

SETTLERS OF NORTHEAST ALABAMA



NORTHEAST ALABAMA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 674
Gadsden, Alabama

JUL ✕ OCT 1965

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

This bulletin is to be combined to include the July and September publications. It will include more than 50 pages instead of the usual 25 pages per issue. Due to circumstances beyond our control we have been unable to get out our publication on time. However, each member can look forward to receiving the January issue at the end of January. We apologize for the delay and hope you enjoy this combined issue.

During our annual meeting which will be held March 12, 1966, new officers will be elected and installed. All members should be present for this election.

The editor of this publication has recently begun writing an historical and genealogical column entitled "Lore From the Hills of Home" which appears weekly in the Sunday edition of the Gadsden Times.

This Society is planning a book on the 1820 census of St. Clair County, Alabama, which will include as much information as can be obtained on each family listed. Persons having information on the early families of St. Clair County are asked to contribute their data for this book. We hope to have the book ready by our annual meeting in 1967.

In this combined issue is a history of St. Clair County, Alabama, in its entirety. Copies may be obtained of this history from our society for \$1.00.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society will hold its Fourth Annual Meeting in Gadsden, Alabama, beginning at 8:30 a.m., March 12, 1966, at the Reich Motor Hotel.

For this one-day meeting an outstanding program has been arranged. Mr. Milton Rubincam, Washington, D. C., past president of the National Genealogical Society, past president of the American Society of Genealogists, Chairman of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and genealogical critic will be the featured speaker.

Sharing the afternoon program will be Mr. Leonardo Andrea, noted Genealogist from Columbia, South Carolina, and Miss Elizabeth Lusk, Gunterville, Alabama, genealogist, and faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy at Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama.

Registration fee will be \$5.00 per person which includes the banquet at 6:45 p.m. Buffet luncheon will be available at the noon hour.

Reservations should be made with the society at:

P. O. Box 674
Gadsden, Alabama

Everyone invited:

HISTORY OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ALABAMA

A description of the land and
its people -- Indians and
Whites from 1534 to 1846.

Compiled by
W. H. Cather

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(No. 1)

Several years ago, an old gentleman furnished us a "batch" of incidents which to us seemed so unreasonable or improbable that we laid it aside. But quite recently information from a high and thoroughly reliable source verifies enough of them to entitle all to credence.

We have embodied also a portion of the history of Blount--a part of which has also been published before in local papers. This is quite worthy of preservation along with the history of St. Clair--the two counties are closely allied and general history in one will apply very well to the other.

As stated before we do not lay any particular claim to completeness in the task, yet we have endeavored to be historically accurate.

The writer would thank those who feel an interest in their county to aid him in every way possible to gather up and compile for preservation every scattering remnant of our grand old county's history. It is a duty we owe to posterity.

If the reader is looking for blood curdling Indian stories, revolutionary wars, piracies, dime novel freaks, or any other of the yarns or episodes which fill the pages of the prostituted sensational press of the present day he might as well turn back and seek elsewhere for we do not regard such as either news or history.

As the gifted English historian and statesman has truly observed, if we must guard against common delusions, such as those often produced in the mind by the well known names of families, offices and particularly places. The times change and we change with them. Our great-grandfathers would be constrained to hold up their hands in holy horror and shout "O TEMPORA!" "O MORES!" with all its meaning at some of the customs and usages of the present advanced day. Wonderful also are the physical changes wrought by the Great Architect through natural causes. Streams have been diverted from their channels, as well as changed in name. The lovely "Cataula River" itself is no mean example. Habits of people and their surroundings change as well. "In every experimental science there is a tendency toward perfection. In every human being there is a wish to ameliorate his own condition." As it is of individuals, so it is with governments. As it is with individuals so it is with our state and our county. Even when counteracted by great public calamities, by bad institutions, unsound methods of government, or evil and corrupt officials, sooner or later an awakening or revolution comes; and these two principles oftentimes suffice; however imperceptibly, to carry civilization forward to a higher state or plane of perfection.

The true object of history is no more to collect a series or system of dates or arrange chronological events in order than it should be of the lawyer to only gain cases, or of the farmer to simply plant his crops, and as we must of necessity, improve our civil institutions or perish, so must we profit by examples of failures or successes in the history of the past.

It has been well settled that no ordinary misfortune, will do as much to make a nation wretched, as the constant progress of physical and mental knowledge, and the constant efforts of every man to better himself and his condition will do to make that country or nation prosperous. It has commonly been found that war and pestilence, encountering the Indians as it were in our own case, profuse expenditure, heavy taxation, to which we have not in the past been often subjected, absurd commercial restrictions, even from necessity, seditions and persecutions, conflagrations and floods, have not been able to destroy capital and institutions as fast as the exertions of private citizens have been able to create the one and upbuild the other.

The Indians of St. Clair

In the beginning we must lose sight of every thing here as it now exists and go back mentally to the time when all this vast section of Alabama was a trackless forest and see what we can find there of interest. As B ryant says;

"Lose thyself in continous woods
Where rolls the Oregon (Cataula), and hears no sound
Save its own dashings."

We will drop as far back as 1539, some 358 years--ago three and a half centuries to the time when no white man's face had pierced North Alabama. From that time to the beginning of the present century we will deal with as one period or epoch of our history, taken from such sources as we may consider at all authority.

About that time--1539--there landed somewhere on the coast of Florida a paleface chieftain and his followers--Spaniards. At that time Spain had not begun her retrograde movement or decline as a nation but ranked as one among the noteworthy powers of the world. True Columbus had made his discovery of America to the north and in other parts of America settlements had been made, but no white man's foot had pressed the soil of North Alabama at that time of which we have any account.

But DeSoto, the first "pale-face" explorer of Alabama, in his notable march from Florida through Georgia and down the noble Coosa, did not himself enter what is now St. Clair and Etowah counties, through it is quite probable some of his followers did, and that they left their mark behind them in a mixed Spanish and Indian progeny, right here in our own county. This is shown also by the fact that the early settlers here found numerous Spanish coins and relics of Spanish manufacture in possession of the Indians of the county on their arrival here. There were then a number of Indian towns scattered along the Coosa and other streams, and it is quite probable that both Littlefuchee and Upper Cataula, Indian villages in St. Clair were then in existence. One thing is certain--there were plenty of Indians then here. DeSoto proceeded southward down this the western side of the Coosa, until he reached the Indian town of Costa, in Cherokee county. At this point he crossed the river to the eastern side, and passed through the territory on the eastern side of the Coosa in what is now Calhoun county, not far from the edge or eastern boundary of St. Clair county. It is, we repeat, quite likely some of his followers crossed over into the fertile and beautiful valleys of St. Clair and mingled with the native red inhabitants of this section, and they were probably the first white men that ever entered her borders or penetrated her stately forests. Were we writing a book we might take the trouble to look up some of the letters these people and their chief wrote back to Spain in praise of our country, but it would hardly serve our present purpose.

DeSoto sent out from his main body during stop-overs and camp periods small foraging bands and scouting parties, and these are the ones who first found their way into St. Clair. Some were 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 man". It was these Spaniards and Portugese who left the Spanish coins here, and the other Spanish articles sometimes found on our soil. It was the descendants of these white men who left the traces of Spanish blood here for years, and it is possible the man Bidy, of Portugese extraaction, who was hung with five others at "Gallows Hill" near Ashville in 1829 (three hundred

years after DeSoto's visit) for the murder of Taylor, was a descendent of the ill-fated bastards of DeSoto's adventurous followers. (Of this big hanging and the incidents that led up to it we will have more to say later.)

These bands and followers of DeSoto found a large and powerful tribe of Indians here which at a later date received the name of Creeks.

The presence of the Creek Indians in Alabama, at the time of DeSoto's visit, is disputed by some writers, who think this tribe were driven from Mexico to Ohio, and that while in that country, hearing of the boundless forests filled with an abundant supply of every variety of game, extending over this part of Alabama, they began to move southward, reached the hunting grounds of St. Clair about the middle of the 16th century just after DeSoto's visit. Be this as it may it is evident that there were near this time four great tribes of Indians found in Alabama by the early French and English settlers, which in course of time absorbed all or nearly all the smaller tribes, and remained here until removed by the government to the far western reservations in the present century.

Principal among these four tribes were the Moscooges, or Creeks, called by the English "Creeks" on account of the number of beautiful and sparkling streams flowing through the territory inhabited by them.

The Indians, however did not recognize the names given them by the white people. The Creek Indians claimed their proper name to be "Och-Mul-Gee" and the Cherokees called themselves "Cha-la-kee".

The Creeks inhabited St. Clair and was the most extensive of the Alabama tribes, in time absorbing a number of lesser ones, including the warlike Alabamas, from whom the river as well as the state of Alabama derived its euphonious name. We say this with all respect to the time honored legend of "Here we Rest", which may or may not have been derived also from "Ala-ba-ma." This tribe was removed to the west in 1837.

Of the other three great tribes found in Alabama, we have the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Cherokees none or very few of whom, however, with the exception of the Cherokees, ever came into St. Clair, except as Creek captives of the war, when they were doubtless "Roasted" in the most approved style of the day.

There were a few isolated members of each tribe in St. Clair. We also find some of the Hillabee tribe well acquainted with the geography of the county--such as old Chinobe and his son, who assisted in piloting Gen. Jackson's army through the county.

To the Chowtaws, the English gave the name of Flat Heads, from the habit of flattening the foreheads of their infants by a process of manual compression, at present unknown to our medical science. What remained of the Mobilians, after DeSoto's conquest, eventually became incorporated with this tribe. The Choctaws were removed in 1830.

The Chickasaws ranked with the Creeks in warlike propensities, fierceness and power, and even at this day travellers acquainted with the tribe hesitate to go through the Chickasaw nation of the Indian territory. They were removed in 1834.

The Cherokees, from Cher-fire-their prophets going by the name of Chera-taghe, that is, men of divine fire, were removed in 1836. For many years the Cherokees visited St. Clair and a number lived here and fought with the Creeks, and engaged in ball playing with them. The old Cherokee and Creek boundary line is yet to be found on the old maps of Alabama. It was the result of many a hard fought battle and, during the existence of friendly relations, of numerous hotly contested games of ball between the two tribes. It vibrated north or south according to the victor, and as near as can be

located for any length of time ran through the northern part of what was first St. Clair, before Etowah was subtracted therefrom, running from the north of Big Wills Creek, several miles this side of Gadsden, near the middle to township 12, in a south of easterly direction to the Georgia state line where it struck the lower edge of township 13. Wills creek was probably the western extension of this old tribal boundary line between Ashville and Attalla. Well authenticated legends are extant regarding the ball games played first in St. Clair then in Etowah, over this line. In fact it is asserted that Ball Play, a town in Etowah county, Ball Play creek, and the Ball Play bend in Coosa river, all take their names from having been the favorite ball grounds of the Indians. The Creeks were usually the victors. At one of these games to settle the boundary it is related that the Creeks were on the point of defeating their antagonists when the chief of the Cherokees offered his daughter "The Last Queen of the Cherokees" as a prize to the brave of either side who did the best playing, thereby hoping to stimulate his men to greater exertions. But it had a like effect also on the Creeks, as the queen was beautiful, and a Creek warrior was undoubtedly the victor. The story also goes that this young Creek afterwards claimed his prize and took her as far west (several miles) as Black creek falls and that rather than become the wife of a Creek the pretty queen leapt over the falls a distance of 103 feet and was drowned.

It was even stated in this legend that a rainbow marked the last resting place of this charming Indian maiden. The writer has often visited the spot but cannot vouch for the story, and no one knows to this day whether the young queen was the daughter of the aristocratic and educated John Ridge (who married a white woman) or of chief Ross, or of some earlier tribal ruler.

The game of ball played by the Indians was afterwards, we believe, played by the whites at Robertsville or Old Town under another name. Of this and the game called "Shinney" and the way our forefathers used to play ball at the first court house at Robertsville, we will have more to say later on.

But to return to the Indians, it is historically conceded that the Muscogee--or Creek nation--occupied the territory east of Alabama and Warrior rivers. Those particular tribes or band living in this county, the Upper Creeks were called the Muscogees, while those of the more southern region, the "Lower Creeks" were called Seminoles. The terms "Upper" and "Lower" were not a social distinction, but merely had reference to locality. We suggest that the Creeks had as little idea of the upper tendom (sic) or lower tendom (sic) as they had of bicycling.

These Creek warriors were erect in carriage, in movement agile and graceful; in demeanor, proud, haughty and even arrogant.

Of the women it may be said that they approached nearer the ideal of romantic savage women as pictured in fiction than any of the other females of savagery. In stature they were small and short but not chunky. They were well formed and their physique of the plump and graceful type. Generally their features were regular and handsome. In facial appearance their cheek bones were a little high, brow high and arched, eyes large, languishing and expressive, and they were possessed of a diffidence and modesty uncommon to their type of women. Their feet and hands were small and of exquisite shape.

Of their local history and customs previous to the immigration of the primitive white settlers to this section little is known except as gathered from the narratives of historians, traders and adventurers. They have the reputation of being a fierce and warlike people. Their chief diet was game; agriculture in any form was almost totally unknown.

Flint rocks, shaped by rude stone tools, were used by these red skins, as arrow and spear heads. It was by this means they secured their game. Lead had been discovered by them years before, but no record is left us showing to what utility the Indians put it. Stones were used to make tools, and with these rude implements they manufactured by some means every article made use of by them at that time. These articles were familiar objects to the first settlers.

The early settlers found the Indians in this state; and further found well located paths (quite narrow, as the Indians had a habit of walking behind one another) leading to caves and mines of lead and ore, and to places where they secured their flints and stones, for tools and arrow points and others leading to steep bluffs and springs and roaring waterfalls. The vast mineral wealth was everywhere visible but was not of any great consideration in the minds of these pioneers, for they could not use it.

The county was one vast wilderness of oak and pine and other timber, with very little undergrowth. The great forests of stately trees were very extensive. In variety they found, ash, oak, pine, hickory, ironwood, cornell or dogwood (used for arrow making) poplar, elm, cedar, beech, chestnut, button wood, cotton wood, which were the wood most useful. Large and almost impenetrable canebrakes also were found on the creeks.

Wild fruit was plentiful here in these days, and indeed here and there even around Ashville, were several peach orchards, planted by the Indians. One of these orchards was on the hill just south of Cobb's spring where Mr. John H. Nelson now lives, another was in the field some distance northwest of Hon. James T. Greene's residence. But of these more anon.

Vines of luscious grapes and muscadines hung from the limbs of the trees in the forests, while black dew-whortle-berries, and other fruits flourished in the open lands and mountains. The county had the appearance of a grand grove of magnificent dimensions, with its plateaus level and green, its hills, valleys, coves, grottoes, rivulet and springs. These forests were nature's shields, preventing the summers from being as hot and oppressive as now, and serving as a wind break in winter, so that the temperature and seasons differed considerably from what is experienced at the present time. Grand indeed were the summers, and fragrant was the air with wild flowers, which grew in luxurious profusion. In the winter the air was pure and bracing and the climate so delightful that houses were entirely unnecessary for these hardy children of nature, though here and there, grouped together in a shady nook, near a spring, were found a few wigwams built of small logs or poles, chinked or daubed with mud, from bottom to top. These were all the protection they had, and as no chimneys were built a small fire was kindled by the use of tinder (a kind of rotten dry wood) and the flint rock. Around the fire at night lay the family on soft furs and skins until the early morning noises of the forests awoke them. The wife or "squaw" as she was called would then prepare over the fire by means of a spit or some other rude device or in the ashes the morning meal, or fish, and venison, which their lord and master had killed, while the papooses were tumbling about in the dewy grass or practiced with the bow and arrow. After breakfast the lord goes out in quest of more game while the "squaw" sits lazily about watching her romping young.

One fact noticeable is the care the Indians took of the forests here--keeping all the undergrowth which accumulated yearly burnt off clean. This not only prevented the increase of ticks, mosquitoes and other troublesome insects, thereby serving as a preventive of malarial disease; but it also enabled the hunter to see and approach game much more readily. It also improved the appearance of the forests.

The supply of game in these forests was bountiful and the rivers and creeks were filled with fish. The Indians depending solely upon the forests as their only resource for food with the exception of a small patch of corn, were very careful in preserving the supply of game. No more than was actually necessary was killed at one time; none was wantonly slain or wasted. In this matter the supply was not exhausted but on the contrary seemed to increase.

It was no uncommon sight for the early settlers to stand in their doors and count a herd of half a dozen or more deer in the woods near by, and stretched on the side of every house or wigwam were the skins or "pelfries" of the beaver, otter, wild-cat, coon, mink, and other wild animals.

It is related that even within the memory of men now living, on one occasion at Robertsville (or Old Town) in the winter just after a deep snow had fallen, during the daytime some persons standing in the town of Robertsville saw a drove of deer, a dozen or more, walking slowly along in single file on the mountain west of that town. Of course, there was a rush to get their guns and have a hunt.

The methods used by the Indians in killing game for use were exceedingly primitive, but quite profitable to them, and efficient for all purposes. The most common weapons were the "Long-bow and arrow", "blow-gun" and spears. They did not use the bommerang of the Australians, but were quite skillful with the effective weapons they had.

For the benefit of the younger folks who might like to make an Indian bow, we give a description of this weapon, (somewhat modified to suit the present time) as made by the more skillful braves and warriors. Any boy of mechanical tastes can make one in a short time.

The Indian bow was generally made of cedar, sassafras, elm or ash, sometimes ironwood and hickory, well seasoned, except the cedar, which could be used green. Its length varied from three to six feet, but the favorite length was four and one half feet. It was usually made an inch and a half wide and an inch thick in the middle. It tapered from the center towards the ends and was but half an inch wide and half an inch thick at the extremities. At one end the bowstring was notched into the wood and made permanently fast, while at the other end two notches were cut and the string at that end of the bow made like a slip-knot or loop. The string was a piece of buckskin. When the bow was used the warrior set the end to which the string was made fast firmly on the ground, and then with his knee bent down the other end until the loop slipped into the notch. It was never kept strung except when in actual use, as it would lose its elasticity by being kept constantly bent. For the use of their boys and beginners the size was much reduced, usually to two feet in length.

The Indians did not generally finish their bows very attractively from a mechanical standpoint--the weapons being made for practical purposes and not ornamentation. The bow made after the fashion given above may be attractively finished by giving the inner surface and edges an oval shape. After smoothing up, rub with a woolen cloth dampened in linseed oil, then glue to the central part of the bow a strip of green or red velvet, six inches long.

The arrows must be made of well seasoned sticks--the Indians used small reeds and sourwood and dogwood shoots--perfectly straight and of exactly the same length for if of different lengths they fly differently, and unless made in all respects alike, the aim is destroyed. The shafts being made even, the next work is to form the string notch. We can do this with a sharp knife, but the Indians used a piece of sharp flint. When properly done the bottom of the notch should be precisely in the center of the small end of the shaft. Blunt arrows were often used for shooting at a mark, but when used for game stone flint arrow heads were put on, by making a slit in the large end of the stem and the arrowhead is inserted and bound tightly with a small thong of buckskin. The slit must be exactly in the center.

Our boys can now use steel points or heads, or a spike made of umbrella wire, unless they prefer to go out into some old field and pick up an arrow head ready made.

The next process was to put on the feathers. To do this properly great care was taken. Turkey quills and sometimes Eagle feathers were soaked in warm water to make them split easily and uniformly. The feathers were then stripped from the quills and put on the shaft. Usually three feathers were put on each arrow, and laid equidistant along the stem. The big end of the feather was fastened near the notch of the shaft and laid six inches along the wood. The feathers should be glued to the arrow.

The eagle feathers were more frequently saved for the headdress of the warriors.

It was with one of these weapons that a young brave who afterwards, it is related, became a noted chief, was hunting in St. Clair on the stream now called "Broken Arrow Creek", near the sight of Broken Arrow. He spied a large deer, drinking from the creek, and as the deer raised his head and sniffed the air uneasily the young Indian hunter threw his bow into position, took careful aim and let the arrow fly. He shot the deer in the heart, and it fell in the shallow creek. In its death struggles the arrow was broken and the head and part of the wood left sticking in the heart of the deer. From this incident tradition says that point and the creek were ever afterwards called by the Indians "Theitka," which translated into English means "Broken Arrow."

We have heard it said that the deer was a "blue-eyed" deer but of this we are doubtful. It is probable the "blue-eyed deer" legend, however, was the source from which Blue-Eye creek which empties into the Coosa a few miles below Broken Arrow creek from Talladega county derived its name.

We have given a detailed description of the Indian bow because it was their most important implement of living and of warfare. By its skillful use they secured their food and clothes, protected their families from the incursions of wild animals and achieved their victories in warfare. It is deserving of special mention on this account. No Indian went forth upon his daily or nightly mission without his trusty long bow and a quiver or arrows attached to his back. Sometimes these arrows are tipped with a deadly poison, which killed but did not render the game unfit for use. However this poison was usually used on the smaller arrows of the formidable blow-gun.

This weapon, (the blow-gun) was a most effective weapon in their hands, and their aim was unerring. It was made with a cane about six feet long, with the joints burned out and smoothed on the inside. In this was placed a tiny arrow made of reeds, sourwood or some light wood, with thistle-down or feathers on the small end, so made as to fit the hollow cane air tight. The other end was sharpened and sometimes tipped with a poison that produced speedy death, but the game killed by it was not injured for food.

When in use the Indian hunter simply put an arrow in the cane, raised the gun to his mouth and blew away, rarely missing his game, even at considerable distances.

Knives, hatchets, etc., such as the metallic implements we have today, were unknown to these red men, but they had hewed rude tools from stone, and with these made their weapons and prepared their game. While their long bow was laid aside for the flint lock rifle they never deserted their rude stone tomahawks and scalping knives. They had made of earth and some other composition we are not informed of to this day and sundried or baked rude vessels of pottery which served as jars and dishes, for which purpose also gourds, turtle shells and concave stones were used. Animal skins were made use of frequently for holding water, milk, etc. Sometimes the milk would have a strong flavor of the particular animal skin which contained it.

Fire was produced by rubbing two pieces of pine together or more frequently by the use of flint and dry tinder or rotten wood. The food was cooked by the "squaws" usually, but the warriors themselves could cook well for that day. Generally no vessels were used, the game being cooked in the ashes, (barbecued) or roasted on a spit or sharpened stick before the fire.

They had a dish which was called in the Cherokee language "Connahana". This was, according to Mr. W. L. Gibson, one of the early settlers of the county, a conglomeration of corn and corn meal, boiled, and was their favorite dish. Our own dish of boiled green corn and lima beans which we call "Succotash," was originally derived from the Indians. Indian corn, which is so called from the fact that it was first discovered among the Indians, was their chief bread food. The old corn ridges of the Indian patches were still to be seen on Palmetto creek and in other parts of the county at a very recent period and we presume are yet visible. Ralph Davis can show them to you.

There were also a number of roots etc., which served as bread. One of these we remember, in our early youth, to have seen in the possession of our honored friend, Mr. B. F. Ashley, now deceased, and which he stated was called "Indian bread". It had a peculiar taste. We have never seen a sample of it since, and if it is still found in the county, would like to see some of it. We presume the Creeks also had their favorite dishes, composed of Indian corn in its various forms.

One of the principal feasts of the Indians was the "Green Corn Dance" which was celebrated at the season when the corn was in roasting ear. The whole tribe would meet at their favorite village. A fire would be kindled and a large vessel filled with green corn and water would be placed on the fire and brought to a boil. The Indians in the meantime would dance the "Green Corn Dance", which was a kind of jubilee dance, with appropriate ejaculations. Some of them, we are told by Mr. W. G. L. Gibson who came here in 1815, would have gourds and terrapin shells attached to their legs so as to clank together and assist in the din and racket of the occasion. This was kept up all night. As soon as the corn was boiled to the right consistency, they would sit down on the ground around the large vessel and the chief celebrater take a large wooden spoon or laddle and dip it in the vessel of corn and drink or eat the contents and pass the laddle to the next Indian, who did likewise, etc. Frequently a dog would come up for his share and be rewarded with a crack over the head with the laddle, which was then passed to the next Indian, who never was known it is said, to turn up his nose if a few dog hairs, perchance, remained sticking to the bottom of the laddle, but dipping it in the vessel of corn proceeded to eat and be as merry as a red man could be.

They also had their war dances, too hideous to describe. The writer would like to go at detail into a description of all these customs of the Indian inhabitants of St. Clair, but space forbids more extended mention. It seems that the pioneers did not attempt to preserve much of the actual history of these people and their customs, having paid more attention to traditions, particular incidents, and their battles. The Indians of America undoubtedly gave the country its first stamp of "liberty" in the true sense.

For the Indian was the very soul of liberty. Confinement he could not endure. He was intelligent too, in his way--always understood others and at times when he desired, making himself understood. Both of the tribes that were so well known in St. Clair (the Creeks and the Cherokees) had a simple language easily understood. 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, which will be presented in the proper place in these articles. A great many Indians were tried at Ashville in those days. These three Indians were "ironed" or handcuffed at the Ashville blacksmith shop, (probably at Bill Alman's blacksmith shop), which stood either on the north side of the Jno. O. Turner lot on the public square, or on the north side of the lot belonging to the late Judge L. F. Box, just opposite D. D. Goode's residence). 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 that time.

This language had we believe one hundred and eight characters, each representing a syllable in the language; thus: tha, kee, och, la, mai, chock, gee, ko, lock and the like; which enabled those learned in the language to express in writing, their ideas. This was looked upon as a great invention, and indeed, for an Indian, it was, and for a time a paper was published at Ross' Landing (now Chattanooga) in the English and Cherokee languages. The son of the man who published that paper is now a prominent Cherokee, who is often at Washington City, on some agency for the Cherokee nation.

A few small patches of corn was the extent of their agricultural knowledge. These their squaws were compelled to cultivate while their lord and master smoked his pipe or hunted for game.

One among the number of singular customs observed by these hardy and ignorant red men was that of burying with their dead whatever implements or trinkets belonged to them. Tin cups, pewter plates, bows and arrows, large strands of beads, blow guns and other weapons and articles of ornament, etc., interred with their deceased owner. In exhuming the graves, quite a number of these antiquarian relics have been found and are today among the valued collections of curiosities on exhibitions in museums and expositions.

Throughout the county are to be found to this day, huge rock piles, reared by human hands, and for what purpose and by whom constructed is a mystery yet to be solved. The writer has dug into several, but without approaching any nearer a solution to their object and purpose than before. Many persons have unearthed them, some discovering bones but as a general rule there seems to be quite a different purpose than that of a sepulchre for their dead.

Among the most wonderful and interesting antiquarian works or relics found by the early settlers of the county were the numerous mounds or ridges--some

of which are still to be seen and will be incidentally alluded to further on--some too have been built by the Indians, these people, probably, derived their ideas from the mounds built by the mound builders. But those still extant do not seem to belong to the class built by the latter race, being distinctly different--smaller in appearance and varying in their contents. Some, however, are of the opinion that these constructive ideas of the Indians originated with themselves, but as we are not writing a work on Palaeontology, facts only will be given from which the reader may draw his own conclusions.

But it is truly astonishing what skill and time must have been employed in these works of the Indians.

When we contemplate the numerous mounds and rock-piles they built, the exceedingly rude and primitive implements they manufactured and used in their every-day life, and, also, their manners and customs we may well be astonished.

Here they lived happily and contented in these then solitary regions--far beyond the borders of civilization; but a new era in their career was dawning which would eventually result in their removal, and consequently their deterioration from their aboriginal state.

We speak of it in this sense, because, in the history of the world we have but a few instances of any improvement of a people by any local change as such changes have not always affected them in a way to improve their social live for successive generations, unless by intercourse and conquest, they succeed in establishing a more perfect civilization than they previously enjoyed.

In the study of the primitive conditions of mankind, we find that changes from their normal state, either in local removal or habits of living, as often affected their progress adversely as beneficially. There are quite as many instances where social evolution has been downward as tending upward, but even where this has not been the case, it has often been that for generations no perceptible progress has been attained, and indeed, it has been just as frequent after population increased by intercourse and conquest that subsequent generations of the same people have attained all their advancement.

It is one of the important problems of the present time as to whether the Indians will ever make any degree of advancement in civilization.

Until several years of the nineteenth century had passed, the Indian chiefs and warriors might step to the top of the highest mountains and say, with truthfulness, in the language of William Cowper in his "Alexander Selkirk:"

"I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute."
This their own, their native land was to the red men a-----
"Throne of royal state, which far Outshone the wealth of
Ormus and of Ind.
Of where the gorgeous East, with richest hand,
Showers on her kings barbaric pearl and gold."

Whatever may be said of them these savage residents of the forests, had their virtues as well as their vices.

12
CHAPTER 3

From the year 1764 and for several years after, the beautiful section of country now embraced within the limits of St. Clair county, in connection with all that part of the state of Alabama above the line of 32 degrees and 28 minutes, was contained in the British province of Illinois, under British government. At this time this was the Illinois part of Alabama, uninhabited by Europeans, except a few traders who resided in the nations of the Upper Creek Indians--those inhabiting St. Clair county--and the Cherokees and Chickasaws.

Although the country was claimed by the English by virtue of treaty with France and Spain, which governments laid claim to it by right of discovery, the St. Clair territory and surrounding country was in complete possession of the Indians. These were mostly of the Muscogee or Creek nations, although there was quite a number of Cherokees.

In 1794-5 the county of St. Clair, in connection with counties of Clarke, Marengo, Greene, Perry, Autauga, Bibb, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Fayette, Jefferson and also portions of Blount, Walker, Marion, Wilcox, Monroe, Dallas, Sumpter, and Baldwin, with a large part of Mississippi, were sold to the "Georgia Company" of the Great Yazoo Land Sales by the Georgia legislature for the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars .

Though these sales were afterwards declared null and void and repealed by Georgia legislature, the tendency was to cause an influx of settlers into those wild barbarous regions.

These settlers came to occupy the lands granted by the "Georgia Company" and remained after the repealing of the sales--it was a rush something like the Oklahoma rush of a few years ago.

On April 24, 1802, the state of Georgia, to which this territory then belonged, ceded to the Federal government of the United States, all the country now embraced in the state's of Alabama, and Mississippi for a considerable sum. Immigrants then began to find their way towards the country; a land office was established, and numbers of settlers entered land under the pre-emption laws of the United States and under the local usages and customs.

Yet the title of the Indians, the rightful owners of the territory still remained to be purchased.

The reader must bear in mind that when we say above that the county of St. Clair was, together with other counties, sold to the "Georgia Company" of the Great Land Sales by the Georgia Legislature, we do not mean that St. Clair was then a political organization; for Alabama was not then a state, nor was America, indeed, entirely free from foreign difficulties affecting her independence. We have reference to the territory or land now, out of which these counties were, at a later date formed or organized, some of them before Alabama became a state of the Union, which event was completed on December 14th, 1819, by a joint resolution of congress.

It will be remembered by readers of American history that as early as 1733, in the reign of King George II of England, that monarch granted to Oglethorpe all the territory between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers and by treaty with the Indians, Oglethorpe secured the territory and formed the state of Georgia. After this Georgia rapidly filled up with immigrants.

In a few more years, or about the beginning of the present century, some of the more restless pioneers, armed with their unerring rifles and in search of adventure, pushed westward. They had heard from other adventurers, of the picturesque country lying west of them. At that time these hunters and pioneers had little difficulty in penetrating westward, except such as is usually encountered in exploring a new, and almost unknown country. They met the Indians on friendly terms and in this way were allowed unmolested the privilege of the hunting grounds, and frequently shared the wigwam of the red men. Thus an intimacy sprang up between the whites and Indians which lasted for many years.

While the whites had these privileges, it can hardly be said that they had any permanent settlements in this part of the country.

These hunting excursions from the Georgia settlements were kept up at intervals, and the county of St. Clair and Blount and surrounding counties (not of course, by their present names) soon became well known in Georgia and many of the settlers cast a longing eye to this beautiful country, with all its tempting allurements and fertile soil. Those who had not visited here were fascinated with the glowing accounts of the visitors and were determined to occupy it at no distant day. The immigration fever spread until it infested other states, reaching South Carolina and North Carolina. The Tennesseans who afterwards came here were due principally to General Jackson's expeditions.

The Creek Indians occupied the country nearest to the Georgia settlements, their country was the first invaded by the whites and the number of invaders were more numerous and some probably of a doubtful temper in their treatment of the Indians; second, Tecumseh, a powerful chief of the Shawnee tribe, a crafty diplomat, and one of the shrewdest Indians known in history, was then among them. Tecumseh claimed to be chief of all the tribes nearest the white settlements. It will be remembered that Tecumseh had been sent here by the English, then on the verge of another war with America, as their secret agent for the purpose of inciting the Creeks to rise up against the Federal government of the United States and take sides with England. The effects of the visits of Tecumseh were the beginning of hostilities among the whites and Indians.

Hence all efforts made from Georgia to settle this part of the country were regarded by the Creeks as an infringement on their territory, and they were not slow to show their hostility. This fact deterred the Georgians their hope to possess the territory of St. Clair, Blount and surrounding counties.

The Tennessee river was the great highway to the northern portion of Alabama, and not a few settlers pushed their way into St. Clair and Blount from east Tennessee and western North Carolina.

The reader will please bear in mind that there were at this time no roads in the county, nor were any made until 1812-13-14 when during the Creek Indian war, the "Jackson Trace" was cut out from Tennessee by the army of Gen. Jackson. It is we judge, quite probable that Gen. Jackson himself followed the trails of some of the early settlers in his march to Fort Strother.

It was not long till some of these hunters went back to Tennessee and North Carolina and moved their families here, and began the settlement of Coosa and Canoe Creek Valley in St. Clair and of Brown's Valley in Blount. At this time there were many hunters and adventurers within the limits of both counties, but no permanent settlers.

All of these settlers found Indians here living in peace and quietude, and thanks to Oglethorpe's policy little trouble was encountered between the two races.

As an incident to show the spirit that existed between the pioneers and the Indians before the introduction of "firewater" and free from the prejudicial influences of foreign agents and "tools" and a few bad white men of the renegade order, we relate the following; we cannot give dates but it was early in the present century:

It happened while Coosa river was the line between the whites and Indians and of course the two sides were frequently much mixed up. W. A. Coleman, the father-in-law of our present esteemed citizen, Maj. J. D. Truss, lived near where Riverside is now situated, and his father-in-law, John Roberson, lived at what is now known as Truss' Ferry, or Ferryville--Mr. Coleman's oldest little boy, Sidney was brought down to spend a week with his grandparents when he was between three and four years old, but after some two days he took a notion to go home and while everybody was busy he struck out alone some three miles on a road mostly on the river bank. He had not gone far until an Indian by the wayside saw him and knowing him, followed him for the purpose of protecting him, The Indian took the precaution not to let the little fellow see him to keep from being frightened. On arriving at the house little Sidney fell down on the door steps with the exclamation "Ma I thought I would never get to your house any more." The Indian who had watched him through the forests, followed in immediately after him and of course there was great alarm until it was all understood, when the Indian was doubtless thanked in a most kindly way for his faithfulness. Mr. Coleman often repeated this story and his eyes filled with tears when he told it. He always said the Indians were the noblest hearted people he ever saw until they were wronged and corrupted by the whites and up to his death he did not hesitate to say that in heart and in honor they were much better than the whites.

In this Col. M. H. Cruikshanks, of Talladega, an authority on Indians, agreed with him.

To quote from the estimable gentlemen who furnished us with this incident it would seem that the Indian in his high tone and honorable native conditions, as these gentlemen have said did not adapt himself very well to the disposition at present shown in many places in wrangling, cheating, defrauding and out

sharpening everybody and the relying on having it all fixed up by the grip we think we have on the Lord through Christ (Roman Catholicism in Protestant churches) and hence our slowness in civilizing and Christianizing them. There is a selfhood or independence about him not found in other races.

"In the days of slavery one white man with not another in 50 miles of him could manage one thousand negroes by the wave of his hand while 10,000 could not manage one lone Indian because he would die first."

This brings us about up to the second and most interesting in our county's history--the beginning years of the present century.

I had planned an exhaustive history of the Indian inhabitants of the county and sketches of the lives of some of the more prominent warriors and chiefs, but the demands on my time at present prevent me from visiting those who could give me data and the data I have collected is too meager to attempt it.

I would like to tell the young folks (and may some day) of the lives and adventures of the two Cherokee chiefs, Chief Ross, who frequently went to Washington in the interest of his followers, and of the noted John Ridge, one of the ablest chiefs of the Cherokees, who frequently visited Ashville after it became a town. John Ridge came often to Ashville to attend court in behalf of those of his people who fell into the hands of the law after Georgia and Alabama had extended the jurisdiction of their criminal courts over the Indians in the first third of the present century, to which we will refer in the proper place. Chief Ridge was a large, stalwart, full-blooded Indian, of proud bearing and noble mien. He was educated at the North--I believe at a school in Connecticut, probably one of our best colleges. He married a white woman. It was not a strange sight in Ashville's street in those early days to see an Indian, but to see one like Ridge, educated and dressed in the finest of broadcloth--the height of luxury in dress then--which he always wore when visiting Ashville, was a singular spectacle indeed to those who had only seen Indians in their native costumes of buckskin hunting shirt, moccasins and leggings or nothing. Ridge was killed by the Ross party after their removal to the west.

I should like to speak at length of old Fife, who used to come from the Fife-Town of the Creek Indians in Talladega county, with a lot of his Indian friends, and always took his seat under a cottonwood tree on the hill northwest of the square in Ashville, near where Mr. John Nelson lives, and looked as if his poor heart would break at the thought of leaving this land. It was a hard blow to some of them--their removal. Poor old Fife--like "Lo, the poor Inaian," his name should not go down in history unhonored, unsung or unwept.

Some of these Indians were wealthy, too, for these times. I would like to tell you of Peggy Pathkiller, another Cherokee, whose estate here in the county was appraised at \$4,676.35, and of old Dragging Canoe, Utiles, old Money Hunter, Scraper, and other Cherokees connected with the county's history but my limited knowledge of them might force me into the field of romance and hence I refrain. But if any of the older settlers can give us any Indian history we will preserve a place for it in future articles.

and marching around it bury their tomahawks in this. On the next day they would bury it in the head of a white settler if, perchance, one was so unfortunate as to cross their pathway, and proud, indeed, and honored by his friends, was the warrior who could exhibit, as the evening shades covered the hilltops of the mountains about Ashville, a white man's scalp reeking from his belt, with a triumphant shout holding it up--dripping with blood--on the point of a spear or poisoned arrow to the view of his rejoicing allies.

The scalp was usually a rounded or circular piece of skin, ranging from the size of a dollar up to a small saucer, cut with a scalping knife from the top of the head of the white hunter who had fallen by the hand of the "brave" or warrior. It was strung on a piece of buckskin, like beads and the warrior who could show the largest number was a proud man and an honored one in his tribe.

We have heard it said that Warrior river in Blount took its name from the fact that the warriors along the line of that stream could show more scalps than those of the Coosa or Canoe.

The war was carried on mostly along the banks and in the valleys of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers.

The Indians rallied from St. Clair and Blount and joined Tecumseh whenever needed.

The hardy "hunters" of St. Clair and Blount (we can hardly yet call them settlers) also responded to the call to arms. The tocsin of war between the races had been sounded and it was to be a war of extermination. The whites knew full well that they could expect no quarter from the Indians, and that their capture meant torture at the stake, running the gauntlet and hair pulling at the hands of the swarty "red-sticks". Even the squaws and papooses or babies of the warriors engaged with zest in these tortures, and seemed to derive a more enjoyment from it.

The Indians of St. Clair during this time were fully as wild and barbarous as the Indians we read of in the border books during the days of Lewis Wetzel, Daniel Boone, and along the Musgingum.

This was before the incident related in the last chapter and there were too, isolated cases of friendship between certain Indians and certain whites.

The Indians also had a peculiar way of fighting. He would not fight "fair" but always sought cover. When he trailed a hunter through the woods along the Canoe or the Coosa, he usually crept up close to him and shot him at short range with a poisoned arrow or split his skull with a tomahawk while the hunter slept, and no hunter dared sleep alone in the woods in those days except from necessity.

The Indian would always take to a tree or a log to shield him from the bullet of the white hunter's rifle, and never would consent to stand out in the open place as a target to be shot at.

It was about this time or it may have been in 1815, that the famous Davy Crockett came through here on his way to Jones Valley, not far from Birmingham, presumably "hunting Indians". He fell ill at the house of one Jolly Jones, an early settler or hunter.

Davy was one of the most famous hunters of his day and to have him at one's house was almost equal to an insurance policy against the Indians, for Davy's bullet never missed, and his powder never flickered in the pan of his flint lock. His nerve was steady, and many is the time when he "barked a squirrel, and snuffed a candle."

For in these times the hunters would have their tests of marksmanship, or shooting matches, and "barking a squirrel" was a method they had of killing squirrels by shooting so as to clip off the bark of the limb the squirrel was on jarring it to death without touching it. This method left no hole in the skin and did not injure or bruise the meat. "Snuffing the candle" was shooting off the "snuff" or end of the wick of a tallow candle without putting the light out.

Davy Crockett could do both of these with great ease, but at the time spoken of he had no reputation, but was regarded as a sidewalk wit.

While at the house of Jolly Jones, then in what is now Jefferson, he was playing with his rifle, showing his skill, and a woman named Betty Clarke was standing near him. In some way the rifle fired, accidentally or otherwise, and chipped off the end of her nose.

Later Crockett went to Winchester county, Tennessee, and while there he met Messrs. Joseph Riley, St., and John Smith. He told them of the valley and they moved down to a point within two miles of Jonesboro and have lived there since. The valley was named after an old settler named Jones, who originally owned a large track of the valley land.

This incident may have been about 1814 or 15, at a later day than the Indian wars, but it serves to show the type of people the Indians had to fight, and we can readily see how hopeless was their contest against the leaden bullets from men handled by men like Davy Crockett.

Soon the news of the battle of Burnt Corn way down in Conecuh county, south Alabama was herlated abroad among the Indians from tribe to tribe. All the war trinkets, weapons and utensils were secured and put in shape. Head feathers from eagles or turkeys were secured and put in condition and new vessels of war paint supplied.

The battle of Burnt Corn took place in July 1813.

On the 13th of August 1813, the Ft. Mimms massacre occurred. Ft. Mimms was in Baldwin county on the Alabama River, and the inhabitants were "surprised" by the Creeks and the fort destroyed. It was one of these atrocious "surprises" that General Washington was so careful to guard against, and like the one which incensed him so greatly, when he was president against Gen. St. Clair (who was on this account removed and whose place was afterwards supplied by Mad Anthony Wayne). Here at Ft. Mimms 400 whites, men, women and children were put to

death. This atrocious deed aroused the indignation of the white people and they at once flew "to arms". It was now "war to the death"--a war of extermination--against the "red-sticks".

There were but few hunters here however. We do not know of any who lived in what is now St. Clair county at this time (1813). We know of some who had "settled" in Blount however and who had passed through St. Clair and tarried awhile on their way to other counties.

Even as early as 1810, A Gilbreath, a fearless pioneer had come to Blount county, passing through St. Clair, in search of lead, or lead ore, and he explored the two counties. One George Fields either accompanied Mr. Gilbreath or soon after followed him--of this we have no authentic record. George Fields was probably related to Moses and Isaac Fields, who together with Andrew McLaughlin and "Devil" John Jones, according to Thomas M. Owen, in his "John Owen's Journal, of his removal from Virginia to Alabama" came from Tennessee in the spring of 1813 and made a small crop of corn that year near the present city of Bessemer, now is Jefferson county. In the fall these men brought their families. Jones Valley takes its name from "Devil" John Jones. The town of Jonesboro, near Bessemer, we suggest, also derives its name from the same source. It is said that Caleb Finley also came with Mr. Jones, and that both were from Madison county, Alabama, but we are inclined to believe Mr. Owens the better authority on this subject. Caleb Finley located at Bear Meat (Cabin now Blountsville).

About this time or a little while later John Gunter appeared on the scene. Gunter was partly raised among the Cherokees and had a distinct recollection of the Revolutionary war. He was a noble hearted man and many times afterwards aided the settlers in making desirable selections for sites for their homes.

Col. Richard Brown also came through St. Clair afterwards making his home in Blount, and later from his familiarity with St. Clair geography led one of Jackson's scouting expeditions with a band of his Indian friends rendering valuable service through his knowledge of St. Clair's geography.

I mention these settlers or hunters this early in my narrative because, while some of them are not reported to have come here till 1815-16. I have data that at least a few of them figured in the Jackson-Indian wars--Col. Richard Brown certainly did.

The Ft. Mimms affair aroused the indignation of the country to such a pitch that Gen. Andrew Jackson set out from Nashville, Tennessee with an army of 2,000 men, thrifty Tennesseans. His purpose was to clear the country along the Coosa and Alabama rivers of the Creek Indians. This army passed along the Coosa and Alabama rivers of the Creek Indians. This army passed through Blount county cutting out timber and making a road as they marched. This road was afterwards known as the "Jackson Trail" or "Jackson Trace." Gen. Jackson followed a direct south course from the Tennessee river, selecting the best crossings at the rivers and coming through the gaps in the mountains. Indeed, so well selected was the trace that it has been used to the present day as a public thoroughfare and is regarded as a well chosen route.

A large part of this army encamped a few days in Blount on the Warrior river, at the place where M. A. Brickwell resided a few years ago, and while there numbers of hunters then in Blount flocked to his banner. It was probably while here that Col. Richard Brown joined the army.

After much difficulty, Jackson cut his way to Will's creek, now in Etowah county, which was included in the original boundaries of St. Clair county, where he encamped on October 28, 1813, destitute of bread and provisions for his army, to allow his foraging parties to secure a supply of rations. As the contractors had totally failed to fulfil their engagements with him, his army was almost in a starving condition.

While encamped at this point, Gen. Jackson dispatched Col. Dyer with a small force of two hundred cavalry to attack the Indian town of Litlefuchee, twenty miles distant, situated on Canoe Creek. Arriving at Litlefuchee at four o'clock on the morning of October 29, they burned down the town and captured twenty-nine prisoners, consisting of men, women and children. Returning to camp, they met another detachment which had been sent out to secure a supply of beeves, corn, etc. This detachment had captured four Indians of the war party and two negroes, probably refugee slaves who had taken up their abode with the redskins. Two other Creeks of the hostile party were brought in by old Chinobe--an aged Hillabee chief--and his son.

These prisoners were all sent together to Huntsville.

I am unable to get anything definite as to the location of this Indian town. It was on Canoe creek above Ashville (according to Gen. F. M. Thomason (probably about five or six miles). I would like for some one who is informed as to its location to help me to locate it definitely.

It is quite probable that other battles happened here in St. Clair county. I have made an effort to secure the official record of Jackson's operations in St. Clair. If I am successful I shall give the record in full.

In the meantime while Gen. Jackson was still encamped on Will's creek--in St. Clair county afterwards -- waiting for his foraging parties to secure enough provisions from the fertile and beautiful valley of the Coosa to proceed southward, the Creeks had assembled in large numbers at their town of Tallasekatchee--afterwards in Calhoun county--thirteen miles distant from his camp.

Coffee, who had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, was dispatched by Jackson at the head of one thousand men, with one-half of whom he was directed to attack the enemy. The other half was directed to scour the country near the Ten Islands for the purpose of covering his operations.

Fording the Coosa at the Fish Dam, four miles above the Islands, Coffee advanced to Tallasehatchee, surrounded the town at the rising of the sun on November 3rd, 1813 and was met by the savages and their prophets with whoops and the sounding of drums--the prophets being in advance.

Attacking the decoy companies stationed by Coffee, they were soon surrounded by troops who charged them with great slaughter. After a short, but terrible action, eighty-four women and children were taken prisoners while the slain bodies of one hundred and eighty-six warriors were counted upon the battlefield, where, unavoidably some women also perished. Many other bodies, uncounted, lay concealed in the weeds. Five Americans were killed and eighteen wounded.

Late in the evening of the same day, Gen. Coffee recrossed the Coosa and marched his little army to Gen. Jackson's headquarters. Not a solitary warrior begged for his life and it is believed, not an Indian escaped to the woods, to tell in after years the results of this battle. All the prisoners captured were sent to Huntsville.

Gen. Jackson detailed a company of soldiers to remove the Indians from Old or Upper Cataula and New or Lower Cataula across the Coosa river. Those from New or Lower Cataula and probably those from both Indian towns were settled at and around a place called the "Plum Orchard", known afterwards as the "Fife-Town" of Creek Indians, which was on the road afterwards made from Talladega to Jacksonville about five miles north of the Chockolocce creek. We infer this from the incident heretofore related in regard to old Fife's visits to Ashville. They did not like to have to give up this land. It is hardly probable they came back to look for treasures buried by their ancestors or friends when removed.

Gen. Jackson, now forcing his way over the Coosa mountain, arrived at Ten Islands where he began to erect a second depot for supplies, (having already erected one--Fort Deposit--on Thompson's creek in the present county of Calhoun) which was protected by strong picketing and blockhouses and to which he gave the name of Fort Strother.

There was a considerable fortification there, and older citizens may recollect having seen the gate-posts till a late day with an appearance of earthworks thrown up around in places. These were the ruins of the historical old fort, which is now embraced within the boundries of St. Clair County.

This was Gen. Jackson's place of rendezvous during the Creek Indian War in St. Clair and surrounding counties. It was situated near the foot of the mountains on the west side of the Coosa River and on the public road as it was afterwards laid out from Ashville to Talladega. It was near the ferry crossing known in early times as Durinn's and afterwards as Driver's ferry, near which the residence of Mr. Wood's, son-in-law of Jacob Green.

Gen. Jackson fought one battle some ten or fifteen miles across the Coosa River, where afterwards John Boyd had his residence and farm.

Gen. Jackson had another battle where the town of Talladega is situated. The object of this battle, we believe, was to rescue a tribe of friendly Indians called the Talladegas. It seems this tribe was a separate one and not related to the Creeks--though located amongst them. This tribe refused to fight the white people as did also the Cherokees at that time.

The Talladega tribe were forced on a little knoll about a mile down the branch from the Talladega Spring and were surrounded by the hostile Indians (called Redsticks.)

These hostile Indians had threatened that unless the Talladegas would agree by a certain day to join them and to fight the white men, they would kill every man in the fort on the knoll. The day was near at hand and there were no days of grace to be had.

Something must be done and done quickly. So one dark night one of the Talladegas, whose English name was Daniel Lastly, killed a large hog and skinned it, and covering himself with the skin, crawled out through the lines of the besieging enemy and went with all speed, on foot to Fort Strother. After many hardships he arrived at the fort safely and reported the condition of affairs to Gen. Jackson.

Gen. Jackson, then operating in St. Clair at once set his army in motion crossed the Coosa River, and by night and day march reached the Talladega Spring the next afternoon.

The battle commenced as soon as Jackson's army came in sight of the besiegers and was fought down the branch to the fort of the friendly Indians.

After a hot conflict the enemy was completely routed and the friendly Talladegas rescued and taken back to Fort Strother for safety.

An incident characteristic of Gen. Jackson is furnished us by one who is good authority.

On the trip out to the rescue one of the wagons "stalled" or mired up in the Chockolocco Creek. The lieutenant in charge of the march (we can not get his name) was on his horse and rode up to the "stalled" wagon and began to swear, and curse the teamster and order him how to drive. While all this was going on General Jackson rode up to see the cause of the delay, as all the wagons behind had come to a halt.

Observing at once the condition of affairs the General alighted from his horse, waded out into the mud and water of the creek, and took hold of one of the wheels, he ordered the lieutenant to get down and take hold of another. All gave a pull, and of course this wagon moved right off. Others followed this example. Time was precious and it would not have done to have the march delayed. Gen. Jackson was equal to every emergency.

The battle of Horse Shoe was also fought, where it is said Lieutenant Sam Houston (afterwards President Houston of Texas) distinguished himself by leading the "Forlorn hope" (as it was called) in storming the Indian fort successfully. He was wounded in the shoulder with a poisoned arrow, such as we have heretofore described, that produced a wound which is said to have made a running sore ever afterwards as long as he lived.

There was a deserter from the army at the fort by the name of Woods. He was caught and by order of the court martial, was shot. Some soldier, poetically disposed, composed a song of sympathy lamenting his fate, which

was dolefully sung by some of the old soldiers for many years afterwards.

Gen. Jackson, in addition to the few regulars under him in that state also he had sent to him regular supplies of provisions and amunition for his army.

While encamping at the fort, having done much to subdue the hostile Creek Nation of Indians, his little army was reduced almost to the point of starvation and consequent mutiny, on account of the delay in the arrival of their provisions, which had to be forwarded to them from east Tennessee and which were daily expected.

A good portion of the troops had been mustered into service in Tennessee, and having been allowed to return to their homes, to the space of several weeks had elapsed before they were again called to take up their line of march and come into Alabama. Previous to their encampment at Fort Strother they had been in Alabama sometime and it was now that they began to complain.

The soldiers contented that their term of service had expired counting from the date of being mustered in. Gen. Jackson maintained that it had not expired--counting from the time of their being called into take up the line of march to Fort Strother.

The men and officers, who had had scarcely anything to eat for several days because reduced to such a state that they actually collected acorns and what ever else they could in the woods for food and ate them. The army was in imminent danger of abandoning the fort in mutiny, which would have endangered greatly the success of the Indian War. The General was daily expecting the arrival of fresh troops to relieve those in camp and, also, the arrival of provisions for the army.

Finally in this distressing condition of affairs, a compromise was agreed upon. This was to the effect that the troops under their respective officers, including the General, would take up the line of march towards Tennessee, along the Jackson Trace--as it was called. This trace passed near what was afterwards known as Green's ferry, thence to a shoal in Canoe Creek (near which Jacob Green and Mr. Autury lived in early times) thence through the piney woods to the foot of Sand Mountain, (where, in old times, William Brown, and later Joel Chandler lived) thence northwardly toward Tennessee.

Pursuant to this agreement, the army with its baggage started, along the route indicated, and at about noon of the first or second day's march, met the long looked for wagons loaded down with provisions. At this joyful sight, camp was at once pitched and all hands set eagerly to work cooking and eating and enjoying themselves hugely, then lay down to rest and have a good sleep.

Late in the night Gen. Jackson was informed that a conspiracy had been formed against him, and that the troops had determined to go back to their homes in Tennessee and not to return to Fort Strother, and they had agreed to do.

The General's quarters being in front immediately in the route they would have to go, he, before daylight had collected about sixty or eighty men and

officers---including his artillerymen, with their cannons charged and ready to be fired. By sunrise he placed them in battle array across the road, with himself on horseback in the middle of the line. His arm being in a sling, he held in his right hand a musket, the muzzle of which was resting between his horse's ears.

Very soon the rebellious troops formed in columns and companies in the open woods, and with fife and drum sounding to their quick marching, came rapidly forward.

Gen. Jackson had given to those aligned with him the command:

"DON'T FIRE A GUN UNTILL I FIRE, THEN SELL YOUR LIVES AS DEARLY AS YOU CAN!"

Imagine, reader, if you can, what must have been the feelings of these soldiers, arrayed, as they were, friend against friend, kinsmen against kinsman, father against son and brother against brother, on the verge of a deadly combat. These men had sworn to obey their general, but driven by starvation almost to desperation, they revolted and bore upon their countenances a look of determination which no one, save those who have seen it, can describe.

With beating heart the General waited until the front ranks of the advancing column approached within a short distance--less, perhaps, than fifty yards--while it was not yet quite light, so they could see him plainly and his array to resist them, when raising himself in his stirrups, in a loud, terrible voice, he commanded:

"HALT!"

The mutinous troops wavered an instant, then stopped as if struck by an electric shock.

Again came the command:

"Right about face!"

With one accord they turned about as machines.

"Forward march, every d'---d rascal of you!"

They stepped off quickly and the General put himself at the head of the column and marched the army back to Fort Strother. This was the end of this mutinous affair. In a short time relief troops came and the veteran soldiers were marched home to Tennessee and discharged.

The above scene is supposed to have occurred in the flat piney woods between Cane creek and the foot of the mountain.

There was a boy soldier by the name of Burk, about 16 years old, sick and reclining at the root of a tree within thirty feet of General Jackson when this thrilling real dramatic affair occurred. He was so situated that he could see Gen. Jackson's face when the General was giving his commands,

and after this boy became an old man, he said he could shut his eyes and see that face again, with the look of determined resistance upon it, appearing as the countenance of some destructive demon from the lower regions.

That boy soldier, when a man became a large merchant in Nashville, Savannah, New York, and Texas, where he died respected and honored. Having become well acquainted with Gen. Jackson, he visited the Hermitage after the latter had become president, and in their conversation told him about having been a witness to the scene just described, and said that he had always desired to ask what were then his feelings while giving those commands, that made his face present such a terrible and commanding aspect.

Gen. Jackson replied that he knew the Tennesseans well, and had very little hope of turning them back.

He said that was one time in his life that he expected to die and had deliberately made up his mind that if those troops did go to Tennessee, they would have to march over his dead body.

The deeds and incidents we have just recorded were characteristic of Gen. Andrew Jackson--or "Old Hickory" as he was familiarly called--through his long, eventful and successful life. The people who followed him and who knew him, with few exceptions liked him, and afterwards, when he ran for president of the United States only seven votes were polled against him in St. Clair county.

A number of years afterwards when St. Clair had become a large county and Ashville a flourishing town, (about the year 1825, as near as date can be obtained) one of the high chiefs of the Creek Indians, by the name of McIntosh either had been or was about to be engaged in negotiating a treaty for the removal of the Indians to the west, when he was killed by a company of red-painted Indians. Great numbers of these "red-sticks" at once became hostile and the Talladega tribe fled to Ashville for protection and remained in Ashville for quite a while. They encamped at the big spring east of Ashville, now on Judge James T. Green's beautiful place, "Tawassa Farm" but in those days the property of Col. John Massey, who was at the time sheriff of the county. (At that time the spring was east of the big rock and ran under the rock to the west side of the rock.) Col. Massey, under public authority of some kind had the Talladega Indians fed and cared for until the Indians in the nation were pacified.

The Daniel Lastly that escaped from the besieged fort and reported the condition of the Talladega Indians to Gen. Jackson (an account of which has already been given) was with this tribe in Ashville and his brother, Alexander Lastly, a large man was also with them.

Alexander Lastly was then chief of the Talladegas, and under the seductive influence of a few drinks of whiskey administered to him by white folks from Ashville who congregated about the Indian camps, would amuse the crowd by making big speeches in the Indian language.

When asked why the parts of his person or limbs not clothed did not get cold, he would reply in broken English, "Me all face!".

He had a nephew, a boy often seen in town, who, when asked his name, always replied, "Gen. Jackson." This boy had in fact been born the very night the tribe were rescued from the besieged fort by Gen. Jackson. We here give this incident to show in what estimation this particular tribe of Indians held Gen. Jackson.

In the series of conflicts which soon followed--in Oct.. 1813--and ending with the battle of Tohopeka, or the Great Horse Shoe Bend, in March 1814, the Creeks were so thoroughly defeated, and their power so completely broken that they were compelled to accept a humiliating peace. This war deprived St. Clair of both her Indian and white hunters for the time they were engaged, and the game appeared more abundant than ever before. The woods seemed full of deer and wild turkey, while the streams were almost crowded with fish ready to feed the few and almost famished Indian warriors who were so fortunate as to return to the scenes of deadly strife. The faces of the squaws and papooses were wreathed in smiles and grins when they discovered their Lord and Master approaching, for upon him depended his family for food, brought down by his bow and arrow. The autumn of 1814 was a period of peace and plenty to the Indians; there were game and fish in abundance, and wild honey taken from the hollow tree, the native home of the honey bee.

This was the Indian's paradise, a paradise from which he must soon be expelled. His fate was already sealed, for on the 9th of August of that year the chiefs ceded to the United States fifteen million acres of territory including St. Clair County.

The happy warrior, his dusky wife and papooses must leave the bones of their ancestors, and the home of their childhood where they had spent so many happy days.

No wonder the red men lingered in this county long after they had orders to leave. No wonder they hesitated when gathering their little plunder to leave the spot so sacred to them. No wonder they sent the quivering arrow to some human heart as a parting salutation for their troubles, the moans of their wives and tears of their children.

FORMATION OF THE COUNTY: ITS BOUNDARIES

The Creek war closed with the splendid victory of Gen. Jackson over the Indians at Ft. Jackson in March 1814. In the fall of the year, Aug. 9, 1814, the formal treaty of capitulation was signed. On the part of the United States this war was justly regarded as "unprovoked, inhuman and sanguinary," and the government demanded an equivalent in land for all expenses incurred in its prosecution. Gen. Jackson and Col. Benjamin Hawkins represented the United States, and it was not until after a months tiresome negotiation that the treaty was signed. The land ceded included all of the country claimed by the Creeks west of the Coosa river, and south of a line running southeast from about Wetumpka to the Chatahoocha river a little below Eufaula. The northern and western limits of the cession being undefined, treaties were concluded with the other Indian tribes. On Sept. 14, 1816 the Cherokees ceded all their claims to lands south of the Tennessee, and west of a small tract north of the Coosa river. On Sept. 20, 1819, a cession was made by the Chickasaws of all their lands north of the Tennessee river and also all south of that river, east of Canoe Creek, and also east of a line from the source of this creek due south to Gaines road, thence along this road to Cotton Gin Port, and from the west branch of the Tombigbee to the Choctaw boundary.

On Oct. 24, 1816 the Choctaws relinquished all of their claims to lands east of the Tombigbee. It will be seen at a glance that these cessions included practically all of the country south of the Tennessee and lying between the Coosa and Tombigbee rivers.

Anticipating early efforts at settlement, Gov. David Holmes of the Mississippi territory, by proclamation, created all of the lands, ceded Aug. 8, 1814 into the county of Monroe. On Dec. 9, 1815, the territorial legislature provided for its organization. At this time the settled parts of this almost limitless county lay along the east side of the Alabama river, the settlers having principally entered from the adjoining counties on the west and south. A large influx of settlers, coming in mostly from Ga., and settling on the Alabama and Coosa rivers, in the vicinity of Ft. Jackson, necessitated the creation, by the territorial legislature, of the new county of Montgomery, Dec. 6, 1816, with Ft. Jackson as the place for holding courts.

In the northern part of the cession, now comprising the counties lying south of the Tennessee river, permanent settlements were first made just across that river about 1815. In the previous year various adventurous explorers had probably prospected over the whole of the upper region; and it is not unlikely that the soldiers from Tennessee in the Creek wars had treasured up in their memory beautiful localities to which they expected to return. No evidence exists of earlier permanent settlements than in 1815. By the end of this year and the spring of 1816, settlements had been made in "Bear Meat Cabin" (now Blountsville), Cahaba Valley in St. Clair and Shelby counties, Jones and Rouse's valley in Jefferson county and "the Falls of the Warrior", now Tuscaloosa. From Madison county the immigrants went down the old Indian trace, now the Huntsville road in part, leading from Ditto's Landing to Mud Town on the Cahaba. Large numbers came down the Tennessee River on flat boats and landed at Deposit or Gunter's Landing. The road from North

Georgia, by which these from that state and also from South Carolina reached this section, crossed the Chattahoochee River at the upper Shallow Ford, passed through Rome, Ga., crossed Will's Creek near Bennettsville (now near Attalla), and thence along the east side of the Mountains.

The inrush of settlers became so great in the three following years that the first Territorial Legislature of Alabama, which met at St. Stephens, Washington Co., in Feb. 1818, found one of its first duties in forming county government for the new communities. Only seven counties existed at the formation of the territory in 1817. The first legislature created thirteen new ones, and among them, Formed Feb. 7, 1818, was Shelby, so named in honor of Gov. Isaac Shelby, of Ky. As its upper part comprises the present St. Clair, the boundaries contained in Sec. I of the set are given in full:

"That hereafter all that tract of country lying west of the Cherokee boundary line; south and east of the county of Blount, and north of a line to be drawn from west to east through the southern extremity of the Cahaba Valley, from the eastern boundary of said county of Blount to Coosa river, and thence up said river to where it is intersected by the said Cherokee boundaries to be called and known by the name of Shelby."

Provision was made for holding courts for the county of Shelby at the house of William S. Wallace.

On Feb. 6, the day previous, Blount county had been formed.

The second session of the territorial legislature which convened in November 1818 created St. Clair County out of the upper part of Shelby, and from its importance the act is printed in full. It will appear from the foregoing that the present limits of St. Clair have successively been a part of Montgomery and Shelby counties, but it may be said that no governmental functions appear to have exercised over its people by the first two counties.

The act to alter and ascertain more particularly the boundaries of the county of Shelby and to lay off a new county in the northeast part thereof, to be called and known by the name of St. Clair County.

SECTION I. Be it enacted by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Alabama Territory in General Assembly convened, that Shelby County shall hereafter be bounded by a line, beginning on the north bank of the Coosa river opposite the other end of the Procter's Island, and running thence directly to the source of the main stream of Mulberry creek, and from thence direct course to the mouth of James Moore's spring branch, on Mahon's creek, and thence down said creek to the ford, on the waggon (sic) road leading from Hazelett's to the Pleasant Valley, thence a direct course to where the road heading from Thomas Lindsay's to William Lovelady's, crosses the Cahaba Valley road, thence along said road to Major John Mahon's, and leaving him in the county of Cahawba, thence a direct course to where the boundary line in the county of Cahawba, thence a direct course to where the boundary line of the county of Tuscaloosa crosses Roup's valley creek, thence along the boundary line of said county, to the southeast corner of the county of Blount, and thence along the south-

east boundary of said county of Blount, to the main road leading from Jones' Valley, to William Guthries, and thence a direct course to the mouth of Kimulge (sic) creek on the Coosa, and thence down the Coosa river including the tract of country appertaining to Fort Williams to the beginning.

SEC. 2 And be it further enacted, That all that tract of country included in the following boundary lines, viz: Beginning at the northwest corner of the county of Shelby, and from thence running along the ridge dividing the waters of the Black Warrior from those of the Cahawba and Coosa rivers to the Cherekee boundary line, thence along said line to the Coosa river, thence down said river to the county of Shelby, and thence along the boundary of said county to the beginning, shall form one county to be called and known by the name of St. Clair.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be holden in and for the said county of St. Clair, in each year, a superior court of law and equity, on the second Monday's in March and September, and there shall be holden in and for the said county of St. Clair in each year, a county court on the third Monday's in March and September, and an immediate court, on the fourth Monday's in December and June.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That for the time being, the said courts for the said county of St. Clair, shall be holden at the house of Alexander Brown, and that the said courts in and for the said county of Shelby, shall hereafter be holden at the house of Benjamin May. But the said courts may respectively for want of necessary buildings at the several places herein designed for holding the same, adjourn to such other places contiguous thereto, as may seem most proper.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the superior county and intermediate courts herein required to be holden, may respectively continue their sessions six judicial days, and no longer.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the county courts of said county of Shelby and St. Clair, and of the counties adjoining them as far as their boundaries are the same respectively, shall appoint one or more commissioners each, to run and mark the boundary lines between their respective counties, and that the expense of running and marking said lines be paid equally by the counties appointing said commissioners.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That all suits, actions, and complaints, now pending and undetermined in the superior or county courts in the said counties of Shelby, Cahawba and St. Clair shall and may be tried and determined in the superior or county court (as the case may be) of the county wherein the original process therein may have been returned.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That the said county of St. Clair shall be entitled to one representative, and the said county of Shelby two, and no more, any law (sic) to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Signed) J. W. WALKER,
Speaker of House of Representatives.

JAMES TITUS,
President of the Legislative Council.

Approved 20th November, 1818
Wm. W. BIBB

(Acts of the General Assembly of the Alabama Territory, 2nd session, 1818, page 18.)

Dec. 20, 1820, an act passed providing: That all that part of St. Clair county, lying within the following bounds, viz: beginning where the line dividing the county of St. Clair and Shelby leaves Jefferson county; thence along said line to Cahawba river; thence up said river to the mouth of a creek commonly called Grimmet's fork; thence up said creek to its extreme head, thence north to the line dividing townships fourteen and fifteen, thence along said line to Hartgrove's at the head of Jones' Jefferson." To take effect April 1st., 1821.--- Geulmin's Digest, p. 95.

Jan. 1828. Act passed providing "That the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the circuit court of St. Clair and Shelby counties, be, and the same if hereby extended so as to be concurrent in the Creek Nation, with the jurisdiction given to the circuit court of Autauga county, by an act, entitled an act, to extend the civil and criminal jurisdiction of this state ever so much of the Creek Nation, as was ceded under the treaty of the Indian Springs of 1825 wherein the chartered limits of the state of Alabama, approved Jan. 12th, 1827; and that powers equal to these given by said act to the circuit court of Autauga, and hereby in all respects extended to the circuit court of St. Clair and Shelby counties."--Acts., 1827-28, p.30.

Jan. 29, 1829. Act passed providing: "That all the territory within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning on the bank of Coosa river, at the mouth of Kiamulga creek, and running thence with McIntosh's road to the Georgia line; thence with the said line northwardly to the boundary line between the Creek and Cherokee nations; thence westwardly with the said last named boundary to the mouth of Will's creek on Coosa; thence down Coosa to the beginning, shall be added to and form a part of the county of St. Clair." The limits of Shelby, Montgomery and Pike were in like manner extended eastward to include the lands of the Creek Nation the whole act being entitled: "An act to extend the jurisdiction of the state of Alabama over the Creek Nation."

The jurisdiction of the circuit court, and of the orphan's court and of the courts of road and revenue is extended over the enlarged limits of the counties.

It is made the duty of the court of roads and revenue in the counties on the 1st Monday in July, 1829, or shortly thereafter, to appoint a suitable person "to make an accurate census of the Indian population residing in his county, XXX noting the number of mixed blood, and also the number of slaves owned by the Indian population," and to make return to the clerk of the county court and also a secretary of state. He is to be paid \$3.00 per day. Nothing in the act is to be construed "as to impose taxation or militia duty on the Indians", until same is specially authorized by the legislature, --Acts 1828-29, pp. 59-60.

Jan. 15, 1831. Act passed rearranging, defining, and "changing the lines between the counties of Shelby, Jefferson and St. Clair".

Sec. I. That hereafter, the line dividing the counties of Shelby and St. Clair, shall be as follows, to-wit: beginning on the Coosa river, at the mouth of Kellie's creek; thence up said creek to Castleberries old mill; thence to James Givins, in Cahawba valley, so as to include the Robertsons on Kellies creek, in Shelby county; thence northwest to Cahawba river, so as to include said Givins in St. Clair County; thence up said river to the line of Jefferson County."

Sec. 2. "That all north of the line designated in the first section of this act, shall be added to and composed a part of St. Clair county; and all south of said line shall be added to and compose a part of Shelby County, except as hereafter provided. (refers to Jefferson county, etc.)--Acts, 1830-31, p. 30.

Jan. 21, 1832. Act passed designating county boundaries. This was consequent upon the extension of jurisdiction over the Indian lands. The counties effected are Morgan, Blount, Jackson, Franklin and St. Clair.

Section 5 provides "That all the territory included in the following boundaries, viz: Beginning at the source of Line creek, upon the top of Raccoon mountain, thence north westwardly to the line dividing Alabama from the state of Georgia, thence southeastwardly along said line to the line deviding the Cherokee from the Creek nation of Indians, thence westwardly along said line to the Coosa river, thence up said river to the north of Will's creek, thence up said Will's creek to the mouth of Line creek, thence up said Line creek to the aforesaid beginning, shall be added to, and compose a part of the county of St. Clair."--Acts 1831-32, p. 36.

Dec. 18. 1832. The counties of Calhoun (then Benton), and Talladega were formed thus restricting the jurisdiction of the county of St. Clair to the Coosa river as its eastern boundary.

Jan. 14, 1824. Act passed providing: That hereafter all that part of St. Clair county, beginning due south of William Davis', at the present boundary line of Jackson and St. Clair counties, and running a straight direction to Raizen Rowling's, so as to include said Raizen Rowling's in Jackson county, thence due east to the state line of Georgia; thence along said line until it strikes the present boundary line of Jackson county, shall be and compose a part of the county of Jackson.--- Acts 1833--34, p. 14.

Dec. 30, 1834. Act providing: "That all that section of the county east of the Coosa river, commencing at the mouth of Will's creek, running said river to Childer's ferry and from thence following the Georgia road from the said ferry to the Georgia line, be, and the same is hereby attached to Benton county, and the said Coosa river on one side and the Georgia road on the other, are hereby made and established as the county boundaries of the said counties."--Acts 1834-5, p. 5.

Jan. 9, 1836. An act to divide the county of St. Clair:

Sec. I. "That all that tract of country, bounded as follows, viz., beginning at a point on the east side of the Coosa river opposite the mouth of

Will's creek, thence due east with the north line of Benton county, to the line dividing the state of Alabama with the state of Georgia; thence along said line in a northwestern direction to a ridge dividing the waters of Big Will's creek from the waters of Little River and Yellow creek, in a southwestern direction to a ford on Big Will's creek to the beginning, shall constitute one separate and distinct county, to be called and known by the name of Cherokee."

Sec. 2. "That all that tract of country, bounded as follows, viz., beginning at the aforesaid ford on Big Will's creek, near William Holloway's; thence running up said creek to the mouth of Line creek to the Raccoon mountain, near Edward Cox's, so as to leave said Cox in Blount county, thence running as practicable on the top of said mountain in a northeastern direction to the Georgia line, in a southeastern direction to the ridge of mountains specified in the proceeding section, thence along said ridge as near the top of said ridge as may be practicable, to the aforesaid ford on Big Will's creek, near said Holloway's, shall form one separate and distinct county to be known and called by the name of DeKalb." Acts 1835-6, p. 170.

Jan. 13, 1846. Act passed naming John R. Strange, of St. Clair county, to act with such other persons as may be selected by the commissioners of roads and revenues of Jefferson county, to run the line between these counties beginning at Givin's old place and running to the Cahawba river." These commissioners are to appoint a surveyer "to run and work" the line, and to make two reports in writing of the line, one each to the judge of the county court of St. Clair and Jefferson counties. The counties are to share the expense of the surveyer; and the commissioners are to be paid \$2.00 per day." ---Acts 1845-46, p.182.

THE COUNTY SEAT

According to the act of Nov. 21, 1818, creating the county, it was provided "that for the time being, the said courts for said county of St. Clair, shall be holden at the house of Alexander Brown" (Act 1818, 2nd session p.72-3) However, it was also provided that for want of necessary building at this place, the courts could adjourn to such other places contiguous thereto as might seem most proper.

The first provision in the acts respecting public buildings is found when, Dec. 6, 1818, a year after the creation of the county, the county court is authorized to levy a tax not exceeding one-half the state tax, "for the purpose of erecting a temporary jail in said county" (Toulmin's Digest, p. 114). Things were yet in an unsettled state, and continued probably in this way for another year, the courts presumably held at Alexander Brown's, and a jail being erected under this act.

On Dec. 18, 1820, the legislature passed an act relating to the seat of justice for the county. It provided a board of commissioners whose duty was "to fix on the most eligible place in the said county for the seat of justice, having regard to the natural conveniences and the interest of the county". These commissioners were to be elected, one each, in Jan. 1821, from the several militia company beats. They are empowered to receive donations for the expenses of the public buildings, and in case of a deficit in the donations the county court is directed to levy a tax to meet it. After selecting the site they are required, after giving thirty days notice in the Tuscaloosa Republican, to let "out a court house, jail and other necessary public buildings to the lowest undertaker." (Toulmin's Digest. p. 124-25).

Evidently this act of Dec. 18, 1820 did not work well, for on June 16, 1821, another act was passed "to fix the permanent seat of justice in the county of St. Clair," and expressly providing for the repeal of "all acts and parts of acts intervening the provisions of this act." It made it the duty of the sheriff, at the time and place of holding the next general election (which was in the following August) "to open a poll for" choosing a county seat, the places to be voted for being Upper Catawatown, Lower Catawatown and Vaughn's Place. "Whichever place has the greatest number of lawful votes, shall be and is hereby declared to be the permanent seat of justice." John Massey, John Ash, John Cunningham, Joel Chandler, and George Shetwell are named as commissioners "to let out and superintend the building of a court house and jail for said county at the place which may be elected." (Toulmin's Digest, p. 186).

Nov. 27, 1821. An act is passed authorizing and requiring the judge of the county to levy a tax sufficient to raise \$141.00, which sum when collected is to be paid to John Cunningham, being a balance due him "for erecting a temporary jail for the county." (Toulmin's Digest, p. 137).

This explains whether or not the jail was built and who did the work.

Dec. 12, 1822, an act was passed incorporating the town of Ashville, in St. Clair County, "including thirty acres, agreeably to the plan of said town." On first Monday in Feb. 1823 an election is to be held at the house of John Cunningham, in the town, and on the same day every year thereafter, for the

purpose of electing by ballot four councillors, to serve for one year. An intendant is to be chosen by them. They are given general corporate powers, and may hold property to the amount of \$10,000. The intendant and the council are clothed with the same powers, and subject to same restriction, as in the act governing Montgomery, passed Dec. 3, 1819. (Toulmin's Digest, p. 846.)

Dec. 31, 1822. An act was passed authorizing the judge of the county court and the commissioners of roads and revenues of the county, "to levy an extra tax on all persons and property in the county subject to taxation," not to exceed one-half of amount of the state tax, to be collected by the tax collector and paid out by him "to the commissioners appointed to superintend the public buildings for said county". It further provides "that all acts already, or hereafter to be performed by the commissioners to superintend the public buildings in St. Clair County, shall be considered lawful and conclusive." They are to be paid out of the county treasury \$1.00 per day while officially engaged. (Toulmin's Digest p. 150).

Dec. 15, 1824, Act passed appointing John Massey, Amos Reling and Moses Leister, agents for St. Clair County, "to select one quarter section of land (in St. Clair County) in pursuance to an act of congress, passed May the 26th, 1824 granting to the counties and parishes in each state and territory, in the United States, where the public lands are situated, pre-emption rights to one quarter section of land in trust for the said counties and parishes, respectively for the establishment of seats of justice therein." In case the agents or any of them die, remove, resign or refuse to act, the judge of the county court to fill the vacancy. It is made the duty of the agents to select and obtain titles to said quarter section, and that as soon as they obtain legal titles, they are to proceed to offer some for sale, in such manner as they may think advisable, "and best calculated to promote the true interests of the said county," giving title to purchasers. They are empowered to borrow money to secure the said quarter section, and to repay same out of proceeds of the sale thereof. They are to receive five percent of the amount of the sales. (Acts, 1824-25, p. 65-68)

Jan. 15, 1828. Act passed authorizing judge of county court and commissioners of roads and revenues "to levy a county tax on the same objects that are now taxable by law not to exceed 25 per cent on the state tax for the purpose of repairing the court house in said county, " to be collected as county taxes. When collected the tax-collector is "to pay said tax into the hands of the commissioners of the public buildings for said county", whose duty shall be to apply same for purposes directed. (Acts 1827-28, p. 63.)

Jan. 9, 1836. Act incorporating Ashville including thirty acres agreeable to the plan of said town." Elections to be held at the court house 1st Monday in Feb. in each and every year for five councillors, an intendant to be chosen by them, term of office for one year. To have general corporate powers, and to hold property to the amount of \$10,000---Acts, 1835-36, p.100).

Feb. 1, 1839. Act passed providing that the judge and county commissioners be authorized to levy and have assessed and collected in St. Clair county" a tax, by four annual installments, sufficient to erect a court house and jail in said county." They were given power "to appoint first commissioners to contract for, and superintend the building of a court house and jail." But the act is not to go into effect until, "by election at the general election, the sense of the

people to be favorable to the provisions of this act."--Acts 1838-39, p. 81.

Jan. 23, 1840. Act passed authorizing and requiring the judge of the county court and commissioners of roads and revenues "to levy a special tax upon the persons and property of the citizens of St. Clair county, of one hundred per cent upon the county levy every year for five succeeding years, for the purpose of building a jail in said county." Alemeth Byers, Littleton Yarbrough, William Little, Jesse A. Collins, and John F. Dill are appointed commissioners to carry out the act for the erection of the jail.--Acts 1839-40, p. 93.

Nov. 21, 1840. Act passed empowering the commissioners of roads and revenues to appropriate "of the surplus fund" in the county treasury not less than \$1000 and as much more as they deem proper, "to the erecting of a jail in said county." The commissioners appointed to superintend the erection of a jail to be paid this money for use in paying the contractor, then no more taxes shall be imposed, etc.--1840-41, p. 96.

Dec. 26, 1843. Act passed providing special tax to build a court house in St. Clair County.

Moses Dear, Jesse Collins, John S. James, John F. Dill, and John Edwards are appointed commissioners to execute the act, with full discretionary power as to the building of said court house. If the amount raised the first year be not sufficient to defray the expenses, the commissioners of roads and revenues are required to levy a tax from year to year until a sufficient sum is raised, etc.--Act 1843-44. p. 36.

By act of the legislature of the Mississippi territory, of Dec. 24th, 1812, it was provided that the court house, or the places of holding courts, should be considered as the places for holding elections. By act of Dec. 16, 1819, it was enacted "that hereafter the court house shall be the place for holding general elections, in each and every county throughout the state, for the purpose of electing governor, members to congress, members to the general assembly, sheriffs and clerks." The election at the court house was to be held the first Monday and the day following in August in each year. In the case of election precincts, or other places or voting than the court house, the election at such place was to continue open the first Monday only.

The first election held in St. Clair county was for a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1819. This was held on the first Monday and Tuesday in November 1819.

The second election was held on the third Monday and Tuesday in September 1819. This election was provided for in the schedule to the constitution just adopted (Sec. 7), and was for the purpose of causing the election of governor, representative in congress, a member of the general assembly, clerks of the circuit court, and sheriff. Maj. David Comer was chosen the delegate to the constitutional convention. In the September election William W. Bibb, of Autauga county, was chosen governor over Marmaduke Williams, a distinguished citizen of Tuscaloosa. John Crowell, who had been the Alabama territorial delegate, 1817-1819, was elected the first representative in Congress. David was elected state senator; and James Hardwick member of the legislature from St. Clair. _____ was chosen sherrif and _____ clerk.

It will be noted that at these two elections all of the voters were required to come to the court house for the purpose of casting their ballots. This caused much hardship, and doubtless in many cases was a costly and expensive trip, while in others it must have prevented the exercise of the franchise.

To remedy this three elections precincts were created Dec. 16, 1819, in St. Clair County: "One at the dwelling house of Mr. Joel Chandler, one at the house of William Guthrey, and one at the house of Peter Ragsdale,--Acts 1819, p. 40. Dec. 20, 1820. Act passed changing precinct from William Guthrey's to Henry Bradford's in St. Clair County---Toulmin's Digest, p. 278.

Dec. 26, 1822. Act passed creating an election precinct "at the house of Henry Box, esq., in Coosa Valley." --Toulmin's Digest. p. 285.

Dec. 25, 1825. Act passed discontinuing election precinct heretofore established at John Littlefield's, and establishing one at the house of John Littlefield,---Acts, 1824-25 p. 114.

Jan. 20, 1832. Act passed creating the following new precincts in St. Clair County: "One at the big spring at the grocery house of Lewis S. Riggs, one at the house of James Laughridge, one at the house of Melkijah Alney, esq., and one at the house of Maj. David Comer, in the county of St. Clair." Acts 1831-32, p. 92.

Jan. 12, 1833. Act discontinuing election precincts "at the house of James Lesslie, and at the house of Lewis S. Riggs, in the county of St. Clair," and creating election precinct: "one at the house of John H. Garret, one at Chat- taugh Court House, one at the house of John Bell in Will's Valley, one at the house of James Thompson in St. Clair."---Acts 1832-33, p. 51-2.

Jan. 18, 1834. Act creating election precincts: "One at the house of Henry McCoy; one at the house of John Little; one at the house of Israel Standifer; one at the house of Lewis S. Riggs; and one at the house of James Thomason, in the county of St. Clair."--Acts, 1833-34, p. 45.

Jan. 9, 1836. Act abolishing precinct at John Bell's house in St. Clair county.--Acts 1835-36, p. 170.

Feb. 3rd, 1840. Act establishing election precincts at the house of John R. Allen and one at the house of George M. Duke in St. Clair county.--Acts 1839-40, p. 37.

Dec. 29, 1841. Act establishing election precincts at the house of Thorneos Alfred in St. Clair County.--Acts 1841-42, p. 162.

THE BENCH AND BAR

The first courts which the people of St. Clair attended, in which they participated were probably the courts of Shelby county in 1818 at the house of William S. Wallace. According to the act creating this county, Feb. 7, 1818, of which St. Clair was then a part, a superior court of law and equity was to be held in the county on the first Monday in May and November; a county court on the fourth Mondays in April and October with an intermediate court (simply an intermediate session of the county court) on the fourth Mondays in January and July. Presumably the courts were held. The first one to have convened would have been the county court of the fourth Monday in April, then the superior court of the first Monday in May following.

The superior court corresponded to the circuit courts of today. At this time there were three judicial circuits; the Northern, Southern and Middle. Shelby was included in the latter. Over the middle circuit presided Judge Henry Young Webb, grandfather of James E. Webb, esq., of Birmingham; and Joseph Noble was the attorney general for the district. Doubtless citizens of the St. Clair portion of Shelby served on the juries in the courts, and some were perhaps litigants.

On the formation of St. Clair on Nov. 20, 1818, courts were to be held at the house of Alexander Brown. Superior courts were to be held the second Mondays in March and Sept., the county court the third Mondays in March and Sept., and the intermediate court on the fourth Mondays in Dec. and June. The first court to convene of these was the superior court on the second Monday in March, 1819, Judge Webb presiding. He probably held a second court in September 1819, which was the last of its kind.

After the adoption of the constitution, on Dec. 14, 1819, an act was passed by the first state legislature dividing the state into five judicial circuits, St. Clair being placed in the fifth in which Clement C. Clay, afterwards governor, presided; and Joseph Eastland was solicitor. By act of Dec. 13, 1821, adding sixth circuit and rearranging the counties, St. Clair was placed in the third, over which Henry Y. Webb presided, and Constantine Perkins was solicitor.

Dec. 21, 1824. Act passed providing "that the court of commissioners of revenues and roads of St. Clair county, shall hereafter commence and hold its regular sessions on the second Monday in August in each and every year, instead of the first Monday of August, as now fixed by law," Acts 1824-25, p. 28.

Jan. 14, 1826. Act passed providing that the circuit court of St. Clair shall be held the 6th Monday after the 4th Monday in February and September and continue one week.--Acts 1825-26, p.7.

Jan. 29, 1829. Act passed providing that the cir.c'ts of St. Clair shall be held commencing 8th Mondays after 4th Mondays in February and September and continue one week, or until business "is gone through."--Acts 1828-9, p. 23.

Feb. 13, 1843. Act providing for holding circuit court after passage of this act on 1st Mondays in June and December each year.--Acts 1842-3, p.125.

Feb. 9, 1843. Act providing circuit court in St. Clair county each year on first Mondays in March and September and continue one week.--Acts 1842-3, p.66.

Jan. 11, 1834. Act passed requiring Judge and court of revenues to levy special tax of not exceeding 50 per cent of the state tax for the purpose of paying the grand and petit jurors of the several courts of St. Clair.--Acts 1833-34, p.9.

THE OLD CITIZENS OF ST. CLAIR.

We would like for special information from the following prominent families who came to St. Clair in its early days and helped to make the county what it is:

The Bradfords, the Allens, the Ash's, Crumps, Truss', the Greens, Dills and Whortons, the Battles, Neelys, McCorkles, Carrolls and Simpsons, the Formans, the Browns, the Colemans and Gegorys, the Cunninghams and Yarbos, the Crows, the Goodwins, the Almans and Alford's, the Fankfords, the Hoods, the Masseys and Edwards, the Roberts, Castleberry's, the Dearmans and others.

If you know anything at all about the history of the county please come forward and tell it so that we may preserve the data and properly compile it. I will take pleasure in securing it as well as be glad to see you at my office.

Wm. H. Cather.

Copied from a typewritten manuscript loaned by Mr. Norman Prickett of Ashville, Alabama. Typed by Mrs. James V. Gray, member of St. Clair County Library Staff (part time librarian in Pell City Library.)

1850 Census (With Supplemental Information)
 Cherokee County, Alabama
 4th Installment
 (Compiled by Mrs. Robert N. Mann, Associate Editor.)

27th District
 Taken November 8, 1850
 F. H. Standifer, Census Taker

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>
Gideon Spangler	48	M	Farmer	Va.
Barbara	45	F		N.C.
Isaac	18	M	None	Va.
Elizabeth	17	F		Va.
Jacob	15	M	None	Va.
Joel	13	M		Va.

Lewis Kelly	47	M	Blacksmith	N.C.
Malinda	23	F		S.C.
Mary E.	15	F		Tenn.
John	10	M		Ala.
Elizabeth	1	F		Ala.

William S. Campbell	51	M	Farmer	S.C.
Efamy	40	F		S.C.
Francis C.	17	F		S.C.
Abram M.	14	M		S.C.
David	13	M		S.C.
Joseph W.	11	M		S.C.
Elizabeth J.	7	F		Ga.
Alary C.	5	F		Ga.
Jahugh	2	M		Ala.
Francis	75	F		Va. (Blind)

Robert Crow	57	M	Farmer	Va.
Margaret	58	F		Penn.
Amanda	21	F		Tenn.

William Henderson	51	M	Farmer	Va.
Merlilla	46	F		N.C.
James H.	21	M	None	Tenn.
Vactin (?)	17	M	None	Tenn.
Rebeca C.	15	F		Tenn.
William	12	M		Tenn.
Marion	10	M		Tenn.
Mary J.	3	F		Ala.

Hiram Henderson	24	M	None	Tenn.
Rachael	18	F		Tenn.
Elijah	1	M		Ala.
William	1/12	M		Ala.

William C. Walker	49	M	Farmer	Ky.
Sarah	43	F		Tenn.
Eli J.	21	M	Wagoner	Tenn.
John M.	17	M	None	Ala.
Isaac J.	15	M	None	Ala.
Robert V.	10	M		Ala.

Samuel Tatom	41	M	Printer	N.C.
Christina	25	F		S.C.
Francis M.	8	M		Ga.
Julia L.	4	F		Ala.
George W.	2	M		Ala.
Martha A.	8/12	F		Ala.

Andrew Murell	62	M	Blacksmith	N.C.
Permelia	39	F		N.C.
Parthenia	23	F		N.C.
Rachael L.	21	F		N.C.
Benjamin F.	17	M	None	N.C.
Mary	4	F		Ala.

Taken Nov. 9, 1850

John B. Smith	33	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Rebeca	23	F		N.C.
Naoma	7	F		Ala.
William	6	M		Ala.
Alexander	4	M		Ala.
Caroline	2	F		Ala.
Catharine	11/12	F		Ala.

John Davis	46	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Rachael	40	F		Tenn.
Thomas H.	22	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Mary	20	F		Tenn.
William	19	M	None	Tenn.
John	17	F	None	Tenn.
Sarah J.	15	F		Ala.
Hannah	12	F		Ala.
Georgie	10	M		Ala.
Eliza	8	F		Ala.
Joseph	6	M		Ala.
Rachael C.	4	F		Ala.

(There are three Davis graves at the Hill (called Henderson) Cemetery near Blanche, Cherokee County, Alabama:
 John Davis, born Feb. 8, 1804; died Feb. 21, 1857; Elisa J. Davis, born Dec. 11, 1856 (?), died - unreadable; and M.C.P. Davis, born 1851, died 1855.)

Joseph Henderson	52	M	Farmer	Ga.
Mary Ann	44	F		Tenn.
Samuel	24	M	Farmer	Ala.
Martha Ann	21	F		Ala.
William	19	M	Farmer	Ala.

Family of Joseph Henderson, continued:

Elizabeth J.	18	F		Ala.
Sarah C.	13	F		Ala.
Amanda A. Smith	4	F		Ala.
Martha Henderson	74	F		S.C.

(There are two Henderson graves at the Hill (called Henderson) Cemetery near Blanche, Cherokee County, Alabama:

Joseph Henderson, born Feb. 28, 1798, died Oct. 28, 1873; and his wife: Mary Henderson, born June 21, 1805, died June 29, 1881.)

James Smith	21	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Eliza	14	F		Ala.

(Census records indicate they were married within the year.)

Hollis Smith	33	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Jemima	24	F		Ga.
Ephraim	4	M		Ala.
Richard W.	3	M		Ala.
Susanah	1	F		Ala.

John Smith	75	M	Farmer	S.C.
Margaret	60	F		N.C.
William	38	M	None	Tenn.
Susanah	24	F		Tenn.
Milla	15	F		Ala.

James Jackson	43	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Jane	32	F		Tenn.
Houston	12	M		Ala.
Andrew	11	M		Ala.
Elizabeth	7	F		Ala.
William	5	M		Ala.
Susanah	3	F		Ala.
Reuben	1/12	M		Ala.
Frances Burgess	52	F		N.C.
Nancy Burgess	54	F		N.C.
Elizabeth Burgess	45	F		N.C.

Luke W. Faulkner	39	M		Ky.
Charlotta	32	F		Tenn.
Mary	20	F		Ky.
Orpha	18	F		Ky.
Reubin	16	M	Farmer	Ala.
Lindsey P.	14	M		Ala.
Isaac	12	M		Ala.
William J.	10	M		Ala.
John E.	8	M		Ala.
Malinda C.	6	F		Ala.
Catharine S.	2	F		Ala.

Taken Nov. 11, 1850

Joseph Burgess	24	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Martha	15	F		Ala.

(Census records indicate that they were married within the year.)

Robert Murphey	43	M	None	Tenn.
Mary	44	F		Tenn.
Lucinda	21	F		Tenn.
Samuel	18	M	None	Tenn.
Anderson	17	M	None	Tenn.
Philix (?) J.	14	M		Tenn.
Thursey	12	F		Ala.
Rebecca C.	10	F		Ala.
Nathaniel A.	6	M		Ala.
Sarah C.	3	F		Ala.

Thomas J. Allison	23	M	Farmer	S.C.
Artamia	15	F		S.C.
(Census records indicate that they were married within the year.)				

Jackson Garrison	25	M	Potter	Ga.
Elizabeth	26	F		S.C.
Carisa E.	3	F		Ala.
Eliza C.	1/12	F		Ala.

Richard Shigog	54	M	Farmer	Ireland
Margaret	54	F		N.C.
William	28	M	Farmer	N.C.
Catharine	26	F		N.C.
Joseph	24	M	None	N.C.
James M. F.	22	M	None	N.C.
Matilda	21	F		N.C.
John	20	M	None	N.C.
Elvira E.	16	F		N.C.
Elen S.	14	F		N.C.

Alexander Kenam	48	M	Farmer	S.C.
Mary	40	F		S.C.
William	20	M	None	Ga.
Harrett	14	F		Ga.
Bluford	12	M		Ga.
Almeda	10	F		Ga.
Layfayett	8	M		Ala.
Mary E.	5	F		Ala.
Caleb N.	1	M		Ala.

Caleb Garrison	61	M	Farmer	S.C.
Rachael	67	F		S.C.
Loisa	17	F		Ga.

James F. Garrison	21	M	Potter	Ga.
Susan	22	F		Ga.
James C.	1	M		Ala.
John W. Jett	5	M		Ga.

Jidiot McMahan	50	M	Farmer	S.C.
Nancy W.	43	F		Ga.
David	21	M	Farmer	S.C.
Mary M.	20	F		S.C.

Family of Jidiot McMahan, continued:

Hannah	18	F		S.C.
Nancy Ann	16	F		S.C.
John T.	14	M		S.C.
Nelson	13	M		S.C.
Capel (Cassel?)	11	M		Ga.
Candus J.	9	F		Ga.
Sarah Ann	7	F		Ga.
Melissa R.	6	F		Ga.
Margarett A.	3	F		Ala.
Jidiah W.	1	M		Ala.
William B.	19	M	None	S.C.

James P. Miller	72	M	Farmer	S.C.
Lucy	61	F		S.C.

John J. Miller	27	M	Farmer	S.C.
Lucinda	21	F		S.C.
Eliza Carver	23	F		N.C.
Susan West	88	F		Va.

R. M. Piden	35	M	Farmer	S.C.
Susan	38	F		S.C.
William Burgess	19	M	Farmer	Tenn.

(Believe this is Robert Miller Peden, born October 23, 1814, died 1859 or 1860, son of Robert Peden and Mary Miller - see The Pedens of America, 1960, page 463.)

H. H. Murphy	23	M	None	Tenn.
Celia A.	19	F		S.C.
Mary A.E.	2	F		Ala.
Sarah L. C.	1/12	F		Ala.

John Humphrey	45	M	Farmer	Ga.
Mary	45	F		Ga.
Sarah	18	F		Ga.
Susan	16	F		Ga.
William A.	15	M	Farmer	Ga.
Ewell	11	M		Ga.
James	9	M		Ga.
Mary A.	7	F		Ga.
Richard	4	M		Ga.
Caroline	2	F		Ala.

William H. Standifer	63	M	Farmer	Va.
Mary	54	F		Va.
John	23	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Elizabeth G.	21	F		Tenn.
Robert	19	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Jessie L.	16	M	Farmer	Ala.
Mary A. A.	11	F		Ala.
Elizah	43	M	None	Tenn.

(According to Vol. I of Memorial Record of Alabama, page 1021,

William H. Standifer moved from Georgia to Bledsoe County, Tennessee, and from Tennessee to Cherokee County, Alabama about 1835 where he died in 1860. His wife was Mary Guy Hogue and she died in 1882, aged 88. They had seven sons and three daughters.

One of their sons was Lemuel Jackson Standifer, born July 21, 1817 in Tennessee, died July 17, 1890 in Gadsden, Alabama; married Sarah Frances Underwood, born June 17, 1827 in Cassville, Cass County, Georgia, died September 5, 1893, daughter of Judge William Henderson Underwood and his first wife, Virginia (also given as Nancy) O'Ferrall. Lemuel Jackson Standifer served as Probate Judge of Cherokee County, Alabama. He joined the Confederate Army, but soon returned home because of his physical condition. He was a lawyer and practiced in Rome, Georgia, Cherokee County, Alabama, and Gadsden, Alabama. He moved to Gadsden about 1874. His children were: 8

1. Leona Standifer, born September 2, 1847, married October 1868, John L. Daughdrill.

2. William Henderson Standifer, born December 24, 1850, married Georgia Tumlin, was a lawyer, served as Mayor of Gadsden, Alabama, and held the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama for several years.

3. Ella Standifer, born April 8, 1852, married April 16, 1870, Henry Clay Haralson.

4. Georgia Augusta Standifer, born January 9, 1854, married in March 1869, John Harold Disque, born March 23, 1848 at New Orleans, La. He served as Mayor of Gadsden and as City Judge.

Walter Scott Standifer, born March 6, 1856, married November 1877, Katie May Hollingsworth.

6. Julia Florence Standifer, born August 6, 1859, married February 28, 1878, William Worth Stevenson.

7. John Henry Standifer, born February 2, 1861.

8. Ada Eugenia Standifer, born June 10, 1865, married in 1890, W. J. Hudgins, who died early in November 1910. She died November 24, 1910.

Information on the immediate family of Lemuel Jackson Standifer received from Mrs. Nelle Hudgins Kendrick, 605 South Harper Street, Laurens, S. C.)

Lucy Dearing	60	F	--	Ga.
Jessie A.	34	M	Farmer	Ga.
Andrew S.	24	M	Farmer	Ga.
Joannah	20	F		Ga.
- - - - -				
McKinsey J. Wilhite	46	M	Labourer	Tenn.
Sarah	45	F		Tenn.
Nancy J.	23	F		Tenn.
Elinia	17	F		Tenn.
Lucinda	14	F		Tenn.
Beda	10	F		Tenn.
Martha	9	F		Tenn.

Family of McKinsey J. Wilhite, continued:

James	7	M		Ala.
Asa	3	M		Ala.
McKinsey J.	1	M		Ala.
- - - - -				
P. A. Smith	34	M	Physician	Mass.
Mary	35	F		S.C.
Henry P.	2	M		Ala.
- - - - -				
James Davidson	52	M	Farmer	Tenn.
Ann	47	F		S.C.
Catharine	19	F		S.C.
- - - - -				
Jessie Quarles	46	M	Cooper	Va.
Martha A. P.	26	F		Ga.
James A.	6	M		Ga.
William J.	5	M		Ala.
Sarah E.	3	F		Ala.
Fanny R.	2	F		Ala.
Mary A.	5/12	F		Ala.
- - - - -				
Alexander Gilbreath	49	M	Farmer	S.C.
Levina	46	F		S.C.
Rebecca R.	27	F		S.C.
Mary Ann	25	F		S.C.
Martha C.	22	F		S.C.
William K.	20	M	Farmer	S.C.
Lidia F.	18	F		S.C.
Nancy J.	15	F		Ga.
John H.	13	M		Ga.
Eliza	11	F		Ala.
Margaret	8	F		Ala.
Susan	5	F		Ala.
- - - - -				
Ervin Baker	26	M	Farmer	Ga.
Mary	25	F		N.C.
Thomas N.	2	M		Ga.
- - - - -				
James H. Roberts	26	M	Farmer	S.C.
Hester Ann	22	F		Ga.
- - - - -				
Alexander Cavin	66	M	Farmer	N.C.
Mariah	45	F		S.C.
Levi Tapp	16	M	Farmer	Ga.
- - - - -				
William B. Henderson	62	M	Farmer	S.C.
Mary	54	F		S.C.
Andrew J.	20	M	Farmer	S.C.
Charles M.	18	M	Farmer	S.C.
Rebecca J.	16	F		Ala.
James F.	14	M		Ala.
Harret L.	12	F		Ala.
Allis E.	9	F		Ala.

(William B. Henderson was born September 7, 1787 in

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; died May 9, 1862 in Chattooga County, Georgia; married August 22, 1816 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Mary Barry, born September 22, 1795 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina; died January 14, 1888 in Kilgore, Texas. Their children were: 15

1. John B. Henderson, born May 26, 1817; died April 14, 1902; married September 16, 1841, Nancy J. Berry.
2. William M. Henderson, born December 3, 1818; died November 19, 1903, a bachelor. Buried in Alpine Cemetery, Longview, Texas.
3. Margaret M. Henderson, born March 1, 1820; died August 4, 1872; married December 23, 1840, Robert Clark Hiatt, born April 16, 1819; died July 8, 1884.
4. James F. Henderson, born October 14, 1821; died October 28, 1832.
5. Samuel B. Henderson, born February 9, 1823; died October 5, 1825.
6. Lawson Persley Henderson, born August 2, 1824; died July 18, 1921; married October 11, 1849 in Cherokee County, Alabama, Talitha Cumi Hiatt, born April 20, 1825 in Greenville District, South Carolina; died February 22, 1889, a sister of Robert Clark Hiatt. Moved to Texas in 1869 - Harrison County and in 1871 moved to Gregg County.
7. Harvey S. Henderson, born October 3, 1825; died January 1828.
8. Mary A. E. Henderson, born July 21, 1827; died May 19, 1857; married Charlie C. Force.
9. Katy C. Henderson, born January 6, 1829; died February 9, 1833.
10. Andrew J. Henderson, born August 17, 1830; died November 19, 1902; married Matilda Foster.
11. Charles Newton Henderson, born February 18, 1832; died October 15, 1906; married October 1, 1856, Sallie Harris.
12. Rebecca Jane Henderson, born January 10, 1834; died August 27, 1906; married Hugh G. Williams. (Note: Cherokee County History, Vol. II, page 265, states she married James Jefferson Farrow in 1862. Was she married twice?)
13. James F. Henderson, born November 13, 1835; died October 3, 1928, married Jennie Welborne.
14. Harriett Louisa Henderson, born September 10, 1837; died September 23, 1928; married June 18, 1868 as his second wife, Robert Lester Mackey, born November 18, 1824; died September 2, 1873 in Gregg County, Texas, son of Joel Mackey, Jr. and Martha Ann Orr.
15. Alice Elvira Henderson, born November 4, 1840; died February 26, 1931; married Warren McWhorter.

Information on the Henderson Family received from Miss Beth Doherty, 208 Ditto Avenue, Arlington, Texas in September 1960.)

John B. Henderson	33	M	Carpenter	S.C.
Nancy J.	22	F		S.C.
William B.	7	M		Ala.
James N.	5	M		Ala.

Family of John B. Henderson, continued:

Mary E.	3	F		Ala.
Sarah J.	2	F		Ala.
Euphonia	11/12	F		Ala.

(John B. Henderson was a son of William B. Henderson and Mary Barry. He married Nancy J. Berry. He is listed above in the children of William B. Henderson.)

Taken Nov. 12, 1850 - - - - -				
Lawson Henderson	25	M	Farmer	S.C.
Talitha C.	25	F		S.C.

(Census records indicate that they were married within the year. This is Lawson Persley Henderson and his wife, Talitha Cumi Hiatt. They are listed above in the family of William B. Henderson.

They had at least one daughter, Rebecca Jane Henderson, born December 7, 1851 in Cherokee County, Alabama; died June 7, 1939, married December 21, 1876, Curtis Mackey, born November 6, 1853; died October 7, 1888, son of Robert Lester Mackey and his first wife, Elvira Elizabeth Hale of Cherokee County, Alabama. See "The Mackeys (Variously Spelled) and Allied Families, Beatrice Mackey Doughtie, 1957, page 280.)

- - - - -				
R. C. Hyatte	30	M	Carpenter	S.C.
Margaret M.	30	F		S.C.
Alden E.	10	M		Ala.
Mary J.	8	F		Ala.
Margaret A.	7	F		Ala.
William H.	5	M		Ala.
Talitha	2	F		Ala.
James M.	3/12	M		Ala.

(This is Robert Clark Hiatt, born April 16, 1819; died July 8, 1884; married December 23, 1840, Margaret M. Henderson, born March 1, 1820; died August 4, 1872, daughter of William B. Henderson and Mary Barry. Their children were: 12

1. Alden E. (Bud) Hiatt, born January 22, 1842; died January 25, 1930; married Mollie Grogan.
2. Mary Jane Hiatt, born May 4, 1843 in Cherokee County, Alabama; died June 10, 1878 in Texas; married June 1, 1864, David Pickle Doherty, born September 10, 1844 in Cherokee County, Alabama; died October 13, 1876 in Harrison County, Texas, son of Colonel John Doherty and his first wife, Jane Duncan.
3. Margaret Ann Hiatt, married Josiah Leath, son of Napoleon B. Leath and Chelnessa Doherty Lawrence. He was a physician and lived in Texas.
4. William Henry Hiatt.
5. Talitha Catherine Hiatt, married in 1869, Harrison Taylor Leath, son of Ebenezer Leath and Mary Lawrence.
6. Miner (James Miner?) Hiatt, married Rhoda Bradley.
7. Charles Newton Hiatt, married Mary Page.
8. Harriet Louisa Hiatt, married Bill Moore.
9. Oliver Alexander Hiatt, married Leone Williams.
10. Laura Violet Hiatt, married Bill Bussey.
11. Robert Franklin Hiatt, born February 15, 1860; died November 8, 1860.
12. Franklin Mason Hiatt, married Edith Key.

Information on this family received from Miss Beth Doherty, 208 Ditto Avenue, Arlington, Texas in September 1960.)

Jidiah W. Hyatte	20	M	Student	S.C.
Nathan B.	24	M	Carpenter	S.C.
Nancy K.	13	F		S.C.
James J.	26	M	Carriage Maker	S.C.
Henry H.	16	M	Student	S.C.

Robert B. Townsend	35	M	Farmer	S.C.
Respha E.	35	F		S.C.
Nancy Ann	13	F		S.C.
Frances E.	11	F		S.C.
Metilda J.	10	F		S.C.
Susan E.	8	F		S.C.
John C.	6	M		S.C.
Robert M. S.	5	M		S.C.
William H. T.	3	M		S.C.
Mary E.	2	F		S.C.

Alexander H. Cavin	25	M	Blacksmith	Ga.
Elizabeth	25	F		N.C.
Martha H.	4	F		Ala.
Lewis W.	2	M		Ala.
John R. A.	1/12	M		Ala.

John R. Dorsey	38	M	Tanner	Ga.
Elvira M.	39	F		Ga.
Jasper C.	15	M	Shoemaker	Ga.
Mary E.	13	F		Ga.
Sarah E. Farmer	20	F		Ga.

John Cavin	40	M	Farmer	Ga.
Ann	40	F		Ga.
James W.	16	M	Farmer	Ga.
William	15	M	Farmer	Ala.
John	13	M		Ala.
Alexander H.	11	M		Ala.
Charles M.	8	M		Ala.
Messer	5	M		Ala.
Elsworth	2	M		Ala.

Lewis H. Sheely	29	M	Farmer	N.C.
Nancy	18	F		Ga.
John D.	7/12	M		Ga.
<p>(Lewis H. Sheely is buried in the Cedar Bluff Cemetery, Cedar Bluff, Alabama. His tombstone states that he was born October 30, 1821 and died August 7, 1889. His second wife was Mary Hopkins.)</p>				

Elizabeth Sheely	49	F	--	S.C.
William	19	M		N.C.
Rebecca	15	F		N.C.

(To be continued)

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY 1819

To: THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Your petitioners viewing the calamitous situation in which many of our citizens are placed owing to an order recently published by the agent for Indian affairs of the Cherokee Nation ordering all intruders on their land to remove by the first day of July 1819. Your petitioners believing the same indulgence would be extended to them as has been the constant practice to others in similar circumstances, induced them to settle on the land lately ceded to the United States by the Cherokees, North of the Tennessee River, nor did the order ever make its formal appearance until the 19th of June of the present year leaving a removal impractical, if not impossible. Your petitioners are poor but industrious farmers, to deprive them at this season of the year of their hard earnings in the Wilderness and thus leave them destitute where will your petitioners apply for bread to support their starving families? Its notorious that all improvements made by your petitioners add real value to the land - this order enforced will involve at least one thousand families in total ruin! Nor will the evil end there, your petitioners must subsist somewhere, they will thus become unwelcome guests, to the frontier counties to beg (for they cannot buy) something for their little children. This measure if carried into operation will produce alarming effects. The Indians on the North of the Tennessee are not desirous of having the settlers driven off the land, those being few in number most of which have taken reservations and are good neighbors. Your petitioners knowing the lenity of their government believing they will take our case into consideration will ever pray, etc, etc. etc.

Isham Burks, Senior
William Burks
John Burks
John Thurman
Charles Burks
Isham Burks, Junr.
Absolem Forbush
Jacob Meek
Henery Meek
Robert Saxon
Robert Saxon, Juner
Lewis Cargele
Daniel Cameron
Moses Couch
Lindley Couch
Jesse Bond
Benjamin Bond
John Looney
Abraham Woodson
Jesse Brock
David Woodson

Jacob Jonston
Joseph Crawford
David Crawford
Benjamin Corbit
Methridid Bass
Benjamin Johnson
Abel Cox
Robert Morris
William Jenkins
Joshua Jenkins
Shadrach Woodson
Joseph Goode
Joseph Jenkins
William Thornton
Chrles Corbit
Thomas Corbit
Isaac Garrison
Patrick Byrd
Washington Mullins
Robert Parker

Cont'd

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY 1819.

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Joseph Taylor	Thomas Hill
John C. Pryor	Joseph Hill
Abram B. Trigg	John Hill Senr
John Dougherty	Mitchell G. Hill
M. L. Dixon	William Burress
W. S. Burrett	Denis Mchony
Thomas McKinney	Ricard Farris
A. Henderson	Peter Shelton
R. Burton	Lewis B. Tully
Joseph Young, Jr.	Wm Reeves
R. B. Clayton	Wm W. Lea
Powel Klipper	Jas. H. Bradford
Thomas Buttrell	S. W. Mardis
Isaac Estill	Samuel Miner
Henderson Lewis	Leonard Tarrant
Saml Suddarth	Richard Snead
Jno. S. Estill	Enagey Price
Jas. M. Hill	Abner Reavex
William M. Raines	Benjamin Russey
James Dickson	Jeremiah Barrett
Zacheus Wilson	Wieley S. Embrey
W. H. Robinson	John R. Branagan
Wm. B. McLaughlin	Thos. Bacon
William Brittain	J. W. Jones
William Kinningham	Wallis Estill
Jonas Robinson	Thomas Howell
Benjamin M. Bradford	Samuel M. Cowan
Robt. S. Sharp	Mark M. Harris
John Key	Benja A. Rainey
Hollis Kidder	Thompson Frazier
James Moore	Jester Cock
William Street	J. P. Diggin
Daniel Eanes	Ellison Ellis
William Hayes	Joshua Townsend
Whitfield Hareall	Ozra Townsend
Alexander Saxton	Israel Blagg
John Geykee	Thomas Townsend
John Matthews	John Townsend
Matthew R. Mann	John Hutton
Wm McLaughlin	William Hutton
Dyar Suddarth	Thomas Williams
E. K. McMillin	Richard Jenkins
J. Hardwicke	Thomas Boze
William Paschal	Jacob Johnson Senr.

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY 1819

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 George Davidson
 Peter Woods
 William Davidson
 John F. Davidson
 Alexander Williams, Junr.
 Joseph Frost
 Theoples Williams
 Thomas Frost
 Sam Looney
 John Looney
 George Erwin
 Elisha Blevins

John Blevins
 John Johnston
 John Acton
 J. W. Sullivan
 Adam Crawford
 John Bird
 Johnson Freeman
 George Bird
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 James Garrison
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 Benjamin Looney
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 William Stephens
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 Thomas Brisco
 James Brisco
 William Brisco
 George Bird
 William Dawson
 Moses Hawks
 James Lollar
 John Johnson

Bryant Williams
 William Scott
 Wilson Allen
 Kinchin Price
 Joel Wimberly
 David Martin
 Saml Scott
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 Merrt Harmon
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 Wiley Williams
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 Isaac Lollar
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 Bryant Williams

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY 1819

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Peter Blanchet
David C. McQueen

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Joseph Thornton
Clark Thornton
Charles Corbit
Mathew Kelly
Eligh Linch
Jonathan Blevins
John Lewis
Joseph Young
Daniel Keath

(Endorsed) Memorial, of the Inhabitants resident in the Cherokee Country relative to the late order for their removal, Indian Office, Aug. 1819
National Archives, Office of Indian Affairs, Secretary of War.

Copied from "Territorial Papers of the United States, Vol. VII, Mississippi Territory. It was stated in the book that this particular "Memorial" was included in that volume, merely to indicate the type or kind of papers preserved in National Archives and relating to Indian affairs.

Many of the petitioners were in Franklin County, Tennessee in 1830, according to Census.

MORTON BIBLE

Bible record of Charley Allen Morton and his Melvina Sanuels., daughter of Daniel Samuels. They are both buried in old Beason Chapel Cemtery in St. Clair County, Alabama.

Charley A. Morton, was born Merch the 24th 1825

Melvina (Samuels) Morton was born April the 22th 1829, and was married January the 13th 1846.

Charles A. Morton, volonteered January the 28, 1862 and was mustered into the service of the Confederate States February the 4, 1862.

CHILDREN:

Miles Morton, son of Charley Allen and Melvina his wife was born April the 24th 1847.

Lucy Emaline Morton and daughter of Charley A. and Melvina his wife was born August the 5th 1848.

John Colmon Morton was born the 7th day of March 1851 (?)

James Wiley Morton was born the 2nd of January 1852.

Sarah Louhannah Morton was born the 17th day of February 1854.

Martha Chestina Morton was born the 17the of April 1856.

Marshall Self Morton was bornd November 14, 1860.

Zemiley Elizabeth Morton was born the 27th day of July 1865.

Clntha Lorinda Morton was born February the 8, 1870.

William Joel Morton was bornd February the 22, 1876.

FATHER & MOTHER:

Joel Morton was bornd April the 25, 1786.

(Joel was son of Marshall Morton born ca 1755-60)

Lucy Morton was bornd July the 2, 1789 ??? (The last number is not plain.)

(Lucy was daughter of Charles Durham)