SHADOWS AND SUNSHINE

"Along the Paths the Taensas Trod"

BY

CLAUDIA SMITH SLAUGHTER

Tensaw, Alabama · February 1961

Second Edition

Regina Moreno K. Manasseh

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FOREWORD

When I began to gather material for this narrative, it was solely with the idea of leaving for my children and their children a factual account of the families whose blood mingles and flows in their veins, as far as I was capable of doing.

Gradually, it became clear to me that these people had played a part, however humble, in the early beginnings of the settlement of my native Baldwin County, and the nearby sections of Washington, Clarke and Monroe Counties, where many of my people have lived. They have a past so interwoven with that of the "Taensa" Country that I have found it desirable to include some of the highlights of their early beginnings in my record.

When the early English settlers came, they called the land of the Taensa Indians the Tensaw Country, and this spelling I shall follow hereafter.

When I began looking backward over the past two centuries of the land of the Tensaw and surrounding territories, many notable figures began to appear as actors in this drama; they, having either lived in the country that I am attempting to describe, or having traveled the rivers, the old Federal Road, the Horse Path, or the stage roads of this section. I have, therefore, put into my narrative some brief sketches of the lives of a number of these people.

In my survey of the past I found much of sorrow and tragedy and also much of bravery and sacrifice on the part of these early settlers in their determined efforts to defend this new home and to maintain freedom there for their children.

In my searching through the various histories, and among records in court houses and libraries, I have found much to strengthen the pride that I have in having been a native of the Tensaw Country, and of having spent my life here.

I can assure my children that I have found nothing that would lessen my respect for these humble, but industrious and God-fearing, families that were

their forebears.

To the relatives and friends who have aided me in this undertaking, I am sincerely grateful.

Claudia Smith Slaughter

CONTENTS

INDIANS

Chapter I

The Touachi and the Taensas were the two tribes who inhabited the Tensaw Country before the coming of the white man. First were the Touachis, and their territory extended roughly from present Blakely to present Stockton, on the east side of the Tensaw. This was shared on the lower end, in their later years by the Apalachees, who seem to have moved in on them. Hamilton thinks these people are the ones who built the mounds near Dolive on Touachi Creek.[1] If so, they may have built the mounds on Tensaw Lake, although others regard these as the work of a much earlier people.

The map of Crenoy, dated 1733, shows Touachis still on the east side of the Tensaw; but, inasmuch, as Bienville in 1714, settled the Taensas where the Touachis had been, this may have been an error.

The "Taensas", who were to give their name to the northern part of present Baldwin County, seem to have covered more territory than their predecessors, but the several versions of the authorities are confusing, in fact, they seem to have been somewhat of a roving tribe, moving on when game became scarce, or fields unproductive. Hamilton says they were akin to the Natchez tribe. Pickett says they were a branch of the Natchez. Authorities agree, however, that they had a language and many customs totally unlike the Natchez, and were a peaceable, industrious tribe. In this respect their nature was unlike that of the war-like Natchez and they were booted around and many were enslaved. The records of the first French settlers at Mobile show they had many Taensa slaves before the tribe moved.

Hamilton and Pickett both agree that they, like the Natchez, were fire and sun worshippers, making human sacrifices to their fire gods when disasters came. They

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[1] Hamilton, P.J., Colonial Mobile, page 568

had many customs like the original inhabitants of Mexico, and Pickett expressed the thought that they were originally from Mexico, having been driven out by Cortez, and cites the Neches River in Texas and other indications that they, as well as the Natchez, were once there.[2]

They were driven from their homes around Mouchac, La., by the fierce and warlike tribes in that region, and were moved to Mobile by Bienville and settled across the river to the north where the Touachis had been, or along the midsection of what is now Baldwin County.

They seem to have been much further along in culture than the other tribes around them, cultivating the soil to a greater extent than any other tribe of that early day. They left their Tensaw Old Fields, at Blakely and (Stockton) at Tensaw Bluff where Major Farmer lived after 1766.

A French chart of 1744 shows the Taensas living on a bluff at mordern Stockton.[3]

There were more than 100 teepees at Tensaw Bluff in 1721, and these Indians were an entirely different race from the northern and eastern Indians, and their culture and religious beliefs were of northern Mexico. They worshipped the sun and kept a permanent fire burning in their temples.

Many of them wandered back west and lost their identity. He also says when the French left, (1765), and the British took over, the 100 families of Tensaw Bluff followed them as did most of the French settlers there, and the Indians were established at Bayou Lafourche in Louisiana.[4]

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2 Pickett, Albert J., History of Alabama, Vol. 1, page 128

3 Ibid, pp. 128-129

4 Hamilton, Ibid, page 145

THE TENSAW SETTLEMENTS

Chapter II

The Taensa Indians had some settlements in the country between the present Stockton and Little River, which I am calling the Tensaw Settlements. Numerous grants were issued after the British occupation of lands along the Tensaw River and Tensaw Lake, which were described as having been abandoned by the "Taensas". French settlers also had some plantations on the Tensaw and on Tensaw Lake as they did in the (Stockton) Tensaw Bluff neighborhood. Roman was to find them and remark on their presence in 1770.

The first real historical facts that I found in my search of the record of the beginnings of the Tensaw Country were shown by this Roman report. Around 1770, early in the occupation, Bernard Roman (or Romoms), a British Army Captain, was sent by British Superintendent, Stewart, to study the river country and he made an interesting report on his findings. He found at an early date, Baskette and two other white men above the Cut-Off. He also found at the point where the Tensaw River leaves the west branch, the extensive plantation of Chevalier DeLucre, where he was sheltered for the night. He reported that the lands were very fertile and there were many plantations along the rivers, particularly along the "Taensa". Many of these may have been French settlers such as we have seen around the Tensaw Bluff (modern Stockton) territory, and who had followed the French back to Louisiana at the time of the coming of the British.

The Tensaw neighborhood was part of the lands ceded to the British by the Treaty of 1765.

The grant of the DeLucre family mentioned was made by the French in 1737. This grant is described as an island at the junction of the Tensaw and Alabama Rivers. The other French settlers who worked the plantations, mentioned by Romans,

may have come about the same time.[1]

During the period 1790-1799, many families came to Tensaw. John Linder and family were among the earlier arrivals. Linder, a Swiss, was stationed at Charleston as British surveyor of the port when the Revolution came. He was aided by McGillivary to settle with his family and a large number of colored servants at Tensaw Lake. Linder was to play a major part in the life of the Tensaw neighborhood for many years. He was very influential and wealthy, was Lieutenant of Police, and signed his name John Linder, J.P. He dispensed justice with an iron hand to rich and poor alike.[2]

Samuel Mims and his family came to Tensaw after the Revolution and Charles Weatherford came with him. Both had been associated in Georgia with George Golphin, who had been appointed British agent to the Creeks after the Revoluntionary government had confiscated his property.[3]

The land above the Cut-Off was still a wilderness in 1765, but the British Council in West Florida made many grants of land about modern Tensaw.

A Georgian named Mounger in 1791 passed through the Lake and found many families living there. He mentioned the Halls, Byrnes, Mims, Killcreases, Steadhams, Easlies, Linders, and many others. He found along Little River many intelligent and wealthy people, "whose blood was a mixture of white and Indian". On the west side of the river he mentions Bates, Lawrences, Danlys, Wheats, Powells, Johnsons, McGrews, Hacketts, Freelands, Tallys, and Bakers.[4]

In 1799, the Spanish left St. Stephens, and Lieut. John McClarey and his detachment of the Second Infantry took charge for the United States, making U.S. territory of all the land to Ellicott's line.

The sister of McGillivary, Sophia, had married Durant and lived on Little

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1 Hamilton, P.J., Colonial Mobile, pp. 285-287

2 Halbert, Creek War, page 29

3 Woodward, Thomas S., Woodward's Reminiscences, page 88

4 Pickett, A.J., Pickett's History of Alabama, Vol. 2: page 124

River. She heard of a plot by the Creeks to raid the Tensaw Settlements. She mounted her horse and rode alone to the home of her brother, Alexander McGillivary, on the Coosa River, and persuaded him to intervene and stop this raid, thus saving the settlers.[5]

In 1799, Mim's ferry was established and this, with Hollinger's ferry on the Tombigbee, opened the route to Fort Stoddert. The horse path from the Chattahoochee had already been established. In 1811, this path was cut out to wagon width by a detail of soldiers, and became a Federal Road. Halbert remarks that "many carriages from Georgia began passing through the settlement at Tensaw." [6]

In 1799, the chief industry of this country was agriculture, and the people chiefly concerned themselves with cotton. A hand press to take out cotton seed was first used; then "ginnies" operated by horses, which produced 500 pounds of clear cotton per day. The industry increased by leaps and bounds after the invention of Whitney's engine (shortened to gin).

William Pierce, who operated a trading post on Boatyard Lake, also operated a cotton gin. This gin was built by Lyons and Barnett, of Georgia, who brought their tools, gin saws and other material by packhorses. This was the first gin in the Bigbee Country, but Abram Mordecai had put one up at Weatherford's Bluff six months before this.

William's brother, John Pierce, established on Boatyard Lake the first American school in Alabama. There the high born descendants of Lachlan McGillivary--the Taits, Weatherfords, and Durants, the aristocratic Linders, the wealthy Mims, and the children of many others learned to read and write. Records in the Indian department show that Elizabeth Bailey, who resided on the Tallapoosa "learned to read and write at Tensaw".

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5 Halbert, Ibid, page 60

6 Ibid, page 36

She afterwards married James Fletcher, and was also the sister of Capt. Dixon Bailey, who led the militia of the Tensaw district in the defense of Fort Mims and was there killed. William Weatherford was also a pupil at this school. He was to grow up to be a leader among the Creek Indians and bring tragedy to the Tensaw settlement of Fort Mims.

In 1803, Lorenzo Dow came to Tensaw and set about riding up and down the old roads proclaiming the Gospel. In 1811 came the Comet and the earthquake, both of which Tecumseh was to use to impress the Creeks, and hasten the coming of the Creek war. Tecumseh had heard predicitions from the French astronomers at Detroit, before his departure, that the Comet would appear. He used this to bolster his claim to supernatural power. Halbert says that Tecumseh never made the speech predicting the earthquake, but the Creeks attributed this to him when it happened.[7]

In this great time of trouble, many of the part-Indian people were loyal to the whites. Among these were Sam Moniac, son of a Hollander and his Indian wife. The elder Moniac was mentioned by Woodward as being along with James McQueen, the first white man among the Creeks. Sam Moniac was at Tuckabatchee with Weatherfore, but refused to go along with the war party. In 1812, Hawkins described him as operating a house of entertainment on the newly established Federal Road. When he returned from Tuckabatchee, he was shot at a number of times by his brother-in-law, Josiah Francis, because he would not join the war party. David Tate was another half-breed who refused to go along with his half-brother, William Weatherford. Pickett describes him as being at home when the Fort Mims battle was being fought, but Hamilton says he escaped with his family from Fort Pierce in company with the Pierce brothers after Fort Pierce had been abandoned. This escape was made on a flat boat, and they fled to Mobile.[8]

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7 Ibid, page 70

8 Hamilton, P.J., Colonial Mobile, page 422

Another loyal half-breed was Dixon Bailey, who led the Tensaw detachment at the Burnt Corn Battle, and who was to die a hero's death at Fort Mims.

The massacre at Fort Mims was a cruel and bloody tragedy that wiped out almost all the families of the Tensaw settlement and crippled and retarded its progress for many years. More than 550 bodies of these helpless, innocent people lay mutilated and mangled on what Hamilton described as "God's Acre".

Fort Mims was destroyed, and the bodies of the Tensaw inhabitants lay buried in a common grave. The Creek warriors were at the peak of their power, but the screams of their innocent victims at Fort Mims were to sound the death knell of the Creek nation, and the fires they kindled over the bodies of the Tensaw settlers were to consume them at Horseshoe Bend and the Holyground.

SETTLERS BEFORE 1812

Chapter III

An old map of the upper Tensaw Country which is in the Archives at Washington shows the following people lived here:

On Hollow Creek, there were the Thompsons and the Randals (or Randons).

On Tensaw Lake (Boatyard) were the Ballods, Mims, Dunns, and Stohams (Steadhams).

On Pine Log were the Mills, McPhillips, McDaniels (McDonalds), Hovens, Hutsons, Phillips, and Sheals.

On Magers (Majors) were the Charpenters, Colmands, and Stiggens.

On Farris Creek were the Lyons, Dears, and McSteels (Steel).

On Watson Creek lived the Millons, while the Crotons,Walkers, and Dyers lived just below. On this map, Boatyard was shown as Tensaw Lake, and the present Tensaw Lake was called "Arms of the Sea".

Some of these families were probably wiped out in the massacre at Fort Mims. We do know that the Hovens, Steadhams, and Mims were there because they were named among the survivors. A drawing of the fort shows the house of Mrs. Dyer.

Some were probably in Fort Pierce. We know that Stiggons wrote some valuable papers later. David Tate excaped the next day with the inmates of Fort Pierce to Mobile. He afterwards married Miss Penny Colmond. The Carpenters, McDonalds, Dunns, Byrnes, Halls, and Sibleys were heard of later.

Josiah Fletcher was also a settler near Tensaw. It was around his son-in-law's home in Clarke County that Fort Sinquefield was built.

Near Stockton, we find the Kennedy brothers, Joshua and William G. William was a physician and made his home at Bon Secour at one time. He and Joshua later moved to Mobile, where they became the largest landowners of that place.

Joshua had a sawmill on Rains Creek in 1811. The records show that a contract was let to Jesse Embree of Clarke County, for the sum of $1,500. This contract was

to rebuild the mill. It was this mill that the Government wished to protect for the purpose of getting lumber to repair Fort Charlotte. A detachment of soldiers was sent from Fort Mims to guard it only a few days before the massacre. Upon hearing of the massacre, the troops became panic-striken and fled with the settlers to Mobile, leaving the whole settlement entirely unprotected.

Since his sawmill and other properties were destroyed, Kennedy claimed his loss exceeded $23,000. He also claimed that President James Madison had assured the settlers full protection, and that he should be reimbursed for his loss. However, the records do not show whether he ever recovered the loss.

Joshua Kennedy married Susan Kitchen, of Stockton, in 1818.

LORENZO DOW AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE TENSAW SETTLERS

Chapter IV

No study of a community is complete without taking its religion into account.

Lorenzo Dow and his wife, Peggy, were from Coventry, Conn., and were the first religious visitors to the Tensaw Country.

He was born October 6, 1777, and as a child he was physically frail, suffering intensely from asthma, sometimes getting no sleep for a week at a time. At thirteen years of age, he met and heard the evangelist, Hope Hull, for whom an Alabama community near Montgomery is named. He was greatly influenced by Hull and determined to be an evangelist to the pioneers of the South, but was too individualistic to be bound by any circuit or doctrinal restraints. His eccentricities showed in his strange clothes, and by his long hair which he wore parted in the middle.

Pickett says that before the coming of the eccentric Dow to the Natchez and Tensaw settlements in 1804, hundreds born and bred in the wilderness, who had become men and women, had never seen a minister of the Gospel! The way Dow came into this settlement is described as follows:

> "On the 19th of April, 1803, Lorenzo Dow crossed the Oconce River in Georgia, and meeting with a small company who were migrating westward, he set off with them for the Tombigbee River. Reaching the Alabam, they swam the river, in order to save forty miles travel, then passed down the river ten miles and stayed overnight with a family of mixed blood, paying for his entertainment one dollar and a half for himself and horse and then he went on to the Tensaw Settlement. He made an appointment there for the coming Sunday and crossed by the Cut-off to the Tombigbee, through a cane brake seven miles in extent. He there found a thick settlement and then a scattered settlement along the river for seventy miles. Through this he sent a chain of appointments which he soon filled. The inhabitants, he says, are mostly English, by which he means American-- not Spanish nor French; but they are like sheep without a shepherd."[1]

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1 Pickett, Albert J., History of Alabama, Chapter 27: page 194

P.J. Hamilton writes of him:

"Singular he certainly was and contentious; for that was the spirit of the age. But a good man he was also. His journal and other works bear the imprint of humility before God, and earnest desire to perform the missionary duty which he felt imposed on him.'

Dow sold his books for benevolent purposes. In this way he built at least one church, and bought lands for the home he was never to enjoy.

The Rev. Anson West says in his History of Methodism in Alabama:

"All the preaching he did in these settlements was not sufficient in quantity, even under favorable circumstances, to procure any favorable results. He had never been ordained to the ministry, and he was without authority from any church to administer the sacraments or to organize societies. He was in this position at the time he preached about the Tombigbee, and so continued all his life, without any church alliance or allegiance, though in doctrinal principles he was a Methodist.

Encountering dangers almost alone, he proclaimed the Gospel here to a large audience, crossed over the Alabama, and preached two sermons to the Bigbee settlements, and went from there to the Natchez settlements, where he also exhorted the people to turn from'The error of their ways.'"

Peggy, Dow's wife, says in her journal that she was in the Tensaw Country when the 1811 earthquake occurred.[2]

The records in Baldwin County show that in 1809, a deed was made to Lorenzo Dow from Francis Steel. The following description was given:

"Beginning at a water oak on Tensaw Lake, being the beginning corner described in the claimants plat entered in the registrars office, running from thence south 42 east 42 chains, thence south 85 degrees east 44 chains, thence N.W. across Tensaw Lake, thence up the margin of said lake so far that a line therefrom south 22 degrees west to the margin of said lake to the place of beginning shall include 640 acres of land agreeable to the grant thereof, by the President of the United States, to the said Steel.

"20 acres (homesite) was kept by Steel until his death, or until he left the premises. 'I am to have use of the spring and firewood sufficient for my use.'"

Witnesses:
Lemuel Henry
Sarah Henry
H. Henry

Signed,
Francis Steel

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2 Owen, History of Alabama, page 88

A plat at the Baldwin County courthouse shows this land to be at Hubbards' Landing on land now owned by Mrs. R.A. Smith.

The records at Chatom, in Washington County, show that Dow also owned 10 acres across from Montgomery Hill Landing on Nannahubba Island.

These lands were sold in 1816 to Jacob Lorillard, a leather dealer, of New York for $440.[3]

In 1837, St. John's Episcopal Church in Mobile was consecrated by Bishop Kemper. About this time a fund was started for the support of the future bishop of the state. Six hundred and forty acres of land in Baldwin County were transferred to the diocese by Jacob Lorillard, of New York, for this fund. [4]

Dow's journal shows the use of hymns still familiar, although his favorites were of a gloomy nature. The people would enter into the singing with heart and lungs. These hymns were lined out to them from scarcity of books and lack of education.

Another custom among the settlers which lasted for many years was that of burying their dead, and then, when the circuit rider made his rounds, the funeral was preached.

Also, weddings were performed months after "pairings" had been made. It is said that the marriage vows have been spoken with a child clinging to the mother's skirts.

The "pairing" was made with consent of the parents, and legalities were taken care of when the circuit rider saw fit to again come to the community.

An exception was made to this rule in 1800. Pickett describes this wedding thusly:

> "The house of Samuel Mims, a wealthy Indian countryman, was the most spacious in the country, and hither the young and the gay flocked to parties, and danced to the music furnished by the Creoles of Mobile and others;

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3 Baldwin County Deed Book; "A", pp. 91-93

4 Owen, History of Alabama, page 69

for the country abounded with fiddlers of high and low degree. Daniel Johnson and Miss Elizabeth Linder had for some time loved each other. She was rich and he was poor, and, of course, the parents objected to a "pairing".

"On Christmas night a large party was assembled at "Old Sam Mims", and the very forests resounded with music and merry peals of laughter. In the midst of the enjoyment, the lovers, in the company of several young people of both sexes, secretly left the house, entered canoes, paddled down Lake Tensaw into the Alabama and arrived at Fort Stoddart an hour before daylight. Capt. Shaumberger, who had risen early to make his eggnog, was implored to join the lovers in bonds of matrimony.

"The proposition astounded the good natured old German, who protested his ignorance of all such matters, and assured them he was only a military commandant, having no authority whatever to make people man and wife. They entreated, telling him with truth that the Federal government had placed him there as a general protector and regulator of affairs, and the case before him needed his sanction and adjustment.

"After the eggnog had circulated pretty freely, the Commandant placed the lovers before him and in a stentorian voice pronounced the following words: 'I, Capt. Shaumberger, of the 2nd Regiment of the Army, Commandant of Fort Stoddard, do hereby pronounce you man and wife. Go home, behave yourselves, multiply and replenish the Tensaw Country'. The happy pair entered their canoes, rowed back to the Boatyard, and were pronounced by the whole settlement the best married people that they had known in a long time."[5]

The records of Baldwin County show that in 1835, Daniel Johnson and wife, of Mobile entered suit to recover lands owned by her father, John Linder, who had in some way lost this land.

On January 2, 1808, Matthew Parham Sturdevant started on his thirteen-day journey across 400 miles of wilderness to the Tombigbee River Settlements in what is now Alabama. He was the only volunteer among the 58 preachers present at the South Carolina Conference when Bishop Asbury asked for volunteers to the Tombigbee, thereby becoming the first Methodist preacher ever sent into the present Alabama.

When he arrived in the Tombigbee country he found neither churches nor Methodists, but set to work preaching about Tensaw Lake, Wood's Bluff, Fort Easley, Choctaw Corner (Thomasville), St. Stephens, Suggsville, Coffeeville and other.

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5 Pickett, History of Alabama, pp. 183-184

pioneer settlements.

Early Churches of North Baldwin County

The first church of which we have any record was the Union Church on Holly Creek near the present highway called the Holly Creek Church.

Mr. Charles Daniels writes in 1839, while on a visit to Tensaw, that previous to the building of the church, services were occasionally held in a log school house in the community. He says that Harry Davis, Sr. owned a sawmill and sawed the lumber for the Union Church. After the completion of the church, regular monthly services were held.

Among the first Methodist preachers were: Rev. Hearn, Rev. Pilly, Rev. Dickson, Rev. Clemmons and others, and soon the membership reached 45.[6]

Mrs. Joseph Booth and Mrs. Martha Bryant were the only Baptists in the community. Rev. J. Strobles, of Claiborne, was called by the Baptists to preach for them. He was followed here by Rev. Boyles, Rev. A.J. Lambert, Rev. Albert Seals and others. The Rev. Stokes was a good preacher, and accomplished much good. He was subsequently called to Mobile where, in 1853, he died of yellow fever. The Baptist membership swelled to quite a large number.

In 1853, they began to build the Montgomery Hill Baptist Church. This church was completed in 1854, at a cost of $1,400. Members of the building committee were: Dr. T.W. Belt, Thomas Atkinson, Thomas G. Holmes and Edward Steadham. The contractor was John Blake.

The Holly Creek Church was used by the Methodists until 1900, when the present church at Montpelier was built. Times were no different then than they are now; for it seems that all was not peace and harmony.

Mr. Tom Tate Tunstall wrote a parody on the spiritual, "Jordan is a Hard Road

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[6] Quotation from Franklin S. Moody, President of Alabama and West Florida Conference Historical Society.

to Travel", concerning these conditions. A part of the poem follows:

"They first built a church at old Holly Creek,
Fabricated by the Methodist persuasion,
But then it was so small it wouldn't do at all
To take'em 'tother side o' Jordan.

But the brethern were free with their holy tenement
And offered it to who would come to save 'em,
So they reached what was meant in the sacred testament
To take 'em 'tother side o' Jordan.

But this didn't last for there soon came a blast
That put the righteous people in commotion,
They broke up in a row, and that's the way 'tis now
And I tremble for 'tother side o' Jordan.

The Baptist brethern seceded to themselves.
And builded them a chapel on a mountain,
They reared it so high that it nigh to touched the sky
And it looms to'rds 'tother side o' Jordan.

Thus between the pair the distance is so spare
That it makes the narrow way' we read of,
So all a sinner has to do is to keep between the two
And he's sure to reach 'tother side o' Jordan."

Another old and interesting church was built in Stockton sometime after 1854. The records show a will written in 1845 by Benjamin Medcalf, in which he left $500, to be used to help build a church near John Gallagher's Spring. Many remember this church as the old Union Church used by the Presbyterians until about 1900, which is now the north end of the late John G. Aiken home.

The will gave $200 to his friend, James Vaughn, and was witnessed by W.P. Watson and Gerald Byrne. Church records of the Union Church, by Gerald Byrne, Clerk, were found in an old secretary that belonged to James Vaughn.

Medcalf owned a large tract of land in what is now Stockton. He probably did not make reservations for the land on which the church was built, and when the Aikens bought this land, it was still not reserved as church property.

The Methodists built first, and the Presbyterians later erected a church where the new one now stands. A church at Latham was built and organized by Latham

Cooper and others, near the present cemetery. Later, another church was built and used until 1906, when the present church was built.

THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD

Chapter V

Although the rivers and other water courses were the highways of the earliest settlers, the Federal Government desired to open a better avenue to the new country.

In 1805, nothing but an Indian trail led from the Oconee River to the Alabama, at Lake Tensaw. The houses of accommodation were few, kept by Indians and half-breeds, and were of the most indifferent kind. None of the rivers were provided with ferries, nor were the creeks bridged.

In 1811, the Federal Government obtained from the Indians the right to use this horse path through their country. They agreed to establish ferries, build bridges, and establish good houses of accomodation.

The Cherokees also granted the right for a mail route from Knoxville to New Orleans, by way of the Tombigbee.

This road was called the Federal Road because it was controlled by the Federal Government and constructed with Federal funds by United States Army engineers.

The main purpose for constructing the road was to open the country to settlers and for trade with the Indians in the Tombigbee Country and the Mississippi Territory and, also, to facilitate travel from Fort St. Stephens, the center of the Choctaw nation, to the Indian agency which was later moved to Fort Mitchell.

The following forts were on or near the Federal Road: Fort Mitchell and Fort Sandin in Russell County; Fort Hull and Fort Bainbridge in Macon County; Fort Deposit in Lowndes County; Fort Bibb and Fort Dale in Butler County; Fort Claiborne in Monroe; Fort Mims and Fort Montgomery in Baldwin; Fort Glass, Port Lavier, Fort McGrew, Fort Madison, Fort Sinquefield, Fort Turner, and Fort White, in Clarke County; and Fort Republic and Fort Stephens in Washington County.

When the road was surveyed, the surveyors designated the route by three cuts on the trees. It has sometimes been called "The Threenotch Road".

From the very beginning this road was the leading artery of commerce into the state of Alabama. Peter J. Hamilton has compared it to the Appian Way of Rome.

The Creeks foresaw that they would soon be hemmed in by Georgians on one side and the Tombigbee settlers on the other and be pushed out of their own country.

Therefore, this road running through the heart of the Creek nation could have been the main cause of the Creek war.

MASSACRE OF FORT MIMS

Chapter VI

With the Battle of Burnt Corn, July 27, 1813, the Creek war began. The whole southern country was not only aroused, but alarmed. The settlers began to leave their homes for the forts for protection. It is not know if any part of Fort Mims was built at an earlier date, but just previous to the Battle of Burnt Corn, the Tensaw settlers left their homes and untied in constructing a fort around the home of Samuel Mims, the ferryman on the Federal Road crossing the Alabama River at Nannahubba Island. Mims was a wealthy countryman who had once been a pack horseman for George Galphin, a rich American trader. His house was 400 yards east of the Boatyard on Tensaw Lake, and one mile east of the Alabama River. The house was a large one-story frame building with shed rooms.

The fort had 500 portholes, three and a half feet from the ground. Around it were pickets driven into the ground with fence rails placed between. The stockade enclosed an acre of ground in the form of a square, and was entered by two gates--one on the east side and one on the west. Inside the stockade were several houses, beegums, cabins and shelters. Every space was occupied by settlers who had gathered there for protection. The fort was on a slight elevation. To the south was a large potato field in which was a row of Negro cabins. Woods intervened between the fort and the lake. On the east was flat land for several miles with cane marshes and ravines. To the north was the lake with heavy timber and swamps. The fort was placed in command of General (perhaps Major) Beasley. There were 70 militia on duty making a total of 553 people in the fort.

William Weatherford was a chief of the Creeks at this time. Leaving the Holy Ground, which was the capitol of the Creek Confederacy above Montgomery, with a large army of warriors, he marched southward to attack the Tensaw settlement. On August 29, 1813, two Negroes, watching cattle, rushed into the fort and reported

seeing 24 painted warriors. A detachment of horsemen was sent but failed to find any evidence of the Indians. One of the Negroes was whipped for the apparent false alarm. The other Negro was lashed to be whipped when the fort was attacked the next day. The following day, August 30, 1813, before the noon hour, 1,000 warriors in full war paint lay flat on the ground, hidden by a ravine 400 yards away on the east side. When the drum called all to dinner, these 1,000 naked and painted Indians rose from the ground as one and rushed across the potato field. Rushing to the east gate which could not be easily closed on account of sand having washed against it, they soon filled the fort; and the great massacre of Fort Mims began. With true American pioneer bravery and courage, every American fought until his life ended. With the exception of one block house, every building was burned, and every white person that did not escape was killed. A few half-breeds and Negroes were kept for slaves. Only 22 escaped.

A few days later an expedition under Capt. Kennedy left Fort Stoddart in a flat boat to come and bury the dead; however, due to drinking a large amount of liquor which had been smuggled aboard, the crew was soon helpless in a hostile country. Good fortune had it that the crew recovered unharmed, but the captain put the man who had brought the whiskey in a barrel for safekeeping. Upon the recovery of the crew, they went to the fort where they buried the dead.

The massacre of Fort Mims was the death warrant of the Creek nation and opened the interior of Alabama to civilization. The whole nation was aroused at this last act of horrible tragedy in American history. General Andrew Jackson began to concentrate his forces in the Tensaw section of the Mississippi Territory, and in August 1814, Thomas H. Benton erected Fort Montgomery.

This fort played an important part in the Creek war. When Jackson decided to march against Pensacola, he sent Colonel Hayne to Fort Montgomery, which was then in command of Colonel Thomas H. Benton, for the purpose of organizing troops in

that quarter.

About this time General Coffee, who had been encamped on the western side of the Tombigbee, opposite the Cut-Off, with 2,800 men was joined there by Jackson. The army crossed the Tombigbee and proceeded across Nannahubba Island to Mim's Ferry. Reaching Fort Montgomery, the army rested and again took up the line of march to Pensacola.

Also this fort was used by Major Blue as headquarters for his scouting operations. In the period between the attack on Pensacola and the Battle of New Orleans, he scoured the swamps of the Escambia and all the bays of West Florida with a large force of mounted men, consisting of Americans, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and friendly Creeks. They killed many of the refugee Creeks and captured a large number, who were constantly sent to Fort Montgomery.

Mr. Pickett says that Major Blue was the officer who brought the Creek war of 1813 and 1814 to a final termination.

SURVIVORS OF FORT MIMS

Chapter VII

Nehemiah Page

Nehemiah Page was a hostler in the garrison at Fort Mims. He was a somewhat dissipated young man, and the night before the attack on the fort was passed by him in a drunken frolic. The next morning he went outside of the pickets into a stable situated some 80 yards southeasterly of the eastern gate, and threw himself down on some fodder in the stable loft to sleep off the effects of the carousal. About mid-day he was awakened out of a deep sleep by the tramping of a body of men in rapid motion. Looking out through a crack, he saw the Indians in hundreds rushing past him towards the fort. Page knew the place was doomed. For a few minutes he was in mortal terror lest some of the Indians might enter the stable. As soon as their backs were fairly turned upon him, he sprang out the stable and fled for dear life southwesterly, towards the Alabama River. A little dog, which was following the Indians, saw the white man, and instantly leaving his red owners, ran after him. It seems that none of the Indians pursued Page, doubtless thinking the fort before them a greater prize than a solitary fugitive. Still, fear sent redoubled speed to Page's limbs, and he at last reached the river, with the little dog close at his heels. He leaped into the river, and the dog, whose actions were entirely friendly, plunged in after him. In swimming across the river, the dog, most of the time, kept close in his wake. But sometimes it would crawl upon his shoulders, and once or twice it even got upon his head. Page stated that it was with the greatest difficulty that he could keep himself from being drowned by the little animal. During all this he heard the terrible firing going on at the fort. At last both the man and the dog reached the shore, and for the first time, Page felt safe. Followed by the dog, he then made his way to the white settlements. Page conceived a strong affection for the little Indian dog which had so strangely followed him from Fort Mims. He would

never part with it, but kept it as long as it lived.

Page was one of the first settlers of Neshoba County, Mississippi, and about 1850 he emigrated to Texas where he died soon afterwards.

NOTE: By H.S. Halbert, in the Creek War, by Halbert and Ball, page 166.

Dr. T. G. Holmes

Dr. Osborne, son of Adlai Osborne, graduate and trustee of Princeton University, graduated from Chapel Hill University (now University of North Carolina) in 1806, studied medicine, and entered the army as a surgeon. He was sent to Fort Mims as surgeon in charge of the garrison and was among the first to die.

Dr. T.G. Holmes was assistant surgeon and was fortunate enough to escape with his life. Pickett describes his escape thusly:

> "Dr. Holmes lay concealed in a clay hole until nine o'clock at night. The Gin House, at the Boatyard, had been fired, and the conflagration threw a light over the surrounding country, in addition to that still afforded by the ruins of Fort Mims. Hence, he was forced to resume his position until twelve o'clock, when the flames died away. Remembering that he had never learned to swim, he abandoned the idea which he had first entertained, that of crossing the Alabama and making his way to Mount Vernon. He, therefore bent his course towards the high lands. He frequently came upon small Indian fires, around which the warriors lay in profound sleep. Bewildered and shocked, in every direction in which he turned, by unwelcome and fearful sights like these, he, at length after a great deal of winding and turning fell back into the river swamp. He hid in a clump or thicket of canes, and there subsisted upon water, mutton reed and roots. All this time he was in the immediate neighborhood of the scene of the tragic events we have described, and heard distinctly, the Indians killing the stock of the citizens.
>
> "When silence ensued after the fifth day, he made his way to the race track and from thence to Pine Log Creek, where he spent the night. Reaching Buford's Island the next day and seeing the tracks of people and horses, he determined to fall in with them, although they should prove to be hostile Indians, so desperate had he become from starvation. At the Tensaw Lake, Holmes found the horses tied and, rejoicing to find that they belonged to his friends, fired off his gun. John Buford and his party, supposing the discharges proceeded from the war party, fled in a boat up into a bayou, where they remained for two days. The disappointed Holmes went to the abandoned house of Buford, where he fortunately obtained some poultry, which he devoured without cooking. Three days afterwards he was discovered by Capt. Buford and conveyed to Mount Vernon, where the other fourteen had arrived, and reported

him among the slain."

NOTE: Buford's Island was also known as Collett's Island, and is now called "The Old Island."

Jesse and Edward Steadham

These men escaped together through the picketing. Jesse had been shot through the thigh early in the action. Leaping the fence in front of the bastion, over the heads of the squatting Indians, they reached the swamp where they remained three days. Jesse found an old canoe below the Boatyard, and made his escape to Mount Vernon. Edward Steadham, who was wounded in the hand also, entered the swamp and swam the river above the Cut-Off, and reached Mount Vernon four days after the massacre. Tradition says that he swam the river, holding his rifle in his hand and his sword in his mouth. This sword was presented to the Department of Archives and History, in 1928, by his granddaughter, Miss Molly Steadham.

LOWER CLARKE COUNTY

Chapter VIII

In 1763, at the beginning of the British influence in the lower Alabama Country, a treaty was signed by the British Governor Johnstone and 29 Choctaw chiefs. This established a boundary between the Choctaws and the British described as follows: "North by the course of the Tombigbee River, to the confluence with the Alabama, then along the western bank of the Alabama to the mouth of the Chickianoce River and from the mouth of the Chickianoce River, a straight line to the confluence of the Bance and the Tombigbee River."

The official map of this period shows Chickanoce at Choctaw Bluff and the stream was either Little River on the east or Big Reedy Creek on the west.[1] The Bance was Jackson's Creek. This took in the portion of Clarke County in which, several years later, Romans found settlers. It was no doubt to protect these settlements that this treaty was made in this way. Hamilton says that previous to 1765, the land between the rivers was a wilderness.

Thomas Baskette, found living on the west side of the Tombigbee at Carney's Bluff by Romans in 1765, seems to have been a considerable figure on both sides of the river, he being a trader and merchant. He appears again in 1778 as a signer of a letter expressing approval of the conduct of the Assembly of the British who ruled Mobile, along with Cornelius McCurtin, John McIntosh, and others. He also is mentioned as giving his name to Baskette Creek, now called Bassett's Creek. There are two Bassett's Creeks (one in Washington, another in Clarke), but we are not told which was named for him. However, since these discharge into the Tombigbee River only a few miles apart, he may have named both. The first settlers of Washington and Clarke counties were largely fugitives of Tories who came in 1776 to

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1 Hamilton, Colonial Mobile, page 243

1777 from the Carolinas, as was the case with Baldwin County.

In 1777, John McGrew acquired his grant of 1,500 acres extending along the river from the Indian path above the shoals to "Bauncee" or Jackson's Creek, this grant being from the Choctaw chiefs. It was confirmed to him in 1799 by the Spanish and was also confirmed by the Choctaw treaty of 1805 with the American government. This grant shows that Jackson's Creek was so called in 1777 and was not named for Andrew Jackson.

Woodward says he visited Dr. Neil Smith, an old friend, remaining a week, and that the place had been known previously as Pine Jackson's (or Pine's Level), and that it was being changed to Jackson because General Jackson had previously chased the Indians away.[2]

With further reference to the McGrew grant, the St. Stephens agent recommended to McGrew a grant of 20 Arpents front on Jackson's Creek, north of Baly Chene. And also, he recommended a grant of a sizable tract south of McGrew to Bela Chene. Both were confirmed by the Spanish Governor Carondelet in 1792.[3] Both of these tracts must have been south of Jackson's Creek, as McGrew had already secured the tract north of the creek. This Bele Chene, called Baly Chiny, also, Chany, by the Tensaw settlers, was a Frenchman who had previously lived in the Tensaw district. In 1787, he ran afoul of the law in the person of John Linder, J.P. He was charged, Josiah Fletcher declares, with taking a Negro girl, heading her up in a hogshead and keeping her concealed. And after the said Negro was found in possession of said Chiny, he, the said deponent, saw a place which the said Chiny had made underground in his house where he might hide himself in case of necessity. He had undermined a passage to make his escape and had two guns placed inside with springs to do execution while he escaped in said underground passage. He escaped into Spanish territory, but John

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2 Woodward, Woodward's Reminiscences, page 153

3 Spanish Translated Records, page 97

Linder, J.P., ordered his property and cattle held.[4]

By 1800, settlers were coming to Clarke County in large numbers. The Coate family was listed as coming in this year. They came with pack horses and trunions described as large casks with axles fitted in them and drawn by horses. [5]

By 1811 the line Road from Hal's Lake to Choctaw Corner had been surveyed and cut out, and dispatch riders and row boats began carrying mail. The gathering clouds of the Creek war were causing concern and the troops at Forts Stoddart and St. Stephens were re-inforced and these forts strengthened.

By 1812, a string of forts had been built through the center of the country to the east. Fort Madison was a short distance east of Suggsville; Fort Sinquefield, a few miles north of Fort Madison, and Laviers (or LaRaviers) Fort, five miles to the south. Fort Madison was strongly built of logs stood on end and embedded in the earth, as was also Fort Glass a few hundred yards away. The latter fort was used for army barracks. About seven hundred settlers were gathered in this enclosure when an unfortunate incident occurred. Either through hesitation or fear of attack, Colonel Carson withdrew his garrison of several hundred soldiers from Forts Madison and Glass, thereby abandoning the whole population of Clarke County.[6] However, the occupants of the forts were not thrown into a panic by this move. Eighty men enrolled themselves under Captains Evan Austill and Sam Dale, and chose to remain at Fort Madison and protect the settlers. They strenghtened the fort, built elevated firetowers to avoid surprise attacks at night, dug ditches around the forts, and trained fierce dogs to watch for Indians. They organized and trained the settlers, almost all of whom had some kind of firearms. They were at all times alert and watchful. Most of these men had been at Burnt Corn and knew the importance of

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4 Hamilton, Colonial Mobile, page 345
5 Ibid, page 469
6 Pickett, History of Alabama, page 289

training and vigilance. They met all attacks with a withering fire and, after holding out for several months, General Claiborne decided to send his troops back to relieve them.

In the meantime Fort Sinquefield had been attacked and a family murdered near it by a war party of the Creeks under the prophet Josiah Francis. They were about to attack the fort when the famous ride of Isaac Heaton (or Hayden) occurred. This exploit saved many lives. He rode his horse at full speed into the ranks of the Creeks, and his pack of dogs attacked them furiously. This diverted their attention from the women of the fort, who had been washing clothes at a nearby spring, and enabled all but one to gain safety in the fort.

This fort (Sinquefield) was small and poorly constructed, as was Fort Lavier (possibly LaRiviere), and when Carson's troops returned, they decided both would be too difficult to defend. So the occupants of both forts were evacuated to Fort Madison, making more than one thousand settlers in that enclosure.

However, the American government was beginning to move. Jackson was mustering his army of Tennessee Volunteers, Claiborne was preparing to start his march to the Holy Ground, and the Creeks moved to the north except for small raiding parties. The Creek war was drawing to a close in Clarke and nearby counties, and life soon became safe for the settlers again.

During the siege of Fort Madison, the famed Canoe Fight occurred, and I have given both Pickett's and Woodward's account of the encounter in my sketch of Sam Dale (Famous Figures).

In Pickett's History of Alabama, he relates a detailed account of DeSoto's expedition and the Battle of Mauvila, which he located in Clarke County, thereby starting a controversy.

There were four accounts (Pickett calls them eye-witnesses) written by four members of the expedition, but they were not clear as to locations or distance

travelled. They reckoned distance and time by marches each day, but the distance covered daily was limited by the fact that the expedition was driving live stock, cattle, and hogs, and their progress was very uncertain.

These writers with the expedition mentioned Indian towns, rivers and crossings, bluffs and small streams, that could be located in half a dozen places. They all agreed, however, that DeSoto was at "Chiaha", "Coosa," and "Talisi," and that he crossed a large river on rafts at "Piachi" which all agree was high above the gorge of a mountain stream.

They all agree also that Mauvila was three days march from the river. Pickett places "Piachi" in lower Wilcox or upper Clarke Counties and the battle in lower Clarke, near Choctaw Bluff or French's Landing.

Woodward ridiculed this. He lived in 1811 at Talladega and made a detailed study of DeSoto's route. He concluded that the crossing of rivers the writers mentioned were several crossings of the same rivers, and were all on the meanderings of the Coosa and "Tallapoosa," and that "Piachi" was near present Montgomery, and the battle was three days march (driving live stock), or 15 miles distant.

Halbert, a careful and reliable historian, starts at "Talisi" as do the others, and places "Piachi" and the crossing of the large river they described as being near Selma, and says Mauvila was not on the river, but three days march inland. He places "Atabachi" in Hale County, and the Warrior River Crossing at Melton's Bluff.

Mr. Hamilton thinks a spot in lower Wilcox would fit the conditions mentioned by the writers.[7] So goes the controversy, and no doubt most Clarke County people will back Pickett.

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7 Hamilton, Colonial Mobile, page 25

STOCKTON

Chapter IX

In my account of the Taensa Indians and of the Touchis, who preceded them, I have shown some of the results of my research as to the early days of Stockton. It seems established that prior to the French withdrawal around 1765, there were a number of French settlers along the Tensaw River. These were in addition to the Tensaw Indians, who in 1728 numbered 100 families (housed in the same number of teepees) and were shown on a French chart of 1744 as dwelling on a bluff at the present site of Stockton.[1]

Hamilton, in his account, states that a missionary to the Taensas died and was buried at his home on Tensaw Bluff. The Taensas and the French are described as living peacefully together until the fortunes of war brought the change of flags. At that time the French settlers and the 100 Indian families followed the French government back to Louisiana.

Hamilton describes a French grant in 1737 to Margaret DeLussar as consisting of 5040 arpents on the Tensaw River and as having been abandoned by the Taensa Indians. This may be the same family that Roman found in 1738 below the Cut-Off whose name he spelled DeLucre and whose home is described as being on an island where the Tensaw leaves the Alabama River. In 1735 another tract was certified to Madame DeLussar, described by Bienville as extending one league front on the Tensaw River and a league and a half above the Apalachees. This site would probably be between Stockton as now located and Bay Minette Creek.

In 1757, the Carriere family received a grant on which they lived near Bay Minette Creek. Pickett tells of a party of marauding Creeks who in 1757 captured a French settler who had gone to his little plantation on the Tensaw River and was

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1 Pickett, History of Alabama, page 128

rescued by the noted Beaudrot, who shortly thereafter was executed in a horrible manner by the French governor at Mobile.

Under the British rule, beginning about 1766, Tensaw Bluff was the scene of great activity and development. In the treaty of 1765 the French ceded to the British the territory down to and including the French settlements on the Tensaw River. This line seems to have been the same as that which later formed the Spanish boundary.

Shortly after his court martial and acquittal, Major Farmer built his home (described by Hamilton as a mansion) at Tensaw Bluff (modern Stockton). He entertained Bartram there, and it was there that he died in 1778, though the place of his burial is not known. Major Farmer had large holdings on the river and some of his plantations across the river could be seen from his home.

In 1787 Cornelius McCurtin acquired Major Farmer's place on the Tensaw River. The only consideration named in the petition was that McCurtin had already gone into possession and, at considerable expense, had built a house. This would seem to indicate that the hospitable roof that sheltered Bartram had burned or was otherwise destroyed. It appears that the Farmer family had abandoned the place and it may be noted that this abandonment by Major Farmer's widow is described in a petition of James Fraser for Farmer's lands on the Tombigbee River. In 1790 McCurtin, referring to this property as uninhabitable, moved to St. Stephen's. In 1810 his widow, as Madame McVoy, sold his land, including that at Raines Creek and Farmer's Bluff, to Joshua Kennedy for $650.

About the beginning of the Revolution, settlers came in rapidly to the entire Tensaw region. They were composed largely of refugee Tories from the Carolinas and included the Kennedys (Joshua and William), John Forbes, Nicholas McCurtin, Robert Washington, Washington Wilkins, Gerald Byrne, and Lawrence McDonald.[2] There was a

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2 Hamilton, Colonial Mobile, page 513

trading post and building for the post at Tensaw Bluff, and in 1792, after the Spanish took over from the British, the territorial governor ordered this post repaired and reoccupied.

Upon the establishment of the Ellicott boundary line between the American and the Spanish territories, St. Stephen's was occupied by American forces under Capt. McClary (called McLeary by Pickett), who then established Fort Stoddart. Thereupon the Americans came into the Tensaw Bluff and Tensaw River settlements. One can easily imagine the sort of reception these American settlers gave the Tories, who had made common cause with their enemies, had humiliated and imprisoned Capt. Willing, and even as late as 1799, had cooperated with the Spanish in formenting trouble for the Americans with the Indians.

In this period most of the Tory settlers at Tensaw Bluff and many other inhabitants fled below the Ellicott line, which was located just a mile or two below Tensaw Bluff. Most of these refugees probably felt as did Lawrence McDonald, who in an application for a grant in Spanish territory stated that he did not want to live under the government of the United States of America. Inasmuch as McDonald was listed as a trader in the employ of Panton, Leslie & Company and probably had operated the trading post along with John Forbes, it is likely that he would have had a great deal of difficulty living under the new government, as would many others who followed him to Spanish territory.

We know little of Stockton's history between the coming of the Americans and the 1820's. During that period American settlers poured in from Georgia and the Carolinas. It was around 1811 that Joshua Kennedy built on Raines Creek the largest sawmill of his time, and previously Gerald Byrne and Thomas Byrne had built a sawmill on nearby Byrnes Lake, which was in Spanish territory.

Later Kennedy mapped the site of Stockton, named the streets, and offered lots for sale. There are deeds on record in Bay Minette conveying property in 1839 from

William Kitchen to the following: Cyrus Sibley, W.C. Dennis, John Gallagher, William Boyles and others. The lots were bounded by streets that bore the names, among others, of Kennedy, Tensaw, Ann, Martha, and Secluzia.

Shortly after the establishment of the new settlement on the river bearing the name Stockton on the site formerly called Tensaw Bluff, the community was visited by a severe epidemic of yellow fever and was moved to its present location on the hills. In 1833 a post office was established at Stockton, with Gerald Byrne II, son of Gerald Byrne I, as postmaster.

The origin of the name Stockton is not definitely known. The late Judge J. H.H. Smith stated that he was told by a number of old residents that the first Tory settlers of Stockton had been boat builders in Charleston, South Carolina until they were forced to flee and that then they carried on their trade at Tensaw Bluff, which they called Stockton after their native Stockton-on-Tees in England. Others claim that the name was derived from a man named Stockton who had associated with Josiah Blakely at the city of Blakely and had been an official in the Baldwin County government after the county seat had been moved there from McIntosh Bluff. However, Kennedy's map and description of the proposed town did not use the name Stockton, and that name was not included in his contract with Jesse Embree for construction of his sawmill in 1811. Kennedy there referred to himself as a resident of Tensaw River. It seems probable that Kennedy would have used the name Stockton, as he did in his contracts many years later. This was not done in other property deeds executed at the time his mill was being built and if that place had been so called by the original settlers, the Tories, particularly as it appears that Kennedy was one of that group, would have used the name.

As before stated, Gerald Byrne, Jr., was the first Stockton postmaster of whom we have any record. In this connection it may be noted that Lewis Judson, a native of Connecticut and an associate of Josiah Blakely, had been the guardian of Gerald

Byrne, Jr. It seems probable that Byrne and Judson were instrumental in naming the post office for another Blakely associate.

The steamboat "Tensaw", built at Blakely in 1819 by Brown and Ball, seems to have been the first steamboat to run regularly to Stockton. That boat was sold by Lewis Judson in 1822 and subsequently was used on the Alabama River.

SKETCHES OF THE LIVES OF GREAT AND NOTABLE FIGURES OF THE TENSAW COUNTRY

Chapter X

Many notable figures, some of them distinct and vivid, others vague and shadowy, lived in the first century of the Tensaw country and nearby sections. Some were residents while others visited these settlements and traveled along the roads and rivers.

Alexander McGillivary

Alexander McGillivary was a great man, a notable leader of the Creek nation. He controlled the Creeks with a strong hand and brought them from the status of an obscure tribe to a dominating position among the Indians of what was once Mississippi Territory and later became the State of Alabama. Controlling the commerce with these Indians, he was able to make fortunes for his friends by his favors, as well as for a great trading firm of his time, Panton, Leslie and Company.

McGillivary dealt with powerful men, including princes and presidents, seeking to further the interests of his Creek people by adroit and skillful diplomacy instead of war. He appeared before President Washington who, Pickett says, thought he was "treacherous". Woodward, who lived much closer to the time of McGillivary than did Pickett or Meek, however, hotly disputed this accusation, saying that McGillivary was an honest and upright man. According to Woodward, "The word of McGillivary was good anywhere".

McGillivary gave his allegiance to both the Spanish and the British, playing one against the other on occasion, to get concessions for his people. They were described by Pickett as being jealous of each other and of him.

The historians disagree about McGillivary's early beginnings, even on his birth and ancestry. All agree that he was the son of Lachlan McGillivary and an Indian woman named Sehoy. Pickett and Meek state that this woman was the daughter of Capt.

Marchand and the Indian princess bearing also the name Sehoy. Marchand was French commandant of Fort Toulouse and was killed in the mutiny of 1722. However, Woodward who lived in the time of McGillivary though he did not know him personally, said that this was not true. According to Woodward, the name "Sehoy" was given to all the women of the ruling tribe by the Creeks. This was mention also by Miller. Woodward states that a Scotchman named Malcolm McPherson married a full-blooded Indian woman of the ruling tribe who also was called Sehoy of "Leader" and that she was the mother of the Sehoya who was the mother of Tate and Weatherford. It was said further by Woodward that the wife of Lachlan McGillivary and the mother of Alexander McGillivary was a full-blooded Tuskegee Indian.

Woodward stresses that McGillivary was not an educated man and that the letters sent in his name were actually written by Leslie of Panton, Leslie and Company. Historians disagreed as to his birth and education, but they all agreed on his great ability, his adroit diplomacy, and his devotion to his people.

McGillivary had a home on Little River and one of his wives lived there.

William Weatherford

William Weatherford was a controversial figure. A resident of the Tensaw country, at one time a pupil of John Pierce, he was reported by Pickett to have been a nephew of Alexander McGillivary. Weatherfore was never a chidf, but he had enormous influence among the Creek Indians, although he as only part Indian-- a quarter breed according to Pickett, and a half breed in the accounts of the other historians. It was agreed by all, however, that he was the son of Charles Weatherfore and an Indian woman, Sehoy. Woodward says of Charles Weatherford and Samuel Mims, both of whom came to the Tensaw country after the Revolution, that they had been associated with George Galphin in the Indian trade in Georgia.

Weatherford was at the conference with Chief Tecumseh at Tuckabatchee but seems

to have disapproved, as did Sam Moniac, of the plan to attack Fort Mims. Afterwards he joined the war party reluctantly in order, as he said "to stay with my people".

Historians disagree as to Weatherford's conduct at Fort Mims; but it is clear that in his swift and silent descent on the fort and his deployment of his warriors in the battle he showed ability and generalship. In his campaign against General Andrew Jackson and in his desperate and valiant defense at the Holy Ground, when he had almost gained a victory over Claiborne when his cavalry wavered, he showed masterly leadership and desperate bravery. His success in getting a part of his forces out after reinforcements had joined Claiborne showed him to be a great general in the face of defeat, and his famous dash down the ravine reflected consummate daring and courage.

But after the battle of the Holy Ground, Weatherford was a defeated leader--his warriors killed or scattered while their women and children were starving. Weatherford and the Creeks had lost the war and their native land to the whites. It is true that he rallied his men and fought again at Calibee Creek, but the great army that later crushed the British at New Orleans closed in and overwhelmed Weatherford's forces, leaving him to taste the bitterness of defeat and surrender.

In his Life of Jackson, Parton says (at page 528) that Weatherford's father was an Indian trader who married an Indian woman of the Seminole tribe; that his son inherited from him a love of horses and thrift and strenght of character, but drew from his Seminole mother something of the fierceness and taciturn grandeur of demeanor which belonged to the chiefs of her war-like tribe.

Weatherford's last years were spent quietly and peacefully at his Little River home, and his turbulent life ended in 1826. He lies buried in the country he loved, "the Tensaw". Truly Jackson spoke well when he called him, "This magnificent savage!"

General Andrew Jackson

General Jackson, deliverer of the river settlers, avenger of Fort Mims with his Tennesseans, wrote a great page in the history of the Tensaw country. After his crushing defeat of the Creeks, he marched down to the Tensaw country, established Fort Montpelier and styed there several months organizing his army for the memorable march to Pensacola and New Orleans, blotting out Spanish rule at the former and humbling the British at the latter city.

Not only did Jackson exact retribution for Fort Mims but he utterly destroyed the Creek nation and made life safe in the Tensaw country and in the territory along the rivers. As Hamilton said in his Colonial Mobile, page 422:

> "The Massacre at Fort Mims still lives in history and 'Remember Fort Mims' was the battle cry that nerved the American armies from West, East and North to blot the very Creek country from the map. It was the blood of gray-haired Sam Mims crying from the ground that opened up the interior of Alabama to civilization."

Rachel Jackson

Rachel Jackson, wife of Andrew Jackson, spent several months in 1814 visiting her husband at his headquarters at Fort Montpelier. While there, she spent several days with Mrs. Hannah Mims, who lived in the house where the Warrens now live. Mrs. Mims was the widow of Samuel Mims, who was killed at Fort Mims. She and her children were visiting friends at Fort Pierce the day of the massacre and it is said that they could hear the sound of the guns firing at Fort Mims.

In Parton's Life of Jackson, mention is made of a letter in which Rachel Jackson wrote a friend in Tennessee that Mrs. Mims was an unusually intelligent woman. In that letter, Mrs. Jackson made these additional comments:

> "During the nearly 3 months I was in the South never once did I hear a Gospel sermon or the sound of a song of Zion in my ear. I feel that I am in a vast wilderness far from my friends in the Lord, my home and my country."

Mrs. Jackson expressed the opinion that one acre of Tennessee land was worth a thousand acres of the land in the long leaf pine region of Alabama.

Sam Dale

The name "Big Sam Dale", of the Battle of Burnt Corn fame, heroic defender of Fort Madison, renowned participant in the Canoe Fight, struck terror in the hearts of his Indian foes. Many accounts of his life have been given, us, but they vary widely from each other. Pickett's story is the fullest and paints Dale as a dashing hero. According to Pickett, Dale was once a colonel in the Georgia Line, or militia. The account of Woodward, who knew Dale intimately around 1817, differs greatly from Pickett's, and Woodward's story is upheld to an extent by Halbert. All of these historians agree that Dale was originally a Georgian and that in his early youth he was a brawler and rough and tumble fighter. Woodward says that Dale had more than a hundred fights and that from one of them Dale bore many scars the rest of his life. That fight was with a man named Webb.

Dale was a trader with the Indians and traveled widely among them. He guided many parties of immigrants from the Carolinas and from Georgia into the lower Alabama country. That he was a daring man without physical fear all agree. Pickett says that Dale was at the Tuckabatchee conference with Tecumseh, but this is denied by Woodward.

At the Battle of Burnt Corn, Dale was a captain of militia, and he distinguished himself in that unfortunate engagement. During the fight he received a rifle ball wound in the chest but continued to carry on as long as the battle lasted. This wound troubled him the remaining years of his life. At Fort Madison, Dale was everywhere with his scouting parties, keeping track of the Indians, their location and their plans. On one of these trips he had an adventure that made history-- the famous Canoe Fight. With Jere Austill, James Smith and a Negro named Caesar, Dale encountered

eleven Indians who came down in a canoe upon them. A desperate fight followed. At its end eight Indians had been killed, two had jumped overboard and escaped, and one had been "knocked out".

The major credit for winning this fight is given by Pickett to Dale, but the latter told Woodward afterward that Austill deserved most of the credit and that at the time of the fight, he, Dale had not entirely recovered from the wound he received at Burnt Corn. Dale played down the importance of the Canoe Fight, intimating that the story of the encounter had changed its appearance "by getting into a book".

Immediately prior to the Battle of New Orleans, Dale was a dispatch rider between Jackson's army and General Early's headquarters at Milledgeville. Dale arrived during that battle with dispatches from Washington, having made the journey on his pony, "Paddy" in eight days, when the trip usually took fourteen. Jackson sent him back at once with the news of the victory and on his same pony. Dale swam his horse across the river at Randon's Landing in freezing weather, and then rode on through the Tensaw country spreading the news to all the posts he passed until he delivered Jackson's dispatches to General Early at Milledgeville. In his Colonial Mobile, Hamilton says (at page 432) that Dale's pony, "Paddy", attracted almost as much attention as did the news he bore.

All authorities agree that Sam Dale was honest, brave and kindly. However, he was not well educated and was not a good manager in money matters. Woodward says that Dale gave his money freely when he had it to both friends and enemies. In his later life, he moved to Mississippi. He died at Causeyville in that state.

Major Robert Farmer

Major Robert Farmer came to Mobile shortly after the evacuation in 1765 and was commander of the 34th Regiment of Highlanders. He assumed command in Mobile

and occupied his home there upon the withdrawal of the Spanish governor. At that time, Farmer was 45 years old. His administration was a stormy one, and in 1766 he was court martialed but acquitted.

About 1769 Farmer moved to Tensaw Bluff, which, as stated in Hamilton's Colonial Mobile, page 513, was at the site of modern Stockton. Here he built what Pickett (at page 128) described as a mansion, where he lived until his death in 1778. Among the notable figures who visited him there was the famous naturalist, William Bartram, who described the site as a pretty high bluff on the eastern side of the river, stating that he found low, well cultivated, rich land for 20 miles along the river.

Major Farmer had many French tenants, and from his mansion he enjoyed a spacious prospect over his extensive plantations on the opposite shore. Bartram observed that Tensaw Bluff was evidently the site of an old Indian town, judging from the many mounds of earth and other ruins. These were, of course, the ruins of the Taensa Indian town of 100 teepees which Pickett describes and who had recently followed the French westward. According to Hamilton, Major Farmer's activities included cattle raising. His nephew, Milar, and also George Ankrum were his associates in that business.

Besides the tract at Tensaw Bluff, Major Farmer owned around 10,000 acres of land above and across the river from his residence. After his death, his estate was taken over by Cornelius McCurtin and was reported to the Spanish governor as abandoned. Later McCurtin sold the property on the west side of the river to Cornelius Dunn for a cattle ranch. In 1811, the property on the east side extending to Raines Creek was sold by McCurtin's widow to Joshua Kennedy.

William Bartram

William Bartram was a learned naturalist and botanist with a world-wide reputation. Before the Revolution he was commissioned to search the southern territory

"for the discovery of rare and useful products of nature, chidfly in the vegetable kingdom". He was a native of Philadelphia.

After a long trip with many adventures through Georgia, Florida and middle Alabama, Bartram arrived in the Tensaw district. He visited with Major Farmer at Tensaw Bluff on the site of modern Stockton, and gave an interesting description of the gracious entertainment accorded him by his host's wife and five children.

Bartram left a fascinating account of his findings "in the Vegetable Kingdom" both at this site and at the other places on the river which he covered on a boat trip. In addition he traveled by land about 30 miles (to a point close to Little River) in search of a shrub which the Indians used to make a tea for the relief of malaria, (called by him an "ague"), which he had contracted. Evidently this tea did not have much effect, as Bartram suffered severely from the malady during his entire trip to Louisiana.

At Major Farmer's place at Tensaw Bluff were many large trees covered with the "beard of the Spaniard", or Spanish moss. Here Bartram observed many rare and interesting specimens of plant life. He mentions particularly the odorless wax myrtle, called "the wax tree" by the French and used by them in making candles. In the fields above Tensaw Bluff, Bartram found a rich yellow bloom, a new species of Evening Primrose, which he describes as seven or eight feet high with a daily succession of blooms over five inches in diameter, of which there are several hundred on a plant.

Bartram's Travels was published in 1793 in a two-volume edition. An abridged and severely edited edition by Dr. VanDoren is in the Mobile Public Library.

General John Coffee

In Parton's Life of Andrew Jackson, General John Coffee is described as a "great soldier without knowing it", gigantic in stature, taciturn and modest, (Vol. 1, page 435). He was particularly an arm of strength in Jackson's Indian campaign during

a period of the latter's illness. Coffee was first field commander and a genuine destroyer at the bloody Tallasahatchee Battle, where Jackson reported that Fort Mims had been avenged.

General Coffee played a great part also in the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend, where jackson called him "the ever dependable one." Before the campaign he was in the Lower Creek country at the head of 1,000 horsemen. Jackson said that Coffee's swift gallopings up and down that region served notice on friend and foe alike that great events were happening.

After the Creek campaign, Coffee returned to Tennessee, but he appeared again when Jackson was called on to defend New Orleans and was painfully short of troops. Coffee served under Jackson both at Pensacola and at New Orleans. En route he encamped with his 2,800 Tennesseans in the Tensaw country at a place opposite the Cut-Off on the west side of the Tombigbee River. After Benton completed Fort Montgomery, Jackson joined Coffee and led the troops across the river-- possibly at Mim's Ferry. At Fort Montgomery they stayed a short time organizing their army and then marched to Pensacola. Both at Pensacola and at New Orleans, Coffee was at all times in the thick of the fight, proving again that he was "the ever dependable one."

Major James Willing

James Willing of Philadelphia was sent by the Revoluntionary Government of the United States to Natchez with a body of American soldiers. Aided by Pollock, American agent at New Orleans, he was to recruit for the American service. He enlisted 100 men and captured a ship which he sold to the Spaniards at New Orleans, but he lost control of his men, who wasted their money in debauchery. Only two officers and forty men stayed with him. With this small force he plundered the planations around Manchac in Louisiana, these belonging to the Loyalists. The settlers around Natchez associated themselves to combat Willing, and they defeated him in a battle.

He then fled with his remaining force to the Tensaw settlements.[1] Here he endeavored, in vain, to enlist the Loyalists and Tories. He was taken up by the British and imprisoned at Mobile for three years as a prisoner of war, but was exchanged for Col. Hamilton of Detroit in 1779.[2] Among the charges for which he was imprisoned was one for circulating copies of the Declaration of Independence.

Willing was regarded generally as a brave and honorable man who endeavored earnestly to carry out his difficult assignment. Pickett thought that he exceeded the limits of civilized warfare when he destroyed and confiscated the property of the Loyalists; and certainly he did create consternation among the Tories of the Tensaw district and other places. But, of course, this was exactly what he was sent out to do.

John Forbes

A somewhat shadowy figure John Forbes was, along with his great firm, Panton, Leslie and Company, to appear many times in the history of the Tensaw Country.

Panton was a Scot, a trader and merchant in Charleston, a Loyalist,or Tory. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he was forced to flee and went to Pensacola, no doubt with McGillivary's aid, as did many other Loyalists of his day. He was joined by Alexander F. Leslie, also a Scot but who had been in the Barbadoes, and later by John Forbes, who had been in Panton's trading house at New Providence in the Bahamas.

This firm established a large trading and shipping business operating at one time 15 schooners that carried stocks of goods valued at as much as $150,000. McGillivary sponsored and favored this concern.[3] In 1793, at the age of 24, Forbes appeared in a court action testifying that he was a member of this firm and describing

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1 Pickett, History of Alabama, pp. 37-38

2 Hamilton, Colonial Mobile, page 311

3 Ibid., page 353

himself as an Englishman of the Tensaw country but with a house in Mobile. Inasmuch as we find that during the previous year, 1792, the Spanish governor had ordered that the old English trading post at "Tensaw, near the present Stockton," be repaired and occupied, it is probable that John Forbes lived and operated this post at Tensaw Bluff for a time. He is shown in the records as owner of a considerable tract of land opposit what is now Stockton. It is very likely that the old English trading post just mentioned was established during or shortly after Major Farmer's time.[1]

In 1799, Ellicott finds Forbes living in Mobile. No doubt he left Tensaw Bluff for the reason given by Lawrence McDonald, which applied also to the other Tories in that section, that is, "they did not wish to live under the Government of the United States". In 1799 the United States, having established Fort Stoddert, began taking over the territory north of the 31st parallel and there the American troops were understandably harsh in dealing with people of British birth or Tory affiliation, especially as some of the latter had been so severe in their dealings with Capt. James Willing only a few years before.

Forbes spen the latter part of his life in Matanzas, Cuba, still unwilling to live under the American government. He never married. His will is recorded in Book 1, Mobile Wills.

Judge Harry Toulmin

Harry Toulmin was federal judge of the Tensaw territory for many years. He was a native of Taunton, England, born in 1766, and was a minister.

In 1788 he was pastor of a Unitarian church. For expressing what were described as "independent opinions", he was forced to leave England. Thereupon he

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1 Pickett, History of Alabama, page 115

settled at Winchester, Kentucky. For eight years he was president of Transylvania College at Lexington, Kentucky. He became a lawyer and was appointed a federal judge in 1804. At first he held court at Fort Stoddert, where he had settled. Later he moved his court to McIntosh Bluff, then the county seat of Baldwin County, He called this place Wakefield. His old court house, or part of it, still stands at McIntosh.

George S. Gaines, commandant of Fort Stoddert, married Judge Toulmin's daughter.

Judge Toulmin was a distinguished and fearless jurist, and enjoyed a wide reputation. In the census of 1820, he was listed as a resident of Baldwin County.

Gerald Byrne

This man, described as a Tory refugee from the Carolinas, was at Tensaw Bluff in Major Farmer's time. According to Hamilton's Colonial Mobile, Gerald Byrne was a carpenter. But Thomas Byrne, a descendant, told Judge J.H.H. Smith in later years that Gerald Byrne was a boat builder, that he had been following that occupation in Charleston before the Revolution, and that he built boats at Tensaw Bluff until he was forced to flee into Spanish territory in 1799 on the coming of the Americans. The statement that he was a refugee into Spanish territory, which was then only a mile or so below Tensaw Bluff, is confirmed at page 562 of Colonial Mobile.

Gerald Byrne was listed in Mobile Translated Records as receiving several grants. On page 108 of those records a deed is recorded from Peter Davant to Gerald Byrne for a "a plantation situated on the River of Tensaw, bounded on the north by a bayou called 'Awris' and on the south by lands of Mr. LaForge". Hamilton says that in 1802 Governor Folch encouraged Gerald and Thomas Byrne to build a saw mill near Byrne's Lake to furnish the Spanish government with lumber. This may have been the first water-powered saw mill of any size in what is now Alabama, it having been constructed

several years before Joshua Kennedy built his mill on Raines Creek (in 1811-1812).

In proceedings before the Orphans' Court in 1814 in regard to the estate of Gerald Byrne, Madam Byrne, named as widow, and Patrick Byrne, named as a son, applied for settlement of the estate, which was appraised at $30,000 by Louis Dolive. Gerald Byrne, Jr., was listed as a minor son, and Louis Judson was appointed by the court as guardian. As such, Judson posted a bond of $5,000. It is indicated by the records of the estate that Gerald Byrne died in either 1813 or 1814.

According to the post office records, Gerald Byrne, Jr., son of the Gerald Byrne above mentioned, was postmaster of Stockton in 1835.

TENSAW

Chapter XI

It has been said often that the settlement at the present site of Tensaw was originally called "Montgomery Hill". But nowhere is an official reference to a post office by the latter name. Nevertheless, the place is perhaps the oldest point in Alabama, except Mobile, where mail has been continuously delivered.

It is clear from the records that this locality was receiving mail even in the earliest days. For example, the mail rider to that point was seized prior to the engagement at Burnt Corn, and his pouches carried to Pensacola to be rifled. On that occasion the mail rider, a man named Greggs, escaped to Fort Montgomery to give the alarm.

Records show the following as postmasters at Tensaw: John Pierce in 1822, Joseph Booth in 1832, and William B. Bryant in 1835.

NOTES CONCERNING INTERESTING PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE TENSAW COUNTRY

Chapter XII

Aaron Burr, vice president during President Jefferson's first term (1801-1805), was brought as a prisoner up Boatyard Lake in a canoe a short time after expiration of his term as vice president of the United States. He was met at Boatyard Lake and carried to Richmond, Virginia, where he was later tried for treason before Chief Justice John Marshall and acquitted.

A.J. Pickett, author of History of Alabama, spent three weeks at Tensaw gathering material for his book.

Major E. Montgomery, who was in command of Fort Pierce at the time of the Fort Mims massacre, was afterwards in charge of Fort Montgomery. It seems probable that the latter fort derived its name from him, although Peter J. Hamilton thought that the fort was named for Lemuel P. Montgomery, who was killed at Horse Shoe Bend. Elijah Montgomery married Harriet Smoot, granddaughter of Samuel Mims and daughter of Col. Benjamin Smoot. He lived at Tensaw and was representative in the Alabama Legislature from Baldwin County in 1826.

George Brooks Tunstall published at Pensacola the first English newspaper in the Southwest. His oldest son lived at Tensaw for a short time at the site of the Reuben McDonald home.

Virginia Clay Copton, daughter of Dr. Tunstall, lived at Tensaw at one time. She became the wife of Senator Clement C. Clay, and was author of the book The Belle of the Fifties.

In the treaty between the whites and the Creek Indians signed in 1790 at New York, the United States promised to educate four Indian youths each year. The following youths from the Tensaw territory were educated under the terms of that

treaty:

(1) Dixon Bailey, who was educated at Philadelphia. He was in charge of Fort Mims at the time of the massacre.

(2) David Moniac, the first appointee from Alabama to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

(3) David Tate, son of John Tate, the last Indian agent, and half brother of William Weatherford.

FAMILY HISTORY

Chapter XIII

At the time of the American Revolution the Smith family lived in South Carolina in District Ninety Six, near the present town of Cambridge. The name "Ninety Six" applies to the post, now constituting the village of Cambridge, in Abbeville County. It is so called because it is 96 miles from the frontier fort, Prince George, on Keowee River.

The Smith family of that period included John Smith and his two brothers: Robert and Archibald. Robert went to Tennessee with Nash's Battalion when Sevier made war on the Creek Indians and drove them out of Tennessee. There is no information about Robert after he left South Carolina. Archibald Smith married Jane McArthur and was the father of Margaret Smith, who married Malcolm McMillan. During the Revolution, Archibald Smith lived in Bladen County, North Carolina and, according to Voucher #4174, Box S, Treasurer's Office papers, he was a captain in the North Carolina militia.

John Smith served in the Revolution as one of General Marion's dragoons and rose to the rank of colonel. He married Susan Gilmore, a native of South Carolina. She had two brothers, Seth and William, and one sister, Jane. The latter married John McDuffie of Georgia and had the following children: (1) Effie, (2) Jane M. Reese, (3) Mary M. Vance, and (4) George. George. George became the 28th governor of South Carolina. He married Mary Singleton, daughter of Richard Singleton and great granddaughter of General Richard Singleton. The only daughter of Governor George McDuffie and his wife was Mary McDuffie, who married the 48th governor of South Carolina, Wade Hampton, a grandson of General Wade Hampton of Revoluntionary War fame.

The issue of Colonel John Smith and Susan Gilmore were: John, Robert, Reese, and Mary. Mary married Samuel Kitchen of New Jersey. Their children were: Colonel William Kitchen, who married Narcissa Watson; Samuel, who married Mary Moye, a girl

of Welsh descent; Susan, who became the wife of Joshua Kennedy; and Mary, who married W.P. Watson.

In the census of 1790, John Smith and his brother, Robert, are shown as heads of families in South Carolina.

One of John Smith's sons, Reese, and his daughter, Mary, came to Alabama. Reese Smith settled near the present town of Gosport, just across the Monroe County line. He reached Alabama in or about 1804 and married Matilda Embree, daughter of Jesse Embree. His sister, Mary, and her husband, Samuel Kitchen, lived at a place about five miles east of the present Stockton. Although Reese Smith lived in Monroe County and described himself as a resident of that county, he owned land also in Clarke County. Several deeds executed by him and his wife may be found of record at the court house at Grove Hill.

Jesse Embree and his wife, Anney, were Quakers and were among the first settlers of Clarke County. They left the Quaker colony near Whitesville, Georgia, after the outbreak of the Revolution because able-bodied men, regardless of religion, were being forced to join the army. Their journey, with their four daughters and numerous slaves, was made by packhorses and trunions (casks with an axle running through the ends and packed with household goods). Their grandson, Jesse Embree Smtih (born in 1809), remembered them well and told his children many stories of family adventures which had been related in his childhood by his grandmother, Anney Embree.

Jesse Embree was a millwright and builder. He built several mills in Clarke and Monroe Counties. In 1811 he made a contract with Joshua Kennedy to build a mill on Raines Creek, near the present Stockton. That contract is of record at the court house in Bay Minette. The old mill Jesse Embree built on Raines Creek is now gone, but the old dam there is still in existence-- a tribute to Jesse Embree's workmanship.

During the Creek war of 1813-1814, Jesse Embree and his son-in-law, Reese Smith,

returned with their families to Clarke County and entered Fort Lavier (or Ravier), which had been built close to his residence. At a much later date, in 1870, this site was pointed out to T.H. Ball by an aged ex-slave, Dick Embree, and was mentioned in Ball's history of Clarke County. As Fort Lavier was not considered strong, Colonel Carson escorted those quartered there and at Fort Sinquefield to Fort Madison. The Embree and Reese Smith families remained in Fort Madison until the close of the Creek war. This evacuation was described by Halbert in his Creek War.

Jesse Embree died in 1814. As stated in the records of wills in the Clarke County Court House at Grove Hill, three appraisers were appointed to evaluate and settle Jesse Embree's estate. His widow, Anney, lived until about 1825. An advertisement by the Suggsville Post Office of an undelivered letter addressed to Anney Embree bears the date 1825. Her daughter, Matilda, wife of Reese Smith, also died about that year. Reese Smith moved his family to Baldwin County and settled east of Stockton near his sister, Mary Kitchen.

The Kitchen family left widespread connections in Baldwin County. Among the children of Samuel Kitchen and Mary Moye was Martha, who married Joseph Bates. The latter was a son of William Perry Bates and Jane McDonald. The Bates and McDonald families were among the first settlers of the Tensaw country and were related to many families in Clarke, Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

My paternal grandmother was Margaret McMillan, daughter of Hector McMillan. He married a cousin, Anna McMillan, who in the 1820's had come from the Carolinas to Monroe County and then a few years later to Stockton. The McMillan family was a very large one and was related by blood or marriage to many other families in south Alabama.

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY

Chapter XIV

From Alabama Postal History, compiled by J.H. Scruggs, U.S. Post Office Department:

"Table of Post Offices in the United States"

Year	Post Offices and Post Masters, Alabama State & Territory	
1811	Tensaw, Washington County	John Pierce
1811	Fort Montgomery, Baldwin County	John Pierce
	Tensaw, Washington County	John Pierce
1825	Mobile, Mobile County	Benjamin S. Smoot
	Tensaw, Baldwin County	Joseph Booth
1835	Gosport, Clarke County	Samuel Forward
	Stockton, Baldwin County	Gerald Byrne
	Tensaw, Baldwin County	William B. Bryant
1839	Stockton, Baldwin County	W.P. Watson, (to Feb. 1839)
	Stockton, Baldwin County	W.B. Hubbard
	Tensaw, Baldwin County	E.D. Nolley
1845	Fort Montpelier, Baldwin County	William H. Slaughter, (from 24th Feb. 1845)
	Stockton, Baldwin County	Ward Taylor
1851	Fort Montpelier, Baldwin County	William H. Slaughter, (Discontinued March 24, 1855)
	Stockton, Baldwin County	E.W. Lewis
	Tensaw, Baldwin County	Charles Daniels
1855	Stockton, Baldwin County	Catherine Knight
	Tensaw, Baldwin County	Charles Daniels

The following post offices were located in Baldwin County on April 15th, 1859:

Tensaw

Stockton

Blakeley

Danneleys Mills

Honey Cut

List of Tensaw Postmasters 1811 to 1855

John Pierce
Joseph Booth
William Bryant
E.D. Nolley
Charles Daniels
Adoph Feist
Dillion Hall
Mrs. J.R. Till
Miss Lillian Warren
Post Office was closed 1953
Postal Station Estab. 1954-1967
June W. Slaughter, Postal Clerk
1967- Put on a route

Stockton

Gerald Byrne
W.P. Watson
W.B.Hubbard
Ward Taylor
E.W.Lewis
Catherine M. Knight
Ered Bryars

Latham

Miss Molly McGowan
Miss Virginia Ferguson
Mrs. Bessie Coghlan

Steamboat	Tonnage	Built at	Year
"Alpha"	110	Tensaw, Ala	1835

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Note: Other family members , state that Archibald Smiths Brothers were Peter and Daniel, not John and Robert. Peter married and left several children. Died in 1808 in N.C. Daniel never married but his will is recorded in N.C. The McMillan line however is concerned with Archibald whose daughter, Margaret wed Malcolm McMillan. see page 51.

In Memory of Claudia Smith Slaughter

by June W. Slaughter, 1986