

Anniston, Alabama
Sept. 10, 1967

Statement of intent.

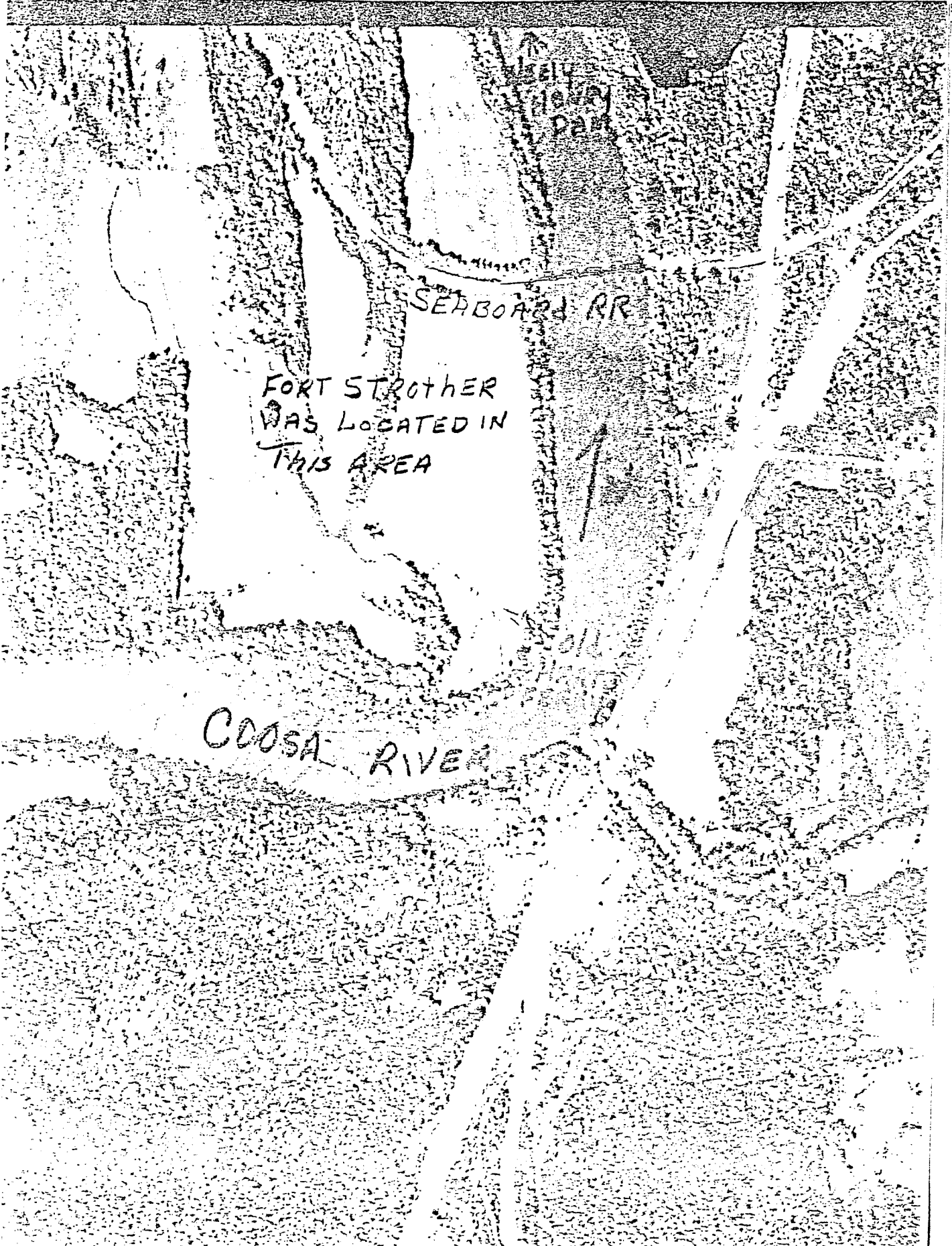
FORT STROTHER

General Andrew Jackson established Fort Strother at Ten Islands on the Coosa River in November 1813. The subsequent campaign defeated the Creek Indian Nation and enabled General Jackson to proceed to the Gulf coast and New Orleans, where the British were defeated. A number of people, members of the Calhoun County historical Society, and members of the D.A.R. chapters in three adjoining counties, Calhoun, Etowah and St. Clair, are very much interested in Fort Strother.

In 1913, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Fort, the local chapter of the D.A.R. (now Fort Strother Chapter), erected a stone marker on the site of Fort Strother. This marker is now almost impossible to find in a wilderness of trees and underbrush.

I shall do some research to assemble all of the possible information about the Fort. I am especially interested in its physical aspects. In November 1813, there were about 3000 men at the Fort. The force dwindled to about 100 in December, and in March 1814, increased to about 5000 men. The 5000 men with food supplies, ammunition, supply wagons, mules, cattle, and cavalry horses would require considerable space. Several questions arise. Was a stockade erected? Were food storehouses erected? Were enclosures for the livestock erected? Was there a headquarters building? Was there an ammunition storage building? Was there a hospital building? Was there a blacksmith shop? Surely General Jackson or some of his contemporaries recorded the answers to some or all of these questions. If answers can be found, perhaps a long neglected historical site may be restored.

Erman L. Crew



SEABOARD RR

FORT STROTHER
WAS LOCATED IN
THIS AREA

COOSA RIVER

Liles Memorial Library
May 30, 1968

Walter W. Stephens Papers

Correspondence with Mr. Rucker Agee in April and May, 1956.

On Oct 23, 1923 in a letter to Mr. H. A. Parker, Sylacauga, Ala.

"...Am enclosing a rough map of where Fort Strother is. It is on the west side of the Coosa River near Hart's Ferry which is near the mouth of Ohatchee Creek.

You cross the ferry. There is a home on the right (north) and a barn on the left (south).

There is a field beyond the barn in which is a little strip of woods and in this you can find some of the earthwork that formed the west and south sides of the Fort, with the trench outside of it. The Fort covered all this area that includes the field and it seems to have been 300 to 400 feet square, a log stockade built on an earth work...."

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HOYT B. HAMILTON
JUDGE OF PROBATE, ST. CLAIR COUNTY
PELL CITY, ALABAMA

December 15, 1969

(THIS LETTER SENT TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ADDRESSED INDIVIDUALLY)

From the interest generated at the Sesquicentennial Plus One Year program recently in Ashville, the governing body of the County passed a resolution setting up a Fort Strother Restoration Committee. I am appointing the following people to serve on this committee, together with the Chairman of the Commissioners Court:


Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow, Ashville, Alabama
Mr. Edmund Blair, Pell City, Alabama
Mr. H. Edwin Holladay, Pell City, Alabama
Mr. Rubin Killebrew, Route 1, Ashville, Alabama
Mr. Erman L. Crew, P. O. Box 1205, Anniston, Alabama
Mrs. Margaret Frances Windham, Springville, Alabama
Mr. Fred Layton, Owner, Kymulga Onyx Cave, Childersburg, Ala.
Mr. or Mrs. M. L. Wright, Valley Road, Ragland, Alabama
Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton, Pell City, Alabama

Unless I hear from you otherwise, I am counting on you to serve on this important committee.

Mr. Edwin Holladay has checked with the State Park authorities, and will further check to see what helps we may be able to receive in state and federal funds on the restoration of the Fort.

I will keep you advised of further developments.

Sincerely yours,


HOYT B. HAMILTON,
Judge of Probate

HBH:am

(letter to all committee members)

Andrew Jackson 1767-1845

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Life of Andrew Jackson (Commenced) John Reid -(Completed)
John Henry Eaton 1817
The Jackson Papers (Blair Collection) Library of Congress)
The Walter W. Stephens Papers - Liles Memorial Library

NOTES

Jackson Papers, Reel No. 66

Fort Strother, June 30, 1814

An inventory of the articles remaining on hand in the public stores at the Fort.

300 yards country linen	2 broad hoes
27 kegs powder wt 2337 lbs	6 drawing knives
Muskets, shotguns & rifles 59	5 iron wedges
22 musket and rifle barrels	2 plains, bits and stocks
½ barrel musket cartridges	3 pair camp ??
6 lbs nails	4 hand saws
200 lbs shot	2 pitt ditto
370 small bars lead	3 X cut " complete
80 pounds pig lead	1 set blacksmith tools comp
26 barrs iron	2 iron squares
15½ reams common paper	1 coopers adze
2 " letter paper	1 foot do
5 papers ink powder	3 grindstones
3 boxes wafers	4 barrs steele, 3 pcs do
3 bunches sewing thread	13 blankets
1 box stationery not opened	3 coils large cable rope
2 boxes and a piece horseshoes	3 small do
19 chisels large and small	2 hooks and gams
5 corking chisels	1 spike and gams
2 mill pecks	1 brass kettle
18 augers large and small	1 brace and 12 bits
67 quarter augers	(1 keg containing 8 ½ round files large and small
21 mattocks and grubbing hoes	7 flat files, 38 h saw do
21 spades and shovels	2 rasps, 6 Xcut saw files
6 broad axes	10 chisels large and small
24 falling axes	19 augers do say 7 Qrs Augers
2 frony ??	16 double barrels whiskey
93 pieces casting	11 single do
52 pieces tin ware	large quantity bacon weight not known but when first sent here there was 21,000 pounds at firs there has been a quantity issued It was sent since the 10th of May last, 1814
6 pewter plates	
1 set knives and forks	
3 spoons	
½ large box tin ware	
& spoons, knives & forks	
not yet made use of	
161 barrels good breadstuff	
118 damaged and not fit for use	
1½ barrels salt	

I do certify the above named articles and within is correct and true statement of what I had in my care the day and date as above stated.

Given under my hand, :

Charles N. George, Qr. M. A.

Mays & Jones

=====THE PEOPLE'S STORE
Phone 21 Since 1923 Pell City, Ala.

When you collect
evidence of Fort
[unclear] let a
we will try to have
it bound for
you and will put it on ^{heavy} paper.
D.M.S.



Selacta Fixico Chiriqua Lee - Matchez Jackson
The son of Chief Chiriqua -
lived in the area, now, known by the name
of McElderry - located in Talladega Co. Ala.

This Indian was given credit for his bravery in
warning ^{Gen.} Andrew Jackson, camped at Fort
Stratton, that the Indians at (Talladega Springs,
Fort Lashley) were to be destroyed. This was in 1813
see story of "The Red Skin"

Notice medal hanging around Selactas neck, this
was, later given to him by Andrew Jackson after
he became president of United States.

Mrs. W.P. Lamar. Springville. Ala.

Mrs. W. P. Lamar
Route I Box 86
Springville, Alabama 35146

Dear Talladega Citizens:

I am seeking the location of my third great grandparents, James Thompson Sr. and wife Sabra (Rowland) Thompson, graves possibly located in or near Oakhill Cemetery or on land between Curry Station (once known as Kelly Springs).

James Thompson born in North Carolina November 17, 1787 died May 7, 1835, Talladega, Alabama. Wife Sabra (Rowland) Thompson born in North Carolina January 11, 1798 died March 11, 1854 in Talladega, Alabama. James and Sabra were married March 25, 1813 (Mississippi Territory) now Madison County, Alabama.

The Thompson Sr. family settled in Talladega before 1834. Land records show Thompson bought land from William B. Mc Clelland and Thomas Mc Elderry September 20, 1834. This land is located North half of section 18 Twp, 18 range East. Sabra Thompson had land in 1840 listed as North $\frac{1}{2}$ section 18 Twp. 18 Range 6 East. Could James and Sabra be buried on this land?

James Thompson left a will dated May 23, 1835. This will was made in the presence of William B. McClellan and James Headen. Judge was G. T. McAfee. This is listed as Talladega City. Thompson names his brother-in-law Thomas Rowland as Executor. Sabra (Rowland) Thompson was the sister of Thomas Rowland who settled in Talladega before 1832. Thomas Rowland had the first house of business in the county. The business was a Tavern made of logs located fifty yards west of the Big Springs on the McIntosh Trail. Records Show first business of the

county was transacted at the tavern, September 2, 1833. Rowland was paid ~~1000~~ \$1000 per week rent. Rowland's Tavern was the meeting place one year after the county was created. Four men met to decide on the places to be voted on as County seat (that the county seat should be within six miles of the center of the county.) This took place December 18, 1833. Names of the men were H. G. Barday, Henry M^cKenzie, James Lawson, James A. Ginens. Three places were put up by these men as sites to be voted on; Talladega Battle Ground, Mardisville, Ala. and Ford at Talladega Creek or Widow Ansion's place. Eight men went in Rowland Tavern second Monday 1834. Five voted for Talladega, three for Mardisville; thus, the county seat was decided. The eight men taking part in the voting were: Judge James Lawson, Joseph Camp, Cal. George Ragland. Charles Carter, William L. Lewis Sr., William Cruthers, James A. Haggan, and John Loving Seay (Remember the silver mine story).

John Loving Seay married James and Sabra's daughter, Eliza J. Thompson 1838 in Talladega. Seay was administrator of Sabra (Rowland) Thompson estate 1851. Seay paid George W. Kennedy and Sanders \$2000 for making his mother-in-law's coffin in 1854.

George W. Kennedy was a son-in-law of James and Sabra Thompson (see Talladega first marriage records 1833-1837.) Talladega records list and old statement of the material purchased to make the above coffin.

Mrs. Sabra Thompson
To James G. L. Huey H. D.

1854			
March 13	7 yards Jackout	40	280
	1 pair white gloves		25
	7 yards Canten flannel	25	175

2 papers tacks	12	25
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards velvet	100	450
1 piece velvet fur		100
9 yards lace	25	225
		<u>\$1280</u>
Int. Till January 1858 3 yards		307
		<u>\$1587</u>

James and Sabra Thompson had 7 children. All married in Talladega to early settlers of the county. They were: Mariah Thompson born 1815 married George W. Kennedy 1836, Gidion Allen Thompson born 1817 married Mary Ann Elliott 1838, Nicy Chamitta Thompson born 1818 married Jacob Brown Seay (Methodist minister) 1838, Eliza J. Thompson born 1821 married John Loving Seay (Methodist minister) 1838, Jane Thompson born 1831 married James F. Bumgardner, Hester Thompson born 1832 married Joseph Barr-second married Allen Elliot (probably Ann Elliot's brother), James Jay Thompson Jr. born 1833 married Ann Perry Swope (Ann's father was Samuel E. Swope Methodist minister early 1800.

Is it possible that some of the decendants of the Thompson and their allied families still live in or near Talladega and would be able to give locations of these graves?

Sincerely hoping of news from you-

Your Kin,

Mrs. W. P. Lamar
(Mary E. Seay)

Riverside

Neighborhood Watch

There will be an organizational meeting of a Neighborhood Watch group on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the boat landing in Broken Arrow. A water safety and CPR course for ages 5 & up will be held at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call 338-3578 or 338-9221.

Pell City

Tennis Camp

The camp for intermediate players will be held tomorrow and Saturday at the Pell City Civic Center. The cost is \$60 for 12 hours. Instructors are Bill Selph and David Jones. For more information, contact Diane Thomas at 338-4375.

Higginbotham Reunion

The reunion will be held Sunday at the civic center beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friends and relatives are invited to come and bring a covered dish for lunch from 1-2 p.m.

Ragland

Haz-Mat Class

The EMA Office will sponsor a Haz-Mat (hazardous material) awareness/operational class beginning Monday, June 7, at the Ragland Nutrition Center. Additional classes will be held June 14 & 21. Each class will be held at 6 p.m.

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August 9, 1991, was released for the 21 months he has already served. Gardner was originally charged

District Attorney Van Davis said he was glad to be able to finally put the two year old case to rest.

Park renamed to honor Ten Islands



DEDICATION SERVICE—Pictured here (l-r) are the trio that made the Ten Islands Historic Park a reality, Bette Sue McElroy, Patsy Hanvey, and Charlotte Hood. They are standing beside the marker that has been erected by the Alabama Power Company to commemorate the area's rich history and these ladies' efforts on gaining recognition for the Ten Islands area.

By TISA MOORE
News-Aegis Reporter

OHATCHEE—"It all started with a rock," recalled Charlotte Hood and Bette Sue McElroy. What they were recalling is a piece of the past that has a definite impact on the present and future.

They have dedicated the past five years of their lives, along with Patsy Hanvey, to discovering, recording, and compiling the history of the Ten Islands area.

The culmination of their efforts was recognized on May 18 when Alabama Power Company renamed the park at Neely Henry Dam to Ten Islands Historic Park.

But back to the rock. Charlotte Hood and her husband, then a manager for Alabama Power's North Hydro, were out exploring the river bed in Ohatchee. Charlotte found a rock and thought it might be an Indian artifact.

She took it to her friend, Bette Sue McElroy, an archivist at the Gadsden Public Library to be identified.

together, who all share an avid interest in history, and the curiosity of what happened at Ten Islands."

"We pulled together the history of Ten Islands. What's been pulled together now belongs to Alabama Power. What we were able to tell them peaked their interest, and it got the project rolling," said McElroy.

After careful documentation, digging, and endless hours of research by the trio, the history of Ten Islands has unfolded.

As early as 11,000 B.C., people inhabited the Ten Island area on the "Oti Palin" or Coosa River, as the Indians in the 1700's called it, which means ten islands.

In the 18th century, the area was inhabited by Creek Indians. The United States government had just made the Louisiana Purchase and had no easy way to get to it. Later, the War of 1812 broke out.

Andrew Jackson's main purpose was to blaze a trail to the Gulf of Mexico. The French and English already had

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She took it to her friend, Bette Sue McElroy, an archivist at the Gadsden Public Library, to see if she could identify it. Unfortunately, she could not, but recommended someone who could. Enter Patsy Hanvey, a specialist in reproducing Southeastern Indian Pottery.

Hanvey could not identify it either. As it turns out it was a natural artifact, something that may or may not have been used by the Indians.

"The rock brought us together" Hood says laughing. "It amazes me that a rock could bring three women

together, who all share an avid interest in history, and the curiosity of what happened at Ten Islands."

"We pulled together the history of Ten Islands. What's been pulled together now belongs to Alabama Power. What we were able to tell them peaked their interest, and it got the project rolling," said McElroy.

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Andrew Jackson's main purpose was to blaze a trail to the Gulf of Mexico. The French and English already had a stronghold in the surrounding areas and encouraged the Creeks to fight for the land that was theirs.

And fight they did. While the nation's capital was being burned down, there was a separate war being waged within itself, right here in our backyard.

"It was the beginning of the end for the Creeks. Andrew Jackson broke the back of the Creek nation

(See Park page 6A)

PANIC area will to 14 cen he thinks

FORT STROTHER

1813-1814

St. Clair County, Ala.

*by
B. Blair Jones*

The beginning of the Creek Indian War in 1813, which necessitated the erection of several forts, among them Fort Strother, can be charged to the powerful and eloquent Shawnoese chief, Tecumseh. His parents were born and bred on the banks of the Tallapoosa, removing later to Ohio where in 1768, Tecumseh was born, one of triplets. He made several trips to Alabama in his youth, visiting his kin. Later, his visits were not of a peaceful nature. He came with the full purpose and intent to provoke his brethren to make war upon the advancing white men. His hatred of the Americans was intense and was kept aflame by the British.

The last recorded visit of Tecumseh to Alabama was in October 1812, at which time he was in a great measure, successful. The effects of his visit began to be realized in every corner of the Creek confederacy. The following year, 1813, the Indians became increasingly belligerent. The culmination came with the terrible massacre at Fort Mims on August 30, 1813.

Nowhere did the tidings from Fort Mims arouse more horror than in Tennessee, where the inhabitants daily expected an attack. Sept. 18, 1813, there was a meeting of leading citizens in Nashville to consider measures of defense. They asked the legislature to

authorize such a move, and at their requests the governor agreed to call out for immediate service the recently dismissed Natchez Volunteers.

A committee from the meeting on September 18th, waited on General Andrew Jackson. They found him in bed from the wound he received on the fourth of the month in the disgraceful affair with the Benton brothers; but, he expressed the greatest confidence in his ability to lead his division. He did, in fact, at once assume direction of the movement for defense, calling the volunteers to assemble at Fayetteville, Tennessee, on October 4th, arranging for supplies of food and ammunition, and writing many letters on all kinds of similar subjects. ~~Jackson's peace was likely to be a grim one.~~

Jackson sent General Coffee forward with three hundred cavalrymen and hastened the preparations of the main body. On the 7th, he rode into camp weak and haggard and took personal direction of the army. Immediately, came urgent calls from Coffee who reported that he was about to be attacked. On the 10th, camp was broken and that evening they marched into Huntsville, thirty two miles. On the next day he reached the Tennessee River at Ditto's Landing, a few miles South of Huntsville, and crossing the river united his forces with Coffee's; halted here a few days. Oct. 22nd, he moved up the river from Ditto's in a southeasterly direction for twenty-four miles and laid out at the mouth of Thompson's Creek the fortification which he called Fort Deposit.

Jackson's plan of campaign provided for a base of supplies on the Tennessee at its southernmost part, a military road thence for fifty miles to the Ten Islands on the Coosa, where another fortified post would be established for supplies and thence down the Alabama River system to Fort St. Stephens. By this plan he would establish a permanent line of communication from East Tennessee to Mobile.

The second base was established between Oct. 29th and Nov. 3rd, 1813, one hundred forty years ago. It was located at Ten Islands on the west side of the Coosa River in that part which became St. Clair County in 1818. The base was given the name Fort Strother, probably in honor of Gen. Jackson's topographer, Capt. Strother.

It is regrettable that the plans and specifications of this important post have not been found. It is believed by those who have made a study of the site that at least eighty acres of the level and rolling terrain was used in the construction of the main part of the base. A few years ago the location ~~of~~ of the blacksmith shop and the main block house were easily identified. The site was well watered with springs which substantiates the evidence that an Indian village was located at this natural setting. Bushels of arrowheads and other Indian implements have been collected there. (I have with me several pieces loaned by Dr. and Mrs. Herschell Bass, of Gadsden, who formerly owned the Fort Strother site). Mrs. Bass's girlhood home is on the site and it is known today, as the graveyard of Jackson's men. Many soldiers dying of dysentery and other causes were buried there (another spot for marker).

It was most commendable of the Frederick William Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Anniston, to erect a marker to Fort Strother. It was erected thirty five years ago and is located within seventy five feet of where one of the main houses stood.

It was at historic Fort Strother that Gen. Jackson began and executed his extermination of the brave Creeks. On Oct. 29th, 1813, the small village of Littafutchee, on Cane Creek between Ashville and Springville was destroyed. After this action, events followed in rapid succession. Nov. 3rd, 1813, Gen. Coffee with one thousand men, among whom was the famous Davy Crockett, crossed the Coosa at Fish Dam a few miles above Fort Strother to subdue the Creek warriors assembled at the village of Talleschatchee, near present Chatchee, thirteen miles from the Fort. The engagement there resulted in a massacre of one hundred eighty six warriors. Quoting from Davy Crockett's Autobiography, "We shot them like dogs". About fifty years ago, this stone (inscribed, D. CROCKET 1814) loaned by Mr. W. H. McDonnald, of Ragland, was found at lunch time by a negro axeman working with Mr. T. E. Smith, a reputable surveyor, within the confines of Fort Strother; also, this adze was discovered by Dr. Bass on the premises.

On Nov. 8th, 1813, Gen. Jackson with an army of two thousand men left Fort Strother at midnight to fight the Battle of Talladega. After that successful engagement, he buried his fifteen dead and

(Fort Washley?)

marched back the thirty miles to Fort Strother as rapidly as possible, for he was out of provisions. Arriving there he was mortified to find none at that point for him. Several days later, lack of supplies and enlistment expirations were responsible for a serious mutiny among the militia and volunteers. The mutiny was stopped by the indomitable and arbitrary Jackson singlehanded.

During the winter of 1814, Gen. Jackson employed the few militia who remained with him at Fort Strother, after the battles of E'muck'fau and E'nita'chop'ee, in constructing flat-boats to descend the Coosa with stores for the new army which was then being raised in Tennessee, which was to operate below.

When the army arrived at Fort Strother, he embarked the stores in the flat-boats, which were to proceed down the Coosa in charge of the 39th regiment, and, leaving a garrison of four hundred fifty men at Fort Strother, he began the march for the third time toward the seat of war. Within five days, about the middle of March, 1814, Jackson reached the mouth of Cedar Creek, where he built Fort Williams.

Indeed, Fort Strother is a neglected and historic spot. Jackson, Coffee, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett and five thousand other heroes of the Creek campaign were quartered there. The United States DeSoto Expedition Commission in its final report established the fact that DeSoto, the famous Spanish explorer,

about 1540, crossed the Coosa near the site of Fort Strother. In 1864, Gen. Clanton, C. S. A. fought an engagement with the superior force of the Yankee General, Rousseau, near the same spot.

The site of Fort Strother is most accessible to visitors. It is sixteen miles northeast to Ragland from Pell City, black top road; thence, eight miles on the new black top Ragland-Gadsden road to a sign on the right pointing to Hart's Ferry, thence three fourths of a mile on a good dirt road. The Ragland road intersects Highway U. S. 231 - State 25, five miles north of Pell City.

THE LIFE
OF
ANDREW JACKSON,
MAJOR-GENERAL IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES:
COMPRISING
A HISTORY
OF THE
WAR IN THE SOUTH,
FROM THE
COMMENCEMENT OF THE GREEN CAMPAIGN,
TO THE
TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES BEFORE
New Orleans.

BY JOHN HENRY EATON,
SENATOR OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL F. BRADFORD,
Jeffer Harding, Printer.

1824

diers in his division, to hasten immediately their respective quotas, fully equipped for active operations.

Circumstances did not permit him to remain at this place long enough to have the delinquencies complained of remedied, and the ranks of his army filled. Colonel Coffee had proceeded with his mounted volunteers to cover Huntsville, and give security to the frontiers, where alarm greatly prevailed. On the night of the 8th, a letter was received from him, dated two days before, advising, that two Indians, belonging to the peace party, had just arrived at the Tennessee river, from Chinnaby's fort, on the Coosa, with information that the war party had despatched eight hundred or a thousand of their warriors to attack the frontiers of Georgia; and, with the remainder of their forces, were marching against Huntsville, or Fort Hampton. In consequence of this intelligence, exertions were made to hasten a movement. Late on the following night, another express arrived, confirming the former statement, and representing the enemy, in great force, to be rapidly approaching the Tennessee. Orders were now given for preparing the line of march, and by nine o'clock the next day the whole division was in motion. They had not proceeded many miles, when they were met with intelligence that colonel Gibson, who had been sent out by Coffee to reconnoitre the movements of the enemy, had been killed by their advance. A strong desire had been manifested to be led forward; that desire was now strengthened by the information just received; and it was with difficulty their emotions could be restrained. They accelerated their pace, and before eight o'clock at night, arrived at Huntsville, a distance of thirty-two miles

provide, however, against the bare possibility of a failure, and to be guarded against all contingencies that might happen, he had addressed his applications to various other sources. He had, on the same subject, written in the most pressing manner to the Governor of Georgia, with whose forces it was proposed to act in concert; to colonel Meigs, agent to the Cherokee nation of Indians; and to general White, who commanded the advance of the East Tennessee troops. Previously to his arrival at Huntsville, he had received assurances from the two latter, that a considerable supply of flour, for the use of his army, had been procured, and was then at Hiwassee, where boats were ready to transport it. From general Cocke himself, about the same time, a letter was received; stating that a hundred and fifty barrels of flour were then on the way to his encampment; and expressing a belief, that he should be able to procure, and forward on immediately, a thousand barrels more. With pressing importunity, he had addressed himself to the contractors, and they had given him assurances, that on his crossing the Tennessee, they would be prepared with twenty days' rations for his whole command; but finding, on his arrival at Ditto's, that their preparations were not in such forwardness as he had been led to expect, he was compelled, for a time, to suspend any active and general operations. Calculating, however, with great confidence, on exertions, which, he had been promised, should be unremitting, and on the speedy arrival of those supplies, descending the river, which had been already unaccountably delayed, he hoped, in a few days, to be placed in a situation to act efficiently. Whilst he was encouraged by these expectations, and

only waiting their fulfilment, that he might advance, Shelocta, the son of Chinnaby, a principal chief among the friendly Creeks, arrived at his camp; to solicit his speedy movement for the relief of his father's fort, which was then threatened by a considerable body of the war party, who had advanced to the neighbourhood of the Ten Islands, on the Coosa. Influenced by his representations, and anxious to extend relief, Jackson, on the 18th, gave orders for taking up the line of march on the following day, and notified the contractors of this arrangement, that they might be prepared to issue, immediately, such supplies as they had on hand: but, to his great astonishment, he then, for the first time, was apprised of their entire inability to supply him whilst on his march. Having drawn what they had in their power to furnish, amounting to only a few days' rations, they were deposed from office, and others appointed, on whose industry and performance, he believed, he might more safely rely. The scarcity of his provisions, however, at a moment like the present, when there was every appearance that the enemy might be met, and a blow stricken to advantage, was not sufficient to wave his determination, already taken. The route he would have to make, to gain the fort, lay, for a considerable distance, up the river: might not the boats, long expected from Hiwassee, and which he felt strongly assured must be near at hand, be met with on the way? He determined to proceed; and having passed his army and baggage wagons over several mountains of stupendous size, and such as were thought almost impassable by foot passengers, he arrived, on the 22d of October, at Thompson's creek, which empties into the Tennessee,

twenty-four miles above Ditto's. At this place he proposed the establishment of a permanent depot, for the reception of supplies, to be sent either up or down the river. Disappointed in the hopes with which he had adventured on his march, he remained here several days, in expectation of the boats that were coming to his relief. Thus harassed at the first onset, by difficulties wholly unexpected, and which, from the numerous and strong assurances received, he could by no means have calculated on; fearing, too, that the same disregard of duty might induce a continuance, he lost no time in opening every avenue to expedient, that the chances of future failure might be diminished. To general Flournoy, who commanded at Mobile, he applied, urging him to procure bread stuff, and have it forwarded up the Alabama by the time he should arrive on that river. The agent of the Choctaws, colonel M'Kee, who was then on the Tombigbee, was addressed in the same style of entreaty. Expresses were despatched to general White, who, with the advance of the East Tennessee division, had arrived at the Look Out mountain, in the Cherokee nation, urging him, by all means, to hasten on the supplies. The assistance of the governor of Tennessee, was also earnestly besought. To facilitate exertion, and to assure success, every thing within his reach was attempted: several persons of wealth and patriotism, in Madison county, were solicited to afford the contractors all the aid in their power; and, to induce them more readily to extend it, their deep interest, immediately at stake, was pointed to, and their deplorable and dangerous situation, should necessity compel him to

withdraw his army, and leave them exposed to the mercy of the savages.

Whilst these measures were taking, two runners, from Turkey town, an Indian village, despatched by Path-killer, a chief of the Cherokees, arrived at the camp. They brought information, that the enemy, from nine of the hostile towns, were assembling in great force near the Ten Islands; and solicited, that immediate assistance should be afforded the friendly Creeks and Cherokees, in their neighbourhood, who were exposed to such imminent danger. His want of provisions was not yet remedied; but, distributing the partial supply that was on hand, he resolved to proceed, in expectation that the relief he had so earnestly looked for, would, in a little while, arrive, and be forwarded to him. To prepare his troops for an engagement, which he foresaw was soon to take place, he thus addressed them:

“ You have, fellow soldiers, at length penetrated the country of your enemies. It is not to be believed, that they will abandon the soil that embosoms the bones of their forefathers, without furnishing you an opportunity of signalizing your valour. Wise men do not expect; brave men will not desire it. It was not to travel unmolested, through a barren wilderness, that you quitted your families and homes, and submitted to so many privations: it was to avenge the cruelties committed upon our defenceless frontiers, by the inhuman Creeks, instigated by their no less inhuman allies; you shall not be disappointed. If the enemy flee before us, we will overtake and chastise him; we

TENNESSEE SOLDIERS
IN THE
WAR OF 1812
REGIMENTS OF
COL. ALLCORN and COL. ALLISON

Transcribed By
Penelope Johnson Allen

and

Published

By

The Tennessee Society
United States Daughters of 1812
Mrs. Cyrus Griffin Martin
State President & Chairman of Publication

1947

CAPTAIN FREDERICK STUMP'S COMPANY

(mss p. 32)

Muster Roll of a company of Cavalry under the command of Captain Frederick Stump in the service of the United States, commanded by Col. John Allcorn from 24th September 1814 when mustered into service to 10th Dec. 1813

1. Fredrick Stump, Capt., sick absent since 11th Oct. 1813
1. Thomas White, 1st Lt.
1. Buchanan Lenier, sick absent since 13th Oct. 1813
1. William W. Hudnell, Cornet
1. Richard C. Philding, Sergt.
2. William Ritche, Sergt.
3. David Wills, Sergt., promoted 18th Oct 1813 from private
4. William R. McAdams, Sergt., transferred to Capt. Gordons Co. 16th Oct. 1813
1. William B. Ammon, Corporal, transferred to Capt. Gordons Co. Oct. 1813
2. William Hudgons, Corporal, absent wounded 9th Nov. 1813 **TALLADEGA**
3. Westley Hutson, Corporal
4. Samuel Wily, Corporal, aptd Corporal 16th Oct. 1813
5. Benjamin Rogan, Corporal
1. James Moses, Trumpeter
1. George McCormack, Senr Farrier
1. William Anderson, Private
2. Jesse Bellamy
3. Elias Bridgwater
4. William L. Bernard, transferred Capt. Gordons Co 16th Oct. 1813
5. Frederick Binkley, sick absent since 8th Oct. 1813
6. Peter Binkley
7. Stephen Cavender
8. William Caldwell
9. James Coon
10. Samuel Campbell
11. William Coltharp
12. James Coldwell
13. John B. Derrow
14. John B. Dillard
15. Freeman Fry
16. William Gillam, deserted 7th Oct. 1813

CAPTAIN JOSEPH EVERETT'S COMPANY

(mss p. 40)

Muster Roll of a Company of East Tennessee Militia under the command of Captain Joseph Everett in a Regiment commanded by Col. Ewin Allison in the service of the United States and in General Doherty's Brigade from the 7th of Jan. 1814 to the 18th May 1814 inclusive.

Officers and men mustered into service 10th of Jan. 1814

1. Joseph Everett, Captain
2. Benjamin Cloud, 1st Lieut
3. Daniel Branstetter, 2nd Lieut.
4. Jacob Strickler, Ensign
5. William Pursell, 1st Sergt., sick left at Ft. Williams 27th April
6. John Whited, 2nd Sergt., transfd Capt Griffin at Ft. Williams 27 Apr
7. Robert B. Wallace, 3rd Sergt., transfd. Capt. McPherson, Ft. Strother 2nd May
8. Temple Hensley, 4th Sergt., transfd. Capt. Griffin, Ft. Williams 27th Jany.
9. Aaron Quimbey, 1st Corpl., hired substitute Henry Myers 25th Jany.
10. William Dickson, 2nd Corpl.
11. John Bostick, 3rd Corpl.
12. John McNeil, 4th Corpl., substd. for John * * * 25th Jany; deserted 4th March
13. Joseph Ervin, Drummer, promoted Drum Major 12th Feby
14. Jacob Holt, Fifer, promoted Fife Major 12th Feby
15. Mark Allen, Private, deserted 4th March 1814
16. Samuel Allen, transfd. to Capt. McPherson 2nd Mar. 1814
17. David Adams, transfd to Capt. Griffin 27th April 1814
18. Aaron Bacon, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
19. Armsted Bridwell
20. Peter Bowerman, deserted 4th March 1814
21. Jones Boyd
22. William Brit, deserted 4th March 1814
23. Benjamin Brit, deserted 4th March 1814
24. Edmund Bacon, transfd to Capt. Griffin 27th April 1814
25. John Britton, discharged 25th Jany having furnished a substitute
- † 26. William Cloud, Killed in Battle at Tohopeca 27th

March 1814

27. John Campbell, transfd to Capt. Griffin 27th April 1814
28. Samuel Croft, transfd to Capt Griffin 27th April 1814
29. Daniel Cattren, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
30. William Cutts, deserted 4th March 1814
31. Thomas Cawood, transfd to Capt McPherson 2nd May 1814
32. Abraham Cox ✕
33. James Coward, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
34. David Fields, killed in Battle at Tohopeca 27th March ✕ ✕ 1814
35. William Mowler, discharged unable to perform duty
36. James Frayzer, deserted 4th March 1814
37. Loyd Ford, transfd to Capt McPherson 2nd May 1814
38. William Jennings, reduced from Corporal 25th March 1814
39. Sinclair Jennings, discharged 25th Jany. having furnished substitute
40. Joseph D. Hicks
41. Frederick Hall, dischd. 21th Jany 1814 unfit for Work
42. Francis Hambleton, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
43. John Hambleton, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
44. John Hagins, deserted 4th March 1814
45. Abraham Hammon, transfd. to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814
46. William Hester
47. Thomas Hamblin, sick, left at Ft. Williams 27th March on return march
48. Timothy Hamilton, reduced from Corporal - - - Jany 1814
49. William Hudspeth, deserted 4th March 1814
50. John Johnson, transfd. to Capt. Griffin 27th April 1814
51. Reddin Jones, deserted 4th March 1814
52. George Jones, deserted 27th Jany 1814
53. Ezekiel Jones
54. William Jones, sick at Ft. Strother 2nd May 1814
55. Zachariah Job
56. John Jackson
57. Samuel Jones, dischd. 25th Jany. having furnished a substitute
58. Martin Jones, transfd to Capt. McPherson 2nd May 1814

CAPTAIN WILLIAM KING'S COMPANY

(mss p. 52)

Muster Roll of a company of Drafted Militia under the command of Captain William King in a Regiment of Tennessee Militia commanded by Col. Ewin Allison in the service of the United States from the 6th day of January 1814 to the 18th of May inclusive

1. William King, Captain
2. Edward King, 1st Lt., Left sick at Ft. Williams 28th April
3. Samuel Bowdrey, 2nd Lt.
4. William Connole, Ensign
5. George Naten, 1st Sgt. Left at Ft. Strother 2nd May 1814 in service THIS SHOULD BE LATYEN
6. Elijah Cross, 1nd Sgt.
7. Abraham Tipton, 3rd Sgt.
8. Henry Harklerode, 4th Sgt.
9. Soloman Bray, 1st Corpl., Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in service
10. Charles Philips, 2nd Corpl.
11. Samuel McConka, 3rd Corpl., Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in service
12. John Roberts, 4th Corpl.
13. Adam Akerd, Private
14. John Allemoney, Private
15. Andrew Anderson
16. William Allen
17. Peter Burchheart
18. Charles Barnett (?)
19. Martin Booker
20. Russell Blevens
21. George Bushon
22. Joseph Beeler, Left sick at Ft. Williams 28 Apr 1814
23. Benjamin Beeler, Left sick at Ft. Williams 28 Apr 1814
24. Robert Blevens, Left at Ft. Strother in service 2nd May
25. John A. Bowlen, Left at Ft. Williams in service 28 Apr
26. William Benham, Deserted 16th Jany 1814
27. Samuel Brownlow, Promoted to waggon master 15th Jany 1814
28. John Crawford, Enlisted 15th Jany 1814
29. John Colbough
30. Jacob Crumley, Sr., Deserted 28 April 1814
31. Gael Cox Bewley, Promoted to Quartermaster 6th Jany 1814
32. Beverly Cox †
33. David Troqsel
34. Jacob Crumley, Jr
35. Miles Davis
36. John Dyer
37. William Engle
38. Thomas Glover
39. George Gross, Died March 20th 1814
40. Joseph Gray, Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in service
41. Abraham Grubb
42. John Hodge
43. Robert Hughs
44. James Hughs
45. Mickles Hamond
46. George Hinkle
47. Sterling Hughs
48. Conrad Harman
49. James Harman, Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in service

50. Robert Hawkins
51. John Knicely, Left at Ft. Strother 2nd May in service x
- ~~52.~~ Berry Keewood
53. Joshua Keewood
54. Thomas Kindred, Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in x
service
55. Volentine Little
56. Frederick Myers
57. Soloman Morgan
58. Henry Myres
59. Caleb Merrel, Corpl., Promoted 15th March 1815
60. Nathan Merral, Private
61. William Morgan, Left at Ft. Strother 2nd May 1814
in service
62. Phillip Majors, Deserted 11th Jany 1814
63. Elisha Mardin, Deserted 16th Jany 1814
64. Thomas Majors
65. Henry Newton
66. John Nelson, Enlisted 15th Jany 1814
67. Samuel Payne
68. Soloman Phillips, Left at Ft. Williams 28th April in
service
69. Absolom Peters, Left at Ft Strother 2nd May in serv-
ice
70. Isaac Peters, Left at Ft. Strother 2nd May in service
71. John Phillips
72. William Rodgers
73. Jesse Rodgers
74. Benjamin Ridsen
75. John Richardson, Left at Ft. Strother in service
76. David Steel
77. Henry Smith, Left at Ft. Williams 28th Apr in service
78. Alexander Sweet, Enlisted 16th Jany 1814
79. Thomas Stanfield, Left at Ft. Williams 28th April in
service
80. John Smith, Left at Ft. Strother 2nd May
81. William Smith
82. William Souls
83. William Scott
84. David Thomas
85. Jeremiah Taylor, Absent without leave from the 22nd
Jany 1814
86. Joseph Wiett
87. Michal Warren, Corpl., Promoted 15th March 1814
88. Isah Walker
89. Joseph Cross

MEMOIR
OF
ANDREW JACKSON,

MAJOR-GENERAL
IN THE
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

AND
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
OF THE
DIVISION OF THE SOUTH

BY S. PUTNAM WALDO, Esq
Compiler of "*Robbins' Journal*," and Author of the
"*President's Tour*."

FIFTH EDITION, IMPROVED.

HARTFORD.

PUBLISHED BY J. & W. RUSSELL

.....
1830



MAJOR GEN. ANDREW JACKSON.

The following is Gen. Jackson's last communication, as an officer in the military forces of Tennessee.

Fort Williams, April 25th, at night.

Sir—Gen. Pinckney joined me at Fort Jackson on the 20th. The enemy continuing to come in from every quarter, and it being now evident that the war was over, I received an order at 3 o'clock, P. M. on the 21st, to march my troops back to Fort Williams, and after having dispersed any bodies of the enemy who may have assembled on the *Cahawba*, or within striking distance, and provided for the maintainance of posts between Tennessee and Fort Jackson, to discharge the remainder. Within two hours after receiving this order, I was on the line of march; and reached this place last evening, a distance of about sixty miles.

To Brig. Gen. Doherty, I shall assign the duty of keeping up the posts, which form the line of communication between Tennessee and the confluence of the *Coosa* and *Tallapoosa*, making the necessary arrangements to enable him to do so. About 400 of the E. Tennessee militia, will be left at this place, 250 at Fort Strother, and 75 at Fort Armstrong and New Deposit. Old Deposit will be maintained by Capt. Hammond's company of rangers

To-morrow I detail 500 of the militia under the command of Brig. Gen. Johnson, to the *Cahawba*, with instructions to unite with me at Fort Deposit, after having dispersed any bodies of the enemy they may find there assembled.

The commissioners who have been appointed to make a treaty with the Creeks, need have nothing to do but assign them their proper limits. Those of the friendly party, who have associated with me, will be easily satisfied; and those of the hostile party, they consider it a favour that their lives have been spared them, and will look upon any space that may be allowed them for their future settlement, as a bounteous donation. I have taken the liberty to point out what I think ought to be the future line of separation, with which I will hereafter make you acquainted. If they should be established, none of the Creeks will be left on the west of the *Coosa*.

Accompanying this, I send you a report made by the Adjutant General, of the killed and wounded at the battle of *Tohopeka*, which was omitted to be sent by the former express.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON.

His Excellency Gov. W. Blount.

Spreading discord and confusion in the army. It unfortunately produced no such impression on you. But a few weeks after you had been brought back, you have been found guilty of offences, not less criminal or penal, than those for which you had been so lately pardoned; and which, if the law had been rigidly enforced would have subjected you to death. This evinces but too manifestly, incorrigible disposition of heart—a rebellious and obstinate temper of mind; which, as it cannot be rectified, ought not to be permitted to diffuse its influence among others.

An army cannot exist, where order and subordination are wholly disregarded. It cannot exist with much credit to itself, or service to the country which employs it; but when they are observed with the most punctilious exactness. The disobedience of orders, and the contempt of officers, speedily lead to a state of disorganization, and ruin; and *mutiny*, which includes the others, aims ~~at~~ more immediately at the dissolution of an army. Of all these offences you have twice been guilty, and have once been pardoned. Your General must forget what he owes to the service he is engaged in, and to the country which employs him, if, by pardoning you again, he should furnish an example to sanction measures, which would bring ruin on the army he commands. *This is an important crisis, in which* if we all act as becomes us, every thing is to be hoped for towards the accomplishment of the objects of our government; if otherwise, every thing is to be feared. How it becomes us to act, we all know; and what our punishment will be, if we act otherwise, must be known also. The law, which points out the one, prescribes the other. Between that law and its offender, the commanding General ought not to be expected to interpose; ~~and will not~~ when there are no circumstances of alleviation. There appear to be none such in your case; and however, as a man he may deplore your unhappy situation, he cannot, as an officer, without infringing his duty, arrest the sentence of the court martial.

A. JACKSON, Maj. Gen.

Fort Strother, March 14, 1814.

February 19, 1970

Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow
Mr. Edmund Blair
Mr. H. Edwin Holladay
Mr. Rubin Killebrew
Mr. Erman L. Crew
Mrs. Margaret Frances Windham
Mr. Fred Layton
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Wright

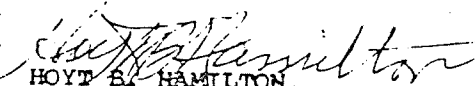
Re: Fort Strother Restoration Committee Meeting

We are calling a meeting of the committee on Tuesday, February 24, 1970, at 12:00, Noon, for a dutch dinner at the Pall City Steak House Restaurant. The meeting will be held in the small private dining room.

I have taken the liberty of inviting some technical advisors to meet with us. There will also be a panel discussion by members of the committee in formulating future policies and work direction.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at this meeting, I am

Yours very truly,


HOYT B. HAMILTON,
Judge of Probate

HBH:am

December 15, 1969

Mr. Erman L. Crew
P. O. Box 1205
Anniston, Alabama

Dear Mr. Crew:

I secured from Miss Irene Hodges your notes on Fort Strother and duplicated the record that I had discussed with you by telephone on one or more occasions, and at our recent observance of the County's Sesquicentennial Plus One Year, Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow used your notes and gave a most interesting report on Fort Strother.

From the interest generated at this public meeting, the governing body of the County was requested to pass a resolution setting up a Fort Strother Restoration Committee, and I am appointing the following committee with the Chairman of the Court to serve on this Committee.

Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow, Ashville, Alabama
Mr. Edmund Blair, Pell City, Alabama
Mr. H. Edwin Holladay, Pell City, Alabama
Mr. Rubin Killebrew, Route 1, Ashville, Alabama
Mr. Erman L. Crew, P.O. Box 1205, Anniston, Alabama
Mrs. Margaret Frances Windham, Springville, Alabama
Mr. Fred Layton, Owner, Kymulga Onyx Cave, Childersburg, Ala.
Mr. or Mrs. M. L. Wright, Valley Road, Ragland, Alabama
Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton, Pell City, Alabama

Unless I hear from you otherwise, I am counting on you to serve on this important committee.

I have in hand Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana map dated 1823 showing three places in St. Clair County, namely, St. Clairsville, Turkey Town and Fort Strother. Also, a map of Alabama in 1842 and 1857 that I will make available to the committee. Mr. Edwin Holladay has checked with State Park Authorities and will further check to see what helps we may be able to receive in state and federal funds on the restoration of the Fort.

I am enclosing a copy of an old will of Peggy Pathkiller recorded in the Probate Office in Ashville in Estate Record B Page 65 dated March 14, 1833, which is most interesting, and further confirms along with the map of 1823 an interesting side line note.

Sincerely yours,


HOYT B. HAMILTON,
Judge of Probate

RHB:am

cc: All committee members

Life of DAVID CROCKETT

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

COLONEL DAVID CROCKETT was one of the most remarkable men of the times in which he lived. Born in humble life, but gifted with a strong will, an indomitable courage, and unremitting perseverance, as well as an aptitude for accumulating information from his intercourse with men of superior education, he rose to posts of high honor and distinction. His talent for original humor caused his sayings to be admired and quoted, reported in newspapers, and received with applause throughout America and Europe.

In his military career, which was confined to the Creek war of 1813-1814, he served in the ranks as a private soldier; and although in these circumstances, he never had an extensive separate command, he was frequently sent upon scouting and hunting expeditions in which he acquitted himself with credit. His entrance into public life was unsought on his own part, and was entirely the result of that ascendancy which an able and independent mind asserts over the masses in the troubles and turmoils of politics. The stand which he took in Congress against those measures, which he disapproved, of his old Commander, General Jackson, when President of the United States, was recognized throughout the country as the evidence of a high degree of political integrity, and rendered him extremely popular with the party at that time opposed to the administration of the General Government. When this popularity was at its height, Colonel Crockett made the tour of the Middle and Northern States; and was everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm.

His odd maxims and original remarks had for a long time been circulating in the newspapers, and the greatest curiosity prevailed to hear him speak on political affairs. Under these circumstances, although it was not an easy matter to satisfy the public, his speeches gave general satisfaction, and he returned to his constituents crowned with fresh honors.

But the fiat of power had gone forth against him; and every nerve was strained by the administration to defeat his reelection. As usual with General Jackson, he succeeded in preventing the return of his adversary to Congress; and Colonel Crockett was constrained to return to private life.

We then marched to a place which we called Camp Wills; and here it was that Captain Cannon was promoted to a colonel, and Colonel Coffee to a general. We then marched to the Ten Islands, on the Coosa river, where we established a fort, and our spy companies were sent out. They soon made prisoners of Bob Catala and his warriors, and, in a few days afterwards, we heard of some Indians in a town about eight miles off. So we mounted our horses, and put out for that town, under the direction of two friendly Creeks we had taken for pilots. We had also a Cherokee colonel, Dick Brown, and some of his men with us. When we got near the town we divided; one of our pilots going with each division. And so we passed on each side of the town, keeping near to it, until our lines met on the far side. We then closed up at both ends, so as to surround it completely; and then we sent Captain Hammond's company of rangers to bring on the affray. He had advanced near the town, when the Indians saw him, and they raised the yell, and came running at him like so many red devils. The main army was now formed in a hollow square around the town, and they pursued Hammond till they came in reach of us. We then gave them a fire, and they returned it, and then ran back into their town. We began to close on the town by making our files closer and closer, and the Indians soon saw they were our property. So most of them wanted us to take them prisoners; and their squaws and all would run and take hold of any of us they could, and give themselves up. I saw seven squaws have hold of one man, which made me think of the Scriptures. So I hollered out the Scriptures was fulfilling; that there was seven women holding to one man's coat tail. But I believe it was a hunting shirt all the time. We took them all prisoner that came out to us in this way; but I saw some warriors run into a house until I counted forty-six of them. We pursued them until we got near the house, when we saw a squaw sitting in the door, and she placed her feet against the bow he had in her hand, and then took an arrow, and, raising her feet, she drew with all her might, and let fly at us, and she killed a man, whose name, I believe, was Moore. He was a lieutenant, and his death so enraged us all, that she was fired on, and had at least twenty balls blown through her. This was the first man I ever saw killed with a bow and arrow. We now shot them like dogs; and then set the house on fire, and burned it up with the forty-six warriors in it. I recollect seeing a boy who was shot down near the house. His arm and thigh was broken, and he was so near the burning house

that the grease was stewing out of him. In this situation he was still trying to crawl along: but not a marmar escaped him, though he was only about twelve years old. So sullen is the Indian, when his dander is up, that he had sooner die than make a noise, or ask for quarters.*

The number that we took prisoners, being added to the number we killed, amounted to one hundred and eighty-six; though I don't remember the exact number of either. We had five of our men killed. We then returned to our camp, at which our fort was erected, and known by the name of Fort Strother. No provisions had yet reached us, and we had now been for several days on half rations. However, we went back to our Indian town on the next day, when many of the carcasses of the Indians were still to be seen. They looked very awful, for the burning had not entirely consumed them, but given them a terrible appearance, at least what remained of them. It was, somehow or other, found out that the house had a potato cellar under it, and an immediate examination was made, for we were all as hungry as wolves. We found a fine chance of potatoes in it, and hunger compelled us to eat them, though I had a little rather not, if I could have helped it, for the oil of the Indians we had burned up on the day before, had run down on them, and they looked like they had been stewed with fat meat. We then again returned to the army, and remained there for several days, almost starving, as all our beef was gone. We commenced eating the beef-hides, and continued to eat every scrap we could lay our hands on. A wagh an In-uan came to our guard one night, and hollered, and said he wanted to see "Captain Jackson." He was conducted to the general's markee, into which he entered, and in a few minutes we received orders to prepare for marching. The Battle

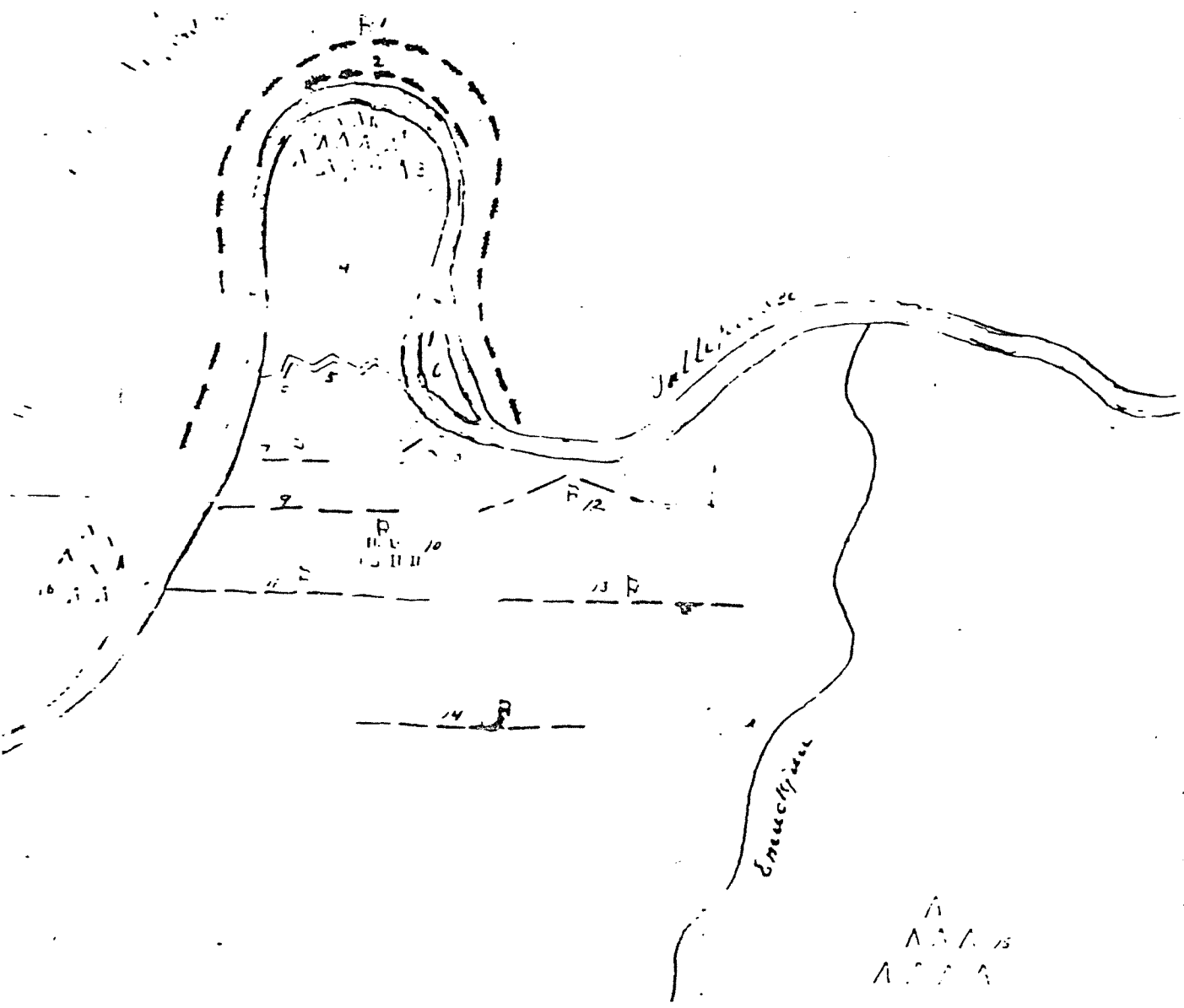
In an hour we were all ready, and took up the line of march. We crossed the Coosa river, and went on in the direction to Fort Taladega. When we arrived near the place, we met eleven hundred painted warriors, the very choice of the Creek nation. They encamped near the fort, and had informed the friendly Indians who were in it, that if they didn't come out, and fight with them against the whites, they would take their fort and all their ammunition and provision. The friendly party asked three days to consider of it, and agreed that if on the third day they didn't come out ready to fight with them, they might take their fort. Thus they put them off. They then immediately started their runner to General Jackson, and he and the army pushed over, as I have just before stated.

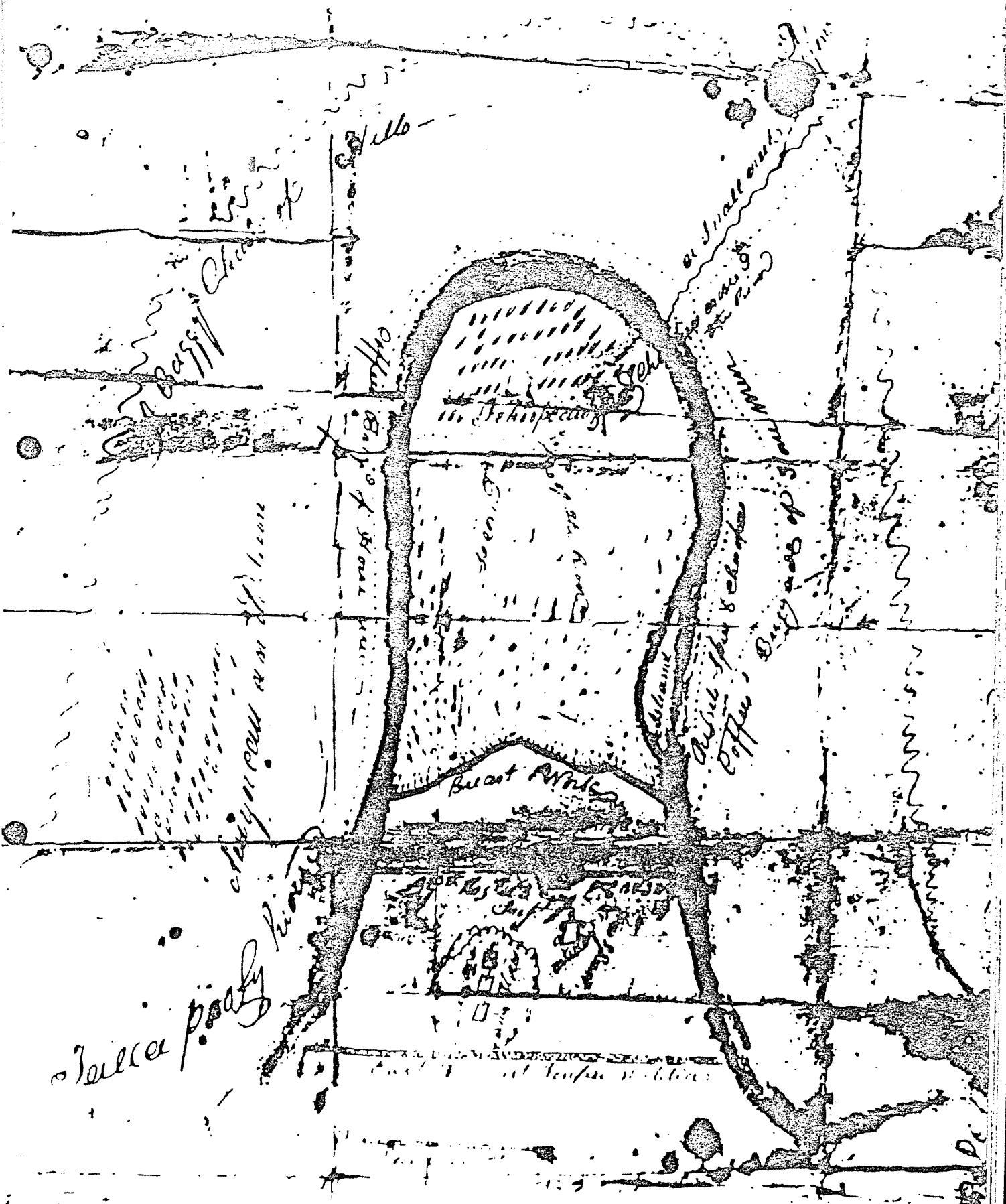
Battle of Tehopiska.

- free Cavalry.
- rokes.
- ian Village.
- h grounds.
- st Works.
- land.
- vanced Guard.
- x Artillery.

- 9 Regulars.
- 10 Wagons such Horses
x wounded in center.
- 11 Col. C. P. Land.
- 12 E. Camp. M. L. tra.
- 13 Col. Chatham.
- 14 Rear Guard.

- 15 Emuckjau old
battle ground.
- 16 New Youcan-burn
before.
- 17 High Hills.
- 0 That angle at which
Montgomery fell.





Sandstone

Beast Ark

Copper

Blue shale of 5000 ft

Blue shale

Sandy Chert

Chert

The topography

Blue shale

A. L. Helms

THE LIFE

OF

ANDREW JACKSON.

MAJOR-GENERAL IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES:

COMPRISING

A HISTORY

OF THE

WAR IN THE SOUTH,

FROM THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE GREEN CAMPAIGN,

TO THE

TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES BEFORE

New Orleans.

BY JOHN HENRY EATON,
SENATOR OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL F. BRADFORD,
Printer.

1824

diers in his division, to hasten immediately their respective quotas, fully equipped for active operations.

Circumstances did not permit him to remain at this place long enough to have the delinquencies complained of remedied, and the ranks of his army filled. Colonel Coffee had proceeded with his mounted volunteers to cover Huntsville, and give security to the frontiers, where alarm greatly prevailed. On the night of the 8th, a letter was received from him, dated two days before, advising, that two Indians, belonging to the peace party, had just arrived at the Tennessee river, from Chinnaby's fort, on the Coosa, with information that the war party had despatched eight hundred or a thousand of their warriors to attack the frontiers of Georgia; and, with the remainder of their forces, were marching against Huntsville, or Fort Hampton. In consequence of this intelligence, exertions were made to hasten a movement. Late on the following night, another express arrived, confirming the former statement, and representing the enemy, in great force, to be rapidly approaching the Tennessee. Orders were now given for preparing the line of march, and by nine o'clock the next day the whole division was in motion. They had not proceeded many miles, when they were met with intelligence that colonel Gibson, who had been sent out by Coffee to reconnoitre the movements of the enemy, had been killed by their advance. A strong desire had been manifested to be led forward; that desire was now strengthened by the information just received; and it was with difficulty their emotions could be restrained. They accelerated their pace, and before eight o'clock at night, arrived at Huntsville, a distance of thirty-two miles.

provide, however, against the bare possibility of a failure, and to be guarded against all contingencies that might happen, he had addressed his applications to various other sources. He had, on the same subject, written in the most pressing manner to the Governor of Georgia, with whose forces it was proposed to act in concert; to colonel Meigs, agent to the Cherokee nation of Indians; and to general White, who commanded the advance of the East Tennessee troops. Previously to his arrival at Huntsville, he had received assurances from the two latter, that a considerable supply of flour, for the use of his army, had been procured, and was then at Hiwassee, where boats were ready to transport it. From general Cocke himself, about the same time, a letter was received; stating that a hundred and fifty barrels of flour were then on the way to his encampment; and expressing a belief, that he should be able to procure, and forward on immediately, a thousand barrels more. With pressing importunity, he had addressed himself to the contractors, and they had given him assurances, that on his crossing the Tennessee, they would be prepared with twenty days' rations for his whole command; but finding, on his arrival at Ditto's, that their preparations were not in such forwardness as he had been led to expect, he was compelled, for a time, to suspend any active and general operations. Calculating, however, with great confidence, on exertions, which, he had been promised, should be unremitting, and on the speedy arrival of those supplies, descending the river, which had been already unaccountably delayed, he hoped, in a few days, to be placed in a situation to act efficiently. Whilst he was encouraged by these expectations, and

only waiting their fulfilment, that he might advance, Shelocta, the son of Chinnaby, a principal chief among the friendly Creeks, arrived at his camp; to solicit his speedy movement for the relief of his father's fort, which was then threatened by a considerable body of the war party, who had advanced to the neighbourhood of the Ten Islands, on the Coosa. Influenced by his representations, and anxious to extend relief, Jackson, on the 18th, gave orders for taking up the line of march on the following day, and notified the contractors of this arrangement, that they might be prepared to issue, immediately, such supplies as they had on hand: but, to his great astonishment, he then, for the first time, was apprised of their entire inability to supply him whilst on his march. Having drawn what they had in their power to furnish, amounting to only a few days' rations, they were deposed from office, and others appointed, on whose industry and performance, he believed, he might more safely rely. The scarcity of his provisions, however, at a moment like the present, when there was every appearance that the enemy might be met, and a blow stricken to advantage, was not sufficient to wave his determination, already taken. The route he would have to make, to gain the fort, lay, for a considerable distance, up the river: might not the boats, long expected from Hiwassee, and which he felt strongly assured must be near at hand, be met with on the way? He determined to proceed; and having passed his army and baggage wagons over several mountains of stupendous size, and such as were thought almost impassable by foot passengers, he arrived, on the 22d of October, at Thompson's creek, which empties into the Tennessee,

twenty-four miles above Ditto's. At this place he proposed the establishment of a permanent depot, for the reception of supplies, to be sent either up or down the river. Disappointed in the hopes with which he had adventured on his march, he remained here several days, in expectation of the boats that were coming to his relief. Thus harassed at the first onset, by difficulties wholly unexpected, and which, from the numerous and strong assurances received, he could by no means have calculated on; fearing, too, that the same disregard of duty might induce a continuance, he lost no time in opening every avenue to expedient, that the chances of future failure might be diminished. To general Flournoy, who commanded at Mobile, he applied, urging him to procure bread stuff, and have it forwarded up the Alabama by the time he should arrive on that river. The agent of the Choctaws, colonel M'Kee, who was then on the Tombigbee, was addressed in the same style of entreaty. Expresses were despatched to general White, who, with the advance of the East Tennessee division, had arrived at the Look Out mountain, in the Cherokee nation, urging him, by all means, to hasten on the supplies. The assistance of the governor of Tennessee, was also earnestly besought. To facilitate exertion, and to assure success, every thing within his reach was attempted: several persons of wealth and patriotism, in Madison county, were solicited to afford the contractors all the aid in their power; and, to induce them more readily to extend it, their deep interest, immediately at stake, was pointed to, and their deplorable and dangerous situation, should necessity compel him to

withdraw his army, and leave them exposed to the mercy of the savages.

Whilst these measures were taking, two runners, from Turkey town, an Indian village, despatched by Path-killer, a chief of the Cherokees, arrived at the camp. They brought information, that the enemy, from nine of the hostile towns, were assembling in great force near the Ten Islands; and solicited, that immediate assistance should be afforded the friendly Creeks and Cherokees, in their neighbourhood, who were exposed to such imminent danger. His want of provisions was not yet remedied; but, distributing the partial supply that was on hand, he resolved to proceed, in expectation that the relief he had so earnestly looked for, would, in a little while, arrive, and be forwarded to him. To prepare his troops for an engagement, which he foresaw was soon to take place, he thus addressed them:

“ You have, fellow soldiers, at length penetrated the country of your enemies. It is not to be believed, that they will abandon the soil that embosoms the bones of their forefathers, without furnishing you an opportunity of signaling your valour. Wise men do not expect; brave men will not desire it. It was not to travel unmolested, through a barren wilderness, that you quitted your families and homes, and submitted to so many privations: it was to avenge the cruelties committed upon our defenceless frontiers, by the inhuman Creeks, instigated by their no less inhuman allies; you shall not be disappointed. If the enemy flee before us, we will overtake and chastise him; we

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FORT STROTHER

HOYT B. HAMILTON

Judge of Probate

St. Clair County

from notes and research

by

Erman L. Crew and Fred L. Layton

Mrs. Green and Mrs. Whiteside were the very active members and officers of the D. A. R. Chapter that erected the Stone marker at the site of Fort Strother in November, 1913. They apparently sought the advice of Mr. George B. Randolph.

Attatched is a copy of his letter to Mrs. Green.

ANNISTON, ALA. Oct 8 1913.

Mrs J. F. Green
City,

Dear Madam -

In compliance with request of yourself and Mrs Whitfield beg to state I have recently visited the site of Old Fort Strother and find that property now belongs to Mr W. C. Watson of Ragland Ala. I think it is in section 31, Tp 14. R 6 E. in St Clair County overlooking the river at Harts old ferry.

There are buried a large number of these old soldiers, probably 300, in Mrs Susan Wood's yard. The north end of the grass yard extending almost under the eaves of her dwelling - her poultry pen covers a portion of the graves and probably other lots are over them - They were buried on the ridge in the forest. The old forest oaks still cover the spot - life standing. The only mark for the resting place of these American soldiers - a reflection upon the American people - some of the graves are sunk below the surface.

There seems to be four rows of graves - and I suppose are some 400 feet long. The Seaboard Air Line railroad crosses within about 100 yards of the area. L. 112

Station being only about 200 yards distance - No doubt
the names of the hurried soldiers are preserved in
the Archives of the War Department where they can be
obtained at the request of a Congressman or some
authorized society or body - After which they can be
placed on the Tablet or Marker - The site should be
owned and enclosed by the United States Government or
your Society -

Old Citizens say Genl Coffee crossed the
river on a reef on which Lock 3 is now located
the east end of this reef ends and butts up against
my land on the Calhoun County side of the river
the width of the river there being about 600 feet
this being the narrowest place in the river from
Gadsden to 40 miles or more below this point -

Am informed these old Cedar trees planted by old
Mr. Boyd, marking the Jackson trace, are still standing.

Major M. T. Singleton - Lock 3 - an Engineer says he
will draw a plat of those points - if wanted -

Very respectfully

G. B. Randolph

The graves are probably
about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the old
Fort -

Notes resulting from study of the foregoing bibliography,
arranged in chronological order, and pertinent to Fort
Strother.

HOYT B. HAMILTON

JUDGE OF PROBATE ST. CLAIR COUNTY,

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

35125

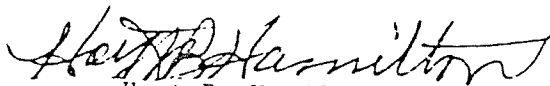
ANNE T. MILAM

CHIEF CLERK

The following documentation on Fort Strother is taken from Mr. Erman L. Crew's notes and documentation.

On February 20, 1970, Mr. Fred Layton of Route One, Childersburg, Alabama, also owner of Kymulga Onyx Cave, brought a tremendous collection of newspaper accounts, biographical sketches, and many other reports on Fort Strother.

I would like to express our appreciation for their cooperation for these important documentations which we feel will be helpful to the Fort Strother Restoration Committee.



Hoyt B. Hamilton
Judge of Probate

- August 30, 1813 Massacre at Fort Mims
- September 24, 1813 Parton. Coffee and 500 horses to Huntsville
- October 7, 1813 James. Gen. Jackson took command of infantry at Fayetteville, Tenn. (about 30 miles above Huntsville)
- Parton. Less than half of the 2000 men ordered had assembled.
- October 11, 1813 James. Gen. Jackson marched 32 miles in 8 hours to Ditto's landing on the Tennessee River. (new record for movement of infantry.)
- October 12, 1813 Parton. 2500 men and 1300 horses. This body of men will consume ten wagon loads of provisions per day, for a week they require 1000 bushels of grain, 20 tons of flesh, 1000 gallons of whiskey, and many cwt. of misc. supplies.
- James. Marched 24 miles to throw up defenses and supply base at Fort Deposit.
- Beirne. -"For his 2500 men and 1300 horses, Andrew Jackson needed each week, 1000 bu. of grain, 20 tons of meat, 1000 gallons of whiskey and many other provisions."
- James. -Part of the army hewed road 50 miles to Ten Island in six days. Jackson took 3 days to follow and began to cut trees for a stockade.
- October 23, 1813 Jackson Papers. -Camp at Thompson's Creek, About three miles from the Tennessee River. Jackson Writes, "I arrived here yesterday..... I shall leave tomorrow for Ten Islands... All provisions or supplies of any description for the depot will stop at the mouth of Thompson's Creek; thense they will be taken in boats up to the blockhouse. (Note blockhouse here.)
- November 1, 1813 Parton. -Jackson arrived Ten Islands Bassett. -Jackson arrived Ten Islands
- November 2, 1813 Lossing. ... (Coffee to Tallushatchee) They forded the Coosa at Fish Dam, four miles above Ten Islands.... Jackson now made his way over the Coosa Mountains to the Ten Islands, and on the right bank of the Coosa commenced the construction of a second fortified deposit for supplies. Strong pickets and blockhouses soon began to rise, and the work was well advanced
- November 7, 1813

when, just at sunset on the 7th of November....
(chief arrived from Talladega)

Jackson's Correspondence. -Tells of Coffee's battle of Tallushatchee and "In the meantime I moved on with the Infantry and part of the Cavalry and mounted riflemen which had not been detailed with Genl. Coffee to the Ten Islands, where I commenced immediate preparations for the erection of a fort, to serve as a deposit for our supplies".....

Parton. -Jackson and his troops had been busy in erecting a fortification or depot, which was named Fort Strother.

Pickett. -Jackson arrived at Ten Islands, where he began to erect a second depot for supplies, which was protected by strong picketing and blockhouses and which received the name of Fort Strother.

Johnson. -Jackson fortified his camp and named it Fort Strother.

Waldo. -Measures were now taken to establish a permanent depot on the north bank of the river, at the Ten Islands, to be protected by strong picketing and blockhouses.... The army was busily engaged in fortifying the site fixed for the depot, to which the name of Fort Strother was given. On the evening of the 7th a runner arrived from Talladega....

Reid and Eaton. -ditto Waldo above.

November 3, 1813

James. -Coffee with 1000 men attacked 200 Red Sticks at Tallushatchee (Bassett 168). Killed all. Lost five dead and 41 wounded. (Parton. Buried dead at Tallushatchee.) Saved 84 women and children.

Reid and Eaton. -Measures were now taken to establish a permanent depot, on the north bank of the river at the Ten Islands, to be protected by strong picketing and blockhouses; after which it was the intention of Jackson to proceed down river.....

November, 1813

Bassett. -The army was now organized in three brigades. The first was commanded by Brig. Gen. William Hall and was composed of two regiments of volunteer infantry under Cols. Bradley and Pilow. The 2nd was commanded by Brig. Gen. Isaac Roberts and was composed of two regiments

of militiamen under Cols. Wynne and McCrary. The 3rd was commanded by Brig. Gen. John Coffee and was composed of a regiment of volunteer cavalry under Col. Alcorn and a regiment of mounted riflemen under Col. Newton and Lt. Col. Allen. The first brigade numbered 1400, 2nd about 600, and 3rd 1000.

November 7, 1813

Jackson Papers. -Camp Strother. The officers of the first Brigade will parade on their parade ground at 12 o'clock; the officers of the 2nd Brigade will parade on their parade ground at 2 o'clock, and the officers of the Brigade of cavalry and mounted gun men will parade on their parade ground at 4 o'clock PM for the purpose of being drilled and inspected by the Inspector General.

John Reid Aide de Camp

November 7, 1813

Jackson Papers. -The General of Brigade will forthwith have their men and arms inspected & report to the commanding General the number of cartridges and rounds of ammunition in the possession of each man and the situation of men & arms fit for duty.

November 8, 1813

Parton. -800 horsemen and 1200 foot crossed the river to go to Talladega.

November 9, 1813

Leroy Pope writes to Jackson from Huntsville. "...without delay purchased his flour, at the extravagant price of ten dollars a barrel, he having been appraised of the situation of the army, well knew I would give him any price to relieve their wants.... The fellow would skin his Savior to satiate his avarice. I shall have the whole of the flour at Fort Deposit this week, 100 barrels by the night I hope-- I shall start a drove of cattle this week and one next week, with some hogs....I have 50 or 60000 pounds of meal....

November 10, 1813

James. -Lost 15 dead and 87 wounded at Talladega. Returned to Strother to find no food. Only succor for 2000 men was a few cattle.

Parton. -Returned from Talladega to find no food.

Waldo. -On return from Talladega Jackson repaired to the bullock pen, and of the offal there thrown away, provided for himself and his staff, what he was pleased to call, a very comfortable repast. (Tripe)... Having returned to their tents the officers of the volunteer brigade....

Reid and Eaton. -On return from the battle of Talladega Jackson found, "Even his private stores brought on at his own expense and upon which he and his staff had hitherto wholly subsisted, had been, in his absence, distributed among the sick by the hospital surgeon, who had been previously instructed to do so..repaired to the bullock pen, and of the offal thrown away, provided for himself and his staff....

November 10, 1813 Jackson Correspondence. -When he left for Talladega, Gen. Jackson issued the following order: The commander in chief having to leave the present encampment for a few days, with all his disposable force, leaving a sufficient guard for the protection of the wounded, sick, and baggage, appoints to the command of the said guard and camp his chief engineer, Major Howel Tatum, and all his orders are to be respected and obeyed as coming from myself and signed by my proper signature, and said Major Tatum is charged with the disposition of the troops, left for the safety of the camp. The fortification will be prosecuted and as soon as Genl. White reaches the place, all his troop will be occupied in completing the fortification and the command will devolve on Gen. White, who will conform to the above order.....

November 12, 1813 Jackson Papers. -"The Adjutant Genl. will detail a sargeant and twelve men daily as a Quarter Masters Guard."

I hereby appoint John Allen Hospital Steward...
John Reid.

Jackson Papers. -Nashville, Tenn, To Genl Jackson.... I have purchased and forwarded for use of the army under your command, 3101 pounds of lead & 2222 pounds of powder- the powder, I am of the opinion, you will find is of the best quality. The medicine and Hospital stores as per bill.... I found no difficulty in furnishing every article except the butter & instead of 100 pounds, I could procure only 40 or 50 pounds. I have forwarded as a compliment one cheese, weighing 17 pounds for your private use....

W. B. Lewis

November 14, 1813 Jackson Correspondence. -There are several of the wounded whose death would be inevitable if moved....Departure to twodays if provisions did not arrive....Yesterday as was expected 45 beeves were brought into camp....I stated that informa-

tion that could be relied on had been given me that there were at Fort Deposit between 50000 and 60000 weight of meal and 266 barrels of flours....that upwards of 100 hogs were on the way which would be here tomorrow or the day after at farthest and often stating to them the impossibility of carrying on our baggage in the consequence of having dispatched the waggons for meal....

November 16, 1813 Parton. -109 volunteered to hold the fort.

November 16, 1813 Jackson Correspondence. -"...In the meantime I shall with forces here go on with the fortification I have begun, and continue to use every exertion for the attainment of the objective of the expedition."

November 17, 1813 James. -Jackson yielded and started back. 12 miles met 150 beeves and 9 waggons of flour...

Parton. -Jackson met supplies, 150 beeves 12 miles on the road.

November 18, 1813 Parton. -Jackson went on to Fort Deposit and found 200 pack horses and 40 waggons...

Jackson Correspondence. -"I left 150 to complete and defend Fort Strother...."

About

December 5, 1813 Waldo. -He now set out on his return to Fort Strother, and was delighted to find the progress of the works, the industry that had been used in his absence....

December 9, 1813 James. -Sunday night, 8PM, two small brass cannon trained on the men....

Jackson Correspondence. -Col. Martin in describing the mutiny, says, "About the usual time for lying down, General Hall came to my quarter...told me General Jackson had ordered the brigade to parade in front of the fort"....

Parton. -Artillery of two cannon. Line of volunteers stood along the western side of the fort. Jackson triumphed.

NOTE: Jackson correspondence from Nov. 4 to Dec. 1 is dated Camp Strother, and December correspondence is dated Fort Strother.

December 9, 1813 Jenkins.-Gen Hall to Jackson's tent...his whole brigade in state of mutiny. Jackson ordered officers and men of the 1st brigade to parade on the west side of the fort and await further orders. The artillery company with two small pieces was posted in front and rear. The

militia under the command of Col. Wynne were placed on the imminences in advance, were ordered to prevent any forcible departure of the volunteers. Jeneral Jackson rode along the line and addressed them...threatened to light the cannon.

Reid and Eaton. -Same as Jenkins.

December 10, 1813 Jackson Papers. -Major Gen. Andrew Jackson bought of Morgan and Smith:

1 barrel Coffee	274 lbs	.50	87.00
1 barrel Sugar	262 lbs	.30	78.60

December 11, 1813 Jackson Papers. -John Shelby, Hospital Surgeon

Jackson Corresp.-...the fort which I erected at this place and that which I erected at Deposit will be of great value for the protection of our future supplies; and I shall therefore keep them up....

December 12, 1813 James. -Cocke of East Tennessee marched in with 1450 troops.

Jackson Corresp.-Generals Cocke and White have joined me today with 1450 of as fine looking troops as you ever saw...We have a bountiful supply of beef and pork, and expect after Genl Cocke a further supply of one hundred odd beeves."

Parton. -Cocke arrived with 2000 men (now total 3000. Horse in Huntsville) Jackson kept 800 who had 30 days to serve and sent 1200 to the settlements.

December 18, 1813 Jackson Papers. -The stewart of the Hospittle will issue 1 quart of spirits for the sick of the 2 regt of Tennessee.

December 25, 1813 Jackson Papers. -Report of provisions at Fort Strother Dec. 24, 1813, Genl Roberts brigade having drawn for the 25th and 26 th.

3 smal and 3 large barrels of flour	1540
20 barrels of corn meal	2750
180 hogs	23480
35 barrels of salt	

Total 127770

The report of hogs and cattle is as correct as can be ascertained by those who have care of them....

John Dixon, Agt. for the contr.

December 27, 1813 Jackson Papers. -Leroy Pope and John Brahan write from Huntsville, ..."To major Anthony. Sir: Your favor of this date requesting us to

give a statement of supplies which will be in our power to furnish the army under the command of General Jackson by the 20th of January ensuing. With the present stock at headquarters and what we are confident will be in our power in a few days, we shall be able at least to furnish the following number of rations to Fort Strother by the 20th of January if transportation can be had from Fort Deposit viz

Meat Rations	260 000
Corn Meal do	40 000
200 barrels flour (say)	40 000
Whiskey	64 000
Soap	60 000
Salt plenty	

In addition to the above we have reason to believe we shall be able to furnish from 500 to 1000 barrels of flour at Fort Deposit

- December 30, 1813 Jackson Papers. -From Fort Deposit John Reid writes to Jackson. "A great deal of meal and flour here...the buildings in this place are not sufficient for provisions on hand. Not enough wagons. Fifty to one hundred bushels of meal not fit to send to Strother. Meal in large garner spoils..."
- Col. Carrol writes from Huntsville that axes are not to be had...
- The contractor will issue one barrel of flour for use of the sick. John Allen Hosp Stewart
- December 31, 1813 The contractor will issue 8 lbs. meal, 3 of beef for use of the sick.
John Allen Hosp Stewart
- January 3, 1814 Jackson Papers.-Jackson Papers.-Genl Jackson, Fort Strother. Agreeable to your order this day we have proceeded to inspect the cattle brought here last night by Vincent Binnit(Quartermaster agent from F. Armstrong) I be leave to report that we found 113 head were adjudged good at 350 pounds each & 43 unfit for use.
Chanler Levi, Wm Fillard, William Bradley
- January 4, 1814 Parton. -600 militia marched homeward.
- January 14, 1814 Jackson Papers.-The quartermaster will deliver to Jim Fife, a friendly Indian, a blanket, as pay for keeping three public horses.
Robert Searcy, Aide de Camp
- Parton. -800 Cocke's men marched homeward.
- James. -For a few hours Jackson had 130 men,

including a cavalry company under Coffee. 800 recruits arrived.

January 15, 1814 Parton. -Jackson had at Strother 900 raw recruits.

January 21, 1814 James. -Jackson and his raw recruits bivouacked at Emuckfaw Creek, 70 miles from Strother and three miles from Horseshoe Bend.

January 22, 1814 Battle of Enotachopco near Horseshoe Bend.

February 2, 1814 Jackson Papers. - The Quartermaster Genl will furnish these articles for use of the Hospital as soon as practicable.

200 pounds Brown Sugar

100 pounds Coffee

30 gallons wine, part of it can be procured
Shelby MD Surgeon Genl, Confirmed, A. Jackson

February 6, 1814 Parton. -39th Regiment of U. S. Infantry arrived at Fort Strother. Soon arrive a part of Coffee's old brigade of horse and a troop of dragoons from East Tennessee. Choctaw Indians also joined. Before the end of February, Jackson was head of an army of 5000. Accumulating 20 days rations and complete preparations required six weeks and to the middle of March.

Jackson Papers. -The issueing commissary will give three gallons of whiskey to the Indians for bringing a boat to its proper place.

A. Potter, Qm Gen.

Jackson Papers. -Fort Strother. To Messers Pope & Brahan for Ward and Taylor. Gentlemen, The enclosed estimate of rations on hand will show you the state of provisions at this place.... that 52,000 of the meat rations are in the wood and are consequently uncertain and doubtful, but admitting the whole were here, they fall far short of my requisitions....will make a move on the 20th or 25th instant. I must have a deposit at this place of 30 days rations for 5000 men before that day....Andrew Jackson

February 8, 1814 Jackson Papers. -The quartermaster general will forthwith proceed to have 100,000 cartridges shotted. Twenty boats as per description furnished by the superintendent of the artificers and without delay have all arms in the armory put in complete repair.

Andrew Jackson, Maj Genl

- February 13, 1814 Jackson Papers. -To Major Bradley, Comdt Fort Deposit. Sir: In my last order...isend on the supplies of the 39th regt....you will therefore

send up his supplies as soon as possible... The pork ought to be up as soon as possible unless the superintending officer has it over smoke, in that event it ought to be continued over good smoke until his breadstuff is on- So soon as the pork is sufficiently dried, that it will save until it can reach hear send it on; You must make every exertion to have on the supplies...

Andrew Jackson, Maj Genl

- February 16, 1814 Jack. Corresp.-"... As soon as I can make a movement, I will be compelled to transport my provisions by water, to what is called the Three islands on the Coosa-There I must make a deposit of my provisions coming on.....This will on the East of the Coosa perfectly secure my rear..... I hope by this time there is one hundred and fifty waggons engaged on the different routes, that from Ross s to Fort Armstrong and from Deposit to this place...."
- February 17, 1814 Jack. Corresp.(Fort Strother)...."I have ardered my mounted men in the rear to advance down Cohauga scour as low as an east course will strike the old coosa towns, and up to this place.....I shall have twenty boats in the water here by the 20th and 25th, I expect from 10 to 15 well loaded down the coosa from Fort Armstrong and new Deposit on the conetrauga. I expect employed on the two routs 160 waggons. I have labouring on the different routs five hundred men repairing opening and bridging the large creeks, that has delayed the passage of the waggons this number of waggons will soon bring up the supples, as soon as they are in motion and the roads are repaired I shall have all my fixed ammunition ready if a supply of cartridge paper can be got up in time..."
- February 21, 1814 Parton Vol. I.-....now were put forth on every hand, the the most prodigious effort to collect the requisite supples.....The difficulty of forwarding supplies may be inferred from the fact, that over many forest roads at that wet season, four horses could with difficulty draw four barrels of flour, Jackson set 500 men at work improving the road between his depot at Fort Deposit and his camp at Fort Strother. He prohibited the transposrtation of whiskey and every other article not strictly indespensible, and sent strong guards with each wagon train to assist the teamsters. Yet, with all their efforts, it required seven days for a wagon train

to perform one journey, between the two posts; and not one wagon succeeded in bringing more than eight barrels of flours or 1600 pounds of pork. The troops not thus employed was engaged, meanwhile, in constructing boats in which to convey supplies for the projected expedition down the Coosa.....All the wounded, the sick, and the invalids.

February 21, 1814 Parton Vol I.-Jackson letter..."I am exerting every nerve to get up the supplies, to make a speedy movement. The incessant rains and high water has prevented the passage of my supplies, and the want of axes has delayed the bridging of the creeks, and the want of hemp has delayed the completion of the boats. I just learned that the hemp is on the way. I expected it up a week ago. I made a requisition of 2000 lbs of good powder, & 4000 lbs lead, it is on the way, thirty days' provisions with the requisition of powder and lead, and I will with the continuation of the smiles of heaven to move with vigor and terminate the war in that time."

February 23, 1814 Jackson Papers.-Fort Strother, To Major James Baxter, "A few days since was delivered from your department 154 hogs and the drivers went off before I knew it or I should have wrote you. I learn this evening from a letter recd from Major Clark, that you were forwarding 80 bbls meal, first intended for this place, that afterwards it was discovered to be injured & that you had directed him not to forward it. Major Clark writes me he has boats ready for corking that will bring to this place 600 bbls of flour and meal. Could you push on from that place 600 bbls flour and good meal on the receipt of the information that it was on the way or 400 and prospects of 200 following speedily after I would order up the army to commence active operations, and depend upon your exertions for the balance. With the exertions of Jack Hutchings, whom I have prevailed on to and did aid the quartermaster department. He reached me last evening at 3 oclock, had a house half bule finished and covered in before he went to bed, and thereby saves 20,000 rations of meat that the inclement rains of last night, today and tonight would have ruined. He left me this morning at 9 oclock to hasten up the supplies. You and him I know can keep me supplied and I will move as soon as you can advise me that supplies from wing of the army. .. Lord's sake send.....with certainty reach Fort Armstrong from then thither they can be brought in 30 hrs.
Andrew Jackson Maj Genl

February 28, 1814 Jack Corresp.- Jackson writing from Strother to Carroll.....leaving the powder that may be there carefully stored, bringing with him every pound of lead that can be had, to the amount of 4,000 pounds....I have a bountiful supply of powder, but want lead, every pound that can be brought up must be.....

Jackson Papers.- Fort Strother. To Major James Baxter. Yours of the 22nd inst..... Bacon is the main thing. It saves carriage and health of the troops, half a pound is a good ration and the contractor having failed must pay for it. The loss of fresh pork must be great when we start our army. They will be lost and the difficulty of driving and cleaning will be immense, but meat you must have.....

Andrew Jackson, Maj Genl

Jackson Papers.-.... My boats have been ready for corking for several days and my hemp delayed by high water. The Coosa is many feet higher than it has been in several years.

February 28, 1814 Jackson Papers.- Fort Strother. To Maj Gen Thomas Pinckney Sir.... My quartermaster advises me that there are 150 waggons that will be on two routes. This transportation will afford me a sufficient supply of breadstuff and my meat must be brought on foot.....the agents have none salted, the season is too far advanced to depend on salting now and my whole dependence must be on fresh beef and pork until I can reach the supply of beef cattle to be brought by the Quartermaster. They are now thin but will improve with the grazing.....

Respectfully, Andrew Jackson, Maj Genl

March 1, 1814

Jackson Papers.- Huntsville Ala. to Gen Jackson. Dear Sir.... left Fort Strother I met some pack horses with hemp, say a part, the other in waggons about twenty miles from Camp Deposit.

On the subject of powder and lead I have only to state that one of the waggons on the road there was 1,300 hundred wt of powder, as to the lead I am not able to to give you a correct account as there is some on the road and some at this place. There is about 6,000 musket flints on the way and a further supply of 2,000 coming from Nashville. As to waggons I pass on the way from Fort Strother or Camp deposit about 40, between Camp Deposit and Huntsville say six, a number of them waiting here for shoeing horses, and other

repairing. These waggons I will hurry on ??? which will bring the breadstuff that is at Camp Deposit not quite 400 bbls of Flour. There is expected a further supply of say 200 bbls--on the subject of pack horses-by information from the men of Major Brooly there is about the same number that is fit for the roads- But there appears to be a deficiency of pack saddles. I could muster on 25 in number and them wanting cruppers and lashing rope.

I saw a number of horse shoes in the quarter-master store at Fort Strother. If you on inquiry find that they will not be wanting them there it will be well to send them to Camp D. in order that the waggons horses should not be detained for the want of shoes. Major Haskell has sent on 500 wt of iron to be divided between the Fort....

Respt yours, Major I Hutchings

March 2, 1814

Jackson Papers.- From Fort Deposit to Gen Jackson. Dear Genl, The contractor have just sent up 4000 lbs of nice cured bacon to this place, and I have ordered Col Pope to put it in one half pound to the ration and the men appear to be very satisfied about it.....The men contend for 3/4 of a pound.....

I R. Atkins, Agent of the contractors.

March 2, 1814

Jackson Corresp. - The topographer will furnish each General of Brigade, and Col Williams with the plan of encampment and line of march agreeable to the foregoing order.

March 12, 1814

Jackson Papers.- From Fort Deposit to Genl Jackson. I came to this place last evening, Have been detained by high waters.....On hand here 564 barrels of Flour and 80 barrels kiln dried meal, total 644 barrels.....and in boats 454 barrels in addition to the above. There was last night in pen here 152 steers....in the night broke out, this morning about half have been found....also at Thompson's between 60 and 70 steers that have been driven from the lower part of the Cherokee nation. Both of these will be sent on tomorrow morning.....John Coffee

March 14, 1814

Jackson Papers.- Fort Strother. Report of flour on hand. 276 barrels Flour ea 174 rations 48,024 To Genl Jackson, John P. Hickman Gen Contractor

Jackson Papers.- Report of flour recieved Fort Strother this day since my last report of flour

on hand.

53 barrels x 174 rations 9222 rations
P. Hickman Agent Contractor

Jackson Papers.- Fort Strother. Report of flour on hand. on this the 13th day of March, 1814
275 barrels flour ea. 174 rations 48,024
To Gen Jackson, Thos Ricman ? agent of contractors

Jackson Papers.- Return of provisions on hand on March 13, 1814 at Camp Hamilton committed to the Q.M. 39th Infantry.

	Bbls	lbs	No.	No.	Men	Remarks
		Flour	Rations	Days		
Pork	14000		18666	32	574	Generally good
Flour		32928	29269	51	574	Not examined
Guy Smith Q.M. 39th Regt US Inf						

March 14, 1814

Basset.- John Woods executed.

Jackson Correp.- From Fort Strother..."I shall leave 450 men at this place, to defend the fort, guard and bring up supplies and push them on to the next Deposit. This will be established at the mouth of cedar creek (Fort Williams)...a part of my troops are crossing the river today on their march...I have ordered the line of march to be taken up at 12 oclock with seven days bread rations and two meat.....and owing to the badness of the roads and my having thirty miles of the road to cut, I do not calculate on arriving at my first point of destination in less than six days.....Maj Gen Andrew Jackson

March 15, 1814

Bassett.- Jackson lead 3000 of the newly collected forces southward along the banks of the Coosa thirty miles to establish Fort Williams. Sixty miles from Fort Williams to Horseshoe Bend.

March 15, 1814

James.- Jackson had asked for 5000 men. He got them hastily raised and poorly equipped.

March 16, 1814

Fort Strother. On weighing and taking account of the Bacon and dried Beef intended to go on board the boats we find the results as follows, viz
23 096 lbs of smoaked Bacon
5 396 lbs of dried Beef
Hugh Kerr Act Cont Agent

March 17, 1814

Fort Williams. To Genl Jackson. I arrived at This place last evening....forwarding on the provisions at this place to your army. By the boats commanded by Major Martin I sent 15 271 ? Bacon, 1732 ? Beef, four B Salt, 303 bbls of breadstuff (& three bbls of whiskey which came down from Fort Armstrong.....I leave at this place upwards

of 200 head of beef cattle, they are generally poore, but the range is good & they will be fat to feed the troops...I shall start to Fort Strother early in the morning & forward on all the provisions that have arrived at that place. The boats built on the plan which I recommended when I ??? to answer the valuable purpose and will do away with the necessity of having any waggons on this side of the Coosa. I have yet at Deposit 500 B flour & some corn meal & I think we shall be able to feed you unless means of transporatation fail..... Jno Richardson

March 22, 1814

Jackson Coresp.- To Thomas Pinckney. From "Fort Williams 59 miles below Fort Strother" Sir, I reaches this place in safety on the forenoon yesterday..... Andrew Jackson

March 24, 1814

Jack Corrsp.- ...I took up the line of march from this place (Fort Williams) on the 20th instant, and having opened a passage of fifty two and a half miles over the ridges which divide the waters of the two rivers....(arrived H.S.Bend)...on the morning of the 27th.....

March 27, 1814

James.= Jackson arrived at Horseshoe Bend.

April 1, 1814

Parton.- Five days march Horseshoe B. to arrive Fort Will.

April 4, 1814

Jackson Papers.- Fort Strother. To Maj Genl Andrew Jack. I have started 34 waggons from the other bank of the Coosa this morning loaded with- 132 barles of flōwer & 13902 of Bacon and one loaded with ammunition....balance of my men is all engaged loading waggons except what is about bilding peranges and bots and loading.....

Robert Steele C.C. of F. Strother

April 6, 1814

Jackson Papers.- Fort Williams. Sgt Barrett and his company will take charge of the waggons and act as a guard to them to Fort Strother, form which place they will act as a waggon guard to Fort Deposit and continue to perform the duty until the 18th instant at which time you will give each man an honorable discharge. The men will be entitled to one days pay and rations for every 15 miles travelling from Deposit home. In leaving the service you go with the thanks and good wishes of your General and for

April 6, 1814

Parton.- Jackson and his men rested for five days at Fort Williams and on April 6th set out on march through pathless wilderness.....each man carrying 8 days provisions on his back.

- April 15, 1814 Parton.- Approximate time of arrival at Holy Ground. There Jackson established Fort Jackson on the site of old Fort Toulouse at the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers.
- April 20, 1814 Parton.- General Pinckney arrived at Fort Jackson
- April 21, 1814 Parton.- General Jackson marched with his troops toward Fort Williams
- April 24, 1814 Parton.- General Jackson arrived at Fort Williams
- April 25, 1814 Jackson Papers.- From Fort Strother to Brig. Genl Thomas Johnson (now at Fort Williams) Sir, You will receive by Ensign McGhee one large boat loaded as follows; One hundred & sixty seven barrles of breadstuff; eleven barrels Bacon & eleven hundred & seventy eight whole pieces of Bacon, five pieces castings & one axe. The boat and loading all landed here this morning from Fort Armstrong. Ther is another small boat expected this day or tomorrow from Fort Armstrong loaded principal with breadstuff. Several waggons expected in today or tomorrow from Fort Deposit loaded with flour and Bacon. We have here on hand about fifty or sixty barrels of Bread stuffs and about 1000 lbs of Bacon. I started on yesterday 249 head of Hogs; there appears from every information I can get that the army will be supplied...(men want to leave to make a crop when their time is up on the 28 th instant)... I have understood from Dr. Punchedard that he has a great inclination to continue in service five or six month longer in case there is a vacancy for him and he is willing to be stationed at any of the post that is necessary to be kept up as Hospital Surgeon or Hospital Surgeon's mate he is a young man. Further strict attention he has paid to my regiment & to Hospital at this place. Merrets attention....Obt Servant Robt Steele. C.C. of Fort Strother
- April 25, 1814 Jackson Corresp. -Jackson from Fort Williams. "...For the defence of the posts and to keep up the line of communication, I shall leave 400 men at this place, 250 at Fort Strother, 75 at Fort Armstrong, and Capt Hammonds company of ranger at Fort Deposit, under command of proper officers.the remainder of my troops to Tennessee and discharge them. After which I must no longer be considered accountable for the manner in which the posts are maintained...."
- May 1, 1814 Jackson Papers. -Letters and orders of this date show Coffee and Jackson are both at Fort Strother this day, enroute to Tennessee.

This meant that considerable space was occupied by 1,000 horses. On the journey to Strother the whole troop took in their bags a half-bushel of shelled corn for the journey. On arrival at Fort Strother and while idle the horses would graze but in January and February, the grazing would require a corn supplement and on the march to Horseshoe Bend they would again carry at least 500 bushels of corn in their bags. More would have to be transported on pack horses or in wagons for that march. It is likely that the Third Brigade camp had at least three log corn cribs 12' X 14' holding 1,000 bushels of corn each, General Jackson was determined to have a three week supply of everything before moving down the Coosa. That would require 1,500 bu. and a corn supplement for idle horses: for two months would require 1,500 bu. to make a minimum of 3,000 bushels.

About March 1, 1814, there were 150 four-horse wagons engaged on four-day (one way) trips to Fort Deposit and Fort Armstrong. Apparently one-fourth or at least 37 wagons and 148 horses must have been at Fort Strother every day. One mention of 200 pack horses being at Fort Deposit would indicate the probability of 50 pack horses being at Fort Strother every day. The cavalry horses, the wagon horses and the pack horses would make a total minimum horse population at Fort Strother of about 1,200 animals.

The wagons would require a large wagon yard and several, say four, blacksmith shops. A blacksmith shop could operate in the open, without a roof but due to prevalent rains recorded it is likely that they were under shingle-roof sheds about 10' X 12' without walls. The replacement of worn and lost horse shoes, the repair of wagons new wheels, new tires, broken boxes, axles and tongues made blacksmith shops very busy places and indispensable to the whole operation. The wagon and pack horses would require a large corral, at least one corn crib 12' X 14', and some pasturage if possible.

It is likely that each company of mounted men had a blacksmith and a shop in their camp to shoe the horses of their company. Each company could seek grazing for its horses and drive their horses to such pasturage. All grass land within several miles of the fort would be used. The historian writes that some pasturage was found across the Coosa from the fort.

The waterfront on the Coosa was a busy place. Wharves would be constructed with lods. On February 8, 1814, General Jackson ordered the building of twenty boats as per description furnished by his superintendent of artificers. They must be ready when he moved down the Coosa to establish Fort Williams to transport as many provisions by water as possible. We do not know the size of the twenty boats but those arriving at Fort Williams on March 16, 1814 carried 15,271 pounds of bacon, 7,732 pounds of beef, four barrels of salt, 303 barrels of breadstuff, and three barrels of whiskey. A total of at least 77,000 pounds.

General Jackson apparently had skilled shipwrights at Fort Strother and Fort Armstrong. His shipwrights and ship commanders would be men of much experience on the Tennessee River. One large boat commanded by Design McGhee landed at Fort Strother and was forwarded to Fort Williams with the following cargo:

167 barrels of flour	192	32,064 pounds
11 " of bacon	100	2,200 "

stores included a cooper's adze. Fort Strother must have had a cooperage shop to repair and replace damaged and broken barrels. Hauling by wagon and boat of heavily loaded barrels would cause much replacement and repair. It seems that a 12' X 14' building would be adequate for the cooperage shop.

The volunteers of Jackson's army, frontier woodsmen and farmers came with their own clothes, guns and shoes. They came with muskets rifles and shotguns. On November 7, 1813 General Jackson ordered the generals of each brigade to report to him the number of cartridges and rounds of ammunition in the possession of each man (3000) and arms fit for duty.

A contractor reported he was sending 2,222 pounds of powder of the best quality. This would be about twenty-five 87 lb. kegs. Powder requires special care and must have dry storage. Possibly a log blockhouse 12' X 12' was erected within the picketing, and somewhat isolated from the other buildings, to store powder which probably never exceeded 5,300 lb. or about 60 kegs.

General Jackson mentioned his armory. 3,101 lbs of lead arrived in November, 1813. The inventory of lead reached about 6,500 lbs by March 1814. Lead was in the form of shot, cartridges, small bars and pigs. This would be stored in the armory. The armory had an inventory that included cartridge paper, more than 6,000 musket flints, muskets, shotguns, rifles, rifle barrels, and musket barrels.

On February 8, 1814, 100,000 cartridges were ordered shotted and all arms in the armory were to be put in complete repair. The repair of artillery was no problem for they had only two small cannon, but the armory was a busy place. It must have employed several artificers in the repair of the defective or damaged guns of the 3,500 to 4,000 armed men. The armory building would likely require two log buildings about 12' X 12'.

A review of the small amount of food issued the hospital seems to indicate a very small hospital population. General Jackson sent the sick and wounded to the settlements as soon as possible. A doctor reported the care of many of his men in Huntsville. On Nov. 10, 1813, the 87 men wounded at Talladega and brought back to Strother and the numerous sick that he had left at the fort when he marched to Talladega would be possibly the largest number in the hospital unless there were more when about April 10, 1814 the 157 men wounded at Horseshoe Bend arrived at Strother. Measels was mentioned at Fort Deposit but not at Strother. However if measels did break out the hospital was a busy place. In November or April most of the sick and wounded could have been made very comfortable in tents. However there must have been log hospital buildings surrounded by tents. Even 100 hospital inmates would require considerable space. A room 15' X 15' would accommodate only 8 cots or pallets. A series of eight such rooms, separate buildings, or connected under one roof, would provide a surgeon's room, a kitchen, and about 50 beds. Adjacent to these log buildings twenty-five tents with two beds would provide 50 beds.

The records indicate that on November 7, 1813, there were 1,000 mounted men at Fort Strother meaning that there were at least 1,000 horses there. In December General Jackson sent them to Huntsville to find food for man and horse. Apparently they returned about January 6, 1814.

from 3 P.M. to bedtime and thereby saving 10,000 pounds of meat from spoiling by rain. Housing to protect 64,000 lbs would require at least 1,280 square feet of space. This could be done with six log houses approximately 14' X 14'.

Salt was necessary in preserving meat and every soldier and live animal must have some salt daily. Indications are that the inventory of salt was about 40 barrels. This storage, and it must be dry, would require another building 14' X 14'.

Records of arrival and inventory indicate that the stock of breadstuffs at Fort Strother varied. There were 26 barrels of flour on hand Dec. 25 1813, 649 barrels on March 13, 1814, and 279 barrels on June 30, 1814. Undoubtedly breadstuff had to be housed. The storage had to be dry. Much spoilage is recorded. This was likely caused by rain and poorly protected wagon transportation and shipping on the river. A minimum of 720 square feet of space, say three log buildings 12' X 20' would be required for flour. Indications of a inventory of 60 barrels of corn meal would require another building 12' X 20'.

A requisition for 64,000 rations of whiskey, the indicated need of 2,000 gallons per week for 5,000 men, the issues of wine and whiskey recorded, and the stock on hand on June 30, 1814 of 26 barrels of whiskey would apparently necessitate a building for storage and issue of spirits. The Quartermaster would likely see that it was locked and well guarded. A building of 144 square feet or 12' X 12' would seem to suffice.

A quartermaster store is mentioned in a report of an officer. Records indicate that the stock of this store would include the following items. At least 300 yards of country linen, sewing thread, blankets, needles, buttons, hundreds of pieces of tin-ware (pots, pans, etc.) pewter plates, knives, forks, spoons, brass kettles, iron kettles, (to render lard) stationery, common paper, ink powder, sugar in 262 lb. barrels, coffee in 274 lb barrels (no indication of prevalent use of coffee) 1,500 lbs of soap, at least 1,000 lbs of nails including horse-shoe nails, 1,000 lbs of bar iron, (wagon ties) 93 castings, (wheel boxes and axle repair of wagons) many horse collars and pads, dozens of hames, dozens of trace chains, wagon harness, pack saddles, cruppers, repair leather, coils of rope, and coils of cable rope. This would require a relatively large building, say 20' X 60'.

There were so many tools that it was likely that the quartermaster had a tool house, say 14' X 14' with a man in charge to receive and issue tools. The inventory would include broad axes, falling axes, fronies for splitting shakes (shingles), drawing knives, dozens of large and small chisels, iron wedges, crosscut saws, handsaws, crosscut saw handles, dozens of foot adze and coopers adze, hook and gams, cant hooks, braces, dozens of bits, over 100 augers and quarter augers, caulking, caulking chisels, grindstones, mill pecks, mattocks, grubbing hoes, broad hoes, spades, shovels, blacksmith tools including bellows, anvil, tongs and at least one complete set. Files, including crosscut, hand-saw, half-round, flat, hoof rasp, and wood rasp were stocked by the dozens.

It is apparent that almost all provisions were shipped in barrels and kegs. Coopers were skilled artisans. An inventory of quartermaster

SUMMARY AND SOME CONCLUSIONS
June 30, 1968

The summary of the foregoing will not include a description of the Creek campaign but will be confined largely to a description of Fort Strother. General Andrew Jackson arrived at the Ten Islands on the Coosa River on November 1, 1813, with 3000 men, including 1000 cavalry and mounted riflemen. He began immediately the construction of a fort "with strong pickets and blockhouses". Three thousand men, all frontier woodsmen and farmers, all familiar with axe and adze, could cut many trees, erect picketing, and build several blockhouses in a short while. General Jackson reported that by sunset on November 7, work was well advanced. On that day three parade grounds were ready for use and were used, one by 600 men, one by 1400 men and the third by 1000 mounted men. Records, letters and orders indicate that the officers and men resided in tents and did not build houses and huts for themselves.

The forces dwindled to 130 men on Jan. 14, 1814. General Jackson had consistent trouble in the procuring of provisions and supplies but in spite of lack of men and supplies, he ordered, "the fortification will be prosecuted". He wrote, "the fort I have erected at this place ...will be of great value for the reception and protection of our future supplies."

Let us now examine the elements vital to an army that would determine the size and characteristics of the fort was their base of operation for a military campaign. These elements would include meat, bread-stuffs, guns, ammunition, hospital supplies, miscellaneous supplies, horses, wagons, cooperage, and boats. Let us consider meat first. For their meat in 1813 an army depended on live beef, dried beef, live pork, salt pork, and bacon. In pork the stated preference was bacon. Driving the hogs and the butchering of them was time consuming and the loss of strays in the woods was great. Records of arrivals and inventory indicate that the hog and cattle population of Fort Strother varied from 100 hogs and 150 beeves in November, 1813 to approximately 400 hogs and 400 beeves on about March 15, 1814. Some records indicate that cattle arrived poor but would fatten good on the grazing. It is likely that the cattle were tended by mounted cowboys (an appellation of later years) and were driven to nearby meadows and open land for grazing. The hogs would be tended by drovers on foot. They would be driven to the hardwood forests if available, for hogs could flourish on acorns, roots and herbs.

However there would be a bullock pen and a hog pen, some distance from the camp because of odor, where the livestock could be fattened a few days before killing. These pens and the butchering facilities would occupy at least one acre and have a barn or corn crib and space to cut and prepare meat with protection from the rain. It seems that a log corn crib of say 12' X 14' and a butcher house of like size would be necessary.

Records of arrivals and inventory indicate that there was on hand at Fort Strother on March 16, 1814, 64,000 pounds of salt pork, bacon and dried beef. At 1600 lbs per wagon this would be 40 wagon loads. This meat had to be protected from the rain. On Feb. 13, 1814, General Jackson wrote of Jack Hutchings finishing and covering a house

exaggerated statements have been published, consisted, when it joined the army last fall, of about 550—instead of 800. And now consists of about 400. The statement, therefore, of 600 having been swept away by a destructive malady, &c. is nearly 450 from the truth.

Copy of a letter from general Jackson, of the Tennessee volunteers to general Pinckney.

Head-Quarters, Fort Strother, Jan. 29.

Maj. Gen. Thos. Pinckney,

Sir, I had the honor of informing you in a letter of the 31st ult. forwarded by Mr. McCandles [express] of an excursion I contemplated making still further into the enemy's country, with the new raised volunteers from Tennessee. I had ordered those troops to form a junction with me on the 10th inst. but they did not arrive until the 14th. Their number, including officers, was about 800; and on the 15th I marched them across the river to graze their horses. On the next day I followed with the remainder of my force, consisting of the artillery company, with one 6 pounder, one company of infantry of 48 men, two companies of spies, commanded by captains Gordon and Russel, of about 30 men each, and a company of volunteer officers, headed by general Coffee, who had been abandoned by his men, and who still remained in the field awaiting the order of the government; making my force exclusive of indians, 930.

The motives which influenced me to penetrate still further into the enemy's country, with this force, were many and urgent. The term of service of the new raised volunteers was short, and a considerable part of it was expired; they were expensive to the government, and were full of ardor to meet the enemy. The ill effects of keeping soldiers of this description long stationary and idle, I had been made to feel but too sensible already—other causes concurred to make such a movement not only justifiable but absolutely necessary. I had received a letter from captain McAlpin of the 5th instant, who commanded at Fort Armstrong in the absence of colonel Snodgrass, informing me that 14 or 15 towns of the enemy, situated on the waters of the Tallapoosa, were about uniting their forces and attacking that place, which had been left in a very feeble state of defence. You had in your letter of the 24th ult. informed me that general Floyd was about to make a movement to the Tallapoosa near its junction with the Cousee; and in the same letter had recommended temporary excursions against such of the enemy's towns or settlements as might be within striking distance, as well to prevent my men from becoming discontented as to harass the enemy. Your ideas corresponded exactly with my own, and I was happy in the opportunity of keeping my men engaged, distressing the enemy, and at the same time making a diversion to facilitate the operations of general Floyd.

Determined by these and other considerations, I took up the line of march on the 17th inst. and on the night of the 18th encamped at Talledega Fort, where I was joined by between 2 and 300 friendly indians: 65 of whom were Cherokees, the balance Creeks. Here I received your letter of the 9th inst. stating that general Floyd was expected to make a movement from Cowetau the next day, and that in 18 days thereafter he would establish a firm position at Tuckabotchee; and also a letter from colonel Snodgrass, who had returned to Fort Armstrong, informing me that an attack was intended soon to be made on that Fort by 500 of the enemy. If I could have hesitated before, I could now hesitate no longer. I resolved to lose no time in meeting this force, which was understood to have been collected

from New Yorcau, Oakfuskee and Ufauley towns, and were concentrated in the bend of the Tallapoosa, near the mouth of the creek called Emuckfau, on an island below New Yorcau.

On the morning of the 29th your letter of the 10th inst. forwarded by Mr. McCandles, reached me at the Hillabee Creek, and that night I encamped at Entochapeco, a small Hillabee village about twelve miles from Emuckfau. Here I began to perceive very plainly how little knowledge my spies had of the country, of the situation of the enemy, or of the distance I was from them. The insubordination of the new troops and the want of skill in most of their officers; also became more and more apparent. But their ardor to meet the enemy was not diminished; and I had a sure reliance upon the guards; and a company of old volunteer officers, and upon the spies, in all about 125. My wishes and my duty remained united, and I was determined to effect, if possible, the objects for which the excursion had been principally undertaken.

On the morning of the 21st, I marched from Entochapeco, as direct as I could for the bend of the Tallapoosa, and about 2 o'clock, P. M. my spies having discovered two of the enemy, endeavored to catch them but failed. In the evening I fell in upon a large trail, which led to a new road, much beaten and lately travelled. Knowing that I must have arrived within the neighborhood of a strong force, and it being late in the day, I determined to encamp, and reconnoitre the country in the night. I chose the best scite the country would admit, encamped in a hollow square, sent out my spies and pickets, doubled my sentinels and made the necessary arrangements before dark, for a night attack. About 10 o'clock at night, one of the pickets fired at three of the enemy and killed one, but he was not found until the next day. At 11 o'clock, the spies whom I had sent out returned with the information, that there were a large encampment of indians at the distance of about three miles, who from their whooping and dancing seemed to be apprized of our approach. One of these spies, an Indian in whom I had great confidence, assured me that they were carrying off their women and children, and that the warriors would either make their escape or attack me before day. Being prepared at all points, nothing remained to be done but await their approach, if they meditated an attack, or to be in readiness, if they did not, to pursue and attack them at day light. While we were in this state of readiness, the enemy about 6 o'clock in the morning commenced a vigorous attack on my left flank, which was vigorously met; the action continued to rage on my left flank, and on the left of my rear for about half an hour. The brave general Coffee, with colonel Sittler, the adjutant-general, and colonel Carroll, the inspector-general, the moment the firing commenced, mounted their horses and repaired to the line, encouraging and animating the men to the performance of their duty. So soon as it became light enough to pursue, the left wing having sustained the heat of the action and being somewhat weakened, was reinforced by captain Ferrill's company of infantry, and was ordered and led on to the charge by general Coffee, who was well supported by colonel Higgins and the inspector-general, and by all the officers and privates who composed that line. The enemy was completely routed at every point, and the friendly indians joining in the pursuit, they were chased about two miles with great slaughter.

The chase being over, I immediately detached general Coffee with 400 men and all the Indian force to burn their encampment; but it was said by some to be fortified. I ordered him, in that event, not to

attack it, until the artillery could be sent forward to reduce it. On viewing the encampment and its strength, the general thought it most prudent to return to my encampment and guard the artillery thither. The wisdom of this step was soon discovered—in half an hour after his return to camp, a considerable force of the enemy made its appearance on my right flank, and commenced a brisk fire on a party of men who had been on picket guard the night before, and were then in search of the Indians they had fired upon, some of whom they believe had been killed. General Coffee immediately requested me to let him take 200 men and turn their left flank, which I accordingly ordered; but, through some mistake, which I did not then observe, not more than fifty-four followed him, among whom were the old volunteer officers. With these, however, he immediately commenced an attack on the left flank of the enemy; at which time I ordered 200 of the friendly Indians to fall in upon the right flank of the enemy, and co-operate with the general. This order was promptly obeyed, and in the moment of its execution what I expected was realized. The enemy had intended the attack on the right as a feint, and, expecting to direct all my attention thither, meant to attack me again and with their main force on the left flank, which they had hoped to find weakened and in disorder—they were disappointed. I had ordered the left flank to remain firm to its place, and the moment the alarm gun was heard in that quarter, I repaired thither, and ordered captain Ferrill, part of my reserve, to support it. The whole line met the approach of the enemy with astonishing intrepidity, and having given a few fires, they forthwith charged with great vigor—The effect was immediate and inevitable. The enemy fled with precipitation, and were pursued to a considerable distance, by the left flank and the friendly Indians, with a galling and destructive fire. Colonel Carroll, who ordered the charge, led on the pursuit, and colonel Higgins and his regiment again distinguished themselves.

In the mean time general Coffee was contending with a superior force of the enemy. The Indians who I had ordered to his support, and who had set out for the purpose, hearing the firing on the left had returned to that quarter, and when the enemy were routed there entered into the chase. That being now over, I forthwith ordered Jim Fife, who was one of the principal commanders of the friendly Creeks, with one hundred of his warriors, to execute my first order; so soon as he reached general Coffee, the charge was made and the enemy routed: they were pursued about three miles, and forty-five of them slain, who were found. General Coffee was wounded in the body, and his aid-de-camp, A. Donaldson, killed, together with three others. Having brought in and buried the dead, and dressed the wounded, I ordered my camp to be fortified, to be the better prepared to repel any attack which might be made in the night; determined to commence a return march to fort Strother the following day. Many causes concurred to make such a measure necessary, as I had not set out prepared or with a view to make a permanent establishment, I considered it worse than useless to advance and destroy an empty encampment.

I had indeed, hoped to have met the enemy there, but having met and beaten them a little sooner, I did not think it necessary or prudent to proceed any further: not necessary, because I had accomplished all I could expect to effect by marching to their encampment; and because if it was proper to contend with and weaken their forces still farther, this object would be more certainly attained by commencing a return, which, having to them the ap-

pearance of a retreat, would inspire them to pursue me. Not prudent, because of the number of my wounded; of the reinforcements from below, which the enemy might be expected to receive; of the starving condition of my horses, they having had neither corn nor cane for two days and nights; of the scarcity of supplies for my men, the Indians who joined me at Talladega having drawn none, and being wholly destitute; and because, if the enemy pursued me, as it was likely they would, the diversion in favor of general Floyd would be the more complete and effectual. Influenced by these considerations, I commenced my return march at half after ten on the 23d, and was fortunate enough to reach Enotachopco before night, having passed without interruption a dangerous defile, occasioned by a hurricane. I again fortified my camp, and having another defile to pass in the morning, across a deep creek, and between two hills, which I had viewed with attention as I passed on, and where I expected I might be attacked, I determined to pass it at another point, and gave directions to my guide and fatigue men accordingly. My expectation of an attack in the morning was increased by the signs of the night, and with it my caution. Before I moved the wounded from the interior of my camp, I had my front and rear guards formed, as well as my right and left columns, and moved off my centre in regular order, leading down a handsome ridge to Enotachopco creek, at a point where it was clear of road, except immediately on its margin. I had previously issued a general order, pointing out the manner in which the men should be formed in the event of an attack on the front or rear, or on the flanks, and had particularly cautioned the officers to halt and form accordingly, the instant the word should be given.

The front guard had crossed with part of the flank columns, the wounded were over, and the artillery in the act of entering the creek, when an alarm gun was heard in the rear. I heard it without surprise, and even with pleasure, calculating with the utmost confidence on the firmness of my troops, from the manner in which I had seen them act on the 22d. I had placed colonel Carroll at the head of the centre column of the rear guard: its right column was commanded by colonel Perkins, and its left by colonel Stump. Having chosen the ground, I expected there to have entirely cut off the enemy by wheeling the right and left columns on their pivots, recrossing the creek above and below, and falling in upon their flanks and rear. But to my astonishment and mortification, when the word was given by col. Carroll to halt and form, and a few guns had been fired, I beheld the right and left columns of the rear guard precipitately give way. This shameful retreat was disastrous in the extreme: it drew along with it the greater part of the centre column, leaving not more than twenty-five men, who being formed by colonel Carroll, maintained their ground as long as it was possible to maintain it, and it brought consternation and confusion into the centre of the army, a consternation which was not easily removed, and a confusion which could not soon be restored to order. There was then left to repulse the enemy, the few who remained of the rear guard, the artillery company and captain Russell's company of spies. They however realized and exceeded my highest expectations. Lieutenant Armstrong, who commanded the artillery company in the absence of captain Deadrick, (confined by sickness) ordered them to form and advanced to the top of the hill, whilst he and a few others dragged up the six pounder. Never was more bravery displayed than on this occasion. Amidst the most galling fire from the enemy, more than ten times their number, they ascended the hill and

maintained their position until their piece was hauled up, when, having levelled it, they poured upon the enemy a fire of grape, reloaded and fired again, charged and repulsed them.

The most deliberate bravery was displayed by Constantine Perkins and Craven Jackson of the artillery, acting as gunners. In the hurry of the moment, in separating the gun from the limbers, the rammer and picker of the cannon were left tied to the limber: No sooner was this discovered, than Jackson, amidst the galling fire of the enemy, pulled out the barrel of his musket and used it as a picker; primed with a cartridge and fired the cannon. Perkins having pulled off his bayonet, used his musket as a rammer, drove down the cartridge; and Jackson using his former plan, again discharged her. The brave lieutenant Armstrong, just after the first fire of the cannon, with capt. Hamilton, of E. Tennessee, Bradford and McGovock, all fell, the lieutenant exclaiming as he lay, "my brave fellows, some of you may fall, but you must save the cannon." About this time, a number crossed the creek and entered into the chase. The brave capt. Gordon of the spies, who had rushed from the front, endeavored to turn the left flank of the enemy, in which he partially succeeded, and col. Carroll, col. Higgins, and capt. Elliot and Pipkins pursued the enemy for more than two miles, who fled in consternation throwing away their packs and leaving 26 of their warriors dead on the field. This last defeat was decisive, and we were no more disturbed by their yells. I should do injustice to my feelings if I omitted to mention that the venerable judge Cocke, at the age of 65, entered into the engagement, continued the pursuit of the enemy with youthful ardor, and saved the life of a fellow soldier by killing his savage antagonist.

Our loss in this affair was — killed and wounded; among the former was the brave capt. Hamilton, from East Tennessee, who had with his aged father and two others of his company, after the period of his engagement had expired, volunteered his services for this excursion, and attached himself to the artillery company. No man ever fought more bravely or died more gloriously; and by his side fell with equal bravery and glory, Bird Evans, of the same company. Captain Quarles, who commanded the centre column of the rear guard, preferring death to the abandonment of his post, having taken a firm stand in which he was followed by 25 of his men, received a wound in his head of which he has since died.

In these several engagements our loss was 20 killed and 75 wounded, 4 of whom have since died.— The loss of the enemy cannot be accurately ascertained; 189 of their warriors were found dead; but this must fall considerably short of the number really killed. Their wounded can only be guessed at.

Had it not been for the unfortunate retreat of the rear guard in the affair of the 24th inst. I think I could safely have said that no army of militia ever acted with more cool and deliberate bravery; undisciplined and inexperienced as they were, their conduct in the several engagements of the 22d could not have been surpassed by regulars. No men ever met the approach of an enemy with more intrepidity, or repulsed them with more energy. On the 24th, after the retreat of the rear guard, they seemed to have lost all their collectedness, and were more difficult to be restored to order than any troops I have ever seen. But this was no doubt owing in a great measure or altogether to that very retreat, and ought rather to be ascribed to the want of conduct in many of their officers than to any cowardice in the men, who on every occasion have manifested a willingness to perform their duty so far as they knew it.

All the effects which were designed to be produced by this excursion, it is believed have been produced. If an attack was meditated against fort Armstrong, that has been prevented. If general Floyd is operating on the east side of the Tallapoosa, as I suppose him to be, a most fortunate diversion has been made in his favor. The number of the enemy has been diminished, and the confidence they may have derived from the delays I have been made to experience, has been destroyed. Discontent has been kept out of my army, while the troops who would have been exposed to it have been beneficially employed. The enemy's country has been explored, and a road cut to the point where their force will probably be concentrated when they shall be driven from the country below. But in a report of this kind, and to you who will immediately perceive them, it is not necessary to state the happy consequences which may be expected to result from this excursion. Unless I am greatly mistaken, it will be found to have hastened the termination of the Creek war, more than any measure I could have taken with the troops under my command.

I am, sir, with sentiments of high respect your obedient servant,

ANDREW JACKSON, maj. gen.

NAVAL.

The *President* frigate com. *Rodgers*, has arrived at New-York, after a cruize of 70 days. We have not yet received particulars; but it is said she captured only three vessels.

A court-martial was lately held at Portsmouth, N. H. for the trial of William Harper, sailing-master in the United States navy, charged with cowardice in the action between the *Enterprize* and *Boxer*. He was acquitted in the most honorable manner. Captain *Hull* was president.

A New-York paper says—The extracts from London papers and Lloyd's lists, received by the *Ann Alexander*, furnish us for the last six weeks, up to the 24th of December, with the capture of ninety-six British merchant vessels, by American and French public and private armed vessels.

Five vessels arrived at Philadelphia from foreign places on the 21st. One was a Swede, from Stockholm, and three of the others belonged to Baltimore.

The *Adams*.—A vessel arrived at Salem on the 17th inst. that was boarded from the United States frigate *Adams*, capt. *Morris*, 21 days before, then 14 days out, off Bermuda. Captain M. sent letters to the secretary of the navy by this vessel.

The famous privateer *Decatur* has returned to Charleston, S. C. after a cruise of eighty days without making a single capture.

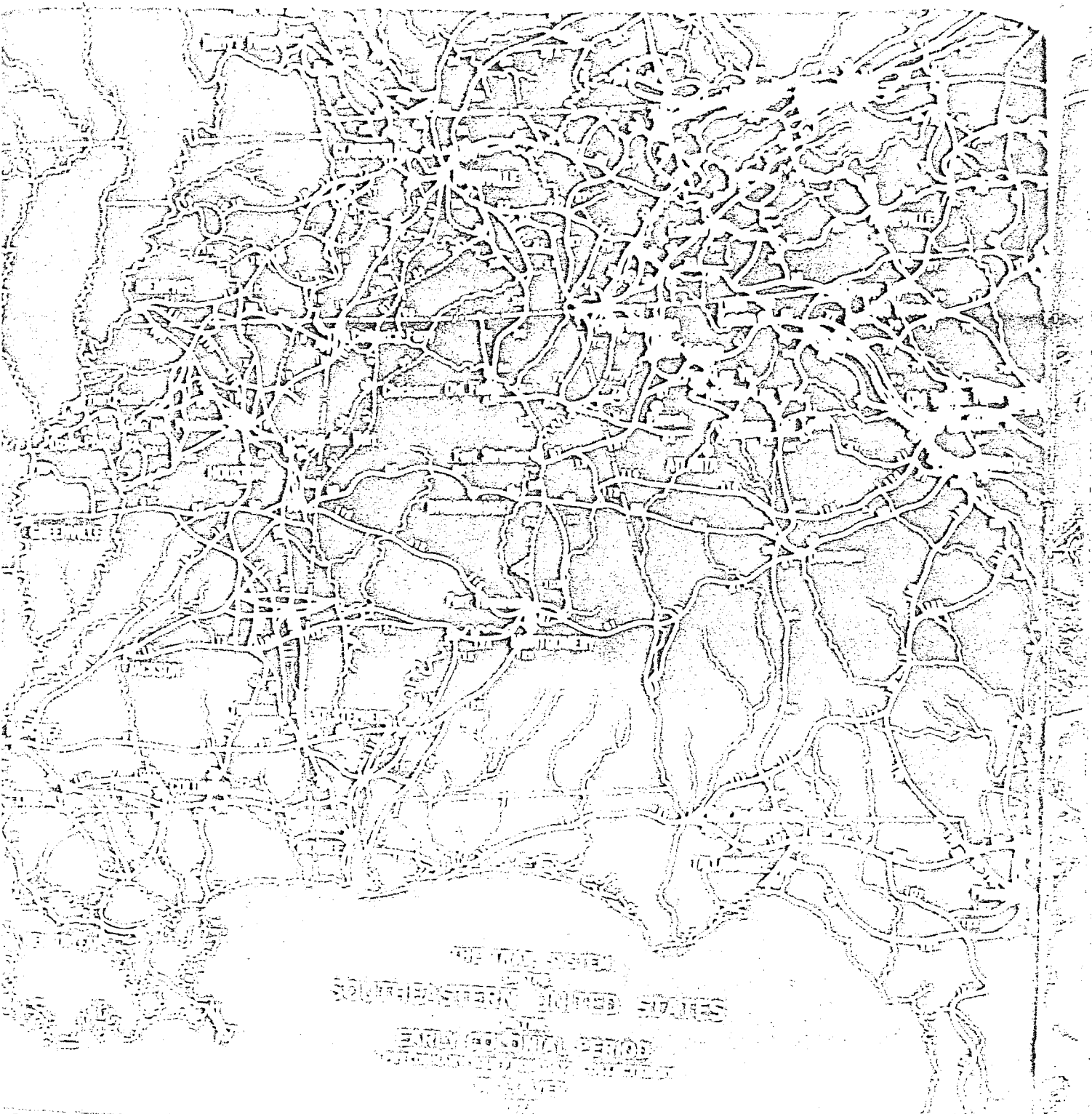
Commodore *Chauncey*, with 100 seamen, left New-York, on the 15th inst. for *Sackett's Harbor*. For which place, also, a number of long 32-pounders were forwarded a few days before.

The report that the British are building war vessels on lake *Huron*, is contradicted. *Mitchimakinac* is yet held by the British. *Dickson*, the famous scalp dealer, is among the distant Indians to persuade them to join the British armies near *Montreal*. All snug at *Detroit*.

Extract of a letter from Nathaniel Phifer, commander of the private armed schooner *Gov. Tomkins*, to his agent in New-York—dated

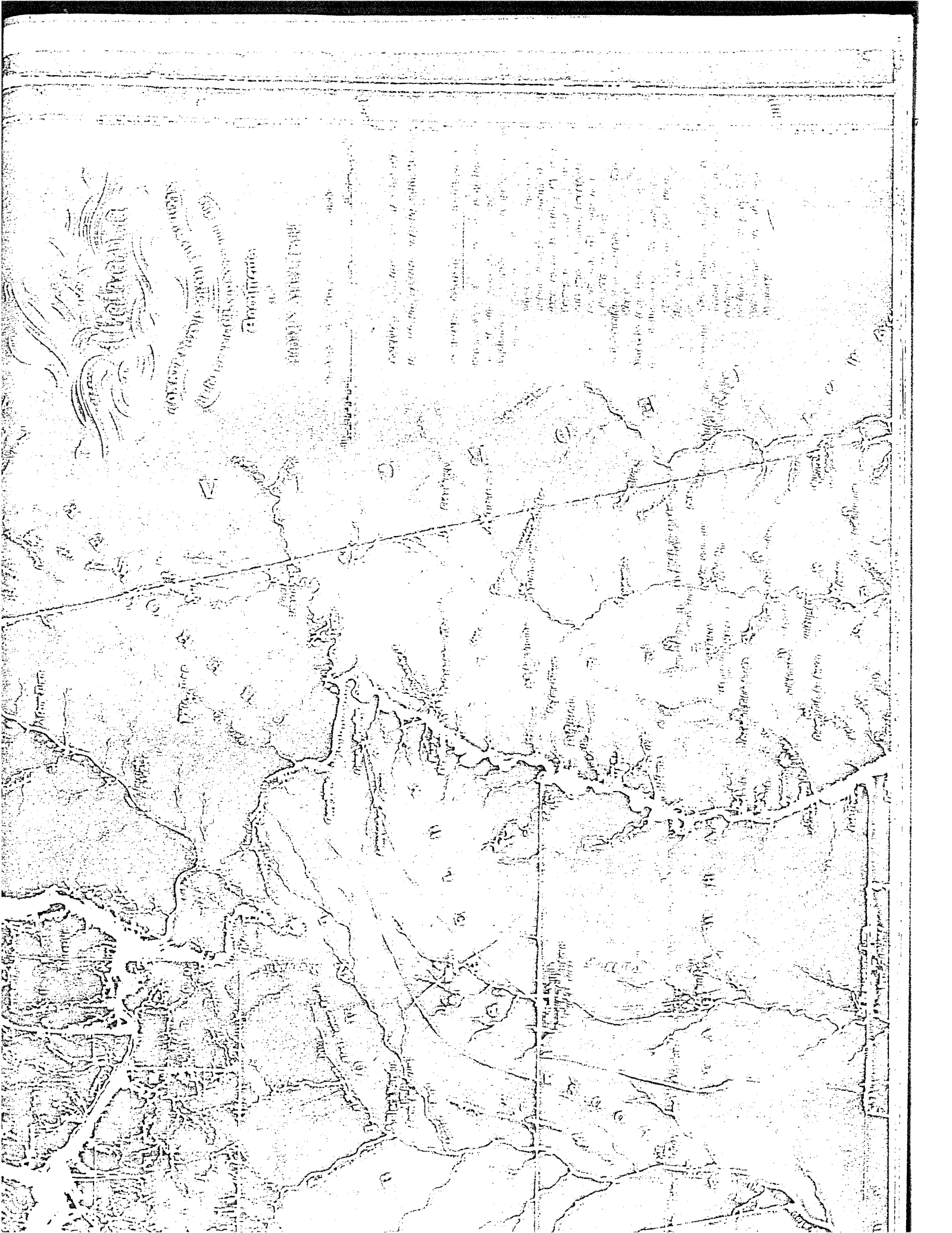
"At Sea, Jan 1, 1813.

"Two days after dispatching the *Nereid*, I took a whaleman from London bound for the South Seas; but she being of no value, I took out such stores, &c. I could stow, and being much lumbered with provisions and baggage, I put them on board, and ordered her for *Falmouth*. The chasing of this ship had taken me some distance from my ground, and with



THE ROAD SYSTEM
 OF THE
 SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
 IN
 EARLY COLONIAL PERIOD
 1607-1789
 W. W. WATKINS
 1912

Copy of map with some ink markings on it



Map of the River Basin of the ...
Scale: 1:50,000
Date: 1900

Legend:
- - - - - Boundary
- - - - - Road
- - - - - Railway
- - - - - Canal
- - - - - Stream
- - - - - River



MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA

Scale of Miles
10 20 30 40 50 60 70



Third in series of interviews about historical facts in Mt. Clair Co.

Mr. Abbott: Introduction) A week or two ago Mrs. Clair Jones told us about some of the early settlers whose descendants still live here in Mt. Clair co. I thought it would be interesting to hear of some people famous in history who have passed through these parts. Dr. Clair Jones has long been a student of local history and is considered an "authority" on Fort Strother so we are going to talk with him for a while now.

Mr. A: Question Tradition says that DeSoto once passed this way, Mr. Jones do you know the date?

Mr. Jones: (S. DeSoto Expedition Commission...etc.

Mr. Abbott: We skip a couple of centuries now and come to the famous Indians who lived and hunted and fought the white people

Mr. Jones: Tecumseh, etc. etc. his hatred of Americans was kept aflame by British...

Greek Confederacy, massacre at Ft. Sims, Oct. 30, 1813.

Mr. A: Was war getting closer and closer to the land which is now Mt. Clair Co. did the Army take steps to defend and protect this part of the state?

Mr. Jones Between Oct. 29 and Nov. 3, 1813 (146 yrs ago) a base was established at Ten Islands / Ft. Strother, etc.

Mr. A: Why was it named Ft. Strother?

Mr. J:

Mr. A: That was not long before the Battle of Talledega was it?

Mr. J: Not They barely got established at Ft. Strother until word came about the situation at Talledega--the battle was fought Nov. 9 1813...

Jackson's loss -- 13 or 14 men . Ret. to Ft.St. for winter.

Mr. A Do we have a sketch of Ft. Strother?

Mr. J: Unfortunately, no... etc.

Mr. A: Are any landmarks visible now to identify the location of the Ft.?

Mr. J:

Mr. A: What about relics?

Mr. Jones:

Mr. A: Do you suppose some of these relics might be loaned for display in the library some time? Or would you have a small show case in your store to devote for display for a week--to show some of these relics?

Mr. Jones:

Mr. Abbott: A while ago you mentioned La Roche, Tecumseh, Gen. Andrew Jackson...
Who are some other famous people who camped or fought on Ft. Clair soil?

Mr. Jones: Davy Crockett crossed Ohio at Fort Stan...
}

Sam Houston. (some time during his stay in this part of the country he met and married Margaret Lea--the house in which they were married still stands in what is now Forry County)

The coming on down to Civil War times -- in 1864 General Clanton fought an engagement with the superior force of Yankee Gen. Rousseau near Ft. Strother...

Mr. Abbott: Are there any historic markers pointing out Ft. Strother?

Mr. Jones:

Mr. Abbott: Close out.

Y, ALABAMA

Thompson which were now each one hundred and thirty-five men. In John the west divisions senior of- ed. sign pros- on the hermost ence for hands on fortified for sup- the Ala- Fort St. ing such him and he went. establish a unication able. establish- dred for- It was lo- the west in that air Coun- given the ably in upograph- the plans a import- found. It who have e that at the level ed in the a part of the loca- with shop use were was well hich sub- that an ed at this of arrow- plements e (I have ned by Dr. at Gads- the Fort e girlhood is known of Jack- dying of ses were spot for mendable Chapter in Revolu- a mark- sected is located

men, among whom was the famous Davy Crockett, crossed the Coosa at Fish Dart a few miles above Fort Strother to subdue the Creek warriors assembled at the village of Tallaschatchee, near present Ohatchee, thirteen miles from the Fort. The engagement there resulted in a massacre of one hundred eighty six warriors. Quoting from Davy Crockett's Autobiography, "We shot them like dogs." About fifty years ago, this stone (inscribed, D. CROCKET 1814) loaned by Mr. W. H. McDonald, of Ragland, was found at lunch time by a negro axeman working with Mr. T. E. Smith, a reputable surveyor, within the confines of Fort Strother, also, this axe was discovered by Dr. Bass on the premises.

On Nov. 8th, 1813, Gen. Jackson with an army of two thousand men left Fort Strother at midnight to fight the Battle of Talladega. After that successful engagement, he buried his fifteen dead and marched back the thirty miles to Fort Strother as rapidly as possible, for he was out of provisions. Arriving there he was mortified to find none at that point for him. Several days later, lack of supplies and enlistment expirations were responsible for a serious mutiny among the militia and volunteers. The mutiny was stopped by the indomitable and arbitrary Jackson singlehanded.

During the winter of 1814, Gen. Jackson employed the few militia who remained with him at Fort Strother, after the battles of E-muckfau and E-nitachop'en, in constructing flat-boats to descend the Coosa with stores for the new army which was then being raised in Tennessee, which was to operate below.

When the army arrived at Fort Strother, he embarked the stores in the flat-boats, which were to proceed down the Coosa in charge of the 39th regiment, and leaving a garrison of four hundred fifty men at Fort Strother, he began the march for the third time toward the seat of war. Within five days, about the middle of March, 1814, Jackson reached the mouth of Ce-

dar Creek, where he built Fort Williams.

Indeed, Fort Strother is a neglected and historic spot. Jackson, Coffee, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett and five thousand other heroes of the Creek campaign were quartered there. The United States DeSoto Expedition Commission in its final report established the fact that DeSoto, the famous Spanish explorer, about 1540, crossed the Coosa near the site of Fort Strother in 1884, Gen. Clanton, C. S. A. fought an engagement with the superior force of the Yankee General, Rousseau, near the same spot.

The site of Fort Strother is most accessible to visitors. It is sixteen miles northeast to Ragland from Pell City, black top road; thence, eight miles on the new black top Ragland-Gadsden road to a sign on the right pointing to Hart's Ferry, thence three fourths of a mile on a good dirt road. The Ragland road intersects Highway U. S. 231 - State 25, five miles north of Pell City.

Mrs. Kelly Awarded \$20,000 Verdict In Death of Husband

Mrs. Roscoe Kelly, Cocks Springs, was awarded verdicts totaling \$20,000 in circuit court in Pell City last in a case growing out of the death of her husband in a highway crash several months ago.

Mr. Kelly was killed and Mrs. Kelly injured when a truck driven by Roscoe Sbiwell crashed into the small truck in which Mrs. Kelly and her husband were riding. The wreck occurred on the west side of Chula Vista Mountain.

Mrs. Kelly was awarded \$5,000 for personal injury and \$15,000 in the death of her husband. Starnes and Holladay were attorneys for the plaintiff; Embry and Roberson for the defendant.

Four gallons of milk daily per 100 hens, plus grain and green feed free-choice, provides a good laying ration.

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Nov 20, 1968

ERMAN L. CREW
DIRECTOR

To: Mrs Irene Hodges

From: Erman L Crew

Subject: Fort Strother

I prepared the research material and completed the proper forms to present to the Alabama Historical Commission to seek their recognition of Fort Strother. I presented this to Mr. Warner Floyd, executive secretary of the commission, to be presented by him to a meeting of the commission. Mr Floyd has just called with good news.

The commission has recommended the immediate inclusion of Fort Strother in the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL LANDMARKS.

Listing in the "NATIONAL REGISTER" is imperative if government funds are to be secured in any development of the fort. This is a first step I thought that you would like to know about.

Mary
Mrs. P. K. Jones
B. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Ala. 35 146

SELUCTA "SON OF CHIEF CHINNABEE"

BATTLE OF TALLADEGA

In November 1813 about fourteen whites and one hundred twenty-five friendly Creek Indians had taken refuge in Washley's fort about one mile southwest of the Court Square in Talladega town, against the marauding Creek Indians. Being so completely surrounded by this hostile band, escape seemed impossible. After suffering within the fort had become almost intolerable, one daring young Indian, Selocta, ventured to escape, by the cunning and strategy of his race.

Covering himself with a large hogskin, he roamed his way past the lines of the Creeks, through the swamps surrounding the fort, and fled with the swiftness of a deer to General Andrew Jackson's camp at Fort Trother. Immediately General Jackson, with his eight hundred calvarymen and twelve hundred infantrymen began the march toward Talladega, arriving within a few miles of the fort on the night of November 8, 1813. At four o'clock on the morning of November 9 General Jackson's army had surrounded the enemy and fire was opened on the Indians at eight A.M. In the ensuing sudden and vigorous attack, the Creeks were totally routed and over half their number were slain, or wounded; Jackson's loss was slight. The white soldiers killed in action are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Talladega.

Chinnabee had two coffee
Selocta was the son of Chinnabee, chief of the Creek tribe which inhabited this section of Alabama. He served under General Jackson as a scout during the rest of the war of 1813, acquitting himself with such distinction that he was invited to attend the inauguration of General Jackson as President of the United States.

Selocta went to Washington to see the Great White Chief inaugurated and while there was presented with a medal by President Jackson. Selocta posed for a portrait with the medal hung around his neck supported by a string of beads. This portrait can be seen in the Cocoran Gallery in Washington.

Having served with such distinction as a scout and friend of the whites, when the Indians went west, after ceding certain territories to the United States, Selocta was permitted to remain in Talladega County. One day while in Wardisville headquarters of a land agent, in company with a white friend, Selocta tanked up on too much of the white man's "fire water" and started to his home at McAllderry Station on horse-back. There was a post oak tree in the middle of the road, and Selocta and his horse disagreed as to which side of the road to pass on. Selocta was thrown against the tree, fracturing his skull, from which injury he died. His body was carried home and as was customary, was buried under the corner of his cabin, where two other Indians had previously been buried. The house decayed in course of time, and Mrs. L.A. Jemison, daughter of Col. Thomas McAllderry, a veteran of the Mexican war, a life-long friend of Selocta, erected a concrete monument over the graves, in order that the bodies of the Indians might never be molested. On this monument was placed a bronze tablet on which is cut the likeness of Selocta, taken from the portrait hung in the Cocoran Gallery. The medal presented him by General Jackson can be seen around his neck.

---The first decisive engage of the Creek Indian war of 1813 and Andrew Jackson's 1st command-
History of Selocta-Indian Chief

an early military establishment in St. the Creek Indian War in 1813, which in of several forts, among them Fort d to the powerful and eloquent Shaw- . His parents were born and bred on oosa, removing later to Ohio where in orn, one of triplets. He made several youth, visiting his kin. Later, his visits nature. He came with the full purpose his brethren to make war upon the ad- s hatred of the Americans was intense / the British.

of Tegu- Confederacy. The following year, October 1813, the Indians became increas- as in a ingly belligerent. The culmination came with the terrible massacre at Fort Mims on August 30, 1813. Nowhere did the tidings from

leading citizens in Nashville to consider measures of defense. They decided that a strong force ought to be sent at once in the heart of the Creek territory to destroy their villages and force them to make peace. They asked the legislature to authorize such a move, and at their request the governor agreed to call out for immediate service the recently dismissed Natchez Volunteers.

A committee from the meeting on Sept. 18th, waited on Jackson to know if he would be able to take the field at the head of the volunteers. They found him in bed from the wound he received on the fourth of the month in the disgraceful affair with the Benton brothers; but, he expressed the greatest confidence in his ability to lead his division. He did, in fact, at once assume direction of the movement for defense, calling the volunteers to assemble at Fayetteville, Tennessee, on October 4th, arranging all kinds of similar subjects. In one of the letters he said: "The late fracture of my left arm will render me for a while less active than formerly. Still I march and before we return, if the general government will only hands off—we will give peace in Israel." Jackson's peace was likely to be a grim one.

Before he could assemble his forces news came that Madison County, Mississippi Territory, was threatened by the savages. This county embraced a large part of the northern region of the present states of Alabama and Mississippi, and Huntsville was its most populous center. It was the natural approach to the theatre of his coming exploits.

Jackson sent Gen. Coffee forward with three hundred cavalrymen and hastened the preparations of the main body. On Oct. 4th, his wound was not healed enough for him to take up the march nor were all the arrangements completed. On the 7th, however, he rode into camp weak and haggard and took personal direction of the army. Immediately, camp urgent calls from Coffee who reported that he was about to be attacked. On the 10th, camp was broken and that evening they marched into Huntsville, thirty-two miles. On the next day he reached the Tennessee River at Ditto's Landing, a few miles south of Huntsville, and crossing the river united his forces with Coffee's; halted here a few days. Oct. 22nd, he moved up the river from Ditto's in a southeasterly direction for twenty-four miles and

should unite, Jackson as senior officer would have command.

Jackson's plan of campaign provided for a base of supplies on the Tennessee at its southernmost part, a military road thence for fifty miles to the Ten Islands on the Coosa, when another fortified post would be established for supplies and thence down the Alabama River system to Fort St. Stephens, always destroying such armed bands as opposed him and devastating villages as he went. By this plan he would establish a permanent line of communication from E. Tennessee to Mobile.

The second base was established Oct. 29, 1813, one hundred forty years ago to the day. It was located at Ten Islands on the west side of the Coosa River in that part which became St. Clair County in 1818. The base was given the name Fort Strother, probably in honor of Gen. Jackson's topographer, Carl Strother.

It is regrettable that the plans and specifications of this important post have not been found. It is believed by those who have made a study of the site that at least eighty acres of the level and rolling terrain was used in the construction of the main part of the base. A few years ago the location-site of the blacksmith shop and the main block house were easily identified. The site was well watered with springs which substantiates the evidence that an Indian village was located at this natural setting. Bushels of arrowheads and other Indian implements have been collected there. (I have with me several pieces loaned by Dr. and Mrs. Hersehold Bass, of Gadsden, who formerly owned the Fort Strother site.) Mrs. Bass's childhood home is on the site and it is known today, as the graveyard of Jackson's men. Many soldiers dying of dysentery and other causes were buried there (another spot for marker). It was most commendable of the Frederick William Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Anniston, to erect a marker to Fort Strother. It was erected thirty five years ago and is located within seventy five feet of where one of the main houses stood.

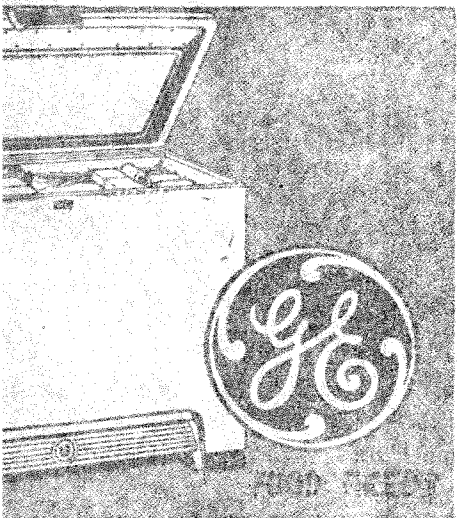
It was at historic Fort Strother that Gen. Jackson began and executed his extermination of the brave Creeks. On Oct. 20th, 1813, the small village of Littlemound on Cane Creek between Ashby and Springville was destroyed. After this action, events followed in rapid succession. Nov. 3rd, 1813, Gen. Coffee with one thousand

Crockett's. Autobiography shot them like dogs." A few years ago, this stone (Gen. CROCKETT 1814) loaned by H. McDonald, of Ragb found at lunch time by a man working with Mr. T. a reputable surveyor, within confines of Fort Strother, axe was discovered by on the premises.

On Nov. 8th, 1813, Gen. with an army of two thousand left Fort Strother at night to fight the Battle of Tallahatchee that successful campaign buried his fifteen dead and ed back the thirty miles Strother as rapidly as possible was out of provisions there. He was in a state none so that perhaps ten days later. Lack of supply listment expirations was sible for a serious want the militia and volunteer mutiny was stopped by imitable and arbitrary leadership.

During the winter of Jackson employed the who remained with Strother, after the battle, muckflau and finally constructing flatboats on the Coosa with loads of army which was then in Tennessee, which was ate below.

When the army was Strother, he embarked in the flatboats, all proceeded down the Coosa of the 30th, 1813, with a garrison of four hundred men at Fort Strother, I march for the first time the seat of war. Within about the middle of the Jackson reached the m

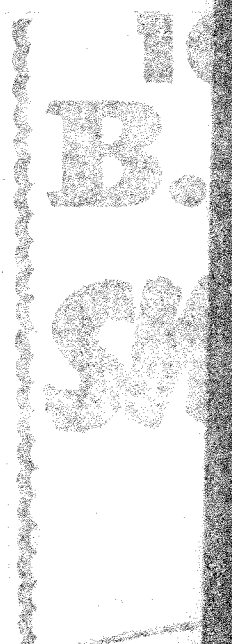


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 PHONE 42



CREEK INDIANS

When the early settlers came to this country and began settling in this territory, they found the Creek Indians dwelling in this region. Characteristics of this notable tribe are interesting.

The Creek Indians are the most important in our history and played a prominent part in American History. They are also known as the Muscogee (Maskoke) but they could not fully explain just where they got the name, perhaps from other tribes. The Cherokees call them Agusca, and the English named probably originated from the great number of creeks in this section. The dwellers on the Coosa River were called the "Upper Creeks".

It is not known just what proportion of Indians in this section were pure Creeks, as several tribes were bound to the Confederacy by political ties only. This is known from the fact that the Nachez (Naktehe) Indians, driven from their own country on the Mississippi got a new home on the Upper Coosa.

The warriors were somewhat taller than the white man, well formed, erect and graceful. They were proud and ambitious of conquest and fond of arms.

The women were small, but many had pleasant features and expressive eyes. Both sexes adorned themselves with trinkets and ornaments. Ear rings were worn and the warriors had his head bedecked with feathers of birds. Their clothing was scanty until the trader came, then they bought the most brilliant colored garments. They painted their faces, sometimes puncturing their arms and then rubbing in dye, made from dripping of pine roots.

They did not live very much in rural sections. When not in war, or hunting, they spent most of their time in the towns or villages.

The houses were rude cabins of wood and clay. They were arranged in groups of kin folks belonging to the same clan or gens. They were very particular that every member of a gen lived in their own section. Each gen was known by a name of a natural product or animal, as Bear gen, Hickory Nut gen, etc. The town varied in population according to the number of gens.

Each town had a small public square. This being one difference between it and a village. The square was enclosed by four houses, or sheds, which opened upon it. Each house had three compartments and in each compartment were three benches or platforms covered with matting. This was the head men and warriors of the tribes lounging place and smoking room. They sat in this building according to rank. Near the square was a pyramid, or cone shaped hut called the council house. The public playground was near the square.

Their head man was known as "Miké. He was chosen from one of their gens and by no means was his authority absolute. He was chairman of all things. They were careful to let him and the older men state their opinions and consider them carefully. The successor was usually chosen the next of kin on the mother's side.

The Creeks were indolent, hunting and fishing very much of their time. Agriculture was left to the squaws. Usually they raised corn which was beaten into grits. They cooked and did most of the other work, however they were treated with very little affection.

Dancing was one of their amusements, which was held in the council house. Ball was the Indian's greatest game. Dr. W. G. Brown describes one of their ball games very interestingly:

"The game of ball is a very exciting one. The warriors of one town having challenged those of another, a day and place would be appointed. Large crowds would collect and wagers would be made, for the Indians were great gamblers. War-hoops and songs announced the approach of the warriors, who were to contest. Each player had two rackets or hurls, shaped like paddles or hoop nets with handles of wood and netting of raw hides or the tenders of animals. In the center of the field were fixed two poles in the direction of its town. At the beginning the ball was thrown in the air, and then began the wildest and fiercest of scrambles, hair was pulled, limbs were frequently broken and sometime lives were lost. The spectators frantic with excitement, made higher and higher bets until in some cases they staked their clothing they had on. The women running about with goards of water, watched their chance to supply the players. The game was from twelve to twenty points and sometimes lasted for hours."

The Creek had many kinds of ceremonies, one Piskita, a feast of eight days about the time the corn crop matured. It marked the beginning of the New Year. During this time many strange dances were held. Many fires were kindled and much "Black Dring" was taken. This was a drink made from a kind of holly. All crimes were forgiven except murder. Funerals were very ceremonious. The longest of these ceremonies was that of an Indian boy becoming a warrior. He had to undergo many hardships and not before he has won some distinction in a battle could they receive the title of warrior.

The War Chief was different from the "Miko", but later it became the same. The declaration of war on a village was the sending of a "RED STICK". A town could declare war at any time, as the bonds which united the towns of the Confederacy were merely war alliances. A general Council was held every year. There was a Chief of the whole nation. His power depended upon the respect he could maintain from each tribe. Treaties were made for the tribes but they were hard to enforce. However, the loose alliance made them more formidable then otherwise would have been the case.

As to where the Creeks came from, we have conflicting statements. Some think they came from Mexico after General Cortez's invasion there. It was their belief, they sprang out of the earth somewhere between the Alabama and Cahaba River.

INDIAN TOWNS ON THE COOSA RIVER

CMINABY'S FORT In 1813 a friendly Creek Chief named Chminaby had a kind of Fort at Ten Islands, located between Lock 2, upper end and Lock 3, lower end, on the Coosa River known by this name.

KUSCHATCHI was the Creek name for Coosa.

LITAFUCHEE a village on Coosa Creek in the Northern part of the Creek Territory. The name is said to refer to the manufacture of arrows. It is perhaps the most notable in the county's history, as Colonel Dyer destroyed the town, killing several Indian warriors in 1813. It was a trading post situated near old Ashville.

OTIPALUS or Ten Islands, in the Coosa River just below the junction of Canoe Creek from the west, just below the mouth of the Creek and on the west side of the river, lay Fort Strother which was also opposite the influx of the Tallahassihatchi upon which stood two old Creek Villages.

CAHABA RIVER'S SOURCE IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY

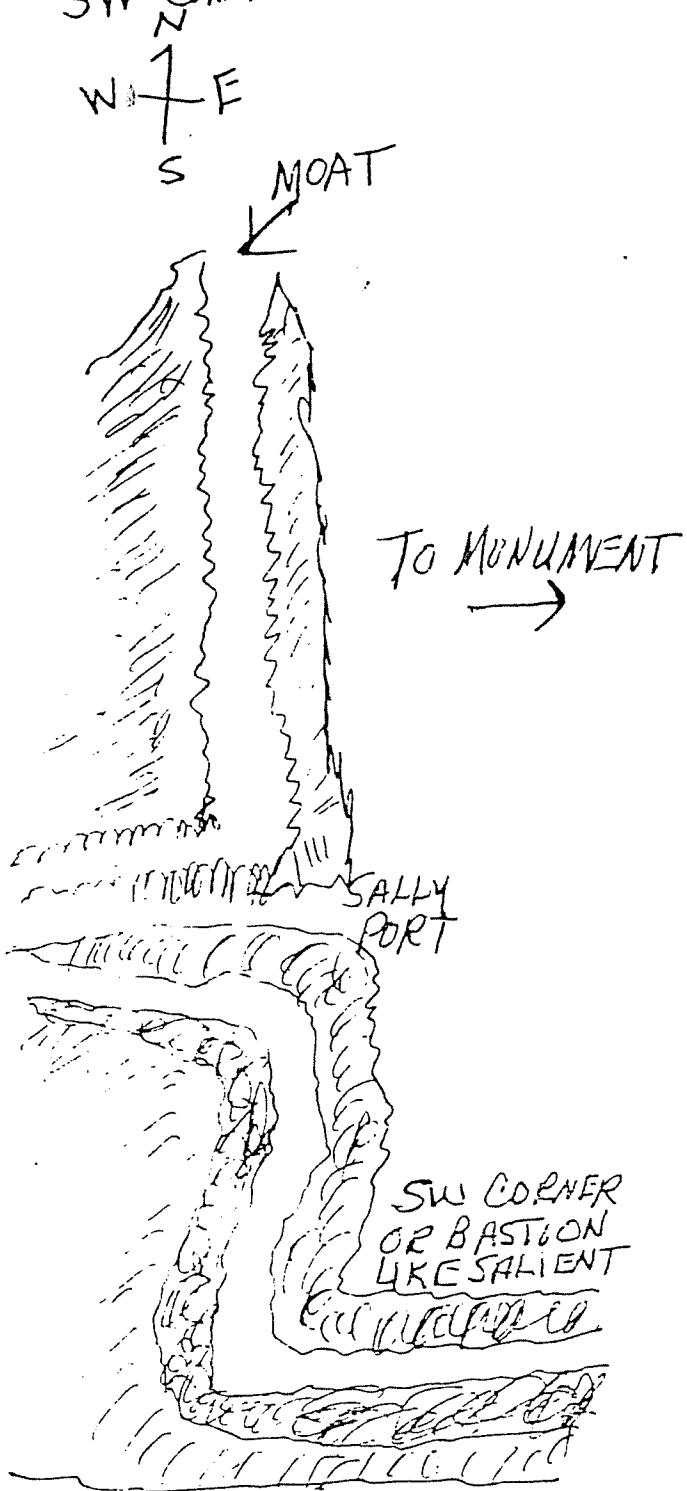
The great Cahaba (Chicasa) river in the treaty of 1765, has its head waters in this county.

SEQUOY a Cherokee Indian born near Gadsden, in the territory of what was once a part of St. Clair County and lived there about 50 years before going to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) was the first person to invent the Indian Alphabet. He is also the only member of the race to be honored by having his statue placed in the Hall of Fame, Washington, D. C. which was done by his adopted state--OKLAHOMA.

INDIAN LANDS:

The United States Congress in 1912 passed an act clarifying all deeds made by Indian or Government land grants.

SKETCH BELOW
SHOWS VISIBLE REMAINING
PART OF WEST SIDE
ABOUT 100 YDS LONG
SW CORNER



- REMAINING PORTION OF
FORT STROTHER IN 1940

FORT STROTHER

On November 2, 1813 Andrew Jackson stopped with his militia and Volunteers on the north side of the Coosa River one-half mile from what is now called Hayes Ferry, near Ragland and built Fort Strother.

On November 7, a messenger came riding into Fort Strother in great excitement to tell Jackson of the plight of Fort Lashley.

Jackson proceeded to Talladega with his 2000 men -- 800 were cavalry. On November 9 the Battle of Talladega was fought and won by Jackson and his men. Jackson's loss was small--only 14 men. He and his men returned to Fort Strother to spend most of the winter from November 11, 1813 to January 17, 1814.

Among those who enlisted as a volunteer for sixty days and was with Jackson when he built Fort Strother and fought the Battle of Talladega and was destined to later fame was David Crockett.

St. Clair - History - War of 1812

Liles Memorial Library
May 30, 1968

Walter W. Stephens Papers

Correspondence with Mr. Rucker Agee in April and May, 1956.

On Oct 23, 1923 in a letter to Mr. H. A. Parker, Sylacauga, Ala.

"...Am enclosing a rough map of where Fort Strother is. It is on the west side of the Coosa River near Hart's Ferry which is near the mouth of Ohatchee Creek.

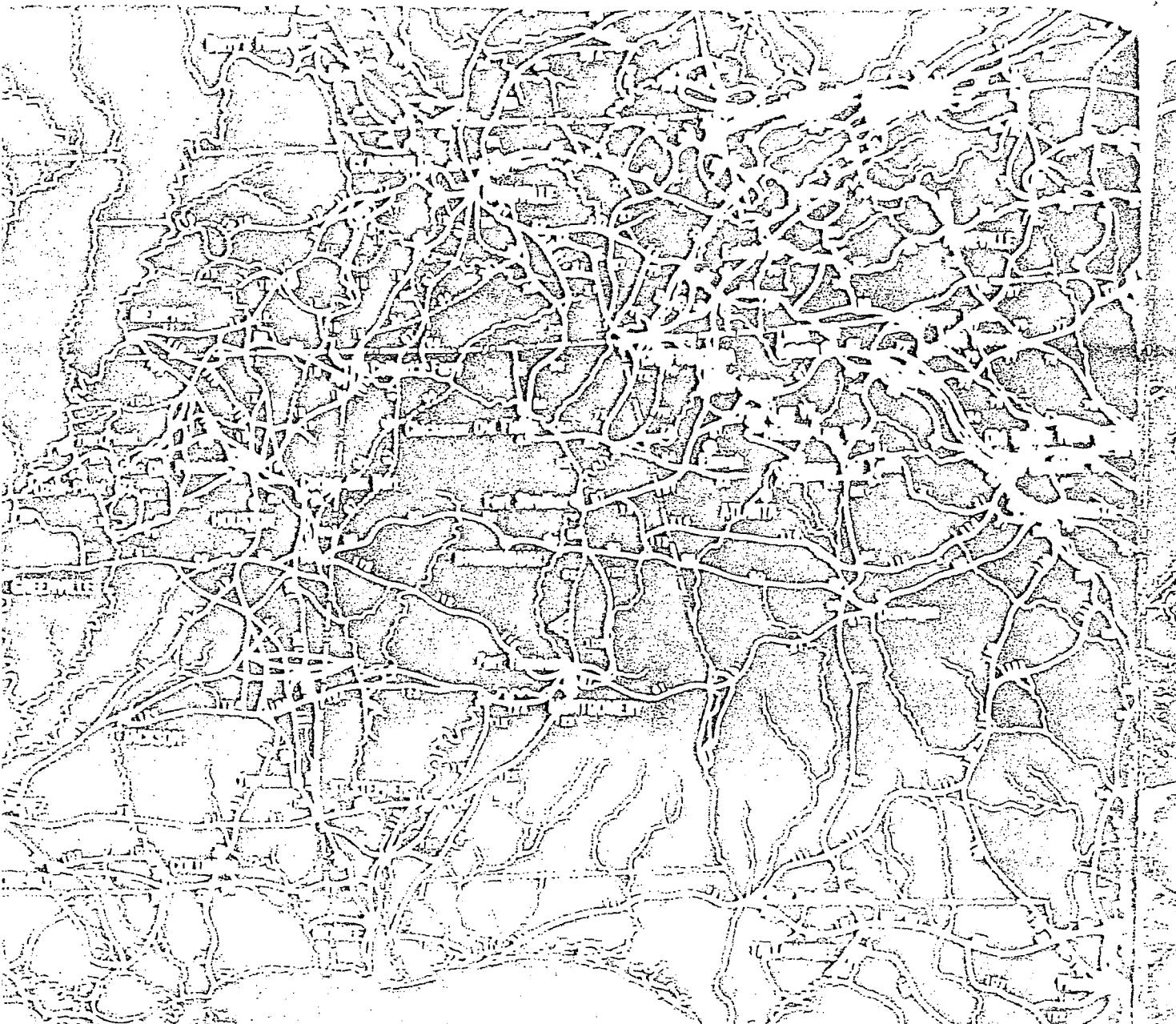
You cross the ferry. There is a home on the right (north) and a barn on the left (south).

There is a field beyond the barn in which is a little strip of woods and in this you can find some of the earthwork that formed the west and south sides of the Fort, with the trench outside of it. The Fort covered all this area that includes the field and it seems to have been 300 to 400 feet square, a log stockade built on an earth work...."

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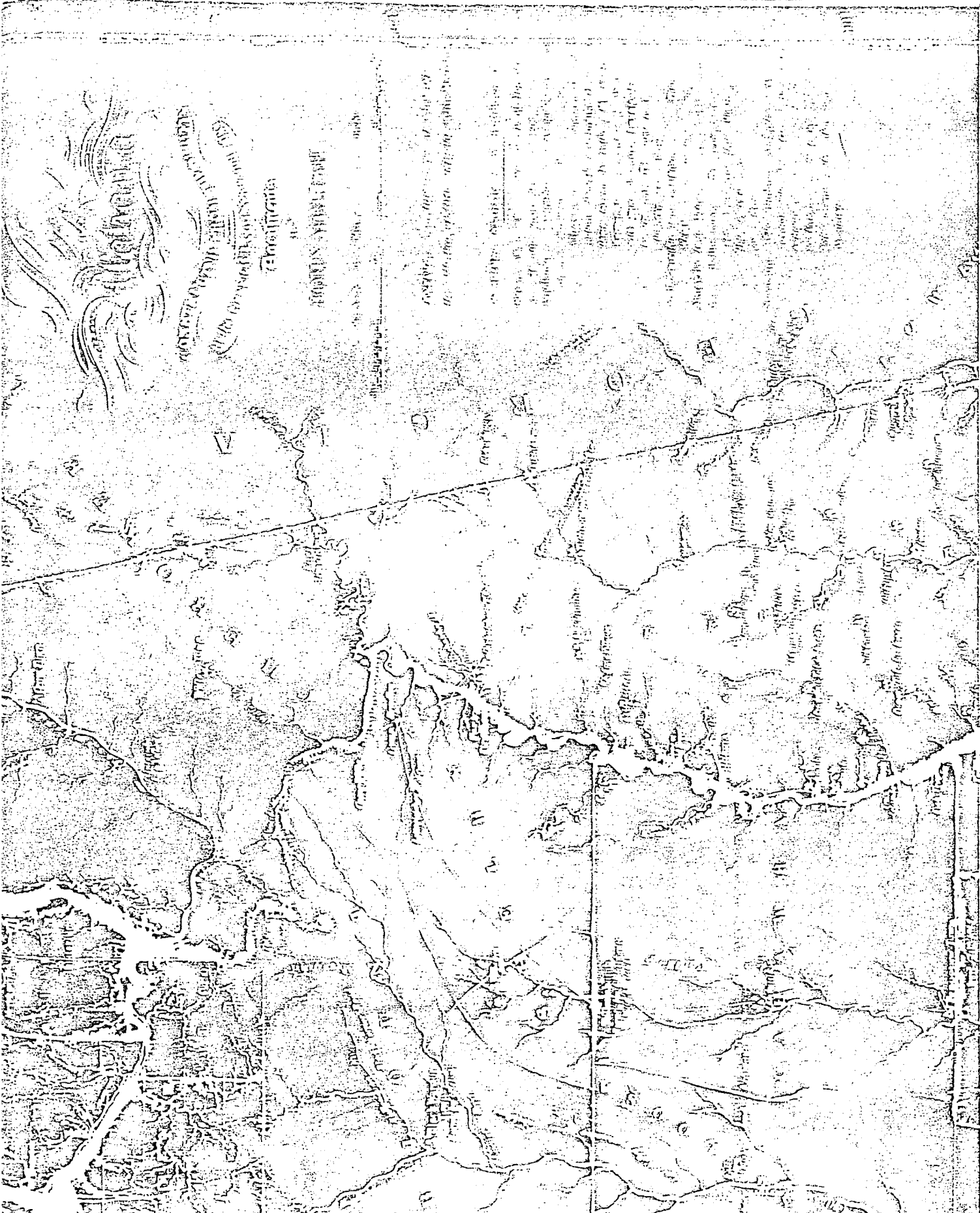
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OF THE SYSTEM
SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
EARLY FEDERAL PERIOD
1789-1845

Map of the Southeastern United States showing the early federal period (1789-1845) with lines indicating the network.

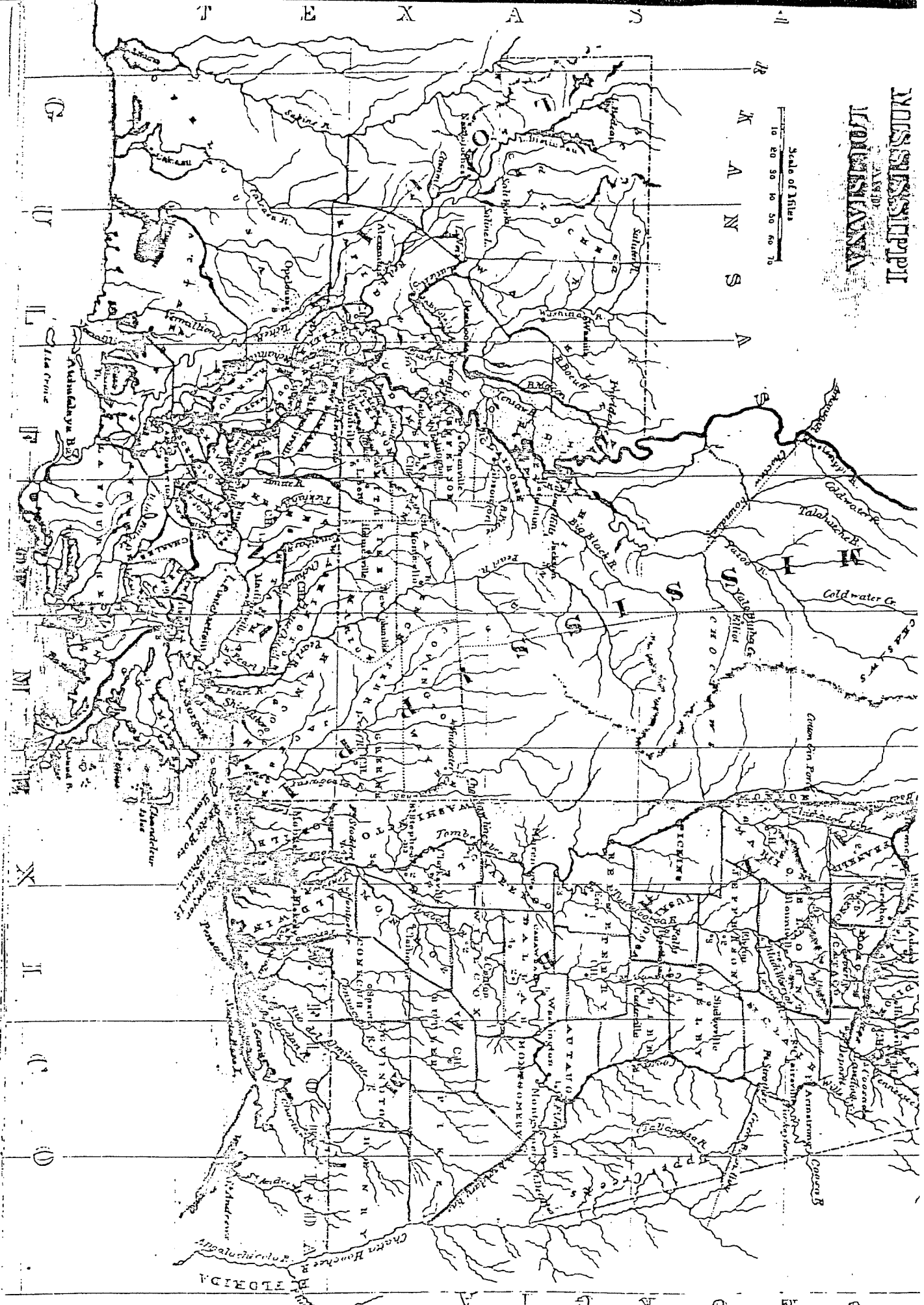


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This map shows the
 geographical features
 and boundaries of
 the region during
 the period of
 1850 to 2100.
 The lines represent
 the changes in
 the landscape
 over time.
 Major waterways
 are highlighted
 with thicker lines.
 The map is
 oriented with
 North at the
 top.
 The scale is
 1:100,000.
 The map was
 prepared by
 the National
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 Society.
 The map is
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 of the original
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MISSISSIPPI LOUISIANA

Scale of Miles
10 20 30 40 50 60 70



Stone marks site of old fort

By DAVID HAYNES

RAGLAND — A visitor to the site of Gen. Andrew Jackson's headquarters during the Creek Indian Wars at Fort Strother near H. Neely Henry Dam might expect to find a park like the one at Horseshoe Bend in Tallapoosa County.

Instead, he would find a single stone marker competing for space with poke salad and other brush on land owned by a private firm.

But in 1813, when Jackson was preparing for the fight that eventually opened the way for settlers to homestead in Alabama, Fort Strother was home for as many as 5,000 of his men.

According to Mattie Lou Teague Crow's "History of St. Clair County," Fort Strother was "a strong link in the chain of events which removed the hostile Indians from Alabama, opened this area to new settlers, and saw Andrew Jackson on his way to fame and the White House."

FORT STROTHER came into being after a confederacy of Indians, reportedly backed by England, began causing trouble on the frontier in 1812 and 1813.

On Oct. 7, 1813, Jackson took command of a company of infantry and headed for trouble spots in Alabama, according to Mrs. Crow.

Four days later, after picking up volunteers from settlements along the way, Jackson, with 2,500 men and 1,300 horses, marched 32 miles in eight hours to Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee River.

From there, Jackson established Fort Deposit as a supply depot and then went due south from the Tennessee River to a spot on the Coosa known as "10 Islands," which later was to become Fort Strother.

Part of his army hacked out a road (later known as Jackson's Trace) 50 miles through the wilderness in only six days, according to the Mrs. Crow.

AS THEY neared the site, some of Jackson's men raided and destroyed the Indian village of Littafatchee on Canoe Creek near Ashville.

Upon Jackson's arrival at 10 Islands, he started crews cutting trees for the stockade and named the place Fort Strother.

Mrs. Crow notes that historians

disagree whether the fort was named for Gen. George Strother Gaines (who gave Jackson his commission in the Creek War) or for Jackson's topographer, who also was named Strother.

The site is just below H. Neely Henry Dam across from the mouth of the Coosa River at Ohatchee.

Fort Strother was used a Jackson's headquarters throughout the Creek Wars in 1813 and 1814.

By Nov. 7, 1813, the fort included a stockade with blockhouses that covered an area comparable to a modern football field and three parade grounds. One of the parade grounds would accommodate 600 men, another was for 1,400 men and the third was large enough for 1,000 mounted men.

NEEDLESS TO say, the supply link with Fort Deposit was vital for an army the size of Jackson's living in a wilderness area.

Erman Crew of Anniston, who has done extensive research on Fort Strother, has compiled figures on some of the stocks used at the fort.

For example, during the weeklong march from Fort Deposit to Fort Strother, Jackson's 2,500 men and 1,000 horses consumed 1,000 bushels of grain, 20 tons of meat and 1,000 gallons of whiskey.

Crew's research also showed that 100 to 150 hogs and cattle were butchered daily for food. On one day, a single shipment of salt pork weighed in at 64,000 pounds and a special house was built for this "precious commodity."

Whiskey was another essential item for the army. A building with 144 square feet was built to store the whiskey. With only a few drugs available for the large army, "whiskey was essential to the well-being of the camp," Mrs. Crow wrote.

The fort was divided into four separate camps — one each for militia, infantry, cavalry and some 300 friendly Indians.

THERE WERE also blacksmith and cooperage shops and a sick bay area.

Jackson insisted on having a three-week supply of everything before moving farther into Indian country.

Some 150, four-horse wagons were kept moving from Huntsville to Fort Deposit to Fort Strother to Fort Williams, which Jackson established

farther downriver.

Jackson's army defeated the "Red Sticks" at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River March 27, 1814. With the war ended by the Treaty of Ft. Jackson several months later, the need for a base at Ft. Strother also was ended and it eventually faded from the scene.

Today, all that remains is the cemetery and the graves unmarked.

In 1913 the Ft. Strother Chapter of the DAR of Anniston erected a stone marker on the site, and it remains today. An inscription on its face reads:

"Here stood Fort Strother
A defense against the Indians
Built by General Andrew Jackson
And occupied by him and his
Brave men

During the Creek Campaign
November 3, 1813.

Erected by the Frederick Wm. Gray
Chapter DAR of Anniston, Alabama

To preserve the memorial of
Faithful service

November 13, 1913."

This marker is all that remains of the once great fort. To reach it, one must enter through the gates of the Bounty Company, which apparently now controls the property considered to be the site of Ft. Strother.

Cathy Donaldson of the Alabama Historical Commission said the Ft. Strother site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

She said this designation indicates it is an historic site for which records and other data are available.

However, the site being listed on the National Register doesn't have any effect on property owners' rights and thus does not mean the site is open to the public, according to Ms. Donaldson.

Ms. Donaldson said she does not know of any plans for additional markers or other resoration at the site of the old fort.



of the fort.

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Andrew Jackson

Fort Strother Andrew Jackson in St. Clair County 1813-1814

At a turn in the river, history waits.

The eagle would not recognize it today. Modern engineering and technology has changed the landscape. A black snake curves over gray concrete ebbing the Coosa's flow. It is Alabama Highway 144 on the way from Ragland in St. Clair County to Ohatchee in Calhoun. The dam and the lake, Henry Neeley, mirror the green hills and blue sky and fishermen in their boats and seagulls fish the river.

Red Sticks—It was a turn in events.

The ground shook. The eloquent Shawnee chief Tecumseh on his trip to Alabama in 1812 had warned the Indians of the Creek Confederacy that upon his return to Detroit that the earth would tremble as he stomped his foot. It would be a sign that an alliance of tribes from the Gulf of Mexico to Michigan would rise against the Americans with help from the British. Their lands would be restored. An eagle flying high above the hills and valleys of a winding

Coosa could tell of people hunting, fishing, gathering growing food. Children running, playing, dogs barking and rich smell of sweat and smoke filling the air.

Early American settlers were still in a new land. Native peoples, Indians, lived their lives in the only land they knew. Like some large magnet exercising an unseen attraction one culture while repelling the other, the inevitable collision of worlds was imminent.

The eagle can see the forces of change, lands lost, gains promised made, broken. Allegiances made, altered. Hopes and dreams of a new life. Attempts made to preserve an old way of life.

Old Hickory

Andrew Jackson turned in his bed in Tennessee. News arrived slowly. Bad news. An horrific tale of a massacre at Fort Mims in Alabama down in the Mississippi Territory.

continued on page 7

Fort Strother—Andrew Jackson

from page 6

August 30, 1813 burned the eyes and made hearts race throughout the territory to Tennessee. The fear of an attack in Tennessee moved the leading citizens of Nashville three weeks later to consider measures for their defense without the authority of the government. They decided that a strong force should be sent deep into Creek territory to destroy their villages and force them to make peace. They asked the legislature to authorize the move and the governor agreed to call out the recently dismissed Natchez Volunteers.

A committee on September 18, 1813 waited. They waited on Andrew Jackson to know if he would be able to lead the volunteers. They found him in bed from the wound he received on the fourth of the month in the disgraceful affair with the Benton brothers; but, he expressed confidence in his ability to head the division and assumed direction of the movement for defense calling for the volunteers to assemble at Fayetteville on October 4th. In one of the letters he said: "The late fracture of my left arm will render me for a while less active than formerly. Still I march before we return, if the general government will

only hands off—we will give peace in Israel."

Before Jackson could assemble the volunteers came that Madison County, Mississippi Territory, was threatened with attack. This county embraced a large part of the northern region of the present states of Alabama and Mississippi. Huntsville was its most populous center.

Strategy to Strother


Jackson dispatched General Coffee with three hundred cavalry and hastened preparations for the whole volunteer force. On October 4th, his wound not healed, he took the march less prepared than necessary. Word came Coffee was about to be attacked. Jackson broke camp on the 10th and that evening marched thirty two miles to Huntsville. The next day he reached the Tennessee River at Ditto's Landing crossing to unite forces with General Coffee. A few days later he moved southeasterly twenty miles and laid out at the mouth of Thompson's Creek a fortification, Fort Deposit.

continued on page 9

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Fort Strother—Andrew Jackson

from page 8

The Tennessee forces were divided into two bodies of about 2,500 men each. The eastern Tennessee division was commanded by Major General John Cocke; the other from the west commanded by Jackson. If the divisions united, Jackson as senior officer would have command. Jackson's plan provided for a base of supplies on the Tennessee at its southernmost part.

The Tennesseans hewed a road through the wilderness in only six days. This military road extended fifty miles to Ten Islands on the Coosa River, the site of a former Creek village called Otipalin. Another fortification would be established for supplying down the Alabama River system to Fort Stephens; always destroying such armed bands opposing him and devastating villages as he went. By this plan he would establish a permanent line of communication from east Tennessee to Mobile.

The second base was established on October 29, 1813 at Ten Islands on the west bank of the Coosa River, the part which became St. Clair County in 1818.

The base was called Fort Strother, probably in honor of Jackson's topographer, Captain Strother.

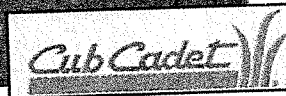


Shawnee chief Tecumseh

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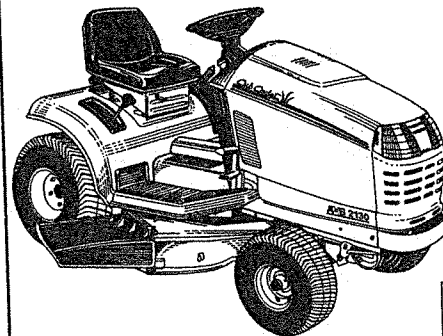


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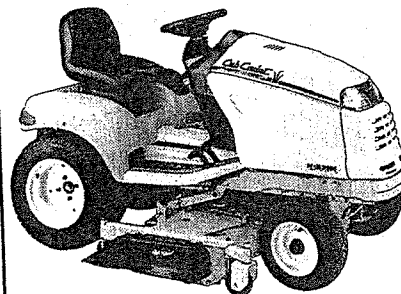


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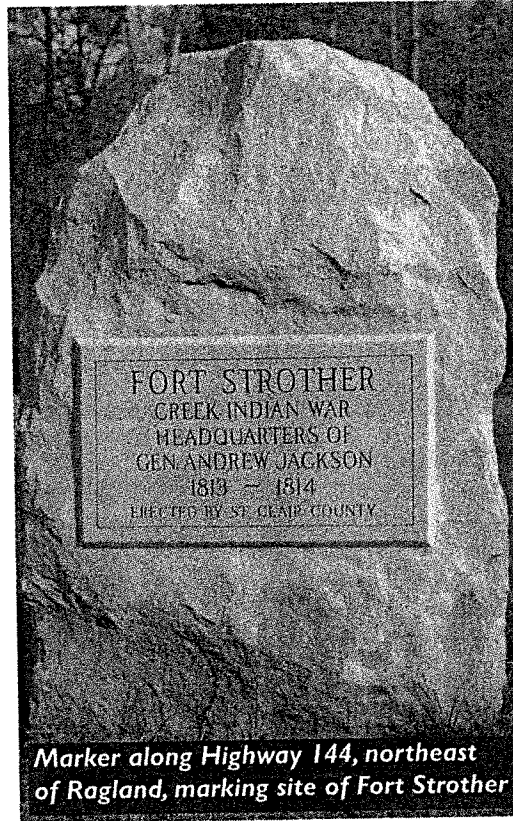
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Food and Fighting

Since their food supply was exhausted, foraging parties were sent out. Colonel Dyer, with a force of two hundred cavalry, discovered and destroyed the Creek town of Littafatchee on Canoe Creek and confiscated foodstuffs stored there for the winter.

With Jackson's arrival at Ten Islands, his men began cutting trees for the stockade. Fort Strother was used by the General throughout the conflict with the Creek Indians from 1813-1814. The stockade with a blockhouse at each corner was on an area of rising ground the size of a modern football field.

On November 3, 1813, General Coffee and a thousand men including Davie Crockett crossed the Coosa at Fish Dam a few mile above Fort Strother to subdue Creek warriors at



the village of Talleschatchee, near present day Ohatchee.

The confrontation resulted in a massacre of 186 warriors. General Jackson left Fort Strother with 2,000 men on the night of November 8, 1813 to fight the Battle of Talladega. He lost fifteen men in the engagement. Jackson carried an open wound in his shoulder that needed dressing daily. The Indians called him "Mad Old Jackson" and his men called him "Old Hickory."

Sometimes the supply trains from Huntsville were tardy arriving with stores for Fort Strother and the hungry men would attempt to mutiny. He always avoided these mutinies.

While in St. Clair County Jackson found a Creek baby whose mother had been killed and for whom no other mother would care. He sent the

continued on page 13

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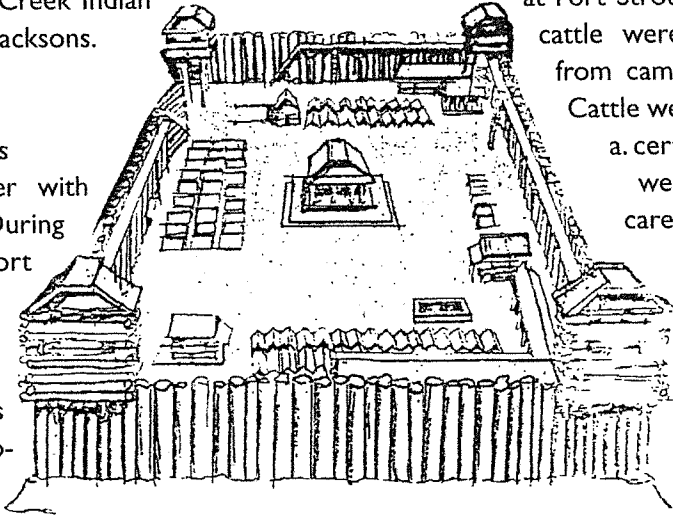
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Fort Strother—Andrew Jackson *from page 11*

baby to friend in Huntsville, and later took him home to his wife, Rachel, in Tennessee. This Creek Indian boy, Lincoya, was raised by the Jacksons.

Life at the Fort

Records show that Jackson's army arrived at Fort Strother with 2,500 men and 1,300 horses. During the week they traveled from Fort Deposit to Fort. Strother records indicated that a thousand bushels of grain, twenty tons of meat, a thousand gallons of whiskey and many other provisions were consumed. By November 1, 1813 another five hundred men arrived at Fort Strother. On November 7, the stockade with its blockhouses was up, and three parade grounds were ready for use: one for 600 men, one for 1,400 men and one for a thousand mounted men. The men and Jackson billeted in tents.



Maintaining the food supply was essential to the men at Fort Strother. One hundred to 150 hogs and cattle were butchered daily. Some distance from camp. was a huge enclosure for hogs. Cattle were kept on good grazing ground. On a certain date 64,000 pounds of salt pork were delivered. Salt and whiskey were carefully afforded special care. A building of 144 square feet was put up to accommodate the whiskey supply, which was always kept under lock and key and well guarded. With only a few drugs for an army of this size, whiskey was essential to the well-being of the camp. The fort contained many

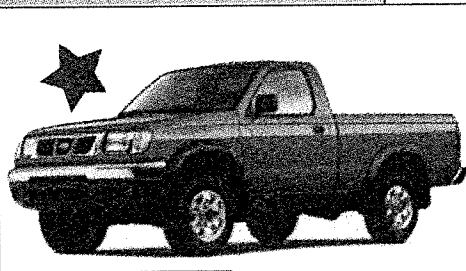
buildings and artisans. Cribs and storage bins for the livestock were constructed. Dry houses were built for salt storage. Blacksmith shops were needed to make horseshoes. There were carpenter shops and cooperage shops for

continued on page 14

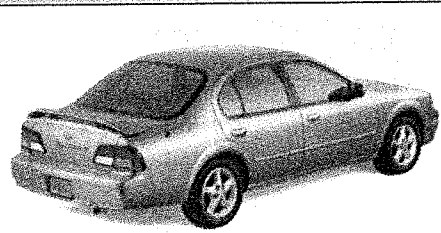
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Fort Strother—Andrew Jackso

from page 13

barrel making. Although the men supplied their own gun the army supplied the gunpowder and lead. The ammunition was carefully stored. a safe distance from the camp. The camp had a sick bay; eight, fifteen by fifteen huts erected for hospital use, surrounded by twenty five, two-men tents for those who were convalescent.

Over a thousand horses were at the camp and a lot of four-horse wagons kept moving from Huntsville to Fort Deposit to Fort Strother and to Fort Williams on down the Coosa. Jackson was determined to have at least a three week supply of everything needed to support his army before the final push against the Indians on the Horse Shoals on the Tallapoosa River.

Wharves were built on the Coosa and skilled stonemasons built twenty large flatboats to supply the engagement to come. The fort, with its blockhouses, three large parade grounds, four separate camps - militia, infantry, cavalry, and at least three hundred friendly Indians - was no small enterprise. The Indians were mostly Cherokee and so called Creeks. They wore white feathers and white deer tails to distinguish them from the enemy.

Legacy

Andrew Jackson's army defeated the Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend on March 27, 1814. The Creeks signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson on August 9, 1814 and moved the Creek people east of the Coosa River. They were rendered their lands west and south of a line drawn from the Cherokee Crossing near Greensport in St. Clair County down the east side of the Coosa to Wetumpka, and there to the mouth of the Summochio Creek, which empties into the Chattahoochee below Eufaula.

Fort Strother and Andrew Jackson contributed to the opening of lands for settlement in Alabama. Jackson's battlefield success propelled him to fame and the White House. When he ran for President only seven votes were cast against him in St. Clair County.

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Past Forward

By Jerry Smith

SELOCTA, THE INDIAN WHO DRESSED LIKE A PIG

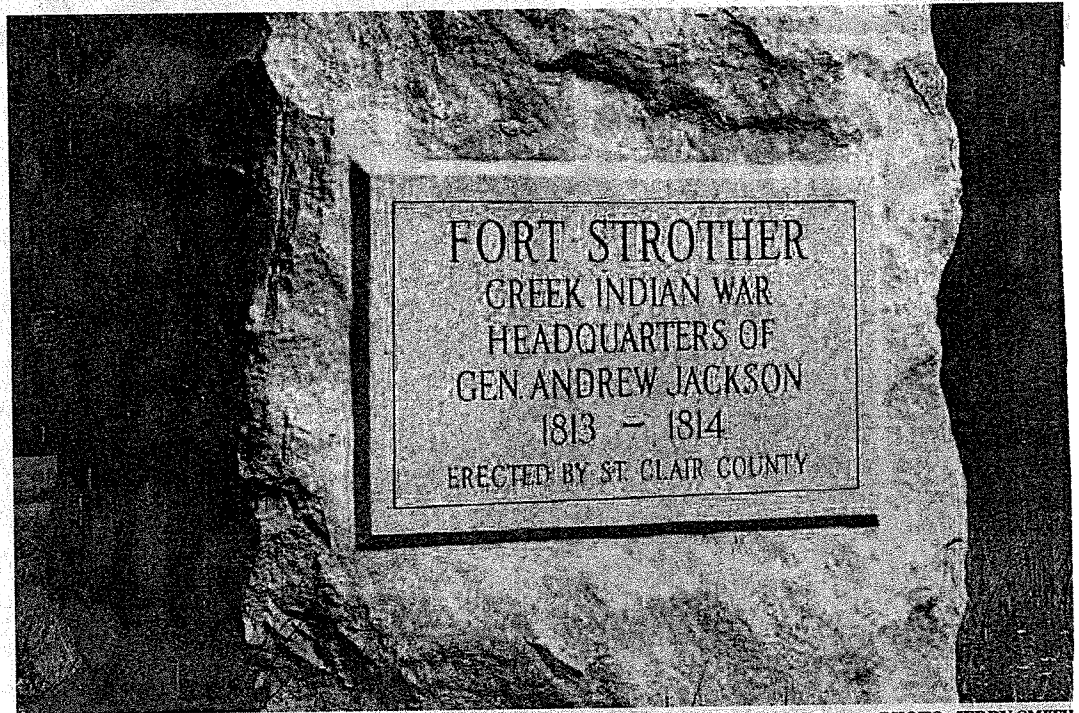


PHOTO: JERRY SMITH

In November of 1813, General Andrew Jackson was encamped at Fort Strother, which stood near Ten Islands on the Coosa River east of Ragland. Originally built by Creek Indian Chief Chinnabee, this facility had been re-fitted and strengthened by Jackson as a supply depot, fortress and staging area during the Indian Wars of 1813-14. Fort Lashley stood nearby, across the Coosa in present-day Talladega.

About 160 "friendly" Creeks with their wives and children had taken refuge at Lashley (also known as Fort Leslie), along with a few whites left behind to man the garrison in Jackson's absence. Around the first of November, 1813, more than a thousand Red Sticks Creeks besieged the fort, placing those inside in a hopeless situation with no means of sending for help.

Because of atrocities suffered in recent battles like Burnt Corn, the Red Sticks had little use for whites; even less for Indians who had aided them. Lashley would soon be taken and its occupants massacred to the last soul. As the fort's inmates pondered their grisly fate, Chief Chinnabee's son, Selocta Fixico, came up with an ingenious plan, no doubt based upon hunting experience.

He would wait for nightfall, then try to sneak through the encamped Red Sticks to get help from Jackson at Fort Strother, some 25 miles to the north. Selocta knew no man could never get through, and also what they would do to him if caught. So, he decided to go not as a man but as an animal.

On all fours while wearing the skin of a large hog, he randomly rooted and grunted in plain view of a war-dancing enemy until he was out of range of their arrows, then dumped the hide and ran for his life. Luckily, Indians never eat just before a battle, or Selocta might have become barbecue. Traveling through the night, possibly on a stolen horse according to some accounts, Selocta's message soon reached the General.

Jackson crossed the Coosa at Ten Islands, using cavalry horses to transport foot soldiers through

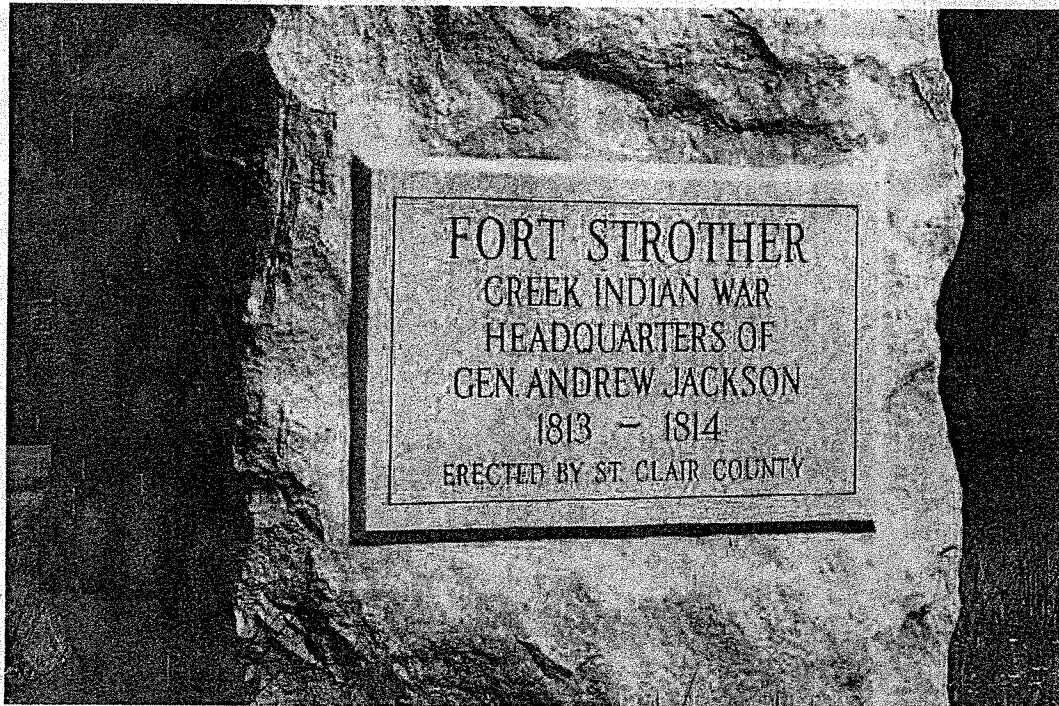


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Jackson crossed the Coosa at Ten Islands, using cavalry horses to transport foot soldiers through the angry shoals until his entire army of 1,200 infantry and 800 cavalry were safely across, then he force-marched them to within six miles of Talladega, where they encamped for the night.

At 4 a.m. next morning, Jackson's army secretly surrounded the Red Sticks, then sent in a decoy force to attack. When the Indians engaged them, his reserves closed in from all sides. A veritable slaughter ensued during the very same hours that Fort Lashley was scheduled to be ravaged in a similar manner. More than 300 Indians died, along with 15 of Jackson's men dead and 85 wounded.

Selecta lived on to become General Jackson's translator at the Treaty of Fort Jackson. He's buried beside Talladega County Road 82, in the McElderry community. The gravesite is topped with a memorial plaque on a sandstone pillar, and covered with a heavy concrete slab to prevent theft.

A stone marker on AL Hwy 144 at Valley Road, just a few blocks west of Neely Henry Dam, commemorates Fort Strother, whose actual location is on private land.

Stone marks site of old fort

By DAVID HAYNES

RAGLAND — A visitor to the site of Gen. Andrew Jackson's headquarters during the Creek Indian Wars at Fort Strother near H. Neely Henry Dam might expect to find a park like the one at Horseshoe Bend in Tallapoosa County.

Instead, he would find a single stone marker competing for space with poke salad and other brush on land owned by a private firm.

But in 1813, when Jackson was preparing for the fight that eventually opened the way for settlers to homestead in Alabama, Fort Strother was home for as many as 5,000 of his men.

According to Mattie Lou Teague Crow's "History of St. Clair County," Fort Strother was "a strong link in the chain of events which removed the hostile Indians from Alabama, opened this area to new settlers, and saw Andrew Jackson on his way to fame and the White House."

FORT STROTHER came into being after a confederacy of Indians, reportedly backed by England, began causing trouble on the frontier in 1812 and 1813.

On Oct. 7, 1813, Jackson took command of a company of infantry and headed for trouble spots in Alabama, according to Mrs. Crow.

Four days later, after picking up volunteers from settlements along the way, Jackson, with 2,500 men and 1,300 horses, marched 32 miles in eight hours to Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee River.

From there, Jackson established Fort Deposit as a supply depot and then went due south from the Tennessee River to a spot on the Coosa known as "10 Islands," which later was to become Fort Strother.

Part of his army hacked out a road (later known as Jackson's Trace) 50 miles through the wilderness in only six days, according to the Mrs. Crow.

AS THEY neared the site, some of Jackson's men raided and destroyed the Indian village of Littafatchee on Canoe Creek near Ashville.

Opon Jackson's arrival at 10 Islands, he started crews cutting trees for the stockade and named the place Fort Strother.

Mrs. Crow notes that historians

disagree whether the fort was named for Gen. George Strother Gaines (who gave Jackson his commission in the Creek War) or for Jackson's topographer, who also was named Strother.

The site is just below H. Neely Henry Dam across from the mouth of the Coosa River at Ohatchee.

Fort Strother was used a Jackson's headquarters throughout the Creek Wars in 1813 and 1814.

By Nov. 7, 1813, the fort included a stockade with blockhouses that covered an area comparable to a modern football field and three parade grounds. One of the parade grounds would accommodate 600 men, another was for 1,400 men and the third was large enough for 1,000 mounted men.

NEEDLESS TO say, the supply link with Fort Deposit was vital for an army the size of Jackson's living in a wilderness area.

Erman Crew of Anniston, who has done extensive research on Fort Strother, has compiled figures on some of the stocks used at the fort.

For example, during the weeklong march from Fort Deposit to Fort Strother, Jackson's 2,500 men and 1,000 horses consumed 1,000 bushels of grain, 20 tons of meat and 1,000 gallons of whiskey.

Crew's research also showed that 100 to 150 hogs and cattle were butchered daily for food. On one day, a single shipment of salt pork weighed in at 64,000 pounds and a special house was built for this "precious commodity."

Whiskey was another essential item for the army. A building with 144 square feet was built to store the whiskey. With only a few drugs available for the large army, "whiskey was essential to the well-being of the camp," Mrs. Crow wrote.

The fort was divided into four separate camps — one each for militia, infantry, calvary and some 300 friendly Indians.

THERE WERE also blacksmith and cooperage shops and a sick bay area.

Jackson insisted on having a three-week supply of everything before moving farther into Indian country.

Some 150, four-horse wagons were kept moving from Huntsville to Fort Deposit to Fort Strother to Fort Williams, which Jackson established

farther downriver.

Jackson's army defeated the "Red Sticks" at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River March 27, 1814. With the war ended by the Treaty of Ft. Jackson several months later, the need for a base at Ft. Strother also was ended and it eventually faded from the scene.

Today, all that remains is the cemetery and the graves unmarked.

In 1913 the Ft. Strother Chapter of the DAR of Anniston erected a stone marker on the site, and it remains today. An inscription on its face reads:

"Here stood Fort Strother
A defense against the Indians
Built by General Andrew Jackson
And occupied by him and his
Brave men
During the Creek Campaign
November 3, 1813.
Erected by the Frederick Wm. Gray
Chapter DAR of Anniston, Alabama
To preserve the memorial of
Faithful service
November 13, 1913."

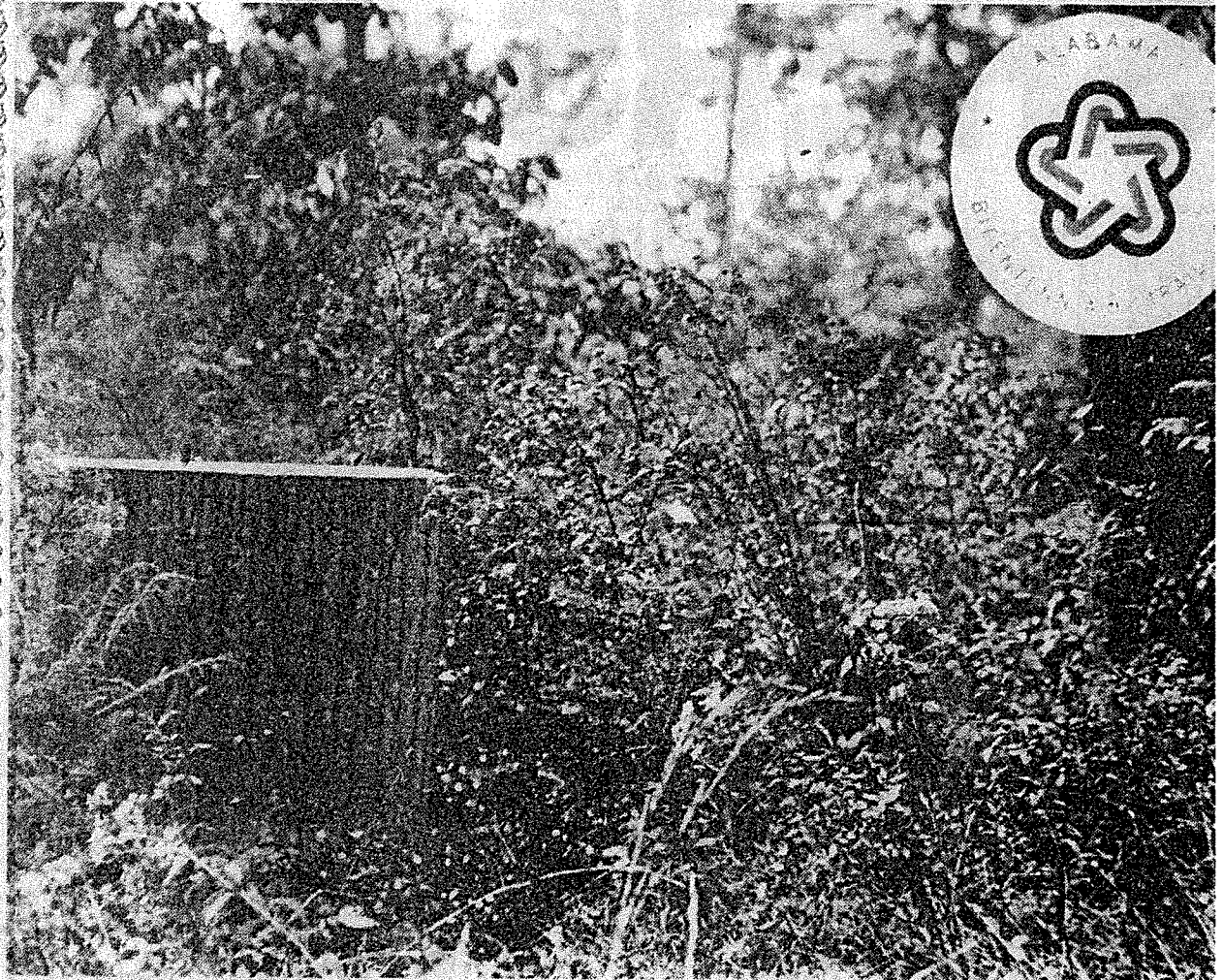
This marker is all that remains of the once great fort. To reach it, one must enter through the gates of the Bounty Company, which apparently now controls the property considered to be the site of Ft. Strother.

Cathy Donaldson of the Alabama Historical Commission said the Ft. Strother site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

She said this designation indicates it is an historic site for which records and other data are available.

However, the site being listed on the National Register doesn't have any effect on property owners' rights and thus does not mean the site is open to the public, according to Ms. Donaldson.

Ms. Donaldson said she does not know of any plans for additional markers or other resoration at the site of the old fort.



The site of Gen. Andrew Jackson's headquarters during the Creek Indian Wars is overgrown now, the historical marker almost covered with brush. A Bicentennial trail site, no plans are under way for restoration of the site. (David Haynes photo)

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12— DAILY HOME, Talladega-Sylacauga-Pell City, Ala., Wednesday, April 29, 1987

Ragland enjoys long and

By **CARL A. MOSLEY**

RAGLAND — The town of Ragland, once known as Trout Creek, has had a long and colorful history as an industrial leader in St. Clair County.

Originally settled by Tennessee pioneers who ventured south during the mid-1800's, Ragland was known as Trout Creek until prior to the start of the Civil War.

The name was taken from a nearby stream that had an abundance of freshwater fish.

Settlers originally broke camp in the area in 1833. Shortly thereafter, the settlement was officially named Trout Creek.

The area was also well known for its large supply of game.

Among Trout Creek's original settlers were Allen and Polly Box, Henry Box, Thomas R. and Viney Adams, Nelson Nash and Samuel

and Eliza Reed.

Later, South Carolina native A.J. Dickinson also took up residence in Trout Creek.

Today, many of Ragland's residents proudly claim to be descendants of the town's early settlers.

The first church in the Trout Creek settlement was organized in the home of Allen Box.

Though Methodist in origin, ministers of every denomination preached from the front porch of the Box home.

Church members would later construct a log cabin church they named Rhodes Chapel, in honor of Billy Rhodes, one of the first ministers to preach in the area.

DURING TROUT CREEK'S early years, the Baptists also built a church.

The Baptist church, Providence, was located approximately three miles from what was then the heart of the community.

During the settlement's early years, a school was operated at the Providence location.

Because Trout Creek did not have its own post office until 1850, early residents had to make the long trek into Ashville to get their mail.

Trout Creek's original post office was located in the home of Samuel Reed, the settlement's first postmaster.

A few years prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, the Sims and Ragland mining company of Talladega County obtained large tracts of land located in and around the Trout Creek settlement.

The company mined coal in the area. In the early years, coal was

transported to River and taken by boats.

Because the increased after slaves were brought to the mines.

Much of the time during this time, the derate arsenal

It was during this time that Trout Creek became

In the years following the Civil War, Ragland experienced rapid growth, stores opened and the population also had three

When the area was depleted, the industries came to

ONE OF THE was Brickyard known as Ragland

"ATTENTION CUSTOMERS"



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The company mined coal in the area. In the early years, coal was

transported to the nearby Coos River and taken to market via flat boats.

Because the demand for coal increased after the Civil War began, slaves were brought in to work the mines.

Much of the coal produced during this time was sent to a Confederate arsenal at Selma.

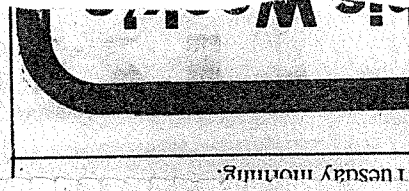
It was during this time that Trout Creek became known as Ragland.

In the years following the Civil War, Ragland experienced tremendous growth, and several large stores opened in the area. The town also had three doctors.

When the area's coal supplies were depleted, several other industries came to Ragland.

ONE OF THE early industries was Brickyard Mountain, now known as Ragland Brick Company.

To All



Founded during the mid-1800s, Ragland, has come a long way. Shown here, is a reminder that

Tuesday morning

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The company ships bricks to many states for use in the construction industry.

Large deposits of clay and shale in the area contributed to the establishment in 1908 of the National Cement Company by W.H., Manassah and Edger Shaffer.

Both Ragland Brick Company and National Cement are in operation today and are the town's largest employers.

Just as in years past, Ragland is proud of its blue collar work ethic and heritage.

Ragland's first bank, the Bank of Ragland, was chartered in 1910. As did many banks of the period, it closed in 1932 during to the Great Depression.

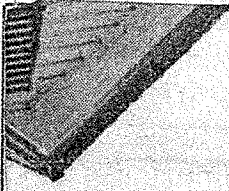
Today, Colonial Bank maintains a branch in Ragland.

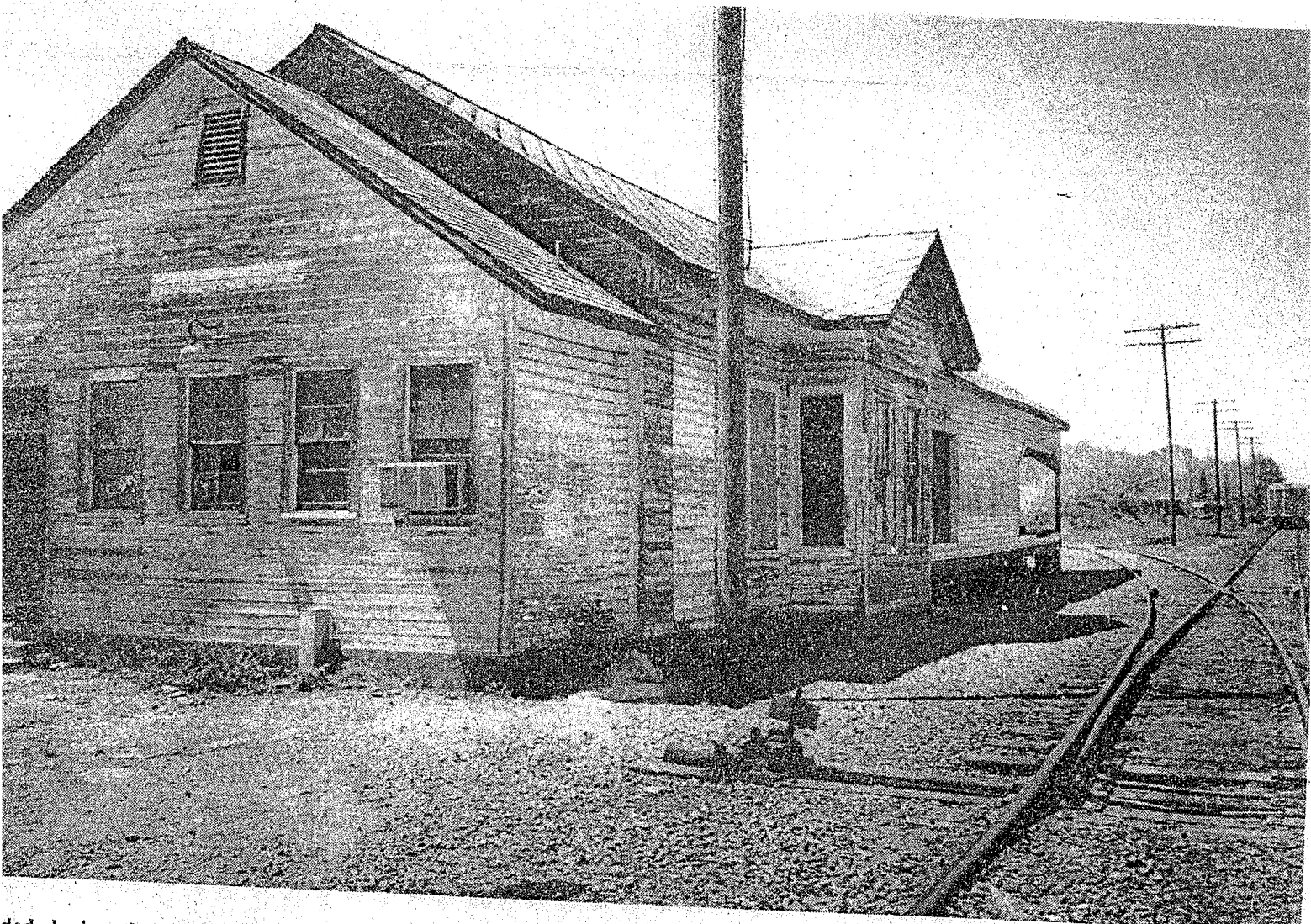
Though Ragland has seen many changes since the days when it was known as Trout Creek, many things remain the same.

Journals left behind by Trout Creek's early settlers say basically the same thing — that the settlement was simply a very nice place to live.

Many of Ragland's current 1,800 residents would probably describe their town the same way.

Just as it was more than 150 years ago, "Trout Creek" is inhabited by a proud stock of people. The type of people who take pride in their town's rich heritage, as well as its future.





ded during the mid-1800's, "Trout Creek", now known as
l, has come a long way. Ragland's current railroad depot,
here, is a reminder that the first trains entering St. Clair

County came to the area shortly after the Civil War. (Bob Crisp
photo)