

# *The Voice*

*Of  
The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society  
And  
The Cobb Memorial Archives*

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

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## C.V.H.S. Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2009, 3:00 p.m. EST  
The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library  
Valley, Alabama

### *The Battle of Horseshoe Bend – 1814*

Speaker: Marianne M. Mills, Superintendent  
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park



*An aerial view of the Tallapoosa River at Horseshoe Bend. Bean Island can be seen in the upper left.*

March 27, 1814 changed history for all Americans. One thousand warriors, senior citizens, women and children held their ground at Tohopeka, a refuge camp within a bend of the Tallapoosa River known as the Horseshoe Bend. They had constructed a "zigzag" barricade, cutting down hundreds of trees and creating a vicious and valiant barrier between themselves and the coming U.S. troops. Major General Andrew Jackson with his Tennessee Militia and Cherokee and Creek "friendlies" marched from the north and arrived on a hill overlooking the Red Stick Creek constructed barricade the evening before the Battle. (*'Horseshoe'* continued on page 3)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently I was asked to make a presentation to the members of the Randolph County Historical Museum, Inc. concerning the history, role and functions of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society. The Randolph County Museum is considering opportunities it may have to increase its membership and enhance its public interpretation on the many facets of Randolph County's history. In preparation for this presentation I thought it might be useful to analyze the membership characteristics of our Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society. Our membership is constantly changing so any analysis only reflects the characteristics of a point in time. In April 2009, 53% of the names on our list were those of women and 47% were of men. Mailings of *The Voice* were to 186 home addresses and to 25 institutional addresses. Sixty-eight of our members lived in Chambers County, Alabama, 28 lived in other Alabama counties, 32 lived in Troup County, Georgia, 20 lived in other Georgia counties, and 38 lived in other states. Outside Georgia and Alabama membership is spread among 20 states. I was surprised to discover that we had only one member from Randolph County, since the social and economic history of northern section of Chambers County is entwined with the history of the southern portion of Randolph County. In my presentation I took the opportunity to promote the joining of the historical societies of our neighboring counties, especially the counties near our communities where commercial, social and educational ties existed in the past. At the meeting, I became a life member of the Randolph County Museum and challenged that membership to join our society. I also challenge our membership to support the Troup and Harris Counties in Georgia and Lee, Tallapoosa, and Randolph Counties in Alabama in their historical societies and museum initiatives.

I am excited to report a wonderful opportunity for our Society. Some months ago Arcadia Publishing solicited a proposal to prepare a photographic history of Chambers County which would be published by that company in its *Images of America* series. A number of individuals, cities, and counties in Alabama have had success in working with Arcadia which has published more than 5,000 titles in regional histories. Following approvals by our Board of Directors and the Board of the Chambers County Museum, we submitted a proposal which was accepted by Arcadia. The production of the photographic history will be a joint effort by CVHS and the Chambers County Museum. Dividends from the sale of the monograph by Arcadia through national book retailers will be shared equally by CVHS and the Museum. Arcadia has high standards for its publications and is prescriptive, but most helpful, in the development of the monograph. All of our local work will be by volunteers.

We are very excited about this opportunity to work with a national publisher of local historical materials and to promote Chambers County. We also are very excited about the opportunity to solicit from our membership, and the general public, old original photographs to be scanned and considered for inclusion in the monograph. In October we will advertise our solicitation of old photographs in the local newspapers. The photographs will need to be made prior to 1960 and of good quality. The subjects of the photographs will be the people of Chambers county working on their farms, attending their churches, schools, and social organizations, working in commerce and industry, living in their villages and towns and in service to their country. We want the photographs to reveal the breath of vitality our people have experienced in this county. The monograph may contain as many as 240 images and 18,000 words. The caption for each photograph will contain from 50 to 70 words.

The Steering Committee for this project will make the decision on which photographs to include in the final draft. We wish to meet the owners of the old photographs at the Bradshaw Library or LaFayette Library to scan the photographs. We wish to avoid being in possession of the privately owned photographs. We will scan all photographs submitted and the scanned copy will be preserved in a digital format in the Cobb Memorial Archives. This is an excellent opportunity to insure that a copy of a photograph(s) from your family collection will be maintained and protected in the Cobb Archive. If you have a photograph or photographs you would like to be considered for inclusion in the publication, please call me at 334.864.7096 or email at [holderfieldh112@msn.com](mailto:holderfieldh112@msn.com) or please call Don Clark at 334.864.7851 or [thevoicecvhs@aol.com](mailto:thevoicecvhs@aol.com) to discuss how we may scan your photograph or how you may send us a scan in the file format required by the publisher. If we are not at home, please leave a message and we will return your call. Our contract requires that we must submit our final draft to Arcadia Publishing by April 27, 2010. So please help us respond to this wonderful opportunity by assisting our efforts to locate old original photographs and produce a meaningful pictorial history of our people and their many endeavors in Chambers County.

- Horace M. Holderfield



## ARCHIVE'S REPORT

Summer is over and Fall activities are "gearing up".

We are delighted to be invited to be a part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Planning Committee. At the request of Mike Bunn, Curator of History at the Columbus Museum, we will also be providing items for an upcoming exhibit at the Museum on Slavery and Reconstruction.

Randy Moon, Grant Writer for the City Of Valley, is researching here preparing a Rails to Trails Enhancement Grant for the City of Valley. Ten informational signs featuring buildings and sites along the trail as they relate to the railroad will be produced. This is an exciting project which will affect the entire area when it is completed.

Jenna has finished cataloging the large collection of LaFayette Pilot Club Scrapbooks and Memorabilia.

Recent donations include: World War II Nazi artifacts, Lewis A Smith; Civil War bayonette, 1954 aerial map of Langdale, photo of Moore's Creek, photo of West Point Bridge after the 1919 flood, article by Virginia Smith on the Chattahoochee River and an article on the Griggs House in West Point, author unknown, are gifts of Melvin T. Fields, Jr. of Valley.

A Summers Family, was compiled and donated by Carl Summers.

Five Years in the Sunny South, Reminiscences of Marcus Marcoot, Late of Co. "B" 15th Regiment Missouri Veteran Volunteer Infantry, From 1861 to 1866 was donated by Bill Allen of LaFayette.

Photographs, correspondence, dedication invitation and program for the making and dedication of the West Point Manufacturing Company Historic Marker in 1964, are the gift of James Stewart.

All of these and many other interesting items are located here in the archives for research and your pleasure. We are grateful to all who think of us when they want to share their treasures and items of historical value.

Marjorie, Jenna and I hope you will visit us when you have an opportunity.

- Miriam Syler

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*('Horseshoe' continued from page 1)*

From midday until early evening, a bloody hand to hand combat was waged. U.S. and Cherokee troops stationed on Bean Island across from Tohopeka began floating across the Tallapoosa and took Tohopeka by surprise. With attack coming from both sides, the Red Stick warriors were defeated. Over 800 people lay dead on the 300-acre battlefield in less than four hours of fighting.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend marked the final fight of the Creek Nation with the U.S. Government. The most powerful American Indian culture in the Southeast eventually was forced to Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma) along with most of the other Southeastern tribes. Andrew Jackson became a well respected leader and was given command at New Orleans a few months later. Victories at Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans created a national hero and, eventually, a two-term president. Whether loved or despised, Andrew Jackson remains one of the pivotal figures in U.S. political history. The departure of the Creek and Cherokee people led cession of millions of acres of land to the U.S. Government and created the state of Alabama. The western frontier was pushed across the Mississippi. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, established in 1959, turned 50 years old this year and continues to make history.



Brock-Bowling-Farr House, Chambers Co. AL

*The handsome old home built by Frank Brock in 1904 was for many years a handsome residence in LaFayette. This photograph was taken in 1997 while under the ownership of the Bernard Farr Estate.*

## Brock - Bowling - Farr House

A narrative obtained through a backward glance into *The LaFayette Sun* newspaper.

Located at 117 North LaFayette Street (U.S. Hwy. 431) in LaFayette is the substantial residence built in 1904 by Franklin P. Brock (1853 - 1908) and wife Sallie Frederick Brock (1861 - 1917). Mr. Brock was the son of James T. and Sarah Baugh Brock, and Mrs. Brock the daughter of Dr. Albert H. R. and Sarah A. Frederick. The Brocks purchased an earlier antebellum house that was situated on the once large lot as the November 26, 1884 edition of *The LaFayette Sun* reported:

"Mr. F. P. Brock bought the residence of Mr. M. L. Smith last week paying \$2,000 for the house and lot. Mr. Smith, we learn, contemplates moving to Opelika. Mr. Brock will take possession about the first of January."

The Brocks lived in the old home for almost 18 years and the beautiful house and grounds became known locally as "The Grove". Tragedy struck as reported in the July 16, 1902 edition:

"Residence Burned.

Sound sleepers had their slumbers disturbed Sunday morning at about 2:30 o'clock by the cry of fire. It took some time to get some of the people aroused, but the telephone turned on and woke up many. The news spread that Mr. Frank P. Brock's home in the beautiful grove was burning and to that point the



people centered. The fire was discovered by Mr. Brock and his wife, who thought that some one had broken into the kitchen. When they first saw it the flames had eaten through the rear entry just behind the front hall. It is supposed to have caught in the kitchen. By heroic work a large portion of the household effects in the two downstairs front rooms was saved, but it was impossible to get out any of the goods in the upstairs rooms or any of the dining room furniture. Many beautiful things were destroyed. There was insurance to the amount of \$1,800 on household goods and dwelling. The loss to Mr. Brock is very great. The house was one of the oldest and most substantial residences in the place and it was one of the beautiful sights of the town."

After the old home burned the large lot owned by the Brocks was divided and a corner lot sold as reported in the August 13, 1902 edition:

"Mr. Frank P. Brock has sold a third of his large lot – the corner next to Judge Denson's – to Mr. J. C. Griffin."

This sale resulted in the construction of a large two-story poured concrete wall residence that was known for many years as the Carl Schuessler home and is currently owned by Mrs. Harold Pittman.

The Brock family lived in LaFayette, probably in a rented house for almost two years until preparations were made for building a new residence as the June 22, 1904 issue stated:

"Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Brock and little daughter, of LaFayette, were the guests last week of the family of Mr. J. E. Timmons. While in the city, Mr. Brock let the contract for erection of a neat residence in LaFayette to the East Alabama Lumber Co., of Opelika. – *Opelika Post.*"

The new house built by the Brocks would be of the pyramidal-roof style so favored at the time. Eight large rooms, a receiving room at the entry of a large central hallway, and bathroom would be the layout. Seven coal-burning fireplaces with handsome cabinet mantels would serve as sources of heat in the large rooms with plastered walls and 14-ft. ceiling heights. A handsome L-shaped porch on the street and south sides of the house was also in the design with round columns and handsome turned balusters. Colored glass in several of the window sashes were also used. Construction of the house was well underway when mentioned in the August 10, 1904 edition:

"When completed, Mr. Frank Brock will have one of the prettiest residences in LaFayette."

Three and one-half months after construction began, and without the use of modern-day power tools, skilled carpenters employed with East Alabama Lumber Company completed the house as noted in the October 19, 1904 edition:

"Frank Brock has moved into his new residence and Roy Simpson is occupying the one vacated by Mr. Brock."

The November 30, 1904 edition of the newspaper made mention of perhaps the first social function hosted at the new Brock home:

"At Mrs. F. P. Brock's Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock the ladies of the Methodist church will tell in rhyme how they have earned the dollar recently pledged by them for the benefit of the church fence."

The house was later owned by Judge William B. Bowling and after his death purchased by the Farr family. The large lot was downsized once again when Miss Eunice Turnham purchased a lot on the south side of the house and Mrs. Fred Trammell on the north. Both of these ladies built new homes. During the Farr ownership three of the four handsome brick chimneys with corbelled tops were removed when the house was reroofed. This once fine old house now stands in a deteriorated condition.

Our houses now occupy the once large lot where a grand old antebellum house known as "The Grove" once stood in LaFayette.

### In Memory of Dr. Albert H. R. Frederick.

The subject of this brief notice was born in Keenonville, North Carolina April 27, 1835 and died in Ocala (Ocala), Florida September 22, 1901. His father came to Alabama in 1839 and he lived until 1890 in Chambers County, when he took up his residence in Ocala (Ocala), where he died. For many years Dr. Frederick lived at Cusseta and practiced his profession and then for some years lived in LaFayette.

Dr. Frederick was a man of strong convictions on all moral and religious questions. He was a great friend to temperance and always let in every moment that favored the cause. He loved his church and took most active parts in all her enterprises. He was a skilled and honorable physician and did much to alleviate suffering among the poor. In the home he was tender, devoted and affectionate. His influence for good will long be felt. A Christian man has gone to his reward, leaving his children the best of all inheritances, a good name. May they follow in his steps as he followed Christ.

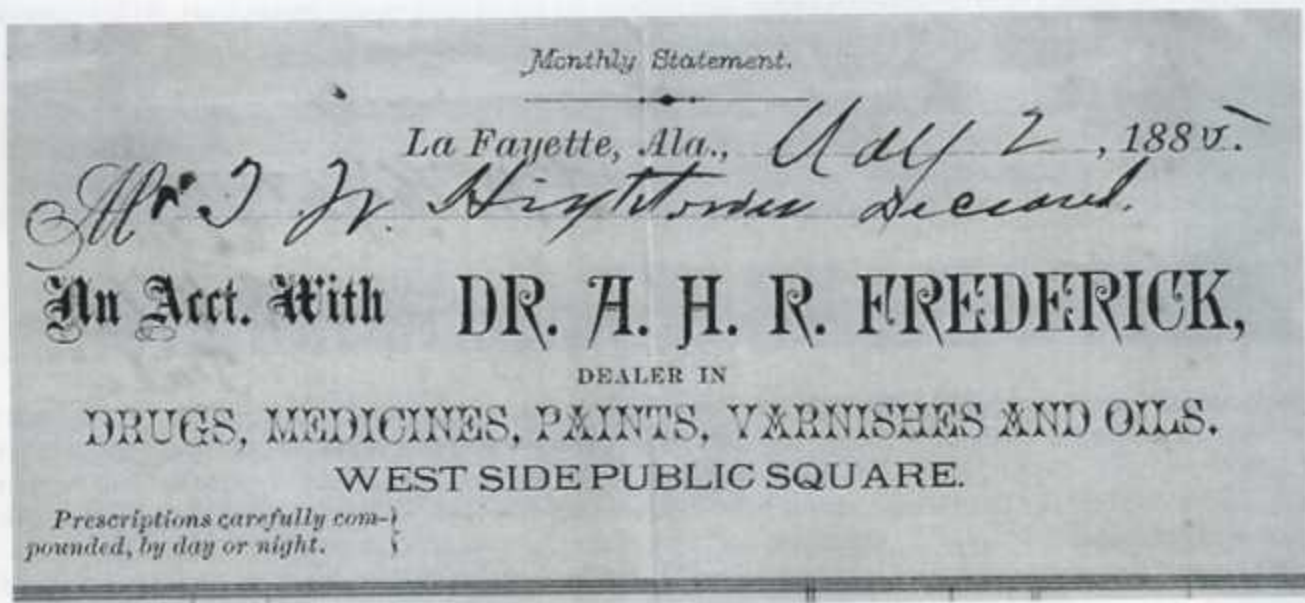
#### Dr. Frederick's Death.

The immediate family as well as the whole community, was shocked last Sunday to learn of the sudden death of Dr. Frederick at Ocala, Florida. The remains reached here on Tuesday and the funeral services were held at the Baptist Church in the afternoon. The pastor Dr. Thompson conducted the services, assisted by Drs. Bledsoe, Dobbs and Faust. Dr. Frederick leaves a widow and the following children: Mesdames F. P. Brock, G. E. McGehee, A. J. Driver, Hiss Hattie May and Messrs. Robert and Jim Frederick. They have the sympathy of our friends.

From *The LaFayette Sun* - September 25, 1901.



An early cabinet card photo of Dr. Albert H.R. Frederick



A letterhead from a receipt with Dr. Frederick dated May 2, 1885.





*Marble tombstone and slabs at Frederick graves in Lafayette Cemetery. Lying on the ground is a Marble urn that once crowned the top of the monument.*

## Bishop Family to Honor Ancestors

Early settlers to the NW corner of Chambers County in the area where the Tallapoosa River snakes it way through some hilly terrain with rich river bottoms included Ira and Eavy Bishop. The Bishops were in the county at least by 1834, coming from Meriwether County, Georgia. Nine children grew to adulthood and continued to live in Chambers and Tallapoosa Counties where many of their descendants remain today. Millard D. Fuller (1935-2009), founder and former president of Habitat for Humanity International, is included among these.

The early Bishops were affiliated with Double Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Chambers County. Later the church moved a short distance west beyond the Tallapoosa County line and the name changed to Darien. Ira and Eavy Bishop were buried in the Darien Cemetery in 1885 and 1871 respectively. Until now their graves were marked only with field stone.

Family members began raising funds for a "Bishop Heritage Monument" earlier this year and soon had the money needed for a five-foot granite monument engraved with much family information.

On Sunday October 25, a morning worship service will be held at Darien Church beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a covered dish lunch afterwards. At 1:30 p.m. a dedication service will be held for the Bishop Heritage Monument. All descendants and friends are invited to attend one or both of these services.

## 2009 Officers of CVHS

*President*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Editor - The Voice*

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Dr. Horace M. Holderfield

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Mr. Don Clark

Mrs. Ellen P. Sapp

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The annual dues of the **Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society** are due each year on the first of January. Dues are \$12.00 per individual, \$6.00 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** - \$250; **Patron** - \$100 and **Friend** - \$50. For any **NEW member only** who subscribes after September 1, their membership will be for the remainder of the current year and also the following year. 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 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Valley, AL 36854**

2009 Membership Application - The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Street Ad-  
dress \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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