

COLUMBUS IN ITS INFANCY AND GROWTH-LOWNDES COUNTY

BY W.E. GIBBS

In the year 1821, Columbus was little else than a ferry-crossing over the Tombigby. The ferry was then owned jointly by Major John W. Pitchlynn and Uncle Joe Bryant and kept by Jo Tilley. Uncle Joe Bryant's share of the tolls was those received of patrons going West and South. That of Maj. Pitchlynn, of those coming East and North and of course Uncle Joe's share was much the largest, the tide of travel moving Westward.

The population of Columbus was small in that day.

Uncle Jo and Aunt Polly Bryant (they had no children) resided where John P. Eckford now lives, and numbers of us remember the sound of Aunt Polly's dinner horn.

Opposite there resided a man named Stanback who kept a groggery, on the present location occupied by Mr. John Mahon.

Just east, now C. P. O'Malley's lived Mr. Kewen, the father of Ed., Achilles and Tom Kewen.

About where Adam's boot shop is, W. L. Moore had a grocery;

Where the present Post Office is, Col. Thomas Townsend had a salt-depot, supplied by Keel-Boats.

A man named Visier with the assistance of the two Fords, began the building of a Hotel on the site of the present Gilmer Hotel, failed, and sold the improvement to Major Richard Barry, who completed and kept the Hotel in after years.

Dock Henderson, a physician, had his shop about where the Womelsdorf store now stands.

Maj. William Dowsing kept a boarding house where C. H. Worrell and the Auction House now stand.

Maj. Barry's Hotel was located on what is now Blair's Corner.

Capt. Christopher Adams was a merchant on Hatch's Corner.

Hudson, Humphries & Hudson's Corner was then occupied by Eli Etheridge as a residence and Blacksmith Shop. His house was built of whipsawed logs and had to it the first brick chimney ever erected in Columbus.

On Gross' Corner, Chafin Smith had a Tailor Shop.

Where Simon Loeb now is, a crippled man named Brown had also a Tailor Shop.

About the rear of Fleishman's stood the Blacksmith shop of Jacob Strong who was acknowledged "The best man in the beat."

Messers Racer & Shaeffer had an extensive mercantile establishment at the Abert Corner.

W. H. Robinson had a Hatter Shop just west of them.

Mr. McCrary had a horse-mill on the side of the hill north of the Gilmer Hotel.

There was a School taught in a house made of clap-boards on the Franklin Academy square by a teacher Lawrence.

The first Court held, was in Uncle Joe Bryant's house. The next in Walton's wood shop, which then stood where Capt. Estes' Grocery Store now stands; then like a sure enough Court, in the old Court House.

Our first Jail was built of hewn logs, and stood on the lot of the present Presbyterian Parsonage.

The Town was known among the Choctaw Indians as "Suqua Tomaha" which in their vernacular means Possum Town, and was known only abroad as Columbus.

Columbus grew rapidly in population. It, and the country lying east and south received hosts of Immigrants from Virginia, Kentucky, North Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.

The west side of the Tombigbee remained unsettled for years.

The gifted Col. William S. Barry was the first white child born in the town, if not in Lowndes County.

Joel J. Halbert and Stephen A. Brown were born about same time, but in the country.

Henry W. Hunt a merchant built a brick Store-House and dwelling combined, on the ground now occupied by Messers Lichtenstadter and Schwab as Stores.

Joshua and Benjamin Toomer, bricklayers, built up what is now known as Gross' Corner, and Benj. Toomer (well known to-day as a commission merchant in Mobile) kept store there.

Our Judge Hardy Stevens was then a "Jour" Carpenter, and on one Saturday evening he, with a couple of his comrades stepped into Ben Toomer's. His friends having cash sufficient, each invested three bits for a pocket-knife. Uncle Hardy also wanted a knife, but was at the time without the necessary means in hand. He remarked to Toomer that he (Stevens) had a job on hand from which he would realize by the following Saturday, and would then pay him for the knife if he would give him credit for the time.

Toomer declined. Uncle Hardy returned immediately to his shop, and working all night, finished a bird cage which he had contracted to make for a lady customer, carried it to her and received the stipulated dollar therefor, converted it into change and spent his evenings the following week in rattling his money where

Toomer could hear it. Toomer, realizing that Hardy was then a moneyed man, was quite anxious to drive a trade with him, but Uncle Hardy declined, and has persisted from that period until "this good day" in refusing to throw a dime in Ben Toomer's way.

William L. Moore moved his business to a new and larger establishment situated on the ground now occupied by C. M. Ottley & Co.

The first Masonic Lodge was built on the site now occupied by W. J. Boyd, Dr. Gid Lineceum. W. M. Erasmus Potts, a carpenter, and brother-in-law to Col. Nimrod Davis had his residence in the bottom, just in the rear of the present Drug Store of Goodrich and Street.

Potts left Columbus swearing he would never return until he could do so in his coach-and-four, with outriders.

During the war, the late Dr. Humphries was accosted on the street by a well-dressed stranger with, "Doctor you don't remember me; do you?"

"No," said the Doctor, "I don't believe I do."

"Well," said the stranger, "I'm Potts."

"Why Potts, howdy-do howdy-do? I remember you; I remember too that you said when you left, that you would never return until you could do so in style--in your Coach-and-four etc.

"Well," said Potts "look up the street."

And sure enough there stood a splendid Carriage and four beautiful Horses with out-riders.

He had gone to the "bottoms, worked hard, made his fortune, and returned a refugee from the Yankees.

Rev. David Wright--a missionary to the Indians--settled the present residence of Hampden Osborne esq.;

Dr. John Hand settled on the lot just east of Long's river ware house;

T. M. Tucker--on the lot now occupied by W. E. Gibbs;

H. S. Bennett--on the lot now occupied by James W. Hopkins;

Lemuel N. Hatch - on the lot now occupied by Jas W. Harris Esq;

Dr. Gid Lincecum--on the place now known as the Abraham Murdock residence;

Geo. Sanders, the father of G. W., W. C. and J. C. Sanders, settled the corner on which the Candy Tent now stands;

___ Moore, a hatter, on the lot at present occupied by Mrs. Morton;

Col Oliver settled on the place now owned by Dr. R. E Lanier;

John Humphries Sr. succeeded Eli Etheridge on the present Humphries & Hudson corner, and had a farm extending east from the present Female Institute

Burt Moore settled on what is known as the J. H. Turner lot;

___ Gray settled the lot now owned by Mr. Jo Street. Mr. Gray's farm extended south from Military street to Major Barry's, East and West between the present Catholic Church and the Institute.

Jacob Strong, the blacksmith settled the place now owned by Gen'l J. H. Sharp; Ovid P. Brown - the present residence of Capt. E. E. Leech.

Geo. Goode settled the place now known as the Bartee place and had his tanyard at the intersection of Franklin and Military Streets.

Robert Carr succeeded Capt. Kewen on O'Malley's corner.

Mr. John Huddleston succeeded Maj. Barry and kept the Eagle Hotel.

The Brickwell Bros had a store midway between the Eagle Hotel and Carr's.

Uncle Jack Fetchall kept a Hotel or boarding house just North of Hatch's corner;

___ McCarthy had a shoe shop on the site now occupied by Fred Marz's Restaurant;

O. H. Millican a Cabinet shop where Pat Galvin's Store now is;

John Billington first, then Francis (Paddy) Leech a store on Blair's corner;

Weir & Pearl were just immediately North on Market Street.

T. M. Tucker, J. F. Trotter, H. S. Bennett, A. E. Ross and S. E. Nash were the leading lawyers. Drs. Hand and A. N. Jones were principal physicians. Maj. William Dowsing was Circuit Clerk.

Dr. Andrew Weir settled the place now owned by Dr. Hardy;

Rev. William Weir, the place now owned by Mrs. R. D. Powell;

Everard Dowsing, Sr., the place now occupied by J. W. Albright.

Roddy Smith kept Hotel on the corner where Messrs Butler & Terry are now....

Maj. W. C. Craven settled the lot on which Capt. J. H. Estes now resides. His farm lay South of the present R. R. Depot including it.

The first sermon preached inside a house, was by Rev. Booth Malone to a Methodist congregation in the board school house on Academy square.

A man named Mhoon is reported to be first real white settler of Lowndes County. It is said that he and his wife followed Jackson's army to reclaim their son--a youth of 15 who had enlisted. Gen. Jackson ordered him honorably discharged and restored to his parents. On their way back to their home in Tennessee, the boy was stricken down with measles, which forced them to go into camp at the branch just five miles above Columbus on the Military road, near the present western end of the McCown lane. The boy lay sick for months, and while his mother watched over him under a bush arbor, his father erected a log cabin, cleared a few acres of land, and made a crop of corn. His son recovered and the family decided to settle there permanently.

It should have been noted in its proper order that Thomas Sampson came to this place in the summer of 1817, finding Spirus Roach (who lived in a pine log cabin where the Fireproof Warehouse now stands) the only white male inhabitant at the time.

Judge Sampson came out as a Pioneer to find a location for himself and his father-in-law, Esq. Silas McBee, who was to follow him the ensuing fall. He brought with him two negro men and after, building his cabin on the lot decided to build a small Keel-boat, which he and the negroes took down the river to Mobile, and brought it back loaded with family supplies and a small cargo of salt, for sale when purchasers came. He deposited his salt in a little cabin which he built after his return from Mobile and which stood at the present junction of Main and Franklin Streets. In this cabin Judge Sampson sold Groceries until 1819. He then, with his family moved to the country and settled on the place now known as the Capt. William Nelson place; cleared a field and made one crop, intending that fall, to enter the land regularly at the Land Office which was then at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

On application he found that his land had been entered by another party, whereby the improvements were lost to him. He then bought the place yet known as the Sampson place, 12 miles from Columbus on the Military Road, on which then lived _____ Cooper, (from whom the creek took its name) and also Ira L. Wheat.

Judge Sampson paid both Cooper and Wheat, six dollars per acre for their land - then considered an exorbitant price. He continued to reside on this place until his death. He was the Probate Judge of Lowndes County from its infancy to its adult age.

Esquire Silas McBee emigrated from Christian County Kentucky and settled October 1817, on the East side of Luxapalila, near the mouth of the creek which now bears his name.

He bought ten bushels of seed-corn from Mr. Mhoon, before mentioned, for which he paid fifty Spanish minted dollars, which corn was the last he ever bought, being thereafter "always lucky to corn."

Numerous descendants of Esq. McBee yet live in this State and Alabama near by. His four daughters were married, respectively, to Thomas Sampson, Bartlett Sims, Thomas H. Williams and T. M. Tucker.

Uncle Jo. Perkins settled one mile West of Judge Sampson, on the place now owned by Rev. Thomas H. Woods. Uncle Jo had a horse-mill to which patrons came fifty miles for meal.

Titus Howard settled on the place now owned by Genl. Blewett, and known as "The Oaks."

Elihu Sanders, an Uncle of our Cas. Sanders, lived at what is now known as the Bexley place.

The Hughsons lived then where Zach Duncan now lives.

Coleman Miner, then lived at the bunch of Mulberries in Thomas A. Gray's field, on the South side of the road.

James T. Barnett, (Beat Constable) then lived at the McCown place.

Mhoon, this side, already mentioned.

Ovid P. Brown Esq., well known and kindly remembered by our old citizens, then lived at the present East end of the Gupton lane, on the south side of the road.

Old Mr. Davis, Aunt Letha Thompson's father, lived on the West bank of Black Creek opposite Scott Gaston's.

Joseph Thompson then lived at the 4 mile post, and Uncle Billy McWilliams about 200 yards this side.

Hugh M. Rogers, at what is now known as the Darnell place, two miles from town.

Uncle Billy Ringo lived at, and kept the Buttahatchie ferry now owned by Dr. Hutchinson.

William Coor then lived at what is known as the Field place on the Hamilton Road.

Uncle Johnny Morris, the renowned wolf-hunter, lived at the Sulphur Spring where Aunt Eda Dill, his daughter afterwards lived and died.

Gabriel Ross, a harelippped man, settled the Glover or Ostrander place.

Hezekiah Lincecum, the father of Dr. Gid, Garland, Grant, Graybill, Reason, Aunt Polly Bryant and the wife of Boone Moore, settled and lived on what is now known as the John Kelley and Frierson places.

Luke Slaughter settled the place known as the Powell place on the Waverly road which then included Champagne Springs.

____ Freeman (who Lawson Willeford affirms was the man who nailed "his hand" to the table and went for a bushel of dollars to bet on winning the game of "seven up," he being 3 to his adversaries 5, but who never returned,) settled Maj. B. G. Hendricks' place.

Uncle Alex Moore settled the place yet called the Alex Moore place. Rev. Felix Wood, Rev. Stephen Tunnell and Asa Flood, all settled as neighbors, in what is known as "The Fork" of Yellow Creek and Luxapalila, and their children still reside on the old places.

Reuben Sanders settled on Luxapalila on what is now known as the Sam Well's place.

Uncle Martin Franks settled what is known as the Hearon or Sykes place, sold it to Bartlett Simms and moved to the Tabernacle neighborhood.

Benj. Nail settled on the branch which divides the places now known as the Bartlett Barry and Frank Henry places.

Henry House, known as the "Sugar Eater" settled on the place now owned by Dr. R. E. Lanier. House would come to town, sit on a white-oak stump near Blair's corner and eat five pounds of brown Sugar, whenever the Sugar was gratuitously furnished him, and declare it was a poor "House that couldn't hold "five little pounds of Sugar."

A man named Shirley settled just West of House on McBee Creek, near the old Kirk Mill site, and was succeeded by Sam G. Wells in 1830.

Martin and Gabriel Franks and Watson and Spencer Atkins, the latter a great fist fighter, all settled high upon McBee's Creek, near the Alabama line.

Willis Greenlee settled the Nickles' shop place,

James Henry just south of him

Wiley M. Pope, stepson of Ezekiel Nash, settled the Mixon or Hawkins place

Stephen McReynolds, the present Shackleford place.

Uncle Jessie Williams, what is yet known as Jessie William's place.

Col. Byrne, the place now owned by Al. Easley and John Reeves.

David Smith, the place now owned by James Bobo.

Silas Cook, the place now owned by M. Odeneal. esq.

Old Mr. Conrad Hackleman, Grandfather to John Eubanks, the Barksdale place, now owned by Mrs. Armstrong.

Frank Prince settled the place now owned by A. B. Sturdivant.

Ephriam Leech settled the place he now lives on, and has made near sixty crops thereon.

So with Ben Houghson who settled his present.

A man named Lawson settled the place now owned by Reuben H. Snell.

Israel Woods settled the Uncle Johnny Davis place now owned by A. S Payne.

Thomas Cooper, the father of Uncle Cinci., settled the place now owned by Dr. F. H. Ervin.

Robert Byers the place now owned by Mike McCarty.

Thomas Wilkins and his son-in-law, Lankford, the present Joe Morris place.

John Mullin, Perry's father, on what is now known as the Townsend or Early Hendrick place.

James Boswell, Ira M's father, the place adjoining, known now as the Chandler place.

_____ McCrory, John Deck and _____ Hancock settled around the Blue Springs near the mouth of McCrory Creek.

Tapley Oldham, a blacksmith, and a man named Kincaid settled what was afterward known as the Blewett Bridge place.

Sam I. Willeford the father of Lawson H., settled, and kept a ferry which crossed Luxapalila just above the Ben Taylor fish trap place, which ferry was the only crossing during high water.

Gustavus Hendrick, father of Early, settled in the same neighborhood. Mr. Hendrick was murdered by two of his slaves, George and Squire, who were hanged just below the Howard place, on the Pickensville road, which was the first public execution in Lowndes County.

Saml. Lytle and Cornelius Snyder settled what are now known as the Duncan and Stallings places and built the old mill which stood beyond the Huddleston ford on Luxapalila.

A man named Clark settled on the Bigbee just below the mouth of Luxapalila. The first gin house in the County was there built by William and Charles Dean.

Billy Butler settled the place now owned by E. Thomas;

Isaac Ramsey, the Yost Place;

The widow Larissy, Moses, Nathaniel and William Parker all settled in the swamp west of Isaac Ramsey.

The Ashmores settled around what is now known as the Butler Lake. In those days freshets were unknown.

Maj. W. H. Craven settled what is known as the Fulgham place, the first settlement in the County.

The Gulleys, the famous fighting family, settled about what is known as the Hariston Bend.

The Keatons, Abner and brother settled about what is known as Lindsey's ferry.

The Spruills, and Robert Webb settled in the neighborhood of Concord Church, and Judge Beckwith's and afterward moved to Pickens County Al., on McBee Creek.

The McGowans settled what is known as the Portwood place on the Nashville road.

Enoch Seale settled in Bigbee swamp opposite Union Bluff.

Young, a black smith settled Nashville, then known as Young's bluff.

Jesse Weaver settled the place now owned by Uncle Jo Harvey.

Mr. John Halbert, the father of Rev. William and Joel. J., settled between the Nashville and Pickensville roads on what is known as the Mulatto ridge.

Alexander Copeland, north of him on the same ridge.

Abner Nash settled the Doc. Craddock place, and his son, Alanson Nash, what is now known as the Salter place.

Mr. James Brownlee, the grandfather of Robert B. Ellis settled on the big hill north of Ellis creek on the Pickensville road. His son John Brownlee the place now owned by Robert B Ellis.

Micajah Brooks, the father of Madison M., Thomas B. William C., Matthew and Mrs. Col. Chas. Baskerville, settled what is now known as the Sparks place, in the Old Zion neighborhood.

Danl. Henderson and Alexander McCarter settled on the places now owned by F. T. Weaver.

Robert McVay. Terrill Brooks, Valentine Harmon, John Morris and Elihu Cox each married daughters of Alexander McCarter. Their descendants are prominent citizens.

John McClanahan the grandfather of Col. W. D. Humphries, settled what is known as Eubank's place near Choctaw Springs.

Ezekiel Nash, settled what is known as the Captain Tom Golding place.

Col. Nimrod Davis settled what is now known as the Lem Hughes place. He was the first sheriff of Lowndes County.

Uncle Terrill Brooks settled what is now known as the Caruthers or Lewis Green place. About the time he had pitched his first crop he was stricken down and confined to his bed several weeks, after recovering sufficiently being without means to employ help, even if he could have found it, he did his ploughing by moonlight and his hoeing in daylight, succeeding in the making and saving of a splendid crop. He spent the remainder of his life in this county acquiring affluent circumstances. He died but a short time since near Crawford, much regretted by all who knew him. A man of sterling worth and strict integrity, *peur et sans reproche*, an encouraging example to the nerves of the young men of the present day.

Capt. Edward B. Randolph and Capt. William Neilson, both very prominent and well remembered citizens of this county, enlisted as Regulars in the U. S. Army in 1811, for the term of ten years. Their term of service expired by limitation in 1821 at Pensacola, Florida, where their respective companies were in garrison.

The home of Capt. Randolph was in Culpepper county Virginia, where his kinsmen, so famous and illustrious in American history, then lived, a family whose every member was peculiarly noted for their unblemished purity of character in every phase of life; as statesmen, soldiers and civilians; an honored name throughout our land.

Capt. Nelson was a native of the "Emerald Isle," though this was then Maryland. On their way to their respective homes, they passed through this county, and were so favorably impressed with the country that Capt. Neilson immediately returned with his newly made wife, and settled the place on which he died only a few years since.

His former comrade in arms, Capt. Randolph, followed, accompanied by his bride, in 1825, buying and locating on the place ten miles north of Columbus, well known as the "Goshen Place." He bought this place in two parcels, the slightly improved portion consisting of a few acres of open land and a couple of pole cabins of Daniel Ragsdale, and the other parcel unimproved of _____ Gorham.

That part of our county lying between the present John Darnell and Goshen places was then "veritably a howling wilderness," being made so by innumerable bands of predatory wolves, so numerous that the rearing of stock was an impossibility. The Wolf road took its name from this fact.

The wilderness afterwards became the most populous country neighborhood in Lowndes County filled by small farms on nearly every quarter section for several miles square.

The only thoroughfare leading from Hamilton, then the county seat of Monroe (which included Lowndes) to Columbus, crossed Buttahatchie at Ringo's ferry, on by Goshen, intersecting Military road at "The Oaks" thence to Columbus, a distance of over twenty miles, now accomplished in about fourteen.

Capt. Abert, then a merchant of Columbus, in visiting Capt. Randolph essayed "a nigh cut" through the wilderness, invariably going wrong at a certain point on the route until he placed an old hamper basket in the fork of a tree which was afterward a guide mark for him.

When Mrs. E. B. Randolph, who is now living, reached Goshen, her furniture consisted to two flag-bottom chairs, a plain pine dining table, a bedstead made of oak fence rails, and a new brush broom gathered every day from the thicket hard by. These she says, were the happiest days her life.

Henry and Joshua Greer then lived on what are now known as the Gordon and Malone places, now owned by Ananias Hearon.

Uncle Taylor Nelson then lived at the place now owned by Dr. Dud Hutchinson.

John Hart settled on what is now known as the Capt. Shields place.

Geo Nelson and Mrs. Damerson, brother and sister of Uncle Taylor, settled what is now known as the Sam Ussery place.

Robert Shotwell settled Doc Furness place now owned and occupied by Capt. Geo. W. Vaughan, and on which, in 1825, was built the only framed house between Columbus and Hamilton.

About 1821, Andrew Oliver settled on what is now known as the Oliver field of Gen. Blewett's "Oaks" place. "The Oaks" was purchased of Titus Howard, Andrew Oliver and others by Judge John Perkins, who afterward so beautifully and substantially improved it.

In the early settlement of our county, Judge Perkins, on an annual trip with his family to Baltimore, Maryland, from Natchez, came by way of Columbus. His

son (Hon. John Perkins, of Louisiana) then a mere lad received a serious injury in falling from the carriage while leaning out to discover what older persons of the party meant by remarking that they were then in the Indian Nation, (on Pytchlin [Pitchlynn] Prairie.)

The hurt kept the lad confined for several weeks at the Rodgers stand, two miles from Columbus on the Military Road, and during the leisure occasioned thereby Judge Perkins canvassed the county in his rambles and became so pleased with "The Oaks" that he bought the property for a Summer resort; making contracts with Simon Bexley and Abraham Botters make improvements there-on.

Judge Perkins kept these men employed in making improvements for years, and besides paying them the wages agreed upon, gave each of them a farm. To Bexley he gave what is now known as the Bexley Well Place now owned by Sylvester C. Munger. To Capt. Botters, he gave the place the Shinn Spring Road, on which his widow now resides.

Uncle Jacob Braton settled the place nine miles above Columbus now known as the John B. Kidd place.

Old Mr. Jimmy Vaughn, grandfather of G. W. Vaughn, settled the place near Vaughn's Church, where David John Ussery now lives.

Uncle Johnny Vaughn, the father of Geo. W., settled what is now known as the Alf Perkins place. He owned the first water-mill in all that section of country. It was located on Cooper Creek, near what is now known as the late residence of Dr. R. K. Lea.

Geo. McCown, in 1820, settled the place now owned and occupied by Robert Harris, and well known as the Dr. Owen place.

His son, Johnny McCown, settled the Thomas Kidd place now owned by William S. Harris.

Benj. Hathorn settled the place now owned and occupied by Mrs. Anderson.

Robert Hawkins settled the place on the Seed-tick road known as the Wiggins place. He sold it and settled the place on Yellow Creek, now known as Bobby Swansey's.

Robert Hawkins put up the first mill on the site known by all Columbus fishermen as Kidd's Yellow Creek mill.

Iley Wheat built some improvements on Glory Hill, above Judge Sampson's place and sold it to Abraham Groves, the father of E. M. Groves, for a pony.

Thomas Young settled what is known as the Wash Wells place.

John Kyle settled the place now owned by Jas B. Morris.

Uncle Tommy Smith, so highly esteemed by all who know him, now the oldest man in county, settled the place on which he at present lives.

___ Cooper, who was the father in-law of Uncle Tommy, settled just beyond him, on what is known as the State Line place.

David Orr settled the Jimmy Wood and James Dowdle places.

John Pyron settled the Johnny Wood place - his son, Rich Pyron, the place now owned by Gid. B. White.

Thomas Powers settled where E. M. Groove's farm now is.

Thomas Polk settled what is now known as the Sam Swansey farm.

John Jones settled the present Perkinson place.

The land on which the village of Caledonia is situated was entered by Uncle Billy Gallagher, afterward settled on and improved by Capt. Robert Dowdle.

The first store was kept by Geo. Fry, who afterward became the senior member of the firm of Fry, Bliss & Co. of Mobile Ala.

It was Mr. Fry who brought to Caledonia the seed of the famous Rodden Apple.

Robert Dowdle, William G. Wright and Thomas Wiggins, established the Caledonia bank--a bank of issue.

Elbethel (Primitive Baptist) was the first church built. It was organized by Rev. Henry Petty and others at Old Hamilton in 1823.

Unity Church (Presbyterian,) was built of hewn logs near where the presents Unity now stands, by a man named _____ Furr, who was paid by neighborhood contributors.

Caledonia and its surrounding neighborhood is proverbially distinguished for its sober, upright and law-abiding citizens.

The place near Caledonia now owned and occupied by Uncle Andy Dowdle, was settled by Henry Greer, better known as Squire Greer.

When this country was new and skilled workmen were scarce, the "Squire" found himself in need of a Broad-axe. The nearest edge tool maker was John Tucker who then lived near Quincy, in Monroe County.

The "Squire" made a wooden pattern of the kind of ax he desired and took it to "Tucker, the smith," and bade Tucker follow the pattern exact, otherwise he would not pay for it.

When the Squire went for his axe, he objected to paying for it, not that the pattern was unfaithfully copied, but because the axe was solid at the poll, and without an eye. He inquired of Tucker how he expected him to use a broad-axe without a handle.

Tucker replied that the same was a serious question in his mind when he first noticed the "pattern" had no eye in it, but that he had carried out the rigid order, and made it like "the pattern," and he must take it.

The final result was that Tucker made another axe which Greer could utilize, but demanded pay for both, which he received.

Andrew Egger, Sr. settled the place at present occupied by Billy Egger.

Rev. Thomas Archibald settled the place now known as the Esquire John Egger place.

Giles McElroy, (a famous bear hunter) the grandfather of our Willeford McElroy, settled the place now owned by Mrs. Martha E. Kennon.

In those days, bear were in Buttahatchie bottom as abundant as cattle and hogs are now. The whole country was a vast cane-brake. The citizens were forced to keep their calves and pigs confined in close pens near their dwellings, and with that precaution could raise but few.

Mr. McElroy kept a pack of savage cur dogs, and the dog that failed to "wade in" when Bruin was brought to bay, never saw home again. But if he fought, his master, who was a powerful man, dispatched the bear with his knife and carried his wounded dog home in his arms.

In 1820, John Egger, known as 'Shot-gun John', settled the place that Aunt Savilla Egger now lives on.

Shot-gun John held crab-grass then in about the same favor that the people of the present day do cocoa or nut grass. It is said of him, that he was accustomed to pick the grass seed from the teeth of his horse, and to wash the horse's feet before reaching home, when he had reason to believe he had fed on it or had been where it existed.

William Egger, Sr., the father of Uncle Billy Egger who died a short time since, settled the place that Dexter Andy Egger now lives on.

Jerry Clark, whom all who were members of Col. Byrns' wooden gun company, will remember, settled on what is now known as the Elisha Lawrence place.

Alex McGahey Sr. settled the place familiarly known as the Dan Seale place, and sold it to Lemuel N. Hatch. It was there that our well known townsman, Marcellus W. Hatch was born--Geo. Reid now owns the place.

William Cockerham Sr. the Grandfather of J. W. McElroy, James Williams, and Billy Shaw settled the county line place now owned by Claib Morgan.

James Cockerham settled the place just south of it now owned by Mrs. Hendry Cockerham. James Cockerham was killed soon after by a stroke of lightning at Elbethel church, while removing the saddle from his horse. Esq. John Egger and William Pope were stricken down by the same flash and severely stunned recovering with marks on their bodies but of which Cockerham had none, though killed outright.

Old Uncle Johnny Williams settled the place at present owned by Dr. James Thomas. Uncle Johnny was known to older citizens, as the "out-talkingest" man in this or any other county. He could say more in a given length of time, than any other two men or women, and then complain that he hadn't finished his say.

Sandy Mayo settled the place just this side of uncle Johnny's on the Wolf road, at present the residence of Dr. Thomas.

George Givens settled, and erected the first mill on what is known as the Mayo mill place, on Buttahatchie.

Uncle Billy Egger (who died but short time since) settled what is known as Barrentine's Webb place.

Jacob Swofford settled the Watts place now owned and occupied by Henry Barrentine. It is said that Jake Swofford introduced Crab Grass into this country, having brought the seed from Tennessee.

Ezekiel Hendricks, Sr., settled the place that uncle Billy Egger's family lives on.

_____ Swofford, a brother of Jake, settled the place now owned and occupied by Mr. James Egger, Sr.

Uncle Billy Gallagher settled what is now known as the Dr. Lawrence farm.

William G. Wright, Robert Murphy and his son-in-law, Andy Dowdle, built the first mill, where Shedd & Nickles mill now stands.

Hugh S. Egger, Sr., settled the place now known as Aunt Becky Egger's

Old granny Rodden with her son James and two daughters were probably the first settlers of the Caledonia neighborhood. They settled the old place adjoining the farm of Aunt Becky Egger.

Granny Rodden invariably wore a man's shirt and hat, and was held in awe by all the youngsters of her day. A threat to hand them over to Granny Rodden never failed to induce ready obedience.

Mrs. Gaston, the mother of Scott, J. M., and J. T. Gaston, settled the place now owned by James Conn.

Amzie Robinson, who married a Choctaw Indian, and afterward immigrated with her tribe to the Indian Nation, settled the place now owned and occupied by Elzy D. Minter, our Surveyor.

John Caston settled the present Dr. Malloy place.

Silas Randle, Sr. settled the Cephas Randle place.

Newton Kolb settled near the famous Kolb Spring, on which place he now resides.

Silas Kolb, the father of Newton and Milton, settled the place now owned by William D. Stephenson.

Milton Kolb settled the place on which he yet resides.

In 1818, David Alsop settled the place on which Andrew Stephenson lives.

John Stephenson, the father of Robt Abe, and Dan, settled the place on which their mother now lives.

Thomas Middleton settled what was afterward known as the Billy Wells place, now owned by Abe Stevenson. Uncle Billy Wells settled the place on which Isaac Hearon now lives.

Uncle Billy Verner, in the fall of 1817, settled the place on which Ed. Hutchinson now lives.

James Sullivan, the brother-in-law of Maj. Richard Barry, settled what is now know as the Sam Shields farm and sold it to Anthony Gullup Sr.

William Feemster settled the place now owned by Esq. Jasper Feemster. Cephas Feemster settled the place now owned by Miss Sallie Feemster. _____ Love settled that place now owned by Luther Love.

Nearly all of the Caledonia neighborhood mentioned was preempted by the settlers named, prior to the land sales at Tuskalooza, whereby several were entered out.

The Treaty between the United States, represented by Generals Coffee and Eaton, and the tribe of Choctaw Indians represented by Maj. John W. Pitchlynn, Pushmataha and other Choctaw chiefs; known as the Dancing Rabbit transpired during the winter of 1830-31.

By this treaty the tribe, except the chief, known as "White Oak", and his clan, began to be removed west of the Mississippi in the fall of 1831. White Oak declined to enter into the treaty, deciding to remain in Mississippi. The Kemper, Neshoba and Scott County Indians are of his tribe or clan.

One of the results of this Dancing Rabbit treaty, coupled with the purchase, so increased the area of Monroe County, that all south of Buttahatchie soon became Lowndes county and white emigrants began to settle Lowndes west of the Tombigbee.

A man named _____ Wilson, who was the father-in-law of Capt. John Blundell, settled just west of where Bea Winters now lives.

_____ Lumpkin settled Westport which was afterwards laid off in town lots. That portion of our prairie country limited by Tibbee creek north, Tombigbee River on the east, our present Branch railroad on the south and a line running north to the mouth of Catalpa on the west was, under the terms of the treaty, donated by the United States Government to Maj. John W. Pitchlynn and his descendants. This territory then included the fine plantations now owned by the Canfields, Jas W. Prowell, Dr. Ryland, William S. Cox, Est. of A. J. Cox, Sam and Dave McClary, R. W. Gibson, W. H. Williams, R. E. Moore, J. P. Billups, John B. Mallard, Col. W. D. Humphries and F. M. Leigh.

Maj. Pitchlynn settled on Col. W. D. Humphries' Dr. Topp place. His son-in-law, Sam Garland, settled on the McLaren place.

[This account, published in several installments in the Columbus Index in 1872, was found pasted in Lizzie Blair's Scrapbook. The scrapbook was given to the Stephen D. Lee Museum. A photocopy of the scrapbook is located in the Local History Room of the Columbus Public Library.]