

STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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ALABAMA OFFICIAL  
*and* STATISTICAL  
REGISTER

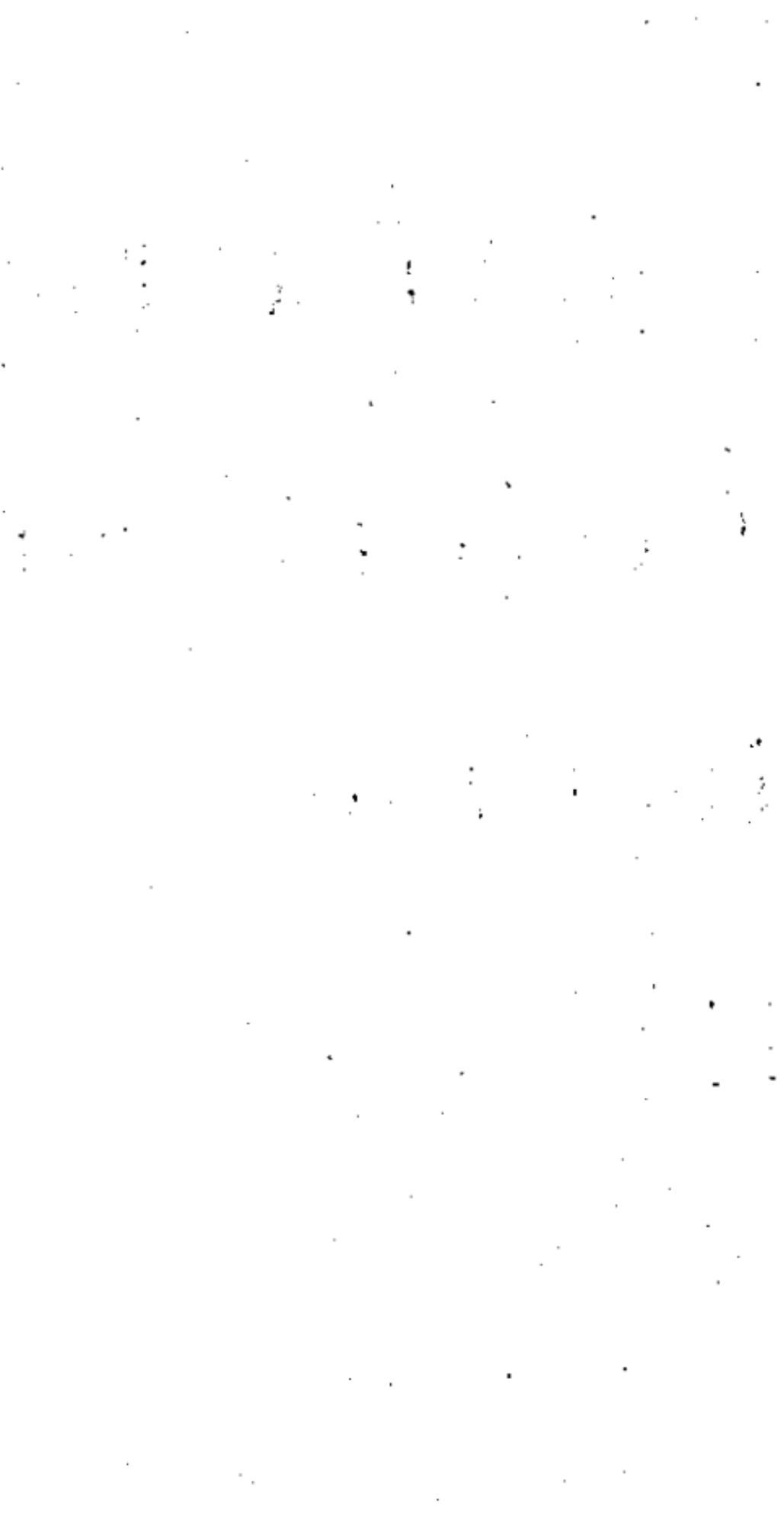
1915

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COMPILED BY  
THOMAS M. OWEN, LL. D., *Director*

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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Under the authority contained in Section five (5) of the Act of February 27, 1901, this volume has been prepared and published. The section is as follows:

“An official and statistical register of the State of Alabama shall be compiled every two years by the Director, to contain (1) brief sketches of the several State officials, the members of Congress from Alabama, the Supreme Court Judges, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama; (2) rosters of all State and County officials; (3) lists of all State institutions, with officials; (4) State and County population and election statistics, and (5) miscellaneous statistics; and said register shall be published in an edition of one thousand copies for free distribution, the printing and binding to be paid for as other printing and binding hereinbefore provided.”

The object of the publication is to present, in authoritative statistical form, the details of the organization of the State government, lists of officials, sketches of officials, and such miscellaneous and general data on the State and State affairs as may be of helpful service. The compilation has been made with great care. All names and dates are drawn from official sources as far as possible. No facts, not believed to be reliable and well-authenticated, have been admitted. The present edition of the Register contains five new chapters, namely: City and town officers, Benevolent institutions, Public and school libraries, Newspapers and periodicals, and Financial statistics.

Throughout the country, books of this character are regarded as of first importance. It is hoped that this volume will prove not only of immediate use and value, but that it will be a permanent contribution to the official literature of Alabama.



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# INTRODUCTION.

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## STATE NAME.

The etymology of the word or name Alabama has evoked much discussion among American philological students. It was the name of a noted Southern Indian tribe, whose habitat, when first known to Europeans, was in central Alabama. The greatest river in the State received its name from this tribe, and from the river, in turn, the name of the State was derived. The tribal name Alabama is spelled in various ways by the early chroniclers, Spanish, French and English, some of which forms are here given: Alabama, Albama, Alebamon, Alibama, Alibamo, Alibamou, Alibamon, Alabamu, Allibamou. The name first occurs in three of the chronicles of De Soto's expedition, of 1540, written Alibamo by La Vega, Alimamu by the Knight of Elvas, and Limamu by Ranjel. In the last form the initial vowel is dropped, and in both the last two the first "m" is used for "b," an interchange of these two consonants being common in Indian languages. The name as recorded by these chroniclers, in this case, was the name of a subdivision of the Chickasaws, not the historic Alabamas of later times.

The popular belief, which is engrafted in a number of current histories and geographies, is that Alabama signifies, "Here we rest." This very pleasing etymology, during the fifties of the last century, obtained a wide currency through the writings of Judge A. B. Meek. But the very first account of the origin of the name as far as is now known, is contained in an issue of the *Jacksonville Republican*, Jacksonville, Ala., July 27, 1842. Whether Judge Meek himself was the author of this etymology, traced back to this source, is a question, as yet unanswered.

As to the Muscogee origin of the name, thorough experts in that dialect have confessed their inability to find in it any word or phrase similar to Alabama and meaning "Here we rest."

But the problem is not hopeless. According to the recent investigations of Indianologists, the tribal name, Alabama, must be sought in the Choctaw tongue, as it was not uncommon for tribes to accept, as a national or tribal name, an appellation bestowed upon them by some contiguous tribe. The late Rev. Allen Wright, a highly educated Choctaw, translates the name as "Thicket-clearers," compounded of "Alba," a *thicket or mass of vegetation*, and "amo," *to clear, to collect, to gather up*.

H. S. Halbert, by independent study, about the same time, arrived at the same conclusion as that given by Mr. Wright, and translates

the name as "Vegetation-gatherers," that is, gatherers of vegetation in clearing land for agricultural purposes. The word "alba" means such small vegetation as herbs, plants, shrubs and bushes, which were gathered in clearing land, and the word can be applied collectively to a thicket. Hence the translation as given by the Rev. Allen Wright and that of Mr. Halbert practically agree. The passive voice of amo is almo. In elaborating his views in defense of his position, Mr. Halbert gives two examples of Choctaw local names, "Kantak almo" and "Oskei almo," meaning respectively, *China brier there gathered*, and *Cane there gathered*. If the tribes or clans living at these localities had received special names from their avocations, they would have been known as Kantakamo and Oskamo, just as the noted Indian tribe in the pre-historic past could well have received the name Alba amo, by fusion of vowels Albamo, from some neighboring Choctaw-speaking tribe, not yet emerged from the hunting into the agricultural state.

Confirmatory of the position of Rev. Allen Wright and the independent conclusions of Mr. Halbert, the definitions of "alba" and "amo" in Rev. Cyrus Byington's "Dictionary of the Choctaw Language" are given below. The manuscript of this work, prepared prior to 1856, has been published by the Bureau of American Ethnology, under the editorial direction of Dr. John R. Swanton and Mr. Halbert. The words and their definitions are as follows:

"alba, n., vegetation; herbs; plants; weeds.

"amo, v. t. pl., to pick; to pull; to trim; to mow; to reap, Matt. 6:26; to cut; to clip; to gather, Luke 6:44; to cut off; to crop; to rid; to shear; to slip; *panki an aiamo*, gather grapes of, Matt. 7:16; *shumati akon aiamo*, gather of thistles; *tabli*, sing.

"amo, n., a gatherer; a picker; a shearer."

It is an interesting fact that the late Dr. Albert S. Gatschet: *Creek Migration Legend*, p. 85, accepts the etymology of Rev. Allen Wright as above set forth.

Dr. Wm. S. Wyman, of Tuscaloosa, one of the best known students of the State, inclines to the belief that the word means *Mulberry people*. He says that on the oldest French maps the Alabama river is called "Coussa," from which he conjectures that the name Alabama was first given to it by the French, after they built Fort Toulouse in 1714. He says further that in Tristan de Luna's time (1559) the river was sometimes called "Olibahali," or "Ullibali," which is pretty close to the French form, "Alibamon," or "Alabamo." In the language of the Alabama tribe he says that "Ullebehalli" means *Mulberry people*.

Inquiry among the early Indians themselves appears to have been without results as to the meaning of the word. Gen. Thomas S. Woodward in his fascinating book of *Reminiscences of the Creek or Muscogee Indians*, p. 12, says: "I had heard Col. Hawkins say in his time, that he had made every inquiry in his power to ascertain if *Alabama* had any other meaning than the mere name of an Indian

town, but never could, unless the name—as it was possible—might be the Indian corruption of the Spanish words for *good water*, though he doubted that.”

Discarding, then, “Here we rest” as something philologically untenable, but retaining it as something that may hold its own in the realm of poetry and romance, we may look forward with confidence to the investigations of scholars which may fully solve the mystery of the name. And until supplanted by something upon which not a shadow of doubt may rest, we may for the present be content with the “Vegetation-gatherers,” who, in their aboriginal field-making, were surely and necessarily “Thicket-clearers.”

The suggested etymology may be thought a trifle prosaic as compared with the romantic expression, heretofore associated with the Indian anabasis from the west, but in truth it is quite as poetic, besides it far more nearly represents the character of Alabamians, both in the past and in the present era of growth, when with uplifted aspiration and clear vision they are *opening the way* to newer ideals and the development of the best in life and human endeavor.

## STATE BOUNDARIES.

Alabama is bounded on the north by Tennessee, east by Georgia, south by Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and west by the State of Mississippi. The several sections of the Code of Alabama, 1907, containing a description of the State boundaries, with reference to the decisions of the courts thereon, are as follows:

83. (623) (12) (12) (16) (15) *Boundaries of State*.—The boundaries of this State are established and declared to be as follows, that is to say: Beginning at the point where the thirty-first degree of north latitude crosses the Perdido river; thence east to the western boundary line of the State of Georgia; thence along said line to the southern boundary line of the State of Tennessee, thence west along the southern boundary line of the State of Tennessee, crossing the Tennessee river, and on to the second intersection of said river by said line; thence up said river to the mouth of Big Bear Creek; thence by a direct line, to the northwest corner of Washington county, in this State as originally formed; thence southerly along the line of the State of Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico; thence eastwardly, including all islands within six leagues of the shore, to the Perdido river; and thence up the said river to the beginning.

Boundaries of Mississippi Territory, Toulmin's *Digest*, p. 76; territory ceded by Georgia, Toulmin's *Digest*, p. 77; territory called Alabama; Toulmin's *Digest*, p. 78. (Aikin's *Digest*, p. 29, par. 4; p. 30, par. 6; Clay's *Digest*, p. 47, par. 4; p. 48, par. 6.)

*Note*.—A strip twelve miles wide on the northern part of the State was ceded by South Carolina to the United States, and then granted to the Mississippi Territory.

84. (624) (13) (13) (17) (16) *Boundary Between Alabama and Georgia.*—The boundary line between Alabama and Georgia commences on the west side of the Chattahoochee river, at the point where it enters the State of Florida; from thence up the river, along the western bank thereof, to the point on Miller's Bend, next above the place where the Uchee creek empties into such river; thence in a direct line to the Nickajack.

Clay's *Digest*, p. 48, par. 9. In *Howard v. Ingersoll*, 17 Ala. 780, the boundary of the State, it was held commenced at low-water mark, on the west side of the Chattahoochee river, from the point where it enters the present state of Florida, to the "great bend" next above the place where the Uchee creek empties into the said river. In other words, low-water mark on the west side of the Chattahoochee river (was the line which separated the jurisdiction of the State of Alabama from the State of Georgia. On writ of error to the Supreme Court of the United States, the decision was reversed, a majority of the court holding that the boundary line between the two states was not low-water mark on the west side of the Chattahoochee river), but a line running up the river on and along its western bank, and that the jurisdiction of Georgia extended to the line which is washed by the water wherever it covers the bed of the river within its banks. The permanent fast land bank governs the line. From the lower edge of that bank the bed of the river commences, and the jurisdiction of Georgia extends to the lower edge of the bank on the west side of the river. Nelson and Grier, JJ., dissenting, held, that the true boundary line between the states of Georgia, and Alabama, was not a line drawn on the bank or bluff of the river, at high-water mark, but the line marked by the permanent bed of the river, by the flow of the water at its usual and accustomed stage, and where the water will be found at all times in the season, except when diminished by drought or swollen by freshet.—*Howard v. Ingersoll*, 13 Howard 381.

The boundary line between the states of Georgia and Alabama depends upon the construction of the following words of the contract of cession between the United States and Georgia, describing the boundary of the latter, namely: "West of a line beginning on the western bank of the Chattahoochee river, where the same crosses the boundary between the United States and Spain, running up the said river, and along the western bank thereof."—*State of Alabama v. State of Georgia*, 23 Howard, U. S. 505.

"It is the opinion of this court that the language implies that there is ownership of soil and jurisdiction in Georgia, in the bed of the river Chattahoochee, and that the bed of the river is that portion of its soil which is alternately covered and left bare, as there may be an increase or diminution in the supply of water, and which is adequate to contain it at its average and mean stage during the entire year, without reference to the extraordinary freshets of the winter spring, or the extreme drought of summer or autumn."—*Ib.*

The western line of the cession on the Chattahoochee river must be traced on the water-line of the acclivity of the western bank, and along that bank where that is defined; and in such places on the river where the western bank is not defined, it must be continued up the river on the line of its bed, as that is made by the average and mean stage of the water, as that is expressed in the conclusion of the above recited paragraph."—*Ib.*

By the contract of cession, the navigation of the river is free to both parties.—*Ib.*

85. (625) (14) (14) (18) (17) *Boundary Between Alabama and Florida.*—The boundary line between Alabama and Florida is

the line commonly known as the "mound line," or "Ellicott's line," as distinguished from a blazed line, known as the "Upper" or "Coffee line," commencing at a point on the Chattahoochee river, near a place known as "Irwin's Mills;" and from thence to the Perdido river, marked the whole distance by blazes on the trees and by mounds of earth, at distances of about one mile.

### STATE CAPITOL.

During its existence as a Territory and State, since March 3, 1817, Alabama has had several capitals. St. Stephens was designated in the act creating the Territory as the temporary seat of government, and there the two sessions of the Territorial legislature were held. The first constitutional convention was held, in accordance with the enabling act, in Huntsville in 1819, and the first session of the State Legislature was also held there.

The Territorial Legislature, however, had chosen Cahaba as the site for the capital of the State, and the second session of the Legislature was held there in 1820. Cahaba was designated as the seat of government in the constitution, but the Legislature was required at the session of 1825-26 "to designate by law (to which the executive concurrence shall not be required) the permanent seat of government, which shall not thereafter be changed." Cahaba proved to be a very poor and injudicious selection, owing to health conditions, and to its situation, being subject to overflow. In 1826 Tuscaloosa was chosen as the location of the capital, and there it remained until the session of 1845-46. At this time, after a sharp contest between many rival towns, Montgomery was selected. The session previous had proposed a constitutional amendment, striking out the section permanently locating the seat of government, and this amendment had been adopted at the polls.

In selecting Montgomery the Legislature expressly provided by act that the State should be put to no expense in securing lands or in the erection of a capitol building. The citizens of the town at once organized, under the leadership of Col. Charles T. Pollard, Col. A. J. Pickett and others, secured the site, and began the erection of a building. Bonds for \$75,000.00 were issued by the municipality to pay for construction. These bonds were taken up by local real estate dealers and by local capitalists. The plan of the new capitol was drawn by Stephen D. Button; and the contractors were Messrs. B. F. Robinson and R. W. R. Bardwell. It was completed and occupied by the Legislature at its session of 1847-48, the first session held in Montgomery. On Dec. 14, 1849, during the second session held in Montgomery, the building was destroyed by fire. On Feb. 11, 1850, the Legislature made an appropriation of \$60,000.00, with which the central section of the present building was erected substantially on the foundations of the burned structure.

During the administration of Gov. William H. Smith several improvements were made, which added convenience and beauty to the lower floor of the building.

From the time of its completion in 1851 until 1885 no increase in its capacity had been made. In the latter year, Feb. 17, the Legislature made an appropriation of \$25,000.00 for "needed enlargement." This expenditure resulted in the erection of the rear extension, that is, all that part from the basement to the roof east of the stairway leading to the State and Supreme Court library.

In 1903 the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 with which the South end of Capitol Square was purchased, and the South wing erected in 1905-06; and in 1911 an appropriation of \$100,000 was made with which a North wing was added.

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### STATE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

The Governor's Mansion is located in the City of Montgomery, at No. 702 South Perry Street. It was erected in 1906 and was purchased by the State from Moses Sabel, by whom it was built. The price paid was forty-six thousand, five hundred dollars (\$46,500), including sundry furnishings. It is a two-story pressed brick structure, with mansard roof, and presents a very attractive and stately appearance.

Until the purchase of this building, the State had never owned an official residence for the use of its governors. The Legislature of 1911 passed "an act to make an appropriation for the purchase of a residence for the Governor of Alabama, and grounds and furnishings therefor, and for the acquisition by condemnation or purchase of any real estate necessary or beneficial for such purpose, to provide a building commission for such purpose, and to make an annual appropriation for the maintenance of such residence," approved February 14, 1911.

A commission of seven members was provided by this act, four of whom were the incumbents respectively of the offices of Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-General and the Director of the Department of Archives and History, and three citizens of the City or County of Montgomery to be appointed by the Governor. After the appointment of the three members required to be named by the Governor, the following constituted the membership of the Commission: Emmet O'Neal, Governor; Cyrus B. Brown, Secretary of State; Robert C. Brickell, Attorney-General; Thomas M. Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History; and Michel H. Screws, William T. Sheehan, and William G. Covington, the last three being citizens of Montgomery. The first meeting of the Commission was held April 27, 1911. Other meetings were held, and the purchase of the property mentioned above was agreed upon. The deed of conveyance bears date, May 29, and was filed for record in Montgomery county, June 1, 1911.

## STATE SEAL.

The original State seal consisted of a circular disk, on which was a map of Alabama, displaying the principal rivers. This design was, in 1818, suggested by Governor William Wyatt Bibb, for the use of Alabama Territory, and when the constitution of 1819 was adopted, it was provided (Sec. 12, Art. IV) that "the present seal of the territory shall be the seal of the State, until otherwise directed by the General Assembly." This seal remained in use until changed by act of December 29, 1868.—*Acts*, 1868, p. 77.

This act, descriptive of the present State seal, carried forward, through successive revisions, to the *Code of Alabama*, 1907, vol. i, is as follows:

"1994. (3727) (18). *Great Seal of the State*.—The seal shall be circular, and the diameter thereof two and a quarter inches; near the edge of the circle shall be the word 'Alabama,' and opposite this word, at the same distance from the edge shall be the words 'Great Seal.' In the center of the seal there shall be a representation of an eagle, and upon such part of the seal as the governor may direct, there shall be the words 'Here we rest.' The seal shall be called the 'Great Seal of the State of Alabama.'"

## STATE FLAG.

The flag of the State of Alabama was adopted by Act of February 16, 1895, introduced into the House of Representatives by Hon. John W. A. Sanford, Jr., then a member from Montgomery county.—See *Acts*, 1894-95, p. 719. The following is the statutory description, taken from the *Code of Alabama*, 1907, vol. 1, sections 2058 and 2059:

"2058 (3751). *Flag of the State*.—The flag of the State of Alabama shall be a crimson cross of St. Andrew on a field of white. The bars forming the cross shall not be less than six inches broad, and must extend diagonally across the flag, from side to side."

"2059 (3752). *When Displayed*.—The flag of the State shall be hoisted on the dome of the capitol when the two houses of the Legislature are in session, and shall be used by the State on all occasions when it may be necessary or customary to display a flag, except when, in the opinion of the governor, the national flag should be displayed."

From the foregoing description, and from local inquiry as to the form of the design submitted in connection with the original bill, the flag was intended by the Legislature to preserve in permanent form some of the more distinctive features of the Confederate battle-flag, particularly the St. Andrew's cross. This being true, the Alabama flag should be square, and in all of its lines and measurements conform to the well-known battle-flag of the Confederacy.

On referring to the regulations governing the Confederate battle-flag, it is found that it must be forty-eight inches square, with the

arms of the cross eight and one-half inches wide over all, that is, the blue arms with the white border. The law providing for the Alabama State flag merely declares that the arms shall not be less than six inches broad, with the further provision that they must "extend diagonally across the flag from side to side." The latter is intended to mean that the bars must cross each other at right angles, and that the ends of the bars must divide equally at each corner. In the event a larger or smaller size should be desired, the measurements increase or diminish proportionately.

The regulations for the battle-flag, also provide for a border of one and one-half inches. Therefore, the proper size for the Alabama State flag would be fifty-one inches square over all, with the arms of the St. Andrew's cross eight and one-half inches wide over all, extending diagonally across the flag from side to side, the ends of the bars dividing equally at each corner.

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### STATE HOLIDAYS.

(*Code of Alabama*, 1907, sec. 5144; *General Laws of Alabama*, 1911, pp. 91, 120.)

Sunday.

January first, New Year's Day.

January nineteenth, Robert E. Lee's birthday.

February twenty-second, Washington's birthday.

Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday.

April thirteenth, Thomas Jefferson's birthday.

April twenty-sixth, Memorial Day.

June third, Jefferson Davis' birthday.

July fourth, Independence Day.

First Monday in September, Labor Day.

Second Thursday in October, Fraternal Day.

October twelfth, Columbus Day.

Thanksgiving Day.

December twenty-fifth, Christmas Day.

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### STATE FLOWER.

No State flower.

However, some years ago, in a number of the schools of the State the pupils voted in favor of the selection of the golden rod. As an index of the feeling of the State on the subject the following resolution, approved Feb. 18, 1893, recognizing this flower as "national," is given:

"*Resolved*, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the wild flower, known as the Golden Rod, is hereby recognized as the national flower of the United States of America."—*Acts*, 1892-93.

## STATE SONG.

## ALABAMA.

*By Miss Julia S. Tutwiler.*

ADOPTED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ALABAMA.

*Air*—HARWELL, OR THE AUSTRIAN NATIONAL HYMN.

1

Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee,  
From thy Southern shore where  
groweth,  
By the sea thine orange tree.  
To thy Northern vale where flow-  
eth,  
Deep and blue thy Tennessee,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

2

Broad the Stream whose name thou  
bearest;  
Grand thy Bigbee rolls along;  
Fair thy Coosa—Tallapoosa;  
Bold thy Warrior, dark and strong;  
Goodlier than the land that Moses  
Climbed lone Nebo's Mount to see,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

3

From thy prairies broad and fertile,  
Where thy snow-white cotton shines,  
To the hills where coal and iron  
Hide in thine exhaustless mines,  
Strong-armed miners—sturdy farm-  
ers;  
Loyal hearts whate'er we be,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

4

From thy quarries where the mar-  
ble  
White as that of Paros gleams  
Waiting till thy sculptor's chisel,  
Wake to life thy poet's dreams;  
For not only wealth of nature,  
Wealth of mind hast thou to fee,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

5

Where the perfumed south-wind  
whispers,  
Thy magnolia groves among,  
Softer than a mother's kisses,  
Sweeter than a mother's song;  
Where the golden jasmine trailing,  
Woos the treasure-laden bee,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

6

Brave and pure thy men and wom-  
en,  
Better this than corn and wine,  
Make us worthy, God in heaven,  
Of this goodly land of Thine;  
Hearts as open as our doorways,  
Liberal lands and spirits free,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!

7

Little, little, can I give thee,  
Alabama, mother mine;  
But that little—hand, brain, spirit,  
All I have and am are thine,  
Take, O take the gift and giver,  
Take and serve thyself with me,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
I will aye be true to thee!