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## John Watkins

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## Monroe County - John Watkins

### JACQUELYN PROCTER REEVES

Dr. John Watkins was the first physician in the area and served as the first state senator from Monroe County. His home was in the Burnt Corn community and his home, a 2 ½ story frame structure built about 1812, is still standing. On his way to fight at the Battle of New Orleans, General Andrew Jackson passed through this community and is believed to have stayed with Dr. Watkins in this home.

Dr. Watkins had come to the Tombigbee settlement in 1813, moved to Claiborne in 1817 to Burnt Corn in 1825. He was buried in the graveyard of Bethany Baptist Church and re-interred in 1874 when the church was rebuilt nearby.

In *Pickett's History of Alabama*, an Indian massacre was described, having taken place in March 1818 on the Federal Road near Pinchoma. Red Stick Indians approached a cabin at night and massacred three adults and seven children. One child survived, thanks to the medical attention of Dr. John Watkins.

### Sources:

Pickett, Albert, *Pickett's History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi from the Earliest Period*, (Montgomery, AL: River City Publishing, 2003) p. 620, 635.

History of Burnt Corn: [www.burntcorn.com/htmlfiles](http://www.burntcorn.com/htmlfiles)