Lucy Scott Byrnes, 1936

PRE-WAR JACKSON COUNTY HOMES

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# JACKSON HOMES BUILT BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

The Ellen Cowan Home

The Ellen Cowan Home located at Stevenson is one of the loveliest and best-preserved of the pre-war homes of Jackson County. It has an atmosphere of great charm due to the fact that all its furnishings are in perfect harmony. It is furnished largely with hand made furniture nearly all of which is over 75 years old. It is interesting not only for it's beauty but also for it's history. During the time that the Union troops were stationed at Stevenson General Chiznoski had his headquarters there. The family still has in its possession a picture of the General and his staff taken on the front steps of the house.

The Old Roach Home

The Old Roach home, which stands on a slight hill a short distance from Fackler, is typical of the large substantial houses built by prosperous planters in pre-war days. The Roaches were large slave-holders and the unusually thick bricks of which the house is constructed were made on the plantation by slaves. The house consists of ten enormous rooms and although it is at present the home of tenants there is plenty of evidence that it has seen better days.

Side View of Roach Home

The Cowley Home

The Cowley House located between Scottsboro and Guntersville, was built by Morgan Cowley in 1855. This date can still be seen on the old Chimney. Cowley came to Alabama from Tennessee shortly before the time he built the house. The present owner of the house showed me the room where her grandmother hid her preserves under the bed to keep the yankees from finding them.

Side View of Cowley Home

The Z. K. Gross House

The Z. K. Gross House, which is located between Scottsboro and Guntersville, was originally a log house built in pre-war days. But not a great many years ago the logs were covered with clapboards and a porch was added.

The John V. Gross House

The John V. Gross house is on the old Guntersvile Highway. Like the Z. K. Gross houseit was originally a log house built before 1860 and has only recently been clapboarded.

Rear View of William Davis Home

The William Davis Home ( In Maynard's Cove) was built by William Davis, Revolutionary soldier who came to Jackson county in 1815. He came to Alabama from Virginia but he was born in Wales. Davis brought with him to Jackson County a hand turning lay(for making grooves and spool furniture). The lumber for the house was cut lengthwise of the log and hand-planed. He owned a whole township of land much of which is still held by his descendants.

Side View of Jerry Meyer Proctor Home

This house was built by Jeremiah Jerry Meyer Proctor who married Jane Davis, daughter of William Davis. It is near the William Davis home and on land that was a part of the Davis township. The house was built by connecting the sleeping quarters and the kitchen which were first built as separate buildings. There are four fireplaces. Three of them are large and the one in the kitchen is tremendous taking up almost one entire side of the kitchen. The picture shows an old iron pot by the chimney which is much over a hundred years old having been into the country in the Alabama territory days.

Old Well At Jerry Meyer Proctor Home

"Aunt"Liza Foster House

The "Aunt" Liza Foster Place is so called because she was left a widow when young and had the management of the farm until she was very old. "Aunt" Liza was before her marriage to Foster---Liza Proctor, grand daughter of Jerry-Jeremiah Meyer Proctor and granddaughter of William Davis. The Foster farm is near the old Proctor place and was inheirted from William Davis, being a part of the original township purchase. The spread on the bannisters was made on a hand loom and is very old.

Old Bob Proctor Home

The old Bob Proctor home was built by Bob Proctor shortly before the Civil War. The farm to which it belongs is another one of those carved out of the William Davis township. Bob Proctor was the grand son of Jerry Jeremiah Meyer Proctor, the sister of Aunt Liza Foster and the great grandson of William Davis.
Robert Franklin (Bob) was son of Micajah Alexander Proctor.

Newton Holland Home (Maynard's Cove)

The house was built by Newton Holland in Alabama Territory days. Belonging to the house was an old spinning wheel with the date 1819 carved on it. This spinning wheel had been moved to the Campbell home and was destroyed when that house was demolished by the tornado of March 1932. The old Wheat

house was built when the house was built and is still in use. The house has been white-washed and the doors and windows frames painted blue.

Benjamin Card Place

This house, which is a short distance around the mountain from the Newton Holland House, was built by Benjamin Card between 1850 and 1860. His wife Maris was Newton Holland's daughter. The floors of the house are made out of broad red cedar planks. One of the fireplaces is made of stone decorated with a handchisled feather design. A stone's throw from the house are the graves of William Holland (Revolutionary soldier) and wife.

Old Coffee Home (MAYNARD'S COVE)

The Old Coffe Home was built by Avery Coffee who was a very wealthy man for those days. It is a large house and although it is now in a very ramshackle condition it must have been a very beautiful home. The old approach to the house is bordered on either side by a dozen English boxwoods. These boxwoods which are over a hundred years ol were brought from Virginia when the family came to Alabama. The house was originally plastered and sealed. Instead of the typical stone fireplaces of early homes in Jackson County the Coffee House had beautifully finished wood mantelpieces. Part of the old

slave quarter is still standing. In a yard that was once well cared for there are a number of beautiful old trees.

Wilson House

The Wilson House was built by Major Wilson who was on Washington staff during the American Revolution. Like William Holland and William Davis, who were also Revolutionary soldiers, Wilson came from Virginia and settled in Maynard's Cove during the Alabama Territory days.

Tenant House on the Major Wilson farm

The Cobb Home

Four miles from Scottsboro near Pikeville stands the home of R. W. Cobb--the only person Jackson County has ever sent to Congress. He was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1844 and 1845. He served in Congress from March 4, 1847 to January 30, 1861, when he withdrew. Only a part of the original log house is still standing.

Front View of Elkins Home

The Elkins Home, of the Mud Creek vicinity, was built by a Mr. Wilson about 110 years ago. The house is furnished with many lovely antiques which Mrs. Elkins, who is the present owner of the house, inheirted from her family.

Side View of Elkins Home

Nat Snodgrass House

On a hill about a mile off the Scottsboro-Hollywood road stands the ramshackle hull of what was once the home of Nat Snodgrass, who was a large slave holder and land owner. The old house has an interesting story connected with civil war days.

When the union troops invaded Jackson County burning and pillaging helpless women and childern fled before them, many refuging on Sand Mountain. The Snodgrass home was in the line of March and all had deserted the big house except two little boys about eight and ten years old who had been left there to try to save it. Watching from an upstairs window the two frightened childern saw a squad of soldiers prepare to burn the house at their captain's command. They remembered their instructions and energetically, if somewhat belatedly they waved a masonic apron from the window. The Captain was evidently a mason for he countermanded his order and the house was saved, the only one in the neighborhood to escape burning.

The Mason Home

The old Mason Home is about a mile west of Larkinsville on the old Highway. The house is just the same as it was before the war except the old chimneys have been stuccoed over, the old front steps have been replaced by concrete ones, it has been painted and the roof covered. The house is built of red cedar and the shingles which were taken about twenty-five years ago were also of cedar. There was fighting all around the house during the Civil War. The owners cut down an old oak tree in the yard several years ago and found a canon ball in the heart. There is a spot of blood in one of the rooms where a wounded soldier is supposed to have lain. The house is very well preserved as was proved when the owner was considering adding another story a few years ago. He sent for a contractor to find out if the house was strong enough to stand another story. After investigating the contractor said that they could add six stories if they wanted to.

The Mason is near the Larkinsville cemetery where heav y fighting took place during the Civil War. It is a frequent occurence to dig up the remains of a yankee or Confederate grave in this cemetery.

Dr. Derrick Home

The Dr. Derrick Home which is about a mile from Woodville has had a varied career. It was the post office of Old Woodville before and during the time of the Civil War. There is still an open slat in one of the plank doors through which letters were slipped during the days that the house served also as a Post Office. Another reminder of its former career is the postmark stamp which was brought out of the house for my inspection. "Woodville"could be clearly seen on the stamp but the owner said that it did not make a distinct mark. The house is still very substantial looking in spite of its age.

The Old Dodson House

About a fourth of a mile west of Limrock stands the old Dodson Home. It was built sometime during the 1820's by Pres Dodson, who was one of the earliest settlers of the Limrock community. Dodson owned much of the land around limrock and was considered well-off. It was evidently once a "good" house but it is now very dilapidated. The partly destroyed chimney on the west side of the house is made of dressed rock but the ancient looking chimney on the east end is new. The old square logs have been covered by clapboards but they show theough in places where the clapboards have been partly torn away. Inside the house are big stone fire place and broad plank floors. The

original plank shutters are still at most of the windows.

The Samuel Evans House (NEAR WOODVILLE)

The old Evans Home built by Samuel Evans has had a very colorful and eventful life. During the war it was used as a stockade in which to confine yankee prisoners. Due to this it is still sometimes referred to as "the stockade" and "the block house". After the war the Primitive Baptists used it for a meeting house for a time.

Bunk Peters Home

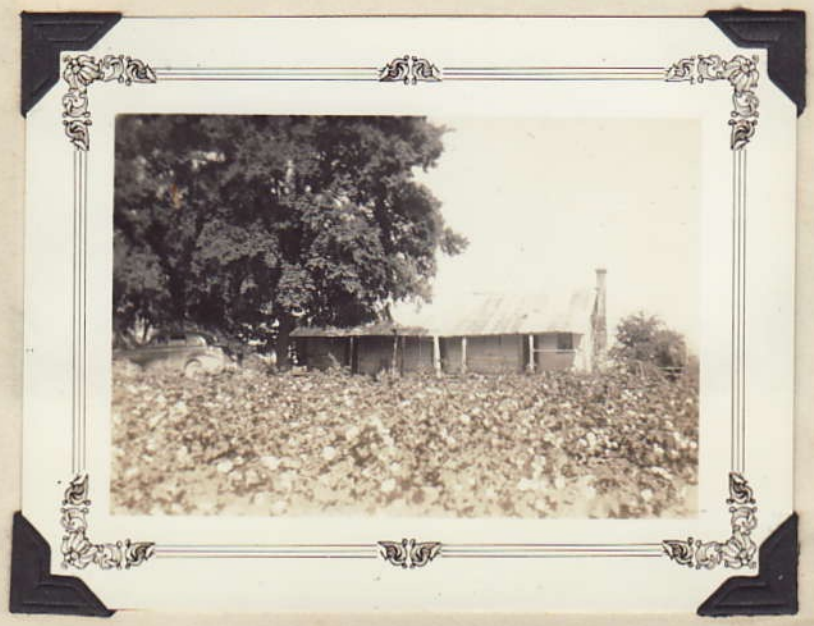
The Old Peters Home(near Scotsboro in Peter's Cove), built by Bunk Peters, is still the home of the Peters family. It was built sometime before 1840 for the railroad was surveyed at that time and it was found that the house was directly in the path of the proposed railroad. It was moved to its present location shortly afterwards. On the mountain just back of the house the young son of Bunk Peters was killed by Tories during the War because he refused or could not give them the information ~~they were~~ they were seeking.

Old Woods House

The old Woods House(near Scottsboro) was built about 150 year ago by one of the brothers for which Wood's Cove is named. It isa very old house but built and at least fairly well-kept.

Old Skelton House in Skelton Hollow

Skelton's Hollow which is just North of Scottsboro was the camping ground of a Union regiment during one winter. While the soldiers were camped there the officers used the Skelton house for their headquarters.



Old Daniels Home

This house was built in pre-war by Mr. Daniels who was a large cotton farmer. It is located about a mile from Scottsboro and is just west of the C.C. Camp that has recently been established at Scottsboro.

Netherland House

The Old Netherland House which is located near Hollywood was built at the close of the war but it has a history that goes back to pre-war days. It is built on the site of the Netherland home that was burned by "bushwackers" during the war. It was built with money that was saved to the family by the courtesy of the captain of the maurading band. The Netherlands had about $4,000 in gold that they had put in a masonic apron. In the rush to get out of the house this apron was dropped. The captain seeing the name written on it returned it to the wife of the owner. It was with this money that the house was rebuilt at the close of the war.