

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, July 19, 2009, 3:00 p.m. EDST
The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library
Valley, Alabama

Georgia Confederates – Prisoners of War

Speaker: James E. Stallings, Sr.

James E. Stallings, Sr., a resident of Macon, GA is the author of Georgia's Confederate Soldiers Who Died As Prisoners of War 1861-1865. In a recent interview Mr. Stallings reflected upon his reason for writing the book with the following comments:

"Even though I had been interested in genealogy for a number of years it was my desire to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization that would lead me into specific research for a Confederate ancestor that would qualify me for membership in that group. Although the ancestor under whose substantiated record I was accepted into the organization was not the one I had originally intended, nevertheless it was the impetus that caused me to continue my search for a namesake. That research eventually carried me to Elmira, New York the site of one of the infamous United States Prison Camps utilized during the War Between the States. My visit to Woodlawn National Cemetery in that city, where the remains of my great-great-grandfather William C. Stallings are interred, was the inspiration to begin over six years of research and writing the manuscript. As a result I have identified over 3,600 Georgians who died in United States of America Prison Camps and Hospitals. The book is divided into two parts:

Part One, *The Prisons*, is devoted to describing the history and conditions of nine major United States prisons where Confederate soldiers were incarcerated. These chapters also include testimonies by prisoners as well as official communications between the prison camp commanders and their superiors regarding the operation of the prisons.

Part Two, *The Hospitals*, is devoted to states where the United States had field and general hospitals. Captured, wounded and sick Confederate soldiers were treated in these hospitals but would ultimately die before they could be transferred to a prison facility.

The final chapter lists those soldiers who could not be identified as dying in specific prisons or hospitals with the conclusion of the book giving official insight into why some events probably caused unnecessary deaths".

The book is now part of the Special Collections Sections in University, Heritage, and Public libraries in many states since its publication date of April 2008. Books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently I read in an online newspaper an item that made me recall the great fear and feeling of horror that my uncles and aunts instilled in me when I was a child. The article cited a recent study of a dangerous infection, MRSA, which is being documented in children bitten by dogs and cats. This drug-resistant bacterial infection, formerly found only in hospital environments, has now moved into the mouths of our pets. One can anticipate future dreadful and stern warnings by parents to children to keep a great distance away from all dogs and cats if this infection continues to move through our population. It is the children who always suffer the most damage from our dogs and cats. My aunts and uncles were born in the 1870's, '80's and '90's. They repeatedly warned me of the consequences of being bitten by a rabid dog. I would endure a horrible and painful death if bitten and have not forgotten the tone of their warnings. I know many of you may have the same memories of the voiced and visible fears of relatives cautioning you not to socialize with strange dogs, cats, raccoons, and other furry little animals. Most of our county reports of rabies today are related to raccoons, but in the last century we were most fearful of dogs.

I thought it might be instructive and interesting to do a content analysis of the 1884 *LaFayette Sun* publication by Glenda Brack to determine just how preoccupied our folks were with the dreaded mad dog in that year. This small analysis would not be inclusive of all cases of rabies in the county but only reports submitted to the paper. Also Mrs. Brack transcribed only that content where personal names occurred. In 1884 *The Sun* did not report any pestilence sweeping the county. Only two cases of typhoid deaths were noted. Illness and death were occurring from accidents, homicide, age and a variety of singular conditions. But, *The Sun* reported on incidents of rabid dogs and associated deaths 18 times that year. Exact numbers of persons bitten were not always reported but most of the victims were children. The rabies threat was first reported on February 20 of an incident that had taken place on "the last day of Christmas." The subsequent reports were arrayed across nine months. In February in the Doublehead Community, a dog had bitten only other dogs and geese, that dog and all dogs bitten were destroyed. In February in the Stroud Creek area of the Hickory Flat community, a white child and a black child were bitten. Still in the Hickory Flat community in March a child that had been bitten died. In April a mad dog was suspected of being on the loose and a bitten hog near Welch was penned for observation. In April in Beat One a child died and the local doctor reported that a second child was hopelessly ill with hydrophobia. In May, still in the Hickory Flat area, a dog was on the rampage, biting a black child that died and several cattle and a calf. These animals were destroyed. In May several more white and black children in the same region were bitten. A white child died. From Roanoke came the report of a child dying from the horrible disease. Two mad dogs were killed south of LaFayette; children near the Lee County line were bitten as well as a number of farm animals. A mad dog passed through Waverly in June attacking chickens. Reports in June and July described a farmer who penned his dog which went mad, escaped, bit his horse and mule and almost bit his son. The horse went mad after 21 days and was killed. The fate of the mule, which was being watched, was not reported. These two animals represented the total number of draft animals on that farm.

The most spectacular series of attacks began in September at Ward's Mill where a roaming mad dog bit dogs on four farms, attacked an adult white woman in her home, ranged north to the Bethel Church road five miles south of Roanoke attacking a yearling, bit a white man and continued traveling on into Randolph County where it was killed. In May a suspected mad dog entered LaFayette and instigated fights with many other dogs. This dog was pursued but escaped west of town. Later it returned to the Courthouse square where it was recognized by twenty men and boys. This dog was followed by a man on mule back and destroyed. The last incident reported in 1884 occurs in the north of the county where a farmer was bitten severely by a dog that was attacking geese at night. The dog escaped but was found and killed the next day. We would need to read the 1885 *Sun* to determine the fate of this farmer.

The writer in *The Sun* on two occasions recommended action be taken to require unchained dogs to be muzzled during this period of threat in order to protect the children from the terrible death from hydrophobia. Any dog on the prowl without a muzzle should have been killed. Since my aunts and uncles were children in this period of threat, I can understand their fear and warnings of the mad dog monster.

I have not included any names in this narrative. I hope to challenge you to read Mrs. Brack's work, which is in the Cobb Memorial Archives, and see if your relatives or family friends were named in these reports. Please continue to collect, preserve and tell our story, as Mrs. Brack has done in her transcriptions of *The LaFayette Sun*. We appreciate your support of the Society.

- Horace M. Holderfield

ARCHIVE'S REPORT

When I mentioned adding to our local cookbooks collection I had no idea some would come from an unlikely source. LeClaire Turner of Winston-Salem, North Carolina called to ask if we would like to have several cookbooks that had belonged to her grandmother, Mary Lee Morris, Clara Morris, Mary Bass Turner and LeClare's mother-in law, Mary Turner. LeClare did not know of our call for cookbooks so we like to call this a case of serendipity! The books are Cook Book, D.A.R. and West Point Woman's Club, 1926, Cook Book, Methodist Missionary Society, Langdale, Alabama, Junior Civic League, West Point, Georgia Cook Book 1940 and Favorite Recipes, Blessed Virgin Sodality Holy Family Catholic Church, Lanett, Alabama 1960-1962.

We also added Our Personalized Recipes, sponsored by: Beulah School P.T.A, Riverview, Alabama, Our Recipes sponsored by Five Points United Methodist Church, Five Points, Alabama, and Seasons Greetings, A Taste of Chambers County, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University, 1985.

Not only are the recipes tempting, the names of the people who submitted them are familiar and the business ads are quite interesting. One in the Langdale book that caught my eye read "Hundreds of Satisfied Customers, Princess Anne and Bubber Flour, Johnson and Company Howell Blakely". The flour was named for Mr. Johnson's young son, Bubber!

Numerous photographs have been added to our extensive photograph collection. Our good friend Crew Pitts continues to film special events and interviews with local citizens for our collections.

Jenna has cataloged a large number of LaFayette Pilot Club Scrapbooks and Marjorie has cataloged Miss Alma Holladay's genealogical material to add to her existing collection.

Mr. Lewis Austin Smith donated a small collection of World War II German artifacts including a Nazi flag. These items were given to him by an uncle.

An outstanding family history, The Spirit in The South, Stories of our Grandmothers, compiled by The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Vold Forde, Anne Curtis Terry and cousins, has been donated to the Archives. This is not only a very beautiful book, it contains outstanding records, family photographs, maps and even family recipes.

The Woody Family compiled by Robert F. Smyer is a recent donation. This is the story of many families who came from Oglethorpe County, Georgia as pioneers in early Chambers County.

The sports display I mentioned last time is being enjoyed by many people who find their relatives in the many photographs. Perhaps you will take advantage of these hot summer days to come and browse in the Archives. There is really something of interest for everyone.

- Miriam Syler



The Miller house is a pyramidal-roofed cottage so favored as being the most picturesque vernacular house types along the Southern Gulf Coast states. The full façade front porch welcomes visitors to double doors that open to a wide central hall with two rooms on each side approximately 17' square. A kitchen-dining room wing is on the left rear. A back hall extension with modern amenities were built on the right.

THE ALVA C. MILLER HOUSE

On perhaps one of the hottest days West Point experienced last summer in August, CVHS members Dick and Valerie Greaves moved into the Alva C. Miller house from Mount Dora, Florida where they had spent the last 25 years of their lives. Natives of Boston with family roots in Nova Scotia, Dick Greaves had been the owner of the Union Oyster House, the oldest restaurant in Boston and the oldest restaurant in continuous service in the United States, since 1826! Seeking a change from Florida, the Greaves wanted to find an historic old house and began their search in LaGrange. Unable to locate one that suited their needs, they looked at the Miller House the first day it came on the market and bought it from CVHS member Ellen Price Sapp.

In *The Voice*, Winter 1996, CVHS member A. Stephen Johnson wrote a history of the this house: "One of the houses featured in [Travels Through Troup County, GA](#) is the home of CVHS members Bill and Ellen Price at 1703 Malco Drive in West Point. This one story Victorian cottage was built in 1875-76 for Alva C.

Miller shortly after he married Miss Nora E. Taylor (1856 – 1924) of Dadeville, AL. Alva Miller was in business with his brother Henry W. Miller, operating a shoe and leather goods store in downtown West Point, in the building now (1996) occupied by the Cobbler's Shop at 718 Third Avenue. The two brothers bought 48 acres of land on the LaGrange Road (now U.S. 29) about a mile from downtown West Point, and built identical houses several hundred yards apart. Alva's house was built first and sat well back from the road with a cedar lined driveway leading to it. Henry's house was built slightly later in 1876, and still stands at 1603 Highway 29, close to the road and very much changed from its original appearance with a second story added about 1890 and numerous additions through the years."

"In a letter to his sister Amanda Miller Edge dated March 24, 1876, Alva Miller wrote: (spelling and punctuation corrected) *My house is not quite completed yet, at least the painting. I shall not undertake to make my yard all around the house before fall. I am quite well pleased with everything save the floors and ceiling over my veranda, which were put down too green and have shrunk, so I have many cracks; but I suppose I will have to let that act as a stimulant to hurry me to try to make some money to buy carpets. Henry's lumber is being hauled to commence his house in front of Mr. Bonner's.*"

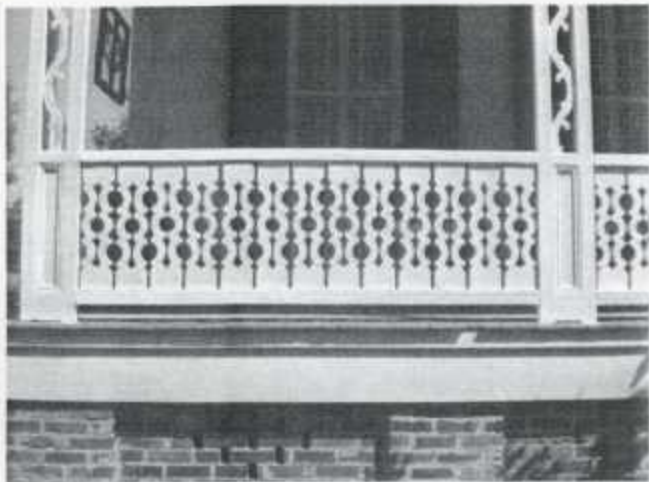
"Alva and Nora Miller had only one child, a daughter named Nellie (Curtis) who died in 1883, at the age of five. After Nellie's death, Nora was very unhappy living in the house, and about this time she inherited a farm and other property in Dadeville, so the Millers decided to sell the house and move to Dadeville to oversee Nora's property holdings. Alva Miller died in 1904 at the age of 56, and Nora died in 1924 at the age of 67. Both are buried in the Dadeville City Cemetery along with their daughter Nellie."

"Among Nora Miller's property holdings was the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Tallapoosa County, AL. She donated several acres for a monument commemorating the event, which was erected in 1914 on the 100th anniversary of the battle. Nora's will shows that she was quite wealthy at the time of her death. It occupies four legal-size pages in the Tallapoosa County Will Book and contains specific detailed instructions for her grave marker and distribution of her possessions. Her real estate property listed in the will consists of 11 separate tracts and buildings in Dadeville and Tallapoosa County, four lots and buildings in Birmingham, one in Tusculumbia and a farm and resort hotel in Ohio. She gave specific instructions bequeathing almost every single one of her personal possessions to various family members; over 100 specific pieces of furniture, clothing, jewelry and household items are listed. Included are 32 separate pieces of jewelry containing diamonds, rubies, pearls, opals and topaz. Among other items listed are a Winton Six car and expensive clothing such as furs, ostrich plumes, a feather boa and an opera cloak. She even bequeathed her underwear to two female relatives! Another item in the will states: *...the silver trowel, if used, be suitably engraved and delivered to the Department of Archives and History of Alabama.* The significance of the trowel is not explained; perhaps it was used in laying the Horeseshoe Bend monument."

"When the Alva Millers moved to Dadeville about 1885, they sold the house to Mr. & Mrs. Lon Strong. Mr. Strong served as City Clerk of West Point from 1906 to 1920, and in 1907 they decided to move closer in to town, and sold the house to Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Mallory who lived here for the next twenty-five years. After Mrs. Mallory's death, Mr. Mallory sold the house to Miss Gladys Ozley (Charter member of the CVHS) who had rented it for several months. This was in 1935, after the Forest Park subdivision had begun to be developed around the house, and it might have been demolished if Miss Gladys had not felt so strongly about buying it to live in."

"After Miss Ozley's death in 1985, the house changed hands once more, and under its new owner underwent severe deterioration in just a few years. It was saved just in time when Bill and Ellen Price bought it in 1992, deciding to make it their home for their retirement years. They have put in hours of hard work doing much of the restoration work themselves and have restored the house to its original appearance. Although simple in design, the house has a natural elegance about it resulting from careful attention to every detail. The Prices deserve special recognition for this outstanding accomplishment in historic preservation."

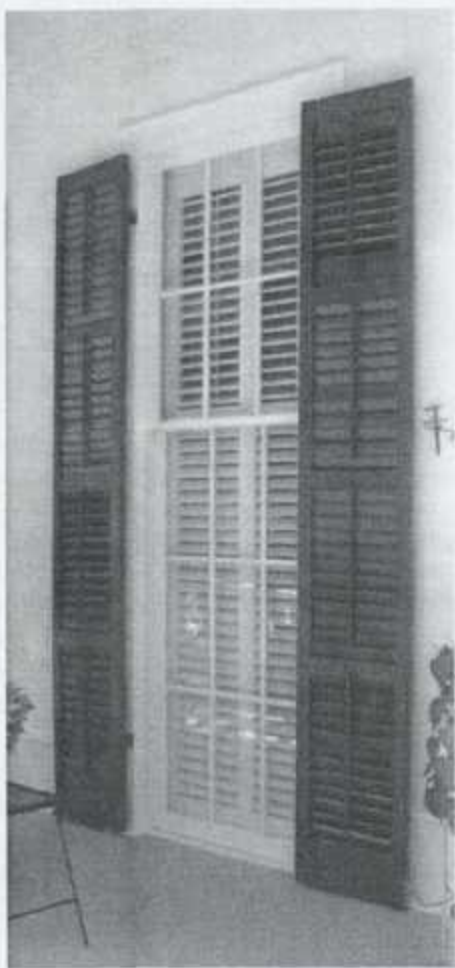
No doubt Miss Gladys Ozley, a charter member of the CVHS, would be happy to know her home that she loved and cared for was rescued, restored and continues to be lived in by later CVHS members.



The beautiful Victorian ornamentation of the balustrade and porch supports are original to the Miller House and beautifully restored.



This building was constructed as a workshop and now used as a guest house in the left side yard.



The very tall windows on the front porch were designed to be raised and used as a passage from room to porch. During summer months, the louvered blinds would remain closed to help retain any cool air inside from the previous night.



A portrait of Alva Curtis Miller (1848 - 1904) hangs in the hall. He was the son of Troup County pioneers Jacob and Nancy Lovelace Miller.



The original fireplaces had been filled in with coal burning grates and were restored to their original size during the Price restoration. Handsome period mantels compliment each one.



LaFayette Baptist Church Record Book Available

The members of First Baptist Church in LaFayette recently celebrated their 175th Anniversary. To commemorate this event, a book was published The Transcript of Original Notes 1854 -1927 & Sabbath School Records 1884, edited by CVHS member Glenda Brack, a Chambers County Historian who lives in Escondido, California. The book is bound in a nice leather-like blue binder and can be purchased for \$25 from any of the following: Pilot Club Library, LaFayette – 334.864.0012; Cobb Memorial Archives, Valley – 334.768.2050; First Baptist Church, LaFayette, 334.864.8545.

This photograph was taken in 1890 of the LaFayette Baptist Church, now known as First Baptist Church, upon completion of the new building. This building is used by the congregation today although heavily remodeled and brick veneered.

CVHS Member New Director at Visitor's Center

CVHS board member Malinda C. Powers has been named Executive Director of West Point Visitor's Center and Depot as of June 1. Her strong background in education, communications, marketing and community involvement led to the appointment. The Visitor's Center and Depot offers the latest on a wide variety of area attractions and artifacts. At this site, freight moving between Atlanta and Montgomery in the late 1800s had to be transferred from one train to another because Georgia and Alabama had different gauge tracks. It also serves as a favorite gathering place for area residents. Mrs. Powers remarked "This is such an exciting time of growth for this area, and I want the Visitor's Center to be the best central location for letting visitors know about all that we have to offer."

Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference

The Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference will offer three workshops of special interest to genealogists, writers of memoirs, and those interested in producing a book from family history documents on Saturday September 26, 2009. They are: *Turning Your Family History into a Book*; *Writing Historical Fiction & Nonfiction*; and *Writing Memoirs*.

Complete details may be obtained on the conference Website www.chattwriters.org

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Mrs. Valma Kemp Zachry

1927 – 2009

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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 20th Avenue, Valley, AL 36854

2009 Membership Application - The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society

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