

# The Voice

*of The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and Cobb Memorial Archives*  
Speaking about the Past to the Present, for a Better Future

The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society Quarterly

Meeting Sunday, July 19, 2015, 3:00 p.m. EDT

The Ianier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library, Valley, Alabama



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## **A Report on The Society's recent bus tour of the Civil War Battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Virginia and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania with the Identification of 14th Alabama Infantry and 4th Georgia and other local Units in these Engagements.**

Civil War Tour Guide and educator Murphy Wood will present a PowerPoint program, giving an overview of the recent four day CVHS tour. While describing the five significant battles studied during the tour, Wood also will identify the locations and movements of local units such as the 14th Alabama Infantry and the 4th Georgia Infantry in these engagements. Wood will lay the groundwork for potential future Civil War battlefield tours in north Georgia and Tennessee to be sponsored by CVHS. If you were unable to make the trip, the program will highlight all you missed. Hopefully, you will not want to miss a future adventure into our Southern History. This first tour demonstrates the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society's goal to offer annual travel opportunities for its members to learn about their history while experiencing the physical enjoyment of touring historical sites around the Southeast.

All persons who subscribed to the first

CVHS tour are now members of CVHS. Many of the tour group will be in attendance at this quarterly general membership meeting and will be able to comment on their experiences and perceptions during this tour of historical sites.

Although he grew up in Chambers County, Alabama, Murphy Wood lived in Virginia from 2002-2010. While there, he earned a Master of Arts Degree in early American history from James Madison University. A student of the Civil War from a young age, he began leading Civil War tours in 2005 and has taken numerous private and school groups to battlefields in Virginia, including a company of U.S. Marines. He has been an active civic speaker as well as historical speaker, including several presentations to the CVHS. Wood serves on the Board of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society as the First Vice President.

*Following the presentation of the program, Honorary and Lifetime members of the Society will be recognized and refreshment will be served.*

## Tour Visits Gravesite of General Thomas Jonathan Jackson *Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, Lexington, Virginia*



### *President's Message*

Forty Civil War enthusiasts boarded our motor coach early Saturday morning, June 20th, and an amazing week's adventure was underway! Kudos to our guide and fellow CVHS board member, Murphy Wood, for providing participants with an enthralling program on key Civil War battlefields. Wood not only included fascinating details, but he put each battle in context of the larger war, connecting the "historical dots" as our trip progressed.

We walked along the Sunken Road at Fredericksburg and through the woods at Chancellorsville where Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded by friendly fire. At Gettysburg, we scaled "Little Round Top" in the footsteps of the 15th Alabama, and plodded across the field where Pickett led his ill-fated charge. At each battlefield Wood pointed out the position and role of both the 14th Alabama and 4th Georgia regiments, in which many soldiers from Chambers and Troup counties served. This

personal touch was one of several reasons why this trip was such a resounding success. We stood where Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address and later viewed the graves and memorials of Generals Robert E. Lee and T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson.

Our unique tour attracted participants from Troup, Harris, Chambers, Lee, Tallapoosa, and Montgomery counties, in addition to North Alabama and even Texas! Participants also enjoyed sharing family histories and experiences in East Alabama and West Georgia. On the tour, relatives met for the first time. Net Proceeds from the trip will benefit a designated project for the Cobb Memorial Archives. Several folks have already asked about the possibility of a similar trip next year. Stay tuned for coming details!

*Malinda Powers, President*

## *Cobb Memorial Archives Report*

Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, observed that the nature of existence is change. His most memorable phrase succinctly captured his philosophy: “You cannot step into the same river twice.” I would posit that the same holds true for an archive – you cannot step in the same archives twice. Although Cobb Memorial Archives looks the same, we have received new donations, processed more collections and enhanced our reference materials.

Among our recent donations are football films from West Point High School from the 1960s. Mr. Crew Pitts was kind enough to convert the 16mm reels to DVDs, which are now available for viewing at the Archives. Dr. Mary Ann Potter donated a model A&WP train car from her late husband’s collection. After touring the current exhibit on the history of the Lanett City Schools, Charlotte Greene Dewberry, daughter of long-time Lanett superintendent John Tom Greene, donated approximately fifty photographs of Lanett school activities to the Archives.

The Archives, with the dedicated help of a volunteer, Bennie Gross, is developing

a more complete index of the obituaries published in newspapers in Chambers County and West Point, Georgia. Several years ago, Mr. Gross had thoroughly indexed all the obituaries in Archives’ collection of both bound and loose newspapers. Earlier in 2015, Mr. Gross began working on creating an index of obituaries in the Archives’ newspapers on microfilm. All the reels of the Chattahoochee Valley Times are indexed, spanning 1916 to the first months of 1950. He is currently working on an index for The West Point News on microfilm, which includes issues from 1920 through February 1950. With these indices, genealogists will have easier access to the Archives’ earliest obituaries.

Another project the Archives is undertaking is collecting and preserving records from the area’s civic clubs. We estimate that there were well over fifty civic clubs that were once active in Chambers County and West Point. The social history contained in these records is immensely valuable to understanding the social networks and patterns of civic engagement that shaped the area, particularly during the 1940s through the 1960s. The Archives intends to collect the records of as many civic clubs as possible. In order to alleviate the heavy cost of

purchasing archival supplies, the Archives is applying for a grant through the Alabama State Historical Records Advisory Board administered through the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Announcement of the grant recipients will occur sometime in October. In the meantime, please contact the Archives if you have information about the location of records from any local civic clubs.

As we collect, preserve and make accessible the historical records of the area, it is essential to remember the importance of documenting our institutional history. On June 13, 1976, Cobb Memorial Archives and the H. Grady Bradshaw Library opened to the public. The preceding year, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society donated the collection of historical materials it had accrued since its formation in 1955 to form the basis of the Archives. As we look ahead to commemorating our fortieth anniversary next year, we are grateful for the support of the Library, Historical Society and the community. Despite living in a world of constant change, we are committed to our original goal of “speaking about the past to the present for a better future.” <https://www.facebook.com/cobbmemorialarchives>

*By Robin Brown*

## Members 2015

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 Sherrie Waller Sorrell  
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 Danny Anglin  
 Betty Barrett  
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 Glenda Brack  
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 Margaret Newman  
 Fay Newton  
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 Jason Vaughn  
 Annette Waites  
 Will Watson  
 James "Lee" Weaver  
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 Carolyn Wheeler  
 Bill Williams  
 Susan Webb  
 Jason Williams  
 Jean C. Williams  
 Barbara T. Wingo  
 Carole Wood  
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### *Individual Plus 1*

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 Gerald & Claire Andrews  
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 Frank & Mary Helen Benford  
 Denson & Phyllis Blackston  
 Sanford & Lenore Blanton  
 Jerry & Mac Bryant  
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 Lynda & Buddy Burton  
 Deborah A. Cook  
 Capt. & Mrs. Charles Creekman, Jr.  
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 Jeffery Hall  
 James A. Hammock  
 William & Virginia Hayes  
 Ben Gaines Holmes  
 Jim & Susan Hudson  
 Ann Jarrell  
 Elizabeth W. Lanier  
 Richard & Virginia Lee  
 Bob and Mary Lowe  
 Early & Mary McKnight  
 Alan & Barbara Mosley  
 Suzanne & Don Newberry  
 Nathan & Sherri Lynn Nix  
 Sam H. & Billie C. Oliver  
 Ann & Bill Petry  
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## America Trammell and Fannie Randall: A Murder During Federal Reconstruction in Chambers County 1870

Setting the Stage for Inquiry: Families that have lived in Chambers County in this new land of East Alabama for more than a century have a pretty good idea, a personal frame of reference, for what happened to our communities and our ancestors during the Civil War. Among our white neighbors, family stories, photographs, letters, novels, articles in popular magazines, radio and TV programs, movies and academic texts have all amalgamated into personal mental images, factual and fictional, of our past.

We know personal and place names, regiments, battles. We have always been emotionally engaged with the exhilarating experiences of the Lost Cause but detached from the decade following The Civil War which brought depression, financial and human, and left scarce documentation in local newspapers, diaries, etc. White and black neighbors have little common memory of persons, actions and places in Chambers County during the immediate period of instability, reformation, reconstruction. Our limited mental image of the Reconstruction period has been colored by popular terms such as Radical Republicans, scalawags, carpet baggers, and by the cartoons of African Americans in leadership roles in government found in text books and popular literature in the latter half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century.

My curiosity about the Reconstruction years in Chambers County was stimulated months ago by a brief statement about Tolliver Towles which incidentally appeared during a search on ancestry.com. The citation described Tolliver Towles as a respected Chambers County legislator who was always a union man and who had testified to a state legislative committee during Reconstruction concerning conditions in Chambers County. I realized I knew nothing about our friends and neighbors who wanted to remain in the union. Following a search in our locally published histories, I discovered that Dr. David M. Hall had included two pages describing Tolliver Towles and his family in *Once Upon a Time, A History of the Emory Chapel Community*. But Dr. Hall included no information about Towles in the post war period except to explain he suffered financial ruin and lost a son in The War. After many

hours searching through the internet, I could not find specific research on Reconstruction in Chambers County but did stumble onto the existence of a 13 volume Congressional Report published in 1872 with the popular name of the KKK Testimonies. Three volumes were dedicated to testimonies taken from persons in Alabama describing social and political unrest in Alabama in 1869 and 1870. Our Archivist Robin Brown helped me find these federal documents online. In these documents I began to read for the first time the names of actors and incidents in Chambers County. When trying to pull back the curtain and peer into the past, always remember that Mother History is a shape-shifter and when reading her recorded inspirations, you must always read between the lines.

In May I made a report about initial Chambers County Reconstruction research to the Kiwanis Club of the Valley where Wayne Clark, News Editor for The Valley Times-News, took excellent and detailed notes to publish these remarks with his additional background embellishments in two issues following May 14. This is very interesting ongoing research but the gems of local information are slow to appear. In this issue of The Voice I would like to document what we know about two of the actors in our Reconstruction history, Fanny Randall, the Georgia fire-brand Freedmen's Bureau school teacher, and our local America Trammell, whose values brought forth his violent death.

The published name of America Trammel of Fredonia first appears in testimony in The Joint Report of the Joint Select Committee to Inquire into the Condition of Affairs in the late Insurrectionary States, Made to the Two Houses of Congress in 1872. The name of America Trammell first appears in a historian's monograph as a footnote in Walter L. Fleming's *CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION in ALABAMA* published in 1905. In writing about the KKK activities punishing moral deviants, Fleming interpreted that men who frequented "houses of ill fame would be whipped, a white man living with a Negro woman would be whipped and a Negro living with a white woman would be killed." Fleming cited

only two examples from the KKK Testimonies to support his assertion of death for cohabitation and justification of Klan action in Alabama. The first occurrence was in Tuscaloosa County and the second was the fate of America Trammell whom Fleming vaguely located in "east Alabama" when his primary source material specifically located the murder in the Fredonia area of Chambers County. Fleming's calculated use of his source material glossed the real conditions in Chambers County and did great injustice to the legacy of America Trammell.

Documenting America Trammell: The name America is memorable to someone pursuing family research. I first noticed the name attached to information in Trammell family trees in ancestry.com. The Trammell family was a significant pioneer family in the Fredonia, Wards Mill and Five Points areas in the 19th and 20th centuries. Dr. Hall, in his excellent aforementioned monograph, associates members of this family with the Emory Chapel Community. He displays the last will and testament of Mary Turner Trammell (1751 VA?-1851) which also may be seen in ancestry.com attached in Trammell and related families' trees. The fourth item in her will states, "I give and bequeath to my son Farr Harris Trammell, a negro named America also all my land, it being about 400 acres, be the same more or less, also one bed, bedstead and furniture, also one trundle bed, bedstead and furniture, also one chest." In terms of family research and area studies, it is fruitful to find the names of African Americans documented before 1860.

The 1860 slave census for Farr Harris Trammell, Sr. lists 21 slaves by age, gender and color but none by name. Six are also listed as property of Farr Harris Trammell, Jr. The 1870 census displays America Trammell as 52 years old, male, black, a farm hand, with no property of value, and a native of Georgia. His wife Sinda (Lucinda) is 40 years old, a house hand and a native of South Carolina. Six children are in the household with ages ranging from Read, an 18 year old male to America, a four year old boy. America Trammell's white land owning neighbors are J. W. Whitlow, Mary A. Blair, Amanda McGee, Lee Ephraim, W. J. Grady, J. H. Brown, H. S. Kirby, A. J. Jourdan, Lee Trammell, E. Trammell, G. M. Burdett, Farr Trammell, T B. Trammell, W. P. Trammell, and Nath. Barber. These 16 names represent a cluster of white land owner households whose en-

tries are listed before and after America Trammell. We can only surmise that America remained with the Farr Trammell family property as a farm hand and his wife worked in the landowner's home.

The Murder of America Trammell: As I stated earlier, Mother History is a shape-shifter. The source for the following information is the KKK Testimonies. The testimonies if presented in a court of law might be considered hearsay. Three white persons described aspects of the murder. Two were local white Republicans; one was a local white conservative Democrat. Three white citizens, politically active, described an event they did not witness. The exact date of the event possibly was October 7 but from the testimony would have occurred in 1870 before the state and national election that year and at the time the court was in session in LaFayette.

John Ward, a lifelong resident of Bluffton, an active Republican and postal employee testified on October 19, 1871. He had recently fled Chambers for fear of his life. When asked to relate recent violent incidents he described a Mrs. Randall who had gone to Fredonia to teach last year who came to him in West Point and reported that a party of men came to the house where she was boarding with the colored America Trammell family. These men abused America Trammell and then shot him, killing him. Next they went to the bedstead where a daughter was sleeping, "took their knives and cut her vest to pieces." They ordered her, Mrs. Randall, to leave. She left about 10:00 PM. Ward asserted the murder occurred because of Trammell's political role in the community.

Ward explained that he was acquainted with the white Mrs. Randall because she had previously taught at a colored school in Bluffton. He stated she came from Meriwether County and was divorced from a Dr. Randall.

Mrs. Randall lived in a cabin built for her in the yard of the colored Trammell's house, built by the former owner of America Trammell. The white Mr. Trammell (Farr Harris Trammell, Sr.) supported educating the freedmen. Mrs. Randall was furnished her meals by the colored Trammell family. Mrs. Randall told Ward she knew two of the men; she abandoned the school and fled to Americus, Georgia. The coroner's inquest ruled death by parties unknown.

C. S. Cherry, a lifelong resident of Bluffton, a solicitor, a Republican, fled Alabama four days following the election of 1870 fearing death. Like Ward he actively canvassed for the Republican candidates who had lost in the election. He had experienced intimidation and had received credible death threats through a respected member of his family. Cherry testified on January 8, 1871 that he knew of the murder of the elderly black minister, which he called the "assassination of a Republican of promise." He testified that the school at Fredonia had been under way only a month when "a crowd of young men from the neighborhood assassinated the elderly parson." The elderly school teacher was warned by the murderers and she fled in her night clothes into the woods. There were no arrests.

Jefferson Faulkner, a conservative Democrat, testified on October 20, 1871. Faulkner was a notable in East Alabama. He had been an early settler and local elected official many years earlier in Randolph County. He had served as a state legislator from east Alabama. He practiced law and preached. He owned farm property in northern Chambers County, practiced law in LaFayette for 12 years and in 1871 lived in Montgomery. His testimony was detailed and challenging. He stated he was in LaFayette in Chambers County at the time of the killing. He interviewed people from Fredonia, Col. Hudson the Solicitor, Presiding Judge Strange, Col. Jones, the Sheriff Robert J. Kellum and the Deputy Sheriff Thomas J. Martin. He stated that persons arrived at the home of the negroes at midnight. The house was a "double cabin" which can be interpreted to be a log dog trot since he states that "Negroes were in one end room and the white woman was in the other end room."

Faulkner reported that persons knocked on the door proclaiming that it was "the sheriff searching for a notorious negro thief." The "negroes were slow to open the door" which was finally opened by the "old wife."

Men came in, abused and killed the old man and shot his son. The "old white woman" came to town and was interviewed by Col. Hudson and Judge Strange. The "old white woman" at first said she could identify two persons but at the inquest she said she could not identify anyone. Faulkner stated that the old white woman boarded with the America

Trammell family because white families would not lodge her. She was considered to be a woman of low character. When she lived in West Point, "respectable people would not associate with her."

When questioned by the congressional interviewer, Faulkner stated that locals initially thought that a notorious man named John Lawrence who moved back and forth across the Alabama-Georgia border had allied with his local friends in the Barnes family to commit the violence. He further stated that Lawrence was reported to be in Rock Mills in Randolph County that night, miles away from Fredonia. When questioned about the number of assailants, Faulkner first responded two but when quizzed about who was handling the mounts he reconsidered that the number would have been four. He continued to volunteer that the authorities had identified horse tracks coming up the road from Lafayette towards the Trammell house. That as many as seven horsemen coming out of LaFayette where court was in session had stopped by the roadside at a fire and visited with a group of negroes, smoking pipes around the fire before continuing up the road towards the Trammell home. He assured the interviewers that the local authorities, with whom he was well acquainted, had put forth a great effort to identify and locate the murders. There were suspects but no proof.

Faulkner was a bountiful witness before the congressional interviewers. He stated that the America Trammell family was well thought of by the white Trammell family. He reported that America Trammell "was held in good esteem in his community when he was a slave, for a colored man." "America Trammell was a zealous politician, active like most preachers here." He explained that America Trammell had been ordained by a local white congregation to which he would preach on occasion. Sometime in the recent past he had been expelled from membership in his white congregation for preaching that Christ had not died for southern people but for northern people. He became "odious" to the white people. Faulkner professed to know nothing about America Trammell's moral character.

Faulkner concluded his comments, responding to questions, stating that he thought "any upright colored man or Republican can get full and ample justice in the courts." He did not think "on color but character." He did not believe that "Mr. Tram-

mell” would have a fair chance in the courts given his odious doctrines. He did not explain this statement which could have meant that the murderers would not be successfully prosecuted since America Trammell was considered odious to the white population due to the expression of particular religious convictions. One might conclude from Faulkner’s testimony, that America Trammell was murdered for religious reasons and not for his Republican political activity, his support of education for the freedmen, or for boarding a white woman teacher. Jefferson Faulkner strongly asserted that the Fredonia population was not antagonistic to the education of the black population. He personally supported the new schools and supported white teachers teaching in these schools. He noted the new black school in Lafayette was taught by a white minister. He was unaware of any group violence against the Republicans and freedmen in Chambers County.,

The last bit of hearsay to acknowledge the violence that had occurred to the Trammell family was given in testimony in 1871 by an African American named Oscar Judkins who had lived between Fredonia and Lafayette but had moved to Opelika in Lee County. When questioned about the violence prior to the election of 1870, Judkins reported that a colored man, whom he did not know, was killed at Fredonia last year in his home, in his bed at night “by the Ku Klux, they say.” The man, America Trammell, was killed for “feeding and boarding a white lady that was teaching school and for being Republican.” “The old lady moved from West Point to teach school.....the school house was burned.” When asked if he heard the school teacher was sleeping with America Trammell, he responded negatively and that America slept with his wife.

The infamous old lady school teacher and recent research: We experienced from the above testimonies various perspectives of Mrs. Fannie Randall which may or may not be factual. She was divorced from a Dr. Randall. She was a white woman teaching in a new black school. She was considered to be a woman of low character. She was identified as an old woman. She had been in various locations of Meriwether County, West Point, Bluffton, Fredonia, and lastly Americus, Georgia. She boarded with a black family because white families would not board her. She had sought to board with white families. Respectable people would not associate with her. Research is always incomplete and additional infor-

mation on Mrs. Fannie Randall has been difficult to find. But serendipity once again brought forth leads. Trolling through the data bases in ancestry.com and opening family trees to look at attachments, I found a tree of enormous complexity which contained America Trammell and his family allied with the genealogical information of the white Trammell family. I contacted the owner of this tree who lived in Austria asking for assistance in finding factual information about the murder. The response was most positive and the forthcoming research was excellent. The owner of the tree reported that he retired from an international career in aerospace and United Nations contracts having earned a degree from UCLA in physical anthropology and prehistoric archaeology. He reported that having lived in many countries he always studied history in his spare time. He enjoyed working on related families through ancestry.com. He had pursued developing the Trammell information because his stepson is descended from Cole Trammell, a freedman, who was a contemporary of America Trammell but no relation as documented through DNA testing. Cole would have been purchased sometime prior to 1865. The owner of this tree has performed comprehensive research to document the Chambers County white Trammells to their first American ancestor Thomas Trammell who arrived as an indentured servant in 1671. This researcher has identified, from wills, court documents, etc., the slaves held by the Trammells from 1762 forward. He has even plotted on aerial photographs the locations of the plantations where the black Trammells lived during and after bondage and DNA analysis to locate regions of African origin. I have six pages of his family research which he shared and I have given the above information to establish credibility for his research on Mrs. Fannie Randall.

Trammell Family Research: Fannie Randall first appears as documented in the 1860 census as the wife of James B. Randall in Marietta, Georgia. She was 48 years old and he, in his second marriage, was 65. She was born in New York. Nothing is known about her previous name or background. Dr. Randall, born in Georgia, had practiced medicine in Marietta and had also edited and published a newspaper, The Helion. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church and a passionate Freemason. He created, wrote and published the Georgia Masonic Journal. Dr. Randall’s newspaper was pro-union in the 1850’s. The war years would have been difficult for him and Fannie, given his pro-union pronounce-



ments. They divorced some time prior to 1869 when Dr. Randall married for the third time in Jefferson County, Georgia, where he lived out his most vital life taking leadership roles in education, his church, Freemasonry, and agriculture.

In 1868 Fannie Randall appears in the records of the Freedmen's Bureau. She was hired to teach the freedmen in Greenville, the county seat of Meriwether County. Fannie and the freedmen were experiencing robust opposition to her school. She was admonished by the military administrators of the Freedman's Bureau to be discreet. Something happened to cause Fannie Randall to stand in the street in Greenville and "threaten to have the town razed if any one harmed her or have it garrisoned by black troops if any one threatened her." After this display, Lieutenant Harry Haskell from the Bureau office in LaGrange rode to Greenville to help defuse a tense situation where one freedman had been beaten. A group of freedmen met with him and suggested Fannie's removal. She appeared next in documents teaching in a school for freedmen in Bluffton and then in Fredonia, on August 24, 1870. Initially she boards with the black family of Caesar Tinley. By October 8, 1870 she is established in a room built especially for her with the family of America Trammell, a black minister and Republican.

The Trammell family researcher suggests that the murderers were known in the community and were "Doctor" John Lawrence and two local men Robert H (22) and Jason (19) Barnes. The Barnes young men were the sons of a Trammell neighbor named John W. Barnes. Possibly seven men were involved but only these three were identified entering the cabin room abusing America, shooting him and his ten year old son Obadiah. After the inquest Fannie disappears from the public record.

What happened to Tolliver Towles in this story? This article began with Toliver Towles sparking my interest in this unknown and most instable period in our local history. Concluding his descriptions of Fannie Randall and America Trammell, the Trammell family investigator reported that Towles, ever the loyal unionist, ran for the Alabama Legislature in 1870 as a Republican. He was so well respected that many Democrats stated they voted for him.

What have we learned? The primary sources used in this article may provide us with a discrete tele-

scopic view of our people in 1870 but the images are vivid. We, native to this county, were not of one mind about secession, about teaching the freedmen, or most significantly one mind about political directions after 1865. We can see that local violence by the smallest number could warp the concept of justice for all and potentially warp our social evolution. We see virtue in the white Trammell family supporting black education. What would have been the future of the Fredonia area if America Trammell could have fully matured into a leader in his community in this new era?

I hope this writing has stimulated your mind's eye to see the divorced woman with intense and impatient commitment to her values and her former husband's values standing alone in the middle of a street trying to protect herself and her work from intimidation and harm. Can you see the men, local boys, who had been enjoying socializing at the circuit court returning home, squatting around a fire smoking pipes, you can rest assured drinking, and planning some degree of mischief which intentionally or unintentionally ended in murder. Can you visualize the two room log dogtrot house built by the former slave owner for America's family and to house the new school teacher? Can you imagine the sorrow of the Farr Harris Trammell, Sr. family at the death of America whom they had known lifelong and supported in his personal growth to become a minister and local proponent for education and political leader? Can you see the young men holding the reins of all their horses in the edge of the yard of America Trammell's cabin, waiting in the darkness nervously anticipating some mischief to be carried out by the three rogue males entering the cabin, hearing cries from the cabin and then the blasts of the black powder pistol.

Can you see America Trammell preaching at the Methodist Church in Fredonia or at Emory Chapel to white and black members? If the doctrinal problem reported by Faulkner is factual, can you see a congregation react to such an assertion that Christ did not come for the southerners? Can you not see old Jefferson Faulkner, a firebrand in 1861 with years of legal and court experience, now testifying to the congressional representatives in his well developed public and ministerial voice, assuring them that whatever had happened to folks locally, it was deserved by their being odious and of low character? Can you hear Jefferson Faulkner dropping names of

significant officials and giving assurances of everyone's diligence and good intentions when known murderers could not be publicly identified and prosecuted? Can you feel everyone's fear? These were the times of greatest change, of greatest stress to the

social, economic and political fabric of Chambers County. Local historians have the opportunity to reanimate this brief but pivotal era of our past.  
*By Horace McLean Holderfield, Editor*

### In Memoriam

**Bonnie Anglin Reynolds**  
1916-2015

**Jessie Ethridge Summers**  
1926-2015

**J. Gurson Brown**  
1927-2015

**Our Society acknowledges the passing three important members who with either their financial resources, writing ability, organizational skills and their generous personal time supported efforts in Chambers and Lee Counties to preserve and interpret our heritage to future generations.**

#### *Memberships 2015 Continued*

##### *Individual Plus 1*

Frank & Susan Ponder  
Malinda & Charlie Powers  
Ty Ragsdale  
Gayle & Howard Sewell  
Prather & Lillian Slay  
Monroe & Leslie Smith  
Judge & Mrs. William Smith  
Joe & Debbie Thompson  
James & Virginia Weldon  
Billy and Barbara Williams  
Murphy & Pam Wood  
Larry & Mary Helen Workman  
Helen & Griggs Zachery

##### *Complimentary*

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
University of Alabama Library/Serials  
Museum of East Alabama  
Auburn University Library and Archives  
University of Georgia Library and Archives  
Mrs. Bonnie Bonner  
Historic Chattahoochee Commission  
The Tallapoosa Ranger  
Alabama Welcome Center  
Georgia Welcome Center  
Mr. Wayne Clark, Valley Times-News  
Lanett City Hall  
Opelika Lewis Cooper Memorial Library  
Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. & Mrs. Crew Pitts  
City of West Point  
The Hawkes Library  
Clay County Historical Society  
Heard County Historical Society  
Lee County Historical  
Roanoke City Library/  
Randolph County Historical Society

#### *Editor's Observations:*

Thank you for joining our membership for the first time or for the repeated time. Thank you for your additional gifts. Our Society has achieved 222 personal memberships. We will be sending *The Voice*, telling the story of our region's past, into 208 households and to 33 public entities.

It is the perspectives that come with age that motivate good people in a society such as ours to preserve and interpret the past. Our region of the Chattahoochee has a past that experienced unique social, economic, and political changes. We have a great responsibility to preserve and tell the stories.

We will find humor, humility, faith, love, fear and even terror in our past. In this river and piedmont region persons are the physical products of, the fruits of international struggles for colonial trade, a violent frontier, struggles for nation hood, human bondage, the red earth, the cotton fiber, the greatest cotton industry, the humid subtropics, and evolving social contracts as we journeyed, settled and lived here. We have intriguing and inspiring stories yet to be told.

Over time we interacted with our unique surroundings creating one another by action and inaction. Simon Suggs could never have lived in Waterloo, Iowa. He lived here. Our behavior on the frontier stimulated J. J. Hooper to interpret through humor a character we recognized and admired. Suggs lived here among us and still lives in us whether or not we know his name.

Come to The Bradshaw Library and Cobb Archives to admire the medallion which honors Hooper's creativity but also acknowledges the uniqueness of this place and our historical experience.

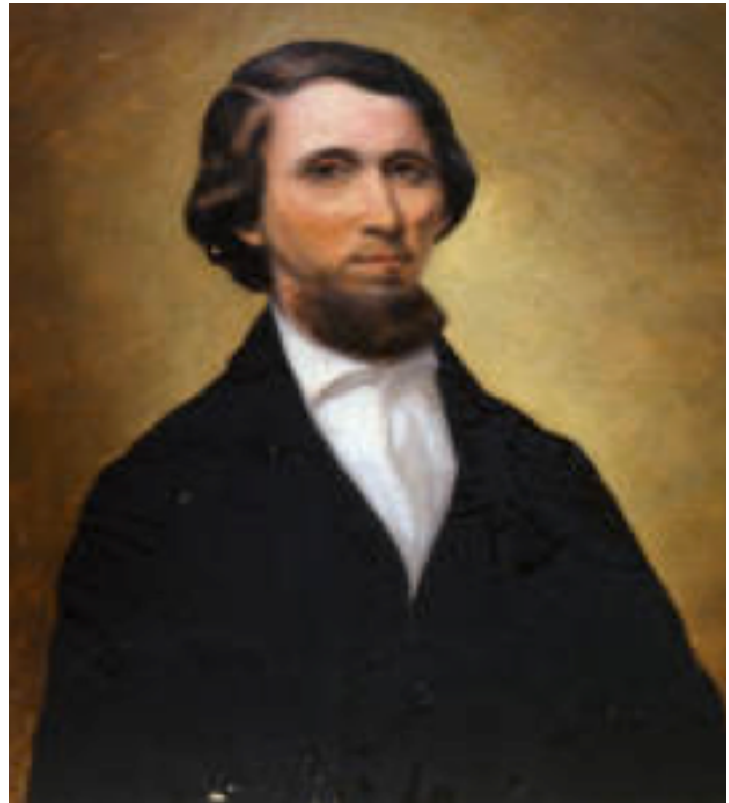
## Johnson Jones Hooper (1815-1862)

On June 8, 2015 the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame inducted twelve writers in an inaugural ceremony in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The heritage of Chambers County was honored by the induction of its most influential former citizen, writer, publisher Johnson Jones Hooper. In the late 19th century in the one room schools in our county, every school boy could tell you about Simon Suggs and his antics. Time passes and we forget the power of the stories which gave joy and entertainment to our families in the past century and taught lessons about human behavior before the modernism of Freud, Jung, and others invaded our creativity. The recognition of the Hall of Fame induction, a medallion, will be presented to the Chambers County Library and Cobb Memorial Archives for permanent display.

*The following lines, selected and quoted from the Induction Ceremony, were written by Cynthia Quinn White, University of Montevallo. The portrait image also from the program belongs to the Alabama Department of Archives and History.*

Johnson Jones Hooper was a southern humorist known for his stories about the archetypal trickster Simon Suggs. An attorney and staunch supporter of the Confederacy and southern rights, Hooper used his experiences in rural Alabama to form stories, now classified in the genre of Old Southwestern Humor ....

Hooper was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, on June 9, 1815. He worked with his father in the printing industry. In 1835 he moved to Alabama, settling in LaFayette where he studied law with his brother. In addition to practicing law, Hooper worked as a census taker for Tallapoosa County.



In 1843, Hooper published his first story, "Taking the Census in Alabama," in William T. Porter's national magazine, *Spirit of our Times*. Readers praised the story for its realistic and humorous portrayal of the people of Tallapoosa County, and Hooper consequently gained a national audience. At Porter's suggestion, Hooper began writing more humorous stories, mostly notable those featuring his best-known character, Simon Suggs, the first of which appeared in 1844 in the *East Alabamian*, which Hooper edited. The Suggs stories garnered national fame and grew so popular that they were collected in a book, published in 1845.

Hooper used Sugg's widespread popularity not only to entertain, but also for political purposes. He was a fervent supporter of the Confederacy and frequently employed Suggs to promote his own political beliefs. For example, Suggs is a self-made man who works outside the law, a characterization that perhaps reflects Hooper's devotion to the cause of southern rights. Hooper's political and editorial career was a busy one. He edited *The East Alabamian* (1844), the *Wetumpka Whig* (1845), the *Alabama Journal* (1846) and the *Chambers County Tribune* (1849-1854). In 1854 Hooper co-founded the *Montgomery Mail*.

In addition to his editorial posts, Hooper held a prominent place in Confederate politics. In 1861, Hooper moved to Richmond, Virginia, to begin work as editor of the records of the Confederacy's Provisional congress. Having suffered from tuberculosis for some time, Hooper died in Richmond on June 7, 1862. However, his legacy of the picaresque and humorous tales of the ante-hero, Simon Suggs, remains popular with audiences even today.

# **A** NNUAL DUES

The annual dues of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society are due each year on the first of January.

Dues are \$20.00 per individual and \$5.00 for each additional member of the same household, and \$5.00 for any student who is still in school and is under 21 years of age. Other membership levels include Benefactor-\$250; Patron-\$100; and Friend-\$50. For any NEW member 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* that will inform you of quarterly meetings, new publications, articles of historical interest in the tri-county coverage area and upcoming events.

Please make checks payable to C.V.H.S. and mail with your name and full address to The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., 1319 20th Ave., Valley, AL. 36854



The image of Simon Suggs was created by Felix Octavius Darley for the frontispiece page in the 1845 publication *Some Adventures of Captain Simon Suggs* by J.J. Hooper editor of the *East Alabamian* in Lafayette, Al..



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