

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. FIVE

January 12, 1976

I have been given the dubious honor of being Secretary of the Jackson County Historical Association and Editor of the Newsletter for another year, and ask that you provide me with Jackson County History, suitable for the Newsletter, during 1976. Remember our Newsletter is a compilation of which you can be proud. Please, share your common interest with the entire Association by providing the Editor with some of your articles on our County heritage for publication in our Newsletter.

Guess who was the first person to provide me with information on Jackson County history, prior to the 1839 history listed in our Newsletter number four? Well - - you will have to learn the answer as you read the 1820-1832 history in this publication.

What better time than during the year of America's Birthday could we share our Jackson County History with others, especially thru our Newsletter. I am confident when you read this Newsletter and learn of the work a member of our Association, not living in Jackson County, has done you will want to do your share during 1976.

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page, Secretary  
and Editor, Newsletter No. Five

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This is 1976 - THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR!  
A year to pause and consider.  
To find the meaning of your personal world.  
To decide: Is this really what I want?  
To rediscover the resources in yourself.  
To make a lot out of little -  
And to have a lot of fun doing it.

We have, at present, a few moments of history in which to sort out our past and our present, to decide what we want to keep, what we want to change, before the future is irrevocably upon us. There is an old maxim: Use it up; Wear it out; Make it do; Do without. With a bit of a twist, it suits 1976 fine. As a Historical Association, let us resolve to "use up" 1976 making history for the Tricentennial; let us wear out our energies in the pursuit of freedom and happiness; let us enjoy our rich heritage as it is without craving to redo it with costly, unnecessary frills; and last, but not least, let us learn to use what we have to the point of enjoying doing without the things we really never needed anyway. 1976 is the perfect time to take pride in reflecting on the past and to gain courage for a brighter future - then we can all join together and be grateful we are a vital part of 1976 - THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

Ann B. Chambless, President  
Jackson County Historical  
Association.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Board January 18, 1976 at 2:00 P. M., Scottsboro City Hall, just prior of the regular program meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association.

PROGRAM MEETING

The regular program meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association will be January 18, 1976 at 2:30 P. M. in the large court room of the Scottsboro City Hall.

It is hoped all our members will attend this meeting. The highlight of the program will be the presentation of the Alabama Historical Association 1975 Award of Merit to Mrs. Christine P. Sumner, a member of this Association. This presentation will be made by Senator John Baker.

Mrs. Sumner is well known to all of us for her activities aimed to preserve the history of Jackson County. She is responsible for the completion of eight applications on historical sites and structures in Jackson County for the National Register of Historic Places. Mrs. Sumner has worked for many years with the Alabama Historical Commission to make sure no highway or bridge construction interfered with any site or structure of historical value in Jackson County. She is presently serving on the Advisory Board of the Alabama Historical Commission and is a member of the Alabama Historical Association.

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JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 1976:

- President - - - - - Ann B. Chambless, Route 4, Scottsboro, AL 35768
- First Vice-President - Walter Hammer, P. O. Box 52, Scottsboro, AL 35768
- Second Vice-President- Hazel Matthews, 408 Tupelo Pike, Scottsboro, AL 35768
- Secretary - - - - - Alice Ruth Page, Route 1, Box 11, Woodville, AL 35776
- Treasurer - - - - - James (Jim) Eiford, Route 5, Box 27, Scottsboro, AL
- Directors - - - - - Cecil Hodges, Route 2, Box 335, Section, AL 35771  
Ruth Morris, 712 Adelaide Street, Stevenson, AL 35772  
Rex Page, Route 1, Box 11, Woodville, AL 35771  
Christine P. Sumner, Route 5, Box 123, Scottsboro, AL

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JACKSON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, Walter Hammer, Chairman, upon their official approval as an approved Bicentennial community.

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MORE CONGRATULATIONS: Yes, our congratulations go out to Carlus Page, Chairman of the Scottsboro Bicentennial Committee and Walter Hammer, Chairman of the Jackson County Bicentennial Committee for the magnificent float in the Scottsboro Christmas Parade. This float won first prize in its category. These men, with the assistance of others, put many hours of hard work and their pride in this float. This was a work of splendor because the float captured a true American Bicentennial heartbeat in those watching the parade.

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JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBER HONORED: Miss Kathryn Armstrong of Stevenson is a lady our county can be proud of for her desire to preserve some of Jackson County history for future generations to enjoy.

On November 24, 1975 Miss Armstrong was honored with the 1975 Award of Merit. This presentation was made to her by Representative Bethel Starkey who was representing Governor George Wallace and Milo B. Howard, Jr., Chairman of the Alabama Historical Commission.

The Award was deserved by Miss Armstrong for her time and efforts spent in having a log cabin, dating back 140 years, moved from Bennett's Cove in the Stevenson, Jackson County, Alabama area to the Stevenson Park. In this location Miss Armstrong's efforts continued until the cabin was completely restored to it's original form.

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THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR: "Don't keep forever on the public road, going only where others have gone. Leave the beaten track occasionally and dive into the woods. You will be certain to find something you have never seen before. Of course, it will be a little thing, but do not ignore it. Follow it up, explore all around it; one discovery will lead to another, and before you know it you will have something worth thinking about to occupy your mind. All really big discoveries are the results of thought."

Alexander Graham Bell

STATUE TO BE ERECTED ON COURT HOUSE LAWN

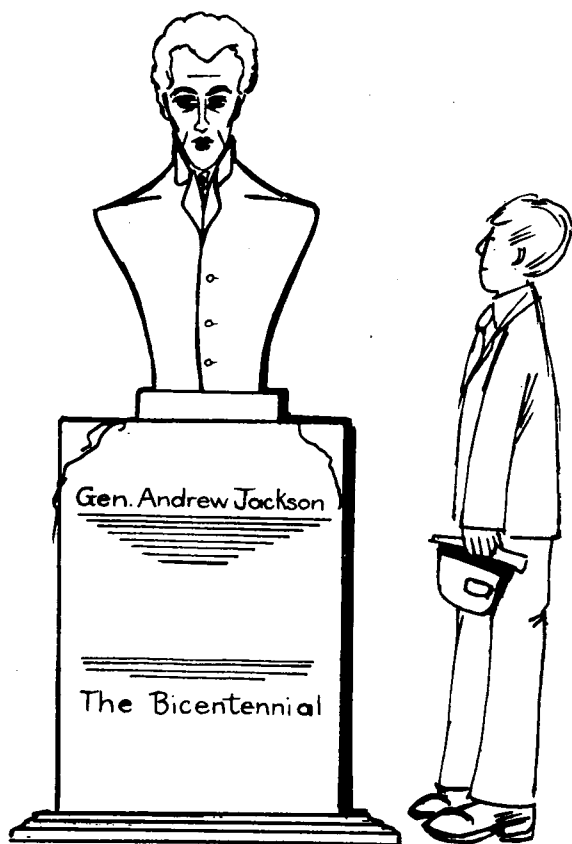
GEN. ANDREW JACKSON

Soldier, Statesman. 7<sup>th</sup> President U.S.A.

Jackson County was created by the State Legislature on December 13, 1819 while in session in Huntsville, Ala.

The county was named in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson who was visiting in Huntsville at the time.

This statue was presented by the citizens of Jackson County during the year of the 1776 · Bicentennial · 1976



I am sure that all the members of our Historical Association will be glad to learn that the Jackson County Bicentennial Committee, in cooperation with the Scottsboro Bicentennial Committee, has commissioned Nashville sculptor Puryear Mims to do our bust of Andrew Jackson. Mr. Mims plans to have the statue ready for unveiling by July 1976. The bust alone will be five feet tall and it will rest on a two foot base, making a total height of seven feet.

The sketch above of the bust is an illustration to show the size in comparison to man. The inscription on the bust is also illustrated above.

I know that the members of the Jackson County Bicentennial Committee and the Scottsboro Bicentennial Committee can count on your support for this project.

Walter Hammer, Chairman  
Jackson County Bicentennial Committee

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We want to extend our great appreciation to Mrs. Nancy Hammer Bradford for sketching the illustrations we have used above.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS WHO LIVED IN JACKSON, COUNTY, ALABAMA AFTER THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE:

Bicentennial events of 1975 generated a new high in American patriotism. In 1976, it seems even more urgent to recognize those Revolutionary War Patriots who later lived in Jackson County, Alabama. The following list of 51 veterans was compiled by Eunice Matthews and Ann B. Chambless. Only 22 of the 51 Patriots listed are known to have died in Jackson County. Of these 22, we have to accept family tradition for a few due to lack of grave markers, Bible records, or other legal proof. Newspaper obituaries found for several did not include the actual grave site. Let us resolve to keep this list of Patriots before us in 1976 and make an all-out effort to locate and mark the graves of these deserving Jackson County, Alabama pioneers. We cannot expect future generations to develop a pride in their ancestors if we do not act now to preserve their identity and accomplishments.

1. \*ALLEN, Ananias: Died in Jackson County in 1840. Buried in family cemetery about eight miles from Stevenson. Grave marked by DAR.
2. ATCHLEY, Abraham: Resided in Jackson County in 1843, age 82 or 84. (Pension applications)
3. AUSTILL, Malone: Resided in Jackson County in 1838 - age 73. (Pension application)
4. BODLEY, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1833-34 - age 72. (Pension Application)
5. BOSHART, Rudolph: Lived in Jackson County in 1830, but died in Marshall County, Alabama.
6. \*BRYANT, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 85. Died in Jackson County on 3-29-1842 (Bible Records.) Buried WHERE???
7. BRYANT, \_\_\_\_\_: Widow was Elizabeth Bryant, who was age 71 in 1840 and was living with H. M. Bryant in Jackson County.
8. BUSBY, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 80-90.
9. CARGILL, Thomas: Resided in Jackson County in the 1830's, but he was living in Marshall County in 1840 - age 77.
10. \*CARLTON, Silas: Died in Jackson County on 6-2-1837. Buried WHERE????
11. \*Clark, Lewis: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 77. Died in Jackson County on 1-12-1842. Family tradition says he is buried in Jackson County. WHERE???
12. COTTON, James: Lived in Jackson County and Cotton Cove named for him, but pension papers say he died in McNairy County, Tennessee on 2-18-1838
13. \*DAVIS, William: Died on 8-19-1848 in Jackson County. Buried in Proctor Cemetery in Maynard's Cove. Grave marked by DAR.
14. \*DUNCAN, John: Died in Jackson County on 5-3-1844 (Pension) Buried WHERE???
15. EDMONDSON, John: Probably died in Fulton County, Illinois where he was living in 1843 at age of 82. Pension application shows he lived in Jackson County at one time.
16. \*FLETCHER, William: Died in Jackson County on 11-27-1837. (Pension application.) Buried WHERE???
17. FORBUS, Alexander: Resided in Jackson County in 1830 - age 60-70.
18. \*FOSTOR, Richard: Made deed in Jackson County on 2-24-1835, Jackson County Deed Book E, page 348. Died in Jackson County per Foster descendants.
19. GILLIAM, Jourdan: Resided in Jackson County in 1837 at age of 105. That age (105) would suggest Jackson County as place of death.
20. \*HAMMAN, Phillip: Died in Jackson County on 8-3-1832. Grave marked by DAR.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS (continued)

21. \*HOLLAND, William: Died in Jackson County and buried in the Holland Family Cemetery in Maynards Cove.
22. \*JACKSON, John: Died on 11-30-1833 in Jackson County. Buried in the Robertson Cemetery in Longhollow.
23. JAGGERS, Jeremiah: Resided in Jackson County for some time but was living in Madison County in 1834 at age of 86.
24. JENKINS, William: Resided in Jackson County in 1834 - age 73. Died in Pike County, Arkansas on 10-14-1842. (Pension Papers.)
25. <sup>Johnson, Peter</sup> JONES, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1830 - age 60-70.
26. \*MATTHEWS, Benjamin: Resided in Jackson County where he died on 9-2-1840. Buried WHERE???
27. <sup>maybe War of 1812 or Indian Wars veteran</sup> McANNELLY,           : Joanna McAnnelly resided in Jackson County in 1840 and drew a pension, as a widow.
28. McCORMICK, Joseph: Probably died in Jackson County where he resided in 1840 at the age of 96.
29. \*McCRAVEY, John: Moved to Jackson County, Alabama from Franklin County, Tennessee and was living with his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Coleman in 1840. Died in Jackson County, Alabama and is thought to have been buried in the Roach Cemetery.
30. \*McCUTCHEN, John: Died on 1-17-1835 in Jackson County and buried in the Robertson Cemetery in Longhollow. Grave Marked by DAR.
31. McDEARMAN, Thomas: Resided in Jackson County at one time but was living in Lauderdale County, Mississippi in 1839 at the age of 87.
32. \*McDUFF, Daniel: Died on 3-26-1831, probably in Jackson County, according to Jackson County Deed Book D., page 172.
33. \*McGEHEE, William: Died in Jackson County on 5-1-1836. Buried WHERE???
34. \*MORRIS, John, Sr.: Died in Jackson County on 7-16-1844, according to pension papers. Buried WHERE???. He was a member of the Mud Creek Primitive Baptist Church.
35. PEARCE (PIERCE), James: Resided in Jackson County in 1830 - age 60-70. Most likely died in Jackson County as his widow was found on 1850 Jackson County census. Buried WHERE???
36. \*RICE, Ned (colored): Died in 1859 in Jackson County at age of 107.
37. \*ROUNSAVALL, John, Sr.: Died in Jackson County on 8-13-1840. Buried in Woods Cove in Freeman Cemetery.
38. ROWAN, Samuel: Resided in Jackson County in 1833 at age of 70. Died in DeKalb County on 3-18-1837.
39. \*RUSSELL, Thomas, Sr.: Died in Jackson County on 7-11-1850, according to newspaper obit.
40. SAMPLE (Y), Jesse: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 79.
41. SMITH, James: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 81.
42. SMITH, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 77.
43. SUMMERS, John: Resided near Bellefonte when applying for pension.
44. TOWNSEND, Joshua: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 80.
45. \*TRIBBLE, Elijah: resided in Jackson County in 1834 - age 80. Died on 5-22-1840 according to pension papers. Family tradition says he is buried in Jackson County.
46. VAUGHN, Abner: Resided in Jackson County according to pension application.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS (continued)

47. WEST, Samuel: Resided in Jackson County at one time but was living in Marshall county in 1840 at age of 103.
48. WHITE, James: Resided in Jackson County in 1834. Died in August, 1840 at age of 79, according to pension papers. Place of death not stated, but could be Jackson County.
49. WILLIAMS, Thomas: Resided in Jackson County in 1830 - age 80-90.
50. \*WILSON, William: Died in Jackson County and buried in Roach Cemetery.
51. WOOD, John: Resided in Jackson County in 1840 - age 89.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Again Mrs. Sandra Shelton Burney, Montgomery, Alabama, a member of the Jackson County Historical Association, has provided us with historical facts about Jackson County for our Newsletter. The following Military Register of Jackson County, Alabama was obtain by Sandra from the Alabama Archives Library.

MILITARY REGISTER - STATE MILITIA  
Volume 1 - 1820 - Page 34  
Jackson County - 1st Regiment

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>WHEN COM'D.</u>	<u>WHEN RES.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Lewis Kirby	Col.	28 March		
James Smith	Lt. Col.	28 March		
William Thornton	Major	28 March		
Nathaniel Hillion	Capt.	8 July		
Euris Houston	Capt.	8 July		
Austin Kendrick	Capt.	8 July		
John Beason	Capt.	8 July		
Giles McNulty	Capt.	8 July		
John Brewer	Capt.	8 July		
Isaac Clarke	Capt.	8 July		
James Rutherford	Capt.	8 July		
Charles Edwards	Capt.	8 July		
Robert Morris	Capt.	8 July		
John Smith	Lieut.	8 July		
Hiram Walker	Lieut.	8 July		
Hez Pickens	Lieut.	8 July		
William Pruitt	Lieut.	8 July		
John Howart	Lieut.	8 July		
(or John Stewart)				
Samuel McGehee	Lieut.	8 July		
William King	Lieut.	8 July		
William Clarke	Lieut.	8 July		
Isaac Gedion ?	Lieut.	8 July		
(or Isham Gideon)				
Mark Holor ?	Lieut.	8 July		
(or Mark Holder)				
James Brown	Ensign	8 July		
William Snare	Ensign	8 July		
Elias Nelson	Ensign	8 July		
John Rachele	Ensign	8 July		
William Baker	Ensign	8 July		
John Clay	Ensign	8 July		
James Weaver	Ensign	8 July		
William Scott	Ensign	8 July		
John Sexon ?	Ensign	8 July		
( or John Sexton)				
Jeremiah Matthews	Ensign	8 July		

MILITARY REGISTER - STATE MILITIA  
Volume 2 - 1820-1832 - Page 2  
Jackson County 1st. Division, 1st. Brigade, 1st. Regiment

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>WHEN COM'D.</u>	<u>WHEN RES.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Nathaniel Hillion	Capt.	8 July 1820		
Euris Houston	Capt.	8 July 1820		
Austin Kendrick	Capt.	8 July 1820		
John Beason	Capt.	8 July 1820		
Giles McNulty	Capt.	8 July 1820	29 May 1821	
John Brewer	Capt.	8 July 1820	18 April 1823	
Isaac Clark	Capt.	8 July 1820	7 March 1823	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>WHEN COM'D.</u>	<u>WHEN RES.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
James Rutherford	Capt.	8 July 1820		
Charles Edwards	Capt.	8 July 1820	27 Dec.1822	
Robert Morris	Capt.	8 July 1820	20 Aug. 1826	Resigned
John Lusk	Capt.	29 May 1821		
Isam Pendigrass	Capt.	20 July1820		Rifleman
John Hampton	Capt.	24 July 1820		Cavalry
John K. Tate	Capt.	24 Aug. 1822	28 Oct. 1824	Resigned
Joseph F. Frazier	Capt.	11 Nov.1822	30 Aug. 1824	Promotion
James Holland	Capt.	27 Dec.1822	30 Aug. 1824	Resigned
Robert Browning	Capt.	27 Dec.1822	24 May 1823	
Archibald Dickerson	Capt.	7 Mar. 1823		Resigned
Stephen Bishop	Capt.	18 Apr.1823	28 Oct.1824	Resigned
William T. Walker	Capt.	24 May 1823	30 Aug.1824	Promotion
Caleb Browning	Capt.	23 July1823		Rifle Company
John Taylor	Capt.	30 Aug.1824		Removed
A. F. Hargiss	Capt.	30 Aug.1824		
James Campbell	Capt.	30 Aug.1824		
William Blanchet	Capt.	4 Dec. 1824		James Thornton
Owen Rork	Capt.	4 Dec. 1824		Vice J. R. Tate
George Gifford	Capt.	4 Dec. 1824	28 Mar.1825	Resigned
Joel Matthews	Capt.	18 Feb.1825	20 Aug.1826	John Taylor
Duncan Dickerson	Capt.	18 Feb. 1825	20 Aug.1826	Vice A.Dickerson
Brantley Wright	Capt.	8 Oct. 1825	20 Aug. 1826	Vice G. Gifford
Josiah Wynn	Capt.	20 Sept.1826		Vice J. Matthews
Jacob Tally	Capt.	20 Sept.1826		Vice R. Morris
Levi Rash	Capt.	20 Sept. 1826		Vice T. Lanpan?
Hiram Pierce	Capt.	20 Sept. 1826		
Samuel F. Thompson	Capt.	20 Sept.1826	22 Mar.1828	Vice D.Dickerson
Joab Potter	Capt.	23 Dec.1828		Vice J. Leaky
James Hawk	Capt.	23 Dec.1828		Vice S. Thompson
William Haney	Capt.	17 Nov.1829		Vice J.L.Potter
Samuel B. Moore	Capt.	17 Nov. 1829		Vice J.Hawk
Young Sellars	Capt.	17 Nov.1829		Vice G.W.Saunders
John G. Walker	Capt.	17 Nov.1829		
Francis Renshaw	Capt.	17 Nov.1829		Vol. Cavalry
William H. Turner	Capt.	8 Oct. 1831		Vice W. Love

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Jeremiah Hester	Capt.	16 Jan.1832		
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Hiram Walker	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
Hezekiah Pickens	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
William Prewett	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
John Howart? (Stewart)	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
Samuel McGehee	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
William Clark	Lieut.	8 July 1820		
Isham Gideon	Lieut.	8 July 1820	27 Dec.1822	
Mark Holder	Lieut.	8 July 1820	27 Dec.1822	
Jabez Perkins	Lieut.	5 Mar.1821	26 Jan.1823	Vacancy filled in 35th Regy.
Archibald Dickson	Lieut.	29 May1821	7 Mar.1823	Promoted
Adam Self	Lieut.	1 June 1822	18 Apr.1823	
Absalom Hillion	Lieut.	21 July 1820		Rifle Company
George Griffith	Lieut.	21 July 1820	7 Mar. 1823	Cavalry
Lampton Tucker	Lieut.	11 Nov. 1822	30 Aug.1824	Removed
Henry Johnston	Lieut.	20 Dec. 1822	20 Aug.1826	Resigned
Robert Davidson	Lieut.	20 Dec.1822	30 Aug.1824	Resigned
John Taylor	Lieut.	20 Dec. 1822		
John Martin	Lieut.	7 Mar. 1823		Cavalry
Philip Williams	Lieut.	7 Mar. 1823		
William Proctor	Adjutant	11 Apr. 1823		
Joseph H. Bradford	Paymaster	11 Apr. 1823	30 Aug. 1824	
Ansel Ward	Quartermaster	11 Apr. 1823	30 Aug. 1824	
William McAllister	Lieut.	18 Apr.1823	28 Oct. 1824	Resigned
William Ward	Lieut.	30 Aug.1824		
Ellison Smith	Lieut.	30 Aug.1824	2 July,1825	Resigned
John Leakey	Lieut.	30 Aug.1824		
Joshua Kirby	Paymaster	30 Aug.1824		
Robert C. Price	Quartermaster	30 Aug.1824		
Shipman Read	Lieut.	4 Dec. 1824		Vice-McAllister
Levi Rash	Lieut.	4 Dec.1824	20 Aug.1826	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>WHEN COM'D</u>	<u>WHEN RES.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
John C. Proctor	Lieut.	18 Feb. 1825	27 July 1825	Vice D. Dickerson
Jeremiah Bonning	Lieut.	8 Oct. 1825		
William Raulins	Lieut.	8 Oct. 1825		Vice C. Proctor
Hiam Pierce	Lieut.	8 Oct. 1825		Vice E. Smith
Alfred Moore	Lieut.	20 Sept. 1826		Vice I. Fitons?
David Leonard	Lieut.	20 Sept. 1826		Vice L. Rash
Shelby Usry	Lieut.	20 Sept. 1826		Vice H. Johnson
Caleb Turk	Lieut.	20 Sept. 1826		Vice J.C. Proctor
Nicholas Broyles	Lieut.	23 Dec. 1828		Vice J. Nichols
Jacob Carnes	Lieut.	23 Dec. 1828		Vice R. Childers
John Hudson	Paymaster	23 Dec. 1828		Vice Wm. Proctor
Joseph P. Frazier	Adjutant	23 Dec. 1828		Vice R. Ivy
David Cawfield	Quartermaster	23 Dec. 1828		

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James Potter	Lieut.	17 Nov. 1829		Vice H. Mitchell
Richard McDuff	Lieut.	17 Nov. 1829		Vol. Cavalry
Thomas B. Rector	Lieut.	17 Nov. 1829		Vice N. Broyle
Isaac Hendricks	Lieut.	16 Jan. 1832		Vice Wm. Mopey

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James Brown	Ensign	8 July 1820		
William Snare	Ensign	8 July 1820		
Elias Nelson	Ensign	8 July 1820		
John Rachel	Ensign	8 July 1820		
William Baker	Ensign	8 July 1820		
James Weaver	Ensign	8 July 1820	7 Mar. 1823	
William Scott	Ensign	8 July 1820		
John Sexon (Sexton)	Ensign	8 July 1820	27 Dec. 1822	
Jeremiah Matthews	Ensign	8 July 1820	27 Dec. 1822	
Shipman Reed	Ensign	29 May 1821	18 Apr. 1823	
Nathaniel Hickman	Ensign	24 July 1820		Rifle Company
John Bryant	Cornet	24 July 1820	7 Mar. 1823	Cavalry-removed
David Larkin	Ensign	11 Nov. 1822	30 Aug. 1824	Resigned
Joseph Collins	Ensign	27 Dec. 1822	20 Aug. 1826	Resigned
John Mitchell	Ensign	27 Dec. 1822	30 Aug. 1824	Resigned
Young A. Pool	Ensign	27 Dec. 1822	30 Aug. 1824	Resigned
George Justice	Cornet	7 Mar. 1823		Cavalry
James Abbott	Ensign	7 Mar. 1823		Resigned
Jeremiah Burks	Ensign	18 Apr. 1823	28 Oct. 1824	
George Byford	Ensign	30 Aug. 1824		
Joseph Marmon	Ensign	30 Aug. 1824	20 Aug. 1826	Removed
Christopher Riffe	Ensign	30 Apr. 1824	23 July 1825	Resigned
Mitchell Hill	Ensign	28 Dec. 1824		Vice Burks Usry
William Morgan	Ensign	4 Dec. 1824	20 Aug. 1826	Vice W. Helpayne
Charles Ivy	Ensign	18 Feb. 1825	7 July 1828	Vice J. Abbott
William Biggs	Ensign	8 Oct. 1825		Vice C. Riffe
Thomas Bryant	Ensign	8 Oct. 1825		
Deaton Murry	Ensign	20 Sept. 1826		Vice I. Manner
Hamon Candy	Ensign	20 Sept. 1826		Vice I. Collins
Edward Potts	Ensign	20 Sept. 1826		Vice Wm. Morgan
William Kizzia	Ensign	23 Dec. 1828		Vice D. Smith
Hiram Stots	Ensign	23 Dec. 1828		Vice C. Ivy

DUES: According to our By-Laws, Article IV, Section 1, The dues for annual membership shall be \$7.50. These dues shall be payable at the first meeting in January and shall be delinquent by the first meeting in April. To those people wishing to mail in their dues the following information is provided.

Make checks payable to: Jackson County Historical Association.

Mail checks to: Mr. James H. Eiford  
Route 5, Box 27  
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Please provide: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. SIX

April 5, 1976

In this issue of our Newsletter is noted present history being made in Stevenson, Jackson County, Alabama. I have also done my best to publish some of the past history of this town. I feel there are other portions in the history of Stevenson which should have been touched on. Hopefully this Newsletter will stimulate the citizens of Stevenson and the citizens of other areas of this county to put forth an effort to provide me with articles for our next Newsletter.

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page, Secretary  
and Editor, Newsletter No. Six

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

In response to the list of Revolutionary War Soldiers who later lived in Jackson County, Alabama as printed in Newsletter No. Five, Mrs. W. H. Christian of Williamsburg, Virginia was kind enough to advise that her ancestor, Thomas Russell is buried in the Doran's Cove Cemetery. His grave marker reads: born 6-7-1761, died 7-11-1850, married 12-2-1784. His wife was Tabitha Jenkins Russell, and her grave marker reads: born 6-14-1770 and died 1-13-1861. A marker to denote his Revolutionary War service is being ordered. Similar markers for Patriots John Rounsavall, Sr., and John Jackson, Sr., have been delivered. An early Fall unveiling is our goal and you will hear more about this project later. Do you know of other markers which should be ordered and included in this project? (The Veterans Administration will furnish a free Gov't marker for veterans of any war.) What better time than our Bicentennial Year to honor the memory of the American Patriots who risked their lives and fortunes to establish and secure our independence and freedom?

Ann B. Chambless, President  
Jackson County Historical  
Association.

PROGRAM MEETING April 11, 1976

The April program meeting has been changed from the third to the second Sunday since Easter falls on the third Sunday. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

Mr. W. Warner Floyd of Montgomery will be our guest speaker. In 1967, the Alabama Historical Commission was organized as the State Agency responsible for restoration and preservation of historic sites in Alabama and Mr. Floyd became the first (and only) Executive Director. As Executive Director, he is responsible for adding historic landmarks to the National Register of Historic Places, maintaining the State inventory of same, and for administering grants for restoration/preservation projects.

A native of Luverne, Alabama, Mr. Floyd grew up in Troy and is a graduate of Troy State University. He did graduate work at the University of Alabama and Auburn University in Montgomery and attended Jones Law School. He is a Baptist, a Mason, a Rotarian, a former Jaycee and Kiwanian, a U. S. Army Veteran, a former editor of the Alabama Conservation magazine, and an officer and member of several professional and civic organizations. Mr. Floyd is listed in Who's Who in Alabama and Personalities of the South. He is a former school principal in Louisville, Alabama, served for some time as Vocation Education Coordinator at Greenville, and once was a travel promotion supervisor for the State Bureau of Publicity.

April 11th will mark Mr. Floyd's first visit to Jackson County, and it is a distinct honor to have a gentleman of his stature visit with us. Let's give him a big "High Jackson" welcome!

There will be a meeting of the Executive Board April 11, 1976 at 2:00 P. M., Scottsboro City Hall, just prior of the regular program meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association.

A GREAT SERVICE PERFORMED

The Jackson County Historical Association has performed a great service to this county during the past year. This association was the moving force for nationally recognized Bicentennial committees. You can be proud that as members and workers in this organization, during the past year, Jackson County citizens have not only been made aware of their local Heritage '76, but that hundreds have participated in a score of Bicentennial projects making Festival U S A a lasting success .

We must now turn to Horizon '76, and try to work on things that will help the future citizens of this county. These things must be of a permanent nature. Some of the projects are a downtown mini park in Bridgeport, renovation of Fort Harker and the Depot in Stevenson, a \$600 slide and narration project on Jackson County points of interest sponsored by the Scottsboro Committee, and the unveiling of the Andrew Jackson Bust on the Court House Square in June.

The Spirit of '76 was not only then, but it is now.

Thanks for your outstanding support,  
Walt Hammer, Vice President

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March 3, 1976  
Ann Barbee Chambless  
R. R. #4, Barbee Lane  
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

My Dear Mrs. Chambless:

Thank you so much for your recent letter dated February 24, 1976, regarding the probable burial place of one of my ancestors who died in Stevenson, Alabama, on October 13, 1863.

Your letter was quite interesting and informative. From what you told me and from what I can ascertain from copies of his military records, it seems quite likely that he was buried in the near vicinity of where he died.

I am enclosing to you a couple of copies from Nicholas' file for your inspection or information. Note that under "No. & locality of grave" it says 92. Do you suppose this indicates a certain spot in an area then designated for the burials? You mentioned that perhaps sometime in the future the area might be developed into a historical area. This would be interesting if a cemetery or other area was plotted at that time and grave places numbered.

We should like to come there sometime to visit and would love to call on you to personally thank you for this letter. My stepson (my wife's son ) was at one time in a hospital in Bridgeport, from an auto accident, and the local people there were quite helpful to them at that time. Consequently, this area is of great interest to both she and I.

Once again, thank you so much for your letter. It was so kind of you to answer regarding my inquiry. I shall place your letter in my family files.

Very truly yours,

Phillip D. Maners  
R. R. #1, Box 191A  
Unionville, Indiana 47468

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\*Nicholas B. Maners died at General Field Hospital No. 1 located at Stevenson, Alabama according to his military service record furnished by the Nat'l Archives in Washington, D. C. Mr. Maners was a Private in Company G of the 82nd Indiana Infantry and died as a result of a gun shot wound through his thigh received in the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. According to U. S. Surgeon J. M. Kibbin report dated 10-25-1863, Nicholas B. Maners was assigned grave number 92 in the Stevenson Federal burial ground. This is indicative of the number of military burials by Oct. 1863 in or near Fort Harker.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING IN STEVENSON, ALABAMA

The Bicentennial celebration in Stevenson has been a combination of great teamwork by the town officials and the Bicentennial Committee with the full support of all citizens.

It has been said that too many projects have been undertaken for the time allotment of one year. Results so far have been amazing! Most of the proposed projects are going to be accomplished.

The committee organizational meeting was held in July, 1975 with about fifteen interested people attending. Everyone present shared a mutual interest, Stevenson history and a love for this community. From the very first, things began to click. Ideas were suggested and discussed. Each suggestion led to others which made us realize we must set up a list of projects from which to work. Priority was assigned to plans which would touch community needs and involve the most people.

The "official" boundaries of the Stevenson Bicentennial territory was set to cover the area served by the Stevenson Schools.

To capture the interest of the local citizens it was suggested we locate a log cabin which could be bought and moved to the Stevenson City Park for the use and enjoyment of the entire area. One very energetic committee member went to work immediately on this and located such a cabin on the Walker Jordan farm. The Walker Jordans very generously donated the cabin when they learned the plans for its use. The cabin was reinforced at its original location and moved, intact, on a big truck right through town to the delight of local history buffs and everyone else along its route.

The log cabin was settled in its new site and work proceeded on re-constructing the stone chimney from the original stones. An adjoining room and back porch were rebuilt and hand hewn wooden shingles were cut here for the new roof, which drew a great deal of attention. With a beautiful fireplace making the inside cozy, everyone who visits the cabin declares the project a huge success!

In the meantime other exciting plans were forming. Committees began working on ideas for the big "Festival Day" which took place October 11, 1975, which served as the spark needed to create local interest in the Bicentennial year--1976.

The fun day was an attention-getter from the beginning when the store windows, up and down Main Street, were each decorated with different themes using locally owned authentic antiques, old snapshots and lots of imagination. These displays drew crowds of people day and night, and they slowly wound their way past the unusual displays as they reminisced over the contents of each window.

The kick-off parade, representing every facet of local interest, drew the largest crowd seen in years on Main Street, and most of this crowd followed the parade to the City Park for a day of festivities there. Featured were old crafts demonstrated by local folks, old timey food, and old games. The finale was a square dance, under the moonlight, on the Park tennis courts. The amazed joy of the Bicentennial Committee members was reflected in the faces of all who came. This cinched our future plans for 1976!

With the success of this day still in its thoughts, the Committee expanded its plans toward preservation of our old depot; the interest in Fort Harker; toward a nature trail to be blazed by the local Boy and Girl Scouts at the Park; and distribution of free "Liberty" trees for local residents.

The last was accomplished with great success. We managed to give away 2,500 trees, and many shrubs were planted along Main Street. Trees, paid for by the committee, were given to homeowners, churches, and local public sites.

Several other plans are being worked on at this time. A play was presented on February 21, 1976 featuring students from each of the 12 grades of Stevenson schools, as well as interested patrons and committee members. Local history was woven into a play depicting well known events in our nation's history, by two members of the Bicentennial Committee. This was undertaken with the full cooperation of the faculty and principal and under the expert direction of a committee member.

History in the Making in Stevenson, Alabama (continued)

For early spring, a project is being planned to show the location of some of the old homes and historic places in and around Stevenson in the form of an auto tour with a map giving a thumbnail description of each landmark. This will be called the Stevenson Heritage Trail.

Prizes are to be awarded by the Committee for the most interesting and well written essays through the History and English departments of the Junior and Senior High Schools. This seems to be creating quite a bit of concentration among students at this point, and hopefully will be a means of acquainting them with the rich heritage of their hometown.

One committee member, who is an avid stamp collector, worked with the local postmaster in obtaining a dye-hub for a Bicentennial letter cancellation for all mail from the Stevenson post office. As far as is known, this is the first such cancellation in the state of Alabama to be used this year.

Finally, on July 4th, plans call for a community-wide worship service to be held in the City Park. We believe this will bring Christians from all our area churches together for a meaningful finale to our Bicentennial year.

The culmination of all this will be a book of local history. All facts are being researched and documented at this time to include local families' history and the story of our town told with the love and pride felt by all true Stevensonites, so that the Tri-Centennial committee will have a good basis from which to begin the next 100 years of Stevenson history.

The enthusiasm generated by this Bicentennial Committee and the interest shown in all its undertakings, makes us think how great it would be to carry this on into the formation of a local historical society. Who knows, perhaps this too can be accomplished and added to the other varied plans accomplished by this committee: a group of dedicated local citizens.

Betty Ruth A. Henninger  
Stevenson Bicentennial Chairman

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HISTORY OF STEVENSON copied from the Progressive Age dated Thursday, August 5, 1915, published in Scottsboro, Alabama. (Author unknown)

Henderson Price was the first owner of the land where the town of Stevenson is now situated.

About 1825, the first settlers came here, mostly from Tennessee and Virginia. Only a few small houses and cabins were constructed at this time. And from the fact that there were no railroads through the town, the growth was very slow.

Some of the earliest settlers of the town were James Hogue, F. M. Pankey, R. Hatfield, Jno. Blake, Luke Willis, Lee Metts, F. M. McMahan, Bill Russell, Geo. Rodgers, Tom Osborn, G. W. Rice, Dr. James Russell and a few others.

N. B. Burch was one of the first merchants. A little while later James Hogue and Jno. R. Coffey built small stores.

One of the first mills near the present town of Stevenson was a grist mill near the bank of Crow Creek. It was run by horse power, which was carried on similar to some of the present methods of baling hay.

However, this history occurred before the town received its name. B. K. Stevenson and Jno. F. Anderson bought the land from Henderson Price, and about the time the first railroad came through here, they divided the town into lots and sold them. The town then became known as Stevenson.

The first railroad to come through Stevenson was the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. This was constructed through here about 1850.

About 1853 the Southern Railway was extended through Stevenson and in 1857 it began to be operated between Stevenson and Decatur. The town now began to grow as a railroad center and it is largely to the railroad that its early growth is due. The engines operated on these lines at first were upright engines and indeed would look peculiar in comparison with the modern type. Wood was used instead of coal to fire the engines even until 1880. No suspension bridges were built on either road for a good many years.

## History of Stevenson (continued)

All the bottom lands then surrounding Stevenson were covered with heavy timber such as gum, etc. Also the mountains were covered with large amounts of excellent cedar. Therefore, the town until about the time of war was practically surrounded by a forest.

The town of Stevenson sent a good many of its best citizens into the ranks of the Confederate army. The first Alabama company left Stevenson in 1861 for Fort Morgan. Captain Ragsdale was the commander of the company. About a year later, the Thirty-first Alabama regiment went out from the town with Captain W. A. Coffey as the leader of the company.

It seceded from the Union, though, not all the citizens of the town were in favor of it. And in the county the secession movement only won by one vote.

The Federals never located any troops here until about 1863. A small regiment encamped here. They remained here until near the end of the war and it was with this company that the only engagement during the war was fought here. It was only a small skirmish at Fort Harker and it resulted in the retreat of the Federals. Some retreated toward Nashville, while others joined the Federal army by erecting pontoons and crossing the river at Caperton's ferry.

During the war the growth of the town was retarded. One building is standing today, however, that was built about this time, namely; the Masonic Hall. The Masonic lodge was moved from Bolivar to Stevenson and a two-story building was erected which was used as a Masonic hall and church.

F. E. McMahan, W. H. McMahan, W. H. Washington, G. W. Thornton, H. M. Bunn and J. P. and J. S. Timberlake were citizens of the town who built business houses at this period.

W. W. Rosser, J. F. Martin, W. M. Cowan, Squire William McMahan, Captain C. D. Stoner, Dr. T. T. Cotnam and Dr. P. H. Helton were also highly respected citizens at this period of the town's history and they aided much in its development.

Among the additions to the town at this time was the William and Emma Austin College erected in 1875. It is situated in the eastern part of the town limits and it is at this building that some of Jackson County's best citizens began their education. The building is beautifully situated on a big campus at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. It is indeed an institution that has rendered the town of Stevenson great benefits. It is an institution of which the town of Stevenson should always be proud.

During this period of the town's history, the residence section increased rapidly as well as the business section. Being a railroad center and also a good agricultural center, many new families came to the town during the period from 1880 to 1890. Hotels and other business houses were also added at this time.

In the year 1890 a butter-dish factory was built in Stevenson by W. M. Wayne. This was one of the largest, if not the largest, manufactory of the town up to this time. It offered employment to over one hundred hands and this, of course, brought more people to Stevenson. This manufactory existed until about 1898 or 1900 and was then removed and a cotton mill was erected near the site of the old butter-dish factory.

At this time the people began to feel the need of a new church. As a result the Union church was erected and all denominations met here. This was the only church in town for a good many years. The Methodist and Christian churches were built later on and the old church was used by the Baptists and Presbyterians. The street on which the church was located has been named Church street on account of this church. This street has become one of the best residence sections of the town.

From time to time many new stores or business houses were built and by 1895 there were twelve or fifteen large business houses and two hotels.

But the year 1900 brought to Stevenson its largest manufacturing establishment, namely: The Broadus' cotton mill. This is a large stone structure, with additional warehouses, and good machinery, and is indeed a credit to any town. It furnished work for many hands; the officials of the mill also provided houses for its laborers. For many years to come this establishment will be of importance to the town of Stevenson.

## History of Stevenson (continued)

In 1903 or 1904 a hub factory was built in the town by T. C. Campbell and it was a good addition to the manufactories of the town.

In May, 1910, occurred one of the largest destructions in the town, namely: the big fire. One of the stores caught fire during the night and as a result all the business houses were burned with the exception of five or six. Much property was consumed by the flames. But since then the houses have been replaced by all brick structures.

At present the town is growing rapidly. An efficient water-works system has been installed. Power is received from a large reservoir on the mountain above town and Stevenson is now well supplied with water.

The town is now furnished with electric lights and all evidence considered, with its picturesque situation at the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, with its healthful climate, its railroad advantages and its manufactories it promises to be one of the leading towns of North Alabama for many years to come. (Written in 1915)

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EDITOR'S NOTE: When I acquired this above article "History of Stevenson" author unknown, I was concerned with the authenticity of its contents. I immediately started searching for material to substantiate the contents of this article.

In the "History of Jackson County" by John Robert Kennamer, copyright 1935; "Rivers and Rails, Truths and Tales of Stevenson, Alabama" by Allen E. Knox, Jr., August 1968; "A Pictorial Walk Thru O'High Jackson" by Walt Hammer, copyright 1967, I found material to substantiate most of the contents in this article "History of Stevenson."

In these three works of history I found some interesting material on the History of Stevenson. My findings are being published as an addition to the "History of Stevenson."

## STEVENSON

The Fourth Alabama Cavalry was organized in December, 1862, by Colonel A. A. Russell, of Doran's Cove, Jackson County, Alabama. It was composed by uniting six companies of the old Fourth Alabama with troops who had seen much hard service under General Forrest. Russell operated in the Tennessee Valley while Hood was in the Tennessee campaign.

After the surrender, Russell went to Mexico, bought a coffee farm, and never returned on a visit to the county until 1880. He never did take the oath of allegiance to the United States and have his citizenship restored to him.

A regiment of Sherman's Army was stationed at Stevenson during the winter of 1863-64, under the command of Colonel Krzyznewski of Michigan, a German Jew, with headquarters in the Cowan building. His quartermaster, Major Warren, had his headquarters in the only brick building in the town, the Jacoway or Austin building. Captain Wash Phillips of Ohio was wagon-master.

General Bragg sent Colonel Russell at the head of about 700 soldiers, mostly infantry, with three cannons. They crossed the Tennessee River from the south side and engaged the Union soldiers in and near Stevenson. After an all-day fight, the Union Soldiers were forced to retreat as far as Winchester, Tennessee, with Colonel Russell following as far as Anderson. In this engagement, Russell placed one cannon on Cotnam Hill, one on McMahan Hill, and the third one on Russell's Hill. The Confederates had one man wounded as his horse was shot from under him near the Mitchell's Mill place. On the Union side, a few soldiers were killed and some were wounded.

The first school was built in Stevenson in 1875. It was called the William and Emma Austin College. It was located on the present site of the city cemetery. This school was named after William Austin and his wife because of the sizeable donation he gave to the citizens who were going about the community collecting donations to build a school. Mr. Austin told these citizens that he give a large donation if they would name the new school the William and Emma Austin College. The school started with two teachers, Professor Moore and Professor Livingston. It was a private school and charged tuition. Students even came to Stevenson from other places, and boarded in private homes for \$10.00 per week.

Stevenson (continued)

The name of the William and Emma Austin College was changed in 1898 to the Austin Training School. Professor Gross served as the first principal of this school. Since the objective of this school was to serve as a college preparatory, and not actually as a college, it was felt that the name should be changed. It continued to operate as a private school until 1903 with such teachers as Professor Cooper, Ann Graham (Jon Graham's sister), Myrtle Jacoway, who later married Ralph Bender. Will Baxter of Huntsville served as principal from 1902 until 1904.

One of the earliest buildings in Stevenson was the Alabama House, the town's first hotel. It was a three-story frame building with a porch at the front of each of the floors, and there were over fifty rooms. It was located on the site of the present Stevenson Drug Company. J. D. Boren was the hotel-keeper at the time of the War Between the States.

Many of the buildings erected were frame structures. On the present site of the City Hall, Mr. Walter McGriff constructed a three-story frame building. This was a hotel called the McGriff Hotel.

Stevenson religion began with services in homes and in log and frame church buildings in and around the community prior to 1900. One of the early attempts occurred around 1900 when the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists started a Union Church on Church Street. Reverend Fulmer was among some of the first ministers to preach at the Union Church. Rev. Peter Shook was another minister who preached to this early group. Reverend Morgan also preached in the early days of the old brick church. In 1906 Will Brandon was one of the Methodist ministers who preached for the Union Church. Rev. Jim Willis was active as a minister during these years.

The coves and creeks around Stevenson have played an important role in its history and development. McMahan's Cove is northeast of Stevenson. It was settled at an early date. The city of Bolivar was located near the mouth of this cove. Big Coon has developed through the years with its fertile land and abundant forest. Little Coon's early pioneers were James Matthews, Edmond McCrary, Laxton Rash, General Austin, Jackson Grider, G. D. Carlton, and Jake Gibson. Crow Creek settlers contributed to the trade area and the development of Stevenson.

Doran's Cove is north of Stevenson. The oldest house in Jackson County is located in this cove. It was built in the early 1800s by Major James Doran. It had no windows and the door was fastened to the wall with wooden pegs and homemade hinges. Major Doran lived among the Indians for many years.

In 1905 S. S. Broadus came to Stevenson from Decatur, Alabama to establish a cotton mill. In 1905 the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mills were built. S. S. Broadus served as president of the company, and Phil Timberlake was vice president. This mill continued to operate as the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mill until 1920 when Mr. Broadus sold the cotton mill to a group of stockholders for about \$110,000.00. The name was changed from the S. S. Broadus Cotton Mill to the Stevenson Cotton Mill. This mill continued to operate as the Stevenson Cotton Mill until about 1929 when it was purchased by Avondale Mills.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

FORT HARKER, STEVENSON, ALABAMA

by: Kathryn Armstrong

General Mitchell, immediately after occupying Huntsville, deemed it his duty to man the engine and with 2000 men aboard proceeded to Stevenson and occupied the Community April 28, 1862.

Returning to Huntsville, abandoning Stevenson, General Buell, in Huntsville realized the strategic importance not only as a major adjunct for the Memphis and Charleston and Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, but the importance of the Depot and future logistics.

In July, 1862, Colonel C. G. Harker, Army of the Ohio, was ordered by General Buell to Stevenson to begin extensive defenses. These defenses were Fort Harker, 1/2 mile from the Depot, and Fort Mitchell, one mile north of the depot. The seven blockhouses, four of which were private homes, still exist.

Past, Present, Future - Fort Harker, Stevenson, Alabama (continued)

Fort Harker and Fort Mitchell were built to protect the depot, a major supply base and cover for Bridgeport, and to use the Tennessee River in future logistics.

Fort Harker is approximately 150 feet square with entrenchments. It was built with barbette platforms for seven guns, a magazine, and interior bomb proof keep.

In building the redoubt, Colonel Harker, "Commanding United States Forces," enclosed a profile of Fort Harker which showed that a great amount of labor would be required. The soil was exceedingly hard and required the continual use of the pick. The effective work force involved all the "Negroes" within a circle of five or six miles, but only 40 were found.

Colonel Harker was authorized to send West and obtain some 400 slaves from the Railroad. D. C. Buell to Colonel Harker: "Push the work night and day."

In the taking of slaves to work, if possible, Colonel Harker left enough with the owner for the ordinary and indispensable work. "Send Mr. Harris' boy (Larkin) back to him for that purpose. Send back Mr. Cole's slaves, Zack and John, to take care of the place, there being no hands left for that purpose," were orders written at Fort Harker.

Stevenson was the major base for the Union and was attacked many, many times by the Confederacy. Consequently, in 1864, General Granger began other redoubts; they were not completed because of Hood's invasion of Middle Tennessee.

A few of the commanding Generals were Rosecrans, McCook, Grittenden, Johnson, Thomas, James A. Garfield, Mitchell, Buell, Hooker, Stanley, U. S. Grant, Granger, etc. Their headquarters still exist.

Mr. Edward E. Tinney, Chief Historian, Chickamauga National Park, states, "Stevenson was an important part of what eventually developed into the Battle of Chickamauga, which led to General Sherman's march on Atlanta."

The Superintendent, Mr. Henry Hillard, Russell Cave National Park, Mr. James Kretschman, State of Alabama Coordinator for the National Park Service, Horseshoe Bend, the Chief Historian of the Chickamauga National Military Park, and Major Millard Matthews made a five hour field trip beginning at Caperton's Ferry and throughout Stevenson. The result was that Mr. Dave Hanna, Archaeologist, was assigned to complete an archaeological study of Fort Harker. This has required many months of hard work.

Mr. Dave Hanna, Archaeologist, under the direction of Mr. Henry Hillard, Superintendent of Russell Cave, has announced the study is now complete. His report will be given to Mr. Hillard for the recommendations to be given to the Town of Stevenson as to the restoration and preservation of Fort Harker, the last known fort from the Civil War.

Mr. Henry Hillard presented the Town Board the following recommendations as to Stevenson's future role in History:

1. The Depot used as a visitors center and contact station for introductions to the Park and Tour.
2. The Park would entail the Depot and Fort Harker as principal components; Fort Harker as a walking tour with parking and picnic area adjoining is envisioned.
3. The possibility of other Historic places that might be acquired and these incorporated into the tour with tourist stops at these points.
4. The Park tour directed to Historical points throughout the area by appropriate tour guide tablet signs giving historical facts as to specific location in a manner that will not invade the privacy of individuals.
5. The National Park Service would assist in furnishing tour guide signs and historical tablets.

Mr. Hillard assured the Town of Stevenson that neighboring government agencies would assist in distributing historical pamphlets regarding Stevenson.

Will Stevenson recognize their potential and begin now?



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** My sincere appreciation is expressed to Betty Ruth Henninger and to Kathryn Armstrong for their contribution of material for this Newsletter. These ladies spent several hours compiling their articles to contribute to our Newsletter.

How about you? Will you be the next Jackson County Historical Association member to mail me your own material for a future Newsletter?

Great presidents live on. So do great soldiers, inventors and explorers. They are living history. These Jackson County Historical Facts in this Newsletter, along with many others not listed herein, will live on in the interest of Jackson County citizens even in the future generations to come.

Mrs. Christine Sumner called to my attention the importance of documenting and preserving present day history for our future generations. I am hopeful, while we are so busy obtaining the history of Jackson County made by our forefathers, we will also concentrate on present day history and record it for our future Jackson County citizens.



THE TOWN OF STEVENSON, ALABAMA, HELD BY THE UNION FORCES.—Illustration by Mr. E. H. Moseley.—(See Page 44.)



(From "A Pictorial Walk Thru Old High Jackson" By Walt Hammer)

REGIMENT BUILDING SPOKESMEN UNDER THE RECENT ACT OF CONGRESS.—Illustration by Mr. E. H. Moseley.—(See Page 44.)

Scenes at Stevenson during the War between the States. This is an actual reproduction from Harpers Weekly August 30, 1862. Note the Alabama House in upper left illustration.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP????

According to our By-Laws, Article IV, Section 1, The dues for annual membership shall be \$7.50. These dues shall be payable at the first meeting in January and shall be delinquent by the first meeting in April.

You still have time to pay your dues, just mail your check to:

Jackson County Historical Association.  
Mr. James H. Eiford  
Route 5, Box 27  
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Please provide: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THE JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. SEVEN

July 12, 1976

The purpose of our Newsletter is to compile the colorful history of our county, the events and occurrences in the creation of Jackson County, the sometimes-sad and sometimes-amusing efforts of the people instrumental in settling the area, the sequence of development since organization, December 13, 1819.

This issue of the Jackson County Historical Association Newsletter is mostly a commemorative edition of the work accomplished by the Bicentennial Committees. In a sense this issue is a product of the entire county, for in addition to the many hours of work done by the Bicentennial Committees, untold hours of research and compilation were contributed by citizens from every section of Jackson County.

In total, it is then, a tribute of, by, and for the residents of this great county, to the people who have made this Bicentennial commemorative.

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page, Secretary  
and Editor, Newsletter No. Seven

-----  
*Mr. and Mrs. Wade Maples  
request the pleasure of your company  
at the Jackson County Historical Association  
Bicentennial Membership Tea  
on Sunday, the eighteenth of July  
nineteen hundred and seventy-six  
three to five o'clock*

THE OLD MAPLES HOME  
Maple Avenue at the end of Market  
Scottsboro, Alabama

RSVP Card Enclosed

-----  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

On July 2, 1976, approximately 575 formal invitations were mailed to prospective members for the Jackson County Historical Association and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Maples. Mrs. Maples is a charter member of our Association.

This Tea is a splendid way for the Jackson County Historical Association to salute the outstanding efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Maples, Jackson County's only representatives, to date, on the Alabama Live-In-A-Landmark Council. It is also an excellent way to introduce our fellow Jackson Countians to the beauty, pleasure, and distinct need for preservation and restoration of the many Jackson County historic landmarks which are crying for attention needed to salvage them from oblivion. Your President feels that our organization must take the time and make the effort to educate the general public to the fact that we are dedicated to preserving the past without mortgaging the future. Surely, the Bicentennial Membership Tea on July 18th in one of the most lovingly restored homes in Scottsboro will present the greatest opportunity available to achieve this goal.

As you will recall, groundwork plans were made for this event at both our January and April, 1976 meetings. Eighteen of our organization's members attended a planning meeting on June 16th to set our plans in motion. At least seven committees are now very actively engaged in much hard work to make this event a most memorable day in Jackson County history. Each of you will be notified within the next few days about ways YOU can contribute to our team work. The Food Committee has decided to serve lemonade and tea cakes under a lawn-side canopy tent. The formal serving table inside will feature party cookies, cheese straws, nuts, and Southern punch.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Each of you will receive a form letter by which you may advise the Food Committee of your preference in furnishing one or more of the following:

- Cookies (party size)
- Cheese Straws (or cheese wafers)
- Tea Cakes (like Grandma used to make)
- Money: To purchase IN BULK QUANTITIES the nuts and ingredients for lemonade and punch.

Floating room hostesses and serving hostesses will serve for approximately one hour each, on the day of the Tea. Mrs. Maples will have cards for each room hostess outlining the interesting features and decor of each room for your convenience. All our female members are requested to wear long, hostess dresses for this occasion, and there will certainly be a place of service for each of you.

The men will man the lemonade-tea cake table outside, and a few volunteers are needed to assist Mr. W. W. Aydelott, who volunteered to head up the parking committee. The entire County seems to be excited about this occasion even at this early date, and the overall committee has received many promises of help in all areas. The Three Arts Club of Scottsboro has agreed to make a generous contribution toward our refreshments. We are already receiving support from many people outside our organization, but the overall success of this event rests squarely on the shoulders of our membership. Please be prepared to lend us your usual, generous support as you are called on as individuals. Remember, the Tea will serve as the kickoff for our membership campaign to raise funds for a County museum.

Mrs. Ann B. Chambless, President  
Jackson County Historical Association

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CURRENT 1976 MEMBERSHIP

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Frances Allison, Stevenson             | Mrs. Emma Lou Lovelady, Scottsboro    |
| Ms. Kathryn Armstrong, Stevenson            | Mrs. Wade Maples, Scottsboro          |
| Mr. W. W. Aydelott, Scottsboro              | Mrs. Clyde Matthews, Scottsboro       |
| Mrs. W. W. Aydelott, Scottsboro             | Ms. Eunice Matthews, Scottsboro       |
| Mrs. James Brandon, Scottsboro              | Ms. Hazel Matthews, Scottsboro        |
| Mrs. Sandra Burney, Montgomery              | Ms. Leola Matthews, Scottsboro        |
| Mrs. Madge Caperton, Stevenson              | Mrs. Mack Morris, Stevenson           |
| Mrs. Ann B. Chambless, Scottsboro           | Mr. Jimmy Nichols, Dutton             |
| Mrs. W. H. Christian, Jr., Williamsburg, VA | Mr. Ford Owens, Dutton                |
| Dr. Joe Cromeans, Scottsboro                | Mrs. Ford Owens, Dutton               |
| Mrs. Joe Cromeans, Scottsboro               | Mr. Carlus Page, Scottsboro           |
| Mrs. Lillie Mae Culbert, Langston           | Mrs. Carlus Page, Scottsboro          |
| Mr. Charles V. Davis, Scottsboro            | Mr. Rex Page, Woodville               |
| Mrs. L. H. Dicus, Scottsboro                | Mrs. Rex Page, Woodville              |
| Attorney Ronald Drummond, Scottsboro        | Mr. Wendell Page, Scottsboro          |
| Mr. James Eiford, Scottsboro                | Mrs. Wendell Page, Scottsboro         |
| Mrs. Edna Gay, Scottsboro                   | Mrs. Lucy Proctor, Scottsboro         |
| Ms. Eliza Hackworth, Scottsboro             | Mrs. Vivian Raney, Scottsboro         |
| Mr. Walter Hammer, Scottsboro               | Mayor John T. Reid, Scottsboro        |
| Mrs. Walter Hammer, Scottsboro              | Mrs. John T. Reid, Scottsboro         |
| Mrs. James Hamrick, Stevenson               | Mrs. Mary Anna Rudder, Stevenson      |
| Mrs. C. M. Heath, Scottsboro                | Ms. Lillian Russell, Stevenson        |
| Mrs. E. G. Henninger, Stevenson             | Mrs. Pickens Russell, Stevenson       |
| Mr. Delbert Hicks, Scottsboro               | Mrs. John Schuerman, Scottsboro       |
| Mrs. Delbert Hicks, Scottsboro              | Mrs. Buford Sentell, Stevenson        |
| Mr. Cecil Hodges, Section                   | Mrs. Beulah Shelton, Scottsboro       |
| Mrs. Cecil Hodges, Section                  | Mrs. Tom Sisk, Scottsboro             |
| Dr. Luther Holloway, Pisgah                 | Mrs. Harrison Smith, Scottsboro       |
| Mrs. Patty Johnstone, Nashville, TN         | Hon. John D. Snodgrass, Huntsville    |
| Mrs. James Jones, Stevenson                 | Mrs. Christine Sumner, Scottsboro     |
| Mrs. Pauline Jones, Kennewick, Washington   | Hon. John B. Tally, Scottsboro        |
| Mr. P. B. Keel, Madison, Alabama            | Mrs. John B. Tally, Scottsboro        |
| Mrs. Bertha Kirby, Scottsboro               | Ms. Emma Timberlake, Stevenson        |
| Mrs. Virginia Lindenmeyer, Scottsboro       | Mr. David Woodall, Alexandria, LA     |
| Attorney Jack Livingston, Scottsboro        | Mrs. Eliza Mae Woodall, Nashville, TN |

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the April, 1976 edition of the Newsletter, we covered the activities of The Stevenson Bicentennial Committee. The Jackson County, Scottsboro, and Bridgeport Bicentennial Committees were all invited to record their activities in the July, 1976 issue. The Bridgeport Bicentennial Committee did not furnish your editor with the requested information by printing date. This note is included to let our readers and posterity know that we did not slight the Bridgeport Committee. The Bridgeport Bicentennial Committee was the first County community to receive their official ARBA charter. Their activities have encompassed such a variety of projects that your Editor needed the help of the Bridgeport Committee to properly record their many, many successful contributions to the Nation's Bicentennial celebration of our 200th birthday.

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WALTER HAMMER RECEIVED AWARD OF MERIT ON ANDREW JACKSON DAY

Walter Hammer, First Vice President of the Jackson County Historical Association and Jackson County Bicentennial Committee Chairman, received the Alabama Historical Commission's coveted Award of Merit on June 26, 1976, in recognition of more than 20 years of dedicated service in preserving Alabama's heritage. The Award, presented by State Representative Bethel Starkey on behalf of Governor George C. Wallace and the Alabama Historical Commission, was very appropriately made on Andrew Jackson Day. Walter conceived the idea and worked tirelessly for more than a year to honor Jackson County's namesake by way of a nine-foot statue located on the Jackson County Court House lawn. This project has received national acclaim and Jack Warner, ARBA Chairman, singled this effort out as one of Alabama's most outstanding Bicentennial contributions. Walter Hammer was also cited for his publication, "A Pictorial Walk Thru Ol' High Jackson", now in its second edition, and his supernumerary hours expended in chairing the Jackson County Bicentennial Committee.

Mrs. Hammer was also recognized during the presentation for her unlimited assistance as Walter's silent partner in all his efforts and endless contributions toward preserving the past without mortgaging the future.

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A NOTE OF INFORMATION FROM VICE-PRESIDENT - The Bicentennial Membership Tea on July 18, 1976 will serve as our meeting for this month. Our next meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association will be October 17, 1976 at the Scottsboro City Hall large court room. According to our By-Laws, Article V Section 1, "The October meeting shall be known as the annual meeting, and officers for the coming year shall be elected. Those present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In preparing material for the April 5, 1976 Newsletter, your Editor and President discussed the pros and cons of using the history of Stevenson as published in a 1915 edition of the Progressive Age. We both realized the article carried certain liabilities because of some undocumented statements contained therein. However, we came to the conclusion that the best way to get an improved documentary was to use this article as written in an effort to prod contemporary historians/researchers to come forth with an enlightened history of Stevenson based on methodical research. We have begged, pleaded, and prayed for this type info from our members and their resources on any area of Jackson County history, but we have learned the surest way to prompt action is for members to see something in print which they can expound upon, add to, or correct.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Eliza Mae Woodall for the Stevenson historical facts she supplied in a letter to your Editor dated 4-15-76. We are thrilled beyond words that Mrs. Woodall was gracious enough to share the fruits of her many years of research on facts and families of the Stevenson area. Thanks to her, we are able to present the following story on early Stevenson. These facts are taken from census records, Jackson County deed books, etc., but are found in no one single source. Your Editor and President would like to compliment Mrs. Woodall on a job well done and for her unselfish contribution to the basic purpose of this Association--researching, collecting, recording, disseminating, and preserving the factual history of this great county of High Jackson.

(The following is Mrs. Woodall's letter in its entirety.)

718 Crescent Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
15 April 1976

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page  
Rte. 1, Box 11  
Woodville, Alabama 35776

Dear Mrs. Page:

The April 1976 Jackson County Historical Association Newsletter was most interesting and informative; however I regret that the 1915 Progressive Age article on the History of Stevenson got in print yet another time. While much of the article is accurate or near-accurate, parts of it are just not true. I feel sure that the unknown author interviewed the older Stevenson residents living there in 1915 and wrote the resulting hear-say as facts, when a perusal of the Plat Books in the Probate Judge's Office would have refuted the totally inaccurate first sentence!

The "town" of Stevenson in 1854 when the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad was completed (it was never and; the Board of Directors specified &) lay in the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 13 Township 2 South Range 7 East and in the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 18 Township 2 South Range 8 East. The men who entered that land under the Land Act passed by Congress 24 April 1820 and Land Act passed 29 May 1830, were

Armistead Jones  
Patrick Byrd (where stores, hotel, depot were located)  
Robert McFarland

The 1830 Census of the United States lists about a dozen families living in or near the above described area.

Robert H. Price entered 160 acres of land in section 8 Township 2 South Range 8 East and Pleasant H. Price entered 80 acres in section 7 Township 2 South Range 8 East - both in 1830. The Pleasant H. Price tract included a fine spring now called Troxell's Spring. (One of these men was Henderson Price; does anyone know which?) It is possible that Henderson Price eventually purchased the land entered by Patrick Byrd and Robert McFarland and owned it when the Railroad came through. Some Deed Books are missing for the 1840s and I have not undertaken title search for owners of the original lots sold in the town of Stevenson. (Armistead Jones continued to own his entry, at least until 1852.)

The next statement in the Progressive Age article also is inaccurate regarding the date the first settlers came. There were white people living on the Cherokee Indian Lands as early as December 1818 as evidenced by an order from the Secretary of War to Major General Andrew Jackson to prepare to remove such intruders. In June the intruders were notified to leave; subsequently the intruders composed and signed a Memorial to the Secretary of War begging him not to enforce the order. (Alabama Territorial Papers pages 613-616.) Among the intruders were Patrick Byrd, Robert Parker, Daniel Cameron, Lewis Cargile, James Briscoe, Wilson Allen, Joel Wimberley, and J. Hardwick, all of whom, except James Briscoe, became original land-owners in the immediate area.

Lewis Cargile, Daniel Cameron, and Wilson Allen were from North Carolina via Kentucky to Alabama; Joel Wimberley was from North Carolina to Alabama; James Briscoe from Tennessee to Alabama.

The 1860 Census is a reliable source for the names of those among the first settlers of the town of Stevenson and includes only three from the Progressive Age article:

James Hogue, age 30, born in Ala., merchant  
John Blake, age 25, born in Ala., retail grocer  
G. W. Rice, age 52, born in Tennessee, occupation not listed (1870 Census says "lawyer") (Rice had \$4000 in real estate and \$58,000 in personal property, which, of course, included slaves.)

Others on the 1860 Census are:

Name	Age	Where Born	Occupation
Thomas J. Pankey	21	TN	retail grocer
B. F. Pankey	36	TN	retail grocer
S. H. Pankey	18	TN	grocer
Louis Metts (not Lee)	32	TN	laborer
William McMahan	32	AL	merchant
Alfred A. Russell	33	AL	physician

Letter to Mrs. Alice Ruth Page (continued)

J. D. Boren*	32	TN	hotel keeper
J. M. Russell*	26	AL	tanner
Andnid Hienson*	35	Denmark	carpenter
S. Heigman*	20	Russia	merchant
N. A. Johnson*	27	GA	retail grocer
B. F. Dunlap*	26	SC	physician
Edward Rosewater*	19	Ohio	telegraph operator
James M. Lancaster*	44	NC	silversmith
B. Bopes*	30	England	farmer
L. Granville*	22	France	laborer
J. M. McDonald*	32	Scotland	laborer
George Comstick	37	Mass.	fisherman
B. L. Davis	28	TN	house carpenter
J. P. Gregory	50	VA	dentist
W. A. Coffey	23	TN	merchant
John E. Wallace	35	NC	merchant
Samuel J. Bruce	23	NC	dry goods clerk
Jack Fiths	26	MD	stonemason
William Washington	25	AL	dry goods clerk
Jacob Walker	22	AL	dry goods clerk
James Wallace	21	AL	dry goods clerk
Jacob Foster		AL	dry goods clerk
R. A. Wilson	30	AL	merchant
Dixon H. Chitty	51	NC	merchant
Charles Rodenbaugh	32	TN	retail grocer
Daniel Irby	54	VA	tanner
James Wheeler	25	NC	laborer
M. Joice	30	Ireland	shoemaker
Bob (?) Frazier	30	Ireland	shoemaker
John A. Price	60	NC	farmer
John A. Williams	30	AL	Railroad agent
F. C. Jones	28	TN	stonemason
J. C. A. Shields	35	SC	tailor
W. H. Evans	35	Dist. Columbia	tailor
William Guinn	40	TN	blacksmith
Andrew Parks	33	GA	railroad engineer
Thomas Daniel	28	England	laborer
G. W. M. Sheahorn	30	VA	shoemaker
G. M. Hockersmith	51	KY	restaurant keeper
Napoleon B. Burch	26	AL	dry goods clerk

(\*All these plus eight laborers, not listed, living in hotel, probably Alabama House.)

One can readily see that the earliest inhabitants of Stevenson came from many different states and countries. A great many of the above list do not appear on the 1870 Census; however, Lark (not Luke) Willis and F. M. (Marion) McMahan were there by then.

In the supplement to the "History of Stevenson" article, the list of early pioneers in Little Coon also contains errors:

1. There was never an Edmond McCrary; the correct name is Almond and his father, Samuel, was the pioneer settler as well as his maternal grandparents, Annanias Allen and wife \_\_\_\_\_ Laxton.

2. Two other in the list are second generation settlers:

James Matthews, who was the son of John Matthews and Frances (Miscall). Laxton Rash, who was the son of William Rash and Elizabeth (Brown?).

John Matthews, pioneer settler, from Virginia to Hawkins County, Tennessee, to Alabama. William Rash, pioneer settler, from North Carolina to Jackson County, Tennessee to Alabama.

3. Jackson Grider Who? (One Andrew J. Grider was the son of Annanias A. Grider and grandson of Amos Grider and Ann (Allen); both Annanias and Amos settled there before Andrew J. was born.)

4. Jake Gibson Who?

It is my desire to present authentic documented data regarding the earliest settlers and thus correct previous inaccurate statements in a variety of publications appearing before certain primary source materials were available to the author(s). I hope you can run these corrections in the very next Newsletter so the recipients of the previous one can make corrections on their copies or file the two together.

"Hear-say" is great when used to point the way, but documentation is a MUST and it can be maddeningly elusive at times!

Happy hunting to all,  
Eliza Mae Woodall

THE JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. EIGHT

October 11, 1976

Many, many hours of work have been put into the compilation of this Newsletter. It has been a tremendous task to condense the available material, on the subject used, for the limited space contained in one issue. I cannot help but regret that I did not have more time to research other sources to publish material on topics I feel should have been touched on in the subject.

My sincere appreciation is extended to WENDELL PAGE for his encouragement given me on this publication and for his freely sharing his tremendous research collection of history, built-up over the years by his manifest dedication to preserving the history of Jackson County.

This publication of Newsletter Number Eight completes two years of my serving as your Secretary and Editor. My enthusiasm has grown from the beginning. This I give credit to having been associated with the members of this Association, who have revealed a continuance zeal to promoting the Jackson County Historical Association.

To our President, Ann B. Chambless, I will be forever grateful for her educated guidance and for her sharing material for this Newsletter and the preceding issues published during the past two years.

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page, Secretary  
and Editor, Newsletter No. Eight

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It does not seem possible that our Jackson County Historical Association will have its second anniversary this month. Our first two years have just flown by. Our membership now stands at 182 strong and continues to grow as more and more people learn about our organization.

This is the last time I will be penning the President's Message so I want to say how much I have enjoyed working with each of you. Together we have taken the small steps necessary to lay the groundwork for a strong, functional Association. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your individual contributions and your loyal support in all our undertakings. I would especially like to commend Alice Ruth Page for her zeal and dedication in all phases of our organization and single out her superb contribution as Editor of the Newsletter. We are deeply indebted to Walter Hammer, Betty Ruth Henninger, and Carlus Page for their outstanding services as members of the Jackson County Historical Association's Bicentennial Committee as well as chairpersons of their respective community Bicentennial committees. Their efforts are monumental, and the lasting reminders as well as warm memories made possible by their combined efforts have brought notable credit to our Association.

Certainly our Association has created new historical interest, rekindled ageless deep pride, and set the stage for future learning, caring, and sharing. Thank you for the privilege of having served as your President during 1975 and 1976.

Mrs. Ann B. Chambless, President  
Jackson County Historical Association

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OCTOBER 24, 1976, ANNUAL MEETING - Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium - 2:30 P. M.

The Annual Meeting as set forth in our By-laws will be held October 24, 1976, at 2:30 p. m. at the Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium. New officers for 1977 will be elected.

By popular request, the Program will be "Show and Tell." The public will be invited to attend this meeting, and, along with our members, they will be asked to bring items of historical interest to share with all who attend. Please bring any item of historical interest - - books, letters, deeds, clippings, newspapers, pictures, family relics, artifacts, coins, etc. - - anything you would like to share and tell about. Invite your friends to come with you and bring an item from the past. What better way to make our history come alive!

Walter Hammer, Vice-President  
Jackson County Historical Association





## THE TOWN OF WOODVILLE

If you drive through the beautiful Tennessee Valley you will eventually approach the Town of Woodville - a village nestling among the Cumberland mountains with highway 72 going through the center. As you drive under the one highway caution light you probably would recall this was once a county seat. Of course, after the passing of the years, the present Woodville is located west of the location of the Woodville as a county seat.

The phases of real intellectual progress in any community seem to be connected with the existence of a detached class of people, sufficiently free not to be obliged to toil or worry exhaustively about worldly need, and not rich and powerful enough to be tempted into extravagances of lust, display, or cruelty. This class of people have a sense of security, but not a conceit of superiority and are able to talk freely and communicate easily. Such a happy group of people certainly have lived in the Woodville community. The passing of years has necessitated new geographical locations of the town but the residents, a class of intelligent, free gentlefolk is evident now and in any record found on the history of Woodville.

A proud old village in pleasant prosperous land, Woodville, was once the home of aboriginal man and later the county seat of Decatur county.

It has been said the first white men to see the present site of Woodville were a party probably from North Carolina, but no one knows just who came first to see this part of the country, while the Indians had possession of it. Even before the Cherokee Indians ceded to the national government the land here on February 27, 1819, men came and occupied it for years without a shadow of a legal title to it. (1)

Woodville is one of the oldest towns in Jackson county. It is said that it received its name from Mr. Richard Wood, who later moved to Sand Mountain and settled at Fern Cliff. (2)

Henry Derrick and his wife, Catherine Branner Derrick lived for the first ten years after their marriage in east Tennessee, but in the spring of 1819 they moved to Alabama, going by boat down the river to Gunter's Landing. They had several children at that time. They settled at first on the south side of the Tennessee river, thirteen miles south of Gunter's Landing. In the fall of the same year, however, they moved to Woodville, twenty-one miles north of Gunter's Landing, on the main line from Bellefonte to Huntsville, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were in comfortable circumstances, and owned slaves. (3)

Mr. Derrick built a two-story log house on the stage road that ran from Huntsville to Bellefonte. He kept an Inn, and horses were changed that pulled the stage coaches. He helped to hold the first court held in Jackson county. He was a man of means, owning a large tract of land. He sold to various persons lots in Old Woodville. (4)

Decatur county, named for Stephen Decatur, Jr., an officer of the American Navy, was created by the Alabama Legislature December 7, 1821, out of a part of Jackson county. Its area was described in the act of establishment as including "All that tract of county lying west of Jackson county, south of the Tennessee state line, east of Madison county, and north of the Tennessee river." By an act of December 13, 1821 a commission was appointed to select a temporary seat of justice for the county (Hezekiah Bayles was the first county court judge), to serve until the government lands within its limits should be sold. On the same day provision was made for the holding of circuit courts in the county, and authority was given the judges and commissioners of the county court to levy a tax not exceeding one-fourth the amount of the state tax rate for the erection of a temporary courthouse and jail. (5)

An act of December 31, 1822, defined the boundary line between Decatur and Jackson counties with more particularity, as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of Sauta Creek, thence up said creek to where the Winchester road crosses said creek; thence to Jesse Thompson's; thence to Caswell Bibey's, including said Jesse Thompson, Thomas Jones, John Smart, and said Caswell Bibey's in Decatur county; thence from said Bibey's to the top of the mountain above William E. Haskins, where the Winchester road descends the Cumberland mountains; thence to the most leading point of the mountain, between the mouth of Lick Fork and the mouth of Larkin's Fork of Paint Rock river; thence to the top of Sand Mountain; thence a northwest course to the Tennessee state line. (6)

## Town of Woodville (continued)

Set out in Toulmin's Digest of 1823 is the 1821 act which names the commissioners to select a temporary seat-of-justice. They were Robert McCarney, James G. Holmes, John Cannimore, John Snow, and Alexander W. Dulaney. One week later, by another act, William Leg was added to the list, and David Boshart, Aaron Rice and \_\_\_\_\_ Barnet, distinguished, as his initials were not known, as "near the mouth of Paint Rock river," were added to the list to select a temporary courthouse site. Whether these nine men ever got together on a location for a "temporary" site is not recorded, but it is known under authority of the act December 17, 1823, a quarter of a section of land on which to locate a county seat was selected and the town of Woodville was founded. (7)

The county was roughly pear-shape, with the large end along the Tennessee River and the small end along the boundary of the state of Tennessee. It varied in width from three to twenty-five miles and was about 40 miles long. (8)

The Legislature provided that Decatur County should have "criminal jurisdiction over all that tract of county which lies west of Willstown Valley east of the road leading from Ditto's Landing to the town of Blountsville." So this included all the present Marshall County as well as a large part of Dekalb, Etowah, and Blount counties. When Decatur County was abolished December 25, 1825, one part of it went to Madison County and the other part west to Jackson County. It was abolished because when the survey of it was completed, it was found to be not large enough to meet the constitutional requirements for a county. (9)

Woodville, the county seat, now referred to as Old Woodville, was situated three-fourths of a mile or so east of the present town of Woodville. It was the oldest town in Decatur County. Old Woodville thrived as the county seat until Decatur County was abolished, and had, in addition to the county building, several stores and an inn. Some of the pioneer families of the Old Woodville region were Gunter, Ditto, Kennamer, Derrick, Evans, Maples, Fletcher, Thomas, Lee, Smith, Moonyham, Peters, Pruitt, Houk, Butler, Wright, Chandler, Dillard, Erwin, Lewis, Whitecotton, Stephens, and Wilson. They came mainly from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. (10)

During the early days of Woodville as a county seat, living conditions in it were very primitive compared to present standards, but were probably no more primitive than conditions in most other parts of the state at that time. Dwellings were constructed of logs and placed, if possible, near a spring. Many of these houses were built with a chimney at each end and a wide open hall or breeze-way was often a sort of commons for chickens and dogs as well as the family members. (11)

There were no matches in these early days, and if the fire of a family by chance went out, live coals were borrowed from a neighbor. There were no cigarettes, of course, and smoking was mainly by cob pipes. Women smokers in those early days were mainly some of the older ladies who also puffed cob pipes. Homemade tallow candles were used for lighting purposes, and soap was made at home with lye and grease. Clothes were cleaned by beating them with a paddle as they soaked in homemade soap in a tub. (12)

As for dress, it was of homespun cloth, which was made with a loom or a spinning wheel. Women wore bonnets, hoop petticoats, and the like. Men wore homespun jeans. Shoes and shoe leather were homemade, the soles being fastened to the uppers with wooden pegs. (13)

Grist mills were non-existent at this time, and meal and flour were made by grinding corn and wheat with a mortar and pestle. Cooking was by means of a skillet and oven on the openfire in a large fireplace. There being no screen doors or windows, house flies were kept off the food at mealtime by means of a small peach tree limb with leaves on it, or by a homemade fly-bush with strips of paper attached to a short staff. These fly-bushes, called punkahs, were operated by a servant or someone else during the meal. (14)

The twentieth century omnipresent germ was unheard of and unthought of on earth during these remote times, so windows and doors in Woodville of Decatur County were closed tight at night to keep out the night air, which was thought to be unhealthful. A home-raised gourd served as the common drinking vessel for one and all, and it often rested in the water bucket from which all sundry quenched their thirst. Such maladies as tuberculosis were not thought to be contagious but inherited from one's ancestors or, as they said, "ran in the family." (15)

Travel was by horseback or in ox wagons. The stage coaches were drawn by four horses, and since there were no bridges over the streams, they had to be forded. Stores did not carry a variety of merchandise, but many of them sold liquor, which tended to promote fighting and gambling. Operating a saloon was not thought to be evil and liquor was kept in many homes of religious people. (16)

## Town of Woodville (continued)

Education, as might be supposed, was also primitive. If one could read and write a letter, especially if he were a cripple and not able to do hard manual labor, and had a limited ability to figure, he was employed to teach three months in summer in some home, log house, crib, or church house. One of the chief qualifications of a teacher was that he could use the switch briskly. The main textbooks were McGuffey's blue-back speller and reader and Davies Arithmetic. (17)

In the late eighteen-twenties, settlers came to Old Woodville from different places and the town grew and prospered in the eighteen-thirties. Town lots were in demand and sold readily. Merchants at this period were David and Andy Moore, John Gillinwater, William Dwyer, Joseph Matheny, Cleve Robinson, Clay Shelton and Presley Woodall. William Isom was a blacksmith, James Wright made guns. Hawky P. Behel and Rufus H. Jones were wood-workmen. (18)

The Woodville Post Office was established September 3, 1823 and William Hainey was appointed Postmaster. Other Postmasters and the dates of their appointment were: Hiram Ross, August 25, 1826; Henry Derrick, October 29, 1829; Alfred Moore, September 1, 1834; John Gillenwater, March 18, 1836; William H. Fowler, January 9, 1840; Seaborn I. Rountree, January 7, 1841; Migginson Loving, March 13, 1844; Seaborn I. Rountree, second time July 2, 1845; Albert G. Clopton, October 4, 1850; James H. Stephens, May 26, 1851; Joel P. Ledbetter, July 19, 1852; Robert P. Mackey, September 5, 1854; Clement C. Shelton, September 22, 1855; Joel P. Ledbetter, second time December 11, 1858; John J. Dillard, January 16, 1860; Jasper N. Matheny, December 31, 1860; Mrs. Mary Evans, January 25, 1866; John Wright, August 5, 1867. The office was discontinued February 14, 1870. William P. Guynn was appointed June 1, 1870, when the office was re-established, John A. Brown, March 23, 1874; Andrew J. Wann, May 14, 1874; David A. Thomas, February 6, 1879; Frank Bishop, February 1, 1881; George R. Hodges, November 7, 1881; Ira G. Wood, February 3, 1882; John F. Bishop, April 19, 1883; George R. Hodges, November 25, 1884, a second time; Robert F. Lawing, April 20, 1889; George R. Hodges, August 7, 1893, a third term; Emmett Woodall, June 23, 1897; John R. Kennamer, May 7, 1910; P. Elwyn Page, was appointed acting Postmaster August 6, 1934. Mrs. Ruby Evans Page, April 24, 1936. The office was made Third Class February 11, 1938. (19)

Mrs. Ruby Evans retired as Postmaster of Woodville Post Office November 10, 1966. Delbert Hodges was appointed acting Postmaster at that time and served until the appointment of Bently Hill, May 3, 1968. Mr. Hill is still serving in this office. Mrs. Patsy Evans Warren is Clerk for the Woodville Post Office and Mrs. Helen Kennamer is the substitute Clerk. P. Elwyn Page is the carrier for Woodville rural route no. 1 and James D. Manning is the carrier for the Woodville rural route no. 2.

Union Cemetery is the largest, best kept and most desired place for burial in the Woodville area. On July 16, 1834, Moses Maples and Wife Catherine made a deed to the deacons of Bethel Church to a plot of land as a burial place. The first person buried in Union Cemetery was Sallie Maples, a young daughter of Joe Maples. Since October 1, 1941, Union Cemetery has had a caretaker. Two members from each church in the town, known as "Union Cemetery Memorial Committee" collect funds and employ a caretaker and supervise the work. S. E. Kennamer, treasurer; J. F. Hodges, secretary; W. J. Kennamer, president. Committee: Earnest Thomas, Dave Cobb, Homer Hodges, George Butler, R. L. Jones, and Mrs. Frank Hodges. (These people composed the committee in 1950.) (20)

In this year of 1976 the Union Cemetery Memorial Committee officers and members are: G. S. Butler, President; P. Elwyn Page, Secretary-Treasurer; Committee: Dave Cobb, George Butler, Mrs. Frank Hodges, Houston Kennamer, Clyde Thomas, Bud Page, Kenneth R. Hodges, Eddie Kennamer, Chester Keel and E. R. Campbell.

Union Primitive Baptist Church was first located in a log house which was built near the center of Union Cemetery in 1835. This house had a large fireplace and the pulpit was on the side. It was destroyed by fire during the Civil War. A few members of Bethel Church of Madison County living in the vicinity of Woodville, Alabama, met as an arm of Bethel Church from 1834 until constituted as a church the first Sunday in August 1835; this marks the beginning of Union Primitive Baptist Church. The two elders forming the Presbytery to constitute this church were John Williams and James Downey. The membership consisted of 24 members; 7 of these members were colored. (21)

On the second Saturday in October 1835 Union Church became a member of the Mud Creek Association which had been organized in 1821 at Hollywood, Alabama. The church has met regularly from 1835 until present with only a few exceptions. From March of 1862 until September of that same year, the church was unable to meet. The following note is in the original church book: "A motion made and second that the church make a note on the church book why they have not ben any meetings from March until September the reason why the Yanky was in our naberhood and we could not meet in that time." Also in the same minutes there is mention made of a couple of black sisters belonging to E. F. Dillard being dropped from fellowship for having gone off with the Yankees. (22)

Town of Woodville (continued)

From 1865 to 1867 the block house built by the Yankees at the Tank Place during the Civil War to keep prisoners, was used by the Primitive Baptist Church for a place to meet. In 1868 a log house, at the side of the present church was built, later this building burned. September 20, 1880 donations were made to construct a building on the property of John Parker, this building was not established as a church, it was to be used for a school with the understanding it could be used by the Primitive Baptists as a church so long as this did not interfere with the school hours. (23)

Two churches framed as arms with the Union Church were Shipman Cove in 1844, and Goosepond in 1865. In August 1871 the church received a petition from the colored people in Larkinsville for aid to organize them a church. (24)

In December 1895 Union Church was rebuilt at the old place. G. W. Bulman, Hulette Cobb, Robert Giles Thomas, and Francis Marion Chandler were appointed to see after this building. The present Union Church building was dedicated March 3, 1957. (25)

The following, listed in chronological order, are the preachers of Union Church since 1835 until present: John Moon, Levi Isabell, George F. Bulman, Peter Maples, John Butler, William Bowers, Elijah R. Berry, Siemon Houk, George W. Bulman, Andrew J. Wann, Andrew J. Houk, Harvey P. Houk, John W. Page, John C. Lanier, Thomas Flanagan, Fred Stewart, Gene Thomas, Holland L. Crumbly, Clifton (Johnny) Johnson, James Dennis, Horace J. Stewart, Rickey Harcrow, and Ray Berry. (26)

Deacons of Union Church since 1867 to present are: James Elkins, Willey Parkhell, J. R. Woodall, Robert J. Thomas, James Monrow Thomas, William Brad Stewart, James Hodges, Green Butler, Hulette C. Cobb, Henry L. Bulman, Ernest D. Thomas, S. Elbert Kennamer, Wiley H. Butler, David M. Cobb, Henry L. Thomas, Dallas P. Woodall, Gordon Thomas, J. C. Vaughn, Clyde Thomas, Porter Perkins, James R. Brothers, Sr. The known church clerks are: Simon Houk, Moses Maples, Francis Marion Chandler, Will J. Wilson, willie O. Butler, Weldon Kennamer, and Ulas Donald Kennamer. (27)

As the Memphis and Charleston railroad (now the Southern) passed some three-quarters of a mile from Old Woodville (situated on the stage-coach line which ran from Huntsville to Bellefonte) a new Woodville sprang up on its right-of-way. (1853-54) (28)

In about 1836 Dr. Francis L. Dillard and his wife Elizabeth Diggs Harris moved to the site where Woodville was later located near the railroad, three-quarters of a mile west of Old Woodville. Dr. Dillard practiced medicine at Woodville until his death. His practice extended for many miles, and in fact far beyond the usual confines in those days of great distances. (29)

The land in the second location of the town was first owned by Dr. Dillard; he also owned quite a tract south and west of the town. (30)

In 1849 Dr. Dillard ran the following advertisement of "Land For Sale." "I offer my plantation for sale privately. It is on the public road from Huntsville to Bellefonte, 28 miles from the former and 20 miles from the latter place and one mile from Paint Rock River. It contains 240 acres, 180 cleared. There is on the tract a Good Gin, comfortable dwelling, and outhouses. The terms will be liberal and application to be made to me on the premises." F. L. Dillard, Woodville, Jackson County, February 6, 1849. (31)

A memorial marker in Union Cemetery reads: Francis L. Dillard, born Amherst County, Virginia, January 28, 1800, died Woodville, Alabama May 31, 1852-- Elizabeth Digges Harris Dillard, born Amherst County, Virginia, April 15, 1803, died, Larkinsville, Alabama, January 5, 1866. Marker erected in 1944 by Thomas W. and Wm. Logan Martin to The Memory of Their Ancestors.

Woodville received a heavy toll from the Civil War. The members of Company G, 12th Alabama Infantry Regiment in the Confederate Army, were from Woodville and Paint Rock. The name of the company in the records is "Woodville Sharpshooters," though there are newspaper references to the "Paint Rock Sharpshooters." When the company left Woodville June 26, 1861, A. S. Bibb was Captain but he resigned at Yorktown, Va., Daniel Butler succeeded Capt. Bibb in command but died shortly after and P. D. Ross became Captain. The casualties in the company were heavy. Of the original full company only three surrendered with Lee at Appomattox. No officer was present. Jasper W. Sayer and Green Swearingen were on detail as wagon drivers and Charles R. Smith alone was in line. (32)

Town of Woodville (continued)

The founding of the Church of Christ in the Woodville area has been given as: "In 1869 George Washington Bacon of Georgia, came into Kennamers Cove, Alabama, and preached for a short time, which resulted in three persons obeying the gospel, S. F. Kennamer and his two sisters Harriet and Damaris. He had preached only a few discourses in the church at Pisgah, when David Kennamer, Sr., locked the doors against him. During the next year, Bacon, Virgil Woods and Joseph Wheeler all preached in the Cove, and eleven more obeyed the gospel, and a log house was erected near the old home of Jacob Kennamer." Finding this log house too small to suit the needs of the church, the Pine Grove Church was erected in 1898. (33)

The church at Woodville was started by members of the Kennamer Cove Church moving to Woodville. The first meeting was held in a tent, by R. N. Moody. He was followed by J. M. Gainer who held a meeting in the old Methodist Church house. (34)

The Woodville Church of Christ building was erected in the summer of 1913 on part of J. R. Kennamer's garden. An addition was made in 1926. (35) Through the years many modern improvements have been made on this church building and a baptistry was installed in 1968.

The first Methodist Church in Woodville was built near the old elm tree, just behind the present home of George S. Butler, formerly known as the J. R. Kennamer home. One source of material gives the date of this church being built in 1873, another source states 1869-1870. The original church register of the Woodville Methodist Church contains 1871 as the earliest date entered. This register states "Woodville, Larkinsville Circuit, North Alabama Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South." The pastors listed in this register are recorded with terms of service from 1871 through the years. It is recorded in this register "W. P. Guynn, received by letter, by J. R. Wilson, Pastor, September 1872" number one on the long list of members registered through the years. (36)

The present Methodist Church building was erected in 1912, a short distance north of the first church building. A deed was made by G. S. Butler and wife, on December 31, 1936, to the trustees of the Paint Rock Circuit, Huntsville District, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This included Paint Rock, Woodville, Limrock and Aspel (Smith's Chapel). This deed was for property purchased for a Methodist Parsonage. The trustees were: E. R. Campbell, Sam H. Kennamer, O. D. Hodges, W. H. Hill, R. W. Smith, Clyde Gentle and Herbert Smith. The funding of this Parsonage was made possible through the efforts of the membership with some assistance from the Board of Church Extension of the M. E. Church, South. (37)

The Woodville Methodist Church has been well known through the years from the dedicated efforts put forth in the noteworthy work of its members. Improvements have been made on the building as the years passed by and is completely conformed to present day usage, style and characteristic of other small town churches of this period. (38)

Before the Civil War, school was taught at Woodville in a log house which stood near the present home of James R. Brothers, Sr., formerly the D. C. Kennamer place. A school house was built on the land of Dr. Dillard south of town. The school was moved to the land of Rufus H. Jones on "Tick Ridge." In 1880, a school building was erected in the northern part of town. Before this date a few schools were taught in the Methodist Church. In 1905, a new and better school building of 3 rooms was erected one-half mile west of town near the railroad. This became known as Woodville School. (39)

In 1923 the first high school building was built. This building, which consisted of six rooms and an auditorium, cost about \$16,000. A large portion of this money was raised by the people of Woodville and surrounding communities. Plays and box suppers were given to help raise money. The first principal of this school was Miss Mary Shipp. Six other teachers were hired to teach in this school, they were: W. G. Jones, Sr., Miss Gertrude Hall, Miss Kate Chandler, Miss Mary Michaels, Miss Mattie Lou Stockton, and Miss Martha Tate. In the spring of 1924 seventeen boys and girls were graduated as the first graduating class of Woodville High School. Rocky Ridge, Rock Dale, and Pine Grove Schools were consolidated with Woodville in 1924; later Hodges Chapel came to Woodville. (40)

K. E. Boykin was principal in 1924-25; J. Clark Hodgins followed in 1925-26. In 1923-24 a girl's basketball team was organized. The team was defeated only by Stevenson School. In 1924-25 the Woodville team became the champions. (41)

The team Captain was Nell Chandler, the players being Lois Livingston, Bertie Kennamer, Louise Maples, Grace Evans, while the substitutes were Mildred Woodall and Edith Kennamer. (42)

Town of Woodville (continued)

The boy's basketball team that year consisted of: Hilbert Kennamer, Captain and the players were Leo Page, J. R. Kennamer, Jr., Robert Butler and Porter Perkins. Substitutes were Aubrey Peters, Edgar Kline and Elton Kennamer. (43)

Julian Butler came as principal of Woodville School in 1926 and remained until 1929. During Mr. Butler's principalship the first P. T. A. was organized in 1927. There were 45 members who enrolled and dues were 10¢ per member. In 1929 W. R. Riley was hired as principal and remained in that position until 1932. In 1932-33 the depression hit Woodville hard, and the school was closed. There was no public school taught that year, but a few private schools did remain open. (44)

In 1933 the school reopened, and Julian Butler returned as principal. He remained as principal until 1936. The high school became accredited by the Alabama State Department in 1935. During this period a combination home economics building and lunch room was built. The first lunch room was begun in 1935 with Mrs. Nettie Page as cook. The lunch was very simple because of limited facilities, but a lunch cost only seven cents. (45)

Mr. Floyd Sherrod, in 1936, came as principal of Woodville School. He served in this position until 1938. In 1938 Mr. Harold Phillips was hired as principal and was here for nine years. During this time more rooms were built; indoor rest rooms were added and a commercial department was enacted into the school program. (46)

Mr. Delbert Hicks was secured as principal in 1947. He was elected as Superintendent of Education for Jackson County in May of 1948. He did not take office until 1949; therefore he remained as principal until the spring of 1949. On December 1, 1948, disaster struck Woodville School. The main building, composed of 10 classrooms and an auditorium, burned to the ground. The loss was estimated around \$75,000.00. School work continued with classes taught in the home economics building and the churches of the community. The Woodville High School graduating exercises of 1949 were held in the Woodville Theatre. During 1949 the new school was built on a 10-acre plot on the west side of the road from the previous school building. This school was composed of 10 classrooms, library, and a combination gym and auditorium. The old home economics building was moved to the new site and continued to be used. (47)

In 1949 Mr. Milton Holmes was secured as principal of Woodville High School. The new gym was dedicated January 24, 1950. The cost of the new school was approximately \$100,000.00. During the period from 1949 to 1954 the school started receiving more students from the feeder schools, Skyline, Limrock, Paint Rock, and Larkinsville. Pierceton School was closed, and the entire student body started attending Woodville School. (48)

Mr. E. S. McCauley followed Mr. Holmes as principal in 1954, he was succeeded by Billy Rains, who was principal from 1955 until 1961. In 1955 Woodville was successful in enacting vocational agriculture into their curriculum. Mr. Gordon Lewis was secured as teacher, and a new vocational agriculture building was built. Two new classrooms were added to the main building during this time. (49)

Mr. A. A. Clemens was placed as principal in the Woodville School in 1961. In this same year he was appointed as Superintendent of Education of Jackson County to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Howard Phillips. Mr. Gene Thomas served as principal for the remainder of the year. (50)

Mr. L. H. York was appointed principal in 1962, this year the new home economics building and lunch room was built. In 1964 vocational home economics was begun in the school. Miss Katie Precise was the first vocational home economics teacher and she is still holding that position. In 1964 Paint Rock Elementary School was consolidated with Woodville School. (51)

In 1965 Mr. Sam Bailey succeeded Mr. York as principal of Woodville School. He remained until 1968. During this time, two new class rooms were added along with two rest rooms. This was built as an annex to the main building. In the fall of 1966 the school became integrated. Limrock School's ninth grade was added to Woodville School in 1966. In 1967, the school faculty was integrated. (52)

Mr. Willard Townson succeeded Mr. Bailey, in 1968, as principal, and served in this capacity until 1972. At that time he was replaced by Mr. James R. Pratt, the present principal of Woodville School. During this period of time since 1968 four new class rooms have been added to the annex. (53)

Several clubs are functioning very actively in the school. The Beta Club sponsors a monthly newspaper known as the Beta Gazette. The Senior Class sponsors the yearbook, which is known as The Panther. The students are active in several sports, mainly basketball and baseball. A new tennis court has been completed this year to add to the sports activities of the students. (54)

Town of Woodville (continued)

The Woodville Missionary Baptist Church was organized September 8, 1931, by the Presbytery made up of Reverends C. T. Starkey, W. F. Brooks, W. A. Rector, A. B. Canant, A. L. Bates, J. D. Carroll and H. E. Bell. This organizational meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Jones, in Woodville, with the following Church members present: Mrs. Biddie Jones, Mrs. Amanda Jones, Mrs. Nannie Campbell, Mrs. Elsie Barclay, Mrs. Syd McGehee, Mrs. L. C. Kennamer, Mrs. Cleo Rich and Mr. P. F. Maples. (55)

The first people to join the newly organized Woodville Missionary Baptist church were: Mr. W. G. Jones, Miss Katie Campbell, and Mr. J. O. Barclay. On Sunday September 13, 1931 the first baptism was held before a large crowd at the Paint Rock River. Those baptized by Reverend A. B. Canant were: William G. Jones, Homer Hodges, Mrs. Millard Hodges, Mrs. Clyde Cameron and J. O. Barclay. Miss Katie Campbell requested Reverend W. F. Brooks to baptize her. (56)

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Jones deeded the property for the location of this Church in the year of 1931. The church was erected through solicitously efforts of the membership. The first service held by the Woodville Missionary Church, after a pastor, Reverend Walter Rector, was called, members of every church in the Tennessee River Association attended to worship with the members of this newly organized church. The building would not hold the people and this was one of the largest crowds to attend a service at this church to date. (57)

Pastors of the Woodville Missionary Baptist Church, from the first one, Reverend Walter Rector to the present are: Reverends J. D. Carroll, J. B. Igou, Clyde Harless, C. L. Morris, J. Minnex, J. C. Vandiver, Ralph Ables, Howard McGehee, Posey Maples, Floyd Roebuck, George Bank, Wesley Johnson, Floyd Harrison, Van Knight, Newel Hawkins, James R. Caves, Judson Phillips, Buford Taylor, and Floyd Harrison is the present pastor of this church. (58)

At present, the Woodville Missionary Baptist Church is thriving and is one of the best in the county. Through the years the building has been improved and new modern additions have been added to house five Sunday School rooms, a dining room and kitchenette, more than doubling the space the original auditorium consisted of. (59)

In the early 1930's, U. S. Highway 72 was built through Jackson County. The location of this major highway left the Town of Woodville a short distance away on the old gravel road and near the railroad, thus inspiration arose in the business people to build new houses of business near the new highway. However, even with new places of business being erected on the new highway, three of the old established businesses continued to operate for several years. Butler and Kennamer, Campbell Brothers, and Hodges Barber Shop. One business, the Woodville Beauty Shop, is located in that location of Woodville today. Mrs. Glennis Patterson owns and operates this beauty shop in the building where the Hodges Barber Shop was located.

Since the early 1930's many modes of progress have been made for the citizens of Woodville and the surrounding community. No noticeable increase in population was evident until in the early 1950's. Since that time five subdivisions have been built providing the opportunity for new citizens to move into the area.

A Woodville Community Building was built in 1959 for the purpose of housing Woodville's first fire truck, purchased same year, and to serve as a town hall and meeting place for local organizations. This building was accomplished through the efforts of The Woodville Ruritan Club, citizens of the community and with the support of other individuals in nearby communities.

In October of 1964 a public water system was installed. In 1976 an extension of this water system has been made which doubled the number of customers now on the system. Mrs. Helen Kennamer has served the Woodville Water Department as bookkeeper since its existence.

The new Woodville Post Office building was constructed on Highway 72 in 1965, one would suppose, officially moving the location of the Town of Woodville to its present location on the highway.

Woodville Branch, The First National Bank of Scottsboro, Alabama was opened for business February 6, 1967 with Robert McCormack, manager, and Elizabeth Kennamer, Teller. Since that date two additions have been added to the bank building more than doubling the original size of the building. Today employees other than the original ones are: Talma Ann Perkins, Ann Caves, Helen McCormack, John David Chapman is serving as security guard.

Today a new super four lane highway 72 is under construction and it takes but little imagination to envision where the children and grandchildren of today's Woodville citizens will see the Town of Woodville located.

No one can deny that Woodville has a history of its own, which has just been touched on in this article. That it has played a major part in the history of this region of Alabama is known from the state of New York to the state of California, where the decendants of the founding fathers of Woodville have migrated. It has been ascertained that some of these decendants have never seen the Town of Woodville but have been told or have read of the free gentle-folk and their pleasant lives generation after generation.

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Interviews with and assistance from: Mrs. Libby Aydelott, Mr. David M. Cobb, Sr., Mrs. Patsy Evans Warren, Mrs. Elizabeth Kennamer, Mr. O. D. Hodges, Mrs. Glenda Holloway Hodges, and my husband Rex Page.

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JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL  
April 22, 1952  
Parker Campbell, Editor

John R. Kennamer, Sr., age 79, of Woodville, died in the Huntsville Hospital at 10:45, Sunday, April 6, 1952. The family, town, county and state have suffered a great loss of a valuable man in the passing of John R. Kennamer.

John R. Kennamer was born in Kennamer Cove, Marshall County, Alabama, Jan. 12, 1873, the fifth son and tenth child of David and Kitty Lewis Kennamer. He spent his early life in the Cove attending school at Pisgah from the age of five years to young manhood. In 1892 he entered Green Academy at Nat, Alabama, where he studied for two years and received the first certificate offered by that school in 1894. Then in the fall of that same year he enrolled in the Tri-State University at Scottsboro, Alabama and studied for two years, graduating in June of 1896 with a B. S. diploma. This concluded his formal education but he was a diligent student and an extensive reader throughout his life.

For a number of years he farmed and taught school mostly in Marshall, Jackson and Blount Counties. But in 1903 he moved to Woodville where he became engaged in the mercantile business. It was here that he was appointed postmaster in 1910 and served well for some 24 years.

He had a wide and varied career in farming, teaching, mercantile business and being postmaster, but these were merely vocations. By avocation he was a writer, student, and what he considered by far the most important of all was an elder in the Church of Christ. The church in Woodville is a monument to his more than 56 years of faithful membership and able teaching of God's Word.

Another of his great loves was historical writings. Those that were published in book form include first of all: The Kennamer Family in 1925, in 1935 the History of Jackson County was compiled. The Story of Woodville was finished and distributed in 1950. Throughout the last decades he wrote widely to this county paper on many subjects. His collections of clippings are monumental. He probably knew as many people and more local history than any other Jackson Countian, and was consulted by people from far and near when any matter of dates or family lineage arose.

He was president of the Kennamer Family Association, an organization largely founded by him about 25 years ago. The annual meeting of this group held the last Saturday in August kept this family one of the closest knit clans in the South.

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Editor's Note: Mr. Kennamer, Mr. Sam Atchley and Mr. Homer Hodges were in the McCoy Mountain surveying some timber land on foot and Mr. Kennamer fell and broke his hip. Mr. Hodges stayed by Mr. Kennamer while Mr. Atchley walked the distance off the mountain down to Cobb Creek Road at the location of Old Woodville as county seat of Decatur County, to give the alert of what had happened.

An ambulance was summoned and men of the community carried the stretcher into the mountain and brought Mr. Kennamer out to the road where the ambulance was standing by. Mr. Kennamer lived about a week before developing pneumonia.

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Moses Maples was born in Sevier County, Tennessee on the 13th of September 1802. His father and mother had recently emigrated from the commonwealth of Virginia, he grew up receiving a very limited education. In 1820 he married Catharine Manning, whose parents had recently emigrated from New Jersey. Himself and wife began this world with little of its goods; never received any legacies worth mentioning. He came to this county in 1827 and bought an improvement in March 1828, moved to it. In 1829 settled where he now lives, near Woodville; he was making his third crop when the land came into market in 1830. He had a preemption right but was only able at that time to secure 80 acres; but with honest, energy and economy he added to it as the opportunity presented itself until he secured 750 acres, which was valued by the U. S. Census taken in 1860 at \$14,000. His hands at that time were able to cultivate 300 acres including small grain and clover. I am confident at that time he did not owe \$1.00 in the world, but alas the unfortunate war left him but little except his bare acres. He says his progress and experience through a long life has convinced him that no man with reasonable sense and physical ability need be wanting in pecuniary, social, and moral standing; if he is, its his own fault.

After Mr. Maples became permanently settled his fellow citizens urged him to seek office and shortly after was elected Justice of The Peace which office he occasionally held for 40 years. In 1844 he became a candidate for a seat in the lower branch of the legislature and was elected. It will be remembered that in that same year was the political contest between James K. Polk and Henry Clay for the Presidency. Mr. Maples, true to his political sentiments used every effort for James K. Polk's success. It will be remembered also that the Banking System of the state, recklessly managed, had involved the state in heavy bonds, which caused the spirit of repudiation to break out during the canvass of 1844. Mr. Maples, unwilling that the credit of the state should be tarnished by an act of the legislature, told the people throughout the county that if they wished an act of repudiation passed to give him instructions at the ballot box by leaving his name off the ticket. He aided during the session to put all the banks that had played such pranks in a state of liquidation. In 1847, he was elected a commissioner of Roads and Revenue, which place he held for many years. In 1855 while a member of the board, he was elected again to the legislature. It will be remembered that during that canvass was the decade of know nothingism, which caused a hard fought battle throughout the state, the Democrats triumphing.

In 1860, when the spirit of succession began to drip out, Mr. Maples took a bold stand against it publicly and privately, although he supported the nominees of the Baltimore Convention for the presidency, in that memorable campaign as to his course in relation to succession, it is the right of his fellow citizens to decide; he was honest in his pretensions and ascribed honesty to those who differ with him on this momentous question. Just previous to the Ordinance of Succession, the question was asked him, while making a speech, what he would do if the Ordinance of Succession was passed by the convention, his answer was "I cannot leave my motherland, consequently the fate and the fortune of the south will be mine."

Notwithstanding the difference of opinion between him and a large majority of his fellow citizens, Mr. Maples was again elected a member of the county commissioners in 1866 and also in 1874 and had served on the board near 15 years.

Mr. Maples says that memories and scenes with which he is surrounded admonish him that the end of his earthly career is not far distant. Every citizen that lived in the Woodville precinct, when he settled in it has passed away. The three colleagues, with which he served in 1844, Scott, Cobb and Williams, all younger than himself are dead. Jones, Russel and Eustace with whom he served the first 6 years as commissioner, all except Jones, younger than himself, have passed away. Mr. Maples and wife, now, as they began their married life, are the only members of their family. Although they had 16 children, 14 of whom grew to maturity, their baby is the mother of 6 children. 10 of their children are living. No son in this county, only one in this state. They are on this May 8th celebrating their 57th anniversary of their marriage. They have 70 grand children and forty great-grand children. The string of his door latch has always been outside. All visitors have been welcome and the needy never turned away empty if he had means. In conclusion he acknowledges that the watchful care of an overruling Providence deserves better thanks than he in his wickness is able to give.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This Alabama Herald article was written about the same Moses Maples who deeded the plot of land for Union Cemetery in 1834. He was the son of William Caswell Maples and Nancy Long Maples, born September 17, 1802 in Tennessee. Moses Maples called "Auger Eye", on May 8, 1820 married Catherine Manning, born December 19, 1805. He died three years after the writing of the article on June 24, 1880. His wife Catherine, died June 20, 1893, both are buried in Union Cemetery. They were the great, great, grandparents of three members of The Jackson County Historical Association: Calus Page, Wendell Page, and Rex Page.

Miss Demarius Woodall

By her close application in study and powers of comprehension and vigorous memory, justly shared the highest honors of the most advanced class of this Seminary of learning, on the 11th of September, 1872; and with great pleasure, she is pronounced capable of instructing in all English branches, usually taught in our Academies, and has also justly merited a high standing in moral department, and etiquetical demeanor.

Affectionately Presented By,  
MISS ROSALIE NORRIS,  
Principal of Woodville Female Seminary

September 13th, 1872.

Editor's Note: The above was copied from the original certificate now owned by a son of Demarius Woodall Jones, Mr. W. G. Jones, Sr., age 84, living in Woodville.

Mr. Jones wanted so much for this certificate to be reproduced in its originality for our Newsletter, but from fear of destroying same, once it was removed from the sealed frame, it was decided to type the contents for your information.

If any member of this Association has knowledge of more information on the WOODVILLE FEMALE SEMINARY, Mr. Jones would appreciate your sharing this knowledge with him and with the readers of our Newsletter.

Jackson County Historical Association new members received since July, 12, 1976

- |                           |                         |                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Gene Airheart        | Mrs. Jeff Eyster        | Mrs. Doyle Maynor        |
| Mrs. Edwin D. Allison     | Mr. Bill W. Freeman     | Mr. W. Walker McCutchen  |
| Mr. James L. Anderson     | Mrs. Bill W. Freeman    | Miss Edith Money         |
| Mrs. James L. Anderson    | Mrs. John Will Gay, Jr. | Mrs. William C. Murphy   |
| Mrs. H. T. Armstrong      | Mrs. Norman Crede       | Mr. John F. Neely        |
| Mrs. Lilah Beason         | Mrs. Maxie Gross        | Mrs. John F. Neely       |
| Mrs. J. B. Beard          | Mr. Sam Fred Gross      | Mr. John H. Newman, Jr.  |
| Ms. Johnnie Q. Bell       | Mrs. Sam Fred Gross     | Mrs. John H. Newman, Jr. |
| Mr. William R. Best       | Mr. Robert O. Haas      | Mr. F. Bowers Parker     |
| Mrs. William R. Best      | Mrs. Robert O. Haas     | Mrs. F. Bowers Parker    |
| Mrs. C. O. Blackwell      | Mrs. Jewell Hall        | Mrs. Evelyn W. Parks     |
| Mrs. John Blackwell       | Mrs. W. W. Haralson     | Mrs. Mary Peel           |
| Mrs. Bill Bogart          | Mr. William L. Heath    | Dr. Ruth Peet            |
| Mr. Frank Boyd            | Mrs. William L. Heath   | Mrs. Morris Pepper       |
| Mrs. Frank Boyd           | Mrs. Vesta Hembree      | Mr. John F. Proctor      |
| Mrs. Bert Boykin          | Mrs. W. R. Henshaw      | Mrs. John F. Proctor     |
| Mr. C. H. Bramlett        | Mrs. Fern Hodges        | Mrs. Worth Proctor       |
| Mr. Clyde Butler, Sr.     | Ms. Jane E. Hodges      | Mrs. Thomas Quinn        |
| Mrs. Clyde Butler, Sr.    | Mr. Larry Hood          | Mrs. Hazel I. Roberts    |
| Mr. Hamlin Caldwell, Jr.  | Mrs. Larry Hood         | Mrs. Lillian G. Russell  |
| Mrs. Hamlin Caldwell, Jr. | Mrs. Ben Hunt           | Mrs. John T. Sanders     |
| Mr. Harry Campbell        | Mrs. Jessie Tom Hurt    | Mrs. Austin Sharp        |
| Mrs. Harry Campbell       | Mrs. Leroy Jackson      | Mrs. Delbert Shelton     |
| Mrs. Henry B. Cannon      | Mrs. H. G. Jacobs       | Mrs. Billy Ray Sisk      |
| Mrs. David Cargile        | Mrs. J. C. Jacobs       | Mr. Mark Scott Skelton   |
| Mrs. Paul Conley          | Mrs. Walter Johnson     | Mrs. William T. Sloan    |
| Mrs. John E. Craig        | Mrs. Hugh Keeble        | Mrs. Bentley Thomas      |
| Mrs. Lonnie Crawford      | Mr. Houston Kennamer    | Mrs. Russell Thomas      |
| Mrs. Loyd Crawford        | Mrs. Joyce M. Kennamer  | Mrs. Richard L. Trueb    |
| Mr. Bill Davis            | Mr. Allen Lee           | Mr. Nelson Varnell       |
| Mrs. Bill Davis           | Mrs. Allen Lee          | Mrs. Nelson Varnell      |
| Mrs. Paul Dawson          | Mrs. Joseph Lee, Sr.    | Mrs. G. T. Walker        |
| Mr. Waco Derrick          | Mrs. O. C. Lewis        | Miss Bernice Wallace     |
| Mrs. Waco Derrick         | Mrs. M. H. Lynch        | Mrs. John A. Wann        |
| Mrs. Joann Thomas Elkin   | Mr. Houston L. Maples   | Mrs. Bill B. Webb, Sr.   |
| Mr. Ernest Engel          | Rev. Sam A. Mason       | Ms. Janice Webster       |
| Mrs. Ernest Engel         | Mr. Doyle Maynor        | Mrs. C. W. Woodall       |
|                           |                         | Mrs. Hazel T. Woodall    |