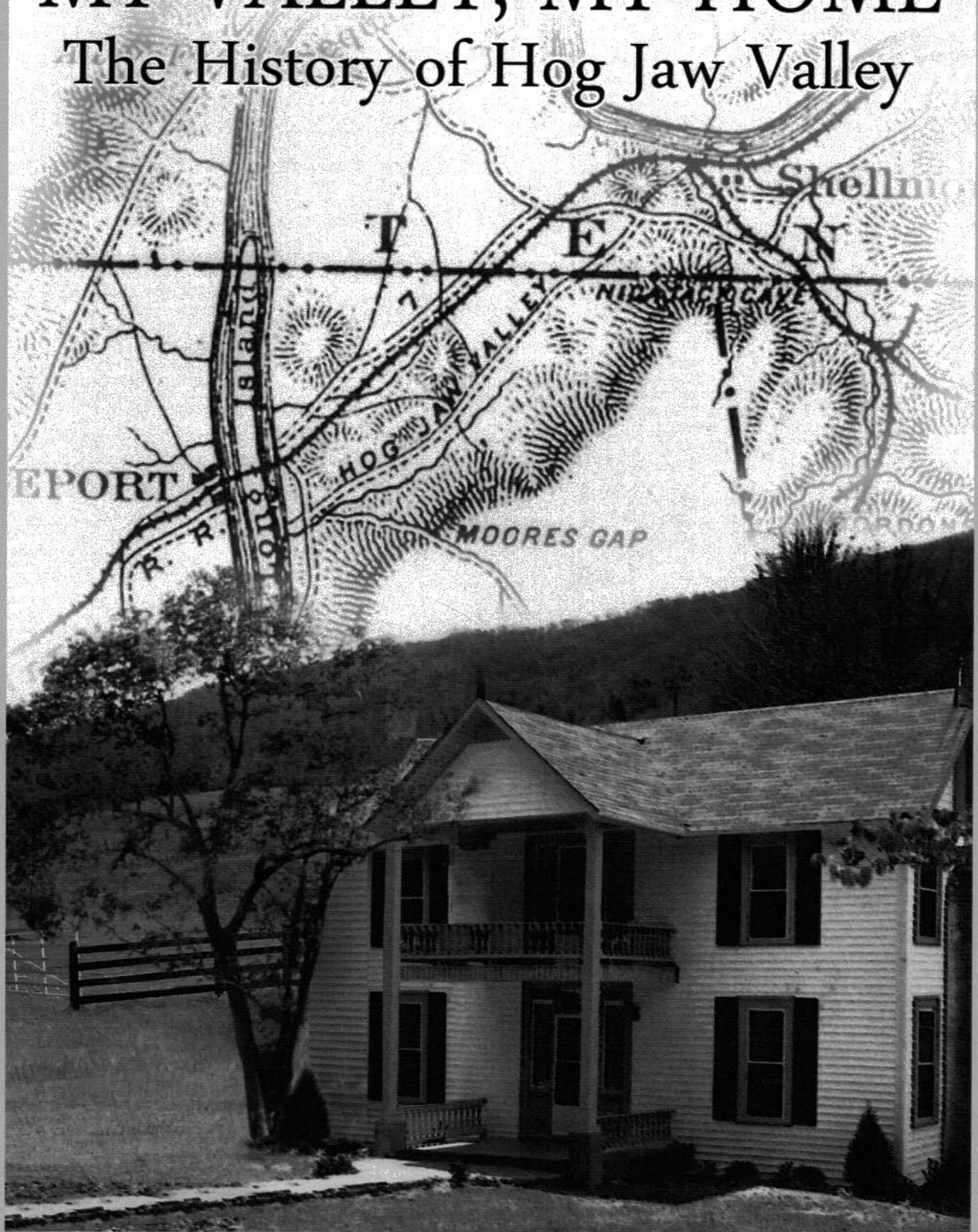


# MY VALLEY, MY HOME

## The History of Hog Jaw Valley



By John Hembree

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## A History of Hog Jaw Valley, Alabama

By John Hembree

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Best Wishes  
John Hembree

Noted author and historian, Louise Pettus has this to say about "My Valley, My Home"...

*"The author gives the reader a keen eyed backward look, in great detail, of the Hembree family and their neighbor's life in an isolated community with the unusual name of Hog Jaw. The book is not limited to one family but brings in others and a way of life. In addition, the book links the social and work life to its unusual geographic surroundings. Simply put, it is a "good read."*

On the cover: A composite picture of an old map of Hog Jaw Valley, the Hembree homestead, Sand Mountain and farm scenes designed by Tyler Adkins, Talent Attach, Lexington, KY.

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## DEDICATION

The dedication of this book is to my brothers and sisters and my grandchildren. I owe the writing of this book to my brother Bill, whose constant encouragement and suggestions after reading Livingood and Raulston's book, "Sequatchie", describing the long valley west of Chattanooga, suggested I write a history of Hog Jaw Valley which is just south of Sequatchie Valley, on the opposite side of the Tennessee River.

It is my wish that our grandchildren and yours will enjoy reading of the "good ole days" recorded herein. Like mine, yours may say, "I've heard all that a thousand times."

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## FOREWORD

History is more than information found in library books, court documents, old newspapers, and on internet web servers. It also exists as mental images recorded from personal observations and family stories. It is human consciousness and one's life on earth spent roaming small valleys, climbing surrounding mountains, and observing flow of everyday events. It is the bits and pieces all the way from childhood to the golden years.

Jackson County native John B. Gordon Hembree, Jr. knows the meaning of "Place" in Southern history. His childhood "Place" was Hog Jaw Valley that lies between the eastern edge of the Tennessee River and the base of Sand Mountain in the northeastern section of Jackson County, Alabama.

The illustrious Mr. Hembree has spent innumerable hours recording and describing the families, events and landmarks that make Hog Jaw Valley unique. He is a prescient writer who has recorded local history that will take many readers back to another era and introduce others to a land and people who did not deserve to be forgotten.

As a charter member of the Jackson County Historical Association (founded in 1975), I heartily recommend John B. Gordon Hembree, Jr.'s book to individuals as well as public and university libraries.

Ann Chambless

## PREFACE

This book is a compilation of facts, stories, and memories concerning Hog Jaw Valley, Jackson County, Alabama, and its surrounding communities. I have gathered them from various books and interviews with the present citizens and former residents. These books and interviews are listed in the back of the book. I am grateful to historians who took the time and effort to record many of the events recounted herein.

Other stories and information found were from my experiences or were told to me by my parents and friends.

I hope those who choose to read this book will understand that these old memories or stories may not be the same as you recall. I welcome any additions or corrections you wish to make known to me.

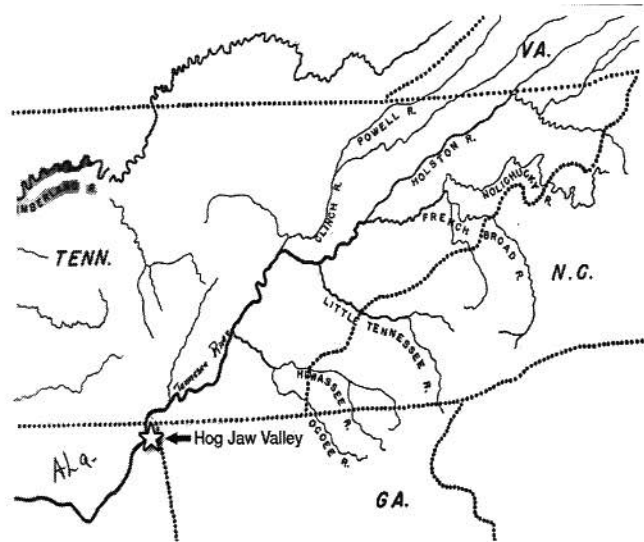


## INTRODUCTION

To understand my valley, one needs to think back with me millions of years, to the formation of the Earth's crust. With your mind, picture a chain of broken and irregular mountains running from our New York area down the eastern coast to the Coastal Plains of Alabama and other Southern States.

Most of these mountains were inland several miles from the Atlantic shoreline. In these mountains, excessive rainfall must drain in some direction. Rivers provide this drainage; they are the Hiwassee, the Yellow River, the Holston, and the Little Tennessee. The last two rivers form the mighty Tennessee River which pours into the Ohio River and finally into the great Mississippi River before it empties into the Gulf of Mexico at New Orleans.

This complex of rivers and mountains creates thousands of valleys, coves, creeks, in addition, rich bottomlands along river and creek banks. The mountains take on different names such as Sand Mountain, Monteagle, Raccoon, Lookout, and Summerhouse, to name just a few in our area. All the coves have different names as do the valleys. "My Valley, My Home", Hog Jaw Valley, is just one of the hundreds.



Now, please join me for "A Walk Up Hog Jaw Valley" as it was during the 1920s, 1930s and early 1940s when I was growing up in the Valley.

If we start at Island Creek, the extreme south end of Hog Jaw Valley, the most notable feature would be a steel skeleton for a planned bridge over Island Creek.

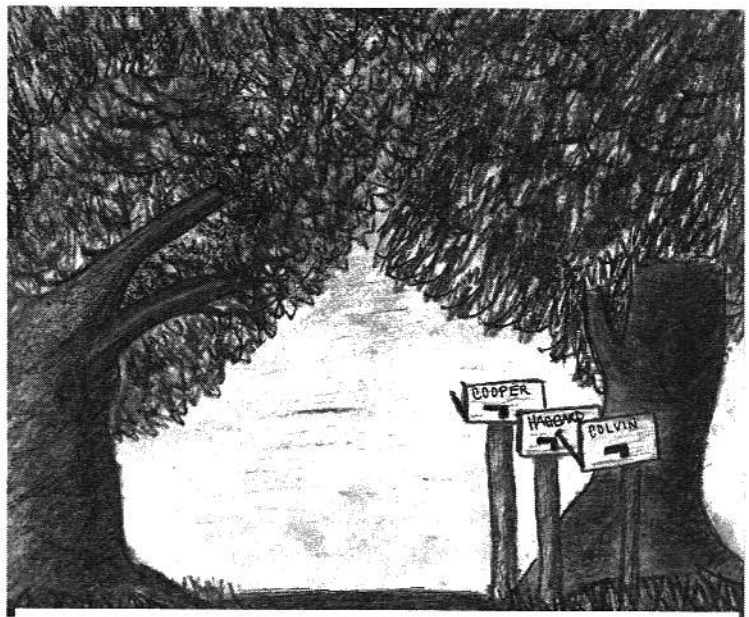
The steel framing, apparently built too high for practical use, probably to accommodate steamboats that might enter the creek to seek shelter or to pick up cargo. Just below this bridge structure, was the old Island Creek ferry. The barge there was unmanned. If one wanted to cross the creek, he pulled his wagon and team onto the barge and picked up the “push-pole” to propel the barge to the opposite bank, leaving a rope behind for the next person to retrieve the barge.

Remember this was before the TVA dams which raised both the creek and river water levels. Several years passed before the county lowered the bridge skeleton and floored it for road traffic.

The road, now County Road 91, continued up the riverbank. Until the TVA rip-rapped the riverbank with stone, the roadbed was often moved back into the cultivated fields because of riverbank erosion. About one mile north of the creek is an area known as “Moss Landing.” In the “hay-days” of riverboat traffic, it was a landing site where boats stopped for passengers and cargo.

From Moss Landing, a road continued around the point of a forested ridge which extended down from Sand Mountain. This ridge creates a cove, first called Gibson’s Cove. In the 1930s some ten or thirteen families lived there and farmed cotton and corn. It has been called Island Creek Cove and Hembree’s Cove.

About a quarter mile above Moss Landing and at the end of the last cultivated field, is a site known as “The Old Walnut Tree”. The mailboxes for the cove families



*Sketch of mailboxes and old walnut tree by Lyndsey Jordan.*

were here, and it was the school bus stop for children living in the cove attending Long Island School. The schoolchildren had to walk the half-mile trail over the ridge to “catch the bus”. The old trail over the ridge is still visible; however, the walnut tree is gone.

About a quarter mile still farther was the crossing point for the ferry over the Tennessee River. It was called Reese’s Ferry, probably for James Reese who purchased Cherokee land at auction when it was sold by the state in 1843. The ferry was at the southern tip of a long island, seven miles long, in the Tennessee River. The ferry was operated by various people until the 1950s when the county assumed operation. The large limestone bluff there shows signs that it was once quarried for limestone rocks. It is obvious that rock could be easily loaded onto a barge from this site. The distance between the river and the mountain is only a few yards.

The Pierce Coal mines, operating at the top of Sand Mountain selected this site to terminate their tramline down the mountain. The coal was then dumped into waiting barges. In Stafford Burney’s “Table of Steamboat Landing”, published in 1880, he lists the Pierce mines as one of the stops.

Just beyond the ferry, the road turns away from the river to run along the mountainside and at the top of the first rise, a prominent log road begins up the mountainside. This log road is part of the “Kettle Rock Trail” which extends over the ridge into Gibson’s Cove. It



was used as a logging road, of course, and the TVA then used it extensively in building power transmission lines up Sand Mountain above the ferry. It was named the “Kettle Rock Trail”

because it passes near a large eroded rock on the cove side of the ridge. The shape of the rock reminds one of a kettle.

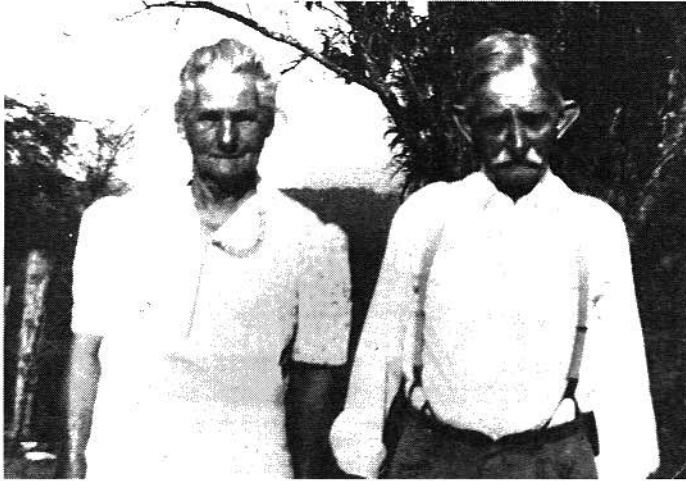
When our neighbor, Garl Hulvey, would take us boys' coon hunting, we often traveled up "Kettle Rock Trail". When we crossed the old tramline, we would stop, build a fire, and wait for the dogs to "bark-treed". The dogs were usually somewhere on the mountainside.

Continuing up the road about 300 yards, one could get a drink of water at Cave Spring. This is a large opening at the base of the mountain. The road originally ran in the creek bed in front of the spring, a house stood above the spring on the mountainside.

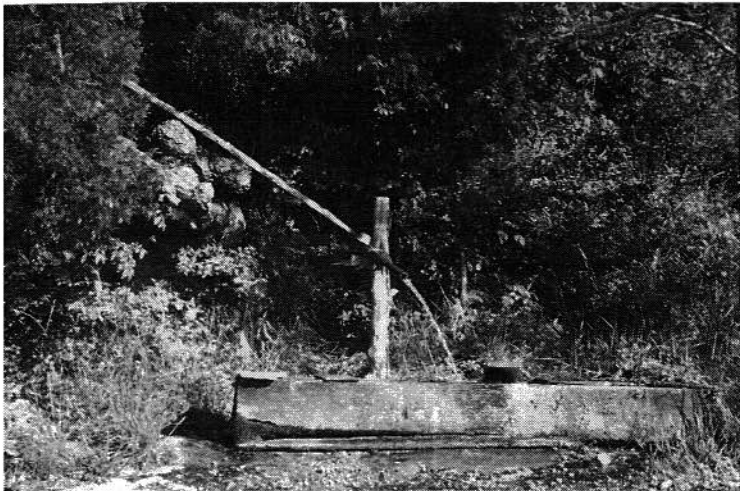
In the 1930s, this house was the home of "Uncle" Tobe Goins and his wife "Aunt" Roset. They were not our real "Aunt" and "Uncle", but in the South, all older people were called "aunt" and "uncle" out of respect. Uncle Tobe carried the mail in a buggy or on horseback for many years. The mail in the valley was delivered as a 'Star Route' three days per week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

About one-fourth mile farther, the road turned sharply to the right toward the edge of the mountain and in front of the Hembree home place. That road is now County Road 677. In the early 1930s, the main road was straightened so it would run directly up the Valley. Originally, farmers did not cross their cultivated fields with a road, but constructed them along the edges of their fields. The house that became the Hembree home place was built by Vince Ladd about 1893. My grandfather, Isaac Shilo (I.S.) Hembree, after buying the house, built a general store across the road from the house to accommodate tenants and farmers. He operated this store for a few years.

In the same area, "Uncle" Bill Metcalf and "Aunt" Betty Moore Metcalf lived in a log house nestled against the mountainside. About 1930, a few yards away, they built a four-room board frame house, which consisted of a kitchen/dining room, living room and two bedrooms.



*Neighbors, Mr. Will Metcalf, and his wife, Mrs. Betty Metcalf. To us they were affectionately called, "Ma Calf" and "Pa Calf".*



*Watering trough and "spout" on Co. Rd. 677 at the Hembree home place.*

There were two other houses in the area. For water, our family and the Metcalf's shared the "spout". The spout had water flowing from a cast iron pipe buried in a spring some 800 feet up on the mountainside. The pipe poured water into

a large wooden trough designed to provide water to passing teams of horses and people. Just above the spout was a flat area that was the community's "wash place" for family laundry and the site for hog killing late each fall.

The road continued along the edge of the mountain, but as the Valley narrowed, the road crossed "Glover Branch" where it followed the edge

of Carpenter Ridge up the Valley.

Just as the road crossed the Glover Branch, a house occupied by Mrs. Ruby Glover was in the level spot at the foot of the ridge, just beyond the road. The house no longer exists. Beyond Mrs. Glover's house were two houses, farther up on the ridge, Kurt Gothard and his family lived in one of the houses. Kurt's daughter, Betty, was a classmate of mine at Bridgeport High School. Her brothers were Warren and Bill.

Just past the Glover house on the opposite side of the road, stood a farmhouse occupied by various families. Next, at the foot of the mountains at the end of a long lane was the home of Haz (H.C.) and Hattie Dial. Haz was the champion fiddler of Hog Jaw Valley and he won many local contests. As with several places along Sand Mountain, a deep cave is behind the Dial home. Several people have lowered themselves into the cave to explore. Haz operated the gristmill that was beside the road. That story is elsewhere in the book.

Along the road opposite Dial's house was the two-room log house occupied by Buck Lawson and his parents', Oscar Zebb and Sudie Lee (Hawk) Lawson. More about Buck is mentioned in the entertainment chapter.

A road up the ridge at the gristmill led to the home of blind Joe O'Neil, his wife, Jenny, and their one son, Marshall, who was nicknamed "Bogue". Just past the O'Neil's, but lower on the ridge nearer the main road, lived the Gillum families, George Gillum and his son, Claude. Both men farmed on the island. After his farming years, Claude operated the ferry for several years. He was known in the Valley as the man who lost an earlobe in a farm accident.

Communities of homes were developed near Harris Chapel and Cemetery. The most noticeable home was a two-story house at Moore's Spring near the mountain behind Harris Chapel. It was occupied by Albert Smith and his family. Others living in the community were Claude Reynolds and family, the Dial family, Bart Stokes, and Henry Walraven.

At Harris Chapel, the county road turned right again toward the mountain before continuing up the Valley. A short section of the road extended south to Moore's Spring and the Smith House where it dead-ended. Back at Harris Chapel, another road extended past the cemetery, over the ridge, dead-ending at the railroad drawbridge over the Tennessee River.

Bart Stokes and his family lived along the extension to Moore's Spring in the "Ladd House" mentioned in the Civil War account. One man's death occurred in the skirmish there.

The old road continued over Carpenter Ridge toward the Long Island Community. Claude Reynolds and his family lived at the eastern foot of the ridge. There were two houses on the west side of Carpenter Ridge before reaching Long Island. The old road ended at a site where the three-room schoolhouse was built in 1928. There it intersected with a road that ran from Long Island community over the ridge and up Sand Mountain to the community of Bryant. It is now Country Road 93 and extends west to the Tennessee/ Alabama state line and into South Pittsburg, Tennessee.

Later, Hog Jaw Valley road (County Road 91) was extended from Harris Chapel, past the Reynolds' House then intersected with the Long Island to Bryant road. It continued to the end of the valley and the Tennessee state line.

Beyond the crossroads at the intersection of county roads 91 and 93, there were very few homes in the 1930s and 1940s as this upland supported limited farming. At the current time, numerous families live there and commute to Chattanooga, South Pittsburg, and Jasper, Tennessee, for employment.

As I was contemplating the writing of this book, I did not realize the many influences that would necessitate covering the geological formation as well as the historical and social aspects of "My Valley, My Home". It is my hope that the chapters that follow will inspire you, the reader, to explore history as it evolves in your life.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN THAT IS TENNESSEE VALLEY

When we think of “The Garden of Eden”, our minds go to the one mentioned in the Bible. However, nature created another in the Tennessee Valley. With rich valleys, flowing rivers, caves, forested mountains covered with giant trees, and an abundance of fish and wildlife, these all come together to make up our “Garden of Eden”.

There should be no doubt why the earliest humans, the ice age hunters, selected this place to live. In their book, “Tribes that Slumber” Thomas M. N. Lewis and Madeline Kneburg say:

*“Ice age hunters, whose technology included chipped and fluted spear points, were the Tennessee region’s first inhabitants. Hundreds of their fluted spear points and stone tools have been found throughout the region. Because they are particularly numerous in the Highland Rim area, it appears that this was one of their favorite hunting grounds. The Highland Rim is an upland that extends from Northern Alabama across Middle Tennessee and up into Kentucky. Although the Tennessee, the Cumberland, and other smaller rivers flow through it, most of it is poorly watered, and the vegetation is less dense than in the lowlands. This condition, undoubtedly, was similar in Ice Age times. Since various species of prairie plants still grow there, the area may have been predominantly a grass land, where herds of grazing animals congregated.”*

The fluted point or Folsom point referred to by Lewis and Kneburg is confirmed by archaeologists as being dated to some 8,000 years, B.C. John T. Hack wrote in, “Investigations in Russell Cave”, that Russell Cave is typical of the limestone caves of the Mississippian Age (1,000 years A.D.). He says most of these are, “long tubes containing underground streams flowing in or out of these caves”. The stream flows into Russell Cave. In Nickajack Cave, the stream flows out



of the cave.

To understand this “Garden of Eden” which attracted these aborigine people, one must think back eons of time to the formation of the earth’s crust. The formation of the broken mountain ranges extending along the east coast into Central Alabama created the need for rivers and creeks to drain the rainfall of this area. The mountains, valleys, cove and creeks fed the water to larger and still larger rivers.

Much later, the first pioneers moving into east Tennessee would give them names like Holston, Clinch, French Broad, or Little Tennessee. They used names sounding like the names Indians called them or names that would remind them of the home they left behind.

These smaller rivers would flow into larger rivers such as the Tennessee and Mississippi which carried the excess water into the Gulf of Mexico. These rivers were not only needed for carrying excess water, but for the pioneers it was the preferred route for travel into this “Garden of Eden”. The other route available to them was a more hazardous route, the ancient Indian trails.

These rivers carried something else especially during spring floods. Pioneers were attracted to this land because of rumors of cheap, rich bottomland, great for farming. When the floods came, they were really “backwaters” because as the river filled with water, the creeks backed up over the low land and covered the cultivated fields. As these waters receded, they left behind a deposit of top soils carried from eroded topsoil up stream.

*(Author’s note: Before the TVA dams of the 1930s and 1940s to control flooding, I have seen wagon tracks along the river road at the ferry site (now County Road 91) as deep as 10-12 inches. We called it mud, but it was actually top soil from upstream left by the receding water. In the cultivated fields along the riverbank, we needed to go into the fields and remove logs, stumps, and debris left by receding water before spring plowing.*

*The spring flooding and sometimes in the fall, was both a curse and a blessing at the same time. Of course, the flooding brought rich soil to the fields, but if it came too early, or too much, it killed the young plants and the farmer must re-plow and re-seed. If it occurred too early in the fall before the crop was harvested, it meant the crop was lost and often it meant the farmer must go to the bank or local merchant and ask for credit to buy next year's seed to plant again.)*

These early pioneers had selected areas like Hog Jaw Valley as their Garden of Eden just as the Ice Age hunters before them chose the area, but for different reasons. The pioneers were from a culture where their parents had planted crops and grew their own food. Ice Age hunters, Indians, as Europeans called them, chose this area as their Garden of Eden. In their culture they chose a life style of hunting and fishing. They also chose to gather as food, edible plants, berries and nuts. Archaeologists tell us that in this area, the chestnut tree, which produced great nuts, once grew in abundance along our mountainsides. That is until we introduced a European tree blight that wiped out this excellent tree.

Some local archaeologists with the help of National Park Service archaeologists established that nearby Russell Cave was occupied some eight thousand years ago. Nickajack cave, at the base of Sand Mountain near the head of Hog Jaw Valley and about 10 miles east of Russell Cave, was undoubtedly occupied by early humans.

Hog Jaw Valley runs south from Nickajack Cave at the Tennessee state line and continues south some six miles to Island Creek, which flows into the Tennessee River. Across the river on the west side is a large TVA steam plant at Widows Creek.

Hog Jaw Valley is a narrow strip of land squeezed between Sand Mountain to the east and Tennessee River to the west. A large wooded ridge runs three quarters of its length, and divides

the valley. When viewed from above, one can imagine the open mouth of a hog.

Local legend is that a man stood atop "Porter's Bluff" on Sand Mountain looking into the narrow valley below and said, "That valley looks just like a hog's jaw ...", hence, "Hog Jaw Valley". Porter's Bluff is a huge sandstone bluff that overlooks the center of the valley, and is named for the pioneer family that built their home atop this bluff.

## ∪ CHAPTER TWO ∪

### A TALE OF TWO CAVES

Two large caves in the Tennessee Valley, one near Hog Jaw Valley, the other some seven miles west of the valley, are different yet they have much in common. Nickajack Cave is near the head of Hog Jaw Valley in Marion County, Tennessee. Russell Cave is roughly seven miles west of Hog Jaw Valley nestled in Doran's Cove at the foot of Summer House Mountain. Both caves were probably formed more than 300 million years ago when they were at the bottom of an inland sea which covered the area. As the sea retreated, the "drips" from above "cut" through the limestone. The "drips" became rivulets and underground streams that carried water and created tunnels and caverns.

John T. Hack's writing in "Investigation in Russell Cave" says that sometimes a stream flows outward from caves, other times it flows inward. At Russell Cave a stream flows into the Cave, at Nickajack, it flows outwards. Nickajack Cave extends into Sand Mountain and is only two miles from the Tennessee River. This ease of accessibility was a significant factor in its occupation by Indian tribes and exploitation for Salt Peter by warring armies.

Several books and numerous newspaper articles have reported the cultural material that was uncovered at Russell Cave dating its occupancy back 8,000 years. No significant cultural material was ever found in Nickajack Cave. While Russell Cave tells the story of the occupation of ancient people, Nickajack tells the story of a more current occupation by various people.

We know that the Cherokee Indians referred to Nickajack Cave as "Ani-kustaki-yi" which in their language was "Creek People place". By 1730, the Cherokee took Nickajack by conquest and made it one of their "five lower towns". By 1794, the Indians occupying Nickajack were

massacred by the settlers. Of course by 1836-1838, the Indians were removed West in the now famous "Trail of Tears".

In 1861, the mining of salt peter at Nickajack Cave for the Confederate Army began. Both armies would later occupy it during the Civil War conflict. Some interesting stories have developed as to how "Nickajack" came to be the name of this famous cave. John Brown in "Old Frontiers" thinks that "Nickajack" is a corruption of the Cherokee name "Ani-kustaki-yi", others acknowledge that a free black man by the name of "Jack Civil" who fled to this cave may have been the basis for the name. Wikipedia says Nickajack Cave, formerly called "Tecallassee", near the site of the former town, may have been used as a hideout and cache by the so-called "Chickamauga" Cherokee. Its deposits of bat guano were mined by Confederate forces during the Civil War and the cave became one of the leading sources of saltpeter for the Confederate Powder Works at Augusta, Georgia. The road used to transport the material became known as the Nickajack Trail. "Tecallassee" was near and means "Old Creek Crossing". Nickajack Cave was along the Great Indian Warpath identified by William E. Meyer in his book "Indian Trails of the Southeast". Three states share a common boundary site just a few 100 yards southeast of this cave.

In 1946, promoters operating under the name Nickajack LaCaverns Inc, offered boat trips into "sub terrain lakes", "views of the largest cave openings," "lectures," and "strange marine life".

Twenty years later in 1964, TVA started another dam on the Tennessee River below Nickajack Cave. The TVA had purchased the area above the dam, which included Nickajack Cave and the entrance to it and named it Nickajack Dam. As the reservoir filled, flooding the cave, it was closed to the public. Only the bats get to use it. The Alabama Department of Conservation lists it as one of the places to view bats; one can watch them fly into and out of the Cave from a

boat or a small platform at the entrance. The department says some 60,000 gray bats can be observed “coming and going” at dusk on summer months. I suppose the Tennessee Natural Resources Bureau makes a similar statement as the cave entrance is in Marion County, Tennessee.

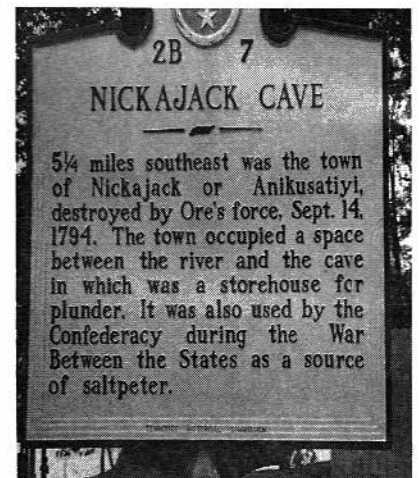
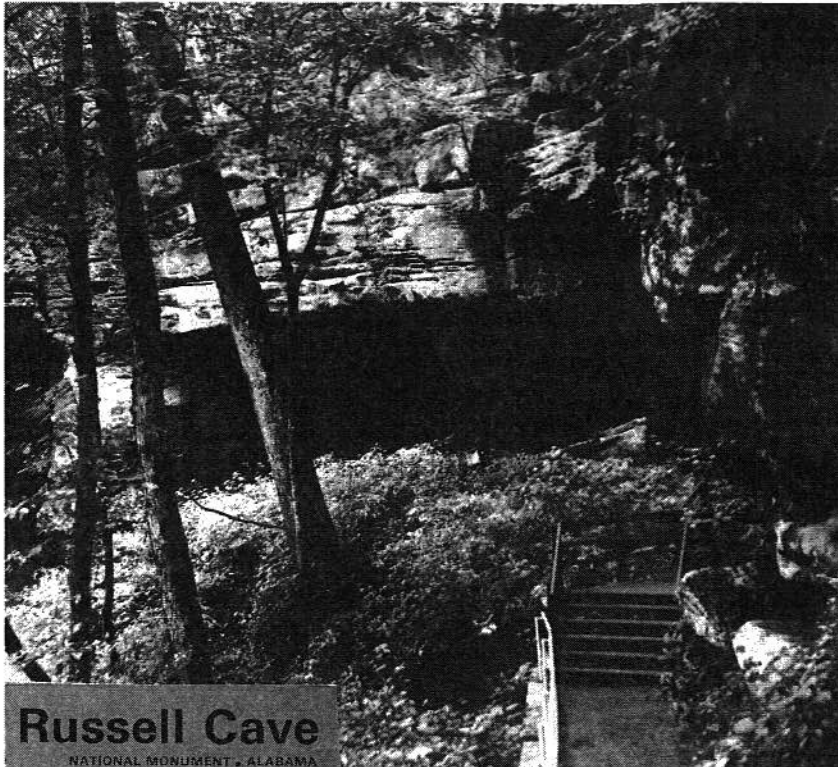
In 1947, at the urging of an amateur archaeologist from Chattanooga, the National Geographic Society was asked to investigate Russell Cave, five miles northeast of Bridgeport. While Nickajack is similar in structure, extensive damage was done to the interior and any archaeological evidence of early cultures that may have been there was destroyed.

Here is the history of Nickajack cave as recorded in Wikipedia, an on-line encyclopedia:

*“Nickajack Cave was mined for saltpeter by James Orr beginning in 1800. At this time, the cave was on land owned by the Cherokee Indians and this operation was conducted with their permission. This mining continued through the War of 1812. The cave was again mined for saltpeter during the American Civil War, this time by the Confederate Nitre Bureau. Page 85 of the February 6, 1864 issue of Harper's Weekly shows a drawing of the cave entrance and some of the saltpeter mining and refining equipment located outside the cave. Page 285 of the January 23, 1864 issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper shows a drawing of the area inside the mouth of the cave, including the leaching vats and a tower that would have supported a water tank. Robert Cravens, a Chattanooga businessman, operated Nickajack Cave and his own cave, Lookout Mountain Cave at the beginning of the Civil War. Soon after the war started, the operation at Nickajack Cave was taken over by the Confederate government. Sometime in late 1863 or very early 1864, this area was occupied by Federal troops and mining ceased. Nickajack Cave was one of the largest saltpeter caves operated by the Confederate Nitre Bureau during the Civil War and, as such, was a highly strategic site,*

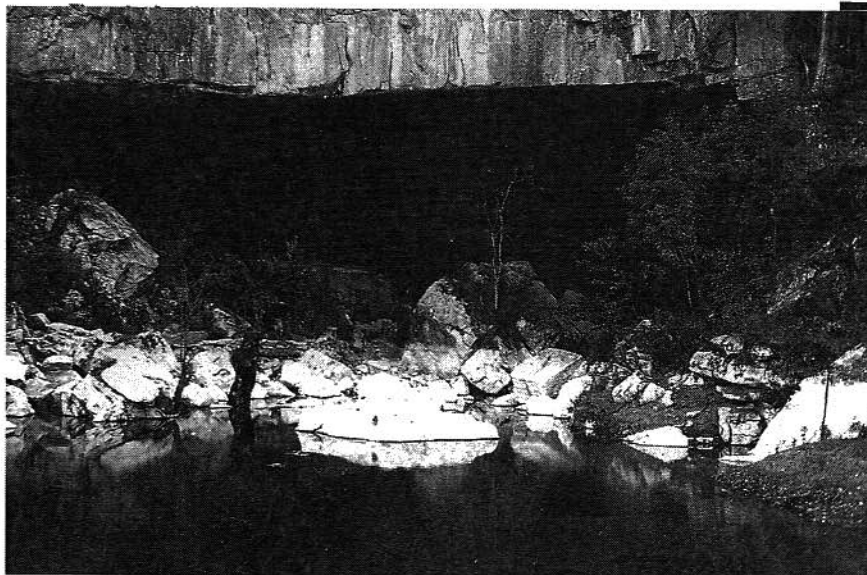
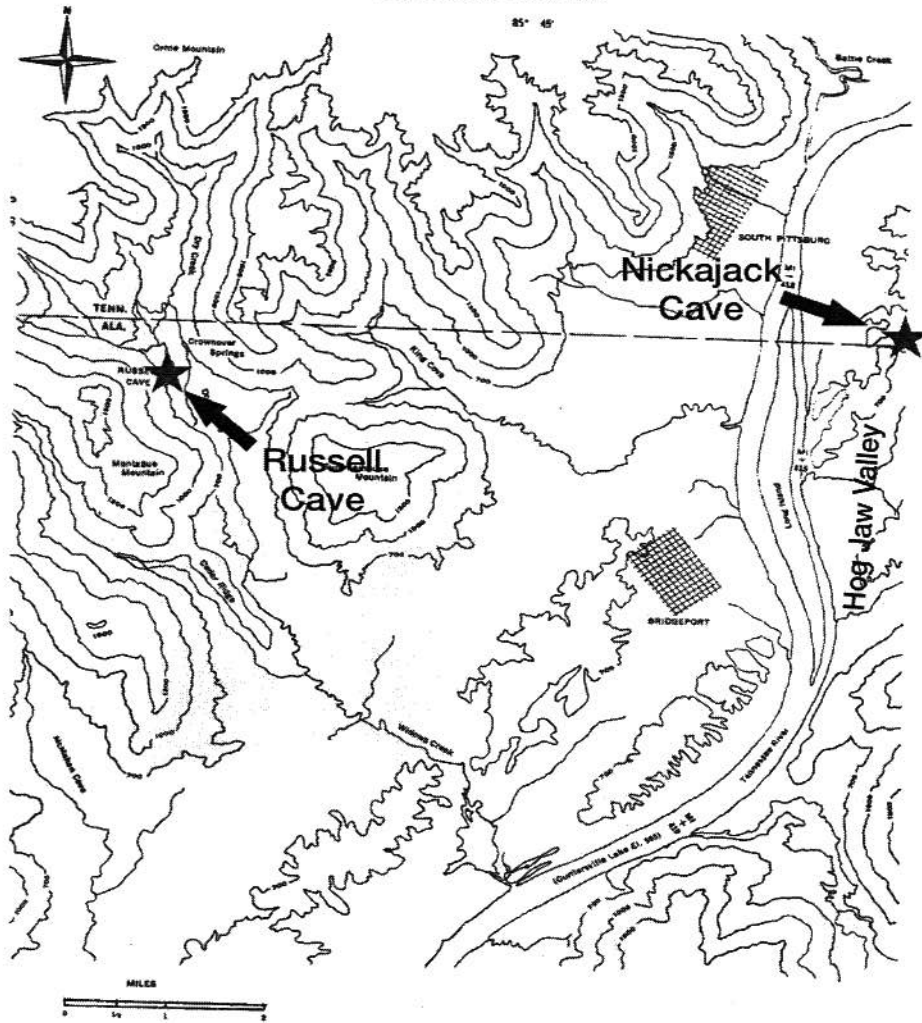
*since saltpeter was the main ingredient of gunpowder. The loss of Nickajack Cave was a serious blow to the Confederacy.”*

From this account, you can understand that extensive damage was done to Nickajack Cave and any evidence of early cultures that may have occupied the cave was destroyed. It did become a favorite site for picnicking over many years. Steamboat operators would offer “picnicking tours” from Chattanooga in the heyday of steamboats.



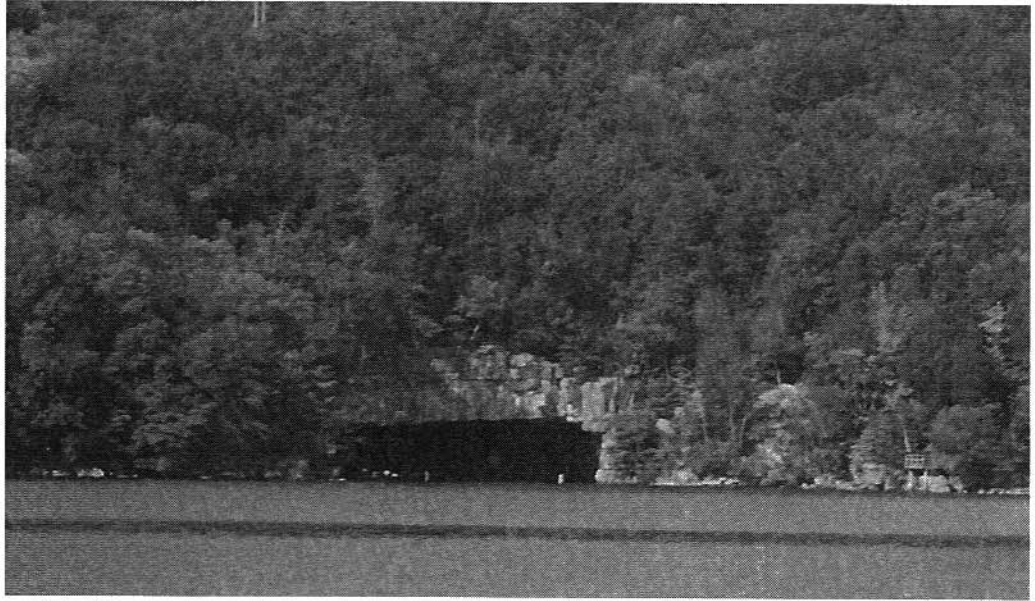
*Historical Marker*

INVESTIGATIONS IN RUSSELL CAVE



*Nickajack Cave entrance prior to flooding.*





*Nickajack Cave entrance after flooding.*

## NICKAJACK LAKE-CAVERNS

**Early History:** 800 A.D. Aztec Migration.  
1500 A.D. Creek Indian.  
1730 A.D. Cherokee Indian.  
1784 A.D. Chickamauga Indian.

LOCATED in the beautiful valley of Shellmound, (Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia), completely surrounded by the Raccoon Mountains, Sand Mountain, and the broad expanse of the beautiful Tennessee River, Nickajack Lake-Caverns with its great entrance, as a landmark, overlooking the buffalo trails, and, water route, was the objective of the early Mexican Aztec migration. Ani-kusati-yi, (Old Creek Peoples' Place) became the treasure house of the Creek People, one of their upper towns.

From this old crossing place on the Great Indian Warpath, (Tecallassee) the white gods (DeSoto) were to start a chain of injustice in return for hospitality.

By conquest, 1730 A. D., the Cherokee made Nickajack one of their five lower villages.

America's first secession 1784 A. D. The Chickamaugas, under Chief Dragging Canoe took over the "impregnable" Nickajack. Ten years of great peril to the white invader ended in a massacre by the whites at Nickajack.

Nickajack locality still shows the evidence of these and later eventful decades. Under CHRONOLOGY this folder offers bibliography.

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*Promotional brochure used after WW II to promote Nickajack Cave.*

*(Courtesy, Nonie Webb)*

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE INDIANS OF HOG JAW VALLEY

Cherokee people called the large cave near the Tennessee River “Ani-Kusatiyi”. In their language, the meaning was, “Home of the “Kusa” or “Creek” people, so named for the tribes that lived there. Several villages of the Kusa or Creek tribes occupied this area. The Creek village on the long island in the Tennessee River, a few miles South, was named “Amo-Yeli-Gunhita” in the Cherokee language. This referred to the actual island in the Tennessee River and should not be confused with the community, later named “Long Island”, which was some two miles northeast of the river.

The large cave was later named “Nickajack Cave” which is located about half-mile east of Hog Jaw Valley near the Tennessee and Alabama State line. The cave extends back into Sand Mountain and its opening is in Marion County, Tennessee.

Hog Jaw Valley and areas, which border the Tennessee River, were the hunting grounds for these earlier people. They lived in the caves and in primitive shelters usually built along the riverbanks.

The Creek Nation, composed of many tribes, were forced southward by the Cherokee people, who in turn were forced from their homes and hunting grounds by earlier white settlers moving in from the eastern seaboard.

In the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend in August 1814, near the present city of Tallapoosa, Alabama, the Creek Nation surrendered the northern half of what is now Alabama to the United States. The surrender treaty is known as the “Treaty of Fort Jackson”.

By 1830, the United States Congress had passed the “Indian Removal Act” which called for the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes in the Southeast. These tribes were to be relocated

west of the Mississippi River. This treaty included the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians. In 1837-38, more than 4,000 Cherokees were moved west. This removal is known as “The Trail of Tears”.

No doubt many of the Indians of Hog Jaw Valley and the areas around our valley were forcibly removed from their homes. Many of the artifacts found along our creeks and riverbanks give testimony to the sizable Indian populations that called our Valley “home”.

The nearby city of Bridgeport, three miles west of Hog Jaw Valley, is recognized as part of the official “Trail of Tears” by the National Park Service. A plaque located there shows proof.

One mile south of Island Creek which is considered the south end of Hog Jaw Valley is Cox Mound. According to John A. Walthall, in his book, “Prehistoric Indians of the Southeast”, the mound was built by Creek Indians.

It was excavated in 1905 by C. B. Moore who excavated numerous Indian Mounds along the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers. J. H. Cameron of the Moore team estimates the Cox Mound was 13 feet high with a base 90 by 100 feet. He determined a structure was on top.

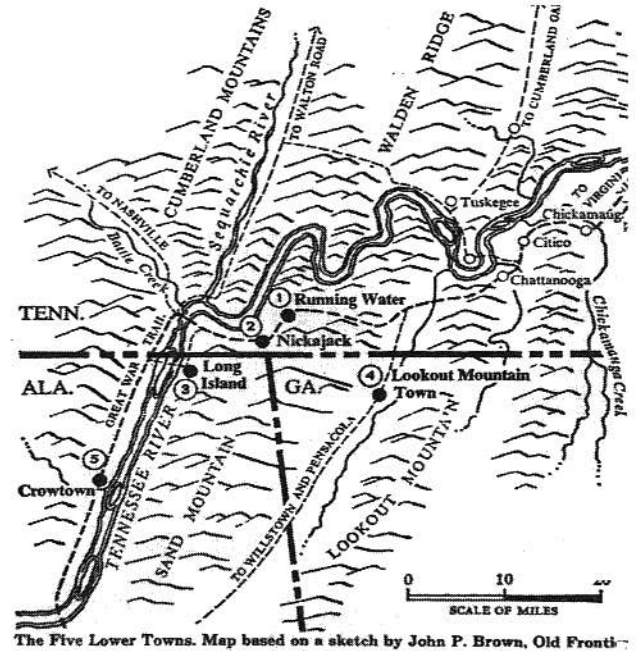
The excavation revealed burials at a depth of five feet, with some decorated pottery shards and a few arrowheads. Other mounds in the area are near Widows Creek on the west side of the river, and three mounds on the northern tip of the long island some five miles up the river.

With many years of farming activity near the mounds, very few signs of the original mounds exist. The archival community still debates whether the mounds were for burial, worship, or a temple for their chiefs or priests.

Cox Mound, in later years, was the center for trade and commerce. Regarding steamboats, Burney’s Table of Landings, published from 1887 to 1987, lists Cox Mound as one of the “stops”.

While the Creek people occupied most of North Alabama, the Cherokee Nation was

widespread through the Appalachian Mountain area, which included North Alabama and Hog Jaw Valley. Significant in this occupation was the establishment of the “Five Lower Towns” by the Cherokee chief, Dragging Canoe. One of the towns was on Long Island in the center of the river opposite Hog Jaw Valley. Another town was at Nickajack Cave at the head of Hog Jaw Valley. Crow Town was south of



Hog Jaw Valley. Crow Town was south of the valley on the opposite river shore. A fourth town was at the “break” in Sand Mountain near Hooker, Georgia, called “Running Water”. The fifth was on Lookout Mountain one mile north of the town now identified as Trenton, Georgia.

The Cherokee had obviously forced the Creeks from their occupation of the villages on Long Island, Nickajack Cave, and perhaps other sites. This may have been accomplished by force, or abandonment by the Creek people.

The Cherokee had obviously had an impact on the early settlers of the valley. Dorothy Moore Wilson, in her family book, “One Moore Family,” records that her relative, Margarett Rinkle Moore, was the daughter of an Englishman and a full-blooded Cherokee woman. Many of the Moores lived in Hog Jaw Valley. Margarett Moore died in 1894 and was buried in Rocky Springs Cemetery near Bridgeport. Stories similar to this one are common in many families of the area.

On December 29, 1835, the Cherokee Nation ceded to the State of Alabama all the land

that lies east of the Tennessee River. Sales of land in the Long Island community started in 1842 and continued over 30 years according to the official records of Alabama. Early purchasers and the date of their purchase among my relatives in Hog Jaw Valley were Benjamin Hembree (1842); Moses and Spencer Glasscock (1842), my great grandmother's family; and William McFarlane (1845). Other purchasers were James D. Harris (1842), who historian Marion Loyd thinks started Harris Chapel in the valley, and William Moore (1844) who donated the land for Harris Chapel. The ferry at the south end of Long Island was first called Reese's ferry, and David Reese (1845) is listed as a purchaser. More information can be found in the chapter on Early Settlers.

For the reader who wishes further inquiry of the Cherokee people, I would recommend the books, "Cherokee and Proud of It" by Brenda K. Brown and Marcelle S. Edward, and "Walking the Trail" by Jerry Ellis who lives on Sand Mountain, near Fort Payne. Both authors are part Cherokee. "Cherokee and Proud of It" is out-of-print, but the book is available for reading at the Bridgeport Library.

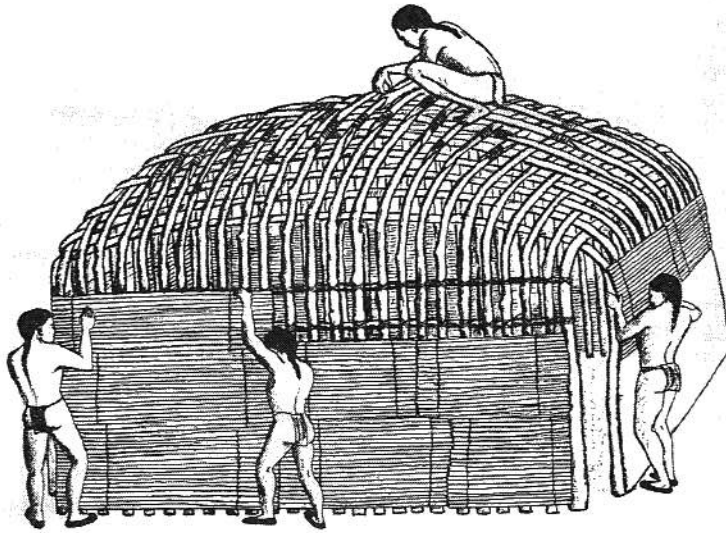
#### HOMES OF WATTLE AND DAUB

Indian artifact hunters from the valley, as well as Chattanooga, Rossville, Georgia and other nearby communities, have walked the creek banks and rivers bottoms of Hog Jaw Valley for many years searching for arrowheads and pottery shards. Some people have a great collection of these artifacts.

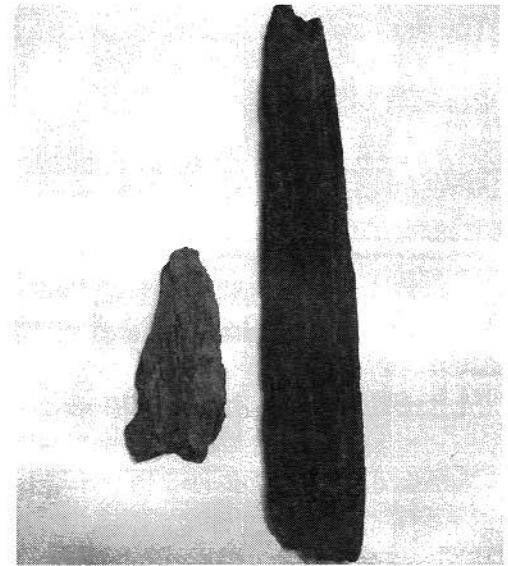
In addition to the usual artifacts, a few remnants of their primitive shelters remain along the riverbanks. According to Jim Ogden of the National Park Service, as the caves became crowded the Indians, and before them, the aboriginal people, began to build shelters along the riverbanks. This type of construction is known as "wattle and daub". It entails erecting upright

poles embedded in the ground, and in some cases shell middens. After the poles were erected, the space between was woven into a wall by using river cane, a type of bamboo. This was then coated with clay. The sun baked the outside of the wall into a hard coating while the cooking fires inside the shelter kept the wall hard and firm.

In some places, undisturbed by the plow, portions from these cane walls, or rotted posts, can still be found.



*Indians erecting an abode of Wattle & Daub  
from "Tribes That slumber".*



*Artifacts: Wattle and Daub*

∪ CHAPTER FOUR ∪

THE OLD CREEK CROSSING

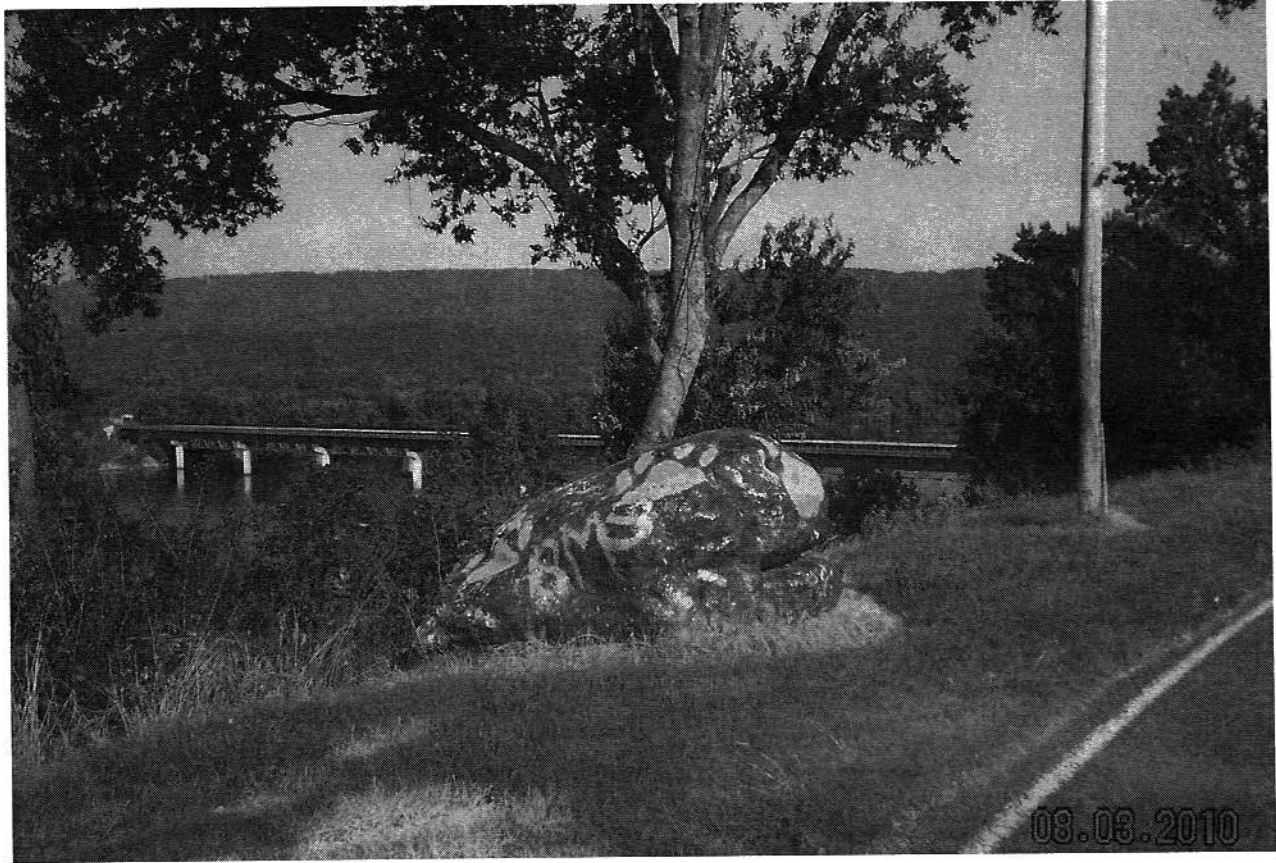
Hog Jaw Valley probably was not a part of the “Old Creek Crossing” but its nearness to this well known site makes it a part of the Valley’s history. Raulston and Livingood in their book “Sequatchie” make this statement concerning the “Old Creek Crossing”.

*The “Old Creek Crossing” was one of the most important fords in the Tennessee River, and over the years a steady stream of tribesmen of many nations met here on their way to a battle rendezvous or some point where the prospects of barter commerce appeared promising. Some had slaves whom they were moving to a distant market, and others were on social or diplomatic missions. Then, in addition, there were redmen who sought adventure and the experience of knowing new places. [Raulston and Livingood pg. 24]*

There is some confusion among sources as to the location of the old creek crossing. One source says the “south” end of Long Island, which would mean the trail ran up Hog Jaw Valley, all agree the trail ran near Nickajack Cave, and intersected with other “trails” running up Lookout Valley to the east.

Bridgeport in cooperation with the DAR (Daughter’s of the American Revolution) has placed a large stone on battery hill overlooking the Tennessee River to connect the “Old Creek Crossing” which was located nearby. Dennis Lambert, historian for Bridgeport, says the river crossing is below the stone on a shoal in the river. The shoal was removed by the US Corp of Engineers about 2005 to accommodate a nearby factory. However, William Edward Myer writing in “Indian Trails of the Southeast” has the correct location at Battle Creek, near South Pittsburg, Tennessee.





*This large painted rock, commemorates the old Creek Crossing on the Tennessee River below. The site is on "Battery Hill", a site for a fort to defend the railroad bridge over the river in the Civil War. (Paint, complements of high school students)*

Of course, there could have been many places for crossing the Tennessee River before the numerous dams constructed by the TVA greatly increased the size of the river. Mrs. Metcalf, our neighbor in the Valley, says she watched my grandfather, I.S. Hembree, cross the river at the south tip of Long Island many times in the summer months with a wagon and team of horses.

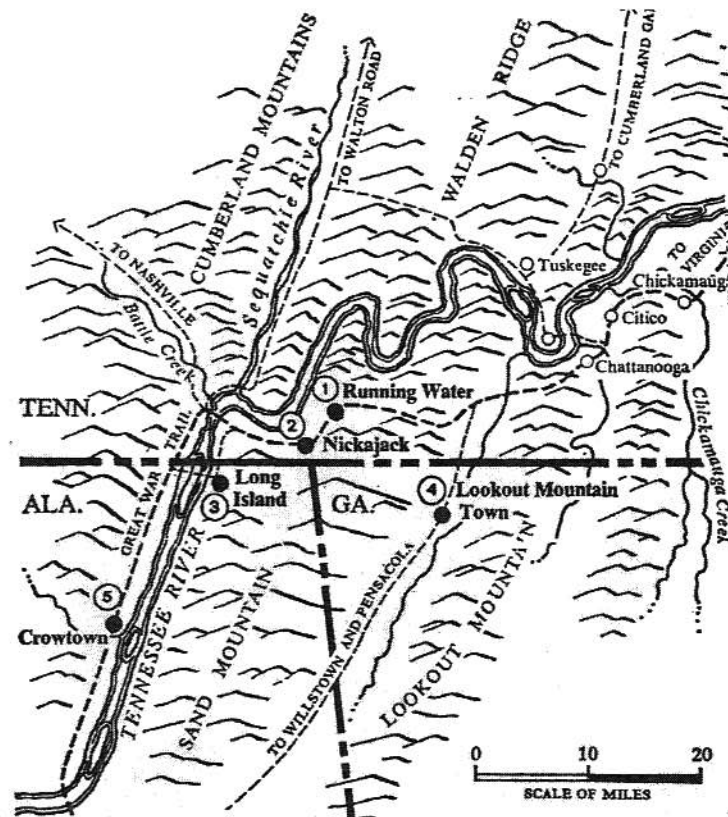
Myers says a trail, called the Great Indian War and Trading Path or Seneca Trail, ran from the gulf of Alabama to Newfoundland in Canada. In the Tennessee River Valley area, he says the trail crossed the river first near Guntersville, Alabama and continued to follow the river to the present Bridgeport area.

In this area, one branch of the trail crossed on the shoals near Bridgeport as Lambert says

to connect the Creek and later Cherokee Village on the north end of Long Island. A major branch of the trail continued up the West bank of the river to intersect with other trails. It crossed the river near the mouth of Battle Creek and continued on to a major village at Nickajack Cave. From there the trail continued into Lookout Valley to connect with the trails leading east.

This crossing at the mouth of Battle Creek would be just beyond the northern tip of Long Island. The crossing, I believe, is the famous site referred to as "Old Creek Crossing".

Below is a map published in "Old Frontier" by John P. Brown in 1938 which confirms this conclusion. Note the small broken line leading across the tip of Long Island to the Creek village and mounds, from there it goes into the Hog Jaw Valley and joins the major trail to Nickajack. The map also illustrates the "five lower towns" established by Dragging Canoe.



The Five Lower Towns. Map based on a sketch by John P. Brown, Old Frontier

Note: Small dotted line by Long Island Indian villages and mounds

## Υ CHAPTER FIVE Υ

### THE SHELL MOUNDS OF HOG JAW VALLEY

Every farmer who has plowed the riverbanks along the Tennessee River knows of a shell mound, some small, some large. They were a nuisance to his plowing, but they represent an historic symbol of the people who lived there long ago.

These mounds were excavated by C. B. Moore in 1915 and by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) in the 1930s prior to the flooding of the Tennessee River by the TVA. They were excavated in varying degrees of efficiency for the cultural material left by the early occupants.

The mounds were not the larger mounds built from soil gathered nearby which became the “temple mounds” constructed for religious ceremony or as a tribute to a tribal leader.

John A. Walthall in his book, “Prehistoric Indians of the Southeast“, says the first settlements of the shell mounds appeared to have begun during the middle Archaic Period, 6000 to 4000 B.C. The major occupation dates to the late Archaic Period, approximately 4000 to 1000 B.C.

He says these shell middens were simply accumulated garbage left from bygone days. In some cases, clay was brought in and spread on the shells as a floor for the crude shelters that were built there. (DeJarnette, 1952) Several families, usually related, lived there and were probably buried there.

Walthall says the crude cultural material found in these mounds included steatite, sandstone bowls, and implements made from chipped stone, bone or deer antlers. Awls, pins, and needles were made from shell or bone. The food source for these people was mussels (freshwater bi-valve mollusks) gathered from the river and creeks. Remember that during this time, the river and creeks were shallow and there were shoals, which made easy gathering of the mussels. They

could be eaten raw, baked, or boiled by adding heated stones to a pit lined with animal skin.

The excavations indicate other food sources were from fishing, hunting, and gathering nuts and edible plants. Walthall thinks that intensive hunting was common during the shell mound occupations and in later upland occupations. He says venison was a favorite food of the Shell Mound Indians just as buffalo became a favorite food of the Plains Indians. The deer were not only a food source, but antlers became projectile points, fish hooks, awls, needles, scoops, hammers, and ornaments. The hide became footwear and clothing.

Just north of Hog Jaw Valley, the community of Shell Mound, Tennessee, still carries the name of this unique part of our history, but many of the riverbank shell mounds have given way to the plow and agriculture.

In the early 1940s, the school students crossing the river on the ferry from Hog Jaw Valley often saw these mussel fishermen just above the ferry in the early morning. Their boats carried two sets of racks one on each side of the boat. The racks were equipped with hooks on about three feet of string that the operators would drag through the mussel beds. These fishermen were collecting mussels for shell value not as food at that time, before plastic, but for use in the button industry.



## Υ CHAPTER SIX Υ

### HUNTER-GATHERER TO FOOD PRODUCER

From the evidence gleaned at Russell Cave by archaeologists, we know that the aboriginal people who lived there got their food from hunting and scavenging for plants, nuts, and other food sources such as fish, clams, and snails. These early people lived in the caves, but as their numbers grew, later generations built villages along the rivers and creeks and got much of their food by similar methods. However they also raised corn, beans and squash near their villages. These were grown in small plots near their homes to supplement their diet derived from hunting and gathering.

The next occupants of these valleys were our great-great-grandparents, who mostly came from farming families, and needed to produce their food by farming methods.

In Hog Jaw Valley, these early settlers faced some real challenges. These challenges are best described by Robert Morgan as he tells the story of Daniel Boone in his book “Boone: A Biography“. He describes the challenges of the early pioneer families in clearing river bottoms along the Yadkin River Valley of North Carolina—not unlike Hog Jaw Valley along the Tennessee River. Here is his account of those challenges:

*“The greatest labor was clearing the fields for corn and other crops. The bottomlands along the Yadkin were covered with giant sycamores and tulip poplars, 8, ten or sometimes fourteen feet in diameter. Wetter ground was called “maple swamps”, which were buried beneath huge maple trees and choking vines and standing pools of water in the rainy season. The only practical solution was to girdle the big trees, hacking rings around the trunks, cutting off the lifeblood of sap that flowed under the bark from root to branch tips. Such a deadened tree, sometimes called “a belted tree” could not put out*

*leaves to shade the soil beneath. After the first year, the twigs and branches would begin to rot and fall in wind and storms. Over the following years, the bigger limbs would fall and the deadened field would look like a harbor of weathered, crooked masts. Great shields of bark peeled off the trunks and dropped to the ground, making the field, when covered with rotting watermelons in exposed red clay, look like a Homeric battlefield.”*

*“But meanwhile the soil beneath the dead trees was being tilled with hoe and bull-tongue plow pulled by oxen, loosened by heavy grubbing hoes that chopped through roots. Corn could be grown in the rough acres where smaller grains such as rye and wheat could not. Corn grew faster in the powerful soil than the weeds around it, reaching up into the hot southern sun that came through the deadened canopy. Corn, which had been introduced to Europe, was native to this soil and had been grown here by Indians for thousands of years.”*

*“Corn was the essential, universal crop for the settlers on the Yadkin. It could be eaten as roasting ears in the milk, when first ripe, or it could be gritted on a grater into bread when a little more mature. When hardened in the fall, corn could be ground into grits or meal and made into mush, pudding, or bread. Corn could be fed to horses, cattle, hogs. The sweet fodder was stripped from the lower stalks in the late summer and kept as winter-feed for the horses. The tops of the stalks were cut just above the ears and piled in stacks for winter feed for cattle. Corn-shuck-filled ticks were used for mattresses. Corncobs were used for starting fires in the morning, for tobacco pipes, and for a purpose later served by toilet paper.”*

In Kenamer’s “History of Jackson County” (1935), he offers these comments concerning the valleys of the Tennessee River:

*“The valleys of the Tennessee and the low level lands lying along Crow, Mud, and Sauta Creeks were covered with dense cane-brakes, brush wood and briars matted together with vines; and towering above all this were large oak, poplar, gum and other trees, with a lake or lagoon here and there. The ridges and coves that were bordered by the Cumberland, Sand, and Gunter’s Mountain were fertile and had a luxuriant growth of cane and forest. The mountaintops were better suited for the early settler to make his home or to live while hunting, with no undergrowth except tall grass, with trees far enough apart that one could drive a team and wagon for miles without a road. Deer were plentiful and turkeys were numerous as chickens at the present time. One has described these mountains as follows: ‘The mountain air sighed through the tree tops as pure and sweet as the breath of a maiden; squirrels gambled in the forest trees; turkeys gobbled and strutted on the mountains; eagles screamed from their lofty perch on towering cliffs; and doves cooed.’”*

Without a gristmill nearby, corn had to be crushed by a heavy wooden pestle on a hollowed stump, called a "hominy block", as Indians did. However, every settlement soon had at least one mill turned by a stream, where carved stones with grooves ground the grains into meal. Skilled masons cut the millstones carving the grooves precisely with little picks. As millstones were worn, the grooves had to be sharpened again with the little picks.

## Υ CHAPTER SEVEN Υ

### FLATBOATS ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER

The rumors of cheap, rich, river bottomland apparently raged throughout colonial America along the East coast communities in the 1700s and 1800s. These rumors put the early Americans on the move. Abundant records show the urge to move to a “new land of opportunity” was strong among the “new-comers” to American shores.

John P. Brown in his excellent book “Old Frontiers” (1938) records that in 1778 settlers along the Holston River in East Tennessee set out for the new lands in a fleet of 40 flatboats to float down the Tennessee River to locate in the “newly conquered” country. The Holston River is one of the principal rivers, which flow into, and helps form, the Tennessee River. In her book, “One Moore Family“, Dorothy Moore Wilson tells her family story that William Moore Sr. built a flatboat large enough to transport his family, household belongings, and his cattle into the new land.

Undoubtedly, a great many families moved into Alabama and other states from Tennessee and the Eastern seaboard some by Indian trails, of course, but a great many others by flatboats.

Kristin Ragan Williams of Stevenson, Alabama wrote of the Lawson Family in “The Heritage of Jackson County“ says she was told that the Lawson Family arrived in Jackson County in 1890 by raft on the Tennessee River. As many as eight families made the trip; they landed at Island Creek Cove, the south end of Hog Jaw Valley.

The Moore’s traveled down the French Broad River and the Tennessee River into the Chattanooga area. After wintering on an island near Chattanooga, they navigated the treacherous rapids in the river below Chattanooga. Locally that area is known as “the Sucks”. These rapids and whirlpools are caused by water flowing into the Tennessee River from the East Tennessee



Mountains. Boats of all types were often wrecked there. As the settlers struggled through the rapids, they were often attacked by the Indian tribes living nearby. In their book, "In and Around Bridgeport", Ronald Lee and Flossie Carmichael say that because of the rapids this was not a favorite route for the early pioneers.

Mrs. Wilson wrote in her book that her family, the Moore's, arrived in Alabama while it was still Indian Territory probably in 1830 and 1831. She goes on to say that, strictly speaking it would have been prior to February 27, 1819, when a treaty was signed by the government and the Cherokee Indian tribes that occupied this area. In this treaty, the Cherokee tribes ceded all their land north and west of the Tennessee River to the United States.

The Moore family landed on the north and west side of the river at a place where the town of Bridgeport would later develop. The Senior Moore purchased the land and the deed was recorded in 1831. Like many early families, they may have lived in the area several years before the official recording could be made.

William Moore Sr. later sold all of his land to the city of Bridgeport for \$1.75 per acre. The spot where he landed was called "Jonesville" but later was named as the city of Bridgeport.

Mrs. Wilson gives an excellent description of the typical flatboat such as the one her relative built for his family. Here is her description of the typical flatboat:

*"It was about 40 feet long and 12 feet wide. They were built with seasoned timbers. The hull was covered over with split logs called "puncheons". The puncheons were caulked with tar to make them waterproof, necessary since the cargo was stored in the hull. On the deck was a cabin usually equipped with bunks. Many were also equipped with brick fireplaces for cooking and heating. Flatboats were carried along by the current. However, a long oar was attached to the stern to get them from the shore into the mainstream.*

*Flatboats were often crude, but many of them were built stoutly and neatly finished, especially if they expected to travel great distances”.*

Just as Mrs. Wilson's family had traveled from the French Broad River and into the Tennessee to get to Jackson County, the Hembree family also traveled to the new land by flatboat. They first lived in South Carolina having crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Wales. According to genealogist, Dan Hembree, of Honey Grove, Texas, the family moved from South Carolina to Roane County, Tennessee, to a community called “Wheat”. This is near the present day city of Kingston, Tennessee, on the Little Tennessee River. Just as the Holston and French Broad Rivers flow into the mighty Tennessee River so does the Little Tennessee.

The family story is that Benjamin Franklin Hembree loaded his family, household goods, and the family cow onto three flatboats and floated down the Little Tennessee into the larger Tennessee River. When the boats hit the bank just above the present-day Island Creek in Jackson County, Alabama along the east shore, the family decided to settle. The area later became known as Gibson’s Cove. Later, the Hembree's purchased land extending northward into a narrow valley that was to be called Hog Jaw Valley, and the home of my family. The earliest deed I can locate is dated 1842. As I said earlier, families may have lived on their farms several years before the deed was recorded.

*(Author’s Note: One needs to recall that few passable roads existed during this time, hence the travel by rivers. Indian attacks were not unknown to the settlers for they were moving into what the Indians considered their hunting ground. A young chief in the Cherokee Indian Nation named “Dragging Canoe” strongly objected to his tribe’s treaties and settlements with the white invaders. The young warrior boasted and said, “You have bought a fair land, but you will find its settlement dark and bloody”. John*

*Brown in his book says that Dragging Canoe made good on his boast for 15 years.*

*Dragging Canoe established five lower towns, one at Nickajack Cave and another on the long island in the Tennessee River, both adjacent to Hog Jaw Valley. The other three were at Running Water Creek, Lookout Mountain, and Crow Creek, which was again south of Hog Jaw Valley.*

*In 1785, Ballantine Sevier with a contingent of men traveled down the Tennessee River and landed at a site that is now South Pittsburgh, Tennessee, just north and west of Hog Jaw Valley, to establish a fort with the idea of a future settlement. Dragging Canoe would have none of it and placed them under siege. The settlement was soon abandoned.*

*The conflict raged on for many years with Indian raids and retaliation raids from the settlers until 1838 when the Cherokee Nation was removed by force to the "other side of the Mississippi River". The sad tale of this removal was told by John P. Brown in "Old Frontiers", Jerry Ellis in "Walking the Trail", and by many others who recount "The Trail of Tears".*

Not only was travel by flatboat a great hazard for the settlers of that era, the threat of attack from Indians was just around the next bend of the river or along a wooded trail. As many historians have noted, the courage of women to uproot their homes, leave their families, and face the hardships of frontier living is forever a tribute to pioneer women of these early days.

## Υ CHAPTER EIGHT Υ

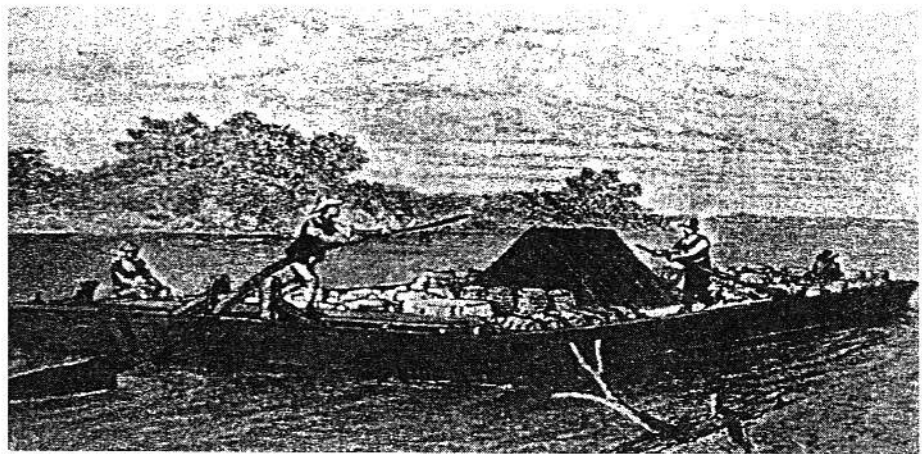
### COMMERCIAL FLATBOATS ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER

While there are ample stories of families moving into Jackson County using flatboats on the river, there appears to be few records of commercial transport on the river in the early days. However, I think there may have been considerable commerce between river-men and the early settlers.

While no record of farm products shipped from Hog Jaw Valley can be found, this report of shipping by flatboat exists. In recording "The Stevenson Story", Eliza B. Woodall says, "Prior to building the railroads, bales of cotton were hauled to Caperton's Ferry (just south of Hog Jaw Valley), loaded onto flatboats and taken to New Orleans."

Writing on "The Formative Period in Alabama" (1815-1828), Doctor Thomas Abernathy, Professor of History at the University of Chattanooga, says, "Early planters intended to float their cotton to market so they chose their homes near the rivers." He goes on to say, "Flat-bottom

boats—crudely constructed affairs with pitched seams, could carry 50 to 100 bales of cotton." Dr. Abernathy says, "The flat bottomed boats were



*Flatboat*

replaced by keelboats which were built more sturdily, "sea worthy", and in addition could be poled back up the river carrying supplies to the settlers.

The commercial use of flatboats is remembered in an article written by Chris Villine in the

December 2008 magazine called "The Tennessee Cooperator". Villine tells of the reenactment of a 1000 mile boat trip down the Mississippi River, a trip designed to honor Abe Lincoln on the anniversary of his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The story is entitled, "In the Wake of Abe". He said, "A replica of an 1820-era flatboat was floated down the Mississippi River piloted by 19 year-old Abe Lincoln in 1828.

At the time, "Commercial flatboats were loaded with dry goods, livestock, and frontier merchandise. Flatboat operators traded and bartered their way down the massive river."

The pilot, Capt. Bob Cherry said, "I'm basically pushing a box through the water." He goes on to say of the early river-men, "They were at the mercy of the river, half of the time, front was in the back, and back was in the front, and they were bouncing off stuff continuously." "Whiskey, pork and flour were the most generally desired products in the cotton sections," according to Dr. Abernathy.

On the Tennessee River, two significant obstructions were known to restrict all river traffic. One was the "Sucks" below Chattanooga, and the other, probably more severe, were the shoals at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. During dry seasons, the shoals could not be passed and portage for any goods being transported was required.

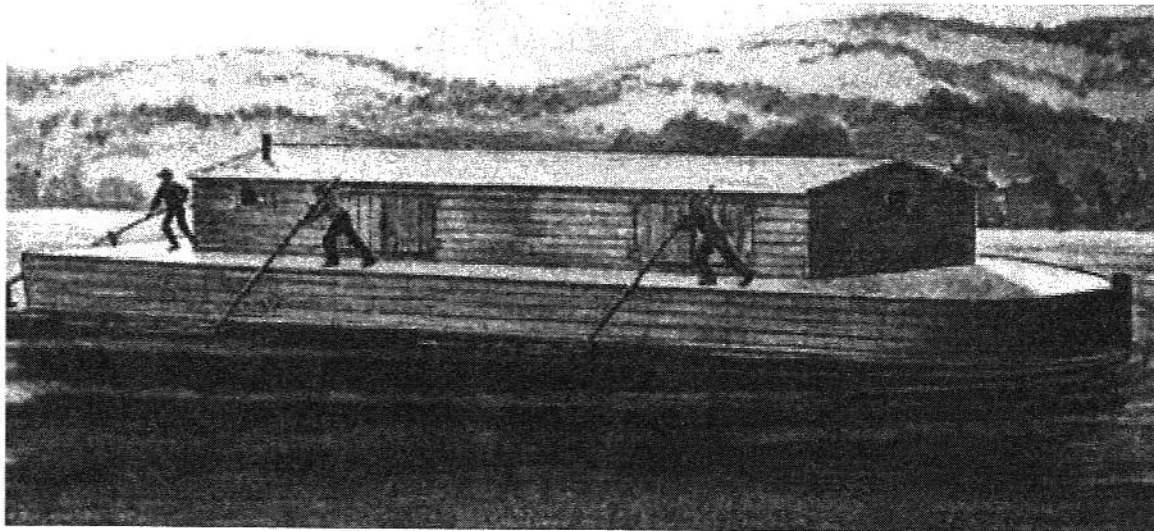
In the 1930s, dams built by the TVA would raise the water level significantly, which essentially eliminated these two obstructions. Earlier dams and a canal to by-pass the shoals were options considered to minimize the obstructions.

In Hog Jaw Valley, the map which shows the site of "Hembree's Landing", is also the site known as "Moss Landing". Cousin Jo John Williams who lives below Island Creek says the "Moss Landing" site was a local commercial trading point. Corn and cotton were obviously shipped from here, and flour and whiskey may have been unloaded. Flat boats and keelboats

probably stopped here, but, for sure, the later steamboats used this bend in the river as a stopping point for trade.

In a later chapter, we will discuss the “Cox Mound”, below Island Creek, and “Reese’s Ferry”, at the lower tip of the long island. They were both known “stopping points” for steamboats.

In the coming years, steamboats and railroads would make flatboats and keelboats a part of our history, and names like “Moss Landing” and “Reese’s Ferry” will fade from our memory and our vocabulary will take on new names.



*This picture shows a keelboat being “poled” upstream.*

## Υ CHAPTER NINE Υ

### THE HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND

First known as “Carpenter” for a family from Arkansas who settled there, John Robert Kennamer’s book “History of Jackson County”, 1935, tells us that it was the first stop in Alabama along the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway (NC & St. L) after leaving Chattanooga. He goes on to say the US Postal Service named the post office Long Island. An early road map in the Alabama State Archives shows them as two separate locations, but close. State records, newspapers, county records, and most local people all referred to the area as “Carpenter”. Over time, the community was known only as “Long Island”.

Local people generally divided the northern part of the Jackson County as two local areas. Hog Jaw Valley was at the lower end of the Valley divided by a large forested ridge. The upper end of the Valley was referred to as “Turnip Salad Valley” divided by County Road 93, which went from Long Island to Bryant.

One piece of Civil War correspondence refers to “Turnip Salad Valley”. The Long Island community or sometimes “Carpenter” was the area west of the ridge surrounding the depot and the new school (after 1928).

The people who lived beyond Long Island in the large crook created by the Tennessee River were known as people who lived in the, “Bend of the River”. This community is now New Hope, Tennessee. In the 1930s, many of the young people attending Long Island School were from this area.

Roulston and Livingood in their book, “Sequatchie” extends the Valley, for which their book is named, well into Alabama. They include as far as Guntersville. This would include Long Island, Bridgeport, Scottsboro, and Hog Jaw Valley. Local people make a finer distinction as to

where their neighbors lived.



*Pictured above is the Witcher family waiting on the Long Island Depot platform after a picnic on Sand Mountain on Porter's Bluff. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Lambert)*



*Below is the Long Island Depot as it appeared in the 1930s and 1940s prior to removal.*

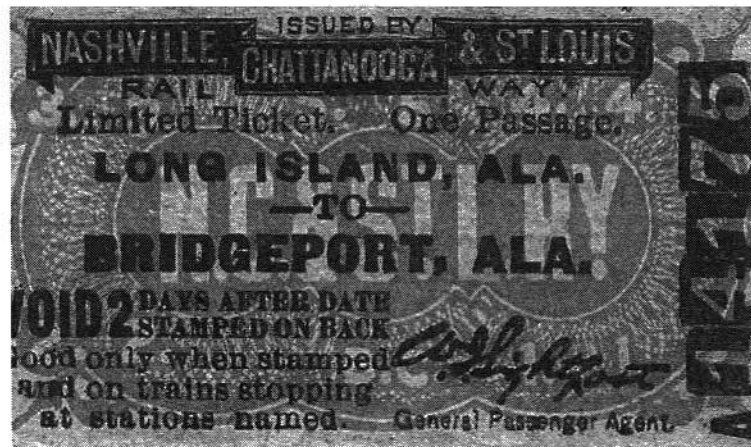






This 1912 Rand McNally map shows Long Island and Carpenter as two locations along Southern Railway, now N.C. & St.L. "Dry Creek" is now Island Creek. The reference to the valley containing Bridgeport and Stevenson is shown as "Browns Valley". (Alabama State Archives)

Below: A ticket to Bridgeport. (Courtesy of Dennis Lambert)



Ψ CHAPTER TEN Ψ

THE EARLY SETTLERS



*Pat Stokes Glover, who was reared near Harris Chapel in Hog Jaw Valley, contributed the names of these early settlers.*

In attempting to list the early settlers of Hog Jaw Valley, I have chosen to include those families who settled in Hog Jaw Valley and the community of Long Island or Carpenter as it was called in those early days. Families living in the area came to Long Island to trade and “catch the train”.

Long Island children had to “cross the ridge” to attend school at Harris Chapel until 1928 when the new school was built. Some families owned property in both communities. To build this record of

early settlers I have reviewed the Jackson County Chronicles, Kennamer’s “History of Jackson County”, old land records, “One Moore Family”

by Dorothy Moore Wilson, “Bridgeport, Alabama: Gateway to the Sequatchie” by Dennis Lambert and Ronald Lee, “In and Around Bridgeport” by Flossie Carmichael and Ronald Lee, and “The Stevenson Story” by Ms. Eliza B. Woodall.

Of course as I begin this chapter, I’m aware that in identifying these early settlers, I will not list some families that should be included. If so, it’s because I did not locate the record of their early settlement. Land purchases are of course the strongest record of early settlement. These records of land sales in 1842 of land ceded by the Cherokee Nation and auctioned by the State of Alabama is the best record we have of who settled in the Long Island area. The date of purchase follows the name and the buyer. In 1836, the Cherokee territory lying east of the Tennessee River was added to Jackson County. Actual land sales in the Long Island community started June 4,

1842 and were gradual over the next 30 or more years. Early purchases were made by Andrew Horn (1842), George H Dougherty (1842), Benjamin Hembree (1842), Moses H. Glasscock (1842), Spencer Glasscock (1842), James D. Harris (1842), James M. Reese (1843), William Smith (1843), Henry Hulvey (1844), William Moore (1844), William McFarland (1845), David Reese (1845), David Hill (1845), William Moore Jr. (1846), Constantine Ladd (1846), Joel B Arendale (1846), Samuel James (1849), Pleasant Hill (1849).

James Howard in 1850 while attending school in Hog Jaw Valley names his boyhood acquaintances as Prices, Glasscocks, Piburns/Pyburns, Moores, Cunninghams, Hembrees, and Choates. These young people obviously came from the families of early settlers in the Valley. Howard's parents were Joshua and Marena McClusky who were married in the Valley in 1835.

Kenamer says Carpenter (known as Carpenter Station and later called Long Island) was named for the Carpenter family who had moved from Arkansas and settled there. He goes on to say that William Christian made large purchases of land in the Valley in the mid 1800's was the grandfather of Dr. S. H. James, Dr. C. L. James, and Mrs. C. H. Bynum who became prominent members of the community.

We know that Clement Clay Taylor, owner of Taylor's Store, his son, Reuben, and their families lived in the Carpenter community in the late 1850s and mid 1860s. Dewitt Whiting and David Throup were postmasters in the late 1860s as was James R. Johnson. In the 1870s Bayliss E. Ladd and Mrs. Angie Throup were postmasters. The James brothers, Meredith and Charles, were postmasters until 1905. The Roulston brothers had the general store in Carpenter around 1913 and William P. Roulston was designated "Postmaster" until 1916. John O. Beane served during 1918 when Meredith Bynum was acting postmaster. The Bynum's have served in the Long Island Community for many years. His wife taught school there and their sons had a large poultry

operation.

Mrs. Woodall says Elisha Ridley settled in the Valley in 1849. Dennis Lambert, in addition to the ones listed, also records the Coopers and Gilliams were early settlers. The old land records were compiled by Margaret Matthew Cowart. In "One Moore Family", Dorothy Moore Wilson says the county was surveyed in 1827. The first land offering was July 1830 and a second offering in October 1830. In addition to the five Moore's who bought land she also records Henry and Phillip Hulvey bought land, as did Mary Moore and Jordan Griffin. William Glover had a store at the drawbridge, probably mid 1800s (no date available, he lived from 1828 to 1903). He and his family owned a farm there also.

Writing in the "Heritage of Jackson Alabama" for the Lawson family, Kristen Ragan Williams says the Lawson's arrived in the Island Creek area of Hog Jaw Valley in the early 1890s. She says that at least eight families made the trip floating down the Tennessee River by raft and settled in the Island Creek Cove area. She identifies the families including Green Lawson (1851-1910) and wife Sara Grisson (or Crissmond) Lawson (1857-1916). Most of the Lawson Family is buried in Harris Chapel Cemetery.

In writing this chapter, I've become aware that so little is known or recorded of the lives our ancestors lived. We usually have only their name, date of birth and death, marriage and children. I would urge everyone to prepare a story of their lives and any history of the family, then submit it to The Heritage Center, P.O. Box 53, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768, or some similar preserver of historical records.

## Υ CHAPTER ELEVEN Υ

### FERRIES: OUR CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

For those early inhabitants of the Valley, any connection to the other communities meant crossing the Tennessee River or climbing Sand Mountain. For the most part, only a footpath was available to the traveler who wanted to climb the mountain.

Fording the river was possible in the dry season, at other times the flowing water was too high for a safe crossing. The answer was a ferry. The earlier ferries were privately owned and operated for a profit. Ferries sprang up along the river ever few miles as travel over poor roads by horse drawn wagon or horse and buggy was very slow.

Nonie Webb, Historian for Marion County, Tennessee to our north, said that at one time there were 13 ferries along the Tennessee River in her county. Probably the best-known ferry in the area was Caperton's Ferry at Stevenson, Alabama just south of Hog Jaw Valley. It is referenced by several articles and history books of the area, and the crossing there by Civil War troops is well known.

A few miles upstream from Caperton's Ferry, Island Creek flows into the Tennessee River near where the Williams family operated a ferry on the Tennessee River. A ferry was also needed to cross the creek. It was here that Charlie Colvin who lived near Gibson Cove, operated the Island Creek Ferry.

Glenda Bruff of Oakland, Tennessee says a family story relates that Colvin bought the Reese (Bridgeport) Ferry about 1928. The "National Register of Historic Places" records that he owned a ferry in partnership with Virgil Bryant from 1938-1941. Colvin named the tugboat for the ferry barge, "Evelyn C" for Mr. Colvin's eldest daughter. Evelyn Colvin Haggard was Glenda Bruff's mother and a classmate of mine at Long Island School.

It is probably impossible to name all the operators of Reese Ferry or Bridgeport Ferry, but an early ferryman was found in Dennis Lambert and Ronald Lee's book, "Bridgeport".

S.A. Orange operated Reese's Ferry in 1909 with a Lambert gasoline engine powering a stern paddle wheel.

At various times, the farmers who farmed on the Long Island adjacent to Hog Jaw Valley owned personal ferries to move their equipment and harvested crops to and from the Island. Cal (Calvin) McFarland of Bridgeport who owned a large part of the island cropland owned such a ferry, as did the Wooden Brothers of New Hope.

During the time in the early 1940s when schoolchildren from Bryant, Long Island, and Hog Jaw Valley crossed the ferry to school, Claude Gilliam and Meredith Hughes operated the ferry for the county. The ferry became known as the Bridgeport Ferry.

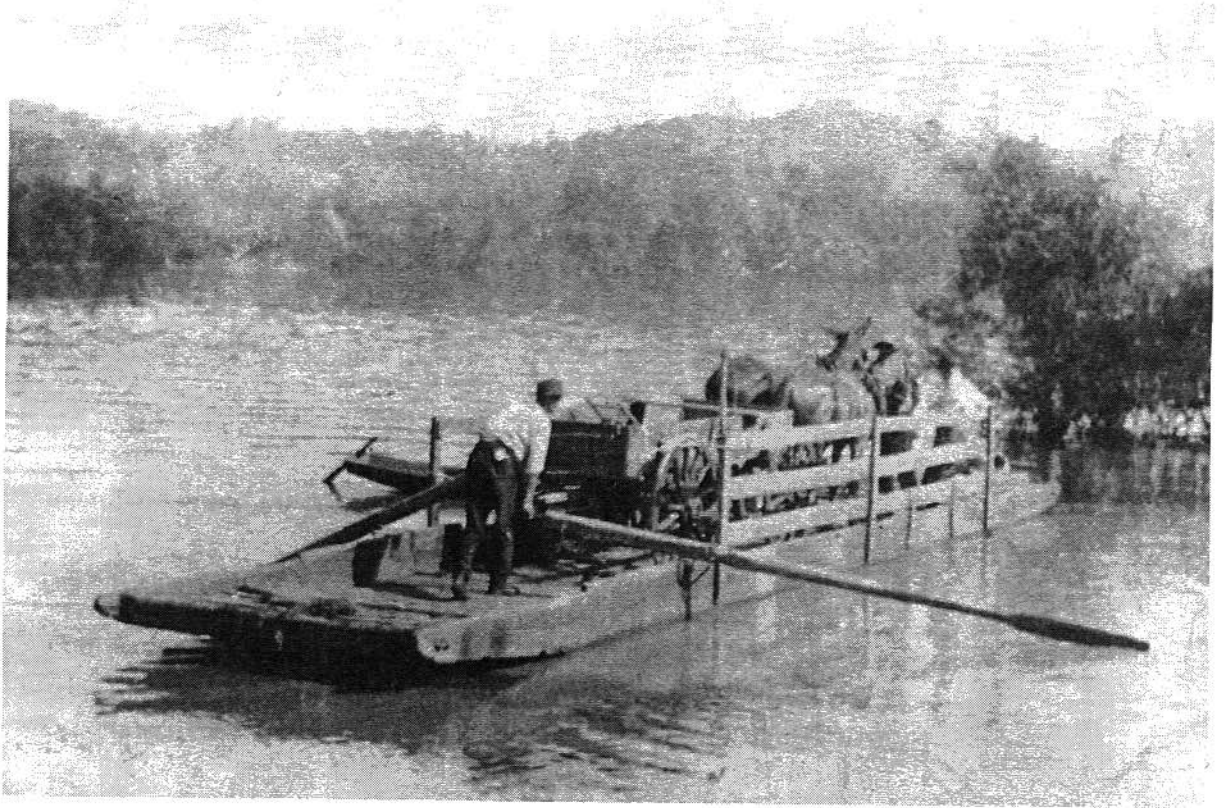
With the completion of bridges over the Tennessee River at Stevenson and South Pittsburg, all the ferries closed, and their names and operators have become a part of our history.



*Charlie Gifford Colvin served in WW I.*

*The photo below shows Charlie Colvin propelling the barge with oars onto the North Shore of Island Creek.*

*He operated a ferry crossing Island Creek.*



*Gordon Hensbree*

Footman = 20	Footman = 20
Footman = 10	Footman = 10
Footman = 20	wagon = 50
Footman = 10	Footman = 20
Footman = 10	Footman = 10
Footman = 40	Footman = 20
Footman = 40	Footman = 20
wagon = 50	Footman = 20
Footman = 20	Footman = 10

SW  
 Cloud  
 Pt. Cl. Clear

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU. <small>CHARLES D. HAYDEN Chief</small>		STATIONS	Flood Stage, Ft.	Stage at 7 a. m. in Feet	Change since last Report	Precipitation in 24
<b>Daily River Bulletin.</b> Chattanooga, Tennessee, Thursday April 14, 1932. River Forecast The river will have a falling tendency at all points during the next few days. Weather Forecast Chattanooga and vicinity: Fair to-night and Friday; warmer Friday. Tennessee: Fair to-night, Friday fair and warmer. Notes for opposite table: a-River below 4 feet. b-River below 6 feet. d-River below 8 feet. e-River below 1.0 feet. g-River below 2 feet. C. E. HADLEY		ROLSTON RIVER.....	12	a		
		Bluff City, Tenn.....	14	4.1	- 0.6	.3
		FRENCH BROAD RIVER.....	12	2.9	- 0.6	
		Dandridge, Tenn.....				
		CLINCH RIVER.....	18	5.0	- 0.5	.5
		Speers Ferry, Va.....	25	5.5	- 0.6	
		Clinton, Tenn.....	26	5.9	- 0.3	.0
		Kingston, Tenn.....				
		LITTLE TENN. RIVER.....	18	5.6	- 0.3	
		Bryant, N. C.....				
		McGhee, Tenn.....				
		HIWASSEE RIVER.....	22	5.3	- 0.1	
		Murphy, N. C.....				
		CHARLESTON RIVER.....	20	4.4	- 1.0	.0
		Charleston, Tenn.....	22	6.9	- 0.5	
		Knockville, Tenn.....	25			
		Loudon, Tenn.....	30	13.6	- 0.3	
		Rockwood, Tenn.....	50	41.8	- 0.2	
		CHATTAHOOGA.....	30	11.3	+ 0.1	
		Above the Dam.....	18	9.8	0.0	
		Below the Dam.....	17	15.4	+ 3.2	
		Bridgeport, Ala.....	26	15.4	+ 0.1	
		Widows Bar Dam.....	25	12.7	+ 0.3	
		Above the Dam.....	20	9.0	- 0.2	
		Below the Dam.....	18	6.7	- 0.6	
		Guntersville Ala.....	33			
		Decatur, Ala.....				
		Florence, Ala.....				
		Bishton, Ala.....				





Bridgeport Ferry

1947

THE COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY HAVE AGREED TO OPERATE A FREE FERRY AT REECES FERRY WITH A NEW STEEL BARGE AND STEEL YAUGHT TO PUSH IT. PROVIDED THE LOCAL PEOPLE WILL COOPERATE WITH A \$1000.00 DONATION TO HELP PAY FOR THE OUTFIT, WHICH WILL COST ABOUT \$ 3000.00. IN RAISING THIS MONEY EVERY ONE IS ASKED TO COOPERATE IN HELPING TO RAISE THIS MONEY SO THAT THIS WILL BE A PERMENANT FERRY. *James Rain 6.*

## Υ CHAPTER TWELVE Υ

### THE CIVIL WAR- CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

*(Author's Note: Numerous books giving the details and the aftermath of the terrible Civil War have been written. I can only record a general overview of how action affected the people of the Tennessee Valley and the Hog Jaw Valley. They were "caught in the middle" of one great battle in particular.)*

Philosophically, North Alabama families were divided on the issues that led to the Civil War of 1861. Few families in this area owned slaves for their small family farms. Naturally, the slave issue was not significant in their minds. Others felt the Union should remain intact. For many others, secession, the right to leave the Union, was a strong issue. Therefore, the families of Hog Jaw Valley and their neighbors in the surrounding communities were "caught in the middle" of this conflict.

This division for the people of Hog Jaw Valley is best demonstrated by the events that took place at Taylor's Store. One needs to remember that a general store was not only the center for farm and home supplies, but also the social center for nearby families. They not only traded for their supplies, they also traded news of illnesses, deaths, marriages, political ideas, and all manner of information. As this civil conflict became apparent, it was logical that the general store became the recruiting and enlistment site for the area. Jerry Blevins' book, "Sequatchie Valley Soldiers" says Captain William L. Gordon, brother of Confederate General John B. Gordon enlisted a company of soldiers in 1861 at Long Island, probably at Taylor's Store. Long Island was the name of the post office that was located at the store.

Dennis Lambert, in his book "Bridgeport Gateway to the Sequatchie", says Captain Flavius Graham recruited for his Fourth Alabama Calvary at Taylor's Store, Long Island in 1862.

J. R. Kennamer's "History of Jackson County" says Captain Rufus Jordan organized his First Alabama Vidette Calvary, a Union company, in Hog Jaw Valley, again probably at Taylor's Store.



When Alabama and other southern states seceded from the Union in 1861, loyalty to their state compelled many Southern men to join the Confederacy. As the war continued, Hog Jaw Valley was literally caught in the middle. Union forces were moving east from successful campaigns in middle Tennessee in the area of Nashville and Stones River at Murfreesboro. General Bragg and his Confederate forces were entrenched in Chattanooga to defend the vital rail center there and the critical terrain around Chattanooga.

In recording from the "Reminiscences" of Elizabeth Pauline Heymon, who was born in 1843, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Woodall in her book "The Stevenson Story" says Mrs. Heymon recalls events from her younger years during the Civil War this way:

*"After the Battle of Murfreesboro, General Bragg fell back and established his Headquarters at Chattanooga. General Rosecran's forces following in his wake soon had their camps scattered throughout the Northern sections of Alabama. The Tennessee River was then the dividing line between the opposing armies.*

*Our house was just a half mile from the ferry, and within the Yankees camps. Often they searched the house for concealed arms, saying they had orders to that effect, but it seemed to us that their orders, (if they had any), were for the appropriation of articles of jewelry and silverware. They would leave the rooms with their contents thrown all over the floor. 'A nice job of work for the Ladies', they would laugh and say to each other.*

*They were of the opinion that Southern women were lazy. Sometimes I felt that I would like to be a little saucy, but father prohibited his daughter conversing with Yankee Soldiers."*

The Union forces had moved into Stevenson, Alabama, a town a few miles south and west of Hog Jaw Valley and established Fort Harker. They soon moved on to Bridgeport, Alabama, and defeated the Confederate forces defending the town and vital railroad bridges crossing the Tennessee River. Bridgeport is three miles directly west of Hog Jaw Valley. In Bridgeport, the Union army established a steamboat building operation and supply depot. In the meantime, Confederate General Bragg had moved from Chattanooga into north Georgia. Union Forces began to move across the Tennessee River at several points.

General Rosecrans who commanded the Union Forces attacked at five points along the Tennessee River and the Sequatchie Valley to the North. Hog Jaw Valley lay ahead of these attacks and was defended by small groups of "pickets" (a few troops assigned to report enemy troop movements or engage in skirmishes). Along the Tennessee River the Union troops crossed by ferry, flatboat, pontoon bridges, and a partially destroyed railroad bridge. Hog Jaw Valley lay between the two great armies.

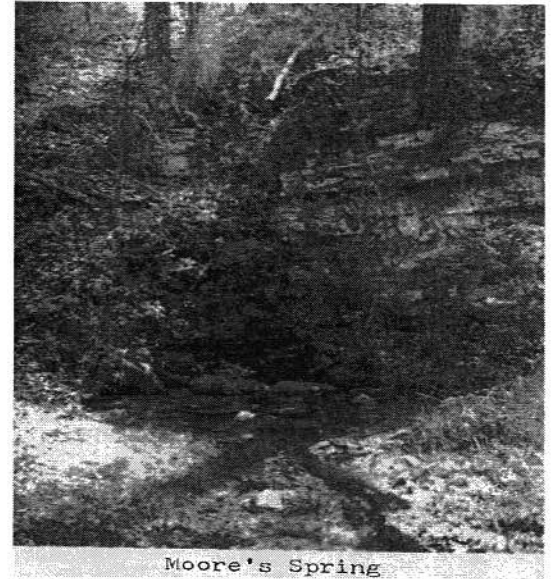
The Union troops that crossed near Stevenson at Caperton's Ferry divided into two units. Some went directly over Sand Mountain; the remaining troops marched up Hog Jaw Valley.

*(Author's Note: At that time, the road ran in front of our house which faces the base of Sand Mountain. About 1955, some Civil War relic hunters from Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee came by our house following the trail of the Union troops. They said thousands of Union troops traveled up the valley and probably used our waterspout. (I doubt this, as the house was not built until 1893.) These same troops continued up the*

*valley and bivouacked at Moore's Spring two miles north of our house. From this site, the troops pushed and pulled their gun carriages, supply wagons and equipment directly up and over Sand Mountain.)*

Here's what Union General John Beatty wrote on September 3, 1863: "We moved from Moore's Spring on the Tennessee River in the morning and after laboring all day advanced less than one mile and a quarter. We were ascending Sand Mountain; many of our wagons did not reach the summit."

Major Phil Sheridan datelined his letter to Union Brigadier General Garfield as "Big Spring (Moore's Spring) Hog Jaw Valley, September 4, 1863 as follows:



*"I crossed the river with all my wagons yesterday afternoon, and went into camp at this place. I will be delayed here for some time by General Negley's wagons. There is still a large number to go up the mountain."*

*P. H. Sheridan, Major-General*

*(Author's Note: The old roadbed, cut some 6-8 feet deep, can still be observed about 50 feet just off the lowest "V" of County Road 93, as it goes up Sand Mountain. Sand Mountain is about 1,000 feet elevation and probably one and a half miles by road. The troops continued over Sand Mountain and into Lookout Valley with Lookout Mountain still ahead of them. These men and thousands of Confederate Troops were to become part of a great Civil War conflict known as the Battle of Chickamauga, fought in September*

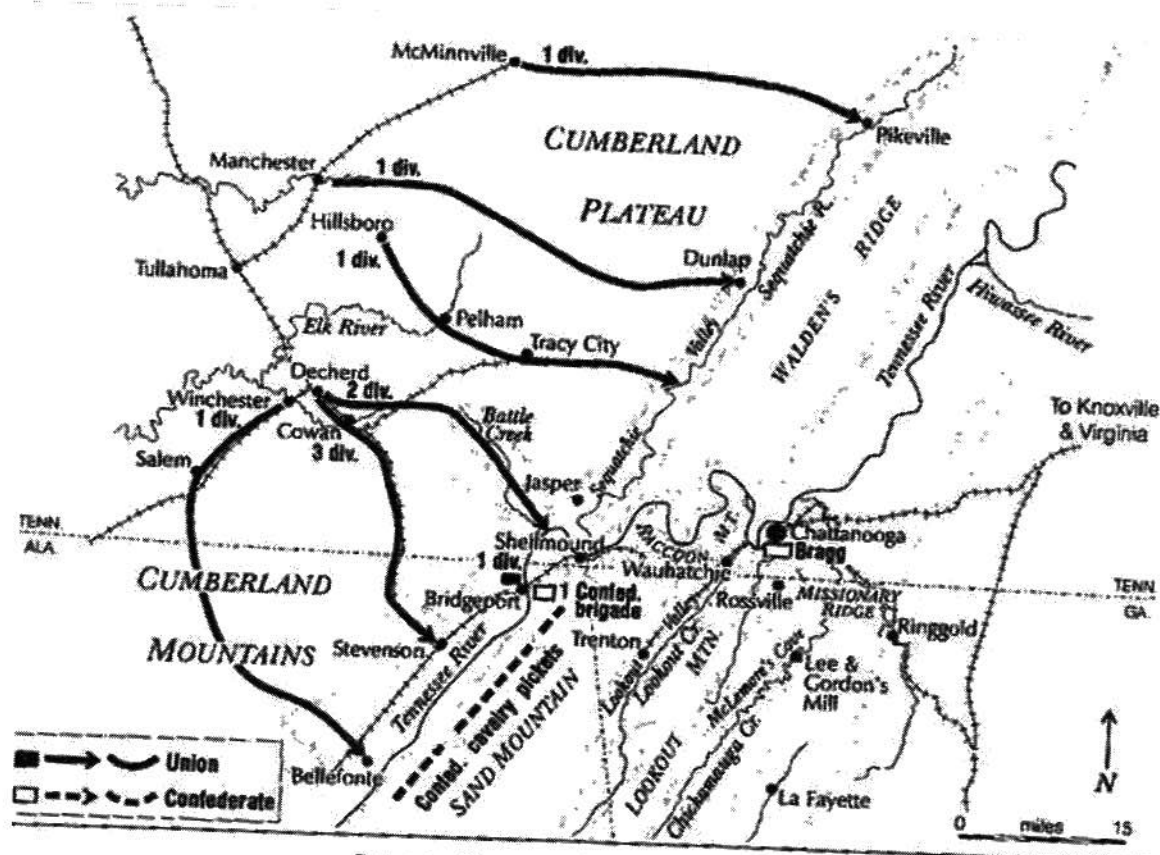
1863.)

Hog Jaw Valley was fortunate to have avoided the great battles that occurred east and west of the valley but the ravages of war were not avoided. Small skirmishes occurred at the Ladd House, the Glover House, and undoubtedly over the railroad bridge that spanned the Tennessee River.

Renegades, deserters, and soldiers of both armies preyed on citizens of the valley. J. R. Kenamer said, "What one army didn't take the other one did." Mrs. Wilson abstracted a claim her family made after the war for losses and damage at the hands of the thousands of Federal troops. The Feds took livestock, chickens, and corn from the crib and then burned the fence rails in a bonfire. Diaries of Federal soldiers stationed in the area recorded stealing hogs, chickens, and roasting ears from the field.

James Marion Howard, a CSA soldier in the Civil War who lived in Hog Jaw Valley, made this observation when he returned to the Valley after the war. "When I reached Alabama, conditions had changed. The county was torn up. The lands were lying idle. There was no money in the county to buy things farmers raised. Slaves were freed, and there were many widows and orphaned children."

General Hooker and the Union Forces were at Bridgeport and Stevenson. General Braxton Bragg and the Confederate Forces defended the Chattanooga area. Hog Jaw Valley is on the map where the "Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad" is lettered. Hooker crossed the Tennessee River, Sand Mountain, Lookout Valley, and Lookout Mountain. The Great Battle of Chickamauga was fought along Chickamauga Creek in Georgia. The map on the next page is from "The Six Armies in Tennessee" by Steven E. Woodworth, 1998.



Rosecrans Crosses the Cumberland Plateau  
 and crossed the Tennessee River by barge, bridge, ferry, and railroad.

Hog Jaw Valley was in the middle.

## Υ CHAPTER THIRTEEN Υ

### TAYLOR'S STORE, THE MOST HISTORIC SPOT IN HOG JAW VALLEY

Some may vote for the skirmish at Ladd House or the fort guarding the railroad bridge over the Tennessee River as the most historic place in Hog Jaw Valley. Others would say, "No, its Moore's Spring and the difficult trek over Sand Mountain", but the final agreement would have to be Taylor's Store at Long Island.

This store was established in 1857 by Clement Clay Taylor who had moved to Long Island from Georgia. The land which his father, Ruben L. Taylor, had purchased in 1857 was next to the railroad in the community locally called "Carpenter". Clement C. R. Taylor was designated as the first postmaster August 5, 1858. Apparently, Taylor held the post for seven years as Dewitt C. Whiting was appointed next on October 27, 1865.

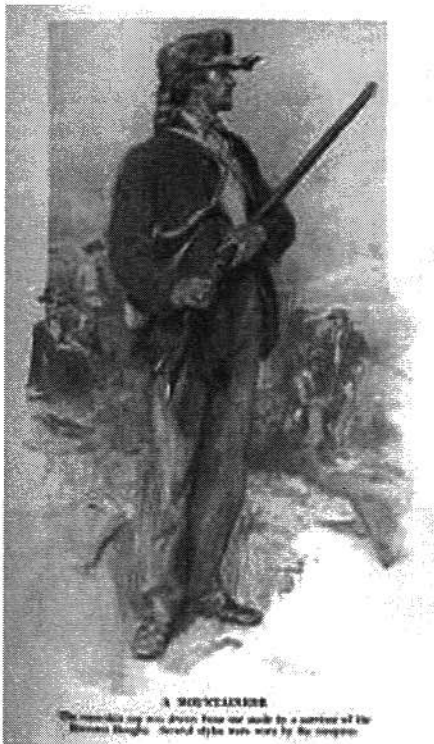
The recruiting of both Union and Confederate Army units used this store for enlistments. In addition to the units recorded in the chapter "Caught in the Middle", Brigadier General Patton Anderson chose a site near the store as the headquarters for his company. Writing to his headquarters in Chattanooga in 1863, he datelined his letter "Taylor Store, Alabama, July 15, 1863". Again a week later referring to the troop movement near Island Creek, he datelined his memo as "Taylor Store". Some 12 pieces of correspondence identified as "Confederate Correspondence" references Taylor's Store.

The exact location of the store in Jackson County legal records was originally incorrect and various historians have described the location of the store as "opposite Bridgeport", others say "one mile east of Bridgeport". One old map shows the locations in Marion County, Tennessee near Long Island. Mrs. Ann Gant supervisor of "Map and Appraisal" section, Jackson County Court House Scottsboro, Alabama, says the records have been corrected and the location should



read Section 3, Township 1, and Range 9. The current owner of the site is Scott Bynum of Long Island. The site of the old store is on the Southeast side County Road 93, just a few feet from the old depot building near where County Road crosses the N.C. & St. L. Railroad.

Civil War officers reported to have recruited at Taylor's Store were Captain Patrick Henry Rice who organized his Co. 8 for the Confederacy. Captain Rufus Jordan, recruiting for the Union organized his first Alabama Vidette Cavalry in 1862 in Hog Jaw Valley. It may have been at Taylor's Store. In correspondence August 1863, Major General George H. Thomas of the 14<sup>th</sup> Corp of the U.S. Army ordered General Baird to cross the Tennessee River and move to Taylor's Store, and for General Negley to cross the Tennessee River at Caperton's Ferry, Stevenson, and report to Taylor's Store.



Jerry Blevins says that in April 1861, Captain William L. Gordon, brother to Confederate General John B. Gordon, organized a company of soldiers at Long Island originally called the "Raccoon Roughs", again probably at Taylor's Store.

Taylor's Store was not only a site for enlistments, but it was apparently "Central" for all the activities of the Civil War in North Alabama. Jerry Blevins also says that Captain Anderson Merchant of the Confederate Army inspected two companies of soldiers in 1862 at Taylor's Store and found the troops

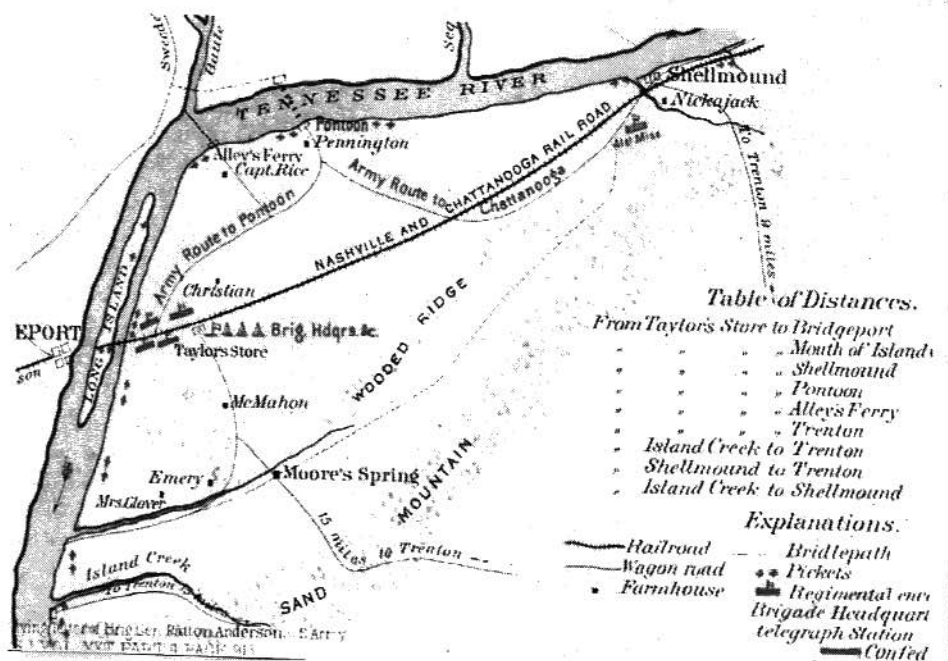
"acceptable" for Army service. These soldiers had originally enlisted at Stevenson and Larkinsville, Alabama.

Of the 24 voting precincts designated by the county during the Civil War, Taylor's store was number four. The daybook ledger for Taylor's Store was donated to the Scottsboro-Jackson

Heritage Center by Mrs. Billie Jean Manning and has become a valuable tool for genealogists and Civil War historians according to Wendell Page, former director of the Center. Some 250 names and a record of the items purchased are listed in the daybook journal of Taylor's Store.

Prior to the Civil War, the items purchased at the store were silk, trimmings, bonnets, hoop skirts, linens, shoes, hats, and kitchen equipment. Mrs. Ann Chambless writing in the Jackson County Chronicles says, "These examples show the 'good times' before the Civil War when women were sewing fancy clothes and were wearing hoop skirts and family funds were sufficient to afford spices such as nutmeg and a grater."

Mrs. Chambless concludes, "After the war ended, Taylor's business prospects waned due to the total deprivation in this area. Therefore, it is not surprising that Taylor and his family abandoned the store and returned to their old home place in Dade County, Georgia, before 1867."



Civil War map showing Taylor's Store - "X's" show confederate pickets - Flags were Brigade Headquarters. (Map courtesy, Hank Boyd, Civil War Historian, Chattanooga, TN)



You will note that the Tennessee River and Hog Jaw Valley were caught between two giant armies.

Below is a map of North Alabama showing Taylor's Store. Taylor's Store at Long Island became one of the most historic spots in Jackson County during the Civil War.



## ∪ CHAPTER FOURTEEN ∪

### HARRIS CHAPEL

The stories this old building might tell would include my Uncle Ike's tale of an old Billy goat chasing him down the road one day after school or James Howard studying the old McGuffey Reader.

Most of the Harris Chapel students in the early 1900s traveled a considerable distance on foot. The late Robert Gentry, who became our Jackson County Probate Judge, said he walked across the ridge to Harris Chapel. The school at Long Island was not opened until 1928. Bess Metcalf Grey, our former neighbor who lived near the drawbridge over the Tennessee River in the early days also said she climbed the ridge for classes at Harris Chapel. Both distances walked by these students were about three miles each way.

My father, Gordon Hembree, born in 1903, recalled his days at Harris Chapel. Bess Metcalf said nearly 100 pupils attended the school, and the building was divided into four rooms by curtains strung onto wires. A cloakroom was at the west end of the building. Two six by eight porches with two doors made up the west end of the building. The cloakroom was between them. A later remodeling enclosed the porches and the cloakroom; a rear entrance and steps were eliminated.

James Howard who was born in Hog Jaw Valley in 1842. He said he attended school at age seven; it had to be Harris Chapel since no other school existed. He said his teacher was John Montgomery, an Irish man. Mrs. Chamblee reported that the 1850 census for the Hog Jaw Valley confirms this. Howard listed his boyhood acquaintances as James (from Long Island), Prices, Glasscocks, Glaziers, Piburns/Pyburns, Moores, Harris, Cunninghams, Hembrees, and Choats.

The history of this site would include the gift of the land by William Moore Jr. who

deeded it from his 40 acres farm at Moore's Spring in 1870. Dorothy Moore Wilson said he donated it to bury Confederate soldiers and for a chapel. The late Marion Lloyd, historian in Bridgeport, Alabama believed the chapel and cemetery were named for James D. Harris who was a Methodist minister who preached there in the early 1800s. Harris purchased Indian land auctioned by the state of Alabama in 1842.

The original building was on the West side across from the present building and was a log structure according to Clinton Smith; the structure burned in the early 1930s. Clinton says he recalls his father remarking on the fire when Clinton was a young person. Clinton was born in 1931 soon after the church was rebuilt at its present location. The building was remodeled in the early 1960s.

In addition to the Methodist association with the Harris family, many denominations have used the building not only for church meetings, but also for funerals and family reunions. It is a meeting place for Decoration Day each Saturday prior to Memorial Day. Decoration Day is when families of the Valley and elsewhere meet to clean and decorate the graves of family and loved ones in preparation for Memorial Day. The event was a grand occasion for "dinner on the ground" following the hard work of "cleaning up".

Marion Lloyd recorded in his family book that his brother Sandy, A. C. Lloyd Jr., walked the railroad bridges and climbed Carpenter Ridge to preach at Harris Chapel. Sandy was a minister of the Church of Christ. The Bridgeport News in May 1892 made the announcement: "A protracted meeting to be held by the Baptists will begin Saturday at Harris Chapel."

The financial control and supervision for the Chapel and Cemetery are provided by the Harris Chapel and Cemetery Association.

The following comments and memories of "Decoration Day at Harris Chapel" were

written by my sister, Sue Hembree Haggard.

*"Back as far as I can remember, (I was 72 in 2010) our family has gone to Decoration Day. We would take our cleaning tools (rakes, hoes, axes, and shovels) and go to the cemetery as early as 8 a.m. to start cleaning the graves of our loved ones. Other graves were cleaned if no member of that family was there to do the work. We would clean the leaves, mow, and fill in holes. Everyone that came would help with others graves out of love and respect.*

*After we had done our cleaning, we had "dinner on the grounds". The women would spend all day Friday and early Saturday morning cooking up a full course meal; fried chicken, corn on the cob, and cream style corn, green beans, pinto beans, turnip greens, sliced tomatoes, fried okra, and plenty of desserts; cakes, pies and cookies. We would spread tablecloths on the clear spot on the ground. We had tea and water to drink. Probably a little "moonshine" passed around amongst the men, and maybe even a few women!*

*The flowers put on graves for decoration were cut flowers from our yards. Homemade arrangements were made often by some families, as the flowers from a florist were too expensive. The cleaning took place each year until 1987 when it was decided to form a committee for perpetual care. Jim Gentry stood on a flat bed truck and announced names of the first committee. They were Ed Whited, Clinton Smith, Sue Hembree Haggard, Jo John and Dot Williams, and Dennis Smith. The committee talked to other groups that had their cemetery under perpetual care. Jim Blevins was a big help in getting papers filled out for all this. We, as a committee, had to get by-laws and a constitution drawn up and a deed made. A lawyer from Scottsboro, Charles Dawson, was a tremendous help with getting this done without charge to our committee. It is called "Harris Chapel Church and Cemetery, Inc" in Hog Jaw Valley near Long Island, Alabama on Hwy. 91."*

It is a sad final paragraph to write concerning Harris Chapel—sad, because in April 2011, a strong tornado totally destroyed the chapel building. The great oak tree that stood in the church yard, and most of the trees in the Harris Chapel Cemetery nearby were also destroyed.

*Clinton Smith supplied this photo of a Sunday School Class posing outside the back steps into the Harris Chapel building prior to its remodeling in the 1960s. Note the entrance at the front of the building; a similar porch and door was on the opposite side of the front. Clinton's sisters, unidentified, are in the group.*



*The Bridgeport News in June 1894 carried two news stories concerning Harris Chapel, one comments on a new organ for "her school". The other recognizes students for "perfect deportment". (Author: What a great idea!)*

CARPENTER.

J. W. McReynolds and L. B. Burnett spent Tuesday in Jasper.

Memorial services at the graveyard near Shellmound next Saturday. Everybody invited.

Hope McReynolds and Charley Moore are expected home next week from Lebanon college. Charley will bring his "sheep-skin."

Mr. and Mrs. John McReynolds has returned from a visit to Pikeville, accompanied by their cousin, Miss Dorinda Robertson. They attended the commencement at Pryor Institute.

A Sabbath school was organized at Carpenter last Sunday afternoon. Samuel Hogwood, superintendent; Mrs. N. S. James, assistant; Miss Hughie Caperton, secretary; enrollment, twenty-six.

The following pupils have been perfect in their deportment at the Harriss Chapel School for the month ending Friday, June 1, 1894: Mary James, Sammie James, Corine Glover, Annie Kate Glover, Laura Stubblefield, Alice Stubblefield, Emma Burnett, Bettie Brewer, Maggie Webb, Gertie Minyard, Abb Bryant, Len Bryant, Henry Minyard, Tom Glover, Willie Hembree, Walter James, Cora Van Hoosier, Bettie Moore, Oscar Leigh.

Bridgeport News, June 2, 1894

CARPENTER.

Crops are suffering for rain.

Fifteen additions to our Sabbath school last Sunday.

Mrs. J. R. Belle has returned to her home in Manchester.

I. S. and A. J. Hembree spent the first of the week in Scottsboro.

W. H. Bryant will have his grist mill ready for grinding this week.

Mr. G. W. Wileon, our popular merchant, made a flying trip to Chattanooga Tuesday.

Mrs. Aetha Glover was called to the bedside of her sick sister, Mrs. Allison, of Rising Fawn, Ga., Thursday.

Mr. L. B. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hembree, Misses Mary James and Belle Wiswell spent Saturday at Shellmound.

Miss Hughie Caperton accompanied by little Bob Glover, spent Saturday and Sunday with her mother in Stevenson.

R. A. McFarlane and E. L. C. Ward, of Bridgeport, made us a short visit Tuesday. Call again gentlemen, when you have more time to spend.

Mr. Dock Hembree and family have returned from Fern Cliff, where they have been for the benefit of Mrs. Hembree's health which is much improved.

Our little school marm, Miss Hughie Caperton, (small of stature but large in liberality) has furnished a nice organ for use in her school at Harris' Chapel. Our people are forging to the front in education.

Bridgeport News, June 9, 1894

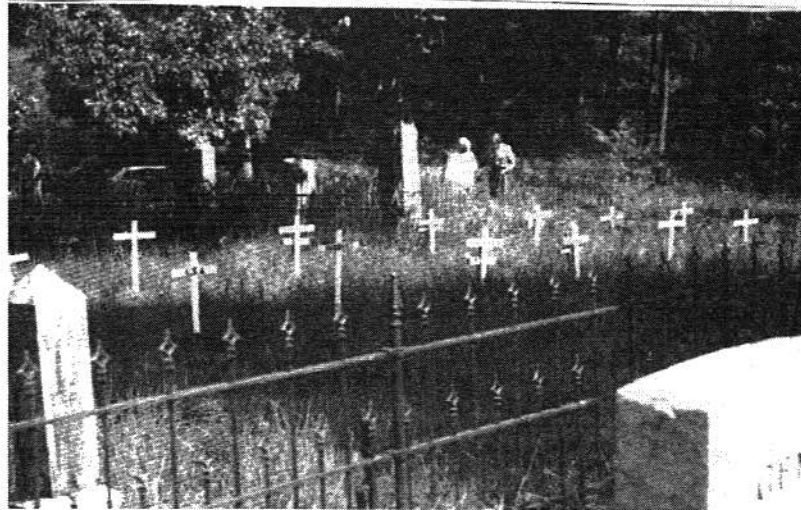
A Colvin Family Reunion prior to 1960 when Harris Chapel building was remodeled. Present (with hats) Roy Colvin, standing and Charlie Colvin, seated with back to tree, Albert Haggard, hero of "Stray Bullets Have No Eyes", Betty Cooper, right foreground, then Pete and Maggie Cooper, right background.



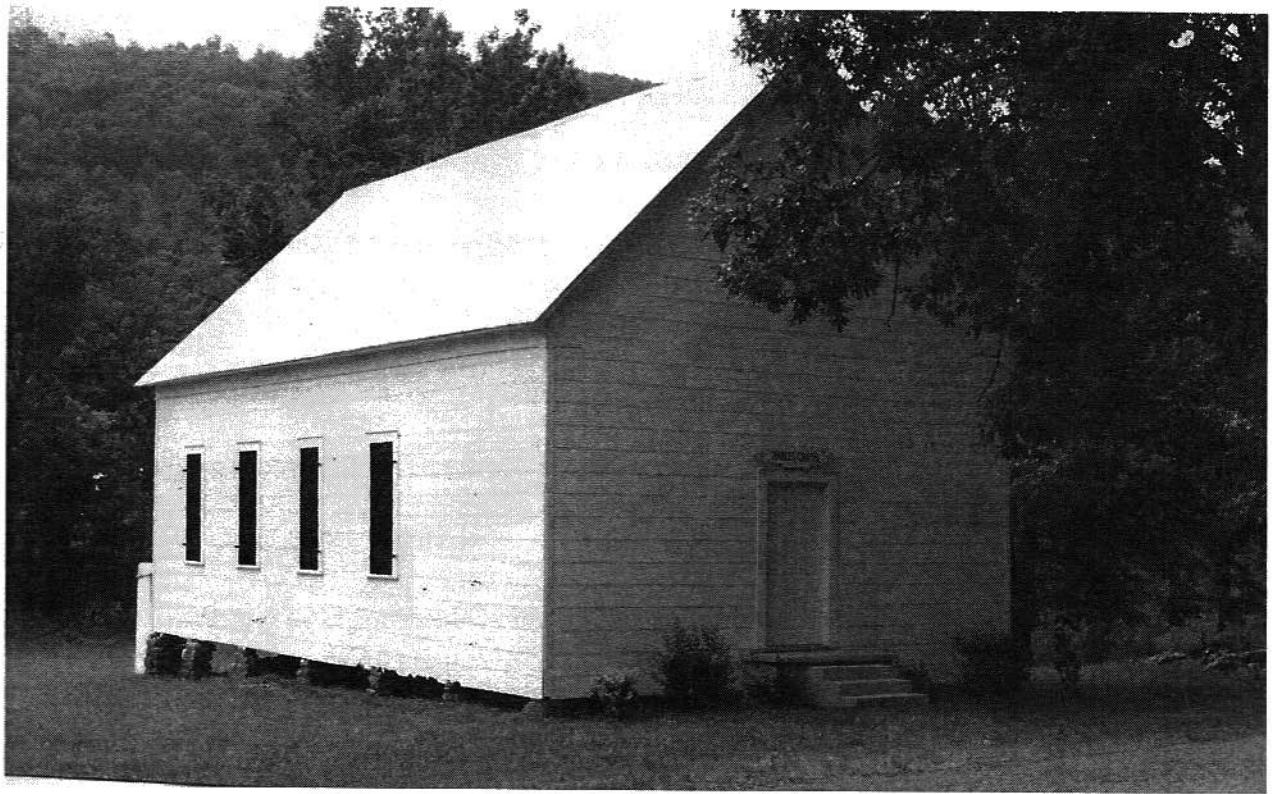


*Here's what Dorothy Moore Wilson recorded concerning the cemetery at Harris Chapel  
donated by her ancestor in 1870*

Some interesting facts regarding the cemetery: There is a section for soldiers killed in the Civil War, as shown by the crosses in the following picture. In the back of the cemetery is a section known as the burial place of the giants, and indeed the graves are very long. I have no idea who they are. Also there are several Indian graves with monuments which gave directions "home" in the Cherokee language.



*Recent photos of damage done to Harris Chapel Cemetery by an  
April 2011 tornado.*



*Harris Chapel before April 27, 2011 with a new roof and coat of paint, The Chapel is located midway in Hog Jaw Valley adjacent to the cemetery on Co. Rd. 91. Photo is courtesy of Betty Gothard Murray.*



*The photograph below shows the total destruction of Harris Chapel by a tornado on April 27, 2011*



## Υ CHAPTER FIFTEEN Υ

### THE TVA COMES TO HOG JAW VALLEY

The Civil War and railroads brought great changes to our valley and our lifestyle. The next change to come was the Tennessee Valley Authority, or “TVA” as it would be called. We never knew the specific changes it would bring, but we heard talk of “cheap” electric power, big dams, flooding, and land purchases”. The real changes were in our future, some would be good, some bad.

While electric power was a distant dream for most of the families in Hog Jaw Valley, we would see many other changes much sooner. The desire for jobs was one of the wishes in the early 1930s as those were the days in the heart of the Great Depression. In addition to jobs, the aims of the TVA would touch on several other areas.

Cheap power was primary, improved navigation on the river was another, flood control yet another. TVA understood, as water is flooded into the low-lying areas, mosquito populations would rise, and control of those pests would become essential. Malaria, spread by the Anopheles mosquito, had been a problem in the Tennessee Valley for many years.

The Bridgeport News Graphic in August 1895 carried this story, it was datelined--- “Carpenter” (later renamed Long Island). The headline read, “The men who worked on the river this summer are now home chilling.”

Malaria, a disease known as “chill and fever ” and known since Roman times, is thought to have changed the course of history more than any other disease. As said before, it was known in the Tennessee Valley long before the TVA was formed.

The TVA plans included several dams along the entire length of the river. These dams would create large pools of water, which would flood creeks, rivers, and low-lying areas,

providing an ideal breeding ground for the malaria carrying mosquitoes. This flooding required TVA to purchase from each landowner who bordered the Tennessee River and low-lying areas, the acreage deemed to be the flood plain. These areas varied from several acres to a few square feet. One should remember that early pioneers settled in these river-bottoms and rich valleys for a good reason, the rich soil brought in by flooding. In many cases, these bottomlands became their farms and homes. For some, the land had been cleared of giant trees, river cane, and bush by grandparents or great-grandparents.

Following the survey crews, the next TVA workers seen in the valley were the contract timber cutters. They were charged with clearing the riverbanks of large trees that could pose a hazard to navigation by retaining debris and become a breeding ground for the mosquitoes.

The giant trees had been growing undisturbed along the riverbank for hundreds of years. They were cut by hand with an ax and crosscut saw—no chain saws back then. The logs were pulled by teams of horses up the riverbank where they were piled and burned.

One of our neighbors was hired by TVA to burn the giant piles of trees at night. To a ten year-old, it often looked as if the entire riverbank was on fire most nights. There were no motels for the crews as they moved through the valley, so we boarded some of them at our house. We also made room at the barn for their teams of horses and mules. What impressed me most was the handsome harnessing of these teams. On the farm, we were used to seeing cheap collars and cotton plow lines on our horses, whereas their teams were outfitted with great leather collars and black leather breaching for the rump, decorated with bright brass buckles and ornaments.

To view a dramatic re-creation of the impact the TVA project brought to the people of the valley, one should try to rent or see the movie, “Wild River,” starring Montgomery Cliff, Lee Remick and Jo Van Fleet. The movie was filmed along the Hiwassee River in East Tennessee and

tells the story of flooding which caused some displacement of families. The DVD is available only in Great Britain but is not in a format that will play in the United States. One will need a PAL/NTSC DVD player. Some television channels still show the movie.

Timber removal was a simple and direct approach to malaria control and river navigation, but flooding produced by dams and the resulting reservoirs, was a more severe problem and required a multiple pronged approach. County and State medical records show that malaria was one of the South's most prevalent, widespread, and aggravating diseases in this North Alabama area. It was reported that "nearly every person who lived on a farm near the river had a least one attack of malaria every summer."

Dorothy Moore Wilson in her book "One Moore Family," said that William Moore Jr. probably died from malaria in August 1891; her family lived near the river in Hog Jaw Valley on a farm. These are headlines from newspaper articles published in Alabama.

## TVA OPENS FIRE IN MALARIA FIGHT

Control Work Is Pushed In  
Dam Area With Advent  
Of Cooler Weather

BY GEORGE NAGEL  
Birmingham News Staff Writer

DECATUR, Ala.—With the advent of cooler weather, malaria control work through the great TVA development really gets under way.

White mosquito control is carried on during those hot Summer months, when the little fellows buzz around your room like Nazi warplanes, the main attack doesn't start until Fall and Winter.

## MALARIA COSTS STATE \$2,000,000

Death Rate Approximately  
7.6 To 100,000 Popula-  
tion, Bureau Reveals

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Malaria costs Alabamians an estimated \$2,000,000 yearly in addition to the suffering and inconvenience it causes, according to Dr. J. N. Baker, state health officer.

After determining malaria was a problem, TVA wanted to enlist the public to join a fight to eradicate the terrible disease, or limit its effect. In March 1936, TVA published an informational paper entitled "Malaria."

The topics covered were:

*What is malaria?*

*How does malaria affect a person?*

*What is the malaria mosquito like?*

*How to control malaria?*

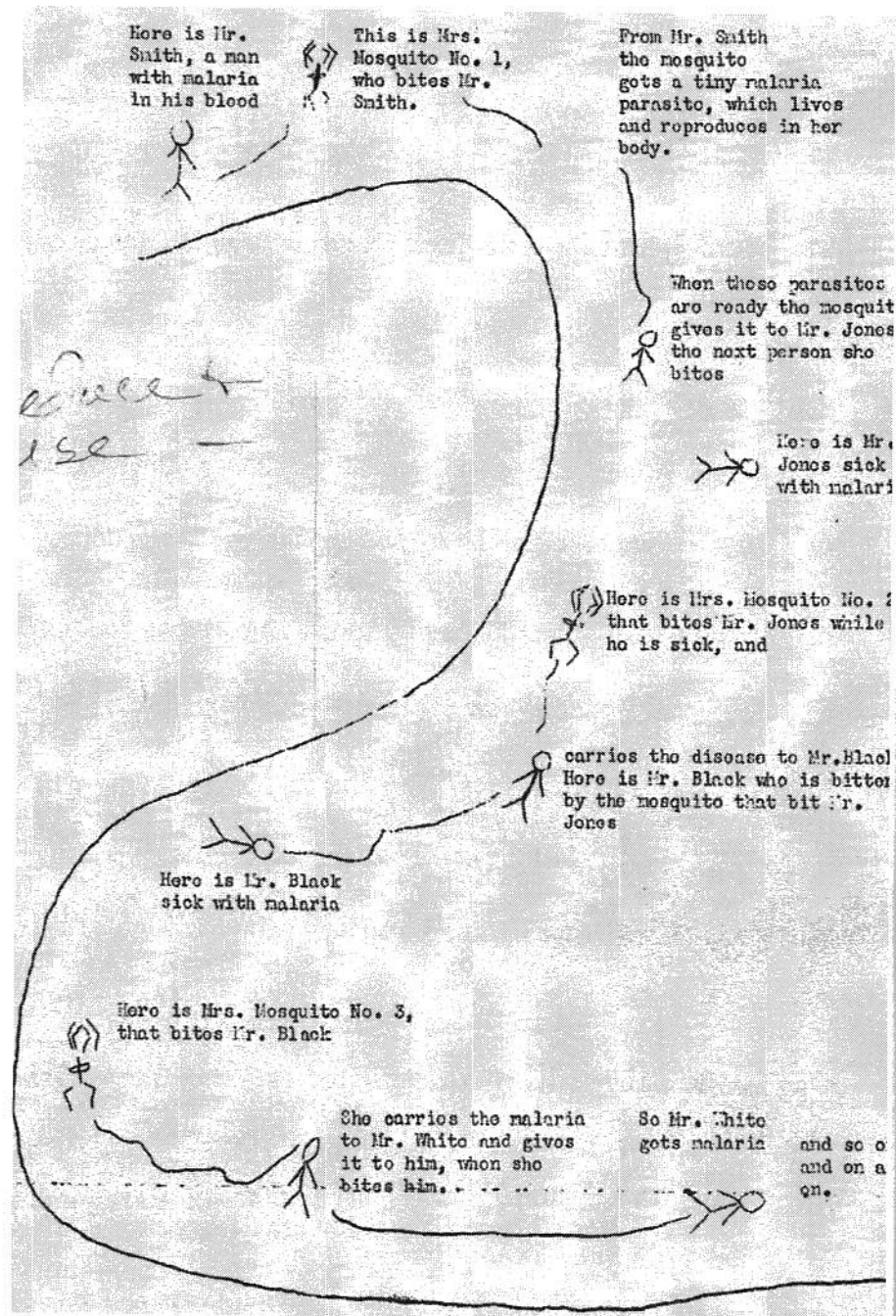
In 1941, the TVA in Chattanooga published a book entitled: "Malaria, the Story of an Individual and a Community Problem." The illustrations and pictures were for school use.

These books were made available in Hog Jaw Valley and throughout the Tennessee River Valley.

The flowing water in the Tennessee

River did not pose a mosquito problem, but the ditches, ponds, and low lying areas which were to be flooded did pose a big problem.

The TVA planned a two-pronged attack on these areas. First, it would drain the flooded



areas if possible, if not, they had to be cleared of brush and debris. In some isolated cases where drainage was not possible, other techniques were tried. Spraying light oil along creeks and river shoreline was tried. The oil killed larvae as it fed on the surface of the water. The Paris green dust mixed with soapstone, which TVA used, was also a garden insecticide used by farmers. It was later abandoned by both as it had an arsenic ingredient. In later years, TVA found that raising and lowering the water level proved to be an effective control for the mosquito larvae.

While my brother and I never saw the airplane as mentioned in the article below, we did see the boats mentioned in the article when the TVA employees were spraying the Tennessee River and creeks adjacent the Hog Jaw Valley. We were hoeing corn along the riverbank during the summer months as the spraying was being done.

## TVA 'DUSTING' AND SPRAYING

More Than 1,000 Miles  
Along Tennessee Work-  
ed Against Mosquito

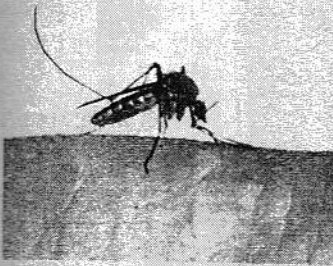
DECATUR, Ala., July 8 (AP)—The Tennessee Valley Authority is spraying and dusting more than a thousand miles of shoreline in this North Alabama area, as part of its malaria control program. Operations are centered between Wheeler dam and the Guntersville dam.

About 600 miles of the shoreline are dusted by airplane, and 400 miles sprayed from boats. The work covers sloughs, creeks and "pockets" near the main body of water.

## WHAT SPREADS MALARIA?

A kind of mosquito called *A-noph'e-les quad-ri-mac-u-látus* spreads malaria. Many people call this mosquito "quad." Only the female "quad" spreads malaria because she is the only one that bites. When she bites, she "stands on her head." That is one way to tell that she is a "quad" mosquito.

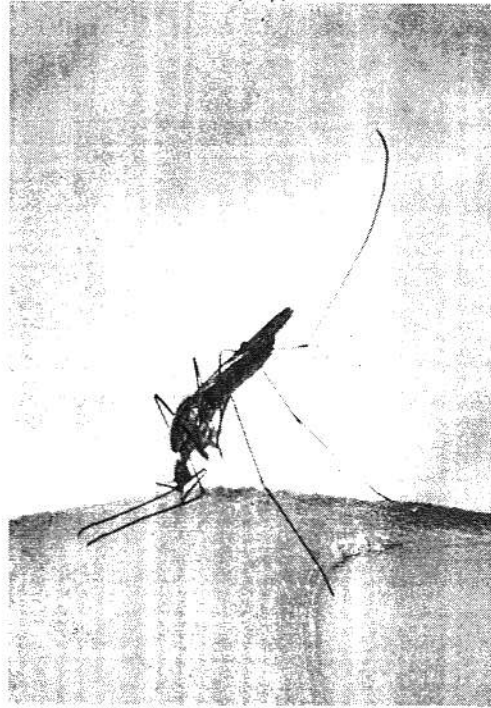
There are many kinds of mosquitoes which do not spread malaria.



This mosquito does not spread malaria. It is a common pest mosquito.

(7 times normal size.)

This mosquito does spread malaria. It is a female "quad." Note, she "stands" with her head down. (14 times normal size.)



Their boats were 12 to 14 feet long equipped with two five horsepower outboard motors—probably the most powerful available at the time. Our comment as we watched was, "Boy howdy," they're tearing up the river".

As the TVA concerned itself with big items like power generation, flood control, navigation, and mosquito control, the families of Hog Jaw Valley watched the small activities around them.

As small boys hoeing corn on the riverbank, we watched a barge anchored in the middle of the "little slew," the narrowest but deepest channel on the east side of the river. The river is divided by Long Island, the longest island in the Tennessee River, which extends seven miles into Alabama from the Tennessee/Alabama State line. It is about one-quarter of the mile wide along its entire length and was outstanding cropland. See photo below.





On board the barge, in addition to crew quarters, were drilling rigs to drill the bottom of the riverbed. Shoals, layers of limestone rock, existing at various points along the Tennessee River had to be cleared, so the channel could be deepened for navigation. The TVA had been charged with making a boat channel nine feet deep from Paducah, Kentucky to Knoxville, Tennessee for commercial barge traffic.

After drilling, the crew would explode a dynamite charge to loosen the rock in the bottom of the river. Stunned fish would then float to the surface for a short distance on either side of the explosion. Shortly thereafter, a small boat would be launched from the barge, and the cook would begin to collect the fish for their supper. Since we had no boat, we could only stand and watch. We usually had beans, cornbread and buttermilk for our supper.

After the explosion and the fish gathering, a crane equipped with a “clam shell” bucket would pick up the shattered rock and deposit it on another barge, which then transported it to the

next project. Thus begins rip-rapping, another project in Hog Jaw Valley just below the southern tip of the Long Island.

The TVA needed to rip-rap the riverbank to stop the constant erosion caused by the river as it swings toward its western course. This “rip-rap” project brought to Hog Jaw Valley a big machine we had never seen before. It was a giant dragline crane on crawler treads; treads as tall as a 6-foot man’s head. As it moved along the bank on a bed of rocks, the operator would pull the rock from the barge and deposit it along the dirt bank as a permanent barrier against erosion. As the river winds its way through Hog Jaw Valley, several places along the shoreline required this treatment, and has remained effective through the years. The bank required only occasional repair of washed out and eroded places.

While all of these techniques were helpful in the battle to control malaria, the TVA made a further effort in Hog Jaw Valley and throughout the Tennessee River basin. The following letter was sent to my father in March 1944, concerning the farmhouses which were near the river.

I, of course, was in high school when the screening took place, but I recall that TVA inspectors would come to the barns with a butterfly type net to look into dark corners for adult *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

How effective was this battle against malaria? In a paper presented at the Sixth International Congress in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1958, Dr. O. M. Derryberry, director of health for TVA, outlined the work of TVA, and made this statement: “We have seen malaria virtually disappear from an area of our country where it once was a serious health problem.”



*The drag-line crane shown here is the same type crane used in the rip-rapping project in Hog Jaw Valley. In this photograph it is excavating a large ditch.*

## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DAVID E. LILIENTHAL  
CHAIRMAN  
HARCOURT A. MORGAN  
DIRECTOR  
JAMES P. POPE  
DIRECTOR

Scottsboro, Ala.  
March 14, 1944

Mr. Gordon Hembree  
Long Island, Alabama

Dear Mr. Hembree:

Artificially created bodies of water offer ideal environmental conditions for protection of the malarial mosquito unless preventive measures are taken. Since the Guntersville Reservoir was impounded during the fall of 1939, the Tennessee Valley Authority has diligently applied all available facilities and knowledge in an effort to control production of the malaria transmitting mosquito in this reservoir. Recently it was decided to use mosquito-proofing of houses in the areas bordering North Town Creek, North Sauty Creek, Raccoon Creek, and Island Creek areas as a further assurance against transmission of malaria since these areas offer the greatest problem of control. The Tennessee Valley Authority is planning to mosquito-proof all houses in these areas located within one mile of the lake which are now occupied or likely to be occupied. This will be done at no cost to the owner as a part of the malaria control program.

We are enclosing a permit for installation and maintenance of mosquito-proofing of five of your houses. It has already been signed by the occupant. Please indicate your permission to perform this work as outlined therein by signing the permit and returning to us in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

### Athens Lumber Gets U. S. Screening Job

Athens Lumber Company was recently awarded a contract by the State Health Department and TVA to screen several hundred houses in the Wheeler reservoir area in Madison, Morgan and Marshall counties. Amount of the contract was said to have been approximately \$8,300.

Yours very truly,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

*E. H. Givhan*

E. H. Givhan  
Associate Sanitary Engineer  
Health and Safety Department

## Υ CHAPTER SIXTEEN Υ

### CCC CAMPS



Officially, it was named TVA 14, but to the people of Stevenson and Hog Jaw Valley it was called the "CCC Camp". Its young male occupants were "CCC boys" to the citizens of the Valley. Most people probably did not know that the young men were the recruits for the Civilian Conservation Corporation.

Early in his first administration, a new President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 successfully challenged Congress to enact a Conservation program for the nation with a specific aim to aid young men ages 18 to 25. During the early years of the Great Depression, the unemployment figure for this age group was 46%.

Cash, of course, was in short supply for most families. The agreement with these young men was we would pay \$30 a month, a dollar a day, you send \$25 home, and lived on the remainder. They were fed, clothed, transported to work, and housed in a barracks. The five dollars was to provide for incidentals.

TVA 14-CCC Camp was at Stevenson near Crow Creek. It is now a city park. The new

building gives the appearance of an old army camp. One “old timer” in Stevenson said if you notice a neat grove of trees or a trail in a national park, it is probably a testimonial to the great work done by CCC boys.

Several boys in Hog Jaw Valley worked in the CCC program. Clinton Smith says his older brother, Dock Lee, was a CCC boy. I think Claude Gillum’s son, Gilbert, was also in the program. Pat Stokes Glover says her brother, Tom, was in the program when he lived in the Valley.

*(Author Comments: My first notice of CCC boys was about 1935 or 1936 when I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Long Island School. Just south of our school the CCC crews were working on the west side of Carpenter Ridge. At one time, the slopes of the ridge may have been farmed but later had become badly eroded. The boys were cutting brush and limbs and filling the eroding ditches. They then planted black locust and pine seedlings to hold the soil. These young men and the work they were doing caused much comment among my classmates.)*



In addition to cash flow created for families at that time, many people have commented on the beneficial aspects of the program. Most communities welcomed the camp nearby and provided social programs for many of the young men. The skills of these young men included as mechanical, cooking and construction. Each state often had hundreds of these camps. World War II, the need for young men to enlist, and employment available in factories brought the program to an end in 1942.

∪ CHAPTER SEVENTEEN ∪

EARLY WORLD WAR II MEMORIES

The men from Hog Jaw Valley and the surrounding communities have served their country in wars since they arrived in the valley. We do not have all their names because the record of their service has mostly faded into the past.

From research and memories, I can help you recall some of these names. I hope you will preserve in some form the names you may add to my list.

My first exposure to a man who had served in a war was a friend and neighbor who lived nearby. We called him “Uncle Garl”, but his name was Garl Hulvey and he had served in World War I in France. Some of his children were near my age. The oldest was Shurrel, who later served in WW II. Others were James, Grace, Almon (nicknamed, “Judge,”), Annie, Dexter, Billy, and Betty Ruth. Mr. Hulvey returned from WW I with his saddle, the old Calvary style called a “McClellan Saddle” and his WW I canister-style gas mask.

These two items were a big attraction for me. His children and I played with them often.

I recall Uncle Garl saying, “If I ever went back to France, it would be to fight them”. I guess he had formed his opinion of Frenchmen during his time there.

My next insight into war was several years later while listening to our battery-set radio on the farm. The date was December 7, 1941, Sunday afternoon—three weeks before my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. The announcer broke into the program and said the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor



*This is Garl Hulvey in his WW I uniform at age 27 (1920) as he returned from France. (Photo from his daughter, Anne Hulvey Youngstrom.)*

in Honolulu. I recall my brother and me looking up the location in the World Book Encyclopedia. My youngest brother, Ike, was 8 years old and in the cow lot when he was told about Pearl Harbor.

We did not know then that our lives would be greatly affected by that event. My father had served the previous fall for the local registration of men in Hog Jaw Valley and Long Island, but it did not make a big impression on my friends or me. Soon after Pearl Harbor, everything changed.

Everyone was asked to "Save for the War Effort". Paper drives were held. All forms of aluminum were collected because the metal was needed to build airplanes. This included aluminum toothpaste tubes, now made of plastic, aluminum foil from cigarette packs, and chewing gum wrappers. Everyone collected scrap iron for the manufacture of guns. If one had a small plot of ground, he or she was expected to grow a "Victory Garden" to help feed their family and the neighbors.

At school, children were urged to sign up for "Victory Savings Stamps" at 10¢ each. A completed "Book of Stamps" was exchanged for a \$20 "Victory Bond". The bond cost \$18.75.

At the movies, cartoons and "shorts" always showed a "victory theme" for the United States against the Japanese. The national speed limit was mandated at 35 mph to encourage the public to conserve gasoline and rubber tires, both items were considered critical for the war effort and both were rationed.

It was not long before some boys of our community were being called to serve, either by the draft or as a volunteer. My hunting buddy, (few years older than I), Shurrel Hulvey, was soon drafted into the Army. Near Island Creek in Gibson's Cove at the South end of Hog Jaw Valley, Jack Cooper was "called up". He enlisted August 19, 1942; he was killed in the Pacific a short time later and became the first casualty from Hog Jaw Valley in WW II. A boyhood friend was



Albert Haggard with whom I had hoed cotton and corn. He also lived in Gibson's Cove. He went to Chattanooga to work and later joined the Army. After Pearl Harbor, he transferred to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division when it was being formed (Army Paratrooper). His story of how he survived four years of war is in his son's book, "Stray Bullets Have No Eyes" which is an excellent account of WW II in Europe and how a farm boy becomes a hero.

In school and throughout the community, young men were answering the call to service. During that period, some young women joined the Army Nurse Corp. Of course, later, units for young women were formed in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

By 1942, rationing was required and everyone had to register with the Office of Price Administration for his or her rationing books. These books contained "rationing stamps" which were to be exchanged for "rationed items" at the time of purchase. "No Stamps"—"No Sale" was a sign in every retail store. Each member of the family had to be registered and was issued a rationing book. Some other items rationed were meat, coffee and canned foods.

The Federal Price Administration local office controlled rationing, and the Selective Service Board controlled young men who were going into service. The Board had the power to "defer" farmers and others in critical jobs for the war effort.

A common sight in Hog Jaw Valley, and other communities, was a banner with a "Blue Star" displayed in the window of homes with a son or daughter in service. A "Gold Star" banner meant a family member had been killed in the war.

The attention of teenage boys during the war years was focused on anything pertaining to the war effort or military service. My brothers and I built model airplanes of balsa wood and crepe paper. Of course, the models were of military planes such as the British Spitfire and our American P-51, Mustang and the B-17 bomber. We also subscribed to "Air Tech" which was "Published in

the Interest of the Army Air Force and Technical Training Command”.

We read the pulp magazines of the day such as “Flying Aces”, stories of the heroic battles of WW I combat pilots, and similar titled magazines. Pulp magazines were popular before the “slick” magazines of today. They were printed on cheap paper, hence the name “pulp”, usually about two- thirds the size of today's letter-sized paper. We bought them for 10¢ at McClellan's drugstore in Bridgeport. Western and romance “pulp” magazines were also popular during this time.

My brother, Bill (Dr. William Lasater Hembree 1½ years younger), and I volunteered for service late in World War II, but, thankfully, combat was over before we finished training. Bill became a Navy pilot, and I was sent to Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, Alabama, as part of an Army Reserve Training Program—active duty came later. We were both recalled in the Korean Conflict. Again, we were not in combat. In 1952, Brother Sam (Sam Rankin Hembree) joined the Navy and became a Navy pilot also. After active duty, Sam continued to fly with reserve units and retired in 1979 as a captain in the Naval Air Reserve.

The Army Air Corp cancelled its Aviation Cadet program near the end of the war, and I was sent to a chemical warfare school. After the fighting was over, I was sent to help “clean-up” bomb dumps in the South Pacific. The Army Air Corp was renamed the “Air Force” after the war.

Numerous Hog Jaw Valley soldiers served in the Civil War with both the Confederate and Union forces, men who later settled in Hog Jaw Valley. Many of these names are recorded by Jerry Blevins in his book, “Soldiers of the Sequatchie Valley” and by Ronald Lee and James Dennis Lambert Jr. in their book, “Bridgeport, Gateway to the Sequatchie Valley”. Individual names from Hog Jaw Valley are identified in these books as “Enlisting” from “Island Creek” or “Taylor’s Store”. In the preface of “Stray Bullets Have No Eyes” Allen Haggard lists several

members of his family who served in wars from the Spanish American War through WW II where his father survived four years of combat. From the author, the readers of this book are encouraged to research for past members of your family who may have served in some capacity in the conflicts of our country. Record all your research records in some permanent form so that future generations can appreciate the service of your family.

*(Author's Note: I have made no attempt to list all the soldiers who served in the various wars who lived in Hog Jaw Valley. Some may have enlisted here who lived elsewhere and vice versa. Albert Haggard is an example. He lived in Hog Jaw Valley, but during WW II, he enlisted in Chattanooga, TN.)*



Sergeant Albert Cleveland Haggard returned to Chattanooga as an old man. In this photo, weight loss is apparent as he wears a uniform that no longer fits. The stress of war had aged him in body and spirit, far beyond the 22 years he had lived. With the war over, he would struggle to build a useful life, and put the past behind him.

This was my mother's War Ration Book during WW II. Each member of the family needed a book, and the "stamp" therein was required at time of purchase. Nearly all food items were rationed. Gasoline, tires and oil were also rationed. Note "R" stamps were good for farm fuel only—non highway.

473535 DE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION  
**WAR RATION BOOK TWO**  
IDENTIFICATION

*Nathaniel Membree*  
(Name of person to whom book is issued)

*Long Island Ala.* 37 4 473535  
(Street number or rural route) (City or post office) (State) (Age) (Sex)

ISSUED BY LOCAL BOARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ War Price and Rationing Board  
(County) #41114-1, Jackson County  
(Street address of local board) Market Street (City)  
By *W. M. King* Scottsboro, Alabama  
(Signature of issuing officer)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
(To be signed by the person to whom this book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf)

**WARNING**

- 1 This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell or give it to any other person or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods for the person to whom it was issued.
- 2 This book must be returned to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it, if the person to whom it was issued is inducted into the armed services of the United States, or leaves the country for more than 30 days, or dies. The address of the Board appears above.
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OPA Form No. R-191 16-30843-1

RATION STAMP NO. 5	RATION STAMP NO. 6	RATION STAMP NO. 7	RATION STAMP NO. 8
RATION STAMP NO. 9	RATION STAMP NO. 10	RATION STAMP NO. 11	RATION STAMP NO. 12

WAR RATION STAMP 22	WAR RATION STAMP 20
WAR RATION STAMP 21	WAR RATION STAMP 19

09981878 09981877 09981876

R3 R3 R3

**REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**  
This is to certify that in accordance with the Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

*John B. (Int. only) Gordon Membree*  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)  
*Long Island, Alabama*  
(Place of residence)  
(This will be identical with line 3 of the Registration Card)

has been duly registered this *14* day of *February*, 19*42*

*Mrs. C. G. Davis*  
(Signature of registrar)  
Registrar for Local Board *1* *Jackson Co., Ala.*  
(Number) (City or county) (State)


**THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CARD IN YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES**

D. S. S. Form 2 (Revised 6/9/41) 16-2163

Below is a certificate issued to my father for Registration Service in 1941 in Hog Jaw Valley at the Long Island school. All adult males were required to register.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**The President of  
The United States of America**



AWARDS THIS CERTIFICATE TO


\_\_\_\_\_

GORDON HEMBREE

in recognition of services rendered to the Nation and to  
your State on Registration Day, October 16, 1940

Awarded this 18th day of March 1941

*For the President,*



*Director of Selective Service.*

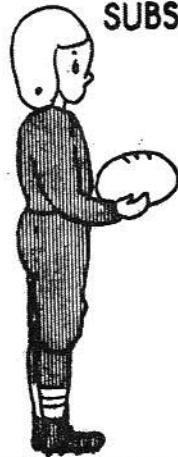
D. S. S. 11

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GPO 16-10282



**BE PREPARED TO USE  
SUBSTITUTES**



These and other cartoons and bulletins were issued by the Alabama Extension Service.

During WW II And circulated widely to Alabama school children.

## Υ CHAPTER EIGHTEEN Υ

### SCHOOLS

Information for this chapter was gleaned from the minutes of the County Board of Education in Scottsboro and stories related to me by family and friends who attended school in Hog Jaw Valley and Long Island. I have added the events and personalities from my days there from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Long Island in the 1930s.

Most families moved into Hog Jaw Valley and the surrounding communities in the early 1800s. The oldest deed I can locate for our family is dated 1842. Mrs. Wilson says the Moore family arrived 1831. The Lawson family arrived in Island Creek Cove in 1850. While pioneers were known to value education, no record of early formal education for the children of early settlers exists in the valley.

There may have been incidents of personal tutoring among the wealthier families, but the records, if any, are sparse. In earliest time, it was not uncommon for communities to build a building, which would serve as a church and school combined. That was the case with Harris Chapel. In 1870, William Moore Jr. donated the land for a church and school with sufficient land for a cemetery. It is not clear when the original building was built, but James Marion Howard said he attended school at age seven (born 1842) two miles from his home. He was born in Hog Jaw Valley, he does not name Harris Chapel, but it was the only school in the Valley at that time. He said his teacher was John Montgomery. A news article from the Bridgeport News Graphic dated 1895 from a reporter in Carpenter says, "Miss Lucy Lloyd of Bridgeport taught at school #3 in the community." County records do not identify school #3. Records designated the Long Island School and Harris Chapel as District 1 and made no distinction to identify each school.

My father, Gordon Hembree, his brothers', Robert (Bob) and Isaac Shilo, Jr. (Ike), used to

tell stories of attending Harris Chapel (that would have been from the year 1915-1920 as my dad was born in 1903). I have related Bess Metcalf's description of the classroom in the Harris Chapel chapter. Clinton Smith's mother, Lettie, and other O'Neil family members were students at that original school, also.

The school board records do not record when the school was moved from Harris Chapel to the school at Long Island. The record does say that a "Mr. Searcy" from Long Island did appear before the board in 1925 and requested a school at Long Island. That was probably Mr. John Searcy, our vet, or his son, Atwood, who lived with his family in the Long Island Community.

In any event the board did investigate and contracted for a three-room school "near the depot at Long Island". The contract amount for the building, including ventilating heater, paint and blackboard was for \$3,890. The building was finished in 1928. No records exist specifying an official transfer from Harris Chapel of students and teachers to the new school.

The grades at the Long Island School ran from the first through the 12<sup>th</sup>, but most students dropped out by 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade to help on the farm.

Each school district appointed local men as trustees. In May 1928, trustees from the Long Island School were W.L. James, J. B. Stewart, and B.T. Stokes. The board required 75 pupils for a three-room school. Mr. & Mrs. Glover came before the board in the fall of 1928 and requested a truck to haul children. The truck was to run between Island Creek to the south and the intersection with the South Pittsburg road to the North. Walker Glover was hired and paid one dollar a day for his service.

When mentioning Long Island School, most former student recalls the well which was drilled on the schoolyard in late 1930. Prior to the well, the boys carried a bucket of drinking water from either a "wet-weather" spring near the school or Gentry's well some one-fourth mile



west of the school. No running water and only "out-houses" for the boys and girls existed.

Students were thrilled, then dismayed, when the county drilled the well on the schoolyard. The first drink of water from the well was so strong with sulfur odor, and the taste made everyone gag.

In 1930, the school term was extended to seven months. That year "cotton picking" vacation was to start July 15 and reconvene the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in September. The trustees approved for "Carpenter"/ Long Island School were W. L. James, W.W. Metcalf and J.H. Walraven. In addition, a school board motion was approved saying, "No high school pupils would be allowed to ride school bus with less than two and one half miles to school."

In 1929 the school bus stopped at Glover Branch in Hog Jaw Valley until the road was improved. The Glover branch crosses Hog Jaw Valley Road (Co. Road 91) near the south end of Carpenter Ridge.

The record of early teachers at Harris Chapel and Long Island is incomplete. Some people recall teachers that are not in the official records. James Marion Howard said his teachers were John Montgomery and Hugh Cameron (at Harris Chapel) around 1850. A news article in 1895 names Lucy Lloyd as a teacher in Carpenter. County Judge Robert Gentry who lived at Long Island said A.S. Hill walked the three miles from Bridgeport to teach at the Long Island School. He recalled that other teachers who taught there were Annie Mae Osley, Lois Hicks, Ella Glover, Helen Summers, and Mrs. Ada Bynum who lived in the Long Island Community.

Most of the teachers who taught at Long Island boarded with Mrs. Bessie Maxwell who operated her boarding quarters in the old James House just past the railroad in the Long Island Community.

In the official records for October 10, 1914, District 1 (probably Harris Chapel), Thalia

Turell was authorized \$45 per month (number of months not indicated). October 16, 1915 Beulah Carter was approved for \$50 for four months "more or less". November 18, 1916, Beulah Carter was authorized \$50 for four months. June 9, 1917 Myrtle Williams was authorized one month at \$50. September 1921, Sue Smith was hired for two months at \$60. November 30, 1923, Mrs. Ada Wallace contracted for six months at \$90. October 31, 1924, Mrs. Ada Wallace was hired for six months at \$90 and Rachel Rowe, six months at \$60. Allen L (Lucky) Knox Jr. writing in "River and Rails, Truth and Tales of Stevenson, Alabama" said that in the school year 1932-33 the state ran out of money to operate schools. The next year schools were opened.

In the late 1930s, apparently after Mrs. Maxwell closed her boarding house, the three teachers at Long Island boarded at our house. They were Hugh Jack Rudder from Stevenson who was the principal. Also from Stevenson was Miss Eliza Mae Briscoe. Miss J. V. Outlaw was from Section, Alabama. They packed lunches and boarded the school bus up the valley with all the students.

In the 1960s, the Long Island school was consolidated with the Bridgeport Schools. The students were collected and bussed down the Valley to ride the Bridgeport Ferry across the Tennessee River. They were then transported by bus into the Bridgeport schools. Citizens of Long Island and Bryant became concerned about the safety of the Bridgeport ferry. In 1943 and 1944, we were bussed by way of the South Pittsburg ferry into Bridgeport. The South Pittsburg ferry had a cable secured across the river and it made for a safer operation. The old school building at Long Island was abandoned and later burned.

During the years the school students were crossing the ferry, it was not uncommon for us to have a change of plans. The ferry was frequently "broken down", or the river was too rough to risk a crossing. The bus would carry us back up the Valley to catch the train at the Long Island

Depot for the ride over the river to the Bridgeport Depot. From there we would walk to our schools.

Since Long Island was not a regular stop for the passenger train from Chattanooga, the Long Island Depot agent would need to step onto the track and with a red flag wave the train engineer to a stop. Long Island was known as a “Flag Stop” in railroad parlance.

Once on board, the conductor would collect a nickel for the fare. My mother, who was then teaching at the Bridgeport Elementary School rode on the train with us helping the students collect the nickels. The conductor often teased us about needing to ride his train. By evening, the ferry was usually in operation.

Rules have always been a large part of the school system. From our first day in school, we were told, “We must follow the rules”. Below are some of the early rules for teachers and the rules for transporting students in a wagon drawn by a team of horses. The wagon rules as recorded in the 1923 minutes of the Jackson County Board of Education are as follows:

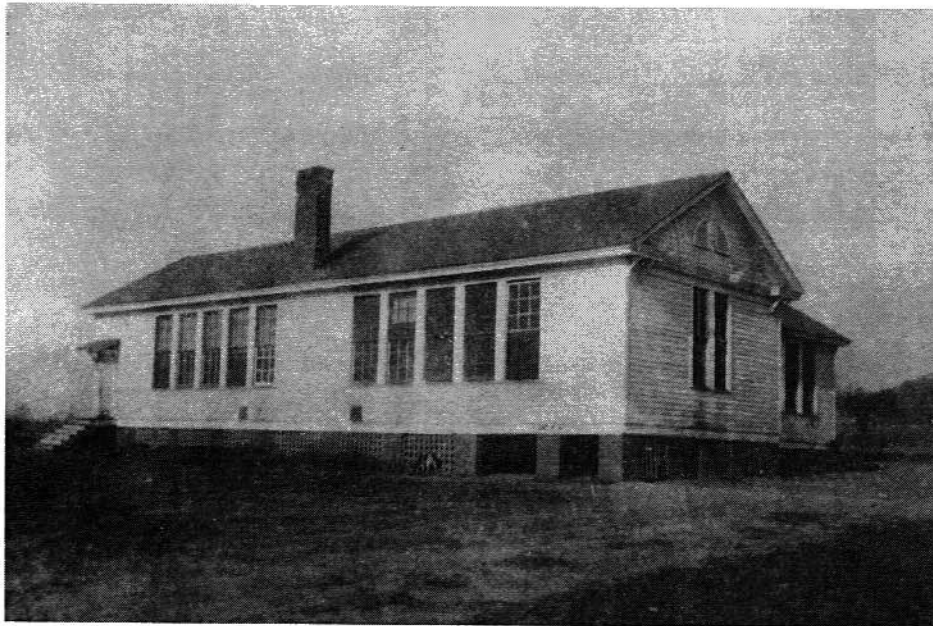
- 1. Stop for railroad crossings.*
- 2. Take care in passing another vehicle.*
- 3. The driver must be in control.*
- 4. The students are to be assigned seats.*
- 5. Leave and arrive promptly.*

**RULES FOR TEACHERS IN 1872** (Copied. Original source and place of employment unknown.)

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's lessons.
3. After 10 hours in school, the teachers should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
4. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
5. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity, and honesty.
6. Make your pens carefully: you may whittle nibs to the individual tastes of the pupils.
7. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
8. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
9. The teacher who performs his labors faithfully and without fault for 5 years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week, providing it is approved by the board of education.

9

*From the Jackson County Chronicles*



*This was the old three-room schoolhouse in Long Island. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades were in the room at the extreme right (two windows). The nearest room was the third through 5th grades. The far room (with the steps) was for the sixth and up grades. The well was drilled to the near left of the picture. (Photo courtesy of Betty Gothard Murray)*



*School girls on a pony—in the early days, people got to school any way they could, they usually walked. Evelyn Colvin says her first school was at Bryant, and her teacher, Miss Ida Winters rode this pony. Her students posed for a picture on the pony. The girl in the middle astride the pony is Ollie Cooper Higdon. The others are unidentified. The picture was made about 1935. Photo supplied by Glenda Bruff, daughter of Evelyn Colvin Haggard.*

## Υ CHAPTER NINETEEN Υ

### STORES IN CARPENTER, LONG ISLAND AND HOG JAW VALLEY

In the “old days” when one needed to go to the store, he had a choice, walk, ride a mule or maybe go by buggy or wagon. Hence, the number of general stores in a community was often based on the number of people living within walking distance.

Ralph Mackey, researcher and historian in Scottsboro, lists the following general stores and merchants in Long Island, Carpenter, and Hog Jaw Valley. The oldest seems to be Taylor’s Store established at Long Island in 1858 by Clement C. R. Taylor. It became a significant center of Civil War activity. Taylor may have had a second store near the drawbridge along the railroad. Some confusion as to the location seems to exist among early historians of Jackson County. Original deed research locates the store in Long Island near the old depot site. “In and Around Bridgeport” records that William Glover (1828-1903) bought a farm on the little slough near the railroad drawbridge, built a home and opened a small general store. It may have been at this store that my relative A. J. Hembree was given permission by the Jackson County Court to sell “spirituous liquors” at the bridge for one year in 1853. I do not know where he got them, but the court records the event.

In the Long Island village, Mackey lists the following stores: J. O. Beene, W. H. Brown, R. G. Glover (Milling), I.S. Hembree (Hog Jaw Valley), Hembree & Gentry, A.W. Hogwood, B.F. Howard, F. P & M.P. James, W.L. McClusky, Peeples & Massengale, Roulston & Roulston, and Dave Troop. Troop was a Civil War Veteran and postmaster. Grocers are listed separately, and names were C.H. Crabtree, M.E. Smith (and dry goods), and the Star Grocery Company. John Cummings ran a wood shop and Aaron Whitaker had a gristmill and sold groceries near Long Island.

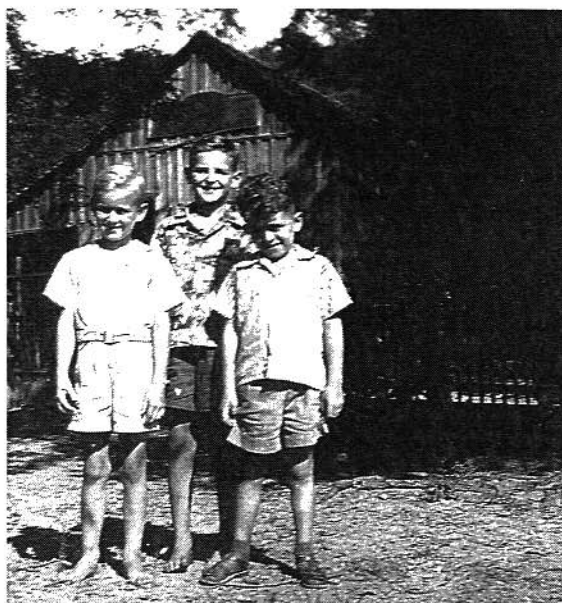
Concerning the Hembree/Gentry store it may have occurred when Jefferson Lee Gentry, after serving in the Civil War and while serving as sheriff of Jackson County, married Susan Hembree of Hog Jaw Valley. He then purchased the home and land of Robert Lyles Hembree in Long Island. "In and Around Bridgeport" by Ronald Lee & Flossie Carmichael report that he engaged in farming and mercantile business.

In later years, I recall that Mrs. Ella Hulvey, Henry Walraven and Todd Peoples ran a grocery store in Long Island. There are no grocery stores in Long Island or Hog Jaw Valley as of this writing.

In 1923, the "Merchants and Tradesmen of Jackson County" listed the same stores and reported the population of Long Island as 20. This figure probably did not take into account the numerous families who lived in Hog Jaw Valley and the rural areas on all sides of Long Island.

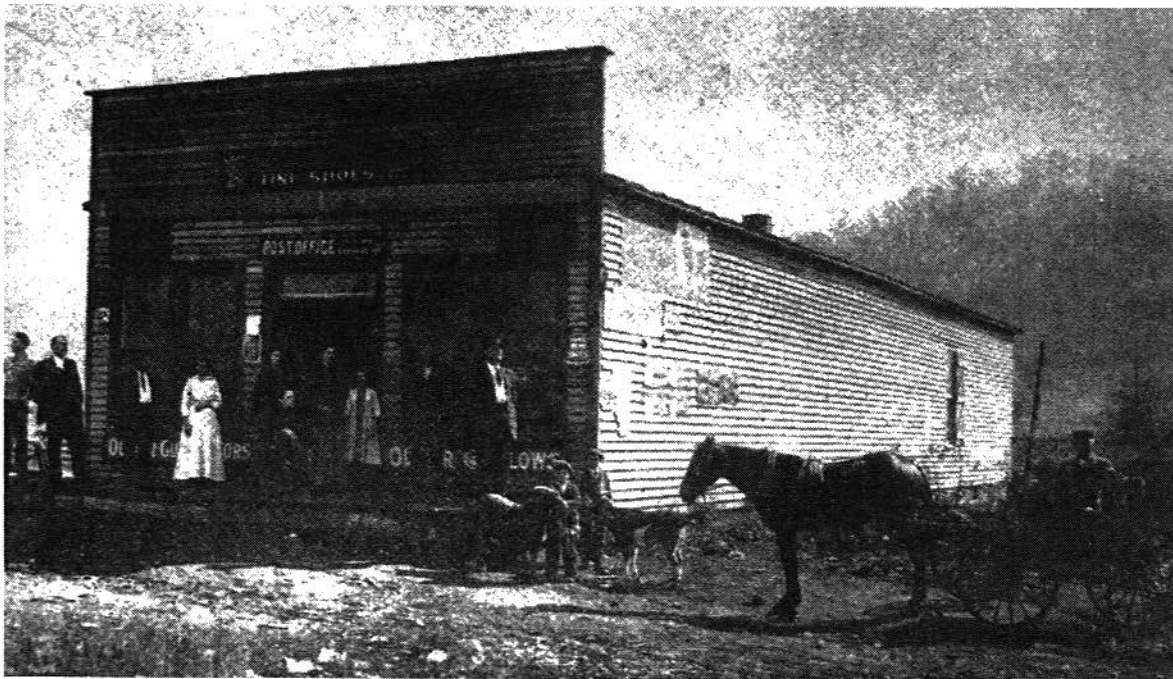
This report of population contrasts with the 1889 report, which lists the population of 100 for Carpenter. Long Island was not listed. There never seemed to be a defined boundary for any location.

*Hembree Store in background of picture - L to R, brothers Ike & Sam (taller) and cousin Sonny Boone.*



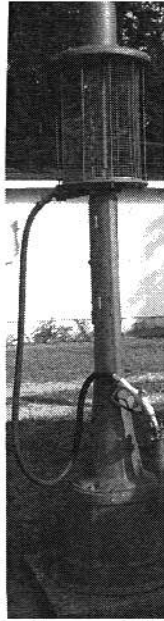


*Aunt Sam with Sue, Ann, Ike and Sam with Hembree Store in the background.*



*Roulston and Roulston's Store at Long Island in 1912. Reprinted from many historical documents of the era.*





*This gasoline pump was later installed in front of Roulston and Roulston's Store. One would manually pump the gas into the glass canister above, then pour into the automobile tank.*

## Υ CHAPTER TWENTY Υ

### THE WAR AGAINST DISEASE IN HOG JAW VALLEY

A war against disease, germs, poor sanitation, and related matters has been fought by the public health agencies in Alabama for the past 120 years, but specific battles were brought into Hog Jaw Valley in the early 1900s.

These early battles were fought against the common and deadly diseases that are rarely thought of today by the general public. This lack of concern is partly due to the efforts of doctors everywhere and the county, state, and nationwide health offices. The Jackson County Health Office reported in the *Scottsboro Sentinel*, February 23, 1933, "45 people were suspects for tuberculosis and 353 people were under supervision as possible "TB" contacts". At the same time, nurses from that office gave 9 immunizations for typhoid fever and 22 immunizations for diphtheria. Immunization "shots" for these and many other diseases were scheduled in every community across the county.

Nonie Webb, historian for Marion County Tennessee, records in her book "Keepsake Memories", the devastating epidemics of Cholera, which raged in 1848-1849. Influenza struck in 1850-1851 and again in 1857, and Cholera again in 1873.

The *Bridgeport Herald*, local newspaper, reported in May 1932, "typhoid fever and diphtheria and smallpox immunization would be offered at the store in Long Island on May 31, and June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. until 12 o'clock."

In addition to immunization, the county health office reported on deaths, births, and infant and maternal hygiene. Inspections were held by the county health department on the milk and water supply. Medical exams were provided to the jails and people on relief aid, now called welfare. The health agency also provided educational sessions on illness and their affect on people

and the various techniques to help prevent diseases.

Local news papers reported time and place, for not only the immunizations, but also the county health educational events. In Hog Jaw Valley, the school building at Long Island was the meeting place. Most of the announcements for county health events and services came from Dr. M. H. Lynch, County Health Officer, or Dr. G. E. Newton of the Jackson County Medical Society.

The author recalls getting his first smallpox vaccination at the Long Island School in the 1930s. I was in the fourth or fifth grade in 1935 or 1936. I also remember the embarrassment of having to provide a specimen for a hookworm exam. It meant being given a small tin container and having to return it to the school the next day with a feces sample, a great conversation topic among my classmates.

The earliest record of a statewide effort to open a war on disease was July 30, 1922, when The Birmingham News carried a story announcing plans by State Health officials "to concentrate on schools for disease control".

In 1923, The Birmingham Age Herald reported that Sand Mountain had given 30 inoculations for typhoid fever and 72 exams for hookworm. They reported, "The exams were free to those making application".

They also reported, "In some areas it was noted that if a child was kept at home when the county nurse was to attend, there would be a new rule". The new rule announced by the County Board of Education was, "Every child must show a scar for smallpox (vaccination) or submit to the doctor's hands".

In a letter to the county health office dated, 1897, "Carpenter" (later named, "Long Island") was to be designated as "Beat #4 and Dr. Spiller (Dr. William K. Spiller, Bridgeport) was to "act for this Beat". In a previous letter, they had said, "No doctor lives in this area".

In October 1936, the Bridgeport News carried an announcement that put fear in the hearts of all who read it. Dr. C. E. Newton, Jackson County Health Officer, reported that the first case of Infantile Paralysis, later called polio, in the county had been confirmed. The child lived on Sand Mountain at Dutton, just south of Hog Jaw Valley.

For several years until the mid-60s, that illness would be the “terror” of all parents and their children. It took several years before an effective vaccine could be developed. In the beginning, three doses of the Sabin vaccine were required to ensure immunity.

Many adults who remember 1936 and the polio scare will recall as children having their throat sprayed with a vile tasting yellow spray which was to help prevent polio. The spray was a picric acid-alum solution that was supposed to prevent polio infection. It was issued to hundreds of WPA workers and unemployed trained nurses. Nearly all parents purchased the spray for their children.

The polio epidemic raged into the early 1950s. Throughout World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who himself was a victim of the disease, helped make treatment and prevention a national effort. I was recalled into military service in 1950 during the Korean Conflict and assigned to the Public Information Office, Barksdale Field, Shreveport, Louisiana. One of our assignments was to provide services to the community. With fellow staff members, we were asked to go into the hospital wards to show films and help entertain the crippled children confined there. Soon after that time, the battle against this crippling disease began to be won.

Dr. Jonas Salk developed the technique of administering the vaccine in a lump of sugar that greatly increased its acceptance to young people. With these advancements, the peril of polio has all but disappeared from our society.

In rural areas such as Hog Jaw Valley, the birthing of babies is a process that was fraught

with danger, as it was worldwide. It could result in the death of the mother, child or both. To diminish this risk, one or more women in a community would serve as a “mid-wife” to assist pregnant women in child birthing. In 1894, the State of Alabama issued a directory of midwives practicing in various counties. In Jackson County, “Mrs. R. Ladd” is listed for Long Island. This was probably Mrs. Rutha Ladd who died in 1909 and is buried in Harris Chapel Cemetery in Hog Jaw Valley.

In Long Island and Hog Jaw Valley, Mrs. Ella Hulvey, wife of Garl Hulvey, fulfilled the role of midwife for many years. After providing this service, often without pay, Mrs. Hulvey was invited to the county health office in Scottsboro where she was instructed on sanitation, care, and identifying problems for pregnant women. The problem cases were to be referred to a medical doctor or a hospital. Mrs. Hulvey often said with pride, “I never lost a case”.

Since there are now no schools in Long Island or Hog Jaw Valley, and far fewer people, the county health office is not called on to provide the same rural services. It still provides inspections and “in office” services that it once provided to the rural community.

Many battles have been won, and the enemy of human disease may be in retreat, but there are always new enemies on the horizon.

## CLINIC TO BE HELD IN CO. NEXT MONTH

### People Urged To Attend And Take Vaccination Typhoid, Small Pox

All persons are urged to attend the following clinics for their inoculation against Typhoid fever, Diphtheria and Smallpox at the following places:

Macedonia, Monday, May 30th, June 6th and 13th at Britt's store, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 o'clock.

Section, Monday, May 30th, June 6th and 13th at the school house, from 1 to 2:30 P.M.

Long Island, Tuesday, May 31st, June 7th and 14th at the store, from 10 A.M. to 12:00 o'clock.

Bryant, Tuesday, May 31st, June 7th and 14th at the store, from 1 to 2:30 P.M.

Bridgeport Herald, May 28, 1932

## Health Officer To Be Here Friday

I will be in Bridgeport at the Grammar School Friday, Nov. 20th, from 10:00 to 12:00 o'clock and at the Long Island school the same date from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. for the purpose of giving diphtheria inoculations to all children from 6 months to 10 years old and to test any who have had the inoculation and those above 10 years of age who have not been inoculated.

Dr. G. E. Newton,  
County Physician.

Bridgeport News, November 19, 1936