. Leibowitz did was cross “the railroad track, which is always the dividing line,” for racial distribution in the South. Ms. Towns continues to describe Mr. Leibowitz's actions.

He met with people “at the historic First Baptist Church, which is right down the street on Vine Street and he met with these professional people. He met with the community leaders. One of their objectives was for the blacks to show up in court every single day and they did. This was a frightful time for many blacks. People were fired. If they were asked what their opinion was and they told what it was, they lost their jobs. The Klan and their scare tactics frightened some people. There was a young boy, who was killed during the trials. His name was James Royal. I was so surprised, and thankful at the same time, to see his dirt in the lynching museum in Montgomery.”

**"This room is fascinating..."**

As Ms. Towns tells this story, she is sitting in the exhibit at the Morgan County Archives, surrounded by photographs of the accused young boys, their lawyers, the judge, the reporters, and the people of Decatur. But most stirring are the artifacts, the chairs that once held the people in those photographs. Ms. Towns describes what its like to be in that room.

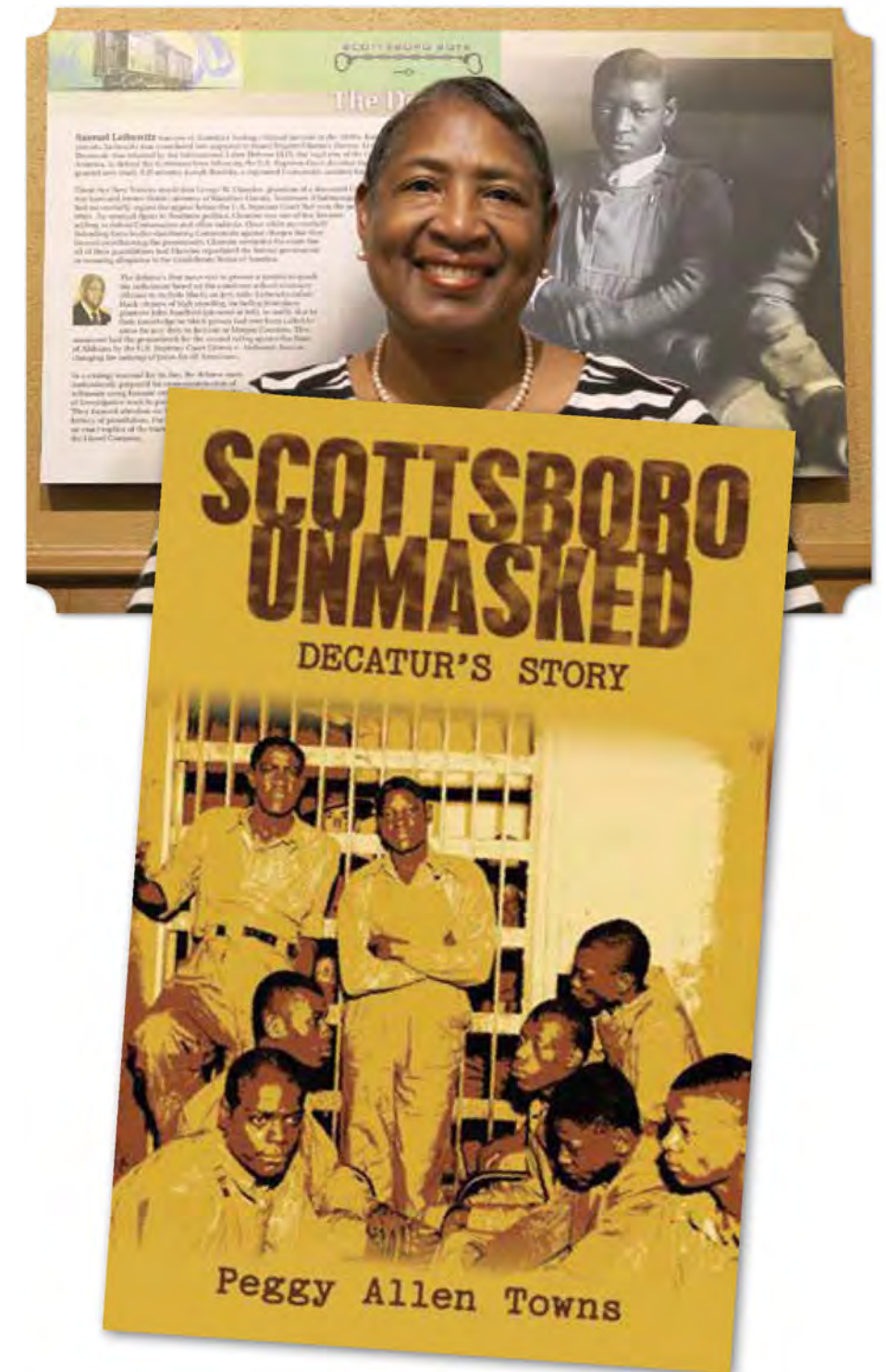
“This room is fascinating in that you look around and you see the photographs of the trials. I’m actually sitting in a chair, a witness chair. There was a box, actually, that the witness stepped upon and sat in the chair.” Another chair in the room “is one of the swivel chairs for the jurors.”

The room can be particularly emotional. But it can also be inspiring.

“It was just amazing to find little nuggets of local history as I wrote my book. I found out that Judge T.C. Allman

actually assisted the defense with selecting a jury. No one had said that. It’s those little nuggets of local history that I put in my book and that I want to share with the world.”

**(Below)** Ms. Peggy Allen Towns in the Exhibit about the Scottsboro Boys at the Morgan County Archives Created from Her Research (Photograph by Jenna Tran)



Ms. Towns says she wrote *Scottsboro Unmasked* "to inspire others to tell their story, because much of the African American history has not been told. It has been suppressed. And I think that it's our duty to share that information with people." For the people of Decatur, particularly the African American community, the story told by Ms. Towns really "brought the trials actually home," as she would say.

## The Trials' Impact

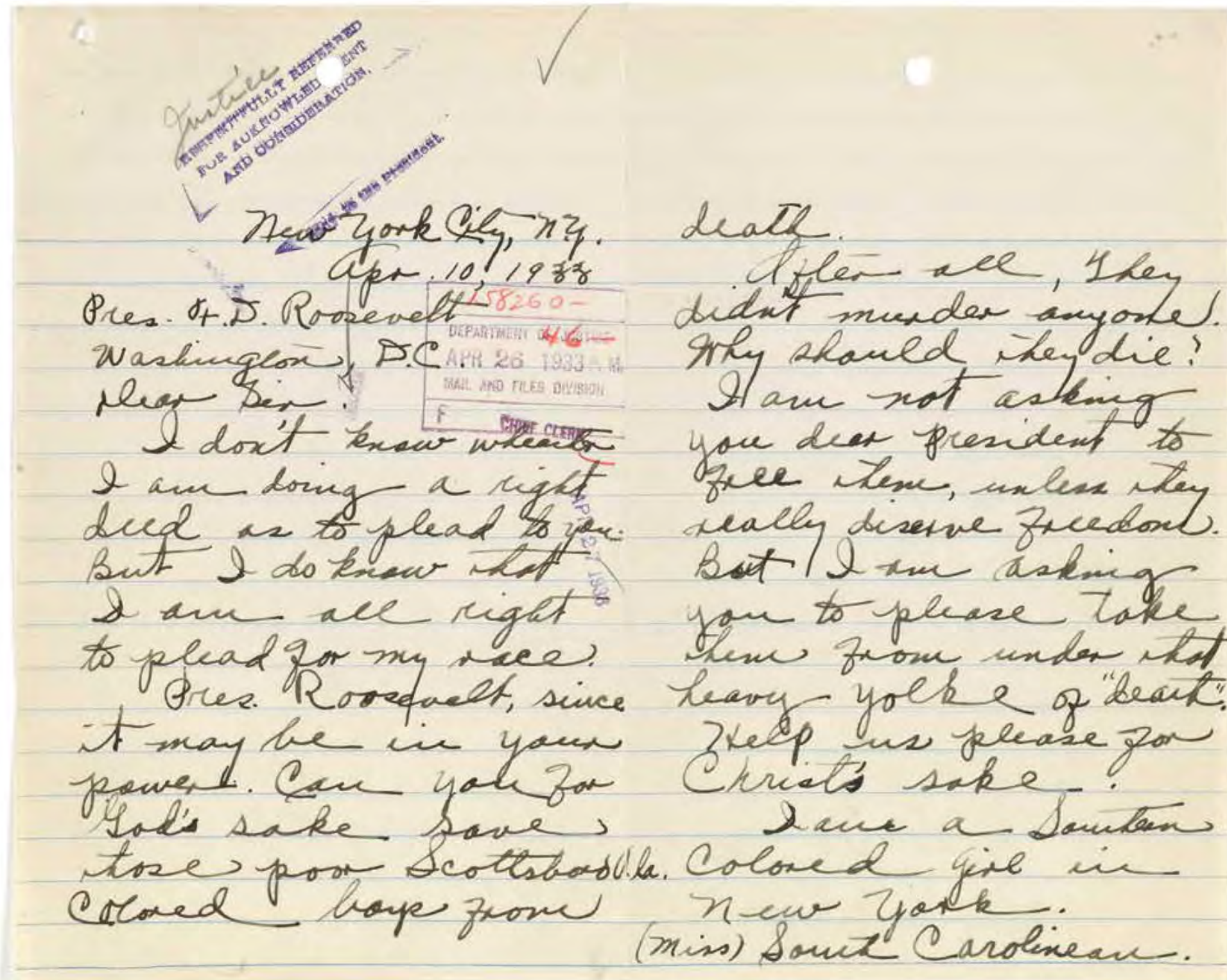
The trial of the Scottsboro Boys had a national impact. People from all over the country held opinions and concerns about the trial, the allegations of corruption and unfair juries, as well as the boys themselves. Racial tension and the terror attacks by the KKK were obviously a product of

the trial, but there was also much support for the young boys. There is a letter on file at the National Archives from a young woman from South Carolina living in New York to President Roosevelt on the boys' behalf in 1933. Other cultural products came from the trial, such as Harper Lee's famous novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, inspired by the trial in Decatur and the racial tensions of the South in general.

On the surface, the trials for the Scottsboro Boys may not appear directly connected to African American landownership and farming. Regardless of the initial research topic, once interviewing Ms. Peggy Allen Towns, it quickly became evident that this piece of history had a great impact on Decatur, Morgan County, and North Alabama. In order to connect the topics of African American landownership and the trials in Decatur, an examination was conducted of the lists of potential jurors provided by Ms. Towns' research.

In an attempt to combat the gross injustice of the complete omission of African Americans from the jury pool, Samuel Leibowitz, George Chamlee, and their team began searching for upstanding citizens within the Old Town community. The people they were looking for would ideally be men of color that were well-educated and respected, such as physicians, dentists, business owners, pastors, and school principals. Although the Clerk of Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, a white man named John H. Green, did testify that he reviewed the more than 2,500 names of potential jurors and did not see a single one referring to a man of color – it was the testimonies of prominent African American citizens that spoke volumes.

In the appendix of her *Scottsboro Unmasked* book, Ms. Towns compiled the names of the men from the four lists provided by Dr. Frank Sykes, Dr. Newlyn E. Cashin, Hewlett J. Banks, and Reverend Lester R. Womack. Combined, the lists record a total of 183 unique names. When cross-referenced with the most contemporary U.S. census in 1930, over half



(Left) "Letter from Miss South Carolinian [Carolinian] to President Franklin Roosevelt Regarding the Scottsboro Case (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 60, General Records of the Department of Justice)



# Race Hatred Ruled Scottsboro Jurors, Noted Author Asserts



**RUBY BATES**  
Missing for weeks, Ruby Bates, is shown in court in Decatur, Ala., as she denied she or Victoria Price was attacked by Negroes.

Says Death Verdict Was No Surprise to Observers Who Noted Response to Prosecutor's Appeal to Prejudice Against Negroes

*Mary Heaton Vorse, distinguished American novelist, who has attended the entire Scottsboro trial, has written the following article for The Pittsburgh Press.*

By MARY HEATON VORSE

DECATUR, Ala., April 10—Sentence of the death penalty for Heywood Patterson, one of the so-called Scottsboro boys accused of assaulting Victoria Price, did not come as a surprise to anyone who observed closely the jury's response to race prejudice of Solicitor Wade Wright, one of the state attorneys.

The jury of white men listened to a white woman say she was assaulted by a black man, and they were moved by no further testimony.

Not even when the other girl, Ruby Bates, swore that she had lied in her previous testimony—not even with the testimony of the doctor—not the motivation of the story, that of revenge and self-protection as exposed by Samuel S. Leibowitz, attorney for the defense, could reach the ears of the jury.

A white woman had accused a black man, and he already was condemned.

**Appeals to Prejudice**

The jury listened as impassive as they were attentive until the summation of Wade Wright, a big, heavy man, dark and florid.

He made a speech which appealed to every race and sectional prejudice of the audience and the jury.

"No Alabama jury will believe a witness bought with Jew money from New York," he shouted. "No, they won't!"

"No!" people murmured in the audience.

Wright's face grew purple. He bent toward the jury. They leaned toward him. He spoke their language. He was saying what they wanted to hear.

"This Carter," he cried, "has been supported by Brodsky. His name soon will be Carterevski, and he'll have a hump from carrying a Jew pack!"

**Sways His Listeners**

The court-room swayed to his words. There was a rapport between him and the jury. There was between them a dark understanding of blood.

He wanted to burn the black boy sitting there, and their desires and hatred flowed together while he

(Continued on Page 4)

## BILL MAY SOLVE NADINE BUNGLE

Loophole for Boulevard Action Sought in Measure Before Governor

The way out of Allegheny County's \$3,500,000 "bungle" on the Allegheny River Boulevard was today up to Governor Gifford Pinchot.

Passed by the Legislature, a bill presented by Representative James H. McClure, an assistant county solicitor, was placed before the Governor for signature.

For almost three years the expensive highway has been idle because two public service companies refuse to give up the right of way which is necessary for the road at Nadine, near Verona.

**Gives Right to Condemn**

The McClure bill would authorize either the State Secretary of Highways or the County Commissioners to condemn land used by a public service company, as other properties are taken for public use, when a substitute right of way is provided.

The roadway starting at Washington Boulevard, and running to Verona, is completed, except for the 1,300-foot strip at Nadine, where the Pennsylvania Water Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad own

## VOTE CHEATERS ARE CONFESSING

U. S. Agents Claim Admis-

## LIBERTY TUNNELS

(Left) Clipping from *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 10, 1933, page 1 (Ms. Towns via Newspapers.com)

of the men listed are property owners. A total of 103 (56%) men were listed as the head of household, which they owned. Another 51 (28%) names could not be confirmed by the census. It is possible that these men owned land or houses somewhere other than Morgan County or the surrounding area, or that they somehow were missed by the census takers, or that their names were not recorded or transcribed properly – making positive identification difficult. The other 29 (16%) names were confirmed on the census to be renters.

The listed men of Morgan County included grocery store owners, carpenters, railroad shop workers, doctors, shoe shop owners, barbers, undertakers, druggists, brick masons, ministers, teachers, dentists, and farmers. On the lists were 15 men that were landowning farmers. These men were considered educated and in good standing within the community - model citizens.

Living and farming within Decatur was William R. Johnson. Farming in the communities of Cedar Lake and Flint were Jim Skinner, Will Martin, Will R. Garth, Hillard Tate, Jr, and Elizes Pryor. Southwest of Decatur was John Carpenter. Beyond Decatur, there were several men in Somerville, Allen L. and Clifton C. Draper, Amos M. Russell, and Oscar A. Jackson; in Danville, Clayborn J. and Bird J. Sharpley; Lee

Bibb of Hartselle. In addition to these Morgan County farmers, the lists included Albert Ruffin, who owned a farm across the river in Limestone County since at least 1920. By 1930, he was in his mid 60s, and perhaps moved into Decatur sometime between the 1930 census and the 1933 trials.

The list of names presented at the trial indicate not only the individuals of the community that were held in high praise, but the professions and characteristics of those individuals. When presented with these lists, the witnesses overwhelmingly chose individuals that contributed to the community at large – homeowners, landowners, business owners, community leaders. While those that were given the chance to testify were the most prominent people of color from the most prominent and entrenched families in Old Town, their testimony clearly expresses the values held by the community and the relationship of those values to landownership.



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JOHN THOMAS BULLS  
 (First) (Middle) (Last)  
 1-BX159 KILLEN-LAUZERDALE ALA.  
 (Town) (County) (State)  
 4. AGE IN YEARS 26  
 5. PLACE OF BIRTH LAUZERDALE  
 (Town or county) (State or country) U.S.A.  
 DATE OF BIRTH 4-4-1914  
 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)  
 6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.  
 PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS BAZOLIA - NONE BULLS  
 (First) (Middle) (Last)  
 8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER.  
 OF THAT PERSON  
 1-BX159 KILLEN-LAUZERDALE-ALA.  
 (Town) (County) (State)  
 SNOW HILL INST.,  
 SNOW HILL WILCOX, ALA.  
 (Town) (County) (State)  
 JOHN THOMAS BULLS  
 (Registrant's signature)

S SONG BY  
 IN TEDDY TAPPAN  
**RENT RIDES**  
 GAETIES  
 1919

**ST. LOUIS  
 BLUES**



PUBLISHED BY  
**PAGE & HANDY**  
 MUSIC CO., INC.  
 (HOME OF THE BLUES)  
 1547 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

## Lauderdale County

1. Community Driven Research in Lauderdale County
2. Places of Interest
3. Themes, People, and Events
4. Business as Usual in Lauderdale County



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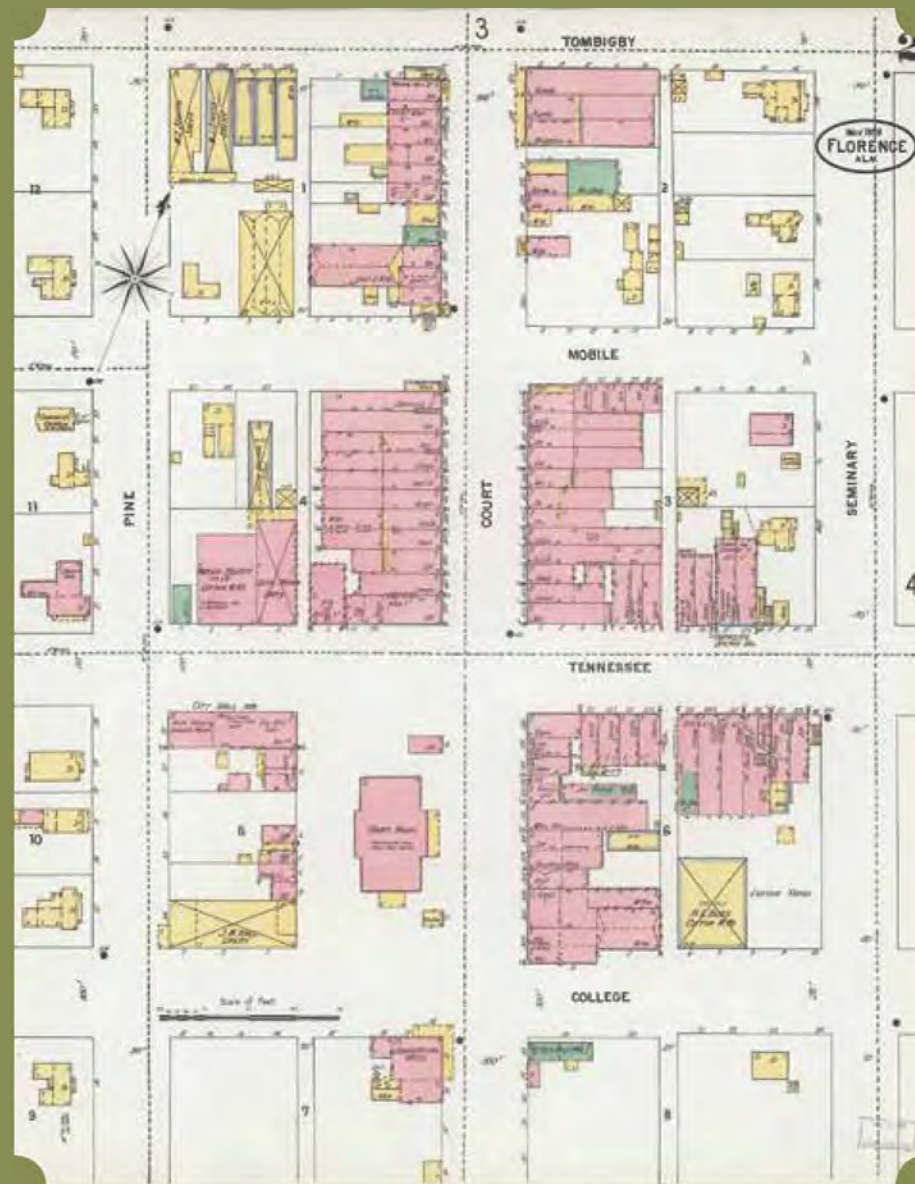
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# 1. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY

In the far reaches of northwest Alabama, bending with the Tennessee River, is the long and narrow county of Lauderdale. The landscape is dotted with several towns so small they are easy to miss while driving along Lee Highway (Highway 72), which travels through the lowlands of the river from Limestone County to the city of Florence. The county seat and largest city, Florence, is part of the Quad-Cities, a northern addition to the Tri-Cities of Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals across the river in Colbert County. There are two ways to cross the Tennessee River into Florence: the older route leads directly from Muscle Shoals into downtown Florence via the Jackson Highway, and the second route crosses the Singing River Bridge, a concrete expanse built in 2001 with a marvelous view of Wilson Dam just upriver.

The city of Florence is as old as the state of Alabama. It was established in 1818 by the Cypress Land Company, headed by General John Coffee and soon-to-be U.S. President Andrew Jackson. By 1820, King Cotton was well established, and many of Florence's founding fathers had large plantations. Like the rest of North Alabama, the Civil War had a negative impact on the economy of Florence and the county. The city was targeted for its port on the river, known as North Port because it was the furthest north ships could travel due to the Shoals. Despite being occupied by both the Union and the Confederate armies, many antebellum manor houses have survived into the 21st century.

**(Above Right)** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the Central Portion of Downtown Florence, November 1899 (Library of Congress)



Lauderdale County blossomed in the 1880s. Florence's population exploded to 6,000 people, five times as many as its population in 1865. LaGrange College moved from Colbert County in 1885 and became the University of North Alabama (UNA), the oldest four-year public university in the state. Along with this educational center, Florence attracted cotton mills and other industrial complexes like the Florence Wagon Works, the 2nd largest company in the South. The agriculture of rural Lauderdale and the surrounding area continued to fuel Florence industries until the 20th century. At the onset of the World War I, iron mining and manufacturing took priority as it was needed for the construction of Wilson Dam which would create hydroelectricity for wartime production.

Much of downtown Florence retains its turn-of-the-20th-century feel, with residential and commercial historic districts dating from the late 1880s through to WWII. The central commercial district is lined with old storefronts and ends at the UNA campus. The primary street is Court Street, colloquially referred to as "Mane" Street – a play on words of the typical Main street with reverence for the UNA mascot, the lion, hence "mane." Lauderdale County has no official county archives, but the city boasts the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library (FLPL) built in the early 2000s to replace the 1948 library a block away. A walk to the library passes many historical points of interest, including the location of a blacksmith shop run by former slave Hilton Key in the early 1880s and the Masonic Hall dating prior to 1884 at the intersection of Court and Tombigbee streets. From at least 1899 to 1921, the Masonic Hall housed a restaurant on the bottom floor owned by Ben Thomas, a local businessman of color.



**(Above)** A View of Court Street in the Early 20th Century with Telegraph Wires and Streetcar Tracks (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

Situated on the northeast corner on Tombigbee Street and Wood Avenue, the new library is across from Wilson Park. The block containing the new library has changed over the past 200 years, beginning as land



**(Above)** An Aerial View of the New Florence-Lauderdale Public Library from the East with Wilson Park and the Regions Bank (Forks of Cypress Look-a-Like) in the Background (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

for large homes before becoming what appears to be a church and finally, the library today. Remarkably, the block containing Wilson Park has been a public space since the original planning of the city.

Florence is a city that fiercely loves its history, going as far as recreating the Forks of Cypress, an 1830s plantation manor that burned down, on the opposite side of Wilson Park. The building now houses Regions Bank. Without an official county archives, much of the local history is relayed by Lee Freeman, head of history and genealogy at FLPL. A local and graduate of UNA, Mr. Freeman actively researches the history of Florence, particularly the local African American community. He has noticed that there is a longstanding history of African American businessmen and women in Florence. Additional research resources

for the area include the University of North Alabama and its Archives & Special Collections at Collier Library, the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, and other locally based history projects such as Shoals Black History or Project Say Something.

Lauderdale County is within the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area (MSNHA). Part of the National Park system, a National Heritage Area is a place “where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes.” In contrast to the largely uninhabited national parks, National Heritage Areas are lived-in parts of the country that contribute special historic and cultural significance to their communities. The communities within the heritage areas help to conserve and develop these national treasures. The goal of a National Heritage Area is to combine heritage conservation, recreation, education, and economic development. The MSNHA is the only one in Alabama; it covers Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Limestone, Lawrence,

and Morgan counties. UNA hosts the MSNHA since it was approved by Congress in 2009. The heritage area focuses on three main themes deemed important to the region: music, Native American heritage, and the Tennessee River. However, within these themes there are several categories of heritage that are explored and promoted by the MSNHA including African American, architectural, Civil War, Natchez Trace, and transportation heritages.

Made possible by a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Shoals Black History is the culmination of several local groups coming together to celebrate the contributions that communities of color have had to the history of the Shoals. These organizations include Project Say Something, the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, and the University of North Alabama Public History Program. Project Say Something is a social justice organization that has hosted “history harvests” to collect personal history materials from the public as well as oral history interviews of local Florence residents. The Shoals Black History website connects to all the other projects and encourages public input and learning while sharing stories and images.

**(Below)** Postcard of Downtown Florence, Circa 1919 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Robert Whitten)



# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

## LAUDERDALE COUNTY, AL



Florence

DETAIL OF  
FLORENCE  
(Opposite)



## KEY



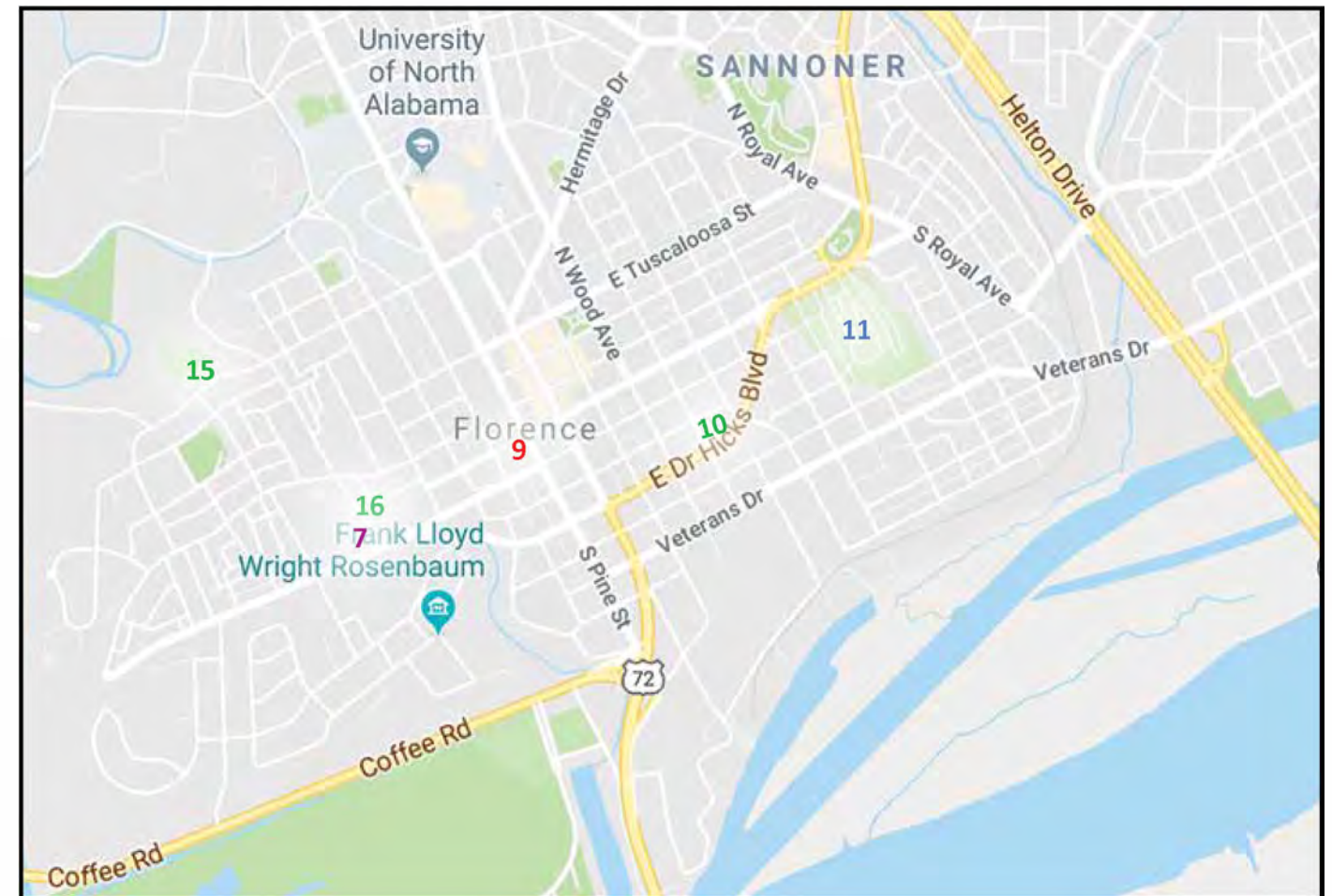
1. Anderson School (Rosenwald)\*
2. Ardoyne Plantation\* and Servants' Cemetery
3. Bailey Springs
4. Bailey's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church\* and Bailey's Chapel Cemetery
5. Bethel-Lauderdale Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery, and Bethel School (Rosenwald)\*
6. Buckingham Cemetery
7. Burrell Slater High School
8. Coffee School (Rosenwald)\*
9. Florence
10. Florence Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America
11. Florence City Cemetery
12. Forks of Cypress
13. Fuqua Cemetery
14. Gray Cemetery
15. Greater Mt. Moriah Church and Mt. Calvary Cemetery
16. Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
17. Hickory Hill Plantation\* and John Coffee Servants' Cemetery
18. Hopewell African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery
19. Ingram Cemetery
20. Little Zion
21. Mt. Olive School (Rosenwald)\*
22. Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, Cemetery, and School (Rosenwald)\*
23. New Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church, Cemetery, and School\*
24. Noel Cemetery
25. Oakland
26. Posey Cemetery
27. Shiloh School (Rosenwald)\*
28. Smithsonia
29. Sweetwater Mansion
30. Wilson Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

map data©2018 Google

Scale = 2000 Feet

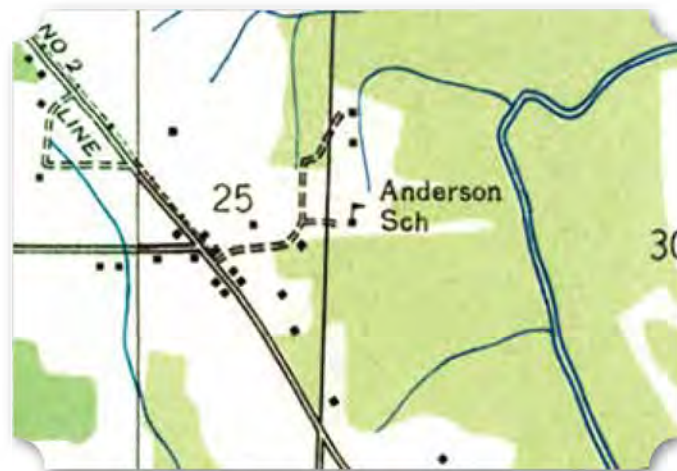
# Detail of FLORENCE



## 2. DETAILS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

### 1 ■ Anderson School (Rosenwald)\*

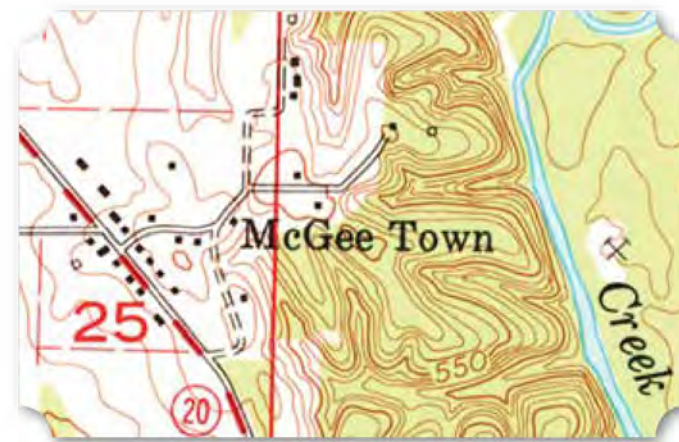
The Anderson School was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County. It was located about five and a half miles northwest of Florence on the south side of County Road 228 (Will Duncan Road) in the area of the Forks of Cypress. The one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse was constructed around 1923 and cost a total of \$1550, with \$700 from the African American community, \$450 from public funds, and \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund. There are no known images of the school; however, it is marked on the 1936 topographic map as "Anderson School." The school was still in used in 1957 in a community



(Above) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Anderson School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Anderson School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



(Above) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Anderson School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle

called "McGee Town." By the 1950s, many of the rural schools in North Alabama were being consolidated, and by the end of the 1960s, integration had resulted in closure of the small, rural school. The building still appears on the 1971 topographic map.

### 2 ■ Ardoyne Plantation\* and Servants' Cemetery

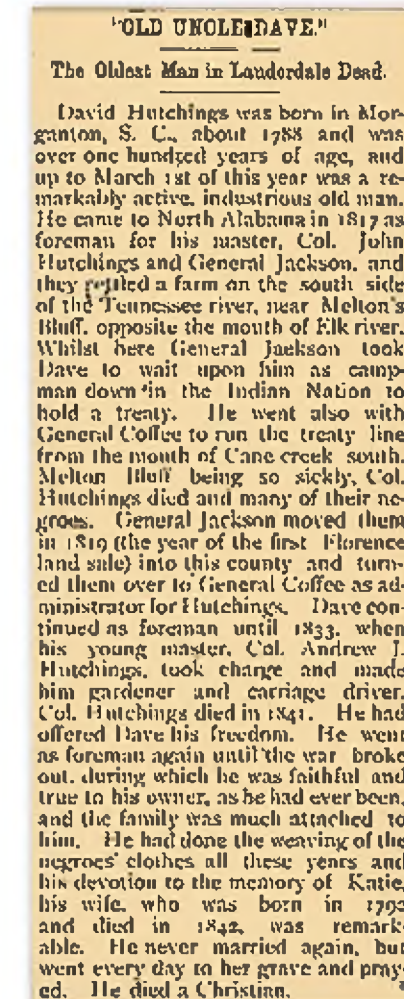
Located along the river southwest of Florence and south of Gunwaleford Road, Ardoyne Plantation was established by Sarah Jackson

Hannah, sister of James Jackson of the Forks of Cypress Plantation. The plantation passed through a few owners over time, including U.S. President Andrew Jackson, who bought it for his ward, Andrew Jackson Hutchings; as well as the son of Gen. John Coffee, Capt. Alexander Donelson Coffee. While the house burned in 1919, it is significant for the families of color that continued to live on the plantation and the cemeteries located there.

An important resident of Ardoyne was Davis Hutchins Smith. Known as "Old Pap," he lived to be 106 years old. Born in South Carolina just after the American Revolution ended, Davis was owned by veteran Gen. Joseph Dickson. He was then given to Dickson's daughter, Isabella Smith, when she married. Davis became the property of the Smith's daughter, Mary, who married Col. John Hutchings of Milton's Bluff in Lawrence County, Alabama. Davis accompanied Andrew Jackson on his campaigns during the War of 1812. Davis was then given to Gen. Coffee and brought to Hickory Hill in Lauderdale County before moving and settling the rest of his life at Ardoyne.

"Old Pap" was often given positions of importance throughout his life, including overseer at Milton's Bluff and foreman at Hickory Hill and Ardoyne. After serving many generations of masters, he was offered his freedom sometime before the Civil War. During the war he stayed at Ardoyne and oversaw the farm – by that time he was a man of at least 70 years of age. Davis and his wife, Kate, lived at Ardoyne for the rest of their lives. Davis outlived Kate by 50 years but never remarried.

Davis and Kate Smith are buried on the plantation property, in one of the two cemeteries on the plantation. Both cemeteries are referred to as "Coffee," used by slaves and former slaves. Neither is mapped on any USGS topographic map. One cemetery has approximately 100 unmarked graves and only four marked burials: Paterson Braham (1825-1905), John Clemmons (1883-1915), Bettie Clemmons (died 1924), and C.B. Buckmond (died 1921). The other cemetery is also known as Coffee Servants' Cemetery. It has a few marked graves, including the memorials for Martha Crawford (died 1929, age



(Left) Newspaper Clipping Announcing the Death of Mr. David Hutchins Smith, January 18, 1890, Florence Times (Findagrave.com, user Wanda Quinn Bradford)

90), Davis Hutchins Smith (died 1894, age 106), and his wife, Katty Smith (1792-1842). The memorial for Martha Crawford reads: "daughter of David H. Smith Faithful servant and friend to the family of Alexander Donaldson Coffee all her life; Erected to the memory of my mammy by Mary Coffee Campbell." Davis's memorial reads:

"died at Ardoyne, aged 106 years. Body servant of General John Coffee and General Andrew Jackson in the Indian Wars in Alabama" "All his life faithful and loyal servant of General John Coffee and his son Alexander Donelson Coffee; Erected to the memory of Pap Dave by Mary Coffee Campbell."

### 3 ■ Bailey Springs

Bailey Springs is located northeast of Florence along Shoal Creek and Wilson Lake adjacent to the town of St. Florian. In the early 20th century, this area had on average 15% African American households. Of the 145 households in St. Florian in 1900, only 25 were families of color, 13 of which owned a farm. Records

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

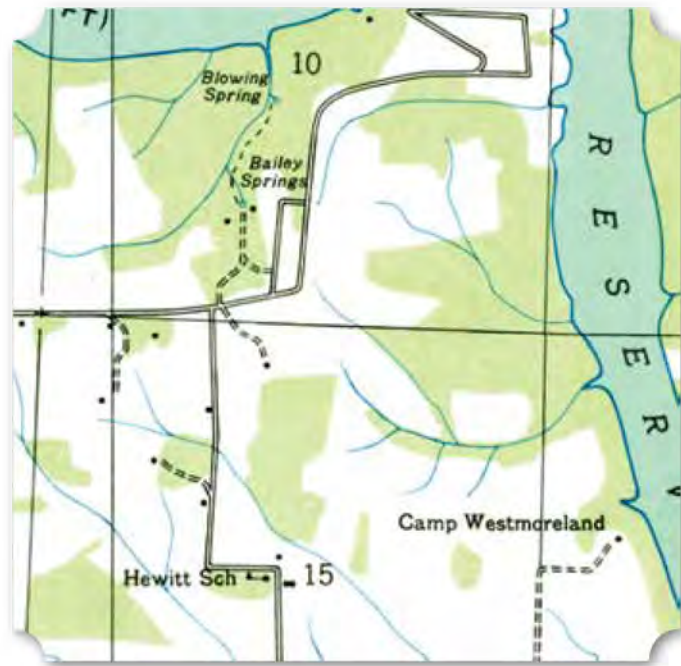
#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



from 1920 show a similar percentage of African American households and landowners. By 1930, the number of families remained the same, but there were only half as many landowning farmers. The community recovered by 1940 to roughly 12% families of color with 10 African American landowners.

The Rice, Hewitt, Brewer, and Perkins families each had multiple farms in 1900. T. Brewer owned a farm from about 1900 to 1920, while Oscar Brewer owned a farm from 1900 to 1930. The Hewitt family had two long-term landowners: Abraham Hewitt, who owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1930, and Isom Hewitt, who owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1940 – the longest in the community.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Springs and Hewitt School, Pruitton, Alabama Quadrangle

At a bend in County Road 27, south of Bailey Springs, is the Bailey Spring AME Church. While the AME church had been established in this area since about 1886, it first met in homes and clearings. In the early 20th century, the Hewitt School was located in the bend. According to the historical marker, the Hewitt School was built in 1920 on land donated by A.H. Hewitt and family – most likely Abraham Hewitt. Labor for the construction of the school was given by the



(Above) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Springs and Hewitt School, Pruitton, Alabama Quadrangle



(Above) 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Springs, Pruitton, Alabama Quadrangle

community, including Private Anthony Brannon, a Civil War veteran of the 111th USTC. The Hewitt School was one of six Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County.

The one-room schoolhouse was one of the early schools built under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute from 1913 to 1915. It cost a total of \$1,000, with half of the funds contributed by the local African American community and the other half from the Rosenwald Fund. There are no known images of this school, but it does appear on topographic maps. Immediately after the school was constructed, it was recorded on the 1916 topographic map of the Muscle Shoals area. The school is unlabeled, and the roads are slightly different, but it is most likely the Rosenwald school. The school is first labeled as “Hewitt School” on the 1936 topographic map. In 1953, the church purchased a parcel adjacent to the school and constructed the Bailey Springs AME Church. The school served the community until 1961, when Lauderdale County initiated an integration plan, and students from Hewitt School were sent to East End High School in Rogersville. The school was demolished shortly thereafter.

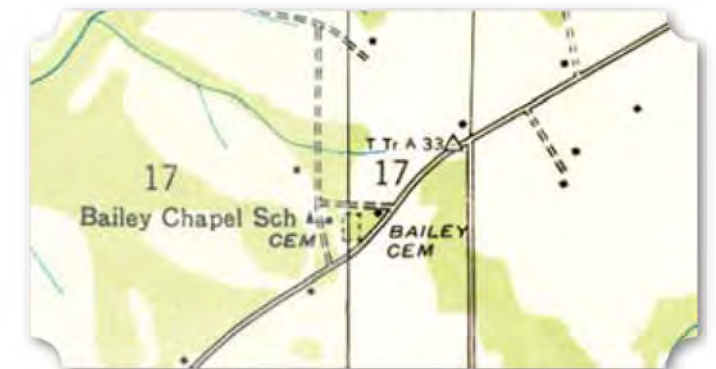


(Above) The New Historical Marker for Bailey Springs AME Church Erected in June 2018 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library via Facebook.com)

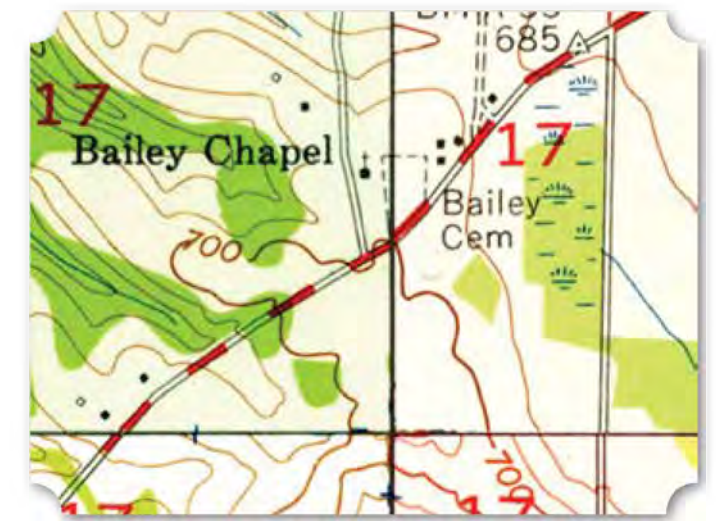
## 4

### Bailey’s Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church\* and Bailey’s Chapel Cemetery

Bailey’s Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is just northwest of the town of Killen. By 1920, the area around Bailey’s Church was nearly 30% African American, many of whom owned farms through the 1930s. Landowning families in the area included the Brooks, Gordons, Harrisons, Ingrams, Hardins, and Homers.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Chapel, School, and Cemetery, Pruitton and Center Hill, Alabama Quadrangles



(Above) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Chapel and Cemetery, Pruitton and Center Hill, Alabama Quadrangles



(Above) 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Bailey Cemetery, Pruitton and Center Hill, Alabama Quadrangles

The church appears on the 1914 Muscle Shoals topographic map as “Baileys Church,” and it is also sometimes written as Baileys AMC Chapel. The 1936 TVA map shows “Bailey Chapel School” and “Bailey Cemetery” in this location. Many of the rural African American schools of North Alabama were consolidated in the 1950s, and by 1952, the school is no longer present on topographic maps. “Bailey Chapel” and “Bailey Cemetery” remain. No maps of

this area were made until 1988. By then, the church is gone and only “Bailey Cemetery” remains. However, a 1972 map of the adjacent area, Bailey Springs, depicts a church in the current location of Bailey Springs AME Church, indicating that the church moved to the west side of Shoal Creek in the 1970s.

The Bailey Cemetery has at least 297 graves and is still in use. The earliest known interment is Phoebe Grant (1824-1878). Common family names include Allen, Bailey, Hammer, Harden/Hardin, Harrison, and Rowlett. Several landowning farmers are interred here, including Sam Brooks (1889-1961), who owned a farm in Killen from at least 1910 to 1930; Jennie Gordon (1861-1925) who owned a farm in 1920; John A. Harrison (1885-1955) and Willie Harrison (1886-1942), who owned farms from at least 1930 to 1940; and Charles Hardin (1904-1995), who owned a farm in 1940.

In a 2017 interview by the Florence African American Heritage Project, Ms. Pathsenia Cole said her great-great uncle, Amos Bailey (1824-1904) donated the land for Bailey’s Chapel Cemetery. Bailey was most likely born a slave in Virginia and came to Alabama

(Below) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Sam Brooks Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing John A. Harrison Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

88		Franc	Wagoner		V	W	1	0		70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			88
89	7m 107 107	Burba Sam	Head	1	F	M	30	M		70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Farmer	Owned farm	89
90	V	Hurstada	Wife		F	B	29	M		70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	None		90
91	7m 110 110	Mathney John L	Head	1	R	M	28	M		70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	Farmer	Owned farm	91
92		Luck	Wife		F	W	30	M		70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Yes	None		92

92	60 60	Harrison John	Head	0		yes	M	24	45	M	20	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	Farmer	Own Farming	0	yes	70	15	92
93		H.V.	wife-H			x	F	18	40	M	15	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	None						93
94		Spencer	son			x	M	12	12	S		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	None						94
95		Gymie	Daughter			x	F	9	9	S		yes		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	None						95
96		Edna	Daughter			x	F	5	5	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	None						96
97		Kennedy Henry	Wife in law			x	M	25	85	Wid		no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	None						97

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 5 Bethel-Lauderdale Missionary Baptist Church, Cemetery and Bethel School (Rosenwald)\*

Bethel-Lauderdale Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery are located on the edge of Sinking Creek, east of the community of Smithsonia about 10 miles west of Florence on the south side of County Road 2, also known as Gunwaleford Road. There are two USGS topographic maps from 1924. The original labels “Bethel School,” with only a symbol for the church. The other map appears to be a revision and labels

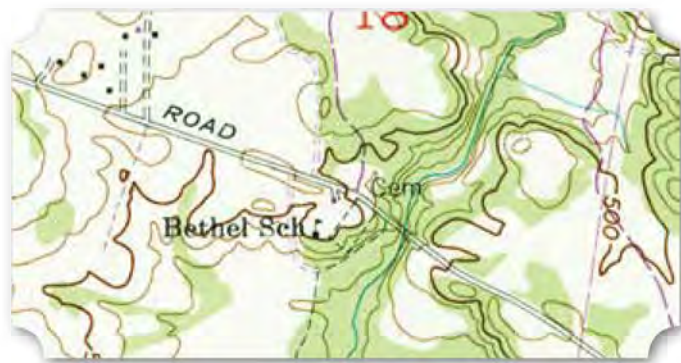
with his master. In February 1864, he enlisted with the Union Army in Clifton, Tennessee and was assigned to Company A of the 40th USCT. In 1880, Bailey is included in the agricultural census as owning 70 acres of improved land and 130 of unimproved land in eastern Lauderdale County. Amos Bailey was not found in the 1900 census records, but he is buried at Bailey’s Cemetery. Ms. Cole also relayed that Amos’ father, Thomas Jefferson Bailey, had owned “over 1,000 acres of land at one time...he has so much land that the government came to him sometimes and told him that he had to sell some of it.” That land was in east Lauderdale County, presumably some of the land that Amos Bailey inherited.

“Bethel Church” and depicts a school. The 1935 map depicts the church, school, and cemetery at Bethel Church.

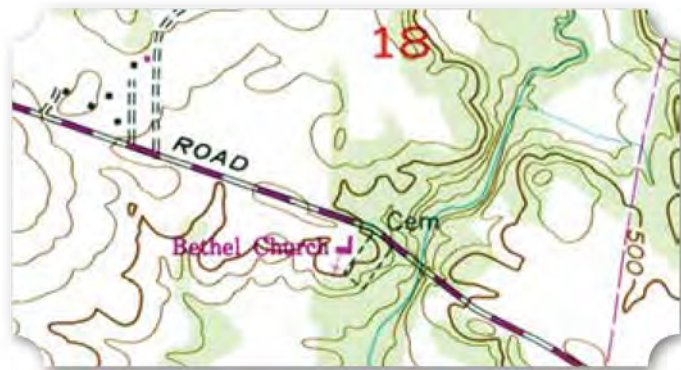
The Bethel School was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County. It was a two-room, two-teacher type school built under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute around 1913 to 1915. The school cost a total of \$950 to construct with \$350 coming from the surrounding African American community, \$300 of public funds, and another \$300 from the Rosenwald Fund. Smithsonia and Oakland had their own schools, as well as nearby Shiloh School, which speaks to the density of the community of color around Smithsonia, Woodland, and Oakland.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Bethel Church, School, and Cemetery, Sinking Creek, Alabama Quadrangle



**(Left)** 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Bethel School and Cemetery, Sinking Creek, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Bottom Left)** 1988 USGS Topographic Map of Bethel Church and Cemetery, Sinking Creek, Alabama Quadrangle



Interestingly, the 1972 topographic map labels "Bethel School" with no church. By the 1950s, most rural schoolhouses of North Alabama had been consolidated, and by the 1970s, integration had made many of the smaller and poorly-equipped rural African American schools obsolete. With the exception of some of the larger schools in the cities, there were no African American schools used in the early 20th century that survived into the 1970s.

The Bethel Lauderdale MB Church Cemetery, also referred to simply as Bethel Lauderdale Cemetery, has at least 348 graves across two sections. One section is to the east of the church and is older, dating to the 1880s through to the 1970s, and has about 150

graves. The earliest burials from the 19th century appear to be of white families, including the earliest known interment of Effie Hendrix (1883-1884). The other section is to the west and dates from the 1970s to the present. Common family names here include Beckwith, Boddie, Brown, Chandler, Cole, Perkins, Rowell, Russell, Scott, Smith, Thompson, Vaughn, and Williams. Several landowning farmers are buried here. Ned Jones (1902-1946) owned a farm in the Woodland district in 1930. Wesley Williams, Jr. (1919-1986) is most likely the son of the Wesley Williams, who owned a farm in 1930. Thomas H. Perkins, Sr. (1879-1963), who owned a farm in 1920, and his son,

Thomas H. Perkins, Jr. (1907-1970) are both buried here. Fred Rowell (1887-1959) took over his father's farm by 1920 and is also buried here.

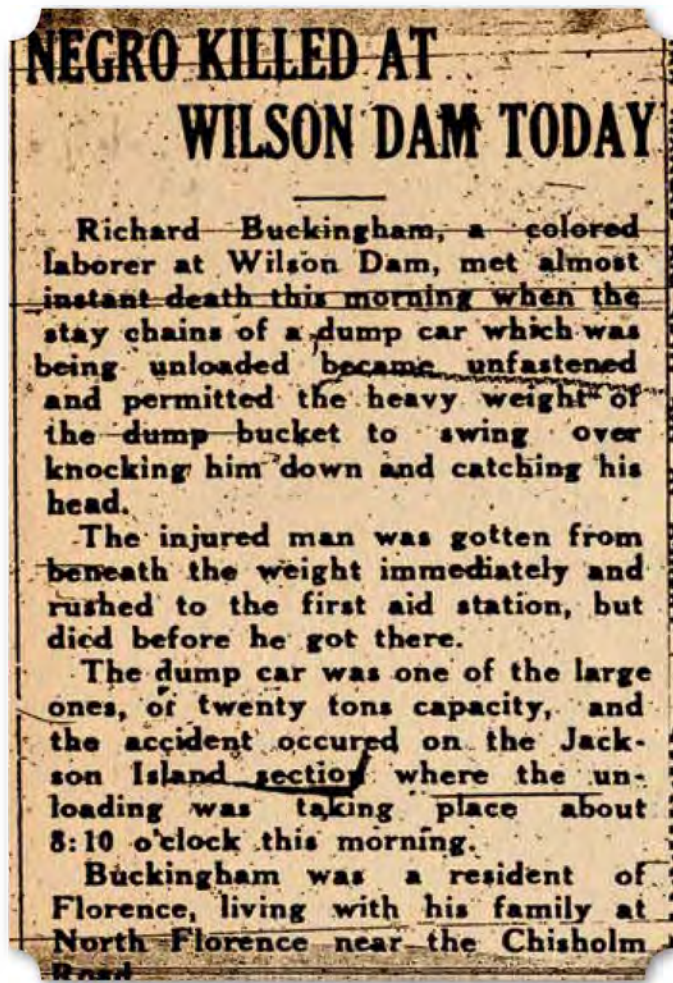
## 6 Buckingham Cemetery

The Buckingham Cemetery is a small cemetery located on the north side of Haviland Drive in North Florence on Chisholm Road. The cemetery is situated between two houses and surrounded by a mid-20th-century neighborhood built some 70 years after the cemetery was established. There are only about eight marked and two unmarked graves. The first interment is Candis Euins (died 1881) and the last known burial is Mahala A. Buckingham (1896-1983). One of the other burials here is that of Richard H. Buckingham (1868-

**(Below)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Ned Jones Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
**(Bottom)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Thomas Perkins, Sr. Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

74	1901/20	Jones Ned	Head	10	40	20	25	5	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	Farm	General Farm	VVVVSD	74	200	187	74
75		Nora	Wife	16	37	20	30	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						75
76		Eveline	Sister	14	23	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						76
77		Annie	Sister	12	20	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	General Farm	VVVVSD	74	200	187	77
78		Statis	Daughter	10	16	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						78
79		Nora	Daughter	8	15	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						79
80		George	Son	7	9	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						80
81		Johnnie B	Daughter	5	8	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						81
82		Lee	Son	5	8	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						82
83		Edward	Son	5	8	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						83
84		Bruce	Son	2	8	20	24	0	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none						84

3		Perkins	Head	10	25	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									3
4		Currie	Daughter	7	6	190	200	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	19	1/2	none									4
5		Mary	Daughter	7	4	190	200	Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	19	1/2	none									5
6	1920	Perkins Thomas	Head	10	30	190	200	Alabama	Virginia	Virginia	19	1/2	Farming	General Farm	Pa	200						6
7		Eveline	Wife	7	28	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									7
8		Gramma	Daughter	7	20	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	Home Farm								8
9		Louisa	Daughter	7	18	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	Home Farm								9
10		Newton	Son	14	10	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	Home Farm								10
11		John	Son	20	14	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	Home Farm								11
12		Frank	Son	20	12	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	laborer	Home Farm								12
13		Velma	Daughter	7	10	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									13
14		Odio	Daughter	7	8	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									14
15		Leva Mae	Daughter	7	6	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									15
16		Butch	Daughter	7	4	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									16
17		Fannie	Daughter	7	12	190	200	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	19	1/2	none									17

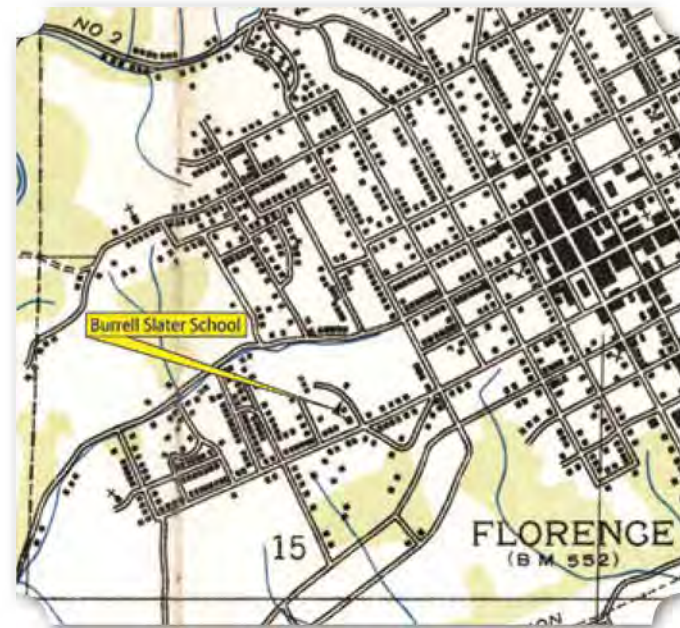


(Above) Newspaper Clipping of Richard Buckingham's Death, August 4, 1925 (Findagrave.com, user John Church)

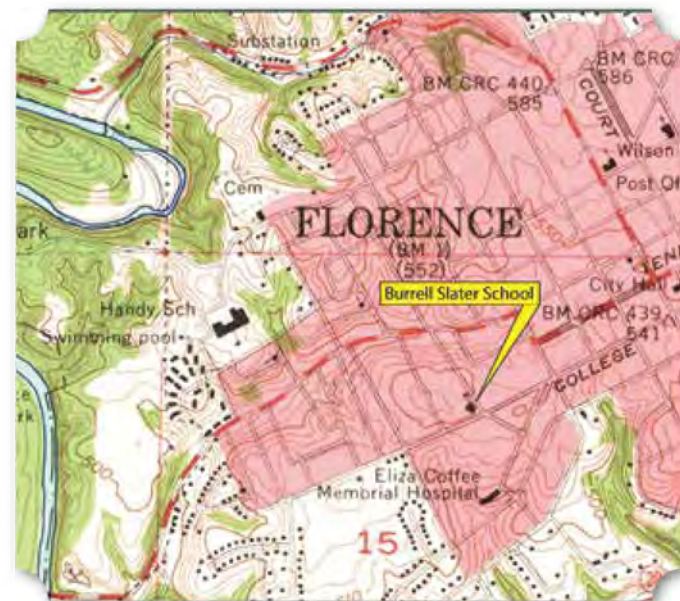
1925) who died while working on Wilson Dam. His unexpected death happened by accident and made the local newspapers on August 4, 1925 as "Negro Killed at Wilson Dam Today." His grave marker reads "He is not dead but sleepth" and "Asleep in Jesus" accompanied by a Masonic symbol.

## 7 ■ Burrell Slater High School

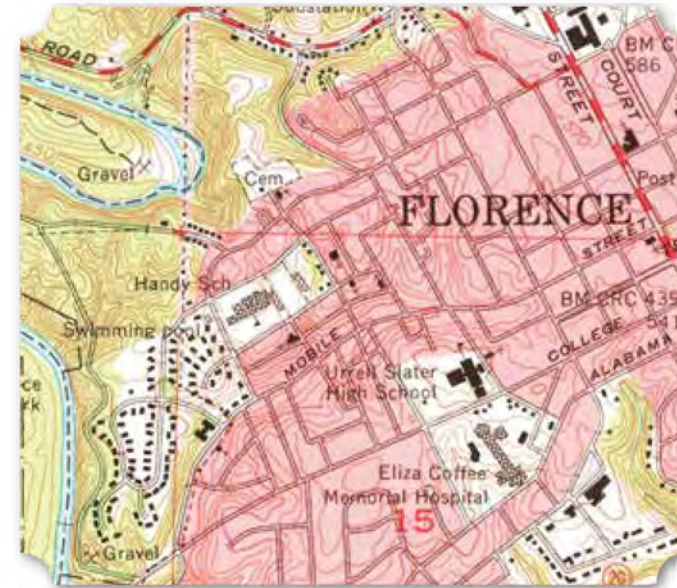
The Burrell Slater High School is located on West College and North Cherokee streets in the southwest Florence neighborhood of Canaan. The school's African American history spans from 1903 to 1969. It began as Burrell Academy, formerly of



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Southwest Florence – Burrell Slater High School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Southwest Florence – Burrell Slater High School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



Selma, Alabama. By 1903, the American Missionary Association opened the Burrell Normal School for African American students in Florence, which served grades 1 through 12. In 1937, the Florence City Board of Education operated the school and changed the name to Burrell High School. The school was moved to the Slater Elementary school



on South Court Street in 1951, combining the names the school became known as Burrell Slater High School.

The building on South Court burned in 1958 and the current building on West College was constructed. This school supposedly cost \$515,000 to build in 1960. It served the African American community until 1969. After the school was forced to close due to integration, it was used as Florence's first vocational school.

(Left) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Southwest Florence – Burrell Slater High School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) Burrell Normal School, 1904 (Florence African American Heritage Project via Facebook.com)



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



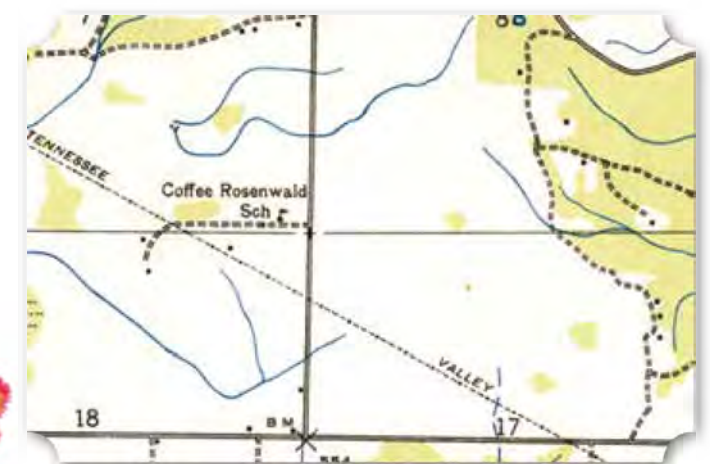
(Left) Burrell Normal School, Class of 1917 (Omeka at Auburn) (Below) Burrell Slater High School, 1959 (Florence African American Heritage Project via Facebook.com)



## 8 Coffee School (Rosenwald)\*

The Coffee Rosenwald School was built in Lauderdale County in the early 20th century under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute. It was located about three miles west of Florence between Gunwaleford and Waterloo roads, along County Road 23. It most likely dates to the mid-1910s, when other Tuskegee Institute schools were built; however, it does not appear on a 1916 topographic map. It does appear on the 1936 USGS topographic map as "Coffee Rosenwald School" in an isolated area west of Florence. It is also indicated on the 1940 census map as a symbol with no label. By 1957, there is no symbol for a school, but there is a building in the same location, possibly the former schoolhouse. There are two houses in the approximate location of the Coffee Rosenwald School. One of them may be the school converted into a residence, which was not uncommon for well-built schools in rural areas.

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Coffee Rosenwald School, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



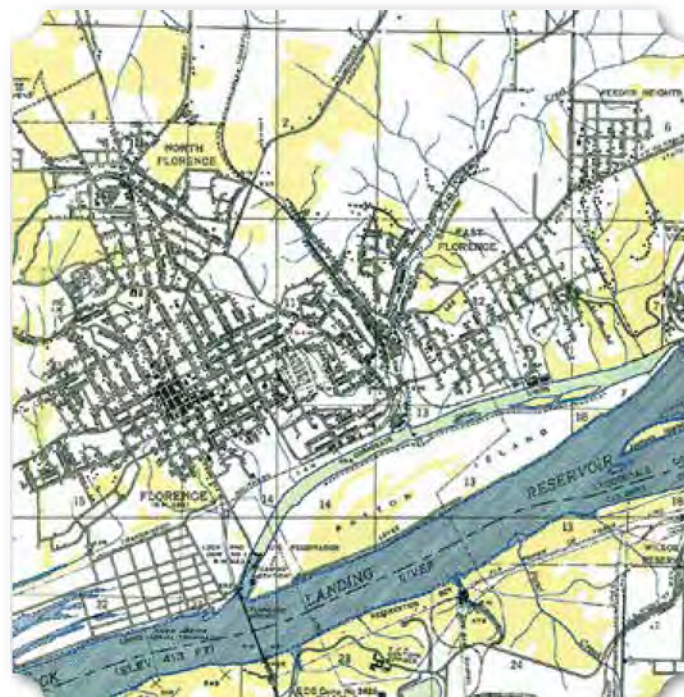
According to the Fisk-Rosenwald database, the Coffee School of Lauderdale County was a two-teacher, two-room type school. It cost a total of \$1500 to construct with \$550 donated by the African American community, \$450 from the county, and \$500 from the Rosenwald Fund. It was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County.

# 9

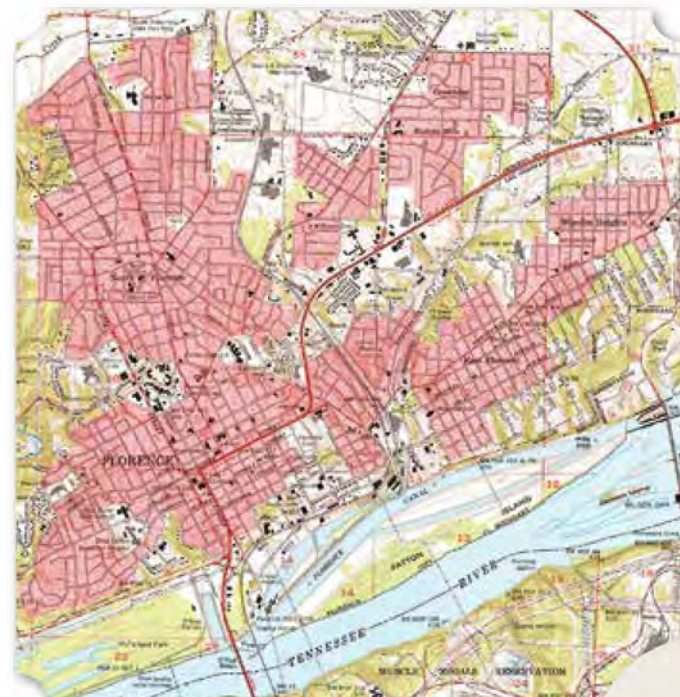
## Florence

The City of Florence was platted by the Cypress Land Company in 1818 and named for the surveyor's hometown in Italy. The city's design is sometimes attributed to General John Coffee, one of the founding fathers and trustee of the land company. During planning, blocks were reserved for a courthouse, hotel, college, cotton factory, livery stables, ferry, cemetery, park, and churches. Florence was to be the seat of Lauderdale County, and it was first fueled by agriculture, like much of the region. Its location along the Tennessee River gave it access to the main mode of transport in the early 19th century. Though the city did well, it did not get very large. During the Civil War, Florence and several surrounding plantations were occupied by both Union and Confederate forces, including a manor house that is now known as Rogers Hall. Originally called Courtview, it was constructed in 1855 by George Washington Foster and overlooked Court Street. It is now part

**(Below)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Florence, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



**(Above)** 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Florence, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle **(Below)** 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Florence, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
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**(Right)** A Hand-Colored Postcard of Courtview (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Robert Whitten) **(Below)** Early Plat Map of Florence, Potentially Drawn by General Coffee (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)



of the University of North Alabama. Sweetwater Plantation, in east Florence and Gen. John Coffee's Hickory Hill Plantation in north Florence were also occupied by both armies. Other plantations around Florence that were negatively impacted by the war include Ardoyne, Forks of Cypress, and Armistead's plantation.

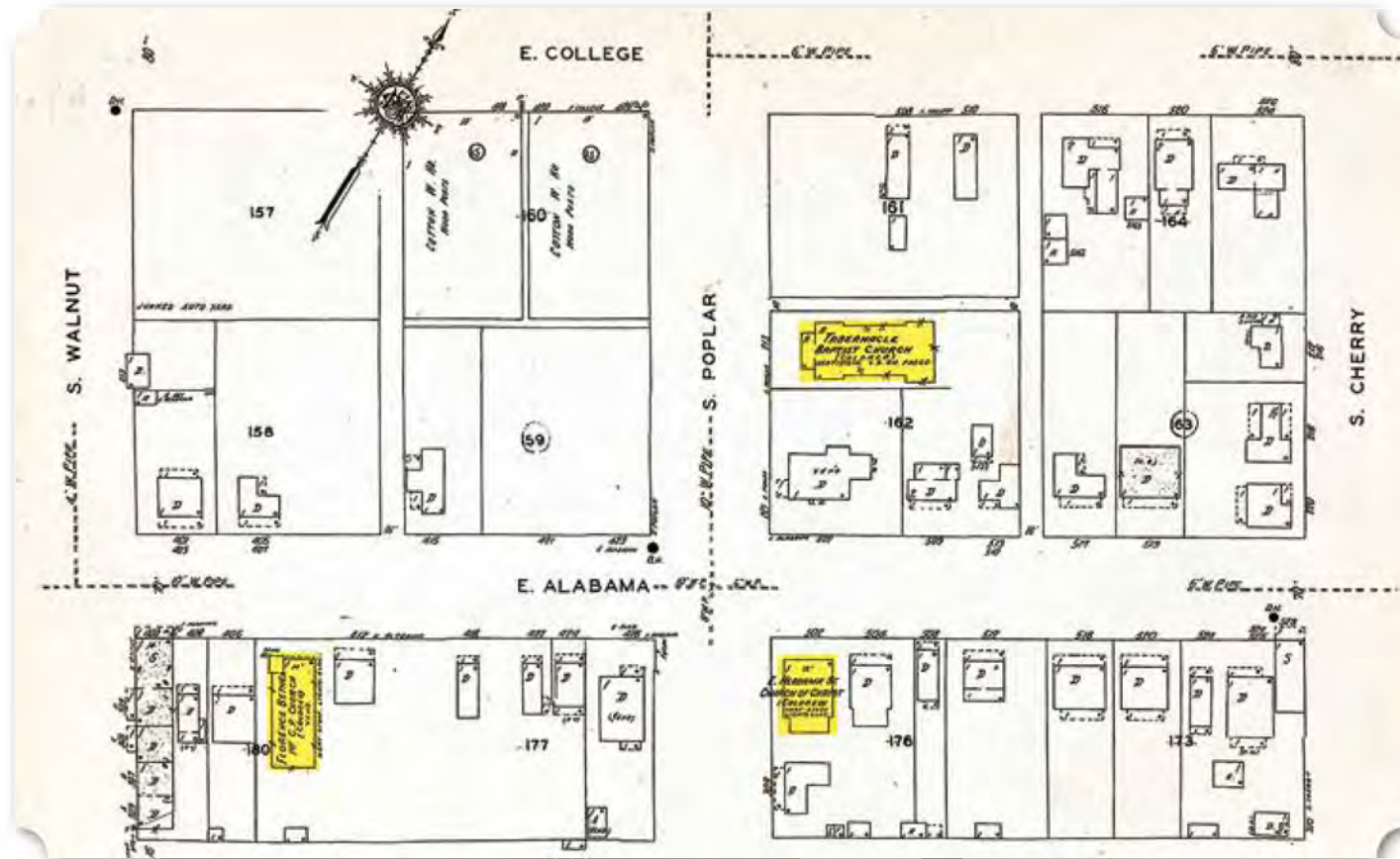
After the Civil War and Reconstruction, an industrial and population boom in the late 1880s put Florence on the rise. Downtown Florence began to collect businesses and professional services, many of which were owned and run by African Americans. Restaurants, stores, shoe and bootmakers, livery stables, and blacksmiths were packed along Court Street. Most of downtown Florence was built at the turn of the 20th century between 1880 and 1920. Downtown has not seen much change since then, granting the area a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

One of the biggest companies to come to Florence in the late 19th century was Florence Wagon Works. In 1889, the factory moved from Atlanta to Florence and opened a large site on the river, east of downtown. It quickly became a large and important employer in town. While most of the workers were

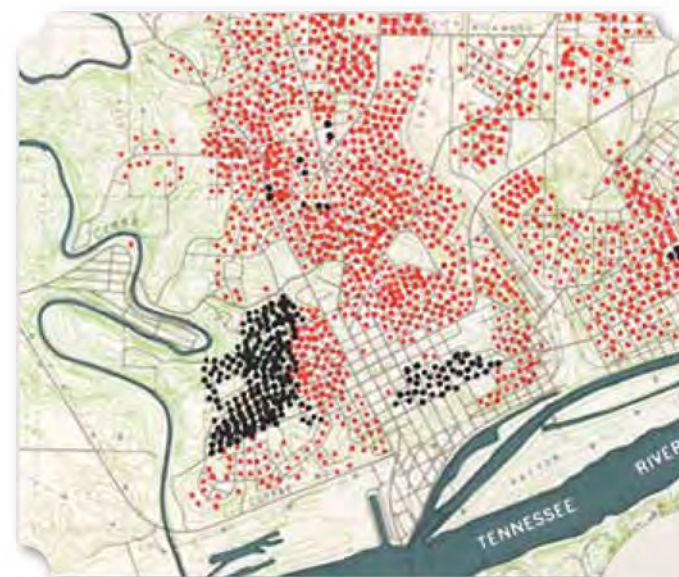


**(Above)** Image of a Blacksmith Shop in Florence, Circa 1900 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Margaret Heath) **(Left)** Postcard of Downtown Florence, Circa 1910s (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Robert Whitten) **(Top Right)** Photograph of Men Working on the Foundation of the Florence Post Office, Many of them African American, 1912 (University of North Alabama, Collier Library, Archives & Special Collections) **(Right)** Photograph of Men Working on the Foundation of the Florence Post Office, Many of them African American, 1912 (University of North Alabama, Collier Library, Archives & Special Collections)





**(Above)** Excerpt from 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of African American Churches along East Alabama Street, Highlighted (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Below)** Map of Residents of Florence in 1968. Red Dots are White Residents and Black Dots are African American Residents (Florence African American Heritage Project via Facebook.com)



**KEY**

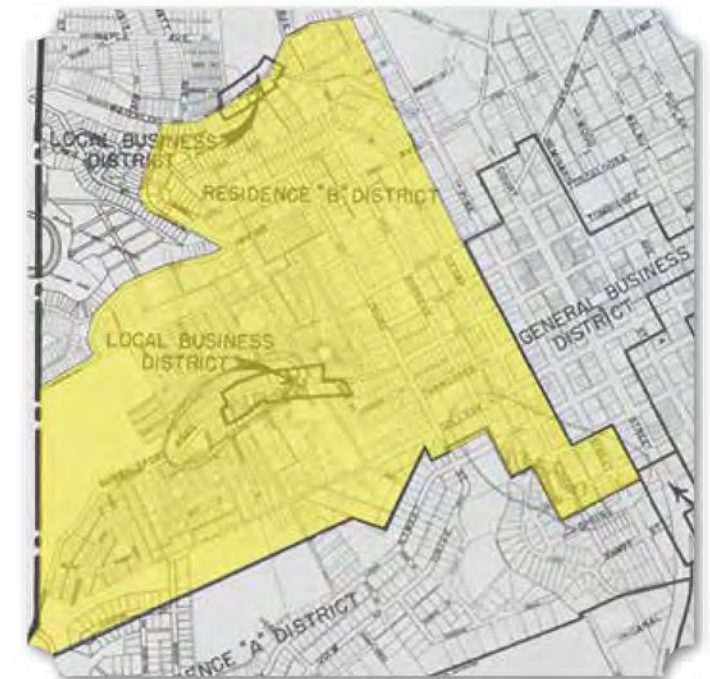
- COMMUNITIES
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white men, African Americans were employed at low level positions. According to the National Register nomination form, workers of color were given “menial tasks” and were segregated from the white workers. Though a community for the workers sprung up on the east side of town complete with stores and churches, not all were open to African Americans. There were four churches for white workers in the vicinity, but only one church for African Americans, located far from the community. Florence Wagon Works continued to operate through the 1930s and the construction of Wilson Dam, but it could not survive the coming of the automobile and closed in 1941.

Other industrial companies to join Florence Wagon Works at the turn of the century were: Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Company (1897), Bellamy Planing Mill (1901), Florence Ice and Coal Company (1902), Ashcraft Cotton Mills (1899), North Alabama Furnace (1889), Philadelphia Furnace (1888), Cherry Cotton Mills (1883), Charles A. Sullivan Store (1893), among others. TVA and World War II brought more changes



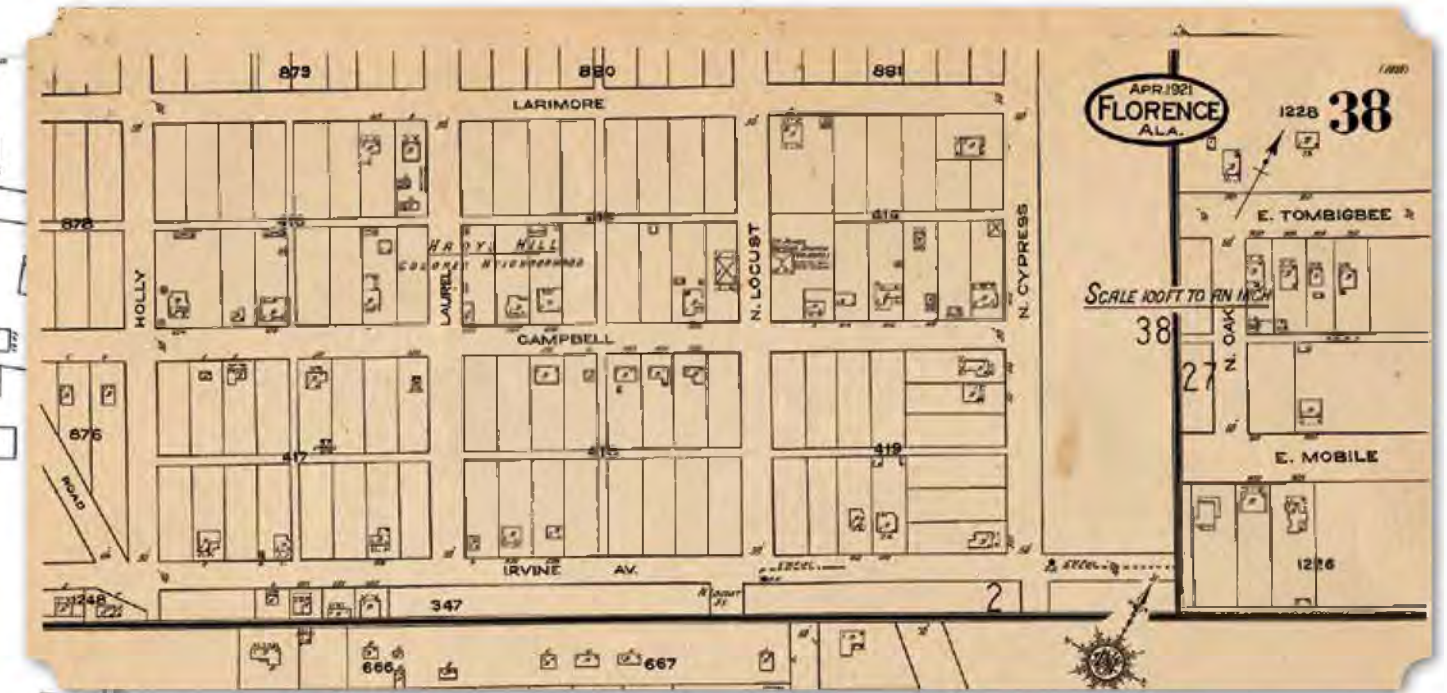
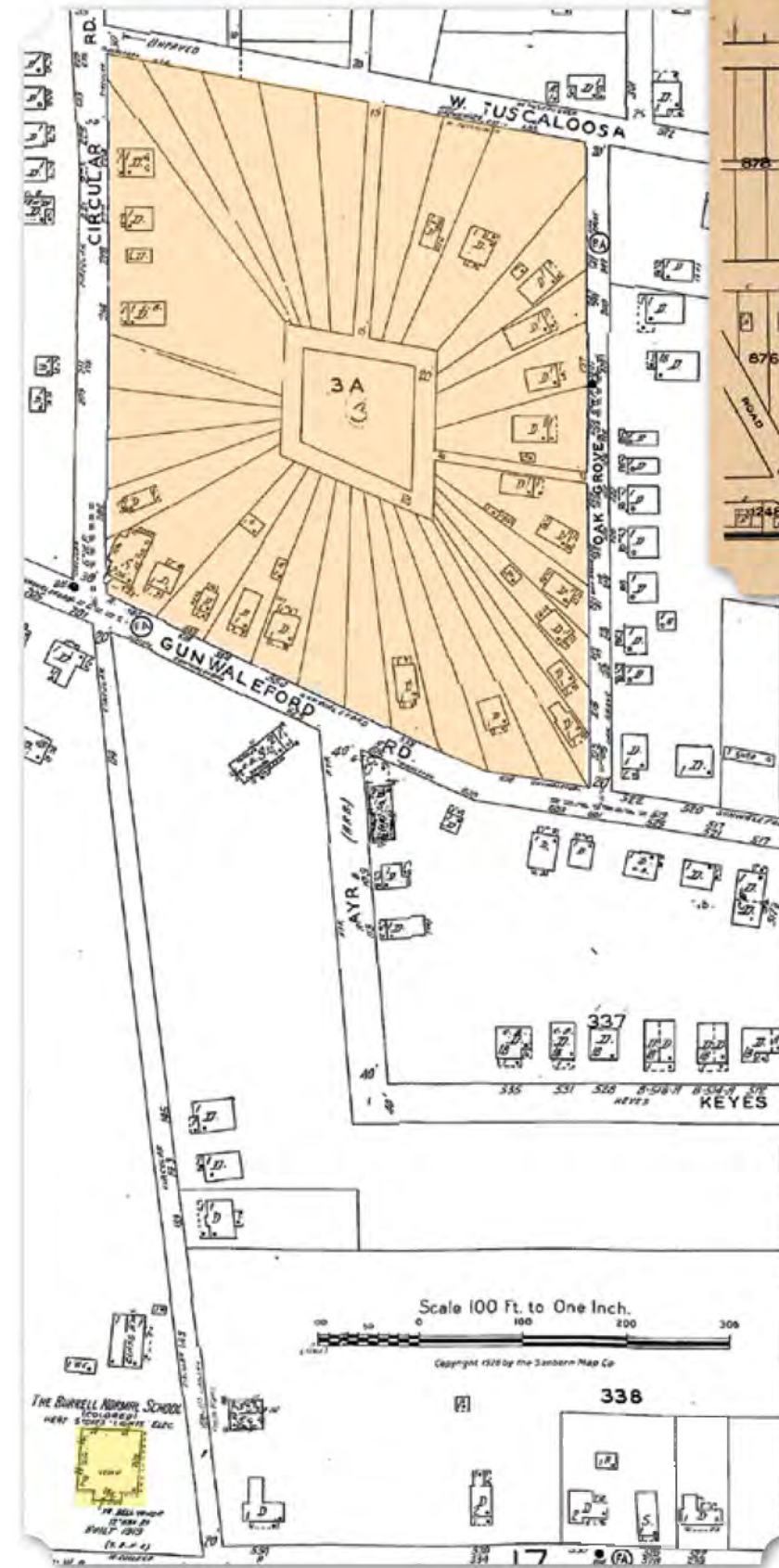
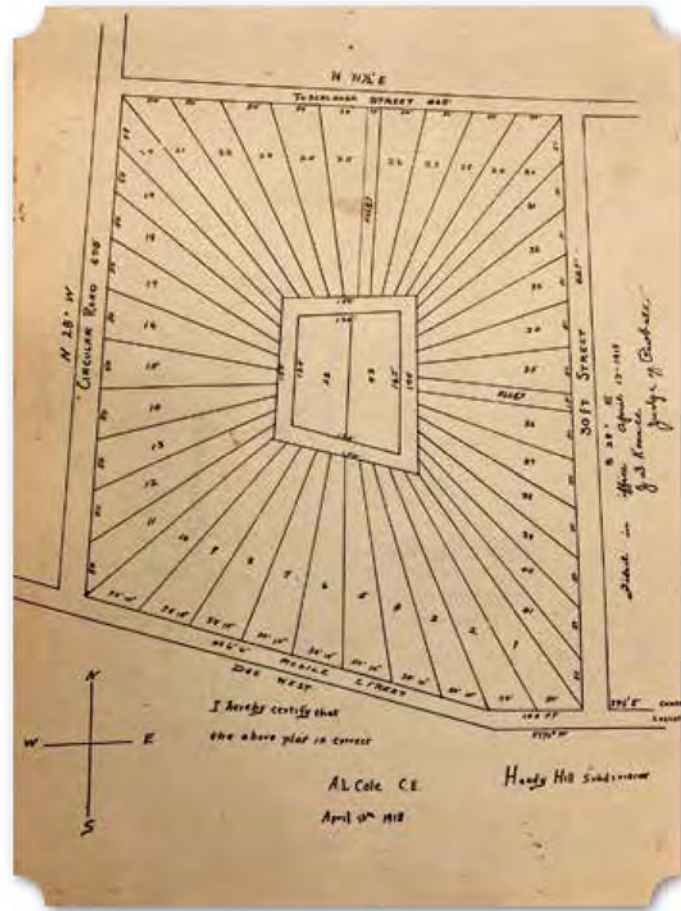
**(Above)** Aerial Photograph of West Florence, Canaan Neighborhood, 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Right)** Excerpt of 1948 City Zoning Map of Florence with the African American Neighborhood Highlighted. Note Indication of a “Local Business District” Where Someone has Written “Negro” (University of North Alabama, Collier Library, Archives & Special Collections)



to Florence. In the 20th century, Florence continued to pull away from agriculture, then industry until commercial industries and education were its main providers.

Canaan, the historically African American neighborhood of Florence, is located west of downtown. The area is still predominately African American and is roughly bound by West College Street to the south, Pine Street to the east,





West Irvine Avenue to the north, and Cypress Creek to the west. The area just north of Canaan is called Handy Hills, another historically African American development but one that did not come completely to fruition. Burrell Slater High School, the Greater St. Paul AME Church, Greater Mt. Moriah Church and Mt. Calvary Cemetery, and W.C. Handy's home and museum are located in Canaan.

**(Above)** 1918 Plat Map of Handy Hill Subdivision (University of North Alabama, Collier Library, Archives & Special Collections) **(Right)** Excerpt from 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Burrell Normal School (yellow) and Handy's Hill Development (orange) (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Far Right) (Top)** 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Handy's Hill Neighborhood (University of North Alabama, Collier Library, Archives & Special Collections) **(Bottom)** Masonic Lodge No. 19, in Canaan, Built 1959 (Google Street View, 2013)

# 10

## Florence Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

The Florence Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of East Alabama and South Walnut streets in Florence. Formerly known as the Cumberland Colored Presbyterian Church, a historical marker in front of the church calls it “the ‘Mother Church’ of the Presbytery.” The church was established in 1898 when the property was deeded by the city of Florence. By 1918, the church had bought the property on Alabama Street and built a frame church. The congregation at the time was led by Rev. Holt Smith. An annex and the Jerome Robinson Education building were planned in 1948 by Rev. Earl McDonald. The annex was later named after the Reverend. In 1997, the church officially became the Florence Bethel CP Church in America.

The historical topographic maps concur with the history of the church. It was constructed two years

**(Below)** Photograph of Florence Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2009 (Historical Marker Database [www.HMdb.org](http://www.HMdb.org), via User Sandra Hughes)



after the 1916 map and first appears on the 1936 USGS topographic map. However, the church is not labeled due to the density of the city.

# 11

## Florence City Cemetery

The Florence City Cemetery dates to the founding of the city and the state in 1818. The earliest known plat map does not include the cemetery, as it only goes as far east as Chestnut Street. However, the cemetery was part of the original plan. Like most large, planned cities, the cemetery originally was located beyond the city limits. By the late 19th century, the city had grown on the west side and the cemetery was no longer isolated. Today, the cemetery is surrounded by the city of Florence.

The cemetery covers over 30 acres between present-day East Tennessee, Limestone, South Plum, and Magnolia streets. There are nearly 9,000 people buried there, from early settlers to prominent African American Florentines. The cemetery is the final resting place for the son and brother of Ferdinand Sannorner, the surveyor of Florence; two former state Governors of the O’Neal family; and several of the prominent African American businessmen of Florence.

Florence City Cemetery was the principal cemetery for over 130 years, and it has an African American section where several well-known citizens of color are buried, including many of the businessmen and professionals of Florence. Dr. Charles Grey (unknown-1908) was a young physician who came to Florence to practice and succumbed to tuberculosis. Henry M.O. Terry (1878-1936) was a notable undertaker; his wife, Josephine, is buried with him. Famed beautician Ms. Bessie Rapier Foster (1887-1963) is buried here, along with her mother, Susan Rapier (1881-1927). Robert Buckingham (1873-1940) and his wife, Hellon (or Helen), owned a grocery store in Florence in the 1910s and 1920s. Famous “You Better Move On” singer-songwriter, Arthur B. Alexander, Jr. (1940-1993), originally

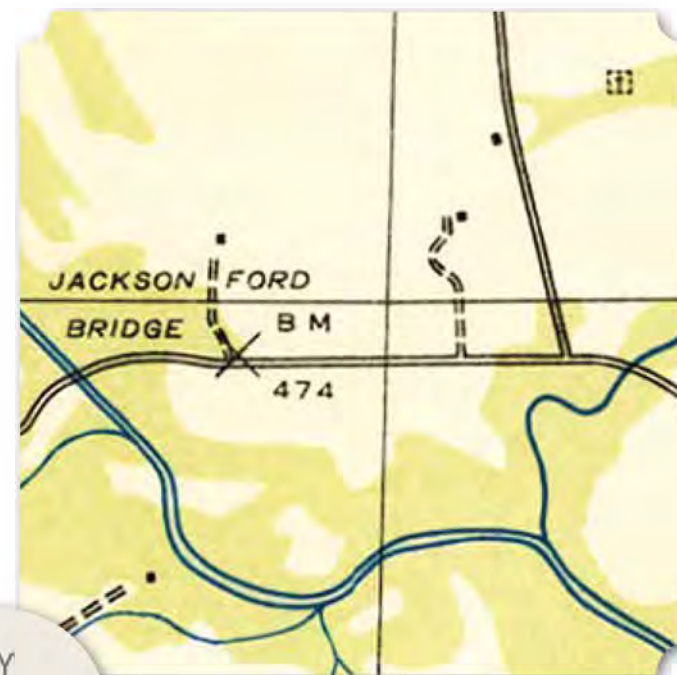
from Sheffield, was brought back to Florence for his burial. Lastly, two former slaves and body servants of Confederate soldiers, George Washington Seawright (1848-1931) and Reuben Patterson (1833-1928), are both laid to rest here. They both went into business in Florence at the turn of the 20th century.

# 12

## Forks of Cypress

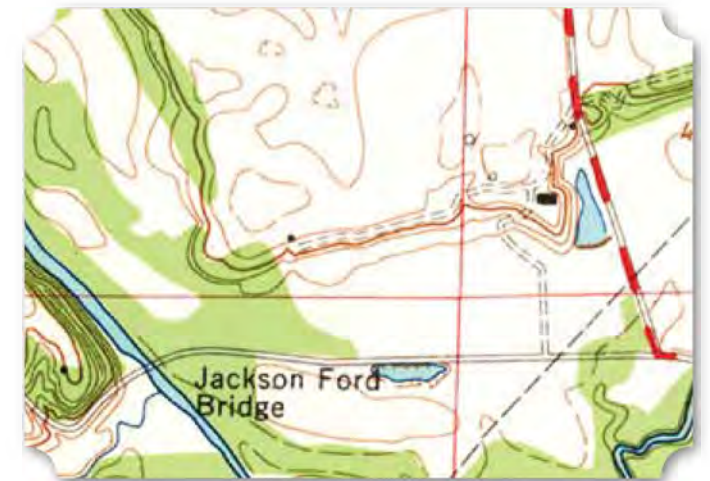
The Forks of Cypress was a plantation located northwest of Florence at a fork in Cypress Creek. The plantation was established in 1818 by James and Sarah Jackson, and the large house was built about 1830. The manor house was designed by William Nichol, but was built by skilled, enslaved, African American artisans on the plantation. The house is known for its limestone foundation and 23 brick columns. In its prime, the columns and house were plastered in lime, horsehair, and molasses. Unfortunately, the house was struck by lightning in the summer of 1966, and all but the brick columns burned.

**(Below)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Forks of Cypress, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle

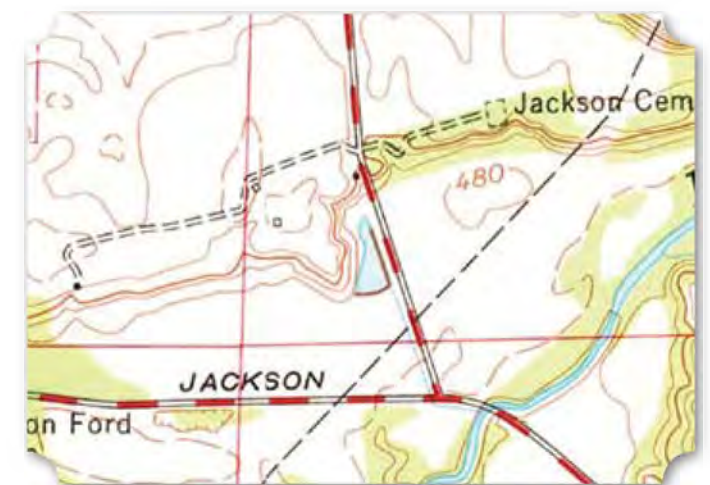


### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



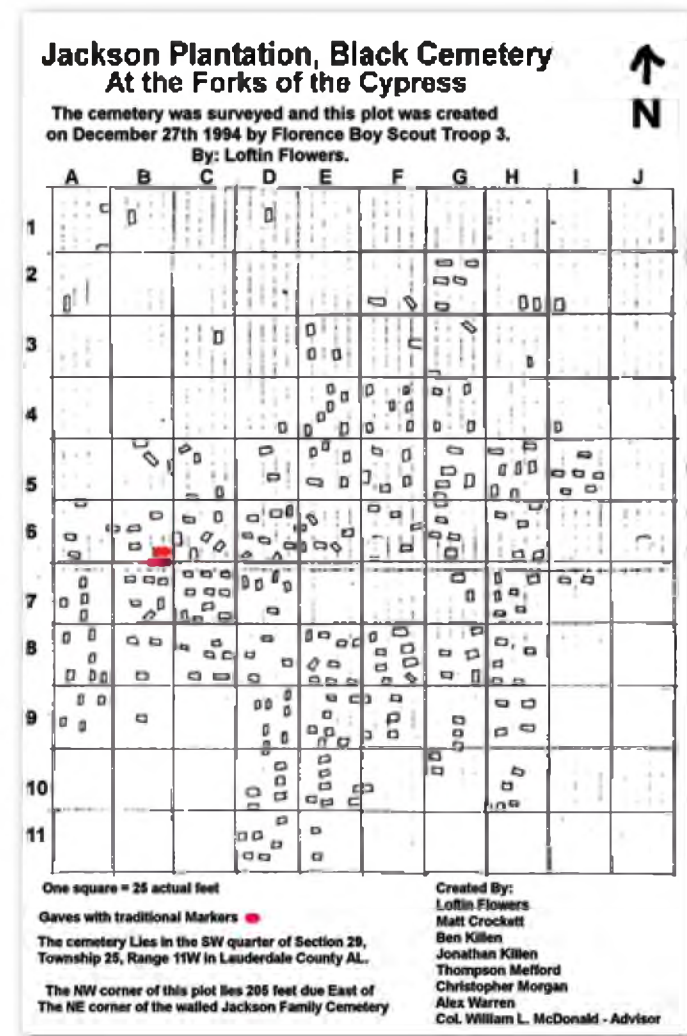
**(Above)** 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Forks of Cypress, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle **(Below)** 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Forks of Cypress, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



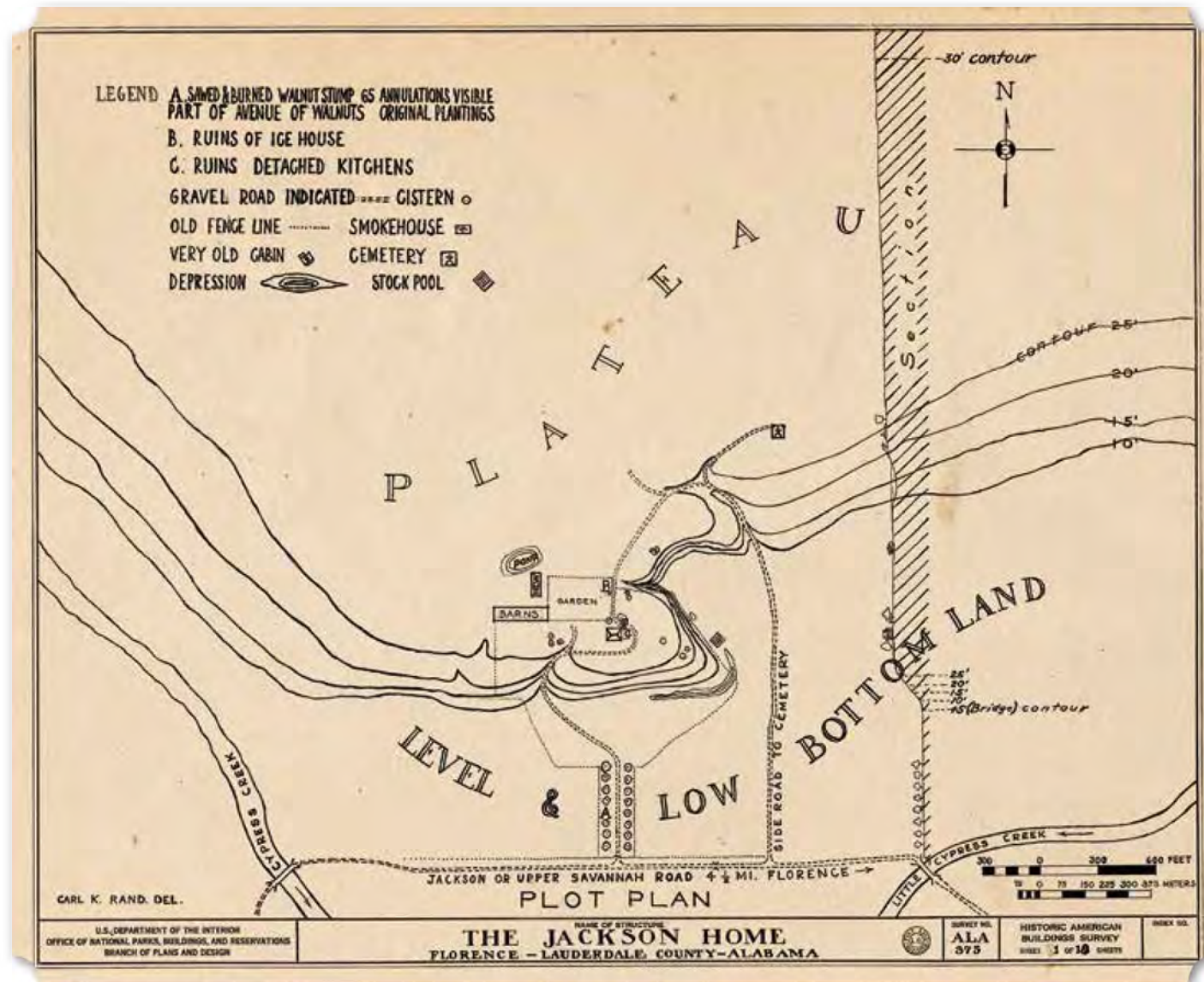
A cemetery is located to the east of the house. Besides the well-kept family cemetery for the white slave owners and their descendants, there is a substantial slave cemetery, also known as the “Black Servants’ Cemetery,” about 200 feet from the family cemetery. The slave cemetery has about 250 graves, most of them only marked by field stones, the rest are completely unmarked. According to the National Register nomination form, the only evidence of who might be buried here comes from the census records of 1840 through 1870 and James Jackson’s will. When James Jackson died in 1840, he had 85 slaves at Forks of Cypress. The slaves were listed by both first and last name – a distinction rarely afforded



(Left) Photograph of Jackson Cemetery, 2015 (Above) Drawing of Forks of Cypress Plantation (Historic American Building Survey, 1935) (Findagrave.com via User John Church) (Below) Map of Jackson Cemetery Plotted by Florence Boy Scouts Troop 3, December 27, 1994 (Findagrave.com via User John Church)



(Below) Map of Jackson Cemetery Plotted by Florence Boy Scouts Troop 3, December 27, 1994 (Findagrave.com via User John Church)



to slaves. From these records, the following names have been associated with the cemetery: Armstead, Black, Blue, Bugger, Cannon, Childress, Croff, Davis, Fern, Hardy, Hawkins, Hill, Jackson, Kirkman, Malone, Mann, Nusum, Oneil, Rhodes, Sharps, Shoal, Tain, and Thorton. It is also believed that a Forks of Cypress slave named Ester was the grandmother of author Alex Haley. James Jackson, Jr. is said to have had a child with Ester, named Queen, who was Alex's mother. Although unconfirmed, it would not have been uncommon for North Alabama.

The Forks of Cypress was photodocumented in 1935 for the Historic American Building Survey. The house and grounds were added to the National Register

of Historic Places in 1997, even though it had burned down. The Jackson Cemetery and the slave cemetery were added to the National Register in 2000. The slave cemetery is noted for its significance as one of the largest identified African American/ slave cemeteries in Northwest Alabama, certainly Lauderdale County. It continued to be used by descendants into the early 20th century but is closed to the public today.

To the immediate west, across Cypress Creek and Jackson Bridge, was the Armistead Plantation. The Peter Armistead House was one of the first houses built in the state and is listed on the National Register as well. Armistead purchased 600 acres in a land

grant on June 15, 1814 and built the house two years later. By 1820, Armistead had moved to Mississippi, but his wife, Marth stayed in Florence at the plantation with the slaves. According to the National Register nomination, the house is significant for "its association with the development of large slave-based cotton plantations in Alabama's Tennessee Valley by descendants of wealthy Virginia planter families."

The Armistead Cemetery is located south of Forks of Cypress towards the Jackson Bridge. Some sources call this Anderson Cemetery. While there are no Andersons buried at the cemetery, the Anderson School was nearby and may be another local family name. The cemetery is also sometimes called the Armistead Cemetery, without the "i," a distinction that stems from Emancipation. In an effort to distinguish themselves, the community of color takes the spelling "Armstead." Although, not a strict rule, slight differences in spelling can differentiate the white and black members of a surname.

The Armistead Cemetery has at least 82 graves and at least 50 unmarked graves. The first known interment is that of Emma Barnett (died 1889 at 49). Common names here are Armstead, Barnett, Crittendon, and Smith. Some landowners are buried here, including Guss Armistead (1857-1955), who owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1940. In 1940, Armistead lived next to Lake Smith (1888-1982), who had owned his farm since at least 1930. The cemetery is still in use.

The 1936 USGS topographic map shows the house at Forks of Cypress and the family cemetery as a

47		William F	Son	B M	July 1898	1 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama											
48	80	Annistead Guss	Head	B M	Nov 1855	44 M 15	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	1-1-5	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	F	F	79	
49		Lizzie	Wife	B F	1866	34 M 15 8 6	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama				Yes	Yes	Yes					
50		Robert	Son	B M	Jan 1887	13 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer			Yes	Yes	Yes					

(Above) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Guss Armistead Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

small dotted box with a cross. By 1957, the map indicates Forks of Cypress as a large building. The "Jackson Cemetery" is also labeled, and the Armistead Cemetery is indicated, but not labeled.

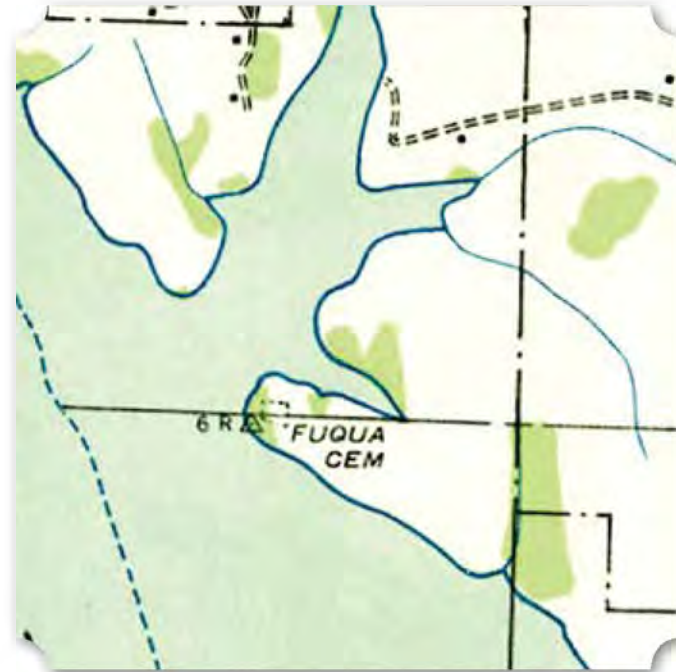
# 13

## Fuqua Cemetery

The Fuqua Cemetery, also referred to as the Fuqua-Sturdivant or, simply, Sturdivant Cemetery, is located southwest of Rogersville, just east of the boundary for what is now Joe Wheeler State Park. The cemetery is described as having burials of both white and people of color. The first burials are those of Sarah F. Sturdivant (1826-1851) and her infant sons, John J. (1845-1845) and William F. (1850-1850). The Sturdivants were listed on the 1850 "Free inhabitants" census and were most likely a white family. However, the other graves and possibly those marked with only fieldstone are burials of people of color.

The cemetery contains 25 marked graves and at least 24 unmarked graves – or at least those that only have field stones and no inscriptions. Common family names include Fuqua, Ingram, and Page. Arguster

(Middle Page) (Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Fuqua Cemetery, Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangle (Middle) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Fuqua Cemetery, Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangle (Right) 1974 USGS Topographic Map of Fuqua Cemetery, Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Right) Photograph of Fuqua Cemetery, 2015 (Findagrave.com, User John Church)



KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

61	at 0 500 no	Cunningham, Augusta	Head	M	neg 51	M	no 4	4	Alabama	same Home	no	yes	-	-	-	13	Salvage	work on Rock quarry	SW 454/6	2/2	100	no	61	
62		Estell	wife	F	neg 42	M	no 2	2	Alabama	same Home	no	no	no	no	no						0	0	no	62
63		Junior	son	M	neg 11	S	yo 1	1	Alabama	same Home														63
64		Saul	son	M	neg 8	S	yo 0	0	Alabama	same Home														64
65		Herbelle	son	M	neg 6	S	yo 0	0	Alabama	same Home														65
66		Herbert	son	M	neg 4	S	no 0	0	Alabama	same Home														66
67		Orville	son	M	neg 3	S	no 0	0	Alabama	same Home														67
68	Road	Sunnie B.	brother	M	neg 57	S	no 3	3	Alabama	same Home	yes	-	-	-	-	160	Farm labor	Farm	SW 366/VV	52	75	no	68	

(Above) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Augusta (Auguster) Cunningham Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(Augusta) Cunningham (1889-1945) is buried here. His mother, Susie Cunningham, owned a farm on Pagetown Road (current location unknown) in 1900 and 1910. Arguster was a private in the 805 Pioneer Infantry during World War I. When he returned home, he lived with his brother, Sunnie, who then owned the family farm. By 1940, Arguster owned the family property, but instead of working the farm, he was employed at the WPA rock quarry. The last known burial is that of Guss Smith (1911-1946).

The cemetery is not included on topographic maps until 1936. However, the Fuqua Cemetery marked

on the 1936 USGS map is southwest of the current location near the edge of the water. The same location is marked on the 1952 topographic map. By 1974, the cemetery is marked in the current location. Due to the several unmarked burials, it is unlikely that the cemetery was moved. It is not included in the TVA cemetery relocation records, so it is more likely that the location of the cemetery was unknown or misrepresented.

## 14 Gray Cemetery

The Gray Cemetery, also called the Simpson Cemetery, is located off of County Road 217 between Rhodesville

and Smithonia in a patch of cedar trees, which are often used to mark cemeteries. There are only 10 marked graves and possibly several unmarked graves belonging to the Simpson, Anderson, Butler, Johnson, and Gray families. The first known interment is that of Harriet M. Gray (1917-1932); the last known interment is that of Barbara S. Butler (1918-1976). The cemetery appears as a small dotted square with no label on the 1954 topographic map. On the 1972 and 1988 topographic maps, the cemetery is simply called out as "Cem." The name Gray Cemetery most likely comes from the earliest inscription. The obituaries for Theodore Gray and Barbara S. Butler call the cemetery the "Simpson Cemetery."

Those buried here include Theodore Gray (1902-1967), veteran of World War I, Alabama PVT Ordnance

Department WWI. His obituary says he attended school in Florence and would be laid to rest in the Simpson Cemetery by the Thompson & Son Funeral Home. Also buried here is Sam P. Simpson (1874-1946), who owned a farm in the Oakland area from at least 1910 to 1930. His wife, Hannah J. Simpson (1876-1960) and son, Albert Simpson (1919-1973), World War II veteran of the "Alabama Tec. 5 US Army," are also buried here.

(Below) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Sam P. Simpson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
(Bottom) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Sam P. Simpson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

57		John	Son		23	10	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	Home farm		57-01
58		Julia	Daughter		7	8	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			58-01
59	Aug 66 66	Simpson Sam	Head	M	21	13	60	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	farmer	General farm Jan 66	66-01	
60		Hannah	wife	F	13	38	24		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			60-01
61		Mary	Son		24	13	24	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	Home farm		61-01
62		Angeline	Daughter		7	13	16	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			62-01
63		Mary	Daughter		7	13	13	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			63-01
64		Pat	Son		24	13	10	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			64-01
65		Natharine	Daughter		7	13	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			65-01

74	120/22	Simpson Sam P.	Head	M	neg 55	no 20	20	20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	General farm Jan 66		74
75		Hannah	Wife H	F	neg 53	no 19	19	19	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home			75
76		Edith	Daughter	F	neg 15	8	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home			76
77		Barbara	Daughter	F	neg 11	8	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home			77
78		Albert H.	Son	M	neg 5	8	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home			78
79		Pat	Daughter	F	neg 10	8	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Home			79

# 15

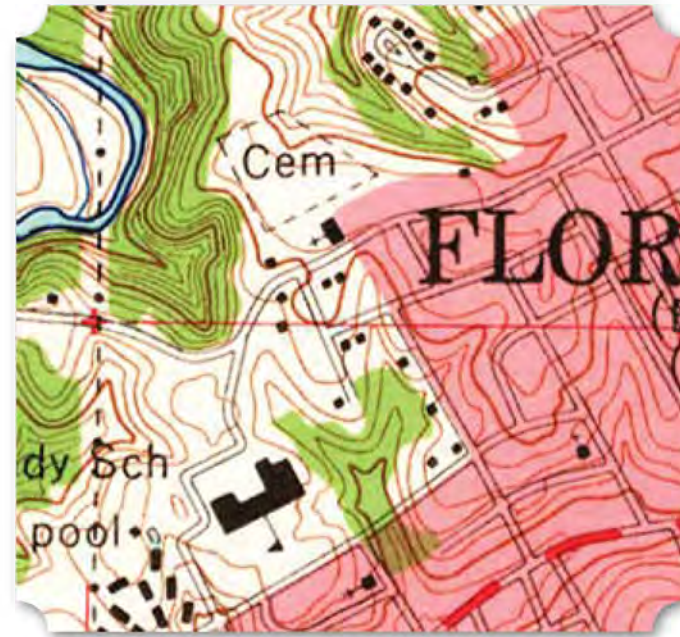
## Greater Mt. Moriah Church and Mt. Calvary Cemetery

The Greater Mt. Moriah Church is located at the intersection of West Irvine and Patterson streets in southwest Florence in a neighborhood known as Handy Homes, north of Canaan. According to the historical marker placed in front of the church, the Greater Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church began about 1896 when the congregation came together in the home of Ms. Betsy Key. It was initially organized as "Fairgrounds Church" at a site just northwest of the church around the old racetrack and fairgrounds. Rev. Andy Sloss was the first pastor. Sometime between the 1900 and 1914, the church moved to what was then called Fish-Trap Road, now Irvine Avenue. The current name was chosen by Ms. Mary Ola Key. In 1924, the adjacent lot was purchased and the church was rebuilt under the direction of Rev. C.A. Crump. Later, the church was remodeled with a rear addition. The Family Life Center to the immediate east of the church was completed in 1997.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Moriah Church, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle

The church first appears on topographic maps in 1914. Although it is not labeled, a church symbol is depicted on the north side of Fish-Trap/Irvine Avenue.



(Above) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Moriah Church and Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) Photograph of Mt. Calvary Cemetery, 2013 (Findagrave.com via User Susan Bennett)

A large looped road on the end of Fish-Trap Road may have been the old racetrack and fairgrounds. The church is accompanied by a large cemetery called Mt. Calvary, which is not depicted on the early topographic maps. The first known interments are Annie Dean Davis (1905-1948) and John Wesley Houston (1926-1948), indicating the cemetery may not have been in use until 1948. The cemetery appears on the 1957 and 1971 topographic maps of Florence, but, like the church, it is not labeled.

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery has at least 672 graves and is still in use. Common family names include Boddie, Brown, Davis, Ingram, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Key, Littleton, Rowell, Simpson, Smith, Stewart, Thompson, Turner, Vaughn, and Williams. Many of these family names are reminiscent of the census rolls for communities in the "Bend of the River," such as Oakland, Woodland, and Smithsonia. Many of those farming family made their way to southwest Florence suburbs. Among those buried here are Dr. Leonard Jerry Hicks (1899-1973) and his wife, Eva L. Callaham Hicks (1905-1990).



### KEY

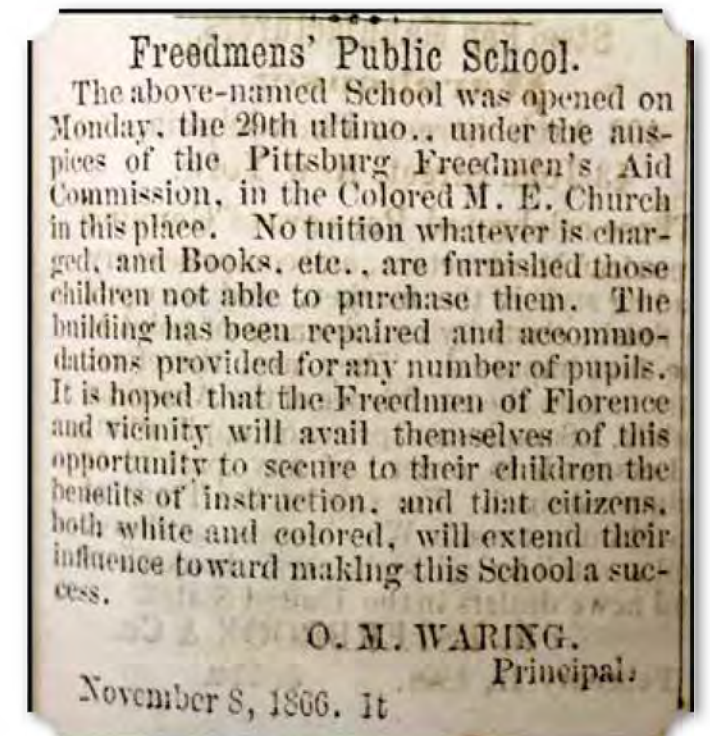
- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

# 16

## Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Greater St. Paul AME Church is the oldest African American church in Northwest Alabama, dating back to 1840 and including three locations in Florence. It was founded by a group of 14 members of the First Methodist church who came together to form the congregation of the Church Spring Church. This first church was in a brick shed located in south Florence on what was Spring Street, now Veterans Drive, between South Pine and Court streets. The congregation was led by former slave Robin Lightfoot, who, according to the church history, was lynched by Confederate soldiers who heard him preaching and stole him away from his owner's plantation to Stewart Springs.

(Below) An Advertisement for the Newly Opened Freedmen's Public School Dated Thursday, November 8, 1866 From the Florence Journal (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library via Facebook.com)



The brick shed was purchased in 1857 by the local African American Methodist congregation and became a school for Freedmen and their children supported by either the American Missionary Association or the Freedmen's Bureau after Emancipation. In 1879, the church was reorganized as the African Methodist Episcopal Church. According to the church history, Jacob Wytch came to Florence in 1879 as a valet for a superintendent of the Methodist church. Mr. Wytch is credited with forming the AME Church in Florence. This most likely is the same Mr. Wytch who went on to be a successful merchant and grocer in Florence.

In order to raise funds to purchase a lot of land on the corner of Court and Alabama streets in 1895,

the church held a "Fair and Supper" at the county courthouse. With the lot purchased, the old building was dismantled and the bricks were reused to build a new church. When the cornerstone was laid, the church was deemed St. Paul AME Church.

The church stayed at that location until 1968 when it relocated to South Cherokee Street in the Canaan neighborhood, across the street from Burrell Slater High School. When the church moved, it brought the old bell, the memorial stained-glass windows, and the two previous cornerstones. This new church was named Greater St. Paul AME Church. The long and rich history of the church is important to its congregation and the community at large. Many significant members of the community have been associated with the church over its nearly 180-year history. Former pastors include Rev. William Wise

**(Left)** Photograph of the Second Incarnation of the St. Paul AME Church before it was Torn Down in the 1960s (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library via Facebook.com) **(Below)** Aerial Photograph of Second Incarnation of the St. Paul AME Church before it was Torn Down in the 1960s (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library via Facebook.com)



**(Above)** Photograph of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2010 (Historical Marker Database www.HMdb.org, User Sandra Hughes)

Handy, grandfather to famed musician W.C. Handy, and Rev. Charles Bernard Handy, his father. W.C. Handy purchased one of the memorial windows moved from the second church to the third.

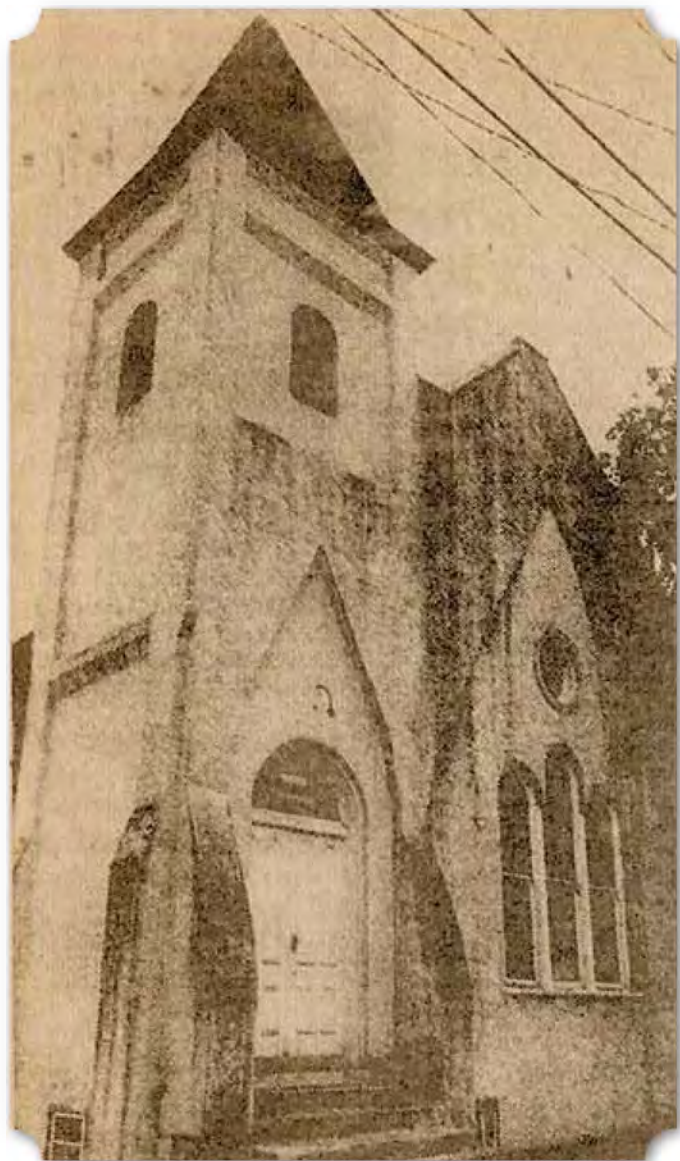
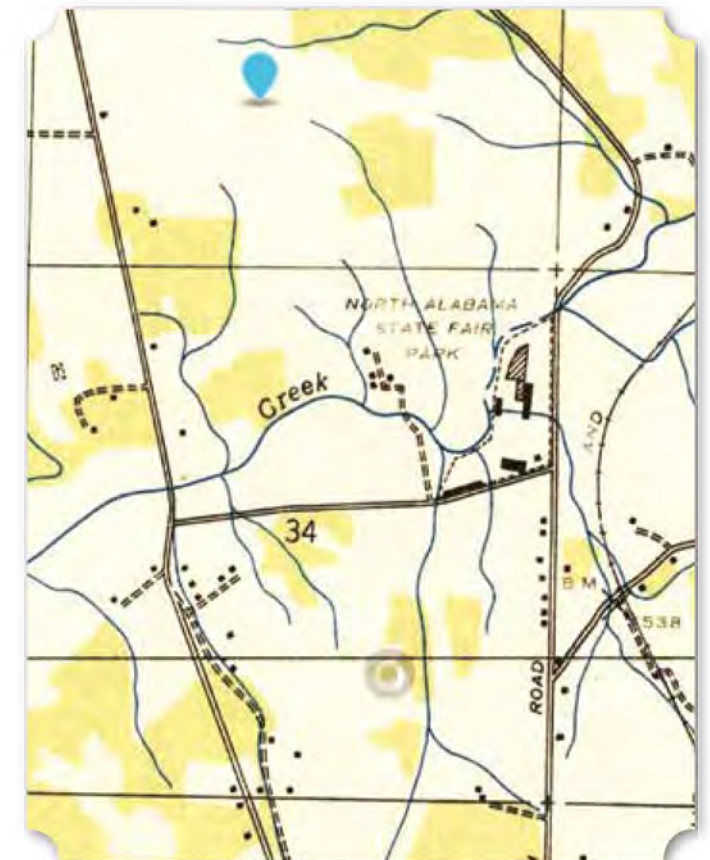
A historical marker notes the location of the original church at present-day Veterans Drive and Court Street and another at the current location on South Cherokee Street. Early 20th century maps of Florence are too crowded to depict the church on the corner of Court and Alabama streets. By 1936, the church is depicted, but not labeled. The 1971 topographic map indicates the church in its current location.

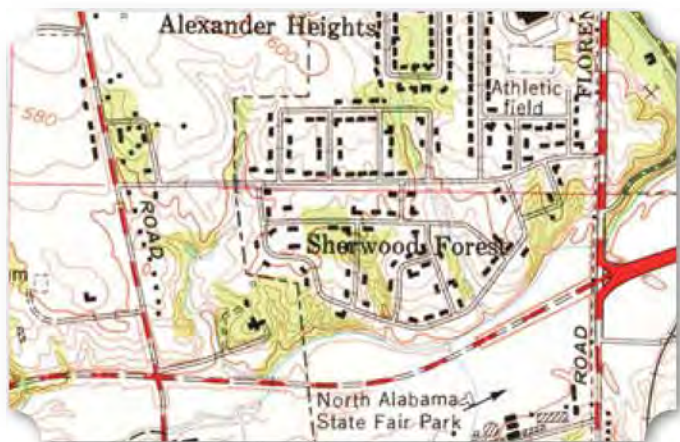
## 17 ■ ■ Hickory Hill Plantation\* and John Coffee Servants' Cemetery

General John Coffee (1772-1833) served as a cavalry commander under Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. Coffee was one of the founding fathers of Florence and a trustee of the Cypress Land Company. He is sometimes credited with planning the design of Florence and hiring the original surveyor. His plantation was called Hickory Hill and was located just north of Florence along Cox Creek.

A cemetery known as John Coffee Servants Cemetery is the old slave cemetery, a one-acre area of land that is all that is left of the plantation. It is currently surrounded by development including a large Walmart

**(Below)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Hickory Hill Plantation and John Coffee Servants' Cemetery, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle

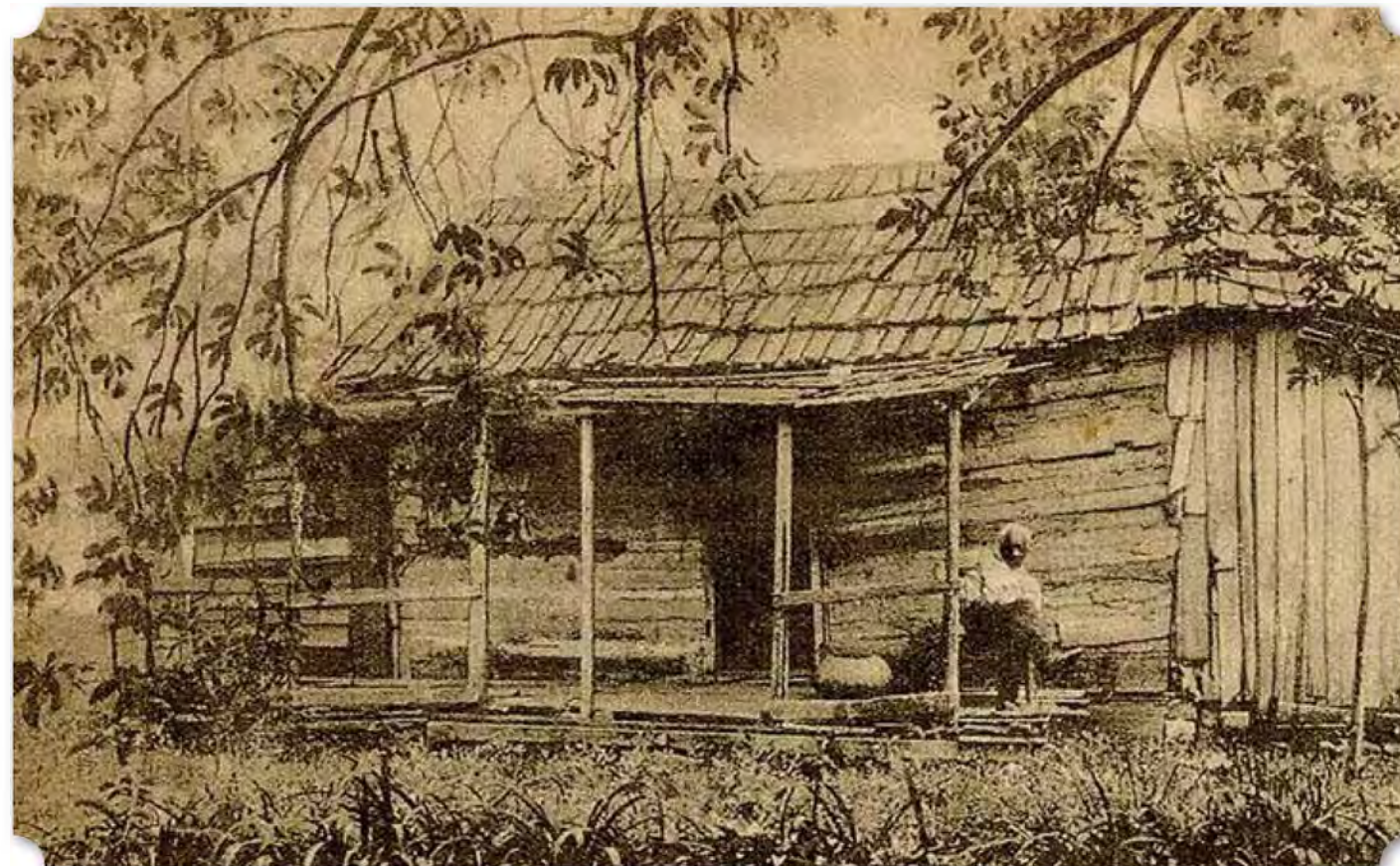




(Top) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Hickory Hill Plantation and John Coffee Servants' Cemetery, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Hickory Hill Plantation and John Coffee Servants' Cemetery, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle

and parking lot on Cloverdale Road. The cemetery can be confused with another Coffee Servant's Cemetery on Gunwaleford Road, but that one belongs to the slaves of Alexander Coffee, John's son.

According to research by Mr. Lee Freeman of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, the 1902 and 1904 deed records for the Coffee/Hickory Hill plantation exempt this cemetery from its sale.



(Left) Photograph of a Former Slave and an Old Slave Cabin on the Coffee Plantation (Florence African American Heritage Project via Facebook.com)



(Above) Possible Photograph of John Kemper, circa 1910, Taken from a Larger Image Published in the *Florence Herald*, May 7, 1969 (Findagrave.com, User Lee Freeman) (Below) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing John Kemper Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Everything was sold "except from this conveyance the land known as the Coffee family graveyard and graveyard for colored servants, with the right of way to and from said graveyard. Each of said graveyards containing 1 sq. acre, and the Coffee family graveyard having as the center of the graveyard the monument of John Coffee, together with the appurtenances thereto belonging..."

The servants' cemetery is just west of the Coffee family cemetery, which is enclosed with a red brick wall. There are at least 140 burials at the servant's cemetery, only one of which is marked with a stone, which is illegible. Further historical research has

revealed a few individuals who may be buried here including 18 people with the surnames Coffee, Jackson, Kemper, and Thomas. A newspaper article from the *Florence Enquirer* on November 22, 1840 tells of the death of three slaves by drowning. They were owned by Mrs. Mary Coffee and presumably buried at this cemetery. A historical marker was erected in 2018 to mark the cemetery and convey its history. Also, buried here is local African American landowner and former slave, John Kemper (1836-1920). Previously enumerated as "John Coffee," Kemper was noted on the 1920 census, just prior to his death, as a farming landowner in Florence off of Cloverdale Road.



KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



# 18

## Hopewell African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery

The Hopewell AME Church and Cemetery are located on the east side of Middle Road between Locker and Kolbe lanes in Northeast Florence, part way to St. Florian. The history of Hopewell AME is connected with the history of Hopewell Church of Christ and its integrated congregation. After the Civil War, there were several churches of Christ established in the county. This is credited mostly to Theophilus Brown Larimore, who founded the nearby Mars Hill Bible School in 1871. One of the new churches was the Hopewell Church of Christ, located at the intersection of Cox Creek Parkway and Old Jackson Highway. This later became Hopewell Methodist Church. The timeline is unclear; however, at some point the white members of the church dissipated to other congregations and the members of color came together to form the Hopewell AME Church.

The Hopewell AME Church most likely came to its current location sometime before 1914. The USGS topographic map of 1914 shows an unlabeled church on Middle Road. The 1936 topographic map has the



(Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Hopewell Church and Cemetery, Killen and Florence, Alabama Quadrangles  
 (Top) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Hopewell Church and Cemetery, Killen and Florence, Alabama Quadrangles  
 (Above) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Hopewell Church and Cemetery, Killen and Florence, Alabama Quadrangles

Hopewell Church labeled and depicted alongside a cemetery and an unknown building. The Hopewell AME Church Cemetery has at least 28 burials and possibly a few dozen unmarked burials. The first known interment is Virginia Brewer (died 1926), which is consistent with the appearance of the cemetery on topographic maps. Family names include Bowens, Brannon, Brewer, Brown, Campbell, Eady, Fuqua, Hampton, Hill, Hobbs, Hough, Malone, McDaniel, McVey, Nalls, Roach, Smith, Stanford, and Webster. The cemetery is still in use.

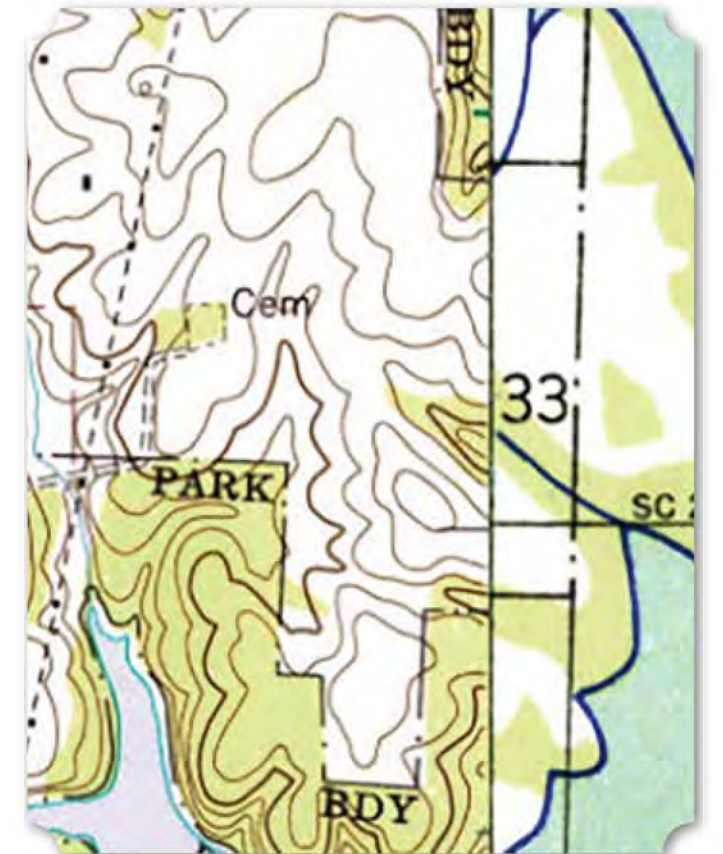
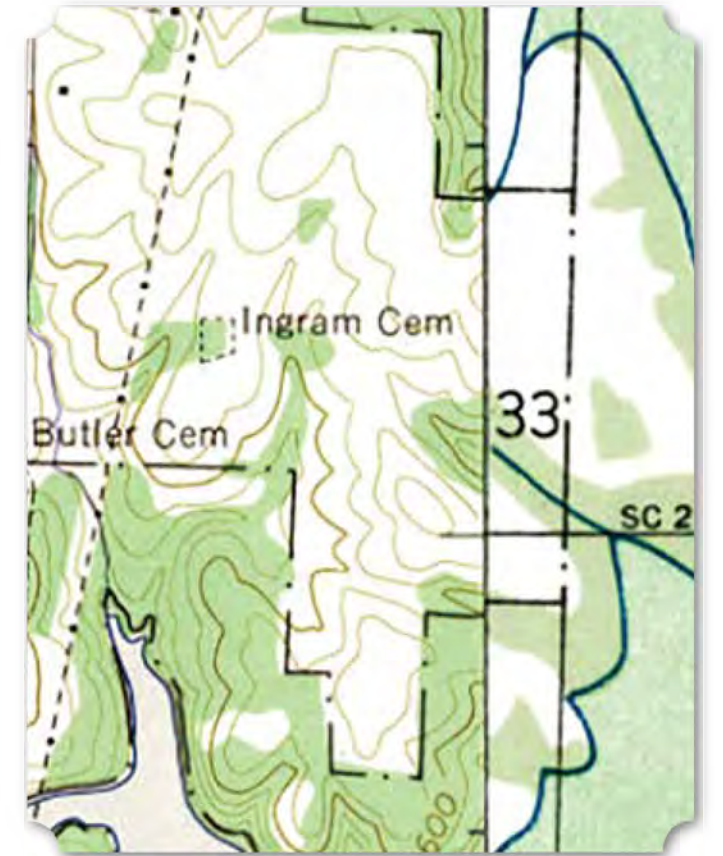
# 19

## Ingram Cemetery

Ingram Cemetery is located in a field to the east of County Road 84 and Wheeler Dam Highway along Second Creek. Its proximity to Butler Cemetery, just a few hundred feet southwest of Ingram Cemetery, often leads to confusion. Ingram Cemetery is sometimes referred to as Butler Cemetery. It is also known as Ben Ingram Cemetery after one of the earliest interments, Ben Ingram (1859-1903). Little information could be confirmed about Mr. Ingram. This cemetery has almost 80 graves; the earliest known burial is of Elizabeth Mason Ingram Barclay (1860-1901). Common surnames include Coffey or Coffey, Fuqua, Kogers, and Smiths.

Even though the cemetery is on the west side of Joe Wheeler State Park and close to the water, there are no cemeteries recorded on the USGS/TVA topographic maps from 1936. Also, no cemeteries by the name of Butler or Ingram were part of the TVA cemetery relocation program. The cemetery is recorded on the 1952 topographic map as Ingram Cemetery, just northeast of Butler Cemetery. In 1971 and afterwards, the cemetery is depicted, but not labeled.

(Top Right) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Ingram Cemetery, Wheeler Dam and Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangles  
 (Right) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Ingram Cemetery, Wheeler Dam and Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangles

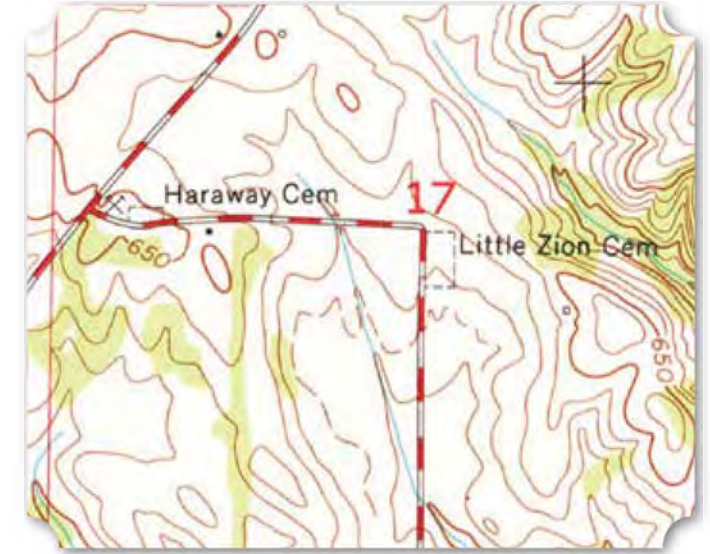
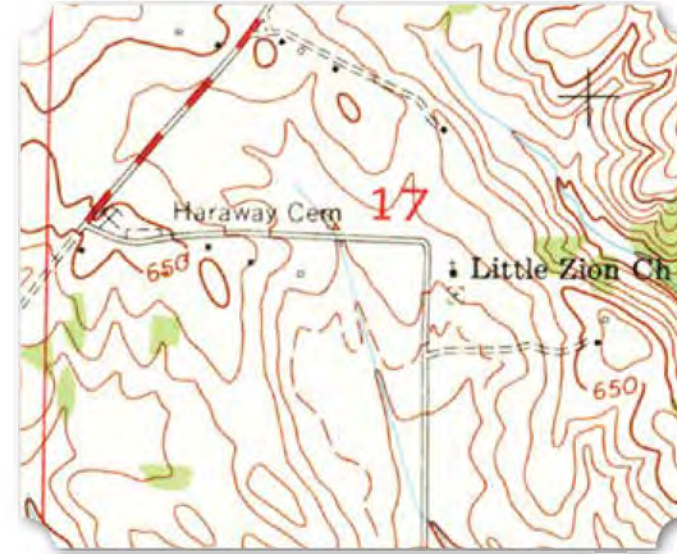
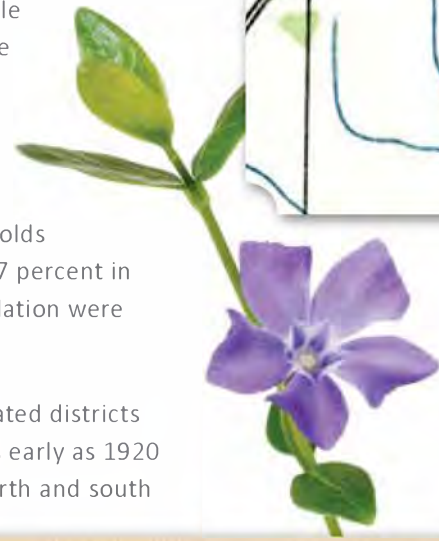


# 20 ■

## Little Zion

The community of Little Zion is south of the town of Rogersville in the eastern half of Lauderdale County. The majority of the African American community is located on a wide peninsula created from the Tennessee and Little Elk rivers. While the overall population of the Rogersville census district declined between 1900 and 1940, the percentage of African American households and landowning farmers increased. In 1900, 27 percent of Rogersville households were African American, increasing to 47 percent in 1930. In 1940, only a third of the population were families of color.

Rogersville is one of the strictly segregated districts in North Alabama, which is apparent as early as 1920 when the census divides Rogersville north and south



**(Above)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Little Zion School and Church, Thorntontown, Alabama **(Middle)** 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Little Zion Church and Cemetery, Thorntontown, Alabama **(Right)** 1974 USGS Topographic Map of Little Zion Cemetery, Thorntontown, Alabama

by the highway. Only one family of color lived on the north side in 1920 and 1930. By 1940, there are six households of color enumerated on the north side; however, they do not live very far from the south side, more likely just on the other side of the road. Besides the church, cemetery, and school in Little Zion, there are several African American community

**(Below)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Frank Simmons Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Arnetta King Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

36	✓	34 24	Simmons Frank	Head	10	F	21	13	10	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Frank Simmons	Household	Per 48	36
37	✓		Simmons wife	Wife		F	13	8	6	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		37
38	✓		Simmons Otta	Daughter		F	13	15	75	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		38
39	✓		Simmons Opheia	Daughter		F	13	14	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		39
40	✓		Simmons Josie	Son		M	13	13	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		40
41	✓		Simmons Andrew	Son		M	13	8	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		41
42	✓		Simmons Harriett	Son		M	13	8	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		42
43	✓		Simmons Matty	Daughter		F	13	6	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		43
44	✓		Simmons Mitchell	Daughter		M	13	6	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		44
45	✓		Simmons Jennie	Son		M	13	3	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		45
46	✓		Simmons Pattie	Daughter		F	13	12	72	72	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Wife	None		46

72			Merline	Daughter		F	15	5	3	3	Alabama	R	Simmons	Alabama	no	no	no	no	5		0	0	no	72	
73			Mitchel	son		M	13	5	3	3	Alabama	R	Simmons	Alabama	no	no	no	no						73	
74			Murrel	son		M	10	5	1	1	Alabama	R	Simmons	Alabama	no	no	no	no						74	
75			Virginia	sister		F	32	4	6	1	Alabama	R	Madison	Alabama	no	no	no	no	135	135	15	45	no	75	
76		56 0	Arnetta King	Head		F	40	4	4	4	Alabama		same place	Alabama	no	no	no	no	11	11			0	0	76
77			Cora	daughter		F	21	5	5	5	Alabama		same place	Alabama	no	no	no	no	5	5			0	0	77
78			Cornelia	daughter		F	20	2	8	8	Alabama		same place	Alabama	no	no	no	no	5	5			0	0	78
79			Floyd	son		M	20	5	7	7	Alabama		same place	Alabama	no	no	no	no	5	5			0	0	79
80			Juguo Heron	grandson		M	5	5	0	0	Alabama		same place	Alabama	no	no	no	no					0	0	80

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

landmarks on the south side of the Rogersville area, including the Southside Church of Christ & Cemetery, Fuqua Place, a former plantation, and the Fuqua and Watkins cemeteries.

In 1900, there were a dozen African American landowning farmers in the Rogersville district, a number that remained steady through the 1930s. The highest rate of land ownership was in 1940 when 20 of the 80 families of color owned a farm. Common family names of African American landowners in Rogersville are Fuqua, Watkins, Patrick, and Simmons. Columbus Simmons owned a farm in 1900, and by 1930 the Simmons family had four members who owned farms, including two different men named Frank Simmons whose relation is unclear. The 1920 census records both of these men as being born about 1880 to 1883. One of them is mixed, or “mulatto,” the other is noted as “black.” The former is married to a woman named Josie, the latter to a woman named Selma. Frank and Josie rented a farm with his mother in 1910, but Frank and Selma owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940. This second Frank Simmons is buried at the Little Zion Cemetery in Rogersville.

Other landowning families of note are the Fuqua, Patrick, and Watkins families. The Fuqua family owned two farms in 1900, at least one in 1910 and 1920, three in 1930, and two in 1940. The Patrick family owned two farms from 1900-1930 and one in 1940. The Watkins family owned several farms in the early 20th century: Henderson Watkins from at least 1900 to 1920, Allen Watkins in 1920, Points Watkins in 1930, and Curtis and George Watkins in 1940.

The Little Zion School was one of several rural schools for African American children in Lauderdale County. It first appears on the 1936 USGS topographic map alongside a church at about the present location of Little Zion Cemetery at the corner of a 90-degree bend in County Road 605. It appears that the school, church, and cemetery all developed at the same spot sometime in the early 20th century, which is not uncommon. Like many of the rural schools, Little Zion had closed by 1952. The topographic map shows only the Little Zion Church and the cemetery. By the 1970s, the church is gone as well, leaving only the cemetery.

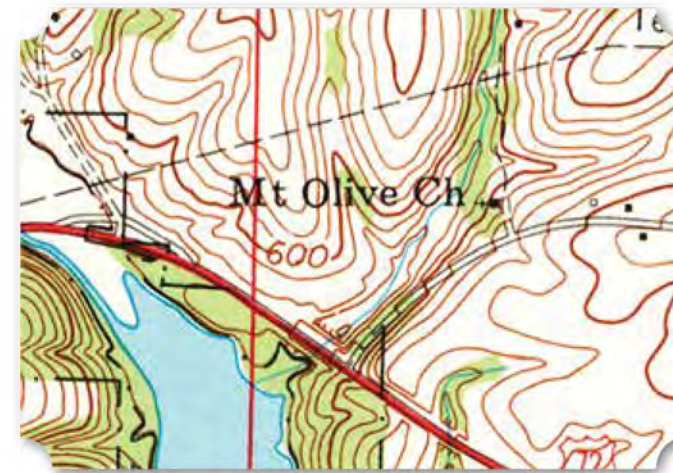
The school and church were located north of the cemetery, but that corner is still empty today.

The Little Zion Cemetery has about 230 graves. Common surnames include Bowens, Fuqua, Howard, Ingram, Nance, and Watkins. The earliest known interment is that of Alfred Bowens (1830-1913), who happened to own a farm from at least 1900 to 1910 and most likely until his death. There are several other local African American landowners, including Arnettha King (1898-1986), who owned a farm in 1940; Frank Simmons (1880-1973), who owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940; Ernest Simmons (1879-1965), who owned a farm in 1920; and Denver Watkins (1907-1993) who owned a farm in 1940.

## 21 ■ Mt. Olive School (Rosenwald)\*

The Mt. Olive School was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County. It was a two-teacher, two-room schoolhouse built in the early days of the project under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute - about 1913 to 1915. The school cost a total of \$1,500 to build with \$500 each from the African American community, public county funds, and the Rosenwald Foundation. It was located west of Rogersville along present-day Lee Highway where it crosses with the northern end of Joe Wheeler State Park. The 1916

**(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Olive School, Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangle**



**(Above) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Olive School, Thorntontown, Alabama Quadrangle**

USGS topographic map labels the area as Mt. Olive, but no school is indicated even though it was likely built by that time. The first map depicting the school is the 1936 topographic map. The school is shown in a dip in the road at First Creek with the Mt. Olive Church nearby to the east. By the 1950s, the school is gone, a common occurrence for rural African American schools.

**(Below) Aerial Photograph of Mt. Olive School, 1958 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)**



## 22 ■

### Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, School (Rosenwald),\* and Cemetery

Mt. Zion AME Church is located within the census district of Gravelly Springs and is located on the western side of the “Bend in the River,” west and slightly north of Oakland. The church is situated where Oakland, Smithsonia, and Rhodesville come together, and members of the church and its community may have been residents of any of one of these. In the early 20th century, the community surrounding Rhodesville remained about one-third African American, while farm ownership fluctuated. While there were some landowning farmers in this area, there were never more than 10. In 1900, only five African Americans owned a farm: Paris Beckwith, Silas Chandler, James H. Boseine, and John and Luke Reeder. By 1910, the number of landowning farmers of color doubled. Beckwith and Chandler retained their farms and were joined by James G. Simpson, Robert and Robert G. Summerhill, Boson and William Irons, Angeline and Garrett L. Reeder, and Jacob Russell. By 1920, the number of landowners

dropped to seven, but was back up to 10 by 1940. Other landowners from this time include Richmond W. Boddie, Bill Armstead, Wash Williams, and Mary Thompson. Gravelly Springs did not experience the decline of the African American population that areas such as Oakland, Woodland, and Smithsonia did between 1930 and 1940; instead, it remained one-third African American.

**(Lower Left)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Zion Church and School, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles **(Below)** 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Zion School, Church, and Cemetery, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles **(Bottom)** 1988 USGS Topographic Map of Mt. Zion Church, and Cemetery, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles

William Irons, Wash Williams, and Robert Summerhill all still own a farm. John, William, and George Summerhill also own farms. Other African American landowners are Felix Thompson, Jake Russell, Mary Reeder, Liza Armstead, Felix Barnett, Floyd Armstead, Berge Clemmons, Sateria Thompson, Saphonia Parker, and Sam Anderson.

Turnley (1874-1928), the daughter of Berry "Tut" Parker (1833-1904) and Catherine (1843-1933). The Parkers' memorial stands out because of a large slab of stone proudly declaring the Parkers as "Slaves, Sharecroppers, Landowners, Parents of 15 children." All of their children are also listed on the stone - Moses, Hannah, Martha, Annie, Isom, Tommie, Madgie, Mary Frances, Louis, Richard, Berry, Jr., Wylodine, Cornelia, Ellis, and Nelson.

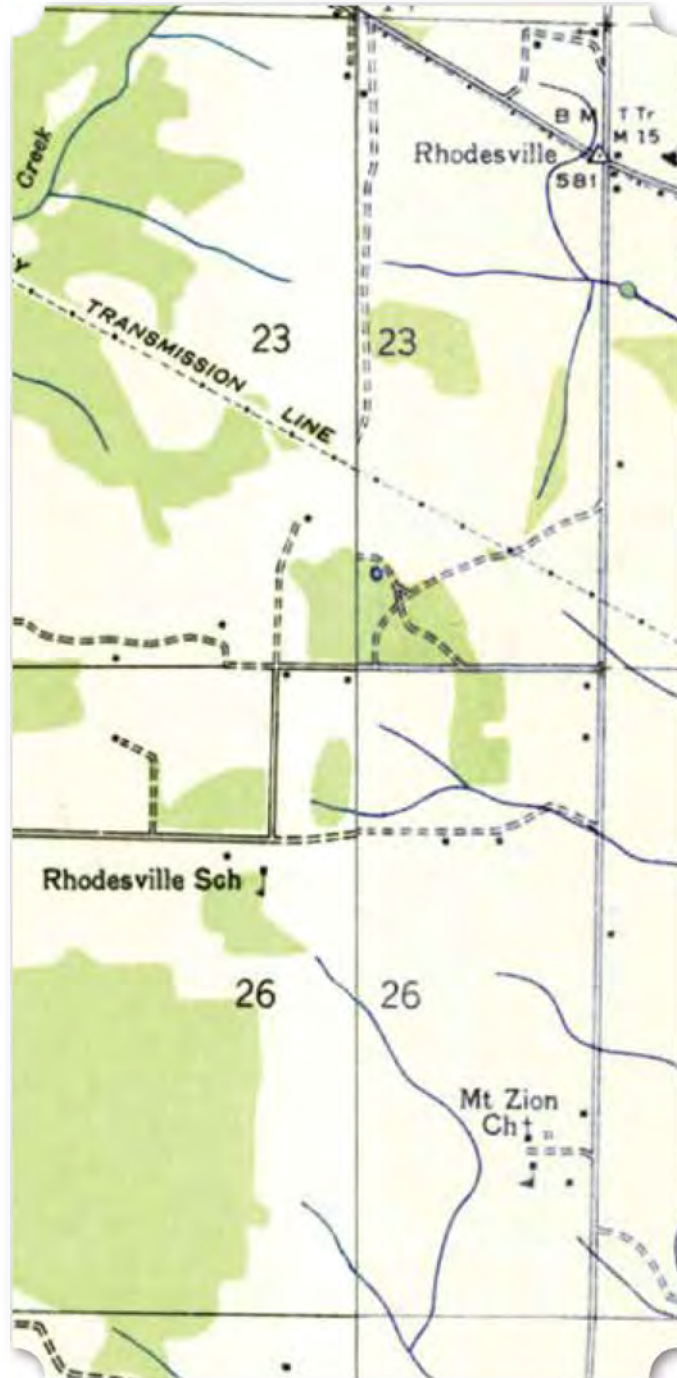
Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1886 by five former slaves: Clumbus Barnett, Isaac Duckett, William Duckett, Randolph Irons, and Jerry Turnley. Anita Cobb, Turnley's great-great-granddaughter, gave an oral history interview to the Florence African American Heritage Project in 2017 and recalled the history of the church. She said that the community was originally connected to the St. Paul Church in Florence, which was too far away. Members started attending church in Oak Grove, but eventually came to Rhodesville. The Mt. Zion AME Church is not in its original location, which was further north off of Waterloo Road. Ms. Anita says that "after the population shifted and they moved to the south side of that road, that's when they moved the church."



**(Above)** Part of the Memorial for the Parkers Listing their Children, 2014 (Findagrave.com, User Joy Favors)

The church that stands at County roads 189 and 186, was built in 1912. Jerry Turnley's son, John "was the person who owned the land and he built the church." The cemetery was established about 1930. Before then, Ms. Cobb said most people were buried in a field cemetery established before Emancipation. That cemetery's exact location is unclear, but it was somewhere off of County Road 81. The first burial at Mt. Zion AME Church Cemetery is Madgie Parker

**(Below)** Image of Mt. Zion AME Church, 2014 (Findagrave.com, User Joy Favors)



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

The only census records for Berry Parker are from 1880 and 1900. While the 1880 census did not record whether someone owned their land, the 1900 census clearly states that Parker rented his farm. However, the elaborate grave marker proclaiming the Parkers to be landowners clearly suggests otherwise. It is possible that Tut and his wife were able to buy the farm in the last years of his life.

Also buried at the Mt. Zion AME Church Cemetery is Joe B. Thompson (1866-1947), possibly the same "Uncle Joe" that Anita mentions who was married to Anita's grandmother's aunt. Mr. Thompson owned a farm in the Bend of the River from at least 1900 to 1940, probably until his death. He is one of many in the local community who helped make this church and community what it has been for more than 100 years. The cemetery is still in use and includes other local surnames such as Boddie, Pride, Rice, Simpson, Smith, Todd, and Vaughn.

276276	Parker Betsy	B M 48		1	Home		11 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	16
	Catherine	B 7 30	Wife	1	Keeping Home		11	Ala	Ala	Ala	17
	Miss	B 7 15	Son	1	Work on Farm		1.11 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	18
	Martha	B 7 11	Daughter	1	Work on Farm		11	Ala	Ala	Ala	19
	Nelson	B 7 10	Son	1	Work on Farm		11 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	20
	Hannah	B 7 7	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	21
	Mary A.	B 7 5	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	22
	Margaret	B 7 4	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	23
	Lula	B 7 3	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	24
	Anthony	B M 2	Son	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	25

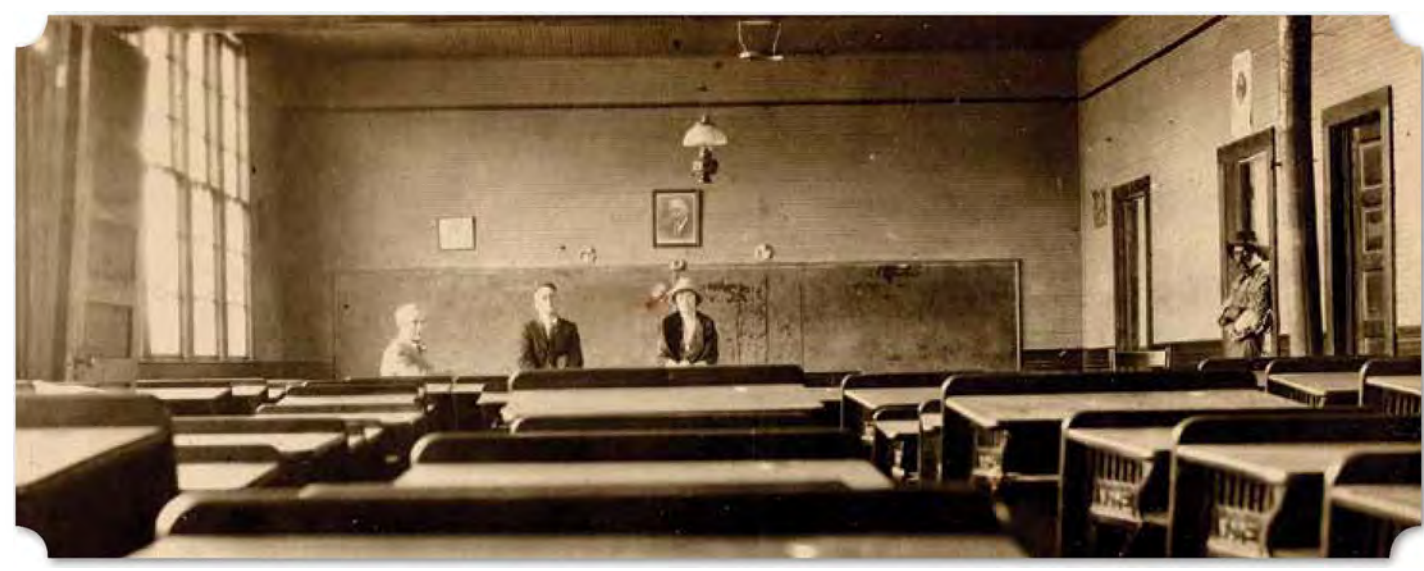
89	103	111	Thompson Joe B.	Head	0												
90			- Harry	Wife	4		1 1 1 5 8	M 43	Ala	Ala	Ala						
91			- Joe J.	Son	1		1 1 1 1 4 5	M 14	Ala	Ala	Ala						

**(Top)** Excerpt of 1880 Census Record Recording the Parker Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Above)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Joe B. Thompson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

The Mt. Zion School was at the church from 1918 to 1968. On the 1924 USGS topographic map, the church and school are indicated, and the "Mt. Zion School" is labeled. Mt. Zion School was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County. It was a two-room school built by the Tuskegee Institute. It cost a total

of \$1,500 to construct with \$550 raised by the local African American community, \$500 from public funds, and \$500 from the Rosenwald Fund. It can be confused for another school also named Mt. Zion north-northeast of Florence along Butler Creek and Mt. Zion roads.

**(Left)** Photograph of Mt. Zion School, Interior, Circa. 1918 (Fisk University-Rosenwald Foundation **(Right)** Photograph of the First Grade Class at Mt. Zion School, 1950 (Florence African American Heritage Project via Facebook.com)



# 23

## New Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church, Cemetery, and School\*

The New Pisgah AME Church is located at the intersection of Cloverdale Road and Lauderdale County Road 6, about eight miles north of Florence. This location was previously used for a church and cemetery for the white community, but sometime in the late 19th century, the communities traded the land. According to the Alabama Historical Atlas, the church was organized about 1878, when many AME churches were organized in Northwest Alabama. The church has a cemetery and has had a school in the past. An unlabeled school appears in the location of New Pisgah School on the 1914 USGS topographic map. The 1936 topographic map labels Pisgah School next to a cemetery, suggesting that the school was held in the church. The school is no longer indicated on maps by the 1950s.



(Above) 1952 USGS Topographic Map of Pisgah Cemetery and Cemetery, Blackburn, Alabama Quadrangle

The cemetery has only 14 marked graves and an unknown number of unmarked graves. The surnames here include: Gresham, Littleton, McVay, Powers, Westmoreland, Wood, Woods. The earliest marked burial is that of Ida Powers (1855-1889). Among those interred here are Alex Gresham (1883-1970) and wife, Julia (1878-1964), who owned a farm off of Cloverdale Road in 1940.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Pisgah School and Cemetery, Blackburn, Alabama Quadrangle

(Below) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Alex Gresham Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

66	850	6	ya	Bohman	Albama	birth	18	10	11	2	Alabama	landowner	154	farmer	farmer	52	0	40	66
67				Julia	Albama	wife	18	10	11	6	Alabama	landowner				0	0	21	67
68				William	Albama	son	18	10	11	6	Alabama	landowner				0	0	21	68

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

# 25

## Oakland

Oakland is known as a historically African American community, like much of the “Bend in the River” of western Lauderdale County. Located a little further inland from the river, Oakland fared better than the communities of Woodland and Smithsonia to the south. Oakland had a relatively high population of African American households and landowning farmers in the early 20th century: the community was 60% African American in 1900, with 39 African American landowning farmers. Several families owned more than one farm, including the Armsteads, who owned four farms; Simpsons and Peters, who owned three farms; and the Andersons, Jones, Weems, Vaughans, Jacksons, Kernachans, Andrews, and Duncans, who each owned two farms. The Anderson family had the most farms in Oakland with six members owning farms.

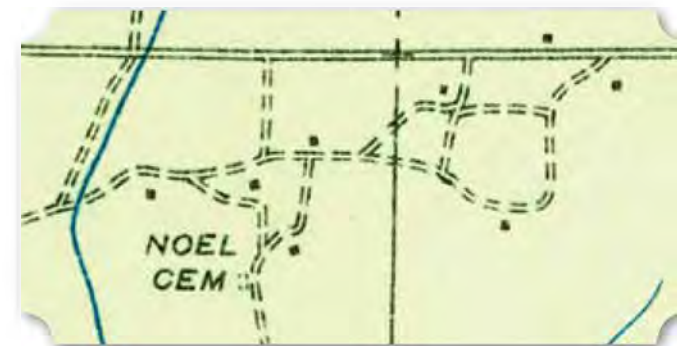
Over the early 20th century, Oakland displays a trend of high retention of farm ownership, with many of the farms owned by the same person through each decade. In 1910, more than half of the 24 African American-owned farms were owned by the same person the previous decade. Over a third of the African American-owned farms in 1920 were under the same ownership in 1910, and seven of those had been owned by the same person since 1900. The 1930 census displays a similar trend: nearly half of the farms were previously owned, eight of which were owned since 1910 and three since 1900.

As the overall population of Oakland grew, the African American population dropped to 46% in 1910, where it remained through 1930. The community began to decline by 1940 when many families moved into the city, particularly the Canaan neighborhood of

John Westley Turnley (1861-1919) is among those few buried here. He was the great-grandfather of Ms. Anita Cobb, who gave an oral history of her family and the Mt. Zion AME Church to the Florence African American Heritage Project in 2017. Ms. Anita identified Mr. Turnley as one of the five founders of the Mt. Zion AME Church. Turnley had been born a slave in 1861 but was known to be very light skinned. John Turnley owned land in the Bend of the River and donated some for the Mt. Zion Church. He also helped build the church itself. In 1900, he was living with his brother-in-law, Joseph B. Thompson. He is probably the “J.B. Thompson” who wrote Turnley’s obituary published in the Florence Times.

“When people see pictures of him [John Turnley]... they ask, ‘who’s the white man?’ and when I say ‘that’s my great-grandfather,’ they look at me like ‘what?’”

– Ms. Anita Cobb



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Noel Cemetery, Sinking Creek, Alabama Quadrangle

southwest Florence. The number of landowners declined from 34 to 21 African American-owned farms, and the overall number of households

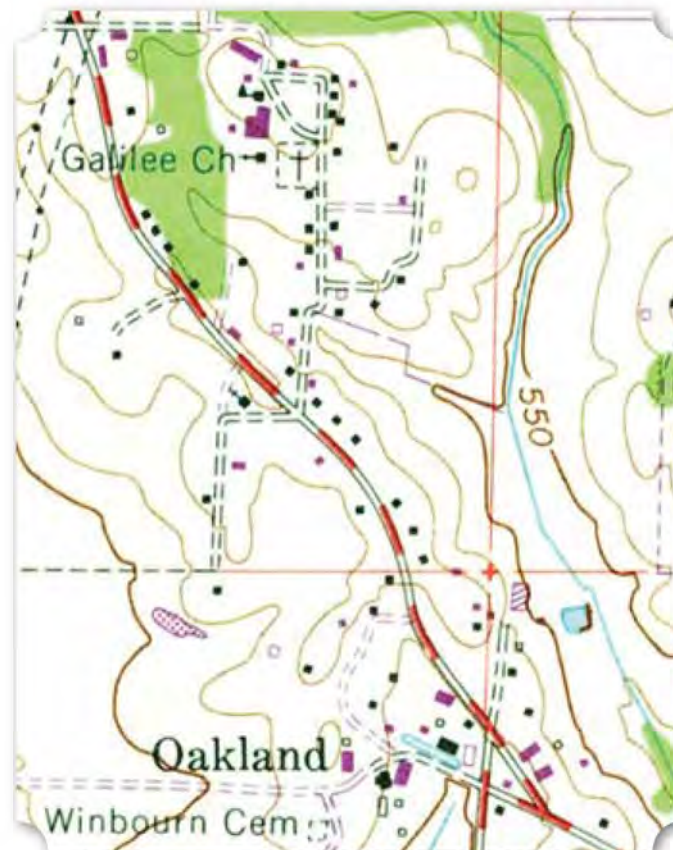
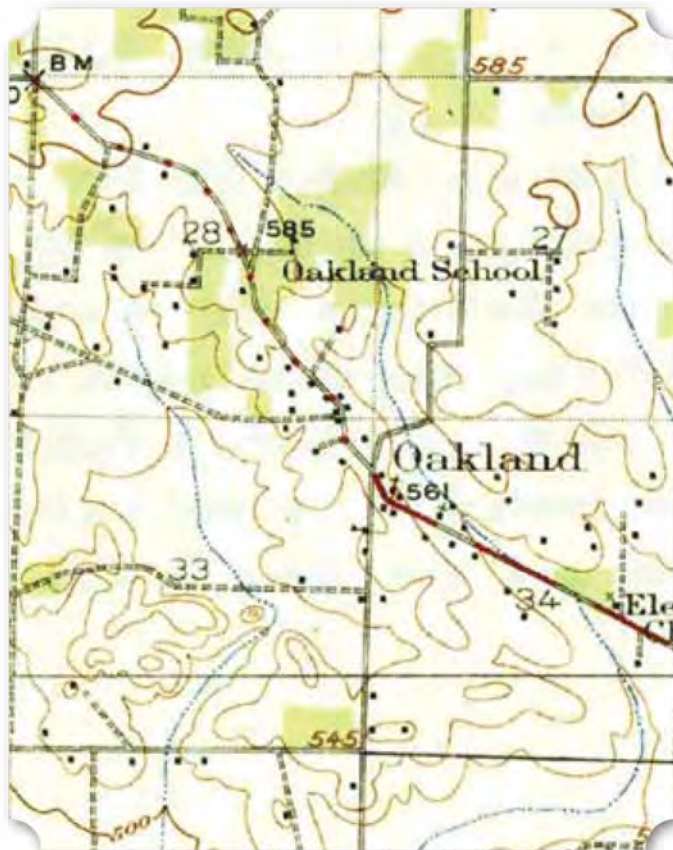
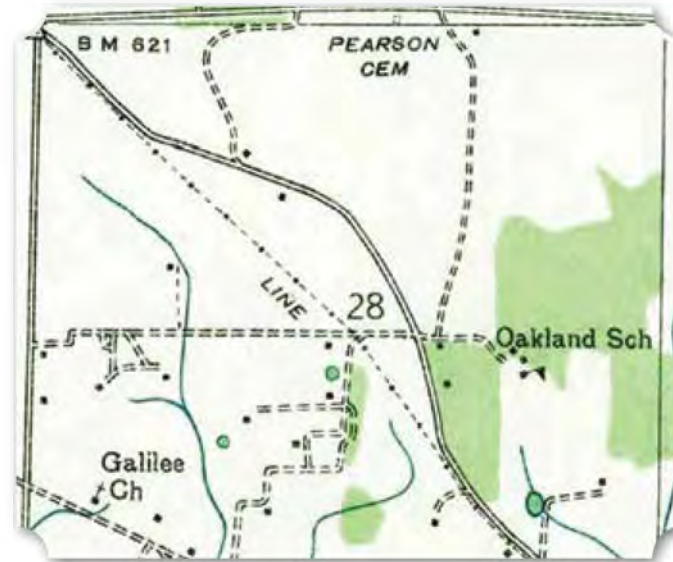
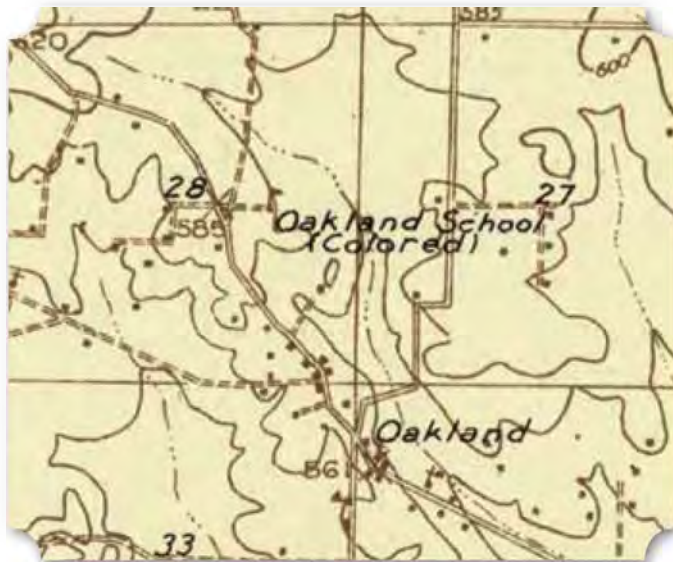
of color in Oakland declined to 37%. Still, this was over one-third of the total population and a sizable community.

It appears that long-term landownership may have played a role in determining whether to stay on the farm or join the movement of families to the suburbs of Canaan. Of the 21 farms, 15 were owned by the same person in 1930; four of those farmers had owned their farm since at least 1910. It appears that those who had decades invested in their farm had

either fared better or were more reluctant to leave rural Oakland.

**(Below)** 1924 USGS Topographic Map of Oakland School, Gravelly Spring, Alabama Quadrangle **(Bottom)** 1926 USGS Topographic Map of Oakland School, Gravelly Spring, Alabama Quadrangle

**(Below)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Oakland School, Sinking Creek Alabama Quadrangle **(Bottom)** 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Galilee Church, Sinking Creek Alabama Quadrangle



**(Top)** Aerial Photograph of Oakland School, 1958 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) **(Above)** Aerial Photograph of Oakland School, 1962 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

In an oral history interview with the Florence African American Heritage Project in 2017, Ms. Anita Cobb mentions that Ms. Sallie Koger “owned a large part of the Oakland community, where the black community lives in Oakland.” Ms. Koger does not appear in the census records from 1900 to 1940, but she may have lived in the area before then or her name might be misspelled. Ms. Cobb remembers that Ms. Koger was a member of the Mt. Zion AME Church and had no children.

The Oakland School was located north of Waterloo Road off Peerless Drive and County Road 243. It was built before 1924 when it appears on a USGS topographic map as “Oakland School (colored).” The school is still noted on the 1972 map, but it most likely closed due to integration.

Nearby was the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. According to the Alabama Historic Atlas, this was “a black church established after 1892.” In the early 20th century, the church was located off County Road 81. It appears on the 1924 topographic map but is not labeled. By 1972, Galilee Church had moved adjacent to Oakland School, and a large cemetery is marked to the east. The church burned sometime around 2010, leaving only the cemetery.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery has over 250 graves. The first known interment is Louis Peters, who died in 1937, which suggests that the cemetery was established before the church moved to this location. Common surnames here include: Baugh, Gilbert, Jackson, Johnson, Noel, Parker, Scott, Thompson, and Walker. Some local African American landowners are laid to rest here as well. Robert Anderson (1883-1975) owned a farm in Oakland from at least 1920 to 1940; Tom Baker (1872-1949) and Bamma Bryant (1867-1949) owned farms from at least 1930 to 1940; and George W. Carroll (1871-1947) owned in 1940. Ms. Bryant’s memorial states: “Founder, organizer, and president of the charitable burial society at rest.”

36	250	200 yrs	Carroll George	Head	M	neg	70	M	no	2	Alabama	same home					40	farmer	farmer	09000	440	50	yrs	
37			Jessie	Wife	F	neg	58	M	no	2	Alabama	same home												
38			Laura	Daughter	F	neg	36	S	no	3	Alabama	same home												
39			Pool	Son	M	neg	14	S	no	4	Alabama	same home												
40			Fattie	Son	M	neg	10	S	no	2	Alabama	same home												

22	3M 95	95	Anderson Robert L.	Head	O	W	18	32	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farmer	farmer	owned farm	09-17
23			Millie	Wife	F	W	13	28	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		
24			Anna B.	Daughter	F	W	13	7 1/2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		
25			Lucie	Daughter	F	W	13	5 1/2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		
26			Lucien	Son	M	W	13	2 1/2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none	owned farm	09-17

12	250	250	Bama Hanna	Head	O	W	18	29	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farmer	farmer	owned farm	11-11	
13			Roxie	Wife	F	W	18	18	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		
14			William Collins F.	Daughter	F	W	6	8	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		

68	250	250	Bryant Bama	Head	O	W	18	29	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	farmer	farmer	owned farm	11-11	
69			Bama Laura	Wife	F	W	18	18	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		
70			James Lula	Daughter	F	W	18	18	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none	none		

(Top) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing George Carroll Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Second) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Robert Anderson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Third) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Tom Baker Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Fourth) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Bama Bryant Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

cemetery only has about 18 graves, and the earliest known interment is Daisy Posey (1884-1884). There are only six surnames in the cemetery: Bulls, Edwards, Hough, Johnson, Posey, and Watts.

Also known as Huff or Huff-Posey Cemetery, the Huff name is recorded on the 1953 USGS topographic map and is most likely a misspelling of Hough. This error continued on the topographic maps, but locally, the cemetery is known as Posey Cemetery. Nine members of the Posey family rest here, and most are the children of Charlie Posey, Jr. (1851-1934) and Kate Posey (1852-1942). It is not known whether they were born slaves, but it is likely. By 1900, Charlie and Kate owned a farm in east Florence. The 1900 census records the farm as paid in full, with five of the eight children in their household working on the family



(Right) Charlie Posey's Grave Memorial (Findagrave.com, User John Church)

farm. The 1910 census shows Mr. Posey living among several other African American landowning farmers. While the 1920 census records the Posey's ownership status as "unknown," they likely continued to own their farm. In 1930, the road they live on is recorded as Hough Road, just west of the cemetery.

Mr. Posey passed away in 1937, and the 1940 census records an 88-year-old Kate Posey as owner of the farm. She lived next door to Lewellen Hough (1869-1941), also buried in the Posey Cemetery. Further research may reveal that Posey Cemetery is located on Charlie Posey's land and that some of those buried here were renters on his land.

(Opposite Page) (Top) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Charlie and Kate Posey Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Middle) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Charlie and Kate Posey Owning a Farm among Other African American Landowners (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Charlie and Kate Posey Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

## 26 Posey Cemetery

The Posey Cemetery is located in a grove of trees surrounded on three sides by an automobile junk yard off Middle Road at the end of Hough Road. The small

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



93		Wittle	Son	10/14 Oct 1891	8	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			yes	yes	yes	yes							93
94	135	136	Posey Phas g	Head	B M	Sept 1852	48	M	31	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee	0-5-4	yes	yes	yes	yes	0	4	5	115	94	
95			Katie	wife	B F	Apr 1852	48	F	21	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia		yes	yes	yes							95
96			Louis	Son	B M	Dec 1879	20	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes							96
97			Calstan C.	Son	B M	Sept 1882	17	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes							97
98			Bessie	Daughter	B F	Jan 1885	14	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes							98
99			Silvius	Daughter	B F	Aug 1887	12	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes							99
100			Elle M.	Daughter	B F	Mar 1889	11	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		yes	yes	yes							100

62	63	Posey John	Head	M B	28	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	General Farm	W	no	yes	yes							
		Jenna	Sister	F B	35	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Teacher	Common School	W	no	yes	yes							
		Callie	Sister	F B	31	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes							
		James	Brother	M B	30	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	General farm	W	no	yes	yes							
		Ella	Wife	F B	21	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	washer	at home	W	no	yes	yes							
63	64	Posey Charles	Head	M B	08	MI	31	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	General farm	W	no	yes	yes							
		Kate	wife	F B	08	MI	31	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	English	none				yes	yes							
		Louis	Son	M B	30	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Porter	Hotel	W	no	yes	yes							
		Bessie A.	Daughter	F B	23	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Seamstress	Sailor ship	W		yes	yes							
		Sylvia S.	Daughter	F B	22	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes	yes						
		Ella M.	Daughter	F B	20	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes	yes						
		John	Daughter	F B	19	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes	yes						
		Murdock	Son	M B	16	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Clara R.	Daughter	F B	14	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes	yes						
64	65	Martin Ed.	Head	M B	37	MI	13	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	General farm	W	no	yes	yes							
		Anne C.	wife	F B	34	MI	13	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes							
		Thomas B.	Son	M B	11	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Ellis M.	Son	M B	10	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Emmett L.	Son	M B	8	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		John H.	Son	M B	6	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		Minnie E.	Daughter	F B	6	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		George W.	Son	M B	8	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		Annie M.	Daughter	F B	5	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		Willie E.	Son	M B	2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
65	66	Smith Charles	Head	M B	46	MI	24	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Farmer	General farm	W	no	yes	yes							
		Sarinta B.	wife	F B	42	MI	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none				yes	yes							
		James W.	Son	M B	19	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Clara B.	Son	M B	17	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Fred F.	Son	M B	14	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		Samuel C.	Son	M B	11	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama	English	Farm laborer	Home farm	W	no	yes	yes	yes						
		William M.	Son	M B	9	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						
		Romer Q.	Son	M B	6	S		Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama						yes	yes	yes						

47	172	176	Posey Charles	Head	M B	78	M	28	MI	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee	yes	Farmer	General Farm	W	yes						
48			Kate	wife	F B	77	M	27	MI	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	yes	none									

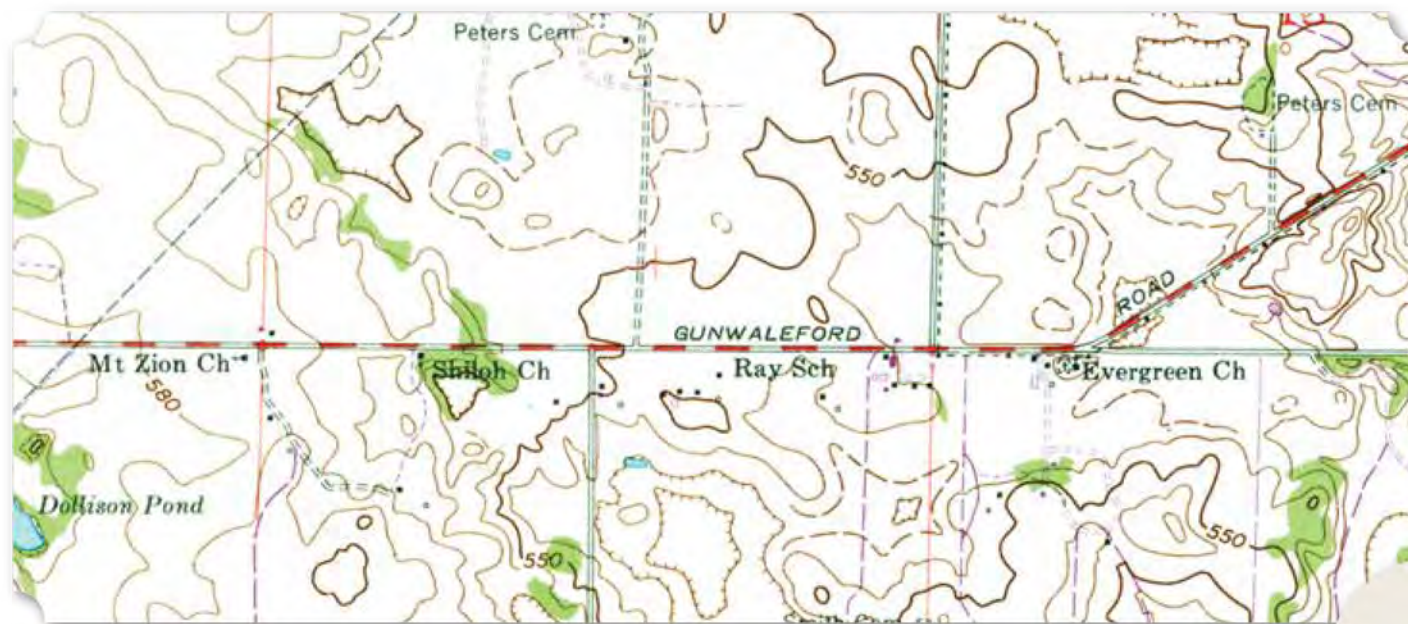
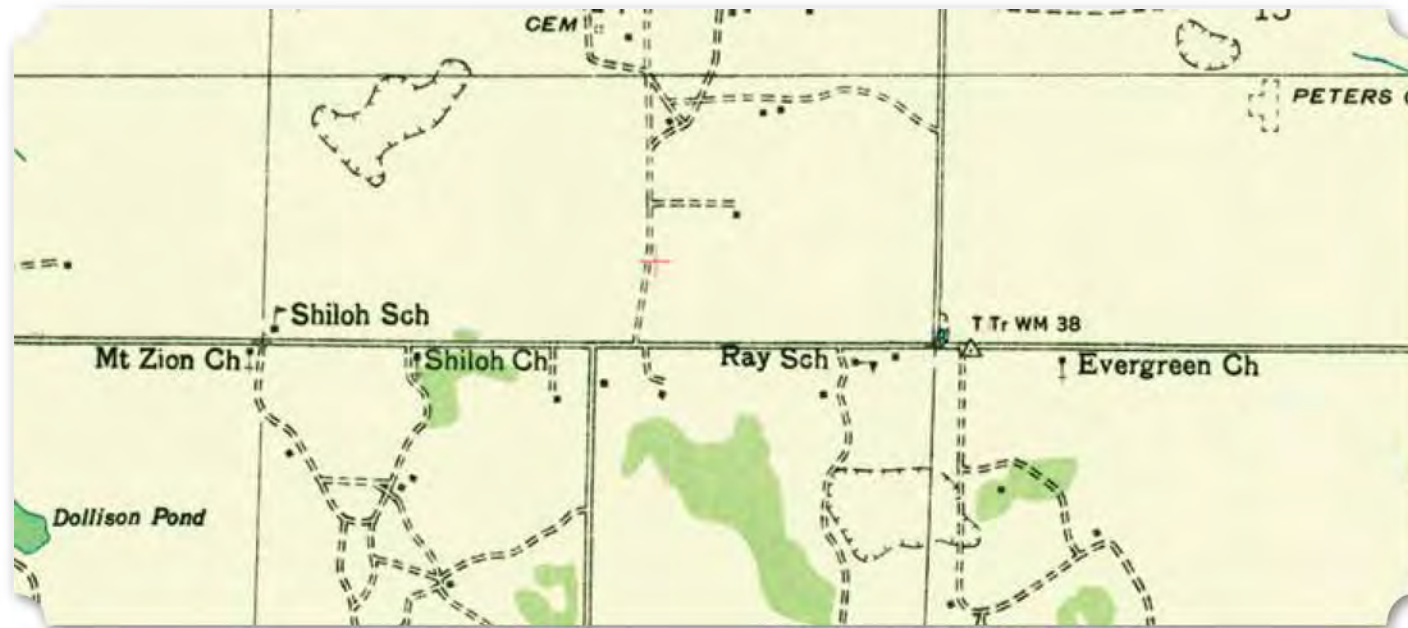
# 27

## Shiloh School (Rosenwald)\*

The Shiloh School was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Lauderdale County. According to the Fisk-Rosenwald files, the school was a one-teacher, one-room schoolhouse built in 1927. It cost a total of \$1,800 to construct. The African American community donated \$1,150, the majority of the funds. The county provided \$450, and the Rosenwald Fund gave \$200.

The building was insured for \$1,312. The school was located in the "Bend of the River" on the north side of Lauderdale County Road 2. The USGS topographic map is missing for the 1930s, but on the 1954 map, Shiloh School is located across the road from Mt. Zion Church, known today as Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church. The school was closed by the 1970s.

**(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Shiloh School, Sinking Creek Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom) 1972 USGS Topographic Map of Shiloh Church, Sinking Creek Alabama Quadrangle**



### KEY

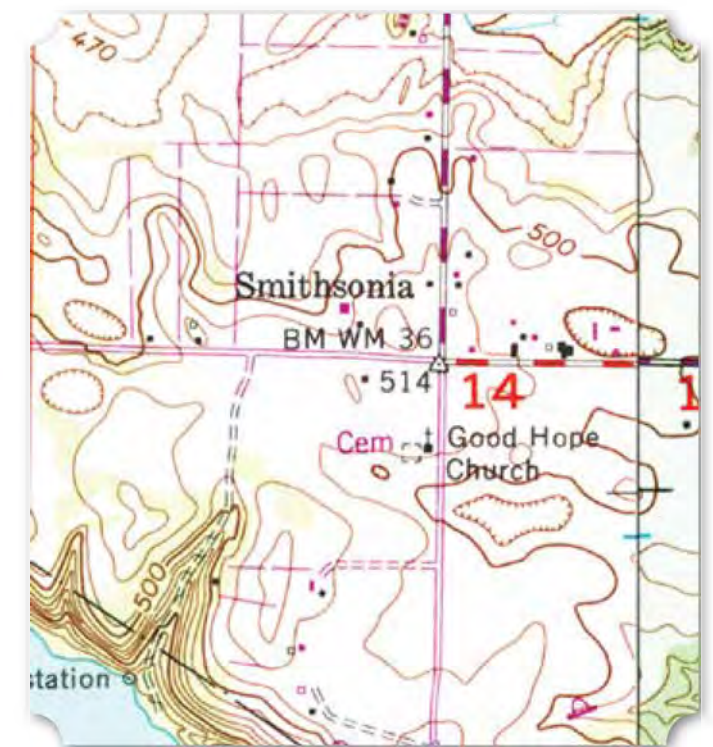
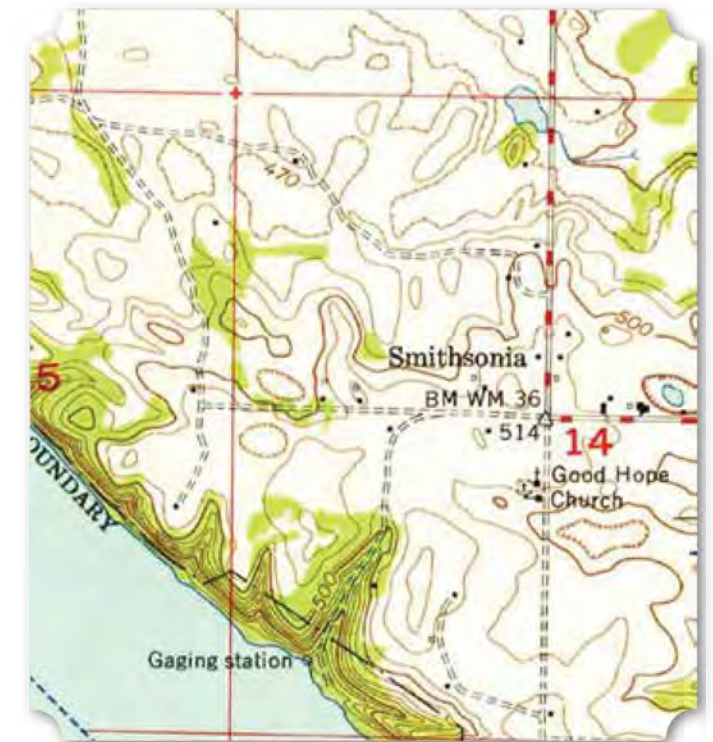
- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

# 28

## Smithsonia

Though the small community of Smithsonia is not significant for its population of landowners, it is located on the Tennessee River on the far west side of the "Bend in the River" and is part of the larger community including Woodland and Oakland. The majority of the African American community was located in the census district of Cave Springs in 1900 and 1910, changing to Smithsonia in 1920. The 1900 census records the area as 80% African American. Even as its population declined over the early 20th century, the area remained largely African American throughout, dropping only to 70% in the 1940s. Still, there were never more than four African American landowning farmers between 1900 and 1940. Jack Reed and J.B. Thompson both owned farms in 1900. J.B. Thompson was the only landowning farmer in

**(Bottom Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Smithsonia, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles (Below) 1954 USGS Topographic Map of Smithsonia, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles (Bottom) 1988 USGS Topographic Map of Smithsonia, Sinking Creek and Cherokee, Alabama Quadrangles**



38		Mary	Daughter	7 13 12 3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	General Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
39		Rowell Wootson	Head	7 13 55 7 13 30	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	farming	General Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
40		Bettie	Wife	7 Mar 53 7 13 30 9 9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
41		Ida	Daughter	7 Mar 20 8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	farmlaborer	Home Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
42		Fred	Son	7 Mar 19 8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	farmlaborer	Home Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
43		Marie	Daughter	7 Mar 18 8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	farmlaborer	Home Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
44		Wootson Jr	Son	7 Mar 13 8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	farmlaborer	Home Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
45		Ruth Elvira	Daughter	7 Mar 12 8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

(Above) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Wootson Rowell Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

1910 and had to rent in 1920, when there were no landowning farmers in the area. He was able to regain ownership by 1930, along with three other landowning farmers: Ike and George Armstead and Bud Reeder. There were four landowning farmers in 1940 as well: Ike and Isaac Armstead, St. John Agnes, and Thomas Perkins.

The community of Woodland was also majority African American and just to the east of Smithsonia. It had its own census district but was not centered on a town like Oakland or Smithsonia. There were more landowning farmers in Woodland than Smithsonia, but not as many as in Oakland in the early 20th century. 66% of Woodland households were of color in 1900, with eight landowning farmers: Ottoway Noel, Woodson Rowell, Ellen Turner, Matilda Chandler, Lucy Reeder, Dick Humes, Gus Smith, and John Martin. Though the overall population declined in 1910, the number of households of color increased

and there were eight landowning farmers: Noel, Rowell, Humes, Armstead, and four members of the Martin family: John Martin, Sr., John Martin, Jr., and Seedie and Washington Martin. All the Martins lived on the same road in close proximity. By 1920, a dozen farmers of color owned their land. Noel, Armstead, and Washington and Seedie Martin continued to own farms along with Fred and Bettie Rowell, Allen Fox, Amos Turner, Edward and Susie Anderson, Tom Martin, and Thomas Perkins.

After 1920, the community of Woodland began to decline rapidly. In 1930, only four farmers owned their land: Washington Martin, Ned Jones, Wesley Williams, and Isaac Armstead. Washington Martin owned his farm from at least 1910 to 1930, and Isaac Armstead appears to own a farm in Smithsonia in 1940. But there are no African American farming landowners in Woodland by 1940. Although the district's population was over 50% households of color, not one of them

owned a farm. This may be due to the same decline experienced in Oakland when families moved to the Canaan neighborhood of Florence. The proximity of the river also meant that many families were displaced when the TVA dammed the river, affecting the poorest landowners at the bottom of the "Bend in the River."

Smithsonia Church of Christ & Cemetery is located on the south side of Gunwaleford Road just east of Smithsonia. The church does not appear on any historical maps; it is first labeled on the 1988 USGS topographic map. However, the cemetery associated with the church has burials dating to the 1910s and 1960s. The first burial is that of Wootson Rowell (1856-1915), who owned a farm in 1900 and 1910 and passed it on to his son, Fred, who owned it in 1920. However, this burial could be isolated. The rest of the graves date to the 1960s to the present. The majority of burial dates and the maps indicate that

the church may date to about 1960. Beasley, Johnson, and Thompson are common surnames here.

According to the Alabama Historical Atlas, the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church was established in the 1890s. The church appears unlabeled on the 1924 USGS topographic map. The church and its cemetery are located to the south and east of the intersection of Gunwaleford Road and Lauderdale County Road 205. There are more than 110 graves here, the first

(Below) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Isaac Armstead Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(Bottom) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing George Armstead Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

30		Isaac Armstead	Head	7 13 22 10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	General Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
31		Anna	Wife	7 13 24 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
32		Ida	Daughter	7 13 23 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
33		Turner	Son	7 13 24 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
34		Lawrence	Son	7 13 23 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
35		Margaret	Mother	7 13 20 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

42		George Armstead	Head	7 13 22 10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none	General Farm	PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
43		Belle	Wife	7 13 22 10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
44		Theresa	Daughter	7 13 20 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
45		Edwin	Son	7 13 19 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
46		J. J.	Son	7 13 18 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
47		Florence	Daughter	7 13 15 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
48		Melba	Daughter	7 13 6 18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none		PK	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

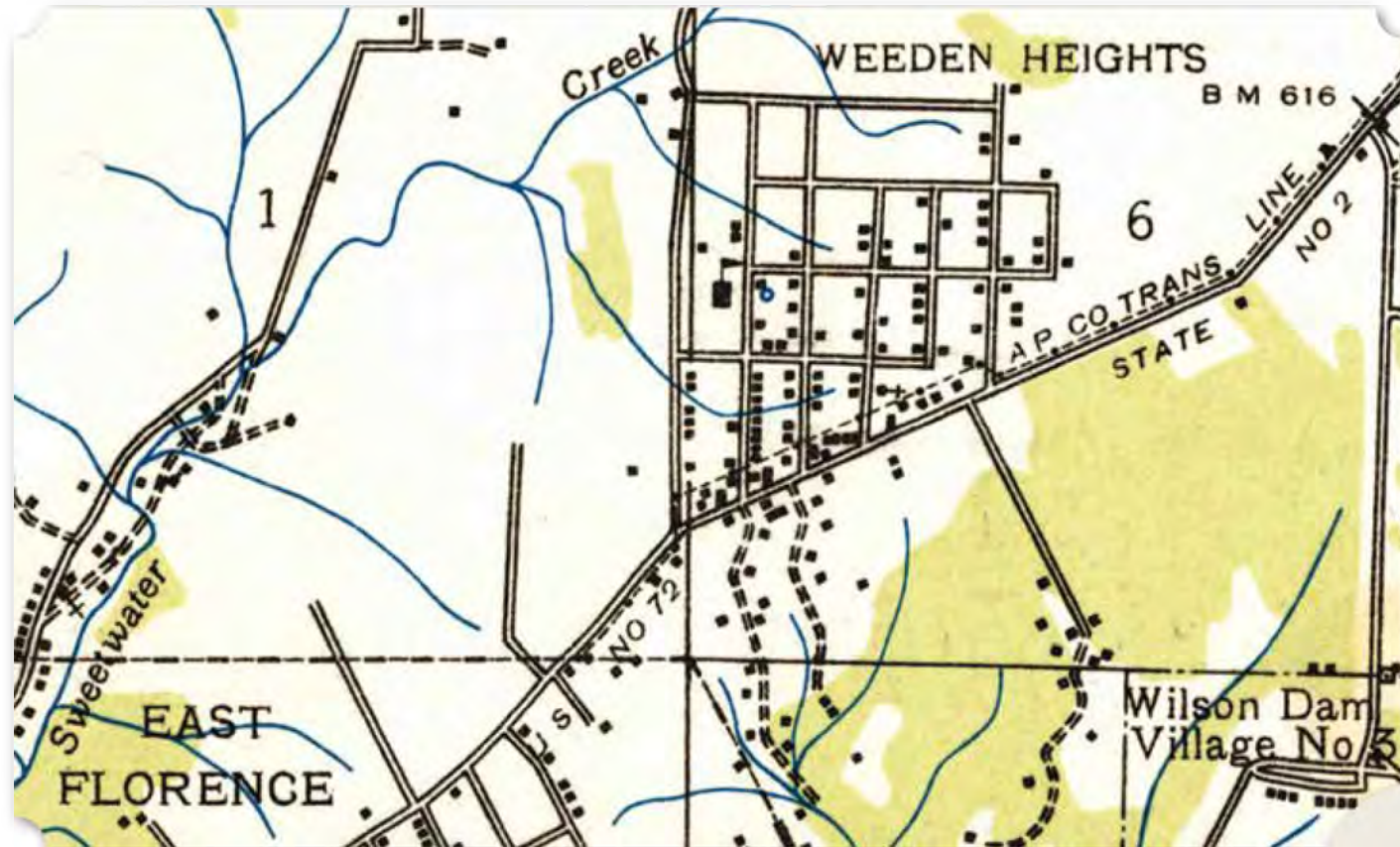
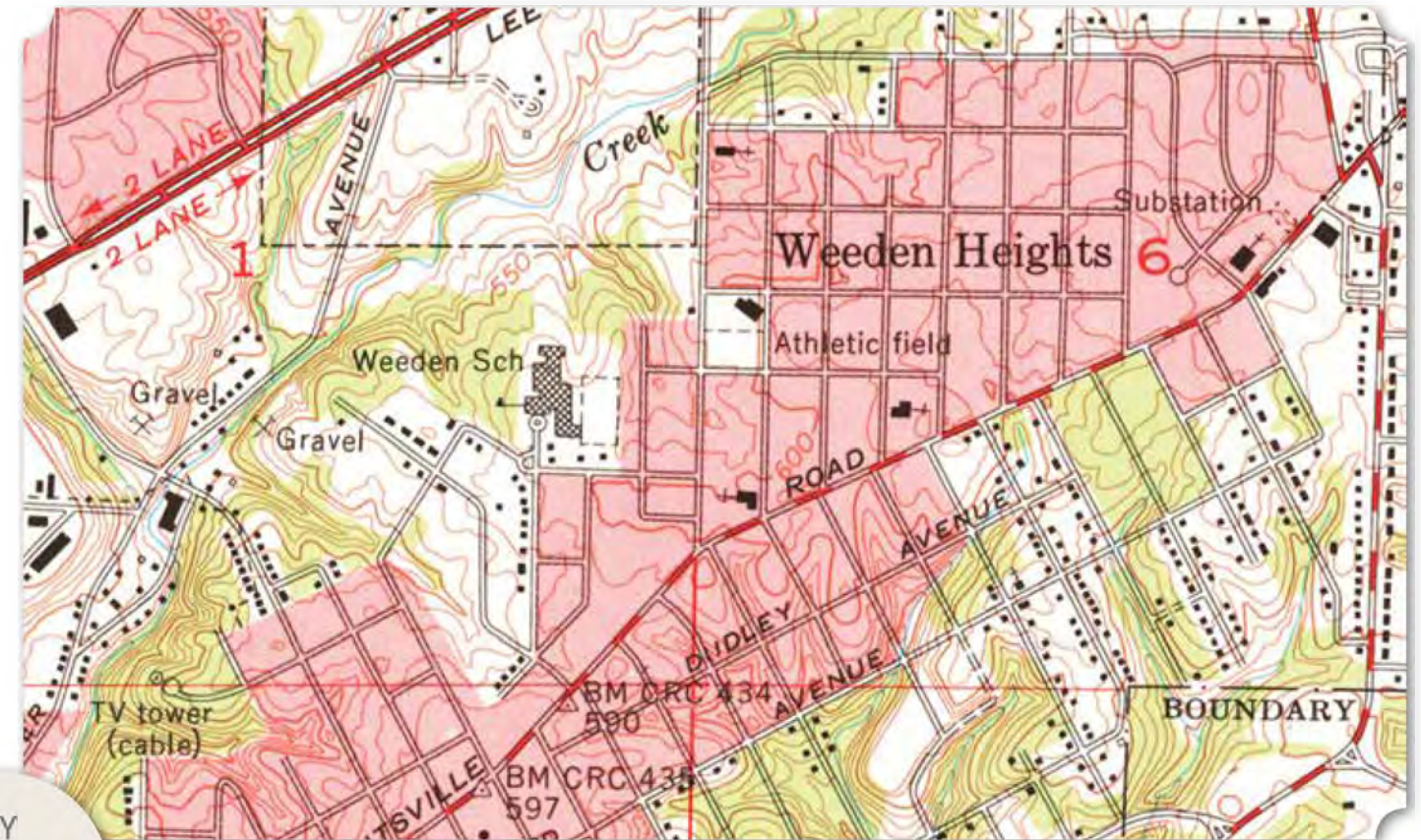
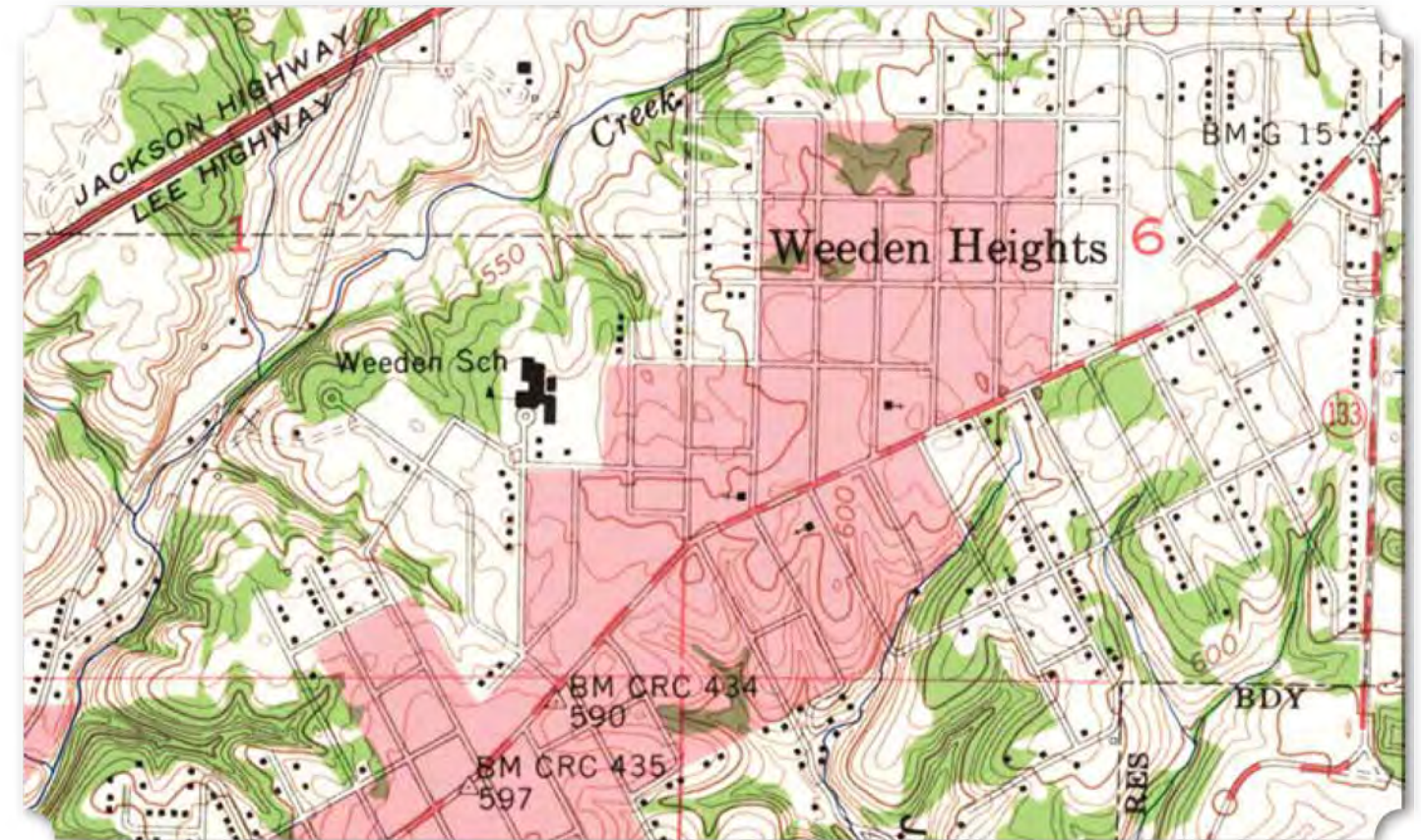
known burial is that of Emma Duckett Brewer (1899-1911). Although the cemetery is not marked on the 1935 USGS topographic map, the map does label "Good Hope Church." Two of the landowning farmers in Smithsonia in the early 20th century are buried here: Isaac Armstead, Sr. (1877-1978), who owned a farm in Smithsonia from at least 1930 to 1940, and George Armstead (1870-1948), possibly Isaac's brother, who also owned a farm in 1930.

A school was associated with the church from sometime after 1936 to sometime before 1968. The 1954 topographic map labels Good Hope Church with a symbol for a cemetery to the west and a school to the south. The revised map from 1968 has the school crossed out. Another school in the area was Smithsonia School, which was located north of Good Hope MB Church on County Road 189. The school was labeled on the 1924 USGS topographic map when the Good Hope School was not yet established. It appears that the Good Hope School opened after the Smithsonia School closed.

## 29 Sweetwater Plantation

Sweetwater Plantation was owned by General John Brahan, a veteran of the war of 1812. The house was designed by Brahan and built in 1834 on what was then the outskirts of Florence. Braham owned more than 4,000 acres in eastern Lauderdale County but he did not live here. His son-in-law, Robert Miller Patton, a future Governor of Alabama would move into the manor and finish it in 1835. Patton is believed to have operated the first cotton gins in Alabama and founded the Bell Cotton Factory, an early textile mill.

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Weeden Heights and Sweetwater Plantation, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Right) 1957 USGS Topographic Map of Weeden Heights and Sweetwater Plantation, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Right) 1971 USGS Topographic Map of Weeden Heights and Sweetwater Plantation, Florence, Alabama Quadrangle



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

The eight-room manor was built by slaves who made the bricks in the Sweetwater Creek nearby. The house still stands and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Over the past decades, the plantation grounds around the house have been divided up into subdivisions. Weedon Heights was one of the first, dating to the early 20th century. The neighborhood is named for John D. Weeden, Jr., the grandson of Robert Patton. When the neighborhood was developed, 23 small slave cabins from the old Sweetwater Plantation, known as the “slave village,” were still standing, just north of present-day Broadway Recreation Center and facing a community square. There is also supposed to be a slave cemetery nearby, possibly in the woods between the mansion and the neighborhood. Weeden Heights is mapped on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, but the slave cabins or houses in their configuration do not appear to be a part of subdivision.

The historical marker for Weeden Heights states that the Patton family gifted a 25-acre farm to a former slave named Edmund Patton in 1871 “in consideration of his faithfulness and fidelity.” A man

(Above) A Hand-Colored Postcard of Sweetwater Mansion (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Robert Whitten)



## 30 ■ ■ Wilson Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery

The cemetery known as Wilson Family Cemetery is located northwest of Florence in the center of a triangle created by Old Jackson Highway, Gresham Road, and Middle Road. Today, it is in the southwest corner of a new neighborhood and golf course. In the early 19th century, this land was part

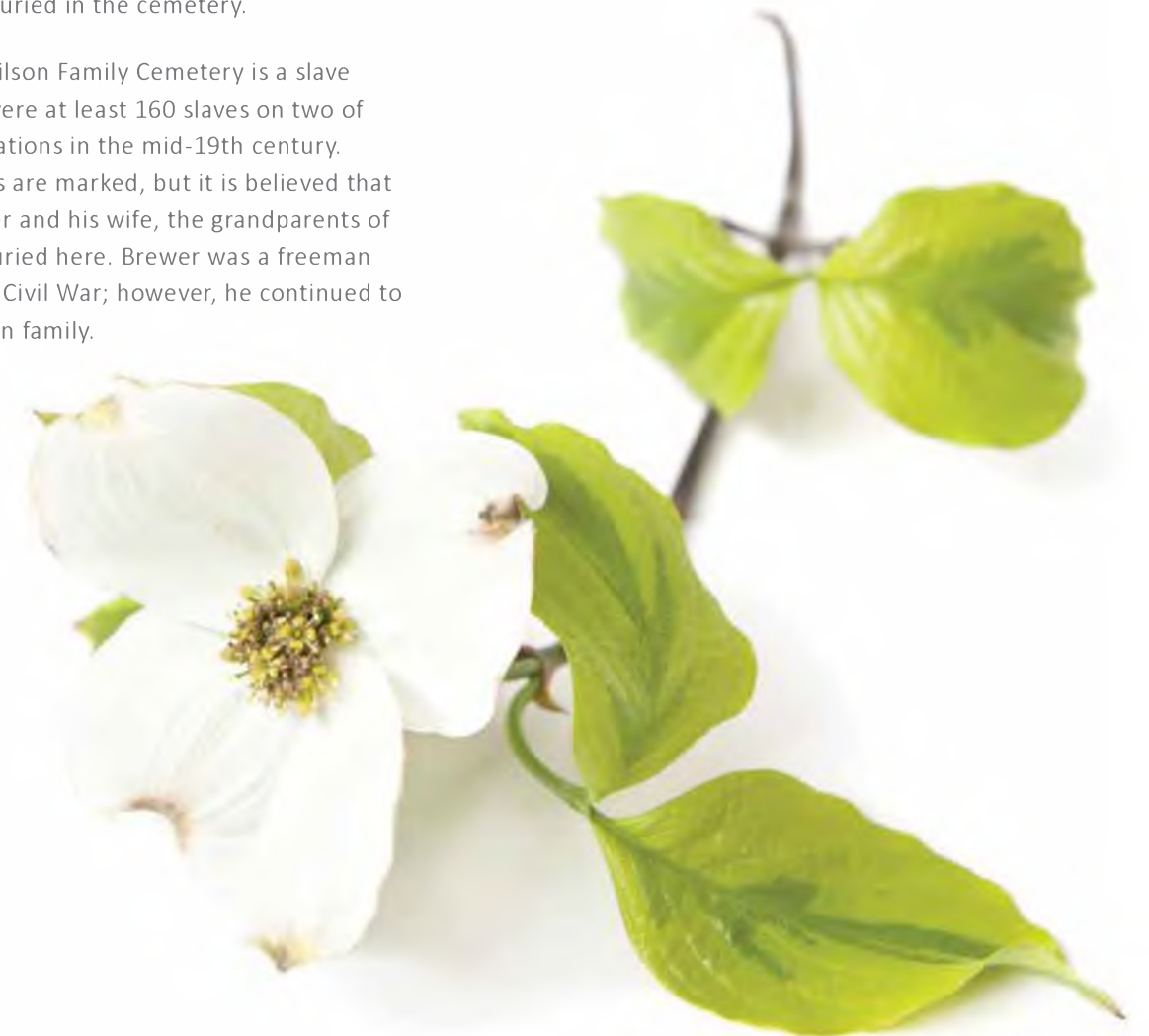
THE NAME	TREES		ACRES OF LAND				FARM VALUES			FENCES		LABOR				GRASS LANDS														
	Owner	Beds for (Kiln) money (value)	IMPROVED		UNIMPROVED		Of corn, including land, fences, and buildings	Of farming implements and machinery	Of live stock	Cut of building and repairing to 1878	Cut of fertilizer purchased in 1878	Amount paid for farm labor during 1878, including value of board	Weeks hired labor in 1878 upon farm (and dairy) excluding home-work	Estimated value of all farm productions (cotton, corn, etc.) as based for 1878	COWS		HORSES		MAY 1878		NOVEMBER 1878		Horses of all ages on hand June 1, 1878	Mules and Amos, all ages, on hand June 1, 1878						
			No.	Acres	No.	Acres									No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres			No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
1 Patton Pa Gov R M	1		100	30	50	250	4000	250	500	100		500	52	52	250	25	20	3					6	1						
2 Wilson			45	45	20		500	10	100						340															
3 Wilson			25	25	20		400	6	70						31															
4 Wilson			23	23	20		380	20	114						140															
5 Key John			35		20		425	25	129						220															
6																														
7 Wmington William	1		40		20	10	1000	25	109						300															
8																														
9 Patton Edmund	1		20	1	2	4	250	30	36			9		6	125															

(Above) 1880 Agricultural Census Showing Edmund Patton's Land Use and Ownership (National archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

named Edmund Patton is enumerated on the 1870 census as a 45-year-old black man living and farming in the Florence area with his wife, Francis. The 1880 agricultural census lists an Edmund Patton owning 21 improved acres and 6 unimproved acres. He grew corn, oats, wheat, cotton, potatoes, apples, and peaches, and had cattle and chickens.

of the plantations owned by John, Matthew, and Samuel Wilson, brothers from Virginia who came to Lauderdale in 1818. The brothers and other members of the family are buried in the cemetery.

Adjacent to the Wilson Family Cemetery is a slave cemetery. There were at least 160 slaves on two of the Wilson's plantations in the mid-19th century. None of the graves are marked, but it is believed that Christopher Brewer and his wife, the grandparents of W.C. Handy, are buried here. Brewer was a freeman by the time of the Civil War; however, he continued to work for the Wilson family.



# HISTORICAL AFRICAN AMERICAN THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## 3. The Bulls Family

The history of the Bulls family is a prime example of the effect landownership can have on multiple generations. John Thomas Bulls, Jr. (1914-2002) is a celebrated figure in Florence and for good reason. Bulls, his wife (who was a Turnley), and their families were some of the most successful African American landowning farming families in Lauderdale County. From slavery to doctorates, the Bulls - and the Turnleys - used agriculture to build a better future for the next generation.

John, Jr.'s grandfather, George Bulls (c. 1850-1931), was most likely born the slave of Dempsey D. Bulls. D.D. Bulls owned nine slaves in 1860 including a

woman about George's mother's age and two young boys who may have been George and his brother, Anthony. In 1870, George was living with his mother, Mary, and siblings in Center Star, a community in eastern Lauderdale County south of Bailey's Springs. By 1900, George was married to Kate (1870-1961) and owned a farm in Center Star, east of Florence, between Killen and Rogersville. One of their sons was John T. Bulls, Sr. (1891-1980). John, Sr. grew up on his parents' farm, which they owned from at least 1900 to 1930, probably 1931 when George Bulls passed away.

By 1920, John, Sr. was married to Bazola Brooks Bulls (1880-1978) and owned his own farm in Center Star. The following decade's census records show George

Bulls and sons John and William all owning farms in Center Star. Perhaps George left his land to another son upon his death. By 1940, three Bulls brothers, John, William, and Earlie, were all living next door to one another and farming on their own land on Center Star Road in Lauderdale County.

(Below) Excerpt of 1900 Census of George Bulls (Bottom) Excerpt of 1920 Census of John T. Bulls, Jr. (Opposite Page) (Top) Excerpt of 1930 Census of George Bulls, William G. Bulls, and John T. Bulls, Sr. (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census of John T. Bulls, Sr. W. G. Bulls, and Earlie Bulls on Center Star Road (all from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

10	✓	7m 96 98	James John	Head	18	7	M	KS	60	Mar	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Center Star SC	11
11	✓	7m 97 99	Bazola John	Head	18	7	M	KS	29	Mar	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Center Star SC	12
12	✓		Bazola	Wife	18	7	F	KS	31	Mar	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		13
13	✓		John T	Son	18	15	M	KS	5	Un	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		14
14	✓		Bazola	Daughter	18	7	F	KS	4	Un	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		15
15	✓		Kat	Daughter	18	7	F	KS	3	Un	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		16
16	✓		Walter	Son	18	7	M	KS	1	Un	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		17
17	✓				18	7	M	KS	1	Un	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None		18

13		1935	Bulls Julius	Servant	B	F	May	1870	10	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				13										
14		129 1933	Bulls George	Head	B	M	Aug	1850	49	M	14	Alabama	Kentucky	Kentucky	1-1-0	Farmer	0-1-8	No	No	yes	O	F	F	122			
15			Kat	Wife	B	F	May	1870	30	M	14	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia				yes	yes	yes					15		
16			Gudmon	Son	B	M	Aug	1854	15	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer laborer	0	No	No	yes			16		
17			Will Georg	Son	B	M	Sept	1858	11	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				St. School	5	No	No	yes			17		
18			John T.	Son	B	M	Jan	1880	10	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				St. School	3	No	No	yes			18		
19			Edward	Son	B	M	Mar	1872	8	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama											19		
20			Albert	Son	B	M	Mar	1874	6	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama											20		
21			Mary	Daughter	B	F	Apr	1856	9	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama											21		
22			Frank	Son	B	M	Apr	1858	2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama											22		
23		196	Williams Mary	Mother	B	F	Jan	1822	68	Mar	1	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky						No	No	yes			23		
24		174	Toward James	Head	B	F	Sept	1858	44	Mar	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				1-1-0	Farmer	0-1-0	No	No	yes	O	M	F	123
25			Henry	Son	B	M	Nov	1886	13	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				Farmer laborer	4	yes	No	yes			25		
26		124	Sandford Wade	Boarder	B	M	Sept	1877	42	Mar		Alabama	Mississippi	Alabama				Farmer laborer	0	yes	No	yes			26		



John T. and Bazola Bulls had 11 children; the oldest was John Thomas Bulls, Jr. (1914-2002). John, Jr. attended Bethel AME Church, once located on County Road 69 north of Center Star. He most likely attended Center Star School, which was located off the same road and at one time across the road from Bethel AME Church. After completing the lower grades in Center Star, Bulls went to Burrell High School in Florence. Upon graduation, John T. Bulls, Jr. began an impressive journey of higher education, influenced by his family's agricultural background. He first attended Tuskegee where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. In 1940, he was enumerated in the census back home with his mother and father



(Above) Dr. John Thomas Bulls (Courtesy of the Office of the Mayor, Florence, Alabama) (Top Right) World War II Registration Card for John T. Bulls, Jr. (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) World War II Registration Card for John T. Bulls, Jr. (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**REGISTRATION CARD**  
D. S. Form 1

SERIAL NUMBER 2129 1. NAME (Print) JOHN THOMAS BULLS ORDER NUMBER 2163  
2. ADDRESS (Print) 1-BOX 159 KILLEN LAUDERDALE ALA  
3. TELEPHONE 4. AGE IN YEARS 26 5. PLACE OF BIRTH LAUDERDALE 6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.  
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS BAZOLA - NONE BULLS 8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER  
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1-BOX 159 KILLEN LAUDERDALE ALA  
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME SNOW HILL INST.  
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1- SNOW HILL WILCOX ALA  
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.  
REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE John Thomas Bulls

(Below) A Passenger List for United States Lines, Outgoing from Southampton, England, UK, July 1954 (The National Archives, England via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of City Directory of Ithaca, New York, 1960 with John and James Ella Bulls (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5 FT. 2 IN	151 #	Sallow
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
Oriental	Gray	Red	Dark
Indian	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
Filipino	Brown	Black	Light brown
	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for P. E. Halloran  
Date of registration Oct 16, 1940  
LOCAL BOARD NUMBER 1 FLORENCE, ALA.  
STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD

**UNITED STATES LINES**  
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ALIEN PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF  
B. NON-TRANSMIGRANTS, that is Alien Passengers other than those included under A.

(1) Contract Ticket No.	(2) NAMES OF PASSENGERS	(3) LAST ADDRESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM	(4) CLASS	(5) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land	(6) Profession, Occupation or calling of Passengers	(7) AGES OF PASSENGERS			(8) Country of which Citizen or Subject	(9) Country of last Permanent Residence †			(10) Country of intended future Permanent Residence †
						Adults of 12 years and upwards	Children between 1 and 12	Infants		England	Wales	Scotland	
11398	BULLS John	America	A. C. L.		Agriculture	40		61					1
	BULLS Jewellia	do			Wife	37							1

" Marion E Mrs h301 S Corn  
Bulls John (James Ella) grad student CU h408  
Stewart av  
Bulter Karl D h202 E State (705)

in Center Star. He was 25 years old and single, with four years of a college education. He then went to Iowa State University for a Master of Science in vocational education and animal husbandry. Finally, Bulls received his Ph.D. in Extension Education, Rural Sociology, and Public Administration from Cornell University.

Dr. John T. Bulls, Jr. then joined the Air Force during World War II. After the war, on December 23, 1945, he married James Ella Turnley Bulls (1917-2001), a local of west Lauderdale County with a similar and equally impressive upbringing. Ms. James was the daughter of John Westley Turnley (1861-1919). The Turnleys were another African American farming family from the "Bend in the River" where Oakland, Smithsonia, and Rhodesville come together. Turnley's father was a slave and probably son of his mother's master, named Jerry. Jerry Turnley was one of five former slaves who established the Mt. Zion AME Church. When the church needed a new location and building, John W. Turnley, a landowning farmer, provided the land and helped build the building in 1912. Ms. James Ella attended school and church at Mt. Zion as a child and went to Burrell High School in Florence, just a few years behind her future husband.

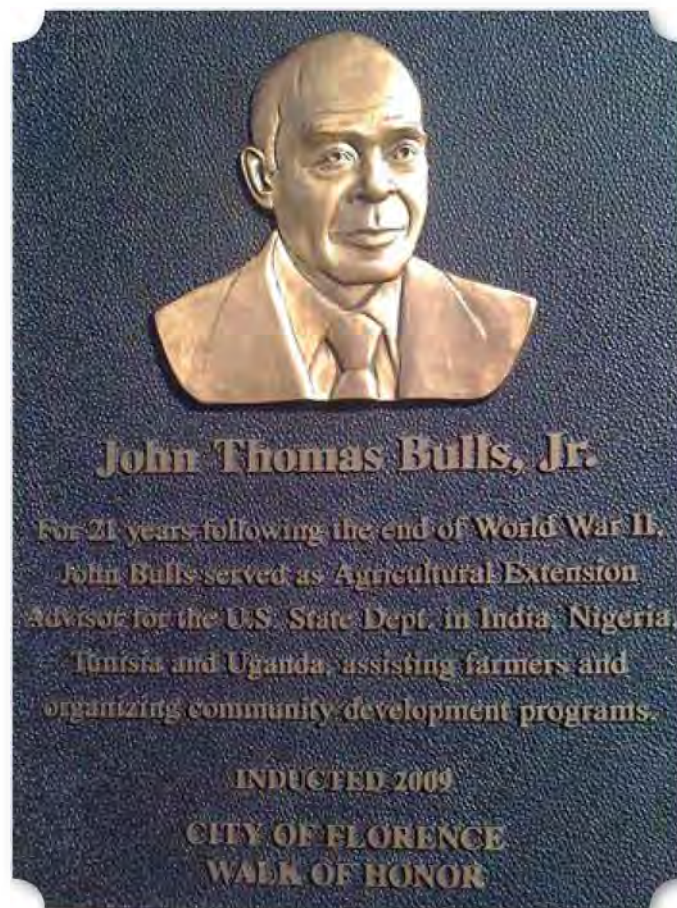
James Ella also went to Tuskegee, earning her B.S. in Home Economics Education. She then received a Master's in Textile and Clothing with a minor in Costume Design from Cornell University before earning a Ph.D. in Adult Education and Household Equipment from Iowa State University. After graduate school, she was a professor at Alabama A&M in Normal, outside of Huntsville. Dr. James Ella Bulls also taught at Howard University, University of North Alabama, and Tennessee State University at various times in her career. Meanwhile, Dr. John T. Bulls, Jr. had returned from the war, married Ella, and taken up a post with Alabama Cooperative Extension Service as a Colbert County agent. He did this from 1945 to 1952



before receiving the opportunity to work for the U.S. Department Agency for International Development. Dr. Ella Bulls left her position at A&M to follow her husband abroad.

For 21 years the Bulls served as Agriculture Extension Advisors for the Foreign Service Division. They helped to organize community development programs in India, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Uganda. When they returned to the U.S., they officially retired in Florence. However, Dr. John T. Bulls spent 16 years on the board of trustees for UNA, among a multitude of various other social clubs and organizations that both he and his wife belonged. He was at times, the President of the Lauderdale County Extension Council and the Muscle Shoals Tuskegee Alumni Association, and a member of the Center Star Lodge No. 25 of Free & Accepted Masons for 50 years. Dr. John T.

**(Below)** Plaque for John Thomas Bulls, Jr. on City of Florence Walk of Honor ([www.HMdb.org](http://www.HMdb.org), User Sandra Hughes, 2010)



Bulls, Jr. received the James T. Rapier Award for his contributions to the history of the black community of the Shoals.

This remarkable couple truly embodies the spirit of North Alabama's African American community and the possible investment that farming and landownership can have on future generations. From former slaves, George and Jerry, buying land and establishing farms and churches, to John and James Ella obtaining doctorates and traveling the world helping communities establish better agriculture, the Bulls and Turnleys deserve their hometown's praise.

## William Christopher "W. C." Handy (1873-1958)

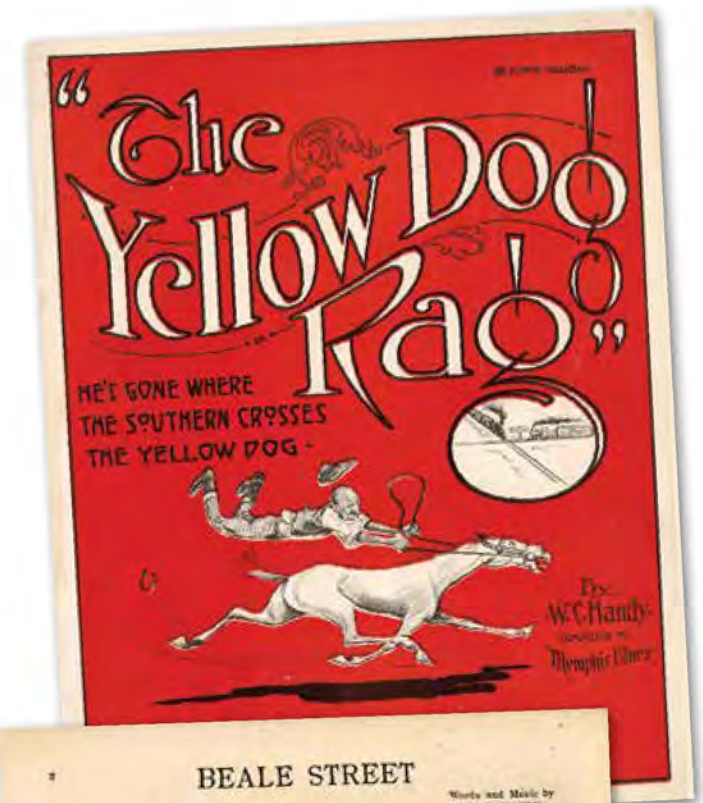
William Christopher "W.C." Handy (1873-1958) is often called the "Father of the Blues." Born in Florence, Handy grew up surrounded by the music and teachings of the St. Paul AME Church, where both his grandfather and father were pastors. Although his father and his schoolmaster influenced and instructed him in music, neither encouraged Handy to pursue a musical career. An accomplished musician from a young age, Handy was the organist for the AME Church and later took up the guitar, trumpet, and cornet.

His talent took him traveling to perform at places like the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and St. Louis, Missouri; Evansville, Indiana; and Henderson, Kentucky. From 1901 to 1903, Handy was a professor of music at Alabama A&M University. However, he quickly became unsettled by the push for a "classical" musical education which excluded the sounds of local African American musical traditions of the South. The search for this sound led Handy to the Mississippi Delta in 1903. He found himself in Clarksdale, Mississippi among cotton plantations where he traced his discovery of the Blues.

While always influenced by Florence and his spiritual upbringing, Handy was drawn to the secular music of fiddle player Jim Turner and "Uncle" Whit Walker, as well as by songs sung by cotton pickers and laborers



**(Above)** Handy as a Teenager, Circa 1893 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) **(Below)** The Cover of the Memphis Blues, 1913 **(Top Right)** The Cover of The Yellow Dog Rag, 1914 **(Middle Right)** A Sheet from the Beale Street Blues, 1919 **(Bottom Right)** Cover of the Beale Street Blues, 1919 (Duke University, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Digital Scriptorium)



across the South. By 1909, Handy had moved to Memphis, Tennessee and began composing the Blues. While Handy did not create the genre, he is credited with bringing it to a wider audience and popularizing the sound outside of the Delta or the South. His first published composition was the "Memphis Blues," which, along with the "Saint Louis Blues" and the "Beale Street Blues," named for his resident street in Memphis, made him an international success. In Memphis, Handy partnered with Harry Pace and founded the Pace & Handy firm, the first successful African American-owned music publishing company. In 1918, Handy moved to New York City and established the Handy Brothers Music Company in 1921.

He continued to compose and publish music for the rest of his life, alongside writing some books and an autobiography. He regularly returned home to Florence and would perform charity concerts to

**(Below)** W. C. Handy, Circa 1940s (Alabama Music Hall of Fame via Encyclopedia of Alabama)



raise money for churches in the Shoals. Much of Handy's music was influenced by religious hymns, and he composed more than 30 spiritual songs. His



**(Above)** W. C. Handy and Student Donell Callaway, 13 Years Old, New York City, 1954 (www.wbur.org)  
**(Below)** Poster for the 1958 Film "St. Louis Blues" Based on Handy's Life and Music (Alabama Music Hall of Fame via Encyclopedia of Alabama) **(Right)** Photograph of the Cabin Handy was Born in Before it was Restored, Circa 1950s (Alabama Music Hall of Fame via Encyclopedia of Alabama)



grandfather, Rev. William Wise Handy, had been a pastor of the St. Paul AME Church, as was his father, Rev. Charles Bernard Handy. The Handys were highly involved in the church and helped St. Paul get its second location in downtown Florence in 1895. Later, W.C. would purchase one of the memorial windows in the second church, which would be moved to the third and present church near his childhood home.

The W.C. Handy House and Museum is now located on West College Street next to Burrell Slater High School. The log cabin where W.C. Handy was born was built by his grandfather. It was originally located



about a half mile north in a neighborhood known as Handy Hills. The house was dismantled in 1954 and put in storage until it could be restored and reassembled. In 1970, the cabin was restored to its original condition and moved to its current location. When Handy died in 1958 in New York, he instructed that all his possessions be sent back to Florence. The house museum is filled with original sheet music,



**(Above)** A U.S. Postal Stamp Featuring W. C. Handy, Issued 1969 (Memphis Music Hall of Fame) **(Below)** Photograph of W. C. Handy House and Museum, 2002 (Historical Marker Database www.HMdb.org, via user Sandra Hughes)



“Where the Tennessee River, like a silver snake, winds her way through the clay hills of Alabama, sits high on these hills, my home town, Florence.”

– W.C. Handy in His Autobiography  
“Father of the Blues”

instruments, and pieces of his personal life. The City of Florence has held the W.C. Handy Festival in his honor since 1982.

### The Turnley Family

In late 2017, Ms. Anita Cobb of west Lauderdale County gave an oral history interview to the Florence African American Heritage Project. She told the intertwined history of the Mt. Zion AME Church and her family, the Turnleys. Ms. Anita’s great-great-grandfather was Jerry Turnley, a former slave of a plantation in west Lauderdale County. He was one of five former slaves that established the Mt. Zion AME Church in 1886. Jerry and his wife, Julia, who was also enslaved but on another plantation, had six children.

John W. Turnley (1861-1919) was Julia’s son. She had at least three children by her white master, and due to John’s very light skin, he may have been one of these sons. However, Jerry was considered his father. When Mt. Zion AME Church needed a new building and location, John W. Turnley donated some of the land he owned off County Road 189. The church was built on this land in 1912 and John Turnley helped with the construction.

John W. Turnley may have had more than one wife; records show he married Louise Parker (born 1877) in 1893. They had at least one child, Annie Lustre Turnley (1894-1966). By 1900, the two were divorced. In 1910, John was living with his brother-in-law, Joe B. Thompson, and sister Beulah. By 1930, Louise was living in her daughter’s house. Ms. Annie married

Leslie Bryant Pride (1888-1962) in 1913. Their daughter, Hattie Mae (1913-2002), was Ms. Anita Cobb’s mother.

Like the rest of her family, Hattie attended Mt. Zion school and church. She then went to Burrell High School in Florence before going to Alabama A&M

(Top) Jerry Turnley on the 1867 Voter Registration for Lauderdale County (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
(Middle) Excerpt from the 1910 Census Showing John W. Turnley in the House of Joe B. Thompson (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
(Bottom) Excerpt from the 1930 Census Showing Louise M. Parker Living with Leslie and Annie Pride (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

282	July 26 1867	Turnley Jerry	2	457	50	50	50	50
283	July 26 1867	Turnley Jerry	3	34	50	50	50	50
284	July 29 1867	Smith Richmond B	3	7	50	50	50	50

LOCATION.		NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		Whether able to speak English or, if not, give language spoken.	OCCUPATION.		EDUCATION.				MARRIAGE OF DATE.								
House number in street, avenue, road, etc.	Number of dwelling house in care of individual.			Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years of present marriage.	Whether of law many children.	Number born.	Number living.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.	Year of immigration to the United States.		Whether naturalized or citizen.	Trade or profession, or particular kind of work done by this person, as spinner, weaver, etc.	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Whether an employer or not.	Whether an employee or not.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Whether attended school and time above mentioned.	Whether attended school since April 15, 1910.	Whether attended school since April 15, 1910.	Whether attended school since April 15, 1910.	Whether attended school since April 15, 1910.	Whether married.	Whether married.	Whether married.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
1	1	Thompson Joe B	Head	M	W	44	Mar	1	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Farmer	General farm	Emp			None										
		Turnley John	Son	M	W	48	Mar	1	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Farmer	General farm	Emp			None										
		Blanche B	Daughter	F	W	16	Mar	1	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	None															
		Julia A	Son	M	W	44	Mar	1	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Cook	Private family	U	700	4	Yes	Yes									
		Pride Leslie	Son	M	W	21	Mar	1	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Retired	Retired	U	700	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Age	Name	Relation	Sex	Color	Age	Marital	Years	Children	Place	Place	Place	Imm	Citiz	Occup	Industry	Employ	Unempl	Read	Write	School	School	School	Married	Married	Married	Married
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	Pride Leslie B	Head	M	W	39	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			Farmer	General Farming	U		Yes	Yes							
26	Emily L	Wife	F	W	32	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			None												
27	Hattie M	Daughter	F	W	16	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			None												
28	Mathew L	Daughter	F	W	15	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			None												
29	Julie J	Son	M	W	12	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			None												
30	Parker Laura M	Daughter	F	W	6	Mar	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			None												

**DEATH OF A WORTHY  
COLORED MAN**

John W. Turnley was born on the 13th day of February, 1861, and died at his home near Smithsonia, Ala., March 4th, 1919. He had been an active and useful citizen, was a credit to his race. His motto was to set a good example and admonish those with whom he associated to make upright and useful citizens. He never lost an opportunity to co-operate with every influence to establish his people on a higher and firmer basis of usefulness and good citizenship. For thirty-seven years he was a consistent member of the A. M. E. Church, filling any responsible place to which he was assigned. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss. A good and true man has gone to his reward. We cherish his memory.

J. B. THOMPSON.

University in Huntsville for a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Master's in Counseling. She worked as a teacher for the Lauderdale County and Florence City Schools for 38 years. She was a member of numerous social clubs and organizations and integral to the African American community of Florence and the "Bend of the River."

(Left) Obituary for John W. Turnley, Originally Published March 5th in the Florence Times (Findagrave.com, User Wanda Quinn Bradford) (Below) Excerpt from the 1920 Census Showing Leslie and Annie Pride Living Next Door to Madge Parker Turnley (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt from the 1940 Census Showing Leslie and Annie Pride with Daughter, Hattie Pride Smith (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Image of Ms. Hattie Pride Smith (Findagrave.com, User Joy Favors)



Besides John W. Turnley and his legacy of landownership, Ms. Anita's great-grandmother, Louise Parker, was also the daughter of landowners: Berry "Tut" Parker (1833-1904) and Catherine (1843-1933). The Parkers' grave memorial proudly declares Tut and Catherine as "Slaves, Sharecroppers, Landowners, Parents of 15 children." All of their children are listed on the stone: Moses, Hannah, Martha, Annie, Isom, Tommie, Madgie, Mary Frances, Louis, Richard, Berry, Jr., Wylodine, Cornelia, Ellis, and Nelson.

The only census records for Berry Parker are from 1880 and 1900. The 1880 census does not record whether or not someone owned their land. The 1890 census has been lost to a fire. The 1900 census clearly states that Parker rented his farm, although these records have been proven to be wrong before and the elaborate grave marker proclaiming the Parkers to be landowners disputes the records. It is possible that Tut and his wife were able to buy the farm in the last years of his life.

(Opposite Top) Excerpt from the 1880 Census Showing Berry Parker and Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Opposite Middle) Excerpt from the 1900 Census Showing Berry Parker and Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Opposite Bottom) Photograph of the Parker's Grave Memorial at Mt. Zion Cemetery (Findagrave.com, User Joy Favors)

72	72	Turnley Tom	Head	M	52	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	farmer	General	670
73	73	Madge	Wife	F	38	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		720
74	74	Josh	Son	M	16	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	General	740
75	75	Thomas	Son	M	14	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	General	760
76	76	Brynetta	Daughter	F	12	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		78
77	77	Willie	Son	M	10	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		77
78	78	Richard	Son	M	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		74
79	79	Henrietta	Daughter	F	8	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		79
80	80	George	Son	M	6	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		80
81	81	Callie	Son	M	3	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		81
82	82	Pride Leslie	Head	M	32	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	farmer	General	671
83	83	Annie	Wife	F	24	24	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		83
84	84	Hattie	Daughter	F	6	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		84
85	85	Willie	Son	M	3	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		85
86	86	Anna	Daughter	F	3	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none		86
87	87	Anna	Daughter	F	3	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	General	870

72	34R 10	Pride Leslie P	Head	M	62	4	Alabama	same place	yes	farmer	farmer	40	yes
73		Annie B	Wife	F	44	6	Alabama	same place	no	no	no	40	yes
74		Leslie James	Son	M	21	8	Alabama	same place	yes	help on	farmer	40	yes
75		Smith Hattie William	Son	M	3	10	Alabama	same place	yes				
76		Wendell Louise	Daughter	F	6	1	Alabama	same place	yes				
77		Smith Hattie Pride	Daughter	F	26	11	Alabama	same place	yes	School	teacher	40	yes
78		Woods Louise	Mother	F	64	11	Alabama	same place	yes				

16	216276	Parker Berry	B M 48		1	Farmer		1 1 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	16
17		Catharine	B F 30	Wife	1	Keeping Home		1 1	Ala	Ala	Ala	17
18		Walter	B M 15	Son	1	Work on Farm		1 1 1 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	18
19		Martha	B F 11	Daughter	1	Work on Farm		1 1	Ala	Ala	Ala	19
20		Nelson	B M 10	Son	1	Work on Farm		1 1 -	Ala	Ala	Ala	20
21		Hannah	B F 7	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	21
22		Mary G	B F 5	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	22
23		Margaret	B F 4	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	23
24		Lucas	B F 3	Daughter	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	24
25		Anthony	B M 2	Son	1	At Home			Ala	Ala	Ala	25
26												26

82	170181 169180	Parker Berry	Head	B M	Aug 1831	48 M 36	Alabama	1	1	1	Farmer	7-11-1-0-6	No	No	Yes	R	F	153	82
83		Catharine	Wife	B F		49 M 36 17 12	Alabama	1	1	1	N. Carolina		No	No	Yes				83
84		Richard	Son	B M	Feb 1880	20 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		Farmer		Yes	Yes	Yes				84
85		Willie Deen	Daughter	B F	Aug 1882	17 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				1	Yes	Yes	Yes			85
86		Berry Jr	Son	B M	July 1884	15 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				1	Yes	Yes	Yes			86
87		Cornelia	Daughter	B F	Apr 1889	11 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				1	Yes	Yes	Yes			87
88		Ellis	Son	B M	Jun 1891	8 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				1	No	Yes	Yes			88
89		Annie	G Daughter	B F	Jun 1895	4 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama										89



# 4. BUSINESS AS USUAL IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY

The first business owners and landowners of North Alabama were the wealthy plantation owners, usually the sons of profitable plantation owners from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, as well as war veterans from the early battles of the fledgling nation. The face of skill, talent, and profit was rarely one of color; however, that was not always necessarily the case. The enslaved were often valued not simply for their physical strength, but often for the skilled knowledge they had acquired in blacksmithing, shoemaking, horse grooming, cooking, etc. These skills were always valued, often appreciated, and sometimes compensated – either with small sums of money, emancipation, or land.

Local historian and Head of the Department of Local History and Genealogy at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Mr. Lee Freeman, has compiled an impressive list of local African American professionals who have worked in Florence throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. A diligent search through the archives of local newspapers reveals that there have been dozens of professional people of color living and operating businesses and providing services in Lauderdale County, mostly in Florence; since before the Civil War. For the majority of these remarkable individuals, little is known about them besides a brief mention or ad taken out in the newspapers. The census records of the 19th century may assist in determining the race and occupation of someone living in Florence, however, the earlier censuses do not record whether someone was the owner or proprietor of their business or shop. The census records between 1900 and 1940 collected the person's occupation as well as industry.

Florence was home to a variety of African American professionals. Despite the majority of people of color living in Seven Points and the predominately African American suburb called Canaan in West Florence, most of the African American-owned business were in downtown Florence alongside the rest of the commercial properties. This continued to be the case until the late 1950s and early 1960s. Some of them were skilled in occupations that became obsolete over time, such as drayman (driver of a wagon for delivery of goods), hackman (driver of a wagon for the taxiing of people), and bootblacks (shoe shiners). Other professions remain important, such as physician, dentist, barber, and restaurateur. Although some individuals were known for a particular profession, it was not uncommon for someone to have multiple

(Below) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Barbers and Blacksmiths – People of Color are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

**BARBERS**

Brown A M, 105 S Court  
 Copous Nute, 517½ Royal av  
 Heupel J H, 109 E Tennessee  
 Holland R V, 110 E Tennessee  
 \*Hood Lee, 215 E Tennessee  
 \*Jordan W E, 115 S Court  
 \*Pierson Albert, 112 Mobile  
 Thomason D H, 513 Royal av

**BICYCLE DEALERS**

UNION BUGGY MANUFACTURING CO, 222 N Court

**\*BICYCLE REPAIRS**

UNION BUGGY MANUFACTURING CO, 222 N Court

**BLACKSMITHS**

Boston George H, 313 E College  
 Freeman A J, n s Huntsville rd 1 w of Sweetwater  
 \*Key Charles, 121 S Seminary  
 \*Simpson L V, 119 W Mobile  
 UNION BUGGY MANUFACTURING CO, 222 N Court  
 Weaver J W, 109 W Tuscaloosa  
 Weaver & Son, Seven Points

---

**The Tri-Cities Garage** Sheffield, Ala.  
 Automobile Repairs of All Kinds. Supplies of All Kinds on Hand  
 AUTOMOBILES FOR HIRE  
 CALL US, NIGHT OR DAY TELEPHONE 647 and 145

professions over their lifetime. Some of these professions required a higher education and money to construct, rent, or buy a property from which to operate. Others might have been professions of opportunity or necessity. Considering that any form of education for people of color in Alabama was illegal prior to Emancipation, that freedmen were often starting a new life with little to nothing, and that non-white property owners and business operators were charged higher tax rates, it is even more impressive how many people of color were successful in their endeavors. However, certain professions such as barber, restaurant owner, undertaker, certainly physician and dentist, afforded a person of color a foothold into the middle class – a rare opportunity at the turn of the 20th century in the South.

## Barbers

One of the more prolific professions among men of color in both the 19th and 20th centuries was barbering. A very old profession, barbers performed a wide range of personal grooming services beyond cutting hair. In a time before indoor plumbing, electricity, and the abundance of commercial grooming products, a barber was indispensable. By the 1880s, the barbershop was a Main Street fixture, and in the South, a barber was often a person of color. Service positions such as barber and laundress were often performed by slaves before Emancipation and were useful skills known by freedmen and considered acceptable positions for people of color. It cost relatively little to buy the supplies needed to start a profession in barbering and the returns in profit were great because the majority of an African American barber's clientele were wealthy white men.

By the early 20th century, the social dynamics of the barber shop began to change. The Gillette Safety razor was introduced in 1903, reducing the demand for a barber's shave. By the 1920s, many states required barbers to get a license to operate, and there were no schools for African Americans in this field until the late 1930s. These and other changes shifted the primary purpose of black barber shops from servicing wealthy white men to providing a center for the community of color.

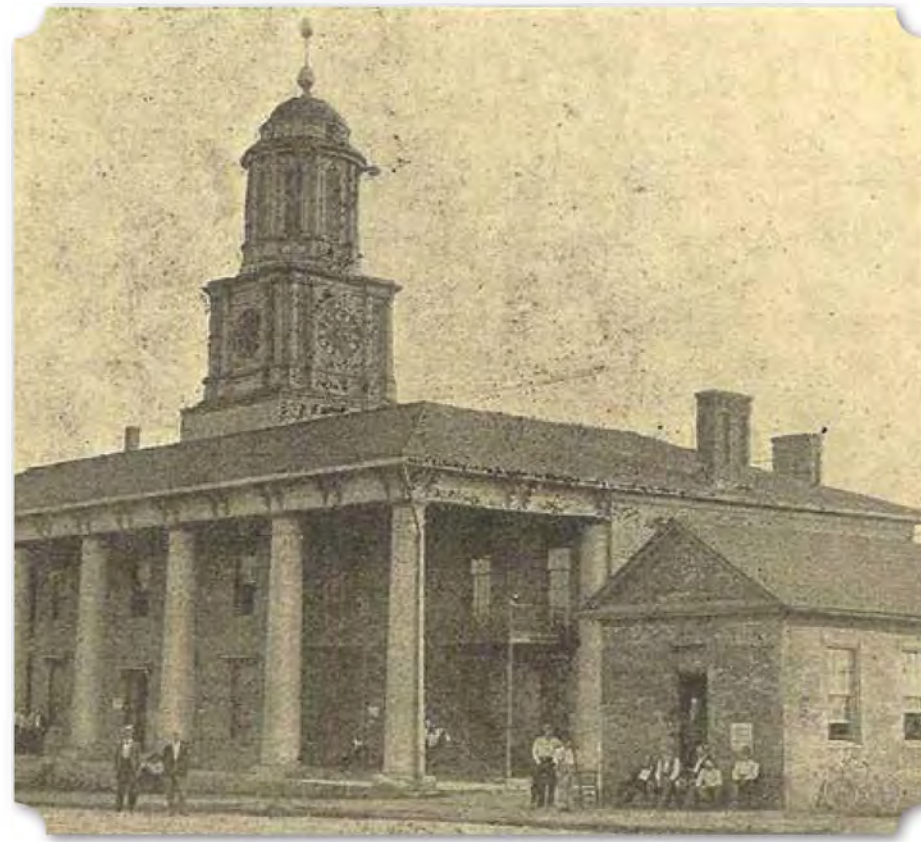
The barbershop was added to the church and pool hall as a significant social refuge still relied on today. The barbers of Florence represent a widely varying set of experiences through the turn of the century.

Research has uncovered at least seven barbers in Florence's African American history. The area's earliest known professional barber of color was John H. Rapier, Sr. (1808-1869). Like many successful people of color in North Alabama, Rapier was the son of a slave named Sally and a wealthy white businessman named Richard Rapier. John accompanied Richard Rapier everywhere and served as an assistant of sorts. When Richard Rapier died in 1826, he stipulated in his will that John be allotted \$1000 and his freedom, which was granted by the courts in 1829. By the age of 21, John Rapier was a free, light-skinned man with some funds to start a life of his own. Within a few years, Rapier had established himself in Florence, married a free woman, fathered several children, and opened a barber shop on Court Street. From at least 1831 to 1857, Rapier was Florence's only barber. His substantial success allowed him the financial independence to own the building on Court Street, a house on Cedar Street, property in Alabama, Minnesota Territory, and Canada, and to send his four free-born children to school in Nashville, Tennessee.

John H. Rapier, Sr. had two half-brothers, James and Henry, whose mother was also Sally and their fathers prominent white men. While the brothers did not live or work in Florence, they were both freedmen and barbers. Barbering was a skill often shared by family members. Fathers would teach sons, and brothers would share the profession. Even John H. Rapier Sr.'s granddaughter became a hairdresser, or beautician, among her many entrepreneurial ventures.

Bessie Rapier Foster (1882-1962) was the granddaughter of John H. Rapier, Sr. and his second wife, an enslaved woman named Lucretia McAlister (1825-between 1860-1869). She became Florence's first known businesswoman of color. Ms. Foster was truly an entrepreneur; at one time or another, she was a hairdresser/beautician, chiropodist, theater owner, and billiard hall owner. Although she was successful in many of her ventures, she was also generous to her community and

was known in Florence as hardworking and thrifty. In 1916, Ms. Foster opened a theater for people of color on Sweetwater Street, present day Dr. Hicks Boulevard, known as the Pastime Theatre for Negroes. She was involved in the founding of Blessed Martin De Porres Catholic Mission on West College Street in the 1950s. She owned and operated the Improved Pool Room in 1960. All of these business and philanthropic ventures provided people of the community places to gather, socialize, and worship.



(Above) John H. Rapier Sr.'s Barbershop next to the Courthouse, Circa. 1900 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

The second barber to set up shop in Florence was James G. Goin (c.1834-after 1892). Goin was also a freeman whose father was most likely a white man. He is known to have married a woman named Mary Jane Legwood in Lawrence County in 1855, then moved to Florence sometime about 1857. Goin eventually set up a barber shop in Florence and became Rapier's business rival. In 1871, a third barber joined the profession in Florence, and he and Goin went into business together.



(Left) Photograph of Bessie Rapier Foster (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Below) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Manicurists – Ms. Foster is Denoted as a Person of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1920 Florence City Directory for Hairdressers – People of Color, such as Ms. Foster, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

**\*MAGAZINES**  
**STUTTS J W DRUG CO, 101 N Court**  
**MANICURES**  
 \*Foster Bessie, 101½ S Court  
**\*MANUFACTURERS—COTTON GOODS**  
**ASHCRAFT COTTON MILLS, Terrace cor Oak**

**HAIR DRESSERS**  
 \*Foster Bessie, 105½ S Court  
 Shaw T B Mrs, Reeder Annex  
**HARDWARE—WHOLESALE**  
**PUTTEET A T, 216-218 N Court**

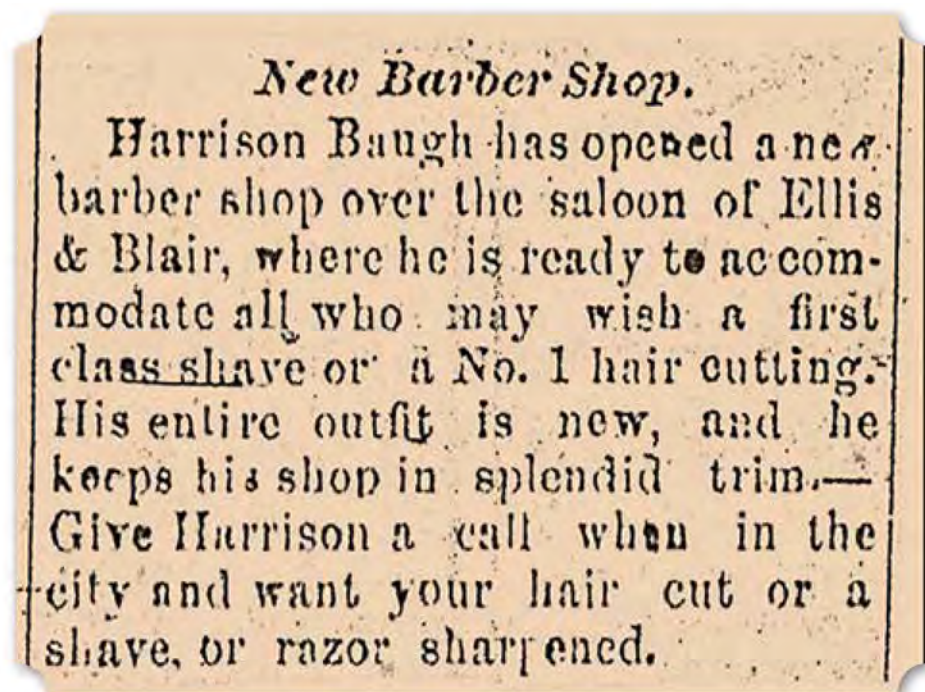
Also, during Reconstruction, Mr. Goin made a run for Lauderdale County Sheriff. While his campaign was not successful, he must have been well-liked enough around town to have tried for such a position. By 1880, James Goin was no longer in Florence. A man by that name was enumerated on the Evansville, Indiana census in 1880 living with his brother and working as a white-washer. Mr. Goin came back to Alabama by 1892, but to Birmingham, not Florence.

Interestingly, James Goin filed a case with the Southern Claims Commission after the Civil War. Looking for compensation for goods and property lost during the war, Mr. Goin's statement reveals an interesting

viewpoint on profit and race relations. Mr. Goin testifies that he remained loyal to the Union despite having taken a position as a cook for the 4th Alabama Infantry of the Confederate States of America (CSA) for three months in 1861 for the payment of \$40 a month. The Claims Commission questioned the apparent contradiction of a Unionist working for the Confederacy. Mr. Goin answered simply that the CSA Army needed a cook and he needed the \$40 per month. He also explained that when given the opportunity to take up arms against the Union during a battle, he declined to do so. Despite a lengthy testimony and several witnesses on his behalf, Mr. Goin's case was "disallowed."

Other barbers known to work in Florence include Harrison Baugh (c. 1841-after 1900). Born in Virginia, Baugh became a barber after Emancipation. In 1870, the census notes Mr. Baugh as simply a laborer, but by the 1880s, he was advertising his barber shop in the *Florence Banner*. Harrison Baugh's barber shop appears to have moved around downtown quite a bit during the last two decades of the 19th century. Around 1884, he opened a barber shop on Court Street over a saloon named Ellis & Blair. Four years later, his shop moved to the second

(Below) Ad for Harrison Baugh's Barber Shop (*Florence Banner*, Tuesday, April 22, 1884 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)



**New Barber Shop.**  
Harrison Baugh has opened a new barber shop over the saloon of Ellis & Blair, where he is ready to accommodate all who may wish a first class shave or a No. 1 hair cutting. His entire outfit is new, and he keeps his shop in splendid trim.— Give Harrison a call when in the city and want your hair cut or a shave, or razor sharpened.

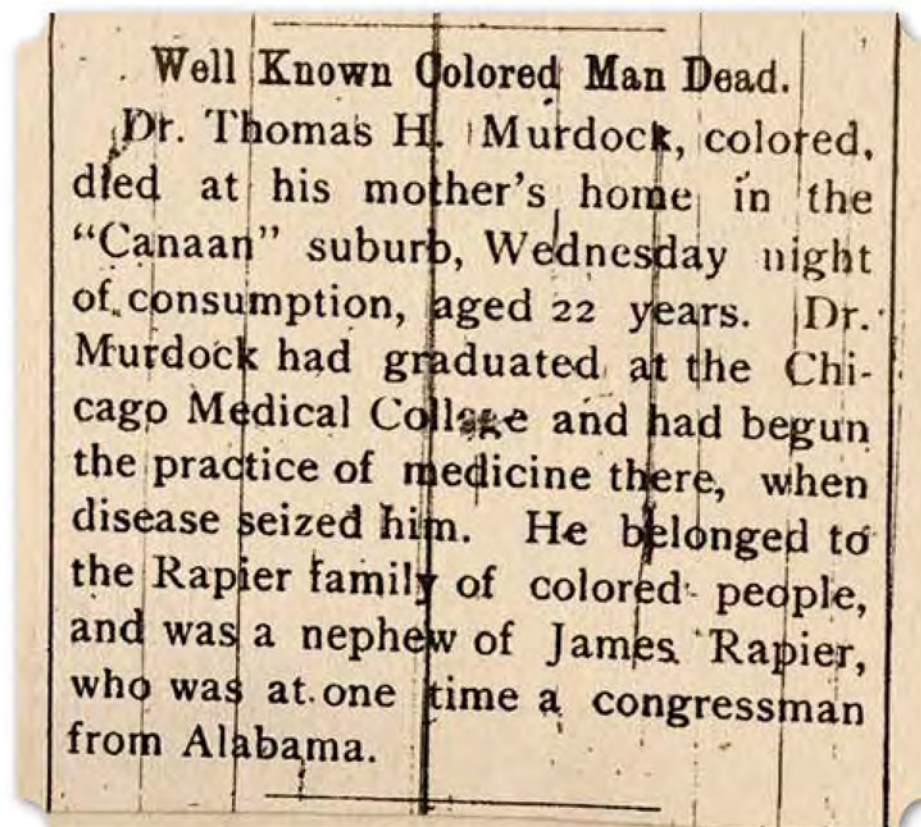
floor of the Stafford Building. By 1894, his shop was located on West Tombigbee Street before being located on Mobile Street in 1900.

Two other barbers and men of color demonstrate the familial trend of barbering as well as the tendency to be one of the varied professions and/or prominent positions in the community. Constantine "Constant" Perkins, Sr. (1842-1908) and his son, Constant, Jr. (1870-1942) were both Florence barbers around the turn of the 20th century. However, Senior also served as the Worshipful Master of the Centennial Lodge No. 19 of the Free & Acceptable Masons in 1888. Constant, Jr. may have started out as a barber with his father, but he was also a musician and later a postman for Florence.

## Medical Professionals

Other professions important for men of color in Florence were in the medical field, either as physicians, dentists, or pharmacists. Mr. Lee

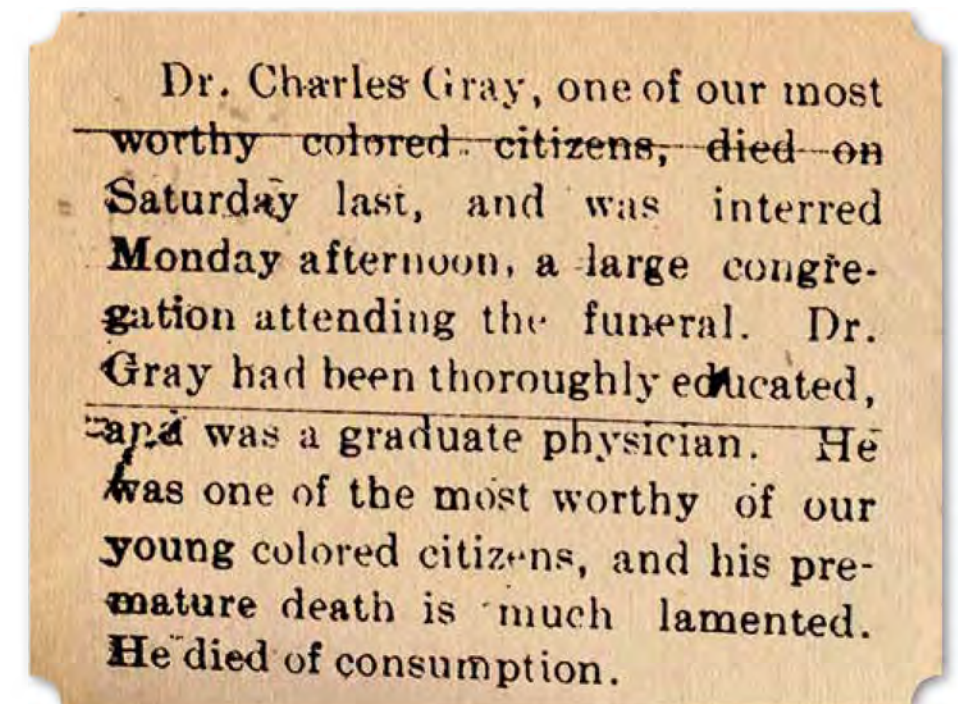
(Below) Newspaper Clipping about Dr. Thomas Murdock (*Florence Times*, Saturday, February 11, 1893 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)



**Well Known Colored Man Dead.**  
Dr. Thomas H. Murdock, colored, died at his mother's home in the "Canaan" suburb, Wednesday night of consumption, aged 22 years. Dr. Murdock had graduated at the Chicago Medical College and had begun the practice of medicine there, when disease seized him. He belonged to the Rapiers family of colored people, and was a nephew of James Rapiers, who was at one time a congressman from Alabama.

Freeman has uncovered documents for no less than nine medical professionals in Florence between 1865 and 1940. These include four doctors, three dentists, and two pharmacists. The first medical doctor of color was James Derham, who was a slave in the late 18th century and apprenticed under a surgeon in New Orleans, however, Derham was an outlier and his career does not mark the beginnings of a burgeoning field for African American physicians. Physicians of color in Lauderdale County were most prevalent a century later, at the turn of the 20th century. Dr. Thomas H. Murdock (c. 1871-1893) is the earliest known African American doctor in Florence. He was the son of Lawson Murdock and Rebecca Rapiers and the grandson of John H. Rapiers, Sr. and his second wife, Lucretia. He graduated from medical college in Nashville before attending the Chicago Medical College about 1890. By the summer of 1892, Dr. Murdock was only 21 years old and running a successful practice in Chicago. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Florence to live with his mother in the neighborhood of Canaan. Unfortunately, it was not to begin practicing in Florence, but because he was succumbing to tuberculosis. Dr. Murdock passed away in February 1893 in his mother's home at only 22 years old.

(Below) Newspaper Clipping about Dr. Charles Gray (*Florence Times*, Friday, July 24, 1908 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)



Dr. Charles Gray, one of our most ~~worthy colored citizens, died on~~ Saturday last, and was interred Monday afternoon, a large congregation attending the funeral. Dr. Gray had been thoroughly educated, ~~and was a graduate physician.~~ He was one of the most worthy of our young colored citizens, and his premature death is much lamented. He died of consumption.



Two doctors of color practiced in Florence in the early years of the 20th century. The first, Dr. Charles Gray, appears to have also died of tuberculosis. All that is known about Dr. Gray is from his obituary published in the *Florence Times* on Friday, July 2, 1908. It said that Dr. Gray was “one of our most worthy colored citizens. Dr. Gray had

Cocke Chas R (Annie), gro 210 s 4th, h 242 Herzberg  
 \*Coffee Geo W, phys 319½ Broad, h 521 Pipe Shop  
 \*Coffee Thos W (Florence), paper hagr, h 321 s 3d  
 Cohen Harry (Annie), peddler, h 636 Chestnut

(Left) Dr. George W. Coffee Listed in the 1912 Gadsden, Alabama City Directory (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)  
 (Below) 1910 Census Record for Dr. George W. Coffee, Lodging with Robert W. Pope in Gadsden, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1920 Census Record for Dr. George W. Coffee in Gadsden, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



been thoroughly educated and was a graduate physician. He was one of the most worthy of our young colored citizens and his premature death is much lamented. He died of consumption.” Dr. Gray is not enumerated in the 1900 census for Lauderdale County. He was buried in the Florence City Cemetery, but neither his date or place of birth is recorded. Presumably, he studied medicine in another state and came to Florence sometime after 1900.

The other doctor, Dr. G.W. Coffee (c. 1874-after 1940), was the son of Washington (1837-1918) and Sally Coffee (1848-between 1880-1900), of Lauderdale County. His parents were most likely the slaves of Gen. John Coffee’s son, Capt. Alexander Donelson Coffee. After Emancipation, George and Sally lived on Gunwaleford Road in the vicinity of Capt. Coffee’s plantation, Ardoyne. From 1904 to 1906, he practiced medicine in Denver, Colorado, but not much else is known about his life outside of Alabama. In March 1906, he returned to Florence and opened a practice. The *Florence Herald* published the following statement about Dr. Coffee on March 30, 1906: “He possesses more than ordinary ability, and hopes to make a success of his chosen profession.”

Dr. Coffee is recorded on the 1910 census as a lodger in the house of a Robert W. Pope, a Baptist minister, in Gadsden, Alabama. He is recorded as Dr. G.W. Coffee, a 36-year-old, single, black man working as a public physician. By 1912, Dr. Coffee had set up a practice on Broad Street, and by 1920, he had married a woman named Mamie or Mary and had a newborn daughter. Dr. Coffee was recorded similarly in 1940, indicating that the majority of his life and his years of medical practice were spent in Gadsden.

Perhaps the most well-known African American doctor of Florence is Dr. Leonard Jerry Hicks (1899-1973). Originally from Plant City, Florida, Dr. Hicks was the son of a Baptist minister. Along with his father’s constant encouragement and focus on work over play, as a boy, Dr. Hicks would run errands for a Dr. Callahan, who inspired and encouraged young Leonard. Dr. Callahan even helped Hicks through college, occasionally sending small sums of money. Dr. Hicks first graduated from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina in the late 1920s. He went on to earn his M.D. from Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 1929. Afterwards, he studied anatomy and surgery at the University of

Pennsylvania. Dr. Hicks came to Florence in 1933 to set up a practice and he served the Florence community for 40 years.

The Great Depression was well underway in 1933 when Dr. Hicks arrived. In a 1968 interview, he recalled that most of the city’s storefronts were boarded up, but that the people were welcoming and kind. Dr. Hicks did well in Florence. In 1953, he became the first African American to be admitted to the Lauderdale County Medical Society. The following year, he became the first African American admitted to the Alabama Medical Association prompting the chief of staff at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in southwest Florence to say that Dr. Hicks “has always been a true example of what a doctor should be – an earnest, hardworking man who is devoted to his patients.”

Dr. Hicks continued to serve the city of Florence until his death in 1973. In 1981, the city renamed Sweetwater Street to Dr. Hicks Boulevard, where he also has a historical marker. Beyond the care of a doctor, Dr. Hicks reached the community through his membership and trusteeship of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, as well as the Masonic Lodge No. 583.

## MILNER'S DRUG STORE

104 COURT STREET TELEPHONE NO. 3  
EVERYTHING FOR HEALTH. ALSO THE BEST SODA WATER,  
TOILET GOODS, STATIONERY, PAINTS, SEEDS AND BULBS  
126 R. L. POLK & CO.'S DIRECTORY

### DENTISTS—Concluded

Johnston F A, 124 E Mobile  
\*Jones J E, 123½ S Court  
Reeder F B, 108½ E Tennessee  
White J L, 108½ E Tennessee

### DEPARTMENT STORES

Rogers B A & Bro, 123-125 N Court

(Above) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Dentists – People of Color, such as Dr. J. E. Jones, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Below) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Mr. Emory Jones and Dr. John E. Jones – the Men are Denoted as People of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

Jones Elizabeth (wid J O), b 477 N Wood av  
\*Jones Emory (m), h 302 S Cedar  
\*Jones Erastus (m), lab, h 412 Campbell  
Jones Ernest, drayman, b Ace Dice  
\*Jones George (m), h 516 S Wood av  
Jones George P (Mary L), atty 108 Court sq, h 626 N Wood av  
\*Jones Harvey, porter Jefferson Hotel  
Jones Henry C, atty, b 613 N Wood av  
Jones Howard A (Hazel), mach, h S Florence  
Jones Iver L, opr Sou Bell Tel Co, b 916 Royal av  
Jones Jesse B (Dora), stove mounter, h 310 Georgia av  
\*Jones John (m), lab, h rr 212 E Limestone  
Jones John C (Nannie), opr Cherry Cot Mills, h 221 Jersey av  
\*JONES JOHN E, Dentist, Office Hours 8:30 to 5:30, Sundays by Appointment, 123½ S Court, Tel 355, b 302 S Cedar  
Jones John T (Malena), mill opr, h 421 N Walnut  
Jones Lavinia S Mrs, h 424 N Walnut  
Jones Lucian, student, b 224 N Cherry

Feed Your Cow on KING COTTON BRAND COTTON SEED MEAL and COTTON SEED HULLS. Manufactured by

**Ashcraft Cotton Mills**  
and get the best feed on the market. Accept no substitute.

Unfortunately, even less is known about the dentists and pharmacists of Florence. Three African American dentists are known to have practiced in Florence in the early 20th century. Dr. Emory Jones opened a practice on the corner of Court and College streets in October 1912. He was a recent graduate of the field, and while there is an Emory Jones listed on the Florence City Directory in 1913, no occupation is named. Dr. John E. Jones appears to have been Emory's brother. On the same page of the city directory, Dr. John E. Jones is listed in bold. He is a dentist with an office at 123½ South Court Street. He lives in a house at 302 Cedar Street – the same address given for Emory Jones. Between 1913 and 1916, Dr. J.E. Jones moved to Birmingham, where he passed away in November 1916.

The third and only other dentist of color known to have worked or lived in Florence is Dr. Lorenzo Marques Pollard (c. 1892-after 1941). Dr. Pollard was the son of Robert T. Pollard and Elizabeth J. Washington, originally from Selma, Alabama. He also graduated from Meharry College and returned to Selma to practice dentistry. A 1913 city directory for Selma lists Dr. Pollard as a dentist with an office at 1022½ Broad Street. When Dr. John E. Jones passed away in 1916, Dr. Pollard took over his dental practice in Florence. As of 1921, his office was located at 114 North Alabama Street, and the family lived in a house at 513 West College Street until 1926, when they moved to 322 South Poplar Street.

(Below) Excerpt of 1920 Florence City Directory for Dentists – People of Color, such as Dr. Pollard, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

### DENTISTS

Brock J L, 117½ N Court  
Chisholm W R, 108½ E Tennessee  
Johnston F A, 124 E Mobile  
Jones J W, 114 Court sq  
\*Pollard L M, 114 W Alabama  
Reeder F B, First Natl Bank bldg  
Thomas J S, Reeder Annex

(Opposite Page) (1) 1920 Census Record for Dr. Lorenzo Pollard (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (2) Excerpt of 1926 Florence City Directory for Dr. Lorenzo M. Pollard – Denoted as a Person of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (3) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Dr. Lorenzo M. Pollard – Denoted as a Person of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (4) Notice of Dr. Archie Jones' Drug Store (*Florence Democrat*, Friday, April 20, 1900 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (5) 1900 Census Record for Thomas H. Derrick (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (6) 1910 Census Record for Thomas Derrick in Nashville, Tennessee (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

The two pharmacists of Florence were Thomas H. Derrick (1879-after 1900) and Dr. Archie Jones (1861-1943), who worked together at the turn of the 20th century. Dr. Jones (no evident relation to the other Dr. Jones) was apparently the first pharmacist of color in Florence. According to the *Florence Democrat* on Friday, April 20, 1900, "a prominent colored citizen [Jones], has opened a drug store in the Young block, under the Democrat office. T. H. Derrick, a graduate pharmacist, will have charge of the prescription department. This is the first venture of the kind ever attempted here [Florence] by a colored man, and he will not doubt meet with abundant success." Dr. Jones was also written about as a doctor. In the Saturday, May 20th, 1898 issue of the *Florence Times*, an announcement of events around the end of the school year for the Florence City Colored School. It states that "Dr. Archie Jones, our colored physician, was programmed to deliver the annual address," but was unfortunately called away to treat his ailing sister.

Dr. Derrick was from Madison County, the son of farmers Susan and Henry Derrick, a veteran of the Civil War with the 17th USCT. While he was named second in command at Dr. Jones' pharmacy and enumerated on the 1900 census as living on Mobile Street, Florence, by 1903, a Thos H. Derrick, druggist, is listed in the Mobile, Alabama city directory in the "colored" section as working at Peoples Drug Store. Dr. Derrick is in Nashville by 1910, where he owns his own drug store. Dr. Jones stayed in Florence for the rest of his life, and the 1930 census lists him as a medical doctor living on Mobile Street. By 1940, he is nearly 80 years old and retired and living at 715 East Mobile Street.

1

63	West College Street				Ernest	Son	72	72	6 1/2	b	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none				63
64					Clarence	Son	72	72	39	b	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none				64
65					Miss Caroline	Wife	57	72	15	w	Georgia	Georgia	No Carolina	yes	none			65
66		521	277	291	Abraham William J.	Head	28	72	56	m	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Teacher	Home	oa	66 4c
67					Rebecca	Wife	2	72	50	w	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Teacher	Public School	77	67 P 6
68					Murderd Amintek	Wife	2	72	38	w	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Teacher	Public School	77	68 P 1
69		518	278	292	Pollard George W.	Head	72	72	29	m	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Teacher	Public School	77	69 P 1
70					Cornie	Wife	2	72	28	w	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	yes	none			70
71					Albert	Son	72	72	11	b	Mississippi	Alabama	Mississippi	yes	none			71
72					Eugene	Son	72	72	9	b	Mississippi	Alabama	Mississippi	yes	none			72
73		511	279	293	Little Ben J.	Head	72	72	52	m	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Contractor	Wilson Pan	77	73 14
74					Hillie J.	Wife	2	72	48	w	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			74
75					Annie	Daughter	2	72	11	b	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			75

2

Pollard Chas F clk North Court Street Service Station r518 N Cherry  
 Pollard Lorenzo M (Carrie) dentist h322 S Poplar  
 Pollard Robt (Annie) lab h603 Atlantis  
 Pollard Sadie M Mrs tchr Brandon Sch r510 N Poplar

3

Pollard John S (Caroline M), coal 1500 Water av, h 518 Selma av  
 \*Pollard Lorenzo M, dentist 1022 1/2 Broad, h 18 Lapsley  
 Pollard Mamie S, smstrs Liepold Bros. b 2220 Alabama av



4

**New Drug Store.**  
 Dr. Archie Jones, a prominent colored citizen, has opened a drug store in the Young block, under the DEMOCRAT office. T. H. Derrick, of Huntsville, a graduated pharmacist, will have charge of the prescription department. This is the first venture of the kind ever attempted here by a colored man, and he will no doubt meet with abundant success.

5

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. 316 A

State Alabama County Sanderdale Supervisor's District No. 9 Sheet No. 8  
 Enumeration District No. 56

Township or other division of county \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Florence Ward of city, 2  
 Enumerated by me on the 18th day of June, 1900, H. Standifer Enumerator. 3293

IN CITY	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	WEIGHT OF HEAD										
				Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person														
1	Denrick Thos. Hest	Head	72 m Nov 7 1825 S	ala	ala	ala		1. Schigget	0	70	30	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
2	Kelly, Y. O.	Head	47 m Aug 15 70 29 M W	Ky	Ky	Ky		Public Schol M W	0	40	30	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
3	Alora d.	Wife	MT April 18 69 37 M 17	Ky	Ky	Ky			0	30	12	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

6

92	1111	98	110	Derrick Thomas	Head	72	72	34	M	7	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Druggist	Drug Store	Emp	Yes	Yes	# 20-3X	92
93				Lulu	Wife	72	72	35	M	7	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	English	None			Yes	Yes		93
94				Ruth	Daughter	72	72	6	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None				Yes	Yes		94
95				Thomas	Son	72	72	1	S		Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama	None				Yes	Yes		95
96				Emma	Daughter	72	72	10	S		Tennessee	Kentucky	Alabama	None				Yes	Yes		96
97				Robinson Peter	Boarder	72	72	17	S		Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	English	Porter	Drug store	W. No 0	Yes	Yes	1443 X	97



One other Florence native had several professions before settling in Decatur, Alabama as the owner and proprietor of a pharmacy. Arthur Oscar (A.O.) Sheffey (1881-1940) was born in Maysville, outside of Huntsville, in Madison County to farmers Arthur Rison and Laura Sheffey.

## Buys Interest In Magnolia Drug Co

A. O. Sheffey, for the past eight years a resident of Florence, has returned to Decatur and purchased an interest in the Magnolia Drug Co., 310 Bank street, from Dr. Willis E. Sterrs. The pharmacy will make a number of improvements and will go out for additional trade.

Sometime in the early 1900s, Sheffey moved to Florence. By 1913, he had opened a "moving picture show for the benefit of colored people" on Royal Avenue where the old Airdome movies was. That same year, Sheffey is listed in the Florence City Directory as the district manager for the Union Mutual Aid Association of Mobile, an insurance company that served people of color. Their offices were located at 120 ½ North Court Street. Sheffey lived at 421 East Alabama Street.

By 1918, A.O. Sheffey had moved to Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. The *Albany-Decatur Daily* reported on April 18, 1918, that Sheffey had "purchased an interest in the Magnolia Drug Co., 310 Bank Street, from Dr. Willis E. Sterrs. The Pharmacy will make a number of improvements and will go out for additional trade." The 1920 census confirms that Sheffey was living in the predominately African American and affluent part of Decatur, next door to lawyer H.V. Cashins. Sheffey is listed as a proprietor of a drug store and his wife, Daisy, is listed as a "saleslady" at Magnolia Drug Store. Sheffey continued to operate in Decatur and

(Left) Newspaper Clipping about A. O. Sheffey (*Albany-Decatur Daily*, April 18 1918 via Newspapers.com) (Below) 1920 Census Record for A. O. Sheffey in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1930 Census Record for A. O. Sheffey in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

is listed as such in 1930. He passed away before the 1940 census was completed and was buried in the exclusively African American cemetery, Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery outside Decatur.

## Grocers

Several other professionals of color were known to work in Florence from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. For the majority of them, little is known beyond a name in the city directory, newspaper, or census record. With more research, more information may be found on these businessmen, most of whom worked in what would be considered blue-collar jobs today. The majority of people of color worked in service positions, and few had the means to secure the education needed to be middle-class professionals such as dentists, doctors, or barbers. These gentlemen were shoemakers, bootblacks, painters, carpenters, bricklayers, and blacksmiths. Some were the proprietors of businesses like grocery stores, billiard halls, restaurants, and livery stables.

The growth of the grocery market and the rapid urbanization of Florence go hand-in-hand. As more people moved to the city for industrial jobs such as the construction of Wilson Dam, more grocers set up shop to provide easy access to food and common goods. The 1913 Florence City

29	577 297 314	Sheffey A.O.	Head	'0	7M	7M	24	21		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Proprietor	Drug Store	310	29
30		Daisy	Wife		F	12	35	21		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Saleslady	Magnolia Drug	310	30
31		Louisa	Daughter		F	12	18	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				31
32		Cynthia	Daughter		F	12	16	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				32
33		Arthur	Son		M	12	14	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				33
34		Samuel	Son		M	12	12	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				34
35	574 299 315	Cashins H.V.	Head	'0	F	7M	64	21		yes	yes	Georgia	England	Georgia	Proprietor	Drug Store	310	35
36		Minnie V	Wife		F	12	18	21		yes	yes	Alabama	Georgia	Alabama				36
37		Lillian	Daughter		F	12	30	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Georgia	Alabama				37
38		John S	Son		M	12	21	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Georgia	Alabama				38

6	577 297 314	Sheffey Arthur O	Head	'0	7M	7M	24	21		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Proprietor	Drug Store	310	6
7		Daisy	Wife		F	12	35	21		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Saleslady	Magnolia Drug	310	7
8		Arthur O	Son		M	12	14	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				8
9		Thompson D S	Son		M	12	21	2		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				9

**GROCERS—RETAIL**

Anderson T H & Son, w s Wood av 1 n of Wildwood av  
 Angel J W, 531 E Tuscaloosa  
 Brabson G W Mrs, S Florence  
 \*Brewer Lewellyn, 508 E Alabama  
 \*Buckingham R B, 408 E Alabama  
 Coplan Grocery and Provision Co, 215 N Court  
 Cox J L, 99 Huntsville rd  
 Fowler A J, 623 Royal av  
 Fulton W L, 70 Huntsville rd  
 Gray J L, 104 N Chestnut  
 Griffin Charles, 223 N Court  
 Grimes J P & J M, 12 Huntsville rd and 613 Aetna  
 Hall J C, 10 Huntsville rd  
 Hyde & Son, Seven Points  
 Johnson R J, 517 Royal av  
 LUCAS & SIMMONS, 122 E Tennessee  
 Matthews W M, 80 Huntsville rd  
 Phillips Jeff, 684 Irvine av  
 Phillips W R, Huntsville rd cor Aetna  
 Ramsey H M, 82 Huntsville rd  
 Sharp & Blair, 219 N Court  
 Simpson J L, 619 Royal av  
 White J P, 20 Huntsville rd  
 White W C, 126 E Tennessee  
 Wood L C, Cherry s e cor Tuscaloosa  
 \*Wytch J W, 108 E Mobile

Brewer, Buckingham, R.L. Morgan on South Cherry Street, George Pruitt on West College Street, and V.G. Smith on South Poplar Street.

William H. Dismukes (c. 1875- after 1901) is one of the earliest businessmen of color known to have owned a grocery in Florence. He was born in Georgia and was a former employee of the Florence Wagon Company. In late 1897, Dismuke's Grocery opened on the Perry Block of East Mobile Street next to George W. Seawright's shoe shop. A few years earlier Mr. Dismuke married Ms. Bertha J. Leigh in a ceremony at St. Paul AME Church officiated by the Rev. A.A. Godwin. Mr. Dismuke is enumerated on the 1900 census as a grocer in Florence. His wife died in 1901 after which no other records are found.

W. H. Dismukes, colored, of Corinth, Miss., a former employee of the Wagon Co., has opened up a fancy and staple grocery on Mobile street, in the Perry block, next door to Seawright's shoe shop. See his advertisement in this week's HERALD.

**W. H. DISMUKES,**

**New Grocery!**



**New Goods!**

Perry Block, Mobile St., Florence.

Has just opened with a fine line of Fresh Groceries. Rock bottom prices on Flour, Meat, Tobacco, Canned Goods, Candies, etc.

GIVE ME A CALL.

(Above) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Grocers – People of Color, such as Misters Brewer, Buckingham, and Wytch, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

Directory lists 26 grocers, only three of which are people of color, in Brewer, Buckingham, and Wytch. By 1920, there were 59 grocery stores in Florence, but only five of them were run by people of color located in

(Left) Ad for W. H. Dismukes' Grocery (Florence Herald, September 21, 1899 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Above) Newspaper Clipping about W. H. Dismukes' Store (Florence Herald, Thursday, September 21, 1899 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Below) 1900 Census Record for William Dismukes (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

6	52699	Dismuke William	Head	B. M.	Apr. 1875	25	W	5	Georgia	Unknown	"iii"	Grocer	0	yes	yes	yes	O F H	6
7		Bertha J.	Wife	B. F.	Apr. 1875	25	M	5	Alabama	Unknown	Alabama			yes	yes	yes		7
8		Rosa E.	Daughter	B. F.	Nov. 1895	4			Alabama	Georgia	Alabama							8
9		Repta	Daughter	B. F.	Oct. 1898	1			Mississippi	Unknown	Alabama							9
10		Lee Minerva J.	Mother	B. F.	Jan. 1841	57	W	5	Alabama	Unknown	Unknown			yes	yes	yes		10
11		Coplan L. C.	Wife	B. M.	Apr. 1838	12			Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama							11
12		Paul	Wife	B. F.	Feb. 1890	10			Alabama	Tennessee	Alabama							12
13	241	Mamie	Wife	B. F.	Nov. 1892	7			Mississippi	Tennessee	Alabama							13

Robert B. Buckingham (1873-1940) was the son of farmers John (1850-aft. 1880) and Julia Buckingham (1853-aft. 1880) of Oakland, Lauderdale County. Mr. Buckingham owned a grocery store in the 1910s. According to the 1913 Florence City Directory, Mr. Buckingham's store was located at 408 East Alabama. The 1920 census lists Robert Buckingham as a merchant of a retail grocery and his wife, Helen (or Hellon), worked as a salesman at, presumably, the same grocery store. In the 1920 city directory, the grocery was located at 308 E Alabama Street, but this is most likely a change in the street numbers and not an actual change in location. It is unknown what became of Buckingham after 1921 when his wife passed away. Her September 16, 1921 obituary says that Robert was "a colored merchant, and one of the best known and most respected colored men of the city." They are both buried at the Florence City Cemetery.

According to the 1913 Florence City Directory, Lewellyn Brewer (c.1860-1865-after 1940) had a grocery at 508 East Alabama Street near Buckingham's Grocery. Brewer is recorded on the 1920 census as a merchant/retail grocer, still living on Alabama Street. Mr. Brewer and his family relocated to Los Angeles, California by 1940.

(Top) 1920 Census Record for Robert Buckingham (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Middle) 1920 Census Record for Llewellyn Brewer in Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1940 Census Record for Llewellyn Brewer in Los Angeles, California (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



Jacob "Jake" W. Wytch (c.1852-1927) was born in North Carolina before the Civil War. By the 1880s, it appears that Wytch had made his way to Texas, before coming back east and settling in Florence. He was both a boot and shoemaker and a grocer. Documents suggest he either traded off these professions as needed or conducted them simultaneously. Mr. Wytch may have been a shoemaker first with a shop on Court Street in 1880, located above a store. In 1897, Mr. Wytch was Worshipful Master of Centennial Lodge No. 19 of the Colored Mason. He also owned a grocery first located on Court Street. The 1910 census records Wytch and his wife, Charlotte living on Alabama Street and a grocer. He moved the store in 1913 to 108 East Mobile Street in 1913 and his family to a house at 204 South Pine Street. The 1926 Florence City Directory lists Wytch as a shoe repairer living in a house at 255 Spring Road. He would have been nearly 75 years old and passed away that year or the next. His

82	210	281	299	Buckingham Robert	Head	1	0	8	20	13	45	70			yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Merchant	retail grocer	20	827
83				Hellon	wife			7	10	34	70				yes	yes	Mississippi	Mississippi	Mississippi	yes	salesman	grocery store	20	8375
84				Mary	daughter			7	10	14	6				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi	yes	none			84
85				Robert Jr	son			7	10	7	6				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi	yes	none			85
86				Carrie	son			7	10	25	6				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi	yes	none			86

69	529	261	277	Brewer Lewellyn	Head	1	0	8	20	13	45	70			yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Merchant	retail grocer	20	69
70				Ada J	wife			7	10	41	70				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			70
71				Emma M	daughter			7	10	19	6				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			71
72				Carrie	son			7	10	27	6				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			72
73				Jasper Pella	mother-in-law			7	10	61	70				yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			73
74				Latham Anthony	Boarder			7	10	52	70				yes	yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	yes	salesman	grocery store	20	746
75				Samuel Jeff	Boarder			7	10	58	70				yes	yes	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	yes	Alabama	retail grocer	20	75

4	1575	750	3000	Brewer, Lewellyn	Head	M	20	80	M	No	8	Alabama	Same place	No	XOXO	No	No	No	No	U				0	0	Yes	4			
5				Ada B	Wife	F	10	64	M	No	9	Alabama	Same place	No	XOXO	No	No	No	No	U				0	0	Yes	5			
6				Carrie	Son	S	10	23	S	Yes	1	Alabama	Same place	No	XOXO	No	No	No	No	S				0	0	No	6			
7				Emma Mae	Daughter	F	10	24	S	Yes	2	Alabama	Same place	No	XOXO	No	No	No	No	S				0	0	No	7			
8				Hill Elizabeth	Granddaughter	F	10	7	S	Yes	2	California	Same place	No	XOXO													8		
9				Emma Lou	Granddaughter	F	10	6	S	Yes	1	California	Same place	No	XOXO													9		
10				Anthony Leon	Grandson	M	10	5	S	Yes	1	California	Same place	No	XOXO													10		
11				Ward Harry C.	Lodger	M	10	51	S	No	3	Kentucky	Same place	No	XOXO	No	No	No	No	U-				0	0	Yes	11			
12	1525	76 R	1700	Hill Eugene G	Head	M	10	55	M	No	8	Georgia	Same place	No	XOXO	Yes	-	-	-	-	7	40	Laborer	Pub. Mstr.	1918	2	52	720	No	12





Patterson Kotz A (Bessie), com trav, h 650 N Poplar  
 Patterson Nancy (wid), Indrs, h 517 Old Jackson rd  
 \*Patterson Reuben (m), cook, h 315 S Poplar  
 Patterson Riley (Minnie), lab, h n s Union 2 w of Trade

\*Patterson Nancy (wid), Indrs, h 517 Jackson rd  
 \*Patterson Percy, lab, b 517 Jackson rd  
 \*Patterson Reuben (m), boot blk, h 315 S Poplar  
 Patterson S Elbert, mill opr, b 137 Commerce

(Top) Reuben Patterson Listed in 1913 Florence City Directory as Cook – He is Denoted as a Person of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Above) Ruben Patterson Listed in 1920 Florence City Directory as Bootblack – He is Denoted as a Person of Color by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995)

**GEO. W. SEWARIGHT**  
**BOOT and SHOE MAKER,**  
 Has opened a SHOP in the room recently occupied by Mr. Fink over the store of M Jacobs, where he is prepared to do work in his line, on short notice and **REASONABLE RATES.**  
 Give him a call when wanting work in his line, and he will satisfy you in quality and price of work. 2176, 81cm

from 1899 lists Mr. Seawright's shoe shop as next door to W.H. Dismuke's grocery. When Mr. Seawright passed away in 1931, he was described as one of the city's most respected citizens. His obituary was written by the Sons of Confederate Veterans officers. One other known businessman was Sam Greenhill (died 1894) who was a boot and shoemaker in Florence. His obituary stated that he was "a worth colored man, a shoemaker by trade" and died in July 1894. His funeral was held at the St. Paul AME Church.

**SHOEMAKERS**

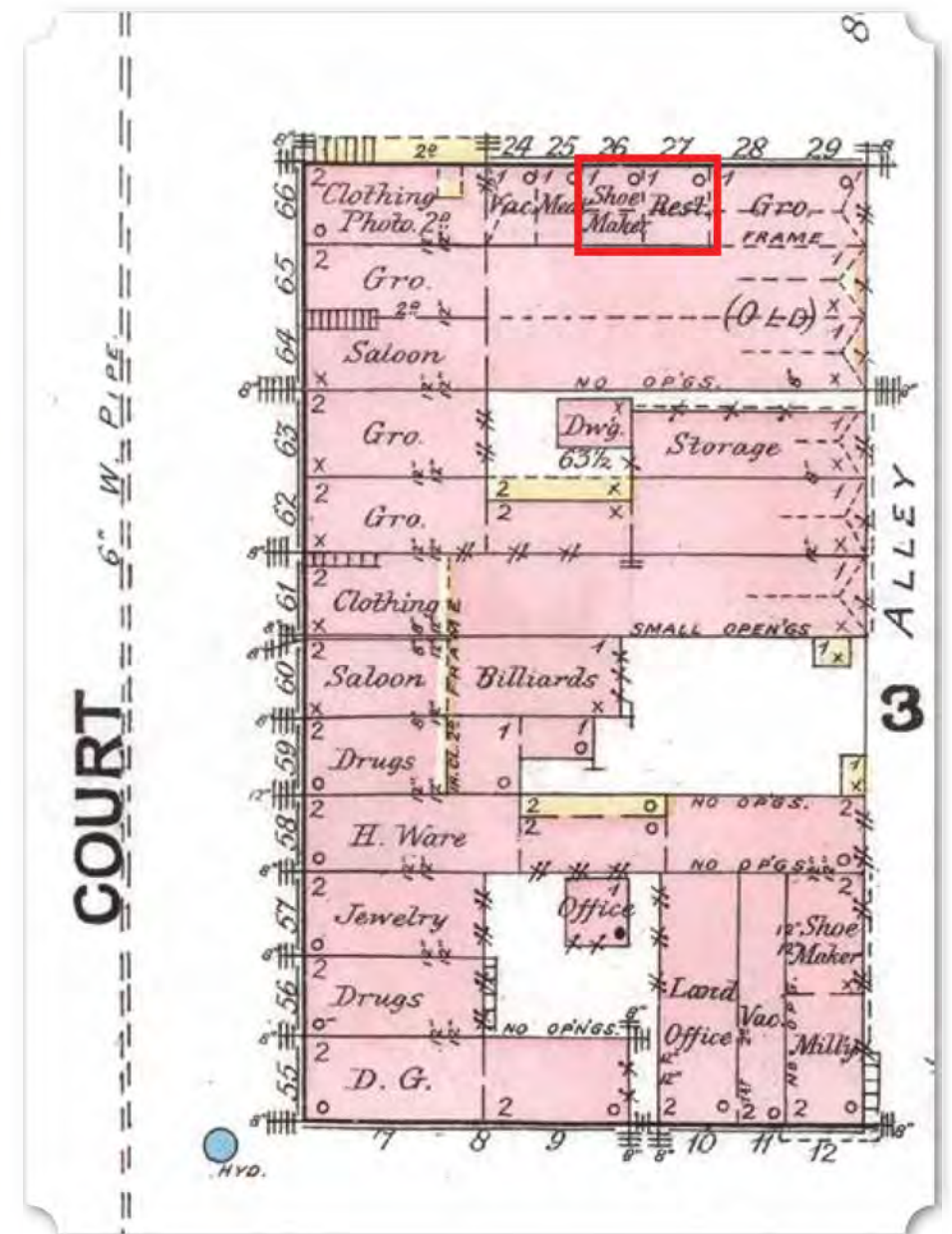
Chiriaco Vincenzo, 216 Tennessee  
 Garibaldi John, 112 W Tennessee  
 Halter C J, 107 E Tennessee  
 Rogers E L, Court n w cor Tombigbee  
 \*Seawright G W, 117 1/2 E Tennessee  
 Snyder J J, 110 N Seminary

(Left) Ad for G. W. Seawright's Boot and Shoemaking (Florence Banner, Tuesday, October 24, 1889 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Above) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Shoemakers – People of Color, such as Mr. Seawright, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Below) Excerpt of 1920 Florence City Directory for Shoemakers – People of Color, such as Mr. Seawright, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Bottom) 1900 Census Record for George W. Seawright (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

**SHOEMAKERS**

Buchanan H P, 61 Huntsville rd  
 Chiriaco Vincent, 322 E Tennessee  
 Coats Frank, 221 S Pine  
 Garibaldi John, 104 E Mobile  
 Halter C B, 121 E Tennessee  
 Halter C J, 106 E Mobile  
 Hartlino W G, 523 Royal av  
 \*Seawright G W, 117 1/2 E Tennessee

(Below) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, 1889. Showing the Stafford Block. On the Top End of the Map, the "Shoe Maker" Was Most Likely Seawright and the "Rest"aurant Most Likely Belonged to Streiter (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

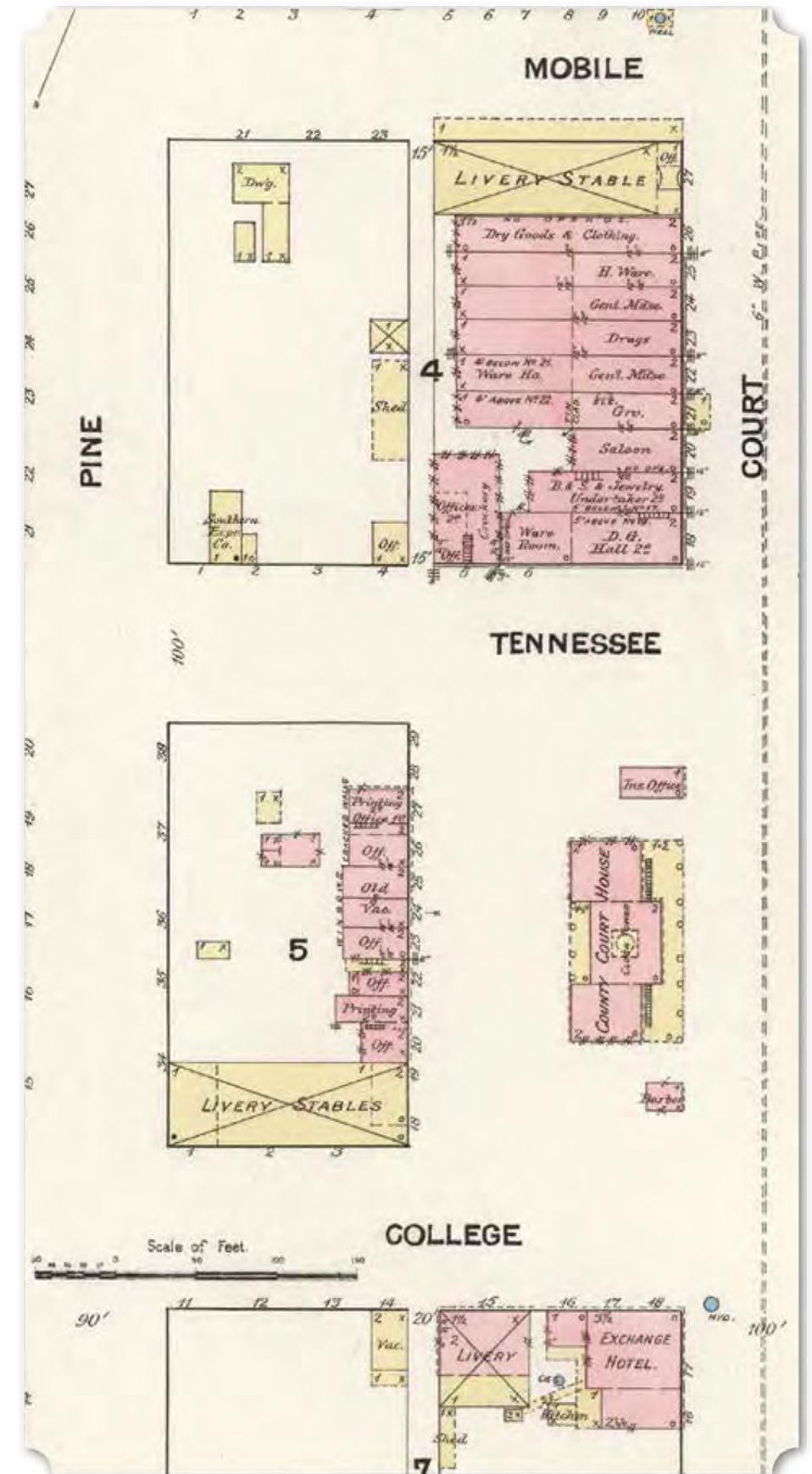
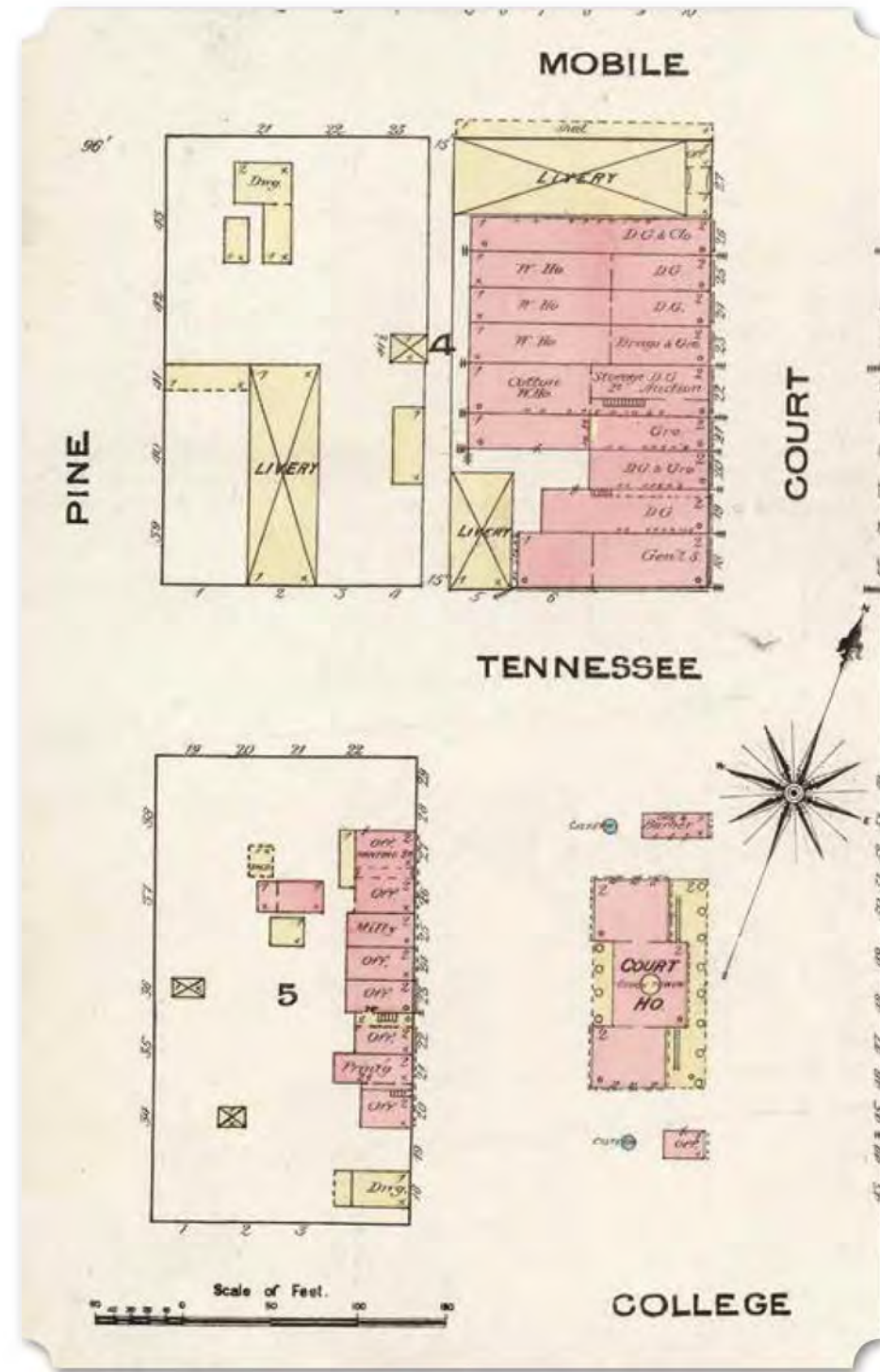


38	1305	Seawright George W.	Head	13	Jan	1847	53	Dec	30	Alabama	Unknown	Virginia	Shoe maker	0	Yea	Yea	Yea	0	J	H	33
34	1304	Francis	Wife	68	Nov	1848	57	Jan	30	Alabama	Unknown	Virginia			Yea	Yea	Yea				34

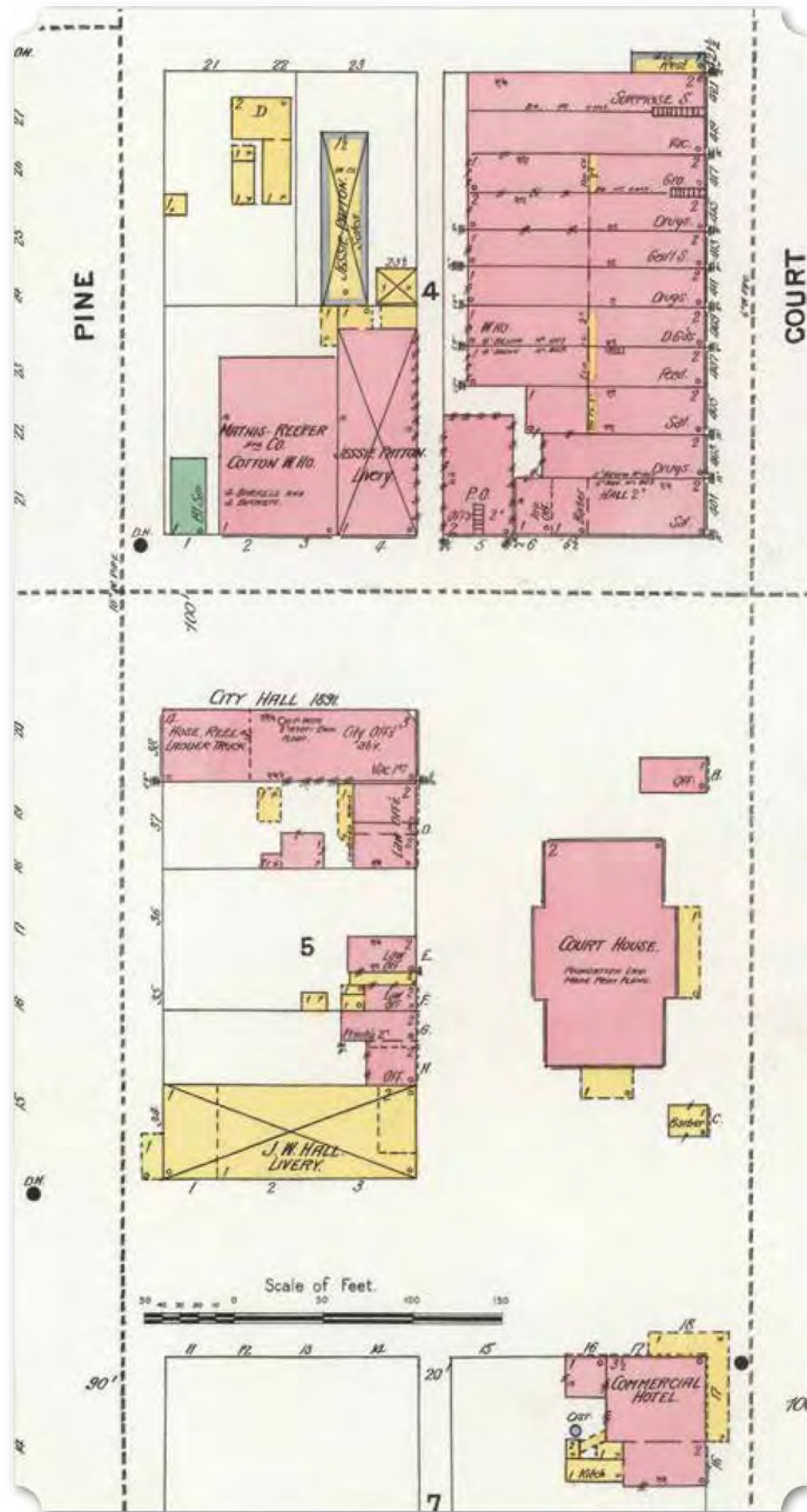
## Livery and Groomsmen

A particularly 19th century occupation was manning livery stables – stables that kept horses for hire as needed. This industry spilled over into the 20th century, but was suddenly replaced by the automobile in the late 1910s to 1920s. The prominent grooms of Florence from the end of the Civil War to the end of the era of horse-drawn carriages were a father-son team: Rush Patton, Sr. (c. 1837-1907) and Rush Patton, Jr. (1864-after 1930). Patton, Sr. was a free person of color before the war. His father was a white man from Ireland, possibly William Patton, a slave owner who came to Florence in the 1840s. Patton, Sr. opened a livery, feed, and sale stable in October 1865 and became one of Florence's most successful businessmen of color. By the 1880s his business was awarded contracts such as carrying the U.S. mail from Florence across the river to South Florence in present-day Colbert County, and stabling horses for the Florence Land, Mining & Manufacturing Company. In the last decades of the 19th century, there was a boom in industry in Florence and, subsequently, in the livery stable business. While Patton's stables move from one block to the other and back again, as of 1889, his large, brick stables were located opposite the Exchange Hotel in downtown Florence. His was one of six livery stables in the center of the city.

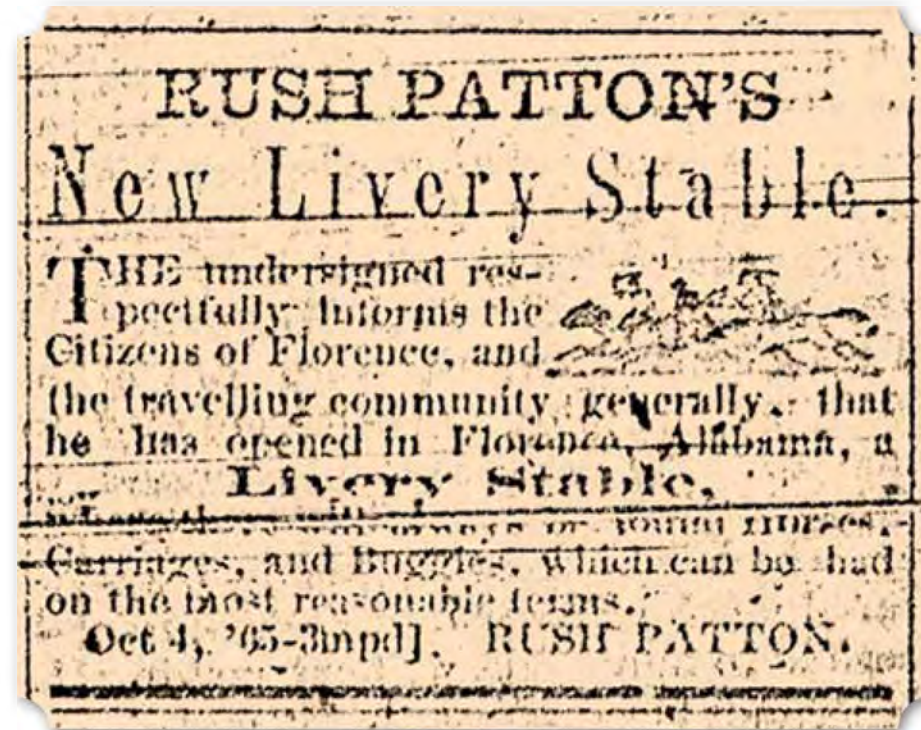
Patton, Sr.'s success allowed him to purchase property. By 1888, he is known to have built several rental houses, although their locations are uncertain. He passed away in 1907 at 70 years old during the downturn of the stable business. His wife, Mahala, died within three years. They had one son, Rush Patton, Jr., who worked with his father in the livery business until 1896. Afterwards, Rush, Jr. became a carpenter and house painter as well as a business manager for his close friend, Jesse Patton, another prominent businessman of color and stable owner. Rush and Jesse were so close they each named a son after the other. Rush, Jr. married a woman named Pocahontas Cluff (1870-after 1930) in late 1890 in Florence. By 1900, the couple had moved to New Jersey, where Rush, Jr. continued to be a painter and later a brick mason.



(Above) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, 1884. Showing Patton's Livery Stables at the Intersection of Pine and Tennessee Streets (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online) (Right) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, 1889. Showing Patton's Livery Stables at the Intersection of Pine and College Streets, across from the Exchange Hotel (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



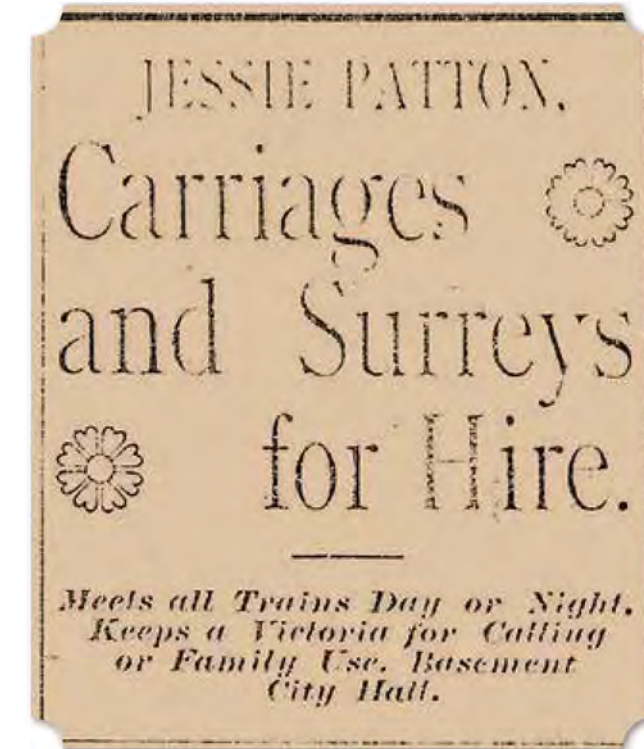
(Left) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, 1899. Showing Patton's Livery Stables at the Intersection of Pine and Tennessee Streets, on the North Side of the Courthouse. The Livery is Much Larger and Mostly Made of Brick (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



(Top) Ad for Rush Patton Sr.'s Livery Stable, (Florence Journal, Wednesday, October 4, 1865 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Above) Ad for Rush Patton, Jr.'s Carpentry and Painting Established out of Jesse Patton's Stables (Florence Herald, Thursday, January 7, 1897 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

Jesse Patton (1865-1910) was born to Henry and Rachel Patton. His father, Henry, had been the slave of Judge Sidney Cherry Posey, and Rachel was owned by the Huff and Callahan families. Jesse grew up working in the stables and eventually owned a livery. In 1891, Mr. Patton advertised in Florence newspapers; previously, he had worked

out of stables owned by a Mr. Ramsey. The following year, he operated a small livery out of the basement of City Hall, across the street from Rush Patton's livery stables. He, too, was awarded the U.S. mail contract in 1894 and another contract for the L&N Railroad depot. He owned a large and impressive building by 1895.



(Left) Ad for Jessie Patton's Carriages and Surreys (Florence Herald, Thursday, September 1, 1892 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Below) Photograph of Jesse Patton's Livery, Feed, and Sale Stable on West Tennessee Street, 1897 (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)



### Jesse Patton Dead

Jesse Patton, the well known colored liveryman, died at his home on North Pine street last Friday night, of consumption, aged about 40 years. Jesses had been in the livery business in Florence longer probably than any other one of that calling, and was widely known. He had many friends in this community, who sympathised with him in his later misfortunes, and will be sorry to hear of his death.

WHEN YOU WANT

 **STYLISH : RIGS**

BE SURE TO SEE...

**Jesse Patton**

Before Giving Your Order.

Rubber Tired Buggies  
and Polite Drivers

Drummers wishing to go in any direction from Florence will do well to call on me.

**Jesse Patton.**

(Left) Newspaper Clipping about Mr. Jesse Patton (*Florence Times*, Friday, August 5, 1910 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library) (Bottom Left) Ad for Jesse Patton's Livery (*Florence Democrat*, May 11, 1900 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

### Blacksmiths

A profession closely associated with the stables and significant to all parts of life was the blacksmith. Every town needed a blacksmith, and Florence's prominent blacksmith of color was Hilton Key (c.1832-1895). A native of Virginia, Mr. Key was once a slave of one of Florence's prominent families. This may be where he gained his skills in blacksmithing and carpentry. After Emancipation, Key took on contracts, including one by the county in 1872 to repair the windows of the jail. In 1886, Mr. Key opened a blacksmith shop; previously, he had a stand on the corner of Tombigbee and Court streets. Hilton Key and Margaret Hale (born c. 1846) were married in 1868 by Rev. William Wise Handy (W.C. Handy's grandfather). The couple had at least four children., and smithing ran in the Key family. His son, Green Key also became a blacksmith. Hilton's brother, George Key, lived in his house in 1870 and was also a blacksmith. The 1913 Florence City Directory lists a Charles Key with a blacksmith shop at 121 South Seminary Street – perhaps another relation. In November 1891, Key's daughter, Katie (1873-after

(Below) Notice for Hilton Key's Blacksmith Shop (*Florence Gazette*, Saturday, June 12, 1886 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

### To the Public.

I have again opened a Blacksmith Shop, at my old stand, on Tombeckbee, near Court; and would solicit the patronage of the public. Horse-shoeing and other work in my line done well, promptly and cheaply. All iron-work in the wagon or carriage line well done: I am here to stay.

**HILTON KEY.**

1913), married fellow Florence businessman, Jesse Patton, livery stable owner. Hilton Key died on April 23, 1895 of a stroke at 65 years old.

### Restaurants

Segregation was the status quo for much of the South after the Civil War until the late 1960s. While providing services such as grooming and cooking were acceptable and common for people of color, establishments such as barbershops and restaurants were segregated. It was not socially acceptable for white people to use the same implements and utensils as people of color, prompting barbershops and restaurants, among other places, to segregate their services. A so-called "Negro Restaurant" was run by people of color, for people of color. There were at least three of these restaurants in Florence in the early 20th century. One owner of a Florence restaurant for people of color was Abraham "Abe" Streiter (1840-1893). Prior to opening the restaurant, Mr. Streiter had been a laborer. His restaurant was located on the Stafford Block of East Mobile Street with several other African American-owned businesses.

(Below) Newspaper Clipping about Mr. John Taylor (*Florence Times*, Friday, November 9, 1900 via Florence-Lauderdale Public Library)

### Dropped Dead.

John Taylor, a worthy colored man who kept a restaurant and grocery on the corner of Court and Tombigby streets, dropped dead in his place of business on Friday afternoon last in his little store. He was a worthy man and had the respect of all our people. His sensational death drew many people to the scene.

603	63	66	Thomas Ben F	Head	m	13	58	m	2	16	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	English	Restaurant	Proprietor	Emp	200	white	6	7	14	1-5-7	X
			Rebecca	Wife	w	13	58	m	2	16	Alabama	Virginia	Virginia	English	None				white	1	8	14	2-1-0	
712	64	67	Paul Hubbard	Head	m	13	49	m	2	0	Alabama	Mississippi	Mississippi	English	None	Labourer	W	200	white	10	7	14	2-1-0	

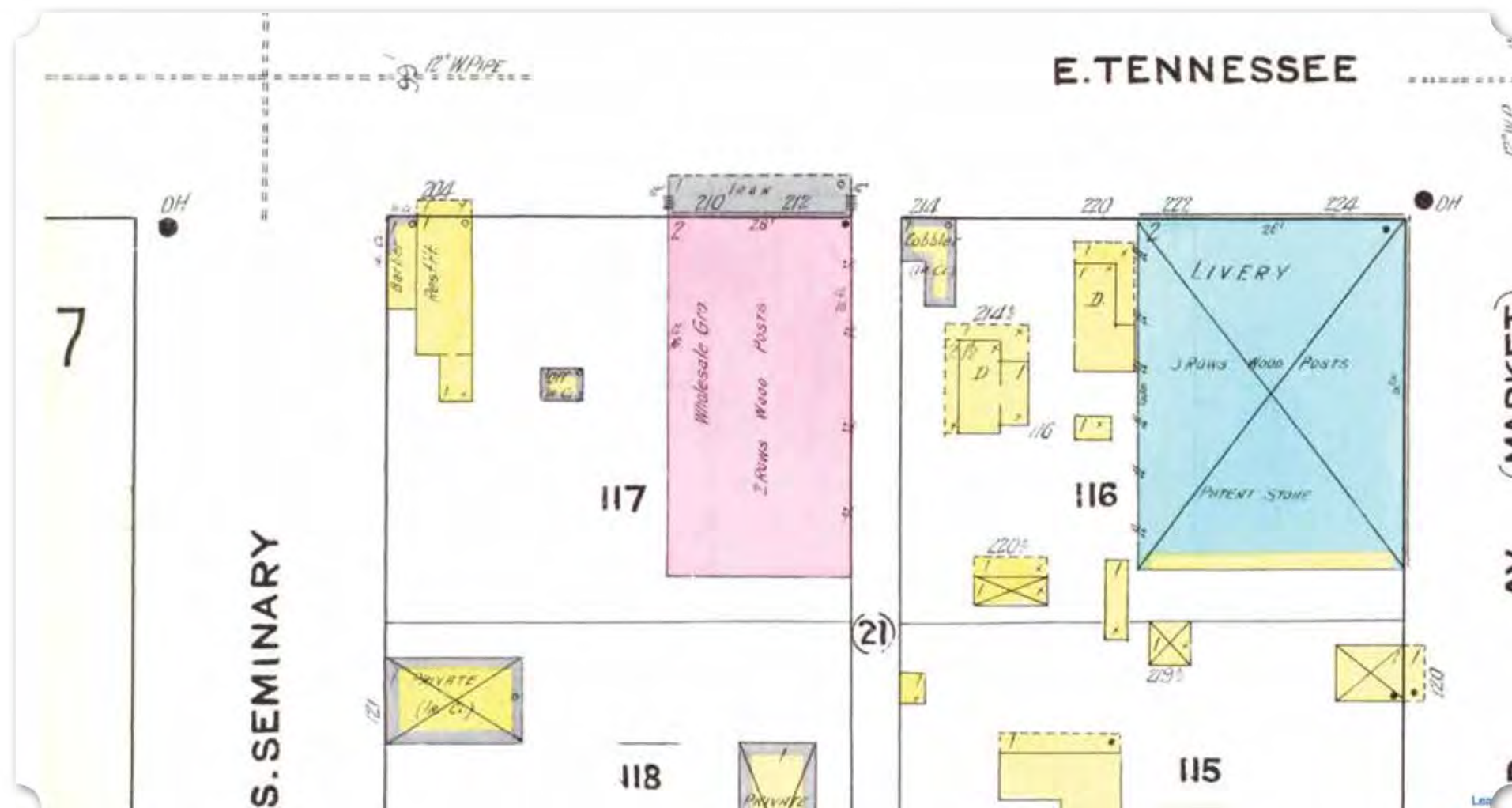
(Above) 1910 Census Record for Ben F. Thomas (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Excerpt of Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, 1910. Showing the Likely Location of Mr. Thomas' Restaurant on the Corner of South Seminary and East Tennessee Streets (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

This block burned in 1891, and two years later, he passed away. Another of Florence's notable restaurateurs was John Taylor (died 1900). Little is known about Taylor other than his obituary in the *Florence Times* on November 9, 1900 which read "John Taylor, a worthy colored man who kept a restaurant and grocery on the corner of Court and Tombigbee streets, dropped dead in his place of business on Friday afternoon last in his little store. He was a worthy man and had the respect of all our people. His sensational death drew many people to the scene."

Ben F. Thomas (c. 1852-after 1910) also owned a restaurant in Florence. Originally a farmer, Mr. Thomas married Rebecca Rapier (1853-1918), the daughter of Florence barber John H. and Lucretia Rapier in 1890. By 1900, Mr. Thomas worked as a laborer on the Muscle Shoals Canal but is known to have opened a restaurant by 1906 on the corner of Tennessee and Seminary streets. On the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, there is a small restaurant next to a barber shop on the southeast corner; this is most likely Thomas' restaurant. There are two Ben F. Thomas' in Florence at the turn of the 20th century. This Mr. Thomas is on the 1910 census living in a house he owns on Alabama Street with his wife, Rebecca, and had no surviving children.

## Undertakers and Funeral Homes

Due to the personal nature of the services provided and the segregation of cemeteries in Alabama after 1901, funeral homes for people of color, run by people of color became commonplace in the early 20th century. Each major town or city typically had at least one funeral home and



undertaker for people of color. A few funeral home services in North Alabama became the primary providers for nearly all people of color in the region: Royal Funeral Home in Madison County, and Thompson & Son Funeral Home in Colbert and Lauderdale counties. The first known undertaker in Florence for people of color was Mr. Henry M. O. Terry (1878-1936). Son to George W. Terry, Mr. Terry was a mortician and funeral director from at least 1910 until his own death in 1936. It appears that he worked and lived in the same location, which was not uncommon for funeral homes. In 1910, he and his wife, Josephine, were living with

Virgil Smith and his wife, Mollie, Josephine's sister. Terry is listed as "undertaker" and owner. By 1913, the Florence City Directory lists three undertakers, of which Terry is the only one of color. His business address is listed as 314 East Limestone Street, the same as the Smith house. In 1920, the census records Terry and his wife in their own home at 319 East Alabama Street, the same address given for his business in the city directory. The address changed to 323 Alabama Street in 1930, but this is more likely a renumbering rather than a physical move. Mr. Terry died on May 12, 1936 and is buried in the Florence City Cemetery.

## UNDERTAKERS

Fielder O B, 323 N Court  
 Morrison Z P & Son, 112 E Tennessee  
 \*Terry H M O, 314 E Limestone

## UMBRELLA REPAIRERS

Fago Frederick, 515 E Tennessee

## UNDERTAKERS

Fielder O R, 528 E Tombigbee  
 Morrison Z P & Son, 123 E Tombigbee  
 \*Terry H M O, 319 E Alabama

## H. B. AUSTIN & CO. Electrical Contractors & Dealers

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES AND APPLIANCES  
 EDISON MAZDA LAMPS

Phones: Office 686; Residence 148. 113 East Alabama St  
 FLORENCE, ALA.

Thompson & Son Funeral Home was first established in 1920 in Tuscumbia by Bruce Thompson and Tim Ricks. However, Mr. Ricks left the endeavor by 1922 and Thompson's son, Bruce, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps. Bruce, Jr. attended Worsham College of Embalming in Chicago. Upon graduating, he became the "first college-trained embalmer and funeral director [of color] in North Alabama" and went into business with his father. Bruce, Sr. passed away about 1960, and in 1962, Mrs. Thompson and Bruce, Jr. opened a second location in

Florence on Poplar Street. The business was sold in 1982 to the current owners, Col. Arthur D. Graves and wife, Ms. Jean Long Graves.

The research done on Florence's African American professionals touches on only a few of the people and professions of the turn of the 20th century. There are undoubtedly more people of color that operated and owned businesses in the area over the decades. A close examination of city directories cross-referenced with the census and other resources could yield more information on the individuals named here as well as others.

(Top Left) Excerpt of 1913 Florence City Directory for Undertakers – People of Color, such as Mr. Terry, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Left) Excerpt of 1920 Florence City Directory for Undertakers – People of Color, such as Mr. Terry, are Denoted by \* (Ancestry.com, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995) (Below) 1920 Census Record for Henry M. O. Terry (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below Middle) 1930 Census Record for Henry M. O. Terry (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) 1910 Census Record for Henry M. O. Terry (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



4	Williams, Herbert	Grandson							Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Understand	Business	75			
5	314 268 286	Terry, Henry M. O.	Head	0	7	20	46	20	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none	8			
6		Josephine	wife	2	9	28	20		yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	laborer	76			
74	323 405 446	Terry, Henry O	Head	0	20	45	50	23	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Understand	Business 9690	75		
75		Josephine M	wife	1	18	30	21	1	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none	76			
34	314 254 258	Smith, Virgil	Head	1	13	45	41	6		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	English	Blacksmith Government	W 110	2-12-98	54	
35		Mattie	wife	7	9	29	41	6	3	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Master Mammie	DR	2-0-7	35
36		Terry, Henry M	Head	1	13	30	41	1	1	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Understand	Business	75	36
37		Josephine	wife	7	13	30	41	1	1	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	none			37

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CEDAR LAKE

HISTORIC BUILDING LA...  
SHEET 2 of 37

OF THE DRAWING STATE OF LOUISIANA



THE STATE OF ALABAMA

To any licensed Minister of the Gospel in regular communion with the Christian Church or Society of which he is a member, or Judge of the Supreme, Circuit, or City Court, or Chancellor within the State, or Judge of Probate, or Justice of the Peace in writing to this office, as required by law. You are hereby authorized to solemnize Marriage between Mr. Arthur Love, Colored, and to join them together in matrimony, and to certify the same in said County and State, on the 12 day of August, 1907.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, MORGAN COUNTY.  
Know all Men by these Presents, That...

THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
Before me,  
came *Arthur Love*  
License for Mr. *Arthur Love*  
is over eighteen years  
Sworn to and subscribed to by me,  
Arthur Love  
Witness our hand and seal of office this 14th day of August, 1907.

Lawrence County

1. Living History in Lawrence County
2. Places of Interest
3. Themes, People, and Events
4. Segregation and Discrimination of African American Communities

Jones, John  
Lipscomb, Bluit  
Lipscomb, John  
Lipscomb, Ella Brooks  
Lipscomb, Nancy  
Lipscomb, Willie  
Lipscomb, Georgie Lee  
Nelson

1920  
1911  
1904  
1900  
1917



District or Block No. 19 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD

Book No. 2 Year 1907

# 1. LIVING HISTORY IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

Positioned between Decatur and the Tri-Cities, Lawrence County sits unassumingly. Crossing through the northern part of the county, U.S. 72 weaves over Hillsboro and under Courtland, one of the oldest towns in the state with a 200-year-old cemetery and an old airfield. U.S. 72 is also known as Joe Wheeler Highway, named for Joseph “Fighting Joe” Wheeler, a Confederate general who was the owner of Pond Springs, a large plantation. In the middle of the county, State Route 24 cuts through Moulton, the county seat that was once much larger than it is today yet remains full of history. Several antebellum houses and plantation homes have survived the passage of time since the end of the Civil War. Oakville, in the southeastern part of the county, is home to the Jesse Owens Birthplace and Museum, memorializing the town’s famed Olympic athlete.

About halfway between Decatur and the Tri-Cities is the town of Courtland. Many of the roads are named for early U.S. presidents or founding fathers, and a turn down Jefferson Street reveals a quiet piece the past, with trees shading historic manors along the gridded streets. Van Buren Street dead ends at one of the oldest cemeteries in Alabama: Courtland City Cemetery, established in 1819 following statehood. Its African American section dates to 1865, although the earliest marked graves are from the early 1900s. The cemetery is a manifestation of segregation and inequality among the two communities of Courtland: the white section is gated and picturesque, while the African American section is sparse. Courtland’s African American population has historically been high, and the African American community was so large that the town of North Courtland was incorporated in 1981. In 2010, its population was 97.5% African American.



(Left) The African American Section of Courtland Cemetery (Photograph by Jenna Tran)

Further south, nearly in the center of Lawrence County, is Moulton, the county seat. Though all the major highways bypass the city, making it more difficult to reach, Moulton is actually the most populous city in Lawrence County. It is a quintessential Southern town with a town square lined with commercial buildings from the 1910s and 1920s and a 1938 courthouse in the center. To the southeast, on the corner of Main and Lawrence streets is a late 1930s bank building that matches the courthouse. Originally the Bank of Moulton, the building now houses the Lawrence County Historical Society and the County Archives. Ms. Wendy Hazel, a Lawrence County local, serves as the county archivist. When the archives are open, she is much sought after and appears to buzz around the edges, if not the center, of social and political life in Moulton.

The archives include donated books, binders of collected research, and filing cabinets of research topics. School records are tucked in a side room, and the land books and tax records are locked in the old bank vault. There are more records in the basement and in the attic, and one wall is covered in old photographs and newspaper articles.

While most of the information on African American communities in Lawrence County is still very much in its raw form, waiting to be culled out from old, handwritten books, there are many people excited to talk about their home and history. Local historian Mr. Butch Walker frequents not only the Moulton archives, but other North Alabama county archives and libraries. Mr. Walker has researched the plantations in the Shoals to learn about their locations and acreage, as well as how many slaves were owned by whom, and what happened to those enslaved people later in life. On occasion he is known to conduct oral history interviews and share his archival findings with descendants. Some of his research has been posted to a blog, and he hopes to write a book about the history of Lawrence County. For information on Moulton’s African American community, both Mr. Walker and Ms. Hazel recommended Ms. Pearl Jackson Green as an expert.



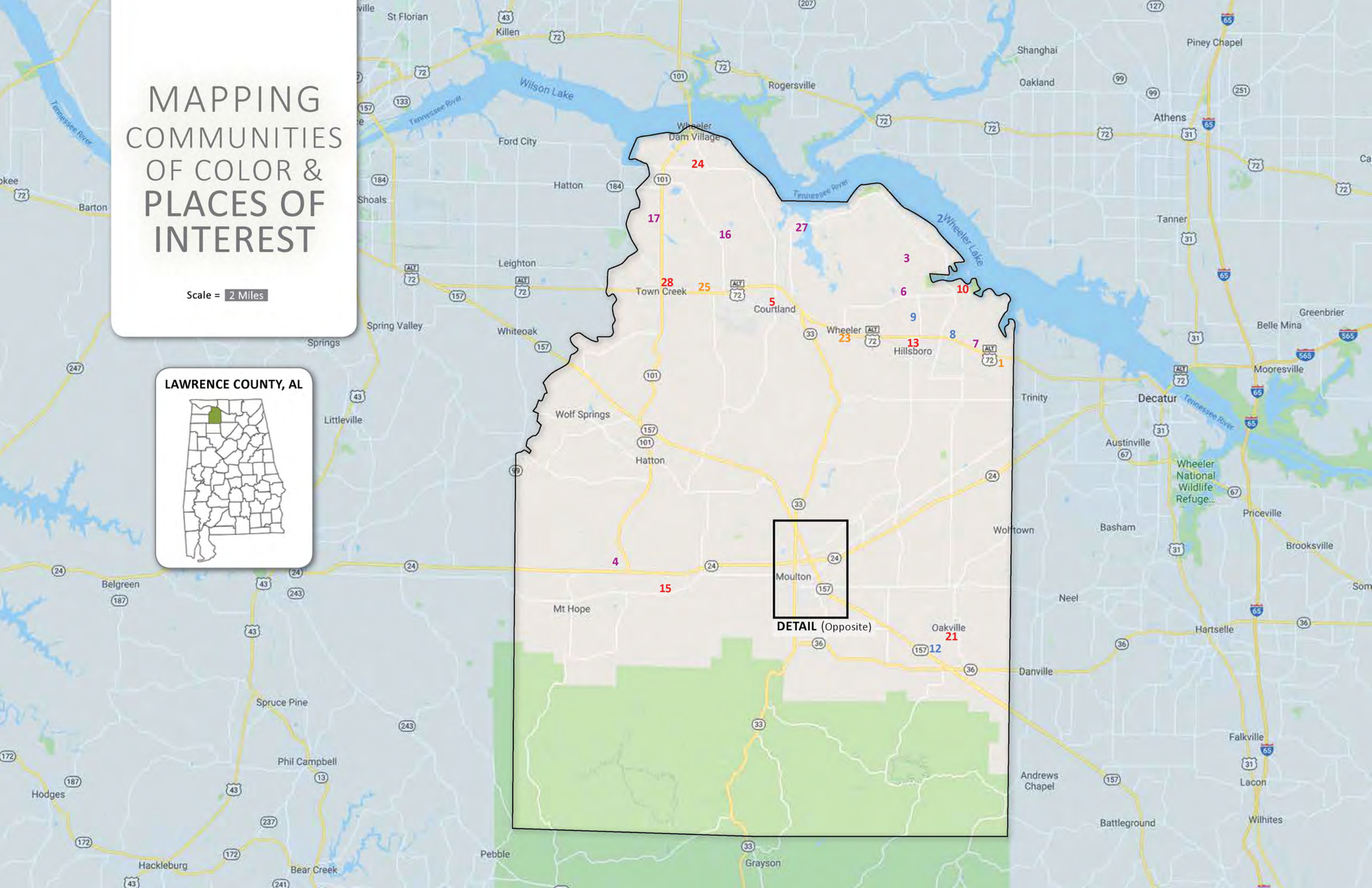
**(Left)** A Fire Insurance Map of Moulton, Lawrence County, 1939, Showing the Courthouse Square with the Bank of Moulton on the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Block (Alabama Inspection and Rating Bureau, Alabama Department of Archives and History via University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Fire Insurance Maps) **(Above)** The Lawrence County Archives in the Bank of Moulton Building (Photograph by Jenna Tran)

Though she would not confirm her age, Ms. Green has seen a lot of Lawrence County's history. A lifelong educator, she is also a profound storyteller. Ms. Green has often been asked to share her life stories because of their personal inspiration and significance to history beyond North Alabama. She has many troubling yet moving accounts of racial discrimination and personal perseverance. Her nephew, Deangelo McDaniel, is a writer for the *Decatur Daily*. Mr. McDaniel composes stories about African American life and history across North Alabama. He is well connected and passionate about local history and the members of the communities who have contributed to the making of North Alabama. Both Ms. Green's and Mr. McDaniel's stories and knowledge are indispensable when studying Lawrence and Morgan counties.

# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

## LAWRENCE COUNTY, AL



# KEY

- Communities
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- Plantations
- Schools

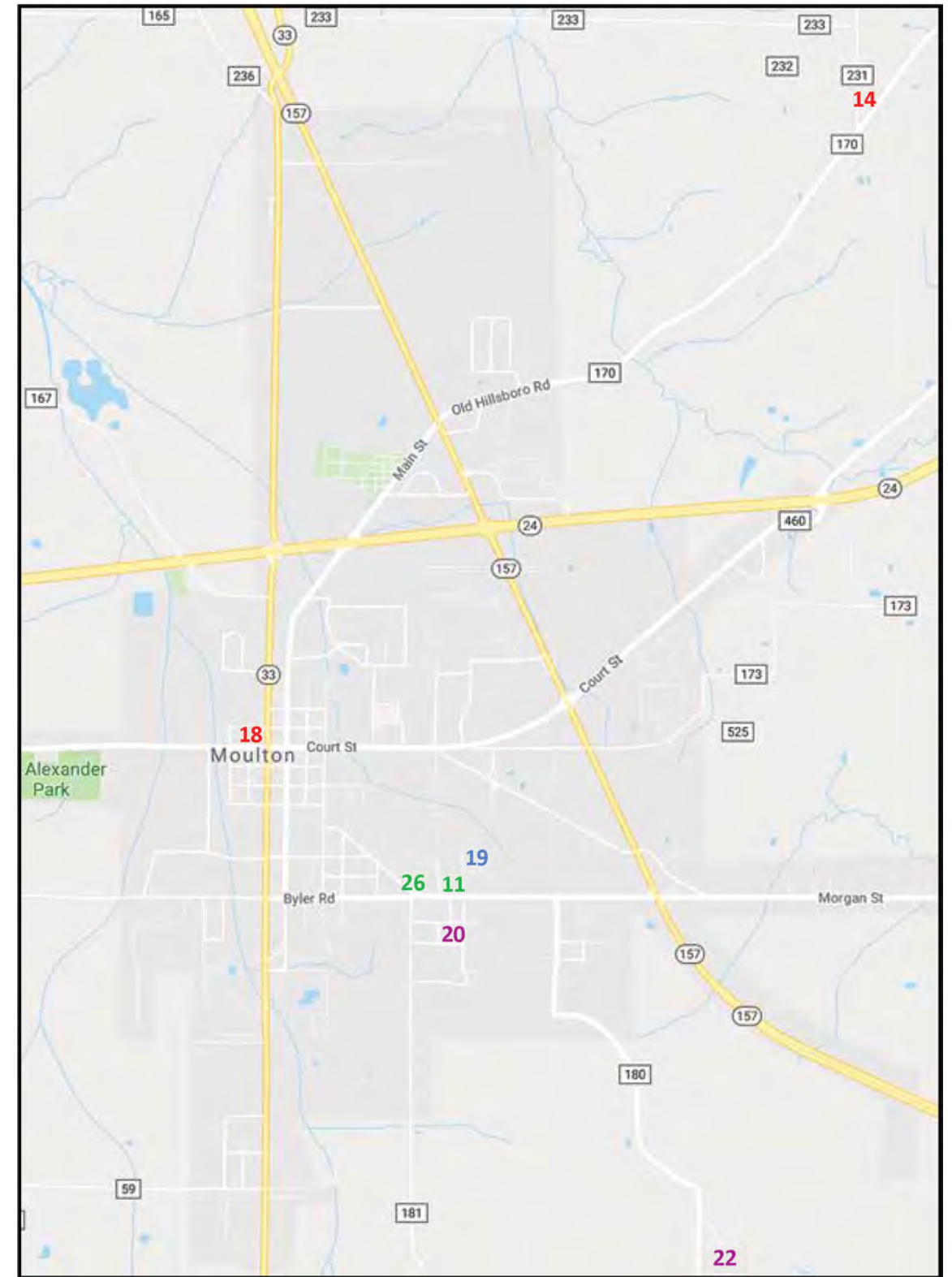
1. Boxwood Plantation
2. Campbell Cemetery\*
3. Canaan School\*
4. Cave Spring School\*
5. Courtland
6. David Temple School\* and Foster-Davis Cemetery
7. Ebenezer School\*
8. Elliott Cemetery
9. Ennix Cemetery
10. Flower Hill\*
11. Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church
12. Gibson Cemetery
13. Hillsboro
14. Kimo\*
15. Landersville
16. Little Sam School\*
17. Macedonia School\*
18. Moulton
19. Moulton Cemetery
20. Moulton School (Rosenwald)\*
21. Oakville
22. Pinhook School\*
23. Pond Spring and Bride's Hill\*
24. Red Bank
25. Rocky Hill\*
26. Smith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery
27. Spring Creek School\*
28. Town Creek

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



Scale = 2000 Feet

## Detail of MOULTON



map data©2018 Google

## 2. DETAILS OF PLACES OF INTEREST

### 1 ■ Boxwood Plantation

Boxwood Plantation, located on the Lawrence-Morgan County border, was originally owned by Samuel Elliott who owned a large amount of land and at least 94 slaves prior to the Civil War. The plantation was mostly destroyed during the war; all that is left is a single slave cabin on the corner of Joe Wheeler Highway and Cooperage Way. The cabin is unique for being built out of brick, which most likely helped it survive for over 150 years. The cabin was built in 1854 with slave-made bricks. The unique building material and the proximity to the main house suggests that it was for use by the house servants. The other cabins would have been located further away and constructed much like the log cabins on display at Pond Spring Plantation.

The cabin consists of two, 18-by-18-foot rooms with two front doors and a chimney on either end. It eventually became a residence and was expanded and covered with exterior siding until its original function was nearly unrecognizable. The cabin was inhabited until the 1980s, and its history was obscured until 2010. Restoration and stabilization on the building was conducted by volunteers and the Alabama Historical Commission. It was then added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and to the National Register of Historic Places. A historical marker conveys the history of the building.



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Boxwood Slave Cabin, Stewart Cross Roads, Alabama Quadrangle (Circled in red) (Below) 1950 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Boxwood Slave Cabin, Jones Crossroads, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom) 1976 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Boxwood Slave Cabin, Jones Crossroads, Alabama Quadrangle

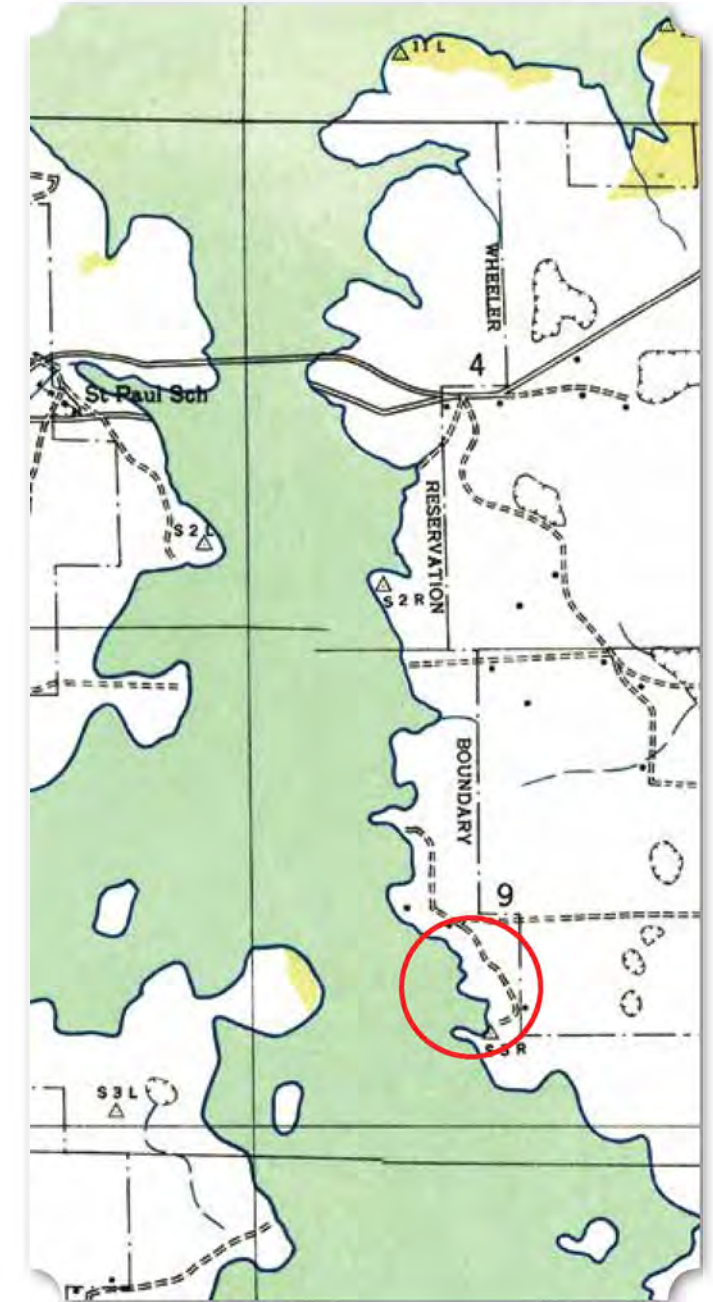


(Above) Boxwood Brick Slave Cabin, 2013 (National Register of Historical Places)

### 2 ■ Campbell Cemetery\*

Campbell Cemetery was located on the east bank of Spring Creek, but it was inundated with the damming of the Tennessee River. In the 1930s, the TVA did a survey of cemeteries that would be affected by the dams and lakes constructed in the Tennessee Valley. Some of the cemeteries were left in their original locations; others were moved. Some African American cemeteries were moved, records indicate that Campbell Cemetery was among those relocated. TVA files record 164 graves from Campbell Cemetery were moved to nearby Hampton Cemetery. Most of the individuals were unidentified. According to the TVA report, the church associated with the cemetery took responsibility for the graves, and they were moved without individually identifying and contacting next of kin.

Neither the Campbell nor Hampton cemeteries are marked on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic maps. Hampton Cemetery is mapped on the 1951 topographic map but is not labeled by name. In 1974, Hampton Cemetery is labeled on the east bank of Spring Creek. Of the 164 graves moved from Campbell Cemetery, only 58 are known; the rest are unidentified. The earliest known interments are Ed and Andrew Jones who died in 1898. Garth, Jones, and Lispcomb are common surnames.



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Spring Creek, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Approximate Location of Campbell Cemetery Circled in Red)



#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

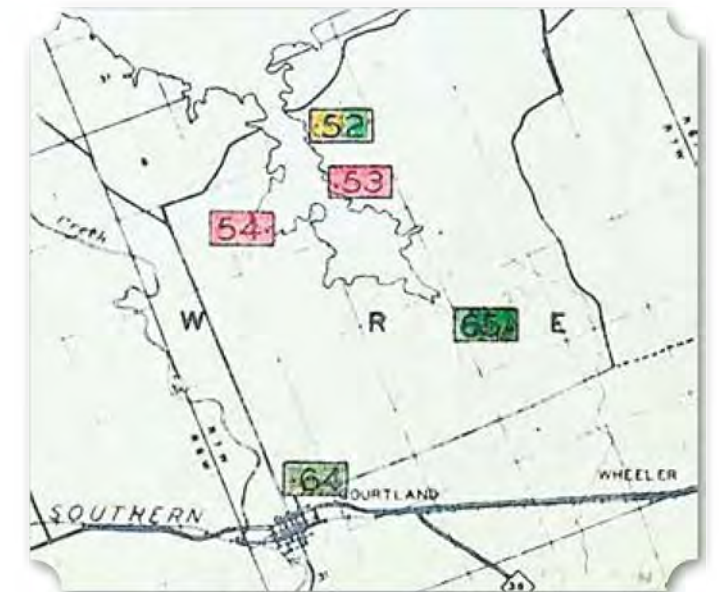
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



In the Campbell Church Cemetery (colored), it was found that a great deal of uncertainty, time, and expense would be involved in the effort to definitely identify all graves. The church agreed to accept responsibility for the relocation of all these graves without trying to identify each separate grave, and authorized the Chairman of the Board of Deacons to sign the legal permits and accept responsibility for the relocations.

Contracts were executed for 57 graves to remain in their original sites, and for 185 graves to be relocated above the pool level.

(Far Left) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hampton Cemetery, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Approximate Location of Campbell Cemetery Circled in Red) (Left) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hampton Cemetery, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) Excerpt from the Final Report of Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Information about Cemeteries Including Campbell and Hampton (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Excerpt from Map of TVA Cemetery Relocation Survey. #53 is Campbell Cemetery, #52 is Hampton Cemetery (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



WHEELER RESERVOIR CEMETERY FILES Page 2

CEMETERY NO.	P.T.S. NO.	NAME OF CEMETERY	CLASS	ON LAND MAP NO.	COUNTY	LOCATION			ELEV. OF LOW. GRAVE	TOTAL NO. OF GRAVES BELOW 556	NO. GRAVES 556-558	NO. GRAVES 558-560	OWNER OF CEMETERY
						SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE					
52	14	Hampton	Negro-Pub.	8-166	Lawrence	4	45	7N	572	63 <del>7</del>	0	0	Andrew Garth
53	14	* Campbell	Negro-Pub.	8-166	"	9	45	7N	541	156 <del>7</del>	155 <del>7</del>	0	Annie Chardavoine
54	14	* Sherrod (also Campbell)	White-Priv.	8-166	"	8	45	7N	545	9	9	0	Annie Chardavoine
55	15	Robinson's Quarter	Negro-Pub.	8-174	"	9	45	6N	581	60 <del>7</del>	0	0	Tenn. Valley Bank

LIST OF GRAVE REMOVALS--WHEELER RESERVOIR

Name of Deceased	Date of Death	Lawrence County	
		From Cemetery	To Cemetery
Bowling, Russell, Jr.	1932	(Campbell #52)	#52 traced
Bird, Tom, Jr.	1917	"	(R-1) Hampton 3-ES-7-50 K.12
Bird, Luvina	1910	"	"
Brooks, Bob	1910	"	"
Brooks, Malissia	1910	"	"
Brown, Joe	1917	"	"
Burgines, Susie Mae	1933	"	"
Campbell, Plumber	1929	"	"
Cooper, Geneva	1915	"	"
Cooper, Savannah	1913	"	"
Cunningham, Eva	1929	"	"
Daniels, Charlotte	?	"	"
Dillard, Laura	?	"	"
Dillard, Luther	1931	"	"
Dillard, Mary	1922	"	"
Dillard, Sam	1920	"	"
Dillard, Warner	?	"	"
Garth, Anderson	1921	"	"
Garth, Andrew	?	"	"
Garth, Eva Mae	1931	"	"
Garth, Josephine	?	"	"
Garth, Infant	?	"	"
Garth, "	?	"	"
Garth, Joe	1920	"	"
Gilchrist, Katy	1931	"	"
Garth, Anderson	?	"	"
Garth, Mary Rachel	?	"	"
Jones, Andrew	1927	"	"
Jones, Auther	1914	"	"
Jones, Andrew	1898	"	"
Jones, Ed	1898	"	"
Jones, Infant	1928	"	"
Jones, Martha	1925	"	"
Jones, Tom	1917	"	"
Jones, Willie	1921	"	"
Lewis, John	1927	"	"
Lipscomb, Hilman	1929	"	"
Lipscomb, Bluit	?	"	"
Lipscomb, John	1920	"	"
Lipscomb, Ella Brooks	1911	"	"
Lipscomb, Nancy	1904	"	"
Lipscomb, Willie	1900	"	"
Nelson, Georgie Lee	1913	"	"

LIST OF GRAVE REMOVALS--WHEELER RESERVOIR  
(Continued)

Name of Deceased	Date of Death	Lawrence County	
		From Cemetery	To Cemetery
Orr, Lizzie	1934	Campbell	#52 Hampton (R-7)
Orr, Verjella	1934	"	" 3-ES-7-50 K.12
Porter, Rizzie	1916	"	"
Ross, Clannon	1926	"	"
Swoope, Evalina	?	"	"
Swoope, Fannie	?	"	"
Swoope, Kate	?	"	"
Swoope, King	1904	"	"
Scruggs, Addie Ruth	1933	"	"
Lipscomb, Robert James	?	"	"
Thompson, Alice	1932	"	"
Watkins, Wm. Daniel	1923	"	"
Yarbrough, Carrie	1933	"	"
Yarbrough, Percy Lee	1933	"	"
Watkins, Emella	1925	"	"
106 Unidentified	?	"	"

(Far Left and Top Right) The List of Known Interments at Campbell Cemetery (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom Right) A Summary of Cemeteries from the TVA Cemetery Relocation Survey (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

SUMMARY OF CEMETERIES

LOCATED BELOW THE POOL CONTOUR, ELEVATION 556

WHEELER RESERVOIR

Cemetery No.	Cemetery Name	Total Graves	Removal Contracts	Remain Contracts	Graves Moved	Monuments Moved
* (1)	23 McGuire	1	0	1	0	0
(1)	31 Dabney	1(*1)	0	0	0	0
(4)	38 Lucas	11	0	11	0	0
(1)	39 Lucas	24(*2)	0	23	0	0
(5)	42 Bridgeforth	23	0	18	0	0
(2)	53 Campbell	173	173	0	164(*3)	9
(2)	54 Sherrod	11	7	4	7	6
* (3)	57 Center Star	4(*4)	4	0	4	1
	62 Jones (old Watkins)	1	1	0	1 to C <sup>on</sup> R-5	0 3-ES-7-50 K R-5 02 K GIVE Cem
	<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>16</b>

- (\*1) Unidentified.
- (\*2) One grave in Lucas Cemetery unidentified.
- (\*3) No remains found in 9 graves in Campbell Church Cemetery.
- (\*4) Four graves in Center Star Cemetery moved from below elevation 556 to location above pool level in same cemetery.

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

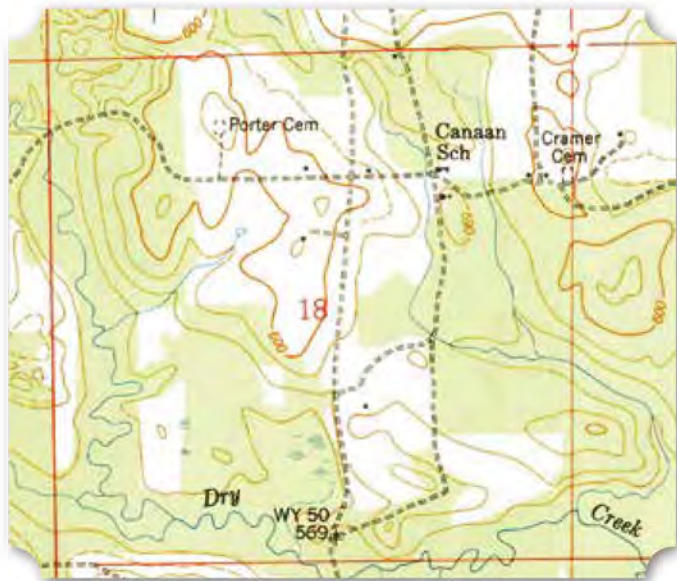
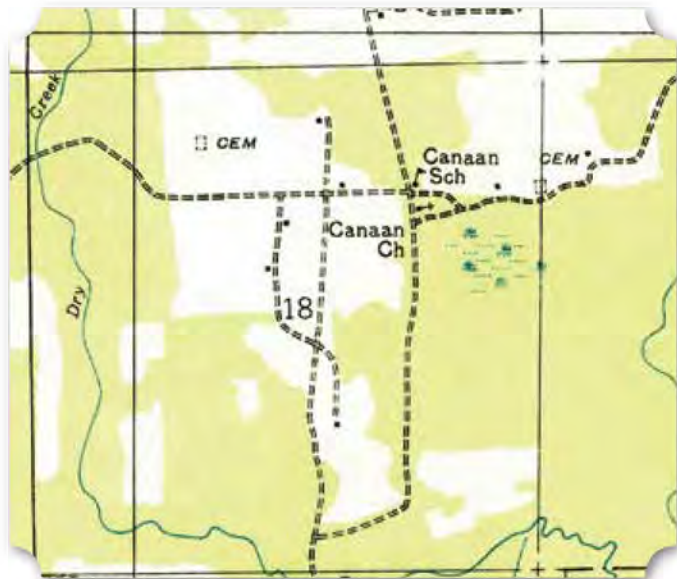




### 3

#### Canaan School\*

Canaan School was located north of Hillsboro off County Road 423. It was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in Lawrence County in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records in 1930 and on the 1936 USGS topographic map. It is also labeled on the 1951 topographic map, but the last census record to include Canaan School is 1954. By 1958, many of the schools are no longer included, presumably they



NAMES OF PARENTS			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †					
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Father	Swoope	Clarence	Hillsboro	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1					
Mother	Willie	Mae		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1					
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
1	2	3			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE #					
Robert			Canaan	1/2	'35	4	8	1	1	0	✓	✓	0	7

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8. _____	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5. _____	‡DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. _____ 5. _____	◊SEE INSTRUCTIONS ◆HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	‡OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. _____
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School or District *Canaan* COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1946

(Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Canaan School, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Left) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Canaan School, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) School Census Card for the Swoope Family with a Child at Canaan School, 1946 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

were consolidated into fewer schools. In the early 20th century, Canaan School was located next to and associated with a church. However, by 1971, both the church and school were no longer there.

### 4

#### Cave Spring School\*

Cave Spring School was located in west central Lawrence County, north of Landersville. It was one of 20 rural schools for African American children in Lawrence County in the first decades of the 20th century. It is included in the school census records for



(Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Cave Spring School, Landersville, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) 1960 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Cave Spring, Landersville, Alabama Quadrangle

the county in 1930, but it was last included in 1950. It appears that Cave Spring School was one of the several rural schools that closed in the 1950s as part of school consolidation. Nearby Landersville School

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Father	Brown	Allen	Laudersville, Ala	1	X	X	X						
Mother	Brown	Lenie											
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE †			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE ‡	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE †
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE †							
Mable Lee ✓	none	½ mi	1912	6	35	4	1	6	X		X	0	18
Marguerite ✓	Cave Spring	2 ½ mi	1914	2	11	4	1	6	X		Y	0	16
Harvie ✓	Cave Spring	2 ½ mi	1915	6	13	4	1	5	X	X		0	15
Neal ✓	Cave Spring	2 ½ mi	1919	7	28	4	1	3	X	X		0	11
William ✓	Cave Spring	2 ½ mi	1920	5	7	4	1	1	X	X		0	10

*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	‡DEFECTS	§SEE INSTRUCTIONS	OCCUPATIONS
1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining	6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.

Codes: \*BIRTHPLACE, †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE, ‡DEFECTS, §SEE INSTRUCTIONS, || OCCUPATIONS

District or Block No. 28 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1930

(Above) School Census Card for the Brown Family with a Child at Cave Spring School, 1930 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

also appears to have closed. If either school was included in the school census records in the 1950s, then there were very few students attending. More likely, the students were sent to school in Moulton. The USGS topographic maps confirm that the school closed sometime in the 1950s. Cave Spring School is labeled on the 1936 topographic map, but not on the 1960 map.

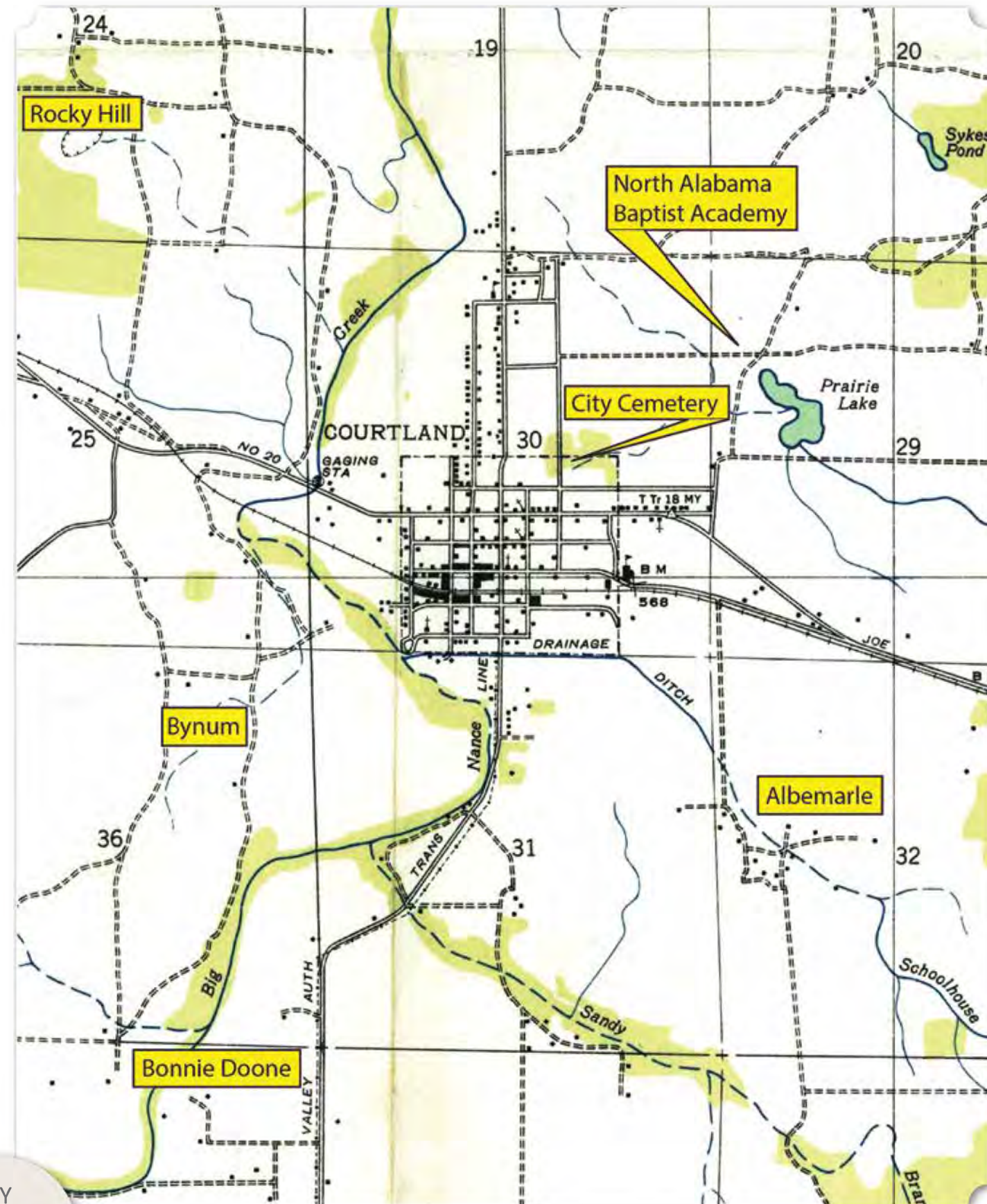
## 5 Courtland

The town and census district of Courtland is majority African American, but it is also strictly segregated north and south by the railroad. Households north of this line are almost exclusively African American,

while households south of the railroad are over half white families. The census records from 1900 to 1940 clearly illustrate this division. African American households on the south side decline from 50% in 1900 to 36% in 1940, while households of color on the north side remained above 90% through 1940. By that year, the division weakened some. The north side of Courtland was 80% households of color, while only 36% of households on the south side were of color.

Despite having a majority African American community, the percentage of African American-owned farms in the Courtland area was never more than 7% of the entire number of households. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 18 African American farming landowners in the Courtland district - 10 on the north side and eight on the south

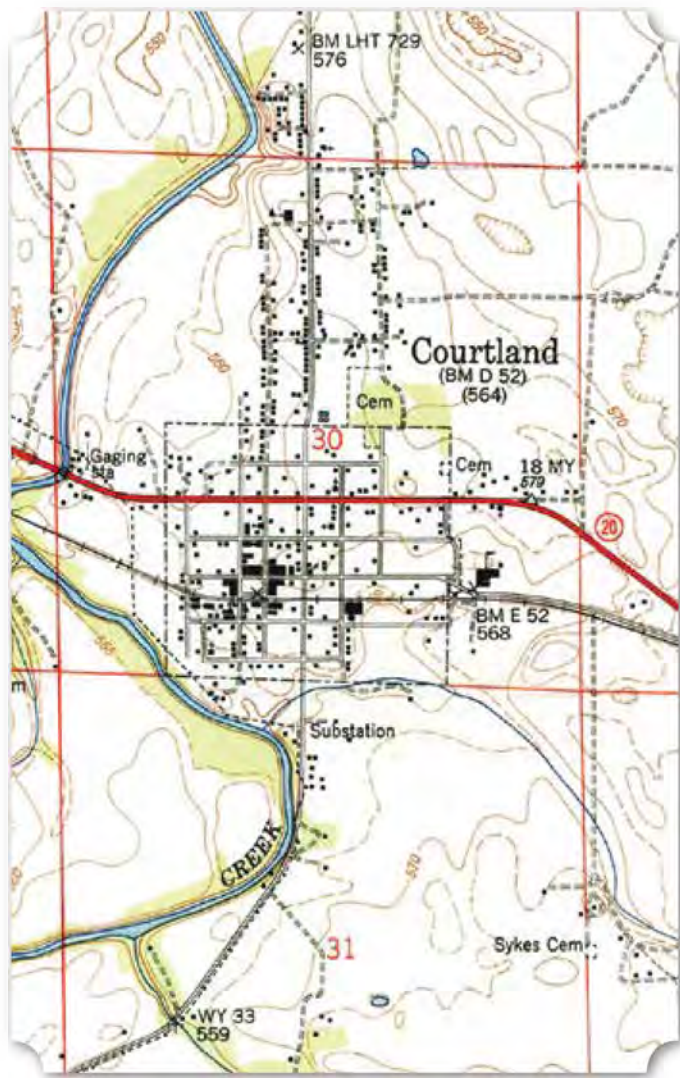
(Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Courtland with Major Known Plantations, the City Cemetery, and First School Noted, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle



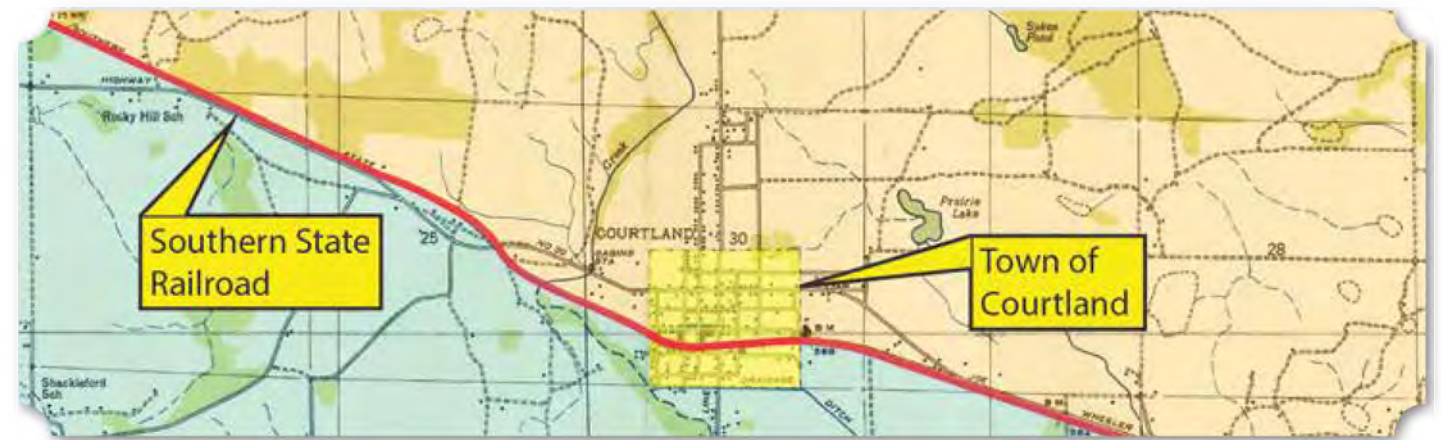
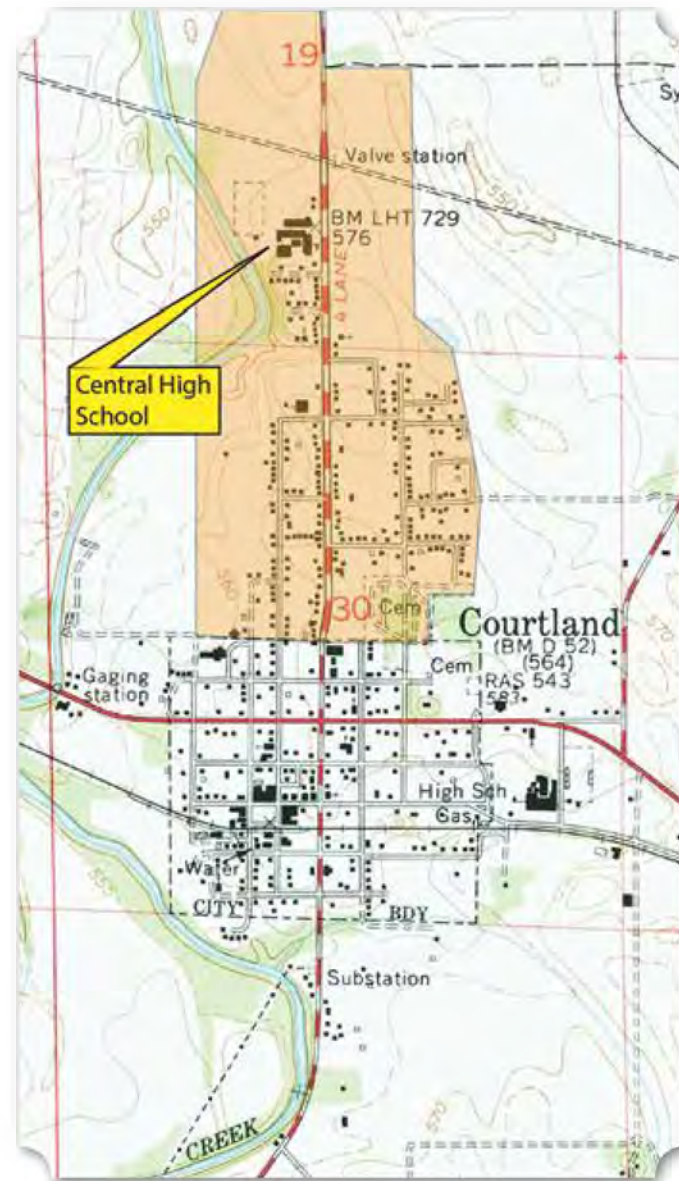
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



(Above) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Courtland, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle



(Left) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Courtland with North Courtland Highlighted, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) 1940 Census District of Courtland Overlaid on the 1936 USGS Topographic Map Courtland and Masterson, Alabama Quadrangles.

side. By 1910, north side farmers totaled 22, and the number of southside farmers remained at eight. Census records of 1920 and 1930 show that 25 and 23 African American landowners lived on the north side, and only three lived south of Courtland. This early 20th century peak in landowning farmers dropped dramatically in 1940, when there were only eight farmers total, all living on the north side. Additionally, few of those farmers kept their land in Courtland from decade to decade. Of the 30 landowning farmers in 1910, only one on the north side owned his farm in 1900 as opposed to five of the seven farmers on the south side owned their farms in 1900. By 1920, only

seven of the 28 landowning farmers owned their farm for more than 10 years. Two had owned since 1900, and both were on the south side. Only three farmers – Nelson Bowman, George Swoope, and Lawrence Campbell – owned their farms for at least three decades, from 1900 to 1930.

The community of Courtland continues to be fairly segregated today. In 1988, the town of North Courtland was incorporated. As of 2010, North Courtland was 97.5% African American. While this is only the town and not the rural areas, agriculture

(Below) Excerpt of the 1920 Census Showing Nelson Bowman and George Swoope Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of the 1930 Census Showing Lawrence Campbell Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

4m 38	29	Bowman Nelson	Head	0	9	72	13	46	m	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Own Farm	4-30	00
		Sallie	Wife			4	13	50	m	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	None			00
		Rosie Lee	Daughter			4	13	13	A	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	None			01
		William	Daughter			4	13	13	B	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	None			02
4m 39	29	Swoope George	Head	0	4	72	13	48	m	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Own Farm	4-31	00
		Effie	Wife			5	13	47	m	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	None			04
		Walter	Daughter			4	13	4	0	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	None			05

31	28	299	Langhin Grather	Head	R	3	no	M	W	72	S	no	yes	Indiana	Northumberland	Kentucky	no	None			no	31			
32	29	270	Campbell Lawrence	Head	D		yes	M	W	77	M	23	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	O	yes	no	32
33			Charlotte	Wife			F	W	45	M	21	no	no	Alabama	Mississippi	Alabama		yes	laborer	General farm	VVVV	W	yes		33
34			Wannora, Ada	boarder			F	W	29	W	4	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		no	laborer	General farm	VVVV	W	yes		34



**(Left) The African American Section of Courtland City Cemetery, 2018 (Photographs by Jenna Tran)**

has declined and the likelihood of many landowning African American farmers in the Courtland area today is slim.

**Courtland City Cemetery**

Courtland has a fairly large city cemetery that dates to the founding of the town in 1819. The final resting place of early founding families, Revolutionary War veterans, and Union and Confederate soldiers, the cemetery also features a sizable African American section dating to just after the Civil War. The earliest portion of the cemetery is on the south end, where the entrance is located today. To the immediate east is the African American section, which appears sparse, particularly on the south end; however, this is most likely where the earliest African American graves are located. The earliest African American burials are unmarked.

Despite the history of the cemetery, it is not depicted on the 1936 topographic map, the earliest USGS map for this area. It first appears on the 1951 and 1974 maps with the simple label of "Cem."

**North Alabama Baptist Academy\* and Courtland Colored High School\***

The North Alabama Baptist Academy was the first high school for African American children in Lawrence County. The Muscle Shoals Baptist Colored Association, formed during Reconstruction, raised funds for the academy. By 1897 a board of trustees was authorized to create and maintain a school. The two-story building served children up to the 9th grade. In 1915, there were 194 students enrolled. Some students boarded at the academy, however, that ended in 1928, when a fire broke out in the living quarters killing two students.

**(Below) School Census Card for the Neal Family with a Child at Courtland School, 1934 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)**



NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living		Reads and Writes English		Speaks English		Citizen		Occupation CODE †	
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE			YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Neal	Cinderella		Courtland, Ala	1	✓		✓		✓		✓		3	
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes		Sex M G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †		CODE #	YES			
Ellis			Courtland	3mi	19	4	5	4	1	2	✓	✓		15

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8. _____	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5. _____	+DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5. _____	0SEE INSTRUCTIONS ∞HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	‡OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. _____
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\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

Since the 1930s, the Academy and the history of African American education experienced many changes. The North Alabama Baptist Academy closed when Courtland Colored School opened about 1930. When the white high school opened in Courtland, the name was changed to Central High School. Their athletic team was the Panthers, and their school colors were green and gold. When integration went into effect in 1970, the school became Central Elementary School. Sometime between then and the early 1990s, the school was named in honor of local educator Richard Alexander Hubbard – R.A. Hubbard Elementary School. Sometime later, Courtland and Hazelwood high schools merged, the new high school was named R.A. Hubbard School. It is located in North Courtland along Jesse Jackson Parkway. Therefore, the history of education for all students currently graduating from grade school in Courtland reaches back to the North Alabama Baptist Academy.

**(Below)** School Census Card for the Crutch Family with a Child at Courtland School, 1938 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living		Reads and Writes		Speaks English		Citizen		Occupation CODE †	
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE			YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Father	Crutch	Joe	Eddy	Courtland, Ala	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		
Mother	Crutch	Emma	Sue	"	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0		NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes		Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.			DA.	CODE †	CODE *	Gr. CODE 00	YES		NO				
Silda Mae		Courtland	2 1/2 mi	29	10	30	2	1	1	✓	✓	✓	9	

<b>*BIRTHPLACE</b> 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	<b>†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE</b> 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	<b>+DEFECTS</b> 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	<b>0SEE INSTRUCTIONS</b> <b>00 HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED</b>	<b>†OCCUPATIONS</b> 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 60 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 3 Year 1938

### Albemarle Plantation

What is left of the plantation known as Albemarle is located to the southeast of Courtland. The main house and some of the outbuildings still stand and are on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The house was built in 1821, making it one of the oldest houses in the state. The original owner of the plantation was Littleberry Jones. In 1820, he owned 57 slaves, making him one of the larger slaveholders in Lawrence County. Over the years, the estate continued to grow and by 1830 included 236 acres. Another owner bought the land and added more acreage so that by 1840 there were 745 acres associated with Albemarle.

### Oakley H. Bynum Plantation\*

The Bynum Plantation was located southwest of Courtland near the airfield. A plantation and slave owner, O. H. Bynum (1817-1879) was born in North Carolina. His father, Drew Bynum, brought him and his family to Lawrence County about 1821. Nothing remains of the plantation besides the cemetery

located in the woods beyond the end of W.C. Handy Avenue. The main cemetery with an iron gate is the resting place for at least 8 members of the Bynum family, but another, larger cemetery in close proximity was used by the slaves of the plantation and the freedmen community after Emancipation. The exact location of the African American cemetery is not known. Information on the cemetery has been relayed via Findagrave.com.

Local resident Mr. Charles Jordan was interviewed by the *Moulton Advertiser* in 2006. He supposed there may be as many as 100 burials there when he participated in Decoration Day at the cemetery in the 1960s and 1970s. He remembers there was one marked grave, that of William McDonald (1892-1918), who seems to have been a soldier who died in a camp in Illinois, perhaps a victim of influenza.

**(Below)** Excerpt from the 1860 Slave Schedule Showing O. H. Bynum and slaves (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

21	Thos Mills	1	24	F	M	
22	O. H. Bynum	1	25	M	B	Cudj
23		1	70	F	B	
24		1	65	F	M	
25		1	65	M	B	
26		1	60	M	B	
27		1	55	M	B	
28		2	50	M	B	
29		2	49	F	B	
30		3	45	M	B	
31		3	45	F	B	
32		1	45	F	M	
33		1	40	M	B	
34		3	40	F	B	
35		1	35	F	B	
36		1	35	F	M	
37		2	31	F	B	
38		2	27	M	M	

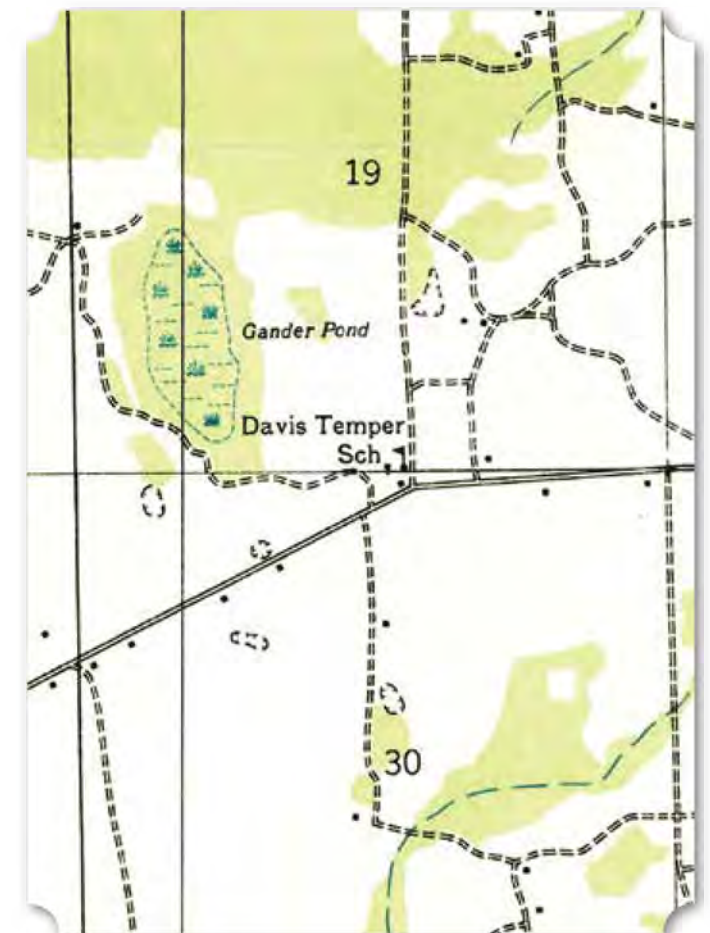
No. of owners, \_\_\_\_\_ No. of male slaves, 133  
 No. of female slaves, 106  
 Total slaves, 239

## 6

### David Temple School\* & Foster-Davis Cemetery

The name "David Temple" is most likely intended to be Davis, but was changed over time. The earliest records from 1930 call it Davis School, and the 1936 USGS topographic map labels it "Davis Temper School." By the late 1930s, some of the school records say "David Temple" instead, and, similarly, the 1951 topographic map names the school "David Temple School." Due to the many local residents with the last name Davis, it appears that the letters were changed over time.

**(Below)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of David Temple as "Davis Temper," Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle





(Above) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of David Temple School, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle  
 (Below) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of David Temple Church, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle



NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †					
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Father	Kimble	Ira	Hillsboro R. 9	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1					
Mother	Kimble	Cassie	" "	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	3					
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE 0								
Willie Lee	✓	Davis Temple	1/4	1912	May	11	4	1	6	✓	✓		18	
Ada B	✓	"	"	1914	Aug	12	4	1	4	✓	✓		16	
Hardy	✓	"	"	1917	Dec	6	4	1	3	✓	✓		12	
Mattie	✓	"	"	1923	Dec	6	4	1	0	✓	✓		6	

\*BIRTHPLACE: 1. United States, 2. Great Britain, 3. Canada, 4. Germany, 5. France, 6. Greece, 7. Italy, 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE: 1. Birth Certificate, 2. Bible Record, 3. Baptismal Certificate, 4. Parent's Statement, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †DEFECTS: 1. Blind, 2. Crippled, 3. Deaf, 4. Dumb, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †SEE INSTRUCTIONS: †HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED  
 †OCCUPATIONS: 1. Agriculture, 2. Clerical Work, 3. Domestic Service, 4. Manufacturing, 5. Mining, 6. Professional Service, 7. Public Service, 8. Trade, 9. Transportation, 10. \_\_\_\_\_

District or Block No. 1 WHITE FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 9 Year 1930

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †					
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Father	?													
Mother	Jones	Annie	R # 2 Hillsboro	1	✓	✓	✓		1					
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE 0								
Annie Lee		David's T	1/4	1914	4	1	4	1	5	✓	✓		2	18

\*BIRTHPLACE: 1. United States, 2. Great Britain, 3. Canada, 4. Germany, 5. France, 6. Greece, 7. Italy, 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE: 1. Birth Certificate, 2. Bible Record, 3. Baptismal Certificate, 4. Parent's Statement, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †DEFECTS: 1. Blind, 2. Crippled, 3. Deaf, 4. Dumb, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †SEE INSTRUCTIONS: †HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED  
 †OCCUPATIONS: 1. Agriculture, 2. Clerical Work, 3. Domestic Service, 4. Manufacturing, 5. Mining, 6. Professional Service, 7. Public Service, 8. Trade, 9. Transportation, 10. \_\_\_\_\_

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 3 Year 1932

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

(Left) School Census Card for the Kimble Family with Children at "Davis" Temple School, 1930 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Lower Left) School Census Card for the Jones Family with a Child at "David's T" School, 1932 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

The land for David Temple School was donated by John Foster, Sr. (circa 1872-after 1923). He was the son of Spotswood Foster, a former slave and landowner. John, Sr.'s history is unclear, but he had a son named John Foster, Jr. (born 1923), who was taken in by his uncle Robert by 1930.

There are at least 142 graves at the Foster-Davis Cemetery. The earliest known interment is Myrtle D. Foster (died 1914). The cemetery is still in use. Members of the Foster and Davis families are among the most common names at the cemetery. There are 23 Fosters, many of them are related to the patriarch and landowner, Spotswood Foster (1836-1896). Spotswood was a soldier in Company K of the 111th USCT during the Civil War. Originally from Tennessee, Foster was enslaved on an unknown plantation in Lawrence County. After hearing that the Union planned to take Decatur, he escaped and joined the Union. After contracting smallpox, he was sent to the Smallpox Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He was able to sign his own name on his pension records, indicating he was an educated man. He purchased land north of Hillsboro - perhaps near where he was formerly enslaved - and passed it on to his sons. Spotswood's son, Robert G. Foster (died 1940) and wife, Lucinda (1871-1948), are buried at Foster-Davis Cemetery. Robert owned a farm from at least 1910 until his death. A man by the name of Spot Foster owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1930. This may have been Spot, Jr. or the next generation of Fosters.

(Opposite Page) (Top Left) School Census Card for the Foster Family with Children at David Temple School, 1940 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Left Middle) Excerpt of 1880 Census with Spotswood Foster and Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1910 Census for Robert G. Foster (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Excerpt from 1935 Tennessee Valley Authority Family Relocation Records for Spotswood Foster (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Foster	Charles		Hillsboro Ala #1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Foster	Carrie		Hillsboro Ala #2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE 0-8	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †					
Eula Dean	David Temple	1/4 mi	27	Dec	10	2	1	5	✓	✓	12
Lorene	David Temple	1/4 mi	29	Apr	25	2	1	5	✓	✓	11
Gora Lee	David Temple	1/4 mi	30	Sept	21	2	1	4	✓	✓	10
Charles Jr.	David Temple	1/4 mi	32	June	8	2	1	3	✓	✓	8
Olivia Ruby	David Temple	1/4 mi	34	Jan	30	1	1	1	✓	✓	6

*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	+DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	‡OCCUPATIONS
1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	1. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 4 Year 1940

No.	Age	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation
18	36	Phalasso Foster	Man	41	1
19		Folly	Man	22	Wife
20		Louisa	Man	13	Daughter
21		Robert	Man	12	Son
22		Mary	Man	11	Daughter
23		Fanny			
24		John	Man		Son
25		Eliza	Man	1	Daughter
26	37	Spot Foster	Man	22	1 Farmer
27		Sarah	Man	22	1 Wife
28		Abba	Man	2	1 Daughter
29		Henry Stewart	Man	25	1 Teacher

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Birthplace	Language	Occupation	Other
8	Foster Robert	Man	33	Alabama	English	Retail Merchant	General Merchant
9	Lucindia	Wife	35	Alabama	English	None	
10	William H.	Son	15	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm
11	Robert McK.	Son	13	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm
12	Handley	Son	11	Alabama	English	Farm Laborer	Home Farm
13	Mary J.	Daughter	9	Alabama	English	None	
14	Brittiam	Daughter	7	Alabama	English	None	
15	Matilda	Daughter	5	Alabama	English	None	
16	Lesley	Son	3	Alabama	English	None	
17	Janko L.	Son	2	Alabama	English	None	

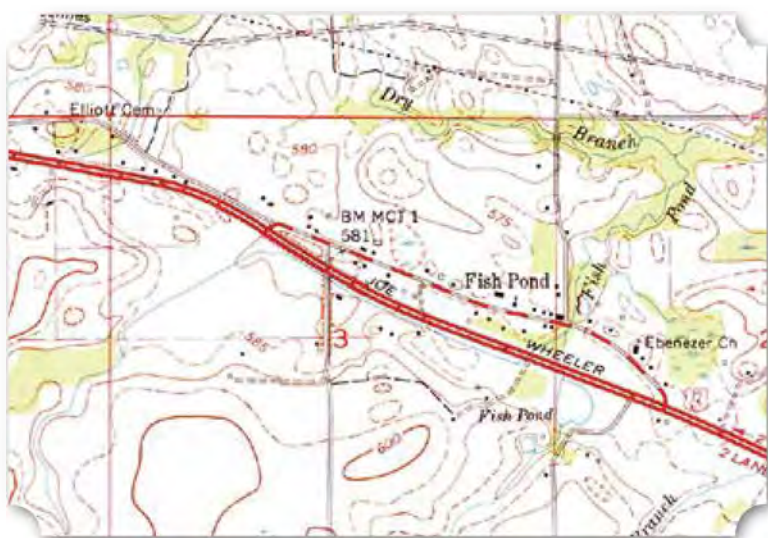
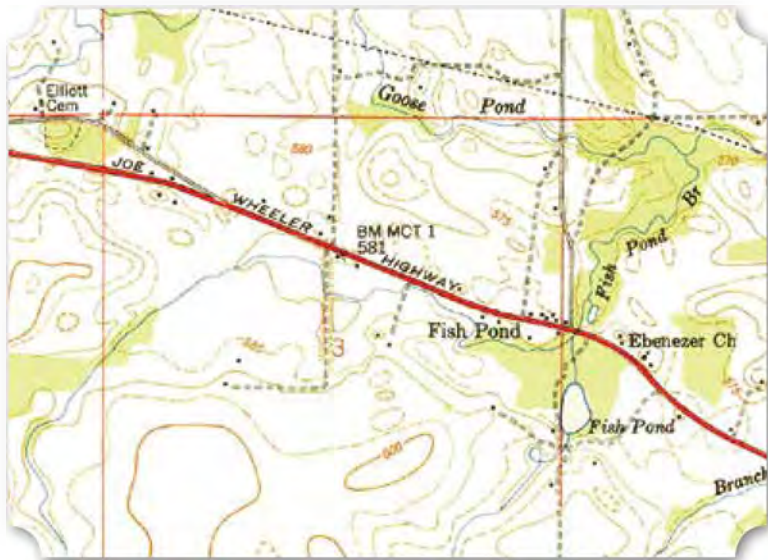
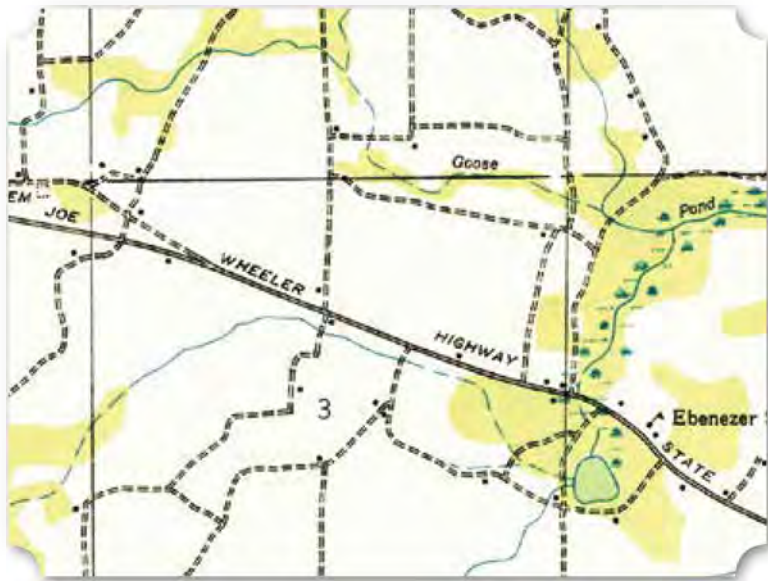
TVA 970 Tennessee Valley Authority *in Nof taking time* Social and Economic Division

Schedule No. 773 INFORMATION Fieldman Howell  
 Map \_\_\_\_\_ County Lawrence  
 Date 4-16-35 CONCERNING FAMILIES Civil District \_\_\_\_\_

- Name Spotwood Foster
- P. O. address Hillsboro Route 2
- Highway or road on which home is located 1/2 Mile N of Brown's Ferry Road
- Miles from home to nearest elementary school 1 Its name Davis Temple
- Miles from home to nearest high school 4 Its name Hillsboro
- Miles from home to nearest church 1 Its name Davis Temple
- Chief trade center for family (Owns a little store; furnished by a truck from Decatur, which he meets at Highway 4 miles away.)
- Average number of trips there per month 4 Miles from home 4 miles away.
- Years lived at present residence 27 In present community 76
- Information concerning houses lived in during 1934 and 1935:

Year	Rented or Owned	No. of Rooms	No. of Sleeping Rooms	Age of House	Electricity	Telephone	Fuel Used	Bath Facilities	Type of House	Condition of Repair
1934										
1935	<u>Owned</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Wood</u>	<u>Tub</u>	<u>Log</u>	<u>Fair</u>

- Source of water supply: Well X Cistern \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from house 20 yards.
- Toilet facilities: Inside \_\_\_\_\_ Outside X None \_\_\_\_\_
- Marital status: M. X S. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_ Sep. \_\_\_\_\_ W. \_\_\_\_\_ Race Negro
- Information concerning husband and wife:



## 7 ■ Ebenezer School\*

The Ebenezer School was located north of Joe Wheeler Highway, east of Hillsboro. The school was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in the county in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 and on the USGS topographic map in 1936 as "Ebenezer School." However, by 1950, it had been closed, and classes were consolidated in other schools. The 1951 topographic map labels the former school Ebenezer Church, as it is today, the Ebenezer Christian Church.

Topographic Maps of Ebenezer School and Elliott (King) Cemetery (Left Top) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Left Middle) 1948 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Left Bottom) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) School Census Card for the Langham Family with Children at Ebenezer School, 1950 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

## 8 ■ Elliott Cemetery

Elliott Cemetery is located on the north side of Joe Wheeler Highway at County Road 437. It has at least 211 burials with a segregated section for African Americans. The cemetery is almost 200 years old and is still in use. The first known interment is "Infant" Miller (died 1826). The oldest burials belong to the Battle, Berry, Davidson, Elliott, and Townsend families, which were most likely white families. There are 29 members of the Elliott family buried here.

Among the Elliott family are several African American landowners. Between 1900 and 1940, there were 14 members of the Elliott family who owned a farm. At least five of them are laid to rest in this cemetery. James B. Elliott (1896-1966) is recorded on the census as owning a farm in 1910. He apparently had to rent his land in 1920, or the census taker was mistaken, because he owned a farm again from at least 1930 to 1940. His obituary states he was a retired farmer and member of Ebenezer Christian Methodist Episcopal

(Opposite Page) (First) Excerpt of 1940 Census Showing James B. Elliott (Second) Excerpt of 1910 Census Showing John T. Elliott (Third) Excerpt of 1920 Census Showing Simon W. and Henry Elliott (Fourth) Excerpt of 1920 Census Showing Jake and Maggie Elliott (Fifth) Excerpt of 1910 Census Showing Henry and Rufus D. Elliott (All from National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

(CME) Church. John T. Elliott (1854-1944) owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940, most likely until his death. Simmon Elliott (1854-1937) owned a farm from at least 1910 until his death. He was the son of Anderson Elliot who owned the farm in 1910. Jake Elliott (1842-1929) is recorded as owning a farm in 1910 and 1920. Finally, Henry Elliott (1881-1961) owned his farm from at least 1910 to 1940 alongside his father, Rufus, who owned in 1910. He was also a member of Ebenezer CME Church, and his sister Flora Elliott owned a farm in 1920. His wife, Josephine Elliott (1885-1970) is buried at Elliott Cemetery as well.

The cemetery has been called several names over time. While there are only six members of the King family buried here, the earliest dated to 1915, "King Cemetery" is how it is labeled on the 1936 USGS topographic map. By 1951, the cemetery is labeled "Elliott Cemetery." A sign on site calls the cemetery "Elliott Jackson Cemetery." Of the 11 Jackson family members, there are two, Lucy B. (1885-1957) and Sammy (1874-1963), who owned a farm in 1930 and 1940, respectively.

COUNTY OR CITY <i>Lawrence</i>			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.		Birth-place	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation			
NAMES OF PARENTS					CODE*	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	CODE†			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE				YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO				
<i>Langham</i>	<i>Rosevelt</i>		<i>Rt 2 Down Creek</i>		<i>1</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>1</i>			
	<i>Matilda</i>		<i>" " "</i>		<i>1</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>3</i>			
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH		Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age		
					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *	1 2	1 2	CODE †	CODE 0
<i>Rosa May</i>			<i>Ebenezer</i>	<i>1 mi</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>10</i>
<i>Frances Gene</i>			<i>"</i>	<i>1 "</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>8</i>
<i>LeVerta</i>			<i>"</i>		<i>44</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>6</i>
<i>Lee Edward</i>					<i>46</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>4</i>
<i>Joyce Ann</i>					<i>48</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>2</i>

\* BIRTHPLACE  
 1. United States  
 2. Great Britain  
 3. Canada  
 4. Germany  
 5. France  
 6. Greece  
 7. Italy  
 8. Other

† AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE  
 1. Birth Certificate  
 2. Bible Record  
 3. Baptismal Certificate  
 4. Parent's Statement  
 5. Other

‡ DEFECTS  
 1. Blind  
 2. Crippled  
 3. Deaf  
 4. Nearly Deaf  
 5. Nearly Blind

§ SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 ¶ HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED

|| OCCUPATIONS  
 1. Agriculture  
 2. Clerical Work  
 3. Domestic Service  
 4. Manufacturing  
 5. Mining  
 6. Professional Service  
 7. Public Service  
 8. Trade  
 9. Transportation  
 10. Other

School or District \_\_\_\_\_ CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1950

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 9 ■ Ennix Cemetery

Ennix Cemetery has 19 known graves. It is located on the west side of County Road 383 outside of Hillsboro. The memorials belong to members of the Bell, Brooks, Buchanan, Davis, Ennix, Horton, Pointer, Satchell, Sneed, and Wiggins families. The earliest burial is

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



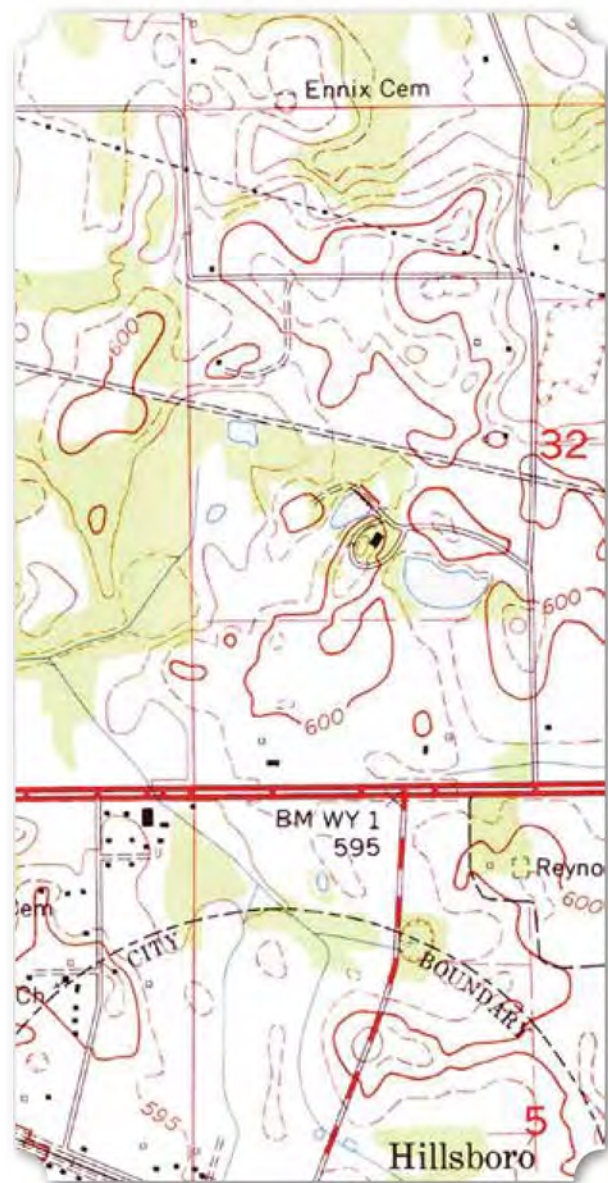
6			maize	wife	F	26	33	M	no	S	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	-	-	-	140	cash	Home Farm	PA		R0	75	750	6
7	189 0	180	Elliot James B.	Head	M	45	M	no	S	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	-	-	-	50	farmer	farmer	PA		45	2	yes	103	7
8			Phelia	wife	F	43	M	no	6	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	4		laborer	farmer	NP		25	0	yes	8
9			James R.	son	M	24	S	no	4	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	-	-	-	50		laborer	farmer	NP		25	0	yes	9
10			Vlyama	son	M	23	S	no	5	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	-	-	-	40		laborer	partly factory	PA		10	75	yes	10
11			Maggie	daughter	F	21	S	no	11	Alabama		R	Lawrence	Alabama	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	1		laborer	farmer	NP		20	0	yes	11

32			Lick M	grand son	M	20	5				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								none	Home Farm	Bills		no	no			0	7	69	32
33	186	18	Elliot John J.	Head	M	35	M	132			Alabama	North Carolina	North Carolina								English	Home Farm	Bills		no	no					33	
34			Fannie	wife	F	32	M	132	5	4	Mississippi	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Bills		no	no					34	
35			Willie J.	son	M	24	M				Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi								English	Home Farm	Bills		no	no					35	

36	381	376	Elliot Henry	head	M	40	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								36
37			Iris	wife	F	35	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								37
38			Ruthel	son	M	8	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								38
39			Robert Henry	nephew	M	12	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								39
40			Preston	nephew	M	9	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								40
41			Clarence	nephew	M	7	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								41
42	384	377	Elliot Simon H.	head	M	60	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								42
43			Augusta	wife	F	42	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								43
44			Samuel	son	M	22	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								44

45	322	323	Elliot Jake	head	M	78	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								45
46			Jan	wife	F	72	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								46
47	323	314	Elliot Maggie	head	M	42	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								47
48			Arthy	son	M	23	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								48
49			Mattie	daughter	F	18	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								49
50			Arnie	daughter	F	16	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								50
51			Ala	son	M	11	M				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								Alabama	Home Farm	Home Farm								51

52	185	185	Elliot Henry	Head	M	29	M	7			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	OK		no	no			0	7	12	52
53			Loisa	wife	F	25	M	7	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	OK		no	no					53	
54	185	186	Elliot Rufus D.	Head	M	33	M	23			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	EMP		no	no			0	7	12	54
55			Luella A.	wife	F	30	M	23	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	EMP		no	no					55	
56			George	son	M	15	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	0	yes	yes	no	56		
57			Flora	daughter	F	13	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	0	yes	yes	yes	57		
58			Thomas	son	M	15	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	0	yes	yes	yes	58		
59			Annie	daughter	F	11	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	no	yes	yes	no	59		
60			Kaddelia	daughter	F	8	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	no	yes	yes	no	60		
61			Mattie	daughter	F	3	S				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama								English	Home Farm	Home Farm	W		no	no	yes	yes	no	61		



**(Above)** 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Ennix Cemetery, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle  
**(Top Center)** Ms. Helen Virginia Ennix Davis (1923-1992) (Ancestry.com, User genewj85)  
**(Bottom Left)** Ms. Helen Victoria Kirby Ennix (1889-1974) (Ancestry.com, User genewj85)  
**(Bottom Right)** Photograph of James Alexander Davis (Ancestry.com, User genewj95)



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

that of Rebecca Sathcell (1870-1921). Although the cemetery must have been established before 1936, it does not appear on the USGS topographic map for that year. It does appear as "Ennix Cemetery" on the 1951 topographic map.

A handmade sign at Ennix Cemetery reads: "The Ennix's Cemetery, In Loving Memory of Mrs. Helen Ennix Davis, 7-12-23, 6-22-92." Helen was the daughter of Helen V. Kirby Ennix (1889-1974) and Frank L. Ennix (1884-1926), who are both buried in Ennix Cemetery as well. They were landowning farmers in the Hillsboro area. Frank owned his farm since at least 1900 until his death when his widow, Helen, is listed as head of house and owner in 1930. Helen V. Ennix married Jesse Millard Davis (1912-1999), the son of another local landowner and farmer. James Alexander

**(Opposite Page) (First)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Showing Frank and Helen Ennix (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
**(Second)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Showing Helen Ennix (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
**(Third)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Showing Mark D. and Helen Ennix (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)  
**(Fourth)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Showing James A. Davis (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Davis (born 1878) and Hattie Elizabeth Stewart Davis (born 1878) owned a farm in the Hillsboro area from at least 1920 to 1940. The cemetery has five other Ennix family members, including some of Helen and Frank's children or Frank's siblings. The earliest known interment is Lottie Brooks (1880-1919) and the cemetery is still in use.

## 10 ■ Flower Hill\*

The early 20th-century community of Flower Hill was north of Hillsboro around the intersection of Browns Ferry and Mallard Creek roads. Flower Hill may have been the name of a plantation – there were several plantations nearby with such lyrical names. In the early 20th century, the community had a school and a church, both named Flower Hill. Located in a bend in Mallard Creek Road, about half way between Browns Ferry and Baker Bottom roads, the school was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in the county in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 and is labeled on the USGS topographic map in 1936 as "Flower Hill School." On the 1951 topographic map, the school is labeled "Flower Hill Church," and today, it is Flower Hill Baptist Church. The "Flower Hill Church" labeled on the 1936 topographic map may be the same church to later move to the location of the school. The previous location of that church was at the southwest corner of the intersection of Browns Ferry and Mallard Creek roads. A church is still there today: the Flower Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

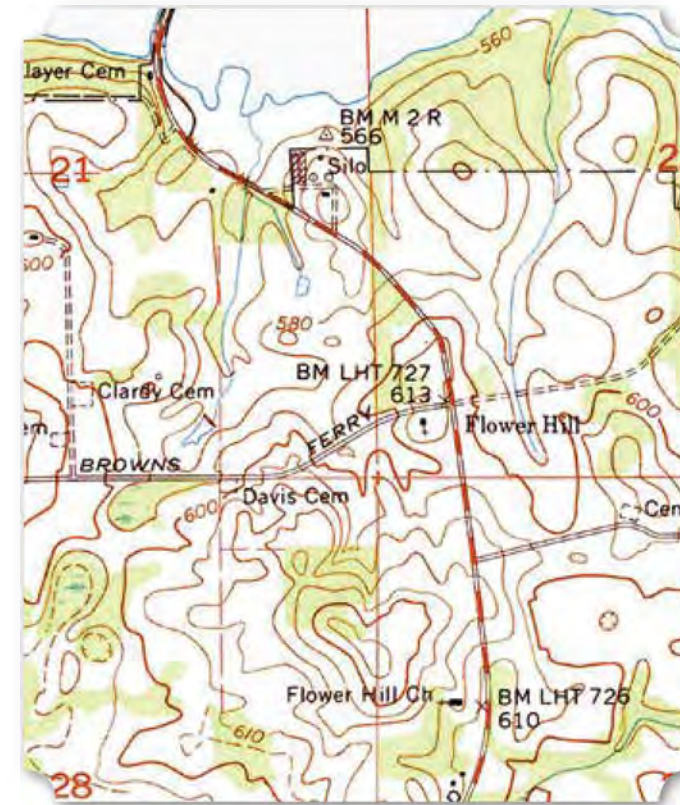
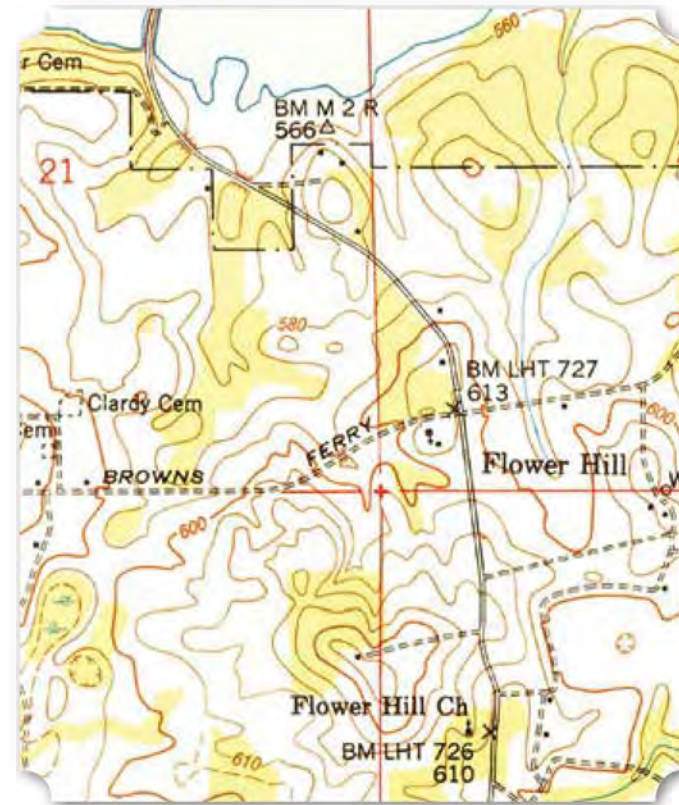
18517	Emmy Frank	Head	0	F	M	20	M			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	6	183
	Helen	wife				22	M			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	John	son				12	M			no	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Leona	daughter				10	F			no	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none			
	Lillie M	daughter				15	F			no	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none			
	Looney	brother				21	M			no	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Simon	brother				27	M			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		

25230	Emmy Helen	Head	0	F	M	20	M			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	6	183
	Channie	daughter				22	F			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none			
	Lillie M	daughter				12	F			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none			
	Helen	daughter				7	F			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	none			
	Frank	brother				29	M			yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		

3340	75	Emmie	Head	0	M	40	M	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	4	182
		Helen	wife	1	F	50	M	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Charlie	daughter	2	F	31	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	20	181
		Leona	daughter	2	F	30	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	23	181
		Helen	daughter	1	F	17	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Hattie	daughter	1	F	15	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Minnie	daughter	1	F	13	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Wattie	daughter	1	F	9	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Rubin	son	1	M	7	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Arline	daughter	4	F	5	S	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181
		Dewitt	hire man	X	M	21	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	15	181

141	James A	Head	0	M	51	M	23	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm	16	180
	Hattie A	wife	1	F	51	M	23	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	James	son				22	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Henry L	son				17	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	George M	son				17	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Henry J	son				14	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	William R	son				15	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Samuel	son				12	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Fuller	son				11	M	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		
	Alberta	daughter				8	F	yo	yo	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Home farm		





land for 50 dollars. These may be the same men that are listed on the 1900 census as owning farms or their sons. Both Ben Warren and King E. Crayton are listed as owning a farm in 1900, and George W. Pruitt owned his farm since at least 1900 to 1920, indicating the significance of landownership on a community.

Together, the men and the community built the Colored Baptist Church, one of the earliest churches in the Muscle Shoals Colored Baptist Association. The local residents were helped by a man named John Harrison Freeman who came to Moulton with the Baptist Association in the 1870s. The Association was an organization that assisted communities of color in establishing churches and schools. Freeman opened a school for the children of former slaves in the spot where the church is now. He passed away in 1933, and the church was named in his honor. The current church was constructed in 1929. The church's history and its intricate brickwork are heralded on a historical marker nearby.

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE										
Hill	Joe		Hillsboro, R. 3	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1			
Hill	Pearl		"	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	3			
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH		Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0	
					WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	YEAR						MO.
Minnie Lee ✓			Flower Hill	1 1/4	1915	May	25	4	1	3	✓	15
Ernest ✓			"	"	1917	Jan.	6	4	1	3	✓	13
Edd ✓			"	"	1919	Aug.	28	4	1	3	✓	11
Lola Mae ✓			"	"	1922	July	6	4	1	0	✓	8
Virginia ✓			"	"	1924	July	5	4	1	0	✓	6

*BIRTHPLACE		†DEFECTS		•SEE INSTRUCTIONS		‡OCCUPATIONS	
1. United States	1. Birth Certificate	1. Blind	1. Agriculture	1. Highest Grade Completed	6. Professional Service	6. Professional Service	6. Professional Service
2. Great Britain	2. Bible Record	2. Crippled	2. Clerical Work		7. Public Service	7. Public Service	7. Public Service
3. Canada	3. Baptismal Certificate	3. Deaf	3. Domestic Service		8. Trade	8. Trade	8. Trade
4. Germany	4. Parent's Statement	4. Dumb	4. Manufacturing		9. Transportation	9. Transportation	9. Transportation
5. France		5. _____	5. Mining		10. _____	10. _____	10. _____
6. Greece							
7. Italy							
8. _____							

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 5 Year 1934

(Top Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Flower Hill, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Top Middle) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Flower Hill, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Top Right) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Flower Hill, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Left) School Census Card for the Hill Family with Children at Flower Hill School, 1930 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

## 12 ■ Gibson Cemetery

The Gibson Cemetery is an abandoned cemetery used by the African American community until the early 20th century. There are only 10 marked graves and about 50 unmarked graves, which probably date to the 19th century. Of the 10 marked, only two have dates associated with them: W.B. Gibson (died June 14, 1909) and Georgia Gibson (died May 26, 1917). Others buried here include Shelia Brackins, Jonathan and Wise Gibson, Carolyn, Earika, and Harry Griffin, Rethro McDaniel, and Mattie Williams. The cemetery is located in a grove of trees on the north side of University of North Alabama Highway near County Road 205. It appears on the 1936 USGS topographic map northwest of Hodges Store, but it is not labeled. On the 1960 map, it is one of two Gibson cemeteries, the other located off State Route 36 near Flint Creek Road. To differentiate, the abandoned Gibson Cemetery is known as "Gibson African American Cemetery."

## 11 ■ Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church

The Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church is located in southeast Moulton on the north side of the intersection of Byler Road and Rosenwald Street. The church was first organized in 1874 when former slaves and church Deacons King Crayton, George Pruitt, Tandy Crayton, and Ben Warren purchased the

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

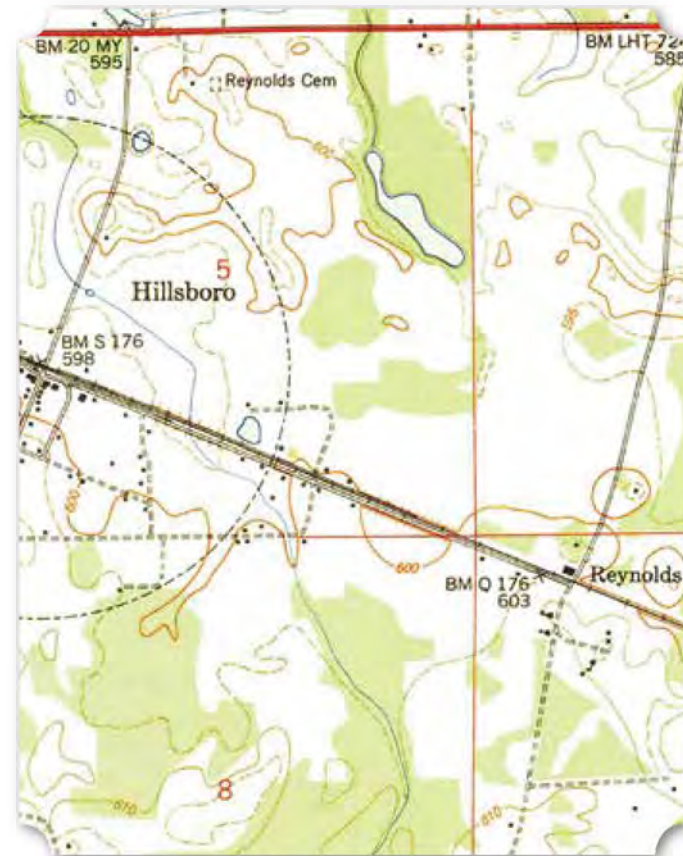
\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

# 13

## Hillsboro

The community and census district of Hillsboro has been majority African American since the early 20th century. In 1900, 57% of households were African American, the lowest percentage of families of color between 1900 and 1940. There was a small boom in the population of Hillsboro between 1900 and 1910 as the population rose from 305 to 355 total households, most of them were African American families. In that decade, 72% of households were African American. The more impressive boom was in the number of African American-owned farms. In 1900, 21 African Americans owned farms, but by 1910, Hillsboro had 71 African American landowners. By 1920, Hillsboro had 89 African American landowners. Yet in 1940, the number of farming landowners dropped by half.

**(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hillsboro, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Top Right)**  
**1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hillsboro, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Right)**  
**1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hillsboro, Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangle**



While the percentage of African American households remained at 72%, only 44 African Americans owned farms.

At least 175 individuals from 83 different families owned land in the Hillsboro district in the early 20th century between 1900 and 1940. Some of the most common surnames among landowners were Bankston, Davis, Owens, Jackson, and Baker. Each of these families had five members who owned farms between 1900 and 1940. The Smith family had seven landowning members, the Watkins had 10 landowning members, and the Elliott family had 14 landowning members. Most individuals owned a farm for less than the 10-year span between censuses, but many owned a farm for several decades. There were only six individuals who owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940: John White, Pleas Rhodes, Horace Watkins, Henry and John Elliott, and Ben C. Britton. James Elliott may also have owned a farm from 1910 to 1940, but the record of ownership is unknown in 1920.

### Hillsboro School (Rosenwald)\*

The Hillsboro School was one of four Rosenwald Schools in Lawrence County. It was built in 1921 on a five-acre lot. The school had two rooms and cost \$3,400. A total of \$1,700 came from the African

**(Below) Hillsboro School, Circa 1921 (Fisk University-Rosenwald Foundation Database)**



American community, \$900 from public funds, and \$800 from the Rosenwald Fund. The location of the Rosenwald school has two possibilities. The first topographic map of the area from 1936 shows a symbol for a school within the town of Hillsboro at the corner of Oakdale Avenue and Marlow Road. This school could have been the Rosenwald school because it is no longer there in 1951 – about the time when rural African American schoolhouses were closing and consolidating.

A more likely location is in nearby Reynolds. The 1936 map also indicates an unnamed school located along Mallard Creek Road next to Mt. Olive Baptist Church and across the street from Tennessee Valley Junior High School. This is a possible location for the Rosenwald school because schools were often associated with churches, and the T.V.J – as it was abbreviated – was an African American school included in the school census records in 1930. The school in Reynolds is no longer there by 1974, which is not uncommon for African American schools after integration.

### Tennessee Valley School\*

The Tennessee Valley School was another school for African American students serving the higher grade levels. It dates to at least 1930 when it appears in the school census records. On the 1974 USGS map, the school is labeled as Tennessee Valley Junior High School.

It is one of the few African American schools that survived integration. The grounds included a large gymnasium and baseball field with batting cages and bleachers. The school was rebuilt in 1961, and a plaque declared the building “Hillsboro School, 1961, Board of Education: P. A. Chenault – President, L. P. Hopkins – Vice President, Fred Crow, Ernest Gist, John M. Roberts (presumably trustees), Woodrow Burks – Superintendent, Northington Smith & Kranert – Architects, R.

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Goins	Robert		Hillsboro R. 3	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1				
Goins	Alice		" "	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	3				
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M F	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE *							
Levola	✓	Hillsboro	1 1/2	1913	Oct.	27	4	1	3	✓	✓		17
Robert Jr.	✓	"	"	1918	Apr.	7	4	1	1	✓	✓		12
Houstone	✓	"	"	1919	Nov.	22	4	1	1	✓	✓		10

\*BIRTHPLACE: 1. United States, 2. Great Britain, 3. Canada, 4. Germany, 5. France, 6. Greece, 7. Italy, 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE: 1. Birth Certificate, 2. Bible Record, 3. Baptismal Certificate, 4. Parent's Statement, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †DEFECTS: 1. Blind, 2. Crippled, 3. Deaf, 4. Dumb, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*SEE INSTRUCTIONS: ○HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED  
 †OCCUPATIONS: 1. Agriculture, 2. Clerical Work, 3. Domestic Service, 4. Manufacturing, 5. Mining, 6. Professional Service, 7. Public Service, 8. Trade, 9. Transportation, 10. \_\_\_\_\_

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 7 Year 1930

(Left) School Census Card for the Goins Family with Children at Hillsboro School, 1930 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Bottom Left) Tennessee Valley Junior High School, Circa 2000 (Alabama Register of Historic Buildings Database) (Below Left) Tennessee Valley Junior High School, Plaque, Circa 2000 (Alabama Register of Historic Buildings Database) (Below Right) Tennessee Valley Junior High School, Gymnasium, Circa 2000 (Alabama Register of Historic Buildings Database) (Bottom) School Census Card for the Ricks Family with Children at Tennessee Valley School, 1954 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)



COUNTY OR CITY <u>Lawrence</u>			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES-NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †			
NAMES OF PARENTS											
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE									
Ricks	Lucian		Hillsboro Rt. 2	1	✓	✓	✓	1			
"	Lucy		" "	2	✓	✓	✓				
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	TRANSPORTED YES NO	BIRTH				Gr. CODE #	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE *					
Willie	✓	Tenn. Valley	✓	1938	7	16	4	2	8		16
Theodius	✓	"	✓	1940	2	22	4	2	6		14
Cooper	✓	"	✓	1941	7	28	4	2	4		13
Lucious Jr.	✓	"	✓	1942	9	27	4	2	3		12

\*BIRTHPLACE: 1. United States, 2. Great Britain, 3. Canada, 4. Germany, 5. France, 6. Greece, 7. Italy, 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE: 1. Birth Certificate, 2. Bible Record, 3. Baptismal Certificate, 4. Parent's Statement, 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 †DEFECTS: 1. Blind, 2. Crippled, 3. Deaf, 4. Nearly Deaf, 5. Nearly Blind, 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*SEE INSTRUCTIONS: ○HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED  
 †OCCUPATIONS: 1. Agriculture, 2. Clerical Work, 3. Domestic Service, 4. Manufacturing, 5. Mining, 6. Professional Service, 7. Public Service, 8. Trade, 9. Transportation, 10. \_\_\_\_\_

School or District \_\_\_\_\_ COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1954

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

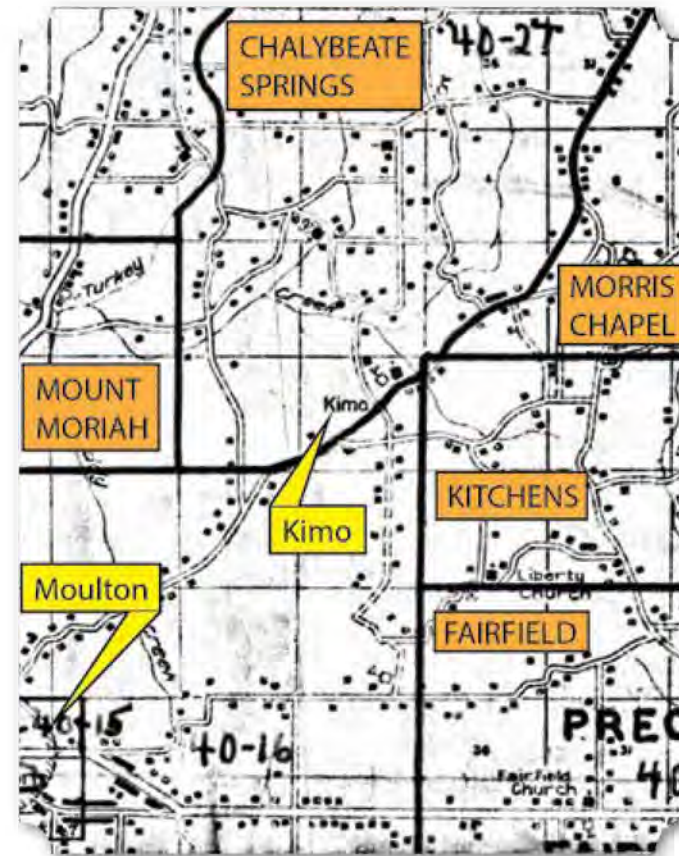
P. Montgomery & Sons – Contractor." The grounds have long been abandoned, and in 2017 the main building was demolished. The ball grounds are slated for rehabilitation.

# 14

## Kimo\*

The enumeration of Kimo in the early 20th century is difficult for a few reasons. It was situated at the junction of several census districts, and those districts changed between 1900 and 1940. It appears that Kimo was enumerated in the Moulton district prior to 1930. Some of the community is in Moulton and

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Kimo, Masterson and Caddo, Alabama Quadrangles (Top Right) 1940 Census District Map of Kimo, (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom Right) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Kimo, Masterson and Caddo, Alabama Quadrangles



some is in Chalybeate Springs in 1930 and 1940. This concurs with the east side of Moulton and the south side of Chalybeate Springs containing African American residents. In these two census records, there are few households of color recorded in Chalybeate Springs and even fewer landowning farmers. In 1930, there were only 13 African American households of the 106 total Chalybeate Springs households. However, five of the 13 families, or about one-third, owned their farm. Not much had changed by 1940. There were more households, a total of 186, but fewer families of color. Of the 11 households of color, 5 of them owned their farms.

Only a few families owned farms in Chalybeate Springs in 1930 and 1940, presumably in the Kimo area. In 1930, Sarah and William Steel, Tilda Truss, James S. Hubbard, and Lem Prueitt owned farms. In 1940, William Steel and James Hubbard still owned their farms alongside Jim Lee, Louis Prueitt, and Ketter Truss. Some of these farms might have been passed on to relatives and stayed in the family. The census

records inadvertently reveal that Kimo might have once been counted with Moulton because William and Sarah Steel are enumerated right next to James S. Hubbard in 1920 in the eastern half of the Moulton district. Including these enumerations, William Steel owned his farm before 1920. Similarly, Sarah Steel owned her farm from at least 1910. James S. Hubbard owned a farm from at least 1900 to 1940, the longest known landowner in the Kimo community in the early 20th century.

### Kimo School\*

The community of Kimo had a school in the early 20th century. According to the 1936 USGS topographic map, it was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 231 and 233, north of Old Hillsboro Road leading out of Moulton to the

(Below) School Census Card for the Lee Family with Children at Kimo School, 1932 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)



	NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living		Reads and Writes		Speaks English		Citizen		Occupation CODE #		
	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE			YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO			
Father	Lee	Jim	-	Rt 2 Moulton	1	✓		✓		✓			✓	1		
Mother	"	Lily	-	"	1	✓		✓		✓			✓	3		
	NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0				NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes		Sex	Defects CODE +	Age CODE 0
	YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †			CODE 0	YES	NO	M		F				
	Alvin Lee				Kimo	1 mi	1913	8	1	4	1	3	✓		none	19
	John D.				"	"	1915	4	1	4	1	6	✓		✓	17
	Robie				"	"	1916	2	15	4	1	6	✓		✓	16
	Thomas				"	"	1918	9	7	4	1	2	✓		✓	13
	Collis				"	"	1922	5	15	4	1	1	✓		✓	10
	Lucy				"	"	1924	3	7	4	1	1	✓		✓	8
	Lily Mae				"	"	1912	3	15	4	1	10	✓		✓	20

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8. _____	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5. _____	+DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5. _____	0SEE INSTRUC-TIONS 0HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. _____
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District or Block No. 29 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 1 Year 1932

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Father	Preuitt	Louis	Moulton, Ala.	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Mother	Preuitt	Augusta	Route 2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *					
Lorenzo D.	Moulton J. #7	4 1/2	1917	11	15	2	1	7	✓	✓		19
Edward Foreman	Kimo	1	1919	12	15	2	1	5	✓	✓		17
Irwin Wilson	"	"	1922	2	24	"	"	3	✓	✓		14
Kirby Wilson	"	"	1922	2	24	"	"	2	✓	✓		14
Leo Carter	"	"	1924	4	3	"	"	3	✓	✓		12
John D.	"	"	1926	2	19	"	"	1	✓	✓		10
Rasine	"	"	1928	2	24	"	"	1	✓	✓		8
Marcelle	"	"	1930	2	18	"	"		✓	✓		6

CODES	*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	‡DEFECTS	◊SEE INSTRUCTIONS	§OCCUPATIONS
	1. United States	1. Birth Certificate	1. Blind	◊HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1. Agriculture
	2. Great Britain	2. Bible Record	2. Crippled		2. Clerical Work
	3. Canada	3. Baptismal Certificate	3. Deaf		3. Domestic Service
	4. Germany	4. Parent's Statement	4. Dumb		4. Manufacturing
	5. France		5. _____		5. Mining
	6. Greece				6. Professional Service
	7. Italy				7. Public Service
8. _____				8. Trade	
				9. Transportation	
				10. _____	

District or Block No. 29 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1936

“Kimo Community was where I was born. Kimo was located about 3 miles from Moulton on the old Hillsboro Road. Once a post office and a one room school was located there. The school was located across the road from where my brother Larry Montgomery now lives. Mr. Bob Byars gave me this envelope which was post marked 21 May 1909 from Kimo.”

# 15

## Landersville

The majority of the community of Landersville is enumerated in the census district of Moulton in the early 20th century. The Moulton district is split into east and west; Landersville is in the western part of Moulton. While west Moulton has historically contained a smaller community of color than east Moulton, there are still a significant number of African American households and community landmarks. Also, some members of the community may have been captured in the adjacent Hatton and Mt. Hope districts.

Assuming the majority of the African American community of Landersville is in west Moulton, from 1900 to 1940, the community was relatively small and had few landowners. In 1900, west Moulton had 324 households, but only 27 (8%) of them were African American. The only landowning farmers were Andy Burgess, William Warren, Walter Shatton, and Eli Portis. West Moulton experienced more growth between 1900 and 1910 than the rest of the area. In that year there were 425 households, 41 (10%) of which were African American with eight landowners. Andy Burgess was the only farmer to own in 1900 and 1910. Other families such as the Hurt, Porter, Stephenson, Cooper, and McCord joined as landowners. The number of households and landowners slightly increased and then slightly declined from 1920 to 1930 with 11 and 9 landowners, respectively. Long-term landowners included Andy Burgess, who owned his farm from at least 1900 to 1920; Samuel D. Cooper, who owned from 1910 to 1920; and Alvin McCord, who owned from at least 1910 to 1930. By 1940, however, there was only one landowning farmer in west Moulton - Jim Taylor, who had owned a farm for at least a decade.

- Hilda Montgomery Terry

(Upper Left) School Census Card for the Preuitt Family with Children at Kimo School, 1936 (Left) Letter with Postmark from Kimo, Dated May 21, 1909 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

northeast. On the map, the community of Kimo is not labeled; the school is the only thing indicating its presence. The school was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 and on topographic maps in 1936 and 1951.

The community of Kimo was prominent enough to have its own post office. A letter stamped with the old Kimo postal name is on display at the Lawrence County Archives. It is postmarked May 21, 1909, Kimo, Ala. A small plaque reads: “Kimo: Given to the Lawrence County Archives Dec. 2010 by Hilda Terry.”



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource





Topographic Maps of Landersville (Top Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Landersville, Alabama Quadrangle (Middle Left) 1960 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Landersville, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Left) 1976 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Landersville, Alabama Quadrangle (Lower Right) School Census Cards for the Stephenson Family with Children at Frog Pond School and the Stovall Family with Children at Cave Spring and Landersville Schools, 1940 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

Landersville School\*

Landersville school is included in the school census records, but its location is unclear. The 1936 USGS topographic map depicts several schools in the area

of Landersville. There is an unlabeled school just north of the town of Landersville; however, this school is enlarged by 1960 making it the unlikely site for an African American school. The more likely location is the school labeled "Town Creek School." It is accompanied by a church, a common occurrence for rural African American schools in the early 20th century. By 1960, this school is gone, leaving only the "Town Creek Church." In the school records, this school was probably referred to as "Landersville" to avoid confusion with another "Town Creek School" further north in the community of Town Creek. Other schools in the area for African American children include the Cave Spring School and the Frog Pond School, located to the northwest of Landersville.

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Stephenson	Johnnie A.		Landersville	1	L	L	L		1
"	Bullie	Gertrude	Rt. Ala	1	L	L	L		1

NAME OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH							Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE +	Age CODE 0
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE T	CODE #	Gr. CODE #						
Johnnie Pearl	Frog Pond	1/4	21	12	30	4	1	10	L	L		18		
Pervis Leon	" "	1/4	29	7	22	4	1	5	L	L		14		
Mercyade	" "	1/4	30	11	11	4	1	5	L	L		9		

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
(None)									
Stovall	Mamie		Landersville	1	L	L	L		3

NAME OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH							Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE +	Age CODE 0
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE T	CODE #	Gr. CODE #						
Jimmie Hoyt	(None)	-	21	2	22	4	1	6	L	L		19		
Alie	Cave Spring	3/2 mi	25	5	19	4	1	6	L	L		15		
Ellie	" "	" "	25	5	18	4	1	6	L	L		15		
(Miss)	Landersville	mi	3/10	25	4	1	3	3	L	L		8		

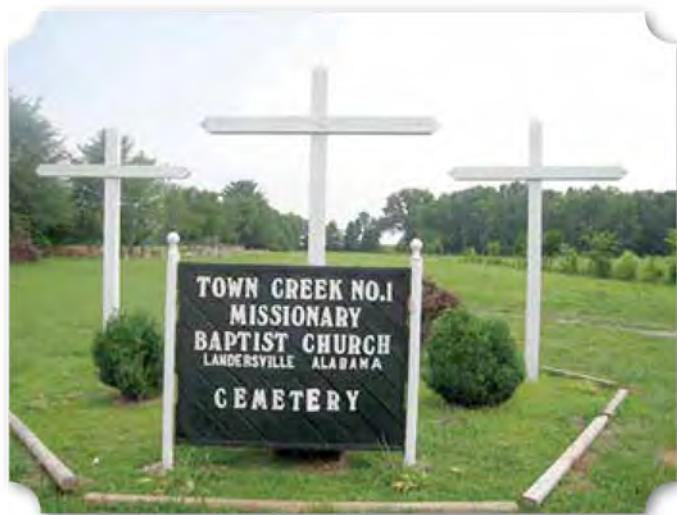
  

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy	1 AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	+DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	SEE INSTRUCTIONS HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1 OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 23 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 1 Year 1940

**Town Creek Church & Cemetery**

The church that accompanied Landersville/Town Creek School was Town Creek Church on the 1960 USGS topographic map. Today, it is Town Creek Number One Missionary Baptist Church. The church is located on the north side of Old Alabama 24 at the intersection of County Road 111. The church also has a cemetery with a sign that reads "Town Creek No.1 Missionary Baptist Church, Landersville, Alabama Cemetery." It has about 77 known burials.



The cemetery appears to have been first used by the Gallaway and Taylor families. The earliest burial is Delilah Ponder Gallaway (1797-1834). These burials most likely represent an old plantation cemetery for white people. There is a possibility that there are unmarked slave graves as well.

The cemetery either went unused or graves did not have markers in the late 19th century through the time that the school closed in the 1950s. Following this hiatus, the church was established and Gertrude Brow Hubbard (1924-1959) was the first known burial at Town Creek No.1 in the 20th century. Most of the burials are from the 1980s to the present. Gholston, Jackson, Owens, Warren, and Young are common family names here.

**(Left)** Sign to Town Creek No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 2009 (Findagrave.com, User FHTerry) **(Below)** Excerpt of 1930 Census with Robert L. and Bessie Owens (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** Excerpt of 1940 Census with Annie Warren (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



**(Above)** Photograph of Audry and Adrion Otilla Owens Warren (Findagrave.com, user Anthony Echols)



**(Above)** Photograph of Anna (Annie) Ophillea Caroline Stovall Warren (Findagrave.com, user Anthony Echols)

72	135	141	Herrell, Herman	Head	M	34	8	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	yes	Farmer	General Farm	WV	140	72
73	136	142	Emma, Robert L.	Head	M	45	25	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	yes	Farmer	General Farm	WV	141	73
74			Bessie L.	Wife	F	34	17	No	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	yes	Labourer	Farm	WV	141	74
75			Adrion	Daughter	F	10	0	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	yes	Labourer	Farm	WV	141	75
76			Lucile	Daughter	F	13	0	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	yes	Labourer	Farm	WV	141	76
77			George	Son	M	6	0	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	82	no	None				77

71			Opella	Wife	F	34	7	1	Alabama	82	Same house								500	Housekeeper	Novel	117	0%	71		
72			Edna	Son	M	4	5	0	Alabama	82														72		
73		470	500	Op	Warren, Annie	Head	65	5	Alabama	82	Same house	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	7				0	0%	73	
74			Sanctuary	Son	M	25	6	6	Alabama	82	Same house	Yes	No	Yes	-	-	-	-	2	175	Labourer	WPA Rock quarry	64	27	150%	74
75			Adron	DAUGHTER IN LAW	F	23	6	6	Alabama	82	Same house	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	5				52	0%	75	
76			Clemmie	DAUGHTER	F	5	0	0	Alabama	82	Same house	Yes													76	
77			Anna	DAUGHTER	F	3	0	0	Alabama	82															77	
78		48	78	4	Op	Jackson, Rayburn	Head	22	5	Alabama	82	78	Lawrence	Alabama	Yes	No	Yes	-	3	21	Labourer	WPA Rock quarry	68	31	100%	78
79			Doris	Wife	F	23	6	6	Alabama	82	78	Lawrence	Alabama	Yes	No	No	No	No	5				58	0%	79	
80			Rayburn	Son	M	3	0	0	Alabama	82															80	

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

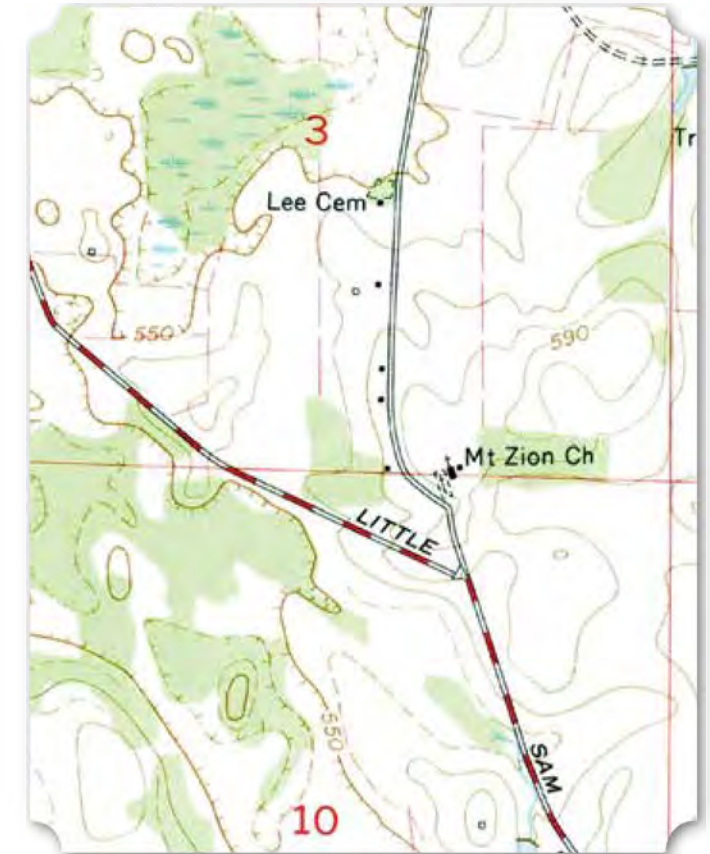


(Left) Photograph of James Rural Warren (Findagrave.com, user Anthony Echols) (Lower Left) Photograph of Malvina Warren (Findagrave.com, User Anthony Echols) (Above) Photograph of Vera C. and Ida Blanche Warren (left) (Findagrave.com, User Anthony Echols)

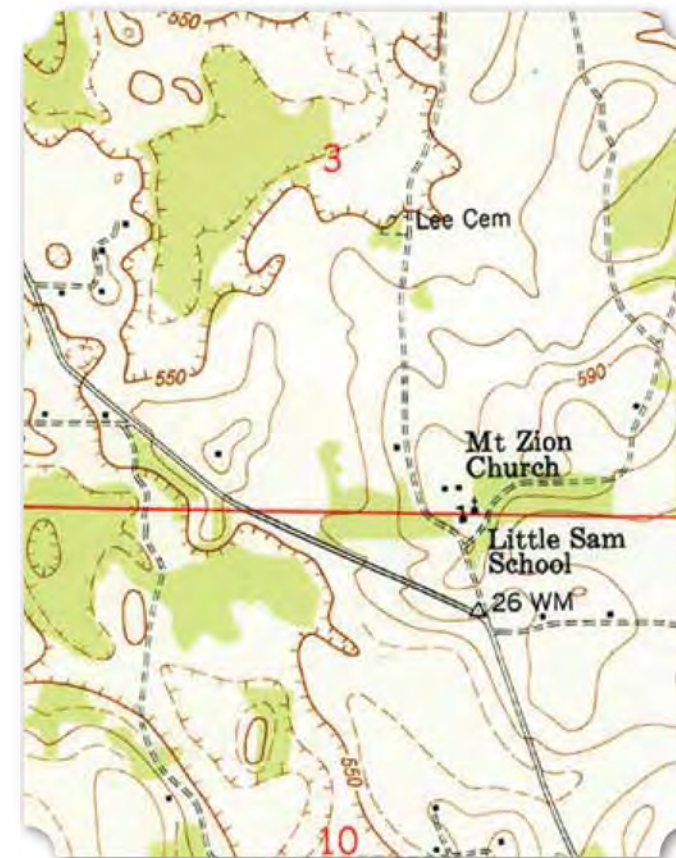
Among the landowners laid to rest here are Audrey (1915-1993) and Adrion Otilla Owens Warren (1915-1989). Audrey's father, James L. Warren (1866-1938) owned a farm in the area since at least 1900. When he passed away, his widow, Anna Ophillea Caroline Stovall Warren (1873-1947), took over the farm and is recorded as head of house in 1940. Audrey and Adrion were living with Annie at the time. Adrion's father, Robert L. Owens also owned a farm in 1930 with his wife Bessie.

#### Old Town Creek Cemetery

More members of the Warren family are buried in the Old Town Creek Cemetery (African American). James L. and Anna Warren are buried here along with their sons and daughters-in-law, Vera C. (1902-1960), his wife, Ida Blanche (1903-1971), and James Rural (1908-1981) and his second wife, Malvina (1913-1960). This cemetery has at least 170 burials and is just west of Town Creek Cemetery No.1 on the northeast corner of Old Alabama 24 and State Route 101. This cemetery first appears on the 1960 topographic map as "Town Creek Cemetery." The earliest interment at this cemetery is Mrs. Cassie Alexander McCord (1884-1909). Common names include Davis, Jackson, McCord, Stephenson, Stovall, and Thirkill.



(Upper Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Mt. Zion School, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Left) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Little Sam School, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Above) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Mt. Zion Church, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle



## 16 ■ Little Sam School\*

The Little Sam School, one of the rural African American schools in the county in the early 20th century, was located north of Rocky Hill at the fork of county roads 270 and 271. It is included in the school census records for 1930 as Little Sam School. On the 1936 USGS topographic map, the school is labeled Mt. Zion School. By 1951, the Mt. Zion Church is a separate symbol and labeled adjacent to "Little Sam School." On the 1974 map, there is only the Mt. Zion Church, today a Missionary Baptist church.



NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Johnson	Henry		Town Creek	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
"	Carroll		"	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE #	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE #	Age CODE #
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE #					
Maple	Little Sam	1 1/2	1914			4	1			✓	18
Willie James	"	"	1916			4	1			✓	16
Robt J	"	"	1914			4	1			✓	14
Henry Jr.	"	"	1920	10		4	1			✓	11
Ursula Ruth	"	"	1922			4	1			✓	10
L. Eugene	"	"	1923			4	1			✓	9
A. S.	"	"	1925			4	1			✓	7

<b>*BIRTHPLACE</b> 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8. _____	<b>†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE</b> 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5. _____	<b>‡DEFECTS</b> 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5. _____	<b>°SEE INSTRUCTIONS</b> <b>•HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED</b>	<b>‡OCCUPATIONS</b> 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. _____
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District or Block No. 59 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 3C Year 1932

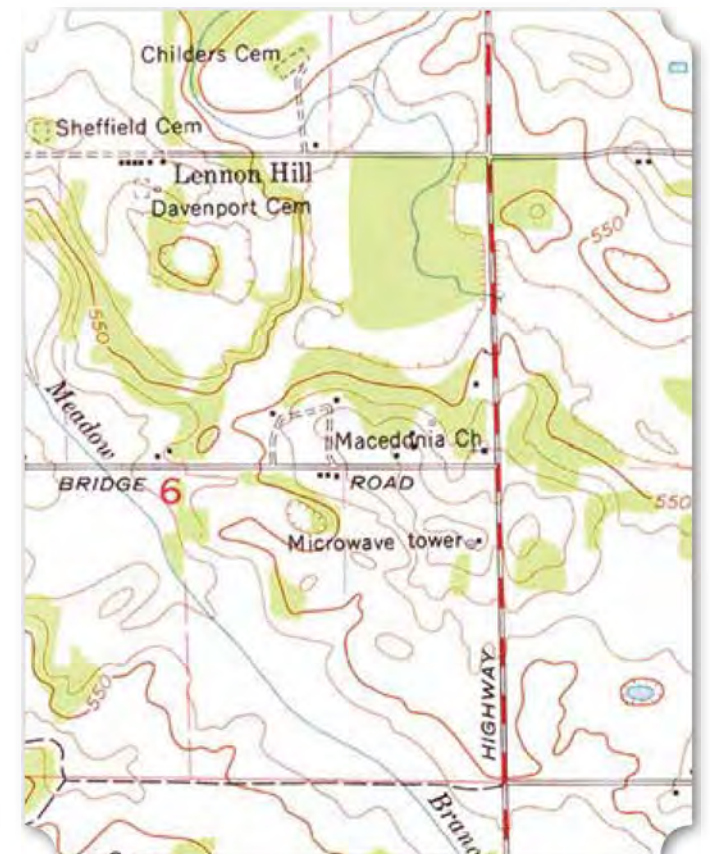
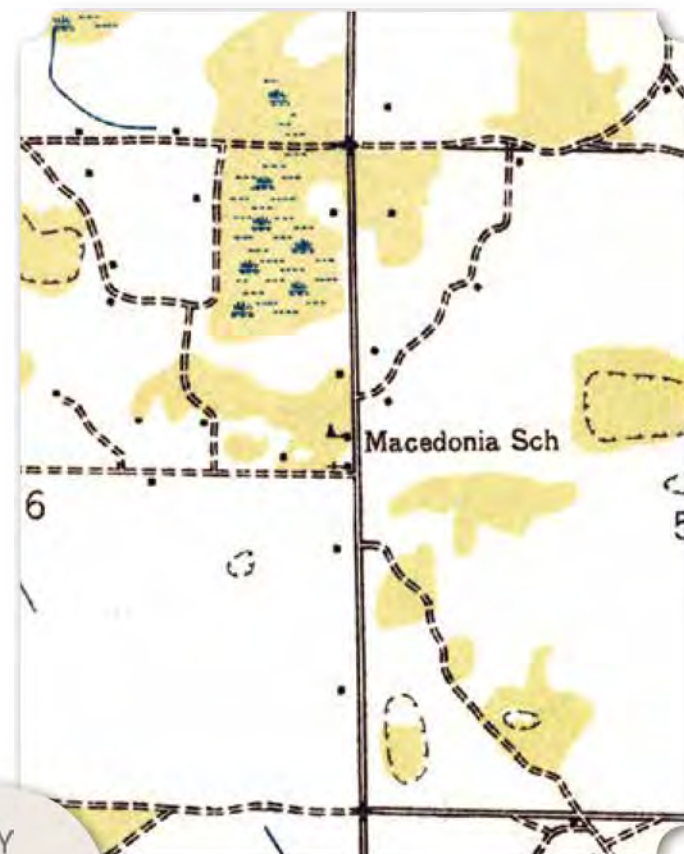
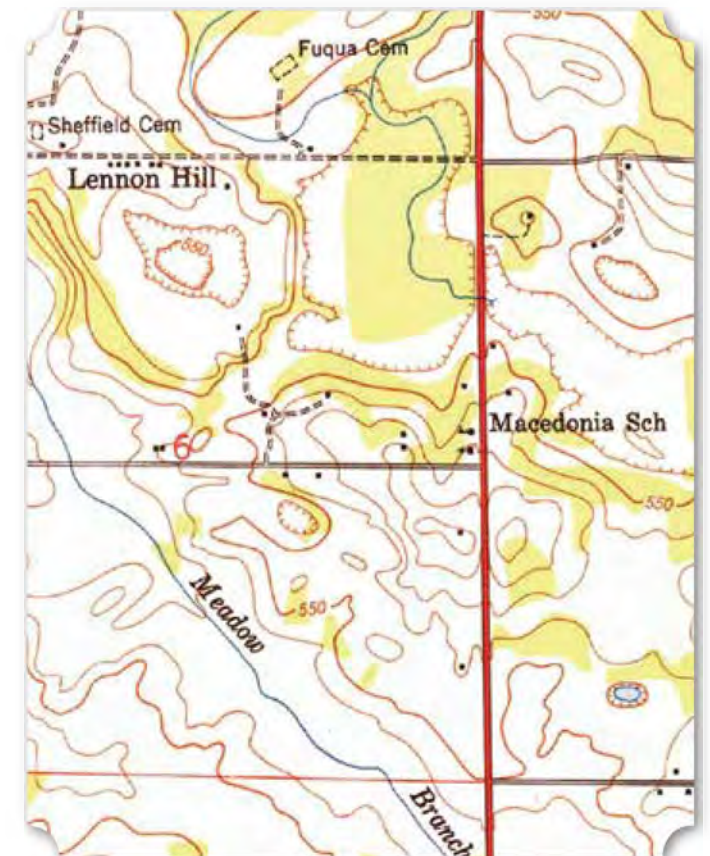
(Left) School Census Card for the Johnson Family with Children at Little Sam School, 1932 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Lower Left) School Census Card for the Burd Family with Children at Mt. Zion School, 1946 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

# 17

## Macedonia School\*

The Macedonia School is also known as Town Creek School because it was located about four miles north of the community of Town Creek. On the 1936 USGS topographic map, it is labeled "Macedonia School," most likely because there was another "Town Creek School" in Landersville. On that map, it

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Macedonia School, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle  
 (Right) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Macedonia School, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle  
 (Lower Right) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Macedonia Church, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle



NAMES OF PARENTS			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Burd	Jimmie		Town Creek, R2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Burd	Lee Burtha Gibson		" " " "	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	3

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE #	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE #	Age CODE #
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE #					
James	Mt. Zion	1 1/4 mi	1933	12	7	4	1	2	✓	✓	13
Jimmie Jr.	Mt. Zion	1 1/4 mi	1935	2	19	4	1	1	✓	✓	11
Wallace			1940	3	10	4	1		✓	✓	6
Janice B.			1943	12	10	4	1		✓	✓	3

<b>*BIRTHPLACE</b> 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8. _____	<b>†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE</b> 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5. _____	<b>‡DEFECTS</b> 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. _____	<b>°SEE INSTRUCTIONS</b> <b>•HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED</b>	<b>‡OCCUPATIONS</b> 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. _____
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School or District \_\_\_\_\_ COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1946

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Father	Stovall	Edbert	Joiner Creek	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Mother	"	Era	"	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE O	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M G	Defects CODE +	Age CODE O
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *					
Bessie Floyd	Macedonia	1/5	9	2	4	1	8	✓	✓		16	

*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	‡DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	∫OCCUPATIONS
1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.	

District or Block No. 59 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 4A Year 1932

(Left) School Census Card for the Stovall Family with a Child at Macedonia School, 1932 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Lower Left) School Census Card for the Warren Family with Children at Courtland and Town Creek Colored Schools, in the Town Creek District, 1958 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

is accompanied by an unnamed church. The school was one of about 20 schools for African Americans in rural Lawrence County in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 as "Macedonia School." By 1974 the school closed, leaving only the Macedonia Church.

side in the communities of southeast Moulton and Kimo to the northeast. The African American community of west Moulton were residents of the Landersville area. The western community is significantly smaller than the eastern community and is an example of the racial segregation of the landscape in North Alabama. Although the African American community in Moulton has had a strong influence on the area, in the early 20th century, the percentage of African American households was never more than 25%. As of 2010, Moulton's population was 13.1% African American.

In 1900, there were 284 total households in east Moulton, 43% of which were African American. While the east side's population grew to 362 by 1910, the number of African American households remained the same, constituting only 35% of Moulton. While the African American population of Moulton continued to wax and wane, between 1920 and 1930, the

# 18 Moulton

The census district of Moulton from 1900 to 1940 is divided east and west. The majority of the African American community of Moulton lived on the west

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Moulton, Moulton, Alabama Quadrangle

COUNTY OR CITY <u>Lawrence</u>			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #
NAMES OF PARENTS								
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE						
Father	Warren	Andrew Jr.	Rt. 2 Box 115 Town Creek	1	✓	✓	✓	10
Mother	Warren	Mary M.	Rt. 2 Box 115 Town Creek	1	✓	✓	✓	3

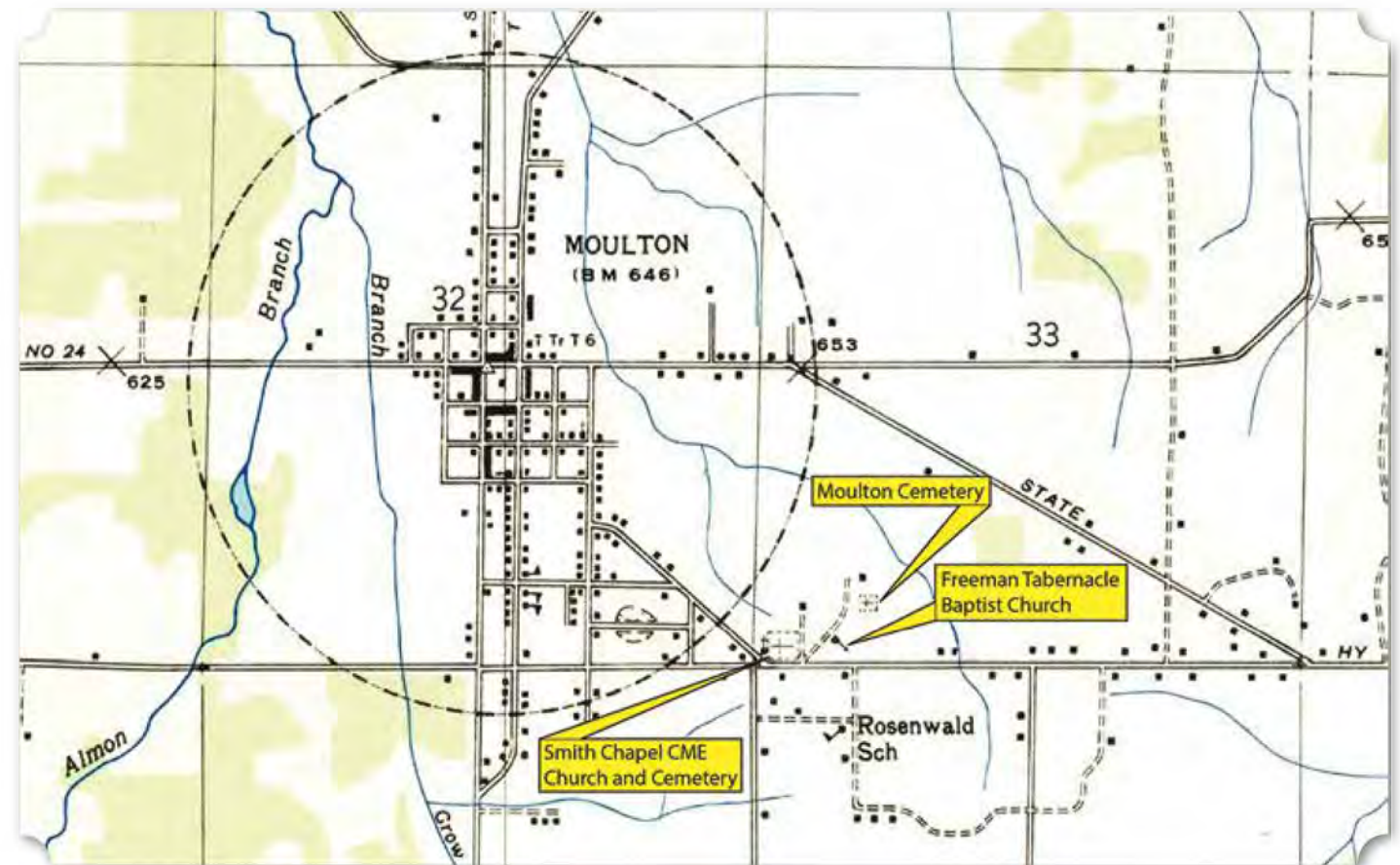
  

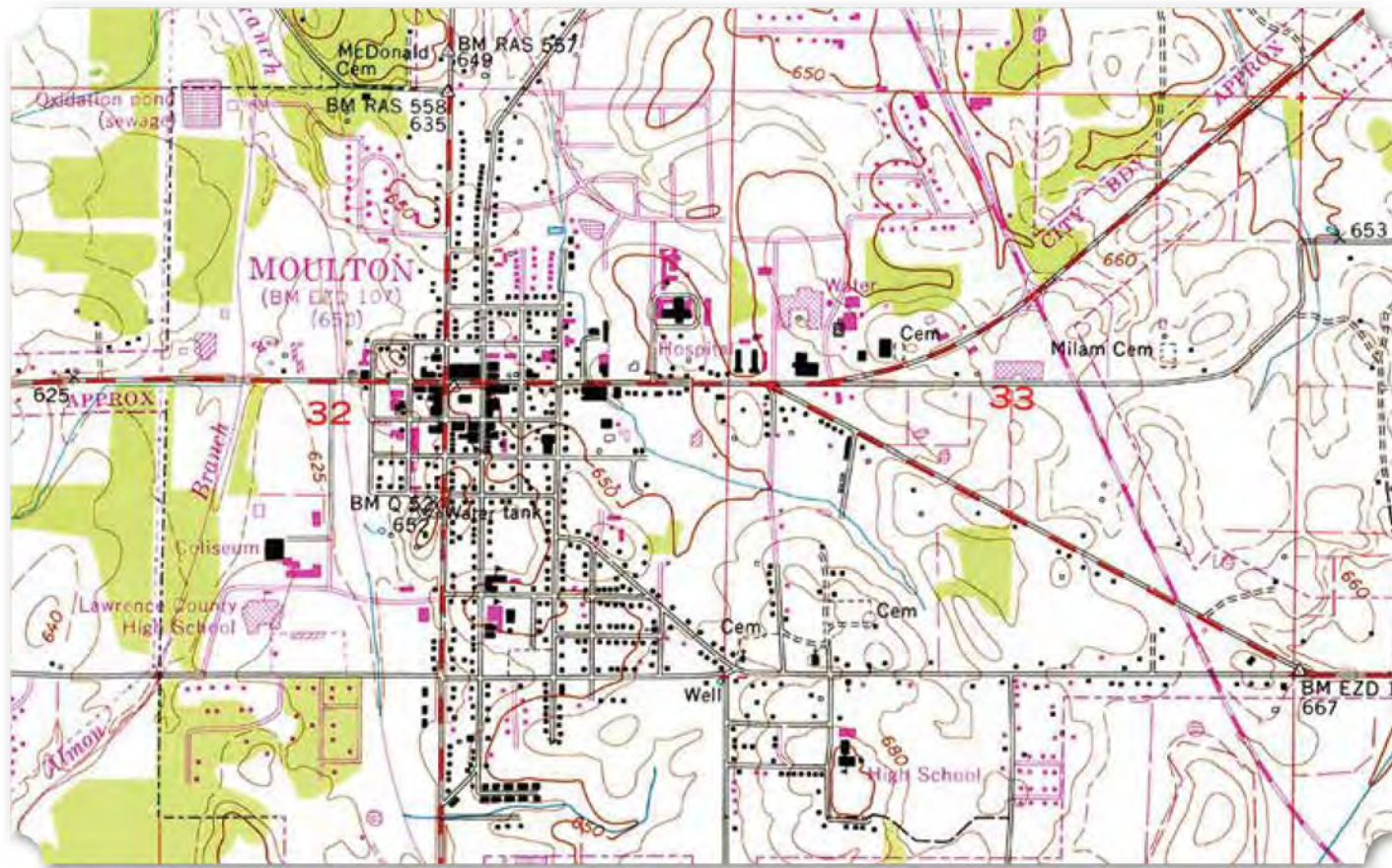
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE O	SEX M G	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	READ AND WRITE YES NO	BIRTH					Gr. CODE #	Defects CODE +	Age CODE O
				YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *			
Andrew	✓	Courtland Col.	✓	44	7	23	4	1	7	0	14
Larry C.	✓	Town Creek Col.	✓	50	1	9	4	1	2	0	8 1/2
Charles L.	✓	Town Creek Col.	✓	51	1	21	4	1	1	0	7 1/2
Pearline	✓	Town Creek Col.	✓	52	6	8	4	1	0	0	6

*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	‡DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	∫OCCUPATIONS
1. <u>Lawrence</u> 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Nearly Deaf 5. Nearly Blind 6. 7.	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10. <u>T.V.A.</u>	

School or District Town Creek Col. COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. 4 Year 1958





(Left) 1960, Revised 1976, USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Moulton, Moulton, Alabama Quadrangle

percentage of African American households overall hovered around 40%. African American households were at a low by 1940, when 36% of the 336 households of east Moulton were African American.

The number of landowners and the long-term occupation of farmland makes Moulton even more significant. From 1900 to 1940, there were, on average, more than 48 African American landowning farmers in the east Moulton district. In 1900, there were 44 landowners, or 15% of all African American households. Common surnames include Preuit, Gibson, Priest, Fitzgerald, and Hodges. By 1910, there were 47 landowners, 17 of which owned their farm in 1900. Additionally, the Warren and Alexander families owned multiple farms. The most landowners were recorded in 1920 – 61 of the 158 African American households were landowning farmers, but they still only represented about 16% of the African American

households. Of those 61 landowners, 20 of them had owned in 1910 and two had owned their farm since 1900.

After 1920, the number of African American landowners dropped to 46 and remained there until 1940. Many of the same families and individuals continued to own their east Moulton farms. In 1930, 25 of the 46 landowners previously owned their farm in 1920; nine owned in 1910; and Thomas Fitzgerald owned his farm since at least 1900. Of the total 46

(Below) (Top) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Richard "Rich" and Carrie (Cora) Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Middle) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Cora Lee Daniels Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Booker T. (B. T.) Alexander and His First Wife, Hattie, Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

191	191	191	Alexander Rich	Head	41	13	62	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	XXXX	yes	206
✓			Carrie	Wife	41	12	41	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	207
✓			Booker	Son	13	16	21	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	210
✓			Gracie	Daughter	4	13	13	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	211
✓			Magnolia	Daughter	4	13	9	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	212
✓			Theodore	Son	4	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	213
✓			Sera	Son	4	13	14	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	214

63	191	191	Alexander Cora	Head	41	13	50	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	XXXX	yes	206
64			Booker	Son	13	16	23	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	XXXX	yes	207
65			Magnolia	Daughter	4	13	18	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Labour	own farm	XXXX	yes	210
66			Theodore	Son	4	13	14	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Labour	own farm	XXXX	yes	211
67			Sera	Son	4	13	12	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Labour	own farm	XXXX	yes	212
68			Mattie	Daughter	4	13	7	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	House			yes	213
69			Daniel	Head	41	13	12	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Labour	own farm	XXXX	yes	214

6	191	191	Alexander B.T.	Head	41	13	34	M	no	7	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	H	30	20	farm	own farm	OA	32	0	yes	132	6
7			Hattie	Wife	41	13	33	M	no	6	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	H	60	10	house wife	own work	OA	40	0	yes	133	7
8			Quindlen	Daughter	7	13	18	S	yes	7	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	S										8
9			Cora	Wife	7	13	61	W	no	7	Alabama	same house	yes	no	no	no	no	W										9

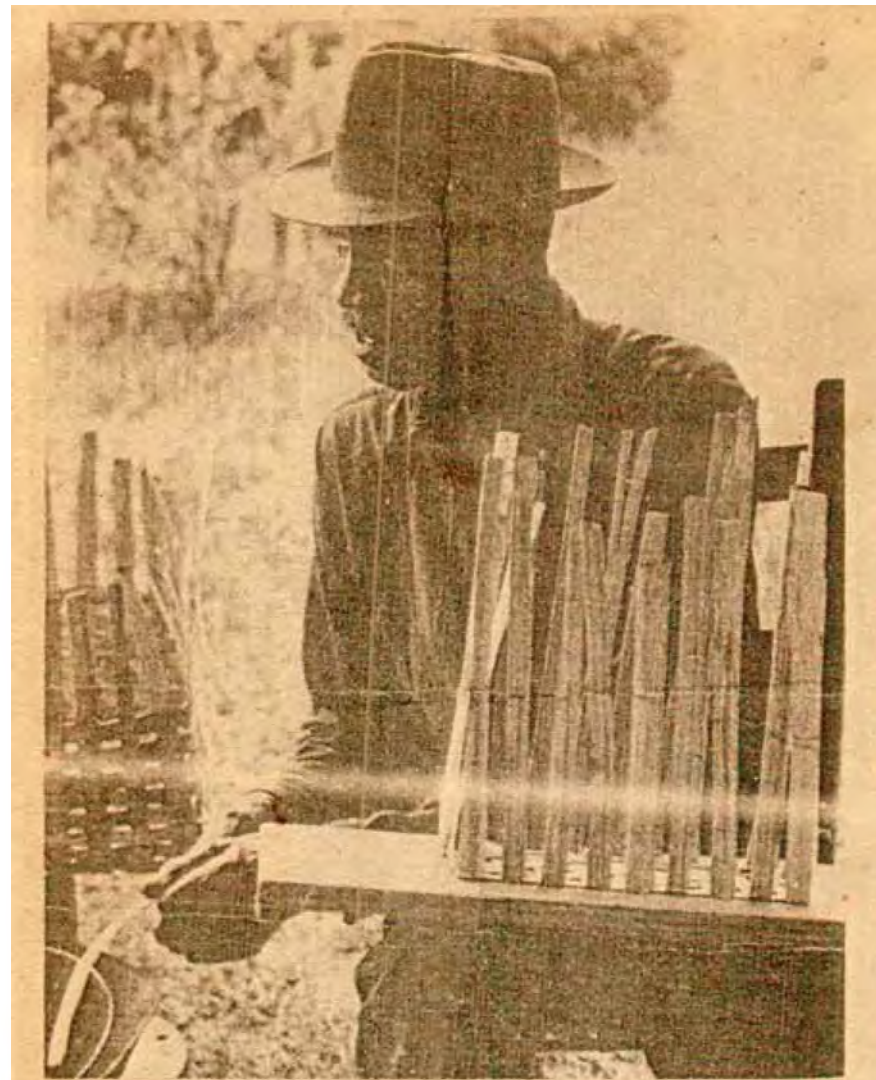
KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

landowners in 1940, 18 of them were previously recorded as owning a farm in 1930; 12 of them had owned since 1920, and three of them since 1910. The retention of these farms speaks to the solid and deep roots of the community. The records do not take into account the transfer of a farm within the same family – from spouse to spouse or parent to child – and doing so may result in the identification of many more long-term landowners.

Among the landowning farmers in Moulton were Richard Harris Alexander (1855-1923) and Cora Lee Daniel Alexander (1880-1952). The Alexanders owned a farm in Moulton from at least 1910 to 1940. Richard Alexander was supposedly the grandson of a white slave owner from North Carolina who settled in Lawrence County by 1840. The slaves schedule from 1860 records William Wilburn Alexander (1803-1873) as the owner of at least 33 slaves. While Richard was born in 1855, it is unclear whether he was a slave or free. In 1900, Richard was 45 years old, single, and renting a farm in Moulton. About 1903, he married Cora, and they had at least seven children.



BOOKER T. ALEXANDER AT WORK

## Noted basketweaver dies

Booker T. Alexander, a Moulton 3-basketweaver noted nationally for his folk skills, died Thursday in a Huntsville hospital.

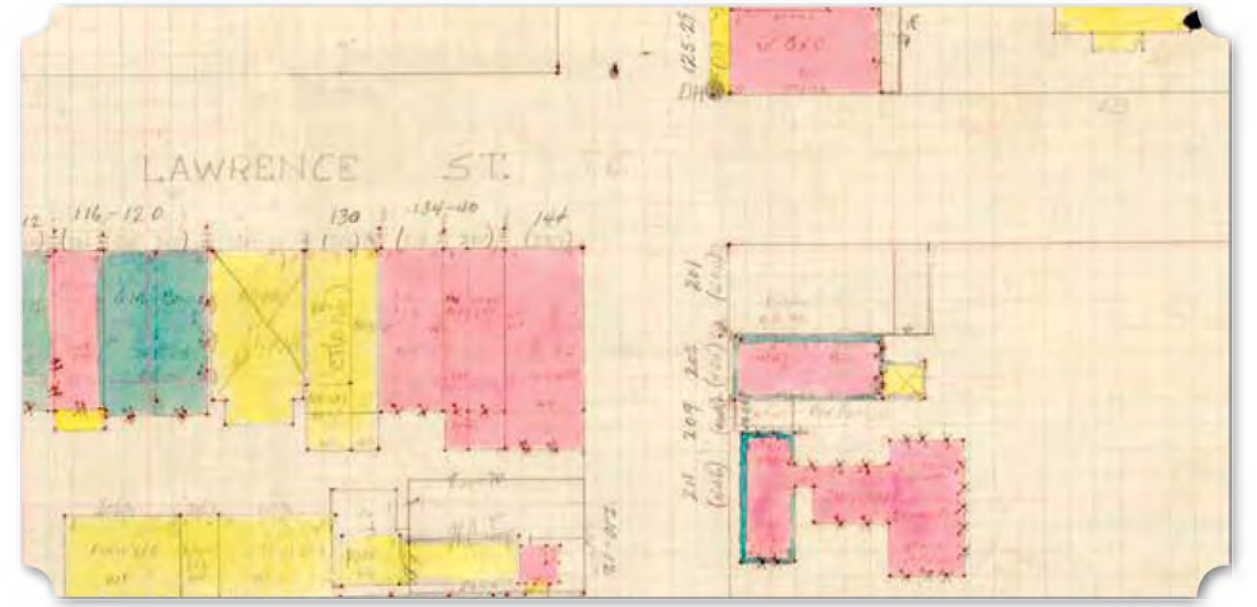
Alexander, 73, was a subject of a folk film produced by students at Calhoun Community College. The film was seen statewide, and Alexander was invited to demonstrate his skills at the National Folklife Festival in Washington.

Funeral for Alexander will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church, the Rev. H. N. Snodgrass officiating, with burial in Moulton Cemetery. Reynolds Funeral Home direc-

ing. Survivors include a son, Richard T. Alexander, Moulton, two daughters, Mrs. Thelma Irene Young and Mrs. Bertha Carlean Young, both of Moulton; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Esther L. Lee, Cincinnati, Ohio, three sisters, Mrs. Magnolia Boyd, Mrs. Nettie Mae Wiggins, both of Aliquippa, Pa. and Mrs. Gracie Darty, Moulton; two brothers, Theodore Alexander, Aliquippa, Pa. and Leroy Alexander, Moulton; 13 grandchildren.

He was a member of the Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church and Alpha Lodge No. 45 of Moulton.

(Left) Photograph of Cora Lee Daniels Alexander (Ancestry.com, User FINDNHERESTOFME) (Above) Obituary for Booker T. Alexander, 1978 (Ancestry.com, User FINDNHERESTOFME)



After Richard passed away in 1923, according to the census, Cora took on the ownership of the family farm. Her second oldest son, Booker T. Alexander (1905-1978) lived with her in 1930 and presumably helped to take care of the farm and the younger children. By 1940, Booker was the head of house after inheriting the farm on Decatur Highway in Moulton, where he lived with his wife, Hattie, their daughter, and his mother. Many of the Alexander family are laid to rest at the Moulton Cemetery, also known as the Freeman Tabernacle Cemetery, associated with the church the family attended.

After vying for the position with Courtland, the most populous town until the early 20th century, Moulton became the seat of Lawrence County. As the seat, Moulton has ties to other early North Alabama cities, such as Huntsville. The historic African American community of Moulton is prevalent in a section southeast of downtown around Byler and Pinhook roads, where there are several community landmarks including Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church,

(Above) Excerpt of Downtown Moulton, Alabama Inspection and Rating Bureau, 1939 (Alabama Department of Archives & History via University of Alabama Historic Map Collection, Online)

Smith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church and Cemetery, Moulton Cemetery, and the old Moulton Negro High School. Most of these landmarks have roots dating back to Emancipation and before. One of the local plantation owners, Isaac Nabors Owens, is said to have given property to both the Methodist and Baptist communities of color for the purpose of building a church and schoolhouse. The congregations held services together until 1874. Afterwards, the Methodist organization was able to purchase the land and church that is now Smith Chapel CME Church, named for former pastor, Rev. Andrew Smith. The Freeman Tabernacle Baptist Church was named for Rev. John Harrison Freeman, who came to Moulton in the 1870s. Along with the formation of a church, Freeman opened the first school for children of color in Moulton.

Downtown Moulton is home to the county archives. On the southeast corner of the main square, at Lawrence and Main streets, is the old Moulton Bank. The Lawrence County Historical Society maintains the archives and displays several pieces of Lawrence County history, including that of the African American community.



**(This Page)** Group Photograph of the “Ladies of the Moulton Hat & Sewing Club,” at a Hat Party, 1955. In the First Row, Left to Right: Louise Daniel Robinson; Bessie L. Vinson Owens, Wife of Robert L. Owens and Mother of Adrion Owens and Warren; Clarice Fuller; Jessie Hubbard Owens, Whose Parents, James S. and Eliza A. Hubbard Owned a Farm; Ruby McDaniel Moore; Louise Echols Wilhite, the Granddaughter of Ben Echols; Lou Ella Houston McDaniel. In the Second Row: Addie Webb, Daughter of Farm Owner Dan Webb; Betty McAfee; Maggie Burgess Young, Daughter of Charlie Burgess Who Owned a Farm; Estelle Love Echols, Daughter of Farm Owner Arthur Love, Daughter-In-Law to Ben Echols, and Mother of Louise Wilhite. In the Third Row: Johnnie Stevenson Pride; Eunice Teen Boyd Webb; Annie Love Echols, Daughter of Arthur Love, Sister of Estelle Echols; Virginia McGhee Fuller. In the Fourth Row: Lassie Burgess Leach, Margie Griffin Leach, Pearl Lee Davis, Era Brady Warren, Magnolia Alexander Owens – and Four-Year-Old Marlon Priest. (Lawrence County Archives)

## 19 ■ Moulton Cemetery

The Moulton Cemetery is located on Rosenwald Street, north of Byler Road. It can be referred to as the Freeman Tabernacle Cemetery as it is located approximately 300 feet from the church. The cemetery is noted on the 1935 USGS topographic map, but is not labeled, even on the most current maps. This cemetery has at least 413 burials. The earliest known interment is that of James Alexander (1909-1909), infant son of Rick and Jennie Alexander. Other common family names found here are Boyd, Burgess, Byars, Echols, Fitzgerald, Gibson, Hubbard, Lee, McDaniel, Owens, Priest, Pruitt, Snider/Snyder, Taylor, and Walker. Each of these families, and more, had local landowners who farmed the area of southeast Moulton in the early 20th century.

People of note include Price Echols (1886-1968), Ms. Pearl Jackson Green’s grandfather, and John Dike Echols (1910-1948), her father, and several of her aunts and uncles. Ben Echols (1884-1953) and his wife, Carrie Davis Echols (1882-1956), are also buried here. Ben was Prices’ brother and another landowner. His was the great-grandfather of Ms. Patshenia Cole.

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



Also, Rev. John H. Freeman (1862-1933) who helped found the church and for whom it is named, is buried in Moulton Cemetery with his wife, Missouri Freeman (born 1862).

Originally known simply as Moulton School, according to the Fisk-Rosenwald database, this school began as a two-teacher type school with two rooms. It was built under the direction of Tuskegee about 1915. The original school cost \$1,350 with \$665 from the African American community, \$85 from the white community, \$300 from the county, and \$300 from the Rosenwald Fund. In the 1920s and 1930s, the school was also referred to as "Rosenwald School," and the street is still called Rosenwald today. "Rosenwald School" is

how it appears on the 1935 USGS/TVA topographic map as well, but the school census records of 1930, simply called it "Moulton," while "Rosenwald" was reserved for Hillsboro and Courtland. Ms. Mattie Alexander was the first graduate of the school.

The wood-framed schoolhouse was replaced in the 1950s with brick structures. The new school built on the other side of the road was larger and named Moulton Negro High School. The local African

(Left) School Census Card for the Alexander Family with Children at Moulton High School, 1954 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Right) School Census Card for the Alexander Family with Children at Moulton School, 1940 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing John Alexander Owning a Farm on Byler Road (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

## 20 Moulton School (Rosenwald)\*

COUNTY OR CITY <i>Lawrence</i>			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.			Birth place	Living	Reads and Writes	Citizen	Occupation				
NAMES OF PARENTS						CODE*	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	CODE †	
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Father	Alexander	Booker	J.	Moulton, Ala. Rt. 3			1	✓	✓	-	-	-	1	
Mother	"	Lucy		" "			3	✓	✓	-	-	-	3	
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE °			SEX	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	TRANSPORTED	BIRTH				Gr. CODE °	Defects	Age		
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	B	G	YES	NO	YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE ‡	Gr. CODE °	CODE †	CODE °
Kertha	Carlean		-		✓		1935	11	17	4	1	10		19
Richard	J.		-		✓		1938	2	25	4	1	9		16 1/2

School or District *Moulton* COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. *9* Year *1954*

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS			Birth place	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE				CODE*	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	CODE †	
Father	Alexander	John	Moulton, Ala. Rt. 3			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1			
Mother	Alexander	Clara	" "			1	✓	✓	✓	-				
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE °		NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE °	Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age		
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE ‡	Gr. CODE °	YES	NO	B	G	CODE †	CODE °
Hattie	Elice		Moulton	2	mi	20	10	20	4	1	10	✓	✓	19
William			"	"	"	22	9	18	4	1	5	✓	✓	18
Henry	Townsel		"	"	"	24	8	18	4	1	5	✓	✓	16
Edward	Jackson		"	"	"	27	4	30	4	1	4	✓	✓	13
Lincol			"	"	"	29	11	10	4	1	2	✓	✓	10
Jewel			"	"	"	32	5	14	4	1	1	✓	✓	8
Annie	Pearl		"	"	"	34	8	2	4	1		✓	✓	6

District or Block No. *28* COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. *1* Year *1940*

53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64																	
	57	0	300	up	W. Freeman	husband	M	7	1905	55	M	7	1905	50	M	7	1905	50	Alabama	same place	30	farmer	farmer	EA	39	0	year	4
					Clara	wife	F	7	1905	50	M	7	1905	50	M	7	1905	50	Alabama	same place					0	0	mo	
					Lucile	daughter	F	7	1905	25	S	7	1905	25	S	7	1905	25	Alabama	same place								
					Lillian	daughter	F	7	1905	23	S	7	1905	23	S	7	1905	23	Alabama	same place								
					Chie	daughter	F	7	1905	21	S	7	1905	21	S	7	1905	21	Alabama	same place								
					W. S.	son	M	7	1905	17	S	7	1905	17	S	7	1905	17	Alabama	same place								
					H. J.	son	M	7	1905	15	S	7	1905	15	S	7	1905	15	Alabama	same place								
					Em	son	M	7	1905	14	S	7	1905	14	S	7	1905	14	Alabama	same place								
					L. H.	son	M	7	1905	10	S	7	1905	10	S	7	1905	10	Alabama	same place								
					Jewel	daughter	F	7	1905	7	S	7	1905	7	S	7	1905	7	Alabama	same place								
					Annie P.	daughter	F	7	1905	5	S	7	1905	5	S	7	1905	5	Alabama	same place								

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE†
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Alexander	Luther		Moulton Rt 2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
	Lizzie			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE O	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH						Gr. CODE #	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE O
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *	Gr. CODE #					
Mattie Lee	Rosenwald	2 mi	'20	2	25	2	1	9	✓		✓	18	
Minnie Lee	..	..	'20	2	25	2	1	8	✓		✓	18	
Sadie Mae	..	..	'22	1	26	2	1	8	✓		✓	16	
Edsel	..	..	'24	4	27	2	1	4	✓		✓	14	
Elmer	..	..	'28	3	5	2	1	3	✓		✓	10	
Elmore	..	..	'28	3	5	2	1	3	✓		✓	10	
White Elizabeth	..	..	'31	5	8	2	1	1	✓		✓	7	

CODES	*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	+DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	†OCCUPATIONS
	1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS °HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.

District or Block No. 28 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1938

NAMES OF PARENTS			P. O. ADDRESS—ROUTE OR HOUSE AND STREET NO.	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE†
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE						
Jackson	Fernando		Rt. Box 196 down creek Ala	1	✓	✓	✓	1
Jackson	Fattie	Beatrice		1	✓	✓	✓	3

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE O	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	READ AND WRITE YES NO	BIRTH						Gr. CODE #	Defects CODE †	Age CODE O
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *	Gr. CODE #			
Edonis	Moulton Colored	✓	'29	10	16	4	1	10			17
Marion Beatrice	Moulton Col	✓	'29	8	18	4	1	9			15

CODES	*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	+DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	†OCCUPATIONS
	1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Nearly Deaf 5. Nearly Blind 6.	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS °HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.

School or District Moulton COLORED FAMILY CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1938

No.	Sex	Age	Name	Relationship	Birthplace	Occupation	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation
33	M	150	Alexander, Luther	Head	Alabama	farmer	✓	✓	✓	34
34	F	sup 50	Lizzie	wife	Alabama	housewife	✓	✓	✓	10
35	F	sup 20	Mattie	daughter	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP
36	F	sup 20	Minnie	daughter	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP
37	M	sup 16	Edsel	son	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP
38	M	sup 12	Elmer	son	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP
39	M	sup 12	Elmore	son	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP
40	F	sup 30	Jame	daughter	Alabama	same house	✓	✓	✓	NP

**(Top Left)** School Census Card for the Alexander Family with Children at the Rosenwald School, Moulton, 1938 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) **(Top Right)** School Census Card for the Jackson Family with Children at Moulton Colored School, 1958 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) **(Above)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Luther Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



American community was responsible for this new school. Journalist Deangelo McDaniel found a newspaper article from 1950 declaring that “early Saturday morning, 14 negro bricklayers and 35 helpers gathered on the site of the new Rosenwald School to begin work on the building they have campaigned for since two years ago.”

label it. In 1970 or 1971, the school was closed due to integration; however, the 1976 topographic map continues to label it “High School.” The old Moulton High School is currently used by the county for a Pre-Kindergarten program called Head Start. The history of the school is conveyed by a historical marker. Built on the highest point in the community, the school and its surroundings are still referred to as “on the hill.” In the early 20th century, the whole area was owned by African American landowners.

The 1950 topographic map reflects the move and expansion of the school, although it does not

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status	Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status	Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status	Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status
67	M	Jackson, Fernando	Head	Mar	67	M	Jackson, Fernando	Head	Mar	68	M	Jackson, Fernando	Head	Mar	69	M	Jackson, Fernando	Head	Mar
68	F	Jackson, Ardenia	Wife	Mar	68	F	Jackson, Ardenia	Wife	Mar	69	F	Jackson, Ardenia	Wife	Mar	70	F	Jackson, Ardenia	Wife	Mar
69	F	Jackson, Hazel	Daughter	Mar	69	F	Jackson, Hazel	Daughter	Mar	70	F	Jackson, Hazel	Daughter	Mar	71	F	Jackson, Hazel	Daughter	Mar
70	F	Jackson, Blissie	Daughter	Mar	70	F	Jackson, Blissie	Daughter	Mar	71	F	Jackson, Blissie	Daughter	Mar	72	F	Jackson, Blissie	Daughter	Mar
71	F	Jackson, Mitchell	Daughter	Mar	71	F	Jackson, Mitchell	Daughter	Mar	72	F	Jackson, Mitchell	Daughter	Mar	73	F	Jackson, Mitchell	Daughter	Mar
72	F	Jackson, Meland	Daughter	Mar	72	F	Jackson, Meland	Daughter	Mar	73	F	Jackson, Meland	Daughter	Mar	74	F	Jackson, Meland	Daughter	Mar
73	F	Jackson, Lewis	Daughter	Mar	73	F	Jackson, Lewis	Daughter	Mar	74	F	Jackson, Lewis	Daughter	Mar	75	F	Jackson, Lewis	Daughter	Mar

(Above) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Fernando Jackson Owning a Farm on Cave Springs Road (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) School Census Card for the Priest Family with a Child at Moulton Colored School, 1940 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Columbus Priest Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Photograph of the Moulton High School Cheerleaders for the Moulton Gophers, 1957-1958 (Lawrence County Archives)



NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE†
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Priest	Columbus		Moulton, Rt. 2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Priest	Ardenia			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0		NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH						Gr. CODE ‡	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.			DA.	CODE †	CODE ‡	CODE §							
Willie Gibson		Moulton	1 1/2 mi.	23	6	23	4	1	Jr	✓	✓		17	

**CODES**

- \*BIRTHPLACE: 1. United States, 2. Great Britain, 3. Canada, 4. Germany, 5. France, 6. Greece, 7. Italy, 8. Other
- †AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE: 1. Birth Certificate, 2. Bible Record, 3. Baptismal Certificate, 4. Parent's Statement, 5. Other
- ‡DEFECTS: 1. Blind, 2. Crippled, 3. Deaf, 4. Dumb, 5. Other
- §SEE INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Agriculture, 2. Clerical Work, 3. Domestic Service, 4. Manufacturing, 5. Mining, 6. Professional Service, 7. Public Service, 8. Trade, 9. Transportation, 10. Other
- ¶HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED

District or Block No. 28 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 1 Year 1940

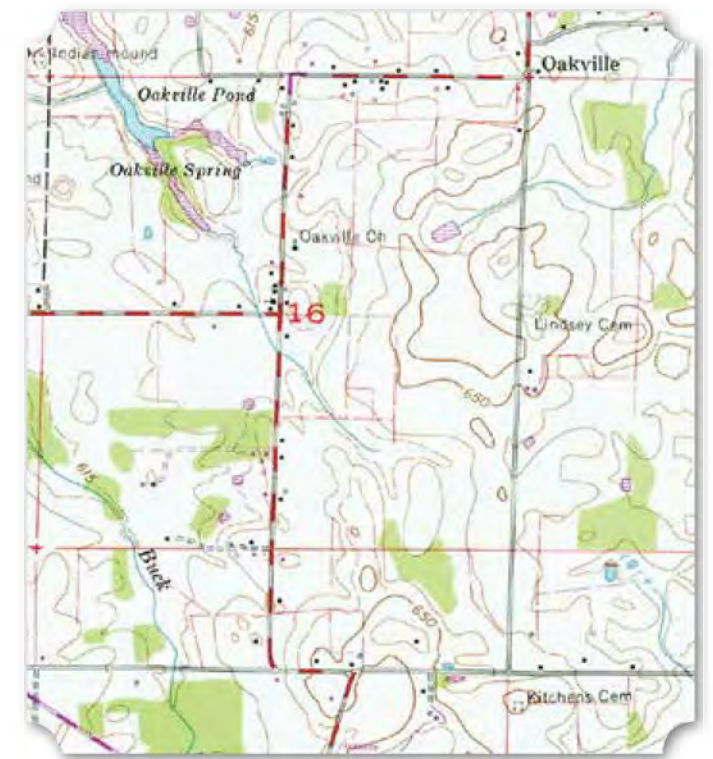
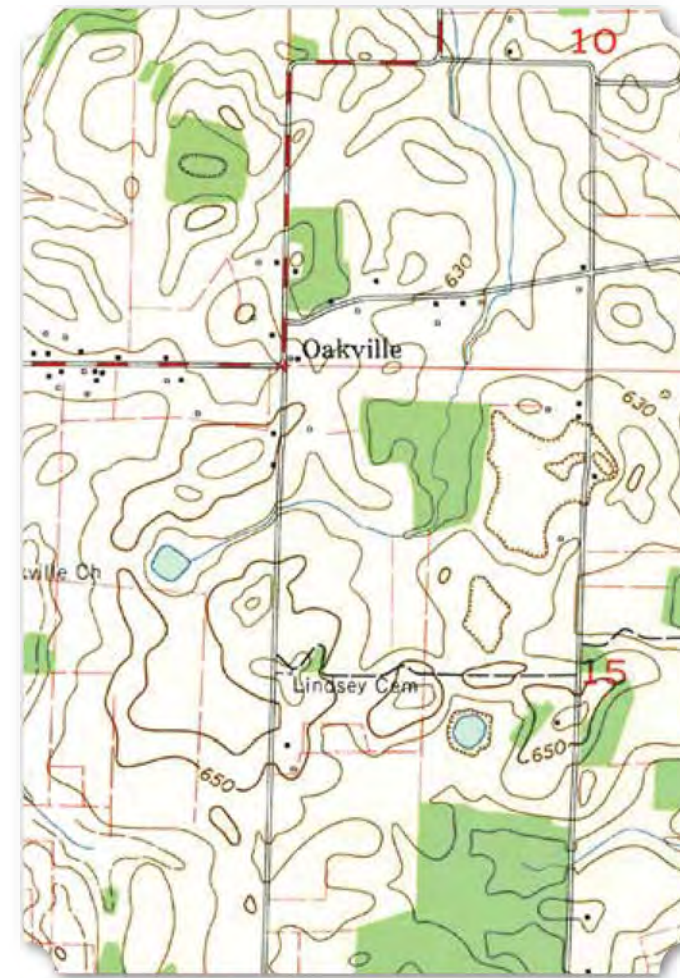
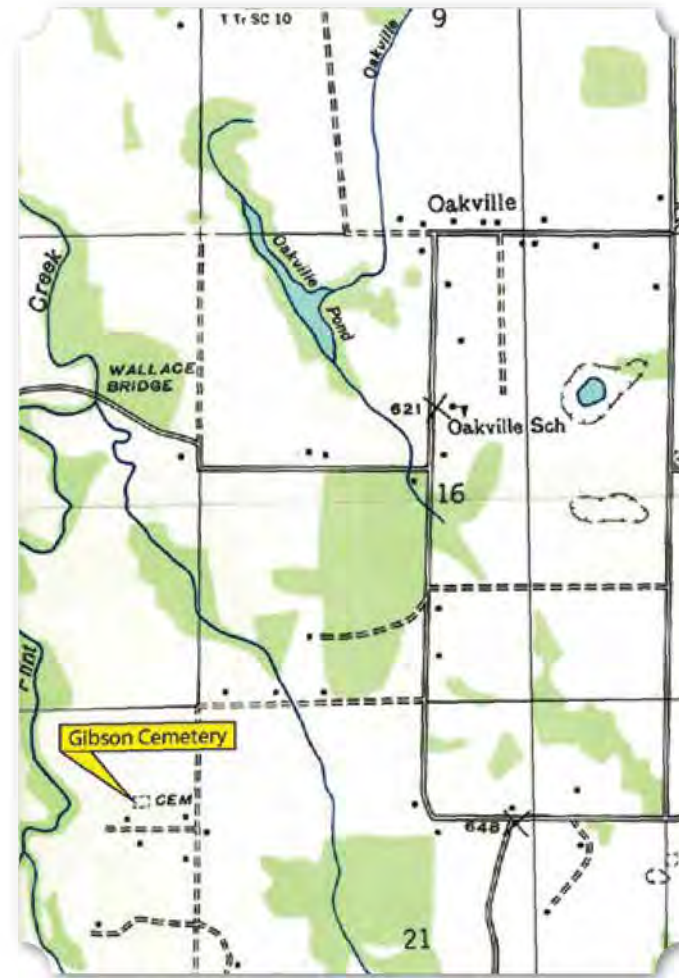
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34			
1	0	250				Priest, Columbus	Head	M	29	52	M	70	6	Alabama		Some home ownership	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
2						Ardenia D	Wife	F	29	48	M	70	6	Alabama		Some home ownership	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
3						Willie Gibson	Daughter	M	29	17	S	6	7	Alabama		Some home ownership	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

# 21

## Oakville

While Oakville may be known for one of the country's famous African American athletes, the area around Jesse Owens Birthplace and Museum had very few African American households and landowners in the early 20th century. Between 1900 and 1940, there were never more than 48 African American households in Oakville. In 1900, there were only 29 households of color, or 16% of the population. As the overall population grew slightly, the percentage of African Americans leveled off. In 1910, the 30 African American households made up only 13% of the community. By 1920, there were 41 households of color, only 11% of the population. There were 33 African American families in 1930 and 48 in 1940. Of the landowners, there were never more than four in any given year. Winnie Alexander and Abner

(Right) 1935 USGS Topographic Map of Oakville, Oakville, Alabama Quadrangle (Right Middle) 1960 USGS Topographic Map of Oakville, Oakville, Alabama Quadrangle (Far Right) 1976 USGS Topographic Map of Oakville, Oakville, Alabama Quadrangle



(Below) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Daniel Preuitt Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Eliza Moore and Anna Gibson Owning Farms (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

105/107	Preuitt Daniel	Head	W	27	13	41	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Home farm 02/107
	Preuitt James	Wife		25	13	27	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt John	Son		17	13	13	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt James	Son		14	13	10	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt Lucy	Daughter		12	13	9	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt Leah	Son		11	13	8	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt Vera	Daughter		10	13	6	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt Robert	Son		10	13	4	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Preuitt John	Son		10	13	3	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	

115/116	Moore Eliza	Head	W	27	13	57	21	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Home farm 02/116
	Moore John	Wife		18	13	42	21	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Moore John	Son		17	13	12	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Moore Ben	Son		17	13	5	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Moore Emma	Daughter		16	13	5	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Moore Rubin	Son		15	13	7	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
116/116	Gibson Eliza	Head	W	13	13	35	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
	Gibson Oscar	Brother		11	13	17	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Home farm 02/116
	Gibson Malie	Sister		11	13	14	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

129129	Alexander Ernest	Head	1	W	35	m	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Generalism	04	129129
	Lucy	Wife	1	F	25	m	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Walter Lee	Son	1	M	14	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Alexander Ruth	Son	1	M	12	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Alexander Loubak	Daughter	1	F	10	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Alexander Homer	Son	1	M	8	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Alexander Lula	Daughter	1	F	2	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			
	Alexander Lepton	Daughter	1	F	1	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None			

(Above) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Ernest Alexander Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Fitzgerald owned farms in 1900. There were no African American-owned farms in 1910. By 1920, Daniel Prueitt, Eliza Moore, Anna Gibson, and Ernest Alexander owned farms in close proximity to each other. Prueitt owned his farm through to 1940, as did Spencer Griffin.

### McDaniel Cemetery

According to the *Historical Atlas of Alabama*, there is a cemetery of African American graves, possibly slave graves, called McDaniel Cemetery somewhere in the vicinity of Oakville. There are two McDaniel cemeteries in Oakville, McDaniel Cemetery and what has become known as McDaniel Cemetery #2. While they are both located near Oakville Baptist Church, it appears that McDaniel Cemetery #2, located east of Oakville Baptist Church along County Road 208, is the older cemetery. While there are two markers, the cemetery might have more unmarked graves. It is also located in proximity to McDaniel Creek. A historical map from the 1830s shows that "J. McDaniel" owned a plantation in this area. This cemetery may be associated with the plantation slaves and freedmen.

### Oakville School\*

Although Oakville did not have a large population of African Americans in the early 20th century, it did have a school. Oakville School was located where Oakville Baptist Church is now, on County Road 203, north of County Road 187 and the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum. The school was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 and appears on the 1935 USGS topographic map just below Oakville. By 1960, like most rural African American schools, Oakville School is gone, and Oakville Church is in its place.

(Left) School Census Card for the Griffin Family with Children at Oakville School, 1936 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Below) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Spencer Griffin Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE†
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Griffin	Spence		Danville Ala. R. 2	1	✓	✓	✓		1
Griffin	Sonora		Danville, Ala. R. 2	1	✓	✓	✓		1

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0		NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE	Reads and Writes		Sex	Defects	Age CODE 0	
NAME	NAME			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE ‡	YES	NO	B	G	CODE †	CODE 0
John Thompson	Griffin	Oakville	1/2 mile	1920	11	14	4	1	3	✓	✓			16
Egelle	Griffin	Oakville	1/2 mile	1923			4	1	3	✓				13
Marie	Griffin	Oakville	1/2 mile	1925	12	16	4	1	3	✓				11
Margaret	Griffin	Oakville	1/2 mile	1926	4	12	4	1	2	✓				10
Lula Mae	Albonda	Oakville	1/2 mile	1925	4	8	4	1	3	✓				11
W.P.	Alexander	Oakville	1/2 mile	1929	3	25	4	1	1	✓	✓			7

<b>CODES</b>	*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	‡DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS †HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	†OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 10 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1936

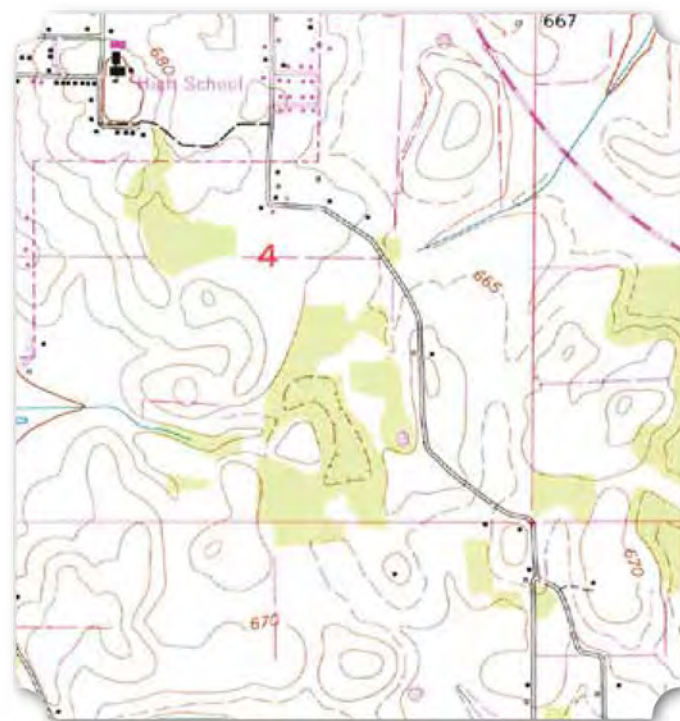
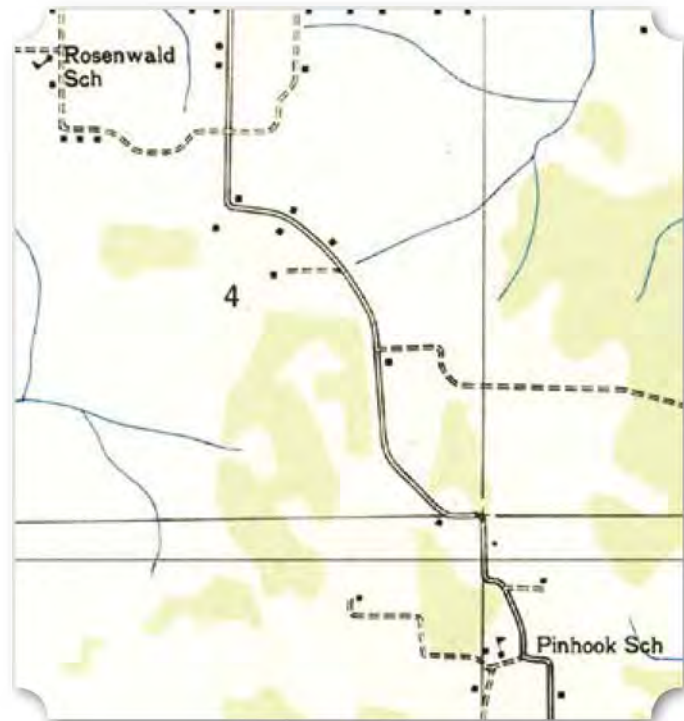


1	WT 0 200	Griffin Spence	Head	0	M	45	M	40	7	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs	-	-	-	-	1	40	Farmer	Legitimate	PA	✓	✓	40	0	Yrs	1930	1
2		Sonora	Wife	1	F	44	M	40	6	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs	10	10	10	10	H	5						0	0	10		2
3		John Thomas	Son	2	M	20	S	40	4	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs	-	-	-	-	H	40	Laborer	Farmer	PA	✓	✓	40	40	40		3
4		Egelle	Daughter	2	F	18	S	40	2	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs	10	10	10	10	H	5						0	0	40		4
5		Marie	Daughter	2	F	17	S	40	7	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs					S	6										5
6		Margaret	Daughter	2	F	15	S	40	6	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs					S	6										6
7		Birby Lee	Son	2	M	5	S	40	0	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs																7
8		Hernedi Marilan	Boarder	0	F	46	M	40	40	Alabama	James Hance	Yrs	40	40	40	40		36	Teacher	Public School	PA	✓	✓	30	420	40		8

Pinhook School\*

There are two Pinhook schools in Lawrence County, one for white and one for African American children. One school was located outside Moulton, to the southeast along County Road 180 and its intersection with County Road 215. The other Pinhook School was located further south along County Road 188 near County Road 189 in Aldridge Grove. The first school is completely gone and the other is now Pinhook Church.

The school closer to Moulton is most likely the school for African American children because there was a



(Lower Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Pinhook School, Moulton, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) 1960 USGS Topographic Map, Moulton, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Tandy Truss Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) School Census Card for the Trust (Truss) Family with Children at Pin Hook School, 1932 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

known community of color in southeast Moulton. Regardless of the exact location, there was an African American Pinhook School in the early 20th century. It was one of about 20 rural schools in the county and is included in the school census records for 1930.



NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Truss	T	T	Moulton, Ala. #2	1	U	U	U	U	1
MOTHER									
Alice									

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 00	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †	CODE *					
Danny	Pin Hook	2	1915	11	26	4	1	4	U	U	16	
Rosevelt	.. ..	..	1917	1	12	4	1	4	U	U	15	
Maggie	.. ..	..	1918	9	23	4	1	6	U	U	13	
Albina	.. ..	..	1920	3	14	4	1	5	U	U	12	

*BIRTHPLACE	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	‡DEFECTS	°SEE INSTRUCTIONS	•HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	•OCCUPATIONS
1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.		

District or Block-No. 27 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. Year 1932

Pond Spring and Bride's Hill\*

Pond Spring is known as the home of General Joseph Wheeler (1836-1906). Known as "Fighting" Joe Wheeler, he was a Confederate Calvary Commander of the Army of Tennessee and a Major General of Calvary in the Spanish American War, as well as a prominent landowner and an Alabama

Representative. Pond Spring was originally the home of John P. Hickman, whose 1818 dogtrot log cabin is still on site. Another owner, Benjamin Sherrad, lived here in the 1830s and built a still-standing house. Finally, Joe Wheeler purchased the property, and his 1870s home is adjacent to the Sherrad house. Several other buildings on the current property were constructed or inhabited by enslaved people.

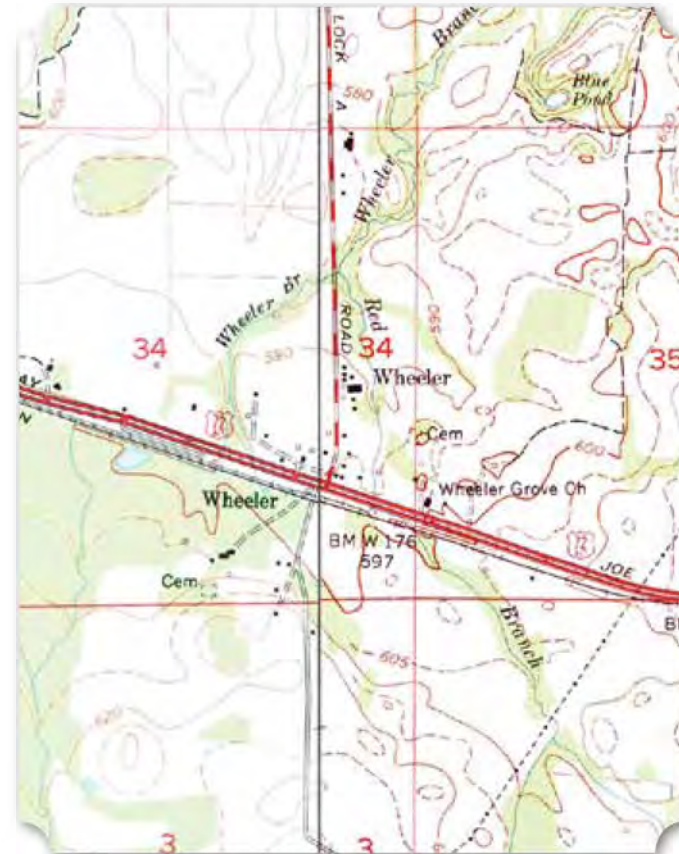
Pond Spring includes a cemetery for the Hickman, Sherrad, and Wheeler families. Next to the family

73	31	31	Truss, Tandy	Head	0	Yes	11	43	11	23	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	Farmer	33	73
74			Alice	Wife	11	x	7	44	11	29	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	None		74
75			Paul	son	1	x	7	21	1	1	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	Farmer	33	75
76			Paul	son	1	x	7	18	1	2	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	Farmer	33	76
77			Nannie	Daughter	1	x	7	15	1	1	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	None		77
78			Rosevelt	son	1	x	7	14	1	1	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	None		78
79			Maggie	Daughter	1	x	7	12	1	1	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	None		79
80			Albina	Daughter	1	x	7	11	1	1	11	Yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	32	Yes	None		80

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Top Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Wheeler with Pond Spring and Bride's Hill, Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangles (Above) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Wheeler with Pond Spring and Bride's Hill, Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangles (Left) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Wheeler with Pond Spring and Bride's Hill, Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama Quadrangles (Top Right) School Census Card for the Troupe Family with Children at Wheeler Chapel School, 1934 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama) (Right) School Census Card for the Lyles Family with Children at Wheeler School, 1940 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

cemetery is a slave cemetery with mostly unmarked graves. Three of the slave graves are distinguished by handmade markers, but the identities of the individuals are not known. By the early 20th century, a community had grown up around the old plantation. The 1936 topographic maps label the area Wheeler. This map also shows a school to the west of Pond Spring, which was for children of color. It is included in the school census records from 1930 as "Wheeler." The school was in the location of Wheeler Chapel Church.

*Colored*

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Troupe	Phil		Wheeler, Ala. R. 1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Troupe	Ollie		" " " 1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M F	Defects CODE +	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE *	CODE 0	CODE †	CODE 0					
Troupe	Parvula	Wheeler	Chapel	2 mi	2	1	2	✓	✓		✓		11	
Troupe	Leonia	"	"	2 mi	1	1	2	✓	✓		✓		10	

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	+DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	◦SEE INSTRUCTIONS ◼HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	‡OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 63 WHITE FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1934

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Lyles	Judge		Wheeler, Ala.	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
Lyles	Lily		Wheeler, Ala.	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M F	Defects CODE +	Age CODE 0
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE *	CODE 0	CODE †	CODE 0					
Willie	Mae	Wheeler	2 mi	25	10	23	✓	1	6		✓		14	
David		Wheeler	2 mi	27	4	12	✓	1	4		✓		13	
Lily	Belle	Wheeler	2 mi	34	1	3	✓	1	0		✓		6	

*BIRTHPLACE 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	+DEFECTS 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	◦SEE INSTRUCTIONS ◼HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	‡OCCUPATIONS 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 63 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1940



Pond Spring was documented for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s along with several of the other plantation houses of North Alabama. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "Joe Wheeler Plantation" in 1977 (#77000209). The house, 12 buildings, and 50 acres were donated by the Wheeler family to the Alabama Historical Commission in 1993.

To the north of Pond Spring is another plantation and standing antebellum home – Bride's Hill. Constructed about 1830, the home and plantation first belonged to Robert and Elizabeth Danridge. The Danridges were from Virginia and purchased 160 acres outside of Courtland in 1829. After passing through various owners, the house became part of Pond Spring when

**(Above)** Photograph of Cabin at Pond Spring, Lawrence County, Alabama. Historic American Buildings Survey, 1939 **(Right)** Photograph of Bride's Hill, Lawrence County, Alabama. Historic American Buildings Survey, 1933 (Library of Congress)

it was purchased by Annie Wheeler, daughter of Gen. Joe Wheeler, in 1912. Bride's Hill was included in the photo documentation conducted for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s. In 1956, when Ms. Wheeler passed away, the Pond Spring and Bride's Hill combined estates had 16,000 acres. Bride's Hill was abandoned for a time starting in 1982 but remains standing. It was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1985.

## 24 ■ Red Bank

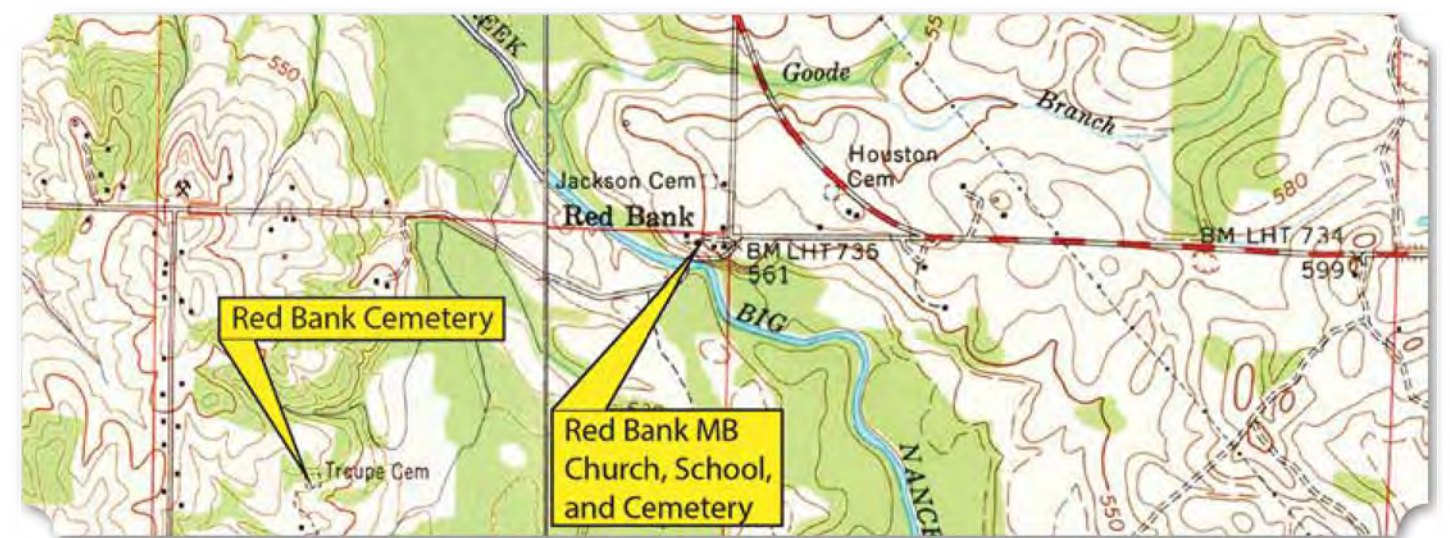
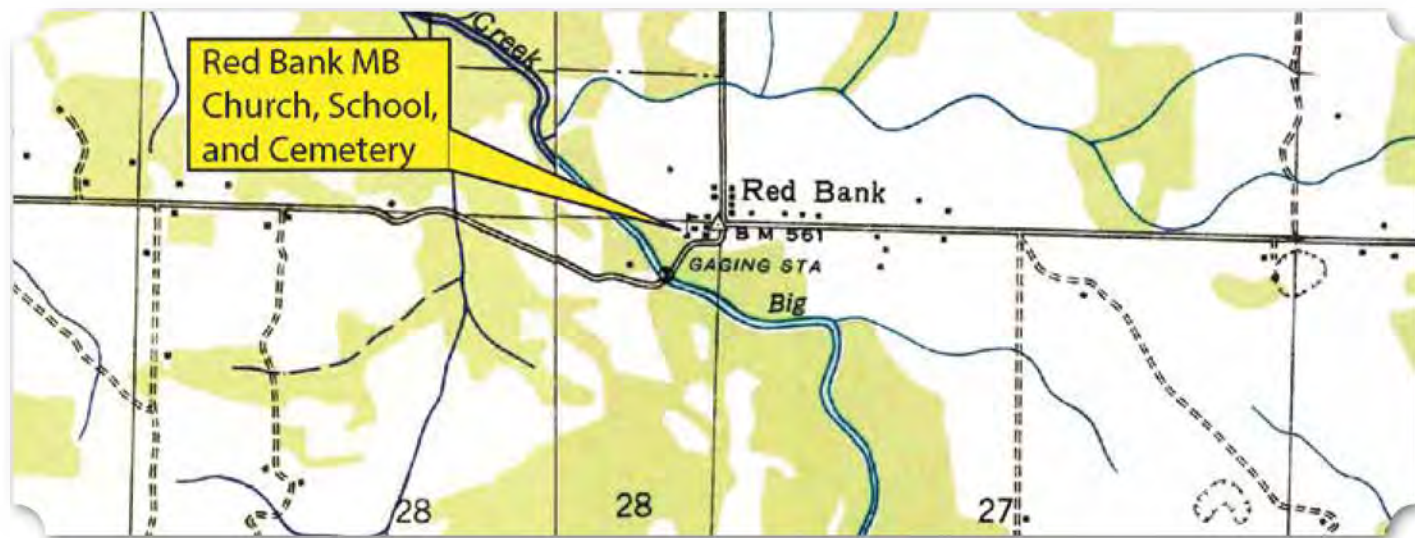
Like most of the areas on the northern half of Lawrence County along the Tennessee River, Red Bank was a majority African American community in the early 20th century. The census district of Red Bank is not very large. In 1900, it contained only 161 total households, of which 105 (65%) were African American. Both the number of total households and the number of African American households rose in 1910, with 85% African American households. The number of households of color peaked in 1920, when 90% of the 192 households of Red Bank

**(Opposite Page) (Top Left)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Red Bank, Rogersville and Wheeler Dam, Alabama Quadrangles **(Top Right)** 1952 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Red Bank, Rogersville and Wheeler Dam, Alabama Quadrangles **(Lower Opposite Page) (First)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Susie Troupe Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Second)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Ed Warren Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Third)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Frank Davis Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Fourth)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Tom Fuqua Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource







51	Miller	Brother	0	F	54	8	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home W	280
X	Johnson	Head	0	F	55	14	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home W	280
	Adair	Damster		F	19	8	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		31

55	13 15	Warren	Head	0	yes	M	50	M	15	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home W	no	11	50		
57		Filly	Wife H		x	F	48	M	14	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	57		
58		Ed Jr	Son		x	M	15	S		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	58		
59		Willa	Son		x	M	14	S		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	59		
60		Lisha	Daughter		x	F	9	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				no	60	
61		May	S. Daughter		x	F	7	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none					no	61

21	145 157	Davis	Head	0	yes	M	64	M	21	no	yes	Alabama	Georgia	Georgia	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home W	no	yes	no	187	21		
22		Amyndee	Wife H		x	F	40	M	22	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	no		22		
23		Al	Son		x	M	44	S		no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	no		23		
24		Queen Beata	Daughter		x	F	15	S		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none						no	24	
25		Frankie	Son		x	M	12	S		yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	no		25		
26		James	Son		x	M	10	S		no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farm Labor	Home W	no	yes	no		26		
27		Brother	Daughter		x	F	8	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none						no	27	
28		Robert	Son		x	M	6	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none						no	28	
29		May Ellen	Daughter		x	F	4	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none						no	29	
30		John	Son		x	M	7	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none						no	30	
31		Celestine	Daughter		x	F	1 1/2	S		no		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none						no	31	
32		Smith George	Daughter		x	M	62	M	15	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none							no	32

71	88 0 5.0	yes	Luqua	Tom	Head	M	70	W	2	Alabama	Home W	yes	-	-	-	1	40	0	Farmer	Home W	no	no	52	280	yes	71	
72			Joseph	Heredia	daughter	F	50	W	3	Alabama	Home W	no	no	no	no	0	0	0	Home W	Home W	no	no	0	0	no	72	
73			Luqua	Margie	daughter	F	25	S	4	Alabama	Home W	yes	-	-	-	1	30	0	Teaching	Public School	PH	no	28	280	no	73	
74			Amie	B	daughter	F	10	S	4	Alabama	Home W	no	no	-	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	74

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE †
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE							
Davis	Frank		Courtland Ala	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
	Anna			1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1

NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE †	NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH				Gr. CODE ‡	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M F	Defects CODE †	Age CODE †	
			YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE †						
Queen Ester ✓	Red Bank	None	1915	Nov	8	4	1	8	Yes	F		14
George Frank ✓	"	"	1917	Dec	22	4	1	4	Yes	B		12
James ✓	"	"	1920	Dec	6	4	1	2	Yes	B		9
Dorothy Lee ✓	"	"	1922	Apr	19	4	1	2	Yes	F		7
Orber T.	"	"	1923	Jun	19	4	1		Yes	M B		7

CODE †	BIRTHPLACE	AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE	DEFECTS	SEE INSTRUCTIONS	HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	OCCUPATIONS
	1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.		

District or Block No. 45 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 5 Year 1930

(Above) School Census Card for the Davis Family with Children at Red Bank School, 1930 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

were African American. The population declined to 70% of households in 1930 and 1940.

The number of farming landowners did not follow the same trend as the overall population. For most of the early 20th century, about 7% of the African American households owned their farm in Red Bank. This constituted 10 farms in 1900, 13 farms in 1910, 16 farms in 1920, and 14 farms in 1930. However, by 1940 when only 70% of the total households were African American, there were 20 African American-owned farms. That year, 10% of the African American community owned farms, significantly higher than the surrounding communities. To the southwest, in Town Creek, only 4% of the total households in 1940 were African American farm owners. To the southeast, Courtland had only 8 African American-owned farms in 1940. This represented 2% of the African American households, or 22% of the overall population. Red

Bank is a much smaller district than Town Creek and Courtland. Nonetheless, it appears to have been home to a strong African American community, only rivaled by Hillsboro. While other areas were losing families of color and farmers, one in every ten African American households in Red Bank were landowning farmers.

For the small number of African American-owned farms, landowners of Red Bank exhibited long term occupation of those farms. Of the 13 landowners in 1910, five had owned the previous decade. In 1920, six of the 16 landowners owned their farm for over 10 years, and one had owned for more than 20 years. The most remarkable year is 1930 when 10 of the 14 landowners had previously been recorded as landowners in 1920. Three of these 10 had owned since 1910. Although there were more landowners than any previous year, in 1940, there were only four landowners who had owned previously. However, all of them had owned a farm from at least 1920 and one since 1910. Susie Troupe, Ed Warren, and Frank Davis owned farms

from at least 1920 to 1940. Tom Fuqua owned his farm from at least 1910 to 1940.

### Red Bank School\*

The community of Red Bank has all three important landmarks of a community - Red Bank Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery, Red Bank Cemetery, and Red Bank School. The Red Bank School was one of about 20 rural schools for African American children in the county in the early 20th century. It is included in the school census records for 1930 and appears on the 1935 USGS/TVA topographic map at the center of the community as a symbol for a school. While many of the rural African American Schools were not located in the center of a community or town, Red Bank was predominately African American. Also, the close association with the church is a fairly good indication of an African American school, and by the 1950s, the school is no longer noted on maps.

### Red Bank Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery

On the 1952 USGS topographic map, a church symbol appears instead of a school. By 1974, the church is accompanied by a cemetery. This is the Red Bank Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery. The cemetery only has seven marked graves dating from 1947 to 1978. Four of the seven are members of the Wilson family. The earliest interment is Mollie Wilson

(1866-1947). Although the church appears to predate the cemetery, appearing on maps in 1952, the cemetery may not have a full record or be completely associated with the church.

### Red Bank (Troup) Cemetery

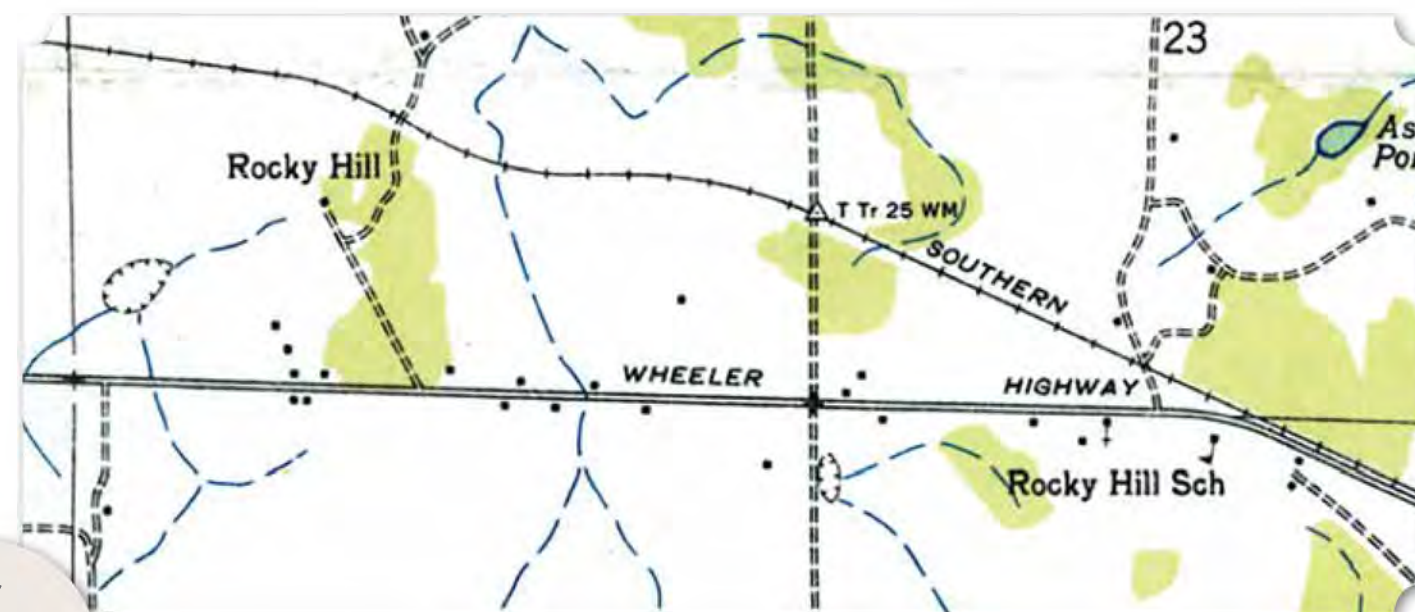
The Red Bank Cemetery is also known as Troup Cemetery, which is how it appears on topographic maps from at least 1952 to the present. It has at least 46 burials. It appears that the Troupe family first used the cemetery as early as 1909. Most of the African American burials are from recent decades.

## 25

### Rocky Hill\*

The community of Rocky Hill was located outside of Courtland to the northwest. It was once a plantation with a manor house known as Rocky Hill Castle. Later a Rosenwald school for African American children named for the plantation and community was located on Jefferson Street, where it meets Joe Wheeler Highway. The manor house and school are gone now but contribute to the history of Courtland.

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Rocky Hill, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle

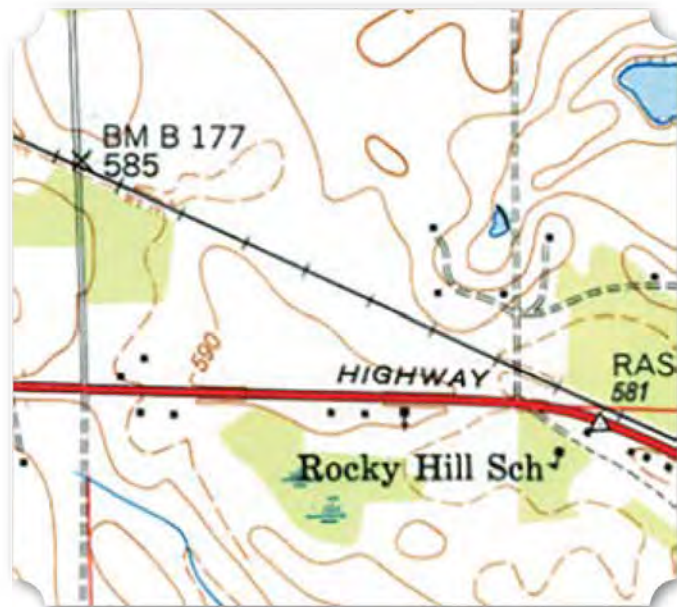


#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

(Below) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Rocky Hill, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Rocky Hill, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle



**Rocky Hill Castle\***

Rocky Hill Castle was an impressive plantation house built for James Edmonds Saunders about 1860. Saunders had a plantation, named Rocky Hill, since the mid-1820s in the early years of Alabama statehood. Originally from Georgia, Saunders came to Lawrence County with his wife and father. His father,

“You either made two dollars and 50 cent a hundred or three dollars a hundred [pounds of cotton]. I made good money because when you pick 900 pounds and you take that home, I didn’t even know I could afford to buy land back then. But I could have bought land. But... no one ever said the price of land.”

- Ms. Carolyn Wilson

(Top) Photograph of Rocky Hill Castle, Lawrence County, Alabama. Historic American Buildings Survey, 1935 (Library of Congress) (Above) Photograph of Rocky Hill Slave Cabin, Lawrence County, Alabama. Historic American Buildings Survey, 1935 (Library of Congress)

Turner Saunders established his plantation four miles away in Town Creek and called it Saunders Hill. The estate had about 640 acres when James Saunders built Rocky Hill Castle. The house was nearly complete in 1861 when construction was interrupted by the Civil War. The Confederate army used it as a field hospital, which led to decades of ghost stories.

The manor passed through many hands before being sold out of the family in the 1920s. It was purchased for the farmland, not the house, and the building went empty. The derelict house was demolished by the next owner in 1961. Prior to its demolition, it was documented for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s.



**Rocky Hill School\***

The Rocky Hill School was one of four Rosenwald schools built in Lawrence County in the early 20th century. Like most of the schools in the county, Rocky Hill was built under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute sometime in the mid-1910s. It was a one-room, one-teacher type school that cost a total of \$1,650, with \$800 donated by the African American community, \$450 from the county funds, and \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund. Rocky Hill School is included in the school census records from at least 1930 to 1958.

The school is labeled “Rocky Hill School” on the 1936 and 1951 USGS topographic maps. It was located on the south side of Joe Wheeler Highway and the railroad tracks in close proximity to a church and the old Rocky Hill Castle. By 1974, the school and the building are no longer on the map, likely due to integration in 1971, when most African American schools closed.

“They had four classes there... first through the fourth. We only had two teachers - Miss Robinson and Miss Fuller. I remember them so well. They were so sweet. We used to draw our water from the well. I think I have the pot thing that went down into the well. That was the most exciting thing you could do is run out and fetch the water and pass out the coats.”

- Ms. Carolyn Wilson

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE*	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE†				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Deloney	Percy		Jawn Creek, Ala.	1	X		X	Y	1				
"	Lucy		"		X	X	X	Y	1				
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH			Gr. CODE	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex B G	Defects CODE †	Age CODE 0	
YEAR	MO.	DA.			CODE †	CODE †	CODE †						
Charlie			Rocky Hill	1	1920	Nov.	14	1	4	6	V	X	18
Percy Lee			"	1	1923	Nov.	27	1	4	4	X	X	15
Armatha			"	1	1925	June	11	1	4	5	X	X	13
Lucile			"	1	1927	May	25	1	4	4	X	X	11
Frankie Bee			"	1	1929	May	5	1	4	1	X	X	9
L.D.			"	1	1931	Dec.	18	1	4		X	X	8
Bontha Lee			"	1	1933	Sept.	25	1	4		V	X	6

\*BIRTHPLACE  
 1. United States  
 2. Great Britain  
 3. Canada  
 4. Germany  
 5. France  
 6. Greece  
 7. Italy  
 8.

†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE  
 1. Birth Certificate  
 2. Bible Record  
 3. Baptismal Certificate  
 4. Parent's Statement  
 5.

†DEFECTS  
 1. Blind  
 2. Crippled  
 3. Deaf  
 4. Dumb  
 5.

†SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 †HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED

†OCCUPATIONS  
 1. Agriculture  
 2. Clerical Work  
 3. Domestic Service  
 4. Manufacturing  
 5. Mining  
 6. Professional Service  
 7. Public Service  
 8. Trade  
 9. Transportation  
 10.

District or Block No. \_\_\_\_\_ COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 193\_\_\_\_\_

(Above) School Census Card for the Deloney Family with Children at Rocky Hill School, 1938 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)



The current building was constructed in 1925 and is named for former pastor, Rev. Andrew Smith. The church is associated with the cemetery positioned on its east and north sides. The cemetery was established in 1871 with the first church. Also known as Moulton Old City Cemetery, as denoted by a sign erected by the Lawrence County Historical Commission, the large cemetery has at least 272 known burials.

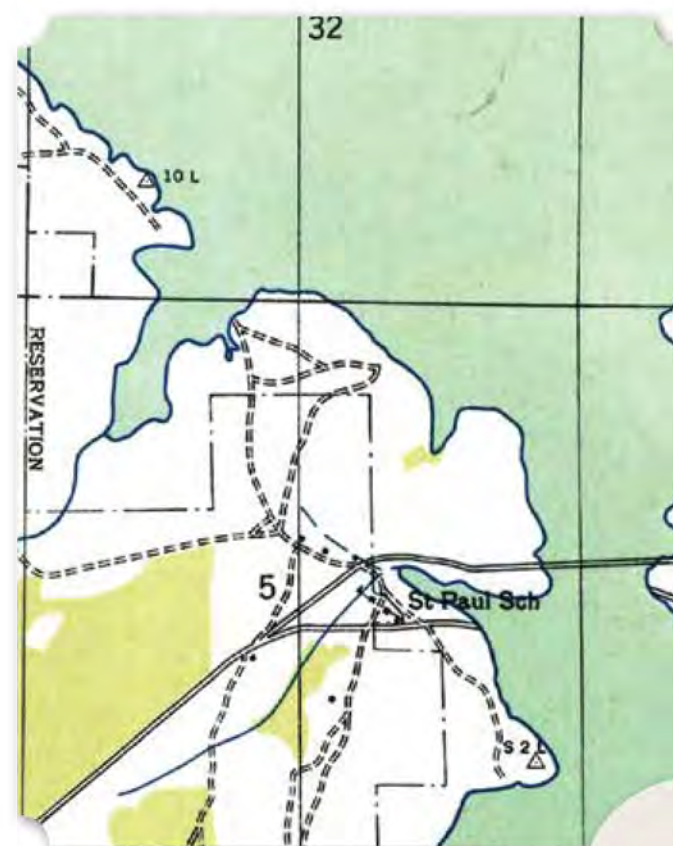
Being part of the old city cemetery, there are burials of both white and African Americans. The earliest marked grave is that of Susan M. Baker (died 1833), which may date to the old city cemetery as it appears to predate the church and its established cemetery. Apparently, the majority of the African American burials are in the older part of the cemetery along

(Lower Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of St. Paul School, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Left) 1951 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Spring Creek School, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Lower Left) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Pleasant Grove Church, Courtland, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) Photograph of Adam "Uncle Buck" Snider (Findagrave.com, User MJB)

## 26

### Smith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church & Cemetery

The Smith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is located in southeast Moulton at the fork of Byler Road and Somerville Avenue. It is also referred to as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, and its founding dates to 1871, when former slaves established one of the first churches and schools in Moulton. The African American community came together to purchase most of the materials for the construction of the first church. Local landowner and former slave owner, Isaac Nabors Owens, donated the land for a church for both the Baptist and Methodist freemen community. Both congregations met at the same church until 1874, when they split.



#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birth-place CODE #	Living YES NO	Reads and Writes YES NO	Speaks English YES NO	Citizen YES NO	Occupation CODE #					
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Blocker	Charles		Courtland, Rt. 2	1		✓								
Blocker	Betty	James	"	1	✓	✓	✓		1					
NAMES OF CHILDREN (LIST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST) CODE 0			NAME OF SCHOOL WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR	Distance to School	BIRTH					Gr. CODE 0-9	Reads and Writes YES NO	Sex M F	Defects CODE 0-4	Age CODE 0-9
					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CODE 1	CODE 2					
Darius			Spring Creek		'18	9	14	4	1	4	✓	✓	0	18
Tommy Lee			"		'20	10	7	"	"	2	✓	✓	0	16
Geneva			"		'23	8	20	"	"	2	✓	✓	0	13
Aggie Lee			"		'28	7	8	"	"	1	✓	✓	0	8

<b>*BIRTHPLACE</b> 1. United States 2. Great Britain 3. Canada 4. Germany 5. France 6. Greece 7. Italy 8.	<b>†AUTHORITY FOR BIRTHDATE</b> 1. Birth Certificate 2. Bible Record 3. Baptismal Certificate 4. Parent's Statement 5.	<b>+DEFECTS</b> 1. Blind 2. Crippled 3. Deaf 4. Dumb 5.	<b>○SEE INSTRUCTIONS</b> <b>●HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED</b>	<b>‡OCCUPATIONS</b> 1. Agriculture 2. Clerical Work 3. Domestic Service 4. Manufacturing 5. Mining 6. Professional Service 7. Public Service 8. Trade 9. Transportation 10.
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District or Block No. 60 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 7 Year 1936

(Above) School Census Card for the Blocker Family with Children at Spring Creek School, 1936 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

Byler Road, however, many of them are unmarked. One of the famous burials is actually unmarked and its exact location is unknown, that of Adam "Uncle Buck" Snider (1798-1910). A slave for more than 60 years, then a freedman for 50 more, Snider lived to be at least 111 years old.

## 27 ■ Spring Creek School\*

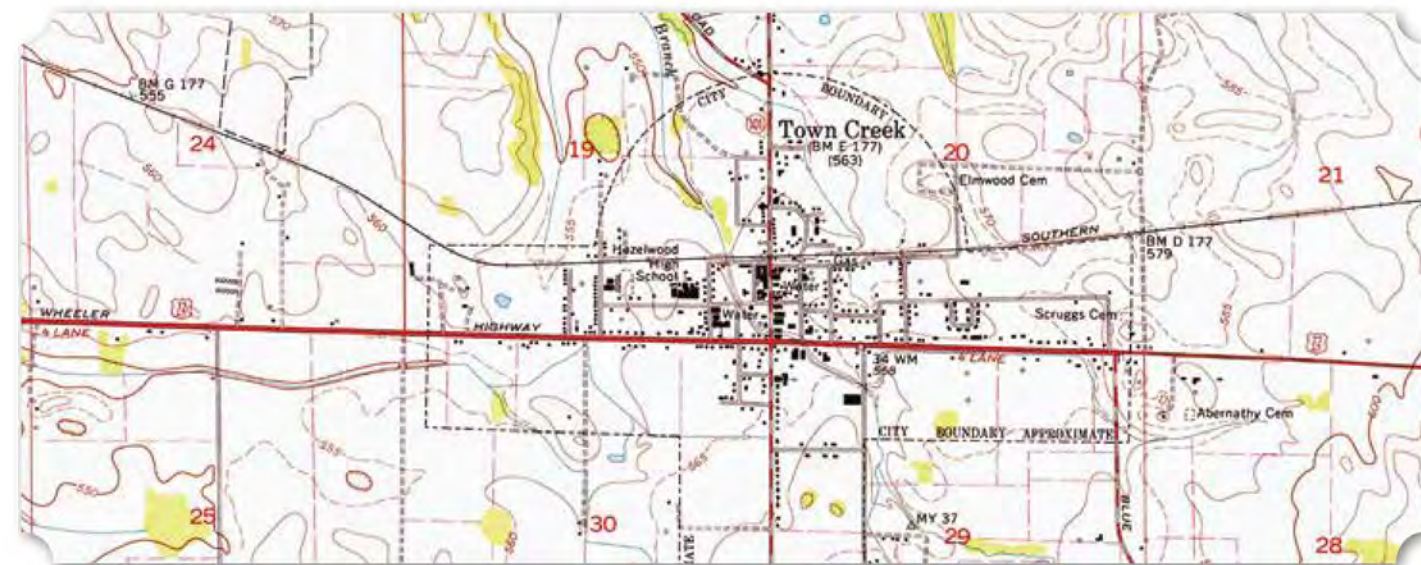
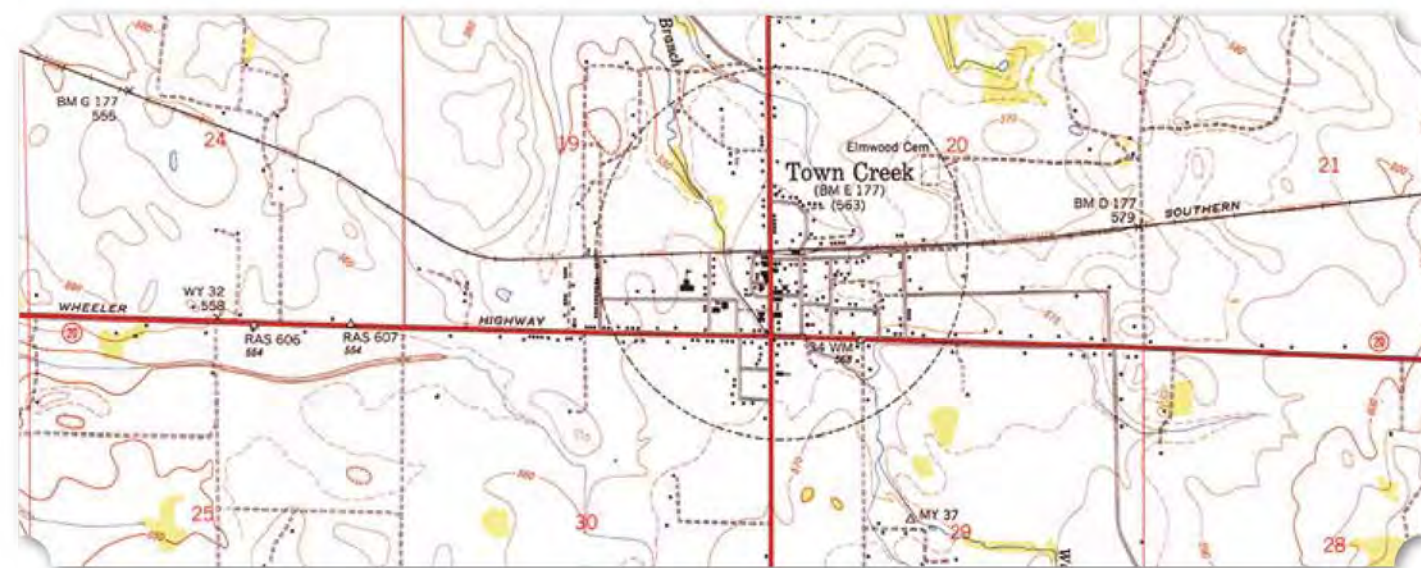
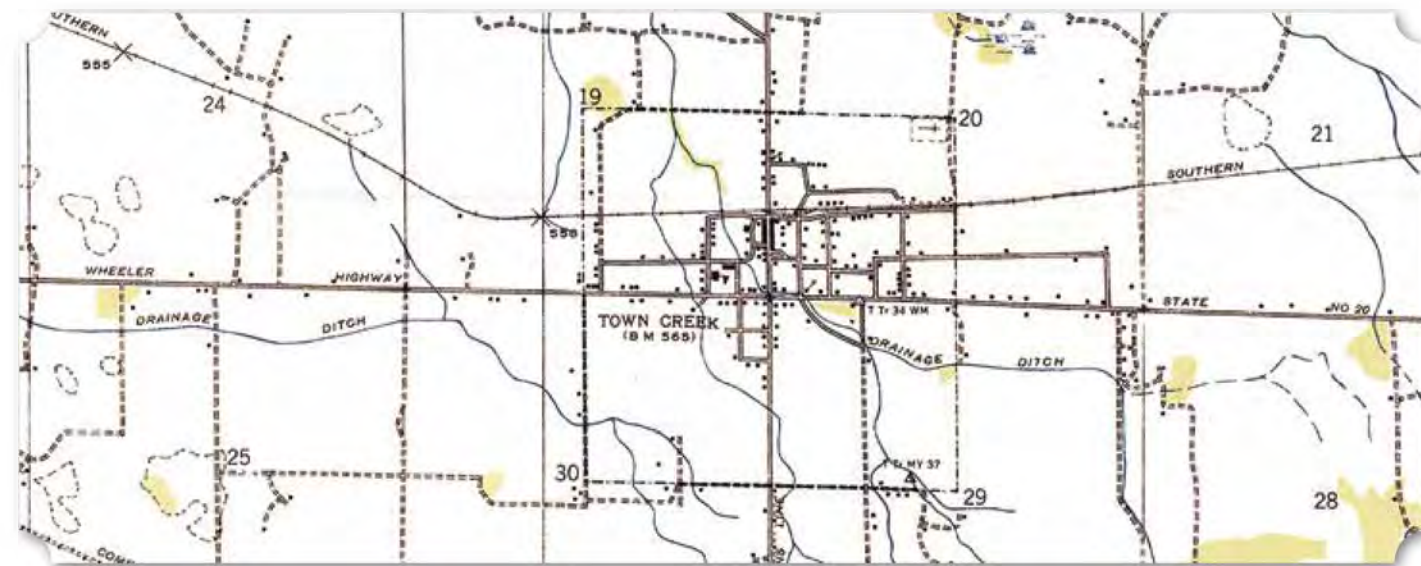
Spring Creek School was located north of Courtland along County Road 400, where it crossed Spring Creek. The school was one of many schools for African American children in Lawrence County in the early 20th century. It is included in the school

census records for 1930. The school is indicated with a symbol on the 1936 USGS topographic map in close proximity with St. Paul Church. By 1951, the map labels Spring Creek School, and the church as Pleasant Grove Church. After integration, African American schools were no longer needed, and the 1974 map does not include the Spring Creek School.

## 28 ■ Town Creek

The African American community of Town Creek lives on the north side of the railroad that cuts east and west across northern Lawrence County. Like other

(Top Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Town Creek, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle  
(Middle Right) 1950 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Town Creek, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle  
(Right) 1974 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Town Creek, Town Creek, Alabama Quadrangle



20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90

57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

areas in the county, including Courtland and Red Bank, the African American community tends to live toward the river. The census data for 1900 and 1910 did not divide the district during enumeration, but the segregation becomes apparent in 1920.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the community of Town Creek was still relatively small with 366 total households, 38% of which were African American. The population dropped by 330 households in 1910, but the African American population rose to 56%. The 1920 census shows that nearly all of the people of color lived north of the railroad. There were 505 households in Town Creek in 1920, 149 of which were African American. Only 3 African American families lived on the south side of the railroad tracks.

By 1930, a few more families of color were on the south side, but not many: 85% of African American families lived on the north side and only 15% on the south side. Some of the community of color had taken up residence inside the town limits by 1940, but the ratio of north and south held. Town Creek had a total of 623 households in 1940, enumerated by north and south of the railroad and within the town limits. On the north side were 121 (67%) African American households of a total of 180 north side households. On the south side, there were 270 households, only 35 (13%) of them were African American. Within the town limits, 18% of the 173 households were African American.

**(Opposite Page) (First)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing John Williams Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Second)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Ed Fitzgerald Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Third)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Frank Fitzgerald Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Fourth)** Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Louis Johnson Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Fifth)** Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing O. C. Stanley Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Sixth)** Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing O. C. Stanley Owning a Farm (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

As for landowners in the Town Creek area, only a small percentage of total households were African American-owned farms. In 1900, there were 16 landowning farmers in all of Town Creek. Family names included Burt, Jones, Burns, Johnson, Lee, and Allen. There were 20 landowners by the 1910 census. For 1920, the census breaks Town Creek down into north and south. There was only one landowner - John Williams - on the south side of the tracks. On the north side, there were 13 landowners. There are only 11 total African American landowners in the area, in 1930. The record of landowners in 1940 indicates that the majority of African Americans in Town Creek lived along the railroad rather than to one side or the other. There are 11 African American-owned farms on either side of the railroad and some of the owners on the south side were previously recorded on the north side.

Long-term owners north of the railroad include Ed and Frank Fitzgerald, who each owned a farm since at least 1920, and Louis (Lewis) Johnson owned a farm from at least 1910 to 1940. On the south side, four of the 11 farms are owned by the Jones family, a group of two brothers and two sons. Champ J. Jones was 100 years old and owned his farm since at least 1900. He passed his skills on to his sons, Frank and James, who own adjacent farms. Champ's brother Alfred lived next to them. He owned his farm since at least 1910.

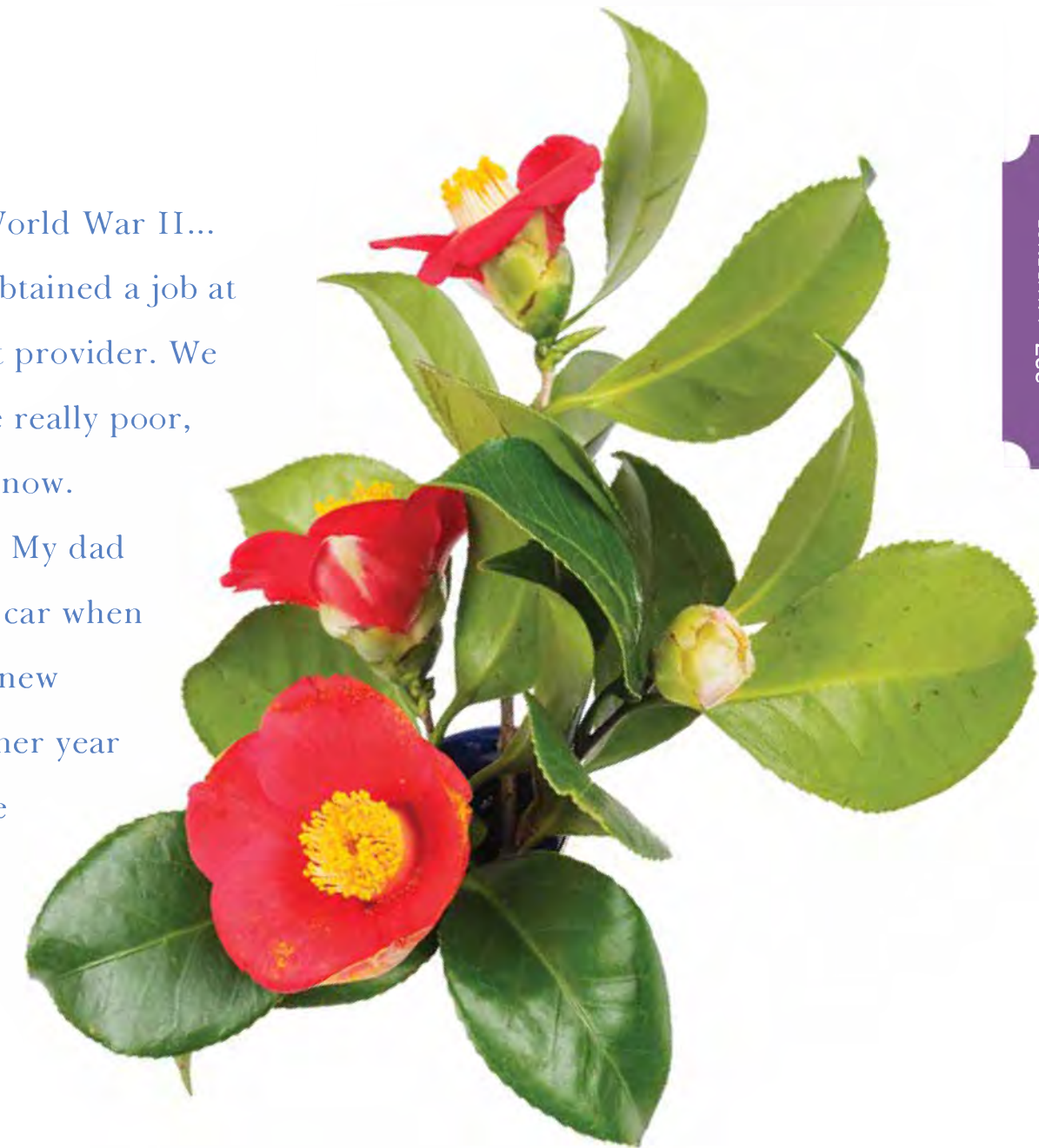
#### O. C. Stanley Grocery & Service Station

In 2017, the first African American owned business received a historical marker - O.C. Stanley Grocery and Service Station. Mr. O.C. Stanley (1904-1987) lived on the county line between Lawrence and Colbert counties. In 1921, he opened the first business owned by a person of color in all of Town Creek and the surrounding community. His grocery store is said to have sold eggs for 10 cents a dozen, meat for 10 cents a pound, and 25-pound bags of flour for 50 cents. Stanley expanded his business to include dry cleaning and taxi services. The original building burned, and two separate buildings were constructed. The new dry cleaners was called City Cleaners.

Mr. O.C. Stanley was very active in his community. He was a Baptist minister for at least three churches in the area before he built the First Baptist Church of Leighton in 1937. He married Elsie King of Leighton and bought a farm north of Leighton in the Brick district. O.C. - or "Ocie" - and his wife are on the 1930 and 1940 census in Brick, Colbert County as owning a farm. Besides businessman, minister, and farmer, Stanley was also a Freemason, and his wife was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was a trustee of the North Alabama Baptist Academy and a charter member of the Valleywide Improvement Association of Courtland.

“My dad went to World War II... coming home... he obtained a job at TVA. He was a great provider. We didn't know we were really poor, but my mom let us know. We had the first car. My dad bought a brand new car when I was young. Brand new every year. Every other year seemed as though he brought home a new car”

- Ms. Carolyn Wilson



# 3. HISTORICAL AFRICAN AMERICAN THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## Coffee School (Rosenwald)\*

The Coffee School was one of four Rosenwald schools in Lawrence County. Its location is unknown. Topographic maps from 1914 and 1916 do not cover much of Lawrence County beyond Red Bank. The first full set of maps for this county were created by the TVA in 1936. However, there is no school named Coffee on the 1936 maps. The school may have not been in use by 1936, or the school changed names.

The distribution of known historic schoolhouses covers the distribution of African American communities in Lawrence fairly well. There were only three other Rosenwald schools between Courtland and Town Creek: Hillsboro, Moulton, and Rocky Hill. Red Bank would be a likely place for another Rosenwald School, but there is nothing in the area named Coffee to give any indication of the school's location.

The school records held at the Lawrence County archives have census cards starting in 1930. There is no school named Coffee in the records. The Hillsboro Rosenwald School was built in 1921/1922, after the Tuskegee era, indicating that Hillsboro had more than one school.

Coffee School was a one-teacher, one-room schoolhouse. The records have no date for this school, but it was built under the instruction of the Tuskegee

Institute, making it mostly from about 1913-1915. Coffee School cost \$850 to construct, with \$300 from the African American community, \$150 from public funds, and \$400 from Rosenwald.

## Ms. Pearl Jackson Green

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green grew up in Moulton, Lawrence County, Alabama. She was one of the women of color from Lawrence County to attend college, but she was not the first, nor, only success in her family. A life-long educator, Ms. Green has lived through the good and the bad of 20th century North Alabama. She is a member of the Echols family who would make a significant impact on the Moulton community of color.

Ms. Green was born in the 1930s to John Dyke Echols (1910 or 1912-1948) and Annie L. Love Echols (1913-1993). Her father died young, when she was only 14 years old. Fortunately, Mr. Echols was a Mason, a member of the Prince Hall Masons of the Huntsville Lodge. This fraternal order and its connections

**MORGAN COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORD**  
*Dike Echols* TO *Annie Love*  
**APPLICATION**  
 Comes the undersigned and makes application for a Marriage License for *Dike Echols* a colored male to *Annie Love* a colored female, and in order to obtain the same, makes the following report:  
 Age of Man is *21 yrs* Height of Man is *5' 4"* Weight of Man is *150* Nativity of Man is *Ala.* Occupation of Man is *Farming* Former Marriages *None* Relationship of Parties to each other is *None* Religious Belief *Baptist* Address of Man *Moulton Rd.* Remarks *None*  
 Age of Woman is *19 yrs* Height of Woman is *5' 5"* Weight of Woman is *140* Nativity of Woman is *Ala.* Occupation of Woman is *Farming* Former Marriages *None* Religious Belief *Methodist* Address of Woman *Decatur R.* Remarks *None*  
 Sworn to and subscribed before me on this *27* day of *Jan* 1932 by *B. L. Malone* Judge of Probate  
**DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE**  
 STATE OF ALABAMA *W. H. Thersard*, being a legally licensed physician, do hereby certify that I have on this *27* day of *Jan* 1932, made a thorough examination of *Dike Echols*, and believe him to be free from all venereal diseases. *W. H. Thersard* M. D.  
**MARRIAGE LICENSE**  
 STATE OF ALABAMA *Dike Echols* and *Annie Love* colored, and to join them together in Matrimony, and certify the same in writing to this office, as required by law. Given under my hand this *27* day of *Jan* 1932 by *B. L. Malone* Judge of Probate  
 This certifies that I have solemnized Marriage between *Dike Echols* and *Annie Love* according to law at *Decatur, Ala.* in said County and State on the *27* day of *Jan* 1932 by *B. L. Malone* Judge of Probate

(Left) Marriage Record for John Dyke Echols and Annie Love, Morgan County, Alabama, 1932 (Alabama, County Marriages, 1805-1967 via Ancestry.com)

provided Ms. Green with relationships that assisted her later in life. In an informal interview conducted at the Lawrence County Archives in early 2018, Ms. Green credited her father's membership to obtaining scholarship funds and employment at Alabama State College in Montgomery.

Mr. John Echols was the son of Price Echols (1886-1964) and Erise Johnson Echols (1889-1947). Price was one of two brothers that made their way from Danville, on the Morgan-Lawrence County line, to Moulton by 1920. Price and his brother, Ben A. Echols (1883-1953), both purchased land and farmed in southeast Moulton. Census records show that the brothers lived next door to each other from at least 1920 to 1940. The Echols brothers were not only landowners and farmers, but



(Left) Mr. John Dyke Echols (1912-1948), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Father (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Right) Ms. Annie Love Echols, Ms. Pearl's Mother (Ancestry.com, User akowe1)

(Left) Mr. Price Echols (1886-1964), Ms. Pearl's Grandfather (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Right) Ms. Erise Johnson Echols (1889-1947), Ms. Pearl's Grandmother (Ancestry.com, User akowe1)





(Far Left) Mr. Ben A. Echols (1883-1953), Ms. Pearl's Great Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Left) Ms. Carrie Davis Echols, Ms. Pearl's Great Aunt (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Below) Excerpt of 1910 Census Record Showing Ben A. Echols and Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Ben A. and Price Echols Living Next Door to One Another (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

STATE Alabama COUNTY Linn TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Lowndes Precinct NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE X ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 27 DAY OF April 1910. SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 8 SHEET NO. B ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 85 WARD OF CITY A 6601 ENUMERATOR W. K. Ketchum

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910—POPULATION

LOCATIONS. House number in place or street. Number of each building and addition. Number of family in number of the institution.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family. Later surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				NATIVITY.			SEX.		OCCUPATION.			EDUCATION.		PROPERTY OF HOME.		MARRIAGE.		
			Color or race.	AGE in last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years of marriage.	Whether of legal age.	Whether born here.	Whether born in U.S.	Whether born in foreign country.	Male.	Female.	Trade or profession of, or general kind of work done by this person, as spinner, weaver, farmer, etc.	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, if called upon, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Whether an employer, employer, or working on own account.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Whether able to read and write.	Whether owned or rented.	Whether owned or rented.	Whether single.
51	121 1/2	Echols Ben A	Head	W	18	26	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
52		Garrison	Wife	F	6	26	F	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
53		Alvin	Daughter	F	13	3	F		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
54		Edna	Son	M	15	1	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
55		Price	Brother	M	15	23	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

✓	200	200	Echols Ben A	Head	W	18	26	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Garrison	Wife	F	6	26	F	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Alvin	Daughter	F	13	3	F		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Edna	Son	M	15	1	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Price	Brother	M	15	23	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓	201	201	Echols Price	Head	W	18	26	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Garrison	Wife	F	6	26	F	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Alvin	Daughter	F	13	3	F		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Edna	Son	M	15	1	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Price	Brother	M	15	23	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Garrison	Wife	F	6	26	F	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Alvin	Daughter	F	13	3	F		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Edna	Son	M	15	1	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
✓			Price	Brother	M	15	23	M		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	None	None	None	None	None	None	None



(Opposite Page) (Top) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Ben A. and Price Echols Living Next Door to One Another (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Middle) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Ben A. Echols and Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Bottom) Excerpt of 1940 Census Record Showing Price Echols Owning a Farm and Son, Dyke Echols, and Family Renting on His Land (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



(Above from Left to Right) Ms. Sallie E. Echols Stephenson (1913-1999), Daughter of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Aunt (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Mr. Eric Lee Echols (1914-1997), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Ms. Madie M. Echols Bankston (1917-1992), Daughter of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Aunt (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Mr. Frank Haze Echols (1920-2001), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Mr. Ben Chasten Echols (1921-2017), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Ms. Betty Alene Echols Willis (1924-2016), Daughter of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Aunt (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Mr. Finel Echols (1926-1996), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1), Mr. Evy Rudolph Echols (1928-1993), Sr., Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Uncle (Ancestry.com, User akowe1)

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THE STATE OF ALABAMA, MORGAN COUNTY.

To any licensed Minister of the Gospel in regular communion with the Christian Church or Society of which he is a member,  
or Judge of the Supreme, Circuit, or City Court, or Chancellor within the State, or Judge of Probate, or Justice of the Peace of said County—Greeting:

You are hereby authorized to solemnize Marriage between Mr. Arthur Love, Colored, and  
Miss Sallie Burt, Colored, and to join them together in matrimony, and to certify the same in  
writing to this office, as required by law. Given under my hand, this 12 day of Aug., 1907  
Wm E Skeggs, Judge of Probate.

This certifies that I have solemnized Marriage between Mr. Arthur Love, col and  
Miss Sallie Burt, col, according to law, at Decatur, Ala.  
in said County and State, on the 14 day of August, 1907  
J. M. Robinson  
Minister of the Gospel

MARRIAGE BOND.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, MORGAN COUNTY.

Know all Men by these Presents, That we, \_\_\_\_\_, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Alabama in the sum of Two Hundred Dollars, to the  
payment of which sum, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly  
by these presents. We hereby waive all our rights under the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama to have any of our property, real or personal,  
except from levy and sale in satisfaction hereof.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That, whereas, a License to solemnize Marriage between Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
and M \_\_\_\_\_ has this day been issued by the Judge of Probate of Morgan County, at our request; Now,  
therefore, if there is no lawful cause why such marriage should not be celebrated, then this obligation is to be void; otherwise it is to remain in full force.

Witness our hands and seals, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 190\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 190\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)  
\_\_\_\_\_, Judge of Probate. (L. S.)

MARRIAGE AFFIDAVIT.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, MORGAN COUNTY.

Before me, Wm E Skeggs, Judge of Probate in and for Morgan County, in said State, personally  
came Richard Burt, who, on oath to him by me administered, deposes and says he desires to procure a Marriage  
License for Mr. Arthur Love and Miss Sallie Burt; that the said  
Arthur Love is over twenty-one years of age, and that the said Sallie Burt  
is over eighteen years of age, and resides in Morgan County, Alabama.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 12 day of August, 1907  
Richard Burt  
Wm E Skeggs, Judge of Probate.

(Above) Excerpt of 1900 Census Record Showing Richard Burt and Daughter, Sallie Burt, in Hillsboro (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Marriage Record for Arthur Love and Sallie Burt, Morgan County, Alabama, 1907 (Alabama, County Marriages, 1805-1967 via Ancestry.com)

55	212 238	Burt Richard	Head	W	47	Ala	Ala	Ala	1-1-2-0-0-1	110 110	55
56	231	Burt Sallie	Daughter	B	18	Ala	Ala	Ala	1-1-2-0-0-1	110 110	56

20	20	Love Arthur	head	D	M	37	6	53	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	2	17
		Sallie	wife	F		20	13	44	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
		Emma	daughter	F		7	13	17	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmlaborer	own farm		
		Douglas	son	M		7	13	11	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmlaborer	own farm		
		Estella	daughter	F		7	11	1	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
		Emma	daughter	F		7	13	1	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
		Ruth	daughter	F		7	13	1	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
		Sarah	daughter	F		7	13	1	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			

62	12/1/17	John D	Head	M		52	10	21	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	10	12
63		Sallie	wife	F		26	13	26	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
64		Douglas	son	M		21	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	own farm	10	12
65		Estella	daughter	F		18	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
66		Emma	daughter	F		16	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
67		Ruth	daughter	F		14	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
68		Sarah	daughter	F		9	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
69		Emma D	daughter	F		7	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			
70		Addie	daughter	F		5	13	5	no	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	none			

TVA 078  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Date 11-7-35  
County Lawrence

FAMILY CASE RECORD  
FACE SHEET  
Map 179  
Tract No. 255  
Schedule No. 649

Last Name Love A-1 No. in Household 6 Adults 4 Children 2

Present Address Decatur, Ala, Rt. 1 Rooms 5 Tenure Owner Name and Address of Last Landlord Owner

Marital Status: Mx S D Sep W Date of Marriage 1907 Place Decatur, Ala. Military Service Union

School Ebenezer Church Ebenezer

Information concerning Family: Race Negro

First Name	Relation	Date of Birth	Highest School Grade Completed	Number Times Married	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
Arthur	H	1867	None	2	Good
Sally	W	1881	8	1	Good
Children					
Sara	D	1917	7	7	Good
Ruthell	D	1915	8	8	Good
Emma Lou	D	1919	6	6	Good
Addie May	D	1923	5	5	Good

(Above) Excerpt of TVA Family Relocation Case Form for Arthur and Sallie Love, 1935 (Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953 via Ancestry.com)

(Top) Excerpt of 1920 Census Record Showing Arthur and Sallie Love in Hillsboro (Above) Excerpt of 1930 Census Record Showing Arthur and Sallie Love in Hillsboro (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



businessmen and men of faith. Ms. Green conveyed that the Echols owned business in the town of Moulton and that Ben Echols was also a brick mason and built the Church of Christ in downtown.

Ben A. Echols, his wife Carrie, Price Echols and his daughters, Sallie and Madie, and John D. and Annie Echols are all buried at the cemetery on Rosenwald Street known as Moulton Cemetery and associated with the Freemen Tabernacle Church in southeast Moulton. Other members of the Echols family include the children of Price Echols and the aunts and uncles of Ms. Pearl. Sallie E. Echols Stephenson (1813-1999), daughter of Price Echols, lived between Price and Ben Echols in 1940 with her husband Miller. They rented their farm – probably from her father. Two sons of Price, Frank Haze Echols (1920-2001) and Ben Chasten Echols (1921-2017), enlisted in the Army during World War II. Frank enlisted at Fort McClellan, Alabama and stated his occupation as “architect.” Ben C. enlisted at Fort Benning, Georgia and listed his occupation as “semiskilled brick and stone mason and tile setter.”

Ms. Green’s mother was Annie L. Love (1913-1993). Annie and Dyke were married in Morgan County in 1932. They were 19 and 21 years old, respectively, and both listed their occupation as “farming.” Annie’s

parents were Arthur Love (born 1867) and Sallie Burt Love (born 1881). Arthur owned a farm in the Decatur area in 1935 when the TVA included his farm in their study of family relocation. The file describes the location of their home as “turn off county-line road on Joe Wheeler Highway, travel about one mile, turn left at mail-box below church. Arthur’s house is first one seen after turning. It is a five-room, well-kept house. The floor, walls, roof, and furnishings all are in unusually good condition for this area.” Arthur, himself, is described as “tall and well built, looks ten years younger than he is and unusually healthy for his age.”

The history of the family is recorded as “both Arthur and his wife were born in the immediate vicinity. When 18 years old, Arthur got a job with a railroad company, and worked for about 12 years as a fireman for L&N and Southern Railroads. He saved his money and bought the farm on which he now lives. Arthur give his wife credit for his buying the land.” In response to the TVA, “Arthur intend[ed] to move the house in which he [was then] living on to the remaining portion of the tract he [then] occupy[ed], and which portions [had] not been bought. He intend[ed] to begin these operations immediately.”

# Lawrence County School Census Records

Housed at the Lawrence County Archives are hundreds of notecards that record the families with

school children. Referred to as school records or school census, the cards are often titled "White Family School Census Card." There are also "Colored Family" cards, but the "white" ones were often used for families of color in Lawrence County as well as Limestone County. Based on the schools listed, it is not likely that the recorded considered the family to be white, but more likely there were simply more of these "white" cards available.

At Lawrence County archives there are records from 1930 to 1958. The census was taken on a biannual basis in every even numbered year and

organized by the first letter of the last name. The cards are a printed form, but the information is handwritten. It includes the names of the mother and/or father, mailing address, and a list of their children. Like the federal census, information of the parents' birthplace, literacy, citizenship, and occupation are noted. The available categories for occupation are: 1) Agriculture, 2) Clerical Work, 3) Domestic Service, 4) Manufacturing, 5) Mining, 6) Professional Service, 7) Public Service, 7) Public Service, 8) Trade, 9) Transportation, and 10 is left open for a write-in answer.

(Left Top) School Census Card for Ben Echols' Family with Children at Moulton School, 1930 (Left Bottom) School Census Card for Robert Foster's Family with Children at Hillsboro and Davis (David's) Temple School, 1930 (Middle Top) School Census Card for Price Echols' Family with Children at Moulton School, 1932 (Middle Bottom) School Census Card for James B. Elliott's Family with Children at Ebenezer School, 1932 (Right Top) School Census Card for Frank Ennix's Family with Children at Davis (David's) Temple School, 1930 (Right Bottom) School Census Card for Ed Warren's Family with Children at Ebenezer School, 1938 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE										
Echols	Ben		Moulton Ala R 4						10			
Echols	Bessie		Moulton Ala R 4									
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.				
Elaine			Moulton	1910	2	2	4	1	9	X		20
George			Moulton	1911	8	11	4	1	8		X	19
Margaret			Moulton	1910	8	9	4	1	4	X		12
Louis			Moulton	1915	9	19	4	1	3	X		14

District or Block No. \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 3 Year 1930

NAMES OF PAREN			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation			
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE										
Echols	Price		Moulton Ala R 4						8			
"	Essie		"						10			
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.				
Erick			Moulton	1914	12	29	2	1	4	X		17
Mattie			"	1916	7	5	2	1	4	X		16
Frank			"	1920	1	6	2	1	8	X		12
Chaston			"	1921	11	16	2	1	7	X		10
Arlene			"	1923	8	16	2	1		X		9
Fennel			"	1924	4	6	2	1		X		6
Annell			"	1913	6	23	2	1	8	X		19

District or Block No. \_\_\_\_\_ COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1932

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation					
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE												
Ennix	Frank		Hillsboro		X	X	X							
Ennix	Helen		Hillsboro		X	X	X		1					
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age		
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.					Gr.	
Ennix Lily May			Davis Temple	1/2	1921	7	6	19	4	1	7	X	8	16
Ennix Helen			Davis Temple	1/2	1921	12	4	1	0	X		X	5	12

District or Block No. \_\_\_\_\_ COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1930

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Foster	Robert		Hillsboro R 2						1				
Foster	Bessie		"						3				
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age	
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.					Gr.
Estel			Hillsboro	Enix	1918	5	4	1	6				20
Brittann			"	"	1911	9	3	4	1	6			13
Jennie			"	"	1912	11	21	4	1	6			17
Mattie			"	"	1919	10	4	4	1	6			16
Dorsey Lee			Davis Temple	"	1920	1	4	1	2				14
Susan Estel			"	"	1911	5	7	4	1	4			10
John			"	"	1912	10	11	4	1	0			7

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 6 Year 1930

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Elliott	James B		R#3 Hillsboro						1				
"	Essie		"						2				
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age	
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.					Gr.
James Robert			Ebenezer	1/2	1905	5	15	4	1	3	X		17
Maggie Rose			"	1/2	1916	12	23	4	1	4	X		15
"			"	1/2	1918	8	20	4	1	5	X		14

District or Block No. 1 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 2 Year 1932

NAMES OF PARENTS			MAILING ADDRESS	Birthplace	Living	Reads and Writes	Speaks English	Citizen	Occupation				
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE											
Warren	Ed		Down Creek R 2		X	X	X	X	1				
"	Helie		"		X	X	X	X	1				
NAMES OF CHILDREN			NAME OF SCHOOL	Distance to School	BIRTH				Reads and Writes	Sex	Defects	Age	
LAST IN ORDER OF BIRTH, OLDEST FIRST					YEAR	MO.	DA.	CO.					Gr.
Gilla W. Garner			Ebenezer	1 mi	1921	11	10	7	1	7	X	X	9
Bella Harmon			"	"	1920	7	9	4	1	6	X	X	18
Clarence Ligon			"	"	1918	9	4	14	X	X			20

District or Block No. 59 COLORED FAMILY SCHOOL CENSUS CARD Book No. 3 Year 1938



The children are then listed from the first born, or oldest, first. Information collected on the children comprises of their name, where they will attend school the following year, the distance to that school, birth date, grade, literacy, sex, defects, and age. The so-called “defects” are listed as blind, crippled, deaf, dumb, and a write-in space. While the forms were not always filled out completely, they provide an overall view of the schools available to African American families.

The records indicate that the highest number of schools was in 1930, and that by the 1950s, many of the schools had closed and consolidated with others. The exact location of all the schools is not known, but most are known. While there are USGS topographic maps from 1936, few of the schools noted indicate whether they are for African American children. In

**(Left) The Names of Lawrence County African American Schools as Written on School Census Cards 1930-1958 (Lawrence County Archives, Moulton, Alabama)**

fact, Rosenwald is the only name that indicates the school was African American. Other complications in the records include that schools sometimes changed names or were simply referred to by the town. With further research, these records can be used to understand what schools were open during what years and how many children went to each school.

In 1930, there were at least 19 schools. While names might change and schools closed, this should be a nearly complete list of African American schools in Lawrence County at the time:

<i>Canaan</i>	<i>Moulton (Rosenwald)</i>
<i>Cave Springs</i>	<i>Mt. Hope</i>
<i>Courtland</i>	<i>Mt. Zion</i>
<i>Davis (David) Temple</i>	<i>Oakville</i>
<i>Ebenezer</i>	<i>Pinhook</i>
<i>Flower Hill</i>	<i>Red Bank</i>
<i>Hillsboro (Rosenwald)</i>	<i>Rocky Hill</i>
<i>Kimo</i>	<i>Spring Creek</i>
<i>Landersville</i>	<i>Tennessee Valley Junior (T.V.J.)</i>
<i>Little Sam</i>	<i>Town Creek</i>
<i>Macedonia</i>	<i>Wheeler</i>

## Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens (1913-1980) is famous for his athletic performance at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Nazi Germany. Some accounts say he was born in Danville, over the county line in Morgan County. However, the official Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum are located in Oakville in southeast Lawrence County. Jesse was born to Henry Cleveland (1881-1942) and Emma Fitzgerald (1876-1940) Owens. They lived in Decatur, Morgan County in 1900, and by 1910, they were farming in Oakville. The family moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1922 when Jesse was nine years old. The Owens were part of the Great Migration, a time when many families of color left the South for better opportunities in the North.

Jesse attended Ohio State University where he was a member of the track team and trained for the upcoming Olympic Games. Jesse met a fellow team member at OSU by the name of David Donald

Albritton. Born just a few miles east of Oakville in neighboring Danville, Morgan County, Alabama, Albritton was the son of a landowning farmer. Owens and Albritton were two of 18 African American athletes sent to Nazi Germany in 1936 to compete. Owens won four gold medals, and Albritton won the silver medal in the high jump. Together, they represented not only Alabama, but African American people and their resilience, perseverance, and determination.

After returning home, Owens married Minnie Ruth Solomon (1915-2001) in Cleveland in 1935. Over the decades, Owens has been honored many times over. In 1996, the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum opened in Oakville.

**(Below) Jesse Owens, 1936 (ACME News Photos, Public Domain)**



## Wheeler Dam

Named for General Joe Wheeler, Wheeler Dam was built in the 1930s, completed in 1936. It was one of the two dams built by the TVA in North Alabama. After the TVA took ownership of Wilson Dam, it constructed Wheeler and Guntersville dams to control the Tennessee River and produce hydroelectric power for the valley. During construction, there was a construction village, like those at Wilson Dam, north of Red Bank. Although the majority of the community of Red Bank was African American, there is no evidence that any people of color worked on the dam. Nonetheless, the African American community of North Lawrence County was greatly impacted by the TVA and the changes to the river.

Photographs taken by the TVA in the 1930s and 1940s illustrate the types of houses that were common in the area, a recreational “beach” for people of color, a Boy Scouts camp, men fishing, and Decatur Negro High School and other community resources along the river. What the TVA called the “Negro Recreation Area on Gold Field Branch” was a sparse bit of coastline located north of Pond Spring and Bride’s Hill. Across the river from the confluence of Elk River is the Goldfield Branch of the Tennessee River. It may have become part of present-day Lawrence County Park. The location of the “Colored Boy Scouts’ Camp” is unknown, although photographs in the TVA collection are attributed to the Wheeler Dam Reservoir.





(Above) A Tenant House on Wheeler Reservoir, Two Rooms and Only 14x20 Feet (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta) (Left) The “Negro Recreational Area on ‘Gold Field Branch’” along Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta) (Right Top and Bottom) “Lakefront at Lamb’s Ferry, Negro Recreational Area” on Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)





(Left and Above) Dining Hall, Cabins, and Other Buildings at the African American Boy Scouts' Camp (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)  
(Right) African American Fishermen at Wheeler Reservoir Claim Their Catch After TVA Records Data (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta)







# 4. SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

## In the 19th Century

During the antebellum period, slavery served as the primary mechanism for segregation. The vast majority of people of color were enslaved in the Southern “slave states.” Slavery served as an effective barrier between the slaves in the fields and the landowners either in the manors or in the cities. The 300-some-year history of the institution of slavery bestowed a general philosophy of the inferiority of people of color, one that would persist into the 20th (arguably the 21st) century. These prejudices were upheld by local, state, and federal government decisions, such as the Dred Scott decision – the 1857 Supreme Court case, which determined that anyone of African descent was not a citizen and could not sue in American courts. Slaves were viewed as property, not human individuals, and therefore had no rights to due process. This decision also squarely placed the issue of slavery in the hands of the states and put off the federal government’s responsibility for slavery and the welfare of African Americans for a few more years.

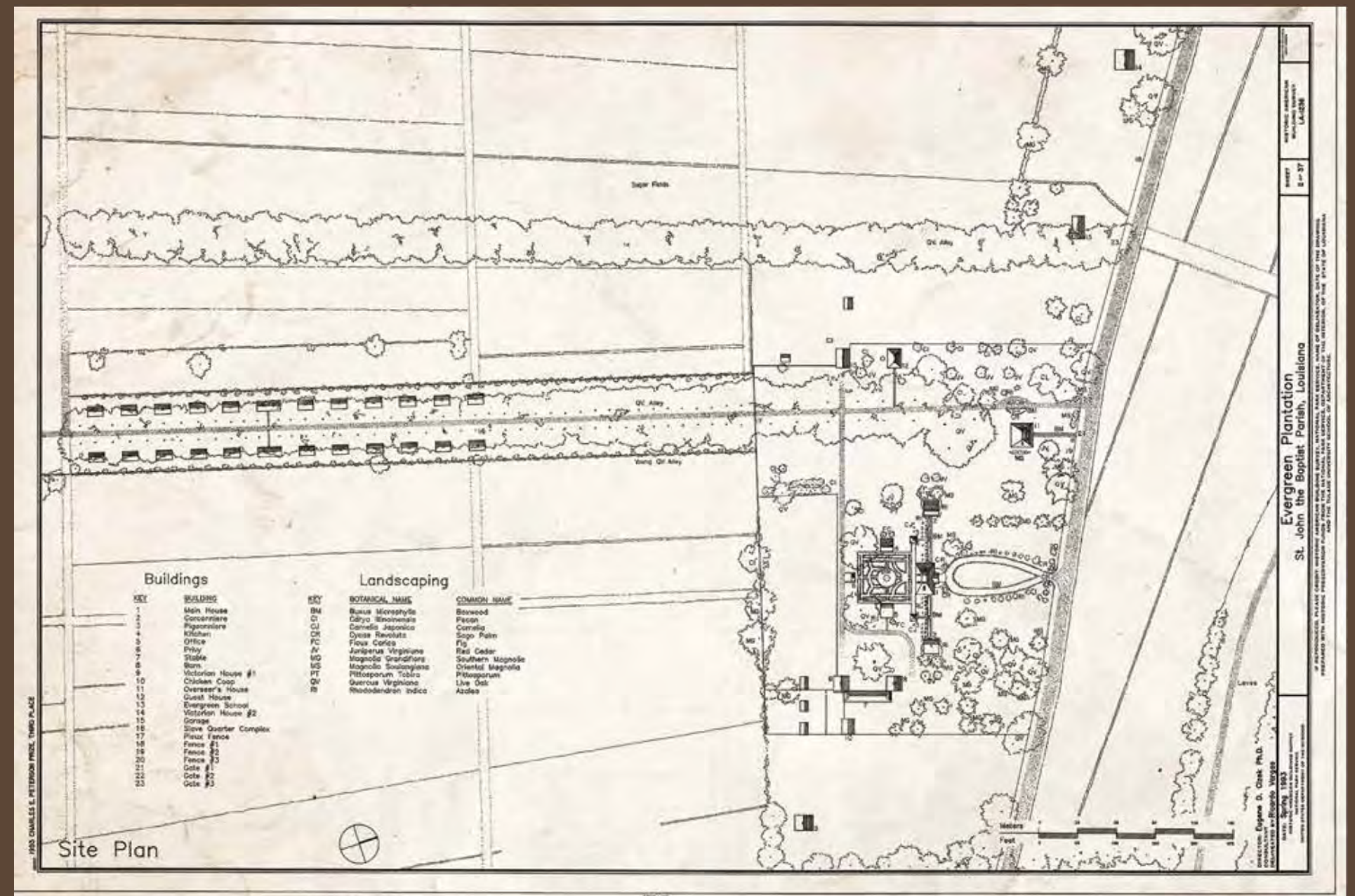
During the Civil War, the decision was made to create the United States Colored Troops (USCT), which accepted people of color into the military, but ensuring they were in segregated units commanded by white officers. African Americans were not welcome in the Confederate Army, although some continued to served their masters on the battlefield. Despite acceptance within the nearly 200 regiments of USCT, how the men were treated depended greatly on the officers in charge and their personal prejudices. Following the Union's victory, the nation focused

on settling lands and encouraged all citizens to buy federal land under the 1862 Homestead Act. While this act explicitly included ex-slaves and freemen, due to widespread discrimination, the participation of African Americans was relatively low. While this act was intended to bring equality among landowners in the South by helping sharecroppers and tenant farmers to gain ownership. Unfortunately, this Jeffersonian ideal was never reached.

The end of the Civil War and the 13th amendment unfortunately did not bring to an end segregation, discrimination, or racism. Instead,

what followed was a century of debate based on several so-called “race problems.” Sometimes these viewpoints were truly altruistic, others condescending, others still were outright racist and segregationist. Most white communities came to agree that slavery was an abhorrent institution, but believed that white and black people were not meant to live together.

(Below) Plan of Evergreen Plantation, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. Historic American Buildings Survey, 1993 (Library of Congress)



The official viewpoint of the federal government after the Civil War can be summed up in the overall short-lived and often-deemed unsuccessful period of Reconstruction, which intended to bring the South back to its feet. The 15th amendment was ratified in 1870, which made it unconstitutional to discriminate against a citizen's voting rights. And the Civil Rights Act of 1875 outlawed racial segregation in public accommodations and transportation, however it did not forbid segregation of schools. In response, many Southern states passed "Black Codes," laws that dictated anything and everything that people of color were allowed or not allowed to do. The codes discriminated against people of color and prolonged the institution of cheap labor and initiated convict labor systems. By 1877, the North and the federal government lost interest in reconstructing the South and all federal troops were withdrawn. Civil rights issues, equality, and segregation became more locally controlled issues.

North Alabama's isolated geography and culture ensured that the area experienced the events and changes of the 19th century somewhat differently from the rest of the state or the South. The Homestead acts had little impact on African American landownership in North Alabama. The overwhelming majority of people of color in the Middle Tennessee Valley did not take advantage of the acts. The communities of North Alabama are mostly comprised of people and families that were once enslaved in the area. The majority of people did not leave North Alabama, or even the county or town near where they were enslaved. Although the written records for communities of color in the 19th century are scarce, 20th century records indicate that people of color that eventually owned farms were from the area.

Legislation for civil rights passed during Reconstruction allowed for people of color to take up office in state and federal government. Several successful politicians were from or associated with North Alabama, such as William Hooper Councill (clerk in the Alabama legislature, 1873 and 1874), James T. Rapier (Republican in the House of Representatives, Alabama, 1873-1875), and Oscar Stanton De Priest (Republican in the House of Representatives, Illinois, 1929-1935). Unfortunately, by the turn-of-the-19th-century, Alabama as a whole rolled back many of the

strides made on behalf of people of color. Despite its divergent history, North Alabama still experienced widespread racism and discrimination. By the 1880s, Jim Crow laws were established and by the 1890s, the disenfranchisement of people of color began in earnest.

## The 20th Century

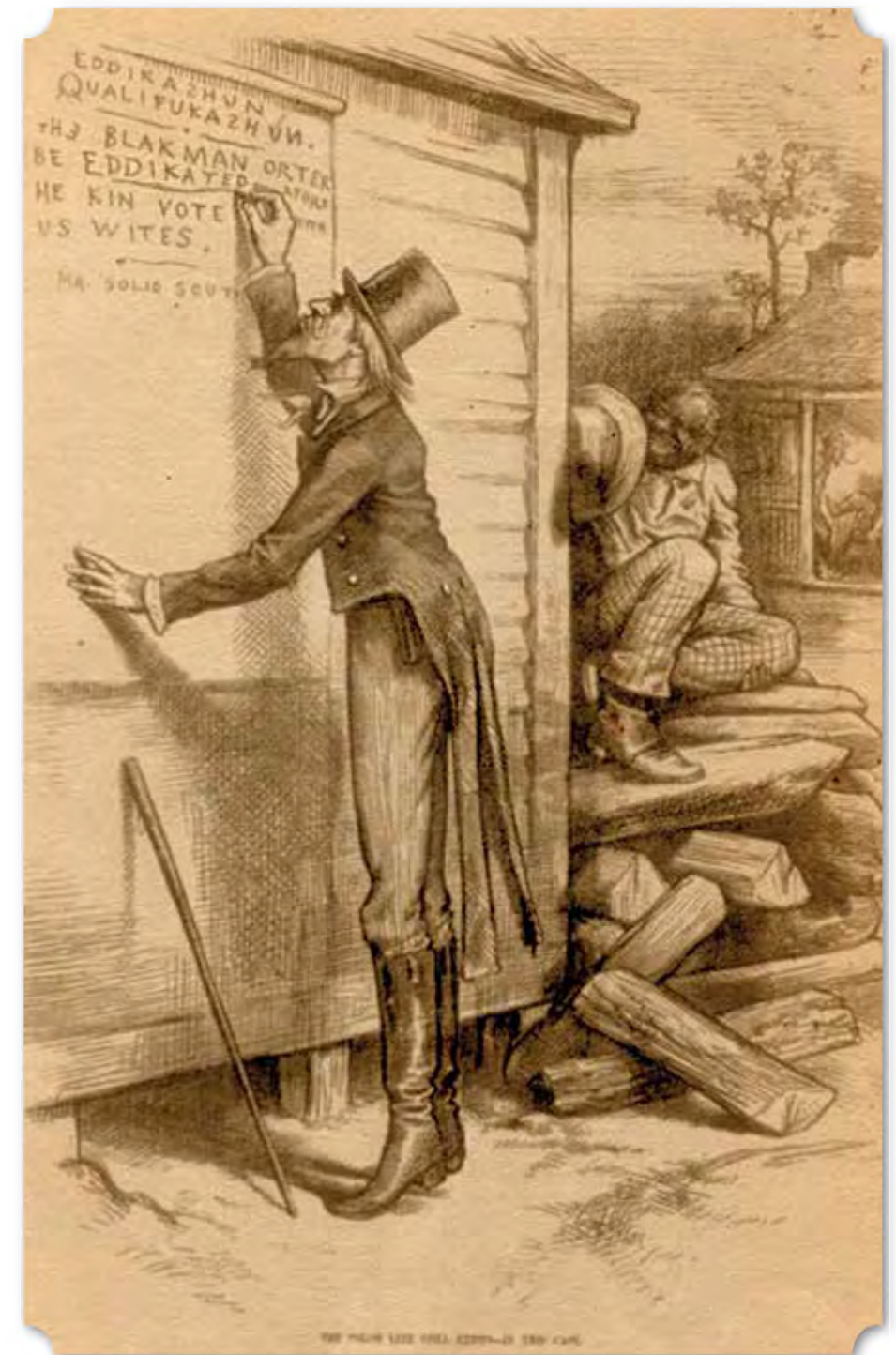
The turn of the 20th century set the stage for race relations in the United States for decades to come. In the Supreme Court case of 1896, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the renowned notion of "separate but equal" upheld the legal segregation of people of color and formally institutionalized the Jim Crow era. For the next six decades, all institutions and services from public transportation to education, from hospitals to prisons, and water fountains and restaurants would be separated by race. Segregation was often regulated by signage informing people of color where and what they were allowed to do or use and enforced by social norms if not local law enforcement or threats of vigilante violence. Of course, most facilities and services for people of color were not equal leading to civil unrest culminating in the mid-20th century.

At the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century there were two other kinds of segregation exemplified in North Alabama, which were attempts at more benevolent means of separating people of color from the society at large. One, would be the creation of communities explicitly for people of color, such as Cedar Lake, led by white people in conjunction with prominent people of color. The other, a kind of "self-segregation" where people of color came together on their own to organically form "settlements." Mrs. Ray, and presumably others like her, believed that communities of color could only contribute to society if they were self-sufficient, self-governed, and separated from the nuisance of attempting to integrate into white society. Some members of the white community thought that people of color should not have to compete with white people on an individual level but interact more like neighboring countries exchanging some goods and services while remaining separate.

On the other hand, there were numerous so-called settlements created for people of color by people of color throughout the South.

Prominent African Americans such as Booker T. Washington encouraged landownership and the creation of communities, particularly ones based on agriculture. In the several publications of *The Negro Year Book*, there is often a section which lists the towns and settlements created

(Below) A Cartoon of Racial Discrimination, Circa 1870s (Library of Congress)



or inhabited by people of color throughout the country. In North Alabama, an example of these would be Beulahland and Small Farms, communities led by the Bridgeforth family in Limestone County. Some more organically formed settlements include Nebo in Morgan County or the “Negro Settlement” near Tanner in Limestone County. These communities are technically segregated, but not with the intention of discriminating against people of color or denying them landownership and independence. Similar instances include Wilder Place in Morgan County, land set aside by Mrs. Lelia Seton Edmondson for poor tenant farmers of all races, as well as a housing development for African Americans in Muscle Shoals – although it never came to fruition. These planned communities seem to bridge a gap between full integration and total segregation.

Jim Crow and strict segregation was fully entrenched across the South by 1910, prompting thousands of African Americans to leave the region between 1916 and 1970 for the industrial cities of the North in what is known as the Great Migration. Many found that the North was not exempt from *de facto* segregation; neither were many federal programs. Despite segregation not being a federal decree, New Deal programs such as the Works Administration Program (WPA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) segregated their programs and crews in southern states. Jim Crow was so ingrained that even the most liberal politicians outspoken against segregation did not push for change. Instead, most thought it was up to the states to better their own race relations.

The mid-20th century saw two landmark federal decisions involving the rights of African Americans – *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and the Civil Rights Act (1964). The Supreme Court decision outlawed the segregation of public schools and other educational facilities on the basis that separate was not equal and thus unconstitutional. This had a great impact on American society beyond education facilitating the mass closing of African American schools and integration of the students into formerly white-only schools. While not all of the schools were closed, the majority were because the white schools were nearly always better built, better equipped, and better staffed. With children

of color attending the same schools as white children, most teachers of color were put out of work on the discriminatory basis that they were less qualified than white teachers. Although the Supreme Court ruling officially made segregated schools unconstitutional, there still persists issues of predominately all-white or all-black schools throughout the country, of which the nearly all-black schools are chronically underfunded. Similarly, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the last large civil rights legislation that made it unconstitutional for states and local municipalities to allow for segregation or discrimination based on race. Like with *Brown v. Board*, compliance and enforcement of desegregation and civil rights were slow at best. While these laws barred discrimination and segregation *de jure* – officially and lawfully – the practice of these in reality, or *de facto*, persists to some degree today.

Naturally, the decades of segregation and discrimination did not go unopposed by people of color. There were several ways in which communities and individuals sought to protest laws or social norms, eventually culminating in the Civil Rights Movement. Arguably, one of the most interesting artifacts of resistance from the early 20th century is *The Negro Motorist's Green Book*. Established in 1936 by New York mailman Victor Hugo Green, the *Green Book* was a catalog of refuge from discrimination while traveling in the South. Driven by discriminatory laws dictating people of color on public transportation, middle class African Americans who could afford a private automobile took enthusiastically to the road and the freedom it provided. The *Green Book* was published every year until 1966. Within it would be a catalog of services, places, and people who were known to serve people of color, even individuals who would open up their homes to travelers for the night. African Americans learned to use the *Green Book* to navigate around or away from particularly hostile areas. Interestingly, there are few entries in the *Green Books* for North Alabama. This may be for either of two reasons: people did not frequently travel through North Alabama – there are few major highways even today and it is easy to get to most of the South without going through North Alabama; or North Alabama was not as hostile towards people of color who might find food and lodging easily enough and therefore, there was little need to provide travelers with information.



(Above) The Cover of the Green Book from 1948 (New York Public Library Research Libraries, Digital Collection)

## Segregation & Discrimination as Historical Researching Tools

Learning to understand segregation and discrimination, particularly in the South in the 20th century, is actually a valuable tool for researching. One of the first tasks in historical research of communities of color, is simply identifying where people lived. An understanding about the

local geography, historical development, and laws and regulations that governed specific populations can be useful in determining how to recognize landmarks that identify communities. Besides the communities themselves, the four types of points of interest highlighted in this book were chosen for their probability to signal a larger community.

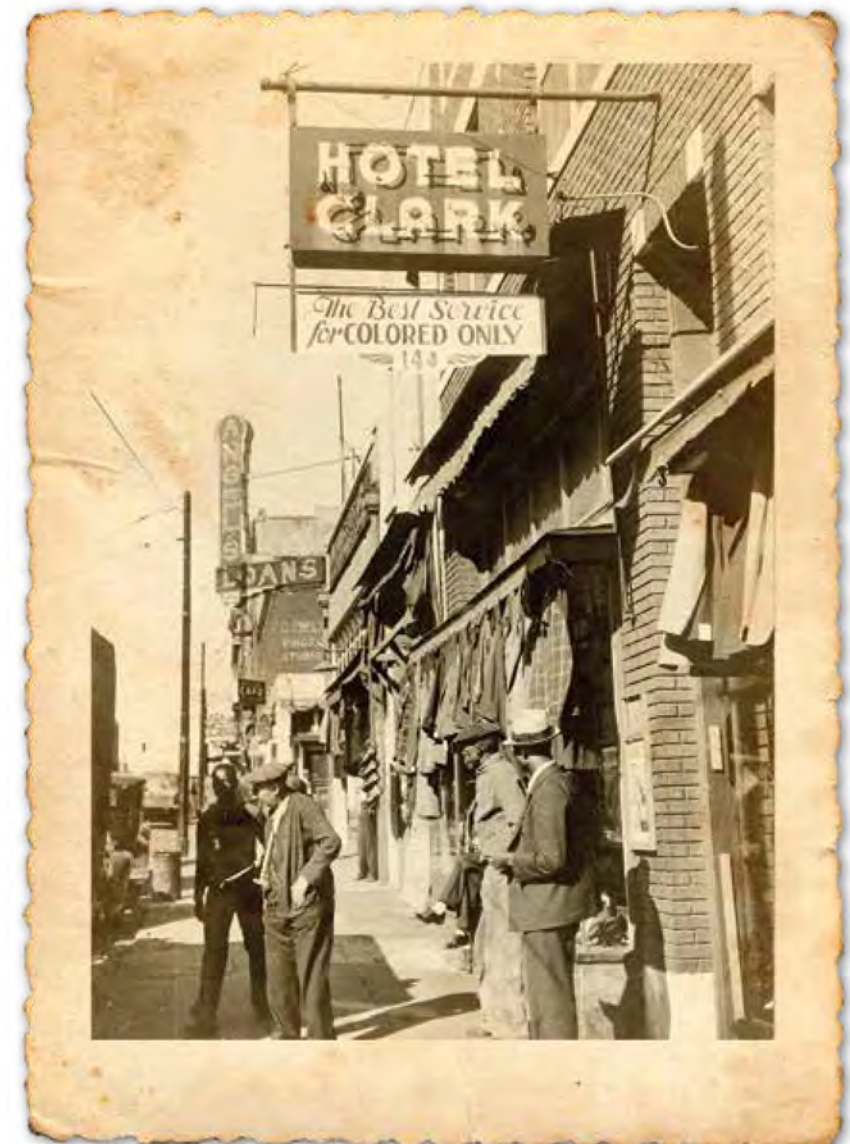
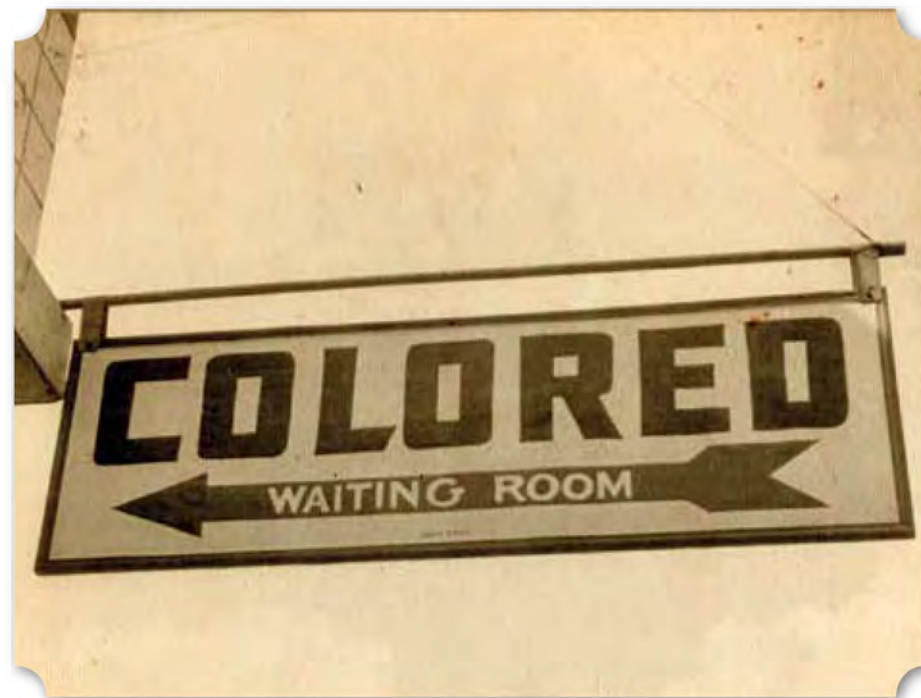
The location of antebellum plantations signify where the land was most suitable for large-scale cultivation in the early 19th century. After Emancipation, most freedmen and their families stayed where they considered home, setting the foundations for deep rooted communities. Churches were often the first institution established in a community. Faith and community go hand-in-hand. Churches typically require a structure, which might be the main or only community building for some time. Faith-based organizations also provide a great source of history and are integral to the development of a community, town, or city.

Similarly, schools frequently followed right after churches. More often than not, the earliest schools in a rural community were held inside the church, this was particularly true of communities of color. Once a community had enough funds and children outgrew the confines of the church, a separate school might be built. In the 19th century, the school was usually built adjacent to the church. In the early 20th century, foundations, such as the Rosenwald Fund, especially focused on education, separated the school from the church. The location of these schools tended to be more central to the dispersed community but were also limited by the need to purchase or donate land necessary to receive the fund and build the school.

Lastly, cemeteries are a necessity of any community. They speak to those who once called the land home and hold entire families. Even after a community is gone, moved on for one reason or another, the cemetery persists. Cemeteries are unique sources of information in Alabama. Due to the 1901 State Constitution ruling it illegal to bury people of different races in the same cemetery, exclusively African American cemeteries can be found dating from 1901 to 1968. Together, the church, school, and cemetery are positive indications that a sizeable community once took root in an area and perhaps still resides there.



**(Top)** Photograph of the Princess Theatre in Florence in the 1930s. The Segregated Section for People of Color is the Upper Left Balcony (Jonathan Rosenbaum, jonathanrosenbaum.net) **(Below)** Sign at Greyhound Bus Station. Rome, Georgia, 1943. (Library of Congress, Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives Collection, Photographer, Esther Buble) **(Top Right)** A Bus Station in Durham, North Carolina, 1940. (Library of Congress, Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives Collection, Photographer, Jack Delano) **(Right)** Signs on Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, 1939. (Library of Congress, Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black-and-White Negatives Collection, Photographer, Marion Post Wolcott)





In the realm of man-made terrain, many cities throughout the country have at least a loose sense of racial division. Most major cities have neighborhoods that are predominately one particular race, ethnic group, or culture. Most Southern cities have a whole half, or side, – east or west, north or south – of town that is predominately people of color. Usually there is some dividing line, a major highway or a railroad. In the smaller cities and towns, the railroad is a reliable divider of the “white side of town” and the “black side of town.” Some examples in North Alabama include Courtland, Town Creek, and Moulton in Lawrence County, Decatur and Hartselle in Morgan County, Athens and Greenbrier in Limestone County, Leighton in Colbert County, Madison Crossroads in Madison County, and Rogersville in Lauderdale County. All of these communities have a distinct north-south, east-west, or otherwise divide that can clearly be determined using historical documents.

Another spatial demographic divider can be rural/urban. Although North Alabama has few large urban centers, there are downtowns with planned streets and commercial buildings on a small scale across the area. Oftentimes when the population within a census district grows large enough to divide into precincts, towns can be singled out for their

**(Top Left)** “Colored Picnic Grounds,” July 5, 1948; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta. Photograph No. 36260 F. **(Top Right)** “Joe Wheeler State Park – Negro Area,” September 30, 1953; Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Record Group 142; National Archives and Records Administration – Atlanta. Photograph No. 56966 D. **(Right)** Photograph of Belle Mina Railroad Station, 1941 – Note the Two Entrances, the One of the Right is Marked “Colored.” (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama via AL.com)



density. Towns in North Alabama are typically majority white population, presumably, for two reasons. One, because the majority of people of color in the South rely on agriculture as their primary profession. Two, because towns consist of homes built close together and are often owned or rented by people who have a profession other than farming. Although there are certainly white families that farm, when looking for a community of color spatially, it may appear to have a rural/urban divide based on race. Examples of North Alabama towns that have nearly or completely white town centers surrounded by segregated rural areas include Harvest in Madison County, Moulton in Lawrence County, and Rogersville in Lauderdale County.

Large, contemporary cities typically have a more diverse urban center than the small towns of the rural South. While big northern cities like Chicago, along with some of the more substantial southern cities like Atlanta, have large populations of people of color at their core, this is not the case for the smaller, rural towns of North Alabama. In this area, the largest cities are Huntsville, Decatur, and the Quad-Cities, which have neighborhoods of color, but not a majority of African Americans. Huntsville is the largest city in the area and as of 2010 had a population of nearly one-third (31.2%) African American. Due to housing sanctions and redlining over the past century, cities tend to have distinct predominately African American neighborhoods. Examples of these neighborhoods in North Alabama include the southeast portions of Tusculumbia and Sheffield in Colbert County, Old Town and West Decatur in Morgan County, the Canaan neighborhood of Florence in Lauderdale County, and multiple neighborhoods in north and west Huntsville in Madison County.

Oddly, the institutionalized racism prevalent in the early 20th century can be of use to a researcher. The obsession with race led land surveyors, TVA case workers, city directories, and census records to denote people of color in some fashion. Land records, like today's tax parcel data, are maps recording who owns what land. Most, but not all, modern records are now computerized and use satellite images and other technologies. In the 19th and 20th centuries, these maps were hand drawn – sometimes poorly. Madison County has these records online, however,

most counties have their land maps in large bound books at their county archive, library, or courthouse. The older maps all use the Public Land Survey System which maps using Townships and Ranges. Some counties, such as Morgan County, signify people of color by writing “col” next to the person's name. Although Madison County's records do not overtly indicate race, a common trend appears among female landowners. It seems that white female landowners are referred to as “Mrs.” So-and-so, while women of color in the land records are simply referred to by their name without an honorific. This may be an example of unconscious prejudice. Akin to the “col” written in the land records, city directories, which work similarly to phone books or the Yellow Pages, commonly denote people of color with a “(c)” or an asterisk symbol (\*). Other times, the services offered in a city, like shoemaker or dentist, or public places, like churches and schools, are listed separately under “Colored.”

Naturally, the census recorded people's race as it does still, ostensibly in order to understand the demographics of an area and to fairly allocate necessary funds and government services. In the historic censuses, people of African American descent were recorded with different names. In 1900, African Americans were referred to as “black;” in 1910 and 1920, someone was either “black” or “mulatto,” a light-skinned or mixed-race person; in 1930 and 1940, African Americans were referred to as “negro.” The handwritten census records can sometimes be difficult to interpret, but with repetition and practice, it becomes clearer. One thing commonly found on the census of 1930 and 1940 is the use of only a man's initials in lieu of his first and middle names. While white men are known to have done this as well, the use of initials were a particularly poignant and conscious decision on the part of men of color. In the 19th century, a common form of degradation towards people of color was to call married or older men and women “uncle” and “aunt” instead of “Mr.” and “Mrs.” This was hardly a step back from calling men of color “boy,” as they were called during slavery. If a man of color's first name was known, he may be disrespected by being referred to as simply “John” or “Uncle John.” But if only his last name was known, he would be referred to as “Mr. Smith.” Therefore, our imaginary John Smith would record his name as J. Smith on the census and other documents. A quiet and clever form of resistance against racism and discrimination.

## Segregation & Discrimination in North Alabama

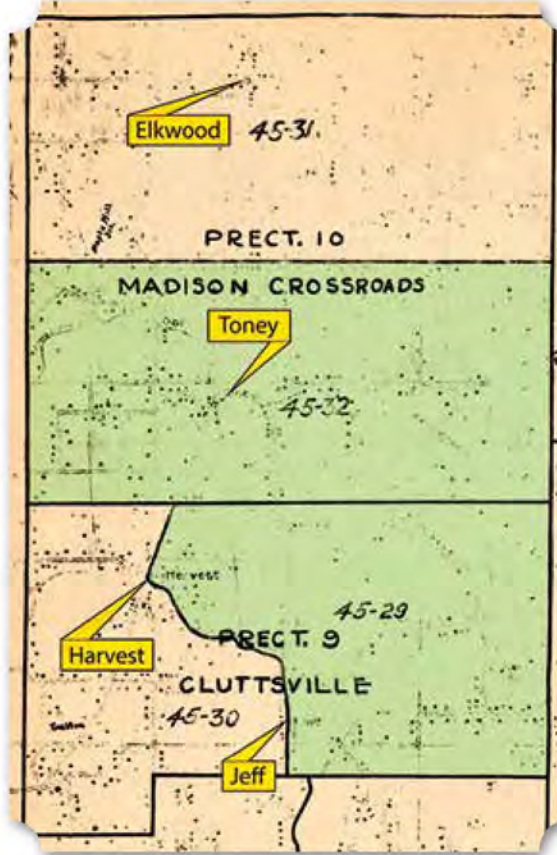
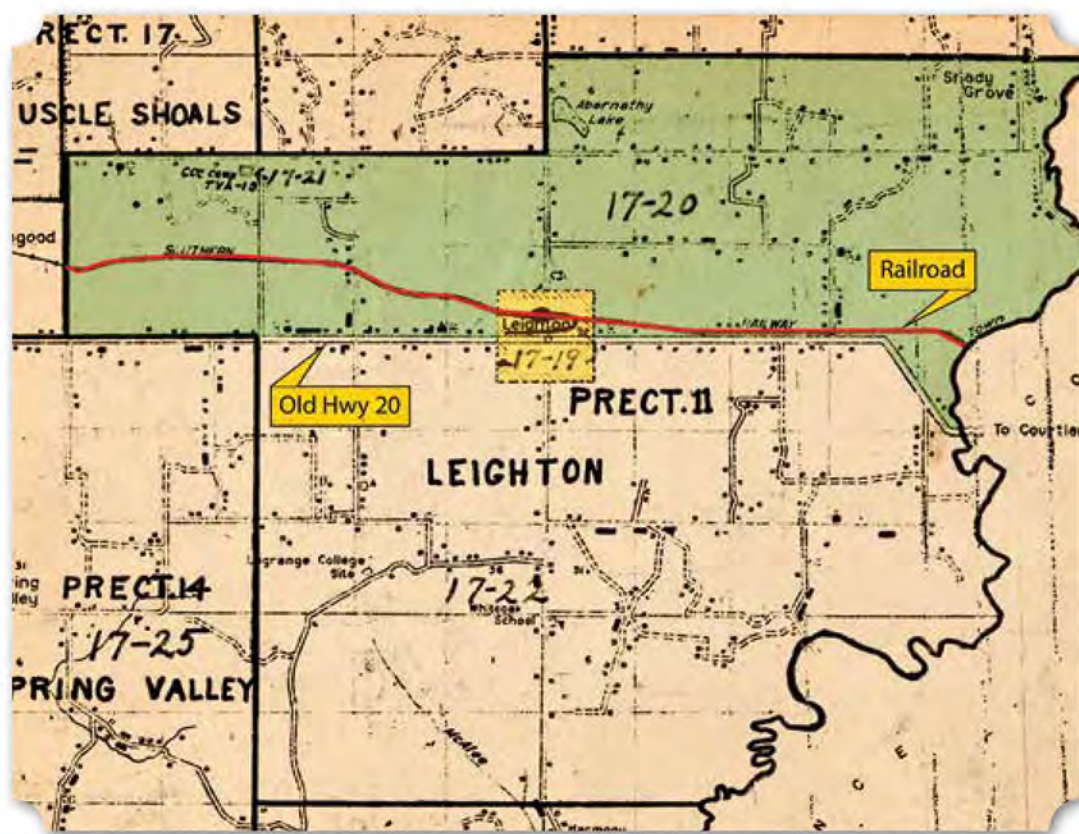
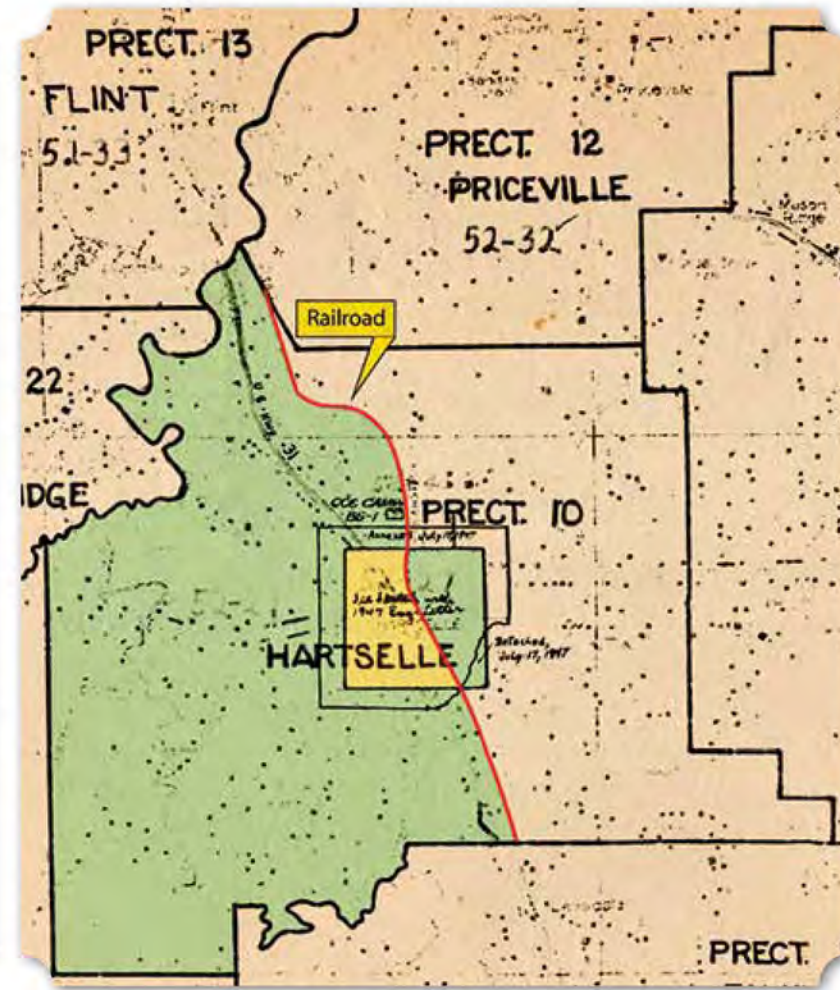
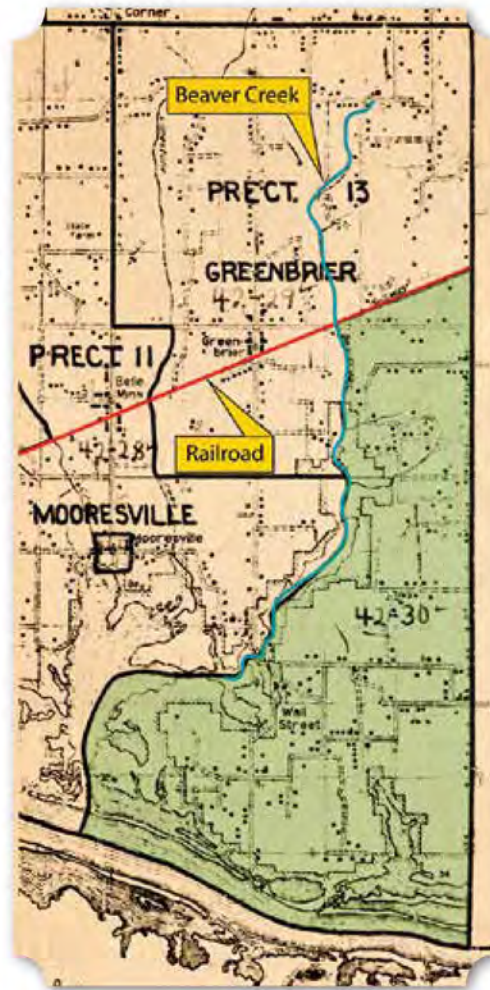
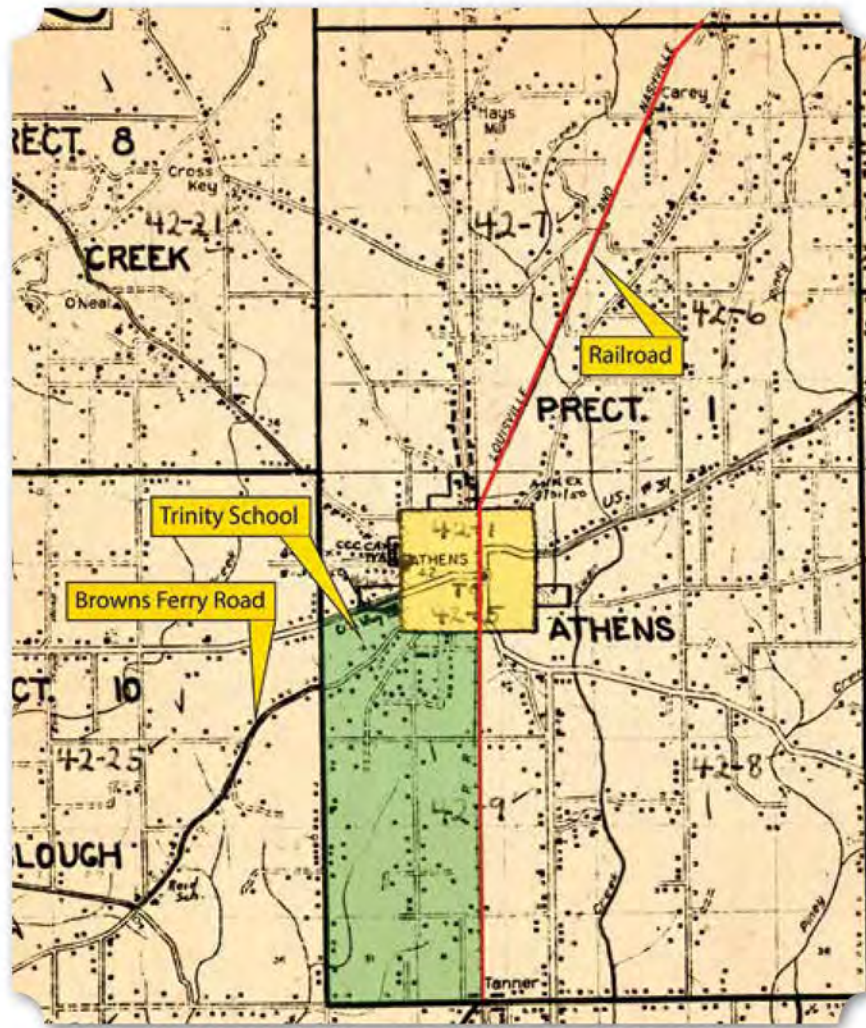
The South, particularly at the turn-of-the-20th-century, was poorer and more agricultural than the rest of the country. The Tennessee Valley was acutely economically depressed even before the stock market crashed in 1929. The depleted and eroded soils of the valley flooded unpredictably and therefore consisted of the most undesirable land. In North Alabama, the valley and its floodplain contain many communities of color – a legacy of the once prime farmland dotted with plantations. The hilly region south of the valley and the foothills of the Appalachians to the east are not conducive to plantation agriculture and therefore had few plantations and later few communities of color. In general, the communities of color of North Alabama are located along the Tennessee River, in the northern half of Colbert, Lawrence, and Morgan counties and Marshall County to an extent; and the southern half of Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, and Jackson counties. DeKalb County, running along a mountainous ridge and with the majority of its floodplain in Jackson County, has little history of communities of color.

Those communities of North Alabama with a population of people of color typically exhibit the usual segregation based on either the rural/urban divide or the directional – north/south, east/west – divide often along a railroad or major highway. Some of the larger towns or cities of North Alabama have distinct neighborhoods that house communities of color. Decatur in Morgan County is an example of a city and a railroad divide. Decatur's original platted city is situated on the river with the railroad splitting the downtown from the old residential area. By the 1880s, “New Decatur,” later called Albany, was developed to the southeast of downtown. The original town became known as “Old Town” and as white residents were drawn to New Decatur, prominent African American families took up residence in the neighborhood north and west of the railroad tracks. Also in Morgan County, Hartselle is an example of a railroad divide as well as a rural/urban divide. The city of Hartselle is the second densest area in the county after Decatur, however, in the early 20th century it never had more than 20% African American households. Within the city, the majority of households of color in 1940



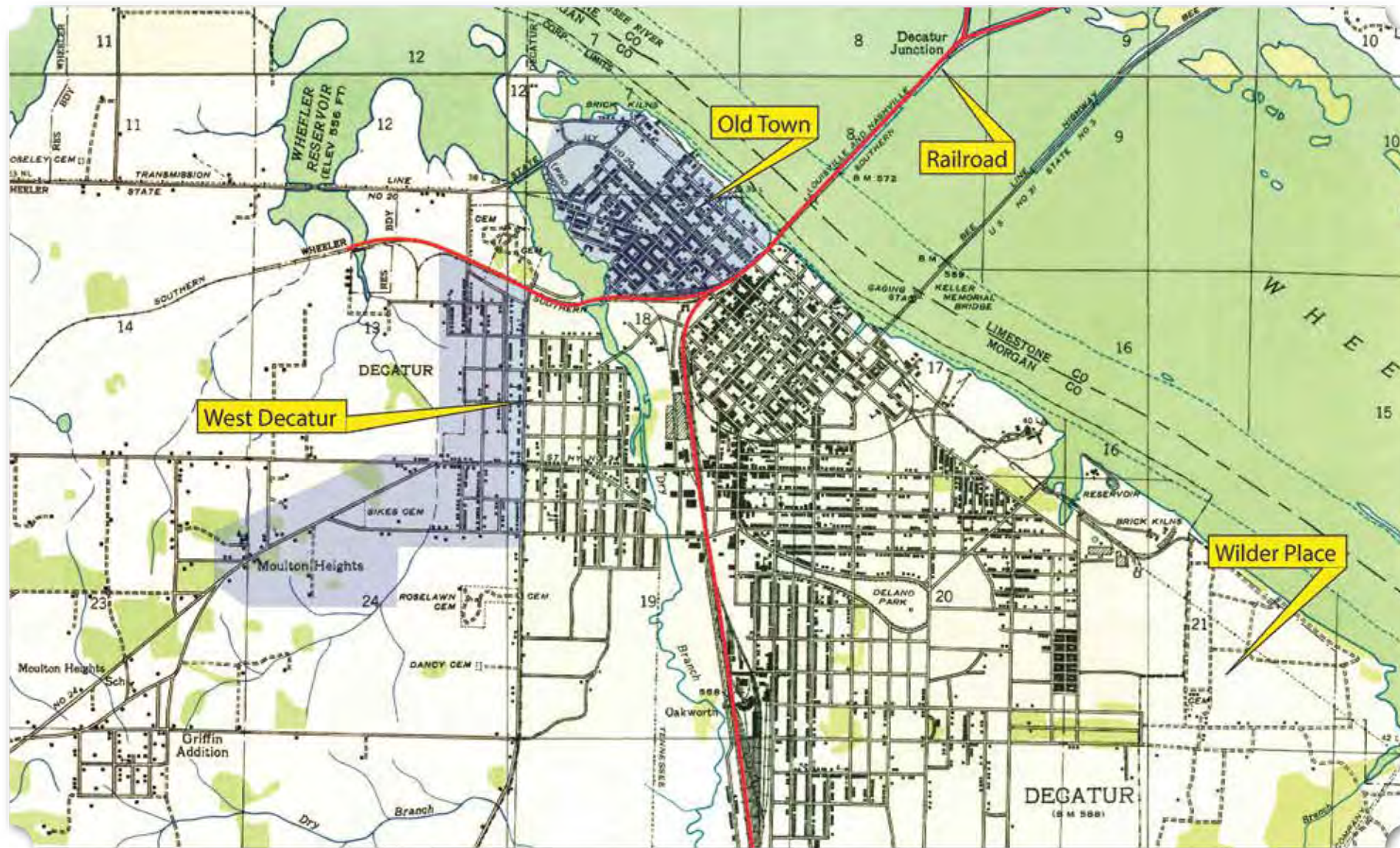






(This Page) 1940 Census Map Series of Towns and Communities of Color in North Alabama. Note the Railroad, Major Highway, or Waterway that Divides the Area. Green Highlights are Areas of Predominately African American, Yellow Highlights are of Town Limits. (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com (Top Left) Athens, Limestone County (Top Middle) Greenbrier, Limestone County (Top Right) Hartselle, Morgan County (Bottom Left) Leighton, Colbert County (Bottom Middle) Toney, Harvest, and Jeff, Madison County (Bottom Right) Rogersville, Lauderdale County





**(Above)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map of Decatur with Predominately African American Sections Highlighted in Blue. Decatur, Tanner, Trinity, and Stewart Cross Roads, Alabama Quadrangles.

records detailing the lives of North Alabamians in every way possible. Because one of the promised objectives of the TVA was to ensure that people, households, and communities of color were proportionally represented, the authority collected extensive data on race. However, TVA and its projects, particularly its several large dam projects, employed segregated crews. Despite being driven by Democratic FDR and his New Deal, the authority was not prepared to force integration of workers in any manner. The status quo of “separate, but equal” continued to stand through the Great Depression and into World War II.

## Segregation & Discrimination in Lawrence County

Courtland is one of two towns in Lawrence County that are majority African American – along with Hillsboro. This has been the case since at least 1900. According to the census records, from 1900 to 1940, Courtland consisted, on average, of 68% households of color; the highest percentage being 80% in 1920 and the lowest being 54% in 1940. The census record divides the town into north and south of the Tuscumbia, Courtland, & Decatur Railroad that has connected those towns for the better part of two centuries. While the town of Courtland as a whole has long been majority African American, the north portion

is almost exclusively so. The north side of Courtland has been upwards of 90% African American households since 1900 – with the exception of 1940, when it was 80% African American. This community has remained substantial enough that the town of North Courtland was incorporated in 1981. The 0.5-square-mile-town was 97.5% African American in 2010, compared with 40.4% African American households in Courtland that same year.

Nearby Town Creek is another community and census district that was distinctly divided north and south. Town Creek is west of Courtland, but the same railroad divides the area in half. According to the 1940 census, the north half of Town Creek was predominately African American with large areas of only people of color. Of the 180 households on the north side, 121 (67%) of them were households of color. Conversely, the south side, which had substantially more households, was predominately white. There were 270 households south of Town Creek, of which only 35 (13%) of them were African American households. Within the town itself there were more African American households than the south side – 18% of the 173 households, or 35 families of color. What is surprising about Town Creek is that despite the segregation of households, there were 11 African American-owned farms in both the north and the south sides of town. Because of the low percentage of African American households on the south side, African American-owned farms account for a significant percentage of the population – 31% of all households.

Moulton is the seat of Lawrence County and its largest town after 1920. In the 1940 census, the Moulton district was divided into three precincts as well as the town proper. Of the total 982 households in Moulton, 178 of them, or 18%, were African American; of those households, 120 of them were located in the precinct east of Moulton. This includes the area southeast of Moulton where churches, schools, and cemeteries of the community of color were, and still are, concentrated. On the census, this area is referred to as “Negro Church Road.” There are 48 African American-owned farms in the Moulton district; 46 of them were in this precinct.

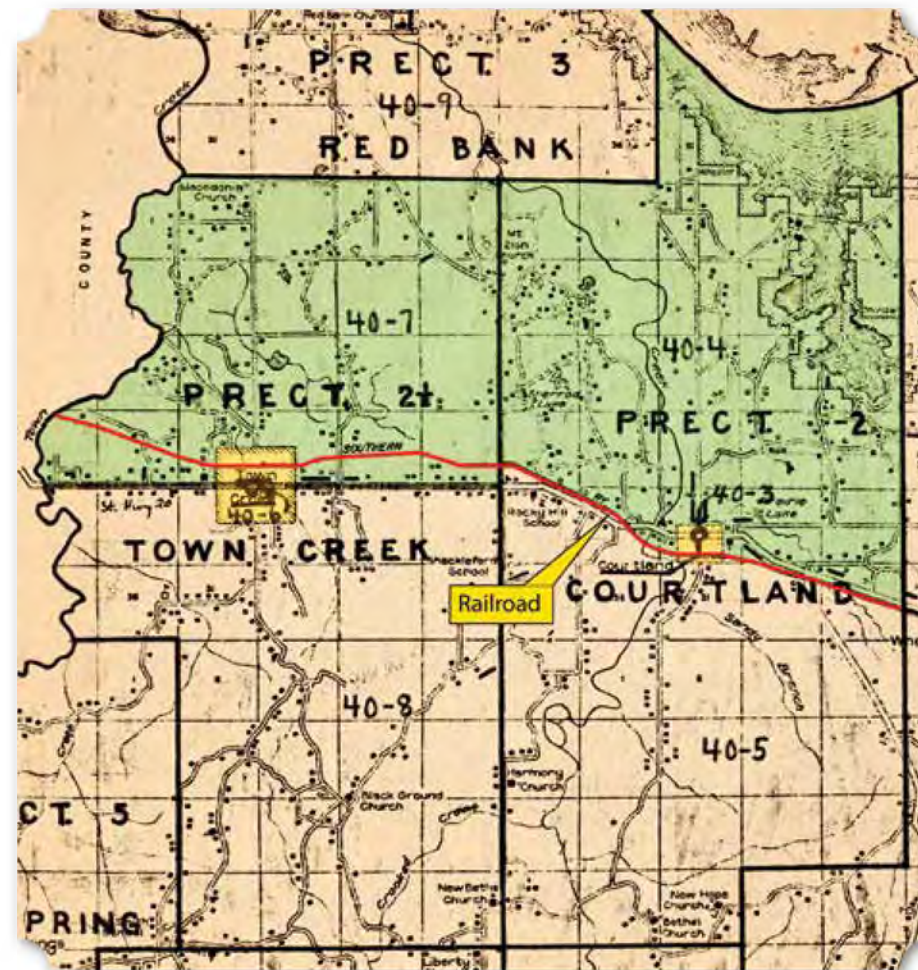
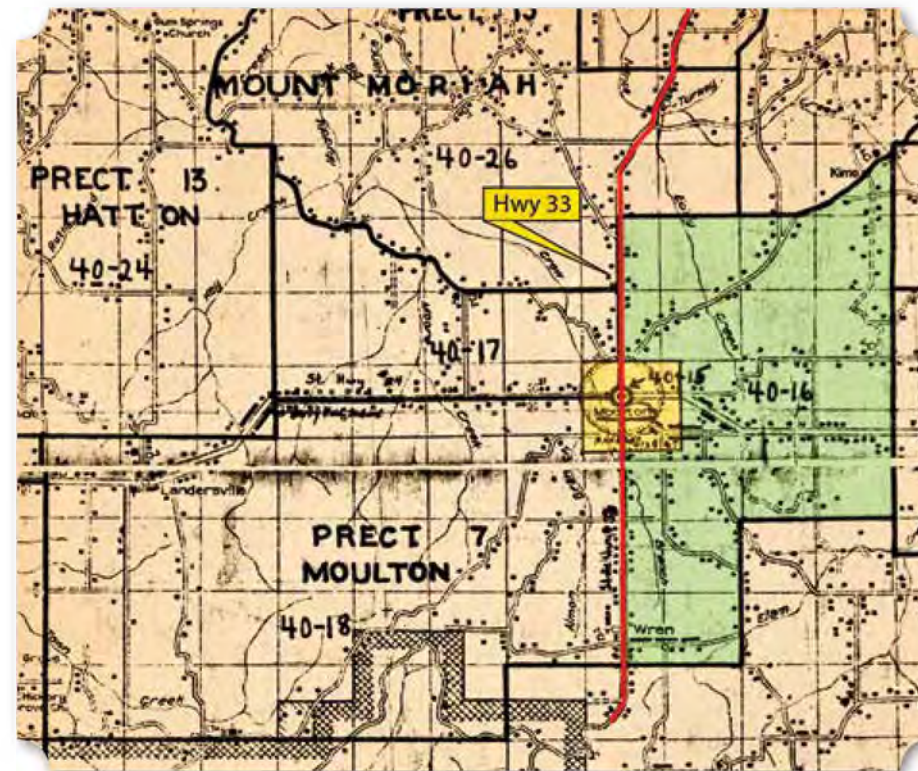
## Personal Tales of Discrimination

A treasured citizen of Moulton, Ms. Pearl Jackson Green recently shared her remarkable life story with the *Moulton Advertiser* and in an impromptu interview for this book. Ms. Pearl is a composed, well-dressed, and highly energetic woman. She has kept her chin up and her resolve firm as she made her way through her education and career as an educator, among many other responsibilities. Her accomplishments are even more astounding when you consider the time and place she lived in. As a woman of color in Alabama in the mid-20th century, Ms. Jackson Green has several stories that illustrate the everyday experiences of people of color in the South. Her stories contain cases of both distressing discrimination and heartwarming compassion shown by others, sometimes absolute strangers.

Despite her immaculate fashion sense or her poised and polite manner, Ms. Pearl still found herself the victim of several despicable acts of racism and discrimination. As a young girl, she was used to experiencing the restrictions of segregation. She was only allowed to drink from “colored” water fountains, use “colored” restrooms, sit in the “colored” section of the theatre, go to restaurants and other establishments that would accept people of color. She and her six siblings attended a segregated school, the local Rosenwald school. The oldest of the children, Ms. Pearl ensured that she and her siblings arrived at school each school day – rain or shine. While the white children had buses ferrying them to and fro, Ms. Pearl and her family walked. Education, no matter how disproportionately lacking in funding or supplies, was paramount in her mind.

On one occasion, Ms. Jackson was heading home to the Decatur bus station from Montgomery where she attended Alabama State College. A white man and stranger offered her his seat, a nonchalant act of kindness. The bus driver was outraged and after some time of yelling

**(Right)** 1940 Census Map Series of Towns and Communities of Color in North Alabama. Note the Railroad, Major Highway, or Waterway that Divides the Area. Green Highlights are Areas of Predominately African American, Yellow Highlights are of Town Limits. (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Top)** Moulton, Lawrence County **(Bottom)** Town Creek and Courtland, Lawrence County



with the man, the driver ordered Ms. Jackson off the bus – in the middle of nowhere, at 8:00 p.m. at night. The stranger whispered to her to hide in the ditch and someone would come for her. Dressed for traveling in a lady’s suit and heels with a suitcase and a hat box, Ms. Pearl settled down in the cold dark in a ditch on the side of the highway. She couldn’t be certain, but she thinks she was near Cullman and waited for about seven hours. Eventually, sometime around 3:00 a.m. another bus approached from the south. It stopped exactly where she was hiding. She boarded the bus and took her seat. No one said a word, no one asked for her ticket or why she was out there in the ditch. Everyone rode in silence to Decatur.

Another instance of discrimination occurred when Ms. Jackson returned to Lawrence County after graduating from college. Unfortunately, her experience is not uncommon. When attempting to register to vote, Ms. Pearl did as she usually did, she got dressed in her best outfit, complete with hoses, heels, and hat. She carried herself into the Lawrence County Courthouse in Moulton and was subjected to a series of offensive tests based solely on the color of her skin. First, the clerk behind the desk required her to cite several articles of the U.S. Constitution – a task that few people could randomly perform today. As it happens, Ms. Pearl’s teacher at the Rosenwald school prepared her and other students for this particular test. Although it may have seemed arbitrary and tedious at the time, children were taught to memorize and recite such patriotic trivia. Thus, when a grown Ms. Pearl was asked for the articles while an older white man pointed at her and referred to her by derogatory names, she quickly and precisely stated the articles which established the three-branch form of federal government.

A young white man, a stranger to Ms. Pearl, overheard her recitation and inquired about the necessary requirements for registration – probably nervous about not knowing the U.S. Constitution articles. He was quickly reassured that nothing was required of him, only Ms. Pearl because of the color of her skin. To everyone’s surprise, the young man became incensed on Ms. Pearl’s behalf. He and the registrar became angry and started yelling at each other. This escalated to a fist fight and the young man was hauled off to the jail across the street; but the man was not

finished expressing his indignation. After paying his bail, he returned to the courthouse to find Ms. Pearl calculating in her head how many marbles might be in the jar in front of her – another ridiculous test. The stranger was informed that after Ms. Pearl was done with the jar, she would be required to complete a form and get the signature of three white men who would vouch for her. Outraged once more, the young man snatched the paper from the clerk and signed his own name across all three lines before throwing it back. Apparently, there were no more ludicrous tasks barring Ms. Pearl's registration after that.

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green has incredible resolve and a calm that comes from acceptance and faith. She has always believed in the good of humanity and has ascribed to the teachings of great leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who she learned from while attending Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. She may tell of the time when a cross was burned on her front lawn or a gun was fired at her house, but she does not hold the actions of the few against the many. She may have experienced terrible ordeals, but she also remembers the kind and considerate people who helped her. She probably has more stories like the one on the bus or at the courthouse. While sitting in the Lawrence County Archives in what used to be the Moulton Bank, she recalled the time when her husband and she were turned down for a loan based on their race. While the bank manager would not allow his employee to give the Jacksons a loan, the man quietly tried to help them around the problem, perhaps at risk to his own job.

Even so, not everywhere was the same. Other parts of Alabama were much more hostile in their discrimination against and terror towards people of color. Nonetheless, Ms. Pearl is not the only one to mention that a cross was burned on their front lawn in Lawrence County – presumably by the KKK as an intimidation tactic. Ms. Patshenia Cole, of Lauderdale County, was interviewed in late 2017 for the Florence African American Heritage Project. Ms. Cole's mother, Georgia L. Echols, was Ms. Pearl's second cousin. They were born only two years apart. In fact, in 1940, Ms. Pearl and Ms. Georgia were living next door to each other. They grew up very similarly and according to Ms. Patshenia, a cross was burned in front of her mother's family's house in Moulton

during one of her visits home. This may be the same occurrence Ms. Pearl remembers, but it may not.

In Lauderdale County, Ms. Patshenia and another interviewee, Ms. Anita Cobb, recall a much more quiet time. Ms. Patshenia says "nothing really happened in Florence... In North Alabama, we never did have much fighting or rioting or anything like that. It was a very calm place... most of the whites, they respected you and treated you OK and you did the same for them." Ms. Georgia Cole also became a teacher. She was one of the first African American teachers to go to one of the all-white schools. In about 1969, Ms. Georgia taught at a school in Lexington, in northeast Lauderdale County. Ms. Patshenia and her sister accompanied their mother and were the only students of color for about nine years.

Having a teacher for a mother must instill great pride and a love of history and family because Ms. Hattie Pride Smith, Antia Cobb's mother, was also a teacher. Ms. Anita grew up in the Bend of the River, or the part of Lauderdale County west of Florence snug in a large bend of the Tennessee River. Ms. Hattie began teaching in the late 1930s, in a time of segregated schools and teachers boarding with local families. When Ms. Anita was six, the family moved to Florence, specifically to the Canaan neighborhood. It was a wonderful childhood, Ms. Anita attests. Although she knows that segregation was present, it did not seem to be at the forefront of most people's minds. Yes, the bus station had a "colored" waiting room and "whites only" water fountains. The courthouse was segregated and the schools and the hospital, as well, but Ms. Anita says that Florence did not discriminate like other places. She recalled going to Talladega, Alabama and finding the local people of color accustomed to a very different way of life. There, she says, "if a black woman wanted to buy a hat, she could not try it on, she had to buy it because they thought the grease in her hair might stain the hat or something." These kinds of prejudices were not prevalent in Florence. If "you wanted to buy shoes, clothes, hats, anything you wanted. If you wanted to buy it, you had the opportunity to try it first," in Florence.

Ms. Anita particularly remembers Rogers Department Store that was located downtown on Court Street as a fine establishment where she and

her family never had such problems. The local bakery and Trowbridge's ice cream bar were frequented by the families of Canaan, especially on Sundays between breaks at church. The relationship between the races was a kind of business casual. Many of the women of color living in Canaan worked as domestic servants in the homes of wealthier white families. Some of the domestic workers were "picked up in the morning [by white employers], carried to work, and brought back in the afternoon." That was just the way Florence was, too busy to bother as Ms. Cobb tells it. This attitude was noticeable during World War II. Ms. Anita says that when the air raid sirens would call out a warning, everyone – black and white – would go to the Negley Hotel and take shelter in the basement. It mattered little who was next to you during the sirens. There was no "colored" shelter and no "whites only" shelter.

In Courtland “there would be a water fountain that said, "Color," and there was a water fountain that said, "White." We would sneak up and drink out of the white fountain to see was it different? But it wasn't different...”

- Ms. Carolyn Wilson





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CEMETERY INDEX MAP

SEVENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940  
**POPULATION SCHEDULE**  
 PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER

**U.S.C.T.**  
 12  
 Abraham Grigsby  
 Co. B., 12 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on  
**Company Descriptive Book**  
 of the organization named above.  
**DESCRIPTION.**  
 Age 21 years; height 5 feet 4 inches.  
 Complexion Dark  
 Eyes Dark; hair Dark  
 Where born Limestone, Alabama  
 Occupation Devant  
**ENLISTMENT.**  
 When July 31, 1863.  
 Where Elk River, Tenn.  
 By whom St. M. Jewell, term 3 y'rs.  
 Remarks:

Kentucky	Kentucky	0	yes	no	yes	0	F	F	189
Alabama	Alabama	0	no	no	yes				
Kentucky	Kentucky	0	yes	no	yes				
Kentucky	Alabama	0	yes	no	yes				
Kentucky	Alabama	0	yes	no	yes				

TVA 978  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Schedule No. 321  
 Map 1341  
 Date 3-21-35  
 Social and Economic Division  
 CONCERNING FAMILIES  
 Fieldman R. Lowry  
 County Limestone  
 Civil District

Name RICHARD SETTLERS  
 P. O. address Mooreville  
 Highway or road on which home is located Mooreville Rd.  
 Miles from home to nearest elementary school 2 Its name Bell Mine  
 to nearest high school 6 Its name Deatus  
 to nearest church 2 Its name Bell Mine Baptist  
 for family Mooreville  
 trips there per month 5 Miles from home 7 1/2  
 present residence 7 In present community all life  
 living houses lived in during 1934 and 1935:

Age of House	Electrio-ity	Tele- phone	Fuel Used	Bath Facil- ities	Type of House	Condi- tion of Repair
40	none	none	wood	tub	frame	bad

Well  Cistern \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_  
 distance from house 200 - 5 yards.  
 Outside  None \_\_\_\_\_  
 S. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_ Sep. \_\_\_\_\_ W. \_\_\_\_\_ Race Negro

husband and wife:

County	State	Birthplace	Highest School Grade Reached	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
			0	shrunken
			0	good

Girls 2 No. who have died: Boys 0 Girls 0  
 that the household receives regularly:  
 Magazines Southern Agriculturist  
 books in the home 12  
 Membership in other organ-  
 Accident and Health \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$150  
 Other debts \_\_\_\_\_ Total 0

Others in Household  
 None

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information conc \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father & Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children  
 Inlu Steel  
 Richard

Relatives--Including Children away from Home:  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Dependents \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rev. Adam Lucas \_\_\_\_\_ Tanner, Ala. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Employment Record of Family: (Exclude Farming)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Work \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Wage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm owner \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:  
 J. L. Harris  
 Copyist

**Limestone County**

- An Education in Limestone County's History
- Places of Interest
- Themes, People, and Events
- African American Education in the Early 20th Century

Name	Address	Relationship to	No. of Dependents	Employment
Peggy Lucas				
Dennis Lucas				
Richard Lee				
Nesley Lee				
Wyde Lee				
Nathan Lee				
Betsy Lucas				
Ned Lucas				
Elvi Lucas				
Fanny Lucas				
Dorothy Lucas				
Dennis Lucas Sr.				
Ann Lucas				
Amey Lucas				
Wyde Lucas				
Joyce Lucas				

# 1.

## AN EDUCATION IN LIMESTONE COUNTY'S HISTORY

Limestone County and its seat, the City of Athens, are central to North Alabama. Of all the early established towns, Athens is directly connected to the others. Immediately east lies Huntsville, whose greater metro area is slowly encompassing more and more of Limestone County, while to the west is Florence and the Shoals, and south, across the river, is Decatur. Once connected by railroads, the cities are now linked by easy to navigate county highways and interstates. Taking U.S. Highway 72 West from Huntsville leads directly to the southern edge of downtown Athens, which is a place made for history buffs. The downtown area has changed little in the past century.

Located along the railroad tracks a block east of the courthouse is the 1928 Louisville & Nashville Railroad depot, now the Limestone County Archives. The recently restored depot perfectly fits the feeling of a county full of small towns and few structures over three stories tall. At the archives a researcher can find the county land maps in their original bindings with hand written pages, a small library of Limestone County genealogy and history, filing cabinets full of school censuses, and a large collection of Trinity School documents. Here, you can also find the incredibly knowledgeable county archivist, Rebekah Davis and, if you're lucky, local resident and teacher Colonel James L. Walker.



(Left) Restored Window inside the Athens Depot-Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama (Photograph by Jenna Tran) (Below) Athens Depot-Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama (Photograph by Jenna Tran)



Col. Walker was born and raised in Limestone County. His mother was a teacher, his father was a farmer – together the Walkers embody what is significant about Limestone County and North Alabama: agriculture and education. Col. Walker is a tall man with a friendly face and the demeanor of a patient teacher. He is eager to share his knowledge, to educate all around him, and often leaves pauses between his statements to allow things to sink in.

The Colonel's family on both sides is deeply rooted in Limestone County. His family history is the story of Limestone in a nutshell. It includes a slave that ran away to join the Union Army, an early landowner who grew cotton and corn and rented his land out to other African American tenants, a teacher and independent mother, and someone who went North to hedge his bets. In researching his own family, Col. Walker has come across other remarkable people of color of Limestone County and can regale you with encyclopedic knowledge of the largest African American landowners, the most influential families, and the community's schools and their significant alumni. Ms. Rebekah Davis recommends Col. Walker to anyone visiting the archives, particularly those interested in local



**(Above)** Trinity High School Building, 2018 (Photograph by Jenna Tran)

education and African American history. Col. Walker can often be found at the archives delving into boxes of Trinity High School documents, books, and records or the numerous other small community schools, like Living Water School or Little Zion School – two schools where his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker, taught. He shares the photographs and information he finds on social media and with his own students. After years in the military, Col. Walker devotes his time and knowledge to his hometown community.

One of the first things that becomes apparent when getting acquainted with Limestone County history, is that education has played a key role here, particularly for African Americans. There were at least 35 schools for African American children in Limestone County between 1865 and 1970. Athens was home to one of the earliest schools for African American children, Trinity School. Opened in 1865 by the American Missionary Association for the education of former slaves, Trinity continued to operate, despite numerous struggles, for 105 years until integration caused it to close its doors. However, there are still many alumni of Trinity that continue to hold the memory of the school, its mission, and the light of its students and faculty in their hearts and minds – like alum Col. James L. Walker.

Over the past century and a half, people of color educated in Limestone County have given back to their communities. One of Trinity School's greatest accomplishments is its legacy of education. By having such a strong, community-driven institution like Trinity School in a small town like Athens, those educated at Trinity were able to go back to their communities as teachers and supporters of small community schools. Today, Col. Walker supports the education of Limestone County children like his fellow alumnus, George Ruffin Bridgeforth, did 100 years ago.

Of the 35 schools known to have been in Limestone County – mostly from the 1890s through the 1950s – only four of them were Rosenwald schools. The majority of the small, one- or two-room schoolhouses throughout the county were funded, built, and run by local African American communities. The Rosenwald Fund played no small part in some of the largest and successful community schools in the county. The communities of Belle Mina, Beulah Land, Veto, and Tanner were all fortunate enough to have a Rosenwald school built in the early 20th century.

The schools of Limestone County are fairly well-documented considering that many of them barely had the supplies and resources necessary to run a full classroom or buildings dedicated solely to the school. Most African American communities in the early 20th century were not able to provide schooling for children more than a few months of the year and many of them held classes in the local church. Col. Walker remembers attending Little Zion School where his mother was his teacher. Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker taught six grades in a single room and took efforts to dress well as a model to the children she was helping to raise.



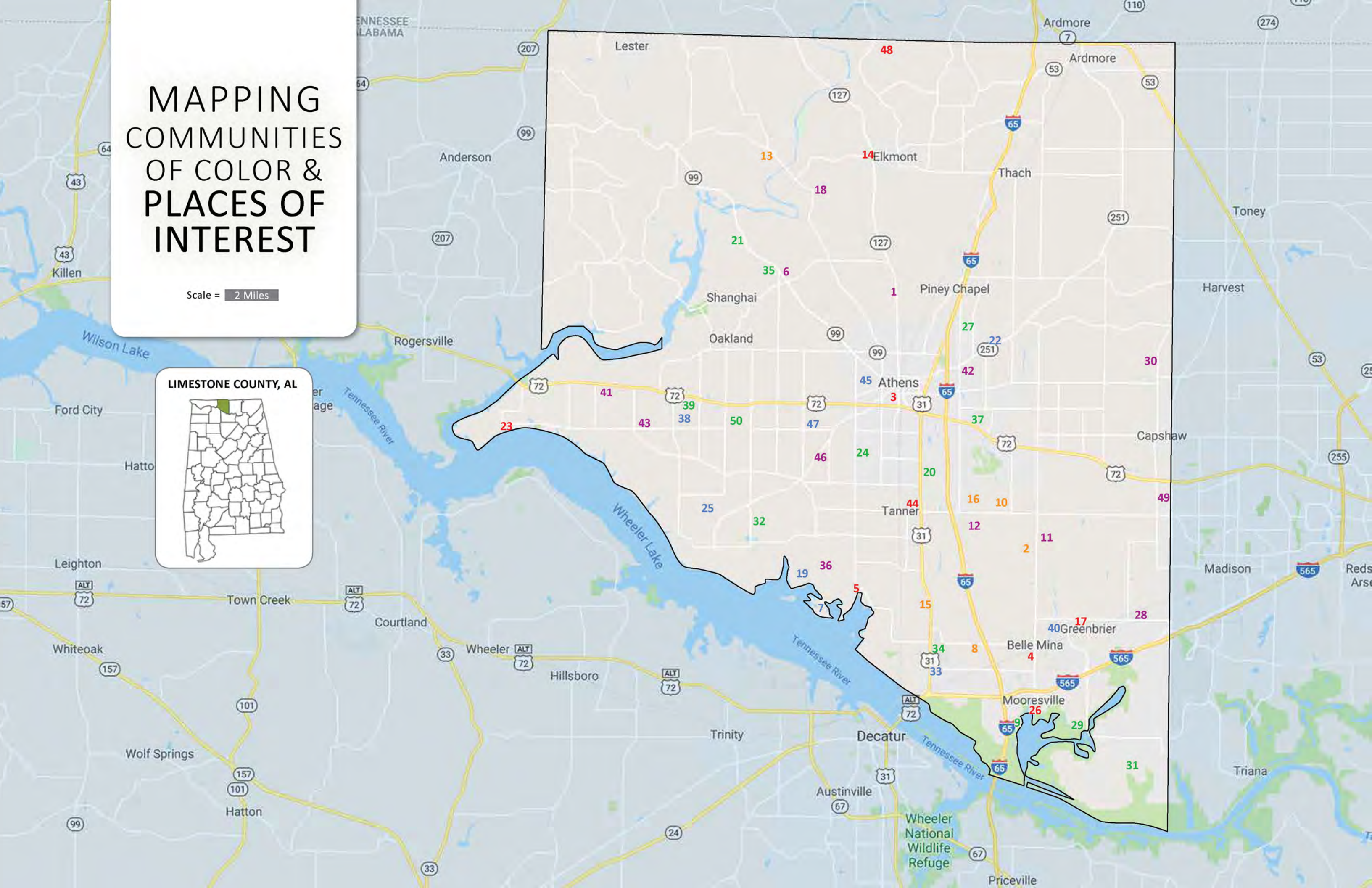
**(Above)** Col. James L. Walker as a Child at the Little Zion School (Photograph Courtesy Col. Walker)

Education and educators are held in high esteem within the African American community. Teaching is a noble profession with particular importance to those who were denied an education during slavery and systematically discriminated against for the next century. While teaching at a small community school did not pay especially well, teaching did provide some financial security when the economy in the South or the entire nation were unsound. Teachers were often afforded financial loans when others were denied because their profession was thought of as providing an assured income. Mrs. Walker's profession as a teacher in part helped her to secure a life home for her children and provide them with eye-opening experiences that allowed them to become the people they are today.

# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

LIMESTONE COUNTY, AL



## KEY



map data©2018 Google

1. Alabama Forks School\*
2. Anderson Plantation\* and Cemetery
3. Athens
4. Belle Mina
5. Beulah Land
6. Big Creek School\*
7. Bridgeforth and Lucas Cemeteries
8. Cedars Plantation\* and Garrett Cemetery
9. Center Star Church,\* Cemetery, and Living Water School\*
10. Cotton Hill Plantation
11. Cotton Hill School\*
12. Dogwood Flat School\*
13. Easter Plantation\* and Legg Cemetery
14. Elkmont
15. Flower Hill Plantation
16. Gamble House Plantation
17. Greenbrier
18. Greenhill School
19. Hatchett and Malone Cemeteries
20. Johnson Chapel\* and Cemetery
21. Lebanon Community Methodist Church and Old Lebanon Cemetery
22. Leslie Cemetery
23. Little Elk
24. Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church and School\*
25. Mason Cemetery
26. Mooresville
27. Moses Chapel and Moses Temple School\*
28. Mt. Pleasant School\*
29. Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church and School\*
30. Nelson School\*
31. New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cemetery, and School\*
32. Oak Grove Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Cemetery, and Oak Grove School\*
33. Oakland Cemetery
34. Oakland United Methodist Church and School\*
35. Persimmon Grove Chapel\* and Cemetery
36. Pine Ridge School\*
37. Pleasant Grove Church,\* Cemetery, and School\*
38. Poplar Creek Cemetery
39. Poplar Creek Missionary Baptist Church and Poplar Creek School\*
40. Quarter Lot Cemetery
41. Red Hill School\*
42. St. John School\*
43. St. Paul School\*
44. Tanner
45. Thatch and Mann Cemetery
46. Turner Chapel School\*
47. Turner-Allen Cemetery
48. Veto
49. Walter's Chapel School\*
50. Yarbrough Chapel\* and Cemetery

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



# 2.

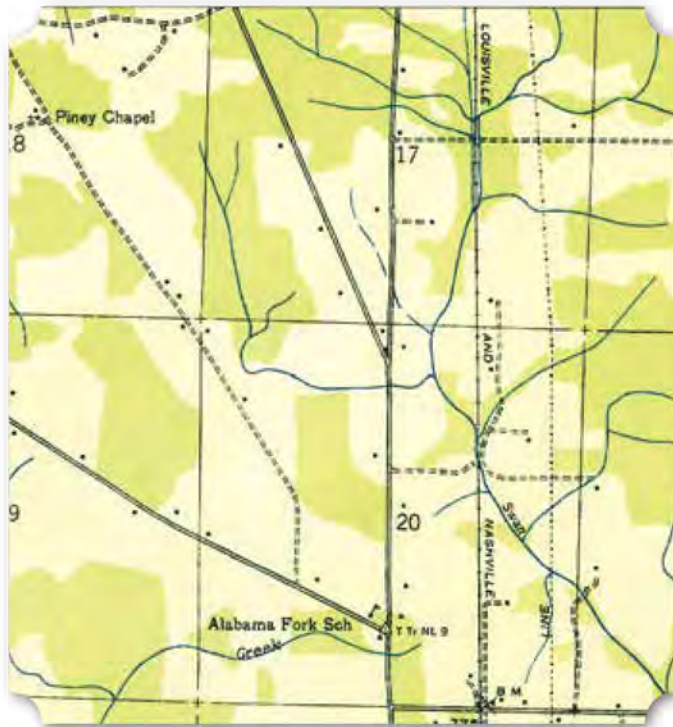
## DETAILS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PLACES OF INTEREST

# 1

### Alabama Fork School\*

The Alabama Fork School was located at the intersection of present-day Cross Key and Elkmont roads. It was founded in 1915 by members of the community including George, Sam, and Joe Barbee,

(Below) Fig 1. 1935 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

STATE Alabama		COUNTY Limestone		DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS										114		SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO 8		SHEET NO 6 A	
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 POPULATION				NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE X										WARD OF CITY X		ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO 94			
TOWNSHIP OF OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY T 2 R 4 Part of Precinct 710.1 (Athens)				NAME OF INSTITUTION X										ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 25 DAY OF April 1910		U. P. Henderson ENUMERATOR			
HOUSEHOLD NO	INDIVIDUAL NO	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			LANGUAGE	OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL				
							Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person										
104	111	M	34	Married	Head	W.C. 1744/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	QA	7 1/2	10 F 7 1/2					
		F	34	Married	Wife	M.C. 25/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	7	Single	Daughter	M.C. 7/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	6	Single	Son	M.C. 6/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	4	Single	Daughter	F.C. 4/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	3	Single	Daughter	F.C. 3/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	2	Single	Son	M.C. 2/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	2	Single	Daughter	F.C. 2/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	1	Single	Son	M.C. 1/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	1	Single	Daughter	F.C. 1/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
107	109	M	34	Married	Head	M.C. 34/10	South Carolina	South Carolina	Alabama	English	Farmer	QA	7 1/2	10 F 7 1/2					
		F	25	Married	Wife	F.C. 25/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	7	Single	Daughter	F.C. 7/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	6	Single	Son	M.C. 6/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	4	Single	Daughter	F.C. 4/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	3	Single	Daughter	F.C. 3/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	2	Single	Son	M.C. 2/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	2	Single	Daughter	F.C. 2/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	1	Single	Son	M.C. 1/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	1	Single	Daughter	F.C. 1/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
105	105	M	32	Married	Head	M.C. 32/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	QA	7 1/2	10 F 7 1/2					
		F	27	Married	Wife	F.C. 27/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	11	Single	Son	M.C. 11/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	QA	7 1/2	10 F 7 1/2					
		F	9	Single	Daughter	F.C. 9/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	7	Single	Daughter	F.C. 7/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	4	Single	Son	M.C. 4/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	2	Single	Daughter	F.C. 2/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	2	Single	Daughter	F.C. 2/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	1	Single	Son	M.C. 1/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	1	Single	Daughter	F.C. 1/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
141	144	M	32	Married	Head	M.C. 32/10	South Carolina	Alabama	South Carolina	English	Farmer	QA	7 1/2	10 F 10 1/2					
		F	27	Married	Wife	F.C. 27/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	11	Single	Daughter	F.C. 11/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	7	Single	Son	M.C. 7/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	3	Single	Daughter	F.C. 3/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	2	Single	Son	M.C. 2/10	Alabama	South Carolina	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						
		F	2	Single	Daughter	F.C. 2/10	Alabama	Alabama	South Carolina	English	None		7 1/2						
		M	1	Single	Son	M.C. 1/10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None		7 1/2						

Joe Nance, Dick Sloss, John Swopes, and George Woodruff. According to a history written by the school system in 1947, the school and a church were built on land given by Maggie Barbee specifically for this purpose.

In 1918, the school building was destroyed by a storm. The salvaged materials were made into a church, while the school was moved to Piney Chapel (later called Sampson's Chapel) to the northwest. By 1933 the school was reestablished in its original location. In

1947, Alabama Fork School was in a new building and Mrs. Cede Re Wichard was the teacher.

The community members who originally organized the school were all landowning farmers of color. Maggie Barbee was 24 years old in 1915 when she gave land for the school. She was living with her father, Robert, who was the lawful owner of the land. Robert L. Barbee (1843-1928) was born a slave in Lawrence County, Alabama. At 21 years old he enlisted with the Union Army and served as a musician for the 40th USCT Company A.

(Above) Excerpts From the 1910 Federal Census Showing the Households of Robert, Martha, Maggie, Joe, Sam, and George Barbee (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

**U.S.C.T.**  
**Robert Barbee**  
 Co. C, 40 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf'y

Appears on  
**M. and D. Roll of Men Transferred**  
 to the organization named above,  
 from **Co. C, 106 U.S.C. Inf'y.**  
 Roll dated **Bridgeport, Ala. Nov. 7, 1865.**  
 When enlisted **Mar 1, 1865.**  
 Period for which enlisted **3** years.  
 When mustered in **Mar 1, 1865.**  
 Present or absent **present**  
 Company to which assigned **A.**  
 Remarks:

(Right) Excerpts from the 1920 Federal Census Showing Joe and George Barbee, Richard Sloss, George Woodruff, Robert, (Martha) Ella, and Maggie Barbee, and John Swope (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Year	Month	Day	Name	Age	Sex	Mar	Prof	Birth	Place	Occup	Value	Other
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Joe	14	M	W		1876	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee George	13	M	W		1877	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Sloss Richard	18	M	W		1862	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Woodruff George	18	M	W		1862	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Robert	18	M	W		1862	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Martha	15	F	W		1865	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Ella	12	F	W		1868	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Maggie	10	F	W		1870	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Swope John	10	M	W		1870	Alabama			

**U.S.C.T.**  
**Robert Barbee**  
 Music Co. A, 40 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry.

Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**  
 for **Nov & Dec, 1865.**  
 Present or absent **Present**  
 Stoppage, \$ **100** for  
 Due Gov't, \$ **100** for

Remarks: **Transferred from Co. 106 U.S.C. Inf'y Nov 7/1865. Re-admitted to Co. A 26th Nov at Vicksburg, Miss. Apl. 13/65.**

Book mark: **Dr. H. H. Hunter**

**U.S.C.T.**  
**Robert Barbee**  
 Co. A, 40 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on  
**Company Descriptive Book**  
 of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION  
 Age **21** years; height **5** feet **7** inches.  
 Complexion **Blk**  
 Eyes **Blk**; hair **Blk**  
 Where born **Laurance Co. Ala**  
 Occupation **Farmer**

ENLISTMENT.  
 When **Mar 1, 1865.**  
 Where **Decatur Ala**  
 By whom **Capt. Poe** term **5** y'rs.

Remarks: **Transferred from Co. 106 U.S.C. Inf'y Nov. 7/65 by Dr. H. H. Hunter. Re-admitted to Co. A 26th Nov at Vicksburg, Miss. dated Apl. 13/65.**

**E. D. Lipscomb**

(Above) Enlistment Papers of Robert Barbee, USCT (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Map Showing Robert Barbee as Original Patent Holder (Boyd 2007)

Year	Month	Day	Name	Age	Sex	Mar	Prof	Birth	Place	Occup	Value	Other
1920	Jan	1	Woodruff George	18	M	W		1862	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Robert	18	M	W		1862	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee George	13	M	W		1877	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Martha	15	F	W		1865	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Ella	12	F	W		1868	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Barbee Maggie	10	F	W		1870	Alabama			
1920	Jan	1	Swope John	10	M	W		1870	Alabama			

WHITE George M 1858	CALLOWAY George 1898	MCWILLIAMS William 1857	GULLEY James W 1904
KANE Benjamin W 1875	HARGROVE [22] Lucy 1898	HARGROVE [22] Lucy 1898	20
KANE Benjamin W 1875	SHEGOG Sandy 1891	BARBEE Robert 1890	
WILLIAMS Booker 1898	SHEGOG Sandy 1891	BARBEE Robert 1890	
GULLEY Reuben A 1892	GULLEY Reuben A 1892	FRY Ellsworth J 1904	29
GULLEY Reuben A 1892	QUINN Lorenzo 1897	WHITE Wyatt 1882	
TYUS Thomas G 1860	QUINN Lorenzo 1897	QUINN Lorenzo 1897	

**The United States of America,**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. **5166**  
 Application **12073**

Whereas there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Huntsville, Alabama, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of **Robert Barbee** has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the South half of the South East quarter of Section twenty and the North half of the North East quarter of Section twenty one in Township two South of Range four West of Huntsville Meridian in Alabama containing **one hundred and fifty eight acres and thirty nine hundredths of an acre**

(Left) Excerpt from Original Patent Awarded to Robert Barbee for 158 Acres (U.S. Bureau of Land Management Database)



Ad. 19764 Robt. Hargrove 97 " " 98 A. Chapin 99 " " 1900 " " 1901 Sam Barbee 1902	Ad. 19764 Robt. Hargrove " 97 A. Chapin " 98 " " " 99 Sam Barbee 1900 " " " 1901 " " " 1902	Saml. C. Brundham 1848 Wm. Mitchell 93 " " 94 " " 95 " " 96 " " 97 " " 98 " " 99 " " 1900 " " 1901 " " 1902
Sandy Shiggy 1885 " " 1903 " " 1904 " " 1905 " " 1906 " " 1907 " " 1908 " " 1909 " " 1910 " " 1911 " " 1912 " " 1913	Robt. Barbee July 11/87 " " " 93 " " " 94 " " " 95 " " " 96 " " " 97 " " " 98 " " " 99 " " " 1900 " " " 1901 " " " 1902	Robt. Barbee July 11/87 " " " 93 " " " 94 " " " 95 " " " 96 " " " 97 " " " 98 " " " 99 " " " 1900 " " " 1901 " " " 1902

Saml. Barbee 1903 " " " 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913	Joe Barbee 1903 " " " 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913	Wm. Mitchell 1903 Luke Russell 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913
Sandy Shiggy 1903 " " " 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913	Robt. Barbee 1903 " " " 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913	Robt. Barbee 1903 " " " 1904 " " " 1905 " " " 1906 " " " 1907 " " " 1908 " " " 1909 " " " 1910 " " " 1911 " " " 1912 " " " 1913

(Top) Limestone County Land Maps Showing Barbee Ownership, 1889-1902 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama) (Above) Limestone County Land Maps Showing Barbee Ownership, 1903-1913 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama)

Robert Barbee married Martha in 1876 and had 13 children. In 1890 they purchased a land patent from the U.S. government containing 158 acres north of Athens, Limestone County, Alabama. By 1900, Joe Barbee owned 80 acres adjacent to the north of Robert and by 1902, Sam Barbee owned the 80 acres west of Joe. Nettie Barbee purchased the 80 acres to the west of Robert in 1911. While their relationship is not clear, the Barbees were most likely related; Joe and Sam are 22 and 23 years younger than Martha and could be her sons.

The Alabama Fork School was eventually built in the very northwest corner of Robert Barbee's property and surrounded by other family members' land. The Barbee's were undeniably influential in the education of children of color in the community.

The school functioned as such until at least 1958. By 1967, the building at that location was labeled as a church on topographic maps. The building at the corner of Cross Key and Elkmont roads is similar in appearance to the school but may not be the same building. Although it appears unoccupied, there is a sign in front of the building identifying it as the Alabama Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



(Above) Photograph of Class in Front of Alabama Fork School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947)

## 2 Anderson Plantation\* and Cemetery

The Anderson and Fletcher cemeteries are separated by about one mile in the community of Peets Corner. Both cemeteries are southeast of the intersection of Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road and Mooresville Road. The 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map labels the area near Anderson Cemetery as "Anderson Place," possibly referring to the former plantation of C.D. Anderson. According to the 1860 slave schedule, Anderson owned 63 slaves.

Present-day Anderson Cemetery Road leads to the resting place of at least 124 individuals, including 16 members of the Anderson family. Many of the graves are not marked or have incomplete inscriptions. The earliest known burial is of Florine Manny, who passed away in 1916. Among the Anderson family graves is that of Dock Anderson (1885-1942), who owned a farm on Mooresville Road in 1930. Other family names include Benford, Brown, Davis, Leslie, Malone, and McLin.

## 3 Athens

The city of Athens, Alabama is the seat of Limestone County. Nearly centrally located, today Athens' population is about 17.5% people of color and the city has been home to people of color since its founding in 1818. Like much of North Alabama, Limestone County and Athens were settled by squatters, mostly from Georgia, Virginia, and the Carolinas, years before the state was annexed. Following its founding, the city quickly became a center for agricultural economics and some politics – at least four of the state's early governors were from Athens and Limestone County.

Athens was a stop on the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad route between Decatur, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee. The presence of the railroad

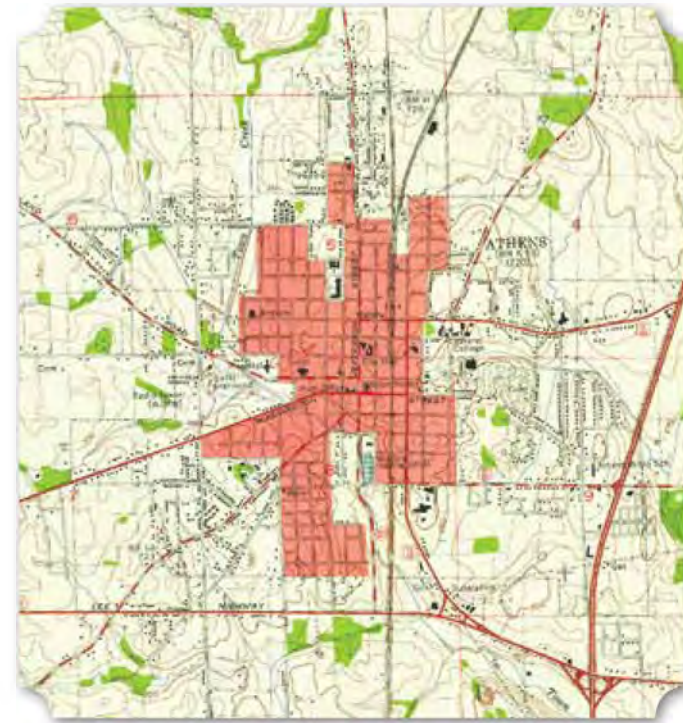
### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

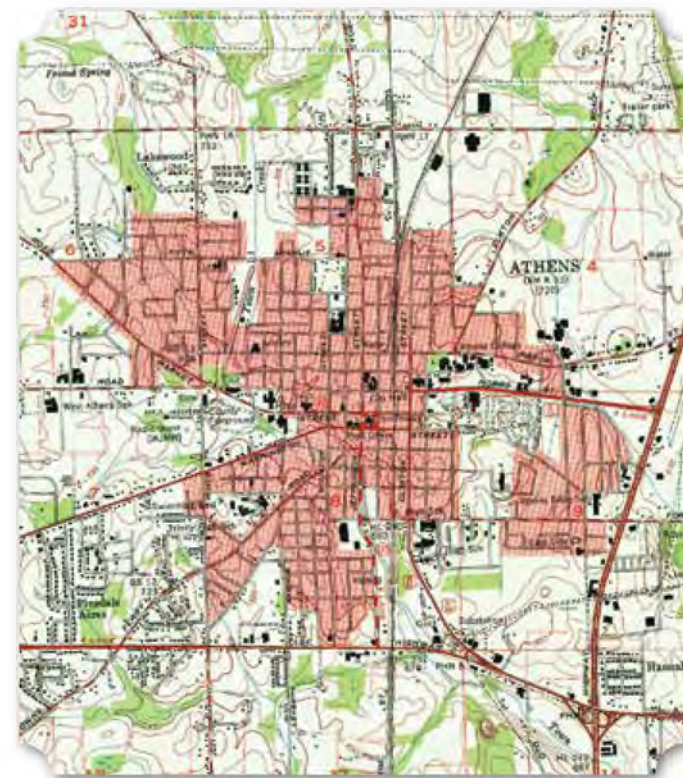
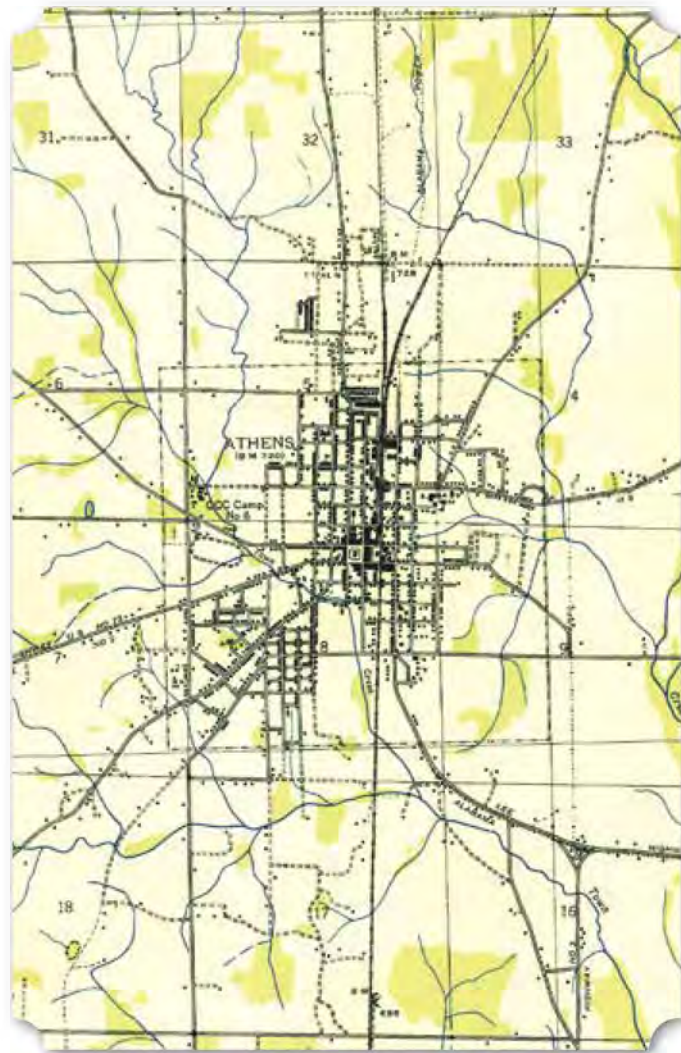


made Athens a military target during the Civil War. The city was the scene of a destructive rampage by Union troops called the Sack of Athens in 1862 and an attack by Confederate forces known as the Battle of Athens in 1864.

While agriculture was essential to Limestone County and Athens, by the 1930s, it was on the decline and many county residents were looking to industries linked to power generation, the military, and, later, aerospace. The TVA brought ideas of modernization and diversification to Athens and in 1934, the city became the first in Alabama to receive electricity from the TVA. During World War II, many county residents took up jobs at the nearby Redstone Arsenal, part of the greater Huntsville area and later a unit in the aerospace industry. The Browns Ferry



**(Left)** 1935 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Athens, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle **(Above)** 1958 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Athens, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle **(Below)** 1967 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Athens, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle



Nuclear Plant opened in Limestone County in 1973. It was the TVA's first nuclear plant and the largest in the world at the time. Limestone County no longer relied on agriculture for its economy. In the 21st century, agricultural jobs account for less than 1% of the county's employment.

Census records for the Athens area from 1900 to 1940 showed consistency in land ownership among African American farmers as well as the effects of the changing economy. Excluding the city proper in 1900, there were 685 households living in vicinity of Athens. Of these, 11.5% were African American farmer-landowners. By 1920, 12.5% of the 736 households outside of the Athens city limits were African American-owned farms. The onset of the Great Depression, the growth of the city, and changes in employment caused a decline in the percentage of African American farms so that by 1930, of more than 1,000 households outside of the city, only 77, or around 8%, were on farms owned by African Americans. The number of African American farms remained the same in 1940, but made up only 6.8% of owner-operated farms.

Throughout the early 20th century, numerous members of the Cain family owned farms in the area. The Cains owned nine farms around Athens in 1900 and at least 13 by 1920. Mirroring the economic trajectory of the county, the number of Cain family farms declined to six in 1930 and three in 1940. Other families who were successful in acquiring farmland were the Joneses, who owned eight farms in 1900; the Barbee, Harris, Johnes, Malone and Wiggins families, each with four farms between 1910 and 1940; and the David and Garrison families who owned three farms in 1940.

#### Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery

The Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery is located in west Athens. The burial ground contains about 275 marked graves. It was in place by 1870, when Roney Fraser (1857-1870) was interred there. At that time the cemetery was west of the town limits. Even in the 1930s, this area was only barely within the city and remained sparsely populated.

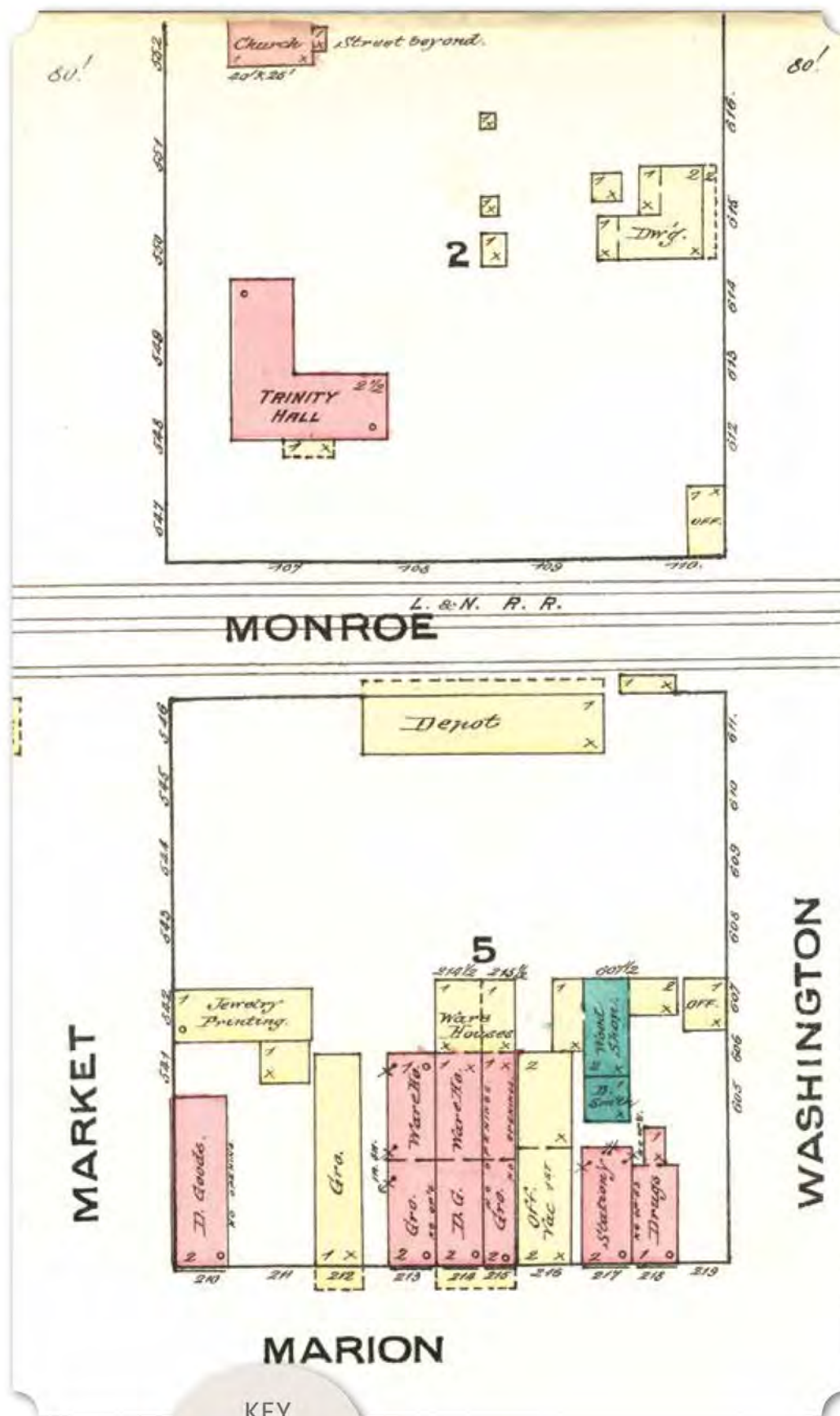
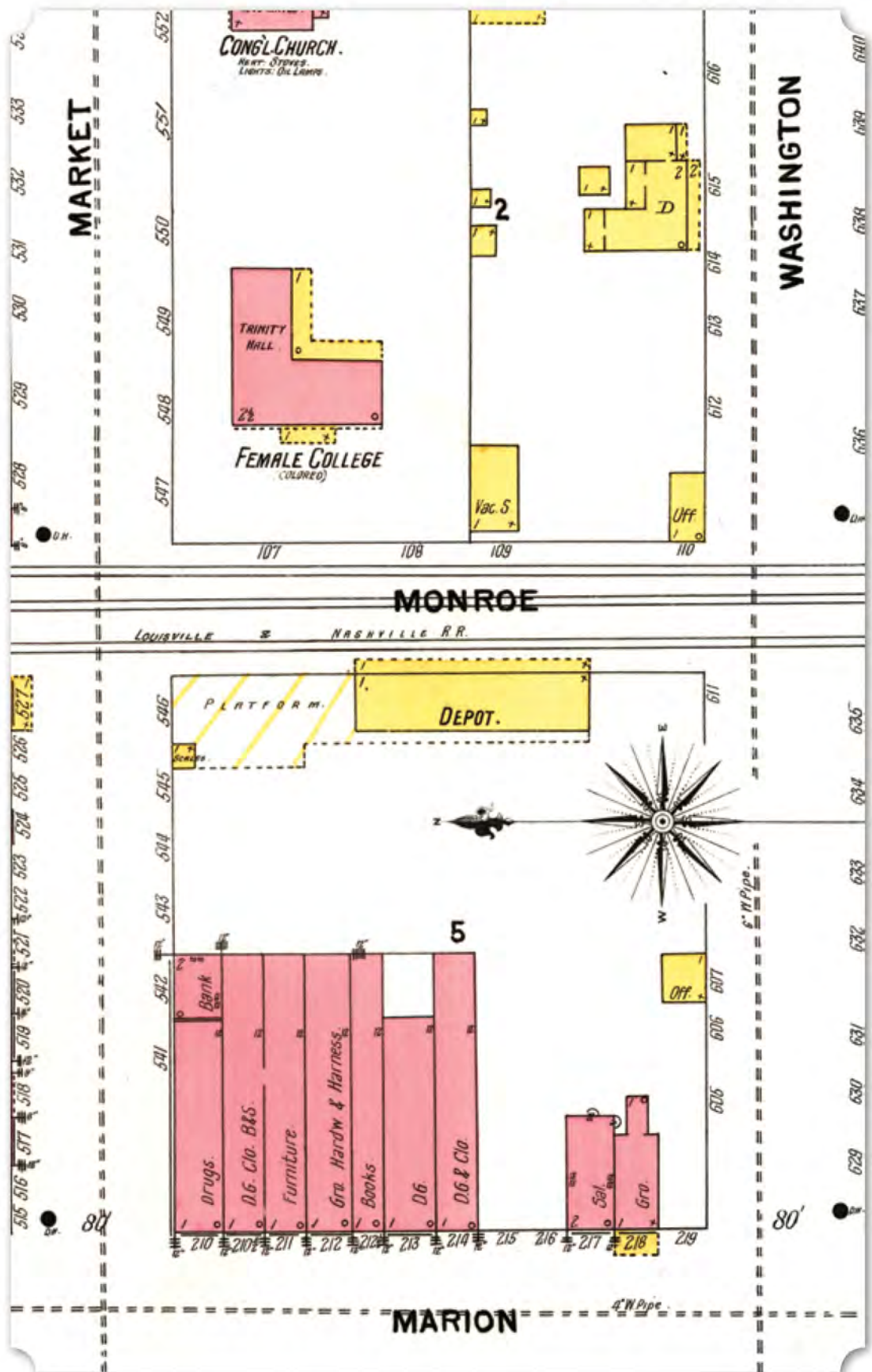
Two of the most notable African American citizens of Limestone County are buried here: George Ruffin Bridgeforth (1872-1955) and Patti J. Malone (1855-1897). Other surnames common in the Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery are those seen elsewhere in Limestone County, such as Allen, Coleman, Davis, Grisby, Howell, Jones, Mason, Moore, Payne, Redus, Sloss, Turner, and Yarbrough.

#### Trinity School

Trinity School was founded by the American Missionary Association directly following the Civil War with the goal of educating the children of former slaves. While, the AMA set up a number of philanthropic schools and missions throughout the South, the Trinity School in Athens was a particularly long-lived success. The school began in 1865 as a co-educational and normal school. Ms. Mary Frances Wells of the AMA became principal and served until 1892. Classes were first held in a frame building near the railroad depot in downtown Athens, which, unfortunately, was destroyed by fire in 1879. The AMA was preparing to abandon the school, but the local African American community came together and pooled \$2,000 for a new building. A three-story brick school house was erected in 1881 but it also burned in 1907.

Following this fire, the school moved to a four-acre parcel purchased from Dr. John R. Hoffman on the west side of Athens. The school was able to expand in this new location into a campus with additional buildings. The new site was on the former Coleman Hill plantation near old Fort Henderson. While Union forces built the fort, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forest captured and imprisoned the 106th, 110th, and 111th USCI here during the Battle of Athens. The journey from slave to soldier to student is often evoked by this land.

During the first decades after slavery, there were as many adult students as there were children who were eager to learn. When Athens opened a public elementary school for African American children around the early 20th century, the school dropped the first six grades and became Trinity High School. In



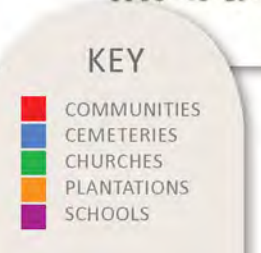
(Left) Excerpt of Athens Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1884 and 1889 Showing the Athens L&N Depot and the Original Trinity School Building (Library of Congress – Online)

1943, the faculty became entirely African American and in 1950, the AMA transferred Trinity to the state of Alabama. The school was closed in 1970 due to integration.

A school building from the 1950s still stands on the site on Browns Ferry Road site along with a historical marker. There is another historical marker in downtown Athens at the site of the Trinity School Cistern, which comprises the only remaining physical remnant of the 19th-century school.



(Above) Postcard of Trinity School, 1908 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama)





(Above) Photograph of Trinity School in 1930 (Athens Limestone Community Association) (Below) Photograph of Trinity Students in a Sewing Class, Date Unknown (Athens Limestone Community Association)



(Above) Photograph of Trinity Students, Class of 1935 (Athens Limestone Community Association) (Below) Photograph of Trinity Baseball Team, 1920 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama (Courtesy of Col. James L. Walker)







(Left) 1936/1938 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Belle Mina, Tanner and Greenbrier, Alabama Quadrangles

Church, the custom began to decline in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and eventually ceased altogether. In 2013, members of Jerusalem, Morning Star, New Heaven, and New Zion came together to participate in the revival of this deep-rooted community tradition.

**Belle Mina School\***

Besides plantations and churches, another significant historic piece of the community is the Belle Mina School. The Belle Mina School was located off Mooresville Road south of town. For many years classes were held in the Masonic Lodge in town and later at various churches. In the 1920s, members of the community, including Rev. John Page, Mr. Eldridge Jones, Mr. William McComb, and Mr. Daniel Washington approached the Rosenwald Fund for assistance in building a new school. According to the Rosenwald-Fisk database, the school was approved for the year 1929-1930. The two-teacher school cost a total of \$3,450, with \$1,200 donated by the local African American community, \$350 from the local white community, \$1,400 from public school funds, and \$500 from the Rosenwald Fund. The school was insured for \$2,325.

One of the first teachers was Ms. Annie D. Mitchell, a graduate of Talladega College. Other teachers



(Above) Photograph of Belle Mina School in 1930s (Fisk University – Rosenwald Foundation)

include Ms. Minnie Dinkins, Ms. Ora Battle, Mr. John O. Mason, Mr. Bennie Crittenton, and Mrs. Johnnie Crittenton. In 1947, the teachers were Mrs. Odell Smith and Mrs. Lucy Crook, principal.

Limestone County records show that John Henry Peebles (1851-1931) was a white landowner who owned the tract on which the school was built. The Peebles family still owned considerable land and several farms around Mooresville. The four men who approached Rosenwald were African Americans living in the Belle Mina-Mooresville area. Census records reveal that John Page owned a farm in the area from

at least 1900 to 1940. Eldridge Jones owned a farm in 1930 and Daniel Washington owned a farm from at least 1930 to 1940. William McComb rented his farm but lived along Mooresville-Belle Mina Road. Today there is a road in the school vicinity named Will McComb Drive. McComb might have rented land from Peebles and helped negotiate the donation of the land for the school.

The school expanded over the 20th century and a modern building, complete with a gymnasium, was built. It closed in 1991 because the area population did not warrant its own school. The building has sat vacant for 20 years.

(Below) Excerpts from the 1920 and 1930 Federal Census Showing Page, Jones, McComb, and Washington (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

were six in 1936 and four in 1963. The locations and names of all of them is not certain.

An interesting tradition was recently revived by the Belle Mina African American churches. Known as "Belle Mina in May," the tradition is said to date back to the 1870s. On the third Saturday of May, people from all over – some as far as Chicago, Illinois – return home to Belle Mina to worship, sing, eat, and be baptized. Once held at the Jerusalem Primitive Baptist

83	191 102/102	Page John	Head	0	W	30	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
84		Mattie	Wife	0	F	28	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
85		Harlan	Wife	0	F	17	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
86		Page	Wife	0	F	20	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
87	191 203	Jones Eldridge	Head	0	W	39	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
88		Mattie	Wife	0	F	39	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
89	192 204	Page John	Head	0	W	39	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
90		Mattie	Wife	0	F	39	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
91		Harlan	Wife	0	F	24	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
92	195 158	Washington Daniel	Head	0	W	52	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
93		Harlan	Wife	0	F	42	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
94	197 159	McComb William	Head	0	W	21	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
95		Mattie	Wife	0	F	21	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
96		Harlan	Wife	0	F	10	74		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama

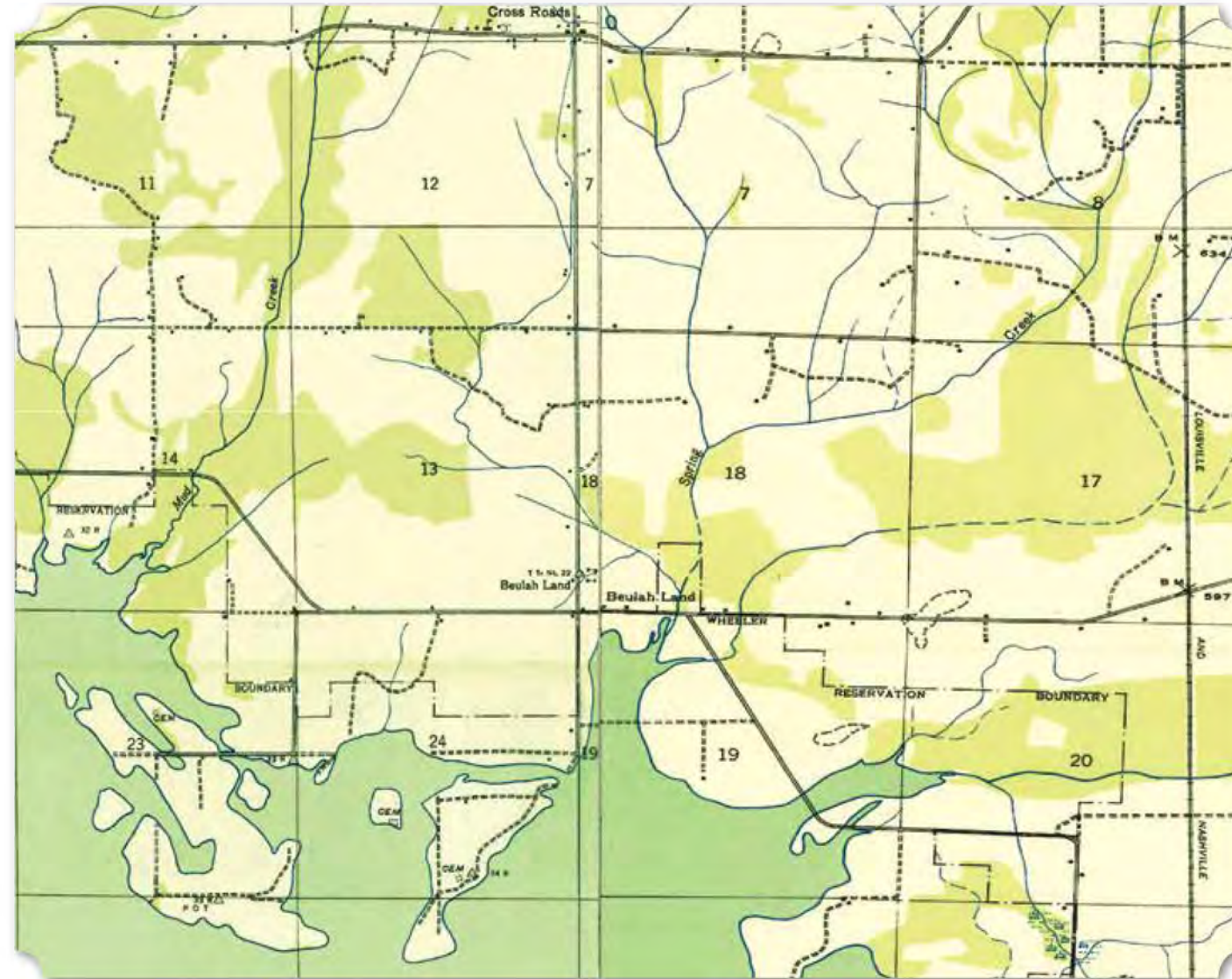


**(Above)** Aerial Photograph of Belle Mina School in 1940, the Plantation House is to the North and the School is the Smaller Building to the South (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

# 5

## Beulah Land

The story of Beulah Land, or Beulahland, is the story of the Bridgeforth family. George Ruffin Bridgeforth was the initiator of a community of African American landowners in Limestone County – Beulahland. At the turn of the 20th century, while George Ruffin attended the Massachusetts Agricultural College,



his family lived on the west side of the Elk River in southwestern Limestone County. In 1910, George Ruffin and several members of the community came together to form the Southern Small Farm Land Company, which then established the settlement of Beulah Land in south central Limestone County.

Beulahland thrived with a Rosenwald school, churches, and multiple landowners. In the 1930s, however, the construction of the Wheeler Dam by the TVA caused the displacement of many families along the Tennessee River. The Beulah Land community, led by the Bridgeforths, fought against relocation. Over time, the Bridgeforths became leaders in vocalizing the opinions and needs of

African American landowners to the local, state, and federal government – taking on issues such as voter registration and equal educational opportunities for African Americans. Many of the descendants of the original African American landowning families still reside and farm in the area.

### Lakeview United Methodist Church

One of the essential community centers of Beulah Land is Lakeview United Methodist Church. Located north of the intersection of Bridgforth and Harris Station roads with Lucas Ferry Road, the church's congregation predates the Civil War. According to the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, people of color have been



**(Left)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Beulah Land, Tanner and Stewart Cross Roads, Alabama Quadrangles

members of the Methodist Connection in Limestone County since at least 1818.

Although a church in some form or another existed in the community for decades, in 1913, Beulah Land Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. Land for the first church was donated by George and Jennie Bridgeforth. The original church was destroyed in a tornado in 1974. After rebuilding in 1976, Beulah Land Methodist Episcopal joined with Johnson's Chapel to create Lakeview United Methodist Church. The church was destroyed again by a tornado in April, 2011, and was rebuilt by 2013. At this time there were about 65 members of the congregation, including members of the Bridgeforth family. The Rev. Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland was pastor.

The church is associated with the Lakeview United Methodist Church Cemetery, a community burial ground also known as Beulah Land. The earliest burial is Florida Coggar (1896-1917). Others include 35 members of the Bridgeforth family. George Bridgeforth (1838-1923), father of George Ruffin Bridgeforth, is buried here alongside his wife, Jennie Andrews Bridgeforth (1841-1922), and their children Sarah B. Lampkin (1866-1923), Parthenia B. Meals (1876-1920), Ike M. Bridgeforth (1879-1968), William Shirley Bridgeforth, Sr. (1882-1918), and Bascom Bridgeforth (1887-1974). George Ruffin Bridgeforth is the only sibling not buried here. His grave is in the Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery in Athens.

### Beulahland School (Rosenwald)\*

Beulah Land also had a Rosenwald school. Beulahland School was also known by the name of George Ruffin Bridgeforth's land company, Southern Small Farms. The two-teacher school was first organized in 1908 and built in 1910 under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute, working on behalf of the Rosenwald Fund. The total cost was \$1,025, of which the African American community provided \$830 and the white community \$45. The Rosenwald Fund provided the balance of \$150.



(Above) Image of Class in Front of Beulahland School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947) (Below) Aerial Photograph of Beulahland School in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)

The school was built on the Bridgeforth farm in western Limestone County. When the community moved, it sold the schoolhouse and its land. The community of Beulah Land built a new school, completed in 1912, with the \$800 from the sale of the old farm and \$300 from the Rosenwald Fund. It had three rooms and three teachers. Attendance declined after many families were displaced by the TVA. In 1947, the then one-teacher school was headed by Mrs. Emma B. Harris.

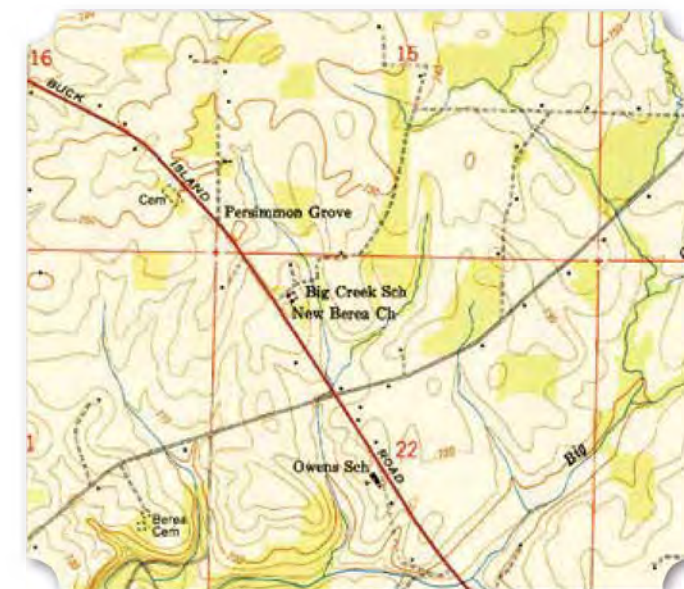
Some sources call the Beulahland School the first Rosenwald School in Alabama, although others give this distinction to the Loachapoka School in Lee County.

Another school for African American children located near Beulah Land was the North Alabama Orphanage and Industrial School. According to a history of schools of Limestone County, the school was promoted in Athens by two men, W.L. Cox and Dr. B.F. Hill who, in 1915, bought 105 acres in south Limestone County from Lucas Ferry Pike, two miles west of Harris Stations.

chaired by Rev. Henry Fairrer, to collect \$5 from each family. The funds went to purchase one acre of land from Mr. Green Hargrove, a local African American farmer who owned land in the area from at least 1900 to 1940.

Mrs. Mary Horton was the first teacher of the one-room schoolhouse. The entire community was involved in the creation of Big Creek School. Mrs. Horton and her students dug a well themselves. Eventually the school expanded to two rooms and two teachers. Some of the teachers who served here were Mrs. Eliza Mann, Mrs. Golds B. Willis, Mrs. Hattie B. Malone, Mrs. Ada Gurley, Mrs. Annie Gurley, and Ms. Celestene Higgins.

In 1947, Mrs. Maxine Pulley and Mrs. Sadie B. Malone were the teachers at Big Creek School. Trustees of the school included Mr. Luther Beddingfield, Mr. Joe Murray, and Mr. Earl Murray. Leroy Murray, an original Tuskegee Airman, attended Big Creek School as a child. The Jones, Horton, and Gilbert families also sent their children to this school.



(Below) Excerpt from 1900 Federal Census (Above) Fig 32. Big Creek School Class Photograph, 1940s. Teachers Maxine Pulley and Sadie B. Malone are at the Left.

(Top) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Big Creek School (Above) 1951 USGS Topographic Map Showing Big Creek School and New Berea Church



## 6 Big Creek School\*

Though there are references to a school in the area of "Big Creek" as early as 1881, Big Creek School began in 1904 when the community created a committee,

80	122/124	Thompson, H. S.	H. S.	B	20	Apr	1894	36	24	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	36	1-1-5	600	400	400	115	80
81		B. S.	Wife	B	21	Oct	1895	34	29	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	34		400	200	400	81	
82		W. S.	Son	B	22	Mar	1896	13	5		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	13	H. S.	200	200	400	82	
83		W. S.	Daughter	B	23	Jun	1897	11	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	11		400	200	400	83	
84		B. S.	Daughter	B	24	Mar	1891	9	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	9		200	200	400	84	
85		W. S.	Son	B	25	Jun	1896	3	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	3		200	200	400	85	
86		W. S.	Son	B	26	Sept	1898	1	8		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	1		200	200	400	86	

On a historical topographic map from 1936, the school was shown next to a symbol for New Berea Missionary Baptist Church. By 1951, both the school and church were labeled. Although labeled "New Berea" on historic maps, the current sign at the church reads "New Beria M.B. Church." The church is associated with a small African American cemetery containing only about 20 graves. The earliest interment is World War II veteran Maxie Hargrove (1896-1971), the son of Green Hargrove. Marvin Hargrove (1905-1992) is another Hargrove son and WWII veteran buried here. School trustee, Luther Beddingfield (born 1906) and his wife, Nellie (born 1906), are also laid to rest in New Beria MB Church Cemetery.

## 7 Bridgeforth and Lucas Cemeteries

The Bridgeforth Cemetery is located southwest of Beulahland on a small island at the south end of Lucas Ferry Road and cannot be reached except by small boat. When it was surveyed for potential impact by the construction of Wheeler Dam, TVA cataloged the site as Cemetery No. 42. According to the TVA Cemetery Removal Record, there were 18 burials here, 16 being Lucas family members. Following the wishes of the nearest kin, no burials were removed before construction of the dam. The TVA records lack information on those buried in this cemetery except for their names. Siblings Adam Lucas, Jr., Cherry Malone, and Richard Lucas are listed as the nearest relatives for the majority of those buried here.

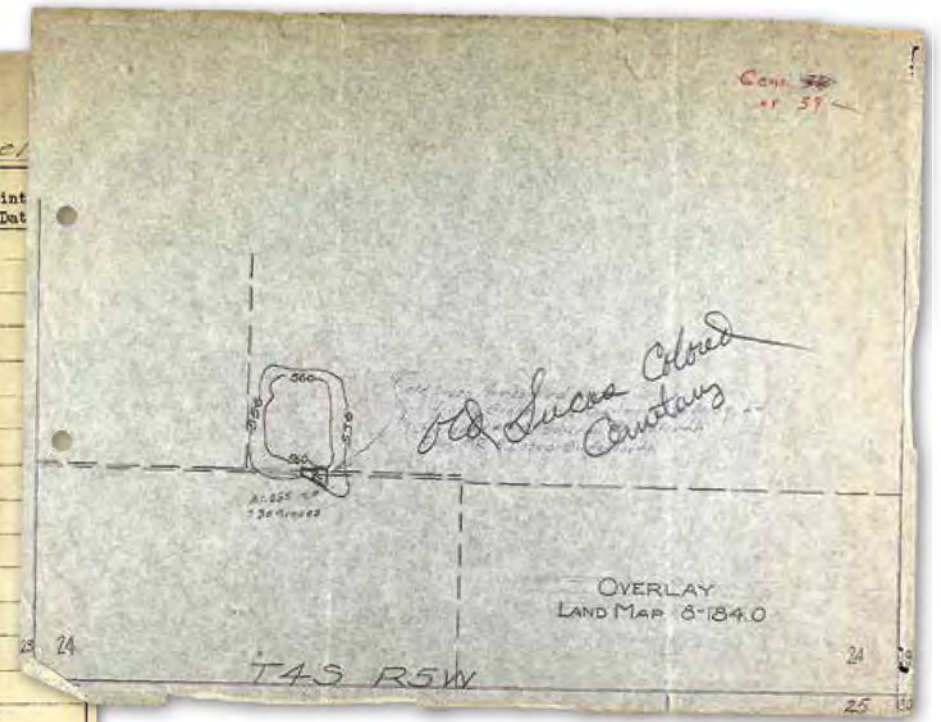
The Lucas Cemetery is located near Beulah Bay Road southwest of Beulahland. Most of the time, this cemetery is not accessible due to the water level of the Tennessee River. Also known as Lucas Cemetery #2 to distinguish it from the Lucas Cemetery containing white members of the Lucas family, this cemetery was surveyed by the TVA as well and designated Cemetery No. 39. Although included among the burial grounds that might need removal, all known graves remained in accordance with the wishes of the families. The

TVA 1152  
Tennessee Valley Authority

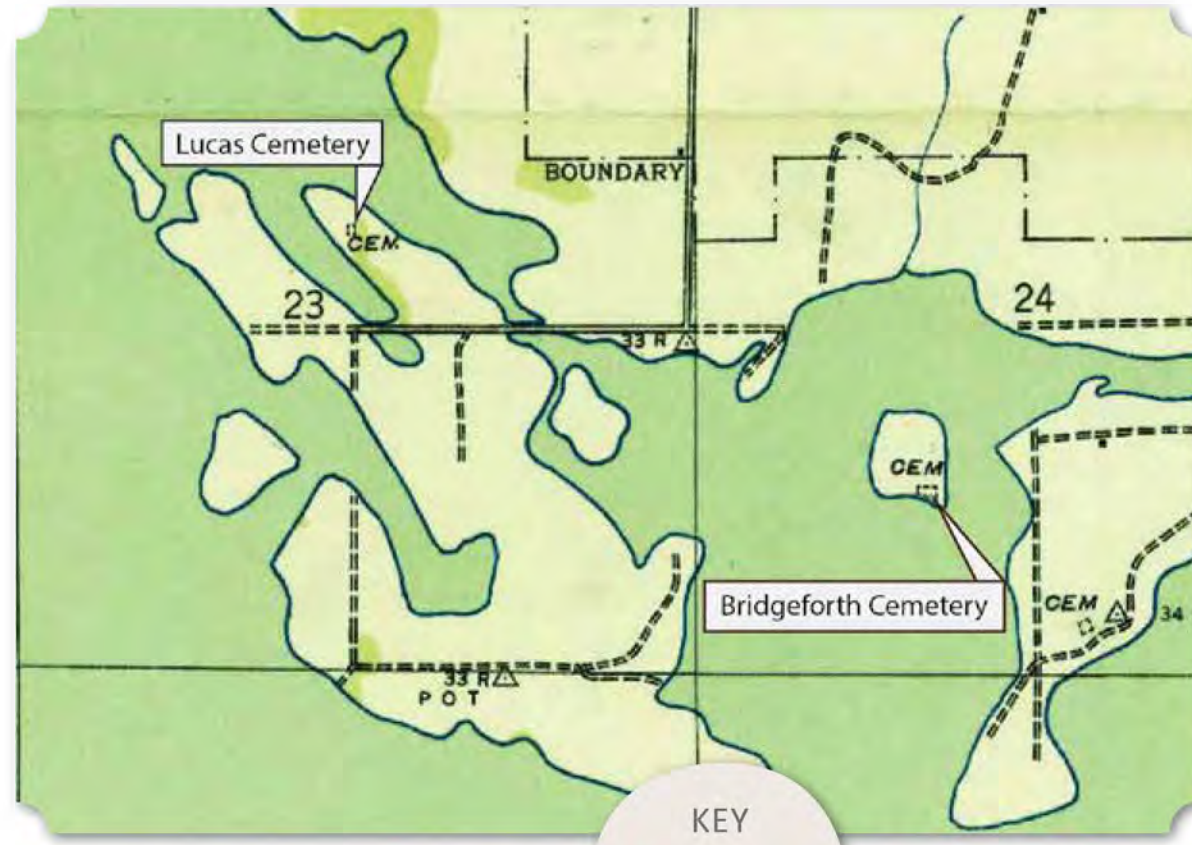
CEMETERY REMOVAL RECORD  
*Bridgeforth*

CEMETERY Cemetery No. 42 P.T.S. No. *Wheel*

Grave No.	Name	Age	Date	Nearest Relative			Contract Executed		Disposition Desired	Removal Ordered Date	Reint (Date)
				Name	Address	Relationship	by	date			
1	<i>Peggy Lucas</i>	?	?	<i>Adam Lucas, Cherry Malone, Richard Lucas</i>	<i>Delena Tanner</i>	<i>Bro &amp; Sister</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>6-20-35</i>	<i>Remain</i>		
2	<i>Dennis Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Nephews &amp; Nieces</i>	"	"	"		
3	<i>Richard Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Bro &amp; Sister</i>	"	"	"		
4	<i>Meely Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
5	<i>Wyde Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Niece &amp; Nephews</i>	"	"	"		
6	<i>Nathan Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
7	<i>Patsy Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Gr. Children</i>	"	"	"		
8	<i>Ned Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
9	<i>Elri Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Nephew + Niece</i>	"	"	"		
10	<i>Fanny Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
1	<i>Delford Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	<i>Bro &amp; Sister</i>	"	"	"		
2	<i>Norris Lucas Jr.</i>	?	?	<i>Jim Lucas</i>	"	<i>Brother</i>	"	"	"		
3	<i>Ann Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
4	<i>Amey Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
5	<i>Wyde Lucas</i>	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	"		
6	<i>Joyce Lucas</i>	?	?	<i>Adam Lucas, Cherry Malone, Richard Lucas</i>	<i>Delena Tanner</i>	<i>Nieces &amp; Nephews</i>	"	"	"		
7											
8											
9	<i>Sally Malone</i>	?	?	<i>Ray Hines, Wesley Campbell</i>	<i>Athens</i>	<i>Grand Sons</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>6-17-35</i>	<i>Remain</i>		
10											



(Above) "Old Lucas Colored Cemetery," Possibly Depicting the Bridgeforth Cemetery (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Flies, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



(Above) List of Burials at Bridgeforth Cemetery (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Flies, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Bridgeforth and Lucas Cemeteries, Stewart Cross Roads, Alabama Quadrangle

Lucas Cemetery contains 22 graves of the members of the Love, Lee, Townsend, Blair, Lucas, Harris, Jackson, Williams, and Pickett families.

Between the two cemeteries are several members of a single family, that of Ed Lucas and Patsy Lucas Jackson (d. 1913). Their children, Dennis, Wyde, Nathan, Elri, Fanny, and Joyce all rest in Bridgeforth Cemetery. Ed and Patsy's sons Dave and Adam were buried in Lucas Cemetery. Four of the children of Adam Lucas (1846-1920) were laid to rest in Bridgeforth cemetery: Peggy Lucas Blair, Richard Lucas, Meely Lucas, and Delford Lucas. Other Lucas family members in these cemeteries may be directly related to Ed and Patsy Lucas as well.

Another burial ground, the McDonald Cemetery, reportedly lies adjacent to the Bridgeforth Cemetery. This graveyard may contain about 25 burials, but only those of Odie Betts, Joe Malone, and the infant son of Sadie Wynn are marked. These names are listed in the TVA index of burials, but no additional information is known.



CEMETERY REMOVAL RECORD									
Grave No.	Name	Age	Sex	LUCAS CEMETERY			WHEELER RESERVOIR		
				Nearest Name	Relationship	Removed Date	Reburied Date	Reburied Place	
1.	Betty Love	-	-	Bill Lee	Brother	FWW	6/21/35	Remain	
2.	Inf. Lee	-	-	"	Father	"	"	"	
3.	Inf. Lee	-	-	"	Father	"	"	"	
4.	Courtney Love	-	-	"	Uncle	"	"	"	
5.	Inf. Lee	-	-	"	Father	"	"	"	
6.	William Townsend	-	-	Henry Townsend	Father	"	6/25/35	"	
7.	Mary Alice Lee	-	-	Bill Lee	Father	"	6/21/35	"	
8.	Infant Lee	-	-	"	"	"	"	"	
9.	Memory Lee	-	-	"	"	"	"	"	
10.	Infant Lee	-	-	"	"	"	"	"	
11.	Peggy Blair	?	?	Adam Lucas	Tanner	Bro + Sister	FWW	6/10/35	
12.	Ella Lee	?	?	Cherry Mullens	"	"	"	"	
13.	Dave Lucas	?	?	Bill Lee	Brother	FWW	"	"	
14.	Adam Lucas	?	?	Bill Lee	Brother	FWW	"	"	
15.	Rosa Lee Harris	?	?	John D. Harris	Son	"	"	"	
16.	Patsy Jackson	?	?	"	"	"	"	"	
17.	Unknown Williams	?	?	Wak Williams	Uncle	FWW	6/21/35	"	
18.	Maria Lucas Lee	?	?	Bill Lee	Son	"	6/18/35	"	
19.	Leo Pickett	?	?	Cary Pickett	Mother	"	9/21/35	"	
20.	J. Boyd Lee	-	-	Bill Lee	Uncle	"	"	"	
21.	Maria Love	-	-	"	"	"	"	"	
22.	Bethie Love	-	-	"	"	"	"	"	

82 85	Lucas David	B M 37		1	Farmer
	Amy	B F 40	wife	1	Keeping House
	Sindy	B F 20	daughter	1	Labourer
	Rose	B F 13	daughter	1	Labourer
83 86	Adam	B M 38		1	Farmer
	Victory	B F 29	wife	1	Keeping House
	Holmes	B M 17	son	1	Labourer
	Cherry	B F 11	daughter	1	Labourer
	Edy	B M 9	son	1	
	Richard	B M 7	son	1	
	Sophia	B F 4	daughter	1	
	Adam	B M 2	son	1	
	Syloa	B F 2 1/2	daughter	1	
84 87	Dennis	B M 19		1	Farmer
	Joyce	B F 38	wife	1	Keeping House
	Dennis	B M 18	son	1	Labourer
	Miry	B F 13	daughter	1	Labourer
	James	B M 9	son	1	
	Maattie	B F 4	daughter	1	
	Wyatt	B M 2 1/2	son	1	

(Above) List of Burials at Lucas Cemetery (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) 1880 Federal Census Showing Lucas Family Members (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1900 Federal Census Showing Lucas Family Members (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

24243	Lucas Charles	Head	M	Mar	1854	25	Alabama	Alabama	Tennessee	Farmer	0 F 4	188
	Adarah	wife	F	Aug	1854	25	Alabama	Alabama	Georgia			
	Willis	son	M	Mar	1879	21	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			
	Flora	daughter	F	Mar	1884	16	Alabama	Alabama	Georgia			
243 248	Luzia	daughter	F	Mar	1852	27	Alabama	Alabama	Georgia	Farmer	1	199
244 249	Lucas David	Head	B	May	1884	26	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	200
	Stella	daughter	B	Apr	1894	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			200
245 245	Adams	Head	B	Mar	1844	59	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	1-4	201
244 248	Victoria	wife	B	May	1850	50	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			
	Adams	son	B	Feb	1878	22	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			
	Fannie	daughter	B	Aug	1882	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			
	Peggy	daughter	B	Mar	1877	23	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			
	John	brother	B	Apr	1843	57	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	Labourer	1

# 8

## Cedars Plantation\* and Garrett Cemetery

The Cedars was a large plantation west of Belle Mina. Located along present-day Garrett Road, the plantation was owned by Peter Francisco Garret. His father, Edmond Garrett, had purchased 360 acres in the vicinity of Belle Mina in 1832 and 1835. A native of Virginia, Peter had moved to Limestone County by 1850 and built a house on this land. According to the census records, he did not own as many slaves as his nearest neighbors. He owned 19 slaves in 1850 and 34 slaves in 1860. However, the Garrett family married into the Bibb family, tying them to the largest property owners in the Belle Mina community. The Cedars Plantation house stands today. Built in 1859, it was most likely the last large plantation home built in Limestone County before the Civil War.



(Below) Excerpt of the 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census Showing Property Owned by Edmond and Peter Garrett in Limestone County  
(Above) 1938 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Garrett Cemetery

Located in a field south of Garrett Road is the Garrett Cemetery. Containing at least 94 graves, the earliest known interment is that of Sylvia Garrett (d. 1903). This African American cemetery includes local landowners and farmers Ed Edwards (Above) (1879-1960) and Henry H. Garrett (1855-1931). As well as several World War I veterans: Private James Davis (1896-1953), Private Greer Garrett (1892-1959), Private First Class and Purple Heart recipient Will Garrett (1891-1923), Private McWilliams "Mack" Grizzard (1892-1973), and Corporal Gus Hicks (1891-1966). World War II veteran Corporal Joe H. Malone (1918-1960) is also interred in this burial ground.



(Above) 1950 USGS Topographic Map of Center Star Cemetery, Decatur, Alabama Quadrangle

# 9

## Center Star Church\* and Cemetery, and Living Water School\*

The Center Star Church and Cemetery were located south of Mooresville along the edge of Piney Creek. Although the cemetery is known to date to the mid-nineteenth century, the dates of the church are less certain. The TVA surveyed the cemetery in the early 1930s, but neither the church nor the cemetery is

labeled in the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. They are called out on the 1950 topographic map. The church was apparently gone by 1975 but only the cemetery remains.

The Center Star Cemetery was one of many surveyed by the TVA in the 1930s. According to TVA notes, the cemetery contained about 1,500 burials and had been used since the time of the Civil War. However, when

Edmond Garrett	400	240	4000	405	18	8	16	20	1215	1614	16	2300	240	300	23	
Peter F. Garrett	220	400	4036	370	11	4	2	4	12	6	100	1086	3	1300	10	24
William H. Garrett	300	220	4020	275	6	2	2	4	10	80	600	1200	100		25	

(Below) Excerpt of the 1920 U.S. Census Showing Household Headed by Henry Garrett  
(Bottom) Excerpt of the 1940 U.S. Census Showing Household Headed by Ed Edwards

83	15	15	Garrett Henry	Head	1	O	F	M	B	63	W		No	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	General Farm	00	15	83
84			Henry H.	Son				M	B	25	M		No	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	Home Labor	Home Farm	00		84
85			Laura	Daughter				F	B	23	S		No	yes	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				85
86			Silva C.	Daughter				F	B	17	M		No	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				86
87			Maggie	Daughter				F	B	14	S		No	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				87
88			Lilly K.	Grand daughter				F	B	16	S		No	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				88
89			M. G. Gandy	Grand daughter				F	B	13	S		No	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				89
90			Malone Joe	Grand son				M	B	28	S					Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none				90

95	0	400	Edwards Ed	Head	1	M	W	46	M	710	2	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	30
			Mandy	Wife	1	F	W	40	M	710	2	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	31
			Akins Henry	Nephew	1	M	W	19	S	710	3	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	32
			Mary F.	Niece	1	F	W	13	S	710	6	6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	33
			Edwards Magnolia	Grand daughter	1	F	W	6	S	710	0	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	34
			Alabama	Wife	1	F	W	97	M	710	18	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	35

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

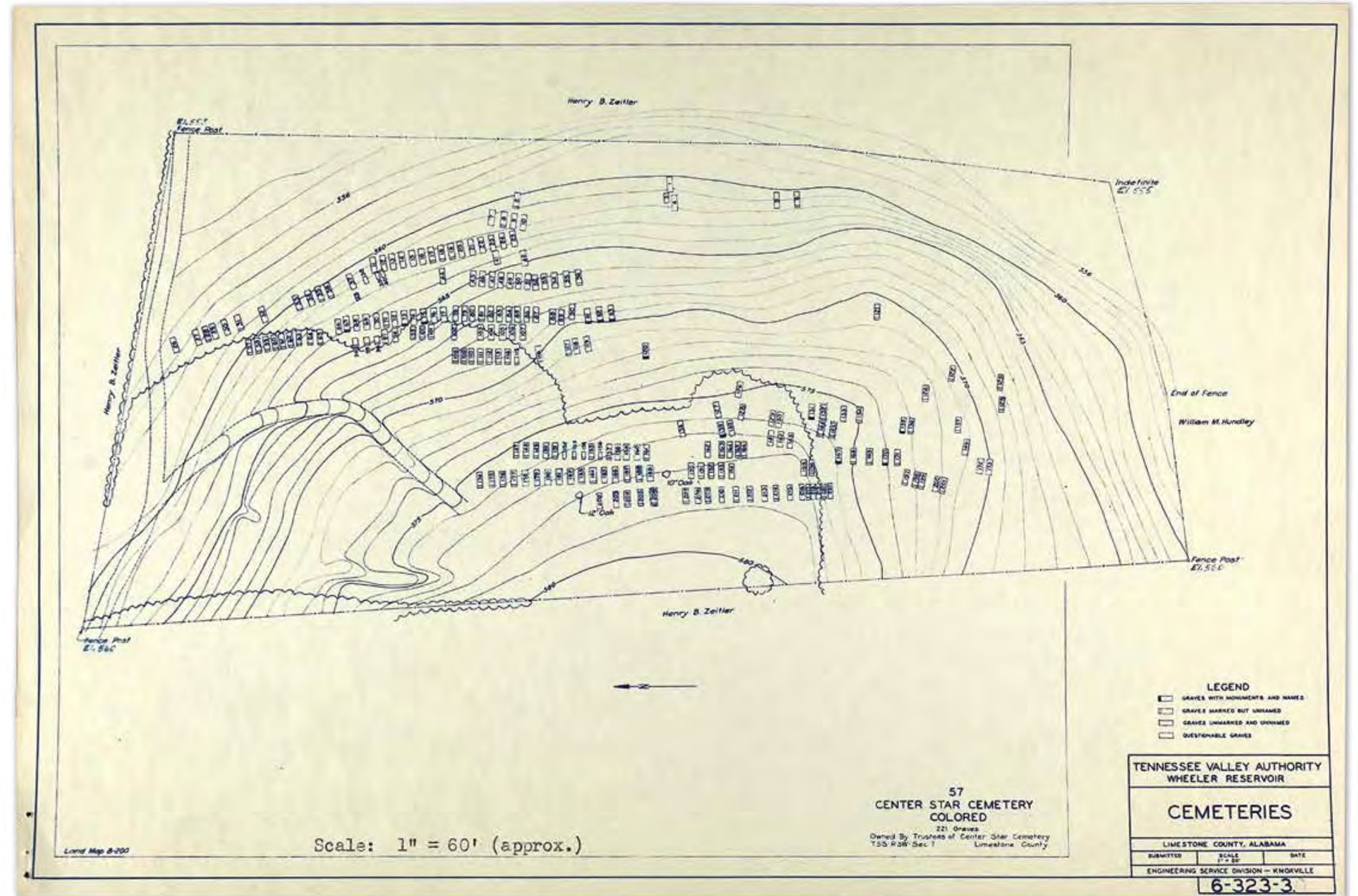
(Right) TVA Map of Center Star Cemetery (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Flies, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

the TVA mapped the site in preparation for its removal from the area, only 221 graves were mapped. It does not appear that the cemetery was relocated, although part of it may flood at times.

Of the possible 1,500-plus graves at Center Star, only about 59 have memorials at present. The earliest remaining marked burial is that of W.H. Whitehead (d. 1903). Surnames here include Evans and Pickett. William McComb (1889-1954), a local farmer who helped to organize Belle Mina School, is also buried there.

Also located nearby was the Living Water School. Known to be located south of Mooresville in the vicinity of Center Star Church and Cemetery, it is not marked on any USGS topographic maps. The school was sometimes called "the little red school on top of the hill" and its location described as along a winding road just west of the bridge that leads to Mooresville. Although it is not known when the school started, it was moved in 1924 when the government purchased the original land. The school was named for its waterfront location and known for having a spacious playground, a unique attribute for schools in the early 20th century. In 1947, there were 25 students enrolled in Living Water School and the teacher was Ms. Eulasteine Moseley. Col. James L. Walker remembers his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker, teaching at the Living Water School.

The school may appear in a 1949 aerial photograph of Mooresville. The Center Star Church and Cemetery can be seen on a tract of land jutting out into the Tennessee River floodplain. One of the nearby buildings may be the Living Water School.



(Right) TVA Notes on Center Star Cemetery (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Flies, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Name	County	Sec.	T <sup>South</sup>	R	Number Graves	Elev. of Lower Corner	Remarks
Center Star (Negro) <sup>not on map</sup>	Limestone	SW <sup>1/4</sup> SE <sup>1/4</sup>	7	5	3rd	1500± below 556	In use since C



**(Above)** Image of Class in Front of Living Water School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947)  
**(Below)** Aerial Photograph of Center Star Church and Cemetery in 1949 (University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection, Online)



## 10 Cotton Hill Plantation

Located west of Peets Corner at the intersection of Huntsville Brown Ferry Road and Cambridge Lane is the Cotton Hill Plantation house, dating to about 1824. The most notable owner of Cotton Hill was Luke Matthews (1796-1875). Matthews and his family arrived in Limestone County about 1820 and within 10 years he had purchased land in the area and owned 45 slaves. After his wife passed away, he moved to Madison County with his second wife

and settled on a plantation near Elko Switch in 1846, while retaining ownership of Cotton Hill. According to the slave schedules, Matthews owned 112 enslaved people in 1840, 45 in 1850, and 30 in 1860 in Limestone County alone.

Luke Matthews sold Cotton Hill to John B. McClellan in 1873 and the property has since passed through many owners. In 2014, the property was added to the National Register for Historic Places (#14001003).

**(Below)** Cotton Hill Plantation (National Park Service)  
**(Bottom)** Excerpt of the 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census Showing the Listing for Luke Matthews



18	Luke Matthews	225	173	6000	45	6	5	6	9	10	100	602	730	38	
19	James B. Stewart				40	3	3	2	8		70	409	630	30	
10	Luke Matthews	600	3		630	17	1	6	7	20	50	200	1660	6300	40

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 11 Cotton Hill School\*

Cotton Hill School, likely named after the nearby plantation, was also called Bright Hope School because classes were held in Bright Hope Church. According to a history of Limestone County schools completed in 1947, the Cotton Hill School was organized in 1916 by local landowner, Mr. James Evans who began raising money for children's education after his daughter, Nellie, attended Trinity School.

James Evans, his wife Rena, and their daughter Nellie lived in a single household in 1910. John H. Evans, presumably James' brother, lived next door. The brothers each owned a farm on Mooresville Road. Land records listed "Jas Evans" as the owner of a parcel in the vicinity of the school from at least 1899-1913.

To raise funds for a school building, a vegetable garden was established, and the proceeds from selling the produce were put toward building materials. A rally was also held in the community as a fundraiser. There is no evidence that the building was actually completed as classes continued to be held in the church. In 1920, the first county teacher was employed and transferred to the school. As the community grew between 1920 and 1943, so did the school and it eventually needed four teachers as well as a schoolhouse. A site was leased and, in 1947, the trustees, teachers, and children constructed the two-room building beside the church. In 1947, the teachers were Mrs. Will Alyce Townsend, Mrs. Alyce Mae Jackson, and Ms. Emma B. Witchard.



30	204 270	Evans James	Head	M	13	19	M	29	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	Gen Form	Only	No No	0 7 7 21	30
31		Rena	Wife	F	13	15	M	29	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		31
32		Hester	Daughter	F	13	19	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		32
33		Maxwell Albert	Boy	M	13	30	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer			No No		33
34	270 271	Evans John B.	Head	M	13	28	M	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farmer	Gen Form	U.S.	No No	0 7 7 21	34
35		Octavia	Wife	F	13	26	M	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		35
36		Lurey M.	Daughter	F	13	2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		36
37		Ella D.	Daughter	F	13	7	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		37
38		Malone Virginia	Daughter	F	13	10	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	None			No No		38

(Above) Excerpt of the 1910 U.S. Census Showing the Households of James and John Evans (Left) 1899 Listing for "Jas Evans" (Bottom Left) Cotton Hill School, Unknown Date (Retro Glances) (Below) Cotton Hill School, Unknown Date (Retro Glances)

Jas M Gray 1818 93  
 Jas B Floyd 94  
 " " " 95  
 " " " 96  
 " " " 97  
 Mrs Anderson 98  
 " " Joe Evans 99  
 " " " " J. B. Floyd 1900  
 " " " " " 1901  
 " " " " " 1912



## 12 Dogwood Flat School\*

According to a history of Limestone County schools, Dogwood Flat School began operating about 1920 and has been in many locations, sometimes holding classes in the Missionary Baptist church. At one point, local white landowners, Mr. George Braly and Mr. V.M. Leonard, petitioned the county for a schoolhouse. However, it is unclear whether it was ever built.

The most likely location of the Dogwood Flat School is east of Tanner, south of modern-day Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road on a road named Dogwood Flats. There was a school here in 1963 called Dogwood Flat, although this may not be the historical location. The New Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church is on this road as well, but the name or the location of the church that once hosted classes is not known.

Also, unknown are the teachers who first taught at this school when it opened. Teachers from 1920 to 1947 included Mrs. Lucy Stanley, Ms. Clara Mason, Ms. Katherine Beck, Mrs. Emma Harris, Mrs. Annie L. Maples, Mr. Wendell Fant, Ms. Louise Moseley, Mrs. Martha Fant, Mrs. Marveline Webb, and Mrs. Hattie Malone. In 1947 there were 65 students enrolled and the school was known to have "at all times participated in and cooperated with all county programs. In an equal measure it has responded to the call of Red Cross, Trinity, Farm Bureau, Cancer and War Bond drives."





(Above) Dogwood Flat School, Unknown Date (Retro Glances)

# 13

## Easter Plantation\* and Legg Cemetery

Champion Easter (1785-1856) purchased a total of 1,240 acres in land patents from the federal government between 1828 and 1848. The majority of the land was along the Elk River where he controlled the rights to the Easter Ferry. Easter had a total of 66 slaves on his plantation by 1850. The Easter homeplace is still intact, but the family cemetery was destroyed and only recently restored.

William Legg (1788-1965) owned 360 acres of land that he purchased as government patents between 1825 and 1853. The community of Legg – later Leggtown – and the road that leads to it is named for Legg and his family. His homeplace was adjacent to Champion Easter’s plantation and he and his family are buried in Legg Cemetery.

The Legg Cemetery is located near Leggtown Road near the northern extent of the Legg and Easter plantations. The large cemetery has between 900 and 1,000 graves and a fenced-off section for African American burials. Private First Class Leroy Murray is



(Right) Listings for William Legg and Champion Easter in the 1850 Nonpopulation Census  
(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Legg and Easter Plantations

227	Samuel M. Easter	80.	200	2500	50.	3.	1.	3.	4	4.	60.	490.		1500	100.	27	
228	William Legg	265	195	8000	570	12	1.	9	12	9.	15	150.	1558.	100.	2750.	150.	28
229	Champion Easter	590.	810.	15000	795	21.	19	15	20	25.	27.			1500	1000.	29	

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
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buried in the segregated section even though he passed away in 1988. PFC Murray was a World War II veteran, Tuskegee Airman, and a student at Big Creek School.

Col. James L. Walker included PFC Murray in his research of 181 African American veterans of Limestone County. Murray was born in 1913, one of six children of Mr. and Mrs. John Murray. During WWII, he was a member of the 648th Ordnance Co. at Tuskegee Army Airfield and at Ramitelli Airfield in Italy, where he loaded bombs on the Tuskegee Airmen’s planes.

# 14

## Elkmont

Elkmont is about eight and a half miles directly north of Athens. Early 20th century censuses portray it as a small district with no more than 356 households. Historically, the percentage of African American families living in the Elkmont district was very small.

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Elkmont, Elkmont, Alabama Quadrangle



Even in 2010, when the area included in Elkmont is expanded, the population was only 15% African American.

During the early 20th century, most African American families living in the Elkmont community were enumerated in the Athens district of the census. Many of the landowning farmers of color lived along Elkmont Road. The highest number of Elkmont farms owned by African Americans was 15 in 1900, representing just over 5% of all households. The number generally declined over the next 40 years even as the overall population grew. By 1940, there were only six African American-owned farms in the district, which made up less than 2% of all households.

**Elkmont School\***

Despite what appears to be a low population of African Americans in the area of Elkmont, there were enough families of color between Elkmont and north Athens to require a school. The Elkmont School for children of color was built in 1937 when members of the white community donated lumber for the building. The exact location of the school is unclear but has been described as one mile outside

of Elkmont on the west side of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad near old Fort Hampton. It was built as a junior high school with a first year enrollment of 115 students. The first teachers included Mrs. J. D. Horton, principal, Ms. Margret Matthews, Mr. Tune, and Mr. Wallace. By 1947, there were only 20 students enrolled and Mrs. Johnnie D. Horton was the teacher. Trustees included Mr. Joseph Martindale, Mr. McWilliams, and Mr. Randolph Smith.

In northwest Elkmont, just north of where the Elkmont School might have been near Smithfield Road, is Smithfield Cemetery. This site has over 200 graves and several unmarked burials. The first known interment is Martha Brown (1862-1867). Other surnames include Bell, Jackson, Malone, McWilliams, and Springer. Ms. Johnnie Dawson Horton (1898-1969), a teacher at Elmont School and Joe Martindale (1898-1993), school trustee are laid to rest here. Local farm owners buried here include Walter Martindale (1867-1939), Huston Redus (1862-1922), and R. Landrus Ford (1871-1941) and his wife, Margret Ford (1886-1983).

**(Below)** Class in Front of Elkmont School, Date Unknown (School Days, 2011)

10	Schuyler Harris	570	400	1800	270	17	8	10	30	30	120	1570	3000	200
11	Luke Pryor	570	360	1800	460	18	4	12	16	32	270	1502	2.5	3300

**(Above)** Excerpt from the 1850 Agricultural Census Showing Listings for Schuyler Harris and Luke Pryor

## 15 ■ Flower Hill Plantation

The Flower Hill Plantation is located east of Beulahland and south of Tanner. The main house, built circa 1858, still stands near present-day Bee Line Highway and is also referred to as the Harris-Pryor House or Flower Hill Farm. While the land was first owned by Henry Augustine Washington (1749-1825) – a distant relative of the first U.S. president – the house was built by Schuyler Harris (1823-1880). According to slave schedules and agricultural censuses, Harris owned about 900 acres. In 1850, he had 18 enslaved African Americans on the property, and by 1860, this number had risen to 40.

By 1910, the area was known as Harris or Harris Station. The road that runs from Beulahland to Oakland is called Harris Station Road. According to

the historical marker placed outside the home by the Limestone Historical Society, the family land holdings continued to grow “through purchases, marriages, and inheritance between the Washington, Harris, and Pryor families” resulting in a plantation of over 3,000 acres. In the decades after slavery, about 60 tenant families lived on the large plantation. The house and surrounding property are on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

## 16 ■ Gamble House Plantation

The Gamble House is located east of Tanner and adjacent to Cotton Hill. According to the historical marker placed by the Limestone County Historical Society, the building, which dates to between 1822 and 1828, is one of the oldest brick houses in the

**(Below)** Gamble House (Limestone County Historical Society)



James H Gamble	1000 730	16000 375	23	9	12	12	20	30	250	3230	6000 900	4
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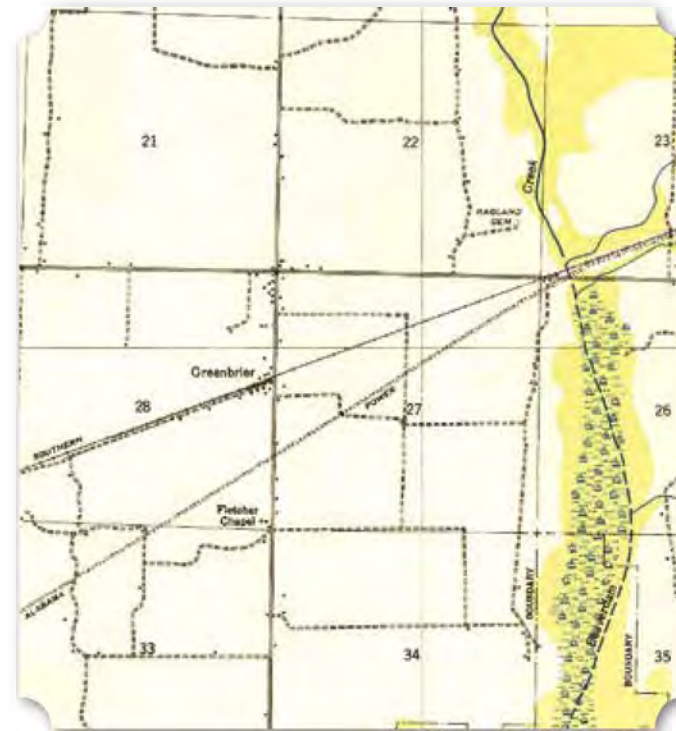
**(Above)** Excerpt from the 1850 Agricultural Census Showing the Listings for James H. Gamble

county. The land was originally owned by Joseph Johnston but is named for the Gamble family, who occupied the house by 1840. James Hurt Gamble (1791-1855) lived in Limestone County by this time and is recorded as owning 56 enslaved people. By 1850, he owned 1,450 acres and 86 slaves. James passed away in 1855, but the house and property passed to his son, Ruffin Coleman Gamble (1832-1909). The 1860 slave schedule indicates R.C. Gamble owned 49 slaves by the Civil War. The house still stands at the northeast corner of Huntsville Browns Ferry Road and Lindsay Lane.

## 17 ■ Greenbrier

Greenbrier is located in southeast Limestone County along the Madison County border. As a census district, it encompasses parts of Peets Corner (a crossroads town established about 1888), Belle Mina, and expands along the county line to the Tennessee River. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were few African American landowners in this area. In 1900, there were two African American landowners: Martha Anne Jones and Aaron Russell. By 1910, the population of the area increased and so did the number of African American landowners, but there were still only nine African American-owned farms that year. This number fell to four in 1920, when many other districts of Limestone County were experiencing high numbers. The number of farms rebounded to 10 by 1930 and reached a peak in 1940 with 37 African American-owned farms in the Greenbrier area.

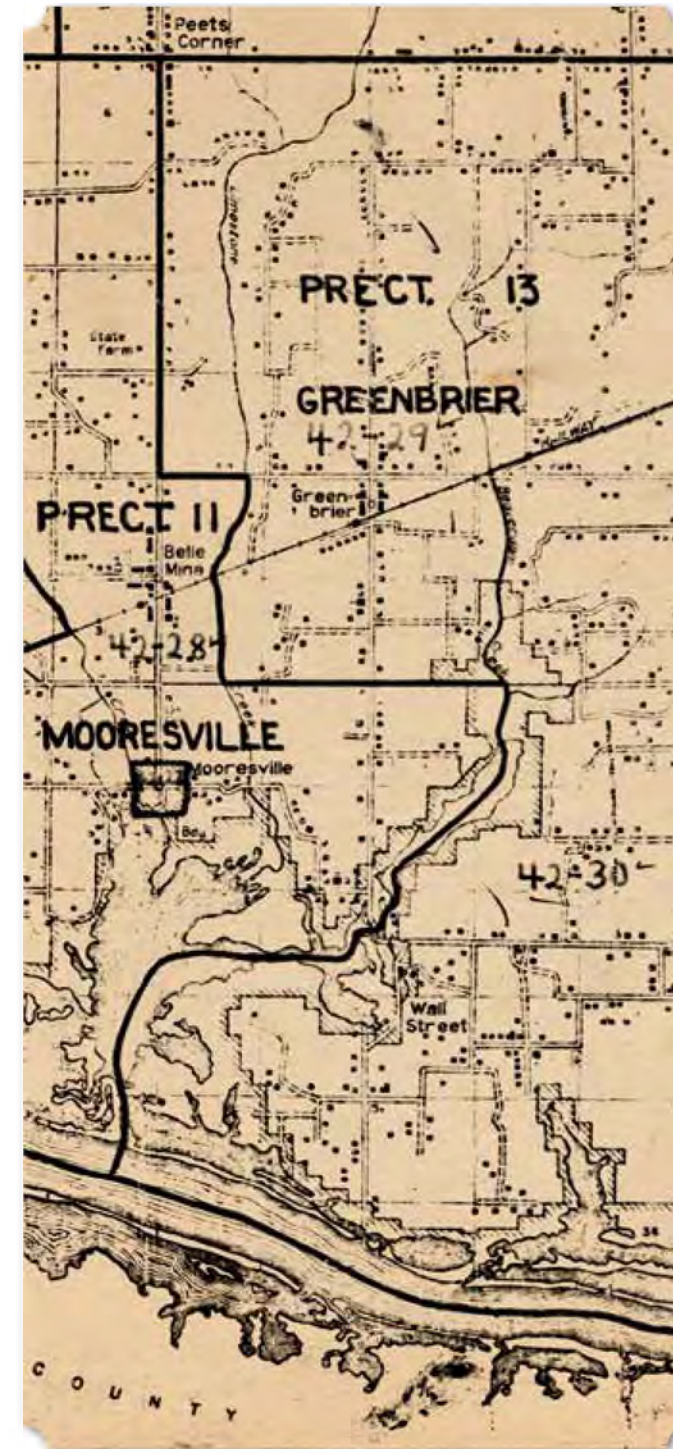
The Greenbrier district was divided into two in 1940 – the area north of the Southern Railroad and west of Beaverdam Creek and the area south of the railroad and east of the creek. The majority of African



**(Above)** Fig 64. 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Greenbrier, Greenbrier, Alabama Quadrangle (Right) Census District Map of Limestone County, 1940 (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

American farmers lived in the southeastern area along Madison County and the Tennessee River. A total of eight African American farmers owned land on the northwest side, but 29 African American-owned farms were located on the southeast side.

Few families had more than one member that owned a farm before 1940. Many African Americans did not own their farm for more than 10 years, although based on the surname and the ages of individuals, it appears that several farms were passed onto either children or widows. By 1930, half of the individuals that owned their farms were also recorded as owning



John N. Jones	400 240	15000 900	9	15	5	8	11	30	120	3570	3000 400	8
John N. Jones	1130 8	130	10	33	20	6	45	30	250	3520	5000 630	9

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
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in 1940 – the first instance of retention in the area. Interestingly, while the majority of African American-owned farms were southeast of Greenbrier in 1940, the five farms that were retained from 1930 were all on the northwest side. A total of five families owned more than one farm by 1940, including the Irvin family, who owned three farms, and the Dent, Miller, Rice and Ward families that owned two farms each.

**Druid's Grove Plantation\***

On the southwest corner of Old Highway 20 and Greenbrier Road, in the heart of Greenbrier, is Druid's Grove Plantation. This plantation was owned by Llewellen Jones (1760-1820), the same man who owned Avalon Plantation in Madison County, now on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus where Redstone Arsenal archaeologist, Ben Hoksbergen, has conducted archaeological investigations with students. Druid's Grove Plantation effectively established the community of Greenbrier by 1820. Unfortunately, Llewellen Jones' fortunes fell short in 1819 and he committed suicide at the age of 60.

While Jones' son, Alexander, inherited Avalon Plantation, another son, John Nelson Spotswood Jones (1792-1854), inherited Druid's Grove Plantation. John N. S. Jones and his large family moved into the house at Druid's Grove. By 1830, Jones, his wife, and nine children lived in the house and he had 73 slaves on the property. By the time of his death, Jones owned at least 1,980 acres in Greenbrier and 115 slaves at Druid's Grove. The house no longer stands after it burned in a fire in the 1930s. Many of the Jones family are buried in the Jones-Donnell Family Cemetery on the old plantation property.

**Greenbrier School\***

Greenbrier School was located in southeast Limestone County near the Southern Railroad at the intersection of present-day Old Highway 20 and Greenbrier Road.

**(Below)** 1850 Non-Population, Agricultural Census Showing John N. S. Jones (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

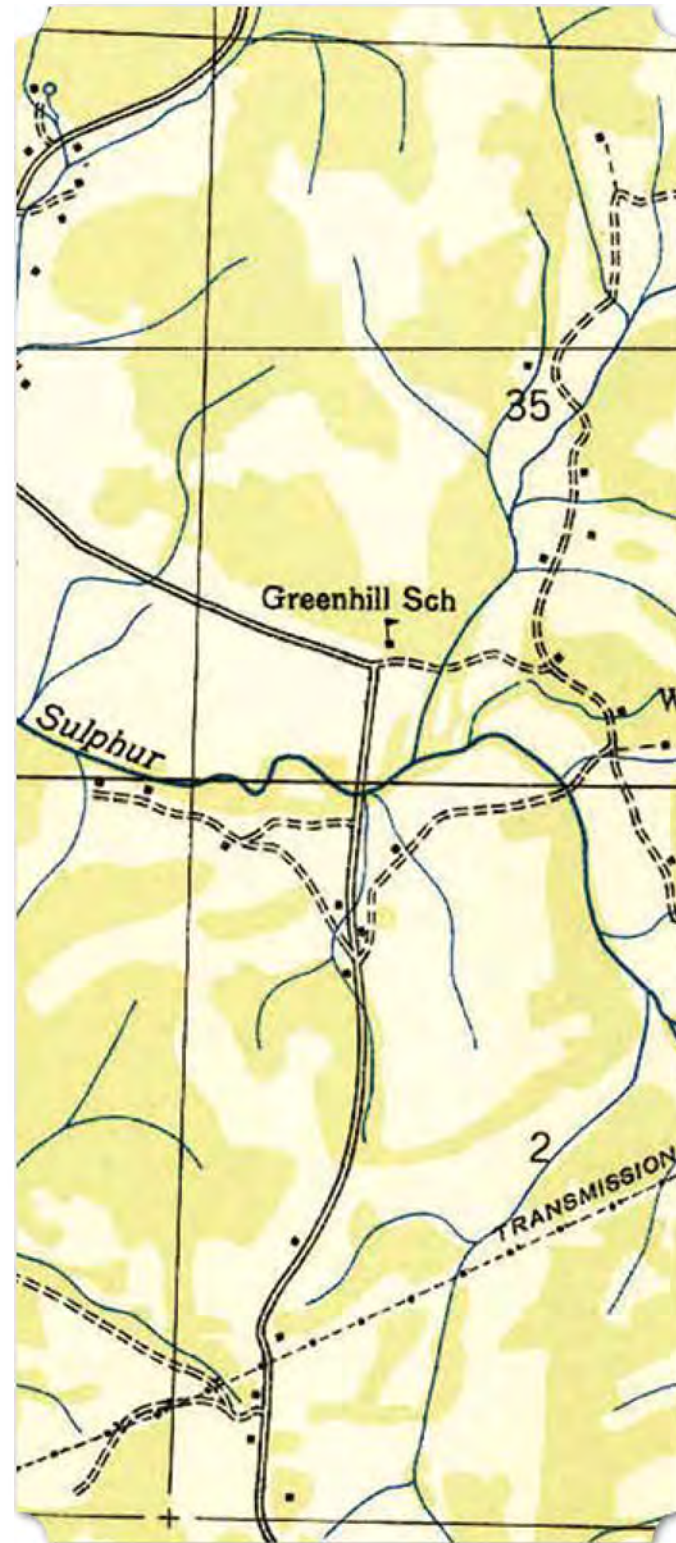


The school started in 1896 at the Methodist Church with only one teacher. The community is known to have been very poor and the salaries of the teachers were supplemented by help from the community and each other.

At first classes were only offered for two months and were increased to three and then five months as enrollment grew. Eventually another teacher was added. In 1947, the teachers were Ms. E. B. Mason, principal, Ms. A. Porter, and Mrs. L. Grigsby. Trustees were Rev. W. E. Owens, Mrs. R. Houston, Mr. E. Betts, Mr. W. P. Fletcher, and Mr. C. Parham.

## 18 ■ Greenhill School

Greenhill School was started in the community called Vaughn's Hollow, southwest of Elkmont and east of a bend in the Elk River, in 1910. Classes were initially taught in a church until the number of students called for more space and a two-room schoolhouse was built. The first classes in this building included 60 to 65 students and two teachers. Teachers included Mrs. Clara Raines and Mrs. Margaret Malone Smith. Trustees included Mr. Bruce Townsend, Mr. Felix Jones, and Mr. Buster Horton. Mrs. Dora Horton was the PTA president in 1947.



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Greenhill School (Left) Image of Class in Front of Greenhill School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances)

The school building is one of the few early 20th century schools for children of color that still stands. Today it is a private residence.

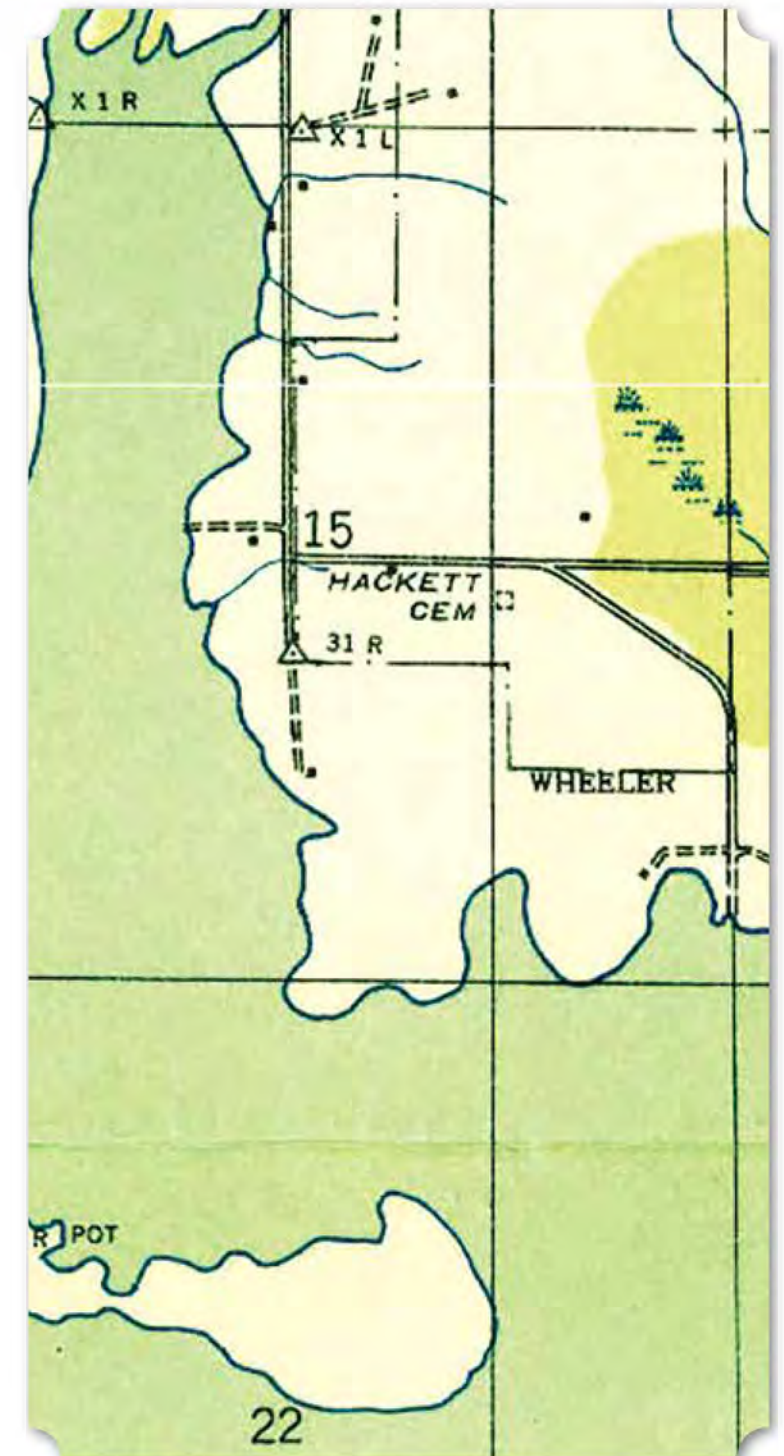
## 19 ■ Hatchett and Malone Cemeteries

The Hatchett Cemetery, sometimes incorrectly marked on maps as "Hackett" Cemetery, is located along Goode Road where it meets Hatchett Ridge Road west of Beulahland. This African American cemetery has at least 168 graves and, according to the sign at the entrance, was established in 1930. Oddly enough, there are no known members of the Hatchett family buried here. The earliest known interment is that of Mattie Stokes (1886-1924).

The Hatchett Cemetery contains 25 members of the Malone family and 11 members of the Townsend family. It is also the final resting place for several members of Col. Walker's family, including: his mother, Mrs. Lizzie M. Walker (190-1981), his grandmother, Ida Walker (1878-1959), his grandfather and one of the earliest interments, Matt Walker (1873-1930), and his uncle, William P. Walker (1915-1935).

The Malone Cemetery is northeast of the Hatchett Cemetery and southwest of the intersection of Lindsay and Settle roads. Also known as Sowell Cemetery, this burial ground contains 35 graves, seven of which are Malones. Other surnames include Bass, Gray, and Steele. The earliest known burial is that of Malissa Elizabeth Malone (1845-1914). Her husband Jessie is also buried here. According to his headstone, Jessie Malone (1842-1925) was in the 2nd Regiment Iowa Infantry, Company H during the Civil War.

(Right) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hatchett (Hackett) Cemetery, Stewart Cross Roads, Alabama Quadrangle





20

## Johnson Chapel\* and Cemetery

Located north of Tanner along Bee Line Highway (US 31), there was a church called Johnson Chapel. Now, all that remains is the adjacent cemetery. Johnson Chapel was labeled on the 1935 USGS/TVA topographic map, but while it lent its name to the cemetery, the chapel was gone by 1958.

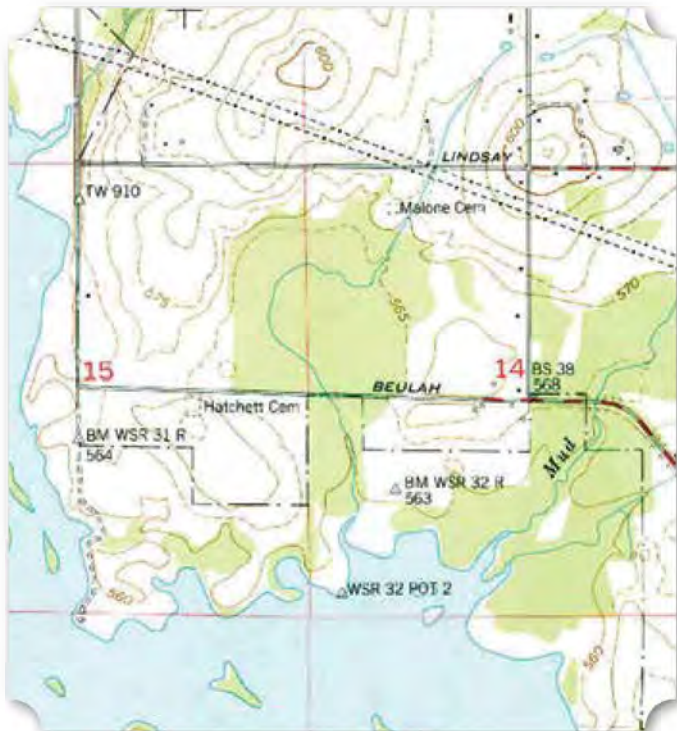
The African American cemetery has at least 57 burials. The earliest is Hattie Brown Cosby (1921-1954). There

are probably unmarked graves associated with the church that date to the 1930s or earlier. Common surnames here are Hines, Malone, and Townsend. The cemetery population includes local landowners and farmers Hartle Cain, Jr. (1901-1965) and his brother, Homer Cain (1904-1957). Their father, Hartle Cain (b. 1873), owned a farm in 1920 when the brothers were growing up. Their neighbors were also Cain men who were about the same age as Cain, Sr. and possibly his brothers. By 1940, Homer, too, owned a farm, perhaps inherited from his father.

(Below) 1935 USGS Topographic Map Showing Johnson Chapel



(Left) 1950 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hatchett and Malone (Sowell) Cemeteries, Jones Crossroads, Alabama Quadrangle (Bottom Left) 1976 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Hatchett and Malone Cemeteries, Jones Crossroads, Alabama Quadrangle



WAR DEPARTMENT  
O. Q. M. G. FORM NO. 623  
Approved Aug. 12, 1913  
Revised July 15, 1929

**ORIGINAL** *dev.* 58989

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE  
(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

Name	Rank	Company	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Signal	Date of Death
Jessie Malone	Capt	2nd Regt Ala Inf	2nd Regt Ala Inf	8-14-25
Jessie Malone	2nd Lt	2nd Regt Ala Inf		

Name of Cemetery	Located near—	If World War Veteran—		
Malone Grave yard	Athena R#3 Ala	Division	State	Emblem
			Ala	Christian Hebrew None

TO BE SHIPPED TO: Frank Malone, at R#3 Athens, Ala.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: R#3 Athens, Ala. Box 171

SEP 9 1931

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Verified: COLUMBUS, MISS. FEB 26 1931

From: Box 171

Shipped: 4-27-31

Address: R#3 Athens, Ala

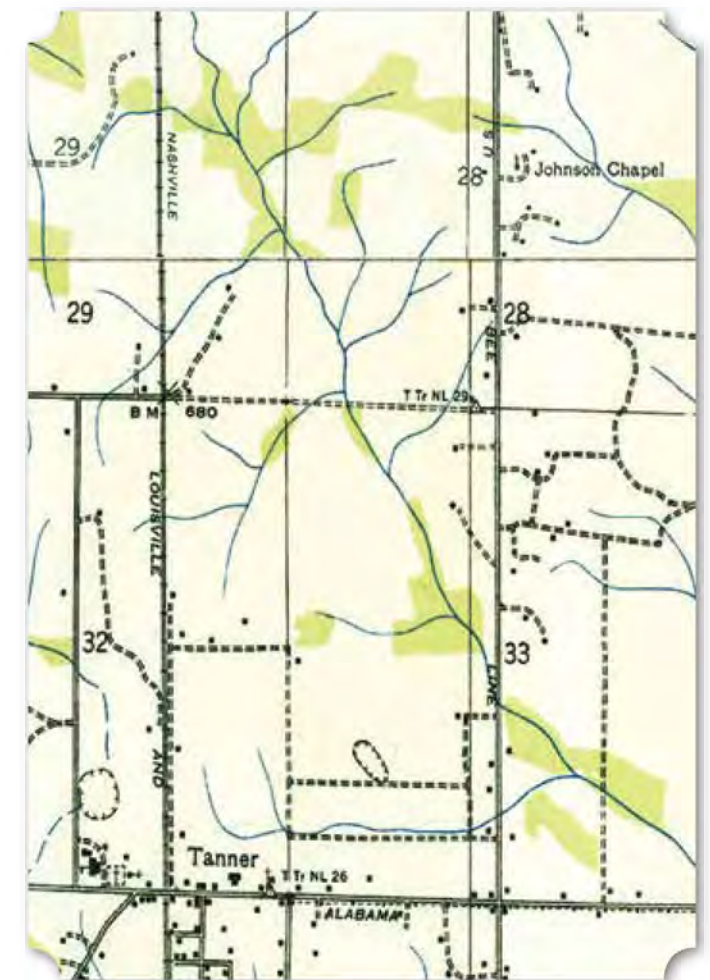
Date: 8-29-30

Applicant: Frank Malone

3-9634

250723

(Above) Application for a Military Headstone for Jessie Malone, 1931 (U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1910 Federal Census Showing Jessie and Malissa Malone (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



34	26 27	Malone Jess	Wife	M R 70	Ala	Mississippi	W	W	English	Farmer	General Pa	M R	0 R R 26	34
35		Malissa	Wife	M R 72	Ala	Mississippi	W	W	English	None		M R		35
36		Robert	Son	M R 22	Ala	Mississippi	W	W	English	None		M R		36
37		Hannah	Son	M R 18	Ala	Mississippi	W	W	English	None		M R		37

KEY

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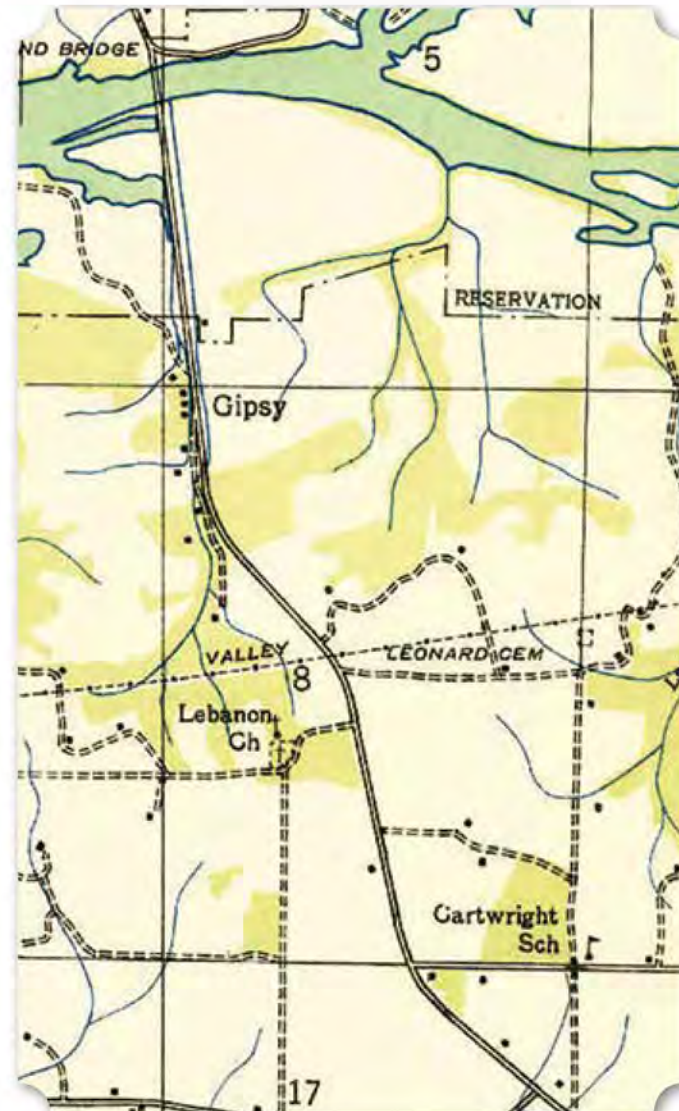
73	107	112	Corn James																	
74	✓		Bertha	wife	4	13	28	W		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	74
75	✓		Jym	son	m	13	10	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	75
76	✓	104	Corn Hardell	Head	4	13	47	M		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	76
77	✓		Eva	daughter	7	13	25	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	77
78	✓		Harrel	son	m	13	16	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	78
79	✓		Beatrice	daughter	7	13	10	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	79
80	✓		Thomas	son	m	13	13	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	80
81	✓		Alven	son	m	13	6	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	81
82	✓		Marybeth	daughter	7	13	3	S		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	82
83	✓		Lally	daughter	7	13	3	S		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	83
84	✓		Etha	daughter	7	13	16	S		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	84
85	✓	107	Corn James	Head	4	13	40	M		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	85
86	✓		Charlotte	wife	7	13	38	W		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	86
87	✓		Mullie	son	m	13	6	S		info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	info	87
88	✓		Sammie	son	m	13	1	S		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	88

(Above) Excerpt from the 1920 Federal Census Showing Hartle Cain and His Neighbors (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Enlistment Papers for Abraham Grisby, 1863 (Far Right) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Lebanon Church

## 21 Lebanon Community Methodist Church and Old Lebanon Cemetery

The Lebanon Community Methodist Church and Old Lebanon Cemetery are located along Lebanon Road between the community of Persimmon Grove and the Elk River. The small one-room church is adjacent to the large Lebanon Community Church Cemetery and a smaller African American cemetery. The Lebanon Cemetery dates to at least 1832, meaning there has probably been a church here since that time. Although the oldest known grave in the African American cemetery is Sammie Phelps (1889-1911), the burial ground is referred to as Old Lebanon and has many unmarked graves, which indicate it may be much older.

There are only six marked graves at the Old Lebanon Cemetery and several of them are members of the Grisby family. Abraham Grisby (b. 1842) was a soldier



Y | 12 | U.S.C.T.  
 Abraham Grisby  
 Co. B., 12 Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on  
 Company Descriptive Book  
 of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.  
 Age 21 years; height 5 feet 4 inches.  
 Complexion Dark  
 Eyes Dark; hair Dark  
 Where born Limestone, Alabama  
 Occupation Servant

ENLISTMENT.  
 When July 31, 1863.  
 Where Elk River, Tenn.  
 By whom S. H. Jewell, term 3 y'rs.

Remarks:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(383e) J. A. Storris  
 Copied.

in the 12th USCT Co. B during the Civil War. According to his enlistment papers, he was born in Little Elk, Alabama. His daughter, Anna Laura Grisby Phelps (b. 1868) is buried here alongside her husband Robert Phelps (1865-1923), and their son, Sammie. The other two marked graves belong to Comodor Horton (1890-1918) and Mary Yarbrough Horton (1874-1927).

## 22 Leslie Cemetery

The Leslie Cemetery is northeast of Athens along Old U.S. 31 near Hall Road. About 45 marked and several unmarked graves are located here. Besides the Leslie family, common surnames include Beddingfield, Coleman, Fletcher, Turner, and Wiggins.

Among those buried at the Leslie Cemetery are several African American farm owners, including Robert Bolden Leslie (1860-1912), his first wife, Eliza Cain Leslie (1858-1903), and second wife, Sallie Leslie (1876-1959). Robert and his family owned a farm in the area from at least 1900 to 1910. Four of the Leslie children are also buried here: Ulysses S. Leslie (1886-1955), Robert Shelby Leslie (1888-1958), Jesse L. Leslie (1893-1943), and Wilson Eldridge Leslie (1907-2004). Dick C. Mahaley (1875-1921) and his wife Sara

124 117	Mahaley Dick	Head	B. M. Mar. 1851 42 M 21	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	B. Almer	0	ye no ye	D. F. F. 119
	Sarah	Wife	B. F. May 1841 39 M 21 11 7	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no no ye	
	Bertie	Daughter	B. F. Dec. 1880 19 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Kentucky			0 ye no ye	
	Bruce	Son	B. M. May 1897 13 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama			0 ye no ye	
	Ethel	Daughter	B. F. Dec. 1890 9 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama			0 ye no ye	
	Spaci	Daughter	B. F. June 1894 5 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama				
	Andy R.	Son	B. M. Dec. 1895 4 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama				
	Namor	Son	B. M. Aug. 1899 1 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama				
	Emma J.	Daughter	B. F. July 1892 16 S	Alabama	Kentucky	Alabama				
125 123	Leslie Robert	Head	B. M. Feb. 1848 48 M 17	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Earmen	0	ye ye ye	D. F. F. 118
	Lida	Wife	B. F. May 1854 42 M 17 4 9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			no no ye	
	Earlie	Son	B. M. Feb. 1894 14 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Earm Sabarar	3	3 ye no ye	
	Robert	Son	B. M. May 1897 13 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Earm Sabarar	3	3 ye no ye	
	Emma E.	Daughter	B. F. Apr. 1899 11 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Earm Sabarar	3	3 ye no ye	
	Mattie F.	Daughter	B. F. May 1891 9 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				
	Jessie S.	Son	B. M. May 1893 7 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			0	
	Watta	Son	B. M. July 1894 5 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				
	Wood Sallie B.	St. Daugh.	B. F. June 1898 19 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				
126 126	Leslie Robert	Son	B. M. Feb. 1870 30 M 17	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Earm Sabarar	0	ye ye ye	

238 261	Penn Marcus	Head	m B 30 m 24	Alabama	Unknown	Unknown	English	Hammer	60	no no	6 F 3 128
	Winnie	Wife	m B 45 m 34 12 ?	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English			no no	
	Hattie Bell	Daughter	m B 17 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English			ye ye ye	
	Royden	Son	m B 13 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English			ye ye ye	
	Winnie	Daughter	m B 13 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English			ye ye ye	
	Bob	Son	m B 8 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					
	Flarence	Daughter	m B 2 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					
	Eddie	Son	m B 21 S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama					



(Top) Excerpt from the 1900 Federal Census Showing the Dick Mahaley and Robert Leslie Households (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) Excerpt from the 1910 Federal Census Showing Marcus Penn's Household (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Cain Mahaley (1874-1924), sister of Eliza Cain Leslie, owned a farm next door to Robert Leslie in 1900.

Hattie Bell Penn Fletcher (1892-1964) is buried at the Leslie Cemetery. Her father, Marcus Penn, owned a farm on Nick Davis Road in 1910 that he may have given to Hattie and her husband, Thornton Fletcher (1887-1937).

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 23 Little Elk

The community of Little Elk is located at the confluence of the Tennessee and Elk rivers in southwest Limestone County. During the early 20th century Little Elk was enumerated in the census

district known as Georgia, along with the communities of Coxe, Ripley, and parts of Oakland. Between 1900 and 1940, the population of Georgia increased from 298 to 408 households. But this population increase does not appear to be due to an increase in African American households. The peak number of African American-owned farms in the area was 21 (7%), in 1900. Through the following three decades the number of African American landowners continued to decline until by 1930, they made up only 2.2% of all Georgia households. Possibly due to the efforts of the TVA and the many changes to the area, the number of African American farming landowners rebounded in 1940. That year there were 15 farms (3.6%) owned by African Americans.

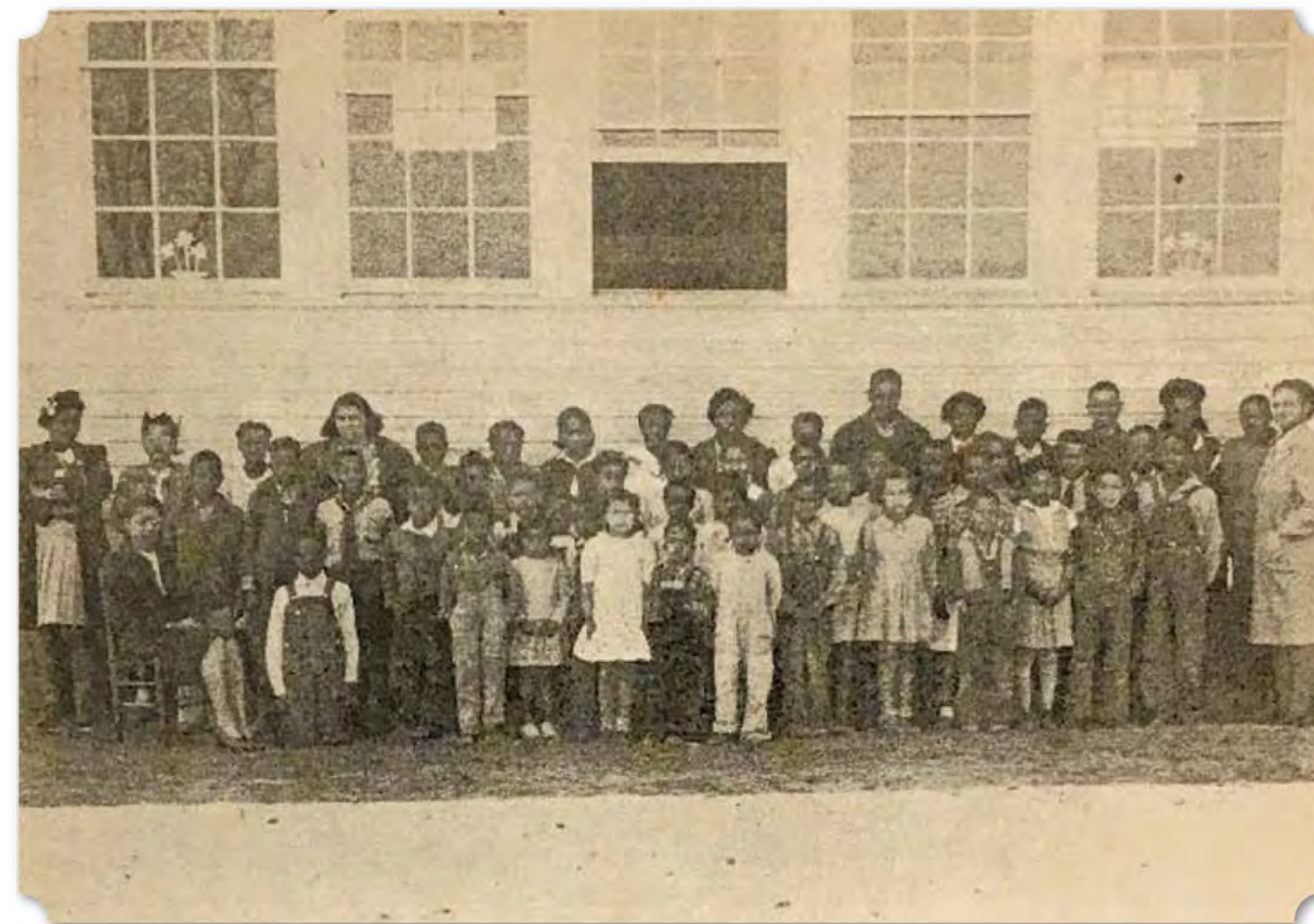
Of the 21 farms owned by African Americans in 1900, four families had two or more members who owned farms. Most of these families were a parent and one or more children or siblings. Surrey and Harriett Farrar appear to have been brother and sister, Ed and Dublin Coleman might have been father and son, as were Mack and Richard Binford, while Mallissa Allen was the mother of James S. and Sherman Allen – all African American farm owners. Other landowners in the area include Hence and Governor Yarbrough, great grandparents of Col. James L. Walker. By 1920, the Farrar family is the only one in the area that owned multiple farms. Farrar family members owned five farms that year.

**(Below)** 1950/1952 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Little Elk Community, Cairo and Rogersville, Alabama Quadrangles



**Little Elk Church and School\***

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the community of Little Elk was centered around the



**(Above)** Image of Class in Front of Little Elk School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947)

church and school. The Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church had its beginnings either before or just at the end of the Civil War. The Little Elk School began in 1865 and classes were held in the church. Although the church and associated cemetery did not appear on topographic maps until 1950, their location was labeled as the Little Elk School in 1936.

The Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery adjacent to the church contains about 120 graves. The oldest of the burials was Unity Smith (1899-1936). Common surnames are Yarbrough (24 family members), Smith (17), and Freeman (11).

Among the early 20th-century African American landowners in the Little Elk community were Jordan

Townsend (1865-1960) and his wife, Beulah, who owned a farm in 1930. Joe Weaver, Sr. (1883-1976) and his son, Joe, Jr., who lived next door, owned a farm by 1940. Two of Joe, Sr.'s wives, Mattie Yarbrough Weaver (1886-1940) and Mary Etta Trotter Weaver (1880-1963), are buried with him in the Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. Mattie Weaver's brother, Huston Yarbrough (1892-1982) also owned a farm in the area in 1930 and is buried here as well.

Because the Little Elk School held classes in the church on a bluff overlooking the river, it was at times referred to as Church Hill School. In 1939, either a separate two-room frame building was built for use as a school or two additional rooms were added to an existing building. In 1947, Mrs. Louise Lockhart and Mrs. Minnie B. Yarbrough were the teachers.

322253	Jordan	Head	0	32	M	25	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	Farmer	General Farm	VVVV	0	yes	no	1930
	Bulah	Wife-H			F	24	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None						1930
	Scott Perry	Step son			M	33	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	Farmer	General Farm	VVVV	0	yes	no	1930
	Yarborough	Sister			F	53	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None						1930

83	32	31	31	Yarborough/Houston	Head	0	44	M	30	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	Farmer	General Farm	VVVV	0	yes	no	1930	
84				—	Wife-H			F	36	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
85				—	son			M	18	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
86				—	daughter			F	16	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
87				—	son			M	15	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
88				—	daughter			F	11	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
89				—	daughter			F	9	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
90				—	daughter			F	7	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930
91				—	son			M	6	no	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	yes	None							1930

6	117	0	2	Yea	Weaver Joe Jr	Head	X	M	reg 25	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere					40	Farmer	Farm	Da	VV	12	30	yes	75	6	
7					—	Wife		F	reg 25	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere															7
8					—	daughter		F	reg 9	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere															8
9					—	daughter		F	reg 7	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere															9
10					—	son		M	reg 5	no	yes																	10
11					—	daughter		F	reg 3	no	yes																	11
12					—	son		M	reg 1	no	yes																	12
13	118	0	3	Yea	Weaver Joe Sr	Head	X	M	reg 56	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere					40	Farmer	Farm	Da		12	Yes	76	13		
14					—	Wife		F	reg 17	no	yes	Alabama	Somewhere															14

(Top) 1930 Federal Census Showing Jordan Townsend (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Middle) 1930 Federal Census Showing Houston Yarborough (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1940 Federal Census Showing Joe Weaver (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



(Left) 1935/1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Little Zion Church, Athens and Ripley, Alabama Quadrangles

was established in 1917 when members met at the home of Deacon John and Mother Emma Roberts, who owned a farm on Athens-Browns Ferry Road. The community raised \$50 to purchase an acre of land from Dr. B.S. Kennedy.

The Little Zion School was organized by a few members of the community in 1918. At first, classes met in the church. The building was destroyed by fire in 1927 and classes were temporarily moved to a garage on the Malone Place until a new church and school could be built. The 1930 census showed that Peter and Dan Malone owned farms near Lucas Ferry Road and could possibly have hosted the school.

## 24 Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church and School\*

Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church is located southwest of Athens on the east side of Lucas Ferry Road. According to the church's website, Little Zion

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

1	105117	Yarbrough John	Head	0	M	18	30	M	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
2		Emma	Wife		F	13	19	M	No	No	Alabama	United States	United States	United States	United States	United States
3		Lizzie Mae Walker	Head		M	13	17	S	No	No	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama



**(Top)** Image of Class in Front of Little Zion School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947)  
**(Above)** 1920 Federal Census Showing John and Emma Roberts (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

In 1919, the teacher was Mrs. Marcella Townsend, who stayed for three school sessions. Her successor, Mrs. B.F. Hill, taught for 12 years. Teachers who served the community between 1944 and 1947 were Mrs. C. Witchard, Mrs. Clara Twitty Raines, Ms. Clara Mason, and Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker. Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker was the mother of Col. James L. Walker, and who attended Little Zion School at the time that his mother taught there. In 1919, he spoke about his memories of the school.

In the mid-20th century, the school held grades one through six in one room. Mrs. Lizzie Mae Walker divided the room by grades and rotated her attention. Col. Walker describes how Mrs. Walker taught spelling to the first graders, then moved to the second graders who learned science. She continued on to teach math to the third grade, followed by English for fourth

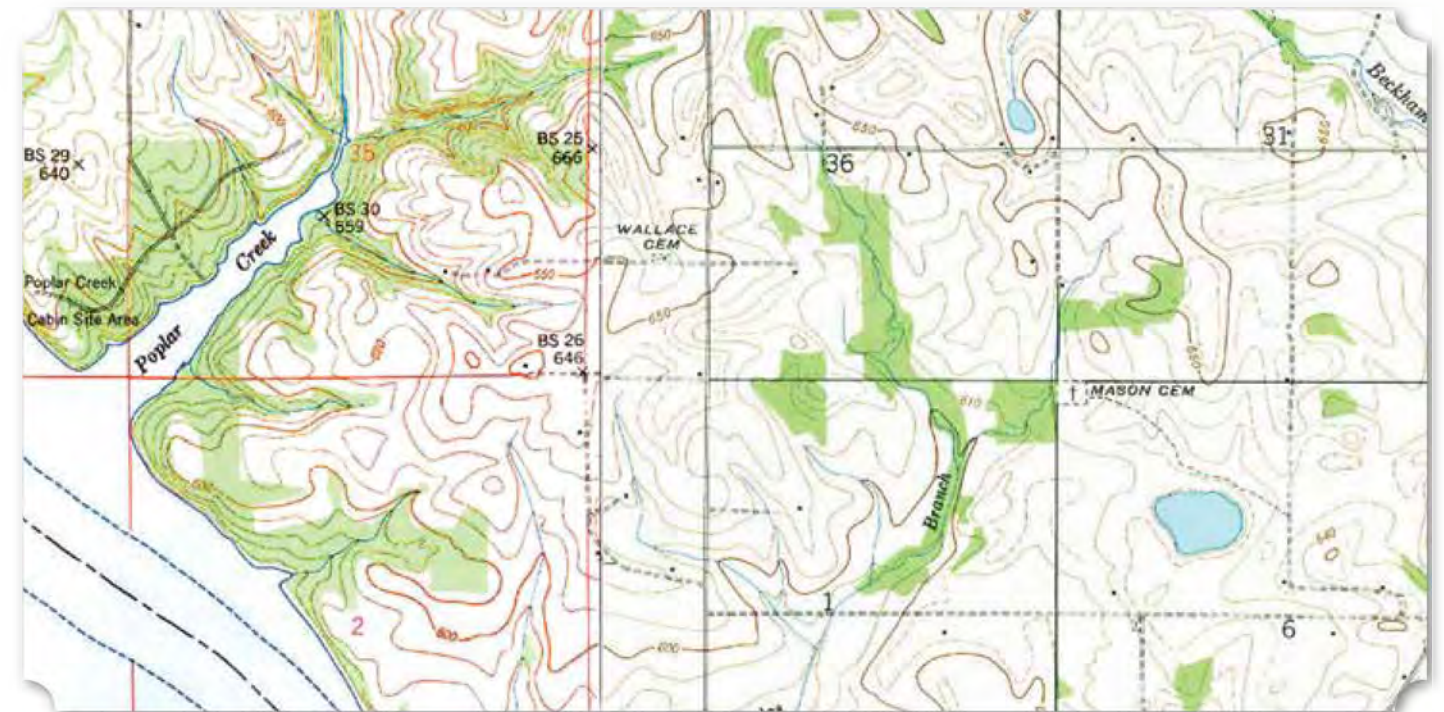
graders, before moving on to a history lesson for fifth graders and reading for sixth graders. Mrs. Walker was also tasked with teaching the girls and boys hygiene, including how to groom and style their hair. Often, she cut the boys' hair herself.

Teachers of color were considered the best role models for their students. Mrs. Walker believed in dressing well to set an example of a respectable citizen. She passed this practice onto her son, Col. Walker. In the photograph of a class in front of Little Zion School, Mrs. Walker is second from the right.

## 25 ■ Mason Cemetery

The Mason Cemetery is located off Mack Road in southeast Limestone County and near an area known as Poplar Creek. Situated among farm fields, the small family cemetery contains 29 burials. Family names include Hicks, Malone, Mason, Swopes, and Yarbrough. Among the Yarbroughs are Hence Yarbrough (1850-1934) and his wife, Governor Mason Yarbrough (1857-1914), the grandparents of Lizzie Mae Walker and the great grandparents of Col. James L. Walker. Also, three of Hence and Governor's children: Lillie Yarbrough Turner (1881-1957), Clarence Yarbrough (1890-1975) along with his wife, Nina (1892-1977), and Eliza Yarbrough Malone (1894-1991).

**(Below)** 1948 Topographic Map of the Mason Cemetery







While the Town of Mooresville has had a majority white population historically, as a census district, Mooresville included communities such as Belle Mina, which were mostly African American. Between 1900 and 1940, the Mooresville census district contained about 350 to 430 households. In 1900 and 1910, there were only between five and seven African American landowners in the Mooresville area, or only one or two percent of the total population. In the following decades, there were four times as many landowning African American farmers: 20 in 1920 and 21 in 1930, which represented five percent of the population. The peak number of African American farm owner/operators in Mooresville was 28, or eight percent of all households, in 1940.

Although the Mooresville census district included the Town of Belle Mina, which had a large population of African American farmers and landowners, few were included the district. It may be that some of the African American landowners were in the adjacent districts of Greenbrier and Quid Nunc-Tanner. Some of the farmers of color who owned farms in the Mooresville area included John Page, Gilliam Thatch, Anthony Hayes, and Robert Pryor, who owned farms between about 1900 and 1940. Several families were able to pass down land from father to son or husband to widow. Few women owned land in this area at the time, but if they did, they were most likely widows. The Harris, Thompson, Hobbs, Jefferson, and Anderson families were African American farm owners in this area.

(First) 1900 Federal Census Showing John Page and Anthony Hayes (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Second) 1900 Federal Census Showing the Yarbrough Family (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Third) 1910 Federal Census Showing Gilliam Thatch (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Fourth) 1930 Federal Census Showing Robert Pryor (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)



# 27

## Moses Chapel and Moses Temple School\*

Originally referred to as Moses Chapel, as seen on the 1935 USGS topographic map, the church is located northeast of the intersection of Looney Road and Lindsay Lane with Compton Road. A church building remains there today and is known as the Moses Temple Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

The church also hosted the Moses Temple School for children of color from 1939 to the late 1960s. The first teacher was Ms. Clara Mason. Other teachers

81	88213 88772	Hayes Anthony	Wife	10 M	1839	60 M	20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	3 acres	70	70	70	0 M F 133	81		
82		Nellie	Wife	10 F	1848	52 M	20	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labor	70	70	70		82		
83		Malone Sillie	Wife	10 F	see	1881	18 M	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labor	0	40	40	40	83	
84		Aron	Son	10 M	Feb	1876	24 M	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labor	70	70	70		84	
85		Abdelia	Wife	10 F	Aug	1899	21	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama						85		
86		Ally Flora	Sister	10 F		1854	45 W	7	Alabama			Farm labor	70	70	70		86	
52	276236 276232	Page John	Wife	10 M	Oct	1869	30 M	11	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	5 acres	5	40	40	40	0 F F 162	52
53		Sellie	Wife	10 F	Mar	1874	26 M	11	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farm labor	6	40	40	40		53
54	276339	Agnie	Wife	10 F	May	1827	73 W	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	1.10 A	0.04	70	70	40		54
56	165177	Thatch Hillman	Head	14 M	13	58 M	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm	Home Farm	4 MP	40	40	0 F F 226	56
57		Mary A	Wife	14 F	13	32 M	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm labor	Home Farm	20	40	40		57
58		Brooks A	Daughter	14 F	13	10 S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm labor	Home Farm	40	40	40		58
59		Willie B	Son	14 M	13	7 S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None							59
60		John H	Son	14 M	13	6 S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	None							60
61		Edmund	Hired man	14 M	13	18 S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	English	Farm labor	Home Farm	40	40	40		61
24	7692	Boy of Robert	Head	0	40	70	60	70	24	70	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	70	70	70	24
25		Maria	Wife	0	40	70	54	70	17	70	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	70	70	70	25
26		Robert Lizzie	Wife	0	40	70	53	70	20	70	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	70	70	70	26
27		Edwin Fleming	Wife	0	40	70	25	70	70	70	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	70	70	70	27



(Left) 1935 USGS Topographic Map Showing Moses Chapel  
(Below) Historic Photograph of Students and Teachers of the Moses Temple School



included Mrs. Shinault, Mrs. Pearl Johnson, and Mrs. Irene Collier. Mrs. Ruth Redus was the teacher in 1945, but the school closed that year due to low enrollment. It reopened the next year because the nearest alternative, the St. John School, was too far for many of the children to walk. When Moses Temple School reopened, Mrs. Nanie E. Horton was the teacher.

## 28 ■ Mt. Pleasant School\*

Mt. Pleasant School was located along Old Highway 20 east of Greenbrier and near the Madison County line. Although it is unclear when the school began, Mr. James Shipley was reportedly a teacher there in 1881. By the late 1940s, the land with the schoolhouse was bought and the building was torn down. The school was never rebuilt. Rev. A.M. Donaldson, who owned a two-room house on his farm, allowed the community to use his home as a school for a time. Ms. Ida L. McDonald taught at Rev. Donaldson's house.

(Below) 1935 USGS Topographic Map Showing Moses Chapel



## 29 ■ Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church and School\*

The Mt. Zion Church is located on Pryor Road southeast of Mooresville. The church dates to the early 20th century and appears on the 1936 topographic map. The church is associated with Mt. Zion School and Thatch Cemetery. The Mt. Zion School was established in the early 1920s, although its original location is not known. In 1935 it was moved to another unknown location, where classes were held in a run-down building. At this time, the school had two teachers and attendance was poor. By 1947, the school was moved again to the brick church on Pryor Road – Mt. Zion Church. The school was well supplied with "ample light, good blackboards, a good heating system," and had a moderately equipped playground. Ms. Irene Sandifer was the teacher.

The Pryor-Thatch Cemetery, or simply Thatch Cemetery, lies across the road from the church. The sign at the cemetery indicates that it was established

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Mt. Zion Church



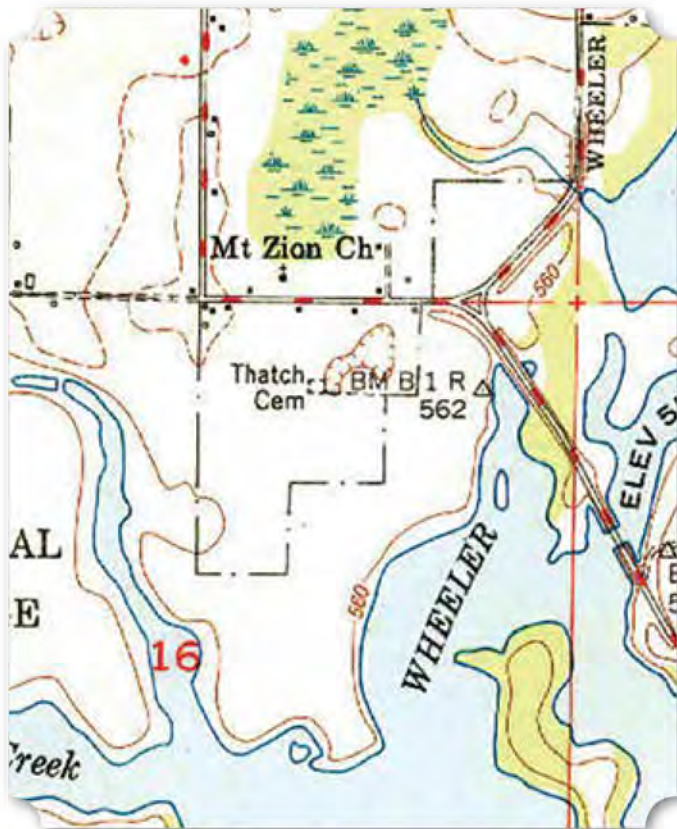
### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

in 1985 and, of the 22 known burials there, none are more than 30 years old. However, the cemetery appeared on a map by 1951, indicating it was in use earlier.



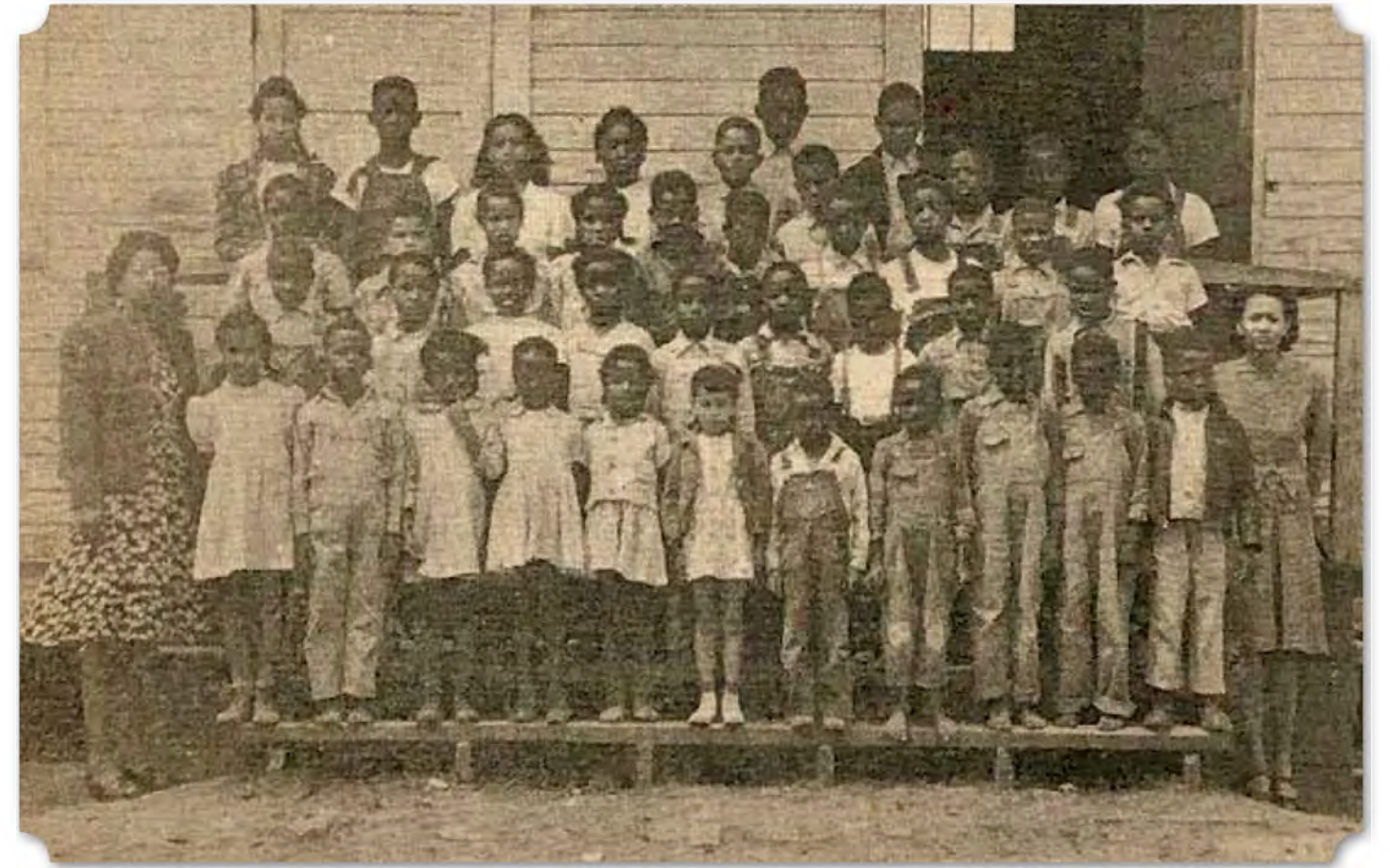
(Above) Students and Teachers of the Mt. Zion School (Below) 1951 USGS Topographic Map Showing Mt. Zion Church and Thatch Cemetery



## 30 Nelson School\*

Nelson School was located along Love Branch Road near the Madison County border and north of the Town of Capshaw. It was a two-room schoolhouse originally located on a property called the Mayo farm. The school was established around 1907 with Ms. Lucy Warren as the first teacher. Other teachers included Mrs. Minnie Brown, and Ms. Ethel Featherwood. The school closed between 1914 and 1927, when the school for white children burned and needed a replacement. At that time, however, there were few white children in the area and so a school for African American children was built instead. Ms. Nellie Evans was the first teacher of the new school along with Ms. Willie Lucas and Mrs. Maxine Harris Pulley. In the summer of 1939, a new schoolhouse was built. Teachers in the 1940s were Mrs. Annie B. Maples, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Yarbrough, Mrs. Maggie Dobbins, Mrs. Mildred Leslie and Mrs. Fannie Witt.

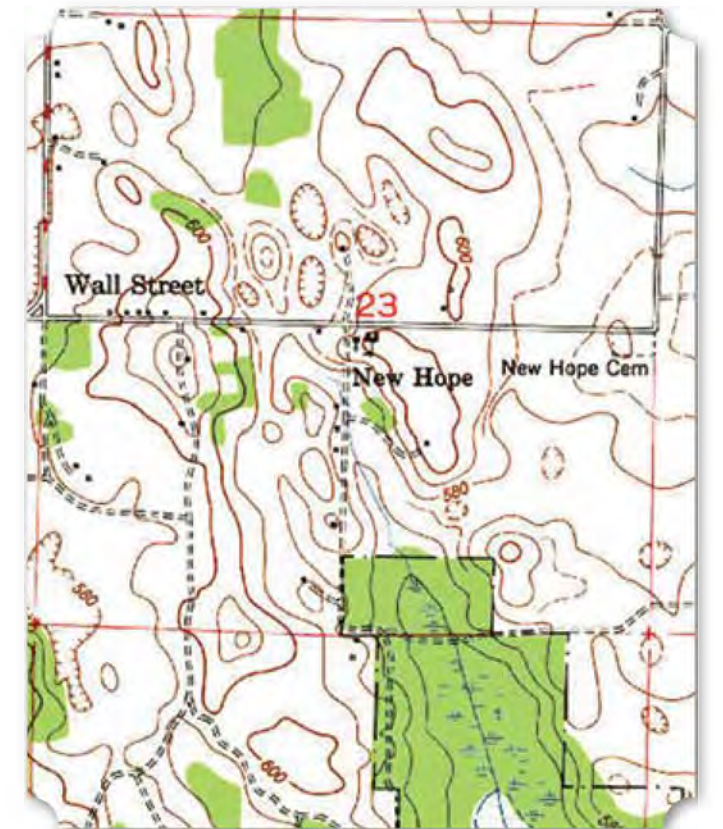
(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Nelson School (Top Right) Students and Teachers of the Nelson School

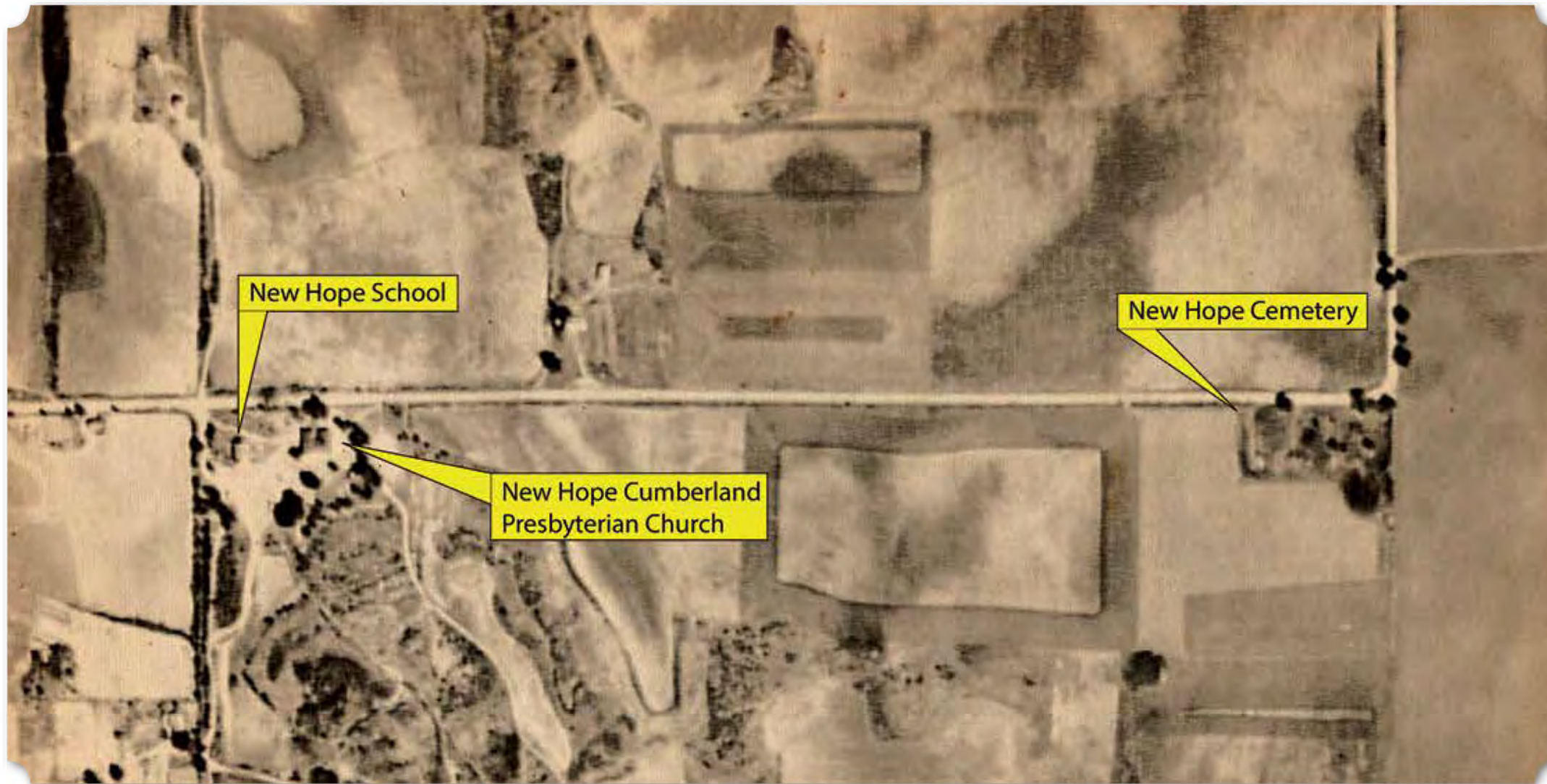


## 31 New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cemetery, and School\*

The small community of New Hope is located in southeast Limestone County near the Tennessee River and Madison County line. Also referred to as Richland on early 20th century censuses, the New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, New Hope School, and New Hope Cemetery are along the south side of Wall Street. The church was organized during the late nineteenth century and met at the southeast corner of Wall Street and New Hope Road, where a new church building now stands.

(Right) 1949 USGS Topographic Map Showing the New Hope Church, School, and Cemetery





**(Above)** 1949 Aerial Photograph Showing the New Hope Church, School, and Cemetery **(Right)** Students and Teachers of the New Hope School

Class for the New Hope School was first held in the church, possibly as early as the late 1800s. In 1923, the community raised money to buy the two acres of land required for a Rosenwald Fund. Unfortunately, by the time it applied, the community was no longer eligible for the grant. No funds were provided by the state or county, either, and finally, in 1936, the TVA helped build the schoolhouse. The school opened in 1937 with Ms. Katherine Beck as the principal.

A decade later, the school trustees were Mrs. Horace Rodgers, Mrs. Love and Mrs. Sandier. Other teachers included Mrs. Henrietta Gowdy, Mrs. Ruth Blackwell, Mrs. Alice E. White, and Mrs. Almetia Davis.



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

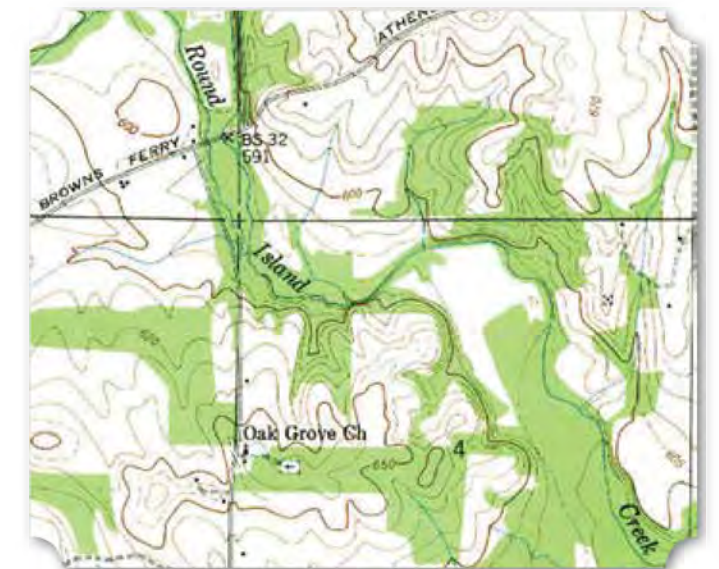
The church is still located at the corner of Wall Street and New Hope Road. The most current topographic map depicts a school in this location but there has not been a building beside the church since at least 1999.

Historically referred to by the same name as the church, New Hope Cemetery, is now called Historic New Hope Community Cemetery. It is situated about a half mile east of the church at a bend in Wall Street, enclosed by a wrought iron fence and surrounded by flat land and agricultural fields. The cemetery has about 50 marked and several unmarked graves. The earliest interment is Phillip Jones (1838-1906). Other surnames common at this cemetery include Love and Miller.

## 32 ■ ■ ■

### Oak Grove Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Cemetery, and Oak Grove School\*

Located about eight miles southwest of Athens and northwest of Beulahland, Oak Grove Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is along Cowford Road in the community of Lawson. The church was organized prior to 1897 when the Oak Grove School was known to hold classes there.



350 200 yd	French, Lee	Head	M	reg	53	M	no	10	Alabama	52	R	Limestone Alabama	XOV3	1920	farmer	farm	RA	11	UV	40	2.5	187	76
	Pearl	wife	F	reg	46	M	no	7	Alabama	71	R	Limestone Alabama	XOV3	1920									77
	Smitty, Kathleen	daughter	F	reg	36	M	no	5	Alabama	10	R	Limestone Alabama	XOV3	1920									78
	French, Beulah V.	daughter	F	reg	8	S	yo	2	Alabama	62	R	Limestone Alabama	XOV3	1920									79
	Katie Lee	daughter	F	reg	5	S	yo	1	Alabama	92													80



**(Opposite)** 1950 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Oak Grove Church and Cemetery **(Top)** Excerpt from the 1940 U.S. Census Showing the Household of Lee and Pearl French **(Above)** Students and Teachers of the Oak Grove School

The Oak Grove School took its name from a grove of oak trees next to the church. Most children received only a few months of school each year to learn the "Three R's" of

reading, writing, and arithmetic. In 1947, there were 37 students at Oak Grove School with Mrs. Esther W. Scott as teacher. That year seven students graduated the 6th grade and were planning on attending Trinity High School.

A large cemetery is situated to the east of the church. Over 250 individuals are buried here, the earliest being Charley Bell (1879-1903). Mrs. Esther W. French Scott (1908-1996) is laid to rest here along with her parents, Lee French (1883-1957) and Pearl Yarbrough French (1886-1959), who owned a farm in the area in 1940. Another African American landowner buried at Oak Grove CME Church Cemetery is Will Bright (1890-1967).

## 33 ■ Oakland Cemetery

Originally referred to as the Taylor-Pride Cemetery, the Oakland Cemetery is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Airport Road and Bee Line Highway, just south of Calhoun Community College (formerly Tennessee Valley State Vocational Technical School) and Pryor Field Regional Airport. The large African American cemetery has about 345 known graves. The first known interment is that of Rev. W.C. Morten (1848-1912).

Local African American farmer and landowner, Pleas Orr, Sr. (1870-1946) is buried here

with his parents, wife, and at least four of their children. Orr owned a farm in nearby Harris, or Harris Station, by 1920. Pleas Orr, Jr. (1907-1996) rented land from his half-brother, Lindsey G. Fields, at this time. Another landowner buried here is Elijah J. Pryor (1879-1968) and his wife, Fannie Mar Dortch Pryor (1889-2000). The Pryors owned and farmed land around Flint and the community of Cedar Lake in Morgan County in the early 20th century. By 1940, they had moved to the Harris area, where Mrs. Pryor was born. Other common surnames at the Oakland Cemetery include Anderson, Fletcher, Lucas, McLin, and Perry.

271	271	Fields Lindsey S.	Head	10	M	B	27	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home Farm	271
		Rosa	Wife		F	B	24	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Assie B.	daughter		F	B	4 1/2	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Mary	daughter		F	B	3 1/2	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Glenn M.	son		M	B	7 1/2	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
272	272	Ruffin Albert C.	Head	10	F	B	54	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home Farm	272
		Mary L.	Wife		F	B	57	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	no	none		
		Eugene	son		M	B	26	Ad.	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
273	273	Orr Orr	Head	10	M	B	49	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	yes	Farmer	Home Farm	273
		Mary	Wife		F	B	46	M	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Virginia	daughter		F	B	15	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Blanche	son		M	B	13	S	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Charles	daughter		F	B	11	S	yes	yes	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		
		Newton Jacob M.	granddaughter		F	B	5	S	no	no	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	no	none		

Alabama  
Limestone

Incorporated place \_\_\_\_\_ Ward of city \_\_\_\_\_ Unincorporated place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township or other division of county First Meric, Beat 14 Institution \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
 SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940  
 POPULATION SCHEDULE

S. D. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E. D. No. 42-31 Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enumerated by me on \_\_\_\_\_ 1940. 17A  
 466 Bertie Sandlin Enumerator

LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA				NAME		RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935				PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	
	1	0	300	yes		Jane Lampkin	Head	F	neg	65	W	0		Alabama	Same house	yes	no	no	yes								Farmer	Farm	OA			yes	6	1
	2	R	1	yes		Luke Pebles	Head	M	neg	67	M	1		Alabama	Same house	yes	no	no	yes								Farmer	Farm	OA			yes	14	2
						Laura Pebles	wife	F	neg	40	M	3		Alabama	Same house	yes	no	no	no	H							laborer	Farm	HW			yes		3
						Alex Pickett	lodger	M	neg	25	M	1		Alabama	Same place	yes	no	no	yes													yes		4
						Mattie Mae	lodger	F	neg	23	M	1		Alabama	Same place	yes	no	no	yes													no		5
	3	0	5000	yes		Elijah Pryor	Head	M	neg	51	M	4		Alabama	Same house	yes	no	no	yes								Farmer	Farm	OA			yes	15	6
						Fannie Mae	wife	F	neg	45	M	4		Alabama	Same house	yes	no	no	no	2											no		7	
						James Ed	son	M	neg	11	S	1		Alabama	Same house	yes																	8	

(Top) Excerpt from the 1920 U.S. Census Showing the Households of Please Orr, Sr. and Lindsey Fields (Above) Excerpt from the 1940 U.S. Census Showing the Household of Elijah Pryor

# 34

## Oakland United Methodist Church and School\*

According to a State Historical Commission marker in front of it, Oakland United Methodist Church has its beginnings before the Civil

War. In late 1879, the church members bought land and put up a one-room frame building. Worship services and classes for children of color were held here. In 1929, the county board of education took over the school and continued its oversight until it was closed in 1952. The original church building was destroyed by a tornado in the 1970s. The present-day church is modern and was renovated in the 1990s.

KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



## Persimmon Grove Chapel\* and Cemetery

The Persimmon Grove Cemetery was located northwest of Athens along Buck Island Road, north of its intersection with Fort Hampton Road. In the first half of the 20th century, this area was referred to as Persimmon Grove. It is unknown when the church organized, but the sign to the cemetery indicates the burial ground was established in 1810, suggesting the chapel was as well. The chapel is labeled on the 1936 topographic map, along with the cemetery, but by 1948, the chapel was absent.

The Persimmon Grove Cemetery is an African American burial ground with about 120 marked graves and, probably, numerous unmarked graves. The earliest marked burial is that of Lucy Lotic (1872-1881). Local African American landowner, farmer, and organizer of the Alabama Fork School, Sam Barbee, Sr. (1869-1952) is buried here along with his wife and several of their children, as are landowner, John McDonald (1857-1934) and several of his family members. McDonald owned a farm by at least 1900. Another grave is that of Rev. Henry Fairrer, chairman of a committee to organize the Big Creek School. Other common surnames at this cemetery are Horton – there are 32 members buried here – Murrah, and Turner.

**(Below)** Excerpt from the 1940 U.S. Census Showing the Household of John McDonald



**(Top Left)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Oakland United Methodist Church **(Left)** 1963 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Oakland United Methodist Church **(Above)** Students and Teachers of the Oakland School

In 1923 Mr. A.F. Lofty was the teacher at Oakland School. As enrollment increased, two teachers were needed. Mrs. Minnie Dinkins was teaching in 1947. The building was said to be painted inside and out, well-kept, and well-equipped.

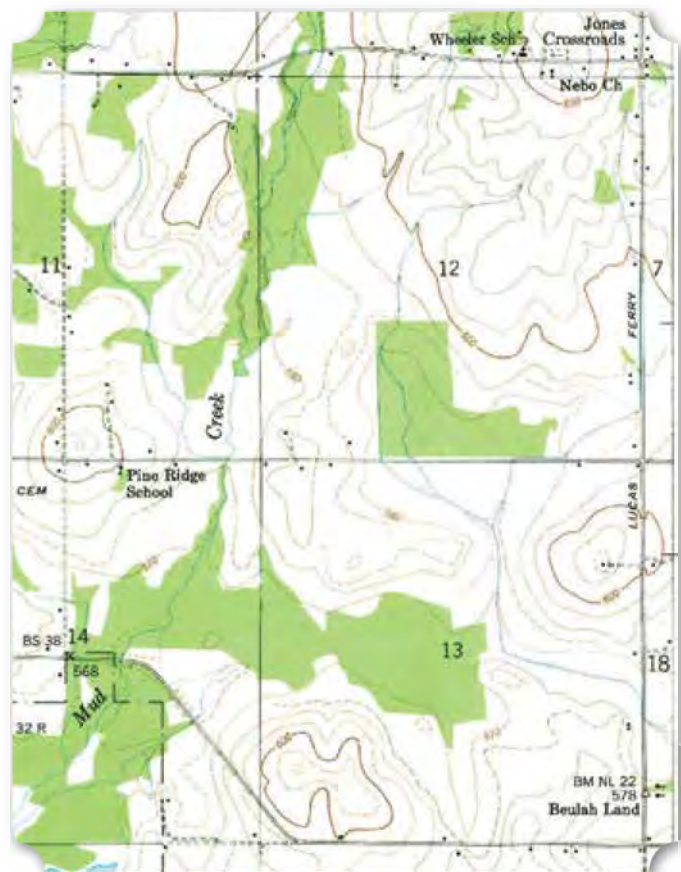
169	167	McDonald John	Head	B	M	Mar	1854	40	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	46	191-0-2-4	400	400	400	0	M	J. 162
		Ann	Wife	B	F	Jan	1847	33	M	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	33		210	210	210			
		John	Son	B	M	Oct	1882	17	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	17	Harmon laborer	0	0	40	40	40	
		William	Son	B	M	Apr	1887	13	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	13	Harmon laborer	10	2	220	220	40	
		Luke	Son	B	M	Feb	1874	4	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	4				210	210	40	
		Carrie	Daughter	B	F	Aug	1897	2	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	2				210	210	40	
		Donna	Daughter	B	F	Jan	1897	12	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12				210	210	210	

# 36

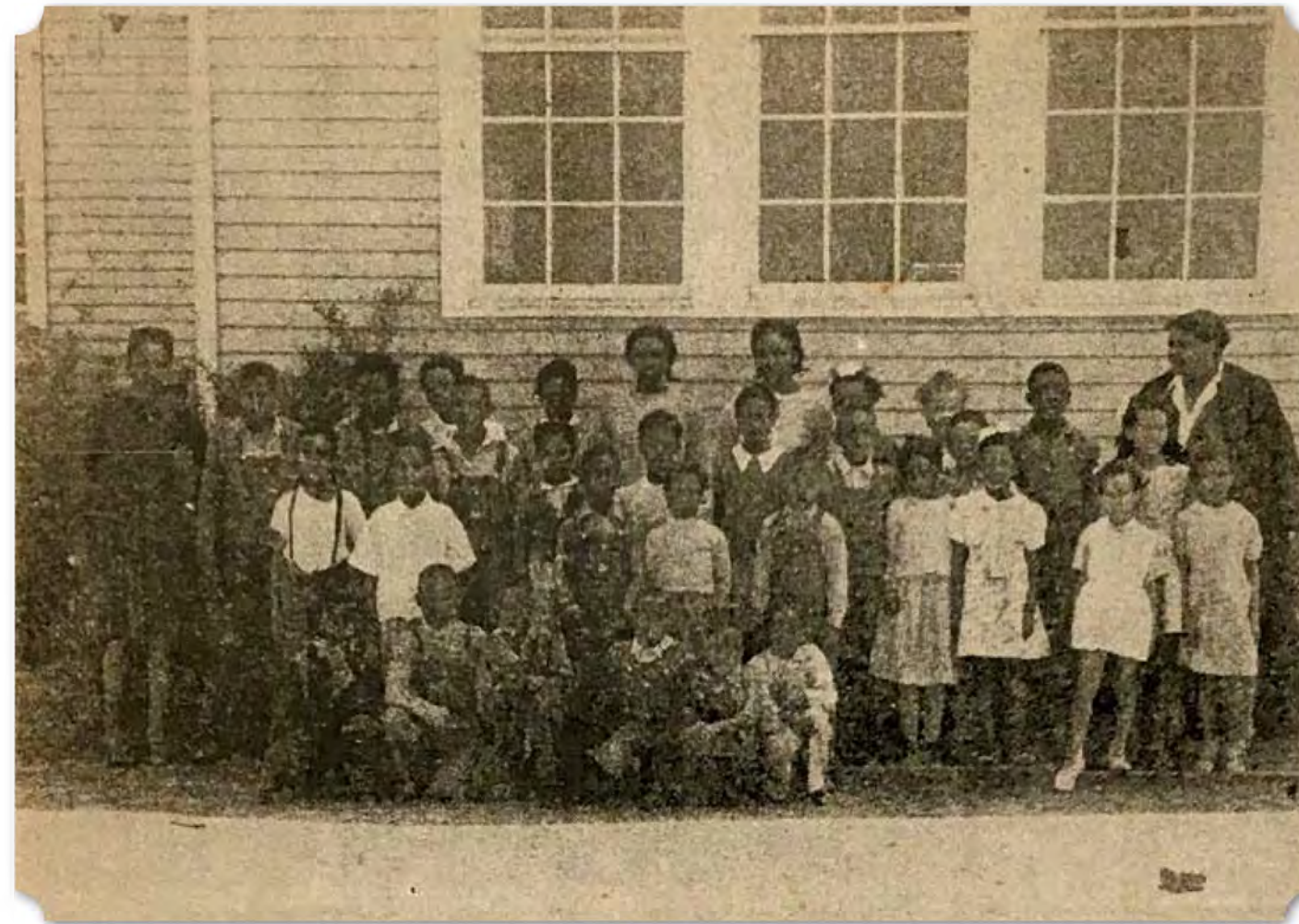
## Pine Ridge School\*

Pine Ridge School was once located on Lindsay Road near the intersection of Settle Road, northwest of Beulahland. The school was created in 1940 from parts of the Little Ezekiel and Beulahland schools and placed approximately in between the two to serve grades one through nine. It was established by the National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.), a program established by the WPA, that trained over four million teachers and students over its eight years of existence.

(Below) 1950 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Pine Ridge School



The county bought the land for the school and moved an old schoolhouse here that was once used by the white community. The first teachers were Mrs. B.D. Mayberry, Mrs. Eunice Lucas, Ms. Hellen Simmons,



(Above) Students and Teachers of the Pine Ridge School

and Ms. Marie Bridgforth. In 1947, the teachers were Mrs. L.M. Hatton and Mrs. Mary E. Caldwell. In 1960, the school and its two surrounding acres were sold for \$824.

# 37

## Pleasant Grove Church,\* Cemetery, and School\*

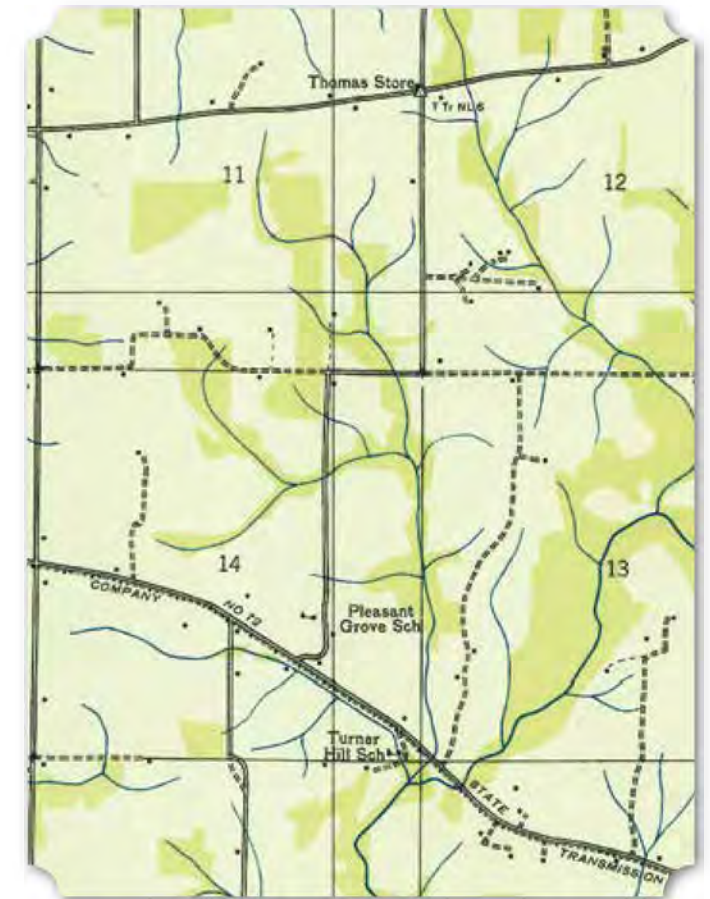
Located southeast of Athens on Hastings Road is Pleasant Grove Cemetery. It is just north of Culps Road and was associated with a church building until about 2012. The church

predated the school that held classes there starting in the late 19th century. Only the school was shown on the 1935 USGS topographic map, while the 1967 edition labeled only the church in this location. The cemetery was not labeled on either map, despite having at least 300 burials.

The Pleasant Grove School was organized by a member of the community, Mr. Moses Brooke, who was also the first teacher. In the early 20th century, Mrs. Hazel Caldwell taught here and, in 1926, was joined by Ms. Fannie Marshall of Birmingham. The county gave the school a new building in 1936. The two-room schoolhouse accommodated six grades and often made due with very little. Although lessons were available for nine months of the year, most children could only attend for three to five months. Mrs. Etta Coble and Mrs. Matthews

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



(Above) 1935 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Pleasant Grove School, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle (Below) 1967 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Pleasant Grove Church and Wiggins Cemetery, Athens, Alabama Quadrangle







**(Above)** Image Of Class In Front Of Pleasant Grove School, 1948 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama, Courtesy Col. James L. Walker) **(Below)** 1940 Federal Census Showing Theo Cain (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Middle)** 1940 Federal Census Showing Ned Sanderfur (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) **(Bottom)** 1910 Federal Census Showing Robert Wiggins (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

were teachers here in the 1940s. In the photograph Mrs. Coble and Matthews are flanking the children.

The Pleasant Grove Cemetery is an African American grave yard. The first known interment is that of Mabel Jones (1901-1902), though there are probably earlier unmarked burials. Common surnames found here include Crutcher, Fletcher, Malone, and Noble. Those laid to rest here include local farmers and landowners Theo Cain (1895-1976) and his wife Annie Bell Fletcher Cain (born 1887), their daughter, Lula Mae Cain Davis (1927-1968), and Ned Sandefur (1892-1979) and his wife Flora. Both Cain and Sandefur owned farms in the area in 1940.

Nearby is Wiggins Cemetery, located on private property down Curtis Drive. This small family cemetery has 12 known graves, the earliest being Robert E. Lee Wiggins (1907-1915). Robert was the son of Robert Wiggins (1878-1952) and Della Woods Wiggins (1878-1970), both buried here as well. Robert Sr. owned a farm in this area from at least 1910.

Other names in the cemetery include Collier, Griffis, and Jones, who are most likely related to the Wiggins family.

## 38 ■ Poplar Creek Cemetery

The Poplar Creek Cemetery is located along Popular Creek Road southwest of Athens. This African American cemetery has at least 288 marked graves, the earliest of which is of Frank Reed (1898-1899). Among those laid to rest here are local landowners and farmers John Allen and Edmond Shoulders. John Allen (1866-1931) and his wife, Georgia Reed Allen (1863-1960), owned a farm in the vicinity in 1920. By 1940, their son, Curtis Allen (1893-1970), operated his own farm. Several of John and Georgia's other children are also buried in the cemetery. Ed Shoulders (1867-1951), trustee of Poplar Creek School, owned

a farm between 1910 and 1940 and the school was moved to his farm for a time. His wife, Sarah Nance Shoulders (1867-1943), and several of their children are buried in the cemetery, as well.

Jonas Farrar (1882-1974), Col. James L. Walker's grandfather, is also buried here among 31 other members of the Farrar family. Other common surnames of the Poplar Creek Cemetery are Coleman, Kennemer, Petty, and Williams.



99	0	200	Cain, Theo	Head	CM	reg	44	m	70	4	4	Alabama	82	Same House	Yes	-	-	-	-	1	Farmer	Farm	CA	VA	W	4	0	0	77	51					
			Annie Bell	Wife	1	F	47	m	70	4	4	Alabama	82	Same House	No	No	No	No	H	5						0	0	No	52						
			Lula Mae	Daughter	2	F	29	sd	70	4	4	Alabama	82	Same House																53					
			Martha	Daughter	3	F	90	sd	70	0		Alabama	82	Same House	No	No	No	No	U	7						0	0	No	54						
3A	0	420	Sandefur, Ned	Head	CM	reg	45	m	70	6	6	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	Yes	-	-	-	-	1	50	Farmer		CA	VA	W	4	0	0	77	72
			Flora	Wife	1	F	40	m	70	4	4	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	No	No	No	No	H	5									73		
			Martha	Daughter	2	F	21	s	70	H	9	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	No	No	No	No	H	5									74		
			Williams	Son	2	M	18	s	70	8	8	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	Yes	-	-	-	-	1	24	Labourer		M.P.	VA	W	4	0	0	75	
			Blenny	Son	2	M	16	s	70	7	7	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	Yes	-	-	-	-	1	30	Labourer		M.P.	VA	W	4	0	0	76	
			David	Son	2	M	14	s	70	5	5	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02	No	No	No	No	S	6									77		
			Hermah	Son	2	M	12	s	70	3	3	Alabama	82	R	Limestone	Alabama	42	X02																78	
25	1	223	Wiggins, Robert	Head	m	13	32	m	8			Alabama	Alabama	Virginia		English	Farm	Stonemason								0	0	193							
			Ella	Wife	w	13	32	m	8		6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Shore																		
			Pat	Son	m	13	10	s				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		English	Farm	Stonemason											9	2	0				
			Robert C	Son	m	13	2	s				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama																					
			Ruth A	Daughter	w	13	10	s				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama																					

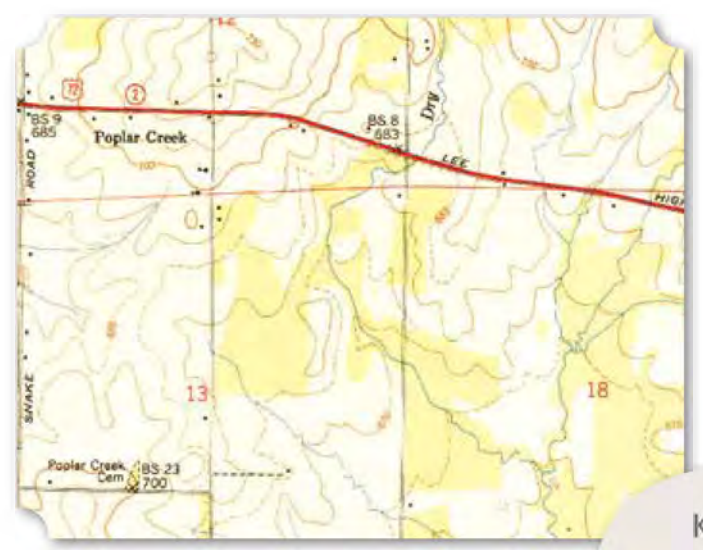
020800	Shoulders Edmond	Head	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
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File 35364	William Lober	Head	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Lois	wife	F	reg 72	F	72	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73
	Robert	son	M	reg 72	M	76	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	manager	farm	05000VV4520	yes 73

620250	Allen, Curtis	Head	M	reg 45	M	70	3	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	operator	farm	05000VV4520	yes 49		
	— Maria	wife	F	reg 38	M	70	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	no	no	no	H	-	-	-	-	no 50		
	— Frank	son	M	reg 18	S	70	2	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	laborer	farm	05000VV4520	no 51		
	— John	son	M	reg 70	S	70	2	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	laborer	farm	05000VV4520	no 52		
	— Gladys	daughter	F	reg 14	S	70	4	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	no	no	no	S	5	-	-	-	no 53		
	— Curtis Jr	son	M	reg 12	S	70	3	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	no 54		
	— Norama	daughter	F	reg 10	S	70	3	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	no 55		
	— Hattie Mae	daughter	F	reg 9	S	70	1	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	no 56		
	— Louis Washington	son	M	reg 7	S	70	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	yes	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	no 57		
63	Allen, Georgia	Head	F	reg 71	nd	70	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	XDV	no	no	no	U	7	-	-	-	no 58		
	— Carley	son	M	reg 36	M	70	4	Alabama	Sam Houston	X013	yes	-	-	3	-	+	+	farm	farm	05000VV4520	no 59
	— Lucy	daughter	F	reg 27	M	70	6	Alabama	Sam Houston	X0x2	no	no	no	H	5	-	-	-	-	no 60	
64	— Alvinia	daughter	F	reg 5	S	70	0	Alabama	Sam Houston	X0V3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no 61	

(Top) Excerpt of the 1940 Federal Census Showing Edmond Shoulders (Middle) Excerpt of the 1920 Federal Census Showing the Household of John Allen (Above) Excerpt of the 1940 Federal Census Showing the Households of Curtis Allen and Georgia Allen

(Below) 1951 USGS Topographic Map Showing Poplar Creek Church and School (Right) Students and Teachers of the Poplar Creek School



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

# 39

## Poplar Creek Missionary Baptist Church and Poplar Creek School\*

Poplar Creek Missionary Baptist Church is located on the southwest corner of U.S. 72 and Poplar Creek Road. The church, associated school, and nearby cemetery date to the early 20th century. Given that the cemetery's oldest burial dates to 1899 and the school was founded in 1909, it is likely that the church was also organized by this time.

The school was founded as the Bush Arbor School. Ms. Maggie Whitson was the first teacher and Mr. Hence Yarbrough was trustee of the one-room log building with a lean-to. At one point the school was moved to the farm of trustee Mr. Edmund Shoulders and renamed the Poplar Creek School.

The school grew and, in 1939, moved again to a newly constructed building with three teachers and became a Junior High School. By 1947, it was an elementary school again with Mrs. G.B. Willis and Mrs. N.B. Fletcher as teachers. Mr. Sam Bell, Jake French, and Charlie Fletcher served as trustees. The 1951 topographic map shows the school next to the church.



## 41 ■ Red Hill School\*

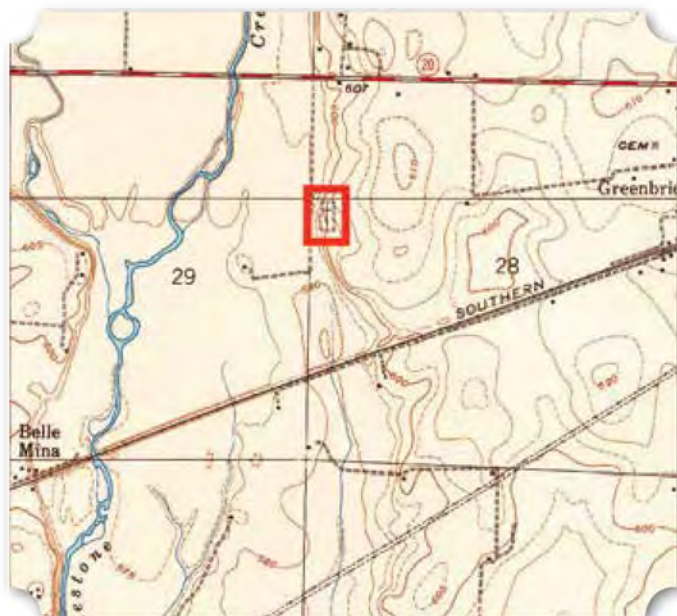
Red Hill School was located along U.S. 72 in the Coxey community of southwest Limestone County. The school started holding classes in a Baptist church around 1935. Ms. Pearlene Leslie was the first teacher. Other teachers who have served here included Mrs. Lula Dobbins, Mrs. Ruth Redus, Mrs. Nannie E. Horton and Mr. Thomas Witt. In the early 1940s, the playground equipment was upgraded and attendance rose due to transportation improvements.

**(Top Left)** 1938 USGS Topographic Map Showing the Red Hill School **(Left)** Students and Teachers of the Red Hill School

## 40 ■ Quarter Lot Cemetery

The Quarter Lot Cemetery is located south of Old Highway 20 between Bella Mina and Greenbrier. This African American cemetery has 20 to 30 grave markers and over 100 unmarked burials. The first known interment is Lucinda Jones (died 1886). Other surnames here include Davis, Johnson, and Thatch.

**(Below)** 1938 USGS Topographic Map Showing Quarter Lot Cemetery



## 42 ■ St. John School\*

Located northeast of Athens along Ardmore Highway at Oakland Road, St. John School was started in the 1890s in a Primitive Baptist church. Sometime in the early 20th century, an acre of land was purchased by the community along with the old school building from the formerly white St. John School.

Little else is known about the school other than those who have taught there, the trustees, and a notable graduate. Teachers over the decades included Mr. Moses Brooks, Rev. Robert Leslie, Mrs. Mary Horton, Ms. Leota Houston, Ms. Lona McWilliams, Mr. Jerome Scales, Mrs. E.B. McKissack, Ms. Verbena Matthews, Ms. Maggie Watkins, Mrs. A.B. McLain, and Mrs. Belah Hill. The last three taught there for more than 25 years. The school trustees included Mr. W.L. Rainey, Mr. Edd Streeter, Mr. L.C. Hanserd, Mr. H.T. Redus, Mr. T. Cox, Mr. L.C. Cox, and Mr. R.L. Leslie. St. John School graduate Robert Penn went on to be a municipal judge in Toledo, Ohio and attended the 1953 NAACP convention with Thurgood Marshall who discussed the upcoming Brown vs. Board of Education case with him and others.



(Above) Students and Teachers of the St. John School

schools were held together or in close proximity, therefore, the St. Paul School may have been in this area.

The school was organized by Mr. Moses Brooks, who served as the school's first teacher. He was followed by Mr. James A. Allen, Ms. Katherine Turrentine, Ms. A.L. Horton, Mrs. E.B. McKissack, Ms. Stuart, Mrs. Esther Scott, Mrs. Ella Smith, and Mr. Benjamin L. Crittenton. The school's trustees were Mr. Curtis

Allen, Mr. Leonard Yarbrough, and Mr. Earnest Benningfield. A three-month term of teaching at St. Paul School paid a total of \$20.

historically settled by African Americans. The area south of Athens and along the Tennessee River was prime agricultural land that attracted many African American farmers. The area is difficult to describe from census records because it is divided between the Athens, Slough, and Quid Nunc districts. The landowners of Athens have already been discussed. The Slough district covers the area southwest of Athens south to the river and west to the Georgia-Little Elk Community. The district of Quid Nunc is south of Athens and east of Mooresville.

During the early 20th century, the area referred to as Slough had the highest rates of African American farm ownership outside of the Athens area. In 1900, Slough was home to 44 farmers of color who owned their own land. This number represented 12% of the total households. While the overall households in the district steadily increased from 368 to 646, the number of African American landowners remained in the 40s or 50s, with the exception of 1930. As was the case throughout Limestone County, 1920 appeared promising for African American landowners

in Slough, there being 57 households who owned a farm that year. However, over the next 10 years, many of the farmers had lost their land and in 1930, only 27 African American households owned a farm. This number rebounded by 1940, when 44 landowning households, or 7% of all households, were African American.

Several families owned more than one farm in Slough – the Coleman, Malone, Beddingfield, Yarbrough, Bell, and Sowell families owned a significant number of farms. The Malone family owned five farms in 1900, six in 1910, seven in 1920, and six again in 1930 and 1940. The Yarbrough, Coleman, and Sowell families had at least two or three farms until 1930. And the Bell and Davis families each had three farms in 1940. Col. James L. Walker's grandfather and mother lived in this district in 1920, 1930, and 1940. By 1940, most of the African American landowning farmers lived near Ripley in the southwest part of the district.

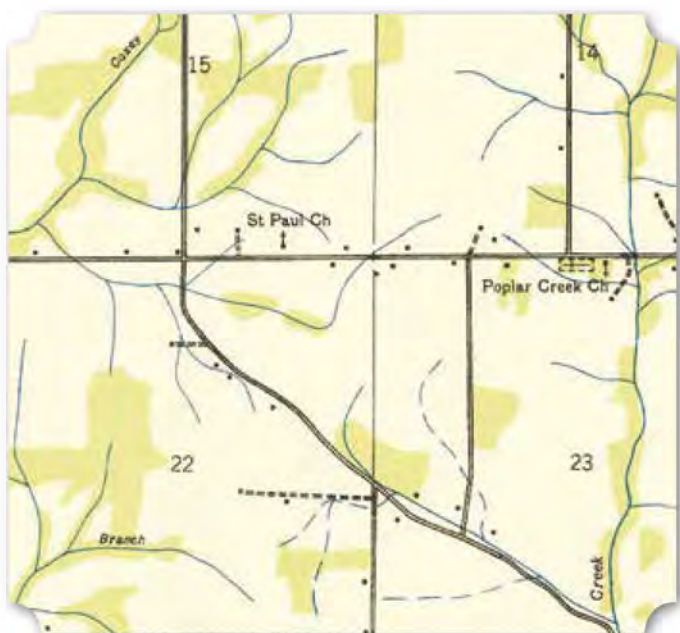
The district of Quid Nunc, while containing a higher than average number of African American landowning farmers for the area, had significantly fewer farmers of color than Slough. The smaller district had 267 total households in 1900, peaked at 363 households in 1930, and shrank to 280 households by 1940. The percentage of landowning households that were African American rose from 2% in 1900 to a peak of 13% in 1920, before decreasing to 8% by 1940. There were only six farmers of color who owned land in 1900, although there were many households without ownership information on the census. As noted for other areas of Limestone County, the highest number of African American landowners was in 1920. In Quid Nunc there were 45 farmers of color who owned their land. This fell sharply to 25 in 1930 and 23 in 1940.

Of the six African American farmers in 1900, Henry H. Garrett owned his farm from at least 1900 to 1920 and Spot Maclin owned his farm from at least 1900 to 1930. There are several widows and sons who inherited the family farm in the early 20th century. The Malone family also had farms in this district: three in 1920 and two in 1930. Other common surnames in Quid Nunc include MacLin/Maclin/McLin, Bridgeforth, Harris, Griffin/Griffith,

# 43

## St. Paul School\*

St. Paul School was located near Poplar Creek in southwest Limestone County. In 1936 there was a St. Paul Church at the intersection of Snake Road with Hardy and Ripley roads. Oftentimes churches and



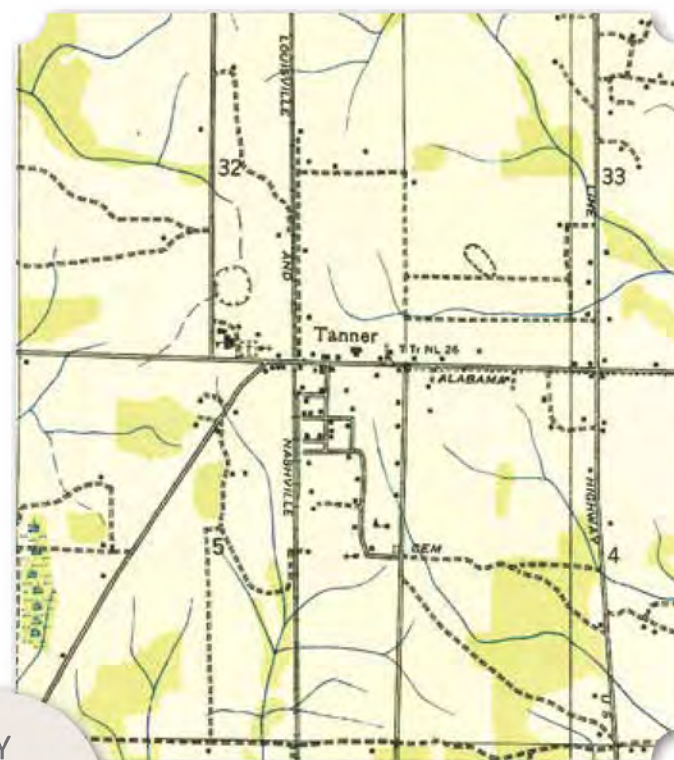
(Left) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing the St. Paul Church (Above) Students and Teachers of the St. Paul School

# 44

## Tanner

The community of Tanner, or Tanner Crossroads, is along Bee Line Highway just south of Athens. The community is historically a crossroads connecting Huntsville, Athens, Decatur, and Browns Ferry. It is also in an area

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Tanner, Tanner, Alabama Quadrangle



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

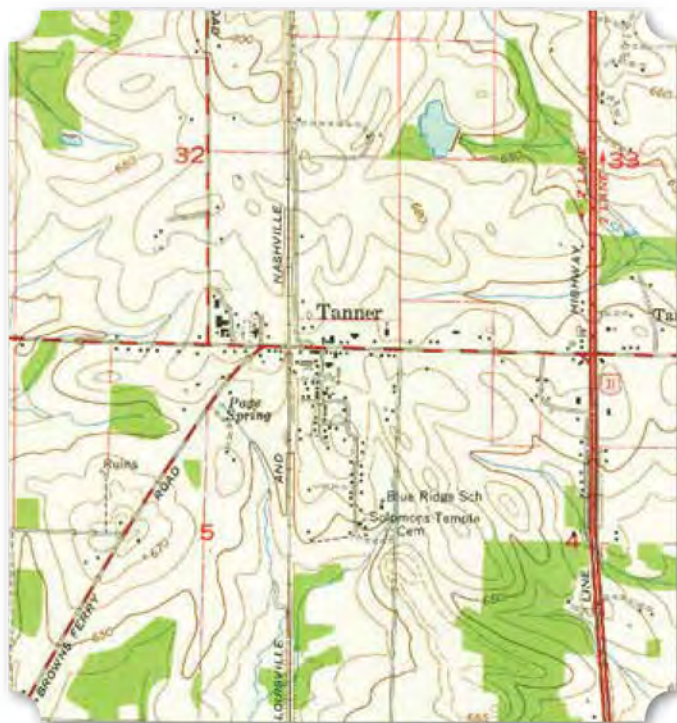
Lucas, Cain, and Orr. Interestingly, eight of the 25 African American landowners in the area in 1930 were families reviewed by the TVA for relocation. All but one of them moved to another farm in the same area and retained ownership. By 1940, there were 11 landowners in the area who had been relocated by the TVA and retained ownership instead of selling their land and renting a new property.

**Denson Cemetery**

Located south of Tanners Crossroads at the corner of Stewart Road and George Washington Street, is the Denson Cemetery, also known as the Denson-Malone Cemetery. This cemetery can be confused as the “Solomons Temple Cemetery,” as on some topographic maps the label for the church, known as Solomons Temple, which is just west of the cemetery, appears to apply to the cemetery itself, which is simply labeled “Cem.”

This cemetery has about 45 burials. Besides Denson, there are members of the Farrar, Hardy, and Malone families. The earliest interment is Hester Reed Denson (1837-1910). The cemetery is still in use.

**(Below) 1963 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Tanner, Tanner, Alabama Quadrangle**



**Blue Ridge School (Rosenwald)**

The Rosenwald School in Tanner has also been called the Tanner School, Blue Ridge School, or Alabama Blue Ridge Academy. It was a two-teacher schoolhouse built under the guidance of the Tuskegee Institute for a cost of \$1,500. A total of \$500 each was contributed from the African American community, the county, and the Rosenwald fund. The school had an outdoor privy, a bucket for drinking water, and a large coal-burning stove for heat.

The school was organized by Mr. Lewis Townsend, Mr. Henry Garret, Mr. Meredith Townsend, and Mr. Tom Lane. The first classes were held in the Masonic Hall.

Mrs. Ollie Townsend was the first teacher.

The Blue Ridge School gained its first building in 1917, which was placed on a two-acre lot purchased from Mrs. Sophie Redus. This building burned in 1919 and a replacement was built using the Rosenwald Fund in 1929-1930.



**(Above) Photograph of Blue Ridge School in 1930s with Students in Front (Fisk University – Rosenwald Foundation) (Right) Image of Class in Front of Blue Ridge School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances, 1947)**





(Above) Photograph of Blue Ridge School, 2017 (Courtesy Col. James L. Walker)

This building cost a total of \$3,425, of which \$250 came from the African American community, \$2,675 from public funds, and \$500 from Rosenwald. Due to the previous fire, the new schoolhouse was insured for \$2,380.

In 1944, the school converted one of the cloakrooms into a kitchen and served hot lunches to raise funds for the school. This is the only African American school known to have a lunch room. Until this service started, students would eat at Mr. Buster McLin's store where they could "buy a dime worth of bologna and crackers, a cold drink and some lemon cookies, all for a quarter."

As of 1947, enrollment at the school in Tanner increased to 70 students. The teachers at that time were Mrs. Myrtle B. McLin of Tanner, who was also the principal, and Ms. Josephine Higgins. Other teachers throughout the years were Mrs. McLin, Mrs. Betty Sue McDaniel, and Mrs. Josephine Woodson. The school taught the Three R's as well as cultural classes that included singing Mexican and Italian songs. The school building still remains but has been converted into a private residence in Tanner.

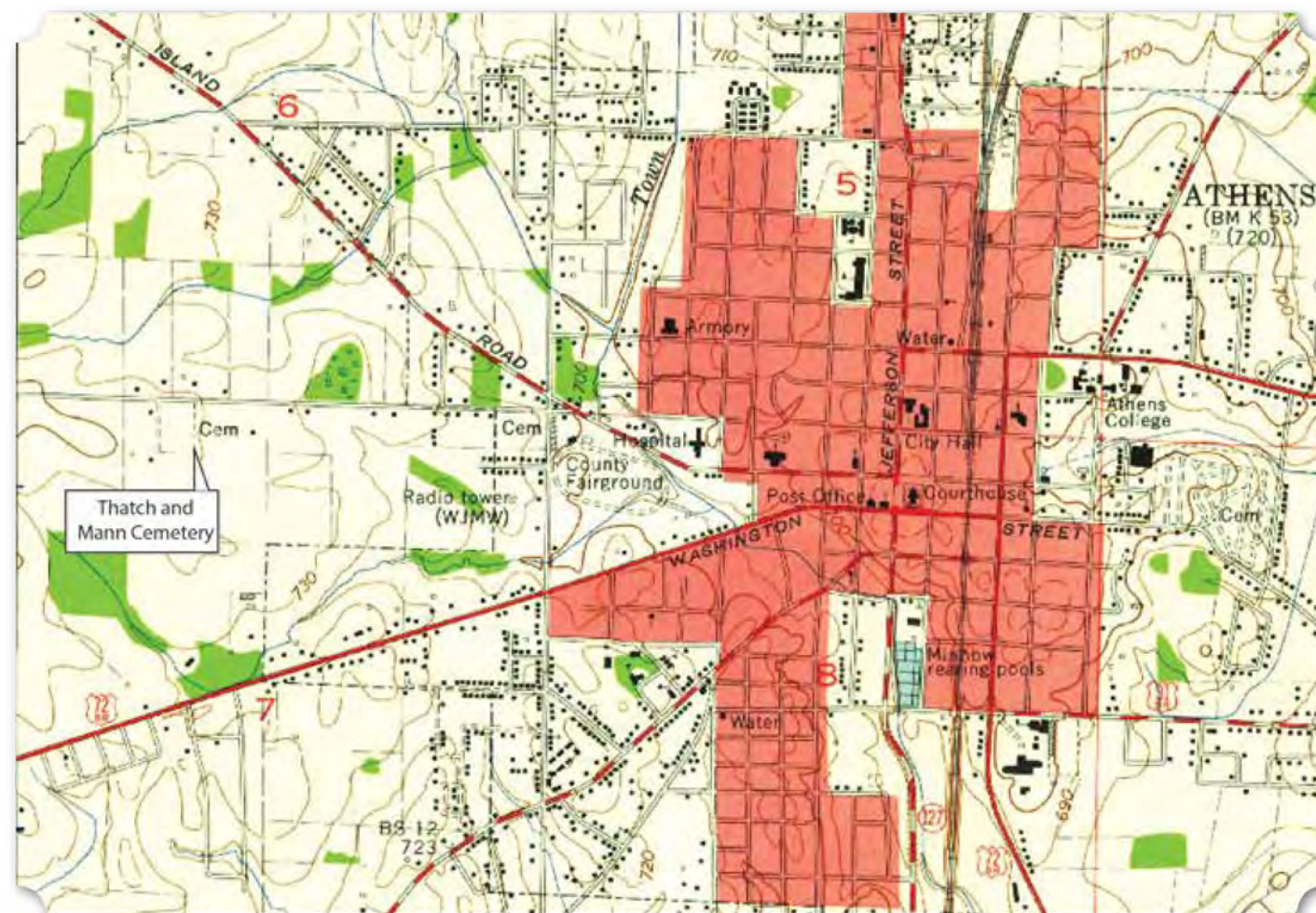
## 45 ■ Thatch and Mann Cemetery

This large cemetery is situated at the intersection of Jacobs and Bullington roads west of Athens. Although the cemetery contains approximately 1,000 burials as of 2017, an aerial photograph indicates it is less than halfway full. Alam Oreva Stuart (1922-1923) is the earliest known burial, although the cemetery does not appear on topographic maps until 1958. Among the people buried here are Etta Wynn Coble (1892-1979), one of the teachers at Pleasant Grove School, and her husband, Ennis C. Coble (1890-1942).

Others interred here include African Americans who owned farms on the outskirts of Athens around 1940. These include, Mahaley Heard (1890-1963), whose husband Robert farmed his own land from at least 1930 to 1940, and James R. David (1887-1963) and his wife Katie, who owned a farm on Elkmont Road in 1930 and 1940. One of the few women who headed a household and owned a farm in 1940 is Beulah Howard (1900-1974). Other individuals buried in the cemetery are World War I veteran Milton V. Redus (1894-1970) and his wife Mattie Malone Redus (1895-1985), who owned a farm in

1940. Additional landowning couples buried together include Claude (1899-1981) and Naomi Kirk (1900-1995), Less (1882-1943) and Mattie Sowell Lincoln (1886-1951), Will (1912-1987) and Marie McDade (born 1915), and Robert E. (1886-1966) and Mary Nance (1879-1965).

(Below) 1958 Topographic Map Showing the Location of the Thatch and Mann Cemetery (Bottom) Aerial Photograph Showing the Thatch and Mann Cemetery



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

119 0 500	Head	Robert	Read	M	neg	60	M	no	5	Alabama	same house	710	-	-	-	Farmer	0A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	67
	Wife	Mabley	Wife	F	neg	50	M	no		Alabama	same house	710	710	710	710	H			68
	son	Willie	son	M	neg	25	S	no	4	Alabama	same house	710	-	-	-	Farms Land	NP 287 UU 532	0 710	69
	daughter	Mungay, Rosie	daughter	F	neg	20	F	no	5	Alabama	same house	710	710	710	710	H		0	70
	son-in-law	Mungay, Sumner	son-in-law	M	neg	22	M	no	4	Missis.	same house	710	710	710	710	OT		0 710	71
	grand daughter	Eliza	grand daughter	F	neg	12	S	no	4	Alabama	same house	710	710	710	710	S		0 710	72
	son	James	son	M	neg	8	S	no	2	Alabama	same house	710	710	710	710	S		0 710	73
	grand daughter	Mattie R	grand daughter	F	neg	7	S	no	1	Alabama	same house							0 710	74
	son	Bobby	son	M	neg	2	S			Alabama									75

170 233	Head	James	David	M	neg	51	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	79
	Wife	Patie	Wife	F	neg	26	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	80
	son	Leroy	son	M	neg	8	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	81
197 221	Head	James	David	M	neg	47	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	82
	Wife	Patie	Wife	F	neg	26	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	83
	son	James	son	M	neg	21	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	84
198 222	Head	James	David	M	neg	47	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	85
	Wife	Patie	Wife	F	neg	26	M	no	14	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	86
	son	Leroy	son	M	neg	8	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	710			Farmer	1A 020 UU 452	0 710 21	87

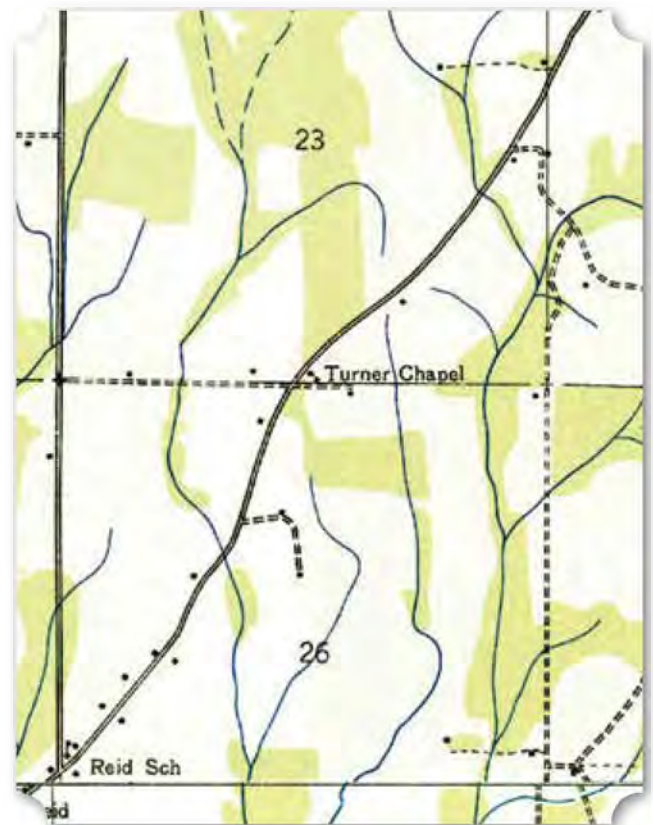
199 200	Head	Milton	Redus	M	neg	46	M	no	20	Alabama	same place Limestone	710	710	-	-	60	Farmer	farm 0A	02 - 710	34
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# 46

## Turner Chapel School\*

Turner Chapel School was named for and organized by brothers Gilbert and Bingham Turner. The brothers were most likely born as slaves in South Carolina and became land owners in North Alabama by the late 1800s. Some historical sources state that the brothers settled in the Reid area and established the school in 1868, but this date is most likely an error and was intended to read 1886. Census records reveal that Gilbert and Bingham lived in Macon, Georgia, in 1870 and first appeared as residents of Limestone

(Right) 1936 Topographic Map Showing Turner Chapel



County in 1880. Land patents purchased from the federal government in 1884 and 1885 were in the brothers' names and located in the section just north of the school's location.

Located off Browns Ferry Road, a few miles southwest of Athens, Turner's Chapel School was built close to the brothers' land in an area where many members of the Turner and Moseley families lived. The brothers donated the land for the first log schoolhouse. Two other buildings followed the original.

Teachers who served at Turner's Chapel have included Ms. Dora Higgins, Ms. Carrie Brown, Mrs. Lydia Taylor Grigsby, Mr. McKinley Turner, Mrs. Louise Turner Furr, Mrs. Nora Moseley Fletcher, Mrs. Margaret Malone Smith, and Mrs. Margaret Moore.

(Left) Students and Teacher of the Turner Chapel School







**(Above)** Image Of Class in Front Of Payne School, Date Unknown (School Days, 2011)

Classes were originally held for children of color at the local church until it burned. Subsequently, Mrs. Martha Payne offered the community a corn crib to use until a schoolhouse was built. The 1920 schoolhouse was destroyed during a storm in 1942, and sometime before 1947, a new building was constructed with state funds. Mrs. Lily M. Trotter was the teacher in 1947. The school and the land were sold in 1960 for a total of \$525.

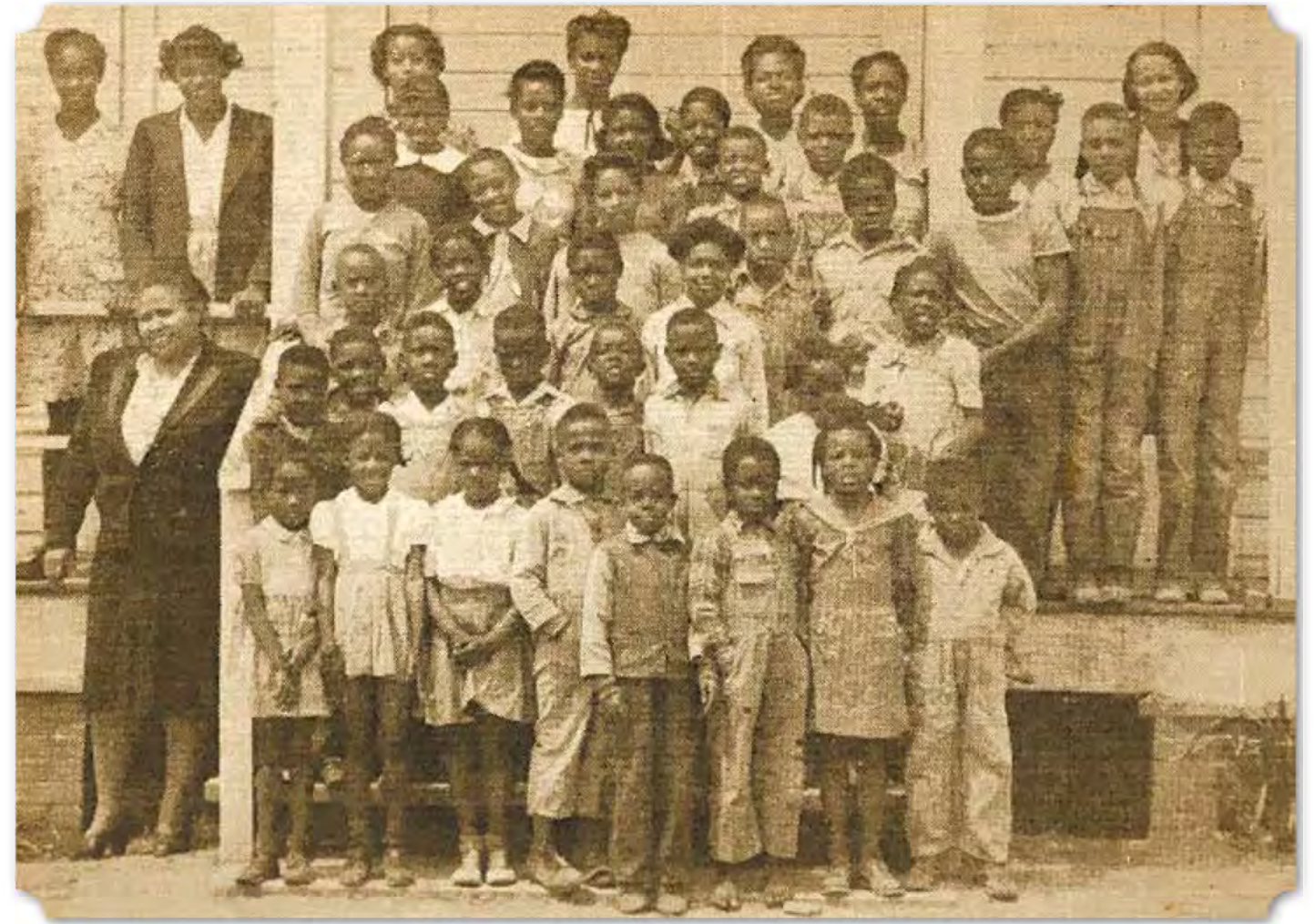
#### Payne Cemetery

Payne Cemetery is just south of the former Payne School location and west of Spence Cave Road where it meets State Line Road. This African American

cemetery contains about 50 marked and several unmarked graves. The first known burial is that of Dollie Daly (1867-1892). Among those buried here are Ernest Coleman (1885-1974), who owned a farm in Pettusville by 1940. Other common surnames include Brown, Holt, and Trotter.

## 49 ■ Walter's Chapel School\*

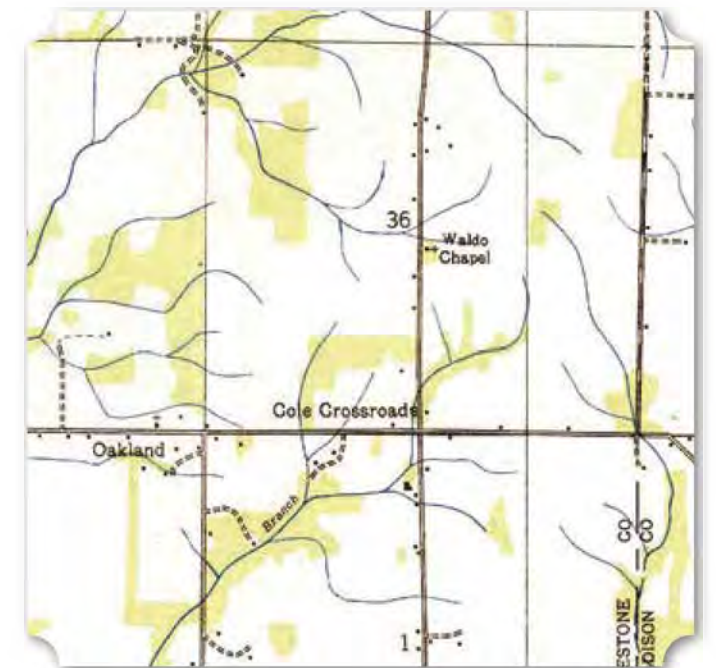
Located near the Madison County line east of Peets Corner and south of Capshaw, Walter's Chapel School was once located near Burgreen Road between Highway 72 and Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road. It was a two-room schoolhouse established before 1938,



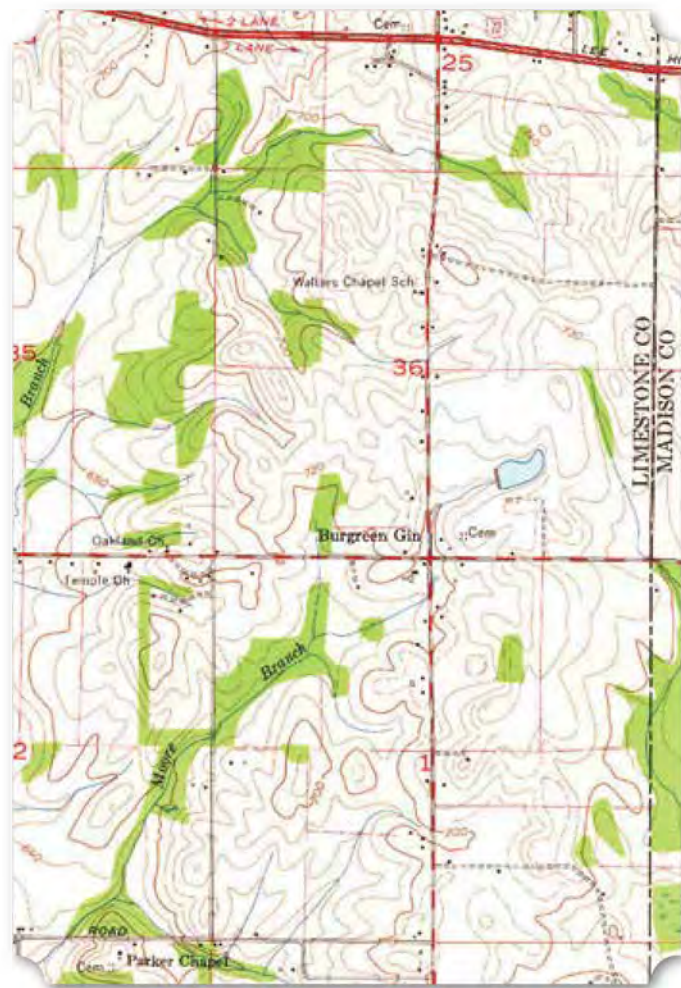
**(Above)** Image Of Class in Front Of Payne School, Date Unknown **(Right)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Walter's ("Waldo") Chapel

when a new school building was constructed. The 1938 schoolhouse was built on land purchased from Mrs. Cartwright, while M.R. Clanton was the builder. The school was headed by Mrs. M.M. Smith.

Over the decades, Walter's Chapel School was served by many teachers including Mr. Moses Brooks, Mr. Jerome Scales, Mr. Castophin, Mrs. Jessie Bedingfield Whitson, Mrs. Willie C. Lucas, Mrs. Eunice Tabor Lucas, Mrs. Nona B. Fletcher, Mrs. Lucy M. Stanley, Mrs. Margaret Malone Smith, Mrs. Marion Selby Strider, Mrs. Bertha Baugh, Mrs. Annie L. Jackson, Mrs. Mildred Gurley Brown, Mrs. C.E. Mason, Mrs. M.S. Howell, and Mrs. H.P. Caldwell.



The 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map showed “Waldo” Chapel on the east side of Burgreen Road. On the 1963 USGS topographic map, Walters Chapel School was mapped on the west side of the road.



(Above) 1963 USGS Topographic Map Showing Walter’s Chapel School

# 50

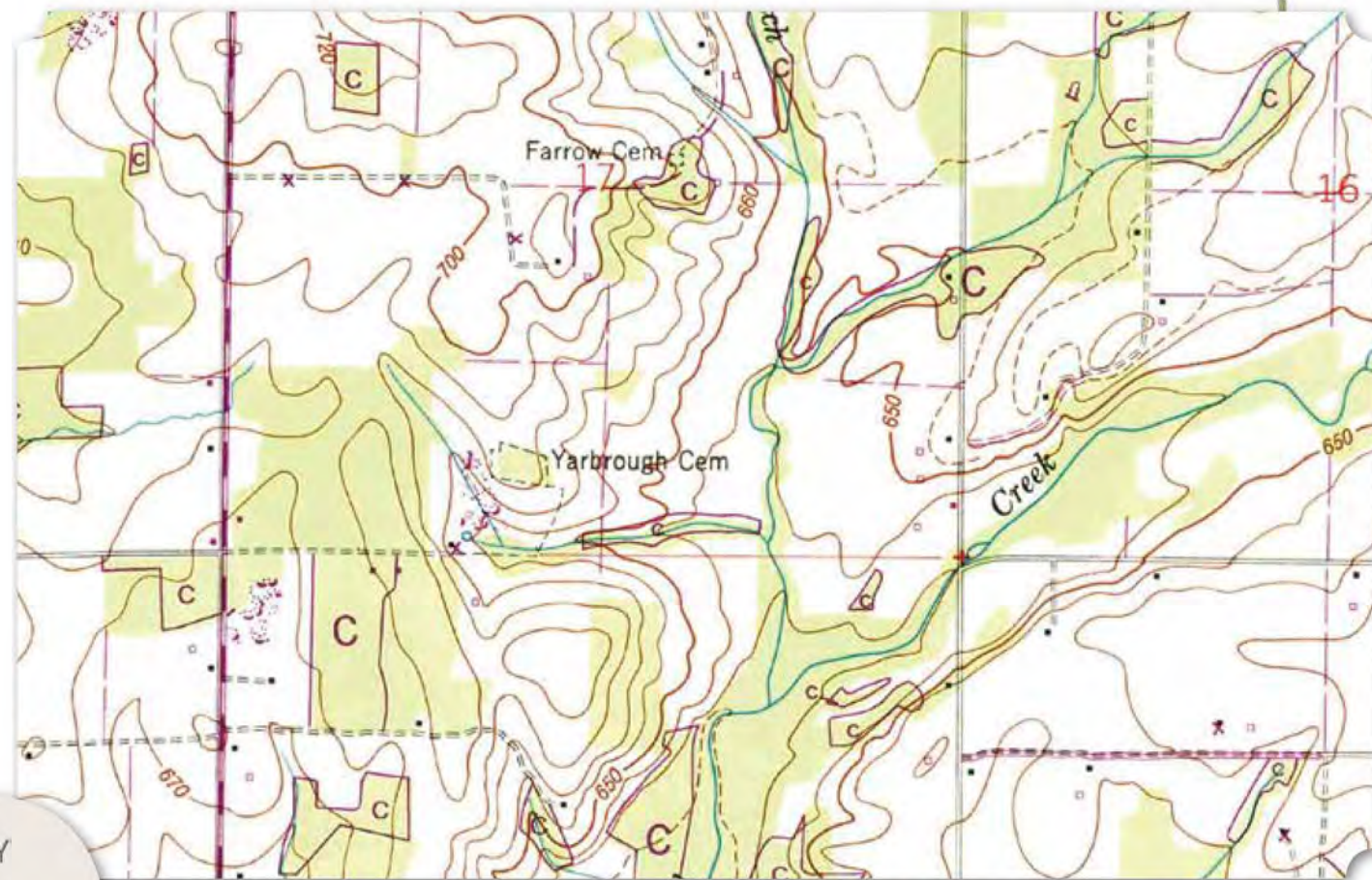
## Yarbrough Chapel\* and Cemetery

The Yarbrough Chapel was located southwest of Athens at the east end of Snake Road where it crosses Seven Mile Post Road. Yarbrough Chapel appeared on a 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map without the cemetery, although the cemetery was established by at least 1913, when the first known interment,

that of Floyd O. Moseley (1903-1913), occurred. However, by 1948, the chapel was no longer present and the topographic map that year showed only the Yarbrough Cemetery. This African American cemetery contains approximately 24 graves and was last used in 1974 for the burials of Melvinia Beddingfield (1868-1974) and Edward Moseley (1914-1974). Cannon and Malone are common surnames found here. Among the individuals buried here are James S. Moseley (1859-1942), his wife Mattie Yarbrough Moseley (1863-1933), and some of their children including, Floyd O. Moseley, Edward Moseley (1914-1974), Vanzo Moseley Phelps (1890-1932), and None Moseley Fletcher (1906-1972). James and his wife owned a farm in the area from at least 1900 to 1930.



(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Yarbrough Chapel (Right) Image of Class in Front of Dogwood Flat School, Date Unknown (Retro Glances) (Bottom Right) 1948 USGS Topographic Map Showing Yarbrough Cemetery



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS



# 3. THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

and knowledge on his hometown and the people of color in Limestone County, Alabama, and the South in general. Bridgeforth graduated from Trinity School in 1894 and Talladega College in 1897. In 1901, he became the first known African American student to graduate from Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. While at MAC, Bridgeforth played football, was on the rope pull team, and a member of the College Shakespearean Club.



(Above) Massachusetts Agricultural College Football Team, 1901 (Bridgeforth in Rear Center)

## George Ruffin Bridgeforth (1872-1955)

George Ruffin Bridgeforth was the son of former slaves George Bridgeforth and Jennie Andrews Bridgeforth. George Ruffin became influential in the African American community after obtaining an extensive education and focusing his influence

Bridgeforth joined the faculty at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in 1902. He later became the director of the Agricultural Department and left after Booker T. Washington's death. In 1917, he became the lead administrator of the Industrial and Educational Institute, also known as West Tuskegee, in Topeka, Kansas.

All the while, George Ruffin continued to ensure the stability of those

back home. In 1910, he and other members of his hometown community formed the Southern Small Farms & Improvement Company, of which he was the president. He was also Vice President of the Tuskegee Farm & Improvement Company. With these positions and financial backing, Bridgeforth and others went about securing land in Limestone County and elsewhere in Alabama solely for African American farmers. Throughout his career as an educator, Bridgeforth maintained and promoted the values of African American landownership. His efforts led to the creation of the Beulahland community in south central Limestone County, where several families,

including the Bridgeforths, continue to farm the land purchased 100 years ago.

George Ruffin Bridgeforth is buried next to his wife, Datie Miller Bridgeforth (1880-1971) in the Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery in Athens. Datie's parents, Ella D. Miller (1860-1933) and Dan L. Miller (1855-1920) are also interred there. Additionally, of note, the George R. Bridgeforth House at 716 Browns Ferry Street near Trinity Episcopal Church has been bought by David W. Smith and Karen Jones Smith of the Royal Funeral Home and renovated. The history and influence of George Ruffin Bridgeforth continues.

The Bridgeforths have been a prominent African American farming and landowning family in Limestone County since the 19th century. They have been the subject of studies on African American landownership and the history of farming in the South, such as a 1990 Master's thesis by Nancy Anne Carden of the University of Tennessee entitled *A Study of Southern Black Landownership, 1865-1940: The Bridgeforth Family of Limestone County, Alabama*. This thesis focuses on the 25% of Southern African American farmers who were able to acquire land by 1910. Using the Bridgeforth family as a case study of particular success, Ms. Carden examines multiple generations from George Ruffin Bridgeforth to Darden Bridgeforth, who operates a farm in southern Limestone County today.



(Above) The Jubilee Singers, 1877 Patti Malone on the far left (Athens Limestone Community Association)

## Patti J. Malone (1855-1897)

Patti Julia Malone was born a slave on Cedars Plantation in Athens. After the Civil War, she enrolled at Trinity School, which served children of former slaves and prepared them for Fisk University in Nashville. Both Trinity and Fisk were organized by the American Missionary Association. Ms. Mary Wells, principal of Trinity School, recruited Malone for a special fundraising venture: the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

The Jubilee Singers were a group of nine students chosen to tour and perform in efforts to raise money for the fledgling university. The first tour was a resounding success and raised over \$100,000 for the school. The group was disbanded but reunited on their own and toured for a couple of decades. Ms. Patti Malone debuted on January 14, 1878 in

Hamburg, Germany as a mezzo-soprano. Now known as the “First Lady of Music in Limestone County,” Malone and the Jubilee Singers toured the United States and the world, visiting Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, and performed for German Emperor Wilhelm I.

Malone often returned home to Athens. In 1884, she bought property there and built The Oaks, a house in which her mother and sister lived and where she was known to have often entertained African American members of the community. Her unexpected death at 41 in Omaha, Nebraska, was a shock and many people from around the world wrote newspaper articles and letters to the family expressing sorrow at her passing. She made her final trip home to be buried at the Hine and Hobbs Street Cemetery in Athens.

## Mud Creek School\*

The location of the Mud Creek School is uncertain except that it was most likely along Mud Creek between Athens and Beulahland. The school was established about 1881. In 1897 Mrs. Julia Hull was the teacher. Mud Creek School may also be known as Muddy Creek, but neither name was found on any known maps.

## Opportunity Schools

Opportunity schools were created as part of the largest educational reform package in the Alabama state legislature’s history to that time, 1927. That year, the state approved a budget of \$25 million for four years, an amount that was two and a half times higher than any previous allocation. The reform package also created mandatory seven-month long school terms for both white and African American schools, started a new division within the Department of Education specifically for African American institutions, and raised the average wage for teachers.

The law included the creation of an Opportunity School in each county that expected at least 15 students to enroll. The schools were for individuals aged 21 and older and intended to combat and

correct the high rate of illiteracy in the state, particularly among African Americans. A decade earlier, the Russell Sage Foundation released a report entitled Social Problems of Alabama. Among other things, it concluded that despite Alabama’s industrial boom and economic success in the early 20th century, the education system had badly failed the children. The illiteracy rate among children 10 and over was 12.1%. Among white children, only 6.4% were illiterate, but among African American children, the rate was an astonishing 31.2% and by 1927, Alabama ranked 45th of 48 states in literacy.

The Opportunity Schools were an effort to fight chronic underfunding, especially for rural schools and schools for children of color, to assist low-income parents having to balance work and home, and to see that rural children attended school more than a couple of months each year. While there was a law passed in 1907 that required every Alabama county to have a high school, these were most often for white students only. The “separate but equal” laws were practically ignored by the state, which left the majority of African Americans with a sixth to eighth grade education. The Opportunity Schools allowed adults that did not complete higher grades to go back to school to learn basic reading and writing.

Ezekiel School in Limestone County was one of the state’s Opportunity Schools. In 1930 it had the second highest enrollment and those who completed 90 hours of classes were awarded a certificate. The school was located west of Tanner and Beulahland, possibly at or near Ezekiel Church.

## St. Andrew School\*

Once located on Limestone County Road, this school operated for seven years. Mr. Kirby was one of the first trustees and his daughter was the first teacher. In 1947, Mrs. Margaret Phillips taught four grades, and Mr. Ballard, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Haywood Barks were trustees.

Although there is a photograph of children who attended the school, little is known about it. The school’s location is not known. The only full name



(Above) Students and Teacher of the St. Andrews School

associated with it, Mrs. Margaret Phillips, was not found residing in Limestone County in the 1940 Federal census. Finding Mrs. Phillips’ residence around the time she taught there could help identify the school’s location.

## TVA Removal Records

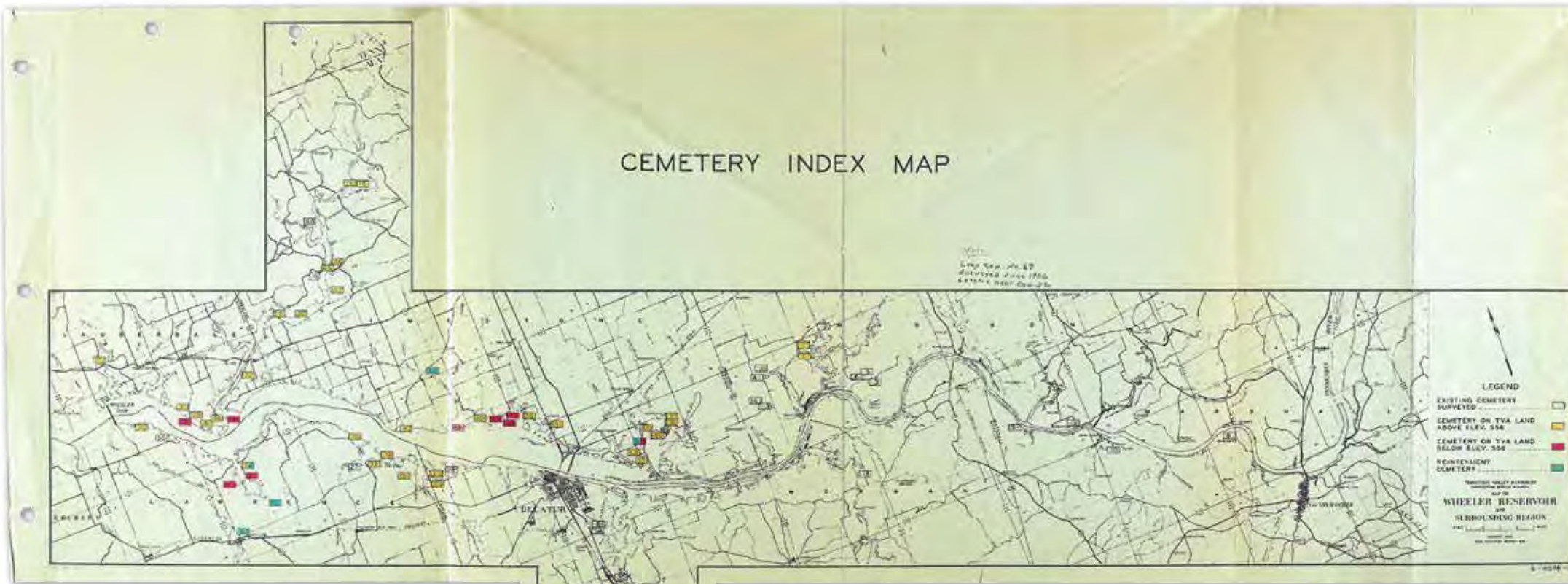
The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a federally organized corporation created as part of the New Deal by the TVA Act of 1933. The TVA’s mission has been to produce power and control flooding, erosion, and deforestation by constructing dams, nuclear power plants, and much more. A unique obligation of the TVA was that for each issue it sought to resolve, it conducted extensive studies to understand its effects. Therefore, before building the dams along the Middle Tennessee River in North Alabama, the TVA studied who and what would be impacted and how.

In the process of building dams along the Tennessee River, the TVA needed to acquire much of the land alongside the river that would be flooded. A major part of the TVA’s work was the relocation of roads, utilities, landowners, tenants, and cemeteries. Owners and renters were consulted to assess their options and ensure they were properly resettled.

The TVA’s work along the Tennessee River had a big impact on African American communities in the area.

The TVA completed a survey of each cemetery in the areas that would be flooded. More than 69,000 graves were mapped and over 20,000 were moved. For each cemetery or grave, the nearest living relatives were contacted and involved in the decision as to whether or not the burial ground should be left in place. Often, cemeteries were already on higher ground and families decided to leave them alone even though the surrounding area would be flooded, leaving the cemetery difficult to reach. When cemeteries were relocated, TVA would clean, repair, and reset monuments and headstones.

According to the TVA cemetery removal records, 72 cemeteries in eight North Alabama counties were considered for removal. Of those, only 21 were completely or partially relocated. Also, 14 of the 72 cemeteries were strictly for African Americans, although only one of these is known to have been moved – Campbell Cemetery in Lawrence County. The only known African American burial grounds surveyed by the TVA are McGuire and Patton cemeteries in Lauderdale County; Campbell, Hampton, and Robinson’s Quarter cemeteries in Lawrence County; Bridgeforth, Center Hill, Center Star, Lucas, and McDonald cemeteries in Limestone County; J.B. Harris, Mary Toney, and Sam Moore cemeteries in



(Left) Map of the Cemeteries Studied by TVA, 1935 (Tennessee Valley Cemetery Relocation Files, 1933-1990, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) Example of Post-Removal Family Information Sheet for George Settles (U.S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

TVA 378  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Date: November 15, 1935  
County: Limestone

FAMILY CASE RECORD  
PAGE SHEET  
Map No. 168  
Tract No. 220  
Schedule No. 109

Last Name: Lucas  
No. in Household: 2 Adults, 2 Children  
Present Address: Tammer, Ala.  
Rooms: 4  
Tenure: Owner  
Marital Status: M, S, D, Sep, W  
Date of Marriage: 1910  
Place: Limestone County  
School: No  
Church: --  
Military Service: No  
Union: No  
Race: Negro

Information concerning Family:

First Name	Relation	Date of Birth	Highest School Grade Completed	Number Times Married	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
Richard	Hus.	1873	7	2	Fair
Lulu Steels	Wife	1880	1	1	Good

Children: None

Others in Household:

Name	Address	Relationship	No. of Dependents	Employment
Rev. Adam Lucas	Tammer, Ala.	Brother	1	Minister

Employment Record of Family: (Exclude Farming)

Name	Employer	Address	Dates	Type of Work	Monthly Wage
Farm owner					

(Left) Example Of Typewritten TVA Questionnaire for Richard Lucas (U.S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) Example of Handwritten TVA Questionnaire for Richard Settlers (U.S., Tennessee Valley, Family Removal and Population Readjustment Case Files, 1934-1953, National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

TVA 379  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Schedule No. 321  
Map  
Date: 11-1-35

INFORMATION CONCERNING FAMILIES  
Fieldman: R. L. Lewis  
County: Limestone  
Civil District:

1. Name: RICHARD SETTLERS  
2. P. O. address: Demopolis  
3. Highway or road on which home is located: Demopolis Rd.  
4. Miles from home to nearest elementary school: 2 Its name: Robt. Travis  
5. Miles from home to nearest high school: 4 Its name: Athens  
6. Miles from home to nearest church: 2 Its name: Robt. Travis Presbyterian  
7. Chief trade center for family: Demopolis  
8. Average number of trips there per month: 5 Miles from home: 4  
9. Years lived at present residence: 7 In present community: all life  
10. Information concerning houses lived in during 1934 and 1935:

Year Owned	No. of Rooms	No. of Sleeping Rooms	Age of House	Dir- of trip- by	Tele- phone	Fuel Used	Facil- ities	Type of House	Condition of Repair
1934									
1935	3	2	40	none	none	wood	tab.	frame	bad

11. Source of water supply: Well  Cistern  Spring   
Other: none Distance from house: 3-5 - 3 yards.

12. Toilet facilities: Inside  Outside  None

13. Marital status: M,  S,  D,  Sep,  W, Race: Negro

14. Information concerning husband and wife:

Age Now	Age When First Married	No. of Times Married	Birthplace	Highest School Grade Reached	Condition of Health or Physical Defects
Husband: 40	24	2	Limestone, Ala.	0	slight
Wife: 45	17	2	"	0	good

15. No. of children born: Boys 2 Girls 2 No. who have died: Boys 0 Girls 0

16. The newspapers and magazines that the household receives regularly:  
Newspapers: none Magazines: Southern Agri-culturist

17. The approximate number of all books in the home: 12

18. Denominational preference: Presbyterian Membership in other organizations: 0

19. Amount of insurance: Life 0 Accident and Health 0  
Savings: \$150 Other: 0 Total: \$150

20. Liabilities: Mortgage 0 Other debts: 0 Total: 0

TVA 983  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
INFORMATION CONCERNING FAMILIES AFTER REMOVAL FROM RESERVOIR AREA  
Reservoir Family Removal Section  
Worker: Brown  
County: Limestone  
Date: 5-12-36

1. Name: George Settles  
2. P. O. Address: Athens, Alabama, R R #2  
3. Location (Highway, Road, Etc.): S. off Lucas Ferry Road.  
4. Type of House: Frame  
5. Name Nearest Elementary School: Snickel No. Rooms: 4  
6. Name Nearest High School: Athens Distance: 10  
7. Name Nearest Church: Snickel Distance: 1/2  
8. Name Nearest Store: Jones Cross Rd. Distance: 3  
9. Name Nearest Physician: Athens Distance: 10  
10. Name Nearest Telephone: Jones Cross Rd. Distance: 3  
11. Source of Water Supply: Spring 0, Well X, Etc.  
12. Toilet Facilities: Inside 0, Outside X, None 0  
13. Kind of Land: Red and grey Amt. Cultivated: 80  
14. Status of Family: Owner 0, Renter X, Cropper 0, Squatter 0

REMARKS:

Madison County; and Blackwell Cemetery in Morgan County.

The TVA Family Removal and Population Adjustment Case Files are on record with the National Archives and Records Administration (available through Ancestry.com). Most of the households investigated were sharecroppers or renters but there were some African American landowners among the records. Many of the affected landowners lived in the Beulah Land and Tanner communities. Other impacted communities included Harris, Little Elk, and Mooresville.

TVA field agents visited each home being considered for removal. For each visit, the agents filled out a questionnaire and took extensive notes. The case files include handwritten surveys and/or the typewritten summaries of the visits. Information recorded for each household included location; distance to prominent landmarks like the nearest school or church; whether the family owned or rented; how long they had lived in the house and the community; personal and family information such as marital status, birthplace, level of education, general health, number of children and if they still lived at home, and religion; description of the house, including number of rooms, water source, facilities. The questionnaires also contained entries for the newspapers and magazines the household regularly subscribed to as well as how many books were in the house.

As expected, a large portion of the questionnaire is devoted to finances, employment, and agriculture, including types of insurance, debt, employment history, and use of acreage. The TVA specifically sought information about those family members who left home after 1920 to find work elsewhere, what kind of trade the head of household engaged in, and what kind of trade they preferred. The TVA was also interested in how many acres farmers used within the “flowage area,” and for what purposes. Outside of this area, the TVA collected information about whether or not the household owned or rented land and how they used it. Expenditures, receipts, and sources of income were itemized along with such things as farm equipment, radios, cars, and other objects that could

contribute to a household’s operation and income. The goal of the questionnaire was to assess current living conditions and encourage preparations for moving, preferably to a better, or at least similar, location. The following examples describe families affected by the TVA Family Removal and Population Adjustments from their case files.

### Charles Donald

Charles Donald was 59 years old at the time the TVA field agent visited in 1935. He lived in Tanner for 30 years, the last 15 on the same farm. The frame house the Donalds lived in was in fair condition. It had three rooms, two used as bedrooms, no electricity or telephone, a wood-burning stove for cooking and heating, a bath tub, an outhouse, and a well. The house was 12 years old at the time. Mr. Donald was born in Limestone County and had a 2nd grade education. Also from Limestone County, Mrs. Donald was 50 years old and had a 4th grade education. They had both been married before. Between them they had seven boys and four girls, although only 2 boys and 3 girls lived to adulthood. Their 19-year-old daughter, Louise, lived at home, as did their three-year-old granddaughter, Katherine, and two-year-old grandson, Willie James.

The Donalds were Missionary Baptist, and Mr. Donald was a Mason. They subscribed to *Progressive Farmer Magazine* and *Ladies Home Journal*. Although neither of the Donalds had more than an elementary school education, they owned a relatively high number of books. While most households in the area at that time had less than 5 books, regardless of race, the Donalds had 60 books. They did not own a car, but had a sewing machine and phonograph.

The Donalds owed \$100 on their mortgage, and Donald had \$150 of insurance for his funeral expenses, probably through the Masons. He had left home in 1923 to look for work and had a job with Alabama By-Product Company in Birmingham, but returned to Limestone County in 1925. In 1935, he worked as a farmer but would have preferred a job doing public work, perhaps for TVA or the county.

Donald farmed 36 acres of land, half of it within the “flowage area.” He owned 10 acres, but rented an additional 26 acres. He cultivated the entire 10 acres that he owned and 24 of the rented acres. Of the 34 acres he had in cultivation, 25 acres were planted with corn and nine with cotton. The land Donald rented was part of the Houston Estate and he paid 400 pounds of cotton for its use. He also had two mules, one cow, and 40 chickens. He owned a wagon, turning plow, planter, and harrow. The Donalds were able to produce butter, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, peaches, potatoes and sweet potatoes, honey, and wood for their household.

### George Kirby

George Kirby lived with his wife Julia in Tanner where he had owned a house since about 1929. The house was five rooms with three bedrooms, no bathroom, no electricity, and no telephone. It was 25 years old in 1935 and in poor condition. Kirby was 48 years old and born in Giles County, Tennessee. He had a 3rd grade education and was in good health. Julia Kirby, was 34 years old and also from Giles County. She had a 5th grade education and was also in good health. Although there had been five boys and seven girls born to the Kirbys, only one boy had lived to adulthood. In fact, between 1925 and 1935, Frank Kirby, George’s father, had died of a stroke; Roosevelt Kirby, his grandson, had died from a stomach ailment; and the TVA case worker noted that “11 children have died in the last 28 years!”

Besides George and Julia Kirby, George’s mother, Jenny Kirby, aged 83 years, lived with them. Their son, George Kirby, Jr., 35 years old, lived in Decatur. The 1940 census shows the family living in Tanner.

The Kirby’s were Baptist and Mr. Kirby was a Mason. They subscribed to *Progressive Farmer Magazine* and had one book in the house, undoubtedly a Bible. They possessed a phonograph and a 1927 Ford automobile that Mr. Kirby bought two years earlier. They owed \$706 on their mortgage and Mr. Kirby had a \$500 life

insurance policy. While between marriages in 1924, Kirby went to Decatur and worked in a tanning yard, but preferred farming.

Kirby owned 13 acres in 1935. A total of 11 acres were used for corn and cotton. He also had one horse, one cow, three hogs, and 36 chickens. The farm produced butter, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes.

### Adam Lucas

A resident of Tanner, Adam Lucas and his wife, Sarah, lived in a four room house. When the TVA case worker visited the Lucas home in November 1935, he spoke with Sarah. The case file notes that Rev. Lucas had a 5th grade education and Mrs. Lucas had a 4th grade education. They were both from Limestone County and had been married for 20 years. Although they were listed as having no children, this may indicate that no children were living at home. They lived on land that Lucas had owned for 23 years. They had two mules, two cows, some hogs, and some chickens.

The TVA case workers wrote that “Sarah is a dark brown slender woman, and appears to be very energetic.” Mrs. Lucas informed the TVA that Adam had cultivated the farm himself since he purchased it and although he was also a minister, he received very little pay for his work at the church. By November 1935, Mr. Lucas had bought ten acres of land about a mile from his farm and was



remodeling the house there. He hoped that he and his family could move within two weeks. But by December, Adam was still working on the new home. The case worker came back in January 1936 to find that the Lucas' had successfully moved to Bee Line Highway and Beulah Road within a half mile of Beulahland School. Although the case was closed after that, it was noted that Adam Lucas liked his old farm better because he did not like living so close to the main road.

### Hannah MacDonald

Mrs. Hannah MacDonald was a widow between 65 and 70 years old when the TVA visited in March 1935. Her husband had passed away in 1920. Mrs. MacDonald grew up in Limestone County and lived in the Tanner community for most of her life and in the same house for over 30 years. Her house had four rooms, two bedrooms, no electricity or telephone, a wood burning stove, a well, and an outhouse. She owned no possessions such as a radio or sewing machine because, she said, "she can't stand noisemakers."

Mrs. Hannah MacDonald owned 80 acres of land, 45 being woodland and the balance under cultivation.

Before her husband passed away, the MacDonalds cultivated this land but since she became a widow, MacDonald rented out the land to her son and grandson. The family owned two mules, one horse, two cattle, and 16 chickens. They also had a wagon, mower, cultivator, two turning plows, planters, and harrow. The farm produced butter, milk, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, and wood.

In late 1935, Mrs. MacDonald and her son-in-law, Pearl Macklin, purchased a 118-acre farm from Bruce Nelson on Lucas Ferry Road, south of Jones Crossroads. She repaired the house on the new farm and moved all the buildings from the old farm by March of 1936.

### Frank Maclin

Frank Maclin grew up in Tanner. He and his wife lived in their house for 20 years before the TVA visited in 1935. The 19-year-old house contained five rooms – three used for bedrooms. It had no electricity or telephone, was heated by a wood-burning stove, had a well 20 yards away, an outhouse, and was judged in fair condition.

Maclin was 48 years old with a 5th grade education. His wife Blanche, age 38, was from Hale County, Alabama and had remained in school through the 10th grade, a rare level of education among this community at that time. According to the 1930 census, she taught school. Maclin's first wife, Sarah, had died of cancer within the past decade. Blanche had married Frank in 1930. Between them they had one son and three daughters living.

Frank's son, Lewis Lee was 20 years old with a 5th grade education and worked part time for the TVA for \$30 a month. Blanche's brother, Emory Hobson, age 28 years, also lived in the house. Frank's three daughters were married and lived in Athens, Decatur, and Birmingham.

The Maclin household subscribed to the *Limestone Democrat* and *Decatur Daily* newspapers and also had 20 books. The

Maclins were Baptist, Frank was a Mason and Blanche was a member of the Eastern Star. He had a \$500 life insurance policy and she had a \$150 policy. The house's mortgage was paid in full by 1935. Although the Maclins had no car, they had a sewing machine and phonograph.

Frank Maclin did not consider himself a farmer. He worked for the L&N Railroad for \$18 a month, but he also owned 34 acres of land, which his son, Lewis Lee Maclin, farmed. Of the 34 acres, six were wooded and 27 were planted with corn, cotton, hay, sorghum, and other crops. The family had one mule, one cow, some hogs, and 14 chickens. They owned a wagon, plow, and planters and produced butter, milk, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and wood from their land.

### George Settles

In November of 1935, George Settles was visited by the TVA at his home on Harris Station Road in Tanner. Mr. Settles was 43 years old with a 4th grade education. He was married to Abbie Batts, 42, who had either a 5th or 6th grade education. The Settles were both from Limestone County and had lived in their house for 22 years. They had six daughters and three sons. Their 35-year-old house had five rooms, of which three were bedrooms. It lacked electricity, a telephone, or other facilities and was heated with a wood burning stove. The frame structure was rated as being in bad condition but judged as clean and well-kept inside. The family owned a 1924 Ford automobile, a radio, and sewing machine.

In 1936, George Settles was working for the TVA for \$60 a month, but he preferred to farm like he had done his entire life. He owned 120 acres of land, 85 of which were planted with corn, cotton, hay, and sorghum. Mr. Settles had three mules, four cows, four hogs, and 20 chickens. His farm equipment included a wagon, mower, hay rake, stalk cutter, harrow, two cultivators, three turning plows, planters, and a harness. The farm produced butter, milk, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, sorghum, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and wood.

George Settles did not wish to move far from where he lived, even though his entire 85 acres of cultivated land would be flooded by the TVA. He wanted to move somewhere within the community, hopefully into a five room house with electricity and at least 40 acres of cropland, five acres of pasture, and five acres of woodlands. He did not get his ideal farm, unfortunately. When the TVA case worker visited to assess their relocation, George had rented a farm on the Will Nelson Place. While the Settles were independent and did not require assistance from any relatives, George had to sell his 120 acres and five-room house and rent 80 acres and a four-room house on Lucas Ferry Road.

### Pleas Orr, Sr. and Pleas Orr, Jr.

According to the federal census records, Pleas Orr, Sr. rented a farm in the area in 1910, but owned a farm by 1920, while Pleas, Jr. was still living at home. By 1930, Pleas Sr. owned a farm and Pleas Jr. rented a farm in the Harris Community. By the time the TVA case worker visited in March 1935, Pleas Jr. also owned a farm nearby.

Pleas Orr, Sr. was 65 years old and lived with his wife, 63, in Harris. The Orrs had four sons and five daughters, but two of their sons died before reaching adulthood. They lived in a five-room house with three bedrooms, no electricity or telephone, a wood burning stove, well, and outhouse. The house was 17 years old. The senior Orr family subscribed to the *Limestone Democrat* and had about 10 books in the house. They were Methodist, and Orr, Sr. was a Mason. The farm and house was completely paid for by 1935.

Orr, Sr. owned 65 acres of land, 25 of which he rented out to Anna Horton. He rented an additional 66 acres from Gilbert Phillips, his granddaughter's husband. He grew crops on 68 acres of land – 25 in corn, 30 in cotton, and 13 in other crops. He owned three mules, three cows, 15 hogs, and 45 chickens. The farm produced butter, milk, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, sorghum, apples, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and wood. The family had a wagon, mower, hay baler, harrow, cultivator, three turning plows, and planters.





Pleas Orr, Sr. wanted to buy a five-room house with electricity and at least 30 acres of cropland and 10 acres of pasture. He had \$2,000 to invest in a new home.

Pleas Orr, Jr. was 27 years old and married in 1935. He lived near his father in Harris where he rented a five-room house. Orr, Jr. rented 40 acres from his half-brother, L.G. Fields. On his 40 acres he grew corn, cotton, hay, sorghum, and potatoes. He wished to buy a farm if he could, but planned on renting 40 acres of cropland, 10 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of woodland. He wanted a five-room house with electricity and had saved \$300. According to census records, by 1940, the father and son co-owned a farm on Lucas Ferry Road.

### Richard Settlers

Richard Settlers lived in Belle Mina. At 60 years old, he and his wife, who was 45 years old, owned a three-room house with two bedrooms, no electricity or telephone, a wood burning stove, well, and outside privy. The house was 40 years old at that time. The Settlers were both born in Limestone County. They had two sons and two daughters. Although neither of the Settlers had any education, they subscribed to the *Southern Agriculturist* and had 12 books in their home.

Although Richard Settlers owned his home, he did not farm at the time of the TVA visit in March 1935 because he lacked the funds and tools to get a crop started. Settlers stated he preferred work as a cotton farmer or in a steel mill. Mr. Settlers' interest and cooperation with TVA indicated that he was hopeful that the TVA could help him with his situation. He planned to move his family to Chattanooga where he would rent a three-room house with at least 25 acres of cropland and five acres of woodland.

### Mimia Smith

Mimia Smith, also known as Mimia Woodruff Love, was 59 years old and living with her second husband in 1935. A note on the back of the TVA case file states "Wife is owner of land and head of household. Married present husband just last year and wife

maintains control of property, crops, etc. Son lives in same house, and the two families halve the cultivatable land not rented out. Maintain separate establishments. Daughter living at home have been married and divorced." Mrs. Smith owned a three-room house with two bedrooms, a wood burning stove, and a well but no electricity, telephone, or facilities. The house was built in 1905.

Smith's first husband was William Love, who passed away in 1929. Together they had five sons and nine daughters, although four of their children did not survive to adulthood. From 1900 to 1920 they rented a farm in near Mooresville. Sometime between 1920 and 1929, William purchased at least 111 acres of farmland. In 1935, Mimia owned 25 acres of woodland, 30 acres of pasture, and 56 acres under cultivation producing corn, cotton, hay, and other crops. She rented out another 33 acres of cropland to her son James Love, and son-in-law, John Gordon.

The Love-Smith farm had one mule, one horse, two cattle, three hogs, and 17 chickens. The family produced butter, milk, eggs, poultry, pork, corn, sorghum, peas/beans, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and wood on a regular basis. Their equipment included a wagon, mower, hay rake, stalk cutter, cultivator, turning plow, and harrow. Smith wished to relocate within the Mooresville area and hoped to buy a three-room house with at least 40 acres of cropland and five acres of pasture with the \$3,000 she had saved.

### Martha Sue Beddingfield Yarbrough

Mrs. Martha Sue Yarbrough was born a slave about 1853. She grew up in the Little Elk area in southwest Limestone County where she once belonged to the Beddingfield family. She married Joe Y. Yarbrough between 1870 and 1880. The Yarbroughs owned a farm by 1910, but Mr. Yarbrough passed away by 1920. Mrs. Yarbrough planned to move her two-story house to the nearby farm bought by her son, Critz. However, according to the 1930 and 1940 federal

census records, Critz rented a farm and his mother already lived with him in 1930.



# 4. AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY

Modern-day laws and legislation require taxation for funding, mandate attendance, provide transportation and meals, and regulate teachers' pay. Every child is expected to go to school for nine months of the year and all children within a community attend the same schools together. But the way public education functions today is only about 40 years old. For most of this nation's history, children did not attend school more than a few months of the year, and many never received more than an eighth grade education. African American children frequently had no chance to go to school and when they did, they had a tenacious community to thank for the opportunity.

The history of African American formal education in Alabama begins with Emancipation and Reconstruction. Most enslaved people craved education, a commodity they saw as a defining characteristic of their enslavers. Once freed, education was thought of as a way to protect themselves against a return to slavery. Some freedmen learned to read and write as a way to emulate their one-time masters and others thought of it as a practical tool needed for success in life and business.

In the South, education was intimately entwined with religion as former slaves, particularly older generations, strove for literacy in order to read the Bible by themselves. The younger generation was just as eager to learn and constantly encouraged by their parents and grandparents who did not have the opportunity. In many ways, education was put above other concerns. The earliest schools were often in dilapidated shacks.



**(Above)** Engraving of a “Contraband” School of Newly Freed Children Taught Outside, 1863 (Lewis C. Lockwood’s *Mary S. Peake: The Colored Teacher at Fortress Monroe* via *New Georgia Encyclopedia*)

Later, when churches were established, church buildings doubled as classrooms.

The end of the Civil War and slavery created social tensions that may still be unresolved. Immediately after Emancipation, white Alabamians resisted any actual or perceived elevation of their former slaves. Education was a particular sore point, which some said would ruin the freedmen as laborers. However, in the eyes of the Federal government and Northern Reconstructionists, if freedmen were to be citizens, they

should be educated. Yet, many freedmen had little or no experience in education or means of acquiring it, and they needed help.

Assistance came first from the Union Army. As the Federal troops occupied North Alabama during the War, they took in “contraband,” or runaway or freed slaves. One of the things provided for the freed slaves in the Union camps was education. Somewhere near Huntsville, in May 1864, Union Chaplain T. Merrill taught a day and Sabbath school for the freedmen. This typified a pattern in which more often than not, the duty of educating former slaves came down to missionaries and other philanthropic associations. Those willing to help were sometimes provided with old barracks or buildings confiscated by the Union Army.

The first benevolent society in North Alabama to assist with providing education was the Pittsburgh Freedmen’s Aid Commission. By the end of 1865 the Freedmen’s Aid Commission had 11 schools in Huntsville, Athens, and Stevenson. When white Alabamians criticized the freedmen as intellectually inferior, a teacher in Huntsville defended them by saying that despite the need for adequate books, teachers, and schoolhouses, “the freedmen not only known their letters but spell words correctly.”

**(Below)** Engraving of the “James’s Plantation School” in North Carolina, 1868 (North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library via [ncpedia.org](http://ncpedia.org))



While the Freedmen's Bureau was established by a bill passed on March 3, 1865, the bill unfortunately made no provisions for education. This oversight was rectified by directing proceeds made from abandoned or confiscated land to an education fund. While the Bureau provided support by means of transportation and provision of supplies, teachers, and buildings, funding mostly came from philanthropic and benevolent associations. In 1866, Congress extended the bill and included upwards of \$500,000 for education.

But the philanthropic endeavors of white Northerners were not without controversy and misfortunes. White teachers often could not find room or board and sometimes resorted to boarding with freedmen, which did not go unnoticed. Many Northerners were forced out of the state by threats or violence. Schools and churches for former slaves were frequently burned. Teachers in Stevenson, Jackson County, Alabama had to request military intervention to keep themselves and freedmen safe. The opposition of teaching freedmen took a turn in 1866, when plantation owners increasingly provided education for their former slaves. This apparent change of heart was mostly due to their opposition to Northern interference and as a way to control the freedmen and what they learned.

While there appeared to be some progress in the availability of education for African Americans in the South during Reconstruction, by the 20th century education was not a priority to the politicians of Alabama. Funding for education during Reconstruction was allotted on a per student basis, resulting in fairly proportionate funding for both white schools and African American schools. By the late 19th century, the power to distribute funds was given to each county and many school systems chronically underfunded schools for African American children. With a lack of funds and little to no means of local funding through taxes, the inequalities grew to the stereotypical concept of Southern inequality we think of today.

The 1901 rewriting of the state constitution had further negative impacts on public education by mandating segregation, disproportionately underfunding schools for African Americans, and removing power from

local and county school systems and placing it in the hand of the state legislature. From then on, if local or county school systems wished to modify tax laws for any reason, including to provide adequate funding for schools, the propositions would be subject to a statewide vote. Hurdles like these ensured that inequalities would not be addressed. Alabama and its educational system would continue to suffer from underfunding, racism, and inadequately short school terms.

In the early 20th century, the average school term for a white student was 72 days. Most schools for children of color were able to function an average of only 34 days per year. The average salary for a white teacher in Alabama was \$860 for a male and \$420 for a female. In contrast, the average African American male teacher made \$480 and a female teacher made \$140. The discrepancies also applied to the buildings in which the classes gathered. The average school for white children cost \$40,000, while the cost of schools for African American children averaged only \$1,000 – if they had their own schoolhouse at all. All of these numbers were even lower in rural communities.

Some efforts were made to correct these lapses in funding and equality by the "Education Governor," Braxton Bragg Comer, who was in office from 1907 to 1911. Under his guidance, it was mandated that every county have a high school. This more or less succeeded so that by 1918, only 10 of the 67 counties still lacked a high school. Comer also attempted to extend compulsory attendance to the age of sixteen. However, this did little to ensure that children regularly attended school or that schools could function for more than a few months of the year. A decade after the policy was introduced, attendance was only up one percent and only one in 11 rural school children made it to high school.

Comer also did little to quash the inequality holding back African American schools in Alabama. In 1912, Wilcox County is recorded as spending \$17 on each white student while only spending \$0.37 on each student of color in the county. Most of this money would go toward hiring a teacher and paying for a few school books. These minimum provisions meant that African American students were left to find the time and place to meet, usually homes and churches, whenever they

could afford to gather. And the illiteracy rate for children of color over the age of 10 was 31.3% by 1920.

It took several more years for another set of reforms to be proposed. In 1927, the state education reform package appropriated the largest amount of state funds to education to date. The reform extended the mandatory school term to seven months for all schools, created the Division of Negro Education, which included two state-level African American employees, raised the average pay for teachers, and established Opportunity Schools in every county expected to enroll a minimum of 15 students. The funding for this reform package resembled modern-day sources, including taxation on roads, certain businesses, tonnage from mining, and the sale of tobacco.

However, the narrative of education and equality in Alabama is one of ebb and flow. Despite these advances in funds and mandates on opening schools and lengthening the terms, the policy's effects failed to reach everywhere they were needed. Rural schools were still not able to keep their doors open for more than an average of 123 days. Often the rural-urban divide was worse than the racial divide when it came to inequality in schools and sometimes these inequalities were compounded. Economic discrepancies meant that 84% of landowners' children were able to attend school, while only 58% of sharecroppers' children could attend. With a very small percentage of African American families able to afford a home or farm, the likelihood of their children attending school was lower than average.

The Great Depression wiped out nearly all the progress of educational funding and equality gained in Alabama. Resources were so scarce during the Depression that only 16 of 116 school systems were able to pay their teachers in full in 1932. Some local and county systems resorted to paying their teachers in vouchers that could be redeemed at local businesses having special agreements with the school system.

In 1932 and 1933, more than 227,000 school children received a maximum of five months of schooling. This would have been less in rural areas and many schools for African American children were forced to

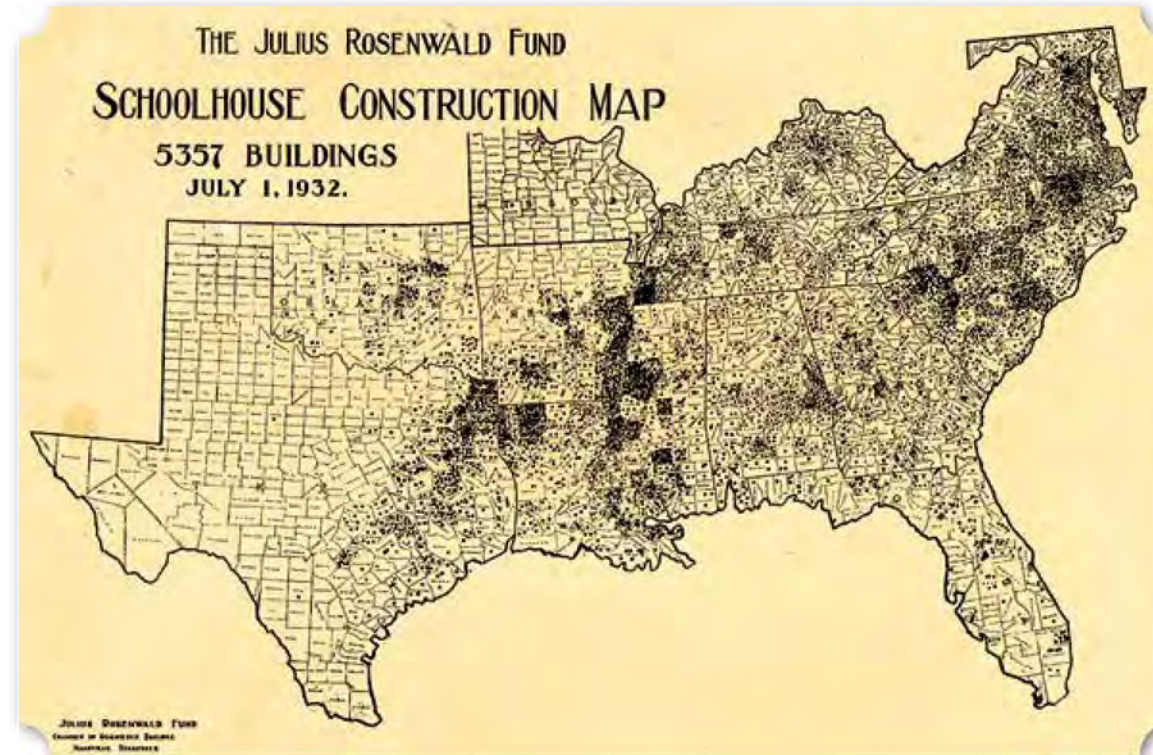
close all together. In North Alabama, the TVA was able to offset some of the effects of the depression in communities where it worked. The TVA conducted extensive studies about the needs of schools, teachers, and children throughout North Alabama. Some communities were assisted by the TVA in building schools or other community needs.

The industrial growth brought on by World War II in Alabama as a whole, and North Alabama specifically, did little to bring education back to the forefront. In 1943, the state extended the school year again to the nine-month long term. But tension surrounding funding and race, including the federal court case *Brown vs. Board of Education*, negated the economic boom of the 1940s. By the 1950s, school systems were consolidating the number of schools, especially those in rural areas. In Madison County, some 3,500 children of color were consolidated into only 40 schools with just 25 teachers of color. Many small, community schools for African American children were closed for good and teachers and students were made to travel farther to get an education. Limestone County was particularly fortunate when it came to education. In the school year of 1954-1955, there were 1,845 students at 21 schools in the county. The average daily attendance was 1,644 students, or 91% of the population.

This would only be a problem for about 15 years, because by 1970, all schools in Alabama were integrated. The schools provided for white students were larger, and better equipped and funded. This led to the closure of all public schools for African Americans. While some of the small one- and two-room schoolhouses were reused as churches or some other community function, the majority were demolished.

## Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Plan

The most recognizable name in rural African American education in the early 20th century is Julius Rosenwald. Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932) was born in Springfield, Illinois. The son of German-Jewish immigrants, Rosenwald is renowned as the president of the Sears, Roebuck &



(Above) Map of the Julius Rosenwald Schoolhouse Construction, 1932 (The Ohio State University Digital Archive)

Company. However, he was a philanthropist long before he ran the commercial giant. His methods of philanthropy matched his philosophy towards public service. Rosenwald believed that communities in need should be at the heart of any project and that government assistance would only lead to a cycle of poverty.

Julius Rosenwald's School Building Fund helped to provide money to build African American schoolhouses in the rural South between 1913 and 1937. The African American communities in need of the school would be intricately involved in raising funds among their own members and the white community, as well as providing the land and labor to build the school. These communities often named the schools for the person who donated the land or the most money. Other times they named it something "poetic" and "colorful" like Thankful, Peace and Good Will, Godsend, or Rough and Ready. After the school was built, parents and local residences would help to provide for the school with wood or coal for the stove.

Because the Rosenwald Plan was centered around the idea that the community would help itself, many of the early Rosenwald school buildings looked like the vernacular, or local, architecture of churches and farm buildings. The local carpenters took what was familiar and modified it according to their notions of what was needed for a school. As the Rosenwald Fund project took off with great acceleration, a more standard construction plan was developed. Model Rosenwald schools were designed to make the most of the materials and environment that rural Southern communities had access to while providing an easy guide for communities to follow.

In 1920, Samuel Leonard Smith was appointed the General Field Agent in Nashville. He developed floor plans that fit the needs of different schools. Smith's *Community School Plan* booklet contained beautiful concept drawings and floor plans that eliminated any possible architect fees, reduced costs, and laid out materials needed for each design. Providing an exact list of materials and their costs helped to soothe any misgivings that community donors might have about how the money would be spent. Additional

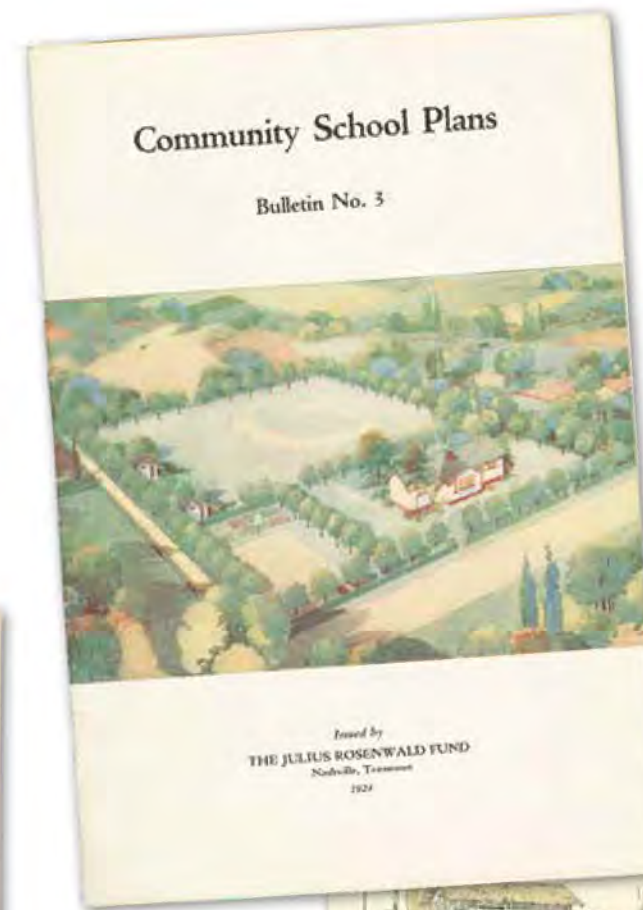
(Below and Opposite) (1-3) Rural School Plans from "The Negro Rural School and its Relation to the Community," 1915, Tuskegee Institute (The Ohio State University Digital Archive)



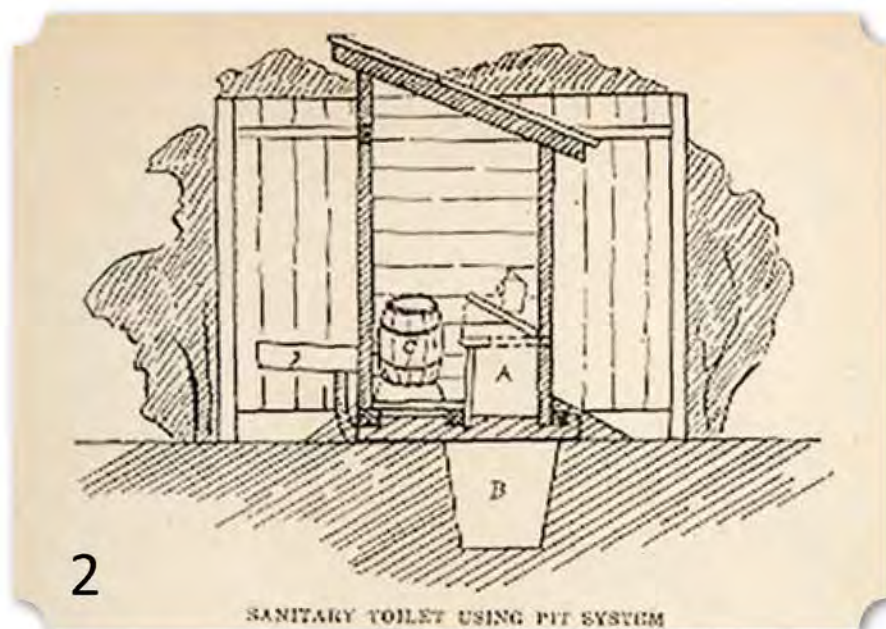
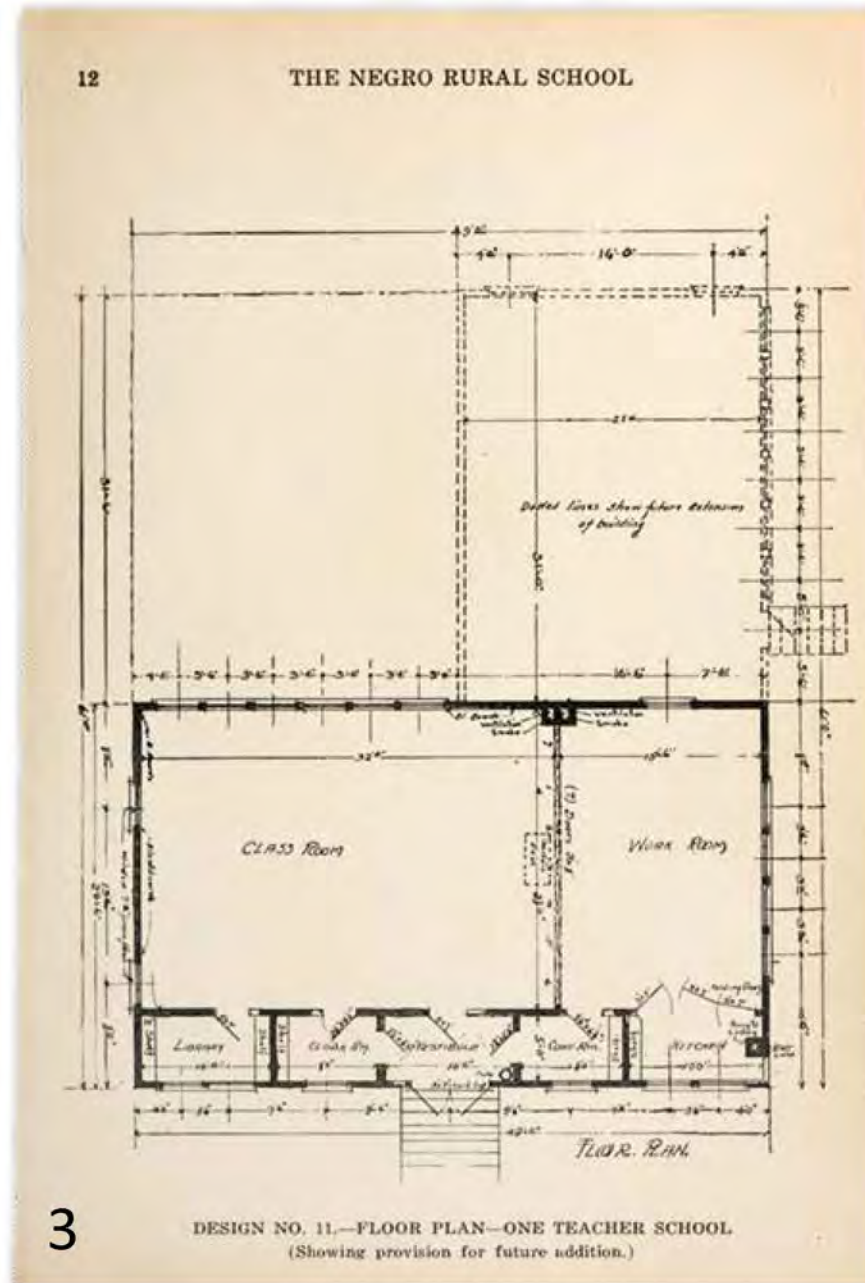
plans for teachers' homes and privies, as well as instructions for land development and lot placement were incorporated.

The Rosenwald schools of North Alabama were mostly one or two rooms, with some modifications for third rooms. Some were built under the direction of people from Tuskegee Institute before Samuel Smith drew up his plans in 1924. The schools built under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute were fairly simple. The one classroom building would be about 32 by 28 feet. The other half of the schoolhouse would be a work room for shop or art classes. The front of the schoolhouse was lined with the utilitarian rooms and closets including a small library and kitchen, coat closets, and the entryway. The two-room version only differed by adding another classroom onto the rear.

The one-room school house of Smith's plans typically included a classroom of about 20 by 40 feet with a multiple-use room in the back and coat closets on either side of the entrance. While still simple, the Smith-designed schools followed architectural styles like Colonial Revival and Craftsman, which were popular for new and expensive homes at the time. Smith designed for simplicity and usability. He knew that costs must be kept at a minimum, electricity was rare, and most communities lacked gathering spaces other



(Above and Right) Cover and Excerpts of Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3, the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Created by S. L. Smith, 1924 (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Public Instruction Records, Item 104.339, North Carolina Digital Collections, State Archives of North Carolina)



than churches. In turn the schools would have simple wood siding and were painted white, gray, cream, or stained nut-brown. The walls of two-room schools could be moved to create more room. The windows were double-hung and a bank of windows was often placed on the east side to take advantage of the natural light. Even the colors of the exterior wood, the interior walls and ceiling, and the shades on the windows were often light colored to avoid absorbing excess heat and to reflect light around the room. Students' desks were arranged with the most windows to the left. This would prevent a shadow when writing – something still done today despite artificial lighting.

When Rosenwald met Booker T. Washington, he approved of the self-help attitude and ambition of the African American community in Alabama. Together they began a system of grant matching to provide rural communities with funds for education if they were willing to take on the communal responsibility and become an integral part of the system. In order to qualify, at least two acres of land was deeded for the school and all funds for construction would need to be gathered beforehand.

Often the land was donated by an African American landowner. Other members of the community pulled together funds for the construction. The African American community always contributed the most and the more money they raised for themselves, the more money was allotted from the public funds and from the Rosenwald Fund. Starting in 1916, Alabama legislation offered the allowance of public monies toward African American schools up to half the amount raised by the local community. In Madison County, of the nine schools, only two had contributions from the white community. Overall, the Rosenwald School Building Fund was intended to be seen as more than “a series of schoolhouses, but as a community enterprise in cooperation between citizens and officials, white and colored.” Unfortunately, this wasn't always the case and in general, the white community only contributed about 4% to the fund.

The concept of a community that helps to pull itself up by the bootstraps was not new to the African American communities of Alabama or the South in general. A half century earlier, when the Freedmen's Bureau



**(Above)** Julius Rosenwald While Trustee at the University of Chicago, No Date (University of Chicago Photographic Archives, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

provided assistance to newly freed slaves, the freedmen's response was to double their own efforts in tandem. For decades, African American communities had taken advantage of every opportunity to better themselves. When it came to education this meant donating materials, labor, or land to make schoolhouses. Long before Rosenwald and Smith designed schools and dictated supplies, a community of freedmen in Huntsville in 1866 raised the funds and materials for a school and inquired of the Bureau about construction plans and procuring a teacher.

In 1913, six communities in Alabama were able to meet the criteria and Rosenwald promised \$300 to each one-room school. Soon, at least a hundred more communities qualified for assistance and the Rosenwald School Building Fund was incorporated in 1917. Once Rosenwald became president of Sears, Roebuck & Company, he was able to expand the School Fund to \$20 million with a gift of the company's stock in 1927. This large gift had the condition attached that all funds were to be spent within 25 years of his death – which happened in 1932--to maintain his philosophy of philanthropy and education. Rosenwald

**(Below)** Julius Rosenwald (Left) and Booker T. Washington (Right), 1915 (University of Chicago Photographic Archives, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



wanted the money to be spent on the educational needs of the people of the day, while future generations would attend to their own needs with their own means. He did not want officers and trustees to take over and attempt to conserve capital.

While the Rosenwald School Building Fund eventually reached across the South, it began in Alabama. The first Rosenwald school was in Notasulga, a dozen miles from Tuskegee. The first 79 schools were all in Alabama. In the end, the Rosenwald Fund helped to create a total of 5,358 school buildings constructed in 883 counties throughout 15 Southern states. The Fund went beyond schoolhouses to include support buildings, homes for teachers, and vocational training facilities for young adults. Ultimately, there were 382 schools built in Alabama, reaching 64 out of 67 counties.

By the time that Julius Rosenwald died in 1932, the Fund had put forth a total of \$4.4 million to build schools throughout the South. The African American community contributed \$4.7 million to the schools and the state governments provided an additional \$18.1 million. Other foundations added \$1.2 million to make a total of nearly \$30 million.

In North Alabama, the most Rosenwald schools were built in Madison County – a total of nine – probably due to the presence of Huntsville and a relatively large community of African American landowners. There were eight schools built in Colbert County, seven in neighboring Lauderdale County, five in Limestone County, four in Lawrence County, three in Jackson County, two in Morgan County, and one in Marshall County.

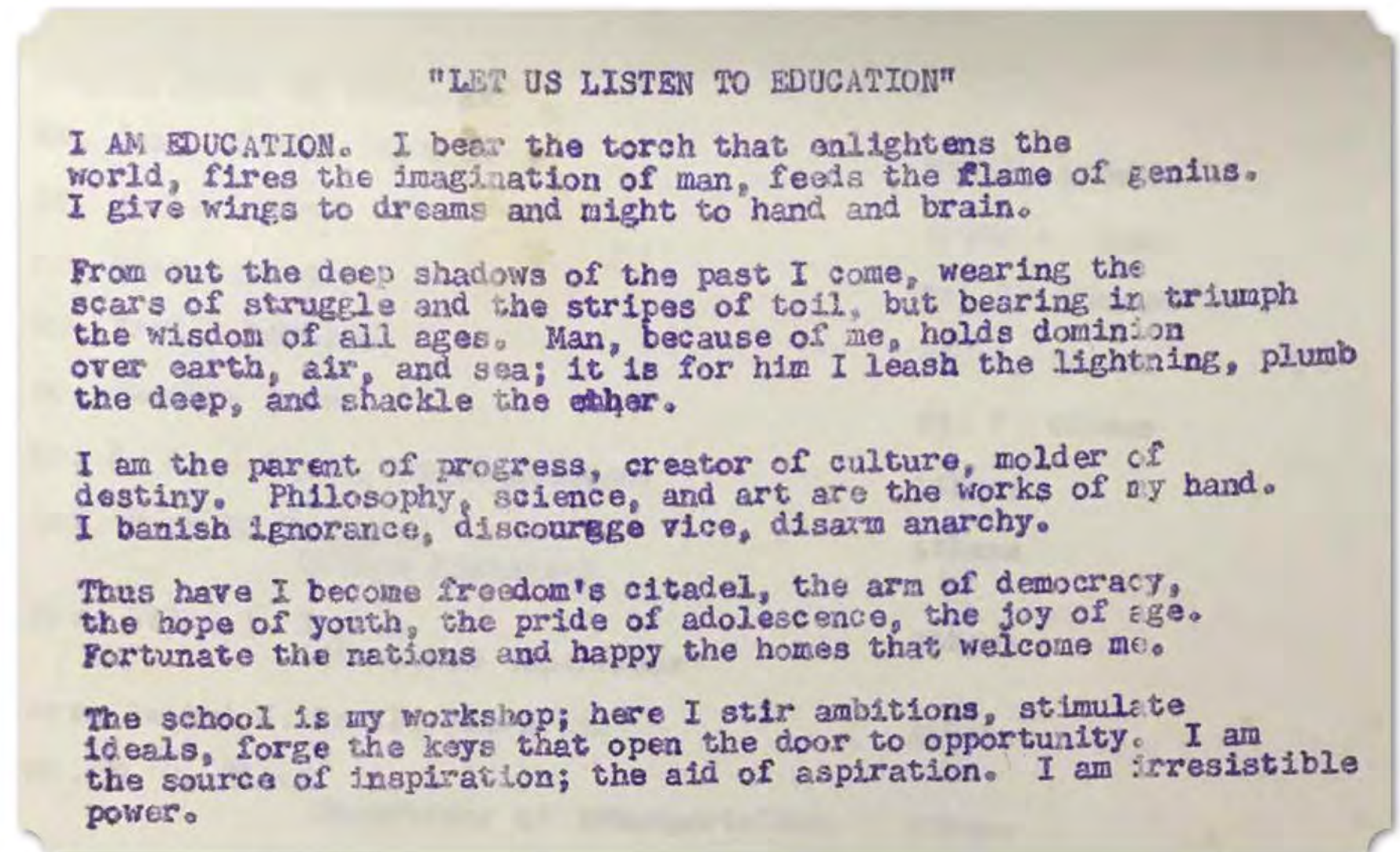
While the Rosenwald Fund came to an end upon Julius Rosenwald's death in 1932, most of the schools built in the two decades of philanthropy remained in use into the 1950s. After World War II, the state took more responsibility in education, including the building of schools, staffing teachers, and providing transportation. Alabama consolidated and reorganized its school systems, in the process incorporating all existing schools including Rosenwalds. Some of the schoolhouses were eventually reused as community centers or churches, but many fell into disrepair from disuse or lack of means for upkeep.

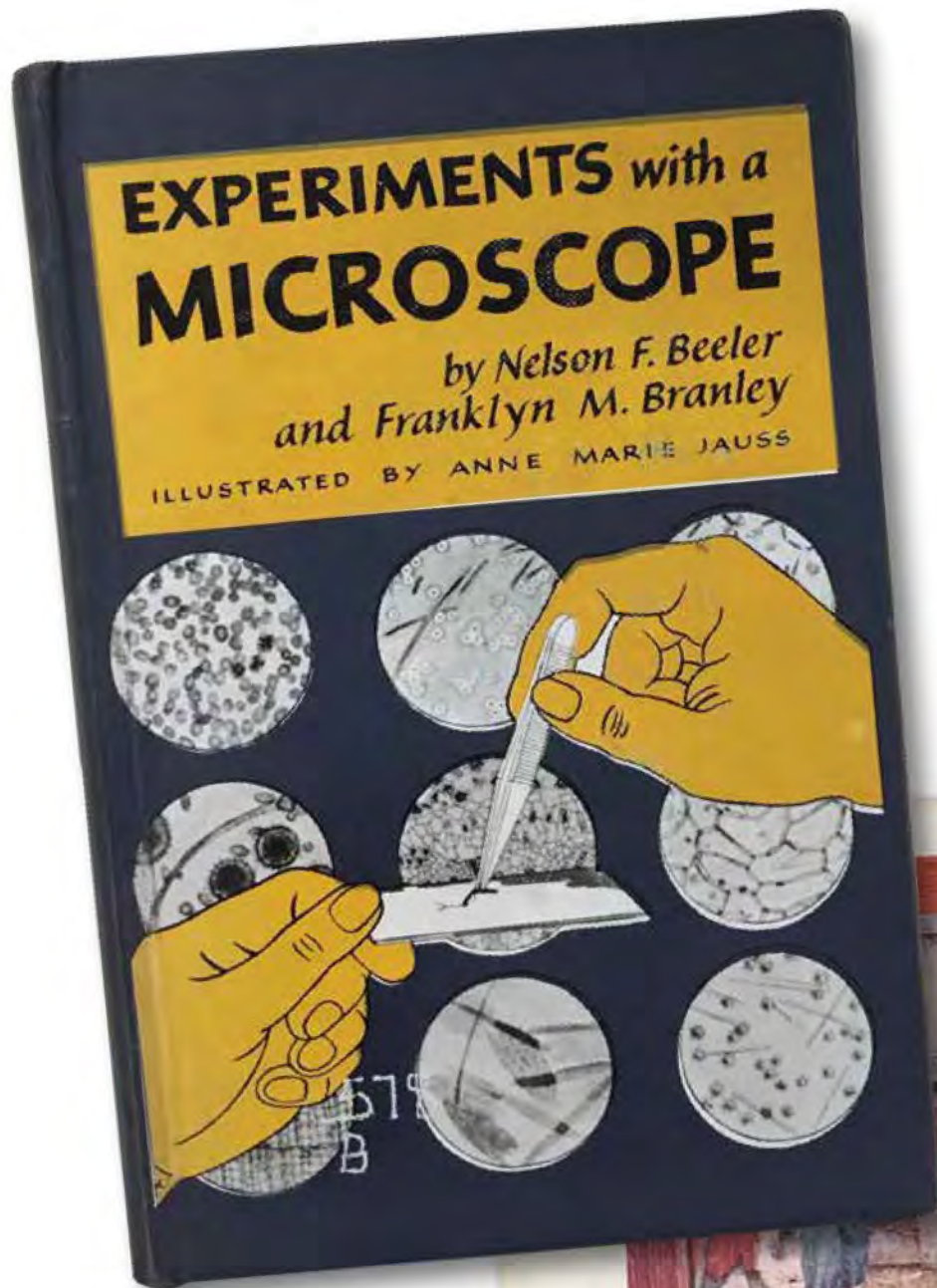
## Other Educational Reforms

Another of the notable organizations to assist in the education of freedmen and future generations of African Americans was the American Missionary Association (AMA). During the Battle of Athens, a white woman from Wisconsin and member of the AMA named Mary Frances Wells attended to the injured as a nurse. While there she noticed the many recently freed slaves and took particular interest in the children. In 1865, Wells organized and opened Trinity School for the education of freedmen and their children. The Trinity School created a particularly significant foundation for African American education in Limestone County and North Alabama. Similarly, the Seventh-day Adventist Church began Oakwood University in Madison County in 1894.

Well into the 20th century, schools and education were often tied to faith and religion. While some of these connections were immediately evident as with the American Methodist Association and Trinity School, almost a century later Christian values were still the foundation of African American education. In the Limestone County Archive's Trinity collection is a document about the 1955-1956 school year. Included among the mission statements and statistics are "Ten Commandments for the Teacher," a list of actions and values teachers are expected to exhibit via a biblical reference.

**(Below)** Poem about Education, Limestone County Negro Schools Progress Report, 1955-1956 (Limestone County Archives, Athens, Alabama)

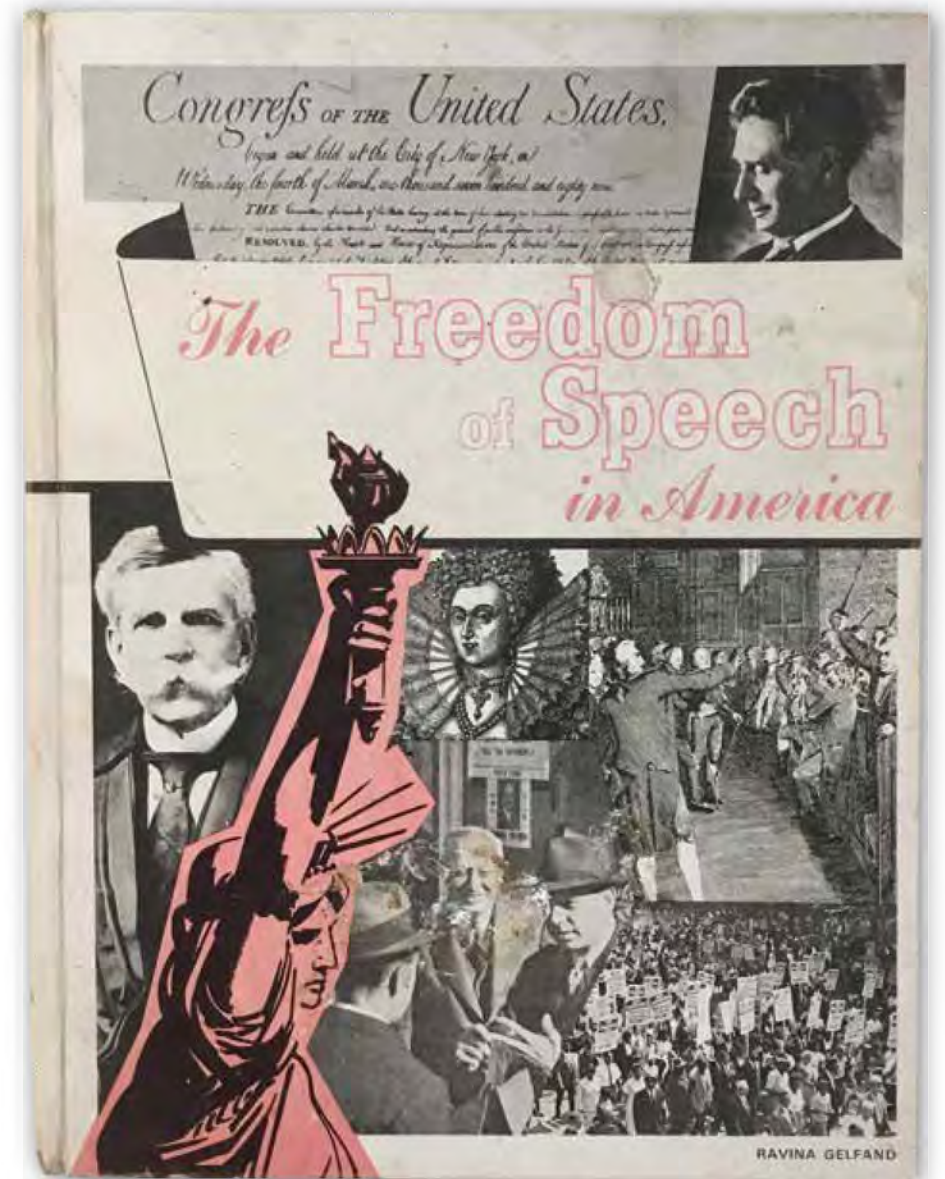




## Anna T. Jeanes

Julius Rosenwald and his Fund were not alone in their desire to provide schoolhouses and teachers for the rural African American communities of the South. Working in tandem and prior to Rosenwald was Anna T. Jeanes, a Philadelphia Quaker, interested in providing adequate teachers for rural African American students. By 1913 when the Rosenwald program began in Alabama, Jeanes had already helped to place 16 teachers in 17 counties. In 1907, Jeanes created a \$1 million fund to recruit and educate competent teachers. This developed into a shadowing program where experienced African American teachers would demonstrate proper teaching and then supervise apprentice teachers.

These Jeanes teachers were an important part of the rural education community and often indispensable to many of the schools. The Jeanes teachers were known to help fundraise for Rosenwald schools by means of raffles or picnics or even planting a patch of cotton, the proceeds of which went to the school fund. The teachers campaigned for more schools, most often to the churchgoers, encouraging the community to build a dedicated schoolhouse near the church. Even into the time of the Rosenwald and Jeanes funds about 60% of children that attended school in North Alabama, did so in a church.

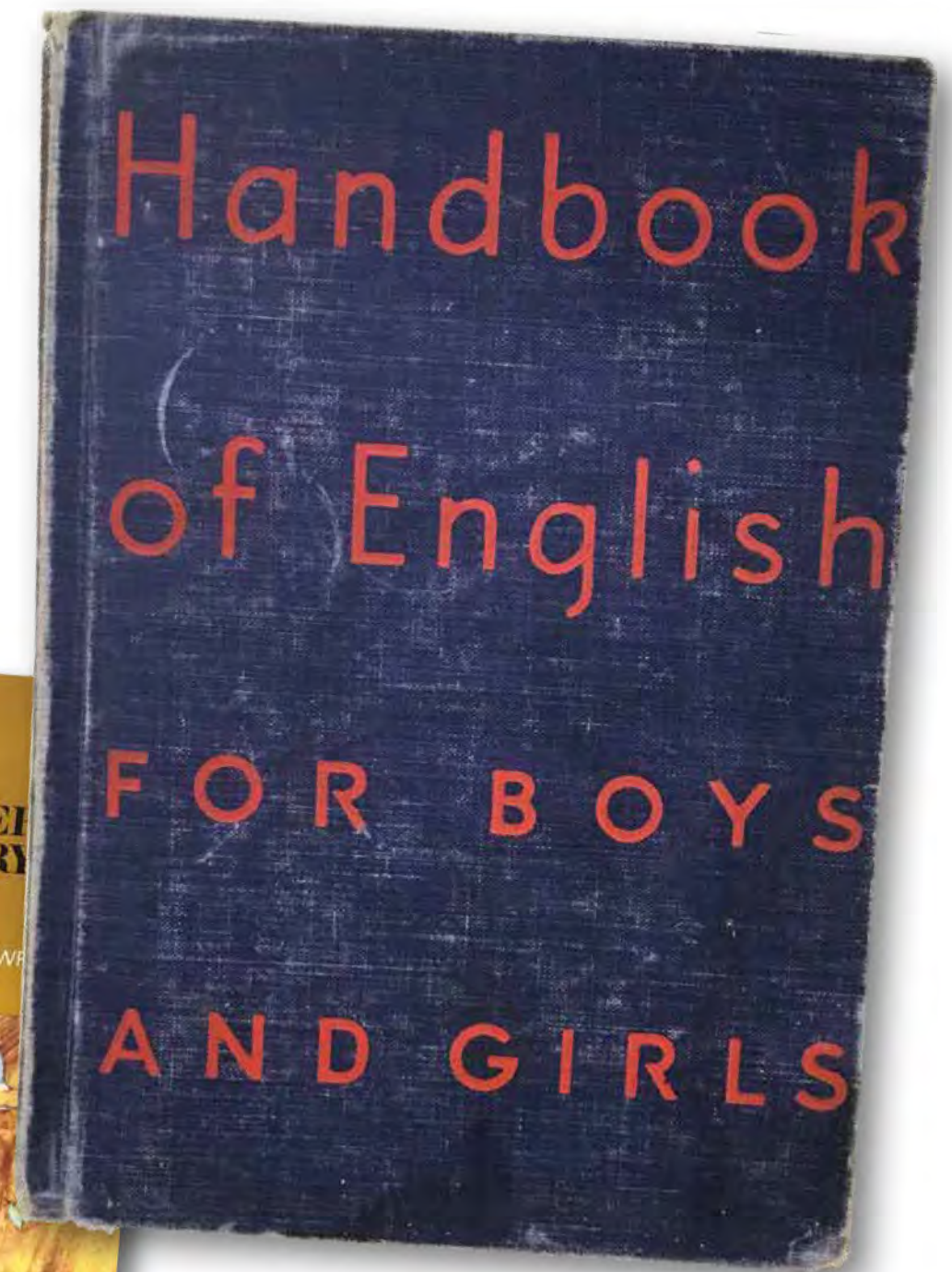
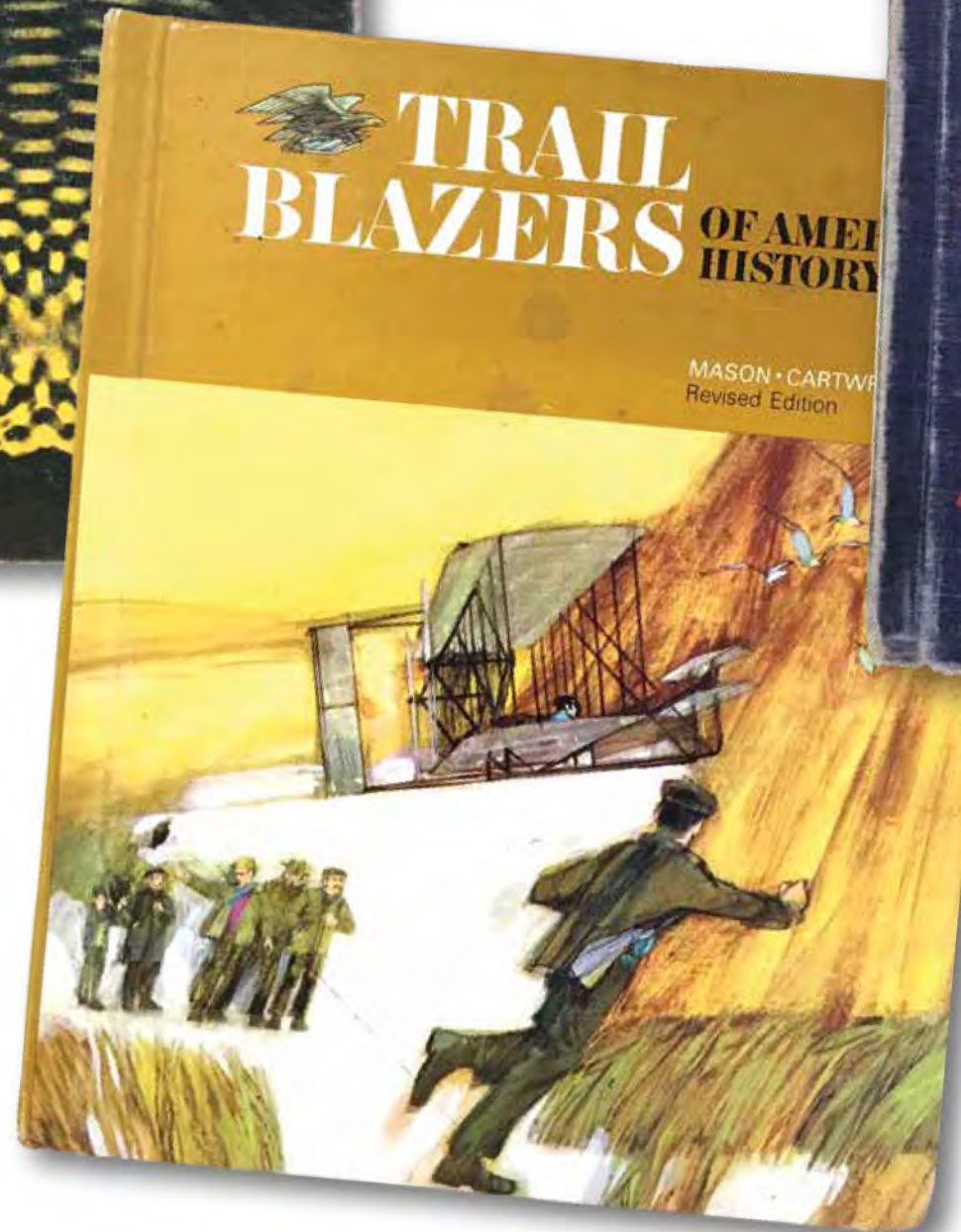
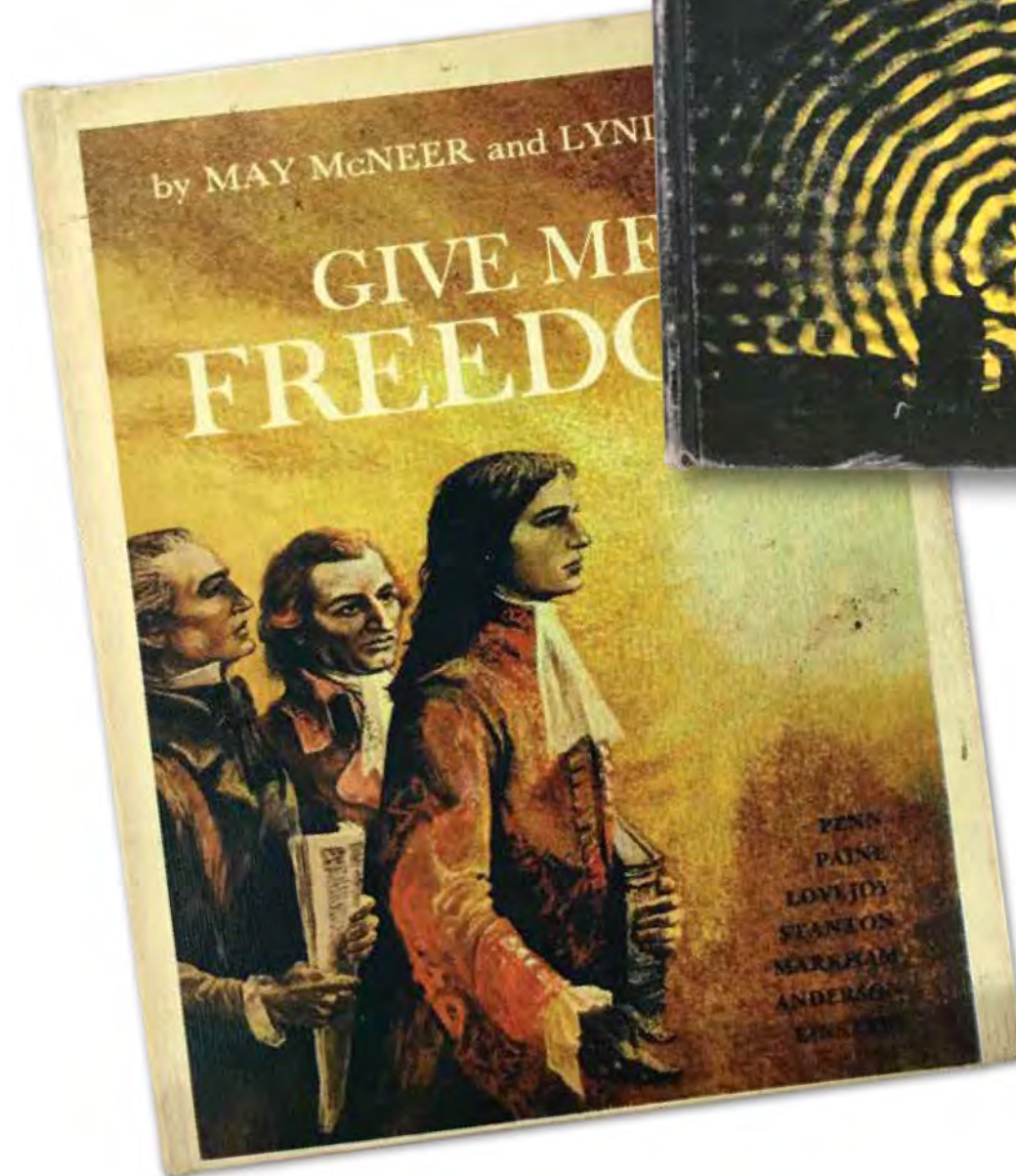
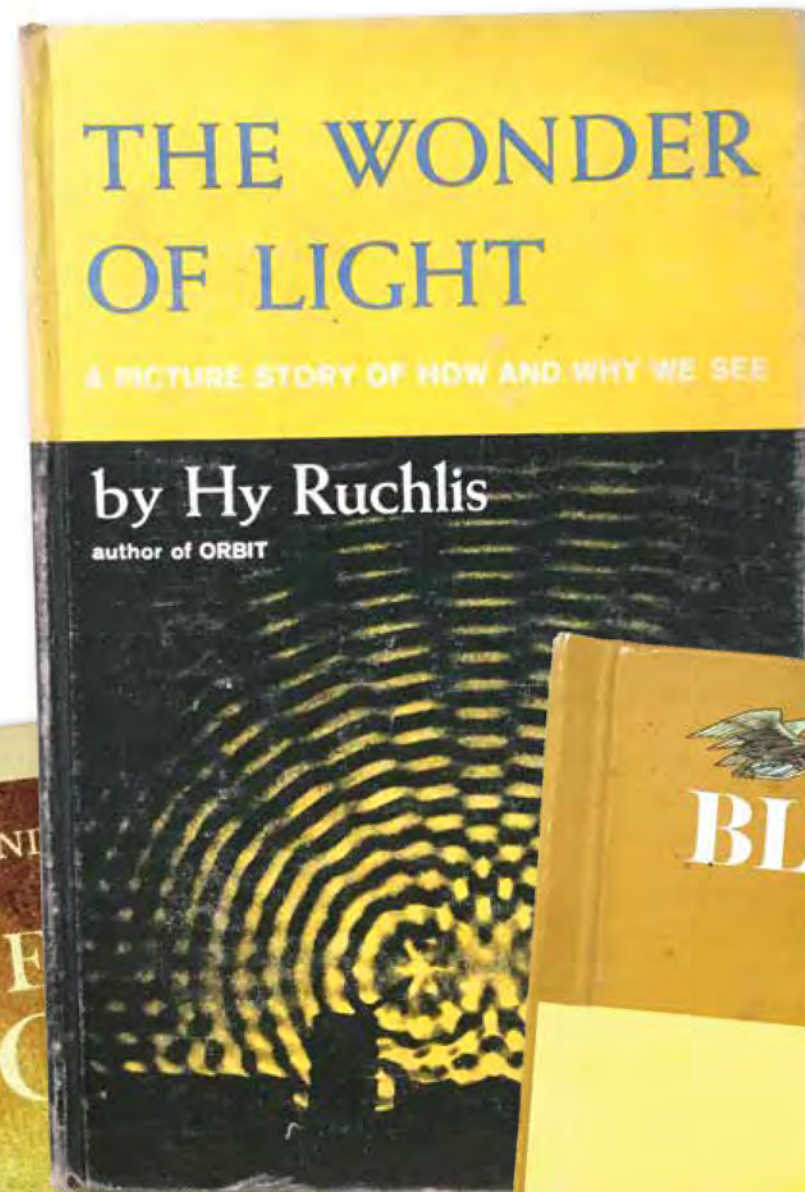


(Both Pages)  
Books Used at Trinity High  
School During the 1960s,  
Donated to the County  
Archives (Limestone County  
Archives, Athens, Alabama)





Anna Jeanes' Fund went on to fund the position of Assistant Superintendent for African American schools in many Southern states. In 1939, the Jeanes Fund supported the construction of the Little Elk School in Limestone County. The two-room schoolhouse used the Rosenwald floor plan with some modifications and was the first African American school in the area.



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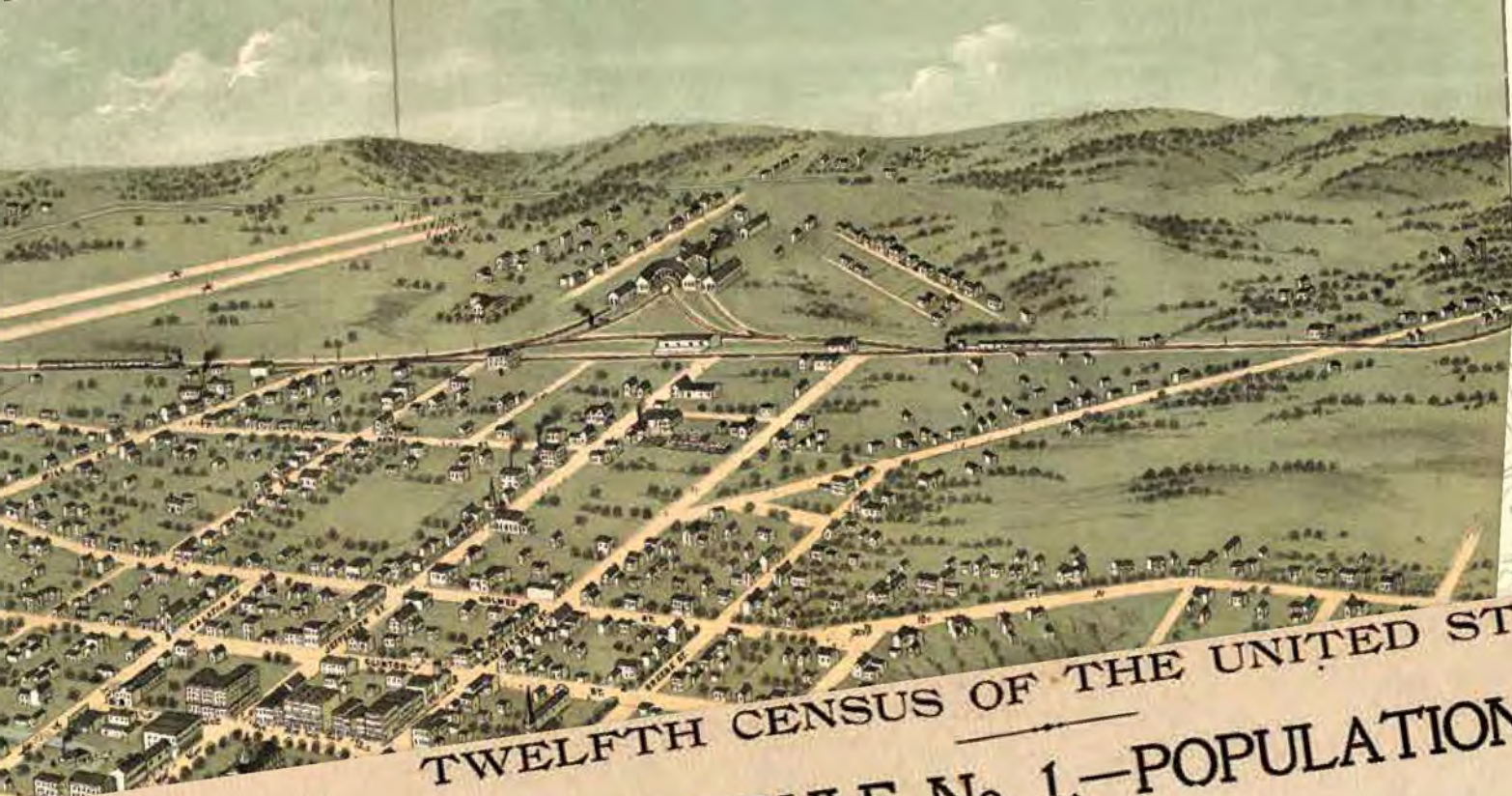
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TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
 SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

304 A  
 Supervisor's District No. 8 } Sheet No. 4162  
 Enumeration District No. 99 }

Division of county Wish Park Precinct No 1  
 Enumerated by me on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1900.  
 Name of Institution, \_\_\_\_\_ Ward of city, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enumerator, W M Bradley

NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of parents.				
		Sex	Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<u>Newman</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>May 1892</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Horton</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>April 1852</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Francis</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>April 1828</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>James</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Feb 1891</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Clara</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Nov 1892</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Leona</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Dec 1899</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Celesta</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Dec 1897</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Marjua</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Jan 1880</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Jan 1899</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Wora</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Jan 1839</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Amantia</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Dec 1857</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Shiffa</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Feb 1858</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Adolphus</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Nov 1867</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Cilia</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Dec 1879</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					
<u>Ollie</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>May 1891</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>					

# Madison County

1. Making Alabama: Madison County's Long History of Communities of Color
2. Places of Interest
3. Themes, People, and Events
4. The Deep and Tangled Roots of Madison County
5. Landownership Maps



# 1. MAKING ALABAMA: MADISON COUNTY'S DEEP HISTORY OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Though not the largest city in the South, Huntsville is a distinguished city in North Alabama and the county seat. It lacks the tall skyscrapers of Atlanta and the large industrial complexes of Birmingham, but the city is a nucleus of dense urban development, surrounded by suburban subdivisions. Several U.S. highways lead to Huntsville: I-565, a relatively new interstate spur that connects U.S. 72 to I-65, cuts through the city north of downtown. Though the city has grown in the 20th century, most of the neighborhoods close to downtown were well established by the 1930s.

Founded in 1805, Huntsville was one of the first places settled in the Mississippi Territory and predates the state of Alabama by 13 years. Remnants of Huntsville's history dot the city's landscape: old plantation houses, the railroad parallel to the highways, and historic churches, schools, and cemeteries. Huntsville was once bordered by the large plantations of wealthy planters from Georgia, Virginia, and the Carolinas. Written into Alabama's constitution of 1819, slave owners were granted the right to emancipate slaves by deed, will, or petition of the courts. While only a fraction of a percent of slaves in Alabama were freed before the Civil War, Madison County and the city of Huntsville were among the few places that free people of color gathered. This led to a rich history as Madison County's African American communities developed



churches, schools, and institutions such as Alabama A&M and Oakwood universities.

Much of this history can be found at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library located just southwest of the original town of Twickenham. Known as "Fort Book" for its fortress-like architecture, the building that houses the library and the county archives was constructed in 1987.



(Left) Dudley Barley of Pond Beat on a Tractor (Courtesy of Marion Hall via Alexander Archaeological Consultants) (Above) Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Building, 2010 (Photographer: Chris Pruitt; Wikicommons)

However, the library as an institution is as old as the state itself, making it the oldest continuing library in Alabama. On the third level is the much-used Heritage Room dedicated to Madison County and Alabama history, where the county archives with some of the region's most precious historical documents, maps, and books are housed. The county deed and probate records are also housed at the Huntsville-Madison County Library.

While Huntsville may be the fourth largest city in Alabama, another feature of Madison County is ever-present and hard to miss – Redstone Arsenal. The arsenal's approximately 40,000 acres are bordered by I-565 on the north, Memorial Parkway and dense subdivisions on the east, a distinct bend in the Tennessee River to the south, and suburbs of Triana to the west. The arsenal is home to the United States Army Material Command and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Though not accessible to the public, the Arsenal is easy to find via highway signage and enormous spaceships.

Before the arsenal and the damming of the river by the TVA, the land in south Madison was an unpredictable floodplain reserved for the poorest of farmers. The TVA moved some families back from the river

and away from reservoirs and wetlands, but communities that took root before the Civil War were made to move off the land in 1941 to make way for the Huntsville Arsenal and Huntsville Depot, later renamed the Redstone Ordnance Plant and known now as Redstone Arsenal.

Two of the larger communities of color that used to live on what is now Redstone Arsenal were Pond Beat and Mullins Flat. These communities consisted mostly of farmers, many of them landowners. Together, they established churches, schools, stores, and cemeteries. When studying the history of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, the same family names come up again and again. By 1940, these communities were considered “colored” communities of poor farmers, but their history traces back more than 100 years to the first plantations of south Madison County. A unique component of the history of these communities lies in a complex family tree consisting of white slave owners, Native Americans, African-descended slaves, and the “mulatto” or mixed progeny of all three.

In the later 20th century, Redstone Arsenal began a large community outreach effort with the communities that once called that land home and their descendants. Between 1996 and 2005, Beverly Curry, Redstone Arsenal Staff Archaeologist, collected oral histories about families, communities, and places of Redstone. Her work resulted in a large collection of family histories, photographs, and interviews known as *The People Who Lived on the Land That is Now Redstone Arsenal: Pond Beat, Mullins Flat, Hickory Grove, The Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church Area, and the Elko Area*. This momentous project strove to capture the multifaceted communities of South Madison County like never before.

Another significant undertaking aimed at recording the history of previous Redstone communities includes the work of local historian and Redstone descendant, John. P. Rankin. A retired electrical engineer in the aerospace industry, Mr. Rankin has found a second life calling as a historian with specific interest on Madison County and Redstone Arsenal. With an understanding that one of the most important connections between descendants and the land of Redstone were the cemeteries, Rankin set out to document and research all cemeteries on

the Arsenal. There are dozens of cemeteries on Redstone, some as old as the state itself, with few markers and little-known information; some with large, impressive monuments; and some small family, church, or community cemeteries. Access to and knowledge of the final resting places of their ancestors is important to much of the living community, especially as many of the families have had a connection to the land and people for over 100 years. Mr. Rankin has conducted field visits, researched, and authored reports on approximately 50 cemeteries located on the Arsenal. All of his reports are available to the public online via the Huntsville History Collection, a public collaboration published in cooperation with the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

The communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat have hosted family reunions to bring together the many and sometimes displaced family members of those who once lived on Redstone. One such reunion occurred in the summer of 2018. Headed by Ms. Deborah Horton



**(Left)** Oregon Harris, Landowner in Triana, Circa 1940s (Curry 2006)  
**(Bottom)** Madison County 1892 (1892 USGS Topographic Map of Madison County, Huntsville and Scottsboro, Alabama Quadrangles)

Jordan and a large committee of descendants, the reunion included a reception at the Davidson Center, a tour of historic sites on Redstone Arsenal, and a picnic in Harvest, Alabama. Arsenal Archaeologist, Ben Hoksbergen, spoke about the history and archaeology of the Pond Beat and Mullins Flat communities and led a tour of the sites. The

historians of New South were invited to collect oral histories of anyone who was interested in sharing their family history.

Several descendants of families from Pond Beat and Mullins Flat spoke with historians about their history. They helped continue the conversation and expand the history of the many families. Tools such as Ancestry.com and Facebook are being used by the families to connect, share photographs and information, and increase the drawing of the family tree. When studying such a complicated family history, the deep and tangled roots of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat can be difficult to sort – even for those who are part of that history. Luckily, many of the members of this large family are willing to dig through archives and family records and share with others what they have found.

A special thank you to those who participated in interviews, including: Ms. Maureen Horton Davis Cathey, Ms. Parthenia Joiner Hardy, Dr. Victoria L. Joiner, Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan, Mr. John Jordan, Mr. Thomas Lyle, Ms. Elaine Watkins Patton, Ms. Renee Rice, and Ms. Carolyn M. Wilson.

# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

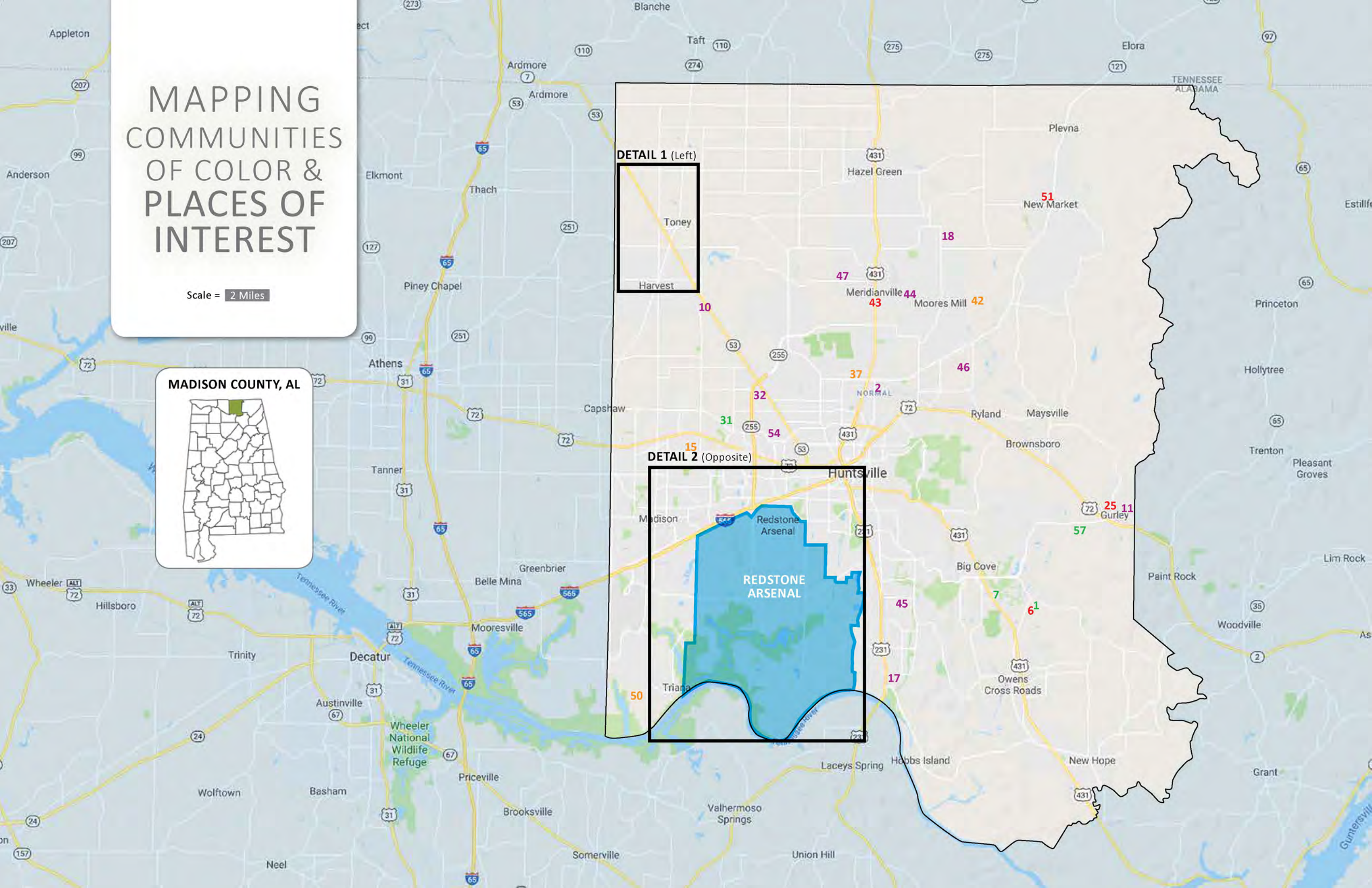
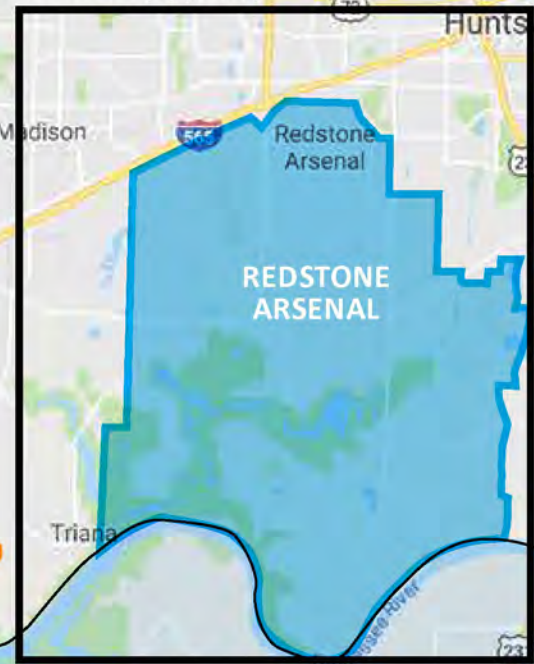
MADISON COUNTY, AL



DETAIL 1 (Left)



DETAIL 2 (Opposite)

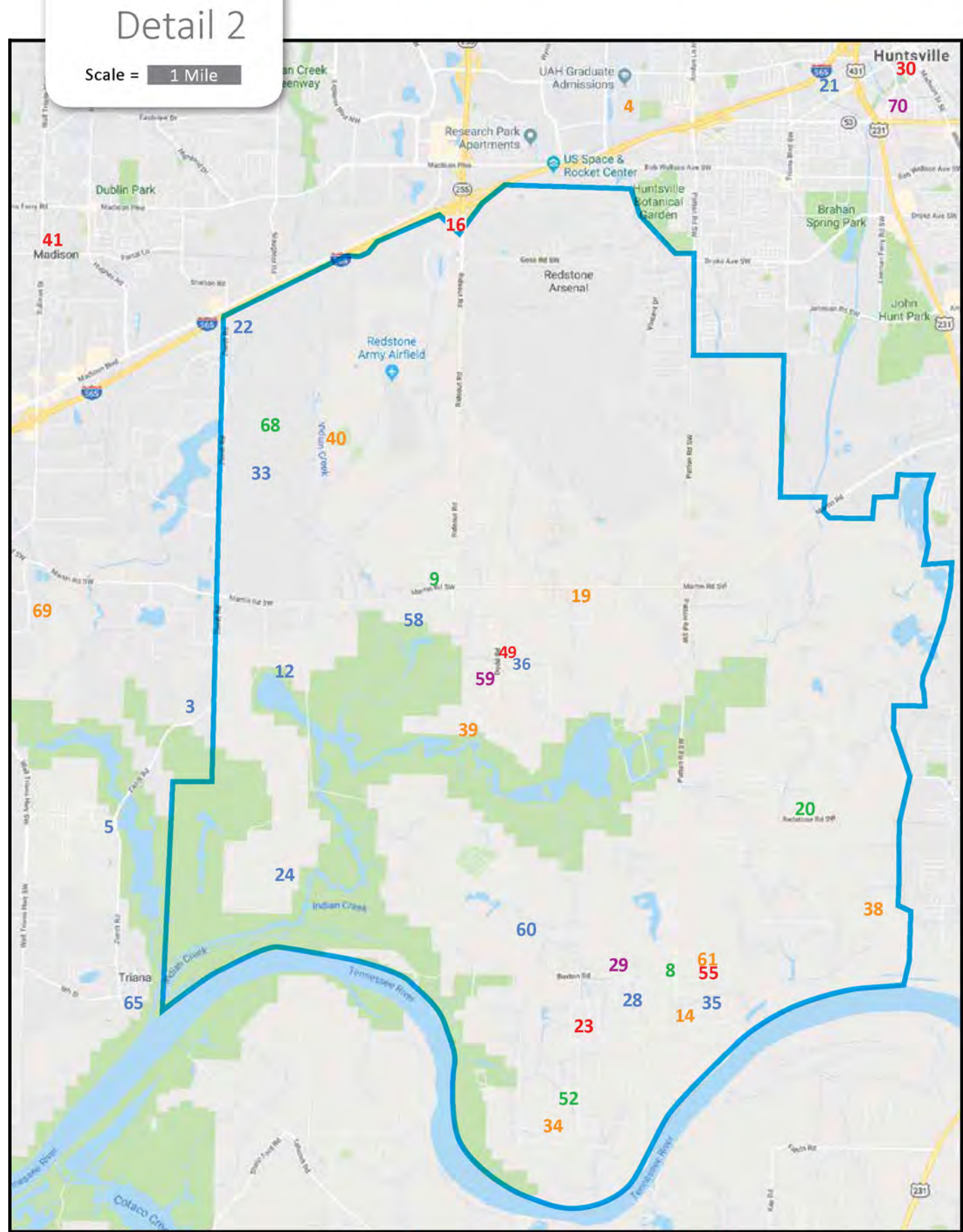
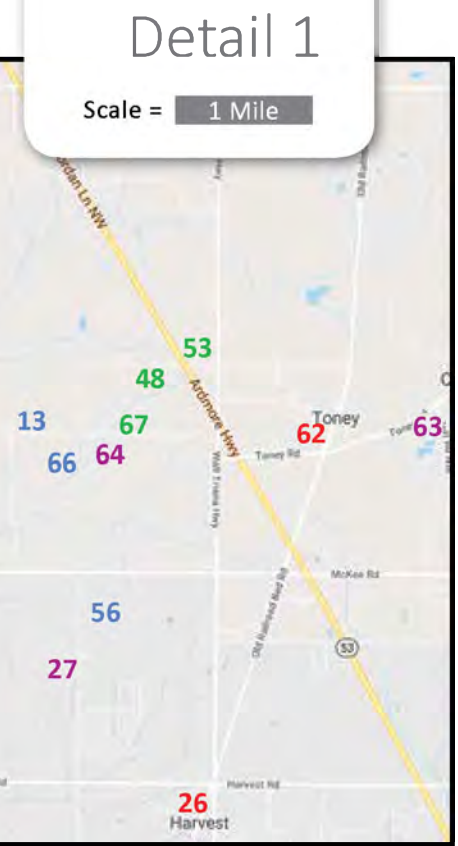




# KEY

- Communities
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- Plantations
- Schools

1. Acklin Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
2. Alabama A&M University
3. Arnett Cemetery
4. Avalon Plantation\*
5. Beadle Cemetery
6. Berkley and the Berkley School\*
7. Big Cove Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Hayes Chapel School\*
8. Cedar Grove Church\*
9. Center Grove Church\*
10. Center School
11. Conyers School (Rosenwald)\*
12. Cowan Cemetery
13. Crutcher Cemetery
14. Dickson-Graham-Rankin Plantation\*
15. East Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery
16. Elko\* and Elko Switch Cemetery
17. Farley School\*
18. Farmer's Capital School (Rosenwald)\*
19. Fennell Plantation\* and Fennell (Fennil) Cemetery
20. Gaines Chapel\* and Burton Cemetery
21. Glenwood Cemetery
22. Green Grove Cemetery
23. Green Grove\*
24. Groves Cemetery
25. Gurley
26. Harvest
27. Harvest School\*
28. Horton-Joiner Cemetery
29. Horton School (Rosenwald)\*
30. Huntsville
31. Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church
32. Indian Creek School\*
33. Inman (Emiline) Cemetery
34. Jamar Plantation\*
35. Joiner Cemetery
36. Jordan Cemetery
37. Jude Plantation (David and Lucy Crutcher House)
38. Lacy Plantation\* and Lacey Cemetery
39. Lanier Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery
40. Lipscomb Plantation\* and Hancock Cemetery
41. Madison
42. McCrary Plantation and McCrary-Wright Cemetery
43. Meridianville
44. Meridianville Bottom School
45. Morris Chapel School\*
46. Mt. Carmel School (Rosenwald)
47. Mt. Lebanon School (Rosenwald)\*
48. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
49. Mullins Flat\*
50. Myrtle Grove Plantation\* and Collier Cemetery
51. New Market
52. New Mount Olive Church\* and Cemetery
53. New Zion Steadfast Primitive Baptist Church



54. Oakwood University
55. Pond Beat\*
56. Pulley Cemetery
57. Ross' Chapel\*
58. Sam Moore Cemetery
59. Silver Hill School (Rosenwald)\*
60. Simpson Slave Cemetery
61. Timmons Plantation\* and Cemetery
62. Toney
63. Toney High School\*
64. Toney Rosenwald School\*
65. Triana and the Triana Cemeteries
66. Turner Cemetery
67. Turner Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
68. Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church and School\*
69. Wiggins Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery
70. William Hooper Council High School\*

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

map data©2018 Google

# 2.

## DETAILS OF PLACES OF INTEREST

# 1

### Acklin Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

This church is in the community of Berkley in eastern Madison County. The church is present on the 1936 USGS topographic map. During this time period, most of the land surrounding the church was owned by African American farmers. The church property was once owned by Reuben W. Brazelton from 1922-1949 and then by Joseph W. Brazelton (presumably his son) until at least 1986. It is possible that the Brazeltons donated the land for the church.



(Above) William Hooper Council, Founder and President of Alabama A&M University (Alabama A&M University) (Top) Photograph of Students of Alabama A&M University in front of the Carnegie Library, Circa 1900 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Page Excerpts) 1900 Federal Census of Huntsville, Madison County Showing William H. Council, Students, and Teachers at Alabama A&M University (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

# 2

### Alabama A&M University

Located north of downtown Huntsville in the community of Normal, this university has been pivotal to the education of the African American community at large, not just as an institution of higher learning, but for all levels. Alabama A&M has been dedicated to the education and welfare of African Americans since Reconstruction. William Hooper Council, a former slave, founded the school and served as its first president from 1875 to 1908. Although it has gone through many iterations, as the Huntsville State Normal School for

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. B

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION. (Inspector's District No. Eight) (Enumeration District No. 178) 1900

City of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. Enumerated by me on the 1st day of June, 1900. Samuel H. Conner, Enumerator.

NAME	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	RACE	BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	SCHOOLING	INDUSTRY	VALUE	PROPERTY	
											REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL
William H. Council	Male	25	Married	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Teacher	1000	500	
John H. Council	Male	22	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Rebecca Council	Female	22	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
James Council	Male	18	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Elizabeth Council	Female	15	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Thomas Council	Male	12	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Mary Council	Female	10	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
John Council	Male	8	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Rebecca Council	Female	6	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
James Council	Male	4	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	
Elizabeth Council	Female	2	Single	White	Alabama	Alabama	U.S. Citizen	12	Student	0	0	

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

Negroes and later a college and then university, the school has provided resources for educating teachers, high school students, and farmers. "Teachers were needed to transform former slaves into literate students ready for the rigors of advanced instruction and ultimately better economic opportunities," reads the 2001 National Register for Historic Places nomination.

At the turn of the 20th century, the school offered progressive training in industrial courses such as carpentry, sewing, mattress making, gardening, and printing. The university also provided an education for the agricultural extension service and even had a dairy and livestock with their own pastures on campus. Alabama A&M offered short courses during the winter for local African American farmers to become better educated about their land, seed, and production.

The Laboratory School at Alabama A&M University was the only high school for African American students in Madison County in the early 20th century. It offered higher (than 8th grade) educational courses by professional faculty. This high school was part of a tradition of higher education provided by historically black colleges and universities as a means to fill a gap. High schools such as these played a dual role in providing an opportunity for young educators to obtain training and for providing higher education to the African American community. The students of the Laboratory School in turn were provided with the skills and knowledge to become qualified applicants to colleges and universities.

Also located on the university's campus was the Councill School, one of nine Rosenwald schools built in Madison County. Approved in 1925, it was a two-room schoolhouse and cost \$3,200, one of the more expensive schools only surpassed by the \$3,700-Toney School. The African American community gathered an impressive total of \$1,600 for the school, while \$900 of public funds were allocated, and the Rosenwald Fund provided another \$700. The school was insured for \$2,100.

The school was named for William Hooper Councill who had many schools around Huntsville named after



**(Left)** Councill Training School in the 1950s (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Middle Left)** A Dairy Barn on the Alabama A&M Campus (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Photographs) **(Middle Right)** A Dairy Barn Complex on the Alabama A&M Campus (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Photographs) **(Bottom)** Old Councill Training School on the Alabama A&M Campus (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Photographs)



him. The school served grades 1 through 6, two grades per room, including a third teacher working in the large industrial room. More rooms might have been added later. Records show it also had a nearby privy or outhouse. The Councill School was originally located just northwest of Alabama A&M University's Palmer Hall but was moved to the west side of Meridianville Road next to the ROTC center on campus, before being moved again to an unknown location.

61	53	-	Jalar	Doughter	W	F	Feb 1900 1/2	S	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama									
62	52	56	Beadle	Head	B	M	June 1855 44	M 23	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	1 1/2	0	yes	yes	yes	0	M	F	43
63			-	Low	Wife	B	F	May 1854 42	M 23	6 3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
64			-	Opear	Son	B	M	May 1878 22	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							
65			-	Leax	Son	B	M	Nov 1883 12	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							

### 3 Arnett Cemetery

The Arnett Cemetery is a family cemetery located in southwest Madison County, just outside of the Redstone Arsenal boundary. It has at least 78 graves, the first of which was Viola Arnett Patterson (1872-1907). Ms. Patterson was the daughter of Samuel (1825-1912) and Louisa Arnett (1828-1912). The cemetery property was owned by Samuel Arnett from at least 1900 until his death in 1912, and probably as early as 1870. After his death, the land was divided among his children, mostly his daughters. The land with the cemetery was passed onto Eliza Cowan, who owned the land until her death in 1962.

Members of the Arnett family buried at the Arnett Cemetery include: Samuel and Louisa Arnett, their daughters, Kate Arnett (1857-1945), Virginia Lanier (1863-1957), one of the twins Ellen Toney (1867-1958), Viola Patterson, and Louvenia Dawson (1874-1954). Several of the Arnett daughters' husbands and children are also laid to rest here. Other family names include: Leamon/Lehman, Martin, and McDonald. The road that leads to the cemetery is now named Arnett Road.

### 4 Avalon Plantation\*

Avalon was a plantation owned by Llewellen Jones, an early pioneer to Madison County on land west of downtown Huntsville. By 1811, Jones owned over 1,000 acres in the county and was a wealthy cotton planter. Unfortunately, as a result of the Financial

Panic of 1819, Jones lost much of his wealth and subsequently committed suicide. His estate passed to his son, Alexander, who never married. By 1850, Alexander Jones was the 4th largest slave owner in the county. He was seen as odd: a lifelong bachelor, he only bought slaves but did not sell them. He also bought old horses that no one else wanted. He passed away in 1867.

After his death, the estate went to Jones' nephew, Alexander Spotswood Perkins, who passed away only two years later. The property then went to James and Priscilla Drake. According to archaeologist Ben Hoksbergen, "the Drakes began parceling out the plantation and facilitated the sale of several of the tracts to former Jones slaves." A sizable community of former slaves lived in the area, which prompted William H. Council to establish a freedman's school. The school would later move to Normal, Alabama and become Alabama A&M University. Most of the property ultimately belonged to University Center of Huntsville, which was renamed in 1966 to the University of Alabama-Huntsville (UAH).

In the county property records, a small portion of the property was owned by Richard Miller from at least 1920-1938. The 1920 census shows that Richard Miller was 72 years old, which means he was born in 1848. His brother, Tome, who lived with him, was 96 years old. It is possible that Richard and Tom were slaves from the former Avalon Plantation. A young man named Richard Miller signed up for the Union Army in 1864, a farmer from Madison County who joined the 14th USCT, Company E. In 1939, the property passed to Elizabeth Miller, perhaps a daughter.

### 5 Beadle Cemetery

The Beadle Cemetery is a singular grave, that of Daniel W. Beadle (1856-1930) north of Triana. His grave marker attests to his service in the military. The government-issued stone says he was a Quartermaster Sergeant of Company L of the 3rd Alabama Infantry in the Spanish-American War. Beadle was a local landowner, farmer, and served as Justice of the Peace in 1888. The road to the north of the cemetery was renamed Beadle Lane, circa 2010.

### 6 Berkley and the Berkley School\*

Located in southeast Madison County, Berkley had a large community of landowning African American farmers in the early 20th century. In the census records from 1900 to 1940, Berkley is included within the enumeration district of Colliers. These records can be used to get a sense of how many African American families were living and farming in the area as well as whether they rented or owned their property.

During the first three decades of the 20th century, Colliers consisted of about 43% African American households. Between 1930 and 1940, the African American population declined to a third of the total households. The number of African American landowning farmers was highest in 1900. That year there were 34 African American-owned farms, about 1 out of 3 African American families. However, the number of farms declined to a low of only 19 African American-owned farms in 1940. These 19 farms made up only 8% of all households in the area.

(Above) 1900 Census, Triana, Madison County, Alabama Showing Daniel Beadle Owning a Farm (U.S. Census Bureau via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Moontown, Alabama Quadrangle

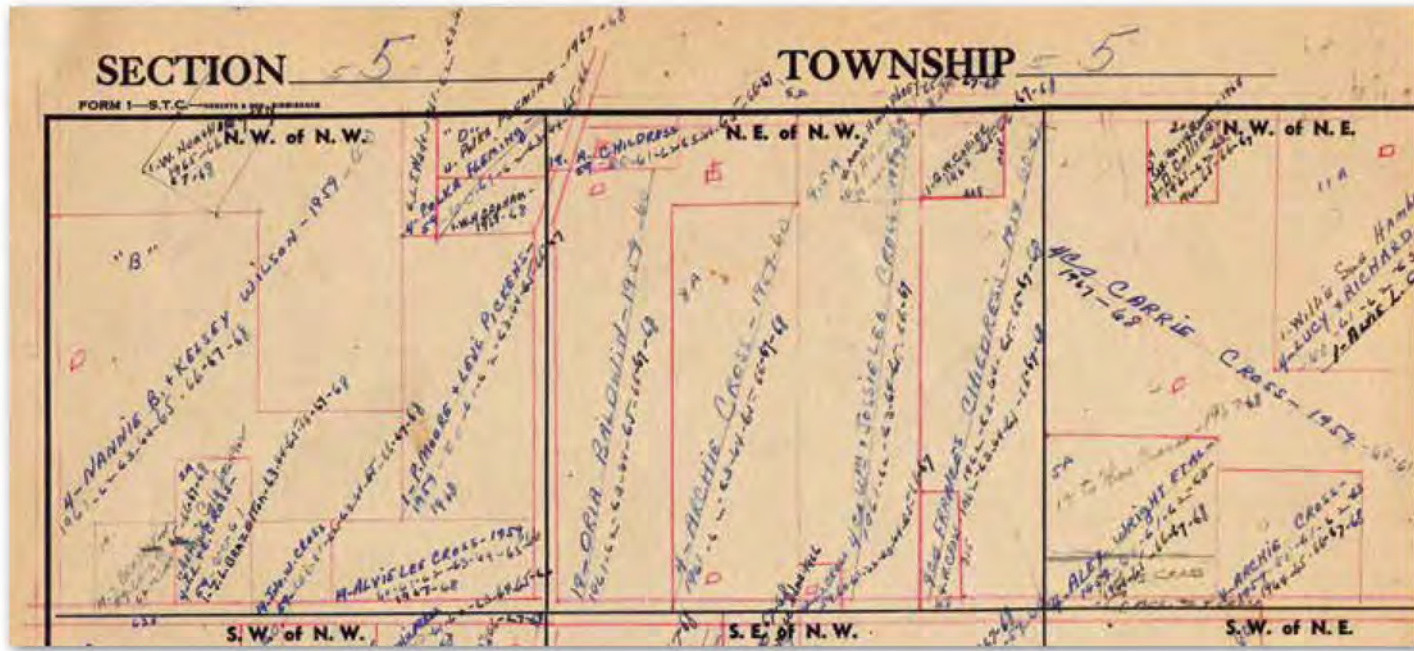


The size of the African American community in Berkley prompted the construction of a school, known as the Berkley School. Though not labeled with its name, a church symbol is first shown on a 1936 USGS topographic map. According to the Madison County land records, African American farmer Flem Fleming owned this land until 1937 when he passed away. Although the school is still labeled on the most current USGS topographic map, the original school is gone. Students most likely stopped attending the Berkley School in the 1950s when many of the Madison County schools were consolidated and reorganized. It was during this time that Berkley's principal, Ms. Gertrude Langford Simmons, was moved to the Toney School.

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
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\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource



(Above) Berkley School on Madison County Land Records, 1959-1968 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama) (Left) Photograph of the Berkley School, or Berkley Junior High School, Date Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Bottom Left) Photograph of Parents Gathering at the Berkley School in the 1970s (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



## 7 ■ ■ ■ Big Cove Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Hayes Chapel School\*

Just west of Berkley stands the Big Cove Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, once known simply as Ebenezer Church. Hayes Chapel School, which once stood next door, is now gone. The church and school were built on the property of Sidney B. Hayes, an African American farmer who owned the land from at least 1902-1935. The land records show a symbol for a church in the 1920-1932 land book, but by 1937, the parcel was sold to Albert Drake, a white man. Albert passed the parcel onto his son, Paul Drake. Even though the government topographic maps do not depict the church and school, the land

records continue to show the church and school in the southeast corner of their parcel from 1945-1968. It is likely that the school was demolished after it no longer had a use due to integration.



(Above) Big Cove Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Hayes Chapel on Madison County Land Records, 1945-1959 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama) (Below) Big Cove Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Hayes Chapel on Madison County Land Records, 1959-1986 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



## 8 ■ ■ ■ Cedar Grove Church\*

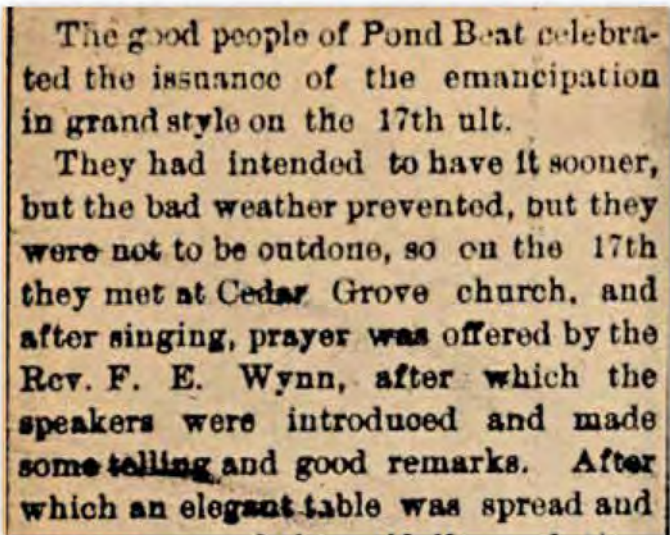
The Cedar Grove Church was once located in the community of Pond Beat on what is now Redstone Arsenal. It was originally located on Cedar Grove Mountain on land donated by James Lacy. Lacy was the son of a white slave owner and an unknown enslaved woman. According to Early Lacy, his



(Above) Drawing of Cedar Grove Church in Pond Beat Done by Local Artist upon the Request of Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan (Courtesy Ms. Horton Jordan)



(Above) Photograph of Cedar Grove Church, Date Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



(Above) Newspaper Clipping Covering a Celebration of Emancipation at Cedar Grove Church in 1895 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

grandson, James was the first person in the family to own land, which was deeded to him by his father. Cedar Grove and Center Grove churches, known as the “twin churches” as both were Methodist, united into a single church in Huntsville after the U.S. Army bought the land for Redstone Arsenal.

Walter Joiner, who was interviewed three times between 2000 and 2005 by Redstone Arsenal, said that the creek where McDonnell Creek and Huntsville Spring Branch met is where the churches would often perform baptisms.

## 9 ■ Center Grove Church\*

This church is one of the Methodist churches that served the Pond Beat community on what is now Redstone Arsenal. There is some confusion as to whether this church was originally called Grange Church. According to James Love (interviewed in 2005), the church shared a preacher with the Grange Church, but other members of the community said the Grange Church was what it was called before joining the Methodist conference. Either way, the

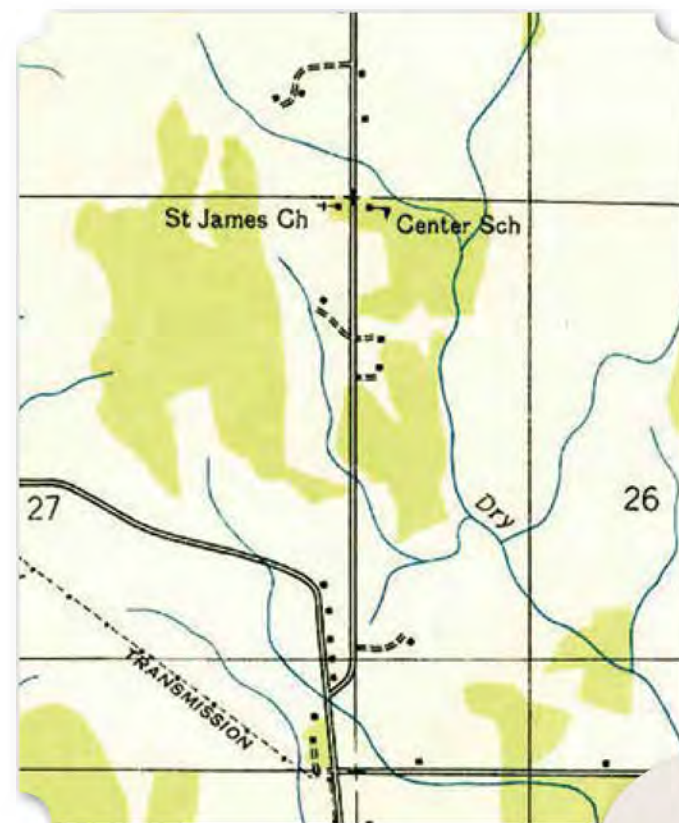
Center Grove Church was a pivotal center of the community. Many of the farming landowners have ties to the church through weddings or baptisms. Another important community center, a Masonic lodge, was located by the church. It must have stood out on the landscape as many of those interviewed about living in Pond Beat and Mullins Flat use the Center Grove Church as a reference point.

Cedar Grove and Center Grove churches united into a single church in Huntsville after the U.S. Army bought the land for Redstone Arsenal. They were known as the “twin” churches.

## 10 ■ Center School\*

In the community of Jeff, just east of Harvest, is the Center School. It is shown on the USGS topographic

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Jeff, Alabama Quadrangle



KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

maps in both 1936 and 1958 before disappearing. It likely closed after integration began. Notable resident, Dan Tibbs, Jr. attended this school starting in 1928 at the age of six. His father, Dan Tibbs, Sr. purchased a 200-acre farm across the street from the school in 1929. The Tibbs family still owns a house on a smaller lot that was once part of the original farm.

## 11 ■ Conyers School (Rosenwald)\*

The two-room, two-teacher Conyers School, approved in 1913, was one of nine Rosenwald schools in Madison County. It cost \$1,300 to build of which the Rosenwald Fund provided \$300, the African American community gave \$550, and the rest, \$450, came from public funds. The school was built under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute. The two acres that were required by the Rosenwald Fund were donated by Tom Conyers, an African American landowner and farmer who owned over 100 acres just south of the school.

The school was located at the county line on the east side of Gurley along Hereford Road. A one-



(Above) The Conyers School in 1994 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

room addition was added as the community grew. Sometime in the late 1940s and early 1950s, it served as the junior high school and an activity center for groups like the Boy Scouts. In 1957, the Conyers School was consolidated with several other schools in the nearby town of Brownsboro, about five miles up Highway 72 from Gurley. The school building burnt down in the early 1990s.

(Below, Left) Tom Conyers on Madison County Land Books, 1920-1932 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama) (Below) Conyers School on Madison County Land Books, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource

# 12

## Cowan Cemetery

Now located on Redstone Arsenal, this cemetery is situated in an area that was owned by African American farmers in the early 20th century. The Cowan Cemetery was named by the U.S. Army after the African American landowner, Andy Cowan, although Cowan is not buried there, but in Huntsville. He lived to be 103 years old. Andy Cowan owned the land from at least 1920-1935. He sold the portion that contains the cemetery in 1936 to the TVA. The rest of his land was sold to the U.S. Government in 1941 for the creation of Redstone Arsenal.

There is little information on the cemetery. However, it was surveyed by the U.S. Army upon acquiring the property and Ms. Pearl Higginbotham was interviewed by Redstone Arsenal in 1999 and 2000. According to Ms. Higginbotham, her grandmother (possibly Bertha Joiner Cowan) is buried here along with another relative named Budd Cowan. "There could be 27 people buried there, but they are not all Cowans." U.S. Army records show that burials include: George Jones (1889-1931), Mem Turner, Margaret Robinson (d. 1941), Bertha J. Jones (d. 1923), Frank C. (d. 1937), and Jas. Lehman (d. 1935).

# 13

## Crutcher Cemetery

The Crutcher Cemetery is one of two community cemeteries in Toney and contains at least 38 burials. In the early 20th century, it was surrounded by land owned by African American farmers. In 1925, the land was owned by an African American farmer named Henderson Crutcher, Jr. He received 200 acres of land from his father, Henderson Sr., that same year.

The first burial at this cemetery was Clarence Adams (1923-1925). The cemetery is still in use and common family names include: Moore, Scruggs, and Seay.

# 14

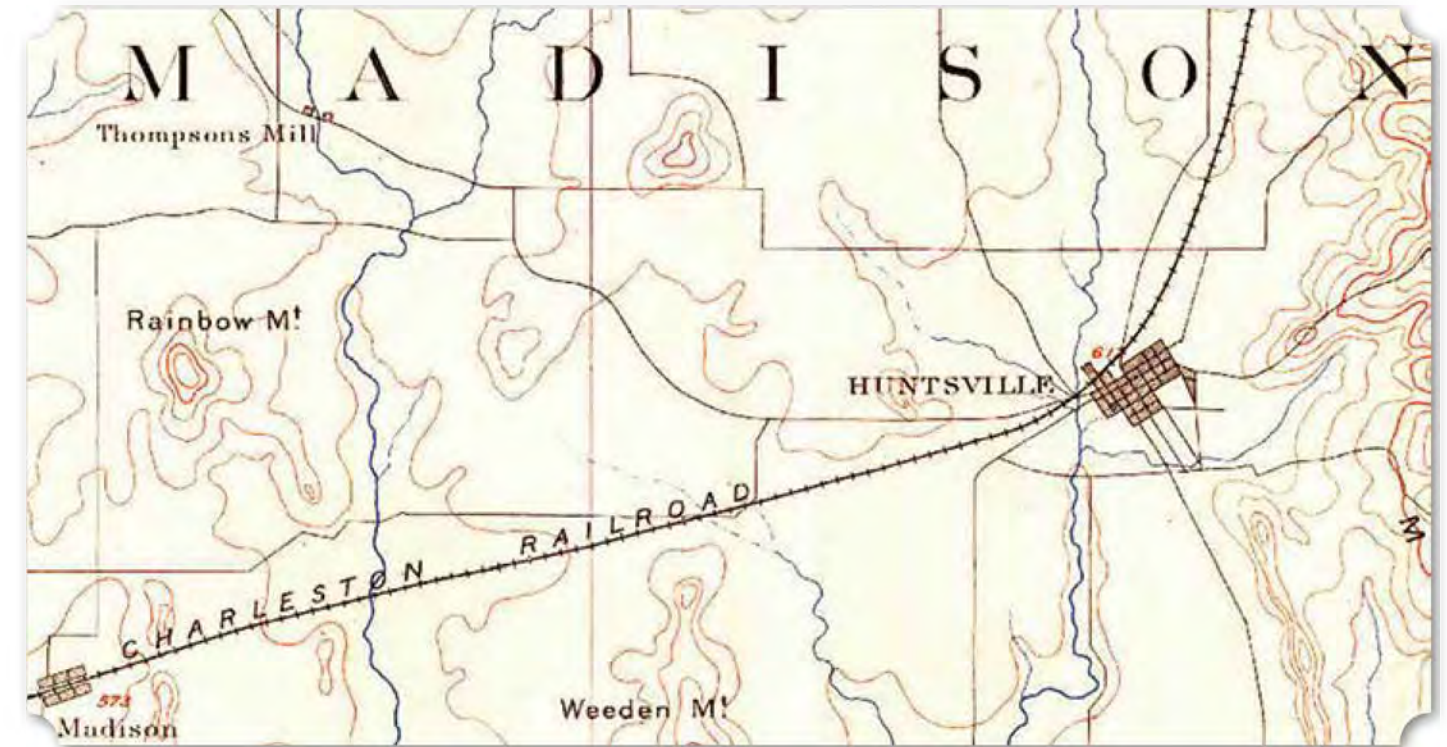
## Dickson-Graham-Rankin Plantation\*

Referred to as the Dickson-Graham-Rankin Plantation for the various families who once owned it, this plantation was located in south Madison County, now on Redstone Arsenal. The property was originally owned by James Dickson and his wife, Keziah. According to historian and descendant, John P. Rankin, Dickson came to Madison before February 1818 and purchased about 80 acres. One of James' daughters, Nancy, married a man named James B. Graham in Madison County in 1836, leading Graham to inherit the plantation. By the late 1870s, the land was owned by one of the Graham's younger daughters, Julia, and her second husband, James Cofield Mitchell Rankin. Thus, the land came to be known by the three generations of the same family.

However, what makes this plantation remarkable is that, according to the Madison County deed books, after at least 90 years the land was sold out of the family to Frank Jacobs, a man of color, who purchased the property in 1913. Mr. Jacobs was born in 1879, the son of Isaac Jacobs, who was born a free man about 1847. The Jacobs family came to Madison County as free people of color from either North or South Carolina in the 1820s and settled around Triana and Pond Beat.

Frank was so well-respected in his community and among his family that several members of subsequent generations have been named Frank Jacobs, adding some confusion to the historical record. The Jacobs and their descendants continued to live on the land in south Madison County until the early 1940s when it was purchased for the use of Redstone Arsenal.

(Right) Page from the 1847 Probate of William East Showing List of Slaves (Madison County, Alabama Probate Records via Ancestry.com)



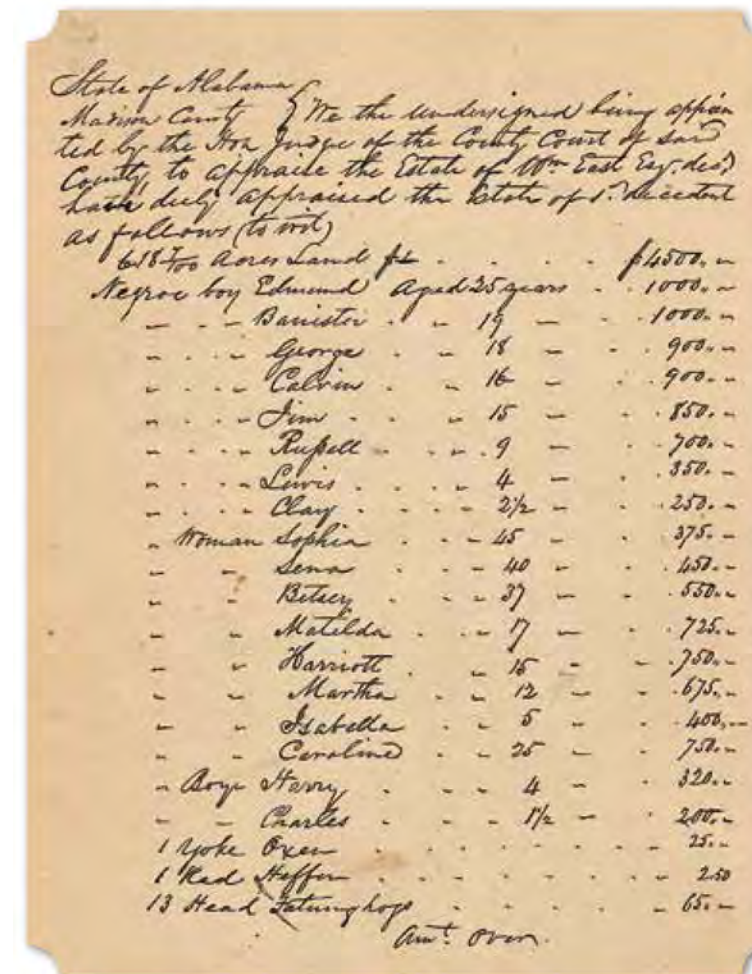
(Above) 1888 USGS Topographic Map of Huntsville Showing Rainbow Mountain

# 15

## East Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery

Though known to be on the land of William East in Section 27, Township 3 South, Range 2 West, the exact location of the East Slave Cemetery is not known. William East acquired the southeast quarter of Section 27 in 1843, only three years before his death. *The Historical Atlas of Alabama* described the cemetery as "a nearly destroyed black cemetery of the slaves of William East and their descendants." Who exactly is buried here is unknown, but initial burials must date between 1843 and 1863.

William East (1776-1847) was an early settler of Madison County. In fact, since his land was part of the 1816 Chickasaw Cession and East is known to have been living there in 1815, he and his neighbors were early squatters. East held several land patents

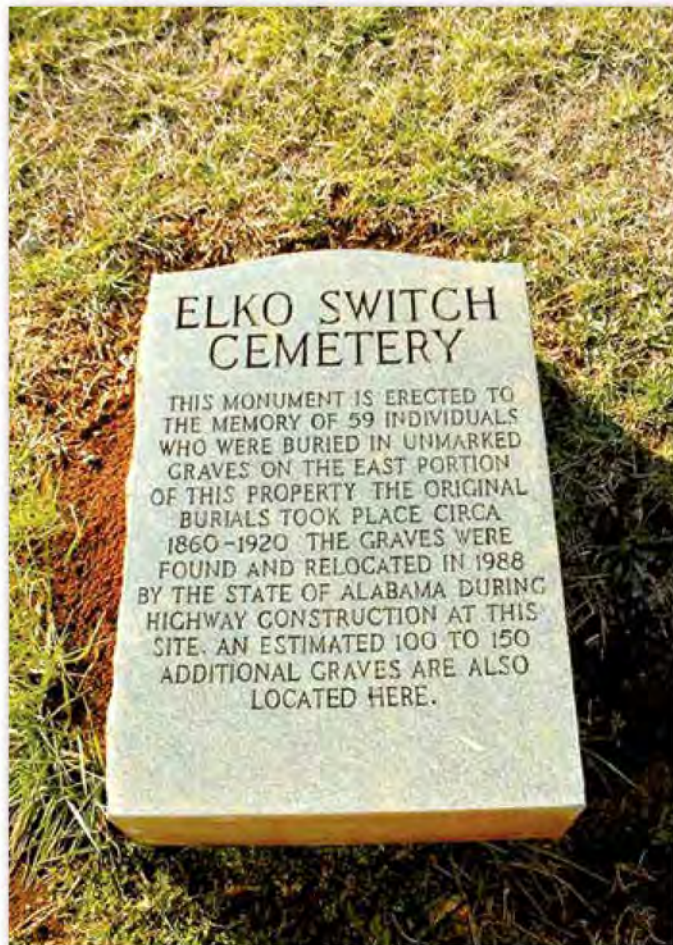


for a total of approximately 720 acres. Between 1815 and 1843, East collected six land patents within the Rainbow (Rainbolt) Mountain area.

William East appears on both the 1830 and 1840 census. In 1830, his household included six white members, presumably himself and his immediate family, and 10 slaves. By 1840, there were 10 white members of the East household and only one female slave.

According to William East's last will and testament, he owned about 618 acres of land and 18 slaves. Two slaves, Banister and Harriott, were bequeathed to East's daughter, Susanna W. East; another two slaves, George and Matilda, were bequeathed to his son, Yancy Thomas East.

**(Below)** Photograph of Elko Switch Cemetery Memorial Marker by John P. Rankin, 2005



## 16 ■■■ Elko\* and Elko Switch Cemetery

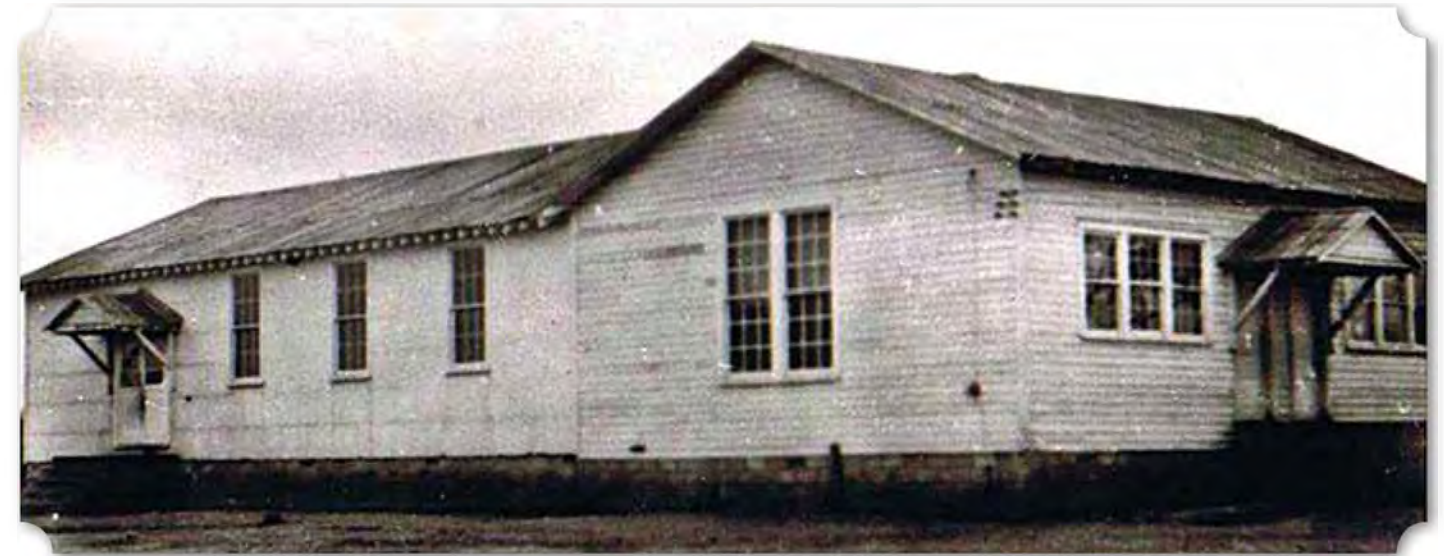
The history of the Elko Switch cemetery is not well understood. While performing construction on Rideout Road in 1965, the Alabama Highway Department inadvertently discovered several unmarked graves. In 1987, plans were made to redesign the interchange with I-565, which included a study of the cemetery. The subsequent archaeological report named the cemetery after the nearby switch for the Southern Railway, located near the community of Elko.

Upon further research, there was no written record of the cemetery. None of the elderly residents of the area who were interviewed recalled any knowledge of this particular cemetery. Overall, 56 graves were excavated, and the remains were studied. Dr. Kenneth Turner, an osteologist from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama concluded that:

“The Elko Switch Cemetery appears to be that of black freedmen and their descendants who earned their livelihood as tenant farmers and who lived a life not greatly improved from the days of slavery. The very real possibility of slave interments in the cemetery also exists with the expected socioeconomic structure evident. At any rate, these were poor black farmers in a rural setting enduring many hardships and encountering many obstacles.”

## 17 ■■■ Farley School\*

Located east of Pond Beat and north of Whitesburg, the community of Farley had two schools: the Farley School for white children and the Farley School for children of color. On the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, the school for children



**(Above)** Photograph of the Farley School “for Negro Children,” Date Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

of color is located on the southeast corner of Green Cove Road and today's Memorial Parkway.

Cleophus Lacy, former resident of Pond Beat (interviewed in 2005), stated that he first attended Horton School, but once they moved off the Arsenal land, he then attended the Farley School. According to Lacy, the school was white-framed with two large rooms and served children from 1st to 8th grades with two teachers. Although the two Farley schools were across the intersection from each other, the white children were taken to and from school via a bus and the children of color had to walk about five miles to Pond Beat.

## 18 ■■■ Farmer's Capital School (Rosenwald)\*

Farmer's Capital School or, simply, Farmer's School was one of nine Rosenwald Schools in Madison County. This one-teacher schoolhouse, approved in 1927, cost \$1,650 to build. Most of the funds (\$900) came from the local African American

community. Another \$450 of public funds were used; the Rosenwald Fund provided \$200; and the local white community gave \$100. The school was insured for \$1,160.

The two acres were donated by Garth and Bertha Humphrey, African American landowners in Sulphur Springs. Garth Humphrey and his neighbors, many of

**(Below)** Madison County Land Records for Farmer's Capital School and Garth & Eddie B. Humphrey, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS





**(Above) Photograph of Farmer's Capital School, Date of the Image and the Child Depicted is Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)**

them members of his family like his brothers Eddie and Orlando, gathered the initial \$700 for the school. Their father, Burrell (or Burwell), a carpenter and brick mason, began construction on the one-room schoolhouse in 1928, presumably following the Smith-Rosenwald plans. Later, another room was added. Garth and Bertha also boarded teachers in their home and were trustees of the school.

## 19 ■■■ Fennell Plantation\* and Fennell (Fennil) Cemetery

The Fennell Plantation, also known as Fennell Place and sometimes spelled as Fennil or other variations, has connections to many of the Fennell family. One of the first recorded Fennells in South Madison County, James C. Fennell (1780-1817) is thought to have the oldest headstone in all of Madison County. When he passed away, his last will and testament inventoried his large estate, including at least 320 acres of land on the west side of Green Mountain (southwest quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 5, Range 1 East; and the southeast quarter of Section 30, Township 4, Range 1 East). At the time of

his death, he owned 25 slaves. His estate was divided among his wife and children, leading to several other Fennell properties in the area.

Isham Fennell's will from 1815 records his 200-acre property on the northeast border of the Redstone Arsenal. Isham left several slaves to his wife, Temperance, and their children, although the total number is not known. When Temperance died in 1844, her will divided 28 slaves among her children but did not include any land. Records may be incomplete because there is evidence that Isham bought the section containing the Fennell Cemetery in 1843, although this is not included in his or Temperance's wills.

George W. Fennell, son of Isham and Temperance, died around 1848. His estate was on the far eastern border of Madison and Jackson counties. However, he also owned 120 acres in the northeast of Redstone Arsenal, just south of his father's land. His will also included a reference to "40 acres of the Old Fennell tract," although where that is located is not clear. In 1830, George W. Fennell owned 19 slaves and by his death, he had 33 slaves.

In a summary report for the Fennil/Fennell Cemetery, historian John P. Rankin concluded that the cemetery is "generally believed to have been used exclusively by black families through the years. However, a check of the old land records for its location shows the pioneer ownership of the parcel. Any of its owners could

have begun the cemetery as such by burying family members there, and then when black families came into possession of the land, they naturally continued to use the cemetery for interments."

There are only three marked graves in the cemetery, including Corp. Joseph Beasley (1839-1918). According to his headstone and a personal history recorded in Thomas Henry Kenny's "Slave Genealogy," Beasley served in Company C of the 12th United States Colored Infantry (USCI). He was born in 1843, and by 1869, he lived as a farmer on the plantation of Matt Strong. His parents were Bill and Maria Beasley, and his wife was named Emmaline. James had a brother named Elick, who also served in the 12th USCI. Not all the names and dates match up exactly, which is not uncommon for records of the time. James was often abbreviated as "Jas," and Joseph as "Jos.," which are very similar. No Elick was recorded in the 12th USCI, but there was a Nick Beasley.

Others said to be buried here include the relatives of Emma Lankford Horton, a previous resident of the area who was interviewed in 1999 and 2000. Horton said that her mother, Magnolia Baker Lankford (born August 23, 1902); her aunt, Maggie Simpson; and her brother, Walter Lee Lankford are all buried in the Fennell Cemetery.

## 20 ■■■ Gaines Chapel\* and Burton Cemetery

Although not directly related, these two points of interest were once side by side. Founded in 1911, the Gaines Chapel was a Missionary Baptist church in Mullins Flat on what is now Redstone Arsenal. There was once a separate schoolhouse next to the church, but it was torn down and school was held inside the church. Known as Gaines Chapel Church School, it served the children of the area, including Shirley Chunn (interviewed in 2005), granddaughter of Adolphus Love, who owned a substantial amount of land in Mullins Flat.

Burton Cemetery is a family cemetery located just west of the chapel. It's named for Joseph Burton, whose land was just north of the cemetery on a parcel belonging to Kirby Cartwright in 1841. Although it was located on land owned by white families, the U.S. Army identified the Burton Cemetery in 1952 as a "colored" cemetery. Subsequent research has revealed some of the individuals who are interred there.

According to Georgia Mae Lacy Lanier, a former resident who grew up in Mullins Flat, "Lucy Fisher Lacy was one of the six children of Jackson Fisher and Hannah Fisher... She died in the 1930s and was interred in Burton Cemetery. Depending on her birth date, she was either born a slave or 'just down from slavery.'"

Others known to be interred at Burton Cemetery are: Bernice Copeland, Bessie Burton, George Burton, Susie A. Burton, Ella B. Chunn, Annie Willingham, Mary Cuff, L.V. Tate, William and Tansy Barnhard, and 21 other unmarked graves.

## 21 ■■■ Glenwood Cemetery

Glenwood Cemetery is located west of downtown Huntsville on Hall Avenue. However, the history of the cemetery is entwined with another, older cemetery, The Old Georgia Slave Cemetery. In 1818, Leroy Pope, known as the "Father of Huntsville," sold two acres of land to the city of Huntsville, which reserved the lot for a slave burial ground. This cemetery was known as the Old Georgia Cemetery, thought to be named in reference to the state of Georgia, where many of the slaves were born before being brought to Alabama by their masters. The Old Georgia Cemetery was located where the Huntsville Hospital is located today. While the history of the two cemeteries have become muddled, there is no record or other evidence for any of the interments at the Old Georgia Cemetery having been moved to Glenwood.



(Above) 1936 USGA/TVA Topographic Map, Huntsville Quadrangle

The Glenwood Cemetery was established in 1870 by the City of Huntsville. The original 10-acre lot and a five-acre addition were previously part of the John Brahan Plantation. The city purchased the larger lot with intentions of moving the Old Georgia Cemetery to the new burial grounds. While the exact number of graves at Old Georgia and Glenwood are not known, there were possibly over 1,000 slaves buried at Old Georgia Cemetery, and over 10,000 are graves now at Glenwood. However, since there were no burial records created for the slave interments or the graves that were moved, it is speculated by local historians that some slave burials remain at the original cemetery.

In 1996, Glenwood Cemetery received a historical marker by the Alabama Historical Commission. The historical marker commemorates some of the distinguished African Americans buried at Glenwood: numerous veterans, including two Buffalo Soldiers



(Above) Map of the "Country in the Vicinity of Huntsville, Ala Occupied as a Military Encampment by a Portion of the Fourth Army Corps and Other U.S. Troops in the Autumn of 1898" (National Archives and Records Administration via the University of Alabama, Historical Map Collection)

and members of the U.S. Colored Troops of the Union Army; former slaves; clergymen; educators; entrepreneurs; politicians; and other leaders. It was also listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register in 2015.

Early African American community leaders buried here include Henry C. Binford, educator, newspaper editor, and alderman; Daniel S. Brandon, alderman; William H. Gaston, clergyman; Charles Hendley, Jr., editor and educator C.C. Moore, Postman; and Burgess E. Scroggs, alderman and physician.

## 22 ■ Green Grove Cemetery

Located on Redstone Arsenal by Zierdt Road and I-565, Green Cove Cemetery is actually not near the community of Green Grove. It only has one memorial marker, but according to historian John P. Rankin, it could probably have anywhere from 500 to 1,000 unmarked graves.

The only remaining headstone is that of James Turner who died March 2, 1926. In the 1900 and 1910 census, there is an African American tenant farmer named James Turner, who lived in the area with his wife, Sofornia. He was born about 1854.

The land was originally patented to Gross Scurggs in 1818. According to the 1830 census, Scruggs had at least 41 slaves. The land passed to Richard Holding, who owned 98 slaves in 1840, 221 in 1860. While there is only one marker, the area fenced off for the cemetery is quite large, which suggests that this cemetery was most likely used by the Scruggs and Holding slaves and their descendants.

The cemetery is marked on the current topographic map; however, it was not recorded on any known map until 1964.

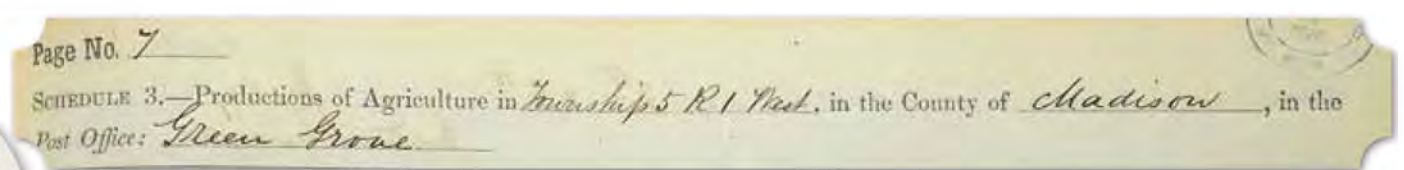
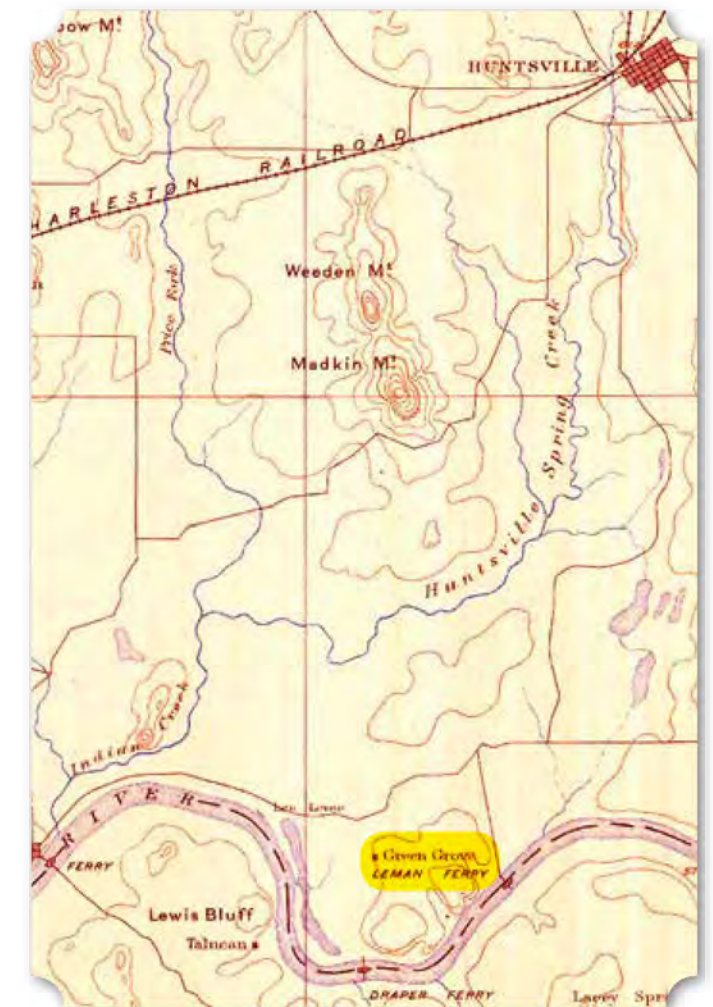
## 23 ■ Green Grove\*

Green Grove was a community in south Madison County on what is now Redstone Arsenal. However, it dates to the 19th century and was not recognized by those living in the area in the early 20th century prior to when the U.S. Army purchased the land for the

Arsenal. It appears on early topographic maps from 1885.

Research on the free people of color of Madison County before the Civil War helped identified the community of Green Grove. For instance, a woman

(Bottom) Green Grove Post Office Listed on the 1870 Agricultural Census for Madison County, Alabama (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Below) 1885 USGS Topographic Map of the Redstone Arsenal Area and Huntsville, Huntsville, Alabama Quadrangle



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
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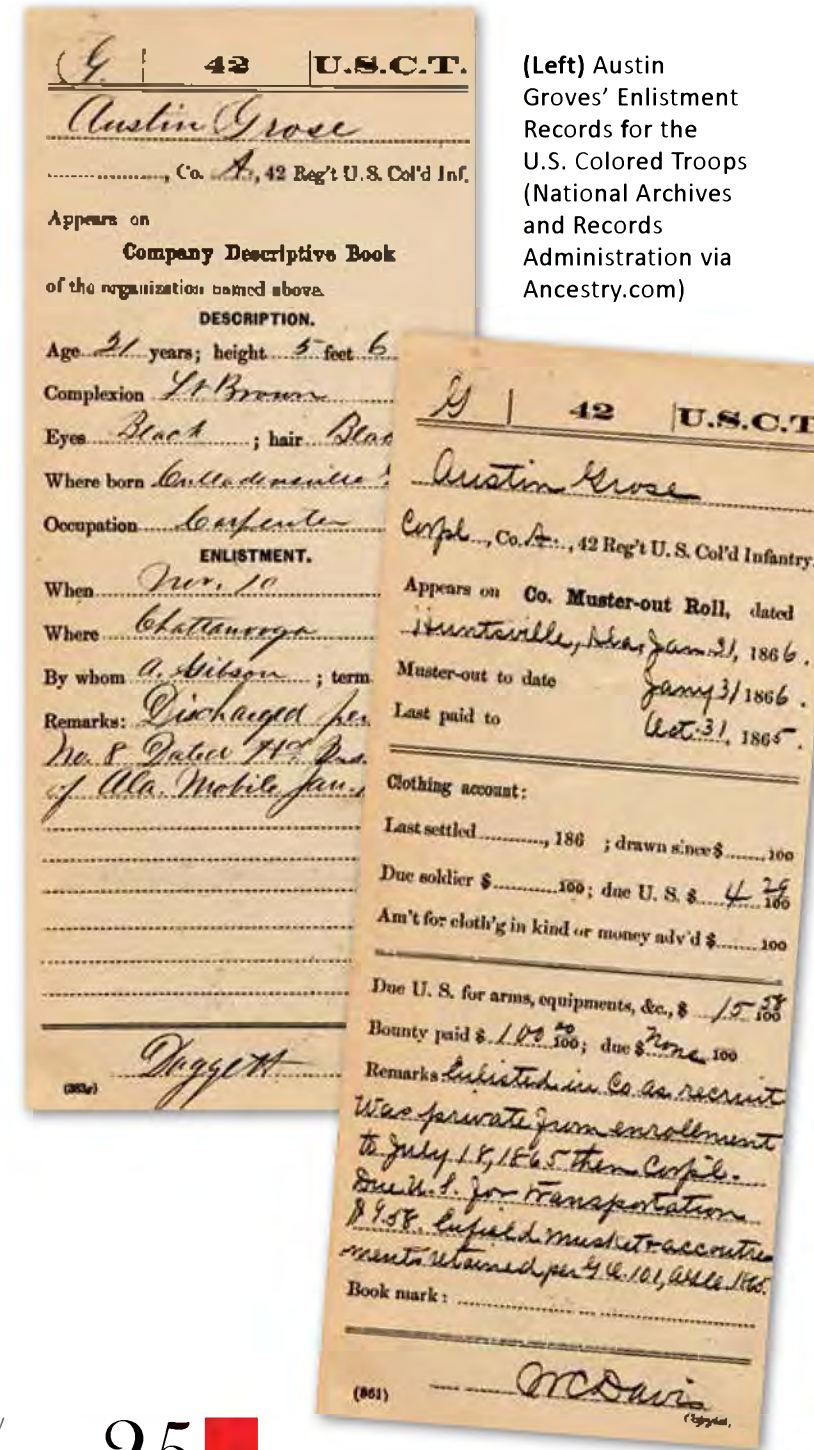
named Martha Martin was recorded paying her taxes in 1857 and 1870. She owned property in what was described as Green Grove.

(Below) 1909 G. W. Jones Map of Madison County, Alabama Showing Green Grove Community (Alabama Department of Archives and History via University of Alabama Historical Map Collection)



(Above) Photograph of Austin Groves' Headstone (FindAGrave.com)

appearance of a turn-of-the-20th-century government-issued military marker. It simply states "Austin Groves, Co. A, 42nd U.S.C.T." Groves' military records are under the name "Austin Grose." He was 21 years old when he enlisted with the U.S. Colored Troops in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His records describe his birthplace as "Culladinsville, Georgia." This likely references Culloden, Georgia, which is in Monroe County. Groves may have ended up in Triana, Alabama because he was mustered out in Huntsville on January 31, 1866 with the rank of Corporal.

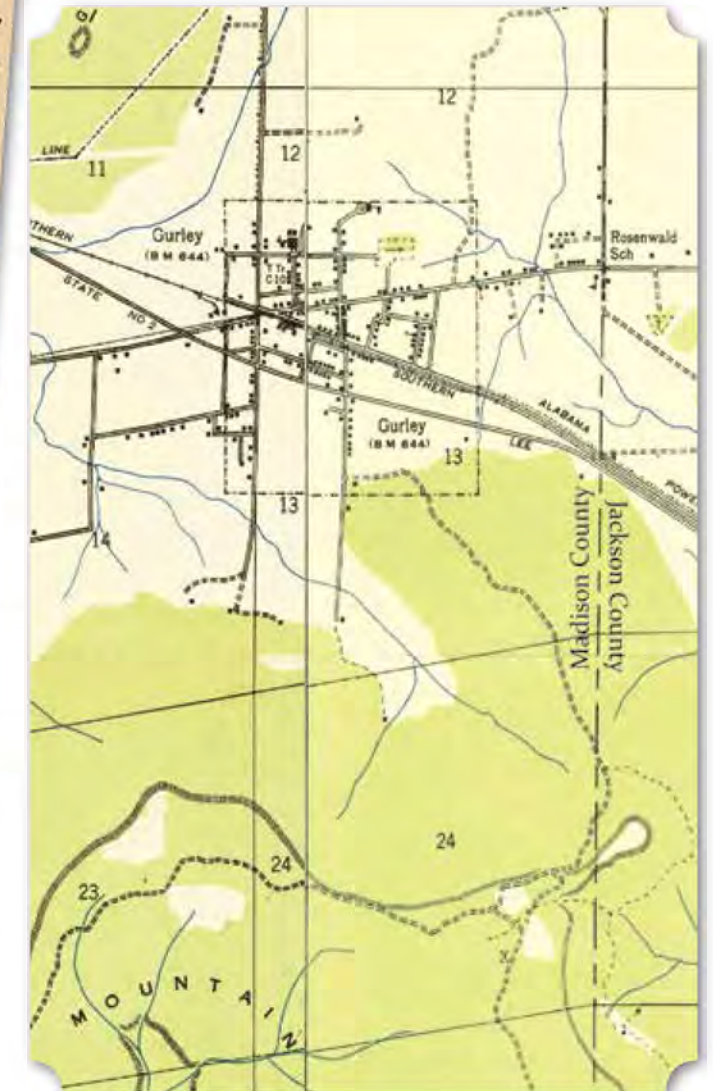


(Left) Austin Groves' Enlistment Records for the U.S. Colored Troops (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

the Conyers School on the east side of town and the Clay Cemetery in Jackson County indicate that some of this community may have been located in Jackson County.

During the early 20th century, the population of Gurley remained constant at approximately 300 and 360 total households. Of these households, an average of 80 were African American, or roughly 25%. However, the number of African American-owned farms varied greatly during these years. According to the census records, there were 13 farms owned by African Americans in 1900, nine farms in 1910, and 38 in 1920, before declining to nine again in 1930.

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Moontown and Paint Rock, Alabama Quadrangles



## 25 Gurley

The town of Gurley is positioned along the Jackson County line east of Huntsville. While most of the early 20th-century African American landowners had their farms to the southwest of the town, the location of

## 24 Groves Cemetery

This small cemetery is now located on Redstone Arsenal. While there are several graves here, only two are marked, one with a fieldstone and the other with a headstone. The headstone for Austin Groves has the

In 1940, there were only seven farms. At the peak of farm ownership in the 1920s, the 38 owned farms represented 45% of the African American households and 13% of the total households of Gurley. What could account for the variation in farm ownership is not known.

Several families had more than one member who owned a farm, including the Andersons, Clays, Conyers, Gurleys, and McCrarys. John Anderson, David Bostic, and Tom Conyers owned their farms from at least 1920-1940. Aside from farm ownership, the number of African Americans who owned property in Gurley is relatively high, and the majority of the African American population in Gurley owned a house, not a farm.

The Graysom School (or possibly the Grayson School), was one of nine Rosenwald Schools in Madison County. While there is an official record of the school, the location of the school has been lost. No family with the name Graysom or similar could be found in the area on the censuses from 1900-1930. It was likely located somewhere between Gurley and Owens Crossroads as there are several landmarks and areas named for Grayson, including Grayson Island, two Grayson Springs, and Grayson Point.

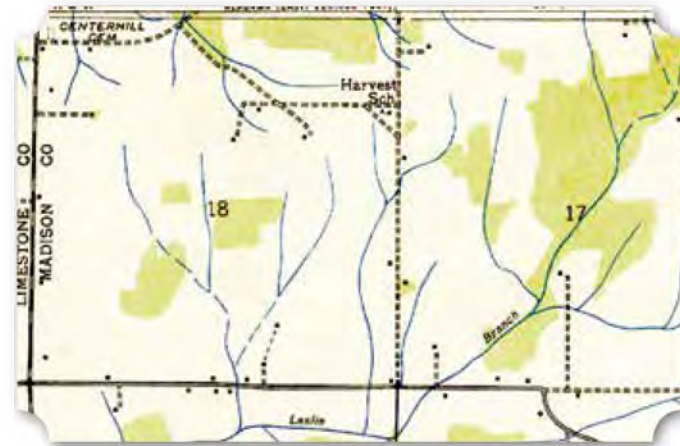
The Graysom School was a one-teacher/one-room schoolhouse approved in 1913 that cost \$850, with \$300 donated from the African American community, \$400 from the Rosenwald Fund, and the other \$150 from local funds.

## 26 ■ Harvest

The community of Harvest is located about 12 miles northwest of downtown Huntsville along the Limestone County border. The town of Harvest is historically a white community. In the early 20th century and particularly

following disturbances due to the work of the TVA or the acquisition of land for Redstone Arsenal, several families and communities from south Madison County relocated north to the east of Harvest.

The community of Harvest is enumerated within the Cluttsville census district. In 1900, the Cluttsville district had 364 total households, which increased to 486 households in 1940. The area was predominately



(Top) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Capshaw and Jeff, Alabama Quadrangles (Below) An Aerial Photograph of the Community of Harvest, Circa 1950s (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

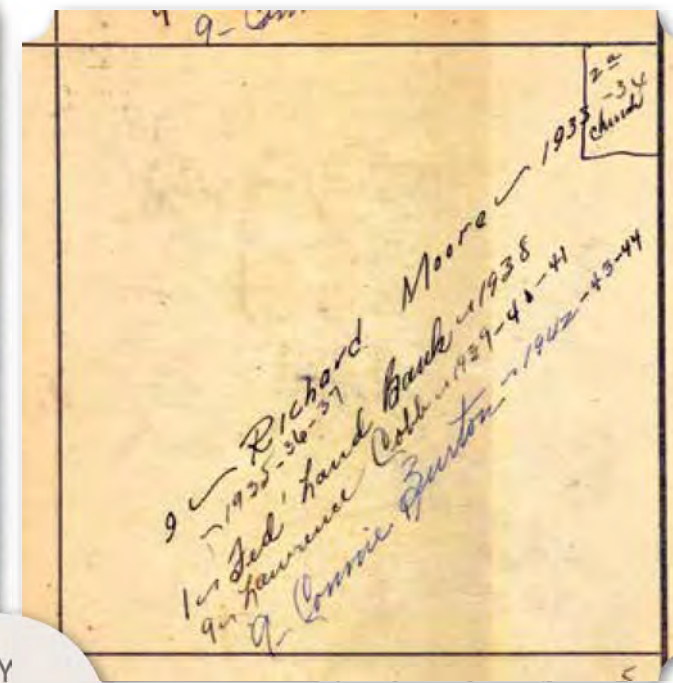


African American until 1930. During the first few decades of the 20th century, the population of Cluttsville was over half African American and peaked at 72% in 1920. In 1920, there were 38 African American-owned farms in the Harvest area. However, this still only represented about 5% of the total households in the area, and downtown Harvest was composed of 100% white households in 1940. It appears that most of the African American community and the major landowners purchased land outside of town.

The prominent African American landowning and farming families of Harvest include the Blackburn, Fletcher, Hammond, Moore, and Nance families. The Hammond and Nance families owned four farms each in 1900, and the Moore family had five members who owned farms in 1930.

## 27 ■ Harvest School\*

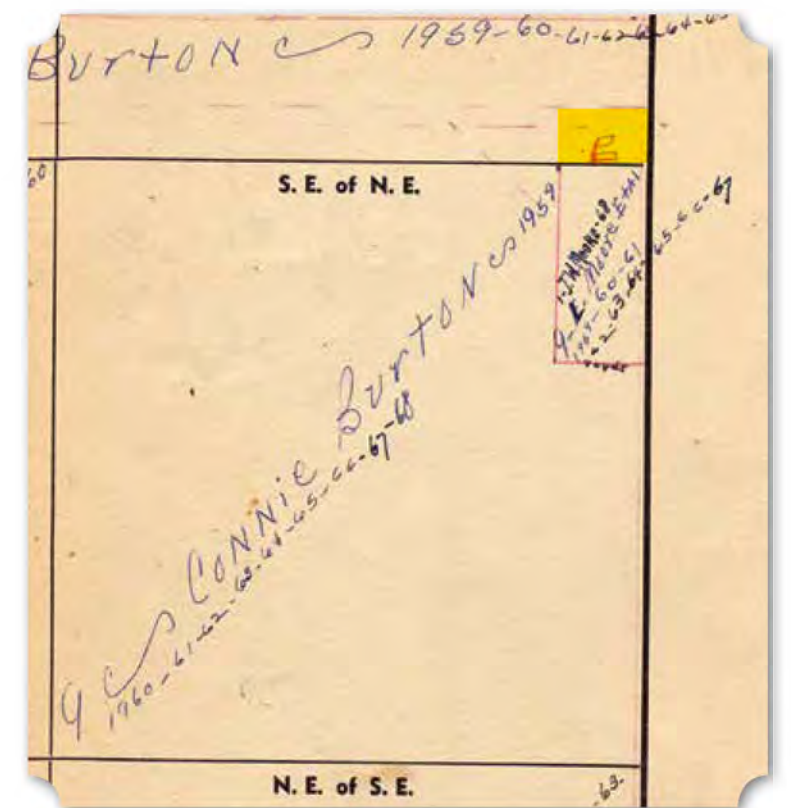
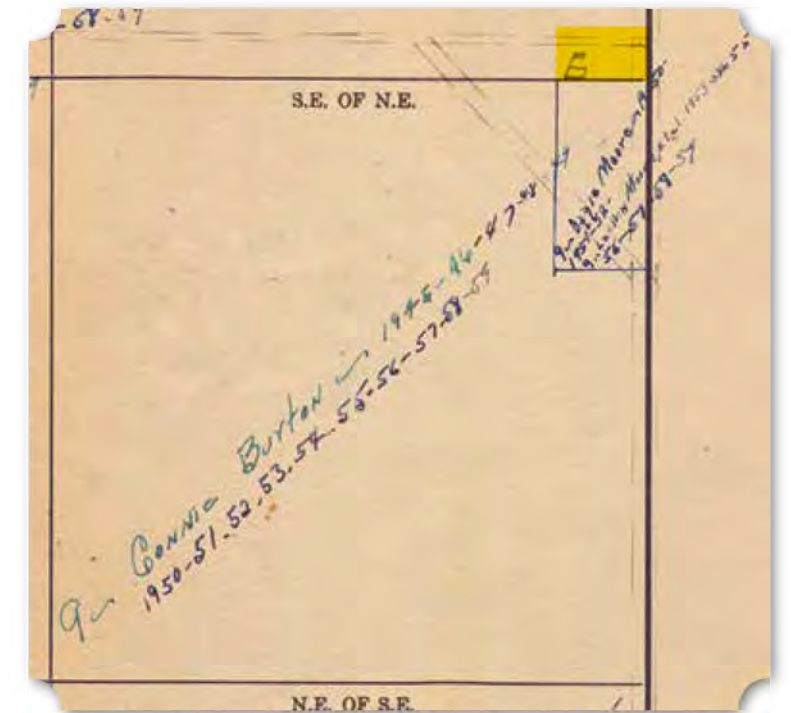
The Harvest School was located in the community of Harvest northwest of downtown off what is today Carroll Road. The school is shown on the 1936 USGS



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
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(Grouping Below) Madison County Land Records Showing Richard Moore's Land and the Harvest School (Highlighted in Yellow), 1933-1959 (Madison County Land Records Index)



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

topographic map. According to Madison County land records, the parcel containing the school was owned by Richard Moore from 1920 to 1938. Richard's father, Offie Moore owned the adjacent parcel to the west.

Land records from 1933 show that two acres of the Moore parcel were set aside for a church, where the school most likely began. Although Moore no longer owned the land, the records from 1945 and 1959 clearly show the symbol for a school just north of the church.

## 28 ■

### Horton-Joiner Cemetery

This cemetery is located on the Redstone Arsenal on the west side of the Pond Beat community. Also known as Community Cemetery, there are only two markers in this cemetery. One is for Ophelia Horton, "Dau. Of Sofie Horton, died at age 10 yrs, monument erected, 1925, Asleep in Jesus." Ophelia was the daughter of Yancy Horton, Sr. and his wife, Sofie. She was born in 1892 and recorded on the 1900 census. If she was 10 years old when she died, then the year was 1902, and the monument was erected 23 years later. The other marker is for Richard Joiner (1878-1906). Joiner was the son of Felix and Millie Joiner.

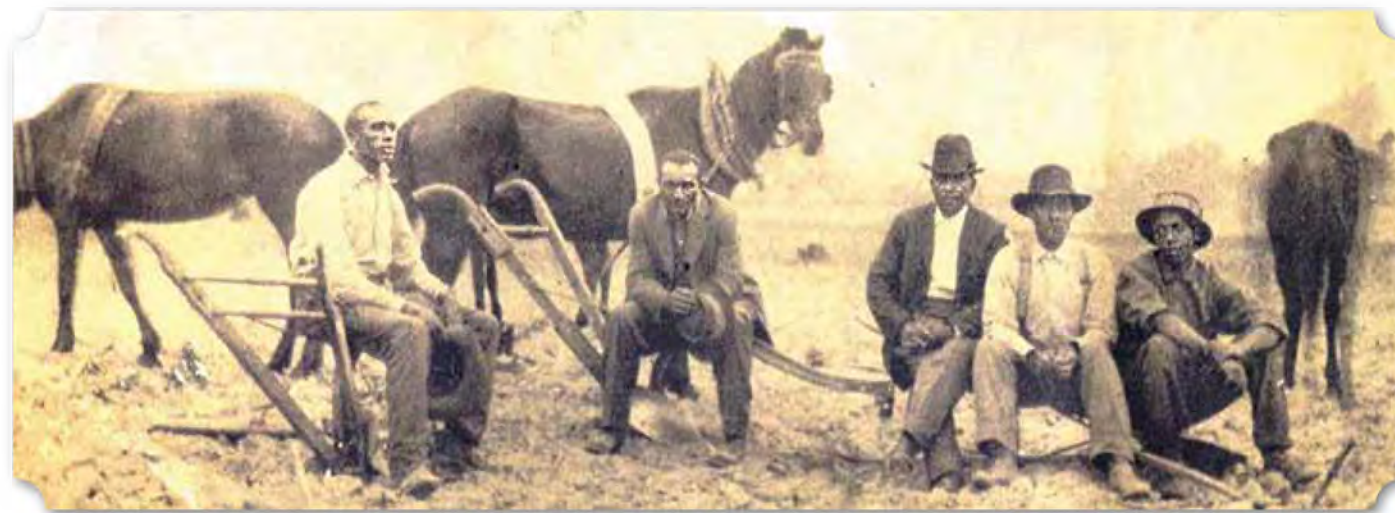
## 29 ■

### Horton School (Rosenwald)\*

Horton School, located on what is now Redstone Arsenal, was one of nine Rosenwald schools in Madison County. It was an early school built about 1913 under the direction of the Tuskegee Institute. The Horton School was a one-teacher school that cost \$950 to construct, \$350 collected from the local African American community, and another \$300 each was provided by public funds and the Rosenwald Fund.



The Horton School is named for Yancy Horton, Sr. who donated the two acres. Other members of the African American community that were intricately involved in making Horton School a reality were Adolphus and Moses Love, Walter Jacobs, Everett T. Horton, and Paris Bransford. The school was located in the community of Pond Beat, but all local residents and farmers were bought out by the U.S. government in 1941.



**(Top and Above)** The Community of Pond Beat Clearing the Land for the Horton School (Curry 2006) **(Left)** Photograph of Horton School, Circa 1940s (Curry 2006) **(Bottom Left)** Drawing of Horton School (Courtesy Ms. Horton Jordan)



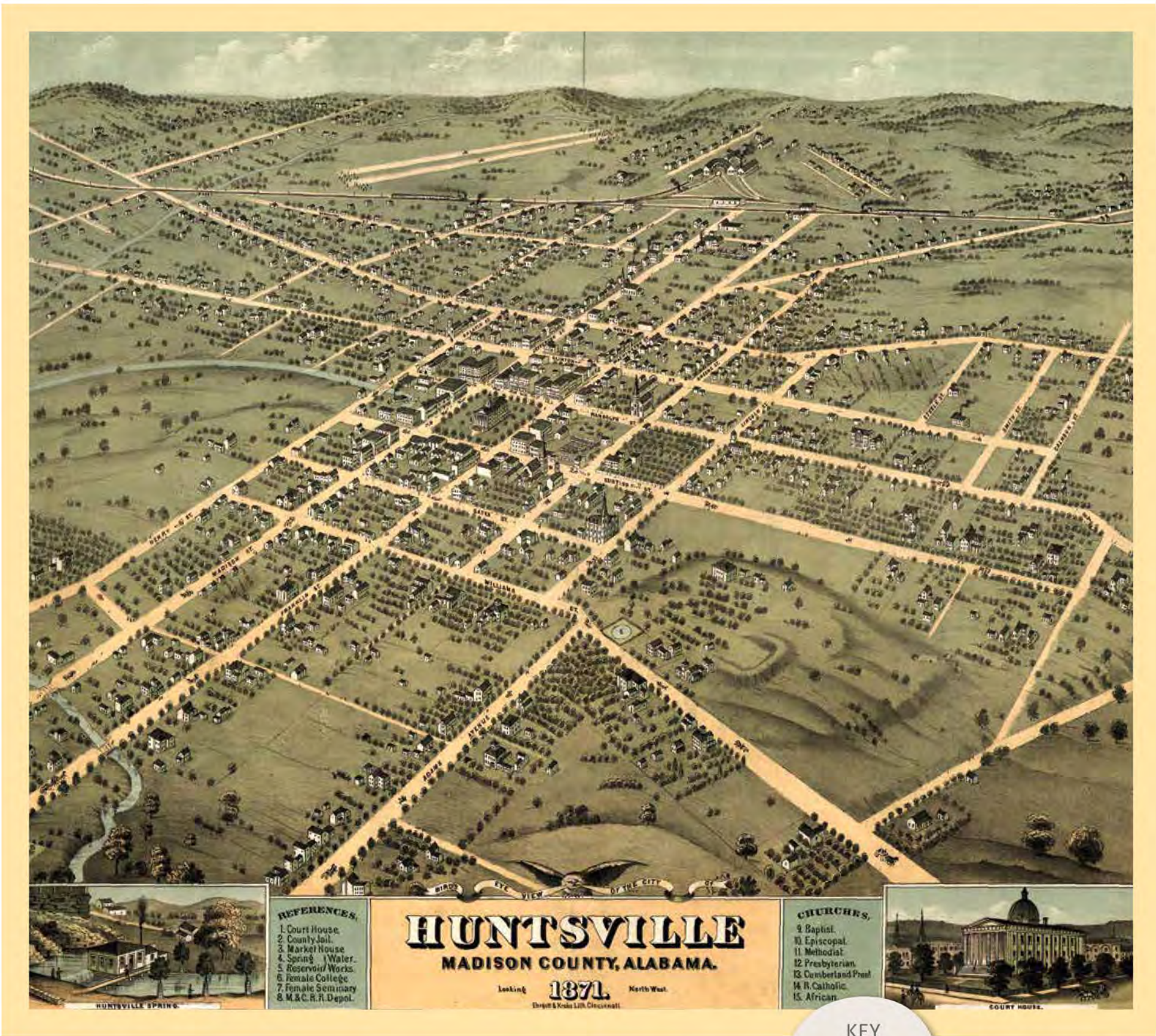
## 30 ■

### Huntsville

Settled in 1805, Huntsville was the first incorporated town in Alabama and the center of early state politics. Huntsville became the center of the cotton industry for North Alabama due to its well-producing soil and position near the Tennessee River that allowed for easy transport to the Mississippi River and beyond. The cotton mills of Huntsville remained a vital part of the economy well into the 20th century, providing some stability through the Great Depression.

“After leaving Redstone, my parents got enough money to buy a home on West Clinton Street [Huntsville] and a small farm, which they rented out because nobody, none of us [children] wanted it. I went to the city high school, Council High School, graduated and went to Alabama A&M and graduated. And, I worked at Alabama A&M in accounts receivable, student accounting area for 25 years and retired.”

- Ms. Maureen Davis Cathey



(Left) A Bird's Eye View of Downtown Huntsville, Alabama, Looking Northwest 1871 (Library of Congress) (Below) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. Sanborn Map Company, January, 1888. Map (Library of Congress)



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

By the 1880s, the Norfolk Southern railroad line connected Huntsville to Memphis and Chattanooga, and the CSX Railroad line connected Nashville and Huntsville. The railroad spurred economic growth for the city, which continued to be a focus of industry and politics in the region. By the 1930s, the TVA changed, once again, how Huntsville connected with the rest of Alabama and the southern United States. The Guntersville, Wheeler, and Wilson dams on the Tennessee River changed the landscape. Bridges began to replace ferries and soon an interstate highway system would become the secondary lifeline of the region.

America's entrance into World War II impacted every state and town in the country, but it impacted Huntsville and its communities of color more than most. In 1941, the U.S. government relocated several communities located southwest of Huntsville to make room for the Redstone Ordnance Plant, later known as Redstone Arsenal, a chemical munitions producing and stockpiling facility. After World War II, the arsenal famously became home to the U.S. rocketry program and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

#### Huntsville Places of Education

As the major city of North Alabama and a place of community for people of color, Huntsville has also served as a productive ground for higher education for people of color. The history of education in Huntsville begins with the first public school for children of color in the basement of the Lakeside African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in 1867. William Hooper Council, who was involved in that first public school, was later the founder and president of what became the Alabama A&M University, which started as a college near downtown Huntsville before being moved out of the city. Alabama A&M has played a pivotal role in the education of people of color throughout the South, particularly in the area of agriculture by providing courses for farmers in the region.

Two examples of Huntsville's role in the desegregation of institutions of education include the 5th Avenue School and the University of Alabama Huntsville



**(Above)** Dr. Sonnie Hereford III and His Son, Sonnie Hereford IV, Going to the Fifth Avenue School for the First Time (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

(UAH). The 5th Avenue School was a grade school and the first public school in Alabama to be peacefully integrated. Following a court case against the Huntsville City School System, in September 1963, first-grader Sonnie Hereford IV was enrolled at the 5th Avenue School in Huntsville, the first person of color to attend. His enrollment was followed by Veronica Pearson (Rison School), David (Piggee) Osman (Terry Heights School), and John Anthony Brewton (East Clinton School). This prompted other Alabama school systems to begin desegregating.

The University of Alabama's campus in Huntsville was similarly integrated by a man named Dave McGlathery in 1963. A former resident of Pond Beat and veteran of World War II, McGlathery was working at Marshall Space Flight Center when he decided to pursue a degree at UAH. Although there was some reluctance by UAH to allow him to attend, McGlathery eventually enrolled and obtained a degree in engineering.

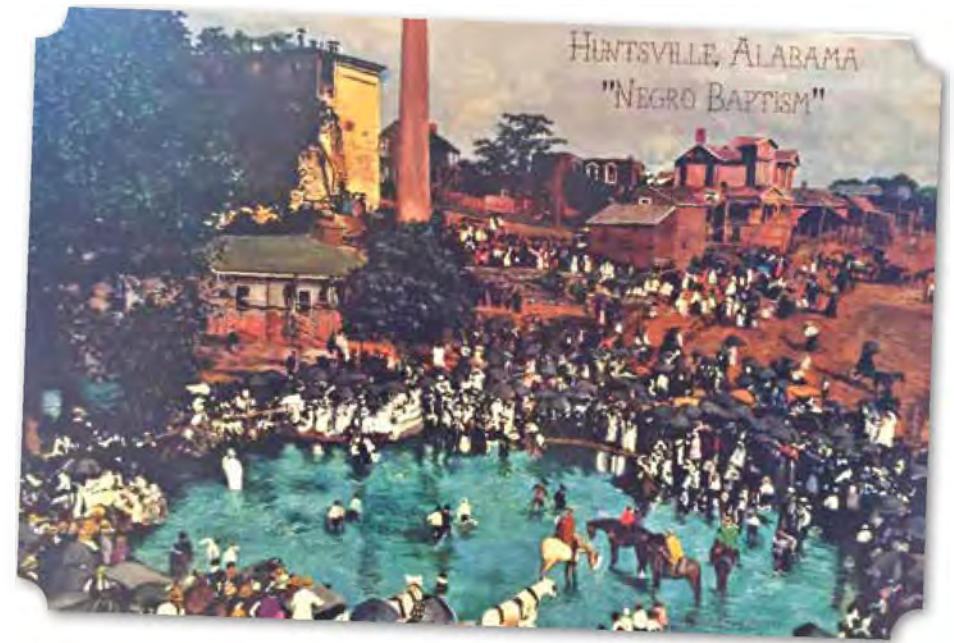
#### Historically Significant Churches of Huntsville

There are numerous churches in downtown Huntsville attended by people of color. Among the historically significant churches is Lakeside AME Church. One of

the earliest churches organized at the end of the Civil War, Lakeside AME Church has historical ties to education and politics, as well as community and religion. The site was dedicated with a historical marker from the Alabama Historical Commission in 1997.

The original location of Lakeside AME Church was on present-day Jefferson Street near the intersection of Meridian Street. The property was first purchased by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866. The following year, the congregation built a frame church with a brick basement. Lakeside's first pastor was Reverend Howell Echols.

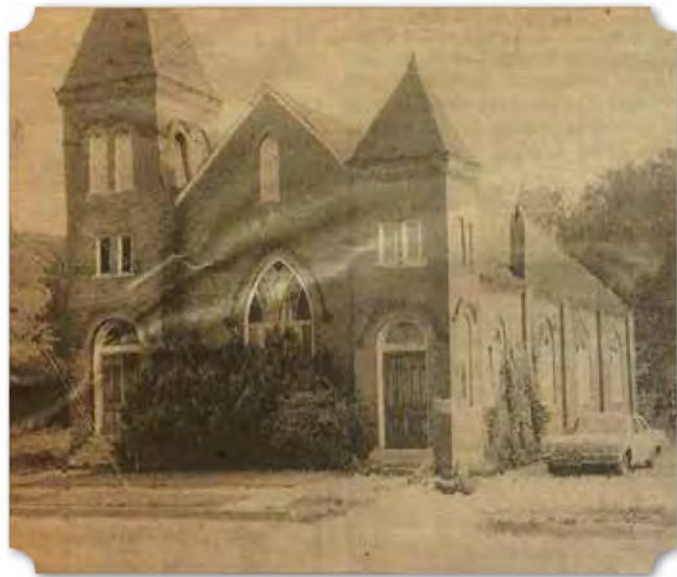
**(Above, Right)** A Painting of a "Negro Baptism" in Huntsville, Circa 1890s (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Below)** Lakeside Church (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



Twenty years after the first building, the church dedicated a new brick building, where the congregation worshiped until the 1960s when the property was sold due to what was known as "Urban Renewal." When the members of the church moved to the present-day location near Alabama A&M University, the new church was destroyed by fire. Lakeside lost many of their records, original stained-glass windows, and more.

Lakeside AME Church is also notable for its educational history. The brick basement of the original 1866 church provided the space for the first city-supported school for African American children in Huntsville. The school opened in 1867 with support by community leaders Henry C. Binford, Charles Hendley, Jr., and Thomas Cooper. These men were the first principals of the school that continued to serve the community at this church until 1890. The church's dedication to education did not end there. In 1940, the first public library accessible to people of color was opened here by Dulcina DeBerry.

Six of the nine African American Aldermen of Huntsville from 1880 to 1905 were members of this church: H. C. Binford, David and Daniel Brandon, Nelson Hendley, Thomas Townsend, and Dr. Burgess E. Scruggs.



(Above) St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

The Lakeside AME Church appears on an 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as "Colored M. E. Church and School." Two other churches are noted on the map as well, a "Colored Baptist Church" and another "African M. E. Church."

The "African M. E. Church" noted on the Sanborn map is the original location of the St. John AME Church. This AME Church was organized in 1885 by Dr. William Hooper Council. The first meetings were held in a barber shop on the corner of Miller and West Holmes streets until 1900 when the first church building was constructed. Dr. Council was ordained an elder for the church along with others.

The church that stands on the corner of Church and Monroe streets today was constructed in 1971. Over the 130 plus years of St. John AME Church's history, it has served as a center point for the community hosting meetings and programs for the NAACP and the City of Huntsville, as well as Fellowship conferences. It retains strong ties with Alabama A&M.

#### Huntsville Population

As the largest city in Madison County, Huntsville's population is enumerated in several districts and wards for the federal census. In order to evaluate the rural population and how many farmers of color owned land around Huntsville, the downtown wards

were excluded from this study. The rural population of Huntsville consisted of 47% households of color in 1900 and consistently fell to 28% households of color by 1940. Although the number of households of color was relatively constant through the decades, the percentage of families of color living in rural Huntsville declined. This indicates that early 20th century growth around the city was mostly due to white households.

Farm ownership among households of color around Huntsville has a less definable trend. Farm ownership by people of color in rural Huntsville reflects the overall trend of high ownership at the turn of the century, followed by a short decline in 1910, a peak in 1920, and the sharpest drop by 1930. Between 100 and 150 families of color owned their property from 1900-1920. When compared to the entire population, households of color that owned a farm in rural Huntsville accounted for no more than 3% or 4% of the total population, with the exception of 1920 when that percentage was 8% of all households. That year also had the highest percentage of landowning farmers among the households of color: 17% of all households of color in 1920 were landowning

farmers. Between 1920 and 1930, more than half of those farms were either lost or the families had moved.

The rural area around Huntsville at times included Pond Beat and Mullins Flat. Many of the landowning farmers of color have familiar names or surnames, such as Paris Branford, who owned his farm from at least 1900-1940. Others include Everett Horton and other family members, and Mose and Darphus Love. The McDonald family had four members who owned a farm in 1920 through to 1940, and the Cabiness family had three members who owned farms in 1920.

In the 21st century, Huntsville is still a major city of Alabama. It is the third largest city in the state and the largest of the North Alabama region. As of 2010, the metro area had over 414,000 people, of which 31% identified as African American. The city of

(Below) Excerpts from 1900 Federal Census of Huntsville, Madison County, Example of a Community of Landowning Farmers Who are All Neighbors on Clinton Street in West Huntsville

463	483	Porter	Albion	Head	13	M	June	1871	28	M	6	1	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0-0-4	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	7	7	113
		—	Anna	Wife	13	F	Jan	1872	28	M	6	4	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			Yes	Yes	Yes				
464	484	Porter	Henry	Head	13	M	Nov	1850	49	M	25			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0-4-4	Yes	No	Yes	0	7	7	114
		—	Manina	Wife	13	F	Jan	1855	45	M	25	13	9	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama		6	No	No	Yes				
465	485	Lane	Frank	Head	13	M	Feb	1851	49	M	21			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Day Laborer	0-3-0	No	No	Yes	0	7	7	115
		—	Fannie	Wife	13	F	June	1863	37	M	21	4	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	7	7	115
467	487	Lightfoot	Joe	Head	13	M	June	1852	47	M	28			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0-5-2	No	No	Yes	0	7	7	116
		—	Callie	Wife	13	F	Aug	1852	47	M	28	14	10	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Laundry	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
468	488	Lightfoot	Joe	Head	13	M	Feb	1875	25	M	4			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Ministry Man	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	7	7	117
		—	Nancy	Wife	13	F	June	1876	24	M	4	3	2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			Yes	Yes	Yes				
472	492	Brandon	Alfred	Head	13	M	Oct	1852	47	M	24			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Farmer	0-6-7	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	7	7	118
		—	Nancy	Wife	13	F	Jan	1853	47	M	24	11	8	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			Yes	Yes	Yes				

#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



Huntsville has long been a home for people of color. Madison County is known for a sizable population of free people of color before the Civil War and successful communities of professionals, politicians, religious leaders, educators, and businesspeople through to the present day. However, the city and its surroundings also have a long history of displacement and destruction of historically African American communities and neighborhoods. While other historical places and buildings are preserved, several of the historical landmarks of the communities belonging to people of color have been lost.

### 31 ■ Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

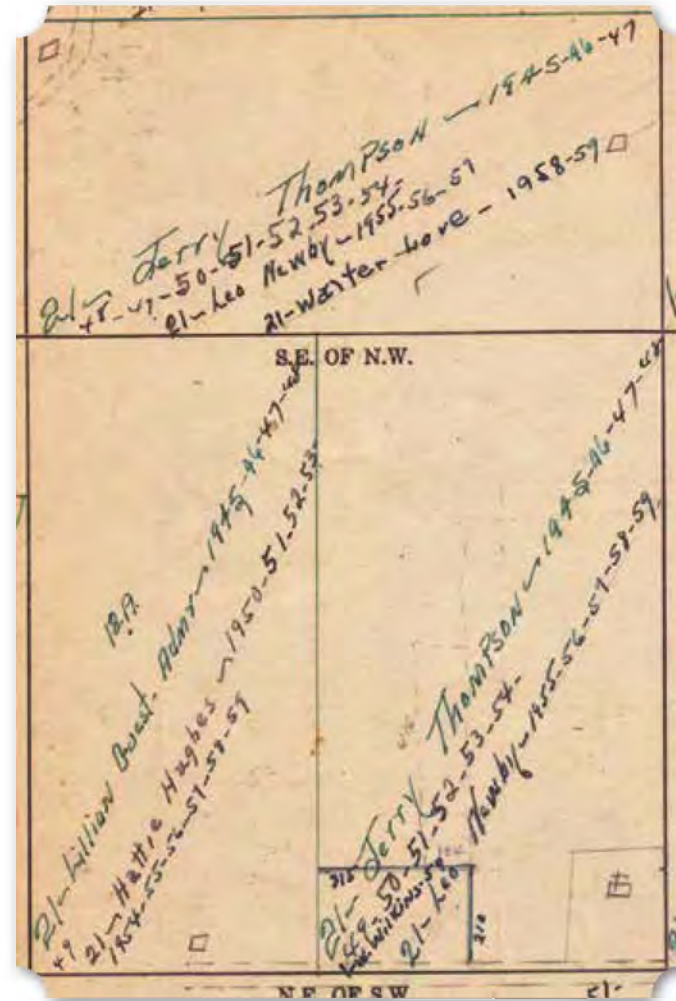
This church was first organized in 1869 when property records for the church known as “African Baptist Church” were recorded at its present location. Reverend Ned Colman, also known as Ned Clay, founded the church and served as its first pastor. The church property was once the farm of Jerry Thompson, who owned the land from 1920- 1954.

Landowner and cornerstone of the community, Dan Tibbs, Jr. was baptized here in 1939. In 1944, Tibbs Jr. became the choir director while both he and his father, Dan Tibbs, Sr. were deacons. The original building and everything in it, except the piano, was destroyed by fire in 1969. When the church rebuilt, both of the Tibbs’ names were on the cornerstone.



(Top) Excerpt of the 1940 Census Showing Jerry Thompson and Family Owning a Farm Worth Approximately \$200 (Above) Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Madison County Land Records, 1945-1959 (Index to Madison County Land Records (Left) Photograph of Congregation, Circa 1950s (Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church website)

1		'B 0 200 ye	Thompson Jerry	head	0	M	neg	65	M	70	2	2	Alabama	72	same house
2			—	affidavit wife	1	F	neg	56	M	70	4	4	Alabama	72	same house
3			Lochart Minnie Belle	adopted daughter	2	F	neg	7	S	yes	1	1	Alabama	72	same house
4			—	John Wesley	adopted son	2	M	neg	5	S	no	0	Alabama	72	same house



### 32 ■ Indian Creek School\*

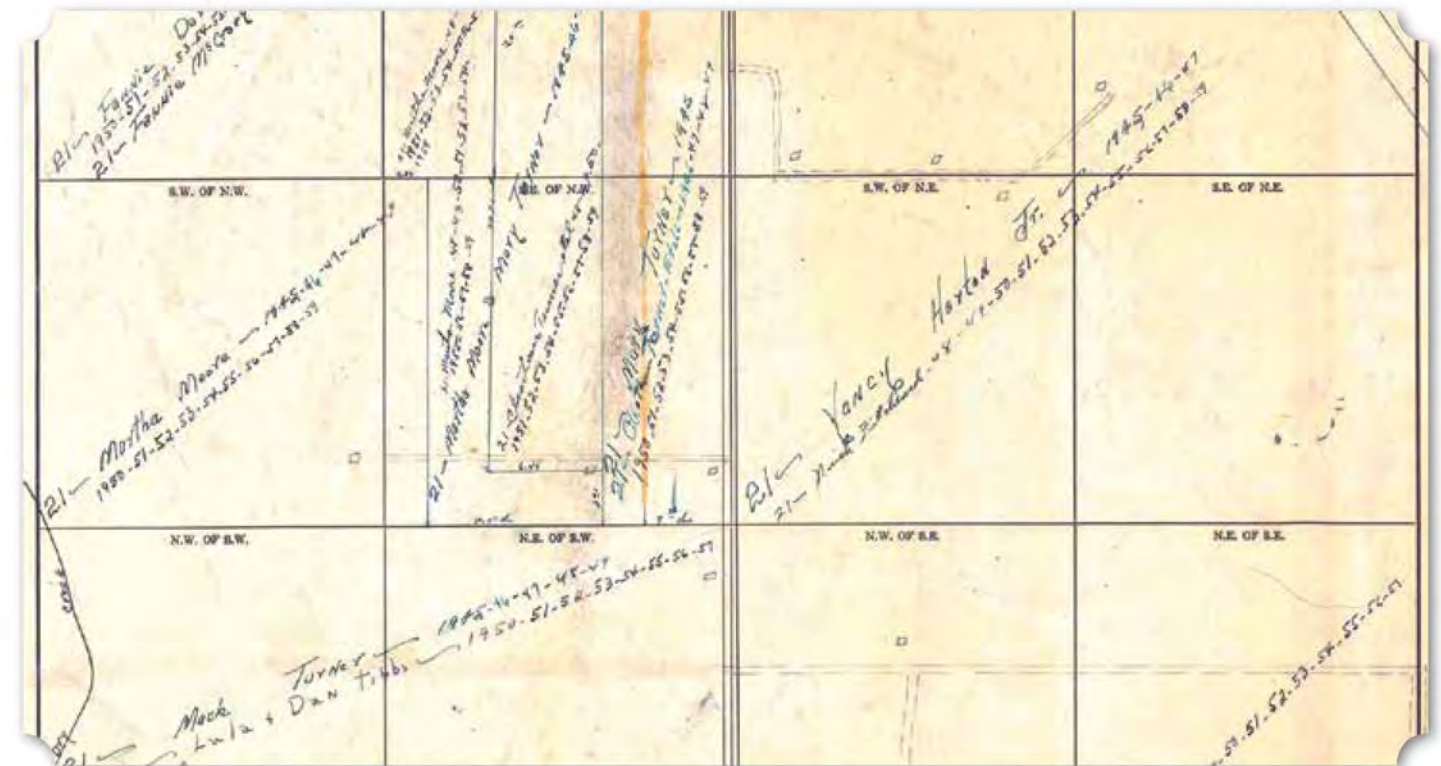
The Indian Creek School was an African American school until about the time of integration. It appears on the 1958 USGS topographic map until the most recent version; however, by 2002, the school was torn down and replaced by a large industrial lot.

Dan Tibbs, Jr. taught math here from 1960-1964. He then became principal for three years until integration forced him to move to the New Market Junior School as an assistant principal. The land was purchased by Yancy Horton, Sr. in 1942 after leaving the Pond Beat area of Redstone Arsenal. The land passed to Yancy Jr. in 1945 and to fellow African American farmer, Nick Fitchard in 1948, who owned it until 1959.

### 33 ■ Inman (Emiline) Cemetery

This cemetery is located on Redstone Arsenal on the west side of Anderson Road. While there is little evidence of who began the cemetery and who is buried there, the name and land records suggest that the Inman family settled in the area prior to the 1830s. They owned land in the southwest portion of Madison County, and census records show Isaac and James Inman had two slaves. Isaac Inman left no slaves in his will. However, the only markers present today are those of five African Americans. What

(Below) Indian Creek School in Madison County Land Records, 1945-1959 (Index to Madison County Land Records)



makes this even more interesting is that, unlike many of the families in Madison County and North Alabama, the Inmans have no connection to the freedmen or the later African American community.

Corporal C. R. Blackburn, Company B of the 4th USCI has a standard, government-issued headstone. The other markers include Jack Fletcher, Jr. (1932-1933), Mandy Jefferson Hereford (died 1933), Henderson Holding (died 1930), and Reverend E. Jones (1885-1935).

## 34 ■ Jamar Plantation\*

The Jamar family owned a substantial amount of land in south Madison County, mostly on what is now Redstone Arsenal. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Richard Jamar (1785-1872) brought his family to Madison in the early 19th century. There were at least three pioneer homesteads owned by this early family to the county, one of which was just outside the arsenal boundaries to the west where the Jamar Cemetery is located off Martin Road. Two other early plantations were in Mullins Flat.

James Jamar was a white plantation and slave owner. Slave schedules from 1860 showed that Richard Jamar had 44 slaves and Thomas Jamar owned another 20 slaves. Although the records do not include James Jamar, descendants of Jamar described him as the “old white master” because he is also the ancestor of many of the people of color of Pond Beat. Jamar is known to have had at least three children with a woman named Lettie, who served as a cook for the family. Presumably, she was once enslaved by the Jamars. The children were named Walter (born 1876), Virginia (born 1879), and Octavia (born 1882). Octavia married Buddy Clay, and together they lived in Pond Beat and sharecropped on land then owned by the Schiffman & Co. Inc.



(Above) The Jamar-Clay Family with Octavia and Buddy in the Center, Taken in Pond Beat Circa 1930s (Curry 2006)

## 35 ■ Joiner Cemetery

The Joiner Cemetery is on Redstone Arsenal in the old community of Pond Beat, north of Raiford Road. The cemetery was historically located on the Timmons Plantation and probably originated as the burial ground for their slaves. It is located along the historic route of the Lehman’s Ferry road, which cut through the plantation and was at one time lined with the slave houses for those who worked the Timmons’ fields.

One of the grave markers is for a local resident of color, Claudie Joiner (1895-1924). Joiner was a World War I veteran and a descendant of white plantation owner William Timmons and his enslaved wife, Louisa. Lizzie Joiner Ward (1900-2000), Claudie’s sister, was interviewed in 1999, shortly before her passing. Claudie’s son, Walter Joiner, was interviewed as well. According to the Joiners, the cemetery has been in use since the time of slavery.

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

People known to be buried here include: Joe Walker (died 1940), Aaron Tate (died 1941), Claudie Joiner (died 1924), and Pearlie Jacobs (died 1903).

## 36 ■ Jordan Cemetery

This cemetery is in the old community of Mullins Flat, on Redstone Arsenal, east of Dodd Road. It was named Jordan Cemetery by the U.S. Army at a time

when several metal funeral markers with information were still present. However, now there is only one marker left, that of Beulah Love (1880-1925), and numerous unmarked graves or graves with unmarked stones.

Beulah Smith Love was the mother of James Love, who was interviewed by Redstone in 2005. Beulah was born in about the same year as her husband, Moses Love. The Loves bought land in Mullins Flat in 1916.

## 37 ■ Jude Plantation (David and Lucy Crutcher House)

The Jude Plantation has a nearly 200-year history, beginning with an 1812 land patent for 54 acres held by Samuel M. Echols. Just five years later, George Jude purchased that land from Echols. According to the National Register for Historic Places (NRHP) nomination from 2000, “Jude is believed to have been a successful planter whose family maintained the quarter-section for decades.”

George Jude, Sr. died in 1819, leaving the estate to his son, George, Jr. In 1860, Jude owned 22 male and nine female slaves. Over the early 19th century, the Jude family amassed over 800 acres of land around the original 54 acres. After the Civil War, much of the estate was sold to other Jude family members, and the northwest quarter was sold out of the family in 1883.

In the early 20th century, the story of the Jude Plantation shifted according to the NRHP nomination. On February 6, 1910, the Jude house, farm, and surrounding 320 acres were purchased by David and Lucy Crutcher for the sum of \$1,400. The Crutchers were African American farmers and key members of the community. David Crutcher was born a slave in 1851 on a plantation owned by George Jude, Jr. Known as the “Strong Quarter,” according to Jude, Sr.’s 1871 probated will, this plantation was located west of the Jude Plantation. He continued to live on the land where he was born and enslaved.

Nearly 50 years later, in 1906, Crutcher and two other African American farmers, Burns Battle and John

(Below) Madison County Land Records of Northwest Quarter of Township 3, Range 1 West, 1920-1932 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource



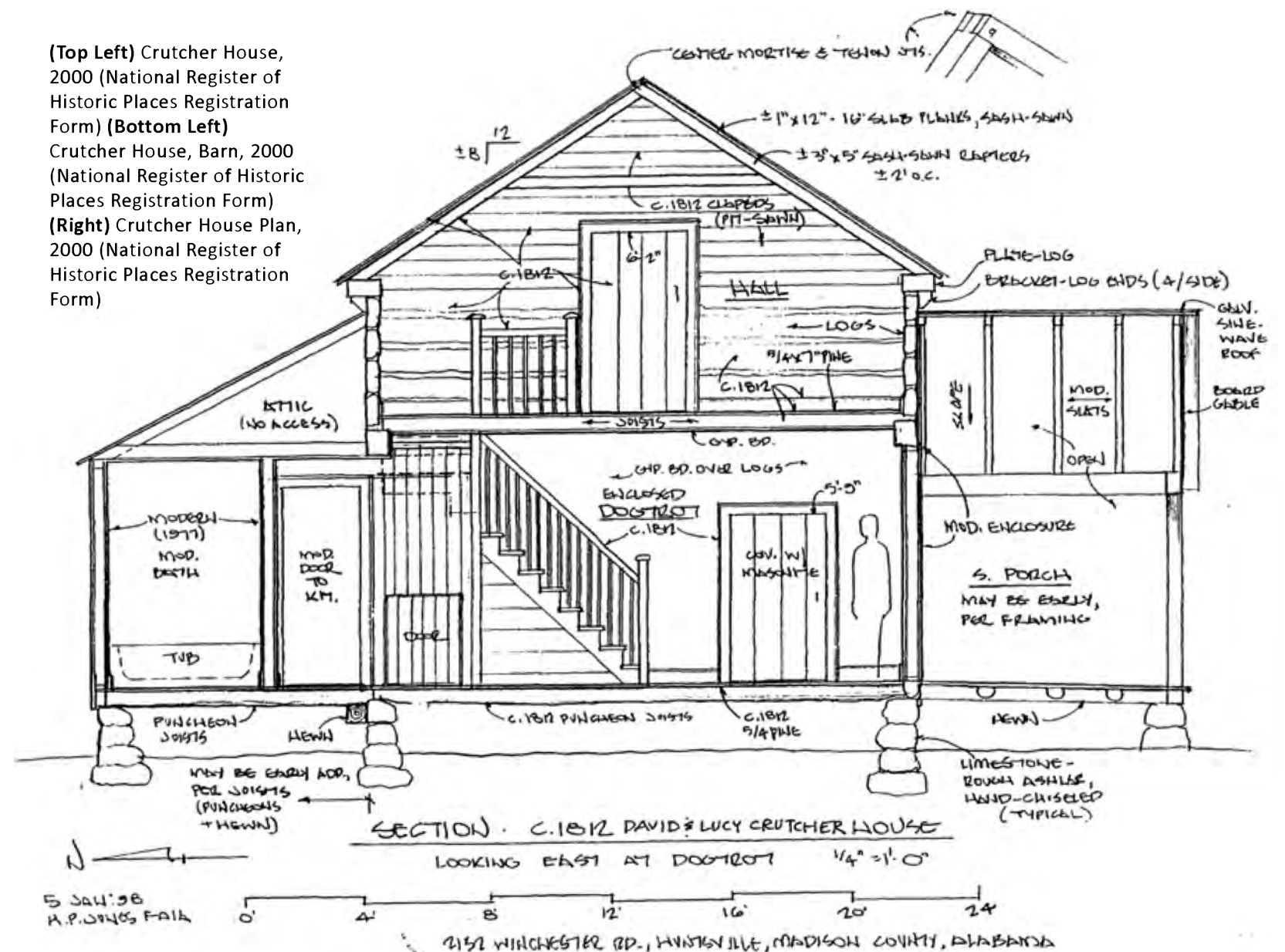
(Top Left) Crutcher House, 2000 (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form) (Bottom Left) Crutcher House, Barn, 2000 (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form) (Right) Crutcher House Plan, 2000 (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form)



Kelly, pooled their funds of \$2,000 and purchased a 154-acre farmstead that had historically been a part of the Jude Plantation. These three African American farmers were able to purchase the property with the assistance of the New Orleans branch of the Federal Land Bank, a federal agency that loaned money specifically to farmers, by financing \$1,400 of the total purchasing price. The men divided the debt, as well as the land, roughly in thirds. Each of the men and their wives took out second mortgages on their homes to pay the Federal Land Bank loan. David Crutcher died in 1924 and the farm went to Lucy and

their children. It took her until 1934 to pay off the mortgage. When Ms. Crutcher passed away in 1943, she left the farm to their children.

On their farm, the Crutchers produced cattle, hogs, chickens, and row crops of corn, cotton, and wheat, as well as a vegetable garden. "Today the farm is used to raise cattle, and the garden is used by Bob Hayden, a Crutcher family member," according to Mr. Hayden. It is just as productive today as it was in 1910. The Crutchers ran such a successful farm that it served as an extension farm for Alabama Normal (Alabama



A&M) until the 1940s. According to the NRHP nomination, the school's publication wrote about Mr. Crutcher's successful farm and Ms. Lucy had "set an example in gardening... [having] cabbages that will measure 16 inches across the head; also, beans, tomatoes, onions, okra, and many other vegetables." The Kelly and Battle families also participated in the farm demonstration program at Alabama A&M.

Participating in the Alabama A&M farm demonstration program was not an idle endeavor for the Crutcher family. David and Lucy Crutcher raised 11 children, had 27 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren, 67 great-great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-great-grandchildren as of 2000. In 1943, their granddaughter, Valine Crutcher Battle (born 1920) became the first member of the family to graduate college. Since then, the Crutcher family had seen 25 members become college graduates.

The Crutchers made another contribution to the community in the form of the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, which David started and was the first pastor. The Crutchers' home served as the first meeting place in 1918. The following year, Crutcher deeded two acres of land near the old Jude Cemetery for a church building. The deed for the church stipulated that if for any reason there should not be a church on that land, then the two acres should revert back to the Crutcher family ownership. The Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church today has a large campus on the south side of Winchester Road across the street from its original location.

The David and Lucy Crutcher House is significant according to the NRHP nomination because the farmstead is "an intact early 20th century African American farmstead, having been owned and continuously farmed by a successful African American family since 1910. It possibly is the oldest such farmstead in the county." According to the census records, it was particularly rare for an African American family to own a farm in Alabama at this time. The 1910 Agricultural Census for Alabama records only 8.8% of African Americans owned farms. The majority, or 70.8%, were tenant farmers. Madison

County was even lower than the rest of Alabama, only 7.3% of African American farmers owned their farms.

The Jude Plantation, also known as the David and Lucy Crutcher House, was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage in 1999 and in the National Register for Historic Places in 2000.

## 38

### Lacy Plantation\* and Lacey Cemetery

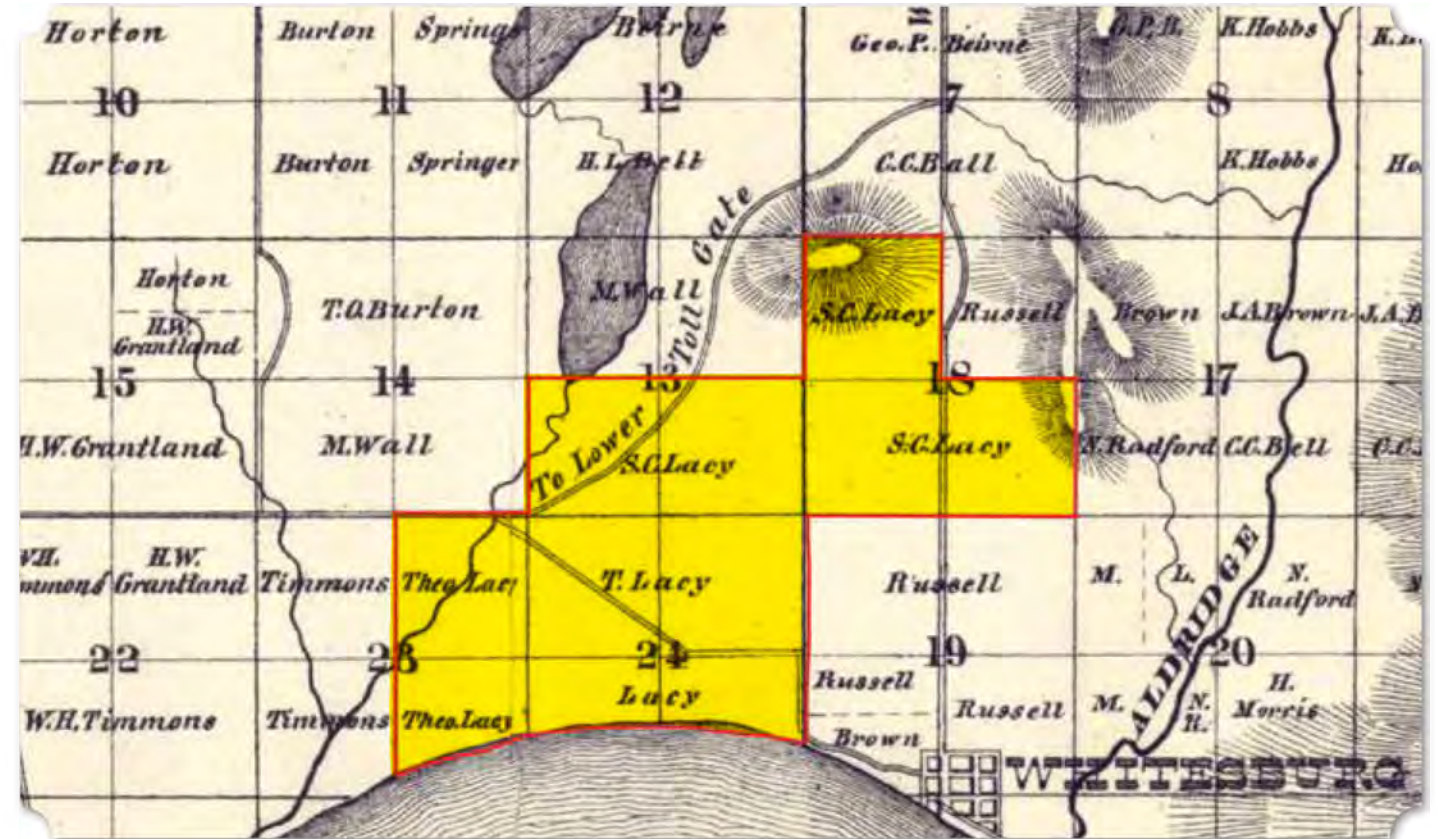
The Lacey Cemetery is located on what used to be the Lacy Plantation, which is now on Redstone Arsenal. The Lacy family owned land in the area for much of the 19th century. Three brothers, Alexander, Thomas, and Theophilus, had plantations in the area. Theophilus owned land around the cemetery from at least 1804-1876. Alexander H. Lacy owned 41 slaves in 1840, while Theophilus owned 11 slaves that year. Additional Lacy family members owned plantations on the south side of the river in Morgan County, around the Lacey's Spring area.

The cemetery was possibly used by the slaves of the Lacy Plantation and their descendants for about a century. The land was owned by members of the white community until the 1890s, when it was then owned by people of color. While there are few inscribed stones, there are at least 100 grave depressions present. The two inscribed headstones are Annie Hobbs (born Feb 4, 1883; died Feb 7, 1919) and Zuleika Vaughn (died Jan 8, 1924).

## 39

### Lanier Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery

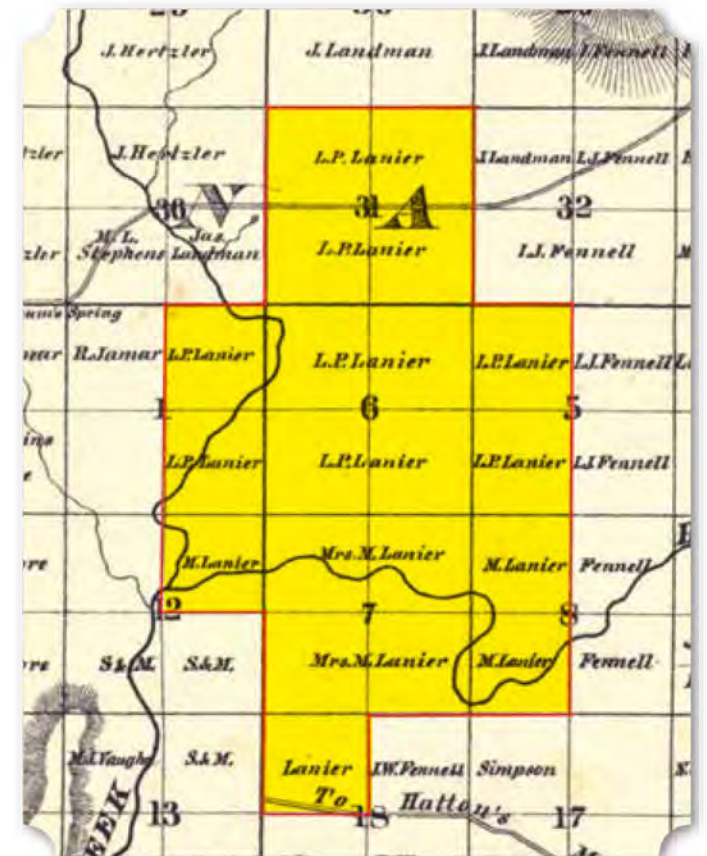
The Lanier brothers, Isaac, Thomas, and William, were sons of Burwell Lanier. They settled in



(Above) Portion of an 1875 Map of Madison County, Alabama by James H. Mayhew of Strobbridge and Co. Showing Lacy Land (Right) Portion of an 1875 Map of Madison County, Alabama by James H. Mayhew of Strobbridge and Co. Showing Lanier Land (Geological Survey of Alabama via University of Alabama – Historical Map Collection)

Madison County between 1809 and 1920. The Laniers patented approximately 1,800 acres that would later be the Mullins Flat community.

This slave cemetery is on Redstone Arsenal, southwest of Mullins Flat. This area was owned by the Lanier brothers, a pioneering family of Madison County. In 1860, the brothers owned 89 slaves. The cemetery has no records of who is buried there, and there are no stones with inscriptions. Moses Love, a farmer and person of color, purchased some of the "Old Lanier Place" in 1916.



#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource

## 40

### Lipscomb Plantation\* and Hancock Cemetery

According to historian John P. Rankin, Richard Lipscomb bought the land in Section 24, Township 4, Range 2 West in 1846. He also bought portions of Section 14, where Green Grove Cemetery is located, from Benjamin Bledsoe in 1838 and 1840. While Richard's son, John T., sold the land in 1870, it appears that a few of the former slaves continued to reside in the area as of 1880. Richard Lipscomb passed away by 1850. His estate, run by his son, included 34 slaves, 28 by 1860, the Lipscombs had 28 slaves.

While some resources mention the burial of slaves in the Lipscomb family cemetery, there is no evidence of burials on the old Lipscomb Plantation besides those marked. The people enslaved here were most likely buried in the Hancock Cemetery, a small unmarked burial ground located on an adjacent property.

## 41

### Madison

Located in west Madison County, the town of Madison was established in 1857 along the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, specifically halfway between Huntsville and Decatur. It was originally called Madison Station for the railroad, but by 1869, when the town was incorporated, it dropped the "Station" part of the name.

According to the census, the town of Madison was 50-70% people of color in the first half of the 20th century. Throughout those four decades, about 6% of the total number of households were farms owned by people of color, with the exception of 1930 when only nine (3%) people of color owned farms.

In 1920, the vast majority of the 318 households of color were described as "mulatto." Also, that year,



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Madison, Greenbrier and Madison, Alabama Quadrangles

there was a noticeable number of households of color whose ownership was unknown. The number of people of color decreased in 1930, while the percentage of households of color with unknown ownership increased. In 1930, there were only nine people of color that owned property in the rural area outside of town, and all nine were farmers. This is significant as 65% of the households of color lived outside of the town of Madison that year.

The population of Madison greatly increased in 1940, possibly because the census began to include the area north of Triana. The census enumerated 766 households in 1940; 523 (or 68%) of them were people of color. Including the Triana area added 50 landowning farmers of color in 1940. These 50 farmers represented 10% of the population of color and 60% of all households of color that owned

property. Almost all of these farmers were on the south side of Madison, which had the majority of people of color and renters. On the north side, there were only four farms owned by people of color, three of which were owned by the Ragland family. Other landowning families of color of note are the Betts and Fletcher families. The Betts owned two farms in 1900, and by 1940, seven Betts family members owned a farm. The Fletcher family owned at least two farms in the early 20th century.

## 42

### McCrary Plantation and McCrary-Wright Cemetery

Also referred to simply as the McCrary Farm, what was once the McCrary Plantation is the oldest farm in the state of Alabama. On November 2, 1809, Thomas McCrary purchased 480 acres from the federal government in what would become Madison County, then Mississippi Territory.

The house built in 1873 remains on the now 500-acre property. According to the 1981 nomination to the National Register for Historic Places, "the land surrounding the house has been cultivated by the same family since a decade before Alabama entered the Union: first as a cotton plantation with slave—then tenant, labor; today as a diversified and mechanized farm. Thus, the house and its setting symbolize, on the one hand, a continuity of use stretching back to the earliest days of settlement; and on the other, the metamorphosis itself which has occurred in Alabama agriculture over a century and a half."

On the 1830 census, Thomas McCrary lived in a large household with 68 slaves and 16 other people. By 1850, McCrary owned an additional 20 slaves. Slaveholder John Wright is listed next to McCrary on the slave schedules, indicating adjacent plantations.

The property also includes a cemetery with many unmarked burials believed to be those of slaves from the former plantation. The cemetery includes the

burial of Thomas McCrary and his family; however, there is some indication that the graves may have been moved from their original site south of the current cemetery. The enslaved people of both the Wright and McCrary plantations may have been interred here originally, and the other graves and monuments relocated to this area.

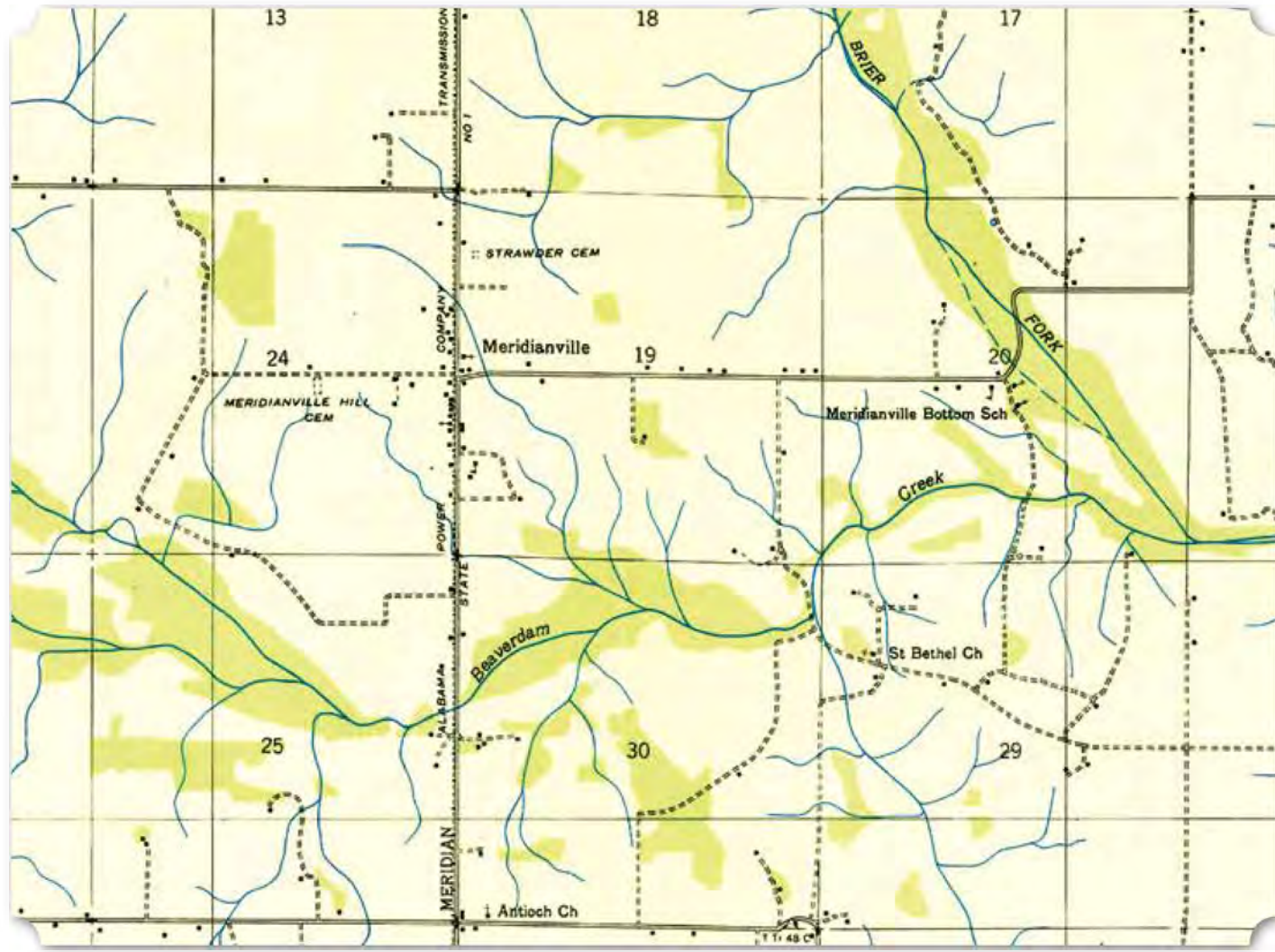
## 43

### Meridianville

Meridianville is located north of Huntsville along what was established as the meridian for land surveying in the early 19th century when the U.S. government first began selling land in the new Mississippi Territory. In the early 20th century, it was a community of farmers with vast agricultural lands surrounding the small town. For most of this period, the majority of those farmers were people of color, and a relatively high percentage of them owned land. The farmers of color around Meridianville may have benefited from the proximity of Normal and Alabama A&M University.

The number of households in Meridianville increased from 522 in 1900 to 627 in 1940. During this time, the majority of the population were people of color, about 72% of all households. This percentage peaked at 95% households of color in 1920 before falling to about 55% of all households in 1930 and 1940. Throughout the early 20th century, the percentage of landownership among people of color remained between 13% and 22%. Although the total percentage of households of color is lowest in 1940 (54%), there is also a high of 22% of all households of color that own property that same year.

The total number of farms owned by people of color remained relatively high during the early 20th century, between 56 and 79 farms each year. The lowest number of farms owned by people of color was 56 in 1910, representing 13% of the homeowners in the community of color. In 1920, there were 79 farms – or 14% of the landowning households of color. Only 13% of households of color owned property in 1920 even though 95% of the population were people of color.



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Meridianville, Alabama Quadrangle

Considering the relatively high number of farms owned by people of color in Meridianville, each census records numerous families that owned several farms. There was often at least two farms owned by members of the same family. In 1900, the Douglass family owned at least seven farms in the area. They continued to have a significant presence in Meridianville through at least the 1920s. The Connelly family owned four farms in 1910 and 1920. Also, in 1920, the Robinsons, Battles, and Stewarts all owned four farms each. The Robinson family was joined by the Briggs and Popes in owning four farms in 1930 and by 1940, the Battles had five farms and the Stewarts owned six farms altogether. One of the most prominent couple of color who purchased their own land, farmed, built a church, and were pillars of the community were David and Lucy Crutcher. They are enumerated among the farmers in Meridianville.

## 44 ■ Meridianville Bottom School

Located on Meridianville Bottom Road, the school is one of the only African American schools that still stands. It is a one-room schoolhouse that dates to at least 1920. Madison County land records show that the school was located on land owned by Lula Jones and her heirs from at least 1920-1959. The school is not on the land records in 1960 and was not included on the 1964 topographic maps of the area.

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

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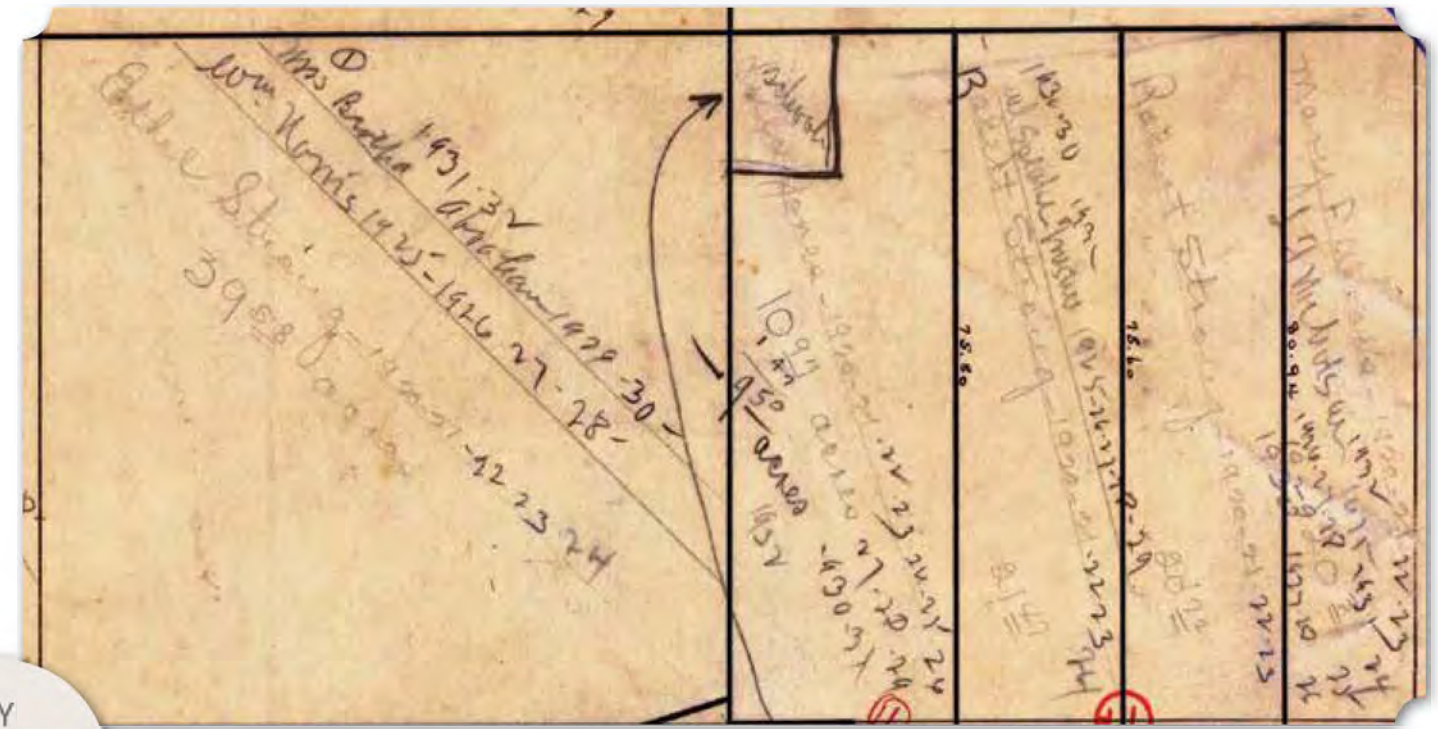
The identity of Lula Jones could not be verified using the census records. There are several women by that name, both women of color and white women, though none of them lived in Meridianville. A good indication that Ms. Jones was a woman of color is the lack of the honorific of "Mrs." or "Ms." in front of her name in the land records. It was often the case that only white women were afforded this measure of respect, such as "Mrs. Bertha Abraham," who owned the parcel adjacent to the school..

## 45 ■ Morris Chapel School\*

The Morris Chapel School for Colored Children was located on Weatherly Road east of Redstone Arsenal. According to local historian William Hampton, the building was built in the late 1800s and was used as a school, church, and masonic lodge, like many of the rural churches in communities of color in Madison County. The building was razed by the Huntsville Fire Department in 2004.



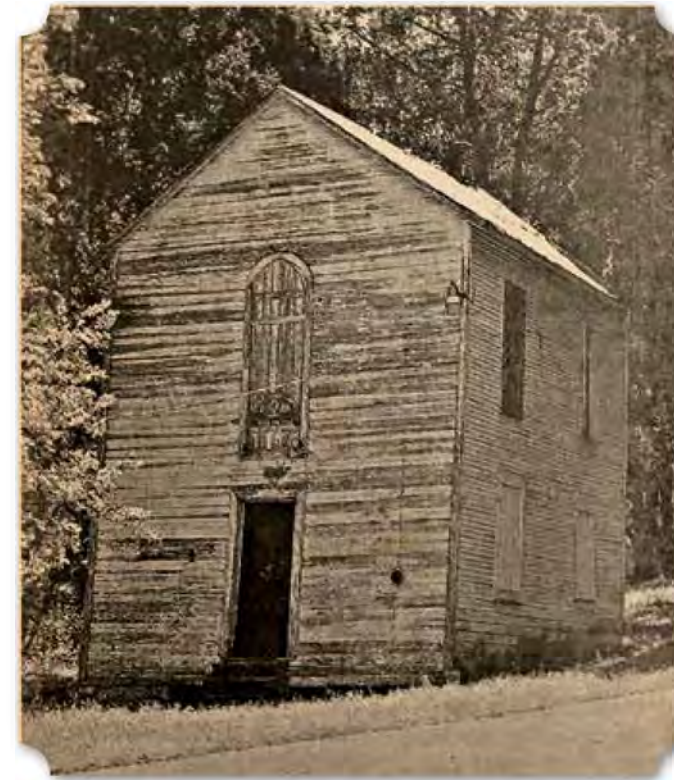
(Above) Photograph of the Meridianville Bottom School House that Still Stands as of 2017 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Below) Meridianville Bottom School on Madison County Land Records, 1920-1932 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama) (Opposite) Meridianville Bottom School on Madison County Land Records, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



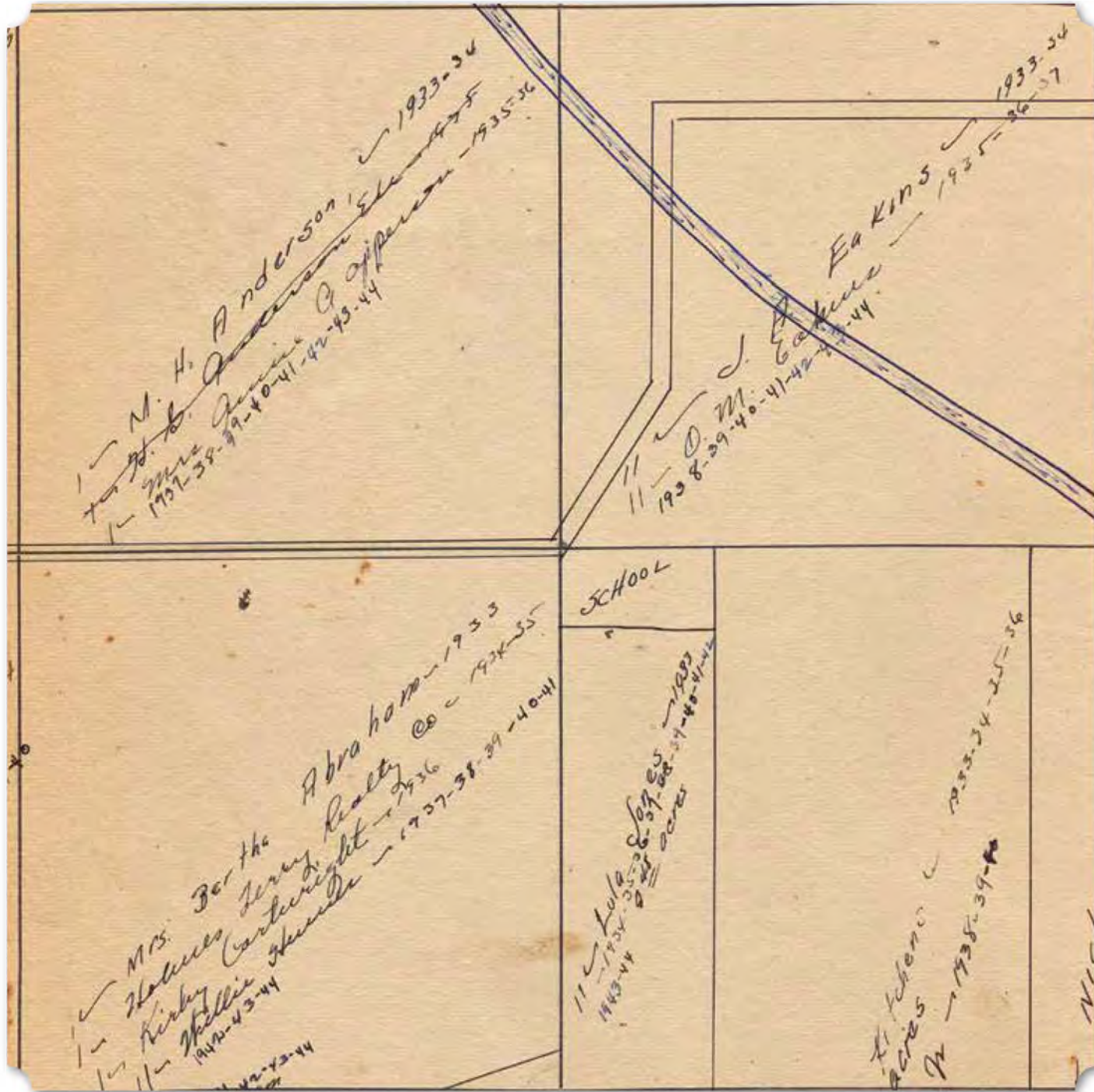
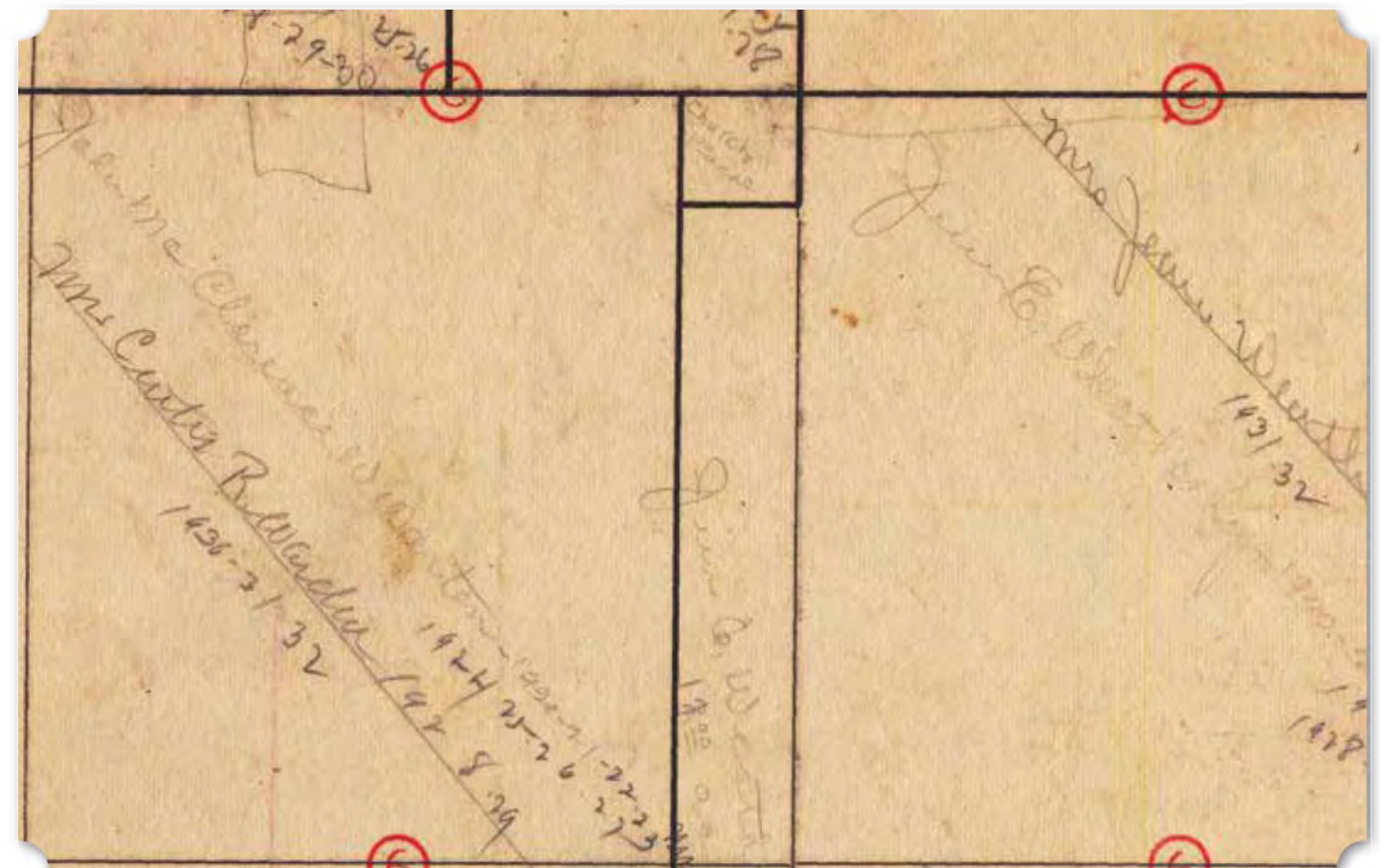
Mt. Carmel School (Rosenwald)

The Mt. Carmel School is one of nine Rosenwald schools built in Madison County and the only one known to be left standing. Today, it is used by the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church. It was built as a two-teacher/two-room schoolhouse for \$1,050, of which the local African American community gave \$450; \$300 came from public funds; and \$300 came from the Rosenwald Fund.

The two-room school was one of the earlier schools, originally built around 1913. Another room was



(Left) Photograph of the Morris Chapel School in 2000 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Bottom) Morris Chapel on Madison County Land Records, 1920-1932 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



Madison County land records show that Frank Morris et al. owned an adjacent parcel of land. This may be the Morris that the chapel is named after. The 1940 census recorded Frank Morris as a farmer of color living on Weatherly Road, but he rented his land. The land that the church and school were built on belonged to Jim E. Weatherly, as did much of

the surrounding land. The Weatherlys were a white farming family living in the area in the early 20th century.



added in 1930. With this addition, the total cost came to \$2,725. For most of the early 20th century, the land provided for the Mt. Carmel School was owned by a white man named Kirby Cartwright. However, land records show that George W. White, an African American farmer from Tallapoosa, owned 180 acres around the school from 1920-1923. In 1924, Cartwright resumed ownership of the land. The school is not noted on the land records until 1933, possibly coming to the attention of the land surveyors after the expansion of the schoolhouse. Therefore, the identity of whomever donated the land is still unclear.

The land might have been part of the Flint River Place, also known as the Ryland Plantation. In 1850, much of the land in the area was owned by Samuel O. Nuckles. Nuckles "was among the wealthiest planters in the area before the Civil War, having assets of \$90,000." In both the 1850 and 1860 censuses, Nuckles owned more than 30 slaves.

In 1957, the schools of the area were consolidated into the nearby town of Brownsboro. Afterwards, the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church took over the building. While there is no photograph of the Mt. Carmel School in the Fisk Rosenwald database, the building still stands today.

## 47 ■

### Mt. Lebanon School (Rosenwald)\*

The Mt. Lebanon School was one of nine Rosenwald schools in Madison County. It was one of the more expensive to build, costing \$3,050. The two-teacher schoolhouse was made possible by the donations of \$1,500 from the African American community, \$950 of public funds, and another \$600 from the Rosenwald Fund.

Mt. Lebanon School was approved for the 1923-1924 budget year. At that time, the land was owned either by Emanuel Hereford, an African American landowner and farmer who passed away in 1926 and left the property to his son, Dorman, or by the adjacent



(Above) Mt. Lebanon School in 1968 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

property owner, John W. Garner, who was also an African American farmer.

## 48 ■

### Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Located in the community of Toney off Dan Crutcher Road, the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1892 in neighboring Limestone County, Alabama at a location known as "Frog Hollow." Although there are many hollows in northwest Limestone County and into neighboring Tennessee, no place named "Frog Hollow" could be located on a map.

The first appearance of the church in the Madison County land books is as a one-acre section on the land owned by Willie Gardener, Sr. from 1920-



(Above) Mt. Zion Church on Madison County Land Records, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)

1938. The north half of that land was deeded to Willie Gardener, Jr. from at least 1939-1944.

The congregation of Mt. Zion still meets at the original location, although not in the original church building.

## 49 ■

### Mullins Flat\*

The Mullins Flat community was in south Madison County on the land that is now Redstone Arsenal. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Mullins Flat was predominately a community of people of color. Self-sufficient and with strong ties to the land that date before the Civil War and before Alabama was a state, the community had everything a family would need. Mullins Flat included the Silver Hill School, Center Grove Church, a blacksmith shop, Bates gin, a mason lodge, and a general store. Many of the families owned their land that their ancestors settled in the 1820s and 1830s. Adolphus (Darphus) and Moses Love were brothers who owned over 300 acres and

#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource



farmed cotton, corn, peanuts, and sugar cane. Cattle and hogs were allowed to run free in the winter. Other notable families in the community were the Lacys, Burnses, and Jacobs.

In 1941, the families of Mullins Flat were made to move as part of the war effort. The land became Redstone Arsenal, and many of the families moved north but stayed in Madison County. Several of the previous residents and descendants were interviewed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. More descendants were interviewed at the Pond Beat-Mullins Flat Reunion in 2018.

## 50 ■■■ Myrtle Grove Plantation\* and Collier Cemetery

The Collier family plantation, known as Myrtle Grove, was the home of James Collier (1757-1832), a Revolutionary War soldier and successful plantation owner who followed his sons to the new Mississippi Territory of Alabama in 1818. Although the Collier family had been in Madison County since 1818, it was only just before James' death that he collected the majority of the land that would be Myrtle Grove. James purchased nine land patents in 1832; his son, Charles Ephraim Collier purchased two more. By the time James died and passed the land onto Charles, the estate was over 2,000 acres.

The 1830 census is the first in Alabama and the only one to have James Collier. In that year, James owned 38 slaves. The 1840 slave schedule details Charles in Triana with 30 slaves; then again in 1850 with 83 slaves. The last slave schedule in 1860 records Charles Collier owning 53 slaves and his son, James R. Collier, owning another seven slaves.

The Collier Cemetery is on the north end of the large estate and has over 100 graves. James and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried there. Charles is buried in the nearby Blackwell-Collier Cemetery in Limestone County. While the Collier cemetery began as a family

cemetery, after the burials of James and Elizabeth Collier in the 1830s, the cemetery lay dormant until 1968 when it appears to have been taken over by the community of Triana, which is majority African American.

## 51 ■■■ New Market

New Market is located in northeast Madison County and is one of the earliest places settled in Alabama. However, it may have the lowest percentage of households of color among the districts of Madison County and a low rate of landownership among farmers of color. The town of New Market is relatively small, and the area around it is not well populated. In the early 20th century, an average of only 300 households lived in the New Market district. In 1900, about 28% of all households were people of color, this declined to 26% in 1920 followed by a drop to only 18% and 16% of the population in 1930 and 1940. Of these households, an average of 5% owned their property, most of whom were farmers. Although the total percentage of households of color in 1920 and 1930 were on average 22%, these years had a peak of 7% and 6% landownership, respectively.

Of the total households of New Market, the percentage of farms owned by people of color began low in 1900 at 16% of all households. It rose in 1920 to a quarter of all households and peaked in 1930, with 32% of all households being farms owned by people of color. This percentage fell again in 1940 to only 17%. Overall, the people of color of New Market did not own many farms. Between 1900 and 1940, there were never more than 19 farms owned by people of color. The number of farms follows a similar trend to the percentage of ownership within the community. Between 1920 and 1940, all property owned by people of color were farms. The census years 1920 and 1930 recorded 19 and 18 farms owned by people of color. The following census of 1940, there was a low of only nine farms owned by the community of color.

Despite such low ownership rates, there were several families that owned more than one farm, and some individuals and their heirs held on to their farm for decades. In 1900, the Walker and Hambrick families owned two farms each. The Walkers continued to have two farms in 1910. The Peevy and Baker families had two farms each from at least 1920-1930. The same can be said for the Hereford family, who had three farms in 1920 and 1930 and two farms in 1940. These family members include Henly Hereford who owned his farm from at least 1920-1940 and passed it on to his family. Another farmer of color in the New Market area was Sam Davis, who owned a 340 acres farm from at least 1900-1920.

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, New Market, Alabama Quadrangle



## 52 ■■■ New Mount Olive Church\* and Cemetery

This church and cemetery are located on Redstone Arsenal in south Madison County, in what was once the community of Green Grove and south of what used to be the community of Pond Beat. The cemetery, located just south of where the church once stood, has been referred to by many names. It is sometimes known by the name of the church, whether it is New Mount Olive or New Mount Hope. Dorothy Scott Johnson's *Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama* refers to it as the Moore Cemetery and the U.S. Army recorded it as Green Grove Cemetery. Ancestors of the community that once lived

there petitioned the Army to name it Jamar Cemetery, notably Ms. Elnora Clay Lanier, whose grandmother was Octavia Jamar (born 1882), daughter of the white plantation owner, James Jamar (1852-1927).

There are no visible markers in the cemetery, only depressions of several graves. Voices within the local community agree that the cemetery was used exclusively by people of color. Ms. Lanier reported that the cemetery was not associated with the church but was only in close proximity. Those known to be buried here include Nick Fitchard (died 1925) and David O. Barley (died 1935).

## 53 ■ New Zion Steadfast Primitive Baptist Church

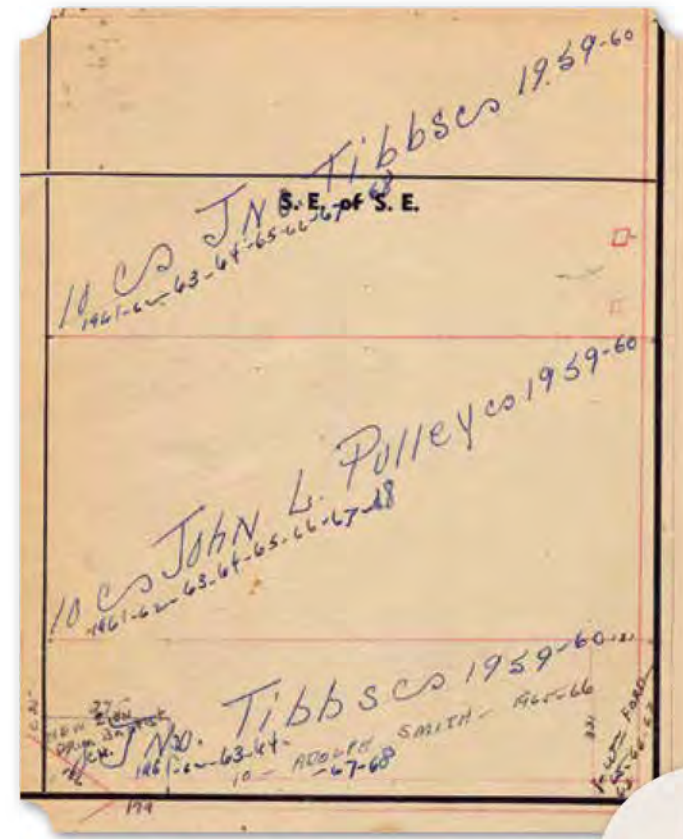
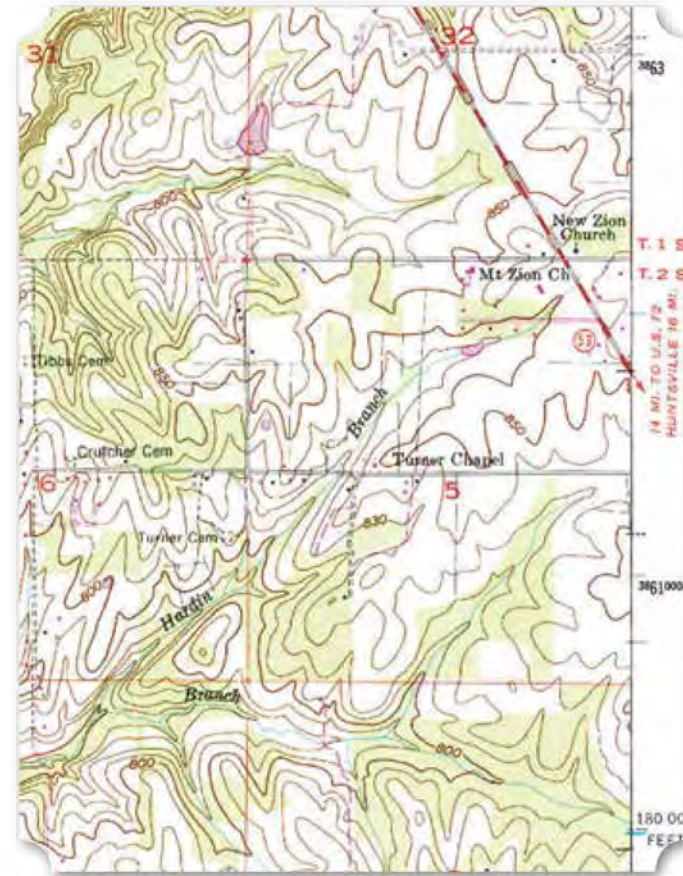
Located at the intersection of Dan Crutcher Road and Jordan Lane/Ardmore Highway in the community of Toney, this church may have originally been located where Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is now. However, New Zion is marked on the 1958 USGS topographic map.

In the early 20th century, the land was owned by a farmer and person of color, John Tibbs. Tibbs owned about 100 acres in six parcels on the east side of Toney.

**(Above)** 1958 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Ardmore, Alabama Quadrangle **(Right)** New Zion Church on Madison County Land Records, 1959-1968 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



\* Indicates a Historical, Non-Extant Resource



### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 54 ■ Oakwood University

Oakwood University was established in April 1896 on land that was formerly a plantation. Founded by members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church as an industrial school for people of color, the original 380-acre property included the "Old Mansion," nine slave houses, three other buildings, and 65 oak trees, which gave the school its name.

The first students at Oakwood Industrial School were: Frank Bruce, George Graham, Charles and Mary Morford, Robert Hancock, Thomas Murphy, Harry and Daisy Pollard, Grant Royston, Samuel J. and Lela Thompson, Ella Grimes, Etta Little-John, Mary McBee, Nannie McNeal, and Frances Worthington.

In its first few decades, several buildings were erected by the founders, teachers, and students, including the Morning Star school house, the President's house, the milk house, a dry kiln, garages and pump houses, an orphanage, Henderson Hall, Study Hall, Irwin Hall, Butler Hall, and West and East halls. The only building from that time period that survives today is East Hall, later known as Eastwood Hall or the Oakwood Sanatorium.



**(Below)** Photograph of Oakwood Junior College in 1917 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Top)** Photograph of the Morning Star School House (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Above)** East Hall on Oakwood University Campus (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



Eastwood Hall was constructed in 1909 under the guidance of Principal Ellen G. White. The building was to be a sanatorium and Nurses' Training Center directed by Dr. M.M. Martinson. White's vision was the "expansion of the medical work among blacks in the South." The small hospital served as one of the few places people of color could receive medical care and a rare opportunity for people of color to learn medicine in a real environment.

Although this practice was short-lived, by 1938, the building had been remodeled as the home of Elder J.L. Moran, the college's first president of color. From



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographical Map of Oakwood Junior College, Jeff, Alabama Quadrangle

1944-1965, the use of the building changed once again, as it was the home of Dr. Eva B. Dykes, the first female Ph.D. of color in America. The building was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage as Eastwood Hall (Oakwood Sanatorium) in 1987.

Another significant piece of history on campus from the time before the school was founded is a monument that reads, "The black man's name is written in the book of life beside the white man's. All are one in Christ. Birth, station, nationality or color cannot elevate or degrade. The character makes the man." It was placed at the site of the Key-Blow Slave Cemetery on the Oakwood campus. Dedicated in 1999 by then-President Dr. Delbert Baker, the cemetery

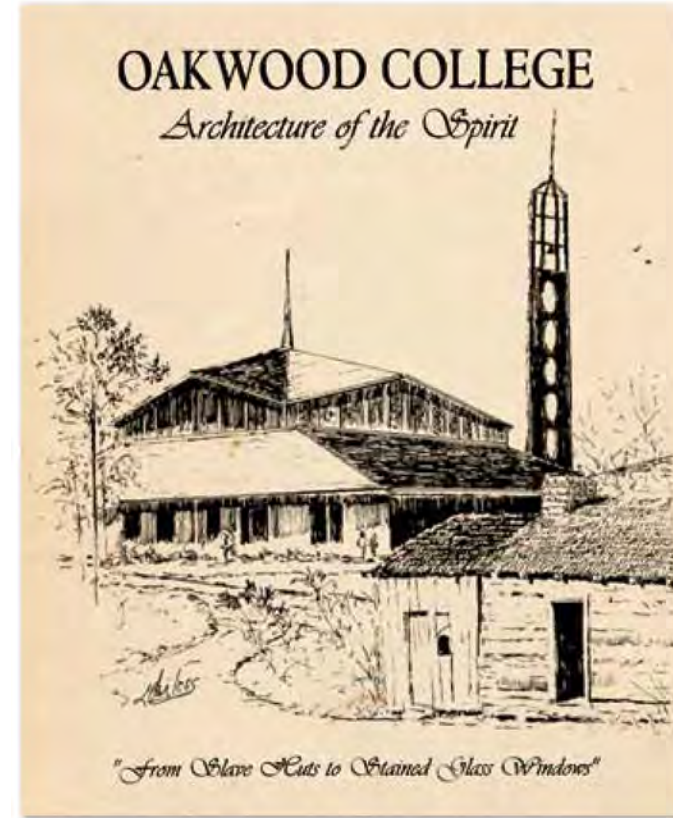
(Right) Portrait of Eva Dykes (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



serves to remind visitors and students of the journey from plantation to the institution of higher learning that Oakwood represents. While the cemetery was never gone from memory or history books, the exact location of the approximately 40 graves was uncertain for nearly 150 years.

Although it is unclear who is buried here, among those laid to rest are believed to be the first wife and two children of the slave known as Dred Scott. Scott's master was Peter Blow, who owned a plantation with another planter, Job Key, from about 1811 to 1821 in the location that is now Oakwood University. Technically located on Key's land, the slaves of the Blow Plantation would have most likely shared the cemetery as well.

Oakwood University has been renamed many times in the past 120 years: Oakwood Industrial School, 1896;



(Above) Front Page of the Historic Huntsville Quarterly, Spring 1996, "Oakwood College: Architecture of the Spirit." The Image is Captioned, "From Slave Huts to Stained Glass Windows." (Below) Excerpt from 1920 Federal Census, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama Showing Enumeration for Oakwood College (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Oakwood Manuel Training School, 1904; Oakwood Junior College, 1917; Oakwood College, 1943; and Oakwood University, 2008.

## 55 Pond Beat\*

The Pond Beat community was once in south Madison County on the land that is now Redstone Arsenal. Like Mullins Flat, in the late 19th and early 20th century, Pond Beat was predominately a community of people of color. The community was founded with the beginnings of the county and the state of Alabama. Several plantations once divided the area that would be Pond Beat, including some white slave owners who became the progenitors of families of color in the community, such as the Timmons and Lacy families. After the Civil War through to the early 20th century, Pond Beat established itself with Cedar Grove Church, Horton School, New Mount Olive Church, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, and several farms and orchards. What is now left of the community are the numerous cemeteries established by families and communities.

Many of the families of color in Pond Beat owned their own farms and homes. They donated land to the community for churches, schools, and cemeteries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS										SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 8		SHEET NO. 17 A		
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920 - POPULATION										ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 118		WARD OF CITY 7		
NAME OF INSTITUTION: Oakwood College										ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 27 DAY OF January, 1920		ENUMERATOR: [Signature]		
PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	SEX	RACE	AGE	MARRIAGE	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	SPECIAL OCCUPATION	ACTIVITY AND MARRIAGE TYPES				OCCUPATION
										Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	
Alabama	Thomas M. Baker	Student	M	W	20	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	John M. Baker	Student	M	W	18	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	James M. Baker	Student	M	W	16	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	William M. Baker	Student	M	W	14	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	Robert M. Baker	Student	M	W	12	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	Charles M. Baker	Student	M	W	10	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	Frank M. Baker	Student	M	W	8	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	George M. Baker	Student	M	W	6	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	Harold M. Baker	Student	M	W	4	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student
Alabama	Edward M. Baker	Student	M	W	2	Never	U.S. Born	High School		Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Student

(Below) Excerpt from 1900 Federal Census, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama Showing Landowning Members of the Pond Beat Community (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

Some of these families are the descendants of the white landowners. Prominent in the community were the Joiners, Hortons, Jacobs, and Barleys. Yancy Horton, Sr. owned a large parcel of land, some of

which he gave to make the Rosenwald School that was named after him. The Jacobs family's matriarch was Fanny Jacobs, who arrived in Madison County a free woman before Emancipation.

In 1941, the families of Pond Beat were made to move out of south Madison in order for the U.S. government to establish Redstone Arsenal. Many of the families stayed in Madison county, moving

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

304 A

State Alabama  
County Madison

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

Supervisor's District No. 8 Sheet No. 4162  
Enumeration District No. 99

Township or other division of county West Park Precinct No 1 Name of Institution, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of township, town, precinct, district, or other civil division, as the case may be. See instructions.)

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, \_\_\_\_\_ Ward of city, \_\_\_\_\_  
Enumerated by me on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1900, W M Bradley, Enumerator.

LOCATION.			NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surnames first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. INCLUDE every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.			OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS of age and over.				EDUCATION.				OWNERSHIP OF HOME.			
Street.	House Number.	Number of dwelling houses, in the order of visitation.			Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH. Month. Year.		Age at last birthday. Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Mother of how many children.	Number of these children living.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of FATHER of this person.	Place of birth of MOTHER of this person.	Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.	Occupation.	Months not employed.	Attended school in months.	Can read.	Can write.	Can speak English.	Owned or rented.	Owned free or mortgaged.	Farm or house.	Number of farm schedule.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
			Newman	Son	B	M	May 1898	2	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
	726	756	Horton Ervitt	Head	B	M	April 1868	32	M	10		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Francis	Wife	B	F	April 1828	72	M	10	6	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama														
			James	Son	B	M	Feb 1891	8	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Clara	Daughter	B	F	March 1893	7	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Leona	Daughter	B	F	Nov 1897	2	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
	747	757	Manjua Parrish	Head	B	M	Dec 1877	22	M	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Engie	Wife	B	F	Jan 1880	20	M	3	1	1	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama														
			Wona	Son	B	M	Jan 1899	1	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
	748	758	Sheffia Amantia	Head	B	F	June 1839	60	W	12	6	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Homer	Son	B	M	Dec 1885	14	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
	749	759	Lou Adolphus	Head	B	M	Oct 1858	41	M	13		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Celia	Wife	B	F	Nov 1867	32	M	13	5	4	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama														
			Obbie	Daughter	B	F	Dec 1879	10	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Ervitt C.	Son	B	M	May 1891	9	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Adphia	Daughter	B	F	April 1893	7	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			John B.	Son	B	M	Dec 1893	6	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															
			Bernie Kecken	Boarder	B	M	Sept 1867	32	S			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama															

KEY

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(Left) Photograph of the Barn on the Barley's Farm in Pond Beat with Dave Barley in the Doorway, Circa 1930s (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

(Right) Excerpt from 1920 Federal Census Showing African American Members of the Harvest Community with Highlight of Landowners

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
51	Jan 226 234	Ezzie	Daughter																
52		Maple	Grandson																
53		Lillie B	Granddaughter																
54	Jan 227 237	Turner Boynton	Head	R															
55		Ella	Wife																
56	Jan 225 235	Julius Harrison	Head	R															
57		Harry	Wife																
58		Barter Betha	Granddaughter																
59		Charlene	Granddaughter																
60		Annied	Granddaughter																
61	Jan 222 231	Leslie Fulgus	Head	R															
62		Mattie	Wife																
63		Annied	Wife																
64		Margret	Daughter																
65		William	Son																
66		Jessie	Wife																
67		Julius	Son																
68	Jan 229 240	Elizabeth Manchild	Head	R															
69		Maggie	Wife																
70	Jan 231 241	Murray Henry	Head	R															
71		Maggie	Wife																
72		Salie Bobbie	Stepson																
73	Jan 232 242	Booker Afford	Head	R															
74		Lubinda	Wife																
75	Jan 233 243	Katie Will	Head	R															
76		Curry	Wife																
77		Eunice	Daughter																
78		Cubley	Daughter																
79		Willie	Son																
80		Matthias	Son																
81		Nellie M	Daughter																
82		Thomas	Brother																
83		Salie Louisa	Nephew																
84	Jan 235 244	Booker Rahut	Head	R															
85		Jessie	Wife																
86		Leola	Daughter																
87		Lula	Daughter																
88		Lubile	Daughter																
89		Johanna M	Daughter																
90		Carnelia	Daughter																
91		Mildred	Daughter																
92		Quentin	Son																
93	Jan 235 245	Lease James W	Head	R															
94		Leiza	Wife																
95		Leslie Mary	Daughter																
96	Jan 236 246	Buffalo Smith	Head	R															
97		Lana A	Wife																
98	Jan 237 247	Hugua Laura	Head	R															
99		Ermina	Wife																
100	Jan 238 248	Gardner Will	Head	R															

“My mother told me they had plenty of livestock, pigs, chickens, hogs, but they only ate meat on Sundays. Not because they couldn’t afford it, but my grandfather said it makes you thick-headed, just like the first rain water. I don’t know what that meant but apparently it wasn’t good for you to eat all this meat or sausage or pork all the time. You only ate it on Sunday. They had biscuits and gravy, fried green tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collard greens and poke sallet.”

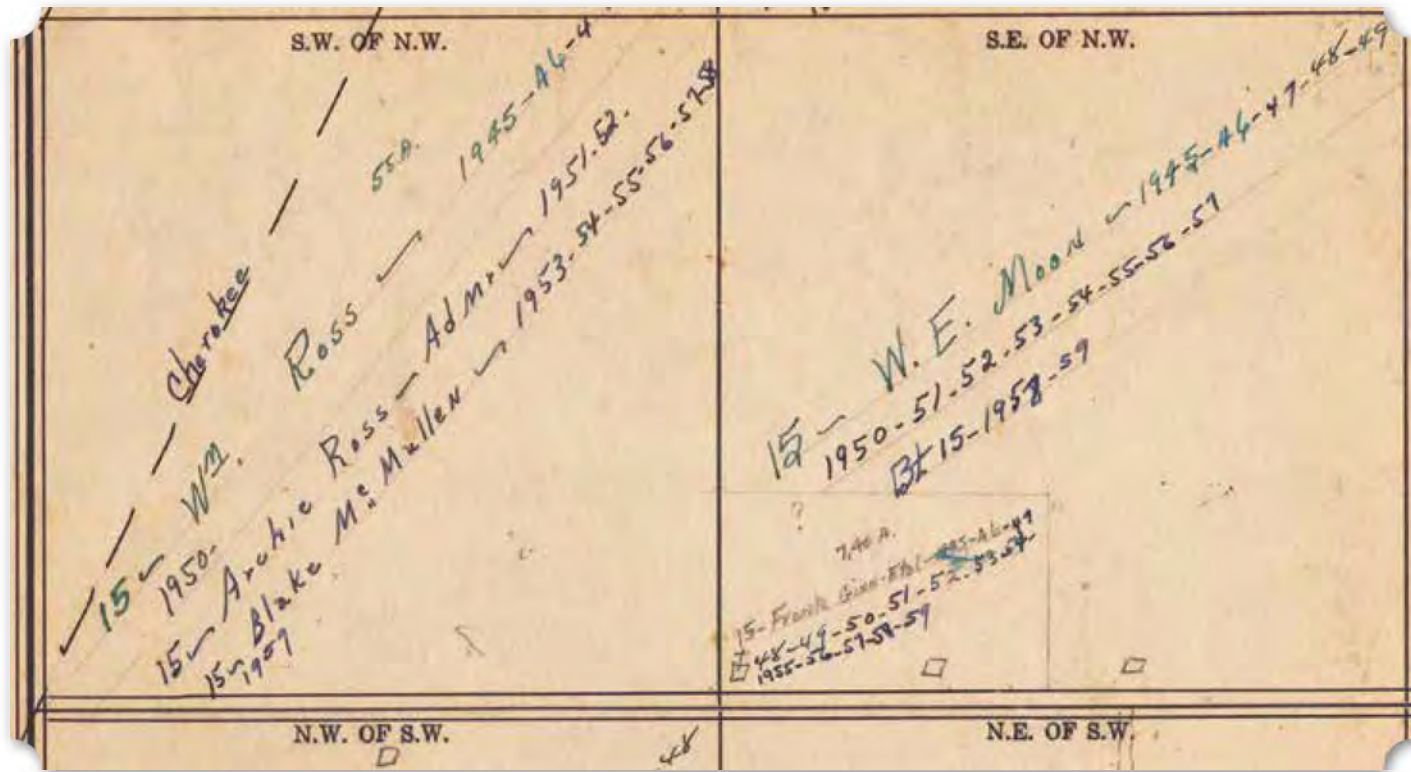
- Ms. Renee Rice

to Huntsville, Madison, or Harvest. Several of the previous residents and descendants of the residents were interviewed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. More descendants were interviewed at the Pond Beat-Mullins Flat Reunion in 2018.

## 56 ■ Pulley Cemetery

The Pulley Cemetery is located in Harvest on land first owned by James Isaacs from at least 1920-1925. Another African American farmer named Jim Pulley then purchased the land. Pulley owned several parcels in Harvest from 1926 to 1932. The Pulley family owned the land until 1958.

There are at least 26 graves in this small family cemetery, including those of both James Isaacs and James Pulley. The first burial is that of Mary Johnson Adams, who passed away in 1922. Fifteen of the 26 burials are of the Pulley family. Other family names are Adams, Fitchard, Garner, Isaacs, and Leslie.



## 57 ■ Ross' Chapel\*

Ross's Chapel was once situated west of the town of Gurley on the north side of Miller Road. The area around the church was owned by a small group of five farming landowners of color in the early 20th century. One of the landowners was William Ross, who owned the adjacent 55-acre parcel from at least 1902-1948.

The church appears on a USGS topographic map from 1936 but does not appear on any other maps. Although the church is named Ross's Chapel, according to Madison County land records, the church was not on his land. It was recorded on the land of James M. Ginn, a white landowner.

Exactly when the church was built and when it was demolished is unclear. The seven-acre parcel was set aside by 1920 and passed to James' son, Frank Ginn by 1936. However, the symbol for a church on this property was not included in the county land maps until 1945. Although there are no topographic maps

(Above) Ross' Chapel on Madison County Land Records, 1945-1958 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)

including the church after 1936, the land records show the church until 1968.

## 58 ■ Sam Moore Cemetery

This cemetery is located on Redstone Arsenal just south of Centaur Street. There are several cemeteries with the Moore name, and deciphering between the cemeteries and their history can be difficult. While the history of this cemetery is well researched, it is not well understood. According to the U.S. Army and accounts by previous residents, the cemetery was named for the man who donated the land. Samuel H. Moore was a Confederate who served in the 4th Alabama Infantry during the Civil War. Afterwards, he was promoted to General in the state militia. He lived in Huntsville, but bought the land, including the cemetery, in 1883.



(Above) Photograph of the Burns Family Memorial Taken by Local Historian John P. Rankin, 2002 ( Rankin 2005)

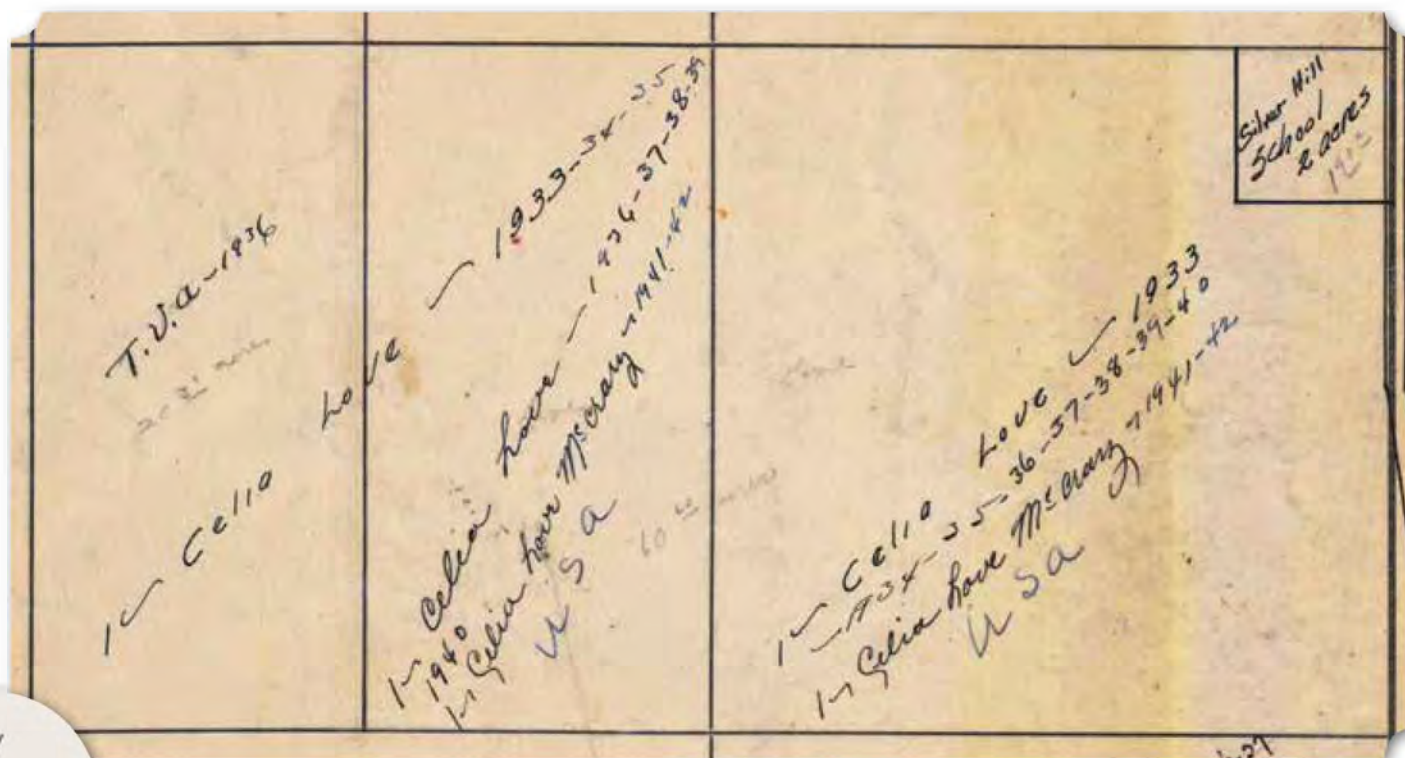
At the site of the cemetery is a small metal sign naming it the "Sam Moore Cemetery." While there are no historical markers for the possibly hundreds of graves, there is a modern memorial to members of the Burns family. This monument referred to the cemetery as the "Old Sam Moore Cemetery" and noted that the Burns were landowners. Other families that may have members buried here are: Hortons, Jacobs, Joiners, Kings, Robinsons, and Turners.

## 59 ■ Silver Hill School (Rosenwald)\*

The Silver Hill School was a one-teacher schoolhouse and one of nine Rosenwald schools in Madison County. The school cost \$950 in total with \$350 from



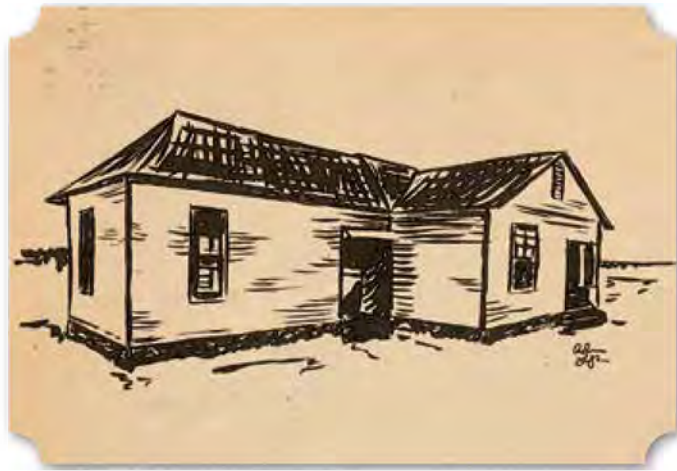
(Above) Photograph of the Silver Hill School Taken Circa 1930. This Image was Taken from Curry's 2006 Book on the People of Redstone Arsenal and the Individuals in the Photograph were Not Identified. (Below) Silver Hill School on Madison County Land Records, 1933-1942 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



### KEY

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- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
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(Above) Drawing of Silver Hill School Done by Local Artist upon the Request of Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan (Courtesy Ms. Horton Jordan)

the local African American community and another \$300 each from public funds and the Rosenwald Fund.

The Silver Hill School was built about 1913 and was one of the early Tuskegee schools. The schoolhouse was located in the community of Mullins Flat. The land for Silver Hill School previously belonged to William A. Love and subsequently, Celia Love. The area around the school was all owned by African American families, including Everett Horton, Sledge Crutcher, Paris Bradford, Bill Berney, Moses and Everett Love, and Tom Hancock. These lands stayed in the families until 1941 when the U.S. government acquired the land for Redstone Arsenal.

## 60 ■ Simpson Slave Cemetery

While this cemetery on Redstone Arsenal has no visible markers, it possibly has up to 500 or more burials. The cemetery was, indeed, a slave cemetery and John Simpson owned the land. However, Simpson did not own any land in that area until 1870 and this land was adjacent to the cemetery. Historian John P. Rankin hypothesized that “if this had been a slave cemetery, then the slaves would have been owned

(before the Civil War ended in 1865) by Charity Cooper Lee, James W. Fennell, Charles G. Bowen, and/or William H. Clopton, according to the records of land ownership before 1865.”

## 61 ■ Timmons Plantation\* and Cemetery

The Timmons plantation was once in south Madison in what was the community of Pond Beat at the turn of the 20th century, now Redstone Arsenal. The land was originally settled by John and Catherine Timmons. Their son William Hardie Timmons (1839-1906) was orphaned by age six and became a ward of several neighboring families. One of John Timmons’ 49 slaves was a young girl named Louisa. William and Louisa essentially grew up together. They married in 1865 and had at least four children together, perhaps more.

However, by 1868, anti-miscegenation laws made the Timmons’ marriage illegal. Louisa then married William Joiner and her children by Timmons took the Joiner name. William Timmons is known to have taken Annie Eliza Latham, a white woman, as a wife, but there is no record for this marriage.

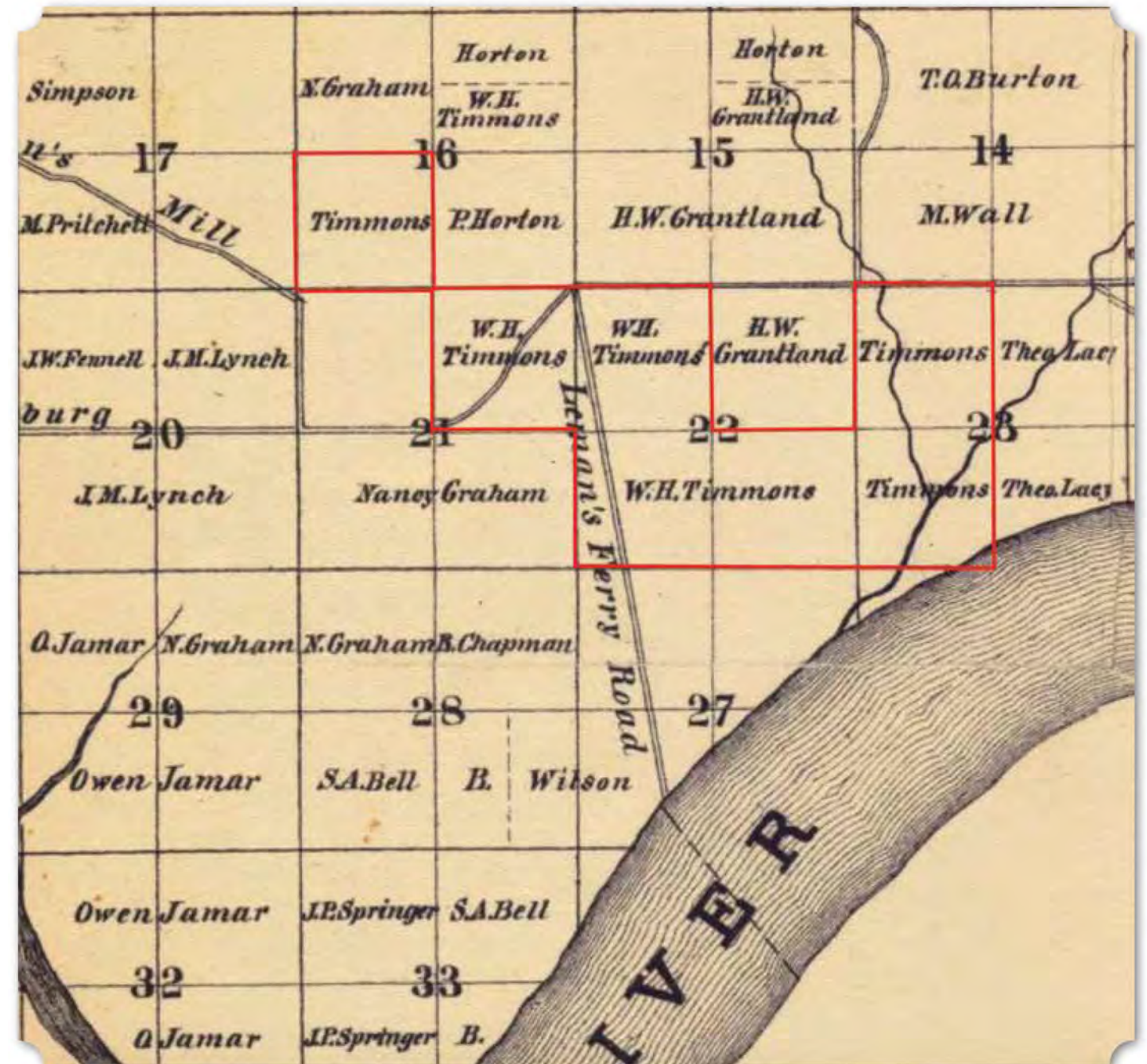
William Timmons’ relationship with former slaves went beyond Louisa. In 1869, Timmons sold land to William Joiner (Louisa’s new husband), Elisha Joiner, and James Timmons, all former slaves who most likely worked the same land as slaves that they purchased as freedmen. The men bought 55 acres for \$11.60 per acres. Timmons also sold 100 acres to former slave Peter Timmons the same year for \$9 per acre, all a fair value for the land. Local historian John P. Rankin’s research has uncovered that many former slaves were able to purchase land from other plantation owners, but the price would often be at a premium much higher than that offered to potential white buyers. However, Timmons was an exception to this and often sold land at market value, not discriminating against people of color.

William and Louisa Timmons are the progenitors of many of the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat families. Members of the Joiner, Jordan, Lacy, and Burns families can all trace back to this interracial Timmons couple.

There are extensive ruins on the site of the Timmons Plantation, which were surveyed by the UAH in 2010 under the supervision of Redstone Archaeologist Ben Hoksbergen.

The Timmons Cemetery is a small family cemetery including the graves of John and Catherine Timmons, their son William and his white wife, Annie. This cemetery is arguably the most unique and substantial

(Below) Portion of an 1875 Map of Madison County, Alabama by James H. Mayhew of Strobridge and Co. Showing Timmons Land (Geological Survey of Alabama via University of Alabama – Historical Map Collection)



of all the cemeteries on the Arsenal. It is enclosed by a brick wall; inside, there are several large monuments and some box tombs.

Although it is certain which members of the white Timmons family are buried in this cemetery, it is less clear which members of color were also buried there. There is a fenced section outside the walled section of the cemetery that may contain burials of some of these family members. But the final resting place of many of the family members of color is undetermined, including Louisa Timmons Joiner.



(Above) Photograph of the Timmons Cemetery in 2010 (FindAGrave.com)

## 63 ■ Toney

The community of Toney is in northwest Madison County. The nearby community of Madison Crossroads was established well before Toney; however, by the early 20th century, Toney had become larger than Madison Crossroads. The community was predominately people of color in the first half of the 20th century, with approximately half of the land owned by people of color at this time. Schools, churches, and cemeteries were established

by the landowners, including New Zion Steadfast Primitive Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Turner Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Toney Rosenwald School, Toney High School, Crutcher Cemetery, and Turner Cemetery.

The community of Toney is enumerated in the census district of Madison Crossroads. The district's population was segregated throughout the early 20th century. The northern half of the district has historically been predominately white families, while the southern half has been home to more than 80% of the population of people of color. The area as a whole consisted of about 25% households of color between 1900 and 1940, with the exception of 1920, when more than 60% of the households were families

of color. The percentage of households of color that own their property was only 9% in 1900. This number rose slightly in 1910 and peaked at 24% of households of color owning property in 1920. By the 1930 census, there was a sharp drop in the number of families of color as well as those that owned property and farmed. Only 6% of families of color owned property in 1930 and 1940.

At the turn of the 20th century, 38% of all households of color in the district owned their property. From 1910-1940 nearly all of the households of color who owned their property owned a farm. At the beginning of the century, 20 families of color owned a farm, a number that peaked in 1910 with 57 families and held at 55 families in 1920. Similar to the trend in population and home ownership in the county, there was a decline to 41 farms owned by people of color in 1930 and 36 farms in 1940. Many of the farm owning families were members of the Toney community

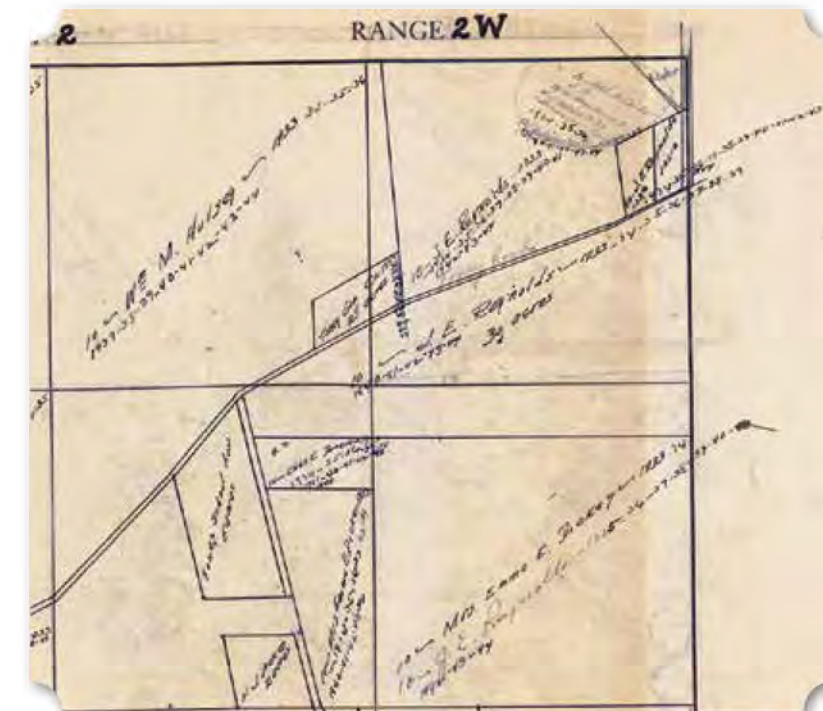
including the Crutcher, Strong, Tibbs, and Hammonds families, as well as the Gardiner and Hatchett families. The Hammonds families typically had four to six members that owned a farm in the area.

## 64 ■ Toney High School

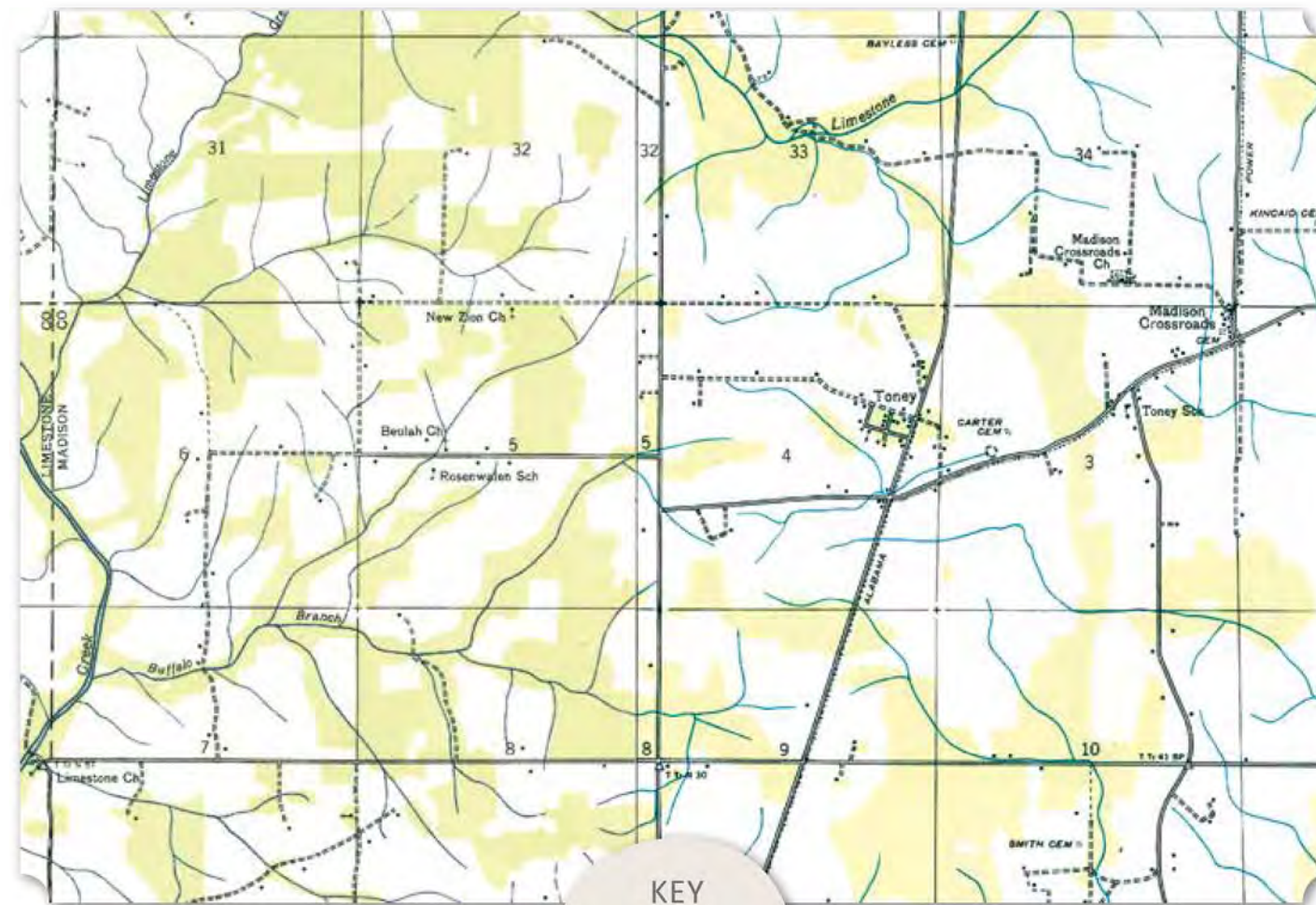
Labeled only as "Toney School" on maps and land records, there was a school by that name on the east side of Toney on the southwest corner of Toney and Jeff roads. This is the other side of town from the Toney School that is known to be a Rosenwald school and not a high school. Toney High School went to the 12th grade by the time of its last graduating class in 1942, of which Dan Tibbs, Jr. was a part.

Records show the Toney School on the land from 1933-1944. Before then, the land appears to be owned by John E. Reynolds, a white farmer and landowner; however, the records are confusing. Still,

(Below) Toney (High) School on Madison County Land Records, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Ardmore and Toney, Alabama Quadrangles



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



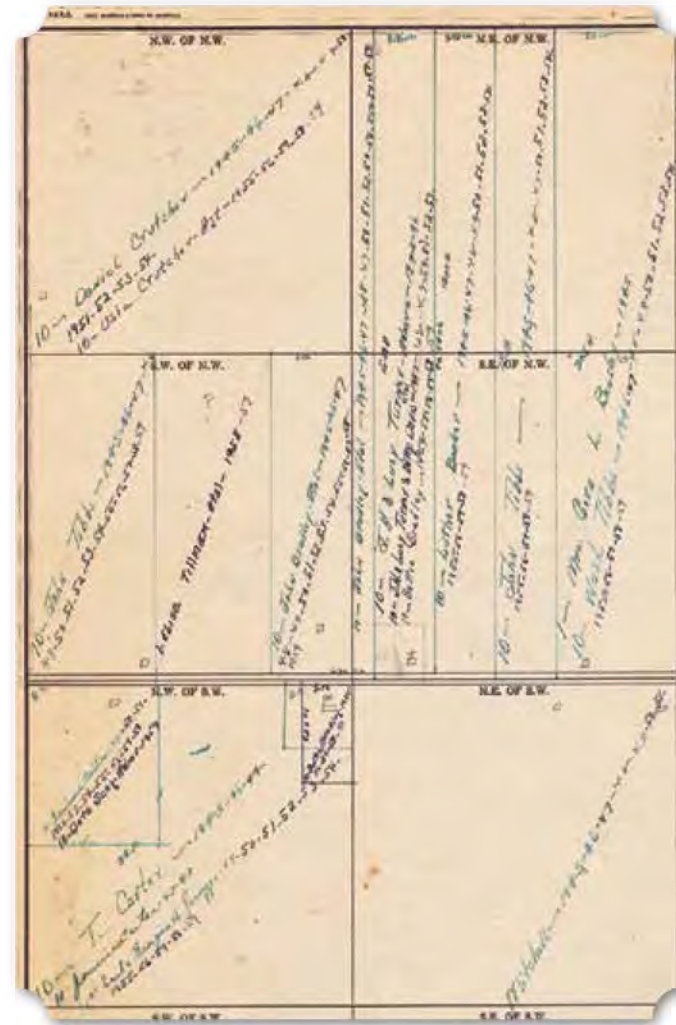
a previous white landowner does not particularly discredit this as being the Toney High School for African American students of the 1930s and 1940s.

## 65 ■ Toney Rosenwald School\*

The Toney School was one of the nine Rosenwald schools in Madison County. The two-teacher schoolhouse cost \$3,700 to construct, with the local African American community contributing \$1,150 and \$1,000 of public funds allocated to the school. The local white community collected \$900, and the Rosenwald Fund added the remaining \$700. The school was approved for the 1924-1925 budget year and was insured for \$2,400.

The two acres of land were purchased from Tee (T.) Carter, a local African American landowner and farmer. The community fundraising was headed by Calvin Tibbs who owned land just west along the county line.

**(Below)** Toney Rosenwald School on Madison County Land Records, 1933-1944 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)



**(Above)** Toney Rosenwald School on Madison County Land Records, 1945-1954 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama) **(Below)** Photograph of the Toney Rosenwald School (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



Prior to the Toney School's construction, classes were held in a church or lodge building. School was held for two months in the summer and seven weeks in the winter of 1922 and 1923. By the end of that decade, the school was granting elementary diplomas, and by 1937, it was issuing junior high diplomas. Senior high classes were added in 1939, and its first graduating class was in 1941. According to the historical marker for the school, "from 1939 to 1948, Toney School served as the only public high school for African American students in the county." By 1948, the Councill Training High School in Normal was opened and the Toney school reverted back to a junior high school until 1953. By the 1950s, the school was overflowing. Some children were sent to the nearby churches including Turner CME Church, Mt. Zion Steadfast PB Church, and New Zion MB Church until a new school was built on the other side of Toney.

The Toney School served as more than a school. It was also a meeting place for the Boy Scouts, led by local Willie E. Burwell and other parents. The athletics at the school were competitive and participated in the North Alabama Athletic Association. Unfortunately, despite the long history of community involvement, the school was demolished in 2000.

## 66 ■ Triana and the Triana Cemeteries

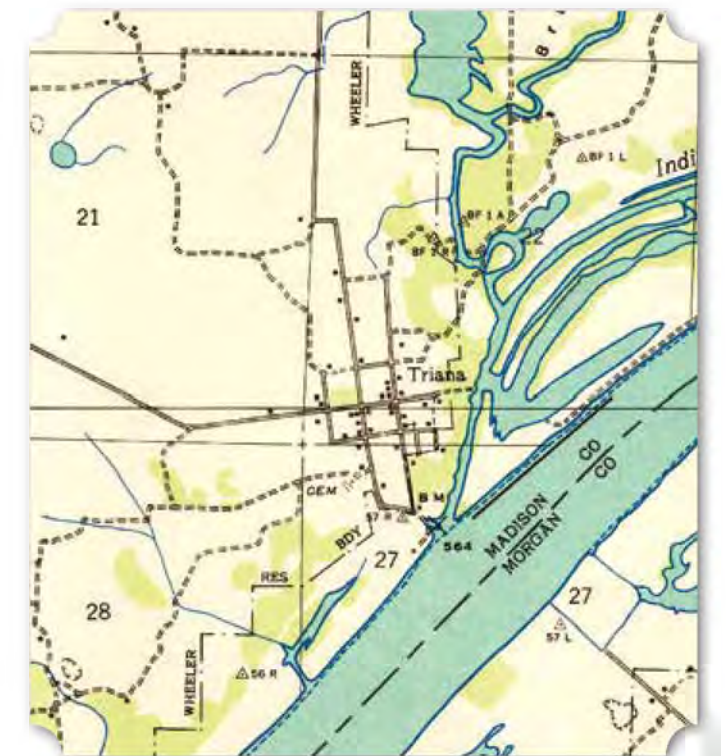
Triana is a community along the Tennessee River in the southwest corner of Madison County. As of 2000, the 458 people of the town of Triana were 86.5% African American. Historically, Triana has always been predominately a community of color. From 1900-1920, when Triana was its own enumerated census district covering the southwest corner of Madison County, the majority of households were people of color. Of about 360 households, 90% or more were people of color in the first two decades of the 20th century. The census of 1910 records a high of 94% households that were people of color.

In 1900 and 1910, there were 27 and 29 farms owned by people of color in Triana. This number declined in 1920 to 25 farms; however, the average percentage of households of color that own farms remains about 8%. Although Triana has been predominately a community of color for over 100 years, in the early 20th century, an average of 9% households of color owned their land, while an average of 35% of the total white households owned their property.

Triana was not specifically enumerated in the census after 1920; therefore, it is difficult to determine the boundaries of the community. However, later social studies of the area and current statistics do not indicate much change within the community in the latter part of the 20th century. For instance, the community of Triana was investigated in the late 1970s by the Environmental Protection Agency for Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) pollutants.

In 1977, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued warnings that fish and waterfowl from the Huntsville Spring Branch had shown high levels of

**(Below)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map of Triana, Triana, Alabama Quadrangle





DDT in their bodies. Two years later, the EPA began to investigate how the pollutant contaminated the water supply of the area. The findings indicated that the pollutant came from the Olin Corporation's production of the chemical on Redstone Arsenal. Lawsuits were filed against Olin Corporation by residents of Triana, as well as the U.S. Department of Justice. These lawsuits were eventually settled.

The water near Triana was monitored by the EPA from 1982-1995 to track the levels of DDT that were still in the Huntsville Spring Branch. During that time, the amount of DDT in the water was reduced by 97%. The EPA now

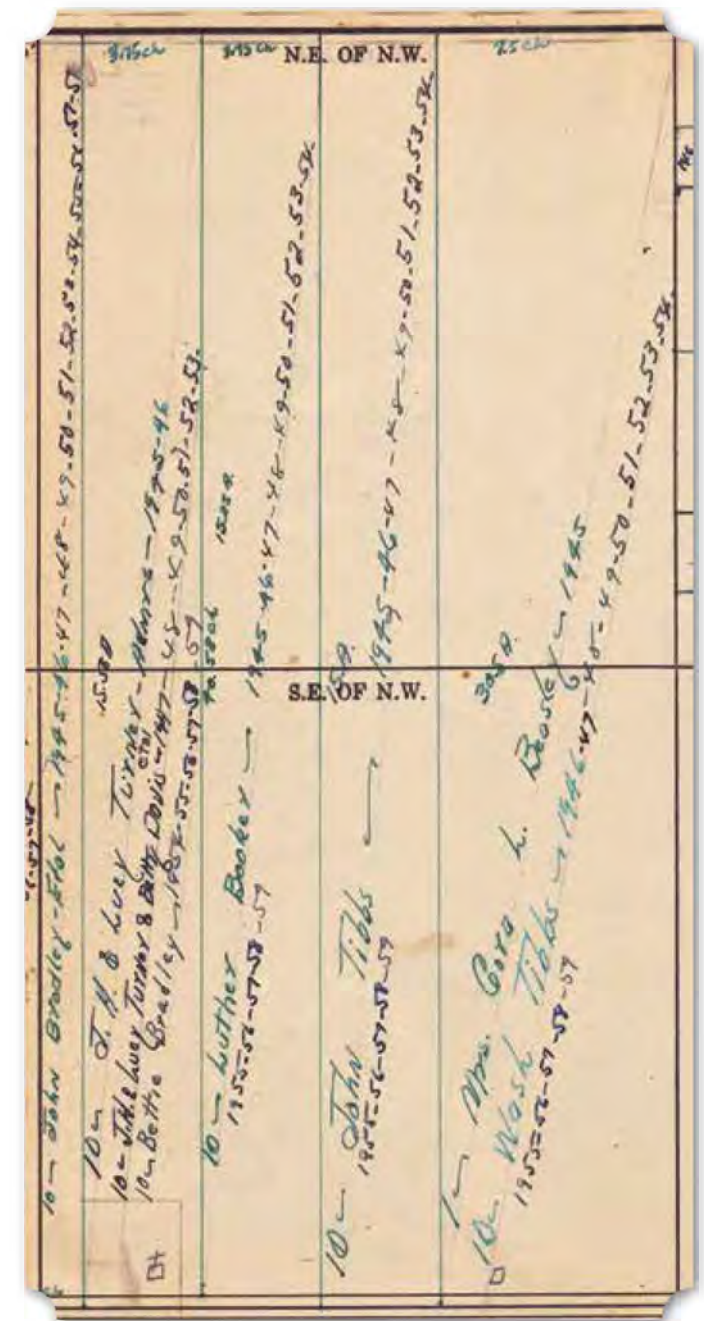
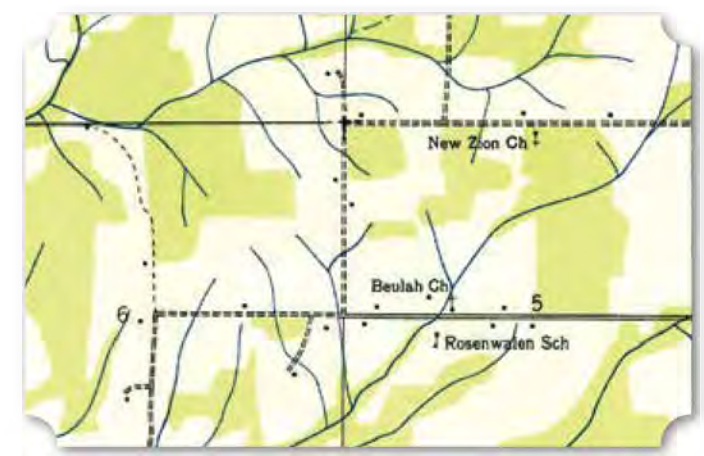
**(Left)** Photograph of Triana Police Chief R.C. Bailey with Officers Robert Jones and Theodore Binford and a 1959 Ford Patrol Car Reportedly Purchased by the Local Residents (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)  
**(Below)** The Pitts Griffin Café on Holmes Street in Huntsville Named for Farming Landowner of Triana (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



considers the physical cleanup process for the site to be complete. Despite this, it is still on the Agency's Superfund list.

Triana has two notable cemeteries: the Historic, or Old, Triana Cemetery and the New Triana Cemetery. The old cemetery was established circa 1825. According to its sign, it is the final resting place of early European settlers and some people of color. Many of the cemetery's stone memorials have eroded over the nearly two centuries. There are about 45 graves here, but this cemetery has not been used since 1913. It is located on 6th Street between present-day Zierdt Road and Record Street.

The New Triana Cemetery is located just south of the old cemetery on 4th Street. Although it is a smaller area, there are at least 190 people buried here. This cemetery is still in use and is the main cemetery for Triana and the surrounding area. Several local farming landowners and their families are buried here including: Cornelious Ayers (1861-1929), his wife Lula (1869-1924), and their children, Aretta Caudle (1896-1974), Lottie B. Ragland (1900-1960), Evelyn Lanier (1903-1963, and Hattie Ayers (1906-1989); Pitts Griffin (1910-1991) and his wife, Johnnie Mae Griffin (1914-2010); William Harris (1866-1933), his son Oregon Harris (1890-1964) and his wife, Emma Rice Harris (1896-1965) and three of their children, all rest in New Triana Cemetery.



## 67 ■ Turner Cemetery

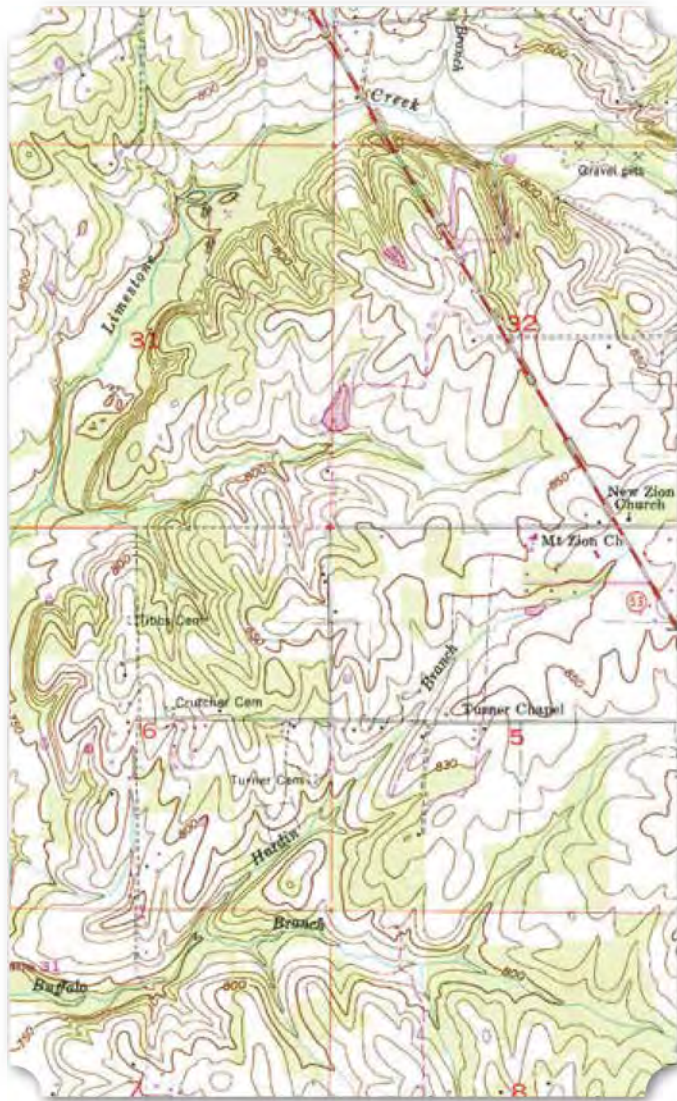
In the early 20th century, the 80-acre parcel that contained the cemetery was owned by Evaline Turner Binford and completely surrounded by land owned by people of color. The Turner Cemetery in Toney has at least 79 graves. While there are several unmarked or

**(Top Right)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map  
**(Right)** Turner Chapel on Madison County Land Records, 1945-1958 (Index of Land Records, Madison County, Alabama)

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Above) 1958 USGS Topographic Map Ardmore, Alabama Quadrangle (Far Right) Archaeological Site Map for the Union Hill Church and School Known as Site 1MA937 (Redstone Arsenal)



illegible memorials, Jacoby Pully (1888-1914) is the earliest marked grave in this cemetery. Besides the Turners, there are members of the Binford, Crutcher, and Tibb families.

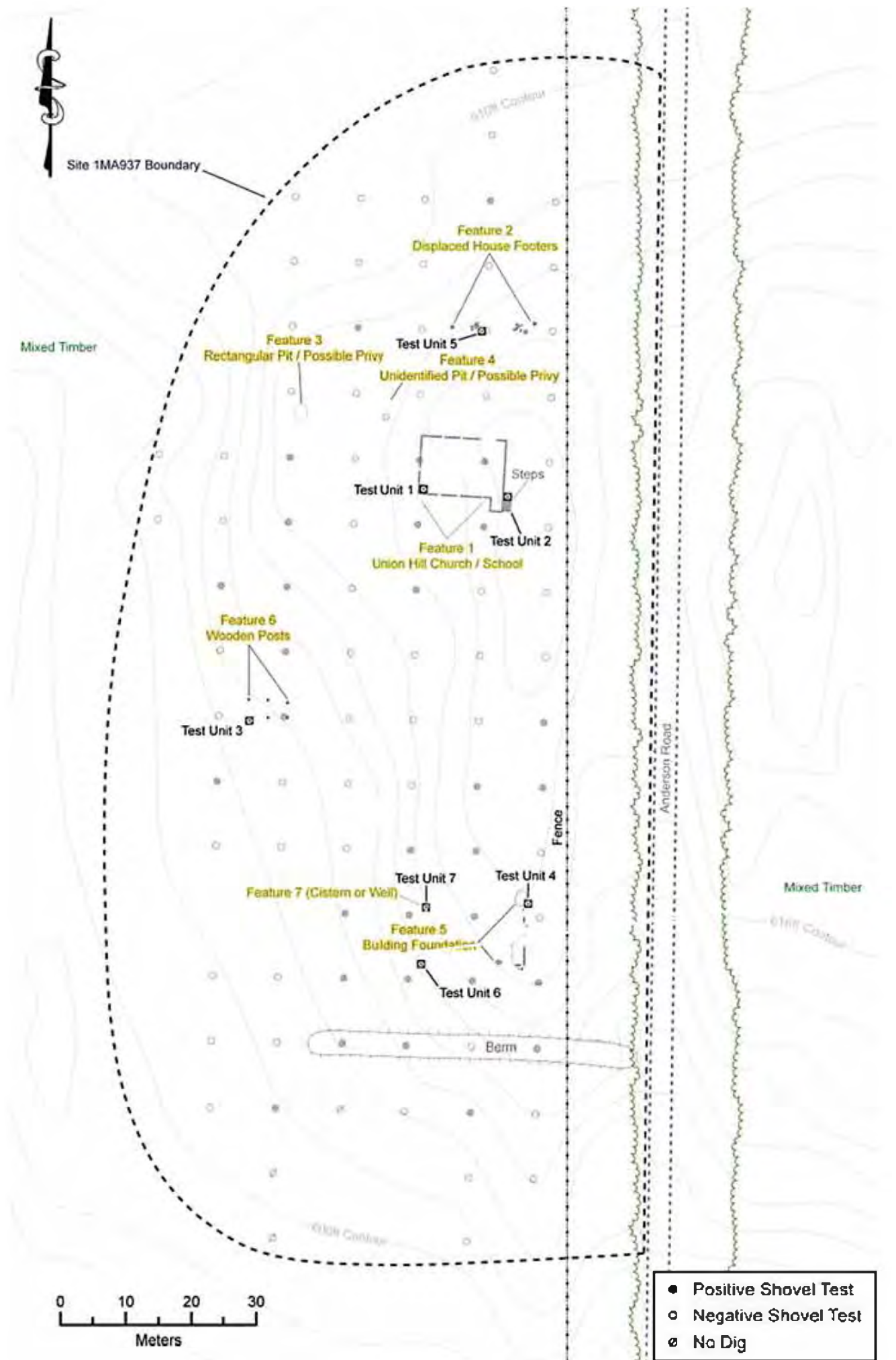
## 68 ■ Turner Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

This church began as Beulah Church in the early 20th century. At that time, the 24-acre parcel was owned by John Turner and completely surrounded by other landowning people of color. The church was built at the south end of the parcel along Toney School Road. The church appears as Beulah Church on the 1936 topographic map. By 1958, the church was known as Turner Chapel, perhaps as tribute to John and the other Turners of Toney. Today, the church is known more formally as Turner Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

## 69 ■ Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church and School\*

This church and school were located on what is now Redstone Arsenal. The building also stood next to a fraternal lodge and store that served the local community between 1909 and 1941. Reverend McKinley Jones gave an interview in 1996 and again in 2005 to the archaeologists of Redstone Arsenal in which he spoke extensively on the Union Hill Church and School.

Reverend Jones and his family had attended the church and school prior to leaving the area in 1941. School was held in the church during the late fall and winter, after farm work was complete. There were no desks and little other supplies. Outhouses were located behind the church/school and the



children brought lunch from home or occasionally bought sweets from the Holding's Store next door.

The Lodge meetings were held upstairs once a month and were attended only by men. Reverend Jones and other former residents remember the lodge being referred to as "Sisters and Brothers of Arnold." There is also the grave marker for Jim Holding in the nearby Inman Cemetery that is inscribed with the Supreme Royal Circle of the Friends of the World, another fraternal society.

According to Reverend Jones, the congregation of the church split after 1941. Some went just north to the town of Madison, and others went to Huntsville and established the current Union Hill church in 1947.

Some archaeological work has been conducted on the former church and school.

## 70 Wiggins Plantation\* and Slave Cemetery

James Wiggins of North Carolina established a plantation near the town of Madison prior to 1818. The original Wiggins Plantation was south of Martin Road and east of Wall-Triana Highway. Wiggins eventually owned over 1,200 acres before he passed away in 1831.

Historian John P. Rankin described the former plantation lands as having several cemeteries. One cemetery has "no tombstones, but many grave depressions are quite evident. It may well be a cemetery used for slave burials during the plantation days. It is likewise known that there was another cemetery, known as the Wiggins Slave Cemetery, just east of Wall-Triana Highway and immediately south of Pentastar Drive. There [is] a Veterans Administration stone marks the grave of Corporal William Ward of the 15th U. S. Colored Troops."

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



## 71 William Hooper Council High School\*

The William Council High School was located just south of downtown Huntsville next door to the current Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. The school began as the Council School in 1893. Named for the founder and first president of Alabama A&M University, the school was dedicated to "developing in its students a sense of pride, school spirit, and aspiration for excellence" that would last well after the school closed its doors.

**(Above)** Photograph of W. H. Council High School, Circa 2000 (Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage Nomination)  
**(Right)** Photograph of W. H. Council High School, Date Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



### KEY

-  COMMUNITIES
-  CEMETERIES
-  CHURCHES
-  PLANTATIONS
-  SCHOOLS

The Council School served grades 1 through 8 for its first years. Beginning in 1912, a year of high school was added each year until the school served children of all ages. The high school's first graduate was Ms. Minnie Scruggs in 1915. When integration of the school system took place, enrollment in the Council School declined, and the number of grades served were reduced.

The most recent building was built in 1927 and was expanded in the 1950s. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the school built a gymnasium, dining room, kitchen, library, and additional classrooms. It was closed in 1970 as part of the urban renewal redevelopment of downtown Huntsville. The school was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 2000. For years, the building served as the Madison County Probate Archives. Despite some effort by alumni to preserve the building, it was demolished in early 2019.





# 3. THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## Alabama Orphanage for Negroes

Although the household of Julius and Sallie Blunt is labeled in the 1920 census as the "Alabama Orphanage for Negroes," it appears to have been a private endeavor taken on by the couple. The previous census of 1910 records Blunt as a preacher living on the farm he owned west of Huntsville on Elkmont Road in the vicinity of Oakwood College. By 1920, the couple were sheltering their daughter, two nieces, and 23 other children of color who are said to be students at the home.

(Right) Excerpt of 1920 Census Showing the Farm that Functioned as the "Alabama Orphanage for Negroes" (Below) Excerpt of 1920 Census Showing the Labeling of the Orphanage

Frank 255	Blunt, Julius W.	Head	OM	M	B	45	M
	— Sallie A	Wife		F	B	36	M
	— Lula	Daughter		F	B	19	F
	Eldridge, Beatrice	Niece		F	B	18	F
	Johnson, Josie	Niece		F	B	15	F
	Mason, George	Student		M	B	16	F
	Ervin, Oliver	Student		M	B	14	F
	— Vernon	Student		M	B	13	F
	Fisher, John	Student		M	B	14	F
	McMillon, Frank	Student		M	B	15	F
	Williams, Mae	Student		M	B	16	F
	Johnson, Albert	Student		M	B	14	F
	Smith, Blanche	Student		F	M	16	F
	Mellow, B. L.	Student		M	B	10	F
	Rowling, Jeff	Student		M	B	15	F
	Williams, Melvin	Student		M	B	10	F
	— E. Wood	Student		M	B	8	F
	Wooden, John H.	Student		M	B	10	F
	Mellow, Pauline	Student		M	B	8	F
	Kilgore, Bela Mae	Student		F	M	11	F
	Maloney, Philma	Student		F	M	8	F
	Smith, Ellen	Student		F	M	8	F
	Smith, Mary	Student		F	M	14	F
	Gunsdale, Jesse	Student		M	B	7	F
	Smith, Aurea B.	Student		F	B	11	F
	Canty, Veron	Student		M	B	12	F
	Strubberg, John	Student		M	B	14	F
	Lovic, Nathaniel	Student		M	B	16	F
Frank 256	Manck, John A.	Head	OM	M	B	52	M



(Lower Left) Rhoda Barley Feeding Chickens in Pond Beat (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Above) David and Rhoda Barley, Circa 1940 (Curry 2006) (Below) Barley Family Reunion in 1941 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

pillars of the community by the 1930s. The early lives of David and Rhoda Barley are not known, but they were both probably born in Madison County. They married young in 1901. The 1910 census indicates that the Barleys rented a house on Blue Spring Road north of Huntsville. They are not found on the

COUNTY Huntsville Precinct no 1  
[Insert proper name and, also, name of class, as township, town, precinct, district, hundred, beat, etc. See instructions.]  
Alabama Orphanage for Negroes  
[Insert name of institution, if any, and indicate the base on which the entries are made. See instructions.]

## The Barley Family

The Barley family was well respected in the Pond Beat community. David Dixon Barley (c.1875-1937) and his wife, Rhoda Abernathy Barley (born c.1883) were



\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource



(Above) Joiner and Barley Men of Pond Beat (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

1920 census records, but by 1930, the couple had established themselves in Pond Beat. The Barleys are most well-known for their large farm and their sorghum mill. Dave Barley owned a 365-acre farm north of Farley-Triana Road, now Bruxton Road on Redstone Arsenal.

Many of the previous members of the Pond Beat and Mullins Flat community that were interviewed by Redstone in the late 1990s and early 2000s, commented on Dave Barley. They said he was well-liked by all. Everyone in Pond Beat brought their sorghum to his mill to be crushed into molasses, regardless of race. Dave Barley is noted as having very light skin and was well-educated. When it came to race relations in Pond Beat, Barley was uniquely remembered for allowing a white sharecropper to live on his land. Although this briefly upset the community, his influence brought everyone around in a short time.

Dave and Rhoda had 16 children. There were 10 Barley sons and many of the daughters married Joiner men, bringing those two families together.

### The Binford Family

Henry Caxton Binford, Sr. (1851-1911) had many professions in his lifetime, all of them highly influential to the community of color in Huntsville, Madison County, and Alabama. Beginning in 1867, a young Binford helped open the first public school for

174	232	Binford Henry C	M	1851	28			1	School teacher					Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	11
		Francis	W	1852	27	Wife		1	Housewife					Alabama	Virginia	Virginia	12
		Jr. Henry C	M	1878	6	Son		1						Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	13
		Paul A	M	1874	4	Daughter		1						Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	14
		Charles E	M	1872	2	Son		1						Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	15

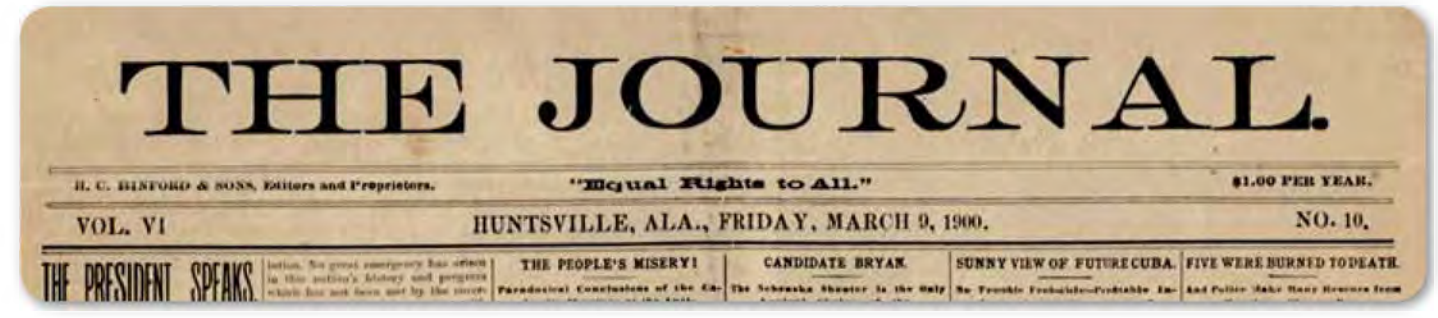
802	1	Binford, Henry C. Sr.	M	1851	48	M	27	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			26-4	Journalist	0	Y	Y	Y	O F H
		Francis A.	W	1852	47	F	27	Alabama	Virginia	Virginia						Y	Y	Y	
		Paul A.	D	1875	25	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				School teacher	4	Y	Y	Y	
		Charles K.	S	1871	22	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				At school	9	Y	Y	Y	
		John W.	S	1872	17	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama				At school	6	Y	Y	Y	
804	2	Binford, Henry C. Sr.	M	1874	26	M	0	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			3-0-1	School teacher	4	Y	Y	Y	O M H
		Mary W.	W	1875	35	F	0	Alabama	Maryland	Texas						Y	Y	Y	

650	5	Binford, Henry C.	M	1855	36			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	Teacher	Newspaper ed.	Yes	Yes	Yes	O F H
		Rhoda A.	W	1857	36			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Paul A.	M	1875	25			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	Teacher	City school	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Mary W.	W	1874	26			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	City school	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		John W.	M	1872	17			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Charles K.	M	1871	22			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		James C.	M	1872	17			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Paul A.	M	1874	26			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Henry C.	M	1874	26			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Mary W.	W	1875	35			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			English	Teacher	City school	Yes	Yes	Yes	

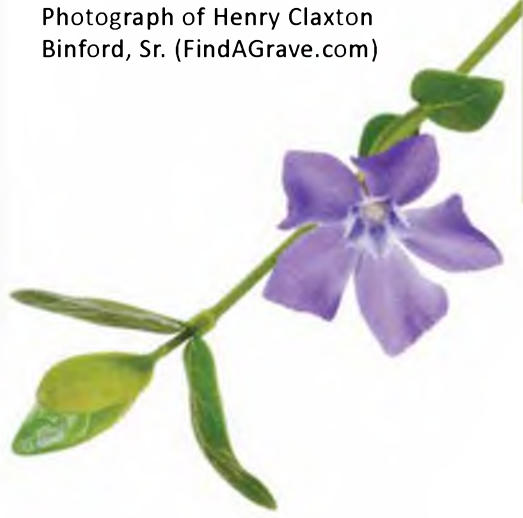
(Top) 1880 Federal Census Showing Henry C. Binford and Wife, Francis, with Three of Their Children (NARA via Ancestry.com) (Second from Top) 1900 Federal Census Showing Henry C. Binford Sr. and Wife, Francis, with Three of Their Children in One Household and Henry C. Binford, Jr. and His Wife, Mary, in the adjacent Household (NARA via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1910 Federal Census Showing Henry C. Binford Sr. in One Household and Henry C. Binford, Jr. in the adjacent Household (NARA via Ancestry.com) (Right) The Header to *The Journal*, Newspaper Run by H. C. Binford at the Turn of the Century (Newspapers.com)

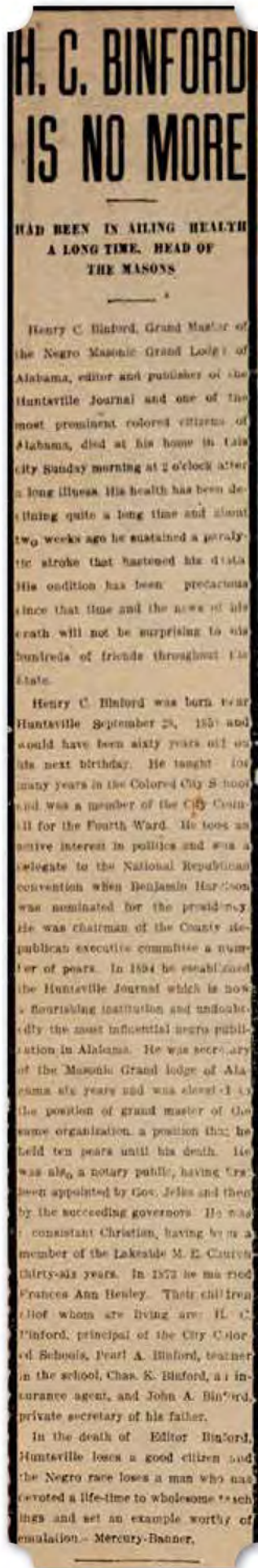
children of color in Huntsville in the basement of the Lakeside Methodist Episcopal Church. Binford became the first principal of the school, serving from 1867 to 1879.

Sometime between 1870 and 1880, Binford married Frances A. Binford (1852-1919). By 1880, the couple was living in Huntsville and the occupation of H.C. is listed as a teacher. Around 1900, H.C. Binford began printing and editing a newspaper called *The Journal*, a newspaper for people of color in Huntsville, Alabama.



(Far Right) Image of H. C. Binford, Sr. and His Youngest Son, James A. Binford from an Issue of *The Journal*, 1900 (Newspapers.com) (Right) Photograph of Henry Claxton Binford, Sr. (FindAGrave.com)





The 1900 and 1910 federal census records H.C. as a journalist living with his wife on Pearl Street in Huntsville. According to articles in his newspaper, he was also the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama from 1901-1910.

Frances and H.C. Binford, Sr. are buried in the historic Glenwood Cemetery for people of color just outside downtown Huntsville. After Binford, Sr. died, his son James A. Binford took over the newspaper. Henry C. Binford, Jr., (born c.1874) was also an educator and served as the first principal of Councill School from 1898-1905. He also served as a city alderman in the early 20th century.

**(Left)** "H. C. Binford is No More," Newspaper Article Announcing the Death of Binford, Sr. in *The Journal*, Huntsville, Alabama, Thursday, June 8, 1911 (Newspapers.com)



## Buffalo Soldiers

In the winter of 1898-1899, hundreds of soldiers camped on the hill north of present-day University Drive. Many of the soldiers were members of the 10th Cavalry of Buffalo Soldiers who had recently returned from the famous battle of San Juan in Cuba. The camp was originally called Camp Wheeler but was renamed for Albert G. Forse, a soldier who was killed in action. The camp's hill was nicknamed Cavalry Hill by the locals, but by the 1950s, the story of the camp and the Buffalo Soldiers was mostly forgotten in Huntsville.

In 2014, a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers was placed in Cavalry Hill Park by the Huntsville Historical Society. The memorial retells the stories of the brave soldiers and is topped by a statue of 10th Cavalry Sgt. George

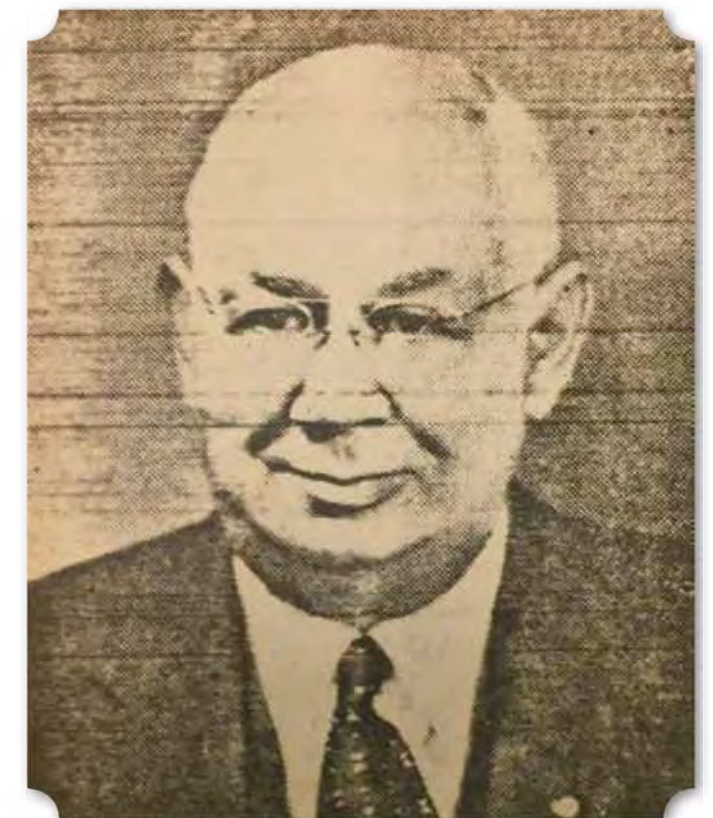
**(Above)** Photograph of Soldiers Training at Camp Forse in 1898-1899 (Huntsville-Madison County Public Library) **(Right)** "Color Sergeant George Berry, Troop D, Tenth U. S. Cavalry," Sketch Found and Shared by Huntsville Revisited



Berry, holding the regimental flag as he rides a horse up San Juan Hill.

## The Hendley Family

There are at least three generations of men named Charles Hendley, all of Huntsville, influential, and buried at the historic Glenwood Cemetery for people of color. Charles Hendley, Sr. (1811-1883) was born in Virginia and presumably brought to the Huntsville area by his master. Charles Hendley, Jr. (1855-1914) must have been born a slave in Madison County. However, he quickly made his way to become a man of education and influence.



**(Above)** Photograph of C. V. Hendley from His Obituary (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

Charles Hendley, Jr. was editor of the newspaper, *Huntsville Gazette*, in the late 19th century and principal of the first city-supported school for Huntsville's children of color located in the basement of Lakeside United Methodist. His wife, Elizabeth



Bentley Hendley (1869-1953) is also buried with the Hendley family in Glenwood.

The third generation of Hendley men, Charles V. Hendley (1892-1967), was a lawyer and Grand Master of Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama for 32 years. C.V. Hendley was well-educated. He first attended Huntsville public schools, then Howard University in Washington D.C., graduating in 1915 from the college and from the law school in 1918. He was principal of what would later be known as Council High School from 1918-1922. Of his many accomplishments and services, C.V. Hendley was secretary and organizer for the North Alabama Color Fair in the early 20th century; auditor, secretary, and attorney for the Longview Gin Company; and grand attorney of the Alabama Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias. As was his family's tradition, he was a lifetime member of Lakeside Methodist Church.

## The Horton Family

A major family in the Pond Beat community, the Hortons that lived in the area in the early 20th century were headed by Yancy Horton, Sr. (1861-1943). Yancy and his three siblings, including Everett Horton, Sr., were the children of Andrew Jackson "Jack" Horton, a white slave owner, and an enslaved woman named Amanda Jacobs (born c. 1841). Yancy



**(Below)** Groundbreaking for the Horton School. Pictured Here are the Trustees of the School: Yancy Horton, Sr. in the Middle with Frank Jacobs, Henry Lacy, Wattie Timmons, and Alva Jacobs (Curry 2006) **(Above)** Photograph of Everett Horton and His Family (Curry 2006)



**(Left)** Connie Horton, Sr. (Shared on Ancestry.com) **(Right)** Photograph of Maureen Davis Cathey, 2018 (New South Associates)

and his brother Everett (born 1876) owned extensive property in Pond Beat by 1941.

Yancy Horton was one of the leaders of the Pond Beat community. His land is described as going from Pond

Beat "along Farley-Triana Road by the school (Horton School), down the east side of the road (McAlpine Road) that goes south toward the river." He lived in a big, colonial-style house with a porch that wrapped around three sides. The frame house had six rooms plus a dining room.

Yancy donated the land for the Horton School, the Rosenwald-funded school for the community. He and others helped to clear the land and did the work to build the school. His farm was known to have a big tank of gasoline and a pump to fill tractors, and he shared this gas pump with his neighbors, Frank and Addie Jacobs. Like the Jacobs, Yancy Horton had many sharecroppers on his land.

One of Yancy Horton, Sr.'s daughters and a granddaughter have been interviewed by Redstone Arsenal and New South Associates. His daughter, Pearl Horton Higginbotham (1919-2009), was interviewed by Redstone about the family



history. His granddaughter, Maureen Horton Davis Cathey (born 1928), was interviewed by New South Associates at the 2018 Pond Beat/Mullins Flat Family Reunion. Maureen was the daughter of Yancy Horton, Sr.'s son, Connie Horton (1882-1966), and Connie's second wife, Parthenia C. Joiner Horton (1893-1974).

Maureen lived in Pond Beat until the age of 11, where her parents were landowners. Her mother was an elementary school teacher with the Madison County school system for 43 years and her father farmed the land. After the family moved out of Pond Beat in 1941, they moved to Clinton Street in West Huntsville. Her parents bought a house and a parcel of land outside of town that they rented to a tenant. By the time the family moved to Huntsville, none of the younger generation had an interest in farming. According to Maureen, the children all wanted to go off to school and leave the farm.

Maureen, herself, went to Council High School and then Alabama A&M University. She graduated there and continued to work in accounts receivable for 25 years.

## The Jacobs Family

One of the most prominent families of color from the Pond Beat community was the Jacobs family. There are several landowning members, and the Jacobs family have connections through marriage to many





**(Left)** Photograph from a Recent Archaeological Excavation of the Frank and Addie Jacobs House Site – Cistern (Redstone Arsenal **(Below)** Photographs from a Recent Archaeological Excavation of the Frank and Addie Jacobs House Site – Rock Wall (Redstone Arsenal)



**(Right)** Photographs from a Recent Archaeological Excavation of the Frank and Addie Jacobs House Site – House Foundation (Redstone Arsenal)



other Pond Beat and Mullins Flat families. By the 1930s, many of the Jacobs family members owned property along Farley-Triana Road, including Zera, Dock, Addie, Frank, and Booker Jacobs. Addie and Zera Jacobs were sisters who married brothers Frank and Dock Jacobs, respectively. The women’s maiden name was Jacobs as well. Booker was the brother of Addie and Zera.



**(Above)** Photograph of Frank Jacobs, Circa 1910 (Curry 2006) **(Left)** Photograph of Dock Jacobs in Uniform, Circa 1917 (Curry 2006)



**(Left)** Photograph of Addie Jacobs Circa 1941 Canning Pears (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Bottom Left)** Photograph of Addie Jacobs (Curry 2006)



All of these family members owned land; even the women owned land in Pond Beat before they married. However, it was Frank Jacobs who had the most extensive parcels. Frank owned 566.03 acres in 1941, but his family had been considerably wealthy and respected in the area for generations. Although the family tree is a little unclear, Frank Jacobs of 1930s Pond Beat was not the first man by that name. The Jacobs family were well-known as people of color who were free before Emancipation. They were very light skinned, and most likely had a white male ancestor. Frank was also a descendant of Pearlie Jacobs, wife of Alex Joiner, who was the son of William Timmons, connecting the Jacobs to several of the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat families.

Frank bought land in Pond Beat from a man named Robert Murphy in 1918. Frank and Addie lived in a large two-story house surrounded by ornamental plants. Their second house was made of brick after their frame house burned down. The full concrete basement has been found during recent

“The Jacobs were free because they were Native Americans. They came out of Richland, North Carolina. They were, I believe, Cherokee Indian. Pearly Jacobs married Alex Joiner – the son of William Timmons, the white plantation owner and Luisa, an enslaved woman.”

- Ms. Renee Rice

archaeological excavations. The farm had several outbuildings including a barn, well house, and blacksmith shop.

While Frank and Addie had no children, they were known for being very generous to those less fortunate. They had several sharecroppers on their land. The Rankin-Dixon Cemetery is also on their land. Frank and Addie Jacobs were neighbors to Yancy Horton and later moved to Whitesburg.

Dock and Zera Jacobs lived on land located to the east of the Horton School. Zera inherited land on the north side of the road from her father, just like her sister Addie and brother Booker T. Zera and Dock's house was large with two rooms in the front and one room and a kitchen attached to the back. They raised chickens and turkeys. Zera grew much of the family's fruits and vegetables, which she canned herself.

Dock was born in Mullins Flat and was a World War I veteran. Their son, Alva, was interviewed in 2005 by Redstone and gave much of the family history.

Arthur and Katie Jacobs, other family members, owned over 190 acres by 1934 and about 200 acres in 1941. Archaeological investigations on their home site have revealed six tenant houses on their property.

## The Joiner Family



The Joiner family might be one of the oldest and most extensive families in the Pond Beat/ Mullins Flat communities. Drawing the family tree of the Joiners reveals connections to nearly every other prominent family in the area. However, the story of the Joiner family is truly a story of the Timmons family.

The story of the Joiner family in Madison County began with William Timmons (1839-1906) and Louisa (born 1835). William Hardie Timmons was a white man, born on his father's plantation in what would become Pond Beat and orphaned by age six. One of the slaves he inherited from his father was a young girl named Louisa. After growing up together, William and Louisa had possibly five children together: Zebedee (born 1857), Alexander (born 1859), Kate (1864-1934), Mary (born 1866), John (1873-1933), and Luther (born 1879).

One of the unique things about the relationship between William and Louisa is that, in 1865, they were legally married in Madison County, and their marriage certificate is on public record. However,

three years later, anti-miscegenation laws were passed in Alabama, and their marriage became illegal. William is known to have married a white woman who is traditionally known as his wife; however, the record for this union is non-existent, unlike his marriage to Louisa. Sometime after, Louisa married William Joiner, a former slave who was about 50 years old. Louisa's children with William Timmons took on the name Joiner thereafter.

One of the Timmons children was Alex Joiner. He married Pearlie Jacobs, a member of another prominent family of color in the area. The two lived in Pond Beat throughout their lives. Alex and Pearlie had six children: Percy (1888-1977), Claudie (1895-1924), Lizzie Ward (1900-2000), Nina, Louise, and Gussie. Lizzie was interviewed by Redstone in 1999 when she was 99 years old. She recalled much of the family history known about her brothers.

**Mrs. Lacy Passes  
Away**

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**Mrs. Kate Lacy, passed away May 10, 1934, at 5:30 A. M., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. P. Burns, 117 Triana St., after an illness of long duration. She was a lovely wife and a faithful mother and a good neighbor.**

**She was a member of Center Grove M. E. Church, of which she lived a faithful christian for 46 years.**

**Funeral services were conducted from Lake Side M. E. Church, May 12, by her pastor, Rev. Vann. Interment was made in Glenwood Cemetery with Royal Undertakng Co. in charge of arrangements.**

**(Left)** Photograph of Kate Joiner Lacy (Ancestry.com, Victoria Joiner) **(Above)** Kate Joiner Lacy's Obituary (Ancestry.com, Victoria Joiner) **(Right)** Elijah and Geneva Joiner.



Percy Joiner, called Buster by his family, married Ellen Lacy, another prominent name around the Pond Beat community. Together, they had 11 children, of which Lucille Joiner Rooks and William Joiner Horton Lacy were interviewed in 2000. Buster and his brother Claudie Joiner bought 40 acres of land in 1924 that used to be part of the old Timmons Plantation owned by their grandfather. He and his family moved into a house that was already present on Farley-Triana Road.

Claudie Joiner, Buster's brother, was a World War I veteran. He built a house on the other side of the road from Buster and was known for having a steam engine sawmill. When renters cleared the land to farm, the lumber was brought to Claudie for free. He milled the lumber himself and built his three-room house. On his farm Claudie grew mostly corn and had a corral for cattle. He rented out the rest of the land.

Claudie married Parthenia Wynn (1893-1974) and they had two sons: Walter Alexander Joiner (1919-2013) and Herbert Huelett Joiner (1923-1976). Walter was interviewed in 2000, 2001, and 2005. When Claudie died of pneumonia in 1924, his widow, Parthenia, remarried to Connie Horton. Connie built onto the house that Claudie had built, adding three bedrooms, a dining room, and a kitchen. Although both Connie and Parthenia had children already, they had one daughter together, Maureen Davis Cathey, who was interviewed in 2018 by New South Associates at the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat family reunion.

Another child of William and Louisa Timmons who lived in the Pond Beat area and who made a mark on the community was Kate Joiner. Born at the end of the Civil War, Kate married Wyatt Lacy. They had five children: Cora L. (born 1890), Etta P. Lacy Lanier (1892-1925), Pearl L. (born 1897), Amanda E. Lacy Burns (1897-1987), and Lawrence (1902-1973). Kate's daughter Etta married Jeremiah Lanier and had Hodie Lanier McGraw (born 1922). Hodie was interviewed in 2001 and was mentioned several times during interviews in 2018 by New South Associates as a community leader and a great resource for family history and memories.



**(Above)** Artifacts Found on the Joiner House Site, Formerly the Timmons Plantation, Including Coins, Buttons, and a Piece of a Brush (Redstone Arsenal)



**(Top Right)** Photograph of Adolphus (Darphus) Love (Curry 2006) **(Right)** Photograph of Moses Love (Curry 2006)

## The Love Family

The Love family lived in Mullins Flat. The two patriarchs of the family were half-brothers, Moses and Adolphus, always called Darphus. Moses Love was married to Beulah Smith Love. Together they had seven children: Mary Love Lightford, Walter, Julie, Lawrence, Lucille Love Payton, Robert, James, Beulah, and David. Moses and Beulah first purchased land in Mullins Flat in 1916. They bought a 300-acre parcel from Milton Lanier that was known to be part of the old Lanier Plantation.

Moses purchased more land, including 40 acres by the river and 87 acres of bottomland, from John W. Jamar for \$2,800 in 1917. He mostly farmed cotton, but he also grew corn, peanuts, and sugar cane. He raised cattle as well and allowed for tenants to live on his extensive land.

When Beulah passed away in 1925, Moses married Annie Crawford and carried on in Mullins Flat. In the mid-1930s, he sold some land to the TVA. After

**(Below)** Archaeologists Working on a Recent Excavation of the Moses Love Farm (Redstone Arsenal)



leaving Mullins Flat in 1941, Moses bought 280 acres of land north of Huntsville at 10th Cavalry Hill. He even moved a couple of houses from the family farm in Mullins Flat. Moses passed away in 1950.

Moses and Beulah's son, James Love, and granddaughter, Edna Love Sanders, were interviewed by Redstone in 2005. They noted that many family members are buried in the cemetery on the property. That cemetery is now called Jordan Cemetery and has many markers provided by the Royal Funeral Home.

Moses's half-brother, Darphus, lived on land adjacent to Moses in Mullins Flat. Darphus and Moses share the same mother, but Darphus was very light-skinned and most likely had a white father. However, no one who was interviewed about the family seemed to know his exact parentage. Darphus is beloved in the community for providing land for the Silver Hill School and helping to build it. He also owned a store that sold necessities like flour, sugar, cornmeal, pork, and molasses. Like his half-brother, he grew many of the same crops, kept cattle, and had tenants.

Darphus' wife was Celia Horton, sister of Everett and Yancy Horton. They had five children together, Everett, Binford, Arley, Lavada, and Sophie, who died very young.

## Dave McGlathery

David McGlathery (1936-2016), son of Anna Langford and Pete Frazier McGlathery, was born in Pond Beat. McGlathery attended Council Training High School, then graduated magna cum laude with a math degree from Alabama A&M in 1961. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation electronics technician stationed at Naval Base Pearl Harbor. Upon returning home, McGlathery worked for Marshall Space Flight Center as an engineer with the famous German rocket scientists. He was the first man of color to be hired to a full professional position at the Center.

To better his knowledge for his position at Marshall, at 27 years old, McGlathery enrolled at UAH with support of his colleagues and superiors at NASA.



It was 1962, and UAH had yet to integrate. The university was hesitant to allow integration and postponed McGlathery's enrollment until the next spring. He ended up enrolling in 1963 and quietly began classes just two days after Governor Wallace's famous standing in the doorway at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Had his enrollment not been pushed back, he would have been the first to desegregate the University of Alabama system.

In a 2003 interview, McGlathery said "I wanted to take graduate courses to try and be a better engineer, a better mathematician, a better scientist." He was not trying to make a statement or a fuss, he simply wanted to attend school. Following classes at UAH, he earned a master's degree in systems engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology campus at Redstone Arsenal. His perseverance

**(Left)** Dave McGlathery Walking to Class at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, 1963 (Alabama Department of Archives & History)  
**(Below)** Photograph of Dave McGlathery in Class at the University of Alabama-Huntsville (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)



and education helped him to become the senior aerospace engineer and the longest-serving employee of color at Marshall.

Beyond military service, engineering for NASA, and breaking down color barriers, McGlathery was ordained at St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church and began his service as pastor in 1965 at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He continued to serve for 45 years.

## Charles C. Moore

Charles C. Moore (1868-1930) was Huntsville's first postman of color. The 1910 census shows Moore living with his wife, Sallie, in their home off Pulaski Pike. In a city directory for Huntsville in 1911, he is listed as a "carrier PO." In previous directories, his



**(Above)** Photograph of Moore's Home, Date Unknown (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) **(Below)** Photograph of C.C. Moore with His Mail Cart and Horse (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)





### Dan Crutcher Road

Dan Crutcher Road runs north from Toney School Road, then west to Old Railroad Bed Road on the north side of Toney. Daniel Crutcher and his heirs owned the 40-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the road's bend from at least 1920-1959. Several other Crutcher family members lived, farmed, and owned land in Toney.

### Dan Tibbs Road

An influential local citizen of Huntsville. Dan Tibbs, Jr. (1922-2016) was honored with the road naming in the city of Huntsville in the wake of his passing. A resolution at the city council meeting detailed his life and his accomplishments. Tibbs was born in the area of Harvest to Dan Tibbs, Sr. and Pearl Etta Moore Tibbs. By age six, he was attending the Center School. Almost directly across the street, Tibbs, Sr. purchased a 200-acre farm in 1929. This land stayed in the family until recently when most was sold to a development. A small parcel is still owned by the family.

Dan Tibbs, Jr. dedicated part of his life to teaching. He taught math at the Indian Creek School from 1960-1964. At the time, it was a school for children of color. He then became the principal of that school for three years until he moved to the New Market



(Above) Photograph of Deacon Dan Tibbs, Jr., Taken from His Obituary Posted by Royal Funeral Home.

Junior High School as assistant principal after integration. The other part of his life was dedicated to preaching. Both Tibbs, Sr. and Jr. were members and deacons at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, founded in 1869. Tibbs, Jr. was baptized there in 1939, and by 1944, he was the choir director. A cornerstone of a new addition to the church bears his name.

### Nick Fitchard Road

Located in northwest Huntsville, Nick Fitchard Road is approximately five miles long, intersecting with Dan Tibbs Road at its south end. In the northeast corner of this intersection is a 162-acre parcel that was once owned by Nick Fitchard. The land was originally owned by Pond Beat landowner and farmer of color, Yancy Horton, Sr. and his heirs. Yancy purchased this parcel in 1942 upon leaving the Redstone area, and it remained in the family until 1947. Nick Fitchard also owned a small parcel in Pond Beat prior to leaving the area. His land was around the New Mount Olive Church, not far from land owned by Yancy Horton.

In 1940, Nick Fitchard owned a farm off of Moores Chapel Road near Madison. By 1948, he had purchased the large parcel from Horton, which he owned until 1959. The land was then developed for the Indian Creek School.

“I believe that Jordan Lane was named after my ancestor...[and] it used to go all the way through Mullins Flat/Pond Beat.”

- Mr. John Patrick Jordan

### Oregon Drive

Located north of Triana, Oregon Drive is located on land owned by William Harris in the early 20th century. While William Harris owned extensive amounts of land in the area, records show that he left at least a 125-acre parcel in south Triana along the river to his son, Oregon (born 1891), when he passed away. The estate left by Daniel Beadle was also left to Oregon once his father died.

### Pitts Griffin Drive

Pitts Griffin Drive is located in a new subdivision north of Triana. Land records show that Griffin owned about 70 acres in the area west of Mullins Flat and northeast of Triana around Cowan Cemetery in the early 20th century. Griffin was also a businessman.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, there was a restaurant named Pitts Griffin Café on Holmes Street in downtown Huntsville.

### Seay Road

Located in northwest Huntsville and parallel to Garner Road is Seay Road. Part of a short subdivision, this road may be named after Lucy Ellen Seay and her family. Ms. Seay is known to have owned at least 144 acres of land nearby during the early 20th century. The 1900 census recorded Lucy and her husband, John, owning a farm in the area. Sometime before 1910, her husband passed away and left the farm to Lucy. She continued to work on the farm until at least 1930. Born in 1877, it is assumed that Ms. Lucy passed way before the 1940 census.

### Tibbs Road

Located on the west side of the community of Toney, Tibbs Road is at the end of Toney School Road. The 200 acres on to the west of the road was owned by farmer of color Calvin Tibbs and his heirs from at least 1920-1959. Another 80 acres to the south was owned by Felix Tibbs and his heirs from at least 1920 to 1940.

### Royal Funeral Home

The Royal Funeral Home (RFH) began in 1918 as the Royal Undertaking Company. Originally located downtown at 118 Homes Street, the RFH was first owned and operated by Charles King Binford. Binford ran the business for 22 years before his death in 1940. From that time

(Top Right) Advertisement for the Royal Funeral Home (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page (Right) Photograph of the Royal Funeral Home (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)





23	65	66	Scruggs, Burgess E. Head	B M Oct. 1857	42	M	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Physician	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	O F N.	23
24			Sophia D. Wife	B F April 1862	38	F	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	School teacher	4	Yes	Yes	Yes		24
25			Nevel R. Son	B M July 1896	4	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama							25
26			McDonald, Georgia Lodger	B F Dec. 1856	44	F		Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	House servant	0	Yes	Yes	Yes		26

12	420	116	Burgess E. Scruggs	Head	42	M	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Physician	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	4	5	X	12
13			Sophia D. Wife	Wife	38	F	18	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	School teacher	4	Yes	Yes	Yes					13
14			Nevel R. Son	Son	4	S		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama										14
15			McDonald, Georgia	Lodger	44	F		Alabama	Virginia	Alabama	House servant	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	3	7	X	15

(Top) Excerpt from 1900 Federal Census Showing Scruggs and Family (National Archives and Records Administrations via Ancestry.com) (Above) Excerpt from 1910 Federal Census Showing Scruggs and Family (National Archives and Records Administrations via Ancestry.com)



G.H. Binford



L.B. Hundley



James A. Jones, Sr.



Barbara Hundley Jones



David W. Smith, Sr.



Lauren Jones Smith

(Above) Seal and Photographs of the Owners of Royal Funeral Home (royalfh.com)

until 1946, his wife, Carrie Parker Binford and their daughter, Helen Binford, operated the business until they sold it and moved to Pennsylvania to be near family.

The funeral home and accompanying house at 534 Gallatin Street was sold to Lawrence B. and Amanda Rice Hundley. It was the Hundleys who changed the name to Royal Funeral Home. In 1967, the second generation of Hundleys took over the business, James A. and Barbara Hundley Jones.

The RFH, Huntsville's oldest black-owned business, is currently located northwest of downtown after the urban renewal projects, which affected much of the community of color, forced the funeral home to move

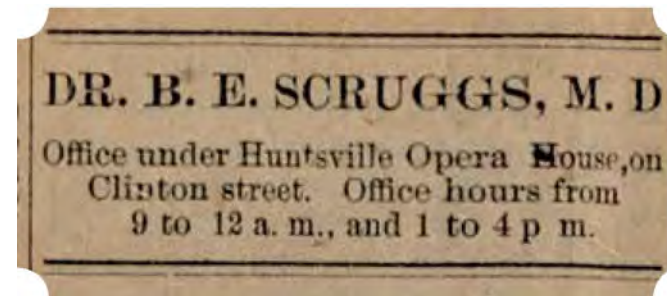
**"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful," slogan**

in 1972. They relocated to 4315 Oakwood Avenue. The current owners, Karen Jones Smith and her husband, David W. Smith, are the third generation to own and operate the business. As of 2018, the home has been operating for 100 years, 59 of which are in the same family. Over the past century, the Royal Funeral Home has been an essential and significant part of the community of color for many generations of Huntsvillians.

**The Scruggs Family**

Born a slave in 1860, Dr. Burgess E. Scruggs (1860-1934) is remembered for being the first physician of color in Huntsville, or Madison County. In 1890,

there were only approximately 900 physicians of color in the entire United States. He also served four terms as a city alderman from 1880-1905, and he was a lifetime member of the Lakeside AME Church in Huntsville, alongside fellow aldermen of color. Dr.



(Above) Ad for Dr. B. E. Scruggs, M. D. Offices on Clinton Street from The Journal, Huntsville, Alabama, January 11, 1895 (Right) Portrait of Dr. Scruggs in 1904 (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page)

Scruggs married Sophie Davis Scruggs (1862-c.1925) in 1881. Ms. Scruggs was a school teacher and served as principal at the Councill School in 1906.

Dr. Scruggs is laid to rest in the historic Glenwood Cemetery. Many of the families that previously lived in Pond Beat and Mullins Flat that were interviewed by Redstone in the late 1990s and early 2000s recalled Dr. Scruggs being their physician. The Scruggs Community Center near the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and the old William H. Councill High School was named in his honor.







# 4.

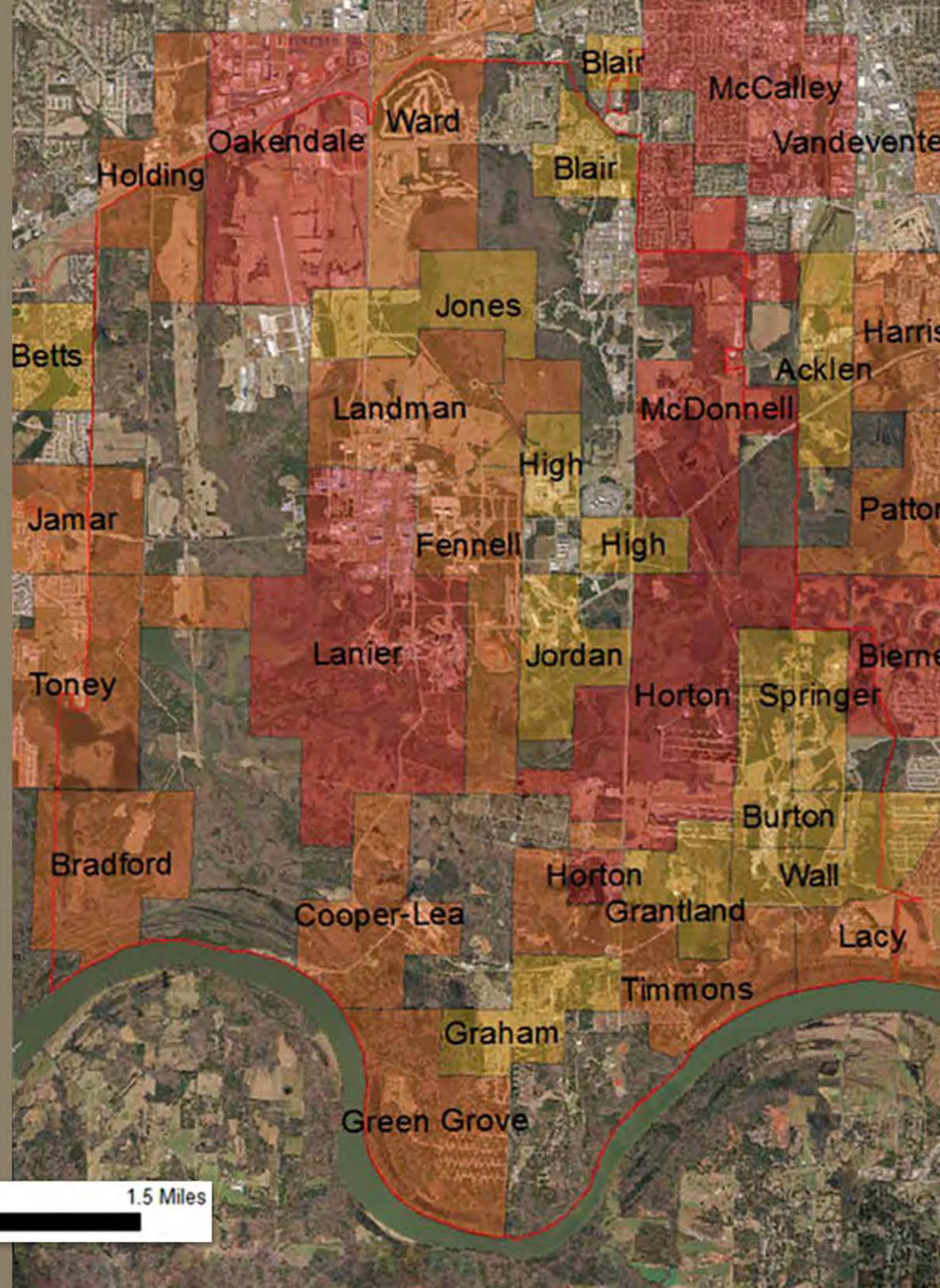
## THE DEEP and TANGLED ROOTS of MADISON COUNTY

Two of the larger communities of color that used to live on what is now Redstone Arsenal were Pond Beat and Mullins Flat. These communities consisted mostly of farmers, many of them landowners. Together, they established churches, school, stores, and cemeteries. When studying the history of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, the same family names come up time and time again. By 1940, these communities were considered “colored” communities of poor farmers, but their history traces back more than 100 years to the first plantations of south Madison County. A unique component of the history of these communities lies in a complex family tree consisting of white slave owners, Native Americans, African-descended slaves, and the “mulatto” or mixed progeny of all three.

Unlike other areas of the South before the Civil War through the era of Reconstruction, there were areas in North Alabama, such as south Madison County, that witnessed numerous relationships between white men and women of color. While such relationships were not unheard before and elsewhere, one important difference for this area is that many of the white, slave-owning men acknowledged not just their relationship with enslaved or formerly enslaved women, but also recognized the children by these women as their own. Several families of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat have the surname of former slave owners not just because the formerly surname-less slaves took on their former master’s name, but because the former master is an ancestor.

While the people of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat have previously been referred to as “Colored,” “Negro,” “Black,” and “African American” throughout the past decades, a conversation with any of the descendants of these communities makes it immediately and abundantly clear that the best descriptive would be “people of color.” For the descendants of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, every ancestor is a source of pride and a piece of the family story that makes up who they are today. Whether the ancestors are William Timmons and his lawfully married wife, Louisa, or Frank Jacobs, a free man of color prior to the Civil War who most likely had a white father, the remarkable individuals of the past 150 years contributed to the people who made a home in south Madison County.

(Right) The Various Plantations that Once Covered the Area that is Now Redstone Arsenal (Redstone Arsenal, Courtesy Ben Hoksbergen)





**(Series Above)** Fields and Soil on the Horton Family Compound in Harvest, Alabama (Photographs by Jenna Tran, Courtesy Ms. Jordan)

Just as important as the ancestors of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat is the land. Originally the land of the Cherokee and Chickasaw, North Alabama was settled by white planters from eastern states such as Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. Some of the earliest landowners not only established plantations but also relationships with people of color, either American Indian, African-descended, or a mixture of both. But Alabama is not where this began. Many of the enslaved women who had children with their white masters were often described as “nearly white.” Being born to an enslaved mother was enough to enslave the child, and over time, there were many women and men of color who could “pass” as a white person in society. Unlike other areas of the South, in North Alabama, it appears that one of the benefits of such a close relationship was the recognition of children produced by the enslaved women. White slave-owning fathers might give land to their sons or bequeath them some funds in their will. Evidence of these relationships are visible in the history of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat through cemeteries and landownership. Whereas it might appear odd that people of color were purchasing and farming land that was once a plantation – the very land worked by slaves for decades – their family histories connects them to that land in even stronger ways. The people



of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat take pride in ownership of the land and its history. This is the land of their ancestors – white, black, and Native – worked and cherished by the families, sustained by hard work and dedication, and maintained for over 100 years.

*“I was always told who I couldn’t date. Couldn’t date a Jacobs, Joiner, Horton, which basically you took to mean [everybody]. My wife’s from New Jersey because everybody was related to me.”*

– John Jordan

## A Family Reunion

While there were many families in Pond Beat and Mullins Flat, several of them are entwined in one large family tree that is so extensive, it is not fully understood even by the members of those families. But everyone in the community understood that if they recognized the family name, they were probably related in some way.



The descendants of families from Pond Beat and Mullins Flat came together in the summer of 2018 for a reunion. The families met in Huntsville, first for a reception at the Davidson Center at the Marshall Space Flight Center, followed the next day by a tour of the home sites and cemeteries now on Redstone Arsenal, and concluding with a large picnic at the home of Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan and sisters in Harvest, Alabama. Attendees were offered to participate in oral history interviews by historians from New South Associates. Some interviews were conducted at the reception at the Davidson Center, some at the picnic in Harvest, and a large group interview was conducted the following week at Ms. Jordan’s home.

Everyone who shared their family history added a piece to the overall narrative of Pond Beat/Mullins Flat. Participants were excited to share what they knew of their direct family and what they had found through research. Many descendants have used new technology, digitized archival records, and social media to connect their family trees and share family photographs and documents. Because of the displacement of these families from Redstone and the subsequent in-depth research, the communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat are arguably better researched than most family histories.



**(Left)** The House Purchased by Celeste Horton and Moved to Harvest by James B. Horton (Photograph by Jenna Tran, Courtesy Ms. Jordan)

## Tracing a Family Tree

The week following the family reunion, five descendants of the communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat met in Harvest for a conversation that was guided and recorded by New South Historian, Jenna Tran. Some of the family members were meeting for the first time. Over the course of a couple of hours, they talked through how they were related. In attendance were Dr. Victoria L. Joiner, Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan, Mr. John Jordan, Mr. Thomas Lyle, and Ms. Elaine Watkins Patton. Most of the interviewees were descendants of William and Louisa Timmons.

William Hardie Timmons (1839-1906) was the son of John and Catherine Timmons. The Timmons came from South Carolina and squatted on land in what would become south Madison County. When William was only six years old, he was orphaned. Some speculate that the Timmons family suffered from tuberculosis. William grew up as the ward of neighboring families. His father and aunt left the estate and 93 slaves to William when they died. One of the young slave girls was named Louisa (born 1835). Being about the same age, Louisa and William grew up together. By the time William was 18 and no longer a ward to any guardian, he and Louisa had their first child together. Over 22 years, William and Louisa had five children: Zebedee (born 1857), Alexander (born 1859), Kate (1864-1934), Mary (born 1866), John (1873-1933), and Luther (born 1879).

This particular kind of history is not unique to the Timmons family, but it can hold some contention about whether or not such a relationship was consensual. The Timmons' relationship lasted at least 22 years. It spanned the antebellum period, the Civil War, and post-emancipation. Still, few records exist or survive to help the descendants and researchers understand the complexities of personal relationships, race, and history. Louisa was said to be very light-skinned and part American Indian. There are no images of Louisa, but there are images of her children, Kate and Luther, which give little to no suggestion of their ancestry.

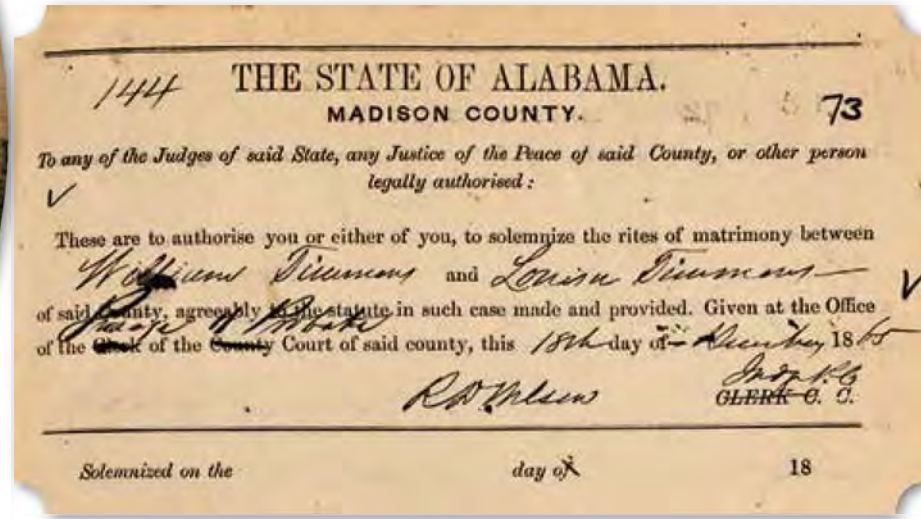


**(Above)** William Timmons as a Young Man (Smithsonian Institution, Art Inventories Catalog, Smithsonian American Art Museums)

A certificate of marriage for William and Louisa from 1865 is on file with the county, evidence in favor of a consensual relationship. However, by 1868, the state of Alabama had passed strict anti-miscegenation laws against the marriage of white people to those of color. To confuse matters more, William Timmons had another woman, a white woman, as his wife, Annie Elizabeth Latham (1835-1905). It was not uncommon for white men to be married to a white woman and to also father children with a woman of color. Evidence of William and Annie's relationship can



**(Far Left)** Luther Timmons Joiner, Son of William and Louisa Timmons, with His Wife Maggie Rooks and a Niece (Ancestry.com, Courtesy Dr. Joiner) **(Left)** Kate Timmons Joiner Lacy, Daughter of William and Louisa Timmons (Ancestry.com, Courtesy Dr. Joiner)



**(Top)** The Marriage License of William and Louisa Timmons, 1865 (Ancestry.com) **(Above)** 1900 Federal Census Showing William and Anna Timmons (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

56	21254	William Timmons	Male	10	7/6	Aug	1837	60	71037	Alabama	South Carolina	South Carolina	191-2-0-0-5	0	3/4	3/4	3/4	0	7	203
58		Anna E	Wife	10	7/6	July	1837	60	71037	Alabama	South Carolina	Virginia			3/4	3/4	3/4			
59		Elizabeth	Daughter	10	7/6	Feb	1877	23	204	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			3/4	3/4	3/4			
60		Eugene	Son	10	7/6	Nov	1872	7	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	at school		2	3/4	3/4	3/4		
61		William H	Son	10	7/6	Jan	1874	4	5	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			3/4	3/4	3/4			
		Irma R	Daughter	10	7/6	Feb	1873	2	3	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama			3/4	3/4	3/4			

be followed in the census records. In 1900, they were living together in Whitesburg. The census records that they had been married for 39 years, indicating they were married in 1861, four years before William’s marriage to Louisa. However, there is no marriage record for Annie and William. The census also records Annie as having had six children, but only four are known: Kittie Quay (1861-1862), Eugene (1865-1870), John H. (1868-1899), and Sophie (1870-1962).

Given the dates of birth of all children known to be fathered by William Timmons, the information is confusing. It appears that William and Louisa had two children, then William married Annie and had a child. After Emancipation, William and Louisa were married for a short time. But if all the birth dates are correct, William continued to have a relationship with both women for years. Following the anti-miscegenation laws, Louisa married William Joiner. The 1870 census records Louisa Joiner,

35 years old, living with William Joiner, 50 years old. However, the Joiner family of Pond Beat are truly the Timmons family of color of Pond Beat. Also in the household are her daughters Mary Joiner (William Timmon’s) and Sarah Joiner (possibly William Joiner’s). Zebedee and Alexander live in the household as well, they continued to go by the name Timmons at that time. Living two households over from William and Louisa Joiner are William and Anne Timmons.

This family history may have been known by some of the descendants of prior generations. However, past generations may have suppressed this family history, either intentionally or otherwise. Relationships like William and Louisa’s were not always looked upon favorably, as

evidenced by the fact that Louisa herself tried to conceal her children’s parentage by taking another man’s name. Furthermore, William did not leave anything to his children with Louisa in his will. This may have been because, while not explicitly illegal, it was exceedingly difficult to leave inheritance to children of color in the early 20th century. But, there is arguably evidence that William tried to take care of his children during his life, such as providing them with land, in order to avoid such troubles that might arise from a probate court.

As early as 1869, William Timmons sold land to William Joiner, Louisa’s new husband and neighbor to the Timmons. Timmons also sold land to former slaves Elisha Joiner and James Timmons, who in 1870 lived on either side of William Joiner. These three men bought 55 acres of land for \$11.60 per acres. Another former slave, Peter Timmons, purchased 100 acres of land from Timmons for \$900. At the time, this was a fair price. Although it was not uncommon for former slave owners to sell portions of the plantation to former slaves, even in Madison County, what stands out about William Timmons is that he sold land at fair market values to both white people and people of color.

While the records are too incomplete to know whether the Timmons-Joiner children owned land or when they obtained it, there are some clues in the census records. By 1910, Kate had married Wyatt Lacy, and they owned a farm in south Madison. By 1920, John Timmons Joiner and his wife, Emma Jacobs Joiner, were farming cotton on their own land. Whether or not Alex obtained land is unclear, but two of his sons, Claudie and Percy, became prominent landowners in Pond Beat in the early 20th century.

### “We’re Related Somehow or Another”

Many of the families from the Pond Beat/Mullins Flat area are connected through William and Louisa Timmons. Their children brought together, at minimum, the Joiner, Jordan, Lacy, and Burn families through marriage. Three of the descendants that gathered at Ms. Jordan’s house in the summer of 2018 can trace their ancestry to the Timmonses.



63	5672	Wilburn, Emanuel	Head	R	40	19	May	59	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	general farm	VVVV	no	166	63
64		Horton, Celeste	Daughter		-	7	May	32	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	general farm	VVVV	no	167	64
65		— Mae J.	Daughter		-	3	May	16	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	farm	VVVV	no	168	65
66		— Bruce J.	Grandson		-	19	May	13	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	farm	VVVV	no	169	66
67		— LeRoy	Grandson		-	10	May	10	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	farm	VVVV	no	170	67
68		— Merrill	Daughter		-	7	May	8	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					68
69		— Willie	Daughter		-	7	May	6	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					69
70		—																						70
71	59 373	Redmond, Henry	Head	R	40	19	May	20	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	general farm	VVVV	no	171	71
72		— Edith M.	wife - 4		-	7	May	16	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					72
73	358 374	Bronny, Elmer	Head	R	40	19	May	19	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	general farm	VVVV	no	172	73
74		— Bronny	wife - 7		-	7	May	19	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					74
75	354 375	Bronny, & Kiley	Head	R	40	19	May	19	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	general farm	VVVV	no	173	75

9	431 0 200	Horton, Celeste	Head	1	7	May	43	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					0	0	200	9
10		James B.	Son	2	77	May	22	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	Partner	Department Store	753		520	20	10	
11		LeRoy	Son	1	77	May	20	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	Partner	grocery store			364	20	11	
12		Miedred	Daughter	2	7	May	19	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					0	0	20	12
13		Willie	Daughter	7	7	May	17	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none					0	0	20	13
14		Wilburn Emanuel	Father	3	77	May	69	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	Farm Helper	Farm	NP		52	20	20	14
15		Tracy, Albert	Son	1	77	May	22	Head	no	40	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	52			40	none	Farm Laborer	Farm	Pub		52	124	20	15

(Top) 1930 Federal Census Showing Emanuel Wilburn with His Daughter and Grandson, James Bruce, Living with Him (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Above) 1940 Federal Census Showing Celeste and James B. Horton Living off of Triana Pike (National Archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com) (Right) The Marriage Record of James B. and Callie S. Horton, 1952, Lincoln County, Tennessee (Ancestry.com)

No. 35-94

## MARRIAGE RECORD

LINCOLN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

James B. Horton AND Callie S. Daniel

DATE Jan 11 1952 APPLICATION

APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE FOR THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PARTIES:

NAME OF MALE APPLICANT James Bruce Horton

BORN 2-1-1915 AGE 36 ADDRESS 605 Pulaski St., Huntsville, Ala.

NAME OF FEMALE APPLICANT Callie Sue Daniel

BORN 1-31-27 AGE 25 ADDRESS Rt. #1 Box 565

NAME OF PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR NEXT OF KIN OF MALE Celester Horton

ADDRESS 605 Pulaski St., Huntsville, Ala.

NAME OF PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR NEXT OF KIN OF FEMALE Willie Daniel

ADDRESS Route #1, Box 565, Huntsville, Ala.

HEALTH CERTIFICATE DATED 1-7- 1952

ISSUED BY DR. I. E. Dilworth + J. B. Laughlin

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, THIS 17 DAY OF Jan. 1952

James B. Horton  
 MALE APPLICANT  
Callie Sue Daniel  
 FEMALE APPLICANT  
David A. Deen  
 COUNTY COURT CLERK  
Wilma Forester  
 DEPUTY CLERK

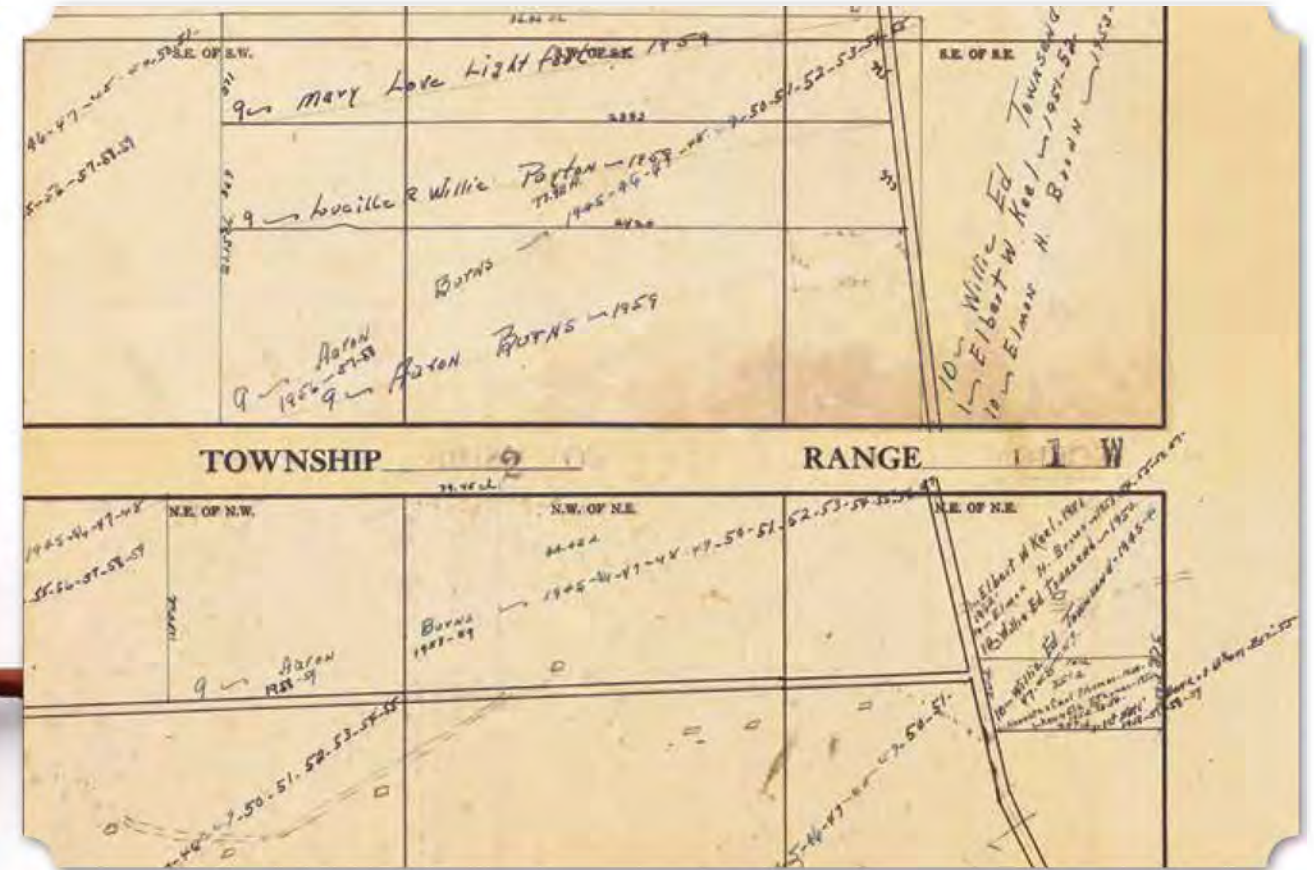
(Left Portrait) James Bruce Horton, Father of Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan (Courtesy Ms. Jordan) (Right Portrait) Callie Sue Horton, Mother of Ms. Deborah Horton Jordan (Courtesy Ms. Jordan)



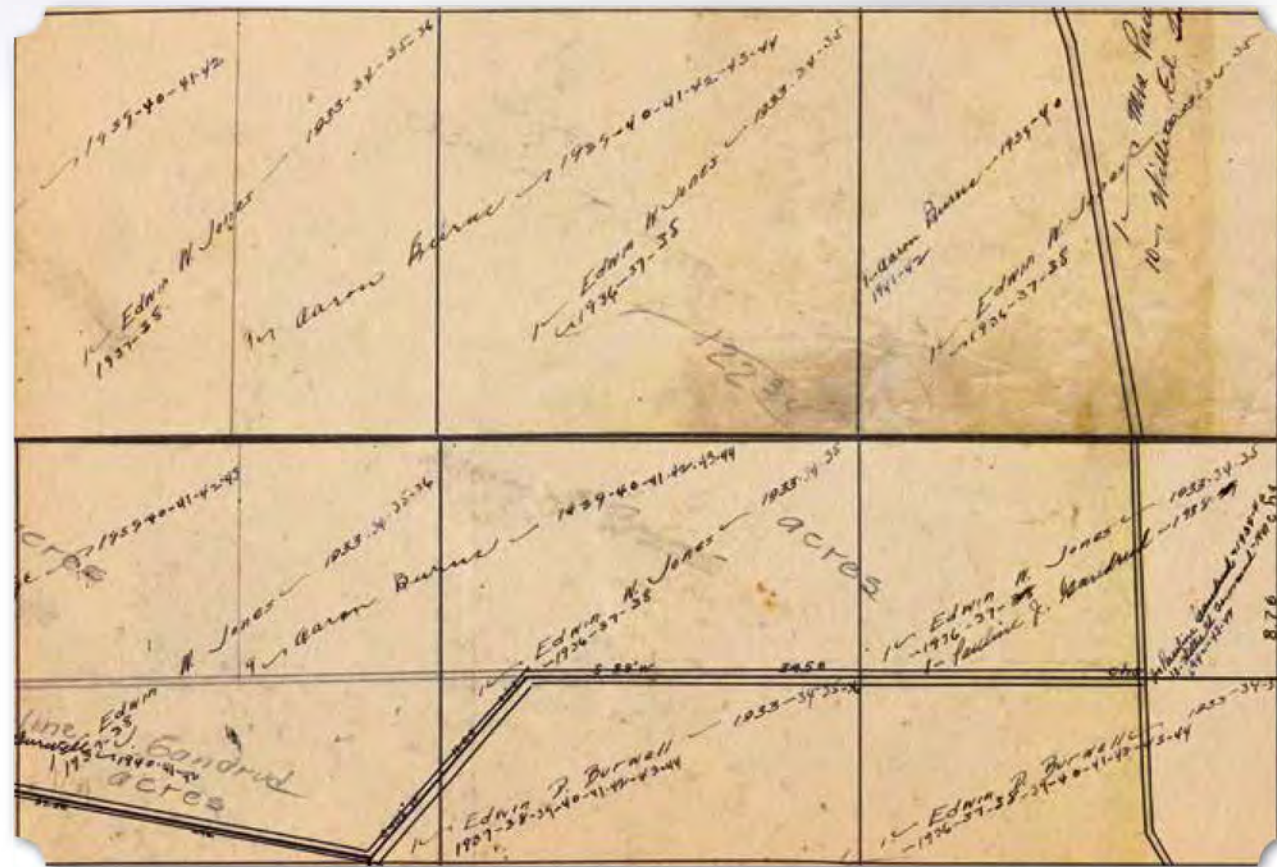
(Right) Photograph of Aaron Burns (1891-1982) (Huntsville Revisited Facebook Page) (Numbered Series) Madison County Land Maps Showing Development of Land Owned by Aaron Burns and the Hortons throughout Much of the 20th Century (Madison County Land Records, Online)



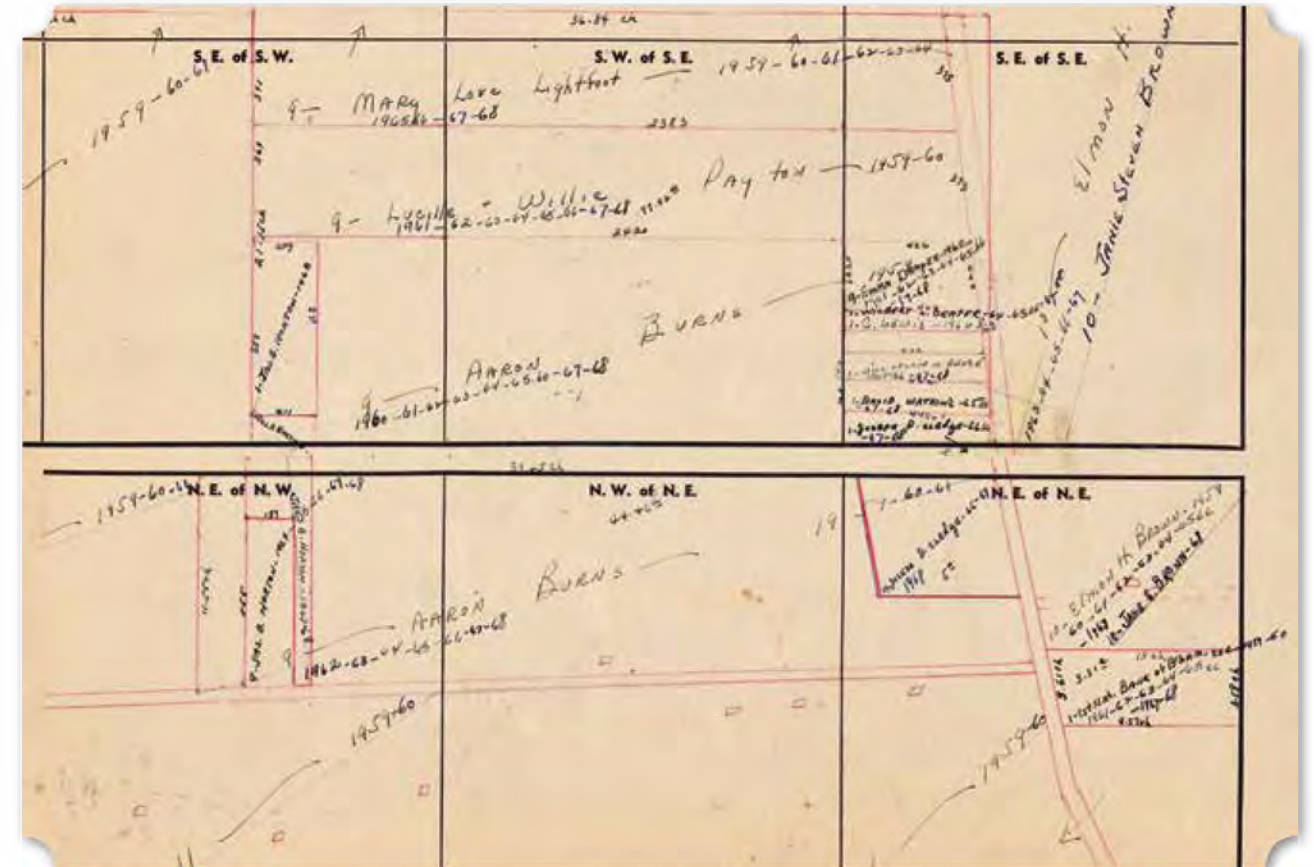
1945



1933

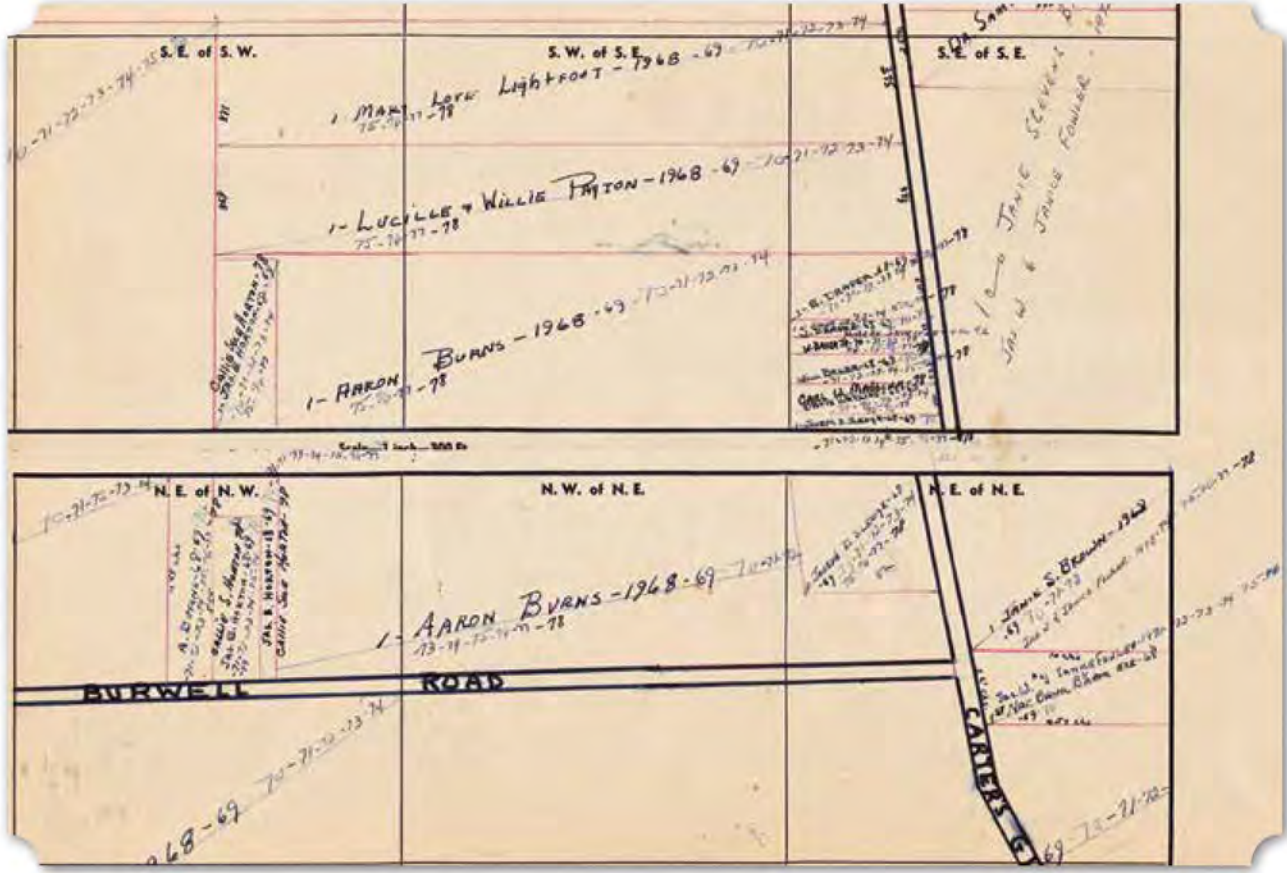


1959

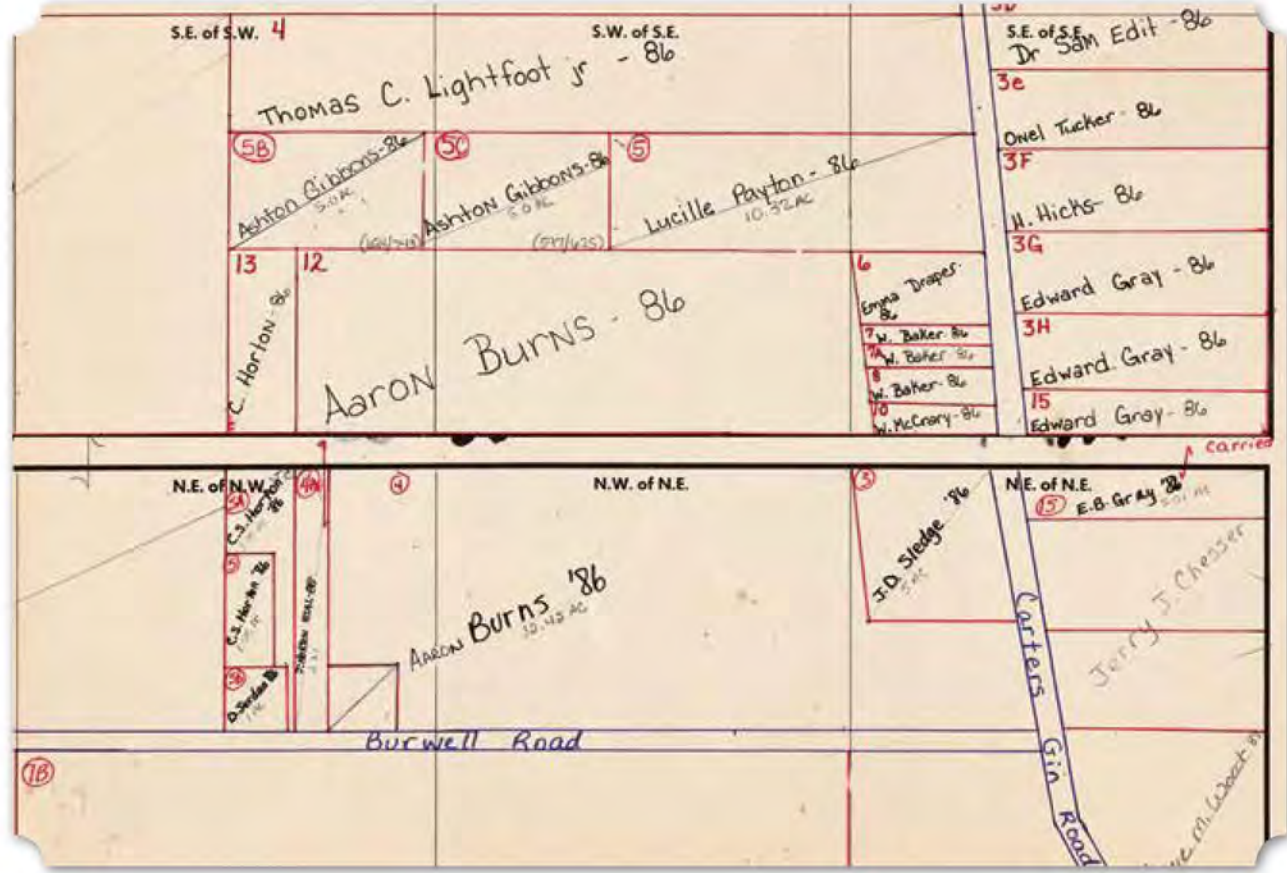




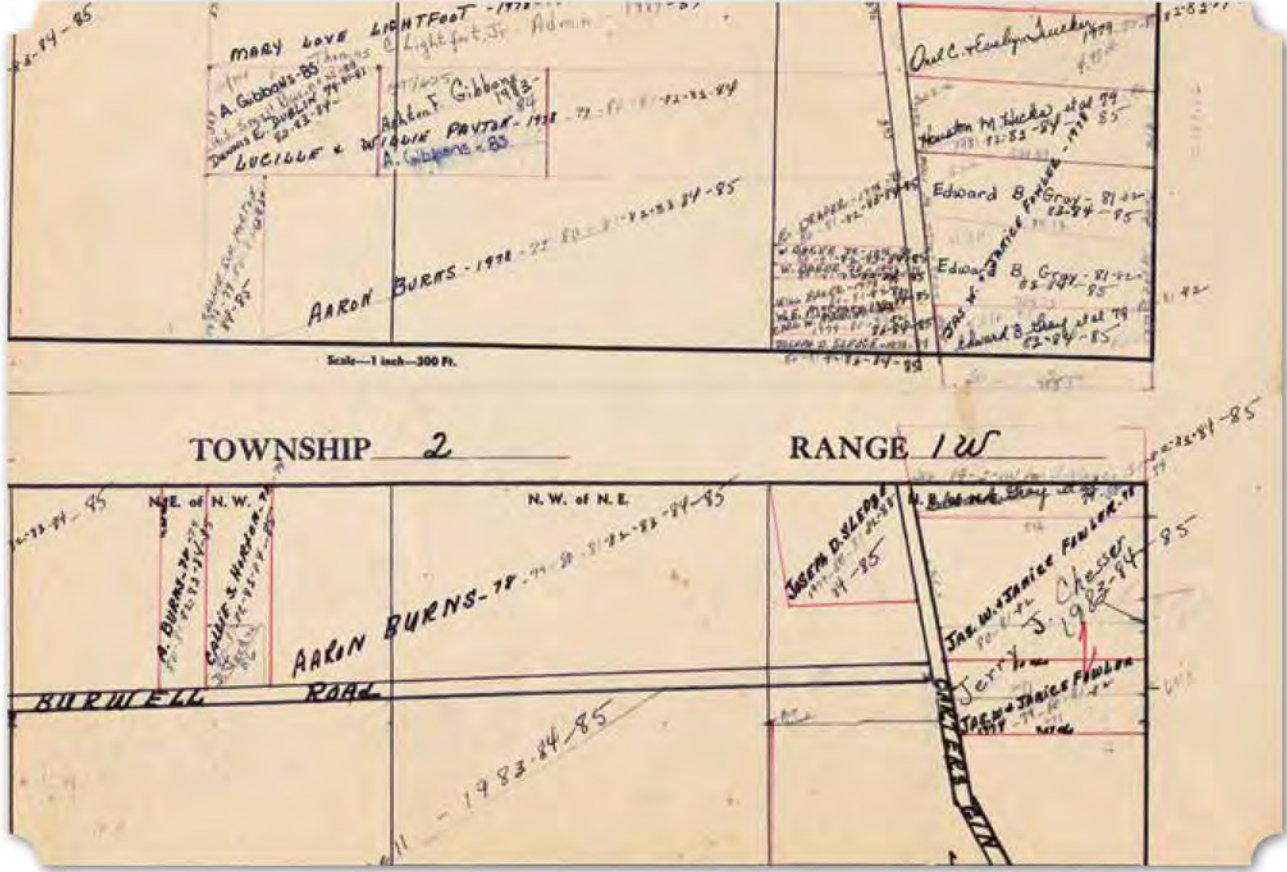
1968



1986



1978



1991

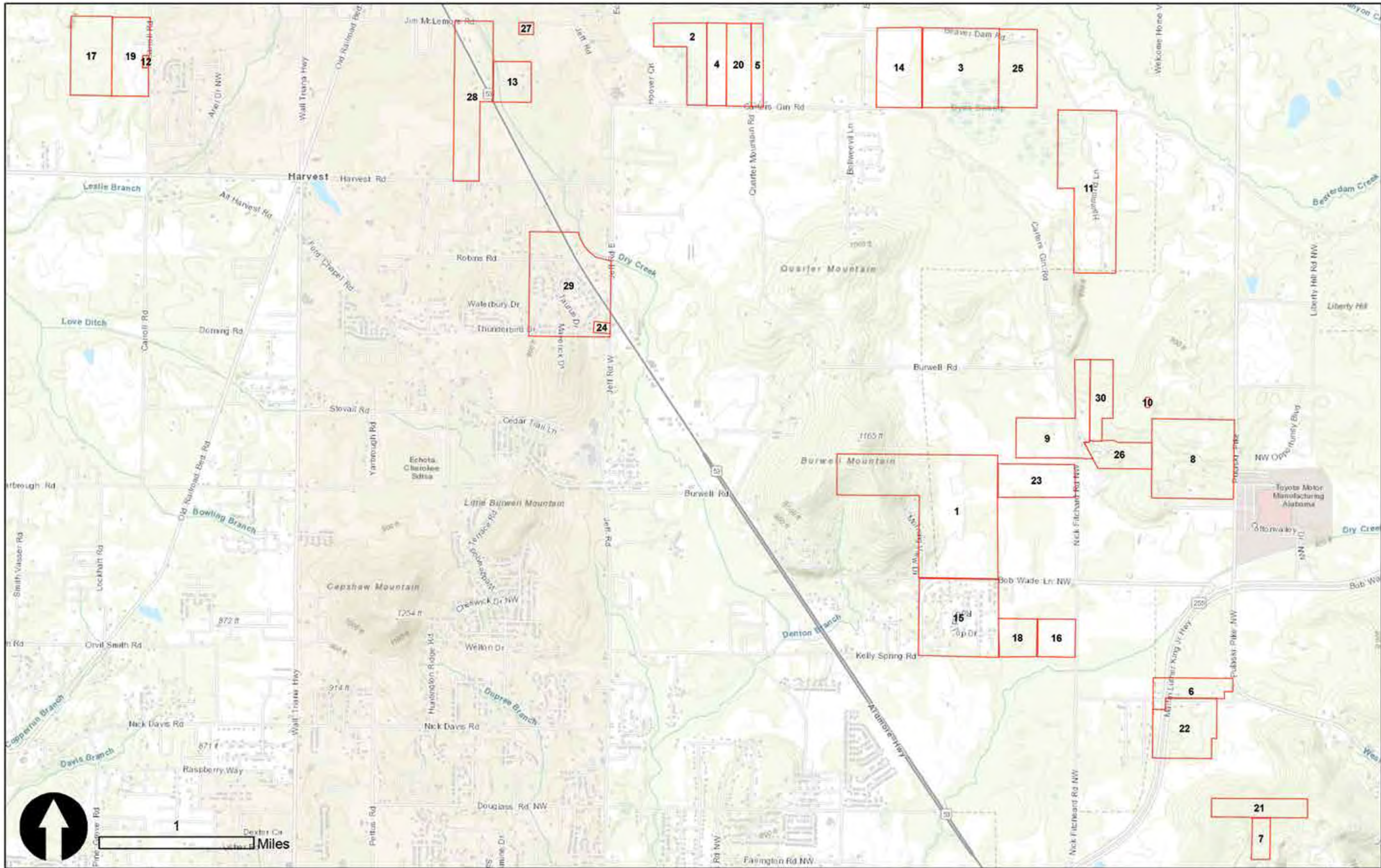


## 5. Landownership Maps



## Cluttsville African American Landowners

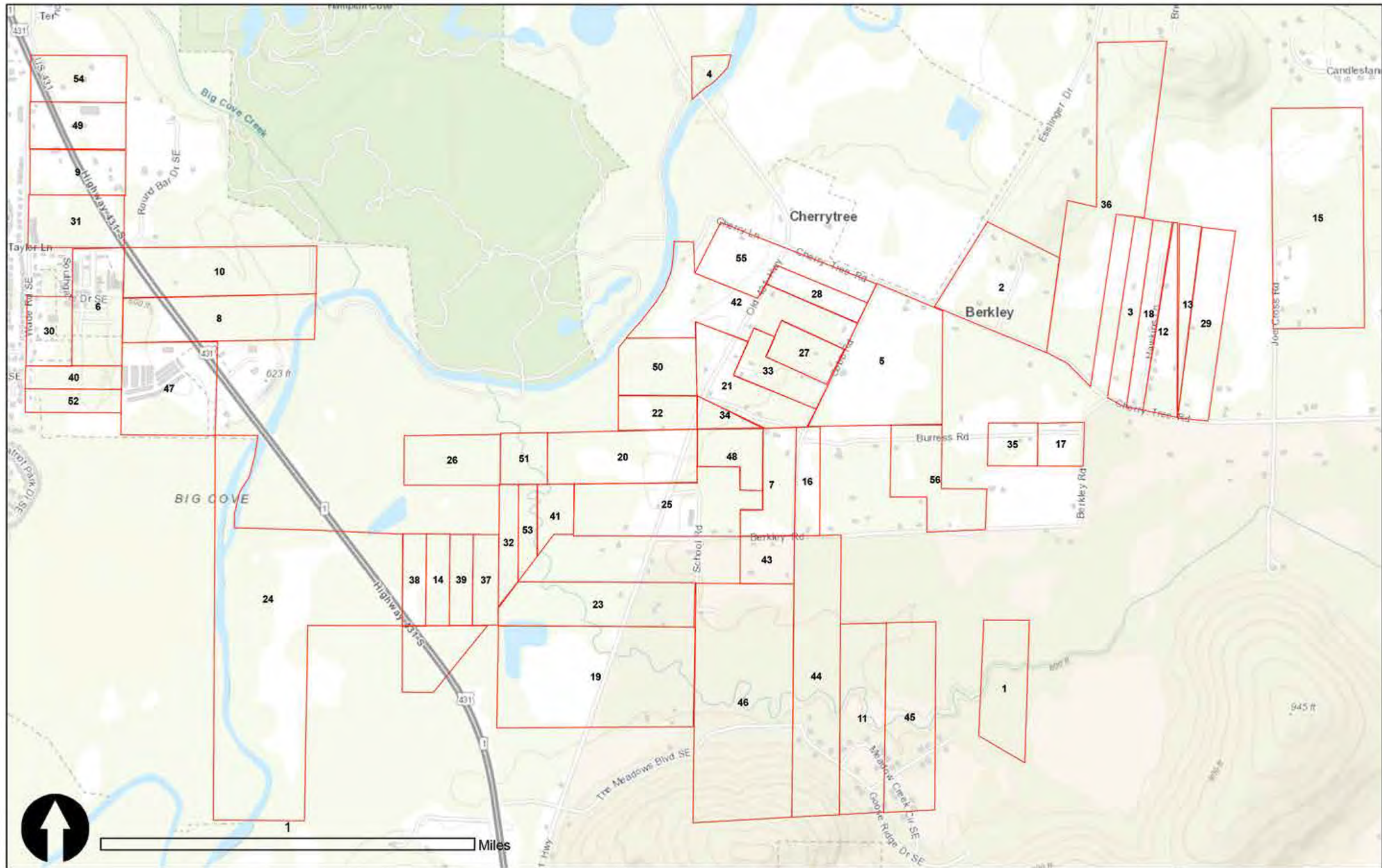
1. Conley, Jonas 1910-1920
2. Corey, Edmond 1910-1920
3. Fearn, Paralee & Isham 1910-1930
4. Ford, Louis 1910-1930
5. Ford, Louis 1910-1930
6. Garner, Frank n.d.
7. Gooch, Clifton n.d.
8. Gurley, Sydney 1920-1940
9. Gurley, Sydney 1920-1940
10. Gurley, Sydney 1920-1940
11. Hammonds, Cary 1910-1920
12. Harvest School n.d.
13. Hatchett, Richard N. n.d.
14. Jordan, George 1920
15. Moore, Matilda E. n.d.
16. Moore, Matilda E. n.d.
17. Moore, Offie and Heirs 1920-1940
18. Moore, Ransom 1910-1920
19. Moore, Richard & Heirs 1920-1938
20. Penny, Louis G. n.d.
21. Seay, Lucy Ellen 1910-1930
22. Seay, Lucy Ellen 1910-1930
23. Steele, Mattie & John 1920-1930
24. Tibbs, Arthur & Heirs 1944-present
25. Tibbs, Isiah n.d.
26. Tibbs, Isiah n.d.
27. Tibbs, Mary n.d.
28. Tibbs, Mary, Annie, & Nancy n.d.
29. Tibbs, Sr, Dan 1929-1944
30. Townsend, Newman 1920





# Colliers African American Landowners

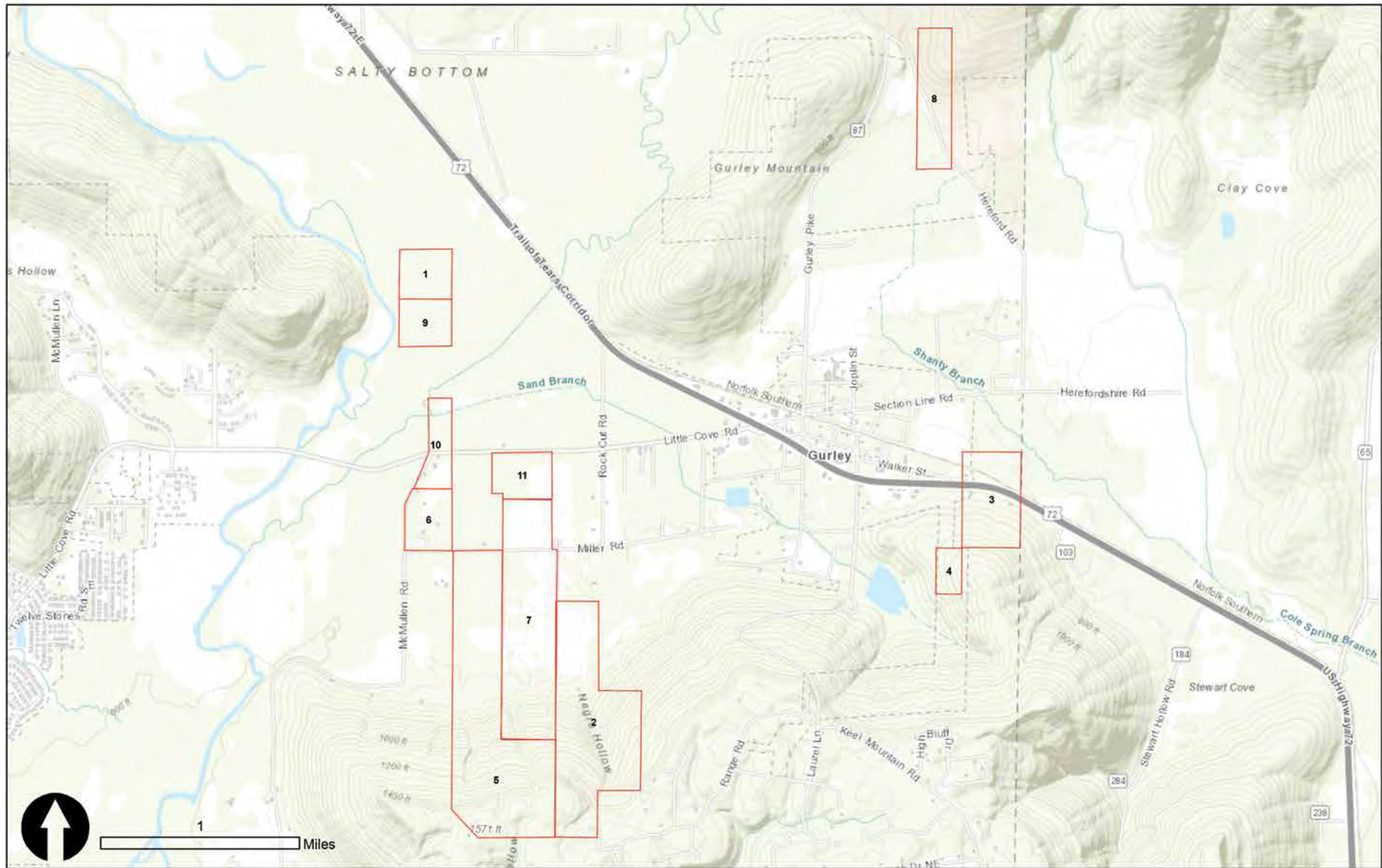
1. Alexander, Henry n.d.
2. Balwin, William P. n.d.
3. Brazelton, Clarence n.d.
4. Brazelton, Reuben 1910-1930
5. Brazelton, Reuben 1910-1930
6. Brown, Mary 1920-1930
7. Burress, Charles 1940
8. Burress, Dempsey C. 1900-1920
9. Burress, John W. 1920-1940
10. Burress, John W. 1920-1940
11. Childress, Clarence 1920
12. Childress, Clarence 1920
13. Cross, Carrie n.d.
14. Cross, Joseph C. 1900-1930
15. Cross, Joseph C. 1900-1930
16. Fleming, Flem 1900-1930
17. Fleming, Flem 1900-1930
18. Fleming, Herbert & Mattie n.d.
19. Fleming, Louis 1900-1930
20. Fleming, Louis 1900-1930
21. Fleming, Louis 1900-1930
22. Fleming, Louis 1900-1930
23. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
24. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
25. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
26. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
27. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
28. Hawkins, Squire H. & Mary 1900-1940
29. Hawkins, Wattie 1920-1940
30. Hayes, Chester & Willie 1900
31. Hayes, Sydney B. 1900-1930
32. Hinds, William 1900-1930
33. Hinds, William 1900-1930
34. Hinds, William 1900-1930
35. Humphrey, Charles 1910-1930
36. Humphrey, Charles 1910-1930
37. Humphrey, Charles 1910-1930
38. Humphrey, Charles 1910-1930
39. Humphrey, Elva 1920
40. Jenny Burress n.d.
41. Parker, Andy 1920-1940
42. Parker, Andy 1920-1940
43. Parker, Harry 1920
44. Parker, John W. 1920
45. Parker, William P. & Andy 1920-1940
46. Parker, William P. 1920
47. Pickens, Reuben 1900-1930
48. Rice, Richard 1920-1930
49. Sullivan, George S. 1910
50. Sullivan, John & Carrie 1910
51. Sullivan, John & Carrie 1910
52. Virginia Burress Jenny?
53. Wade, Robert & Kate 1920-1940
54. Wade, Robert & Kate 1920-1940
55. Wade, Thomas 1930-1940
56. Wilson, Zack R. 1910-1920





# Gurley African American Landowners

1. Acklin, Nelson 1910-1920
2. Acklin, Nelson 1910-1920
3. Conyers, Tom & James 1920-1940
4. Conyers, Tom & James 1920-1940
5. Phipps, Riley 1920
6. Ross, William 1910-1930
7. Vann, Frank 1920-1930
8. Williams, Frank 1920
9. Williams, Frank 1920
10. Williams, Frank 1920
11. Williams, Frank 1920

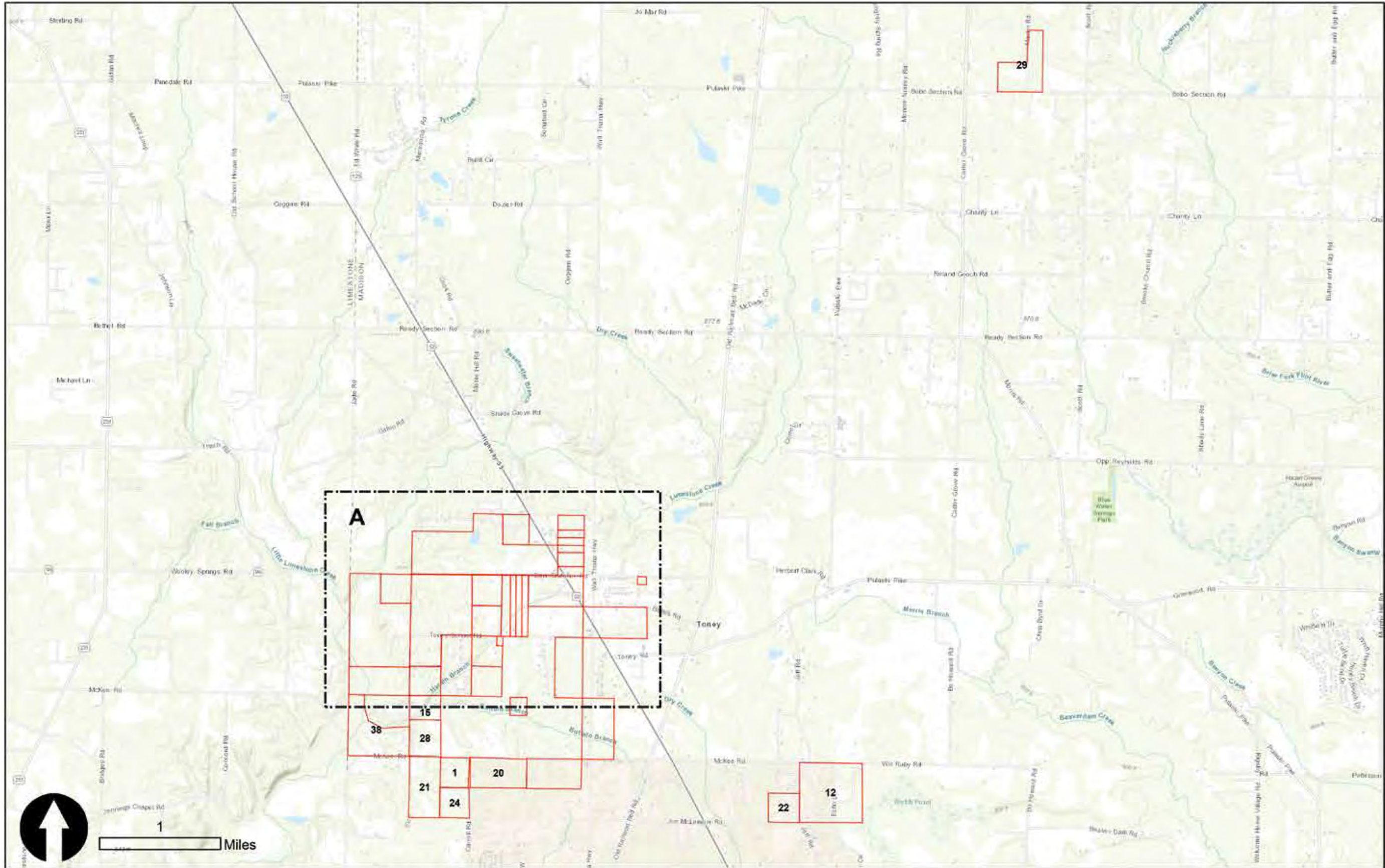




# Madison Crossroads African American Landowners

1. Baker, Lucinda & Alfred 1920-1926
2. Binford, Evalina Turner 1920-1936
3. Booker, Robert 1920-1932
4. Booker, Robert 1920-1959
5. Carter, T. & Heirs 1920-1948
6. Cox, Burley 1910-1920
7. Cox, Burley 1920-1939
8. Crutcher, Daniel & Heirs 1920-1959
9. Crutcher, Henderson, Sr. & Heirs 1920-1959
10. Crutcher, Henderson, Sr. 1920-1924
11. Gardiner, Willie & Heirs 1920-1959
12. Hammond, Henry H. & Walter 1910-1940
13. Hardin, Pleas 1920-1932
14. Hatchett, Alonzo & Heirs 1920-1926
15. Hatchett, Alonzo & Heirs 1920-1926
16. Hatchett, Richard & Heirs 1926-1935
17. Hatchett, Richard 1910-1940
18. Hatchett, Tom H. 1910-1930
19. Isaacs, James 1920-1925
20. Isaacs, James 1920-1925
21. Leslie, Manchel & Julius 1920-1930
22. Mitchell, Robert 1910-1930
23. Mitchell, Robert B. 1920-1932
24. Murray, Martha Ann 1920-1926
25. Pulley, Jim 1930-1940
26. Pulley, Jim 1930-1940
27. Rosenwald School 1920-1932
28. Sledge, Oliver 1920-1947
29. Strong, Thomas 1900-1940
30. Tibbs, Calvin & Heirs 1920-1959
31. Tibbs, Felix & Heirs 1920-1940
32. Tibbs, John 1920-1940
33. Tibbs, John 1920-1940
34. Tibbs, John 1920-1940
35. Tibbs, John 1920-1940
36. Tibbs, John 1920-1944
37. Tibbs, John 1926-1959
38. Turner, Henry 1920-1924
39. Turner, John & Heirs 1920-1953

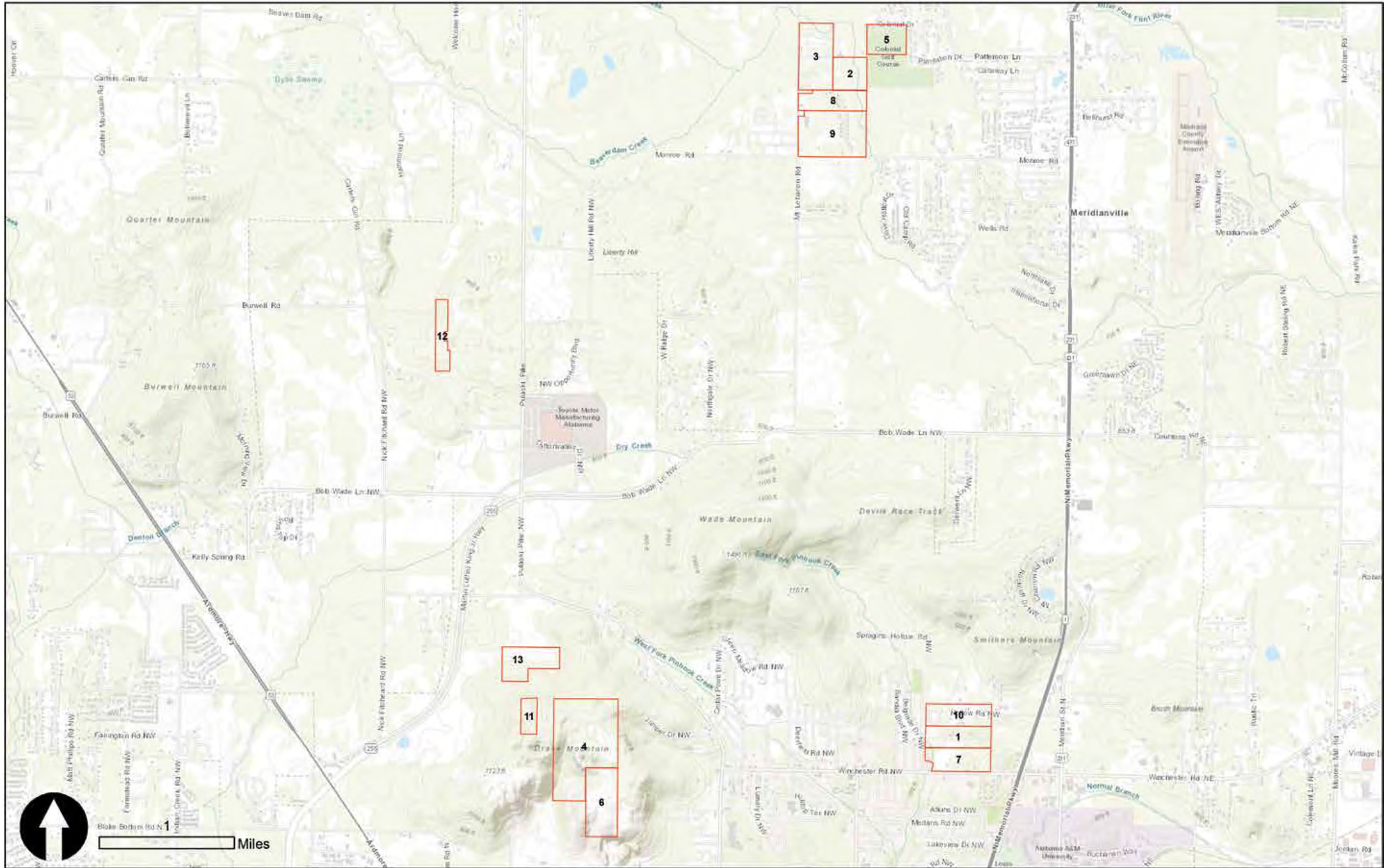






# Meridianville African American Landowners

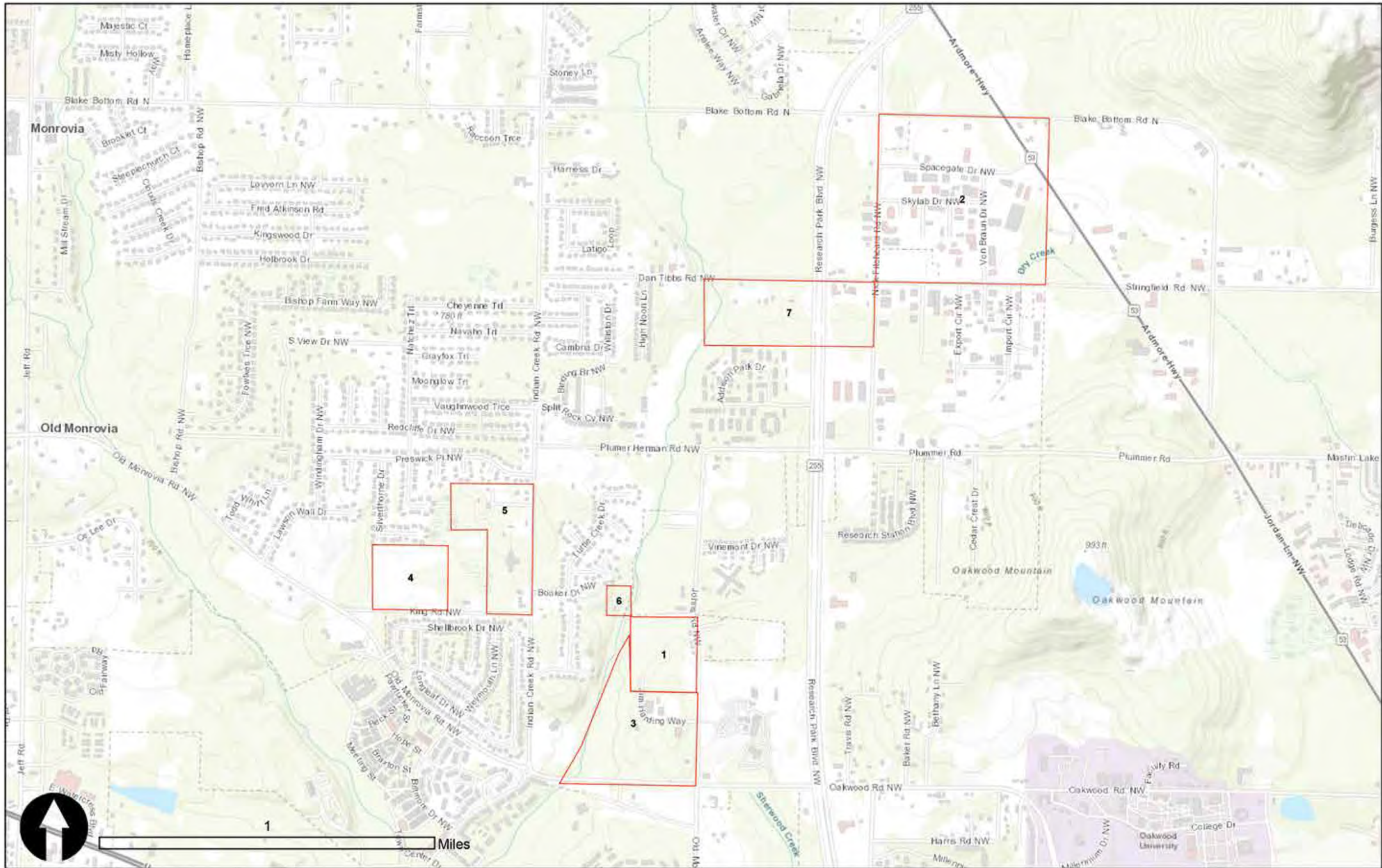
1. Battle, Burns 1920-1954
2. Conley, Jr., Pascal 1910-1920
3. Conley, Will & Mollie 1900-1930
4. Conley, Willie E. & Milton 1900-1930
5. Cotton, Jim & Mary E. 1920
6. Craighead, Miles 1920
7. Crutcher, David & Lucy 1910-1940
8. Garner, John 1910-1940
9. Hereford, Emanuel 1900-1920
10. Kelly, John 1910-1940
11. Robinson, Coleman & Walter 1920-1940
12. Robinson, F.L. n.d.
13. Robinson, Robert 1920-1940





# Monrovia African American Landowners

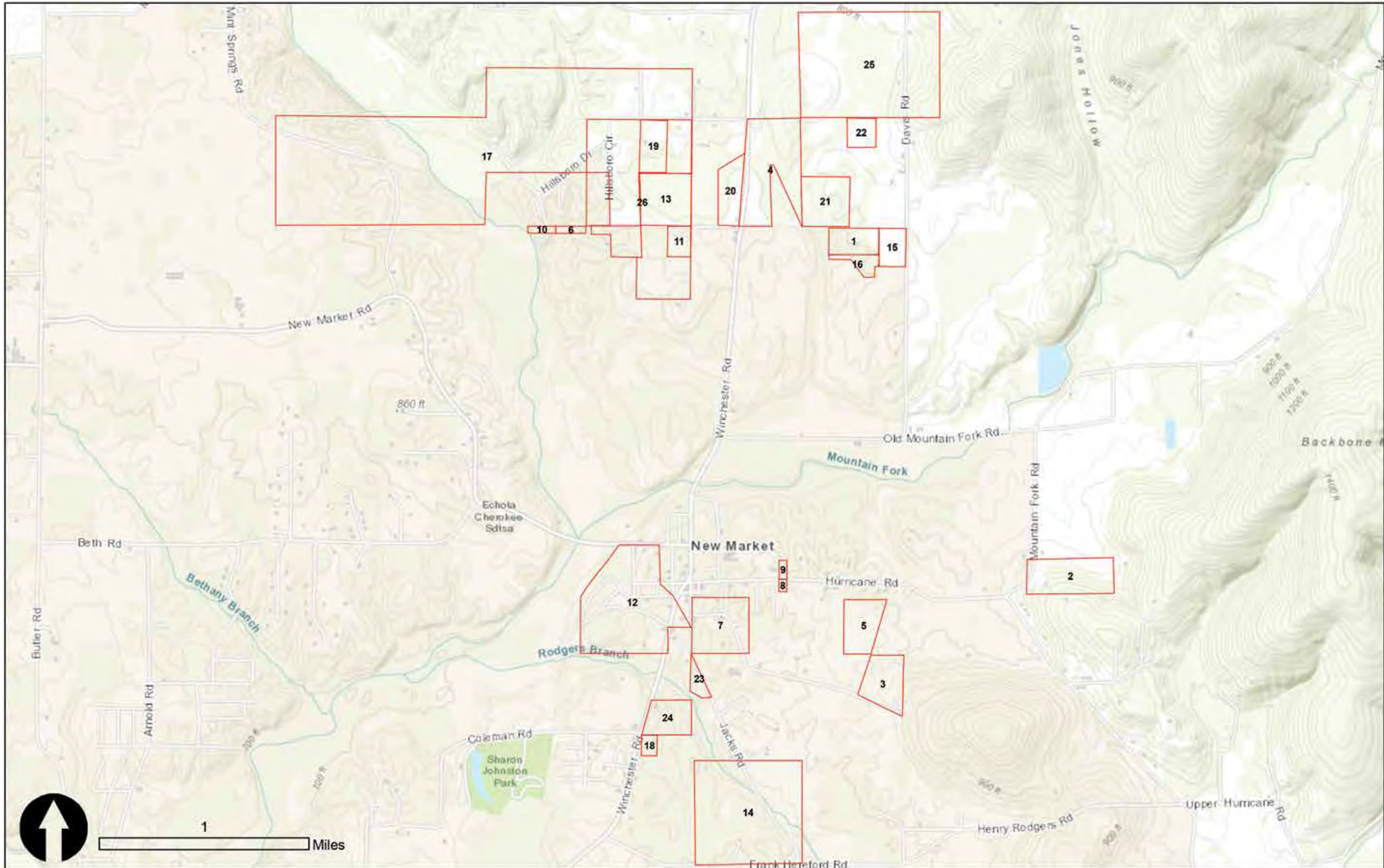
1. Davis, Turner 1920-1942
2. Horton, Sr., Yancy & Heirs 1942-1947 and Nick Fitchear 1948-1959"
3. Lane, Jerry & Heirs 1920-1934
4. Thompson, Addie & Heirs 1920-1954
5. Thompson, Jerry 1920-1954
6. Thompson, Jerry 1941-1944
7. Tibbs, Dan Sr. & Lula & Heirs 1950-1978





# New Market African American Landowners

1. Baker, Jim & Mary M. 1920-1940
2. Baker, Peter 1920-1930
3. Baker, Stephen 1920
4. Berry, George & Francis 1920
5. Brown, Tetsey & Minnie 1920-1940
6. Burress, Jim n.d.
7. Criner, Edna 1920-1940
8. Criner, Edna 1920-1940
9. Criner, Martha n.d.
10. Davis, Sam & Pinkie 1900-1920
11. Davis, Sam & Pinkie 1900-1920
12. Davis, Sam & Pinkie 1900-1920
13. Davis, Sam & Pinkie 1900-1920
14. Davis, Sam & Pinkie 1900-1920
15. Hambrick, Joseph C. n.d.
16. Hambrick, W.S. n.d.
17. Hereford, Henly 1900-1940
18. Maples, Jim 1920
19. Parker, Lindsey 1920-1930
20. Peevy, Andrew 1920
21. Peevy, Charles & Martha 1920
22. Peevy, Charles & Martha 1920
23. Petty, Alex 1920-1940
24. Petty, Sam n.d.
25. Walker, Mary E. 1900
26. Walker, Troy 1900-1910

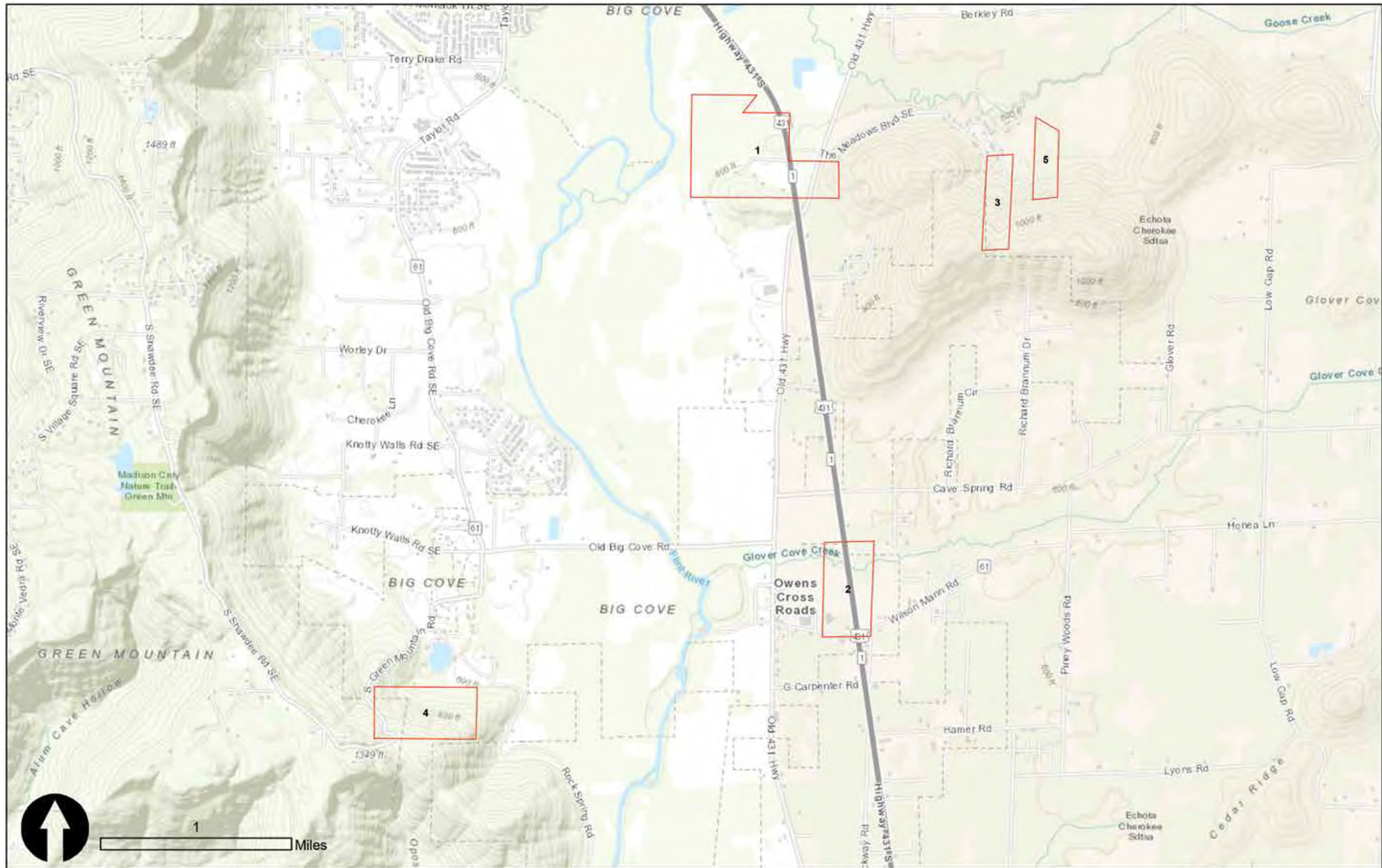




# Owens Crossroads African American Landowners

1. Hawkins, William n.d.
2. Owens, J. M. n.d.
3. Parker, Andy n.d.
4. Roland, Joseph n.d.
5. Wilson, Zack R. n.d.

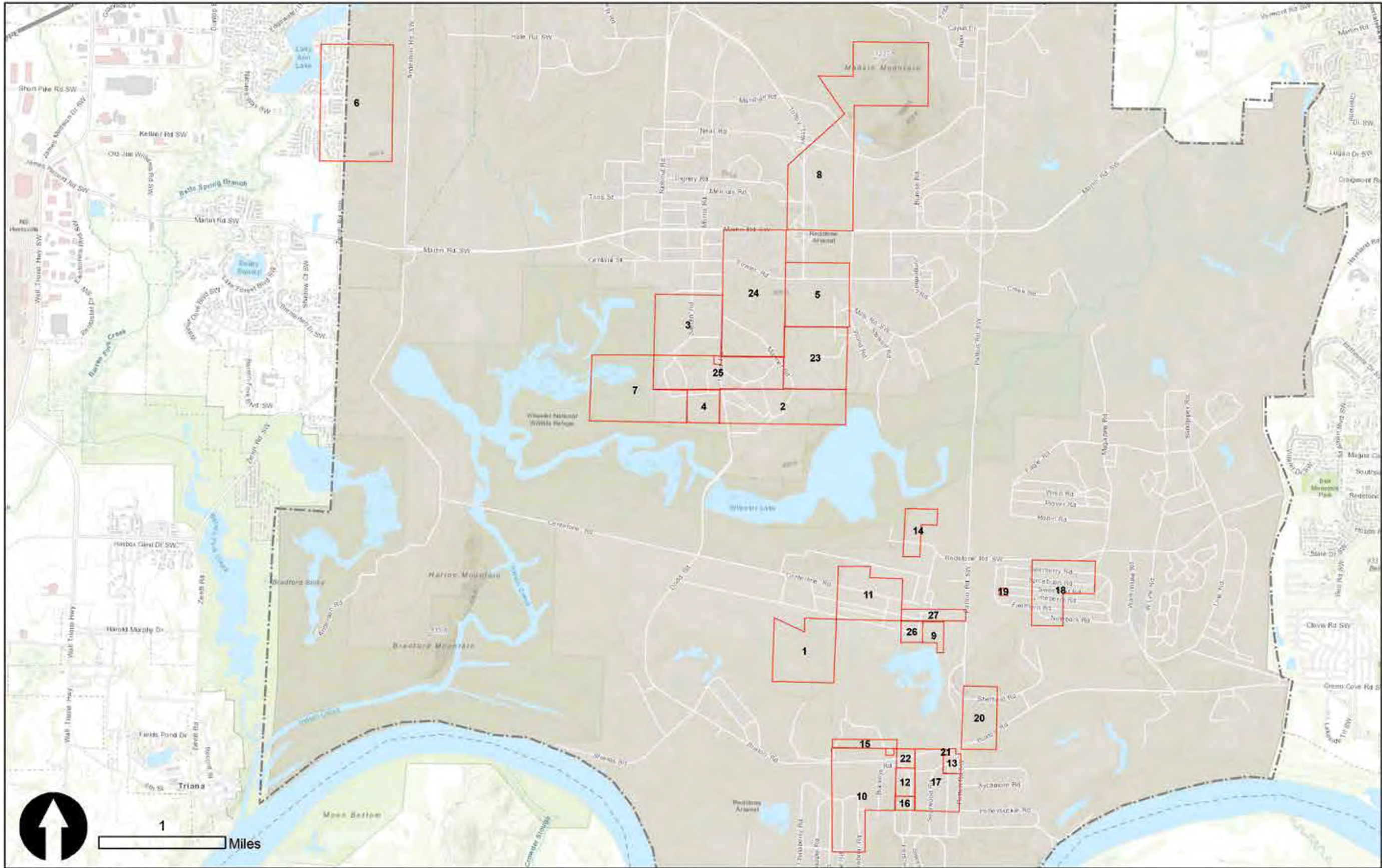






# Redstone Arsenal African American Landowners

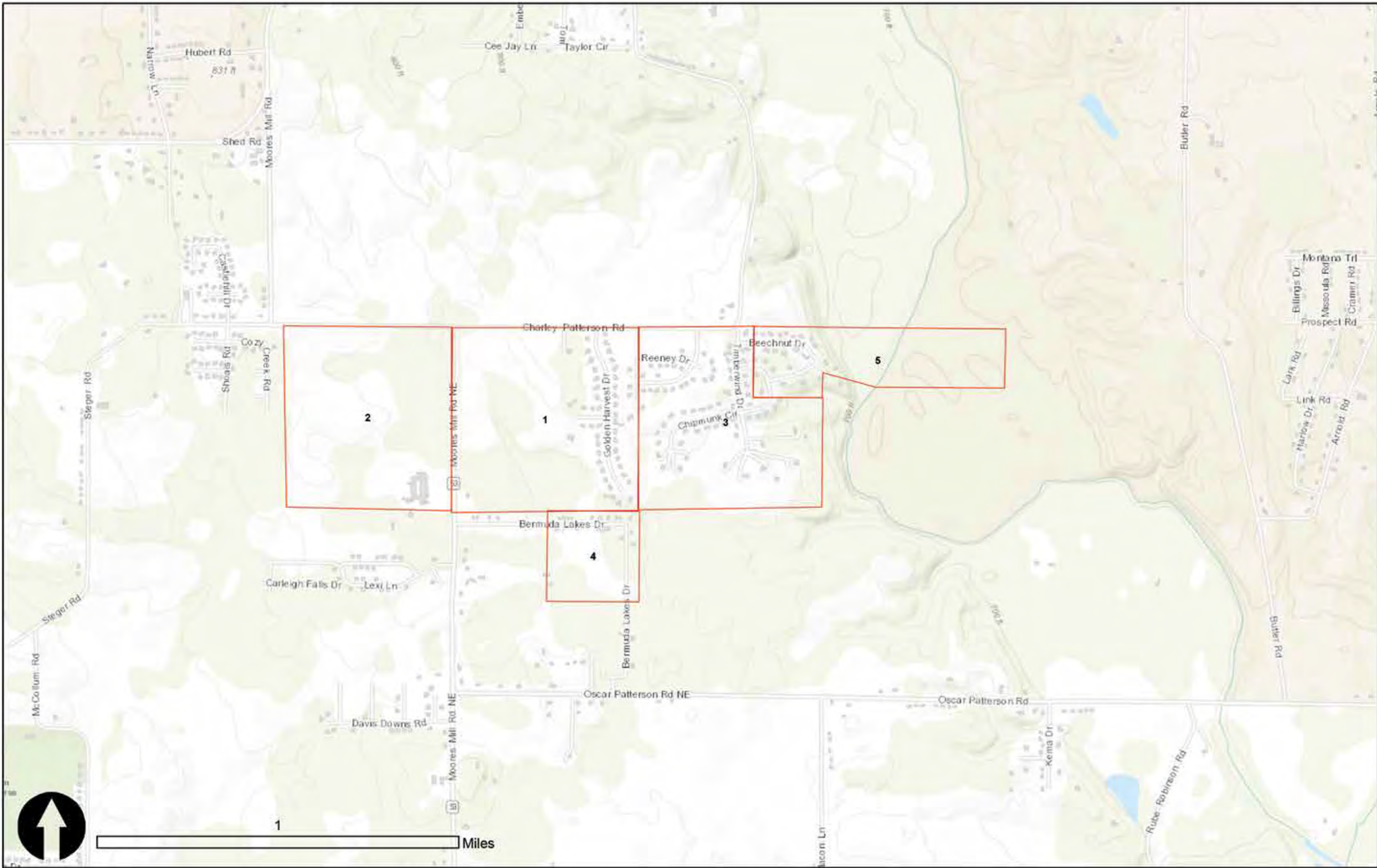
1. Barley, David D. n.d.
2. Berney, Bill n.d.
3. Branford, Paris n.d.
4. Crutcher, Sledge n.d.
5. Hancock, Tom n.d.
6. Harris, William n.d.
7. Horton, Everett n.d.
8. Horton, Everett n.d.
9. Horton, Frances n.d.
10. Horton, Sr., Yancy n.d.
11. Horton, Sr., Yancy n.d.
12. Jacobs, Addie n.d.
13. Jacobs, Addie n.d.
14. Jacobs, Arthur n.d.
15. Jacobs, Booker T. n.d.
16. Jacobs, Earnest n.d.
17. Jacobs, Frank n.d.
18. Jacobs, Frank n.d.
19. Jacobs, Frank n.d.
20. Jacobs, Walter n.d.
21. Jacobs, Zora n.d.
22. Jacobs, Zora n.d.
23. Love, Everett n.d.
24. Love, Moses n.d.
25. Love, William A. n.d.
26. Timmons, Kelester n.d.
27. Timmons, Wattie n.d.





# Sulphur Springs African American Landowners

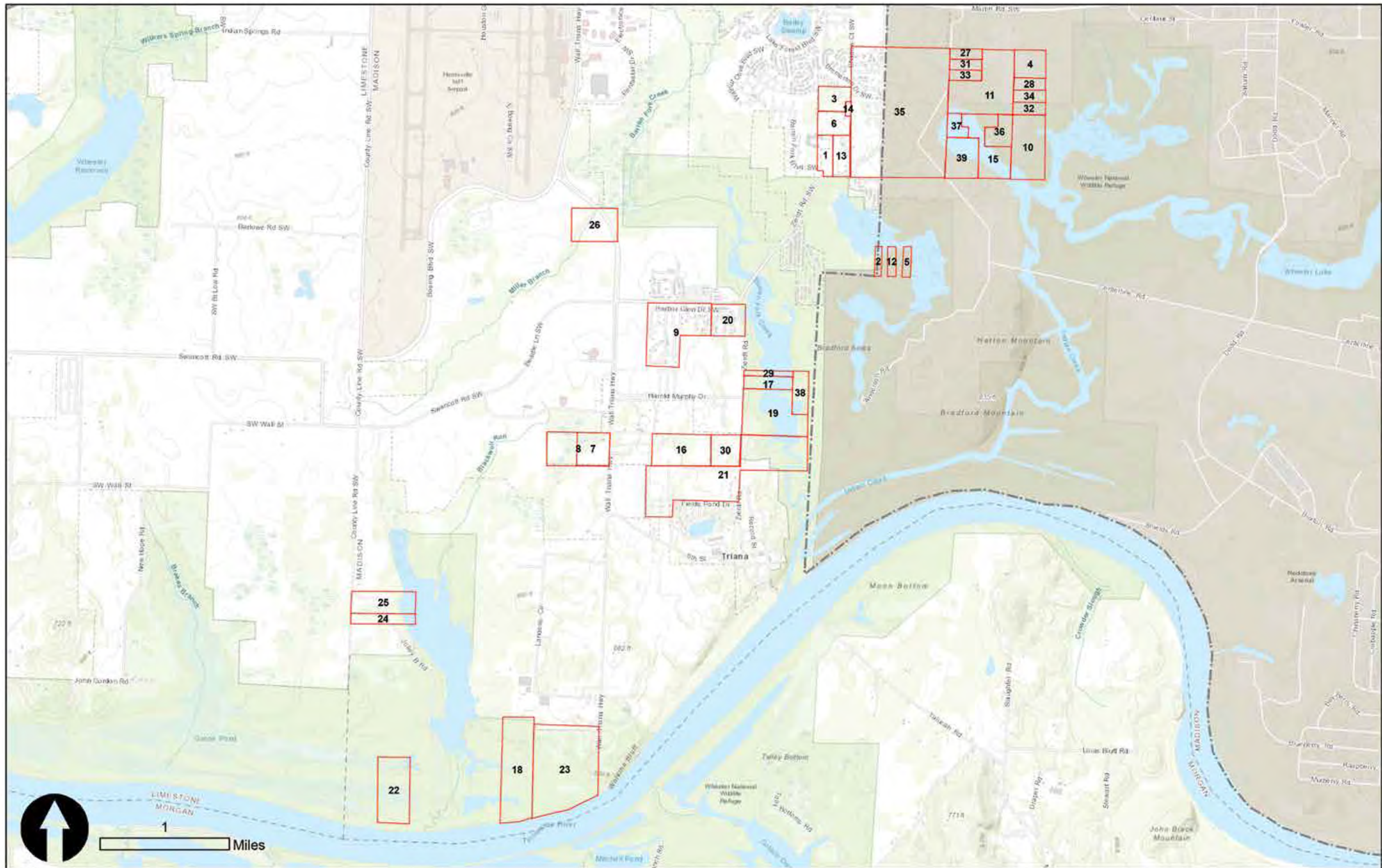
1. Humphrey, Garth & Eddie B. n.d.
2. Humphrey, Lee Allen n.d.
3. Humphrey, Wattie n.d.
4. Humphrey, Wattie n.d.
5. Preuitt, E. n.d.





# Triana African American Landowners

1. Arnett Dawson, Louvenia & Heirs 1920-1955
2. Arnett Lanier, Virginia & Heirs 1920-1935
3. Arnett Lanier, Virginia & Heirs 1920-1978
4. Arnett, Henry 1920
5. Arnett, Kate 1920-1935
6. Arnett, Kate 1920-1946
7. Ayers, Cornelius 1900-1920
8. Ayers, Heirs of Cornelius 1900-1920
9. Beadle, Daniel W. 1900-1920
10. Cowan, Andy 1900-1910
11. Cowan, Andy 1900-1910
12. Cowan, Eliza 1920-1935
13. Cowan, Eliza 1920-1962
14. Cowan, Eliza 1920-1962
15. Griffin, Pitts 1900
16. Harris, George 1920
17. Harris, George 1920
18. Harris, William & Oregon 1900-1920
19. Harris, William 1900-1920
20. Harris, William 1900-1920
21. Harris, William 1900-1920
22. Harris, William 1900-1920
23. Harris, William 1900-1920
24. Kirby, Luther 1920
25. Kirby, Will 1910
26. Patton, Lucy 1920
27. Patton, Lucy 1920
28. Patton, Lucy 1920
29. Ragland, Lee 1920
30. Ragland, Lee 1920
31. Toney, Ellen 1920-1941
32. Toney, Ellen 1920-1941
33. Toney, Ellen 1920-1941
34. Toney, Ellen 1920-1941
35. Toney, Harris & Heirs 1920-1932
36. Toney, Harris 1920
37. Toney, Harris 1920
38. Toney, Pat 1910-1920
39. Toney, Riley 1910



# RESOURCES

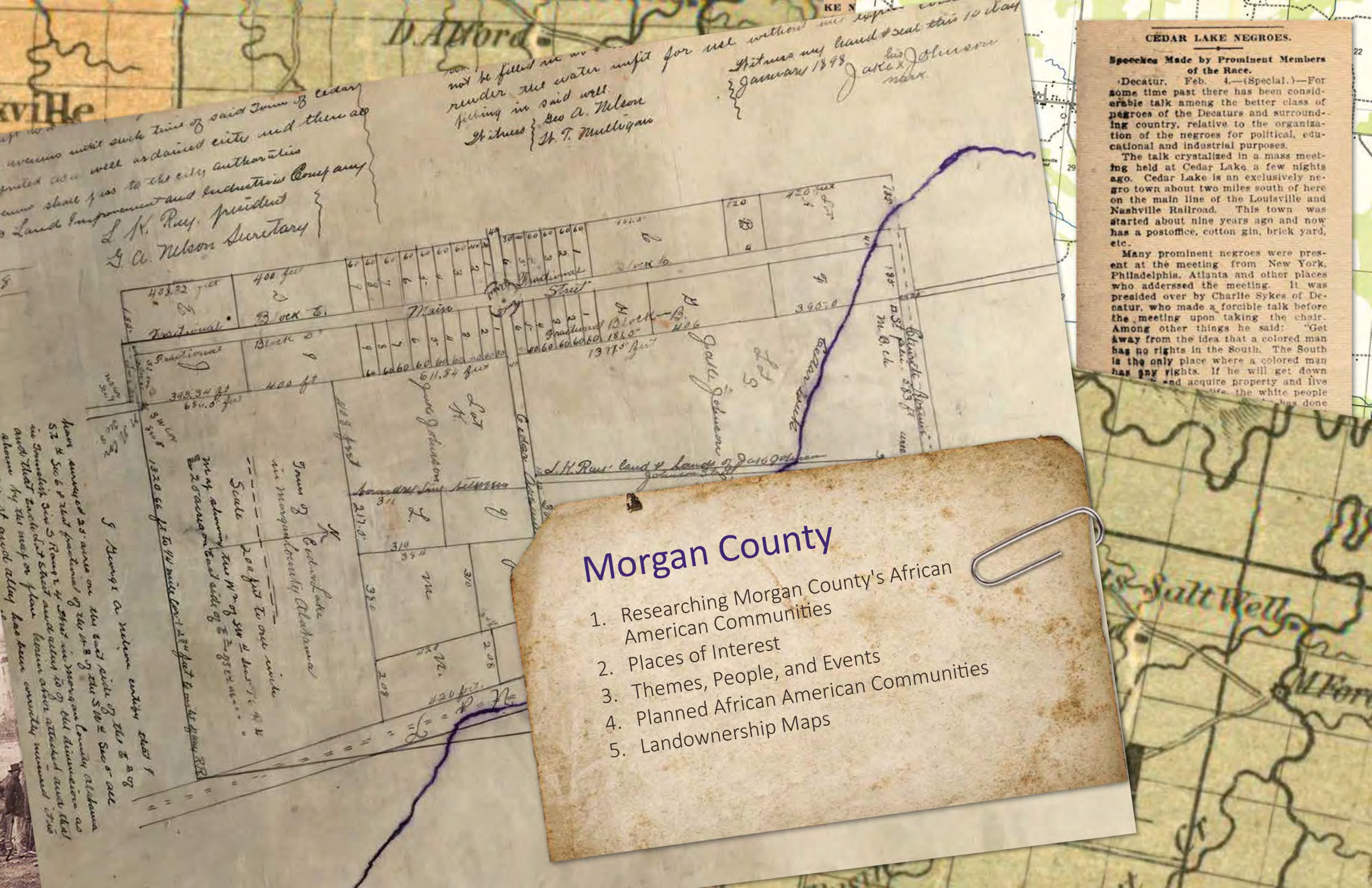
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...with such title of said Town & Cedar  
 ...well as claimed city and there all  
 ...shall pass to the city authorities  
 Land Improvement and Indenture Company  
 L. H. Ruff, President  
 G. A. Nelson, Secretary

D. A. Ford  
 not be filled in w/  
 render the water unfit for use without my express  
 picking in said well  
 Witness } Geo. A. Nelson  
 H. T. Mulligan

Witness my hand & seal this 10 day  
 January 1898  
 Geo. A. Nelson  
 H. T. Mulligan

**CEDAR LAKE NEGROES.**  
**Speeches Made by Prominent Members of the Race.**  
 Decatur, Feb. 4.—(Special.)—For some time past there has been considerable talk among the better class of negroes of the Decatur and surrounding country, relative to the organization of the negroes for political, educational and industrial purposes.  
 The talk crystallized in a mass meeting held at Cedar Lake a few nights ago. Cedar Lake is an exclusively negro town about two miles south of here on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. This town was started about nine years ago and now has a postoffice, cotton gin, brick yard, etc.  
 Many prominent negroes were present at the meeting from New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta and other places who addressed the meeting. It was presided over by Charlie Sykes of Decatur, who made a forcible talk before the meeting upon taking the chair. Among other things he said: "Get away from the idea that a colored man has no rights in the South. The South is the only place where a colored man has any rights. If he will get down and acquire property and live like the white people, he has done

Have surveyed 25 acres on the east side of the 2 & 3 of  
 Sec 6 & 7 that fractional of the 2 & 3 of the 5 10 & 20  
 in 5moleth Sec 5 Range 2 4 that are Morgan County Alabama  
 and that each of 17 that are attached and that  
 shown by the map on plan known as attached numbered 710

**Morgan County**

1. Researching Morgan County's African American Communities
2. Places of Interest
3. Themes, People, and Events
4. Planned African American Communities
5. Landownership Maps

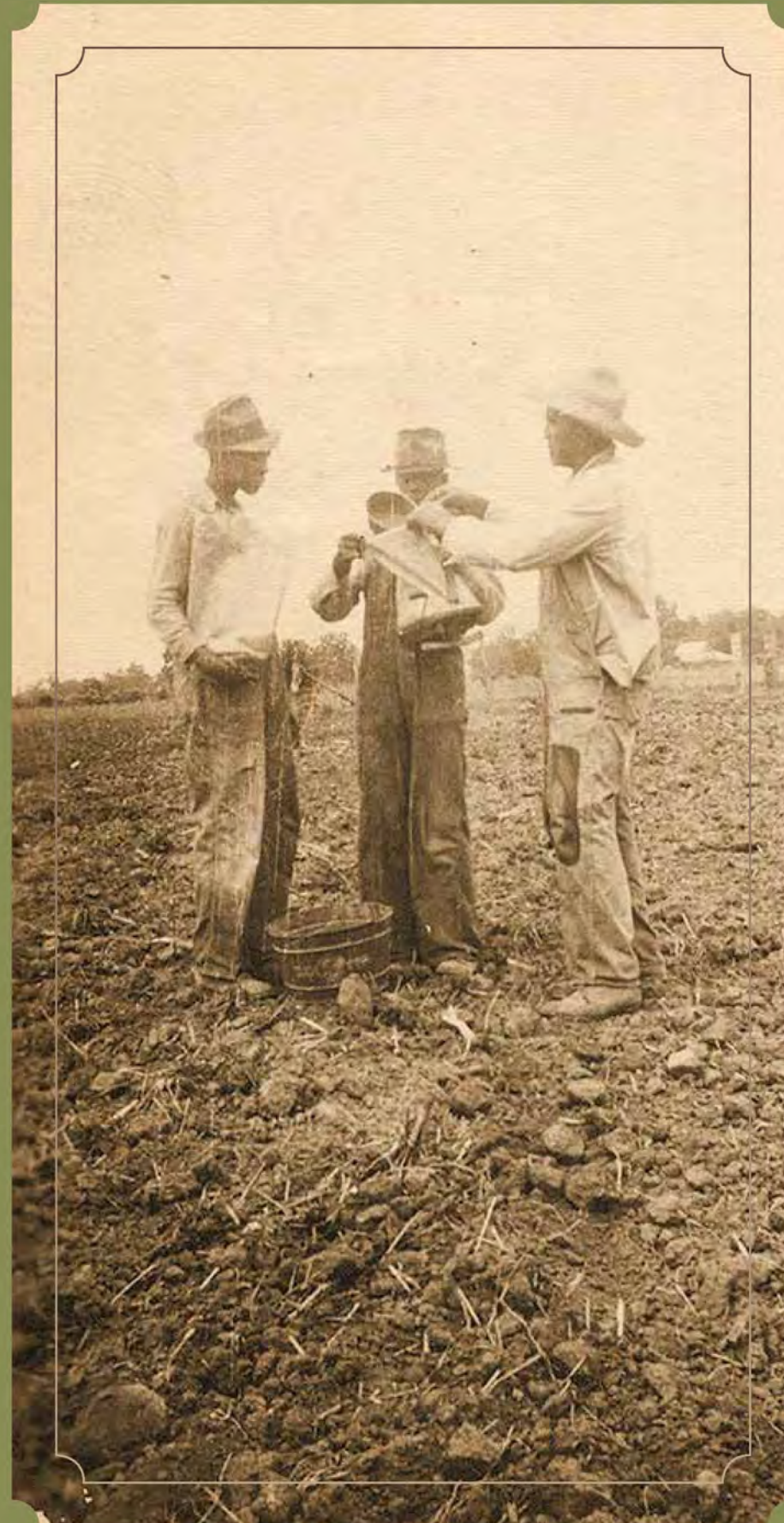
# 1. RESEARCHING MORGAN COUNTY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The seat of Morgan County, Decatur, is not only the county's largest and oldest city, but is also the core of its historic African American community. Known as River City, Decatur rests snug against the Tennessee River's south bank. Founded in 1820, what is now called Old Town formed the original boundaries of the city. With the coming of the railroad several years later, the city prospered and became a major industrial hub. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad, which still is in use, is the oldest railroad west of the Appalachians.

Due to the significance of the railroad in the mid-19th century, it was a strategic target for the North during the Civil War. The Battle of Decatur resulted in complete destruction of Old Town. In rebuilding the city, most of its original inhabitants moved southeast to the other side of the present day Bee Line Highway and dubbed the area, New Decatur. During Reconstruction, Old Town was redeveloped by the African American community, becoming the home to many prominent and well to do families. By the 1880s, many northern Reconstructionists had taken up residence in the New Decatur area. Today, Bee Line Highway divides Old Town from what was New Decatur.

The county archives are located within Old Town off Banks Street. There are physical remnants of the city's turn-of-the-century street

**(Right)** T.W. Bridges, Morgan County Agricultural Extension Agent at Work, Circa 1930s. (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Upper Right)** Early 20th-Century Postcard of the Tennessee Valley Bank (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



car line still visible down Banks Street. Bank Street retains several of the city's historic commercial buildings including the former Tennessee Valley Bank that now holds the Morgan County Archives. Walking up to the archives you can get a sense of the building's former use – the southwest façade has oddly high small windows above two bays that stick out from the wall; there are bas relief eagles and roses adorning the stately looking building. While the southwest side has visibly been remodeled and lacks the stone exterior of the other three faces, little has changed on this early 20th-century bank. The faint letters spelling "Tennessee Valley Bank" are still visible on the front and at the center of the building remains the enormous vault in situ.

Inside the old bank, the ceilings are high, and lit by hanging florescent lights illuminating the predictable rows and stacks of books and records, as well as display cases protecting donations from local residents. One exhibit shows off artifacts of the World War I, another the ever-present Civil War, and neatly placed in a small room about 15 by 20 feet is the story of the Scottsboro Boys, the result of passionate research by a local historian.

Presiding over the collections is John Allison, archivist and local River City resident. Mr. Allison and his volunteers are more than willing to help any researcher in finding that piece of history that fits their family story or enlightens their understanding of a person, place, or thing.

**(Right)** Morgan County Extension Agency Photograph, Circa 1930s. (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

Introducing this research and inquiring about the African American history of Morgan County at first did not seem to produce much beyond the Scottsboro Boys trial and the impeccable life of Ms. Athelyne Celeste Banks – two displays on African Americans in Decatur. Of course, these stories were noted for further research, but the best lead came from the introduction to two local historians – Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland and Ms. Peggy Allen Towns – who surprisingly came immediately down to the archives for an impromptu meeting to share their knowledge about the local African American history.

Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland is a tall man with an encyclopedic mind, a bubbling wealth of information. A minister of the United Methodist Church, and friend and confidant to many in the community, he has taken on the immense task of record keeper and historian for the North Alabama African American community at large, the Methodist Church specifically, and the Schaudies-Banks family. When shown a map of Morgan County and asked to identify African American communities, churches, and cemeteries, Dr. Ragland rattled off a list without hesitation. An unfamiliar researcher might find it difficult to keep up with the names of people, families, and plantations, mixed in with bits of interesting information, skipping from county to county, century to century, and interspersed with suggestions of records to look at and places to visit. In a quick 20 minutes or so, you will be regaled with stories about a widow slaveowner who only purchased “nearly-white” women who she trained as nurses, the school named after Ms. Banks, a white man who left hundreds of acres to his mixed children, the Decatur Tourism Department’s online video called “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” and more.

Ms. Peggy Allen Towns still has the air of a woman in politics several years after retiring from U.S. Congressional service. Beyond serving on several local, county, and regional boards, societies, and committees, Ms. Towns



has indulged her love of history – instilled by her mother – by studying local African American history and making sure it is preserved. Her mother, Ms. Myrtle Allen, often said, “if you don’t know where you’ve been, you’ll never know where you’re going.” It may be this sentiment that has driven Ms. Towns to her expansive research which has led to the addition of a number of sites to the Alabama Historical Commission’s register of landmarks, historical sites, and “Places in Peril” watch list. Ms. Towns is the author of *Duty Driven: The Plight of North Alabama’s African Americans During the Civil War* and the researcher behind the Morgan County Scottsboro Boys exhibit based on her book, *Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur’s Story*. Greeting her listeners with a warm smile, Ms. Towns immediately delves into the reasons that the Scottsboro Boys trial is truly a story about Decatur’s African American community. The story of the Scottsboro Boys straddles a couple counties in North Alabama. While the story begins in Jackson County, there’s no denying its impact on Morgan County. Using the research of Ms. Towns, Morgan County land records, and the U.S. census, a section in this chapter attempts to tie the importance of landownership, community leadership, and the outstandingly brave individuals of the trial together in a personalized story of the African American community in the mid-1930s.

When solicited for information about communities outside of downtown Decatur, Ms. Towns points to a map and calls out the location of Nebo – a community once located where today there is a large 3M plant – along with names of families, towns, and the recollection of interesting bits of research she has come across in her own studies.

One topic brought up by Mr. Allison, Dr. Ragland, and Ms. Towns is the once-called “Colony” of Cedar Lake. A fascinating piece of local history, Cedar Lake was a planned community for African Americans at the very end of the 19th century. While the name is still on the map today, the archival folder for Cedar Lake is regrettably thin – though not for lack of interest, particularly from these three local historians. The folder contains a few old newspaper

clippings, a mention in a more recent article, summary research by Dr. Ragland, and a piece by Ms. Towns in an issue of the Morgan County Historical Society newsletter. The history of Cedar Lake and the efforts of those who made it happen to the extent that it did deserves a deeper look. Thus, with the help of the information already laid out in the folder, some sleuthing about old land records at the archives and the U.S. census, a little more information about the Cedar Lake Colony is explored in this chapter.



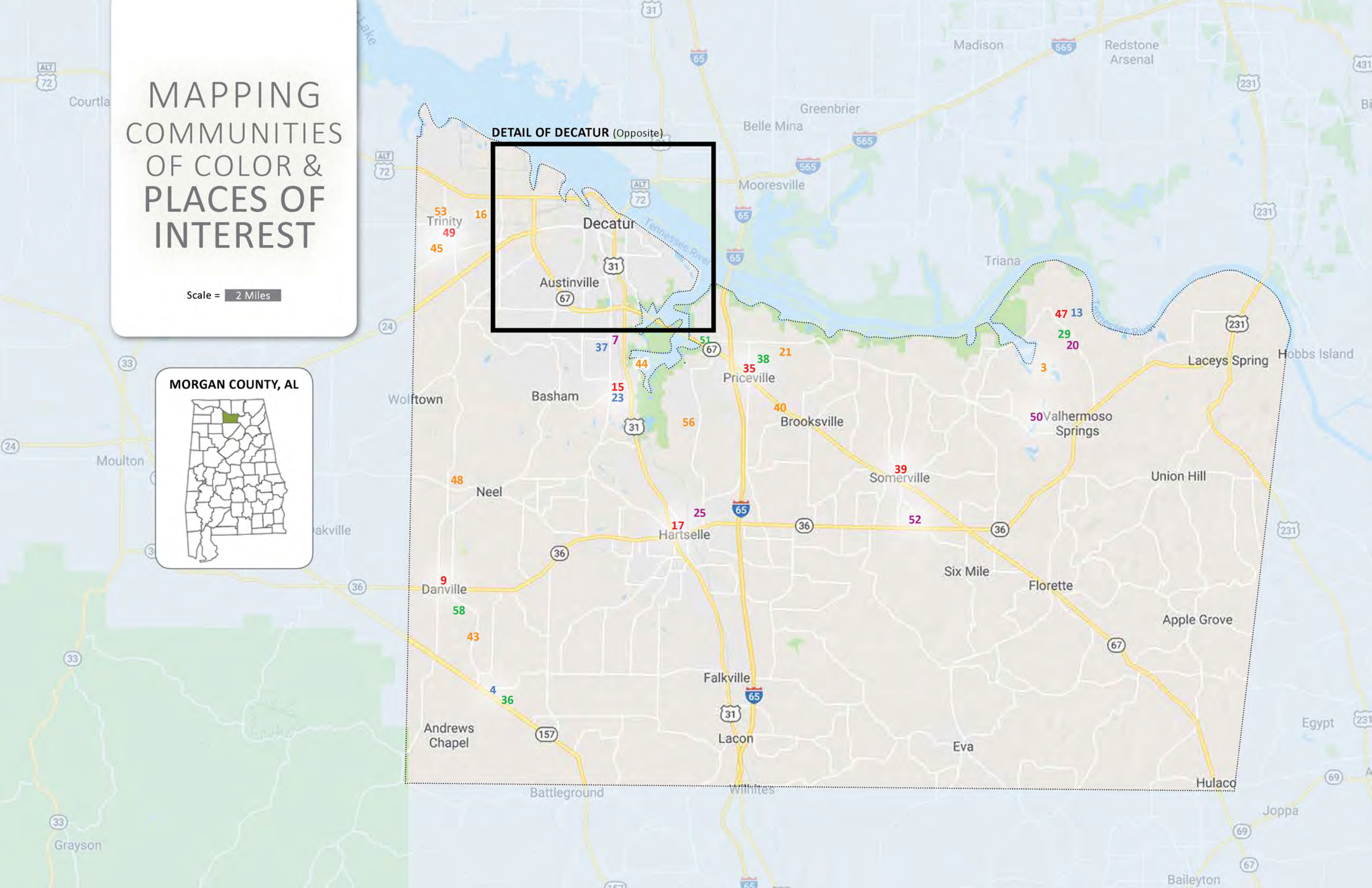
# MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & PLACES OF INTEREST

Scale = 2 Miles

## MORGAN COUNTY, AL



### DETAIL OF DECATUR (Opposite)



# KEY

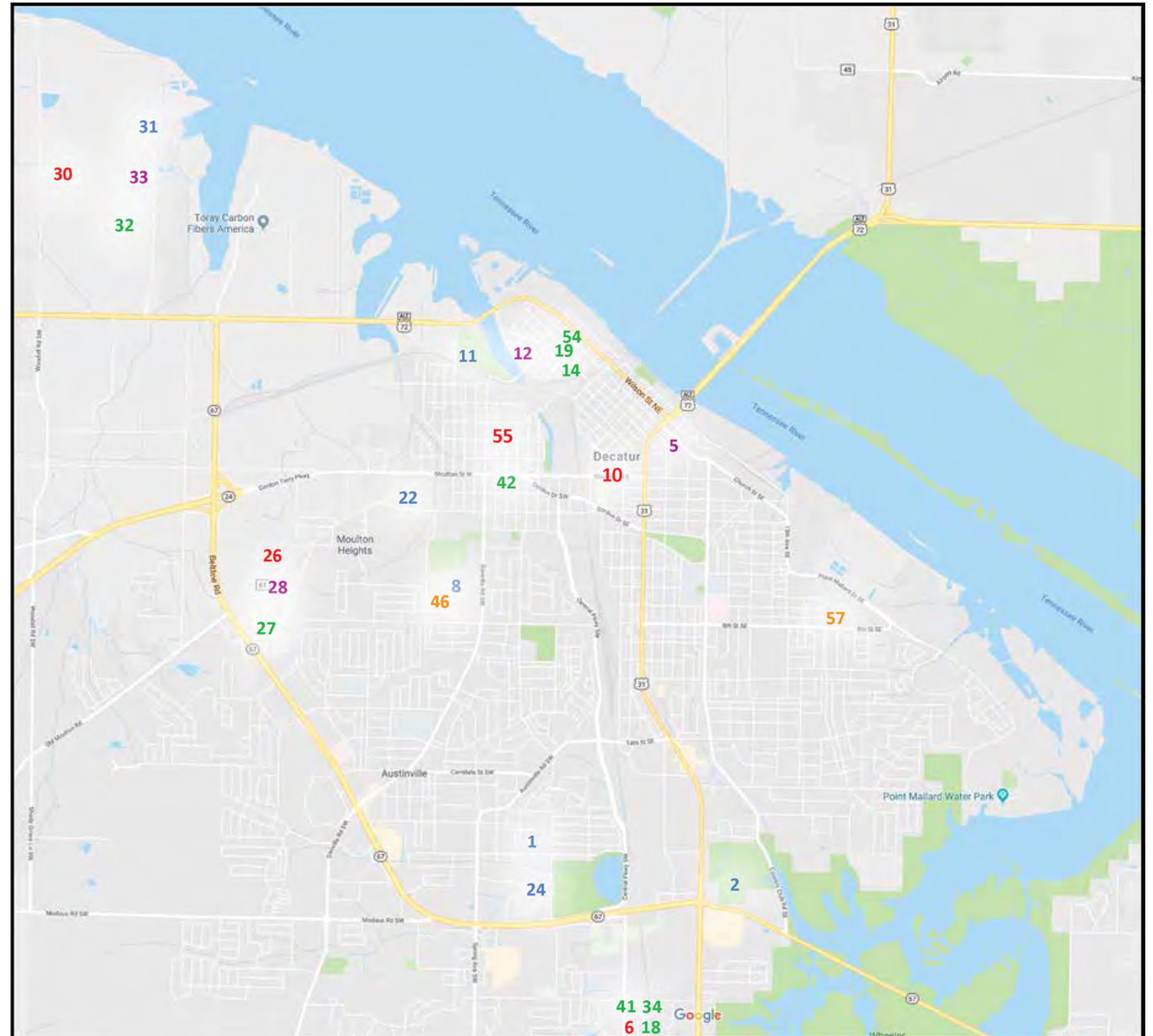
- Communities
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- Plantations
- Schools

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adkins Cemetery</li> <li>2. Blackwell Cemetery</li> <li>3. Breeding Plantation*</li> <li>4. Campground Cemetery</li> <li>5. Carver Elementary School</li> <li>6. Cedar Lake</li> <li>7. Cedar Lake School*</li> <li>8. Dancy-Garth Cemetery</li> <li>9. Danville</li> <li>10. Decatur</li> <li>11. Decatur City Cemetery</li> <li>12. Decatur Negro High School*</li> <li>13. Draper-Chatman Cemetery</li> <li>14. First Missionary Baptist Church</li> <li>15. Flint</li> <li>16. Forest Home Plantation*</li> <li>17. Hartselle</li> <li>18. Hills Chapel Christian Presbyterian Church</li> <li>19. King's Memorial United Methodist Church</li> <li>20. Leader's School*</li> <li>21. Lylewood Plantation</li> <li>22. Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery</li> <li>23. Minor Hill Cemetery</li> <li>24. Mitchell Cemetery</li> <li>25. Morgan County Training School*</li> <li>26. Moulton Heights</li> <li>27. Moulton Heights Missionary Baptist Church</li> <li>28. Moulton Heights School</li> <li>29. Mt. Mariah United Methodist Church</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Nebo*</li> <li>31. Nebo Cemetery</li> <li>32. Nebo Church*</li> <li>33. Nebo School*</li> <li>34. New Jones Church</li> <li>35. Priceville</li> <li>36. Provident Missionary Baptist Church</li> <li>37. Rather Cemetery</li> <li>38. Sand Hill Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery</li> <li>39. Somerville</li> <li>40. Springwood Plantation</li> <li>41. St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church</li> <li>42. St. Stephen Presbyterian Baptist Church</li> <li>43. Stone, John, Plantation*</li> <li>44. Stovall, Peter, Plantation*</li> <li>45. Summerseat Plantation*</li> <li>46. Sykes-Garth Plantation*</li> <li>47. Talucah</li> <li>48. Tatem, John, Plantation*</li> <li>49. Trinity</li> <li>50. Union School*</li> <li>51. Unknown Church of Priceville*</li> <li>52. Unknown School of Somerville*</li> <li>53. Walnut Grove Plantation*</li> <li>54. Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church</li> <li>55. West Decatur</li> <li>56. Westview Plantation</li> <li>57. Wilder Place Plantation</li> <li>58. Zion Church and School*</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

\* Indicates a Historical - Non-Extant Resource

Scale = 4000 Feet

# Detail of DECATUR



map data©2018 Google

## 2. DETAILS OF PLACES OF INTEREST

### 1 ■ Adkins Cemetery

The Adkins Cemetery is small, about the size of a suburban front lawn. It lies next to Sandlin Road in a fenced area directly in front of a Ranch house. There are 23 burials, the oldest dating to Rachel Harris (1872-1908) and her husband, Charlie Harris (1869-1902). Some members of the extensive Garth family are buried here, as well as John B. Johnson (1859-1931), large Cedar Lake landowner and farmer. The cemetery is adjacent to land owned by Carrie and Jim Adkins in the early 20th century.

### 2 ■ Blackwell Cemetery

This cemetery is one of two named Blackwell on the Decatur Country Club golf course. It is located northeast of the town of Cedar Lake. This cemetery shows up on both the 1936 and most current USGS topographic maps, but it is not labeled. It is located just below the other Blackwell Cemetery. The Morgan County Land Book from 1920-1928 for this section has a small square outlined in red pencil marked "Col Cemetery." However, it appears that the first burials, that of George Steptoe Blackwell Wilkinson (1815-1887) and his wife, Sophia Jane Dewoody Wilkinson (1815-1904), belonged to the white landowners.

**(Top Right)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Decatur Quadrangle, Showing Blackwell Cemetery (in Red) and the Cedar Lake Community



Most of the 72 known burials are members of the African American community, including several of the landowners of Cedar Lake, such as: Nadie Baker (1890-1969); Thomas Baker (died 1922), a member of the Lone Star Circle No. 1060; Nathaniel Gill, Jr. (1896-1970), who was employed by the L&N Railroad for 53 impressive years; Selia Gill (1868-1951), Nathaniel's mother; Elsa Malone (1856-1934); and Sam T. Tapscott (1909-1988).

### 3 ■ Breeding Plantation\*

The Breeding Plantation was in east Morgan County, east of Somerville and south of Talucah. An 1827 land patent was awarded to Samuel Breeding, as assignee of William Smith, for 80 acres in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 15 in Township 6, Range 2 (No. 1935). In an 1852 land patent, Samuel's son, William Breeding, received 40 acres in the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Township 6 South, Range 2 West (No. 16,787). While there were other Breedings in the area and William is known to have approximately 2,000 acres upon his death in 1899, these were the earliest recorded holdings in the Breeding family.

The extensive land holdings are remarkable for being involved in a turn-of-the-20th-century court case over the will of William Breeding. The land was awarded to his heir, his half-white-half-black son, Millard – a rare occurrence at the time.

### 4 ■ Campground Cemetery

The Campground Cemetery is a large cemetery nestled between two churches. Named for Campground Hill, or Mountain, and presently situated on the north side of Highway 157 and Campground Road, the cemetery is associated with Provident (Providence) Missionary Baptist Church. Here, there are over 400 graves with several of the earlier burials bearing no inscription. The earliest inscribed burial is



#### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

that of Nancy Bibb (1833-1879). Other family names that appear frequently within the cemetery are Elliott, Orr, and Sharpley. This cemetery is still in use.

### 5 ■ Carver Elementary School

The Carver Elementary School has changed names several times over the decades, having previously been called Gibbs Street Colored School, as well as East End School. In 1935, the principal of the Carver School was Rev. Professor William Jenkins Wilson. William's wife, Louise France Murdock Wilson, was a teacher at this school when it was the East End School. The entire Wilson family was pivotally involved with Decatur and Morgan County education in the early 20th century. William's brother, John Allen Wilson, was the principal of Decatur Negro High School and graduated from Alabama A&M.

Ms. Athelyne C. Banks was the school's first female principal during her 42 years of service with the Decatur City Schools.

### 6 ■ Cedar Lake

The community of Cedar Lake was originally designed as a city solely for African American inhabitants, known as the Cedar Lake Colony. The brainchild of millionaire-philanthropist Lilian Ray Nelson and her husband, George Asa Nelson, the community was platted in 1897. The self-sufficient, agricultural community complete with a school, church, cotton factory and gin, and hundreds of acres of farmable land, never fulfilled the lofty ideals of its creators. However, the plan did succeed in creating a town completely occupied by African Americans, with about half of the land and houses owned by the African American community.



# 7

## Cedar Lake School (Rosenwald)\*

The Cedar Lake School was one of only two Rosenwald schools built in Morgan County. It was a two-room schoolhouse erected in 1921-1922. The official Rosenwald Fund records puts the total cost of the Cedar Lake School at \$2,700 – approximately \$40,500 in today’s money. A total of \$1,000 came from the African American community, another \$900 came from the “public,” which might include the Nelsons, and \$800 was supplied by the Fund.

# 8

## Dancy-Garth Cemetery

Also known simply as the Garth Cemetery, this small family cemetery is all that remains of the Sykes-Garth Plantation. Located southwest of Decatur near Moulton Heights, the overgrown cemetery of 19 graves is just south of the much larger Roselawn Cemetery. Despite many of the stones having been destroyed, the earliest known grave is that of E.G. Mailler, who died in 1840. This is the resting place for General Jesse Winston Garth (1788-1867) and his wife, Unity Spotswood Dandridge Garth (1799-1833).

General Garth was one of the first landowners in Morgan County, his plantation passed to his son-in-law, Dr. Francis M. Sykes (1819-1883), becoming the Sykes-Garth Plantation. Sykes fathered a child with one of Garth’s slaves, named Laura. That child was Solomon Sharper (S.S.) Sykes, who began life as a slave on the Sykes-Garth plantation but grew to be the patriarch of the successful Sykes family of Decatur – producing many African American businessmen, politicians, dentists, and well respected citizens.

Another interesting burial in the Garth Cemetery is that of a slave named Charlotte. On her monument is the inscription, “To the memory of Charlotte, a faithful slave, a sincere friend. She was born upon the estate of Nathaniel W. Dandridge, Hanover City,

Virginia, and died April 5, 1859, at age 50. Cheerfully, affectionately, faithfully she discharged the various duties of life.”

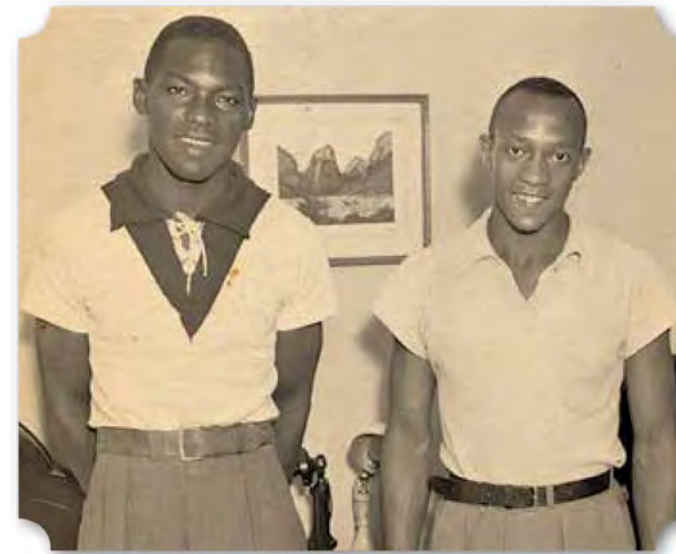
The cemetery and the surrounding 20 acres are in trust to the Garth descendants, though the historically-minded citizens of Decatur have taken a keen interest in helping to preserve such a significant cemetery. The Dancy-Garth Cemetery was listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register on November 21, 2007.

# 9

## Danville

Danville is an unincorporated community on the western border of Morgan County, southwest of Hartselle. From 1900-1940, the community of Danville was predominately farmers and farm laborers. Between 1900 and 1920, Danville was a community of just over 200 households, 23% of which were African American. However, there was a sharp decline over

**(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Stroups Crossroads and McKendry Quadrangles, of the Community of Danville.**



**(Above) David Albritton and Jesse Owens, at the 1936 Olympic Games (National Underground Railroad Freedom Center)**

the next two decades and by 1940, only 43 of 260 households were African American.

Nearly everyone in Danville, regardless of race, was either a farmer or worked as a farm laborer. During the first four decades of the 20th century, there were 22 African American landowning farmers in Danville. On average, there were six African American landowning farmers in any given census year (2-3% of households). The predominating family was the Sharpleys – 10 of the 22 landowners were Sharpleys – followed by five households of the Orr family.

One of the landowners was Peter A. Albritton. Born sometime around the Civil War in the vicinity of Montgomery, Peter and his large family moved to Danville. By 1930, they owned their farm there, where Albritton grew mostly cotton. David Albritton was Peter’s youngest son who made his way to Ohio State University where he excelled in track and field. Born just five months apart and miles away in Oakville, Lawrence County, Alabama, both David Albritton and Jesse Owens ended up at the same university on the same track team. In 1936, they were both overseas to compete in the historic Olympic Games in Berlin. One of 18 African American athletes, David won the silver medal as a high jumper.

# 10

## Decatur

Also known as the River City, Decatur is the seat of Morgan County, located in the northwest corner of the county along the Tennessee River. Named for naval hero of the War of 1812, Stephen Decatur, the city was founded in 1820 and incorporated in 1826. A decade later, the city was the terminus for the first railroad west of the Appalachian Mountains, greatly increasing its economic importance along the river. During the Civil War, the city was a battlefield from October 26-29, 1864 in what is known as the Battle of Decatur.

Like many Southern cities, Decatur really began to grow in the 1880s when the Decatur Land, Improvement, and Furnace Company bought land in southeast Decatur and began promoting a new city, inventively called “New Decatur” – later known as Albany. The original portion of downtown Decatur became predominately African American as white residents moved to the newly developed New Decatur. Old Town, as it was known, became the home of numerous African American-owned businesses, homes, and community centers into the 1930s. By the Great Depression, racial tension and a stifling economy drove many African American southerners north as part of the Great Migration. For Decatur in particular, the Scottsboro Boys’ trial helped to drive away some of the most notable local families.

While the history of Decatur is mostly as a city, an urban area of gridded streets lined with shops and townhouses, much of the area that is now part of the city was once farmed plantations. Just south of downtown was one of the largest and first of the plantations, the Sykes-Garth Plantation, while to the east was the thousands of acres known as the Wilder Place. By the turn of the 20th century, these plantations were divided up into plots for sharecroppers and a few rare yeoman farmers. As the city continued to grow, the profitable land was turned to residential subdivisions, and all agriculture was pushed further out from the city core.



**(Left)** An Image of African American Men (Possibly of the 14th USCI) Digging Embankments in Decatur prior to the Battle of Decatur – the Old State Bank Can be Identified in the Background (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

While the economics of Decatur and its surrounding area may have shifted in the early 20th century, it has long been home to a vibrant and strong community of African Americans. Decatur is still the most populous town or city in the county. As of 2010, there were 55,683 people living in 22,576 households in Decatur, with 21.7% identifying as African American.

The communities of Moulton Heights, Nebo, and West Decatur are within the vicinity of Decatur and have contributed to its history. Also, see the sections on the Decatur City Cemetery, Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery, Sykes-Garth Plantation, and Wilder Place, as well as the biographies of significant individuals and families of Morgan County, many of whom have ties with Decatur and the essays on the Scottsboro Boys and Cedar Lake Colony.

“Decatur actually is divided into three small towns. But during the segregated South, Old Town, which is the oldest area, oldest community in Decatur, it was a town where blacks lived primarily and it was contained. They had their own grocery stores, their own restaurants, their own pool halls, beauty shops. The Vine Street area actually was a commercial hub in Decatur. And keep in mind, it’s the segregated South. This is where blacks primarily lived and shopped. They did everything there.”

– Ms. Peggy Allen Towns

## 11 ■ Decatur City Cemetery

This city cemetery is the final resting place of nearly 35,000 individuals. Located across from Old Town on the other side of Dry Branch, it is bound by ALT 72/ Joe Wheeler Highway on the north, 12th Avenue on the west, the Southern Norfolk Railroad on the south, and the banks of Dry Branch on the east. The need for a city cemetery was realized fairly early, as the small, urban Lafayette Street Cemetery was already crowded by 1853. Calvin Brown was the first to bury someone on the low, rolling land next to the river. The earliest known burial is Maria Ford, interred on July 2, 1855, although there might have been some burials as early as 1851.

The cemetery grew over the decades to include 50 acres with seven sections – the Original, Brown, Cantwell, Cowan, Decatur Land Co., Humes, and Sterrs additions. A plat map from



Decatur City Cemetery  
Decatur, Alabama  
Sterr's Addition Not Shown

**(Above)** 2012 Drawing of Decatur Cemetery (Phil Wirey of the Morgan County Historical Society)

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

1898 located at the Morgan County Archives, shows the cemetery without the Steers, Brown, or full Humes additions. The Humes Addition is the largest, comprising well over 50% of the entire cemetery. On this plat, the Humes Addition does not extend past Western Avenue and only half way past Northern Avenue. It also depicts an elaborate chapel in the center of what is now the Brown Addition. The plat map was commissioned and signed by the Decatur Cemetery Association – W.W. Littlejohn, President; J.D. Wyker, Secretary; and Calvin Brown, Surveyor.

Early African American burials are located near the original entrance of the cemetery, where many Masonic members purchased plots in the 19th century. Due to the rewriting of the state constitution in 1901, African Americans were not allowed to be buried in the city cemetery until the 1960s. Once this statute was revoked, the Sterrs Addition, named for Dr. Willis and Eva Sterrs, was platted out on the southeastern extent of the cemetery, adding approximately five acres of burial ground. Although African Americans were buried throughout the cemetery and the Sterrs Addition was not strictly used by African Americans burials, it is predominately an African American burial section.

Notable members of the Decatur African American community buried at the city cemetery include:

- Athelyne Celest Banks;*
- Matthew Hewlett Banks;*
- Dr. Newlyn Edwin Cashin;*
- Herschel Vivian Cashin;*
- Lafayette Garth;*
- Robert Murphy;*
- George Asa and Lilian Ray Nelson; and*
- Dr. Willis Sterrs and Eva Sterrs\*.*

*\*Due to the Decatur City Cemetery having previously been known as Oakwood Cemetery and the coincidence that there is also a large cemetery named Oakwood in Montgomery, where Dr. Sterrs was born, there is some confusion as to whether he and Mrs. Sterrs are buried in Decatur or in Montgomery.*

## 12 ■ Decatur Negro High School\*

From 1889-1912, the Decatur Board of Education appointed someone to supervise the two-story schoolhouse for African American children that became known as Decatur Negro High School in 1924. The county plat books indicate that the school was owned by the city and located within the R.B. White neighborhood. Although educational grade levels were different in the early 20th century, the high school only served to the 10th grade until 1928.

On June 2, 1935, the graduating class of Decatur Negro High School was addressed by none other than Dr. George Washington Carver. The speech, given at the Princess Theatre in downtown Decatur, was attended by an integrated gathering of over a thousand people. The principal at the time was Clifford Joel Hurston – the brother of famed African American author and anthropologist, Zora Neal Hurston.

Decatur Negro High became Lakeside High School in 1954. The school building later served as Cherry Street Elementary School until it was razed, sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s.



**(Above)** Photograph of the Decatur Negro High School, Circa 1930 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

SURVEY		R. B. WHITE		TOWNSHIP		RANGE		SECTION		MAP RECORDED IN	
		Decatur								Map Book Page	
LOT	BLK	IMPROVEMENTS	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
1	4										
2											
3											
4		City Negro School									
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12		City Negro School									
13											
14											
15											

**(Above)** Morgan County Plat Books, 1924-1927, R.B. White Neighborhood, Decatur (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

“I attended school here in Decatur, Alabama. First, Cherry Street School and then Lakeside High School. 1969 was the last graduating class for Lakeside High School, so those students had to transfer to Decatur High School or Austin High School. Of course, I went to Decatur High School. I always call myself a product of integration, so I did have the privilege of attending both an all-black school and then the integrated white school.”

- Ms. Peggy Allen Towns

## 13 ■ Draper-Chatman Cemetery

The Draper-Chatman Cemetery is located in the community of Talucah on the east side of Stewart Road in Section 36 of Township 5 South, Range 2 West. It has about 200 known burials, the first of which is Dolphus Middleton (1849-1909). Other family names besides Draper and Chatman/Chatmon include Black, Jackson, Romine, and Toney. This cemetery may also be known as Talucah Cemetery and is still in use.



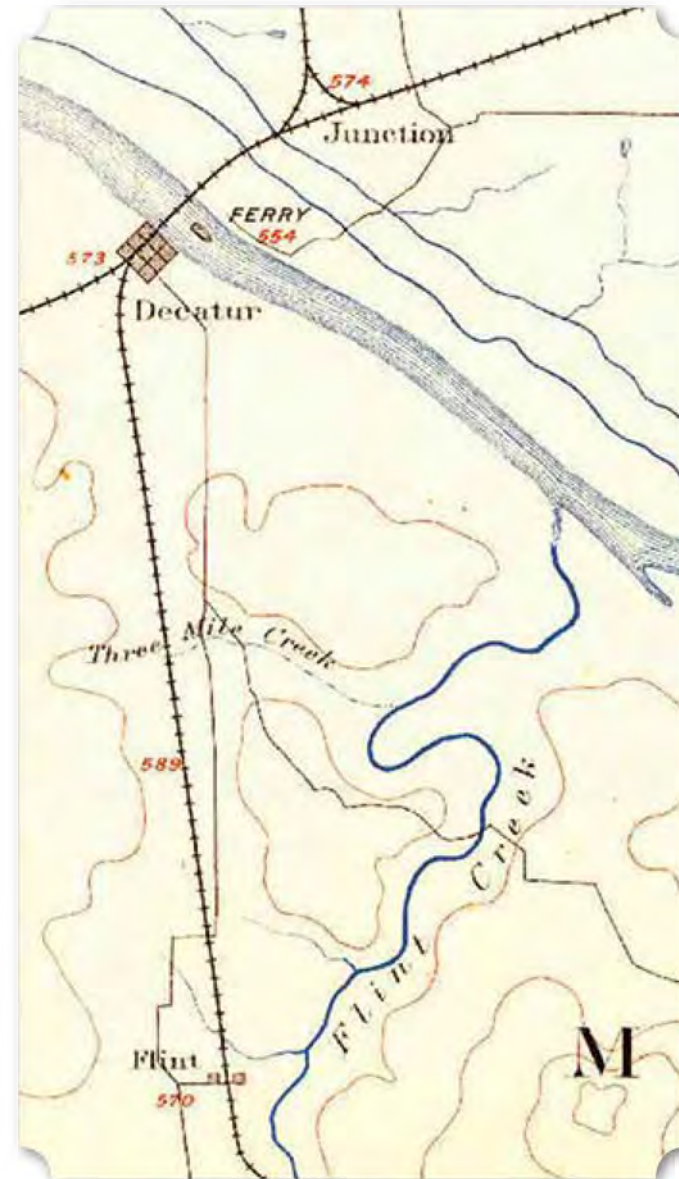
# 14

## First Missionary Baptist Church

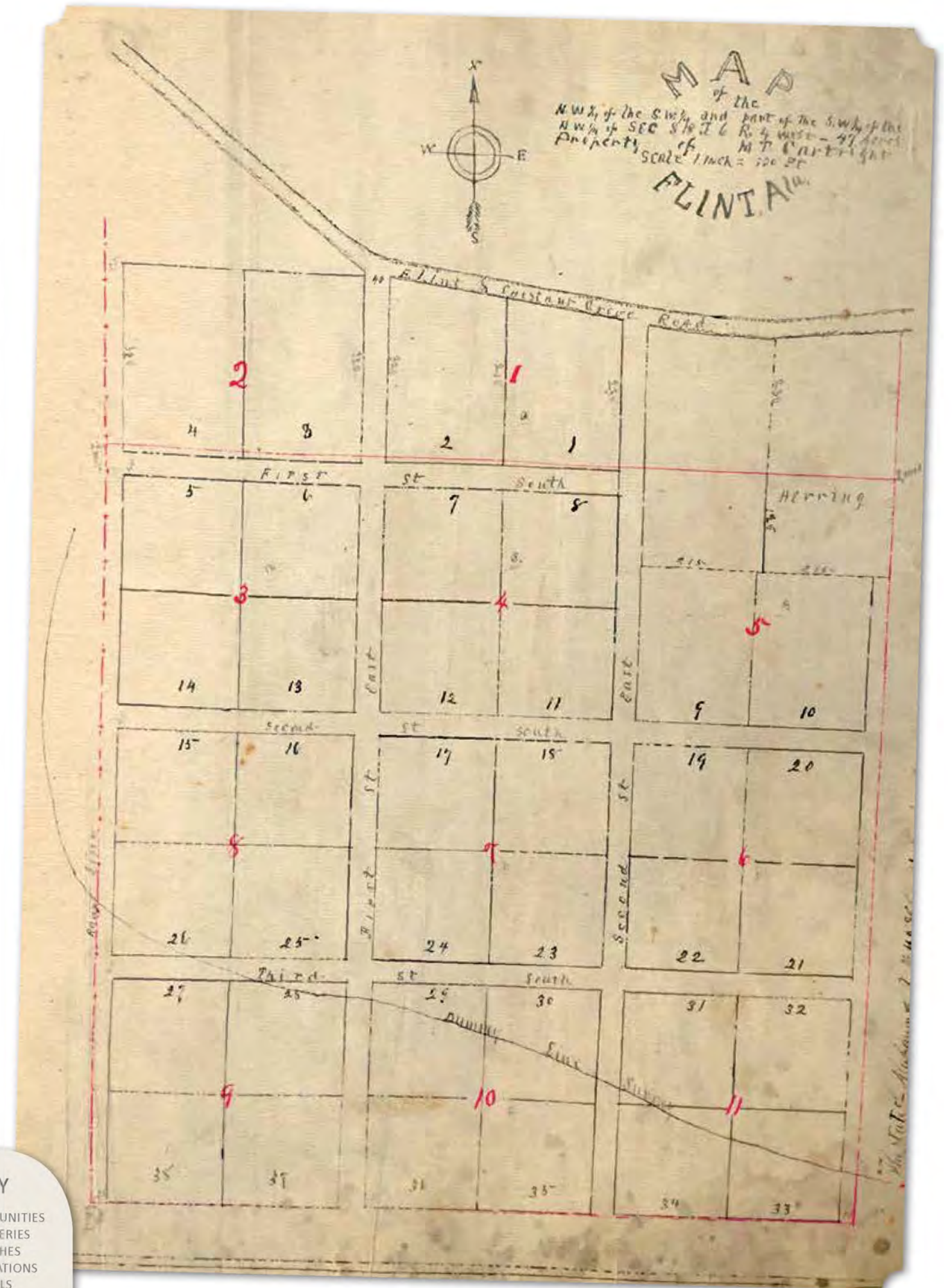
The Reverend Alfred Peters was the first pastor that led the 21 members of this congregation in 1866. The members worshipped in various homes and buildings until 1919, when Dr. Sterrs, S.S. Sykes, and G.F. Oliver came together to secure a loan of \$1,460 to purchase property from St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Together, the community built one of the oldest churches in Decatur. This church was designed by prominent African American architect, Wallace Augustus (W.A.) Rayfield, well known for his work on the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Built in 1921 at a cost of \$1,250, the church is located at the southern corner of Grove and Vine streets in old Decatur. The church is still in use today.

(Below) First Missionary Baptist Church (Facebook.com, First Missionary Baptist Church Decatur, @FMBDecatur)



(Above) 1888 USGS Topographic Map, Huntsville Quadrangle (Right) 1888 Plat Map of Flint (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



# 15

## Flint

Known now as Flint City and named for the flint stone in the area, the community of Flint is located a few miles south of Decatur. Flint is shown on an 1888 USGS topographic map, one of the few communities in Morgan County at that time.

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

In the early 20th century, the town of Flint had an average of 200 households. Census records of 1900 show that about 50% of families were African American. The number of African American households began a slow decline in the 1910s. By 1940, the number of African American households had dropped by 30%. Two-thirds of Flint's African American families left in the 1930s.

Farm ownership followed a similar pattern. In 1910, there were 75 farms that were owned by African Americans. By 1930, there were only 40, the majority of which were concentrated among five families. In a time where few families had more than one member who owned a farm, the Garth family owned four, the Malones had three, and the Rathers, Pryors, and Edmonds had two each.

The history of the African American community and its landownership in Flint deserves more study. How did the African American population of Flint in 1900 comprise half of the households and a quarter of the farmers, but by 1940 only have 22% of the

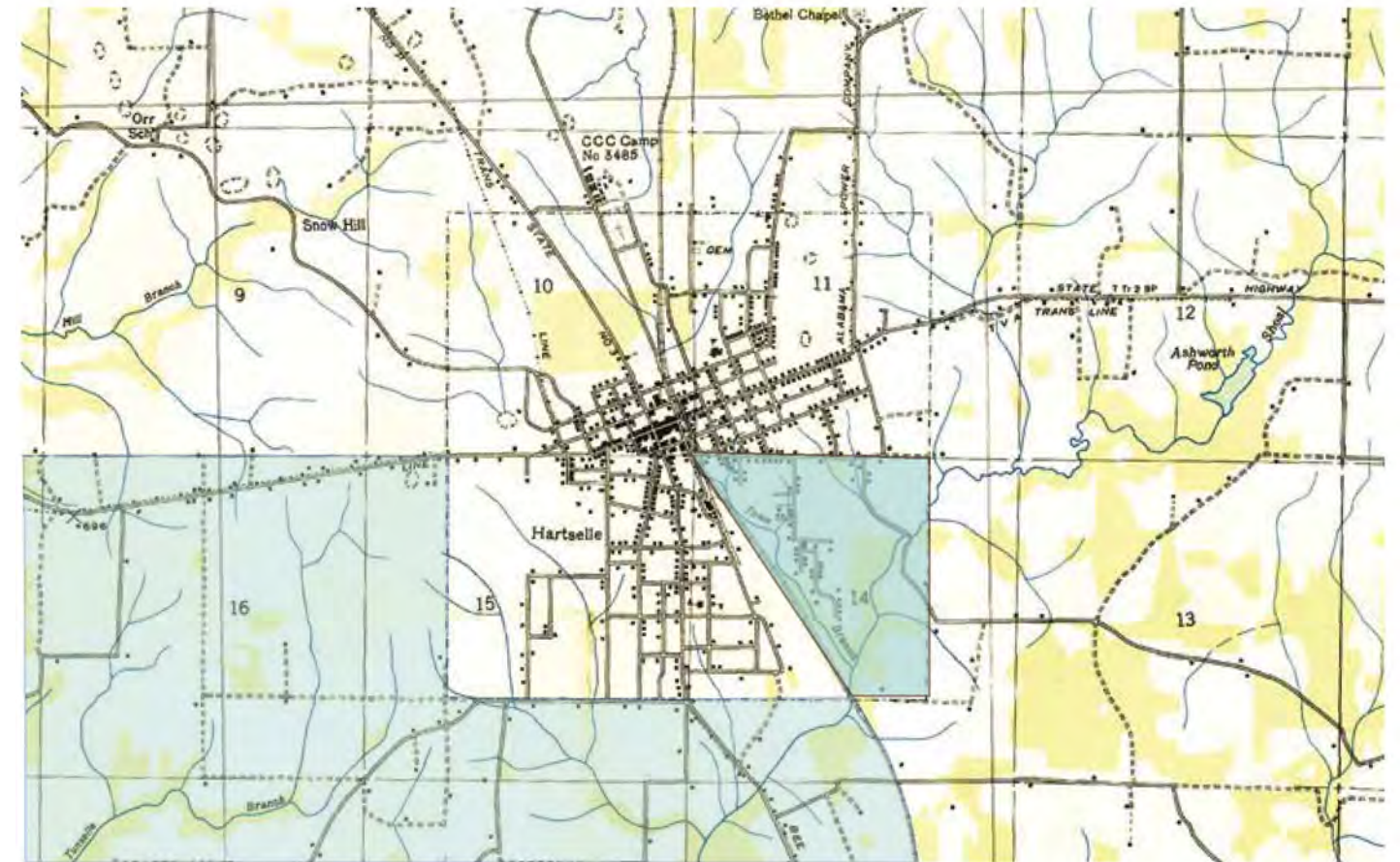
households and 10 farmers total? During the first three decades of the 20th century, the total number of African American households held steady at about 77. However, the number of land owning farmers peaked in 1930 with over 50% of African American households owning a farm. Something drastically affected the African American community in Flint in the 1930s. Whether it was the Great Migration, changes made by the TVA to the area and the Flint River, the Great Depression, a false sense of change due to census redistricting, or any of the above, by 1940, less than half the African American households were left in Flint and only a fraction of their farms.

## 16 ■ Forest Home Plantation

The mansion at Forest Home, also known as the Absalom L. Davis House, was built in 1856 after 300 acres were deeded by Mrs. Mary Curtis King Fennel of Walnut Grove to her daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Absalom L. Davis. Davis, the leader of the Grange Movement, was a teacher at LaGrange College and a planter. According to the 1860 slave schedules, Absalom L. Davis and wife, Ann Fennell Davis, owned 19 slaves. On the same page is "A. Davis," which might be his father, who owned another nine slaves. Absalom's brother, Francis M. Davis also lived in the area and owned 19 slaves.



(Above) A Sketch of Forest Home Done by Ann and Absalom Davis' Daughter



(Above) 1936 USGS Topographic Map of the City Hartselle Showing African American Landownership Areas Highlighted in Blue

The house, several surrounding acres, its numerous outbuildings, and formal gardens continued to be owned by the Davis family and operated as a cotton farm until 1973. The house sat vacant and deteriorating when it was listed on the National Register in 1980 (#80000733). In 1991, the house burned and a subdivision named Forest Home Estates was built in its place.

## 17 ■ Hartselle

Hartselle is one of the more densely populated areas in Morgan County. Despite this, in the early 20th century, never more than 20% of the households were African American. In 1900, while less than 10% of the households were African American, 23 owned farms, five of which were owned by the Orr family. By 1940, the number of African American-owned farms dropped to 11. Despite this decline, many Hartselle

area farms have been owned by the same families through the decades.

By 1940, within the city, the majority of African American households live on the east side of the railroad, particularly in what is labeled the "South Side," which is said to have "no streets." Even though this is within the city, the Fennoy, McDonald, and Bledsoe families had farms in this area. Conversely, the west side of town only had one African American family, indicating a sharp segregation line in the city.

Outside of town, the statistics are flipped. There are only six African American households in the rural areas on the east side of town; the only farming landowners are the Bibbs. On the west side of rural Hartselle, there are 18 African American households, with the McGinnis, Sharpley, Madden, and Orr families owning farms.

(Below) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Decatur Quadrangle, of the Community of Flint



## 18 ■ Hills Chapel Christian Presbyterian Church

This is one of the three churches in the community of Cedar Lake. Located off Ray Avenue, the church is situated on land that was once owned by Ms. Lilian Ray Nelson and rented out to African American tenants. The church has served the community since at least the 1930s.

## 19 ■ King's Memorial United Methodist Church

According to the Decatur Tourism Commission, King's Memorial was one of the oldest African American churches in Morgan County. The Reverend Richard "Dick" Rather was pastor in 1854. A few years earlier, in 1850, bi-racial members met at the First Methodist Episcopal Church just south of King's Memorial in a wooden building. The church is located on McCartney Street between Vine and Lafayette streets.

Formerly known as St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, King's Memorial was home to the first private school for African American children in Morgan County after a fire forced its move from St. Stephen Primitive Baptist Church.

## 20 ■ Leader's School\*

Sometime referred to as "Leadus" School, this school was once located in Talucah on the land of African American farmer Winfrey Chapman. County land records from 1920-1928 show that Chapman gave three acres to the school. According to historic maps, this school served the African American children of Talucah into the 1960s.

## 21 ■ Lylewood Plantation

This house, known as the Ratliff-Lyle House, was built by James Thomas Ratliff, Sr. in 1847. According to the census data, James Thomas Ratliff, Sr. owned the land the house was built on and had six slaves in 1840. By 1850, he deeded parcels of his land to his sons, who owned an additional 16 slaves. According to the Alabama Historical Commission, the Ratliff slaves lived in small houses south of the main house that still stands. James Ratliff died in 1853. He and some of his family are buried in the Ratliff Cemetery on the property. While it was historically known as the Lylewood Plantation, it was not until the early 20th century that Ras and Annie May Lyle, descendants of the Ratliffs, purchased the property.

The southwest quarter of Section 8, Township 6 South, Range 3 West, was originally awarded to James Ratliff and John McKinley in 1832 (no. 430).

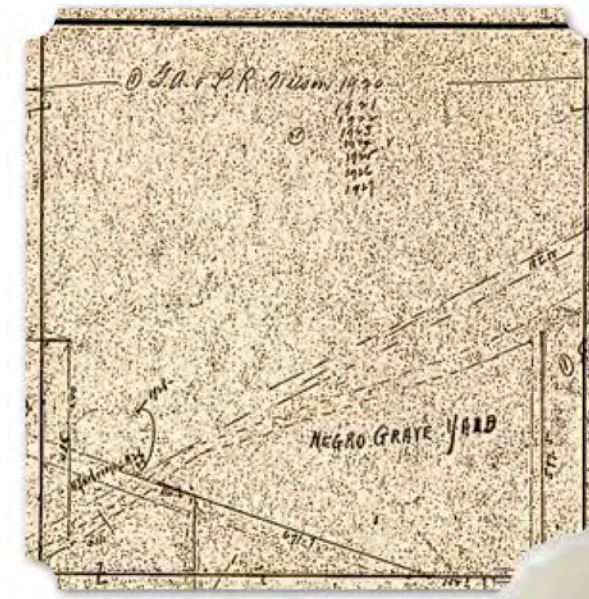
## 22 ■ Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery

In response to the changes made to the 1901 Alabama State Constitution that segregated cemeteries, James J. Sykes (the son of S.S. Sykes) bought over eight acres of land on the west side of West Decatur for a cemetery. One of Sykes' many business adventures was a part ownership of a funeral home. He saw a need for a place for the African American community to lay their dead to rest. The cemetery was originally named Magnolia and opened in 1903. It was the primary burial space for the African American community until 1965 for everyone from former slaves, educators, physicians, business owners, ministers, farmers, and war veterans to current residents. Oddly enough, one of the great mysteries of Decatur history is where

**A Negro Graveyard.**  
A great deal has been said about the purchase by J. J. Sykes of a plot of ground on the Moulton road, just outside the city limits, at Moulton Heights, which he says he will use as a negro cemetery. This has made quite a stir among the residents of that locality, but Mr. Sykes says he is strictly within the law, and as there has been no other place offered, and as the owners of property in other localities have refused to sell to him for that purpose, and as the negroes must bury their dead some where, what are they to do? Mr. Sykes is a negro undertaker, and he offers to trade the lot for some other site for a cemetery, but none is offered him. He even offers to sell at a moderate profit, but no purchaser appears.

The matter was brought before the County Commissioners, but they say they have no authority to act in the matter. We were told that the good people of that vicinity were going to petition the City Council last Tuesday, but we don't see anything about it in their proceedings.

If the people are really in earnest, we have no doubt that they will find a way out of the difficulty, but if they are indifferent, then no one else has any cause to complain. A good solid petition, addressed to the City Council, signed by all the people of West Decatur, will certainly have a remedial effect, if not effect a complete cure.



(Left) Magnolia Cemetery on Plat Map of Section 24, R5S R5W, 1920-1928 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

(Left) J. J. Sykes and the Magnolia Cemetery (Newspapers.com, New Decatur Advertiser, Oct. 4, 1901, P.5) (Below) 1905 Plat Map of Magnolia Cemetery (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
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- SCHOOLS



J. J. Sykes, himself, is buried. Despite being such a prominent Decaturite and founder of the Magnolia Cemetery, there is no known marker or record of Sykes' burial.

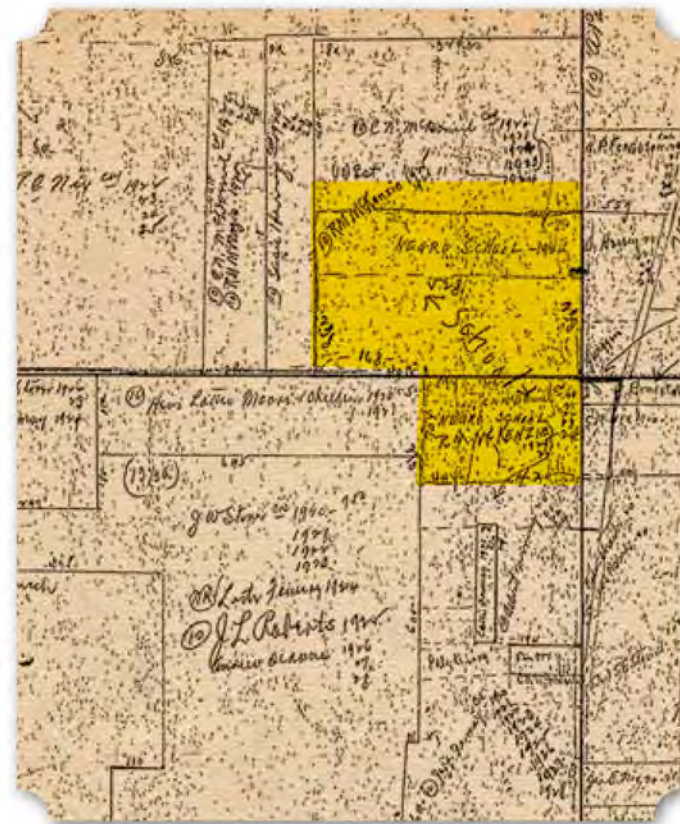
In 2010, the Sykes Cemetery was added to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register for its contributions to Decatur's early African American citizens. Ms. Peggy Allen Towns indexed the cemetery and researched individuals interred there with the help of fellow local historians, Dr. Wylheme Ragland and Phil Wirey.

Some of Ms. Towns' relatives are buried here including, her grandmother, Bertha Lee Polk Lyle, Decatur's first African American female preacher-pastor. Her great uncle, Fred "Fayette" Polk, who had two funerals also lies here. According to family lore, Fayette was thought to be dead but after a day of laying in his coffin, he suddenly awoke and told his mother he was hungry. He would go on to live another 50 years.

## 23 ■ Minor Hill Cemetery

Located to the south of Flint, the cemetery has just over 100 graves. The oldest burial appears to be Maria Fennoy (1846-1897). This cemetery is the final resting place for local turn-of-the-century landowners such as Anderson Pryor (1870-1949) and his wife, Mattie (1872-1954), as well as Alex Peebles (1975-1954). These two families owned some of the land just south of the cemetery on the other side of Deer Spring Road.

**(Right)** Morgan County Land Book, 1920-1928, Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Section 11, Showing the Morgan County Training School (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



## 24 ■ Mitchell Cemetery

The cemetery is located in the center of a patchwork of parcels owned by African American farmers in the early 20th century. From 1920-1932, this cemetery was on the land owned by Cain and Edna Stovall; however, they are not buried at this cemetery. The cemetery is called out on the 1936 USGS topographic map, but not on the Morgan County Land Records from 1920-1937.

Like the Adkins Cemetery, just a quarter mile up Sandlin Road, the Mitchell Cemetery is a small cemetery with only eight marked memorials and several more stone markers without any inscriptions. It is the resting place for some Mitchells, including Emma (1869-1924) and her son, Wilk (died 1941), residents of Cedar Lake. The earliest burial is that of Joe Lipscombs (1864-1901). The cemetery is adjacent to land owned by Carrie and Jim Adkins in the early 20th century.



**(Above)** Morgan County Training School Being Built 1924 (Fisk Rosenwald Database)

## 25 ■ Morgan County Training School (Rosenwald)\*

The Morgan County Training School is one of only two Rosenwald-funded schools in the county – the other being the Cedar Lake School. It was announced in August of 1923 that the school was under construction. A five-teacher school, the Rosenwald school in Hartselle was large – over two-times as large as most Rosenwald schools. The total cost on file was \$6,600; \$2,000 from the African American community; \$500 from the local white community; another \$2,800 from public or county funds; and \$1,300 from the Rosenwald Fund. In 1925-1926, the school received an additional room – now a six-room schoolhouse. This cost an extra \$1,050.

The school principal would be Catston N. McDaniel, a local teacher, who donated five acres of land for the school. Unfortunately, Professor McDaniel passed away later that year. He was followed by C.A. Fredd,

who served the school for the next 13 years until leaving for another school in Hale County. Fredd's successor was Professor I.F. Stallworth.

Although referred to by various names, the Rosenwald School, the Rosenwald Training School, etc., it shows up in the 1920 land books as simply "Negro School."

The school had an unlucky start as it was destroyed by fire in 1931, but the community was able to rebuild by 1934. In late 1935, the school was dedicated as the Morgan County Training School. The school had a library, a football team, a choir, a drama club, and was known for its excellence.

The school closed in 1970 due to integration. The following year, it was completely abandoned and in 1977, the building burned for the second time.

A historical marker was placed at the site of the school in 2014.

## 26 ■ Moulton Heights

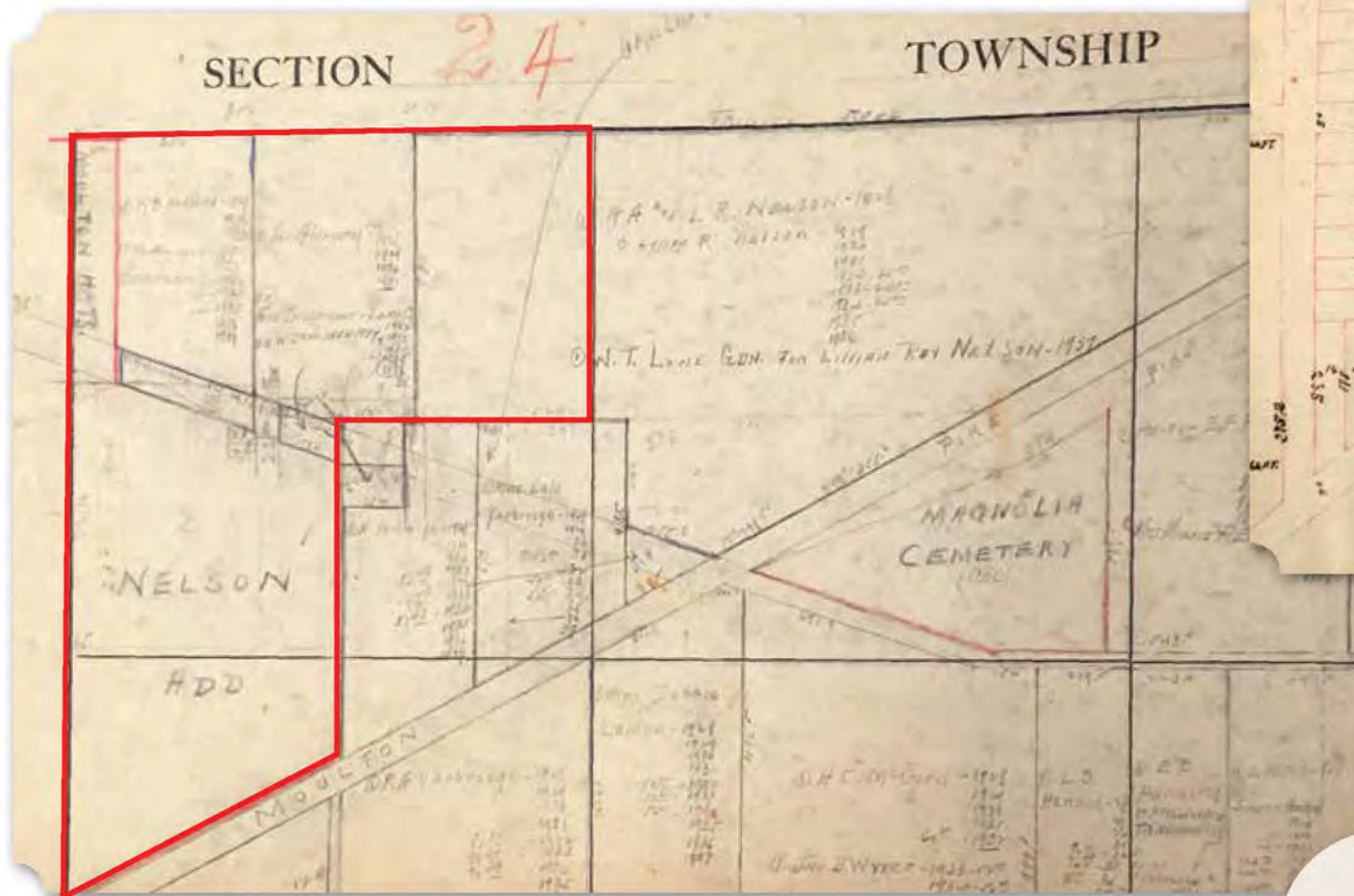
The community of Moulton Heights is located approximately 2.5 miles to the southwest of downtown Decatur. At the turn of the 20th century, it was home to Lilian Ray Nelson and her husband, George Asa Nelson, a white couple who owned the Moulton Heights Land Improvement and Industrial Company. The Nelsons lived at their estate in Moulton Heights called Tanglewood and owned much of the land in the area. Mrs. Nelson was known as a philanthropist and spent much of her time and money on community improvement efforts. The Nelsons



supported and partially funded a streetcar line from Decatur to the suburb of Moulton Heights. However, Mrs. Lilian Ray Nelson is better known for her so-called Cedar Lake Colony, arguably one of the more successful attempts at what was known at the time as "Negro Colonies, or Settlements," or more condescendingly as "experiments."

Moulton Heights as a neighborhood predates Cedar Lake, as evidenced by an 1888 plat map labeled Forest Addition to West Decatur; however, this neighborhood continued to develop into Moulton Heights. But by the 1920s, land records indicate that African Americans owned land and small farms in the vicinity.

Although Moulton Heights was never intended to be like Cedar Lake, the community did gather a significant population of African American families and developed a church and a school. This might have been due to Mrs. Nelson's willingness to sell her land to African Americans. Because much of the Forest Addition was originally owned by the Nelsons, 1920s land maps refer to the section as the Nelson Addition.



(Above) 1888 Plat Map of Forest Addition, No. 1 to West Decatur within the Moulton Heights Neighborhood (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) (Left) 1928-1937 Land Book Showing Area of the Forest Addition to Moulton Heights, Here Labeled the Nelson Addition (in Red) (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

**KEY**

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
- CHURCHES
- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

## 27 ■ Moulton Heights Missionary Baptist Church

Located in the old Griffin Addition of Moulton Heights, at the corner of 9th Street and 22nd Avenue, this church, or at least one in the same location, is noted on the 1936 USGS topographic map.

The Griffin Addition was a predominately African American community in the early 20th century. Many of the homeowners within the platted town were also landowners of parcels of farmland outside of the city.



# 28

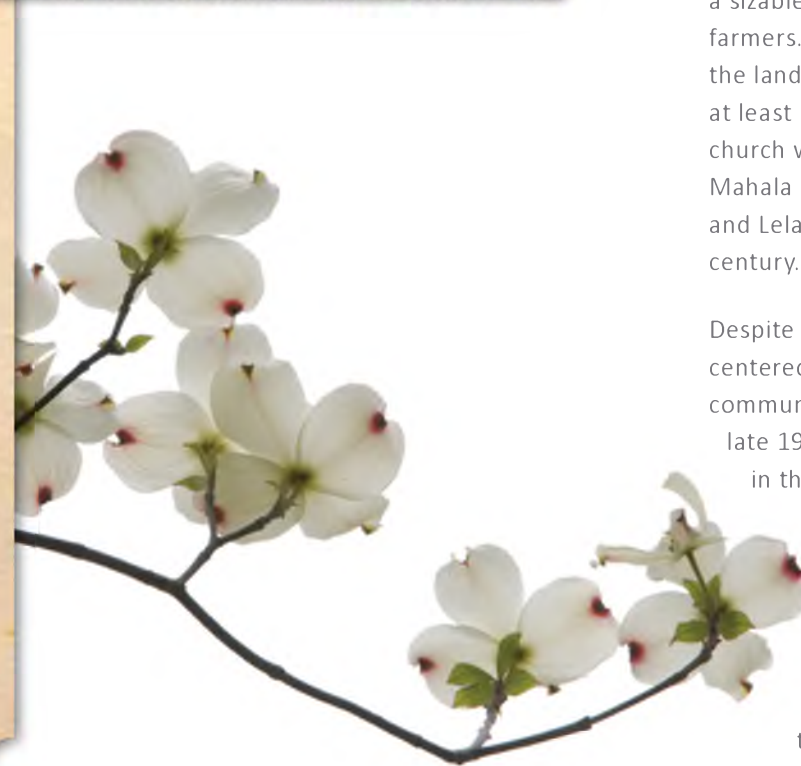
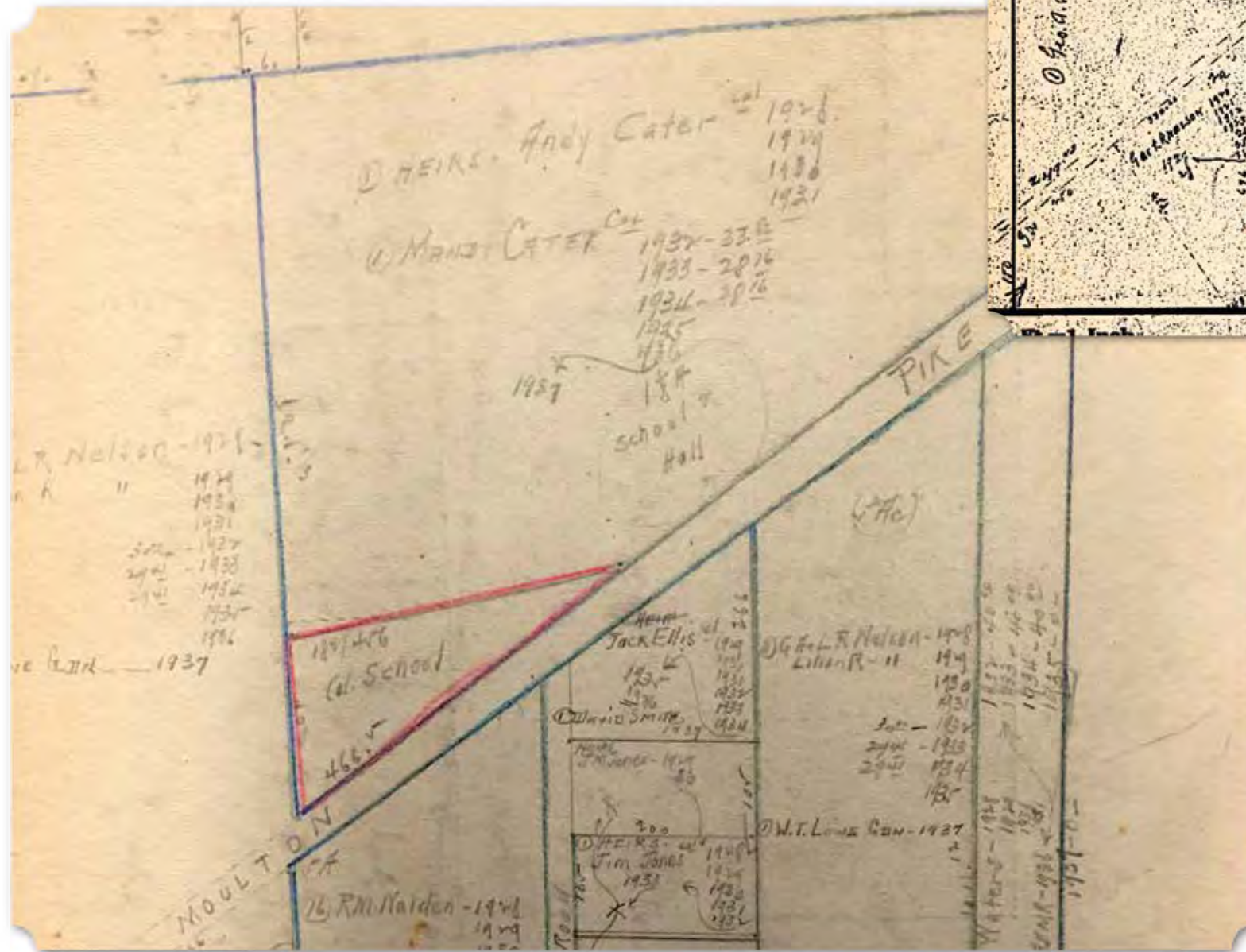
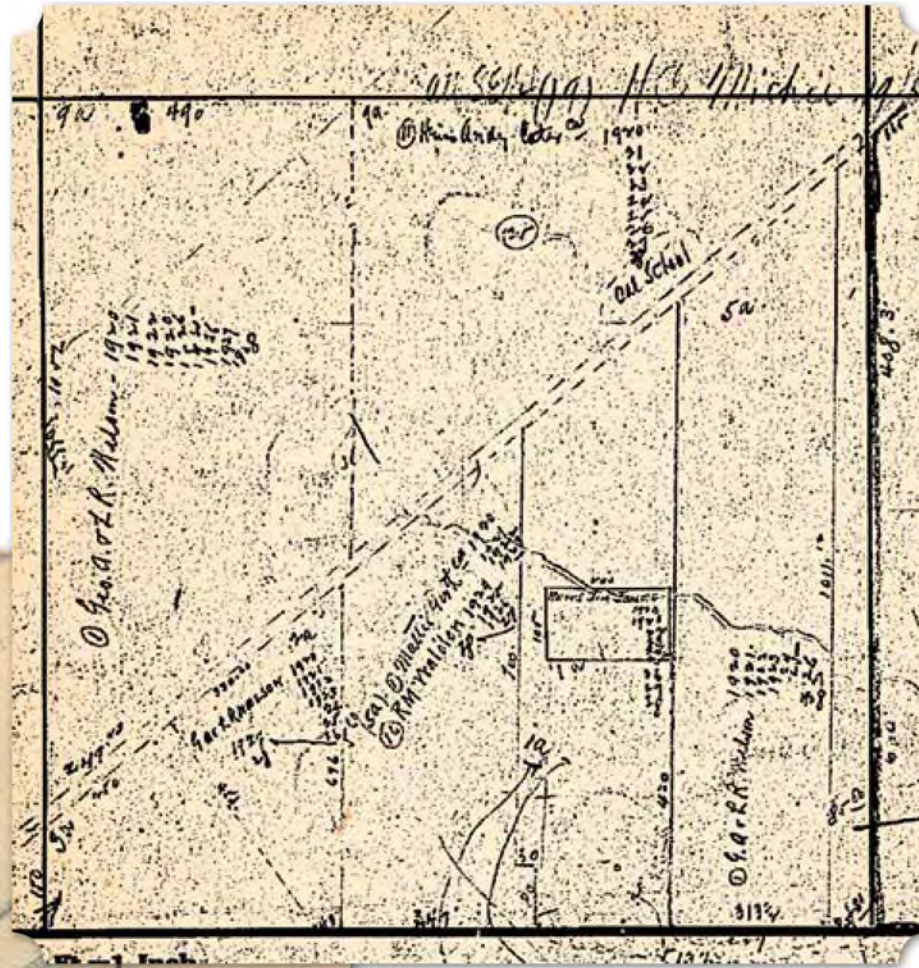
## Moulton Heights School

In 1920, the land on which the school is located was owned by the heirs of Andy Cater. The larger parcel set aside about an acre and a half for the school on the north side of Moulton Heights Road and Littrell Avenue. The remaining parcel belonged to the Cater family until at least 1937.

This school is now the Tennessee Valley Outreach Rescue Mission.

**(Right)** Moulton Heights School and Surrounding Parcels, 1928 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

**(Below)** Moulton Heights School and Surrounding Parcels, 1920 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



# 29

## Mt. Mariah United Methodist Church

This church is located in the community of Talucah. The land on which the church was built was owned by local African American farmer Winfrey Chapman in 1928. Chapman also owned the land surrounding the Leader's School. Both can be seen on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map.

# 30

## Nebo\*

Nebo was an early African American community to the northwest of Decatur, north of Joe Wheeler Highway, about halfway between Decatur and Trinity. Nebo as a community was never separately enumerated in the federal census. Most likely, it falls between the districts of Decatur and Trinity. However, land records from 1920-1940 indicate that there was a sizable community of African American landowning farmers. Landowner and farmer, Tom Davis, owned the land containing the original Nebo Cemetery from at least 1928-1937. The Nebo School and the original church were on the land owned by the Henry and Mahala Brown and heirs, Green Fennell, and John and Lela Booker for much if not all of the early 20th century.

Despite the well-rooted African American community centered around an old slave cemetery, the community of Nebo was destined for more in the late 1950s. Industry along the river had picked up in the mid-century and the industrial giant from Minnesota, 3M, desired a large plant and compound precisely where Nebo was located. All farmers and landowners were made to move. The church had been more to the west side of Finley Island Road and later the cemetery was moved to behind the church. The school was demolished.

## 31 ■ Nebo Cemetery

This cemetery is also referred to as Bell-Nebo Cemetery. According to Ms. Peggy Allen Towns, this cemetery is the first African American cemetery in Morgan County. The location marked on the map is the original location of the cemetery before it was moved to the Finley Island Road along with the Nebo Church.

Ms. Towns indexed the Nebo Cemetery and submitted an application to the State of Alabama, resulting in the cemetery being placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. It was the first black cemetery in Morgan County to be listed, the seventh cemetery in Morgan County and the 145th cemetery listed statewide. Ms. Towns' interest in the cemetery stems from her mother and father, Myrtle Marie Lyle Allen (1934-2000) and George Washington Allen, Sr. (1922-2014), who are buried at this cemetery.



(Below) "Negro Baptising, Tennessee River, Decatur, Alabama." Postcard, Circa Early 20th Century (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

## 32 ■ Nebo Church\*

Also referred to as the Bell-Nebo Church, this church served the historic African American community of Nebo. According to Ms. Peggy Allen Towns, the land for the original church was donated to the community by Mr. Finnel, a white landowner with hundreds of acres in the town of Trinity and along the Tennessee River. Ms. Towns' father, George W. Allen Sr., served as Chairman of the Deacons Board after he united with the Bell-Nebo Church.

The church was moved to Finley Island Road along with the Nebo Cemetery once the original land was purchased by the 3M Company.

## 33 ■ Nebo School\*

The community of Nebo had a school located between the church and cemetery on what was known as Nebo Lane. The school was not long lived. It was not on the land books through 1937 and does not appear on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map. It is noted on the 1950 USGS topographic map. However, by November 1956, the 3M Company was already mapping landownership in preparation of moving forward with acquisition of land in the community of Nebo.

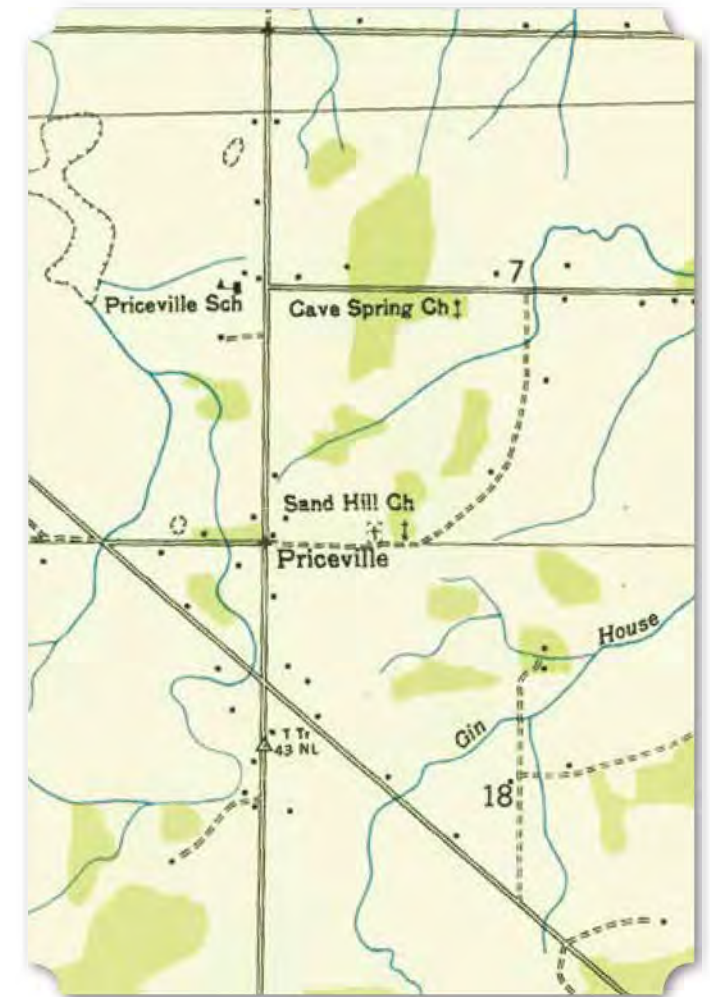
From at least 1920-1956, the land for the school was owned by an African American farmer. By the time the land was acquired by 3M, the two acres for the school was owned by John and Lela Booker, who had owned it since 1930.

## 34 ■ New Jones Chapel

This church is one of three in the planned African American community of Cedar Lake. Located off Ray Avenue the church has served the community since at least the 1930s.

## 35 ■ Priceville

The town of Priceville is located southeast of Decatur along Highway 67, about halfway to Somerville. Although the town is marked on an 1888 map of North Alabama, it was not a separately enumerated district in the 1900 census. It is possible that the area was captured in the districts comprising the surrounding towns and city of Decatur, Hartselle, and Somerville.



(Above) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Decatur Quadrangle, of West Half of Priceville

While the overall population of Priceville steadily rose between 1910 and 1940, the number of African American households declined from a high of 39% to a low of 20%. Despite the decline in population, the percentage of landowning farmers held at about 17%. During the early 20th century, Priceville was home to 11-14 African American-owned farms - or about one out of every three African American households.

Throughout the early 20th century, there were 10 African American landowning farming families that lived in the Priceville area. Most families had a single family member that owned a farm for a decade or two. But there were four families – the Aldridges, Garths, Hamptons, and Ryans – that owned their farms from 1910 to 1940. The Garths had four family

### KEY

- COMMUNITIES
- CEMETERIES
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- PLANTATIONS
- SCHOOLS

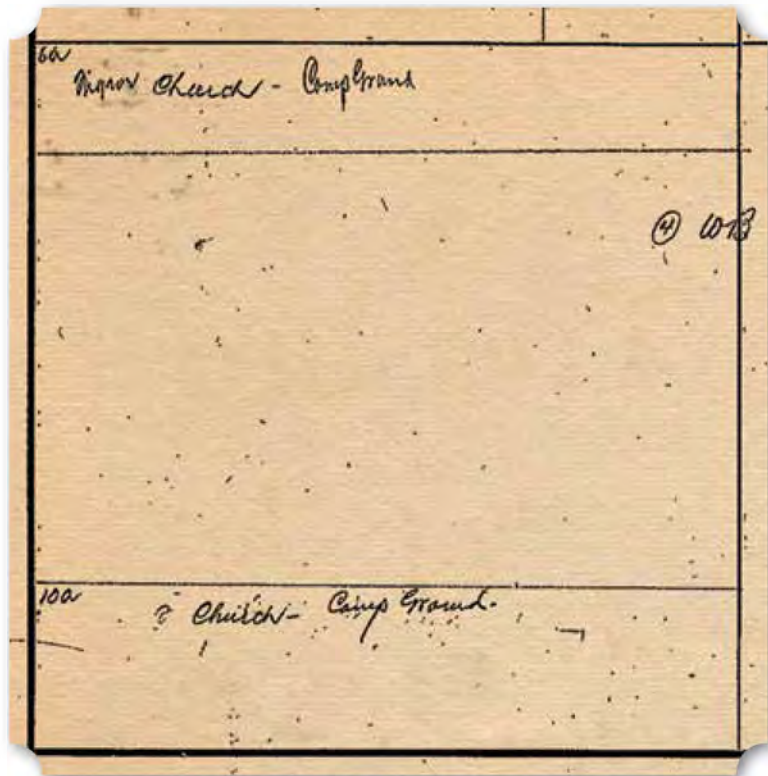
households living and farming in Priceville in 1930 and 1940. The Ryans and the Aldridges often had at least two farming households.

## 36 ■ Provident (Providence) Missionary Baptist Church

Also known as Providence Missionary Baptist Church, this church is associated with the Campground Cemetery. It served the community of outer Danville since at least the early 20th century. Because the cemetery dates to about 1880, there has likely been a church or some place of worship in this area since that time.

In the county land books from 1920-1928, the church is noted as "Nigroe Church – Camp Ground."

**(Below)** 1920-1928 Morgan County Land Books, Township 8 South, Range 5 West, Section 10 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



## 37 ■ Rather Cemetery

This cemetery contains about 100 graves and is situated just southwest of the town of Cedar Lake. The earliest marker is that of Emma Mitchell who passed away in 1918. The land surrounding the cemetery was all owned by African American members of the Cedar Lake community. The Rather family (specifically Dick and Willis Rather) owned the land the cemetery occupies until at least 1937. Many of the Cedar Lake landowners are buried here, including: Daniel W. Matthews (1886-1970), whose grave maker denotes him as a member of the Queen of Sheba Lodge No. 197 of the Free & Accepted Masons; his brother, Deacon Haywood V. Matthews (1885-1954); Emma and Richard Mitchell (1918 and 1919), the earliest graves in the cemetery; Richmond Rather, Minnie L. and Rev. Wiley A. Wilhite; and Private James Skinner (1897-1965) of the U.S. Army, a WWI veteran. There is also a large section of unknown graves marked with white wooden crosses – 61 in total. The cemetery is still in use.

## 38 ■ ■ Sand Hill Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery

The church and cemetery date to the first years of the 20th century. The cemetery has at least 173 graves – the oldest burial is that of Maria Thompson (1852-1903). The cemetery includes individuals from prominent families in the Priceville area such as Aldridge, Garth, Strain, Straughter, and Ryan. Here is the final resting place of local African American landowners and farmers, William Roundtree Aldridge (1862-1935) and Ben Butler (1878-1925). Although little is known about the church, it can be assumed that those buried at the cemetery were parishioners.

## 39 ■ Somerville

The census district of Somerville appears to be relatively large as it encompasses a vast amount of north central Morgan County. However, various censuses have split the area; sometimes north and south, sometimes east and west. The majority of the African American community were in clusters mostly to the north and east of the district.

In the census records from 1900 to 1940, Somerville has upwards of 400 to almost 900 total households. However, the African American population never breaks 30% of the total households. In the early 20th century, the African American households is highest in 1900 at 28%. This number declines over the next four decades to a low of 11% of households. Although the number of African American households declines with time, the number of landowning farmers held firm with the exception of the year 1910. Through this time, African American-owned farms held consistent from 27 to 34 farms in Somerville, or about one out of every four African American households. But in 1910, there were 43 African American-owned farms, representing 41% of the African American population.

A few families stood out as prominent African American landowning farmers. One such family was the Garners, who owned land in Somerville from 1900 to 1940, at one time owning five farms. Another significant farmer was Millard Breeding who is enumerated on the 1900 census. Breeding was living on his newly bequeathed land from his white father. By 1910, there were four Breeding men farming the previous plantation lands - Millard and his sons. After Millard Breeding passed away, his family either moved away from Somerville or portions of their land were redistricted into the neighboring Valhermoso Springs area. Other families with multi-generational farms include the Draper, Jackson, Ragland, Robinson, and Russell families.

## 40 ■ Springwood Plantation

The Price-Wooten Home is all that remains of the Springwood Plantation. The house, built circa 1855, by Dr. Charles W. Price is situated southeast of Priceville on the south side of Highway 67. Records show that Price owned 80 acres of land adjacent to the house in 1853. He owned another 160 acres to the southwest of Priceville and 120 acres south of Flint. In addition to being a large landowner, Dr. Price was a slaveholder as well. The 1840 slave schedule records Price's 14 slaves. By 1850, he owned more than double that number of slaves and by the eve of the Civil War, Price owned no less than 44 slaves at Springwood Plantation.

The Price-Wooten Home was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on October 17, 1980. The Price Family Cemetery remains on the site as well.

## 41 ■ St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church

This is one of three churches in the planned African American community of Cedar Lake. It is most likely the first church planned, as evidenced by the original name of Cedar Lake Road as Church Avenue.

The church is located on land originally owned by Jake Johnson, one of the founders of Cedar Lake and an African American farmer. His descendants still live on the parcel just south of the church.



# 42

## St. Stephen Primitive Baptist Church

Located in West Decatur on 7th Avenue between Moulton and 1<sup>st</sup> streets, St. Stephen is one of the oldest churches in Decatur. The Reverend George Franklin was pastor in 1875. The first private school for African American children was organized in this church in 1875. Unfortunately, after a fire burned the church, the school was moved to King's Memorial.

# 43

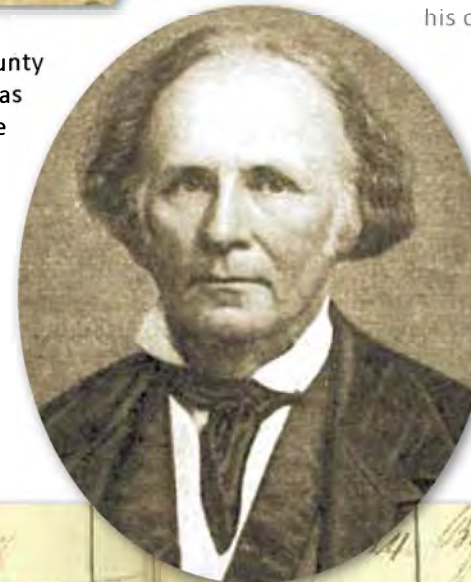
## Stone, John - Plantation\*

The name "J. Stone" was found on an 1837 map of Alabama made by John LaTourrette. This land belonged to John Stone according to a 1832 land patent (no. 556) awarding John Stone, as assignee of James Green, "the southeast quarter of Section 33, in Township 7, of Range 5 West" containing 156 acres. John Stone owned 20 slaves in 1830 and had one free person of color living on his plantation. Stone was not found on the 1840 census, but appears on the 1850 living in Panola, Texas. Exactly when he left Morgan County is unknown.



(Above) 1818 Cotaco (Morgan) County Tract Book Record, Abraham and Thomas Skidmore (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records)

John and Mildred Stone of Virginia had a daughter named Anne who married Drury Stovall, Sr., another local plantation owner. The plantation was somewhere southeast of Danville.



(Left) Photograph of General Jesse Winston Garth (Findagrave.com Posted By Phil Wirey) (Below) 1831 Morgan County Tract Book Record, Gen. Jesse W. Garth (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records)

# 44

## Stovall, Peter – Plantation(

The eldest son of at least seven children born to Drury Stovall, Sr. and Anne Stone Stovall, Peter was one member of a large planter family. In 1824, Peter acquired about 120 acres in Section 8, Township 6 South, Range 4 West and another 120 acres in Section 5 of the same township and range. The following year, he purchased 80 acres in Section 10. In 1828, he expanded his land by 240 acres. Overall, Peter Stovall held land patents in Morgan, Lawrence, and Winston counties, totaling 1,360 acres between 1824 and 1839. For all this land, it appears that Stovall did not own many slaves relative to his neighbors. In 1840 and 1850, he owned five and six slaves, respectively.

Perhaps he passed much of his wealth on to his children before his death in 1857.

# 45

## Summerseat Plantation\*

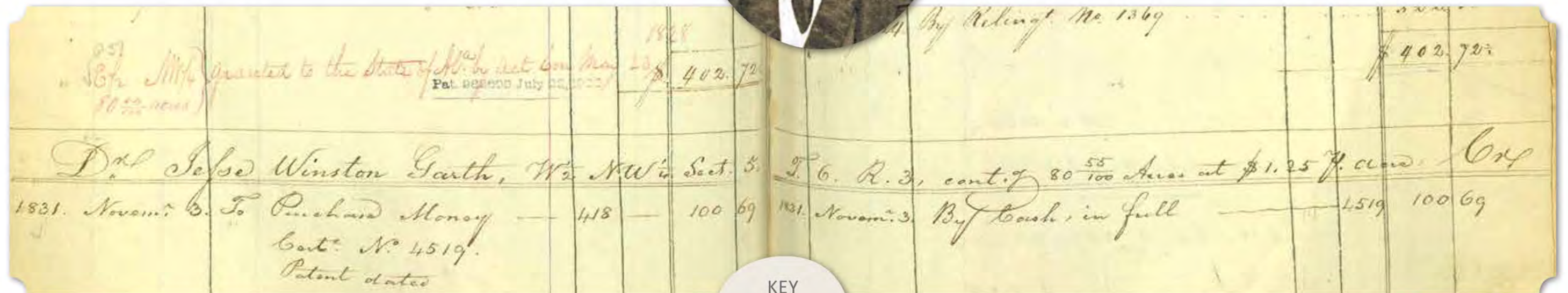
The summer home of James Fennell, overlooking Happy Hollow, west of Trinity no longer stands, but the Fennell Cemetery with over 90 graves is situated to the southwest and once accompanied the house.

James Fennell appears on the 1840 census in Morgan County. He is noted as owning seven slaves at this time. James had passed away in 1849, leaving his estate to his widow, Mary Curtis King Fennell. The 1850 census records Mary owning 31 slaves. In 1860, she was living across the county line in Lawrence County and owned 35 slaves. The extended Fennell family collectively owned at least a couple hundred slaves by the time of the Civil War.

# 46

## Sykes-Garth Plantation\*

General Jesse Winston Garth was a veteran of the War of 1812 and is commonly accepted as a founder of Decatur and Morgan County. He was one of the earliest patent holders and by 1818, more than 1,479 acres of Morgan County was patented to Garth. From 1824-1854, Garth held 28 land patents in Morgan,



### KEY

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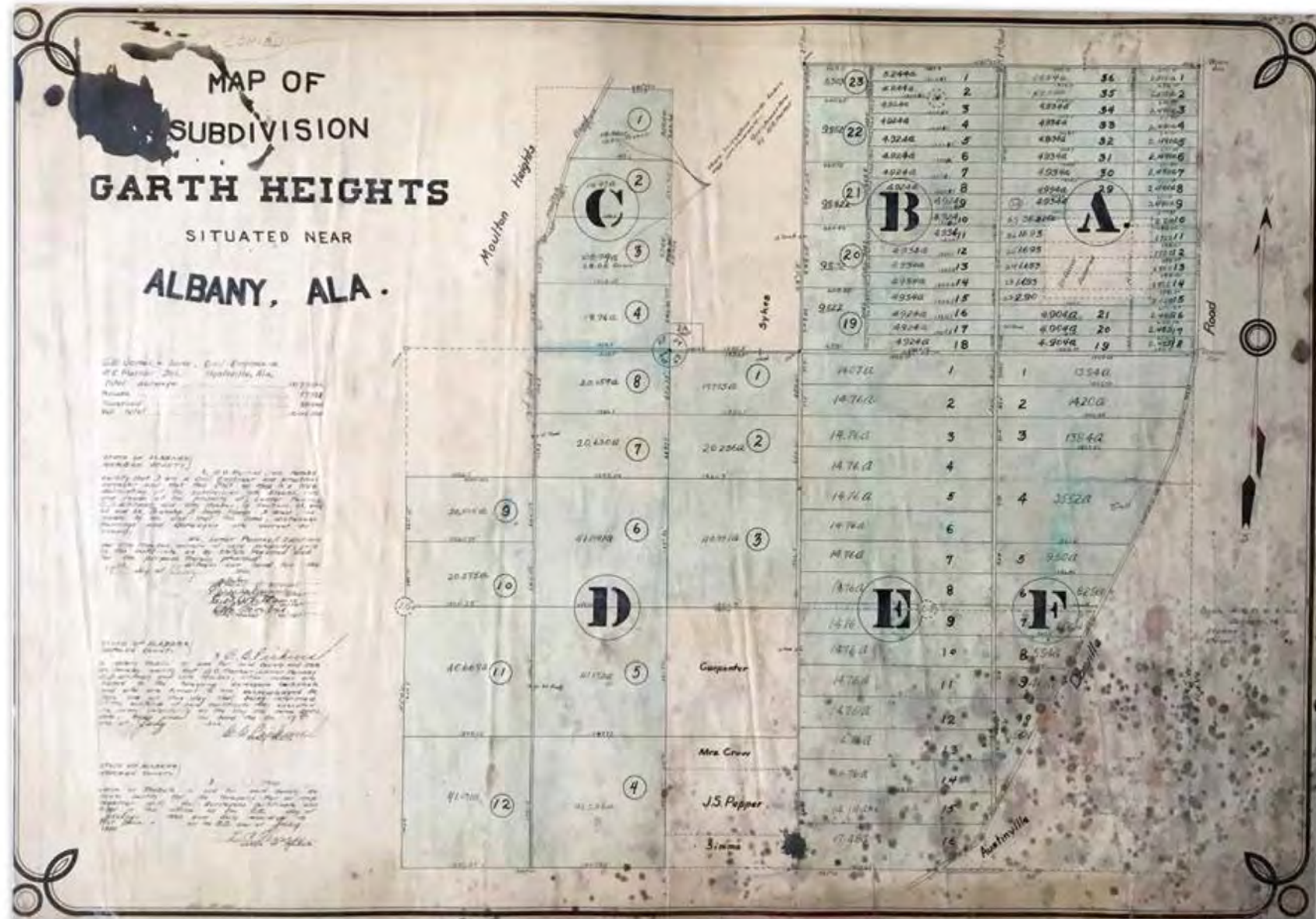
Limestone, Lawrence, and Talladega counties. By 1850, he was recorded as owning 189 slaves, \$75,000 in real estate, and \$150,000 in personal property.

General Garth was said to be a loyal patriot, one “willing to give up his hundreds of slaves to save the Union,” says a newspaper at the time of his death in 1867. But General Garth and his descendants were also very complicated. Although the entwined history of many North Alabamian families involves relationships between masters and slaves that are not always officially recorded, the Sykes-Garth family is one whose ancestry is fairly well accepted – if not a

little convoluted. General Jesse W. Garth had several children by an unknown number of his enslaved women. The mixed children of the era took the status of their mother. Therefore, many of the Garth children were born to enslaved mothers and were enslaved themselves. One of General Garth’s sons, by an unknown slave, was Solomon Garth (1805-1880), who in turn is thought to be the father of Laura Garth. Laura was owned by General Garth and later by Dr. Francis (Frank) W. Sykes.

Dr. Francis William Sykes was a slaveholder in Lawrence County before marrying the daughter of

(Below) Plat Map of Garth Heights, 1920 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



(Below) 1920-1928 Plat Map of Section 25, T5S R5W, Showing S.S. Sykes Landownership (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



(Below) 1928 Plat Map of Section 25, T5S R5W, Showing S.S. Sykes Landownership (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



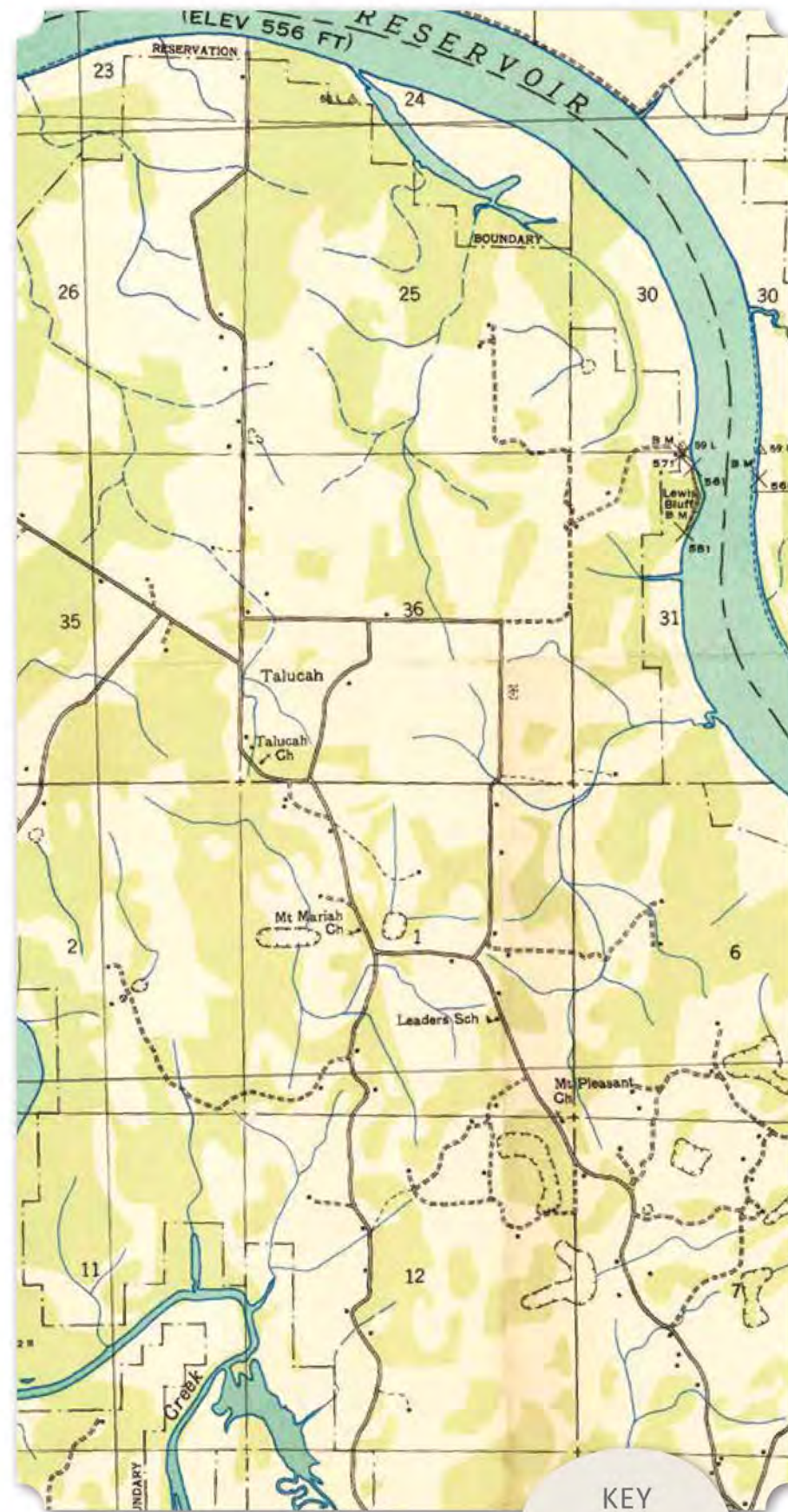
## 47 ■ Talucah

The community of Talucah is encompassed in the census district of Valhermoso Springs. Located in the eastern half of Morgan County, Talucah is positioned just south of a prominent bend in the Tennessee River. The census data from this district is difficult to analyze as it appears that the original district in 1900 was split to create the Lacey Springs district. Nonetheless, overall patterns emerge from the records.

The Garth Heights neighborhood no longer exists, but it would have encompassed the Dancy-Garth Cemetery and presumably where the main house once stood. The only part of the plantation that remains today is a 20-acre tract in trust by the Garth Descendants, surrounding the cemetery – the rest is now suburbs that developed in the 1980s.

Most remarkable of Frank and Laura's children was Solomon Sharper Sykes. S.S. Sykes was born a slave and died a successful businessman and integral part of the Decatur community. When he passed away, in 1920, the city shut down for an hour in his honor. In the early 20th century, the southern half of Section 2, and nearly all of Section 25 of Township 5 South Range 5 West, was known as Garth Heights. Over 900 acres, this neighborhood cut from the former Sykes-Garth Plantation was detailed in lot and plat books. S.S. Sykes owned 20 acres of land in Garth Heights from at least 1916 to his death in 1920. After his passing, the land went to his heirs until it was solely owned by his wife, Ada Garth Sykes from at least 1929 to 1937. The parcel is positioned between 8th and Douthit streets on the land that was formerly his master/father's plantation, just a half mile from the family cemetery.

General Garth, Susan Elizabeth. While Mrs. Sykes has a grand monument "erected to the memory of a loving wife by her affectionate husband," Dr. Sykes fathered about five children with the slave, Laura – General Garth's granddaughter and Dr. Sykes' inheritance from his wife's family.



(Left) 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Triana Quadrangle, of Talucah

From 1900 to 1940, the population of Valhermoso Springs was consistently about 30% African American households with the exception of 1930 when 47% of the total households were African American. The total number of African American-owned farms fluctuates throughout the early 20th century. In 1900, there were 31 African American farming landowners in this area. The following decade that number declined to 21. The censuses of 1920 and 1930 recorded only 17 and 19 farms owned by African Americans, respectively, before returning to 23 farms in 1940. However, if the total number of African American households are taken into account, there is a trend of about one out of every four African American families owning a farm. Despite there only being 19 African American-owned farms in 1930, this represents about one-third of all African American households and a tenth of all households in the Valhermoso Springs district.

Prominent landowning farmers of the African American community include the Currys, Jennings, and Jacksons. These three families owned land in the area from at least 1900 to 1940, and in 1900, they collectively owned 13 of the 31 farms in their community. Another notable family is the Chatman/Chapman family, who owned eight farms in 1940. The Chatmans/Chapmans, mostly Winfrey Chapman, donated land for community centers such as the Leader's School and Mt. Mariah Church in Talucah.

## 48 ■ Tatum, John – Plantation\*

The name "J. Tatum" was found on an 1837 map of Alabama made by John LaTourrette. This most likely refers to John Tatum, an early Morgan County landowner. John Tatum, as assignee for Edward Webster, was awarded a patent (no. 2601) in December of 1829 for "the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 5 in Township 7 of Range 5 West," containing 80 acres. Nine years later, Tatum acquired another 40 acres of adjacent land. John Tatum's plantation was home to three slaves in 1830 and seven slaves in 1840 before moving to Autauga, Alabama. This plantation was located to the north of Danville.

## 49 ■ Trinity

The community of Trinity is located west of Decatur near the Lawrence County border. While it is surrounded by farmland like most of Morgan County, it does have a platted town center. The community of Trinity is known to have a large African American population; however, the majority of that population does not own land. Most of the African American landowners live outside of the platted town where they tend to farms, but throughout the early 20th century, there were usually a handful of African Americans that lived in town.

The population of Trinity remained fairly steady from 1900 to 1940. Roughly half of the total households are African American through the 1930, before dropping to 39% in 1940. While African Americans comprised half of the households, unlike other communities in Morgan County, only a handful owned farms. Over the years approximately 10% of the African American households were farms, with the exception of 1920, where that jumped to 25%, before decreasing back down in 1930. A major farm owning African American family was the Liles, with various family members owning 10 of the 36 farms in 1920.



Another farmer in this area is Robert Murphy, a former slave who stayed with his master through the Civil War and was granted land. He and his wife Harriett are enumerated on the census from 1900-1920 as farming landowners of Trinity.

The 1930s and 1940s appear to have been difficult for farmers in the area in general and particularly the African American farming community. The Great Depression, TVA land acquisition, and WWII most likely impacted the community negatively, leading to the drop in African American households from the 1920s.

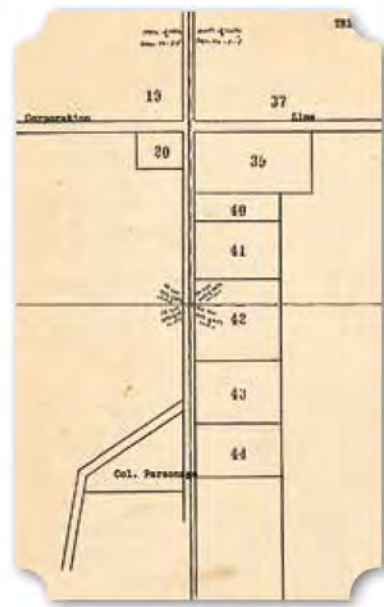
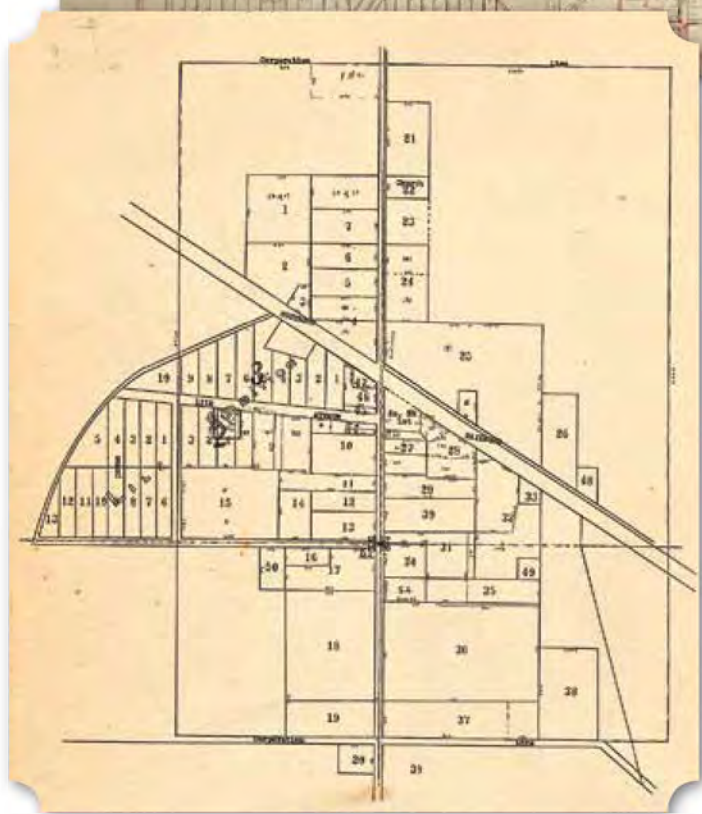
## 50 ■ Union School\*

The Union School is indicated on the 1936 topographic map, west of Valhermoso Springs, in the vicinity of the old Breeding Plantation. The land surrounding the school was owned by African Americans in the 1920s. Two nearby owners were Clifton Draper and Amos Russell, both were farmers who owned a significant amount of land around Somerville and were both named on at least one list of outstanding African American citizens of Morgan County during the Scottsboro Boys trail. Seeing as the community was often pivotal in the creation and

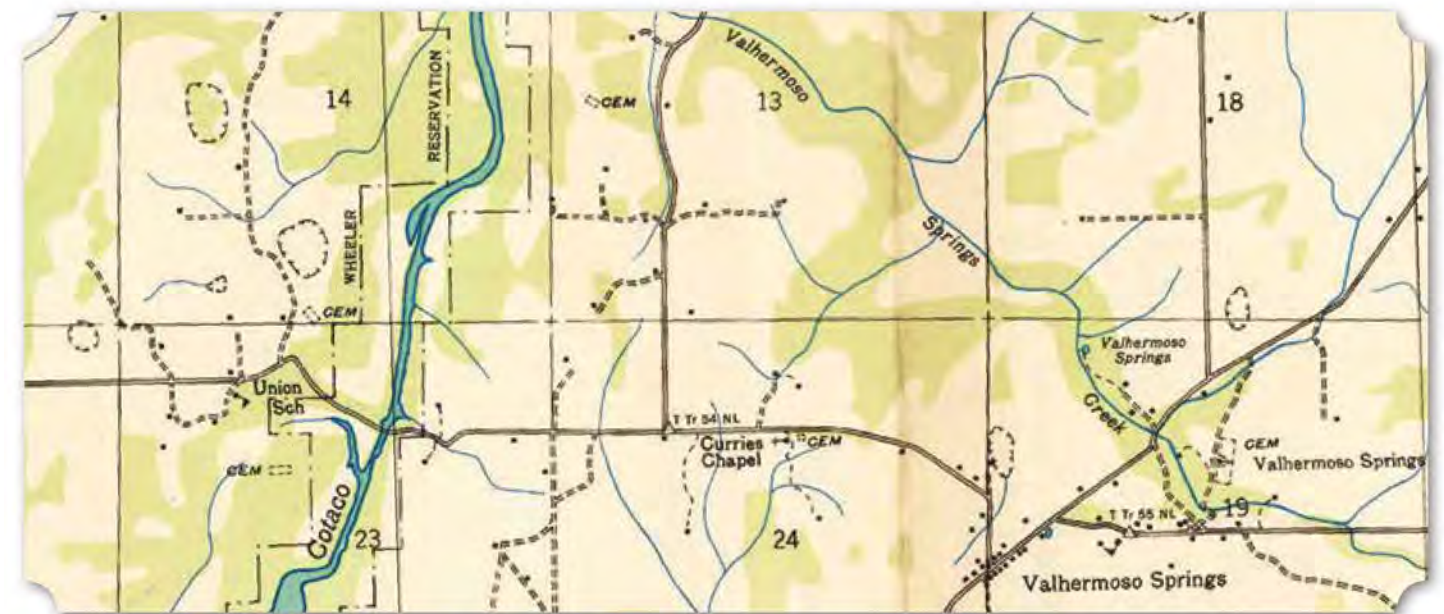


**(Above)** Morgan County Land Book, 1920-1928, Township 6 South, Range 2 West, Section 23 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Below)** 1936 USGS/TVA Topographic Map, Triana Quadrangle

maintenance of African American schools, particularly in the rural portions of the county, it is likely that these local landowners had a hand in creating, building, and supplying the schoolhouse.

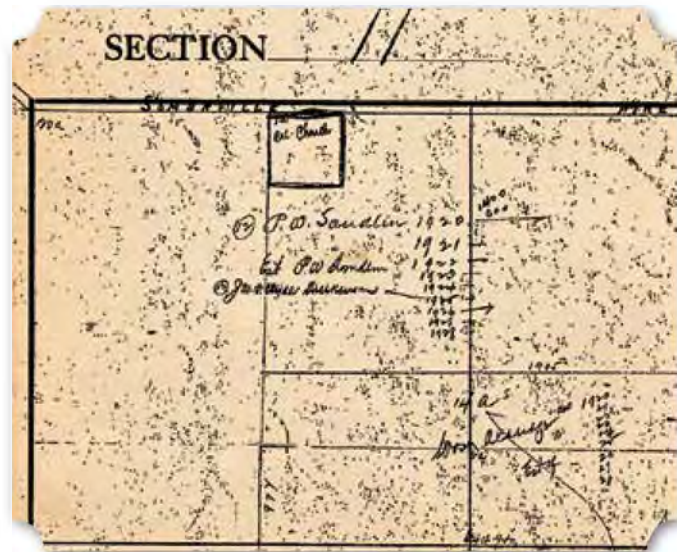


**(Above)** 1912 Plat Map of Trinity (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Far Left)** 1924-1927 Plat Map of Trinity from Morgan County Lot Book (Part I) (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Left)** 1924-1927 Plat Maps of Trinity from Morgan County Lot Book (Part II) (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



## 51 ■ Unknown Church of Priceville\*

This church no longer exists. The only record of this church is within the Morgan County Land Books for 1920-1937, noted as the “Col.” Or “Negro” Church in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11, Township 6 South, Range 4 West. While the symbol for a church appears on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, it



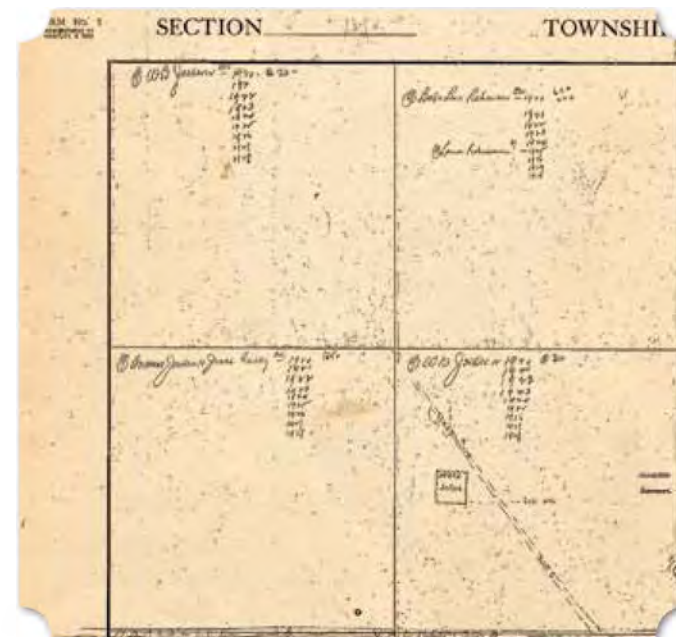
(Above) 1920 Morgan County Land Book (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) (Below) 1928 Morgan County Land Book (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



does not label the church. Just to the southeast of the church was a sizable concentration of African American landowners and presumably farmers.

## 52 ■ Unknown School of Somerville\*

The proper name of this school is unknown. It does not appear on any topographic maps or other records. The only indication of it is in the 1920-1928 Morgan County land books. More research is needed to discern which school was located here.



(Above) Portion of the Morgan County Land Book from 1920-1928 of Township 7 South, Range 2 West, Section 7, Showing the Unlabeled School (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

## 53 ■ Walnut Grove\*

Walnut Grove was one of the large estates owned by James Fennell and later his widow, Mary Curtis King Fennell. The house was built about 1840 and survived until it was burned about 1920. Fennell also owned the Summerseat Plantation.

## 54 ■ Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Wayman African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, commonly known as Wayman Chapel, dates to 1877 when Rev. T.W. Coffee was assigned to the Decatur Mission along with five other members. Rev. Coffee travelled the South helping to establish the AME Church at the turn of the 20th century. Wayman Chapel is one of several churches he helped grow into a lasting establishment. Built in 1907 on Church Street between McCartney and Madison streets, the modest brick church is named for Bishop Alexander Walker Wayman (1821-1895), who was ordained a deacon in 1881 by Pastor Winfield Henri Mixon, leader of the AME Church in Decatur.



(Above) Portion of the Morgan County Land Book from 1920-1928 of Township 6 South, Range 4 West, Section 27 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

## 55 ■ West Decatur

The neighborhood of West Decatur became a predominately African American community in the early 20th century. Several African American homeowners took up residence in the Decatur Land Improvement & Furnace Company’s additions to the city’s suburbs. Churches, schools, and the nearby Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery serviced this community. It was also accessible from Decatur via the streetcar line between downtown and Moulton Heights.

## 56 ■ Westview Plantation

Originally owned by Johnathan Burleson, the house was built in 1841. Burleson came to North Alabama as a child. As an adult, he moved to Morgan County and amassed large amounts of land and slaves. By 1841, he owned a total of 43 slaves. By 1850, Burleson was one of the largest landowners in North Alabama and

one of the largest slaveholders in the state. He owned 65 slaves that year when only 1,500 households in the entire state owned as many as 50 slaves. Upon the eve of the Civil War, Westview was home to 49 slaves.

Burleson died in 1866 at the close of the Civil War, and most of his land was sold off. One of his 27 children bought the 2,600 acres around the house, which stayed in the family until at least 1982 when it was added to the National Register (#82002068). The house still stands on the west side of Indian Hills Road, north of Hartselle.

Johnathan Burleson was awarded the land patent for Section 28 in 1837 (no. 8351) and most of Section 27 in 1835 (no. 5914 and 7238,) 1852 (no. 32631), and 1858 (no. 20051). In the 1920-1928 Morgan County land books, the house is indicated as the “Burleson Home Place” at the edge of Sections 27 and 28.



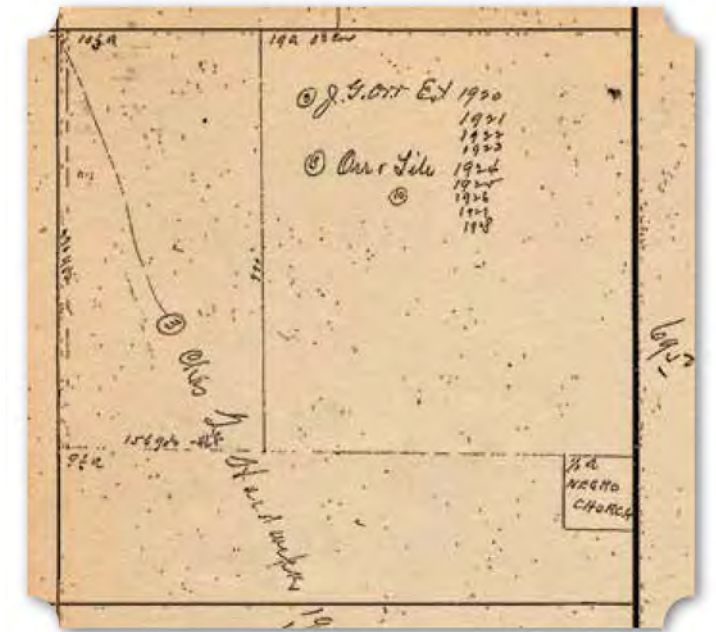




**(Left)** Post Card of Family on Wilder Place, Circa 1930 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Bottom Left)** Photograph of Lelia Seton Wilder with Brief Biography (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Below)** "Wilder Place, Decatur Ala." Label from 1930 Census **(Right)** Plat Map of Mullen Addition of Wilder Place, 1921 (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



African American schools in churches before the county desegregated. The school is only labeled on maps from the 1930s. An aerial view of the location retains evidence of a road and the location of a structure. However, the school and church are gone, surrounded by fields, and taken over by trees.



**(Above)** Portion of the Morgan County Land Book from 1920-1928 of Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Section 29, Showing the Zion Church and School (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama) **(Below)** 1936 USGS Topographic Map, Danville Quadrangle



## 57 ■ Wilder Place

The Wilder Place was an old plantation initially owned by Henry W. Rhodes. Land patents record Rhodes as the original patent holder (no. 4134 and 4135) in mid-1833, of the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 5 South, Range 4 West – where the Wilder-Edmondson residence was later located.

The plantation became famous once Lelia Seton Edmondson (1861-1949) purchased the property. Known as a local pioneer of Decatur, Edmondson moved to the area as a child. She married Charles Wilder, the owner of the 1,700-acre Wilder Plantation – land he purchased from Rhodes. Unfortunately, Mr. Wilder died soon thereafter and Mrs. Wilder became the lady of the Wilder Place. Although she remarried in 1912, she outlived Col. W.B. Edmondson as well, who died in 1938.

Mrs. Edmondson was keen on politics and economics. She tightly controlled her land and its cotton production for the benefits of the community. Unlike Ms. Lilian Ray Nelson and the Cedar Lake Colony that

sold land to many African American farmers south of Decatur, Mrs. Edmondson used the Wilder Place to rent land to many poor African American and white tenant farmers.

Although Mrs. Edmondson was reticent about breaking up her lands, by the 1930s, much of the large estate was beginning to be developed into the subdivisions that are known today.

## 58 ■ Zion Church and School\*

The only evidence of the Zion Church found is in the 1920-1928 Morgan County Land Books, where it is simply labeled, "Negro Church." On the 1936 topographic map, the Zion School is in approximately the same location, as it was not uncommon to have



# 3. THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## African American Civil War Soldiers

While most of Alabama saw little action during the Civil War, North Alabama was targeted by both the Union and Confederate armies. The Middle Tennessee River Valley constituted a major economic waterway for the South. Similarly, the railroad that traveled east and west across North Alabama was the first on the west side of the Appalachian Mountains, a vital lifeline supplying Tennessee and Georgia. The cities of North Alabama, including Huntsville, Florence, Athens, and Decatur, were the sites of skirmishes and battles. In Morgan County, the Battle of Decatur



occurred in late October 1864 when the Union Army met the Confederate Army in along the Tennessee River. It was part of the larger Franklin-Nashville Campaign after the Battle of Atlanta.

While there were nearly 200 U.S. Colored Troop (USCT) Regiments in the Union Army, only the 14th U.S. Colored Infantry (USCI) was involved in the Battle of Decatur. This regiment consisted of former slaves and was led by white officers, including Col. Thomas J. Morgan, who had organized the regiment at Camp Stanton near Nashville on November 16, 1863. The regiment was garrisoned in Chattanooga, Tennessee until November 1864, when they marched to Dalton, Georgia, where they were involved in skirmishes on August 14th and 15th of 1864. Regardless of minimal training and having only experienced combat once before, the 14th USCI succeeded in rebuffing the Confederate artillery line and disabling some of the artillery. After the Battle of Decatur, the 14th USCI returned to Nashville, where they fought in the two-day Battle of Nashville before being mustered out of service on March 26, 1866.

Of the hundreds of men in the 14th USCI, only three had been born in Morgan County: James Raven, Thaddeus Rogers, and Isham Troup. These men most likely ran away from their plantations and enlisted in Tennessee in either late 1863 or early 1864. Within a year, the three were back in Morgan County, fighting their former oppressors. Enlistment papers for half of the regiments of the USCT are available on Ancestry.com provided by the National Archives and Records Administration. While some files are more complete than others, the papers record the men's descriptions including their age, height, complexion, eye and hair color, as well as their place of birth and occupation.

(Bottom Far Left) "Hoe Culture in the South." Photograph by Dorothea Lange. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division (Below) (Left) James Raven, 14th USCI, Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865 (Center) Thaddeus Rogers, 14th USCI, Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865 (Right) Isham Troup, 14th USCI, Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865 (Ancestry.com via National Archives and Records Administration)

James Raven was 32 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army on February 20, 1864 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was described as "yellow" in complexion. His occupation is listed as a fireman, and it is noted that he was owned by Mrs. Sarah McKay of Huntsville, Alabama. Thaddeus Rogers' record says he was born in Decatur County, Alabama. However, Decatur County had been absorbed by Madison and Jackson counties in the



1830s, so this most likely is an error and indicates that he was born in Decatur, Alabama. Rogers was 19 years old when he enlisted on November 1, 1863 in Gallatin, Tennessee. Before enlisting, he was a waiter. Isham Troup was 23 years old when he enlisted on December 15, 1863 in Gallatin, Tennessee. Before the war, he was a farmer in Morgan County.

Records of all the USCT regiments reveal that 96 men recorded their birthplace as Morgan County, Alabama. The men are listed below, grouped by their regiments.

Regiment	Soldier
3rd USCHA (Heavy Artillery)	Aleck Fields
	Ephraim Morris
	Elliott Walker
3rd USC Cavalry	George Johnson
5th USCHA	Frank Dancy
	Alexander Fields
	James McReynolds
	James Moore
9th USCHA	Emanuel Hodges
	Alexander Fields
	William Mitchell
	Elliot Walker
11th USCI	Jacob Wilson
12th USCI	Andrew Davis
	Samuel Kimball
	Jack Kimball
	Green Thompson
	Rufus Thompson
13th USCI	Daniel Doss
	Alexander Smith
	Samuel Thompson
	Willis Thompson
14th USCI	James Raven
	Thaddeus Rogers
	Isham Troup
15th USCI	Alex Bell
	Henderson Croskey

Regiment	Soldier
15th USCI	Daniel Donaldson
	Jackson Donaldson
	Thomas Donaldson
	Toney Donaldson
	Washington Donaldson
	Abraham Fletcher
	Robert Fowler
	Jordan Jacobs
	Pratt McCrosky
	Jeremiah Morron
	Robert Roberts
	Henry Russell
	Anderson Turney
	Pleasant Williams
	Charles Wise
17th USCI	Warner Ashland
	Porter Baker
	Cornelius Campbell
	Simon Culp
	Pleasant Davidson
	James Edwards
	William Field
	Aaron McCrosky
	Henry Ryan
	Grant Troup
	Jason Troup
	William Wallace
28th USCI	Alexander Graves
29th USCI	James Morrison
40th USCI	Alexander Edwards
	Hiram Emerson
	Ebonson Foster
	George Garth
	Scott Gill
	Clark Holland
40th USCI	Ephraim King
	Silcrias King
	Robert Livingston
	David Long
	William R. McConnell

Regiment	Soldier
40th USCI	Level Mosely
	Plummer Murphy
	John Patterson
	Baalam Pearson
	Bramfield Pointers
	Buck Pointers
	James Points
	James Scroggs
	Edward Speere
	Samuel Tate
	Edmond Thompson
	Stephen Troup
	Jack Troup
	Daniel Umstead
	Lee Wadkins
	Charles Wadkins
	George Walker
Joshua Watson	
Beverly Wilkerson	
Aaron Wilhite	
Anderson Wilhite	
42nd USCI	Richard Gomar
	William Richards
44th USCI	William Payton
	Henry Sugars
	Henry Wilson
45th USCI	William Stewart
55th Massachusetts Colored Infantry	Elijah Gibbs

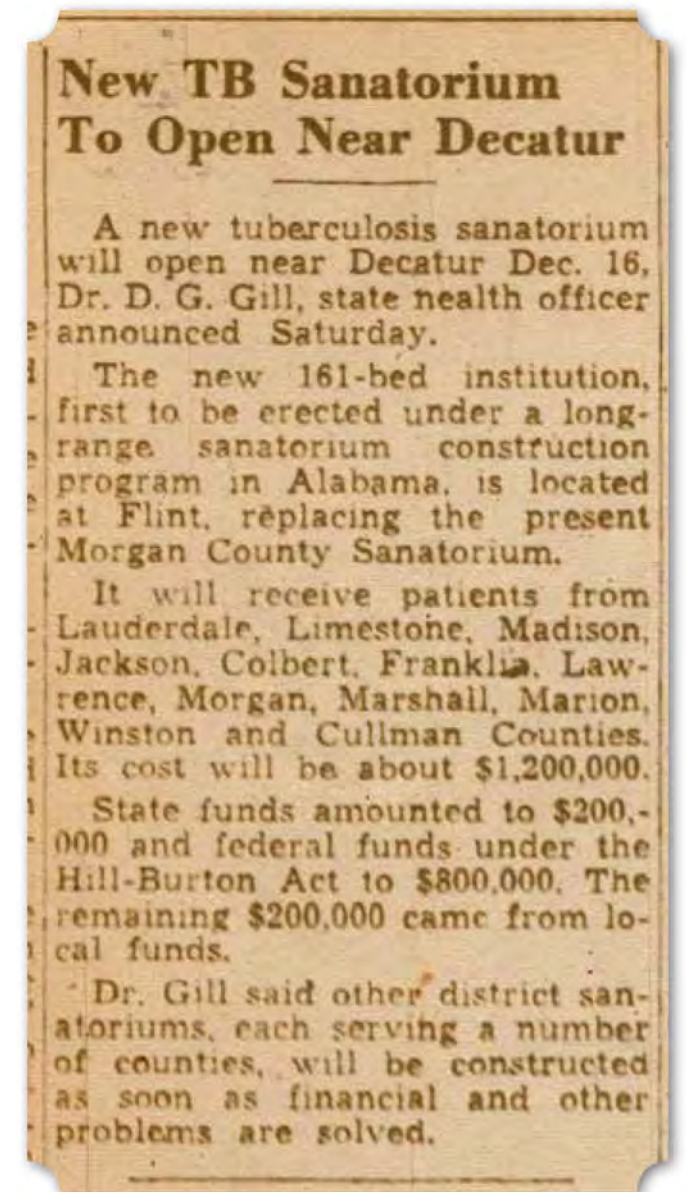
### The Old State Bank

The oldest bank in the state of Alabama, what is commonly referred to as the Old State Bank opened on July 29, 1833. The construction cost less than \$10,000 due to the use of slave labor by the bank's first president, James Fennell. The enslaved laborers are said to have cut the stone for the large pillars on the front of the Greek Revival building and hauled them to their location on the north end of Bank Street with only ox drawn wagons.

### Morgan County Tuberculosis Sanatorium

Though a 1920 Alabama State law addressed the need for county hospitals to treat tuberculosis. It took until 1934 for Morgan County to get its hospital. The Morgan County Tuberculosis Sanatorium was located in Flint. The exact location of the Morgan County Tuberculosis hospital is unclear. However, by the 1950s, the need for a hospital with more beds was pressing, and it was replaced by a larger hospital. The new hospital may have

(Below) "New TB Sanatorium to Open Near Decatur," *The Montgomery Advertiser*, November 23, 1951.



Your report is required by Act of Congress. This Act makes it unlawful for the Bureau to disclose any facts, including names and addresses, from your census reports. Only census takers employed by the Bureau will see your statements. This information will be used solely for preparing statistical information concerning the Nation's population, resources, and business activities. Your Census Reports should be used for purposes of taxation, legislation, and investigation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940  
POPULATION SCHEDULE 552

State Alabama Incorporated place \_\_\_\_\_ Ward of city \_\_\_\_\_ Unincorporated place \_\_\_\_\_  
County Morgan Township or other division of county W. T. D. Recreational Block No. \_\_\_\_\_ Institution T.B. Sanatorium

S. D. No. 8 E. D. No. 42-33 Sheet No. 61A  
Enumerated by me on 19 April, 1940. Harold L. Bayman Enumerator.

Line No.	LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA						NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935					PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS									
		House number (or other address)	Number of household in order of visitation	Home owned (O) or rented (R)	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)	Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-mother, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, head, hand, etc.			Color or race	Age at last birthday	Married, widowed, divorced, or separated (M, W, D, S)	Single (S)				Never married (N)	Attended school or college, or this school March 1, 1935 (Yes or No)	Highest grade of school completed	CODE (Leave blank)	IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1935?	On a farm (Yes or No)	CODE (Leave blank)	Was the person at work for pay or profit, or doing work about the house, on April 1, 1935? (Yes or No)	On a farm (Yes or No)	CODE (Leave blank)	Was the person at work for pay or profit, or doing work about the house, on April 1, 1935? (Yes or No)	On a farm (Yes or No)	CODE (Leave blank)	Was the person at work for pay or profit, or doing work about the house, on April 1, 1935? (Yes or No)	On a farm (Yes or No)
1	T.B. Sanatorium	1	—	—	—	—	Ho	Louis Mattie R	Superintendent	F	W	29	m	Nov 4	70	Alabama	51	Yes	4803	Yes	52	52	1200	1	1	52	1200	no	1		
2	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Louis Robert D	Roomer	M	W	37	m	Nov 4	70	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	2600	2	2	52	2600	no	2		
3	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Lamon Elizabeth	Roomer	F	N	27	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	720	3	3	52	720	no	3		
4	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Peacock Marie	Roomer	F	N	21	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	4	4	25	no	4	4	25	no	4		
5	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Shipley Ruth	Roomer	F	N	29	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	1500	5	5	52	1500	no	5		
6	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Baker Ella K	Roomer	F	N	33	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	52	52	600	6	6	52	600	no	6		
7	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Robert Lena	Roomer	F	N	46	S	70	90	Florida	77	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	720	7	7	52	720	no	7		
8	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Patterson Ophelia	Roomer	F	N	25	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	480	8	8	52	480	no	8		
9	T.B. Sanatorium						Ro	Burk Susie	Roomer	F	N	28	S	70	90	Alabama	82	Yes	4803	Yes	48	48	240	9	9	52	240	no	9		

(Above) 1940 Census Excerpt Listing Staff of "TB Hospital" in Morgan County

been in the same location, on the west side of U.S. Highway 31 – a large icon indicating the building is noted on the 1936 USGS topographic map. The new hospital would serve 12 counties in North Alabama (Colbert, Cullman, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston), deemed "District One." The 1963 USGS topographic map labels the hospital as "District No. 1 Sanatorium." The hospital was most recently the South Morgan Health Care Center, the sign for which still stands. However, the building was demolished sometime in the late 1990s.

The 1940 census lists nine workers associated with the hospital. Ms. Mattie R. Lewis, the superintendent and her husband, Robert D. Lewis, who worked for the TVA – the Lewis' are a white couple. The remaining staff is composed of seven African American women, some of whom have last names common to the area. Elizabeth Lamon and Lena Lightfoot are nurses; Marie Tapscott and Ophelia Patterson are nurses-in-

training; Ruth Shipley is a technician; Ella K. Baker is a secretary; and Susie Burk is a maid. Ms. Shipley's technical expertise is unknown, but her salary of \$1,500 exceeds that of the superintendent.

### State Convict Camp "O"

The presence of the state convict camp in Morgan County was found while combing through the census records. The 1930 census records a "State Convict Camp" within the vicinity of Lacy's Spring. Identified as being located on Mountain and Bottom roads, the census lists 76 convicts as working the "state road." What stands out about the prison camp is that every one of the 76 names are of an African American male.

Despite efforts to locate the camp on maps or in any kind of context, the location of the camp could not be confirmed. One *Montgomery Advertiser* article merely identifies it as "about twelve miles from Decatur." However, state and county criminal records were used to confirm the identities of the individuals listed on the census and to collect some information on them as a whole.

The state convict records reveal that not one of the men were arrested in Morgan County. While the county of residence is unknown, 58 were born in Alabama, 11 were from Georgia, and one man from Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Tennessee. The records of those listed on the census note that the man was sentenced to work at Camp "O." Records confirm that there were Camps A through P. Although an index of these camp locations was not found, an article in the *Montgomery Advertiser* from May 1930 highlights the enormous cost of supervising state prisoners. It lists the costs of Convict Camp A through P, along with other state prisons and associated institutions, and the annual cost for each one. In 1929, Camp O cost \$10,646.24 in supervised labor. This is below the average cost of \$13,800 and might explain why the camp is not mapped – it may have been too small.

Of the 76 men listed on the census as residing at the camp in Morgan County in 1930, 51 of them could be confirmed by the state records. The other 25 men could not be confirmed, possibly due to an error in the listing of their name, an unknown alias,

or perhaps that the name was far too common to be sure of the correct record. The mention of "Camp O" was typically in the notes section of the release date, and therefore, if the man was transferred or released elsewhere other than Camp O, then it may not be possible to confirm his presence at this particular camp.

An additional 16 men that were not recorded on the census were found to have most likely been at Camp O during the summer of 1930 when the census would have been conducted. The state convict records include the charges, sentence, conviction date, and release date, as well as notes on where they were sent, if they attempted to escape, if they were recaptured, and if they died while in prison. Of the 67 men with confirmed records, they were convicted of the following crimes: grand larceny; burglary; buying, receiving, or concealing stolen property; distilling and/or transporting liquor; forgery; carnal knowledge; false pretenses; assault with intent to murder; attempted murder; manslaughter; and murder in the first and second degree.



“William Breeding was the son of Samuel Breeding, and William Breeding lived with a black slave openly. They had, to my knowledge, about four sons together, and he would not marry a white woman. He was ostracized by the community. He was vilified at church revivals, but he would not leave his wife because of the black laws. He was not free to marry because she was a slave. Even if she wasn’t a slave, he was still not free to marry her... The Breedings probably would be the only biracial black family that owned thousands of acres.”

- Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland

and am one of the persons referred to, in said will, as being one of the sons of the deceased, and a legatee therein named, and executor thereof...” He also stated that his mother was a woman of color.

The case went to court in 1900. Judge William E. Skeggs presided over Breeding v. Breeding and informed the all-white, male jury of the three concerns up for dispute. First, was William Breeding’s

will authentic? Second, did he have testamentary capacity? And Third, was the will procured by undue influence? While miscegenation was not uncommon in North Alabama, the inheritance of any property or wealth by the produce of those relationships was unheard of at the time. However, surprisingly the jury found in Millard Breeding’s favor. Something that may not have been possible just a year later, once the Alabama Constitution was rewritten.

The case is discussed in the recent biography, *Black Print with a White Carnation: Mildred Brown and the Omaha Star Newspaper, 1938-1989*. Brown is a granddaughter of William and Sopharina Breeding.

## Robert Murphy

Murphy is considered to some, including local historians Ms. Peggy Allen Towns and Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland, to be an African American founding father of Decatur. Born a slave in 1831, Murphy was the son of an enslaved woman named Mary and her owner. Mary was brought to the Trinity area from Virginia by the Kimble family. The Kimbles intermarried with the nearby Murphy family, and Mary and Robert ended up the property of James Murphy.



**(Left) Robert Murphy (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)**

While Robert Murphy never left to join the Union Army at his owner’s request, he did work for the army while it was in Decatur. “The Yankees told me if I would help them put up them shanties they would give me a dollar a day and I helped them put up a good many of them,” Murphy said in the early 20th century. By 1870, he was a landowner with an estimated value of \$400, a 300-acre farm in Morgan County. Much of

the 300 acres of land Murphy owned was the same land he worked as a slave. He also lived in Decatur and was a member of First United Methodist Church. Besides land, he was known to have two houses, horses, mules, cows, and other livestock, buggies, and carriages, and his household good included bedding, china, plates, glass, and silverware. Upon his death, all of this was willed to his wife, Harriett, a former slave from the Athens, Limestone County area.

## The Schaudies-Banks Family

The Schaudies and Banks families are two prominent African American families within the Decatur area and Morgan County. The two families came together in one remarkable citizen of Decatur, Ms. Athelyne Celest Banks. When Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland moved to Morgan County in the 1970s, he became part of Ms. Banks’ god-family, congregation, and confidant. It is Ms. Banks’ incredible life, generosity, and family history that drew Dr. Ragland to research Ms. Banks and her family. He shared her story and his research in an oral history interview in July 2018.

### John Robinson and Martha Roots

Martha Roots and John Robinson were Miss Banks’ maternal great-grandparents. John Robinson was a member of the small community of free people of color living in Madison County, Alabama before the Civil War and Emancipation. According to Dr. Ragland’s research, Robinson came to Alabama in the early 1820s. He was freed from slavery sometime between 1825 and 1827, when the capitol of Alabama was located in Tuscaloosa. From the 1830s onward, you can find Robinson in the Federal Census. John Robinson owned a livery stable and land – though not for farming.

John Robinson was known to be a very prosperous man. During the Civil War, the Union Army confiscated some of his property. He was even held hostage for a time while they mistook him for a Southern sympathizer. After the war, he filed an application with the Southern Claims Commission for everything the Union Army took from him, including hogs and

bacon, etc., which accurately documented his wealth at that time.

Martha Roots was born an enslaved woman, possibly in Louisiana where very light-skinned women were known as “octoroons.” In Huntsville, Martha was owned by a woman named Sarah Donahue in the Twickenham area. What stands out about Sarah Donahue is her practice of only buying slave women who could “pass for white”. These women had fair skin and reddish to blond hair. However, due to laws that bound the status of slavery of the mother to the child, regardless of physical attributes, they were slaves. Donahue’s “nearly-white” women were taught to read, write, and to nurse, among other talents. According to Dr. Ragland, Donahue’s enslaved women were used as companions and nurses to the wealthy white women of Huntsville.

Around 1859, Sarah Donahue became ill in some unclarified way and declared a lunatic. The records of Madison County include an inventory of her property, which was taken away from her. The enslaved women were among the property lists. Dr. Ragland says that these records are how he determined that Martha had a last name, Roots – a rare occurrence for a slave.

John Robinson met Martha Roots when he hired her as a housekeeper and nurse for his dying wife. After his wife’s passing, he married Roots. Together they had several children, including Abbie Robinson. However, Abbie was born in 1859 and unfortunately, retained the status of a slave, which was linked to the status of the mother at that time. Regardless of their initial status, Martha passed her nursing skills onto her daughter. Abbie used this skills often to help the people of her community, particularly in the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Decatur.

### Abbie Robinson (1859-1910) and Samuel Schaudies (1849-1881)

Abbie Robinson and Samuel Schaudies were Miss Banks’ maternal grandparents. Born more than a decade before emancipation, Samuel Schaudies was enslaved by Frederick Otto (F. O.) Schaudies, who

Also: Sam Schaudies, colored, is an excellent boot maker, but has not learned the art of pruning trees. Thursday he got up in a mulberry tree to saw off a protruding branch, and seating himself securely just where the limb forked, proceeded to saw it off between where he sat and where it left the body of the tree. Result: After descending about twenty feet, Sam hit the ground, broke his arm, cracked his neck, and awfully strained his backbone.

(Above) Newspaper Clipping from *The Montgomery Advertiser*, February 24, 1880 about Samuel Schaudies (Newspapers.com) (Below) Abbie Robinson Schaudies Holding Tulie Ophelia, Portrait Commissioned by Samuel Schaudies (Schaudies-Banks-Ragland Collection)



originally immigrated from Prussia. By the mid-1800s, F. O. Schaudies had settled in Huntsville, Madison County where he set up shop as a boot and shoe maker. The 1860 slave schedule shows that F. O. Schaudies owned five slaves in Huntsville. One

of them was a 13-year-old boy, this may have been Samuel. Although it is not known whether it was typical of Schaudies to teach his slaves his trade, he did teach Samuel the skills needed to be a boot and shoemaker. Sometime in the decade that followed Emancipation, Samuel married his wife, Abbie Robinson, and moved across the river to Decatur, Alabama. By 1878, Sam Schaudies had opened his own shoemaking and repairing business as evidenced by a newspaper ad. In the ad, he specifically stated that he was taught by F.O. Schaudies of Huntsville.

When the Schaudies family settled in Decatur, Samuel and Abbie rented a cottage on the corner of Wilson and Sycamore streets. A previous owner was an African American man named Robert Chardavayne, a fellow boot and shoemaker. A white attorney purchased the house from Chardavayne and according to Dr. Ragland, "vowed that no black would ever live in that residence again." The Schaudies were

successful in obtaining the property because Abbie Robinson Schaudies was able to "pass for white." This house became known as the Schaudies-Banks Cottage and has been owned by an African American family to the present day. The Schaudies-Banks Cottage still stands – a historic home of Decatur – it has five rooms and originally faced Sycamore Street. Later a Victorian-era addition facing Wilson Street was built for Abbie's daughter, Ida Mae Schaudies Moseley Bowen.

Samuel Schaudies died in 1881. He drowned in the Tennessee River. His body was never recovered, however, there is a marker in the Decatur Cemetery, Cowan Section, next to the grave of Abbie Robinson Schaudies and their daughter, Ida Mae Schaudies Moseley Bowen. Also, in the Schaudies-Banks family plot is the burial of Ida Mae's son, Curtis Allen Moseley. He was a soldier in the First World War. When he came back to the States, he moved to New

York City and participated in the Harlem Renaissance. His sister, Collen Moseley Ruffin, and Curtis Allen were friends with W. C. Handy. Collen and her husband W. L. Ruffin met Handy in the Tri-Cities of Colbert County where Ruffin was the first African American physician in Tuscumbia.

### Matthew Hewlett Banks (1844-1919)

The Banks family has been in North Alabama since the 1820s and Decatur since 1830. The history of the Banks of Decatur begins with a white, slave-owning family from Virginia. Several brothers moved to Tennessee and North Alabama in the early 19th century. One of these brothers was Lawrence Slaughter Banks (1803-1881). Lawrence was known as Colonel Banks for his service in either the Confederate Army or Alabama State Militia. He came to Madison County, Alabama in the 1820s and was settled in Morgan County by 1830. Although he was appointed

Justice of the Peace for Morgan County between 1830 and 1841, Lawrence Banks could not be found on the 1840 census. The two subsequent censuses record L. S. Banks in Morgan County. Between 1850 and 1860, Banks was a slave owner, although not a large planter – he owned four or five slaves before Emancipation. It is believed that Lawrence S. Banks fathered children with an unknown slave woman. One of those children was Matthew Hewlett Banks, born a slave in 1844.



(Above) Matthew Hewlett Banks (Ancestry.com via the W. S. Hoole Library, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa) (Left) Advertisement for Tickets to a Show at Lyceum Theatre. Note that Tickets for People of Color were Sold at One of Hewlett Banks Businesses, His Restaurant on Banks St., 1914 (Newspapers.com)

**LYCEUM THEATRE**  
**SATURDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 12th**

---

**THAT ETHIOPIAN CARNIVAL OF FUN**  
**Breaking All Records**

**The Smart Set**

**40 PEOPLE --IN-- 40 PEOPLE**

**"His Excellency The President"**

---

Seats on sale for white people at Masonic office: For colored people at Hewlett Banks Restaurant, Bank St.  
**PRICES 25c to \$1.00**

Following the Civil War and Emancipation, Matthew H. Banks found success as a Republican leader. Matthew H. Banks was part of the group who founded King's Memorial United Methodist Church. He helped to convince the City of Decatur to support the right to public education for African American children. This resulted in the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church building becoming one of the first sites of an African American school, and he was the second man of color elected to the Decatur City Council after Reconstruction. Matthew H. Banks was the beginning of a legacy of a very prominent family in the African American community through the 20th century.

Matthew Hewlett Banks married Eliza Walden (born 1844) around 1865. Together, they had at least five children, one of which was Hewlett J. Banks. Eliza was a member of the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church's Ladies Aid Society along with Abbie Robinson Schaudies. Eliza's son and Abbie's daughter were Miss Athelyne's parents.

### Hewlett J. Banks (1875-1966) and Tulie Ophelia Schaudies (1875-1964)

Tulie Schaudies and Hewlett J. Banks were Miss Athelyne's parents. H. J. Banks was a noted entrepreneur in Decatur. Like his father, he was a Republican, businessman, and appointed Notary Public of Morgan County by Governor Bibb Graves on October 14, 1937. During the Scottsboro Boys Trial, H. J. Banks was 55 years old and was known as a bill plasterer. He was one of the men of color brought forward to testify against racial discrimination and provided a list of potential jurors. According to Ms. Towns, when he approached the witness box, Mr. Banks was dressed in a dark suit, white shirt, matching tie and kerchief, looking like the well-respected former alderman and successful businessman that he was. During his testimony, Mr. Banks stated he had been voting for the last 15



(Left) Dr. Willis Sterrs (Right) Sterrs Infirmary and Nurse Training School, Image Courtesy of Ms. Peggy Allen Towns and the *Decatur Daily*

years – something that became increasingly difficult for people of color after the 1901 rewriting of the Alabama State Constitution.

Tulie was born in the Schaudies-Banks Cottage that her parents bought. Samuel Schaudies celebrated Tulie's birth by commissioning a portrait of his wife and newborn daughter. When she was grown, Tulie and H. J. Banks were wed in the parlor of the cottage. They had one daughter, Miss Athelyne Celest Banks.

### Athelyne Celest Banks (1907-2006)

Athelyne Celest Banks was a spinster and an only child. She may have been the last remaining Schaudies or Banks from her direct family lines. Miss Banks lead a full and generous life in Decatur. She was the first female person of color and native-born Morgan County resident to be principal of a local school. She dedicated her life and wealth to the community, giving freely to organizations, institutions, and groups such as the Boys and Girls' Club, King's Memorial Church, the mentally ill, and the homeless.

### Dr. Willis Sterrs and Eva Sterrs

Dr. Willis Edward Sterrs (1867-1921) was Decatur's first African American physician. Born in Montgomery, he first attended school at Lincoln Normal University – now Alabama State University – and graduated in 1885. From there, he attended medical school at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where he graduated as a doctor of medicine on June 8, 1888. Moving back to Alabama, he briefly practiced in Montgomery before moving with his wife, Eva Sterrs, to Decatur. In Decatur, Dr. Sterrs owned the Magnolia Drug Store and the People's Dry Goods Store on Bank Street, where he was

**1 The First Colored Man.**  
Dr. W. E. Sterrs has been appointed a member of the Pension Board of Decatur, which is the first appointment of a colored man in the state. Dr. Sterrs is a worthy physician, and we congratulate the good people on securing his services. Now that the plums have begun to fall, we hope to see Dr. Scruggs appointed a member of the Huntsville board.

**2 The New Decatur Advertiser,** which is always up to date got out a Mammoth "Special Edition" last week, in which it gave Decatur and its people a special write up. It presented a picture of Dr. W. E. Sterrs residence and said of him:  
Dr. W. E. Sterrs has been in Decatur for nine years, and has, during that time, gained the esteem of all classes who know him, by his unblemished character, gentlemanly deportment and honorable dealing. He has built up a lucrative practice in town and the surrounding country, which is extending every year. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, holding diplomas from that institution in medicine, also in Electro-Therapeutics, Histology, Bacteriology and Pharmacology. He graduated in 1886 from Lincoln University of Marion, Ala. He holds a commission as United States pension examiner. Dr. Sterrs practiced in Montgomery for two years before coming to Decatur, and on the 14th of April, 1899, was elected president of the Alabama Medical Congress. He is a splendid example of the best class of the colored race and shows to what a high state of intelligence, learning and good moral character one of that race can attain with a course of good training and a close attention to the study of the noble profession of which he is so worthy a member, the example of a fair man like him will do more to elevate his people than all the lectures that are given.

**STERRS AGAIN HEADS NEGRO I. O. O. F.**  
**LOCAL PHYSICIAN RESPONSIBLE FOR GROWTH OF ORDER.**  
**3**  
The twelfth biennial meeting of the grand lodge and convention of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, colored, has just adjourned at Normal, Ala. Dr. W. E. Sterrs, a well-known negro physician of Decatur, was re-elected grand master. He has served as grand master for a number of years. Some years ago, when he became the head of the order in Alabama, the order was in debt several thousand dollars. Now all of the indebtedness has been paid, and the order has several thousand dollars to its credit. This is today the strongest negro order in Alabama.  
This session of the grand lodge voted \$10 to the Booker T. Washington memorial fund. It is understood that negro secret orders all over the United States are making donations to the fund.  
The grand lodge will meet in Birmingham in 1918, at which time there will be begun a collection fund for the purpose of erecting a monument over the grave of the late Past Grand Master William Hooper Council. Council was for many years president of Normal college for negroes at Normal, Ala., near Huntsville. He was regarded as being one of the most brilliant negroes in the nation. He was the founder of Normal.

**WELL KNOWN NEGRO PHYSICIAN DROWNS IN BEAVER LAKE**  
**4**  
Willis E. Sterrs, one of the best known negro physicians in Alabama, was drowned Friday morning in Beaver Lake, across the river from here in Limestone county. He had been fishing with a business associate and in some manner fell from the boat, going down before aid could be given him.  
News of the death was brought here and grappling hooks were taken to the lake in an effort to locate the body.  
The deceased was the founder of the Cottage Home Infirmary, the first hospital for negroes in this section and one of the first infirmaries in the Tennessee Valley.  
During his life, he had been connected with many movements looking to the advancement of his race and he had many friends among the white people of the Twin Cities.  
The body was discovered shortly after noon and brought back to Decatur. Funeral arrangements are being made.

pharmacist, and opened the Cottage Home Infirmary and Nurse Training School on Vine Street. Dr. Sterrs was also a notary public.

His wife, Eva A. Young Sterrs was born in 1871 in Canada. She moved south with her husband and became the publisher and editor of Decatur's first African American newspaper called *The Guardian*. She was also known

for encouraging and investing in education. Dr. Sterrs died in 1921 when his fishing boat capsized on Beaver Lake (no longer in existence after the flooding of the Tennessee River). He is buried in the Sterrs Section of the Decatur City Cemetery, which is named for him and his wife. Mrs. Sterrs stayed in Decatur until her death in 1958 and left large sums of money to several organizations in the community. Her will left

(Top) (1) "The First Colored Man," Excerpt from *The Journal*, Huntsville, Alabama, April 30, 1897 (2) "Dr. Sterrs has been in Decatur for Nine Years," Excerpt from *The Journal*, Huntsville, Alabama, June 16, 1899 (3) "Sterrs Again Heads Negro I.O.O.F.," Excerpt from *The Decatur Daily*, Decatur, Alabama, August 1, 1916 (3) "Well Known Negro Physician Drowns in Beaver Lake," Excerpt from *The Albany-Decatur Daily*, April 29, 1921 (Newspapers.com) (Left) Sterrs Infirmary, 1900.





Sunday was a big day with the colored Baptist in Decatur. It was the culmination of a protracted meeting that has been conducted in the church of that denomination for several weeks, during which many have made a profession of religion. Sunday evening at 8 o'clock about 1,000 negroes repaired to the Tennessee river at Bank street landing to witness the ceremony of baptism performed by Elder Robinson, the pastor. Among those baptized were Solomon S. Sykes, Chas. T. Sykes and J. J. Sykes. The former was born a slave, the property of the late Dr. F. W. Sykes, at one time United States senator elect, but never took his seat. S. S. Sykes remained on the farm until about fifteen years ago. He then came to town and has accumulated property rapidly, owning a large block of land in which he has been conducting a saloon. He is also an undertaker. Since joining the church he will quit the saloon business. J. J. Sykes is also proprietor of a saloon. Both men are reliable, influential and have the confidence of both the white and colored race.

Several months ago the little 3-year old child of Mr. and Mrs. Minor Walden, of Trinity, swallowed an eight-penny wire nail. A few days afterwards the child began to cough and bleed and grew very weak. The parents took the little fellow to a surgeon in Mississippi, who located the nail in the child's side, near the heart, with the aid of an X-ray, but said that he would not attempt to remove the nail, for fear of fatal consequences. The parents returned home and a few days ago took the little fellow to a surgeon in Virginia, who told them that a meniscus coating might form over the nail and the child might live for a few years, but that the nail would eventually kill him. This surgeon also said that he could perform an operation, but that it might kill the boy, on account of his weak condition. The parents decided to take the chances, and the operation was successfully performed Saturday, by removing three ribs in the left side. A letter from Mr. Walden stated that the little fellow looks fair to recover. If the child gets well surgeons say the operation will be one of the most remarkable of the age.—Ex.

**(Left)** Snippet from *The Decatur Weekly News*, Decatur, Alabama. Friday, October 5, 1900, Page 5 (Newspaper.com) **(Right)** S.S. Syke's Undertaker and Furniture Store in Decatur, Alabama, 1902 (The New York Public Library Digital Collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture)



property to the Vine Street Boy's Club, and money to Lakeside High School and the First Missionary Baptist Church. An apparently lost piece of the will allocated money for a "Negro Boys' Club," which is today the Eva Sterrs Boys & Girls Club – named in her honor.

## The Sykes Family

The Sykes Family was one of the most prominent families of color within the Decatur area. While their ancestry began in slavery, by the turn of the 20th century, several members were successful businessmen, politicians, homeowners, doctors, and more.

General Jesse Winston Garth was one of the men who directed the Decatur Land Company in the early 19th century. The company was responsible for laying out the city's streets and the men are considered the founding fathers of Decatur. Unlike his partners, Garth put down roots just southwest of the city – his plantation house is one of the only properties marked

on an 1837 survey map of Alabama. His 1,500-acre plantation was home to 189 slaves in 1850.

Garth's daughter, Susan Elizabeth Garth, married Dr. Francis W. Sykes and subsequently took over the Sykes-Garth Plantation outside of Decatur. Along with the property came the ownership of an enslaved woman named Laura – who was actually General Garth's granddaughter. Sykes and Laura had several children together, including Solomon Sharper Sykes – known simply as S.S. Sykes.

S.S. Sykes (1856-1925) was born into slavery on the Sykes-Garth Plantation, yet by the end of his life, he had become a respectable and prominent businessman and landowner in Decatur. His many children carried on this legacy as well.

In 1924, S.S. Sykes owned no less than 15 lots within Decatur, Old Town – more than any other person of color at the time. S.S. also owned a lot in the Decatur Land Improvement & Furnace Company's Addition #1 in West Decatur on the southwest corner of 5th Street and North Avenue. The lot is empty today, but the 1936 topographic map shows a house on that corner. While perhaps not a farmer, S.S. Sykes also owned land that was once part of the Sykes-Garth Plantation.

S.S. was well known as an undertaker and owned a furniture store at 225 Bank Street. S.S. Sykes, Dr. Sterrs, and G.F. Oliver helped to secure a loan of \$1,460 to purchase property from St. Ann's Catholic Church to build the First Missionary Baptist Church under the direction of African American architect W. A. Rayfield in 1921. S.S. continued to be a trustee of the church until his death.

S.S. Sykes married Ada Garth (1862-1938) and had six children: Newman (1885-1954), Leo (1890-1943), Frank Jehoy (1892-1986), Mammie Estelle Ragland (1896-1928), Melvin Elijah (1901-1984), and Ada Eunicetine Adam (1907-1983). All of the Sykes were well educated, successful, and well-respected within and outside of the African American community.

Dr. Newman M. Sykes received a medical degree from the University of Illinois and worked a practice there for nine years before returning to Decatur. Once back in Morgan County he served as the medical director for the Liberty Bell Insurance Company. Dr. Newman Sykes was one of several men who testified to the fact that there were several African American men in Morgan County who qualified for jury duty during what became known as the Scottsboro Boys trial.

Dr. Frank Jehoy "Doc" Sykes is known for two things. From 1914-1924, he played for several teams in the Negro Baseball League, including the New York Lincoln Giants, Hilldale Club, and the Baltimore Black Sox. He returned to Decatur in 1927 as a dentist and set up a practice. In 1936, Dr. Sykes took the stand in

the Scottsboro Boys trial. He was one of the four men who provided a list of eligible jurors. Unfortunately, Dr. Sykes and his family left Decatur the following year after a cross was burned on their front lawn.

Frank and Laura had two other sons who were quite successful as well. Justice Charles P. Sykes was a judge in Decatur in 1895 and James J. Sykes, known as J.J., was businessman that at one time or another was a grocer, a coal dealer, a saloon owner, a tailor, and an undertaker. J.J. owned businesses and property mostly along Bank Street but also out towards Moulton Heights. After the new 1901 Alabama State Constitution forbid white and black people to be buried in the same cemetery, J.J. helped to fill a need by purchasing property in Moulton Heights and creating Magnolia Cemetery, now known as Sykes or Magnolia-Sykes Cemetery in his honor.

**(Below)** The Sykes Family, Circa 1911. Seated (Left to Right): Melvin, Solomon (S.S.), Eunicetine, Wife Ada (Garth) Sykes. Standing: Carl, Leo, Estella, Newman, Frank, Grandson Alonzo Thayer Jr., Rebecca (Sykes) Thayer. (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)



# 4. PLANNED COMMUNITIES

## Cedar Lake Colony

Cedar Lake was a planned African American community in Morgan County, just three and a half miles south of downtown Decatur. It was dubbed the “Cedar Lake Colony” when it was chartered and platted in November of 1897. The community was centered around farming, self-sufficiency, and sustainability. The plan was to have at least 140 houses, a post office, a train station, a church, a school, and some industry – all supported by over 360 acres of good soil. The location chosen was near a small pond, which would provide water, and the farmland was planted with wheat, potatoes, and tobacco.

The community was first proposed by an Englishwoman named Lilian Ray Nelson (mostly referred to as Mrs. Ray), a writer and philanthropist, who helped to bring it to fruition. The opening ceremony in November 1897 recorded by the *Birmingham Age-Herald* and the *New York Times*, included Mrs. Ray’s speech. In the speech, she stressed that the creation of the “colony [was] not a business speculation in any sense of the term.” Instead, it was meant to be purely a humanitarian project for the betterment of the African American people to experience a chance to stand on their own and exhibit self-sufficiency as a community.

A few years after the settlement was officially begun, Ray restates her intentions in a 1903 newspaper article as follows:

“My intention in founding the town of Cedar Lake as a colored man’s town was to encourage the building of homes, and the training of young negroes in agriculture and trades by which they could be supported; and my experience has been that an honest home training,



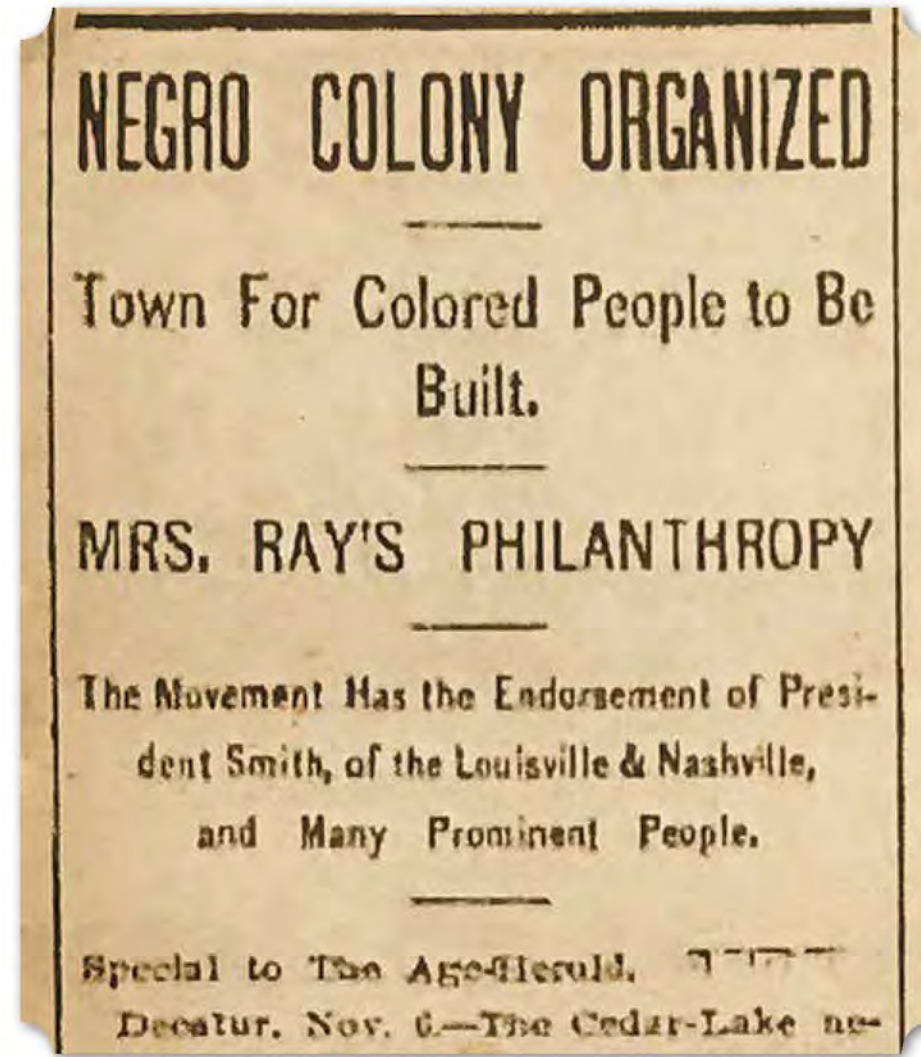
(Above) Photographs of Cedar Lake philanthropists George A. and Lilian Ray Nelson (*New Decatur Advertiser*, New Decatur, Alabama, Thursday, June 27, 1912) (Right) Original Plat Map of the Town of Cedar Lake, 1897



*and a fair education in the common school under good teachers, is more beneficial to the masses... At all events Cedar Lake is only open to colored men who are industrious and self supporting, and who wish to work and keep their families in comfort. I am making no offers to the colored people of any great gifts that will create the impression that they can ever live and enjoy what they have not earned by honest work. I make them no promise that I do not keep, and I strive to give them good sensible advice, and lastly, as the place is mine, I do not permit any outside interference with the plans I have formed."*

By 1915, Mrs. Ray was described as the founder of Cedar Lake and credited with introducing the concept of segregation to the area. "She [believed] that the negro race should preserve its identity, working for its industrial development and *relinquishing all ideas of social equality.*" Though she undoubtedly provided much needed assistance in the way of donating and matching funds and selling and renting land to disadvantaged members of Morgan County, many who had been former slaves or the children of former slaves, her public messages often emphasized that her altruistic endeavors were to ensure that no people of color go "begging amongst the white people" for anything they did not earn themselves.

Despite Mrs. Ray's philanthropy being solidly founded in segregationist beliefs, news of the Cedar Lake Colony and Ray's plans were ill-received in the far southern reaches of Alabama, along the Georgia border, in Columbia. In an obvious rebuke to Ray, an unknown *Columbia Breeze* author wrote that "it is very strange that in these latter days persons can be found who are willing to spend their money in experiments that for the past thirty years have planted gaunt pillars of failure in every decade all over this southern country, notwithstanding the power of capital and, for a time, the power of the government behind them." Along with other vile insults and views about who should do what about the "problems" of the South, the short November 25, 1897 article made it clear that North Alabama and the Tennessee River Valley stood apart



(Above) "Negro Colony Organized," (Cedar Lake File at Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

from the rest of Alabama, and most particularly the southern portions and the "Black Belt." While Cedar Lake may have never become all that was planned and hoped for, it surely stands to reason that there was not a better place in Alabama to attempt such an "experiment."

The area had long been referred to as Cedar Lake for the impressive cedar trees and the small body of water known first as Cedar Lake and later as Johnson Pond. The land books for the years 1916-1919 document George and Lilian Nelson owning the southeast quarter of Section 6, Cedar Lake itself. While the community is labeled on the 1936 USGS topographic map, the pond is not labeled until the 1950 map, which names it Cedar Lake. However, the next available topographic

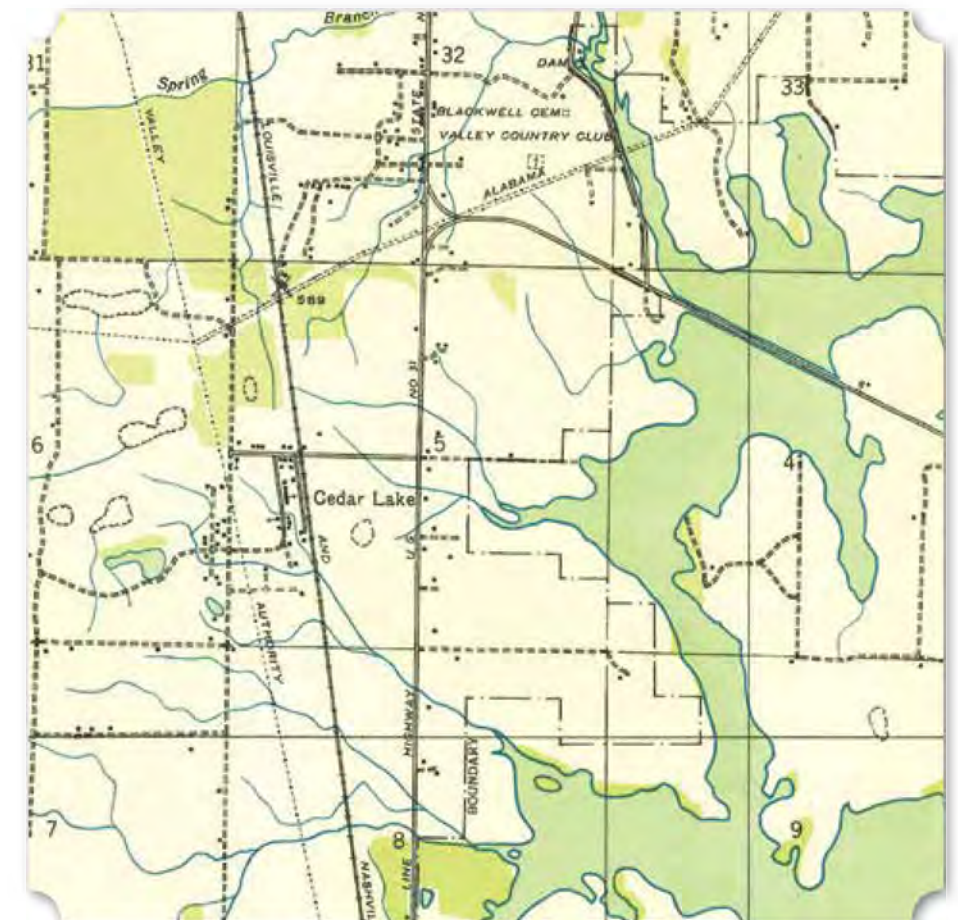
map for the area is in 1963, on which the pond is labeled Johnson Pond, apparently after Jake Johnson, who passed away in the 1950s.

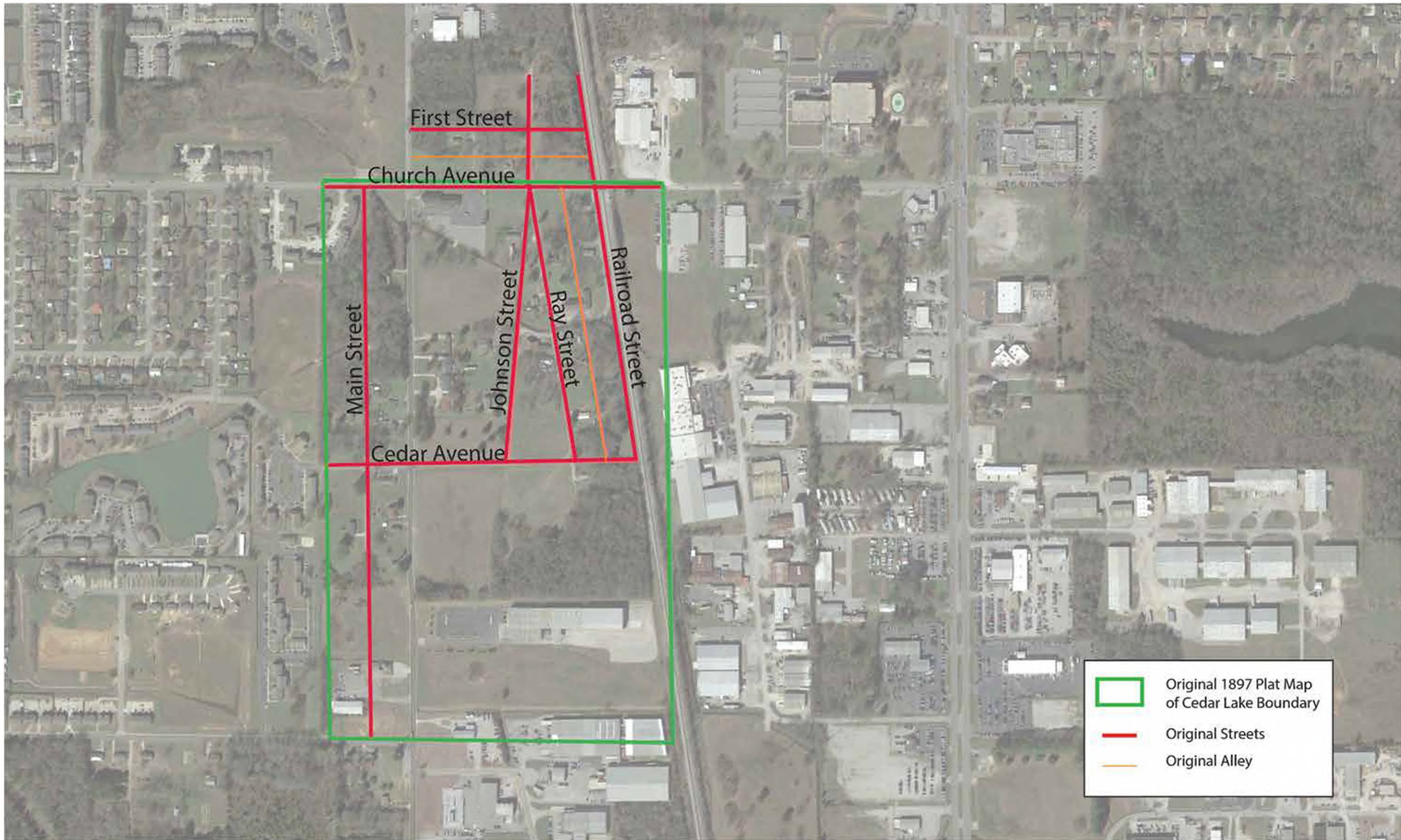
While Cedar Lake never became the city it was intended to be, a community grew out of the initial project. From a town center of approximately 100 acres to about 1,200 acres of a farming community, Cedar Lake was eventually annexed into the city of Decatur in the year 1967.

## Cedar Lake Colony Plat Map

An 1898 plat map found at the Morgan County archives records a 25-acre addition to the original plan on the west side of the community. While the entire community included at least 360 acres of farmland (and later grew to about 1,200 acres), the platted city proper included

(Below) 1936 USGS Topographic Map Showing Cedar Lake





-  Original 1897 Plat Map of Cedar Lake Boundary
-  Original Streets
-  Original Alley

**(Opposite) Map of Cedar Lake Plat Overlaid on Modern Aerial with African American Landowners' Parcels Highlighted**

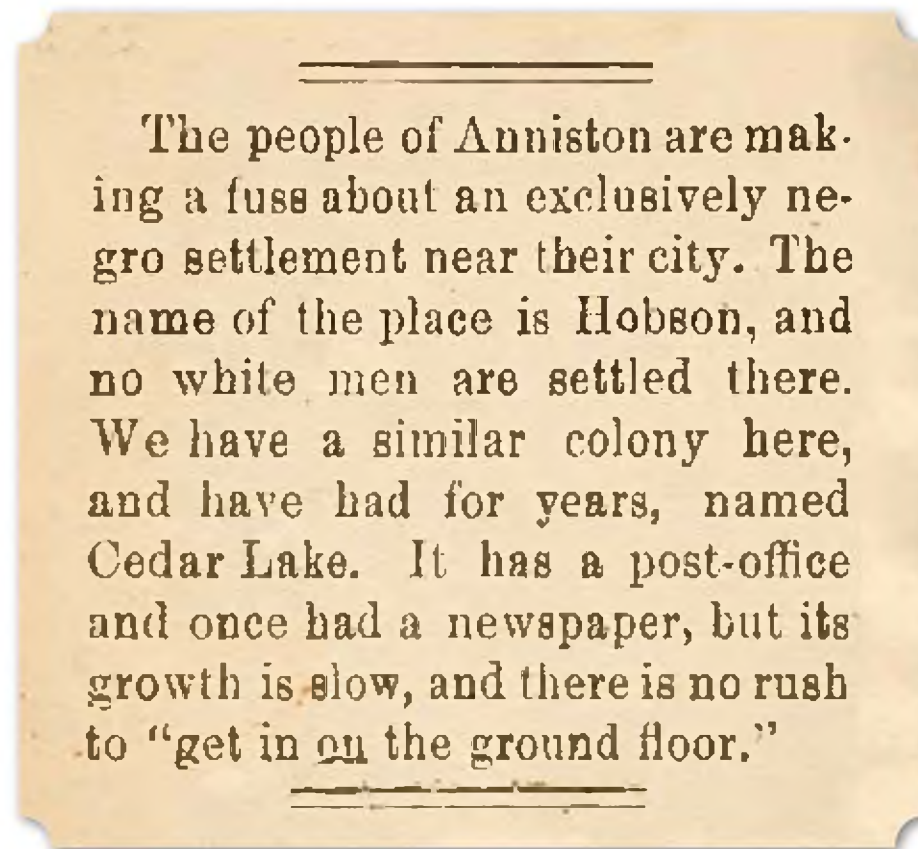
about 100 acres total. The platted city was situated along the west side of the L&N railroad and had six roads crisscrossing and dividing the 83 formally drawn up land lots. The city was laid out with avenues running east-west and streets going north-south.

The plat map has four certified declarations written and signed around the drawing of Cedar Lake. Each one verifies the map's accuracy and details the land owned or donated by the parties. Much of the land was owned by Mrs. Lilian Ray, who was president of the Moulton Heights Land Improvement & Industrial Company and her husband, George Asa Nelson, the company's secretary. The third party to sign the plat (or at least "make his mark") was Jake Johnson, a local African American farmer and landowner. Jake and his brother John owned large pieces of farmland in the area. It appears that about half of the platted land was Johnson's. While land records show that George and Lilian Nelson continued to own approximately half of the lots within Cedar Lake until 1939, the Nelsons themselves lived in Moulton Heights. They rented their lots to African American tenants ensuring that the entire community was African American – as noted in the 1930 census.

## A Legitimate Community

Lilian Ray had many plans to legitimize the colony as a community. General Joe Wheeler assisted Ray in obtaining a post office for the colony, naming it in her honor. The president of the L&N railroad wrote to Ray promising his cooperation in supplying Cedar Lake with "a station, side tracks, and all the necessary shipping facilities." Furthermore, a firm from Rhode Island agreed to build a very large cotton mill as well as a cigar and tobacco factory. Mrs. Ray, herself, donated \$10,000 (quite a sizeable fund for the turn of the century) for the building of 140 houses. Once these were full of residents, then Cedar Lake would fulfill its charter and become a city, electing its own mayor and city officials. Governor Johnston promised to "appoint a Notary Public, an ex-officio

Justice and a Police Constable, all to be colored men, thus giving the colony local self-government."



**(Above) Announcement in the *New Decatur Advertiser* on September 8, 1899 (Newspapers.com)**

In an October 30, 1903 article in the *New Decatur Advertiser*, Mrs. Ray wrote about the rumor of a college in Cedar Lake. While she dismissed these plans and quelled the public's upset over the notion, she also updated the actual plans and progress of Cedar Lake. Between 1897 and 1903, a brick yard was opened, and a skilled brick maker from Tuskegee was scheduled to come to Cedar Lake and instruct the locals in the art and technology of brickmaking. She also reported that "there are many families who own their homes, and are happy and contented; there is a good common school, and two churches, a post office and general store, a good building has just been erected as a lodge room and a place for a general meeting room, a planning mill is now being planned" and the brick yard has opened. Beyond the homes and fields owned by the

African American community, Ray mentioned the more than 400 acres of prime farmland that she rented out to African American families she deemed worthy.

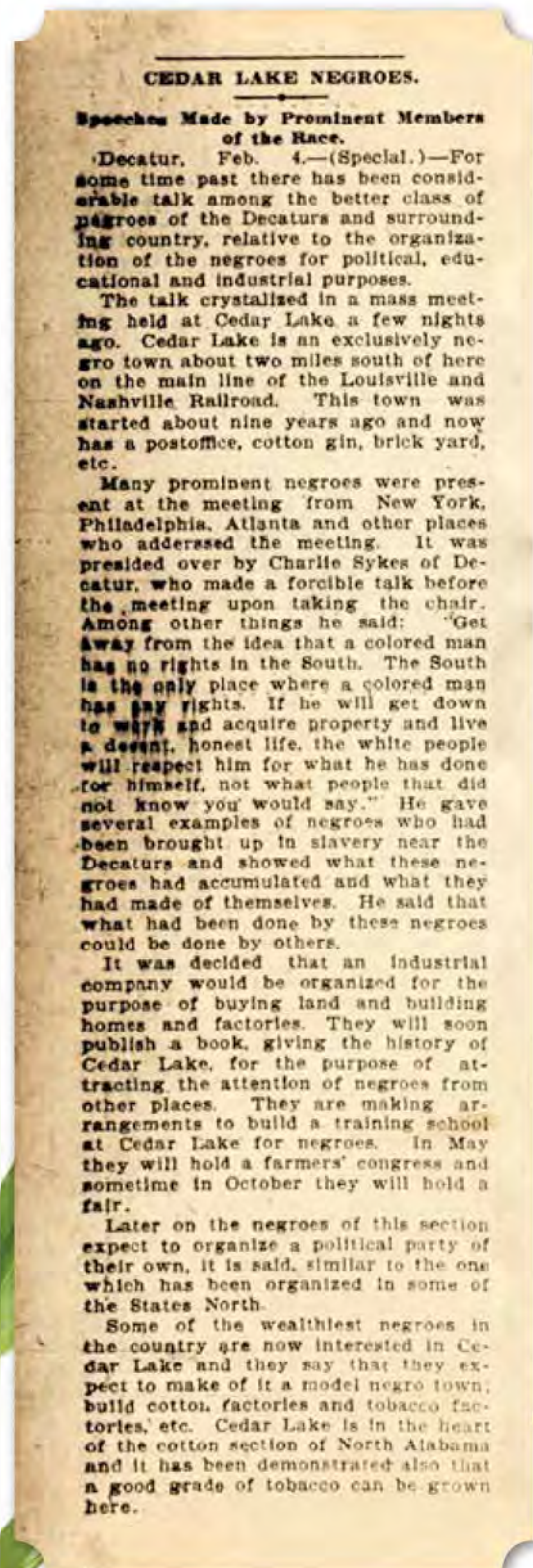
Mrs. Ray also stated the plans for an electric car line from Decatur to Cedar Lake, like the line she advocated for from Decatur to Moulton Heights. However, while the Moulton Heights line was built, it does not appear that the Cedar Lake line ever came to fruition. Similarly, if the train station was never built, that left Flint City to the south and Decatur to the north as the nearest train depots and easiest mode of transportation for citizens of Cedar Lake to connect with the larger urban area.

The only evidence that a train station was ever located at Cedar Lake is in a front-page article in the *New Decatur Advertiser* on June 27, 1912 by George A. Nelson. He wrote about minerals, oil, and gas in North Alabama's rich natural landscape, but he mentions that "just outside the city limits of New Decatur, on the L. & N. R.R., at a station known as Cedar Lake, is a great bed of blue plastic clay which can be manufactured into high grade fire-brick." This may also be the clay deposit that prompted the brick yard that opened a decade previous.

Cedar Lake was home to an on-again-off-again newspaper. In 1903, it was called the *Enterprise* and was edited by William Butler, an African American. Butler also intended to put together the Cedar Lake Co-Operative and Industrial School that would provide courses in agricultural, mechanical training, building, and manufacturing of goods. This cooperative would be completely owned and operated by the African American community, amassing funds by selling shares as well as proceeds from a chicken farm. A Christmas evening of entertainment with concerts, dinner, and speeches by prominent African Americans was organized as a fundraiser to initiate the industrial school. As there was definitely no station at Cedar Lake at the time, the L&N Railroad agreed to stop trains traveling both ways at the town on Christmas day.

According to the *Montgomery Advertiser*, another similar meeting was held in February 1905. It was attended by people from as far away as New

(Right) Newspaper Clipping,  
"Cedar Lake Negroes  
– Speeches Made by  
Prominent Members of the  
Race," *The Montgomery  
Advertiser*, Montgomery,  
Alabama, February 5, 1905  
(Newspapers.com)



York, Philadelphia, and Atlanta. Charles Sykes led the proceedings. In his speech he declared that everyone should "get away from the idea that a colored man has no rights in the South. The South is the only place where a colored man has any rights. If he will get down to work and acquire property and live a decent, honest life, the white people will respect him for what he had done for himself." Plans made at the meeting included a book on the history of Cedar Lake, arrangements for a farmers' congress, a fair, and the organization of a political party. The plans for cotton and tobacco factories were still in the works.

While corn was the predominate crop in the area, cotton was the foremost crop of Cedar Lake – particularly a variety known as "Manly's Full Fruit" with large full stalks of bulky bolls. A cotton factory and gin were said to be built on the east side of the railroad at the northeast corner of Cedar Lake proper – although little evidence of any exact details exist. However, as war was destroying much of Europe, Mrs. Ray announced her idea to bring skilled lace workers from Brussels to Alabama to teach the locals of Cedar Lake to make lace from the staple cotton of North Alabama. In order for this to happen, \$2 million would have to be raised by the African American community itself. Ray estimated that there were 400,000 "higher class" people of color in the South and that if each contributed \$5 then the goal would quickly be reached. If it were reached, the ideal placement of the factory would be along the Alabama Power Company line that ran just north of Cedar Lake proper to supply cheap and easy power to the factory and its special gin which would produce the finest fibers. There is no evidence this idea came to fruition.

One of the pivotal public services that was established in Cedar Lake was the post office. The community received a post office that functioned until 1915. The first postmaster of Cedar Lake was Wiley A. Wilhite, who started on April 28, 1898. He would later serve as the minister of the Baptist Church. After Wilhite came Charles C. Mathes (or Matthews) starting on May 31, 1899; Nona Ware (Feb. 12), Charley Moseley (Aug. 31), and Ida Hunt (Oct. 21) in 1903; Samuel Kelley started September 12, 1904; and the last postmaster, Hillard Tate, Jr. on November 2, 1911. According to the postmaster records, the Cedar Lake post office was discontinued on September 30, 1915.

A short piece in the *Decatur Daily* on Monday, October 4, 1915 announced the federal government's denial for the request that the post office be restored. Apparently, there was not enough business to justify the town's own post office and it would continue to be served by the New Decatur post office and a rural post route. Seeing as there might not have been a railroad station and definitely not an electric car line, this would mean that citizens of Cedar Lake would have to travel quite far to post mail.

Around the time of the closing, it was rumored that Postmaster Tate had stolen funds from his office and had subsequently been arrested. However, in the *New Decatur Advertiser* on Thursday, August 5, 1915, Tate wrote to refute this claim saying he "has not been short in his accounts and he had never been arrested." More likely, the reason given by the federal government was genuine, accurate, and nondiscriminatory. The postmaster records at the turn of the century show that there were 63 post offices in Morgan County from about 1890-1920. During that time, 45 post offices were discontinued or consolidated with others. From the 1920s to the 1950s, there were only 12 post offices operating in the



major towns and cities of Morgan County. In fact, it appears that Cedar Lake could be the last surviving rural post office in the county during that time.

Tate's efforts to dispel rumors would not be the first time Cedar Lake had been slandered, libeled, and subsequently defended by its postmaster. In the last months of 1904, a rumor spread in Decatur about the little settlement of Cedar Lake. Perhaps not the first effort to discredit the people of Cedar Lake, the local papers had falsely reported on November 14 and 15 that a dozen people were poisoned by ice cream at a church rally. Charles C. Mathes (Matthews) wrote in the *New Decatur Advertiser* on November 21 to correct the record. He wrote that "the people of this little town, who are living quietly and religiously in their own homes," do not deserve the disgrace of the false story. Mathes reiterated that he lives in Cedar Lake and served as its postmaster. He stated that there is only the Missionary Baptist Church, which does not hold rallies, and that everyone in town was in very good health.

Another important community center was the school. Cedar Lake received one of two Rosenwald schools in Morgan County. It was built just south of Cedar Avenue in 1921-1922. In early 1920, a rather large headline read "Cedar Lake Negroes Raise School Fund – Mail Order King Will Contribute \$500 to Match Other Contributions." This was the beginning of the Rosenwald school at Cedar Lake after a meeting in town where the locals raised the necessary funds. Although the land records from 1916-1919 are difficult to read, it appears that the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 5 – where the southern half of Cedar Lake proper was located – was owned by African Americans. The names Eliza Brown, John Henry Williams, and George Stover are legible. While it is difficult to decipher which person owned the land on which the school was built, the required two acres were most certainly donated by the African American community and not the Nelsons.

The official Rosenwald Fund records put the total cost of the Cedar Lake School at \$2,700 – approximately \$40,500 in today's money. A total of \$1,000 came from the African American community, another \$900 came from the "public," which might include the Nelsons, and \$800 was



(Above) Cedar Lake Rosenwald School

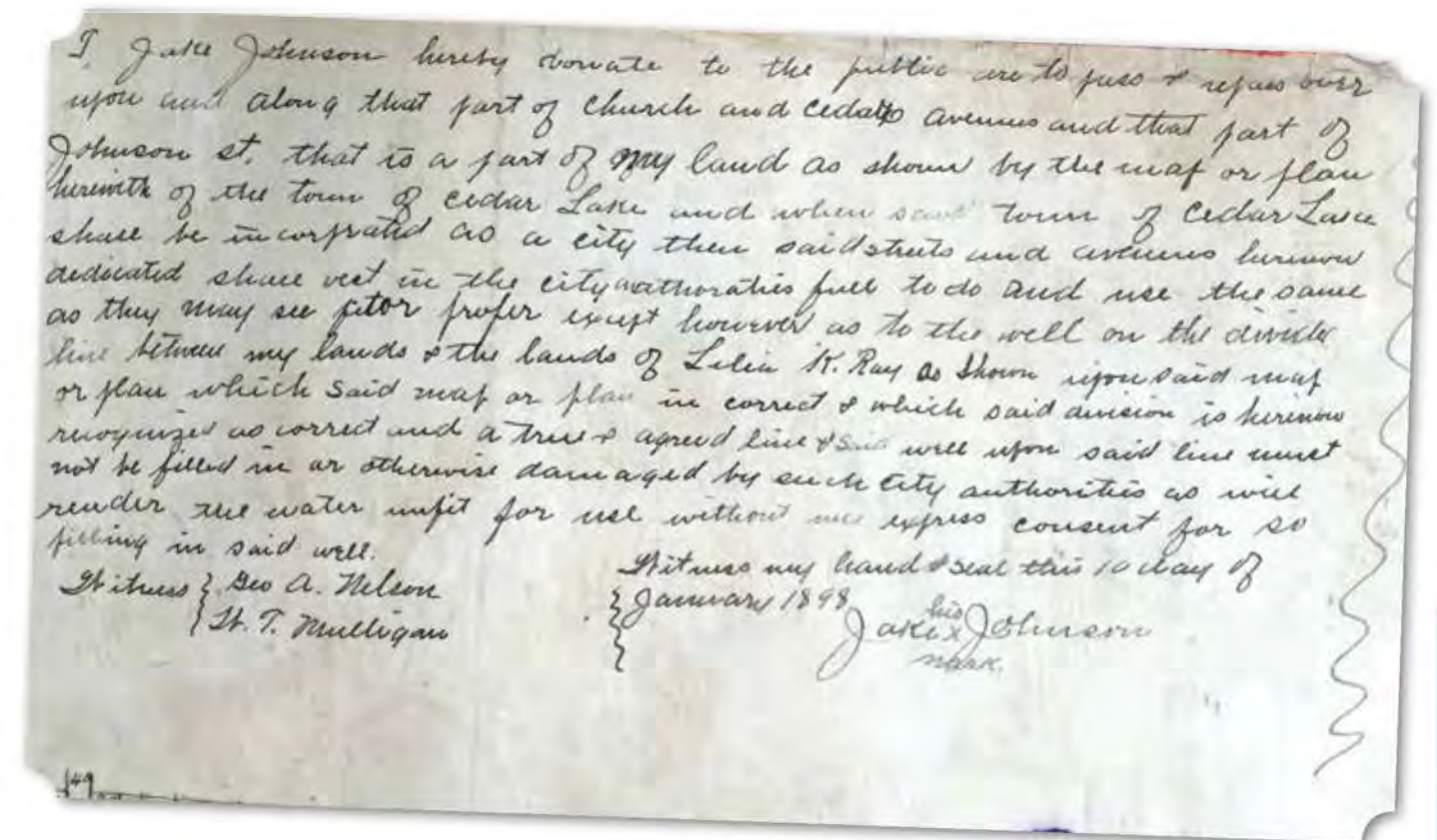
supplied by the Fund. This school was a two-room schoolhouse, which elevated the costs, but also reflected the size of the community.

While the original designs of the colony included a school, a count of the children on the 1930 census quickly shows how essential the school was to the community. Half of the population (100 of 202 people) were children aged 18 or under. Fifteen of these children were already working, mostly young boys helping out on a farm – but one 15-year-old girl was a cook in a private home. However, that left 85 children that most likely did attend the school. The Rosenwald school was a two-teacher schoolhouse. In 1930, those teachers were Carrie Cumming and Mildred Wise. Mrs. Cumming was a 23-year-old woman living with her husband, Jett (29), who worked as a truck driver. Ms. Wise was the stepdaughter of Charles Adkins, a farm laborer. She was 20 years old at the time. Both teachers lived in rented homes near either Ray or Railroad streets judging by their neighbors.

The majority of Rosenwald schools in North Alabama served children to the 8th grade. This is most likely the case for the Cedar Lake School. Although basic education for African American children was supported by much of the local white community as evidenced by donations to the Rosenwald school funding, support for higher education was not as wide spread. An elementary education was considered ample enough for a child to become a self-sufficient and self-supporting adult. In the early 20th century, many rural schools for white children did not include instruction beyond the 8th grade and the vast majority of those rural-raised children did not attend colleges or technical schools either.

Mrs. Ray's segregationist philosophy allowed for a strict definition of higher education in the form of technical and mechanical training for industrial tasks related to farming and the production of materials for sale. Ray often spoke of bringing experts in particular trades to Cedar Lake to teach the adult population skills such as brick making or lac making, but there is no evidence that she supported academic higher education for African Americans. It appears that most of the Nelsons'

(Below) Plat Map Paragraph "Signed" by Jake Johnson

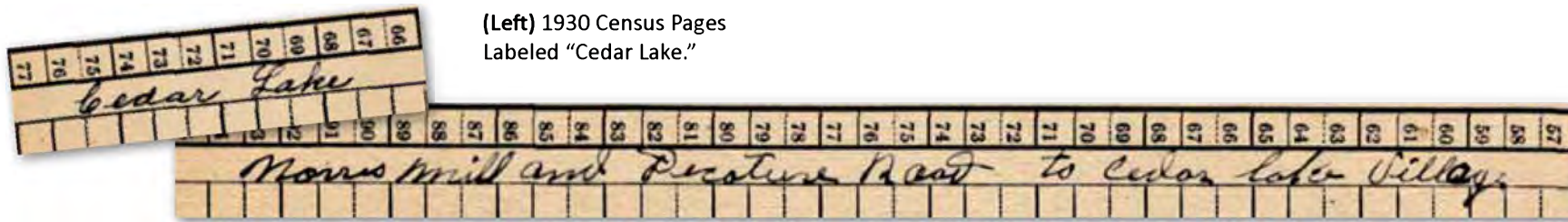


generosity was focused on creating opportunities for a particular set of vetted individuals who were deemed industrious enough to support themselves, their families, and community within a semi-isolated environment. The Cedar Lake Colony was meant to be a self-contained community that produced its own food, governed itself, and built its own necessary institutions without the need to rely upon or interact with the outside community much more than beyond trading skills and products. Higher education was simply not necessary to achieve these goals.

In 1930, there were only 43 households in Cedar Lake – far short of the 140 homes that were planned, funded, and required for the city charter. Since the charter was never fulfilled, it is possible there was never a mayor or city council elected; there is no record of anyone serving as the constable, notary public, or ex-officio Justice in Cedar Lake. The rewriting of the Alabama State Constitution in 1901 impacted the dreams of the Cedar Lake Colony. While some families were able to buy land, build houses, schools, and churches, and farm the land, the colony never became the city it was intended to be. The disenfranchisement

of African Americans in the new 1901 constitution ensured that “an experiment” such as the colony would never succeed to its full potential – most importantly in obtaining any form of city government. While this effect may not have been any conscious effort on the part of the people of Morgan County or the state of Alabama, the undeniable disenfranchisement of the African Americans of Alabama must have taken a toll on the efforts of the Nelsons and the community of Cedar Lake.

(Left) 1930 Census Pages Labeled “Cedar Lake.”



(Below) 1930 Census Excerpts for Hillard Tate, Will R. Garth, Jim Skinner, and Will Martin – Showing Home Ownership and Farming Occupation.

15	253 271	Tate, Hillard Jr.	Head	W	58	72	31	70	Ala	Virginia	Alabama	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	15
16		Mattie	Wife-H		45	72	18	70	Ala	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					16
17		Ethel	Daughter		19	8			Ala	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					17

61	62	Garth Will R	Head	W	49	25	20	70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	89
		Mattie	Wife-H		18	18			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					90
		Willie	Son		14	14			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	Labor	Farmer	VVVV	0	70	91
		Ray	Son		12	12			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					92

55		Bowling, Emma	Wife		44	24	20	70	Alabama	Alabama	Virginia	12	None					85
56	220 238	Skinner, Jim	Head	W	55	26	20	70	Alabama	Alabama	Mississippi	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	86
57		Mahala	Wife-H		38	24			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					87
58	221 239	Martin, Hill	Head	W	51	29	20	70	Mississippi	Alabama	Alabama	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	88
59		Virgie	Wife-H		43	19			Mississippi	Mississippi	Alabama	12	None					89
60		Stark	Daughter		21				Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	90
61		Lucy	Daughter		14	27			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					91
62		Perowne, William H	Wife		48				Ohio	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					92
63	222 240	Burke, William M.	Head	W	52	20	20	70	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	Farmer	General farm	VVVV	0	70	93
64		Louisa	Wife-H		25	16			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					94
65		Lucie	Daughter		12	8			Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	12	None					95



## Cedar Lake in the 1930s

While Cedar Lake was platted in the final years of the 19th century, the 1930 census is the first to call out Cedar Lake as a community outside of Decatur. Undoubtedly the community was enumerated in the previous censuses, however, the inhabitants were not strictly labeled as living within a community called Cedar Lake. In 1930, there was a total of 202 individuals, living in 43 households listed on the census. About 75% of the families owned their own land in Cedar Lake, with only 12 families renting from others – most likely the Nelsons. While the town was quite diverse – being home to merchants, railroad workers, cooks, teachers, ministers, and laundresses – the backbone of Cedar Lake was the farmers. There are 20 men that list their occupation as farmer; over half of them were the heads of household and owned their own land. Another 20 men said they primarily worked on a farm, presumably as farmhands to the other farmers in town. Meaning there were 40 men working the soil and tending to the crops within a small town of only 200 people.

The average age for a homeowner in 1930s Cedar Lake was substantially older than their renting counterparts. While there are two 29-year-old men who own their home, the average homeowner was 52 years old. More than half of the home-owning population was over 50 years of age. Conversely, those renting their homes were much younger. Despite the fact that there were fewer renters overall, their average age was only 35 and three-fourths of them were men under 40 years of age. The youngest household was a set of 19-year-old newlyweds, Robert and Grace Polk, who with a then-newborn daughter, rented a house alongside Robert's father and brother.

# THE DECATUR DAILY

Saturday Morning, March 12, 1983

## “Settler Wouldn't Recognize Home Place”

By Dana Beyerle, Daily Staff Writer (Article found by Peggy Allen Towns)

Jake Johnson, who was at least 100 years old when he died in the early 1950s, would hardly recognize his home place.

Cedar Lake, first settled after the end of the Civil War by Johnson and others, until recently had changed little.

Once exclusively a settlement of blacks, today Cedar Lake area is a mixture of black and white – mostly white. Crowding the once close-knit, tiny community are new housing developments.

Soon, what is left of Cedar Lake's heritage may be only a memory.

Jake's grandson, Chester Matthews, 70, and Chester's son, Newlyn, 42, still live in Cedar Lake. They remember how different the community looked only 10 years ago.

“A lot of changes around here,” deadpans Chester.

Ten years ago, most of the houses were dilapidated; there was no running water for the 221 residents. Outhouses were a discreet distance from back doors. Some still are.

Then city government moved in and started changes. Gone is the community well north of Chester's house. Gone are the hotel, two stores run by “Railroad” Dan Matthews and Heywood Matthews, Chester's father. Gone is the black baseball team.

The post office, the dance hall, the Masonic Lodge, they are all gone, too.

“There used to be more houses in the past than there is now,” said Newlyn Matthews. “The community is declining in both population and housing.”

Sumacs grow in clusters around old home sites; partially toppled chimneys peek through brush uncut for a decade.

A few modern brick homes have been built in Cedar Lake. Newlyn and Chester Jr. live side-by-side in comfortable ranch-style homes on Central Avenue, one of only a few streets in Cedar Lake proper – Ray Avenue, Dustin Avenue, Linnet Street, Marr Avenue and Main Avenue.

There are three churches. To the north is Cedar Lake Road, and another tiny black community called The Hill. To the east are L&N Railroad tracks. To the west, three apartment complexes and a major, growing subdivision. To the south are industrial parks.

All of this is within a few hundred yards, plus Mutual Savings Life Insurance Co.'s home office, BMB Specialties plant, a church retirement home.

Five years ago, 221 people lived in the 105-acre Cedar Lake area that was annexed by the city in 1967. Of the 68 structures, 50 were substandard. If Cedar Lake's “boundaries” were extended to U.S. 31 and Spring Avenue, the population would number in the thousands.

Indians had lived in Cedar Lake for centuries, getting water from the tiny pond known today as Johnson's Pond.

City Councilman James Roberts, 65, whose family farmed in Austinville, remembers the pond. “That's where we'd go to fish when the crops were in,” he said.

After the Civil War, as former slaves moved in and stayed, the area became known for the cedar trees and the pond. The two features combined to produce the name Cedar Lake.

Today, blacks and whites are making new homes. It is one of the fastest growing areas in Decatur. Within the last two years in the immediate area, three major apartment complexes, an industrial plant, scores of new homes, and a church retirement home have been built. An elementary school will [copy of article cut off]...

“They haven't done all the work they promised to do,” said Hubert Scott, a Cedar Lake resident since his mother moved the family from Jeff, in Madison County, in the early 1940s.

Scott is not complaining, only marking time until federal funds can resume

paying for modernization.

The money spent in Cedar Lake, according to the city's Planning Department, provided sewer service for 30 houses. Part of Cedar Lake Road, mostly in the black area, was widened and paved. Storm drainage was installed.

[Copy of article cut off]

“Everything is on hold,” City Planner Rob Walker said. Street improvements are incomplete, drainage is incomplete and water lines need to be laid in the black community.

Once of the greatest changes is yet to come – if there is enough money. Central Parkway, a route from Alabama 20 south to a proposed “outer Beltline Road” south of Cedar Lake will bisect Cedar Lake Road. But completion is years off.

They done pretty good,” said [copy of article cut off]... [Chester's and] Newlyn's wife, Euniceteen, have the same names.

Just across Main Avenue, a stone's throw from Newlyn Matthews' front door, are the 38-unit Lakeview Apartments and the 60-unit Dogwood Apartments. Both opened within the past two years.

Brand new is the 120-unit Albany Landing apartment complex. Albany Landing is built around Johnson's pond, which has been landscaped to fit the apartment layout.

(Left) Transcribed Article from the *Decatur Daily*, March 12, 1983, by Dana Beyerle. Article Found by Peggy Allen Towns

During the Scottsboro Boys trial in the mid-1930s, four outstanding African American citizens testified to the fact that the county had failed to survey them or their community for prospective jurors. When asked for a list of men whom they considered to meet the standards of jury duty, the four produced a combined list of 183 names. Of these names, Will R. Garth, Jim Skinner, Will Martin, and Hillard Tate (meaning Hillard, Jr. as Sr. would have been nearly 90 years old) were among the names – all landowning farmers of the Cedar Lake community. Land Records from Morgan County collaborate the land holdings of these men (see the map of African American landowners of Cedar Lake): W. R. Garth is known to have owned at least 33.5 acres of farmland; Hillard Tate, Jr owned 26.3 acres of farm land, plus a house in the town of Cedar Lake; Jim Skinner and Will Martin both lived in houses in town, but listed their occupations as farmers on a general farm – they may have owned land elsewhere, only it was not identified during this research.

## The People Behind Cedar Lake

### The Nelsons

George Asa Nelson (March 10, 1853-July 27, 1928) was a prominent North Alabamian of the turn-of-the-20th century. His first career was as a lawyer and a well-respected member of the Morgan County Bar Association. He is said to have married Lilian Ray in the 1870s. Lilian Katherine Ray Nelson (1854-November 26, 1939) was born in England but came to Alabama after her marriage. She was a literary writer under the nom de plume “Jack Carleton.” In their later years, George

found an interest in the land, particularly farming and mineral research; Lilian looked toward philanthropic endeavors.

Together they lived in a stately home in Moulton Heights near the Beltline – another location with a significant African American community in the early 20th century. Their home was known as Tanglewood, complete with a private deer park enclosed by a high woven wire fence and roaming peacocks that reminded Mrs. Ray of her homeland. The Nelsons formed the Moulton Heights Land Improvement & Industrial Company and bought substantial land holdings south of Decatur where the future Cedar Lake would be developed. Their other notable achievement is the role they played in the extension of the street car line to the suburb of Moulton Heights from Decatur. The Nelsons were longtime members of the Moulton Heights Baptist Church, just one more means of their deep-rooted community involvement. George Nelson passed away at the age of 75 after losing a battle with a bout of blood poisoning that led to both of his legs being amputated in a fruitless effort to stave off the infection. Lilian lived another 11 years, passing away at 85 years old. The couple was laid to rest in Decatur City Cemetery in the Cantwell addition on the south end.

### The Johnsons

Jake Johnson was married to Ada Ferguson on November 18, 1896 in St. Peter's Church by the Reverend H.L. Ellis. Jake was born sometime between 1860 and 1865, Ada sometime in the 1870s. They had at least nine children together – Mahala, Addie, Wood, Hermie, Lelia, Henry, Allen, Nemahiah, and Essie. In 1920, they lived in Cedar Lake and continued to own the 20-plus acres noted on the original city plat, in addition to another 1.5 acres to the west of the platted center. In 1930, Jake and Ada were still farming even though Jake was then 70 years old – but then again, he is said to have lived to be at least 100 years of age. Living with them were three sons that helped on the farm and two grandchildren, 13 and 10 years old. John B. Johnson, another African American landowner and farmer in Cedar Lake, was most likely Jake's brother, but very little family history is known about the Johnson family. John B. Johnson, about 55 years old in 1920, was widowed, but still taking

care of three daughters, and farming his own land – which he owned free of mortgage. In 1930, he was retired and listed no occupation; however, he still owned nearly 80 acres of arable land.

Mahala Johnson married fellow Cedar Lake resident Haygood Matthews (sometimes referred to as Mathies or Mathes). Haygood (b. 1883) and his brother, "Railroad" Dan (b. 1887), owned four lots within Cedar Lake proper off Ray Avenue. In 1908, the two made the newspapers when they began to build a new store. Eventually they owned and operated two stores in Cedar Lake.

Haygood and Daniel's father, Charles C. Mathes (b. 1844), who served as postmaster to Cedar Lake at the turn of the century, was also a farmer who by 1900 owned his own land in the area of Flint. Haygood married one of Jake Johnson's elder daughters, Mahala. Their son, Chester Matthews continued to live in Cedar Lake, with his wife Euniceteen and son Newlyn. Chester and Newlyn lived side-by-side on land handed down from Jake Johnson in Cedar Lake proper through to the 1980s.

### Communities Beyond Morgan County

The Cedar Lake Colony was a unique experiment that brought together American and English philanthropists and a former slave to help provide opportunities for African American farming and landownership. Although the colony was not a complete success in that many of the planned amenities and industries were never fully realized, the founders succeeded in creating a community with a lasting sense of place and culture. Over 100 years later, there remains the recognizable form of the original Cedar Lake platting. The community's three churches still stand and homes and land have been passed down through the generations. Despite some of the modern scenery, much about Cedar Lake's past remains visible.

While Cedar Lake was a planned and platted community, there are numerous deeply rooted and historic communities of predominately

African American or people of color across North Alabama – though few have been labeled directly as towns or settlements established for and by communities of color. Certainly, there are even fewer that resemble the forethought and philanthropy that was involved in the creation of Cedar Lake. However, there are a few references of communities that either once upon a time were considered to be such communities or have been retrospectively considered such.

One of the earliest African American communities in Morgan County was the Nebo Community. It was once located along the Tennessee River, northwest of Decatur. The community is known for the earliest African American cemetery in Morgan County. It also had a church and a school. The majority of the land was owned and farmed by African Americans for generations until the community moved in the 1950s when a large 3M plant was built in its place.



**(Right)** "Morgan County Agricultural Extension Agent with Farmers (Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama)

Across the river in Limestone County, the 1930 census names a specific precinct “Slough.” According to the 1940 census precinct map, this area would have been west and southwest of Athens. In the margin of the census page, it is noted: “by road from Huntsville-Browns Ferry to Lucas Ferry Road/Negro Settlement.” This community may have been located in what would be east of Tanners Crossroads today. The residents of the area were overwhelmingly African American. One of the residents on the 1930 census is Mat Walker, African American farmer and landowner, and grandfather of Col. James L. Walker. Walker describes his grandfather as living in the vicinity of Tanner and the road names suggest that is the area of this “Negro Settlement.”

Limestone County has two other references to African American communities in the early 20th century. George Ruffin Bridgeforth, an African American farmer and landowner brought together a community in the 1930s. It was in the area of Beulah and included a couple of churches and a school. Similar in spirit, though perhaps not in execution to Cedar Lake, the Beulah community was quite successful. The Bridgeforth family continues to own and operate a farm in this area. Also, the Negro Year Book for 1921-1922 names a settlement in Limestone called “Small Farms.” Although the exact location is not known, it is possible that it is the same settlement in Tanners Crossroads.



# 5. Landownership Maps

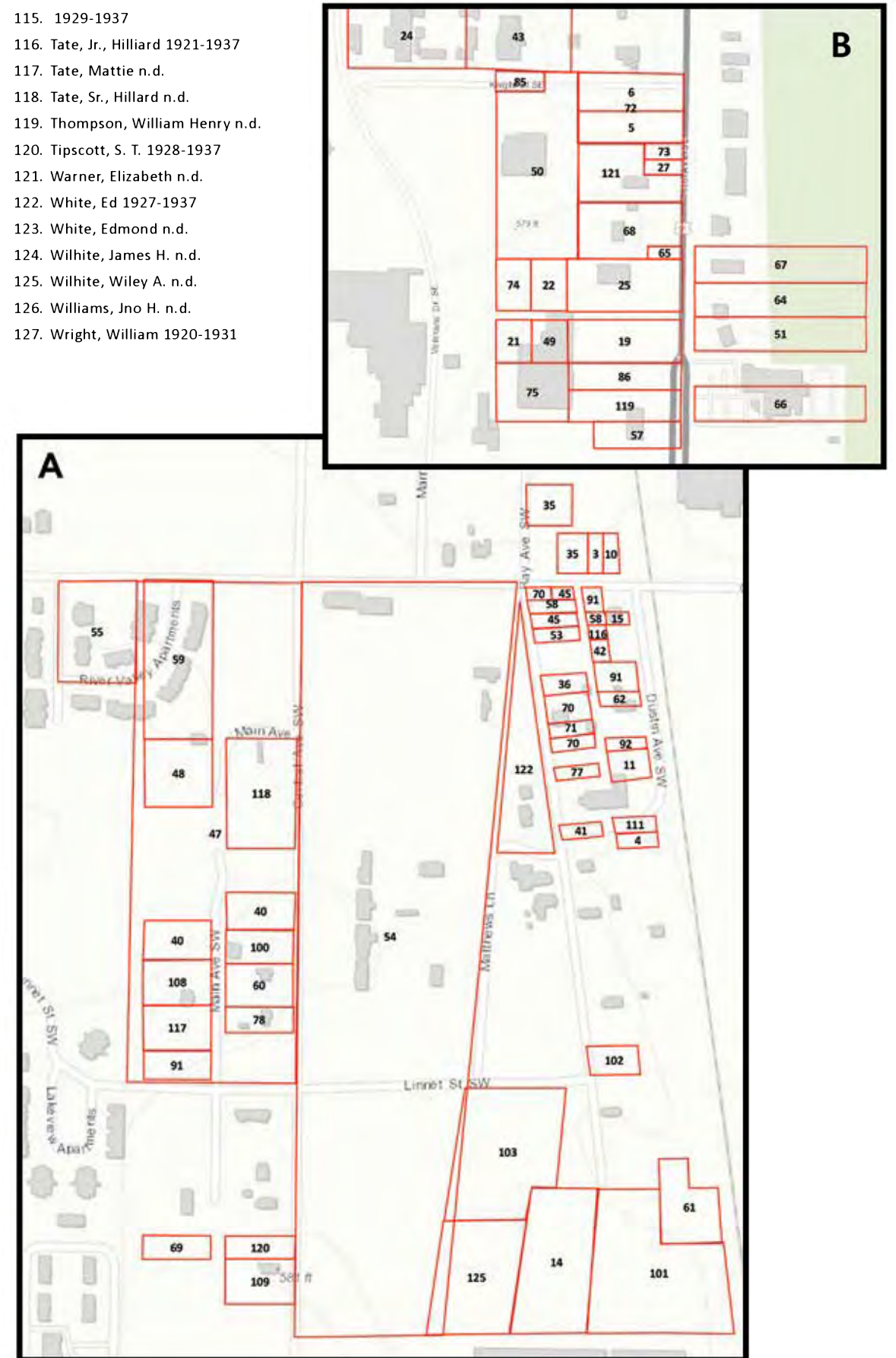
## Cedar Lake Landowners

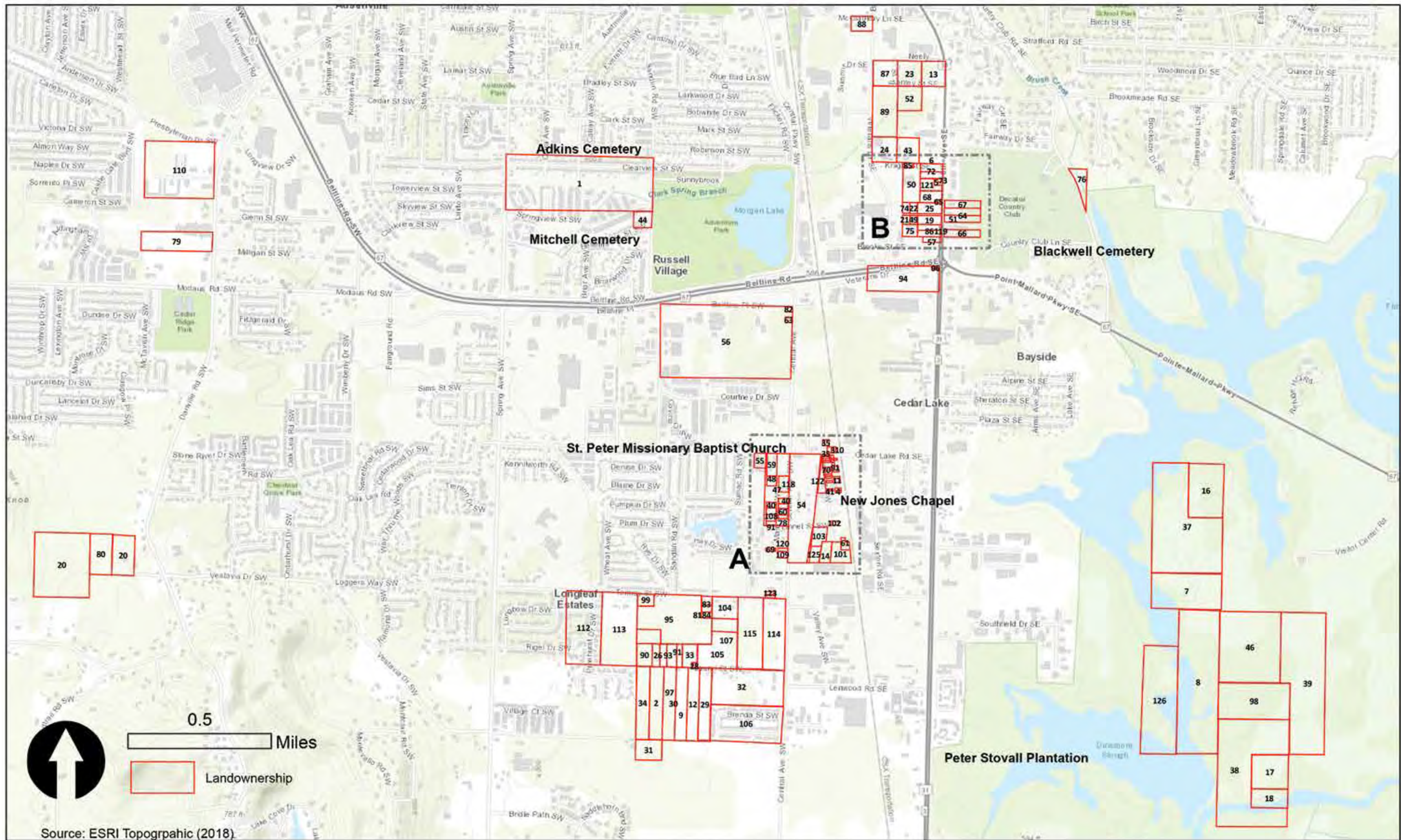
1. Adkins, Carrie 1920-1934
2. Adkins, Mary 1928-1931
3. Ayers, Mattie 1931-1937
4. Baker, Ben n.d.
5. Baker, Nadie 1933
6. Baker, Robert and L.N. 1936-1937
7. Baker, Tom 1920-1922
8. Baker, Tom 1920-1928
9. Bibb, Estelle 1928-1937
10. Black, William 1920-1926
11. Black, William n.d.
12. Bonner, Julia 1928-1933
13. Bonner, T. L. n.d.
14. Brown, Elias n.d.
15. Brown, Mattie A. n.d.
16. Burt, Clarence 1920-1926

17. Burt, Clarence 1924-1929
18. Burt, Jesse 1928-1929
19. Cobb, Parolee 1927
20. Cook, C.C. 1921-28
21. Cummings, M. 1927
22. Edmonds, George 1927-1937
23. Fitzgerald, H. 1920-1923
24. Foster Hobbs, Mariah 1920-1927
25. Garth, Alsie 1927
26. Garth, Ezeikel? n.d.
27. Garth, Jim 1927-1932
28. Garth, Nettie L 1934-1937
29. Garth, Nettie L 1937
30. Garth, Richmond 1920-1927
31. Garth, W. R 1928-1935
32. Garth, W. R. 1920-1936
33. Garth, W. R. 1929-1935
34. Garth, Wilma 1928-1933
35. Gill, Celia 1931-1937
36. Gill, Jr., Nathan n.d.
37. Gill, Nathan 1920-1933
38. Gill, Nathan A. 1920-1933
39. Glover, Dick 1920-1935
40. Glover, Dick n.d.
41. Graves, Joe and Nicey n.d.
42. Graves, Nicey and Tate, Jr., Hillard n.d.
43. Grigsby, Sallie 1920-1927
44. Grizzard, JR 1920-1927
45. Hargrove, Sam n.d.
46. Heirs of Albert Wilkerson 1920-1934
47. Heirs of P. Stephenson 1920-1922
48. Heirs of P. Stephenson/Nathan E Mitchell n.d.
49. Holt, Dan 1927-1928
50. Houston, Chas. 1927-1937
51. Houston, Chas. 1928-1937
52. Humphrey, Frank 1920-1927
53. Johnson, Ada n.d.
54. Johnson, Jake 1920-1928
55. Johnson, Jake 1921-1928
56. Johnson, John B. 1920-1928
57. Johnson, Woody 1927-1928
58. Johnson, Woody n.d.
59. Jones, Ollie and Lile, Ruth n.d.
60. Lightfoot, Emma n.d.
61. Lile, Ruth n.d.
62. Lodge, Mason n.d.
63. Lundy, Roy 1920-1923
64. Malone, Elsie 1928-1934
65. Malone, Ross 1927-1937

66. Malone, Ross 1928
67. Malone, Ross 1935-1937
68. Malone, Shug 1927-1937
69. Martin, Will n.d.
70. Matthews, Dan n.d.
71. Matthews, Heygood n.d.
72. McCroskey, Berta 1927-1933
73. McDaniel, Isom 1927-1934
74. McDaniel, Isom 1927-1937
75. McDonald, James 1927-1937
76. McDonald, Jas. 1927
77. Methodist Church n.d.
78. Mitchell, Emma n.d.
79. Mitchell, Flora 1928-1937
80. Mitchell, Frank 1921-24
81. Mitchell, Henry 1920-1928
82. Mitchell, Nathan E. 1926-1928
83. Neville, L 1920-1922
84. Neville, Louis 1925-1931
85. Orr, Deck and Easter 1928-1937
86. Orr, Elvira 1928-1937
87. Patterson Baldin, Ann 1920-1927
88. Points, Mahalia 1920-1935
89. Points, Mahalia and Jno 1920-1927
90. Pryor, EJ 1928-1931
91. Pryor, EJ n.d.
92. Pryor, Elijah and Pryor, Anderson n.d.
93. Pryor, Fannie Mae 1933-1935
94. Quinn, L 1920
95. Rather, Dick 1920-1929
96. Rather, Lewis 1921-1937
97. Rather, Mattie L. 1928-1937
98. Rather, Robert B. 1920-1935
99. Rather, Willis 1920-1928
100. Ryan, G.L. n.d.
101. Saddlefield, Frances Sterrs and Crutcher, Mose n.d.
102. School n.d.
103. School n.d.
104. Sherrill, Will 1920-1922
105. Sherrill, Will 1920-1928
106. Sherrill, Will 1920-1931
107. Sherrill, Will 1928-1931
108. Simms Robinson, Daphne n.d.
109. Skinner, Jr., James n.d.
110. Stephenson, Silas 1928-1937
111. Stewart, S. T. and Sykes, Ada n.d.
112. Stovall, Drew 1920-1927
113. Stovall, Vincent 1920-1933
114. Tate, Jr., Hilliard

115. 1929-1937
116. Tate, Jr., Hilliard 1921-1937
117. Tate, Mattie n.d.
118. Tate, Sr., Hillard n.d.
119. Thompson, William Henry n.d.
120. Tipscott, S. T. 1928-1937
121. Warner, Elizabeth n.d.
122. White, Ed 1927-1937
123. White, Edmond n.d.
124. Wilhite, James H. n.d.
125. Wilhite, Wiley A. n.d.
126. Williams, Jno H. n.d.
127. Wright, William 1920-1931



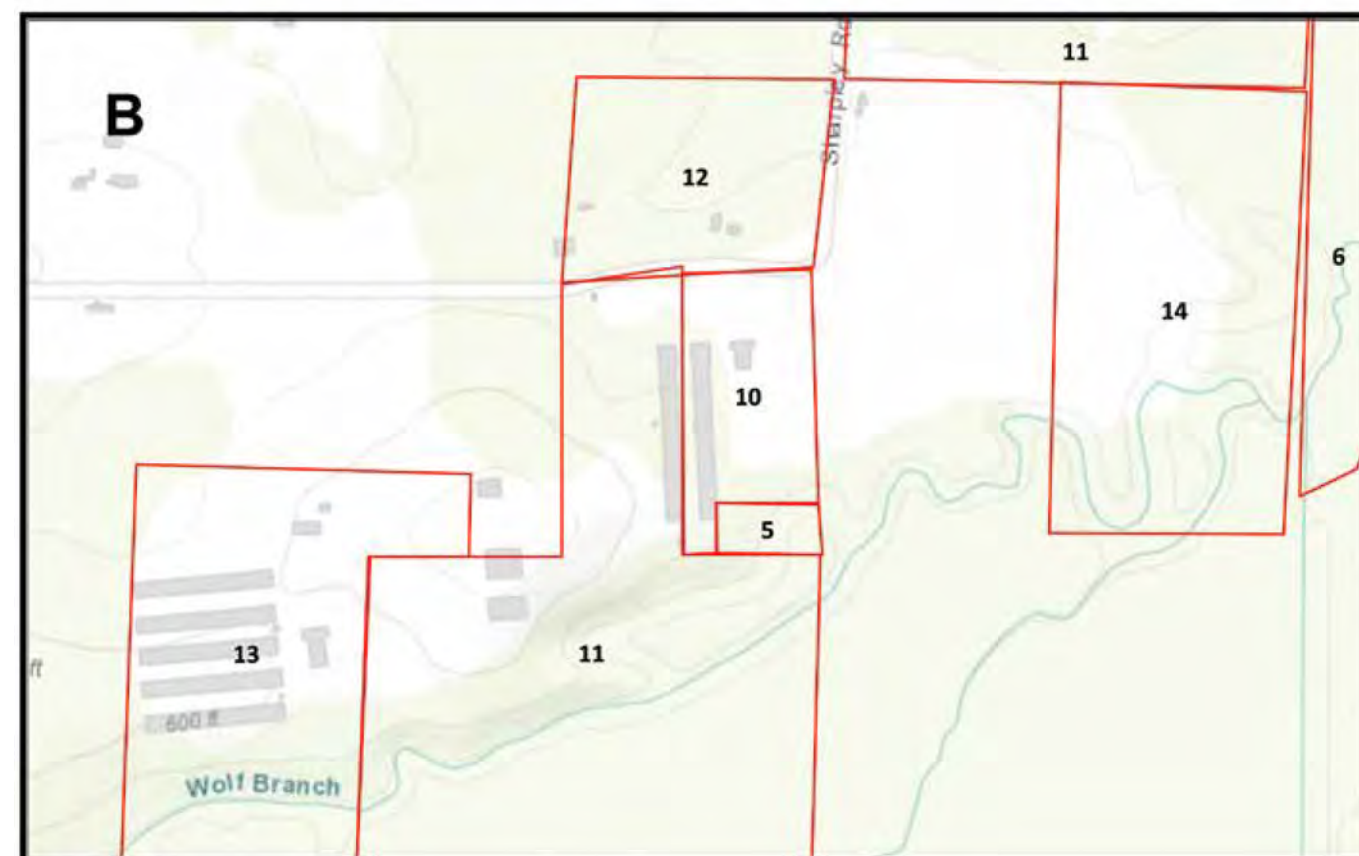
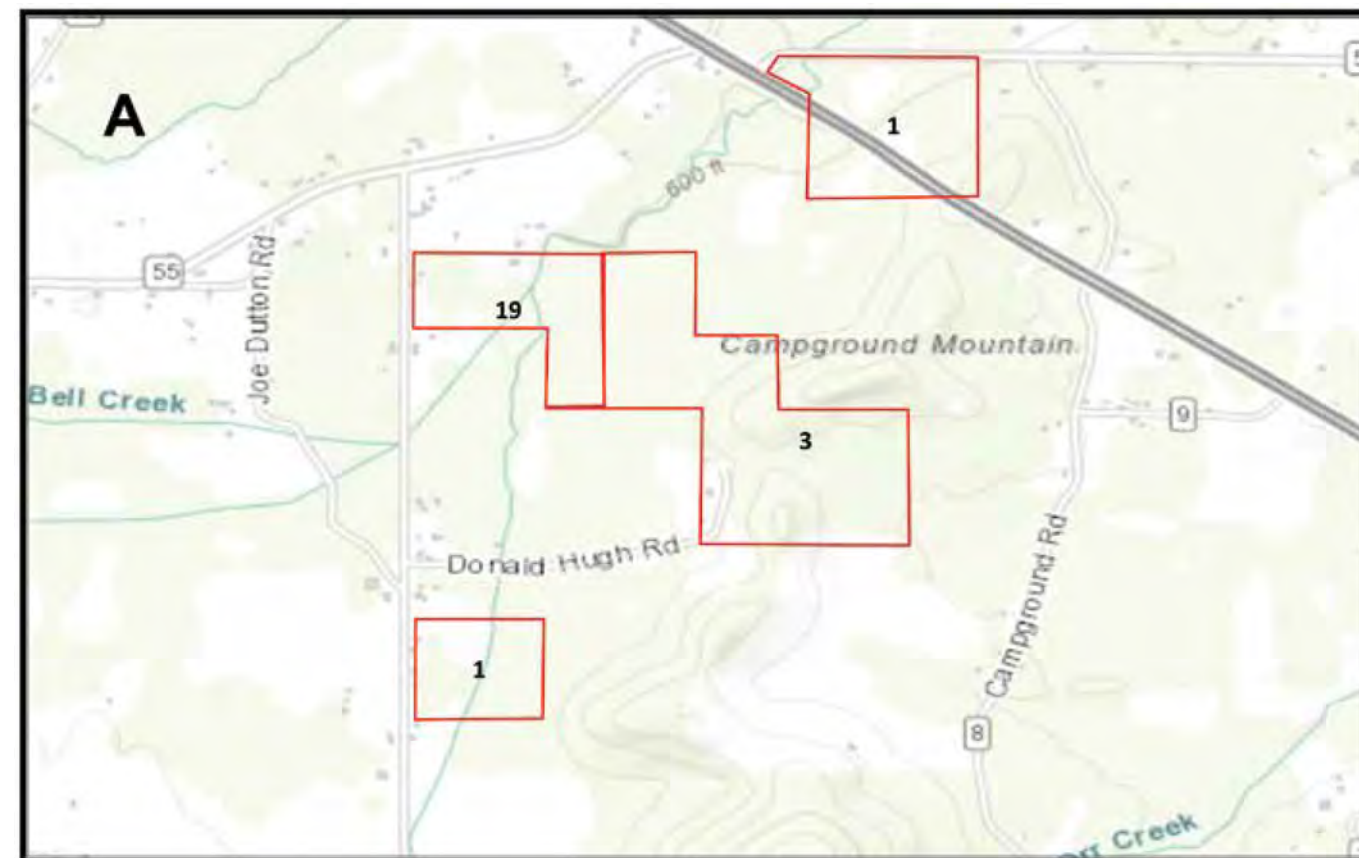


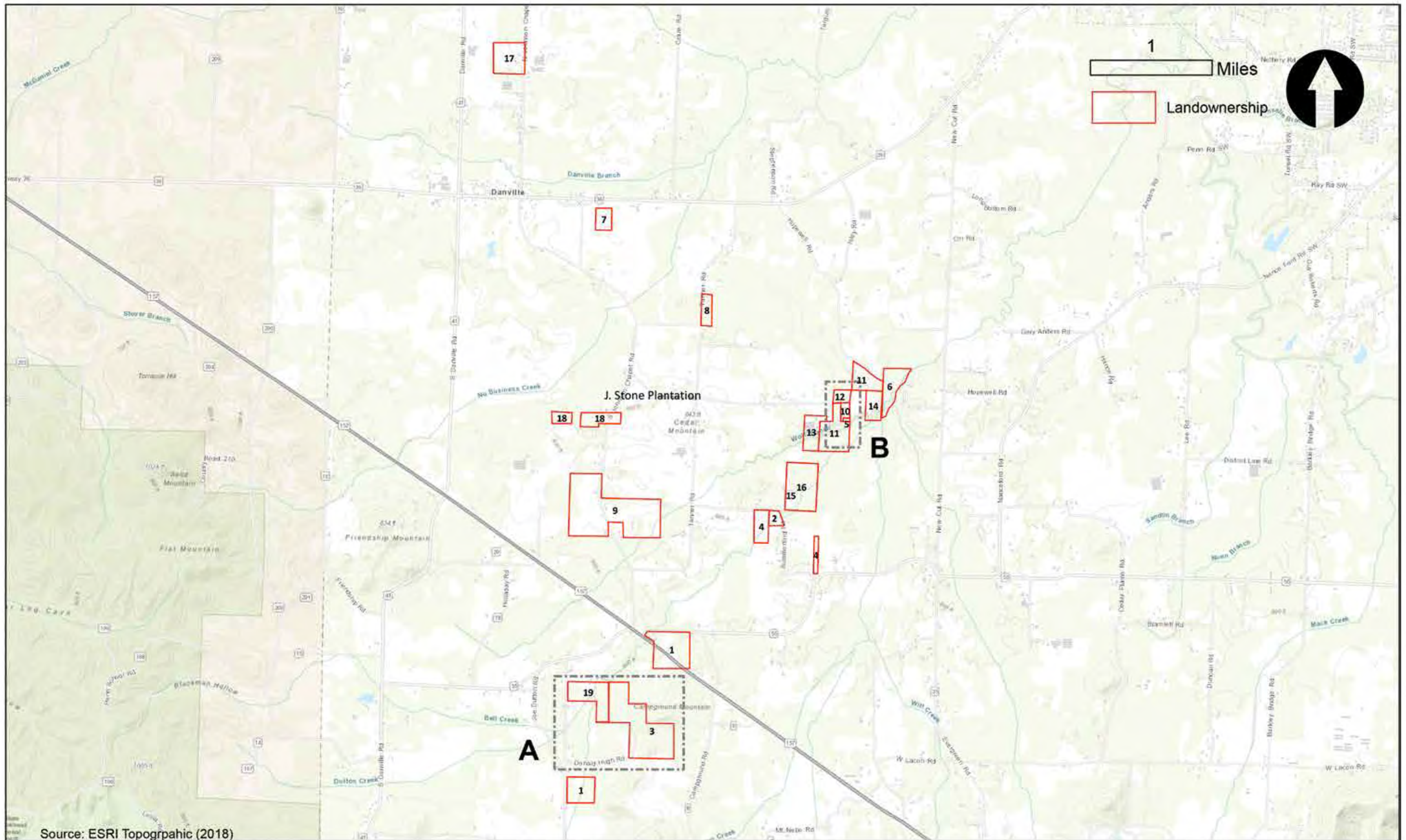
Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)



# Danville Landowners

1. Elliott, J.W. 1920-1922
2. Harris, Houston 1920-1926
3. Heirs Rance Wilthite 1920-1928
4. McGinnis, Mack 1920-1924
5. Miller, Sidney 1920-1927
6. Moore, Ben 1920-1926
7. Orr, Alice 1920-1926
8. Orr, Alice 1920-1928
9. Orr, W. C. 1920-1922
10. Sharpley, Bama 1928
11. Sharpley, J.B. 1920-1928
12. Sharpley, J.C. 1920-1922
13. Sharpley, J.C. 1920-1928
14. Sharpley, J.C. 1924-1928
15. Sharpley, J.S. 1920-1928
16. Sharpley, Jim S. 1920-1928
17. Sharpley, John 1920
18. Sharpley, W.W. 1920-1926
19. Wilthite, Caroline 1920-1927



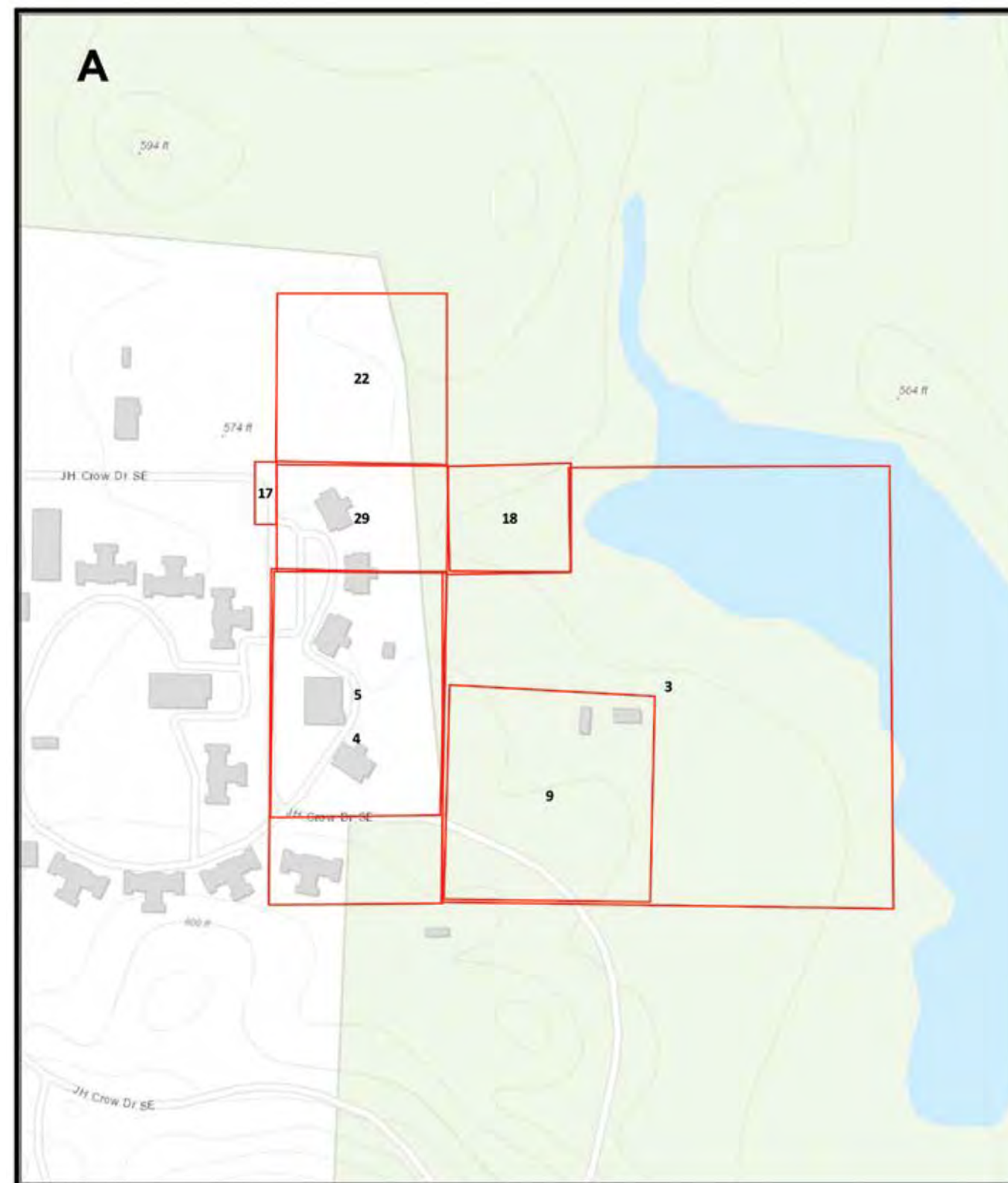


Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)

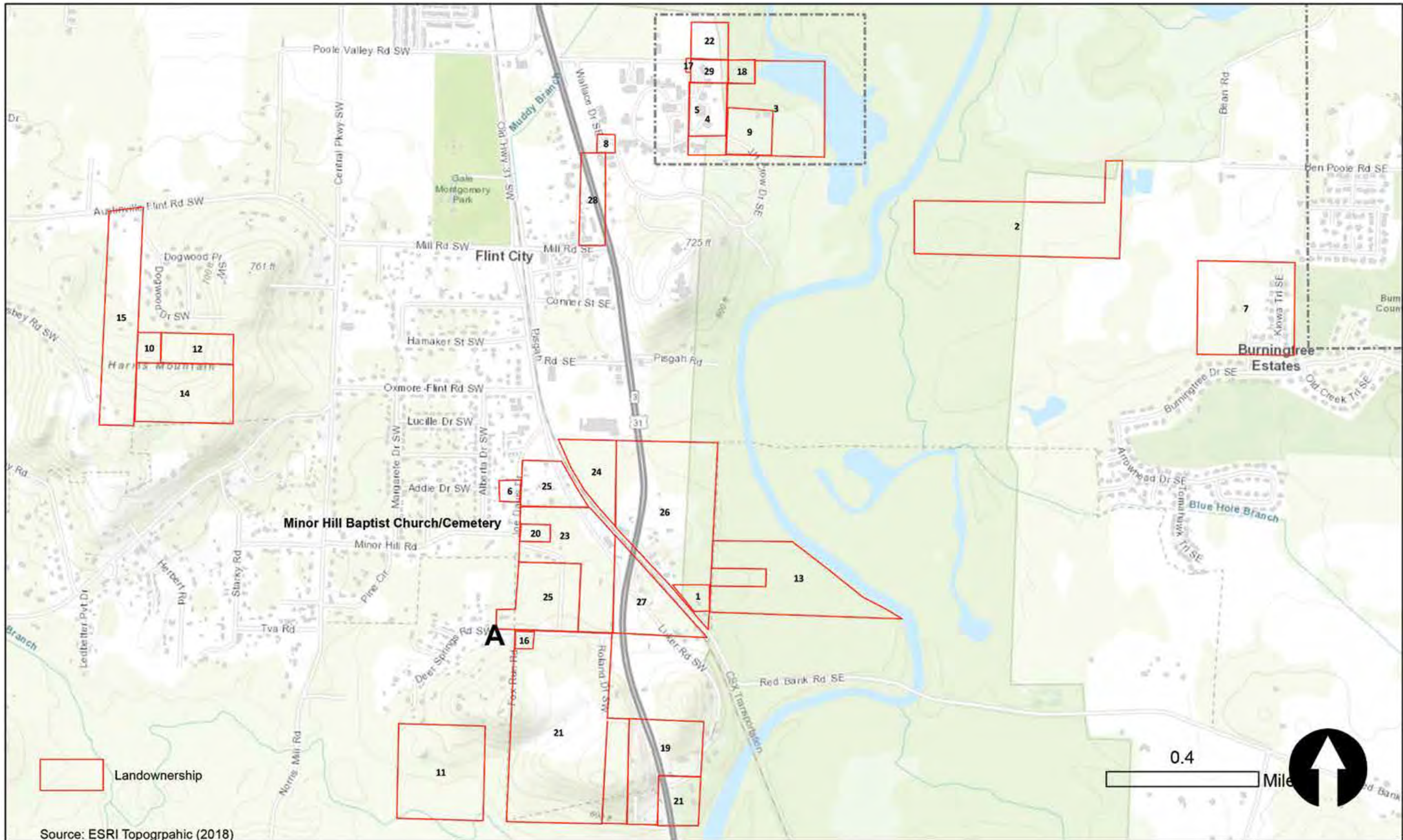


# Flint Landowners

1. Baker, Ben 1926-1935
2. Berry, Claudie M. 1920-1923
3. Bonner, T.L. 1920-1933
4. Bonner, T.L. 1930-1933
5. Burt, Clarence 1920-1929
6. Church, Baptist n.d.
7. Garth, Clarissa 1922-1924
8. Garth, Ruby and Jim n.d.
9. Harris Jeminson, Charlie 1936-1937
10. Harris Sharpley, Blanche 1920-1937
11. Heirs of B. Johnson 1920-1926
12. Heirs of Wiley Harris 1920-1923
13. Heirs of Wiley Harris 1920-1934
14. Hiers of Wiley Harris 1920-1933
15. Johnson, J. 1920-1937
16. McDonald, Henry 1920-1921
17. Moseley, Paul 1920-1928
18. Moseley?, Laurie 1920-1934
19. Peeples, Alex 1920-1937
20. Pryor, A. 1920
21. Pryor, Anderson 1920-1937
22. Sharp, Celia 1920
23. Sharp, R.L. 1928-1936
24. Sharp, R.L. 1929-1937
25. Stovall, C. 1920-1928
26. Stovall, C.A. 1920-1927
27. Stovall, Edna 1928-1929
28. Straughter, Joe 1920-1926
29. Straughter, Joe 1920-1937





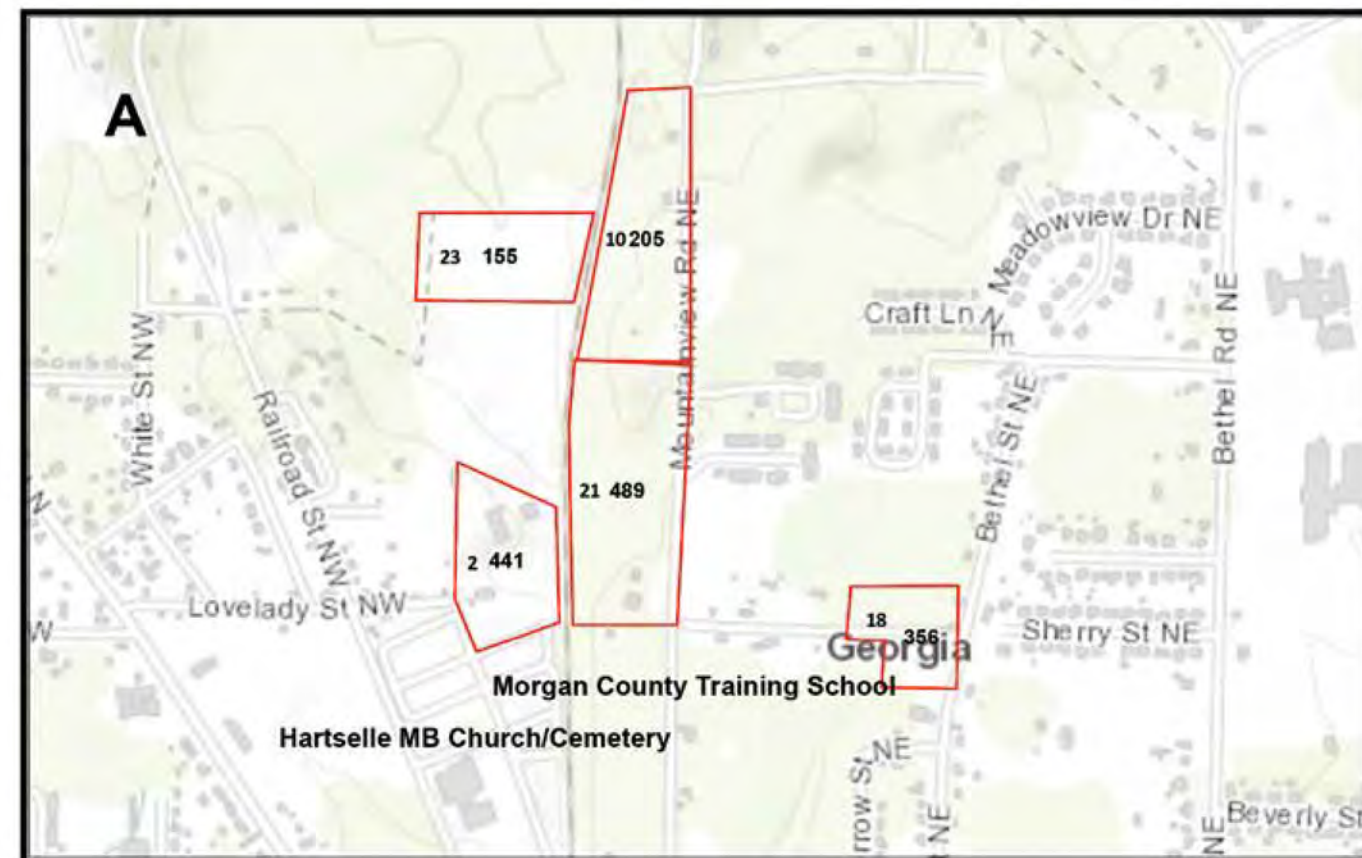


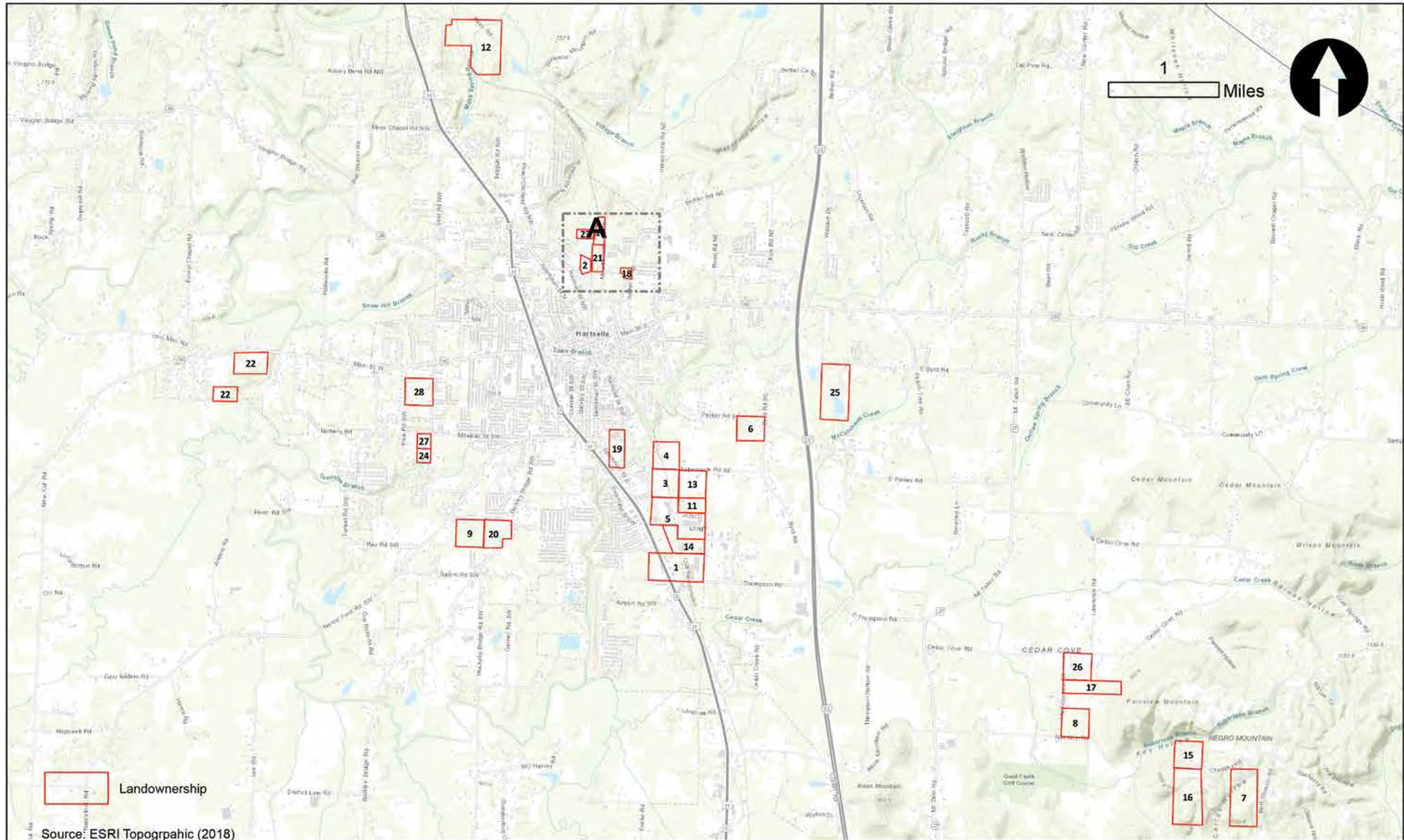
Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)



# Hartselle Landowners

1. Baines, James 1920-1923
2. Baker, Toney 1920-1928
3. Bibb, Ben 1920-1928
4. Bibb, Henry 1920-1928
5. Bibb, Lee 1920-1928
6. Brown, Idella 1920-1928
7. Giles, Alice 1920
8. Hardin, Dave 1920-1928
9. Harding, Jim 1920-1921
10. Harmon, Henry 1920-1921
11. Harris, Walter 1920-1922
12. Heirs of Delilah Turney? 1920-1923
13. Heirs of Eugene Moore 1920-1928
14. Herring, R.V. 1920-1928
15. Johnson, F. 1920
16. Love, Henry 1920-1923
17. Love, Henry 1920-1928
18. Morgan County Training School c. 1920
19. Morrow, Joe 1920-1928
20. Oldacre, A.W. 1920-1923
21. Oldacre, Wilson 1920-1928
22. Orr, Will 1920-1928
23. Owens, Geo 1921-1925
24. Parker, Henry 1920-1928
25. Rather, A. 1920-1928
26. Russell, T. J. 1920-1928
27. Sharpley, Lillie 1920-1927
28. Thurgood, Cloer 1920-1927

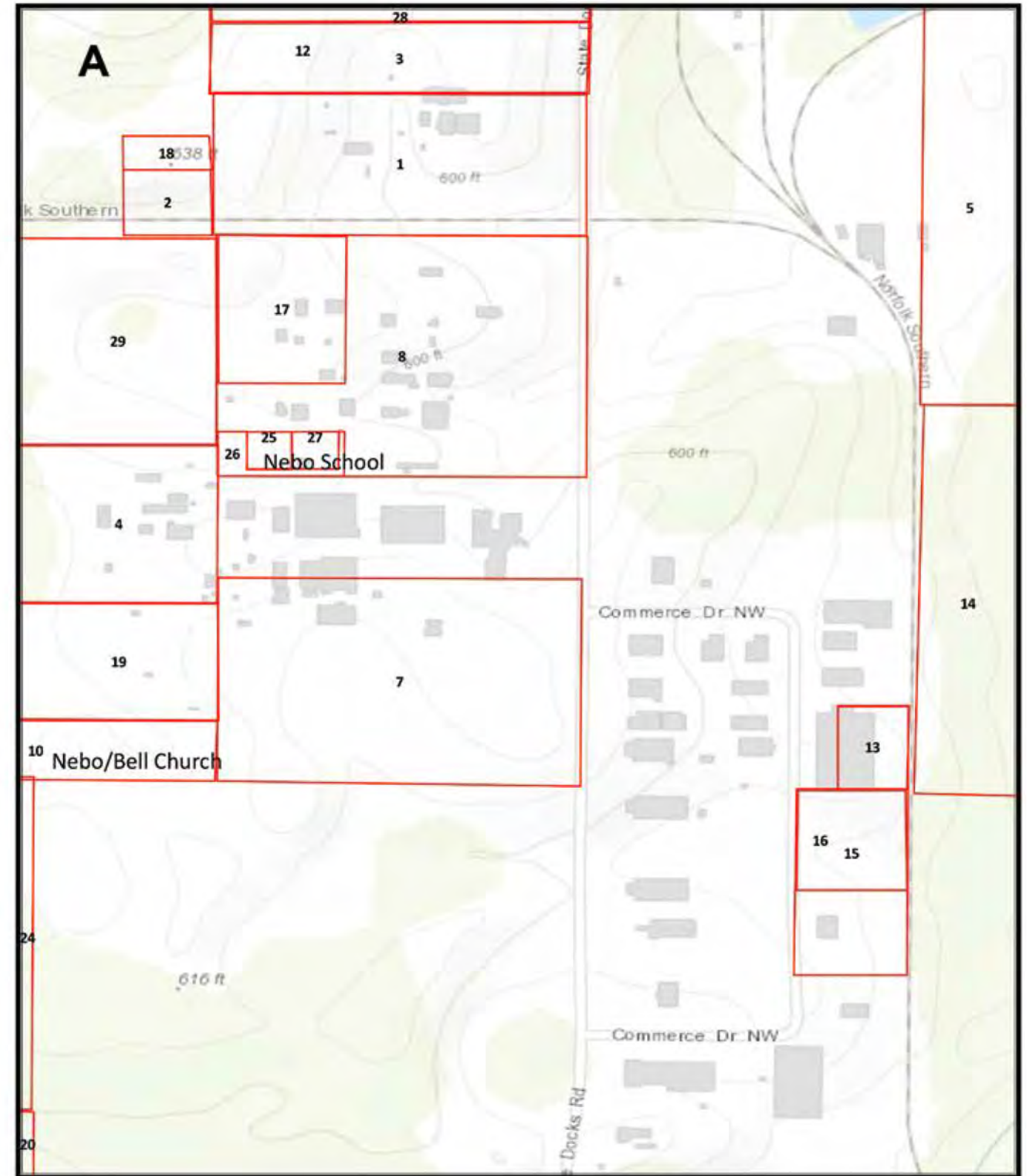


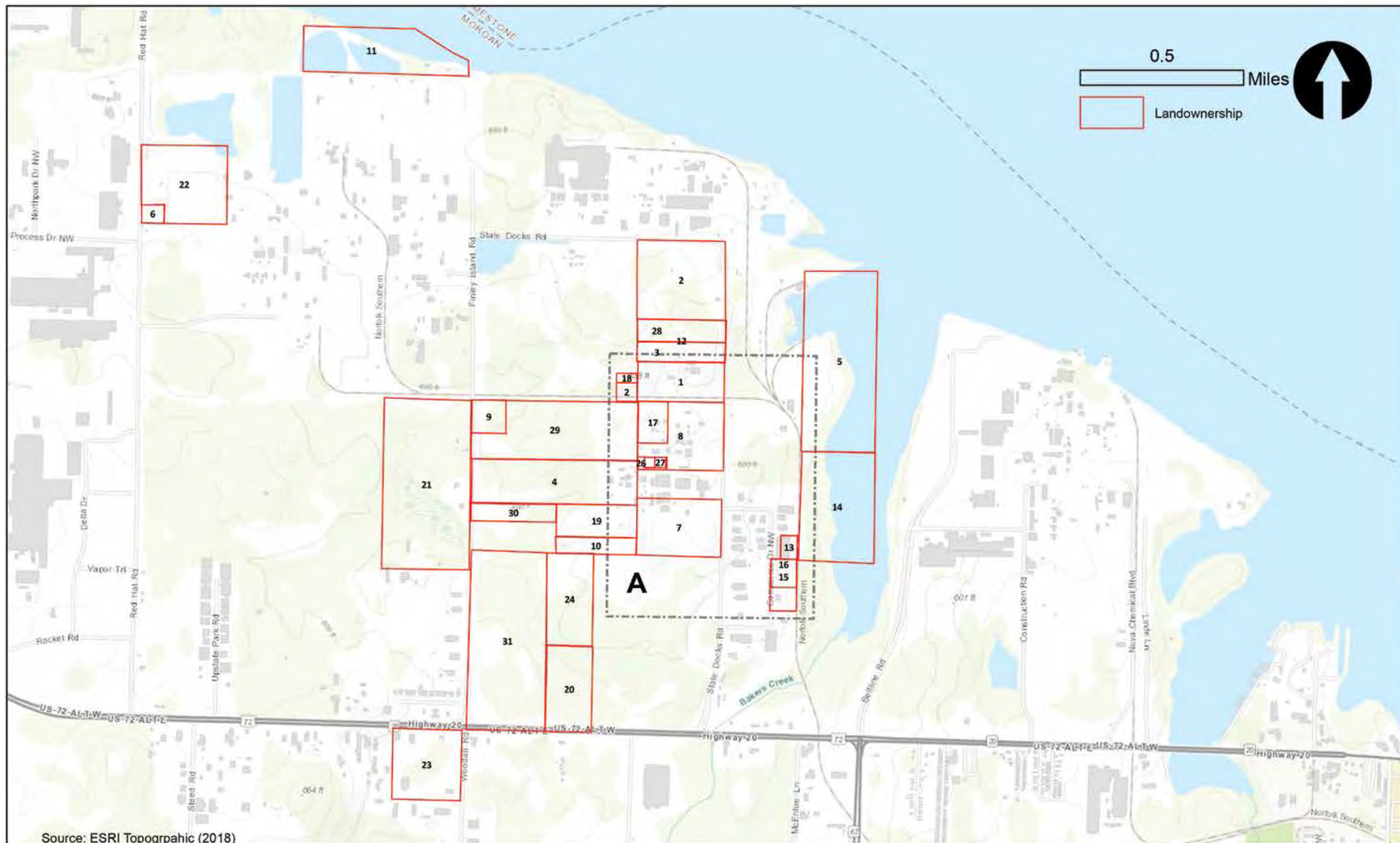




# Nebo Landowners

1. Booker, Lola 1928-1937
2. Davis, Tom 1928-1937
3. Elliott, Malissie 1935-1937
4. Est. of Ned Wright 1920-1929
5. Gilbert, Katie 1920-1934
6. Heirs of Allen Wiggins 1920-1933
7. Heirs of Henry & Mahala Broom (Brown?) 1920-1927
8. Heirs of Henry & Mahala Brown (Broom) 1920-1927
9. Johnson, Cal 1920-1921
10. Johnson, Cal 1920-1933
11. Johnson, Cal 1920-28
12. Johnson, Cal 1928-1934
13. Kellar, Anna B. 1920-1925
14. Kellar, Anna B. 1920-1934
15. Kellar, Anna B. 1926-1937
16. McDaniel, Lizzie Mae 1920-1925
17. Mitchell, J. and Thompson, A 1930-1932
18. Moseley, Ruth H. 1928-1937
19. Neville, Anderson 1920-1930
20. Priest, Chas. 1920-1928
21. Robinson, Hill 1920-1929
22. Robinson, J.L. 1928-1937
23. Robinson, Jeff 1920-1937
24. Simms, Amelia 1921-1937
25. Thompson, Millie 1920-1928
26. Thompson, Nennie 1920-1937
27. Thompson, Nennie 1921-1927
28. Townsend, Viola 1936-1937
29. Townsend, Will 1920-1937
30. Vaughan, J.R. 1920-1937
31. Watkins, Jno. C. 1920-1925



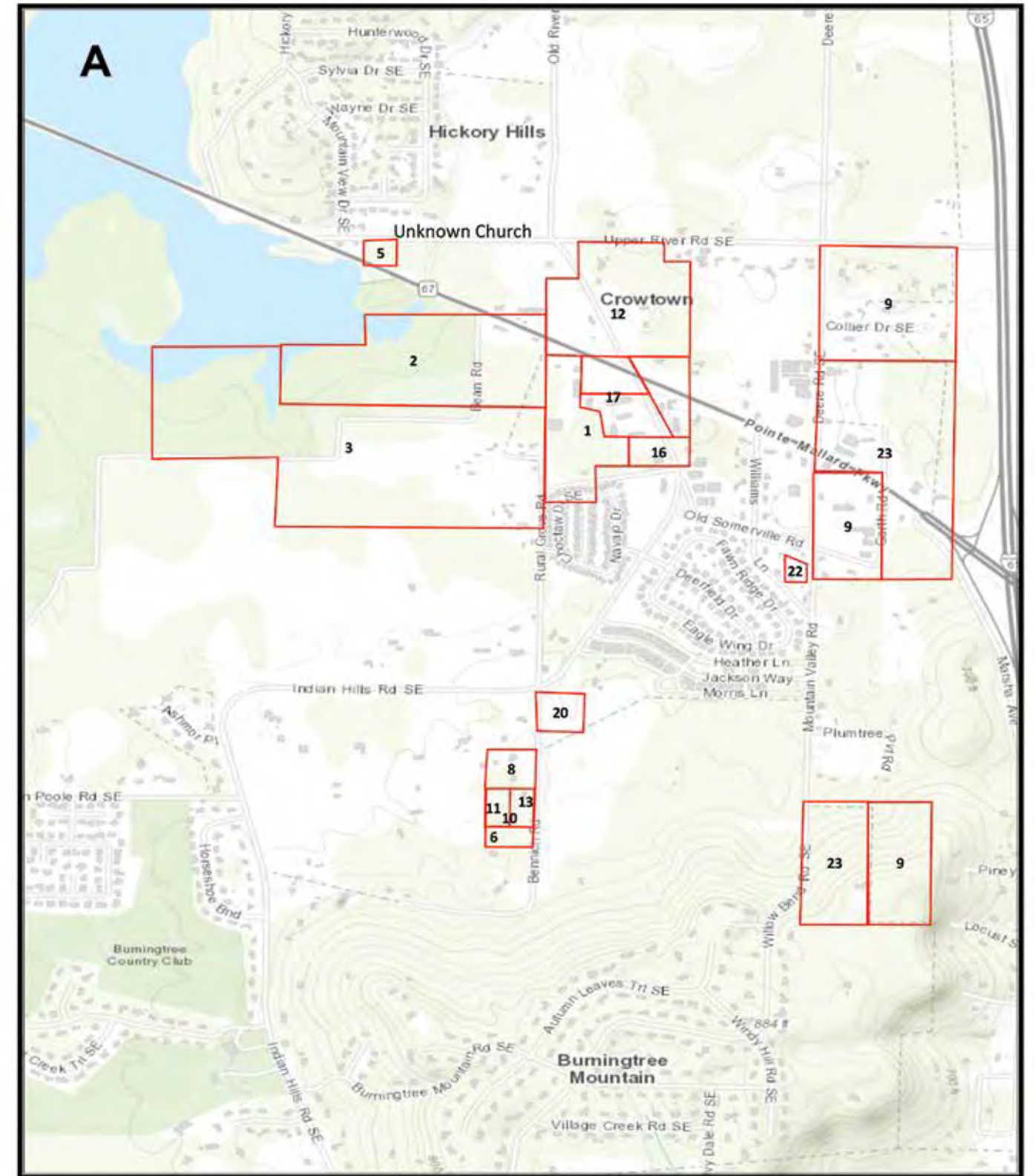


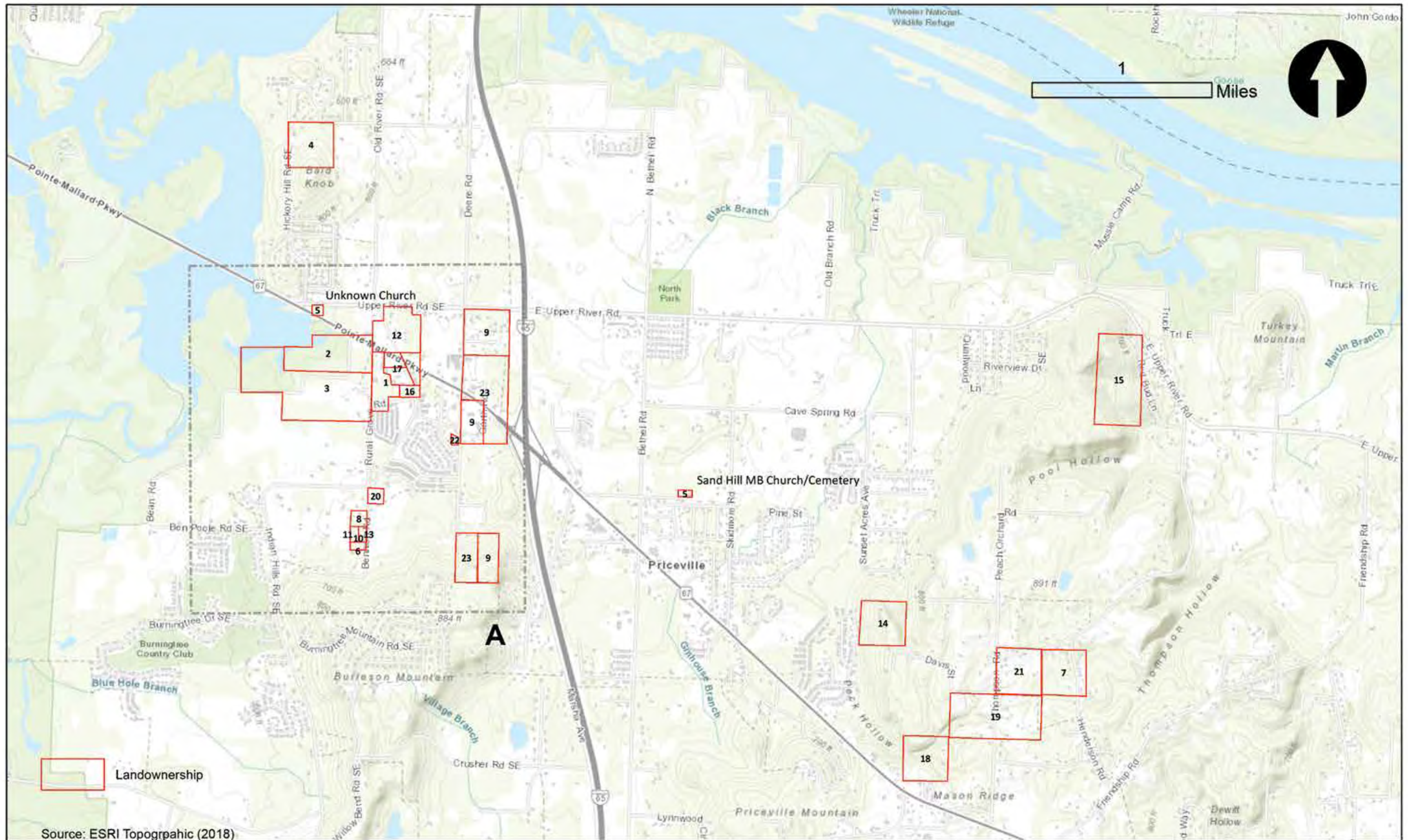
Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)



# Priceville Landowners

1. Aldridge, Wash 1920-1928
2. Aldridge, Wash 1920-1934
3. Aldridge, William Roundtree 1920-1935
4. Butler, Ben 1920-1925
5. Church n.d.
6. Garth, Addie 1920-1923
7. Garth, Cleveland 1920-26
8. Garth, F? 1920-1926
9. Garth, H.A. 1920-1928
10. Garth, Morgan 1924-1933
11. Garth/Davis, Lizzie 1920-1923
12. Hampton, George 1920-1934
13. Hampton, Jim 1920-1921
14. Heirs of Grace Strain 1920-21
15. Martin, Jerre 1920-28
16. Oldacre, Aaron 1920-1921
17. Prince, Melinda 1932-1937
18. Ryan, Faris 1921-25
19. Ryan, Laney 1920-21
20. Ryan, W.D. 1920-1937
21. Strain, Vince 1920-28
22. Straughter, J.W. n.d.
23. Straughter, W.J. 1920-1928



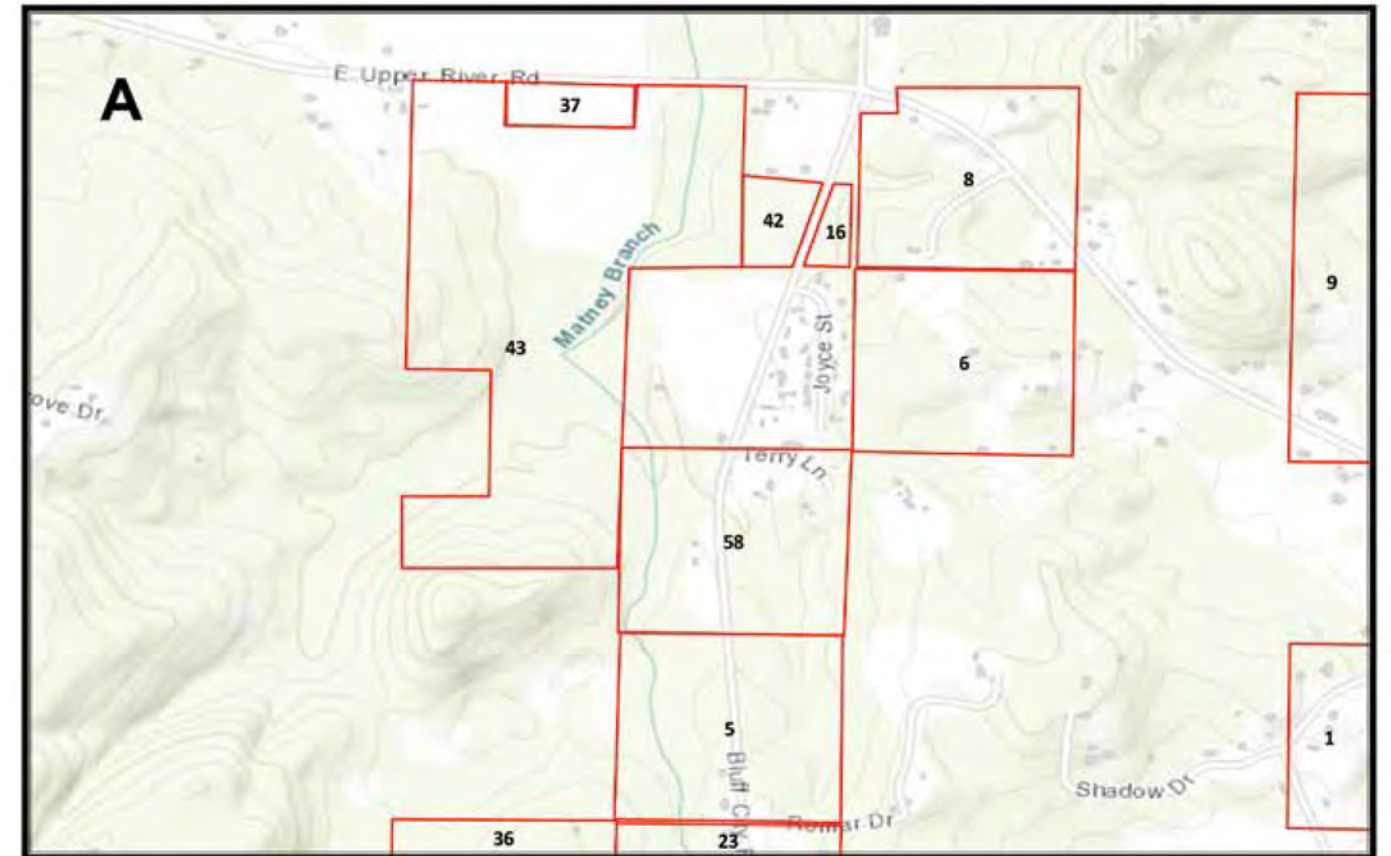


Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)



# Somervi Ile Landowners

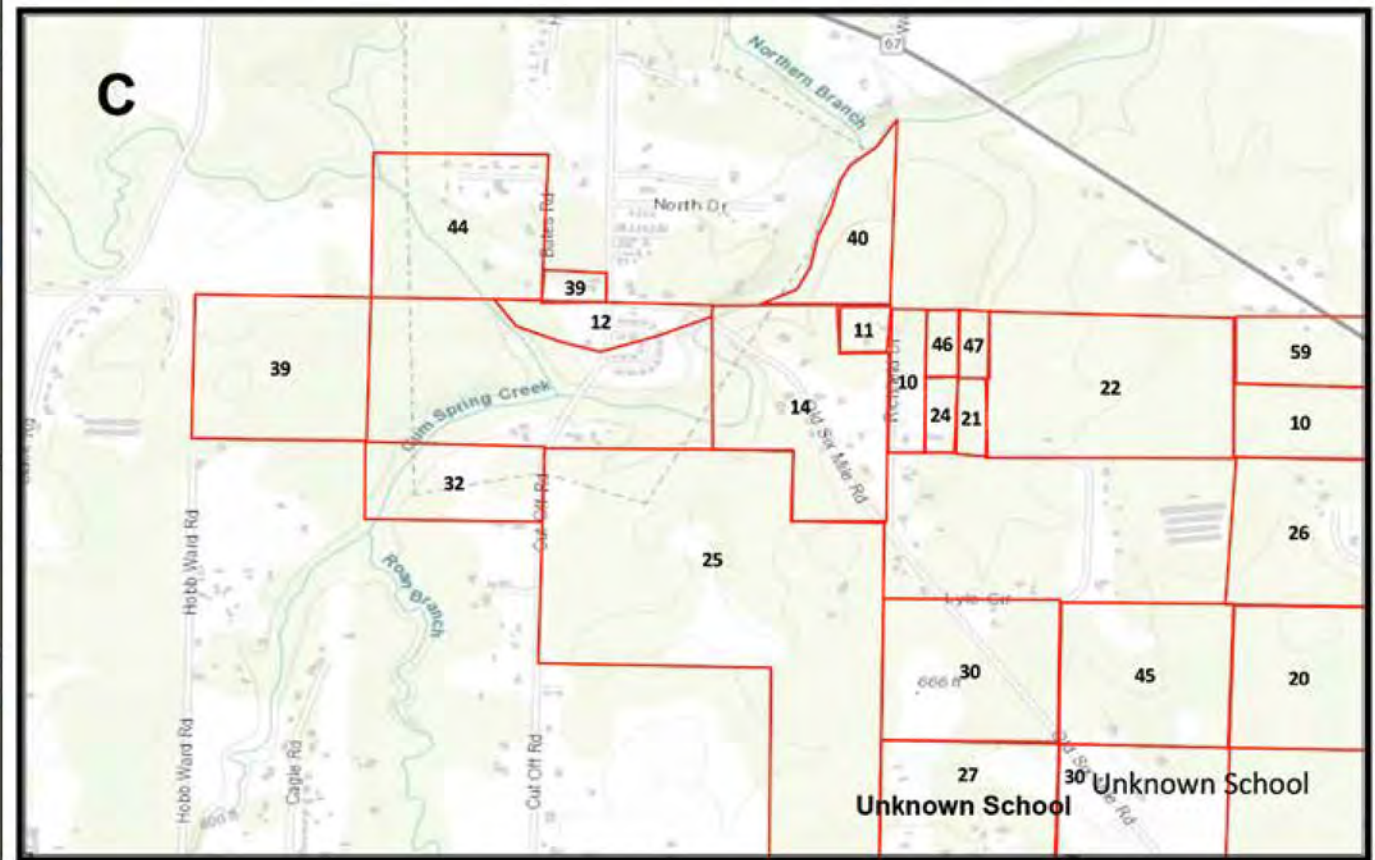
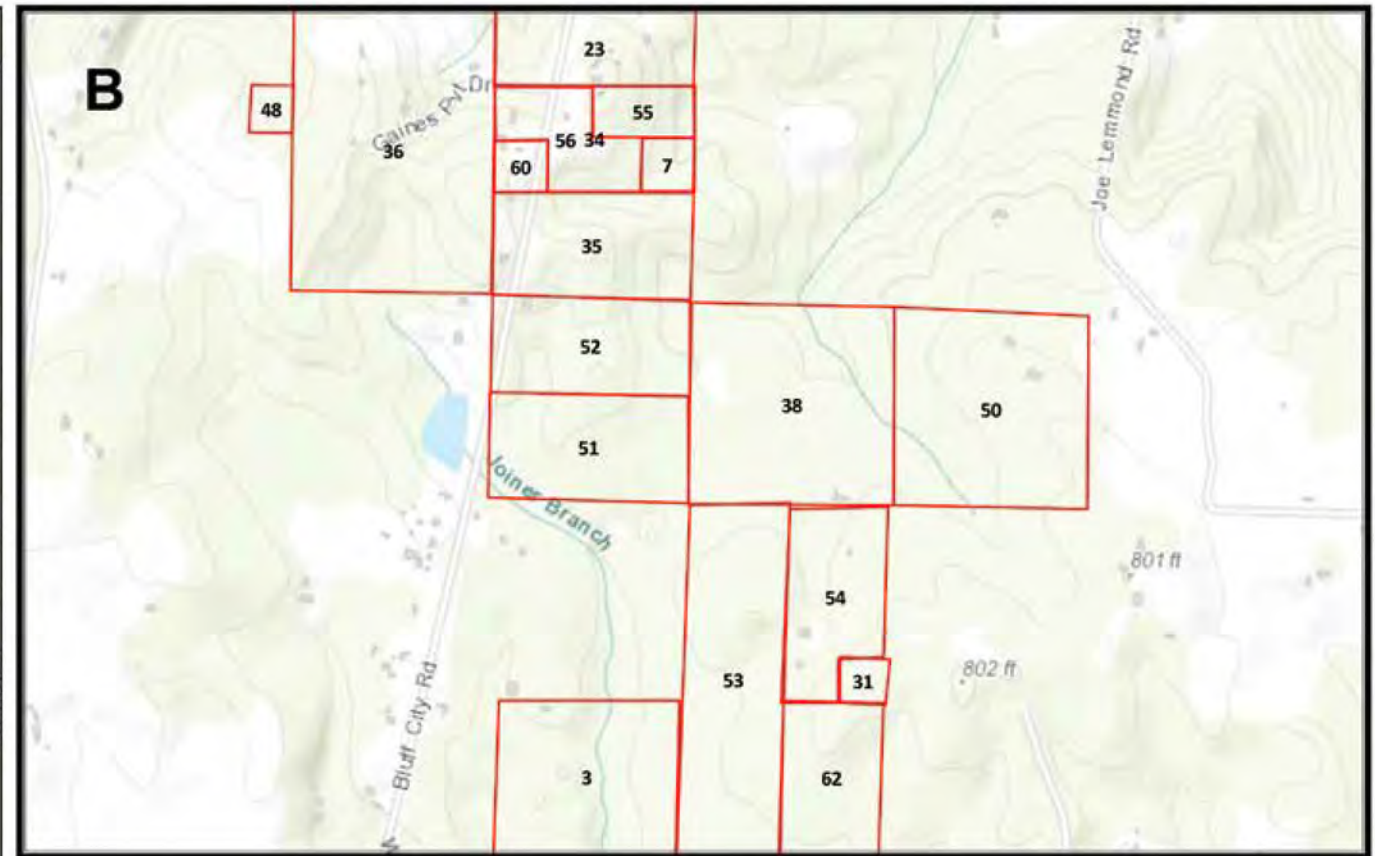
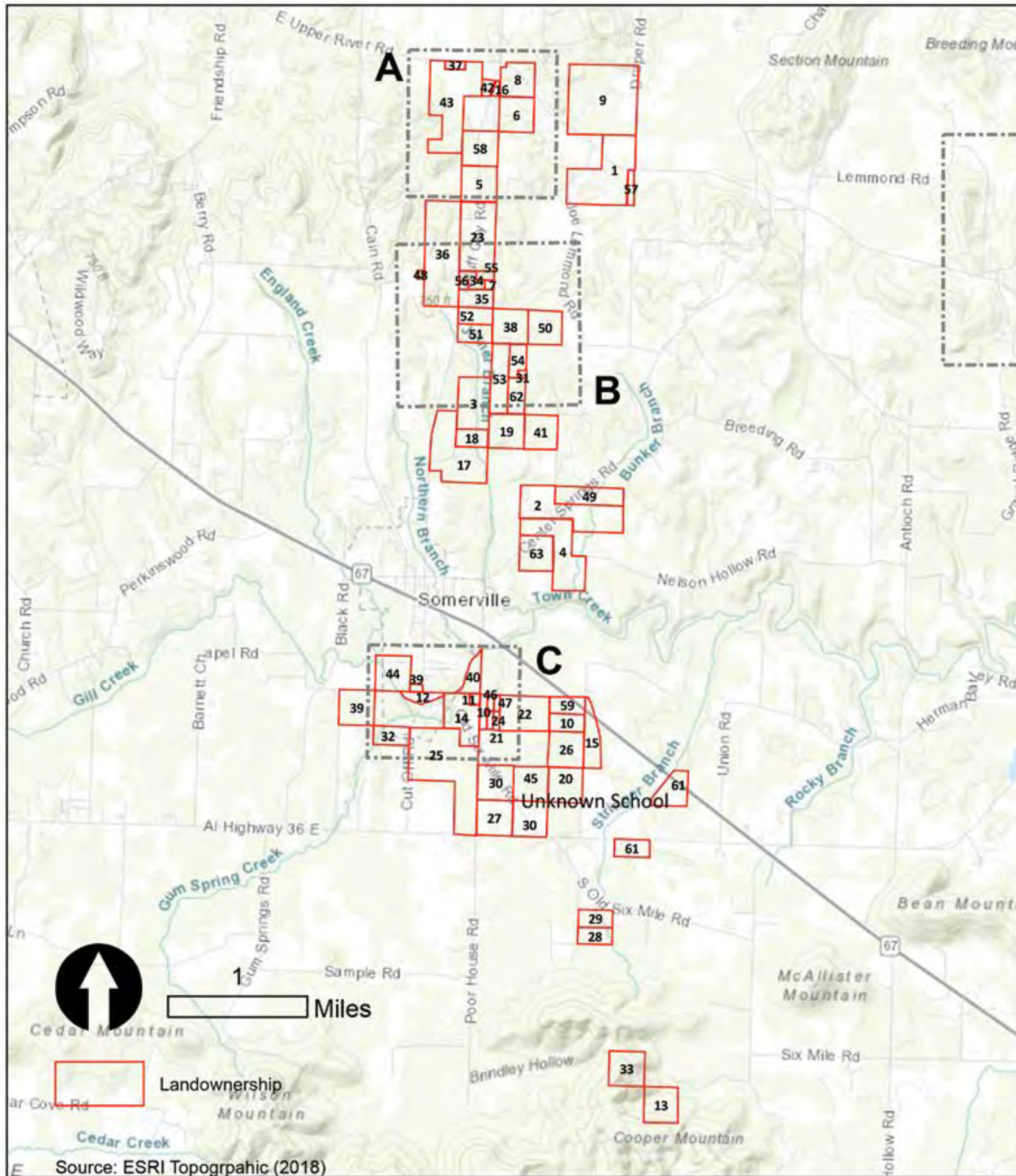
1. Black, Camilla 1921-1925
2. Black, J.H. 1920-1928
3. Black, Wm. B 1920-1926
4. Black, Wm. B. 1920-1928
5. Cowley, Arthur 1920-1927
6. Cowley, Arthur 1921-1924
7. Cowley, Dallas 1928
8. Cowley, Gillie 1920-1928
9. Cowley, James 1920-1924
10. Ennis, Jno. 1920-1928
11. Evans, Jno H. 1920-1928
12. Garner, Jno. A. 1920-1924
13. Garner, Jno. A. 1921-1924
14. Garner, Jno. R. 1920
15. Gentley, Jessie 1920-1928
16. Gill, Ida 1920-1924
17. Graham, Dave/Dan 1920-1928
18. Graham, Ota 1920-1925
19. Gramham, Dave 1920-1928
20. Gurley, Geo 1920-1928
21. Harris, Jas. W. 1920-1928
22. Heirs of Ben Tapscott 1920-1928
23. Heirs of Nelson Sykes 1920-1928
24. Heirs of Taylor Grisby 1920-1923
25. Heirs Spencer F. Garner 1920-1928
26. Jackson, Anderson 1920-1928
27. Jackson, Andrew and Gurley, Jesse 1920-1928
28. Jackson, Jerre 1920-1923
29. Jackson, Jim 1920-1925
30. Jackson, W.B. 1920-1928
31. Key, Jas. Henry 1922-1927
32. Lewis, A.J. 1920-1928
33. Lewis, Esau 1920-1928
34. McDaniel, Lucy 1920-1923



35. McDaniel, Lucy 1924-1928
36. "McDaniel, Margaret 1920-1922
37. McDaniel, Mattie 1920-1928
38. Miller, Rosseau 1920-1928
39. Morrow, Henry 1920-1928
40. Owens, Geo 1920
41. Patterson, Lizzie 1920-1926
42. Peck, Jeff 1920-1923
43. Peck, Jeff 1920-1928
44. Robinson, B.J. 1920-1922
45. Robinson, Bob and Lena 1920-1924
46. Robinson, Henry 1920-1924
47. Robinson, Rob 1920-1924
48. Ross?, Rosette 1920-1928
49. Russell, Amos 1920-1928
50. Russell, Malinda 1920-1921
51. Russell, Malinda 1920-1923
52. Russell, Malinda 1920-1928

53. Russell, Malinda 1920
54. Russell, Malinda 1921-1923
55. Stewart, Arthur 1928
56. Stewart, Berta 1928
57. Stewart, Maggie 1920-1921
58. Stewart, Pleas 1920-1928
59. Stewart, Sam 1920-1928
60. Stewart, Walter 1928
61. Tate, Bettie 1920-1928
62. Tate, Isa 1920-1927
63. Wilhite, Cuitie? 1920-1923

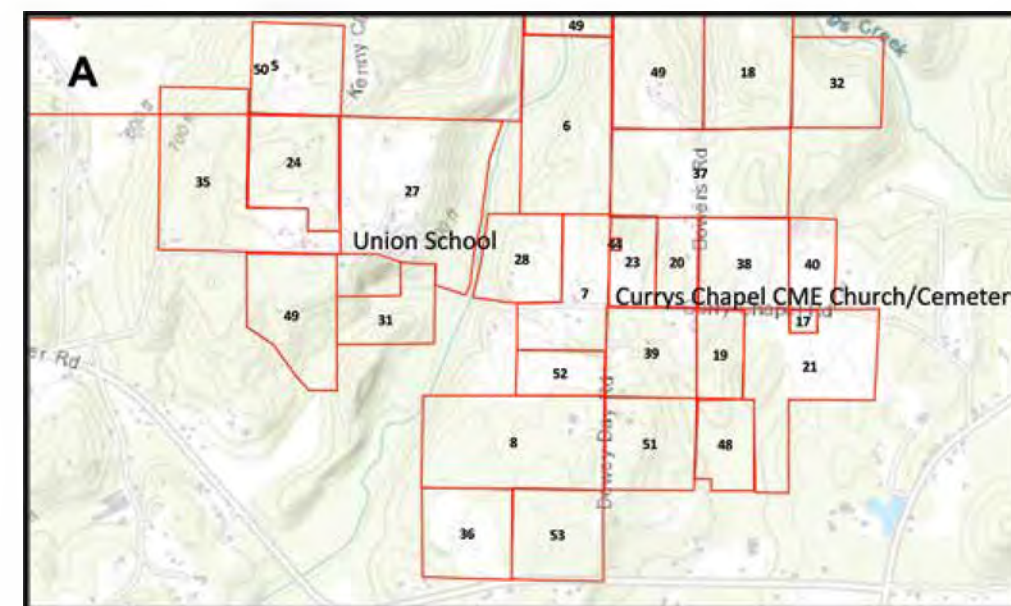




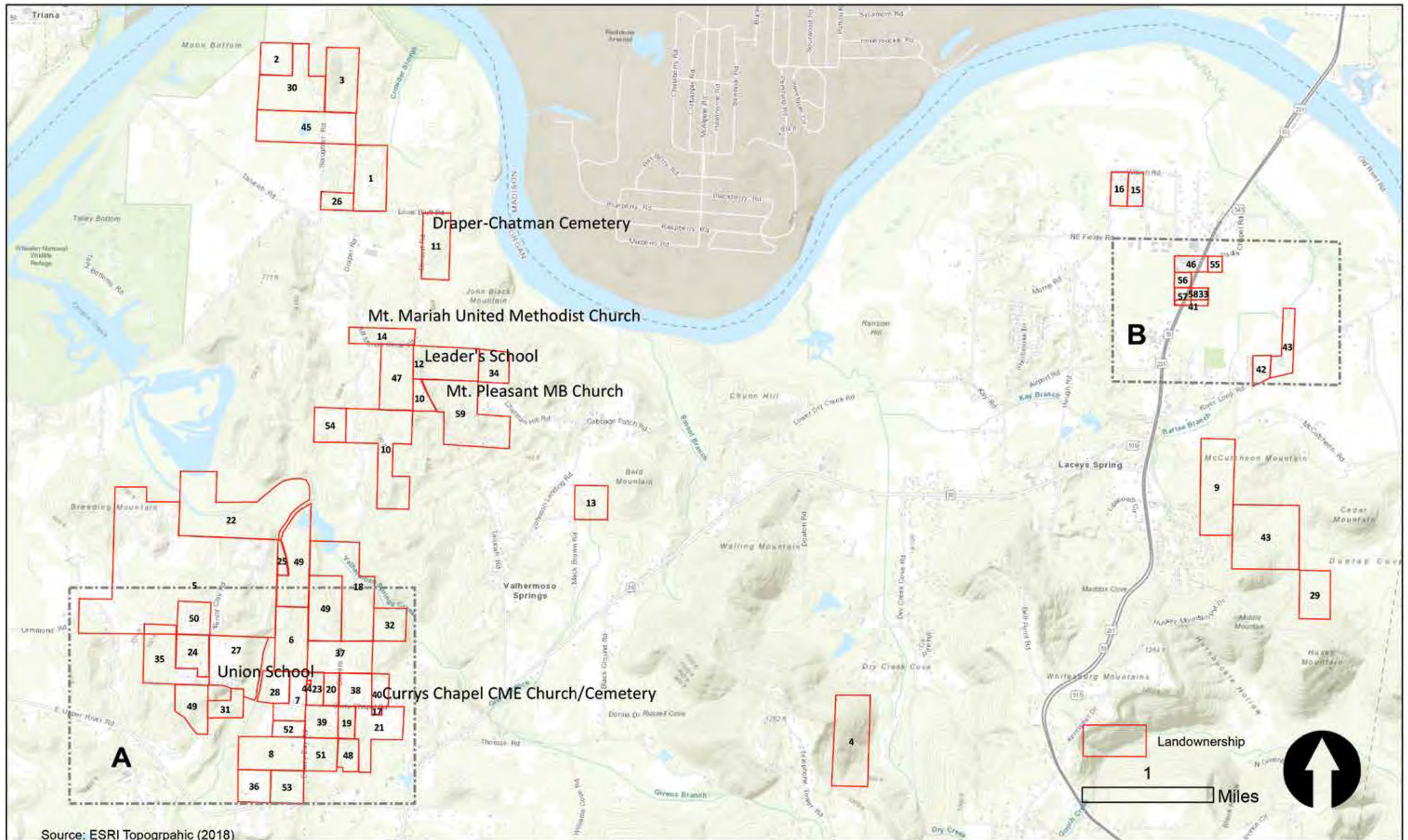


# Talucah Landowners

1. Beasley, Wilsey 1920-28
2. Beasley, Wilsey 1920-28
3. Black, J.C. 1922-25
4. Blackman, Joe 1921-1922
5. Breeding, H.D. 1920-28
6. Breeding, W.P. 1920-21
7. Burt?, Everette 1920-28
8. Campbell, Jno H. 1920-22
9. Chapman, Ann 1920-28
10. Chapman, Ned 1920-28
11. Chapman, Winfrey 1920-28
12. Chapman, Winfrey 1920-28
13. Chapman, Winfrey 1922-24
14. Chapman, Winfrey 1928
15. Chunn, Amos 1920-28
16. Chunn, Wm. 1920-28
17. Curry's Chapel 1920
18. Curry, Hugesy 1920-28
19. Curry, Seipia? 1920-23
20. Curry, Theo 1920-21
21. Curry, Theo 1920-21
22. Draper, A.L. 1920-28
23. Draper, Amanda 1920-23
24. Draper, Clifton 1920-1928
25. Draper, Clifton 1920-28
26. Draper, Henry 1920-28
27. Draper, Paris 1920-28
28. Ennis?, Mose and Jackson, Calvin 1920-23
29. Est. of Chas Wilson 1920-28
30. Gains, C.L. 1920-28
31. Gill, Will 1920-25
32. Harper, T. 1927-28
33. Heirs of Jone Balding 1920-1921
34. Jackson, Alonzo 1923-26
35. Jackson, Burt 1920-22
36. Jackson, Isaac 1920-21
37. Jackson, Jno. W. 1920-28
38. Jennings, Harris 1920-28
39. Jennings, Martha 1920



- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 40. Jennings, Mary 1920      | 51. Russell, James 1920-23   |
| 41. Jones, Zuelen? 1925-1928 | 52. Russell, Richard 1920-23 |
| 42. Love, Jr., Tom 1920-1928 | 53. Russell, Richard 1920-28 |
| 43. Love, Tom 1920-1928      | 54. Russell, Richard 1926-28 |
| 44. Madden, Rufus 1920-28    | 55. Taylor, Della 1920-23    |
| 45. Middleton, Sal 1920-28   | 56. Vaughn, Zalika 1920-1923 |
| 46. Robinson, Lacy 1920-28   | 57. Vaughn, Zalika 1920-23   |
| 47. Rogers, Percy 1920-1928  | 58. Vaughn, Zalika 1924      |
| 48. Rogers, Percy 1921-28    | 59. Woods, Sam 1920-28       |
| 49. Russell, Amos 1920-28    |                              |
| 50. Russell, Catty 1922-28   |                              |



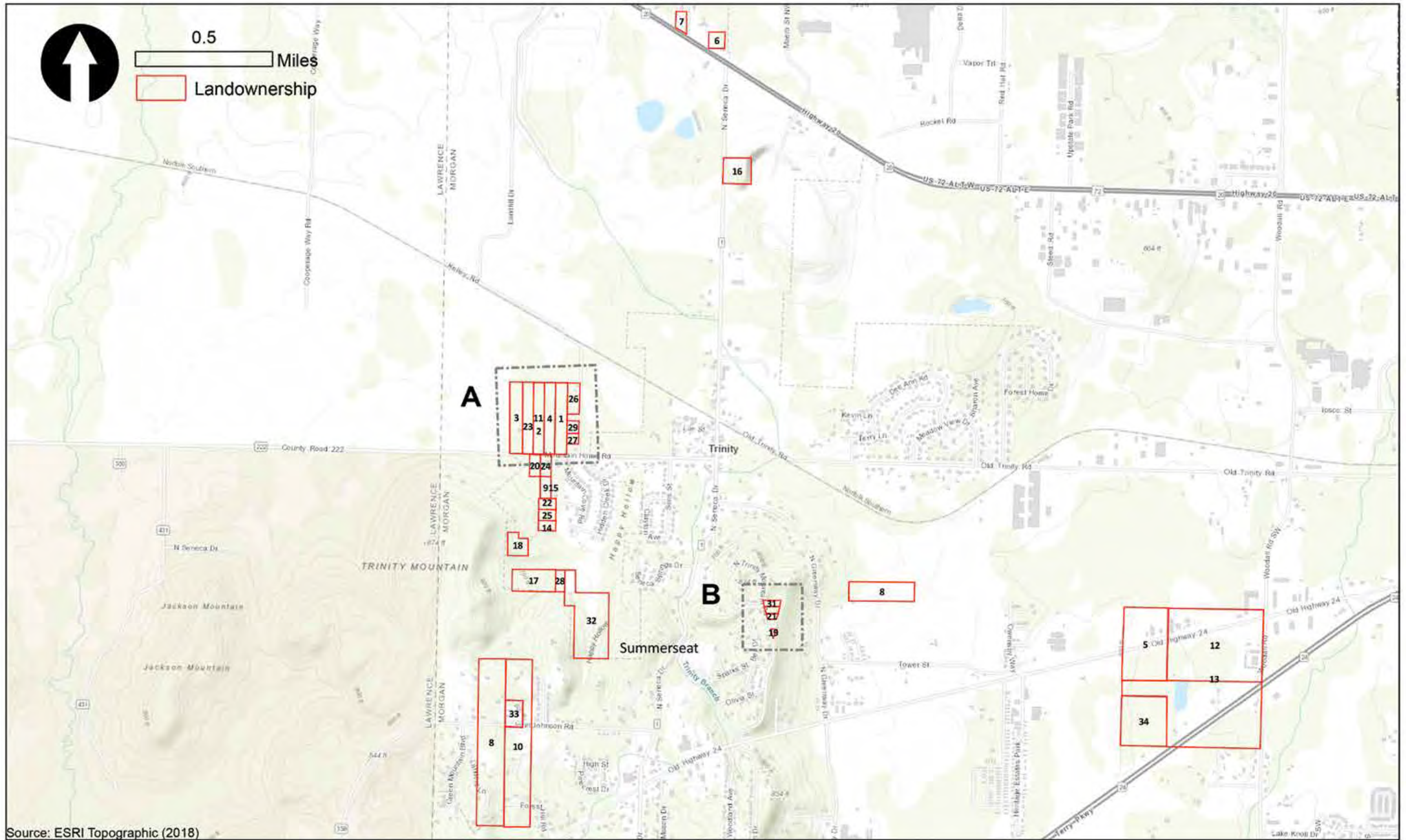
Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)



# Trinity Landowners

1. Brown, Georgia 1921-1927
2. Cohn, Henry 1921-1925
3. Cohn, Henry 1921-1928
4. Cohn, Joyce 1921-1927
5. Heirs of A.G. Garth 1920
6. Heirs of Eliza Murphy 1920-1928
7. Heirs of Eliza Murphy 1929-1933
8. Heirs of Henry Cohn 1928-1933
9. Heirs of Jno. Claude Lile 1928-1934
10. Heirs of Jno. Lile 1928-1934
11. Heirs of Joe Cohn 1920
12. Heirs of Lafayette Garth 1928-1932
13. Heirs of Lafayette Garth 1920-1928
14. Heirs of Mary Young 1928-1933
15. Heirs of Jno. Claude Lile 1928-1934
16. Lanier, Annie Lou 1928-1937
17. Lile, Dave 1928-1931
18. Lile, Fannie 1928-1937
19. Lile, George 1929-1930
20. Lile, Harry 1928-1937
21. Lile, Jerre 1928-1932
22. Lile, Josie 1928
23. Lile, Mildred 1921-1937
24. Lile, Willis 1928-1934
25. McDonald, H. 1928-1934
26. Orr, Willis 1920-1937
27. Orr, Willis 1934-1937
28. Pride, Gussie 1928-1937
29. Satchell, Anderson 1928-1934
30. Smith, James L. 1928-1931
31. Stewart, Adolphus 1928-1935
32. Stewart, Adolphus 1928-1937
33. Swope Jr, W. 1928-1933
34. Sykes, Ada 1920-1937





Source: ESRI Topographic (2018)

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