

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, Editor

EMMETT KILPATRICK, Co-Editor



Published by

STATE DEPARTMENT

OF

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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CONTENTS

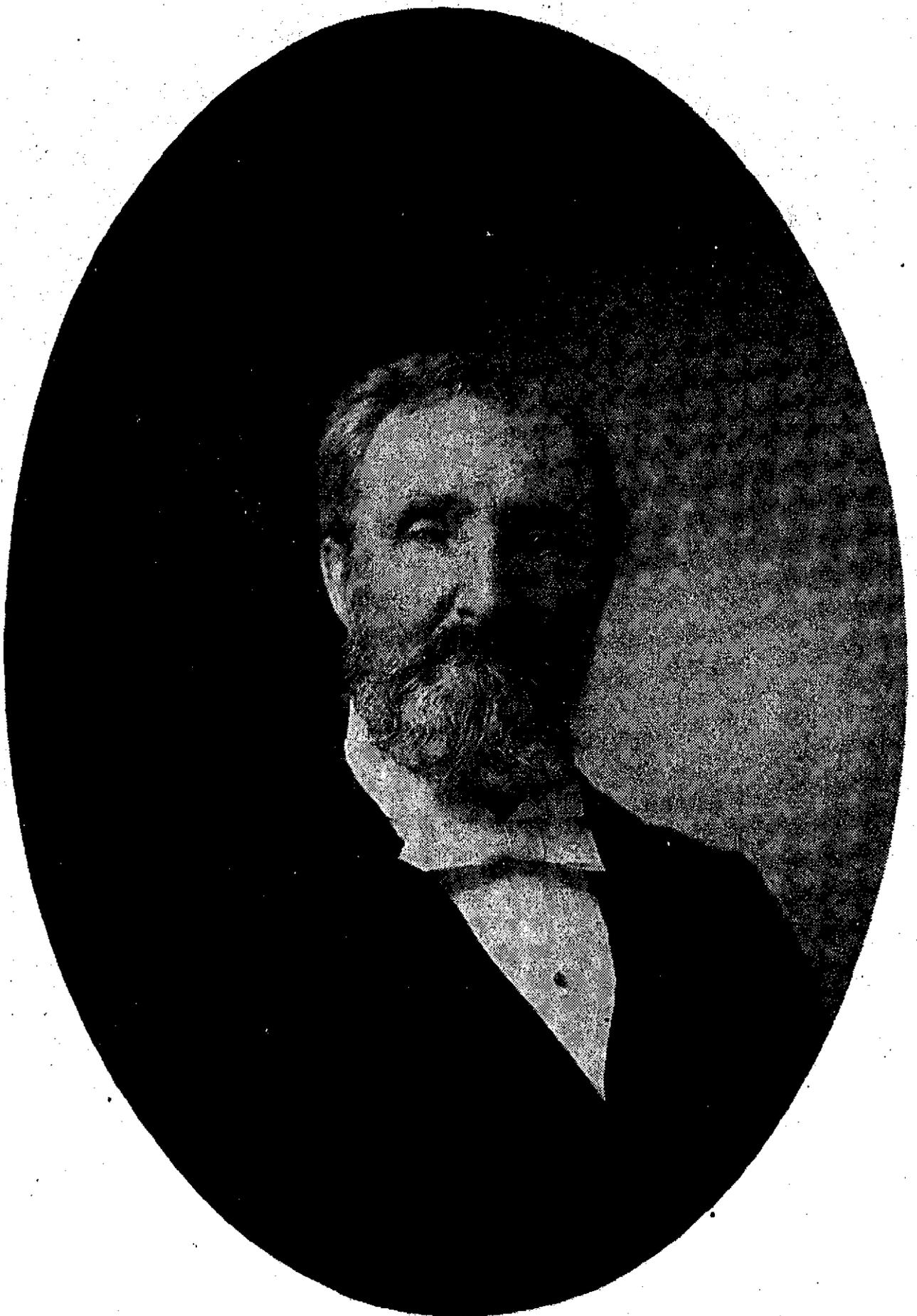
History of Coosa County
by Rev. George E. Brewer

Part I

EDITORIAL

In keeping with a plan announced in the *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Spring Issue, 1946, the current Quarterly and several that will succeed it, will be devoted to County histories instead of the usual miscellaneous compilations. Following the issuance of Volume 3, a combined issue of the Fall and Winter numbers, 1941, it was announced that Volume 4 would be devoted entirely to translations of Alabama's earliest official French Colonial history which had been located in the official archives in Paris, beginning with the reports of Iberville, followed by Bienville, the LeMoyne brothers, Governors of the Province of Louisiana, and other official documents covering the period beginning with 1699, under the reign of Louis the Fourteenth. Later it developed that this plan could not be carried out. The management of the Quarterly announced in the Spring Issue, 1946, that the missing Volume 4 would be given over to some other specific historical materials. Complying with that announcement the current number, bearing the date "Spring Issue, 1942," and carrying Part I of a history of Coosa County by the late George Evans Brewer, Part II, to follow in the next issue, will be followed by other issues devoted to the histories of Counties and certain other subjects of an historical character. This procedure will enable public libraries and others who receive the Quarterly to complete their files.

Marie Bankhead Owen, Editor.



Rev. George E. Brewer



REV. GEORGE EVANS BREWER

Rev. George Evans Brewer was born near Covington, Newton County, Ga., October 31, 1832, and died in 1922 in his ninetyeth year and is buried in Notasulga with other members of his family. He was the son of Rev. Aaron G. and Martha (Taylor) Brewer, the former born near Squancum, Monmouth County, N. J.; grandson of George and Rebecca (Schenck) Brewer, both of whom were members of the earliest Dutch families settling in the New Netherlands, a minister in the Protestant Methodist Church, being a member of the Baltimore convention which organized that body; and of George Taylor, a native of Ireland; great-grandson of Lazarus Brewer, of Monmouth County, N. J.; and great-great-grandson of Anneke Jans Bogardus, of New York.

Rev. Mr. Brewer was educated in the country schools and at Robinson Springs Academy, Elmore County. He taught school from 1851 to 1856. In 1856 he was elected superintendent of education of Coosa County, being the first under the new school law and was a member of the House of Representatives from the same county, 1857-59, and a member of the State Senate, 1859-63. In the fall of 1860 he was ordained to the ministry in the Missionary Baptist Church, and served his first pastorate at Wetumpka. In February, 1862, he was elected captain of an infantry company raised in Coosa County, and was first on detached duty at Pensacola, but in June, 1862, was assigned to Co. A., 36th Alabama infantry regiment, C. S. A. With this organization he served until the close of the War Between the States, much of the time in command. He was adjutant-general of Alabama during 1866, but resigned before the close of the year. He then returned to the active ministry, in which he continued without interruption until 1901, when he was appointed to the position of chaplain of convicts, by Gov. Wm. J. Samford, being retained in office by Gov. Wm. D. Jelks. After the expiration of his term in 1907, he again took up his ministerial work. He served as moderator at various times of the Central, the Tuskegee, and the Harris Baptist Associations. He was a potent influence in the establishment of the

School for the Deaf and Blind at Talladega and the hospital for the insane, now Bryce Hospital, at Tuscaloosa.

Mr. Brewer's deep interest in history was manifested by numerous writings both published and unpublished. Among the former was his "History of the Central Baptist Association," (1895) and "History of the 46th Alabama Regiment, C. S. A.," which appeared in *The Montgomery Advertiser*, 1902. He was employed in the State Department of Archives and History for several years, including 1917-18, at which time he wrote the "History of Coosa County" published herewith. The military files of the Department were enriched by voluminous notes from his pen.

He was married December 20, 1854, at Rockford, Coosa County, to Laura Ann, daughter of Judge Isaac Willis and Louisa (McCary) Suttle, of that county. She died in 1914, after a happy marriage lasting sixty years. Children: 1. Sallie Teresa, m. Henry Bradford; 2. Edgar, m. Mary Morgan; 3. Ella Rosa, d. young; 4. Samuel Oscar, m. Ollie Wilkie; 5. George Francis, m. Frances Meredith; 6. Mattie Laura, m. Dr. B. W. Allen; 7. Mamie Louisa, m. Thomas M. Espy; 8. Infant son, deceased; 9. Charles Milford, a Baptist minister, m. Chattie Williford.