THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

EMMETT KILPATRICK, Co-Editor
MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, Editor

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State Department
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SUMMER ISSUE

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CONTENTS

Pioneer Talladega, Its Minutes and Memories, By Wellington Vandiver

EDITORIAL

This issue of the ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY concludes the History of Talladega by the late Wellington Vandiver.

PIONEER TALLADEGA, ITS MINUTES AND MEMORIES

By Wellington Vandiver

CHAPTER XXVII.

The winter months of 1863 were not passed before the South began to feel more men were needed to carry on the fight. Deaths in hospitals, in battle, and desertions thinned the grey lines to an alarming extent. The law permitting substitutes was repealed. Conscription laws were passed—the enforcement of these conscription laws being confided to General Gideon Pillow in this district. In each town, provost marshall's offices were established, whose business it was to interview every able-bodied man capable of fighting, and to find out why he was not at the front with musket, and to send him there, forcibly, if he had no legal excuse for being at home.

Lieut. J. W. Dorr was provost marshall at Talladega in 1863. A few employments were exempt from military service—ministers of religion, superintendents of asylums, and one editor of each newspaper; the employees in a newspaper establishment; physicians, county commissioners, tax assessors and county treasurers, and all county administrators. Men over the age for military duty were organized into "County Reserves."

The Confederate States made the first grave error of its existence in trying to carry on a great and expensive war solely on credit, without taxation. During the first year of its existance the Confederate Congress neither levied nor collected a cent of taxes, and the second year the collection of taxes was posponed to a period fatally too late to support the credit of the Confederate money issued, and as a consequence our paper money began to depreciate. Silver and gold soon became scarce, then disappeared entirely, and the only money used in trade soon became a Confederate money growing less and less valuable every day. Many merchants and business men issued script, promises to pay, "shinplasters," as it was called, to take the place of depreciated money. Vandiver and Henderson, a drug firm, of Talladega, issued over a half million dollars of these "shinplasters," which passed current all over eastern Alabama, and as far north as the Tennessee line.

As a contemporary estimate of the number of soldiers for this county, we quote an editorial of the Alabama Reporter of issue of Thursday, Oct. 8th, 1863, headed:

"Capt. Bowie's Company," it said: "This command made a good

display on our streets Monday, and from the appearance of men and stock, equipments and appointments, we predict a successful campaign for Capt. (B), and his company.

This makes the sixth (6) cavalry company, exclusive of the Home Guards companies, who have been mustered in as part of the provisional army of the Confederate States. A. W. Bowie, captain: P. L. Griffits, First Lieut.; C. H. Edmonds, 2nd Lieut.; Wilbur Duncan, 3rd. Lieut."

Without men to cultivate and oversee the fields, and to make crops, all agricultural products grew more and more scarce, and high, and eventually the owners and producers of food stuffs refused to sell the same for Confederate money. Clothing and food could not be shipped here from foreign countries because the ports were blockaded.

1863-4

Flour was worth fifty dollars a barrel, and the cost of sacks for a barrel of flour was $4.70. This same flour sold in Mobile for one hundred dollars per barrel. (Alabama Reporter, Sept. 3, 1863.)

Women and children only were left to till the fields and raise food. The consequence of this was that there was destitution, want and hunger among the families of soldiers who were at the front. Not only was there lack of food and clothing at home, but the Confederate army was suffering for both of these things, also.

December 7th, 1863, General L. W. Lawler, a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, asked permission of the house to introduce Captain Harris, of the 20th Alabama regiment, General Pettus' Brigade, who desired to state to that body the object of his mission. Leave was granted Captain Harris and he said: "At the instance of General Hardee, he had been hurried from the Army of the Tennessee, to have a conference with the Legislature of Alabama, the object of which was to state that the troops from Alabama in that army were enduring privations, hardships and sufferings for the want of proper raiment, that could not much longer be endured. The general government is unable to alleviate their sufferings." It was a humiliating confession, but it was the truth and it was better the truth should be known. He stated that in the recent battle, fifty of his brigade were unable to take part in the

fight, owing to their being destitute of shoes. He impressed upon the legislature the extreme destitution of the soldiers. It might be well not to state all he said. (Correspondent of the Mobile Tribune, published in the Alabama Reporter, December 24th, 1863.)

In November of this year, the citizens of this county subscribed food and money to aid in supplying the soldier's families. Judge Wm. H. Thornton, probate judge, was chairman of the relief committee. The corn subscribed was to be furnished at fifty cents per bushel. The wheat at two dollars per bushel and salt at twenty dollars per peck. Says the local paper of that date: "Many, however, preferred to donate what they intended to furnish rather than subscribe it at these prices."

The whole amount of corn subscribed was 22,499 bushels. The amount of corn really delivered pursuant to the subscriptions was 2,575 bushels, a little over one-tenth the amoutn subscribed. Nine hundred and forty bushels of wheat was subscribed, but not enough wheat was delivered to distribute. Six thousand seven hundred and forty-nine dollars cash, Confederate money, was paid, equal at this day to about five hundred dollars of our currency. Of the cash, Judge Thornton sent off $6,550 to be invested in salt. There were 976 families of soldiers in Talladega county reported as needing assistance. These families numbered 3,513 persons. (Alabama Reporter, November 5th, 1863.)

In the same issue of the paper is an appeal signed by J. K. Elliott, Capt. Co. F; T. H. Patterson, Capt. Co. I; R. J. Cunningham, lieut, Co. C; in camp at Demopolis, asking the citizens for "covering," either blankets, coverlids, or carpeting, for the soldiers, adding that if these articles were deposited with General J. G. L. Huey, the citizens would receive ten dollars for each of them.

At this day it is impossible to conceive of the deprivations and inconveniences occasioned in domestic life by the war. The necessary articles of food and dress were almost impossible to obtain, and to a still greater degree was there a scarcity of many common and useful things and articles of luxury. Millinery and toilet articles, ice, wrapping paper, powder and shot, matches, candles, kerosene oil, twines, sewing thread, books, magazines and newspapers were almost unknown. In going to a store to obtain any merchandise, the customer was expected to carry it away without a paper wrapped around it. Druggists could not get vials and bottles. The Watchtower of October 28, 1863, contains a standing

advertisement reading: "Phials! Phials! All persons calling for medicines at our store are requested to bring the phials to put them in as it is impossible for us to procure them.—Vandiver & Henderson."

Calico could not be bought at five dollars per yard. Much homespun was made by hand at home, the materials being wool and cotton. After awhile the small cards used in preparing fabrics for the hand loom became scarce—to a degree that none could be obtained.

The cotton and wool factory in this county belonged to Messrs. Richey and McMillan and was destroyed by fire on Sunday night, November 15, 1863, thus cutting off another source of obtaining thread out of which to weave clothing. The women of our county displayed a self-sacrificing spirit, and a courage under these adverse circumstances which has never been exceeded in the history of the world, although amid the fury of the war storm, black with wrath, beating upon the South, they could see no bow of promise.

The facts showing the forlorn, desperate condition of the struggling South and its people are herein set forth in order that posterity may see the brave race that preceded us, from whom we descended, and lest we forget the privations through which a gently nurtured people passed.

Every mail brought details of battles, sometimes won, sometimes lost, but each one of them taking toll of the "thin grey line," until a large majority of homes in this county was mourning for a man killed, a husband, son, father, friend, or lover. With the men all at the front there was a constant fear of an uprising of the slaves, followed by butchering of the women and children alone left to guard their fireside.

For a long while the foot of the invader stayed distant from us, but before the end came the people of Talladega county had a visible illustration of the horrors of war, in seeing the desolation left in the wake of two Yankee raids.

ROSSEAU'S RAID

On Friday, July 17, 1864, two thousand cavalry under General Rosseau, raided Talladega, being the first Yankees many of the people had ever seen. Six or eight hours notice was had of their coming, and a

large number of our leading citizens hastily departed to the tall timber. A company from the Conscript Camp—stout, able-bodied, stall-fed, fellows, numbering nearly one hundred men, shouldered their rifles and set out to find the raiders in the opposite direction to their coming. Rooseau crossed the Coosa river at Ten Islands where General Clanton, with a small force fired a few shots at them. Alva Hardie, William Stockdale, Tom Childerson and Capt. Joseph Hardie took a shot or two at them as they approached the square. The Reporter's account of it is as follows:

> "They delayed in town but an hour or two, and burned the railroad depot, the only building destroyed by them in the county. An order was issued to burn the Commissary building but through the efforts of Dr. Smith, of the Hospital, who represented to them that the burning of the Commissary stores would necessarily involve the destruction of a large portion of the town, and seriously endanger the Hospital, the order was revoked and an effort made to destroy such portions of the stores as they were unable to carry with them. They offered to give them away to any citizen or negroes or any one who would take them away so they would be lost to the government. A considerable amount of the stores were carried away by negroes and some by white persons. They did not burn either the conscript camps or the nitre sheds, we believe for the reason they were afraid of being ambushed or bush-whacked, there being thick woods near the camp and the sheds. A wag suggested a different reason, however, that is that they—the conscript camp—kept so many men out of the army the Yankees were unwilling to destroy it."

Almost every private residence in town was entered, and the bacon from most of the smoke-houses taken off. The corn and oats were also taken. They rode into the yards and fed their horses under the shade trees, along the streets throughout the town. Guards were sent to protect most of the private residences. These guards rendered very efficient service by way of protecting property in the dwelling houses, but did not save the bacon and hams. They took with them a few horses from the town, and some two or three negroes. They had a great dread of bushwhacking, and could talk of nothing else. On leaving they took the Sylacauga road, burning, as they passed, the ginhouse of Hon. Alex White, with one hundred bales of cotton. They fed their horses at Mrs. Hardie's and consumed a quantity of her oats, corn, bacon, etc. At Mardisville they got several mules. Major Walker Reynolds and his son,

Thomas, lost all their horses and mules, about 50 head; they also lost 12 or 13 negroes. The Yankees moved at the rate of 40 or 50 miles per day.

So great in number were the desertions from the army that it formed the subject of a proclamation by President Jefferson Davis in August, 1863, who says: "The men now absent from their posts would, if present in the field, suffice to create numerical equality between our force and that of the invaders."

Governor John Gill Shorter followed this proclamation by a message to the general assembly on the same theme and pursuant to both these deliverances all absentees were invited to camps of instruction to be furnished with transportation to the army, without punishment for desertion. Major W. T. Walthall, commandant for Alabama, issued his proclamation from Camp Buckner, at Talladega, inviting back the delinquents, not in arrest, but fully and freely discharged from all proceedings against them. "Let bygones be bygones," says Major Walthall in his proclamation, "that past errors may be retrieved and their memory lost in the honors of a brighter future." Many availed themselves of this invitation, and Camp Buckner, at Talladega, was crowded with soldiers during the year 1863, many of whom died with dysentery.

The list of deaths at Talladega Hospital for six months, between January and July, 1864: John Ward, private provost guard; Patrick Considine, private Co. B, camp instruction; Henry Nicks, Co. H, 8th Confederate cavalry; J. W. Thomas, Co. I, 14th Mississippi; W. D. Craddock, Co. I, 8th Confederate; A. M. Williams, Co. K, 9th Texas; A. Mays, Co. G, 50th Tennessee; Thos. A. Blair, Lieutenant Co. A, 1st Missouri; Simon Mack, private Haskin's battery; James Taylor, Co. I, 57th Alabama; James E. Scott, Co. F, 53rd Alabama; James Black, Lieutenant Co. G, 9th Kentucky Cavalry; John Camp, Co. D. camp instruction; R. W. Coleman, Lockhart's battalion; Charles Davis, Clanton's battery; F. Alred, Co. A. camp instruction; John Hopkins, Co. D, 9th Alabama; Geo. W. Dunning, Co. E, 9th Alabama cavalry; J. M. Thompson, Co. F, 15th Tennessee; D. T. Edwards, Co. D, 14th Tennessee.

The Camp of Instruction was situated on Brignolia street, Major W. T. Walthall, commanding, and V. R. Evans, 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant. It was called the conscript camp by the local people. Real soldiers, at home on furolugh, held the officers and men of the "conscript

camp" in mighty contempt—an opinion more or less shared in by the villagers. The enrolling officer of the conscripts was Major Joseph Barbiere, a most courtly and polished gentleman, in manner, and Dr. J. W. Grey was the surgeon and "M.D." who examined all those applying for exemption from military service. At this time all men between 18 and 45 were subject to military duty. The war had continued long enough for our people to find out that it was real dangerous and not a picnic, so that large numbers of our studious citizens had found out various means of entering a "bomb-proof," as it was called, or in other words to evade actual service in the field.

One of the published ordinances of the town in an issue of a local paper, the Reporter, of July 14, 1864, renders it "unlawful for any slave or free negro to leave his master's premises at night, or on Sunday, without a pass from his master, stating where the slave was going and how long he was going to stay," and forbidding "night meetings of slaves."

Andrew Lawson, city treasurer, shows that the city received $3,001.-83, as its usual revenues (Confederate money) and paid out all but $1,-400. George P. Plowman was mayor, and H. H. Hamill, clerk, in 1864.

The destitution of soldiers' families became so great that casual contributions and meetings to solicit subscriptions were of but little avail. So, on August 18th, 1864, on the suggestion of Doctor John W. Vandiver, a kindly, humane man, a regular and permanent organization was effected under the name of the "Soldier's Aid and Relief Association," with officers elected as follows: President James W. Hardie; First Vice-President, George S. Walden; Second Vice President, M. H. Cruikshank; Secretary, F. R. Lord; Treasurer, James G. L. Huey, Receiving and Forwarding Committee, Dr. J. H. Vandiver, Jno. B. Huey, Wm. McLane, R. D. Douglass and James Joiner.

This association did much good, remaining in existance until the end of the war, and relieving thousands of suffering soldiers and families of this county. Two representatives of the association were designated in each precinct of the county, men well known for their honesty and benevolence, whose business it was to co-operate with the central association, and collect and forward supplies and money. It doubtless will be interesting to here give these names: Beat 1, Thomas Brewer, Theo. Burns; Beat 2, J. W. Groce, Dr. C. C. Cunningham; Beat 3, W. Y. Hendrick, Lewis Pyles; Beat 4, Dr. B. W. Groce, Wm. Curry, Beat 5, Wm.

R. Stone, J. N. Savery, J. B. M. Landers; Beat 6, M. Taul, L. W. Lawler; Beat 7, Henry Sims, Merritt Ely; Beat 8, E. Swain, I. Stone; Beat 9, Geo. Riser, Simon Morriss; Beat 10, Daniel Wallis, J. H. Townsend; Beat 11, Thos. Smith, Rev. J. J. Bullington; Beat 12, Daniel Brown, William Scott; Beat 13, Ben Saxon, Dr. M. G. Slaughter; Beat 14, Merritt Street, Dr. J. W. Garrison; Beat 15, J. H. Steed, H. A. Manning; Beat 16, Allen Weathers, Thos. Wyatt; Beat 17, Dr. Cantrell, J. W. Burton; Beat 18, M. R. Russell, T. J. Cox; Beat 19, M. J. Cliett, Jared Howard; Beat 20, M. Lyle, N. O. Handley; Beat 21, John Compton, Isaiah Moore.

The preceedings of the organization and first meeting night occupies several columns of the editorial page of the Alabama Reporter of August 18th, 1864. The meeting was held at the Methodist church in Talladega.

CHAPTER XXVIII

The story of the desperate struggle of the people of this county during the Civil War will never be written—no pen is adequate to the task—and yet it should not be relegated to oblivion without some slight chronicle of its stress and suffering. A memorial to Thos. Watts, Governor of Alabama, adopted at a public meeting of the people of Talladega on April 4th, 1864, gives a brief glance at the conditions of that dark and hopeless time. Hon. Jno. T. Heflin presided at the meeting and Capt. Jos. Hardie was secretary, and Hon. L. E. Parsons, explained the object of the meeting.

Among other statements made in the memorial the following is quoted:

> "This county has furnished 27 companies of volunteers for the war. These were raised under a pledge publicly given that the citizens would raise, if necessary, twenty thousand dollars a year to aid in supporting the families of those who needed assistance. at that time (May, 1861) there was a white population in the county of about 14,643 persons, and a slave population of about 8,865, and there were only thirty persons who needed and received aid from the county. Now, there are three thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven (3,997). The county is divided into what is called the "valley" and "hills." A large proportion of these volunteers came from the hills, and these

27 companies are exclusive of those who have volunteered in other organizations, furnished substitutes, or been enrolled. The slave population is in the valley and the men who have gone from the hills have left at home none to plough a furrow, or to hoe a hill of corn except their wives and little ones. They are, therefore, dependent for support on the supplies raised in the valley. During 1863, the people of the county under the pledge aforesaid, raised and placed in the probate judge's hands for distribution, $7,276 cash; 21,755 bushels of corn at 50 cents per bushel; 2,570 bushels of corn as a gift; 928 bushels of wheat at $2 per bushel; 102 bushels of wheat as a gift; the average price of wheat, corn and salt is much above these prices. The average price of wheat this season has been about $10 per bushel; corn about $3 per bushel and salt about $80 per sack. The committee states we will be unable to meet the just claims, the absolute necessities of these families unless they are permitted to employ the slave labor for that purpose.

"On December 23rd, 1862, ninety negroes were impressed in this county. On January 29th, 1863, 120 negroes were impressed. On March 7, 1863, 150 more negroes were impressed, and five wagons and teams. In the fall of 1863, 160 more negroes were impressed. In August, 1863, about 100 negroes and teams were impressed and sent to Montevallo to haul coal and iron. In February, 1864, 160 more negroes, who are now in Mobile. In August 1863, 75 horses were impressed. Within a few days past Captain Graham, under order from Lieutenant General Polk, has been here and has impressed about 160 horses and 100 mules, claiming and exercising the right to take every seventh mule. Moreover, a large proportion of the work oxen of the county have been obtained for the use of the Confederate government. Large bodies of cavalry are recruiting their horses at various points in the county, and thus consuming the tax in kind.

"The season has been backward, and corn that has been planted will have to be planted over again. On the 2nd inst, (April) a new order arrived to impress 160 more negroes and have them ready by the 17th of the month.

"The premises considered, the undersigned respectfully request an order from your Excellency to General Polk exempting this county from further impressment this season.

('Signed) L. E. Parsons, Chairman, Taul Bradford, W. R. Stone, Alex White, C. G. Cunningham, J. L. Elston, John Sawyer.')

The impressment circular of General Polk is published in the same issue of the paper containing the account of the meeting. General Polk had his headquarters at Demopolis, and was commanding general of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. The circular is couched in terms so arbitrary, unjust and tyrannical, that nothing but war would justify such language or measures.

As a last resort the Confederate Congress provided for the enlistment of slaves as soldiers, and, pursuant to that act, Brigadier General John T. Morgan, afterward United States Senator, was assigned the duty of organizing these slaves in Alabama. His letter on the subject is printed in the Alabama Reporter of April 13, 1865, being dated Montgomery, Ala., April 7, 1865.

General Morgan says he has authority to designate recruiting stations and to appoint recruiting officers. Talladega was named as a recruiting station. One-fourth of the slave population between the ages of 18 and 45, only, were subject to enlistment. The title of the owner in the slave was not effected by his enlistment. The same pay, rations, and clothing was allowed as for other troops in the same line of service. Says General Morgan in his circular: "Our slaves will make good soldiers if properly cared for and well handled: they will fight for us, and with us with a faithfulness and devotion peculiar to their 'characters."

Fasting and prayer, the last refuge of the despairing, was officially ordered when the Confederate congress on January 16, 1865, asked President Davis to appoint a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, with thanksgiving to almighty God. Says President Davis, in appointing March 10th as the day: "Let the hearts of our people turn contritely and trustfully unto God. Let us recognize in his chastening hand the correction of a Father and submissively pray that the trials and suffering which we have borne so long and so heavily borne upon us may be turned away by his merciful love. That the Lord of Hosts will be with our armies, and fight for us against the enemies and that He will graciously take our cause into his own hands."

This proclamation and injunction was strictly followed in Talladega. There was an all day prayer meeting at the Methodist church under the leadership of Revs. Daniel Duncan and R. B. Crawford, the prayers beginning at sunrise. A sermon at both the Baptist and Methodist churches was preached at 11 o'clock, in each of which many prophesies

and texts were quoted to show that the Confederate cause would yet receive the aid and help of the Almighty. But the closing days of April, 1865, showed the futility of such predictions. Friday, April 21, 1865, just five days before Johnston's surrender to Sherman, and eleven days after Lee's surrender, the second Yankee raid visited Talladega.

The Alabama Reporter of April 27, which was then issued on one single sheet of paper, with five columns of printed matter on each of its two pages, record the details of the raid thus:

"THE RAID."

"Our town has been visited by another party of Yankee raiders. On Friday night, last, it was ascertained that the Yankees were crossing the Coosa river at Collins and Truss ferries, and it was believed would reach Talladega that night. They were delayed in crossing the river and did not enter the town until Saturday evening (afternoon). Colonel Hughes, with about 100 men, met them near town and, after a short skirmish, fell back through town, the enemy pursuing at a pretty rapid rate.

"The raiding party consisted of a brigade of cavalry under General Croxton, numbering about 2,100. Our county jail, the railroad depot, government depot, conscript camps and the nitre sheds were burned. The stores were broken open and robbed. Many of our citizens suffered severely in the loss of mules, horses and other valuables. Some negroes went off with them, but not a very large number. Most of the private residences in town were entered, and searched for valuables. All the watches, silverware, plate, etc., that had not been previously removed, was taken, and carried off. Colonel Hugh Caperton, formerly of DeKalb county, a most estimable man, and exemplary citizen ,residing about five miles from town, was shot through the window of his own home, by one of a squad of Yankees, and died almost instantly. No cause can be assigned for the cold-blooded, and wanton act. Major G. P. Plowman, mayor of the town, was knocked down with a gun barrel, and was severely injured by a crowd who were endeavoring to extort from him money, which a negro had told them he had concealed. They subsequently returned for the purpose of hanging Mr. Plowman, but he succeeded in effecting his escape. Mrs. X. Willman, a worthy lady, was choked down, and compelled to bring,

and deliver, a little bag of gold and silver, the savings from the hard earnings of years.

"The commissary building was not burned, the stores having been turned over to Judge Thornton, Hon. Wm. H. Thornton, our Probate Judge, to be distributed to the poor of the county. The Judge is executing the trust in good faith. A quantity of bacon was consumed by the burning of the tax-in-kind depot. At Mrs. Curry's, six miles from town, they burned some cotton, the old store house and a crib containing about 1,000 bushels of corn. The iron establishment of Clabaugh and Curry was destroyed, as were the other iron establishments in the neighborhood of Oxford, Calhoun county, Alabama. The Yankees left our town on Sunday morning and moved in the direction of Oxford.

"Mr. Reece Howell, Colonel L. E. Parsons, W. W. Knox, Dr. A. P. McClellen and others lost nearly all their mules and horses."

On Thursday morning, May 11, 1865, the Alabama Reporter, edited by Cross and Cruikshank, with a motto: "Justitia et Veritas," and twenty dollars in advance, officially announces that the war is over. Many old subscribers of this paper could not have been convinced of the ending of the war in any other way.

That paper said, editorially: "Alabama, with all the territory east of the Mississippi, has been surrendered to the Federal authorities. The war may be regarded as over. The question is frequently asked as to what should now be done. Our advice is that the people should remain quietly at their homes and apply themselves diligently to the culture of crops necessary to the sustenance of man and beast. It will be difficult to raise sufficient grain to supply the county. Confederate money will no longer circulate, and people can barter one commodity for another."

Do not suppose for a moment that this tremendous announcement paralyzed the men of Talladega county. They yet lived, especially those who wanted to fill offices. This same issue contains an average crop of announcements for office. M. J. Bulger announces for governor, M. H. Cruikshank says in print that he is a candidate for congress. For senator: L. W. Lawler, Jas. W. Hardie. For representative: W. D. Steed, Lewis E. Parsons, Maj. Geo. P. Plowman, Jno. A. Winnbourn, Augustine Moss, Dr. John Garrison. For sheriff: James T. Dye, Arthur Bingham. For tax assessor: Jas. A. Hogan; For tax collector: M. S. Bennett, W. W.

Wilkins. For county commissioners: George Riser, Saml. D. Watson, Meritt Street, E. C. Turner, L. M. Burney, John Sawyer, R. M. Henderson, Jesse Hardin. The election to be held the first Monday in August.

It was supposed at this time by these candidates that Alabama would be taken back into the Union, and the state and county affairs administered by persons then in office, and to be elected by the people, but the military government superseded this.

Brevet Brigadier General M. H. Chrysler, on May 24, 1865, announces the occupation of Talladega by the Union States forces, for the preservation of good order, the protection of citizens, and to enable the people to obtain supplies for their families. The regiment quartered here was the Fourth New York Cavalry. The staff of General Chrysler was Robt. Barber, adjutant; G. W. Becker, provost marshall; C. Dolan, outpost officer; C. W. Johnson, A.A.Q.M.; S. F. Taylor, A.C.S.; Lieutenant H. D. Doty, A. C. O. On June 1st a train on the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad (Southern) again began to run, bringing in a budget of newspapers and letters—none of them later than April 1st. The local papers hoped that the postoffice would again be opened in a short while.

In General Order, No. 3, General Chrysler notifies the "Colored population of Talladega, and vicinity, that they will not be allowed to straggle about the country." They are advised "to remain at home and raise corn to feed their wives and children. All unemployed persons of this class will be organized and worked in the Quartermaster's Department. Any pilaging will be severely punished."

It was necessary for all former Confederates soldiers to be paroled before Provost Marshall Captain Becker. By June 15th 6410 officers and enlisted men had presented themselves at the provost marshall's office in Talladega and had been paroled. Of course not all of these troops were from Talladega county, but were portions of scattered commands passing through to their respective homes.

At first the advent of these Federal troops as a garrison was looked upon as a misfortune, and as a humiliation, by our citizens, but this feeling wore off as time passed and it was seen that the Northern soldiers were really a protection to us during these unsettled and disorganized times. One incident, in September, 1865, tended to inspire a better

feeling for the soldiers by the citizens. The home of Dr. A. I. McAlpine caught fire on Sunday, which, when it was discovered by the soldiers, many of who were fire-fighters, they literally covered the roof and balconies with men, organized a bucket brigade, and put out a fire that the citizens could not have handled. The local papers grudgingly gave the Yankees praise for their efforts, and then proceeded to howl for the town to buy a hand fire engine. The Reporter philosophically remarks after a half column description of the fire: "The few old pails, and buckets that can be hunted up, after an alarm is given, is a poor dependance for a fire department in a town of 2,000 inhabitants. We have again and again called attention to this during the past ten years. We do not suppose that all the citizens of the town put together have money enough, now, to buy even a small fire engine, but if they are ever able to do so, they ought, certainly to make some provision for extinguishing fires."

During the war the post office was situated in the middle of the block on the west side of the square, Postmaster Isaac Estill serving as custodian of the mail for four years previous to the war and during its continuance. In September, 1865, James Lawson was appointed postmaster, upon which happening the site of the office was changed to the northwest corner of the square in the rear of the Coker building. James Chetlain was the U. S. Army postmaster, the said Chetlain advertising that the mails would leave Talladega Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, and that all citizens' mail, if left in the city postoffice, would be sent to all parts of the United States with the military mail.

After the military occupation of Talladega, two months elapsed before Civil government, or government by state and county, was established. June 21, 1865, President Andrew Johnson appointed Hon. L. E. Parsons of Talladega, provisional governor of Alabama. Governor Parsons called a convention to make a constitution and laws for the state. Persons who were not (sic) qualified to vote for delegates to this convention were also required to swear to support the constitution of the United States. Joseph D. McCann, A. Cunningham and Jno. W. Bishop were elected by a convention in this county, as the delegates to the State convention. The same county convention recommended Jno. Henderson for circuit judge and Jno. W. Bishop for solicitor. The chairman of this county convention was Jno. W. Bishop, while William Montgomery was the secretary. Jno. C. Henderson was at this time sheriff of the county. Governor Parsons appointed N. P. Plowman, sheriff to succeed Henderson. A. W. Plowman was also appointed by the governor as com-

missioner, to administer oaths in Talladega county: R. W. Huston, clerk of the circuit court; W. H. Thornton, Judge of probate.

Slowly commerce began to revive and advertisements were once more seen in the newspapers. The veteran drug firm of Vandiver & Henderson, that had kept open during the entire war, announced a new stock of drugs. Jos. Hardie and Co., in Isbell's brick corner, advertises dry goods and groceries. Leaon and Pflaumm ask patronage for clothing, hats, boots and shoes. M. H. Dysart, on east side of the square, wishes to sell: "Boots, Hats, Matches, Cotton Cards, Indigo, Salt, Hoopskirts, etc." D. L. Anderson offers dry goods and groceries, one door above Huey's corner. T. T. Warwick, watch maker, has a card in the paper. D. A. Long has dry goods and groceries. The Baptist Male High School, with W. D. Lovett, principal, announces its opening. Drs. J. C. Knox and J. H. Johnson, physicians, offer their partnership services to the people. Todd Bros., at Story's Corner, advertise a general stock of goods. W. H. Coker prints a list of groceries for sale. M. Solomon has dry goods on the southeast corner of the square and C. Pelham and A. W. Plowman have law cards in the paper.

CHAPTER XXIX.

The location of the buildings used by the Confederate States during the war, as well as the spot where munitions, supplies or ammunition was manufactured for the use of the Confederate States, is known to us, not entirely from tradition but from the list given in libel and attachment proceedings issued by the Federal Court,[1] signed by John Hardy, Marshal, and published in an issue of a local paper of November 9th, 1865, wherein steps are taken by the Federal Government to confiscate the property formerly used by the Confederate States.

1st. One large two-story brick building-drug store of Vandiver and Henderson.

2nd. One large two-story brick building, on west side of East street —known as the Talladega Insurance building, said to be the property of Curry, Huey and others.

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[1]See Appendix.

4th. Wooden building and shed, on east side of East street, known as the Tax in Kind Warehouse, said to be the property of Huey and others.

5th. Ten acres of land on north side of Alabama and Tennessee Railroad, commencing 300 yards above Talladega depot, known as Confederate States Nitre Works: owners unknown.

6th. Twenty acres, more or less, one-fourth mile north of Alabama and Tennessee Railroad, and one-half mile north of Talladega, known as Camp Buckner.—Property of J. G. L. Huey.

7th. Lower story of brick building on north side of North street, known as Sturdevant's Gun Factory, said to be the property of John. H. Vandiver.

8th. Lower story of building on North side of North street, known as Curry's store.

9th. Wooden building on North street, known as Morgan and Bishop's office, said to be the property of Estate of Thos. L. Owen.

10th. Wooden building on north side of North street, known as office of Charles G. Samuel.

11th. One wooden building, and dwelling house attached, on east side of East street, near railroad depot, known as Riggs Warehouse, said to be the property of Thos. Hayden.

12th. One wooden building with brick basement, on Northeast corner of Court and North streets known as Pitts corner, said to belong to Thomas Clark.

13th. Blacksmith shop, corner West and Battle streets, known as Rhodes shop.

14th. Brick blacksmith shop, south side of Battle street, known as S. D. Watson's shop.

15th. One-story building on corner of Battle and Court streets, known as Porter's Hall, said to belong to H. M. Porter.

16th. The Exchange Hotel said to belong to estate of John Donahoo, and others.

17th. Wooden building on south side of Batttle street, known as John K. Taylor's shop.

18th. One stable, two-story wooden building, on south side of Battle street, property of Dr. William Edwards.

19th. Wooden building, two acres of land, between Battle and North streets, known as Lot No. 78, and Eason's residence, property of B. W. Groce.

2th. Wooden Livery Stable, west side of East street known as F. M. Thomason's Livery Stable.

At the time these proceedings were instituted it was claimed that wherever a citizen had permitted his property to be used in any way by the Confederate Government; either for storage, barracks, manufactory, or otherwise, then the property was forfeited to the United States Government, and it should be confiscated, sold, and the proceeds paid into the United States Treasury. In some way the citizens affected by these proceedings succeeded in preventing the forfeiture. Just how it was done is not known, as the parties themselves were quite reticent about the matter.

At the election held in this county in November, 1865, twelve hundred and fifty votes, only, were polled, Bulger, for governor, winning over Patton, and Smith Battle receiving a majority for congress. James Montgomery received, for the state senate, 760 votes, against only 402 for M. G. Slaughter. For representative, C. P. Plowman, 940; J. D. McCann, 816; J. W. Hardie, 788; Wm. McPherson, 620; For sheriff, N. P. Plowman, 617; J. M. Nelson, 300; J. T. Dye, 259; D. C. McCain, 92; B. J. McCain, 35; For Circuit clerk, R. W. Huston, 757; J. S. Shaw, 383; S. J. Morris, 228; For Tax collector, J. S. Hubbard, 693, W. W. Wilkins, 562. For tax assessor, Jas. A. Hogan, (unopposed) 1,159. For county commissioners, Jno. Sawyer, 589; R. M. Henderson, 524; J. L. Barnhill, 512; R. A. McMillan 438.

Micah Taul, of Talladega county, was elected secretary of the state senate on Monday, November 20th, 1865.