

The Voice
of
The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
And
The Cobb Memorial Archives

SPEAKING ABOUT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Volume XXIX, No. 3

Published Quarterly

Fall 2007

C.V.H.S. Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 2007, 3:00 p.m. EST
The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library
Valley, Alabama

The Experience of Creek Indian Removal

Speaker: Christopher Haveman

In 1814 General Andrew Jackson forced the leaders of the Creek Confederacy, under threat of continued warfare, to sign the treaty of Fort Jackson. The signing of this treaty accelerated the destruction of the Creek culture by the European culture which ravenously hungered for the natural resources of the southeastern frontier. Within forty years the country of the Creeks would be transformed into the land of King Cotton. During this transformation the Creeks lost promise of protection by federal and state law and any opportunity for remaining on their ancestral lands in Alabama and Georgia. Finally came the mass removal, the Trail of Tears. Between 1827 and 1838 approximately 23,000 Creek Indians, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, were removed forcibly from the borders of Alabama and Georgia westward to present day Oklahoma.

Mr. Christopher Haveman will speak on the Creek Indian removal from the findings of his dissertation research. For more than a year, as he conducted his dissertation research, Mr. Haveman has been under contract to the CVHS to conduct fifty hours of research which could document the construction and role of Fort Cusseta during the Indian uprising in 1836. He will also speak on the findings of the Fort Cusseta documentation research.

Mr. Haveman grew up in Bellingham, Washington and holds degrees from Western Washington University, Marquette University, and Auburn University. He is currently a doctoral student in History at Auburn University in the final stages of completing his dissertation writing. He recently made presentations from his research at Sixtieth Annual Meeting of The Alabama Historical Commission and at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year we invited the "three sisters" into our garden. With weather being so erratic and the failure of the new variety of garden beans, we decided to plant Indian corn, Indian beans and squash in the old hill fashion of our native people. The plantings are fruitful in spite of the drought stress. Tonight for the first time we ate the heritage Cherokee Tears beans which were small, crisp and flavorful. Also, tonight I am writing about the presentation for our October General membership meeting and thinking about the horrible experiences of our Indians in their decline and removal from New Alabama. We will be learning more about our local frontier folk, their clashes with the Creeks and the removal of the Creeks from our region at our October General membership meeting. We are twice fortunate that a doctoral student at nearby Auburn University decided to conduct his dissertation research on the Creek removal and to accept some months ago a contract to document Fort Cusseta's role in the last local uprising. We have been awaiting Mr. Haveman's presentation on his dissertation research and on his Fort Cusseta documentation. We appreciate his good and professional work as a historian which contributes to our knowledge of the frontier period of east Alabama and west Georgia.

With his report on Fort Cusseta submitted to the Board and his public presentation in October, Mr. Haveman has completed the first objective established in February 2006 by a group of citizens interested in preserving the remains of the log building at Cusseta. The first objective was to complete a literature search on the Cusseta fort and document its origin and history during the Indian instabilities of the 1830's.

The second objective related to making the public aware of the condition of the edifice and the need for preservation. This objective has been met in part by newspaper articles which have been published in the past year about the decaying condition of the fort and its identification as a "Place in Peril" by the Alabama Historical Commission. Work on this objective will be ongoing.

The third objective is where we must begin to work now, to establish the group to open the appropriate communications with the owner of the building, Chambers County and thereby the County Commission, to develop the preservation plan and seek the approval of that plan by the County Commission. We will be contacting the February interest group and will be establishing the "Community of Interest Group" to carry this work forward.

The Society is most fortunate to have a good friend and member who lives in California but loves Chambers County, the home place for generations of her family. Mrs. Glenda Brack is visiting LaFayette again for a few months and is working with great endurance to transcribe church records onto CD's. She is currently processing Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church, Troup County, GA. July 1831-Dec. 1931; Sharon Primitive Baptist Church, Chambers County, AL, July 1835-1857; and Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church, Chambers County, AL, August 1846-1994. Once the current work is complete, she will begin work on the records of three more churches. Upon the completion of this phase of her church record project, she will have processed records from fifteen churches, indexed the content and placed a hardcopy of the records on file at the Archives for public access. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Glenda. We continue to search for church records from our region that we may copy to facilitate their availability to the public. Do you know of any old records? If so please contact her directly via email at this address UCMEGEEBEE@aol.com.

The Cemetery Census Committee continues efforts to resurvey Chambers County cemeteries and to bring our earlier cemetery census publications up to date. Work is almost complete on the Society's homepage. We appreciate the response to the book sale announced in the previous *Voice* and encourage your assistance to help us make these nine well written and informative local histories available to the public. These books make great gifts for young family members whom we wish to encourage to appreciate our region and its history. Thank you for your support of the Society and its efforts to collect, preserve and present the story of our people.

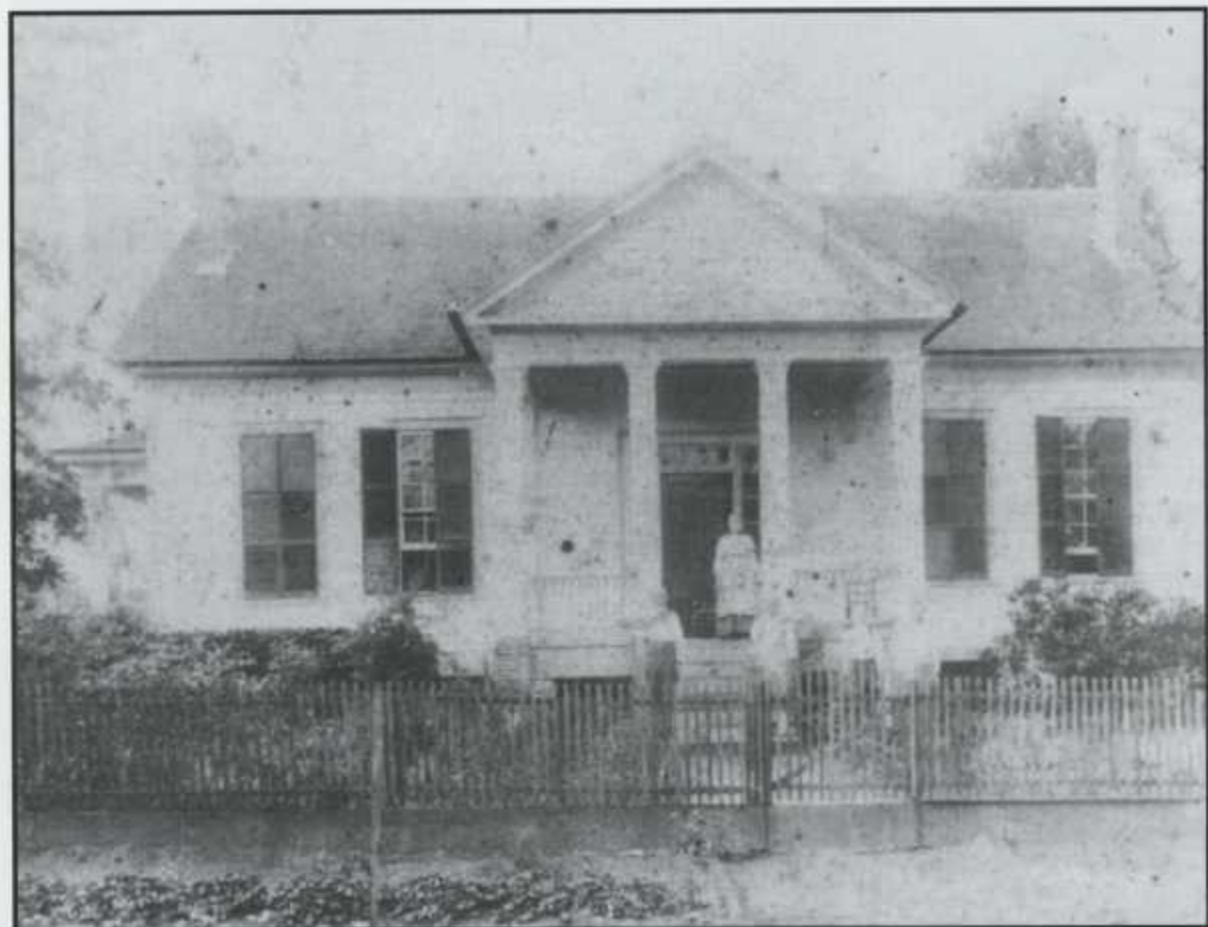
- Horace M. Holderfield

Sweet Home Plantation

The Story - Hadley Place

James and Lany Brooks Story were early settlers of Harris County, Georgia, establishing their plantation of some 1,000 acres near Whitesville. Here they constructed a handsome residence of Greek Revival influence with matching porches on the front (north) and rear (south) entrances with four square columns. The floor plan of the house was simple and suited for the hot southern climate. A 13 feet wide central hall with two rooms on each side, 18 feet square, was a typical arrangement for houses of that period. There were two finished attic rooms upstairs with adequate head room and windows in the gable ends for light and ventilation. On both sides of the house (east and west) a porch was built and a door opened from here into each of the four rooms on the ground floor. This would have been a most convenient place to stack firewood during the cold winter months. Somewhat unusual is the four chimneys were built inside the rooms on the exterior end walls instead of being on the exterior, as was more common of the period in country houses. Each room was designed for excellent cross ventilation with three large windows and one exterior door. A separate kitchen or "cook room" was built in the backyard, along with other necessary buildings needed on a Georgia plantation.

The number 13 seems to have been an important number in the design of antebellum houses. There are 13 panes of glass in the transom and sidelites around the front door, the hall is 13 feet wide, and the ceiling height is 13 feet. At the time the house was built, American Independence was still fresh



An 1890s view of the Story - Hadley House made by the Southern View Company.



A current view of the front façade shows very little change from the 1890s picture with the exception of a small window added to the front gable over the entry porch.



Two marble slabs mark the graves of James Story, Born January 13, 1800 – Died April 27, 1867, and wife Lany Brooks Story, Born March 24, 1809 – Died March 2, 1850. They are buried approximately 20 feet from the house and the front left room which was the Master Bedroom during their lifetime.

in the minds of many and as a symbol of the 13 original colonies, this number was incorporated into architecture and furniture.

When Lany Brooks Story died, she was buried at the cemetery of nearby Beech Spring Baptist Church. Local legend is the Story slaves were afraid and believed her spirit was not satisfied at Beech Spring, and eventually her remains were dug up and removed to the side yard near the master bedroom. The real reason that this reburial occurred may never be known.

According to William Davidson in Pine Log & Greek Revival "Virginia Green, one of a large family, came to make her home with the Storys when she was 16 years old, and lived here until she was 27. She then fell in love and was married to a neighbor, William H. Hadley, who had blazed a trail through the woods two miles down the road and built a home in which they would live after marriage. They married in the parlor of the Story home. The old plantation changed hands after the death of James Story, but in 1908 was bought by William H. and Virginia Green Hadley. Later their son and daughter in law Mr. and Mrs. Claude C. Hadley lived here."

In the 1970s the place was sold after the last Hadley family members had died, and then again in 1986 to Dr. Phil Rogers. Dr. Rogers, a native of Lebanon Junction, Kentucky is an Atlanta physician and professor at Emory Medical School who said finding the house was Providential after searching several years for just the right place. He named the old place "Sweet Home" after an ancestral home in Kentucky.

Dr. Rogers who is also an antiques collector has furnished the house with many fine old southern pieces, some of them family heirlooms. Fortunately when the house was first sold out of the Hadley



The front door opens into the wide center hall. At the rear right are the stairs that lead to the two attic rooms. The back hall door has a transom above but lacks the side lites as found around the front door. All interior and exterior doors are 8 feet tall.

family, many of the original furnishings were left in the house and Dr. Rogers was also able to buy them when ownership transferred to him.

The house has changed very little since first built with the exception of a very well designed addition at the rear by historic minded architect Ed Neel of Columbus, Georgia. At each rear corner wings were added to accommodate a master bath and sitting room on the east side, and a kitchen, mudroom and laundry room on the west side. These extensions make a very pleasing U-shaped courtyard formation in the back. Unless a visitor to Sweet Home is aware of this they might very easily assume that that these wings are original to the house.

Sweet Home Plantation is certainly a remarkable and well preserved plantation home that Harris County is fortunate to have and is available for weddings and other civic events. For more information about holding an event here the contact number is 706.628.5729.



Parlor Mantle. The four mantles in the house are all of simple Greek Revival design. The parlor and dining room mantles are faux painted to resemble marble.

Below: The original kitchen is to the rear of the house and has been stabilized along with a rebuilt chimney, is currently used as a storage building. Several other original outbuildings are on the property.





This two story log structure was moved onto the property and is currently being restored by Dr. Rogers. It was built ca. 1800 by his ancestor Basil Hayden in Nelson County, Kentucky who had settled that area of Kentucky when it was still a part of Virginia. Poplar logs were used in the construction as pine did not grow in that area of the state. A picture of Hayden (who is considered the father of Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey) was depicted on "Old Grand Dad" Whiskey that was distilled by his grandson R. B. Hayden. Dr. Rogers plans to use the building as a museum of primitive southern furnishings.



Harris County Justice of the Peace Claude Hadley performs the marriage rites for a local couple in 1942. Many photographs remain of the old house at various times and in each one the old house always has a very well cared for appearance.



William H. and Virginia Green Hadley were married in the parlor of the old Story home, and 64 years later celebrated their last wedding anniversary together in the same room.





Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge

The last remaining covered bridge in east central Alabama (Lee County) collapsed into Wacoochee Creek in June, 2005. Through the untiring efforts of CVHS member John Ross and other volunteers, the timbers from the 75 feet long bridge were salvaged and stored until a shortened version was reconstructed earlier this year in Opelika at Municipal Park over Rocky Brook Creek. The bridge was originally built about 1900 by Otto Puls in the Town's lattice truss design of heart pine, white oak and cedar. John Ross is to be commended for his preservation efforts on this and other significant projects in the Chattahoochee Valley area.



2007 Officers of CVHS

President

1st Vice President/Programs

2nd Vice President/Editor - The Voice

Secretary

Treasurer

Dr. Horace M. Holderfield

Mrs. Suzy Britt

Mr. Don Clark

Mrs. Ellen P. Sapp

Mr. Wayne Scroggs


ARCHIVE'S REPORT

Due to the illness of Miriam Syler's husband Howard, no report is available for this issue.



CVHS Member Memorial

*Leonard L. Blanton
of
LaFayette, Alabama
1917 - 2007*



The annual dues of the **Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society** are due each year on the first of January. Dues are \$10.00 per individual, \$5.00 for any other member of the same household, and \$2.00 for any student who is still in school and is under 21 years of age. Other yearly membership levels include **Benefactor** - \$200; **Patron** - \$100 and **Friend** - \$50. In becoming a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter *The Voice*, which will inform you of quarterly meetings, new publications that are offered during the year, articles of historical interest in the tri-county coverage area and upcoming events.

Please make your check payable to C.V.H.S. and mail along with application below to:

Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., 3419 20th Avenue, Valley, AL 36854

2007 Membership Application For The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____



The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
3419 20th Avenue
COBB MEMORIAL ARCHIVES
Valley, Alabama 36854