

THE VOICE

of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society and
Cobb Memorial Archives

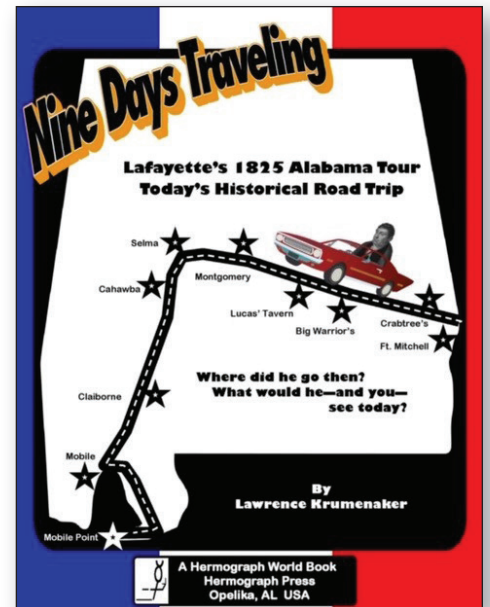
A BOOK TALK: LAFAYETTE IN ALABAMA—WHICH WAY DID HE GO? AND WHICH WAY DID HE NOT? *By Dr. Lawrence Krumenaker*

The public is invited to a book talk by Dr. Lawrence Krumenaker, author of *Nine Days Traveling: Lafayette's 1825 Alabama Tour, Today's Historical Road Trip*, on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 3:00 EST. Due to the pandemic the meeting will be hosted on Zoom; registering is explained at bottom of page.

In 1824, President James Monroe invited the last surviving General from the Revolutionary War, the French-born Marquis de Lafayette, to return to the United States to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Revolution. Among the 24 states Lafayette visited in his year long journey was Alabama. He spent nine days traveling from the Chattahoochee River, through Creek Indian Nation along the Federal Road to Montgomery, then down the Alabama River via steamboat, finally arriving at Mobile and the Gulf Coast fort at Mobile Point.

But where exactly did he go? How can we separate facts from multiple legends and folklore? What is there to see of his stops and route today in East Alabama? And which sites claimed for his visit... aren't true?

The book *Nine Days Traveling* traces Lafayette's path across the state from the fragmentary first-hand accounts and later researcher's notes, and separates fact from myriad local legends. If after 200 years Lafayette came back and traveled the route again, what would he see? What would be different? What would be the same? And how would you travel the route today? Ultimately, 37 sites were found where the Marquis ate, slept, talked, was talked to, witnessed an event, did something or stopped at, which Dr. Krumenaker photographed and marked on modern maps. Krumenaker proposes five walking trails in different cities that should be marked for Lafayette's Tour



bicentennial in 2025. In addition to a general discussion of the recovered route and sites, the nearest locations to Valley, AL, will be described.

Dr. Lawrence Krumenaker is both a global and academic wanderer. Though currently a Macon County resident, he has lived and traveled in many states and numerous countries as his interests have

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CVHS MAKES HISTORY BY HOSTING ITS FIRST VIRTUAL PROGRAM ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2020 AT 3:00 PM EDT.

On Sunday October 25th Charlie Powers will moderate the Zoom video conference. Attendees, CVHS membership and general public, are requested to initiate attending this virtual meeting (via Zoom on the internet) by sending your email address to: programs@cvhistoricalsociety.org – Please send your email address before 12:00 noon on that Sunday (Oct 25th). The moderator will respond to each email with directions of how to connect prior to the 3:00 PM meeting. It is best to join-in and be ready about 3 or 4 minutes before the meeting begins. You will simply be “on-hold” until it is time to begin.

continued from front: **DR. LAWRENCE KRUMENAKER'S BOOK TALK**

taken him around the world. Dr. Krumenaker began his professional life as an astronomer with research in stellar spectroscopy and planetary cartography and is the discoverer of the brightest and first known micro-quasar. He often teaches in the sciences and astronomy education. He has taught at such diverse places as Jackson State University in Mississippi, Seoul University in Korea, and the University of Cologne in Germany. Over the

past two decades, he has become a world renowned science journalist, including being the president of the International Science Writers Association, and before coming to Alabama was Journalist-in-Residence at the Heidelberg (Germany) Institute for Theoretical Studies. Dr. Krumenaker has published six books, three of which are historical tourism books.

If you wish to purchase *Nine Days Traveling* please go to Dr.

Krumenaker's website www.hermograph.com/lafayette. He offers 10 percent off the price of \$26.95 if you use the code CVHS20 through this website and order online through October 24th. You may also be interested in other historical publications and items advertised at his www.hermograph.com website. The t-shirt which tells time as a sundial is very interesting.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Malinda Powers*

I have a small cotton patch. It's nothing to speak of, but I plant it each spring because of what it means to me. Years ago, I acquired some cottonseed and planted a few rows in my backyard so that I would be able to share the experience with my fourth-graders. I photographed my plants as they sprouted, grew, and blossomed. Later, students picked the seeds from the fleecy staple and learned firsthand how to card the cotton in order to align its fibers for the spinning wheel. Virtually none of my students had previously experienced cleaning or carding cotton. *What would our ancestors think??*

Even though I haven't taught Alabama History for several years, I still continue to plant my cotton patch. For me, this act provides a tangible connection to an intangible heritage of yeoman farmers almost two centuries ago. There are places that connect us to our past: a river, an old home place, a churchyard, or even a humble cotton patch.

For a community, places can connect us to our collective past. The New Hope Rosenwald School near Fredonia is a good example. Others include the Courthouse Square in Lafayette, the Riverfront in West Point, the Triangle in Lanett, and the Walking Trail in Valley.

While it is certainly not feasible to restore every historical asset in a given community, there are certain ones that merit serious consideration. Over the next decade, one of our goals is to examine some of our "places in peril" in Chambers County, West Point, and the Greater Valley Area. Our mission is to preserve, promote, and protect our local and regional history. We do this primarily through publications. However, we can also serve as advocate and facilitator for the preservation of some of our special places as well. ■

The VOICE is a quarterly newsletter of the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 718, West Point, Georgia 31833

Editor: Dr. Horace (Mac) Holderfield (holderfieldh112@msn.com)

Find us on Facebook and visit our website at <http://cvhistoricalsociety.org>

MISSION STATEMENT: As a non-profit membership organization, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society seeks to preserve and promote the history and heritage of Chambers County, Alabama, West Point, Georgia, and the greater Chattahoochee Valley area. CVHS produces and sells historical books and media, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and presents programs with speakers on historical topics of local and regional interest.

VISION STATEMENT: Having been in continuous operation since its founding in 1953, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society strives to uphold the vision of its founders while posturing the organization for growth in the 21st century.

CVHS MEMBERSHIPS 2020

Lifetime

Stephen Johnson
Richard H. Monk, Jr.
Virginia Weldon
Mr. George C. Zachry, Sr.

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Martha Lee Gatlin
Mary Hamilton
Beverly Perryman
Sherrie Waller Sorrell

Benefactor

Dr. H. M. and Linda
Holderfield

Patron

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John and Lee Barker
Henry and Judy Bledsoe
Rea S. and Debra Clark
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Copeland
Dr. Jonathan Dailey
Col. (Ret.) Gwen Gibson
Edmond and Sandra Glover
Bruce and Rosa Alice Grey
Elizabeth W. Lanier
J. C. and Janice McGinty, Jr.
Morris and Sarah J. Plott
Malinda C. Powers
Marshall and Ellen Sapp
Hunter and Brenda Searcy
Southern Research
Col. M. Reid Wallis
Helen F and Griggs Zachry,
III

Friend

Julia Alexander
Michael and Markle
Andrews
Sanford W. Blanton
Deborah Cook
Mendl W. Djunaidy
Larry B. Duncan
Kirby Elder
Donald Flynn
Bert Hitchcock
Brenda K. and William
Howell
William G. Sikes, Jr.
Daniel G. Smith
Judge and Mrs. William
Smith
Dr. Jane T. Upshaw
Jason Williams

Individual

Brenda Adams
Randall Allen
Anne K. Alsobrook
Mary Alsobrook
Danny Lee Anglin
William Edward Booker, IV
Glenda Brack
Susie Britt
Barbara Brooks
Wayne Bryan
Sandra Burney
Don Clark
R. Chris Cleveland
Barbara Clifton
Eugene Covington
Mrs. Adelle Curtis
Roger Davis
Cecelia Dillard

Rachel Dobson
Cherry Duve
Dr. Frank Farmer
Bill Ford
Dr. Richard Freeman
Emily Garrett
Bill Gilbert
Jane L. Gordon
Dr. Edward Hill, Sr.
Ann Holderfield
Don Hudson
Nancy Irvin
Mr. Frederick S. Johnson, Jr.
Charlotte Kennedy
Eddie Lanier
Marie Leake
Paulette Leavins
Richard Ledyard
Dr. Taylor Littleton
Felicia McCarty
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Fay Newton
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Norman Satterwhite
Mrs. Bertha Schroeder
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Mary Lou Smith
Richard Stevenson
Marilyn Stokes
Cassandra Thomas

John E. Thrasher III
Ida Vollenweider
Nancy Warren-Holland
James "Lee" Weaver
Barbara T. Wingo
Carole Wood

Individual Plus 1

Frank and Mary Helen
Benford
Denson and Phyllis
Blackston
Jerry and Mac Bryant
Laurie and Phillip Coderre
Capt. and Mrs. Charles T.
Creekman, Jr.
Sybil and Charla Crowder
Jenny F. Cummins
John and Susan Deloach
Mr. and Mrs. J. Newell Floyd
Curtis and Vicki Ford
William and Virginia Hayes
David and Angela Hollis
Jim and Susan Hudson
Mike and Debbie Hudson
Bobby and Nita Johnson
Richard and Virginia Lee
Bob and Mary Lowe
Early and Mary McKnight
Dr. Charles and Peggy
Mitchell
Barbara and Jason Moore
Julia and Earl Norton
John and Judith Parr
Beverly and Richard
Perryman
Ralph and Cathy Pitts
Frank and Susan Ponder
Dianne and Holly Reese

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CVHS MEMBERSHIPS 2020

Jan and Leah Simmons
Monroe and Leslie Smith
Joe and Debbie Thompson
Michael and Mary Susan Underwood
Billy and Barbara Williams
Christine and Kerry Williams

Complementary

Cobb Archives
Ala. Dept. Archives and History
University of Ala. Library
Museum of East Alabama
Auburn University Library Archives
University of Ga. Library
Roanoke City Library
Georgia Visitor Center
The Tallapoosa Ranger
Alabama Welcome Center
Mr. Wayne Clark, *Times-News*
Hawkes Library
Lanett City Hall
Opelika City Library
Greater Valley Chamber of
Commerce
City of West Point
Clay County Historical Society
Heard County Historical Society
Lee County Historical Society
Troup County Archives
Valley Preservation Society
Valley City Hall

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BUS TOUR RESCHEDULED TO JUNE

Originally scheduled for this past June, our current bus trip has been postponed until June of 2021. Our revised “Creek Indians in Alabama” tour is shaping up nicely at this point. Updated bus and hotel reservations have been confirmed. And, our venues have been great in working with our change of dates. This current pandemic has certainly wreaked havoc with the travel industry.

With the prospect of several vaccines on the near horizon, the outlook for a successful trip next June looks more and more promising. We have retained about half of our reservations from our initial launch, and are now gearing up for a renewed marketing campaign to begin next month.

Our partnership with the Lee County Historical Society in this endeavor continues to bear fruit. LCHS President Charles Mitchell is developing an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) course on the history of the Creek nation. Originally scheduled for last spring, plans fell victim to the pandemic and were put on hold. Now, Charles has recruited learned speakers on the topic to lead the seven class meetings in January and February. For more information, check out OLLI at Auburn winter course schedule and registration, which should be available online within a few weeks.

This trip represents our 6th educational travel motor coach experience. The hallmark of our expeditions is three-fold: attention to detail, a full but well-paced agenda, and a wonderful sense of comradery amongst our travellers, whether veteran or “newbie”. In 2019, our trip was honored to be recognized as an “Alabama 200 Special Event”!

Plans are currently being formulated for a visit to one of the premier Creek Indian archaeological sites, the village of Econochaca, the “Holy Ground”.

It was here, as legend has it, Red Eagle leaped across the Alabama

River astride his famous horse, Arrow. The current dig is under the auspices of the Archaeological Conservancy, and we’re working to recruit one of the state’s leading experts as our guide. Stay tuned!

Whether its picnicking atop the Appalachians at Russell Cave, exploring the beautiful home of Andrew Jackson, learning bizarre-but-true stories in the “Old Southwest”, or following a footpath through the woods to the ruins of old Fort Decatur, our trip is a truly unique experience!

Check out our website for more trip details at www.cvhistoricalsociety.org. Net proceeds will be shared by CVHS and LCHS and used to advance historic preservation in our respective communities. ■



*Tour will visit the Russell Cave National Monument
Alabama News Center image*

PHOTOGRAPH: STROUD SCHOOL PUPILS AND TEACHERS ABOUT 1920

By Horace McLean Holderfield

I am aware of only two examples of the image which is the subject of this article. Both I have inherited from my local families. There may be more copies lying somewhere hidden in someone's trunk of family treasures miles away from the location of this old school. The rural community Stroud and its surrounding area was inhabited by farm and merchant families in the second decade of the twentieth century. The descendants of families represented in this photo are today scattered across our state and our nation. Only a few of these families are represented in the Stroud area today. When CVHS solicited photographs from the public more than a decade ago to prepare the *Images of Chamber County* book, families provided a number of pictures of Five Points High School but less than half dozen images of small groups of students at Stroud School were produced. Only one poor image of the school building is known to exist and that image is documented, displayed in *The Heritage of Chambers County*.

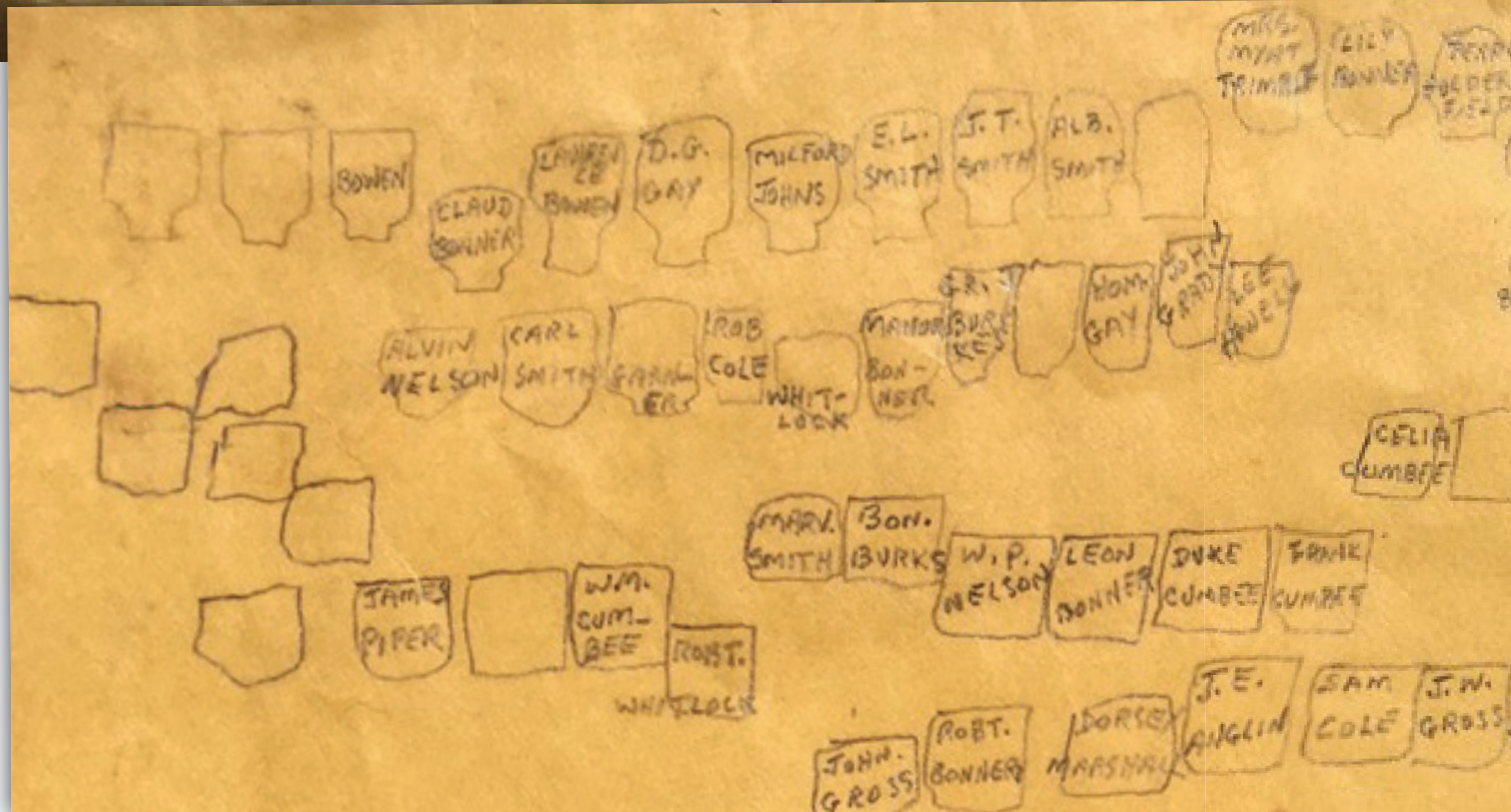
A brief history of Stroud begins with the date 1887 when the railroad from Opelika to Roanoke was built through the crossroads at this location. On the same date, the depot was located across the tracks from the A. J. Thompson general merchandise store. In 1890 the local citizens, with the Masons, organized and built a schoolhouse which absorbed three area one room schools into the new Stroud school. Stroud incorporated as a municipality, more businesses located there, including a cotton gin. The best period of community life began to grow and flourish only to be thrown into decline by the boll weevil and fluctuation of value of farm products of the 1920s. The depression hastened decline. The center of the community, the school, closed in 1929 when its students were consolidated into the Five Points School. In the 1930s Stroud lost its status as a municipality. The old school building was pulled down in 1938 and its lumber was used by the local citizens to build a club house for the local home demonstration

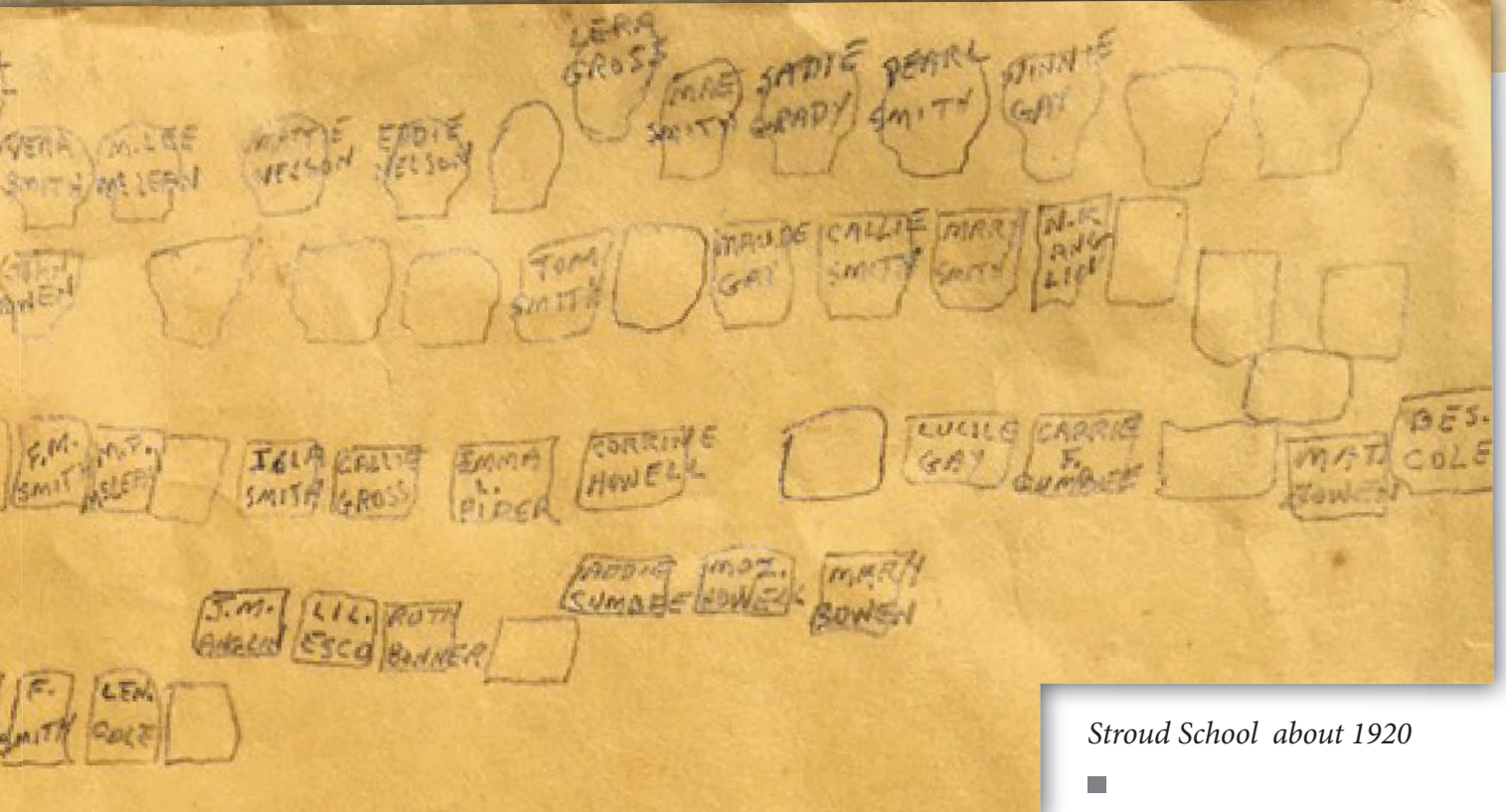
club. Years later the train station was moved to a park in Tallapoosa County. The shell of the gin and one vacant store building remain at Stroud.

The photograph displayed here belonged to the William Henry Smith family that lived north of Stroud. My stepfather William Frank Smith kept this photo in his box of treasures. The photograph did not get much attention until the late years of his life when old friends and relatives would visit to recall and talk about their common experiences as children in this farming community and their school years. These elderly friends realized that they had experienced something special, something social that had passed with time and would not be replicated. In his late 70's before dementia consumed his memory, my stepfather began to make a key, on the back of a manila envelope, to the faces on the photograph which contains 98 images. He successfully recalled 70 names. This article displays his key as he drew it.

In his making this key, my stepfather anticipated that the identification of pupils would be valued in the future by individuals doing family research. In his later years stepfather was visited by many individuals seeking information about their ancestors, family farm locations, and burials. Besides having a key, we are fortunate that the photograph is a large size, 8x10, and very clear. The image also documents the approximate size of a large two story school house. This could be a second building at this site. A drawing of the school house by a student displays an attached room to the rear of the large building and a bell tower on the roof center not evident in the photograph in the Heritage monograph. The only thing we know about the interior is that the Masons kept their goat on the second floor, or so were the pupils warned.

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Stroud School about 1920

REPORTS ABOUT OUR REGION AND ITS CITIZENS IN 19TH CENTURY NEWSPAPERS

From Research by A. Stephen Johnson

We are indebted once again to our former President Stephen Johnson sharing his research on the people and events in the counties of our region which were noted in the newspapers more than a century ago. Newspapers are primary sources of our history. Nuggets of information can be tedious to extract. Stephen has patiently searched and sifted out these descriptions of our ancestors and their neighbors. The information he finds in his research always brings color to our mental images of how our people lived and survived in societies very different from the one we live in today. Ed.

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The Mirror. Florence, Georgia. June 1, 1839. (Ed. Florence, Georgia, was a prosperous frontier town on the Chattahoochee River in present day Stewart County, a Georgia black belt county. The town declined and eventually disappeared after its bridge across the Chattahoochee River washed away in 1846.)

“We received a letter yesterday from a friend in Lagrange Troup Co. Ga. stating that a murder had been committed near Ferguson’s store in that County a few days ago, by a man of the name of **Gilder** on the body of another named **Lindsey**. Such event, however, can hardly be considered news in Troup County. The murderer has escaped.”

.....
The Mirror. Florence, Georgia. October 1839. “From the **Georgia Jeffersonian**. MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. An occurrence, which resulted in the death of four men, citizens of the adjoining county of Chambers, in the State of Alabama, was detailed to us yesterday, and from the respectability of its source we have no doubt of its truth. We have not been able to obtain the names of the sufferers. It appears a well, in the neighborhood of Standing Rock, in the county above mentioned, having failed to yield its usual supply of water, the owner of the premises determined to have it cleared out. A person was let down by the well bucket and rope, but showed no signs of action at the bottom – he was called to, but did not answer. A second proposed to go down and ascertain what was the matter, and he also was soon as he arrived at the bottom, became supine and silent. A third proposed to go down, but it was only to join his unfortunate companions. When he got nearly to the foot of the well he called to be drawn up but when about half way up, he fell from the bucket. A fourth then proposed that he should be lashed

fast, and he would descend with the understanding also that he should be hauled as soon as he called out. He had descended but little more than half way when he gave the word, they drew him up quickly, but had barely time to unlash him before he was extinct. The other three were then taken out of the well with grapples, but none of them showed the least signs of life – the vital spark was forever extinguished! This melancholy catastrophe happened on Thursday, and the bodies of the unfortunate sufferers were consigned to the grave on Friday last.

Thus have four human lives been destroyed, and their spirits hastened to eternity, for the want of a small share of caution. A well should not be descended, when there is the least haze or appearance of vapor within it, without first trying it by introducing therein a candle or torch; if the light will continue to burn there is no danger, but if it is extinguished in its descent or as soon as it arrives at the bottom, the utmost caution should be observed in descending.”

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The Atlanta Weekly Intelligencer. Atlanta, Georgia. November 4, 1854. “Cotton in West Point.---The West Point Beacon of Thursday says that sales of cotton at that place for the past four or five days have been quite brisk some five hundred bales having changed hands from 7 to 8 ¾ cents per pound.”

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“The Chambers, Ala. **Tribune** of Friday comes to us dressed in mourning for the death of **Col. Matthew Phillips** who died in Lafayette, Chambers County, Alabama, on Saturday the 21 inst. Col. Phillips was born in Amherst county, Va. in 1795, and came with his parents to Wilkes, in this State, where he entered into the practice of the law. From hence to Jasper, which county he frequently represented in the Legislature. In 1832 he moved to Lafayette, Ala., where he continued to reside until his death.” (Ed. *Lindsay in his history of Chambers County, The Reason for the Tears, documents Phillips three times. Firstly, he was approved for legal practice by the Circuit Court in 1832. Secondly Phillips is described as one of nine officers of the Court 1839 to petition the Court to establish a committee of draftsmen and skilled mechanics to develop a plan for the furnishings of the new court house. The county’s citizens elected him Probate Judge for the 1850-52 term.*)

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Correspondence of the *Daily Intelligencer*, from Fayetteville, Lincoln Co., Tenn., October 26, 1854.

“Mr. Editor: ---When I left Atlanta, I partly formed a purpose that if, in my meanderings, I should see any thing I thought worthy the attention of the readers of the *Intelligencer*, I would embrace some interval to set down my observations and send them to you, leaving you to determine whether they should occupy some neglected corner of your very valuable paper, or be committed to the flames, which, perhaps, after all, would be the best way to dispose of one-half that is written in the world.

While I tarried in Henry and Fayette counties, Georgia, I found the Texas fever raging violently; and, in consequence, any number of plantations were offered for sale at what I thought astonishingly low rates. From what I saw and heard, the conclusion, to my mind, at least, became irresistible, that while those who went to Texas, submitting to many depravations, became eventually rich, the more fortunate purchasers of the cheapening Georgia lands would make more safe investments, enjoying, in the meantime, many more of the comforts and pleasures of life.

Having remained a week in Fayetteville, I went across to Newnan, observing, by the way, that the crops in general were much better than I had been led to believe. The cottonweed, to be sure, was quite low, but there appeared upon it what I thought a pretty fair yield; and the abundance of pretty fair corn all along the road, banished all idea of want, or of even a scarcity.

Newnan is a most beautiful, business-like place, almost a city in appearance, and still growing rapidly. Many of the buildings are elegant, and nowhere in the State are private residences adorned with more taste.

Calling on **Col. Dent**, the highly popular representative of that district, I was pained to find him in declining health. Though suffering severely, he was as entertaining as ever, freely talking more than his strength would bear, and with his usual zeal supporting the leading principles of the good old Democratic republican party. When I called, Col. Dent was confined to his room, and seeing him thus afflicted, and hearing him converse in pain, I left him, deeply impressed with his merits as a man, as a citizen, and as a politician. Before I departed from Newnan, I saw him ride out, which, I sincerely hope, may prove the commencement of his return to health and usefulness.

From Newnan I passed through Heard county to LaFayette, in Alabama, quite a flourishing little place. Though there was a good deal of complaint and were some fears expressed that the products of the year would be insufficient to furnish the usual plenty of food for man and beast, yet the corn fields were generally more encouraging than the reports thereof.

There is a large portion of productive land in Chambers county, and a spirit of improvement seems to prevail among the inhabitants. A part of the county is quite poor, however, and in those poor sections the Texas fever rages badly.

I was very hospitably entertained, for a day or two, by **Dr. Rea** and his brother, two gentlemen of the highest order of merit. They have settled together about six miles from LaFayette, on a very valuable property, which they are improving in the very best manner. Besides their extensive planting interests they have erected a fine merchant mill, into which they are about to introduce Child's admirable Grain Separator, a new patent machine of the highest value to all mills who adopt it.

Dr. Rea informed me, as soon as he can procure the cuttings, he intends to plant and cultivate that highest of all luxuries the newly discovered "Lincoln Grape," which has been so highly extolled by Mr. Langworth, and which those only who have tested them can appreciate. (*Ed. The Lincoln Grape is documented in the California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences, Vol. 14, No 7, 12 October, 1860. The article describes the grape as being found growing near the junction of the South Fork and Catawba Rivers by Dr. Wm. McLean who transplanted the vine to the yard of his home. Cuttings of this stock moved through a number of hands until examined by Dr. Longworth of Cincinnati who gave the name Lincoln to the grape from its place of origin Lincoln County, North Carolina. The grape was also named the McLean grape and the Hart grape.*

Lindsay documents Dr. Benjamin Franklin Rae in multiple sections of his book. Two pages of text describe Rea's heroic efforts as the Small Pox Physician for Chambers County appointed during 1866 to manage a growing epidemic. He established an isolated temporary hospital south of LaFayette, hired two nurses, secured supplies and vaccine from Atlanta, Augusta, and even Baltimore, Maryland. He used his own resources to cover cost which Judge P. O. Harper promised would be covered by the County. After petitioning the County for six years, he would never be fully

compensated for his expenditures. Dr. Rea was an Elder in the LaFayette Presbyterian Church for more than half a century.)

From LaFayette I went, via. Dadeville, to Wetumpka, over an extremely poor rough country nearly the whole way, yet this poor region will furnish corn enough to supply the demand. A part of this latter distance we traveled on the plank road, built chiefly by **John G. Winters**. This road is now in the very worst state of repair, and, in consequence, it is certainly “a hard road to travel.” It seems that the Legislature caused the toll gates to be thrown open, and Mr. Winters, believing himself aggrieved thereby, neglected the road altogether, seeking a remedy in damages from the State, and thus the road has become almost impassable. I learned, however, at Wetumpka, that Mr. Winters has at length removed his works from that point, and has leased out the road for a term of years, and now it is to be repaired. (Ed. The traveler/reporter is well informed about local transportation issues. Long distance travel in rural areas in the nineteenth century could be slow and painful torture due to the absence of engineered roads. Entrepreneurs in the northern states proposed a least expensive quick-fix to poor roadways in the mid 1840’s. Build plank roads! Wood was plentiful in rural areas. Portable sawmills could move through the abundant forests along the old dirt road ways where heavy stringers could be laid with the plank floor nailed to the stringers. Companies would be chartered by the state to build the plank toll roads to be financed by the state and private stock subscriptions. From 1848 to 1854 the Alabama Legislature chartered 35 companies. In Alabama, it was estimated that a plank road could be built at of a cost of about \$2,000 per mile. The promoters believed the plank road would out compete the rail road, due to lower building and maintaince costs. The investment craze for plank roads lasted to the mid 1850’s.

The plank road described by the traveler/reporter was not in Chambers County but was the Central Plank Road which was initially promoted to reach from Montgomery to Huntsville. The road 60 miles long actually reached to a point ten miles south of Talladega. Donna R. Causey has well documented Alabama’s brief experience with plank roads on her site alabamapioneers.com from which this information is taken. The cost for building and maintaining such roads was underestimated and the tolls

did not cover the investment. The capitalists moved their monies in to the expansion of railroads and other ventures.)



Plank Road, unknown location. Wordpress.com

I walked through the penitentiary, which seems to be so admirably managed, that instead of being an expense to the State, it pays money into the Treasury. The prisoners appear to be well treated, seeming to be much more cheerful than I saw in Sing Sing or the Auburn State Prison in New York. In New York a large proportion of the convicts are negroes, all mingled with the whites; here I saw none. There I saw many females imprisoned; here I was informed, there is but one. This may be owing to the gallantry of the Alabama jurors who refuse to convict a woman of crime; or it may be owing to the purity and honesty of the Southern female. Which is it? (Ed. The difference in the southern criminal punishment systems from the incarceration systems of the northern states during slavery are more complex than unique demonstrations of southern values of male gallantry and feminine purity. Historian Edward L. Ayres noted in his publication “Vengeance and Justice: Crime and Punishment in the Nineteenth Century American South” that the variation in the evolution and provisions for prisons arose from the percentage of rural-urban populations, percent of immigrant populations and the existence of slavery with its plantation justice system. Slaves would be physically punished on the plantation or jailed locally for offenses. The slave persisting in problematic behavior would be sold further south.

Frequently white men in the south personally reacted with violence to enforce the law when crimes were committed against them. The largest cohort in the southern prison was young native white men. The largest cohort in the northern prison was male immigrants of all ages. In the south women would be punished locally or held in a house and not in a prison facility. Women were not law breakers in the rural society as frequently as young males.)

In Wetumpka I had the pleasure to make the acquaintance of **Col. Dorsey**, of the *Dispatch*, a whole-souled, warm-hearted, through-going republican of the right stamp, whose political opponents freely admit his personal merits. His paper has a wide circulation, giving him an influence felt in every part of the State, which notwithstanding some peculiarities growing out the original cast of his mind, he always exerts on the right side and at the right times. May the highest degree of success attend his efforts. I hope you exchange with his *Dispatch*.

I find my "sketch" going longer than I wish, or you desire, and, therefore, I shall defer my observations at Prattville and on my journey up to this place to a further occasion. I by no means mean to neglect the ladies, and in my next I will tell I will tell you what I think of the women of Alabama and Tennessee.

I forgot to mention, in the proper place, that near LaFayette, I was invited to see a "mule fowl" a cross between a Pea and Guinea fowl. Yours truly, VIATOR (Ed. Latin for wanderer)

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The Atlanta Constitution. Atlanta, Georgia. April 28, 1899. "WEST POINT'S NEW MILL---IT WILL OPERATE 35,000 SPINDLES AND 1,000 LOOMS.--- President of Mill Has Just Returned from Boston, Where He Consulted Directors.

West Point, Ga., April 27.---(Special.)---**Mr. L. Lanier**, president of Lanett Cotton Mills, returned last night from Boston, where he has been the past few days in consultation with the directors of mill.

Your correspondent was given an interview by him in which he stated that his business in Boston was for the purpose of changing the specifications of the new mill. As stated in *The Constitution* a few weeks ago, this mill was to have 2,000 spindles and 700 looms. This has been changed, and instead the company will operate 35,000 and 1,000 looms.

Contract for the building has been let to the Flint Construction Company, of Palma, Mass. This concern has had a great deal of experience in cotton mill building, having built the Lyndale, Ala., and the Indian Head, Cordova, Ala., mills.

Contractors will begin work on Monday, May 1st, and it is specified in the contract that the building shall be turned over to the company ready for the machinery by September 1st. This is a record breaker, they having to build a four-story brick building 150x500 feet, engine and boiler house, etc., in the short space of four months. The contract for the picking, spinning, spooling, and slashing machinery has been bought. By the 15th of May the contracts will be let for the remainder of the machinery, namely, engines, boilers, electric lighting and heating apparatus, pumps, automatic sprinklers, and shafting will be bought, all to be delivered the first or second week in September.

Another feature in the new mill will be the building of a cotton opening room. For this the company will be in the market for fans, suction pipes, and other machinery pertaining to this department. They will build two hundred and forty cottages for the operation. At least one thousand people will be employed in the new mill, increasing the number of operatives in Lanett to 2,000.

The new mill will consume in the neighborhood of 18,000 bales of cotton annually making a total of over 50,000 of the fleecy staple used in this vicinity.

The new mill will be built on the most modern plan and equipped with the best machinery. President Lanier expressed himself as highly gratified with the result of the three mills here.

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Atlanta Constitution. Atlanta, Georgia. December 27, 1899. **USED HIS PISTOL CARELESSLY. Farmer Hardy Meets Instant Death Before His Mother's Eyes. Chipley, Ga. December 26.**---(Special.)---**T. W. Hardy**, a young farmer, was accidentally killed at the home of his mother, four miles north of this place, late yesterday afternoon. He was stooping over splitting some kindling wood, when his pistol fell from his breast pocket, the hammer striking a log, the weapon was discharged, the ball entering just above the breast bone. He was about thirty-two years of age, and leaves a widow and one child.



2020 Pine Wood Cemetery Restoration Project

Nine months ago the CVHS Board discussed objectives for the coming year seeking to identify a worthwhile historical improvement project. The Board decided to assess the condition of that area of the Pine Wood Cemetery where soldiers were buried following the surrender of Fort Tyler. President Powers tasked Board member Joe Thompson to assess the condition of the burial plot wall, the grave markers, graves and the historical gazebo dating from the 1890s. A decision was made to clean up the plantings around the gazebo and to restore the decaying gazebo. Board member Thompson discussed possibilities with those persons in West Point government responsible for the maintenance of the Pine Wood Cemetery. He also discussed the plans with representatives of the Fort Tyler Association. Joe, who has many years working experience with the Scouts, identified an opportunity for an Eagle Scout project and



Before

After

found a Scout interested in the challenge, Jackson Tucker, the son of the Rev. Thomas and Lisa Tucker of West Point. Jackson was assisted by Steve Trammell, Cecil Ramsey and Louis Wessinger of Batson Cook in planning the work and in acquiring the materials. Scouting friends Will Barrett and Sam Johnson as well as Joe Thompson helped with the work. We appreciate the good restoration work of our local citizens. Visit this serene plot in the cemetery and admire the 130-year-old gazebo. ■



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