



*The Watkins House , once
an inn along the Federal
Road, near Burnt Corn, AL*

Volume 38, Number 9
September 2011

The September Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

3:00—5:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: The Old Federal Road

Presenter: ECHS Member Sherry Johnston

The Historical Importance of the Old Federal Road

*Source for the fol-
lowing material is
the online Encyclo-
pedia of Alabama.*

Originally a postal route through Indian territory, the Federal Road went through Creek territory in lower Alabama with the purpose of creating a communication route between Athens, Georgia and New Orleans.

The term “The Federal Road” usu-



Entitled “The Federal Road Opens Alabama to Pioneers,” this is an image for Russell County on the Bronze Map of Alabama (located in front of the Alabama Department of Archives and History).

ally refers to a road that was constructed by the military in 1811 which connected Fort Wilkinson in Georgia (on the Oconee River in Baldwin County, Georgia, near the present town of Milledgeville) with Fort Stoddert in Alabama (at the Mount Vernon Landing on the Mobile River near the present town

of Mt. Vernon).

A second Federal road (the Georgia Road) went through Cherokee terri-

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The October Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 3:00 p. m

Thomas E. McMillan Museum

Guest Speaker: Sir Francis McGowin

Thanks to Sherry Johnston for these sources in the Alabama Room: “Descendants of Frank Booker;” “Success Beyond Expectations –Panton Leslie at Pensacola” by Lora M. Sutton; “History of Company K. 1: Alabama Regiment” by Daniel P. Smith; Tolbert Family History; Poarch Indians, Emperor Brim, Birdtail King (Sandy Smith); Microfilm Census Records (1830, GA; 1900, 1910, & 1920 AL Counties).

The Historical Importance of the Old Federal Road *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

tory connecting Savannah, with Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Federal Road in Alabama was part of the period of national expansion, an important means of communication in the frontier lands of the Louisiana Purchase, and, unfortunately, became a part of the exploitation of the Native Americans of the region leading to increasing numbers of settlers taking the land.

The Federal Road was a major route for the movement of settlers (and slaves) into the South and Old Southwest (the Mississippi territory) for the first thirty years of the 19th century.

It was also a military road serving to move troops and supplies to the Gulf Coast during the period of tensions with Britain that led to the War of 1812 as well as for the Creek Indian War of 1813-14

Building the Road

In 1803, with the



1734 Map of America

A map of southeastern North America created in 1734 by German printer Matthaeus Seutter. The portion of the map that now includes Alabama was known as La Louisianae during the period when the territory was a French colony.

purchase of the Louisiana Territory, Thomas Jefferson realized the need to establish roads for communication, routes for military supplies to the new frontier, access to settlers for the new territory, and access to the Port of New Orleans for the sake of southern commerce.

Besides the difficulty of the terrain through which to build the road, the route had to go through Creek Indian territory and

that would mean acquiring land.

Some of the newer and ambitious leaders of the Creek Nation, for personal gain, signed treaties unendorsed by the majority of the Creeks or their older leaders with the federal government that ceded large sections of Creek lands to the federal government.

The Indians were promised economic benefits such as being able to maintain inns, taverns, stage-coach stops, and way stations for postal riders along the route. These promises proved to be empty and the increased traffic through Creek ter-

(Continued on page 3)



(left) William McIntosh (ca. 1775-1825), was a Creek headman and speaker of the Lower Creek Council. He fought alongside the Americans as a general during the Creek War of 1813-14 and the First Seminole War. On April 30, 1825, McIntosh was executed by order of the Creek National Council for approving illegal land cessions.

The Historical Importance of the Old Federal Road (*continued*)

(Continued from page 2)

ritory created more tension between the Creeks and the U. S. and eventually led to the Creek Indian War of 1813-14 and the eventual removal of the Creeks.

In April 1806, Congress appropriated \$6,400 to build the postal road. Because of problems dealing with the terrain, the many streams and rivers to cross and the diseases that affected the workers, progress was slow.

On August 15, 1806, a federal contract was signed and the construction of the proposed Postal Route from Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans proceeded with more success.

The road was only four feet wide and crossed many water courses. Many travelers who heard about the difficulties of traveling the road chose to go by the Natchez Trace, a longer route which went through North Alabama.

Widening the Road for Military Purposes

In 1811, because of tensions with Great Britain, the federal government authorized the widening of the narrow path into a 16 foot-wide military road that would enable the military to carry troops and supplies to the Gulf Coast. This military road opened in November of 1811 and intersected with the postal path from Athens down to the Chattahoochee River near modern day Co-



Fort Mitchell

This reconstructed blockhouse at Fort Mitchell, Russell County, would have served as a storage facility for valuable items and as a guard house during the years of the fort's use from 1812 to 1840. The Fort was reconstructed in the 1990s and is now a historical park.

Forts developed as more and more settlers came on the Federal Road into was Indian territory.

lumbus, Georgia.

The road became an important transportation route for troops during the War of 1812 and the Creek Indian War of 1813-14.

The entire route at this time ran from Milledgeville, Georgia to Fort Stoddert on the Mobile River and on to New Orleans.

Settlers and a New Economy and Culture

Between 1790 and 1850, the settlers who came to the frontier brought large-scale plantation agriculture and

the nearly one million Africans needed to make this agriculture possible, transforming the land from a frontier and wilderness into a land defined by its cotton-based economy.

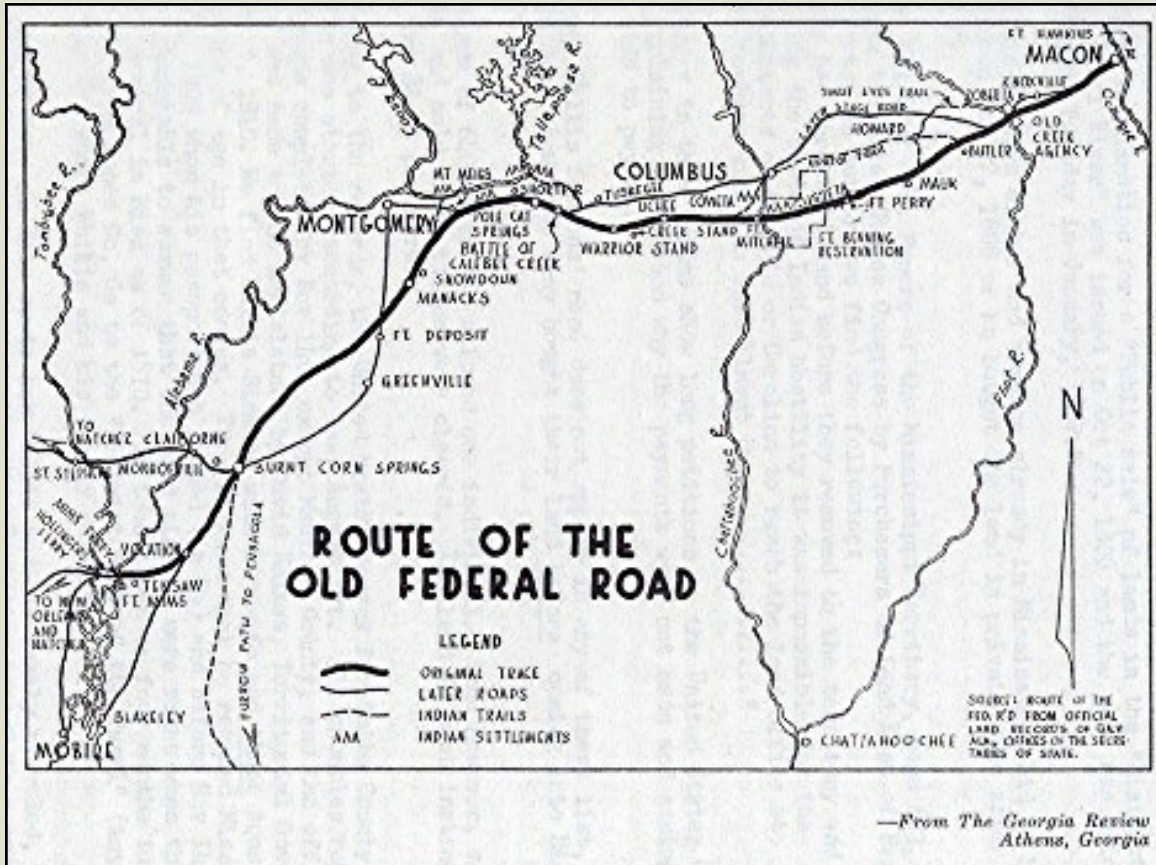
Need for the Road Diminishes

Travel by Steamboats and railroads diminished the importance and use of the road.

In 1837 worsening economic conditions reduced traffic on the road, decreasing the land rush to the state called "Alabama Fever."

In 1844, Morse's telegraph improved communication over large distances, diminishing the use of post roads for communication over long distances. €

Map of Route of the Old Federal Road



This map shows that there were routes and branches of the Old Federal Road. Following the heavy black line from Macon to Montgomery and then down to Burnt Corn Springs, you can see that the road then has several branches.

The web site My Family Genealogy: A Bit of Simmons History calls Burnt Corn Spring a “noted forking point for all the early trails and roads.”

Two routes lead from Burnt Corn Springs west to the Mississippi territory. One goes to Monroeville, to Fort Claiborne, across the Alabama River and then the Tombigbee River to Fort Stephens and then on to Natchez.

The other route goes to Vocation, to Tensaw, to Fort Mims and then across the Alabama River at the Mims’ Ferry, to Hollinger’s Ferry on the Tombigbee and then on to Natchez.

One branch goes south to Blakeley and there are others continuing south to Mobile and New Orleans.

The map and discussion of the routes is from the Georgia Review and can be accessed online at <http://www.lbffamily.com/id169.html>

The Old Federal Road

The following article is taken from the web site [Roots Web, an Ancestry.com Community](#) :

“Back in 1806 when the Nation was still young and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal riders was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from middle Georgia to coastal Alabama. As the likelihood of another battle with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly move troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming more evident.

“In June 1810, Fort Stoddert's commanding officer Col. Richard Sparks was ordered by Secretary of War William Eustis to inspect and document these horse paths in order to mark a military road so that troops and supplies could be sent to defend the Gulf Coast.

“A second scouting party from Fort Stoddert was led by 1st Lt. John Roger Nelson Luckett. Luckett made the first significant survey for road construction in land that would later become Alabama.

“In addition to being charged to keep journal notes of each day of his trip, Luckett's party carved Roman numerals into trees marking each mile along their journey. On July 11, 1811, Brigadier General Wade Hampton was directed to immediately begin construction of three wagon roads through the Creek Nation – the second of these roads became known as the Federal Road.

“With construction at last beginning in 1811, the “Old Federal Road,” was built from west to east connecting Fort Stoddert, Alabama, to Fort Wilkinson, Georgia. (Several spelling variations include Stoddert, Stoddart, etc.).



**Portion of the Old Federal Road
Still Visible in Alabama**

**Located in Monroe County near
the Butler County line off County
Road 38, close to the Middleton
Cemetery.**

Photo by Greg Waselkov of the University of South Alabama. Photo and text from Encyclopedia of Alabama at <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2999>>.

“Constructed in 1799, Fort Stoddert was named for the Acting Secretary of War Benjamin Stoddert. Fort Stoddert was located at the Mount Vernon Landing on the Mobile River in Mobile County east of current day Mount Vernon. Located at the Federal Road's other end, [Fort Wilkinson](#) was near [Milledgeville](#) on the Oconee River in Baldwin County, Georgia. At that time, Milledgeville was the capital of Georgia.

“The Old Federal Road successfully connected Fort Stoddert to the Chattahoochee River. At that point, the Federal Road merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana. Unlike the old horse path, the Federal Road went eastward making a connection with lands ripe for the recruitment of soldiers and obtaining supplies for the military. This path quickly became a major travel route for pioneers to the area once known as the Old Southwest.

“From its start as a narrow horse path used to carry the mails, the Old Federal Road underwent great development and became a major military road connecting early American forts in the Creek Lands and the Mississippi Territory. Acting as the interstate highway of its day, when “Alabama Fever” raged through the Carolinas and Georgia, the Old Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers to the Old Southwest.

“As such, the Federal Road directly contributed to the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and 1820 – with Alabama's population growing far faster than that of either Mississippi or Louisiana during this time. Alabama continued out-distancing both Mississippi and Louisiana in

(Continued on page 6)

The Old Federal Road *(continued)*

(Continued from page 5)

population growth through 1850.²

The Federal Road became a well traveled stage-coach route for those going through Alabama. In 1824, Adam Hodgson wrote *Letters from North America Written During a Tour in the United States and Canada* wherein he described his 1820 travel along the Federal Road from Chattahoochee to Mobile. Hodgson found adequate over-night lodgings and described one stop as having three beds in a log building with a clay floor. Noting the ground formed a “perpetual undulation,” Hodgson

concluded that “[t]he road, which is called the Federal Road, though tolerable for horses, would with us be considered impossible for wheels.”³

Nearly two centuries later, the Federal Road remains visible. For those interested in making a modern day trip along this important historical path, the [Monroe County Heritage Museums](#) has marked the portion of the Federal Road through Monroe County with eight monuments along its route from Price’s Hotel near the Monroe and Butler County lines through Mac David’s Hotel where the Federal Road continues through Escambia County, Alabama. €

Desecration of Soldiers’ Graves

This is the September 20, 2011 Column for [Written in Stone](#) by Sherry Johnston

This morning as I read the headlines stating that military bronze vases in a cemetery in Montgomery have been reported stolen for their copper value, I can’t help but think of the many soldiers who gave their lives for our country, with the perpetrators who are doing the stealing—if they could stand on the frontlines of enemy fire, maybe they’d rethink their crime.

People have been stealing from the dead for ages—I’ve seen graves opened up where folks were searching for buttons, gold teeth, money, anything they could get their grubby hands on; I’ve seen elaborate or simple floral displays stolen or thrown to the ground so that the very stands used to hold the flowers could be taken instead; there have been instances of shrubbery or roses, or simple clumps of daffodils planted in someone’s memory taken and replanted in yards across the road from a cemetery; even a story of tombstones stolen out of their bases to outline a walkway in front of a home.

Once where a beautiful iron fence stood surrounding an ancestor’s grave, it might now adorn a patio or garden gate in someone’s yard who coveted getting something for nothing. How do these people sleep at night? I have no idea; for I know that my conscience wouldn’t allow me to even consider some of the deeds that have been done, desecrating a graveyard! Thank God that He gave me a conscience, and these

folks have one too, but they choose to ignore it and commit a crime, a crime against the dead and those still living.

This past weekend as I walked among fallen leaves, and a bed of pine straw, I knelt down beside a soldier’s grave, his own headstone leaning precariously forward because somewhere in a distant past, people like those described above, dug around his stone, looking for something of his; he having fought and lost his life on a battlefield near Atlanta GA some 150 years ago.

Adjacent to him were sunken in places that indicate the truth to the story told over and over again about a father going to the site of a mass grave, digging through the bodies and bringing his own son as well as some of his young comrades back home to be buried on family land. Walking over the land that once belonged to his family, it was easy to see how once it might have bordered along an open field, and perhaps it was where this young man once played or toiled beside his family, never imagining that too soon he’d be laid to rest, never to watch his own sons grow up.

His headstone indicated that he served with Company “B” of the 3rd Alabama Cavalry of the CSA. This unit was one of those who fought valiantly under the forces of John Bell Hood during the Battle of Atlanta Campaign. If there were other headstones or markers for the others who were laid to rest beside him, these have been long gone, and he appears to have been forgotten all too soon. €

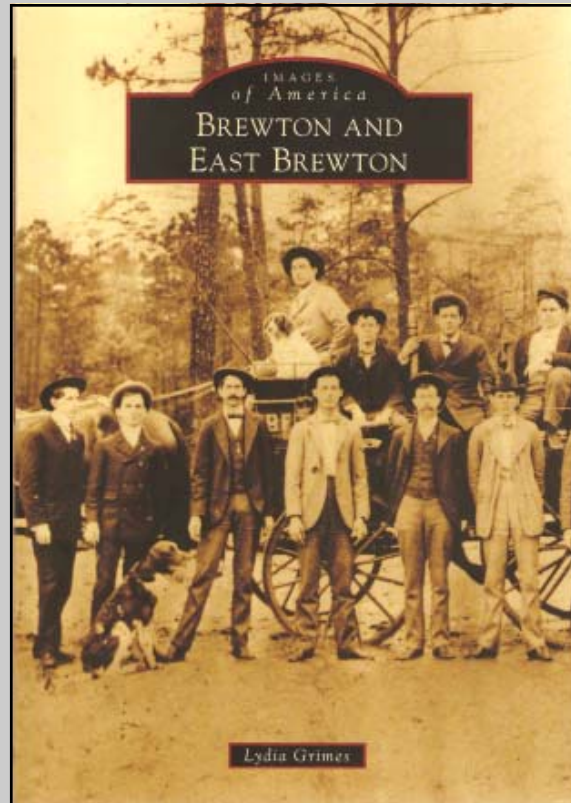
Book on Brewton and East Brewton Published

Lydia Grimes, ECHS member and columnist for the Brewton Standard has announced the publication of the book Brewton and East Brewton, part of the series of books published by Arcadia Publishes entitled Images of America.

In the publisher's announcement of the book, Lydia recalls that she has always been interested in history and family genealogies. After she wrote a book about her own family heritage in 1984, she began to write her column for the Brewton Standard featuring stories about Escambia County and Brewton's history and heritage.

She has collected over 700 photographs, many of which are featured in this book. A paperback, the book can be purchased through ECHS – cost is \$21.99.

To the right is the cover of the book.



Summary of the Minutes of the August 23, 2011 Meeting of ECHS

Announcements

- ♦ The restored Downing-Shofner School historic marker is in place.
- ♦ Civil War Voices, a drama based on the letters of soldiers and families on both sides of the conflict will be presented on October 9, 2011 at 3:00 p. m. in the JDCC Woodfin Patterson Auditorium. The performance is sponsored by the Brewton Arts Council.
- ♦ The Alabama Coastal Birdfest will meet October 6-8, 2011 at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center on the Causeway between Mobile and Spanish fort. Information and registration available at <www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com>.

Members Participate in Recent Events



Above, archeologists from the University of South Alabama have spent the last year tracing the route of the 250 mile long Old Federal Road in Alabama.

Members of ECHS have participated in USA's survey helping to locate parts of the road in Escambia County. ECHS member Paul Merritt is pictured here with Greg Waselkov and Raven Christopher of USA. They are shown on a road in Jack Springs where Paul helped them trace the Federal Road in the area, pointing out where older residents had told of the location of an inn/coach stop.

Because of the springs, the abundant water meant Jack Springs developed into a popular place to stop.

On the same day, ECHS Members Ann Biggs-Williams and Jeff Ross showed the USA surveyors the route from Escambia County into Baldwin



Above, ECHS members are

Back Row: left to right: Jerry Simmons, Ann Biggs Williams, and Paul Merritt.

Front Row: left to right: Dianne Simmons and Sherry Johnston.

These members enjoyed the recent meeting concerning the Old Federal Road and the role of the community of Burnt Corn which was held at the Old Bethany Church in Burnt Corn.

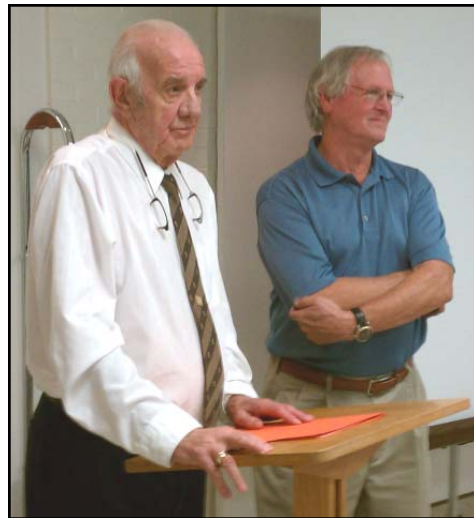
The meeting, which included presentations by scholars from the University of South Alabama, Auburn University, and Samford University also included a bus tour of the route of the road in Monroe County.

The Old Federal Road was the main street of Burnt Corn. The community is located on the juncture where the Old Federal Road joins with the Wolf Trail, which was a major Indian Trail to Pensacola and thus a major road for trade and connection for Creek society and early traders and settlers.



(left) ECHS Treasurer Susan Crawford., seated, is shown at the Hour Glass at the recent rummage sale showing items ECHS had on sale to a customer.

Snapshots



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Reconstruction

By Darryl Searcy

The following article will be published as a series. This is the first installment.

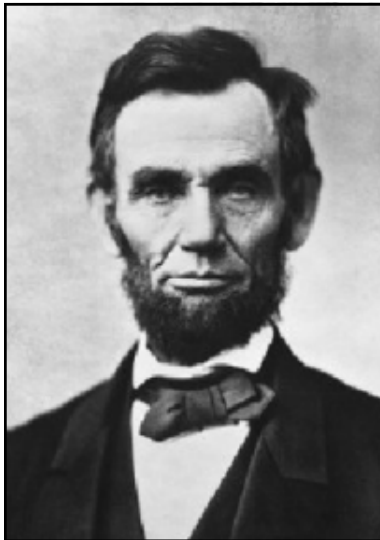
In the book, Abraham Lincoln: Tyrant, Hypocrite or Consummate Statesman, Gen. W. T. Sherman is quoted as having said: “The Yankees have murdered, raped, looted, starved and destroyed Dixie, but until we can repopulate Georgia it is useless to occupy it. The utter destruction of roads, houses, and people has crippled their military resources -- I made the march, and I made Georgia howl.”

Destroyed indeed; senseless destruction.

Most Americans regard Abraham Lincoln as the nation's greatest president. But in recent years powerful movements have gathered, both on the political right and the left, to condemn Lincoln as a flawed and even wicked man. Just as events have occurred during our current and past Administrations, many things happen on the battlefield that are not sanctioned, but numerous isolated incidents of horrible crimes have happened and are bound to happen again that cannot be made right. Such is what will be read in this article.

Abraham Lincoln was not a saint, but was he the good man who did what he thought was best for the nation?

Mr. Lincoln's closest friend, William Herndon, said about him: “His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest.”



Abraham Lincoln
President of the Union



Alexander Stevens
Vice-President of the Confederacy

In the ancient world ambition was often viewed as a vice. In Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Brutus stated that his reason for joining the conspiracy against Caesar was his fear that Caesar had grown too ambitious. But as founding father and future president James Madison noted in The Federalist, “the American system was designed to attract ambitious men. Such ambition was then, and is today, presumed natural to a politician, and ambition is favorable to democracy as long as it seeks personal distinction by promoting public good through constitutional means.”

What unites the right-wing and left-wing attacks on Lincoln is that all agree that he had little or no respect for the law. The right-wing school, made up largely of Southerners and some libertarians, holds that Lincoln was a self-serving tyrant who rode roughshod over civil liberties, such as the right to habeas corpus. Lincoln is also accused of greatly expanding the size of the federal government. Some libertarians even charge, and this is not intended as a compliment, that Lincoln was the true founder of the welfare state.

In 2002, the article, “Events: Arguing the Case for Southern Secession,” contends that the causes leading up to the Civil War had virtually nothing to do with slavery, but had everything to do with preserving constitutional government. Alexander Stephens, former vice president of the Confederacy, agreed. In his speech delivered at Savannah, Georgia in 1861, Mr. Stephens

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Reconstruction (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

said that the American Revolution is based on the assumed premise that the races are equal, while the new Confederate government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea.

Thus, a war came and people on both sides suffered greatly. The greater picture demanded a focus that did not allow for small distractions.

I recently had dinner with a friend who lives in Gulf Breeze, Florida. We laughed and made jokes, and we also talked at length about the aftermath of the American Civil War and the atrocities served upon the struggling South. My friend, who attended Georgia Tech University, and subsequently became a chemist of note with Monsanto Corporation, said, "I was almost out of college before I knew that 'damned Yankee' was actually two words."

In her classic novel Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell wrote superbly how Scarlett's breath came back to her as suddenly and painfully as after a blow in the stomach. "A Yankee, a Yankee with a long pistol on his hip! And she was alone in the house with three sick girls and the babies! As he lounged up the walk, hand on holster, beady little eyes glancing to right and left, a kaleidoscope of jumbled pictures spun in her mind, stories Aunt Put-put had whispered of attacks on unprotected women, throat cuttings, houses burned over the heads of dying women, children bayoneted because they cried, all of the unspeakable horrors that lay bound up in the name of 'Yankee.'"



Margaret Mitchell
Author of
Gone with the Wind

Ms. Mitchell was not wrong. Few scholars have addressed the sexual threat captured in this confrontation between Scarlett and the Union soldier. In fact, historians have accepted without question the idea that Union soldiers rarely touched southern women, black or white, and have argued that violence against them was rare during the Civil War. Yet Mitchell's fictional account of one woman's wartime experience makes clear that a perceived threat of rape or death during the Civil War was all too real.

General Benjamin Butler, lawyer, politician, military general, and administrator over occupied New Orleans, constantly threatened sexual violence during the American Civil War.

As federal troops began to occupy southern territory, rumors that Yankees planned to rape their way through the South spread. Refugees and local newspapers reported "outrages against women" and other atrocities allegedly committed by Union soldiers. The Confederate Congress whipped up the rumors and intensified women's fears when it declared: "The conduct of the enemy has been destitute of that forbearance and magnanimity which civilization and Christianity have introduced... clothing of women and infants is stripped from their persons... helpless women have been exposed to the most cruel outrages and to that dishonor which is infinitely worse than death."

When Confederate propaganda did not succeed in keeping women in a state of constant fear, the mere presence of Union soldiers did.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Reconstruction *(continued)*

(Continued from page 12)

In spring 1862, when General Benjamin Butler arrived in New Orleans with Union troops, he was greeted by a mob of men and women dismayed by defeat and outraged by the prospect of Union occupation. New Orleansans challenged and resisted the authority of Butler and his 2,500 soldiers at every turn: shopkeepers refused to do business with "Yankees," ministers refused to say prayers for



General Benjamin Butler

President Lincoln, and citizens destroyed Union flags. To maintain order, Butler declared martial law and set out to establish proper respect for his troops and the Union cause. Butler had William B. Mumford, a professional gambler who had torn the U.S. flag from the U.S. Mint in New Orleans, arrested and sentenced to hang.

(Continued on page 14)



THE LADIES OF NEW ORLEANS before GENERAL BUTLER'S Proclamation.



After GENERAL BUTLER'S Proclamation.

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From Harper's Weekly, the caption reads:

"The Ladies of New Orleans before General Butler's Proclamation"

<http://www.harpweek.com/09Cartoon/RelatedCartoon.asp?Month=July&Date=12>

From Harper's Weekly, the caption reads:

"After General Butler's Proclamation"

<http://www.harpweek.com/09Cartoon/RelatedCartoon.asp?Month=July&Date=12>

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Reconstruction *(continued)*

(Continued from page 13)

When a New Orleans bookseller placed a skeleton labeled "Chickahominy" in the window of his store, a place where numerous Union soldiers had been slain, Butler sentenced him to two years' confinement at Ship Island off the coast of Mississippi, a federal prison during the war. A merchant who refused to sell shoes to a federal soldier had all of his stock sold at auction. Shopkeepers who closed their stores in protest were fined \$100. A contractor who refused to do work for the army was imprisoned on bread and water until he agreed to perform the job.

If some southern women hoped that their actions would force Union officers to retaliate, they got their wish on May 15, 1862, when General Butler issued his infamous "General Orders, No. 28:"

"As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any female shall by word, gesture, or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

Butler's Order licensed his troops not only to refuse protection, but to offer insult and to treat as prostitutes the women who offended federal troops and resisted occupation. He also insisted that Order 28 was not a call to rape, but he clearly believed that threatening sexual violence was a justifiable means of subduing southern women.

When one of Butler's officers expressed concern that "troops may misunderstand the order," Butler



Secretary William Stanton

defended: "Let us, then have one case of aggression on our side. I shall know how to deal with that case, so that it will never be repeated. So far, all the aggression has been against us. Here we are, conquerors in a conquered city; we have respected every right... and yet we cannot walk the streets without being outraged and spit upon by green girls. I do not fear the troops, but if aggression must be, let it not be all against us. Their insolence is beyond endurance, and must be checked. Such forbearance was never shown to a conquered town as our people have shown them. To

show their appreciation of such forbearance, they step out of their parlor on the piazzas and grossly insult our officers as they pass along the street."

Like her husband, Sarah Butler believed that the women of New Orleans forfeited their right to protection by refusing to behave as proper ladies. More importantly, Secretary of State William Seward openly supported the Order, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus Fox applauded Butler's actions, and President Lincoln, who received both domestic and international pressure to repudiate the Order, never did so.

Confederates were outraged. The mayor of New Orleans, John T. Monroe, was the first to condemn the Order, accusing Butler of giving "license to the officers and soldiers... to commit outrages... upon defenseless women" and threatening to step down as mayor if Butler did not revoke the Order.

Butler, not being swayed by intimidation, informed the mayor that, "The language of the letter would not be tolerated, and if he believed that he could no longer control the 'aroused' passions of the people, he would be relieved of his responsibility."

(Continued on page 15)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Reconstruction *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

ity and sent directly to Fort Jackson, the Union prison.”

When the mayor protested that his only desire was to "vindicate the honor of the virtuous women of the City," Butler reassured him that the Order did not contemplate any virtuous women," explaining that virtuous women would not insult "by word, gesture, or movement" federal troops and thus had nothing to fear.

Monroe accepted Butler's reasoning, rescinded his letter, and signed an official letter of apology. The next day, however, he withdrew his apology on the grounds that he had "misunderstood" Butler's explanation and called on the general to make a public announcement declaring that Order 28 did not apply to decent ladies, to which an impatient Butler insisted: "There can be, and there has been, no room for misunderstanding of General Order No. 28. I shall not, as I have not abated, a single word of that order; it was well considered. If obeyed, it will protect the true and modest woman from all possible insult: the others will take care of themselves."

This compilation of researched articles will be difficult to accept and believe, but following is the result of many hours of study and laboring over archives that clearly tell the horrors that few history books fully acknowledge. So, let's start with the American Jacobin Club -- led by the Secretary of War, Edward M. Stanton.

The Jacobin Club was a political club of the French Revolution. So called from the Dominican convent where they originally met in the Rue St. Jacques (Latin: Jacobus), Paris. It originated as the Club Benthorn, formed at Versailles as a group of Breton deputies to the Estates General of 1789. At the height of its influence, there were thousands of chapters throughout France, with a very large membership. After the fall of Robespierre the club was closed.

As the strife was ending, some ambitious Northern aims in the South were cloaked. During the War, when stories of suffering in Southern prison camps in Richmond and Andersonville began to spread over the North, Secretary of War Stanton prepared to use the stories to put fire in the Northern heart. The Union armies were waging a relentless war upon the South's transportation system, knowing well that without it the Confederates would not be able to provide adequate housing, clothing, medicine, and food to the prisoners. So, instead of exchanging the prisoners, the obvious humane solution as requested by President Jefferson Davis, the Secretary apparently preferred to allow Union soldiers to suffer from disease and privation. Surely he knew well that the very presence of the prisoners would be a drain upon the Confederacy's dwindling resources. It would be a turkey shoot.

Secretary Stanton was the Cabinet representative of the radical faction of the Republican Party that adopted the name "Jacobin." The Jacobins represented the interests of the North's rising industrialists who wanted a majority of influence over the Southern railroad system. The promoters wanted and expected subsidies from the Federal treasury, and they were using the new national banking system to get a strangle hold on the country's wealth in both the North and the South.

The Jacobins, although considered relatively moderate, firmly believed in the need to remove all social class distinctions as well. They also believed that the vote should be universal and that government should provide for the welfare of the poor, although such provision would not be applied to the Confederate states, as they must be made to come to heel.

Using the language of humanitarianism and freedom to cloak their predator-like aims, the Jacobins wanted the war prolonged until the armies had totally crushed the South, destroyed its economic system, and enabled the North to seize its resources. In Congress, the Jacobins controlled the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War, while formulating propaganda and policies.

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Reconstruction *(continued)*

Neither Secretary Stanton nor the Congressional Jacobins were willing to relieve the suffering of Union prisoners of war by modifying its policy or exchanging prisoners. Instead, the Secretary gave encouragement to popular demands that Confederate prisoners of war, confined in the North, be made to suffer in retaliation. Northern prison officials reduced the rations of prisoners, failed to provide heat, and refused to issue clothing to prisoners suffering the unaccustomed severities of a Northern climate. Surgeons of Northern prison camps officially reported that men were dying from exposure, overcrowding, lack of food and bad sanitary conditions.

The Secretary prepared a brief for his staff in which he stated that he was not disposed to do anything in view of the treatment the Northern prisoners were receiving at the hands of the Southern enemy. He brushed off any suggestion that more prisons were needed, and instead, ordered that measures be taken to subject captured Confederates to precisely the same treatment in respect to food, clothing, medical treatment and other necessities. Consequently, every conceivable effort was made to intimidate and dehumanize the Confederate prisoner. Indeed, that attitude had already filtered down to field commanders who were reluctant to rein in their foot soldiers who were free to force their will upon a crippled South. Unfortunately history has failed to advertise these atrocities committed by "damned yankees."

Although the Jacobin press enthusiastically endorsed this heinous program, some prisoners of war, returning from the South, denied that Confederates were deliberately torturing prisoners. Such reports might well have caused a reaction against the policy of retaliation, and have given excuse for renewed demands for exchanges. To forestall such developments, Stanton sought "official confirmation of his policy" by asking the Committee on the Conduct of the War to visit a hospital at Annapolis and report on the condition of some sick and wounded ex-prisoners.

"The enormity of the crime committed by the rebels toward our prisoners," Stanton told the Jacobin com-

mittee, "is not known or realized by our people, and cannot but fill with horror the civilized world with the deliberate system of savage and barbarous treatment." No mention was made of conditions suffered by Confederate soldiers being held in the North.

As instructed, the Congressional committee visited Annapolis. They emerged with a report which was a masterpiece of propaganda. In several pages of official print, they detailed a catalog of Confederate brutality. They told how the Southerners robbed their captives, beat them, starved them, and murdered them with fiendish enthusiasm. And, as evidence that could not be denied, the committee presented the pictures of eight alleged victims of Confederate savagery. The pictured men were said to have hollow, unshaven cheeks, glassy eyes, protruding bones, and expressions of utter despondency.

The Government promptly circulated thousands of copies of the official report. No one noticed that two of the pictured men had been dead when the committee visited Annapolis, and no one knew, of course, that the worst case was a soldier who had never been a prisoner at all! Nor did the Committee bother to mention that the Confederates had sent these prisoners home, at their own request, because there were no proper hospital facilities for their care in Richmond. Such an admission would have weakened the Jacobin argument that the rebels had a "predetermined plan" to permanently disable all Union prisoners of war.

Bolstered by this report bearing the solemn signatures of Congressmen, the War Department continued its policy of retaliation upon the helpless Confederate prisoners of war. It followed that disease ran riot and death occurred in the Northern prison camps until more than 12 percent of the prisoners were dead. Secretary Stanton had succeeded in administering "precisely similar treatment." In the South where the Northern blockade prevented the delivery of food and medicines, some 15.5 percent of Northern prisoners died.

For his part in the deaths of nearly 13,000 Union prisoners, Captain Heinrich Hartmann Wirz, the Con-

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(Continued from page 16)

federate commander of Andersonville Prison in Americus, Georgia, was executed at the Washington Penitentiary in Washington, D.C., in November 1865. Equal punishment was never carried out against Union prison wardens.

The end of the War did not bring an end to propaganda on the subject of Confederate atrocities.

After the war, the Jacobins continued their program of destroying the South's economic system. As they proceeded to impose military government on the South in a drastic program of "Reconstruction," they needed to keep the prison atrocity stories alive. Unless, as their argument ran, the Southerners were controlled at the point of a bayonet, they would reestablish slavery and rise again in an effort to destroy the Union.

Accordingly, in 1869, the Jacobins in the House of Representatives appointed a committee to report again on the prisoners. "Rebel cruelty," reported the committee, "demands an enduring truthful record, stamped with the National Authority." Oral and written testimony from some 3,000 witnesses was taken, after which a heavily documented volume was stamped with the National Authority approval.

Unfortunately, only the horror stories of acts committed upon Northern soldiers in Confederate prisons was the proof needed by the Jacobin doctrine that the Confederates were not friends, Jefferson Davis was a beast, and no rebel could ever be trusted with a ballot. To the Jacobin it was clear that the whole South should be made to suffer forever for its sins.



Execution of Heinrich Hartmann Wirz

Confederates being held in Northern prisons were able to occasionally smuggle out letters or journals. Following are just a few of those reports.

The Cape Fear Historical Institute reports an account written by an unnamed soldier from Marshall's Battery in which he describes a horrible condition that existed in the Northern prisons. The soldier describes the ha-

tred that was instilled in the black soldiers against their former white neighbors, wherein the slightest confrontation often became deadly. The practice continued during Reconstruction as the victorious Republican party needed black political dominance to remain in power. The shooting of unarmed prisoners was no doubt a contributing factor in a high percentage of Confederate deaths in Northern prison camps.

"As a general rule," the soldier wrote, "the treatment received by white soldiers was not so bad, and it would have been much better, had it not been for the cruel policy of the United States Government, and the stringent orders to have that policy carried out.

"The colored troops were very harsh in their treatment of us, and they were urged to do this by their officers, who were certainly the meanest set of white men that could be found anywhere. The Negroes never let an opportunity pass to show their animosity and hatred towards us, and the man who shot a Rebel was regarded as a good soldier. They carried their authority to the extreme, and would shoot upon the slightest provocation."

To be continued . . .

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
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