

Jackson County

CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER NO. THIRTY-FIVE

JANUARY 6, 1984

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING - SUNDAY, January 15, 1984, 2:30 p.m.
Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium, Scottsboro, Alabama

Dr. David Campbell, Jackson County Historical Association Program Vice-President is pleased to announce that James R. Kuykendall, Editor of LANDMARKS NEWS published by Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., will be the speaker for the J. C. H. A. meeting Sunday, January 15, 1984, 2:30 p.m., Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium in Scottsboro. Mr. Kuykendall is a charter member, former president and vice-president of Landmarks of DeKalb County. He is a dedicated preservationist and is one of North Alabama's most active members of the Alabama Historical Society. He is a Fort Payne pharmacist but only practices pharmacy "when he has to". In other words, his first love is Sand Mountain, Fort Payne, history, and preservation. Mr. Kuykendall has expended many hours in researching the history and folklore of Bucks Pocket which will be his topic on January 15. Bring a friend to hear this highly entertaining speaker.

N O W is the time to JOIN THE JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Make your tax deductible check payable to:

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Mrs. William Thomas
Post Office Box 305
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

Memorials and Honorariums at discretion
of donor are welcomed.

Please provide:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Jackson County Historical Association members receive JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our second annual banquet held on October 31, 1983, at the Holiday Inn was a big success. Eighty-three people attended and enjoyed good food, fellowship, and a most enjoyable program on U. S. Representative W. R. W. Cobb presented by Madison County Circuit Judge William W. (Bill) Page of Huntsville, Alabama.

Thanks to Judge Page and banquet committee members: Rubilee Smith, Elizabeth Thomas, and Billie Hammer.

It is dues paying time again. Please continue to work on membership, and let's make 1984 our best year yet!

See you at 2:30 p.m. on January 15 at the Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium.

Happy New Year!

Anna Ruth Campbell

Jackson County Historical Association Officers - 1984:

President - Anna Ruth Campbell

Program Vice-President and President Elect - Dr. David Campbell

Membership Vice-President - Elizabeth Bennett

Secretary - Rubilee Smith

Treasurer - Elizabeth Thomas

Directors - Steve Durham, Barry Pickett, Betty Ruth Henninger, Martha Days Hunt, and Harry Campbell (Immediate past president)

SCOTTSBORO PASSENGER DEPOT

by Ann B. Chambless

The Scottsboro passenger depot was completed by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad on July 6, 1891. However, it was January, 1892, before its doors were opened to the public. On November 26, 1891, the PROGRESSIVE AGE editor asked: "What is the good of having a new depot in town unless it is opened for use of the public? The people of Scottsboro compelled the Memphis and Charleston people to build the new passenger depot, and now it becomes necessary to compel them to open it for use."

On December 18, 1891, the PROGRESSIVE AGE reported: "It is said the railroad commission has been after the Memphis and Charleston folks again, and the new depot will be flung wide open to the public ere long. Just hold your breath, will you?"

After several years of petitioning the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to upgrade Scottsboro's rapid transit gateway, local citizens finally prevailed with the assistance of the railroad commission. On March 12, 1891, THE SCOTTSBORO CITIZEN stated: "The new depot will soon be under headway." On April 16, 1891, the same paper reported: "Work is now progressing on the passenger depot. It is being built on the south side of the railroad, near the Harris Hotel, which is about opposite the Court House on a straight line. It will be a great convenience to the Public Square, and the business portion of town. On the other side of the depot is the Parks House, so it will be convenient to the hotels."

By August 13, 1891, the new depot was known throughout the county as "the pride of the town." THE BRIDGEPORT NEWS of that date stated: "The new passenger depot at Scottsboro is the 'pride of the town.' Well, it is pretty as a picture."

On July 22, 1891, the editor of THE SCOTTSBORO CITIZEN gave a vivid description of the new depot: "Our new depot is as pretty and stylish as a girl's Louis XIV coat with jeweled buttons. It is a picturesque little building, something on the architectural order of a Swiss chalet, with dormers and DIAMOND SHAPED windows and is a pleasing study in DEEP CREAM, DARK RED, and DULL GREEN paints."

A circa 1936/1937 photograph of the depot shows the diamond-shaped window in the north gable of the building. The window in the east gable was double-pane, leaded glass.

For thirty years (1861 to early 1892), the Scottsboro freight depot served as a combined freight and ticket office. Between 1856 and 1861, Scott's Mill (Scottsboro) was merely an early water station on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

An article written to THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES by a drummer (salesman) on October 18, 1891, provides clear insight why Scottsboro citizens and the traveling public were excited about the Scottsboro passenger depot: "The traveling public at this place (Scottsboro) are treated shamefully, disgracefully, commercial men more especially, as they are compelled to take all trains, and at all hours. The night train from Chattanooga is due here (Scottsboro) at 12 o'clock. The schedule is bad enough, but there isn't a single night in the week but that this train is from one to four hours late. We go to the cars' stopping place, NOT DEPOT, for there is no such convenience, wait there in the cold night air, or rain, as the case may be, without fire or shelter. All that can be done is to sit and wait for the train, with no idea when it will arrive - no telegraph operator. One can go to the depot crossing any night after 12 o'clock and see a fire on the ground, and sitting around it a crowd of men waiting for the train. A few nights ago one of the best physicians in North Alabama, living in Huntsville, was called here (Scottsboro) in consultation. He was compelled to go home that night. He had a severe cold and was well up in years, and not used to the exposure of a cold night. He went to the depot crossing at 12 o'clock and had to remain there in the cold night air, around a fire on the ground, made of sticks and chunks picked up around the place, until 3:30 o'clock in the

SCOTTSBORO PASSENGER DEPOT (Continued)

morning. Now this treatment is simply outrageous. Patience has been threadbared. We are sick and tired of being treated like a lot of hogs to be shipped. We want others to know how we are treated by this (rail)road. They built a fine new depot seemingly without any trouble when compelled to; now they certainly can open and furnish it."

The passenger depot, built at a cost of \$1944.05 in 1891, received a new stove in 1892. The 1895 Memphis and Charleston station condition report shows "Scottsboro passenger depot in good condition; freight depot needs repairs and painting."

On February 25, 1898, Southern Railway System purchased the Memphis and Charleston, and Scottsboro's passenger and freight depots came under the operation of the Southern. In the Fall of 1969, Southern Railway System sold the Scottsboro passenger depot to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dawson who relocated and remodeled the building for use as a guest house on their farm on the Old Larkinsville Road in the northwestern section of Scottsboro.

NOTE BY Ann B. Chambless: The Memphis and Charleston Railroad was chartered through Alabama in 1850. Construction of the M&C began in neighboring Madison County in 1851. The track was completed in section so that by 1855 one could travel by train from Memphis to Pocahtontas, then take a stage line into Tuscumbia, Alabama, transfer back to the train for the trip from Tuscumbia to Huntsville, and continue to Stevenson, again by stage, to connect with the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The section of road between Huntsville and Stevenson was completed on March 6, 1856. To celebrate the completion of this section, the Memphis and Charleston provided stockholders with a complimentary ride to Stevenson and return. Three hundred passengers made the sixty mile trip in four hours. A reporter aboard noted: "Stevenson is THE town of Jackson County. It is only four or five years old, and already it contains a number of very pretty private residences, three hotels, and several large wholesale and retail houses, which are doing a thriving business." (No mention of Scott's Mill.) By 1857, the M&C tracks were complete from Memphis to Stevenson - 272 miles. Many shares of M&C stock were sold to Jackson County residents who prized these investments prior to the Civil War. The Confederate and Federal armies vied for control of the M&C during the War for it formed a vital link in the only completed east-west route across the southern states. The Union army prevailed, and, therefore, the railroad became Federal property. When the railroad was finally bought back from the United States Government by the owners, it was a shambles. The 1866 Memphis and Charleston annual report stated the company had borrowed heavily to make repairs and replace equipment but anticipated it would soon be paying dividends again. However, the M&C never overcame the financial setbacks brought about by the War, and in 1877, the railroad line was leased to the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad Company for twenty years. The ETV&G was absorbed by Southern Railway Company in 1894. On February 25, 1898, Southern purchased the Memphis and Charleston outright. This helps explain M&C's reluctance to build, furnish, and man the new passenger depot in Scottsboro in 1891.

SCOTTSBORO DEPOT
(circa 1936/1937)



1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA STATE CENSUS

The original Special Alabama 1866 Census is found in the Department of Archives and History in Montgomery, Alabama. The following is the final installment to be printed in the JACKSON CHRONICLES and covers Ranges 9 and 10 of Jackson County, Alabama. Ranges 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 have appeared in previous issues. There are only four townships in Range 9 and two fractional townships in Range 10 in Jackson County.

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
<u>Township 1, Range 9 East:</u>						
J. Price	1	1	1	1	1	1
C. Travis			3	2	2	1
D. Hagers	1		1	1		1
W. McFarland	1		2		1	1
Wm. McFarland		1	1	1		1
P. Daily		4	2	2	4	2
George Davis	2		1	1	2	1
Jasper Horn			1	2		1
L. Snow	2	5	1	2	2	1
J. Booth	3		2		2	1
A. Booth	3		1		1	1
H. Bramblett	2	2	1	1	3	1
Andy Horn	2		1		3	2
Frances Abett				1	1	2
A. Gaugh	1		1	4	1	1
F. Gaugh	1		1	2		1
M. Anderson	1	1			1	
N. Johnson	2		1			1
J. Kinkle	1		2	2		1
N. Troxell	2	1		1		1
W. Troxell		1	1		1	1
J. Clark			1	2		1
J. Camorn	1	5	3	1	1	2
J. Williams		1	1		3	3
James Williams	1		1			1
J. Dunkin	5	1	1		1	2
J. Rice	1	2	1	3		1
J. Moore	1	1	1	2	1	1
F. Holvy	1		1			1
J. Holvy	1		1	1		3
W. E. Jones	1		1	4		1
E. Jones		1				3
D. Ladd	1	3	1		2	1
James Glover	1	1	2			3
A. Mclusky		2			1	1
C. Ladd	2	2	2	1	2	2
W. Moore			1			
J. Harris	1	1	3	1		2
J. S. James	1	2	2	1	1	1
M. James			3	1		3
W. C. Price	1	2	1	1	1	1
S. Glasscock		1	1	1	1	2
T. Hardon		1	1	1	1	2
D. Thompson			2		3	1

1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA CENSUS (Continued)

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
A. Ladd		2	2	3	1	2
J. Smith	1	1	1	3	1	1
S. Parson		1	1			1
D. Troop			1			1
W. <u>Christin</u>		1	1		3	1
L. Bennet	1		1			1
E. Robinson	1	1	2		3	2
W. <u>Camorn</u>			1			1
E. Hembree			1		1	1
T. Winters			1	2	1	2
J. Dunn	2		1			1
M. Winters		1	1	2		
M. Ladd						
J. Price			1			1
W. Brown	1		1	1		1
W. J. Benett	1		1	2		3
James Hill	2	1	1	2	1	1
H. Stewart			1			
George <u>Patte</u>			1	1		1
C. <u>Chamberlan</u>			1	2	1	1
G. D. Rand		1	1			1
R. Corvin		1		1	2	
Mary Neely				1	2	
M. Lemons	1			1	1	1
M. Hoschen						1
M. Grace	1	1		2		2
Mary Woodall	1	2			1	1
W. ? Inks			1	1		1
A(ugustus)Gunter		1	3			1
A. Rudershel		1	1		1	2
J. Howard			1		1	
H. Davis	2	3	1		2	1
B. D. Glasscock		1	2		2	3
John Johnson	5	1	1	1		1
Lucy Johnson				2	1	3
James Amery	1		1	1		1
John Moore	1		1	1	1	1
John <u>Dunkin</u>	2			1		4
W. Owen		2	1	2		1
T. Hall			1		1	1
T. Hill	1		1	1		1
B. Troxell	1		1	2		1
Joseph Smith	1		1	1	1	1
Mary <u>Gilum</u>		2		1		1
James Pits		1		2		1
E. Hill		1	1		2	1
Sam Flipp		2	1		2	
S. Moore		2	1	3	1	2
King Neely			1	1		2
T. Owen	3		1		1	1

1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA STATE CENSUS (Continued)

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
M. <u>Gilum</u>	2				2	1
J. Warren	1		1			1
W. <u>Dunkin</u>	2			1		4
John <u>Holv</u> y			1			
S. Jackson	1	2	3		1	1
J. Pace	3		1	2	1	1
D. Hurt	1			1		1
Nancy Jackson	1			3		1
B. Hill	2		2			2
H. Greenwood					3	1
J. Henegar			1			2
Nancy Hurt	1		1			2
J. <u>Sotherlan</u>	1		1			2
T. or L. Fairbanks	3	1	1	2	1	1
M. Carvin	2	1			1	1
S. McBee	2		1	1		3
Saraph Right	2	2	1		3	2
John Oneal	2		1		1	1
Mary Moore	1		4	3		1
A. <u>Kirkpatoric</u>	3		1		1	1
G. Moore		1	1	1		1
E. Gulatt		1		2		2
B. M. Moore			1	1		1
Joseph Brown	2		5	1		2
J. <u>Stoaks</u>		1	2			1
D. Wigley			1	1		1
A. J. Redman	1	1	2	3	1	2
R. Hembree	1	2	1	3	1	1
C. T. Gibson			1	2		1
J. Gibson	1		1	3		1
W. Harris	1		1	1		1
S. Singletary	1	2	1	1		2
N. Welch			5			
G. Oneal	4		1	1	1	2
C. Warren	1		4	1	3	1
J. Lambert		1	1	1	1	1
J. <u>Tiszdle</u>	4		1		1	1
E. <u>Griffey</u>		1	1			1
H. Terry		2	1			1
W. Shelf	4		2	1		2
L. Whitehead	3	1	1		1	1
G. McCarrel			2		1	1
H. Porter			1			2
N. Williams	1		1	3		1
W. Gifford			3		1	1
H. Gordon	2	2	1			1
H. Smith	2		1			1
J. Castel			1			1
C. W. Smith	1		1	2		1
W. Nichols	2		1	2	1	1
J. <u>Pyborn</u>	3		1	1	1	1

1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA STATE CENSUS (Continued)

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
<u>Township 2, Range 9 East:</u>						
N. Phillips	2	1		1	1	3
E. Hill			1	2		1
M. Thompson		2		1	1	1
C. Oneal	1		1	1		1
N. <u>Gilum</u>	1		1	2	1	2
James Neely	2	1	1	2	1	1
D. Hill	1		2	2	1	1
C. Knight		1				1
D. Smith		1	1			2
J. Smith			1	2		1
D. Farris	1		2		1	2
W. Griffin	2		1	1		2
M. Condlin		1	1	1	1	1
D. Edwards	1		1			1
<u>Gray</u>		2			1	1
L. H. Brewer	1	2	1		3	1
M. Cowan	1	2				1
A. Shirley	1		1	1	1	1
C. Pressnell	1		2		1	1
W. Farris		2	1	1		1
L. <u>Cogar</u>		1	2			1
M. Estes		2		1		1
S. <u>Cogar</u>	1	5	1	1		2
M. Pendergrass	1	2	1	2	1	2
H. Brown	3		1			1
M. <u>Partin</u>	2		1	2		2
B. Wilman	2		1		1	1
E. Ridley	1	2	2		1	2
Jane Parton	1	1	1		1	3
S. Maxwell	4		1		1	2
N. Shumake			2	2		4
James Mason	1	1		2		1
B. Price	1		1	2		1
D. Jones	1	1	1		3	1
S. Norwood	1		1	2	3	1
John Lowery	1	4	3	4	1	1
W. Russel			1	1	2	1
E. Canon			1	1		1
A. Marshal		3	1	2	1	2
R. Jones	3	1	1		1	2
A. Brown	1	2	1		1	1
H. Abett		2	1	2	1	1
R. Mitchel	1	2	1	2		1
W. R. Jones		1	1			1
A. Baker			1		1	1
J. <u>Noneley</u>		1	1	1		
W. Maxwell		1			1	
C. A. Maxwell	4		1	1	1	1
H. Maxwell			1	1		1

1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA STATE CENSUS (Continued)

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
<u>Township 2, Range 9 East (Continued):</u>						
R. Dunn	2	1	1			1
M. Morgan			1			1
W. Reece		1	1			4
H. Gibson	1		1			1
A. Gibson	2		1		1	1
H. Howard	3		1	1	4	2
John Howard			1	1		1
H. Howard	2	2	1	2	2	1
P. Howard	1		1			1
<u>Fractional Township 3, Range 9 East:</u>						
R. Moore		1	1			2
M. Young		1	1			1
W. Adkins			1	1		1
A. Rogers	2	5	1		2	1
C. Bookout		1	2		2	3
W. Alford	2	1	1		2	3
A. House	1		1	2		1
L. Lough	3		1	1	2	1
E. Keys	1		2	1	2	2
L(evi) Cash	1		2		1	3
N. King		1			1	1
J. Boland	5	2	2		3	2
W. Wallace			1	1		2
S. Smith	2	2	1		1	1
<u>Fractional Township 4, Range 9 East:</u>						
D. Swader			1	3	2	1
J. Cooper	1	2	1	4	2	1
H. Henegar		1	1			1
H. Swader	2	2	2	1	2	1
<u>Fractional Township 1, Range 10 East:</u>						
G. Grant	2	1	1	1		1
G. Pettite	3		2	2	2	1
W. Smith		1	1	2	1	1
T. Piborn	2	2	2	1		1
J. G. Crough	1		1	1	1	
James Crough	2	1	1		1	1
J. J. Smith	1	1	1	3	1	1
W. Warren	1		1	3		1
<u>Fractional Township 2, Range 10 East:</u>						
John Price			1			
J. Mcindon			1			1
W. Honey	1		1	1	4	1
E. Oneal		1	2		1	2
P. Hughs						4
J. Bryant		1	1		1	1
H. Bryant			1		1	1
M. Reaves			1		1	1
A. Lily (?)			1		2	1
T. Hughs	2	1	1	2	2	1
J. McBryer			1	1		1

1866 SPECIAL ALABAMA STATE CENSUS (Continued)

NAMES	MALES			FEMALES		
	Under 10	10-20	Over 20	Under 10	10-20	Over 20
<u>Fractional Township 2, Range 10 East (Continued):</u>						
S. Reaves	1	2	1	1	1	1
J. Reaves		1	1	1	1	2
T. Haney (or Honey)	5			2		3
John Pope	1	1	1	2		1
George Brown	3		1			1
J. Miller	3	1	1	1		1
P. McGehee	3		1	3		1
N. Trunks or Frunks				3	1	1
A. Steel	2	2	2	1	2	2
C. Steel			1			1
S. West		1			2	2
A. Howard			2	1	1	1
F. Howard			1	1		1
M. Craze	1	1		1	1	1
L. Bullard			1			1
H. Camorn	1	2	2	3		2
M. Counts			1		2	2
C. West	1		1	1		1
J. Crague			1			1
P. Craig	1	3			1	1
A. Price		1		1		1
S. Price	1		1	1		1
J. Price		2	1		3	1
B. Higdon	4	3	1		2	1
E. Price			1			1
T. or L. McBryer			1	1		1
J. Elice		1	1		2	2

ROLL OF COMPANY C 4th ALABAMA CAVALRY, RUSSELL REGIMENT, THE CIVIL WAR

Officers:

Capt. F. B. Gurley
 1st Lt. W. H. Bailes
 1st Lt. J. A. Gibson
 2nd Lt. T. P. Gurley
 3rd Lt. J. C. Tharp
 3rd Lt. ? Weatherly

Enlisted men:

G. W. Anderson	Isaac Cole	J. F. Edwards
S. J. Anderson	Fred Clark	Joe Ellett
Pap Atkinson	D. C. Clark	Walker Erwin
David Austill	Richard Clark	William Ford
James Brandon	Press Clark	Zack Ford
John Burdine	J. C. Cunningham	J. F. Fanning
J. T. Burdine	J. C. Campbell	Milton Fanning
B. E. Bailes	W. T. Campbell	Abbie Gibson
T. A. Bailes	Frank Cotton	William Glenn
Thomas Burton	Jeremiah Cotton (Jere)	Sam Glenn
J. E. Butler	Wiley Cotton	J. P. Gullatt
A. W. Baxter	J. P. Collier	German B. Gill
J. E. Brown	Charles Collier	John Green
F. M. Bennett	J. G. Collier	G. Green
William Bell	W. R. W. Cobb	F. T. Givens
Jeff Bragg	L. C. Coulson	James Golden
Joe Bragg	H. C. Dillard	R. A. Green
John Binford	John Dudley	John Gideon

ROLL OF COMPANY C 4th ALABAMA CAVALRY, RUSSELL REGIMENT, THE CIVIL WAR (Continued)

T. H. Hewlett	William Pittcock
J. E. Hewlett	John Pittcock
Thomas Hopkins	M. Province
Morgan Higginbotham	Province
William Hollowell	William Pickett
Thompson Houston	J. M. Potts
Pinkney Houston	G. M. Robertson
H. Houston	Tom Robertson
Wash(ington) Hill	C. A. Robinson
George Jones	G. D. Rogers
W. M. Jordan	Henry Roundtree
J. L. P. Kelly	Lee Roundtree
J. D. Kelly	A. B. Shelby
F. J. Kelly	B. P. Scruggs
Keck	Thomas Scruggs
W. H. Mason	Alex Saxton
James M. Mason	W. J. Street
J. W. Mason	Joe Street
Richard Medlin	William Speitz
Henry Mayhew	D. W. Spivey
Theo Mayhew	P. P. St. Clair
Jasper Matheny	Richard Smock
Joe Miller	George Starkey
Frank McClung	Borgie Tiller
Tilden Mock	LaFayette Tipton
Press McIlyea	Polk Wright
William Maples	Thomas Wilson
William Nimmo	J. W. Wilson
Wash O'Neal	John Wilson
J. W. Proctor	George Weils
Green Pruett	James Wakefield
	John Wakefield

SOURCE: Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

NOTE BY ABC: Captain F. B. Gurley was from Gurley, Alabama. These soldiers were from Madison and Jackson Counties in Alabama and a few from Franklin County, Tennessee.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ROUTE FOUR - BOX 265

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U. S. POSTAGE P A I D

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

PERMIT #11

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Jackson County, the Switzerland of the State of Alabama

Jackson County

CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER NO. THIRTY-SIX

April 5, 1984

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING - Sunday, April 15, 1984,
2:30 p.m., Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium, Scottsboro, Alabama

Dr. David Campbell, Jackson County Historical Association Program
Vice-President, has an exciting program planned for Sunday, April 15,
1984, 2:30 p.m., Scottsboro City Hall Auditorium in Scottsboro.

Invite a friend.

According to Association by-laws, ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Mrs. William Thomas
Post Office Box 305
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

Memorials and Honorariums at
discretion of donor are welcomed.

Please provide:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Jackson County Historical Association members receive JACKSON COUNTY
CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please mark your calendars and make your plans to be at the meeting of
the Jackson County Historical Association on April 15, at the Scotts-
boro City Hall. The weather is so beautiful and springlike that I am
looking forward to seeing all of you!

Dr. Campbell tells me that he has a most interesting program planned,
and we have some very important business to discuss concerning a pro-
posed historical project. We need your input and help in accomplishing
this project.

According to our by-laws, "Dues shall be payable at the first meeting
in January and shall be delinquent by the first meeting in April". If
you have not paid your dues (\$7.50), please mail to Mrs. William T.
Thomas, P.O. Box 305, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768.

Anna Ruth Campbell

CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS ISSUE: MARION O. SMITH

Marion O. Smith is a research associate on the Papers of Andrew Johnson at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and an active cave explorer. He spends an average of two weekends each month exploring Jackson County caves.

The following was first published in Civil War History, December 1983, Vol. 29, No. 4.

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS

Marion O. Smith

SAUTA, A WHITE MAN'S CORRUPTION of the Cherokee word *itsati*, "of unknown signification," is the name applied to a well-known cave located about six and three-fourths miles southwest of Scottsboro, Alabama, on a northeastern spur of Gunter's Mountain.¹ Although only one of approximately 2,200 recorded caves of the limestone regions of the state, Sauta is considerably larger than average. Its total length has been computed to be 14,794 feet, all within linear dimensions of about 4,600 feet. It has two entrances, 135 vertical and 400 horizontal feet apart. The lower passage has a stream while the upper corridor is dry. These two levels are connected by steep climbs and a pit. Much of the upper level, about half a mile, is nearly a hundred feet wide and several body lengths high.²

It was not Sauta's size that made it important, however, but the fact that it contained huge amounts of dirt containing niter or saltpeter, the major ingredient of gunpowder. It was mined at intervals for many years and was the most productive of the more than fifty known saltpeter caves of the state.³

During the late eighteenth century a faction of the Cherokee tribe had a settlement known as Sauta near the cave. According to one source a Cherokee named Winford settled there in 1784 and started the manufacture of gunpowder. Years later, at an April 1804 meeting of the National Council of the Cherokee Chiefs at Oostenaulah, a resolution "permitted" certain white men "to continue (living) in the Nation," including "Colonel Ore & man at Sauta, working saltpeter caves." During the War of 1812, mining operations were expanded by William Robinson, some details of which were revealed in a court case several years later involving the pay of one of the miners.⁴

At the conclusion of the War of 1812 demand for gunpowder, and consequently for saltpeter, fell sharply, which led to the closure of many of the large operations. This was the case at Sauta, and except for vague references to occasional mining, essentially nothing is now known about the activities there between 1815 and 1861.

After secession and the formation of the Confederacy, both state and Confederate officials, as well as many concerned citizens, realized that the South did not have an adequate supply of gunpowder if war came. The 1860 census listed only two small powder mills in the entire South - one in Cheatham County, Tennessee, and one in Pickens District, South Carolina - while one newspaper claimed in April 1861 there were sixty-seven powder mills in Pennsylvania alone.⁵

The procurement of sulphur and charcoal, the two other ingredients of gunpowder, presented no problem for the new Confederacy. When Louisiana seceded there were "large quantities" of sulphur stockpiled for use in refining sugar. General David E. Twiggs seized "several hundreds of tons of sulphur, stored in New Orleans" which could be put to government use.⁶ Also, sulphur could be obtained by roasting iron pyrites in "stone-ware cylinders".⁷ For charcoal, there was no scarcity in the South, although for making "gunpowder charcoal" it was recommended that the "lighter woods, such as the willow, dogwood, and alder answer best."⁸

Saltpeter, comprising three-fourths of gunpowder, was the critical component, however. Without it the defense of the South was jeopardized, and consequently there were efforts by both state and Confederate authorities to see that supplies were acquired.

The newspapers attempted to obtain information from citizens on the possible location of saltpeter caves. The Fayetteville Observer noted that powder could be manufactured in Nashville "as soon as the nitre (saltpetre) can be procured," and that saltpeter was made during the War of 1812 in several north Alabama caves "in Franklin, Morgan, Marshall, and Jackson counties." It was noted that "Powder ... is in a

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS (Continued)

great demand in the South, and it is indispensable that we make it in our midst Who will furnish us with the needed information in regard to the caves once worked for saltpetre?" The Huntsville Democrat reported that Governor Andrew B. Moore had advised militia General Jeremiah Clemens "to appoint two suitable persons to examine the Saltpetre Caves of North Alabama."⁹

Meanwhile, Samuel D. Morgan of Nashville, in behalf of the Tennessee "Executive Committee of the Central Military Bureau of Supply" and later for the state military and financial board, was conducting a letter-writing campaign to encourage the manufacture of saltpeter and to offer contracts to supply the Cheatham County, Tennessee powder mill. Besides Tennessee, his correspondence extended to Arkansas and Alabama, and some of his letters were published in local newspapers in south Tennessee and north Alabama.¹⁰

In the quest for saltpeter, caves in Jackson County, Alabama were examined. "A cave in Keel's Mountain ... near Coles' Spring, on the railroad" was explored by "a gentleman" who "says that there are still excavations and wooden troughs, indicating the preparation of salt petre there."¹¹ James R. Harris of Winchester, Tennessee wrote Morgan on 28 June 1861 that he had visited caves "in Jackson co Ala Convenient of access and within Ten miles of Stephenson" and "have Satisfied myself that they will pay to work and propose commencing operations right away."¹²

But of all the Jackson County caves, and in fact of all the Alabama caves that had been worked for saltpeter, Sauta was the one most remembered. The Huntsville Democrat reported that "powder was manufactured (there) in considerable quantity, and sold by merchants in Huntsville many years ago. Several gentlemen now residing in Huntsville tell us that they have sold hundreds of pounds of it."¹³ A Mr. Echols recalled purchasing saltpeter "by the waggon load from time to time for many years" from "Wm or David Larkin."¹⁴ Even in far-away Richmond, Virginia, Sauta was claimed "to be second only, in extent and vastness, to the mammoth cave in Kentucky" and to have "exhaustless deposits" of niter, though "more difficult of access than formerly." It was suggested that "an agent, either of the Government or of capitalists" should "examine this rich mine."¹⁵

In response to Morgan's efforts, Nelson Robinson, a Bellefonte lawyer and farmer, reported on 10 May that after advertising in the local newspaper he had "Succeeded in geting a company to go to work in the Sauta Cave, the best in this region was one hundred hands. They commenced on Monday last (May 6) & I hope in a Short time you will be in rec't of some of their products."¹⁶

The company that Robinson referred to was composed of George W. Rice, John F. Anderson, and John D. Borin, who had leased Sauta and were "making extensive preparations for the production of nitre, on a large scale," with the "intention" of extending "their operations to include the manufacture of powder."¹⁷ By late May production had begun, and the end product was declared to be "a beautiful article, clear and very pure". The company acquired "a contract to furnish a certain number of pounds monthly "to the state of Tennessee. By mid-June up to seven hundred pounds of saltpeter a day was being made, and it was reported that "some fifty hands" were then employed, with "the average yield" being "about three pounds of the salt to one bushel of earth, ten bushels of wood ashes being used in lixiviation."¹⁸

But apparently Rice, Anderson, and Borin encountered problems because very soon afterward they terminated their connection with Sauta. On 3 August 1861, owners Jeremiah L. and Henry L. French leased the cave "together with all the lands Situate(d) west of the wagon road" to Joseph W. Dunkerley of Knoxville, Tennessee "for a monthly rent of two hundred dollars."¹⁹ On 29 July an agent of the Tennessee military and financial board, Edwin R. Glascock, was sent on a tour of inspection of caves. A few weeks later, on 23 August, the board authorized him to close a contract with Dunkerley for saltpeter at thirty cents per pound for all manufactured "for six months from the 1st Sept," if "after the 1st October he should make as much as five hundred pounds per day." If the amount manufactured per day was less "the price (was) to be 25 cents pr lb."²⁰ But Dunkerley's association with Sauta was also brief. On December 9, 1861, he in turn transferred his lease to Hugh Carlisle and George L. Henderson of Marshall County, Alabama.²¹

Carlisle and Henderson operated the cave, except during the "general

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS (Continued)

suspension of work" during the spring and summer occasioned by the Federal occupation of north Alabama, until about November 1, 1862. Then, for a consideration of \$34,000, they transferred their lease and sold all their fixtures, machinery, outbuildings, and right of use of surrounding lands to the Confederate government. Mining at Sauta was then conducted by the government until the return of Union troops forced a permanent evacuation of the works during the summer of 1863.²²

Niter And Mining Bureau

The initial efforts of state governments and individuals in 1861 to obtain saltpeter did not yield the amounts expected. It was reported early in March 1862, for instance, that only four Alabama caves were being worked for saltpeter.²³ Consequently, there was a greater effort by the Confederate government to increase production. On 11 April the Confederate Congress passed an act creating a Nitre Bureau, nominally under the supervision of the chief of ordnance, which would have the job "to inaugurate and prosecute a system for the efficient working of the niter caves, and to purchase and contract for the delivery of niter," as well as "to inspect the niter caves and other natural deposits of nitriferous earth" and to report "the extent and economy" of those caves "now being worked by private enterprise." In addition, artificial niter beds were to be established in major cities. The bureau, as originally organized, was to consist of a chief or superintendent with the rank of major, four captains, and eight first lieutenants.²⁴

Isaac M. St. John, a Georgia native and former civil engineer, became chief, with his headquarters in Richmond. He immediately divided the Confederacy into niter districts, and assigned a superintendent for each. Also, on May 1, the new bureau announced that seventy-five cents per pound would be paid for saltpeter by government agents, with the proviso that a deduction would be made for "impurities exceeding 10 per cent." A year later, on 22 April 1863, the Confederate Congress made the Nitre Corps "an independent bureau of the War Department," to be called the Nitre and Mining Bureau. Its officers were expanded to one lieutenant colonel, three majors, six captains, and ten lieutenants, with its duties enlarged to include the mining or purchase of "all copper, lead, iron, coal, zinc" and other minerals necessary for the war.²⁵

By mid-August 1862, the secretary of war reported to President Jefferson Davis that the Nitre Bureau was "doing good service" and that production was "already 1,000 pounds a day." The following December, St. John reported that from May through October the bureau had "produced and collected, 200,820 pounds" in addition to 38,000 pounds of Mexican niter delivered east of the Mississippi. Daily home production (the amount of saltpeter produced daily by both government and private workers within the Confederacy) had "steadily increased from 200 pounds in April to somewhat over 2,000 pounds in October," which "very nearly meets the present demands of the service, if not quite." Authority, meanwhile, had been granted to bureau officers "to impress for the Government any mineral mines or niter caves or deposits" in "all cases where such mines, caves, or deposits are suffered to remain unworked, or which may be imperfectly worked by the owner or lessor." Compensation in such cases "may be settled by private agreement or by arbitration."²⁶

Alabama was divided into two niter districts. The northern counties comprised District No. 9 and Captain William Gabbett, an Irishman formerly residing in Georgia and recently a Confederate engineer, was put in charge.²⁷ His district seems to have included all counties in the immediate proximity of the Tennessee River, while William H.C. Price commanded the rest of the state. Practically all the saltpeter produced in Gabbett's district came from caves, while the majority produced in Price's district came from dry earth underneath old houses or barns.²⁸ Also in Price's district a number of artificial niter beds were created in such places as Tuscaloosa, Selma, Montgomery, and Mobile. In 1862, before the boundaries were redrawn as a result of Northern advances, Price did have within his domain the cave saltpeter-bearing counties of Blount, Calhoun, St. Clair, Jefferson, Shelby, and Talladega.

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS (Continued)

Niter District No. 9

Since the Federals occupied much of Alabama north of the Tennessee River when the Nitre Bureau was created, Captain Gabbett was not able to organize his district until after the occupation ended, in late August and early September 1862. By October he established his headquarters at Huntsville, but by January 1863 moved them to Larkinsville. This was a matter of expediency since Larkinsville was just a few miles north of Sauta, the most productive saltpeter cave in the state, which was by this time under government supervision. While at Larkinsville, Gabbett rented an office from Sarah Ann Dillard.²⁹

Gabbett did not constantly remain at headquarters, but traveled about his district conducting necessary business, and made occasional trips to the government powder mill at Augusta, Georgia. His district was subdivided under such men as Alonzo C. Ladd, John D. Borin, Henry W. Grantland, and James M. Walker; at headquarters his small staff included a clerk, bookkeeper, and a number of district assistant superintendents such as Cyrus C.T. Deake and James M. Hull.³⁰ Also, he appointed various individuals as agents within the district, among them William R. Rison.³¹

Gabbett's office had to keep track of the disbursements of the monies received from the Confederate treasury. Payments were made for salaries of office employees, agents, subdistrict superintendents; food and forage; such various items of equipment as buckets, nails, kettles, crow bars, grindstones, axes, shovels, picks, and hammers; laborers and owners of slaves; potash; lumber; medical services; telegrams; advertising in newspapers; wood for fuel; candles, tallow, and beeswax; hire of mules or horses and wagons for hauling; paper; and numerous other items.³² Private niter contractors such as William H. Herrin, John F. Roberts, and Morris and Noble were paid for their deliveries of saltpeter, while rent was paid for caves worked on government account, which besides Sauta included Trinity and Eureka in Morgan County.³³ In addition, while expanding operations already in progress agents or subdistrict assistants were periodically sent on exploring trips to locate new saltpeter-bearing caves.³⁴

Mining At Sauta

A complete account of the actual mining operation at Sauta Cave during 1861-1863 is not possible from contemporary records. The combination of extant original documents with later observations, however, makes it possible to reconstruct a portion of the story.

A general description of the mining practices must rely on twentieth-century accounts by John R. Kennamer, Sr., of Woodville, Alabama. He says that to move the saltpeter-bearing dirt out of the cave a tram was built of sweet gum poles (about 800 feet long) on which the dirt was hauled "in carts drawn by two mules tandem." Supposedly, this tram, which was "four feet wide, with ties laid five feet apart, on which wooden runners were fastened," had "side tracks at two or three points." The dirt was dumped "into about fifty hoppers built near the opening of the cave." Leach water was conveyed a quarter mile via "troughs" from a spring "near the top" of the mountain. After the dirt was leached the "beer" was mixed with the leachwater of wood ashes or potash, which precipitated a chemical reaction substituting the potassium in potash for calcium in "cave saltpetre" to form potassium nitrate. The liquid was then boiled in large kettles until crystals of saltpeter (niter) formed. Then the crude, or, as it was called, "grough" saltpeter, was packed in "boxes and barrels, hauled to the railroad station at Larkinsville and shipped."³⁵

The bulk of the mining appears to have taken place at what is now called the "Catacombs," about 800 feet inside the cave. There the miners "actually tunneled under the cave floor," through a cave fill consisting of a "sandy clay matrix containing many pebbles and cobbles." Here approximately 20,765 cubic feet of earth was removed from 435 feet of "criss-crossing tunnels" five to eight feet high, with arched ceilings, and three to five feet wide, interrupted by occasional deep test pits. At one spot the miners dug beneath a huge boulder and braced it with large logs. This became known to later visitors as the "Jack Rock." The entrance was described as originally a "ragged opening," but was enlarged by blasting to admit literally a mule and wagon.³⁶

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS (Continued)

In the mid-1930s, Gurley resident William T. Bennett recalled that during the war he, Seaborn Keel, and fifteen other men were "sent with wagons and mules to Selma to haul to the mine huge kettles with which to boil down the niter." All but one of these kettles were "round and eight feet in diameter" whereas the "odd one was oblong and about five feet wide." However, it is not known if these were the original kettles in use at the cave or ones the Confederate government purchased to expand the operation.³⁷

Inventory Of Property

When in late 1862 Carlisle and Henderson transferred Sauta Cave to the Confederate government, they also transferred 3,140 acres "west of the wagon road" belonging to the French brothers, "together with all fixtures and appurtenances." The land was in Township five, Range four East, sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 24, 23, and 13, all on Gunter's Mountain in what is now Marshall County. Attached to Carlisle and Henderson's lease was an inventory which is given below in full to reveal details about the outbuildings, types of equipment available, and size of the work force at Sauta:

- 1 Dwelling House 24 feet long, 16 ft. wide with dining room attached 24 x 12 with 2 brick chimneys
- 1 Store 33 x 16 attached to dwelling with a brick chimney, counter, shelves, 2 glass windows (9 lights), writing desks, stock locks on doors
- 1 Private office 14 x 10 Glass windows, with stove
- 1 Dwelling House (half finished) 60 x 18, 10 feet in clear
- 1 Carpenter Shop 5 work benches 50 x 18 feet
- 1 Black smith Shop, stone forge and chimney
- 1 Tool House 30 x 16 feet
- 1 Slaughter House 14 x 14 feet
- 1 Shed attached 14 x 10 feet
- 2 Negro houses 30 x 16 with floors & chimneys
- 23 Houses for Foreman & workmen 20 x 15 all floored
- 5 Negro Houses on mountain for hands getting ashes (to hold (60) sixty hands)
- 1 Stable 75 x 28 feet floored with plank
- Mill Shed 27 x 28 feet attached to stable
- 1 Corn Crib and loft with Box for cut feed
- 1 ox shed 102 x 16 feet attached to Stable Lot, well watered under a good fence, with gates and locks complete
- 1 Stable for 4 Riding Horses 20 x 12 feet with loft
- Stable fixtures and Box for 6 mules in cave
- 1 Shed for ashes
- 8 Large hoppers in Cave to hold 40 cubic yards
- 2 " " " " " 20 " "
- 6 Ash stands 15 x 48—5 feet high
- 3 Beer troughs 500 gallons each
- 3 " " 200 " "
- 2 Chrystalyzing Troughs 16 x 13 feet—10 in deep
- 1 Lot Sawed Lumber, for Houses, tanks. Estimated at 5000 feet
- Poles, Rafters and Boards to build shed 100 x 30 feet
- 1000 Lineal feet 5 x 7 Beech Lumber for stringers for Inclined plane (part delivered)
- 1200 feet Spouts to convey water
- 500 Narrow Boards, 5 feet long, to line hoppers
- 200 ft. Plank (to wheel on)
- 6 Reflectors for cave
- 360 cubic yards of new nitrous Earth in Hoppers
- 300 " " " " Excavated
- 5 Wire Fire Baskets (to light up cave)
- 2 Fire Hoes (for furnace)
- 2 Ash " "
- 1 Hopper Pick
- 12 Shovels
- 1 Iron Scoop
- 1 Derrick & Horse Power (all complete)
- Fall Band and Block (for Derrick)
- 1 Large dump box to hoist Earth & rock
- 3 setts Irons for same
- 100 feet 1/4 in Link chain for Derrick fall
- 7 Coils Rope 1000 lbs (2 in & 1 1/2 in)
- 3 Double 12 in Block
- 3 " 10 " "
- 9 Single 12 " "
- 1 " 8 " "
- 3 Crow Bars
- 4 Hand Hammers 5 lbs. ea
- 2 Striking " " " 9 " "
- 1 Spalling " 20 " "
- 12 Cast Steel Drills 28 " "
- 400 lbs. Bolts, Bands & Iron in Shop
- 18 Iron Wedges
- 2 Railroad Dump Cars
- 2 Setts Car wheels, boxes & bolts
- 3 Setts Large Hand car wheels
- 5 Cauldrons—360 Galls ea
- 5 Setts Furnace Doors and grate bars
- 1 Large steam Boat Boiler front with Doors and grate Bars
- 1 piece Sheet Iron for door fronts (100 lbs)e

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS (Continued)

- 1 ox drag to haul Nitre from Cave to Store Room
- 1 Grindstone
- 1 Rock Chain (50 lbs)
- 4 Water Buckets
- 2 Large Lever Carts—7 ft. high—3 in tread—Iron axle
- 1 Water Cart with body to make dump cart
- 3 Dump Carts
- 1 wood waggon
- 2 large oil cans 1/10 1/5 Gallons
- 1 Frame for Fodder
- 10 Wheel Barrows
- 2 " for "
- 1 Sett Bolts for car in cave
- 20 yards stone delivered & dressed for new furnace³⁸

Government Control

The eight or nine months that Sauta Cave was operated by the Confederate government is the time period of most of the surviving primary records of the activities there. These are usually, however, in the form of pay vouchers, which, while yielding a great deal of specific information about various aspects of the operation, do not provide an easy flowing narrative. Information about personnel, food and forage, lighting, medical needs, procurement of tools and potash, and various miscellaneous items has been obtained from these records.

After relinquishing their lease, Carlisle and Henderson still occasionally sold equipment to their government successors. In early March they provided an anvil and seven pairs of blacksmith tongs for the "Shop at Sauta" and "36 lbs Blasting Powder" for "Removing rock in cave." At the same time they received pay for hauling iron and tools from Huntsville and Rome to the cave. The various types of iron weighed 1,835½ pounds and the tools consisted of twenty-four axes, thirty-two shovels, one crosscut saw, one Fort adz, nineteen picks, one Fairbanks scales, five kegs of nails, five hatchets, one large chain drill, five cast steel mason, rock, and striking hammers, and one bellows. At Guntersville on 10 July 1863, they sold 408 pounds of iron and two sets cart harness for "Manufacturing tools &c at Sauta Cave" to Captain Gabbett, but it is not certain these articles reached their destination since mining operations were then being suspended.³⁹

The government continued to pay Jeremiah L. and Henry L. French \$200 per month rent for use of the cave. In addition to ownership the brothers profited by selling various items to the works. In January 1863, they sold "806 feet plank for nitre Boxes" and eight gallons tar "For patching tanks," and four weeks later "750 feet Sheeting plank." They also occasionally hired their draft animals and wagons to do hauling at the cave.⁴⁰

NOTE: Mr. Marion O. Smith's "The Sauta Cave Confederate Niter Works" will be continued in the July 1984 Jackson County Chronicles.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹William A. Read, Indian Place Names in Alabama (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 1937), 56.
- ²A computer listing of Alabama caves is maintained by an association of cave explorers known as the Alabama Cave Survey. The majority of Sauta's passages were mapped in 1956 by Huntsvillians William W. Varndoe, Jr., and Dr. Charles Lundquist, amended by more accurate resurveys during subsequent years. Some passages, however, were not surveyed until 1982. During these latter efforts assistance was rendered by Carey Wilson, Douglass Thompson, Robert Lee, and others. Letter from William W. Varndoe, Jr., October 23, 1982.
- ³Carol A. Hill et al, "Saltpeter Caves of the United States," National Speleological Society Bulletin 43 (October 1981): 84, 86.
- ⁴W. Jerry Gist, The Story of Scottsboro, Alabama (Nashville: Rich Printing Company, 1968), 29; Penelope Jane Allen, "History of the Cherokee Indians," unpublished MS, Special Collections, Univ. of Tennessee Library, Knoxville, p.93; Pat Jones, "1812 Records Throw New Light on Saltpeter Mine," Huntsville Times, September 1, 1935. James Ore (1762-1812), Maryland native, lived in Virginia before moving to Tennessee (1791). A leader of the expedition (1794) against the Cherokee town of Nickajack, he later became an Indian trader and businessman, with stores at Knoxville and Bean's Station. He often advertised saltpeter for sale and after mining at Sauta spent several years working Nickajack Cave, near where he died. Pollyanna Creekmore, comp., Early East Tennessee Taxpayers (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980), 110n; Knoxville Gazette, February 17, 1796, March 6, 1797; Charlestown (W. Va.) Farmer's Respository, January 5, 1810.
- ⁵Manufactures of the United State in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census, under the Direction of the Secretary of the Interior (Washington, D.C., 1865), 3:556, 561; St. Louis Daily Missouri Democrat, April 29, 1861.
- ⁶Nashville Republican Banner, October 31, 1861.
- ⁷Charleston Daily Courier, February 13, 1862; Charleston Mercury, July 24, 1861.
- ⁸Francis Peyre Porcher, Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests (Charleston, S.C.: Evans & Cogswell, 1863), 339.
- ⁹Fayetteville (Tennessee) Observer, June 13, 1861; Huntsville Democrat as quoted in the Lynchburg Daily Virginian, May 31, 1861.
- ¹⁰Morgan's letters were printed in Guntersville, Bellefonte, and Jacksonville newspapers, with the last named being a reprint from a south Tennessee paper. Samuel D. Morgan Papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives; Jacksonville Republican, May 16, 1861.
- ¹¹Huntsville Democrat as quoted in the Lynchburg Daily Virginian, May 31, 1861.
- ¹²Samuel D. Morgan Papers. James R. Harris (b.c.1835), native Tennessean, was after the war a railroad agent. 1870 Census, Tenn., Franklin, 1st Dist., p. 63.
- ¹³Huntsville Democrat as quoted in the Lynchburg Daily Virginian, May 31, 1861.
- ¹⁴As quoted in William Richardson Hunt to Morgan, May 9, 1861, Samuel D. Morgan Papers. The David Larkin family were large landowners in the vicinity of Sauta Cave and at one time were its owners.
- ¹⁵Richmond Dispatch as quoted in the Charleston Daily Courier, May 11, 1861.
- ¹⁶Robinson to Morgan, May 10, 1861, Samuel D. Morgan Papers. Robinson died a year later at the age of about sixty-two. Wills, Jackson County, 1863-67, "M," p. 82; 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, Town of Bellefonte, p.84.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

¹⁷Chattanooga Advertiser, May 9, 1861, as quoted in the New Orleans Daily Picayune, May 17, 1861. George W. Rice (c. 1807-fl. 1879), native Tennessee farmer, owner before the war of "Coal Banks" in Marion County, Tennessee, near the mouth of Battle Creek," was by the outbreak of hostilities a resident of the Stevenson vicinity, with \$4,000 real and \$58,000 personal property. John F. Anderson (1808-1896), Sullivan County, Tennessee native, moved with his parents to Crow Creek Valley, Franklin County in 1818. A farmer and large landowner who "at one time" owned 26,000 acres, he was a founder of Stevenson and "for many years" a director of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad. John D. Borin (c.1828-1875), native Tennessean and son-in-law of G.W. Rice, was a hotel keeper at Stevenson prior to the war. After the cessation of his connection with Sauta Cave, he continued in the saltpeter business serving as superintendent of North Alabama's niter and mining subdistricts B and E. After the war he built the Scottsboro Court House before moving to Arkansas. 1850 Census, Tenn., Marion, 11th Dist., p. 822; 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, 1st Div., pp. 32, 36; Atlanta Southern Confederacy, February 11, 1863; History of Tennessee (Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1886), 820-21; Eliza B. Woodall, The Stevenson Story (Collegedale, Tenn.: The College Press, 1982), 89, 378; J.D. Borin file, Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms, Record Group 109, National Archives; Scottsboro Alabama Herald, May 27, 1875.

¹⁸Huntsville Independent as quoted in the Nashville Republican Banner, May 26, 1861; Huntsville Advocate as quoted in the Columbus Daily Inquirer, June 22, 1861; Montgomery Advertiser as quoted in the Columbus Daily Inquirer, July 1, 1861; The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 70 vols. in 128 books (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), ser. 4, 1:556.

¹⁹Lease of Sauta Cave, Carlisle and Henderson file, Citizens Papers. English-born Joseph W. Dunkerley (b.c. 1830) had been a partner of John B. Ricardi in a Knoxville bakery before becoming a bookbinder. After his brief involvement with Sauta Cave, he and Tilghman Haws printed forms for the Confederate government. 1860 Census, Tenn., Knox, 1st Dist., p. 92; Williams' Knoxville Directory (1859-60), pp. 37, 50, 72; Haws and Dunkerley file, Citizens Papers.

²⁰J.E. Bailey to Glascock, July 29, 1861, and Neill S. Brown, J.F. Bailey, and W.G. Harding to Glascock, August 23, 1861, Military and Financial Board Records 1861 - addition (microfilm), Tennessee State Library and Archives. Glascock (c. 1819-1891), a Virginia-born Nashville resident, with unionist sympathies, had been a newspaper editor, real estate agent, and constable. In early 1861 Lincoln appointed him U.S. marshal of Middle Tennessee, a position he resumed upon the Union occupation of Nashville in 1862. Gallatin Courier, April 10, 1861; Leroy P. Graf and Ralph W. Haskins, ed. The Papers of Andrew Johnson, 6 vols. (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1967-83), 4:337n.

²¹Lease of Sauta Cave, Carlisle and Henderson file, Citizen Papers. In early October it was reported that "Messrs. Fawcett & Co.," presumably Dunkerley and associates, were making saltpeter at Sauta, and it was predicted that "when they get their plans completed, for raising the dirt" they would make a thousand pounds a day. Florence Gazette, October 23, 1861. Hugh Carlisle (c. 1828-fl. 1900), Scottish native, was before and after the war a contractor and builder of the Tennessee and Coosa Railroad from Gadsden to Guntersville. Henderson was Carlisle's brother-in-law. Katherine M. Duncan and Larry J. Smith, The History of Marshall County, Alabama (Albertville, Ala.: Thompson Printing, 1969), 85; 1860 Census, Ala., Marshall, Eastern Div., p. 16; John Knox, "Rails Conquered River at Hobbs Island," Decatur Daily, December 20, 1964, p. B-12.

²²Official Records, ser. 4, 2:29; Carlisle and Henderson file, Citizens Papers. The firm ultimately received payment May 15, 1863.

²³Selma Sentinel as quoted in the Charleston Daily Courier, March 6, 1862. Although no names were given, Sauta was one of the caves being worked.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

²⁴Official Records, ser. 4, 1:1054-55.

²⁵Ibid., 1:1108; 2:594.

²⁶Ibid., 2:48, 222, 83.

²⁷Robert Manson Myers, ed., The Children of Pride (New Haven and London: Yale Univ. Press, 1972), 1657.

²⁸Niter-bearing dirt can be either in natural dry caves or underneath old buildings. The nitrates, according to one theory, are aided in their formation by bacteria. Carol A. Hill, "Origin of Saltpeter," National Speleological Society Bulletin 43 (October 1981): 119.

²⁹Huntsville Confederate, October 15, 1862; Ann Dillard file, Citizen Papers.

³⁰Alonzo C. Ladd (b.c. 1832) was an Ohio-born auctioneer from Huntsville who during late 1862 and early 1863 was superintendent of subdistrict C, composed in part of Morgan, Winston, Franklin, and Lawrence counties. He was superceded by Henry W. Grantland (b.c. 1832), a native Alabamian from Morgan County, who after the war was a dry goods merchant at Triana. James M. Walker, associated with the Cave Springs, Georgia niter works during the summer of 1862, was superintendent of subdistrict A by September of that year. Cyrus C.T. Deake, who after the war was an attorney and collecting agent at Jonesboro, Tennessee, served as assistant superintendent at \$100 a month from July 1862 until his dismissal by Gabbett the following March for "Fraudulent Practices". Serving in the same capacity from about September 1862 until his death in February 1864 of "Typhoid Pneumonia" was James M. Hull, a resident of Athens, Georgia, whose monthly stipend rose from \$90 to \$125. 1860 Census, Ala., Madison, City of Huntsville, p. 40; (1870), T5R2W, p. 1; (1850), Morgan, Somerville Div. No. 9, p. 487; A.C. Ladd, H.W. Grantland, James Walker, Cyrus C.T. Deake, J. Withers Clay, James M. and Georgia Hull files, Citizens Papers; Bristol News, March 7, 1867; Athens Southern Banner, February 10, 1864.

³¹William R. Rison (1837-fl. 1899), native Alabama bookkeeper at the Northern Bank of Alabama in Huntsville, was announced early in 1863 as an agent of Niter District No. 9 and was "authorized to pay the highest market price for Lead, Copper, Steele, Nitre, Acid, &c." Further, "Nitre Contractors whose point of delivery is Huntsville" were instructed to deliver to him. In 1864 he became a lieutenant in the 4th Alabama Cavalry, CSA, and after the war was briefly in Mississippi before returning to Huntsville to establish a bank and to serve as county treasurer (c. 1872-74). Huntsville Confederate, February 4, 1863; Memorial Record of Alabama, 2 vols. (Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1893), 2:470; Chattanooga Times, October 23, 1899.

³²William Gabbett file, Compiled service records of Confederate soldiers who served in organizations raised directly by the Confederate government. Nitre and Mining Bureau. Record Group 109, National Archives; J.F. Martin file, Citizens Papers.

³³William H. Herrin (b.c. 1830), a Georgia-born farmer living near New Hope in Marshall County, was associated with saltpeter mining throughout the war. His name has been found on the walls of two caves, one in Marshall and one in Blount County. Extant documents also associate him as being a laborer in another Marshall County cave near present-day Guntersville Dam. John F. Roberts (b.c. 1825) was a well-to-do Morgan County farmer, who during 1863, in partnership with James Ratliff (1824-1902, mined a small cave near that county's well-known Cave Springs. Also in Morgan County, possibly near the Apple Grove community, were the niter works of Morris and Noble, who between May 10, 1863, and June 25, 1864, delivered to the Confederate government 2,119 pounds of saltpeter. 1850 Census, Ala., Marshall, Warrenton Beat in 41st Dist., p. 488; (1860), T6R2, p. 13; (1860), Morgan, Eastern Div., 18; Marilyn S.S. Marine and Ivydene S. Walls, Morgan County, Alabama Cemeteries (Hartselle, Ala. 1982), 1:183; John Riley Hopkins Papers, Georgia Department of Archives and History; W.H. Herrin, J.F. Roberts, and Morris and Noble files, Citizens Papers.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

³⁴A.C. Ladd file, Citizens Papers.

³⁵John R. Kennamer, "Jackson County's Civil War Industry," Scottsboro Progressive Age, November 3, 1927; Huntsville Times, September 1, 1935.

³⁶Nashville Speleoneers, April 1954, pp. 8-9; December, 1954, p. 2; Letter from William W. Varnedoe, Jr., November 5, 1982; Huntsville Times, September 1, 1935.

³⁷ Huntsville Times, September 1, 1935. Additional evidence regarding William T. Bennett (1847-1943) and Sauta Cave has not been found. He based his application for a Confederate pension on his February 1 to May 11, 1865 service as a private, Company G, 25th Alabama Battalion Cavalry, under Colonel Lemuel G. Mead. One of the kettles used at Sauta is now (1983) in the pasture at Bennett's old home place in Gurley. Two more Sauta kettles are on another farm just north of Gurley. In 1980, after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased Sauta, the previous owner, Mr. Harry Hoover, removed the last kettle from the cave, and it is now presumably in Birmingham. According to another story, during the 1920s three brothers, John, Emmett, and Howard Harper, took a four mule team and wagon to the cave and removed an oblong kettle which for a number of years sat near a spring in the southern portion of Boxes Cove near Scottsboro. Tombstone inscription, Gurley, Alabama, cemetery; William T. Bennett, Confederate pension application, April 16, 1924, Alabama Archives; Journal of Spelean History 14 (July-December 1980): 29, 46, 55; interview with Mr. George W. Lusk, Boxes Cove, Alabama, November 27, 1982.

³⁸Carlisle and Henderson file, Citizens Papers.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰J.L. French and Brother file, *ibid.* Jeremiah L. (b.c. 1828) and Henry L. (b.c. 1830) French were Alabama-born farmers who lived in "a two story house of hewn logs with two huge chimneys" in the hollow immediately east of the cave. 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, 3rd Dist., 32; John Knox, "French Farm Has Many Ties With Past," Decatur Daily, August 9, 1964, p. B-11.

Jackson County

CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER NO. THIRTY-SEVEN

JULY 5, 1984

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING - Sunday, July 15, 1984, 2:30 p.m., Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center, at the corner of Houston and Peachtree Streets in Scottsboro, Alabama.

Dr. David Campbell, Program Vice-President, will introduce Association members to Miss Lee Langston on Sunday, July 15, 1984. Miss Langston, a native of Maryland, has recently moved to Scottsboro to assume her duties as the first Director of the Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center. Her subject will be preserving our cultural heritage - the way Jackson Countians dress, drive, die, weep, worship, weave, buy, and sell. How we earn, spend, relax, and go to war and what we read and how we write. She will help us think in terms of tools, fabrics, dolls, doorways, music, metals, masks, boxes, beads, bottles, charms, weapons, coffins, utensils, posters, veils, shirts, hats, and handshakes. Bring a friend and be a part of this discussion which will touch on buildings and how they can be used to preserve a large accumulation of traditions.

According to Association by-laws, ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE AND payable to:

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50
Mrs. William Thomas, Treasurer
Post Office Box 305
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00

Memorials and Honorariums at discretion of donor are welcomed.

Please provide:
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Jackson County Historical Association members receive JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The July 15, 1984, meeting of the Jackson County Historical Association will be held at the Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center.

The idea for a local museum, which resulted in the Heritage Center, was conceived by our Historical Association. We have cooperated in many of the projects which have been undertaken, and the relationship between the two groups has been a close one.

We look forward to a good program which will be announced by Dr. Campbell. Also, since this is our "summer outing," some of us will be bringing homemade ice cream and cake for refreshments. If you can bring either a freezer of ice cream or a cake, please let a member of our social committee (Elizabeth Thomas, Rubilee Smith, and Billie Hammer) know! Also, you will need to bring a folding chair, since none are available at this time.

Do make a big effort to be at this meeting and enjoy a good program, a tour of the museum, and an ice cream and cake social!

Anna Ruth Campbell

The April, 1984, JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES republished the first half of Marion O. Smith's "The Sauta Cave Confederate Niter Works" which was first published in the December, 1983, Volume 29, No. 4 of CIVIL WAR HISTORY.

Marion O. Smith is a research associate on the Papers of Andrew Johnson at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and an active cave explorer. He spends most of his weekends exploring caves in Jackson County and is presently compiling material for a paper on the smaller and/or less well known caves in this area. He is interested in all facets of Jackson County history but admits his favorite is this county's role during the Civil War. The Association is indebted to Mr. Smith for permitting the reprint; the second installment is as follows:

THE SAUTA CAVE CONFEDERATE NITER WORKS

Marion O. Smith

GUARD COMPANY

In the spring and summer of 1862, "incursions of the enemy" disrupted the Confederacy's saltpeter producing areas, including northern Alabama. St. John, the Nitre Bureau chief, asked for and received an order "to raise a company of sixty-four men to guard and work the government niter caves of Northern Alabama" under Captain Gabbett's direction. This company "as far as possible" was to be "raised from nonconscripts," and the privates to be "employed as laborers" were to be so detailed after enrollment and would "be entitled to pay as extra duty men."⁴¹

The men raised under this order became known as the Nitre Guard or Captain Young's Company and were mustered into service at Larkinsville on December 26, 1862, where a headquarters was maintained until April 13, 1863, when it was moved to Sauta. Divided into squads, the company rendered "a considerable amount of service as detailed laborers," in addition to arresting deserters, gathering conscripts, and guarding various niter works such as Trinity Cave in Morgan County and Fort Payne (Manitou) Cave in DeKalb County. Upon the evacuation of north Alabama during July, 1863, the company aided in "guarding and removing Government stores and laborers to the south of Tennessee River," where for a time it was headquartered at Guntersville.⁴²

During its existence, Captain James H. Young's company had a total of 82 names on its rolls, including himself, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, and seventy privates. Three of these men died; eleven were captured; two were deserters from another regiment and were returned; and forty-two deserted.⁴³ Most of the desertions occurred after withdrawal to the Guntersville area. Only five men were reported as deserters before August, 1863, including Jephtha Austell, who left while at Sauta. Some of these "deserters" later joined Colonel Lemuel G. Mead's 25th Alabama Cavalry Battalion and other organizations. James A. Gayle, Lewis Hembree, and James T. Page were among the guards who received extra duty pay as laborers at Sauta. James H. Stephens received pay for a trip during late December and early January to Tennessee to purchase mules for Sauta. He bought four at \$200 each for "working in the cave." Seaborn Keel, Calvin W. McCutcheon, and William J. Brown were other guards who are known to have worked at Sauta.⁴⁴

WHITE LABORERS

During the two years Sauta was mined by the Confederacy for saltpeter, numerous individuals labored there in one capacity or another. The total number is unknown but enough data exists to obtain a fair idea of the labor sources and the different duties performed. Some of the laborers, as indicated above, were guards on extra duty. Others were full-time detailed conscripts who, if "found one mile" from the "works without a written furlough," were "liable to be arrested as a deserter and sent to the nearest camp of instruction."⁴⁵ Many more were citizens of the surrounding counties who hired out their labor for specific jobs, ranging from only a few days to several months' duration.

WHITE LABORERS (Continued)

Good wagons and teams for various hauling jobs were always in demand by the Nitre Bureau. In mid-October, 1862, Captain Gabbett advertised in a Huntsville paper for "a few good mule teams, with strong iron axle wagons" for a "fair price" with the promise that "the drivers will be exempt from services in the field."⁴⁶ Prices paid for a wagon and two-mule team were generally \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day; for a wagon and four mule team, \$5.00; for a wagon and one ox, \$1.50; and for a wagon and two oxen, \$3.50. The various items hauled included "rock for a new furnace," food and forage; "furnace wood"; cut wood on and wood ashes from Gunters Mountain; "nitrous Earth to mouth of cave"; and saltpeter to and various supplies from the railroad station at Larkinsville.⁴⁷

The only known superintendents of Sauta while under Confederate control were Jahn Bate, who received \$100 as such during December, 1862, and Fred Wright during July, 1863.⁴⁸ Assistant superintendent during November-December was Joseph Douglass, who within that time was sent from Sauta "to Big Spring Nitre Works to procure Kettles."⁴⁹ Other supervisory personnel included Martin Gavin, who was "Foreman of miners" during November at \$1.25 per day; J. W. Daniel, who was "Foreman of ax hands" in December at \$2 per day; and Thomas B. Jordan, who was "Foreman Constructing Furnaces" during the last quarter of 1862. G. H. Scruggs served as the Sauta works bookkeeper about the same time.⁵⁰

Part of the loding for Sauta miners, many of whom were Irish, was supplied by nearby citizens. In November, Eliza Donovan rented beds for "Twenty one laborers at 3 1/3 cts Ea" per day. She boarded twelve in January and ine in February because there was "no boarding house established on Government acct." Besides the foreman Gavin and the guard C. W. McCutcheon, these men included James Kelley, Mathan Darah, Thomas Cargrove, Jere McCarty, John Lowery, Ned Duffy, Joseph Hancey, William Swafford, R. P. Brannan, and James Carver. Also in January Joel P. Ledbetter boarded one laborer, and during part of the spring nine others were lodged by Maria Dwyer.⁵¹

Postwar testimony revealed the names of other white laborers. John W. Dulaney is reported to have worked in the cave hauling dirt while Morgan Guffey "tended to the furnace and kettles." Ex-guard Seaborn Keel, while discussing the same subject, allowed that they "had hot times" when they "boiled the dirt from the cave," adding, "you can imagine what sort of job it was to stand around these immense pots, and stir fire all day long."⁵²

SLAVE LABORERS

Much of the heaviest labor at Sauta was performed by slaves hired from local owners. Accounts by surviving white laborers many years after the war variously estimated the number of employed slaves at twenty-five to sixty, who dug the dirt and loaded the mule carts. Some of these reputedly "dug a well 70 feet deep to determine how far down the saltpeter extended" without reaching the bottom.⁵³

Names of several slaveowners who employed their chattels at Sauta are known. The most noted owner was Confederate senator Clement C. Clay, Jr., who in December, 1862, hired an unspecified number to the works. Within a month, however, "eleven of them had run off."⁵⁴ Thomas B. Jordan of Madison County was a frequent source of black labor for Sauta. While he was constructing the furnace he was aided by four of his slaves as masons, who earned \$2 per day from November 16 through December 19, 1862. During the following January and February, Jordan hired sixteen and thirteen slaves, respectively, to the works, during which period many of them received "Extra time" for "Sunday Labor" at \$.54 and \$.66 2/3 per day.⁵⁵ Within the same period, sixteen slaves belonging to partners named Grantland and McIntosh and seven slaves belonging to B. Sanders likewise received extra time at \$.63 and \$.66 2/3 cents per day. For June, 1863, alone, a total of \$544.60 was paid to various owners for hired slaves at Sauta.

Slave laborers, as would be expected, were supervised by whites. Two of the overseers for this were James B. Grantland of Morgan County during April, 1863, at a dollar a day, and James Henry Bibb during the succeeding two months.⁵⁷ Not all slaves, as already indicated by the presence of Jordan's black masons, performed unskilled labor. Another Negro, belonging to James R. Plummer, was hired as a blacksmith during January and February at the rate of twenty-four dollars per month.⁵⁸

FOOD AND FORAGE

In September, 1862, Captain Gabbett supplied the workers of his niter district with bacon, flour, rice, sugar, salt, and soap from the commissary at Atlanta, Georgia. Later, at Sauta and elsewhere, much of the food and forage was purchased from local suppliers. During the November-January period, Douglass, Donegan and Company of Huntsville, James M. Buchanan, F. E. Harris, Thomas E. Harris, and Thomas B. Jordan sold, respectively, 500, 175, 660, 100, and 95 bushels of corn at a dollar per bushel for the subsistence of the Sauta laborers. Within the same period S. F. Kennamer and David A. Ramsey hauled to Sauta "corn & fodder & Winter Supplies" and corn "from Maysville."⁵⁹

Earlier, in late October, 1862, Nashville Malone received pay for hauling to Sauta from Huntsville "3300 lbs Bacon."⁶⁰ In December beef was supplied to the laborers by William R. Larkin and Sarah Ann Dillard.⁶¹ Larkin sold "9 Head Live Cattle 7360 lbs gross" and Dillard "1 Steer for beef" weighing 1200 pounds, both at 5 3/4 cents per pound. During March, 1863, Captain Young sold to the works 119 pounds of bacon, in addition to supplying 287 pounds of "ovens and Pots" for his guard company. Two months earlier Thomas B. Jordan had also supplied one hundred pounds "ovenware" for "Culinary purposes."⁶²

At various times between November, 1862, and March, 1863, Eliza Donovan was paid to cook "for miners at Sauta Cave" at the rate of twelve dollars a month or forty cents a day. In addition, on one occasion, she supplied twenty-five heads of cabbage. Subsistence for Sauta during its final days of operation was collected by Alexander Finney, who was hired by Captain Gabbett for that purpose.⁶³

MEDICAL CARE

Medical needs for both black and white workers at Sauta were supplied on an "as need" basis by Dr. James M. Buchanan. Between January and May, 1863, he made at least nineteen visits to the cave and one visit to the potash works, presumably the one on Gunters Mountain. His total bill for these visits came to only ninety dollars. No mention was made of the laborer's ailments necessitating these visits, but the doctor vaccinated twelve men and provided a bottle of paragoric.⁶⁴

LIGHTING

Clues regarding the lighting of Sauta Cave can be obtained from the inventory of Carlisle and Henderson, which included "5 Wire Fire Baskets" and "6 Reflectors," and from vouchers given to several individuals. Cyrus C. T. Deake sold five and David A. Ramsey sold two "Loads Fat Pine" at \$4 per load during the latter months of 1862, while cave owner Jeremiah L. French supplied "14 loads torch pine" the following January at eight dollars per load. Since "torch pine" and "fat pine" are defined as pitch pine and "kindling wood," possibly the former was distributed along various ledges, cracks, and crevasses of the cave wall while the latter was used in the fire baskets.⁶⁵

Tallow for candles to be used in the cave and probably also in the various outbuildings was obtained from Deake and Douglass, Donegan and Company. Deake supplied 17 1/2 pounds at forty cents each in November, while three months later Captain Gabbett purchased 815 pounds from the Huntsville firm. Although this latter large purchase was not specifically designated for Sauta, the voucher was signed at Larkinsville, and it is likely much of it was used at the cave. The importance of tallow as a lighting source at Sauta is revealed by the hiring during November, 1862 of William Dempsey as a "Special messenger" for its purchase.⁶⁶

ACQUISITION OF POTASH

To produce saltpeter or niter, potash was needed for conversion of the calcium nitrate "beer" to potassium nitrate. Wood ashes, mixed with about one-fifth or one-sixth as much lime, were placed in hoppers and continually wetted with boiling water "until all soluble potash dropped out." Potash and ashes for Sauta came from a variety of places, both from regular contractors and from casual suppliers. At Kingston, Georgia, in June, 1863, John Bate, assistant superintendent of Captain Gabbett's niter district, hired "3 negroes to load car with Potash." Probably part of this load was intended for Sauta because at about the same time James H. Stephens was sent as a "Special Messenger to Chattanooga for Potash." Earlier, during October, Winston and Brothers were paid for "Hauling 7 boxes Potash 4000 lbs from Stevenson to Sauta Cave at 80 cents per cwt." It is possible that these shipments were from the government-operated potash works in Cherokee County, Georgia, and at Chattanooga. In January, David A. Ramsey sent to the Sauta works, apparently on a one-time basis, thirty-six pounds of potash at forty cents, while in May Morgan County, Alabama potash-contractors Allen and Rose supplied 2,652½ pounds at fifty cents.⁶⁷

Although the percentage is not known, a considerable portion of the ashes used in making saltpeter at Sauta came from the works on the "Cave Tract" atop Gunters Mountain and from other local suppliers. Jackson County historian John R. Kennamer related in the 1920s that "a great force of men and teams" cleared a hundred acres on the mountain, and burned into ashes "huge piles of logs as high as an ordinary house." John L. McIntosh was the overseer of Negroes at this operation during the first quarter of 1863. Additional known suppliers between November and March were Cyrus C. T. Deake, James W. Daniel, Jr., Jeremiah L. French, David A. Ramsey, and Joseph W. McCutchen, who provided respectively 65 3/4, 36½, 560 3/4, 70 3/4, and 852½ bushels of ashes at thirty-five to forty-five cents per bushel, all "For making nitre at Sauta Cave."⁶⁸

MISCELLANY

A number of articles purchased for use at the Sauta works do not fit into convenient categories. These miscellaneous items include a tin powder can for "Safe Keeping of Powder for Blasting" and fifteen pounds of leather for "repairing Govt harness," both supplied by Joel P. Ledbetter, and eleven pounds borax from Rison and Timmons, plus "1 Blacksmith vice" from Douglass, Donegan and Company, each for the blacksmith shop.⁶⁹

During June, 1863, William D. Chaddick, a Confederate officer on leave in Huntsville, wrote Captain Gabbett that "on returning home I spoke of you and your operations at Sauta Cave, (and) unintentionally excited an enthusiastic wish in my wife and a lady-friend of ours to visit the cave and the the works." Chaddick then asked "for the means of getting from the R. R. to the Cave," suggesting "three horses, with suitable Saddles," to be used only "for a few hours." Unfortunately, it is not known if this projected visit actually occurred. Mrs. Chaddick's diary might possibly have recorded observations of interest.⁷⁰

TERMINATION OF OPERATION

Although one ex-miner many years after the war indicated that he was captured at Sauta while he worked, wartime documents show that there was a gradual closing of activities at the cave during July, 1863, occasioned by the second Union occupation of northern Alabama. During the first week of that month assistant district superintendent James M. Hull used "thre 4 mule teams" to haul to Gadsden the "Government Stores from Larkinsville and Sauta Cave, to a place of safety from the enemy on (the) south side of Tenn. River." Another document, referring to the same operation, said that Hull superintended "the transmission of stores to Guntersville on the retreat from North Alabama."⁷¹

The exact day of the last Southern activity at Sauta is now unknown. Alexander Finney hauled subsistence for the works as late as July 24-30, and nitre guard James A. Gayle received pay for "49½ Days Hauling at Sauta Cave in July and August" for moving government property to Guntersville. During the July 1-21 period, Fred Wright, "in charge of Sauta Cave," boarded at George Bennett's, which "was in the Enemys lines where subsistence from the Commissary Department could not be furnished him."⁷²

Besides the cessation of the Sauta operation, the general withdrawal of Nitre Bureau activities is evidenced by the actions of John D. Borin,

TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS (Continued)

superintendent of subdistrict B at Stevenson. Because it was "impracticable to get R. Rd. Transportation," he had during the first eighteen days of July hired a wagon and four oxen to remove saltpeter and lead to Trenton, Georgia.⁷³

Immediately after the retreat Guntersville became headquarters of the ninth niter district. Captain Gabbett was there in person by July 25 but only remained a few days since he was also given charge of the eighth district which included southeastern Tennessee and northern Georgia. Throughout the remainder of the war Gabbett's headquarters moved frequently, from Chattanooga, Kingston, and Rome in Georgia, back into Alabama at Blue Mountain (near present-day Anniston), Montavallo, and ultimately to Gainesville.

AMOUNT OF SALTPETER PRODUCED

The only figure for the entire wartime saltpeter production of northern Alabama shows 225,665 pounds, which covers through the third quarter of 1864.⁷⁴ This number possibly does not include saltpeter delivered before the creation of the Nitre Bureau in April, 1862, and of course does not include that produced after September, 1864. While Sauta's total production of saltpeter for the Confederacy is not known, extant information indicates that it was considerable, as would be expected from an operation employing so many people.

Between October 1 and December 17, 1861, Joseph W. Dunkerley delivered to the Confederate ordnance officer and Tennessee military board at Nashville, at a price ranging from thirty to forty cents a pound, a total of 16,157 pounds of niter, all presumably made at Sauta.⁷⁵ In late March, 1862, just before the battle of Shiloh, an agent of General Pierre G. T. Beauregard's army bought six barrels of saltpeter from Carlisle and Henderson, totaling 2,480 pounds at seventy-five cents a pound. Later, in late November, 1862, long after the fall of Nashville, the former destination of most of Sauta's niter, and technically when they were already out of business, the same firm sold 4209 pounds to Captain Gabbett.⁷⁶ This was hauled by wagon to Rome, Georgia, and, it is assumed, eventually reached Augusta, the side of the Confederacy's largest powder mill, which from mid-1862 was the destination of nearly all the niter from Sauta and the ninth niter district.

Although there are no production figures for the period Sauta was government-operated, the amount was probably quite high. In April, 1863, John P. Phillips, a clerk in Gabbett's office, was sent as a "special messenger with (a) car load of nitre from Larkinsville, Ala to Atlanta, Ga," and in early July, Phillips was acting in the same capacity for a "Shipment of nitre to Chattanooga." The previous month John Bate also acted as a "Special messenger" for a "car load of nitre" and accompanied it to Augusta.⁷⁷ While it is unreasonable to assume that all of this saltpeter was made at Sauta, certainly a large portion of it was. Clearly, when mining at Sauta Cave closed, Alabama's single most developed and productive source of saltpeter was lost, illustrating one more example of the growing resources crisis of the struggling Confederacy.

FOOTNOTES

⁴¹ Special Orders No. 285, December 5, 1862, SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE CONFEDERATE STATES, 1862, 5 vols. (Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1885-87, 2:564.

⁴² Compile Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama, Captain Young's Company, Guard Company Alabama Nitre and Mining Corps, Record Group 109, National Archives.

⁴³ The roster of the company was: Edward Acklin, Alexander P. Armbruster (captured and died), Jephtha Austell, James F. Barnes, Joseph Barnes, John G. Berry, Marion Bowers, William L. Brewer, Ira P. Brown, John A. Brown, William J. Brown, George W. Burrow (corporal), George W. Campbell, Richard C. Campbell, Jesse Coffey, Benjamin F. Derrick (died), James P. Dodson, Newton J. Fletcher, Francis Flippin, James A. Gayle, Thomas C. Hall, Harbard M. Harwell, Lewis Hembree, Frank Hodges, John T. Hodges, Richard C. Hodges, Andrew J. Houk, Salathiel Houk (1st sergeant), John D. Jackson, Charles J. Jones (corporal), Henry B. Jones, Joseph M. Jones, Levi Jones, Levi B. Jones, William F. Jones, Jesse Keel, Moses B. Keel, Samuel M. Keel, Seaborn Keel, William W. Keel, John Kennamer, Vincent Kennemer (3rd lieutenant), Samuel H. Leture (Latture), Hardy Lewis, Stephen C. Loyd,

43 Wilson Lyons, William P. McBride, Calvin W. McCutchen (died), Andrew J. McElyea, Leroy D. Mitchell (corporal), James T. Page, William L. Page, Uriah Peters, Michael Price, Albert Ragsdale, William T. Reece, Thomas B. Renfro, David Rousseau, David T. Rousseau (sergeant), William J. Sanders, John B. Scott, George W. Selby (corporal), Robert F. Selby, James Sims, Andrew W. Skelton (sergeant), Samuel D. Smart, William W. Smith, John A. St. Clair, James H. Stephens, John B. Stephens, Marion Stephens, William G. Stephens (2nd lieutenant), James Swafford, John Swafford, William C. Thomas, James J. Tipton, Isaac Newton Whitecotton (1st lieutenant), James Wilborn, Starns W. Wilborn, Aaron W. Woosely (sergeant), Johnson Woosely, and James Harvey Young (captain). Young (1825-1900), a Christian County, Kentucky, native and Larkinsville saddler was captain, Company K, 4th Alabama Infantry, CSA, in Virginia before commanding the Nitre Guard. Ibid.; James H. Young file, Compiled Service Records, Record Group 109, National Archives; Letter from Annewhite Fuller, Huntsville Public Library, November 24, 1981; 1860 Census Alabama, Jackson, 3rd Dist., p. 32.

44 J. H. Stephens file, Citizens Papers. James A. Gayle (1827-1903), Tennessee-born farmer, was captured "near Gadsden" July 18, 1864, and held at Camp Douglas, Illinois until June 17, 1865. Lewis Hembree was captured September 12, 1863, in Jackson County and held at Camp Morton, Indiana until "Transferred for Exchange February 26, 1865." James H. Stephens (b. c. 1826), an Alabama-born farmer, was later in Mead's Battalion, captured, and died at Camp Chase. Seaborn Keel (1841-1927), a native Alabama farm laborer, was also later in Mead's 25th Cavalry Battalion. Calvin W. McCutcheon (b. c. 1831) was a native Alabama farmer, and William J. Brown (b. c. 1834) was a Tennessee-born son of Ira E. Brown. Tombstone inscription, Woods Cove Cemetery, Jackson County, Alabama; James A. Gale (Gayle) and Lewis Hembree files, Compiled Service Records, Record Group 109, National Archives; John R. Kennamer, Sr., THE STORY OF WOODVILLE AND COMMUNITY ALBUM (Lanett, Ala. and West Point, Ga.: East Alabama Publishing Company, Inc., 1950), 150; Seaborn Keel, Pension Records, Alabama Archives; 1860 Census, Ala, Jackson, 3rd Dist., pp 18, 63, 2, 56, 40; SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927.

45 J. Withers Clay file, Citizens Papers.

46 HUNTSVILLE CONFEDERATE, October 15, 1862.

47 Among those who hauled for the Sauta works while it was under government control were Madison County residents J. W. Anyan (b. c. 1834), mechanic; James H. Bibb (1826-1870), farmer; Elisha F. Betts (b. c. 1826), wealthy farmer; Reuben W. Crutcher (1812-1867), Baptist minister; and David A. Ramsey (b. c. 1828), a former railroad conductor; Marshall County resident David Kennemore (b. either c. 1814 or 1828), farmer; Jackson County residents Jeremiah L. French (owner), William J. Brown (guard), J. F. Martin (b. c. 1826), merchant, Alexander Finney (b. c. 1835), farmer; and Joel P. Ledbetter (1818-1870), Woodville and Larkinsville merchant; and John Vernon, S. D. Tanner, and S. F. Kennamer, whose residences have not been located. William Gabbett file, Compiled Service Records, Citizens Papers; SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927; 1860 Census, Alabama, Madison, SE Div., p. 61; NE Div., pp. 3, 5; SW Div., p. 5; City of Huntsville, p. 14; Marshall, T5R4E, pp. 50, 53; Jackson, 35 Dist., pp. 27, 31, 67; Dorothy Scott Johnson, CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, 2 vols. (Huntsville: Johnson Historical Publications, 1971, 1978), 1:232, 234; Kennamer, WOODVILLE, pp. 66-67.

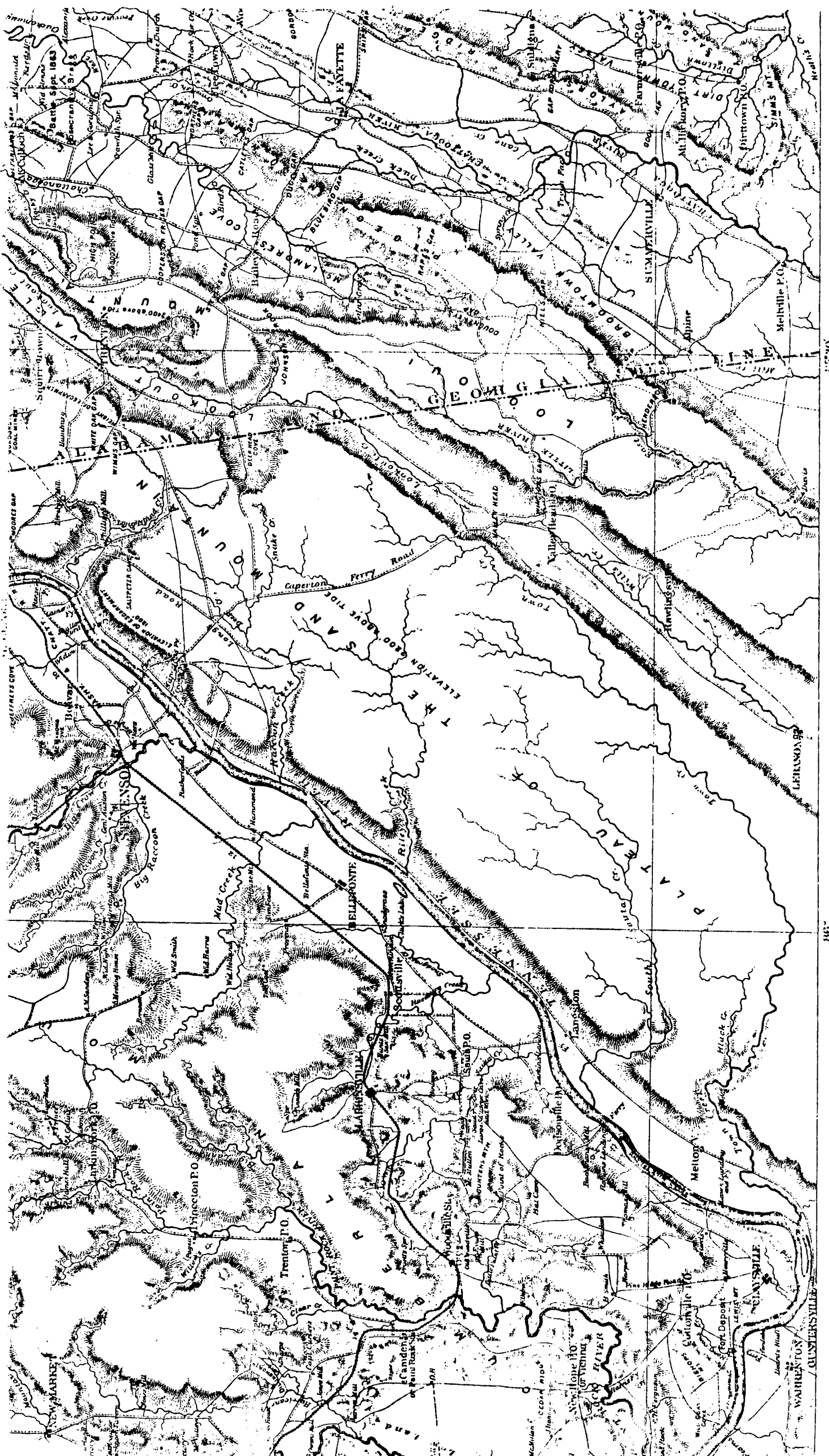
48 After Sauta was abandoned Bate served as one of Captain Gabbett's assistant superintendents in combined Nitre District 8 and 9. Frederick Wright (b. c. 1833) may have been the native Tennessee shoemaker living in Maury County before the war. Employed at the Old Stone Fort Powder Mill in Manchester (1861-62), he was eventually captured on Sand Mountain, Alabama, on December 28, 1863, and imprisoned until February, 1865. The end of the war found him at Macon, Georgia. John Bate, George Bennett, and Fred Wright files, Citizens Papers; 1860 Census Tenn., Maury, 9th Dist., p. 12; Frederick Wright file, Compiled Service Records, Record Group 109, National Archives.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

- 49 Joseph Doublas (b. c. 1830) was a Pennsylvania-born lawyer from Guntersville. Big Sprin Nitre Works was a saltpeter cave south of Guntersville near the Blount County line. A century later it was commercially shown to the public under the name Guntersville Caverns. 1860 Marshall County, Ala., Eastern Div., 1, Census.
- 50 Martin Gavin, J. W. Daniel, Thomas B. Jordan, and G. H. Scruggs files, Citizens Papers. J. R. Kennamer reported a south Alabamian named A. J. Sharp was for a time foreman at the cave, but did not specify any dates. A man with this name was associated with the Nitre Bureau in Alabama during the last half of the war as an overseer of slaves. Jordan was also hired by Gabbett during the first forty-five days of 1863 to inspect and report on private nitre contractors' works in the district. SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927; A. J. Sharp and Thomas B. Jordan files, Citizens Papers.
- 51 Eliza Donovan, J. P. Ledbetter, and Maria Dwyer files, *ibid.*
- 52 SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927; Morgan Guffey to Thomas M. Owen, May 11, 1909 (photocopy), Box 6, Burton Faust Collection, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green; HUNTSVILLE TIMES, Sept. 1, 1935. John W. Dulaney (b. c. 1846) was a native Alabamian from the vicinity of Paint Rock. 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, 3rd Dist, 44.
- 53 SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927; HUNTSVILLE TIMES, September 1, 1935. In 1914 E. B. Wallace of Cullman, believing that in case of war the United States might lose its overseas sources of nitrates, bought Sauta and had "Borings . . . made in different parts of the cave" by Ross Chester Wallace, a Philadelphia chemist and mining engineer, to determine the extent of the saltpeter producing earth. It is not now known which test pits were dug in the 1860s and which were dug in 1914. Varnedoe measured one such pit at twenty-five feet. SCOTTSBORO AGE-HERALD, September 9, 1914; Letter from William W. Varnedoe, Jr., November 5, 1982.
- 54 Ruth Ketring Nuermberger, THE CLAYS OF ALABAMA (Lexington: Univ. of Kentucky Press, 1958), 199, 213. Clement C. Clay, Jr. and his father owned at least eighty-eight slaves at the war's commencement. 1860 Census, Slave Schedule, Ala., Jackson, 3rd Dist., p. 2; Madison, City of Huntsville, p. 13.
- 55 Thomas B. Jordan file, Citizens Papers, Jordan (b. c. 1835), a native Alabamian from Huntsville, was the son of Jesse G. Jordan (c. 1801-1877). Before the war they owned only nineteen slaves, of whom just six were males over age twelve. 1860 Census, Al., Madison, City of Huntsville, p. 9, Slave Schedule, p. 2. Pauline Jones Gandrud, MARRIAGE, DEATH, AND LEGAL NOTICES FROM EARLY ALABAMA NEWSPAPERS, 1819-1893 (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 270.
- 56 Grantland and McIntosh and B. Sanders files, Citizens Papers; William Gabbett file, Compiled Service Records, Record Group 109, National Archives.
- 57 J. B. Grantland and James H. Bibb files, Citizens Papers. James B. Grantland (b. c. 1829), native Alabama farmer from near Valhermoso Springs, may have been the partner of McIntosh in hiring slaves to the cave. 1850 Census, Al., Morgan, Somerville 9th Dist., p. 487; 1870 Census, 37th Subdiv., p. 62.
- 58 James R. Plummer file, Citizens Papers. Plummer (c. 1823-1885), Tennessee-born clergyman, owned five slaves before the war, of whom one was male and aged thirty-five. After the war he headed the Clarksville, Tennessee, Female Academy (1876-81). 1860 Census, Al., Madison, SW Div., p. 19; Slave Schedule, p. 31; William Titus, PICTURESQUE CLARKSVILLE (Clarksville, 1887), 69, NASHVILLE BANNER, April 20, 1885.
- 59 Thomas E. Harris, F. E. Harris, J. M. Buchanan, Thomas B. Jordan, Douglass, Donegan and Company, S. F. Kennamer, and D. A. Ramsey files, Citizens Papers; Thomas E (b. c. 1830), native Alabama merchant, and wealthy Virginia-born F. E. Harris (b. c. 1801), were both Jackson County residents. 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, 3rd Dist., pp. 29, 26.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

- 60 Nashville Malone file, Citizens Papers. Malone was either the North Carolina-born Senior (c. 1800-fl.1870), or the Alabama-born Junior (c. 1833-1881). 1860 Census, Ala., Madison, NW Div., p. 29; 1870 Census T3R1W, p. 26; Gandrud, MARRIAGE, DEATH AND LEGAL NOTICES, p. 277.
- 61 Larkin (1830-1899) and Dillard were next door neighbors in Jackson County as well as brother and sister and descendents of a former owner of Sauta. Sarah Ann Larkin (1828-1863) was the widow of Edward H. Dillard (1824-1856). 1860 Census, Ala., Jackson, 3rd Dist., p. 59; Tombstone inscriptions, Blue Springs Cemetery, Larkinsville, Alabama.
- 62 William R. Larkin, Ann Dillard, James H. Young, and Thomas B. Jordan files, Citizens Papers.
- 63 Eliza Donovan and Alexander Finney files, *ibid.*
- 64 J. M. Buchanan file, *ibid.* Physician Buchanan (b. c. 1822) was a native of Tennessee who before the war had a combined estate worth \$14,000. 1860 Census, Al., Jackson, 3rd Dist., p. 26.
- 65 Cyrus C. T. Deake, D. A. Ramsey, and J. L. French files, Citizens Papers, WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY (1964), pp. 2412, 828.
- 66 Cyrus C. T. Deake, Douglass, Donegan and Company, and William Dempsey files, Citizens Papers. By early 1863 the above firm consisted of Thomas T. Douglass, W. F. Mastin, and W. Donegan. HUNTSVILLE CONFEDERATE, January 14, 1863.
- 67 MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL, June 19, 1862; John Bate, James M. Hull, Winston and Brothers, Thomas Webster and Company, D. A. Ramsey, and Allen and Rose files, Citizen Papers.
- 68 SCOTTSBORO PROGRESSIVE AGE, November 3, 1927; John L. McIntosh, Cyrus C. T. Deake, James W. Daniel, Jr., J. L. French, D. A. Ramsey, and Joseph W. McCutchen files, Citizens Papers. McIntosh (b. c. 1834) was a native Tennessee farmer from the Triana area of Madison County and may have been the partner of J. B. Grantland. Before the war he owned twenty slaves, of whom seven were between ages twelve and forty-five. 1860 Census, Ala., Madison, SW Div., p. 9, Slave Shedule, p. 13.
- 69 J. P. Ledbetter, Rison and Timmons, and Douglass, Donegan and Company files, Citizens Papers.
- 70 William D. Chadick to Gabbet, June (?) 1863, John R. Hopkins Papers. Chadick (1817-1878), a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, was during the war lieutenant colonel of the 26th Alabama Infantry. He and his wife Mary I. (1818-1905) are buried in McMinnville, Tennessee. Excerpts from Mrs. Chadick's diary pertaining just to Huntsville were printed in a Huntsville paper by her grandson "some years" before they were reprinted in the ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY. The original diary has not been located and it is not known if the Sauta operation was mentioned. Jeanette T. Acklen, compiler, TENNESSEE RECORDS: TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS, 2 vols. (1933; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967), 1:147; ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 9 (Summer 1947), unnumbered pages before 199.
- 71 Morgan Guffey to Thomas M. Owen, May 11, 1909 (photocopy), Box 6, Faust Collection, Western Kentucky University; James M. Hull file, Citizens Papers.
- 72 Alexander Finney, James A. Gayle, and George Bennett files, *ibid.* George Bennett (b. c. 1818) was an Irish-born Marshall County resident. 1860 Census, Ala., Marshall, Eastern Div., p. 10.
- 73 J. D. Borne file, Citizen Papers.
- 74 Official Records, ser. 4, 3:698.
- 75 J. W. Dunkerley file, Citizens Papers, Record Group 4, Army of Tenn. Records, ser. 6, box 6 folder 22, Military Board Record Book, April 24, 1861-January 9, 1862, Tennessee State Library and Archives.
- 76 Carlisle and Henderson file, Citizens Papers.
- 77 J. P. Phillips and John Bate files, Citizens Papers.



This map copied from circa 1870 map in map collection of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

HUNT'S MILL CIVIL WAR SKIRMISH
by Ann B. Chambless

On September 25, 1863, Lieutenant Ephraim Latham, commander of the Union's First Regiment, Alabama Volunteer Cavalry (Vedette) and his troops were attacked by Confederate forces while guarding Hunt's Saw Mill.

Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan, Commander of the Second Division, Reserve Corps, headquartered in Stevenson, Alabama, made the following report to Major Fullerton, on September 26, 1863:

"Major: I have the honor to report that Col. Haynes, Tenth Ohio Cavalry, has returned from his scout to Larkinsville, and reports that the Alabamians at the saw-mill did some fighting before abandoning the mill, wounding some of the rebels, but there was not that resistance shown there should have been. Had such been the case, the enemy no doubt would have been driven off. The force which attacked Capt. Latham's Company comprised some of the Fourth Alabama Cavalry (CSA Col. Alfred A. Russell's 4th Regiment, Alabama Cavalry.)

Capt. Latham is in the mountains with about half of his company. He says he was surrounded on the morning of the 25th, and cut his way out, losing about half of his men. I shall in a few days be able to give a full account of the affair, and I hope to make a more favorable report although I have heard of but little that is creditable to the troops engaged."¹

Three weeks earlier on September 4, 1863, Latham's Regiment had been outfitted per the following order from Brig. Gen. John A. Garfield, Chief of Staff, headquartered in Stevenson:

"Lieutenant Ephraim Latham, commanding First Independent Company, Alabama Volunteer Cavalry, is ordered to report to the commanding officer at Stevenson, who is directed to furnish the company with arms as soon as possible, when they will be posed in the vicinity of Larkinsville and along the line of the Stevenson and Huntsville Railroad, and do duty as scouts until they are furnished with horses. Procure horses and equipments for them as soon as possible. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. A. Garfield, Brig. Gen. and Chief of Staff."²

Two days prior to this Garfield dispatch, Major-General Rosecrans had issued the following order to Brig. Gen. J. D. Morgan:

"Send guard immediately to saw mill at Larkinsville. It is a valuable mill; will be very useful."³

Prior to the Civil War, Hunt's Saw Mill was owned and operated by David Larkin Hunt.⁴ The mill was located on present-day Old Larkinsville Road just south of Julius Beard's home.⁵ Former Congressman Robert E. Jones advised: "Hunt's Mill was near the Memphis and Charleston water tanks and both obtained their water supply from a stream in Shelton Cave. The Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company laid wrought iron pipe from the cave to the tanks."

The circa 1870 map on page 10 shows Hunt's Saw Mill on the north edge of the M&CRR track and just south of the Scottsville (Scottsboro) to Larkinsville Road. The old road followed the base of the mountain and ran parallel to the railroad. An 1865 report of Lt. John H. Hull, 101 First U. S. Colored Infantry, stated he had been detailed to "Scottsborough to guard water tanks and Government property (depot)." He described the water tanks as being "one mile and a quarter west of Scottsborough."⁶ This would place the water tanks and Hunt's Mill on the David L. Hunt property which is now owned by Julius Beard.

Water power and railroad transportation were factors David L. Hunt would have considered when he located the saw mill on his property between 1855 and 1860.

The September 25, 1863, skirmish at Hunt's Saw Mill did not end the career of Capt. Latham and his Alabama Volunteers. On October 16, 1863, Col. Wm. P. Lyon wrote Maj. Gen. D. Butterfield: "I have the honor to report that a sergeant of Captain Latham's Company Alabama Volunteers sends a dispatch from the vicinity of Larkinsville that a force of rebels cavalry, number unknown, are reported in Maynard's Cove, and that Roddey's command are said to be on the headwaters of Paint Rock Creek. . . A sergeant from THE MILL NEAR LARKINSVILLE, who came in with prisoners, states that he was some miles west of that place yesterday. . ."⁷

Capt. Latham's Union scouts evidently continued to operate from their Hunt's Mill post assigned by Major-General Rosecrans. On February 15, 1864, Brig. Gen. Morgan L. Smith reported from his Larkinsville headquarters, "About 10 a.m. yesterday two of Captain Latham's company were attacked by about 15 bushrangers about 8 miles northwest from here and one of them captured. I immediately sent 40 mule-cavalry to arrest five of the best "secesh" in the vicinity of the attack, and five more from the vicinity of the robbery of a Union man's house, 2 miles farther on. This is probably some or all of the same party that stole Genral Woods' mules. I am expecting the party back, when I will report and await orders. Two privates of Eleventh Texas Cavalry were captured on Sand Mountain about midnight, night before last, by two of Captain Latham's men with enclosed dispatch."⁸

FOOTNOTES

¹ War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol, 30, Part II, p. 659

² War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 30, Part III, p. 343

³ War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 30, Part III, p. 311

⁴ Personal interview with Rosa Reid Batey great-granddaughter of David Larkin Hunt. David Larkin Hunt (b. 3-9-1816 in Tennessee) was enumerated on the 1850 Franklin County, Tn. census as a single male with property valued at \$3000. On October 26, 1854, David L. Hunt married Marticia Shelton, (1827-1900) daughter of Shepherd Shelton for whom Shelton Cave is named. Their son, John Carter Hunt, lived in the old Hunt log house on Old Larkinsville Road in the late 1800s when his daughter, Mary Hunt Kennedy Henshaw, was born.

⁵ Personal interview, June 30, 1984, with Julius Beard. Mr. Beard stated the Hunt property was sold to John Chandler who later sold the land to the Beards. Former Congressman Robert E. Jones personal interview on June 30, 1984. Mr. Jones stated the wrought iron pipe laid by the M&CRR in 1856 (four years before the depot in Scottsboro was constructed) which carried water from Shelton's Cave to water tanks was still in the ground prior to World War II. As a result of the scrap iron drive during this war, much of the pipe was dug and recycled for national defense projects. Mr. Jones also stated he had played around the limestone rock foundations of the water tower when he was a child. He remembered the foundation being three to six feet high and about 100 yards from the present-day Old Larkinsville Road.

⁶ War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, p. 802

⁷ IBID, Series I, Vol. 30, Part IV, pages 425-426

⁸ IBID, Series I, Vol. 3, Part I, page 393-394

NOTE: The circa 1870 showing Hunt's Saw Mill most likely is a product of the Civil War and drawn by a Federal mapping engineer. This map copy was furnished your Editor, Ann B. Chambless, by the kind and gracious Marion O. Smith of Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Smith located this map in the University of Tennessee map collection in Knoxville.

Please note the names of residents along the major roads in use at that time. It is interesting to note the number of widows listed as heads of households. This is another reason to believe the map was first charted during the Civil War. The cartographer certainly must have been familiar with the area to be able to include so many names and be aware of the marital status of the head of the households. You will note that present-day Scottsboro was listed as Scottsville on this map and that present-day Dry Creek was called Snodgrass Creek, and present-day Jones Creek in Jones Cove was still called Riley's Creek (named for the Cherokee Riley family.) Lively's Mill and Phillip's Mill in the vicinity of Long Island Creek in northeastern Jackson County are mentioned more than once in the Official Records cited above. Another point of interest on this map is the placement of Old Woodville and Woodville Station as well as Bat Cave (present-day Cathedral Caverns.)

Can anyone share information about Tinner's Mill on Cumberland Mountain above Larkinsville as shown on this circa 1870 map???

PAINT ROCK BRIDGE SKIRMISHES

by Ann B. Chambless

By 1862, Union and Confederate leaders realized the army which controlled the southern railroads would win the Civil War. Thus, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad became the key to the east-west movement of troops and supplies. Brigadier-General O. M. Mitchell captured Huntsville, Alabama, on April 7, 1862, and established Memphis and Charleston Railroad Defenses Headquarters there. On April 12, 1862, General Mitchell traveled by train to Stevenson, met with no resistance, and stated, "Thus in a single day we have taken and now hold 100 miles of the great railway line of the rebel Confederacy."¹ From that time forward, the two armies vied to put each other out of operation by tearing up tracks, burning railroad bridges, and making "guerrilla raids" on the rail line between Huntsville and Stevenson. In three years time, Jackson County was drained - - of lives, homes, food, cattle, stock, crops, fence rails, churches, and its court house.

Paint Rock Bridge was an important point of defense and the scene of three major skirmishes. On the night of April 28 (16 days after Gen. Mitchell claimed Stevenson), the Tenth Wisconsin Infantry were attacked while guarding the Paint Rock Bridge. The commanding sergeant, Wm. Nelson, reported to Col. A. R. Chapin:

"On the night of April 28, 1862, the enemy's cavalry (rebel), 250 strong, assisted by a number of citizens, made an attack on the guard at this bridge, for the purpose of driving them out and burning the structure. Their attack was continued for more than two hours, when they withdrew, having entirely failed in their attempts."²

Sergeants William Nelson and A. H. Makimson of Company H, Tenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers were highly commended for the "coolness, determination, and bravery displayed" when they "refused the summons to surrender, sustained the enemy's attack for more than two hours, and finally drove him from the field with a severe loss of killed and wounded" by Maj. Gen. O. M. Mitchell on May 20, 1862.³

On October 19, 1863, Col. Wm. P. Lyon, commander of the 13th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, stationed in Stevenson, reported to T. A. Meysenburg: "I have the honor to report that the railroad train which was sent down the Memphis and Charleston Railroad on Saturday with supplies for the cavalry has returned. Lt. Warren, 13th Wisconsin, who commanded the guard, reports that six culverts and small bridges between Larkinsville and Paint Rock Creek were found to have been destroyed by the rebels, all of which were repaired, so that the train passed over them. The BRIDGE ACROSS PAINT ROCK CREEK is partially destroyed, two of the main bents and two others being burned. Detachments of our cavalry are now stationed there."⁴

Another skirmish occurred on April 8, 1864, at Paint Rock Bridge. Lt. Col. Alfred B. Wade, 73rd Indiana Infantry, quartered at Larkinsville reported: "I have the honor to report that a squad of 15 men from Company D of this regiment, under command of Corp. Wm. H. Reed, met the enemy (supposed by them to number at least 40 near Paint Rock Bridge on the 8th instant. Although surprised and driven back after a short contest, yet the corporal brought his men into camp in perfect order, with a loss, however, of one man killed and one severely wounded. The loss of the enemy is unknown, but reported by the men and a citizen negro to vary from two to four killed and three wounded."⁵

On December 8, 1864, Lt. Col. Wm. F. Prosser, Second Tennessee Cavalry, quartered at Paint Rock Bridge, wrote: "I reached this point yesterday about 12 m. The bridge and railroad as far as I could see are all right. The country from Bellefonte here we found full of small parties of the enemy. I captured a few prisoners at Scottsborough, who will go to Stevenson with this dispatch. We drove a small force of rebels across the creek yesterday in our advance and about half an hour afterward the enemy appeared with an engine and a train of cars. We drove them back some 2 or 3 miles, but shortly afterward they appeared again with the train and some cavalry, and we skirmished with them until dark, when they retired. I endeavored to capture the train, but was not successful. Roddey is reported at Huntsville. Russell (Col. A. A. Russell of Stevenson) has recruited his regiment considerably of late, and now has from 700 to 800 men. If the enemy moves some infantry up on us by rail, we may have some trouble, but we can do something for them if they come. I have been looking for a train down from Stevenson with some infantry, but so far have heard nothing."⁶

Lt. Col. Wm. F. Prosser's forces guarded Paint Rock Bridge for about two weeks before they were ordered to join Col. Wm. J. Palmer's 15th Penn. Cavalry in an advance on Courtland. Prosser's forces were replaced by Second Lt. Samuel C. Wagoner commanding Company G, 13th Wisconsin.

On December 31, 1864, the Confederate forces of Whitecotton, Mead, and Johnson attacked Lt. Wagoner's Company at 4:00 a.m. The lieutenant, 37 men of Company G, and one artilleryman were captured. Nineteen of Co. G, the cavalry, and Captain John B. Kennamer's home scouts escaped. The confederates burned and cut the bridge "so that it fell into the river" and left the gun unspiked but "mutilated the carriage." 7

The next day, January 1, 1865, Brig.-Gen. R. S. Granger reported to Major Thomas, "THE BRIDGE OVER PAINT ROCK is being repaired and will be finished tomorrow. About half the force stationed there have come in; the lieutenant and other half are probably captured. I have an ample force ~~there~~ now, and a competent officer, who will proceed to erect proper defenses." That same day Col. A. O. Millington, commander at Bridgeport, reported, "Captain Wemple, 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, has just reported to me the CAPTURE OF BLOCK HOUSE AND ENTIRE COMPANY AT PAINT ROCK BRIDGE." 8

FOOTNOTES

1 War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 10, Part 1, pp. 641-641

2 IBID, Series I, Vol 10, Part I, p. 654

3 IBID, Series I, Vol. 10, Part I, p. 655

4 IBID, Series I, Vol. 30, Part IV, p. 487

5 IBID, Series I, Vol. 32, Part I, p. 658

6 IBID, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, p. 640

7 IBID, Series I, Vol. 45, Part I, p. 639

8 IBID, Series I, Vol. 45, Part II, p. 480

14

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
ROUTE FOUR - BOX 265
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768
PERMIT #11

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Jackson County, the Switzerland of the State of Alabama

Jackson County

CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER NO. THIRTY-EIGHT

OCTOBER 19, 1984

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - October 29, 1984
6:30 p.m., Scottsboro Holiday Inn. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW. Call 574-1299
(Rubilee Smith), 259-1375 (Elizabeth Thomas), or 259-4315 (Billie Hammer.)

Dr. David Campbell, Program Vice-President, is pleased to announce that the guest speaker is Alabama's most famous storyteller, Mrs. Kathryn Tucker Windham. Most of you associate Mrs. Windham with her friend, Jeffrey, and the 13 Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi ghosts. The BIRMINGHAM NEWS called Mrs. Windham "One of the most effervescent women in all of Alabama.... One of the people who prove that living is fun and writing even more so." In addition to writing about Jeffrey, she has written a state-adopted history textbook, folklore books, and increasingly popular cookbooks. Her stories range from rivers to ghosts to local history. The Alabama Library Association selected her ALABAMA: ONE BIG FRONT PORCH for its annual nonfiction award. Huntingdon College (her alma mater) awarded her an honorary doctorate.

In Mrs. Windham's hometown of Selma, Alabama, the author teaches Sunday School classes at the Church Street United Methodist Church, and she is active in promoting The Alabama Tale-Tellin' Festival held in Selma each October. She continues to collect local history, folklore, and legends, and to photograph faces and places in a changing South. Her storytelling sessions intrigue the young and the old and always encourage listeners to recognize, cherish, and preserve the South's heritage of folk tales and folk customs. Mrs. Windham will bring her books and story-tellin' to Scottsboro on October 29. MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

It is NEVER too late to pay your 1984 Dues. Make your check to:
JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$7.50
Mrs. William Thomas, Treasurer LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$100.00
Post Office Box 305, Scottsboro, Al. 35768

Please provide:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Jackson County Historical Association members receive JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please mark your calendars for October 29! Our annual banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Scottsboro. We are thrilled to announce that Kathryn Tucker Windham ("the ghost lady") will be our speaker. She is the author of JEFFREY AND THE 13 ALABAMA GHOSTS and numbers of other history books, ghost books, cookbooks, etc.

The price of the dinner is \$10.00, which includes tax and tip. Please make your reservations by calling 574-1299 (Rubilee Smith), 259-1375 (Elizabeth Thomas), or 259-4315 (Billie Hammer).

We need your help! Elizabeth Thomas, our treasurer, and I had to "go to the bank" last week because a goodly number of our members have not paid their 1984 dues this year. I know that it is an oversight that is easy to make, since we do not meet every month; however, please check with Elizabeth Thomas to see if your dues are paid!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you and your guests on October 29.

Anna Ruth Campbell



STEVENSON RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM

The Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum, born in the minds of a few forward-thinking dedicated individuals, is now a well-organized, permanent fixture on the Stevenson skyline. Perhaps its most outstanding accomplishment is having been open full time, while serving several thousand people who have crossed the tracks to visit. One day in May, 300 kindergarten children toured the museum, while their diesel passenger train idled on the Southern tracks. The Victorian Christmas Tea and Open House brought folks from five states to sample Stevenson hospitality and to marvel at the ornament laden, ceiling sweeping cedar tree. A group of international military experts - Turks, West Germans, Egyptians, and others - toured the museum and Jackson County this Spring while on a Civil War field trip. More recently, archaeology classes from North-east Junior College and groups of retired church people from Huntsville visited.

Depot Days '84 brought the most people into Stevenson; estimates for the 7-day period run as high as 5,000. From rainbow colored hot air balloons, to bleary-eyed breakfast cooks, to 'coon dogs treeing during the parade, the crowds were thoroughly entertained during what is being called the "best small town festival in the South." June 16-22, 1985, will see the fourth annual extravaganza unfold. Mark your calendars, plan your reunions, and practice your cowchip throwing!

February, 1984, saw the publication of the SOUTHERN LIVING article, and people from all over the South have flocked in, and were enthralled with every exhibit, every label, and every twist and turn of Stevenson lore. Three new exhibits, changing genealogy displays, a model railroad, and work on the caboose make the museum new and interesting to the visitor who comes every week and to the once in a lifetime visitor. The glory that will be the restored Fort Harker Historical Park is beginning to unfold. Dr. Randy Smith is heading up the Fort Harker Restoration Task Force and would like to have the assistance - financial, physical or otherwise - of every Stevensonian and concerned person.

You are invited to become involved in the museum's life. As a volunteer you can - sweep cobwebs, make cookies, sew curtains, act as hosts for the museum on weekends, and other fun things. You can become a Friend of the Depot - Dues are only \$10.00 annually, \$100.00 Lifetime. Mail to Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum, Stevenson, Alabama, 35772. The museum needs everyone and all donations/memberships are tax deductible. The museum is marching forth into its third year and the building into its 115th! ALL ABOARD for S T E V E N S O N and the D E P O T M U S E U M!

SCOTTSBORO-JACKSON HERITAGE CENTER

Long hours and months of fruitful planning and plain hard work now prove "it" was all worthwhile. The Brown-Proctor House at the corner of Peachtree and Houston Streets in Scottsboro, as the nucleus of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center, will soon celebrate Grand Opening in December, 1984.

The third annual Cherokee Fall Festival was fun and a successful fund raiser for the Heritage Center, on October 13 and 14.

On November 20, 1984, the Center will welcome children (county-wide) to make home-made ornaments for the Christmas tree. (A tradition is in the making!) The CHILDREN'S PARTY will be held 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and punch and cookies will be served.

THE FOUNDING FAMILIES AND PATRONS' CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place December 7, 1984. This event will be by invitation only to those Founding Families and patrons who have financially supported the Center in past years. Museum Board of Directors will be serving Christmas food and all the trimmings from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. on December 7. Party attire is the order of the day.

On December 8, 1984, the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Again, this party is invitation only and party attire will make the occasion more festive. Please let it be known if you wish to support the Center through general membership.

On December 9, 1984, the Brown-Proctor House will be open to the Public and will observe the same hours as the Friends of the Library annual Tour of Homes. More about this later in the local communication channels.

The Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center Board of Directors plan to move the executive offices to the Brown-Proctor House prior to December 22, 1984. After that time, the Center will be open to the public while Center Director, Lee Langston, designs the exhibits which can hopefully be completed by April 1, 1985.

The Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center is a county museum. Donations and/or loans of Jackson County "treasures" are now being accepted. Please contact Lee Langston, 259-2122, if you have questions or commitments.

JACKSON COUNTY VOLUNTEERS IN MEXICAN WAR

by Ann B. Chambless

A growing conviction of America's manifest destiny to expand west to the Pacific Ocean and south to at least the Rio Grande River carried James Knox Polk to the presidency in 1845. Polk and his followers were determined to acquire Texas, Oregon, and California.

Shortly after Polk entered office, Mexico protested against the annexation of Texas and broke diplomatic relations with the United States. In July, 1845, after Texas had formally accepted annexation, Polk ordered a detachment of the regular army under General Zachary Taylor to take position on the Nueces River, the southwestern border of Texas, to protect the new state against possible Mexican assault.

Polk was not content with Texas and reached for California. At first he tried to buy it, but Mexico refused to sell. Diplomatic relations between the two countries crumbled and hostilities mounted.

On January 13, 1846, Polk ordered General Taylor to cross the Neuces River and occupy the left bank of the Rio Grande del Norte. That was an act of war. General Taylor's guns were turned toward the Mexican town of Matamoras. After having blockaded Matamoras, the United States cavalry was engaged in a skirmish with Mexican forces. On May 11, 1846, the war message was sent to Congress.

After a three day battle, September 21-23, 1846, General Taylor captured Monterrey. On August 20, 1847, General Winfield Scott's troops overwhelmed the Mexican army at Churubusco. The troops pushed on. On September 18, 1847, a white flag came out from Mexico City.

On February 2, 1848, a formal treaty was signed. Mexico ceded Texas with the Rio Grande boundary, New Mexico (including Arizona), and Upper California (including San Diego) to the United States.

The United States at minimal cost - 1721 killed in battle or died of wounds; 11,550 deaths from other causes, mainly disease - had rounded out her continental area, excepting Alaska.

In the southern states, the Mexican War was popular. The largest percentage of volunteers were from Texas and neighboring states. Alabama and Jackson County furnished many volunteers. When the excitement of conquering "The Halls of Montezumas" was replaced with the hardships of war: lack of food, water, and supplies, and disease, sickness, and death, many volunteers quickly grew from "boys to men." The struggle for survival was very different on foreign soil.

Among the Jackson County, Alabama, volunteers was James Monroe Rosson, born 1820, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Riddle) Rosson. James Monroe Rosson kept a diary of his Mexican War days which numbered almost thirteen months. The original diary is owned by Rosson descendants living in Texas. Editor Ann B. Chambless, a 3rd great-granddaughter, was given a copy in 1975. The following is abstracted verbatim and printed with original Rosson spelling.

DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON 1846-1847

July 4, 1846

We left Mobile this morning on the New York. This evening while at the warf, Calaway Horton pushed off a Negro man and drowned him dead. He was arrested and tried and committed to gale for a new trial. We left on the New York for Braso Santiago, Texas. That evening we go about 25 miles on the Bay. The wind rose and we was compelled to stop. We lay thair 33 hours at anker. Then we left off on the Gulf of Mexico and about two-thirds of our boys wair seasick.

July 11, 1846

On the 11th we arrived at Brasos Santiago. No timber hear so far as I can sea. This Island is a perfect sand foundation. Hour chance for cookin is stone coal entirely. The wat-r is very salty, indeed we nearly starve for the want of water.

July 14, 1846 (must have meant July 12)

I commenced taken medison for the rumaticks paines for which in two days I felt great releaf.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

July 13, 1846 (sic)

On the 13 I got permission to go and see the Texas Rangers. I got on a small Scuner and went over to Point Isabel, thair got a mule and went out 15 miles and found cousin George Hogue and cousin James Cook. I stade with them till next morning of the 14. That day I returned to my quarters.

July 17, 1846

Rain today for the first time since we come hear.

July 18, 1846

The sea tide come on us this evening on the 18. We have the sea tide in about 150 yards of hour tents this morning. Thirty-five on the sick report this morning and many others on the sick order that air hardely able for duty. I am menden fast. Rain today.

July 19, 1846

Rain all the time. 32 on the sick report this morning. The company air compelled to move thair tents on the account of water risen in them. We moved about 40 yards on a small rise in front of our tents.

July 20, 1846

We have orders to fix in 2 hours to move to the mouth of the Rio Grande River nine miles. We made the trip in a short time along the Gulf. The sick was left to come on a boat, as directed they come. Nine on the sick report this morning. The sick air all hear this morning, 15 of them in number. Today I went a hunten to kill crains. I did not.

July 22, 1846

The sick list this morning air 15 as given in number.

July 23, 1846

They wair 12 men detailed this morning to go on the Fattigue party under Lout. Col. Earle G. Miles near Buretes to clean off a camp ground for the Regiment. I was one of that party. We left late and had to wade all the way through mud and water, sometimes shoe mouth deep - from that to shoulder deep. We arrived thair jest at night. The first of us the last about 10 oclock.

July 24, 1846

This morning we got hour breakfast and went to work all hands to clean off the parade grounds.

July 25, 1846

This morning all hands at work again today. The regiment came on today all to the sick. They air coming on the steam boat up the Rio Grande River. We air camped in a half mile of the River, hour water to pack from the River.

July 26, 1846

The sick arrived hear today all safe and are menden as fast as could be expected for them.

July 27, 1846

Twelve men detailed from each Captain's company to clean off a parade ground to drill on.

July 28, 1846

No details today. All hands fixen up to live.

July 29, 1846

Parade this morning for inpsection of arms.

July 30, 1846

All at ease today doen as they please.

July 31, 1846

Guard this morning put out all round camps to learn men how to stand guard. I was detailed to go to the horsepittle as a nurse for 24 hours.

August 1, 1846

James Jett departed this life this morning the first of August about 6 oclock and was brought to his tent and lade out to be buried in a coffin. The same day drill and dress parade this evening.

August 2, 1846

Inspection of arms this morning and dress parade in the evening. Also cough a lot.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

August 3, 1846

James Rosson, W. C. Wilson, John Austill got permission to go to Point Isabel to look for letters for the company. Not known the way we lost our course and was compelled to wade two-thirds of the way, waste deep. It took us all day to go there. We stayed there all night. The next morning we went to the office and the letters that belong to the company. Among the number I got one from C. L. Tipton. (Editor's note: Caleb L. Tipton of Jackson County, Alabama.)

August 4, 1846

On the fourth we got a small schooner to take us to Brasos Island Santiago. Then we had 15 miles to walk to camp. Camp Alabama. From Brasos we took the coast shore 6 miles. Then headed from there home in the rain. Mud and holes. Then when we got there had to drill on the strength of our walk for the company's accommodation as well as hours.

August 5, 1846

On the 5th L. G. Hancock, A. J. Huggins, John Hancock, and T. A. Ford were discharged from our company. Also John _____ (last name illegible) went in the same crowd. I was with them helped them off all the day.

August 6, 1846

Nothing done today more than common. John W. Berry on a furlow for to go home with the sick and to take good care of them. The names of the sick are Benjamin Snodgrass, Alexander Laxton, Austin Toon. These are the men that were discharged.

August 7, 1846

Going home I send a letter by John W. Berry to C. L. Tipton. Drill and dress parade.

August 8, 1846

Washday for the first Battalion. Capt. Jones Company went 27 miles to get fresh water for to wash and back in time for dress parade.

August 9, 1846

This is a day of rest as it is Sunday. Nothing to do but attend roll call morning and night.

August 10, 1846

Nothing done in our company today but dress parade in the evening. I spent the day with Cousin (illegible) Cook who departed this life at one o'clock in the evening. He made a dutiful profession and said he wanted to go to rest. Then said brethren my God and I am going to rest. Then he said Mother I am prepared to meet you there. O Sweet Jesus I am prepared to meet all my brethren in heaven where parting will be no more. God please take me, now if you please dear Jesus, O my God. This profession was made on the 10th of August 1846.

August 11, 1846

The business of the day is inspection of arms all through the Regiment. In the evening drill and dress parade and burials. Three buried in the Regiment.

August 12, 1846

Drill twice a day and dress parade in the evening at 6 o'clock.

August 13, 1846

Wash day today. No drill but inspection in the evening. Joseph Thibeaux got a discharge and is gone home today.

August 14, 1846

Drill twice a day on our part each time and dress parade at six o'clock in the evening 1846. McDuff (Malcolm McDuff) went to Point Isabel to look for letters and came back since. None. Buried 3 men today in the Alabama Regiment.

August 15, 1846

Drill today and dress parade in the evening at six o'clock and inspection of arms.

August 16, 1846

Drill dispensed with on account of sickness and gave release for the day and kept up in the night on the account of sick. I and G. W. Nevels was detailed to go and inspect the Rio Grande River where the water was overflowing to sea. See which would be the easiest to do to stop it at the river bank or to build a bridge across the slope. Our decision (decision) was to build the bridge. Accordingly it was done to keep the Regiment from wading after water about waste deep.

August 17, 1846

Drill this morning and dress parade in the evening and the Rules and Regulations read and said also the bridge was built in order.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

August 18, 1846

Drill this morning at 8 oclock, at 3 oclock, and at six. Dress parade in the evening. No gard in the day but kept up in the night. I am well and all of my men sick.

August 19, 1846

Drill this morning. Drill in the evening and dress parade at 2 oclock and at fore. Regimental muster and dress parade again and then a speech from Col. John R. Coffey (of Jackson County, Alabama) in relation to a pestishion (Petition) that was used in camp for him to resine (resign) his office and let them have a chance to elect another man in his place. He gave them till Tattoo to bring in their petition, accorden it did not come.

August 20, 1846

Drill this morning at 2 oclock in the evening and at six dress parade. Henry Flippoe and William Turley and John Dickison was discharged today to go home. I written letter today to Mother and Mrs. Tipton (Caleb L. Tipton's mother) by Turley and Flippoe. Also one to T. J. Hancock and J. S. Eustace. (of Jackson County, Alabama.)

August 21, 1846

Wash today. Dress parade in the evening at 6.

August 22, 1846

William Turley and Henry Flippoe left this morning and let no person no it at all. They was to wate for John Dickison who was goen to start that day. Now in all probibility he may lay hear before he can get a chance to go and die on those men account of leaven him. The excuse that William Turley had to get a discharge was a small fracture of the left arm. Drill this morning and practise fireing of arms. Dress parade in the evening at 5.

August 23, 1846

Inspection of arms at dress parade for the perpose of noen who in each company has thair arms in order. All duty lade acide bein it is Sunday. Only gard it is kept up all the time, day and night to learn men thair duty as a soulger (soldier) when called on.

August 24, 1846

Gard kept up all the time. Drill and dress parade also.

August 25, 1846

Gard kept up. Drill and dress parade. John Dickison departed this life on the 25 day of August 1846, who was a faithful soulger and tended strictly to his business in all caces when he was able and if he had any enemies in the company it was unnone to me. He said he was goen to die and was goen to rest for he felt the witnest of his God and tell my Brothers and Sisters that I am goen to rest. James Rosson and John Austill goes nine miles to make his coffin. We made it and returned on the same. The order is to move to the River today so as to be redy to go aboard of the scuner to Camargo on the SanJuan River on the Mexican cide opposite cide of the Rio Grande River 1846.

August 26, 1846

Drill and dress parade stopped for we air on moven expodishion from Camp Alabama up the Rio Grande River to Camargo. Thomas Horn departed this life on the 26 August 1846 who was a faithful soulger when able and attended strictly to his duty in all cases.

August 27, 1846

The remainder of the Alabama Regiment air moven down today to the River to go on up to Camargo. James Rosson and John Austill went today to the mouth of the river 9 miles in time to berrey him. It rained in the evening very hard while berreyen him and moven.

August 28, 1846

The remainder of the Alabama Volunteers went aboard of the steam boat Big Hatcheagle at the brake of day, while on the way the wheel broke and detailed us 2½ hours. At 7 oclock in the night we landed at Matamoras. By order General Taylor to leave the sick, the sick of fore companies.

August 29, 1846

Arrangement was made early this morning for to take the sick to the horse pittle so we could get off early as possible, and at nine oclock in the morning we left for Camargo and also fore of hour well men got left when the boat started and on hour way up the river we found the steam boat that had the Mississippi Troups. A boat run aground and one wheel broke. We run up a side of her. Cabled to her and hauled her off by land so her troops could get on dry land. Then we pushed on till night then cabled and stade all night.

August 30, 1846

This morning we started at the brake of day. Continued all day and all night. We air still pushen on whair tonight we stop again to stay all night.

September 1, 1846

We landed at Camargo today and the 1 of Sept 1846. I am very sick with the fever and several of the boys air unwell. The 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 I was so sick for several days that I did not notis enything at all nor did I care for enything.

September 7, 1846

I received a letter today from Father and A. F. Sewell which did me more good than all the doctors I have had.

September 8, 1846

I am menden slow I think today.

September 9, 1846

I am still menden but very week.

September 10, 1846

I am still on the mend slowley today.

September 11, 1846

I am still menden. I can eat a little today.

September 12, 1846

I am still menden slowly.

September 13, 1846

I am this morning I think menden fast.

September 14, 1846

I am still rizen fast this morning. I went out of our tent to try to walk for the first time. I notice that this morning that all the commishone officers had to drill under Lout. Col. Earl. Gard kept up here all the time. Drill morning and evening.

September 15, 1846

I am still menden, I think fast. Gard kept up all the time. Polease executed and in apfromation this morning and is to be kept up every day. A good number of hour boys air sick and not able for duty at all. Dress parade this evening. 15 men was the strength of hour company. The remainder is sick and not able for duty. This is the cituation of hour company.

September 16, 1846

Gard kept up all the time and polease drill twice a day and regimental drill and dress parade. Becides two men detailed out of the company for other duty. I am still menden slow. I am taken no medicon today at all.

September 17, 1846

The company is called on today to dig intrenchments across the streets in town so they could gard it without mutch duty. Drill and dress parade. As spoken of above, I am still menden.

September 18, 1846

Gard released for the day but kept up in the night. Companies drill in the morning. Regimental drill and dress parade in the evening. Picket gard is called for to stand the night.

September 19, 1846

Orders as spoken of above.

September 20, 1846

Drill in the morning by the Captains and in the evening by the Col. and dress parade. Gard kept up in the night.

September 21, 1846

No drill in hour company today on the account of hour officers all been sick not able for duty. No drill this evening by the Col. on the account of rain. Gard released in the day and kept up in the night.

September 22, 1846

We have Betalion Drill every morning before breakfast, company drill at 9 oclock in the morning and in the evening regimental drill and dress parade. We have no officers able for duty. They air all at this time sick. I am a menden at this time fast. One waggoner detailed James Matthews.

September 23, 1846

Order duty as spoken of above. Orders to strike tents to the ground they occupy and in the evening place them back. Gard duty as spoken of above. We have 12 men able for duty after the gard is taken off. This is how we stand today 1846.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

September 24, 1846

Drill and inspection of our knapsacks.

September 25, 1846

Drill twice a day by Battalion. One man detailed to go out to Camargo to patrol from each company. 30 sick.

September 26, 1846

Company polease today to clean off parade ground and wash day also. Had three regimental drills.

September 27, 1846

Order to be drilled by hour company off in the morning. Orders given from headquarters for gard to be kept up in the day as well as night and in the evening. Received orders from General Taylor to march to headquarters at Monterrey. Silas Jones departed this life on the 27 of September 1846. He was a faithful soulger and attended strictly to his business 1846.

September 28, 1846

Orders as spoken of above is the same for today. Some of our sick men came up from Matamoras this day on a steam boat 1846.

September 29, 1846

Morning drill and evening by the companies and in the evening Regimental drill. Each company furnish the same number of men for gard every day and the order is not to be countermanded at all for some companies have two men on for duty to whair others has one able so they have put them on eaven. And on the 29 a Relarm again they all turned out promptly sick and well.

September 30, 1846

The first thing this morning to polease the incide of hour tents so they would bare inspection and then Batalion drill so some of us got it done in the evening. Regimental drill and dress parade. Not more than 2 men to leave the company at a time this air the rules we air laboreen under.

October 1, 1846

The health of our company is improven very fast at this time and all things kept up as spoken of above. The nights air very cool and the days air very warm at this time.

October 2, 1846

We go orders today from headquarters to take or kill all armed Mexicans that we can find in thirty miles of air place. Rules and Regulations as spoken of above.

October 3, 1846

All things as spoken of above.

October 4, 1846

We received orders today to be in readiness to march to Monterrey and should stay in readiness constant and be drilled by hour company officers.

October 5, 1846

Regimental drill this morning by Lout. Col. Earl. Rules and Regulations as spoken of above. The horse pittle is full of the sick men from the company.

October 6, 1846

This day was set apart for wash day and the soulgers had to wash everything they had and the officers belongen to the companies had to sea that thair men did wash everything in order and after washen they did drill us 2 hours. Rules as they wair on yesterday.

October 7, 1846

Drill this morning and dress parade in the evening. I went on gard today for the first time sense I was sick. Gard duty is very strict hear at this time.

October 8, 1846

Drill in the morning and gard maintain in the morning at 8 oclock. New regulations, accorden to Oald Doctor Mores directions about the horsepittle concerns the sick that does belong to the Alabama Regiment. When air man find himself sick he must go to the Doctor to be examined and if nothen is the matter with him he is sent to his officer and put on extery duty for the day and then stand gard all night. The expresse came to Camargo today and was started on up to Monterrey post haste to headquarters whair the head of the army is stationed at.

MEXICAN WARY DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

October 9, 1846

Drill this morning and inspection of arms. Batalion drills in the evening directly after regimental drill and dress parade. A goodelily number of hour company sick.

October 10, 1846

Company drill this morning by the company officers and in the evening drill and dress parade follows drill by Lout. Col. Earl while Col. John R. Coffey is sick and some times by the captains. Some of them drill us well and some being bad in drill.

October 11, 1846

Drill and dress parade and inspection of arms. Sunday the balance of the day.

October 12, 1846

Company drill this morning by the officers. A regimental drill by the captains of the Regiment. Regimental drill this morning dispensed on the account of it being wet.

October 13, 1846

Regimental drill this morning at 8 oclock and drill in the evening and dress parade and the orders red on the field for the day followen and many other things two tedious to mention was red on the field concerned the soulgers. Gard appoints at 8 oclock in the morning and remains on untill eight next morning. Two on and two off. One stand 8 hours.

October 14, 1846

Regimental drill 15 minutes after revole by Lout. Col. Earle this morning and then 15 minutes after breakfast. Company drill and then at 3 oclock company drill and at 4 Regimental drill and dress parade. The order says we shall drill five hours each day and today we had to polease the street between hour tents, dig down the banks to a level and take the dirt off. I am on gard today and had to help polease in my rest hours and drill.

October 15, 1846

Companies drills this morning throughout the regiment and half hour after breakfast. Regimental drill and at 3 oclock companies drill. Regimental at fore so as to make five hours each day. Orders that no uncommishioned officer is permitted to pass the gard without the Captain's name and the officers name of the day and the officers name of the gard to show that he has legal permishion to pass. Also sick persons has to have the Col. name and no officer can pass a man out but the officer of the gard or the Sergeant of the gard.

October 16, 1846

The health of hour company is improvèn fast. At this time drill is kept up as spoken above. Col. John R. Coffey is sick at this time and Lout. Col. Earle has the command of the Regiment. Six men detailed from each company for gard duty and six men out of that number go to town to gard General Pillar's quarters at night.

October 17, 1846

Regimental drill this morning and the remainder of the day devoted to washen until dress parade in the evening and several other things done by R. G. Earl Lout. Col. in command of the Alabama Regiment.

October 18, 1846

Order by Col. R. G. Earl that Major Bryant takes command for today and he did except it with pleasure, two, and did countermand some of Col. Earl's orders so that he could pass out men and other commishioned officers could pass privets. Col. Earl's orders was so strict that a commishioned officer could not pass out a privet. The officer in command of the Company had to give a privet a permit. Then the privet had to take it to the officer of the day and get him to sine it and then he had to take it to the Col. and get his (illegible) on it. Then he had to go to the officer of the gard and hand that permit to him shoven he had legal permishion to pass the gard line.

October 19, 1846

The regiment was called together this morning to hear the Rules and Regulations read of the Army red by the Major of the Regiment and after that was done Col. Earl made a few remarks the Regiment and then we was dismissed to hour respective officers and they marched us into hour breakfast and then in a half hour we had to go and drill again by companies four hours. After three oclock we had to drill again. And 15 minute rises and then company drill and dress parade. No rest for a soulger at all.

October 20, 1846

Regimental drill this morning by Lout. Col. Earl and half after eight companies drill and half after three companies drill again and at sun down dress parade. The balance of the day for washen.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

October 21, 1846

This morning is set apart for companies to polease thair tents and then after breakfast companies drill and we wair then excused until dress parade in the evening on account of the officers haven a party in Camargo and nearly all of them got drunk.

October 22, 1846

John R. Inghish departed this life in the morning at fore oclock. He has been a faithful man to his business when able. He has been sick for a long time lingering about. He died very suddenly and very unexpected to the company. When death struck him he died in five minutes very easy. He had all the attention necessary. Regimental drill this morning and continued. Col. Coffey takes command of the Regiment this morning I suppose.

October 23, 1846

Col. John R. Coffey takes command this morning of his Regiment, First Alabama Volunteers so Col. Earl is defeated in his arrangements. Earl drilled this morning and then appointed drill after breakfast. Wash day. Col. Earl ordered two men to cut wood for him and the comissary and Major Bryant. Two men from each company. Col. Coffey countermanded it and said he had no rite to order men to cut wood for him nor eny of the rest of the officers. If they wanted men to get wood for them they would have to pay them for it if they charged enything. Col. Coffey had drill and dress parade in the evening and toald the men that they had bin imposed upon but he was sick and not able to attend to them. Boy you do your duty and I will sea you rite.

October 24, 1846

Regimental drill this morning by Lout. Col. Earl and at drill he informed us two that the two strongest companies in the Regiment has to start to Monterrey on the 25 and to make all necessary (ar)rangement that was convient for them to make.

October 25, 1846

Regimental drill this mornning and half after nine oclock inspection of arms generally through the Regiment this Sunday. The two companies spoken of above started today to Monterrey and got about across the River and was ordered back a time to camp. Those two Companies wair Capt. Smith from Benton (later Calhoun) County, Alabama and Capt. Cunningham from Talladega in which it did raise great confusion amongst the officers. They met at Major Bryant's tent and appointed a chearman of the committey and perceded to business as they thought we ought to of went ahead in place of the Mississippi Regiment noen as they thought that we ought to of went ahead of them and what arrangements they made I am not able to state but I think they did fail in thair transactions of buisness and they went on to make a great many lengthy speaches concernen the officers of hour Regiment and haven the doctors of the Regiment. Dr. Mores made a lengthy speech in favor of the Alabama Regiment but all in consideration beleaved by all the officers that the Alabama Regiment drills better than eny Regiment in the field that they have seen of Volunteers. I am sorrly that we could not go on to Monterrey. I am under the impression that we air as nigh to Monterrey as we will be able to get.

October 26, 1846

Regimental drill twice of morning and then dismissed until fore oclock in the evening on the account of regular polease in the companies. Each company has to polease thair camp ground to be clean as possible. October the 26 1846.

October 27, 1846

Two Regimental drills each day. Two company drills.

October 28, 1846

Orders as spoken of above as regards five hours to drill each day.

October 29, 1846

Regimental drill this morning and dress parade in the evening and orders red to us this evening that the gard had to be kept up more stricter than it had bin. Orders red at dress parade. We could be mustered in for pay on the first of November and for each company to be redy for that. Regiment has all things in good repair for the day.

October 30, 1846

Regimental drill this morning and the remainder of the day for wash day until drill.

October 31, 1846

This morning at nine oclock the Alabama Regiment of Col. John R. Coffey was mustered in for pay. Drill in the evening and dress parade.

MEXICAN WARY DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

November 1, 1846

Nothen more done of a morning untill nine oclock and then general inspection of arms by the Pay Master General. Nothen more done untill dress parade in the evening.

November 2, 1846

Regimental drill this morning and amediately after breakfast company drill and then each company was ordered out to shoot at a target to sea whose company was best in the Regiment. Two rounds to each man was the number of shots for him beat or unbeat. When the targets was brought in they had a great many of the companies disobade the order that was given to us, when we started out. It was hard to tell which company beat shooten. Company and Regimental Drill this evening and dress parade.

November 3, 1846

Regimental drill this morning under Lout. Col. Earle's command for the day. The shooten air still continued today as to learn who will beet. No man allowed to shoot more than 2 shots. If it found out that eny man shoots more than 2 shots the company is the first company beat. Regimental drill in the evening and dress parade. Capt. R. W. Jones arrived today from home. Joseph Mason, William Coffee, and John B. Hogan from the horsepittle.

November 4, 1846

Poleasing this morning of the tents on general polease and after polease, company drill and in the evening Regimental drill and dress parade. Target shooten between the drills.

November 5, 1846

The same duty done today that was done yesterday.

November 6, 1846

Orders as was spoken of above.

November 7, 1846

Orders as was spoken of above. Polease added.

November 8, 1846

Inspection of arms and review. Nothen more done for the day.

November 9, 1846

Orders as spoken of above today.

November 10, 1846

Orders as spoken of above for today.

November 11, 1846

Orders as spoken of above for today 1846.

November 12, 1846

Orders as spoken of above for today.

November 13, 1846

Orders as spoken of above for today. William Carr departed this life on the 13 November.

November 14, 1846

We air all still drilled fore times each day.

November 15, 1846

Nothen done today on the account of so mutch dust blowen. It was so thick that a man could not be seen forty yards.

November 16, 1846

Drill this morning by Lout. Col. Earle. General Pillar came thair and ordered the Alabama Regiment on the field for drill at fore oclock and all things in rediness. The orders air stricter than they have ever been before. Ordered that each respective Captain in the Regiment should have thair role called every two hours in the day and continued each day untill it is countermanded by headquarters. This evening the Tennessee and Alabama Regiments drilled together to learn who was the best officers in the Regiment.

November 17, 1846

Orders as spoken of above today.

November 18, 1846

Nothen done today on the account of a Northern tacon place. ONLY gard kept up all the time.

November 19, 1846

Drills as spoken above fore times each day. Six companies of regular troops left for Tampico today by land with a train.

November 20, 1846

Morning and evening drill. The balance of the day for wash day.

November 21, 1846

Drills fore times a day as usual.

November 22, 1846

General inspection this morning of arms and ordered to be in rediness at a minute's warning to go aboard of the steamer as soon as she got redy for us. Dress parade this evening.

November 23, 1846

Preparations made this morning to move. Received the orders at 12 P.M. to strike tents and we did so all things was redy and the Jackson Hornets was throed into lines the first thing done and thair arms stacked and each and every man was ingaged in loden up the wagon. And after all things was put in the wagon the first Betalion was formed and marched down through town and then to the landen and stacked arms and put thair things on board of the steamer boat and got all things rite about nine in the night. And then the first company in the second Betalion was ordered down two and it went aboard that night. We all lay thair all night.

November 24, 1846

At nine oclock in the morning the boat left for the mouth of the Rio Grande. The boat run on a bar at 3 oclock and we had to take the anker ashore and pull her off and we lay thair all night 1846.

November 25, 1846

This morning the boat made her start at the dawn of day. Gard kept up all the time on the boat.

November 26, 1846

Gard kept up all the time on the boat. Run on several bars duren the day.

November 27, 1846

Left at daylight. Run on several sand bars. Gard kept up all the time on the boat.

November 28, 1846

Landed at Matamoras late in the evening and stade thair all night. 1846.

November 29, 1846

We landed at the mouth of Rio Grande today and went to the Brasos nine miles.

November 30, 1846

We lay here all night on Brasos Island waten for passage to Tampico.

December 1, 1846

Lay here all day doen nothen on the account of high south winds.

December 2, 1846

We do still remain hear on the same cause as spoken of above and have no tent.

December 3, 1846

The orders was this morning that we would go aboard in a short time. They kept us hear all day with some companies at the place to go aboard. It is now dark and I see no prospect for us to go off in several days.

December 4, 1846

We this morning received orders to stay hear untill we received first thair orders from headquarters. We air hear without tents. Hour tents air aboard of the boat yet. We made preparations today to get hour tents off of the boat so we can strike tents one time more on Brasos Island, Santiago, Texas. We have to pack water one mile from the sand hills and it is brackish at that and tastes very strong. Becides it has a yellow cast to it.

December 5, 1846

We the first six companies of the Alabama Regiment to receive hour tents and things off of the steam ship and go to the hills and strike tents to wate for further orders.

December 6, 1846

This morning gard was called to go for pervissions and the gard was furnished. The next thing was for the orderly sargents to draw pervissions to last us to Tampico. They only drew fore days rashens and at night the orders was to be in rediness at a minutes warning to strike tents to go to the warf to get aboard the schooner to go out over the bar to the steam ship Virginia to start for Tampico.

December 7, 1846

The next mornin the wind was very hard from the South and we knew that we wair goen to have a Northern. About 12 oclock in the night it came on. In a minute very cold, a very

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

hard rain, and wind all came together. The wind capcised all hour tents and we wair compelled to take the weather as it came which was very rough and then we all knew that we would not start the next day to Tampico.

December 8, 1846

Tuesday and all things goen on as spoken of above.

December 9, 1846

Wednesday and things goen on as spoken of above.

December 10, 1846

Orders as spoken of above. I see no likelyhood of getten off at all. We do nothen but drink and eat, accorden to headquarters rules.

December 11, 1846

Nothen more done today but the steam ship Virginia went out over the bar and we was ordered to cook fore days rashens to last us to Tampico.

December 12, 1846

This morning the waggons was hear at daylight to hall hour things to the warf for us to go aboard of the schooner to go over the bar to the steam ship Virginia on hour way to Tampico. We went aboard of her on the 12 and was on hear the 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 and on the 17 late in the evening we landed hear in Tampico and got ashore and went about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the edge of town and struck camp all very hungery and in ill umer. We then went aboard and got some pervishions to eat about 10 oclock in the night. We wair compelled to trie to sleap but it was all in vain. We could not do it for the sand flies, black knats, and musquitoes and other crawlen things that air in this country. I can say with all truth that we had some 350 men aboard of the steam ship Virginia on coasts and sea from Brasos Santiago to this place Tampico, Mexico. As you all well no that we wair crowded. We was lined as thick as we could be on deck and in the hole and hour only chance for pervishions was raw bacon and hard crackers. Hour chance for water was a canteen those that had them and them that had none had to beg from others. We wair in all some six days and nights sufferen in this way. Providence looked on us and brought us all hear safe to this place. When we came in sight the pilot boat met us and we wair piloted in over the bar. When we landed hear the River was crowded with Mexicans to sea us land and the Regular troops that wair hear. The citizens was the proudest men that I ever saw in my life for the day before they had had alarm by the Mexicans and all formed for a fite and they intended to do the best they could among them. This was the report hear when we landed and they said they did expect a fite hear eny day.

December 18, 1846

This morning we went to fixen up hour things and trien to get something to eat. After breakfast we went and finished getting hour things ashore. Late in the evening we got them all ashore. Capt. Shelly arrived this evening with his company.

December 19, 1846

We air remaining hear in camp without orders to go by. Only gard to be kept up around camp. We have dress parade this evening at sunset.

December 20, 1846

The same orders as spoken of above only inspection of arms this evening. Capt. Jones is sick and in town. He sent for me today to come and wate on him.

December 21, 1846

I am waten on Capt. R. W. Jones. He is verry sick today. No better as I sea.

December 22, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones

December 23, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones today.

December 24, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones today.

December 25, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones today.

December 26, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones. He is menden slowly today. He sees Dr. Gindsough and Dr. Hannah.

December 27, 1846

I am still waten on Capt. R. W. Jones.

MEXICAN WAR. DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

December 28, 1846

This morning I go to camp to stay. He has got so he can do without me. We kept up a picket all the time and drill twice a day.

December 29, 1846

Today I and Henry L. Higgins, W. L. Munday, and A. J. Huggins was detailed to go to town as a patrol guard under Lt. Macon from Talladega County, Alabama with other detail from each company in the Regiment to take up all drunken men that we found in the streets and put them in the guard house and after retreat take up all soldiers that we find in the streets and take them to the guard house for safe keeping.

December 30, 1846

This morning we go to town. We gathered together and went before the General for inspection. Went through and then marched to our quarters and fixed up. The General gave us 3 days to get our arms in good order for another inspection.

December 31, 1846

The patrol guard are prepared for inspection of arms on the 2 of Jan., 1847.

This is January 1847. New year has elapsed.

January 1, 1847

The same as spoken of above.

January 2, 1847

Our orders were the same as spoken of above to keep down all rules.

January 3, 1847

Our orders are the same as spoken of above in relation to the Patrol guard.

January 4, 1847

The orders are as spoken of above.

January 5, 1847

The orders are as spoken of above.

January 6, 1847

Our orders are some tighter than they have been. We are compelled to walk all night long and take up all intoxicated men and take them to the guard house at any time of day or night and after night all soldiers belong to the army.

January 7, 1847

The orders are the same as spoken of above. We had a severe Northern today. The citizens of Tampico say they have never heard some of them for the last 20 years and they never have before seen a Northern as severe as this one or one that lasted half as long as this one did.

January 8, 1847

We have strict orders here at this time on the account of some of the soldiers getting intoxicated. They were sent home and others sent in place of them. We have to answer to our names at Tattoo and Reveille.

January 9, 1847

We have the same Rules and Regulations as spoken of above. Also we the soldiers broken up three groceries today.

January 10, 1847

We have the same rules as spoken of above. This morning Col. John R. Coffey and five companies of his Regiment and five companies of regulars and a Pioneer Company left at 3 o'clock with eight days rations. Col. John R. Coffey was the principal commander. He had in all about 750 men under his command, Regular and Volunteers and all.

January 11, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. General Sheals received an express from General Scott for him to keep all the force he has here and wait for further orders to be given so he has to countermand his orders and bring back Col. John R. Coffey and the command under him to this place. We got the express early in the morning. Sent for Col. Coffey to come in with his command that he had received orders to keep all the troops here for further orders so the Col. obey.

January 12, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. We had cooler weather here than has been for years. There has never come as yet though no frost as yet. Windy but no rain.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

January 13, 1847

We air under the same Rules as spoken of above. We the Polease gards.

January 14, 1847

We air laboren under the hardest rules and have the hardest duty to do that eny lot of men every had in this world to do. Hour duty is to take up all drunken men in town and put them in the gard house and take up all men belonging to Uncle Sam's Army that is without legal permission.

January 15, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

January 16, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. Order to take up all men belongen to the servis after Retreat and wounds.

January 17, 1847

We have new Rules today to brake up all gamblen shops and confine the man concerned in them till they air tride for rule brakes and orders.

January 18, 1847

We have orders to take up all men that we sea braken the rules and orders and put them in gard house and refer charges. Orders as spoken of above.

January 19, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

January 20, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

January 21, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. One man detailed from each company to polease gard.

January 22, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. General Quitman arrived hear today by land with his Division and one Regiment of Tennessee Cavelry.

Januauary 23, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. General Patison (Patterson) came in today. He left his Division about 10 miles in camp from hear.

January 24, 25, 26, and 27, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

January 28, 1847

The polease has two commishioned officers under arrest today for disobedience of orders. One Tennessee Captain and one Georgia First Lout. Orders as spoken of above.

January 29, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

January 30, 1847

The orders is to take all drinken men to the gard house day or night. We are broken up groceries today and put the proprietors in the calabuse for trial.

January 31, 1847

Orders air the same as spoken of above.

February 1, 1847

Rules and regulations as spoken of above. The Polease have tacon lickens today and put the ones in the calabuse.

February 2, 1847

Rules and Regulations as spoken of above concerned the Polease gards of Tampico.

February 3 and 4, 1847

Rules and Regulations as spoken of above concernen the Polease gards.

February 5, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. The Polease gard found a man lien dead in the streats of Tampico. Stabbed he was and he was a fine young man. His name was Bolden.

February 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

February 12, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. The Mexican that killed Bolden was tried today and the jury found him guilty and brought in their verdict Murder in the first degree.

February 13, 14, 15, and 16, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

February 17, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. The Mexican that was sentenced was today condemned to be hung.

February 18, 1847

Orders as spoken of above concerned the Town Polease. L(andon) A. Wann departed this life this morning who has at all times bin a faithful boy and attended to his own business in all cases. He never had eny fusses with the boys nor had eny extery duty to do. He was tacon with the measles at Mobile and never got intirely well of them. At Camp Alabama on the Rio Grande River he tacon the diearea. Never got itirely well of that. With the other two diseases he tacon the dispepsy and from that the mumps then the fever. All these things was worken on him at one time when he departed this life.

February 19, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. General Scott arrived hear today and ordered the troops to march in and take water to Vera Cruz. He ordered all the boats to be redy to take them thair as quick as possible.

February 20, 1847

Orders as spoken of above concerned the Polease of Tampico. The troops air moven in today for Vera Cruz and gone on thair march to the North to take water one division.

February 21, 1847

Orders as spoken of above concernen the Tampico Polease gards hollen provishions today to send on with the troops to Vera Cruz.

February 22, 1847

Orders as spoken of above concernen the Polease gard of Tampico. Still haulen provishions to send to Cruz.

February 23, 1847

Orders as spoken of above concernen the Polease gards of Tampico. Still moven on provishions to supply the army when at Vera Cruz.

February 24, 1847

Orders as spoken of above today. John St. Clair and Walter Pool (Pool died on his way home) got honerable discharges today from the United S. Army. Cousin Randolph Cook (died on his way home) received a honerable discharge today, February 24, 1847, from the Army of the Alabama Volunteers whose discharge was brought about by sickness inaficient for duty. Many of the Volunteers of the Alabama Regiment was discharged on the account of sickness.

February 25, 1847

The Alabama Polease of Tampico left and went to the Regiment today to prepair for the march to Vera Cruz. Orders was red at dress parade to be in rediness at a minutes warning to start. James R. Coffee received a discharge on the sick report as not able to stand the fattigues of the present march to Vera Cruz.

February 26, 1847

Orders as spoken of above today. Washday today. No drill today. All fixen to start to Vera Cruz.

February 27, 1847

Drill this morning.

February 28, 1847

Orders as spoken of above.

March 1, 1847

The Alabama Regiment is still under marching orders. No drill today. Some troops air moven on today. Parts the Georgia Regiment moves aboard.

March 2, 1847

Orders as spoken of today above. No drill today. Orders as spoken of above.

March 3, 1847

We air waten for orders to start on to Vera Cruz. We have bin under marchen orders for several days at this time. The wether is thought to be as warm hear at this time as it is in Alabama in August or eny time in the summer season in the States. The smallpox is in the

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

March 4, 1847

Nothen more done today in the Regiment than spoken of above.

March 5, 1847

We air all lien hear in camp doen nothen but keepen up gard and waten for oders to start to Vera Cruz. The Alabama Regiment received orders at Tattoo for fore companies to start at 8 oclock on the sixth.

March 6, 1847

The Alabama Regiment, six companies of her, went aboard of the stam ship New Orleans on the 6th of March bound for Vera Cruz, the seat of the war, and the other four companies went aboard of a scooner to come to the same place.

March 7, 1847

We raise our anker this morning and put out for Vera Cruz with 12 companies, 4 (illegible) companies, and 2 Georgia companies. We ran on all day and all knight.

March 8, 1847

We wair still runen on all the time and direct course for Vera Cruz.

March 9, 1847

Tuesday, the 9th of March, 1847, Camp near Vera Cruz. This morning we cam in cite of Vera Cruz at one hour by sun in the morning. We affected a landing on the Mexican shore 5 miles from town. We all went ashore in small boats. WE had some 50 of them all in a line so as we struct the shore we fell into line all at once and marched out and placed a gard to protect those that was landen. Our orders was to go ashore with 3 days rashens and hour blankets. So we did and many came ashore without a mouthful to eat. We all came ashore duren the knight. When we commenced our march to land all the music we had was plade when they struct the shore like I never saw before all the loud yells that I ever heard was then a day long to remember.

March 10, 1847

Hot balls throne at us this morning. We commenced moven on around town as fast as possible and them firen on us. We planted some canon as we went on and tacon a magazine in the evening.

March 11, 1847

A large shot this morning for a signal and answered by the Americans. We continued our march on to surround the town. We had some 3 or 4 small scrimages but little spill done on either cide. The Mexicans plade thair canon on us all the day and did nothen at all.

March 12, 1847

We still continue to surround the town. The advance gard had a scrimmage or two today. They still pay thair canon on us today. All in vane did nothen. We air nearly around and over the sand hills.

March 13, 1847

Still continued to surround the town. They still placed thair canon at us at long times. We had to pack our provishions 8 miles through the sand $\frac{1}{2}$ leg deep in sand. The balance as spoken of above.

March 14 and 15, 1847

All things as spoken of above.

March 16, 1847

They still continued to fire large guns. We still keep tacon up Mexicans.

March 17 and 18, 1847

Things as spoken of above goen on today with the Army.

March 19, 1847

A heavy fire goen on today, with the Mexicans but doen nothen at all.

March 20, 1847

The Mexicans fired on General Worth about half the day today and did no spill at all. We air worken all sorts of head work to the town without the loss of many men in the attempt. Lout. Col. Earl of the Alabama Volunteers arrived hear today with the fore companies under his command from Tampico to embark on the shore at Vera Cruz. He left Tampico on the 6th and arrived hear on the 20th all safe. Companies names are Capt. Pickens and company, Capt. Smith and company, Capt. Shelly and company, and Capt. Thomasinson and company. These was the fore under Lout. Col. Earl's command besides Leveane. Other companies of different regiments of Volunteers. James Rosson of the Alabama Volunteers, Capt. Jones Company, Col. John R. Coffey.

March 21, 1847

Bumbarden nearly all day today. The Me ans wair trien to run General Worth from his

MEXICAN WAR DIARY OF JAMES MONROE ROSSON (Continued)

work but affected nothen at all.. We air lien still and sayen nothen but prepairen to give them a call as soon as we get our Moniters placed. 500 men thronged up in a trenchment today and tonight. The Mexicans threw bombs nearly all night. Did no damage at all.

March 22, 1847

The Mexicans air firen on us. This afternoon we place ours on them heavy. They place thairs heavy on us two all this evening until knight. The Mexicans seased and raised the War hoop in town. All night long by yellen like wolves all the time and to thair sorrow we planted our mortars on them all night long to keep them uneasy.

March 23, 1847

Heavy fire this morning from both sides. The Navy taken them on hand this morning at sun up to assist us while firing up more batteries to place on them. The times seams very _____ this morning and very emting also on both sides. Continued for an hour or two and then seaced while and then continued on slowly duren the day and knight. The damage done on both cides was small. About 600 yards is the distance that they air batteren. One Capt. of the Artilery was stricken on the head by a canon ball which taken it off.

March 24, 1847

Things went on as spoken of above. Bumbarden all day and knight without eny damage of account at all.

March 25, 1847

This morning we opened a battery of six guns in full up from the town in which we drove them from thair forts and dismounted one of thair cannons. Run them from the red fort. We kept playen on them untill late in the evening and firing a shot every minute. Late in the evening they sent out for permsihion to bury thair dead and polease the town for the horses and cattle that we had killed smelt so bad that they could not stand it. We then seaced firen on the town. During the action we lost one man at Patterson's Battery some eight miles from town. The Scout Draggons came in contact with a body of Mexicans and was surrounded. Sent for help. They killed 150 and wounded 2 and tacon prisoners 150 and lost one or two men.

March 26, 1847

The Batteries doen nothen today on account of the high wind from the North blowen so hard. We got in ammunition to supply them. They sent out a flag of truce to Genral Scott and he gave them untill 12 oclock today to make it to thair notion. General Scott toald them in plain terms that things had to be fixed to his own notion or not at all. Then they toald him that they will give up the Castle to him if he allows thair Cavalry to pass out full riged. He toald them that he would not supply eny arms to leave the place at all. He said if you aim at doen enything in the way of surrender you aught to do it in quick notis or I will put you all to death in quick notis.

March 27, 1847

No shots today. They seam to be given up matters to surrender up themselves as prisoners of war by given up themselves to us and all they have. They was to have untill 12 oclock today and so that 12 had past and knight. Their cannon and all things seams silent at this time. They have surrendered up themselves as prisoners of war and all the publick property that they have at this time on hand both in Vera Cruz and in the Castle. The troops that is on our cide supposed to be killed and wounded in all is 50.

March 28, 1847

The order is this morning that no man leaves camp without a written permishion from the Captain of the Company so as to keep all men in camp ready to go in to town. General Scott is maken preparation to get in to town after the Mexicans surrender to him. All things easy.

March 29, 1847

This morning at 10 oclock we taken possession of the town and castle and other publick property. Our flags waved over the gentle brease in town and the Castle. They surrendered up to us small arms becides some artillery. It is in order that General Quitman's Division starts to Alvarado on the 30th to take the town and be back in 5 days to this place with some artillery and draggons.

March 30, 1847

We air waten this morning for orders to be carried in to affect. We air all anctious to start on to Alvarado to take that. The distance is said to be 28 miles from hear. We left at one oclock in the evening and marched 10 miles. We marched untill 9 oclock in the knight and then struct camp. This is General Quitman's Division consisten of the Georgia Regiment, Palmetto Regiment from S.C., and the Alabama Regiment which forms his brigade.

March 31, 1847

We started this morning and made a slow march toward Alvarado. We made about 13 miles and struct camp and stade all knight after marchen untill 10 in the knight. We learned the distance was lot more to Alvarado the way we wair goen.

April 1, 1847

This morning we left early and marched perai (?prairie) and struct camp at 2 oclock in the evening to stay all knight. They sent General Quitman word not to bring his army and they would surrender to him. He then took the Company of Draggons he had under his command and went on thair. Our provishions are running short and we had to forage and live on beef alone. It seems like hard times at last.

April 2, 1847

We left early this morning to march the distance to Alvarado 15 miles which we made in time and not water on the way to drink. We started with one can full of water to each man. That had to do 15 miles. No bread to eat and little fresh beef broiled on the coals in a hurry at that. We landed hear at fore in the evening. The Mexicans had deserted the place and left. We found a very purty little town one mile from the Gulf.

April 3, 1847 at Alvarado

General Quitman's Division lies today at Alvarado to rest and draw provishions and cook enough to do them back to Vera Cruz which is three days march. The order is to be ready at Revole to start back. We take all publick property from hear to Vera Cruz to take care of and use. Alvarado is a small town on a little river one mile from the Gulf. The situation of the place is very hilly, so far as I can see. The Mexicans left two knights before we landed hear. They left for the city so reports said. Some 2500 of them and General Quitman's command was about 1700 in all.

April 4, 1847

This morning General Quitman's Division left Alvarado for Vera Cruz and the sick and broke down were sent back by water. We marched 20 miles today through the sand. The waggons came up after us with our provishions all broke down as we wair. We then had to cook our supper. By that time it was in the knight and all for sleep.

April 5, 1847

We this morning had to start with the river or the sun. We marched 20 miles and camped again to stay all knight. All of the boys did not get up until the next morning about the time we started on again. All hands are nearly broke down limpen with blistard feet.

April 6, 1847

This morning we left for Vera Cruz early in fine spirits noen the distance was ten miles limping with blistard feet. We landed hear early in the evening and taken our rest. The order is no man can leave camp without ritten permishion from his officers and signed by the Colonel. The company officers have to go to the Colonel and get permishion to leave the company more than one hour at a time.

April 7, 1847

We this morning awoke and taken and wash and began to look around to sea what we had to keep camp with. We at once saw that we the Alabama Regiment had nothen. No tents at first to stay in the next place. We are now cooken upon sheels to cook in and the worst of all was all of us was very durty and greasey and no clothing to shift into to wash. We had bin taken the weather now for months as it came. When knight came on we then would spread down our blankets and take the knight as it came on. Those exposures was brought on us by heaven to leave our things on board the boat to go into action at eny minute. We have not been able to collect our things together.

April 8, 1847

We air all in camps today not doen nothen but keepen up gard around camp. General Quitman had orders today to remain hear a week.

April 9, 1847

Some troops air moven on today to Puebla towards the City of Mexico. Nothen doen in our quarters. All at ease today. We have inspection of arms this evening.

April 10, 1847

The Alabama Regiment is at ease. Only gard kept up all the time is all we have to do at this time. All things easy.

April 11, 1847

Orders as spoken of above in relation to the Alabama Regiment.

April 12, 1847

We air all hear taken our ease in camp. No duty to do of consequence at all. We air all in very good health at this time. The army has all left this place for Hallapus 75 miles from this place on the main road to the City of Mexico whair they expect to have a hard battle.

April 13, 1847

Orders as spoken of above. No new orders at all. All is in peace at this time gotten along finely. (TO BE COMPLETED 1 JANUARY, 1985 EDITION OF JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES)

PUBLICATIONS BY KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM:

SOUTHERN COOKING TO REMEMBER \$9.95
TREASURED ALABAMA RECIPES \$4.95
JEFFREY INTRODUCES 13 MORE SOUTHERN GHOSTS \$7.95
13 ALABAMA GHOSTS AND JEFFREY \$7.95
13 GEORGIA GHOSTS AND JEFFREY \$7.95
13 MISSISSIPPI GHOSTS AND JEFFREY \$7.95
13 TENNESSEE GHOSTS AND JEFFREY \$7.95
JEFFREY'S LATEST 13: MORE ALABAMA GHOSTS \$7.95
ALABAMA: ONE BIG FRONT PORCH \$7.95
COUNT THOSE BUZZARDS! STAMP THOSE GREY MULES \$2.95



I HEAR JACKSON COUNTY SINGING
by Ann B. Chambless

From the glorious mountains in ole High Jackson,
To the coves and valleys in between,
From the smallest creek to the Great Tennessee,
God's beauty is everywhere seen.

When a Jackson Countian leaves the land of his birth,
Though he crosses the wild raging sea,
His heart will fly back to the land that he loves
No matter wherever he be.

If a native wets his feet in a Jackson County stream,
Though far and wide he may roam,
An image will arise to remind him of his ties
'Til he returns once again to his home.

Long may these memories remain in each breast,
As long as Cumberland and Sand Mountain both stand,
May the visions of kinships never depart
As long as the sun sheds its rays o'er our land.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
ROUTE FOUR - BOX 265
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768
PERMIT #11

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

JACKSON COUNTY, the Switzerland of the State of Alabama