

# Historians Question Grant Of Latchwa, Alligator Area

Advertiser.

By PETER A. BRANNON

WILLIAM MOORE, who some time lived in West Georgia and later in Chambers County, Ala., was granted by John H. McIntosh, "Director," 500 acres of land in that part of the territory of East Florida called the Latchwa and the Alligator District.

It would appear from the original land grant, which I hold, that this certificate entitling him to the 500 acres was in conformity to an Act passed October 28, 1812, by the Legislative Council of the territory, that is Spanish East Florida, in reward for his services and brave conduct under the command of Col. Newnan. I can't tell you much about Col. Newnan, but he was a North Carolinian who served as a lieutenant in the U. S. Army from 1799 to 1802, and was a Colonel of Georgia Volunteers in 1812 and 13. My Florida friend, Dr. Julien C. Yonge, of the Library of the University of Florida at Gainesville, tells me that Col. Newnan was active in Florida in the troubles of 1812 and that the old town of Newnansville, near Gainesville, was named for him. Lippencott's Gazetteer of the U. S. 1854, gives a good sketch of the town which was then the county seat.



Peter Brannon

Present day Florida historians rather skeptically accept the Acts of the Legislative Council of East Florida. They also are inclined to believe that they were rather free in giving away lands to which they had no claims. Incidentally, our own Unele Sam was somewhat cordial to the land speculators about that time but after he took over Florida, he didn't always live up to those agreements.

The Latchwa and Alligator District was that large section of sterile sand in Middle Florida, the center of which is today Alachua County, in which is located the University of Florida and of which Gainesville is the county seat.

The present day natives of Gainesville (which place, by the way, is named for General Edmund Pendleton Gaines) pronounce the name of their county, "Lash war" though I would think the Indian pronunciation was "Ah laash Eu ah." John H. McIntosh, the director of this land speculation scheme, whereby one of our Chambers County, Alabama, citizens was granted a large tract, was not of the immediate family of old John, the early settler on Mobile River. It appears that John and John H., who are confused by many students of history, had a common grandfather, but they were no closer than second cousins.

McIntosh Bluff, on Mobile River, played an important part in the history of the Gulf Country. John McIntosh was granted this seat on the west bank of the river by the British Government. It was during the American Revolution, while his daughter was living at the home of her parents, that she married a British Army Captain Troup. Of this union was George McIntosh Troup, destined to be in the 1820's, a turbulent and sometimes irascible Governor of Georgia. A son of this Scotch gentleman, whose plantation was on the Mobile River, became the father of that interesting Alabama character, William McIntosh, born in Coweta town on the Chattahoochee River, of an Indian mother.

I am not able to say what became of old John for Mobile fell into the hands of the Spanish in 1780, about a year before the close of the American Revolution, and the McIntosh plantation

is not often in the records as such, subsequent to that day. Aaron Burr was headed there for in the hopes that he could cross the river and get into Spanish territory and reach Pensacola, when Capt. Edmund Pendleton Gaines arrested him near there in 1807. On the organization of old Washington County, the Court House was for a short time at McIntosh Bluff and even until recent years steamboats stopped there to put off freight for adjacent land holders. Once McIntosh town was the county seat of Baldwin, the court house being moved to Blakeley in 1820. In recent years it is interesting in connection with the site of a hunting reserve. Wild turkeys, deer and bear are common thereabouts.

Through The Years—

# Valentine-Making Once Art; Their Evolution Since 1667

BY PETER A. BRANNON

Last week I heard the life story of that Irish lady, Mrs. Ederlen of Kansas, who composed the sentiments expressed in the poetic couplets recorded on the largest number of American valentines issued in the last 35 years.

Samuel Pepys recorded in his diary on Feb. 16, 1667, that he had given his wife a valentine of blue paper with her name in gold. He also entered in his diary that it cost him five pounds. This would record the fact that even that early valentines were being sold. Love tokens on vellum, and known as "valentine pieces," were homemade items in Queen Anne's era—that is, they were in use between 1702 and 1710. Obviously the first valentines were on paper sheets, quill inscribed, with hand-painted pictures, sentimental themes and scrolls, and were folded to form the envelope with a writing on the inside of the paper. Stationer's windows in the old country displayed valentines for sale during the reign of George III. Remember, he was the man with whom the American colonists found fault. Lithographed and painted valentines were not in vogue until after 1800. After the making of valentines became a trade



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rather than an art, the designs deteriorated just as they did in the manufacture of furniture, silver pieces and fine clothes. So we find most of the valuable and truly artistic valentines to be those made with the individual's personal tribute. There are a few such pieces even yet in the hands of collectors.

One of my own rare treasures is a clipping from the Southern Sentinel, a Confederate newspaper, and it is a valentine "For My Friend Sallie of Compton, Virginia." The Rev. Dr. M. L. Withers, Chaplain of the 9th Alabama Infantry Regiment, C. S. A., penned five eight-line verses "to Sallie," and closed it with these sentiments:

"And while below I'm tossed and driven

O'er Time's rude, restless wave,  
Shall I not find a friend in you,  
Whatever storms may rave?"

My particular interest in Sallie

is that she married the man for whom I was named.

Dr. Withers' valentine was not the only one inscribed to Sallie for I have seen others. She must have been a Virginia maiden of rare qualities. Alas! Sallie never lived to see the close of the war. She rests today in Jamestown in Georgia, a long way from the old plantation home near the present Wharton Station, in Virginia.

Lest you have forgotten, Saint Valentine was a Christian martyr of the third century after Christ. Since his day the world has attributed to him the custom of sending love notes on his birthday. Whether he originated it is not known.

## Postman Had 146-Mile Route To Cover By Horse In 1835

THE Postoffice Department created about 1835 a mail route, No. 3737, to run from Montreal (officially shown as "alias Dadeville"), through Dudleyville, "alias Pittsborough," in Tallapoosa County, by Poplar Valley in Chambers, by Beaver Dam postoffice, by Wedowe, "alias McDonald," in Randolph County, Alabama, to Carrollton, Ga. Quoting the order creating the post route: "The mail on said route to be carried on horse back."



Hiram McKnight  
The indulgence of the County in behalf of the patrons of that route. Obviously he was trying to get the County Commissioners to pay for the bridge.

Hiram McKnight was the first postmaster at Poplar Valley, and I presume he must have been commissioned on the date of the creation of the office, Dec. 24, 1840. This post office was discontinued Nov. 25, 1842: Under date of May 3, 1841, the postmaster memorialized the Honorable Commissioners Court of Roads and Revenue of Chambers County, requesting that a jury be appointed to examine and report on the building of a bridge across High Pine Creek. In this memorial he set out that during the Winter the delivery of mail (this being a "Star Route" delivery) was stopped by high water about one-fourth of the time. He said that the labor of building a bridge to facilitate more regular delivery was too great for the overseer on that route. He asked, therefore, the

### Many Names

Montreal, later Dadeville postoffice, was established May 27, 1835, with Willis Whatley as postmaster and the office under that name was discontinued August 27, 1838. Dudleyville, which at one time was Pittsborough, was established originally Dec. 10, 1835, the name changed to Dudleyville Dec. 4, 1837, and the office discontinued July 8, 1857. It was re-established March 20, 1872, and finally discontinued Dec. 31, 1907.

Henry M. Gay was appointed August 24, 1839, to be postmaster at Beaver Dam in Randolph County. The office was established on that date. The postoffice at that point was discontinued July 30, 1844. There was a postoffice established at Wedowe, April 12, 1837, with William H. Cunningham, Jr., as postmaster. The name of the office was changed to McDonald on April 10, 1840, and re-established by its original name of Wedowe March 13, 1844.

Post Route 3737, after leaving the Alabama boundary, passed through a small community named Laurel Hill in Georgia. This place had a postoffice as early as July 31, 1833, and H. P. Mabry was the postmaster. The office was discontinued and re-established several times and finally on May 23, 1878, became Lindsborough, to remain as such until it became Mabry, named for the first postmaster, Nov. 24, 1884. It finally was discontinued Jan. 14, 1905. The postoffice at Carrollton in Carroll County, Ga., was established Sept. 10, 1827, with William O. Wagon as postmaster.

Post Route 3737 was 73 miles long and the "rider" made a round trip of 146 miles once a week. The contractor was David E. Gresham. The records do not say who "rode the mail."

All this data is from information furnished Walter B. Wood, Jr., of Lafayette and by the U. S. Postoffice Department, which characteristically makes the statement that "the papers pertaining to the establishment of these offices have long since been destroyed." The Department was not able to furnish the exact location geographically, but Mr. Wood has determined the sites. The memorial to the Board of Revenue of Chambers County by the Poplar Valley postmaster, he has presented to the Department of Archives and History.

# Claiborne's Light Artillery Almost By-Passed In History

By PETER A. BRANNON

I HAVE before me a certificate that William Whissenhunt has been regularly enrolled in the Claiborne Light Artillery and is equipped as required by the company. It is signed by Capt. Charles Foster. Whether the Claiborne Light Artillery functioned any longer than a very few years I am not presuming to say. On Jan. 15,



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1828, the Alabama Legislature incorporated a volunteer company under the name and style of the Monroe Rifle Company. The act stated that Capt. Stephen S. Anderson, Lieut. James R. Broughton and Ensign E. Address, being the officers of the rifle company, were declared to be a body politic. This outfit was incorporated under the same rules and regulations, powers and restrictions prescribed to incorporate a volunteer corps of infantry in the city of Mobile to be styled the Mobile Republican Greens. The Mobile Greens, in after years largely Irishmen, were attached to the 27th Regiment of the Alabama Militia. The new Monroe County outfit created as the rifle company was likewise designated a volunteer company. However it was required to perform regimental musters, drills and patrol duty as were other outfits in the 27th Regiment.

## Record Lacking

It is quite evident that the Claiborne Light Artillery either ceased to function or that, not having been incorporated, the outfit was re-organized. I cannot find a military record for Charles Foster in the Alabama Militia records. George Washington Foster was a first lieutenant in the 26th Regiment in 1844, but I don't know whether he was any kin to the Charles of a former record. John W. Foster was at one time a lieutenant colonel of First Battalion of the 26th Regiment, which outfit was in the 8th Brigade of the 44th Division. Col. Foster held an election in the Claiborne beat on Feb. 14, 1842. Prior to that time he was quartermaster of the 17th Regiment, commissioned March 16, 1829. Second Lieut. William Foster of that same Foster family, is shown by the military register of 1832, as an ensign in the 26th Regiment which was a Monroe County outfit at that time. He was commissioned Oct. 22, 1828.

Getting closer to home, on Christmas Eve night, 1824, while the Legislature was in session at Cahawba, the Montgomery Light Infantry Company was created and incorporated as a body politic by the General Assembly. John Golthwaite was named captain, George Whitman was first lieutenant, and the second lieutenant or ensign was Edward W. Thompson. That outfit was incorporated with the same rules and regulations as was the Republican Greens of Mobile.

## Met LaFayette

Capt. John Golthwaite's company and the Monroe Rifle Company both accompanied Gen. John Moore to Fort Mitchell in 1825, to meet Gen. LaFayette and escort him to the State Capitol at Cahawba. The Monroe Rifles took part in the reception to the French party at Claiborne on April 4, having gone on board the river steamer at Montgomery with the party when it left here for Cahawba. The Monroe outfit is several times in the records.

The Claiborne Light Artillery is not written into the Alabama military records. Were it not for the fact that this form certificate, which is in my hands, specifically sets it out that on April 15, 1826, Mr. Whissenhunt was enrolled as a member of the Claiborne Light Artillery, we would have no official authorization that any such unit ever existed. All of which is a pertinent reminder that by no means is all the history of the state written into the records. Much is yet in private hands. More of these early documents

should be preserved and brought into the custody of those charged with the preservation of the records of the past. Scrapbooks, diaries, old letters, family papers, correspondence and such contain rich illustrations of our early life.

## Chlota, Kuku Indian Names? Not At All, Asserts Brannon

WE HAVE in Alabama a group of pseudo-Indian names, all of which are credited to Indian origin and none of which can be proven as authentic. For example there is an Altoona, Calumet, Chlota, Eliska, Hache, Kirewakra, Lima, Mexia, Nauvoo, Meenah, Odena, Onycha, Tacon and Tecoa.

Altoon is not an Etowah or Cherokee name. It is named for a place in Pennsylvania and the word is identical with Altona in Holstein, Germany. In that German language, it means "old meadow." The town of Calumet in Walker County, which is generally accepted as a Michigan Indian word, is a Norman-Picard (European) word, identifying the pipes made by the Indians in the pipestone region of northern Michigan. In that area is found a certain character of red stone from which the American aborigines carved interesting pipes.



Chlota is a former station on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in Chilton County. Actually it is the given name of a Miss Clark of that place. A railroad spur in Franklin County was called Coker. It was named for a family of that name who resided nearby. The name in Monroe County, Tenn., is a corruption of the Cherokee designation Kuku, which was their name of Pleurisy root, botanically, *Aeclepias turberosa*.

### Biblical Name

Eliska, a small town in Monroe County, is from a Bible name, not an Indian name. Hache, at one time a railroad station in Hale County, is generally thought to be from the Choctaw, Hacha, or the Creek word, Hache, but it is neither. The town was named for the Hatch family of that county. Kirewakra is not an Indian word. The village is named for a Japanese citrus nurseryman, who lived in Mobile County and raised Satsuma oranges. Lima, in Covington County, is not named for the capital of Peru, which is an Indian word. Rather, it perpetuates the name of a limestone quarry near its locality. Mexia, a village in Monroe County, was named for a town in Limestone County, Texas. The word is Mexican and honors the name of General Thomas Mejia. In Texas they pronounce it "Mee air," sometimes "Mohair." In Alabama they call it "Mex eia."

Nauvoo is a Hebrew name. The town in Walker County is named for one in Illinois, both are corruptions of the old Jewish word which means "pleasant," Neveh.

Neenah, a little village in Wilcox County, has no connection whatever with the town of Neenah, an Indian name in Wisconsin. But ours was named for Miss Nina Olinsky. Odena, a railroad station on the Central of Georgia in Talladega County, suggests to us the Ojibway name Odena, which means "village," but ours was named for John P. Oden, who had a saw mill at that place about three generations ago. Onycha is a station on the L&N Railroad in Covington County. The word is a Biblical term for a sacred compound which gave out a sweet odor. Tacon is not from the Choctaw word which meant "peach," but is named for a former official of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Tecoa is a railroad station in lower Monroe County and probably owes its origin to a city mentioned several times in the Old Testament. There is a town in Whitman County, Washington, of the same name and they credit it up there as being a native name. I can't contradict that.

I can possibly pick out a dozen other words in Alabama which are town designations, these being located in entirely different geographical parts of the state than in their original habitat. That is to say, there are Creek Indian named places in the heart of the Choctaw country and we find Choctaw names practically on the Chattahoochee river, all of which is strictly out of order.

# Lucky Confederate Colonel Had \$25—In U. S. Currency

By PETER BRANNON

GENERAL Robert E. Steiner has just sent me a copy of a receipt for \$25 made to Col. James H. Dunklin, a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island, Ohio, by the Commander of the Post, Col. C. W. Hill. This receipt is dated April 27, 1865, and it indicates that Col. Dunklin had turned over that much money to be held to his credit. This document is a very interesting one.

James H. Dunklin was mustered into service at Greenville March 1, 1862, as captain of Company C, 33rd Alabama Infantry Regiment and he was 27 years old. The record shows that he was subsequently promoted to be major, later lieutenant colonel and eventually to be colonel of the command. He was wounded at the battle of Chickmauga on Sept. 9, 1863. The reader will note that the date of the receipt is after Johnson's surrender at Greensboro in 1865.



Peter Brannon

## \$25—U. S. A.

His command took part in the operations in Georgia and later in North Carolina and surrendered there. One interesting feature of this receipt is that Col. Dunklin had \$25 in United States currency. Few other Confederate soldiers were that fortunate.

The Greenville guards, which originally made up Company C, in the 33rd Alabama Infantry, according to a newspaper clipping dated January 17, 1861, left Greenville on Thursday morning previous with about "80 muskets" under command of Captain T. G. Pugh. At that time J. H. Dunklin was a first lieutenant. They went to Pensacola. This outfit served in the Army of Alabama until mustered into Confederate service. The second lieutenant of the company was Hillary A. Herbert, well known in Alabama history later as colonel of the 8th Alabama Infantry, C.S.A., and Secretary of the Navy in Grover Cleveland's cabinet. Lt. Herbert was made a colonel of the 8th Alabama when it entered service in May 1861, at Richmond. President Cleveland appointed him Secretary of the Navy on the organization of the cabinet in March, 1893.

## Born In Greenville

James Hilliard Dunklin was born in Greenville, in Butler County, in 1834, and died there May 20, 1877. His biographical sketch shows he was captured at the battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, and served seven months as a prisoner at Johnson's Island. The Johnson's Island prison was for officers. No enlisted men were confined there. Most of the releases from there are date in June of 1865 and officers, as a rule, had their transportation allowed to their homes. On his return home he entered the cotton business in Mobile and was later a banker in Greenville. He was appointed by Governor Houston, in 1876, as a colonel in a regiment of the State Militia.

General Steiner's interest in this matter is attributed to that fact that he was born in Butler County and the traditions of that locality are ever dear to him.

# North Alabama Ghost Towns Once Busy Mining Centers

By PETER A. BRANNON

THE Cherokee and DeKalb County area of northeast Alabama was at one time the coming industrial section of the state. Some 50 years ago 250 families, and perhaps more, occupied a little coal mining town called Lahusage. Will I. Martin, right recently in the Gadsden Times, reminds his readers that there are a half dozen ghost towns, which, in the gay 90's, were boom towns in that old mining area. Lahusage is a name formed from the first two letters of the name of Henry L. Lamb and General H. M. Hubbard and of the whole name of Russell Sage. The latter, in his day one of the richest men in the whole country, General Hubbard and Henry L. Lamb, promoters and backers of the Chattanooga Southern Railroad, were rich stockholders in the mining properties which boomed the Cherokee country.

Lahusage was on Lookout Mountain in DeKalb County, up out of historic Wills Valley. The place was established in 1903 and, in 1906, it had completely collapsed because a 40-inch vein of bituminous coal just literally "pinched out." A spur track was run to the foot of the mountain from the Chattanooga Southern Railroad, and then they built tipples. An incline railroad was built from the valley to the top of the mountain and a narrow gage railroad six miles in length was built from the top of the mountain down into the mine. Two small locomotives were used. The company built its own cars for hauling coal. When the loaded cars reached the brow of the mountain they were switched onto the incline railroad. A cable let the car down to the tipple while it brought an empty one back up the incline.

The company which promoted the town built 250 houses, a commissary, Odd Fellows Lodge, a church, a school, a large barn and other structures necessary for the maintenance of a well regulated village. They had a post office and, for a brief period of three years, it looked much like that place would eventually become an industrial center. The community had a well for each four houses, and in these houses they had all conveniences known at that period. The mining company furnished a master mechanic, W. J. Carroll, and A. W. Evans was the civil engineer of the planning and plotting. Mr. Carroll still lives near Gadsden. He loves to reminisce of old Bluffton, another boom town in the Cherokee country which at one time had 8000 population, of Crudup, and several others.

The Etowah, Cherokee and the DeKalb country of Alabama in northeastern area of the old Cherokee Nation, was pre-empted and opened to white settlement after the removal of the Cherokee Indians in 1836-38. There were a few white settlers in that area in the Indian days and the Presbyterian Church had two or three active mission schools there. It was a farming country after white settlement until shortly after the War Between the States, when what was considered then as valuable coal and iron areas, were opened. The old Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad, contemplated as the Memphis and Charleston, had much to do with the industrial development of that section.



Peter Brannon

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1949

Through The Years—

## Montgomery's Horse Express Preceded Famed Pony Express

THE celebrated Pony Express for the delivery of mail and light parcels, established from the end of the railroad to facilitate communication to the Pacific Coast, bears the date of about 1860.

That was by no means the beginning of transportation of mail by a rider, for there were "Express" mail deliveries (practically all official documents) even as early as a few years after the foundation of the government.



Peter Brannon  
inauguration out of Montgomery.  
Montgomery eastward to Columbus

Sam Dale, on his pony, "Paddy," carried the official dispatch to General Jackson at New Orleans, telling him of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. He had been employed by the governor of Georgia, at Milledgeville, to hasten it on to that city. The record shows that he made the trip in eight days, though the official mail time was fourteen. So they had post riders by pony express as early as January, 1815.

Neil Blue long connected with the Montgomery post office, notes the establishment of the "Horse Express" on Nov. 15, 1836. It was provided by the "general government" and put into operation in Georgia; one north to Huntsville, and one south to Mobile.

Through the establishment of the Columbus line, the Post Office department reduced the time between Montgomery and New York from eight days to five.

Postage on letters carried was intended to quadruple the rates of the stage line contractor. The single rate, what we term "letter sheets" of today, from Montgomery to New York, was \$1. If there were three enclosures, weighing about an ounce, the rate was \$4. Major Ward Taylor, of Greenville, sometime previously the original tavern keeper at that place, had a contract to carry the mail from Mobile to Montgomery at \$50,000 a year. Robert Harwell, whose family still lives in Montgomery, had a contract to carry the mail to Columbus and he was paid \$19,000 annually.

Blue's reference to the "Horse Express" is very intriguing, for the Act of Congress passed March 3, 1845, in Section 4, which provided the authorization to facilitate the transportation of mail, certainly lacks perspicuity. When one reads this section he would by no means get an idea that the postmaster general would provide Pony Express to hasten delivery.

Dated 1838

I have before me an "Express letter" transported from Mobile to Montgomery at a date in 1838, on which the postage of 56 1-4c was paid. I also have a single sheet express letter from Montgomery to Mobile on which the postage rate was 56 1-4c. This particular one was addressed to Dr. Robert J. Ware, who apparently was on a visit down there from his Montgomery home.

An "express" letter...

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An "express" item from Columbus to Montgomery, dated March 8, 1837, is a letter to Edward Hanrick, the well known "Horseshoe Ned" of Gen. Thomas Woodward's correspondence, and is about Indian land transactions. Dougald MacDougald, the well-known Irishman, who had considerable property in the eastern Chattahoochee Valley of Russell County, wrote Hanrick with reference to Peabody's handling of some bonds made relative to the transfer of Indian lands. Edward Hanrick was a warm friend of the Indians and McDougald was a typical Indian land speculator. This letter is one handled over the shorter route, the Montgomery to Columbus, to Milledgeville way, and bears postage of 37 1-2c.

The well known United States commemorative brown postage stamp, the 3c Pony Express of 1940, was issued to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the establishment of mail service through the West. Montgomery's "Horse Express" of 1836, ante-dated that by 24 years.

Through The Years—

## Example Of Early Wallpaper Feature Of Alabama Museum

By **PETER A. BRANNON**

I READ recently a review of a paper on historical wall paper, presented by Mrs. William R. Wolf to a group in the East. She told a story of some very interesting examples of historic wall paper and her story reminded me that we have in Alabama, and right here in Montgomery, something equally as historic.



**Peter Brannon**

Paper was invented or first made in China. Many people are disposed to credit the earliest wall paper as being of Chinese scenes, but it is known that wall papers were made quite early in Japan, Persia and Egypt. Many Chinese and Japanese experts assert that neither the Chinese nor the Japanese have ever used paper to cover their walls. It is possible that the invention of paper is traced to China, Japan or Persia. These countries also should be credited with the introduction of that commodity into other parts of the world. The Japanese used paper for screens with which to divide their rooms. All oriental paper is in small pieces, most of which are very little longer than wide. Most of the early pieces of wall paper, some of which were made in Holland and France, were strips three feet long and about 15 inches wide.

It is claimed that the earliest expensive artistic varieties of wall paper were brought to America about 1735. Prior to that time, clay paint was used by thrifty housewives to clean sooty walls and ceilings. Even as late as 1745 fashionable houses in Philadelphia were whitewashed inside. By way of parenthesis,

very few older Alabamians will fail to remember that our grandmothers had clay washed hearths in country homes even until relatively recent times.

### Paper From Paris

Charles Hargrave was advertising wall paper in Philadelphia and Peter Fleeson was making wall paper and papier mache mouldings in that city many

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## STUCCO?

### World-Famous BONDEX!

Bondex. This restores the original whiteness, checks wall damp- ness. Easy to use; just brush it on.

### The Cost is Low!

A 5-lb. package of white Bondex makes about 1 gallon, \$1.10 sells for only . . . . .

(Colors slightly higher)

### Color-Styling Ideas in FREE Bondex Color Chart at

Pan-American Wallpaper & Paint Co. 510 Bibb St.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. 216 Dexter Ave.

Sargent-Gerke Company 333 N. Perry St.

Hardware Co. Commerce St.

AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALER

## BONDEX HYDRAULIC CEMENT

St. Louis; Los Angeles; Bayonne, N. J.; Montreal—643

**CURTIS C. WALTHER**, New Orleans businessman, who will address the Montgomery Sales Executives Club at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Jefferson Davis Hotel on "Super South." Wal- ther is vice-president of Wal- ther Brothers Co., Montgomery, president of the New Orleans Association of Commerce and of the New Orleans Electrical Association, and an executive of the International House and International Trade Market, New Orleans. He also is asso- ciated with several other en- terprises.

years before the American Revolu- tion. The Colonial Dames' me- morial "Dorothy Quincy House" was papered in 1775, with paper imported from Paris to adorn the north parlor of the home into which Dorothy went when she married John Hancock. This paper figures Venus and Cupid, an appropriate design.

A particularly interesting ex- ample of French wall paper is a group of several panels which adorn the French room of the De- partment of Archives and His- tory. These panels which repre- sent an artist's conception of scenes at the time of the settle- ment of the Vine and Olive Col- ony at Demopolis in 1818, were presented by Thomas W. Martin of Birmingham. They were brought to America less than 15 years ago from a chateau in southern France where they had had a wall place since the date of the colony. The paper is in excellent condition, though it was not mounted until after the presentation. A group of Napo- leon's emigres found refuge in America after the defeat of the emperor and attempted to found the colony on the Tombigbee River at the present Demopolis, though that was short-lived. The scenes depict General Des Nou-

ettes and others of Napoleon's marshals who arrived in Phila- delphia to claim their allotments on the Tombigbee within four years after the Battle of Waterloo. Illustrated are French army uni- forms, the court dresses of the grand dames of France and other cultural examples of the old world which fit so imperfectly into the pioneer conditions of West Alabama. Soil, when it was wet in Marengo County, Ala- bama, made spading difficult when those would-be farmers had only their polished boots to work in. Even rolling wheelbarrows when "dressed up" looks a little out of order.

## A Weak, Run-Down Feeling Is Often A Warning

### That The Red-Blood Is Getting Low

If you do not feel like your real self, do not have the urge to be up and doing, why not check-up on your blood strength? Look at the palms of your hands, your fingernails, your lips, the lobes of your ears—are they pale and off color?

Every day—every hour—millions of tiny red-blood-cells must pour forth from the marrow of your bones to re- place those that are worn-out. A low blood count may affect you in several ways: no appetite, underweight, no energy, a run-down condition, lack of resistance to infection and disease.

To get real relief you must keep up your blood strength. Medical authorities, by analysis of the blood, have by positive proof shown that SSS Tonic is amazingly effective in building up low blood strength in non-organic nutri- tional anemia. This is due to the SSS Tonic formula which contains special and potent activating ingredients.

Also, SSS Tonic helps you enjoy the food you eat by increasing the gastric digestive juice when it is non-organ- ically too little or scanty—thus the stom- ach will have little cause to get balky with gas, bloot and give off that sour food taste.

Don't wait! Energize your body with rich, red-blood. Start on SSS Tonic now. As vigorous blood surges throughout your whole body, greater freshness and strength should make you eat better, sleep better, feel better, work better, play better, have a healthy color glow in your skin—firm flesh fill out hollow places. Millions of bottles sold. Get a bottle from your drug store. SSS Tonic helps Build Sturdy Health.

# Etowah Traced To Cherokee Language And Creek Word

By PETER A. BRANNON

PERHAPS the interest in the Etowah Basin project of the great Coosa-Alabama Rivers development is stimulating the origin of the word Etowah. In the past six months I have been asked a number of times by people, particularly from Etowah County, to give the origin of the name. Without a doubt, the word must be attributed to the language of the Cherokees though as used it is closely connected with the Creek Indian word, Italwa, which means town or tribe, in the sense that the settlement was made up of all one group.

The Etowah Mound on the Tumlin place near Cartersville, Ga., is in close proximity to the great Etowah Dam, which is the first of the construction projects intended to harness the waters of the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers. Charles C. Jones, who wrote a volume called the Antiquities of the Southern Indians, and who published it shortly after Pickett issued his History of Alabama, gave a detailed sketch showing the flat top ceremonial mound of the Etowah group, this surrounded by a moat and approached by steps. That picture fixed the term "Etowah" in the minds of the American public and the locality has been since that time, an historical one. However, the first reference to a location of that name ante-dates the Jones sketch by more than 300 years, for the chroniclers of the DeSoto expedition note that Spaniards stopped at a place called Itaba, on the next stop above, northwest of Ullibahali. In view of the fact that we know the positive location of Ullibahali of 1540, we can fix the day before stop of DeSoto's Spaniards at a point in the present Coosa County, Ala. Thus we are led to believe that Itaba, sometimes written Ytaua, sometimes Itawa, was on Hatchet Creek, near Rockford.

The fact of the reference to Itaba first at a point not more than 50 miles above Montgomery and no reference to a similar Cherokee name before in the narrative, proves to the modern student of the route of DeSoto that the expedition went up the east bank of the Savannah River and not through the middle country of Georgia. Had they gone by the Etowah River and Rome territory of today, there would undoubtedly have been mention of the Etowah Mound and the town name would have been in the story long before they reached the vicinity of the present Montgomery, this place then known as Toasi.

The name Etowah is obviously more common in Georgia than in Alabama. Hightower and another place known as High Tower are both corruptions of the Cherokee word Etowah. In Alabama, the legislature created a county Dec. 1, 1868, and named it for the Etowah Indians. By a peculiar coincidence, we have this name attached to a railroad station on the old Mobile and Gulf in Tuscaloosa County. There was a Cherokee Indian settlement in Forsyth County, Ga., at the present Hightower until the removal of the Indians to the west in 1838.

The projected dams and impounded water lakes for the Alabama River below Montgomery are a part of the proposed Coosa-Alabama development. Whether this present generation will ever see the money appropriated remains to be seen. The proposal only calls for a little more than ninety million dollars, and this figure today is a mere pittance, so we may.



Peter Brannon  
mound of the Etowah group, this surrounded by a moat and approached by steps. That picture fixed the term "Etowah" in the

# Infantry Colonel Of 1815 Had His Troubles, It Seems

By PETER A. BRANNON

GILBERT C. RUSSELL, sometimes Lt. Colonel of the 3rd U. S. Infantry, who was on duty at Fort Stoddert and Fort Claiborne and was in the Fort Deposit campaign, was not quite pleased with the reorganization program under the Act of March 3, 1815.

Col. Russell wrote a letter dated at Mobile July 9, 1815, to the Secretary of State, announcing that having seen the list of officers for the Peace Establishment and not noting his name thereon, he would look around for another job.

"I must be amongst those who stand for discharge," he concluded.

The letter authorizing army reductions had been put into effect in the Gulf Country. The men who were engaged for the war, and the officers for the Regular Establishment (Regular Army) were hourly in expectation of being discharged also.



**Peter Brannon** Aug. 9, 1814, specifically concerning 10 white men who were residing within the limits of the old Creek Nation and who had viewed themselves as adopted citizens of the United States. They took no active part in the war against the U. S., but their families suffered greatly, particularly in property loss. Although this letter does not indicate it, Col. Russell was concerned himself about the welfare of the Manacs, the Weatherfords, the Baileys, Tates and those intermarried families all connected with the original McGillivrays, who settled early in the Gulf Country.

Inasmuch as Col. Russell was going to be discharged from the Army, he was thinking of engaging "in the pursuit of civil life." He was delighted with the country which was ceded by the Creek Indians to the United States, and he said it was his intention "to concentrate what interest I have in the world and locate myself on the Alabama River."

Col. Russell acquired some of the old John Weatherford property at Claiborne's Bluff. He owned other property down the river, though whether he ever got complete possession of certain of these lands is not recorded. His letter of July, 1815, requested the Secretary of State, James Monroe, to address him at Fishers Post Office, Alabama.

### At Mount Etna

By consulting the Territorial papers, I find that George Fisher was postmaster at Mount Etna in the Mississippi Territory. The location was either at Adam Hol-

linger's old bluff on the Tombigbee River or a short distance up stream toward Randon ferry. The Fisher family was an in-law of Charles Bailey, the old Indian trader on the Tallapoosa River near the mouth of the present Calebree Creek. In March, 1816, Postmaster General Return Jonathan Meigs, wrote to Postmaster Fisher and advised him that he had appointed Andrew Mitchell at the newly established post office at Fort Claiborne. He requested him to deliver the mail regularly to that office. He also advised that the Millidgeville, Ga., mail would arrive at Fort Stoddert instead of St. Stevens, on Thursday by 6 p.m., and it would return thence on Saturday by 6 1-2 a.m. The mail from Millidgeville was then going to Madisonville, La., arriving on Saturday and departing from Fort Stoddert on Tuesdays. Meigs directed Fisher, who had the mail contract for this southern country, to arrive at Mobile on Friday mornings and always be at Claiborne on Sunday mornings so as to connect with the east and west mails.

Col. Russell had an interesting army career. He was at Fort Jackson in August, 1814, at the signing of the Treaty, and the 3rd Infantry accompanied General Jackson and his Tennessee troops by flat boat down the river to Fort Montgomery (Tennessee), thence to Pensacola and New Orleans. Col. Russell's family resided in Mobile in later years.

# Old Coosa River Post Named For General John Armstrong

By PETER A. BRANNON

I RECEIVED a card the other day quoting a small print of a rare historical portrait issued in France, after a painting by Vanderlyn. The print was of General John Armstrong, minister plenipotentiary, and it was made at the time he was serving on that duty in France, about 1810. He was minister under President Jefferson.

General Armstrong was born in Pennsylvania and was appointed to the United States Army from that state. He was a volunteer in the Canadian Expedition and served at Quebec at the time of the death of General Richard Montgomery in 1775. Appointed a brigadier general on July 6, 1812, he resigned from the Army on Jan. 13, 1813, and President James Madison appointed him to be secretary of war when he went into office on March 4, 1813. He served as such until Sept. 27, of the next year. The print of the general quoted shows him in his brigadier's uniform with a high stock collar and he appears stiff-neck, and in keeping with his exalted rank. This print is oval in shape, 8 x 6 1-2 inches and is quoted at \$85.



Peter Brannon

## Military Post Built

Armstrong has an interesting connection with Alabama history. General James White who commanded a detachment of East Tennessee volunteers, was ordered to march to Turkey Town in November, 1813. When they reached that place they erected a military post on the north bank of the Coosa River, a short distance east of the present town of Centre. He called it Fort Armstrong, named for the secretary of war. Up to recent years the site was distinguishable and the memory of it has been handed down in traditions of the older citizens. Hugh Cardon, a native of that region and of considerable reputation as a local historian, obtained from the older citizens much history concerning the place.

Andrew Jackson ordered General White to join him at Fort Strother on the lower Coosa, but the East Tennesseans did not choose to obey until they had carried out considerable depredations. He censored them accordingly. The general commanding a thousand or more men surrounded the town of Hillabee and practically wiped it out of existence. This was a very unfortunate affair. The old trader, the very respectable Scotchman, Robert Grierson, who had made his home there since 1761, was already in the camp of General Jackson offering the services of the natives of that place in his campaign against the belligerent Redsticks. General White was acting under orders of General Cock and not under Gen. Jackson and he not only destroyed Hillabee, but Little Ocfuske and the town of Atchinahatchee. Mr. Grierson's wife was a native of

the latter place and these people were not hostile to the whites.

## Newburgh Letters

General Armstrong is remembered in American history as the author of a series of papers published at the end of the American Revolution and known as the Newburgh Letters, advocating drastic measures by the Army if Congress did not make up the arrears in pay for soldiers. His caustic style of writing, and the fact that he had married into the celebrated Livingston family of New York, gave him considerable prestige. He was the author of "Notices of the War of 1812," and he wrote "The Historical Life of Anthony Wayne," as well as "The Life of General Richard Montgomery," for whom the capital city of Alabama is named. His political career ended with his resignation as secretary of war. It should be remembered that he was secretary of war at the time of the capture and burning of the town of Washington by the British. An author who later wrote, "The First Forty Years of Washington Society," said that "Universal Execration followed Armstrong." After he retired from politics he devoted himself to agriculture and to literary pursuits.

The original portrait by Vanderlyn from which the print mentioned above was made, was done about the same time as was the portrait of Robert R. Livingston, one of his in-laws.

General Armstrong died April 1, 1843. So far as is known, the Vanderlyn portrait has not been located but the print was published during its existence.

# Liquor Permit Rush Of 1825 Result Of LaFayette's Visit?

By PETER A. BRANNON

Filed in the auditor's archives of the state are lists of "Persons who are keeping taverns and retailing spirituous liquors under licenses on permit in the County of Montgomery and State of Alabama."

The particular list before me is the one for 1825 and 1826. It is a certified copy bearing date of Jan. 11, 1827, signed by John

Moody, the clerk of the county court of Montgomery, who had just succeeded George H. Gibbs in that position.

Not all of these "persons" were tavern keepers as some of them are shown as country store operators, some as county store op-

erators and others in business in town. With the exception of the licenses for John and David A. Steele, who were running a country store and who were charged \$5 for retailing, all the other charges on permit under licenses were \$10.

While it probably is stretching the imagination, one might theorize that some of these persons were anticipating the visit of LaFayette to Montgomery County, as there were three licenses applied for during the month of March, 1825. Two of them were in town, the other one being a country store.

## Visit of LaFayette

The French visitor was in Montgomery during the first week in April. Lewis Leland and Samuel Goodall were Montgomery merchants. During the year 1825 Samuel Sanders and James O. Whipple and David S. Henderson had stores in Montgomery. In connection with the sale of general merchandise of a various character they also had a license to retail spirituous liquors. John M. Rives, Vistor Mungin, Joseph H. Fritts and Robert Lowe and Company, had country stores. Lowe's store and that of Mungin was east of the city and on the road to Milledgeville. Walter B. Lucas was another merchant who took out a license later, his bearing the date of Feb. 22, 1826, and shown as a country store. Mr. Lucas lived in the Mt. Meigs area.

## The Bell Tavern

Bushrod W. Bell also took out a license Feb. 27, 1826. The Montgomery records show that the Montgomery Hotel came into the possession of Mr. Bell in February and he changed the name to the Bell Tavern. This would explain his application for a license. This man had an interesting contact with the early life of Montgomery. He was one time sheriff of the county and that present-day avenue leading to Maxwell Field bears his name.

The year 1825 in Montgomery was interesting in the journalism



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getting ready for it. It is said that there were about 7,000 visitors to Montgomery on the occasion of LaFayette's visit and that the town never had seen that many people before. I am satisfied that there were not more than seven or eight hundred, these being the current population, who were here a week later.

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The year 1825 in Montgomery was interesting in the journalism of the city in that the old original "Republican" founded by Battelle, who had at that date gone on to Mobile, was changed to The Alabama Journal. In 1825 it was edited by George Washington B. Townes, a Georgian who was prominent in the civic as well as social life in Montgomery in its early history, but who left here in the 20's and went back to Georgia where he subsequently became governor of that state. Ebenezer D. Washburn, whose grandchildren are yet here, took charge of the paper when Mr. Townes went away.

That Journal notes the appearance in the city during the year of the celebrated tragedian, Ludlow, who brought his "dramatic corps," as it is expressed, up from Mobile and during the late Winter, they gave a number of entertainments. In addition to nothing the changes in the housing and entertainment life of the city, the paper refers to the visit in October of a brilliant comet traveling from the Southwest. The Indian Queen Tavern, this one located on the present Dexter Avenue, then known as Market Street, and a few doors below the present Methodist Church, had previously been called the Globe Tavern, and in 1825 was being operated by Micajah Williamson who had taken charge to succeed Benjamin Williamson. Marble Stone was advertising a house of entertainment located on Court Street in the building formerly occupied by Andrew McBride.

The Farmers and Planters Hotel started in business that year, operated by Mungin and Sanders. These two names are in the list of licences to operate taverns and one of them is credited to the country and the other to the town, so it is not unlikely that Mr. Mungin moved in and joined with Mr. Sanders to manage a new place of entertainment.

Verily, it does seem that this little town, not quite six years old, seems to have been either over-run with places to take care of the travelers or they were anticipating a boom and thereby

# Senate Had Only One Member During Term Of William Bibb

By PETER A. BRANNON

THERE have been other sessions of the Alabama legislature. The one which met Jan. 19, on a Monday, in 1818, "met pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency, William W. Bibb, Governor of the Alabama Territory."

On the second day of the session, Governor Bibb transmitted his message to the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives through Joseph Noble, his private secretary. That session of the legislature was without a doubt the most interesting of all meetings of that august body which has made the laws for this state.

Of the Council, that is the Senate, there was only one member. Obviously he elected himself president. Curtis Hooks was clerk and John Pearson was doorkeeper. Gabriel Moore, of Madison County, was elected speaker of the House and J. R. Nicholson was clerk. Samuel Smith was sergeant-at-arms and M. Lafoy was doorkeeper.

Phillips Fitzpatrick from Montgomery did not arrive at St. Stephens on time and he did not take his seat until the second day. Col. Sam Dale, who lived only a stone's throw from there, was likewise late. He was not sworn in until the second day. Madison County had four representatives in the Territorial House of Representatives. Gabriel Moore, Hugh McVay, John W. Walker and Clement C. Clay represented the county. Three of these men subsequently became governor of the state and the other was a senator in United States Congress.

## Data Needed

I have been collecting material for a number of years for a life of James Titus, the sole member of the Senate, or Council, as it was called, of the Territorial Legislature, and while I have brought together some interesting facts, I am by no means satisfied with what I have collected and shall continue my efforts. There are many traditions with reference to the deliberations of the territorial sessions at St. Stephens, particularly those which recite that Mr. Titus put motions, seconded them and voted their passage in true and deliberate form in order to carry out the proper procedure of government activities. Mr. Titus was of a Tennessee family and I have quite a bit about his Davidson County ancestry. He owned property in Limestone and also in Madison County and resided on or near where the stage road from Huntsville to Athens crossed Piney Creek.

At one time Mr. Titus represented Madison and Thomas S. Malone, who wrote the history of Limestone County, always referred to him as the representative from this, Limestone, county, so it is possible that in the sessions of the Mississippi Territorial Legislatures he represented both areas. Certain United States land records show that James Titus, of Davidson County, Tenn., acquired Madison County lands as early as 1809, though I



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cannot say that he came to live in Alabama that early. Mr. Titus was dead before 1821. I am still hoping that I can find his grave and learn more about him.

## Brief Message

Governor Bibb's message to the legislature was not a lengthy one. He begged leave to tender his congratulations on the first meeting of the General Assembly of the Alabama Territory. He was convinced that the circumstances of our country under which the members had convened presented a most gratifying spectacle and that these circumstances claimed the most devout gratitude of the members. Continuing, in part, he said "While the habitation of man in many portions of the earth is the residence of poverty, oppression and wretchedness, the people of our highly favored nation are in tranquil enjoyment of every blessing."

Further reading of this document indicates that one of the concerns of Governor Bibb was an all-time and ever continuing concern of all of our governors. The very first thing which the governor wished to recommend to the attention of the legislature was "the subject of our roads." It would also seem that times have not changed much since 1818, for Governor Bibb said that he feared that under existing circumstances, the object of our improvement of our roads could not be wholly obtained without the interposition of the government of the United States.

All in all that first session must have been a memorable one for those who attended it at the little town of St. Stephens, deep in the rural country of South Alabama. Many historic names appear on the pages of those minutes.

Through The Years—

# Monroe County Created After Land Relinquished By Creeks

By PETER A. BRANNON

BY A LETTER of July 3, 1815, and dated at the town of Washington in the Mississippi Territory, Governor David Holmes notified Judge Harry Toulmin, the Federal District Judge in the eastern half of the Territory, that he had erected all of the tract of country acquired by the late treaty with the Creeks into a county.



Peter Brannon

He transmitted to the judge several copies of the proclamation of June 29, announcing the measure. By a postscript to this letter he notified him that he had appointed Mr. Fisher as sheriff of Monroe County "conformably to his recommendation." Thus Mr. George Fisher became the first political officer of that large county created in the Mississippi Territory and named for James Monroe, of Virginia.

Incidentally Monroe County included all the territory east of the watershed through Clarke County and south of about the present Marengo County, east to the Chattahoochee River, north to the falls of the Coosa at Wetumpka. By the treaty of Fort Jackson signed on August 9, 1814, the Creeks ceded their claimed lands south of a line run directly east from Wetumpka to a point opposite the mouth of Okfuskee Creek and thence generally speaking, in a southeast line to hit the Chattahoochee River a few miles south of the present Eufaula.

### Creeks Cede Land

The Creeks never claimed any lands (after the British Treaty of 1761) west of the watershed between the Tombigbee and the Alabama, though they did claim lands as far south as the Escambia River and east to the Chattahoochee.

Mr. Fisher, according to Mississippi Territorial papers, was a native Virginian who removed to the Territory in 1812. A footnote in Carter's Volume VI of the Territorial Papers, identifies Mr. Fisher as the postmaster at St. Stephens.

The post office records do not. He was not. He lived at St. Stephens at one time, and was a

meet the exigencies of pioneer difficulties.

Just where Col. Fisher settled, I am not able to say, but there are several references to Mt. Etna where Col. Fisher was the postmaster, and Fisher's Post Office, Alabama, and the point was a short distance south of Alabama Heights, the original name of Fort Claiborne.

### "Munrow County"

Clabon Harris, who was quite like Col. Fisher, not much of a speller, in a letter dated Mississippi Territory, "Munrow County, January 20, 1816," and complaining vociferously against Mr. Fisher, wrote President "Mader-son," that he might direct him to Fisher Post Office "on the allebarmer near fort claibourne." So far as I am able to determine, Fisher plantation was a short distance below the mouth of Randon's Creek. Almost any Alabamian who knows any Alabama history at all knows that it was at the mouth of Randon's Creek that the celebrated canoe fight in which Sam Dale participated, took place. The President was not altogether cordial to Mr. Fisher and quite a few of the early settlers made complaints about

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The post office records do not. He was not. He lived at St. Stephens at one time, and was a mail contractor for a number of years, but he was never postmaster at St. Stephens. Col. Pickett says that he was one of the men who was sent out to Fort Madison on Sept. 6, 1813, to ascertain the depredations of the Indians marauding that county in the weeks following the massacre at Fort Mims. Col. Pickett says he had three sons. Fisher and one of his sons were wounded by the Indians, but the other two escaped harm.

Colonel Fisher, as he is invariably designated, wrote to James Turner, the Senator from North Carolina at Washington City who seems to have been interested in Mississippi, telling him on Feb. 15, 1813, that he "removed to this country (the Territory) with an intention to settle for life."

#### Iron-Salt Trade

He said that he had discovered a great opening to carry on a business of manufacturing iron and salt. The land sales had not yet "come on," and he wished to be apprized of the probable price and was hoping that there would be a fixed value. The colonel notified Mr. Turner that he brought with him 12 or 15 mechanics which he wanted to employ in the different branches. Apparently the colonel never went into the manufacture of iron, though he may have run a blacksmith shop, but he was settled in a country which subsequently developed the possibilities of the manufacture of salt. The State of Alabama still owns salt lands thereabout. Fisher did become an extensive carrier of the U. S. Mail, though according to the correspondence, he was always quarreling with the Postmaster General because he did not feel that he was being allowed enough compensation to

of Fort Claiborne.

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Jonathan Meigs, Postmaster General, and who was incidentally with Andrew Jackson, one of the signers of the Fort Jackson Treaty of 1814, had many trials and tribulations in trying to get the mail through from Washington City to New Orleans. Whether Col. Fisher's contract covered the distance from Milledgeville to Fort Claiborne, I cannot for the moment say, but I know he had a contract from Fort Claiborne to Ford's on the Pascagoula.

Through The Years—

# Gen. Twiggs Among Notable Visitors Here Century Ago

By PETER A. BRANNON

In the record of notable visitors to Montgomery, appears the fact that General David Twiggs arrived by steamboat April 5, 1848, en route from Mexico to attend a court martial in Washington City.

The General was very much in the limelight at that time and they brought him all the way from Mexico to the City of Washington to be a member of an investigating court. By a resolution of Congress a few months prior to that time, he had been brevetted Major General for meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterey.

One of the national magazines, The Saturday Evening Post, has been recently concerned about the lost swords of General Twiggs. One of the reasons for the interest in this particular Georgian was that General Twiggs was made a Major General for gallantry at a battle in Mexico where he was not even present. Congress got a little mixed up in its history of the occasion. It so happens that the General was present in practically everything else in Mexico except on the occasion of the Monterey engagement, but he wasn't there then.

The State of Georgia acting as a follow-up to the congressional

honor, also conferred on the General a magnificent sword for the same meritorious conduct which he didn't render, but nevertheless, he acquired three swords. This last one was from the town of Augusta where he was born. Those were the ones which got lost until recently when they turned up in Florida in the hands of one of the old General's relatives, a retired Army officer.

## The General In Florida

General Thomas Woodward, an early Brigadier General of Alabama Militia, who grew up in Georgia and had many warm affections for that State, was a great admirer of General Twiggs. He served with him back in 1816-17, when he was a Major in the 7th Infantry Regiment in Florida campaigns and in his "Reminiscences," General Woodward inserts comments on many of those who participated in these several affairs and who later made Alabama history as well. It was Major Twiggs and his detail of soldiers who rescued Mrs. Stuart from the Indians in the uprising of the Seminoles in 1817.

In this rescue, Billy Mitchell, Kendall Lewis, Timpoochee Barnard, Thomas Woodward and several others serving with Twiggs, and General William McIntosh in command of a detail of Indians, were prominent participants against that insurrection of former Creeks who went to



Peter Brannon engagement, but

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### **Twiggs' Army Service**

David Emanuel Twiggs was born in Georgia, appointed to the Army from Georgia and commissioned a Captain in the 8th Infantry a short time later. He served in the Florida campaign, continued in the Regular Army through the war with Mexico and until he was dismissed from the Army on the 1st day of March, 1861.

General Twiggs was made a Major General, C. S. A. He was in command of the District of Louisiana and was forced to make a hurried escape from the city of New Orleans when the Union forces closed in. When leaving the city, he gave his three swords into the custody of a friend, Miss Rowena Florance, for safe keeping, but they were confiscated by the Federal General, Pierce Butler, who sent them to President Lincoln, who in turn turned them over to the Treasury. There they stayed for 27 years until the U. S. Court of Claims awarded them to General Twiggs' daughter.

Through the years the swords have passed through several hands. For a long time they occupied the wall of a dining room in the East where they were mounted, one above the other, under an interesting portrait of General Twiggs in his U. S. A. uniform.

Through The Years—

# Federal Troops Were Misled By Faulty Map Of Alabama

By PETER A. BRANNON

I RECENTLY picked up a map of northern Alabama and Georgia which was used by Lt. Col. George C. Miner, U.S.A., in the operations of the Federal troops through North Alabama in 1863-65. The map must have been in the possession of one of the outfits of Gen. Wilson's troops, though if so, the annotations suggest that the command was not with Wilson on the march from Selma to Montgomery in April 1865.

A notation on this field map, a folding affair mounted on canvas, says that it was compiled and engraved at the U. S. Coast Survey Office from state maps, post office maps, local surveys, military reconnaissances and information furnished by the U. S. engineers attached to the Military Division of the Army of Mississippi. Nevertheless, the Federal Army map is not exactly correct and that fact may have saved the Confederacy from some deprivations.

## Early Railroads

Red-lined on the map are the railroads then existent in Alabama. Shown is a railroad which ran from Selma to Burnsville, to Plantersville, Maplesville, Randolph, the King Iron Works, Shelby Springs, Wilsonville and on to Talladega. Apparently at the time of the compilation of the map, the Selma, Rome and Dalton Railroad was not completed any farther than the town of Talladega. The railroad south of Montgomery extended some distance and the road was also completed by Mr. Meigs Station, Cliatts Station, Cowles, Tuckabatcha, Opelika, West Point and to Atlanta. The road from Girard to Opelika is shown and from Girard to Chunnuggee, the Mobile and Girard had been completed.

## Prior To 1861

This dates the map prior to 1861, for I have seen the silver service presented to Arnold Seale who built the Mobile and Girard Railroad and the inscription says that at the date of 1861, the road had been completed to Union Springs. The Memphis and Charleston was operating and



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this map shows the railroad from Decatur to Chattanooga.

The interesting point, or rather points on this map are the dirt road connections. For example, in Montgomery County I see listed Norman Bridge over Catoma Creek; the village of Sharpville; Oakley; Argus and of course Pintlala and "Cotoma."

On the Mt. Meigs road to Tuskegee is listed the village of Cross Keys and Lachland. This latter point is just beyond Calebee Creek as you drive east toward Tuskegee. Cross Keys is the old name for what we term the long village known today as Shorters. On the old Federal Road I note Ft. Hull, Hernando, Ft. Bainbridge, Uchee, Sand Fort, Elliott's Store and Ft. Mitchell. Creek Stand of today, a village about six miles north of Hurtsboro, is the site of this old Hernando.

## River Ferries

I don't know when Carr operated the ferry between Montgomery and Wetumpka. This map shows Carr's Ferry on what we term the Lower Wetumpka

Road and Judkin's Ferry on the Upper Wetumpka Road. Hook's Ferry is noted some three or four miles north of town at what is probably today the Tyler Goodwyn bridge. Contrary to what might be expected, all of Wetumpka is shown on the east side of the river. Prior to 1861, even as since, about half the town was on the west side of the river, but obviously West Wetumpka was in Autauga County.

Huntington, a village on Samboula Creek, is shown and Hartwood, a village site on Mortar Creek is shown. These two points are listed as considerably distant northwest of Wetumpka. The map maker is somewhat in error there in that Samboula Creek is the stream which enters the Tallapoosa River a short distance west of the Grey Henderson plantation today. If the Elmore home, Huntington, is intended by this insert, then the location is much in error.

I note from a military register that George C. Miner at the time of the war, was a lieutenant colonel of the Seventh Ohio Cavalry. This outfit was doubtless sometime in Alabama.

## Through The Years—

# Major Johnston Of Stage Line Early Arrival In Montgomery

By PETER A. BRANNON

I WAS CHECKING the local news a few days ago and ran across a copy of the PLANTERS GAZETTE for May 7, 1832, wherein I saw the statement of death on the night before of Major James W. Johnston. The reference had him "of Ireland." Blue, in his History of Montgomery, at sundry places credits him as being an Irishman, a Scotchman and an Englishman. James Stuart, the Scotch traveler, who spent three years in America from 1828 to 1832, passed through Montgomery in 1830, and he put up for the night at the hotel on the corner of Market and Commerce Streets, as he expressed it, actually our Exchange Hotel corner, and he says in one of his references, that he went around the street to pay a visit to an old countryman of his, Major Johnston. That would seem to indicate that the Major was a Scotchman.

Neil Blue, writing in 1860 and publishing sketches of Montgomery of other years, comments on the incidents of 1822 and says that the Major first lived on his arrival in Montgomery, at James Vickers' log house on Market Street. Later he lived somewhere around about our Jefferson and North Perry Streets. Vickers' log house was erected as a tavern in 1818 and used as such for a few years, after which it became a permanently identified residence. The site of this place was between the corner of North Hull Street and Dexter Avenue Methodist Church.

### Stage Line To Milledgeville.

Major Johnston was an early arrival here in Montgomery. With Lewis Calfrey as a partner, Major Johnston secured the contract for the transport of government mail from Milledgeville to Montgomery and he opened the first stage line in 1821. This was a once a week, single coach, system. By March 1, 1822, he had established a twice a week stage to Milledgeville. In the Montgomery Journal of June 1827, (the old Montgomery Republican having recently changed its name to the Journal) the proprietors of the Alabama and Georgia stages ran an interesting advertisement making the statement that "stages will leave Montgomery every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, at four o'clock and arrive at Milledgeville early on the mornings of the following Thursday, Saturday and Mondays. They further called attention to that fact that good horses and suitable carriages had at great expense been provided. The advertisement said that the excellent condition of the roads and the convenient stands established throughout, rendered this as pleasant and expeditious a route as any in the southern states. They respectfully solicited the attention of travelers. The Mobile Commercial Register and the Louisiana Advertiser, in a notice connected with this Montgomery advertisement, were requested to insert the above advertisement four times and forward their bills to the office of the Journal for payment.

Later Major Johnston was a main stock holder in the stage line to Mobile and then he and his business partner, Calfrey, had Major Taylor of Greenville associated with them. Before 1830, Peter Byrne, living on the hill above Blakeley and who "furnished the traveler with an excellent breakfast for 25c" was a business partner in the Montgomery to Blakeley stage route. The stage coaches did not cross the head of the bay from Blakeley into Mobile town, but on arrival at Blakeley, the traveler took Fowler's Ferry and was landed just about at the foot of



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the present St. Frances street in Mobile town.

### Social Life

The Johnstons in Montgomery seem to have been prominently connected with the social life of the town as well as with the political and business interests. The Major was a member of the City Council in 1822. Mrs. Johnston taught Sunday School and in 1824 we find her as one of the regular teachers of a class which met in Buck's school house. John Gindrat, the ancestor of several interesting grandchildren of the 60's, and incidentally the man who entertained LaFayette in 1825, just before he left the city at midnight on Monday, April 3, was the superintendent of the Sunday School.

# Harrowgate Springs Figured Prominently In State History

By PETER A. BRANNON

THE theft of the Dema Ritta gravestone from the old cemetery at Harrowgate Springs in Elmore County reminds me that this locality, even if not immediately this burial place, has figured rather prominently in the history of this middle Alabama country since 1814. (Harrowgate now spelled Harrogate).

The Harrowgate Springs Corporation organized in 1835 at a meeting "of the Proprietors" in March of that year, directed George Whitman, agent, to sell 60 lots. Accordingly he sold 20 lots and the springs near Wetumpka at public auction to citizens of Wetumpka. He auctioned 20 lots to Mobilians and he auctioned 20 to Montgomeries. The Montgomery newspapers of the early months of 1835 carried advertisements and also announced that W. C. Batchelor, of Wetumpka, had charge of the "Springs" during its first season. He opened a hotel on May 15. The Batchelor family is still residing in Elmore County. Mrs. Thornton Talliaferro, of Montgomery, daughter of the hotel manager, was a guest during the season. Shortly after that time her husband, this former Georgian, Col. Talliaferro, was elected major general of the 6th Division of the Alabama Militia, defeating three prominent military competitors.

### Yancey's Arrival

John Crane, of Montgomery, managed the hotel there in 1837, and the newspapers say "he was largely patronized." This was the date of the arrival in Alabama of William L. Yancey and his wife from South Carolina. Mr. Yancey lived a short time in Dallas County where he suffered the misfortune of having all his slaves poisoned by an overseer on a neighbor's plantation. A few years later he moved to Harrowgate Springs site and lived there for



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several years. In fact he moved to Montgomery from his plantation there.

The mineral waters of this place and that celebrated spring at the adjacent Crommelin plantation of today, were drawing points in the early settlement days of this region. The Treaty of Fort Jackson, signed Aug. 9, 1814, by Gen. Andrew Jackson; Col. Benjamin Hawkins, Indian agent; Col. Return Jonathan Meigs, sometime later postmaster general of the United States; Col. Arthur Hayne, of the U. S. Army, who later settled in Autauga County, and several others whose names figured in American history, was signed either identically at or near Harrowgate Springs. The commissioners refused to meet down in the swamps at the junction of the their camp up in the foot of the two rivers and chose to pitch hills.

The town of Fort Jackson surveyed, so some early records say, by Col. John Coffee himself, was not up at the foot hills but down in the river swamps and over at Fort Toulouse. Perhaps the "miasma" and mosquitoes were too all-powerful, for Fort Jackson town never lasted but a relatively few months, though it did last long enough to be declared the county-seat of that new subdivision of the Mississippi Territory created in 1816, Montgomery County of today.

You may hear today the story of those New Orleanians and Mobilians and Montgomery County families who maintained cottages at Harrowgate Springs. You will also be told that there were two large hotels, one on either side of the valley, where roulette wheels and farro games enabled the summering guests to lose all their money. They tell that rich Frenchmen from the coast towns brought their families up to this health resort in the interior to escape yellow fever. Incidentally, I have never heard of yellow fever appearing at Harrowgate Springs, so there must be something to its wide reputation as a resort.

Fort Jackson had a post office and Isaac Ross and Reuben Jordan, whose great grandchildren live in Montgomery today, presided there, but I have never found a postmaster for Harrowgate Springs. In Reuben Jordan's day, so tradition goes, the Fort Jackson post office was near where little Dema Ritta's gravestone once stood.

Through The Years—

## Small Sum Allotted In 1807 For Its First U. S. Highway

By PETER A. BRANNON

POSTMASTER GENERAL GIDEON GRANGER on Feb. 16, 1807, addressed a letter to Mr. Dennison Darling of Georgetown, District of Columbia, appointing him the postmaster for the Creek Indian Nation. He also made him responsible for the transportation of mail from Athens, Ga., to Fort Stoddert in the Mississippi Territory. Simultaneously, he wrote a letter to Gen. David Merriwether, congressman from Georgia, telling him that he was instructed by the President of the United States to solicit him to take upon himself the completion of the road between the High Shoals of the "Appallachi," and Fort Stoddert, as well as the establishment of stages for the convenience and accommodation of travelers on the route. Thus the original Federal Road through Alabama had its inception.



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The Postmaster General's letter, which was a lengthy one, goes into great detail as to the proper handling of the mail, the hiring of riders, their duties, etc., etc. He instructed him, among other things, in the selection of riders he must always take persons of integrity, sound health, firmness, perseverance and high ambitions, pride of character, and that preference must be due to young men, "the less in size the better." They were to be paid dependent on their fidelity to the job.

### Given Bonus

He further suggested that when they conducted themselves with perfect fidelity and great energy, he recommended a small present to the value of a dollar or two, in addition to their quarterly salary. He instructed him that when one became intemperate and tardy, he must be dismissed forthwith. The mail must never stop in transit from Atlanta to Fort Stoddert, thence to New Orleans, except one five minutes in 10 miles, this to "breathe the horses." Mail riders were allowed 20 minutes for breakfast or supper, 30 minutes for dinner, and where a fresh horse was taken, that is at the "change places," the horse must be freshly watered and ready at the door of the post office at least one hour before the expected arrival of the mail. Mr. Granger went into many other details.

### Provision For Federal Road

In the letter to Gen. Merriwether soliciting his efforts towards the completion of this link between Washington City and New Orleans, he sets aside certain sums of money which must be paid for the upkeep of the road, that is the construction of bridges or ferries, and a sum of money for the payment of the mail riders. These details along with the Postmaster General's report to the President, as of March 5, 1807, show the opening of the Nashville to Natchez and the Athens to the U. S. boundary line

for Port Gibson out, thus preventing it from going on down to Natchez where the next postmaster had a key. Mr. Granger reminded the postmaster that "a practice of this kind cannot be permitted and I feel confident that a moment's reflection will convince you of its impropriety." On account of Dr. Moore's having stopped the mail man, John Henderson, postmaster at Natchez, had written to the Postmaster General concerning the "irregularity" of his mail and the General advised him that he presumed the doctor would not again cut the mail bag.

The Athens-Georgia-Fort Stoddert-Alabama route went down the Oconee and Okmulgee valleys, by the Indian Agency in the present Crawford county, Georgia, on by the present Macon, Georgia, across to Fort Mitchell, Alabama, thence to Mt. Meigs, and across the Alabama River at Claiborne, to reach St. Stephens and Fort Stoddert by crossing the Tombigbee River at McGrew's Shoals.

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#### Cost \$700

Item 4 in this report shows that it cost \$700 to cut the road from the High Shoals of the "Appalachy" to Fort Stoddert. This road was cut by Mr. Wheaton. Thomas Wright explored and laid out the road on the Nashville route. That cost \$425.87½. For exploring and laying out one route from Fort Stoddert to Lake Pontchartrain, the amount was \$261. An overland road from Fort Stoddert to the Pearl River cost \$1,245.23½. The Postmaster General set aside one thousand dollars for improvements on the two authorized roads, some of which had already been used, and he also authorized \$500 for Gen. Merriwether to further improve the Federal Road.

The Mississippi Territorial Papers show many interesting letters referable to the Alabama route and some have amusing features. In January of 1807, the Postmaster General wrote Edmund Pendleton Gaines, then a lieutenant in the U. S. Army, and serving as postmaster at Fort Stoddert, to expedite all Government mail by sending it "Express," not to wait on the regular rider. As a postscript to one of these letters, he reminded Lt. Gaines that postmasters are strictly forbidden from filing the chain of the mail portmanteau.

#### Key Lost

A short time before this, Dr. Moore, who was the postmaster at Port Gibson, near Natchez, had lost his key and insisted on cutting the mail bag open to get the package that was intended

by the Indian Agency in the present Crawford county, Georgia, on by the present Macon, Georgia, across to Fort Mitchell, Alabama, thence to Mt. Meigs, and across the Alabama River at Claiborne, to reach St. Stephens and Fort Stoddert by crossing the Tombigbee River at McGrew's Shoals.