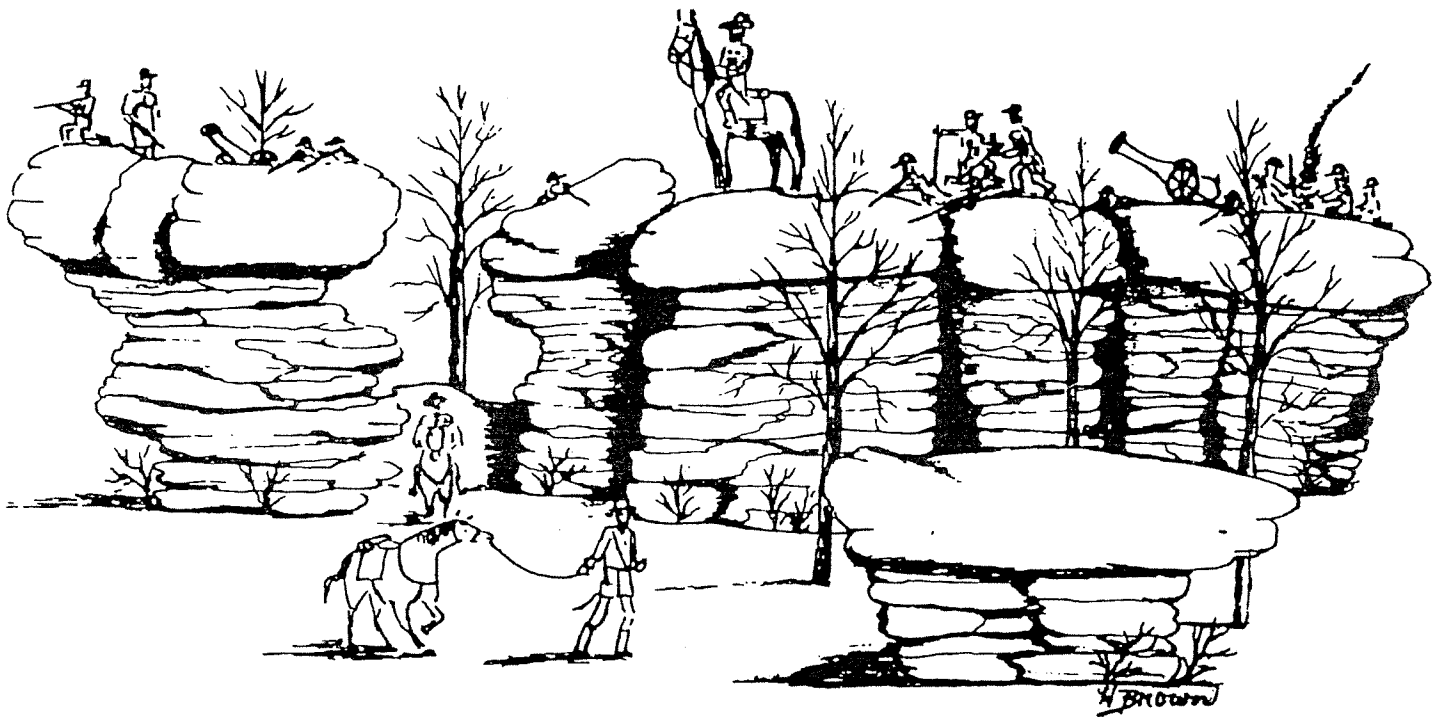


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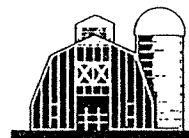
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## Welcome to Ashville Alabama

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Thompson's Publications  
P. O. Box 1630  
Dothan, Alabama 36302  
(334) 677-7853

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# TOWN OF ASHVILLE ASHVILLE, ALABAMA

HERBERT COLLETT, MAYOR



COUNCILMEN:

PHILLIP ANTHONY  
T. C. BOTHWELL  
BOBBY BOWLING  
ROBERT MCKAY  
DENNIS L. THOMPSON

P.O. DRAWER 70  
ASHVILLE, ALABAMA 35953  
PHONE 594-4151  
FAX 594-4292  
CLERK: BERTHA WHITWORTH

Dear Newcomer:

Welcome to Ashville and St. Clair County. We are happy you have chosen us to be your friends and neighbors. You will find the people of your community to be warm and accommodating with a genuine interest in your welfare. We want to assist you in any way we can to make your transition to this area a pleasant experience. Please let us know if we can help.

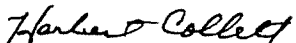
The historic Town of Ashville, located and what was one time geographic center of St. Clair County, has its beginning on November 28, 1822 when a large tract of land was conveyed from the U.S. Government to Phillip Coleman who laid out a model town covering 30 acres in the center of which was a courthouse square.

Our hills and valleys region is abundantly graced with streams, river and lakes. All forms of outdoor recreation are made possible as the result of nature's gifts.

While the county is basically rural there are social amenities, shopping opportunities and critical services such as medical specialties within a 50 mile radius in any direction. Ashville, the county seat of St. Clair County has a population of 1,489. There is some industry in the county but most of our people commute to surrounding areas for work.

Whether you are looking for waterfront property, a few acres to enjoy quiet country living, or your first home, we have it all. The Town of Ashville welcomes you and invites you to become a part of our Town.

Sincerely,

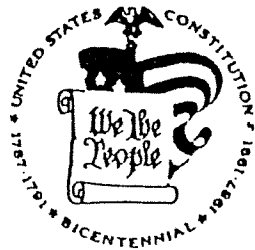
  
Herbert Collett, Mayor  
Town of Ashville

COUNTY SEAT OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY

# TOWN OF ASHVILLE

**ASHVILLE, ALABAMA**

**HERBERT COLLETT, MAYOR**



## COUNCILMEN:

PHILLIP ANTHONY  
T. C. BOTHWELL  
BOBBY BOWLING  
ROBERT MCKAY  
DENNIS L. THOMPSON

## CLERK

BERTHA WHITWORTH

P. O. DRAWER 70 • ASHVILLE, ALABAMA 35953

(205) 594-4151 • FAX (205) 594-4292

# History

St. Clair County was established on November 10, 1818 by the Second Territorial Legislature even before the State of Alabama was born. Located at the end of the Appalachian Mountain Range, in north-central Alabama, St. Clair County is unequalled in natural beauty.

If you are looking for a pleasant change of pace, exit the fast lane and visit the small towns scattered throughout St. Clair County. In these towns, an abundance of exciting sights and experiences await each visitor., Historical periods spring to life as each town displays beautiful dwellings and civic buildings of times long past. The story of the South is found in these small towns. The people of St. Clair are proud of their heritage and are eager to share it with guests casually or during special events that abound throughout the county.

In the western portion of the county lies the bustling town of Springville, a town named for the huge spring which furnishes the town's water supply. Although the spring is completely covered now, a sparkling stream formed by the excess water flows through the heart of downtown Springville and chuckles merrily on its journey to Canoe Creek and on to the Coosa River.

The buildings which today house shops and businesses within the heart of Springville portray an atmosphere from the turn of the century. Back then shoppers and visitors patronized the local merchants bringing this hub of local commerce to life.

A day of activity in Springville could include shopping in the antique shops, visiting the gossip bench in front of Washington's Seed and Feed, lunch in one of the country restaurants or a snack in the old drug store where the original soda fountain still operates and delights young and old alike.

Main street casually beckons eastward past more restored homes and stores, past the old Presbyterian church with its solemn white walls and dark windows as it maintains its vigil of over one hundred years.

Located east of Springville on Highway 23 is the once well known resort community of St. Clair Springs. During the mid to late 1880's the natural mineral springs located here attracted visitors from all over the State. Supposedly, the therapeutic effects of these seven different mineral waters cured or prevented numerous illnesses. Social events and activities centered around the springs and eventually led to the construction of a large hotel and many private vacation homes which remained intact until vacation concepts and desires were modernized.

Time and fire eventually destroyed the old hotel and some of the summer homes but several of the private residences remain in original condition., The changing demands of a modern society altered vacation interests, so the once active health and social spa no longer attracts the happy throngs of bygone days. Memories of pleasant days around the cool springs have been replaced by modern air conditioning and faster moving life-styles, but the springs still supply their cool refreshment to the citizens of Springville.

In the heart of St. Clair County, the country town of Odenville presents a picture of down-home life-style in an inviting and peaceful setting. The town straddles the old stage coach road, Highway 411, as it meanders between small country towns. Odenville was the home of the county's first high school, built in 1908, and students from throughout this part of the state attended classes here and boarded at the old Odenville hotel. St. Clair County High is still utilized but the wagons and trains no longer discharge students into town and old hotel has disappeared.

On the eastern edge of town, beside Highway 411, Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church has been a place of worship since 1835. The stone markers in the adjacent cemetery record dates of passage of the earliest residents to include Indians and slaves.

*Continued to page 6*



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Owner

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Manager

# History

*Continued from page 4*

Scattered throughout the Odenville area old homes, civic and commercial buildings still exist. The beautiful, old library building contains information and surprises for all visitors.

At the foot of Chandler Mountain, on U. S. Highway 11, lies the town of Steele. In this small rural town, one finds surprises such as the Beason House, a St. Clair County landmark. Steele is the town known far and wide for delicious home grown tomatoes and the ridge on Chandler Mountain where the colorful and daring hang gliders fly when the winds are from the east.

The many unbelievable rock formations at Horse Pens 40 will stimulate the imaginations and memories of all who visit. They were once used by the native Indians as a wild horse trap. Overnight camping at a wild west town replica is available just down the road at Legion Town. Activities taken from early pioneer days are re-enacted on a regular basis at the numerous events sponsored by the members of American Legion Post 170 at Legion Town.

The original county seat of St. Clair County is Ashville, where an astonishing number of pre-civil war homes, businesses and civic buildings and records are waiting to be explored by visitors to the town. Although all of the points of interest are too numerous to list here, a few demand special recognition. The court house, located on the town square, built in 1844, is the oldest in the state and still serves the county.

The Inzer Home Museum, maintained by Chapter 308 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, contains invaluable documents and articles which only a Confederate officer such as Lt. Col. John W. Inzer could assemble.

In addition to the Inzer House, records, histories and archives of extraordinary detail and abundance are located in the Ashville Library and the St. Clair County Court House.

Ashville invites anyone who enjoys pre-Civil War history, structures of just simple down home hospitality to visit and feast in the local restaurants or spend the night in the "Roses and Lace Country Inn." A weekend or a week could be used to enjoy the sights and activities within this town but special attention is required for the John Looney House Pioneer Museum, its annual festival and "Crafts on the Square" festival in Ashville.

The eastern border of St. Clair County is the Coosa River which today as in years long past plays an important role in the lives of residents on both banks. Greensport Marina is now on the site of the old Greensport Ferry route. Instead of supplies and cotton by the tons, the boats now carry skiers, fishermen, and sunbathers. This area boasts some of the best crappie and channel catfish to be found anywhere on the river.

Ragland, formerly known as Trout Creek, is near the site of Neely Henry Hydroelectric Dam where the Striped Bass converge in the spring. Little effort is required to catch your limit of these tasty fighters when they are making their up river spawning runs. The beautiful mountainous terrain around Ragland is also the home for Fort Strother, its artifacts and a cemetery of brave but unrewarded soldiers.

Farther down river lies another dam on the Coosa, Logan Martin. Its backwaters are bordered by the most populated town in St. Clair County. Pell City offers to the visitor recreation and commercial opportunities unequalled by many towns of much greater size. From its availability of water sports to all sports requiring more firm footing, Pell City offers a complete list, all of which are within short driving distance of its excellent motels and restaurants. Excellent roads and the St. Clair County Airport make Pell City easily accessible to all visitors.



# **American Legion**

## **Post 170**

Named in honor of two local men killed in the Veit Nam Conflict, Barry Cash and Jimmy Heard, the American Legion Cash & Heard Post 170 under Commander Herbert Collett has done much in serving Ashville and the community since organizing in 1976.

On July 7, 1980, the Post broke ground their 8,400 square foot Legion Hall and auditorium located off U. S. Highway 11 North.

The Post also built a western style "Legion Town" adjacent to the hall where, over the years, many events and activities have been held.

Post 170 continues to be active in the community making donations to worthwhile causes and supporting efforts of other local civic groups.

### **Activities**

**Games: Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday Nights**  
**Main games 7 P.M. • Sunday 6 P.M.**  
**Senior Citizens Dance Monday Nite 7 P.M..**

**(205) 594-5652**

## Newcomers Information

**Electricity:**

Alabama Power Company 594-7977

**Gas:**

Alabama Gas 547-5433

**Water:**

Ashville Water & Sewer 594-4151

**Driver's License:**

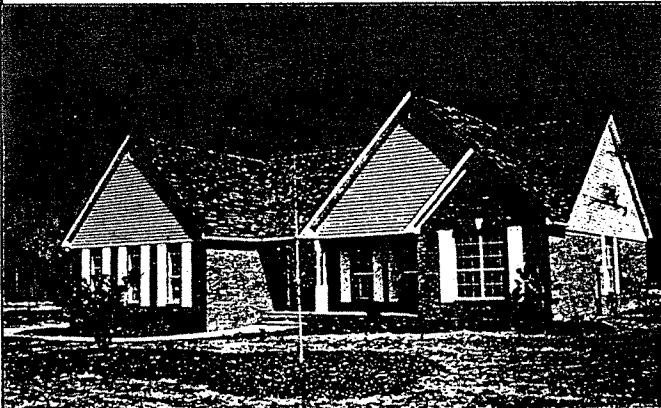
Probate Office - Courthouse in Ashville

**Car License:**

Probate Office - Courthouse in Ashville

**Voters Registration:**

Probate Office - Courthouse in Ashville

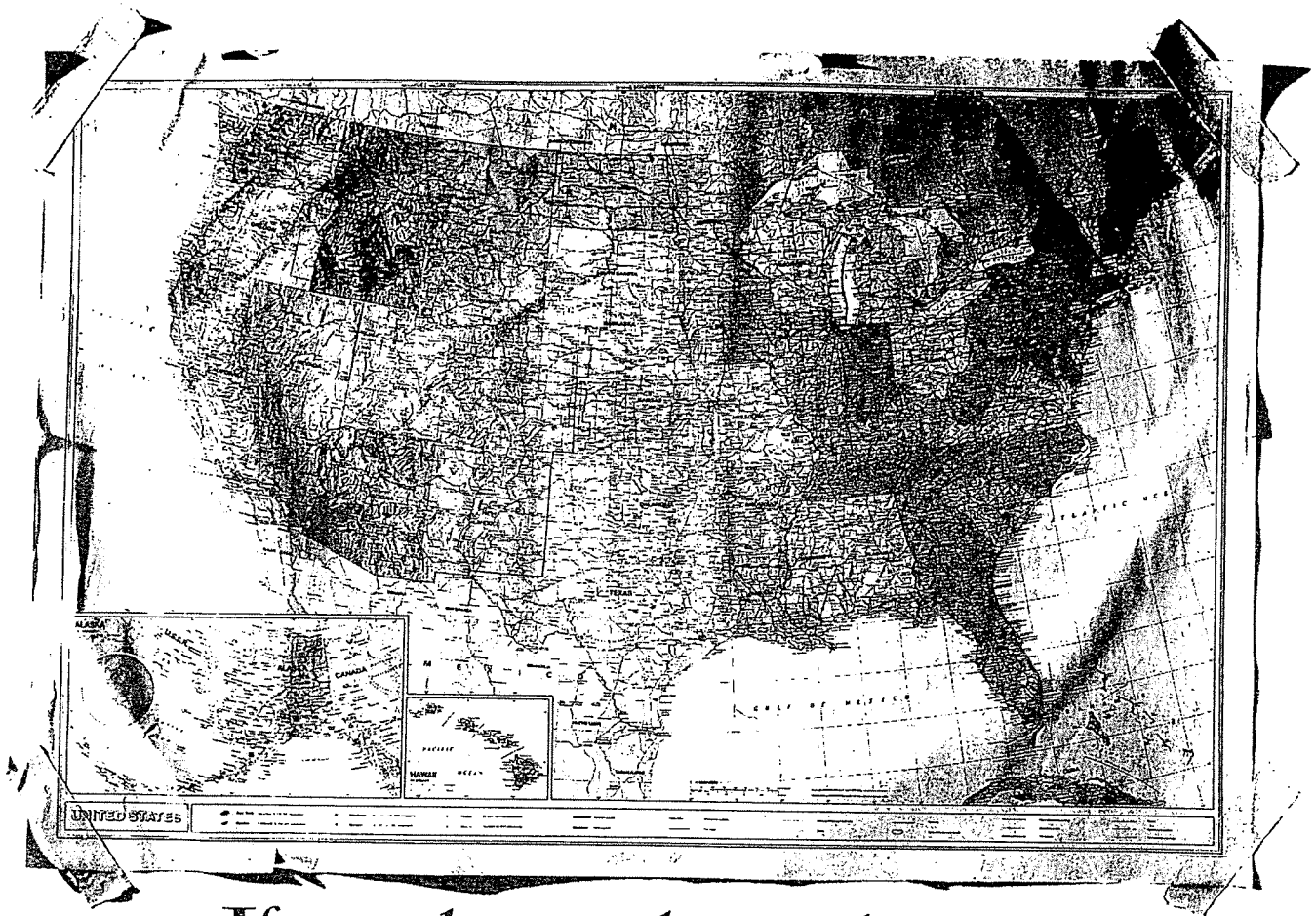


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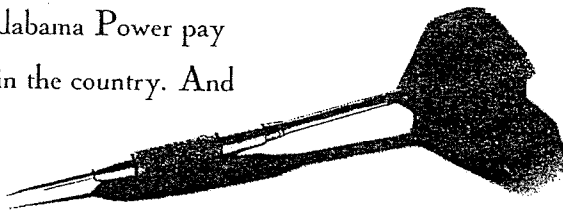
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# HORSE PENS 40

Horse Pens 40, located on the west tip of Chandler Mountain, known as the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, stands



**HEADLESS HEN**

over a thousand feet. Giant boulders stand 30 feet high in some places and many resemble things such as a Ground Hog, Elephant, Headless Hen, Dinosaur and many more.

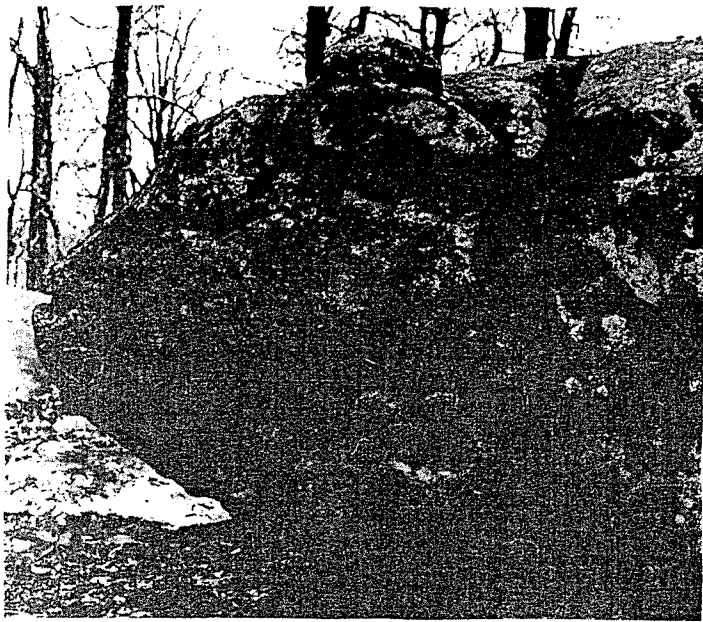
Horse Pens 40 is a large piece of our history. This 40 acre tract of boulders form natural stone pens to corral horses. For thousands of years, the Creek Indians lived here. John

Hyatt, the first person to file claim to this land, did so because of the ability to corral his horses in the natural stone pens. Also, the South hid their horses in the Pens during the Civil War.

In 1926, Pluma Hyatt came to Horse Pens 40 as a bride to help her husband wrest a living from this 120 acres of mountain. Dividing the land into the customary 40-acre sections, the Hyatt's referred to them as the "Farming 40," the Lower 40," and the "Horse Pens 40".

"Horse Pens 40" was purchased by Warren Musgrove in 1957. He had a dream of bringing crafts to the mountain, using only the natural beauty of the mountain instead of the commercial hustle and bustle. He realized this dream when it first opened to the public in 1961 on Labor Day

## BUFFALO HEAD



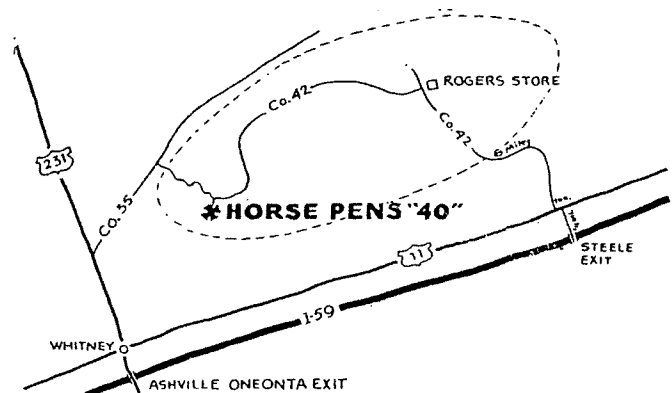
Week-end. It started the largest Alabama tradition of Bluegrass Festivals in the South. Horse Pens 40, also became the largest festival in the Southeastern United States, winning numerous awards through the years. Many well known singers and artists have roots at Horse Pens 40. In 1982, the last Bluegrass Festival was replaced with arts and crafts, which would become the largest outdoor

festival this side of the Mason-Line. Horse Pens 40 closed its door in 1991.

In July 1995, Ron and Betty Smith purchased Horse Pens 40, with the continuation of Musgrove's dream. After a decade, Horse Pens 40 will present a Bluegrass Festival at it's grand opening October 20, 21, and 22, 1995. Arts and Crafts will again be on the mountain. They will also honor the Indian and welcome him back on the mountain.

To wander down these trails, one can step back in time. When you step up to Creek Garden, you can almost see the Indian grinding corn or sharpening an arrow head on the numerous worn rocks. You can almost feel his presence as you sit on Look-out Point and watch the sun go down.

We open our arms and extend our welcome to all. Come back home with us. "This Land is our land, this land is your land from the front gate to the bluff."

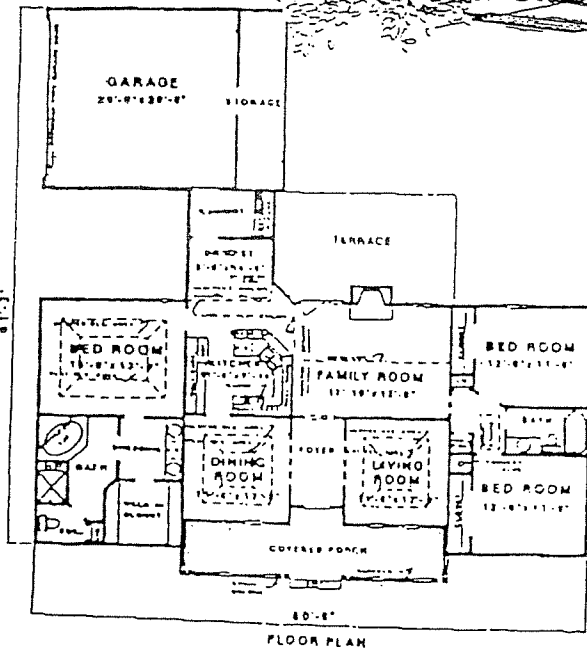
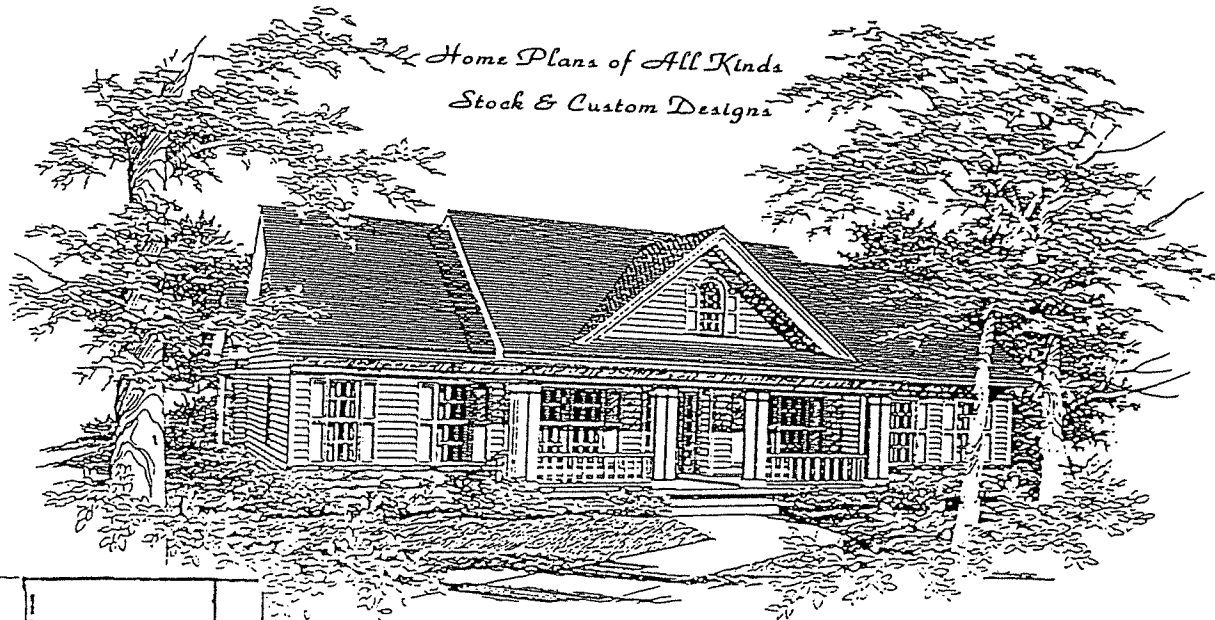


# Demographics

## ASHVILLE, ALABAMA

ESTABLISHED:	1822
INCORPORATED:	1868
AREA:	Seven square miles
POPULATION:	1489
CHURCHES:	Twenty-one - 12 Baptist, 3 Methodist, 1 Church of God, 1 Church of Christ 1 Jehovah Witness, 3 Independent
SCHOOLS;	Ashville School System total enrollment is 1066, John Pope Eden Vocation School enrollment 400 with Adult night classes available, Central Christian enrollment 60
LIBRARY:	Ashville Town Library
MUSEUMS:	Ashville Museum and Archives, John W. Inzer Confederate Museum, Looney House Museum
CIVIC CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS:	Total of 11
BANKS:	Two with total assets of 160 million dollars
LODGING:	The Roses & Lace Bed and Breakfast
RESTAURANTS:	Four
MAJOR INDUSTRIES 7 EMPLOYERS:	Dietrich Industries - 150 employees, Liberty Trouser - 98 employees, St. Clair Co. Courthouse - 42 employees, Kimberly Clark - 9 EMPLOYEES
RECREATION:	3 City parks with tennis courts, softball fields, walking tracks, fishing, swimming
MEDICAL:	1 Physician Office and 2 dentist offices; 3 major hospitals within 20 miles. Ambulance service - local
UTILITIES:	Alabama Power, Alabama Gas Co., and Ashville Water Board
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ASHVILLE;	The Ashville Courthouse was built in 1844 and is the oldest still working courthouse in the state. The Inzer Museum was built in 1852 by slave labor. The museum contains the original furnish- ings and mementos from the Civil War period.

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# Education

## SCHOOLS

Ashville Academy was established in 1831 by the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches. It lives today as Ashville High School. The modern building, erected in 1965, houses 340 students with a faculty of 16. The school is state accredited. The junior high school building, erected in 1963, has an enrollment of 240 students and a teaching force of nine.

Adjacent to the high school campus is the elementary school building which accommodates 390 children and has 17 teachers. All three schools have adequate laboratory and library facilities and outstanding physical education departments. The two year old band has repeatedly won top awards at band meets throughout the state.

The John Pope Eden Vocational Center, established in early 1973, has recently occupied a beautiful modern building. This training center serves all five of the county's high schools. Students are bussed from their respective schools for classes here throughout the day. The 11 member faculty gives instruction in horticulture, auto mechanics, body and fender work, welding, building trades, business courses, clothing production, and cosmetology. The new building is well equipped.

## COLLEGES WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY

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JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

SNEAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

JEFFERSON STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

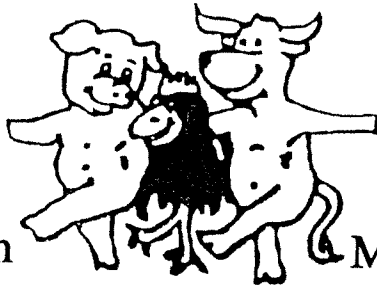
GADSDEN STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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# Amortization Chart

## AMORTIZATION CHART

Monthly Payment Per \$1,000

Number of Years	4%	4¼%	4½%	4¾%	5%	5¼%	5½%	5¾%	6%	6¼%	6½%	6¾%
5	\$18.42	\$18.53	\$18.64	\$18.76	\$18.87	\$18.99	\$19.10	\$19.22	\$19.33	\$19.45	\$19.57	\$19.68
10	10.12	10.24	10.36	10.48	10.61	10.73	10.85	10.98	11.10	11.23	11.36	11.48
15	7.40	7.52	7.65	7.78	7.91	8.04	8.17	8.30	8.44	8.58	8.72	8.85
20	6.06	6.19	6.33	6.46	6.60	6.74	6.88	7.02	7.17	7.31	7.46	7.61
25	5.28	5.42	5.56	5.70	5.85	5.99	6.14	6.29	6.45	6.60	6.76	6.91
30	4.77	4.92	5.07	5.22	5.37	5.52	5.68	5.84	6.00	6.16	6.33	6.49
35	4.43	4.58	4.73	4.89	5.05	5.21	5.37	5.54	5.71	5.88	6.05	6.22

Number of Years	7%	7¼%	7½%	7¾%	8%	8¼%	8½%	8¾%	9%	9¼%	9½%	9¾%
5	\$19.80	\$19.92	\$20.04	\$20.16	\$20.28	\$20.40	\$20.52	\$20.64	\$20.76	\$20.88	\$21.00	\$21.12
10	11.60	11.75	11.87	12.01	12.13	12.27	12.40	12.53	12.67	12.80	12.94	13.08
15	8.99	9.13	9.28	9.42	9.56	9.71	9.85	10.00	10.15	10.40	10.45	10.60
20	7.76	7.91	8.06	8.21	8.37	8.53	8.68	8.84	9.00	9.16	9.33	9.49
25	7.07	7.23	7.39	7.56	7.72	7.89	8.06	8.23	8.40	8.57	8.74	8.92
30	6.66	6.83	7.00	7.17	7.34	7.52	7.69	7.89	8.05	8.23	8.41	8.60
35	6.39	6.57	6.76	6.93	7.11	7.29	7.47	7.66	7.84	8.03	8.22	8.41

Number of Years	10%	10¼%	10½%	10¾%	11%	11¼%	11½%	11¾%	12%	12¼%	12½%	12¾%
5	\$21.25	\$21.38	\$21.50	\$21.62	\$21.75	\$21.87	\$22.00	\$22.12	\$22.25	\$22.38	\$22.50	\$22.63
10	13.22	13.36	13.50	13.64	13.78	13.92	14.06	14.21	14.35	14.50	14.64	14.79
15	10.75	10.90	11.06	11.21	11.37	11.53	11.69	11.86	12.01	12.17	12.33	12.49
20	9.65	9.82	9.99	10.16	10.33	10.50	10.67	10.84	11.02	11.19	11.37	11.54
25	9.09	9.27	9.45	9.63	9.81	9.99	10.17	10.35	10.54	10.72	10.91	11.10
30	8.78	8.97	9.15	9.34	9.53	9.72	9.91	10.10	10.39	10.48	10.68	10.87
35	8.60	8.79	8.99	9.18	9.37	9.57	9.77	9.96	10.16	10.36	10.56	10.76

Number of Years	13%	13¼%	13½%	13¾%	14%	14¼%	14½%	14¾%	15%	15¼%	15½%	15¾%
5	\$22.76	\$22.89	\$23.01	\$23.14	\$23.27	\$23.40	\$23.53	\$23.66	\$23.79	\$23.93	\$24.06	\$24.19
10	14.94	15.08	15.23	15.38	15.53	15.68	15.83	15.99	16.14	16.29	16.45	16.60
15	12.66	12.82	12.99	13.15	13.32	13.49	13.66	13.83	14.00	14.17	14.34	14.52
20	11.72	11.90	12.08	12.26	12.44	12.62	12.80	12.99	13.17	13.36	13.54	13.73
25	11.28	11.47	11.66	11.85	12.04	12.23	12.43	12.62	12.81	13.01	13.20	13.40
30	11.07	11.26	11.46	11.66	11.85	12.05	12.25	12.45	12.65	12.85	13.05	13.25
35	10.96	11.16	11.36	11.56	11.76	11.96	12.17	12.37	12.57	12.78	12.98	13.19

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1. Original, signed purchase agreement.
2. Name, address, zip code for:
  - a. Employers for the last 2 full years; current income (month/year).
  - b. Residences for the last 2 years; landlord's address, zip.
3. Name, address, zip and account numbers, balances, payments for:
  - a. Checking accounts, savings accounts, money market funds, and other cash assets.
  - b. All loans (include mortgages and auto).
  - c. Credit cards (exclude oil companies).
4. Value of personal property. Among and cash surrender value of life insurance policy.
5. Social Security numbers. Work telephone numbers.
6. If self-employed, copies of complete tax returns (personal and corporate) for the last two years plus a current profit and loss statement and current balance sheet.
7. Cash or check for appraisal and credit report(s).
8. Verification of child support and alimony obligations (copy of divorce decree(s)) and verification of child care expenses (FHA/VA)
9. A copy of your title insurance policy.

## **Additional For VA Loans:**

- a. Certificate of Eligibility or, if never used, the DD-214 Separation and Discharge.
- b. Name, address and zip of nearest living relative.

## **Additional For New Construction:**

- a. Two complete sets of plans and specifications; two copies of site survey (3 of each for VA).
- b. Construction contract (price, terms, etc.) and land contract (purchase agreement, contract for warranty deed, etc.)
- c. If borrower is also the general contractor, provide sworn construction statement (with written bids-FHA/VA).

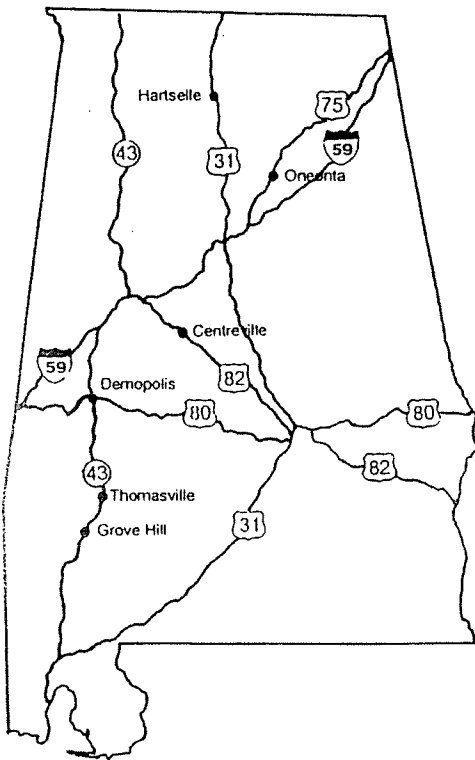
## **Additional For Refinancing:**

- a. Lot size.
- b. Legal description.
- c. Current real estate taxes.
- d. Year built.
- e. Location of abstract or torrens certificate number.

Provide evidence/verification of what liens and amounts are being paid off (e.g., mortgages, contracts for deed, special assessments, home improvement loans, remodeling costs, etc.)



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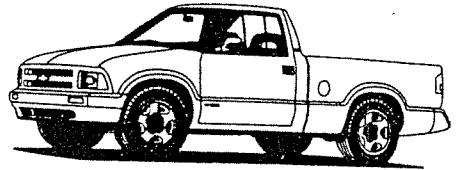
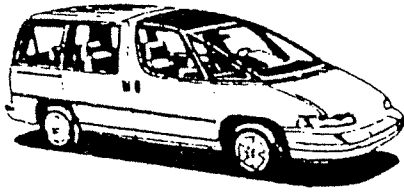
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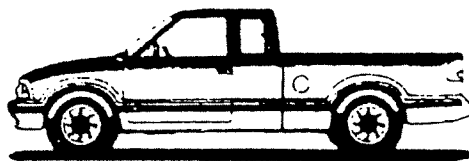
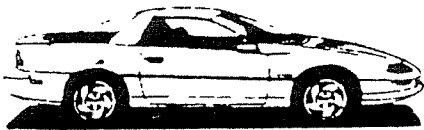
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# Born again

*Bham News Oct. 93*

## Ashville's historic Masonic Lodge gets a new location and new life

By Elma Bell  
News staff writer

**A**SHVILLE — The old Ashville Masonic Lodge building, saved from demolition and moved across town to a new site by a handful of determined women, will reopen on Saturday.

"Everybody is invited to come," says Hope Burger, one of the driving forces behind saving the 135-year-old building. "Our program will start promptly at 10 a.m., when Mattie Lou Teague Crow cuts the ribbon officially opening Historic Ashville Masonic Lodge No. 186."

Mrs. Teague, now 90, organized the Save the Ashville Masonic Lodge Council in the summer of 1990 when she discovered the huge, two-story building was to be torn down to make room for expansion of the county jail.

"The county commission agreed to give us the building if we moved it to another site," Mrs. Burger says. "In two months we had a lot to put it on, and the \$12,000 we needed to move it."

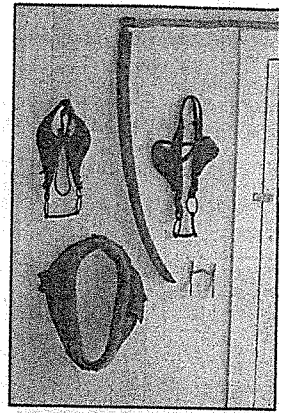
During the 100-plus years the big, two-story building stood on Courthouse Square, it housed a variety of organizations including a church and a school.

"Numerous activities took place in it, and that's going to happen again," says Margaret Evans, president of the Save the Lodge Council.

"We have named the first floor Herbert H. Collett Hall in honor of Ashville's mayor, who has been with us every step of the way," Mrs. Burger says. "Anyone in St. Clair County can use the hall, with our permission."

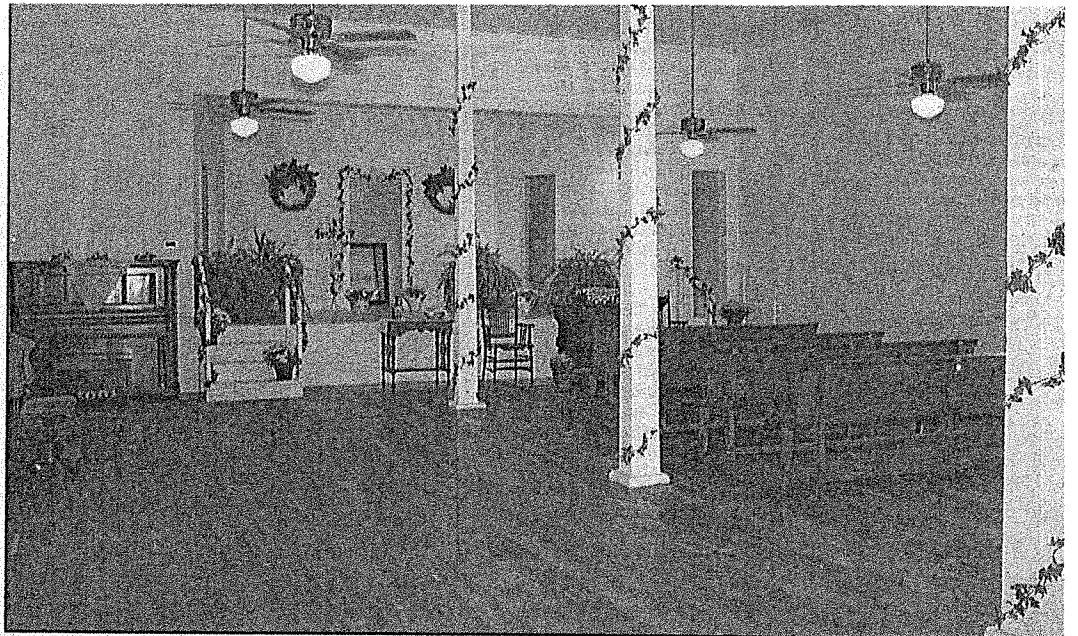
Frances Roberts, secretary-treasurer of the Save the Lodge Council, says they expect

See **Lodge**, Page 3D



Ashville's Masonic Lodge got a new lease on life thanks to a drive spearheaded by, from left, Hope Burger, Frances Roberts and Margaret Evans. A horse collar, bridle bit and a scythe are among early farm items displayed in the Mattie Lou Teague Crow Museum upstairs in the restored lodge.





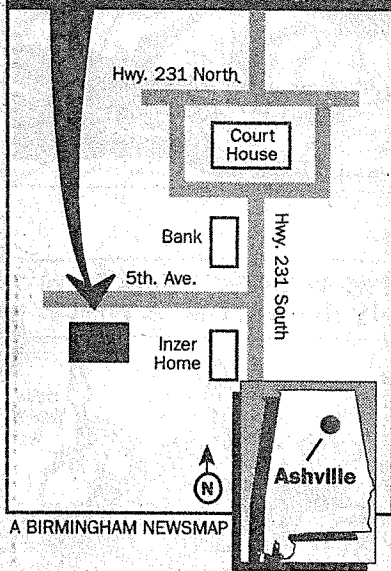
NEWS STAFF PHOTOS/STEVE BARNETT

The first floor of the old lodge, now Herbert H. Collett Hall, is expected to be the scene of many St. Clair County activities. Linda White, an Asheville florist, decorated the hall to show how it would look for a wedding. Light pours into the museum upstairs, left, through beautifully restored old windows.

handbags  
share.  
quilted once again, as she has many more scraps to  
box. Does a Good Neighbor know of anyone who does this  
these yearbooks to sell.   
type of work? — K.D.L., Springville.



# Historic Masonic Lodge #186 Ashville



## Lodge

From Page 1D

some weddings to take place in the restored building. "The Lister Memorial Baptist Church in Pell City gave us these grand old church pews, and the Ashville Baptist Church gave us their old communion table and altar chairs," Mrs. Burger points out. "The pulpit is from the White Springs Baptist Church in Rainbow City."

Families long connected with civic affairs in Ashville have donated a piano, an old pump organ and many other old-time things.

"We are displaying all the other wonderful things people have given us up on the second floor," Mrs. Burger says. "We have named that the Mattie Lou Teague Crow Historic Ashville Museum."

Quilts and other handwork, farming and logging tools, books, clothing, cooking utensils are among things displayed on long wooden tables and in glass-doored cabinets the council designed and had made.

"We couldn't find big wood tables, so we had these made out of old doors," Mrs. Burger says.

### Pot for a tub

A letter mounted above an enormous black iron wash pot almost filling one corner of the museum reveals that this was once the bathtub for nine children.

"This pot belonged to my grandfather, William Dudley Prickett," wrote A.D. Prickett, a retired

Ivy chaplain. "He and his wife used nine children. This pot was put into a square brick furnace with a cast-iron door and brick chimney, located a few feet from the well."

The pot was filled with water drawn from the well, a fire was built in the furnace beneath it and the family enjoyed the luxury of hot water.

"We think the museum will be a valuable educational for today's children," Mrs. Burger says.

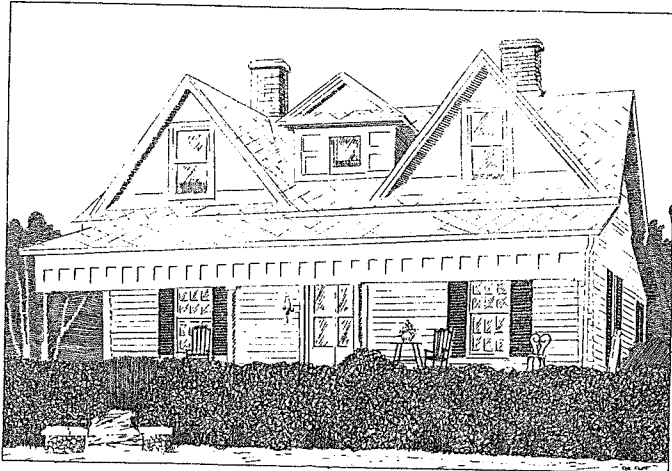
Mrs. Roberts estimates it has cost about \$70,000 to bring the old building this far. "That includes a new foundation, new roof, insulation, ceiling fans and under-floor wiring," she says. "We

didn't want any poles out there, marring the looks of the building. We aren't through yet. We have to raise enough money to do a heating and cooling system."

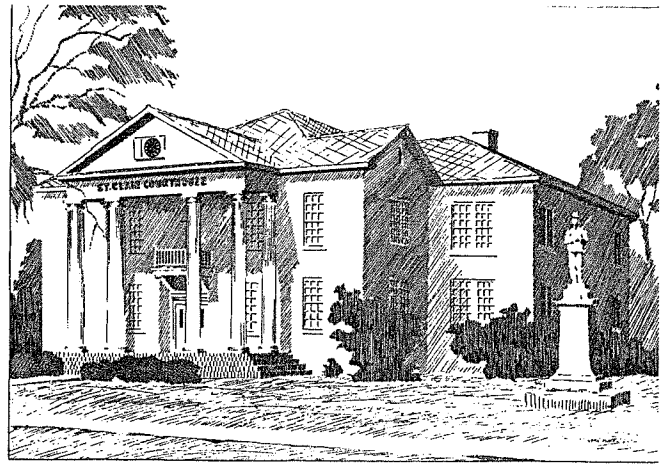
Asked how they got the \$70,000, Mrs. Burger bluntly replies, "By begging. This has been a real community effort. Everyone has pitched in and helped."

Saturday's open house continues until 2 p.m., and includes tours of the Masonic Lodge, crafts, bluegrass music. The lodge sits at the end of Fifth Avenue, four blocks from where it was. Take the U.S. 231 exit off I-59, follow it around the Court House Square, and turn right onto Fifth Avenue.

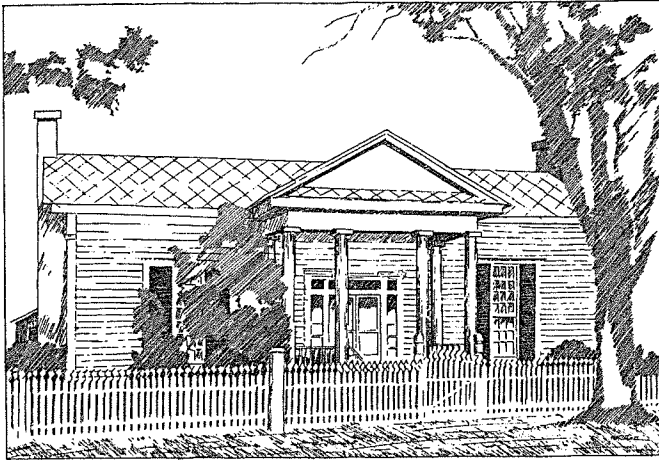
 \*SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT  
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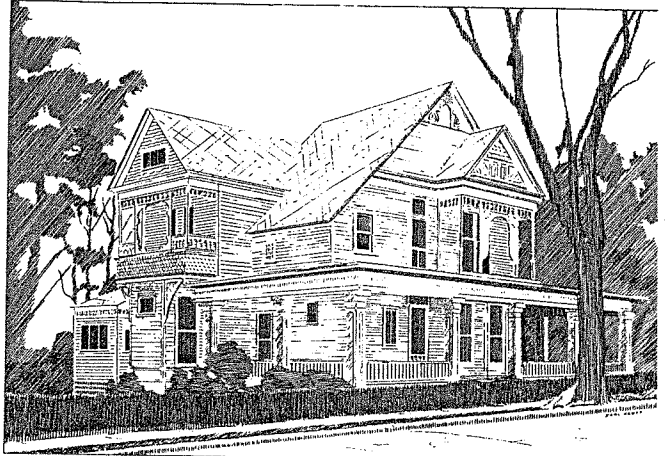
Davis Home  
Ashtville  
1832



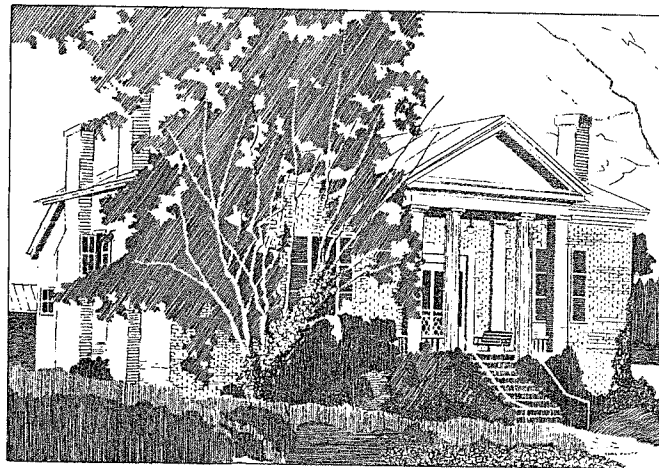
St. Clair Co. Courthouse  
Ashtville  
1845



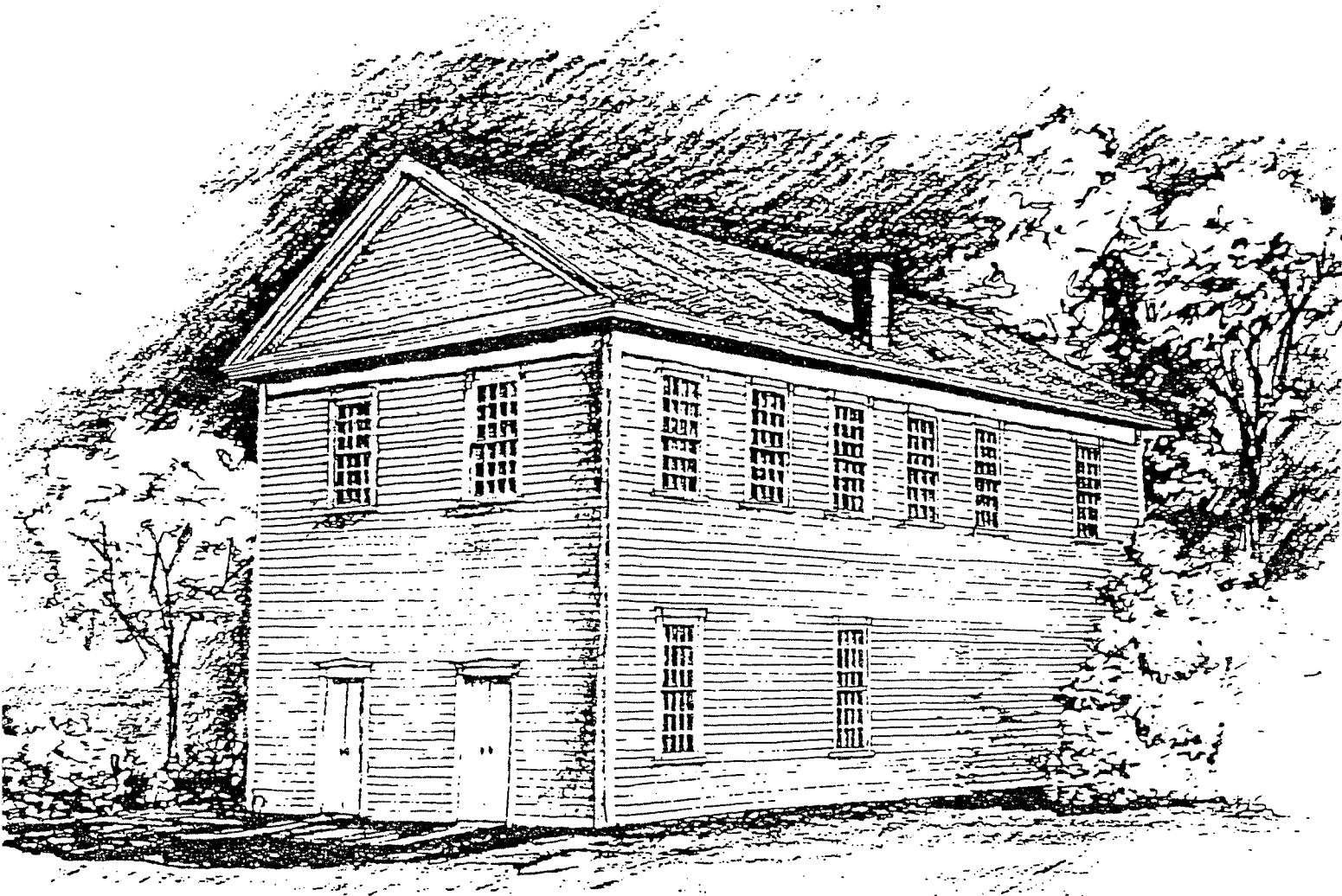
Prickett Home  
Ashtville  
1835



Montgomery Home  
Ashtville  
1890



Inzer Home  
Ashtville  
1852



*ASHVILLE MASONIC LODGE*



History of the First Ashville Methodist Church Building  
and  
The First Home of Ashville Masonic Lodge, No. 136  
built 1858

There are six active Masonic Lodges in St. Clair County today. There have been others. Some of them were consolidated and often two or three became one. A few, after years of useful service, surrendered their charters. In the early years, farm homes were scattered, roads were non-existent, there were no telephones, no Rural Free Delivery. Men either walked or rode horse-back to lodge meetings.

It was in 1831 when Ashville citizens established the first school church. The school was Ashville Academy and the church-Mount Pleasant Meeting House-was owned jointly by the Methodists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians.

The Methodists were the first to have their own home. In 1858 a deed was executed by Alemeth Byers transferring property where today the Ashville Methodist Church stands, to the Methodist Conference. A photostatic copy of this deed hangs on the wall of the church office. The Byers family had come to Ashville in 1820. John Byers, father of Alemeth, was one of the trustees for the Ashville Academy. Mr. Byers was an ardent Mason and had helped to organize the Ashville Lodge in 1853.

On the property deeded to the Conference there was erected a two-story frame building which was used jointly by the Masons

and the Methodist congregation. It took those involved in this endeavor from 1853 until 1858 to complete the task. The building - first floor for the church and second for the lodge - was of 1 to 3 inch planks, sawed at McCrory's water-powered sawmill. These planks were hand-planed on one side. They were put together with long handmade wooden pegs. Today the old building is as sturdy as it was in 1858. There are very few decayed planks in the floor. The foundation of sandstone, cut in perfect blocks, came from the stone quarry northeast of the town.

The building served well its mission as a church and lodge home from 1858 until 1892. That year the church wished to have its own home and gave its one-half interest in the structure to the Masons. It was then moved to lot number 48 of the original survey of the town, where it stands today.

Moving day was an exciting occasion for the citizens of our small village. Mr. Crow Hardin from Hardin's Shop (now Odenville) was given the contract. He brought his two yokes of oxen. The building was placed on log rollers and moved to its present site. Mr. Dudley Prickett, a citizen and good neighbor, assisted Mr. Hardin and he allowed his four year old son, Norman, to sit by the road to watch the lodge go by. Many years later Norman Prickett wrote the following account!

"I sat there google-eyed as the old building slowly moved along. When they stopped to move the capstan and the rollers, without my father noticing, I climbed in the back door of the church. When they were all set for another haul, I was inside. What a thrilling experience for me! I still smile at the memory as I pass the old building. We continued to have preach-

ing and Sunday School in this sacred place until our new Church was finished. My heartfelt desire is that Progress will spare that old landmark for within her walls the Devil has been chased, weddings and funerals of some of our ancestors have taken place, and many babies have been Christened. And upstairs the goat was ridden whenever a new member was being inducted into the mystic shrine of the Masonic Lodge." (Norman Prickett died in 1983.)

The ancient building is now the property of St. Clair County. The Board of Commissioners has offered it to the town on condition that it be moved. Jack Inzer, administrator for the Inzer estate in our town, has deeded Lot Number 61, of the original survey map of Ashville, to the town to be used as Ashville Masonic Lodge's third home site. This he is doing to honor the memory of John Spearman Edwards Robinson and John Washington Inzer - his two grandfathers whose gravestones in the Ashville Cemetery bear Masonic Emblems.

The Masonic lodge building is a landmark house and as such helps to tell the story of Alabama's architectural history. If it is destroyed a part of Ashville's history is lost. The first floor has been used for important occasions throughout the years. To name a few - when county schools were being consolidated and rural school of three to six grades were being replaced, Ashville school was overcrowded. To make room for the children who were, for the first time, being transported to Ashville, the auditorium was partitioned to form four extra classrooms. At commencement time there was no place for a senior play, for a class night, or a place where seniors received their diplomas. Commencement had always been important, not only to the teachers and students, but also to the families. With the help of the



students a stage was built at the north end of the building. Folding chairs were purchased.

Later the stage was used by the community as a place for home talent plays and for concerts.

For many years the lodge was used as a recreational hall for the teenagers during summer months. The floor still shows the black shuffleboard games and there are dartboards painted on the walls.

A piano was purchased and choral groups gave their recitals in the hall. Back then there was no television and few people had cars to take the youngsters to Gadsden for a movie.

The ladies of the town met there for their quilting bees. They made quilts for their respective orphan homes - Baptists at Troy and Methodists at Selma. Occasionally they had a box supper or a spelling bee.

During its life span of one hundred thirty-two years, the lodge has served well the citizens of Ashville. When it is moved and restored properly, the ancient building will continue to give worthwhile service.

The deed to lot number 61 states: "given to the town of Ashville with the following stipulations:

1. The old lodge building will be placed on said lot and properly restored to its original condition.
2. Ground will be landscaped.

3. The building will be known as the home of the old Ashville Masonic Lodge and will be under the supervision of a seven-member board of directors.
4. The foregoing must be accomplished within a three year period from the date of the deed or the property will revert to the donor."

Some suggested future uses:

1. Meetings of civic organizations
2. Theatre group productions
3. Concerts
4. Flower shows by Garden Clubs
5. Reading Classes
6. History classes
7. Indian Artifacts Museum

Ashville is the type of town that Americans treasure. Our old homes are beautifully kept. The court house, built in 1844 to replace the original log building, serves well the people of St. Clair County. The natural beauty of the location of our churches and other old buildings that have been here for a century give the town the looks of a safe place to live, a place where people share in meaningful work and play.

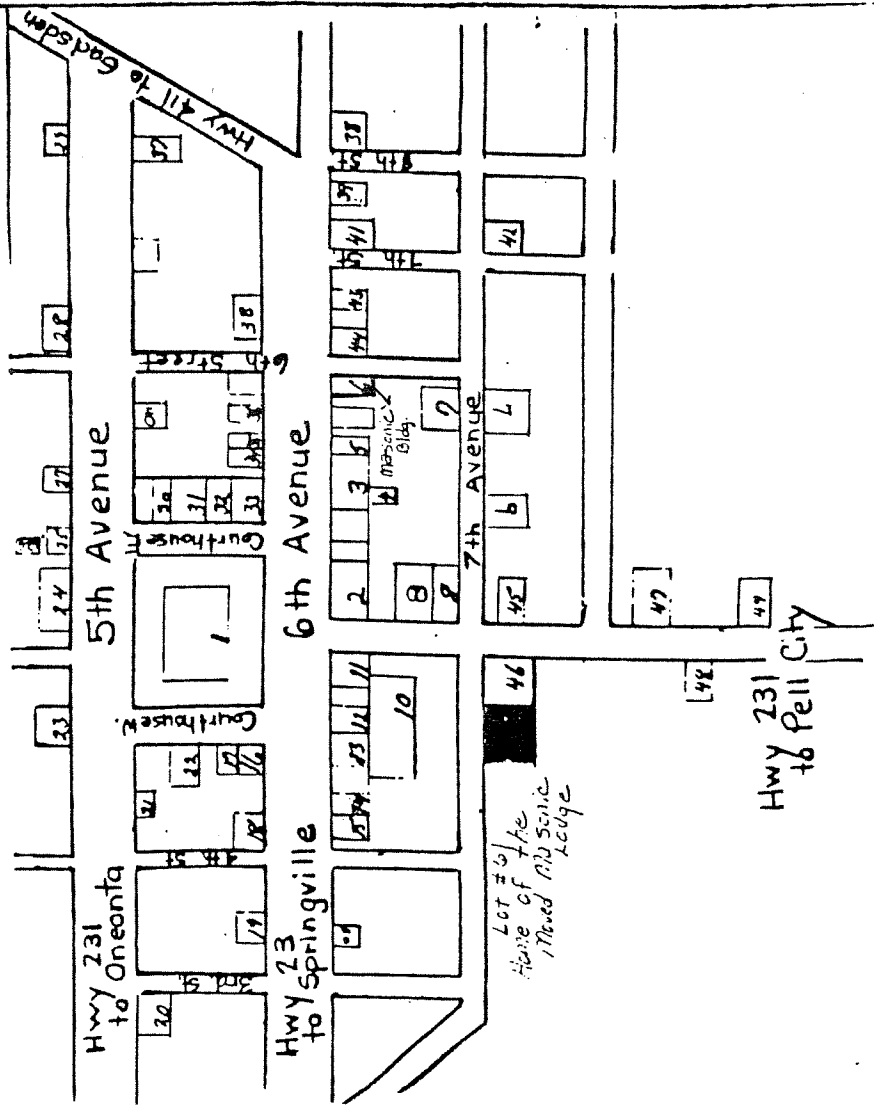
An eminent Alabama architect has this to say about our lodge building'

"The people of Ashville will do a service to the state by preserving and restoring this building which is so important to the character and history of their town."

The task will not be an easy one and will be accomplished only through the strength of unity.,

WILL YOU BE WILLING TO HELP?

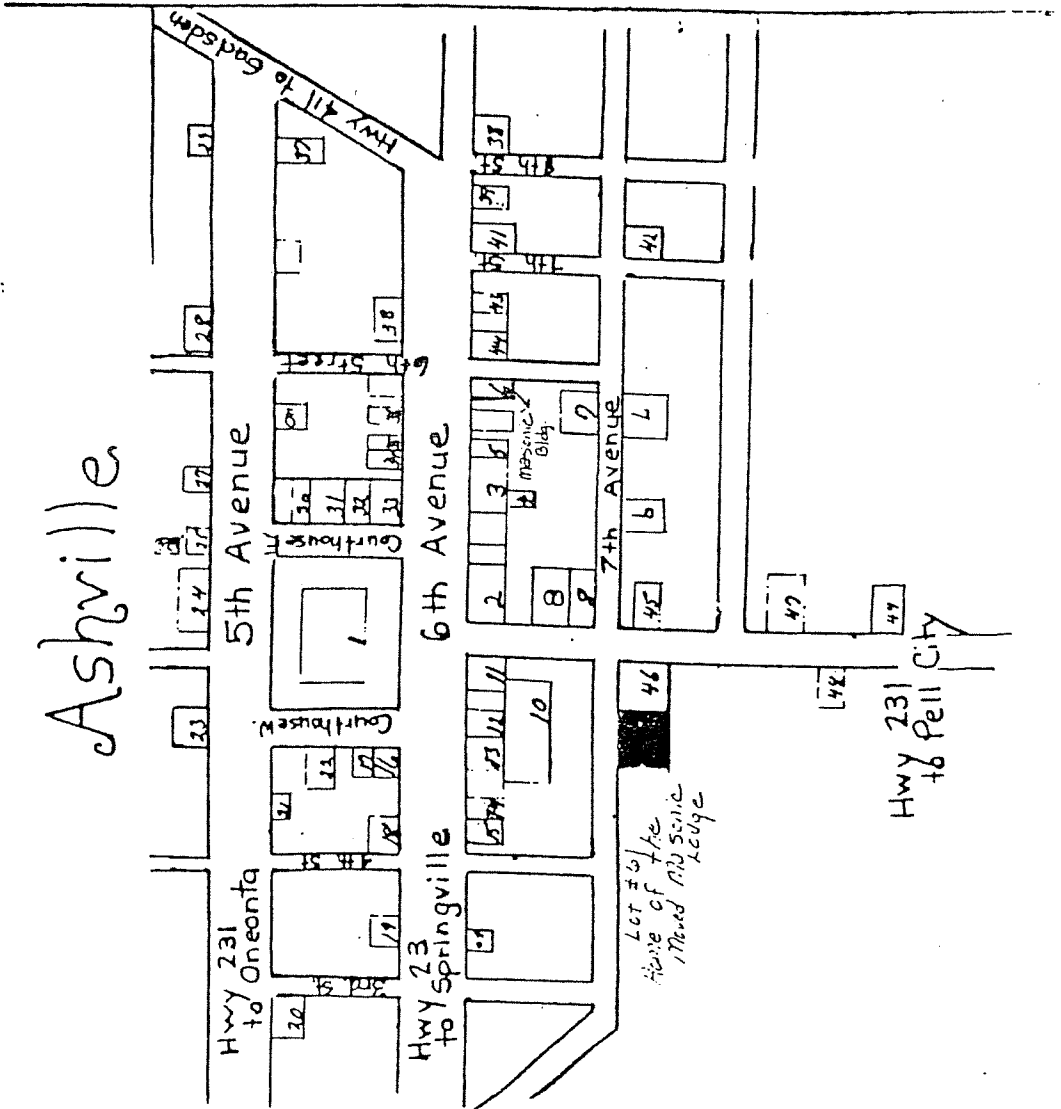
# Ashville



1. Ashville Courthouse Square
2. Ashville Drugs
3. Teague Hardware
4. Fred Teague--Att.
5. Ramsey Garage
6. Masonic Lodge --1854, Ashville Discount
7. Ashville City Hall
8. Ashville Service Station
9. Masonic Lodge
10. Ashville Savings Bank
11. Video
12. Church, Trussell, & Robinson--Att.
13. Braswell Realty
14. McBrayer Grocery
15. Old Bank Building
16. Gift Shop
17. Luther Cartrell
18. U.S. Post Office
19. Prickett Home
20. Fink Home
21. Quick Shop
22. Hodges Home-1825, Funeral Home
23. First Baptist Church
24. Dr. Cason Home-1892
25. Restaurant
26. Beauty Shop
27. Davis Home-1832
28. Auto Repair
29. Fifth Avenue Grocery
30. Chrysteen School of Fine Arts
31. McCain Supply
32. Union State Bank
33. Ashville Auto Parts
34. B. & R. Market
35. Bait Shop
36. Ashville Library & Museum
37. Church of Christ
38. Fouts Tractor
39. Craft Store
40. Ray Stephens
41. Teague House
42. Methodist Church
43. BUILDING
44. C.D. Wilson & Sons
45. Hodges Home
46. Inzer Home-1852
47. Embry Home-1835
48. Montgomery Home-1900
49. Cienn Home

# Ashville

1. Ashville Courthouse Square
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42. Methodist Church
43. BUILDING
44. C.D. Wilson & Sons
45. Hodges Home
46. Inzer Home-1852
47. Embury Home-1835
48. Montgomery Home-1890



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The lodge building was the home of the Ashville Masonic Lodge, No. 186 until 1885, when the Masons built a new home.

Cover sketch by Barry Sallas, courtesy of Alabama Historical Commission.

This booklet was written by Mrs. Mattie Lou Teague Crowe.  
(4-20-90)

Thanks to Jim Burton of Burton Copier Service for his invaluable help with this booklet and the loan of the copying equipment.

If you wish to contribute to the  
Old Ashville Masonic Lodge Fund,  
contact:

Mrs. Hope Burger  
Rt. 1 Box 86 A  
Ashville, Al 35953

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

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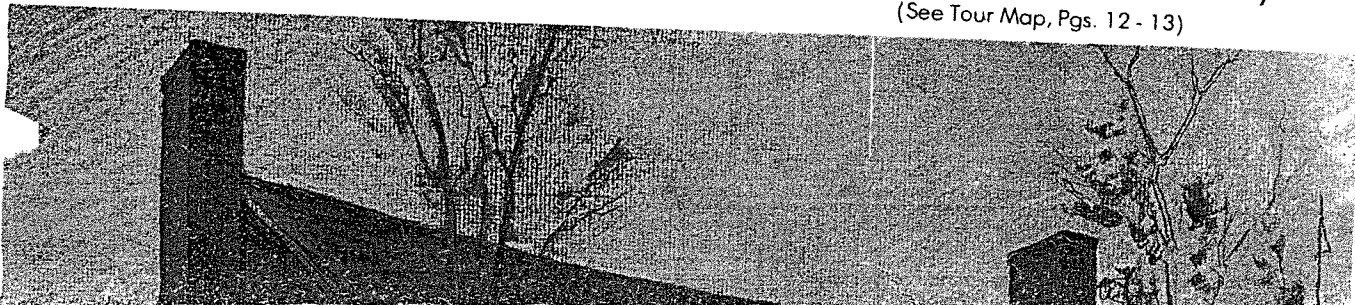
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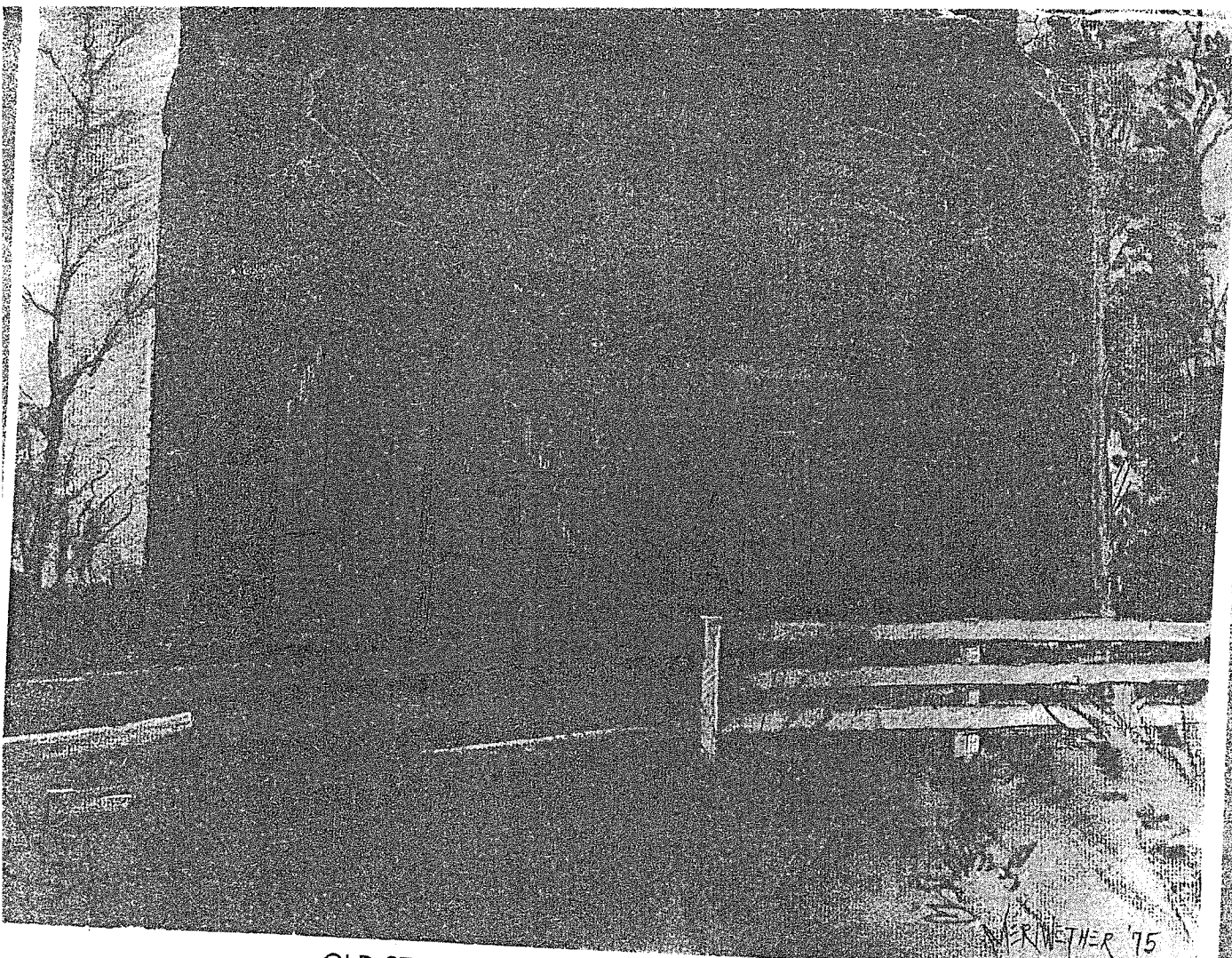
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HISTORICAL  
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A Guide to the Historical  
Sites of St. Clair County

(See Tour Map, Pgs. 12 - 13)





MERIWETHER '75

OLD STAGECOACH INN — NEAR ASHVILLE

Drawing By I.D. Meriwether

Building Still Stands -

# *Road To Stagecoach Inn Once Was Indian Trail*



BY MATTIE LOU CROW

Just as there is romance in old houses, there's bound to be romance in old roads. When white men first came to make their homes in what is now St. Clair County, they traveled by rivers or over Indian trails.

The Creek Indians had developed a network of paths which connected their many small settlements. These Indian trails usually followed the watershed between two streams and always pursued a course that encountered the fewest physical obstructions. The Red Man had a native engineering ability.

These numerous trails were widened into roads by the white men and the roads played a very important part in the settlement of the county. The road known as old number 11 leading out of Ashville into Etowah County follows almost precisely such an Indian trail. Over this road, first marked by

An old Tract Book in the courthouse at Ashville shows that Jacob Green entered land in T13 and T14 in 1820. A two-story house was built on this property by Richard Crow for Jacob Green and his wife, Fanny Acre Green. Very near the house is a fine spring of freestone water which was an important reason for selecting house site. Another reason, of course, was the proximity of the road.

Mr. Green sent two ox-wagons to Georgia for brick used in the foundation and the two chimneys. Some years after the house was built he secured from Huntsville the weather boarding which today covers the old structure.

In 1832 Jacob Green sold this house and moved down the valley to the Coosa River where he built a beautiful house and where he operated Green's Ferry. This was the beginning of Greensport which has a





Old Stagecoach Inn (1852)



Jacob Green House At Greensport (1832)  
 ... Site Now Under Lake  
 H. Neely Henry

the hoofs of wild animals and soft moccasined feet, there traveled men on horseback, moth-eaten mules between the mended shafts of rattletrap wagons, mud-spattered buggies, ox-carts, and—prince of them all—the mighty stagecoach drawn by fur sleek spanking horses.

In the early days of statehood many postal roads were established by acts of Congress. Some of these had their starting point or destination: "St. Clair Courthouse at Ashville." Such an act, passed May 13, 1820, established a road from Ashville to Huntsville, by way of Bennett's store."

Ashville had a post office and so did Bennettsville (Vincent Bennett's store). The only stop between Bennettsville and Ashville was Jacob Green's place. Here the stage stopped to allow the passengers to refresh themselves and often to exchange horses for the drive on into Ashville, twelve miles to the south.

history of exciting incidents about the steamboats and the infamous "steamboat men," who did much toward opening new homes for the pioneers. This part of the county is now under water as a result of Henry Neely Dam.

But the first Jacob Green home still stands, its veranda sagging, its doors and windows boarded up, but the main part of the house still sturdy and staunch. The bricks of the two chimneys have an exciting quality, a soft purplish tone. It is said, that, when the wagons brought them in from Georgia, master builder Richard Crow had them soaked under water for days and then allowed them weeks to dry. This gave them lasting wear and durability.

What a heritage in old houses St. Clair County has! And how wonderful it would be to see them restored to usefulness!

Stonewall Brown, caretaker at the Jacob Green House, will be narrator during the St. Clair Historical Society tour on Saturday, April 19.

Much of the Materials  
 For This Section And  
 Some Of The Pictures  
 Courtesy Of Mrs.  
 Mattie Lor Teague  
 Crow's Book -  
 "History of St. Clair County"

(OTHER PHOTOS BY AUGUST LEHE)

## ASHVILLE : FOUNDED BEFORE STATE ENTERED UNION

The talk about improving the highway from Gadsden to Ashville recalls the fact that the latter is one of the oldest and most interesting towns in the state of Alabama. It is the county seat of St. Clair County which was founded in 1818, a year before Alabama was admitted to the Union. At that time many Indians roamed over its soil, which, in fact, is memorable as a part of the Jackson campaign in the War of 1812 against the Muscogees who were natives of this section. There are still slight traces of the encampments and defenses of the military forces under Jackson as well as many evidences of Indian settlements in various parts of the county. Among the old records are to be found deeds of land from the Indians to white settlers. It is the only county in the state mentioned by name in Chambers Universal Knowledge. It is the only county that has furnished more than one governor for its own and other states. Some years ago Pell City, an industrial community on the Coosa River was made a county seat, so that St. Clair now has two capitals. Pell City is rapidly growing as a manufacturing center. When the Coosa River is harnessed it is likely to become a city. Ashville had a boom in the late 80's along with Birmingham, Gadsden, Anniston, and Fort Payne, but after the collapse of the boom it went back to its old habit of being a cultured, self-satisfied small Southern town. It has furnished to the state and the nation some really big men, also remarkably able women.

Somebody said recently that the town of Rainbow City, which was recently incorporated in this county, is five miles long and half a mile wide and that it has more population than Ashville. Maybe that is so. Maybe not. Rainbow City has prospects, however. It straddles the old road that it is proposed to turn into modern highway and will benefit much from an improvement of the sort. So will Gadsden, for that matter, for St. Clair County is rich in natural resources. It has much coal and other minerals and its soil can grow anything grown in this climate. The principal coal beds lie south of the neighborhood of old Broken Arrow, a ghost town, if memory serves, also along the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. Such towns as New Broken Arrow, Ragland, Odenville, Fairview, Riverside, Seddon are promising. The writer recalls that in the good old days he used to address packages of the Gadsden Times for mailing to subscribers at Ashville, Alluxia, Beaver Valley, Greensport, Branchville, Broken Arrow, Colwell, Round Pond, Seddon, Slate, Springville, Steele, TroutCreek, Whitney and Wolf Creek. Some of the old post offices, no doubt, were long ago discontinued because of rural free mail delivery routes running in every direction.

St. Clair County has surprised its neighbors by building paved roads. Most of its main roads are now paved and it is likely that it has done more hard surface paving than any county in the state, considering population and wealth. Perhaps a super highway running from Gadsden to Birmingham through Ashville will give the latter another start at industrialization. It has all the resources, including an abundance of native labor to build a real city.

THE HISTORY OF ASHVILLE

by

Betty Hodges

1953

## THE HISTORY OF ASHVILLE

Old towns never die, they just fade away. This popular phrase coined by a famous general suits well the town of Ashville. It has slowly faded, but will probably never die. People who love life in a small town will always keep Ashville alive as a peaceful southern town. More than likely they will never try to turn Ashville into a big, booming, industrial center. They will probably be content with Ashville as it is--peaceful, truly Southern and very much the old hometown, where nothing changes as the years go by. I feel that the reason for Ashville being still a small town today is seen as we study the history of the town.

The settlers of the territory surrounding Ashville were peaceful people. They came seeking land on which to establish their homes. They came to settle on small plots of land and to become permanent fixtures in the community. Apparently none of the first early white settlers had any great plans for owning a vast amount of property. Every man seemed to be on equal standing with the rest.

These first settlers found many things of interest in this new territory--Spanish coins, Indians and their civilization, fruitful land, etc.--all helping to tell them something of the history of the land they were making their home.

The Spanish coins and other Spanish articles sometimes found on our soil are the remainders of De Soto's trip through

the territory. His famous march took him nearby and he sent out from his main body, during stops over and camp periods, small foraging bands and scouting parties, and these are the ones who first found their way into St. Clair County. Some ill-treated by the Indians, others took sick in the county and were given the best medical treatment then practiced among the Indians, a decoction of herbs prepared by their "Medicine Men." It was these Spanish and Portuguese who left the Spanish coins here. It was the descendants of these white men who left the traces of Spanish blood here for years. It is possible that the man, Bidy, of Portuguese extraction, who was hanged with five others at "Gallows Hill" above Ashville in 1829 (300 years after De Soto's visit) for a number of murders, was descendant of the ill-fated adventurous followers of De Soto.<sup>1</sup>

Indians who lived in villages out of Ashville were found by De Soto's men to be a large and powerful tribe known as the Creeks in later days. There was quite a number of Cherokees, also. Although this area was claimed by the English from 1764 and for several years after, it was really in complete possession of the Indians.

In 1794-5 the county of St. Clair was sold as a part of the "Georgia Company" of the Great Yazoo Land Sales by the Georgia

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1. William H. Cather, History of St. Clair County, Clipping File, Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.

legislature. Though these sales were later declared null and void, the tendency was to cause an influx of settlers into the settlers to the section. These settlers came to occupy the lands granted them by the Georgia Company and remained here. With this rush of settlers to the territory, naturally the Indians began to lose ground, and to become rebellious toward the white settler.

Planters had no worry about the beautiful and bountiful land. Wild fruit was plentiful in those days, and here and there around Ashville were several peach orchards, planted by the Indians. One of these orchards was on the hill just south of Cobb's Spring. Another was in the field some distance northwest of Hon. James G. Greene's residence.<sup>1</sup>

The Indians exhibited signs of intelligence, in his own way--understanding others and at times when he desired, making himself understood. Both of the tribes that were so well known had a simple language easily understood. An example of the cleverness of the Indian was related in Cather's History of St. Clair County. "Years ago--just after Ashville had been founded, probably in the twenties, three Indian men were brought to Ashville for trial on a charge of stealing horses. This was after the states of Alabama and Georgia had extended their jurisdiction over both these tribes or nations so as to induce them earlier to remove to the west. A great many Indians were

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1. Mrs. Ab Crow, personal interview, April 7, 1951.

tried at Ashville in those days. These three Indians were "ironed" or handcuffed at the Ashville blacksmith shop, probably at Bill Alman's. While the irons were being made and put on these Indians, one of them, a young brave, made motions or signs, indicating that he wanted to write a letter to send back home in North Alabama by the officers who had arrested and brought him here. Thereupon someone brought him paper, a pen and ink, and he wrote a letter in the Cherokee written language, which had been invented by an Indian several years before."<sup>1</sup>

The Indians had intelligent leaders, two of whom visited Ashville frequently. They were Cherokee chiefs Ross and John Ridge. Ridge came to Ashville often to attend court in behalf of those of his people who fell into the hands of the laws. Ridge was a large, stalwart, full-blooded Indian, of proud bearing. He was educated in the North. He married a white woman. It was not a strange sight in Ashville's streets in early days to see an Indian; but to see one like Ridge, educated, and dressed in the finest of broadcloth, which he always wore when visiting Ashville, was a sight to behold. Ridge was killed by the Ross party after their removal to the West.<sup>2</sup>

As stated before, the settlers came into Ashville as peaceful souls who did not like to fight. However, they found themselves faced with a war situation when the Indians finally became aroused.

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1. Cather, op. cit.

2. Crow, Interview, op. cit.

They held a big council at Littafuchee, Creek Town outside of Ashville that was destroyed by Colonel Dyer in November, 1813.<sup>1</sup> Tecumseh, who already was waging his war with the Whites in the South, heard of the trouble in this section, and helped to incite the Creeks and Cherokees both to commence a fierce war of extermination against the white man.<sup>2</sup>

It was then the Indian War whoop was heard in all its direful reality in the forests about Ashville and throughout Saint Clair. The Indians would have a war dance at which they would put on red war paint, thus attaining for themselves the name of "Red-Sticks."

As his base of operations against the Creeks, General Jackson built Fort Strother at Ten Islands, on the Coosa River about eight miles from Ashville.<sup>3</sup> Jackson detailed a company of soldiers to remove the Indians from Upper Cataula and Lower Cataula, the old villages outside of Ashville. Those from Lower Cataula were settled at and around a place known as the "Fife-town" of Creek Indians, which was on the road from Talladega to Jacksonville.<sup>4</sup>

The last report concerning the Indian was about 1825, after Ashville had become a flourishing town. One of the high chiefs of the Creeks, McIntosh, was about to negotiate a treaty for the removal of the Indians to the West, when he was killed by a company of "red-sticks." Great numbers of these men became hostile

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1. John Inzer Freeman, St. Clair County News, August 7, 1914.
  2. Cather, op. cit.
  3. Clipping File, Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.
  4. Cather, op. cit.



and the Talladega tribe fled to Ashville for protection and remained for quite a while. They accomplished the feat of persuading Colonel John Massey to let them encamp at the big spring on his property. Massey, then sheriff of the county, under public authority of some kind, had these Indians fed and cared for until the trouble quieted down.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps you wonder where the people came from who stirred up all the trouble with the Indians. The people settling around Ashville apparently came from varied places.

Some of the first settlers came from East Tennessee in 1815.<sup>2</sup> Settlers came from Madison County in 1816 and traveled down an old Indian trail that led from Ditto's Landing to Mud Town on the Cahabe, while East Tennesseans came down in flat boats, landed at Gunter's Landing, both groups having Settlers who came to Ashville. Georgians and Carolinians reached the Creek Cession on the Coosa by crossing the Chattahoochie at the upper Shallow Ford, crossing Will's Creek and skirting the east side of the mountains.<sup>3</sup> The general opinion in Ashville is that the majority of settlers came from the Carolinas and Georgia.

Though settlers came to this section as early as 1815, it was not until 1818 that any real permanent settlement was made. A family was on its way West with a group of people to find a new home and there were several children in the group. It was by accident that this family stayed in Ashville as one of the children fell from a wagon and fractured his skull. The child's father,

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1. Cather, op. cit.

2. W. J. Beles, "This Date in Alabama History," Birmingham News-Age Herald, April 27, 1941.

3. Clipping File, op. cit.

*See note*

John Ashe, found that the Indians were friendly and he approved of the good water supply of several springs and made his home there. Therefore, he decided to stay on by the big spring. This he did, establishing a plantation after he had homesteaded some land. His plantation was just outside of Ashville (the Rowan farm today). This settler who did so much to fix the permanency of the community served Ashville and his district very well. He was a state senator and took a big part in both local and state affairs.<sup>1</sup> The town bears his name, although in recent years it has been shortened to Ashville, leaving out the e in Ashe.

At the second session of the General Assembly of Alabama Territory was approved the forming of St. Clair County. Section 4 of the act was for the purpose of establishing courts to be held at the house of Alexander Brown.<sup>2</sup> Upper Cataula was to be the temporary county seat, a spot known as the Capeheart place, four miles from Ashville. The first court was designated to be held in a log trading post, home of Brown, built out of timbers hewn from the forest, and only the distance of a street's width away from the present courthouse.

The first provisions in the acts respecting public buildings is found when December 6, 1818, the county court is authorized to levy a tax for the purpose of erecting a temporary jail in said county. In 1821 a legislative act appointed a committee to superintend the building of a courthouse and a jail, at the county seat to be elected.<sup>3</sup> John Ashe, John Massey, John

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1. Miriam B. Richardson, St. Clair's Personalities, Clipping File.
  2. Acts of Alabama Territory, 1818, Second Session, p. 22-3.
  3. Acts of Alabama, 1821, pp. 38-42.

Cunningham, Joel Chandler and George Shortwell were appointed to the committee. Log buildings were erected and used for several years. All of the buildings from the very beginning must have been well preserved. Certainly the records were. The marriage license book shows the first marriage license as issued to "Thomas Stone to Joanna Smith: June 6, 1819."<sup>1</sup> There must have been some certificates issued prior but the above is the first recorded.

The county court held regular sessions until it was abolished in 1849-50. At a session of the superior court, September term, 1819, the courthouse of St. Clair County, H. Y. Webb, judge of the superior court of law and equity for the Alabama Territory, presided and the following jurors were sworn: John Ash, John Crump, Henry Bose, William Hill, James Martin, David Brown, John Dill, Benjamin Low, John Greenwood, Thomas Thrasher, John McCollum, and William Watson. Jesse Roberts was clerk, David Conner, sheriff and John Bush, deputy. In the first case tried Thomas A. Rogers was plaintiff's attorney and the suit was for false swearing. Polydon Naylor's name shows about this time as practicing in the court.<sup>2</sup>

A legislative act of 1819 established three election precincts in Saint Clair, Joel Chandler's, William Guthrey's and Peter Ragsdale's. It was probably in the election of 1819 that the county seat was moved to Lower Cataula, the present site of Ashville.<sup>3</sup>

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1. John Inzer Freeman, op. cit.
  2. Frank Willis Barnett, "St. Clair County Seat Has Striking History" Birmingham News, May 6, 1928.
  3. Ibid.

In 1822 brick structures were built and used until the present courthouse was erected in 1844. Littleton Yarbrough was the builder and Campbell Jefferson the bricklayer. Manoah Yarbrough, father of the builder, came to Ashville in 1822 from Roan County, North Carolina. Yarbrough kept a ledger while building the courthouse which is in the possession of his descendants in Ashville. It contains the number of slaves, bricks, etc., that were used. The building was completed in 1828.<sup>1</sup>

On December 12, 1822, the following act was passed incorporating the town of Ashville.

ASHVILLE

Pages 120-121 Acts of Alabama, 1822

AN ACT

To incorporate the Town of Ashville, in the county of Saint Clair.

Sec. 1. That the Town of Ashville in the county of St. Clair, Be, and the same is hereby established and incorporated, including thirty acres, agreeable with the plan of said town.

Sec. 2. Provides for the election of Councillors, on the first Monday in February of each year; said election to be managed by the Justice of Peace and two Householders; also provides for the election of a Town Intendent. The said Councillors shall be, and they are hereby, constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of the Intendent and Council of the town of Ashville, and full corporate powers granted to such body.

Sec. 3. That the said Intendent and Council shall possess the same powers, and be subject to the same restrictions as are provided by law for the government of the Intendent and Councilor of the town of Montgomery, passed at Huntsville, the third day of December 12, 1819.

Approved December 12, 1822.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Crow, Interview, op. cit.

2. Acts of Alabama, 1822. Pp. 120-121

In the years immediately following the incorporation of Ashville, things really began to boom. The town was fairly successful until the war between the states. There are many old settlers who played their role in the drama of this small town and it would be hard to pay tribute to all.

Among those living in the town before the Civil War, I shall list only a few. The first merchants were William Slean, James Rogan, Alemeth Byers, Moses Dean, Tilman Dean, John I. Thomason, Alfred Goode, Goodwin & Mitchell, etc. The physicians were Drs. Bothwell, Farrer, C. A. Crow, A. W. Nixon, Levi Lloyd, William H. Beason and others. Attorneys: Polydon Naylor, James Lewis, Oran M. Roberts, Rufus W. Cobb, Girard Hewitt, J. W. Inzer, and Andrew Pickens Earle. James Rogan had the first gin, Armstrong & Cox had a water mill, as did A. B. Vandegrift.<sup>1</sup>

Of the men listed above several became outstanding leaders in their field. Oran M. Roberts got his first education in the common schools of Ashville, and studied law there, where for a time he was admitted to the bar. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1836, one of the first graduates. Shortly after 1840 he moved to Texas where he began to make his home known. He became chief justice and in 1878, governor of the Lone Star State.

Ashville had another outstanding governor, this one twice a governor of Alabama, Rufus W. Cobb. He was educated at Ashville under Professors Wasson and Drury, and was graduated from

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1. Barnett. op. cit.

the University of Tennessee in 1850. He then read law in the office of John C. Thomasin, was admitted to the bar in 1845, and practiced until 1867. In addition to serving the state as governor, he also held many other official positions.

Polydon Naylor apparently never became very famous on the state level but he must have been one of Ashville's better lawyers. His signature rests on many papers in the county records as early as September, 1819, when Alabama was still a territory of the United States. One of these, as an example, is an order to the sheriff concerning a man taking corn out of a field. Naylor, as plaintiff's attorney, wrote a note of explanation on the back of his order, telling the cause of arrest of the defendant, to be brought before the Superior Court of Law and Equity on the second Monday in September.

If there is any reason for John Washington Inzer's receiving such a long and loud evation, I have yet to find it. Yet, every source of material on Ashville always lists Inzer as Ashville's outstanding product, as Ashville's "Grand Old Man." He moved to Ashville and opened a law office in 1856. He was several times probate judge. He represented Ashville in the constitutional convention in 1861. A Lieutenant-colonel in the Confederate Army, Inzer made a very good record. After the war he was elected to the constitutional conventions of 1875 and 1890. Later he served in the legislature of the state.

The home of Inzer still stands today, strong and firm, as the history of the people of Ashville stands. It was built for Major Moses Dean in 1851, and the bricks were burnt and laid by

Jefferson Campbell, the master brickmaker and layer mentioned earlier. The walls extend from ground to roof and even the dividing walls between the rooms are brick.<sup>1</sup>

Barnett states that "It was during the hell of reconstruction that Inzer stood like a lion against lawlessness and disorder and by his moral and physical courage brought bad men to their senses and rallied good men to help."<sup>2</sup> Even before the Civil War Inzer fought for his and his county's beliefs. He was one of thirty-nine at the secession convention to oppose secession.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the secession convention the town's first newspaper, The St. Clair Diamond, was established. Thomas J. Mangham was editor. It was printed only until 1861, when the paper was suspended and everybody on it entered the Confederate service. In 1863 The Ashville Vidette started up, but in 1864 it fell into the hands of General Rousseau, of the French army, who used the printing outfit for printing orders and blanks, and got out at least one number of a paper.<sup>4</sup> The Democratic Farmer was probably established during these turbulent times but there is no definite information. Also there is no information concerning The Southern Alliance, a populist paper at Ashville mentioned in a letter to The Southern Aegis from Bays D. Cather around 1902.

A paper which has been in the hands of the Cather family until recently is The Southern Aegis, established in 1873. It has been

1. General statements concerning Inzer
2. Barnett. op. cit.
3. David Heldt, "John Washington Inzer," Birmingham News. No date.
4. Barnett. op. cit.

bought by The Pell City News' owner and is printed today in Pell City. The building it used to be printed in is the same in which the Vidette was published. The paper is a typical Southern weekly.

In the issue of January 6, 1875, the Aegis carried a local advertisement of A. B. Vandergrift and quite a few Gadsden, Birmingham, and Chattanooga advertisers used its space. I should think the reason for the out-of-town advertisers is the fact that the circulation of Gadsden and Birmingham papers had not reached a good part of the people in places such as Ashville. Today there are literally no ads except for a few local advertisers. An issue of September 16, 1903, carried 19 ads. July 1, 1949 issue had only one ad, that of the Ashville Savings Bank.

Church notices in the January 6, 1875 Aegis showed the following ministers--Baptist, Jesse A. Celling; Methodist, P. E. Nichelson; Cumberland Presbyterian, Thomas McCluney. Ministers came to Ashville as early as 1820 and the denominations above got pretty good foothold at that time.

Perhaps the oldest church house in Ashville today was built around 1880. It was once the home of the Presbyterians but was purchased from them in 1918 by the Congregation of the Church of Christ. The congregation of the Church of Christ was established in 1913.

The First Methodist Church in Ashville was organized in the late 1820's. The Ashville Baptist building was at first used as a place of worship. In 1854 Alemeth Byers gave property for a church. It is on this same site that the present church stands.



The Baptists built a little log church in 1853. For many years it was the only church; all denominations used it. It stood on Cemetery Hill just outside of Ashville until 1845, when a new building was erected. This served the congregation until 1930 when the present building was erected.<sup>1</sup>

Just as the churches have played their part in Ashville through the years, so have the schools. However, in this field, there has been a scarcity of material. The schools existed, but as to dates of establishment, enrollment, etc., little is known. The schools for many years have been built on the same site as the present one. \*Mrs. Eugene Embry recalls that the Ashville Academy, which she attended, burned about 1909. It is probable that this is the same academy which Rufus W. Cobb attended, when the instructors were Wasson and Drury. The schools were set up soon after settlers arrived and William C. Griffin and John H. Caldwell were among the early teachers. The old school house which sat on the site of the present Baptist Church for years, finally passed from school to religious purposes and the school moved to the other side of the village. Ashville then had a large wooden building around the side of the hill where today stands the present schoolhouse, built in 1922.<sup>2</sup>

A phase of the educational development which is not known to the general public is the growth of St. Clair College.<sup>3</sup> The

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1. Mrs. Ab Crow, Ashville Church History, Southern Aegis July 1, 1949.

2. Barnett, op. cit.

3. An act of the legislature in 1896 incorporated the College.

\* Inaccurate reference to location and being destroyed by fire.

September 16, 1903 issue of the Southern Aegis announced the opening of St. Clair College, on Wednesday, September 16, with the Rev. L. M. Stone D D, President, and his daughter, Edna, instructor of music and elocution. The expenses were moderate in regard to present prices of that day--good board at eight dollars and a half, tuition from one dollar and a half. To the announcement James A. Embry, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, added: "The best of religious and moral influences prevail here. Ashville is noted for intelligence, social refinement, moral habits and hospitable homes. These are important for pupils away from home." It is unfortunate that nothing is known of the enrollment and the length of the life of St. Clair College.

Since there has been no industrial development it is hard to draw conclusions concerning the decline of the population, as possibly being affected by this lack of industrial development. The activities engaged in by many of Ashville's settlers have been related in regard to the first settlers.

In 1910 there were three doctors, two livery stables, one dentist, a heading and stave mill. The Ashville Savings Bank had acquired a capital of \$25,000.<sup>1</sup> Freeman in his article showed the need for a railroad. That need still exists today.

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1. Freeman, op. cit.

Barnett listed the following industries in Ashville in 1922: "The Ashville Cooperage Company, of which Sam High is the president, is a large concern doing a big business and employing a lot of labor. Mr. Amelia Cox, Mr. R. Abernathy and John Yarbrough have water mills. The following have sawmills: Henry Cash, George West, R. R. Hodges, J. H. Frazier, Alvin McEntyre, and L. R. Lonnigan. Sam High operates a gin.

"There are a number of progressive merchants and the new brick block makes a fine showing among the old-timers which have come down from before the Civil War, one attractive thing about the square being the old-time law offices.

There are two banks and each one housed in an up-to-date brick building. The Ashville Savings Bank is the older, it having been established in 1906, while the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank was organized in 1920. The Ashville Savings Bank has a capital of \$12,500 and the Farmers' and Merchants' a capital of \$15,000. Each bank has a deposit of about \$10,000."<sup>1</sup>

While the population of St. Clair has doubled since 1870, the town of Ashville has about one-third of the population today that it had in 1870. The following population figures show the growth of the county and the decline of Ashville:<sup>2</sup>

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1. Barnett, op. cit.
  2. Clipping File, op. cit.

St. Clair		Ashville	
1820	4,166	1870	922
1870	9,369	1888	200
1900	19,425	1905	362
		1910	278
		1916	650
		1920	349
		1930	369
		1940	385
		1950	494

Following the Civil War Ashville was getting to be a nice size, at least growing with the times. However, following the years of reconstruction the population dropped to practically nothing. In 1916 people had again settled in Ashville but by World War I's end they had again vanished. An increase of about 20 persons every ten years seems to be the recent trend in her population.

At the turn of the century Ashville had its first bit of national recognition, and one of the few really stirring moments in its history. This came through the bravery of St. Clair's sheriff in defying a mob, when people had really begun to respect law order. The sheriff, James L. North, had to risk his own life to save that of his prisoner's. A Negro, Jim Brown, had assaulted a young woman near Springville in May, 1901, and had fled to South Carolina. Sheriff North went to Spartanburg, identified the Negro, and returned with his prisoner to Alabama, where he placed the Negro in Jefferson County Jail for safe

keeping. On August, 1901, he was tried and sentenced to be hanged on September 20.

The feeling against Brown was intense and a great many people were in Ashville on the day of the trial. After sentence had been passed the crowd became aroused and riot occurred, the mob attempting to take the prisoner from the sheriff. Shooting followed and two men were shot, Walter and Arthur Blankenship. Walter died that night. After the shooting the Negro was quickly taken to Birmingham to remain until the day of execution.<sup>1</sup>

Among the papers of James L. North are letters from Governor Jelks assuring him that he is going to be protected and upheld in the stand he took in protecting his prisoner. He gave North full authority to carry out any plans for the execution which he felt necessary. One hundred men from the Birmingham Battery went to Ashville the morning of execution. A special train carried the prisoner and all the military guards to Ashville.

The execution of Jim Brown was the first in St. Clair County since 1878 when John Jackson, a Negro, was executed by Deputy Sheriff Abner Crow. Crow was in charge of the execution of Jim Brown as North stayed in Birmingham that day, not wanting to excite any ill feelings.

A warrant was issued for Sheriff North on account of the killing of Walter Blankenship on the day of the Brown trial. This remarkable criminal trial was over by October 16, 1901. The Dallas News on that day stated, "It was remarkable that Sheriff North is one of the first officers in all the South

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1. Mrs. J. L. North, personal interview, April 10, 1951.

who braved a mob's vengeance and went to the extent of firing upon men who were attempting to commit murder."1 The trial ended with the verdict of not guilty.

The New York Times on August 24, 1901, paid tribute to North: "Sheriff North of St. Clair, has done more for the good repute of his state than any other Alabamian we have heard of for some time."2 This typical praise given to the Sheriff of St. Clair County and thus putting Ashville in the news for a period of time.

Ashville again took the spotlight in 1923--but for a more grand and glorious occasion. On April 26, 1923, the socialites of Ashville combined three occasions into one--home-coming, memorial day, and their centennial. People came back to Alabama from all over the United States to take part in these festivities.

On this day a monument was unveiled in honor of the Confederate soldier. The inscription at the base of the life-like statue of a Confederate soldier reads:

C. S. A.  
1861-1865

To the honor of St. Clair County

Confederate Soldiers

Erected by their Descendants,

Through Ashville Chapter

U. D. C.

1923

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1. Papers of James L. North

2. Ibid

Ashville is one of the few Alabama towns more than one hundred years old and able to have a Centennial celebration. Of this fact, they were very proud. They were also proud to show the progress of the town in one hundred years. Most of this I believe was natural development and not a town's pushing to go forward. People in Ashville are still proud of the town, yet none of them attempt to help the town set any astounding record of progress. They just go along at a very average rate of progress. They are content with the typical small Southern town that Ashville is and always will be.

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Papers of James L. North, in the possession of Mrs. James L. North.

Papers of early official county business, in the possession of Mrs. Ab Crow.

#### PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Mrs. Ab Crow, April 7, 1951.

Mrs. Eugene Embry, April 9, 1951.

Mrs. James L. North, April 10, 1951.

This paper was written by Betty Hodges at Alabama College, Montevallo, Alabama, in an Alabama History Course--May, 1951.

# ST. CLAIR COURTHOUSE? WHICH ONE?

BY JACK HOPPER  
News staff writer

ASHVILLE-PELL CITY, Aug. 7—Back in the horse and buggy days, St. Clair County was divided by a chain of mountains, impassable during bad weather.

Thus, the county has two county seats and two courthouses — the original county seat at Ashville and one at Pell City.

Since that time in the early 1900's a "friendly argument" has been going on over which is the county seat. The old-timers in Ashville say, "We are the county seat, and Pell City's courthouse is secondary." Pell City residents claim, "There are two county seats, and everything is equal."

Take your pick. Anyway, the county has two courthouses with equal functions.

Actually, this county is the

only place in the state where an elected official can choose where to work. If a person elected lives nearer Ashville he works primarily out of the courthouse there. If he lives nearer Pell City, his office is in Pell City. Of course, all officials spend part of the time in both courthouses.

SEVERAL OTHER Alabama counties have two courthouses, but the secondary courthouse is known as a "mailbox" one, with all officials working out of the main county seat.

St. Clair County is different. The county is divided into two districts for courthouse business.

The Northern District includes the Ashville Courthouse; the Southern Division is at Pell City.

If a law suit occurs in the Northern District, all records are maintained and the case

is tried at Ashville. The same applies for the Southern Division at Pell City.

TO FURTHER complicate matters, when striking a jury for all cases, jurors are drawn from the entire county.

"It sounds complicated," said Circuit Clerk B. C. Banks, "but after getting accustomed to it, it is very simple."

Officials work out of both courthouses at one time or another.

Circuit Court is held at both courthouses, Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton holds Probate Court in Ashville on the first Monday of each month and in Pell City on the first Wednesday of each month. All the officials make frequent trips from one courthouse to the other.

Both do about the same amount of business.

THE ORIGINAL courthouse at Ashville was constructed in 1830, the present one being built in 1847. It was remodeled last year with an ultra-modern interior at a cost of \$270,000. The present courthouse at Pell City was built in 1955, the original one being built in 1902.

Ashville prides itself on th old records still being kept i the basement of the cour house. "We have marriag records dating back to th year 1818," said Banks. "It i a miracle that a fire didn't de stroy the wood building ii years past."

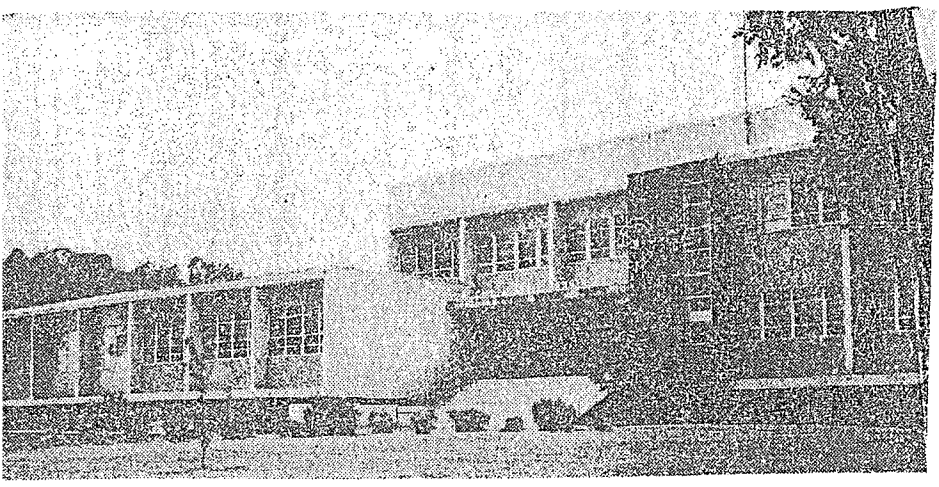
## Hearing called on plumbing

Sen. Larry Dumas of Jeffersonson has called a public hearing to discuss it before he took action on the Senate floor.

for 1 p.m. Monday in the Commission Chamber at the Jeffersonson County Courthouse on a Senate bill to set new regulations for the Plumbing Board of Inspection. Major provisions of the bill would increase travel expense of the plumbing inspector from the present \$2,200 annually to a maximum of \$4,800; entitle the board to hire legal counsel and to limit the master plumber certificate holder to a maximum of \$20,000 of business in the first six months, \$100,000 the second six months and unlimited thereafter.

The bill, introduced by Sen. John Tyson of Mobile, would effect all counties with populations of more than 150,000.

Dumas said he wanted to give persons who favored or opposed the bill an opportunity to dis-



**PELL CITY COURTHOUSE BUILT IN 1955, ON SITE OF ORIGINAL**  
 ... Claim to be an equal county seat is denied by Asheville



**COURTHOUSE BUILT AT ASHVILLE IN 1847, REMODELED LAST YEAR**  
 ... Records in basement date back to 1819

## EARLY COURTHOUSES OF ALABAMA PRIOR TO 1869

Edited by The National Society of the  
Colonial Dames of America in the State  
of Alabama

### St. Clair County

St. Clair County was one of fifteen counties created at the first Alabama Territorial session November 1818, at St. Stephens. The new county was named in honor of General Arthur St. Clair, an American Revolutionary War officer from Pennsylvania.

In the one hundred forty-six year history of the county, eight changes have been made in the courthouse. Prior to 1822 the first courts were held at Old Town, four miles south of Ashville, present county seat. It was a sturdy, well built log house.

Philip Coleman laid off a town in 1822 and named it St. Clairsville. He sold it to five county commissioners in 1823 (or 1822) when the name was changed to honor John Ashe, one of the first settlers, and second senator to the State Legislature.

John Ashe, his father-in-law, Thomas Newton, a Presbyterian minister, and their families were in a caravan going westward into the new territory when one of John Ashe's young daughters died and had to be buried at this point. They decided to go no further. John Ashe is buried at Liberty Presbyterian Church within sight of the house he built soon after he entered the land in 1819.

The second courthouse, first to be built in Ashville, was a temporary log building on the southeast corner of the present courthouse square, when a drug store now stands. The next, third, set of justice was also a log building, apparently the permanent structure planned by the five commissioners who bought the site, the present town square, from Philip Coleman.

The ledger of Littleton Yarbrough leaves an excellent, detailed account of the fourth courthouse, built in 1844-1845, on the town square in the center of the Town of Ashville. Mr. John Yarbrough who loaned the account book for this description lives in the ancestral home built by Littleton Yarbrough, his great grandfather in 1825, southeast of Ashville on the Greensport Road.

Mr. Yarbrough included other interesting records in his ledger such as a coroner's jury decision on the death of a male resident, found dead on the road side on a very cold January night, and a good "receipt" for a hot Tom and Jerry.

First entry on building of the courthouse states, "We commenced laying brick on the cort house 23 Oct. 1844." He lists names of ten men, the amount, and for what each was paid, i.e.: "Paid Willis Cox for lumber, cash \$110."

Also, "Paid Campbell Jefferson, 1844-1845, \$350.75 for laying of the brick." Mr. John Yarbrough says the bricks were handmade right on the courthouse square. To build corthouse in Ashville, which has 155,640 bricks, I am to pay Cambell Jefferson two dollars and 50 cents per thousand. Mr. Stanly, A. C., plasters the cort house for \$19. Settled in full June 4, 1845, L. Yarbrough."

The portion constructed with the 155,640 bricks in the two-story center square (see picture) with a bell tower and two large chimneys and a facade with a roof over a simple stoop. New additions made in 1886 was the occasion for the picture shown. At this time additions were a two-story wing at each end, depth of one room, which added four new rooms. The tall gentleman at the far right of the picture standing on the steps was James Alden Embry, circuit solicitor, at the time the picture was made.

Extensive changes have been made during the years of 1911, 1934, and 1964. As a result, the courthouse now has a handsome facade facing south with sixteen windows and two doors and an impressive portico. Across the wide veranda are four fluted, two-story, Doric columns, supporting a pediment in which there is a town clock. A second-story door opens onto a governor's balcony directly over the first floor double door in the center of the portico.

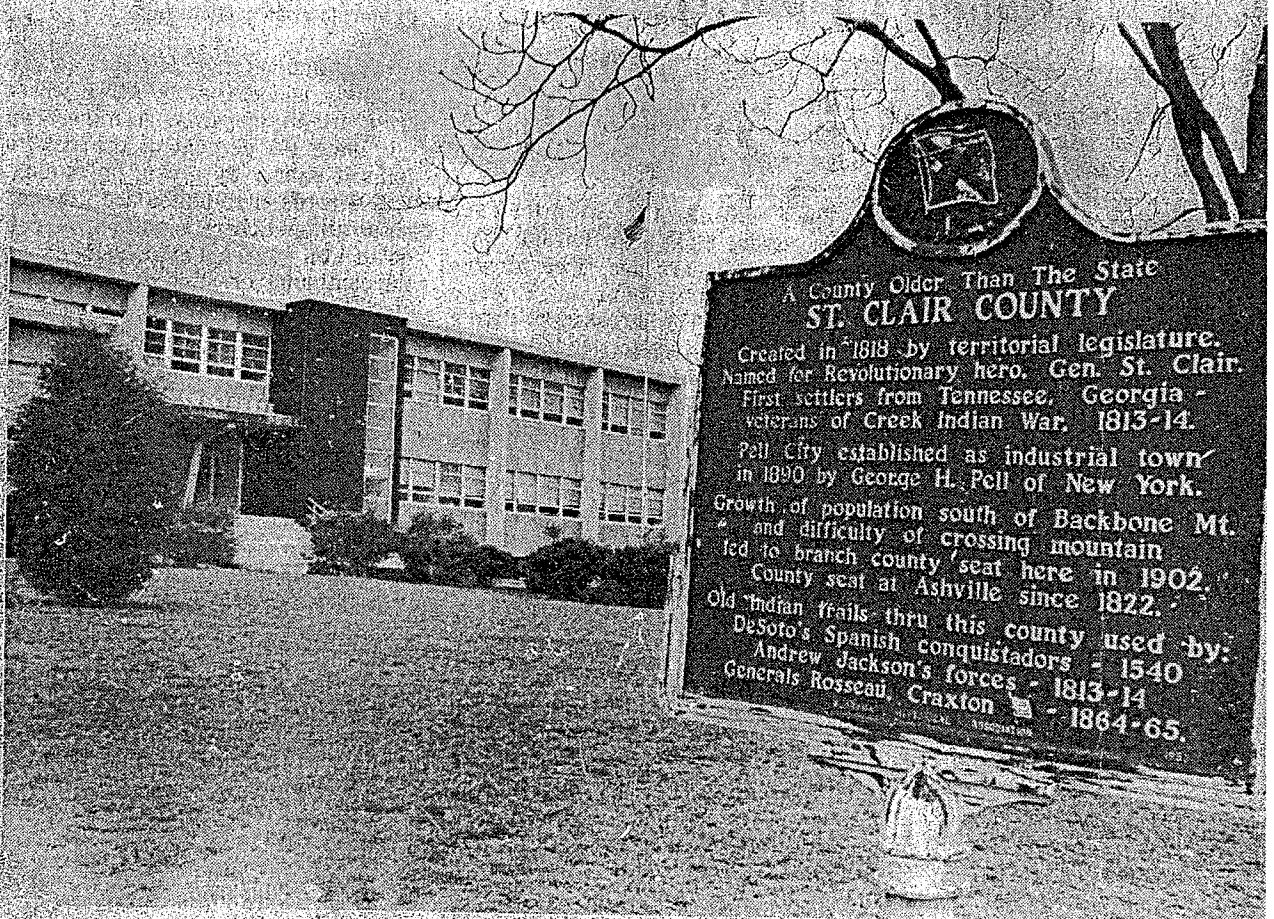
In "Marriage Book - 1818," the first license granted was to Joseph Hill and Sarah Davidson, December 30, 1818, the Security signed by John McColum.

The first deed and will are recorded in the same book, Book A-1/2-Misc., begins with Deed of Conveyance, Solomon Brigman to John Looney, on 10th day October, 1829. Testators, Oliver Looney and John Brigman. The will is the last will and testament of Solomon Dearman. An abstract follows: State of S. C., Darlington District "I Solomon Dearman I lend unto my beloved wife Mary 450 acres; freely give to them my 13 children," dated August 13, 1805. Witnessed by William Mayhan, William Johnson, Solomon Dearman. The will was presented in 1823 for probate by Richard Dearman, executor.

The last will and testament of Peggy Pathkiller, wife of Cherokee Chief Pathkiller, is recorded in Estate Record B, page 65, dated: Pathkiller Ferry on the Coosa River, Cherokee Nation, the 13th day of January, 1829: "I, Peggy Pathkiller of Turkey Town by the blessing of Providence being sound in health but now far advanced as it is ordained by the great will and Testament and dispose of my property in the following manner to my descendants, to wit. " To her five daughters, two grandsons, and one niece she bequeathed a total of thirteen negro slaves; her house, furniture and plantation to her youngest daughter, Janny Mariah, and her two children who lived in the same house with her. To this she made her mark, x, which was witnessed by John Ridge, sworn to before John H. Garrett, JCC, the 13th day of March, 1833. The will was recorded March 14, 1833. Chief Pathkiller is buried in the Garrett Cemetery, Centre, Alabama, but the burial place of Peggy is not recorded.

Men first to serve the county were Archibald Sloan, postmaster; the Reverend and James L. Lewis, pastor of the Baptist church in 1831; James Hardwick, state representative 1819; David Conner, senator and representative of his county at the first Alabama Convention and a signer of the Alabama Constitution August 2 1819. Five state superintendents of education came from St. Clair, one of whom was Leroy Franklin Box, and one governor, Rufus W. Cobb, both born in the county.

St. Clair has two courthouses, one in Ashville and one in Pell City. The latter is the southern county seat which was divided effectively in early days by Beaver Creek Mountains. The town was incorporated in 1890 by Pell City Iron & Land Company and named for the president, George H. Pell, of New York. Sumter Cogswell of Charleston, South Carolina, sold the land to the company in 1890 for \$50,000 and bought it back ten years later for \$5,000. He donated lands for churches, schools and public buildings; served his community for a number of terms as mayor.



The modern courthouse at Pell City was built in 1965. The courthouse was damaged and many of the stately old trees destroyed during the tornado of 1974. Federal disaster funds were used by the city to substantially renovate and beautify the area. (But Shropshire photo)

# Why Two St. Clair Courthouses

By MARK BOLTON

Eighty years ago it was attributed to rough terrain, but today no one seems sure why St. Clair County maintains two courthouses.

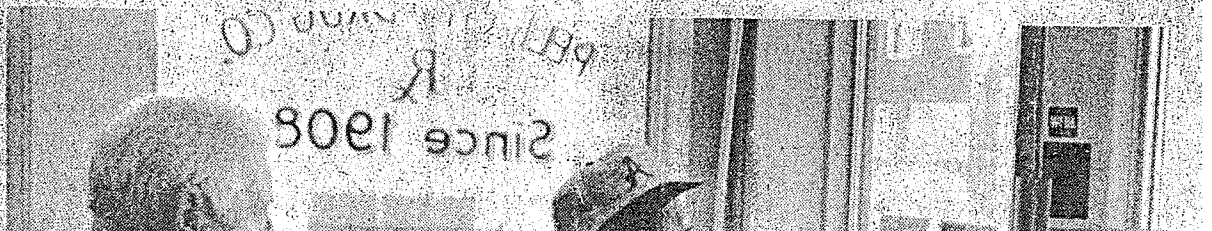
A constitutional amendment by the Alabama Legislature in 1901 called for a branch courthouse to be established

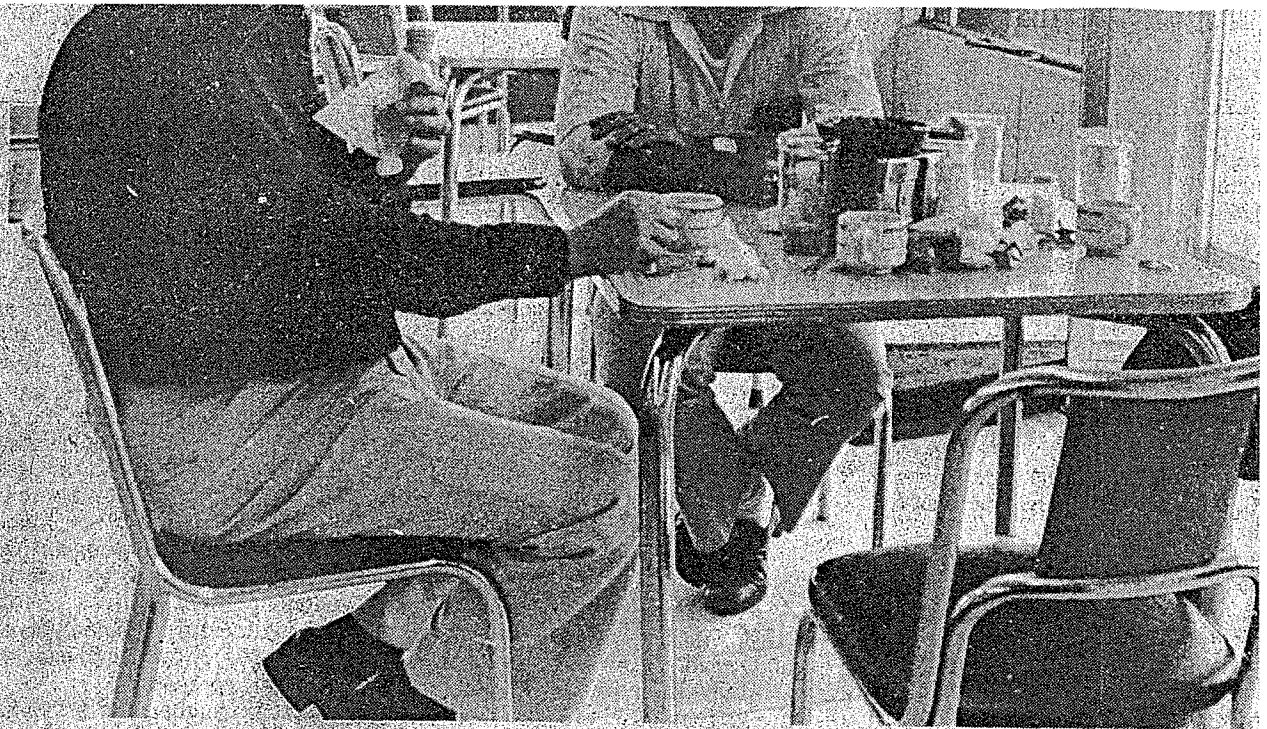
in the county. Pell City won the election, but the amendment later was struck down. The constitution was amended again two years later and the courthouse reopened.

Backbone Mountain, a geological oddity that effectively cuts the county in half, caused hardships to those

having to do business at the courthouse. Courthouse records show many people scheduled for court during the winter months were unable to traverse the mountain.

Seaboard Railroad Line crosses Backbone Mountain, going over two bridges and through a tunnel in the





Area residents gather at the Pell City corner drug store daily. The drugstore has weathered tornadoes

and local feuds since its founding in 1908 to remain a favorite spot for city and county officials, businessmen and

retirees in the city. In Ashville, where the local residents have to spend a day in town, they enjoy visiting w

## Ashville, Pell City Share

By MARK BOLTON

Pell City and Ashville share not only the distinction of both being county seats, but an odd history as well.

Mattie Lou Teague Crow has recorded that history with her book, "The History of St. Clair County," a peek into the county's past.

The county was named after Gen. Arthur St. Clair, one of the most unpopular fighting figures in the history of America. St. Clair, former governor of the Northwest Territory, was chosen by George Washington to flush hostile Indians from the Wabash Valley.

With 1800 men, St. Clair bumbled into an Indian ambush and half of his men were killed or wounded.

Belson's "History of the United States" recounted the incident. "This was one of the most disastrous and crushing defeats recorded in Indian warfare. The people of the country were shocked at the news. St. Clair was severely censured; and he never rose again in the public estimation."

Historians aren't sure why the county was named after St. Clair. The best guess seems that St. Clair was best remembered in this area for his valiant fighting in the American Revolution.

Pell City, listed as the only town in the county able to keep up with the growth of the rest of the state, has suffered many setbacks in its history.

In 1887 the East and West, the Talladega and Coosa, and the Georgia Pacific railroads built a joint depot in Pell City. The depot was considered to be of great importance in the development of the city, but also was to provide two heartbreaks for the residents.

In 1894 a train left Talladega for Pell City and tumbled off the 600-foot long bridge at Stenley. Two persons were killed, but quick action by railroad workers saved others from death. Vernon Dalhart recorded a ballad about the wreck, and residents remember it being sold in Talladega stores for 25 cents each.

Sumter Cogswell purchased Pell City for \$3,000 several years after the Panic of 1883. When Cogswell arrived in Pell City, residents were amazed at his buggy with fringe on it.

A constitutional convention in 1901 called for the establishment of a branch seat of county government. An election was held and Pell City won the courthouse by a majority of 600 votes over Eden, Riverside and Coal City.

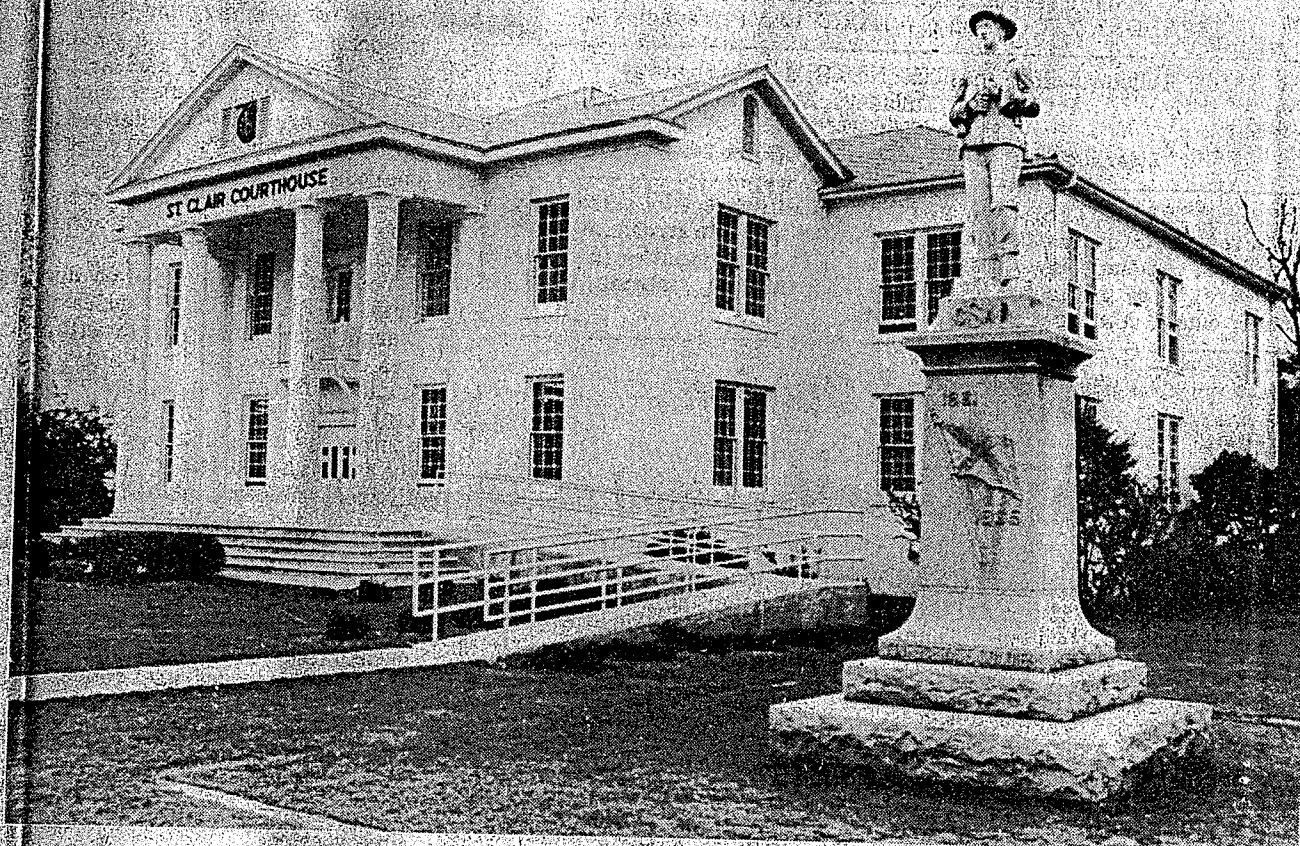
One year later the railroad brought another disaster to the city. Owners of the Southern Line decided to drill a tunnel through Backbone Mountain, a geological freak that divides the county in half.

Explosives were stored at the depot in the heart of town, and a fire broke out at the depot in the summer. Volunteer firemen unaware of the explosives, rushed to the scene. When the fire reached the explosives, three persons were killed in the resulting blast, the Cornett Hotel was wrecked, scores were injured and several houses caught fire. Witnesses said the hole where the depot was would have been large enough to put the courthouse in.

Three years later, the state legislature abolished the Pell City courthouse and the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the decision. Residents were enraged and elected John Moore of Pell City and Ed Hamner of Attala to the legislature with a strong show of support. The pair reamended the state constitution and the courthouse was reopened two years later.

Ashville has recorded an equally interesting history of their town. Ashville Academy, built in the

## section C



The heart of the Ashville courthouse was built in 1844 and still stands today, although it has undergone many renovations and additions. The

monument was erected to honor soldiers from the county who served in the Civil War. During the early years

the courthouse square served as a "village green" for residents. (Butch Shropshire photo)

# ses? No One Really Knows

process. The train tracks appear to make six 90 degree turns in two miles, when viewed on a map.

"I don't think people in either half of the county will be willing to give up their courthouses," St. Clair County Commissioner Paul Manning said. "It's convenient, and I don't think

you'll see the system changed for a long time."

St. Clair County is, in reality, two counties within one. All aspects of county projects are divided into a Northern and a Southern district. Local historians always are quick to point out the county was formed before Alabama became a state. Arrests in each division are tried in the division, no exceptions.

Residents obtain business licenses, drivers licenses, car tags, and marriage certificates in the division in which they reside. In addition, each segment of county government maintains two offices, with the exception of the county commissioners.

the county to grant raises to the heads of both offices, as well as the county coroner. Probate Judge Wallace Wyatt recently expressed hope that the raise would be granted because of the extreme workload on the tax assessor and collector.

Of the five additional employees working for the county, most have an income of \$511 a month. The county pays 12 percent retirement, six percent Social Security and a maximum of \$120 a month for health insurance.

A population and industrial boom in Pell City has boosted local economy, but generates problems for the county. Many fund allocations are allotted on the basis of population, but it has been





their neighbors in the Rexall drugstore there. (Butch Shropshire photo)

county lists maintenance costs on the two courthouses at \$33,000, which includes repairs, utilities, janitorial maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. County Clerk Sue Wilson said repairs at the aging Ashville courthouse, as well as the one at Pell City, have been cheaper than usual.

The Ashville courthouse was built in 1844, although many additions and renovations have taken place.

Mrs. Wilson said utility bills generally are higher at the larger Pell City courthouse.

St. Clair County is one of only two counties in Alabama that maintain two jails. There are only two jailers for the county, one of whom lives full time at the Pell City jail. Both jails remain on the brink of overcrowding constantly, according to jail studies conducted by the county.

Pell City lists 22 employees in that courthouse and 20 in the Ashville courthouse. Of these 42 employees only five theoretically could be released under the current workload, according to county officials.

The tax assessor and the tax collector have five employees in each office. There is a bill generating support in

creased amount of traffic on roads throughout the county, but no increase in funds to maintain the roads.

Many people questioned at the courthouses agreed it would be cheaper to close one of the courthouses, so long as the one in their district isn't closed.

Regardless of whatever future decisions are made regarding the two courthouses residents can still visit at the Rexall Drug Store.

There are drugstores across the street from both court houses, and both are meeting places for persons from all walks of life.

Richard Eagleton of Ragland talked about the subject while waiting in line to renew his driver's license at the Ashville courthouse.

"With all the complaining people are doing about the government wasting money, well, this is just a good example."

But would he mind driving 28 miles to Pell City when he had business at the courthouse?

"Yeah," Eagleton said with a laugh, "What I meant was it would be OK with me for them to close the other courthouse."

## County Seat, Odd History

1800s, boasts Oran Roberts, later elected to the governorship of Texas, as a graduate. Rufus Cobb also graduated there, and later went on to become governor of Alabama. Dr. William Dempsey Partlow, former superintendent of Bryce Hospital, also attended the Academy.

In 1845 steamboats began traveling from Rome, Ga., to Greensport in St. Clair County, providing many jobs in the area. At the same time a Dr. Farrar opened the first drugstore in Ashville, selling, "drugs and sundries and good corn whiskey."

Ashville Savings Bank was chartered in 1906 and is one of only a few banks in the U.S. that never has closed its doors to the public.

In 1889, a dynamo was constructed and electric lights came to Ashville, although many people refused the service because they were scared of the gadget. The lights were turned off for three minutes at 8 p.m. each day during WWI.

Ashville drew national attention during 1901 when a riot broke out during court proceedings against a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. Jim Brown was found guilty and sentenced to be

hanged. When the sentence was read, chaos broke out and Sheriff James North fired several shots.

Deputy Walter Crow jumped out of the rear window of the courtroom with the prisoner and ran to a line of horse-drawn buggies parked on the street. Crow flagged a freight train and took the prisoner to the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham.

When Brown was returned to Ashville to be hanged, he was brought on a special train, attended by two special deputies and 100 members of the Birmingham Military Battery. Brown was the last person to be hung in Ashville.

Although acquitted of the charge, North later was arrested and charged with murder because he shot and killed Walter Blakenship during the riot.

Both The New York Times and The Dallas News reported on the trial.

The marker on Blakenship's grave read, "Walter Blakenship, killed by Jim North on Aug. 22, 1901, while protecting the womanhood of St. Clair County."

An Indian known only as Tawasse was hanged on the Ashville Square in 1829, without benefit of a trial. Tawasse had stayed after

many other Indians fled the area, and was said to be pilfering from farmers. A Mr. Jones caught the Indian in the act and bullwhipped him.

The Indian later crept up on Mrs. Jones and knocked her unconscious as she washed clothes. Tawasse was captured, made to stand in the back of a wagon and fitted with a noose. The horses were shooed and Tawasse hung there until he died.

The first recorded instance of widespread religious fervor in Ashville came soon after the stars fell on Alabama.

During those years a fancy resort was maintained at St. Clair Springs, complete with casino and dance pavillion. Late on evening, as the band was playing "Good Night, Ladies" for the third time, hoping the revelers would leave, the sky lit up and thousands of shooting stars zigzagged across it. Many of the dancers fell to the ground and began to pray. One man was heard to say, "The end is here!"

The result of the nocturnal fireworks show? No more dances at the pavillion and a rising attendance at churches throughout the area.



# Street Map of ASHVILLE, Ala.

PREPARED FOR THE TOWN OF  
ASHVILLE, ST. CLAIR COUNTY.  
BY KURT LANG, CARTOGRAPHER



50c

## ASHVILLE, ALABAMA

### County Seat of St. Clair County, Alabama

At the second session of the Alabama Territorial Legislature, at St. Stephens, on November 20, 1818, the county of St. Clair was created. The first court for the county was held in a trading post belonging to Alexander Brown, located near the Creek Indian town of Littafatchee. A year later, when Alabama became a state, Governor William Wyatt Bibb appointed a Board of Commissioners composed of five men to select a permanent site for the seat of justice for the young county. These commissioners, with John Ash as the chairman, purchased thirty acres of land located in the center of the county—which at that time extended almost to the Tennessee River to the north. On these thirty acres the town of Ashville was literally carved out of the wilderness, and in 1820 the first court was held in a log building with curious Indians looking in at the windows.

The town, incorporated in 1822, was named for John Ash who, in addition to being chairman of the Board of Commissioners, was St. Clair County's first elected county judge. He also served as a member of the state legislature for three terms. Today the county has two county seats: Ashville and Pell City.

Ashville was built around court square where stands the old brick courthouse which was erected in 1845 and which is in use today. One of the oldest court houses in the state, it is kept in excellent repair and remains a building of historic beauty.

**GOVERNMENT** — A Mayor and Councilman form of city government works well for Ashville. During the current year (1973) the greatest annexation in the history of the town has taken place. By extending the city limits the population count has increased from 986 to 1160. The Council recently established a town library which occupies the renovated building once Ashville's town hall. The 4,000 book collection, supervised by qualified librarians, is a branch of the St. Clair County Public Library with headquarters in Pell City. The Council is at present in the process of establishing a four-acre town park which should be available to the public by 1974. It will

be under the supervision of the Park and Recreation Board. Ashville's police force has recently been increased to give the town full-time police protection.

**SCHOOLS** — Ashville Academy was established in 1831 by the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches. It lives today as Ashville High School. The modern building, erected in 1965, houses 340 students with a faculty of sixteen. The school is state accredited. The junior high school building, erected in 1963, has an enrollment of 240 students and a teaching force of nine.

Adjacent to the high school campus is the elementary school building which accommodates 390 children and has seventeen teachers. All three schools have adequate laboratory and library facilities and outstanding physical education departments. The two year old band has repeatedly won top awards at band meets throughout the state.

The John Pope Eden Vocational Center, established in early 1973, has recently occupied a beautiful modern building. This training center serves all five of the county's high schools. Students are bussed from their respective schools for classes here throughout the day. The eleven member faculty gives instruction in horticulture, auto mechanics, body and fender work, welding, building trades, business courses, clothing production, and cosmetology. The new building is well equipped.

**CHURCHES** — There are six churches within Ashville city limits. The two oldest are First Baptist and United Methodist.

**HOUSING** — Rental housing is available to a limited degree. Many new brick homes have recently been constructed within and adjacent to the town. Families who work in Gadsden, Birmingham, and other nearby cities, live here. The short drive into the city is a small price to pay for good country living.

**BANKS** — Ashville has two banks: Farmers and Merchants which was established in 1920, and Ashville Savings which received its charter in 1906.

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UTILITIES — The Water and Gas Board supervises an adequate supply of water and an unlimited supply of natural gas. Alabama Power Company maintains an office in Ashville with three full-time employees. Leeds Telephone Company services the area with excellent telephone accommodations.

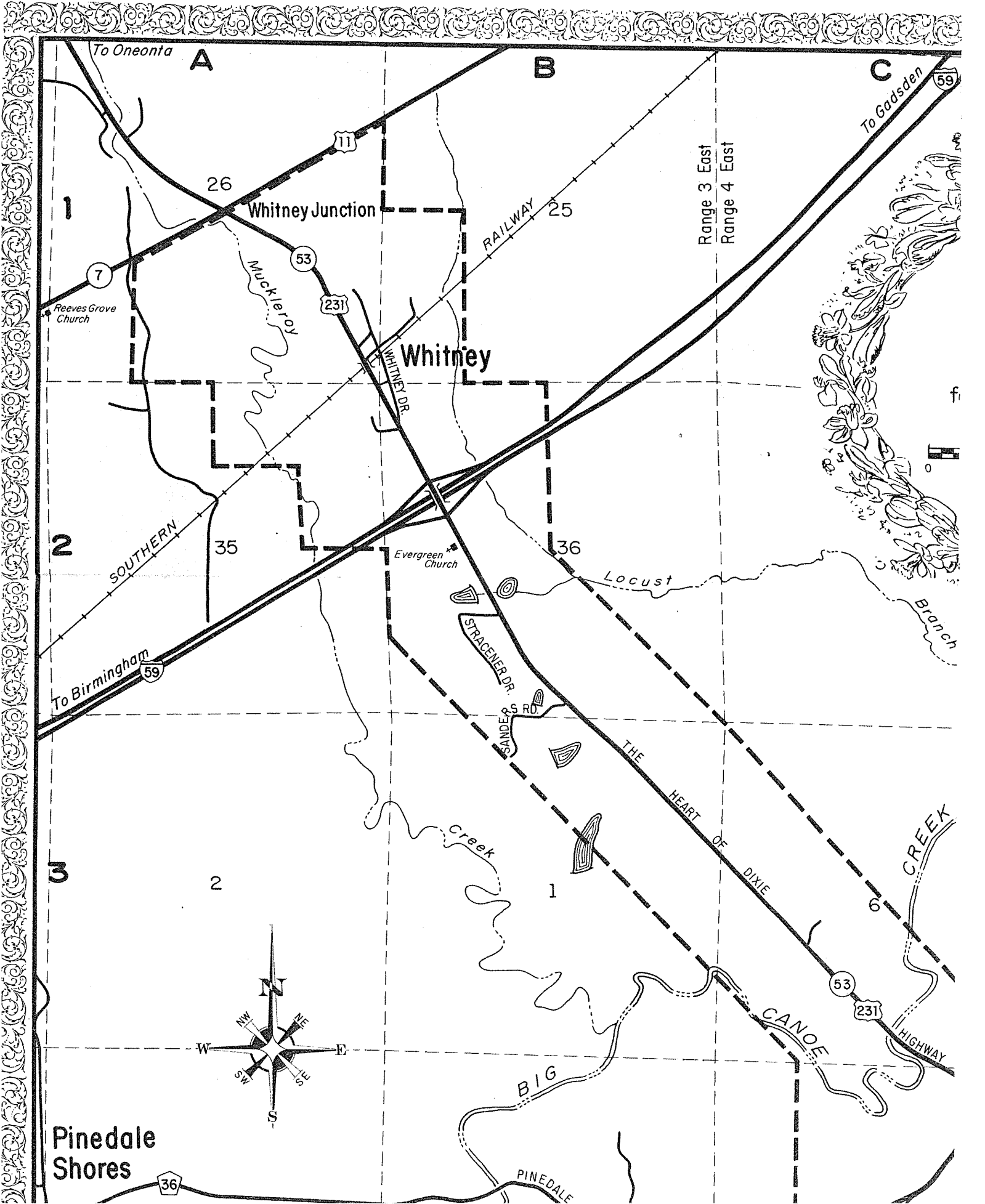
INDUSTRIES — Although blessed with the attributes essential to industry, Ashville has never been an industrial town. Since 1958, Vulcan Athletic Service, Ind., has been located here. The twelve employees manufacture and recondition all types of football equipment. The two busy seasons are after spring training and directly following the football season.

Early in 1973, a plant of Liberty Trousers, Inc., was located at Ashville. Forty-two persons are employed here, and they produce a total of 1,000 trousers—known as Scene Jeans—per day. In a year's time the plant expects to reach its potentiality of 24,000 trousers per day.

Ashville is well equipped with natural sources and an ample labor force for any number of industries such as the two mentioned.

LIFE IN GENERAL — Ashville citizens are served by good grocery stores, vegetable markets, filling stations and garages, a clothing store, a drug store, and a dry cleaning establishment. St. Clair County Farmers' Co-op has a store here which is busy at all seasons. The Wallace Stock Yards service the cattlemen of the area with an auction each Monday. There is one real estate office, and the town has three lawyers.

At intervals Ashville opens its many beautiful pre-Civil War homes to visitors. These occasions bring hundreds of people. This unique town—a combination of things are are ultra-modern and those of historical significance—welcomes you to its friendly, neighborly atmosphere.



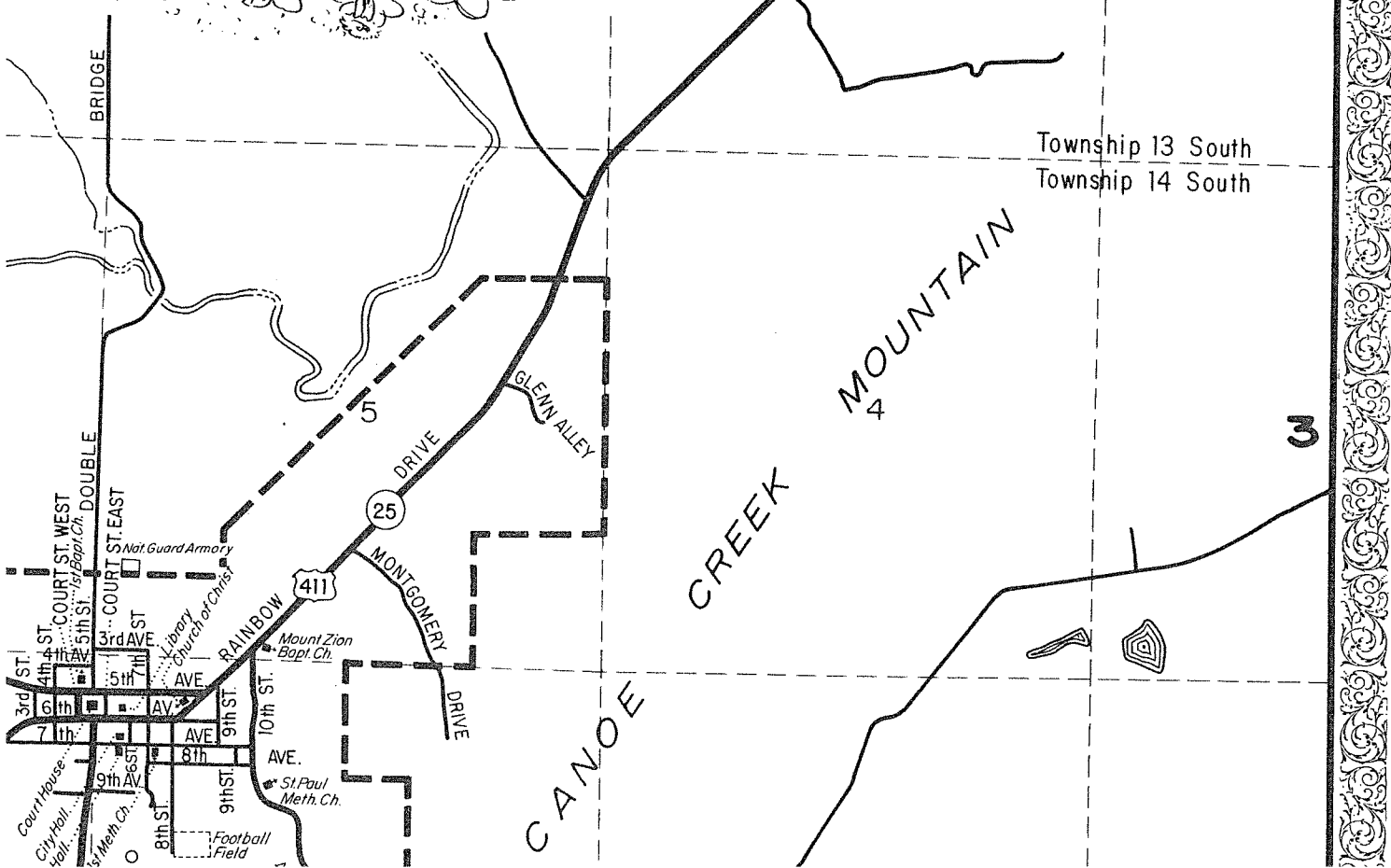
# MAP OF ASHVILLE, ALABAMA

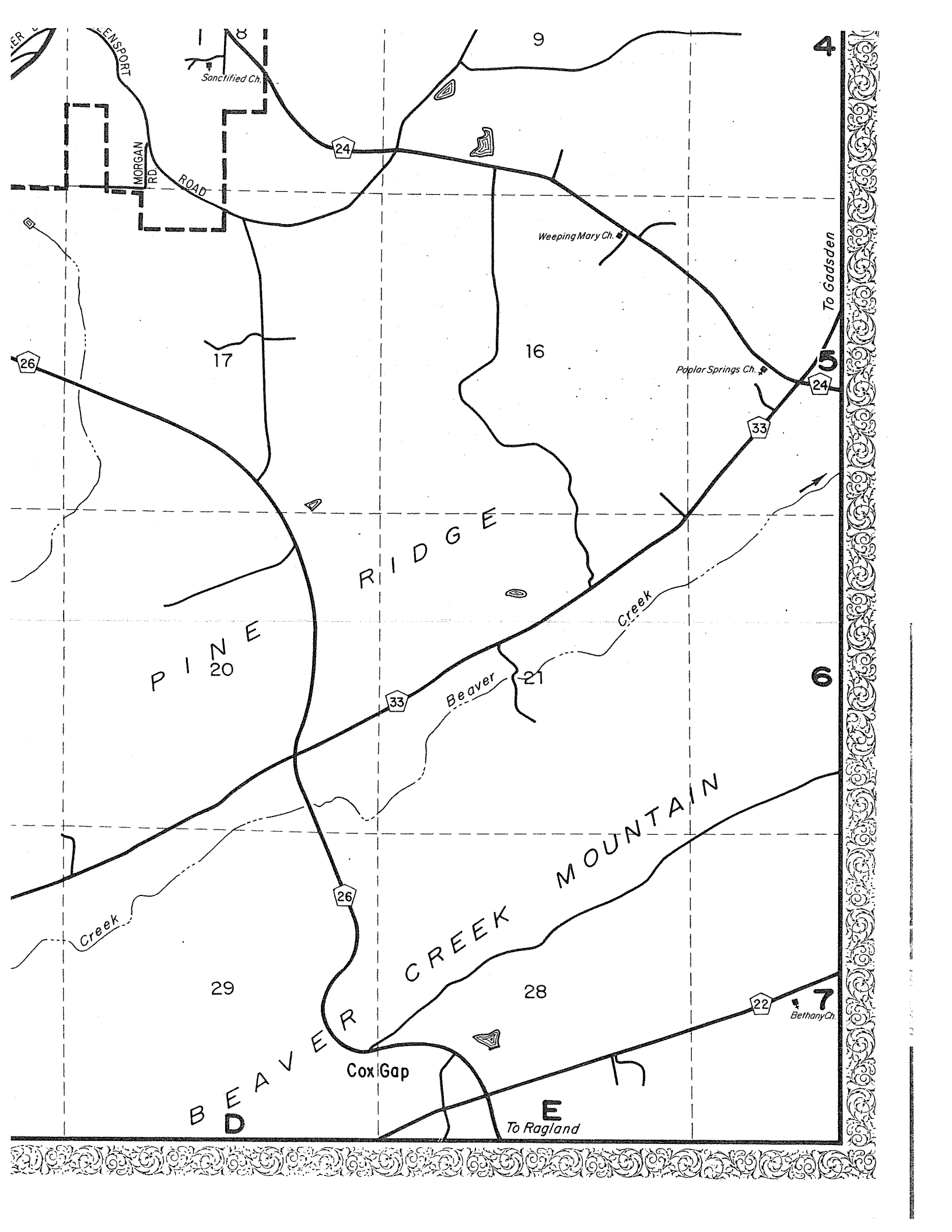
Designed by Kurt Lang, Cartographer  
for the Town of Ashville, St. Clair County.

SCALE IN FEET

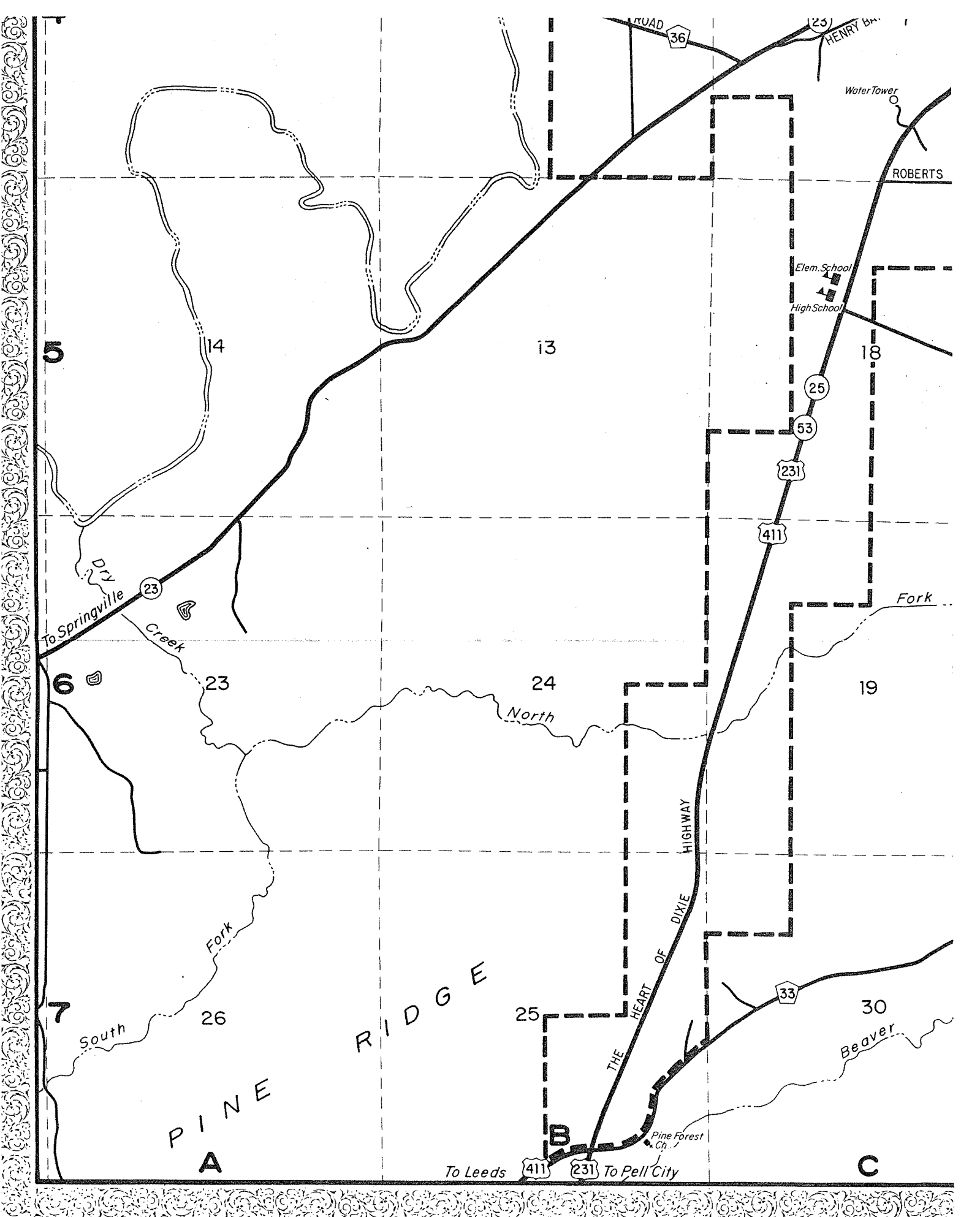


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## Alabama

# Ashville will

BY JOY WILLIAMS  
News staff writer

Memorial Day in ASHVILLE will have a special meaning this year. As its contribution to Alabama's Sesquicentennial, Ashville will dedicate a small memorial chapel. The chapel is in the center of an old cemetery and near the site of Ashville's first church, known as Mt. Pleasant Meeting House. The church was used jointly by Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians and was also the home of the town's first school, Ashville Academy, which was chartered in 1831.

For a number of years the Cemetery association has been at work on the project of a suitable memorial and this year has completed the chapel. It will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 1, with F. W. Helmbold, Samford University librarian and curator for the Alabama Baptist

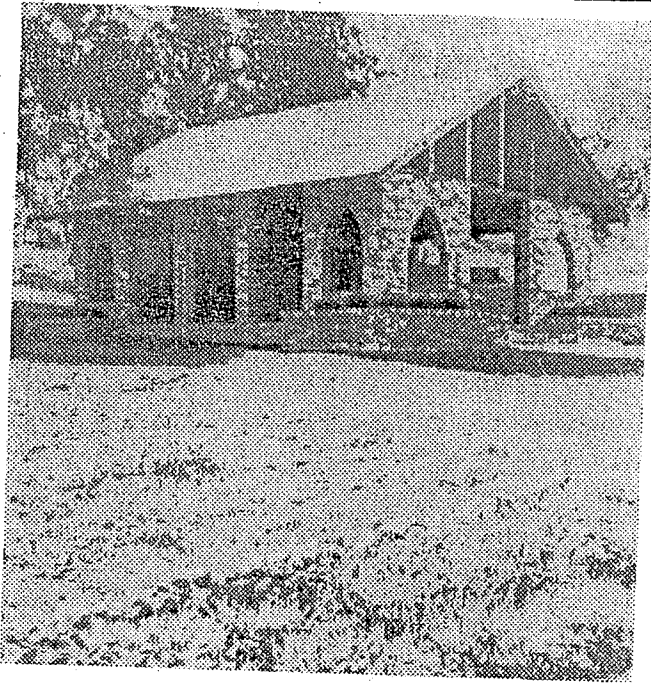
Historical Association, as the speaker.

Ashville's celebration of Memorial Day the first Sunday in June is traditional. It is the day when former residents return to meet old friends, remember the dead and relive old times.

Much older than the nearest cities, GADSDEN and BIRMINGHAM, the village of Ashville was settled a century and a half ago.

## Party Line

# dedicate chapel



ASHVILLE MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
... Dedication Sunday

*of Clair News - Aegis May 29, 1969*

SESQUI OBSERVANCE AT ASHVILLE —

# Memorial Chapel To Be Dedicated Sunday

(Ed. Note: The following account of Ashville's Memorial Day, this year being held as a part of the Alabama Sesquicentennial celebration, was written for the News-Aegis by Mrs. Abner Crow).

Ashville is one Alabama town that still celebrates Memorial Day, the first Sunday in June. This little village is much older than the nearest cities, Gadsden and Birmingham. A century and a half ago white people began to settle at this place and, although it has remained static as to population, it has sent out to these cities and others throughout our land men and women who have become prominent and distinguished in the life of our country.

To many of these people Ashville remains "home," and people need to come home now and then. Soon after the Civil War Ashville began keeping the first Sunday in June as Memorial Day.

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This building was also the home of the town's first school, Ashville Academy, which was chartered in 1831.

FOR A NUMBER of years the Cemetery Association has been at work on the project of a suitable memorial and this year finds the chapel completed. It will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 1, with F. W. Helmbold, Samford University Librarian and Curator the Alabama Baptist Historical Association as the speaker.

Small, graceful, carefully constructed, the chapel stands with its foundation deep in Ashville history; a symbol of the kind of peace and harmony God intended his children to enjoy. This small open-air building is a memorial to a Godly heritage and to the eternal love that it represents.

The dedication of this chapel represents Ashville's contribution to the State's Sesquicentennial celebration. All former citizens and others who wish to be free for a brief moment of the knowledge of the violence and hatred rampant in our world today are welcome to attend the dedication ceremony.

There have been brief periods when it failed to do this but always the day was re-established as one date on which to come home, meet old friends, remember the dead, and rejoice in the living — and all these human threads are woven together to make Memorial Day.

This year Memorial Day will be a bit different from those of the past. This year a small Memorial Chapel is to be dedicated. The chapel is in the center of the old, old cemetery and very near the site of Ashville's first church, known as Mt. Pleasant Meeting House and used jointly by Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians.

# Ashville Chamber of Commerce

## When businesses get together

By **KIM CRAFT**  
**News-Aegis Reporter**

ASHVILLE—When businesses get together in hopes of doing something for a town, things happen. At least that was the case in 1987 when the Ashville Chamber of Commerce was formed.

Businesses wanted to do something for the community as an organized group, said chamber Executive Vice President Vickey Massey.

Each year, the chamber organizes annual events for the community. In the eyes of chamber members, the biggest event is Reunion on the

Square, and it's just around the corner.

Chamber president Macy Green said the reunion gives the chamber an opportunity to draw people to Ashville from many different places. In its fourth year of organization, Reunion on the Square is slated for the third Saturday in May.

But before the celebration begins, chamber members must organize for its first-ever Easter egg hunt on the courthouse square. Massey said the hunt is something new and different for the area.

"There's nothing here for children to do," Green said. "There's no place for them to go for

recreation other than the ball field. We're doing it to try to give them a little something to do other than just going to school and going home."

It seems before one event is over, it's time to plan for another, Massey said. The three largest events include Reunion on the Square, Halloween in Ashville and Christmas in Ashville. "When you give kids something to do, it keeps them out of trouble," Massey said, adding that the events are for adults too.

During the day-long festivities of the reunion, participants can enjoy barbecue and other tasty items from vendors while strolling around the

# er, what happens is FUN

square viewing the creativity of arts and crafts exhibitors.

Near nightfall, the band Foxfire will take to the stage in the middle of the road for the traditional street dance. The local band has performed during the last three reunions.

For the Halloween extravaganza, merchants throughout town set up booths outside their businesses and adorn themselves in traditional Halloween attire. A costume contest in which winners receive savings bonds is the highlight of the afternoon.

"Parents bring their kids and don't have to worry about where the candy comes from," Massey said,

adding that the merchants have as much fun as the children.

The Halloween festivities are free of charge, Massey said, distinguishing the event from traditional Halloween carnivals.

Similarly, the Christmas event is free of charge. For Christmas in Ashville, attention focuses on float decorations for the parade. Until 1991, prizes were awarded for the best decorated business and house. However, this year, trophies were given for the best floats.

Besides working on updating the city map and sponsoring events, the chamber sponsors area sports teams and community groups.

"We give to everything," Massey

said of the chamber. "If it's a local group we try to help them out anyway we can."

According to Massey, volunteerism is the key to the Ashville Chamber of Commerce. "The community supports us and we want to help them because all our businesses are based on the community," she stressed. "It's just giving a little back to the community."

The chamber strives for citizen participation. "We like to get all the community out in Ashville," Massey noted. "Anytime we get them there, they realize there are businesses in Ashville and that they can shop locally."

## PLENTY OF IT, TOO

# Ashville's industry lure: Spring water

BY FRANK SIKORA  
News staff writer

Every morning, from 5 to 6:15 a.m. or so, a convoy of vehicles leaves this St. Clair county town and scatters in all directions.

They're the people who work in Gadsden, Birmingham and Anniston. They have to leave early so they can get to work on time. They have to leave, period, because there are no jobs here to speak of.

It makes you look at a statistic. There are about 1,000 people here, and last month there were 1,000 books checked out of the library.

"We're too tired to do anything else," one man joshed, "except read a book."

THAT MAY BE overdoing the point a bit, but the plain truth is, the people of Ashville are tired of their ancient image of being a retirement town and nothing else.

It's a feeling that generates in the young people and sends tremors to the over-30 set.

Ashville wants to get up and start moving.

Last year city leaders began looking at the possibility of luring an industry into the town. They're doing a lot of talking, but so far, nothing definite has come of it.

BUT JUST AS important, they've started paving the way just in case an industry would decide to set up.

The town's water supply has been one of the main things against it. Quite often, especially during the summer, the supply would grow short.

Their own spring-fed lake had a muddy bottom, and the lake, as such, was never used. Instead the pumping station got the water directly from the three springs.

So Mayor Joe Adkins led a move to scrape up \$18,000. With it, the city filled in the lake with rock and poured on some clay.

THE SPRINGS WERE then channeled to let the water go down under the clay, and flow amidst the rocks. In effect, they made a big spring out of the three smaller ones.

A huge pipe was placed to run out into the center of the buried lake, bringing the water to the pumping station.

"It increased our water capability by four times," Glenn Bowlin, who heads the water and gas boards, said. "It's pure spring water. We don't even need a filtering plant."

NOW IN THE WORKS is a drive to get a \$100,000 water program going, which would provide new pumping facilities.

There's not only enough for Ashville, but also for the nearby community of Pinedale Shores. And there would be enough for a new firm going into operation.

Right now the only industry in the town is VASCO, a firm which produces and repairs football equipment. They also handle some government contracts. They employ six people.

The new combination from half a region library is a rather unique set-up. The woman working in the city hall office also doubles as a librarian.

Mrs. Margaret Newton, for instance, the assistant city clerk, not only makes up water bills, but she also prepares police reports, hears complaints about gas bills, and checks out library books.

"IT KEEPS HER and the full time clerk Pauline Frazier, efficient . . . and busy.

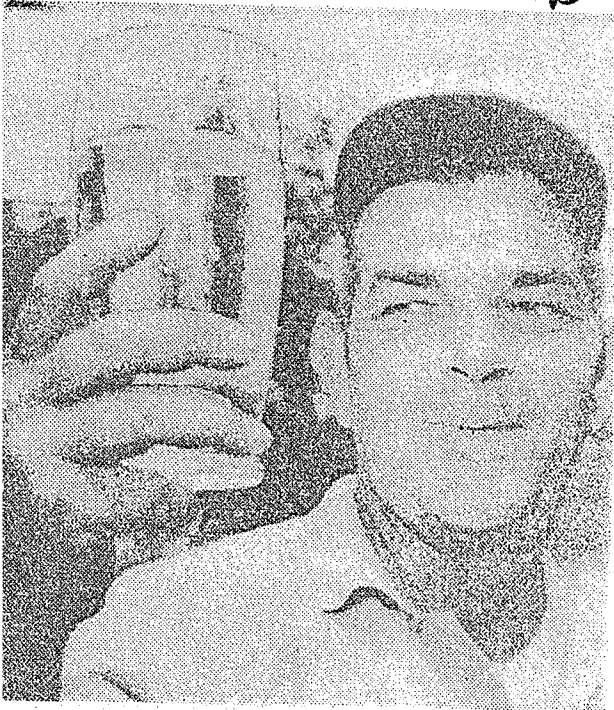
There's one area in which Ashville has over other places her size. The town has a doctor, a retired Navy one.

Dr. T. Q. Harbour, like many others in the town, came here to retire. But there was too much to do, and as a doctor, he couldn't sit back while 1,000 people, if they needed medical attention, drove to Gadsden or Birmingham.

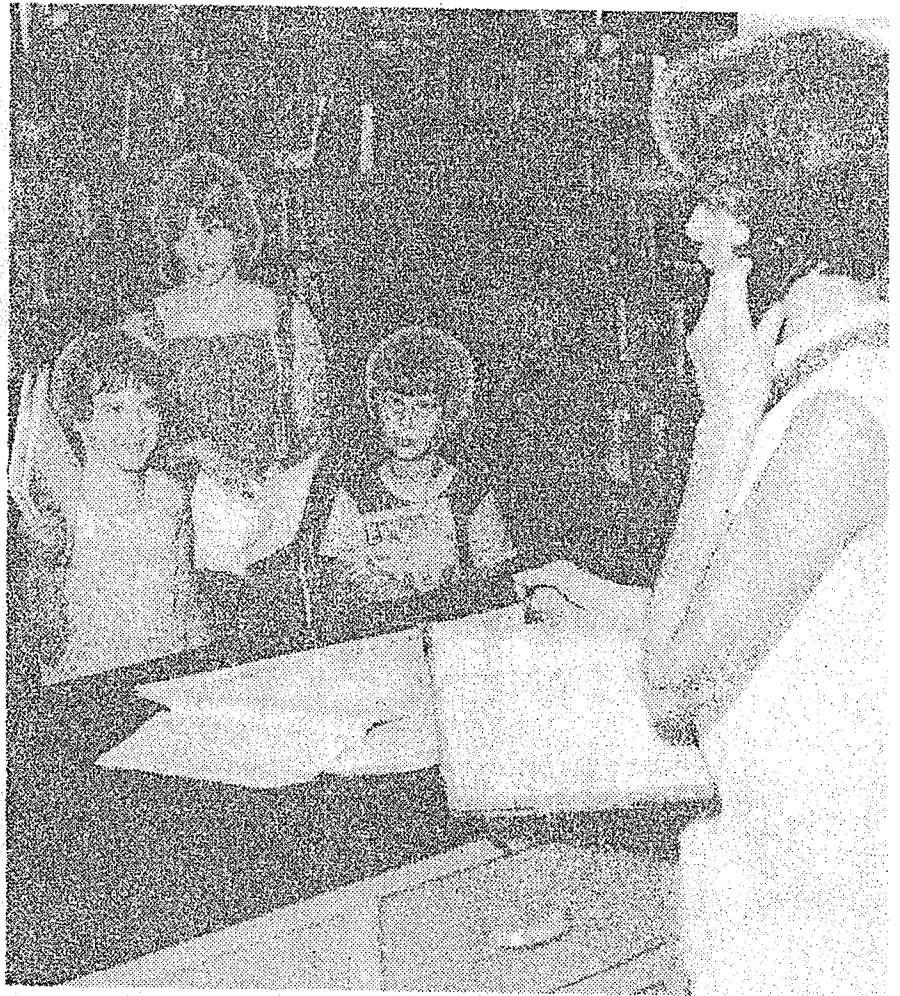
But meanwhile, the workers will have to continue the long early morning drives. Until the change they want so badly happens.

B'ham News

8-1-69



'BEST WATER IN THE STATE' . . . Water Chief Bowlin of Asheville



THE CITY CLERK'S ALSO A LIBRARIAN AT MODERN COMPLEX

News  
Spotlight  
on

St. Clair

County



# Ashville to start reaping new tax

BY LARRY CORCORAN  
News staff writer

ASHEVILLE, Oct. 11—Within the next few days this city of some 900 will receive its first installment on a recently imposed municipal sales tax.

The tax, first in the city's history, is expected to provide as much as \$3,500 annually, an amount described by Mayor Joe Adkins as "necessary for future growth."

"We have managed to stay out of the red," he said of the city's financial condition, "but we needed extra revenue to finance various municipal projects.

"WITHOUT THE money," he said, "Ashville was simply not in a position to construct the new sidewalks that we needed, and buy a new police car."

He said the extra revenue was necessitated when Interstate 59 and a new county roadway bypassed several hundred motorists around Ashville.

"This alone," he explained, "caused a tremendous reduction in the gasoline tax revenue, which accounts for the second-largest revenue figure.

"With this slack in municipal revenue, we had to devise some way to get additional revenue, and the sales tax was the only way," Adkins said.

HE SAID THE principal revenue came from the sale of privilege licenses, gasoline tax, ad valorem taxes, fines and forfeitures, and profits from the sale of whisky in the state, which is divided among municipalities as well as counties.

And apparently Ashville residents realize that this newly imposed tax will help better their town.

"The people, generally," Adkins commented, "have accepted it without complaining too much, many of them without comment.

"I definitely feel that the tax imposed by the city gov-

erning body will help our city," Adkins said, explaining that eventually everyone will realize the benefits derived from the one-cent tax.

"We have been unable to do a lot that we would have liked to do," he said, "and with the increased revenue these things can be accomplished."

He referred among other things to the municipally fi-

*In Ashville:*

# Beautification tops agenda

By KIM CRAFT  
News-Aegis Reporter

ASHVILLE—In an effort to curb drainage problems and eliminate accidents, the Ashville Town Council led the way for sidewalk construction in the downtown area last year.

The council approved a two-phase project that began with the downtown area in August 1991 and will continue with work on 10th Street and Alabama Highway 411 this year.

"It was dangerous," Mayor Herb Collett said of sidewalk conditions prior to the downtown construction. "They were in such bad shape that one lady had fallen."

Since water drainage had been a problem in the past, Collett said the council decided to install drains along with sidewalk construction.

Along with the sidewalk construction, trees and various shrubbery were planted downtown as part

of a city-wide beautification project which included work at the walking track.

With sidewalk construction on 10th Street nearing completion, some workers have moved on to the state highway. "10th Street really needed sidewalks," Clerk Bertha Wilson noted. "Kids had to walk in the street on the way to (Reuben Yancy) school."

Collett said that although the council had been asked to consider zoning in 1991, no steps have been taken toward that end. "This town is laid out in all kinds of ways and we're trying to square it up," he noted, adding that all the paperwork for an annexation measure of outlying areas is in order.

"It's in the hands of the legislature now," he said of attempts to annex Jonesville, Beaver Creek and other outlying property.

Collett stressed that the annexation issue must be completed before

the council gives more consideration to zoning. "We're going to go ahead and appoint a municipal zoning and planning commission," he said, noting that a public hearing would be held to see how Ashville residents feel about zoning.

Having made strides during the past year in installing city sewage north of Interstate Highway 59, Collett said he anticipates getting those residents service in the near future.

Progress was made in the street department with the resurfacing of six city streets, pavement of one street and extensions of the city water system, the mayor said. However, he said more work must be done.

"I'd like to have accomplished more if we had still had money in the budget — but we don't have the money to do everything," he said of the past year. "We'd like to pave more streets and put in more water lines. We'll do it in the future."

# Alabama Amblings

## There's no industry in Ashville, and that's the way they want it to stay

BY JACK HOPPER, News staff writer

ASHVILLE, Aug. 18 — "A depression doesn't hurt us — It is bad here all the time."

Mrs. Willis Hodges, a spry lady in her late 70's, smiled as she made this statement about her hometown, Ashville, a community without a single industry. By "bad," she meant business, which would have to speed up to be rated slow.



HOPPER

Why no industry here in an age when towns are falling over themselves in a frantic search for new plants?

The founding fathers preferred it that way. They stated it rather bluntly: "We don't want any low-class people settling here."

And until recently, Ashville, one of the oldest county seats in the state, hewed closely to this philosophy.

Oldtimers say several plants have indicated they would like to settle here, but "They were discouraged." Gadsden's huge Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

once made overtures to the little town — and got a polite but very cool response.

BUT TODAY, the 900 residents of Ashville are changing their minds about that traditional bogymen, industry. The town's young persons are behind a drive to attract a new plant. Ashville recently expanded to get the railroad within city limits, and in the process tripled its population from 300 to 900.

County and local progressives are anxiously awaiting the backwaters of Lock Three Dam on the Coosa River to be completed next year. It should provide abundant water recreational facilities for this small, sedate town.

But Ashville leaders look at even this aquatic project somewhat askance.

"We don't want what Pell City has accomplished with the Logan Martin Dam," said Mrs. Hodges. "We like it quiet here."

"Ashville is an ideal place for retirement," the energetic Mrs. Hodges continued. "I hope one day to see a 'hobby' retirement home built in Ashville. We have a lot of old people here."

# Ashville unites, to go

BY LARRY CORCORAN, News staff writer  
ASHVILLE, Aug. 23 — Ashville residents sounded loudly their municipal horns here Thursday night, calling unanimously for a new industry.

And judging from the enthusiasm displayed by the capacity audience attending the weekly Lions Club meeting, these St. Clair County residents will be successful.

They are determined to secure new industry. And they are willing — through unified efforts — to work toward this end.

Sparked by a story in *The News* Wednesday quoting a longtime Ashville resident as

saying the city was satisfied without any industry, government and business leaders contend that "this is not the true attitude of Ashville."

"Certainly we want more industry," one resident said, "and we are willing to work for it."

Ashville Mayor Joe Adkins said the feat may not be accomplished in a "day, a week, a year," but noted that Ashville citizens, apparently now unified, "are willing to join forces to attain industrial growth."

THE TOWN, which has a population of

...regency would be

# After new industries

96, and only one industry — Vulcan Athletic service — while not realizing any industrial progress in recent years, has made terrific strides otherwise.

A place filled with necessary ingredients for industries — an abundance of supply of possible sites, and an enthusiastic populace — Asheville has improved its educational facilities, constructed municipal buildings, and improved utilities in efforts to attract new industry.

In addition to a new Negro elementary and high school, a white elementary school has been constructed in the last few months. A contract will be awarded next month for a new white high school.

OTHER MUNICIPAL improvements include:

—Construction of a new \$65,000 civic center.

—Construction of a new health department.

—A renovation project on the courthouse here, one of two in St. Clair County. The project cost more than \$250,000.

—Construction of a new postal building.

—Completion of a new Methodist church.

—Expansion of gas and water facilities.

"We've got a lot to offer industries," Mayor Adkins said. "And we are willing to go all out to get it."

HE SAID the city, only two months ago,

created an industrial development board headed by B. B. Machen, and that it is negotiating presently with a "real hot prospect."

Machen, manager of the Alabama Power Company office, said the city has "choice industrial property" to offer any prospective industrial concern. He added that leaders here feel they can "negotiate with any of them."

Another leader, former Mayor Gerald C. Swann, said he thinks a newspaper article written by Jack Hopper, has "created unity among residents here, and will cause them to become more aware that industry is needed."

"Perhaps in a few weeks," he said, "we'll be writing a letter of appreciation to him."

THE RESIDENTS here generally feel they have an ideal place for industry, in which the development of Lock Three dam leaders believe it will make the North St. Clair County town even more attractive to industry.

"Think of the recreational opportunities," one resident said. "This will help the area tremendously . . . industrially as well as otherwise."

Regardless of what has happened heretofore, residents of this town apparently are bent on getting more industry in their town. The unity among the residents now could possibly be a beginning of a new era here.

Their success, however, will be determined by their continued unity and willingness to work for more industry.

# First Ashville School Started 128 Years Ago

(This is the first in a series of news stories dealing with every school in St. Clair County. Read the News-Aegis every week for the history of your school.)

The first school established at Ashville was on January 19, 1832 on the hill near the Cemetery. It was known as the Ashville Academy and the Meetinghouse. The building, a wooden structure, was erected one one and three-eighths acres of land. The trustees were John M. Byers, a Methodist, James L. Lewis, a Baptist Minister and James Rogan, a Presbyterian. In 1846 land was purchased for a new school building from James and Sarah Rogan to be used solely for schools and educational purposes.

In January 1882 the land where the present building is located was purchased from William T. Hodges and his wife Josephine. This building was of wooden structure. The trustees were Elisha J. Robinson, Davis Cason and John W. Inzer. This land was to be used for educational purposes only. Among the teachers who taught in this building were Mr. John O. Turner and Dr. William D. Partlow, teacher and physician for whom the present library is named. About 1910 this building was destroyed by fire. Another frame building was erected and used until about 1921.

At that time Mr. Lee Teague and Mr. B. M. Teague began the erection of the present cobblestone building. This building consisted of five classrooms. Later two wings, an auditorium, and five basement classrooms were added to the main building. Three other buildings have been erected which house the First Grade, Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Departments, and the Lunchroom. The present plant is not adequate to

meet the needs of the present school population.

During the past few years the grounds have been greatly improved. Although there is not sufficient playground area for the number of students, the best possible use is being made of the space available. Tennis courts, volley ball courts and outdoor basketball courts which were asphalt based recently have improved the physical-educational program. The football field is one of the best equipped fields in the county.

The Commercial Department of Ashville High School is one of the best equipped departments in this part of the state. In this department one will find the most modern business machines, as well as several electric typewriters. Many graduates are holding responsible positions who received all their business training in Ashville High School.

Another source of material which is used by most of the teachers is in the field of visual aids. The school owns a Projector, three film strip machines, a very good film strip collection, an opaque machine and others.

During the past year many courses in the curriculum have been enriched by using the Educational Television Courses. Through the aid of the Defense Act the school has been able to purchase eight televisions. This medium greatly aids in the field of science laboratory equipment and space are limited.

Although the school is not able to offer as large variety of elective subjects as would be desired, students are able to equip themselves for college. French is being offered this year for the first time in many years.

The students participate in the following activities: Beta Club, F.F.A., F.H.A., F.B.L.A. and F.T.A. The Senior Class has edited a Year Book continuously each year beginning in 1948.

To date the enrollment is 665 students. The faculty is composed of twenty-four members, nine of whom hold Masters Degrees.

# ST. CLAIR COLLEGE.

*A Training School for Boys and Girls.*

COMFORTABLE BUILDINGS.

Best Methods;

Professional Teachers;

Superior Advantages.

*a catalogue Apply to the Principal,*

**E. . MOORE,**

*Ashville, Alabama.*

---

Quite a little excitement in Ashville last week when the negro school-house caught fire. For awhile it seemed that the building were doomed to destruction, but the prompt and efficient aid of the bucket brigade succeeded in extinguishing the flames with no more serious damage done than a large hole in the roof.

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## ST. CLAIR BUILDING SCHOOLS

PELL CITY, Dec. 31 — Work has begun on St. Clair County's largest school building program in history.

Education Superintendent Hugh H. Williamson said new projects are underway at Pell City, Ashville and Ragland which will cost \$1,034,000.

The Pell City project includes new junior high school with 17 classrooms, adminis-

trative offices and auditorium-gymnasium and new high school gymnasium.

RAGLAND WILL HAVE eight new classrooms, cafeteria, administrative offices and gymnasium-cafeteria.

The Ashville contract calls for a new high school, home economics and vocational agricultural departments, administrative offices and

gymnasium-cafeteria.

Building is being done through a 20-year extension of a five-mill tax voted on by the county electorate.

Williamson said the contract should be complete by October, 1966.

Scott Brothers Construction Co. of Alexander City has the contract. Architect is Henry Sprott Long.

<sup>14</sup>  
Blount News Dec. 31, 1965

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**ATTEND**  
**CHURCH**  
**VERY SUNDAY**

MEMBERS BAPTIST  
K. Partlow, pastor. Services 10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.  
Day prayer 7:30 p.m.

M.L. FIRST BAPTIST  
W. Forman, pastor.



**SCHOOL FIGURES IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY**  
.... Everett R. King, principal, Ashville High; O. D. Duran, superintendent

In Alabama schools—

# Ashville system making progress in year of change

BY THELMA YOUNG  
News staff writer

ASHVILLE, Oct. 22—The history of education in Ashville goes back to 1819, when the Alabama Legislature chartered the Ashville Academy.

And during all of the 134 years since then, the town never has been without an academy or a

school, 11 teachers serve 316 students.

The high school library, which was named for W. D. Partlow, a graduate of the old Ashville Academy, who also returned to the town after graduation from college, to teach in the school. After several years of study in this country and abroad Dr.

Progress invariably means change, and change is just what has been taking place in the schools here in preparation for this academic year. First of all, the year began with a new principal, Everett R. King.

Coming to Ashville from New Iope High, in Madison County, King succeeded R. M. Satterfield, who has retired after heading this school for 17 years. King also served as principal at Fyffe High, in DeKalb County and Jibb Graves High in the Clay County system. He has degrees from Florence State, Howard College and Peabody, and has one advance graduate work at Auburn University.

Another big change here at Ashville was the building of a beautiful new elementary school, and the transfer of the first six grades into the new building, greatly relieving pressure on Ashville High which had formerly been forced to contain all grades. The new elementary includes 12 classrooms, a combination cafeteria-auditorium, offices and storage areas. Oscar Fitchell is in charge of the elementary school, but King is principal of both.

NOW THAT THE high school is less crowded, major improvements are taking place there, such as installation of some new floors in classrooms and corridors, a new lighting system, all buildings on the campus are being painted, improvement of the science department with the addition of all necessary experimental equipment and the principal's office has been completely done over.

All of this change for the better has also brought a change to students and faculty in the way of better morale, for the high school which is still being used, was constructed here in 1920, even though it has been added to several times through the years in order to accommodate the increase in enrollment.

Today there are 350 students in the junior and senior high school grades, with a faculty of 12. In the new elementary

...became director of the

Bryce Hospital at Tuscaloosa. At the present time the high school library is in need of additional volumes to bring it up to required standards. This buildup has become the main project of the Parent-Teacher Association, headed by Reed G. Waldrop. With funds to be raised from a fall festival, the 300 members of this group also plan to fill some needs of the new elementary school, especially in completing landscaping of the grounds.

THE HIGH SCHOOL library, however, remains the most important and outstanding need. The school is fortunate, however, in having a qualified librarian, Mrs. Mattie Teague Crow, who also is an instructor in library science at the University of Alabama Center at Gadsden.

The school's athletic program gets an able assist from the Quarterback Club, which has purchased and installed a \$1,500 scoreboard and is now in the process of completing a press box. Bill Simpson is quarterback president.

Ashville High is presently accredited by the State Department of Education, but Principal King has high hopes that, with the complete cooperation of the faculty and student body, as well as support of the town, the school will soon make a start toward eventual membership in the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

O. D. Duran is superintendent of St. Clair County Schools, and members of the board of education are Harold Williams, chairman, Dalton Little, Archie Jones, James D. Cobb and Robert L. Dickenson. Local Ashville trustees are Charlie Wilson, Brady Machen and Ray Wyatt.

Coal Industry - More than 100 persons usually are employed here.

Thursday

PARENTS:

HERE IS THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT EDUCATION IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Salaries of Teachers and Principals . . . .	\$1,440,839.00	State Pays \$1,211,571.00	County Must Pay \$229,268.00
Transportation Costs . .	185,000.00	132,347.00	52,653.00
Other Current Expense Maintenance, Heat, Light Bills, Janitor Salaries	<u>122,175.00</u>	<u>114,353.00</u>	<u>7,822.00</u>
TOTALS . . . . .	\$1,748,014.00	\$1,458,271.00	\$289,743.00

Before the county can pay any funds for the above, we must set aside \$125,000.00 to pay on bond issues used to build the Duran Jr. High School, Pell City High School Gym., Ragland High School and the Ashville High School. Therefore, we must have \$289,743.00 + \$125,000.00 = \$414,743.00 of local funds to continue to operate at our same level. This leaves us short \$22,743.00. We have received \$389,000.00 so far from property tax. The beer tax amounted to approximately \$3,000.00 for the first 1 1/3 months.

We received the money from state on the basis of 217 teachers allotted to our system. We have to employ 22 extra teachers paid by local funds to keep 6 high schools accredited by state and 3 of these by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

We need increased teachers' salaries, additional teacher units, additional funds for transportation (We have been able to buy only 4 buses in the last three years), additional funds for other current expenses such as maintenance and operational costs. As of March first every one of our schools has had to begin paying its own light bill. The average light bill is about \$200.00 per month per school. The Bookmobile Service has been lost because there are not enough funds. In some counties the county board pays all of the funds needed with Title III. This county matches on a 50-50 basis for Title III, but a lot of our schools can not take advantage of this because they do not have the money.

If you are interested in your schools and want to help by writing letters, express your interest, concern and desire to the following:

Honorable Albert P. Brewer  
Governor of Alabama  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama 36105

Honorable Edwin Holladay  
Alabama State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama 36105

Honorable Aubrey Carr  
Alabama State Senate  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama 36105

For you to help in this matter it should be done by March 10, 1969.

Compiled by your P.T.A.

In Ashville *B'ham News*

*6-16-69*

# Revolutionary hero, wife commemorated

BY JOY WILLIAMS  
News staff writer

Dedication of a plaque to mark the burial spot of Elizabeth Diamond Thomason, who was born in 1739 and died in 1839, took place recently at Ft. Dr. William D. Partlow Armory in ASHVILLE. Mrs. Thomason was a seventh generation descendant of Mary Queen of Scots. The plaque also commemorates her husband, John Thomason, born in 1724 and died in 1825, Revolutionary veteran who was wounded in the battle of King's Mountain.

Responsible for the marker placed at the Armory was a direct descendant of the Thomasons, Mrs. J. L. Crockett of Valdosta, Ga., the former Marie Greene of Ashville. She was accompanied to

the dedication by her son, Dr. John G. Youmans of Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

According to Mrs. Crockett, John Thomason and his wife moved in 1810 from Georgia to SPRINGVILLE where he obtained a large acreage in a land lottery open to men with Revolutionary service. Down through the years all of the Thomason descendants moved away from the Ashville area, with Mrs. Crockett's family leaving there in 1901.

Sixty-five years later on a visit to Ashville, Mrs. Crockett found that an Armory had been built over the site of the unmarked graves of the two Thomasons. It was then that she determined to take steps to properly recognize the site because, as she remarked, "It becomes increasingly

important for each of us to preserve every trace of our heritage."

In accepting the plaque, Ashville's Mayor Joseph Adkins told of the effort made at the time the Armory was built to move all of the graves in the old burial place, but many were unmarked. It was pointed out that graves in the early pioneer days commonly were unmarked because Indians were wont to worry the white man by plundering the graves of their dead.

Mrs. Howard Hill of VINCENT, the former Elizabeth Hodges of Ashville, presided at the dedication, assisted by Mrs. Willis Hodges, Ashville. The Rev. W. L. Franklin of the Old Broken Arrow Church at WATTSVILLE offered the dedication prayer and Mrs. Terry Stewart, Ashville, sang "Faith of Our Fathers."

MEMORIAL DAY  
Ashville, Alabama  
June 1, 1969

Invocation Mr. John Andrews  
Pastor, Methodist Church

Welcome Mr. Raymond Heald  
Chairman, Cemetery Ass'n

Financial Report Mrs. Abner Crow  
Treasurer, Cemetery Ass'n

Special Music Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Helton  
Jacksonville First Baptist Church

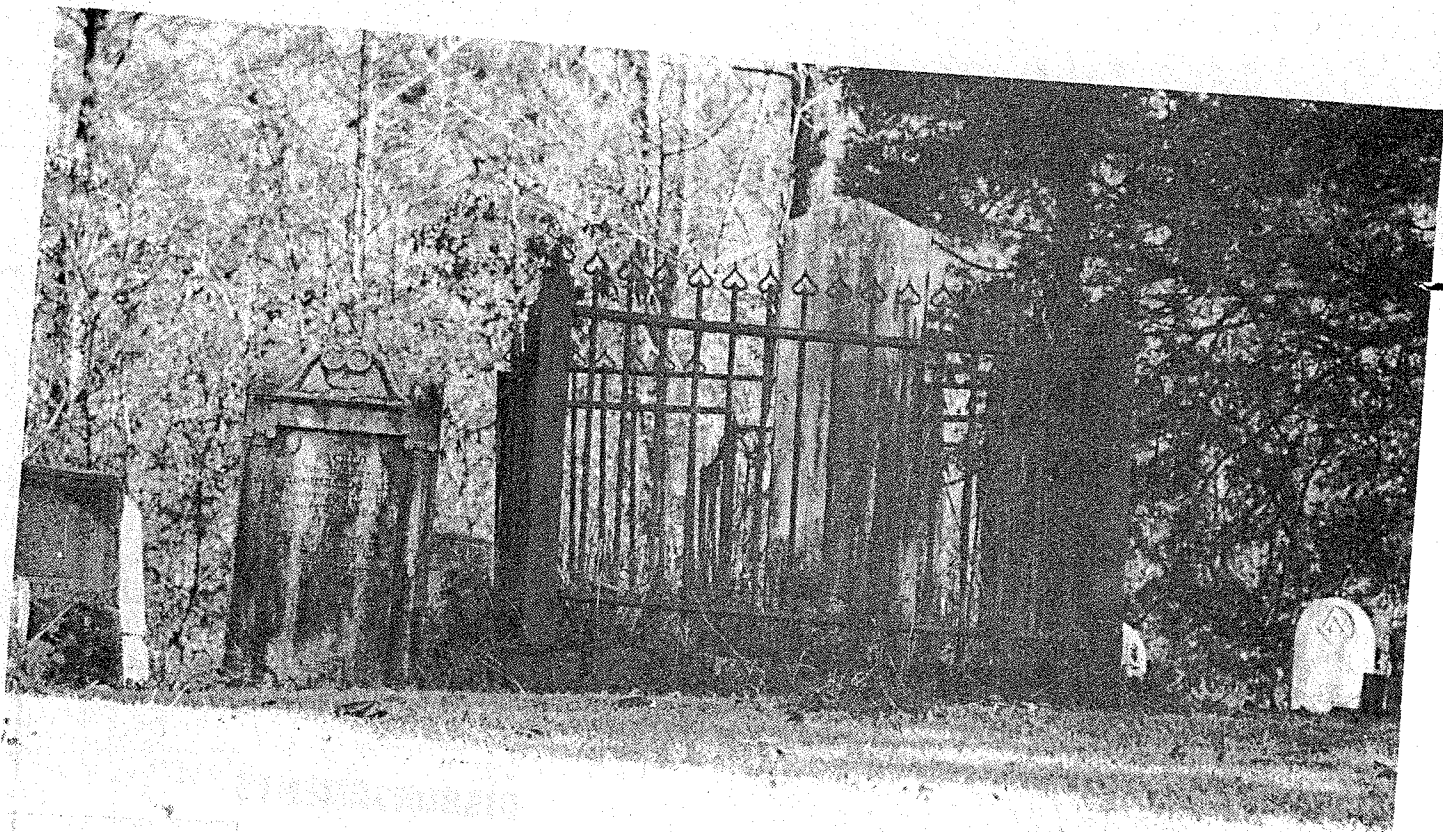
Speaker Introduction Mr. Russell Estill  
Pastor, Baptist Church

Address Mr. F. W. Helmbold  
Librarian, Samford University

Benediction Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Helton

Near this place stood Ashville's first church, Mt. Pleasant Meeting House used jointly by Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians, and Ashville's first school, Ashville Academy chartered January 15, 1831, by John Byers, James L. Lewis, and James Rogan.





# *Meandering Through*

# Ashville Cemetery

BY MATTIE LOU TEAGUE CROW

Last week we promised to continue our meandering through the older part of Ashville Cemetery. So here we are among the few remaining great-boughed oaks and hoary cedars that have furnished home for the birds and shade for the mourners, lo! these many years.

Here the stones bear dates through the 1800's. Most of them have in the lower right-hand corner the label: "Herd, Syllacogga, Ala." Herd was one of the first stone quarries in Sylacauga. The past-century charm takes us to a family plot where one of Ashville's early physicians is buried. The moss-covered stone bears the following inscription:

Sacred to the memory  
of  
Dr. James J. Bothwell  
who was born on July 3, 1796  
and died January 13, 1854

There are two small graves near that of Dr. Bothwell -- one of an infant son born 1st and died 10th of February, 1839. The other is the grave of

Edly H. Bothwell  
son of  
James J. and Ellen Bothwell  
He was born April 2, 1837  
and died February 7, 1845

Edly. What an odd name for a little boy! But then we recall -- from an old will recorded at the Jefferson County courthouse -- that Ellen, wife of Dr. James J. Bothwell, was the daughter of Audley and Jane Cunningham (Wilson) Hamilton, and the granddaughter of Audley Hamilton, Sr., and his wife Ellen Sanklin Hamilton. Surely, the name Edly is a misspelled version of Audley, and the little boy was the namesake of his great-grandfather, Audley Hamilton, who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Bothwell came to Ashville in the early 1800's. It was he who commissioned architect-builder, Richard Crow, to build the house known today as the Embury Home on Hartford Avenue. Search the records and you will find that this lovely Greek-Revival was occupied for years by the Bothwell family and that Ellen Bothwell paid Richard Crow for his labor with a deed to a lot across from Court Square in the original survey of the town. Today the house is the property of George W. Hodges.

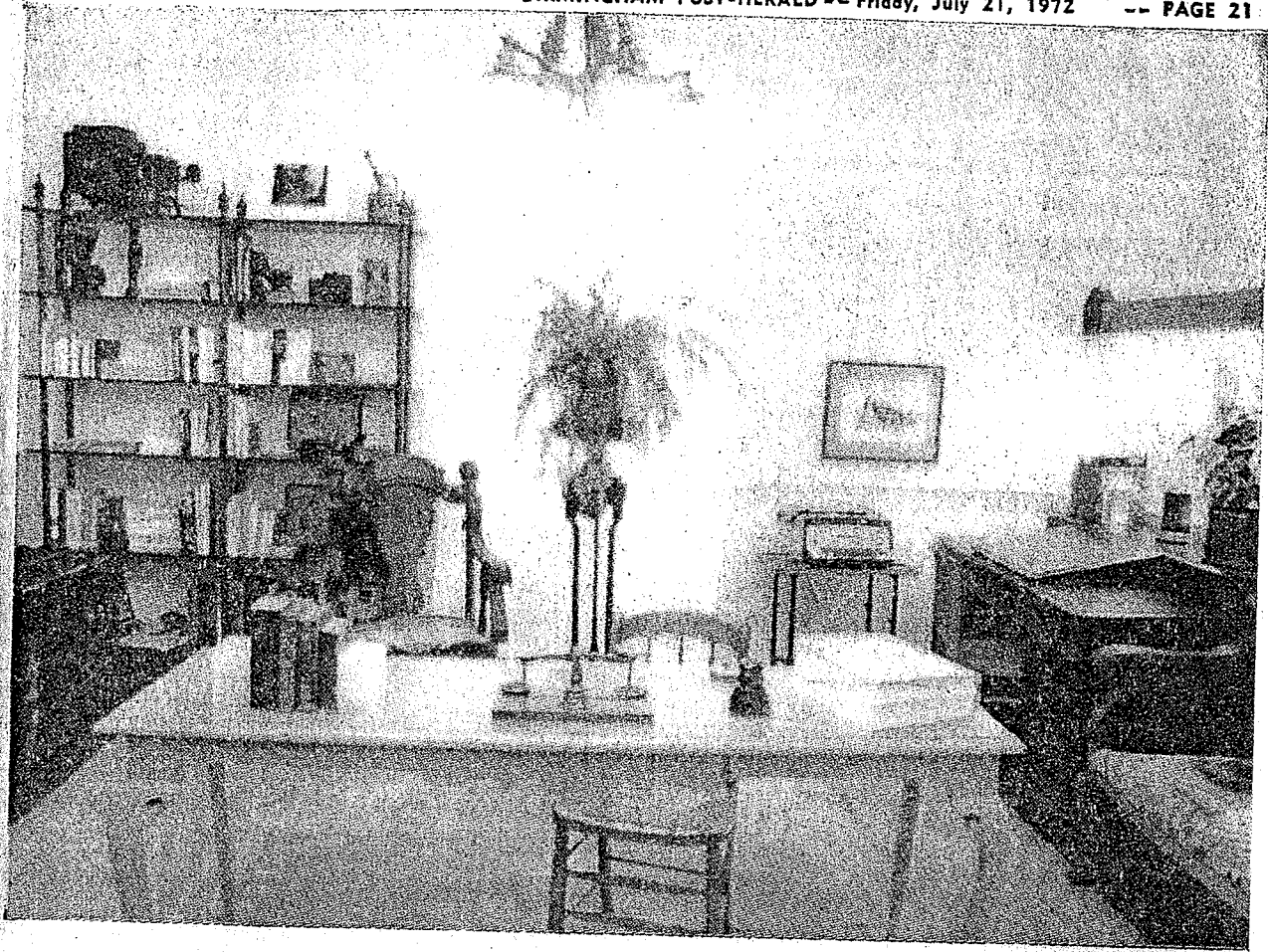
Dr. Bothwell was surely a civic-minded man. His grave stone bears the Masonic emblem and he served in the State Legislature in 1842-43. He is one of six men buried in this cemetery who were physicians for Ashville and surrounding communities. The other five are Dr. John B. Bass (d. 1909), Dr. John C. Slack (d. 1923), Dr. Davis E. Cason (d. c. 1930), Dr. William A. Beason (d. 1941), and Dr. Hobert Staton Awtrey (d. 1949).

These men, the family doctors of yesterday, were truly **SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE**. With their pill bags they rode over the hills and through the hollows at any and all hours of day and night and in all seasons to minister to the sick. We honor these men when we give to cemetery care.

Your Cemetery Association works constantly to preserve the natural beauty of this place and the only revenue comes from contributions from descendants and friends of the people buried here. At present we are badly in need of funds. Don't wait until you are asked. If you wish to give to Current Care, please send your check to Miss Edith Caldwell, Treas., P. O. Box 111, Ashville.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care is growing -- slowly -- but growing. Only the interest from this fund will be used for cemetery upkeep; the principal will remain untouched. In years to come this will prevent our burial ground from becoming a forgotten wilderness. Four or five years of neglect will make of this sacred place a wildwood. Those wishing to give to Perpetual Care, please mail your check to Mrs. Beatrice Heald, Treas., P. O. Box 194, Ashville.

Next week would you like to visit the Confederate Veterans' graves that are in Ashville Cemetery?



A blending of antique furnishings including a Queen Anne writing table appointed with old books, brass scale, and a glass telephone insulator for

paperweight, plus an 1840 mahogany pedestal desk from Surrey, England are focal points in Mrs. Scott's office. The bookshelf was built by Mr. Scott.

Photo by CORNELL KOS

# Talented couple lead a busy life in an old cottage in St. Clair Springs

By Kate Harris  
Staff Writer

*who loves an old house  
never loves in vain,  
you can an old house  
lead to sun and rain,  
the lilac and larkspur  
at an elm above,  
never fail to answer  
the heart that gives it love?*

Words of this verse, written by Isabel Fiske Conant, reflect the philosophy and sentiments of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Scott, two creative people living in a 90-year-old Victorian cottage in the country.

Love of old houses isn't a thing for the Scotts. Their very first home was a rambling old house in the which they sold when



A leaded glass front door, with companion sidelights and transom, opens into a wide breezeway hall which centers the house. Every room has 12 foot beaded pine ceilings; wainscoating with chair rails, and a fireplace framed with simple country mantels.

Of course, the house now

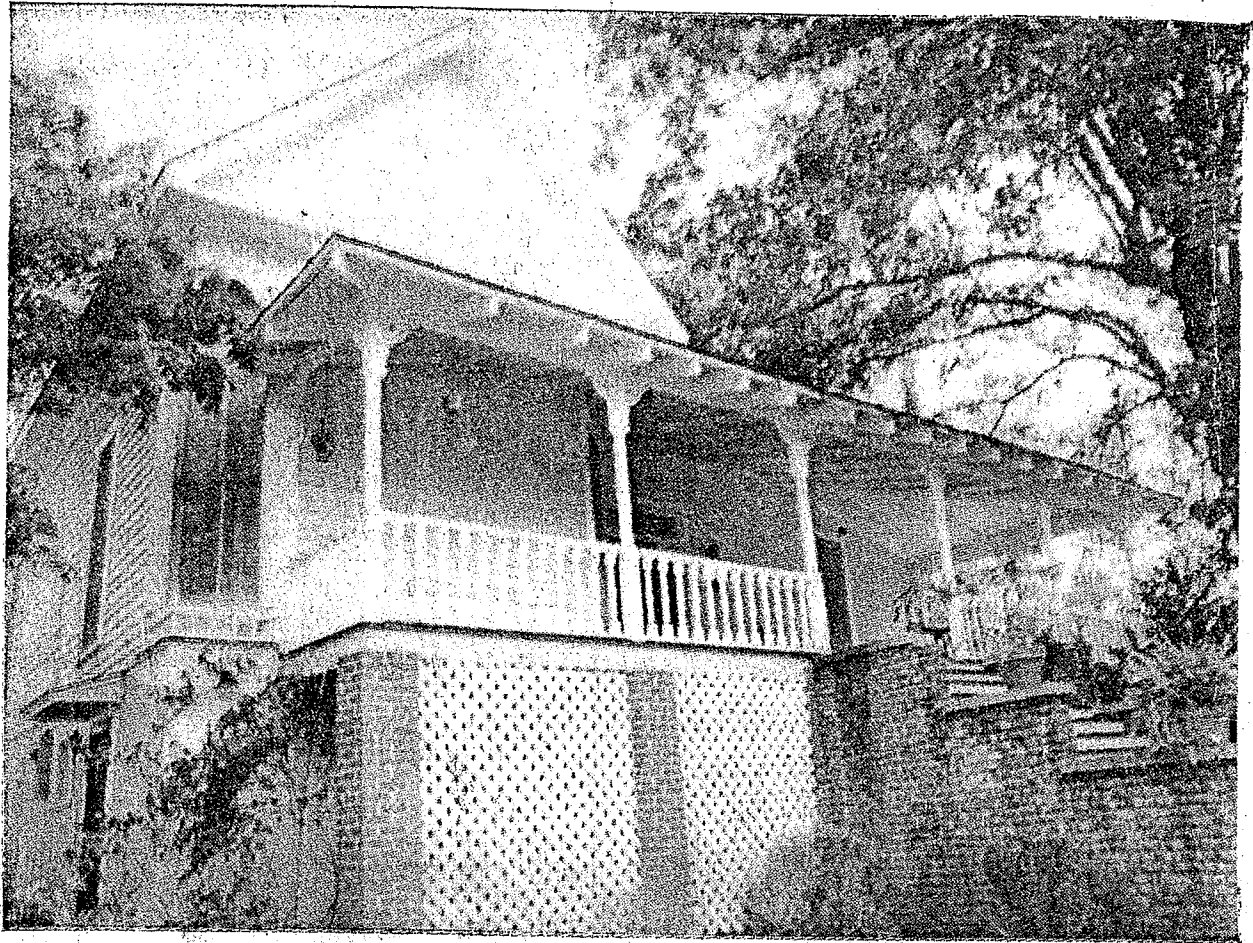
Sunlight filters through imported handmade lace curtains at long windows in almost every room, and are enhanced by gold draperies in the living and dining rooms.

Various types and period of furniture are combined with antiques throughout the house, and a few old por-

leg black enameled Wainwright table which has a border of dull gold leaves stenciled around the top, and a tall antique Dutch wine-glass cabinet which is truly beautiful.

Below the white walls in one bedroom the wainscoating has been painted a soft burnt orange to pick up a predominant color in the hooked rug. Here, too, is a black wrought-iron bed with brass finials and elaborately designed brass footboard. The mahogany armoire has a mirror door and its bonnet is carved with scrolls and roses. It and a matching bed in another bedroom came from France.

The Scotts are such avid



**For more than a century, long before** people sought sites beside lakes and seashore, St. Clair Springs was a favorite place for a summer home for residents of North Alabama. This 90-year-old Victorian cottage is the permanent home of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Scott who pursue many hobbies in the old house.



noisy.

"We like elbow room, fresh air and quiet," says Carolynne a former newspaper woman, who now works at home as managing editor of Southern Veterinarian Magazine and writes short stories.

Scotty, a man of many talents, is a painter and freelance commercial artist.

"When we first bought our circa 1880 house in St. Clair Springs two years ago, it was so delapidated I wouldn't let my mother see it," Carolynne laughingly relates.

"The front porch was held up with two-by-fours, and the outside of the house had not been painted in 50 years. It's almost unbelievable, but the exterior alone soaked up 42 gallons of paint," she added.

The Scotts enjoy the challenge of restoration and do most of the work themselves. What's more, they like to browse around junk yards, second-hand furniture stores, antique shops, and go to auctions.

"The balusters around the front veranda came from an old hotel that had been razed in Tuscaloosa," Carolynne says, "and are topped by railings we found in Savannah, Ga."

Scotts have collected and suspended with long chains, and by an array of interesting lamps.

If you are wondering about the plumbing, there's no "Chick Sales" out under the apple tree. They have running water, and a few years ago the former owner added an old-fashioned bathroom to the back of the house. Replacing a big closet perhaps, there also is another bathroom with green and yellow stained glass window adjoining one of the bedrooms.

Luckily for the Scotts, the people from whom they bought the house also were in the process of updating the lovely old place inside and had modernized the kitchen. It is evident that they too wanted to keep its "country look" for base and wall cabinets are made of warm tone pine.

The Scotts have acquired two large and handsome Oriental rugs which cover the floors in the living room and Carolynne's office, plus a long Sarabend runner for the breezeway hall.

or any room is the living room. In the era the house was built it would be called the sitting room and for "sitting" there's an old reproduction Louis XV sofa and a Victorian love seat, with tufted back, which Scotty reupholstered in green velvet.

Quick to catch the eye is a carved wooden Victorian painter's easel which opens out like a desk and has a storage cabinet for paintings below. When we admired the unusual piece Carolynne quipped with good humor, "I'm afraid I held my hand up once too often at an auction."

There also is a lovely old carved mahogany bookcase in the living room where antique bronze candelabra are placed on each side of the fireplace mantel below a gold framed mirror.

Prized possessions in the dining room are a big gate-

mind now, but it would pose no problem for they bought the cottage next door to secure more acreage.

At the present time the second cottage also is in disrepair. However, "as is" Scotty uses part of the house for his home studio and another section as a workshop.

That isn't all, the Scotts are enthusiastic organic gardeners. And what vegetables they don't consume, or share with family and friends, are processed and frozen for later use.

Besides the garden, they have a greenhouse where they grow camellias, all types of fern, cacti, and orchids.

Scotty's love for old houses recently prompted him to move his city office into a small old rundown house in the Southside business district which he now is in the process of transforming into new headquarters.

## Noojin-Ramsay vows today

Martha Elizabeth Noojin and Robert McLester Ramsay Jr. will be married this afternoon at Canterbury United Methodist Church with Richard Vignuelle and Dr. Denson Franklin officiating at the 4:30 ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Dr. and Mrs. Ray O. Noojin and Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Ramsay.

To be given in marriage by her father, the bride will wear a gown of candlelight silk peau de soie with Victorian neckline and yoke of

English net and rose point lace. The same lace edges the hemline and chapel train. She will wear a silk mantilla and will carry a cascade bouquet of orchids and stephanotis.

Mrs. Richard LeRoy Walthall will be her sister's matron of honor. Other attendants are Mrs. Ray O. Noojin Jr., Rhoda Ramsay, Barbara Chenoweth, Cecilia Copeland, Mrs. Lawrence Whatley, all of Birmingham; Priscilla Fleming of Huntsville, Mrs. Benny Goodwin of Memphis, Tenn., Mrs. Mike Shelley of Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Steve Hancock of Columbus, Ga. Mary Ramsay will be junior bridesmaid and flower girls are Catherine Noojin and Elizabeth Walthall.

They will wear gowns of maize linen with tucked bodice and Venise lace trim. They will carry woven baskets of yellow and white daisies and miniature ivy.

Mr. Ramsay will serve his son as best man. Groomsmen are Erskine Ramsay, Charles Ramsay, Richard Ramsay, Ray O. Noojin Jr., Brent McFarland, Robert McClure III, Rob Hackney, Joseph Falkner, Michael McClure of Auburn and William Kruiden-



## an come fast when get started at it

ouple invited to the dinner, a other intimate thing for 24. hey, of course, have a house Galway and absolutely the country. After Irene and the Fines will spend a w days in Paris before ing back for the weekend their house in Connecticut here the Mayor and Mrs. ndsay will be their guests. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stev- s gave such a charming ty in Washington honoring se two dashing gentlemen, uglas Fairbanks and uel Taylor. Sam is the hor of the comedy "The asure of His Company," sure you remember, and iglas has been appearing t triumphantly from coast oast for what is beginning eem like a very long time. rently, he can be seen at Eisenhower Theater of Kennedy Center for the orming Arts, if you're in ighborhood. out 125 guests went di- y from Dougl-

after another. They ate beef St.r o g a n o f f, ham, salad, strawberry pie. Most of the ladies wore those long colorful summer skirts we all know and love, don't we?

Douglas was cutting up old touches like anything — he has so many pals in Washington, do you see. Sam, down from his Maine retreat, was a houseguest of Mrs. Jouett Shouse, head of the Wolf Trap Park Farm for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va. Mrs. Shouse arrived with Beverly Sills and her husband, Peter Greenough.

### Dapper Doug

And that was only the beginning. Tiptoeing through the garden were the Archibald Roosevelts, the Pete Quesades, Adm. and Mrs. Arleigh Burke, Spanish Ambassador and Mrs. Angel Sagaz, the Jack Valentis, Mrs. Polk Guest, the William McCormick Blairs, Curtis Bohler, the "

Sept. 29, 1966

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS, PELL CITY, ALABAMA



was decided to continue St. Clair County as a one county library unit and the towns were invited to contribute to a central budget administered by the St. Clair County Library Board. Those towns desirous of having library branches contributed on a per capita basis. Each town was required to pay its own librarian or to arrange for suitable volunteer workers.

Many books on his important problem were given. The citizens of Ashville and St. Clair County are fortunate to have these valuable collections available in the library system.

In April 1966 the county board began to pay for an assistant to help in each branch a few hours each week. In Ashville, Mrs. Lois Jones was appointed to work four hours a week.

Ashville has received 201 new books during the year 1965/66 and at present, there are 1955 volumes of county and state books on its shelves. In addition to the county and state books there are a good many books which have been given to the Ashville branch which have not been cataloged for the county use.

Two particularly significant gifts have been presented to Ashville Library by Mrs. H. O. Whaley. First, there is her unique collection of cook books. On her travels throughout the States and some foreign countries she bought or was given cook books representative of those places. She has given many of these to the library. They have been cataloged and are available in the Ashville Branch. Another subject in which Mrs. Whaley is keenly interested is AMERICANISM. She has collected books about communist tactics and how to combat the evils of communism.

## THE ASHVILLE LIBRARY STORY

This is number 3 in a series of articles about the St. Clair County Library System)

**MRS. LOIS JONES and MRS. PAULINE FRAZIER** have charge of the Ashville Library Branch of the St. Clair County Library.

Soon after the St. Clair County Library was organized with headquarters in Pell City, it was decided to open a branch library in Ashville. The town of Ashville furnished shelving and Mrs. Pauline Frazier, the clerk, was made responsible for circulating books and making reports to the headquarters office. The Garden Club and the Home Demonstration Club took an active interest in supporting the library during its early years. A local library committee sponsored various money raising enterprises and contributed to the

county library's financial support.

When the Coosa Valley Regional Library was formed Ashville was one of four branch libraries — the others were in Pell City, Columbiana and Vincent.

In 1963 after the Coosa Valley Regional Library dissolved, it

# Ashville Library A Big Success

The Ashville Public Library has been a big success this year. Librarian Charlene Simpson has presented the children with entertainment and reading to promote the idea that "reading is fun".

At the first meeting of the Summer Reading Program the children were given name tags, checked out books and introduced to the program. The eight children who read the most books by the end of the program will win the following prizes: Older children: First prize, \$20; Second prize, compliments of Johnny Willis, a 10-inch pizza and medium drink from Pasquales; Third prize, compliments of Wayne Dodd, a 5 quart container of ice cream from McBrayer & Son; Fourth prize will be \$5. There will also be a first through fourth prize awarded to the younger children by Nancy Fouts. First prize is \$10; Second prize, a small pizza and small drink; and third and fourth prizes have not yet been determined.

At the second meeting, Mrs. Prickett put on a show for the children. Mrs. Prickett and her husband are Baptist missionaries and have trav-

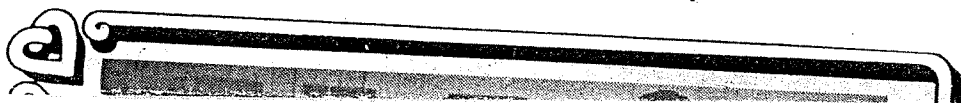
eled all over the world. She took an imaginary trip around the world globe with the children, showing them artifacts from different places. She had a vase made of Pigeon Blood from Africa. She had sent samples from that all around the world.

The third meeting the children had a visit from Mrs. Mattie Lou Teague Crow who spoke to them on the importance of and the origination of the library. She showed them how books are made and how to take care of them. They made book markers and awarded prizes for the best ones.

The fourth and most recent meeting was held at the Ashville Civic Center. Connie Inglis and her daughter, Carlotta, put on a captivating show for the children.

Carlotta, who has been taking dancing for 11 years from the Plimpton School of Dance in Gadsden, did the "Disco Duck", dressed, of course, as a duck, and also the "Stray Cat Strut" dressed as, you guessed it, a giant cat.

Connie and FiFi (pronounced Fee Fee), a one and a half year old Toy



ESS



*Carlotta Inglis dances to the "Stray Cat Strut"*

walked the "tight rope" blindfolded. Mrs. Inglis explained to the children how FiFi could follow her own scent and balance on the board with no problem.

The next meeting will be held on July 1st and the children will be turning in their "Safari" report. Charlene asked them to pick a place they would like to go and do the research sarari in the library.

The last meeting will be held on July 8th at the library and refreshments and awards will be presented.

The Ashville Museum is planning to add a new addition and is presently accepting donations for the building fund. Chances are being sold on an afghan made by Mrs. Mattie Lou Teague Crow for \$1.00 each. Chances may be purchased at the library where the afghan is on display.

French poodle, put on a poodle show. FiFi did an array of tricks. Connie Inglis explained to the children how poodles are bred to do circus acts.

FiFi had a hard time at first since it was her first big performance. She is used to doing small parties and performing in homes. Once she got used to the cameras of all the newspaper reporters and the children's laughter and clapping, she put on a Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey act. She jumped a 2-foot hurdle, walked on a spindle, climbed a ladder and slid down the other side on a sliding board. The most amazing of FiFi's feats was the tight rope act. She balanced on a 2 inch board at least 4 feet long with no net, and never even stumbled. She then



*FiFi and trainer Connie Inglis*





# Ashville resident

**BY WAYNE RUPLE**

**News-Aegis Staffwriter**

As a boy he grasped the four-spoked steering wheel and soon learned to drive and when the small 40 horsepower, four cylinder engine needed adjustments he learned to do that too and today Ashville resident Dr. Ken Cochran is the proud owner of a fully restored 1930 Model A Ford - a similar model with which he grew up.

"I always wanted one. The Model A was the car I learned to drive on and was the one I worked on as a kid," said Dr. Cochran as he gently wiped the dust off the 14 coats of handrubbed lacquer covering the antique automobile which was found sitting in a barn in Covington County, Tennessee.

"It had been stored for a long time," said Cochran as he began to discuss the lack of deterioration in the car which won first place in national competition in 1977 in the Antique Automobile Club of America and on which he has worked some two years to fully restore.

Cochran is the third registered owner of the car which he purchased from a friend after he had located the car and spent several years restoring it.

Opening a side door on the box-like hood Cochran points to the small engine and explains that the car is completely original - even down to the engine block.

He explains that when restoring the car it was taken down to the frame and reassembled. "We found very

little rust and that was the only saving grace. We pulled the engine and did a valve job," he said as he turns the switch and the four cylinders purr to life as if the car had just rolled off one of the many assembly lines which Ford used in the 1930's.

The stainless steel bumpers and headlight housings glisten in the sun. Cochran said the only two items on the car which are not original is the gas cap and the quail hood ornament sitting above the Ford logo on the auto's front.

He explains that reproduction parts are still "pretty easy to come by" with most of them being manufactured in the United States and Taiwan for the many collectors who continue to hold on to their Model A's.

"You want to restore enough but you don't want to over restore it," said Cochran as he explains some of the rules and regulations in the various shows and competitions which antique auto owners can enter.

Many owners including himself may spend a lot of time researching their cars to determine original paint colors, upholstery, etc.

He said he is able to use the yellow wheels because they match the small pin stripe running along the upper portion of his standard coupe which also boost a fold-out rumble seat in the rear.

When the Ford Motor Company produced the Model A motorists could pick up themselves some



*Rest of Art*

# restores Model A Ford

good dependable transportation for around \$495. Cochran estimates that his restored coupe is today worth \$10-11,000 - a price not too distant from the sticker on a new Ford product.

An original tag, though not the

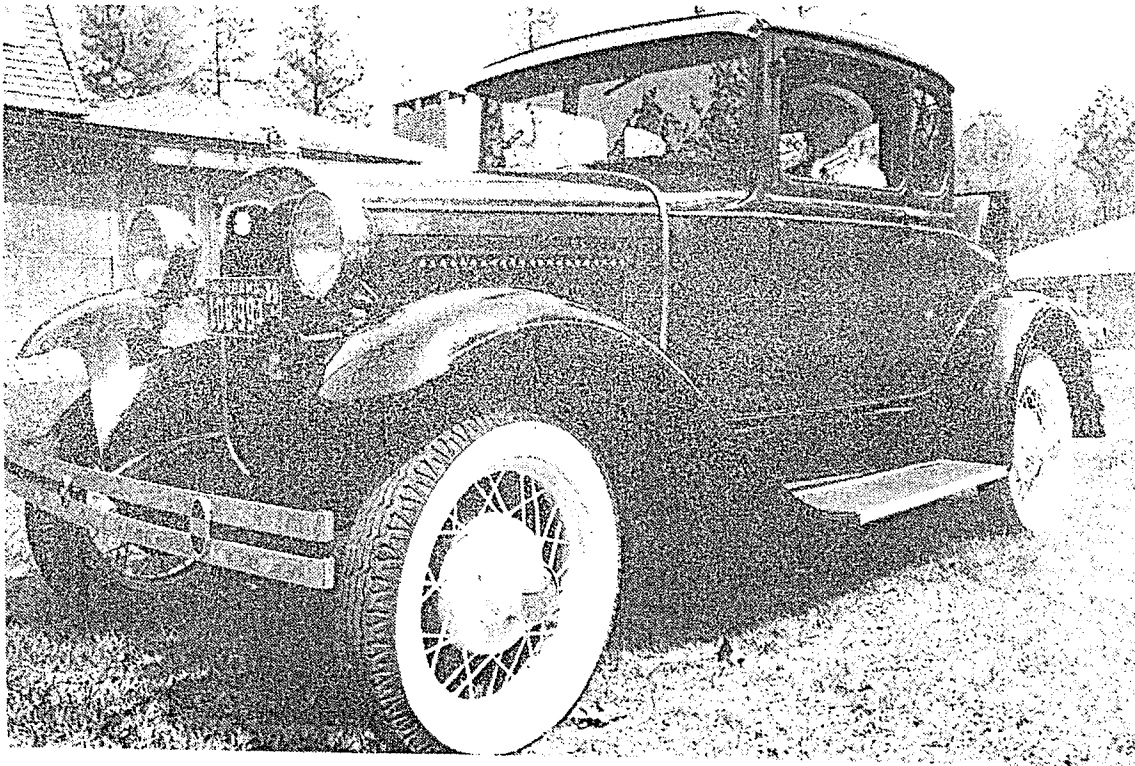
one which came with the car, is attached to the front.

Cochran explained that to be able to show the car in different meets there are three qualifications - the car must have its original engine, horn and

brakes - which are mechanical.

He estimates that the engine, utilizing a gravity fed gas supply and a Zenith carburetor probably gets between 18-20 miles per gallon. He said he

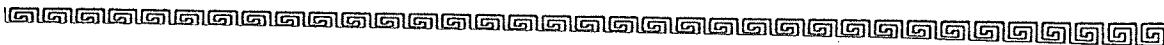
(See Always Page 13)



**Fully restored**

Dr. Ken Cochran of Ashville proudly sits behind the wheel of his fully restored 1930 Model A Ford. Cochran said he learned to drive with a 1930 Model

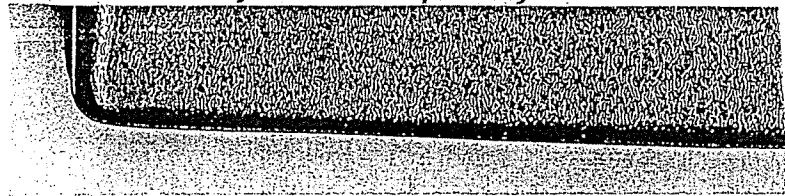
A Ford and has always wanted to own one. The car is powered by a 40 horsepower four cylinder engine. (Photo by Wayne Ruple.)



icle on Back



*Symbol of quality*



# Always wanted one'

Continued

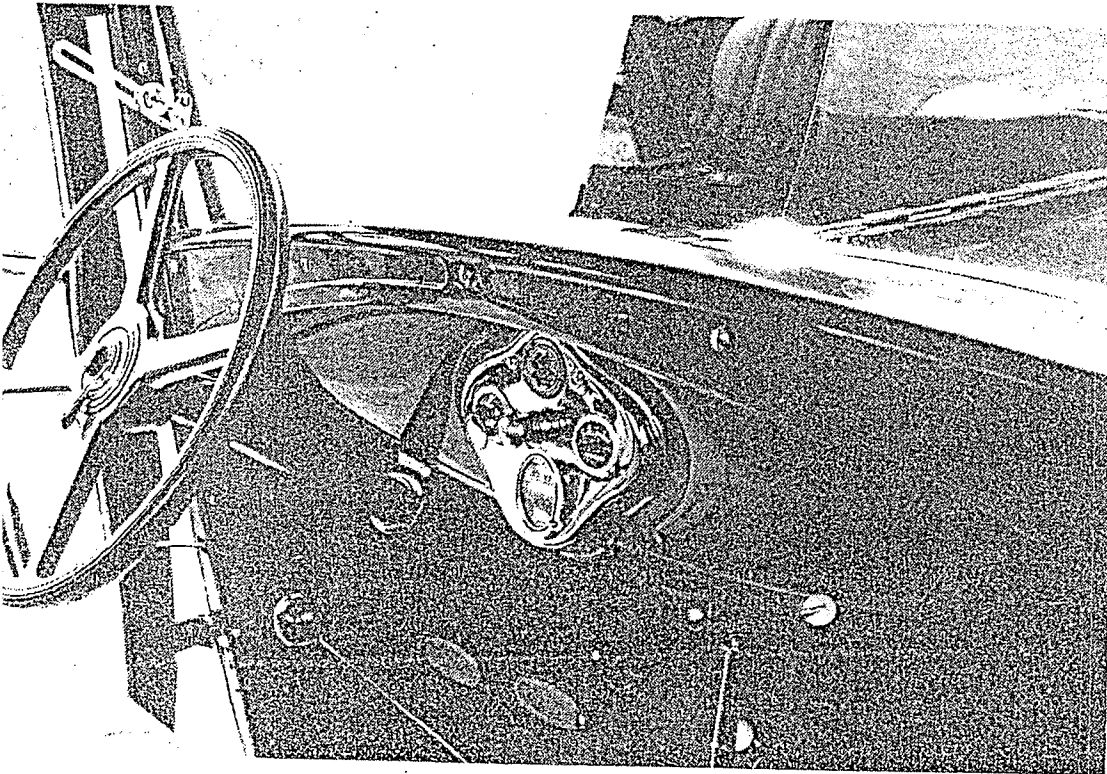
isn't really driven the car enough to tell.

An original generator and radiator sit in the engine compartment looking as if they just came from the factory. Nothing attributed to several

specialized firms across the nation which restore antique auto parts and also the remaining supplies of "new old stock" - old stock found in supply houses, warehouses and auto parts stores which though 50 years old still remains new because it was

never purchased and used.

Now that he has restored the Model A, Cochran is casting eyes at the 1965 Ford Mustang which sits in his garage beside the Model A. He said he hopes one day to begin work on the Mustang.



*Uncluttered dash*



—Likes acrylics

# Shoal Creek Valley

Mrs. Ila Clay, Shoal Creek Valley, grew up in a family of artists in Birmingham. "Art was like eating breakfast," she noted. Being thus surrounded with oils and canvases, she felt no particular interest in painting. Her only artwork was executed on the blackboards in

elementary school — in using colored chalk to draw the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations.

In 1957, her daughter, Peggy Cato, began taking lessons with London Bridges and encouraged her mother to come along. That decision — to go

along — has brought to Mrs. Clay an increasing absorption with painting. After two or three years study with London Bridges, Mrs. Clay went on to study with Barbara Moon and Hugh Allman.

Her works are primarily realistic. She likes to paint flowers, but she also sometimes likes to paint abstracts. "One of my teachers once told me that I did pretty work. I guess that meant that people in general like my work," said Mrs. Clay.

"I never pin myself down to any particular style. I do like details in paintings, but then there are days when my works are slap-happy. I love doing minatures, but then again I love working on a large canvas. It depends on my mood."

Most of Mrs. Clay's work is done in the morning hours when she is fresher. "I get up from the breakfast table with my coffee and go into the studio. Sometimes I get so involved I forget that my husband gets hungry," said Mrs. Clay.

Since she began painting, her houses have served as her gallery. The Clay's home, which was in Crestwood until their move to Shoal Creek Valley two years ago, was larger and more accessible to purchasers and viewers. The Shoal Creek Valley home, however, has paintings everywhere. In the master bedroom, an unfinished painting of dogwood blossoms has just been hung. Mrs. Clay

feels that it needs something more, but hasn't yet decided what and where the need lies. She sees it daily, and in this way, can determine how to finish it.

"I think it helps the purchaser if he-she can see how a painting looks in a home setting. I have sold works at mall shows on the condition that the customer bring them back if they didn't work out, but none have been returned," said Mrs. Clay.

Mrs. Clay primarily paints with acrylics, although some of her paintings are combinations of oils over acrylics. She gets bored when working for a long time on a painting, and oils are much too slow. One of her critics suggested that she work primarily with watercolors, but for the last several years, she has preferred acrylics.

Mrs. Cato's patronage of one man shows, sidewalk shows, mall shows and mother and daughter shows has diminished somewhat over the last few years. She exhibits, along with her daughter, primarily at Gallery East, and in her home.

Her minatures have sold at Brombergs in Mountain Brook in the past years, but she is painting less minatures than in the past.

Mrs. Clay has never executed portraits, but she has done and continues to work on commissions — primarily flowers and landscapes. "People sometimes request color combinations which look strained to the artist's eye, but by diluting and softening the colors, they can be worked out," noted Mrs. Clay.

She doesn't work from photographs or sketches, but primarily from memory. "I am surrounded by nature here, but what I generally paint is the memory of how a certain tree or setting looked when I was travelling."

One of her recently finished landscape works was, however, painted from a scene outside her studio window — with minor additions which she felt would look good.

One of Mrs. Clay's favorite



Oriental Grandfather & Child





*Ida Clay & Geisha Girl*

but they generally don't sell that well. When most people buy, they want something pretty, like flowers and landscapes. I took this painting (the oriental grandfather) to the gallery, left it for it for two days and then brought it home. I like it here."

Mrs. Clay views herself as generally an easy-going person, but she does acknowledge that she, as all artists, can be temperamental.

Now that her children are grown and gone, with families of their own, Mrs. Clay finds



*She Likes Detail*

**Feature and  
Photos by Jenna  
Whitehead**

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**FROM NEW YORK TO 'FR**



### *Fourth Of July Celebration Chairman*

Ashville's first Fourth of July celebration was a smashing success and according to Mrs. Margaret Newton, who with her co-chairman, Mrs. Laura Engle, engineered the whole event, plans are already underway to make next year's event bigger and better, if possible. Plans for this year's celebration were begun just a little over a month ago and Mrs. Newton said that the

spirit of cooperation among all the people involved made the entire event the success it proved to be. Over \$2,000 was added to the band fund and new uniforms and other necessities for Ashville High School's marching band are now very near a reality. Pictured in antebellum dress receiving guests at the reviewing stand on the courthouse square is Mrs. Newton.

### Ashville News-

## *4th of July Celebration A Successful Project*

BY MARIE TUCK

Commendations go to many people — committees and individuals — who worked and participated in making Ashville's Fourth of July both a celebration ("an old-fashioned country celebration," someone called it, or "typically small-town holiday fun") and a

successful project for the Ashville High School band.

Mr. Beel Teague of Denver, Colorado, spent last week end (June 30-July 1) with his mother here, Mrs. B.M. Teague.

Mrs. C.D. Adkins spent her Fourth of July holidays, as well as her vacation away from her accustomed position at Ashville

Savings Bank, with her daughter, Carolyn Spann and grandson, James Spann in Tuscaloosa.

Mrs. Roscoe (Betty Prickett) Knight of Tampa, Florida, spent last week here with her aunt, Miss Nan Young, and her Prickett relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Wylie McDougall, of New Orleans, Louisiana, were luncheon guests on Tuesday, July 3, of Miss Edith Caldwell. The couple were enroute to the meeting of the Scot Clans at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

Jennifer Wright, visiting here from Houston, Texas, spent the week end with her cousins,

# Willie Frank Smith—

# Not a shy man

GREASY COVE — I first heard about Willie Frank Smith in Ashville where the fiddle player, miller, beekeeper's reputation had preceded him.

He sounded like a feature editor's dream. But I was told he was shy and might not welcome a newspaperman with a camera and a tape recorder.

The characterization went in one ear and out the other. There's always that light coat of false modesty to remove before a story reveals itself.

I dialed Information and asked for Smith's telephone number. Afterwards, I called for him. He was not at home, but I reached his wife.

What if I come up that way tomorrow with my camera and recorder? I asked her. Would Mr. Smith be there to talk to?

He probably would, his wife said, adding, you can come on up if you want to.

Probably's all I've ever needed. Nine o'clock Tuesday morning, I was en route to Greasy Cove.

A white house with a cobblestone front, Smith's wife had said, down the road from the uphill jog to Horsepens 40.

Going down the road, I began

to notice every mailbox carried a Smith's name. James Smith, C.D. Smith, everybody but Willie Frank Smith.

I convinced myself I was one on the wrong road. A white house came in sight on my left. It had a fieldstone porch. The mailbox carried the name of the man I was looking for.

I wheeled in the drive. Up on the porch a woman was sitting in a green swing. I hung my camera round my neck, trapped my recorder under the ring of my arm and got out of the car.

The porch was wreathed in gladiolas and potted petunias and I could only see the woman's head raised above them.

On my way to the front steps I called a good morning to her. She returned the greeting.

There was a man under a straw hat sitting on the steps and I took him to be Mr. Smith. I shook his hand and told him my business.

"My name's George Keener," he said.

I went up on the porch and introduced myself to the woman in the swing. She had beautiful, wavy gray hair.

"I'm Mrs. Smith," she said.

She apologized for her husband not being home. He was down at the end of the cove making a deal on 1,500 tomato plants. If I waited long enough, she told me, Mr. Smith would be back coming back.

I planted myself in a chair on the porch.

I remarked to Mrs. Smith it was my first trip to Greasy Cove although I had been as far as Horsepens 40.

"You didn't like much," she said. "That's Horsepens 40 up there on that mountain."

She pointed to a green wall veiled in a white haze away of at the end of the cove.

I told her I thought the flowers were beautiful. They used to be when she took the time to care for them, she said.

Keener asked if I had come from Pell City. He asked in which newspaper I was an "agent" for. I told him, "I been threatening to subscribe to the paper," he said.

One of his sisters had mad news down that way because of her innistence for cooking on woodstove.

"I saved that article," Mr. Smith said. She left the swing went inside her house a moment and returned with a yellowed clipping.

"That's it," Keener affirmed. "I'd rather cook on a wood stove than anything I know, you have the right wood," Mr. Smith allowed.

She and Keener agreed the pine was the "right" wood. had to be cut in March, enough to last a year, then be allowed time to dry. Sometimes the wood would turn blue, then would be no good for burnin. There was no way to prevent wood from turning blue, she said.

Far off, a mule bray finishing with a flourish of fo shrill Calliope whistles. Mr. Smith explained it was his husband's new mule.

"He does that," she told me "when he sees the cow."

It was a beautiful sound. heard the mule would make





# at all, just a humble one

read. Without it, he  
ed, a pone would become  
as a rock.

lifelong friend of Mr.  
's, Keener said the miller  
en making corn meal for  
g as he could remember  
ng him. His friend started  
th Ed Brothers who had a  
powered by a T-Model  
he recalled.

ffic was heavy in the cove  
lay. I asked the two of  
if that was normally the

they said. It was all going  
mp Sumatanga. I should  
een it the day before, they  
ie. You had to pray to get  
e other side of the road.  
be two or three hundred  
down there, they said.

was chilly on the porch.  
t always so cold here, I  
them, or is it just that the  
s blowing?

s those trees," Mrs. Smith  
meaning two big elms  
e boughs were turning  
the summer sun. She left  
place in the swing long  
h to check a thermometer  
e wall behind me. "Sixty-  
agrees," she said.

oped Mr. Smith would  
e before I caught cold  
while, Mrs. Smith told me  
two of them had been  
ied 53 years and had three  
n children, two boys and a

ner told me he made  
ns out of sage grass and  
a nephew who really  
ged the banjo. I ought to  
him sometime, he told me.  
wn the hill from where we  
pick-up began to slow  
behind a fan of mimosas.  
unds like him now," Mrs.  
1 said.

green and white camper  
ed through the mimosas,  
led onto the cherted drive  
dipped into a wide open  
ge.

ep, that's him," Keener

ilt my moment of truth had  
ed. Would the shy man  
ve me or turn me away?  
e first thing I noticed about

load of the morning off his feet.  
I told him why I'd come and I  
asked him if he had time for me.

"Not a whole lot," he said. "I  
got 1,500 tomato plants that's  
got to be set out today."

I persevered and inquired of  
Mr. Smkth Smith if he still  
played the fiddle.

"Ah, I can't play no fiddle,"  
he claimed.

I confronted him with the  
reports of his fiddling ability. I  
had picked up in Ashville. I  
asked him if he would consent to  
playing a tune or two.

He persisted in not knowing  
how.

I asked Keener to importune  
for me and when he wouldn't I  
turned to Mrs. Smith.

"If I was to try to get him to  
play, he'd go the other way,"  
she hYpothesized.

It was at precisely that  
moment that Willie Frank  
Smith rose from his chair,  
creaked open the screen door  
and disappeared inside the  
house.

I wondered if the removal was  
the shy man's signal for me to  
take my camera and recorder  
and leave him to peace.

I felt nosy and was regretting  
ever getting in the newspaper  
business when from a backroom  
of the house a low liquid sound  
drifted into my ears.

It was Willie Frank Smith's  
fiddle. He came with it back to  
his chair on the porch. Without a  
word he cradled it under his  
chin and began caressing it with  
his bow.

He played the most natural  
fiddle I have ever heard. His  
legs spredeagled to accomo-  
date the long downward  
stroke of his bow. Mr. Smith  
favored us with "Bile Them  
Cabbage Down," and a second  
number he called "Sugar  
Babe."

It was a beautiful fiddle, its  
spruce and top and maple  
bottom almost blonde where it  
had been left alone and nearly  
black at the edges where stain  
had been applied.

I asked Mr. Smith how long  
he'd had the instrument.

played for dances before.

"Me and George has went and  
played a little," he said  
motioning to Keener to take the  
fiddle. Keener wouldn't. "Me  
and Dewey Thomas played a  
little together. And then there's  
an old boy on Chandler  
Mountain. Viola, what waa that  
old boy on Chandler Mountain,  
me and him used to play?"

She couldn't recall. It was  
interesting, I thought, that her  
name meant a type of violin.

Mr. Smith was finished  
playing now. He took the violin  
back inside the house then  
returned to the porch. He  
wanted to show me his grist-  
mill.

I followed along behind him  
through a pasture rising uphill.  
He led me into a barn and at  
first I thought the mill was  
there.

Inside were two mules, one of  
them black, the other red  
sorrel. Their manes were neatly  
trimmed and their coats  
glistened like waxbeans. May  
and Ada were their names.  
Each was two years old. Mr.  
Smith stood between them  
hugging their long necks.

He asked me especially to  
take a photograph of the three  
of them and I obliged. Mr.  
Smith said he did not work the  
mules; they were too young to  
work, just colts.

We left the barn and climbed  
farther into the pasture to the  
shed that housed hie griatmill.  
He showed me how it worked  
using belts to transfer power  
from a Massey-Ferguson  
tractor.

He assured me the wtones  
turn slowly and that the meal  
does not burn up in the process.

He said he grinds every  
second and fourth Saturday.  
Last year, he said, he ground  
over 900 bushels of meal.

Cornbread lovers from  
Childersburg, Sylacauga,  
Gadsden, Oneonta and even  
Rosa where another mill is in  
operation come to him for  
stoneground meal, Mr. Smith  
said. The folks from Rosa come

1901," he said after a while.  
"The Good Lord willing I'll be  
seventy-five my next birthday."

I told him I hoped I could  
climb to the top of the world,  
grind 900 bushels of meal and  
set out 1,500 tomato plants when  
I reached his years.

"I just thank God I'm able to

get around as well as I do,  
said. "And he's the All."

As I was driving away  
called to me to come  
anytime I liked.

Well on down the road to  
City, it dawned on me. V  
Frank Smith wasn't a shy  
at all, just a humble one.



The Gristmill



nothing anymore but the sound of bees pollinating the flowers I asked Mrs. Smith if the bees were her husband's

"No, those are bumblebees," she answered. After a second glance she decided a few of them were honeybees.

I asked about Mr. Smith's gristmill. Mrs. Smith told me it was located under a shed in the pasture behind us.

I asked her if she made cornbread from the meal her husband ground. "I sure do," she said.

I asked for her recipe.

"I don't have a recipe," she said. "I just make it."

Keener volunteered that a pinch of soda was the all-important ingredient in making

descended his pick-up was that he smoked a pipe. I could see him taking tobacco from a red tin of Prince Albert.

He was a broad man, neither short nor tall, and his posture was commendable. He was dressed in overalls and a long-sleeved khaki shirt and wore a straw hat with a crescent of green plastic sunshade sewed into the snapbrim.

When he reached the door steps, I rose and introduced myself.

"I'm Willie Frank Smith," he said.

He went immediately to a ladder back chair and took the

Is it and an old fiddle? I asked him.

"Bout sixty years," he said. "Come from Germany."

Germany to Greasy Cove? Well, by way of Birmingham he amended.

"It may be stolen for all I know," Mr. Smith surmised. "I bought it in the street."

The price?

"Twelve dollars."

He took it through another reel of "Sugar Babe," pronouncing it a good fiddle for someone who knew how to play.

"But I wouldn't get shed of it," he said.

I asked Mr. Smith if he had

because they don't the way the miller th corn, he explained.

After we'd seen the Mr. Smith climbed all to the top of the world has seven acres pl watermelons and pea

Along the way we whiteshirted scarecrow the foxes had grabbed times already. At the wanted me to take his with the yellow blo melon vines.

We completed the tou trek to his ten beehive

Back at the car I ask how old he was. He was c a moment as he looked sandy cove earth bene feet.

"I was born Novemb



With Ada And Mary

We wish to extend our congratulations to the people of Pell City on the opening of our new Civic Center.

We are proud of our city's progress.

Pell City Grocery & Market

1915 Cogswell Ave.

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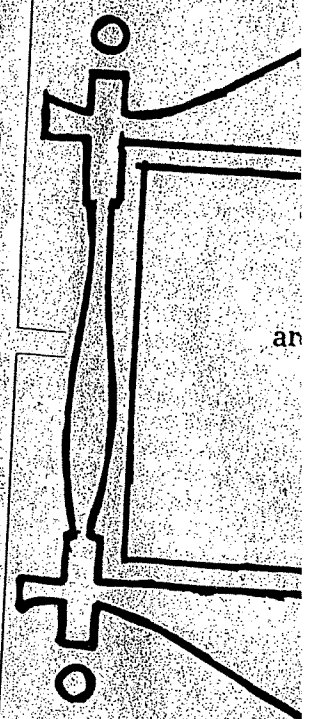
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# Lifestyle

## Ashville Garden Club

### Members plan Valentine Party at nursing h

The first meeting of the Ashville Garden Club was in December, 1948 and was sponsored by the Gadsden Garden Club.

A group of ladies met at the high school and elected these officers: Mrs. Jerry Henry, president; Mrs. Sam High, first vice president; Miss Emma Roper,

second vice president; Mrs. John Robertson, third vice president; Mrs. Ralph Stephens, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. D. L. Acuff, historian; and Mrs. John Wright, parliamentarian.

Other charter members included: Mrs. W. L. Acuff,

Mrs. Harold Dodd, Mrs. D. O. Langston, Mrs. Norman Prickett, Mrs. John Robinson, Miss Pearl Runyan, Mrs. C. D. Adkins, Mrs. E. L. Bowlin, Mrs. D. A. Cobb, Miss Mildred Coker, Mrs. Cunningham Crow, Mrs. Ira Davis, Mrs. Oscar Fouts, Mrs. Mary Mattison, Mrs. M. D.

McRoberts, Mrs. Vester Melton, Mrs. J. T. Newman, Mrs. B. A. Payne, Mrs. Walter Roberts, Mrs. E. M. Robertson, Mrs. DeWitte Teague and Mrs. Jack Treese.

According to the current president, Mrs. Jerry Burnett, the club has taken on many beautification projects around the town including the civic center, the health office, the courthouse, the Ashville Cemetery, and all of the schools.

Members have also sponsored garden therapy at Whitney Nursing Home. They have planned a valentine party this year for the patients and want to place a bird bath and feeder there in the Spring. "I believe the work we do at the nursing home is the most important," Burnett said. "Anytime you bring a little sunshine into another person's life you're doing something worthwhile."

The club has also established a blue bird trail in the cemetery and always plants a tree on Arbor Day whether it is as a group or at their individual homes. Each year the club sponsors a family picnic for members.

In 1976, the club sponsored a tour of colonial homes in celebration of the bi-centennial.

Flower show and quilt fairs are also a project of the garden club. April 28th



Members make flowering hats

# St. Clair News-Aegis

## Club beautifies city

### Home

around the town. Their cookbook is put together by the Ways and Means Committee.

The Asheville club also provides assistance to the library and the rescue squad.

Current members of the club include Mrs. Grace Blaxton, Mrs. Charles Braswell, Mrs. J. F. Bridges, Mrs. Jerry Burnett, Mrs. Lamar Campbell, Mrs. Troy Chandler, Mrs. Kenneth Cochran, Mrs. Lyle Coker, Mrs. Charles Collins, Mrs. Dodd Cox, Miss Gussie Cox, Mrs. Russell Cunningham, Mrs. Ira Davis, Mrs. Gene Dodd, Mrs. Charles Engh, Mrs. Charles Fouts, Mrs. J. L. Henry, Mrs. Gene Housh, Miss Sally V. Inzer, Mrs. David McCain, Mrs. Kermit McCullough, Mrs. J. T. Newman, Mrs. Norman Prickett, Mrs. Frederick Litche, Mrs. Don Sharp, Mrs. Roy Shelton, Mrs. Duncan Skilling, Mrs. Tony Parks, Mrs. John Swinall, Sr., Miss Marie Tuck, Mrs. Dana Webb and Mrs. Julian Young.

The officers in this group are: Mrs. Burnett, president; Mrs. Housh, first vice president; Mrs. Sharp, second vice president; Mrs. Newman, third vice president; Mrs. Webb, secretary; Mrs. Dodd, treasurer; Mrs. Bridges, historian; and Mrs. Fouts, parliamentarian.

The theme for this year is



# Ashville Garden Club Hears 'Ghost' Stories

BY MRS. J. L. HENRY

Mrs. John Bryant and Mrs. Abner Crow were hostesses for the January meeting of the Ashville Garden Club, which met at the Ashville Civic Center.

The refreshment table was covered with a hand embroidered linen cloth and coffee was served from an elegant

silver service. The hostesses did themselves proud on dainty sandwiches, cakes and other teatime treats. Red, white and blue accents were used, carrying out a patriotic theme.

Someone thoughtfully provided a white blooming amaryllis. After all who can imagine a garden club meeting

without fresh flowers?

As I came in, before the meeting started, someone was telling a tall tale about disappearing characters, moving objects and being tapped on the shoulder when no one was there. I admit I felt underprivileged because I don't live in a haunted house but no self respecting

ghost would inhabit a house only 25 years old. Never one to feel underprivileged for long at a time, I'm changing all that. You see, I live on a ghost ROAD and I'm going to have more ghosts and more STATUS than anybody. The old, abandoned road to Whitney runs smack through my front yard (which

may account for it being pure chert.)

Many varied and interesting characters traveled this road (or bogged down in it.) Perhaps that accounts for somebody taking one of each pair of my husband's socks and putting my instant coffee in the refrigerator. Now I ask you, would I do a thing like that?

No doubt some friendly ghost stopped by for a cup of coffee and finding only instant, put it on ice to show his disgust. If I'da known he was coming, I'd have perked a pot.

Someone said it was rumored that one of our members got married. We have several eligible ladies so wedding bells may ring again. Mrs. Dodd Cox, Horticulture Chairman, reminded us to buy only quality nursery stock, and not fall for bargains. (Aw, Cm'on, Fannie, you know how much fun it is to hunt for bargains,') but sometimes a bargain is not a bargain.

Mrs. Swindall, Conversation Chairman, said smelling violets can numb the sense of smell. (who'd a -- thought it? Sweet Violets!) Mrs. Swindall cautioned against fertilizing at this time or removing mulch. Spring is not YET.

The program on American Heroes was given by Mrs. Joseph Creitz. Polly had prepared an interest center, draped in red, white and blue bunting. She displayed pictures of Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays we will soon note, along with other American Heroes and books pertaining to the American scene. She mentioned characteristics of heroes that gardeners would do well to emulate.

For those laid up with the "Epizooty," I offer my condolences and (in case you can't get a doctor), I pass along some home remedies. Oleum ricini is a time honored remedy though I fear castor oil by any other

and vinegar are a panacea for whatever ails you, according to Vermont Folk Medicine. Hoarhound candy is supposed to cure sore throat. A mustard plaster to your chest may blister but may help to cure the miseries. General recommendations are, go to bed, take aspirin and drink liquids.

I had my husband call the druggist to ask if aspirin deteriorated with age. (He didn't tell him we'd had it 15 years, so I insisted he buy a fresh box of 12 tablets, which, hopefully, will last another 15 years. (I must clean out that medicine chest.)

I trust I'm not liable for practicing medicine without a license. I'm only telling you what was told to me.

Many of our members were absent due to illness but those present for the January meeting were: Mrs. Grace Blaxton, Mrs. John Bryant, Mrs. Dodd Cox, Miss Gussie Cox, Mrs. Joseph Creitz, Mrs. Abner Crow, Mrs. Ira Davis, Mr. J. L. Hendry, Mrs. Fred Ritchie, Mrs. Duncan Skilling, Mrs. Rober Snyder and Mrs. John Swindall.

The February meeting will be February 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Ashville Civic Center. This will be a covered dish dinner and we will have our gentlemen friends as guests. The featured speaker will be Mr. Les Pair, County Extension Chairman. Our telephone committee is doing a fantastic job but please mark your calendar anyway, in case you are out when they call.

**Perform a death-defying act.**

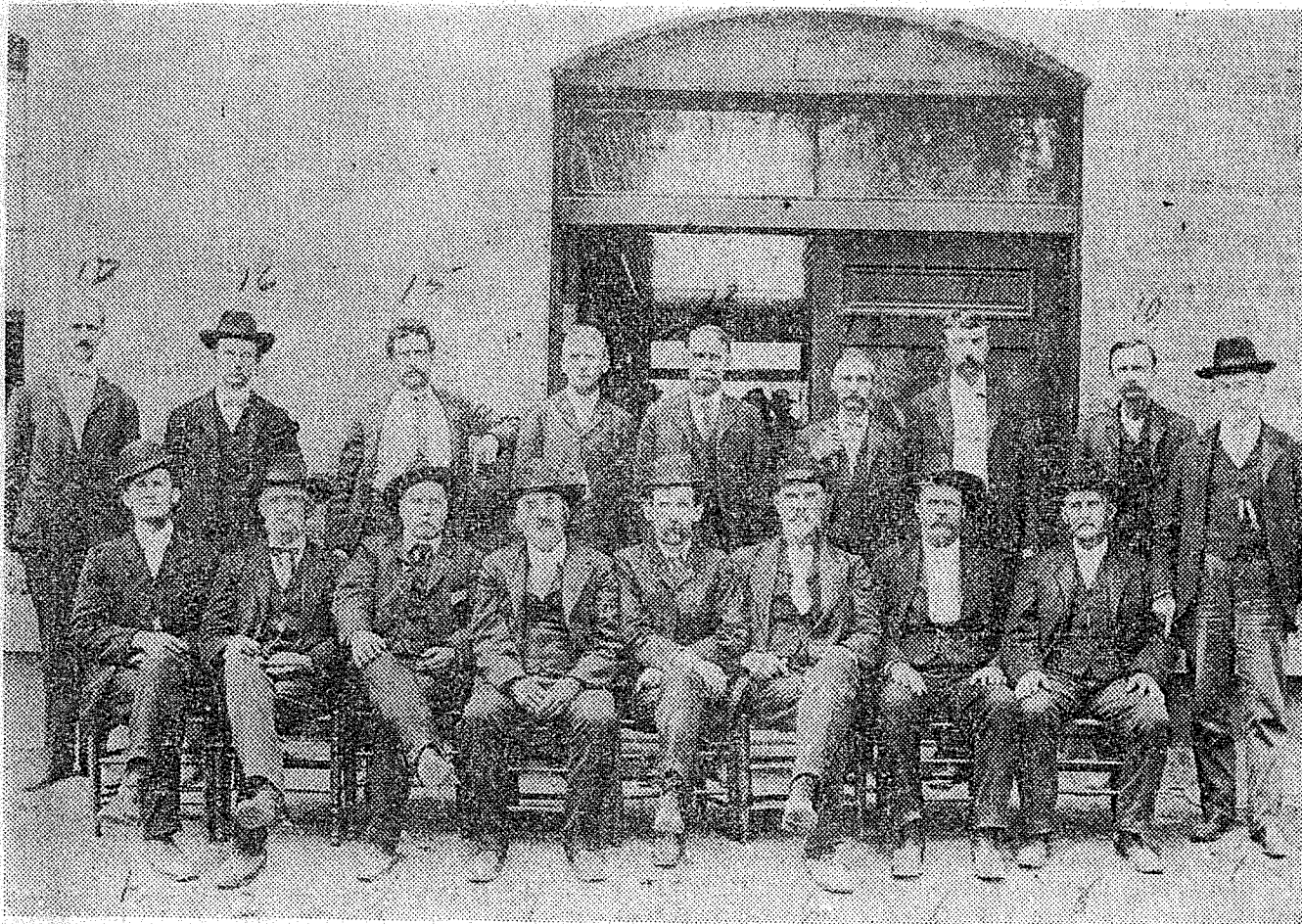
**Have regular medical check-ups.**

Give Heart Fund  
American Heart Association



Jan 16 1975

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### DEALING OUT JUSTICE . . . 1899 STYLE

Above are eighteen citizens of St. Clair county serving on Grand Jury at Ashville . . . the year 1899 which by simple arithmetic was 65 years ago. The men are W. Henry Pearl, David Wood, C. T. Harmon, J. H. Maury, J. G. Mar-

bury, S. Baswell, J. Woods, from the South side of St. Clair to serve on a jury in Swan, G. C. Morgan, John Wood, T. N. Montgomery, John Yarbrough, J. K. Spradley, R. F. Jones and Lawrence H. Lee. In the days when this picture was made those called

from the North side of St. Clair to serve on a jury in Whitney had to start two or three days ahead of the date court would begin, riding either a horse, in a buggy or wagon or take a train to Birmingham, thence from Bir-

mingham back on a train to Whitney junction and then walk or hitch a ride from Whitney to the courthouse. (A News-Aegis Memory Lane picture. Do you have one we could borrow).

# Two Ashville Natives Served As

Ashville in St. Clair County can claim the honor of being the home of two governors, both serving at the same time. Rufus W. Cobb became the 26th governor of Alabama and Oran M. Roberts, the 17th governor of the State of Texas. Cobb served from 1878 to 1882 and Roberts from 1879 to 1883.

Rufus Wells Cobb, was born

in Ashville Feb. 25, 1829, the son of John W. and Catherine Stevens Cobb. The ancestors of the Cobbs came from Wales to America and settled in Virginia, where John W. Cobb was born about 1800.

He moved to Abbeville District, S. C., then to Alabama. He first went to Monroe County and settled on the Alabama

River, and later settled in Ashville where he owned a plantation and was also a merchant.

He was Colonel of a regiment in the Creek Indian War under General Andrew Jackson. He represented his county for two terms in the State Legislature, and died in Ashville in 1845.

Rufus W. Cobb was educated in an academy in Ashville

and graduated at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1850. He returned to Alabama and studied law in the office of John C. Thomason, of Ashville, and joined him as a law partner until 1867 when he moved to Shelby County.

He joined the Confederate Army as captain of Company "C" 10th Alabama Infantry in

# Governor At Same Time

Lore



From

## Hills Of Home

By Jerry Jones

1. Cobb married in February 1850, Miss Margaret Mcung, daughter of Hugh L. Mcung of Knoxville. She died in 1855, and he married second, c. 31, 1866, Frances, daughter of Richard Fell, formerly of Il's Point, Maryland. Cobb died in Birmingham v. 16, 1913. Oran Milo Roberts was the

son of Oba and Margaret Ewing Roberts. He moved to Ashville in 1828 from Laurens County, S. C. He graduated at the University of Alabama in 1836 and practiced law at St. Stephens, Talladega and Ashville.

He served in the Alabama Legislature and served as colonel of a Company in the Civil

War. He married in 1837 Frances W. Edwards and in 1841 they moved to Texas. He married second in 1887 Mrs. Catherine Border, the widow of Col. John P. Border.

Mail all correspondence to Jerry B. Jones % The Gadsden Times, P. O. Box 185, Gadsden, Alabama.

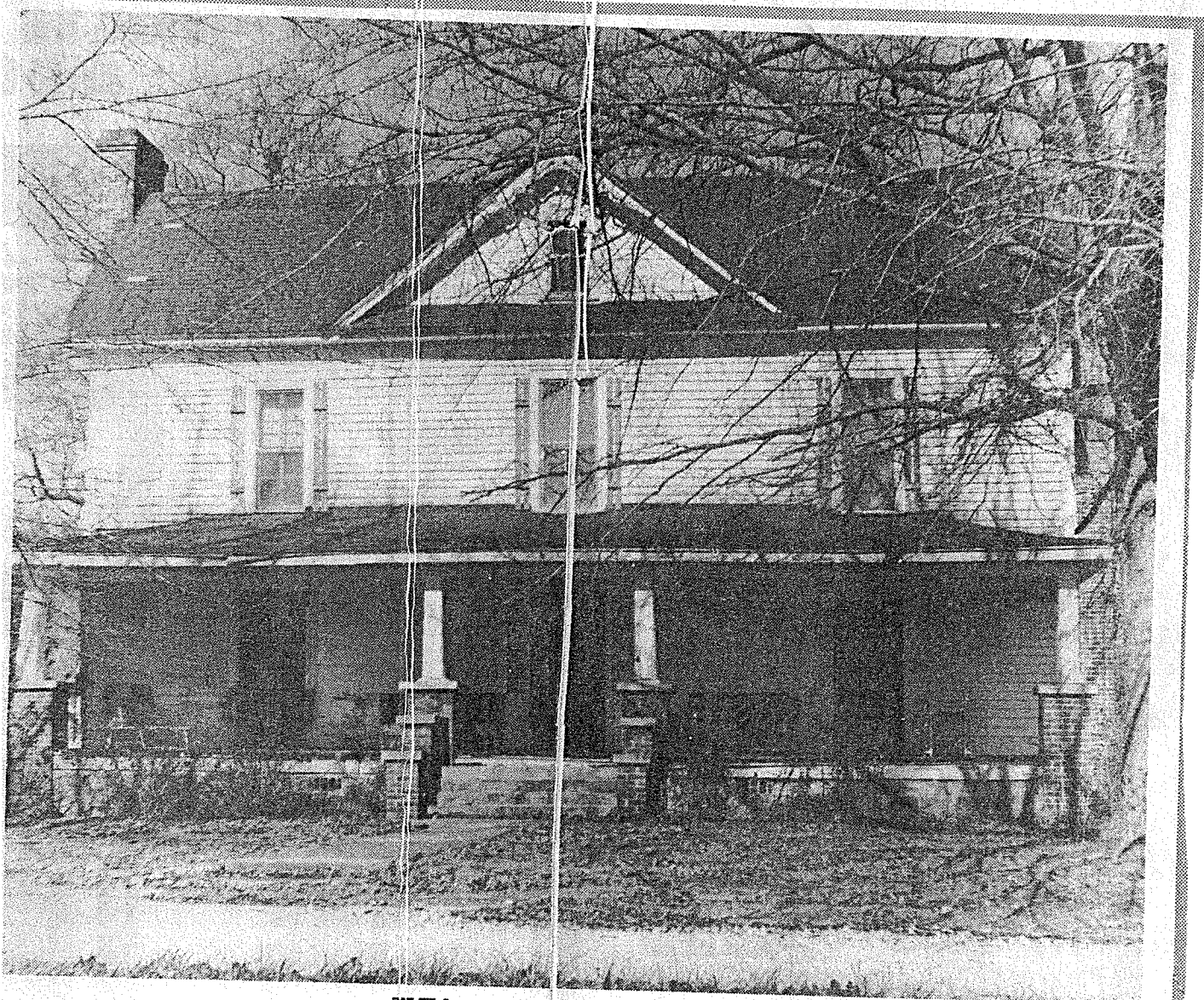
*file  
new Homes*

# ST. CLAIR OBS

*A Newspaper Dedicated to Commu*

HIRTY-THREE

PELL CITY, ALABAMA— WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY



## *Historical Homes*

The dignified old home above, steeped in history and Old-South tradition, is one of a number of historical homes you'll be seeing and reading about in coming issues of the Observer. This particular one, near Ashville, was built by John Ash in 1818, is now known as the "Rowan place." For more on this and other Ashville area homes,

turn to our fotofeature page (Page 6) and read the delightfully nostalgic "Houses and History," compiled and written by Ashville's Mrs. Abner Crowe, with a photographic assist from the Observer's women's editor, Dorothy Floyd.

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# County's Oldest Standing House

BY MATTIE LOUCROW

Perhaps the oldest standing house in St. Clair County today, as far as can be determined, is the old Newton Homestead in lovely Beaver Valley, located about six miles south of Ashville.

The log house was built by John Ash and his father-in-law, Thomas Newton in 1817. It consists of two large rooms, joined by an open hallway called a dogtrot, and has a sandstone chimney at one end.

The story of the Newton Homestead goes all the way back to the year 1817 and begins with an account of personal tragedy.

The Newton and Ash families were part of a wagon train headed south from the

Carolinas, when the young daughter of John and Margaret Ash fell from one of the wagons and suffered an injury which caused her death.

She is buried in the small cemetery some distance from the old house and her grave is marked: "Betsy Ann Ash, Died 1817." The young parents were reluctant to leave the tiny grave in this vast wilderness and decided instead to homestead here.

Until about 25 years ago this house was occupied. In the Spring the yard was alive with old-fashioned buttercups and lilies-of-the-valley. The front veranda was shaded by two majestic water oaks, and, behind the kitchen which stood some distance from the main

house, the peach and apple trees were in full blossom and alive with honey bees. A wooden sluice brought water from a spring on the hillside, and it ran continually into a trough on the back veranda.

In the winter, a spiral of gray smoke signalled a welcome as it floated down the valley from the old chimney. In spite of the damage done by time and goats, this old house still has a rustic beauty all its own.

Both the Newton and the Ash families lived in the first house and in their wagons until John Ash was able to build a home for his family some two miles closer to what is today Ashville.

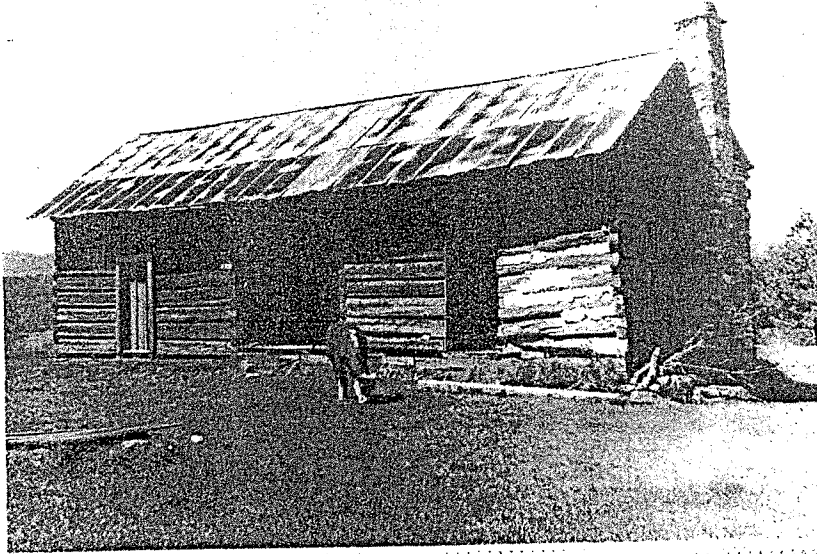
Late in 1818, the Ash's moved into their own two-story colonial style log house. The new Ash

home was later veneered with hand-planed boards. The chimneys were constructed of hand-pressed brick. And the wide, hand-planed boards of the floors and outside walls and the blown glass windows are superior examples of the fine work of the pioneer craftsmen.

John Ash went on to become notable in his own right as was St. Clair County's second county judge and was elected state senator in 1825, 1832, and 1844. One of Ash's daughters, Ada Caroline Ash, married John Buchanan Rowan. They reared

their family in the old Ash Homestead and it later became known as the Rowan Place. great-great-grandson, Jerry Coker is today the proud owner of an old parchment which deeded the land to John Ash and which bears the signature of President James Monroe.

The memory of John Ash was indelibly stamped into the history of St. Clair County when the town of Ashville was named for him. John and Margaret Ash are today buried in Liberty Cemetery at Odenville.



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Old Newton  
Homestead (1817)

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Ash - Rowan  
Place (1818)



# Campbell home is tribute to restoration

**BY KAREN HAND**  
News-Aegis Lifestyle Editor

The City of Asheville is listed on the National Records as an historic area and the restoration of the Campbell home, known as the Bothwell, Embry, Campbell home, adds much to the city and the county. In 1978 Dr. Lamar Campbell and his wife, Rebecca bought the home and began renovating each room, placing antique furniture everywhere to restore the home to the period in which it was built.

Dr. James Bothwell built the house in 1836 and his family lived there until 1854. There have been three additions to the home in it's

history, each adding more charm and distinctive character to the home. Various people lived in the home until 1882 where it remained until the Campbells bought it.

In 1852 a dining room, kitchen and back porch were added. Later after it became the property of the Embry's, the porch was closed in as a hallway and a bedroom was built. In 1917 the upstairs bedrooms were added changing the roof lines.

The home was built with hand sawn lumber and is jointed and pegged together. The doors inside are hand carved by slaves of the first family. They are held

together by wooden pegs, also.

Mrs. Campbell has wonderful taste in colors. Chinese red, royal blue and bright yellow flow throughout the home. Each piece of furniture is an antique and has been finished and coordinated with paints and wallpaper.

Upon entering the home, it's like going back into the past. 1835 is alive again as each room has

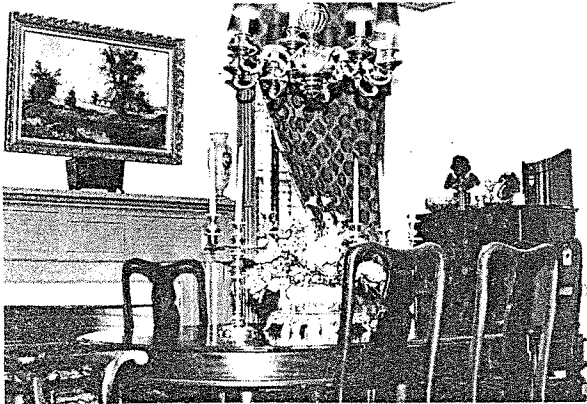
been designed for comfort and charm.

The back hallway has been decorated with an Oriental rug of Chinese red, blue and yellow. Antique wicker furniture in yellow and forest green are used as accent pieces, mixed with a rich oak hall tree with a beveled is mirror. The wall unfinished mahogany. Large windows are

placed along two sides of the room so the large houseplants seem to explode in the pots.

The master bedroom, located just beyond the porch, is decorated with the same colors and a four poster, mahogany bed with a canopy, and other matching pieces. The wallpaper is a soft stripe in the three

(See Restoration Page 15)



**Classic dining**

A mahogany dining room table and matching pieces grace the room that was added in 1852. The light fixtures are the original ones that electricity has been added too. The room also has an antique Bentwood high chair.



**Old with new in kitchen**

# Restoration

(Continued from page 14)

selected colors.

The livingroom or parlor is distinctive with the use of a Baby Grand piano and an oriental silk screen. The drapes are heavy red drapes, swagged to one side giving the room a larger view.. The floors in the original part of

the home still have the hard pine wood that have been striped and varnished. The fireplace in this room, as the other four fireplaces in the home, has been restored and is in useable order.

A large formal dinningroom suite with china cabinet, both of mohogany, grace the dinning room of the home. Each detail has been given the approval of the lady of the house. A Bentwood high chair is one of the main

features of the room as it stands waiting in the corner for someone small to climb in and begin eating.

Yellow pricilla's dress up the dinning area in the kitchen of the home. The dinning furniture sits in the large bay window and an antique chopping block brings back memories of times past. The conventional kitchen appliances are discreetly hidden from the view of the vistor.

Again, the fireplace in the kitchen has been restored and is used as the showplace for the copper kitchen utensels.

The upstairs was added in 1917 and has the most wonderful bath this reported has ever seen. In the center of the floor an is an ique tin bath tub with a wooden rail. They also have a childs size tin bath. A Bentwood chase lounge chair is placed near the large window for comfort after the bath. Again, an Oriental rug, with light blue and red, has been used under the tub. A wooden, antique bench graces one wall in the bath.

There are three bedrooms upstairs and a study which use to be the childrens bath before the Campbells restored the home. Each of the bedrooms has antiuqe furniture. Ever detail, right down to the quill pens, has been used to remind the vistor that they are in the last century.

Jonquils and other old fashioned flower grace the grounds and one large oak tree remains. An old well-house, built with wooden pegs and hand-carved pineapple finiel, is still located outside. The privy and smokehouse still stand in the back yard.

The white house is of the classicAl revival and has green shutters and four Doric Clounns. A balcony with hand-turned balusterS is still hand hanging from the upstairs. It was construCTed in 1836 a remains as sturdy now as it was then.

The Bothwell, Embry, Campbell home is a proud addition to the historic district of Ashville. And although there are many beautifully restored homes in the county, the Campbells have done marvelous reminding present and future generations of the lives of past citizens of the county.

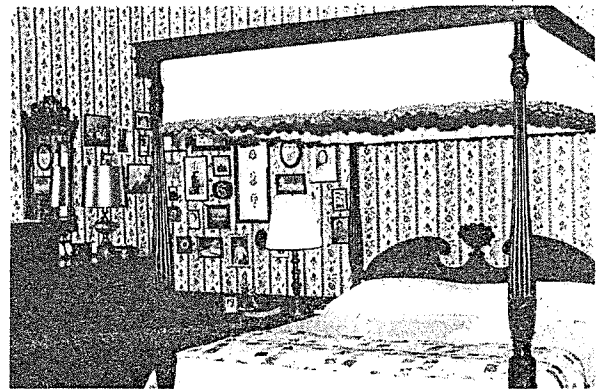


**Porch built in 1852**

The porch was added to the Bothwell-Ery home in 1852 and enclosed to make a hall in 1882. Mrs. Campbell uses the

room as a sun porch where her plants thrive. The room is decorated with an Oriental rug, with Chinese red, royal

blue and yellow. The antique yellow is wicker furniture mixed with antiques from the period throughout the room.



**Master bedroom masterpiece**

**Unveiling Confederate Monument to St. Clair County Heroes.**  
**Celebrating Ashville Centennial, April 26th.**  
**Public Cordially Invited.**

On the historic spot in Ashville where 62 years ago, the flower of St. Clair's young manhood, marched forth to defend their homes and the sacred causes of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the Confederacy have erected a memorial to their loyalty, courage and devotion.

They have selected April 26th, (Memorial Day) for the day of unveiling.

Few towns can boast of 100 years of existence, such is Ashville's Birthday. The Daughters have been asked by prominent and former citizens of Ashville, to include a Centennial program in the day's celebration, which they are glad to help plan.

A parade headed by a Brass Band, composed of school children, Daughters, Veterans and floats representing each business in town, will take place in the morning, following this will be a Centennial program, at which time, Hon. James A. Embry, a life long Ashvillian, will preside.

The principle address will be delivered by Hon. O. R. Hood of Gadsden, a former son of Ashville.

The unveiling program will be held in the afternoon, at which time, Mrs. W. A. Beason, President of Ashville Chapter U. D. C. and General Chairman of the day's festivities will preside.

Principle address of the unveiling will be delivered by Mrs. E. L. Huey of Bessemer State President U. D. C. gifted and beloved Viabamain.

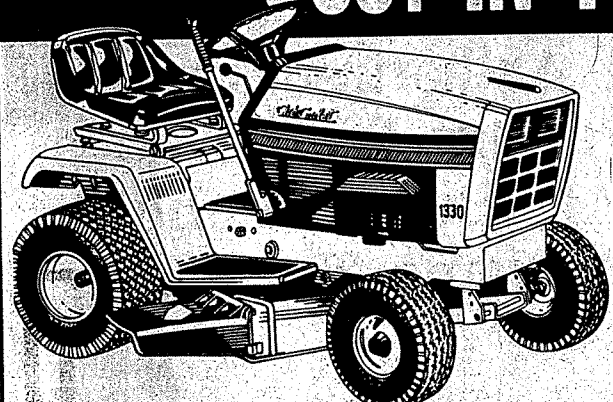
A cordial invitation is extended all to lay aside your cares and come to Ashville, for this day's celebration.



**CONFEDERATE MONUMENT DEDICATION**—The Confederate Monument at the courthouse in Asheville was dedicated on April 26, 1923. The event was held as a county-wide celebration in honor of Asheville's Centennial. Several Confederate veterans were present that day.

*Cub Cadet.*

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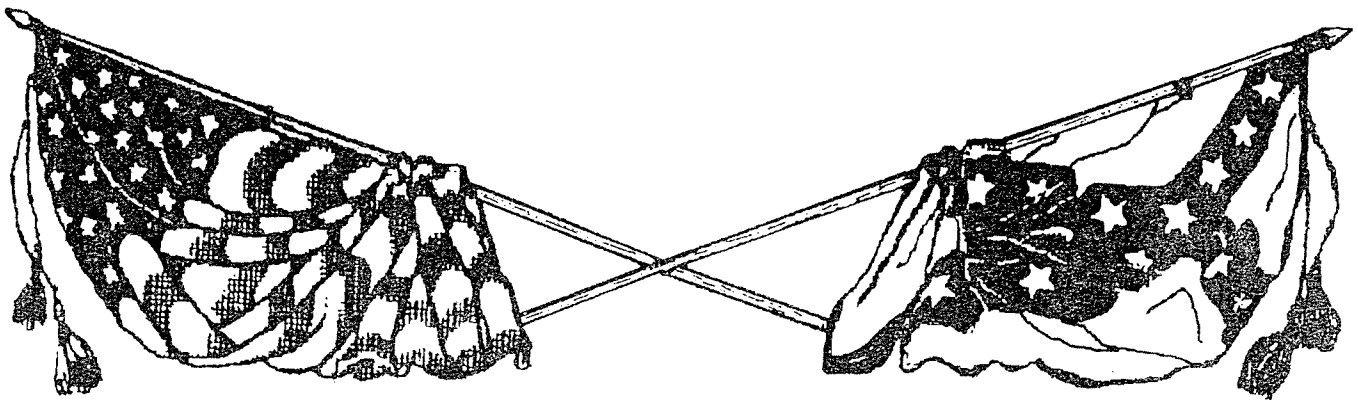
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October 28-30, 1994



# ROUSSEAU'S RAID ON ASHVILLE



sponsored by  
30th Alabama Infantry Co. H.  
and  
Rousseau's Raid at Ashville - Re-enactment Committee



The poem below first came to our attention in the form of a song. We later found out that it was originally a poem.

In many people's minds the Civil War is nothing more than a lot of faceless names and unknown places. Real people were involved in and touched by the events of the war. This poem is included in the program because we think that it gives some idea of how the war affected more people than just the soldiers involved in the fighting.

Our thanks go to Don Woodson of Jasper, Alabama, author of the poem, for permitting us to include his work in this program.

---

## **Wild Magnolia**

Mama cried when you had left her  
And she begged you to stay home  
But I told her I would guard you  
And we left her there alone

You followed me where I led you  
And you never said a word  
Walked from Huntsville, Alabama  
To this field at Gettysburg

Can't you hear our mama calling  
Calling you to come back home  
Calling for her darling Johnny  
As you die so far from home

Cut you down on Little Round Top  
You'd done fought the Devil's Den  
Gave your life my little brother  
'fore it ever could begin

Don't know how that I'll tell mama  
That her darling Johnny's gone  
I had rather done the dying  
Than to take your body home

Take you back to Alabama  
To the place that we called home  
Lay you down beside the river  
Where the wild magnolia grows

I reached out and touched their cannon  
And I gave a rebel yell  
I'll kill all them yankee devils  
Send their souls right back to hell

But I've done seen your Armageddon  
Washed my hands in Bloody Run  
It don't matter to the dying  
Who has lost and who has won

Take you back to Alabama  
To the place that we called home  
Lay you down beside the river  
Where the wild magnolia grows  
Where the wild magnolia grows

- - Don Woodson

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**Photography-**  
 Paul Doss  
 Billy & Sue Price  
 Esther Ash



**Writers -**  
 Debbie Doss  
 Paul Doss  
 Esther Ash

**Illustrations -**  
 Rebecca Coker  
 Paul Doss

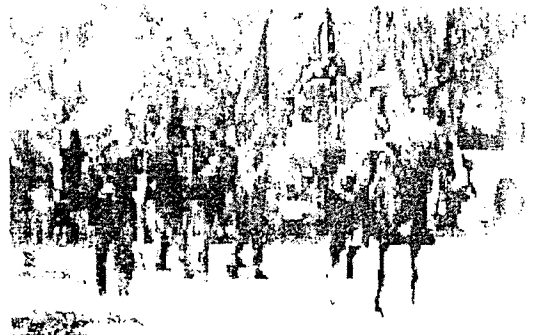
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Special Thanks to **Mattie Lou Teague Crow**,  
 without whom any historical research on St. Clair  
 County and Ashville would be much more difficult.

**Over-all Confederate Commander**  
**COL. ROBERT L. FRADY**

**Over-all Union Commander**  
**COL. JOHN GREEN**

**Commander - Host Unit,**  
**30th Alabama Infantry, Co. H**  
**Capt. Billy E. Price**



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## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

The following is a List of people who contributed to the Reenactment fund. Without their generosity this event would not be possible.

Teague Hardware  
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Gary's Small Engine Repair  
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**The people below contributed time, effort, and other items to the event.**

Ashville Signs and Graphics  
Randy Coker Hay and Livestock  
Roumley Ash - Enviro scape  
Mid-South Foliage  
Martha's Greenhouse  
John Pope Eden Area Vocational  
School, Horticulture Department  
Joan Miree - Miree Construction Co.

Many other people have given a great deal of their time, money, and effort to make the event possible. We would like to thank everyone who has helped in the effort to insure that the reenactment and all the other events of the weekend are a success.

*Rousseau's Raid On Ashville -  
Reenactment Committee*



# Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

## WELCOME

Welcome to Ashville, a town is full of history. We hope you enjoy your visit with us.

Our main attraction this weekend is, of course, **Rousseau's Raid On Ashville**. For information on the reenactment see the schedule on the back page.

There are many other things of interest for you to see and do while you're in Ashville.

We have three museums you can visit. The Ashville Library and Museum & Archives is on 6th Street. They will be open from 9-5 on Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday. The John W. Inzer Confederate Museum is on U.S. 231 and will be open for the weekend. The Ashville Masonic Lodge and Mattie Lou Teague Crow Museum will also be open.

A must see on any visit to our area is the John Looney House Pioneer Museum. It is a short ride from town but it's worth the trip.

The Ashville Garden Club is sponsoring a "Tour of Homes" on Saturday and Sunday from 1-5. There are also many historic homes not on the tour (see the area map on page 22 and the information on pages 19-21).

A free shuttle service is being provided. The busses will be running every half hour between the Courthouse square, the parking area, and the reenactment site.

There will be buggy rides in town. The rides will be all day Saturday, during the ball Saturday night, and all day Sunday.

A goat cart will be on hand for the kids to take rides in.

Check out some of the traditional arts and crafts while you're in town and listen to different musicians at various locations.

Many of our local merchants will be open from 9-5 on Saturday as well as on Sunday afternoon.

Delicious food will be available from food vendors in town and at the reenactment site. Or you may choose to eat at one of our good local restaurants.

Be sure to drop in at the antique shops while you're here. They have some lovely items to choose from.

With so much to see and do there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Once again, welcome to Ashville. We hope you have a wonderful time while you're here. Visit us again soon.

October 28, 29, & 30, 1994

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## A Bit Of Local History

The 640 square mile area we now call St. Clair County has attracted people to its abundant water, wildlife, and agreeable climate for the past 10,000 years.

The first Europeans to pass through this area were most likely members of DeSoto's expedition. Marching west, they learned of a large city where Tushkalusa (Tuscaloosa), the ruler of a vast empire at the time, resided. They turned almost due south and marched 250 miles to Old Coosa (now Childersburg). This course would have led them near or through this area.

When settlement of this area began over 270 years later the Creek Indians living here at that time were found to have Spanish relics.

Before 1814 and the Treaty of Fort Jackson, there were few Settlers in this area, then part of the Creek Nation. Explorers and hunters passed through and were met on friendly terms by the Indians.

In 1812 the United States was at war with England. Settlers were pushing further into the Creek nation. The English used Tecumseh (a Shawnee) to turn the Indians against the United States and furnished them with arms and ammunition.

According to legend, late in 1812 William Weatherford, also known as Red Eagle, leader of the Red Sticks (the Creek war party), visited this area of the Creek Nation. Shortly after Chief Cataula is said to have called a council of war at Littafatchee, a village several miles from present day Ashville, on Canoe Creek.

In 1813, after the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek and the Fort Mims Massacre, General Andrew Jackson was sent with 2,500 men and 1,300 horses from Tennessee into what is now Alabama.

At Ten Islands Jackson built Fort Strother on the west side of the Coosa River near present day Ragland and the Neely Henry Dam (in present day St. Clair Co.). The fort was used as his headquarters from 1813 to 1814.

Jackson sent Col. Dyer with a foraging party and discovered the Creek town of Littafatchee on Canoe Creek. At 4 a.m., Oct. 29 the town was burned and 29 prisoners, along with their winter supply of food, were taken..

On March 27, 1814, Weatherford's Red Sticks were defeated by Jackson's Army in the Battle of Horshoe Bend. The following August 9, the Creeks signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which removed them to the east side of the Coosa River. This took what is now St. Clair County from the Creek Nation and opened it for settlement.

(continued)

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## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

Jackson was helped by the Cherokees and some friendly Creeks, who were led by Col. Gideon Morgan. Morgan became a good friend of John Ross, the principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, who had a Scottish father and an Indian mother. Later Ross often went to Washington representing his followers. After Ashville became a town, he often visited here.

Jackson had also become friends with Chief John Ridge, a full-blooded Cherokee. Later John Ridge often came to court in Ashville, representing his people. Records of which can still be found at the Courthouse.

After the Battle of Horshoe Bend and the Treaty of Fort Jackson, for a time, the defeated Red Sticks were hostile to the pioneers. They were still being agitated by the British.

In March, 1817 the Mississippi Territory was divided by Congress into the state of Mississippi, with the remainder becoming the Alabama Territory comprised of 7 counties. At the first Territorial Legislature in January, 1818, Shelby County was one of 13 new counties established. Shelby County included the area that is now St. Clair County. By November, 1818 pioneers from the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia had moved into the northern part of Shelby County in such numbers that, at the second meeting of the Legislature, it was necessary to create a new county. Thus St. Clair County was born.

The county was named for Brig. Gen Arthur St. Clair, who fought in the Revolutionary War under George Washington. He was also elected a state delegate to the Continental Congress and was later the first Governor of the Northwest Territory. He died one month after St. Clair County was named in his honor.

The original borders of the county were changed numerous times, mainly because of the different treaties with the Indian tribes. The county included what is now Cherokee and DeKalb Counties until 1836. It also included what is now Etowah until 1866.

The first Court held in the county was at the trading post and home of Alexander Brown on Dec. 7, 1818, four and one half miles from present day Ashville. The site was referred to as "Old Town" or Cataula for Chief Cataula whose village Littafatchee was within a couple of miles.

On November 28, 1822, Philip Coleman acquired a large tract of land in St. Clair County. In part of this tract of land he and his associates laid out a town covering 30 acres with a square located in the center to be used as the site for a Courthouse. This location was close to the center of St. Clair County with its borders of the time. The town was called St. Clairsville for a short time but was soon changed to Ashville in honor of John Ash.

(continued)

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## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

John Ash was one of five Commissioners appointed by the Governor to select a site and build a Courthouse and jail.

Ashville was incorporated in 1822 and the Courts were moved there, although the log Courthouse and jail was not completed until 1824. The log Courthouse was on a lot where Ashville Rexall Drugs is now located.

Philip Coleman sold the town to the five Commissioners on Oct. 8, 1823 for \$10,000.

The Ashville Academy, the first school, was chartered on Jan. 15, 1831. The building was also used jointly by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists as a place of worship.

In 1844 Littleton Yarbrough built the original part of the brick Courthouse on the square. The 155,640 bricks were made on the square and the Ashville Museum has one of the original molds.

Many fine homes were built in Ashville through the years. Information about some of these may be found on pages 18~21 of this program.

Many people who were educated in or had ties with Ashville have gone on to some fame. Rufus W. Cobb went to school in Ashville and on to the University of Tennessee. After graduating in 1850 he practiced law here. During the Civil War he was a Captain in the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment and later a member of the Alabama Senate for Shelby County.

Oran M. Roberts, a student who went to school in Ashville and later moved to Texas, became Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and was elected Governor there in 1878.

William Dempsey Partlow also went to school here. He went on to become Superintendent of Bryce's Hospital.

John Washington Inzer, who was raised in Georgia on his father's (a Baptist minister) farm, was a lawyer, Probate Judge, and Circuit Judge. He represented St. Clair County at the Secession Convention in Montgomery in January, 1861. At 26 years old, he was the youngest delegate to sign the Ordinance of Secession. Inzer, who entered the war as a private and was later promoted to first lieutenant, captain, major, then lieutenant colonel with the 58th Alabama Infantry Regiment, Company G., was St. Clair County's highest ranking officer. His unit took place in battles at Chickamauga, New Hope, and near Atlanta. He was wounded at Chickamauga then captured at Missionary Ridge and spent the remainder of the war at a prison camp on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie. His home is now a museum, where there is an original copy of the Ordinance of Secession. A book was published of his diary kept during the Civil War.

And then, of course, there was General Rousseau . . . (see pages 9~16)

END



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## Major-General Lovell H. Rousseau & his raid through Alabama - July 10-22, 1864

---

Before the war Lovell Harrison Rousseau had been the leading criminal lawyer in Louisville, Kentucky. With the outbreak of the war, being a unionist and veteran of the war with Mexico, he entered the war as a Colonel. He formed a camp in Indiana called Camp Joe Holt and recruited the Third Kentucky Infantry from there.

Rousseau was one of the Commanding Officers at Huntsville, Alabama during the first occupation of that city by Union troops.

Something of the man can be learned from the diary of Mrs. W. D. Chadick (born Mary Ione Cook in Lebanon, Tennessee). She was the second wife of the Reverend William D. Chadick, a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher from Huntsville. He was known as the "fighting parson" and served as Chaplain in the Fourth Alabama during the First Battle of Manassas and was commissioned Lt. Colonel. Chadick commanded the Twenty-sixth Alabama at the Battle of Shiloh. Shortly thereafter he resigned his command but still took part in many smaller battles. For the rest of the war he served as a colonel on the staff of the Governor of Alabama

In order to be able to tell her husband all that had happened Mrs. Chadick kept a diary. She wrote of Rousseau:

*(July 17) [1862], Went with Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. Gooch to visit Gen. Rousseau at headquarters. Were very cordially received and agreeably entertained. The general is a handsome, fine looking man. He spoke very strongly on the Union question and especially of our "rattlesnake government" as he was pleased to call it. Judge Lane\* and Jeremiah Clemens\* coming in, we immediately took leave. As we were leaving, we met Gen. Buell and having a curiosity to see him, took a good look at him, a small, gray-headed man. Gen. Rousseau, being so large, perhaps made him appear smaller in comparison. Did*

*not get a good look at his features.*

(\* Judge George W. Lane, an Alabama Unionist, was appointed Federal Judge of Alabama by Lincoln. Jeremiah Clemens was an ex-Senator who at one time supported secession and served as Major-General of the state militia, later went over to the enemy.)

*(July 18) Visited Gen. Rousseau again this morning in company with Mrs. Cowan and Mrs. Van Horton to ask permission for them to go out of the Federal lines, which was immediately and cordially granted. Had a most pleasant interview and came away more pleased with him than we thought it possible to be with any Federal officer. Rumor about taking of Nashville unfounded.*

*(July 19) Went again this morning very reluctantly to see Gen. Rousseau with Mrs. Jim Ned Horton to ask for a pass for her to leave his lines, which was granted without hesitation. He also gave me a general pass to go when and where I pleased. Sue also called on him with Miss Scott Robinson to ask for the release of the Robinson boys and the Christians which was also granted.*

*Dr. [Frederick A.] Ross [Presbyterian Minister] was arrested this evening on account (it was alleged) of a war sermon he preached last Sunday. Proved the accusations false, but was ordered to prison, as he would not promise to keep his tongue. Upon Mrs. Ross' solicitations, was paroled for the night . . .*

*(Sunday, July 27, 1862) Went to hear Dr. Ross preach this morning. Text: "I am not mad, most noble Felix, but speak forth the words of truth." A most excellent discourse followed - first sermon since his arrest.*

*After speaking before Gen. Rousseau two or three times and maintaining his finesse, and "proving his points" with that gentleman, he (Ross) was not further molested. Gen. Rousseau thus far has been very kind to the citizens and has made a very favorable impression, as has Gen. Buell, to the*

## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

great dissatisfaction of his soldiers. . . .

(August 2) Mrs. Dillard, who suffered so severely at the hands of the Yankees (her son killed a Federal soldier who had come to raid the smokehouse), came down day before yesterday to see Generals Buell and Rousseau to get restitution. Failed, of course. She made her stay with me and left this morning.

(August 6) Matt Steele was arrested yesterday on the old charge of pulling Wilson, the tailor's whiskers, for being civil to a Federal officer. [George S. Wilson, tailor, had been born in England. See M. S. Census (1860) Madison County, 218] Gen. Rousseau treated it as a very grave offense and an insult to the U. S. government, and asked him "if he did not know that it was a very cowardly act." Mr. Steele replied that he thought it was, as Mr. Wilson did not resent it.

Gen. Rousseau remarked among other things, and accompanied by an oath, that they "had got us down and would trot us through, and when we got them down, we could trot them through."

Mr. Steele added that he did not object to the fairness of the thing, but thought it rather hard that he should have the first trotting. His case is yet to be disposed of.

(August 8) The trains were again fired into last night, between Elkton and Pulaski. Gen. Rousseau declared that he intends to make Drs. [F. A.] Ross and [J. M.] Bannister [Presbyterian and Episcopal ministers, respectively] run the trains, as they are prepared to die, and his men are not.

(August 25) . . . Judge Lane and family got off yesterday, taking Gen. Rousseau's sick son with them, . . .

(August 28) . . . Gen. Rousseau has left, and Gen Lightte [Actually Gen. W. H. Lytle, whose command evacuated Huntsville, Aug. 31, 1862] is in command.

On June 30, 1864 Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman was engaged with Joseph E. Johnston near Atlanta. He sent instructions to Major-General Rousseau in Nashville to prepare

for a raid deep into Alabama.

The single purpose of the raid was to cut the West Point & Montgomery Railroad, the only railroad artery into Atlanta from the west, between Opelika and Montgomery and then leave the state as rapidly as possible. Sherman was concerned about Nathan B. Forrest's cavalry who were near Tupelo, Mississippi, but were known for covering great distances in a short time. He knew that Philip D. Roddey was near Tupelo also and to be sure they were kept busy during the raid he sent General A. J. Smith with 14,000 men against them from Nashville. From July 13-15 the battle of Tupelo raged as Rousseau moved through Alabama.

Sherman's instructions to Rousseau were very precise:

Near Kennesaw, June 30, 1864

Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau, Nashville:

The movement that I want you to study and be prepared for is contingent on the fact that General A. J. Smith defeats Forrest or holds him well in check, and after I succeed in making Johnston pass the Chattahoochee with his army, when I want you in person, or to send some good officer, with 2,500 good cavalry, well armed, and a sufficient number of pack-mules, loaded with ammunition, salt, sugar, and coffee, and some bread or flour, depending on the country for forage, meat, and corn-meal. The party might take two light Rodman guns, with orders, in case of very rapid movements, to cut the wheels, burn the carriages, taking sledges along to break off the trunnions and wedging them in the muzzle. The expedition should start from Decatur, move slowly to Blountsville and Ashville, and if the way is clear, to cross the Coosa at the Ten Islands or the railroad bridge, destroying it after their passage, then move rapidly for Talladega or Oxford, and then for the nearest ford or bridge over the Tallapoosa. That passed, the expedition should move with rapidity on the railroad between Tuskegee and Opelika, breaking up the road and twisting the bars of iron. They should work on that road night and day, doing all the damage toward and including Opelika. If no serious opposition offers, they should threaten Columbus, Ga., and then turn up the Chattahoochee to join me between Marietta and Atlanta, doing all the mischief

## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

*possible. No infantry or position should be attacked, and the party should avoid all fighting possible, bearing in mind, for their own safety, that Pensacola, Rome, the Etowah, and my army, are all in our hands. If compelled to make Pensacola, they should leave their horses, embark for New Orleans, and come round to Nashville again. Study this well, and be prepared to act on order when the time comes. Selma, though important, is more easily defended than the route I have named.*

W. T. Sherman  
Major-General

*Near Chattahoochee, July 7, 1864--9 P.M.*

*Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau,*

*Nashville or Decatur:*

*I have no new instructions or information to convey to you, but expect you to leave Decatur on the 9th. If Roddey be about Tusculumbia, you might send a small infantry force down to Waterloo to amuse him by threatening to cross to burn the Bear Creek bridge, eight miles back from Eastport and about five miles east of luka. You may give out that you are going to Selma, but be sure to go to Opelika, and break up railroad between it and Montgomery. There is but a single road there, which unites the Mississippi road with the Alabama roads. I am convinced General A. J. Smith will give full employment to Forrest, and I will keep Johnston fully employed, and Major-General [E.R.S.] Canby will look out for the Mobile garrison. When you reach the road do your work well; burn the ties in piles, heat the iron in the middle, and when red hot let the men pull the ends so as to give a twist to the rails. If simply bent, the rails may be used, but if they are twisted or wrenched they cannot be used again. In returning you should take the back track, and, if pursued, turn for me or for Rome or Kingston or Allatoona. Be sure to take no wagons, but pack some led horses. Travel early and late in the day, but rest at midday and midnight. Spare your horses for the first week, and keep the horses ready for the return trip. I think the only force in your route is [Gideon J.] Pillow's, about Oxford or Jacksonville or Gadsden. We are down to the Chattahoochee, and will soon be across. All is well with us.*

W. T. Sherman  
Major-General

Rousseau was unable to leave on the 9th because all of the regiments designated for the expedition did not reach Decatur until the evening of the 9th of July. He had hand-picked portions of the Eighth Indiana Cavalry, Col. Thomas J. Harrison; Second Kentucky, Col. E. S. Watts; Fourth Tennessee, Major Meshack Stephens; Ninth Ohio, Col. W. D. Hamilton; and the Fifth Iowa, Lt. Col. M. T. Patrick. The General said of the men, "On so hazardous an undertaking I greatly desired to have with me officers and men whom I knew to be of tried courage and efficiency to insure the success of the expedition."

Most of these troops were dismounted and he was forced to take horses from other regiments.

**July 10, 1864, Sunday - 1:00:** Rousseau departs **Decatur** with 2,500 cavalry, a pack train, and two ten pounder Parrott guns of the First Michigan Artillery, under Lt. Leonard Wightman. They proceed to **Sommerville** and camp for the night. A forage train, carrying corn for the horses, that accompanied the expedition to Sommerville returned to Decatur the next day.

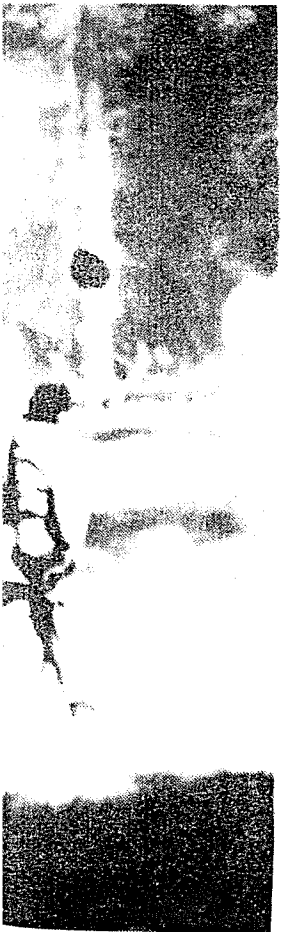
**July 11** - Rousseau and his troops crossed **Sand Mountain** and passed through **Blountsville**. [In Blountsville they released two deserters from Johnston's army and four slaves from the jail.]

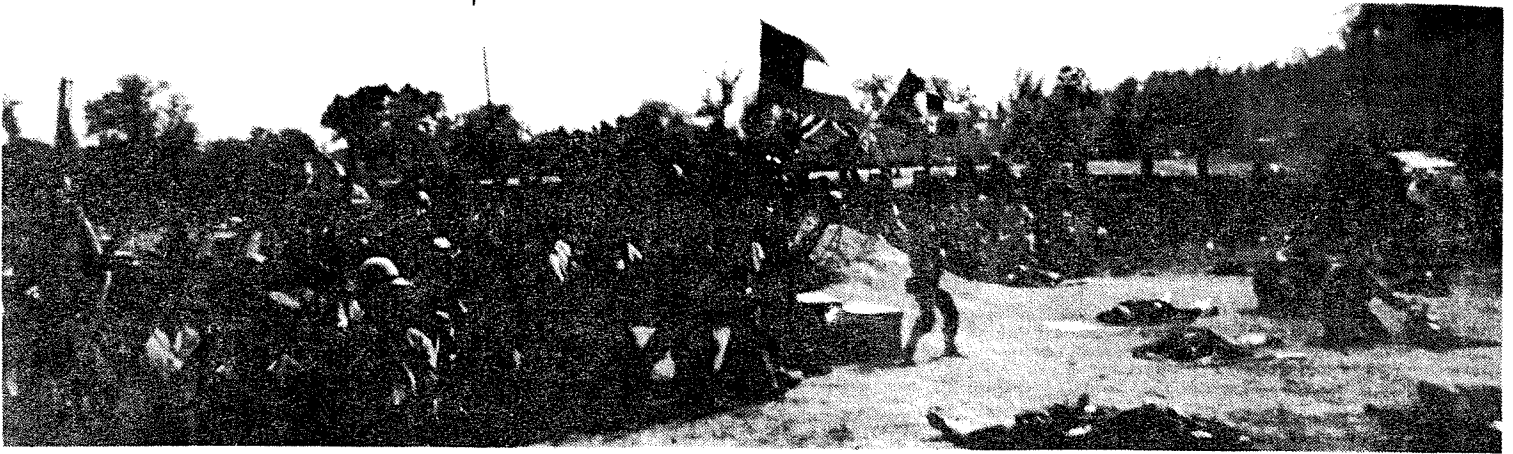
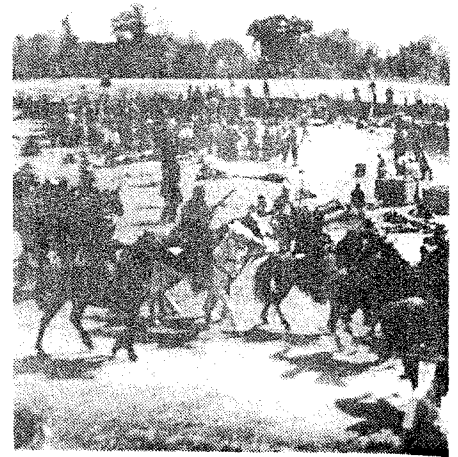
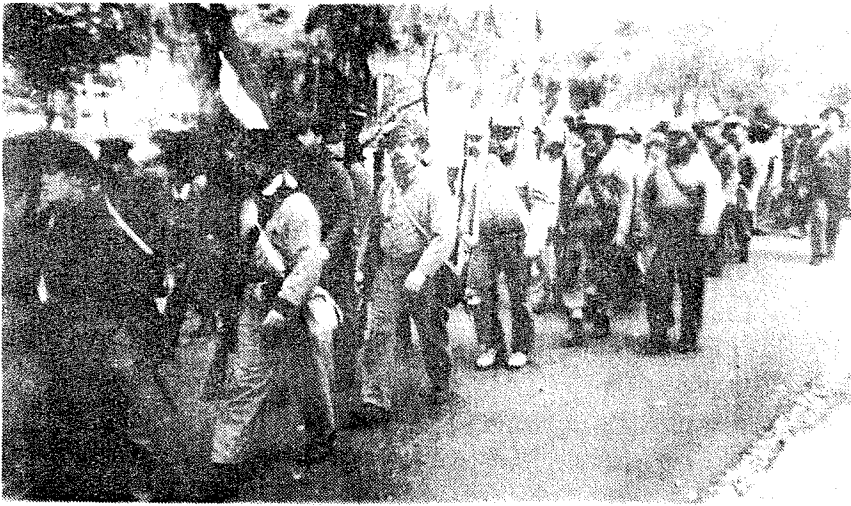
**July 12** - **Crossed Strait Mountain.** Rousseau wrote, "I halted the main command at night five miles from Ashville, [A correspondent with Rousseau wrote, "in a fertile valley, where a good supply of oats was obtained for the horses."] sending Capt. Thomas A. Elkins, of my staff, and Major Stephens, with the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, forward to that place to secure any supplies the enemy might have stored there. They took possession of the town and found a sufficient supply of corn for the animals of the command; and also a quantity of commissary stores, which were issued to the men next day." According to the correspondent, "The command marched into Ashville in the morning (July 13), and remained for several hours, getting the horses completely shod up. All places of business were closed, and a number of citizens had fled in terror at the approach of the dreaded Yankees."

Ashville, like all of the towns the raiders



## **30th Alabama Infantry and others at various Reenactments**





## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

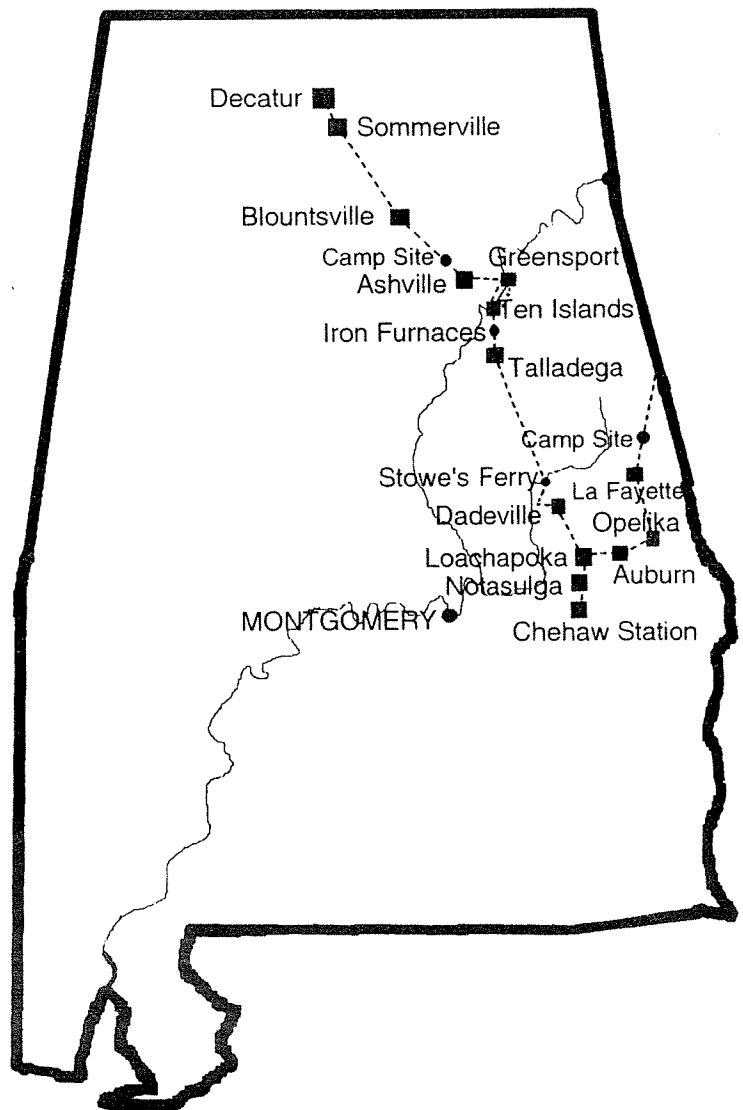
passed through, was taken completely by surprise at the sight of 2,500 cavalymen with their pack train and artillery. The editor and printer of the *Ashville Vidette* left in a hurry. The unfinished edition was still on the press. Some of the Union troops who were familiar with printing were put to work printing orders and blanks for the Yankee command. They also amused themselves by inserting a short editorial and also some items encouraging the arrival of Rousseau's command. A few copies of the new edition were printed before the men left Ashville.

**July 13** - Reached the Coosa River at **Greensport** in the evening. Sent a detail of men, under Capt. Elkin, to swim across to bring the ferry-boat back. Sent 200 men across the river to protect the ferry crossing and the ford four miles below at Ten Islands. Before they reached the river a band of guerrillas fired into the rear of the column. One of Rousseau's officers was killed and another wounded. 300 horses were found to be unfit and were sent to Guntersville along with the disabled men. His command was now less than 2,300 men.

**July 14, 1864** - **Battle at Ten Islands**  
Attempting to cross the ford at Ten Islands Rousseau's command meets members of the Sixth and Eighth Alabama Cavalry under the command of Brigadier-General [James H.] Clanton. While the fighting was going on the majority of Rousseau's group crossed the ford. According to Rousseau's records there were 15 killed (including Capt. [R.S.] Abercrombie, Gen. Clanton's acting adjutant-general, and Capt. [John C.] Moore), 40 wounded, and 8 taken prisoner (including Lt. Col. [W.T.] Lary and Major [E.A.] McWhorter) from the Confederate group.

The ford used by Rousseau and his men was the same one used by Andrew Jackson on his march to Talladega during the campaign against the Creek Indians in 1813.

Because of the heat and the bad roads the artillery was not able to move as rapidly as needed. One of the guns was destroyed and the horses were attached to the remaining gun and caisson.



**July 15** - Reached **Talladega**. Approximately 100,000 rations of sugar and salt, 20,000 rations of flour and bacon, and many other rations were taken. The group took what they needed and destroyed the rest. They also destroyed two gun factories, some railroad cars, and the railroad depo (containing cotton, salt, wheat, flour, sacks, grain and a large amount of leather). They had destroyed several iron furnaces near their route. Started moving toward Montgomery in an attempt to give the impression that they were going to move on the city.

**July 16** - Came to the Tallapoosa River at **Stowe's Ferry**. The artillery & pack mules crossed on the ferry, while the main group crossed at the ford. Spent most of the night crossing. Turned away from Montgomery, went through **Dadeville**

cont. on page 16

## THE THIRTIETH ALABAMA INFANTRY THEN AND NOW

---

### THEN

The Thirtieth Alabama Infantry was organized in April, 1862, at Talladega, Alabama. It was mustered into Confederate service there during mid-April. Members of the regiment were recruited at Talladega and in the counties of Shelby, Clay, St. Clair, Calhoun, and Coosa.

Like almost all Civil War units the Thirtieth Alabama Infantry was often known by an alternate designation derived from the name of its commanding officer. The first used by or for the regiment was: *Charles M. Shelley's Infantry*.

Charles Miller Shelley had served originally in the Fifth Alabama Infantry. Resigning his commission in early 1862, he was instrumental in recruiting this unit, being appointed its first commanding officer when the regiment was mustered into service. Captured along with his unit at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, Shelley was later exchanged and continued to command the regiment. On September 17, 1864 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, leading his brigade for the remainder of the War.

Soon after being mustered into Confederate service the Thirtieth Alabama Infantry was ordered to Chattanooga, Tennessee. There it joined the Department of East Tennessee. The regiment served in that command until the end of 1862. Transferred to Mississippi, the unit next served in the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana and the Army of Vicksburg. After being exchanged the regiment joined the Army of Tennessee, serving in that Army for the remainder of the War.

Only unofficial records have been found showing how many

members of the Thirtieth Alabama Infantry were still with it when the Army of Tennessee surrendered in late April, 1865. According to these sources, fewer than one hundred officers and enlisted men were still with the regiment at this time.

This regiment was noted for the number of its field officers killed.

Its field officers were Col. Charles M. Shelley, who was made brigadier-general and who afterward served in the United States House of Representatives; Col. James K. Elliot, wounded at Bentonville; Lieut.-Cols. Paul Bradford, who resigned; A. J. Smith, who was killed at Vicksburg; John C. Francis, killed at Rocky Face; Thomas Patterson, killed at Atlanta, and William H. Burr (from St. Clair Co.); Maj. William Patterson, who was wounded at Baker's Creek and resigned.

Capt. Henry Oden was killed at Vicksburg, Captain Peacock at Bentonville, Capt. David Anderson at Baker's Creek, Capt. William S. McGhee at Atlanta, and Capt. Jack Derrill near Atlanta.

The Thirtieth Alabama Infantry participated in more than 50 various types of engagements in six states. They were actively involved in campaigns and battles of Cumberland Gap, Perryville, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, North Alabama, North Georgia, Franklin, Nashville, Bentonville, and surrendered April 26, 1865 at Durham Station, N. C.

### NOW

The present day Thirtieth Alabama Infantry Company H reenacting group is hosting the First Annual *Rousseau's Raid On Ashville*. Capt. Billy E. Price of Ashville, Alabama is the Company Commander.

They are a group of Civil War



## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

reenactors who experience history first hand by learning and doing all the things that were required of a confederate soldier.

They participate in battles and living histories locally and all across the South.

They are a family oriented group who expect the best behavior from the members.

Members of the Thirtieth Alabama Infantry Company H are:

Billy E., Sue, Tara, and Sterling Price, W. Clay Yancey, Craig Gaston, Nancy Futrell, Shane and Brandon Cornutt, Al Futrell, Jason Nelms, Heath Vaughn, Terry, Mary, Chris, and Billy Womack, Mike Dole, Charlie Wolfe, Dennis and Kendra Rushing.

### Rousseau cont...

and headed to Loachapoka.

**July 17** - Reached **Loachapoka** near sunset. Took a short rest. Several miles of railroad were completely destroyed. A large amount of stores at the Loachapoka depot were also destroyed. The depot was set on fire accidentally and burned down. The correspondent wrote, "... Gen. Rousseau, by his personal exertions, assisted in saving the residence of a widow lady, who was astonished..." at his generosity.

**July 18** - Skirmish at **Auburn**. Destroyed six miles of road between here and West Point. Fired upon by the enemy but fought them off. Burned a lot of lumber and other supplies at the Auburn station. Captured a locomotive along with the engineer and two other railroad employees, destroyed the locomotive.

**Battle of Chehaw** - A detachment was sent to **Chehaw Station**, twelve miles south of Loachapoka to destroy the road between the two places. Another group was sent to **Notasulga**, six miles from Loachapoka, also to destroy roads.

The group that went to Chehaw Station met a "superior force of the enemy." This force was made up of University of Alabama cadets, H. C. Lockhart's battalion of militia or

exempts, and a group from Camp Watts, two miles from Notasulga. There were approximately 500 of the Confederates. A trainload of "city companies" of militia left Montgomery but did not get to Chehaw Station until after the battle. The Confederates were met with superior power from Rousseau's Spencer rifles. All the Confederate soldiers had were old muskets. They fell back in confusion.

Camp Watts was destroyed except for the hospital.

**July 19** - Proceeded to **Opelika**. Destroyed the railroad depot there along with more of the road. Destroyed or used thousands of pounds of supplies. Destroyed a turn-table and Y on the railroad tracks. The total length of railroad destroyed was over 30 miles. Left Opelika, rested about a mile out, marched through **La Fayette**, stopping at midnight about 25 miles from Opelika.

**July 20 & 21** - Marched about 35 miles each day.

**July 22** - Reached Marietta and reported to General Sherman.

General Rousseau was a Kentucky Congressman after the war. He was sent to Alaska to receive the territory from Russia in 1867.

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## Ladies' Fashions Of The Day

When most people think of Civil War era ladies' fashions they picture the "Southern Belle" type dress. While the women did dress this way for balls and other special occasions, this was not a daily thing, especially during the Civil War.

Day wear generally consisted of a skirt and a bodice. The skirts were pleated or gathered in one of several different ways. They were commonly either bell-shaped or pagoda-shaped. Their length varied from as short as four to six inches above the ground to touching or even slightly dragging on the ground. Day dresses were worn over smaller hoops than evening dresses. The diameter of the day skirt was between 50% and 70% the height of the lady.

The skirts usually fastened in the seam to the left of the center front panel. Because the bodices had a center front opening, dresses with attached bodices had openings which ran vertically from neck to waist, horizontally along the waist, then down the left front skirt seam.

Bodices were generally one of three common styles. The V-shaped bodice had stays sewn into them and were shaped to the figure of the wearer. O-shaped bodices were loose and fell over the bust in folds to pleats or gathers. The Y-shaped bodice was also loose but fell from the shoulders in diagonal pleats to gathers or pleats at the waist.

The bodices most often had necklines which came up to the base of the neck. Some had a v-shaped neckline but a chemisette was worn under these to fill in the "v". The only time the ladies showed their arms and upper chest was in evening wear.

Commonly the women wore boned-bodices or corsets, although some photographs from the day show fashionable women wearing neither.

There were several sleeve types but they all covered the women's arms. The elbows and forearms were hidden from view. Sleeve caps were used to cover the top few inches of the sleeve and give the impression of sloping shoulders.

The dresses, hairstyles, and hair ornaments all were used to make the face and body look wider while making the waist appear as slender as possible.

Hair was usually parted in the middle and pulled down and back into braids, rolls, or curls. The ends of the hair were usually hidden. Most of the women wore their hair in braids or rolls or in snoods (large, decorative hair nets). A few of the women had short curly hair which was left loose. Bangs were not seen.

Some of the ladies wore caps, nets, and ornaments for the hair. They commonly covered the back of the head and occasionally the sides. Photographs of the time disprove the idea that all women wore hats or caps all of the time.

Photographs show that most women wore brooches at the center front of their neckline. Some of the ladies wore watches tucked into small pockets in their waistband. Others wore delicate, dangling earrings. Necklaces and bracelets made of pearls or beads were popular. The necklaces were worn short.

Jewelry materials included gold, carved ivory, carved shell (cameos), onyx, jet, and precious stones. Turquoise, garnets, and amethysts were also popular. People with the skill and time wore jewelry made of intricately woven human hair. The most expensive jewelry of the time was made of aluminum, the costliest metal of the day.

END

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# The 1994 Tour of Homes

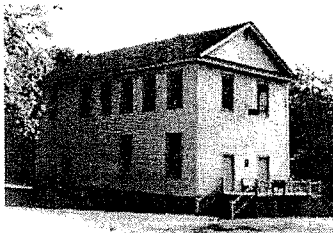
(sponsored by The Ashville Garden Club)  
and **Other Local Historical Homes** (not on the tour)



**St. Clair County Courthouse** - Built by Littleton Yarbrough in 1844. The bricks were fired on the square. The building is Alabama's oldest courthouse still in use. It was added onto over the years but the original building is the heart of the present one. This is Ashville's second courthouse replacing a log building built

in 1824 that stood where the Rexall Drug Store now stands. **The Church of Christ (NOW)** - Built 1879 as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Ashville. Two of the original pews are still used.

**Masonic Lodge Building** (Lodge No. 186) - Built 1858 used jointly by the Masons and the Methodist congregation. The present site is the third location for the building. The original site was the location of the present Methodist Church. In 1892 the building moved to its second home, where the new St. Clair County Jail is now located. A few years ago it



moved to its present location, a lot deeded to the Lodge by Jack Inzer. The Lodge is now the home of the Mattie Lou Teague Crow Museum and Herbert H. Collett Hall.

**Old Ashville Savings Bank** - Built 1906 and is the oldest bank building standing in the county. The bricks were moulded and fired at the site. All but the front was built by local brick masons and it was built by an expert mason brought in from Atlanta.

**Cason-Tipton House** - Built approximately 1870 by Dr. Davis E. Cason, a Confederate veteran. He and his wife Ellen (Cobb) Cason had first lived in a 3 room board-and-batten cottage which they purchased from Lewis Nelson. Today Sue's Country Corner, Emily's Back Room, and Between The Lines occupy the building.



**Ashville Library and Archives** - Built in 1949 as the Town Hall. When Joe Adkins was mayor, the city moved to a new building. Needing a library, The Homemakers Club and The Garden Club remodeled the old town hall into a library. Many citizens gave time and money to the project. In 1978 a room was added to house an archives.

( Continued )

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Candidate for  
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District 3

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Paul Manning  
P.O. Box 119, Wattsville, AL 35182

# Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

## Fred Teague Home

The Fred Teague home was built in 1910 by Redden Hodges and wife Mary Robinson Hodges. Around 1900 the old home site was destroyed by fire. Mr. George A. Hodges, father of Redden Hodges, moved his wife Mary, brother, George Willis Hodges and Bessie Hodges to the Cason-Tipton House behind the Courthouse Square in Ashville, Alabama.

George A. Hodges died in 1906. Redden Hodges then received the present site from the Estate of George Hodges. Mr. Redden Hodges began building the present home to fulfill his boyhood dream of moving back home.

Just prior to Mary and Redden Hodges moving into their new home, their only child, Ashley Hodges, who was three years of age, died of a childhood disease. The family grieved over the loss and finally moved into the home.

Redden Hodges had numerous land holdings around Ashville and St. Clair County where his farming and agriculture activities kept him busy. Mrs. Mary Hodges taught piano to many children over a period of fifty (50) years in the home in Ashville, Alabama.

The Hodges rented rooms, as apartments, in their spacious house to newlywed couples.

In 1957 Mr. Redden Hodges died at the age of 80 years.

Mrs. Mary Hodges died in 1975 at the age of 92 years.

The home was then passed by will to Miss Sally V. Inzer who was Mrs. Hodges niece.

The home was rented to various individuals for the next ten years.

In September 1985, Fred and Anita L Teague purchased the home from the Inzer family. After extensive renovations, Mr. and Mrs. Teague and their infant son Braden moved into the home in July 1986. The Teagues currently occupy the home with their sons Braden and Edward who was born in 1990.

There is much history steeped in this old home. As you enter the home and look on the wall of the hall entrance you see a picture of Chesley Judson Teague, who was the great grandfather of Mr. Teague. Chesley J. Teague served in Col. Inzer's unit in the Confederate Army. In 1880 Chesley J. Teague served as Superintendent of Education in St. Clair County.

Tall 14 foot ceiling in the living room and hand planed hardwood floors are reminiscent of an era gone by.

The original clawfoot bathtub still remains in the home.

In the sitting room, high above eye level, near the ceiling, is a glass door. It is still a mystery to the Teague family regarding its function. Original light fixtures still remain in use in the home.

The beautiful magnolia tree in the front of the home is several hundred years old. Its beauty and grandeur still grace the old home site.



## Terry Veal Home

The Terry Veal home was built in the late 1890's by Dr. Newman and his wife Jessie Newman. Mr. Terry Veal purchased the home from the Newmans in 1979 by lease purchase.

Originally there was no bathroom or front porch. In the early 1950's the home was remodeled by adding the front porch and moving the kitchen to the rear of the house which once was the back porch.

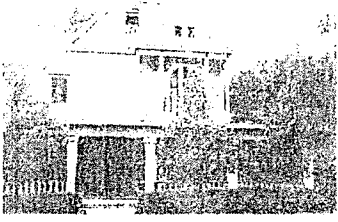
Mr. Veal is an artist at heart and a Nurse at the Blount Memorial Hospital by trade. He especially designed the stained glass front door and side panels himself.

In the dining room is Mr. Veal's grandmother's beautiful cherry dining room suite plus many other nostalgic items to see such as an 1890 wash basin and an old clock.

The gorgeous oak bed in the bedroom is over 110 years old.

The artistic creations of Mr. Veal are on sale in his private gallery just off the kitchen so be sure to go by and purchase a treasure.

## Robinson-Montgomery House



The house, built in the late 1880's by E. J. Robinson, consists of the finest details of Victorian style architecture with its decorative gables and small stained-glass windows. The spacious veranda was added at a later date.

When Elias James Robinson was seventeen years old he entered the Confederate Army and was soon in the thick of battle at Big Shanty. In this, his first and only battle, he received a wound that caused the loss of his right foot. He was discharged and returned to his studies. He read law and passed the bar at the age of twenty. He was elected probate judge at twenty-five. He was married to Susan Vandegrift and together they planned and built this home.

The inside of the house is no less attractive than the outside. The entrance hall with the spiral staircase opens into the old-fashioned parlor where the lovely fireplace and mantel are the center of interest.

After his second term of office, Judge Robinson sold the home and moved his family to the young city of East Lake, Alabama.

James P. and Clara Inzer Montgomery purchased the estate and it was the Montgomery home until 1987, when the Tony Sparks family became the owners.

Now, along with new owners, the old home has a new name: *Roses and Lace Country Inn*. It serves tourists as a bed and breakfast inn.

## Inzer House



The place known as the John W. Inzer home was built in 1852 by an early settler whose name was Moses Dean. Mr. Dean and his wife, Eliza Hoke Dean, entered land at Ashville in 1825. Their first home was a log "dog-trot" house on the site of Joe Adkin's present home. There they had the beautiful clear spring that today furnishes Ashville's water supply and is spoken of as Dean's Spring.

It was shortly after the War that Judge Inzer came in possession of the Dean house. Here he brought his bride, Sally Elizabeth Pope, to live in the house in 1866.

John Washington Inzer, who was born in Georgia, came first to Talladega in 1854, there he read law in the office of Messrs. A. J. Walker and John T. Morgan. He passed the bar and came to Ashville in 1856 where he began his practice. He was a popular man and was elected St. Clair County's representative to the Secession Convention at Montgomery in January of 1861. He was twenty-six years old and the youngest delegate to sign the Ordinance of Secession. Inzer served with distinction in the Confederate Army, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In the Battle of Missionary Ridge Colonel Inzer and many of his regiment were captured by the Yankees. He was imprisoned on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie and there he remained until surrender.

The house is a one-story Greek Revival. The small portico has two Doric pillars, flanked by two square ones, and the pilasters are square, the double doors with glass of ruby red for transom and for sidelights add the perfect touch. The walls are sixteen inches thick from the ground up, including room dividers.

The house was built of red brick, fired on the grounds. Sometime during its long history it has been given a coat of white paint, and the beauty of the hand-press brick has been hidden. The rooms are spacious and many of the original furnishings are still intact. The hand planed floors and woodwork retain their classic beauty.

The lawn and garden are picturesque, with old-fashioned flowering shrubs, colorful spring-blooming bulbs, and stately magnolias which speak of the love and care of by-gone days. The house is on the National Register of Historic Homes.

The last member of the Inzer family to call this place home was his granddaughter, Miss Sally Inzer, who died in 1987. Jack Inzer, the only remaining grandson, deeded the place to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp No. 308, soon after Sally's death.

The house is now open as *The John Washington Inzer Confederate Museum*.

## Rousseau's Raid On Ashville

**Looney House Museum** - Built 1820. Possibly the oldest log house of this type in the state. The house is located in Lower Beaver Valley. John Looney and son Henry, who was with Andrew Jackson's Army during the Creek War of 1813-1814, were the builders. There are no metal nails in the buildings. There are two fireplaces, made of hand-pressed brick, large enough to hold five-foot logs. The home is on the National Register.

**Alameth Byers Home** - Built in the early 1820's. Located on the east side of the Courthouse square. The home was originally a four room cottage and was enlarged ten years later. A wing was added to house the large dining room and kitchen. At one time it was a hotel. Presently it is home to Kell Realty.

**Amzi Walton Byers Home** - Built 1835 by Richard Crow for Mr. Byers and his new wife, Sumira Louisa Ash. The house later was bought by Judge Leroy Box. Mr. & Mrs. Box gave the home to one of their daughters as a wedding gift. The present owners are the Pricketts.

**Bothwell-Embry-Campbell Home** - Built 1834. Dr. James J. Bothwell and his wife, Ellen were the first owners. The house changed owners a few times. One owner was Judge Leroy Box who purchased it as a wedding gift for another daughter, who married James A. Embry. Dr. Lamar Campbell bought the house in 1978. The house has been beautifully restored and is on the National Register.

**Ashville Academy** - Chartered 1831. This was Ashville's first school and was also the first church, Mt. Pleasant Meeting House. Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian all used the building. In 1879 Mr. & Mrs. John Vandegrift bought the house, moved it to its current location, and made it their home. The home has hand-planed boards and square nails.

**Yarbrough Home** - This three-story house was built in 1825. Descendants of the original owners still live in the house. The family started Yarbrough Mill shortly after building the house. The home is located in Lower Beaver Valley.



(Some Members of the 30th Alabama at other reenactments.)

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Candidate for  
Chairman  
St. Clair Co. Commission

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Another Place*

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In the Old McCain House  
Built in 1870

Hours: Friday & Saturday 9 - 5  
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Compliments of

## Jean Browning

Candidate for  
Circuit Court Clerk  
St. Clair County

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Jean Browning

Moody, AL

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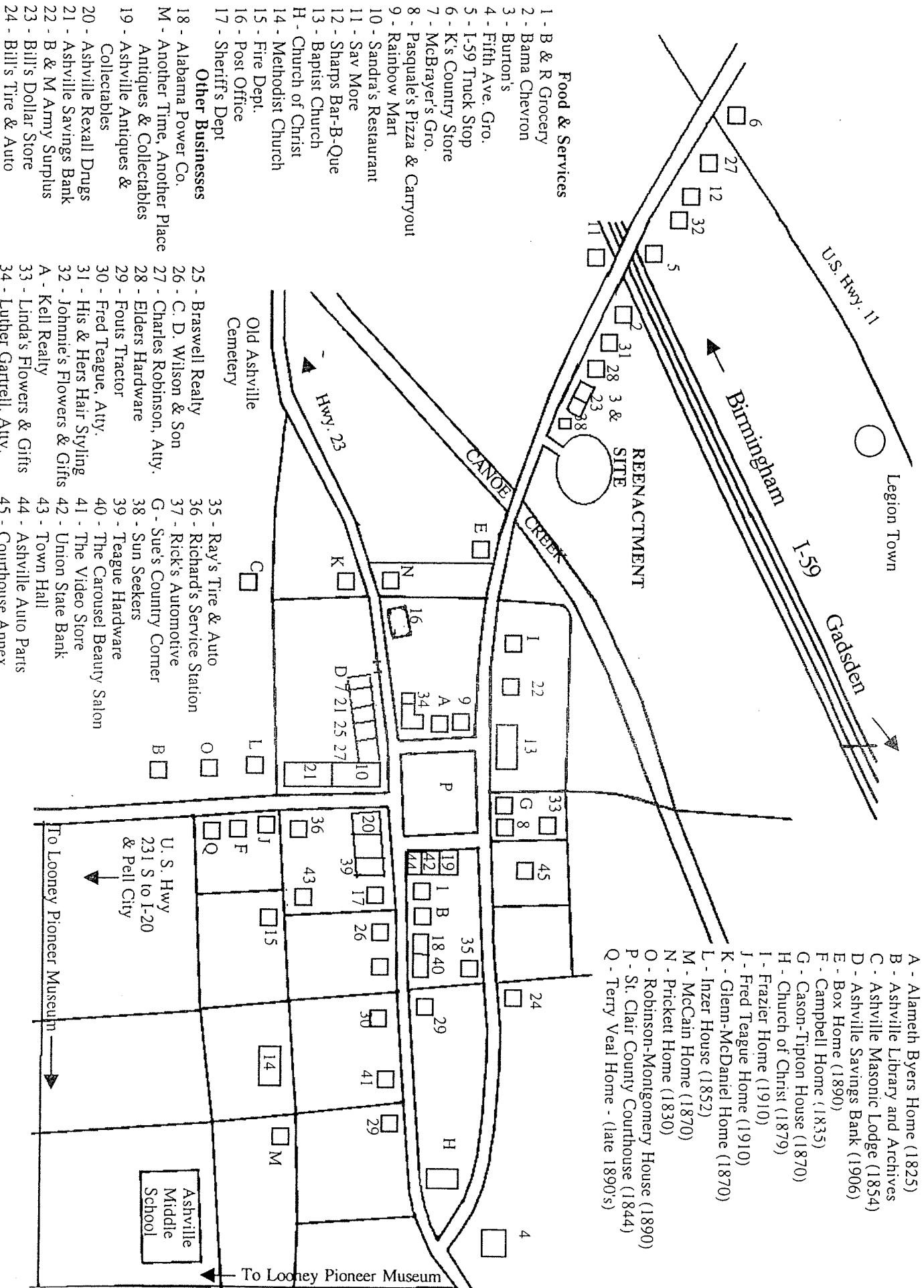
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Candidate for  
Circuit Court Clerk  
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Pd. Pol. Adv. by Jean Browning  
Moody, AL

# ASHVILLE, ALABAMA



### Food & Services

- 1 - B & R Grocery
- 2 - Bama Chevron
- 3 - Burton's
- 4 - Fifth Ave. Gro.
- 5 - I-59 Truck Stop
- 6 - K's Country Store
- 7 - McBrayer's Gro.
- 8 - Pasquale's Pizza & Carryout
- 9 - Rainbow Mart
- 10 - Sandra's Restaurant
- 11 - Sav More
- 12 - Sharps Bar-B-Que
- 13 - Baptist Church
- H - Church of Christ
- 14 - Methodist Church
- 15 - Fire Dept.
- 16 - Post Office
- 17 - Sheriff's Dept

### Other Businesses

- 18 - Alabama Power Co.
- M - Another Time, Another Place
- 19 - Ashville Antiques & Collectables
- 20 - Ashville Rexall Drugs
- 21 - Ashville Savings Bank
- 22 - B & M Army Surplus
- 23 - Bill's Dollar Store
- 24 - Bill's Tire & Auto
- 25 - Braswell Realty
- 26 - C. D. Wilson & Son
- 27 - Charles Robinson, Atty.
- 28 - Elders Hardware
- 29 - Fouts Tractor
- 30 - Fred Teague, Atty.
- 31 - His & Hers Hair Styling
- 32 - Johnnie's Flowers & Gifts
- A - Kell Realty
- 33 - Linda's Flowers & Gifts
- 34 - Luther Gartrell, Atty.
- 35 - Ray's Tire & Auto
- 36 - Richard's Service Station
- 37 - Rick's Automotive
- G - Sue's Country Corner
- 38 - Sun Seekers
- 39 - Teague Hardware
- 40 - The Carousel Beauty Salon
- 41 - The Video Store
- 42 - Union State Bank
- 43 - Town Hall
- 44 - Ashville Auto Parts
- 45 - Courthouse Annex

### Historical Sites

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- C - Ashville Masonic Lodge (1854)
- D - Ashville Savings Bank (1906)
- E - Box Home (1890)
- F - Campbell Home (1835)
- G - Cason-Tipton House (1870)
- H - Church of Christ (1879)
- I - Frazier Home (1910)
- J - Fred Teague Home (1910)
- K - Glenn-McDaniel Home (1870)
- L - Inzer House (1852)
- M - McCain Home (1870)
- N - Prickett Home (1830)
- O - Robinson-Montgomery House (1890)
- P - St. Clair County Courthouse (1844)
- Q - Terry Veal Home - (late 1890's)

# ASHVILLE, ALABAMA

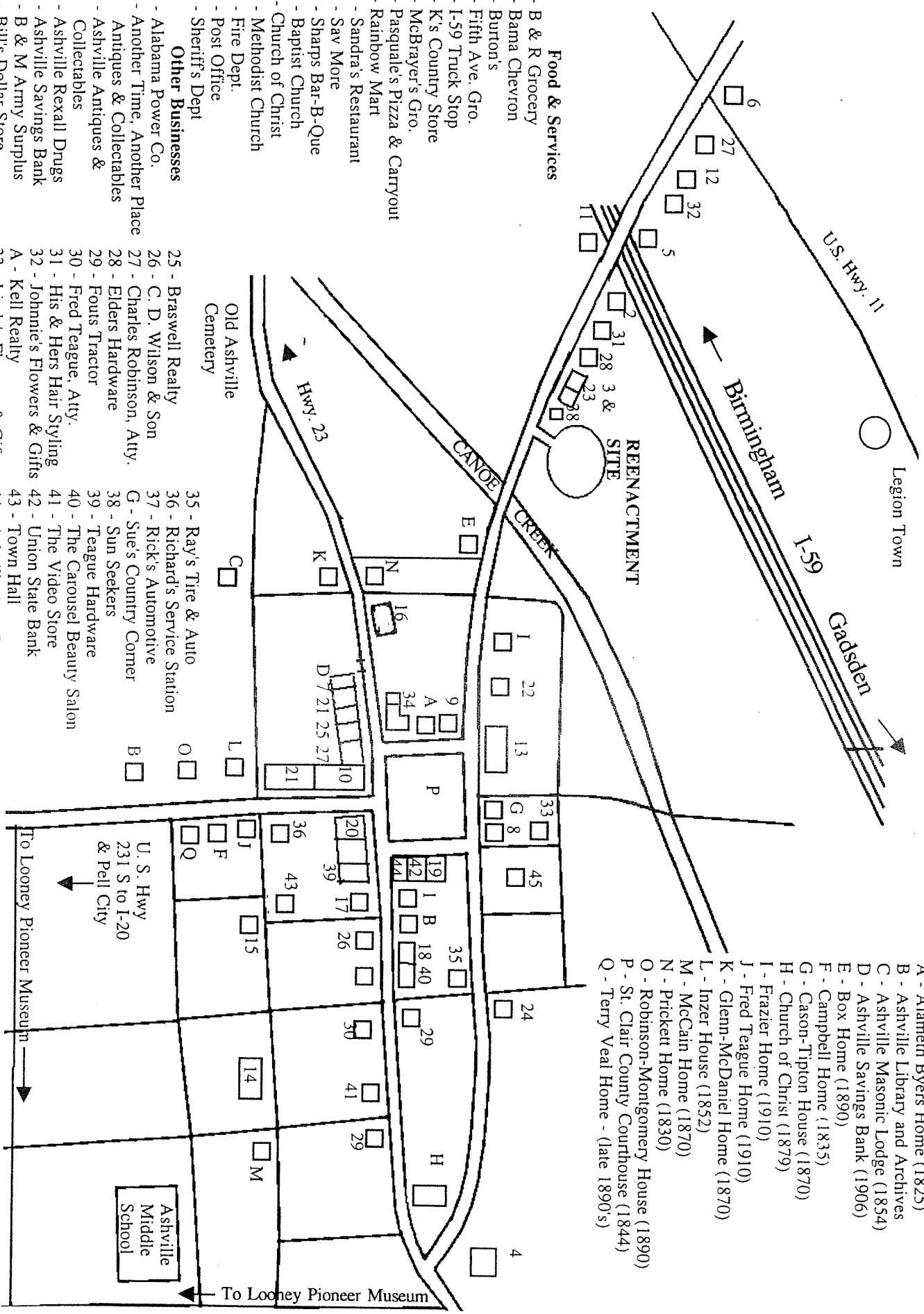
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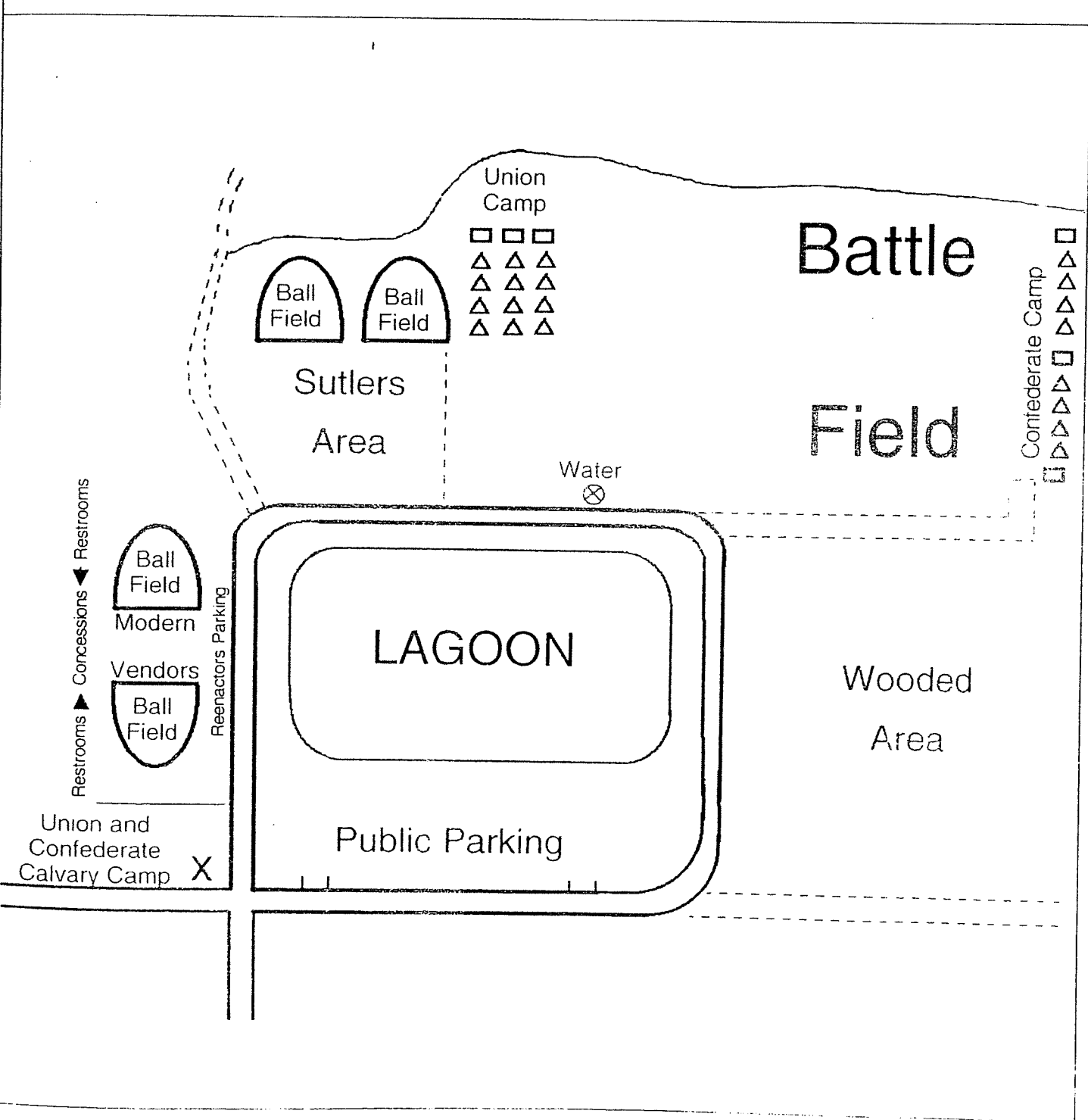




# Rousseau's Raid on Ashville, AL

October 28-30, 1994

## Reenactment Site



# Rousseau's Raid on Ashville, AL

## 1994 Schedule of Events

### Friday, October 28th

- 9:00 a.m. Camps open for registration
- 10:00 a.m. Camps open for school field trips
- 5:00 p.m. Camps close to the public

### Saturday, October 29th

- 6:00 a.m. Reveille
- 7:00 a.m. Officers call at the registration tent
- 8:00 a.m. Registration opens
- 9:00 a.m. Camps open to the public**
- 9:30 a.m. Medical demonstrations in the hospital area
- 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Tea, Roses and Lace Country Inn at Ashville - for Re-enactors  
(Period dress ONLY!!!)
- 11:00 a.m. Officers call at the registration tent
- 1:00 p.m. Troops formation for inspection in both camps
- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tour of Homes - Starts at Courthouse in Ashville  
Pre-Battle Concert by 5th Alabama Regimental Band
- 2:00 p.m. BATTLE - ROUSSEAU'S RAID ON ASHVILLE
- 3:00 p.m. Medical demonstrations in the hospital area
- 5:00 p.m. Camps close to the public
- 5:30 p.m. Re-enactor's meal in the camp area (Must be in period dress)
- 7:00 p.m. til 10 p.m.  
SATURDAY NIGHT BALL ON THE GROUNDS OF THE INZER MUSEUM  
AND MASONIC LODGE IN ASHVILLE (Period dress ONLY!!!)  
Public may view ball from bank parking lot
- 10:00 p.m. Taps - Please respect your fellow re-enactors and keep celebrating  
at a civilized level.

### Sunday, October 30th

- 6:00 a.m. Reveille
- 8:00 a.m. Ceremony at old Ashville Cemetery
- 9:00 a.m. Powder rations issued to troops
- 9:00 a.m. Camps open to the public**
- 10:00 a.m. Church Services in the camp
- 11:00 a.m. Officers call at the camp entrance
- 1:00 p.m. Troops form-up for inspection in camps
- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tour of Homes - Starts at Courthouse in Ashville
- 2:00 p.m. BATTLE - ROUSSEAU'S RAID ON ASHVILLE
- 4:00 p.m. Camps close to the public

# Historical Landmarks

By Frankye Elizabeth Awtre

Hopewell Baptist Church, located seven miles east of Ashville, is a historic landmark in the richest sense of the term. It is one of the oldest and best known churches in this section of Alabama. People from far and wide have flocked here for revivals, all day singings, dinners on the grounds, and other events, for generations. The church, consisting of twenty-three members, was formed on June 19, 1830 by Sian Blythe, Bapel Roden and John Gilliland. Several family names on the list of original members are familiar to us today. Frazier, Knight, Washburn, Gilliland and Hood. It is interesting to note the names, "Friend" (a colored man), "Igo" (a colored woman) on the list of the charter members. No other information is given about them.

The history of this church has been a stormy one, with misunderstandings, differences of opinions of church doctrine, and many other controversies. John Dickey, a licensed preacher, from South Carolina, was dismissed from the church in the eighteen thirties for harsh statements, and was denounced as a heretic. Contention and confusion seem to have been a rather common thing during the early years of the church.

The old Church, made of thick planks, stayed with oak beams and shafters, has a certain hold on the place but the true romance of Hopewell rests upon the burial ground - one of the oldest in the state - real history is written here. The first to be buried there (long before there was a church) was a child who died while traveling in an oxen-drawn covered wagon across the state with her parents. There has not been a headstone erected at this grave, but one can see it near the highway covered with a large crumbling slate slab. One needs little imagination to visualize the innermost feelings of these parents as they placed this large slab on their child's grave. Perhaps they planned to return at some later date, and wanted their child's grave marked for their return, or maybe it was to prevent wild animals from uncovering the body. A Revolution-War soldier was buried there in 1796 and there was some sort of observance in his honor there not too many years ago.

It is drowsily quiet in the cemetery. A still and bittersweet melancholy lies over the place, and noises from the highway sound as though they came from a long way off. The old crumbling headstones - many dated in the early 1800's - in the rambling graveyard fill us with romance, reconstruct for us the intimate life of the past - the sufferings of the first settlers, their courage, their devotion, their faith, bringing

tears of sympathy to our eyes as we read their quaint epitaphs. Many well known families in this section of Alabama have loved ones buried here. The Green's, Knight's, Franklin's, Vaughan's, Harp's, Hood's, and my own beloved grandfather, Turner Gilchrist.

The great charm of Hopewell is the simplicity it has retained to a remarkable degree through the years. It is not beautiful in the accepted sense of the term.

There are no stained glass windows, clipped lawns, or exotic shrubbery. The lure of the place is deeper and more substantial. It has suffered not at all from land speculation or improvement. There is still a wild grandeur about the desolation in the woods around the church that has its own allure, an allure not found on the premises of any of our modern churches, regardless of how striking or expensive they might be.



ASHVILLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

MATTIE LOU TEAGUE CROW

THE BANNER PRESS, Publishers

ASHVILLE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
AND ITS BEGINNINGS

MATTIE LOU TEAGUE CROW

BANNER PRESS / PUBLISHERS  
Birmingham, Alabama

## PREFACES AND DEDICATIONS

Some time ago, while browsing in a second-hand bookstore, I came across a slender volume bearing the title, *Prefaces and Dedications*. It occurs to me that this brief account of the first 130 years in the life of the Ashville Baptist Church could fit well into that title. Surely these years are but a preface of the glory which is to come. Any church member reading the story of this church, begun in a place where only soft moccasined feet and the hoofs of wild animals had marked trails through the dense forests, would want to rededicate his life to furthering the Kingdom of God by working in and for his church. Let this account be a preface and a dedication.

The information herein came from many sources: old minutes of the St. Clair County Baptist Association, of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, and of the East Alabama Baptist Convention, *The Alabama Baptist*, Birmingham newspapers, *Southern Aegis*, old church minutes, letters, ledgers, and grave markers. Many of Ashville's senior citizens recounted happenings which were later verified from printed records.

This account falls far short of being the whole story. Writing it has simply whetted my appetite for further research into the history of our church. I am not a writer but this has been a labor of love.

Mattie Lou Teague Crow

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Edited by Arthur L. Walker, Jr.  
Printed for Banner Press by Birmingham Printing Co.

PASTORS OF ASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1831-1962

James L. Lewis, 1831-1832	Collis Cunningham, 1918
Jesse A. Collins, 1832-1876	Vester L. Wyatt, 1919-1922
Peyton Smith Montgomery, 1877-1879	J. A. Hendricks, 1924
John S. E. Robinson, 1883-1884	A. C. Swindall, 1925-1927
John A. Glenn, 1886-1893	W. Henry Harris, 1927-1928
J. R. Lloyd, 1894	L. B. Jones, 1930-1931
J. A. Glenn, 1895-1898	G. S. Sorrell, 1933-1934
A. J. Preston, 1899	Paul Minton, 1936-1942
J. M. McCord, 1901-1902	George Rector, 1943
L. M. Stone, 1903-1904	Frank Hixon, 1944-1945
A. E. Barnes, 1905-1906	Thomas H. Stone, 1946-1947
N. A. Hood, 1907-1908	Kermit Gore, 1948-1949
J. M. Rogers, 1909-1912	Mr. Hall, 1950
I. W. Inzer, 1912-1916	John Hall Jones, 1951 (In- terim Pastor)
J. E. Fleming, 1917	Jean M. Griffin, 1952-1959
	James Coleman, 1959-

## First Settlers

OUR NATION was in its 41st year of Independence when the first white people came to make Ashville a permanent settlement. When the first white man, John Ash, came he found a small Indian village, Cataula. Evidently this was a subsidiary to the larger Creek settlement, Littifetchee, located some twelve miles south. As the result of the Treaty of Fort Jackson, August 9, 1814, all Creek Indians in this section were settled on the east side of the Coosa River. Even though many of these Indians had been friendly and helpful to the first white settlers, they became the "moved-outers" and in 1821 the town of Ashville was incorporated and became the seat of justice for St. Clair County.

The town was named for Ash. His story as handed down by word-of-mouth, was told by George Alley Ash, the grandson of John Ash, who passed away in 1955, at the age of ninety-one.

In 1817, John Ash with his family was traveling, as a part of a wagon train, from Georgia to South Alabama. Near the big spring at Cataula, the wagon train stopped to rest and replenish the food supply. The Indians were friendly and did some trading with the whites. Ash liked the place and decided to spend a few days on a reconnaissance for a homestead site. He drove his team out what

is now known as the Beaver Valley Road (old Montevallo Road) which leads to Odenville, a well-marked Indian trail. Late one afternoon, when they had stopped to make camp, Ash saw a young deer and shot it. As he was very near his team when he fired his gun, the horses bolted and his small daughter, Betsy Ann, was thrown from the back of the wagon. Evidently she suffered a skull fracture for she lay unconscious for days. The family returned to the main camp but, due to the child's condition, they did not travel South with their friends. The record states that the child died and the marked grave is on the property which John Ash later homesteaded.

There was only one family in the area in 1817 yet one year later so many others had come that the population was sufficient to warrant a county organization. This year was known throughout the land as the "year of eighteen-hundred-and-starve-to-death." This depression set people to moving. Hard times, tales of young men who had made fortunes in wild land speculation, and letters sent back to friends and relatives describing a land where the crops were certain led people to Alabama. So they came; over the mountains, through the gaps, and down the rivers. They came in caravans over Indian trails, crossing the creeks and rivers by such means as nature and their wits supplied, and they came down the streams in all manner of boats and barges. Alabama Territory, St. Clair County, and Ashville welcomed many of the newcomers.

## Church Buildings

ON DECEMBER 20, 1820, a man by the name of Phillip Coleman entered land in Section 7, Township 14, Range 14. There is no way of knowing how long Phillip

Coleman had lived on this land before he secured title to it. We do know that John Ash homesteaded on his plot of land in 1817, but legally he did not become owner until 1820. Records show that Ash entered land on November 11, 1820, on November 30, 1836, and again on November 21, 1854. Things of a legal nature were not done in a day.

According to a deed recorded in the courthouse at Ashville, Phillip Coleman transferred one and three-eighths acres to the trustees of the Ashville Academy, James Rogan, John Byers and James L. Lewis, on March 19, 1832. This transaction involved the building of a meeting house and a school building on the property before it could be transferred to the trustees. In *Acts of Alabama Legislature, 1819* it is recorded that on January 15, 1831, the Ashville Academy was chartered by Rogan, Byers and Lewis.

Tradition says that the first building was located just above the spring and across the present highway from the cemetery, near the place where a little cobblestone building is now located. The first church and school property included the two little hills just outside the town of Ashville and adjoining the cemetery, part of this now being used as cemetery.

The school was known as Ashville Academy and the church was called Mount Pleasant. The building was used as a place of worship by three denominations, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Of the three trustees, Lewis was a Baptist, Byers a Methodist, and Rogan a Presbyterian. The house was a small square structure with a belfry in the center of the roof. It was made of hand-planed boards and a plank into which scallops had been sawed was used for decoration around the edge of the roof.

Today there are two houses in Ashville which were constructed from material later taken from this first church when it was razed in 1860. The home belonging to the estate of W. T. Montgomery located next door to the home



of Mr. Montgomery's daughter, Mrs. R. E. Jones, was built in 1860 by Judge E. J. Robinson partly of the lumber from the old church building. And in the small house located to the rear of the home now owned and occupied by Mrs. H. S. Awtry one may see lumber from Ashville's first church building. Both these houses are decorated around the roof edge with the same scalloped board which was used on the early meeting house and school building.

In those early days life was hard and somber. The first settlers had many hardships and privations. They had few roads, stores, doctors, courts, schools, or churches. Road building went progressively forward; merchants set up stores; local government was established; a physician with his "pill-bags" rode the hills and hollows. But first and foremost these people realized the importance of a school and a place to worship. The foundations of our present-day educational and religious life were laid by heroic persistence and self-denial. Preachers and teachers, the men who carried only Bibles and other books for protection, came to this wilderness and ultimately were responsible for laying a rock-like foundation on which later generations have built.

When and how the academy and church building became the sole property of the Baptists is not recorded. Records show that the Presbyterians left the property and purchased their own in 1846. In 1848 they erected their own church building. This building is standing today and is the property of the Church of Christ congregation. It became the property of this church organization in a rather unique transaction. The Ashville Church of Christ was organized in 1913 when a small group of faithful members met at the courthouse in Ashville for that purpose. Judge Sam High, a member of the Ashville Baptist Church, purchased the property and presented it as a gift to the Church of Christ, of which his wife and daughters were members. Thus a Baptist bought property from the Presbyterians and gave it to the Church of Christ.

The Methodist Church, represented in the initial organization by John M. Byers, left the property to the Baptists as sole owners in 1854, at which time Almoth Byers, a descendant, gave the land to the Methodists for a building site. It is on that same site that the present Methodist Church stands.

We are inclined to think of the prefabricated building as a modern development, yet Ashville's second Baptist church building, erected in 1859 was a prefabricated structure. When the first building became too small for its purpose, the Baptists drew plans and specifications for a larger building. These plans were given to Littleton Yarbrough and he was commissioned to build the church across the road and on a little hill just opposite to the first building. This was part of the land included in the original Coleman deed. Yarbrough had the timber cut from the land which lies between the Yarbrough homestead and the public road. The lumber was hand planed and the boards cut to specification. It was then hauled in sections by ox wagon, to the building site and there assembled without a metal nail or screw in the entire structure. Wooden pegs were used throughout. Yarbrough had carefully marked each peg and corresponding peg hole with Roman numerals and when the building was razed in 1931 these numerals were easily read. The few metal nails found, the square variety, had been used for repair work from time to time during the seventy-two years this building was in use.

An old paper found in a leather folder belonging to Judge John W. Inzer read as follows:

We the undersigned subscribers do hereby promise to pay to the order of George Robinson, L. Yarbrough, Redding Hodges, and John W. Inzer, the building committee of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church at Ashville, Alabama (or to their successors in office) the sum annexed to our names respectively for the purpose of erecting a house of worship for said church. One half of said subscription to become due when said house shall be (begun) and the other half

to fall due when said house shall be weather boarded, windows and doors in, and the floors laid. 1858.

L. Yarbrough—work and lumber \$200.00	R. M. Williams—\$20.00
George Robinson—\$100.00	Thomas Allman—\$20.00
R. Hodges—\$50.00	Alemeth Byers—\$50.00
Thomas Bowling—\$40.00	B. T. Pope—\$50.00
George W. Turner—\$50.00	George T. Neely—\$10.00
John Alford—\$50.00	L. Lloyd—\$10.00
J. W. Inzer—\$25.00	A. B. Penick—\$5.00
D. W. Partlow—\$40.00	A. W. Nickson—\$5.00
David Montgomery—\$25.00	Isaac Montgomery—\$5.00
Thomas Hayden—\$5.00	David T. Castleberry Jr.—\$5.00
Calvin A. Crow—\$10.00	P. Rowan—\$20.00
James Garrison—\$5.00	George Ross—\$5.00
W. A. Edwards—\$10.00	E. M. Montgomery—\$5.00
T. S. Logan—\$2.00	James L. Galbreth—\$5.00
Eliza B. Dean—\$10.00	Wm. Hodges—\$5.00
Clark Ramsey—\$10.00	Thomason Hardage—\$15.00
R. Wood—\$5.00	Agustus Montgomery—\$5.00
Thomas Alford—\$5.00	Ross Philips—\$10.00
James Hall—\$1.00	O. A. Neely—\$5.00

In this same leather folder was a small leather notebook, "Church Book 1859," in which is a dated record of payments of these subscribers. Many names not on the original subscription list are to be found in the notebook. A careful record of the disbursement of these amounts is also in the book.

One interesting entry in the "Church Book" is an item of eighty cents, paid as the balance due on the freight for the new bell. This is the same bell which the church uses today. Twenty-five dollars and eighty cents it cost. It was paid for on September 6, 1859. For over one hundred years it has called the people of Ashville to worship on the Sabbath. In early days the bell was tolled at the death of a citizen. Young people throughout the years have rung it with joy and gladness at the beginning of each new year. Its sweet music was heard over dale and hill when the Civil War ended. When World War I came to a close the old

bell tolled the news, loud and long. Since then there have been long intervals when the bell was silent. At present it has been restored to its proper place of usefulness and can again be heard each Sunday morning.

Judge Inzer's little leather "Church Book" discloses further valuable information regarding the building of the second church house. Inside this book, arranged chronologically are eleven strips of yellowed tablet paper, which cover a period beginning September 6, 1859, and going to July 1, 1862. They are receipts signed by L. Yarbrough and the first one is as follows:

Rec'd of J. W. Inzer one of the building committee of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church thirty five dollars in part on said church house.

Sept. 6, 1859

L. Yarbrough

The name Mount Pleasant is dropped on all the other papers and the last one is as follows:

Rec'd of John W. Inzer one of the building committee of the Ashville Baptist Church the sum of one hundred dollars, being full payment of the balance due me for building said house.

July 1, 1862

L. Yarbrough

Another small Baptist church had sprung up near Ashville on the Bowlin Bridge Road and was called Mount Pleasant. Perhaps this explains why the Ashville church dropped the name Mount Pleasant.

A third building was erected in 1931. When this building was dedicated, *The Birmingham News* of February 22, 1931 carried the following news item:

DR. J. A. HENDRICKS WILL PREACH SERMON  
NEXT SUNDAY

Ashville, capital of St. Clair County, and one of the oldest and most interesting towns in Alabama, is to dedicate next Sunday, March 1, a fine new Baptist Church, which has replaced a structure that was erected around a hundred years ago and which long since became obsolete and inadequate.

Everybody in Ashville is happy over the completion of the building and is proud of the fact that it is one of the best of its kind in the county.

The first definite and direct movement toward the building of the new church was launched four or five years ago by Dr. J. A. Hendricks, a teacher in Howard College, who was the pastor. As an acknowledgement of the debt owed him for his initiative and for his sustained interest and frequent help since he started the movement he has been invited to preach the dedicatory sermon and he has accepted. He will preach at eleven o'clock Sunday morning.

Dr. James A. Dillard, pastor of the Southside Baptist Church, will preach in the afternoon.

Rev. L. B. Jones, the present pastor of the Ashville Baptist Church, has been a great help in carrying on the building operations. He has been pastor for two years.

It is generally agreed, however, that much of the credit is due to A. L. Teague, chairman of the finance committee, who has been untiring in his efforts and who has never shown the least bit of pessimism, even when there was room for it. He was energetic from the start and was always thorough in every little detail.

"The treasury and building fund have frequently run low but never dry," said Mr. Teague Saturday. "The building as stands now has been paid for and the building fund has eleven cents in the treasury."

## Early Pastors of Ashville Baptist Church

VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN about the man who served the Baptists at Ashville as their first pastor. James L. Lewis was the Baptist member of the original Board of Trustees for the Ashville Academy and Mount Pleasant Church. Hosea Holcombe, in his sketch of the church given in *History of the Rise and Progress of Baptists in Alabama*, has this to say:

Mount Pleasant Church is at Ashville, in St. Clair County; it united with Mount Zion Association in 1831, and in the next year Mr. J. L. Lewis was licensed preacher among them; he was afterwards or-

ained to the ministry and removed to the Cherokee country where he has declined preaching; but as far as I know he remains an orderly, humble Christian.

The *Marriage Record, 1819-1853*, stored in the courthouse at Ashville, records the action of the church in ordaining Lewis. It tells that he was "by prayer and laying on of hands, set apart to do the work of a gospel minister." His license to solemnize the holy rites of matrimony is also recorded. The date was 1833.

In the same book is found recorded the marriage of James L. Lewis to Harriet Benson, on December 9, 1830. The officiating clergyman was the well-known Baptist preacher, Sion Blythe. Other court records show that James Lewis served St. Clair County as Circuit Clerk and that he was a lawyer.

From this meager information we conclude that Lewis's career as a Baptist minister was of short duration. It is likely that he became a minister simply because the need was so great. In early days, with few qualified people to hold the important positions of leadership, one man often undertook to carry on simultaneously a number of different professions. Lewis was such a man. He did an excellent job of laying the foundation for a church which from the very beginning has played an important part in the life of Ashville. *The U. S. Baptist Annual* records that in 1833 when Lewis was pastor of the church there were eight additions by baptism with a total membership of twenty-six.

In a new country there must be homes, roads, schools, and churches. And there must also be a cemetery. Ashville's cemetery occupies the second little hill which is directly across the highway from the site of the first church building. In this cemetery a slender marble obelisk marks the grave of the second pastor of the church, whose life influenced the thinking and actions of many of the earlier settlers of Ashville. The inscription on this piece of marble is as follows:

Reverend Jesse A. Collins  
Born  
Laurens District, S. C.  
December 11, 1812  
Died  
August 15, 1880

Although Collins died on August 15, 1880, his body was not laid in its final resting place in this cemetery until February, 1881. His death was a tragic event. He was shot accidentally when a gun was knocked from the mantle in the room where he worked and studied in his home at Coosa Valley.

In 1859-60 when Collins was too ill to carry on his religious duties he had made his last will and testament. One of the things he requested in this will was that he be buried at Ashville near the church where he had begun his ministry at nineteen years of age. He further requested that four of his close friends and associates of many years of service in religious work be the ones to make all arrangements for his funeral. These men were, John W. Inzer, Rufus Neely, Redden Hodges, and L. M. (Bud) Cox.

In August 1880 when Mr. Collins met his untimely death the weather was very hot, there were no undertakers and it was impossible to have the body embalmed. The journey from the Collins home in Coosa Valley to Ashville would have taken at least two days, so it was impossible at that time to bring him to the Ashville Cemetery. However, the four men had no intentions of failing to comply with the wish of their friend. He was laid to rest temporarily in the cemetery near his home. On a very cold Monday in February, six months following the death, these four men secured a wagon and a good team of horses. They left two of their number at Ashville to have a grave opened to receive Collins' body and the other two set out for Coosa Valley. Early the following Thursday they

began their return trip. They stopped around midnight at the top of the mountain, under Moon Rock, to allow their horses rest and to catch a bit of sleep for themselves.

Jesse A. Collins had stopped at this exact place many times before on his long lonesome journeys from Coosa Valley, now Cropwell, where he had established a Baptist church in 1833, to Ashville where he continued to serve as pastor. He traveled this Ashville-Broken Arrow road across Backbone Mountain on horseback and, under this overhanging rock on which the Indians had painted a bright yellow half moon, he always stopped to let his horse rest. Other travelers along this lonely road soon noticed that a rude altar formed of flat slate stone was gradually taking shape there. Someone asked Collins if he had noticed the altar and he smilingly answered, "That place I call 'Bethel', and those rocks are my altar. Each rock represents a half-hour spent in prayer, for it is there that I stop and rest my horse and to talk with God."

Now, as his friends on their mission of love paused at "Bethel," they silently prayed that the work done by this good man should not be in vain; that others might receive the lighted torch and devote their lives to the furtherance of God's kingdom in St. Clair County.

Late Friday afternoon the church bell at Ashville, purchased in 1859 from Peyton Rowan and paid for with money collected by Jesse Collins, was telling the people that their mentor had come home for the last time. Many of the citizens hurried to the cemetery, wrapped to their ears in woolen coats and shawls, for it was bitter cold. And with Rev. P. S. Montgomery reading, "In my Father's house are many mansions . . ." Jesse A. Collins was laid to rest.

Jesse Collins had come to Alabama while he was yet a child. It is said that his father was a shrewd man and his sole purpose for coming here from South Carolina was to buy good land cheap and to establish holdings for his numerous slaves to cultivate. He was a worldly man and had big plans

for his children. He hoped to educate Jesse for a life of politics and had a vision of his son being a wealthy and influential leader in the affairs of the young state.

When Jesse was still a boy he made three important decisions. First and foremost, he gave his heart to God; second, he resolved to spend the rest of his life preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ; and third, he determined to convince his father that God's way was the right way. Jesse became an avid New Testament student. Fearing his father's anger he hid his Bible and often retired to a secret place to read it. He possessed a keen intellect and, when his convictions became so great that he could no longer conceal them, he had a talk with his father. His father at once told him to forget the whole thing since he was not raising a son to be a "backwoods Baptist preacher."

Jesse left his father's house and returned to South Carolina where he had recollections of religious people in early life. Back in his former home he attended school, made a public profession of religion, fell in love and was married to M. C. Wade.

In 1832 he returned to Alabama and began to preach the gospel as a Baptist minister. He and his young wife settled at Ashville and, when Lewis resigned his pastorate at the Mount Pleasant Church in 1833, Collins was called to fill that place. During the year before Lewis left, Collins was asked on several occasions to preach the monthly sermon when neither the Baptist, Methodist, or Presbyterian minister was scheduled to fill the pulpit. Although Collins was not a great orator, there was something about this clear-eyed young man who spoke in a quiet, sincere manner that appealed to the people of this rough pioneer town and the little building was always filled to capacity when he was to preach.

B. F. Riley wrote in *History of the Baptists of Alabama*, "When Mr. Collins began his ministry in 1832, anti-missionism was at its height. He was a stripling of nineteen

years of age. With all the ardor of his youthful nature, he entered the lists against the anti-missionaries and boldly advocated all that they opposed."

Collins became the pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church which, for a short time, was the largest church in the Mount Zion Association. In 1833, both Hopewell and Ashville withdrew from Mount Zion for the "purpose of giving full expression to their views on certain matters and for the fullest enjoyment of liberty in the exercise of conviction." Surely this came about as a result of the preaching and influence of the pastor. These churches joined the newly formed Wills Creek Association. When Ten Islands Association was constituted in 1853 at Mount Zion Church in Benton (later Calhoun) County, with Richard Pace as Moderator, Ashville withdrew from Wills Creek and joined it. Old minutes show that the Ten Islands Association met at the Ashville church in 1869.

Hosea Holcombe described a series of meetings which he attended and at which he did the preaching at Hopewell and Ashville while Jesse Collins was pastor of these churches.

Ashville was a notoriously wicked place. In the Summer of 1838 a protracted meeting began at Hopewell Church, about seven miles below Ashville. After two weeks the meeting was removed into town. The Lord came down in his mighty power; scores of sinners cried in the bitterness of their souls, "What shall we do to be saved?" Few instances, if any, have occurred in our country where the power of God was more signally displayed than at Ashville. Forty-five were added to the church by baptism and a number joined the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The place became completely renovated. Now there are few villages, if any, in Alabama where there is greater proportional number of professed Christians than at Ashville.

The writer attended a meeting there again in 1839 and had the unspeakable pleasure of leading nine persons down into the beautiful waters of Canoe Creek on which the village is situated and there in the name of the sacred Trinity buried by baptism. Among the nine were Elder J. A. Collins' lady, General F. . . . ., a physician, and Mr. A. . . . ., sheriff of St. Clair County.

Collins was known as a strong missionary preacher throughout his ministry. Associational minutes from the central part of the state show that he preached the missionary sermon at the Birmingham Association in 1872 at Sulphur Springs, delivered a mighty sermon on missions at Springville in 1873, was appointed to preach the missionary sermon for an associational meeting at Columbiana, and preached on missions at Selma in 1874. He was chairman of the associational committee on missions for a number of years.

During his busy life, Collins was pastor of a number of Baptist churches, his Ashville pastorate being the longest. He was financial secretary of the East Alabama Baptist Convention. At Huntsville in 1875 the State Convention named him a member of the Central Centennial Commission. He served as financial secretary for Howard College. He also served as Circuit Clerk of St. Clair County, taking the place vacated by J. L. Lewis, and he taught school for many years.

The minutes of the Cahaba Valley Association for 1880 contain an obituary giving a brief resume of his life and service to his Master which closes with these words:

Brother Collins was a man of giant mind and mighty in the scriptures. His sermons were practical and hard to excell. He was faithful to his calling and loved by all who knew him. We mourn in sadness the loss of one so useful. But he is gone from years of toil and labor and sorrow to his reward on high.

After many years Jesse Collins reached the last of the goals he had set out to achieve. When his father reached the ripe old age of ninety-one, he became a Christian and Jesse had the great satisfaction of baptizing him. His frail old body was strapped to a small chair and the preacher son lowered him into the waters of the Coosa River in baptism.

\* \* \* \*

Peyton Smith Montgomery, the third pastor of the Ashville Baptist Church, did not have the appearance of an old-time Baptist preacher. He was a small man, wore a

beard, and was very dignified and reserved. Those people living today who remember him say that he spent his entire life doing good. Associational minutes show he was pastor at Ashville in 1877, 1878, and 1879, but even before this he had long been active in Baptist work. He was a life member of the East Alabama Baptist Convention and at the fourth annual session of this organization, held at Columbiana, a collection taken for ministerial education was presented to Mr. Montgomery. He attended Howard College for a brief period. He was one of the first associational missionaries in his part of the state. Minutes of the Ten Islands Association in 1868 contain the following report from Mr. Montgomery:

To the Executive Committee of the Ten Islands Association:  
Dear Brethren—

Agreeable to arrangements made with you, I commenced Missionary labor on the west side of the Coosa on the 24th day of July last, and from that date to the first of August—preached six times with prayers and family worship and visits, and baptized three persons—from the first of August to the 16th., rode about eighty miles, preached fifteen times, twenty-five exhortations, thirty-five public prayers, and thirty family visits—baptized four persons. From the 16th of August to the 22nd., traveled three days, preached three sermons, delivered three exhortations and six family visits. Whole missionary labor performed, twenty days—for which I have received from your committee the sum of twenty-three dollars.

Respectfully submitted,  
P. S. MONTGOMERY

On the stone which marks the grave of this good man in the Ashville Cemetery is the following inscription: "Servant of God, Well done. Rest from thy fond employ."

John S. E. Robinson was the fourth person to occupy the pulpit of the church. He was an eloquent preacher, and although he served only briefly at this church, he was pastor of many others in the county. He was a mighty evangelist and it was not uncommon for him to baptize forty to sixty persons after a week's revival service.

John A. Glenn, the fifth pastor, was loved by all who knew him. His methods and his life were similar to those of the late Brother J. A. Bryan, well-known pastor of Birmingham's Third Presbyterian Church. Glenn was an institution in religious circles throughout St. Clair and surrounding counties.

Throughout the years of its existence the Ashville Baptist Church has had a total of thirty-one pastors. J. M. Rogers left the church in 1912 to serve as a missionary in China. Under the leadership of Thomas H. Stone, the church in October 1946 began having services every Sunday.

Each man made his own contribution to the church. In a very real way the history of the church is a history of its pastors.

Three pastors who have had a wonderful influence upon the Church and the town in recent years are Paul Minton, who served from 1936 to 1943; Jean Griffin, pastor from 1952 to 1959; and James Coleman, the present pastor. There follows statements by each of these gentlemen.

I was called as pastor of Ashville Baptist Church in October 1935 after graduating from Howard College and attending Southwestern Seminary at Ft. Worth, Texas. On November 14, 1935, I was married to Clara James of Trussville, Alabama. The ceremony was performed in the home of the bride's uncle, Mr. M. F. Roper, and the vows were read by Rev. S. A. Vaughn, a close friend of mine and a relative of the bride.

After the ceremony Clara and I left for our new home at Ashville (in a borrowed car). The parsonage had already been furnished and the house was cleaned by the pastor with assistance from some of the good ladies of the church. The pantry in the kitchen had been filled with groceries by an old fashioned "pounding."

At this time Ashville had worship services two Sundays each month. I was pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church the other two Sundays. The church at Ashville was in the same building that still stands, but at that time the basement had not been finished. This was during the "depression" years, so further construction had to be postponed for some four years. Then we began a drive to finish the basement. Most of the cement work was done by the pastor

and a carpenter was hired by the name of W. E. Braden. No one was ever more proud of a church than when the basement was complete and we now had room for a Young People's Department.

During my pastorate in Ashville our only two children were born. In January 1939 our daughter Barbara Sue was born. In December 1940 our son, James Larry.

About this time I had consulted the Superintendent of Education about doing some substitute teaching in the county. The extra money was needed to pay for a large hospital bill which had been incurred by Clara's illness after the birth of our son. This substitute teaching proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my ministry. Most of the teaching was done in the school at Ashville, so I got to know many families and their problems which I could never have known otherwise. Along with every subject I taught I sought to magnify Christ, and it paid off in spiritual blessings both to me and to them!

Another thing that stands out in my mind is the large number of marriages that I performed while pastor there. It was just close enough to Birmingham for the couples to get their license and be married and return to Birmingham the same day. I had as high as two per day! Many times these gifts from the groom kept the pastor and his wife from being "broke."

While pastor at Ashville half-time I was pastor at Mt. Pisgah, Acmar, Altoona, Glencoe, Church across from John S. Jones School, and Springville.

With the coming of World War II there was an increasing need for Chaplains in our Armed Forces. I began to think and pray about the matter of becoming a Chaplain. I enlisted and entered active duty on March 6, 1943. I reported to Harvard University for study. My first assignment was with the Air Force at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

The church decided to give me a Leave of Absence until my service in the Army was terminated. I served 3 years and returned to Ashville as pastor. After some three months as pastor I resigned and accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Goodwater, Alabama.

As I think of my first pastorate there are many names and faces that loom up in my mind; people who were faithful to the church and their Lord. I can only say as Paul the Apostle said as he thought of the glorious Christians at Philippi: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

PAUL V. MINTON

I was born of Alvah H. and Margaret Ella Trotter Griffin, July 8, 1893, in Talladega Co., Ala.

I was converted in August of 1906 and united with the First Baptist Church, Lincoln, Ala., in 1933.

In 1935 I was ordained a deacon of this church. Then during a business meeting in October of '38, I was licensed to preach, and was called as pastor, and my ordination into the full Gospel Ministry took place in February of '39. I served at Lincoln until June 1948, going from Lincoln to the First Baptist Church, Weaver, Ala.

From Weaver we went to Ashville, May 24, 1952, where we served until our retirement from the active pastorate, August 1959.

Mrs. Griffin and I spent seven of the happiest years of our ministry at Ashville. We did not accomplish all that we wanted to do for our Lord while there. But in all fairness we must say that it was not altogether the fault of the people, because they were most cooperative, thoughtful, and gracious to us. We feel that we failed our Lord and the people. But, regardless, we have many good friends among the people of this community, especially the young folk, and we love them all very dearly.

JEAN M. GRIFFIN

We began our work at Ashville on the first Sunday in September 1959. From the very beginning we felt the hand of the Lord upon us as we tried to follow His leadership in the work He planned for us here.

These years have been happy years for us. We not only have the peace of being in the will of our Lord, but the joy of knowing, living, and working with some of the finest people in the world.

Along side these people, it has been our privilege to see God's work advance in many areas. It is our prayer and hope to see many other things accomplished which will help advance our Lord's Kingdom and lead souls to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

JAMES A. COLEMAN, JR.

## Old Minutes

A CAREFUL PERUSAL of "The Minutes of the Ashville Baptist Church, 1886-1901" furnishes some insight into the hearts and lives of the people who made up the mem-

bership during this period. During the first eight years of the period John A. Glenn was pastor, although he asked several times to be replaced. J. R. Lloyd of Birmingham was called as pastor in February of 1894 but by October he was replaced by Brother Glenn. A. J. Preston became pastor in November 1899 but at the October 1901 conference Glenn was again in the pulpit. Since Glenn lived at Ashville and operated a small farm, his salary was a secondary matter. The annual financial statement usually listed the pastor's salary as being \$125 or \$135 per annum. In 1890 this note was made: "We paid our pastor \$200.00 this year."

Contributions to other causes varied only slightly. Home missions usually received \$15.00, foreign missions slightly more, reaching \$55.00 for the year 1891. In 1888 the ministerial education fund was \$25.35 and it was never under \$10.00, showing that the Baptists were beginning to realize the importance of a well-educated ministry. In 1897 Howard College moved to Birmingham from Marion and \$75.00 was given to the college building fund and the ladies sent \$3.00 for a bedstead for the college dormitory. Today these funds seem small, but taking into account the economic situation of that period and the location, we realize that our forefathers were worthy stewards.

The people knew and lived by the church covenant, especially the section which read, "We . . . promise . . . to aid the poor and needy . . ." At the church conference held on Saturday before the second Sunday in September 1887, Brother Alman reported that a family, "all members of our church, are sick and are in need of financial help." A collection was taken and a committee appointed to visit the family; at the next conference the report was made: A number of members visited and took food and medicine.

These early Baptists also remembered that their church covenant declared: "We promise . . . to sustain worship by attending the house of God and supporting the ministry



...” On the Saturday before the second Sunday of each month men left their farms and houses of business and women left their household chores and met at their church to attend to God’s affairs. Children, when they became weary of sitting on the hard seats, were allowed to go outside and play quietly in the church yard. In March of 1899 a vigilance committee was instructed “to see and talk to some members who have become negligent and do not come to church and try to urge upon them the importance of attending the Saturday meetings.” Often charges were brought against some members for non-attendance.

These men and women knew well the meaning of the church ordinances and doctrines and did not forget that they had pledged “to guard her ordinances, enforce her discipline, and defend her doctrine.” When one of their most faithful members took communion with the Methodists, he was asked to explain his actions and when he declared that he did not believe he had done wrong, his friends prayed for him and with him; they read the Scriptures and questioned him. Four or five years later Brother P. S. Montgomery brought to the attention of the church at the February 1891 conference that fellowship had been withdrawn from D. A. Partlow for observing communion with another denomination. However, since Brother Partlow had continued in his faithful attendance at church services and had faithfully contributed to the church, Brother Montgomery asked the church to reconsider and restore him to fellowship. Brother Partlow was present, arose and stated, “I have not changed in my convictions from the position I occupied at the time I was excluded from this church and I have no acknowledgements to make, as I did what I did in good faith and do not consider that I committed a crime.” Brother Partlow’s stand was firm. There was no bitterness nor hatred but a statement of conviction. The church leaders, especially Pastor Glenn, Church Clerk A. A. Hodges, and P. S. Montgomery, were equally as convinced of their unpleasant duty. The issue continued to be discussed at each conference from Feb-

ruary until May. As a last resort a committee made up of deacons from three sister churches was asked to decide the issue. In May of 1891 the matter was laid before them, “the church retired from the house leaving them to discuss and make report.” The recommendation was: “Mr. Partlow remain an excluded member.”

There were many things other than non-attendance at services and breaking the communion ordinance which brought about the expulsion of church members. From the July 1899 minutes comes this resolution of the vigilance committee:

Resolved . . . That it is hereby declared and made a rule of this church that dancing and card playing, permitting dancing and card playing in our homes, swearing, drunkenness, or drinking intoxicating liquors to excess, are unscriptural, immoral, unlike Christ, and detrimental to the cause of the Church and harmful to the Church, and shall be delt (sic) with as scriptures direct even to the exclusion of those who participate therein.

A committee was appointed whose duty it was to visit each transgressor, talk and pray with him or her, and have the truant make a statement to the church, either in person or by proxy. Many were excluded. But none were given up as hopeless. Always a new committee was appointed, the entire congregation prayed. Many conferences took place at odd hours on the “Rock”, or in the fields, or on the road to court. There were many reports of soul searching on the part of those whom the church had designated to play the role of “Helpful”. They were mindful of the teachings of Jesus, “. . . First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” During these years, 1886-1901, many members were “turned out”, but only a few failed to be reinstated. Many of these reinstated members later became leaders in the church; deacons, teachers, Sunday School superintendents.

The work carried on by these church members was recorded in an orderly manner. The first conference for which

records are available, February 13, 1886, states that John A. Glenn, after preaching the sermon, served as moderator. Alfred A. Hodges was church clerk, and John W. Inzer read the minutes of the December 1885 meeting for which he was clerk pro-tem. One member, Gennie Goode, was received from Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Calhoun County. A committee was appointed to repair the graveyard fence.

The succeeding minutes in this book are very similar in recording the regular and commonplace actions of the church. In June, the advisability of adding one or more deacons was discussed. John W. Inzer moved that the church be given a month to consider this proposition and that no action be taken until the July meeting. These recorded minutes show that the church did not take hasty action on any proposal. Time and again, when new business was discussed, the subject would not be acted on but would be delayed until the following month, giving the members time to pray and to consider carefully the advisability of the proposed action.

At the July 1886 meeting a motion was made and carried to elect two new deacons. The two chosen and elected were John W. Inzer and Chesley Judson Teague.<sup>1</sup> The minute book does not contain a list of the other deacons and church officers. In May 1889 Brother John McDonald was received by letter from Ruhama Baptist Church where he had served as a deacon and was recognized as a deacon at Ashville. In April 1890 a copy of resolutions of respect for two deceased deacons, Redden Hodges and D. W. Partlow, is recorded. And in June of the same year four new deacons

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1. When Judge Inzer came to Ashville in 1856, there were only three members of the Baptist Church living in Ashville. Others lived on farms in the outlying sections. Around the last of the century, these people began to organize churches. C. J. Teague asked for a letter from the Ashville Church in October 1886 in order to become a member and a deacon in the newly organized Pine Forest Church.

were elected: J. R. Neely, J. M. Alman, J. H. Goode, A. A. Hodges. These were ordained on the second Sabbath in July. E. B. Moore, who came to Ashville to teach at the academy, became a member by letter in 1894, and was recognized as a deacon in 1895. John R. Teague became a member by letter in June 1899 and, having served as a deacon at Pine Forest, was recognized as a deacon at Ashville. In July 1899 A. G. Nunnelley, who came from Calhoun County, also was recognized as a deacon.

## Women's Work

ACCORDING TO THE MINUTES of the Ladies Aid Society of the Ashville Baptist Church, twelve people came to the church on October 14, 1894, at 3:00 P.M. for the purpose of forming a society to work in the interest of the church. After a song led by Mrs. Garlington and a prayer by Brother P. S. Montgomery, the ladies, with the assistance of Brother J. R. Lloyd, Pastor, proceeded to plan the organization.

Ten names were enrolled and Mrs. P. S. Montgomery was asked to serve as President pro-tem and Mrs. J. A. Hodges was Secretary-Treasurer. A committee was named to prepare by-laws and rules for the society and each member was asked to bring ten cents for dues to the next meeting, which was to be at the home of Mrs. S. P. Inzer on October 20, 1894, at 3:00 P.M.

The charter members were: Mrs. P. S. Montgomery, Mrs. B. M. Phillips, Mrs. F. M. Neely, Mrs. G. W. Garlington, Mrs. M. E. Hodges, Mrs. E. R. Hodges, Miss Lillie Phillips, Miss Beulah Neely, Miss Nannie Hood, Mrs. J. A. Hodges.

On October 20, the Society met at the home of Mrs. Inzer, with all members except one present, and four new members were enrolled. They were Mrs. S. P. Inzer, Mrs. J. P. Montgomery, Mrs. R. L. Freeman, and Mrs. N. A. Neely. One dollar and thirty cents dues was collected. Mrs. Garlington was elected President and Mrs. E. R. Hodges, Vice-President. The following rules and By-laws were read and adopted:

#### RULES AND BY-LAWS

1. This organization shall be called the Ladies Aid Society of Ashville Baptist Church.
2. The object of this society shall be to raise funds for charities, missions, and other benevolent purposes as the society may think proper.
3. The officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.
4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at each meeting of the Society, to issue call for special meetings, appoint all committees, and perform other duties as may be ordered by the Society.
5. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to preside over the Society and conduct order of business in absence of the President.
6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep correct minutes of all meetings of the Society, to receive and receipt for money due the Society, and to pay the same over to the Treasurer.
7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep an account of all money received and paid out and pay out no money except on order drawn by the Secretary and counter signed by the President.
8. The dues shall be ten cents per month for each member and payable at the monthly meetings of the Society.
9. A regular meeting of the society shall be held at least once a month, at such time and place as may be determined by the president, after notifying a majority of the members of the Society.
10. The officers shall hold office for ..... or until their successor is elected. The annual electing shall be held at the regular monthly meeting.

#### RULES

1. The order of business at each meeting shall be,
  1. Devotional exercises.
  2. Calling the roll and the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
  3. Report of standing committees.
  4. Report of special committees.
  5. Unfinished business.
  6. New business.
  7. Adjournment.

When the Society has been called to order only one member is to speak at a time and she must stand while addressing the Society.

A housekeeping club in connection with the society was organized; members of this club were to keep the church clean and in order. This society was organized only one year after the organization of the Woman's Missionary Union of Alabama, auxiliary to the Alabama Baptist State Convention. The purpose of the society was not primarily the study of missions. It was what the name implied: to aid the work of the Church, to raise funds for charities, missions, and other benevolent purposes. These women members of the church at Ashville were eager to see their house of worship attractive and comfortable.

Many were the activities undertaken for the improvement of the church building. In 1895 they bought a new stove; in January 1897 a communion table, and in March of the same year, a swinging lamp was purchased. In April of 1897 at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Ada Byers, they voted to put carpet in the church aisles before the May meeting. In January of 1898 while meeting at the home of Mrs. E. B. Moore, they decided to purchase a pulpit Bible. In January 1901 a committee composed of Mesdames Nellie Hodges, M. M. Smith, Richard Teague, and Ada Byers was appointed to obtain information regarding the price of organs and song books. At a church conference held previous to this date, the minutes of said conference record a discussion as

to the acceptability of organ music with church services. The members, after searching the Scriptures, could find no objection to the use of an instrument. In April 1902 the organ was purchased for \$125.00 and "it gave entire satisfaction." In 1911 they papered the walls of the church and in 1912 purchased new pews.

The ways and means of collecting funds for these church improvements were many and varied. Often on Saturday nights during a cold November or December, the ladies served oysters at one of the village inns. These suppers would often be held in the dining room of the old Fulgham House. The ladies would ask Dr. Bass to order a thousand "plants" to be sold raw and a thousand to be used for stew or for frying. The profit from such a supper ran from \$18.00 to \$25.00.

The ladies had box suppers at the courthouse where a young man not only helped a worthy cause by buying a "box" but also he had the pleasure of an evening of wholesome entertainment with the girl of his choice. Concerts were given at different homes with a small admission fee charged. The programs were conducted by local talent with an occasional "guest artist" from a neighboring community.

Always before Christmas there was a bazaar and often a candy pull. One of the most popular means of raising money was a spelling bee held at the courthouse. The people delighted in such a contest. Never a month passed without some festivity which brought added dollars to the treasury. On many a Summer afternoon the courthouse square would be alive with people, young and old, enjoying a strawberry festival or an ice cream supper. These occasions afforded a wonderful social life for the people of the village of Ashville and brought small sums of money to the Ladies Aid.

The Ladies Aid never failed to give to state and foreign missions. In May 1901 they voted to meet twice each month, the extra meeting for the purpose of studying missions, and the dues from this extra meeting—ten cents per person—were set aside for missions. It was at this May meeting that the name of the organization was changed to The Ladies

Aid and Missionary Society. Each year a full report of activities was sent to the Cahaba Valley Association.

The Baptist Orphanage was established at Evergreen, Alabama, in March of 1893, and the Ladies Aid of Ashville Church never failed to send an annual cash gift and at one time each member sent a hen to the orphanage. Their "Sunday eggs" were always set aside for the children's home. They held quilting bees on the first floor of the Masonic Building in 1905 and the quilts were sent to the children.

The Ashville women purchased a Bible for the jail in October 1914, sent baskets of fruit, vegetables, and medicine to the needy of the community, and in 1922 mailed a box containing old and new clothing valued at \$50.00 to the suffering Russians.

In April 1917 the Society became the Woman's Missionary Union. Miss Cox, State Worker and Young People's Counselor, came to organize a Sunbeam Band and Girl's Auxiliary.

Throughout the years at least two-thirds of the women who have been members of the Baptist Church have taken an active part in W.M.U. work. At present the W.M.S. has a membership of 50, with three circles. All auxiliaries are active, making a full-graded W.M.U. In 1961 the Ashville W.M.U. was recognized as one of the three Honor Unions at the Southwide W.M.U. Convention. Mrs. Mildred Montgomery Franklin, whose grandmother entertained the second meeting of the Ladies Aid Society, served the present organization as President for years and it was through her untiring efforts that this honor came to the ladies at Ashville.

### Time . . . A River of Passing Events

THE CHANGES made during the first hundred years of the Ashville Baptist Church were not rapid ones but they were always solid steps up the ladder to a better institution.

Always the church has been careful to guard its independence. Every member is equal, socially and religiously. The pastors have been leaders of the flock but never recognized as human spiritual authorities. The first tenet of the Ashville Baptist Church has been, and remains today, that Jesus Christ is the supreme authority and His purposes are revealed only through the Bible.

The Church was first a member of the Mount Zion Association, but when it became clear that member churches of that Association were expected to oppose missions, Mount Pleasant, as Ashville Church was then known, withdrew from the Association. The Church was then affiliated with the Wills Creek, Ten Islands, and Cahaba Valley associations in that order. It always took an active part in the work of the association to which it belonged; sending delegates to the associational meetings, and paying a small amount to missions.

The early settlers of the town and the surrounding farms were not large land owners. They had a difficult time procuring a livelihood and all their energies were concentrated toward meeting the difficulties of the day. They had little to give and the early pastors were not paid for their labors. The people were generous with their meager worldly goods, however, and usually bestowed gifts on their pastors of whatever commodity they had. Later, when they had more to give, this habit had become a custom. Whenever a pastor was called the church made it clear that it was under no obligation for a definite amount of salary so long as the members paid as much as they could afford. In 1889 when the church had passed the half-century mark, by motion at a Saturday conference, the envelope method was adopted as the first systematic plan for taking collections of the church. This was the first mention in any existing records of women being asked to serve on church committees. The committee members for the envelope system were Laura Montgomery, Frances Neely, A. A. Hodges, and the chairman, T. J. Hodges. In 1890 the deacons were asked to pro-

rate and apportion to each member the amount that they—the deacons—thought each should pay from a biblical standpoint. Evidently there were not any secrets as to the financial condition of the members. The reason given for this step was to enable the church to make a report to the association.

At this time the Baptists had just completed and paid for a new church building and were making progress toward a stronger organization when disaster struck. Membership was increasing and there was talk of holding services twice monthly, when hostilities between the North and South, long brewing, came to a head and Alabama together with other Southern States withdrew from the Union to form the Confederate States of America.

Soon Ashville's male population consisted only of very young or very old men. Under the leadership of Pastor Collins, the church continued to have Saturday conferences and Sabbath sermons once each month. Occasionally prayer meetings were held for the "boys at the front." During these war years, the church did not pay to missions but gave every cent that could be spared to support the colportage society which published and distributed religious tracts among the soldiers of the Confederacy.

When the war ended the men came home, sick, maimed, ragged, and hungry. They found all industry, all farming, all order, all law gone. Chaos reigned. Ashville and St. Clair were under military rule with Union troops stationed at Ashville. This period of Reconstruction was a much more difficult experience than the actual war had been. However, the Baptists began at once to make their church the center of their energies. They even invited the Federal troops to attend services. A few did.

It was in 1870 that a Sabbath School Board for the state was created and J. J. D. Renfroe visited each association, urging churches to establish Sabbath Schools. A school was begun at Ashville with John W. Inzer as superintendent. At this school which met every Sunday afternoon, no special

literature was used. The Bible was taught. The children learned the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the Apostle's Creed, the books of the Bible, and facts about many Biblical characters.

Records show that in 1890 ten dollars was spent for Sabbath School literature. But there was some opposition to the Sabbath School movement as late as 1892. Robert Devine made the report at the associational meeting that year, which concluded—

"Come, my brethren, my sisters, let us be up and doing. If Sabbath Schools are what we claim them to be, we should have one in every church within the bounds of our association."

In April of 1898, Mr. Inzer brought up the question of the newly organized Union Sabbath School of Alabama. After some discussion led by Mr. Noah Hood and Mr. Inzer, the Church voted not to co-operate with this non-denominational organization.

The Sunday School has been active since the time of its organization in 1870. Judge Inzer served as superintendent until 1894, at which time Mr. E. B. Moore took his place. Mr. Moore had progressive ideas and it was he who organized the school into three departments and began the use of Sabbath School literature published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at Nashville. The school had three teachers and sixty-five students. In 1898 James A. Embry became superintendent and he was active in this position until 1929 when he asked to be relieved of the responsibility and Beal M. Teague was elected. Mr. Teague served for sixteen years. Men who have served in this capacity since are: Roy Gibson (1945), D. O. Langston (1946-48), J. L. Henry (1949-51), H. D. Little (1952-54), Dodd Cox (1955-56), D. O. Langston (1957), B. B. Machen (1958-63).

Today the school follows the Sunday School Board's plan for a Standard School. The enrollment is 238, with an average attendance of 148. The church is a busy place from

9:45 until 10:45 every Sunday morning, with God's children, ages seven months to seventy years—and a few younger or older—going about the Master's work. There is a beautiful hum of activity from basement to balcony.

For the past twenty years the church has conducted Vacation Bible Schools each summer. In 1960 the church began working to meet all the requirements set forth by the State Sunday School Board for a Standard School. That year the school was awarded the "Class A" certificate with 940 points out of a possible thousand. Fifteen young people made decisions at this school, twelve accepted Christ and three dedicated their lives to Christian service. Again in 1961 and 1962 the school reached the Standard and was awarded certificates.

There is no record of the date of beginning of the regular Wednesday night Prayer Meetings. The oldest living members tell of going, as small children, with their parents to prayer meeting. On cold, rainy winter nights they went by lantern light and built a fire in the pot-bellied stove. Often only four or five would be present. In the summer time there would be a goodly crowd, as the young people loved to stroll together in the late evening to the little church on the outskirts of the town. Perhaps these prayer meetings are the answer to the question, "Why has this little church lived and been such an influence in the shaping of lives in this community?"

Today the church has an excellent choir under the direction of Mr. Tommy Ingram with Mrs. Mildred Montgomery Franklin as organist. Mrs. H. S. Garlington was elected the first organist at Saturday Conference in August 1891. She was authorized to organize a choir to assist her in furnishing music for church services. Later, Mrs. George Willis Hodges, known always as "Miss Nellie" was elected organist. With one or the other of these ladies at the organ, the clear, sweet sound of the good old songs rang out at all services.

