

Minutes Police Court  
Tallahatchie County March term 1834

Book I Page I

"Officers sworn on the 10th and 11th day of March 1834. The Board of Police met at the three forks of Tillatoba Tallahatchie County, Mississippi and was qualified into office by Commissioner I. Tyson.

March 15: The Board met. B. B. Wilson came forward and was duly qualified as Clerk of Police and Probate Court.... Green B. Goodwin-- as sheriff, William Sutton as assessor, and collector, Wm. Berry as coroner, H. C. Davis as ranger, W. H. Wilkins as treasurer, Wm. ~~Fanning~~<sup>Fanning</sup>, A. S. Humphry, Samuel Foster, Walter A. Mangum and Joseph Carson members, of Board of Police ~~by~~<sup>by</sup> President.

Board of Police ~~Old Journal~~<sup>adjourned</sup>, April 28, 1834, to meet at "Pages on Sculmore".

Board of Police August 18, 1834, met at "Sarah Dooks" (Book I Page 7)

At April Term 1835, Book I Page 18, "On ~~motion~~<sup>motion</sup> it is ordered that the Board of Police meet at Decalb on Monday 27 inst. to examine the Geographical Center of the County site if thought practicable by the Court".

Book I Page 20, June Term 1835, "met at the House of John Tyson in town of Decalb when it was "ordered by the courts that "the Police, Probate and circuit courts be holden at the House of John Tyson".

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Book I Page 24, Board met "in the town of Tillatoba on the 14th day of December 1835" when it "ordered that circuit court be held in Watkins Store House in the town of Tillatoba at the next or December term thereof. Which meeting adjourned to meet on the 25th at the home of W. M. Beal on Hubbard Creek sec 12 Township 24 ~~R~~<sup>R</sup> 2 East for the purpose of examining the premises as to the practicability of locating the county site".

Book I Page 25, January Term 1836, met in town of Tillatoba, when an order was entered locating at "Dogwood Flat on lands of John H. Page and Henderson" but that order was marked "cancelled by new Board not acceptable".

Book I Page 29, The Board of Police, A. L. Humphrys, Wm. Owens, Chas. Bowen and Joseph A. Young, entered at March 1836 term, following order "Locating county site. Be it ordered by the Board of Police of Tallahatchie County that the county site in and for the county-- be situated in the town of Tillatobia on north half of east half of north east quarter in section 27, Township 25 in Range 2 East and the president of the board is hereby authorized and required to receive and approve of the bond of the proprietors of the said town of Tillatoba for the public square together with the donations of lots for the use of the county and the said bonds shall be recorded and further that the location is made in pursuance of the law of the last session of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi entitled an act to authorize the

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Board of Police of Tallahatchie County to locate their county site and for other purposes, approved Feb. 1st, 1836 - It is further ordered that the regular settings of all courts held in said county shall be held in said town of Tillatoba in such houses as may be suitable for the convenience until a court house be built"/.

Book I Page 34, May 1836 term, "ordered by Board of Police that they will let out the court house and jail on Monday the 27th day of June next and a plan by the board will be exhibited on that day and the terms will be made known on the same day".

Book I Page 35, June 1836 term, "order to receive proposals to build court house and jail". Ordered by the Board of Police that seal proposals will be received for the purpose of building a court house and jail for the county of Tallahatchie in the town of Tillatoba until the first Monday in September next. A plan of each may be seen at the Store house of Caruthers and Humphrys, Tillatoba and at the store house of Owens and Wilcox, Tuscohomia and that advertisement be made in the Memphis Enquirer and Tuscohomia and Grenada Bulletin".

Book I Page 42, September 1836, "House designated to hold court in ordered by the Board that the house of John H. Hill in the town of Tillatoba is allotted for the purpose of holding the circuit court for the September term 1836 and the said Hill is allowed one dollar per day during the setting of the court in his house and it is further ordered that A. L. Humphry is authorized to contract for suitable benches for the accomodation of said circuit court!.

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Book I Page 53, March 1837 term, "Contributions to establish county seat. The board proceeded to consider the propriety of locating the county site of Tallahatchie county, and after public proclamation for persons willing to make donations to the county as lands etc. for the use of said county, the following propositions were handed in and the different members of the board voted for the proposition off-set their names.

John S. ~~Tapp~~ and Co. offers  
Sisteen Thousand Dollars on  
or before 1st June 1838 and  
the remainder \$12000 in five  
years and four acres for a  
public square according to  
plans exhibited.

{  
( FOR  
for the proposition  
A. L. Humphry  
P. A. Murr  
William Davis  
voted

Morgan McAfee proposes to donate  
40 acres of land reserving one  
share to himself on the Sculmore  
tract of land.

{  
for the proposition  
Joseph A. Young  
voted

Samuel Foster to donate  
E $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  town <sup>ship</sup> 23 R2E reserving  
one half to himself

{  
to the proposition  
H. S. Campbell  
voted

Ordered that the plan and name as exhibited by John A. ~~Tapp~~ <sup>Tapp</sup> of the town land and in the forks of Tillatoba ou<sup>r</sup> section 26 of Township 25 Range 2 East be and the same is hereby declared to be selected as the county site of Tallahatchie County.

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Book I Page 56, March term 1837, "ordered that the Probate Court the Police Court and Circuit Court after the first day of June next shall be held in the <sup>new</sup> town of Charleston".

Book I Page 58, May term 1837, "County Site", whereas it appearing to the satisfaction of the Board of Police of Tallahatchie County, that the agreement for a title to the town of Tillatoba has not been complied with and that the president of the Board of Police afore said reports to this board he has not been able to get a bond from the proprietors of said town in consequence a title can not be coerced by course of law, and when as much doubt exists in the minds of the court whether the proprietors can themselves coerce any other than a relinquishment or a quit title, all of which forms a condition in the attempt to locate the seat of Justice at Tillatoba. It is therefore ordered by the board that the former order attempting to locate the county site at Tillatoba be and the same is hereby rescinded and for matters esteemed and the same is located as here-to-fore designated at the last term of the court on the 2nd Monday of the month past and then on Tuesday the 2nd day of said term for the above order. T. N. Murr, William Quarles and L. Humphry voted and Joseph A. Young voted against it. These votes were recorded at the request of Joseph A. Young".

Book I Page 72, May term 1838, "Order of Election" "ordered by the Board of Police of Tallahatchie County, that the sheriff of said county proceed to advertise and hold an election at the several precinct in said county on Friday and Saturday, the first and second day of June next for the purpose of establishing

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the county site for said county and that all who are entitled to vote for members of the Legislature shall be deemed or qualified voters and that each ticket shall be numbered by the retiring officers of said election at each ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>. That James Bailey, William Sutton and W. Fanning be appointed the Judges of Marsh's ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>, Robert Darn, Houston Howard and Redding Womble at the McDaniel ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>, John H. Page, Joseph A. Young and John M. Dock be Judges at Sculmore ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>. Asa Warner, T. J. Johnson and George Dillard be Judges at the Tuscahoma ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>, Grenville Sherman, James Alford and J. W. Philipps be Judges at Tillatoba ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup> and that the retiring officers appoint their clerks at each ~~precinct~~ <sup>precinct</sup>."

Book I Page 75, June term 1838, "Return of Election" whereas on the 4th of May 1838 an order was made directing the sheriff of Tallahatchie County to hold an election on the 1st and 2nd days of June just for the purpose of taking the vote of the citizens of said county for the purpose of locating the county site in said county, wherefore G. B. Goodwin by his deputy, Minor W. Watkins return into court the following list of votes, that is to say

- Tillatoba Beat 67 Votes for Charleston
- Marshes Beat 57 Votes for Charleston
- McDaniel Beat 26 ~~Votes for Charleston~~
- Sculmore Beat 9 ~~Votes for Charleston~~
- Tuscohoma Beat 3 ~~Votes~~

162 ?

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Tillatoba Beat 10 votes for Gerault  
 Marshes Beat 4 votes for Gerault  
 MCDaniels Beat 7 votes for Gerault  
 Sculmore Beat 60 votes for Gerault  
 Tuscohomoma Beat 23 votes for Gerault

140 votes  
 164

Tillatoba Beat 5 for Dogwood Flat  
 Marshes Beat 3 for " "  
 McDaniels Beat 00 for " "  
 Sculmore Beat " for " "  
 Tuscohomoma Beat " for " "  
8 votes

Tillatoba Beat 00 for The most eligible point  
 Marshes Beat 00 nearest the center ,  
 McDaniels Beat 2 north, and south, east  
 Sculmore Beat 1 and west.  
 Tuscohomoma Beat  $\frac{2}{5}$  votes This June 4, 1838 signed  
 Minor W. Watkins  
 Deputy sheriff and  
 retiring officers for  
 G. B. Goodwin, Shefiff.

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Book I Page 77, June term 1838, "Court met according to a adjournment in the town of Charleston: The Proprietors of the town of Charleston having ~~not~~ exhibited satisfactory titles from Greenwood Lefore and Allen Jenkins and it appearing that Green B. Goodwin, Thomas A. Cheves and George W. Johnson in whom the title to section 26 Township 25 Range 2 East is vested will in a short time be able to perfect a title to the eighty acres of land which the Board of Police has selected in consequence of the election held to ascertain what place the majority of the people in Tallahatchie County were in favor of for the seat of justice, and Charleston situated in Section 26 in Township 25 Range 2 East having secured a majority of the votes of men at said election. It is therefore ordered by the Board that the courts of Tallahatchie shall be held until the titles which have been ~~not~~ exhibited shall be perfected and prepared for registrations at which time the location of the seat of Justice shall be permanently fixed at the town of Charleston".

Book I Page 83, July term 1838, "Court Seat Conference. Be it remembered that at a special term of the board of Police begun and held on the 23rd and 24th day of July AD 1838 according to previous notice given come up to be considered the question in relation to the permanent location of the county site in and for the county of Tallahatchie in the State of Mississippi and it having appeared to the court that at an election held on the 1st and 2nd days of June last in pursuance of an order previously taken by our body for the purpose of taking the voice of the people of the county in relation to the location of a permanent county site for

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for said County of Tallahatchie, that the town of Charleston secured a majority of the people of the county, thirty votes over all other places in nomination showing thereby a majority of the people of the county to be in favor of said town of Charleston. It is therefore considered by the Board that the location of a seat of justice at the town of Charleston made by our predecessors in office on the 14th day of March AD 1837 be and the same is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. That said town of Charleston according to the plan thereof as heretofore exhibited by the proprietors thereof is and the same is hereby declared to be the permanent seat of justice in and for the county of Tallahatchie in the State of Mississippi.

It is further ordered by the Board that from and after the present time the circuit court, the probate and police courts in and for said county of Tallahatchie be and the same are hereby required to be begun and held in said town of Charleston and in full satisfaction and in lieu of the donation of sixteen thousand dollars heretofore tendered by the proprietors of said town of Charleston and received and accepted by our predecessors in office, the Board accepts and receives eighty acres of <sup>land</sup> ~~lying~~ principally east of the public square of said town according to the plans thereof and more particularly described in a deed of conveyance of said parcel of eighty acres of land to the president of the Board of Police of Tallahatchie County and his successors in office in trust for the use and benefit of Tallahatchie County".

Tallahatchie County

North face of corner stone, courthouse.

Board of Supervisors - N. J. McMullen, President

J. A. Shores, J. A. Morgan,

M. Hey, J. J. Willingham,

W. Chamberlin and Co. Architects -

J. J. Glassfield, Con. Co.

Buildings

~~East~~ <sup>East</sup> face of corner stone of courthouse.

October 25th - AD 1900

A.L. 5900

Grand Lodge Miss.

F. and A. Masons

B. V. White, G. M.

6 In the year 1834 the towns in the county were Pharsalia on Yocon River, Locopolis on Tallahatchie River, Tillatoba just north of where Charleston now is, Tuscohoma on Yalobusha River Chechuma near Tuscohoma and Dekalb all of which are now extinct.

6. Chancery Clerk's Records.

Sub. File  
No. 7

*Tallahatchie*  
*Writter*  
*The Formation of County*  
HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT  
TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY

Page #1  
Date-March 19, 1936

FORMATION OF COUNTY: ASSIGNMENT # 2.

Canvasser-Lilly Young

(4)

1. In 1830 the "Mingoes, Chiefs, captains and warriors" of the Choctaw Nation, assembled at Dancing Rabbit Creek and agreed to a treaty by which they granted to the United States all the remaining lands they held east of the Mississippi River. They were given a tract of land in the Indian Territory for that which they might leave in Mississippi and in addition on the sum of \$20,000.00 a year for twenty years. The three chiefs of the two nation each received \$250.00 a year and four sections of land in the State. Under the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek the Choctaw Indians parted with the title to the land
  - (a) which was called Tallachatchie County. Tallachatchie County was created
  - (b) ed by an act of the Mississippi Legislature, December 23, 1833.
2. Tallahatchie County has been described being "shaped like a boot". In looking at a map one sees that this is true about the lower part of the County. The course of the Tallahatchie River makes a perfect boot toe, and the central southern boundary line makes the heel. The rest of the county is rectangular shaped, the longest part of the county running East and West. In the North Western corner, there is a slight northern rise of the boundary line, separating Quitman and Yalobusha Counties.
  1. History of Mississippi - F.L. Riley  
History of Tallahatchie County From 1832  
Articles published in "The Tallahatchie News" M.M. Kindrick Editor
  2. Map of Tallahatchie County.

3. The county as first created included lands which are now in Grenada, Sunflower, Coahoma, Quitman, and Panola Counties and which were later taken to make parts of these counties.

The present boundaries of the county are Panola and Quitman counties on the north, Leflore and Grenada on the south, Sunflower and Coahoma on the west and Yalobusha and Grenada Counties on the east.

There are 424,320 acres of land in the county, or 663 square miles.

4. The county was named for the Tallahatchie River which the Indians had named, and means "Rock River". Some students of the Indian Tongue insist that the word means "crooked river", but authorities state that this is an error.

Tallahatchie County bears no nick name except that of "The Free State of Tallahatchie". Just how this name originated is not known.

5. When Tallahatchie County was created there were notowns within its broad expanse, and for more than a year after the County's creation, the courts met at the homes of pioneer settlers out among the hills of the county's eastern section.

In 1834, however, the county capitol or seat was located on the bank of a little creek called Tillatoba Creek, which joins the Tallahatchie River in the Delta. That community which was destined to live only a few years, was given the name of the little stream upon the bank of which it was located.

3. Article by Judge John M. Kuykendall Published on March 23, 1923
4. History of Mississippi - F.L. Riley
5. Chancery Clerk's Records.

I It was called Tillatoba (this old community should not be confused with the present town of Tillatoba in Yalcbusha County which had its birth many years after the decease of the old pioneer community of the same name). The name Tillatoba is of Choctaw Indian origin, meaning "long pine", probably named so because of the stately pines which grew upon the banks of the Tillatoba Creek.

No courthouse or other public building was ever constructed at Tillatoba. The pioneers, who were then flocking to the new and fertile lands of the departed Choctaws, awaited developments before permanently located the county seat.

It was in 1838, four years after the temporary seat of Tallahatchie County was located at Tillatoba Creek, that another site was chosen two miles from the Tillatoba Creek. Some people like to think that some man from South Carolina, which State furnished men and women to pioneer Mississippi, had something to do with the naming of the new county seat of Tallahatchie, because the town was given the name of that rare old South Carolina town of history and heroism. The new town was christened Charleston.

In the year 1902 by an act of the Legislature the county was divided into two judicial districts, the line running practically through the center of the county, and in a hotly contested election between the two towns of Summer and Webb, Summer was selected as the seat of the Second District. This town received its name from the old Summer families.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Tallahatchie County

Date: January 19, 1937

Canvassers-Mrs. Fairrest Carter  
Birdie Harrison

SUPPLEMENT TO

COUNTY HISTORY: ASSIGNMENT #2

I. EARLY SETTLEMENTS

"Quite an interesting story of pioneer history is associated with the hill section lying north of Charleston and south of Teasdale, and bounded by the valley on the west and North Tillatoba Creek on the east. Taken in connection with the pioneer village of Pharsalia, situated on the south bank of Yeeona river, this hill territory embraces the scenes of the earliest settlers in Tallahatchie county. On the peaks of some of the hills, too rugged for cultivation, are the graves of the ancestors of the oldest families in this part of the country.

Bounded by the graveled highway now leading out from Charleston to Teasdale and by Tillatoba Creek on the east is a region that savors of early reminiscences that are sacred to numbers of our elder citizens. This is the region of the pine hills west of Tillatoba Creek and opposite the present location of Pine Hill Presbyterian church.

Because of an abundance of spring water available for use in these foothills these settlers built their homes there and cleared the valley lands for cultivation. Bordering the north side of Tillatobia Creek, fronting the hills was the pioneer farm of Col. James Bailey, who migrated from Kentucky to Mississippi in 1832.

Tallahatchie County  
Page #2

And the Metcalfs, Sam Foster and Curtis Matthews, owned their fertile farms in these valleys; and south of the creek were the farm houses of Smiley Corothers and B. F. Gibson.

About one and a half miles north of where the derrick of the proposed Charleston oil well recently stood is the location of what is now known as the Bailey grave-yard, which so far as available records show is the oldest burying ground in that immediate community. On points of ridges extending west to the valley, and northward to what may be older family burying grounds, but this is not shown by records. One thing is a matter of certainty, and that is that at the foot of the ridge on which a group of tombstones marks the resting place of pioneer settlers, there is a bold spring of splendid water which was used by Indians and the pioneers in common, and just above this spring, is the site of the first pioneer log school-house.

Nearby is the location where stood the pioneer home of Col. James Bailey, who was born in Kentucky in 1790. One of the tallest monuments of the group mentioned is at the head of Col. Bailey's grave.

Presbyterian church history records that as early as 1820 Robert Bell and John C. Smith were sent as missionaries to the Chickasaw Indians of this territory, and historical documents preserved in the archives at Jackson mention the same facts. It was on the hill above the Bailey spring that those first preachers preached to the Indians and early settlers, and here was built the first log meeting house.

A move should be made in Tallahatchie County to erect a stone memorial at this spring for the benefit of future generations. At the present time the woods are densely studded with undergrowth and the hills are rugged, but an open way should be kept to this spring and the pioneer graveyard.

Farther on, some two and a half miles is where Samuel and James Marsh settled as pioneers. It is recorded in archives at Jackson that Samuel Marsh was the first preacher of the Baptist church to come to the county, but as a preacher he appears not to have been successful, for it was not, until after the Civil War that the Baptist people began making progress in this county. It was from the Marsh brothers that Marsh beat took its name. The village now known as Teasdale was then called Marsh Tavern, and when Marsh sold his properties to James Moore, and a postoffice was established there, the place was then called Melia. At this place in early history, a tragedy occurred that comes to us through reliable tradition. A man by the name of Stewart was digging a well, and got covered up in quicksand at a depth of about seven feet. The caving continued, and the efforts to dig Stewart's body out became so dangerous that the work was abandoned, and he remains buried seventy feet below the surface some four hundred yards beyond where the road turns from the top of the hill toward Enid.

Early records tell of the purchase of lands from the state by L. D. Jackson born in Virginia, and of the selling of these lands to Dr. Crittendon, these lands from the state by L. D. Jackson stands. At first a log school-house was built near the present site of this meeting house. Over at Pharsalia the Hobbs, the Sanders, the Hims, and other families lived and prospered.\*

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

\*Reference: The Tallahatchie Herald 1919  
By Rev. Lee Jackson

*Susie Staton*

HISTORY OF TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY

CHAPTER II: TOPOGRAPHY

Tallahatchie County is blessed in its rainfall and underground water supply. At almost any point, except on its high hills, flowing artesian wells can be drilled, and the water is pure and not too heavily impregnated with minerals.

Except following heavy rainfall the majority of the streams are clear and practically all are constant in their flow, being fed by many springs. This makes possible the raising of livestock which is a source of great wealth to the county.

In common with all bodies of water in America, the flowing streams in Tallahatchie County bear many Indian names, as well as those of early settlers.

The early settlement of Charleston, the county seat, was due to its proximity to the Tallahatchie River, and the Mississippi Delta lands. Planters had an outlet by river for their produce;

could have their homes in a high, healthful location, and their planting interests in a fertile section, from which in times of overflow they could bring their tenants and livestock.

Watersheds

TALLAHATCHIE RIVER, the main source of natural drainage of Tallahatchie County, is formed by the confluence of three smaller rivers, the Coldwater, Yocco<sup>o</sup> and Little Tallahatchie. It originates in Tippah County, near Ripley, in north-eastern Mississippi; flows in a southwesterly course, and empties into the Yazoo River near Greenwood.

The channel of the Tallahatchie is too small to accommodate sudden freshets of the hill streams, and consequently large areas of the adjacent lowlands are subject to frequent overflows. To this may be attributed the prevalence of malaria in this section. The overflow enriches the soil, making the delta land rank among the most fertile in the state for cotton and corn

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY  
WATER  
SHEDS

raising, though some years planting is delayed by high water.

The following creeks are also a part of the natural drainage: SOUTH FORK TILLATOBA, which enters Tallahatchie from Yelobusha County, and flows almost due west until it reaches Tillatoba; NORTH FORK TILLATOBA heads in Beat 1, flowing southwest into TILLATOBA CREEK, near Cowart; Tillatoba, with the above mentioned tributaries, flows due west into the Tallahatchie, and joins South Fork Tillatoba, near Camp Tellahe; ASCULMORE originates near Rosebloom, flows northwest, makes a sharp curve near Bear Lake, and runs southward into Tippe Bayou. (1)

#### Elevation

There is a difference of opinion concerning the highest and lowest points in the county. Jesse Burnett, Charleston, avers that Jerden Hill, one mile southeast of Charleston, is the highest point, and Patterson Lake the lowest; whereas M.H. James, Sumner, gives the highest point, four hundred feet, as located on a road between the highway and Cascilla, and the lowest point,

(1) Paul R. Osakes, Map of Tallahatchie County

one hundred twenty-five feet, to be Blue Lake.

Sixty per cent of the county is composed of bottom lands, which lie in the western part, with a dividing line running due north and south. Nearly half of the eastern portion is composed of rugged region and the soil is not nearly so rich as the delta section; corn, hay, fruit and vegetables are the principal crops. (1)

#### Lakes, Marshes and Bayous

Various lakes add much to the scenic beauty of the county, hold subsoil moisture, and act as basins for surplus water. Some of them are noted fishing locations and are the scenes of reputed pleasure jaunts. HAMPTON, GRASSEY, PATTERSON and OTTER LAKES are most frequently visited. ALLIGATOR, in which alligators are reputed to have made their home, BIG HORSESHOE and LITTLE HORSESHOE, named for their characteristic shape, ELLET, named for a former citizen, and WALNUT lakes are other small bodies of water which afford their supply of pleasure and profit

(1) I.W. Carson, Charleston, Miss.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY WATER SHEETS

to fishermen, in season. (1)

The following bayous are found: HOPSON, CASSIDY, O'POSSUM, MCWHORTER, PARK, BLACK, MUDDY, QUIVER, DEEP SLOUGH and LONG SLOUGH; STATE BRAKE and SNOW BRAKE. They constitute the marshy portion of the county, and these, with the lakes and bayous, are factors in the growth of valuable timber, such as Tupelo gum and cypress; they also help to hold subsoil moisture, which aids in farming and serves as a basin for surplus water, thereby preventing overflows.

Around the lakes, creeks, and bayous is a great deal of bottom land, much of which has been cleared. The former impression that these bodies of water were detrimental to the health of people living near them in the Delta, is fallacious, as the fish and frogs in the streams check the breeding of mosquitoes. Back-water from overflows, becomes stagnant and breeds mosquitoes, which convey malaria. However, scientific drainage methods, and mosquito eradication are making the Delta a most healthful

(1) A.H. Smith, Sumner, Miss.

section. (1)

Springs, Wells, Mineral Waters

Of the numerous springs in the county, the ones in Cassidy and O'Possum Bayous give the streams continual current, while those in the hilly sections furnish drinking water for many families.

One of the loveliest Indian legends is that of Talla and Ha, Indian maiden and brave, whose names combined form the name of the celebrated TALLAHA SPRING (see ~~Chapter VII~~, Folklore ~~and Folk Customs~~.) The county is rightfully proud of Camp Tallahe which was established here because of the excellent water, and water from the spring has been piped to the mess hall of the Boy Scouts camp and supplies water for their large swimming pool. At the World's Fair in 1905, water from this spring won a ribbon as being third to the purest of those analyzed. Ribbon and papers stating these facts are in possession

(1) Dr. J.E. Powell, Charleston, Miss.

of the Fox family, who were owners of Tellehe Spring at the time the analysis was made.

The home of J.M. Thompson, Charleston, is supplied with water piped from a spring situated on a hill about a quarter of a mile from the home. (1)

Tatum Pond, located four miles east of Charleston, on the Oakland-Charleston highway, is formed from a large spring on the side of a hill, and is a favorite swimming spot. (2)

Water for the rural sections, especially the hilly area, is supplied by bored wells. In the Delta almost every plantation has an artesian well, usually at the home of the manager, and tenants get their drinking water from them, but they prefer to have pumps for other uses. The larger towns are supplied with water from artesian wells about eight hundred feet deep, from which the water is forced by pressure into elevated tanks. (3)

(1) C.E. Fox, Charleston, Miss. and Mrs. Birdie Harrison, Charleston, Miss.  
 (2) Mrs. Lynn Darby, Charleston, Miss.  
 (3) C.E. Fox, Charleston, Miss.

Mineral Composition of Water

The entire county is fortunate in possessing an excellent, practically inexhaustible supply of water, easily accessible, and by regulating size and depth of wells, almost any desired quality and quantity of water may be obtained.

Chemical contents of water produced by the artesian well at Leverett, which is representative of almost all others in the county, shows the water to contain the following minerals: silice, iron, calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium, bicarbonate radicle, sulphate radicle, chloride radicle and nitrate radicle. The Leverett well is 380 feet deep, two inches in diameter, with a production of 150 gallons per minute. (1)

(1) State Planning in Mississippi, P. 78, by State Planning Commission.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY WATER SHEETS

Soils

Tallahatchie County was settled by families who loved the soil; and with a consciousness of the combination of abundant sunshine and rainfall, long growing season, and adaptable soil which made the land suitable for their agricultural needs, laid out great **plantations**, lived on the products of these and amassed large fortunes.

The Delta pioneers met adversities caused by overflows and their attendant evils with courage and hard work, unassisted by drainage methods that were to come later, with the assurance that they would not fail so long as they "stuck" to the delta land -- the creek of Mississippi soil - poured, as it literally is, from the whole Mississippi basin, and the most fertile to be found in the entire state.

Types of Soils

The principal soil-forming material in Tallahatchie County is CLAY, which appears both in the eastern and the western parts.

The soil types are BROWN LOAM and LOESS in the eastern part of the county, and the YAZOO BASIN soil in the western part. The principal soil of the brown loam area is a silt loam, derived by weathering from the loess, which contains some clay. Soils of the Yazoo Basin are derived from the alluvium of the river flood plain; sandy and loam soils are deposited along the streams, and clay soils in the inter-stream areas.

The brown loam area, the eastern, or hilly section, contains soils belonging to the MEMPHIS and RICHLAND series, derived from the loess; soils in the western, or delta part, belong to the YAZOO, SHARKEY, and SARPY series. (1)

Crops grown most extensively in the brown loam area are corn, cotton and truck. Cotton yield from one-third to one bale per acre, with an average of one-half bale. Corn produces an average of about twenty bushels per acre.

Cattle and swine raising is receiving more attention in this area since the advent of the boll weevil, and with the growing of

(1) I.W. Carson, County Agent, Charleston, Miss.

alfalfa and other legumes, stock-raising can be made a profitable line of farming. Naturally, alfalfa and other legumes, with the pastures, are good grazing lands for cattle.

Forests on the brown loam soil in Tallahatchie County contain growths of short-leaf and loblolly pine, red, white, Spanish, post and black-jack oak, hickory, and a few other species; forests of the delta contain growths of red and Tupelo gum, red and white oak, cypress, hickory, birch, maple, pecan, ash, cottonwood, elm, persimmon, and other species. The larger part of the timber is gum.

#### Minerals

WHITE SAND is found in abundance around and in the streams (creeks), especially in the eastern or hilly section of the county.

This sand is used in cement for building purposes but is not used commercially. Besides this sand found in the streams, there are several sand hills containing pure white sand. Tallahatchie County sands, by laboratory tests, show qualities necessary for manufacturing glass and pottery.

Tallahatchie has GRAVEL pits which have been drawn on heavily. Gravel is composed of red clay, sand and rock. This is its only type of red clay.

In the hills of the county are limitless deposits of fine CLAYS. These clays have been subject to severe tests and have been found to be of the best type. There are exhibits of these raw products in Charleston, with technical opinions showing their uses. Some of this clay on display is as smooth as satin, and to the touch, feels like talcum powder. (1)

A barrel of this clay was sent to the World's Clay Congress at Chicago about 1925, together with chemical analysis by the ceramic engineer of the University of Illinois. Since that time, many clay companies of the North have sent men to Tallahatchie County to examine it, and they say it is of an unusually fine quality. (2) It is found in large quantities on an immense acreage about a mile south of Charleston, belonging to Mrs. Myrtle M. Harris. It has been thoroughly tested by Ellis Lovejoy, of

(1) J.W. Saunders, Charleston, Miss.

(2) Dr. J.E. Powell, Charleston, Miss.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY RECORDS WATER

Columbus, Ohio, who reports the clay in both colors (white and blue) of excellent strength, remarkable fineness of grain, freedom from gravel and grit, and that the tests show it has the hardness of tempered steel; it is excellent, considered from a manufacturer's standpoint. (1) A news item in the "Tallahatchie Herald" explains: "To the natives, this clay is known as white or chalk dirt, It is in large quantities in the hill section of the county, outcroppings being found along the valley hills and in hill-sides. Ellis Lovejoy a consulting engineer of note and eminence, has had charge of testing the clays and makes a very flattering report, stating, among other things, that the clay is equal to, if not better, than the famous German clays that have been so essential to glass and pottery manufacturers, and which, since the war, have been difficult to obtain." (2)

H.M. Ewert, who is connected with the Mississippi Clay Company, states that Tallahatchie County has one of the largest clay deposits on the continent. They are excellent for many uses,

- (1) Tallahatchie Herald, Charleston, Miss. May 6, 1918  
 (2) Tallahatchie Herald, Charleston, Miss. May 6, 1918.

such as the manufacture of pottery, brick, fine brick, grinding wheels, porcelain, points, talcum powder, soaps, pencils, and spark plugs. They are also good for filtering and bleaching vegetables and mineral oils. (1)

"High grade clays are found in the Grenada formation of Tallahatchie County, and for many years, a clay pit in the vicinity of Enid have shipped their product to northern markets, where it is successfully used as bonding material and refractory clay, and in the manufacture of pottery, whiteware, ornamental brick and tile, and terra cotta. The deposit is quite extensive and readily available, and gives promise of much greater commercial development in the future." (2)

In the north-eastern part of the county there is a small body of LIGNITE or brown coal. This mineral has a high fuel value, though no industry or commercial use of it has ever been developed, despite the fact that tests have proved it to be very useful and valuable when converted into a useable state. (3)

- (1) H.M. Ewert, Charleston, Miss.  
 (2) State Planning in Mississippi, P. 105, by State Planning Commission  
 (3) State Planning in Mississippi, P. 104, by State Planning Commission

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CHAPTER II: TOPOGRAPHY

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 Springs, Wells, Mineral Waters: Tallaha Spring -- Mineral  
 Composition of Artesian Water -- Soil: Types of Soil -- Minerals--  
 Sand, Gravel, Clays, Lignite.

References

Carson, I.W. (County Agent)	Charleston, Miss.
Derby, Mrs. Lynn	Charleston, Miss.
Ewert, H.M.	Charleston, Miss.
Fox, C.E.	Charleston, Miss.
Powell, Dr. J.E.	Charleston, Miss.
Smith, A.H.	Sumner, Miss.
Saunders, J.W.	Charleston, Miss.

Bibliography

Oakes, Paul R.	<u>Map of Tallahatchie County</u> Charleston, Miss.
	State Planning in Mississippi, by State Planning Commission, 1938, pp. 78, 104, 105
	<u>Tallahatchie Herald</u> , Chaleston, Miss. May, 16, 1918

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
 WATER  
 SHEETS

(11)

assignment 4

R. file

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT  
Tallahatchie County

Date: April 8, 1936.

Canvassers-Lilly Young  
Janie L. Fonda

(4)

I. WATER-SHEDS

- a. Name of rivers, creeks, etc. Origin of names:
- b. Direction of flow, into what stream do they flow:

There is one river in Tallahatchie County, the Tallahatchie River. Its name is an Indian name meaning Rock River. The Tallahatchie River is composed of three smaller rivers, Coldwater, Yacona and Little Tallahatchie. It flows south into the Yazoo River near Greenwood, Mississippi. It originates in north central Mississippi, near New Albany, and flows southwest.

The creeks are: (1) South Fork Tillatoba Creek comes into Tallahatchie County from Yalobusha County, flowing almost due west into the Tillatoba Creek. The name Tillatoba is an Indian name. (2) North Fork Tillatoba, whose origin is in Beat 1, flows southwest into Tillatoba Creek near Cowart, Mississippi. (3) North and South Fork Tillatoba Creeks flow into Tillatoba Creek near Cowart, and this creek flows due west into the Tallahatchie River. (4) Hunter Creek flows southwest into Tallahatchie County from Yalobusha County and joins South Fork Tillatoba near Camp Tallaha. Origin of name unknown. (5) Asculmore Creek originates near Rosebloom, flowing northwest, and near Bear Lake makes a sharp curve and flows south into Tippto Bayou. Origin of name unknown.\*

- c. Effect on county, on health, soil, etc.:

The Tallahatchie River overflows frequently, possibly once a year. This causes much malaria in the overflow section. The over-

\*Reference: Map of Tallahatchie County, revised in 1927 by Paul R. Oakes.

Tallahatchie County  
Page 2.

flow enriches the soil, but causes crops in that section to be late.\*

II. ELEVATION

- a. Highest point:  
Jerden Hill, one mile southeast of Charleston.\*\*
- b. Lowest point:  
Patterson Lake, southwest of Cowart in Beat 4.\*\*
- c. Bottom lands:  
Sixty percent of Tallahatchie County is composed of bottom lands. This is the western part of the county with dividing line running due north and south.\*\*\*
- d. Prairie lands:  
None.\*\*\*
- e. Rugged regions:  
The eastern part, or forty percent of the county, is composed of rugged regions.\*\*\*

III. LAKES - MARSHES - BAYOUS

- a. Effect on; temperature, health, soil, etc.  
Lakes: (1) Blue Lake, (2) Swan Lake, (3) Hampton Lake, (4) Fish Lake, (5) Elm Lake, (6) Grassy Lake, (7) Round Lake, (8) Bear Lake, (9) White Lake, (10) Patterson Lake, (11) Otter Lake.  
Bayous: (1) Hopson, (2) Cassidy, (3) Possum, (4) McWhorter, (5) Park, (6) Black, (7) Muddy, (8) Quiver, (9) Brosney.  
Sloughs: (1) Deep Slough, (2) Long Slough.

\*Reference: I. W. Carson, County Agent.  
\*\*Reference: Jesse Burnett  
\*\*\*Reference: I. W. Carson, County Agent.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY WATER SHEDS

Brakes: (1) Staten Brake, (2) Snow Brake.

The lakes, bayous, and sloughs help to produce valuable timber such as Tupelo gum and cypress, help hold sub-soil moisture, which aids in farming, act as basins for surplus water, thus preventing overflows. They are also excellent fishing locations. There was for a number of years the impression in people's minds that lakes, bayous, etc., were detrimental to the health of people living near them in the delta. This was a false impression, which has been corrected in the medical world. The fish in the lakes, bayous, etc., keep them from being a breeding place for mosquitoes. However, back waters, caused from overflows, becoming stagnant breed mosquitoes and cause malaria. This is probably how the false impression about the lakes was created.\*

#### IV. SPRINGS, WELLS, AND MINERAL WATERS

##### a. Springs:

There are numerous springs in Tallahatchie County; they are found at bases of hills and in deep bayous and rivers. Springs in Cassidy and Possum Bayous give them continual current. In the hilly section of the county springs furnish drinking water for many families.

One spring of note, and of which the county is rightfully proud, is Tallaha Springs, located at Camp Tallaha four miles south of Charleston. This spring is at the foot of a huge hill. It has been concreted and water piped to the Mess Hall of the Boy Scout camp. At a World Fair in about 1905 water from this spring won a ribbon as being third to the purest water in the world. Ribbon and papers to this fact are in possession of the Fox family,

\*Reference: Dr. J. E. Powell

who at that time owned the spring and surrounding land.\*

##### b. Wells:

###### 1. Ordinary wells:

Most of the wells in the eastern part of the county are bored wells, these being in the rural sections and hilly part of the county.

###### 2. Artesian wells:

In the bottom lands, or the delta, there are numerous artesian wells. Most of them are at the managers' homes on plantations. Tenants procure their water from pumps at their homes. The larger towns in the county are supplied with water from artesian wells driven about 800 feet from which the water is forced into tall tanks for pressure.\*\*

##### c. Mineral waters:

###### 1. Kind, analysis, where found:

Although the analysis of water from Tallaha Springs is not known, doctors have found that the water aids in treating kidney trouble. Many people visit the spring to carry home jugs or barrels of the water and find that it aids greatly in cases of kidney trouble.\*\*

\*Reference: Mr. C. E. Fox, Charleston, Mississippi.

\*\*Reference: Dr. J. E. Powell, Charleston, Mississippi.

Mrs. Isabel Summers, Supervisor,  
Historical Research Project.

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY  
WATER  
SHEETS

August 12th, 1937

HISTORIC RESEARCH PROJECT  
Tallahatchie County

Project No. 6055-4120

Mrs. Isabel Summers, Historian  
Clara Sutherland, Typist

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSIGNMENT #4 - WATER SHEDS

I. WATER-SHEDS

a. Name of rivers, creeks, etc. Origin of names.

Rivers - Tallahatchie River

Lakes - Blue Lake, Swan Lake, Hampton Lake, Fish Lake, Elm Lake, Grassy Lake, Round Lake, Bear Lake, White Lake, Patterson Lake, Otter Lake.

Bayous - Hopson, Cassidy, Possum, McWhorter, Park, Black, Muddy, Quivver, and Brusney.

Creeks - Tillatoba, North Fork Tillatoba, South Fork Tillatoba, Hunter, and Asculmore.

Brakes - Staten and Snow.

Refer to Assignment #28, Nomenclature, for origin of names.

b. Direction of flow, into what stream do they flow.

Refer to Assignment #4.

Tallahatchie County

Page #2

c. Effect on county, on health, soil, etc.

Tallahatchie County has a great many streams in it including Tallahatchie River, bayous, creeks, lakes, and ponds. These various bodies of water add much to the scenic beauty of the county, lend humidity to the air, hold sub-soil moisture, and act as basins for surplus water. Some of them are noted fishing locations and are the scenes of repeated pleasure jaunts.\* Hampton, Grassy, Patterson, and Otter Lakes are the lakes most frequently visited.

II. ELEVATION

a. Highest point (where)

b. Lowest point "

Tallahatchie County is divided into two distinct sections: West Tallahatchie, the delta section, and East Tallahatchie, the hilly section. Its lowest point has been estimated to be at Blue Lake - (125 feet) in West Tallahatchie; its highest point is said to be on the road between the highway and Cascilla (400 feet) in East Tallahatchie.\*\*

c. Bottom lands

We find a great deal of bottom land around the lakes, creeks, and bayous; much of it, however, has been cleared for fishing purposes. \*\*\*

\* A. H. Smith, Sumner, Mississippi

\*\* M. H. James, Sumner, Mississippi

\*\*\* Mr. Lester Darby, Charleston, Mississippi

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY WATER SHEDS

- d. Prairie lands.       None
- e. Rugged regions

East Tallahatchie is composed of rugged, or hilly region, and as the soil here is not nearly so rich as delta land, corn, hay, fruit, and truck are the principle crops. \*

### III. LAKES - MARSHES - BAYOUS

- a. Effect on temperature, health, soil, etc.

The delta, or over-flow section, of Tallahatchie County was once regarded as a very unhealthy location due to the swamps and marshes which were ideal breeding places for mosquitoes. Malaria was prevalent and people actually making their homes there were described as "swamp rats". Now, however, scientific drainage methods are employed and rigid mosquito eradication programs are carried out and the delta is recognized as one of the most excellent farming sections in the state. Malaria is well under control, the annual overflows serve to enrich the soil, and the "delta" has taken on a new meaning. Sixty percent of the county is delta land. \*\*

### IV. SPRINGS, WELLS AND MINERAL WATERS

- a. Springs       (Where found)

- \* I. W. Carson, Charleston, Mississippi
- \*\* T. F. Clay, Tutwiler, Mississippi

- a. Springs       (Where found)

Springs are numerous in Tallahatchie County, most of them being in the hilly section or near a bayou or lake. The largest spring is located at Camp Tallaha which supplies water for the large swimming pool there. Plantation tenants in the delta procure their water from pumps; an artesian well is usually dug at the manager's home.

Mr. J. M. Thompson, whose address is Charleston, lives about a quarter of a mile from a spring which is on a hill. The house itself is on level ground at the foot of the hill and by placing a pipe from the spring to the house, Mr. Thompson has obtained running water for his home.

Tatums Pond, located four miles east of Charleston on the Oakland-Charleston highway, was formed from a large spring on the side of a hill. The spring still supplies water for the pond which is a favorite swimming spot. \*

- b. Wells

1. Ordinary wells
2. Artesian wells

Artesian wells can be found at most managers' homes from which water is pumped into the house. The water supply for the towns comes from tall tanks which force the water into the pipes all over town. This water, of course, is obtained from artesian wells. \*\*

- \* Birdie Harrison, Charleston, Mississippi
- \*\* Mrs. Lynn Darby, Charleston, Mississippi

c. Mineral waters

1. Kind, analysis, where found.

There is no mineral water in Tallahatchie County except at Camp Tallaha. The water from that spring proved, by analysis, to contain valuable mineral characteristics and was rated among the world's best drinking water.

Most of the water in the hills contains some iron sediment. \*

Mrs. Isabel Summers

Mrs. Isabel Summers, Historian  
Historic Research  
Tallahatchie County

\* Mrs. Lynn Darby, Charleston, Mississippi

TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY  
\*  
DARTER  
SHEETS