



STEVENSON DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35772



BRIDGEPORT DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35740



SCOTTSBORO DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35768

# Jackson County Historical Association

---

NEWSLETTER NO. THIRTEEN

January 15, 1978

---

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: January 1978 marks the beginning of our fourth year as an organization. During the last three years, and I trust during this year, we will have made our presence known not only in our county, but in the office of the Alabama State Historical Commission, from which all State and Federal financial blessings flow.

The main thrust that our organization will take during this year will be the placing of many of our county's historical buildings and sites on the Alabama Register. Some of the places that deserve state recognition are: Sauta, Bellefonte, the old Jackson County Jail, Jackson County Courthouse, Fern Cliff, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Gossett Hollow Cemetery, Judge Tate's Law Office (Scottsboro's first Courthouse), Taco Bet, W. H. Payne Drug Store, and others. During this year we will be asking some of you for special help on these projects.

Walter Hammer

---

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 1978 are:

President, Walt Hammer  
First Vice-Pres, Patty Johnstone  
Second Vice-Pres, C. H. Bramlett  
Secretary, Rubilee Smith  
Treasurer, Alice Ruth Page

DIRECTORS:

A. Kathryn Armstrong                      Mary Ann Cromans  
Betty Campbell                              Ann Chambless

Rex Page

MUSEUM PROGRAM: Mr. Joe F. Milberger, an architect from Huntsville, has been commissioned by our association to make a study of the old Jackson County Jail. He will make proposals as to the remodeling of both the interior and the exterior of the building. Mr. Milberger designed the Caldwell addition to our Scottsboro Public Library.

A meeting was held at your President's home in December to discuss this project. Those present were: Mrs. Virginia Lindenmeyer, Museum Chairman; Mr. Bill Aydelott, Museum Committee member; Mr. Milberger, the architect; Mrs. Ann Chambless, JCHA Director; Mrs. Bonnie Weeks, representing the Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Bill Woodall, former member of the Jackson County Commission. Mr. Woodall was a representative of HUD during the Downtown Development, and was helpful in suggesting different ways that we could find or obtain financial assistance in this Museum project.

---

Nov. 2, 1977

Ms. Ellen Mertins, Consultant  
National Register Properties  
Alabama Historical Commission  
725 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Ms. Mertins:

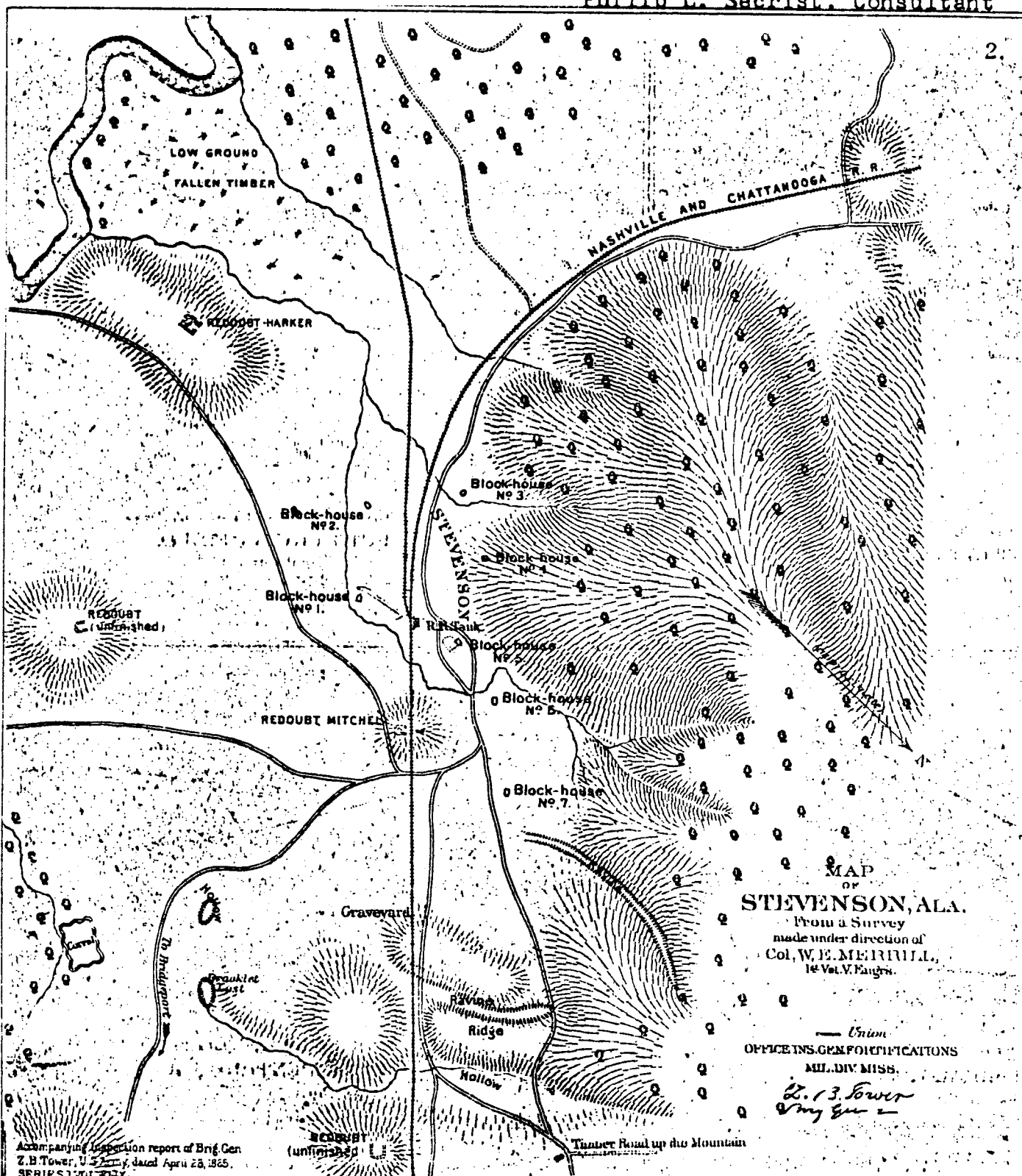
Enclosed you will find the necessary forms completed to nominate the Stevenson Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The necessary documenting support materials are also included herein. Please let me know if there is any additional information I need to forward that I have overlooked.

The people in Stevenson are looking forward with great interest to the progress of the nomination of the Stevenson Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

*Philip L. Secrist*

Philip L. Secrist, Consultant



INCLUDED IN DR. SECRIST'S REPORT WAS THIS RARE 1865 UNPUBLISHED MAP OF STEVENSON, ALABAMA.



W. WARNER FLOYD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104



TELEPHONE NUMBER  
832-6621

November 18, 1977

Mr. Walter Hammer  
President  
Jackson County Historical Association  
P. O. Box 52  
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Dear Mr. Hammer:

This is to notify you that Phil L. Secrist, Historical Consultant, has delivered to this office the necessary forms and paperwork required to nominate the Stevenson Historic District to the review process leading to National Register listing. The Alabama Historical Commission has reviewed the remainder of the paperwork and the supporting documents and found everything in satisfactory order.

Sincerely,

*Ellen Mertins*

Ellen Mertins  
National Register Coordinator

The agreement with Dr. Secrist when he filed this nomination was that one third of his bill would be paid by the City of Stevenson, one third by Stevenson Merchants Association, and the remaining third by the Jackson County Historical Association. The check for our third was delivered to Mayor Thomas by your President in December 1977.(W.H.)

STATEMENT

For services rendered, Sept. 8 - Nov. 2, 1977:	\$2000.00
Less retainer:	500.00
	<hr/>
Total now due	\$1500.00

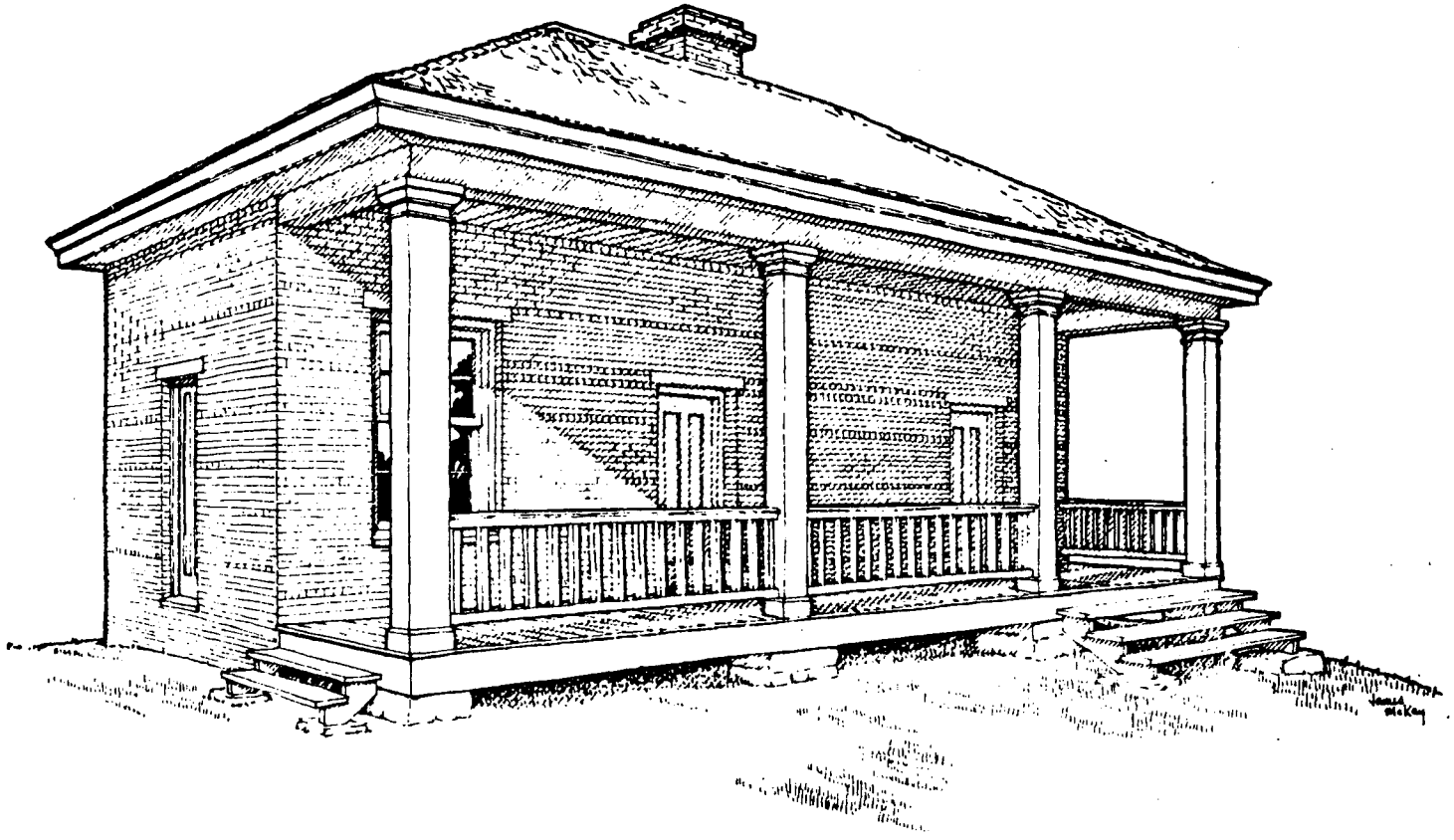
*Philip L. Secrist*  
Consultant

*Thank you.*

JACK AND SUSAN RUDDER TO RECEIVE 1977 AWARD OF MERIT:

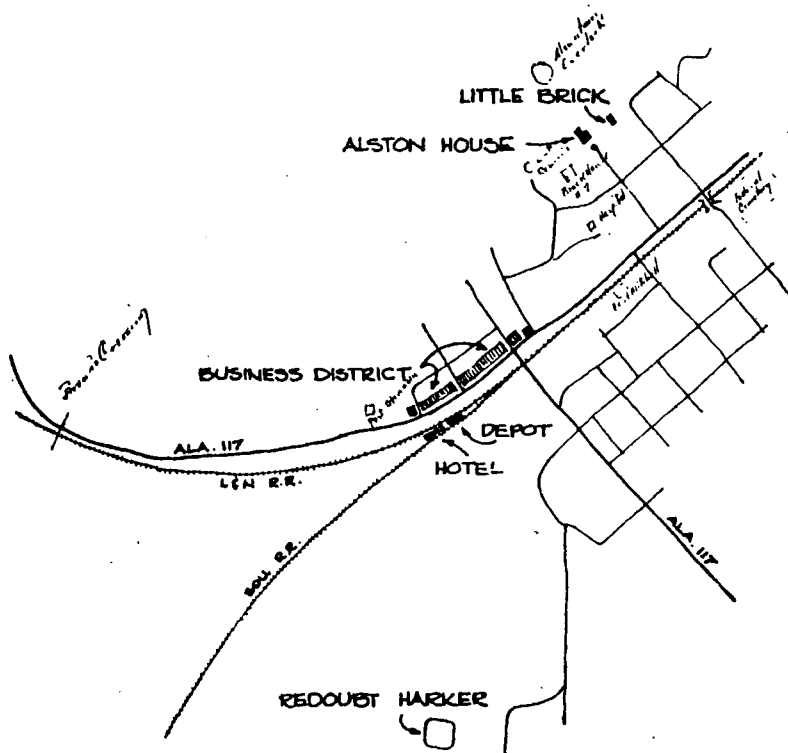
Jack and Susan Rudder are receiving a 1977 Award of Merit from the Alabama Historical Commission for the following reasons:

- ...Interest, concern and assistance to the preservation projects of the Jackson County Historical Association,
- ...Substantial contribution to the Alabama Historical Commission's program of restoring and preserving the leading architectural, archaeological, and historic landmarks in the state, and



PERSPECTIVE VIEW

# THE LITTLE BRICK



STEVENSON, ALABAMA

THE ABOVE SITE IS AWAITING APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER, APPLICATION WAS MADE PRIVATELY BY ITS PRESENT OWNERS, MR. & MRS. ROSSER ALSTON, THIS BUILDING SERVED AS GENERAL ROSECRANS' HEADQUARTERS DURING THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1863, GENERAL JAMES A. GARFIELD, LATER TO BECOME A PRESIDENT OF THE U.S., ALSO USED THIS BUILDING DURING HIS STAY IN STEVENSON,

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ACTIVITIES  
(1970-Oct. 1, 1977)

JACKSON COUNTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Fort Harker  
Russell Cave National Monument  
Stevenson Railroad Depot & Hotel

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND  
HERITAGE

Bridgeport Depot  
Maples House

HISTORIC/ARCHITECTURAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
STRUCTURES AND SITES RECORDED ON  
INVENTORY/SURVEY

88 Structures and sites

AWARDS OF MERIT PRESENTED  
(1975-1977)

Kathryn Armstrong, Stevenson  
Christine Sumner, Scottsboro  
Walter B. Hammer, Scottsboro  
Carlus P. Page, Stevenson  
Betty Ruth Henninger, Stevenson  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade Maples, Scottsboro

HISTORIC MARKERS RECORDED IN  
"HIGHWAY MARKERS OF ALABAMA"

Sequoyah 1760-1843  
Bridgeport  
Russell Cave National Monument

BICENTENNIAL TRAIL LANDMARKS  
SELECTED/MARKED/PROMOTED

Russell Cave National Monument  
DeSoto Trail

LOCAL GROUPS ORGANIZED/COORDINATED

Jackson County Historical Society

HISTORIC ROADS/TRAILS RECORDED

Route of DeSoto 1540  
Great Pensacola Trading Path

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS REVIEWED  
(1975-1977)

33 Projects

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS/  
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

5 Conducted

COUNTY LANDMARKS FEATURED IN AHC  
PUBLICATIONS

8 Landmarks

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Jackson County Historical Society

LIVE-IN-A-LANDMARK COUNCIL

Mr. & Mrs. Wade Maples, Scottsboro  
(Advisor)

NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATES  
PREPARED/PRESENTED

Fort Harker

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
ACTIVITIES

TARCOG National Register Survey -  
Commercial Buildings

AHC BROCHURES AND PAMPHLETS  
DISTRIBUTED

The above report represents our standing with the State association during the last seven years. As stated in the President's message, our hope is to improve the number of listings in the ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE.

FOURTH JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL BUS TOUR:

The fourth bus tour to Sand Mountain October 22, 1977 was enjoyed by approximately 50 people. The bus stopped at some twenty points of interest. We ate our sack lunches in Buck's Pocket, and afternoon refreshments were served at the home of Don and Norma Propst. Plans are being made for our 5th tour early this year. (W.H.)



STEVENSON DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35772



BRIDGEPORT DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35740



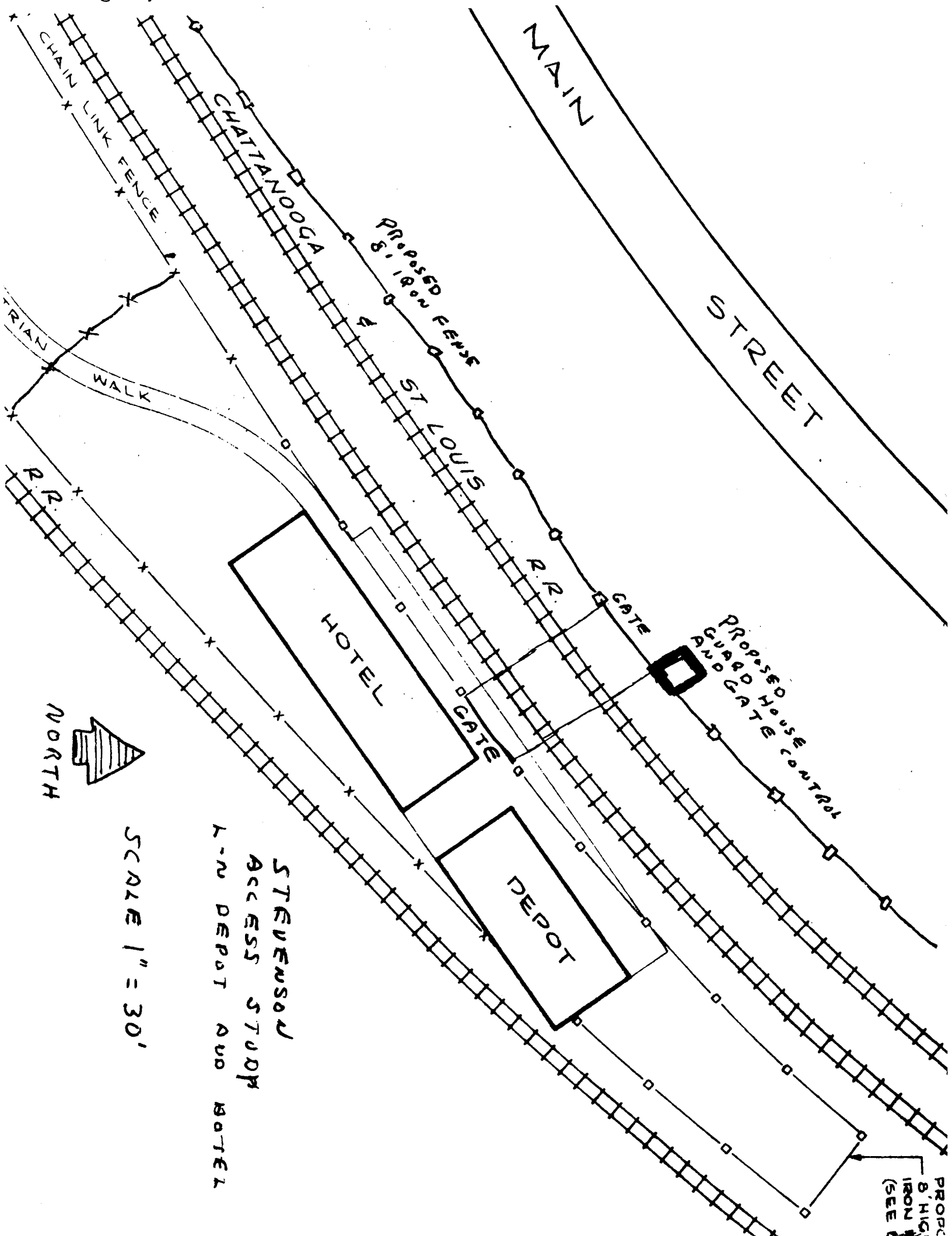
SCOTTSBORO DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35768

# Jackson County Historical Association

April 9, 1978

Congressman Ronnie G. Flippo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Reply To: Walter Hammer  
P. O. Box 52  
Scottsboro, Alabama  
35768



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The first three months of this year have been full for our association. All of our projects are continuing, but at a very slow pace. Progress on the Stevenson Project accelerates as you will notice in a related article in this newsletter. We are awaiting the architect's plans on the old jail. Numerous people are working on the sites for the Alabama Register.

A new Jackson County book that covers the history of Stevenson will be published soon. This book is being written by the mother of our Vice-President Patty Johnstone.

Get ready for another bus tour sometime in May.

Walt Hammer

---

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The April meeting will be the 16th at 2:30 at the City Hall in Scottsboro. Our guest speaker will be Miss Debbie Cooney of Nashville, Tennessee. She has been associated with the American Association for State and Local History. Presently, she is employed with Hospital Corporation of America in the capacity of writing an Oral History of that Corporation. Miss Cooney will tell us what Oral History is all about. It is a new concept of recording history and Jackson County can benefit tremendously from this concept.

Patty Johnstone

NOTE: A short executive meeting will precede the regular meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association.



Samuel Moore—

# Early Governor Hailed From Jackson

By CHERYL GORHAM  
And HENRY MARKS  
For The Times

Samuel B. Moore has the distinction of being the only governor of Alabama from Jackson County — and of having served one of the briefest periods in that office.

Born in Franklin County, Tennessee, in 1789, Moore moved to Alabama with his family while still a child. His family settled in Jackson County, two miles northeast of Woodville at Spout Springs.

In 1824 Moore began a distinguished political career by representing Jackson County in the state legislature. After serving several terms in the lower house, he was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1829. He was re-elected the following year and chosen as president of the Senate.

It was from that position in the Senate

that he succeeded to the governor's chair in March, 1831, after Gov. Gabriel Moore of Madison County (and of no known relation to Samuel) resigned his office to assume a U.S. Senate seat.

Samuel Moore served as acting governor for almost nine months, ending his tenure as the state's sixth chief executive in late November.

In his bid for election that month to a full term as governor, Moore was pitted against John Gayle of Greene County and Nicholas Davis, a Whig planter from Limestone County. Gayle, an eloquent orator, emerged the victor and Moore returned to his new residence in Pickens County.

Throughout his political career Moore enjoyed the reputation of being a man of character and action, a politician who elicited confidence or chagrin from his constituents.

He was deeply involved as governor in a dispute concerning the United States Bank and the State Bank.

He also opposed the nullification concept of John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. On this issue Moore stated that "...the State may nullify the acts of Congress by declaring them inoperative and void within its limits, and set up for itself. But before it takes this step, it ought carefully to weight the advantages of secession, against those of the Union, and see that the former clearly preponderate."

This stance by Moore was a contributing factor in his defeat in 1831 by Gayle, who campaigned in favor of nullification, citing James Madison as authority for his point of view.

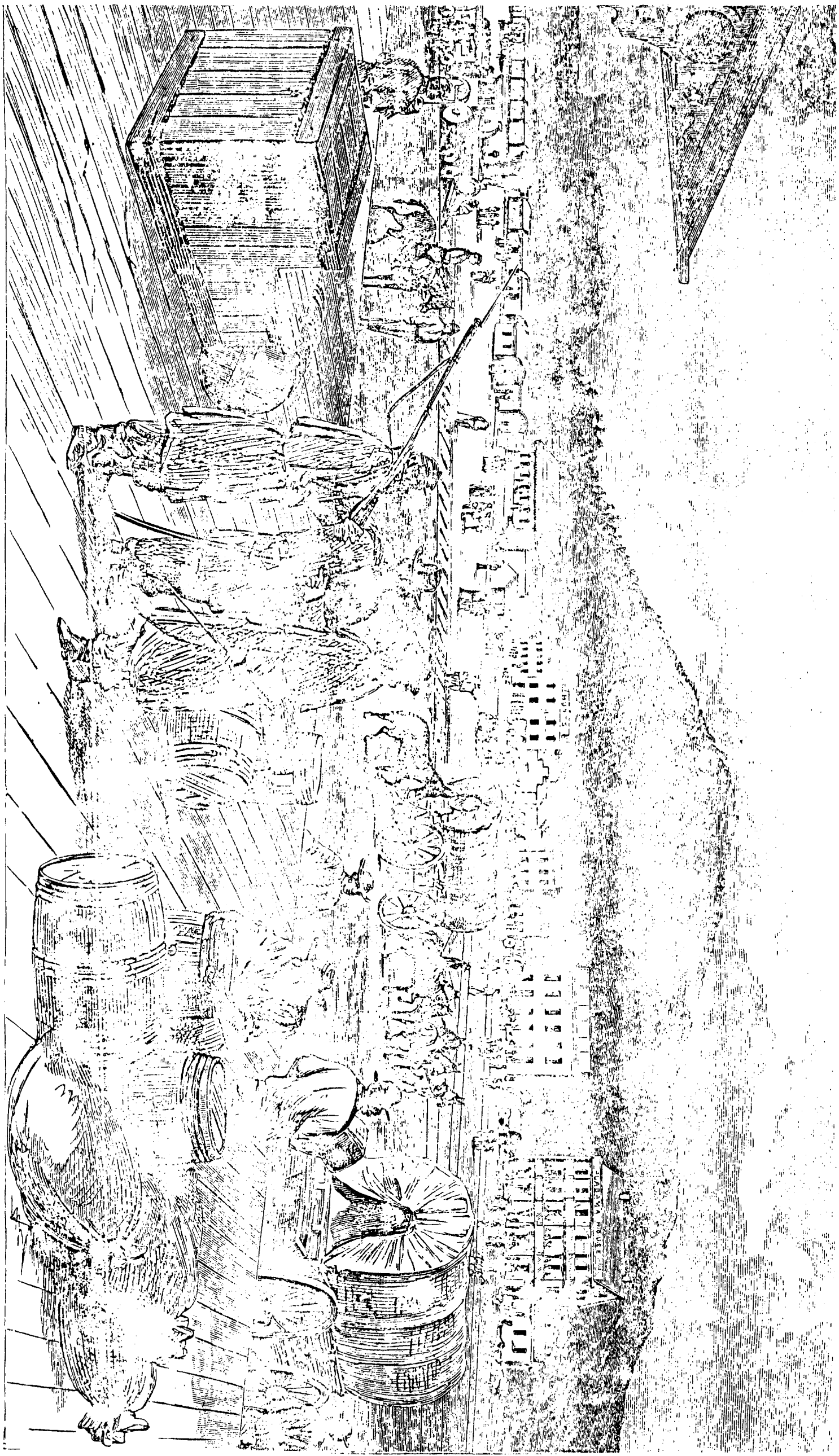
After serving as acting governor, Moore represented Pickens County in the state Senate from 1834 to 1838 and he served

again as president of that chamber in 1835. He ended his political career, as judge of the Pickens County Court from 1835 until 1841.

Moore died on Nov. 7, 1846, at Carrollton, the county seat of Pickens. So ended the career of a man whom William H. Brantley, in his "Banking In Alabama 1816-1860," called "probably the most opinionated chief executive ever to serve the State." Brantley also wrote that, had some exciting event occurred during his tenure, "he would have been ever remem-

bered with honor or regret."

A man of action, Moore had little opportunity as governor to show what he could do under difficult or exciting circumstances.



STEVENSON, ALABAMA.

## Confederate Veteran



Rufus Hollis and Wife

Ladies and Gentlemen: I introduce myself to you as a Soldier of the Civil War between the States of the United States of America. I enlisted in Capt. Lindsey's company of 84 men at Larkinsville in April 1861, Co. K. 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Marched to Dalton, Ga., and was sworn into the Confederate army, to remain until death if necessary, for the Sunny South.

I am now the only one living as far as I know. I want all Old Soldiers to meet me at the Fair.

Serg. RUFUS HOLLIS,  
Co. K. 4th, Ala. Regiment.

PLEASE LOOK FOR YOUR NAME ON THIS LIST:

Mrs. H. T. Armstrong  
Miss A. Kathryn Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Aydelott  
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Bramblett  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Butler, Sr.  
Mrs. Kate J. Bradford  
Mrs. Lilah Beason  
Mrs. William Bogart  
Mr. & Mrs. Hamlin Caldwell, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Campbell  
Mrs. Henry B. Cannon  
Mrs. John E. Craig  
Mrs. Loyd Crawford  
Mr. Richard V. Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Waco Derrick  
Mrs. Lora Mae Davis  
Attorney Ronald Drummond  
Mrs. Joann Thomas Elkin  
Mr. James H. Eiford  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill W. Freeman  
Mrs. John Will Gay, Jr.  
Mrs. Maxie Gross  
Mr. Larry Gilbert  
Mrs. Thomas A. Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hammer  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Heath  
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Henninger  
Mrs. Fern Hodges  
Miss Jane E. Hodges  
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hicks  
Ms. Dorothy C. Huffman  
Mrs. James T. Jones  
Mrs. Walter Johnson  
Mrs. Bertha Kirby  
Mrs. Helen Kern  
Mrs. Virginia M. Lindenmeyer  
Mrs. M. H. Lynch  
Attorney Jack Livingston  
Mr. Houston L. Maples  
Miss Eunice Matthews  
Miss Hazel Matthews  
Miss Leola Matthews  
Mrs. William Clark Murphy  
Mrs. W. Walker McCutchen  
Mr. John H. Newman, Jr.  
Dr. Ruth Peet  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlus P. Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Rex Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Page  
Mrs. Hazel Isbell Roberts  
Mrs. Ellen S. Ross  
Miss Sarah V. Rudder  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack F. Rudder  
Mrs. Mary Anna Rudder  
Mrs. John Schuerman  
Mrs. William T. Sloan  
Scottsboro Jr. High Library  
Ms. Effie Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Harrison H. Smith  
Mrs. Bentley Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Nelson Varnell  
Ms. Bernice Wallace

Mrs. Ann B. Chambless

If your name is not on this list, you still have time to pay your dues for 1978. Please use the form listed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

# Scottsboro

By MILES DENHAM  
(1955)

SCOTTSBORO,—Because the people of Bellefonte, early seat of Jackson County government, regaled progress 97 years ago, Scottsboro is now the county seat and Bellefonte no longer appears on the map of Alabama.

The people of Scottsboro are still willing to welcome progress and are going more than halfway to meet it.

Back in 1858, Bellefonte was a thriving town on the old stage lines running through the Tennessee Valley. But in that year, the Memphis and Charlestown Railroad pushed its way into Jackson County from Memphis to Stevenson. The citizens of Bellefonte didn't want the smoke-belching, clanging trains disturbing the quiet and peace of their town. So the railroad ran its tracks 11 miles east of Bellefonte and established a switch stop on land ceded by Robert T. Scott.

The station was named Scott's Station and soon a busy community grew up around the rail stop. Bellefonte was destroyed by Federal troops during the Civil War and never made a comeback. Instead, in 1868, the county seat was moved to Scott's Station and the town given the name, Scottsboro...

The town has shown great growth and progress in the past 15 years. From a town of 2800 people in 1940, it has grown to an estimated 5500. And it has a solid foundation of industry and agriculture to build on.

Long a center of timbering and sawmilling, Scottsboro has two large lumber companies. The W. J. Word Lumber Co., is one of the largest in North Alabama. Close behind is the R. C. Patrick Lumber Co.

A fairly recent addition to Scottsboro's industrial picture is the Scottsboro Hosiery Plant of Burlington Mills. This modern plant turns out seamless nylons for the womenfolks and keeps about 300 Scottsboro residents at work.

Other industries include the Benham Underwear Mill, the Scottsboro Knitting Mill and four chenille manufacturing companies, the Maples Co., the Bama Tuft Co., the Alabama Bedspread Co. and the Heath Chenille Co.

But Scottsboro's energetic mayor, D. Donald Word, backed by an enthusiastic citizenry, is aggressively going for more new industry.

In preparation, Scottsboro has recently completed a \$40,000 addition to its water system, has

undertaken a \$93,000 street paving program, put in a new substation on its municipal electric system, built a new elementary school at a cost of \$550,000 and purchased a \$28,000 site for a new municipal building.

In addition, a new Jackson County hospital has been completed and opened recently on the outskirts of Scottsboro and new wings have been added to the courthouse. The city also boasts a new National Guard Armory which is available for civic functions.

Scottsboro's aggressive spirit appears to be on the verge of paying off. Right now city officials and members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, headed by President Dorsey Forrester, are talking serious business with several good industrial prospects.

Scottsboro gets in on some tourist business, too. It is located within a stone's throw of the backwaters of the Tennessee River and is nestled in the Tennessee Valley between the steep bluffs of Sand Mountain to the south and the Cumberland Mountains to the north.

One of the things which makes Scottsboro unique is its well-known "first Monday" trade day.

The Courthouse Square is jammed on the first Monday of each month as folks from the whole area come into town to swap and trade livestock, dogs, shotguns, and hundreds of other items of handcraft or produce or what have you?

The custom began some 50 years ago, when a county court was established in Jackson County with sessions on the first Monday in each month.

Farmers found that this was a good time to bring their stock to town for sale or trade. The "First Mondays" have since become more of a social gathering, with folks swapping and trading more for the fun of it than anything else.

You find a lot of "old residents" in and around Scottsboro. Folks just seem to like it there and stay. Joe Austell, who came to Scottsboro in 1908 to open a barber shop, has retired now, but he's still living in Scottsboro. He was the first to install gas lights in Scottsboro and the first to put in electric lights.

Parker Campbell, who edits the weekly Sentinel and the Progressive Age, is a native son who has stayed on to contribute to the town's life. So is J. B. Presley, who now owns and operates a motel within a few hundred yards of the place where he was born.

But there are new residents, too. As the pace of business and industry quickens, more and more people move in. Mrs. Sue Raynes, city clerk, estimates that more than 200 new residences have been built here within the last two years.

"We got some bad publicity during the Scottsboro Trials," said one resident, "but we are outgrowing it finally. When people once come and get a look at us, they realize we've got a pretty good town here."

+

March 20, 1978

I am seeking any information such as births, marriages, deaths and occupation on the following (██████) If you can give me any of this information I would deeply appreciate this. If there are charges please let me know. The family Bible mentioned Scotts Burror-2 words but my family could never spell. It also mentioned the name of Factler Station Jackson County Ala. I am sending all the dates I have but I am not sure they are correct. Please advise me of any other means of getting this information

Mrs E E Moore  
2013 North 40 A  
Waco, Texas 76707

I am the grand daughter of the listed

Father Joshy Holder

David Crockett Holder

Born either July or Feb 1854

Married March 12, 1876

at Factler Station, Ala.

Jackson County

Married Mary Holder  
*Starkey*

below

Mother Christi Anny ?



David Starkey or Starky

Mary David Starkey

Born Aug 7, 1858

Mother Miteldia C Russel

Born July 25, 1832

Father Ben Robertson

George Daniel Robertson

Born Oct 5, 1866

Married I have his Death

Mother Lau Sinda ?

Father William Henry Harrison Little

Born Aug 17, 1842

Mother

Harrison

Laura Little

Born Jan 30 either  
1874 or 1873

Mother Elmor Hopper or Tullus

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRIDGEPORT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH:

The first Methodist Church in Bridgeport was located on the river side of Battery Hill between the residences of Mr. John H. Gunter and Mr. R. A. Jones. Mr. John Lee, still a resident of Bridgeport, took us to the spot where this church was located and told of attending services there as a boy.

The "main street" of Bridgeport at that time extended from above the present railroad tower to the river bridge. Among other businesses in the town was the drug store owned and operated by Dr. Elisha L. Lee and Dr. W. K. Spiller, (1879-1889). Both were Methodists.

Brother J. H. Leslie was the pastor in 1885-1887 and again in 1892. During his first ministry the congregation decided to build a larger church.

"A committee of Mrs. Georgia Glover, Mrs. R. A. Jones, and Miss Emma Anderson was appointed to select the site. After looking over Battery Hill they crossed the railroad and went over to another hill on what is now Cunningham Avenue. While they were standing there, a little dove came and flew around their heads and lit at their feet. Mrs. Jones said, 'This is the Spot.'"<sup>1</sup>

By 1890 the new church was completed and a parsonage built on the adjoining lot (now the home of Mrs. Jessie Matthews). Reverend George Hamp Smith preached the dedicatory sermon in May of 1890.

"The first wedding in this church was that of Miss May Jones to Frank Edmunds. The last one was that of Miss Louie Williams to Reverend C. P. Hamby."<sup>1</sup>

This church was in use for about 35 years. By 1923, the need was felt for a larger church with adequate Sunday School facilities. The building was begun during the ministry of Reverend Marvin Swilling and completed while Reverend J. F. Sturdivant was pastor, in 1925. Elder Ira F. Hawkins preached the first sermon September 6, 1925.

---

1. A Brief Church History, Mrs. Josie Allen.

The building of this new church was a huge task for the congregation. The building committee was as follows: Mr. F. W. Carr, Sr., Chairman; Mr. W. S. Allen, Mr. J. M. Barham, Sr., Mr. J. P. Trexell, and Mr. J. L. Hackworth.

The effort put forth by this committee and the cooperation of the congregation made it possible to complete the building and pay off the debt by 1938. We have a right to be proud of our church and the fine people, many now deceased, who labored to provide such a building. We owe it to them, ourselves, and future generations to keep our church in good repair and to provide for additional facilities as needed.

During the past year about \$3,000.00 was spent repairing the building. A new roof was put on, guttering installed, and all outside woodwork repaired and painted. New windows and doors were installed in the basement.

This debt is being paid off on schedule and we are thankful for those who have shown their concern for the upkeep of God's house.

Bridgeport First Methodist Church has a wonderful history of service to mankind. Let us all pledge ourselves to an even greater witness.

---

The above information was taken from a booklet compiled recently about the history of the Bridgeport First Methodist Church.

---

WE NEED YOU

AS A CONTINUING MEMBER

OR AS A NEW MEMBER

OF OUR ASSOCIATION!

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

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50 A YEAR

Jackson County Historical Association  
Mrs. Alice Ruth Page  
Route 1, box 11  
Woodville, Al 35776

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

PLEASE PROVIDE: NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have already paid your dues, please disregard this notice.)



The Stevenson Railroad Depot is located between two, busy nationally used train tracks. Due to its unique construction, the structure cannot be moved. Because of the L & N's demand for safety ( and justly so), we have considered three different methods to get visitors to this historic spot across the tracks. The first solution was a huge overpass walkway to be constructed at a cost of \$100,000. This overpass completely overshadowed the Depot building. The second method considered was a tunnel under the tracks. The estimated cost of this tunnel was \$150,000, and the feasibility study was doubtful because of the elevation problem. Thirdly, we explored a road to be built that would enter the rear of the complex. The estimated construction cost was almost \$200,000. This included land acquisition plus a blind railroad crossing some 200 yards which presented a secondary problem.

Enclosed you will find a rough sketch that presents a new approach to tourist traffic across the L & N tracks. Since all of Jackson County is under the jurisdiction of the Chickamauga National Military Park Service, and the park has a historic monument some 10 miles up the road at Russell Cave, the Jackson County Historical Association proposes that the Department of the Interior in the National Park Service furnish a ranger or a disabled Veteran to run an electric gate from a guard house located on the north side of the tracks. These gates would open simultaneously on the north and south sides of the tracks. The Depot and Hotel would be completely isolated by the 8 ft. iron fence. On the town side, an 8 ft. fence would also protect it. This would insure a safe passage across the tracks.

We respectfully ask that your department examine this proposition, and if possible, help the people of Jackson County in this effort not only to preserve and enhance their historical heritage, but to help the economy by bringing the tourist traffic into our area. Fifty-five thousand dollars are now in escrow for this project. A \$20,000 grant has recently been approved by the Alabama State Historical Commission. This makes a total amount available for the project \$75,000. Our plans at this time are for the facilities to be open five days a week, eight hours a day.

Please give this matter your thoughtful attention.



STEVENSON DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35772



BRIDGEPORT DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35740



SCOTTSBORO DEPOT  
ALABAMA 35768

# Jackson County Historical Association

---

NEWSLETTER NO. FIFTEEN

July 16, 1978

---

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The past three months have been very eventful for your association. Dozens of letters have come in from government agencies concerning our Stevenson Depot Access Proposal, no solid commitment but helpful suggestions. Mr. Milberger has sent a suggested renovation plan for the old jail if we decide to go on with that museum location. Our 5th Bus Tour was oversold, and three of our members were left standing at the gate so to speak with tickets in hand. (Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Page and Mrs. Harrison Smith for their understanding.). We look forward to a colorful Fall Tour.

Walt Hammer

---

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Our program for Sunday afternoon, July 16th, will be presented by two of our members, Mr. Carlus Page and Mr. Wendell Page. The subject will be: "The Growth and Decline of Industry in Jackson County and adjacent area 1880 - 1930". The major emphasis will be placed on lumber, limestone, and coal. These two members have spent a great deal of time and effort in researching this subject. Please invite your friends, and anyone who might be interested in this subject, to attend.

Patty Johnstone

---

Note: The regular meeting of the Association will be held on July 16, 1978, at 2:30 P.M. at Scottsboro City Hall. A short executive meeting will precede the regular meeting. It will begin at 2:00 P.M.

The following roster of Jackson County Spanish-American War Veterans was furnished us by Miss Eunice Matthews, one of our members.

\*\*\*\*\* SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR of 1898 \*\*\*\*\*

---

COMPANY

I

2nd REGT. ALABAMA  
VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

JACKSON COUNTY VOLUNTEERS.  
\* \* \* \* \*

COMPANY OFFICERS

Captain, CHARLES QUINTARD BEECH  
1st Lieut, GIDEON PRICE BOULDIN  
2nd Lieut, JAMES ROBERT CAMPBELL

1st Sergeant, JAMES MCCORD SKELTON  
Q.M. Sergeant, FELIX ROBERTSON

Sergeants

WILLIAM EDGAR HARRIS  
WILLIAM RUTLEDGE LARKIN, Jr.  
ROBERT KINKLE HARRIS  
JOHN EDWARD COTTEN

Corporals

WILLIAM D. KEETON  
JOSEPH C. ERWIN  
RUFUS S. PORTER  
THOMAS I. HUMPHREY, Jr.  
FRED ARN  
CHARLES RICE COFFEY

Musicians

JOHN DEERE  
ELMORE KENAMER

Artificer

WILLIAM GENTLE

Wagoners

RICHARD H. SMITH  
JESSE A. PROCTOR

JAMES W. COX  
Colonel Commanding.

Mustered into the UNITED STATES SERVICE

At

CAMP JOHNSTON, MOBILE, ALABAMA, MAY the 27th, 1898.

(Published by C. T. Fuller, Buffalo, New York.)

\*\*\*\*\* SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR of 1898 \*\*\*\*\*

COMPANY  
I  
2nd REGT. ALABAMA  
Volunteer Infantry  
JACKSON COUNTY VOLUNTEERS  
\*\*\*\*\*

PRIVATES -- Remarks.

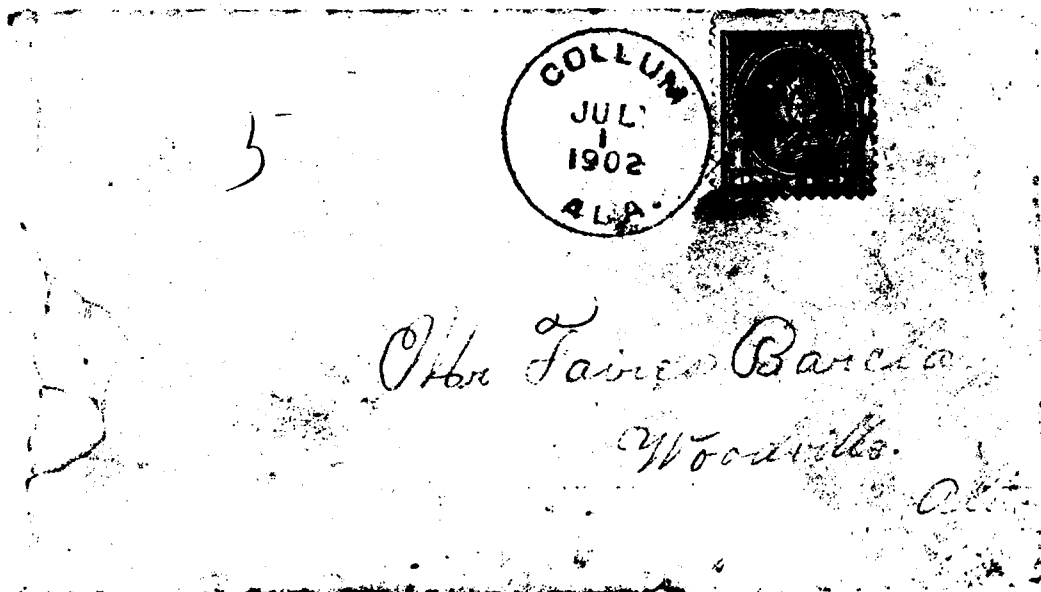
PRIVATES -- Remarks.

ASHLEY, JOSEPH  
ASKIN, WILLIAM B.  
BLESSING, WILLIAM F.  
BOULDIN, VIRGIL  
BYNUM, CHARLES W.  
BAUER, GEORGE  
BURKHARDT, ROBERT W.  
COE, CHARLES W.  
COTTEN, JERRY B.  
CRUSE, RICHARD H.  
CASON, JOHN B.  
COFFEY, JAMES D.  
COX, HENRY  
CHRISTIANSEN, GEORGE E.  
COLEY, EDWARD J.  
CUMMINGS, JOSEPH  
DAVIS, OSCAR H.  
EDMONDS, STRAUSS (Transferred to Band)  
FUHLER (?), JOHN  
GREEN, WALTER D.  
GREEN, THOMAS L.  
GORMLEY, LAWRENCE  
GUDENRATH, HARRY L.  
GULLATT, JOHN A.  
GATTIS, EMMET  
GOBER, ISAAC  
GLADDEN, JAMES W.  
GAINES, JOHN  
GOODMAN, WILLIAM E.  
GOLD, SOLOMON W.  
HALL, WALTER  
HICKS, JAMES M. P. ✓  
HILL, WILEY F.  
HANKINS, JAMES M.  
HANCOCK, JAMES M.  
HAMILTON, WILLIAM A.  
HUMPHREY, CLARE  
HENDREN, STARLING P.  
HOFFMAN, RALPH L.  
HAUK, EMIL B. (Transferred to Band)  
HAUK, ALFRED (Transferred to Band)  
Hays, LUTHER (Transferred to Hospital Corps.)  
HERRIN, EDWARD (Transferred to Hospital Corps.)  
JORDAN, ANDREW J.  
JOHNSON, HERSCHEL V.  
KING, WILLIAM W.

LACKEY, RICE  
LUSK, GEORGE W.  
LEWIS, JOHN  
LEQUIRE, JAMES C.  
MATTHEWS, LEE (Transferred to Band)  
MORRIS, JAMES B.  
MORRIS, DAVID A.  
MEADE, LEMUEL G.  
MATTHEWS, ANDREW  
MORELAND, THOMAS M.  
McCORMACK, BENJAMIN T.  
McCUTCHEEN, HARVEY B. (Died at Miami August 17, 1898).  
McGANN, ALFRED W.  
NASH, JACKSON  
OWENS, ALBERT  
ODEN, HENRY  
PARKS, ANSON B.  
PICKENS, JOHN Z.  
PRECISE, ROBERT T.  
PRECISE, JAMES A.  
POTTER, DAVID W.  
ROSS, JAMES A.  
ROBINSON, JOHN R.  
SELBY, BARTON B.  
SELBY, WALTER C.  
SLOAN, TYSON M.  
SISK, ERSKINE M.  
SHEARMAN, DOC  
SHANNON, JOHN A.  
SUTTERER, HERMAN  
THROWER, JAMES M.  
VICARS, JOHN H.  
WARREN, THOMAS L.  
WARREN, ALLIE G.  
WALKER, JAMES R.  
WILSON, JOHN C.  
WALLACE, ASA F.

The late Hubert Barclay's father, Sidney Farris Barclay, received dozens of letters like this from his bride to be, Miss Mattie Childress. Mr. Barclay lived at Woodville, and Miss Childress lived at Collum, in Jackson County. We appreciate the loan of this letter, and would like to thank Mrs. Hubert (Louise) Barclay.

If you know where Collum was located in Jackson County, please be ready to tell us at the July 16th meeting. Also can you locate the old communities of Black Ankle, Chicken Foot, Briar Patch, Lily, and Hitch?



Attention, Postmaster Bellomy, please note the postage on this first class letter in July of 1902!

---

The following letter was received from one of our members, Frances Lyles Varnell:

I am enclosing the recital program that we discussed. (This program appears elsewhere in this bulletin). Many of the performers were, or are, known by the same name that appeared on the program. Of the remainder, I was able to obtain information on the following:

Ella Worthington became Mrs. Liles Hembree. She is deceased.  
Marv McClendon is Mrs. Harvey Wynn and lives in Scottsboro.  
Janie Porter, now deceased, was Mrs. Bryant.  
Dora McCarley is Mrs. Van McCracken.  
Mable Swaim is Mrs. Paul Smith of Birmingham.  
Irene Howard is Mrs. Archie Carhart of Texas.  
Ruth Jones was Mrs. Ruth Jones Gilliam.  
Margaret Robinson is Mrs. Fred Steele of Huntsville.  
Rena Gold (Rena Madge Gold) was Mrs. Frank Propst of Tuscaloosa.  
Eda Coffey is now Mrs. Eda Coffey Carpenter of Houston, Texas.  
Lora Thaxton is a Mrs. Withers and lives in Chattanooga.  
Misses Nelle and Opal Ashmore are both deceased. They married and lived in Florida for a number of years. I could not learn their married names.

I was not able to find out anything about any of the following: Onie and Irene Chambers, Annie Able, Jemima Jacobs, or Sallie Rorex. A number of people remembered them, but did not know what happened to them. Sorry!

If you have something of more interest, just put this aside for an emergency. In the meantime, one of us might find out something about the "missing persons".

Sincerely,  
Frances Lyles Varnell  
Route 2 Box 333A  
Section, Alabama 35771

MUSICAL RECITAL

JACKSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday Night May 20, 1914

- Duet- "March" Op. 39, 1. and Mary McClendon. Hollander  
Ella Worthington and Mary McClendon.
- Trio- "Birthday March".....Lorman  
Janie Porter, Dora McCarley, Myrtle Shipp
- Solo- Second Valse Op.....Godard  
Ninon Gay.
- Duet- (Two Pianos) "Two Juveniles".....Burty  
1st. Piano-Opie Chambers and Mable Swaim.  
2nd. Piano-Nelle Ashmore and Opal Ashmore.
- Quartet- "Come Fairies"  
Mary Clopton, Irene Chambers, Albert Kirby  
Hermin Campbell.
- Duet-"Sleigh Bell Polka".....Zitterbart  
Ida Moody and Irene Howard
- Trio-"Hunting Song and Venetian Barcarolle".....  
.....Mendelsshon  
Ella Worthington, Opie Chambers, Mable Swaim
- Duo-"Mystic Procession".....Hovrath  
1st. Piano-Annie Able. 2nd. Piano-Leola Matthews
- Duet-"Lolita".....Engel  
Jemima Jacobs and Sallie Rorex.
- Reading-"Bessie's Soliloquy".....Eda Coffey
- Trio-(Two Pianos)"Golden Wedding".....Gabriel Marie  
1st. Piano-Opie Chambers, Ella Worthington, Annie Abel.  
2nd. Piano-Ruth Jones, Mable Swaim, Lora Thaxton.
- Duet-(Two Pianos)"Shepperd's Song"-Op. 147..No. 7....  
.....Krug  
1st. Piano-Opie Chambers, Ella Worthington.  
2nd. Piano-Margaret Robinson, Rena Gold.
- "Danse Semplice".....Rathbuft  
Eliza Hackworth.
- Vocal-"A Bird in Hand".  
Margaret Robinson, Lora Thaxton, Ida Moody.
- Duet-(Two Pianos)"Merry Skater".....Zitterbart  
1st. Piano-Leola Matthews, Pearl Matthews.  
2nd. Piano-Annie Able and Tempie Clemons.
- Duet-"March from Tannhauser"-Op. 136.....Wagner  
Ella Worthington, Opie Chambers.
- Duo-"The Joyful Peasant"...Op. 68, No. 9....Schuman  
1st. Piano---Ella Worthington.  
2nd. Piano---Mable Swaim.
- Drill.....Music Class.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

Period January 9, 1978 - April 10, 1978

Balance on hand January 9, 1978 \$1,524.16

INCOME:

Dues	\$307.50	
Contributions	250.00	557.50
Total Available this period		<u>\$2,081.66</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Walter Hammer--copy machine rent	\$ 30.00	
Walter Hammer--postage	4.44	
Joe F. Milberger--retainer	100.00	
Scottsboro Business Equipment- printing of Newsletter	68.67	<u>203.11</u>
Balance on hand April 10, 1978		\$1,878.55
Jacobs Bank, Scottsboro, Alabama		

Signed: Alice Ruth Page 4-10-78

Alice Ruth Page, Treasurer  
Jackson County Historical Association  
Route 1, Box 11  
Woodville, AL 35776 Phone 776-3505

---

A people who take no interest in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered by remote descendants.

(Submitted by Mrs. Harrison Smith)  
Thomas Babington Macaulay  
1800-1859

---

WE NEED YOU

AS A CONTINUING MEMBER

OR AS A NEW MEMBER

OF OUR ASSOCIATION!

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

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50 A YEAR

Jackson County Historical Association  
Mrs. Alice Ruth Page  
Route 1, box 11  
Woodville, Al 35776

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

PLEASE PROVIDE: NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE.)

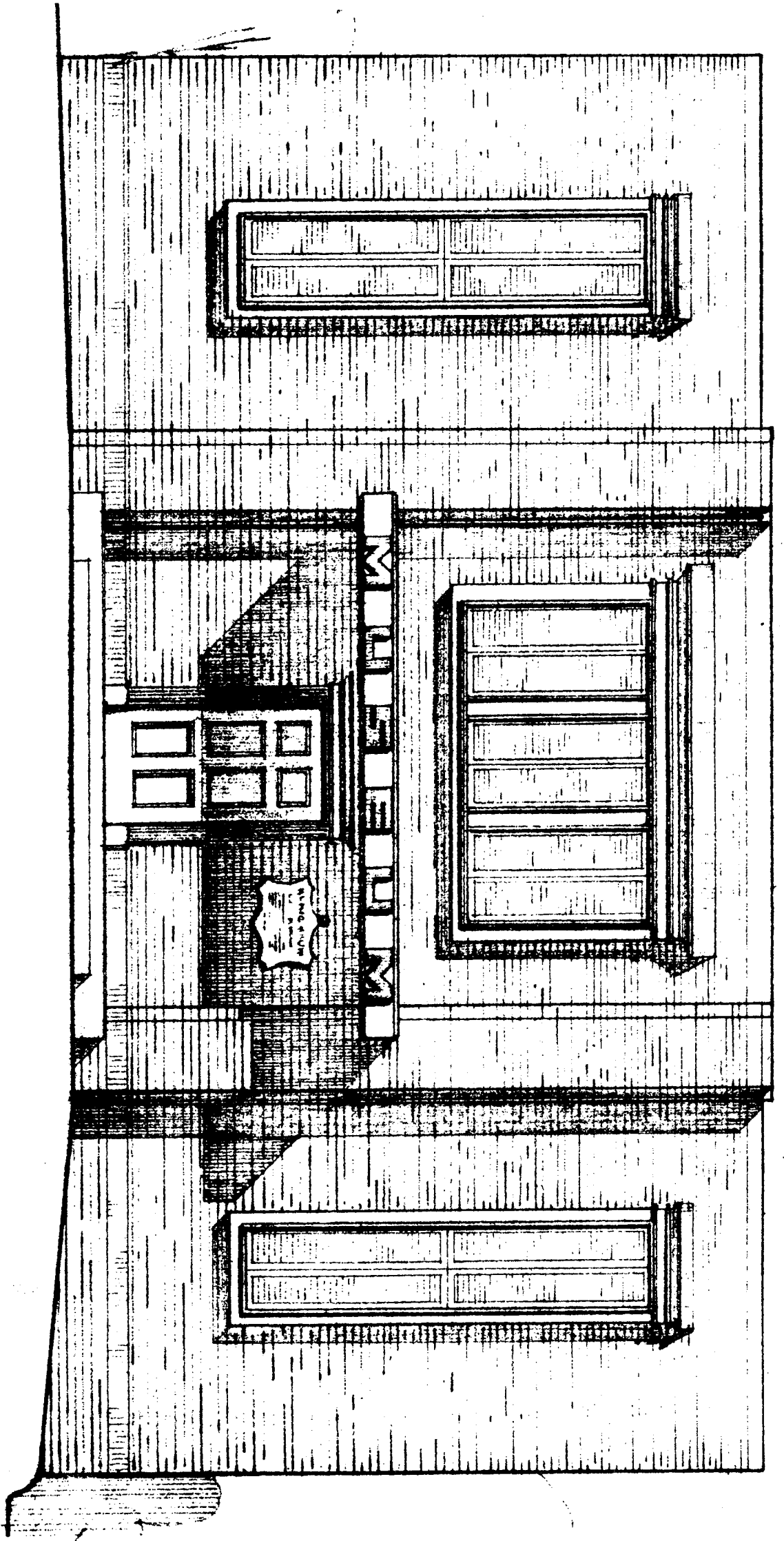
PLEASE LOOK FOR YOUR NAME ON THIS LIST:

Mrs. H. T. Armstrong  
Miss A. Kathryn Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Aydelott  
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Bramblett  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Butler, Sr.  
Mrs. Kate J. Bradford  
Mrs. Lilah Beason  
Mrs. William Bogart  
Mr. & Mrs. Hamlin Caldwell, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Campbell  
Mrs. Henry B. Cannon  
Mrs. John E. Craig  
Mrs. Loyd Crawford  
Mr. Richard V. Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Waco Derrick  
Mrs. Lora Mae Davis  
Attorney Ronald Drummond  
Mrs. Joann Thomas Elkin  
Mr. James H. Eiford  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill W. Freeman  
Mrs. John Will Gay, Jr.  
Mrs. Maxie Gross  
Mr. Larry Gilbert  
Mrs. Thomas A. Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hammer  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Heath  
Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Henninger  
Mrs. Fern Hodges  
Miss Jane E. Hodges  
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hicks  
Ms. Dorothy C. Huffman  
Mrs. James T. Jones  
Mrs. Walter Johnson  
Mrs. Bertha Kirby  
Mrs. Helen Kern  
Mrs. Virginia M. Lindenmeyer  
Mrs. M. H. Lynch  
Attorney Jack Livingston  
Mr. Houston L. Maples  
Miss Eunice Matthews  
Miss Hazel Matthews  
Miss Leola Matthews  
Mrs. William Clark Murphy  
Mrs. W. Walker McCutchen  
Mr. John H. Newman, Jr.  
Dr. Ruth Peet  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlus P. Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Rex Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Page  
Mrs. Hazel Isbell Roberts  
Mrs. Ellen S. Ross  
Miss Sarah V. Rudder  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack F. Rudder  
Mrs. Mary Anna Rudder  
Mrs. John Schuerman  
Mrs. William T. Sloan  
Scottsboro Jr. High Library  
Ms. Effie Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Harrison H. Smith  
Mrs. Bentley Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Nelson Varnell  
Ms. Bernice Wallace

Mrs. Ann B. Chambless  
Mrs. Doris W. Hambrick  
Mrs. Warren Whitchee  
Mrs. Ernest L. Engel  
Mrs. Frances G. Allison  
Mrs. Ellen L. Ross  
Mrs. Jim Proctor  
Mrs. Doris Ann Janney  
Mr. William R. Best  
Mrs. Sandra Burney  
Mrs. Madge R. Caperton  
Mrs. W. R. Henshaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Hodges  
Mrs. Patty Johnston  
Mrs. Pauline A. Jones  
Ms. Emma Lou Lovelady  
Mrs. Wade Maples  
Ms. Christine W. Moore  
Mrs. Joan McKelvey  
Mr. Ford H. Owens  
Mrs. Ford H. Owens  
Mr. Robert Leo Page, Sr.  
Judge William D. Page  
Mrs. Worth Proctor  
Mr. John T. Reid  
Mrs. Lillian G. Russell  
Mrs. John T. Sanders  
Mrs. Leon Shelton  
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Talley  
Mrs. Emma Timberlake  
W. David Woodall  
Mrs. Eliza B. Woodall  
Mr. Charles Stubblefield

If your name is not on this list, you still have time to pay your dues for 1978. Please use the form listed elsewhere in the Newsletter.





FRONT ELEVATION.

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

MILBERGER, RUTLAND & ASSOCIATES  
ARCHITECTS

# RENOVATION:

1. SAND BLAST EXTERIOR BRICK.
2. REROOF
3. PAINT EXTERIOR WOOD, METAL & CONCRETE CANOPY
4. REWORK EXTERIOR DOWNSPOUTS.
5. POINT UP DAMAGED & CRACKED MORTAR JOINTS.
6. CAULK & SEAL STRUCTURE.
7. TWO COAT SILICONE BRICK WALL.
8. NEW FRONT WINDOW TREATMENT
9. NEW FRONT DOOR.
10. RECONDITION REAR WOOD PORCH
11. RECONDITION OPERABLE WINDOWS.
12. MUSEUM SIGN (PLAQUE)

PRELIMINARY DESIGN	JOB No. 7803
	DRAWN MILBERGER
THE MUSEUM OF	CHECKED RMR
JACKSON COUNTY	DATE 5 MAY 78
SCOTTSBORO ALABAMA	

# Jackson County

# CHRONICLES

---

NEWSLETTER NO. SIXTEEN

October 15, 1978

---

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It seems fitting that we should close out my second year as President with an article in this newsletter concerning Stevenson; also that our last meeting of this year should be held in Stevenson. It also seems fitting that the program would be based on the History of Stevenson.

During our four years as an organization, we have tried to bring in focus all areas of the history of our great county from Francisco to Bryant, and from Woodville to the Walls of Jericho. During these four years, one of our main objectives has been the Stevenson project. The reason for this is, of course, that there is so much history in Stevenson to be preserved.

If you will read carefully the article in this newsletter, written by Dr. Philip Secrist as a basis for the nomination of the town of Stevenson to be added as a Historic District to the National Register, I believe that you will have a better understanding of what we have tried to do in the last four years, and what we will do in the future. Our organization is a county organization, and every aspect of its history is important to our organization.

Walt Hammer

---

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The program for our next meeting, which will be October 15th, will be a book review by my mother, Mrs. Eliza Mae Woodall. Her soon to be published book is on the history of Stevenson, Alabama. This book has been in the works for the last two years, and she has spent considerable time and effort on this endeavor. The program will be held in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church in Stevenson at 2:30 p.m.

Patty Johnstone

PRE-CIVIL WAR NEWS

The following extracts are from "The Democrat" which was published at Huntsville, Alabama. They were researched and donated by Anne Chambless.

7-23-1824 Died on the 21st ult at Bellefonte, Dr. Thomas J. Harris. His death was occasioned by being thrown against a tree from a horse at full speed. (Vol. 35, p. 12)

11-27-1829 Henry F. Scruggs & Thompson M. Rector, Attorneys at law, Jackson Co., Ala.

2-14-1833 Elijah Hansbrough, Bellefonte, Ala. Attorney at law. (Vol. 12, p. 2)

3-14-1833 Henry F. Scruggs, Attorney at law, Bellefonte, Ala.

9-12-1840 Died in Bellefonte, Jackson Co. on Thurs the 27th ult, Wyatt Coffee, Esq., late editor of the Bellefonte Courier in the 34th year of his age.

10-3-1840 Resolutions by the teachers and pupils of Franklin Academy on the death of two lovely sisters, Pernelia and Martha Jane Clayton, E. N. Hudgins, James J. Doran, James E. Tate, Esther Hoge, Sarah C. Nicholson and Elizabeth H. Feemster to present copies to parents. B. R. Webb and Wm. J. Kelly to forward copies to Jackson Republican and Huntsville Democrat. M. B. Feemster, Chairmah, N. L. Cunningham, Sec'y. (Vol.12,p.89)

(Where was Franklin Academy??)

1-3-1841 Jackson Co. Trust sale- tavern occupied by John McReynolds, Thomas Frost, trustee.

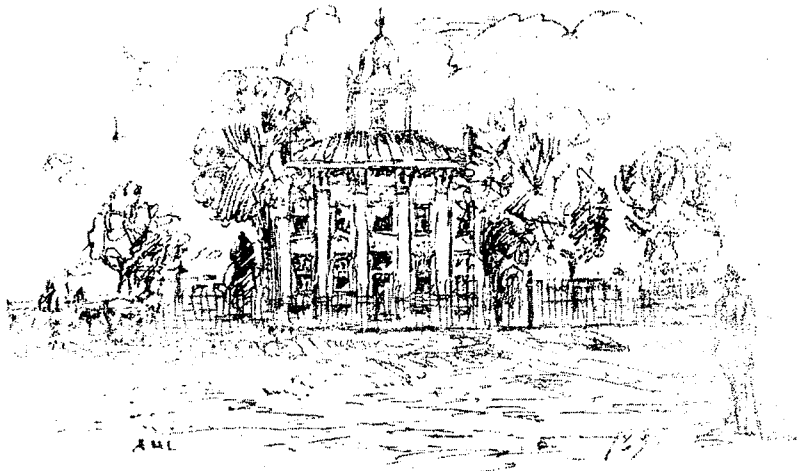
3-20-1841 Meeting at Belivar, Robert Jones, Esq., Chairman, Thomas Scruggs, Esq., Sec'y, Committee: Col. David Cawlfieid, Charles S. Jones, Dr. Wm. Mason, Capt. Sanders McMahan, G. Morgan, Gen. Wm. M. King, and Alexander McFarlane, Esq. (Vol. 15, p. 7)

## *A Brief History of The Jackson County Courthouse*

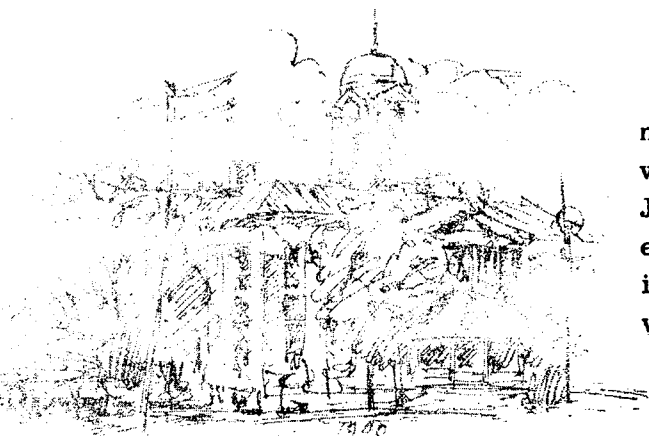
The first courthouse in Jackson County was constructed about 1828 in Bellefonte, a little river town near Scottsboro. It served the county for about thirty-five years.

In those days, Bellefonte's population consisted of about 200 inhabitants. Because of cheap river transportation, many citizens actively discouraged the surveying of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad through Bellefonte. As a result, the railroad was laid through the town of Scottsboro, and through the town of Hollywood, which was then known as Belfast Station, or Samples. Rail transportation increased as river travel declined, and by 1870, Bellefonte's population dwindled to less than 75 persons.

In 1868, the Court Commissioners ordered the county records moved from Bellefonte to Scottsboro, which became the new county seat of government. On land given by Robert Scott, for whom Scottsboro was named, Jackson County's second courthouse was constructed about 1870, and this area became known as "the Square" in Scottsboro.



In 1912, this structure was torn down, and replaced by a new courthouse, about 50 feet square, costing about \$25,000. This courthouse became the hub of Scottsboro's growing business interests, most of which had been clustered around the railroad's old freight depot.



In 1954, the courthouse underwent a much needed enlargement. To keep pace with the phenomenal commercial growth of Jackson County, the courthouse was again enlarged and improved in 1967. The resulting courthouse and square is virtually that which is seen today.

## DIPLOMAS AND MEDALS GIVEN SENIOR CLASS

The concluding program of the Jackson County High School commencement exercises will be given Thursday evening, when Dr. G. H. Yewell of the University of Alabama will deliver the literary address.

Wednesday night the valedictory address was given by Lindsay Wright and the salutatory by Miss Elizabeth Morgan. Robert Word, class statistician, was next, and the class history was given by Miss Mary Lou Walsh.

The class prophecy was read by Miss Margaret Hunt, after which S. Q. Proctor talked on "The Ideal Senior Boy," and Miss Eva Shelton, "The Ideal Senior Boy."

Miss Geneva McCrary rendered a solo, which was followed by the class poem, written and read by Miss Zula Carter. The class will be read by Robert McCutcheon.

The class gifts were distributed by Robert Howland. Robert Jones followed with an address, and the program was concluded with the class song and awarding of honors.

The Bouldin English medal was awarded to Elizabeth Morgan; the D. A. B. medal for excellence in history to Lindsay Wright; and the Davis medal to Edward Hayes, a Senior I student. The Balfour key was awarded to Robert Jones.

Diplomas were awarded to the following: Elizabeth Morgan, Margaret Hunt, Mary Lou Walsh, Virginia Webb, Zula Carter, Evelyn Hough, Geneva McCrary, Lela Precise, Margaret Staton, Eva Shelton, Freddie Armstrong, Eloise Hackworth, Robert Ward, Robert Jones, S. Q. Proctor, Robert McCutcheon, Robert Howland, Lindsay Wright, Clifford Woodall, Ray McKelvy, Charles Middleton, Harold Whitt, William Beard, Kermit Cornelison.

The initial program of the graduation exercises was given Saturday evening, when Mrs. R. H. Hembree, Jr., presented her piano pupils in recital.

The commencement sermon was delivered Sunday morning by the Rev. Dr. Hart of the First Presbyterian Church, Decatur.

Prof. I. G. Browder, principal, honored the senior class with a theater party Tuesday evening.

## Commencement at J. C. H. S. This Week

The commencement exercises of the Jackson County High School officially began last Saturday night with a recital by the music pupils of Mrs. Lyles Hembree. It was a most delightful affair and drew much favorable comment. Two hours of music was enjoyed by the large and appreciative audience.

On Sunday at 11 o'clock the large auditorium of the City School, despite the downpour of rain, was comfortably filled to hear the commencement sermon delivered by Dr. Hart, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Decatur. He chose as his subject, "Sitting On Top of The World," and as a text, "Go and Possess the Land." It was a most masterly presentation of the subject and was one of the most appealing messages ever heard at a commencement here. The speaker said there are four classes of pupils that he wanted to speak of; the first, those who murder their opportunities." He gave several illustrations of young people with brilliant prospects and bright futures who utterly failed in life by murdering their opportunities. He appealed to high school graduates not to stop school to enter business or to marry, but to go on and finish their education, that the time had come when you could not "get by" without a thorough preparation. The second class were those who missed their opportunities. "Many boys and girls," he said, "sit around waiting for something to turn up and miss their opportunities and never succeed." "The third class," he continued, "are those who take advantage of their opportunities and finally 'Sit On Top of the World.'" Then, the fourth class, and in this class would be found a large majority of those who have in the past "sat on top of the world," and this class was "those who created their own opportunities."

The speaker cited many instances of men who, when young, had no opportunities, but they created their opportunities and today are "sitting on top of the world."

The class day exercises were held Wednesday night and tonight, Thursday, twelve young men and twelve young women will receive their diplomas. Dr. Gladstone H. Yewell, of the University of Alabama, will deliver the commencement address. He is one of the leading educators of the nation and a treat is in store for all who hear him.

The following was class night program:

Class Song.  
Salutatorian, Elizabeth Morgan.  
Class statistician, Robert Word.  
Class history, Mary Lou Walsh.  
Class prophecy, Margaret Hunt.  
Ideal senior girl, S. Q. Proctor.  
Ideal senior boy, Eva Shelton.  
Senior legion, Clifford Woodall,  
Freddie Armstrong, William Beard,  
Kermit Cornelison, Eloise Hackworth,  
Virginia Webb, Charles Middleton,  
Evelyn Hough, Roy McKelvy, Lela  
Precise, Margaret Staton, Herald  
Whitt.

Song, Geneva McCrary.  
Class poem, Zula Carter.  
Class will, Robert McCutchen.  
Giftorian, Bob Howland.  
Address—Robert Jones.  
Valedictorian, Lindsay Wright.  
Song, Class.

Courtesy Clifford Woodall

STEVENSON RESEARCH: The following article was done by Dr. Philip Secrist, Historical Consultant, in his investigation of Stevenson for the National Register of Historic Places.

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stevenson is a 19th c. southern railroad town, its rail village charm surprisingly well preserved today. The mainline of the L & N, forming a junction with the Southern railroad near the depot in the village, passes through the center of town and lends a geographical cohesion to the whole since the physical development of the village has been restricted to the corridor of the railroad due to the nearby slope of the Cumberland Mountains to the west, and the Crow Creek flood plain and the Tennessee River directly to the south and east. The town maintains a strong link with the past not only through its architecture, but through a unique 19th c. railroad water reservoir, a mid-19th c. railroad depot and hotel (both previously listed on the National Register individually), and the remains of three Civil War earth forts constructed by Union soldiers between 1862-1865. Stevenson retains the scale and much of the character of a 19th c. American village despite a few superficial alterations to buildings and several intrusions.

The Cowan-Rudder House c.1855, served as the military headquarters for Col. Wladimir Krzyzanowski, the Union officer who commanded Post Stevenson between 1863-1865. A wartime photograph has been found showing Col. Krzyzanowski with his staff seated on the porch of the house, which appears in the photograph almost exactly as it is today.<sup>1</sup> The Cowan-Rudder House, the Italianate-styled city hall building (c.1875) and the Rudder House (c.1900) on Water Street, span nearly half a century in their dates of construction and convey effectively the gradual evolution in American tastes in architectural styling from Greek Revival to Queen Anne.

The town of Stevenson is a creation of the railroad boom in the decade preceding the Civil War. The town derives its name from Vernon King Stevenson, the first president of the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad (now L & N). Because of the difficult mountainous terrain between Nashville and Chattanooga, engineering surveys determined that the most practical rail route would skirt the southern edge of the Cumberland Mountains and, taking advantage of the Tennessee River valley, run northward to Chattanooga where connections could be made with existing Georgia railroads to the Atlantic seaboard. The construction of a second railroad, the Memphis & Charleston Railroad (now Southern) which formed a junction with the N & C at the new boom town. set off a furious land speculation which continued (with time-out for the Civil War) well into the 1870's. One speculator, Walter Rosser, owned by 1868 more than 1000 acres lying across the railroad on a north-south plane scarcely four blocks north of the depot, thus effectively "cornering the market" on land needed for town development in that direction. By the 1880's, a great portion of Rosser's estate was opened for development by a group calling themselves the Stevenson Land Development Company. The streets in town today carrying state names such as Tennessee, Kansas, Kentucky, etc., were planned at that time.

The U.S. Census report of 1860, indicates that Stevenson was still very much a railroad construction town in that year. Many of the village inhabitants listed by the enumerator were identified with the railroad as employees or construction laborers.<sup>2</sup> The first through service between Nashville and Chattanooga was opened on August 11, 1854, by the N & C Railroad. Construction of the line had cost over \$2½ million. It would be 1856, before the Memphis & Charleston Railroad would make its junction with the N & C at Stevenson. At that moment, with rail transportation linking the Mississippi and Ohio rivers with the Atlantic coast, Stevenson's economic future seemed assured.



CLASS DAY PROGRAM

Jackson County High School

Wednesday, May 22nd, 1929.

Class Song

Salutatorian ----- Elizabeth Morgan

Class Statistician ----- Robert Word

Class History ----- Mary Lou Walsh

Class Prophecy ----- Margaret Hunt

Ideal Senior Girl ----- S. Q. Proctor

Ideal Senior Boy ----- Eva Shelton

Senior Legion ----- Clifford Woodall

Freddie Armstrong

Charles Middleton

William Beard

Evelyn Hough

Kermit Cornelison

Roy McKelvy

Eloise Hackworth

Lela Precise

Virginia Webb

Margaret Staton

Herald Whitt

Song ----- Geneva McCrary

Class Poem ----- Zula Carter

Class Will ----- Robert McCutchen

Giftorian ----- Bob Howland

Address ----- Robert Jones

Valedictorian ----- Lindsay Wright

Song ----- Class



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

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50 A YEAR

Jackson County Historical Association

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

Mrs. Alice Ruth Page
Route 1, box 11
Woodville, Al 35776

PLEASE PROVIDE: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES PLEASE DISCARD THIS NOTICE.)



While it was the railroad which gave birth to Stevenson and seemed to guarantee the success of its future, it was the impact of the Civil War and the military significance of those same railroads that most dramatically altered the course of the town's history. In a way, the very presence of the railroads intensified the trauma of Stevenson's wartime experience. As early as April, 1862, elements of General Ormsby M. Mitchell's Federal division advanced by rail and seized Stevenson, scattering a makeshift defense of Confederate home guards. Mitchell's occupation of Stevenson was part of a larger plan to capture Chattanooga and thereby control the "gateway" to the deep south. Tactical support for this mission included a bridge burning raid on the Atlantic & Western Railroad south of Chattanooga by the Andrews Raiders, resulting in the famed "Great Locomotive Chase" with its drama-packed race between the steam locomotives, the "General" and the "Texas." Two of the raiders, Mark Wood and Alf Wilson, were captured in Stevenson the week following the ill-fated mission --- missing Mitchell's retreating Union Army and safety by a matter of hours.

Later that year (1862) the Union army returned to Stevenson and began the construction of several forts and blockhouses to protect this key junction of the railroads from Memphis and Nashville. The largest of these fortifications, Harker, (National Register, 1976), was begun in the summer of 1862, by Col Charles G. Harker. Harker impressed all the negroes within a radius of several miles of Stevenson but could find less than 50 available to do the work. As a result of this shortage of labor, the project of fortifying Stevenson proceeded so slowly as to prompt Gen. Don Carlos Buell, Harker's commander, to order 400 negro workers from Nashville to expedite the work. Several blockhouses were also constructed in Stevenson at that time to guard the immediate area near the depot and the railroad water reservoir. Work was begun as well on a second redoubt (fort) near the railroad about 500 yards northeast of the depot, later called Ft. Mitchell.

The work of fortifying Stevenson continued throughout the war and as late as the fall of 1864, General Gordon Granger was employed in completing the work on the Mitchell redoubt, improving a third redoubt which had been begun earlier by the Confederates at the present site of the city high school, as well as the construction of a new redoubt near the railroad more than three quarters of a mile north of the depot. This last fort, though never entirely completed, would eventually bear the name "Ft. Granger." In a report recorded in the War of the Rebellion Records, dated April 28, 1865, Gen. Z.B. Tower, the Inspector General of Fortifications for the Union forces headquartered in Nashville, gave the following description of the Stevenson defenses: Ft. Mitchell was a

"small redoubt about 100 ft. square, with a magazine and a small blockhouse keep. It has a barbette platform at each angle, and shows some attempt at imperfect embrasures, or rather to cover the gunners with sandbag merlons. Ft. Harker, a half mile distant, is a similar redoubt, about 150 ft. square, with barbette platforms for seven guns, a magazine, and an interior bomb-proof keep. The blockhouses are mostly distributed to the east (?) of the railroad, near the foot of the abrupt hills overlooking the depot. Other forts were commenced by General Granger when he held the place ... but they were after abandoned as unnecessary."

In addition to these earthworks, Tower noted that there were also 7 blockhouses at Stevenson. Blockhouses constructed during the Civil War were usually rectangularly shaped log structures, often doubled-cased (a double thickness log wall, sometimes packed with a dirt filler in the space between the walls). For additional protection, earth embankments were often packed hard against the outside wall to nearly half the height of the two-story structure. The walls of the second level of the blockhouse usually capped the first in such a way as to facilitate the defense of the structure by widening the field of fire for weapons.<sup>4</sup> General Tower's report of 1865, credits the system of blockhouses along the railroad with effectively protecting the line against raiding parties of guerrillas, cavalry, and infantry.<sup>5</sup> The seven blockhouses in Stevenson as shown on the map accompanying Tower's report (see map in supporting document collection attached hereto) are arranged in such a way as to suggest that their primary task was to defend the depot, the locomotive

CONTINUATION SHEET

Wartime combat experiences in Stevenson included several nearby skirmishes with local guerrilla forces under the command of Col. A.A. Russell, a local physician who voluntarily became an expatriate after the war. Perhaps the engagement which most nearly reached battle proportions was that of the attack on the Union garrisons at forts Harker and Mitchell on August 31, 1862. The attack was led by Confederate general Samuel Jones with 1000 soldiers. The greatly outnumbered federal forces were compelled to retreat, leaving behind several pieces of artillery and great quantities of supplies.<sup>7</sup> The most significant military event of the war in Stevenson was the choice of the town as the staging point for the campaign for Chattanooga which terminated in the great battle of the west, Chickamauga. Between the middle of August and the first week in Sept., 1863, General Wm. Rosecrans' Union Army of the Cumberland gathered supplies and thousands of soldiers at Stevenson in preparation for the crossing of the Tennessee River nearby, and the great battle in north Georgia. Rosecrans supervised these activities from his headquarters in Stevenson north of the depot. A drama-laden story of the daring and successful pre-dawn laying of a quarter mile long pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River under combat conditions, was followed a few days later by the grim realities of bloodshed at Chickamauga as trainload after trainload of wounded were carried to General Field Hospital # 1 in Stevenson which had been established there near the railroad on an "elevated ground and in the vicinity of an excellent spring of water."<sup>8</sup> Young Nicholas Maner, a 20 year old lad from an Indiana farm who died Oct. 13, 1863, in the Stevenson hospital from wounds received at Chickamauga, lies buried today in an unmarked grave across the tracks in the military cemetery. Maner is but one of hundreds believed to have been buried in the military cemetery along the railroad near the present site of Tennessee Avenue.<sup>9</sup>

Except for a large 3 story hotel (Alabama House), the depot, the Cowan House, and several small brick or frame structures, wartime Stevenson, Alabama, must have been a rather seedy-looking railroad village. Wm. H. Newlin, a soldier with the 73rd Ill. regiment who found an occasion to visit Stevenson on July 21, 1863, described the town as

"a small one, and very shabby and unattractive in appearance and the inhabitants nearly all away from home. Six union families were the sum total of the residents remaining in town."<sup>10</sup>

Following the war, Stevenson recovered slowly. Wartime refugees gathered in the village in large numbers to be sheltered and temporarily fed by the Union army, and many of them remained as permanent residents. By 1870, the town was incorporated with the boundaries extending one half mile to each side of the city square which was described as being centered on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad freight depot.<sup>11</sup>

The economic fortunes of Stevenson waxed and waned with those of the railroads that passed through it, and during the last quarter of the 19th c. each road experienced several difficult periods. - - - the Memphis & Charleston Railroad went into receivership for a short time in the 1890's. During the last quarter of the 19th c. the construction of a new depot, a brick hotel, a masonic hall, and several brick commercial structures facing on Main Street toward the depot all reflected the continuing orientation and focus of Stevenson on the commerce and business generated by the railroad. Although there were several modest efforts to encourage textile and lumbering enterprises in the village, it is significant that during the history of the town no lastingly successful industry or other form of major manufacturing enterprise has appeared to provide the much-needed broadening of the economic base. As if to emphasize the economic futility of the past, a great portion of the commercial district was destroyed by fire in 1911, and while rebuilding did take place following the fire, little has changed in the 20th c. to alter the pattern of the economic frustrations of the first 60 years of Stevenson's history. Today, Stevenson is a quiet little town, close-knit in kinship and social patterns.

CONTINUATION SHEET

BACKNOTES:

1. Wartime Photo., c. 1864, showing Maj. Krayzarowaki with staff on porch of the Owen House, Stevenson, Ala. Copy in Appendix.
2. U.S. Census, 1860, Jackson County, Ala.
3. War of the Rebellion, Vol. 49, pt. 2, pp. 499-503. Hereinafter cited as Official Records.
4. Picture of blockhouse along the N & C Railroad. Miller, Francis T., (ed), Photographic History of the Civil War, vol. 4, (New York, 1912), p. 129.
5. Official Records, Vol 49, pt. 2, p. 503.
6. "Tower Map", Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, (Washington, 1897-1898), Plate CXII, Map 2.
7. Official Records, Vol. 16, pt. 2, p. 952.
8. Ibid., Vol. 20, pt. 3, p. 247.
9. Hospital Record, "Record of Death and Injurement," Oct. 25, 1863. (Copy in Appendix)
10. Newlin, Wm., History of the 73rd Ill. Regiment, (Chicago, 1890), p. 196.
11. Acts of the Alabama Legislature, 1869-1870 session, pp. 429-434.

---

SPECIAL THANKS to Nancy Hammer Bradford who designed the new heading for our Association's newsletter.

---

"SMALL TOWN"

I like to live in a little town  
Where the trees meet across the street,  
Where you wave your hand and say, "Hello",  
To everyone you meet.  
I like to stand for a moment  
Outside the grocery store,  
And listen to the friendly chat of  
The folks who live next door.  
For like is interwoven  
With friends we learn to know,  
And we hear their joys and sorrows  
As we daily come and go.  
So I like to live in a little town  
I care no more to roam,  
For every house in a little town  
Is more than a house, it's my home.

Author Unknown