

abdoken, passing out near the spine. He received wounds about the head and shoulders which left fifteen scars, which he bore through life. When Mrs. Metcalf, mother of Miss Lizzie, heard of the serious nature of his wounds, she sent her daughter to Nashville, Tennessee, and brought Captain Turner to home to nurse him back to health. For months he lay on a cot, with silk handkerchiefs in his wounds. After six months, Miss Lizzie returned and she and Captain Turner were married while he was still confined to his cot. He later recovered, and to Captain and Mrs. Turner were born three children, Jennie Lou, Napoleon, and Oliver Metcalf. The Metcalf place became their home, and until it burned several years ago, was known as the Turner place.

Mrs. Turner died when these children were young. Later, Captain Turner married Miss Margaret Pattison, daughter of Alexander Pattison, one of the signers of the Secession papers when Mississippi seceded from the Union. This document of secession is kept in a locked compartment in the archives of history, in the Capitol of the State at Jackson.

Captain Turner's first wife had known Miss Pattison and had once told her husband that if she should die she would like him to marry Miss Pattison. To Captain Turner and the second Mrs. Turner, were born two daughters, who are now prominent citizens of Tallahatchie County. They are Mrs. Jenie Turner Saunders and Mrs. Margaret Turner Webb. (1)

DR. ATHERALL BALL, who came to Tallahatchie County in 1836, when a young man of twenty-five, from "Bewdley," Lancaster County, Virginia, was, for fifty years a familiar figure to all people of the county, for he served them as a physician all these years.

Dr. Ball married Eliza Ann Roper in Kentucky, in 1835, but shortly after, she died. His second marriage was to Miss Floride Calhoun Simonds in 1850, in Tallahatchie County. Miss Simonds was visiting her cousin, Lawrence Calhoun, who owned the place now known as "Pine Crest," and was married from his home, a two-story log house.

Dr. Ball was a man of great strength of character, res-  
 (1) Mrs. B.F. Saunders, Webb, Miss.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
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pected and honored by all who knew him; was very progressive and believed in trying out everything new. He rode horseback to the bed of his patients, often going twenty-five miles at night, returning and having to go over the same route immediately to see others who were ill. He was medical attendant for many planters, among them: Philip Thornton, Hunter, Granville Sherman, George Harvey, and Dr. Dickens, from whom Dr. Bell bought Anderson, a sick slave, just to take care of him and give him a good home. Anderson often told Dr. Bell's children that "I is just as nigh Heaven as I want to be."

A free negro by the name of William Webster (Free Bill) accidentally killed a woman owned by R. Sheley; Mr. Sheley told him he would not prosecute him if he would pay for the woman. The only way "Free Bill" could do this was to sell himself, having lived in Charleston long enough to know the people, "Free Bill" importuned Dr. Bell to buy him, which the Doctor did, much against his will as he did not want him. "Free Bill" proceeded immediately to marry "Aunt Julia" Lewis, Dr. Bell's cook, and proved so worthless that "Aunt Julia" threatened to kill him if Dr. Bell did not

sell him. He was sold to a man in Georgia, and a short while after, was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Dr. Bell died in 1880 and is buried in the old Masonic Cemetery, Charleston.

Mrs. Florence Bell Houston, daughter of Dr. Bell, and an old citizen of Tallahatchie County, states that Dr. Bell and his family are descendants, or relatives, of George Washington. In fact, Mrs. Houston claims that she is the closest living relative of George Washington; as proof of this statement she has a family tree showing the relationship. (1)

#### Reminiscences

Pioneers were compelled to travel light, so on reaching the new country, many useful and needed articles were made by handy carpenters -- tables, chairs, benches, trays, bowls, rolling pins, rolling boards, etc. All of these things were as finely finished as the factory made articles of today.

Many families had long, durable benches made for porches and open halls. Bowls were cut from solid blocks of wood, and such

(1) Mrs. Florence Bell Houston, Oakland, Miss.

BELLUM DAYS

were used for mixing cakes, bread, and in many other ways. Trays were cut from oblong blocks of light wood, beautifully finished, and termed the biscuit tray, though used in other ways. An idea as to how they looked is shown by the remark of a little child made recently; he was visiting in the home of a family who had not discarded the biscuit tray. After paying a visit to the kitchen, he confided to mother that he reckoned they did not have any pans as he saw them working biscuits in an old boat, but it was not big enough to ride in. Some of those trays were used for two or three generations.

Barnyard troughs for feeding and watering stock were made from logs hollowed out; wash tubs were made by sawing molasses and whiskey barrels in two. Washboards were also made by carpenters. Park bells were not common to the early settlers. The hunting horn was used to awaken and call the slaves to work. Some of these were highly polished, and neighbors learned to distinguish tones of each other's horns almost as well as voices. The horns were also used to carry ammunition; no such conveniences as the loaded shells

then; the big ends were closed by fitting in light pieces of wood and a wooden stopper was shaped to fit into the small end, or cork used if one could be found. When a hunter started out, he had three horns slung over his shoulder -- one filled with powder, one filled with shot, and another for blowing. Rawhide straps were attached to the horns.

A number of families brought large shells with them which they used for plantation blowing. D

Dried sedge grass tied in bundles was a good substitute for brooms. "Store bought" fans were hard to get. Old timers used turkey wing fans. The last wing joint was cut off, the wing feathers spread, and a weight put on it until it dried. This made a very good fan. But the choice fans were made from the tail feathers; they were arranged on a foundation for the stem ends of feathers, sewed down, and then the quill ends were covered with some pretty piece of material. (1)

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(1) Mrs. Margaret Loughlin, Grenada, Miss.

YELLOW  
DAYS.

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*McG-2/1/39*

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*Susie Staton*

*H.S.D. 9/26/38*  
*W.K. - 9/30/38 (2)*  
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HISTORY OF TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY

CHAPTER V: ANTE-BELLUM DAYS

Introduction

Today very little remains of the old, romantic South. Thrilling descriptions of conditions and events of the quarter century preceding the War between the States have become excellent material for novels and other fiction, while what little exists of that period has become the effigy of a flack-boyant past.

When we read such vivid accounts of our old South—of the spacious Colonial homes and extensive grounds, of the stage<sup>s</sup> coaches and steamboats, the beautiful belles and the picturesque style of dress, and the large plantations with their slaves—we become keenly aware of the changes the War between the States has brought about. It is true that we are proud of our symbols of progress and advance in modern civilization, yet we cannot but feel that our Southland has been cruelly dismantled.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, HOMES OLD

The ancient natural beauty of the landscape, the pretentious dwellings surrounded by plantations and care-free negro slaves, the gay social festivities, and the pony express have all become <sup>an</sup> ante-bellum atmosphere. All that is extant of the old South is the sadly related accounts of the few surviving makers of that epoch, the glowing dissertations of various authors, and a few surviving homes, most of them stripped of their glamour. These homes, pathetic markers of a gracious past, silently speak of the glory of days gone by.

Although we have retained comparatively little of the pre-war background, we have the sacred memory of an aristocratic, romantic, stately, and heroic South of yesterday.

#### Old Homes

When James A. Houston, an early settler, arrived in Tallahatchie County from South Carolina in 1834, he selected as a home site an elevation about three hundred yards from South Tillatoba Creek, a few miles east of Charleston, on the south side of <sup>State</sup> Highway 32, and built the HOUSTON home.

This home was built of heavy hand-hewn logs but was almost demolished in the 1840's by a tornado -- some of the logs being blown a distance of two miles. However, the house was rebuilt and used until 1882, when it was torn down and rebuilt at a different site by B.F. Houston, grandson of James A. B.F. Houston owned and occupied this house when it came into possession of his sons who razed ~~the house~~ and used the materials in the erection of tenant cabins, which still stand. There is one cabin remaining as it was originally built by James A. Houston.

James A. Houston came to Mississippi in company with many others-- the whole company making up a caravan of fifty or more wagons, the families traveling in carriages, the slaves and furniture in covered wagons. So closely interwoven are the fortunes of James A. Houston and William Carson, that the history of Houston is incomplete without that of Carson. Carson, who had married Margaret Houston, daughter of James A., was born at Abbeville, South Carolina, in 1772, and was part of the company who came to Mississippi with the Houstons. The Carson

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OLD HOMES

and Houston homes were built near each other, and their places were for many years known as Rocky Branch Plantation, ~~but is~~ now called Pine Crest Plantation, noted stock farm and the home of "Scissors," World's Champion Duroc Jersey boar, valued at \$75,000.

When these pioneers settled here this section was densely wooded, abounding in deer, bear, wild turkeys, and other game, and the streams were plentifully supplied with fish.

Patrick Henry (Cap) Houston, second son of James A., born in 1837, when almost grown, ~~once~~ killed a wild turkey in the front yard of his home, while dressing <sup>the</sup> turkey a dime was found in the craw of the bird. Another interesting experience ~~he had~~ <sup>of his</sup> was, as he <sup>was</sup> while strolling near a creek, a deer, badly frightened by his approach, jumped into the creek and became entangled in vines; Houston called to some slaves, at work nearby, and with their aid caught the deer, tied it with vines, and carried it home alive.

Patrick Henry Houston enlisted in the Confederate Army August 6, 1861, at Manassas, Virginia. He was in Company F,

Twenty-first Regiment, Mississippi Infantry. Union war records show that he was captured at Harper's Farm, April 6, 1865, and released at Point Lookout, Maryland, June 6, 1865.

in the Captain Houston was a man of unusual courage and justice, <sup>he was</sup> a great arbitrator, <sup>my</sup> deplored trouble, and many times made peace among his neighbors. He was perhaps the very warmest friend that Dr. C.J.F. Meriwether had. After Dr. Meriwether moved from Charleston to Oakland, he was challenged by another physician to fight a duel over some professional difference. Dr. Meriwether immediately dispatched a rider with a note to Houston, asking him to act as his second. <sup>Houston</sup> He saddled his horse and started at once for Oakland. The trouble was settled by arbitration; <sup>therefore</sup> ~~and~~ the duel was not fought. About thirty years later Dr. Joe Charlie, oldest son of Dr. Meriwether, said, "I shall never forget how happy I was to see Mr. Cap Houston ride up the time my father was challenged to fight a duel. I knew right then he was going to get justice."

Mrs. A.F. Laughlin, Charleston, daughter of Cap Houston, has in her possession a pipe made by her father from an ivy root

taken from the bank of the Potomac River, while he was in camp where the battle of Leesburg was fought in 1862.

Patrick Henry Houston died November 8, 1908, and was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Grenada.

Benjamin Francis Houston, eldest son of James A. Houston, was born in 1832; <sup>he</sup> enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862 at Grenada, was a member of Company B, Twenty-ninth Mississippi Regiment, but died of pneumonia in camp at Shelbyville, Tennessee, in May of the following year. (1)

The BAILEY home, situated on the north side of Court Square, Charleston, is one of the landmarks of the town, having been built in 1832 by Colonel James A. Bailey. The house is a one and <sup>a</sup> half story log building, with four rooms and a wide verendah on the front. Originally, the kitchen was separate from the main part of the house, a short distance to the rear.

Colonel Bailey was the father of eight children, four boys and four girls, and this home was the scene of many brilliant festi-  
 (1) Mrs. A.F. Laughlin, Charleston, Miss.

## COMPILATION

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ties -- parties, dances, and weddings - two of the daughters having been married here.

After the death of Colonel Bailey the property was divided among the children. Later, Miss Bailey bought the house from the remaining heirs and retained it until her recent death. The Bailey family still ~~has~~ <sup>possess</sup> some heirlooms which were once possessions of Colonel Bailey; they ~~own~~ <sup>include</sup> a spool cradle, a spool daybed, and an old square piano. The cradle, which was broken, was converted into a swing by the late Miss Belle Bailey and was hanging on the front porch at the time of her death. (1)

The BELLAMY HOUSE, two miles north of Charleston, was built prior to the War ~~Between~~ the States by James Alford, great uncle of Mrs. C. W. Manley, one of the oldest living citizens of Charleston. James Alford married Mrs. Thompson, a widow who had one child, a daughter. This daughter married a Mr. Bellamy and they had two sons, Jim and John; the former was accidentally killed when a youth. John, who inherited the home at the death of his father and mother, married a daughter of Colonel William Fitzgerald, who played a very important part in Tallahatchie's history during the War ~~Between~~ the States.

(1) Mrs. Hattie Bailey, Mobile, Ala.

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The Bellamy home is a white two-story house, with green shutters. It stands surrounded by large trees, on a hill just above a creek. The plastered walls are marred with names of many people written over them. There are four rooms and a wide hall downstairs; from the hall a stairway leads to second floor, where there are three rooms. These rooms have not been used for years except for store rooms. About eight or ten years ago, when present occupants moved there, they found stored in the attic numerous old-fashioned clothes and quilts, doubtless placed there three-quarters of a century ago. (1)

The old STANTON HOME at Swan Lake, situated on the east

(1) Mrs. Florence Ball Houston, Oakland, Miss.

*Genie Staton*

bank of the Tallahatchie River, at Sunnyside Plantation, was built early in the 1830's by Eli Staton, who came from North Carolina at the age of eighteen and settled here. The one and <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ half story Colonial frame building, with a hall <sup>44x23 feet</sup> ~~forty four feet by~~ ~~twenty-three feet~~, with rooms opening into it, is one of the few ante-bellum homes in Tallahatchie County that <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ still in an excellent state of preservation. The first floor contains six rooms and two bathrooms; ~~and~~ the second floor, two very large rooms. The kitchen was seventy feet at the rear and connected with the main building by a latticed and covered walk. Both front and back entrances of the building are composed of four massive folding doors, each entrance framed in paneled glass. The hall, parlor, and living room <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ paneled in oak, with a deep wainscoting of oak; the porch in front is ~~a portico~~ supported by large square pillars, and <sup>at</sup> the back <sup>is</sup> a long latticed gallery. All materials used in the construction of the house were from native lumber sawed by sawmill boats which came up the river.

The furnishings of the parlor were of rosewood. The large

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square rosewood Chickering piano, with hand-carved rack, made in 1835, with one of the rosewood chairs, in its original garnet velvet upholstery ~~with stool~~, are now to be seen in the home of Mrs. B.F. Saunders <sup>at</sup> Webb. All other furniture, lace curtains, and draperies were removed from the home, and are now in possession of Susie Steton, Winona.

The grounds covered twenty-two acres <sup>on which were</sup> ~~and held~~ an office, a commissary, an old-fashioned lattice-covered cistern, and numerous outhouses. The front lawn held great old oaks, pecan, and walnut trees. On the south side, steps led from the front porch into the rose garden; below this was a large orchard, and beyond, the slave quarters. Between the lawn and the river was a grove of magnificent oaks, hundreds of years old. In past years a levee has been thrown up through the grove destroying these trees.

When Eli Steton settled here he bought many thousands of acres of land, and in a few decades had become one of the wealthiest citizens in Tallahatchie County. He married Miss Temperance Little, a native of the county, and they had three children, James

Harvey, Henry Clay, and Elizabeth. Henry Clay, who heired the property, married ~~Miss~~ Betty McDougal, of Fort Gibson, and this couple had six children. There being no schools near, private tutors were employed to instruct the children.

Henry was a great hunter, and <sup>as</sup> game <sup>was</sup> ~~being~~ plentiful, he often would take a negro, and, with two dugouts made of ash or cypress, go on a hunting trip up the river, and return laden with game. On one occasion he brought home a mother bear, two half-grown cubs, five deer, <sup>and numerous</sup> wild turkeys, ducks, and squirrels.

The family always kept open-house for their friends, and the old time Southern hospitality that is so often written about was typified in this home. Even the negroes were not neglected when it came to Christmas cheer; barrels of whiskey were kept on hand, and ~~in the case of~~ a few old negroes on the plantation <sup>well given</sup> a keg of whiskey, <sup>the younger ones,</sup> ~~was given them during the holidays,~~ and for others, gallon jugs. "Uncle Billy" had a habit of asking for the measure given him to be about three fingers "and a fraction over."

Miss Susie Steton, Winona, Miss.

None of the Steton family now reside in Tallahatchie County, and the John Hancock Mortgage Company owns the property. (1)

The historic JAMES home at Sherkey, one of the county's most noted Ante-bellum residences for sixty-seven years, was built by Greenwood Leflore Sharkey in 1857. This two-story home, situated near the bank of Tallahatchie River, with a grove of trees in the yard, had a sixty-foot porch with large square pillars extending across the front of the house; a twenty-four-foot hallway separated the four rooms and dining room and kitchen on one side, from bedrooms on the other. Each room contained a large open fireplace. The entire structure was hardwood except the cypress sills.

The home was occupied by the Sherkey family until 1873, when it was sold to T.G. James, Sr., and was in an excellent state of preservation when it was destroyed by fire in 1924.

Innumerable household treasures, accumulated through the

(1) Susie Steton, Winona, Miss.

COMPILATION

years are ancestral oil paintings, rare old silver, family jewels, (including Mrs. James' diamond-studded watch), a wonderful old rosewood four-poster bed, and hundreds of other treasured things, which cannot be replaced, were burned. About all that was <sup>saved and</sup> salvaged by Aunt Maria, an aged Negress who had been in the family for half a century. Her duty had been to attend to the beds, and that was the first thing she thought of, and somehow managed to gather armfuls of sheets and blankets.

Going over the ruins after the fire had cooled, the family explored the spot where the china cabinet had been, and found that the most of their chinaware had withstood the fire. ~~MUCH~~ plated silver was intact, but all of the solid silver had been melted.

The property is now in the name of Walter <sup>N</sup> Keatin James, grandson of the first T. G. James, who now resides on the property. (1)

THE AVENT HOME, two miles south of Cascilla, and thirteen miles north of Grenada on the public highway was built before the War

(1) Mrs. Mary Collier, Charleston, Miss.

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## COMPILATION

Between the States. This place, consisting of two large log rooms and several Negro cabins surrounded by six hundred acres of land, was owned by Tom Bridges, an old pioneer settler.

In 1870 the place was sold to Ben Avent, who came from North Carolina with his family and married a Mrs. Meriwether, a native of Georgia. After several years Mr. Avent died, leaving the property to his children - one son and two daughters.

When he moved there he used the two log rooms and added two more rooms with a wide hall running full length of the house, a front porch, and a kitchen; later the house was remodeled.

At present the house has four rooms with a large fireplace in each. The attractive lawn, on which are two large mock orange trees, is surrounded by a row of large cedars, and a beautiful fish pond and bathing pool have been added to the grounds.

Since Avent's death the house has been occupied by some member of his family. Only one piece of the original furniture has been preserved; this is a chest of drawers made of cherry wood.

## COMPILATION

About six miles up the valley, northwest of Charleston, stands a beautiful two-story Colonial home facing the east. This is the property of PHIL SHERMAN, built by his father, Granville Sherman, in 1856. It is exactly as it was eighty years ago, even to the same floors and chimney. All building materials were procured from the land on which the home stands. Planned by Jim Tanner, the windows, doors and sashes were built by an old Negro, Tom Pinn, who was hired by the year. The green blinds that protect every window have no nails, being put together with wooden pins. Originally there was a small porch at the front entrance, but a few years ago the house was remodeled and a nice concrete banistered porch was added <sup>as well as</sup> tall columns <sup>which</sup> supported a small porch on second floor. The foundation is of brick molded <sup>on the</sup> in place by Halbrook, an Irishman. In arrangement the house consists of three large rooms and a hall on both the first and second floors. At the right, on entering the front hall, is a stairway, the bannisters of which are carved from one solid piece of wood, without joints.

TALPACHTIE COUNTY, HOMES  
OLD

COMPILATION

The present kitchen, which has replaced three others that burned, is not connected with the house, but stands a little distance out in the back yard. The walls of this home, plastered when first built, have been plastered only once since. A bathroom and other modern conveniences have been added recently. A attractive feature of the grounds surrounding the house is a huge pecan tree that has a crown seventy-five feet across. An old well in the back yard has been in use since the house was first built, and water has been piped from this well into the house in recent years. All the furniture is over sixty years old except a few chairs which are as old as the house, <sup>being</sup> and bought by Phil Sherman, who lived there all his life.

The section of land on which this home is built was a United States Grant (Patent) made to G. Sherman, May 10, 1848 . (1)

(1) Phil Sherman, Enid, Miss.

COMPILATION

Situated in a cedar grove, the TALIAFERRO HOME was built by General E. L. Taliaferro one hundred years ago on his one thousand-acre plantation near Enid. A concrete walk leads from the gate to the white one-story Dutch Colonial house. The board front porch has large square pillars. The front door, enclosed with glass panels, leads into a hall with a large room on either side , in each of which is a huge open fireplace with a beautiful marble mantel.

Three generations of Taliaferros have owned this place. When E. L. Taliaferro, son of J.E. Taliaferro, inherited this property it was heavily involved, but the indebtedness was paid in a few years. He established a stock farm and had some of the finest blooded cattle and hogs, as well as mules and sheep, that could be found anywhere. One year he had a Poland-China hog that weighed nine hundred pounds, the largest grown in this county.

TALIAFERRO HOME  
5  
OLD

He accumulated a large fortune which he left to his grandson, Ed/  
Talisferro, who lost it, and now lives in Memphis.

The Talisferro furniture has been described as exquisite.

The house was furnished with massive antiques, and had every  
available convenience. <sup>An old</sup> ~~A~~ huge square piano now stands on the  
front porch in a dilapidated condition. The rest of the furniture  
was carried to Memphis and sold to an antique dealer, by Ed/  
Talisferro, who also sold the very rare and expensive box hedge  
that adorned the lawns to a New York nursery.

Since this property is no longer in the hands of the  
Talisferros, it has been damaged considerably. The stables have  
been torn down and only a few of the outhouses left. (1)

#### Antiques and Relics

~~There are~~ in possession of Tallahatchie County families are  
the following antiques: A SMALL SOCK which Mrs. W.H. Derby knitted  
eighty-seven years ago, at the age of four years, <sup>using</sup> four straws ~~were~~  
~~used~~ for needles. She could not knit the sock off, so she took it off

(1) N.B. Mitchell, Enid, Miss.

the needles and sewed up the toe.

A DRESS worn by Mrs. M.A. Trotman in 1852, the material costing  
at that time seventy-five cents a yard.

WAIST of the wedding dress of Selly Martha Riddick, wife of  
Robert Riddick, who was married in November, 1837.

SCARF given to Selly Riddick in 1835, two years before she  
married Robert Riddick. He was in Japan and brought the scarf back  
to her as a gift. Robert Riddick was the great-grandfather of the  
Summers children, and his name has been handed down for four  
generations.

CHATELAINE BAG given to Mrs. Lottie Thompson Cossar in 1895,  
by John Cossar.

Small TABLE, made of cherry and put together with pegs, owned  
by Mrs. W.W. Buntin, Teasdale, has been in the family four gener-  
ations.

BRACELET, made of hair, was left to Mrs. G.S. Allen,  
Charleston, by her mother, Mrs. Elize Moore Houston.

PIN, owned by Mrs. S.A. Laycock, Grenada, left her by her grandmother, Elize Moore Houston. The pin is seventy-five years old.

A PIN, over a hundred years old, belonging to Mrs. G.S. Allen, Charleston, was left to her by her grandmother, Patsy Herring Moore.

LOCKET brought seventy-three years ago to Mrs. A.B. Pressgrove from Munich, Germany, by Mike Hey, Sr., her father, who was an old Tallahatchian.

NEWSPAPER belonging to Mrs. W.H.H. Darby -- The Tallahatchian, published July 7, 1869.

RIDING WHIP made by Bailey McDaniel before the War between the States. He was a Confederate soldier who died in battle.

BONNET worn in 1860 by a sister of J.E. Trotman, who died at the age of three.

CORAL NECKLACE belonging to Mrs. Annie Stacy, a great-great-great-aunt of Mrs. Eldridge Darby and Miss Core Ladd. Mrs. Stacy wore it shortly after the Revolutionary War at a dance in North

Caroline, when she danced with General Lafayette.

INDIAN ARROWHEAD <sup>that</sup> was the property of Henry Tolbert; it was handed down to his daughter, Lucy Tolbert Tatuk, and now is the property of her daughter, Mrs. A.C. Fonda.

PLATTER dating back four generations. It first belonged to Mrs. Louvins Denman Fedric, daughter of an old settler, Dick Denman.

BUTTER DISH, 125 years old, which was first owned by a Mrs. Collins, then passed in ownership to Mrs. W.A. Melton, of Enid, through her grandmother and mother, Mrs. Little, and Mrs. Burkhalter.

NEEDLE SHARPENER or emery bag, seventy-five years old, first owned by Mrs. Lydie Bleck, then Mrs. Bettie J. Kuykendall, and now in possession of Mrs. Henry Adams.

EARTHENWARE JAR, about one hundred years old, bought by Isaac Burkhalter, one of the first settlers of the Enid community, when he first married.

SPINNING WHEEL, owned by J.A. Cannon, an old settler, and

now in possession of Mrs. Laverne Cannon.

In 1835, Miss Frances Reed, while in college, painted a china  
PERFUME JUG, which is now in possession of Miss Mollie McLain,  
Enid. Miss Reed was a grandmother of John M. Kuykendall.

WORK BASKET one hundred years old, which was owned by Sarah  
Jane Harris, great-great-great-grandmother of Mrs. Fannie Harris,  
is now owned by her daughter, Mrs. J.W. Burt, of Cassilla.

POWDER HORN, made by William Archie Worsham, from the horn  
of a steer which he raised. He used this horn during the War  
between the States.

TURKEY DISH or PLATTER, brought to Tallahatchie County, from  
Lincoln County, Georgia, in a covered wagon by Mrs. Andres Lee,  
who settled near Rocky Branch in 1830. It is now owned by John  
Cossar, great-grandson of the Lees.

BUTTER DISH, 140 years old belonging to Mrs. Rosa Milen,  
of Payne. Mrs. George Sassaman first owned the dish and it was  
then handed down to Sara Sassaman, eighty-nine years ago.

SNUFF BOX, made from the leg bone of a War between the States  
prisoner, and carved by a fellow prisoner during the siege of  
Vicksburg. It was given to the Reverend, Jesse Porter, father of  
Mrs. W.H. Derby; Mrs. Derby is ninety years of age, and is the only  
true Civil War widow in the county.

COUNTERPANE, handmade by Mrs. H.R. Shores, grandmother of Mrs.  
E. Sims and Mrs. M.L. Robertson. The spread was made from thread  
spun at home on a spinning wheel; it dates back five generations  
and was made in Tallahatchie County.

LATIN BIBLE, published in 1831, now owned by Miss Mollie  
McLain, aunt of Judge John M. Kuykendall.

GREEK BIBLE 110 years old, owned by A.C. Fonda, now in possession  
of his son-in-law, Dick Crenshaw.

PAPERS of H.A. Pressgrove, originally the property of his  
father, Alvan Pressgrove, one of the early settlers of the county,  
the papers consist of the bill of sale of negro slaves, dated 1844;  
bill of sale of cotton sent from Tusshome to New Orleans; lists  
of merchandise bought in New Orleans; old tax receipts; cancelled

checks for cotton, ~~the~~ <sup>a paper published in 1867.</sup> ~~all~~ <sup>these were</sup> papers, dated prior to the War between the States. ~~Also a paper published in 1867.~~

A SHELL, used to call slaves in at the noon hour, owned by James Moore, who was the grandfather of Mrs. G.S. Allen, Charleston.

An ALBUM QUILT made by different girl friends of W.W. Pattison, of Baltimore, Maryland, between 1830 and 1844. Pattison was the grandfather of Mrs. John Cossar, Charleston.

YANKEE GUN: O.M. Lyon, father-in-law of Pitt Laughlin, was on pickett duty during the War between the States, and as a result of an interview with a Federal, the gun was brought home by Lyons.

WATER JUG used by Will Jones' father during the War between the States.

A BULLET, which killed William McDaniel during the War between the States, and ~~was~~ found lodged in his pocket, is now in possession of his sister, Mrs. J.E. Trotman.

GLASSES, 150 years old, first owned by Mrs. Melisse Gray and handed down to James T. Gray, are now owned by Mrs. Henry Adams.

WALLET, made of homespun cloth in 1840, by Mrs. James Press-

grove; it was worn around the waist under the clothes and was used for protection of money and valuables.

SHELL AND GUN, used during the Spanish American War by Dick Laster, is the property of Mrs. B.B. Laster.

"HENRY RIFLE," used by the late Rouse Peters during the War between the States.

CANTEEN, originally covered with cloth and webbing straps, taken from the shoulder of George A. Daw, a Federal soldier from Philadelphia, by Rouse Peters of the Forty-second Mississippi Regiment of Volunteers during the Battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863.

A small MAGNIFYING GLASS, which was used by William McDaniel during the War between the States to light his pipe and fires.

SWORD, left at the home of Mrs. Blanch Payne, of Cascilla, by a Confederate soldier who was passing and stopped there during the war.

SPOONS, which have been handed down through five generations, are now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown, Charleston.

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A HANDMADE SILVER SPOON, property of Mrs. W.E. Stone, of Charleston, Mrs. Stone's husband was the fifth generation of the family of W.E. Stone, who mined the silver from which the spoon was made, in 1849.

A BRASS BUCKET, with iron handles, brought to Tallahatchie County by Mrs. Kirkland from Kentucky in 1875. The bucket had been used for many years previous to that date. It was given to Mrs. Smithers, who, in turn, gave it to her daughter, Mrs. Laverne Shannon.

SALT CELLAR, 125 years old, belonged to Jane Morkan, from whom it passed to Celie Cly; next, to Emma Laster; then, to Mrs. Sam Fielder.

Mrs. Foster Thompson, of Charleston, owns a small GOURD which belonged to Mrs. Mollie Harper Thompson, and it has been in use in the family since 1858.

Mrs. Norfleet Hawkins, Charleston, has some sterling SILVER SPOONS which date back to 1782. The family has had possession of these spoons for 155 years.

A MAHOGANY CHEST OF DRAWERS, sent to Mrs. Colby, who kept it for forty years, then sold it to the mother of Mrs. O.L. Fox, in whose family it has been for sixty years.

A WATER BAG / which was brought back from the Mexican War by James Knott / is now in the possession of Mrs. Cox, his niece.

An Autographed ALBUM belonging to Mrs. Matilda Tulliole R. Cox, which was presented to her mother, Mrs. Jane M. Rice, in 1830, by her husband, G.W. Rice.

Mrs. Sam Hamilton, Tutwiler, has a SILVER SPOON about one hundred years old, and two SILVER CUPS that were awarded Mrs. T.F. Clay -- one dated 1855, the other, 1857; a BREAST PIN of her grandmother, Mrs. T.F. Clay, which was made from ear bobs. The center of the pin is a glass case which holds a lock of hair, and is surrounded by tiny pearls. She also had a BREAST PIN which belonged to her great-uncle, William Saunders; it is oblong, has a picture of a baby in the center, the corners are of onyx, with pearls across each end and both sides; a FRIENDSHIP FOB of her great-uncle, William Saunders, which is made of silver quarters that are linked together with two silver links between each quarter. There are only about five quarters left of this fob, and they were dated in 1844 to 1847. She has a huge SILVER WATCH / which belonged to

this same great-uncle, which wound with a key. A piece of paper found in the back of this watch bore the date <sup>of</sup> 1851.

A BABY DRESS that belonged to her father, John Oliver Clay, was made by hand, and the stitches <sup>are</sup> so tiny that they can scarcely be seen; around the neck and front is tiny tucking; lace <sup>is</sup> inserted in the skirt, and there were two yards of lace in the dress which cost four dollars a yard. She also has a ROSEWOOD LIBRARY TABLE that was made out of a piano in 1918, by a German. This piano was the property of Annie Lawler, Clarksdale, but has been in the Hamilton home since 1904. Mrs. Hamilton says that it was at least fifty years old.

Mrs. B.F. Saunders, Webb, has a hundred-year-old ALBUM, which was handed down to her from her mother, nee Margaret Pettison, it is bound with red velvet; one side <sup>are</sup> has four rests made of solid silver, <sup>and</sup> on the other side, the word "Souvenir" is written in silver. Each side has a picture of an open book, and the clasp is a lyre.

Mrs. Brooksey Denman Hey has a family BIBLE of M.B. and L.A. Denman, her parents, which was published in 1870; also a BIBLE,

published in 1830, by J. & D.M. Hogen, and Hogen and Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, <sup>which</sup> ~~and~~ contains seven books (The apochrypha) between the Old and New Testaments, which have been extracted from modern Bibles. The books are as follows: Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Beruch, and Maccabees.

One large PLATTER of blue flower or willow design, eighteen inches long, and one large SOUP BOWL, with a hole in the top for the ladle, have been in the family for seventy-five years, and now belong to Mrs. J.P. Hey.

Mrs. G.S. Allen, Charleston, still uses the ROLLING PIN made for her grandfather, James A. Houston, over one hundred years ago.

A walnut suite of furniture, comprised of BED, MARBLE TOP DRESSER, ~~and~~ WASH-STAND, and WARDROBE about one hundred years old, is owned by Mrs. Nobel Houston, Philipp.

A WALNUT DESK, about eighty years old, handed down from the W.B. Marshall's, is now in the possession of Miss Mary Marshall.

Dr. Shade Neely, son of Confederate Veteran John T. Neely, has a WATCH over one hundred years old which was made in Germany.

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This watch was used by his grandfather, S.C. Barnes.

Ante-Bellum Characters

JOHN ELLETT, one of the pioneer settlers of the county, was a man of education, <sup>and</sup> high character, and a most energetic and useful citizen. He came <sup>to Tallahatchie County</sup> ~~to the county~~ in 1836 ~~and~~ to the home of Hamilton Dogen, whom he had known in his boyhood in Virginia, native state of both, and with whom he spent most of his time until after his marriage. Later, he settled about nine miles from Dogen. They were warm and intimate friends during their entire lives.

Ellett and a companion, Nathan Bowles, came together from Virginia, and on reaching Columbus, found themselves almost without funds. Bowles sought and obtained work, but Ellett determined to pursue his journey as best he could, ~~and~~ as he entered his hotel to settle his bill, he met Silas Ellett, a cousin, who was engaged in land speculation in this state, <sup>and</sup> from him he borrowed <sup>\$100.</sup> ~~one hundred~~ dollars.

Columbus was the seat of the United States Land Office at

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that time, and it was there that all the land in North Mississippi was entered. From Columbus, Ellett came to this county and into Hamilton Dogen's home. He taught for several years and made enough money to purchase land. He was fond of hunting, and, <sup>he was</sup> while with Dogen, he kept the family supplied with venison, deer being then very numerous.

After his purchase of land, <sup>d</sup> he borrowed from Hudson Alford money enough to purchase two slaves, and such was his standing for honesty that Alford did not require him to give a note for this money. With these two slaves and a hired white boy, he cleared a portion of his land and the first year he made a fine crop of corn. The next year, 1846, he rented the land to a man by the name of W. Staton and returned to Virginia for a visit; while there he was married and soon afterward returned with his wife to Tallahatchie County.

Mrs. Ellett, having been accustomed to a good home and all conveniences, found the new country crude and rough. Her farm home, deep in the forest, consisted of one small room constructed of hewn logs

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with a stick and dirt chimney. The floor was rough and the windows without sash or glass <sup>only</sup> a board shutter. Her water had to be brought from a spring or branch.

The prospect at first was gloomy and discouraging, and she thought she could never like Mississippi, but soon she met neighbors who were kind and good and <sup>she</sup> formed friendships which grew stronger as the years rolled by, and she learned to love her new home.

The nearest postoffice was at Charleston, and postage on every letter was twenty-five cents.

Deer and turkey were abundant, and Ellett kept the table well supplied with game; bear meat was not uncommon. One day Mrs. Ellett heard a commotion among her turkeys and, on going out to see about the matter, found a drove of wild turkeys fighting her<sup>s</sup>. She counted sixteen large wild gobblers.

There were no roads in the country - nothing but bridle paths - and it was either walk or ride horseback. Women, young and old, were

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excellent riders.

The nearest gristmill was five miles distant, and sometimes it was necessary to send to Alford's mill, near Charleston, about <sup>s</sup> sixteen miles north. The nearest blacksmith shop was at Rocky Branch, three miles east of Charleston. There was no regular preaching except at Charleston, but occasionally a Methodist circuit rider came into the community.

Later, Ellett built quite a comfortable house with four spacious rooms, and it was in this house that they reared their family. ~~of~~ ~~children~~ His cotton was shipped by boat to New Orleans; a large part of the proceeds was spent for books. His library was known throughout that part of the county. Before his death, however, he became quite wealthy <sup>a</sup> a successful and prosperous farmer. (1)

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(1) Mrs. H.H. Dogan, Charleston, Miss. ~~and Mrs. Bradford Dye,~~  
Mrs. Bradford Dye, Charleston, Miss.

CAPTAIN THOMAS WILLIAM TURNER, ~~was~~ born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, in 1836, ~~he~~ moved to Missouri with his father and mother when a boy. At the beginning of the War between the States, he left Missouri with General Pierce, and soon became aide-de-camp on the staff of Colonel Bob McCollough. On coming to Mississippi these soldiers were often entertained in the Metcalf home in Tallahatchie County, a few miles north of Charleston. On one of these occasions, Captain Turner met Miss Lizzie Metcalf, <sup>who was</sup> dressed in hoop-skirt, and dancing to the song, "The Captain <sup>W</sup>With the Whiskers." This song could easily have been written for Captain Turner, as he had a heavy beard. Possibly it was "love at first sight," for the couple soon became engaged.

Captain Turner and Colonel McCollough were fighting with their company in the battle of Harrisburg in a face-to-face combat with the Federals, and Captain Turner saved the life of the general by cutting off the head of a Federal soldier just as he had raised his <sup>s</sup>word above the head of the general. In this same battle, Captain Turner was seriously wounded by a bullet which entered his

abdomen, passing out near the spine. He received wounds about the head and shoulders which left fifteen scars, which he bore through life. When Mrs. Metcalf, mother of Miss Lizzie, heard of the serious nature of his wounds, she sent her daughter to Nashville, Tennessee, and brought Captain Turner <sup>her</sup> to home to nurse him back to health. For months he lay on a cot, with silk handkerchiefs in his wounds. After six months, Miss Lizzie returned, and she and Captain Turner were married while he was still confined to his cot. He later recovered, and to Captain and Mrs. Turner were born three children: Jennie 'Lou, Napoleon, and Oliver Metcalf. The Metcalf place became their home, and until it burned several years ago, was known as the Turner place.

Mrs. Turner died when these children were young. Later, Captain Turner married Miss Margaret Pattison, daughter of Alexander Pattison, one of the signers of the Secession papers when Mississippi seceded from the Union. This document of secession is kept in a locked compartment in the Archives of History in the Capitol ~~of the state~~ at Jackson.

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9 Captain Turner's first wife had known Miss Pattison and had once told her husband that if she should die, she would like him to marry <sup>her</sup> Miss Pattison. To Captain ~~Turner~~ and the second Mrs. Turner were born two daughters, who are now prominent citizens of Tallahatchie County. They are Mrs. Janie Turner Saunders and Mrs. Margaret Turner Webb. (1)

DR. ATHERALL BALL, who came to Tallahatchie County, <sup>from "Bewdley" Lancaster County, Virginia,</sup> in 1836, when a young man of twenty-five, ~~from "Bewdley," Lancaster County, Virginia,~~ was for fifty years a familiar figure to all people of the county, for he served them as a physician all these years.

Dr. Ball married Elize Ann Roper in Kentucky, in 1835, but shortly after, she died. His second marriage was to Miss Floride Calhoun Simonds, in 1850, in Tallahatchie County. Miss Simonds was visiting her cousin, Lawrence Calhoun, who owned the place now known as "Pine Crest," and was married from his home, a two-story log house.

Dr. Ball was a man of great strength of character, res-

(1) Mrs. B.F. Saunders, Webb, Miss.

<sup>He</sup>pected and honored by all who knew him, was very progressive and believed in trying out everything new. He rode horseback <sup>and his</sup> ~~to the bed~~ <sup>practices covered a wide area,</sup> of his patients, often going twenty-five miles at night, returning ~~and having to go over the same route immediately to see others who~~ were ill. He was medical attendant for many planters, among them: Philip Thornton, Hunter, Granville Sherman, George Harvey, and Dr. Dickens, from whom Dr. Ball bought Anderson, a sick slave, just to take care of him and give him a good home. Anderson often told Dr. Ball's children that "I is just as nigh Heaven as I want<sup>s</sup> to be."

A free negro by the name of William Webster <sup>of Richmond</sup> ~~Free Bill~~ accidentally killed a woman owned by R. Sheley; Mr. Sheley told him he would not prosecute him if he would pay for the woman. The only way "Free Bill" could do this was to sell himself. <sup>Having</sup> lived in Charleston long enough to know the people, "Free Bill" importuned Dr. Ball to buy him, which the Doctor did, much against his will as he did not want him. "Free Bill" proceeded immediately to marry "Aunt Julia" Laws, Dr. Ball's cook, and proved so worthless that "Aunt Julia" threatened to kill him if Dr. Ball did not

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sell him. He was sold to a man in Georgia and, a short while after, was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Dr. Bell died in 1880 and is buried in the old Masonic Cemetery, Charleston.

Mrs. Florence Ball Houston, daughter of Dr. Bell, and an old citizen of Tallahatchie County, states that Dr. Bell and his family are descendants, or relatives, of George Washington. In fact, Mrs. Houston claims that she is the closest living relative of George Washington; as proof of this statement she has a family tree showing the relationship. (1)

Reminiscences

*Some early recollections of Mrs. Margaret Jacobine:*  
 "Pioneers were compelled to travel light, so on reaching the new country, many useful and needed articles were made by handy carpenters -- tables, chairs, benches, trays, bowls, rolling pins, rolling boards, etc. All of these things were as finely finished as the factory-made articles of today.

"Many families had long, durable benches made for porches and open halls. Bowls were cut from solid blocks of wood, and such

(1) Mrs. Florence Ball Houston, Oakland, Miss.

were used for mixing cakes, bread, and in many other ways. Trays were cut from oblong blocks of light wood, beautifully finished, and termed the biscuit tray, though used in other ways. An idea as to how they looked is shown by the remark of a little child, made recently <sup>as</sup> he was visiting in the home of a family who had not discarded the biscuit tray. After paying a visit to the kitchen, he confided to mother that he reckoned they did not have any pans, as he saw them working biscuits in an old boat, but it was not big enough to ride in. Some of those trays were used for two or three generations.

"Barnyard troughs for feeding and watering stock were made from logs hollowed out; wash tubs were made by sawing molasses and whiskey barrels in two. Washboards were also made by carpenters. Farm bells were not common to the early settlers. The hunting horn was used to awaken and call the slaves to work. Some of these were highly polished, and neighbors learned to distinguish tones of each other's horns almost as well as voices. The horns were also used to carry ammunition; no such conveniences as the loaded shells

then; the big ends were closed by fitting in light pieces of wood and a wooden stopper was shaped to fit into the small end; or cork used, if one could be found. When a hunter started out, he had three horns slung over his shoulder -- one filled with powder, one filled with shot, and another for blowing. Rawhide straps were attached to the horns.

// A number of families brought large shells with them which they used for plantation blowing.

// Dried sedge grass tied in bundles was a good substitute for brooms. "Store-bought" fans were hard to get. Old-timers used turkey wing fans. The last wing joint was cut off, the wing feathers spread, and a weight put on it until it dried. This made a very good fan. But the choice fans were made from the tail feathers; they were arranged on a foundation for the stem ends of feathers, sewed down, and then the quill ends were covered with some pretty piece of material."<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Mrs. Margeret Leughlin, Grenada, Miss.

References

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Bailey, Mrs. Hattie         | Mobile, Ala.      |
| Collier, Mrs. Mary          | Charleston, Miss. |
| Dogen, Mrs. H.H.            | Charleston, Miss. |
| Dye, Mrs. Bradford          | Charleston, Miss. |
| Houston, Mrs. Florence Bell | Oakland, Miss.    |
| Laughlin, Mrs. Margaret     | Grenada, Miss.    |
| Laughlin, Mrs. A.F.         | Charleston, Miss. |
| Mitchell, N.B.              | Enid, Miss.       |
| Steton, Susie               | Winona, Miss.     |
| Sherken, Phil               | Enid, Miss.       |
| Saunders, Mrs. B.F.         | Webb, Miss.       |

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