

skeletons would be buried in heaps and covered over with quantities of dirt to form conical mounds. A peculiar custom was the "Indian Cry." Once a year the people of a community gathered at some burying ground and a speaker delivered a discourse concerning each of the relatives or friends who had departed from this life, during the past year. Before the speaking began, a feast was spread and all present partook of it. But as the orators proceeded, the usually stoical Indian gave vent to their pent-up emotions, and sometimes for hours tears flowed, and moans and wails went unrestrained." (1)

"When a young Choctaw sees a maiden who pleases his fancy, he watches his opportunity until he finds her alone. He then approaches within a few yards of her and gently casts a pebble toward her, so that it falls at her feet. He may have to do this three or four times before he attracts the maiden's attention. If this pebble-throwing is agreeable, she soon makes it manifest; if not, a scornful look and a decided "edwah" indicate that his suit is in vain. When a marriage is agreed upon, the lovers

(1) W.B. Morrison, The Red Man's Trail

appoint a time and a place for the ceremony. On the wedding day the friends and relatives of the prospective couple meet at their respective houses or villages and thence march toward each other. When they arrive near the marriage ground, generally intermediate space between the two villages, they have about a hundred yards between each other. The brothers of the woman then go across to the opposite party and bring forward the man and set him down on a blanket spread upon the ground. The man's sisters then do likewise by going over and bringing forward the woman, and seat her by the side of the man. Sometimes, to furnish a little merriment for the occasion, the woman is expected to break loose and run. Of course she is pursued, captured and brought back.

"All parties assemble around the expectant couple, and a bag of bread is brought forward by the woman's relatives and deposited near her. In like manner the man's relatives bring forward a bag of meat and deposit it near him. The man's friends and relatives now begin to throw presents upon the head and shoulders of the woman. These presents are of any kind that the donors choose

to give, as articles of clothing, money, trinkets, ribbons, etc. As soon as thrown, they are quickly snatched off by the women's relatives and distributed among themselves. During all this time the couple sits very quietly and demurely, not a word spoken by either. When all the presents have been thrown and distributed, the couple, now man and wife arise; the provision from the bags are spread, and just as in civilized life, the ceremony is rounded-off with a festival, after which the company disperses, and the gallant groom conducts his bride to his home, where they enter upon the toils and responsibilities of the future." (1)

"Some of the favorite, and even staple dishes of the Choctaws and Chickasaws, are worthy of note. One of the most common of these was Ta fuls, which white people generally miscalled 'tox fuller.' It was a sort of hominy made from dry corn by beating off the husks and then boiling it for about four hours. Another popular food was called Pishofs. Cracked corn was boiled until it was half-cooked, when it was taken off the fire, dried and thoroughly mixed with an equal amount of fresh meat, either veal or fresh pork; the

(1) W.B. Morrison, The Red Men's Trail

mixture was put into a pot and boiled until done. This was, in ancient times, the favorite Indian food, and was made in large quantities and served at important gatherings. Indeed, the 'Pishofs Dence' was the name applied to the gatherings presided over by the Medicine Men when a member of the tribe became ill.

"In the nature of desserts Welushe and Behar held popular places. The former was a sort of corn meal dumpling, cooked in the juice of wild grapes and sweetened with sugar or cane syrup, while the latter was a condiment consisting of the beaten pulp of hickory nut and walnut kernels, mixed with a flour made from parched corn to which cold water was added until it reached the consistency of a stiff dough. This was considered a great delicacy." (1)

"The Choctaws were slender in form and astonishingly active and swift of foot, but very few of them could swim. They were often called 'flat-heads' from their custom of compressing the heads of their male children in infancy.

(1) W.B. Morrison, The Red Men's Trail.

"Upon the whole they were pescesble and friendly to the white settlers. We are told that no Indian excelled them in the hospitability they exhibited, particularly in their hunting camps, where all travelers and visitors were received and entertained with a hearty welcome." (1)

Legend

A very interesting legend is connected with Tallehs Springs, locsted near Charleston:

It is said that on the present site of Camp Tallehs there lived an Indian chief by the name of Tallehsays. He was a maker of pottery, and one day as he was so engaged, a penther sprang upon him. Tallehsays took hasty refuge in a large churn nearby, and in so doing, overturned a vessel which contained fire. A pile of shavings became ignited and frightened the beast away. However, the unfortunste Tallehsays was unable to disengage himself from the churn and burned to death.

Later, when the Spaniards arrived there, the story of the tregedy was related to them. In an attempt to excavate the chief's

(1) F.L. Riley, School History of Mississippi.

body, Tallehs Spring was discovered, and there is a superstition that the spirit of Tallehsays inhabits the spring.(1)

Foster Weds Indian Meid

When some of the first settlers, Colonel James Bailey, Captain Samuel Caruthers, and Captain Charles Bowen, of Hickman County, Tennessee, came on horseback and explored nearly all of the last purchase made from the Choctaw Indians by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, they found only one white person in what is now Tallehsatchie County. He was Samuel Foster, who came to this country prior to 1830 and found only Indians. For the sake of companionship he mingled with, and made friends with the Choctaws and in the course of time he met and fell in love with an Indian meid, and they were married. Automatically, he was entitled to some 1800 acres of land, which he selected in the valley at the base of the hills, nine miles below the present site of Charleston.

At the time, or just after the treaty, the Indians were incensed against Chief Greenwood Leflore, and Samuel Foster (1) Mrs. P.S. Wilson, Sumner, Miss.

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acted as one of the guards for the protection of Chief Leflore when he went to meet General Jackson's Commissioner of Indian affairs. About this time the towns of Chocchums and Tuscehoma sprang up, both located on the south bank of the Yalobusha River.(1)

Mounds

On the Buford place, one mile north of Sumner, there stands on the west bank of Cassidy Bayou, a much worn mound, perhaps twenty-three to twenty-five feet high. It is covered with grass and brush, and does not have the appearance of having been disturbed for many years.

Under a store in Tutwiler there is part of an old mound about three feet high. Others are reported to be between Sumner and Vence, but definite information concerning these can not be found. In addition to these, there is a large mound back of W.N. Tate's home in Sumner, and there are two between Sumner and Webb, on the highway. (2)

A number of Indian relics have been discovered on the Buford place, among them, several very large bones, believed to be parts
 (1) Mrs. J.H. Cossar, Charleston, Miss.
 (2) Ibid.

of skeletons of human beings of giant size. M.H. James, surveyor, found these and now has them in his office at Sumner. Only one Indian mound is found east of the Tallahatchie River in this county. It is located just at the southern edge of Charleston, about one hundred yards east of Highway 32. Years ago, excavations proved that it was an Indian burying ground, presumably of the Choctaws, as several skeletons were unearthed. When these were discovered, the Thorntons, on whose property the mound is located, decided that they preferred leaving the mound intact. Children, playing on the mound, have found numerous stone arrow-heads, but no other relics have been dug from this mound. (1)

Behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Payne, of Payne, a town in Tallahatchie County, six miles south of Charleston, an old Indian burying ground is located. Mr. Payne, while transplanting pecan trees a few years ago, unearthed numerous bones and a few whole skeletons. He had the bones piled up and was trying to decide what to do with them, but he was relieved of the
 (1) Mrs. P.H. Thornton, Charleston, Miss.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

dilemma after leaving the bones piled up overnight, as he discovered the next morning that they had disappeared. No trace was ever found of them and it is still one of the mysteries of the county. There is no mistake as to the fact that the place was an Indian cemetery.

There are six mounds found along the bank of Tillatoba Creek, at intervals of from three to five miles, to the place where the creek leaves the county. Some of them have been plowed down, others have been partly washed away, but some are still intact. Pitt Laughlin, who formerly lived about six miles southeast of Charleston, dug from one of the mounds located on his place a few Indian relics, two Indian daggers being among them. (1)

Deed Recorded

Chief Greenwood Leflore, who has been previously mentioned, once owned vast tracts of land in Tallahatchie County, and although he probably never lived in the county, he spent some of his time here. One of the first deeds recorded in Tallahatchie

(1) Pitt Laughlin, Charleston, Miss.

County was the one in which Greenwood Leflore transferred the present site of Charleston to Allen Jenkins. The date of this instrument was June 15, 1838. (1)

Old settlers state that soon after the white men came to the county, the Indians departed and no records concerning them in this county are on file here.

Extinct Towns and Tribes

Tuscahoma and Chocchums, both extinct towns of Tallahatchie County, were named after tribes of Indians that once inhabited those localities. They were small tribes and unwittingly became involved in war with the Choctaws. For protection they sought shelter in a fort of their own construction, which was surrounded by their powerful enemy, and after a short siege, taken; every soul of the two tribes were massacred except one Chocchums female child. How she escaped is not known, but according to tradition, she made her home with a family of white people and lived to a very advanced age. (2)

(1) Mrs. Lillie Henry, Chancery Clerk, Charleston, Miss.
(2) Mrs. J.H. Cossar, Charleston, Miss.

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TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, INDIANS

December 16th, 1936
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT
Tallahatchie County

SUPPLEMENT TO

INDIANS: ASSIGNMENT #9

Canvassers- Lillian Baker
Birdie Harrison
Ellie Taylor

Project No. 2984

That an old and well marked Indian road led from Charleston in Tallahatchie County to the Mississippi River was well known to early settlers. In fact, the white man had, for over a century made casual use of the old trail in traveling east and west, and in 1690 Lieut. Colonel Welsh of the British army traveled from Savannah, Georgia to the Mississippi over it. The road was platted on the township maps of the government survey of the delta made in the early 30's and was shown as a dotted line, but the significance of this line had been forgotten, and it was not until about ten years ago that a Delta investigator re-discovered what the line meant.

The Trace began at Sunflower Landing, several miles below Hill-house and ran southeastward. It crossed Hushpuckana Bayou and, passing along the east bank of Annis Lake, reached Harris Bayou near the point where it is crossed by Highway 61, on the property of Mr. M. Kline. From thence it reached Sunflower River near old St. Paul Church on the Adams plantation, and ran on into the Claremont. Turning then almost due south, passes the present residence of Mr. J.J. Myers near Mattson, then crosses Hopson Bayou at the big bend on the plantation of Mr. R. B. Eggleston. Passing Dublin the trail again crossed the west banks of Hopson Bayou at the Prairie Plantation, just north of Tutwiler. It traversed the great swamp to the south of Tutwiler, known to the old

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timers as Staton's Stretch and ran along the west bank of Staton's Brake, continuing southeast, it struck the bank of Tallahatchie River near Minter City, and followed the west bank to a point on the river where the large Indian Mound is cut into by the public road from Minter City to Phillip, crossing at this point, the Trace reached the hills at a point about twelve (12) miles south of Charleston, and ran north to that town. From Charleston the great road crossed the states of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and connected with a road that ran the entire length of Florida. The Trace as it is known in the Delta, gets its name from a Choctaw Indian, named Charley, who operated a wood yard for steamboats at Sunflower Landing and also guided travelers between the Mississippi and the hill section east of the Delta. According to the late Mr. Eugene Myer, the well-known authority on the Indians of the South-East, Charley's Trace was a link in what was undoubtedly the most important and widely used Indian Highway in this country.

Some day the Trace will be re-surveyed, carefully marked and treasured as a historical monument of great importance. *

*Reference: Mr. Charles W. Clark
Clarksdale, Mississippi

Mrs. Isabel Summers
Mrs. Isabel Summers, Supv.
Historical Research Project
Tallahatchie County

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, INDIANS

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, CHAPTER V.

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Reminiscences; Mrs. W. W. Buntin; Mrs. T. N. Henry;
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Mrs. C. W. Manley, Charleston, Aug. 27, 1936.
Mrs. Maggie Lee Bryant, Coffeerville, Mar. 31, 1936.
Phil Sherman, Enid, Sept. 21, 1936.
Miss Susie Staton, Winona, Aug. 12, 1936.
Mrs. Mary Collier, Charleston, Sept. 2, 1936.
Mississippi Sun, 1924.
Mrs. Margaret Laughlin, Grenada.
Mrs. Florence Ball Houston, Oakland
Mrs. L. D. Webb, Webb, Mississippi
Caroline Rayburn Elliott, New Orleans, La.
Mrs. H. H. Dogan, Charleston.
Mrs. Bradford Dye, Charleston.
L. E. Henry, Chancery Court
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NOTE

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 flabby, boyant past.

When we read such vivid accounts of our old South- of the spacious Colonial homes and extensive grounds, of the stage-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 diskentled.

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 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 Highway 32, and built the HOUSTON home.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, BELLEUM DAYS. NOTE

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 tenent 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

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 this turkey a dime was found in the crop of the bird. Another interesting experience he had was 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, 2

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

Captain Houston was a man of unusual courage and justice, a great arbitrator, 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. He saddled his horse and started at once for Oakland. The trouble was settled by arbitration 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; 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 one half story, log building, with four rooms and a wide verandah 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 festivities. (1) Mrs. A.F. Laughlin, Charleston, Miss.

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 Belle Bailey bought the house from the remaining heirs and retained it until her recent death.

Some heirlooms still in possession of the Bailey family which were possessions of Colonel Bailey, are: a spool cradle, a spool day bed, 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, Charleston, one of the oldest living citizens of Charleston. James Alford married Mrs. Thompson, a widow, and at the time of their marriage, Mrs. Thompson had one child, a daughter. This daughter married a Bellemy (initials unknown)

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

and they had two sons, Jim and John, the former 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.

The Bellemy home is a white two-story house, trimmed in green, and has green shutters. It stands on a hill just above a creek and large trees surround the place. The walls are plastered, but are marred with names of people written over them. There are four rooms downstairs, divided by a wide hall in which is the stairway leading to second floor, where there are three rooms. These rooms have not been used for years, except for store room. 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 STATON home at Swan Lake, situated on the east

(1) Mrs. Florence Houston, Charleston, Miss.

bank of the Tallahatchie River, at Sunnyside Plantation, was built early in the 1830's by Eli Steton, who came from North Carolina at the age of eighteen and settled here. The one and one half story Colonial frame building, with a hall forty-four feet by twenty-three feet, with rooms opening into it, is one of the few Ante-bellum homes in Tallahatchie County that is still in an excellent state of preservation. The first floor contains four 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 paned glass. The hall, parlor, and living room were paneled in oak with a deep wainscoting of oak; the porch in front is a portico supported by large square pillars, and the back 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

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, 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 and held an office, 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 game 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, 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, a keg of whiskey 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."

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 Sharkey, 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 Sharkey 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.

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years, 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.

Attached to the household was an aged negress who had been with the family a half century. About all that was ~~salvaged~~ salvaged by Aunt Meris. 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 most of their china ware, had withstood the fire. They also found much plated silver intact, but all of the ~~solid~~ solid silver had been melted.

The property is now in the name of Walter Kearns James, grandson of the first T.G. James, who now resides on the property. (1)

One of the county's Ante-bellum homes is the AVENT home, located two miles south of Cassville and thirteen miles north of

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

Grenada on the public highway. Before the War between the States this place, consisting of two large log rooms, with 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, with a front porch and a kitchen on the back; later, the house was reodeled.

At present the house has four rooms, a large fireplace in each; two large mock orange trees in the front yard, and a row of large cedars surrounds the lawn, a beautiful fish pond and bathing pool has been added to the grounds.

After 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.

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1875

About six miles up the valley, northwest of Charleston, stands a beautiful two-story Colonial home-- facing the east-- that is now the property of Phil Sherman, but built by his father, Granville Sherman, in 1856. It is exactly as it was eighty years ago, even to the same floors and chimney. Prior to the building, the latter and his family lived in a small log cabin while the present house was being constructed. Materials were procured from the land on which the home stands. Planned by Jik Tenner, 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. When the house was built, a small porch was at the entrance. A few years ago the steps and porch were made of solid concrete. The latter has bannisters and tall columns, supporting a small porch on second floor. On entering the house one comes into a hall, at the right of which is the stairway. The bannisters are carved from one solid piece of wood, having no joints. On each side of the hall is a large bedroom. Bathrook has built on the back porch and part

and part of the porch has been screened. There is a back hall between the dining room and bedroom. 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. Upstairs the general plan is the same as downstairs, a hall and three large rooms. The walls of this home, plastered when first built, have been plastered only once since.

The foundation is of brick, molder on the place by Halbrook, an Irishmen. The grounds are very lovely. A huge pecan tree has a crown seventy-five feet across. An old well in the back yard has been there 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, and bought by Phil Sherman, who has lived there all his life, except a few chairs, which are as old as the house.

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.

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 BELLUM
 DAYS

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 fence is around the house and from the gate a concrete walk leads up to the house which is a white one-story Dutch Colonial type. The large front porch has big square pillars. The front door enclosed with glass panels, leads into a hall with a large room on each side. All of the doors and windows are extremely tall. Each of the front rooms has huge open fireplaces with beautiful marble mantels. There are five other rooms to the house, some of the rooms being plastered, and others are papered.

Three generations of Taliaferro's 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.

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

The Taliaferro furniture has been described as exquisite. The house was furnished with massive antiques, and had every available convenience. 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. Taliaferro, 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 Taliaferro's 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 Talleshatchie County families the following antiques: A SMALL SOCK which Mrs. W.H. Derby knitted eighty-seven years ago, at the age of four years. Four straws were used for needles. She could not knit the sock off, so she took off

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

TALIAFERRO HOME
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the needles and sewed up the toe.

A DRESS worn by Mrs. M.A. Trotman in 1852. The material cost 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 Sumners 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 generations.

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 Tellehatchian.

NEWSPAPER belonging to Mrs. W.H.H. Darby -- The Tellehatchian, 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 Derby and Miss Cora Ladd. Mrs. Stacy wore it shortly after the Revolutionary War at a dance in North

TALLEHATCHIAN (COUDRY), BELLUM

Carolins, when she danced with General Lafayette.

INDIAN ARROWHEAD was the property of Henry Tolbert; it was handed down to his daughter, Lucy Tolbert Tatum, and now is the property of her daughter, Mrs. A.C. Fonda.

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

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 Black, 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 McLein, 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. Fennie Harris, is now owned by her daughter, Mrs. J.W. Burt, of Cassilla.

POWDER HORN, made by Willis Archie Worshak, 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 Tellehatchie County, from Lincoln County, Georgia, in a covered wago 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. Ross Milen, of Payne. Mrs. George Sassaman first owned the dish and it was then handed down to Sara Sassaman, eighty-nine years ago.

PIPE, made January, 1862,

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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.

LEBAN 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, Alvin 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 Tusshoka to New Orleans; lists of merchandise bought in New Orleans; old tax receipts; cancelled

checks for cotton, etc. (all 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 Cosser, 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.

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. Melissa Gray, handed down to James T. Gray, are now owned by Mrs. Henry Adams.

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

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

SHELL and GUN belonging to Mrs. B.B. Laster was given to B.B. Laster by Dick Laster, and was used during the Spanish American War.

"HENRY RIFLE" used by the late Rouse Peters during the War between the States, and is now in good order.

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, used by William McDaniel during the War between the States, to light his pipe and to light fires.

SWORD left at the home of Mrs. Blench 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.

A HANDMADE SILVER SPOON, property of Mrs. W.E. Stone, 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 Morken from whom it passed to Celis Cly, next to Emma Laster, then to Mrs. Ssek 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.

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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 Tullsole R. Cox, which was presented to her mother, Mrs. Jane M. Rice, in 1830, by her husband, G.W. Rice.

Mrs. Sax 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, 1851.

A BABY DRESS that belonged to her father, John Oliver Clay, was made by hand, and the stitches so tiny that they can scarcely be seen; around the neck and front is tiny tucking; lace 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, Clerksdale, 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 has four rests made of solid silver; 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 Denken Hey has a family BIBLE of M.B. and L.A. Denken, her parents, which was published in 1870, also a BIBLE

MRS. COOK, HELLUM DAYS.

published in 1830, by J. & D.M. Hogen; and Hogen and Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and contains seven books (The ~~apocrypha~~) 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 ~~on~~ 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, Phipp.

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.

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

Ante-Bellum Characters

JOHN ELLETT, one of the pioneers settlers of the county, was a man of education, high character and a most energetic and useful citizen. He came to the county in 1836 and to the home of Hamilton Dogan, 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 Dogan. 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. From him he borrowed 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 Hexilton Dogen's home. He taught for several years and made enough money to purchase land. He was fond of hunting, and while with Dogen kept the family supplied with venison, deer being then very numerous.

After his purchase of land 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 on the first year made a fine crop of corn. Next year, 1846, he rented the land to a man by the name of W. Steton, and returned to Virginia to visit, and while there he was married; soon after they returned to Tallahatchie County.

Mrs. Ellett having been accustomed to good homes and all conveniences found things in this new country crude and rough. She found awaiting her, on her husband's farm, one small

room, constructed of hewn logs, rough floors; windows without sash or glass - only a board shutter, stick and dirt chimney, and no water nearer than a branch, and surrounded by dense woods.

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 formed friendships which grew stronger as the years rolled by, and she learned to love her new home.

The nearest postoffice was at Charleston; letters were few and far between, and postage on every letter twenty-five cents.

Deer and turkeys were abundant and Ellett kept the table well supplied with game, and bear meat was not uncommon. One day Mrs. Ellett heard her tame turkeys making quite a noise, and on going out to see about the matter found a drove of wild turkey's fighting hers, just back of the garden. She counted sixteen large gobblers.

There were no roads in the country, nothing but bridle

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paths, and it was either walk or ride horseback. Women, young and old, were excellent riders.

The nearest grist mill was five miles distant, and sometimes it was necessary to send to Alford's mill, near Charleston, about 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.

About three years later Ellett built quite a comfortable house with four spacious rooms, and it was in this house that they raised their family of children.

He sold his cotton in New Orleans, and often went on the boat with it to that city, and after selling it, spent the proceeds for books. His library was known throughout that part of the county.

Before his death he became quite wealthy, a successful and prosperous farmer. (1)

(1) Mrs. H.H. Dogan, Charleston, Miss., and 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 side-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; dressed in hoop-skirt, and dancing to the song, "The Captain 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 sword above the head of the general. In this same battle, Captain Turner was seriously wounded by a bullet which entered his

WILLIAM TURNER, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1836-1863