

No 21



# Through The Years

## Other Christmas Days

By Peter A. Brannon

William Bartram, the naturalist, spent the Christmas season of 1777 at Muk-lasse, an Indian town in our present Montgomery County. Here his guide on the trip up from Mobile, a Mustee Indian boy, was married according to native custom to the sister of the wife of the trader in whose home he visited.

William Trewin, an Englishman, the trader, had married the chief's daughter. The day before the wedding—or "the celebration of the nuptials," as Mr. Bartram calls it, "was a day of rest and audience." The following, that is the wedding day, "was devoted to feasting and the evening concluded the celebration. Dancing, music and feasting continued, the fore part of the night," when the young bridal couple withdrew to the booth formed of green boughs. "No one presumed to approach the sacred mysterious thalame."

Thus, even in the days before pioneer settlement, Christmas was attended with that romantic association—matrimony, music, and merriment, which is often today a part of our own celebration of the occasion. Genealogical charts and that interesting register in the probate offices, "Marriage Licenses," show Dec. 24 as a popular day for the realization of plighted troths.

### The Day At Autosse In 1796

Col. Benjamin Hawkins, the Creek Indian agent, spent Christmas Day of 1796 in the home of James Bailey, who lived on the Tallapoosa River near our present Shorter, in Macon County. His dinner was not very unlike ours. He says the meal "was of pork, a couple of fowls and two ducks, rice, potatoes and rum." In addition there were colewarts (artichokes) served with the meat, and Mrs. Bailey, an Indian woman of the Wind clan, served both Indian and white bread. They had butter made at home and coffee was served with the meal. During the afternoon she passed tea to her guest. The Colonel remarks in his notebook that Mr. Bailey kept good rum in his house at all times but did not partake of it. Neither did he smoke tobacco.

The agent comments on the behavior of the negro slaves of the McGillivray family. Mrs. Durant's 40 negroes were a considerable expense to her. Their entire labor for a season did not bring her in enough for their maintenance. Sophia McGillivray, daughter of Col. Lachlan and sister of Gen. Alexander, married Benjamin Durant, of South Carolina. She was from all accounts, strictly "the head of the house." Her "black people" spent their Christmas time "in the frolic of rum drinking and dancing."

The weather was just what we expect at Christmas. Dec. 25 was on Sunday in 1796. Col. Hawkins's diary says: "Saturday, 24, the weather cold and cloudy, the ponds in the neighborhood frozen over, this seldom ever happens in this climate; Christmas was cold and freezing."

### Customs In the Tensaw Country

Col. Pickett tells us that the pioneer settlers in the English-speaking districts of the Southern part of the State had little time for recreations except at Christmas time. Sam Mims's community on Tensaw Lake was perhaps the largest group of settlers in the eastern section of the Mississippi Territory when it was created in 1798. Christmas Eve of 1800

stories have been written of the height of the bluff over which he leaped. Visitors have often been shown the 100-foot embankment some half a mile below the site and told that Weatherford plunged his gray horse, "Arrow," over this perpendicular cliff. The actual point adjoining a ravine on the edge of the village is today about nine feet high. It was then perhaps 14 feet above the waters of the river. Weatherford himself often told the story and never claimed it to be over 15 feet.

John Floyd and his Georgia army were at Fort Mitchell, on the Chattahoochee River. The General was recuperating from his wound received at Autosse in November previous. Floyd threw up this earthwork and stockaded it, calling it to honor David Brydie Mitchell, then governor of Georgia.

Destiny ruled that Fort Mitchell should play no small part in Alabama's story. The treaty of Fort Jackson, Aug. 9, 1814, sealed the doom of the Creek Indians. True, they claimed a nation in East Alabama as late as March, 1832, but the spirit of the natives was broken and there was a garrison of soldiers at Fort Mitchell which was in their midst. From Fort Mitchell they journeyed in 1836 to their new homes beyond the Mississippi, and Christmas of that year found them herded in the stockade awaiting their fate.

### Early Legislative Sessions

An examination of the early acts of the Legislature will disclose a propensity to hold sessions on Christmas Eve and on the day after Christmas, but there is no record showing a session on Christmas Day. Mississippi Territorial sessions—that is, those prior to 1817, with which we are concerned—were often held on Dec. 24. A characteristic session of Dec. 26 was the one in 1822, when an election precinct was established at the home of William Graves, in Montgomery County. This Revolutionary veteran was the grandfather twice removed of our recent Governor. He resided not far from Burkeville of today and in our present Lowndes County.

### Traditions of Other Days

Folk-customs of the pioneer settlers are sweet memories to those who love the real traditions of this sacred holiday. 'Tis said that even in the sparsely settled regions long before statehood days, the torch in the sandbox lighted the wandering traveler to the hospitable fireside. Today we burn a candle in the window in memory of that star which lighted the Wise Men to His manger. Our forefathers had no torch of electricity. On my father's plantation in East Alabama, our negroes always repaired to a neighborhood schoolhouse to watch for the coming of Christ. That was not superstition, but really a reverent homage to the occasion.

There may be other places which owe their origins to Christmas suggestions, but Holly Pond, in Cullman County, and Evergreen, in Conecuh, remind us of those beautiful products so resplendent in Alabama in December. The evergreen smilax vines of South Alabama and the ever-brilliant trees of American holly in their Winter foliage have always made the indoors of Alabama homes like the hours of life's Springtime.

George Withers said 250 years ago:  
 "So now is come our joyful'st feast,  
 Let every man be jolly;  
 Each room with ivy leaves is drest,  
 And every post with holly."

was an eventful one at the house of this old Indian countryman.

While the dancing and merriment of the party gathered to "celebrate" was at its height, Daniel Johnson and Elizabeth Linder, who had long loved one another, quietly slipped away that they might be really married. There were no preachers and neither were there officers of the law in that new country, so many of the couples just "paired off" and lived together awaiting the day when some kind of ceremony could join them. But Betty Linder was the daughter of a wealthy native of Switzerland who did not approve of this pioneer marriage custom, so the young couple and a canoe load of friends stole away and paddled down to Fort Staddert that they might have a legal ceremony performed by the army officer stationed there.

History records that the party reached there at the break of day and found the captain preparing his Christmas morning eggnog. He was visibly surprised when they implored him to join them in the bonds of matrimony. The request was pressed and the old German protested his ignorance asserting that he was only a military officer and had no authority to make people man and wife.

They insisted that the Federal Government had placed him there as the general regulator of affairs and therefore he must do so. After sharing his eggnog with the gay party, he pronounced the following ceremony:

"I, Capt. Shaumburg, of the Second Regiment, U. S. Army, and commandant at Fort Stoddert, do hereby pronounce you man and wife. Go home! Behave yourselves, multiply and replenish the Tensaw Country."

The whole settlement agreed that this couple was the best married pair they had known in a long time. So far as is known, this was actually the first legal marriage ceremony performed in Protestant Alabama. Of course many had been performed in Mobile under the offices of the Catholic Church during the 100 years of the settlement there. These French records show many marriages occurring late in December, so the spirit of Christmas entered there also. No civil or legal ceremony was performed, nor was legal authority required by the ordinances of the Church.

#### Jackson's Christmas of 1813

Dec. 25, 1813, found Andrew Jackson at Fort Strother, on the Coosa River, contending with his mutinous East Tennessee volunteers. None of them wanted to finish the campaign against the Indians but he did prevail on a few to stay with him. The term of these volunteers expired on Christmas Eve and practically all who had not deserted before that time marched away to the Cumberland Valley.

Gen. Coffee's brigade was at Fort Deposit, on the Tennessee River. Col. Carroll joined him with a few men, and Gen. Roberts carried down a fresh company to aid Jackson in holding the Ten Islands Shoals headquarters post. Jackson was on historic ground though he did not know it. DeSoto was at the Ten Islands in the Spring of 1540 and there forded the river. Jackson used that same trail-ford on his march to relieve the friendly Indians in Laslie's fort at Talladega. Gen. Rousseau, of the Federal Army, who made a raid into the deep South in 1863, said in his report that he crossed at the same ford used by Jackson in 1813.

#### Gen. Claiborne's Christmas

Ferdinand L. Claiborne, commanding Mississippi volunteers, camped Christmas Eve, 1813, on William Weatherford's plantation, adjoining the Holy Ground, where they had that day burned the sacred retreat of the Indians. The breakfast of these troops on Christmas morning was of parched corn, which they had captured at Ward's place (our Manack's Bend), below the mouth of Pintlala Creek.

This Christmas Eve is remembered in Alabama history as the date of Weatherford's leap into the cold waters of the Alabama River when he escaped. Wild



# Through The Years

## Fort Williams On The Coosa

By Peter A. Brannon

Col. Welsh, of the British Colonial forces in America, traveled West from Charleston to visit the Chicasaw Indians in 1698. He passed the town at the mouth of Cedar Creek in our present Talladega County. A trail of remote antiquity crossed the Coosa River at this point. Andrew Jackson on his way to Tohopeka, reached Atchinahatchi, as the Indians called it on March 21 1814. There Howell Tatum, Jackson's topographical engineer, built Fort Williams.

### Named for Col. John Williams

Gen. Jackson named his new base of supplies for the commanding officer of the 39th U. S. Infantry Regiment, Col. John Williams. Col. Williams was born in Surrey County, North Carolina, Jan. 29, 1778. He went to Tennessee in 1803 studied law and settled in Knoxville. Raising a regiment of volunteer infantry in 1812, he was shortly thereafter mustered into U. S. service and commissioned Colonel of this, the Thirty-Ninth, on June 18, 1813.

Today only numerous grave pits remain to mark this site from whence Jackson marched to fight the Upper Creek Indians at Horse Shoe Bend on the Tallapoosa.

The Fort Williams Memorial Association of Talladega County has determined to keep fresh the memory of this point and of the men who are buried there. A movement has been started to erect a suitable monument on the old stockade site which has been donated by W. A. Mitchell.

Gen. Jackson left Brig. Gen. Johnston and a small force of men with an 8-day's food supply for the whole army at the Cedar Creek post on March 24. Proceeding by way of Emuckfaw town, he reached the great bend in the Tallapoosa River on March 27 and ere the sun went down that day more than 1,000 of Menawa's red warriors lay piled on that field. Maj. Montgomery and Lieut. Molton and Sommerville were killed at Horse Shoe and it is claimed that no officer but Maj. Montgomery was buried there. If this is true, then Michael J. Molton and Robert M. Sommerville are resting at Fort Williams.

### Jackson At The Fort

After alleviating his wounded, Gen. Jackson made litters of green cow skins and moved immediately those who could stand the trip to Fort Williams. John Frost in his pictorial history of the war, tells us that the commander-in-chief at dress parade at Fort Williams on April 2, addressed his men and thanked them for their unsurpassed gallantry.

History records that Jackson left Gen. Johnson at Fort Williams, while he was at Choccolocco Litabixi—"the horse shoe," but there is no record in the military archives of the War of 1813, a manuscript which reads: "The contractors will issue one day's complete rations for two Creek Indians attached to Major General Jackson's army, now on their return to Choccolocco Fort."

"Ho. Tatum, Major, Comdt.

is most interesting. I quote it: "I have nothing worth notice more than on this day came the Indian chiefs Spokeharjo next in command to the Big Warrior and with him Red Mouth Elouhassoo, Alexander Lesslie, Charles Clarke, Thomas Brooner and Tallawahazoo to hold a talk with me and officers of this post after I had them the best provided for that the nature of the case would admit the Chief or King taking a seat profound silence ensued about 10 minutes he broke fourth in the following words late yesterday evening I left the talk at Tallataga and I come to see you as you may see and hold a talk I have traveled much have not lay at home more than two night at a time in several months have went to the Ca-seators town thence to the Coweator Town thence came to the Big Warriors Town McIntosh give talk to the Big Warrior and he to me sent me to the Sallocaga Towns I gathered nine Towns of the people to the talk I am constantly on the rout for Genl Jackson is our last talk told me keep my people in order I have done so except two have deserted and gone we cannot tell where. The Big Warrior sent 20 Indian Warriors after them commanded by Etocas-wassa when I know his luck I will tell you I wish this talk sent to Genl Jackson and he to answer me back to a moments warning we are ready to promptly obey our Gen orders the talk he gave us are well satisfied with we own him for our genl and to obey his words we will rise at midnight." The "talk" was then certified to and he noted that it was interpreted by "a negro Linguist who was formerly Linguist at this place."

The letter is signed "with great Sub-ordination." Maj. Smith then puts an "N. B." postscript beginning "I fain would petition your honor to grant me the livery of moving the public property from here to the New Fort, etc." He asked "the livery" of two "waggon" about three days to move it with, suggesting that Gen. Jackson in Mobile mail him the order to Fort Jackson.

The message of Spokeharjo and the request to move the stores appear to be the last official connection with Fort Williams at the mouth of the creek. The post as a supply base must have existed for a short time longer as there are evidences of an embankment at the "New Fort about 1 1-4 miles distance" and this was probably an earthwork thrown up for the stockade. I have found no reference to any returning soldiers stopping on the way home from New Orleans in 1815.

The fort site is not far from Fayetteville, a village of today, settled, so tradition says, not long after the removal of the Indians by some of those West Tennessee Militia from Fayetteville, Tenn., who had previously been stationed at Fort Williams.

Gen. Johnson at Fort Williams, while he was at Choccolocco. Litabixi—"the horse shoe," but there is no record in the military archives of the War of 1813, a manuscript which reads: "The contractors will issue one day's complete rations for two Creek Indians attached to Major General Jackson's army, now on their return to Choccolocco Fort."

"Ho. Tatum, Major, Comdt.  
Ft. Williams, 26 March, 1814."

This proves that Major Tatum, the man who made the first survey of the Alabama River (in August 1814) and who directed the erection of the earthworks at New Orleans in January, 1815 was the first commanding officer at Fort Williams. The Major was always meticulously correct in his punctuation but he invariably spells it "compleat" Jackson marched his men, the able ones, down to the mouth of the Coosa, leaving Dougherty and 400 East Tennesseans stationed at Fort Williams. Gen. Dougherty never agreed very cordially with Jackson and while the latter was fighting the battle of the Horse Shoe, the East Tennessee general "looked on" from Fort Strother.

#### Records of Men At The Post

George Cross, a private, died March 20. Jackson's overland marching force reached the point on the 21st, but Col. Williams's regiment had brought down the supplies by boat, ahead of them so this man's was the first burial there. George Hell Wing died March 28, so he was not in the battle of Horse Shoe Bend as it was three days march between the two points. A number of men died in April and May so it must be suggested that they were wounded at the Horse Shoe.

Tennessee military records show only one commissioned officer in the "List of soldiers who died at Fort Williams."

First Lieut. Thomas I. Johnson, of Capt. Newlin's company died Nov. 6, 1814. Fifteen men, fourteen privates and this officer seem to have been "left sick at Fort Williams Nov. 4." Perhaps he was the only one of that squad who never reached home. None of the other sick men are listed in the dead.

Those sunken graves there now hold the bones of men of the companies of Capt. Newlin, Chiles and David Smith. Capt. Newlin's company was in Col. Pipkin's Regiment; Capt. Chiles was in Brown's regiment. After the departure of the main force to what was later known as Fort Jackson, Capt. Houck was placed in command and surgeon's Mate Isaac Speed was left in charge of the sick.

As the records show deaths at the post in September, October and November, it is certain that a garrison was maintained long after Jackson left for Florida. The commanding general dated his report to Gov. Willie Blount from Fort Williams. Gen. Coffee transmitted several personal letters from here and Col. Gideon Morgan, who commanded the friendly Cherokee Indians, sent his official dispatches to Tennessee by "express" from this place.

#### Other References To Post

The Andrew Jackson correspondence in the Library of Congress shows a number of letters address to the General while he was at Mobile late in 1814. Dr. William M. Wynne was the garrison surgeon at Fort Williams on July 17 and addressed a letter to Jackson then at Fort Jackson, requesting permission to adopt an 11-year-old Indian girl, a Cherokee orphan abandoned there at the fort by her Creek father's relatives. Later, on Oct. 10, Dr. Wynne was "very unwell with fevour," according to Maj. Alex Ralston, then commanding Fort Jackson. Maj. Jasper Smith, First Regiment, West Tennessee Militia, was commanding at Fort Williams in September and reported to Col. Pipkin that 35 men "dereingly shouldered their napsacks and deserted," even after he "read different sictions of the law to them." It seems that there was much sickness. The Major said, "the flour we git is all soilt and of course be unholsum." Eight men died during the first three weeks of the month on account of the bad rations.

Maj. Smith and Dr. Clark were "at the point of death" on Oct. 10, when all the privates who could had deserted. The records do not show that either died. One of the deserters was a preacher named Harris. Adj. Gen. Hart reported that he had captured him and had him "in irons" at Camp Butler.

Maj. Smith, whom the copyist calls "Joseph" in the report of Dec. 30, addresses "His Excellency Maj. Gen. A. Jackson." "These lines to inform you of my health hoping they may find you in the same state." Although the major did not state the condition of his health, it was doubtless good. The records show no deaths in December as the flour must have been better and cleaner. His report

diary regarding soldiers stopping on the way home from New Orleans in 1815.

The fort site is not far from Fayetteville, a village of today, settled, so tradition says, not long after the removal of the Indians by some of those West Tennessee Militia from Fayetteville, Tenn., who had previously been stationed at Fort Williams.

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# Through The Years

## The Days Of Fort Dale

By Peter A. Brannon

The recent references to the rebuilding of the "stage road" through Butler County reminds me of stirring incidents connected with the original settlement of that section of the State.

March 13, 1818, was an eventful date in the lives of a few settlers on the "Ridge" east of Little Cedar Creek, in what was then Conecuh County of the Alabama Territory.

### Murder Of The Ogley Family

William Ogley and his wife and five children were happy in their pioneer home in what is now Section 33, of Township 11 north, Range 14 east, on the night of March 13. They had as their guests their old friends, Eli Stroud and his wife and child from "home" in east Georgia.

Ere the sun rose on the morrow, Ogley and four of those children were asleep in death. Mrs. Stroud and Mary Ann Ogley, who had both been scalped, died the next day. Elizabeth Ogley, scalped, survived through the ministrations of Dr. John Watkins, of Claiborne, and lived to an old age in Butler County.

Savannah Jack, a half-breed born at Sauwonogi, on the Tallapoosa River, 12 miles east, of the present Montgomery, led the attack on the Ogley cabin on that fateful night. His party, one week later, attacked and murdered Capt. William Butler, Daniel Shaw and William P. Gardner, who, with Capt. James Saffold and a young man named Hinson, were on their way to Fort Claiborne to hurry the troops under Col. Sam Dale to the relief of the terrified settlers.

### Erection Of Fort Dale

Today as you travel the Mobile Road, seven miles north of Greenville, and just east of the pavement, you will see a small concrete post on which are the words: "Fort Dale 1818." Here, late in March, 1818 Col. Dale had a stockade erected, and his men called it in honor of his name. Thomas Gary, born in South Carolina, but who tradition says was a Tory during the Revolution, had previously started the fortification of his house, but as he charged the frightened settlers a fee for protection they never finished his stockade.

Col. Dale camped his men at Poplar Spring, which is the source of Cedar Creek, and there built a strong fort. The building of Fort Dale so troubled Gary that he lost his mind and died a few weeks later, and strange though it may seem, he died in the stockade at Fort Dale. His grave was the first one in the cemetery, a half mile down the road, which to this day is "Old Fort Dale Cemetery." His gravestone was "erected as the last token of friendship by his disconsolate wife who having borne him whilst living still retains him through death."

Fort Dale had a garrison at least during the rest of that year, and Gov. Bibb himself was there in April. Capt. W. F. Ware and a detachment of cavalry and Capt. Motley with his infantry were on duty there in September. Lieut. Samuel Riddle of the U. S. Regulars was there late in the Fall of the year to muster Col. Dale and his volunteers out of the army. Some of Pushmataha's Choctaw's friendly Indians, were there with a detachment of Maj. Younge's Eighth U. S. Infantrymen at the post during the Summer.

churches, into the "Alabama Association." Nine years later there were 43 members of that church.

During that year Par Hutchinson, Daniel Gafford and Charles Davenport were delegates to the association meeting and the contribution from the church was \$2.50. James Miller was the first ordained minister and he preached on the fourth Sunday in each month. In 1835 seven members of the church were dismissed. Fort Dale Primitive Baptist Church, located five miles north of Greenville, is today, no doubt, the direct successor of this old congregation. "Oak Grove," Methodist, is a little country church now at the site of old Fort Dale Stockdale. Charles Davenport, the original member of the Baptist Church constituted in 1820, gave his name to that section of the county line of Montgomery and Lowndes Counties which we call Davenport Community.

### Fort Dale Cemetery

Those who sleep yet at old Fort Dale seem to have been born in the Carolinas, though tradition is that they moved to this new country from Georgia. The marker on the grave of Andrew Jones says that he was born in North Carolina in 1777. He emigrated to Alabama in 1819 and died in 1822. Peter Cheatham was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, Oct. 26, 1805. Malinda, his wife, was born in Twiggs County, Georgia, on Nov. 20, 1810. One stone here is to the memory of Joseph Hartley, "A native of North Carolina, born Aug. 22, 1779."

"His Hand relieved distress,  
He bade contentions cease,  
He lived a life of usefulness  
And died a death of peace."

Mary, his wife, doubtless also lived a useful life. She died March 4, 1863, aged 86 years. The McDaniel and Buckhalts families are others early interred in that sacred spot enclosed by a little iron fence. The Ogley family whose massacre was the cause of the building of Fort Dale, is not buried here. The seven bodies of the Strouds and Ogleys were wrapped and placed in a wagon body and placed in one grave just to the rear of the little log cabin in which they were living. Mrs. Ogley, the widow, subsequently married John Dickerson and they lived for many years near the present Manningham postoffice.

### Other Butler County History

Capt. William Butler, a native of Virginia, for whom the county was named, was a captain of infantry in Floyd's Georgia troops and was in the fight at Calebee Creek in the Fall of 1813. He was killed by Savannah Jack's party near our present Butler Springs. In recent years his remains have been reinterred to Greenville. James Saffold, whose cabin home became Fort Bibb in 1818, was a captain of artillery under Maj. William McIntosh, the Coweta Indian and was at Fort Decatur in the War of 1814 with the Upper Creek Indians, when the Lower Creeks from Coweta and Cusseta were on the side of Gen. John Floyd. John Hughes Watts, of Fauquier County, Virginia, came to Alabama in 1819. He settled near Fort Bibb and is buried there. Theophilus Goodwin, John Garner, John Linton, William Wagster and Adam Skanes were Revolutionary pensioners residing in

attachment of Maj. Younge's Eighth U. S. Infantrymen at the post during the Summer.

#### Early Settlers In The Locality

Andrew Jones, Ennis McDaniel, Thomas Gary, John Dickerson, William Ogle, Peter Cheatham, Michael W. Perry, Jacob Ferguson, Col. A. T. Perry, and William Martin were the first settlers in the neighborhood of what was later Fort Dale town. William Martin opened a general store in 1819 on the Federal Road "close by" the old fort site. Col. Perry was living in the fort on March 29, 1820, as Adam Hodgson, a British traveler, in his journal for that date enters, "We arrived in the evening at the palings, which have dignified the place with the appellation of Fort Dale, where travelers are accommodated tolerably, on a flourishing plantation. Our landlord was an intelligent man; and among his books I saw the Bible, Koran, a hymn book, Nicholson's Encyclopedia, Sterne, Burns, Cowper, Coelebes, Camilla, and the Acts of the Alabama Legislature of which he was a member." The records do not show Col. Perry as a member of the Legislature until 1825, though he was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-Ninth Regiment of Alabama Militia on March 28, 1820. Ennis McDaniel and Ward Taylor (the hotel keeper at Greenville) were officers of the militia outfit.

Local history says Col. Perry bought the fort site and lived in the stockade until 1825 when he sold out to Joseph Hartley, lately of Putnam County, Georgia, but the official records in the Secretary of State's office show it was not sold by the U. S. Government until 1836 and then to Jacob Ferguson. Michael W. Perry did, however, purchase the section of the township which includes the cemetery on Sept. 26, 1818. At that time troops were quartered at the fort half mile away.

#### Fort Dale Town As County Seat

The commissioners appointed by the Legislature on the creation of the county, Dec. 13, 1819, were directed "to fix on a suitable place for the seat of justice." They selected Fort Dale temporarily, pending a decision as to a permanent place. The Legislature by a formal act fixed the first election precinct "at Fort Dale or the most convenient house thereto."

The first court held in the county was when Judge Anderson Crenshaw convened a session in the Fall of 1819. Of course this was then in Conecuh County. The court then held was on a platform of logs, there being no available house. The records of that session were burned in the destruction of the courthouse at Greenville in 1852. Greenville, named originally Buttsville for Capt. Samuel Butts, a Georgia officer killed at the Battle of Caleb in 1813, was made the permanent county seat in 1820. The name was changed in memory of Greenville, S. C., in 1822. Most of the original settlers who stopped there in January, 1819, were from Greenville district, in Western Carolina.

Fort Dale village had a congregation of Baptists before 1820, as in that year the Fort Dale Baptist Church was constituted, with the Montgomery County

Goodwin, John Garner, John Linton, William Wagster and Adam Skanes were Revolutionary pensioners residing in Butler County at times prior to 1840. Linton, Wagster and Skanes are buried in the county. John Garner died in Wilcox County.

## Arrest Of Gandhi Is Imminent As Peace Negotiations Collapse

(Continued From Page 1)

portance. I am convinced that if my countrymen and women retain up to the last the spirit of non-violence they will have inaugurated a new era upon the earth."

Gandhi's disciples, including Mrs. Gandhi and Miss Madeline Slade, wept as the Mahatma spoke. Mrs. Gandhi, a mere mite of a woman, squatted on the floor as if transfixed.

Her husband, on the other hand, remained serene and self-possessed as he said he would urge the people "not to be angry with the administration as it is not easy for the British to shed a habit handed down from generation to generation."

"Our quarrel," he said, "is not with the men, but with the measures. We have faith enough in ourselves and therefore in human nature to feel that if we suffer long enough and in the proper spirit our suffering must result in converting the English administrators.

"I would remind the nation of the pledge I gave the Prime Minister toward the end of the round-table conference that there should be no malice in the struggle if it fell to our lot to resume the fight and that we would do nothing unworthy. I shall trust every Indian to redeem that pledge."

#### Arrest Near

As he spoke, one of his lieutenants entered the tent and announced that the police commissioner was on his way to arrest the Mahatma.

"Let him come," said Gandhi. "He is perfectly welcome. I have been waiting for him."

Then he asked to be left alone to snatch a little sleep while he still was outside of prison walls.

He threw himself wearily on the floor with a few books as his pillow and signed with fatigue, while the tearful Miss Slade stood on guard outside the tent.

"Do not weep," said Davi Das Gandhi, a son of the Mahatma, as the others withdrew. "Let us all be staunch and brave soldiers."

## Bankers Resume Work On Short Term Credit

BERLIN, Jan. 2.—(F)—Bankers studying the short term credit situation resumed their deliberations today but there was no indication as to when their work will be completed. A member of the American delegation said only that the Commission was "making progress."



# Through The Years

## Sequoyah, The Cherokee

By Peter A. Brannon

The world today knows God's largest living things by a name which honors the memory of one who, while a resident of Alabama, perfected an invention second to none science has seen. Sequoyah, son of a Cherokee Indian woman and a German trader named George Gist, in 1821, at Sauta, on the Tennessee River, made known his alphabet. As a recognition of that old man's contribution to the cultural ongoing of his race we have named the big trees of California for him. The two varieties are the "Sequoia gigantea" and the "Sequoia sempervirens."

Sikwayi, in our tongue "Sequoyah," was born at the Cherokee town of Taskigi (Tuskegee) in the present State of Tennessee. This site is not far from old Nickajack, which is marked forever by the northeast corner of the State of Alabama. Tradition says he never knew his father as his mother was deserted prior to his birth. His childhood was spent in the old Cherokee Nation in what is now Wills Valley, and as he grew older he acquired the art of making silver ornaments.

His mother was a trader and his first duties were to help her with these domestic affairs. Very early in life he developed a mechanical trend which subsequently was the direct cause of his interest in devising a character by which his people might communicate with one another while not in each other's company.

The Presbyterian Church did not establish missions among his people until he was nearly 50 years old, so he was a man of no educational advantages. In fact he was totally illiterate and even at his death could speak no English. His biographers tell us that in early life he was a hunter and traded his trophies. An accident on one of his hunting trips made him a cripple, and in 1809 he came to Big Wills town in our present DeKalb County to make his home.

No longer able to lead an active life, he gave his serious attention to his theory of a means of writing the expressions of his people. He spent the years 1816 to 1821 contriving the 85 characters by which the language of the Cherokees could be expressed. In 1821, at the little town of Sauta, on North Sauta Creek in our Jackson County, during a council of the head men of the nation, he showed them his characters which are really amplified letters, and explained their use. The leaders of his people immediately recognized the worth of these characters and it is recorded that in less than six months thousands of red children had learned their use.

Although the village where first he publicly made known his invention had little importance in the later history of the Indians, it was of great antiquity. DeSoto's Spaniards crossed the Tennessee River here during the early Spring of 1540. An aboriginal trail which led from the mouth of the Coosa River in the Creek Country passed here. Over this went the Coosada Indians on their marauding expeditions to East Tennessee and the Cumberland settlements.

### Sequoyah's Alphabet

The alphabet of civilized nations, our own system, is the result of the development of 3,000 years of effort by the Egyptians, the Phoenicians, the Greeks, and our modern students. We claim it

vention was made known. In 1822, Sequoyah visited those of his people who had moved to the Arkansas Territory to introduce the new science among them. Next year, 1823, he left Alabama, and went to live among these kinsmen in the West. He never returned to Wills Valley but spent the 15 remaining years of his remarkably active life in solicitous concern for his people. He was presented with a commemorative silver medal by the National Council in 1823. The U. S. Government made a treaty with the Arkansas band of Cherokees in 1828 and one provision was that he should receive \$500 "for the great benefits he has conferred upon the Cherokee people, in the beneficial results which they are now experiencing from the use of the alphabet discovered by him."

This so called unlettered native of the wilds of the Lookout Mountains of the East, when nearly four score years of age began to study linguistics. He started investigations among remote tribes with the hope of devising a universal Indian alphabet. He made several trips in 1841 and 1842 with his provisions and papers loaded onto an ox cart into the far West. Even the wildest tribes received him everywhere with kindness. He was not successful in his philological investigations of aboriginal languages. In 1843 he started in quest of the mythological lost band of Cherokees, and in August of his 83rd year—alone and even then unattended—sank on the path and died before assistance reached him. He passed to that greater beyond near the village of San Fernando in Chihuahua, Mexico. The Indian agent, Capt. Butler, was authorized to expend \$200 in aiding him in his return journey but Oo-noleh, the messenger reached Mexico after the old man's sun had gone down.

George Gist or Guess, left a widow, a son, and two daughters. His pension of \$300, granted by the Cherokee Nation was continued to his widow. In his day this was the only literary pension in the United States. In later years Sequoyah District in the old territory was named in his honor. In 1905, the Sequoyah Constitution for the Indian Territory was adopted but the vote was light so that Congress never granted statehood.

The Oklahoma State Legislature in 1911 provided for the erection of a statue of Sequoyah in the Hall of Fame in the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

Born in 1760 in the present Tennessee, this Cadmus of his race lived in Georgia, in Alabama, in Arkansas, in Indian Territory and "passed on" in the effort to bring from far Mexico scattering bands of his kinsmen that they might profit by his invention.

## Civil Service Boards Named For Two Cities

Civil service boards provided by local acts of the Legislature for the cities of Tuscaloosa and Gadsden, respectively—to pass upon the qualifications of applicants for places in the police and fire departments of the two cities—were appointed by Gov. Miller yesterday as follows:

Tuscaloosa: S. G. Swain, A. P. Mize and Richard L. Lollar, Gadsden: W. E.

## Sequoyah's Alphabet

The alphabet of civilized nations, our own system, is the result of the development of 3,000 years of effort by the Egyptians, the Phoenicians, the Greeks, and our modern students. We claim it to rank first in the schemes of symbolic thought.

Sequoyah's syllabary, the unassisted work of an uneducated halfbreed, is recognized by the world to rank second. Having no knowledge of the philosophy of language, Sequoyah very naturally first attempted to make pictographs to convey thoughts. He first had a symbol for each word, but soon he himself realized that there would be no end to these.

About this time he found an old English spelling book and, without any idea of the significance, picked out capitals, lower case, italics and figures, and placing them upside down, rightside up, and crosswise (he not knowing the difference), he utilized 35 of them to produce a character to signify an expression in his native language. He elaborated on these, and when he satisfied himself he had 115, but later modified them to the completed number of 85.

Philologists claim that Indian children can learn to read and write Cherokee in a few days. The letters of a word are not connected and there is no difference between the written and the printed character. The "A" of a Cherokee (pronounced as in "father," is exactly our "D." Their "gy" is our "E." Our capital "T" of script, is the Cherokee "wu."

## The Cherokee Phoenix

On Feb. 21, 1828, a newspaper printed in both the English and the newly invented Cherokee type appeared at New Echota, then the capital of the Nation. The Rev. S. A. Worcester, an noted member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, supervised in Boston the casting of the type. The press and the type were shipped by water to Augusta, and thence more than 200 miles by wagon to the new town at the junction of the Consasauga and Coosawattee Rivers, where journalism in the Cherokee Nation had its beginning in a log cabin.

The new paper was Tsa-lagi Tsulihisanun-hi—"The Cherokee Phoenix." The first printers were Isaac N. Harris and John Wheeler. John Candy, a halfbreed, was the "devil." Elias Boudinot, an educated full-blood Cherokee, was the editor. The Georgia authorities, for New Echota was in Georgia, forced the suspension of the paper after six years, and as the Cherokees moved west of the Mississippi about that time they reestablished it as the "Cherokee Advocate." As long as the Indian Territory existed it was continued and distributed free at the expense of the Nation to those unable to read English.

## Later Years

The name of "George Guess" is appended to a treaty of 1816, thus showing that he was a man of some standing in the Nation even before his in-



# Through The Years

## Fort Mitchell Cemetery

By Peter A. Brannon

Elfrida DeRenne—Mrs. Barrow—has said of the Colonial Cemetery, that sacred acre in Savannah, that, God has lingered there; And in its hallowed dust Time has melted In prayer.

Truly, at old Fort Mitchell in Eastern Russell County, history too, lingers there.

Gen. Thomas Woodward said of Col. John Crowell: "He was my old and intimate friend. He sleeps upon Fort Mitchell Hill, where rest a crowd that no one need be ashamed to be picked up with, in a coming day." Perchance we do not look for romance in the cemetery, but no spot in the Southland has more romance than Fort Mitchell on the Chattahoochee. In addition to many other historical associations yet evident, you will find there two silent half-acres where progress has not disturbed the bones of those who figured in the annals of other days.

### The Military Graveyard

From the Fall of 1813, as long as there was a garrison of soldiers at the post, they buried those who died there on the brow of a little hill just South of the stockade. The first burial was that of John Ward, born in East Georgia and reared from early childhood at Oultumpki (Wetumpka) on the lower Coosa in the Upper Creek Indian Nation. Ward was the interpreter on the staff of Gen. John Floyd, while the Georgia officer was building Fort Mitchell. He died of pneumonia in November, 1813.

This boy was left by his dying father to Daniel McDonald (who had assumed the name of McGillivray when that family moved to the Tensas Country), and he grew to manhood and married one of McDonald's Indian relatives. He was well thought of by Gen. Woodward, who in 1813 served in Floyd's Army as a sergeant with him. He was a messmate of Capt. Arnold Seale, one time in the Third U. S. Infantry Regiment, the contractor who built the first 40 miles of the old Mobile and Girard Railroad and for whom the town of Seale, the county seat of Russell, is named.

### Carr, The Englishman

Another interesting character "resting" on the hill is "Old Tom Carr." History records that he was an Englishman and a trader in the Nation, and that he had an Indian wife. He called his first boy "Paddy" and there are other circumstances which lead one to believe that he was from the Emerald Isle rather than from Merrie England.

Tom Carr, it was, who fell in the well at the foot of Capitol Hill during the LaFayette reception on April 3, 1825, when Gov. Pickens met the old Revolutionary patriot that Sunday afternoon in Montgomery. And Tom was the grandfather of "Ari" and "Adne," the twin daughters of Paddy, who named them to honor Miss Ariadne Crowell, the niece of the Indian agent, Col. John Crowell.

Lame Bob Walton is still another whose remains are yet there. "Timor Bob," as Col. Benjamin Hawkins called him, was, so Thomas Woodward says, a soldier of the American Revolution. Walton was associated for many years with the Indian agency and was Col. Hawkins's interpreter when Bowles, the British adventurer, was captured at the Indian town of Taskigi in 1803. Sam Manac, William Weatherford, Opintlo Yeholo, and Efau Harjo, men intimately connected with the Indian history of our early settlement, were friends of this old wounded veteran.

Timpochee Barnard, son of a captain in the British Army in the American Revolution, an officer under Gen. Floyd in the Indian War of 1813, an officer under Andrew Jackson in the Seminole War of 1818, one who commanded the respect and regard of all who knew him, is buried there with those other soldiers.

Maj. Barnard commanded his Uchees, the people of his mother, at the night fight in Calebee Swamp and rescued Capt. John Broadnax's East Georgians when they were cut off by the Indians. He spent his last years at Fort Mitchell and was a warm friend of Col. Crowell. He opposed William McIntosh's Treaty of Indian Springs and was one of the delegation who went to Washington City to protest.

Maj. Barnard was born on Flint River in Georgia. His mother was a full-blooded Uchee. His wife was a Uchee woman and his six children had the reputation of being the handsomest in the Lower Creek Nation. In my childhood I myself recall hearing Mrs. Whittaker, then 96 years of age, speak of the beauty and modesty of his two daughters whom she had known in her girlhood.

### The Crowell Burial Plot

One-fourth mile west of the site of the fort is a little group of monuments erected to the memory of the Crowells

and their kinspeople. In this small spot, surounded by an iron fence, is the dust of men and women who contributed much to the early history of East Alabama. Buried there are Alabama's only territorial delegate and first congressman, an officer who served in the war with Mexico, a brigadier general of the Confederacy, a major of artillery in the C. S. A., as well as some who made economic and cultural contributions of no small magnitude.

Under a cedar tree, which was old 106 years ago, they placed Thomas Burnside when he was killed by George W. Crawford in that duel fought in the military reservation there.

When John Crowell passed on in 1846, he too was put at the foot of that tree. Col. Crowell was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1785. He was a merchant at Saint Stephens in 1818 when elected by the Territorial Legislature to represent Alabama in the Congress of the United States. He served as Alabama's only congressman until March, 1821, when James Monroe made him United States agent to the Creek Indians. He served as Indian agent until the removal of the Indians in 1836, and spent his last years in the enjoyment of the sport of the chase and the turf.

Col. Crowell's horses won prizes and purses of great value. Many of the silver pieces are yet in the hands of the family at the old homestead at Fort Mitchell. Six of the portraits (if pictures of horses may be so called) of these spirited animals adorn the walls of that old mansion. They are the work of Troye, famous throughout the world for his pictures in oil of animals, and they have great value as art objects.

James Cantey, a captain in the Palmetto Regiment of South Carolina in the War with Mexico, lies under the trees in that hallowed spot. In 1861 Capt. Cantey was made colonel of the 15th Alabama Infantry, C. S. A., and they were mustered into the Confederate Army there in the shade of that shaft which marks Col. Crowell's resting place.

Ere many months had passed James Cantey was a brigadier and commanded a division for the last year of the war. The exposure in the army left his health shattered and he lived but a few years after the close of the war. He married Martha Crowell, niece of Col. John, and after his death she married Capt. Richard H. Bellamy, a battery commander in Waddell's old battalion of artillery. Gen. Cantey and Capt. Bellamy are "sleeping" by the side of one another in that enclosure. Martha Elizabeth Crowell Cantey-Bellamy, who almost passed the five score year period, has only recently "gone on." Naturally she now has a place there.

To one who appreciated the story of Alabama's earlier days, there is grandeur in the loneliness of old Fort Mitchell Hill. Even though to those old Indian-Countrymen and Revolutionary patriots they

Have carved not a line,  
Raised not a stone,  
But have left them alone  
In their glory,

we cannot forget the part they played. Loving hands have raised a shaft to John Crowell and loving hearts have put slabs of granite over those who followed him, but to the gentleman killed on "the field of honor" there is no memorial.

Fort Mitchell has by far the richest association with Alabama history of any spot within the confines of the State's borders, and it is but fitting that those who gave so liberally to make that history should find eternal rest here. I thank God that no effort has yet been made by those who take delight in such suggestions to move these bones. May they rest in peace. There on that wooded hillside God watches and protects them. They need no grass-sodded flower-bedecked, man-cared for plot in a city cemetery.

## Letter Explaining Nazi Action Given Bruening

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—(P)—Hermann Goering, an aide of Adolf Hitler, today presented to Chancellor Heinrich Bruening the National Socialist leader's letter outlining the reasons why the Nazis did not support the Chancellor's plan to prolong President Von Hindenburg's term. The letter contained a thinly veiled request that the Bruening cabinet resign.

The communication ran 16 typewritten pages. Not until next Monday will the text be made public.



# Through The Years

## Alabama's Indian Named Postoffices

By Peter A. Brannon

A recent computation gives Alabama 1,049 postoffices, and 34 of them bear Indian names. Ninety-one years ago, three years after the removal of the last Indians, the Creeks, to the West, 34 of the 375 offices were called by Indian names. In 1890 there were more postoffices than at any other date in the history of the State. There were then 2,145 and yet only 73 honored our original natives.

Ethnologists claim that the center of aboriginal population in North America, north of Mexico, at the time of the DeSoto visit, was in the valleys of the Tallapoosa and Chattahoochee Rivers. It would seem then that we have been a bit forgetful of these red people who had so romantic a connection with our early history.

### The Indian Towns

More than 250 Indian town sites have in recent years been positively identified. Today our postoffices bear the names of only 24, and three of these might be questioned as to their authenticity.

Autaugaville, Choccolocco, Coosada, Eastaboga, Escatawpa, Cusseta, Eufaula, Hatchachubbee, Kymulga, Letohatchie, Loachapoka, Mobile, Nanafalia, Opelika, Sylacauga, Talladega, Tallassee, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee, and Uchee bear the names of towns located here at the dawn of settlement. Too, there are several which are named for towns in other sections of the country, Roanoke of Virginia for example, and again there are those which bear personal names. Pushmataha and Tecumseh illustrate the latter. From the observation car of an L. and N. train going south, one might gather that he traveled through Longfellow's Evangeline country, but fancy, and that only, prompted the calling of these stations in South Alabama by the Canadian names of Nokomis, Owassa, Keego and Wawbec. Weogufka and Wetumpka are good Creek Indian words but

I have never convinced myself that Wedowee and Wehadke were genuine.

Tallapoosa, Elmore and Russell Counties, as now constituted, had more aboriginal towns than any other sections of the State. Today two postoffices in Russell and two in Elmore, but not one in Tallapoosa, bear Indian names. One additional precinct in Russell, one in Elmore and two precincts in Tallapoosa yet honor these old Indian traditions. 'Tis true that in Elmore no one but an ethnologist would ever recognize "Chanahatchee," but they honestly aimed at "Atchina-hatchi," which is "Cedar Creek." It should not be called "Chaney Hatchee" as is popularly done.

Oakfuska and Eufaula precincts, in Tallapoosa County inclose today the actual territory of the old towns of those names. It must be remembered that there was a Yufaula town on the Tallapoosa as well as one down on the Chattahoochee. Okfuski Indian town was on the Tallapoosa River about 12 miles from our Dadeville, but old Oakfuskee postoffice (now gone) was in the southern part of Cleburne County.

### Meanings of the Names

Opelika is now in Lee, but then it was west of our Nixburg community in Coosa County and on Pinthlocco Creek. The name signifies 'Big Swamp.' Uchee, in Russell County, is from the word Yuchi and is a name of a people as well as their chief town. They were settled, in our early history, at the mouth of the large stream bearing their name, which flows into the Chattahoochee River a short distance southeast of old Fort Mitchell. Tuskaloosa, correctly spelled, is from the "Tastaluca" of the early Spanish writers and should be accepted as the name of a province, or the name of the people of that province, rather than of a man, "the Big Warrior." Dr. Erwin Craighead, long an investigator on that subject, has never agreed that the chief referred to in the DeSoto chronicles bore that name, and in this conclusion I am in entire accord.

Wetumpka is from Oui-wa, "water," and tumkis, "it rumbles." Tallassee is from the Creek word nearest "Talise" and signifies "old town." Our Wetumpka is at the site of the Indian town, but Tallassee

from the Creek word nearest "Talise" and signifies "old town." Our Wetumpka is at the site of the Indian town, but Tallassee is near the last town of that name and far from the original one.

Old Town Creek, the county line of Dallas and Lowndes, is the site of the Talise of the DeSoto narratives—the original one of our history. The present Tallassee perpetuates the one moved down to Euphaubee Creek about 1735 when "Tukabahche-Talose" of our Talladega County—changed its location.

"Old Town Tukabahche" was East of our Sycamore and when they moved South, one settlement was made East and one West of Tallapoosa River at the influx of Euphaubee Creek. Hatchechubbee in Russell County, is at the site of the old town of the name. The word means "Middle Creek." "Hatche" in Creek Indian, is almost the same as "Bok" in Choctaw. Bok, or bogue, literally means "watery place," while "hatche" means "creek," or a small stream not as large as a river.

Tuskegee is from the name of the town near the influx of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers. It was Taskigi. Tradition tries hard to make a "Chief Taskigi," but the records have never said there was one. Talladega is from the word which means "border town." Loachapoka is from "Lutchapoga," which was the name of an upper creek town opposite the mouth of Corn House Creek in Randolph County. The word signifies "Terrapin gathering place."

Coosada is from "Koasati," the head town of the Albamo people. The village was 12 miles northeast of Montgomery on the Alabama River. The Atlantic seaboard traders visiting this town gave the name to the river from which the State in turn derived its name. Nanafalia, a postoffice in Marengo County of today, is from two Choctaw words, "novinih" or "nuni" and "falaia," which mean "long hill" or "long fish," it being very difficult to distinguish some Choctaw sounds.

Sylacauga is from a Shawnee town named "Chalagakay," which means "place where buzzards roost." Eufaula is from "Yufaula." There were five towns of that name in the Creek Nation. The meaning of the name is uncertain, but contrary to tradition it is unlikely that it signifies "dead dog" or "high bluff," both of which are ascribed to it. Letohatchie, which should be spelled with an "i" or "ee," as Indian names with "ie" are contrary to philological construction, is probably a corruption of "Litafatchi." The original town was in Saint Clair County on Canoe Creek. That word suggests "a place where arrows are made," whereas Lihkatski is "the place where arrows are broken." Hatchi is "creek," so "Lihatchi" might be the original of "Letohatchi" and if so it is the "creek where arrows are made." Perhaps there was a canebrake on the nearby creek and they secured their arrow shafts there.

Autaugaville perpetuates the name of the Albamo town which was just below

Washington Ferry of other days. Montgomerians will remember this old river crossing as the old roadway to Prattville and west to Selma. Before Alabama became a State, Washington Town was settled on the site of this old Indian village 12 miles West of Montgomery.

Eastaboga in Talladega, is now not very far from Istapoga of Indian days. To the original natives it meant "place where people reside." Chocclocco, another name associated with Talladega County, is our spelling of "Chak-ih-Lako." The old town was in our present Chambers County on the Chattahoochee River, and was settled by Okfuski people. References in history call it Shuggolocco. Cusseta in our Chambers County is named for the lower creek town, Kahsita ((Cusseta), located in the present Fort Benning Reservation.

#### Origin Of Mobile

Mobile, oldest of Alabama's towns, perpetuates the "Mabila" or "Mauvila" of the DeSoto narratives. Though it has been nearly 400 years since DeSoto's disastrous conflict with these "Mobilians," we have not yet located that early Alabama town. More recent investigations put it West of Claiborne and at least 60 miles above the head of Mobile Bay. The town of our early French times was a settlement near the bay at what these Frenchmen called "Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff." Here in 1702 they built Fort Louis de la Mobile, "the fort of Louls in the Mobilian country" or "among the Mobiles." When they moved in 1711 down to the present site, they also moved their Indian neighbors down and settled them on the "Eastern shore" as it is locally known. The name is Choctaw and means "Paddlers," having relation, according to Prof. H. S. Halbert, to their life on the river. The town of DeSoto's time was not immediately on the river.

Like Mobile, Escatawpa and Coatopa are Choctaw-derived words and while they bear names of streams instead of names of towns, there may have been villages on these watercourses. Coatopa is from "Koi atopa bok" which is "Panther there hurt creek." Doubtless a panther was once wounded there. Escatawpa is another one of those words describing a place where canes were cut. It means "canes-there-cut-off-creek." The suggestion is a fine cane, so they must have secured blowguns at that point. The word is probably Mobilian of Choctaw origin.

Of the 10 or 12 more aboriginal names which our present offices bear they are for the most part personal names. Happily for the preservation of our history, all of our stream names have retained that one given them by the red men. Little River, Sandy Creek, Cedar Creek, and others of similar designations are but translations of the Indian word. The U. S. soil surveyor changed the name of Hillishadjo Creek in Randolph County to Browns Creek, but custom will hardly allow it to stay so.

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# Through The Years

## Isaac Smith, Missionary

By Peter A. Brannon

On the morning of March 31, 1825, 50 naked Creek Indians put an old man and his attendants across the Chattahoochee River. When the flatboat touched the West bank of the stream, the Indians lifted him into a sulky and pulled him nearly a mile up out of the swamp to the fort on the hill.

One of the first men to greet the visitor was an old preacher who warmly embraced him. The two shed tears of joy and there in that wilderness the Man of God offered a fervent prayer of thanks for the safe arrival of his friend.

The man in the sulky was LaFayette, the French patriot. The old preacher was Isaac Smith, orderly for three years during the American Revolution to Maj. Gen. LaFayette of George Washington's Army. The general was 68 years of age; the preacher 66. The place of meeting was at Fort Mitchell in our Russell County. Gen. LaFayette was on his triumphal journey through Alabama during his last visit to America. Isaac Smith was preacher-in-charge of Ashbury Mission School adjacent to Coweta town in the Creek Indian Nation.

### Founding of Asbury School

The South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in session at Columbia in January, 1821, by appointment of Bishop McKendree, selected William Capers to undertake the establishment of a Mission to introduce Christian training among the Indians in Alabama. The Rev. Mr. Capers visited the Lower Creek Nation in September of that year and planned the enterprise. He was accompanied by Col. R. A. Blount, of Georgia, who was later to be the commissioner to run the boundary line between Alabama and Georgia. The report of Mr. Capers was adopted by the conference at Augusta in February, 1822, and a school was established just outside of the capital of the Indian Nation and close to the military reservation.

Mr. Capers was made superintendent of missions and Mr. Smith was made principal of the school. He had as his assistant the Rev. Andrew Hammill. The Mission existed until February, 1830 but passed through many vicissitudes. In the new nation in the West, there was established early another Asbury School which was a center of culture for many years.

### Isaac Smith's Work

When Mr. Smith opened his school he had 12 children enrolled. Although the Coweta and Cusseta chiefs gave their consent to the opening of the Mission, they consistently refused to allow preaching in the Nation. Even so, there were converts and 11 soldiers from Fort Mitchell, as well as a like number of Indian children, were members of the Society. Three of the Indian boys were holding prayer meetings as early as 1825.

Joseph Marshall, Joseph Brown, Thomas Carr, Jr., (supposedly the brother of Paddy, the interpreter,) and John Winslett, all halfbreeds, were baptized by Mr. Smith in April, 1826. Henry Perryman and Samuel McIntosh,

Gen. William McIntosh, a halfbreed Indian-Scotchman and the head-chief of the Lower Creeks, by a treaty of 1825 signed at Indian Springs, ceded much of the lands of the Indians to Georgia. This created much anger among the majority of the natives and, by a decree of the National Council, Gen. McIntosh was put to death on the last day of March of that year.

Col. John Crowell, the Indian agent, had advised the Secretary of War, John C. Calhoun, of the illegality of the treaty of Gen. McIntosh, and the death of the chief following closely on this caused much uneasiness in the Nation.

The missionaries who had sought to preach at the council meetings of Indians, against the advice and consent of the agent and positively contrary to the wishes of the Indians, were involved in the fight of Gov. George M. Troupe against Col. Crowell. Gov. Troupe sought to have Col. Crowell removed as agent, primarily because he opposed the land cession. Mr. Capers was drawn into the controversy and Mr. Smith had charges preferred against him, tradition says, because he did not lean enough toward the contentions of the Georgia governor. Col. Crowell was vindicated when tried by a military court. Mr. Smith was tried by the Conference of his church and cleared of all charges.

Gen. McIntosh was put to death by a delegation of his own people led by Menawa, who had commanded the Creeks who fought Jackson at Horseshoe Bend in 1814. A new treaty was signed in Washington in January, 1826, which declared the Indian Springs Treaty null and void. Gov. Troupe of Georgia shortly afterward retired at the expiration of his term, but the unhappiness caused among the Creeks by his attack on Col. Crowell and its incidental effect on the school in the Nation, as well as his influence on his cousin, the Indian chief, actually forced the Treaty of 1832 by which the Indians surrendered their claim to their lands in Alabama. The unwillingness to leave the lands of their fathers caused the uprising of 1835 and 1836, and forced the United States to send troops to Fort Mitchell, and in the Winter of 1836 moved the natives to their allotted territory West of the Mississippi.

Isaac Smith's efforts at old Asbury School on the Chattahoochee bore fruits which even today are felt in the land of these people in Oklahoma.

Among old papers left to me by my grandparents were many of those of the Crowell-Capers controversy and Mr. Smith's report to William Capers is among them. Col. Crowell had the original of this as well as many others which were filed with him after his vindication by Maj. Andrews, who investigated the charges that he instigated the Indians against the missionaries. Mr. Smith's bold signature is often seen among them.



Thomas Carr, Jr., (supposedly the brother of Paddy, the interpreter,) and John Winslett, all halfbreeds, were baptized by Mr. Smith in April, 1826. Henry Perryman and Samuel McIntosh, men later well known in the Indian affairs of East Alabama, were students of the school. The Marshalls, Thomas, Benjamin and Joseph, were influential in the Nation, and under the treaty of 1832 they received from the Government all the land included in Girard and Phenix City of today as well as several more square miles.

Later Mr. Smith baptized Mr. Martin the overseer on the school farm, and Hartridge, a South Carolina trader in the Lower Nation, his Indian wife, and two United States soldiers. This record is one of the very few cases where an Indian woman was converted in the Eastern Creek Nation.

Isaac Smith was born in Kent County, Va., in 1759. He was the son of Thomas Smith, a farmer, and was the grandson of an Episcopal minister. He first noticed the manifestation of religion among the Baptists of Norfolk. Soon after, he heard Francis Asbury preach and was converted to Methodism.

Perhaps that had something to do with the naming of the Indian school of which he was principal. He lived years at Camden, S. C., and his grandson, the Rev. George C. Smith, of Georgia, says "was the father of Methodism in that town." He was the trusted friend of Bishop Asbury and was beloved by William McKendree, Joshua Soule, and the great preacher, George, long before they were bishops of their church.

He began preaching in 1783, entered the Virginia Conference in 1784, was present at the first Georgia Conference in 1788, and shortly thereafter married Ann Gillman, a cousin of James Rembert, the well known South Carolinian. He "located," as the Methodists say, about this time but reentered the conference in 1820 and was active until his death.

His last teaching was at Asbury Mission near Fort Mitchell. He was "superannuated" and lived several years there with his son-in-law, Whitman C. Hill, one of the preachers there among the Indians. The Rev. Mr. Hill married his daughter, Jane, and Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hill labored long with those red children there at "The Methodist Boarding School," as the records show it. Mr. Smith died in Monroe County, Georgia, in 1835.

#### Co-Laborers at Asbury

William Capers, superintendent of missions in charge of Asbury School, was a native of South Carolina, born in 1790. He died at Columbia in January, 1859. For many years he was a bishop of the Methodist Church, being consecrated at the First General Conference of that church after it became the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Daniel McDaniel, Matthew Raiford, Whitman C. Hill, Andrew Hammill, Nathaniel H. Rhodes, and Robert Rogers were preachers who worked there among the Indians and strived to improve their moral and spiritual conditions. The Rev. Raiford was the first preacher to "locate" in that section of the State and was perhaps the first Methodist preacher laboring among the white settlers in Russell County. The Rev. Mr. Hill spent his declining years in Monroe County, Georgia, and died there in 1861.



# Through The Years

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## Aaron Burr In Alabama

By Peter A. Brannon

The night of Feb. 18, 1807, was cold even as far south as Washington County in the Mississippi Territory. Ten o'clock found everyone in the new village county seat asleep save two young men. They sat by a pine-knot fire in the cabin office of the one who was a frontier lawyer. The other was the clerk of the court. Col. Nicholas Perkins, recently of Tennessee, and Thomas Malone, lately a clerk in the land office at Raleigh, N. C., were playing backgammon in the pioneer town of Wakefield when two travelers, attracted by the only visible light, rode to the door to inquire for the tavern. The stranger who asked this question and also asked to be shown the road to Col. Hinson's, made a vivid impression on the young men. One said his eyes "looked like stars." The other said "they sparkled like diamonds." His fascinating appearance and his strange mixture of dress—he wore copperas jeans, breeches, exquisite boots and a rich, even though soiled hat—immediately arrested the suspicions of Col. Perkins. That horseman was none other than Aaron Burr, lately vice-president of the United States and formerly colonel in George Washington's Army of the American Revolution.

### Arrest of Col. Burr

Col. Burr and his traveling companion set out over the road which had been shown them and soon reached the home of Col. Hinson whom he had a short time before met in Natchez. Nicholas Perkins hastily aroused Sheriff Theodore Brightwell and followed the strangers to the Hinson residence. Mrs. Hinson had long since retired, as it was half past 11, and when she peeped through the window shutters and saw that she did not recognize them, she made no replies to their "halloo." Col. Hinson was absent from home and she hoped they would ride further. The fire visible through the open door of the kitchen looked cheerful to the weary travelers, so they dismounted and entered. Soon the sheriff made his entrance and Mrs. Hinson, his relative, recognized his voice, entered animatedly into the conversation. Then it was that Col. Perkins waited outside for the return of Sheriff Brightwell but the lat-

Gaines, the wife of the commandant and the daughter of Judge Harry Toulmin, was often his competitor in the game of chess.

In due course Capt. Gaines delivered his prisoner to Col. Perkins, the same man who had effected his arrest by the U. S. officer. Perkins was in command of the local militia unit as well as aide-de-camp on the staff of Gov. Williams, and had them directed by the governor to furnish such men from the militia as might be needed to conduct the prisoner to the seat of the general government. Acting on such authority when he was directed by Judge Toulmin to carry him to Washington City, he chose six citizens and two United States soldiers besides himself. The guard consisted of Thomas Malone, the clerk of the county court (who we have already seen was with Perkins the night we first recognized him), Henry B. Slade, formerly of North Carolina, John Mills, born in Alabama section of the Territory, John Henry, of Tennessee, the McCormack brothers, natives of Kentucky, and two enlisted men from the garrison at Fort Stoddert, privates of the Second U. S. Infantry. The soldiers from the fort below delivered their charge of the civilian guard or militia men at Tensaw Boat Yard, at Sam Mims's house on the Alabama River and the ill-fated Fort Mims of six years later.

### Journey to Washington City

The party followed the newly opened Federal Road across the present State of Alabama and the Creek Nation. The road ran up by Murder Creek, by what was later Fort Dale, by Manac's house on Moo-coo-ce Chepo Creek, across Line Creek, by the Natural Bridge and to Coweta Town crossing on the Chattahoochee River. The men rode horseback and Col. Burr was mounted on that same elegant animal which he rode out of the village of Washington (the capitol of the Mississippi Territory.) Tradition is that he was a graceful rider. Only one tent was carried. The records indicate that the streams were all swollen and the weather in that first week in March very disagreeable and cold. So far as is known,

trance and Mrs. Hinson, his relative, recognized his voice, entered animatedly into the conversation. Then it was that Col. Perkins waited outside for the return of Sheriff Brightwell but the latter had not returned at daybreak, so securing a negro and a canoe they paddled down to Fort Stoddert where Perkins reported his discovery to Capt. Edmund Gaines, commanding the post. Capt. Gaines quickly detailed a file of soldiers and set out for the Hinson home. About 9 o'clock on the morning of Feb. 19, 1807, the two travelers were arrested by Capt. Gaines, who used as his authority the proclamation of the President of the United States and the Governor of the Mississippi Territory. This proclamation directed the arrest of Aaron Burr who had broken his bond and fled from Washington, the capitol of the territory, while his case was yet undecided by the Superior Court. Burr was arrested for treason. The Grand Jury of the special session of Feb. 2 failed to return a true bill against him but the Court Judges Thomas Rodney and Peter B. Bruin being divided refused to release him from his bond of \$10,000. Col. Burr then fled and subsequent events proved that he was seeking to escape to the Spanish at Pensacola.

#### In Custody At Fort Stoddert

Col. Burr was detained at Fort Stoddert for more than two weeks while Capt. Gaines arranged to send him to Washington City for trial. The records show that Gov. Robert Williams ordered Gaines to turn the prisoner over to Silas Dinsmore, long the Choctaw Indian agent, but Judge Harry Toufmin, Federal judge in the eastern district of the territory, seems to have directed otherwise. While confined at the military post, Burr made the acquaintance of, and formed a warm attachment for George S. Gaines, brother of the commandant. Col. Gaines was ill at the time and his distinguished friend was a source of much consolation to him. Mrs.

was carried. The records indicate that the streams were all swollen and the weather in that first week in March very disagreeable and cold. So far as is known, there were at that early date in the present Alabama only two houses of entertainment along the road.

Sam Manac accommodated travelers at his "cowpens plantation" on Pinchona Creek, in our Montgomery County 16 miles southwest of the present capital city, and Milly, then married to her Evans husband, had a toll gate and tavern two miles east of our Mount Meigs. Evans, a mulatto, was employed by Col. Perkins as a guide through the Nation and saw them on out east across the Flint River into Georgia. Joseph Marshall, a Creek Indian half-breed, owned the canoe-ferry on the Chattahoochee River.

Aaron Burr's visit is ever yet often referred to by the older people in Washington County. In the home of a family near old St. Stephens is a "brush broom" called "Old Burr" and the family positively declares that it was in use at the time Col. Burr was a visitor to that home on the day he reached Wakefield. It is an established fact that he did visit the home.

On a persimmon tree on the side of the old Mobile to St. Stephens roadway there was a few years ago (perhaps it is there yet) a wooden board on which are the words: "Aaron Burr arrested here, 1806." The date is not correct, but the little marker does serve to stimulate an interest in that incident in our history.

History has proven that Aaron Burr's theory of a South Western Republic was sound. He was merely 30 years too early. Col. Burr has been severely criticized, and perhaps his personal character was not what it should have been, but without doubt he was one of the most remarkable men who ever figured in American politics. Col. Perkins delivered him to the U. S. Court in Richmond, Va., as it was held that he could not receive a fair trial in Washington. He was acquitted, though he never regained the popularity he once enjoyed. After sojourning for a time in Europe, he returned to New York City and sustained himself in the practice of the law. Sam Houston accomplished in 1835 exactly what Burr had in mind in 1806. The records have never proven that he had any intention of dismembering the Union, but, without doubt, he did intend to seize the Spanish territory and organize a government similar to ours. Andrew Jackson was his friend after Burr's positive assurance that he had no thought of disorganizing these Southern states. The populace in the South was almost entirely cordial to him, sympathizing in his disappointment. He had a large following in South Carolina where his beautiful daughter, Theodosia, (Mrs. Joseph Alston), resided.

#### SACRED HARP SINGING

The Sacred Harp Singers will hold a sing at the Seventh Avenue Baptist Church this afternoon beginning at 2 o'clock. D. H. Wells will preside throughout the program. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

7-32



# Through The Years

## The Visit Of James Monroe

By Peter A. Brannon

### The Visit of James Monroe

James Monroe, president of the United States, appeared unexpectedly in Huntsville on June 1, 1819, and, according to The Alabama Republican "no intimation of his intention to visit our town had been received by any individual in it."

#### Arrival of The President

The President, accompanied by Mr. Gouverneur, his private secretary, and by a Lieut. Monroe, rode into the "remote and humble village" on that Tuesday afternoon and "put up" at the Inn. Clement C. Clay, Sr., "waited on him," and on behalf of the citizens committee communicated "the joy with which they hailed the arrival of the chief magistrate of the nation."

Mr. Monroe was making a tour of the South and he reached Huntsville from Augusta, going thence to Nashville, Louisville, and Lexington. The "Inn" referred to in the newspaper is, without doubt, the Green Bottom Inn, long famous at Huntsville. It was not immediately in the town, but was the public house of entertainment and was at that date frequently the stopping place of Gen. Andrew Jackson when he brought his horses there to race them.

One Connally was "mine host."

The President received Mr. Clay with courteous attention and accepted his invitation to a public dinner on the morrow. He assured Mr. Clay that he had undertaken the task of visiting different portions of the United States more particularly with a view of examining the situation of the fortifications and of selecting suitable sites to be put in a state of defense against foreign aggression. He expressed it as his conviction that it was "the duty of the Chief Magistrate of the Union to acquaint himself with a knowledge of the interior country over which he presided, and as far as was practicable to ascertain the state of society, and of improvement in agriculture, manufactures, etc., and also to enquire into the condition of the Indian tribes."

#### The Dinner

The "public dinner" was held in what was known as the "Assembly Hall," an old frame building which stood at the southwest corner of the intersection of Franklin and Gates Streets. The guests were limited to 100. This building had quite a history.

The convention which framed the ordinance acceptable to Congress and admitting Alabama to the American Union, met here in that hall in July, 1819. John W. Walker, president of the Constitutional Convention, promulgated from that room on Aug. 2, following, the proclamation accepting the obligation of Statehood.

On Dec. 14, Congress accepted the Constitution as framed there, and admitted Alabama as a sovereign State. William W. Bibb was elected governor and was inaugurated Nov. 9, 1819, in that same building where the first Legislature, elected for the new State, was in session. The building was dismantled about 1905. The Twickenham Chapter, D. A. R., has in recent years erected on the site a boulder superimposed by a bronze tablet.

The Republican has this to say: "On Wednesday at four o'clock, the President and suite, together with more than 100 of the most respectable citizens of Madison County, sat down to a sumptuous entertainment prepared by Capt. Toby Jones, at which Col. Leroy Pope acted as president, assisted by C. C. Clay and \_\_\_\_\_ as vice-presidents.

Henry Minor was the first reporter of decisions of the Supreme Court of Alabama, serving a short time as justice of the court, and was for years clerk of the Supreme Court. He died at his country estate, Minorca, in Greene County.

James Monroe has had a peculiar connection with Alabama history. Gov. David Holmes of Mississippi Territory established a large county in the eastern section of the territory on June 5, 1815. It was named for Mr. Monroe, then secretary of state. He succeeded James Madison as President, and when Alabama was created a territory in 1817, it fell to his lot to make the original appointments. William Wyatt Bibb, first governor; Charles Tate, first Federal judge; John Crowell, first congressman, and the last Creek Indian agent, each owed his selection to President Monroe.

Mr. Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Va., in 1759. He served in the American Revolution and in the Continental Congress. He was twice governor of Virginia, two or three times minister to Europe, in the U. S. Congress and U. S. Senator, author of the "Monroe Doctrine" and, as is well known, died coincidentally with his friend John Adams, on July 4, 1831. He was a Virginian, ever and always, but fortune decreed that he should die and be buried a quarter of a century in New York City.

ison County, sat down to a sumptuous entertainment prepared by Capt. Toby Jones, at which Col. Leroy Pope acted as president, assisted by C. C. Clay and Henry Minor, Esqs., as vice-presidents. After the cloth was removed the following sentiments were drunk, accompanied by the discharge of cannon, and appropriate songs." Then is set out at length the "toasts", but by title only.

There were 21 assigned toasts, then the President of the United States spoke, the President of the day (the toastmaster) responded, and he was followed by Mr. Clay. The range of subjects covered a vast field and seemed to aim at the western world. "Our Country," "The Memory of Washington," "Our Navy," "The People of the Territories West of the Mississippi," "The Friends of Freedom in South America," "Our Fair Countrywomen," "Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures," were among those orations which interspersed the booming of cannon and singing of patriotic songs.

Among the 'sentiments' of the gentleman who spoke the toast, "Our distinguished guest," was: "We rejoice that he lives to dispense the blessings which flow from the achievements in which he participated. His country will never forget the man whose life has been so successfully devoted to her service." After the toast was drunk, the President rose and returned thanks to the company for their kind expressions toward him. The "sentiment" of the toast to "Our Navy" was that "Hercules in the cradle strangled the serpent."

To "Our Country," the speaker said: "She has proved that man is not incapable of self-government; may her example have its influence throughout the world." The President of the United States responded to "The Territory of Alabama." He expressed the hope that her speedy admission into the Union might advance her happiness and augment the national strength and prosperity.

The accounts of the incident state that the company rose from table after sunset "highly delighted with the entertainment they had received and the opportunity they had enjoyed of demonstrating their great regard and affection for Mr. Monroe." The President appeared "more like a plain citizen than the Chief Magistrate of a great nation." His unostentatious manners endeared him to everyone.

#### His Departure

Mr. Monroe left Huntsville on the 3rd of June for Nashville. He was "escorted by a number of respectable citizens several miles on his way." As the whole company was on horseback, he had the chance to converse freely with them. He separated from them "with most cordial expressions of good will." The President had arranged his tour that he might be back in Washington on July 15, when he expected the Spanish Treaty ceding the Floridas to the United States would be received.

Hon. C. C. Clay, who served as chairman of the reception committee—formed of course after the President's unannounced arrival, figured subsequently in Alabama public life in no small way. He was born in Halifax County, Va., 1789, and came to Huntsville in 1811. He served in the Creek War of 1813, was a member of the Territorial Legislature at Saint Stephens, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1819 and chairman of the committee of 15 that drafted the ordinance. He was chief justice of the Supreme Court, then composed of the circuit judges, until 1823. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1827, serving in the first one held at Tuscaloosa. He served in the U. S. Congress, was Governor during the Creek War of 1835 and 1836, and succeeded Senator John McKinley in the U. S. Senate. He was a vigorous supporter of Andrew Jackson.

Col. Leroy Pope was a Revolutionary soldier, born in 1765 in Westmoreland County, Va. He moved to Twickenham town (later to be called Huntsville) in 1809, and, according to Judge Thomas Taylor, was "the moving spirit and dominating influence of nearly all positive action in the life of the settlement." Col. Pope was the grandfather of Leroy Pope Walker, secretary of war in President Jefferson Davis's first cabinet selected at Montgomery in 1861.



# Through The Years

## George Washington's Influence In Alabama's Affairs

By Peter A. Brannon

George Washington, aide on the staff of Gen. Edward Braddock, read the burial service when they laid the British commander away at Great Meadows, Penn., in the still hours of the early morning of July 14, 1753.

Though the campaign against Fort Duquesne was a failure for England's well equipped force, it was the beginning of the end of France's New World Colonies. When Capt. Washington took command and extricated the few British regulars and Colonial militia who had not been shot down in that trap set by Capt. de Beaujeau, his influence on Alabama's subsequent history had a beginning. By the Treaty of 1763, France gave up her possessions East of the Mississippi River and abandoned Fort Toulouse on the Coosa and Fort Tombeche on the Tombigbee and moved West out of Mobile.

### The Effect of the Treaty

When England and France signed the agreement at Fontainebleau, Spain stepped to the front and vigorously sought the Indian trade in the middle Alabama country. Alexander McGillivray, son of a Scotchman, early aligned himself with the Spanish, though he was the silent partner of a British firm in Pensacola.

Though his physical constitution would not permit active service, Col. McGillivray was in the British Army during the American Revolution. As soon as the American Government was organized, President George Washington sent his commissioners, Gen. Andrew Pickens, David Humphreys, Cyrus Griffin and Benjamin Lincoln, to the Rock Landing, on the Oconee, in the present Georgia, to negotiate with McGillivray and gain the good will of the Creek Indians, most of whom lived West of the Chattahoochee.

McGillivray was accompanied by 2,000 warriors. Agreeable to his promise to his friend, William Panton, in Pensacola, he influenced the Indians not to sign the agreement, postponing it until the following Spring. This occurred in September, 1789, so shortly thereafter Washington selected Col. Marinus Willett, a veteran of the Revolution, to come as a secret agent to the Creek Country and bring McGillivray to see him. At that time the capital of the United States was at New York City.

Col. Willett journeyed to the South and, after a conference with Gen. Pickens at his plantation home in South Carolina, reached the Creek Country by the upper trail from the Cherokees. He found McGillivray at the house of Robert Grierson, a Scotch trader among the Hillabits, and from there accompanied him home to his plantation at Little Talise, on the "Apple Grove," on the Coosa. This place is four miles above Wetumpka of today. It was the site to which Lachlan McGillivray (father of Alexander) carried his French-Indian wife, Sehoy Marchand, about 1740.

The Alabama Anthropological Society has recently erected a boulder there marking the spot.

After visiting the home of Col. McGillivray for a few days, he conducted him to New York. The party was augmented by chiefs from the Coweta and Cusseta on the Chattahoochee River, by the Talise King, Chinnobe, the Natchez chief and 26 warriors. David Tate, Col.

ence and they bore dates "1789." The one given to Efa Haujo has been unearthed within recent months. This old chief died on the Tallapoosa River about 1812.

In August, 1790, Lieut. Heth brought nearly \$3,000 in gold, the balance promised by Gen. Washington, to Little Talise. The young officer was instructed to visit with McGillivray and, if possible, influence him to carry out the provisions of the treaty.

### Appointment of Col. Hawkins

To settle the boundary line questions between Georgia and the United States incident to these treaties, President Washington sent Col. Benjamin Hawkins and two other commissioners to the Nation in 1795. Col. Hawkins was then serving as Senator from North Carolina. From that time until his death in 1816, he lived among these wards of the Government and gave unselfishly his every effort in their behalf.

By Washington's direction he spent the years 1796 and 1797 making a survey of the Creek Nation, and his "Sketch of the Creek Country," printed by the Georgia Historical Society, is one of the finest contributions to Southern history.

Col. Hawkins visited every Indian town in the present Alabama in the territory east of Montgomery. While he was principal temporary agent of the United States to all tribes south of the Ohio River and had jurisdiction over the Choctaws and Chickasaws, he lived on the Flint River in Georgia and never visited his charges west of the Alabama.

Col. Hawkins was a graduate of Princeton College and served on Gen. Washington's staff as interpreter in his dealings with his French allies. He was a signer of the Treaty of Fort Jackson, Aug. 9, 1814. He died at the Agency on Flint River and is buried there in the present Crawford County, Georgia. A niece of the Colonel (twice removed) who bears his surname, is a resident of Montgomery today.

### Opposition To The Yazoo Sale

In December, 1789, Gov. Telfair, of Georgia, approved the legislative sale of large quantities of land for ridiculously small sums in what is now North Mississippi and North Alabama. Three million, five hundred thousand acres, embracing what is now our North Alabama, were sold for \$46,000. This was bought by the Tennessee Company. Other large tracts were bought by the Virginia Yazoo Company and the South Carolina Yazoo Company.

These fraudulent sales are known in American history as the "Yazoo Land Frauds." President Washington protested and issued a proclamation.

The Tennessee Company, headed by Zachariah Cox, built a blockhouse headquarters on an island at the head of Muscle Shoals, but the Cherokee Indians, influenced by Gov. Blount of Tennessee, who was acting for President Washington, burned the blockhouse and ran them out of the country. Likewise, the lands at the mouth of the Yazoo River were settled, but the President had Gen. Saint Clair remove, by military force all who had moved into that region.

### Alabama Names Honoring Washington

Less than six months after Washington's death, the Mississippi Territorial Legislature formed the populated

him to New York. The party was augmented by chiefs from the Coweta and Cusseta on the Chattahoochee River, by the Talise King, Chinnobe, the Natchez chief and 26 warriors. David Tate, Col. McGillivray's nephew, and Sam Manac, his brother-in-law, were also in the party.

After having been entertained in Gullford Courthouse, N. C., Richmond and Fredericksburg, Va., and Philadelphia, the party arrived in New York and was met by the Tammany Society in the full dress of their order, and marched up Wall Street, past Federal Hall where Congress was in session, and to the house of the President.

Gen. Washington received the Indians with pomp and ceremony. They then visited the Secretary of War, Gov. Clinton and were entertained by the City of New York. Through Henry Knox, who was appointed to treat with them, there was concluded a treaty by which the Creeks were to be under the sole protection of the American Government. At the same time a secret treaty was concluded between George Washington and Alexander McGillivray by which the latter was made agent of the United States with the rank and pay of brigadier general. He was granted \$1,200 per annum compensation.

The chiefs of Okfuski, Tukabahchi, Tallasse, Coweta, Cusseta, and the Seminole Nation were allowed \$100 each year, and they were furnished with handsome medals. These medals had already been prepared for the Rock Landing confer-

that region.

### Alabama Names Honoring Washington

Less than six months after Washington's death, the Mississippi Territorial Legislature formed the populated eastern section of their domain into a new county and called it to honor the first President. Washington County was created June 4, 1800. George Washington died Dec. 14, 1799. Destiny ruled that the month date of Washington's death should, 20 years later, be the birth date of the new State of Alabama.

Saint Stephens was the capital town of the Territory and was for many years the county seat of Washington, but in the recent past they organized a village near the center of the county and named it in honor of the ancestral home of the Washington family in England. Fortune decreed that the one of George Washington's successors in office at the time was a strenuous advocate of simplified spelling, and the order was issued to spell it "Chatom."

The memory of Washington was green in 1811 and Lieut. Cushing moved his garrison away from Fort Stoddert up in the hills and established Mount Vernon Cantonment. Later, in 1828, the War Department established an arsenal there and until 1894 this military base played an important part in our history. Gen. Ferdinand Claiborne had his headquarters there in 1813. It was an important station until the Confederate Government seized it in 1861, and after 1868 the United States again garrisoned it. Geronimo and his band of several hundred Apaches were confined there several years in the late eighties.

Today old Mount Vernon Barrack, hospital and officers' quarters are a part of the hospital for the negro insane of the State of Alabama, the United States Government having donated it to the State.

As soon as Alabama became a territory, several counties were created. One of these was Autauga, named for the Indian town at the mouth of the creek of that name. The county seat was named for George Washington, and old Washington town was long a landmark. Washington Ferry, 12 miles west of Montgomery, in use until the construction of the highway bridge at Reeses some five years ago, marks the site of the village of 1820.

Several "Washington Institutes" came into being in the early days of our educational efforts. Washington Avenue in the early town of Blakeley was perhaps the first street in Alabama to bear his name. That one has long ceased to be but the haunts of the owls and other wild things, but there are other broad avenues in our present-day cities which honor our regard for his memory.

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# Through The Years

## Washington County, Alabama

Feb. 28, 1932

By Peter A. Brannon

The oldest of Alabama's counties is Washington. Once when it was a part of the Mississippi Territory it was 300 miles wide and 88 miles from the northern boundary to the southern. Gov. Winthrop Sargent's proclamation made the Chattahoochee River the eastern boundary and the Pearl River was its western line. The old boundary of Spanish West Florida, 32 degrees, 28 minutes north latitude, was fixed as the northern line, and the southern limit of the United States as then constituted, the 31st parallel, was made the line on the South.

To appreciate the size more fully, Montgomery, Dothan, Meridian and Hattiesburg of today are all in this territory, and Jackson, the Capital of Mississippi, is on the line. From this original large county, 16 counties in Mississippi and 30 in Alabama were, either in whole or in part, subsequently formed.

### The County Created

John Steele, secretary, "by His Excellency's Command," promulgated Gov. Sargent's proclamation on "this fourth day of June, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred." Because he feared that equal administration of justice could not extend to the inhabitants "on the Tombecbee and other eastern settlements" from the divisions already made, the territorial Governor "thought proper therefore to erect a new county."

The Governor ordered and ordained that "all and singular the lands lying and being within the territorial boundaries upon the north, east and south of the Pearl River on the west," should constitute another division "to be named and hereafter to be called the County of Washington."

### The Original County Seat

On the 11th day of November, 1803, the Legislature authorized the laying out of a town to be called "Maconsbay." Apparently the act was never carried into effect and was repealed Jan. 8, 1807, when a town was provided for near Fort St. Stephen on the lands of Edwin Lewis.

The courthouse having stood on the land of Richard Brashears, by an act of Feb. 1, 1805, the site was legalized and it was called Wakefield. Judge Harry Toulmin named it for Goldsmith's vicar.

The courts of this vast county were first held at McIntosh Bluff, but Wakefield was actually the first legal courthouse site. John Armstrong, George Brewer, Jr., James Denby, Sr., Edmund Craighton, and Thomas Bassett were the trustees to regulate the corporation.

The courthouse was here until 1810. It was at St. Stephens in 1811 and moved to Rodney in 1812. The permanent seat of justice was fixed on Dec. 23, 1815. Then, Abner S. Lipscomb, Joseph McCarty, James Thompson, Hugh Tinnin, John Harris, Francis Boykin and John Wammock were appointed commissioners to fix the permanent site for the public buildings. They were authorized to purchase or to receive by donation not exceeding 160 acres "on which the public buildings shall be fixed by them." They were given power to contract for a suitable courthouse and jail, and the law directed "the jail to be first built."

While the courthouse at St. Stephens was under construction, the courts were held at the house of Robert Caller.

An interesting method of paying the cost of construction was devised in the law. The tax collector was required to

post in 1791, they chose this very site, and in that year there erected of poles and stuccoed a church, a blockhouse, and other buildings.

The water reservoirs, holes pecked in the solid rock just below the adjacent spring of bubbling water, are there today. Locally they are "the Indian bathtubs," but serious doubt there is that the Choctaw-speaking Tohomis ever bathed in these three six-foot pools.

Lieut. John McClary of the Second U. S. Infantry, took charge of the post on May 5, 1799, as Spain found to her dismay that Fort St. Stephen was above the newly fixed boundary, the 31st degree of north latitude. Col. Andrew Elliott, the U. S. commissioner appointed by President George Washington, and Capt. Stephen Minor, the Spanish officer with the surveying party, had lately determined that the line ran south of this point.

The town of St. Stephens—the Americans never called it "Fort St. Stephen"—was incorporated Dec. 18, 1811, having been authorized, as stated above, Jan. 8, 1807, when John Baker, James Morgan, and John F. McGrew were appointed commissioners to lay out streets "which shall not be less than 100 feet wide."

In 1804, when Lorenzo and Peggy Dow were there, only one white family resided in what was later the town limits, though there were many settlements down the west bank of the river to old Fort Stoddert. Joseph Chambers, a native of Salisbury, N. C., was the government factor, that is the storehouse-keeper, appointed by the United States to get the Indian trade from the Spanish. He came to the Tombigbee Bluff in 1802. George S. Gaines came to be his assis-

tant in 1805 and succeeded him in 1806. The warehouse of the government factory, built by Gaines in 1811, was the first brick house in Alabama outside of Mobile.

Today the traveler must select good weather to visit old St. Stephens. It is three miles from the present village of the name which was settled in the 30's up on the ridge. Nothing of the old American town is left but a few piles of brick, old house foundations, and some crumbling tombstones. Spain built better, as the embankments of her old fort are yet well outlined, and her water tanks are equally as good today as 141 years ago.

### The Centennial Marker

The Alabama Centennial Commission, in 1922, placed a block of granite to mark the site of the government house of 1817. That stone, on the top of the hill, we may imagine, is silently watching down that half-mile long narrow, heavily overgrown path, once a street, which is so richly associated with Alabama history. Memory's picture shows us that along this street were the old Tombecbee Bank, chartered Feb. 13, 1818, and the U. S. Land Office, and that down that hillside have trod James Magoffin, registrar of the Land Office; Charles Tait and William Crawford, judges of the Federal Court; Pushmataha, the old Choctaw warrior, as well as Tandy Walker, the blacksmith, who figured in those romantic days of the early history.

John Crowell, who destiny ruled to be Alabama's territorial delegate in 1817, and her first congressman in 1819, had a merchandise broker's office on that street when he was chosen to represent Alabama at Washington.

### The Territorial Capital

Washington County, also Alabama's original, has had other notable history. St. Stephens was the chief town in the eastern section of the Mississippi territory and naturally became the Alabama territorial capital, though Madison and Huntsville vied with her for these honors.

In 1819, when the Constitutional Convention was called, the politicians carried the meeting to Huntsville and from that day the importance of St. Stephens declined.

New St. Stephens, Washington Courthouse, and Chatom have been courthouse

tion not exceeding 160 acres "on which the public buildings shall be fixed by them." They were given power to contract for a suitable courthouse and jail, and the law directed "the jail to be first built."

While the courthouse at St. Stephens was under construction, the courts were held at the house of Robert Caller.

An interesting method of paying the cost of construction was devised in the law. The tax collector was required to collect, as a county tax, one-half the sum assessed and collected as a territorial tax. This sum was paid over annually to the commissioners who applied it exclusively on the obligation of the county to the contractor. Even though it took several years to pay for erecting the public buildings, the contractor had a lien on the whole county tax in the treasury.

#### Some Early Settlements

McIntosh Bluff, where the county was organized, was named for the McIntosh family, Scotchmen, who settled in Georgia. Capt. John McIntosh, of the West Florida service of the British Army, and James McIntosh, interpreter to the Governor, were both of this family. Capt. John owned the plantation at the bluff. His daughter, a native of Georgia, the wife of a captain in the Royal Army in the Revolution, came once to visit him and here was born George M. Troup, who, destiny ruled, came to be the most vigorous of all Georgia's Governors. McIntosh Bluff was not long the county seat of Washington, but when Baldwin was created in 1809 it was again given the honor of being a seat of justice.

Rodney was so called for Judge Thomas Rodney, who, in 1807, tried Aaron Burr at the town of Washington, then capital of the Mississippi Territory. Judge Harry Toulmin, who named Wakefield, was the presiding judge and he it was who offered the reward for Burr's arrest when the Governor and the President authorized it.

#### St. Stephens Town

In 1722 when Capt. Bernard Romans of the British Army surveyed the Tombebee (as the river was then called), he forecast the importance of Hobuckintopa Bluff. When Spain established a military

sites within the past 100 years. Neither did, nor probably ever will, enjoy the interesting association of these four other county seats east on the Tombigbee River. "Washington Court House" was never a village. A modest building in which to hold court sat on one side of the road and a jail in which were held the convicted prisoners sat on the other side, and so tradition says, a nearby tavern, made up the "settlement."

Chatom, a new village whose name suggests the Washington ancestral seat, is near the center of the present county which is only 1,050 square miles in area, whereas the original one of McIntosh Bluff days was 26,400 square miles.

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# Through The Years

## More Indian Names

By Peter A. Brannon

(Note: Numerous requests have come to me to give the derivations of other Alabama place names. This paper, is therefore, a follow-up to the story of Alabama postoffices which bear Indian names.)

The territory we now call Alabama was inhabited in the beginning of our history, by four great groups and several smaller bands of peoples. They spoke a different language, but all early travelers are agreed that there was a common trade or intertribal "jargon" which all understood.

It is not generally known, but we must often look in a foreign tongue to find the origin of many Indian words of correct application in their local habitats. This is illustrated by the generally accepted Creek name "Coosa." This is more properly "Kusha," and the word is frequently written by early travelers "Kusa" or "Kosa." "Kushak" is the Choctaw word for reeds. The town which bore the name was in our Talladega County, one mile from Childersburg. Perhaps there was a cane brake nearby.

Another name, and one well known to Montgomerians, is "Catoma." There is no instance of any other Catoma Creek in the State and it is in the Creek Country, but present day students concede it to be of Choctaw origin and from "Kvtohmih," which means "how many." In Choctaw, as written, "v" represents the sound of English short "u," as in "tub." "A" represents the sound of "a" in "father." "U" is short "a." Mrs. Ann Eliza Worcester Robertson, daughter of the Rev. Worcester, who was imprisoned by the Georgians for his missionary activities, is authority for that statement and for the derivation of "Catoma."

### Other Choctaw Words

Bashi, the name of a creek in Clarke County, is from the word "bvshshih" and means "withered or dried." Possibly that stream "dried up" or withered away in a particularly dry Summer once in its history.

Today we have Chewacla Creek in Barbour County. Early French maps dated 200 years ago show a "Chuala" located about our present Louisville in that county. The Choctaw word "Chuahla," and the Creek word nearest to Chewacla are the same. It means "cedar."

A word quite near home, "Boguehoma," is "red creek" or "red wet place." Probably our Boguehoma section of the Southern part of the city was once a marshy region. There is no "bogue" in the Indian language. It is "bok." All the "bogues" of Mississippi and Louisiana are French for the Choctaw word resembling it.

Escatawpa, a stream and settlement in the southern part of Mobile County, is from uski topa, properly tupa, which means "cane cut off." Dr. Byington translated it as "a spool," that is, the cane cut short and shaped as our spool.

Nanahubba is from nana, "a thing" or "anything," and hvpi, "salty." Mrs. Robertson inquired of Maj. J. D. Barron (for many years with The Montgomery Advertiser) whether there were salty places found along the stream where these Naniaba people lived. Cer-

chusi, Itaba, Ullibahali, Toasi, Talisi, Caxa, Humati, Athahatchi, Piacki, and Maubila were the principal towns on the route of DeSoto in 1540. The meanings of some we have worked out. Talmachusi signifies "new town," and Talisi (whence comes our Tallassee) means "old town." Today we have Old Town Creek between Lowndes and Dallas Counties. This really is Talisi Creek. Ullibahali, although it may not seem so, is identical with Huithle-walli, and it means "to apportion war." That is, the notice of going to war was sent from this town.

Humati means "little turkey gobbler." Tastaluca means "Black Warrior." It is properly "Taskalusa" and the derivation is in the Choctaw and Alibamo languages. We should never spell our town of the name with a "c"; it is from the word "Taska." Athahatche, the place where the chief of these Taskalusa people lived (the chief is not referred to by name), was in the Choctaw country but the name is positively Creek.

### The Aboriginal Peoples

The Creeks, the Cherokees, the Chicasaws, and the Choctaws were the four nations of the Muscogean stock who inhabited Alabama in the beginning of history. The Uchees, Hitchitis, Tohomis, Alibamos, Shawnees, Mobilians, and even other smaller distinct peoples lived here, so you may well see that the student of languages has a broad field.

The sites of 300 former Indian towns in Alabama, have been located and identified. The center of population was in the middle Chattahoochee and the Lower Tallapoosa River country and in each locality we find settlements of different speaking people. As an example, Uchee Town was located at the mouth of a stream of the name and was surrounded by many Creek towns. The Creeks could not speak the Yuclean language though they understood it.

tainly there are. Nanahubba Bluff is on the Lower Tombigbee River. Numerous salt springs empty into that stream below Jackson, in Clarke County. The "salt lands" of Alabama were public lands set aside by special acts of the organization of the State. The Confederate Government, from 1862 to 1865, evaporated large quantities of salt from the waters of these same springs which had given the name to these red people perhaps 1,000 years before.

#### Some Creek Words

Perhaps the fisherman who collects the fat fuzzy worm from the big leaf tree when he starts out for bass never thought of it, but the Catalpa tree is Indian named and from one of its characteristics. The word is Creek and from "eka," the head, and "tuhlpa," the wing, giving us "a winged head." If you will examine the flower of this tree, you will readily understand the significance.

Columi, or, as it is sometimes written, Coloma, suggests Choctaw origin, though the site is east of the Albamo settlements in the Creek Country. "Koi" is panther. "Lumah" is hidden. Koi-alumah would be "panther's hiding place." Perhaps this point 12 miles east of Montgomery where DeSoto crossed the Tallapoosa River, Sept. 3, 1540, was where the cats, which the natives called panthers, had their dens.

Calibee, our name for a large stream in Macon County, is possibly from "okalibbi." If so, it means "blazing water." Sometime before it had a name, there may have been "fox fire" in the swamp there. Many of us have seen mysterious lights in the marshy places. Perhaps the red man before us was just as observant.

Emuckfau, an Upper Creek town in our Tallapoosa County, is from Imukfa, a Hitchiti word meaning "a concave shell." They also applied the term to a characteristic bend in the stream. Likewise, the name is a good Choctaw word and, as "im-okfa," means "his, her, or their valley."

Emussa, a stream name in Henry County, is without doubt from Yemasee, a tribal name of South Carolina. The word means "tributary." This site marks the furthestest western settlement of these Atlantic Coast people. The town had 20 people when a census was made in 1820. They later joined the Seminoles in Florida.

Ok-cha-ya is Creek from Okchoy, Albamo, which owes its origin to "Okchv-wv-ha," a Choctaw combination meaning "shoal, shallow water," or "sand bar." The Creek word means "alive" or "living." Possibly the water getting off the sand allowed it to "live again." The people of this town lived, in historic times, on the Tallapoosa River on the present Lake Martin, though their old town, the mother of Oakchoy and Little Oakchoya, was west of the Tombigbee, in our Sumter County. They were Alibamos.

Abihka, pronounced "arbee-ca," was a town in our Talladega County, and in the very earliest period was of much antiquity and importance. The word means "pile at the base of." In the contest for supremacy, its warriors heaped up a pile of scalps at the base of the war-pole. The Creek law for regulating marriage originated with these people.

Ouhegee, often written Hiaggee, and, on modern maps, Haggee, is a Hitchiti word for a stream in Russell County. Its meaning is very significant. To them it was "sweet potato mother." They noticed that when planting potatoes the fruit remained in the ground until the new crop came to maturity.

Enetochpoko is a name long preserved as a battle site as well as an abandoned postoffice. It is in Clay County. The word is from Anati techapko, a Hilibi term for "Long Swamp." The Creek word, "anati," means a swampy place where persons can hide. Andrew Jackson's forces burned the town on Jan. 24, 1814. Chehaw is the corrupted English for "Chiaha." There were several Creek towns of the name but the only derivation is to be found in the Cherokee language. It means "where others live."

#### Towns Of DeSoto's Day

Chiaha, Coosa, Tali, Tasqui, Talima-

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# Through The Years

## Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff

By Peter A. Brannon



Spaniards in 1560 attempted to found a colony in the Mobile basin, but they could not subsist themselves and they went home. Frenchmen and Canadians came in 1699, and in 1702 made, so far as Alabama is concerned, our first permanent settlement. Fort Louis de la Mobile was built on a bluff of the river and a survey proved it to be "16 leagues off at the second bluff, from Massacre Island." This is our Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff.

### Founding of Fort Louis

On Jan. 10, 1702, Iberville sent his brother, Bienville, Serigny and Le Vasseur in the "lanche" (launch), accompanied by two "felouques," to occupy "Mobile." Eighty workmen and the King's Stores were in these felouques. Thus Mobile, the same one we have today though not on its present site, was born. A well under a hickory tree and a granite marker identify the spot for the casual present day visitor.

In 1699, the French came from Biloxi (in the Choctaw language "Luksi," terapins) to our Dauphine Island, which they first called Massacre. In the Fall of 1701, Pontchartrain sent Iberville out in the Renommée, with the Palmier and "traversier" for the determined purpose of settling the Mobile region. At San Domingo he took on horses, cattle and swine. Bienville, the youngest of the three French-Canadians, selected the spot for this capital of Louisiana and supervised the building of the fort to protect France's colonial beginning on the Gulf Coast. The fort was of logs "piece upon piece." The structure was 60 toises or fathoms square, with four bastions 30 feet long. It had six guns at each corner, advanced in semi-circle. Within were four buildings—chapel, "government" and officers quarters, magazines and guardhouse. In the center was a parade of 45 toises square. The barracks for the privates and Canadians were outside, and Penicaut says they were 150 paces to the left, upstream on the river bank. The commissary, LaSalle (not to be confused with the Jesuit explorer), says the powder magazine was out of the fort and 24 feet square by 10 deep.

### The Beginning of Mobile

Iberville intended from the beginning that "Fort Louis," as it was known officially though called by him "Mobile," should be the American center of French influence. The location in the country of the Mobilian Indians of course gave it the name, and, as soon as the effort was started, Bienville and Tonty, those two men so intimately associated with Alabama's beginning, were directed to make peace with all nearby tribes and to win their trade, their influence and their goodwill from the English. The Mobilians were living at our Mt. Vernon, the Tohomis at our McIntosh Bluff and the Nanikees at our Nanshubba

at Havana on his way out, so Bienville was not actually superceded. De Artaguette, the new commissary, made quite a few changes and in the light of present knowledge, for the better. Massacre Island, originally so called for the great pile of bones found there by the first coming Frenchmen, became "Dauphine" for the eldest son of King Louis. To this enterprising quartermaster we may credit our first river boat. The records show that he built, in 1709, a 60-ton lighter to haul merchandise from the bar at our Fort Games to the site of Mobile, as then known.

### Fort Louis's Last Days

Rare and truly valuable are those old books today in the house of the Catholic bishop at Mobile, which record life at Fort Louis among the Mobilians. Rightly are they to be considered Alabama's original records. Even so, they are Louisiana's. St. Vallier, bishop of Quebec, was strict in his requirements. To him we owe our Mobile history, for Louisiana was a part of his diocese. These little volumes give us baptisms and god-father's and sponsors; they list the vocations as well as avocations, and sometimes the cure has entered some startling facts. Those volumes show signatures long since blotted from Alabama's associations.

Mobile of Twenty-seven Mile Bluff was the first modern American City. It was not surrounded by a wall. It was not on an island. It was built among the Indians and intended to encourage them to trade. But the unfortified Port Dauphine was too far away, and the British pirates, in 1710 attacked the settlement there and all but annihilated it. Their friends up the river knew nothing of the attack for four days—full time for the escape of these Jamaica freebooters. Added to this misfortune, an unprecedented flood drowned out the bluff town. So Bienville determined to move to the land he had assigned to the Choctaws and to build there a new post. Thus our present Mobile came to be.

In 1711, they loaded everything and occupied a new site at the mouth of the river. The old houses and fort they abandoned.

Over the bones of Tonty:  
"They carved not a line,  
They raised not a stone,  
But left him alone in his glory."

Today the south wind sounds a requiem through those lonely pines which shade the resting places of many who made the sacrifices for France to gain a foothold on the Gulf. The Iberville Historical Society has marked the site of the old fort, but no one knows the location of the old "cimetiere."

EDWORTH LEAGUE

non, the Tohomis at our McIntosh Bluff and the Naniabas at our Nanahubba Island.

The streets of the original Mobile were laid out on March 20, 1702. Royal, Conti and Dauphine were in that proposed town, and tradition says they survive today at our own Mobile in exactly the same relation as they did in Bienville's French plan of 230 years ago when the settlement was on Mobile River rather than at the mouth of the stream. The records show us that the first tree felled to make those streets was one of those "fine pines" growing just above the fort site. The French gunboat Palmier lost a mast in a tropical storm as she brought Iberville's supplies and when he started clearing for his settlement he had one of these trees made ready to set up in place of that missing pole. The repairs to that boat were made at the same point which we visit now when we attend the rodeo at Dauphine Island wharf and which in late years was Fort Gaines. The gunboat could not cross the bar; she was on the sand there.

#### Arrival of the Colonists

During the midsummer of 1704 there arrived livestock, food supplies, a cure, missionaries, artisans, 75 soldiers, and best of all, 23 virtuous maidens in charge of two nuns, to make happy that infant colonial effort on Mobile River. In less than a month all the girls were married except one who, the journal records, was "unusually coy and hard to please." Tradition is that she never married. The "Petticoat Insurrection," as it was called in the French colonial records, occurred shortly after this and was led by these same girls, now matrons, who refused the corn, the only bread source of the new colony. These incorrigible young women were brought over on the French ship Pelican, and history has recorded them as "the Pelican Girls of Louisiana." The first cure was M. Henri Roulleaux de la Vente, who was inducted into office on the "28th of September, in the year of Salvation 1704" by Davion, a missionary out of Quebec, laboring among the Tunicas on the lower Mississippi. By the end of 1704 there were 80 one-story thatched houses. The census showed 14 cows, four bulls, five calves and nine oxen. Further the list shows 100 hogs, three kids and 400 chickens, "carefully preserved pour multiplication."

#### The First Creole

The first French-born American—our first Creole—was Jean Francis, son of Jean Le Camp and his wife Magdelaine Robert. He was born Oct. 4, 1704 and baptized that day. His father was the locksmith of the new settlement. During the same month a son was born to Francis Le May but he died and was buried the same day. The next Creole of record is Jacques, born in Aug. 1705 to Jean Roy, master cannoneer of the garrison and Renee Guilbert, his wife.

#### Yellow Fever At Mobile

Marriageable girls and yellow fever too, came by the Pelican for we must remember that she touched at San Domingo. Half of her crew, 30 of the newly-arrived soldiers, Father Douge, Levasseur and Henri de Tonty, one of the western world's outstanding explorers, were victims. There, on that bluff the dauntless spirit of this Italian-born Frenchman winged its flight to the Great Beyond and Tonty's remains lie today in an unknown grave. The first American epidemic of that dread malady, which we centuries later found the mosquito responsible for, was perhaps in proportion our most fatal.

#### Death of Iberville.

Louisiana lost her founder, Mobile her warm supporter, and Bienville suffered his heaviest blow, when the oldest brother, Iberville, died at Havana in 1806, of yellow fever. Bienville was a local executive of ability but France needed an Iberville to carry out her foreign policy. That initial effort at Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff, for all her small settlements were now concentrated on Mobile River, began to experience its vicissitudes. Nicholas la Salle, the commissary of marine, began his complaints to the home government against the governor, La Vente, the priest, joined in these attacks, and even the Lady Superior found fault because Bienville object to her intended marriage with Boisbriant, his lieutenant.

Perhaps Bienville was partial toward the Jesuits, but he was reared to love them. History records that they made many sacrifices, and no one doubts that they were the true pioneer missionaries. Notwithstanding the complaints against Gov. Bienville bore fruit, and on Feb. 10, 1708, the Renommee arrived at Massacre Island with a new commissary and with orders for Bienville to surrender his office to DeMuy. The new governor died

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# Through The Years

## The Alabama Territory

By Peter A. Brannon

On the first day of March, 1817, James Madison, president of the United States, approved an act of Congress to enable the people of the Mississippi Territory to form for themselves a constitution and state government "and to assume such name as they shall deem proper."

At the same time Congress reserved the right to divide the Territory and to fix the boundaries and organize the eastern part. Congress did not say that the people in the eastern section "should assume such name as they saw fit," but they organized it into a new territory called "Alabama." It was understood at the time that it was so called "for its great river."

Its great river was called for the aboriginal people, who were settled at its headwaters. The western boundary line of that new territory was fixed to start at the mouth of Bear Creek, a tributary of the Tennessee River, and run in a direct line to the northwest corner of Washington County, thence due south to the Gulf.

### Counties In the Territory

The seven counties which were thrown into the Alabama Territory on its organization were: Baldwin, created in 1809; Clarke, 1812; Madison, 1808; Mobile, 1812; Monroe, 1815; Montgomery, 1816, and Washington, 1800. The first territorial legislature created Cotaco, Lawrence, Franklin, Limestone, Lauderdale, Blount, Tuscaloosa, Marengo, Shelby, Cahawba, Dallas, Marion and Conecuh. The average person today cannot tell you the present name of Cotaco or Cahawba. The last territorial legislature created St. Clair and Autauga, and Jackson, Perry, Butler, Greene, Henry, Jefferson and Wilcox were made before Congress formally allowed statehood to Alabama, but they were created on the 13th of December—the day before admission of the State, and by what we know as the first State Legislature.

Cotaco was named for a Cherokee town on the Tennessee River. Later they changed it to honor Gen. Daniel Morgan, of Virginia. Cahawba County, which bore the name of its principal stream—the Cahawba River, so called for the Indian town on its banks—became "Bibb" to honor the memory of Gov. William Wyatt Bibb, who was killed in 1820.

Gen. Andrew Jackson was at the Green Bottom Inn at Huntsville (racing his horses on the track there) when the Legislature carved out a new county and his friend, Howell Rose, State senator from the Autauga district, proposed to honor him in that way. With enthusiasm the suggestion was accepted. Rev-

olutionary patriots were remembered in these original county names:

George Washington, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, Francis Marion, Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Greene, Patrick Henry and James Monroe were honored. But heroes of the second war with England were not forgotten for Commodore Stephen Lawrence, Gen. John Clarke, of Georgia, Commodore Perry of Lake Erie fame, Gen. Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, and Arthur Saint Clair, of Pennsylvania, were likewise tendered immortal memory.

Andrew Jackson's two old comrades, Gov. Willie Blount, of Tennessee, and Lieut. James Lauderdale, hero of the Creek Indian war, who was killed Dec. 25, 1814 on the plain below New Orleans, have left their names in two of these territorial counties. Fitting it is that they are in our Tennessee Valley country.

The "flower of Jackson's army," that young major shot down in the bloom of manhood at Horse Shoe Bend, Lemuel Purnell Montgomery, born in Virginia but of Tennessee's 39th Infantry, has left his name in the county where our State Capitol is located.

### St. Stephens the Capital

Of most importance, the town of Saint Stephens in Washington County, was naturally selected as the temporary capital of the territory. The first Legislature met there Jan. 19, 1818. Saint Stephens was the American successor to Spanish Fort Saint Stephens. In 1791 the Spanish established a post at the bluff which the Choctaws called Hombucintopa. Macombsbay town was authorized by the Mississippi Legislature in 1803. It was never "laid out." On Jan. 8, 1807, a town was authorized on the lands of Edwin Lewis "near Fort Saint Stephens" and on Dec. 18, 1811, this "laid out" town was incorporated as Saint Stephens. Tradition says Lorenzo Dow preached there in 1805. Peter Hamilton says that there was but one house there then. The government trading house among the Choctaw Indians was built there and the permanent warehouse of this institution was the first brick house built in Alabama outside of Mobile.

The records of the Legislature show 13 members of the House of Representatives and one senator. James Titus, of Madison County, was the only one of the old Council of the Mississippi Territory who resided in the new Territory, so automatically (but by the provision of the law) became a member and of course was president of the Senate. All writers have commented on the solemnity

of the proceedings which were solemnly passed on all of the acts of Representatives, commencing their journeying with due form. Moore, of Madison County, was the only member of the House.

### The Two United

Senators from Georgia and North Carolina. When they were elected for reelection in the Fall of 1817 they immediately resigned. The resignation of his term out and "fathered" the territory which eventually gave birth to the State of Alabama. Dr. William W. Bibb quit his home. Judge Charles Tait put a measure to divide the Mississippi Territory with a line from the River South instead of with a line from the Chattahoochee to the Mississippi River in a due West. Tradition says the Mississippians all the seacoast line but Judge Tait's vision from the mouth of Big Creek aimed at giving both an eastern territory and both some coast line. The division Alabama got the best. Alabama has a total of more square miles than Mississippi.

James Monroe, for whom as Secretary of State, Monroe County, Mississippi, named, became President of the United States shortly after Alabama became a territory, and it was he who made the original appointments. Dr. Bibb named Governor. After leaving the territory he had determined to remain in Alabama, and he came to a plantation on the West side of the Alabama River, the old Indian town of Co-as-a-ta, the whites called Coosada. Dr. Bibb removed to Saint Stephens, going from his home on the Alabama River. The two sessions of the Territorial Legislature. President Monroe appointed Judge Tait to be our first Federal Judge. He served from 1819 to 1826 when he signed to follow the luxurious life of a planter. When LaFayette visited the territory in 1825, Judge Tait served as James Delle's committee of reception. Capt. James A. Tait, a Georgia and son of Judge Charles, preceded his father to Alabama and actually influenced him to settle here. Today he sleeps at old Dry Forks Plantation in Wilcox County.

It fell to Mr. Monroe to make an appointment indirectly concerned with territorial days. John Crowell, a Carolinian, was a broker in business in Saint Stephens when the territorial legislature elected him delegate to Congress. He served also as our first Congressman and when his term expired in 1821, he was made Indian agent to the Creeks in East Alabama. He was the last agent of the United States to the Indians east of the Mississippi River. Col. Crowell spent his last days at Fort Mitchell. While a little shaft of granite, gray with age, marks his resting place, a great cedar tree, noble as the work of God, shades this hallowed spot.

### Constitutional Convention

The student finds the Journal of the Constitutional Convention in 1819 an interesting document. The members whose elections were provided for by the last Territorial Legislative session of December, 1818, assembled in Huntsville on July 5, 1819, and elected John W. Walker as president. The roll call shows the centers of population. Madison County had eight delegates. Monroe had four. Mobile had one. Montgomery, Washington and Tuscaloosa Counties had two representatives each. A constitution was framed (as they said) and the first General Assembly, as the Legislature was then called, was directed to assemble at Huntsville on Oct. 25, 1819. Gov. Bibb was inaugurated on Nov. 9 following. Territorial government soon ended. The Assembly elected John W. Walker as our first United States Senator and on Dec. 14 Congress recognized our Statehood and admitted Alabama on an equal footing with the other States.

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# Through The Years

## Townships And Ranges

By Peter A. Brannon

(This paper is republished by request. The original, somewhat more elaborated, was contributed by me to Alabama Highways some five years ago.)

The manner of subdividing the public lands of the country by an orderly and fixed arrangement, so that the plan in all the states would be alike and that investigators in one part of the Nation might as readily conduct examinations as those in the immediate confines of that geographical subdivision in question, seems to have been one of the very early considerations of the Congress of the new United States of America. By an act approved May 17, 1796, referring to a prior one dated about 1784, we see that this systematic surveying of these lands and the recording of them was provided for.

The plan provided for all states subsequently admitted into the American Union and which was followed ever afterwards is embodied in Section 2 of the above mentioned act. It is:

"Be it further enacted, that the part of said lands, ——— shall be divided by north and south lines run according to the true meridian, and by others crossing them at right angles, so as to form townships of six miles square. The corners of the township shall be marked with progressive numbers from the beginning; each distance of a mile between the said corners shall be also distinctly marked with marks different from those of the corners. One half of the said townships, taking them alternately, shall be subdivided into sections, containing as nearly as may be, 3640 acres each, by running through the same, each way, parallel lines, at the end of every two miles; and by marking a corner on each of the said lines, at the end of every mile; the sections shall be marked respectively beginning with the number one, in the northeast section, and proceeding west and east alternately, through the township with progressive numbers, till the 36th be completed. And it shall be the duty of the deputy surveyors, respectively, to cause to be marked, on a tree near each corner made as aforesaid, and within the section, the number of such section and over it, the number of the township, within which such section may be; and the said deputies shall carefully note, in their respective field books, the names of the corner trees marked, and the numbers so made; the fractional parts of townships shall be divided into sections in manner aforesaid, and the fractions of sections shall be annexed to, and sold with, the adjacent entire sections. All lines shall be plainly marked upon trees, and measured with chains, containing two perches of 16 1-2 feet each, subdivided into 25 equal lengths, and the chain shall be adjusted to a standard to be kept for that purpose. Every surveyor shall note in his field book the true situation of all mines, salt licks, salt springs and mill seats, which shall come to his knowledge; all water courses, over which the line he runs shall pass, and also the quality of the lands. These field books shall be returned to the surveyor general, who shall therefrom cause a description of the whole lands surveyed, to be made out and transmitted to the officers who may superintend the sales. He shall also cause a fair plat to be made of the town-

been with Jackson at Fort Toulouse (Fort Jackson) in 1814, and there made the acquaintance of General Coffee. Alas! Fort Jackson Town did not materialize, maybe because Montgomery Town was born. The county seat came 12 miles further south two years later.

General Coffee seems to have been influenced to some extent by his former associates, and we find that while he was located at Huntsville, he appointed as the surveyor in the Alabama section of the Mississippi Territory, James H. Weakley, the same young fellow who had laid off the town of Nashville. The records indicate that Mr. Weakley surveyed many of the public lands in the present State of Alabama. His bold signature is conspicuous on hundreds of maps and plats in our land records. On the death of General Coffee, Andrew Jackson remembered his other friend of former years, and made him Surveyor General, and he served in this capacity until the abolishment of the office, the public lands having been all surveyed in 1851. His last days were spent in New Orleans, where in the evening of his life, he was comfortably situated as a cotton broker. Born in Halifax County, Virginia, 1798, he died in 1856.

While to these two men, Coffee and Weakley, we are indebted for the survey of the lands of our public domain, the original State map is from the pen of John LaTourette. This young man of French blood, which the records show as "Alabama's early Cartographer," has left us on his map some sketches not found otherwise in our early history. His biographers failed to leave any data, but these physical evidences demonstrate his artistic ability as well as his usefulness as a geographer.

Alabama is of the land ceded to the United States by France, originally under the 1763 session to Great Britain, and by sessions from South Carolina and Georgia, though Spain claimed, for many years, about half of our present territory.

By the Act of Congress, approved March 2, 1819, the inhabitants of the Territory of Alabama were authorized to form for themselves a State government. Further, that Act also specified that the sections numbered 16 in every township were granted to the inhabitants of such townships for the use of schools—hence our "Sixteenth Section School lands." United States land offices in Alabama, from time to time, have been located at Cahawba, 1817-1860; St. Stephens, 1817-1866; Huntsville, 1820-1905; Tuscaloosa, 1821-1866; Sparta, 1822-1867; Mardisville, 1832-1852; Montgomery, 1832-1927; Demopolis, 1833-1866; Mobile, 1866-1879.

The original land office in the present Alabama was at St. Stephens, William Crawford, later Federal Judge, was appointed receiver of public moneys, May 26, 1817. A short time later Alexander Pope was made register of the land office at Cahawba. His commission dates July 15, 1817. From time to time, the several offices throughout the State of Alabama have been closed by Federal order and some few years since, the land office at Jackson, Miss., where were filed many of the original records of the Mississippi Territory, was discontinued. The office at Montgomery where had been concentrated all the records

small meridian... the whole lands surveyed, to be made out and transmitted to the officers who may superintend the sales. He shall also cause a fair plat to be made of the townships and the fractional parts of townships, contained in the said lands, describing the subdivisions thereof, and the marks of the corners. This plat shall be recorded in books to be kept for that purpose; a copy thereof shall be kept open at the surveyor general's office for public information; and other copies sent to the places of the sale, and to the secretary of the treasury."

Property lines in the old 13 original states are designated, in ways not uniformly regular. In the old states instead of locating a piece of property by "T. & R. & Sec.", it is designated by "lot so and so" in "land district so and so." This plan is of no service to the general geographer who has no access to the local land plats. Whereas, where surveys are made according to the true meridian, if a point is located in T. 12, No., R. 13, East, of the St. Stephens meridian, the intelligent geographer knows that he goes 12 townships of six miles each, north of St. Stephens, striking a point, then traveling 13 times six miles each east, to arrive at the location within the section stated, then a point is positively fixed on the surface of the earth within a mile.

Of course the several states were surveyed by first selecting two given points, the meridian lines to run north from one and south from the other to an approximate center line across the state. Thus St. Stephens and Huntsville being in the southern and northern parts respectively of the old Alabama Territory were selected as the base meridian points of the survey of the State. Examine the map and you will note three heavy lines on it, one running through the site of the town of St. Stephens north to a line which is at the present time the northern boundary of Chambers, Tallapoosa and Coosa Counties, and which extends through Greene and Pickens in the western part of the State. In fact the town of Montevallo is on the meridian line. Another line extends from the Tennessee boundary on the south through Huntsville and down to strike this line some four miles south of Columbiana.

Following up the authority granted in previous acts of Congress, John Coffee was made, March, 1817, Surveyor General of the Northern District of the Mississippi Territory. The admission of Mississippi State, the same year, made him Surveyor General of the Alabama Territory, as his residence was at Huntsville. Later, he located some miles west at Florence and held this position until his death in 1833. General Coffee's first service in Alabama, as a surveyor, was at Fort Jackson Town, planned by Isaac Ross to be the county seat of Montgomery County of the Mississippi Territory. The original plat made by the General for Mr. Ross is in the hands of his great-grandson, John Crommelin, of Montgomery. Ross may have

land office at Jackson, Miss., where were filed many of the original records of the Mississippi Territory, was discontinued. The office at Montgomery where had been concentrated all the records, was recently discontinued. Practically all of the Alabama records are now deposited, by order of the U. S. Department of the Interior, with the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The field notes of all deputy surveyors under General Coffee and John M. Weakley, together with the plats, maps and other sketched drawings of the several townships, are filed in the Secretary of State's office and are available at the State Capitol. Tract books for all of the several counties are to be consulted in the Secretary of State's office as well as the offices of the probate judges in the several counties.

Tanner's map of 1830 shows the post offices and the post routes of that date. It is of fascinating interest and a valuable comparative item. The map of 1830, a commercial one, intended as a traveler's guide, shows no railroads. There were none. The survey of the State begun on the creation of the territory and well under way at the date of this map, shows on the several township plats all these old roads and in addition many of the original Indian trails. As directed by law, the old land marks are all set out on these maps and it is through this data alone that we are able to arrive at the location of numbers of our old tavern sites, trading houses and early homesteads of territorial days. The surveyors seem to have been very careful to note these on their maps in making observations. Post routes were responsible for the upkeep of our road system of 100 years ago, whereas, the demand for improved conditions to facilitate travel by motor driven vehicles has much to do with present conditions. The 1830 map shows 36 counties in the State together with the Creek Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation and the Choctaw Nation, though these two latter peoples had ceded practically all of their land at this date. The Creeks by the Treaty of Cusseta in 1832, ceded to the United States all that they claimed east of the Mississippi. In turn these became Alabama public lands and out of it was created nine of our present counties.

Our section lines as well as those forming our original townships were run by the compass following true meridians, but until recently roadway surveys followed ridges and grades were rarely considered. Contrary to popular opinion, Indian trails were along the high country and followed the least lines of resistance. Rarely ever do we find them paralleling large streams except back well on the high ground. Note Colonel Hawkins entries of 1796 as he traveled from about the present Cowaliga Bridge on the Alexander City roadway down to the mouth of Euphaubee Creek south of Tallassee: "I arrive at Achina Hatche (cypress creek), a village of Keolgee,

there are six inhabitants and a small town house, some thriving peach trees. x the run, 2 miles cross another at the settlement of 3 families. The lands all poor, stoney and gravelly. Continue on 2 miles, cross a creek, the lands pretty good though broken. Rise up a steep hill, the lands piney; continue on 4 miles (they become bad; continue 3 miles down a steep, gravelly hill x a creek and rise on high broken hills, 1 mile further x a creek just above Tuck-abatchee, enter the old fields, and in 4 miles arrive at the town house. Here obtain a pilot and continue through the town down the river 4 miles arrive at the landing opposite Mr. Cornell's, the agent in this quarter."

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# Through The Years

## Alabamians In The U. S. Service In 1835

By Peter A. Brannon

A small leather-bound volume of 295 pages lies before me. It is the "Register of all officers and agents, civil, military and naval, in the service of the United States." The date is Sept. 30, 1835. At that time Alabama had been a State of the American Union for 16 years, but only a few native Alabamians are shown in this volume. In fact only two names listed here show the notation "born in Alabama."

James M. Withers, destined to be a colonel in the War with Mexico and a major general in the Confederate Army, is shown as second lieutenant in the First Regiment of Dragoons, U. S. A. John W. Percy was a member of the "third class" at West Point Military Academy. Withers graduated at the military academy on July 1 of that year and resigned from the army in December following. Both Withers and Percy were from Huntsville.

### Indian Service Employees

George S. Gaines and Horace Greene are carried on the rolls of the Indian Department. Neither received any compensation. Col. Gaines had charge of the office at Mobile, and Mr. Greene was winding up the Cherokee cession affairs with an office at Decatur. Col. Gaines was born in North Carolina; Mr. Greene in Virginia.

Leonard Tarrant, that grizzled old Methodist preacher, was Andrew Jackson's Indian agent to superintend the sale of the lands ceded by the natives under the Treaty of 1832. He was a pioneer settler in Shelby County but his office was at Mardisville, Old Jumper's Spring site, near our present Talladega.

Paddy Carr, Col. Crowell's old Fort Mitchell assistant, is shown as interpreter for the "Creek Agency, Georgia." The records show that the agency headquarters had been in Alabama since John Crowell left Congress to become agent in 1821, but during the 14 intervening years they still carried the Indian office record as "Georgia."

Paddy drew \$300 a year as interpreter to the Western Creeks, \$300 as interpreter to the Western Cherokees, and \$300 as interpreter to the Eastern Creek Agency. He resided at Fort Mitchell and never went West until several years after this date. Even that early there must have been "favors" in government service.

Paddy's birthplace is given as the "Creek Nation." He was born at Coweta, on the Chattahoochee.

### Congressional Representation

Alabama's two senators were both born in North Carolina. They were William R. King, the only Alabamian to become vice-president of the United States, and Gabriel Moore, who was governor of the State, 1829-31. Mr. King's service in the Senate was long and honorable. He died in 1853. Mr. Moore incurred the dislike of his constituency at home by his opposition to the appointment of Martin Van Buren to a foreign diplomatic post.

Alabamians were strong supporters of Andrew Jackson and they asked Senator Moore to resign. He refused and served

out his term. He later moved to Texas and died there. Wold's Directory of the American Congress says he is buried at Caddo, in that State.

### Members of Congress

Our members of Congress in 1835 were Dixon H. Lewis, who was born in Georgia; Josua L. Martin, born in Tennessee; Reuben Chapman, born in Virginia, and Joab Lawler and Francis S. Lyon, born in North Carolina. Though it has been 97 years, Dixon Lewis's mansion, which he built to occupy when he retired from politics, stands today at Lowndesboro. Joab Lawler's big white house is picturesque in a grove to the right of the highway south of Talladega, and the old "cape jessamine" (we call it gardenia now) and tulips and hyacinths yet bloom under those great trees which front the mansion still occupied at Demopolis by Francis Lyon's descendants.

Reuben Chapman was governor in 1847. His mansion at Huntsville was burned by Federal troops during the War Between the States and he himself was subjected to many indignities.

Joshua L. Martin became Governor, and it was during his term that the Capitol was moved from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery.

Mr. Lawler was like the Rev. Leonard Tarrant, an appointee of President Jackson and was receiver of public monies at the Mardisville Land Office. He handled the money received for those Indian lands. Mr. Lawler was a staunch Baptist and was pastor of the first church of that denomination in that county. Descendants of his son, Levi, also prominent in the politics of a little later day, reside in Winter at Mobile, but occupy the old mansion each Summer.

Col. Lyon was perhaps the shrewdest business man ever connected with Alabama's affairs. He it was who wound up the old State Bank ventures and made the State's credit sound.

### Court Officials

William Crawford, born in Virginia, was judge of the Southern U. S. District Court. He was likewise judge of the Northern District. He resided at Mobile, but also held court at Huntsville. His salary was \$2,500.

John Forsythe, Jr., was Southern District attorney, and Byrd Brandon was attorney for the Northern District. They drew \$200 a year salary but there were fees. Benjamin Patteson, later a well known militia general, was marshal at Huntsville.

Judge Crawford succeeded Charles Tait as Federal judge in 1826 and served until his death in 1849. He was born in

Louisa County, Virginia (also the county of Judge Tait's birth), and came to the Alabama Territory in 1817. He was president of the old Tombeebe Bank, at St. Stephens in 1818.

### Branch Bank Directors

The list of directors of the Branch Bank of the United States at Mobile is given. Henry Hitchcock, George W. Owen, Alexander Pope, and Thomas M. English are the best known of the 12. P. McLoskey was president of the bank and George Poe, Jr., was cashier. Judge Hitchcock was secretary of State of the Territory of Alabama, one time a law partner of Judge Crawford, and for a time chief justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama. George Washington Owen, a native of Virginia, was collector of customs at Mobile and a Jackson man.

### Printers

As "publishers of laws" under the direction of the Secretary of State of the United States for Alabama, are listed "D. Ferguson, Thaddeus Sanford, and Phil Woodson, Jr." These men were publishers of newspapers and the acts of Congress as passed were published by them. For the first session of the 1835 Congress they received \$117. For the second session they received \$61.25.

Thaddeus Sanford, a native of Connecticut, was the owner and editor of The Mobile Register. He bought the paper in 1828 and sold it in 1854. He was for many years collector of customs at Mobile, serving both under the U. S. and Confederate Governments.

Philip Woodson was the owner of The Huntsville Democrat.

I have no data to prove it, but I suspect Ferguson published the Tuscaloosa paper, as Mobile, Tuscaloosa, and Huntsville were the centers of population at that date, and naturally the journals in these places would receive the contracts.

### Alabama's Namesake

It will be news to most readers, but listed under "Vessels of War of the U. S. Navy" is the "Alabama," a Ship of Line then building at Portsmouth Navy Yard. Just why Alabama was thus honored cannot be said. Of the 58 vessels in the American Navy, in active service and building, only eight bore the names of States. The "Ohio," "North Carolina" and "Delaware" were in active service, and the "New York," "Pennsylvania," "Virginia," "Vermont" and "Alabama" were building.

### Postoffices

The Register devoted seven pages to a list of Alabama postmasters. Many of the names are intimately associated today with that locality. I shall save this list for another story.

### AINSWORTH TO PREACH

TROY, ALA., April 2.—(Special).—Bishop William N. Ainsworth, of Birmingham, bishop of the North Alabama and the Alabama Conferences will preach in Troy Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Methodist Church. He will be guest of the Troy pastors, the Rev. E. R. Childs, and the Rev. J. F. McLeod, during his stay in the city.

A French Canadian farmer, father of 14 children, recently built a school for his family and brought a teacher here to instruct them.

**YOU BREAK IT — I FIX IT!**  
 I MEND EVERYTHING BUT BROKEN BONES  
**TONY'S WELDING SHOP**  
 Between Peoples Auto Co. and Diffly Funeral Home  
 223 Molton St. PHONES: DAY—C-5227 NIGHT—C-3888



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# Through The Years

## Mordecai's Trading Post Site

By Peter A. Brannon

Today, if you travel the pavement East out of Montgomery, in 20 minutes you will round a long curve and on the left you will note a pecan grove. If you do not travel too fast you will see a marker recently erected to commemorate the visit of LaFayette to Mrs. Lucas's Tavern. He was there in 1825, but for 100 years prior to that time this locality had been literally steeped with history.

Mordecai's trading house of 1785, Mrs. Walter B. Lucas's Tavern in 1825; Mrs. Birch's residence of 1845, Mr. Adkins's house of 1932, and Waugh community, are all coincident.

The point played a vigorous part in our colonial history. Our references to it are continuous for 210 years—since 1722.

### Montgomery County's First White Settlers

Col. Pickett says Abraham Mordecai, a Jew born in Pennsylvania, was the first white settler in what is now Montgomery County. He came to that point in 1785. This man lived in our Alabama for at least 63 years and he played no small part in its early history. Col. Pickett quotes him many times. Gen. Woodward knew him personally and he, too, gives much of his life's story. The Indian Office records carry much about him, and, even though he was sometimes "out of favor," he furnished much information and was often used by them.

He was an extensive trader and truly a pioneer in his ventures. History records that deserters from the Spanish vessels at Pensacola built his cabins for his trading post. The records show that he was an accredited licensed trader to the town of Huithlewall. His post was on a trail of great antiquity, which subsequently became the Federal Road of 1805. The Indian town was on the Tallapoosa River some three miles north of that point, but the trader to the town did not always live in the town.

Circumstances often make strange situations. The Indian agent's report shows that in 1799 James Russell, "a native of the United States," had been 12 years in the nation, "a trader at Huithlewall." Closer investigation proves that he was a Tory during the Revolution. Mordecai served three years under George Washington, but those two men were neighbors and on good terms.

Col. Hawkins, the U. S. Indian agent, says James Russell "had the character of a good trader." His wife was "a decent Indian woman" and he had one son.

This point on the trail was quite a settlement, probably to seek the trade of the Indian towns on the river and to be on the path over which the influx of people going into Tensas Country would pass. A former British soldier named Love and a horse thief named Dargan lived between there and the present Mount Meigs and Milly, the widow of a British soldier in the Revolution, lived at Nooco-Ce-Cheppo Creek crossing, a mile west of Mordecai's cabins.

William McCarty, Mordecai's assistant, was "said to be honest." William Gregory, "of good character," was another neighbor, but he lived near the town of Fushatchi, of which he was the licensed trader in the early years of the 1800's. Nicholas White, a native of France, was the resident trader at Fushatchi when Mordecai and Russell came into the Nation. He was there years before the Revolution.

### The French Mutineers

In 1722 the garrison at Fort Toulouse on the Coosa was three commissioned officers and 35 enlisted men. This was France's most inland post and her largest colonial garrison in America. The enlisted men were Swiss soldiers, hired for foreign service. At that time the colony at Mobile was in dire straits for subsistence and was unable to furnish the garrison with any food. As a consequence, these professional soldiers, who owed no patriotic duty, mutinied and massacred Capt. Marchand, the commandant. Lieut. Villemont, Ensign Paque, and the Jesuit father escaped, the two former reaching Coosada and Odshi-c-pofa, respectively.

Big Mortar, a chief of the Alibamos at Coosada, furnished a band of Indians, who, under Lieut. Villemont, pursued these mutineers, then on their way to join the British at Charleston, and overtook them at the foot of that hill at the point later to be the settlement site of this Dutch-Jew veteran of the American Revolution. Today the bones of 16 of these Swiss soldiers lie to the right of the old road just at the foot of that hill

which leads up to the old tavern site. Villemont and his Alibamos fought them to the crossing of Okfuske Creek (Line Creek, as we call it), and captured those not killed in the onslaught. They buried the dead, and returning to the fort on the Coosa, sent the prisoners to Mobile, where they too were executed.

### Mordecai's Post

It is recorded that Mordecai's cabins were built of poles and daubed with mud, and that they resembled the stone houses of Spain. Be it even so, those Spanish soldiers who built them may perhaps have sought to imitate the buildings at home in Europe, but the DeSoto narratives say these Huithlewall Indians were stuccoing their walls in 1540, so that may have been the customary way there.

The Jew Mordecai, with the characteristic which identified him through 94 years, moved on after 15 years on the trail over to the Alabama River, and we next find him building a cotton gin—Alabama's first one—adjacent to those Coosadas who had figured so much in French history.

### Lucas Tavern

The war with the Indians in 1813 and 1814 quieted the settlement of this middle country to a considerable extent, but by 1820 a number of planters were living along the Federal Road and the House of Entertainment "Just out of a nation" was very popular. This tavern was at this time—long known point even then referred to as the old trading place, Okfuske Creek was, by the treaty of 1814, the boundary line of a nation of the Creek Indians, and the travelers designated it as "Line Creek," we still call it so. Mrs. Lucas of 1825 was a tavern keeper in 1820 but I am not able to tell her husband's name at the earlier date. She, as Mrs. Walter B. Lucas, was married to her second husband, John Hodgson, the Britisher and world traveler, was a guest there in 1820. LaFayette, was there in 1825 and James Stuart, the Scotchman, was entertained there in 1830. Hodgson spoke cordially of the place, and it was an exception for he did not always do so. General Thomas Woodward says that when LaFayette was entertained "Everything was done up better than it will ever be again," and Stuart spoke enthusiastically of his stay.

The Scotchman said his dinner consisted of chicken pie, ham, several vegetables, pudding, plenty of preserved plums, wine and brandy and dessert was fruits and strawberries. Further, he says the whole charge was only three-quarters of a dollar an dit "was as comfortable a meal as we found anywhere in the United States." He makes other comments, all favorable except one. He thought Mrs. Lucas was too stout for a woman 35 years of age.

### Mordecai's Later Days

On his removal to the Alabama River in 1802, or thereabout, Mordecai employed Lyons and Barnett, of Georgia, to transport recently-patented cotton machinery by pack horse to this site, and there they erected for him the first cotton gin in Alabama. For a short time, he enjoyed a good business, as the Indians were raising some cotton and he was shipping walnut and hickory nut oil to New Orleans in boats of his own. Unfortunately, he became involved with his Indian neighbors at Coosada and they burned his gin and drove him away. That first cotton gin in Alabama was built at the birthplace of William Weatherford and in Montgomery County nine miles northeast of the State Capitol.

Mordecai returned to his old home on the trail to the East, served in the War of 1813 against the Indians as a Scout in John Floyd's Georgia Army, and about 1816 settled in what was later Tallapoosa County. He lived until after 1847, as in that year Col. Pickett visited him at his home at Dudleyville. He is buried at that place and the site of his grave is well-known. He lived alone for many years of his later life, his wife having long preceded him to the grave.

The site of Mordecai's trading post, two miles west of Line Creek, is soon to be marked, a fund to place a boulder there having been guaranteed.

Potato leaves set on edge in ordinary greenhouse washed sand will take root, grow into sturdy plants and produce tubers when transplanted in the field.

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# Through The Years

## Fort Bainbridge, In Russell

By Peter A. Brannon

Capt. Jett Thomas, an artillery officer under Gen. John Floyd, directed the building of Fort Bainbridge on the Federal Road in January, 1814. Gen. Floyd, in command of 1227 Infantry, a company of cavalry, and 400 friendly Indians, was on his second invasion of the Upper Creek Indian Country and erected several bases of supplies. Three of these were named for commodores in the Navy. William Bainbridge, of Tripolitan fame, who distinguished himself in 1812, was honored here, and in the post near our present Tuskegee, they honored the skipper of the Constitution who so effectively whipped the Guerriere—Isaac Hull.

The past, even though a century ago, is ever linked with the present. But little more than 20 years ago, what we daily see as the Womans College campus was the Jett Thomas farm, and beautiful Thomas Avenue of South Montgomery of today was just a part of the estate of that recently departed relative of this Georgia surveyor who built these earthworks.

### Character Of The Post

Adam Hodgson, the British traveler, who was at the tavern there in 1820, says that it was a "small stockaded mound post." As we have an actual sketch of one of the posts on the Federal Road and are told that they were all alike, we may well know their appearance.

An earthwork, square or rectangular, was thrown up and sharpened tree trunks were sunk close together forming a stockade. There was only one gate. A blockhouse was always in one corner and some of the larger forts had two, in opposite corners, diagonally across from each other. The officers' quarters were inside. The magazine and ammunition supplies were inside, but the garrison, it is said, lived outside the fort.

### Location Of The Fort

Fort Bainbridge was in the North half of section 3, township 15, range 26, and just east of the present boundary line of Russell County. Many maps show it on the right side of the Federal Road as the traveler went west.

It is four miles west of Uchee postoffice of today, and at what the present generation calls Boromville. The maps carried it as an established point practically to the beginning of the present century.

Bainbridge Postoffice, Macon County, is shown in the postoffice directory from 1841 to 1851, but this probably locates which house in the settlement was used for the office. The Macon County line is less than 1,000 feet from the old fort site, so Ayres S. Turpen, the postmaster of that time, must have lived just over the line. His family points out his old store site, even today.

Hampton S. Smith, recently from Georgia, on June 14, 1839, entered the north half of section 3. By the Treaty of 1832, To-ku-le, a relative of Big Warrior, the former Upper Creek chief, was granted this half, so Mr. Smith made his purchase from this Indian. The Indians did not move out until 1836 and Mr. Smith must occupy his lands for three years, which proves that he came to the Uchee country in 1836. His descendants live at Uchee postoffice today.

Examine a topographical map and the Federal Road will be seen to follow a

the yard was the dining room. The "big house" and 10 cabins made up the average planter's settlement in 1830.

### Other References

By an Act of Congress of April 20, 1818, a mail route was provided to run from Fort Mitchell via Fort Bainbridge, Fort Jackson, Burnt Corn Springs, Fort Claiborne, the town of Jackson, on to St. Stephens. Thus the place was a service stop, although there was no designated postmaster before Alabama was admitted to the Union. At that date (April, 1818), Fort Jackson was the county seat of Montgomery County. Capt. Lewis was either dead before March 15, 1830, or he had given up the management of the tavern. Mrs. Harris presided at the head of her table and her husband served as headwaiter. Henry M. Lewis is shown in the U. S. Official Register as postmaster for the year 1835 and his salary was \$16.82. Mitchell's map of 1853 shows a tavern stop there. The Federal Road was a stage route even though the main line west out of Columbus, Ga., went by Crawford, the county seat of Russel County, and connected "with the cars" at Milstead.

Today, the old Key mansion erected more than three-quarters of a century ago occupies the old stockade site. Many descendants of this old family, born there, are scattered throughout the State, but none live there at the present time. When I passed this deserted old square-columned antebellum home some weeks ago, it truly indicated that Fort Bainbridge is no more. I made an inquiry of the only resident of the community I could find, a large, very black, shiny-faced negro woman who was "tied in the middle" and wore a clean white head-rag. She courteously gave me my information and politely asked my name and business. It was then my turn to ask her name. It was "Mandy Smith," and she told me that her folks "blong'd to old Marse Hamp." Fort Bainbridge is long since leveled, the Keys have gone to Montgomery and Troy. The Federal Road is no longer travelled, but Mandy is the link of that remote past with the present.

### Defending

three years, which proves that he came to the Uchee country in 1836. His descendants live at Uchee postoffice today.

Examine a topographical map and the Federal Road will be seen to follow a ridge along much of its route through Alabama. At Fort Bainbridge the ridge is sharply marked. A traveler noted in 1826 that "the springs on either side of my hotel empty themselves into the Gulf of Mexico through widely divided waters, one into the Chattahoochee River and the other into the Alabama." The north fork of Cowikee Creek rises here and the spring on the right side of the road, the one which furnished the water to the tavern, flowed into the Tallapoosa and found its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

#### Lewis's Tavern

Capt. Kendall Lewis, chief of Col. Benjamin Hawkins's scouts, ran the tavern at the old fort site for many years after the Indian War in 1814. A British traveler there in 1820 says, "Big Warrior was a sleeping partner in the stand run by Capt. Lewis."

This note has much more significance than appears on the surface. Big Warrior was the head chief of the nation. Capt. Lewis was his son-in-law. The Government, by the Federal Road agreement, required houses of entertainment to have established and fixed charges and these Indian chiefs had a monopoly.

Big Warrior's son had the tavern at what is even yet "Creek Stand." The chief himself had the one at Warrior's Stand. Kendall Lewis had the Fort Bainbridge tavern, and William Walker, who also married a daughter of Big Warrior, was proprietor at Pole Cat Springs. Thus the Big Warrior was the silent partner, or, as the Englishman expressed it, "the sleeping partner" in four of the five principal taverns in the Creek Nation. Little Prince of Coweta was the silent partner with Capt. Anthony at Fort Mitchell.

The headwaiter at Lewis Tavern in 1820 "was lately from one of the principal inns of the city of Washington. Many travellers vouch for the hospitality of Capt. Lewis, although he preferred the solitude and remoteness of the woods to the thickly settled country. He was apparently an educated man and had enjoyed the confidence and respect of Col. Hawkins, the Indian agent. He was a native of Georgia and an officer in Floyd's Army. He first came into the Nation in 1806. He told Adam Hodgson that he was living there with his Indian wife when Tecumseh came South in 1811. This would suggest that Gen. Floyd built his base of supplies at Lewis's home, rather than that the Chief and the Captain put one of the stopping places on the new road here. The place was already established when the road was built.

#### Noted Travellers There

Besides Hodgson in 1820, LaFayette and his party stopped there in 1825. Count Saxe-Weimar, the German Crown Prince, was there in 1826, Capt. Basil Hall of the Royal Navy in 1827 and James Stuart, the Scotchman, in 1830. In his journal Mons. Levasseur, LaFayette's secretary speaks most cordially of the General's treatment there. Thomas Woodward, long a characteristic figure in Alabama pioneer history, gives us several accounts of the visit.

There is an interesting tradition in Alabama history in that at almost every one of LaFayette's stopping places it is claimed that a son was born to the wife of the host at that time and received LaFayette's name. "General LaFayette" Lewis was born to Mrs. Lewis at Fort Bainbridge on the night of April 1, 1825. His tombstone in the cemetery in Columbus, Ga., proves that fact. LaFayette was a guest in Kendall Lewis's home on April 1, 1825, so one of these stories is positively true.

Count Weimer speaks of Captain Lewis's house as "the handsomest we had seen in the Indian Territory." Another traveller describes it as a "two-roomed hall-in-between dwelling house" with small outbuildings or single rooms in the yard. It was built of hewn logs, no doubt the very ones used in Floyd's Fort Bainbridge Stockade. The main house accommodated 10 persons stopping overnight. Capt. Lewis served a good meal. A dinner on one occasion was soup of turnips, roast beef, roast turkey, barbecued venison "with a sour sauce," roast chicken, roast pork, sweet potatoes and the accompanying breads and liquors. A traveller says that the meals were served in the large hallway—the open pen between the rooms—in the Summer months. In Winter one of the cabins in

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# Through The Years

## Jones Bluff On The Tombigbee

By Peter A. Brannon

One hundred and ninety-seven years ago today—April 24, 1735—Bienville, with 500 soldiers in 30 pirogues and a like number of flatboats, arrived at the bluff near the mouth of Itomba-igabee Creek. This "coffin-makers" creek gave its name to our large West Alabama River. The French could not pronounce the Choctaw Indian word so they called it the Tombebe River, and we English then made it "Tombigbee."

DeLusser, the French engineer, was building the fort contiguous to the Chicasaws, having been sent ahead by Gov. Bienville, but he had not finished the stockade. He was having difficulty subsisting his men for his ovens would not bake. They cracked and fell to pieces. The franchman had not "tempered" the prairie mud and it would not hold its form, nor would it burn hard without cracking.

On Bienville's arrival with his expedition which he was carrying against the Chickasaws at Ackia, the Choctaws in the vicinity showed him how to mix ground shell and sand with the clay, and four ovens were constructed on which the "two thousand biscuits" needed were baked. These were probably loaves of bread rather than the modern sized biscuit.

Fort Tombebe was erected at the place where all the Choctaws knew the coffin-maker lived, and, as the French were trying to gain the good will of these natives and get their assistance in the expedition, it proved to be at a vantage point.

For nearly 200 years the site has been prominently identified with our West Alabama history. It was a wooden stockade on embankments. British Colonial records, strange to say, give more details of its construction than do the French archives. Perhaps this is so because a British garrison occupied it in the Fall of 1763 when France surrendered her American colony, and Lieut. Thomas Ford wrote into the record a full report.

It was 80 feet above the present low water. It faced 173 feet on the river, 304 feet on the small stream on the south, 231 feet on the north and 278 feet on the west. The "curtains," that is the sharpened logs which formed the palisades, were 10 feet high.

There are yet remains of this old embankment and they are as high as four feet in places. The garrison at Tombebe lived inside the stockade. The ovens, the storehouses, the enlisted men's barracks, the officers' quarters, the granary (pantry), the interpreter's house and the guardhouse were buildings within the gates. The Indian village was outside "within musket shot," but a house just out of the fort was built for visiting Indians.

This site is at Epes station on our present A. G. S. Railroad. From very earliest American days it has been called Jones Bluff, for when Col. George S. Gaines, the Choctaw Indian factor (U. S. Government merchant in the Indian Country) in November, 1815, moved the Trading House into the interior of the nation, he found a white man—Samuel Jones—with an Indian family residing there.

Jones was living in one of the houses just off the fort site, built by the Spaniards when this was Fort Confederation. Col. Gaines reports that then many of the pickets of the stockade were stand-

him severely. Some 12 years after Bienville's failure the French made another effort to dislodge them, and again they were beaten.

The English traders out of Charleston seemed to have been the only whites who could consistently maintain cordial relations with these natives. Fort York was not garrisoned sufficiently long to suit James Adair and the British traders. Fort Confederation, of the Spanish, played no great part in the relations with the Indians. In those later days they were dealing direct with Mobile and Pensacola.

### Some Personal Contacts

Chief Red Shoe, of the Choctaws, who was more cordial with the English than French, is often in the reports about the old outpost. The French sought his advice sometime to win him over. DeLusser, a Swiss officer in the employ of France, and who, it will be remembered, built Fort Tombebe, was killed at Ackia. His property and the settlement of his grants figured in Mobile history for years afterward. Grondei was dangerously wounded but he lived to serve Mobile for years and to go home where he figured in more of France's militant history there.

DeJuzan, a prominent participant in the earlier affairs of New Orleans and Mobile, was numbered with the slain on that May 22, 1736, and his bones are today west of the Tombigbee in Monroe County, Mississippi.

Capt. Bernard Romans, of the British Army, then on station at Mobile, while making a survey of the river in January, 1772 camped on the site. He speaks of it as "the ruins of the old fort by means of which the French kept all the savages in awe." This probably is the best reference to the purpose of this post. It was not a trading post under the French, British or the Spanish, but was intended to foster good will if pos-

sible, otherwise to attempt to keep the native inroads off the main settlements on the Gulf. Mobile was always a center of operations, even though it was but a few years the capital of Louisiana and never the capital of West Florida.

### In American Times

Col. George Gaines moved the Government Trading House to the stream next above this site in May, 1816. The Treaty of the Choctaw Trading House was signed in October of that year, and the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty in 1830, and by these agreements the Choctaw Indians gave up all their claims east of the Mississippi.

White settlers immediately thereafter came in, and soon the newly-created Sumter County was so well filled that the unhappy natives consented, if Col. Gaines would select it for them, to go to their "promised land" in the West.

## House Committee Is Prepared To Submit Economy Bill Monday

(Continued From Page 1)

meeting the consensus of business opinion on a Federal tax program as expressed recently in a referendum vote of the chamber's membership."

A development in the administration's protest against the Senate's program to cut annual departmental supply bills 10 per cent came on the House side with the charge by Representative Patman, (D), Texas, that Secretary Lamont was encouraging protests to Congress against reductions in commerce department appropriations.

The Texan made public a telegram he said Lamont sent to Tracy Locke Dawson, Incorporated, of Dallas, on April 13, which read:

"Greatly appreciate your telegram protesting against proposed reduction in funds of foreign and domestic commerce for next year. Present outlook is that Senate will very probably vote on the reductions this week.

"It would have very serious effect on service of bureau both domestic and abroad. Suggest you communicate your interest to your senators and representatives in Congress."

Although the plan of Chairman McDuffie to cut Federal salaries 11 per cent, after exempting \$1,000, to save \$67,000,000, is in the omnibus economy

Jones was living in one of the houses just off the fort site, built by the Spaniards when this was Fort Confederation. Col. Gaines reports that then many of the pickets of the stockade were standing but the houses were gone. Today the cedar trees which grow on the spot are from two to three feet in diameter. As the traveler crosses the William O. Gorgas Bridge, the marker placed in 1915 by the Colonial Dames of Alabama is in clear view.

#### Fort York

When France moved away in November, 1763, Gov. Robert Farmer, of British Mobile, sent Lieut. Ford and 30 soldiers to take charge. He renamed Fort Tombeche and called it for the brother of the Duke of Wales, Fort York. The British officer paid Capt. Chabbert, the retiring French commandant, 40 pounds, 10 shillings and 8 pence for his stores. Gov. Farmer was obliged to approve an expense account of 235 pounds shortly thereafter as the post needed repairing and the Choctaw Indians took advantage of their new neighbors to demand presents.

The British might have made Fort York an important outpost but there is a hint that Gov. Johnstone, of the West Florida Province, was maintaining the fort for his personal gains. Gen. Frederick Haldimand, in command in the South, reported to his commander-in-chief, Gen. Gage, at New York City, that he was not pleased with conditions.

The General ordered abandonment and the garrison moved down to Mobile in January, 1768. Lieut. Richie was left as a kind of Indian agent and to settle the accounts of the Governor with certain grantees of adjacent lands. The town of York, southwest of this point, perpetuates the British post name.

#### Treaty of Fort Confederation

After the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when the British surrendered their claims to the American colonies, Spain, which considered her northern boundary as 32 degrees 28 minutes, rehabilitated old Fort York and garrisoned it. "Thirty-two, twenty-eight," which was theoretically France's old north boundary, was below both her interior posts, Fort Toulouse on the Coosa and Fort Tombeche on the Tombigbee. The British never restored Fort Toulouse, so Spain never garrisoned this point.

Fort Saint Stephen on the Lower Tombigbee was the center of Spain's trade ambitions for Choctaw business, and Fort Confederation played only a minor part in Spanish Alabama history. The location was well known, and at this point assembled the commission which by the treaty of Oct. 17, 1802, secured the first cession of Choctaw Indian lands to the United States.

Gen. James Wilkinson, commander of the Southern Division of the U. S. Army, signed in behalf of the Government, and Pushmataha and nine other chiefs signed for the Choctaws. In the statutes-at-large of the United States, the names of these Indians can hardly be recognized. Pushmataha is spelled "Poosa-matta-haw," quite much as it is pronounced in Choctaw County, Ala., today, but very different, yes sadly different, from what the old man called himself.

The Treaty of Fort Confederation ceded the territory in the vicinity of Saint Stephens fixing the boundary between the U. S. and the Choctaws as it was between the Choctaw Nation and "His Britannic Majesty." Washington and Choctaw Counties, as today constituted, embody much of this territory.

Silas Dinsmore, the Choctaw agent, and John Pitchlynn, the interpreter, men intimately connected with West Alabama history, were witnesses to the signatures on the treaty. Unlike most of the treaties made with the Indians, there was no money consideration in this one, provided, however, that we except the "one dollar to them in hand paid" to bind the trade. This treaty was "to perpetuate the concord and friendship which so happily subsists."

#### Effects Of The Defeat At Ackia

Bienville built Tombeche Fort to serve as his base in the expedition against the Chicasaws. The fight at the strongly fortified town of Ackia, located a short distance east of what was later Cotton Gin Port, resulted in a complete rout for the French. DeSoto, in 1541, had attacked these Chicasaws in this same locality and they whipped



# Through The Years

## Names From My Steamboat Collection

By Peter A. Brannon

River steamers have always had a pleasing interest to me. Batteaux always fascinate me. Canoes annoy me. Launches delight me. Motor speed-boats frighten me.

The arrival of a boat at Montgomery to carry down a cargo of cotton, or the news announcement of the gasoline tank boat being at Reese's Old Landing, brings to my mind incidents of my earlier years.

I have collected old books, postage stamps, brass buttons, badges, U. S. official registers, picture postcards, Indian beads, folk sayings, tombstone inscriptions, and, likewise, have I made a collection of the names of the steamboats which have plowed the waters of the Chattahoochee, the Alabama, and the Tombigbee Rivers.

A count of the ones recorded on the Alabama alone in the last century shows far more than 200. This is rather interesting when we realize that there are many boys and girls in the State today in college who have never seen a river steamer unless perchance they were in Mobile or New Orleans when one happened in. Seventy years ago it was not uncommon for 30 boats to call at Montgomery and Wetumpka each month. Now sometimes it is that many months between calls.

### The First Boats In Alabama

The first steamboat built in Alabama was the Alabama. She was built by the St. Stephens Steamboat Company but her engines could not pull her up stream, so she was sent on around to New Orleans in the hope that the current of the Mississippi would not be so strong. As she could not make headway there, the boat was abandoned.

The Mobile was the first boat on the Tombigbee, but she had auxiliary power in sails, being fitted as a schooner as well as equipped with engines.

The Harriet was the first regular steamboat to reach Montgomery. She arrived at the foot of our Commerce Street on Oct. 22, 1821. The running time from Mobile was seven days. Hardy's History says the first boat at Selma was the Tensas, in command of Capt. Roman. She docked at the Selma Ferry landing Aug. 5, 1822, having taken 23 days to reach there from Mobile. This boat was a stern-wheeler, one of the very few seen on the Alabama prior to 1861. Early boats were side-wheelers.

The Cotton Plant, in command of Capt. Chandler, was in Montgomery in August, 1822, bringing so much freight that she had to tow a barge. The Osage, Capt. Bond, was at Montgomery Jan. 22, 1823. During this month the Elizabeth was also a caller. Other boats coming

of the Favorite in May, 1839. The advertisements, many of which I have, show him master of the Formosa in January, 1840, and in 1841 he was operating the General Gaines. The Jewess and Formosa were both owned by Capt. Pollock. They were fitted with Evans Safety Valves, preventing the boilers from exploding.

Capt. J. B. Terry was master of the Monroe, owned by the Rev. Peyton Bibb, brother of the first Governor. Col. Richard Hayne, formerly of South Carolina, but then living with Mr. Bibb in Autauga County, was master of the Caroline, named for Mr. Bibb's daughter who was born in 1824. Caroline Bibb became the wife of Walter Coleman, mayor of Montgomery, in 1864.

Robert Bullard, son of John Bullard, an early settler on the Wetumpka Road north of the Tallapoosa River, was master of the John Duncan, named for Mr. John Duncan, of Mobile, the man who owned the Alabama which burned in 1826 at Vernon Landing, Autauga County. In December, 1841, the Duncan guaranteed to leave Wetumpka every Friday morning for Mobile and solicited freight on a weekly round trip basis.

Capt. Luke was master of the McDonough, and R. Jeffrey was in command of the Cotton Plant. Capt. Meahar brought the Grand Republic, the largest boat ever to operate on the Alabama, up to Montgomery. The Czar, which could carry 2,200 bales of cotton, was owned by Capt. Meahar and was built at a shipyard operated by his brother and himself on the Mobile River.

### Origin Of Some Of The Names

The Daniel Pratt was so called for Mr. Pratt, who founded Prattville. Mr. Allen Glover was a rich planter at Demopolis. He operated his own boats and hauled supplies for his several stores as well as his plantations. It is claimed that the Harriet was named for Gov. Bibb's niece, daughter of the Rev. Peyton Bibb. The Frank Lyon was for Francis S. Lyon, the great financier. Allen Glover owned most of the stock in the boat.

Miss Alice Vivian was a celebrated belle of the 50's, hence that name. The "Lowndes" was named for William Lowndes Yancey, not for Lowndes County. The "Alice Battle" was said to be for the family of Alfred Battle, of Tuscaloosa though he had no daughter of the name. The "Cherokee" was for Miss Cherokee Jemison, of Tuscaloosa. "Clifton" and "Morrissette" were Alabama River family names. The "General Gaines" was for Edmund P. Gaines, who, when the boat was built, was commander-in-chief of the U. S. Army. His fam-

The Cotton Plant, in command of Capt. Chandler, was in Montgomery in August, 1822, bringing so much freight that she had to tow a barge. The Osage, Capt. Bond, was at Montgomery Jan. 22, 1823. During this month the Elizabeth was also a caller. Other boats coming this high up the river during the next 12 months were The Henderson, commanded by Capt. Hayden; the Arkansas, and the Columbus.

Among the names of those reaching Wetumpka in the thirties, I find the Commerce, The Wanderer, Medora, Little Rock, Caroline, Alabamian, Dover, England, Tuskena, Herald, Tallapoosa, Marion, Fox, Farmer and Olive.

Some of those at the head of navigation—Wetumpka was, though Montgomery claimed the honor—in the forties were: The Sunny South, Montgomery, L. Hopkins, Selma, Daniel Pratt, Amaranth, Arkansas, Emperor, Clara, and McCliffon. There are records of the Mary Clifton and the M. Clifton, but these no doubt are the McCliffon.

#### Odd Names

One of my lists of boats plying the Alabama shows 233 names. The wide range of these is astonishing. Contrary to tradition the names of heroes of history are no more in evidence than names of girls and towns. Pittsburgh, Aberdeen, Augusta, Atlanta, Roanoke, Wetumpka, Columbus, Montgomery, Selma, Cahaba, Richmond, Mobile, and Tensaw had namesakes. Helen, Clara, Medora, Mozelle, Penelope, Emma, Fannie, Victoria, Viola, Louisa, Jenny Kirk, Sallie Carson, Elizabeth, Octavia and Mary are just a few of those bearing names of girls.

The "8th of January," commemorative of Jackson's victory at New Orleans; "Charles Carroll of Carrollton," suggesting that Revolutionary hero of Maryland; "Bonnets O'Blue," to remind of Scotland; the "Southern Belle," and the "Queen of the South," as well as the "Southern Republic" and its "Pride of the West," would suggest geographical locations.

Natural history subjects were quite evident. Pelican, Blue Wing, Gray Cloud, Fox, Dove, Tiger, Reindeer and Neptune are shown.

Governor Pickens, Daniel Pratt, Napoleon, Jefferson, James Dellet, Frank Lyon, Sam Dale, Colonel Fremont, Roger B. Taney and Lewis Cass are some of the better known men of history who were honored. Ivanhoe, Beulah, Lola Rookh, and Lamplighter remind us of old books of our childhood.

The Marengo, the J. L. Webb, Eliza Battle, the Louisa Hopkins, and the Allen Glover were owned by Tombigbee River interests.

#### Early Disasters

In the four years, 1824-1828, the Rifleman, Henderson, Montgomery, Henry Clay, Cotton Plant, Alabama, Florida, and Pittsburgh burned or sunk as total losses. The Florida was an \$80,000 boat. The Alabama was valued at \$50,000. Another boat of this name was later built. The Montgomery and Cotton Plant were floated and ran the river for many years.

The burning of the Eliza Battle on the Tombigbee was one of the most horrible disasters in American steamboat history. She burned on the down trip, some miles below Demopolis, on the night of March 1, 1861. A number of lives were lost and many of the bodies froze. Many years later a criminal in New York City confessed to setting it on fire to cover his theft of a large sum of money from a planter on board. This was never proven.

The steamer H. L. Smith burned on the Chattahoochee on April 24, 1850, and Gen. William Irwin, for whom Irwinton, Eufaula's first name, was called, drowned in the effort to save himself.

#### Captains' Names

Capt. J. W. Pollock was in command

the boat. The "Cherokee" was for Miss Cherokee Jemison, of Tuscaloosa. "Clifton" and "Morrissette" were Alabama River family names. The "General Gaines" was for Edmund P. Gaines, who, when the boat was built, was commander-in-chief of the U. S. Army. His family yet live at Mobile. The "Jenny Lind" and several of similar designations perpetuated characters having no connection with Alabama. The "Tecumseh" did have such indirect contact, as his relation to the Indian war was well remembered.

#### Schedules

After 1841 the boat ads boasted that they could leave Wetumpka at 4 o'clock Sunday morning and reach Mobile Tuesday morning in time for the New Orleans boat. In high water, when they had a good up river freight, the New Orleans boat came on through to Wetumpka. The "T. Solomon" on Jan. 18, 1842, made such a trip loaded with a full cargo for a merchant of that place. Eli Gaitther chartered six boats in two years to bring his produce up the stream. The "Belle Creole" solicited passengers in Mobile to leave there at 5 p.m. on Saturday and reach Montgomery Monday morning to catch the eastern train. This was just before 1859 when there was no railroad to Mobile.

Much could be written about the elegance and character of the river steamers but that is another story. Likewise, there could be written accounts of celebrated travelers and even celebrated boats on this river, for the "Robert E. Lee" of Mississippi River racing fame, plied here too, but I'll save that for some other time.

## New York Man Head Of Library Association

NEW ORLEANS, April 30.—(P)—Harry Miller Lydenberg, assistant director of the New York Public Library, today was elected president of the American Library Association, which ended its annual convention here.

Miss Julia Ideson, librarian of the Houston Public Library, was elected first vice-president; Joseph L. Wheeler, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, second vice-president; Matthew S. Dodgeon, of the Milwaukee Public Library, treasurer, and John W. O'Leary, Chicago, and Eugene M. Stevens, Chicago, trustees of the endowment fund.

Members of the executive board named were: Miss Lillian H. Smith, Toronto, Canada, and Dr. Malcolm W. Wyer, of Denver.

Della McGregor, of the St. Paul Public Library, was made chairman of the section for library work with children.

## Telephone Companies Conclude Agreements

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, April 30.—(P)—A preliminary agreement between the International Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Ericsson Telephone Company has been concluded, the newspaper Nya Dagligt Allehanda said today.

Under the agreement, the newspaper declared, the Svenska Handelsbanken, the Skandinaviska Kredit Corporation and the Enskilda Bank of Stockholm will buy 80 per cent of the Ericsson shares now in Morgan trusts, and the Ericsson concession in Argentina and France will be ceded to the I. T. and T.

No confirmation or denial of the report was obtainable.