



JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2002

ISSN-1071-2348

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WILL MEET
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2002, 2:00 P.M., SCOTTSBORO PUBLIC
LIBRARY, 1002 SOUTH BROAD STREET, SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA.

The JCHA and the Scottsboro Public Library will co-host the January Historic Jackson County lecture in the 2002 series planned and coordinated by Dr. Ronald Dykes, chairman of the library's board of trustees and JCHA member. Dr. Dykes will introduce Representative John Robinson who will address the history of old Bellefonte, John and Mary T. (Garner) Robinson's Snodgrass family were among the early settlers and civic leaders in old Bellefonte. Members and the public are invited to join Representative Robinson as he takes a mental stroll through our first permanent county seat and Jackson County's first incorporated town.

**2002 JCHA DUES ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE INCLUDE 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE
WITH YOUR RENEWAL (P. O. bulk mailing request.)**

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2002

Ann B. Chambliss, Editor
435 Barbee Lane
Scottsboro, AL 35769-3745
abc123@scottsboro.org

PLEASE INCLUDE 9 DIGIT
ZIP CODE with your
membership renewal. IF
YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES,
please notify the JCHA to
assure continuity in mailings.

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 (due Jan 1)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$100.00
Please mail your check to:
JCHA TREASURER
P. O. Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768



Jackson County Historical Association
Post Office Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768

**BELLEFONTE TEACHER:
SUSAN ROACH (HOLLAND)
DOWNEY (1865-1924)
by Betty D. Mann and Ann B.
Chambless**

Susan Roach (Holland) Downey was born in Jackson County, Alabama, on February 13, 1865. Her parents were John W. and Emily (Roach) Holland. Her grandparents were John and Rhoda (Davis) Holland and Henry Landon and Harry Ann Roach.

Susan (Sue) Holland grew up in Maynards Cove and was a lovely, petite girl - an excellent student who excelled in all academic areas. Her teachers convinced her parents to allow her to attend the teachers college in Florence, Alabama. After receiving her teaching certificate, she was hired to teach school at Bellefonte where she taught for several years. She was also an excellent seamstress.

It was here she met Joseph Rebel Downey, a native of North Carolina. He worked on the railroad and often stopped in Hollywood, Alabama (adjacent to old Bellefonte.)

After their marriage, Susan continued to teach while raising their sons: John Hampton Downey, born in 1885; Harvey J. Downey, born in 1888, died in infancy; Clarence Justin Downey, born in 1892; and Albert Lafayette Downey, born in 1895.

Circa 1905, the Downey family (except John Hampton who married Cora Elizabeth Holder) moved to Sand Mountain. They bought a farm near Section and farmed for many years. Susan (Sue Holland) Downey was the grandmother of seventeen, five born after her death. Her grandchildren still living are: Marie Downey Hicks; Sue Downey Covey; Virginia Downey Durham Hambrick; Bettye Downey Mann (JCHA member); and John Albert Downey.

Susan Roach (Holland) Downey was a delicate woman and died of a respiratory infection in 1924. Following her death, Senator Charles W. Brown wrote a poem in memory of his pupil, Susan (Sue) Roach (Holland) Downey. (Poem was published in local paper.)

**IN MEMORY OF HIS FORMER PUPIL,
MRS. SUE HOLLAND DOWNEY**

One night I dreamed I died
In a strange, dark, deep, tangled wood,
And, when my spirit left its mortal clay
An angel, whiter than the day,
Before me stood.
With feet upon a snowy cloud
As if to rest its tired wing,
After its long, long flight
'Twixt planetoids and stars of night
Then I heard a host of angels sing.
A welcome to this paradise.
This host was unseen by me.
My guardian angel said:
"This is first heaven of the dead
Enroute for eternity."
Here I saw some on earth I knew,
Still tinged with mortal dress;
And one, I shall ne'er forget,
Whose visage haunts me yet -
The thief upon the cross.
I whispered to my guide;
"How long will this one stay?"
It answered, in lowered voice,
"It has no choice -
Until the Judgment Day."
Then the angel spread its broad wing,
As if to preen
But did swiftly rise
And left this paradise
For a brighter scene.
And on and up it flew;
I in its wake.
And then I knew
It was my pupil Sue
And her I tried to overtake.
Then I awoke
And found my angel gone.
Left alone,
My angel had flown,
I wish I had dreamed on.



BELLEFONTE, ALABAMA TEACHER
SUSAN (SUE) ROACH (HOLLAND) DOWNEY 1865-1924
Wearing a dress she made as a teenager

CHEROKEE RESERVATIONS AND RESERVEES IN NORTH ALABAMA
 Compiled by Patty Woodall

Death or Emigrated

<u>Death/Emigrate</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>FName</u>	<u>1830_census</u>	<u>Final Disposition</u>
	Johnson	Peter		Runaway slave whose master got him back.
	Challenge		No	John McNulty bought part in 1830
	Morgan	Margaret	Did not live on reservation	Sold in 1820 for \$6000
	Harlan	George	Did not live on reservation	Sold for \$5120
	Jones	Drury		
	Jones	William		Sold to William J. Price.
	Jones	James		Abandoned, I think, unproven
	Wade	Isaac N.		
D1820	Burns	Arthur	Died fall 1820.	Heirs sold to Jeremiah French 1839
D1822	Harrison	Thomas	Died before 1822	Samuel Gunter may have gotten it
D1824	Riley	Richard	Died 1824 in South of TN River	Sold to Richard B. Clayton and David Larkin
D1827	Riley	James	Died before 1827	Sold Stephen Carter and George Higgins.
D1829before	Jones	Thomas	Died before 1829. Family emigrated	Sold to William Gains in 1822.
D1834	Fawlin	Edmond	Died 1834 (where?)	
D1834	Cheeks	Catharine	Died 1834	Sold to A. C. Beard
D1835	Gunter	John	Died 1835	Willed to John Gunter Jr.
D1838	Baldrige	John	Lived Indian land - Willstown?	Sold to John E. Caperton ??
D1840before	Robinson	Amos	Not on 1840 Marshall	
D1840's	McNary	John	Yes Died on reservation in 1840's	Heirs paid \$6400 by Fourth Board. Revert to gov't

CHEROKEE RESERVATIONS AND RESERVEES IN NORTH ALABAMA

Compiled by Patty Woodall

<u>Death/Emigrate</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>FName</u>	<u>1830 census</u>	<u>Final Disposition</u>
D1843	Gunter	Edward	Died 1843	
D1847	Elliott	Joseph	Yes	Sold to James B. Robinson and Francis D. Dillard
D1852	Shoemake	John	Yes	Died on reservation. Heirs sold to Capertons
D1854	Merrill	Benjamin	Died 1854	Heirs sold to Heratio Furgerson 1856
D1855	Keys	Samuel	Lived south side TN River	Sold out from under him.
D1857	Stephens	Willis	No children by Indian wife	Sold to John Easley and Wilbourn Fry 1847
E1829	Keys	Isaac	Enrolled Jan 16, 1829	Never gained possession
E1829	Keys	William	Enrolled Feb 20, 1829	Sold out from under him.
E1829	Lacy	Andrew	Enrolled 1829 Creek Path	
E1829	Woods	Capt. John	Enrolled 1829 from Nickajack	Sold to James Doran
E1829	Thorn	Daniel	Enrolled 1829 from Creek Path	Abandoned, I think, unproven.
E1829	Thompson	John	Enrolled 31 Jan 1829 Creek Path	
E1832	Thompson	Alexander	Enrolled Jan 4, 1832 Creek Path	
E1832	McAnulty	Giles	Enrolled 1832 Creek Path	Sold to James McCartney 1830
E1833	Wilson	William	Enrolled Nov 12, 1833 Creek Path	
E1833	Lacy	Catherine	Enrolled 1833 Creek Path	
E1835	Thompson	Charles	Enrolled 1835 Creek Path	
E1838	Benge	John	Emigrated 1838	Sold to James Gilliland
E1838	Smith	Polly	1835 Creek Path 1851 Old Settler	
E1839	Ore	James	Emigrated forced march 1839	Sold to William Barclay 1830.
M1822	Wilson	Thomas	Monroe Co, MS in 1822	Sold to James McCartney 1822
M1840after	Stephens	Sutton	Yes, moved to TN 1840-50	Sold to Alfred Moore before 1839?

CHEROKEE RESERVATIONS AND RESERVEES

SAMUEL RILEY

By Patty Woodall

Samuel Riley was a white man and the father of seven children who received reservations in Jackson County, Alabama. On April 27, 1818, Samuel received a reservation in right of his wife but it was on the Tennessee River at Southwest Point in what later became Roane County, Tennessee.¹ Samuel never did live in Alabama. Samuel was born about 1747 in Maryland² and died before 1825 in Tennessee.³ He was the son of Samuel Riley II and his first wife, Eleanor "Nelly" Wallace of Prince George's County, Maryland.⁴ It is unknown when Samuel left Maryland and moved to Cherokee Indian Territory in Tennessee where he met Chief Doublehead. However, it was sometime before 1791 since Samuel's first child about 1791 or 1792.⁵

In 1797 Samuel was appointed Cherokee interpreter to be attached to the post at Southwest Point and subject to the orders of Lt. Col. Butler commander of the troops of the United States in Tennessee.⁶ He continued to serve as interpreter until 1820.⁷ In 1804 Samuel was operating the ferry across the Tennessee River at Southwest Point.⁸ Samuel was a blacksmith who at one time worked 617 pounds of iron into implements of husbandry for the Cherokees.⁹ Samuel Riley, James Chisholm and Thomas Norris Clark were three white men who seized much of the property, mostly slaves, of Chief Doublehead after his assassination in 1807.¹⁰

Samuel was married at the same time to two Cherokee sisters, Ni-go-di-ge-yu and Gu-lu-sti-yu, who are believed to be daughters of Chief Doublehead.¹¹ Cherokee custom allowed Cherokee men as well as white men to have two or more wives until 1819 when the Council voted that "it shall not be lawful for any white man to have more than one wife." However, later in the same year the Council also prohibited any Cherokee man from having more than one wife.¹² Between Samuel's two wives he had 16 children: 11 children by Gu-lu-sti-yu and 5 by Ni-go-di-ge-yu. Of these children seven received reservations in Jackson County, Alabama and were: James Riley, Richard Riley, Catherine (Riley) and Andrew Lacy, Nannie (Riley) and John McNary, Elizabeth (Riley) and Isaac Keys, Mary (Riley) and Samuel Keys, Sallie (Riley) and William Keys.¹³

Each one of these seven children will be written about in separate articles.

¹ *Cherokee Reservees*, by David Keith Hampton, p. 13.

² *The Colonial Riley Families of the Tidewater Frontier*, Vol. 1, by Robert Shean Riley.

³ From a record book of The Proceedings of the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation: "The court recognizes the will of Samuel Riley, deceased...given under my hand at New Town this 25th of October, 1825", <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008536098>.

⁴ *The Colonial Riley Families of the Tidewater Frontier*, Vol. 1, by Robert Shean Riley.

⁵ *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

⁶ Letter dated August 28, 1797 from Hawkins to Henley, David Henley Papers, 1791-1817, Manuscript Dept, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC.

⁷ *Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs Day Book Number 2*, published by James L. Douthat. *Cherokee Renascence in the New Republic*, by William G. McLoughlin, p. 332.

⁸ Fort Southwest Point Archaeological Site, Kingston, Tennessee, Samuel Smith, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, 1993, p. 81.

⁹ *Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs Day Book Number 2*, published by James L. Douthat, March 25, 1806, p. 66.

¹⁰ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008536098>.

¹¹ The connection with Samuel Riley to Chief Doublehead is more innuendo than stated fact. Samuel was supposed to be a son-in-law of Chief Doublehead based upon the settlement disputes over Doublehead's estate. Samuel did marry these two women but the question is ... are they daughters of Chief Doublehead?

¹² *Cherokee Renascence in the New Republic*, by William G. McLoughlin, p. 332, 333.

¹³ *Cherokee Reservees*, by David Keith Hampton, p. 1-13

CHEROKEE RESERVATIONS AND RESERVEES

JAMES RILEY

By Patty Woodall

Under the Treaty of February 27, 1819, James Riley chose to retain his home and was granted a reservation of 640 acres in fee simple.¹ The reservation was located where the town of Bellefonte was built a few years later. Robert Armstrong surveyed the reservation in February 1820 with the dwelling house near a big spring being in the center of the reservation.² When Jackson County was surveyed, the reservation was located primarily in Sections 1 and 12 Township 4 South Range 6 East of Huntsville, Alabama.

On October 3, 1820, James Riley bound himself by his penal bond for the sum of \$13,000 to convey his reservation to Dr. George Washington Higgins and Stephen Carter. Higgins and Carter agreed to pay Riley \$6500 for the reservation with payments as follows: \$2500 down, \$500 the 15th of March 1821 and \$1000 annually until 1824 for a final payment of \$1500. When the debt was paid, James Riley would make a deed in fee simple for the reservation. However, James died after the payments were made but before he made a deed of conveyance. Consequently, on July 20, 1827 Higgins and Carter petitioned Jane Riley, as administratrix of the estate of James Riley, for legal conveyance of the land title to them. The Judge of the Orphans Court of Jackson County set the date for the hearing on the third Monday in October 1827. While no court records are extant for this hearing, it is assumed that the petition was granted because the earliest deed books show that Higgins and Carter legally sold lots in Bellefonte and tracts in other parts of Riley's reservation.³ However, it is evident from the early deed books, which began in 1830, that Higgins and Carter had sold lots in Bellefonte long before this time. They probably began selling shortly after buying the reservation.

Bellefonte was incorporated, inclusive of 60 acres, on December 15, 1821, with the town lots being laid out around a beautiful spring.⁴ James Riley's house was most likely located very near this spring. In 1822, Bellefonte was selected as the second county seat of Jackson County. There is only speculation how Bellefonte got its name. However, there is an interesting coincidence regarding the name of an ancestral home in Virginia belonging to the Lewis family and to a man who most likely gave Bellefonte its name. In 1819, Charles Lewis, a Virginian and an attorney living in Franklin County, Tennessee, began selling his property in preparation for his move to Alabama. He apparently relocated to Bellefonte soon afterwards. The name of his great-grandfather's home in Virginia was Bellefonte.⁵

It is unknown where James Riley moved his family after he sold his reservation. However, it is likely he moved to the south side of the Tennessee River near Creek Path, Alabama where other relatives lived. Jennie Riley was apparently still living in the area when Higgins and Carter petitioned her for a deed of conveyance in 1827.

There are no indications when Jennie and her family moved west. Obviously, they did go west before the Trail of Tears since Jennie and most of her children are listed on the 1851 Old Settlers roll.

James Riley was the son of Samuel Riley and Ni-go-di-ge-yu, a full blood Cherokee, and the grandson of Chief Doublehead. James was born about 1792 and died about 1824.⁶ On April 22, 1805 Rev. Evan Jones baptized him at South West Point in the Cherokee nation.⁷ James married Jennie Shields and had four children:

1. Lewis Riley was born about 1814. He married 1st Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of James and Nannie (Coody) Rogers. He married 2nd Nicey Maxfield. He married 3rd Nancy Tassel. He married 4th Sarah Childers. He married 5th Mary E. McLaughlin, daughter of Ezekiel and Hannah (Duncan) McLaughlin. He was listed on the 1851 Old Settler roll in the Canadian District.⁸
2. Susan Riley was born about 1816. She married James Madison Payne, Sr. who was born about 1810. They are listed on the 1851 Old Settler roll in Going Snake District.⁹
3. Melinda Riley was born about 1818. She married 1st James Applegate. She married 2nd John Hall. She married 3rd Robert Crockett. She married 4th Mr. Thornton. She was listed on the 1851 Old Settler roll in Skin Bayou District as Melinda Crockett.¹⁰
4. Nannie Riley was born about 1820.¹¹
5. Jonathan Riley was born about 1820. He married Mary Jane Gunter.¹²

¹ *Cherokee Reservees*, by David Keith Hampton, p. 13

² *Robert Armstrong's Survey Book of Cherokee Lands*, edited by James L. Douthat, p. 41

³ Southern Advocate, July 27, 1827 and August 3, 1827, a newspaper published in Huntsville, Alabama. Jackson County Chronicles, October 1979, "Dead Towns in Jackson County, Alabama" by Ann Chambless.

⁴ Acts of Alabama, Chapter LXIII, Section 1, p. 339.

⁵ Jackson County Chronicles, April 2001, "Who was Charles Lewis of Bellefonte, Alabama, in 1826?" by Ann Chambless.

⁶ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr. Southern Advocate, July 27, 1827 and August 3, 1827, a newspaper published in Huntsville, Alabama. His death date is surmised from these records.

⁷ Records of the Cherokee Agency in Tennessee, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, National Archives Microcopy M-208, Rolls 1-7, 13, Roll 3, 1805-1807

⁸ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

⁹ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

¹⁰ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

¹¹ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

¹² <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.

CHEROKEE RESERVATIONS AND RESERVEES

RICHARD RILEY

By Patty Woodall

Under the Treaty of February 27, 1819, Richard Riley chose to retain his home and was granted a reservation of 640 acres in fee simple on Coosada Island in the Tennessee River.¹ Today this island is known as Goosepond Island. Robert Armstrong surveyed the reservation in February 1820 with the southwest boundary beginning near the mouth of Sauta Creek and crossing a bend in the creek as the line continued north. The southern line paralleled the Tennessee River. According to the survey, Richard's house was only a short distance from Sauta Creek and the Tennessee River.² When Jackson County was surveyed, the reservation was located primarily in Section 26 Township 5 South Range 5 East of Huntsville, Alabama.³

The earliest reference to Richard Riley was on March 22, 1808 when his father, Samuel Riley, wrote to Col. Return J. Meigs saying "Please to give my son Richard a Passport for William Sherrill and Adair the Tanner that tans for Mr. Clark at the ferry and Henry Isom that works for Mr. Clark at the ferry. I Believe them is Good mens. Your most Obedient Servt Samuel Riley".⁴

Richard apparently moved from Southwest Point area to Coosada Island before 1812. As early as 1812, Richard Riley, a Cherokee Chief of Coosada Town "employed many hands in mining nitrate of potash (salt peter) in Sauta Cave."⁵ In 1813 the mining operation produced about 1000 lbs per day.⁶ Since Richard held control over saltpeter production and sold thousands of pounds of powder annually to the U. S. Army at Andrew Jackson's Fort Deposit on the Tennessee River just west of Gunter's Landing in 1813 and 1814, he was considered among the leading figures of the Cherokee bourgeoisie.⁷ Another likely customer was John Gunter who owned a powder mill at John Gunter's Landing as early as 1814.⁸

Richard was active in matters pertaining to the protection of Indian lands. In 1816 Richard wrote a letter to Col. Return J. Meigs in regards to a survey that was being led by John Coffee while Cherokee delegates were in Washington DC negotiating. The letter essentially described the lines of the survey that was stealing Cherokee land and as soon as Coffee surveyed it white intruders immediately made claim to it.⁹ Then, in 1818 Richard wrote from Sauta telling of unrest between the Cherokees and white intruders on Indian lands. He asked for United States troop protection.¹⁰

About 1821, two white men who were brother-in-laws, Richard B. Clayton and David Larkin, settled on Richard Riley's reservation.¹¹ By the spring of 1822 Richard Riley had sold his reservation to Richard B. Clayton and David Larkin, and moved to Gunter's Landing in Cherokee country.¹²

In 1821 the Tennessee Methodist Conference organized a new circuit that covered Jackson County, Alabama.¹³ Richard Neely was sent to the Jackson Circuit in 1822. He was a young preacher but apparently very successful according to the annual reports. In the spring of 1822, as junior pastor of the Jackson Circuit, Richard Neely met a Cherokee named Richard Riley who lived in what later became Marshall County, Alabama.¹⁴ Richard Riley invited Richard Neely to preach at Riley's home at Gunter's Landing in Cherokee country. Neely's warm reception there led him to return to the Riley home once a month to hold services. Thus Richard Neely began the famous Methodist Mission to the Cherokees.¹⁵ With the help of Robert Boyd from the Limestone Circuit, Neely held a revival in Riley's home that resulted in the organization of a church with 33 Cherokee members. The Tennessee Methodist Conference was quick to raise a fund to carry on the mission work and appointed Andrew Jackson Crawford as missionary to the Cherokees "to reside in Richard Riley's neighborhood, to preach to the Indians, and to instruct their children." A school was opened on December 30, 1822 with 12 Cherokee pupils. Richard Riley was very religious and wanted his people to receive as much instruction as possible. At the close of 1823, there were over 100 members at Riley's Mission, among them two native exhorters: Gunter and Brown.¹⁶ The mission was later called Gunter's Mission.¹⁷

Richard Riley was the son of Samuel Riley and Gu-lu-sti-yu, a full blood Cherokee, and the grandson of Chief Doublehead. Richard was born about 1791¹⁸ and died April 26, 1824.¹⁹ On April 22, 1805 in the Cherokee nation he was baptized by the Rev. Evan Jones.²⁰ Richard's obituary stated "Richard Riley, Esq. of Cherokee Nation died 26 April 1824. After a long and lingering illness which he bore with Christian firmness, he died firm in the faith of the hope of gospel leaving behind him a bright example of piety and real excellence."²¹ Richard married Diana Campbell about 1808 and had three daughters:

1. Annie Claunch Riley born 1809 and died 1880²²
2. Elizabeth Riley born about 1812²³
3. Jennie Riley born 1817 and died 5 Feb 1867.²⁴ Starr gives her death date as 1 March 1867²⁵

Annie Claunch Riley married first Dempsey Fields, son of George Fields and Sarah Coody. Dempsey was born about 1806 in what became Blount County, Alabama and died about 1830.²⁶ An Ann Fields enrolled for emigration on February 13, 1834 at Creekpath, Alabama right behind David and Jennie (Riley) Carter.²⁷ However, Annie did not emigrate but married secondly after February 13, 1834 Hugh Henry a white man who was born 1796 and died before 1884.²⁸ Ann Henry was listed on the 1851 Siler Roll²⁹ and the 1852 Chapman Roll in Marshall County, Alabama.³⁰ Hugh Henry was listed on the 1835 Census Roll in Blount County, Alabama.³¹ Of Richard Riley's three children, Annie is the only one who did not go to the Western Cherokee Nation.

Elizabeth Riley, daughter of Richard and Diana Riley, married first about 1842 Wright Romine who was born about 1810. Elizabeth married second about 1848 Jacob Bushyhead born about 1817 and son of Bushyhead and Nannie Foreman. Elizabeth was listed on the 1851 Old Settler Roll at Tahlequah as Betsy Bushyhead.³² Jacob was three quarters Cherokee and was listed on the 1851 Drennan Roll in Tahlequah.³³ He was educated at Candy's Creek Mission and in 1869 was a Judge of Illinois District.³⁴ There was a Jacob Bushyhead who was a Circuit Judge, Middle Circuit in 1871.³⁵

Bushyhead, father of Jacob Bushyhead, was on the 1835 Census Roll at Mouse Creek in McMinn County, Tennessee and was a member of the Long Hair Clan.³⁶ Letter of April 15, 1829 about new church members at Candy's Creek Mission stated that Bushyhead was 45 to 50 years old, a full blood Indian and spoke little English and he was once very sinful and full of vice.³⁷

Jennie Riley married about 1829 David Carter, son of Nathaniel G. Carter. David Carter was born 1812 in North Carolina and died January 7, 1867.³⁸ David and Jennie Carter enrolled for emigration February 13, 1834 at Creekpath, Alabama with four in the family and 11 slaves.³⁹ Jennie was listed on the 1851 Drennan Roll in Tahlequah as Jane Carter.⁴⁰ David Carter was one eighth Cherokee and was listed on the 1851 Old Settler Roll in Tahlequah.⁴¹ David was baptized on January 5, 1823 at the Brainerd Church in Old Cherokee Nation and entered the Brainerd Mission as a student on April 26, 1822.⁴² David was elected Judge of Tahlequah District, Indian Territory, in 1841 and elected Senator from the same district in 1842. He was a Justice of the Supreme Court and also Superintendent of Education from 1836 to 1845. David resigned these to become Editor of the Cherokee Advocate. He was Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation from 1851 to 1854 and was later a Justice of the Supreme Court.⁴³

Nathaniel G. Carter, father of David, was born about 1770 in North Carolina. His first wife, the mother of his children, is unknown. He married second to Keseah H. Johnson on January 11, 1816 in Wilson County, Tennessee.⁴⁴ "... Nathaniel Carter, who was captured by the Delaware Indians in Pennsylvania during the Lackawanna massacre, at which time all of his family were killed. His life, however, was saved and he was brought to the west, where the Cherokees reared him. Later he was sent to Cornwall, Pennsylvania, to attend school, and after completing his education he returned to the Indians and married a Cherokee lady, spending the residue of his life in the Cherokee nation."⁴⁵

- ¹ Cherokee Reserves, by David Keith Hampton, p. 13
- ² Robert Armstrong's Survey Book of Cherokee Lands, edited by James L. Douthat, p. 47
- ³ Old Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama, by Margaret Matthews Cowart, p. 162.
- ⁴ Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770-1823, by Dorothy Williams Potter, p. 124
- ⁵ Handwritten, unpublished manuscript of Matthew Powers Blue, undated but written about 1860, located in Alabama Department of Archives and History, PB Rg. H, Sec 7, Shelf 6, Box 2
- ⁶ Cherokee Renaissance in the New Republic, by William G. McLoughlin, p.192.
- ⁷ Cherokees and Missionaries 1789-1839, by William G. McLoughlin, p. 127.
- ⁸ Jackson County Chronicles, October 10, 1980, "Sauta Cave" by Ann B. Chambless
- ⁹ Cherokee Renaissance in the New Republic, by William G. McLoughlin, p.200, letter dated February 10, 1816.
- ¹⁰ Records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in Tennessee, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1816-1818, Microcopy M-208, Roll 7
- ¹¹ Handwritten, unpublished manuscript of Matthew Powers Blue, undated but written about 1860, located in Alabama Department of Archives and History, PB Rg. H, Sec 7, Shelf 6, Box 2
- ¹² History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, by Marion E. Lazenby, p. 173-174
- ¹³ History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, by Marion E. Lazenby, p. 108-109
- ¹⁴ History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, by Marion E. Lazenby, p. 173
- ¹⁵ Jackson County Chronicles, January 12, 1980, "A Partial History of Methodism in Jackson County, Alabama" by Ann B. Chambless
- ¹⁶ History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, by Marion E. Lazenby, p. 174-175
- ¹⁷ Jackson County Chronicles, January 12, 1980, "A Partial History of Methodism in Jackson County, Alabama" by Ann B. Chambless
- ¹⁸ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ¹⁹ The Southern Advocate, May 4, 1824 (A newspaper published in Huntsville, AL)
- ²⁰ Records of the Cherokee Agency in Tennessee, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, National Archives Microcopy M-208, Rolls 1-7, 13, Roll 3, 1805-1807
- ²¹ The Southern Advocate, May 4, 1824 (A newspaper published in Huntsville, AL)
- ²² <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ²³ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ²⁴ Indian Territory by Gideon, p. 417
- ²⁵ History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr, Note A45, p. 474
- ²⁶ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ²⁷ Cherokee Emigration Rolls 1817-1835, by Jack D. Baker
- ²⁸ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ²⁹ 1851 Siler Roll, <http://members.aol.com/lredtail/marshall.html>
- ³⁰ 1852 Chapman Roll, http://www.tngennet.org/cherokee_by_blood/chapal.htm#Marshall
- ³¹ 1835 Cherokee East of the Mississippi Census Index, <http://hometown.aol.com/rarebk/1835c.html>
- ³² 1851 Old Settler Roll
- ³³ 1851 Drennan Roll
- ³⁴ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ³⁵ History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr, Oklahoma Yesterday Publications, 1993, p. 294.
- ³⁶ 1835 Cherokee East of the Mississippi Census Index, <http://hometown.aol.com/rarebk/1835c.html>
- ³⁷ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr, Oklahoma Yesterday Publications, 1993, p. 285.
- ³⁸ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and Indian Territory by D. C. Gideon, p. 417
- ³⁹ Cherokee Emigration Rolls 1817-1835, by Jack D. Baker
- ⁴⁰ 1851 Drennan Roll
- ⁴¹ 1851 Old Settler Roll
- ⁴² The Brainerd Journal: A Mission to the Cherokees 1817-1823, edited by Joyce B. Phillips and Paul Gary Phillips,
- ⁴³ History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr, Oklahoma Yesterday Publications, 1993, p. 667.
- ⁴⁴ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmett Starr
- ⁴⁵ Indian Territory, by D. C. Gideon, p. 417

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT EARLY DAYS OF BELLEFONTE, ALABAMA

Compiled by Gary Morgan and Ann B. Chambless

"Bellefonte News – 20 out of 24 brick buildings in Bellefonte have been destroyed since 1860."

(THE FELLOW CITIZEN published in Scottsboro on Aug 2, 1878)

The original survey of Bellefonte was completed in 1821 by George W. Higgins and Stephen Carter. The county surveyor, William S. Mooney, performed the official surveys after 1821. Although no extant deeds can be found prior to 1828 (1828 deed referenced in Jackson County Chancery records), Carter and Higgins obviously began selling lots from the property they acquired from James Riley in 1821.

Streets were laid out running northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest. The six streets referenced in Jackson County Deed Book D (1830-1835) are: Adams Street, Cross Street, Jackson Street, Russell Street, Main Street, and Spring Street.

The following is a partial list of merchants and businessmen doing business in Bellefonte from 1829-1847 (from Jackson County deeds):

JAMES TURK – Mansion Tavern & Inn – 1828
BENJAMIN M. BRADFORD – Store - 1828
SCRUGGS & RECTOR – Attorneys – 1829
MAJOR CHARLES LEWIS – Attorney – before 1830
ELLISON SMITH – Attorney & Postmaster - 1831
JOHN LUSK & STEPHEN CARTER – Mercantile – 1831
HARRIS & CO. – Mercantile – 1831
ISAAC CLARK – Blacksmith - 1831
PETER KEENER, LUDWELL RECTOR, & JOHN BRASON – Store - 1831
CARTERS GIN (Stephen Carter) – Cotton Gin -1831
JOHN McREYNOLDS – Tanyard - 1831
DENNIS OSBORN - Blacksmith – 1831
JOHN HAMPTON/JAMES McCARREL – Sadlers – 1831
JOHN COWART – Store House - 1831
DANIEL MARTIN – Inn – 1831 (on Jackson Street)
JAMES WHITE – Store House - 1832
SILAS PARSONS – Attorney – 1834
ELIJAH HANSBROUGH – Attorney -1834
WM. L. SNODGRASS - Wagonmaker & Blacksmith 1835
BELLEFONTE ACADEMY – Education -1839
WM. A. AUSTIN – Merchant - 1839
KING & (Hamlin) CALDWELL – Merchants – 1840s
JOHN R. COFFEY/ISAAC WILDBAHN – Merchants – 1847
JOHN HIGGINS & Elijah HANSBROUGH – Mercantile – 1847

RENEW MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEW OR RENEWAL

ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$100.00

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS ARE WELCOMED

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1494

SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

Please provide:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

The membership year begins January 1. Any dues received before October 1 will be for the current year. Dues received after October 1 will accrue to the following year. Members receive the JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

J.C.H.A. BOOK FOR SALE

The Jackson County Historical Association has republished THE HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA by John R. Kennamer, Sr., 1935 edition. The price of the book is \$20.00. If mailing is required, please add \$3.00 for each book order. Allow ten (10) days for processing. Please complete the following order blank and mail to:

HISTORY BOOK

P.O. BOX 1494

SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

NAME _____ STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2002

ISSN-1071-2348

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WILL MEET
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2002, 2:00 P.M., SCOTTSBORO PUBLIC
LIBRARY, 1002 SOUTH BROAD STREET, SCOTTSBORO, AL.

Patty Woodall will discuss the Cherokee reservations granted in North Alabama and share her extensive research involving families of and land grants made to 41 individuals who were of Cherokee blood or white men who received reservations in right of their Cherokee wife. Before Patty retired she traveled throughout the southeast (and Puerto Rico) as a computer programmer contractor. She has been doing genealogical research since 1973 and Indian reservation research since February 2001. She is a past program vice president of the JCHA, DAR member, Jackson County United Givers Fund board member, past treasurer of the Stevenson Friends of the Library, and has served as chairman of various committees for Stevenson Depot Days. YOU will not want to miss this library lecture.

Ann B. Chambliss, Editor
435 Barbee Lane
Scottsboro, AL 35769-3745
abc123@scottsboro.org

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2002

PLEASE INCLUDE 9 DIGIT
ZIP CODE with your
membership renewal. IF
YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES,
please notify the JCHA to
assure continuity in mailings.

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 (due Jan 1)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$100.00
Please mail your check to:
JCHA TREASURER
P. O. Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768


Jackson County Historical Association
Post Office Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768

	2002 JCHA OFFICERS	
President	Drenda King	Meetings on third Sunday of January, April, July, and October
Program VPres	Donna Haislip	
Membership VPres	Kathy Cook	
Secretary	Barbara Jacobs	
Treasurer	Katye Tipton	
Board of Directors	Clyde Broadway	Members receive THE JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly
	Dr. David Campbell	
	John Graham	
	John F. Neely	
CHRONICLES Editor Ann B. Chambliss		

2002 ANNUAL DUES

Please check the label on YOUR April issue of THE CHRONICLES. If you have paid 2002 dues, your label should read: (pd 2002). If this notation does not appear on your April label, please continue to support your JCHA. Mail your check in the amount of \$10.00 to:

JCHA TREASURER
P. O. Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768-1494

PLEASE include your nine digit Zip code which facilitates JCHA bulk mailing.

JCHA WILL DEDICATE TWO HISTORIC MARKERS IN APRIL

You are invited to attend the dedication of the historic marker for the Scottsboro Freight Depot on April 7, 2002, 2:00 p.m. The old depot building was completed in 1861 by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and is presently being restored by the JCHA as a railroad museum and JCHA office.

Later in April, the historic marker secured by the JCHA for Skyline School on Cumberland Mountain will be unveiled and dedicated.

2

CAPT. JOHN WOOD

by Patty Woodall

Capt John Wood's reservation was unusual in two aspects: the fact that it was sold before ever being received and its shape. The Cherokee Treaty was signed July 8, 1817.

Captain John Wood received his reservation number 34 on July 10, 1817 in Boxes Cove, which was later known as Doran's Cove in Jackson County, Alabama.¹

John Wood and James Doran signed an agreement on June 16, 1817 in Franklin County, Tennessee exactly twenty-four days before Capt. John Wood received his reservation.² The original of this agreement has been passed down from owner to owner of James Doran's old home place and is as follows:

This article of agreement made this sixteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and seventeen between James Doran of one part and Captain John Wood, Indian, of the other part, witnesseth as follows, Viz: That upon condition that if said Wood at the ensuing treaty with the Cherokee Indians is by the Commissioners and Delegation of Chiefs of said nation allowed a reserve of land in any part of the purchase that may be made from them – said Wood doth hereby agree and bind himself as soon as circumstances will admit to make to said Doran and his heirs a sufficient or lawful deed of conveyance from himself and heirs for said land and said Doran on his part doth hereby bind himself and heirs to give said Captain Wood as compensation for said lands a sufficient maintenance – treating him during life in the same friendly manner as he has heretofore done since he has lived with him. In testimony of said agreement each of the said parties doth hereby bind themselves to the other by setting their hands and affixing their seals the day above written.

James Doran (seal)

John (his mark) Wood (seal)

Signed and delivered in presence of:

Tho. Russel, Senior

Tho. J. Russel



Figure 1 - 1819 survey.
Drawn by David Woodall.

Another original document handed down from owner to owner of the James Doran's old home place was a survey dated January 18, 1819 in the Cherokee Nation of the Wood's reservation. In this document John Wood was referred to as Toochester, a Cherokee Indian. The survey showed the reservation as being boot shaped roughly following the floor of the valley. Unfortunately, the surveyor did not sign the survey.

Obviously, since James Doran was technically now the owner of the reservation, he wanted valley land rather than mountain land and instigated the change of the reservation shape from square to boot shape. However, when Robert Armstrong surveyed the

Wood's reservation on the first day of December 1820, just 19 days before Alabama became a state, he surveyed it in a square. Aaron Armstrong and James Doran were chain carriers.³ The square survey became the official description of the reservation.

Since John Wood had received could not legally sell it. So, as far as concerned John Wood was agreement with James Doran. In petitioned Congress for his include a reasonable portion of be unreasonable, that he may be at the minimum price".⁴ on the table" in February 1823

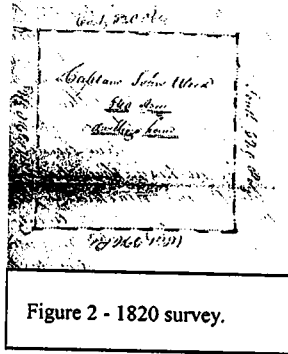


Figure 2 - 1820 survey.

the reservation as a life estate, he as the United States government the owner even though he had an December 1822 John Wood reservation to be located so as "to land fit for cultivation; or, if that permitted to purchase the same However, this petition was "laid meaning nothing was done."⁵

Then in January 1830, Captain John Wood made another petition to Congress stating "that at the time of agreeing to take a reservation he stated that he had an improvement in a narrow cove of Cumberland Mountains, where he chose his reservation, but that he 'did not want mountain'". Wood further stated that the commissioners replied "that he should have good land" and that "the surveyor employed to lay off reservations, though requested, would not regard the mountain as the boundaries of the tract to be reserved for Wood, but consented to make surveys and plats, both agreeably to his instructions and the wishes of the petitioner". Wood further stated "he has always been friendly to the whites, and has several times saved their settlements from the murderous incursions of his savage brethren by timely warnings of their impending danger".⁶ H. R. Bill No. 117 giving the official metes and bounds description of the survey accompanied this petition. The President of the United States signed Bill No. 117 on May 28, 1830 changing the shape of the reservation from a square to a boot shape.⁷ Interestingly, the survey dated 1819 did not look like the official survey approved in 1830. 4

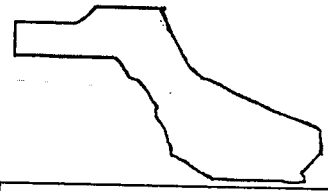


Figure 3 - 1830 survey. Drawn by David Woodall.

Another document handed down from owner to owner of the James Doran old home place is the following:

*Cherokee Agency
January 8, 1818*

Captain John Wood, a Cherokee, who hath registered his name and is entitled to a reservation the east side of the Mississippi in Boxes Cove, is hereby authorized and permitted to hire and employ James Doran, James Jenkins, Thomas Russell, David McDaniel and John Lane to work on his said reservation.

*Given under my hand the above date.
William Smith,
Acting Ast Agent*

It would seem logical that the five white men began clearing a home site in preparation for building a new home for James Doran on lands he acquired from Captain John Wood. James Doran was connected to James Jenkins and Thomas Russell through his wife. David McDaniel and John Lane are unknowns.⁸ Wood seemed to have acquired the reservation only to trade it to James Doran for his lifetime upkeep. Therefore, there is little to tell about Wood's actual ownership of the land but a lot to tell about James Doran's ownership. Most likely James Doran house was completed shortly after the 1819 survey since in January 1821 James sold his former home site in Franklin County, Tennessee to Peter Winn. James Doran of Jackson County, Alabama signed the deed.⁹

James Doran first built a log house and then made an addition out of stone. The log structure was probably finished sometime in late 1820. The stone portion of the house had small openings in the rear in a large X design, which was almost identical to the openings in the smokehouse of General James Winchester home east of Nashville, Tennessee. The X design was made by leaving out bricks or stones in order to allow smoke to escape from cook fires.



Figure 4 - Tyson M. Sloan and wife, Kate (Sells) and Mrs. John Will Gay, Sr standing at the kitchen door of the James Doran house. Note the cellar entrance behind Mr. Sloan.

On April 4, 1894, Mary Carter Christian parent's, Lucy Sells and Asbury L. Carter, were married in the parlor in the front part or log part of the Doran house. Between December 1894 and December 1927 the Crownover's renovated the

Doran house replacing the log part of the house with the present Victorian wooden structure.¹⁰ The logs were recycled into a barn, which is still standing. James Doran also built a cellar, which is not unusual; however, the architectural design of the cellar's entrance was unique for this area. It was extremely well designed and laid out for the 1820 era. It is interesting to note that the neighboring Jenkins' house had the exact cellar design as the Doran house.¹¹

Also, of interest is a historical and architectural entry from Goodspeed which states that James Doran entered land in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and built a house about one mile from where the village of Milton stood in 1886. In that year a stone springhouse was still standing bearing the initials J.D. dated 1807.¹² It is interesting to note that James Doran used stone in Rutherford County, Tennessee and later in Jackson County, Alabama. It makes one wonder if he were a stonemason.

Previous owners of the James Doran house liked to entertain their guests about the burial place of Captain John Wood being across the road from the Doran house as well as stories that Andrew Jackson had stopped at the house.¹³ As a result, a legend was created based on someone's wish to be entertaining at the expense of documented evidence. However, there are several entries on the Emigration Rolls that are contrary to this legend and there is no documented evidence of Andrew Jackson's visit. On December 2, 1829 the following people enrolled to emigrate from Nickajack, which was the closest Cherokee town from Doran's Cove:¹⁴

- William Wood with one in his family.
- John Wood with one in his family.
- Charles Wood with five in his family.
- Old Mr. Wood with one in his family.
- Peggy Wilkinson with 13 in her family.

It is believed that Old Mr. Wood was, indeed, Captain John Wood. This was the last mentioned found for Captain John Wood. The emigration roll listing Old Mr. Wood would indicate the legend that Capt John Wood died in Jackson County, Alabama was false. It is believed that William, Charles and John Wood were sons of Captain John Wood.

Another interesting legal document relative to the John Wood reservation was a deed made in 1832 from Charles Wood alias Wilkerson and heir-at-law of John Wood, of the Cherokee Nation of Indians of Arkansas, to James Elliott, of the Cherokee Nation and State of Alabama.

Charles Wood conveyed "a certain tract of land situated, lying and being in the County of Jackson and State of Alabama known by the name of John Wood reservation in Doran's Cove containing 640 acres." The metes and bounds match exactly to the 1830 survey of the Wood reservation. The deed was notarized in Washington County, Territory of Arkansas.¹⁵ Even though the deed was recorded in Jackson County, Alabama, James Elliott never gained possession. James Doran lived on the land until his death in 1840 and when his widow died in 1852, the heirs sold the property. James Elliott was the son of Joseph Elliott who had received a reservation on the western side of Jackson County.

Captain John Wood must have died between December 1829 and April 1832. December 1829 was the last recorded reference to him. Charles Wood alias Wilkerson as heir-at-law attempted to sell the Wood reservation in April 1832 thereby indicating that Captain John Wood was dead.

There has been confusion between Captain John Wood who received the reservation and a John Wood who served in the Revolutionary War. Captain John Wood of the reservation left Jackson County, Alabama in 1829. John Wood of the Revolutionary War was listed on the 1840 Jackson County, Alabama census living with Thomas Campbell near Scottsboro, Alabama. The same John Wood was listed in the census of Pensioners in 1841.¹⁶

¹ *Cherokee Reserves*, by David Keith Hampton, p. 12.

² *Jackson County Chronicle*, Volume 9, No. 2, April 1997 "John Wood: Friend of James Doran of Doran's Cove" by Ann B. Chambless, p. 9.

³ National Archives, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75, Survey No. 73 for Captain John Wood.

⁴ *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873*, December 30, 1822, p. 83.

⁵ *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873*, February 12, 1823, p. 215.

⁶ *American State papers: Public Lands*, Vol. 6, 21st Congress, 1st Session, January 15, 1830, p.49.

⁷ *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873*, May 28, 1830, p. 766.

⁸ *Jackson County Chronicle*, Volume 9, No. 2, April 1997 "John Wood: Friend of James Doran of Doran's Cove" by Ann B. Chambless, p. 9.

⁹ Franklin Co, Tennessee Deed Book C, dated January 20, 1821, p. 495.

¹⁰ Letter from Mary Carter Christian to Ann Chambless dated July 11, 1979.

¹¹ *Jackson County Chronicle*, Volume 9, No. 2, April 1997 "John Wood: Friend of James Doran of Doran's Cove" by Ann B. Chambless, p. 10.

¹² *History of Rutherford County, Tennessee*, by Goodspeed, p. 833.

¹³ Letter from Mary Carter Christian to Ann Chambless dated July 11, 1979.

¹⁴ *Cherokee Emigration Rolls 1817-1835*, by Jack D. Baker, p. 24.

¹⁵ Jackson County, Alabama Deed Book D, dated 21 April 1832, p. 267-270.

¹⁶ *Revolutionary War Pensioners in Alabama*, p. 1798.

THE STORY OF THE BOCANITA AND THE 205D

by Reuben T. Miller

In the late 1920s, Claude Bobo had a dream of an elaborate movie palace like those he saw in the business trade magazines he read. He was the "showing" in an old frame building located on the north side of the Scottsboro public square. He visualized a five-story movie house on that same location.

So - the old building was pulled out into the street, leaving room for traffic and creating space for building the theater of his dreams. Meanwhile back at the movie, "showing" continued and income was generated, insuring the project's funding. Financing for the movie "palace" came from a grand old lady all the town knew as "Aunt Tex." Texas (Hess) Snodgrass was known as a firm business lady, but she also had a very big heart. That was actually her true nature.

Continuing to ask for more and more money, Claude Bobo reached the 1932-astronomical sum of \$35,000. Aunt Tex simply said, "No." She foreclosed but kept Bobo as manager. Together they temporarily finished the building. A dirt floor was its fashion for several years. The projectors, standing almost "on their heads," looked down from the projection booth. The booth itself was the penthouse on the fifth story atop two balconies, some living quarters, and the main (dirt) floor.

An electronic vacuum tube, the 205D, was one of the final output pair which delivered the sound to a large Amplion horn speaker mounted directly behind the snow-white screen. Then new to the movie business, this screen was perforated with tiny "sound holes," allowing the sound to pass through to audiences who (before the new theatre) had already heard the first synchronized sound-on-disc movies ever shown in Scottsboro, Alabama. Yes, the projectionist played a phonograph record which provided the complete sounds and dialogue while playing the movie on the projector.

Both phonograph and movie projector were mechanically coupled to keep sound and picture together. This worked well if the starting places were both properly observed. That is, unless the film had to be

patched or repaired. In this case an exact amount of blank black film had to be spliced in to retain "synch," to assure lips and words, sound, and action all occurred at the same time. All projection booths did not always have blank film at hand. Yes, it happened too often. When it did, a serious moment could become hilarious. The theater's first projectionist experienced this problem. He said that without stopping he simply jumped the phonograph needle over one groove. It was in the right direction and the right amount. The movie went on to conclusion without further incident. In the new building, sound-on-film had already arrived, and the sound-on-disc had already been discarded.

Remember those projectors, "standing on their heads," looking down from the fifth floor penthouse? The screen had to be tilted back a little at the top to have the image-carrying light beam perpendicular to the screen surface. This kept the pictures from being trapezoidal, or wider at the bottom than at the top. It also made for good viewing in balconies and the ground floor, as well as the projection booth.

in 1933, a boy of seven, who had had polio (left leg) but had not yet had to go on crutches, begged a dime from his Mom to go see "Tarzan the Fearless" (serial) and Buck Jones - The Saturday Matinee. It was wonderful!

The next time the author went to the movies, Aunt Tex was "catching tickets." As I handed her my ticket, she rose to her feet, quite put out over the situation and said: "Honey, you don't have to pay to see ole Aunt Tex's show." She led me by the hand back to the box office, got my dime, and returned it to me.

Returning home, I told my Mom who said, "No, you must always offer to pay." Well I did this the next time and got a genuine scolding from Aunt Tex. She said, "Honey, I told you that you get in free, and no matter who is on the door, you just tell 'em Old Aunt Tex said you get in free." When I told my Mom this, she agreed, and I had a pass to the movies until I became sixteen.

By that time I was working part-time as projectionist at the Bocanita Theater.

The theater's name is a story in itself. Remember Mr. Bobo? He had a close friend and relative named Charles Ambrester. Mr. Bobo's wife's name was Nita.

Bo for Bobo

Ca for Charles Ambrester

Nita for Bobo's wife

BOCANITA

THE STORY OF THE BOCANITA AND THE 205 D

(continued)

As for the rest of the story.....

Mr. Albert Petty was the projectionist throughout most of the theater's life. He lived across the street from me on Cedar Hill Drive from 1933 to 1935. Drive. We were neighbors, and his son, A. W., and daughter, Una, were my playmates. His wife, Ova, saw some movies twice in order for each of my two sisters to accompany her as a babysitter. This enabled each of my sisters to see the movie for carrying home, on foot, a sleepy child.

We kept in close touch, and he knew of my interest and experimentation with "wildcat" radio stations and electronics in my early teens. When I was about sixteen, he sent for me to come learn his equipment and relieve him for lunch and supper.

I was about eighteen when he gave me the 205D for a keepsake. It had been taken out of service in 1932.

Petty, as he was called by all of Scottsboro, died some forty years ago. His widow still lives here, now in her nineties.

And the Bocanita? It was torn down sometime in the 1960s and replaced by a strip mall running from the public square to the back of the block. I was away in Huntsville, Alabama, "shooting" at the moon, following a ten-year stretch in radio during which I wore the hats of engineer-announcer, salesman, copywriter, and program director.

All I had left of the old Bocanita was the 205D

Being half-way through my eightieth decade, I decided time had arrived to arrange for the disposition of the hodgepodge collected during my lifetime. Fortunately, I came in contact with a collector of early electronic audio equipment who was overjoyed to acquire such a treasure as an intact 205D. I was pleased to pass this piece of personal history to someone whose appreciation of it matched my own. The new owner already possessed many similar components, including a theater amplifier. Now two elderly relatives have been reunited far away, the 205D and another Western Electric Movie Theater Amplifier, model 46B, like the one in the old Bocanita.

I am grateful and proud for the small part I played in the lore and history of our town's best collective memories - the old Bocanita Theater with the beautiful art deco façade.

1884 JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CRIMINAL CASES

INCIDENT AT WOODVILLE IN JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1884

Last Thursday at a log rolling, six miles south of Woodville, old man Atchley and a young man named Tackett had a difficulty. Young Atchley, son of the old man, went home for a pistol, and when he returned, opened fire on the Tacketts. One of the young Tacketts was killed instantly; old man Tackett dangerously wounded; young Atchley was shot in the breast by one of the Tacketts, but he has since skipped to parts unknown. This encounter occurred in the edge of Madison County, and news of it reached here today. (From CHATTANOOGA TIMES, May 15, 1884)

MURDER IN JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1884

We have information from Jackson (County) to the effect that on last Friday night an aged man was murdered by unknown parties in his little shanty near Scottsboro. We failed to get the name and particulars of the terrible crime, but from the facts, we learned it was certainly one of the most cold blooded murders we ever heard of. The murdered man was a poor laborer and had been in the neighborhood but a short time. He was encamped with two other white men and a negro in the forest where they were getting out timber. Soon after midnight on Friday, while the occupants of the cabin were all asleep, three men entered the house by knocking down the door, and one of the parties began to fire upon the old man who lay upon his bunk. At the first fire he sat upon his bed and cried out to the murderers to "be ashamed of themselves," but the brutal murderers fired the second shot which took effect in the old man's eye killing him instantly. The shot was so deadly that the unfortunate man never fell to the floor but kept his position until the arrival of the coroner Saturday morning. At last accounts the coroner's "jury were making every effort possible to trace the crime to its fiendish perpetrators." A great number of witnesses were being examined but nothing had been heard as to who the murderers were, or their object in committing the horrible crime. All good men should unite their efforts for the purpose of seeing that the laws of our country are executed upon those who are guilty of crimes so shocking and revolting to human nature. (GUNTERSVILLE DEMOCRAT, May 15, 1884)

TRIAL OF THE EPPERDS MURDERERS IN JACKSON COUNTY, AL, 1884

Scottsboro, May 16th (1884) - The preliminary investigation of the four Wallers, George Barnes, James Gibson, and William Brock in the murder case of Mr. Epperds closed today. Justice Green remanded all of the seven to jail without bail. After a network of testimony had enclosed them, from which it was impossible to extricate themselves, they confessed they did kill Mr. Epperds, but that it was accidental. They had planned to rock his house and fire pistols until he ran out, when they were to steal the cot on which he slept and have a good joke on him. Old man Waller said he hit him accidentally. It is believed all told the truth, but it's dear fun, if fun was their intent. GUNTERSVILLE DEMOCRAT, May 22, 1884)

RENEW MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEW OR RENEWAL
ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$100.00

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS ARE WELCOMED

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 1494
SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

Please provide:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

The membership year begins January 1. Any dues received before October 1 will be for the current year. Dues received after October 1 will accrue to the following year. Members receive the JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

J.C.H.A. BOOK FOR SALE

The Jackson County Historical Association has republished THE HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA by John R. Kenamer, Sr., 1935 edition. The price of the book is \$20.00. If mailing is required, please add \$3.00 for each book order. Allow ten (10) days for processing. Please complete the following order blank and mail to:

HISTORY BOOK
P.O. BOX 1494
SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

NAME _____ STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____



JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3

JULY 2002

ISSN-1071-2348

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WILL MEET
SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2002, 2:00 P.M. WOODVILLE METHODIST
CHURCH, WOODVILLE, ALABAMA

Program Vice-President Donna Haislip and Glenda Hodges invite you to savor the hospitality of Woodville preservationists as you tour the restored barber shop and Methodist Church and learn more about historic homes of Woodville and their owners/builders. Please feel free to invite a friend — and remember to wear comfortable shoes.

If you have paid your 2002 dues and your mailing label does not show the 2002 designation, please call or write your editor. If you have not paid your dues this year, it is not too late to do so. How to information is found below.

Ann Chambless
435 Barbee Lane
Scottsboro 35769
Email:
abc123@scottsboro.org

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3

JULY 2002

PLEASE INCLUDE 9 DIGIT
ZIP CODE with your
membership renewal. IF
YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES,
please notify the JCHA to
assure continuity in mailings.

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 (due Jan 1)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$100.00
Please mail your check to:
JCHA TREASURER
P. O. Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768



Jackson County Historical Association
Post Office Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768

MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
Jackson County Historical Association
February 15, 2002

The Executive Committee met at the Department of Human Resources building. Present were: Drenda King, President; John Graham, Ralph Mackie, Kathy Cook, Clyde Broadway, and Barbara Jacobs. Proxy information was sent via John Graham and Drenda King from David Campbell, Donna Haislip, and Katye Tipton.

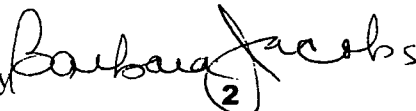
Business items were conducted as follows:

1. The committee decided that a letter of support should be written by the secretary and signed by the president, regarding the Bridgeport Historic District's application for the National Register of Historic Places. The letter should include reference to Bridgeport's Civil War historic value as well as the collection of homes built in the 1890's, which is unique in our county and region.
2. The committee discussed the By-Laws requirement for four directors, to be elected by the organization for a one-year term. At present we have five directors: Clyde Broadway, David Campbell, John Graham, Ralph Mackie, and John Neely. Ralph Mackie volunteered to resign as a Director in order to reduce the current number to four. His resignation was accepted with thanks.
3. The committee discussed the request of the Paint Rock Valley Preservation Committee for support of the Historical Association in their effort to get the Paint Rock Valley named to the National Register of Historic Places. Grant money is available from the Alabama Historical Commission. Mrs. Mae Willow Prince, a volunteer, has agreed to assist the Paint Rock Valley Committee in their computer work and tracking of expenditures.

It was moved and seconded (Graham, Broadway) that the Jackson County Historical Association partner with the Paint Rock Valley Preservation Committee to facilitate their receipt and use of the National Historic Register grant funds from the Alabama Historic Commission. This will be done through use of the Historical Association's tax number. A separate account will be set up by the Historical Association's treasurer for the receipt and disbursement of these funds. Two signatures will be required for any disbursement: Mae Willow Prince and Judy Prince. This partnership will last until the end of the grant, assuming that the Paint Rock Valley Committee remains in good standing with the Alabama Historical Commission. This motion was approved by voice vote of the committee (Jacobs was not present for this vote).

It was also suggested that Ms. Judy Prince be asked to submit a quarterly report to the Historical Association concerning the work of the Paint Rock Valley Preservation Committee. Bank statements of the special account will be reviewed monthly by the Association Treasurer.

Barbara Jacobs, Secretary



2

JOHN BALDRIDGE

By Patty Woodall

Under the Treaty of February 27, 1819¹, John Baldrige was granted a reservation in fee simple² of 640 acres on the banks of the Tennessee River. His house was near the river and between two springs.³ On February 4, 1820 Robert Armstrong surveyed the reservation, which was situated primarily in Section 29 Township 2 South Range 8 East.⁴ [See Figure 1.] The reservation was located where Hwy 117 crosses the Tennessee River today. [See Figure 2 below.]

John Baldrige served in the War of 1812 in Rain Crow's company. This was the Cherokee Regiment commanded by Col. Gideon Morgan who fought against the hostile Creeks at Horseshoe Bend.⁵

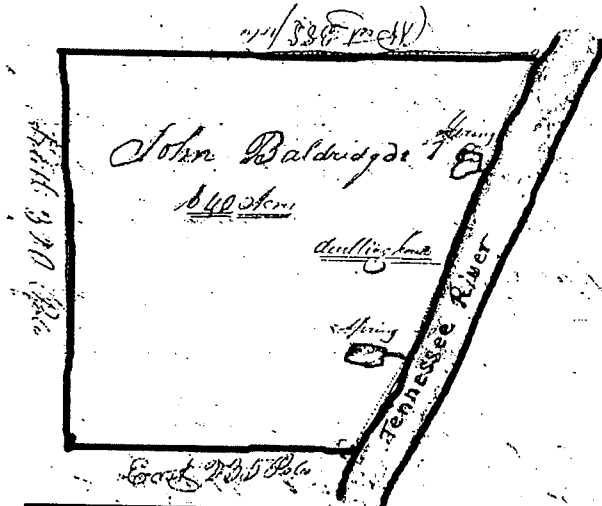


Figure 1 - Survey of John Baldrige's reservation.

In July 1827 a convention of delegates from the districts of the Cherokee Nation was formed and met at New Echota to write the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation. John Baldrige was one of the signers.⁶

John Baldrige petitioned the United States government in 1836 asking for remuneration for certain improvements made prior to the treaty with the Cherokees in 1817 and which after the treaty was surrendered to the people of the United States.⁷ The Secretary of War authorized and directed John Baldrige be paid \$300 for his improvement in the Cherokee nation held and occupied by him at the time of ratification of the treaty of July 8, 1817 and since abandoned without having been valued or paid for by the Government.⁸ The bill was passed to the Committee on Indian Affairs and then passed to the Committee of Claims.⁹ It is unclear if this referred to his reservation or an improvement elsewhere. However in 1840 John E. Caperton had possession of the Baldrige reservation, which he sold to George N. Caperton.¹⁰ There is no record of John E. Caperton buying the reservation.

John Baldrige with thirteen members of his family were captured at his residence on June 1, 1838 by the United States troops under the direction of General Scott in the collection of the Cherokees for their removal west of the Mississippi River. They were marched two days and then left for some reason and were compelled to provide support for themselves without any help from the United States until the 24th of September when they were attached to James Brown's detachment and departed for the west. John Baldrige died shortly before the departure of the detachment for the west. The widow of John, Polly Baldrige, and children filed a claim against the United States for reimbursement of the costs of the rations they had to provide for themselves Between June and

September 24, 1838 for \$677.44. The claim refers to Capt. John Baldrige, a Cherokee and was signed by his widow and children. His son, William, stated he was 21 years old at the time the claim was made on January 8, 1841.¹¹

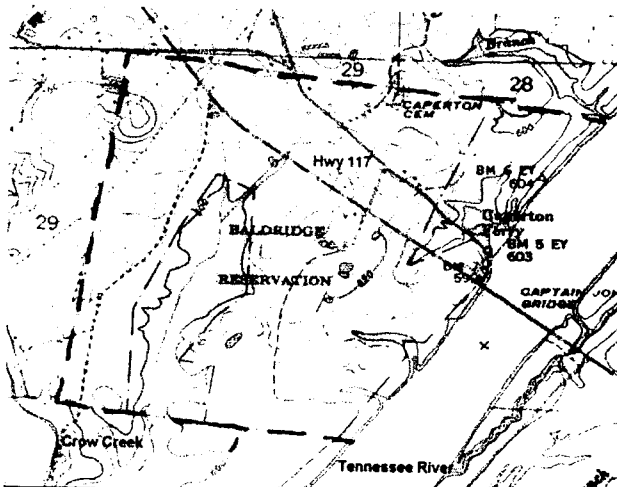


Figure 2 – 1970 Topographical Map of the Baldrige reservation.

After John Baldrige died in September 1838, his widow made a claim for \$2166.50 for property lost in Crow Town, Alabama, and in Georgia. In the claim she stated when the soldiers came to take them to go west, she was living at Lookout Mountain and they were taken to Ross's Landing. In Alabama, she lost a sawmill, 10 acres of land and a dwelling house on Raccoon Creek near Crow Town, a ferry on the Tennessee River, a horse, a roan stallion and 13 head of cattle. In Georgia, she lost 12 acres of growing corn, half acre of garden vegetables,

70 head of hogs, 100 chickens, pea fowls, 4 pots and 2 kettles, 1 table, 1 bedstead, 3 chairs and 2 bars of iron. She lost two Negroes but later sent George C. Lowry back to the Old Nation, and he found the Negroes in the possession of a white man who was keeping them but returned them to her. She stated that in 1824 or 1825 a white man took her horse. The white man who was employed to build the sawmill took the sawmill, the house and 10 acres of land and sold it to another white man. The white man who was keeping the ferry took the ferry, which was about 10 miles from the sawmill.¹² Green Baldrige, son of John Baldrige, testified that John Baldrige died in Alabama about two weeks before starting for Arkansas. He also stated that the man who took the sawmill was George Meals.¹³

John Benge testified that he lived where Bolivar was later located and about a half mile from Polly Baldrige. He stated that John Baldrige lost a horse about 1813 or 1814 and had bought the horse from John Benge's brother for \$125.

John Benge saw the horse in Winchester, Tennessee, on a wagon belonging to a man that lived near Nashville, Tennessee.¹⁴

George C. Lowry testified he had been hired by Polly Baldrige to go back for Negroes in possession of Mr. Rice who had got them for Polly's two sons for promise of \$100. Mr. Rice found them in possession of a white man named Fryer. Mr. Condre told Lowry that Mr. Williams, a merchant, had persuaded the Negroes to go with him and promised to buy them.

Mr. Williams lived about one mile from where Mrs. Baldrige had lived.¹⁵ The United States paid Polly Baldrige the sum of \$35 on the estates of John Baldrige, deceased, for one and half acre of land in cultivation and a dwelling house. This improvement was bought from John Roach and was situated in Lookout Valley, Georgia.¹⁶ A copy of the bill of sale from Roach to John Baldrige shows the improvement was sold on 15th day of March 1838.¹⁷

Robert Benge gave testimony that he was familiar with the improvement John Baldrige bought from John Roach. The house was log with a puncheon floor.¹⁸

John Baldrige married Polly Benge, a sister to John "Wagonmaster" Benge who had a reservation a few miles from the Baldrige reservation. She was the daughter of Robert Benge also known as "The Bench."

John and Polly Baldrige had the following children:¹⁹

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Thomas Baldrige | 4. William Baldrige, born circa 1820 |
| 2. Green Baldrige | 5. Eliza Baldrige |
| 3. Delilah Baldrige | 6. Peggy Baldrige |

¹ Cherokee Reserves, by David Keith Hampton, p. 13.

² American State Papers: Public Lands, Vol. V, p. 397.

³ Robert Armstrong's Survey Book of Cherokee Lands, by James L. Douthat, p.45.

⁴ Old Land records of Jackson County, Alabama, by Margaret Matthews Cowart, p. 315.

⁵ Horseshoe Bend Cherokee Muster, compiled by Howard P. White.

<http://members.aol.com/lredtail/muster.html>.

⁶ History of the Cherokee Indians, by Emmet Starr, p. 55-65.

⁷ Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873, March 14, 1836.

⁸ U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates 1774-1873, Bills and Resolutions, House of Representatives, 24th Congress, 1st Session, Bill 548, April 12, 1836 and 25 Congress, 2nd Session. Bill 494, January 30, 1838.

⁹ Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873, March 5, 1840, p. 510.

¹⁰ Jackson County, Alabama Deed Book A, p542, dated 10 August 1840.

¹¹ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, p. 247-248.

¹² 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.166-167.

¹³ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.168.

¹⁴ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.169.

¹⁵ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.169-170.

¹⁶ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.170.

¹⁷ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.171.

¹⁸ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.170-171.

¹⁹ 1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, p.248. His children signed this claim.

1842 Cherokee Claims, Skin Bayou District, by Marybelle W. Chase, Claim dated March 8, 1842, p.166-167.

THE STORY OF THE AIRDOME AND THE RITZ THEATRE

by Reuben Miller

In 1935, Mr. William Jacob Word, Sr. was still holding the “paper” on a structure he had built for a Vaudeville group who went broke and were never to use their open air theatre. This theatre consisted of a stage with wings right and left, adequate footlights, and a set of tinselled curtains. All were sheltered from the weather by a roof above. The auditorium was bounded by a board fence ten to twelve feet high. This fence stood on the perimeter of a residential size building lot at the corner of Peachtree and South Houston Streets (where Ms. Mary Ellen Caulfield made her home in later years.)

Seating in this unique auditorium consisted of bleachers on each side from high on the walls to the floor which had a natural, auditorium-slope front to back. The floor was dirt, covered with wood shavings from Mr. Word’s lumber company planer. The center section had rows of folding, uncushioned seats, leaving two aisles, right and left, rendering full access. Incidentally, the only shelter for the auditorium was the air and sky above. Yes, the air and the sky made loan of themselves for a name: AIRDOME. A better name could never have been chosen. Mr. Robert Word, son of Mr. Jake (as he was known far and wide), had been “after” his Dad to let him have this place for a movie theatre. Sometime early in 1935, arrangements were made, and Robert got the Airdome.

A snow white sound (perforated) screen was installed near the backstage wall. The sound delivery system was behind the screen. Out front a projection booth was built and mounted on four power pole-like wood supports. Yes, there it was up on stems. The projectionist climbed a ladder to his work.

Inside was a pair of rather ancient, but good, Powers projectors mounted on two CTR (Cincinnati Time Recording) system sound heads (the mechanical portion of sound-on-film reproduction.)

I never knew, but always assumed, that the electronics were CTR, also. The Airdome had good sound, and even with the old Powers projectors the picture was clear, bright, and steady, steady as the stars in the dome above.

Yes, we watched the movies under the stars of the heaven. It was in the Airdome that we saw "Wagon Wheels" with Randolph Scott and Judith Allen, and featuring Billy Hill's grand old song whose title was the same as the picture. "Tailspin Tommy" was a serial we saw with thrills in the air. The thriller, "Frankenstein," was another feature which played the Airdome in the summer of 1935. "Rose Marie" with sweethearts, Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald, played in 1936.

Mr. Robert Word told me a story of showing "Rose Marie" at the Airdome: It was late 1936, and, as some readers may remember, the weather in Scottsboro, Alabama can be quite cruel to open air theatre. During one of the play dates of "Rose Marie" the weather became unsuitable for viewing open air movies. It began to rain, and the audience went home - except one lady and her husband. They were seated under their umbrella, seeing the movie to completion, all by themselves, all the way to "The End," the management and employees wishing to close up and go home. In some cases the show had to be cancelled and played another night, with the audience in some way reimbursed.

Two summers 1935 and 1936....and then the Airdome, Powers projectors, sound screen, and CTR sound ("moom picher") and all, moved to the west side of the square and became THE RITZ. Cale Brad Thomas' Café became the lobby and box office. A building just completed adjoined at the back became the auditorium and the first air-conditioned building in Scottsboro. Cooling was accomplished by "washing" the air. The air washer was located outside, high on the southwest corner of the building. Excess water dripped to the ground. It later was known as a water fan still used in some southwestern states. Water is forced in front of a fan in a fine spray. Cooling happens due to evaporation.

Soon after the move, the old Powers were replaced by newer Simplexes, and the CTR was replaced by RCA. Performance was excellent! The dark lights at The Ritz were the brightest anywhere. We could easily find our seats.

In 1942, I was asked to go under the tutelage of a grand guy the whole town knew and loved, projectionist Raymond James. This came about due to several reasons: my interest in radio (known by all because I had been heard on my own homemade radio stations), my other electronics gadgetry history, and I had been a "patron" for so many years. Plus, Mr. Robert Word's brother, Hal, recommended me.

In just four weeks, Raymond James went on vacation for a week....As I remember, everything went well, even though I did have a very short three and one-half minute reel to one of the features. That one kept me hopping!

My friend, who had honored me with an admission pass for so many years, then became my "boss man." Things learned there were helpful all through my life, and I shall be eternally grateful. I served as a part-time projectionist until the spring of 1945 when I went away to school and paid my room and board as, guess what, a projectionist at the Tiger Theatre.

It was in the Ritz that we laughed and cried to the antics of Mickey Rooney as "Andy Hardy" with Celia Parker as his sister; Lewis Stone as father, Judge Hardy; Faye Hoiden as the Mom; Sarah Hayden as the gentle old maid aunt; and Ann Rutherford as Andy's sweetheart, Polly Benedict. We saw Gable and Leigh in "Gone with the Wind." Remember the Scottsboro movie when we saw ourselves and our town? We went into "the war years" with Robert Taylor and Vivien Leigh in the painfully beautiful, unforgettable "Waterloo Bridge."

From Airdome to the Ritz. Today, the Ritz lobby is home to Southern All-Sports. The theatre is gone but a host of movie fans still remember the first and last movie they viewed at the Ritz on Broad Street. Ah! What pleasant memories!

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
January 20, 2002

The Jackson County Historical Association met on January 20, 2002, at the Scottsboro Public Library.

President Drenda King called the meeting to order.

The program was presented first, by State Rep. John Robinson, who spoke to the group and showed copies of old ledgers and handwritten materials he has assembled about Bellefonte, the former county seat of Jackson County, which is located on his and his wife's property in Jackson County. This interesting presentation traced the development of Bellefonte from the early 1800's when territory north of the Tennessee River was obtained from the Cherokees, up through the Civil War years, with the destruction of the courthouse and loss of records, and the subsequent relocation of the county seat to Scottsboro in 1868. The only remaining visible artifact of Bellefonte is a chimney which was part of the Stagecoach Inn, constructed by early settler Daniel Martin in 1845.

Judi Weaver of the Heritage Center displayed three maps (depicting old Decatur County, Jackson County in 1820 and Jackson County in 1850), which have been colorized by Gary Morgan. These prints are offered for sale for \$20 each, with the proceeds to be divided between the Historical Association and the Heritage Center.

Following refreshments, Mrs. King convened the business meeting of the Association.

The minutes of the October 28, 2001, meeting were read and approved. Dr. David Campbell suggested that the minutes be printed in the Chronicles.

The treasurer was not present and no treasurer's report was given.

John Neely reported that the Depot account now has \$10,045.86, which takes it over the \$10,000 required for grant matching funds. We will still need further money for various drawings of the site, electric bills, and such.

Committee Reports:

Dr. David Campbell read to the membership the revised wording, approved by the state, for the Skyline marker. The marker will take at least ten weeks to be delivered.

Ralph Mackie reported for the Nominating Committee. Three current officers have agreed to serve another year: Drenda King, President; Katie Tipton, Treasurer; and Barbara Jacobs, Secretary. The committee proposes Donna Haislip for the First Vice President (Program Chairman), and Kathy Cook for the Second Vice President (Membership Chairman). These nominees were approved by voice vote.

Jackson County Historical Association – January 20, 2002 – p. 2

Ralph Mackie reported a concern about the Board of Directors possibly having five members at this time, when the By-laws specify four members. The current Board includes: Clyde Broadway, David Campbell, Ralph Mackie, John Graham, and John Neely. This issue was tabled at this time, with further consideration later.

New Business:

Judi Weaver of the Heritage Center invited everyone to attend the dedication of the Walter Hammer Family Research Library at the Heritage Center on February 17.

Drenda King has appointed a committee to consider an application for a local History Award from the Alabama Historical Commission. The committee is: Ann Chambless, David Campbell, John Graham, and Drenda King.

Judy Prince of the Paint Rock Valley was introduced. Ms. Prince told about her group's efforts to apply for a grant to get various structures (buildings, cemeteries) in the Paint Rock Valley approved for the Registry of Historic Places. She introduced Jim Blanton and Ray Sanders, who have worked with her in this effort for the last three years. They have gotten a grant and provided matching funds from memorial funds for Pete Prince, her father, to carry out a survey of the area. A second grant will involve in-kind contributions, possibly using oral histories from people who have lived in the valley. Samford University's folklore students, under Professor Jim Brown, may be involved. Ms. Prince asked the Historical Association for two types of specific help: first, that the organization handle and administer the financial aspects of the grants; and second, that someone interested and skilled with computer work be trained by Jim Blanton to pick up on that aspect of the project.

John Graham moved (John Neely seconded) that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee, and that they be empowered to make the necessary decisions. This was approved.

Ann Chambless told of a visit by two persons from the State Department of Archives and History, who want to solicit help in microfilming loose records in our courthouse basement. Volunteers are needed to help on this project over the next year. The state personnel will be back in April to make further planning.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jacobs, Secretary



1862 BELLEFONTE, ALABAMA FLAG PRESENTATION

by Ann B. Chambless

On June 17, 2002, a Memory Book, 160 years old, sold on eBay for \$2262.01. The handwritten pages were dated from 1861 to 1865. Most were dated 1861-1863 by the owner, Mary Jane May of Clarksville, Arkansas. Her husband, T. K. May, was a member of the Confederate 26th Arkansas Infantry Regiment in the Civil War. On February 27, 1862, M. R. Cunningham had written for Mrs. May's Memory Book:

"Rather die for Dixie than live in Abraham's bosom"

Near this entry Mary Jane Clark had written "killed by Jayhawkers on July 31, 1863."

Before the 52-page memory book was delivered to the successful bidder in June 2002, the seller shared two full pages which told the story of a flag presentation in Bellefonte, Alabama, in 1862. The following is copied verbatim from the memory book:

"At Bellefonte, Ala the following young ladies stepped forward, one by one, representing seceded states as they left the old confederacy carrying with them all those rights and liberties bequeathed to them by our ancestors of the Revolution, representing the following appropriate and patriotic lines and composed by Laura Lorrimer.

Miss Matilda Fennell - SOUTH CAROLINA FLAG

(Matilda was born circa 1848, the daughter of Frank M. and Isabella Fennell. Frank Fennell's real estate value was \$60,000 and personal property value was \$40,000 per 1860 census.)

SOUTH CAROLINA: First to rise against oppression in this glorious Southern Land. Home of dead and living hearts, South Carolina takes her stand.

Miss Lucinda Frazier - FLORIDA FLAG

(Lucinda, born 1844, was daughter of Joseph and Lucinda Jane (Williams) Parks.)

FLORIDA: And I come with greetings sister, where amid her orange bowers waves fair Florida her scepter, crowned with fairest, sweetest flowers.

Miss Alice Eaton - GEORGIA FLAG

(Alice was born circa 1845 in AL. In 1860, she was in household of Elizabeth J. Eaton, age 38, a milliner.)

GEORGIA - Lo and Georgia uprising, answering with the yoke of yore, sends her children forth to conquer, peace from haughty foes and more."

Miss Cornelia Caperton - MISSISSIPPI FLAG

(Cornelia was born circa 1848, the daughter of Adam H. and Mary (Clark) Caperton. Cornelia married William Sternes on Dec 12, 1874, at Adam Caperton's.)

MISSISSIPPI - Sisters, room for Mississippi, Well she knows the marchers' claim. She has marched of late to battle, She will strike her foes again.

Miss Kate (Catherine) Fennell - ALABAMA FLAG

(Kate was born circa 1844 in AL, the daughter of Frank and Isabella Fennell. She married C. W. Adkins on Nov 14, 1868.)

ALABAMA - In this new born arch of glory, Lo! Where shines its central star. Alabama and her radiance, Never cloud of shame shall mar.

Miss Sallie Snodgrass - LOUISIANA FLAG

(Sallie (Sarah) was born circa 1849, the daughter of Thomas and Caroline (Martin) Snodgrass. She married T. M. Davidson on Jan 19, 1871.)

LOUISIANA - A voice from Louisiana! Lo! Her brave sons arise, Armed and ready for this conflict, Stern defiance in their eyes.

Miss Parthenia Bryant - TEXAS FLAG

(Parthenia was born circa 1844 in AL, the daughter of Elisha and Nancy Bryant. She married James N. Power on Dec 18, 1862.)

TEXAS - Texas, youngest amid her sisters, Joins her earnest voice to theirs. Forth she sends her gallant rangers, With her blessings and her prayers.

Miss Sallie Fennell - VIRGINIA FLAG

(Sallie was born circa 1846 in AL, the daughter of Frank and Isabella Fennell. She married George F. Scruggs on Nov 24, 1868.)

VIRGINIA - Wave, wave on high your banners. Here the Old Dominion comes, With the lightning speak the thunder. Lo! Where sound her army's drums.

Miss Sallie Carter - ARKANSAS FLAG

(Sallie was born circa 1844, the daughter of James Lewis and Jane Carter and granddaughter of Stephen and Sally (Lewis) Carter, co-founders of Bellefonte. Sallie married G. W. Smith of Larkinsville.)

ARKANSAS - Long Arkansas waited hoping, Clinging to the flag of stars. Now, she tears them down forever, Tho: away then for the wars.

Miss Kate Mattox - TENNESSEE FLAG

(Kate was born circa 1848, the daughter of T.R. and Sarah (Snodgrass) Mattox. She married John C. Kirby on Sep 21, 1874, and they moved to Titus Co, TX.)

TENNESSEE - Last but far from last among you. Spartan band of brave and free, Like a whirlwind in her anger, Wheelis in line old Tennessee."

LAURA LORRIMER who wrote the verses for each of the above state flag bearers lived in Bellefonte, Alabama, where her husband was a merchant at the time of the 1860 Jackson County, Alabama census.

Laura Lorrimer was the pen name of Julia (Finley) Shelton who published poems. Julia was born circa 1834 in TN, and married John A. Shelton who was a son of Shepard and Rosina (Chapman) Shelton. John A. Shelton was born Jan 9, 1830, Jackson County, AL. From 1860 to 1870, John A. and Julia Shelton lived in Jackson County before they moved to Chattanooga, TN. John A. Shelton died on Dec 18, 1877, and was buried in the Parks-Shelton Cemetery west of Scottsboro near the home of the late Robert E. Jones.

On June 5, 1873, the following article appeared in THE ALABAMA HERALD published in Scottsboro, Alabama:

"Mrs. Julia Shelton, wife of John A. Shelton, who our readers will bear in mind is our poetic friend, the gifted Laura Lorrimer.....Mrs. Julia Shelton, author of the handsome volume of poems from the press of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, TN, entitled A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH, has returned to her home in Chattanooga. She has a number of copies of the first edition unsold and can fill orders promptly by mail or otherwise. The postage is only eight cents. Price of book is \$2.00."

The JCHA received the following letter from James W. Loewen of 4116 - 13th Place, NE, Washington, DC 200017, email: jloewen@zoo.uvm.edu telephone: (202)269-6655

"In 1999 The New Press brought out the hardbound version of my book LIES ACROSS AMERICA: WHAT OUR HISTORIC SITES GET WRONG. The next year Simon & Schuster brought out the paperback. One "entry" in the book treats "the lack of historical markers for the Scottsboro Boys."

Are you familiar with the book and entry? Do you have a reaction? The author would like to receive it. Also, has this lack been remedied since I wrote? Thank you very much for your consideration."

SIGNED: James W. Loewen

RENEW MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEW OR RENEWAL

ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$100.00

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS ARE WELCOMED

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1494

SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

Please provide:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

NEW _____ **RENEWAL** _____

The membership year begins January 1. Any dues received before October 1 will be for the current year. Dues received after October 1 will accrue to the following year. Members receive the JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

J.C.H.A. BOOK FOR SALE

The Jackson County Historical Association has republished THE HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA by John R. Kennamer, Sr., 1935 edition. The price of the book is \$20.00. If mailing is required, please add \$3.00 for each book order. Allow ten (10) days for processing. Please complete the following order blank and mail to:

HISTORY BOOK

P.O. BOX 1494

SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

NAME _____ **STREET** _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ **TELEPHONE** _____



JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4

October 2002

ISSN-1071-2348

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WILL MEET
SUNDAY, October 20, 2002, 2:00 P.M., PAYNES DRUG STORE,
NORTH SIDE OF SQUARE, SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

Program Vice President Donna Haislip invites you to bring a guest and
enjoy the history and hospitality of Scottsboro's oldest business -
Paynes Drug Store in its current location since 1891. Donna's
Speaker will take you down Scottsboro's memory lane, and drug store
refreshments will be served.

Ann B. Chambliss, Editor
435 Barbee Lane
Scottsboro, AL 35769-3745
abc123@scottsboro.org

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4

October 2002

**PLEASE INCLUDE 9
DIGIT ZIP CODE with
your membership renewal.** IF
YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES,
please notify the JCHA to
assure continuity in mailings.

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 (due Jan 1)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$100.00
Please mail your check to:
JCHA TREASURER
P. O. Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768



Jackson County Historical Association
Post Office Box 1494
Scottsboro, AL 35768

JCHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Executive Board of the Jackson County Historical Association met in a Called Session at the home of Drenda and Jerry King in Scottsboro on 15 August 2002 at 5 pm.

At 5:15 pm President Drenda King called the meeting to order. Upon Roll Call, those answering present were Dr. Ron Dykes, Membership Vice President Kathy Cook, Treasurer Katye Tipton, Program Vice President Donna Haislip and Executive Committee Members John Graham and Clyde Broadway. Those not present were Secretary Dr. Barbara Jacobs and Mr. John Neely. Katye Tipton took Minutes in the absence of Dr. Jacobs.

President Drenda King noted the exceptional meeting held in Woodville. She asked what sort of gesture the JCHA could offer the Town of Woodville for their hospitality. John Graham offered a motion to pay the Town of Woodville \$100 from the General Fund account to be earmarked for historic preservation purposes. Kathy Cook seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Ron Dykes addressed the Committee regarding a book he has written. His desire was for the Jackson County Historical Association to offset the cost of publishing the book and, in return, the JCHA would receive half of the proceeds from the book's sale. He began researching this book in August 1999 whereupon he chose eight elderly people who were born, reared and spent the majority of their lives in Jackson County. He focused primarily on their early lives in Jackson County, recounting through them our culture as it was about a decade after the turn of the 20th century. The eight people included in the book are Ms. Rubilee Smith, Ms. Sue Mae Powell, Mr. Archie Stewart, Ms. Lillie Mae Culbert, Mr. Jim Clemons, Ms. Gertrude Stockton, Ms. Opal Peters and Ms. Ida Olinger. He read excerpts from the book. President Drenda King said she read and enjoyed the book. She found it valuable both from a genealogical perspective as well as an historic one. Dr. Dykes' working title for the book is *Back Then: Memories Of Jackson County In The Early Part of the Twentieth Century*.

John Graham, having recently published a book, reported to the Committee regarding "on-demand" publishing. He said Lynn and Elgin Carver of the Paint Rock River Press in Paint Rock Valley published his book for less than \$10 per copy with only a 25-book minimum order. He said the book had to be submitted electronically, but that they, through Lightning Source in LaVergne, Tennessee, did professional work, including assigning the International Standard Book Number. He thought the publishing of Dr. Dykes book could be done for an initial investment of \$250.

President Drenda King stated that she was for the Association supporting the project and asked for opinions from the Committee. Katye Tipton offered a motion for John Graham to investigate the options at the Paint Rock River Press and report back to the Committee. Clyde Broadway seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Katye Tipton presented the Treasurer's Report. She showed \$524.04 in the General Fund and \$21,447.93 in Certificates of Deposit that renewed 10 May 2002. Donna Haislip suggested that the October meeting which is traditionally a dinner meeting be something for which the JCHA charges in order to rejuvenate the General Fund.

Dr. David Campbell joined the meeting in progress.

The Committee discussed The Scottsboro Boys and the lack of notation of the trials anywhere in Jackson County. Clyde Broadway stated that the Association should probably consider erecting historic markers before someone else does it. This would be a way to assure the accuracy of the facts in the case.

At 6:25 pm, Kathy Cook offered a motion to adjourn. Donna Haislip seconded the motion. Upon unanimous vote, the meeting stood in adjournment.

FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAY WILL SOON BE 100 YEARS OLD
1902 - 2002
by Ann B. Chambless

Originally published by Editor Chambless in THE CHRONICLES In January 1982

First Monday Trade Day in Scottsboro began as Horse Swapper's Day on December 1, 1902. The event was the idea of James Armstrong, editor of "The Scottsboro Citizen" published in Scottsboro, Alabama.

On March 8, 1900, James Armstrong made the appeal: "Why not have a day SET APART each month in Scottsboro as horse swapper's day? This would bring a big crowd to town and would be known as horse trader's day."

James Armstrong waited almost three years before his idea materialized. Apparently he had to educate the citizens of Jackson County before they could envision the benefits and pleasures of such an event. Editor Armstrong continued exposing his readers to his idea through the pages of his newspaper. However, no mention is made of such a trade day in his competitor's Scottsboro paper.

On November 13, 1902, Mr. Armstrong again appealed to his readers. Evidently he knew of no other such event to use as a comparison. Therefore, he wrote his own description and gave it a dark, bold type heading as follows:
HORSE SWAPPER'S DAY

"How would it do to have the first Monday in each month SET APART as horse swapper's day at Scottsboro? Each first Monday could be made a lively day for buying, swapping, and selling horses and mules. The Citizen suggests that Monday, December 1st, be named as the FIRST HORSE SWAPPER'S DAY."

One sentence told the story. On Thursday, December 4, 1902, Editor James Armstrong reported: "The FIRST horse swapper's day at Scottsboro was not a howling success."

James Armstrong did not give up. Six months later, "The Citizen" reported: "A good crowd was in town Monday. County and Commissioners' Court met that day." No mention was made of trade day.

Nine months from "the first day set aside," James Armstrong was still reminding his readers of horse swapper's day. On September 3, 1903, he printed:

"Next Monday, being the first Monday, will be horse swapper's day in Scottsboro. Bring in another horse."

FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAY WILL SOON BE 100 YEARS OLD: 1902 - 2002
By Ann B. Chambless

Mr. Armstrong was obviously pleased with the crowd in September 1903. On September 10, 1903, his most extensive coverage to date appeared with bold heading:

HORSE SWAPPER'S DAY

"Last Monday - the first Monday - was horse swapper's day at this place, and a large crowd was in town. A number of trades were made during the day, and everybody seemed satisfied he got the best bargain."

James Armstrong's idea was finally beginning to catch on, and his personal interest in the event is readily detected in his September 1903 coverage. Editor Armstrong also reported the facts. The people remained in their own precincts on the first Monday in February 1904. "The Citizen" dated February 4, 1904, stated: **"The election Monday knocked out the horse swappers."**

Business was still slow in March 1904, but James Armstrong did not give up. On March 10, 1904, he reminded his readers: **"Last Monday was horse swapper's day and a few trades were made. James Armstrong's competitor still remained silent about Horse Swapper's Day or First Monday in Scottsboro."**

On August 4, 1904, James Armstrong continued to remind his readers of the monthly event by reporting: **"Last Monday was horse swapper's day, and it brought a good crowd to town."**

By May 1905, James Armstrong apparently felt pleased because his persistence was reaping the dividends he had envisioned. On May 4, 1905, "The Scottsboro Citizen" advised: **"Being County Court, Tax Collector Ridley's day, and horse swapper's day brought a good crowd to town Monday, and the merchants were kept quite busy selling goods."**

That trading was first centered around horses and mules is verified by the August 10, 1905, coverage in "The Scottsboro Citizen" as follows: **"Several horse swaps were made in town last Monday."**

On October 4, 1905, coverage indicates a lively First Monday. **"Chancery Court, county court, horse swapper's day, and 10 ½ cent cotton caused the town to present an animated appearance Monday."**

Horse Swapper's Day or First Monday was in its sixth year by 1908, but James Armstrong kept reminding his readers of the monthly event. On May 7, 1908, he reported: **"Very little horse trading was done in town Monday."**

FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAY WILL SOON BE 100 YEARS OLD: 1902 - 2002
By Ann B. Chambless

Editor Armstrong was able to give a better report on August 6, 1908:
"A pretty good crowd came to town Monday, it being horse swapper's day."

On November 5, 1908, Mr. Armstrong must have been pleased to report:
"The town was full of people Monday."

James Armstrong's foresight and perseverance created a longstanding tradition. He patiently educated his readers, and together they established an unofficial holiday in Jackson County. As the needs of the people changed, so did First Monday trade day. More and more farmers acquired automobiles and tractors, and horse swapping declined. First Monday crowds waned in direct relation. Once again a newspaper editor sensed the economic climate and provided cohesive leadership.

After James Armstrong died in 1911, the stock of "The Scottsboro Citizen" was sold to "The Progressive Age." In 1919, James S. Benson purchased "The Progressive Age." On March 5, 1925, Mr. Benson outlined a plan to expand the marketing services of the declining Horse Swapper's Day. The editor proposed first Monday trading be called Market Day. He stated farmers could advertise free of charge in "The Progressive Age." Mr. Benson obtained the support of the Civitan Club to foster this new idea. The following article, dated March 5, 1925, most likely was the beginning of the present day marketing format of First Monday:

"On the first Monday in April, what is known as Market Day will be started in Scottsboro, and doubtless much good will result from the business and good fellowship campaign arranged for that day. It is planned that in addition to the horse swappers convention that always takes place on First Monday, the farmers of the county will be invited to come on this day and trade and sell their products. It is planned that any farmer in the county who has anything to sell, trade, or wants to buy anything on this day can advertise it FREE in "THE PROGRESSIVE AGE." A section of the paper has been contracted for by the business men under the auspices of the Civitan Club of the town and all the farmer has to do is to write out his advertisement and send it to "The Progressive Age" and the week before the First Monday this section will be published. If you have anything you want to sell or exchange, advertise it in these columns and have it here on that day, and it is very likely you can get a trade. Get ready for it."

The variety of wares traded increased with the crowds each year. Now a trade day of mammoth proportions takes place around the court house square. First Monday in Scottsboro is one of Jackson County's most consistent claims to fame.

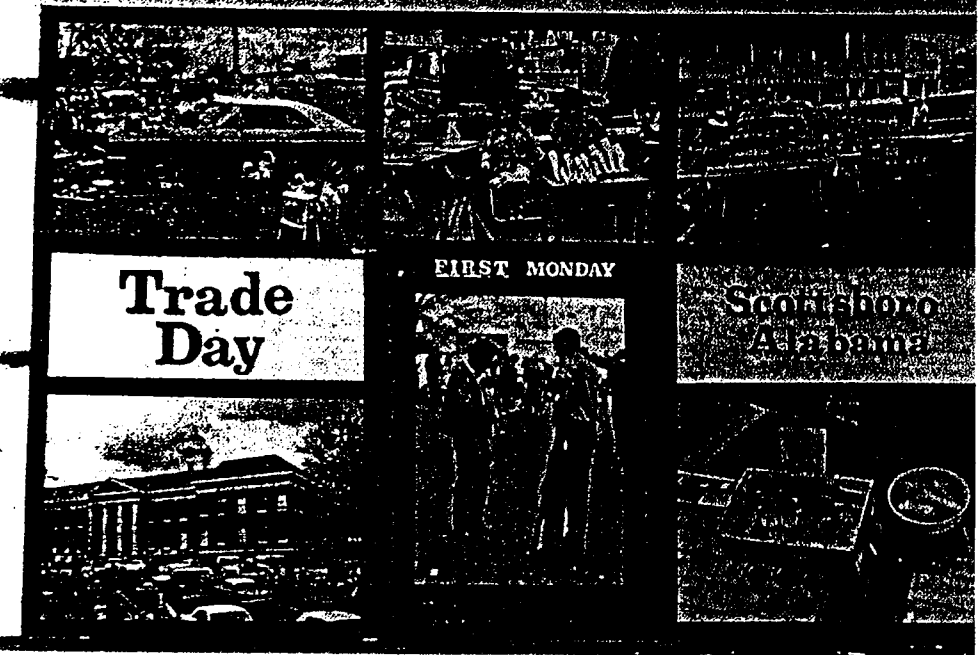
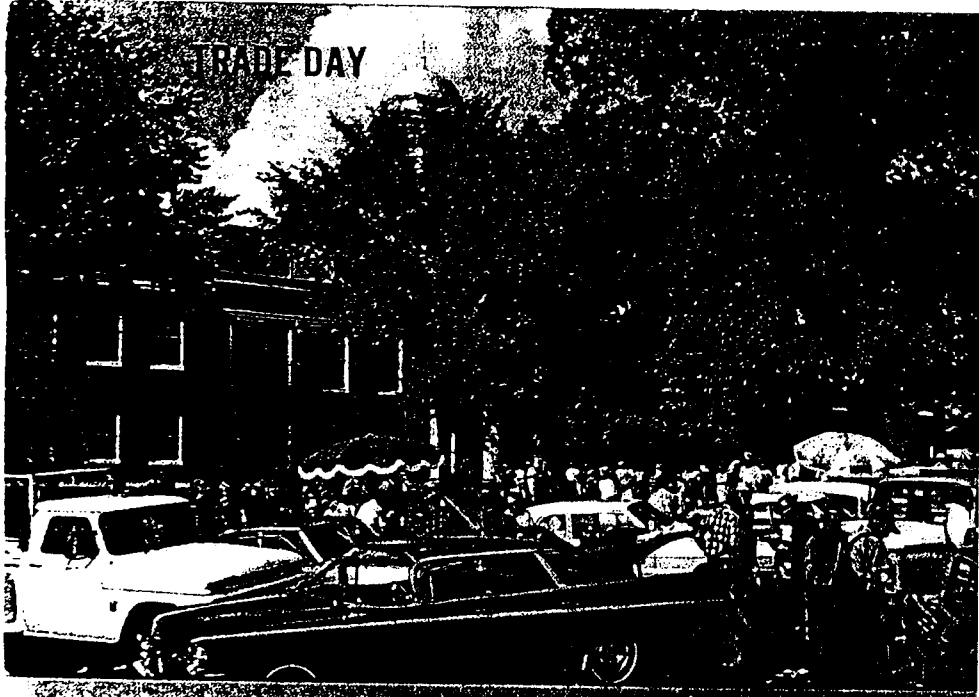


JOCKEY'S DAY IN SCOTTSBORO, ALA.

DAYS GONE BY

**FIRST MONDAYS
IN
SCOTTSBORO, AL**

**3 old postcards
from collection of
Ann B. Chambless**



JOHN McNARY

By Patty Woodall

Under the Treaty of July 8, 1817, John McNary chose to retain his home in Indian Territory and applied for a reservation on March 11, 1817. He was granted reservation number 32 of 640 acres in right of his wife, Nannie (Riley) McNary, with a life estate. The location was cited as on the road between Sauta and Crow Creek and was to include his improvements.¹ Today, this area is immediately west of the B. B. Comer Bridge/Robert E. Jones Bridge where they traverse the Tennessee River at the eastern edge of Scottsboro, Alabama. When Jackson County was surveyed, the reservation was located primarily in Sections 34 and 35, Township 4, South Range 6 East of Huntsville, Alabama.²

Nannie Riley was the daughter of Samuel Riley and Gu-lu-sti-yu, a full blood Cherokee, and the granddaughter of Chief Doublehead.³ Nannie was born about 1792⁴ and died before March 1817.⁵ On April 22, 1805 Rev. Evan Jones baptized her at South West Point in the Cherokee nation.⁶ Nannie Riley married John McNary May 9, 1804 in Roane County, Tennessee.⁷ John McNary was born about 1790⁸ and died March 1841.⁹ Nannie and John McNary had the following child:

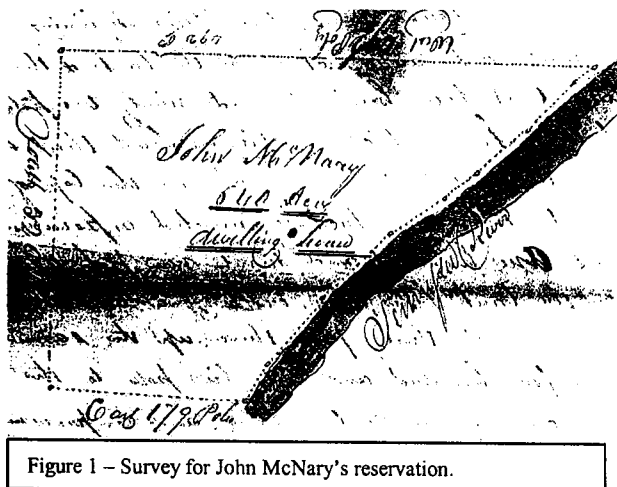


Figure 1 – Survey for John McNary's reservation.

1. Margaret McNary was born about 1810¹⁰ and died December 1839.¹¹ She married James George Thompson (son of Jesse and Anna Thompson) who was born January 2, 1802, in South Carolina and died August 13, 1879, in Grayson County, Texas.¹² Margaret and James G. Thompson had five children: Mary Ann, Angerona, William U., Lurena and John G. Thompson. The youngest child, John G., was born December 9, 1839, and it is likely that Margaret died in childbirth or shortly thereafter.¹³ The two oldest children were born in the Old Nation and the other three after the Thompsons emigrated west to near Webbers Falls.¹⁴

On August 4, 1820, John McNary was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for Jackson County, Alabama.¹⁵

In 1822, John McNary petitioned Congress to be allowed to give his reservation to his married daughter and her husband. The matter was referred to the Committee on the Public Lands. In January 1823, the matter was again referred to the Committee on the Public Lands.¹⁶ Two weeks later the House of Representatives ruled that the petitioner had leave to withdraw his petition and accompanying documents.¹⁷

Between 1825 and 1830 John McNary married a second time to Milly (Hampton) Martin who was a widow with at least four children.¹⁸

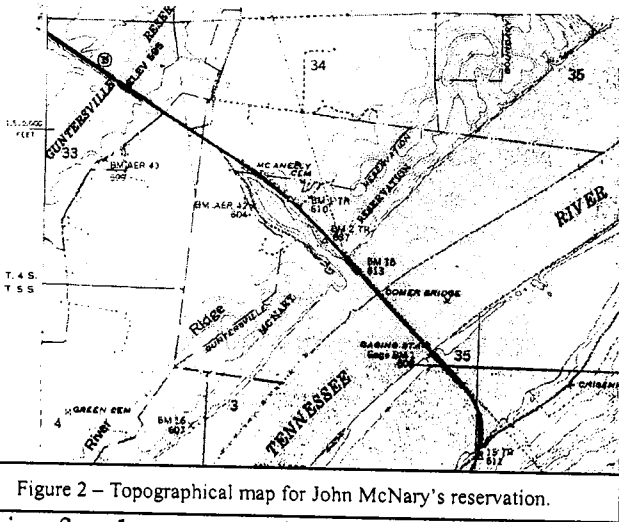


Figure 2 – Topographical map for John McNary's reservation.

On December 23, 1828, James Thompson with 5 in his family enrolled from Brown's Creek to emigrate west.¹⁹ However, James and Margaret Thompson did not actually emigrate until 1829 and settled about a mile and half from Webbers Falls. After the death of Margaret, James Thompson married a second time to a white woman in October 1841.²⁰

In 1842, James G. Thompson who lived in Canadian District, Indian Territory, made a claim for the reservation his father-in-law, John McNary, had possessed.²¹ John McNary had died in 1841 and John's only child had died in 1839 or 1840. The reservation was given to John McNary as a life estate with a reversion in fee simple to his heirs. James G. Thompson made the claim for his five children as the heirs of John McNary in the amount of \$9,600. The Commissioners of the Fourth Board awarded the heirs \$6,400.²² So, essentially, the United States bought back the McNary reservation.

James G. Thompson further stated in his claim that John McNary was a white man and had occupied his reservation until his death. Thompson also stated that John McNary had leased the land to Joshua Kirby for eight years but the lease had expired and Kirby afterwards rented the land from McNary on a yearly basis and was still farming it at McNary's death. Thompson understood that Kirby intended to claim the reservation under the right of occupancy.²³

In April 1856 Joshua Kirby and John McNary's widow, Milly McNary, had a petition, Senate Bill 275, before the Senate asking for the right to enter the land covered by the life reserve of John McNary under the Cherokee treaties of 1817 and 1819.

The Bill stated that Joshua Kirby was authorized upon payment of \$1.25 per acre to enter lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 containing 320 acres or one-half of the reservation and that the widow of John McNary be permitted at the same rate per acre to enter the remainder of the land on the reservation. However, there was a provision attached to Joshua Kirby's right to enter this land. Kirby had to produce satisfactory proof of the transfer, or obligation to transfer, to him by John McNary and his heirs of their interest in the 320 acres of land and of the continued residence of John McNary upon the reserve until his death.²⁴ Joshua Kirby died in 1857 without ever entering the 320 acres. Milly McNary died in 1862 without ever entering the other 320 acres. In the 1880's several men entered various parts of the reservation until the entire reservation was sold to private individuals.²⁵

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Page 403 of Margaret M. Cowart's OLD LAND RECORDS OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA, records the following sale of the 657.30 acres known as the McNary Reservation:

TOWNSHIP		4 & 5		RANGE		6		HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN		
DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT		AREA		UNITED STATES TITLE			Date of Sale Location or Grant	Number of Certificate or Warrant	Date of Military Act	
PART OF SECTION	Section	Acres	100ths	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED						

Page 421

McNary's Reservation		657.30							
Lots No. 1		40.00		Samuel McAnally			9 May 1883	2151	
2		40.00		" "			" " "	"	
3		40.00		B. L. McAnally			26 Sep 1882	2150	
4		40.00		Wm. A. B. Carter			9 May 1883	35731	
5		66.25		" " " "			" " "	"	
6		31.75		" " " "			" " "	"	
7		62.00		John Martin			8 Oct 1881	1788	
8		40.00		B. L. McAnally			26 Sep 1882	2150	
9		40.00		" " "			" " "	"	
10		40.00		Joshua F. Martin			9 Jan 1886	4182	
11		40.00		" " "			" " "	"	
12		40.00		John Martin			8 Oct 1881	1788	
13		57.50		" " "			" " "	"	
14		39.80		Joshua F. Martin			9 Jan 1886	4182	
15		40.00		" " "			" " "	"	

-
- ¹ *Cherokee Reservees* by David Keith Hampton, p. 1-12.
- ² *Old Land records of Jackson County, Alabama*, by Margaret Matthews Cowart, p. 217.
- ³ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.
- ⁴ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=991337469> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.
- ⁵ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83. Deposition dated January 24, 1842 of James G. Thompson who stated his father-in-law, John McNary, entered and registered the reservation after his [John McNary] wife's death.
- ⁶ Records of the Cherokee Agency in Tennessee, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, National Archives Microcopy M-208, Rolls 1-7, 13, Roll 3, 1805-1807
- ⁷ Roane County, Tennessee marriages.
- ⁸ 1830 and 1840 Jackson County, Alabama census.
- ⁹ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83.
- ¹⁰ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks/index.html?Welcome=1008445157> and *History of the Cherokee Indians*, by Emmett Starr.
- ¹¹ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83. There is some discrepancy about the date of Margaret's death. (1) Deposition dated January 24, 1842 of James G. Thompson who stated his wife died December 1839. (2) Emmet Starr gives her death date as January 24, 1840. (3) The James G. Thompson's daybook entry has an inkblot on it and is difficult to determine if the date was January 21 or 24.
- ¹² *James G. Thompson 1803-1879* by Mary Randolph Wilson Kelsey and Mavis Parrott Kelsey, p. 29.
- ¹³ *James G. Thompson 1803-1879* by Mary Randolph Wilson Kelsey and Mavis Parrott Kelsey, p. 82.
- ¹⁴ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83.
- ¹⁵ *The Jackson County, Alabama Chronicles*, edited by Ann Chambless, April 7, 1983.
- ¹⁶ *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873*, February 5, 1822, p. 234 and January 13, 1823, p. 121.
- ¹⁷ *American State Papers: Public Lands*, Vol. 3, p.613, dated January 28, 1823.
- ¹⁸ 1830 Jackson County, Alabama census shows John, wife and his wife's four children.
- ¹⁹ *Cherokee Emigration Rolls 1817-1835*, by Jack D. Baker, p. 19.
- ²⁰ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83.
- ²¹ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83.
- ²² *Cherokee Reservees* by David Keith Hampton, p.20.
- ²³ *Indians and Intruders*, by Sharron Standifer Ashton, Vol. IV, p. 82-83.
- ²⁴ Senate Bill 275, 34th Congress, 1st Session, April 30, 1856.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>.
- ²⁵ *Old Land records of Jackson County, Alabama*, by Margaret Matthews Cowart, p. 229, 403

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Patty Woodall is a charter member of the Jackson County Historical Association. She is the daughter of the late Eliza Mae Woodall who authored THE STEVENSON STORY published in 1982. Patty retired to Stevenson, Alabama, and is one of Jackson County's leading genealogists. Her specialty is the early settlers of Crow Creek Valley and the Stevenson, Alabama area. In 2001, she began in-depth research of the Cherokee reservees who received 640-acre reservations in North Alabama. Her goal is to publish a comprehensive history and explanation of the fate of the Cherokee reservees and the reservations they were granted under the Treaty of July 8, 1817 and the Treaty of February 27, 1819. This is her third installment contributed for publication in THE JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES.

HARVEY HENSHAW'S WEST SIDE STORY

By Reuben T. Miller

One of my classmates (Betty Thomas Crumbly) is forever saying, "I wish they would put it back like it used to be." She is referring to our Scottsboro of the 1930s and 1940s. This classmate is very loyal to my wife Mary and me, as she calls at least once every week. Before our conversation is finished, we usually recall the public square as it was in the cherished days of our youth.

Do you remember walking the sidewalks? Even the professionals who owned automobiles walked to town. Groceries were delivered by bicycle or perhaps in an old "fliver." Remember when most of us had a vegetable garden out back, and we only bought what we did not raise in our gardens? Then we paid for our purchases when we received our earnings - on payday.

As we reminisce, permit me to remember and honor someone worthy of the town's heartfelt gratitude for a life well lived. Turn back the years and envision the Scottsboro Hardware, First National Bank, Elmore's Five and Ten, David G. Hunt's Store, Gist Studio, the Ritz Theatre, Steeley Produce.....and at about mid-point there was a grocery store.

The grocery was owned by Harvey Henshaw, and his wife, Amma Collins Henshaw. Their daughter was Jewel, and their son, Bryan, was my classmate and buddy. Today it is Mr. Henshaw who rises to the pinnacle of my thoughts even though he has been gone almost half a century.

One Saturday in 1939 while on my way to see the cowboys at the Ritz or Bocanita, my bicycle wheel ran "smack" over a pitiful looking billfold right in front of the Church of Christ which was then located on Peachtree Street. I first thought to pass it by. When I whirled around, I discovered my wheel had not been the first to pass over it. I picked it up, and inside I saw a "frightening" amount of money. I did not even count it but went straight to Mr. Henshaw and told him the story.

He opened that (shabby) little piece of leather. Inside he found \$65.00 but no identification. People in the store seemed curious why I went directly to Mr. Henshaw. My answer was, "I knew it was a lot of money, and I knew it did not belong to me. I also knew Mr. Harvey Henshaw would find the rightful owner." He did, and on that same day. Mr. Ben Sisco came in some time later, downcast and distressed about losing his money. Mr. Harvey asked the necessary questions, and after full consideration, asked if my "find" was his. The answer was yes, and an exciting story had a happy ending.

Uppermost in my heart and mind at that time, and even today, was the fact that Mr. Harvey Henshaw was the one who, with total honesty, would bring relief to me in my dilemma. As a young boy, I had complete confidence in this man because of the many kindnesses he extended my family and hundreds of others.

My sister Sally was the major breadwinner in our family during these years (making it possible for me to continue my education so that, in time, i might have a "sitting down job.") Sally happened to mention to Mr. Henshaw that she would dearly love to have one of those newly marketed coal burning circulator heaters. Our dear friend, of course, handled only groceries - or did he?

Sometime later he called my sister aside and told her of a freight carload of beautiful porcelain glazed heaters which was parked at Scottsboro Wholesale Company. Mr. Henshaw said, "Take this message with my number to the wholesale and pick out the stove you want. Have them bill it to me, and you may pay me anyway you choose." Mr. Henshaw also looked after his customers during World War II when candy, sugar, chocolate, and many other items were in short supply. Mr. Henshaw made sure that all his customers shared in the rationed items which he was able to procure for his store.

Harvey Henshaw was a quiet, reserved, and handsome Southern gentleman - kind and true. The extent of his kindness and generosity is reflected in the stories we heard about the credit he extended to his customers. Totals mentioned at the time of his death were on the order of \$30,000. To convert that figure to contemporary numbers, multiply this credit line by 20 and think in terms of \$600,000 at today's prices and standards. Mr. Henshaw 's willing heart was determined to serve his customers' needs with or without payment of their grocery bill.

Without Mr. Harvey Henshaw Scottsboro might never have had a "Peanut John." Mr. Henshaw provided Peanut John's first peanut roasting machine, the bags, and the peanuts. Peanut John took to the streets of Scottsboro peddling, in his own words "whhitouie frash" peanuts - on the halves with Mr. Henshaw. Peanut John would call out, "Get 'em while they're hot," and he became an absolute necessity for shoppers and traders on Saturdays and First Mondays in Scottsboro.

Just a few years ago, with his "Frash Peanuts" printed by his own hand on the panel of his van, Peanut John Ark told me that some of those days he sold as much as \$500.00 worth of peanuts.....at ten cents a bag! That would be 5000 bags of peanuts! But one must remember that Peanut John's day began at daylight and finished after ten o'clock that night.

As you remember or attempt to envision Peanut John "pushing" his and Mr. Henshaw's peanut business, try to picture this scenario from the past: Wall-to-curb foot traffic on the west, north, and east sides of the square (the south side traffic was not quite so dense.) ONE WAY meant one of several alternatives. The term did not apply to streets. Marked parking on the square was at the outside curb only, in front of the stores. Other parking was anywhere and everywhere - mules and wagons; tractor-pulled wagons; trucks; horses and buggies; gun, dog and horse swapping all in between; pocket knife trading; and watermelons on the court house lawn. Greeting and visiting with all was Peanut John Ark - a well organized class act! Mr. Harvey Henshaw knew a good man and a marketable product when he saw one!

Mr. Harvey Henshaw is a memorable figure in our city and county history. At one time, he was a member of the Scottsboro Hosiery Mill Band. He was a loyal member of the Scottsboro First United Methodist Church where he sang in the choir for many years.

The First United Methodist Church library was established in memory of George Harvey Henshaw and Amma (Collins) Henshaw. The initial donation of ninety-three books was given by their children in 1962.

You are invited to add your remembrances to these thoughts.....and for a moment Mr. Harvey Henshaw will live again in our hearts and minds, as our hometown is "put back as it was sixty or more years ago."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reuben T. Miller worked in radio in Huntsville, Alabama, until 1956 when he went to work at Redstone Arsenal for the U.S. government. After retirement, he and his wife, Mary, have continued to make Scottsboro and Jackson County a better place to live. They reside at 316 Woodall Lane in Scottsboro. THE CHRONICLES editorial review board is grateful for Reuben's generosity in sharing his talent for turning back the pages of time. Our only request: Reuben, please keep writing.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEW OR RENEWAL
ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$100.00
MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS ARE WELCOMED

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 1494
SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

Please provide:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

The membership year begins January 1. Any dues received before October 1 will be for the current year. Dues received after October 1 will accrue to the following year. Members receive the JACKSON COUNTY CHRONICLES quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

J.C.H.A. BOOK FOR SALE

The Jackson County Historical Association has republished THE HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA by John R. Kennamer, Sr., 1935 edition. The price of the book is \$20.00. If mailing is required, please add \$3.00 for each book order. Allow ten (10) days for processing. Please complete the following order blank and mail to:

HISTORY BOOK
P.O. BOX 1494
SCOTTSBORO, AL 35768-1494

NAME _____ STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____