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The Huntsville Historical Review

Volume 11 January—April, 1981 Numbers 1 & 2

EDITOR
HENRY S. MARKS

PUBLISHED BY
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HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN PANNICK, a resident of Huntsville for several years, majored in history at the University of Scranton. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and is the vice-president of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table.

BILL STUBNO, received his master degree in history from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1980. He is currently developing histories of several Madison County residences for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.



THE OLD ALLISON HOMESTEAD
ON WINCHESTER PIKE

by

Bill Stubno

Considered by local inhabitants as just another Victorian house on Winchester Road, the old Allison place is actually a Federal Period home, built in the early 19th century. Basically, it is a two-story structure with brick chimneys at both ends. Especially evident of The Federal Period style are the fireplace mantels with delicate, feminine molding. The entrance to the house, however, is not typical of the era due to the hall-and-parlor plan, although in some instances, such a combination was utilized in Madison County in the early 19th century. The attic of the home reveals further evidence of an early date, for much of the lumber is pit-sawn, while the rafters are joined at the ridge with large wooden pegs.

The Allison home was specifically located in the northeast quarter of section 3, township 3, range 1-east, a 160 acre tract of land entered by Caleb Owen on September 18, 1809, at the Nashville Land Office. Other purchasers of the section were Jacob Johnston in 1812, and Stephen Pond and Uriah Bass, Sr., the following year.¹ In 1813, Owen migrated to Madison County and lived on his quarter section of land, assessed by the Mississippi Territory in 1815 as being worth \$480.00.² Moving to Tuscaloosa in 1818, he sold his real estate to Uriah Bass, Sr., without the recording of a deed.³ Bass, who died on May 30, 1819, willed the tract, then known only as "Owen's land adjoining Johnston's", to his son, Richard, who held title to it until his death in 1834. Leaving no wife or children, Bass left instructions in a will directing John R. B. Eldridge, executor, to sell all real property.⁴ Subsequently, Eldridge sold the northeast quarter of section 3 at auction. Uriah Bass, Jr., brother of the decedent, bought the 160 acres, and in March 1836 requested Eldridge to issue

deeds to John Allison, Corbin Lewis, and Murphy Douglas, an indication that Richard Bass had intended, in his lifetime, to formally convey the acreage to the named individuals.⁵

With the completion of the land survey, Douglas received the northeast and southeast quarters of the quarter section (almost 80 acres) for \$1,082.00, while Lewis obtained a part of the southeast quarter of the same area (34 acres), the price of which was \$380.00. Allison, on the other hand, purchased a little more than 43 acres, roughly the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter, for \$527.35.⁶ It was on this land that John Allison built his home, probably around 1823. (See explanatory footnote).⁷

Born in Londonderry, Ireland in 1769, Allison migrated to New Castle, Delaware, in 1797. Around 1810, he settled in Madison County, then part of the Mississippi Territory, and married Miss Duanna Hewlett of Richmond, Virginia.⁸ In 1811, Allison entered the southeast quarter of section 34, township 2, range 1-east, although actual title was placed in the name of his oldest daughter, America M. Allison, born the same year.⁹ Another daughter, Harriet, was born in 1812.¹⁰ Pamelia, a third child, was added to the Allison household between the years 1815 and 1820.¹¹

Due perhaps to a growing family and farm, Allison decided in the early 1820's not only to increase his acreage, but also to build a more spacious home. As mentioned earlier, he built the new dwelling around 1823 on a 43 acre plot in section 3, adjoining his original property. This land contained a natural water source, one credible explanation as to why he built the home there. Allison, however, did not officially own any land at this time, for his acreage in section 34 was still in his daughter's name.¹² In 1824, this property was conveyed to him by Thomas Lyle, who acquired it the same year through marriage to Allison's daughter, America.¹³



Shortly after the birth of his youngest daughter, Emily, in 1824, John Allison bought additional land, essentially the northeast quarter of section 34, township 2, range 1-east, from William Jones, a wealthy planter. For a time, this tract was deeded in trust to William E. Johnson, a third party, because Allison owed money to the estate of William Jones, who died in 1832. This debt was later satisfied.¹⁴

In 1834, Allison deeded two acres of his land in section 34 to the Bethlehem Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to whose membership he belonged.¹⁵

In 1836, Allison received title to the 43 acres in section 3, mentioned earlier, and thus possessed a farm of about 361 acres.¹⁶ Five years later, in the summer of 1841, the old Irish immigrant died.¹⁷

Due to the fact that the Allison property could not be divided fairly among the heirs, the land was sold at auction in 1846 by order of the Orphan's Court. Fortunately, the widow, Duanna Allison, became the highest bidder for the low price of \$700.00, due in three installments.¹⁸

Besides land, some of the personal property of the Allison estate included seven Windsor chairs, a dining table, kitchen and bedroom furniture, curtains, carpets, silverware, farm equipment, 17 slaves, and other miscellaneous items. These items, worth almost \$11,000.00 revealed the type of life style that Allison had lived--the life of a gentleman farmer.¹⁹

Tragedy again beset the Allison household in 1848 upon the death of Mrs. Allison's daughter, Harriet, wife of Eldred W. Williams. Consequently, Mrs. Allison cared for her daughter's children, Louisa, Aurina, and Duanna, who married Abner B. Truitt in 1863.²⁰ In 1864, Mrs. Duanna Allison conveyed the Allison home to her granddaughter, Duanna Truitt, on the condition that

Mrs. Allison would retain "possession and control of all the houses, stables, yard, well, and garden during her . . . lifetime."²¹ Duanna Allison died 18 years later at the age of 90, on September 23, 1877.²²

Maintaining the Allison home and farm, left to his wife Duanna, Abner Truitt was probably accustomed to farm life. Born in 1830 in Lauderdale County, Alabama, he was the son of John and Harriet Ann Truitt. Besides his wife, he had two children, Lillian and Eldred Allison Truitt, the latter of whom graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee.²³

Known by his contemporaries as "a young gentleman of brilliant attainments", Dr. Eldred Truitt was killed by a shotgun blast on a cold January morning in 1887.²⁴ The Negro offender, Allen Weeden, shot Truitt in the head and face, and the seriously wounded man died within the hour. The tragedy, a result of a dispute between the two men over a mule, undoubtedly caused considerable heartache for Truitt's parents who had already lost a younger child less than a month earlier. Truitt was subsequently buried in the family cemetery near the house.²⁵

After the turn of the century, Duanna Truitt, preceded in death by her husband in 1903, willed the Allison home and land to her only daughter, Lillian, the wife of Lucien Hewlett.²⁶

A native of Jackson County, Alabama, Lucien Hewlett was a manager of the Florida and Tennessee office of the F. and O. Cedar Company, a lumber concern. Evidently, the Hewlett's traveled extensively and were financially secure, for they owned a number of homes, one being in Florida.²⁷ Upon the death of Mrs. Hewlett in 1934 at her Crystal River, Florida home, the Allison place became the property of her daughter, Virginia.²⁸ When Virginia passed away in 1943, the real estate fell into the hands of her husband and sole heir, Ieland



C. Poole.²⁹ After the war, Poole sold the property to Dudley S. Powell.³⁰

In 1950, Powell conveyed title to the Allison home to Arthur E. Millsaps.³¹ In turn, Millsaps sold it in 1957 to Robert L. Bradford who divided the property into various tracts known as Blue Springs Subdivision. In 1959, he sold tract 6, 1.24 acres containing the Allison home, to Robert G. Cope.³²

In the 1960's, the old Allison place was owned by various individuals, including Ralph Dean, and later Carl D. Lucas, who held the property for thirteen years.³³ On February 1, 1980, Lucas sold the residence to Charles E. Bull, a retired education and training specialist from USAMMCS, Restone Arsenal.³⁴

Today, the old Allison home has been completely restored by Mr. and Mrs. Bull. Under the house, concrete block piles and heavy timber supports have been put in place. Inside, new plumbing and wiring, carpeting, woodwork restoration, repainting and wall coverings in Plymouth Colony and Old Williamsburg patterns of wallpaper restore the stately elegance of the Federal period of architecture. Moreover, the yard and the grounds around the cemetery, so long hidden from view, have been cleared of brush and undergrowth. A huge hackberry tree, at least a hundred years old, shades the quiet area that is the family cemetery. Now, as one stands before the grave of one of Madison County's early settlers, he reads in silent reverie the words engraved in stone:

"John Allison ...an honest man and a Christian."³⁵

FOOTNOTES

¹ Government Tract Book, p. 145, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

² Caleb Owen, of Welch ancestry, was originally from Camden, South Carolina. He lived for a short time in Tuscaloosa, and then moved to Jefferson and Pickens County, Alabama. At the time of his death in 1842, he lived in Tipton County, Tennessee. James E. Saunders, Early Settlers of Alabama (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969), p. 50; Mrs. Roy J. Cochran and Mrs. Richard H. Gilliam, "Taxpayers of Madison County, Alabama), Mississippi Territory from 1810-1815 Tax Lists", Valley Leaves 4 (June 1970): 4; Mississippi Territory Tax Rolls (Wooster, Ohio: Micro Photo Division, Bell and Howell Company, Roll number 300).

³ Saunders, Settlers, p. 50.

⁴ "Records of Wills, Inventories, and other Returns of Executors, Administrators, and Guardians, Commencing 1st day of January 1818, Ending 10th day of January 1820", p. 144, Alabama State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama; Dorothy Scoot Johnson, Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama Vol. II. (Huntsville, Alabama: Johnson Historical Publication, 1978) p. 229; Probate Record Book 6, p. 696, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

⁵ Deed Book P, pp. 676-677, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

⁶ Field Notes 1818-1853, p. 177-178 and Deed Book P, pp. 674-677, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

⁷ According to a genealogy written in 1911 by Mrs. Duanna Truitt, the Allison home was built roughly between the birth dates of John Allison's daughters, Pamelia and Emily; for Emily, the youngest, was the only child "born at the old Allison homestead." Specifically, Pamelia was born between 1815-1820 and Emily in 1824. Richard Bass, moreover, was the individual who probably gave John Allison permission to build a home in section 8, for it was a common practice at the

time to allow a person to build on a property that did not as yet legally belong to him. Thus, one could conclude from the above information that the Allison home was constructed between 1819 and 1824 or circa 1823.

(NOTE: Virginia Allison Hewlett stated in 1937 that the Allison home was built around 1812. She perhaps arrived at that date because her grandmother, Duanna Truitt, stated in 1911 that the home had "been in the family for a century." She was, in all probability, just referring to the house in general terms. It appears that Mrs. Hewlett added the years between 1911 and 1937 to the 100 years ("... a century"), and arrived at the figure of 125 years more or less. Furthermore, the information provided by Mrs. Duanna Truitt, granddaughter of Duanna Allison, was obtained first-hand from Duanna Allison because she was raised by her). Mrs. Duanna Trewitt (or Truitt), "The Ancestors of Little Virginia Allison Hewlett Written by her Grandmother July 10, 1911" in Alabama Records Vol. 53, eds., Kathleen Paul Jones and Pauline Jones Gandreed, New Market and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1938, pp. 77-79; Census of 1830, Madison County, Alabama, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives, Roll 4, 1943); "Emily Allison", Huntsville, Alabama, The Democrat, 6 March, 1841.

⁸ Circuit Court, Minute Book 23, (1834-1835), p. 144, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama: Trewitt, "Ancestors", p. 77.

⁹ Census of 1850, Morgan County, Alabama (Washington, D. C.: National Archives, M432, 1964), p. 218; Tract Book, p. 144.

¹⁰ Trewitt, "Ancestors", p. 77.

¹¹ Census of 1830, Madison County roll 4.

¹² Another individual by the name of John Allison lived in Madison County at the time. He was married to Bryant Cobb's sister. Thomas J. Taylor, "Later History of Madison County", Valley Leave, Special Edition

(December 1969): 82.

13 Deed Book I-J, p. 515 and Marriage Book 3, p. 303, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

14 The northeast quarter of section 32 was first entered by John Brahan in 1814. He sold it to John J. Winston in 1822. Winston conveyed it to William Jones the same year. Tract Book p. 144, Deed Book H, pp. 231-232, 438, Probate Record Book 6, pp. 131-133, Probate Case 146, and Deed Book O, pp. 406-407, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama; "Emily Allison", The Democrat.

15 Deed Book P, p. 136, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

16 Ibid., pp. 676-677.

17 Johnson, Cemeteries, p. 250.

18 Probate Record Book 13, p. 25, and Deed Book W, page 177, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

19 Probate Record Book 10, pp. 13-14, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

20 Trewitt, "Ancestors", pp. 77-78; Marriage Book 4-B, p. 530, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama; Pauline Jones Gandreed and Kathleen Paul Jones, eds., "Census of 1850, Madison County, Alabama", 1955, p. 65 (typewritten).

21 Deed Book E E, pp. 16-18, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

22 Johnson, Cemeteries, p. 250.

23 Census of 1880, Madison County, Alabama (Washington D.C.: Bureau of the Census, T 9, Roll 22); Trewitt,

"Ancestors", pp. 77-78.

24 "Sad Death of Mr. Allie Truitt at His Father's Farm", The Huntsville Weekly Mercury, 2 February 1887, p. 2; Register of Death 1881-1894, pp. 409-410, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

25 Johnson, Cemeteries, p. 250; "Death", Weekly Mercury, p. 2.

26 Will Book 4, p. 140, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

27 "Lucien Hewlett Dies In Florida", The Huntsville Times, 9 February 1941, p. 11; "Mrs. Lucien Hewlett Succumbs in Florida", The Huntsville Times, 11 October 1934, p. 1; "Mrs. Hewlett's Rite Are Held", The Huntsville Times, 12 October 1934, p. 5.

28 Will of Lillian Hewlett, Probate Case 8458, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

29 Will Book 6, p. 224, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

30 Deed Book 182, p. 257, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

31 Deed Book 197, p. 604, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

32 Deed Book 253, p. 361 and Deed Book 276, p. 213, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

33 Deed Book 327, p. 802 and Deed Book 400, p. 486, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

34 Huntsville City Directory (Richmond, VA.: R. L. Polk & Co., 1977), p. 77; Interview with Charles

E. Bull, owner of the Allison-Hewlett House, Huntsville, Alabama, July 1980; Deed Book 575, p. 804, Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

35 The last word of this inscription (Christian) is called "illegible" in Johnson's Cemeteries; however, this writer, after a careful examination of the stone inscription, makes out the letters to spell Christian.

A TRAGEDY OF THE CIVIL WAR:
LIEUT. HENRY STOKES FIGURES
4TH ALABAMA ADJUTANT 48TH ALABAMA

Edited by John Pannick

The War Between the States (1861-1865) called many of Huntsville's own to an early demise. Among them was the son of one of Huntsville's most prominent families, Henry Stokes Figures. Born to William and Harriet Stokes Figures on January 9, 1844, Henry was raised in the Figures Home which still stands on Randolph Street. His father had come to Huntsville to live with his uncle when he was twelve years old. He first served as an apprentice on his uncle's newspaper, the Southern Advocate. Later he purchased the paper (known as the Huntsville Advocate after the war), remaining as editor until his death. He also served as the mayor of this city both before and after the war and was a state senator during the period of the Confederacy.

Herewith is an original account of the brief life of Henry S. Figures as written by his younger sister, Mattie Figures, who was seven years old at the time of Henry's death. This brief biography was written by her in the 1870's and was included in the Figures papers, which were acquired by Mr. Pannick in July of 1980. The biography is presented verbatim.

LIEUT. HENRY S. FIGURES
ADJUTANT OF 48TH ALA.

Early in January, when Xmastide joys were still warm in the heart, on the ninth 1844, this dear little boy came to gladden the home of his parents, and became at once, the center of their existence. He was baptized Henry Stokes, and was a healthy happy little boy, devoted to his parents.

My earliest glimpse of him, is from an old-fashioned miniature, we have, taken in his first round

jacket and trousers, it represents a dimpled chubby-faced little fellow, with earnest wondering eyes, looking out from a mass of flaxen hair.

The child of christian parents, he was brought up in the Presbyterian Church, and early trained in those religious principles, that speak so eloquently from his letters home, written during the war. He was educated in the schools here, and grew up a dutiful affectionate son, the idol of his parents, especially his Mother, by his little brothers and sisters, Brother Henry was looked up to as something of a demi-God, in their childish eyes, nothing was impossible to him. In appearance, at this time, he was like a slim sapling, with a pair of handsome dark-blue eyes, under straight brows, regular clear-cut features, a face full of that fire, which never wholly leaves the human countenance.

With the first thunder of that war-cloud that was to devastate, and lay in ruin, our fair Southern land, Henry's boyish heart thrilled with indignation, and none were more eager, to serve their country than he was. The consent of his parents being won, he joined the 4th Ala Infantry, with a high heart full of pride and devotion to the Cause. A careful perusal of his letters show this, more than once he says, "If necessary, am willing to die for it." In 1861, yielding to his Mothers persuasion, we find him in Montgomery, working in the War Department. General Walker, at my Fathers request gave him one of the clerkships. Here for a while he was continually giving graphic account of life at the Capital, at that momentous time.

The longing to take active part in service, showed strongly, especially when his own company came down. Later he accompanied the War Department to Richmond VA, and we find Henry delighted with the city, writing with fluent pen, descriptions of how things were. He never failed to attend Church, or say his prayers, he writes my Father, and seems greatly shocked, at seeing some of the soldiers drunk. To quote correctly, "How can they serve their country well with their brains stupified

with intoxicating drink." His duties were well performed and merited the approval of his superiors, but through all was that pleading to join the troops. It became so strong that at last, that he resolved to go, and wrote home for permission, saying he could no longer stand, to sit at his desk, while others were fighting for their lives, it was too cowardly. General Walker, also wrote my Father, advising him to give his consent. Henry decided for himself, and after a plea for forgiveness, for what he termed undutiful, he enlisted at Winchester VA July 1861. At this time he was only eighteen (18) years and six months old. In a letter to his Mother, he speaks of it, also saying to comfort her, I can and will be just as good a boy in the army as out, I never have or will, take any intoxicating liquor the Bible, my Sister sent, I carry in my jacket, and read a little in it every day, I know I may meet death at any moment, and will try and be careful, so dont worry." Henry was a good soldier, popular with his comrades, he was orderly Sergeant in the 4th Alabama Infantry, Laws Brigade, Longstreets Corpe, Hoods Division, afterwards he was Adjutant of the 48th Ala. All too brief that bright young life. He fought in the battles of Yorktown, Frederickburg, Gettysburg, Manasas, Ringold Ga, Chickamauga, was mentioned for bravery at Gettysburg, It was on the gory battle-field of the Wilderness, that my brave young brother lost his life May 5, 1864. I have no remembrance of him at all, but my Father's grief and my Mothers anguish, are as fresh in my mind as though yesterday. Kind hands carried him from the battle-field, and laid him to rest, in an orchard under an apple-tree, in full bloom, which cast its rosy petals over his head, as if in sorrow for the early dead. My Mother went to Virginia to see him, but failed, his regiment being off in the mountains, she never saw him again in this life. Every letter of his breathed a deep longing to see them all at home, to come back once more. When the long looked for furlough was granted, Federals were in possession of Huntsville and he could only come as far as the river, but not cross it. I have often tried to realize, what must have been his feelings, so

close to all that were dearest and nearest, and yet he might not see them, what an irony of fate. An incident of this tiny little child that I was, is stamped indelibly upon my brain. Gen. John Logan was stationed in Huntsville at this time, occupying Mr Sam Moore's handsome residence on Adam's Avenue. My Mother in her despair, at my Brothers not being allowed to come within the Federal lines, resolved to make a personal appeal, herself, to General Logan, my Father, with influence to aid him, having failed, gave his consent, it was a last resort. After much thought it was decided, that my Mother should go alone, taking with her, one of the smaller children. I was the one selected, a little girl being deemed best. I was carefully cautioned as to my behavior, for the spirit against the Yankees, was strong in my little breast, to my childish eyes, they (sentence incomplete). As we walked up the broad graveled walk, I remember that my Mother held my hand very tightly. We were shown immediately into the large parlor. The General was seated in an easy chair at a table facing the window, from whence he could overlook the street, he saw us come in and doubtless drew his own conclusions. I see it all so plainly, the heavy brutal-looking man, with thick black hair, worn rather long, small dark sinister eyes, a repellent face at best, in my young eyes, the embodiment of cruelty, which proved correct. He received us politely, asked me my name and shook hands with him with great reluctance. My Mother made known her errand in an agitated voice, he refused pointblank, and as she persisted, the fiend in him, leaped to the surface, and he threatened her if she attempted to go he would send his soldiers and arrest her and my brother, and jail them both. At this I lost my fear and blazed out what big Brother Henry would do, my Mother quickly put her hand over my mouth, or there is no telling what I would have said. Years after at a reception I heard of his death, and I was not sorry. The brilliant scene around me faded away and for the moment I saw and heard my Mother pleading to see her boy. I felt that act of fiendish cruelty had met its reward.

In April 1867 the remains of Lieut. Henry S. Figures were taken to Huntsville and interred.

"Soldier sleep, thy warfare oer,
Dream of battled fields no more."

M. F. A.

He was Sergeant in the 4 Ala Infantry, Laws Brigade, Longstreet Corps, Hoods Division. Afterward he was Adjutant of 48th Ala., Sheffield was his Colonel.

BOOK REVIEWS

SLAVES NO MORE, Letters from Liberia 1833-1869, edited by Bill I. Wiley, Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1980, 302 pp., \$21.50.

This is Wiley's last work and this alone makes the book important. Wiley, who died in April, 1980, is one of the most important authors of Southern history, having written such works as "The Life of Johnny Reb," and "The Life of Billy Yank." Here Wiley introduces and edits letters from Liberia written to the states by former slaves here. The introductions are excellent and the letters both fascinating and poignant.

Between 1820 and 1861, more than 12,000 American Blacks emigrated to Liberia, and their problems are quite evident in these letters.

Editor



HALLIE FARMER: Crusader For Legislative Reform In Alabama, by Carolyn Hinshaw Edwards, The Strode Publishers, Inc., 1979, 102 pp., \$7.95.

There are five reasons why I am recommending this book to you as a "must" acquisition. The author was born in Huntsville and resides here. She wrote this book as her master's thesis under the direction of Dr. Frances Roberts, our own past president. The local chapter of the American Association of University Professors sponsored the publication of the book. Our local publisher, The Strode Publishers, Inc., published it. Last, but not least, it is a very good biography of an important figure in Alabama history who was one of the first three inductees into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame.

In the author's own words:

"Hallie Farmer, professor at Alabama College (Montevallo) 1927-1956 and author of The Legislative Process in Alabama, published in 1949, crusaded for reform of Alabama politics in the 1940's and early 1950's. She worked for legislative reform, and she influenced women's groups to inspire them to be politically aware and active. She held state and national office in the American Association of University Women and state offices in the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She helped found and was president of the Joint Legislative Council, an organization which coordinated the efforts of sixteen women's groups as they studied and attempted to affect legislation at the state level.

Hallie Farmer's efforts for women bridged the period of the Suffragette Movement, ending in 1920, and the Women's Liberation Movement of the 1960's."

Thus, she became "the champion of Alabama's politically minded women," partly by informing, by prodding, and by making such statements as there was "too much dealing in platitudes and pussyfooting around" on the part of women in the states.

Editor



SOLDIERS OF LIGHT, AND LOVE, by Jacqueline Jones, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980, 208 pp., \$17.50.

An excellent book, by a very perceptive author, that recounts the attempts of northern missionary groups to provide education for the newly freed slaves in Georgia after the Civil War. Jones, assistant professor of American History at Wellesley College, focuses on the role of the AMA (American Missionary Association) in these efforts. Unfortunately, the AMA, for a number of reasons, refused to aid Black commitment to education at the local level. Not a pretty picture, instead a sordid one, but one that has to be understood to have a good understanding of the Reconstitution period. Highly recommended.

Editor



WILLIAM ROBINSON LEIGH: WESTERN ARTIST, by D. Duane Cummins, University of Oklahoma Press, 224 pp., \$19.95.

The life and works of Western artist William Robinson Leigh, who focused his work on the unspoiled culture of the Southwest, are discussed in a new book published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Leigh was born in West Virginia in 1866 to parents who had lost nearly everything in the Civil War. He trained at the Royal Academy in Munich, Germany, and for many years made his living doing illustrations for such magazines as Scribner's and McClure's.

As he grew older, he began painting subjects in the unspoiled culture of America's Southwest, focusing on the Indian who often appears alone in Leigh's art. He emphasized the Indian's individualism and closeness to nature.

Until the decade before his death, Leigh struggled as an artist. In his old age he wrote, "We are all like marbles--big, medium, or little; and Fate . . . sets us rolling."

Finally, after World War II, Americans re-examined their values in the face of the atomic age and Leigh's work met with newfound appreciation. Art critics and newspapers praised him, calling him the "last of the great Russell-Remington-Leigh triumvirate."

Thirty color plates and 70 black and white illustrations are included in the book as a representative sample of Leigh's lifetime of work.

Editor

COMPARATIVE FRONTIERS: A PROPOSAL FOR STUDYING THE AMERICAN WEST, by Jerome O. Steffen, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980, 116 pp., \$12.95.

This book is an attempt to generate a larger approach to the study of western history. It is both highly speculative and based on selective documentation. The main focus is on comparative American frontier change and continuity and the historical processes involved in producing each of the conditions. Steffen considers four American frontiers: the trans-Appalachian Agricultural Frontier; the Fur-trading Frontier; the Ranching Frontier; and the Mining Frontier. The author states that the area of which we are a part was the only frontier that was insular in American historical development, because the number of interacting links between it and the main body of American civilization were few in number. This is a good book to read and mull over, for it places our region within the very widest bounds of frontier development; providing us with an overview of our own cultural heritage.

Editor



NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOUTHERN LITERATURE, by J. V. Ridgely, The University Press of Kentucky, 1980, 123 pp., \$9.95.

This is an excellent overview of the role of Southern literature in Southern life in the 1800's that merits a wide audience. The sections on historical romance and "local color" are exceptionally good. Although there is nothing really new presented here, this phase of Southern life as viewed by a member of the English faculty of Columbia University should be particularly beneficial to historians, as they peruse a subject as seen by another discipline. Graduate students in English and in Southern United States history would do well to read this book before they take their examinations. So would history faculty before they develop their lectures, especially those teaching survey courses.

Editor



MORE BURS UNDER THE SADDLE, Books and Histories of the West, by Ramon, University of Oklahoma Press, 1979, \$14.95.

This is a great book for anyone who has never written a book and has to worry that someone will find mistakes in it--glaring mistakes that are forever in print, right there to be found and exposed to everybody in the world. Seriously, the author is a long-time serious historian of the old west and could not stand all the mistakes in most of the trash put on the market under the guise of well researched and written history. A few years ago he produced a book itemizing glaring mistakes he had found. He named authors, pointed out their mistakes and made corrections. Now he has done it again. I wish other historians would do the same for the other fields of history. Except mine.

Editor



THE SOUTH AND THREE SECTIONAL CRISES, by Don E. Fehrenbacher, Louisiana State University Press, 1980, 65 pp., \$8.95.

This is the Walter Lynwood Fleming lectures for 1978, presented annually at Louisiana State University by respected historians. Fehrenbacher discusses the development of the three major crises in United States history that led to the Civil War. The crises, occurring in 1819-1821, 1846-1850 and 1854-1861. The Missouri Compromise temporarily postponed conflict, but it was the Kansas-Nebraska Act that precipitated the break up first of the Whig, then the Democratic Parties. This is the best introduction to the background of the Civil War that I have read, and this little book, with so much to say, must be required reading for all readers interested in the Civil War.

Editor

CIVIL WAR TENNESSEE, by Thomas L. Connelly, The University of Tennessee Press, 1979, 102 pp., \$3.50 paperback.

Connelly is the best of the "new" historians on the South, and this is an excellent overview of the importance of Tennessee in the Confederacy and the fighting within the state. Designed for the general reader, it is not footnoted, but there is a short bibliography providing further sources for the beginner. Highly recommended.

Editor

DESERTS ON THE MARCH, 4th ed., by Paul B. Sears, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980, 258 pp., \$12.50.

I, for one, am glad this university press has again issued this classic work on the conservation of natural resources. Revised and updated, it is even more timely today. First issued in 1935, it chronicles the growing inability of man to properly utilize his natural resources. A very grim outlook on our future is presented; frightening but so necessary for us to understand.

Editor





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