

*Remembering*

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Dunbar Rowland (1864—1837), Mississippi Archivist & Historian

*Preserving The Past for Future Generations*



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William Winter Building

*Remembering 17 Volume 1*

*January 2017—April 2017*

*Preserving the Past for Future Generations*

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# Dunbar Rowland & John Logan Power: Preserving Mississippi History For Future Generations

By

Dr. Harold Graham

Any discussion of Mississippi history begins with the long epoch of time when Native Americans occupied what is now Mississippi. This discussion moves to the exploration of Hernando DeSoto in 1541, the first white man to walk on our soil; then this discussion leads to periods of French, Spanish, and British influence before Mississippi became a territory of the United States in 1798.

As a final step, this discussion would lead to the time when the Mississippi Territory was split into two states, Alabama and Mississippi, by approval of the United States Congress on March 1, 1817, some two hundred years ago.

Keeping a record of the events that were happening in our state and insuring that these records were properly stored in a facility open to the public was not an important function to many of our state officials for many years. What it took was both individual and collective efforts to make it happen.

In terms of individual efforts, we must applaud J. F. H. Claiborne in the publication of the first history of Mississippi. This multi-volume history was published in 1880 by Power & Barksdale, Jackson, Mississippi, and was entitled, Mississippi as A Province, Territory, and State. Franklin L. Riley published School History of Mississippi in Public and Private Schools in 1900. Then there was John Logan Power, the “Power” of Power & Barksdale above who printed Claiborne’s History. And there was Dunbar Rowland. **More on Rowland, Power, and Barksdale later in this story.**

In terms of collective efforts, there was no more prominent group than the Mississippi Historical Society. This organization first met in 1858, but became inactive after the death of their President, B. L. C. Wales. in less than two years later. It was reorganized in 1890, then led by Dr. Franklin L. Riley, and began publishing periodic journals about Mississippi history.

<sup>1</sup>Members also began to lobby the Mississippi legislature for a state department to house and manage a state archives.

In 1900, the Mississippi Legislature approved a bill to appoint a commission to study the need for a state archives to collect and house all such materials that would document the state’s history. This study completed, the Mississippi Legislature authorized on February 26, 1902, the

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<sup>1</sup> Mississippi Historical Society website: [www.mdah.ms.gov](http://www.mdah.ms.gov).

creation of a state archives to be housed in the capitol building. The department which maintained the archives would be bound to the following objects and purposes,

“the care and custody of official archives, the collecting of materials bearing upon the history of the state and of the territory included therein, from the earliest times, the editing of official records and other historical materials, the diffusion of knowledge in reference to the history and resources of this state, the encouragement of historical work and research, and the performance of such other acts and requirements as may be enjoined by law”

A nine-member board authorized to oversee the activities of the Department included as President, General Stephen D. Lee. Other members were prominent Mississippians: Chancellor R. B. Fulton, Dr. R. W. Jones, Bishop Chas. B. Galloway, Prof. J. R. Preston, Dr. Franklin L. Riley, Judge B. T. Kimbrough, Prof. J. M. White and Prof. G. H. Brunson.

### **Enter Dunbar Rowland.**

The board appointed Dunbar Rowland as the first Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on March 14, 1902. In October 1902, he was given an assistant, Mrs. Eron Opha Gregory who would later become his wife.

Dunbar Rowland was a native of Oakland in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, and the son of a local physician and his wife, Dr. William Brewer Rowland and Mary Bryan Rowland. He received his primary education from a private school in Memphis, Tennessee, from Mississippi A. & M. College and the University of Mississippi in 1888. With a law degree in hand, he practiced first in Memphis, then later in Coffeeville, Mississippi. Throughout his legal career, he also maintained a strong interest in Mississippi history and frequently submitted articles for publication to major newspapers and the Mississippi Historical Society.<sup>2</sup>

Within six months of his employment, Rowland had sorted through five of fifty boxes government records. He wrote at the time,

“The condition in which I found the official records of Mississippi is the most convincing argument in favor of the establishment of this Department...Official documents of all kinds from all departments were thrown together in hopeless confusion, and in this neglected condition they were generally regarded as old waster papers of no value.”<sup>3</sup>

Rowland came into office just as many of the Confederate veterans were reaching the short side of life and he rushed through records of all kinds to make sure that the history of this war

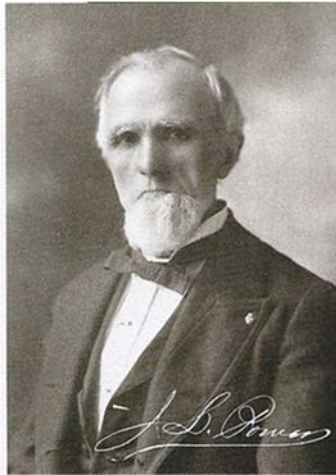
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<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia.

<sup>3</sup> Mississippi Department of Archives and History Blog 15 Mar 2011.

and its participants were saved. One of his acts was the sending out a questionnaire to war veterans all across Mississippi, as we have seen, asking them to tell the story of the regiment they served in.

Rowland was also aware that official Confederate records had been moved from the capitol building to a safe location well after the Civil War had ended, but well before a stable and capable government had been elected following the Reconstruction era<sup>4</sup>. **This brings us back to John Logan Power.**



A native of County Tipperary, Ireland, John Logan Power emigrated the United States in 1850. He found that career in journalism, first with stops in Lockport, New York, then in New Orleans, and finally in Jackson, Mississippi, where he moved in 1855. This was the beginning of a successful newspaper career which included his role as editor of the *Jackson Daily* in 1860. He abandoned this private enterprise to serve in the Confederacy, then after the war, in 1866, he started another newspaper, *The Daily Standard*. This newspaper was merged in 1890 with the *Clarion Ledger* to create what was then known as *The Daily Clarion Ledger* and which today is known simply as *The Clarion Ledger*.<sup>5</sup> Power was also a successful printer, the same presses used for printing newspapers also being used to

print books, circulars and posters.

As a writer, he was outstanding and turned this talent to writing books, as well as for the newspaper.

He was a central figure in the relief effort following the Yellow Fever of 1878 and wrote a book about these experiences that was entitled, The Epidemic of 1878, in Mississippi, Report of the Yellow Fever Relief Work Through J. L. Power, Jackson, Miss., Clarion Steam Pub. House, 1879.

Power also engaged in civic matters and politics and was Mississippi Secretary of State, as well as a trustee for Jackson Public School at the time of his death in 1901. A Jackson elementary school is named in his honor.

His greatest service to the preservation of historical records, however, has to do with an office to which he was appointed as a Confederate soldier in 1864. He was promoted to Colonel and designated as Superintendent of Army Records.

Power took this role seriously, even as the war ended, as a new government took over in 1865, and when the old political forces retook charge in 1875. Throughout these turbulent times,

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Dunbar Rowland, ed., Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, in Three Volumes, Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Company Association, 1907.

Power saw state records carelessly tossed out like so much trash. Power had seen these records sent first to the Supreme Court chambers, causing the floor to buckle from so much weight, then to the state penitentiary which was then located in Jackson.

Power became so desperate that he went to the office of the Secretary of State and asked for permission to put the military records in a special hiding place<sup>6</sup>. He died in 1901, having shared this location with hardly anyone.

From Dunbar Rowland's investigation, he was able to find only one veteran, Col. E. E. Baldwin, who had served in William Russell Barksdale's Brigade, and knew where the Confederate records were hidden. With Baldwin leading the way, three large boxes were found in the Masonic Hall attic of the Jackson City Hall. Power, a Mason, had put the records in the most secure place he could think of.

Rowland also had a strong interest in Native American culture and led an effort to document a number of the mounds and historical archeological sites. There were many avenues of his interests including a Hall of Fame portrait gallery for prominent political figures, an extensive serve for private letters of famous people, and the preservation of historical buildings and other sites.

- Major publications during the tenure of Dr. Rowland were

Dunbar Rowland, ed., Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, in Three Volumes<sup>7</sup>, Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Company Association, 1907.

Dunbar Rowland, ed., Official Letter Books of W. C. C. Claiborne, 1801-1816, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, 1917. (6 volumes)

Dunbar Rowland, ed., Jefferson Davis, Constitutionalist: His Letters, Papers, and Speeches 1923. (ten volumes)

Dunbar Rowland, ed., History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South, S. J. Clarke Company, Jackson, Mississippi, 1925. (two volumes)

## **A Sample of Rowland Dunbar's Research and Writings**

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<sup>6</sup> Dunbar Rowland, ed., Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, in Three Volumes, Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Company Association, 1907.

<sup>7</sup> After an Internet search, only two volumes were located by the author of this story. Volumes I and II are available free to Internet users at Google.com. Each volume exceeds 1,000 pages.

*In the pages that follow, the editor of Remembering takes the liberty of sharing some of the research and writings of Dunbar Rowland. All material is taken from Rowland's Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form, in Three Volumes, Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Company Association, 1907, either Vol. 1 or Vol. II.*

*In Dunbar's original publication, all subject matter was organized in alphabetic/cyclopedic order. We have repackaged this subject matter into a topical format for better understanding of the material. Only limited editing has been done to the main content. All footnotes and comments are from the editor of Remembering, Dr. Harold Graham.*

*We have also enclosed county maps, most of which were published in 1907 by the Mississippi Railroad Commission. You will see differences in information between the two sources. This is natural for the time period. We are not even sure that Rowland had either a telephone or typewriter and the ability to communicate long-distance in those days was fraught with problems.*

*In terms of reporting census data, Rowland used the standard ethnic terms approved for 1900 and 1910 censuses, "white" and "Colored", and whereas Indian (Choctaw) residents were also reported in those two censuses, Rowland failed to do so.*

## **"Mississippi": The Origin of the Name**

**By**

**Dunbar Rowland**

**Mississippi** (the state) was given the name that appeared first as the name of the river Mississippi. Peter Pitchlynn, in a letter to the *Columbus Whig* in 1861, traced the derivation of the word to the Choctaw, **mish sha sippukni**, which he translated "**beyond age**". Du Pratz sought to explain the name **Mecharsepi** as a contraction of **Meact Chassipi**, meaning "**the ancient father of waters**". It appears, however, that the Southern Indians did not give the river such a name when the earliest explorers reached the coast. The name given by the gulf coast Indians was written by the French as **Malabouchia**.

**Meechee Seepee**, or something sounding like that, was the name given the river by the Indians in the Northwest, visited by LaSalle and Marquette. The **meechee** or **Missi** is the same in meaning as the **Micco** of the Creeks and other Muscogeans, meaning "great" as an adjective and "chief" as a noun. The **Michi** of Michigan is the same word, and possibly the **Massa** of Massachusetts has a like derivation. Mississippi means great water, or great river. It would be more accurately spelled Missisippi, the French orthography, or Misisipi, the Spanish form, both pronounce "Meeseescepee", which is probably close in sound to the Indian spoken words.

The river was known to the Spaniards in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries chiefly under the name of the ***Rio del Espiritu Santo***, or “the River of the Holy Ghost”. It was also called by them the ***Rio Grande del Florida, the Rio Grande del Espiritu Santo***, or simply the ***Rio Grande***.

By the French it was given the title of ***La Palisade***, on account of the numerous upright snags and young cotton-wood trees found on the bar and passes at the mouth. After its exploration by Marquette and LaSalle, it was called the ***Colbert*** in honor of the great minister of Louis XIV. Subsequent to the founding of the French colony by Iberville in 1699, it was named the ***St. Louis***, for the King. But these names all yielded in time to the ancient Indian name.

F. L. Riley in *History of Mississippi* (page 349) states that Pere Marquette was the first to introduce the name, as ***Misisipi*** or ***Micissippi***. Hennepin in 1688 used the spelling ***Mechasipi*** or ***Mechacebe***. Daniel Coxe gave it ***Merchacebe***. The present spelling is adapted from the French and Spanish spellings, the consonants being doubled to indicate the shot sound of *i*.

## **Newton and Neighboring Mississippi Counties in 1907**

**By**

**Dunbar Rowland**

### **Part I: Newton County, Mississippi**

**Newton County** was established February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1836, and was a part of the extensive region ceded to the United States by the Choctaws in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit, 1830. The county has a land surface of 561 square miles. It was named in honor of Sir Isaac Newton. The county is a square, containing sixteen townships, and is bounded on the north by the county of Neshoba, on the east by Lauderdale County, on the south by Jasper County and on the west by Scott County. It originally formed the lower half of Neshoba County, townships, numbered 5, 6, 7 & 8, of ranges numbered 10, 11, 12, and 13, east of the basis meridian, being taken from that county to form its area. Besancon's *Annual Register for Mississippi* (1838) gives the following list of county officers for that year: N. Bright<sup>8</sup>, Sheriff, Geo W. Parris, Judge of Probate, Wm. Gregg, Clerk of the Circuit Court; Geo. Armstrong, Clerk of Probate; Mercer M. Booker, Surveyor; Thos. Maulden, Treasurer; Jessey Henry<sup>9</sup>, Coroner; Dudley H. Thompson<sup>10</sup>, Ranger; Thos. J. Runnels<sup>11</sup>,

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<sup>8</sup> Nehemiah Bright, and probably a brother of Benjamin Bright.

<sup>9</sup> Correctly Jesse Huey.

<sup>10</sup> Dudley Hammond Thompson (1813—1891), later moved to Lincoln County, Mississippi with his wife, Margaret Ann Huey Thompson, daughter of Jesse Huey and Margaret Johnson. Dudley Hammond Thompson was a native of Pendleton District, South Carolina, and son of Ransom Thompson and Ann Dalrymple.

<sup>11</sup> Correctly Thomas Jefferson Reynolds, Sr.

Freeman Jones, Benjamin Bright, Roland Williams, Joshua Tatnum<sup>12</sup>, Members of the Board of Police<sup>13</sup>.

A most interesting and instructive account of the antiquities of the county will be found in *Volume 6, Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society*, by Capt. A. J. Brown whose valuable "History of Newton County" is also very instructive and complete. Speaking of the old town of Pinkney, he says "The name Pinkney dates as far back in the history of Newton County, as any other name in it. It is not known from what the town derived its name; the probabilities are it was settled as early as 1837, probably earlier, and was a place of some importance and trade. Lane & Boyd, merchants of that place, are reported to have had a stock of goods of \$10,000, who issued a fractional currency called 'shin plasters', and who were correspondents of the Decatur bank, and when the bank failed it naturally carried the business of Lane & Boyd with it... About twenty years ago, Mr. S. D. Daniel commenced a general merchandise business and sold a large amount of goods and made money. The place had a good mill seat...The name of Pinkney gave way to Stamper" and Stamper has given way to Stratton, which is rapidly growing, owing not only to the fine water power to be obtained, but also to the excellent farming lands surrounding the town.

This region, long the home of the Choctaw Indians, received a healthy influx of hardy settlers early in the last century. By the year 1837, there were in the county 1,506 whites and 426 slaves and during the last decade the region has taken on a new and more rapid growth, and while it possesses no towns of much size, it now has a population of 21,000 souls. The county seat is the old town of Decatur, located near the center and having a population of 250. Its two largest towns are Hickory (pop. 626) and Newton (population 2,000) located at the crossing of the Alabama & Vicksburg Ry. with the M. J. & K. C. R. R.

Some of the other villages are the old settlement of Union in the northern part, Chunkey's Station, Conehatta and Lawrence. The Alabama & Vicksburg Ry. runs across the southern part of the county from east to west and gives it direct communication with Jackson and Meridian, and the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R. traverses the county from north to south. This railroad has opened up some fine timber lands, which afford an excellent opportunity for manufacturers at Newton. A short line known as the Tallahatta Ry. From Meehan Junction to the A. & V. Ry. taps its eastern corner. The county is well watered by numerous creeks, which flow south from the Chickasawhay River<sup>14</sup>. The timber of the region consists of pine, oak, sweet and black gum, cedar, magnolia, beech, and cypress. It lies in what is known as the central prairie belt and its surface is level, undulating and hilly; the soil varies in character, consisting of prairie, pine, and bottom lands and "reed brakes". It produces cotton, corn, oats, sorghum,

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<sup>12</sup> Correctly Joshua Tatum.

<sup>13</sup> The Board of Police was five in number (with one member representing each beat) and had essentially many of the same legal powers granted to the Board of Supervisors today, but additionally had the legal power to enforce the upkeep of public roads by the landowner whose land bounded or enclosed a public road.

<sup>14</sup> This sentence should read "...which flow south into the Chickasawhay River".

tobacco, sugar cane, rice, potatoes, field peas and all kinds of vegetables and fruits suitable to the latitude. Many fine beds of marl are to be found in the county and an extensive use of fertilizers is made; in the year 1900 \$41,710 was expended in this direction.

The industry of stock raising has proved profitable and this item is a large one in estimating the resources of the county. The following statistics from the twelfth United States census for 1900, relate to farms, manufacturers and population: Number of farms, 3, 277; acreage in farms, 299,641 acres improved 114,928; value of land exclusive of buildings, \$1,135,760; value of building, \$543,230; value of live stock, \$605,696; total value of products not fed, \$1,165,741. Number of manufacturers, 63, capital invested \$162,102, wages paid \$44,141, cost of materials, \$130,085, total value of products \$285,297.

The population of the county in 1900 was whites 11,659, Colored 8,049, a total of 19,708 and an increase of 3,083 over the year 1890. In 1906 the population is estimated as 21,000.

Artesian water has been found at Hickory, at Chunkey's Station and along the eastern border of the county. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Newton County in 1905 was \$2,435,291 and in 1906 it was \$3,765,433 which shows an increase of \$1,330,142 during the year.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Newton County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Bartlett**, a post-hamlet in the extreme southwestern part of Newton County, about 15 miles from Decatur, the county seat.

**Battlefield**, a post station in the northeastern corner of Newton County, on Tallahatta Creek, and the northern terminus of the Tallahatta R. R. running north from Meehan Junction, on the A. & V. R. R. It is distant (sic) about 12 miles northeast of Decatur, the county seat. The town has several stores and churches, a good school, and is prospering.

**Chunky**, a post office of Newton County, on the Alabama and Vicksburg R. R., 18 miles west of Meridian. It has a money order post office, two rural routes, two churches, several stores, a good school, a saw-mill and a cotton gin. The town is growing rapidly and is in a flourishing condition. It had a population of 76 in 1900, and in 1906 the population was estimated at 300.

**Colon**, a post-hamlet in the southern part of Newton County, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., about 16 miles from Decatur, the county seat.

**Conehatta**, an incorporated post-town in the western part of Newton County, about 10 miles from Decatur, the county seat and nearest railroad town. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 149.

**Cooksey**, a post-hamlet of Newton County, about 10 miles west of Decatur, the county seat. Population in 1900, 47.

**Decatur**, the county seat of Newton County, is a post-town on the new line of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., about 70 miles east by north of Jackson. It was named for Commodore Stephen, and was settled in 1836. Some of its first settlers were: Samuel Hurd, James Ellis, Myer Bright, Willis R. Norman, Isaac Hollingsworth, J. H. Wells, W. S. Nimocks, E. S. Loper, and Isham Dansby<sup>15</sup>.

With the advent of the railroad the town has grown rapidly both in population and in the volume of its business. It handles several thousand bales of cotton annually, has a number of good general stores, good schools, two churches, and a bank—the Bank of Decatur, a branch of the Bank of Hickory. Among its industries are a steam saw-mill, a steam grist-mill and cotton gin combined, and a tannery. The population in 1906 was estimated at 250.

**Dormantown**<sup>16</sup>, a post-hamlet of Newton County, 10 miles north, northeast of Decatur, the county seat. Population in 1900, 25.

**Hellespont**, a hamlet in the northeastern part of Newton County. It has rural free delivery from Battlefield.

**Hickory**, a station on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R. in Newton County, 71 miles east of Jackson and 28 miles west of Meridian. It is an incorporated post-town, with express and telegraph facilities. It has lumber mills, a good school, several churches and several good stores. “The Reporter-Index”, a Democratic weekly established in 1888, is published here<sup>17</sup>. The Bank of Hickory is a prosperous institution, capitalized at \$30,000. The town was settled in 1860. Some of the first settlers were A. E. Gray, Heidle and Edwards, James Bell, W. N. Raines, Lem Nelson, Harper Bros., Osborne and Grissette<sup>18</sup>, and I. I Barber. Its population in 1900 was 626.

**Lawrence**, a post-village of Newton county, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., 60 miles east of Jackson, and 10 miles southwest of Decatur, the county seat. It has a money order post office,

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<sup>15</sup> Samuel Herd (1814-1884), James Ellis (1795- ), Nehemiah Bright (1810-- ), Isham Dansby (1801-1870), Walter Seth Nimocks (1820-1872) and John H. Wells (1823-), all lived in or near Decatur. Edward Spearman Loper (1807-1865) appears to have lived a few miles west of Decatur. Isaac Hollingsworth had extensive land in the county, including the town of Decatur, but his residence was several miles to the southwest of Decatur. It was Hollingsworth who gave land for the courthouse. Willis Roy Norman (1805-1871) owned extensive land in Newton and other counties, but his residence was between Newton and Hickory and near the site of the new Mississippi Veteran’s Cemetery.

<sup>16</sup> Jon W. Dorman (1840—1913) was born in Barbour County, Alabama to H. N. and Elizabeth Dorman. The family was in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, in 1860. After his marriage, he settled east of Union in the community that came to bear his name. "Judge" Dorman was a Justice of Peace for more than forty years, owned a general store, and operated a post office known as Dormantown from June 29, 1888 until August 15, 1906. He donated land to the building of Dorman School. Jon W. Dorman married Margaret Elmary Graham, a daughter of William Graham and Rachel Elmira Jones, and they were parents of nine children.

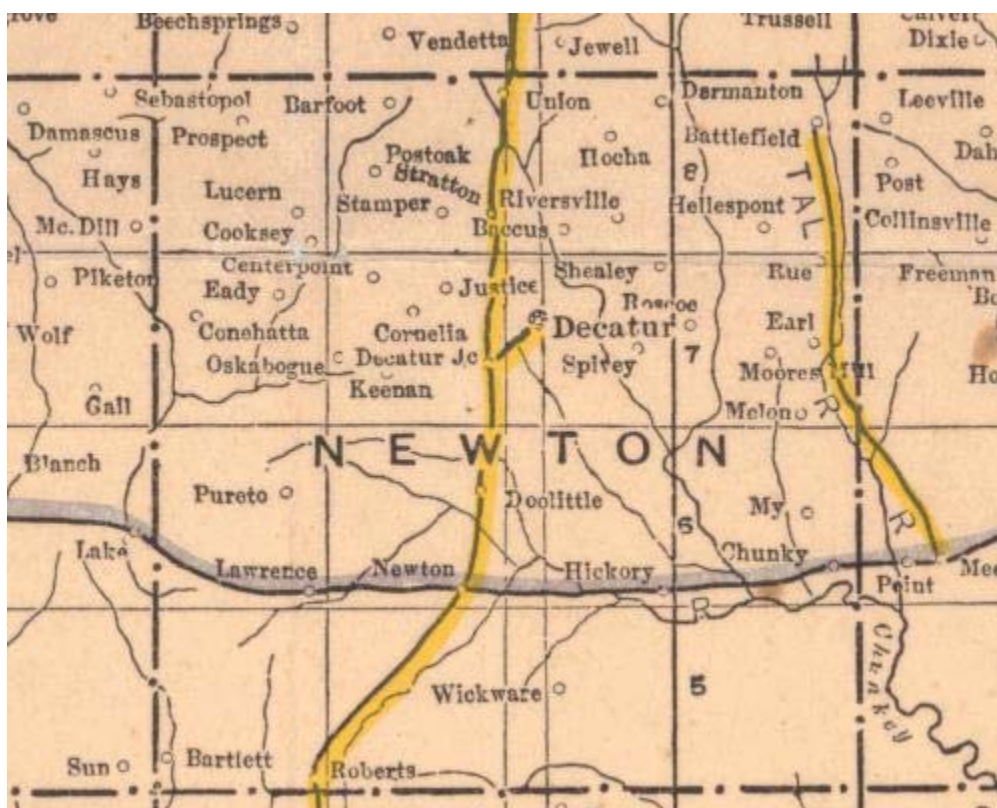
<sup>17</sup> This newspaper, first known as the Conehatta Index, was founded by Dr. Benton Bailey of Conehatta, then given to his son-in-law, Edward Lee Faucette, who moved to Hickory and sold the newspaper to Nathan Morris Everett, who operated the newspaper under two titles, including “Reporter Index” and “The Middle Buster.” It ceased publication ca. 1912.

<sup>18</sup> Probably intended as Gressett.

several general stores, two churches and a grist mill. Population in 1900, 75; the population in 1906 is estimated at 125.

**Lucern**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Newton County, 8 miles from Decatur, the county seat, and nearest railroad town. Population in 1900, 40.

**Newton** is an incorporated post-town in Newton County, located at the crossing of the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R. with the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., 64 miles east of Jackson. It is the most important town between Jackson and Meridian, having telegraph, telephone, express and banking facilities. It contains many substantial brick business houses, and a number of fine residences. The Bank of Newton was established in 1899, with a capital of \$25,000, and the Merchants & Farmers Bank was established in 1905, capital \$25,000. The



**1907 Railroad Commissioners Map, Newton County, Mississippi**

“Newton Record” is a Democrat weekly established here in 1901; C. E. Cunningham, editor and proprietor; the “Mississippi Baptist”, a church weekly, is also published here with W. B. Sansing, editor<sup>19</sup>. The Newton Oil and Manufacturing Co’s. plant was established in 1904. It manufactures cotton-seed products, fertilizers, ice and electricity for both its own plant and for the town of Newton. It is capitalized at \$175,000, all paid up, and is a prosperous institution. Its

<sup>19</sup> This newspaper was originated by Rev. N. L. Clarke and eventually would be transformed into a state-wide publication, *The Baptist Record*.

officers are: J. N. Carpenter, of Natchez, Miss., President; J. W. McRaver<sup>20</sup>, Vice-President and Treasurer, W. V. Fant, Secretary. The plant operates 8 system ginneries, and is located on both the A. & V. and M. J. & K. C. R. Rs.

Newton is admirably situated to become a good manufacturing town as the M. J. & K. C. R. R. has opened up valuable timber lands both north and south of the town. There is now located a wood-working plant, with prospects for other establishments of a similar nature in the near future. The town has a good steam laundry, bottling works, 3 hotels, excellent schools, and handles annually more cotton than any other point between Jackson and Meridian, the number of bales being estimated at 60,000. Its population is growing rapidly and in 1906 was estimated at 2,000. There is a prosperous wholesale grocery firm located here, and others are contemplating similar establishments owing to the excellent railway facilities to be had.

**Prospect**, a post-hamlet in the northeastern part of Newton County. Population in 1900, 20.

**Pinkney**.<sup>21</sup> an early settlement, dating back perhaps of 1837, or even earlier, and situated in the northwestern part of Newton County. In the early days, the place was a trade center of some importance. Its name was changed to Stamper, and Stamper to Stratton. It has an excellent mill site.

**Rue**, a hamlet in the northeastern part of Newton County. It has rural free delivery from Battlefield station.

**Stamper**, a post-hamlet of Newton County 6 miles north of Decatur, the county seat. Population in 1900, 40.

**Stratton**. *Rowland indicates "see Stamper", but that is incorrect.* Stratton was a railroad hamlet located about one mile east of the older Pinckney/Stamper site. In 1907, Stratton was "a thriving place."

**Union**, a village in the north-central part of Newton County, 9 miles north of Decatur, the county seat. It is on the new extension of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R. It has 2 churches, a money order post office, several stores and the Bank of Union, established in 1905. The old town of Union was established in 1834 and was the place where courts were held before the counties of Neshoba and Newton were divided. Union is situated in a fine farming district and is destined to become a town of much importance. It has a population of about 250.

## **II: Border Counties of Newton County, Mississippi**

*Newton County is bordered on the south by Jasper County, on the east by Lauderdale County, on the North by Neshoba County and on the west by Scott County*

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<sup>20</sup> Correctly J. W. McRaven.

<sup>21</sup> Correctly Pinckney.

## Jasper County, Mississippi

**Jasper County** was created December 13, 1833, and was named for Sergeant Jasper, of Fort Moultrie fame. It was carved from territory just north of the old Mt. Dexter Treaty line, acquired from the Choctaws in 1830, and was originally occupied by the Six Town tribe of that nation.

The following were its limits as defined in the original act: “Beginning at the point at which the line between ranges 13 and 14 crosses the line between townships 4 and 5, to the line between ranges 9 and 10 east; from thence south, with said line, between ranges 9 and 10 east, to the southern boundary of the Choctaw Nation; from thence an eastern direction with said southern boundary line to the point at which the line between ranges 13 and 14 east would strike said boundary line, if extended south to the same; and from thence north, with said line between ranges 13 and 14 east, to the place of beginning.”

Soon after the removal of the Choctaws from the region, it was rapidly settled by a wealthy and thriving class of emigrants from the older states, and other parts of Mississippi. The old town of Garlandville, below mentioned, is said to be the oldest town in Jasper County. It was settled early in 1833, and about this time John H. Ward opened a tavern in a small house owned by John Garland, a half-breed Indian. He presented the house to the landlord’s wife, who reciprocated by naming the town in his honor. Many wealthy planters were in the neighborhood, who did their business in the town. Among the early settlers were the families of Watts<sup>22</sup>, Brown<sup>23</sup>, Hodge, Williams, Dellahay, Beard, Cowan, Layerly, Hamlet, and Harris.

The town raised two companies—Capt. Chatfields’s of the 20<sup>th</sup> Miss., and Capt. Lopo’s <sup>24</sup>of the 37<sup>th</sup> Mississippi—at the outbreak of the War Between the States. The war was disastrous to the surrounding slave owners, and most of the business of the flourishing old town has moved to the railroad, so that little is left to remind one of its former glory.

The county has a land surface of 647 miles and the county seat is in the little town of Paulding, named for John Paulding, who assisted in the capture of Major Andre during the War of the Revolution. In the early days, it was an inland town of some note, but it has not grown in size and is now a town of only 229 inhabitants.

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<sup>22</sup> The senior member of the Watts family was Judge John Evans Brown who died at Newton in 1875. He was married to Elizabeth Ann Chapman and was the father-in-law (by way of daughter Cornelia Watts) of A. J. Brown, author of History of Newton County, Mississippi, from 1834 to 1894 and a portrait and profile of Watts can be found in this publication.

<sup>23</sup> The senior member of the Brown family was John Hamilton Brown. He married Mary Ann Lucretia Montgomery and their children included Alfred John “A. J.” Brown, merchant at Newton and author of History of Newton County, Mississippi, from 1834 to 1894.

<sup>24</sup> Correctly Capt. Francis B. Loper, born 19 Dec 1827, Jones County, Mississippi—died 19 Dec 1895, Newton, Newton County, Mississippi, and buried in Newton Masonic Cemetery; married Eliza Jane Bridges. Francis was the son of John Booker Loper and Sarah McCormick Loper who settled at Rose Hill in Jasper County, Mississippi.

There are no large settlements within the borders of the county, the little railroad towns of Heidelberg, Vosburg, Stringer, and Montrose; and Garlandville and Vernon off the railroads, are among the most important ones.

The *Eastern Clarion*, one of the oldest newspapers in the state and now published in Jackson under the name of the *Clarion-Ledger*, was issued as a weekly at Paulding in the early thirties.

The principal water courses of the county are Tallahoma and Nuakfuppa Creeks and their tributaries, and the numerous small streams in the eastern part of the county which empty into the Chickasawhay River. The New Orleans & North Eastern R. R. cuts across the southeastern corner of the county and new line of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R. traverses its western border from north to south. It is a land of beautiful prairies, located in the central prairie belt of the state, and its interests are almost exclusively agricultural. The surface of the land is level in the valleys, undulating or hilly elsewhere. The timber consists of oaks, long leaf pine, hickory, beech, elm, and gum; extensive beds of marl are found in various parts of the county. The soil is generally light and sandy with a clay subsoil, fertile on the bottoms, and produces good crops of cotton, corn, oats, sugar cane, rice, sweet potatoes and sorghum, and all the garden vegetables and fruits adapted to the latitude. Excellent pasturage, winter and summer, is to be found, and much of the wealth of the region is in its live stock. The climate is very healthful and mild; numerous schools, and churches of all denominations, are scattered over the county.

The twelfth census of the United States for the year 1900 shows the following statistics for the county: Number of farms 2,254, acreage in farms 294,657, acres improved 82,259, value of land exclusive of buildings \$775,660, value of the buildings, \$360,790, value of live stock \$469,234, total value of products not fed to stock \$864,435. The number of manufacturing establishments was 32, capital \$44,024, wages paid \$4,541, cost of materials \$15,295 and total value of products \$35,044. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in the county in 1905 was \$1,782,076 and in 1906 it was \$3,152,157, which shows an increase for the year of \$1,370,081. The population of the county in 1900 was, whites 7,729, Colored 7,665, a total of 15,394, and 609 more than in 1890. The population in 1906 was about 17,000.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Jasper County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Acme**, a post-village in Jasper County, 12 miles west of Paulding, the county seat.

**Addine**, a post-town in Jasper county, 9 miles south of Paulding, the county seat.

**Alto**, a post-town of Jasper county, 8 miles southwest of Paulding.

**Baxter**, a post-hamlet in the northern part of Jasper County, about 18 miles northwest of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Bayspring**<sup>25</sup>, a post town in the western part of Jasper County, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., about 16 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 46. It has several good stores, two churches, a saw-mill, a cotton gin, a block and spindle factory, a bank, and an excellent school. The Bank of Bay Spring was established in 1904. There is a fine mineral spring located there. The town is growing rapidly and has a population of at least 1,000 (1906). By an act of the Legislature of 1906 Jasper County was divided into two judicial districts and Bay Spring was made the county seat of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or western district. Bay Spring has a separate school district and recently erected a fine school building, at a cost of \$6,000. *The Bay Spring News*, a weekly Democrat paper, is published here, edited by S. F. Thigpen.<sup>26</sup>

**Cooley**, a post-hamlet in the southeastern part of Jasper County, about 12 miles from Paulding, the county seat. Vosburg, on the New Orleans and North Eastern R. R., is the nearest railroad town.

**Garlandville**—This old settlement is reputed to be the oldest town in Jasper County and was first settled in 1833. It had a most inviting site, level and healthful, and covered with a splendid grove of hardwood trees. A large emigration of wealthy planters was attracted to the region and gave the place its importance before the War Between the States. War brought ruin to the old place and it is now an insignificant village of about 125 inhabitants with little to remind one of its splendid past.

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<sup>25</sup> The modern spelling is Bay Springs.

<sup>26</sup> Samuel Forrest Thigpen served as county Superintendent of Education for 1891-1895; he served as Representative to the Mississippi Legislature for Jasper and Clarke County, MS, 1896-1900. He later started a He later started a weekly newspaper which he sold in 1912, then farmed cattle, dairy and beef, and operated a grocery and a weekly newspaper which he sold in 1912, then farmed cattle, dairy and beef, and operated a grocery. He was a son of Rev. William Thigpen and Martha Jane Lee and was married to Julia Cornelia Arledge.



**1907 Mississippi Railroad Commission, Jasper County, Mississippi**

**Gridley**, a post office of Jasper County, situated on Altahomak Creek, 7 miles northwest of Paulding, the county seat.

**Hamlet**, a post office in the west-central part of Jasper County, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., 16 miles west of Paulding, the county seat.

**Heidelberg**, an incorporated post-town in the southeastern part of Jasper County, and an important station on the New Orleans & North Eastern R. R., 10 miles south of Paulding, the county seat. It is a shipping point of some importance, and has a money order post office, an express office, several stores, two large cotton gins, a bank, 3 churches and a good school. The Jasper County Bank was established in 1905. Population in 1900, 228; in 1906, 400 (estimated).

**Hero**, a post-hamlet in the north-central part of Jasper County, 14 miles north of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 24.

**Hosey**, a post-hamlet of Jasper County, on Nuakfuppa Creek, 15 miles south of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 26.

**Lake Como**, a little village in the southwest part of Jasper County, 14 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat, and 1 mile east of Tallahomah Creek. Bay Spring, 4 miles to the west, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., is the nearest railroad, banking and telegraph station. Population in 1900, 50.

**Leonida**, a post office of Jasper County, 5 miles south of Paulding, the county seat.

**Louin**, an incorporated post-hamlet in the western part of Jasper County, 16 miles from Paulding, the county seat, and 4 miles southwest of the station of Montrose, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R. It has good general stores, a saw mill, a shingle mill, a church, a good school and a bank. The Bank of Louin was established in 1906. Population in 1900, 25; the population in 1906 was 300.

**Missionary**, a hamlet of Jasper county, six miles north of Paulding.

**Montrose**, a post-hamlet of Jasper County, on Tallahoma Creek, and on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., about 36 miles southwest of Meridian and 13 miles from Paulding, the county seat. It has a money order post office, an express office, a bank, several stores, three churches, a school, a saw mill and a cotton gin. The Bank of Montrose was established in 1905. *The Jasper County Review*, a Democratic weekly, is published here, the Rev. W. W. Moore being its editor. The population in 1906 was estimated at 500, a gain of 350 over the census returns for 1900.

**Moss**, a post office in the southern part of Jasper County.

**New**, a post office in Jasper County.

**Otoe**, a post office of Jasper County, situated on Rahomo Creek, an affluent of Leaf River, about 18 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat.

**Paulding**, the capital of Jasper county, is a post-village 33 miles southwest of Meridian. Vosburg (sic), on the New Orleans & North Eastern R. R. is the nearest station, and Heidelberg is the nearest banking town. The town was named for John Paulding, who assisted in the capture of Major Andre. It has two churches, two stores, a cotton gin and grist mill combined, and a good school. Population in 1900, 229.

**Penantly**, a post office of Jasper County, 9 miles north of Paulding, the county seat.

**Ras**, a post office in the central part of Jasper County, situated on Altahomak Creek, 6 miles west of Paulding, the county seat.

**Rosehill**<sup>27</sup>, a post-hamlet of Jasper County, 8 miles northeast of Paulding, the county seat. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 32; population 1906, 150 (estimated)

**Stringer**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Jasper County, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., about 16 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat, and about 15 miles north of Laurel. Bay Spring is its nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 86. Population in 1906 is estimated at 150. It has good general stores, a saw mill, a cotton gin and a good school.

**Text**, a post office of Jasper County, 16 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat.

**Turnerville**, a handsome post-village of Jasper County, on Tallahoma Creek, 44 miles southwest of Meridian and 12 miles east of Paulding, the county, seat. Bay Spring is the nearest banking

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<sup>27</sup> Normally spelled "Rose Hill".

town, and also the nearest railroad station. The village has a church and store, and is the seat of Turnerville Academy. Population in 1900, 52.

**Vale**, a post office of Jasper County, 8 miles northwest of Paulding, the county seat.

**Verba**, a post office of Jasper County.

**Vernon**, a post-hamlet of Jasper County, on Tallahoma Creek, 12 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 60.

**Vosburg**<sup>28</sup>, a village in the southeastern part of Jasper County, on the New Orleans & North Eastern R. R., 10 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat, and about 20 miles southwest of Enterprise. Heidelberg is its nearest banking town. It has a money order post office and an express office, four stores, one church, a school, a cotton gin, a good hotel and is noted for its mineral springs, which furnish large shipments of water to all parts of the United States. At the Stafford Springs is erected a large and commodious hotel, equipped with modern conveniences, for the accommodation of those desiring the use of the spring water. The Vosburg Lithia Spring is another valuable spring much patronized.

**Vrue**, a post office of Jasper County, 8 miles southwest of Paulding, the county seat.

**Wadesboro**, a post office of Jasper County.

**Weems**, a hamlet in the southeastern part of Jasper County, on the New Orleans & North Eastern R. R., 38 miles southwest of Meridian, and 21 miles from Enterprise. Heidelberg is its nearest banking town. Weems is 10 miles southeast of Paulding, the county seat. Population in 1900, 42.

## **Lauderdale County, Mississippi**

**Lauderdale County**, one of the richest and most populous counties in the state, was established December 23, 1833, while Charles Lynch was acting Governor. It has a land surface of 677 square miles, and is located about the middle of the eastern border of the state next to the Alabama line. It received its name in honor of Col. James Lauderdale, of the War of 1812.

By the original act, it embraced "all the territory within townships 5, 6, 7 & 8, of ranges 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19", and has an area of about 19 townships. It is bounded on the north by the county of Kemper, on the east by Sumter County, Alabama, on the south by Clarke County, and on the west by Newton County.

Its early county seat was located at Marion until 1866; at Marion Station from 1866 to 1870; it was then removed to Meridian, the present county seat. In addition to the old county seat of Marion, the towns of Alamutcha and Daleville, and the villages of Sageville and Chunkeyville, were settled at a very early date in the history of the county.

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<sup>28</sup> Correctly Vossburg.

All four towns are now extinct. Alamutcha was once an Indian village, situated not far from Kewanee, Daleville is now known as Lizelia, and was about 10 miles northwest of Meridian; it was named for Gen. Sam Dale, who first settled there. A few miles distant is Cooper Institute, now known as Daleville. Sageville was near the present station of Okatibbee, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R.; E. J. Rew and Abram Burwell were citizens of the old village. Chunkeyville was absorbed by Chunkey Station, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R. Before the War, Lauderdale Springs was a popular health resort<sup>29</sup>.

No city in the state can show a more remarkable growth since the War than Meridian. Up to 1854, it was a junction point, whose very name was in dispute; in 1866, its first factory was established—a foundry and machine shop. Its growth was then steady, being only interrupted by a number of disastrous fires, and by the great fever epidemic of 1878. There were 22 manufacturing establishments in 1890; 119 in 1900, showing a gain in one decade of 440.9 percent. Today it is the largest manufacturing center in the state according to the twelfth census and contains a population which was estimated at 25,000 in 1906, having passed Vicksburg since the last census. It is the most important railroad center in the eastern part of the state, and is the junction of the Mobile & Ohio, New Orleans & North Eastern, Alabama & Vicksburg, Alabama Great Southern, and the St. Louis & San Francisco railroads. The last-named road runs its trains into the city over leased lines.

The State's East Mississippi Insane Hospital is located at Meridian, which was also the seat of East Mississippi Female College, recently destroyed by fire, and now succeeded by the Meridian Female College and Conservatory of Music. The Meridian Male College is another excellent school located here.

Some of the other towns in the county—all of them small in size—are Lauderdale, Lockhart, Marion Station, Toombsville, Russell, Arundel, Savoy, Meehan Junction, Graham, Kewanee, Lost Gap, and Bonita, which are railroad towns, and Daleville, Obadiah, Morrow, Post, and Increase, interior villages away from the railroads. The superior transportation facilities of the county afforded by the numerous roads which cross its borders, and its great natural advantages of soil, climate and forests, assure to this county a continuance of its remarkable growth in wealth and prosperity. It is well watered by numerous small creeks and streams, which are for the most part head waters of the Chickasaw River, or small branches of the Tombigbee, and it is well timbered in pine, oak, hickory, gum, beech, chestnut, poplar and sycamore, which are being rapidly worked up by its numerous mills and factories. It is one of the few counties in the state where the value of the manufactured products is greatly in excess of that of the farms. The soil, however, produces good crops of cotton, corn, sugar-cane, oats, peas, potatoes, vegetables and fruits of all kinds, the last two items being extensively raised for market, and the live stock industry is in a flourishing condition.

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<sup>29</sup> During the Civil War, this facility was converted into an infirmary for the Confederate Army sick and wounded. A Confederate Cemetery was located in the immediate area for those who died here in treatment.

The following statistics taken from the last United States census for 1900, will prove interesting as an illustration of the resources at that time of Lauderdale County: Number of farms, 3,358; acreage in farms, 315,542; acres improved, 130,159; value of the land exclusive of buildings, \$1,616,880; value of the buildings, \$675,930; value of the live stock, \$623,959, and total value of farm products not fed, \$1,388,146; Number of manufacturing establishments, 194; capital invested, \$2,128,954; wages paid, \$613,112; cost of materials, \$1,818,306, and total value of products, \$3,292,923.

The population of the county in 1900, consisted of whites, 19,190; Colored, 18,960, a total of 38,150 and an increase of 8,489 over the year 1890. The population in 1906 was estimated at 45,000. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in the county in 1905 was \$8,755,762 and in 1906 \$11,515,689, showing an increase of \$2,759,927 during the year. Artesian water is found in the county, there being several flowing wells. The county is taking a great interest in its public highways.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Lauderdale County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Alamutcha**, an old town of Lauderdale County which was originally an Indian village. It was located in the eastern part of the county not far from the present town of Kewanee. It has been extinct for more than half a century and is now but a dim memory.

**Arundel** (no report)

**Bailey**, a post-hamlet in the north-central part of Lauderdale County, about 8 miles north of Meridian. Population in 1900, 56.

**Biggers**, a post office in Lauderdale County.

**Bonita**, a post-station of Lauderdale County, one mile east of Meridian. It has a money order post office. There is a large brick yard located here, also an oil mill and ice factory.

**Bozeman**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, 7 miles northwest of Meridian.

**Buttercup**, a post office in Lauderdale County.

**Chunkeyville**. An extinct village in Lauderdale County, absorbed by Chunkey Station, Newton County, on the A. & V. Railroad.

**Coonville**, a hamlet in the northeastern part of Lauderdale County, about 18 miles from Meridian. Lauderdale, on the M. & O. R. R. is the nearest railroad station. The post office was discontinued.

**Collinsville**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Lauderdale County, about 12 miles northwest of Meridian.

**Complete**, a post-village of Lauderdale County, three miles southwest of Meridian. Population in 1900, 75.

**Daleville.** An extinct town of Lauderdale County, near the northern border. The little village of Lizelia now occupies its former site, and a new village by the name of Daleville now exists a few miles to the north.

**Dahlgren,** a post office in the northwestern part of Lauderdale County, about 18 miles from Meridian.

**Eastville,** a post office in Lauderdale County, about 4 miles south of Meridian. Population in 1900, 35.

**Enzor,** a post office of Lauderdale County, 6 miles southeast of Meridian.

**Freeman,** a post office of Lauderdale County, about 10 miles northwest of Meridian.

**Graham** (no report)

**Hookston,** a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, located on Okatibbee Creek, 7 miles northwest of Meridian. Population in 1900, 30.

**Increase,** a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, 12 miles southeast of Meridian. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 53.

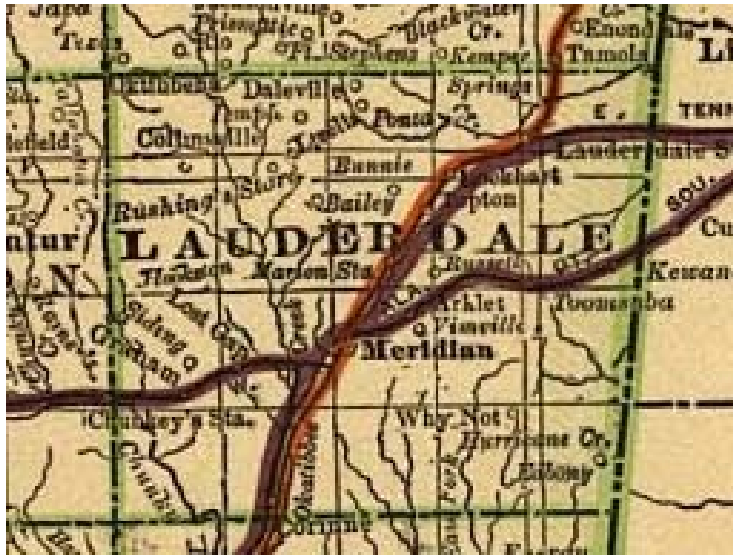
**Kewanee,** a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, on the Alabama Great Southern R. R., 16 miles east of Meridian, the county seat. Population in 1900, 50. The population in 1906 was estimated at 100.

**Lauderdale,** an incorporated post-town in the northeastern part of Lauderdale County, on the Mobile and Ohio R. R., 18 miles northeast of Meridian, the nearest banking town. Wild Horse Creek, an affluent of the Tombigbee, flown one mile north of the town. Like the county, it received its name in honor of Col. James Lauderdale. It has a money order post office, several stores, two churches and a grist mill. Population in 1900, 288.

**Leeville,** a hamlet in the northwestern corner of Lauderdale County, 2 miles east of Battlefield Station at the terminus of the Tallahatta Railway spur. It has rural free delivery from Battlefield.

**Lizelia,** a post-hamlet in the northern part of Lauderdale County, situated on Ponta Creek, 13 miles from Meridian. Population in 1900, 57. It occupies the site of old Daleville, now extinct.

**Lockhart,** a post-village of Lauderdale County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 12 miles northeast of Meridian. It has a church and a Male and Female Institute. Population in 1900, 100.



### 1907 Mississippi Railroad Commission, Lauderdale County, Mississippi

**Lost Gap** (no report)

**Lucile**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, 2 miles north of Meridian. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 100.

**Marion**. This old town flourished before the War and was the county seat of Lauderdale county until the close of that struggle. When the Mobile & Ohio R. R. came through the county, it missed the town by two miles and the railroad station of the same name was made the seat of Justine and soon absorbed the business of its namesake. Gen. W. S. Patton was proprietor of the hotel at old Marion in 1860.

**Marion Station**, a post-village of Lauderdale county, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 5 miles northeast of Meridian. It has two churches, a high school, several stores and a money order post office. Population in 1900, 130.

**Mate**, a post office of Lauderdale County.

**Meehan Junction**, a post office in Lauderdale County. It is at the junction of the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., and the Tallahatta Railway, running north to Battlefield in Newton County.

**Meridian**, the capital of Lauderdale County, is situated 140 miles east of the Mississippi River, from Vicksburg, and 15 miles west of the state of Alabama; being on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, 135 miles about Mobile. It claims a population of 25,000 and is growing rapidly. The Alabama Great Southern, New Orleans and Northeastern and Alabama & Vicksburg railroads have their terminals at the point. Its location, about 1854, was the result of the proposed crossing of the Mobile & Ohio by the Alabama & Vicksburg, then known as the Vicksburg & Montgomery Railroad.

Cotton and corn fields occupied its present site, surrounded by oak and pine forests over clay hills and bottom lands of the head waters of the Chickasawhay. Richard McLamose<sup>30</sup> possessed most of the lands and his plantation home was the only notable residence in the vicinity. So little did the M. & O. regard the point for a while that it was with difficulty persuaded to put in even a switch for a flag station; and when it did, called the place "Sowashee Station," from a creek hard by, L. A. Ragsdale, meanwhile, had bought out R. McLamose and John T Ball had purchased a tract of 80 acres, and both parties immediately began to lay off town lots. They were the pioneers. Mr. Ragsdale's plat was for "Ragsdale City,"; Mr. Ball's for "Meridian," he having first secured a post office by that name. The post office name was adopted for the charter, secured by L. S. O. G. Greer from the legislature, January 10, 1860, when the city of Meridian became a legal corporation.

It was several years before the Vicksburg road, then known as the "Southern" made its junction, being delayed by having to tunnel through Tallahatta ridge. Meanwhile, part of what is now the A. G. S. was finished to York, Alabama, 27 miles. This road made connection with the Selma branch soon after the declaration of the war, as a military necessity.

A weekly paper was published by W. L. Spinks. When the war broke out between the States, 1861, Meridian was a mere village with three or four stores, two or three hotels and a shingle machine. There were two churches, Baptist and Methodist, with a union Sunday school. Near where the Insane Asylum now stands, a god sized academy had been built, and the school was in full operation. But things changed.

The city became a military camp and in due time was division headquarters of the Confederate army. Early in the year 1864, Gen. W. T. Sherman, of the Federal army, made his raid to Meridian. Gen. Leonidas Polk, who had been the Episcopal bishop of Louisiana, was in command. Having too small a force to meet the invaders, he fell back to Demopolis, leaving the territory around the city to the mercy of the enemy. Railroads were torn up for miles in every direction and many houses were burned. All the grist mills were destroyed, and after the Federal troops departed, women and children were without food for some days; but no direct personal injury was inflicted. The collapse of the Confederacy came in April, 1865, and Meridian became a main point for issuing paroles. Everything was done quietly, but in sadness. No complaints were made until the days of reconstruction. Notwithstanding the troubles of that period, however, the city began to grow. Mercantile establishments were multiplied, a bank was started, and factories began to be built. But friction came, resulting in the riot of 1871, and the reorganization of the municipal government

Soon after the riot a census was taken of the city proper by the board. The population proved to only 3,881, which was not made public. Meanwhile, the first cotton mill was established, but just as it began to pay, it was accidentally destroyed by fire, which was a real calamity. Failure

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<sup>30</sup> Correctly Richard McLemore.

of the A. & C. railroad and the burning of its shops had already cast a gloom on business, but the sash and blind factory and other industries soon filled up the gaps. In 1875, the burning of the Phoenix hotel, the most imposing building in the city at the time, was a most unfortunate affair. A period of depression was followed by the fever epidemic of 1878, which almost depopulated the town; but the following year was noted for a general advance in prosperity. The most encouraging feature was the proposed road to New Orleans, in course of construction, and completed in 1883, the shops being located in the city. Great credit is due Capt. W. H. Hardy, then of this city for the building of the N. O. & N. E. R. R., and for the introduction of a second National Bank. He and Mr. C. W. Robinson were prominent in the work of establishing industries and improving the city. A little to the northwest the East Mississippi Insane Asylum was built, now surrounded by beautiful grounds.

In educational matters Meridian has always taken a lively interest, which has steadily increased. Immediately after the surrender, a Baptist college for girls was established and later a Methodist college, the former closing out some years ago and the latter changing its control and location. The successful institution of the present public school system was the prime cause of changes. There are now in the city seven excellent public school buildings—one of them for the Colored people—and some costly structures, with two to be added this year, all brick except two. The high school at its last commencement gave out 41 diplomas to tenth grade graduates. Besides these, there are two denominational college for girls—Methodist Episcopal and Roman Catholic, and one Independent; also a boy's school under Roman Catholic control and a commercial college.

In the matter of churches, Meridian is particularly blessed, having seven white, and seven Colored, Baptist; five Methodist, white, and four Colored; three Presbyterian, including the Cumberland, white, and one Congregational, Colored; two Episcopal, both white; one Disciples, and a very artistic Jewish synagogue in course of construction. These various denominations all have houses of worship, many elegant, expensive, and convenient, and ornaments to the city.

Meridian is a city without saloons and has been for thirteen years, and though Lauderdale is legally a "wet county", it has been impossible to secure enough petitioners to get a saloon in the county.

A very destructive fire occurred in 1882, which swept away quite a number of blocks and residences, and the Presbyterian house of worship. Two corner buildings escaped, the old "Jones Hotel", and the Masonic Hall.

A Masonic lodge was organized in the town in 1865, and another later. Other secret and benevolent societies followed; the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights and Ladies of Honor, Elks, and some private clubs. A very successful Railroad Young Men's Christian Association has been in operation several years; its hall was demolished by the cyclone of March 3, 1906. The cyclone also destroyed the fertilizer factory, two or three blocks of stores, many residences, two white and three Colored churches, and killed or injured about 50 persons.

One of the first advances of Meridian to city life was the introduction of mule street cars, and then gas lights. In due time these were merged into electric lines and electric lights and power. But the most notable improvements were made during the administration of Mayor E. H. Dial. These were the adoption and installation of a fine system of sewage, the paving of streets and the laying of sidewalks. He also prepared and secured the adoption of a number of excellent ordinances. Meridian now has ten miles of electric street railway, and many miles of gas pipes, water pipes, sewerage, paved streets and paved sidewalks.

It is the metropolis, and the most important railroad and industrial center of eastern Mississippi. Its rapid growth and development have taken place since the war, and chiefly during the past two decades. It is today a modern city in every sense of the word, with its modern improvements, excellent schools, fine church edifices, varied commercial and industrial enterprises, and its splendid transportation facilities.

The city transacts an enormous wholesale business, and possesses the largest wholesale grocery house in the state, while the Meridian Fertilizer Factory claims the largest output of any similar plant in the state. Among its other important industries are the Southern Oil and Fertilizer Co., cotton, furniture, sash and blind factories, railroad repair shops, foundry, machine shops, two daily, and four weekly newspapers; *The Press* is a morning daily and *The Star* is an evening daily. Five strong banking institutions supply the city's commercial needs. The Meridian National Bank was established in 1884; the First National Bank, in 1883; the Citizens Bank, in 1888; the Southern Bank, in 1898, and the Peoples Savings Bank, in 1902. The combined banking capital of the city being in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. In addition to the many beautiful and ornate residences of the city, its streets are embellished by many fine church buildings and modern business blocks. Still other noteworthy buildings are the new Union Depot and stately courthouse<sup>31</sup>.

The U. S. census for 1900 yields the following statistics for Meridian: number of industries, 119; capital, \$1,923,590; average number of wage-earners, 1,416; total wages, \$555,409; cost of materials used, \$1,700,655; value of products, \$2,980,217; population, 14,050. The census ranked it first among the manufacturing cities in the state, and next to Vicksburg in point of population. Since 1900 its growth in population has been very rapid, and it now claims the largest number of people of any city in the state of Mississippi.

**Morrow**, a post office of Lauderdale county, 9 miles north of Meridian.

**Obadiah**, a post office of Lauderdale County, 12 miles north of Meridian.

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<sup>31</sup> This courthouse, built in 1905, is the same as is being used today. The original building contained three floors with three additional floors added in 1939 to include a jail. A long history of neglect and failure of the Board of Supervisors to adopt a plan for either renovation or replacement has left the building in the deplorable condition we find it in today. Cramped spaces, water damage, falling plaster, and absence of hot water, are among the daily problems being experienced.

**Point**, a post-hamlet in the western part of Lauderdale County on Chunkey Creek, and a station on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., 15 miles by rail west of Meridian. Population in 1900, 27.

**Ponta**, a hamlet of Lauderdale County, about 14 miles north of Meridian. It has rural free delivery from Lauderdale, 6 miles east on the M. & O. R. R. Population in 1900, 36.

**Post**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Lauderdale County, about 18 miles from Meridian. Battlefield is the nearest railroad station. Population in 1900, 30.

**Rushings Store**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, situated on Okatibbee Creek, 10 miles north, northwest of Meridian. Population in 1900, 30.

**Russell**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County on the Alabama Great Southern R. R., about 7 miles east of Meridian. Population in 1900, 48.

**Sageville**, an old village of Lauderdale County, now extinct. It was located near the present station of Okatibbee.

**Savoy**, a hamlet in the southern part of Lauderdale County, on the New Orleans & Northeastern R. R., 8 miles south of Meridian. The post office at this place was recently discontinued and mail now goes to Sterling.

**Snowden**, a post office of Lauderdale County, about 14 miles north of Meridian.

**Sterling**, or Okatibbee Station, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R. is a hamlet of Lauderdale County, 5 miles by rail south of Meridian. It has rural free delivery from Meridian. Population in 1900, 23.

**Tonic**, a post office in the eastern part of Lauderdale County, on Toomsaba Creek, and on the Alabama Great Southern R. R., about 14 miles east of Meridian.

**Temple**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, 12 miles north of Meridian, Population in 1900, 28.

**Tonic**, a post office in the eastern part of Lauderdale County, on Toomsaba Creek, and on the Alabama Great South R. R., about 14 miles east of Meridian.

**Toomsaba**, a village in the eastern part of Lauderdale County, on the creek of that name, and a station of the Alabama Great Southern R. R., 12 miles east of Meridian. It has 3 churches, several stores and a money order post office. Population in 1900, 175.

**Topton**, a post office of Lauderdale County, and a station on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 6 miles northeast of Meridian.

**Vimville**, a post-hamlet of Lauderdale County, 5 miles east of Meridian.

**Whynot**, a post-hamlet in the southeastern part of Lauderdale County, 13 miles from Meridian, the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 32.

**Zero**, a hamlet of Lauderdale County, 5 miles southeast of Meridian. The post office at this place was discontinued in 1905, and mail now goes to Eastville. Population in 1900, 50.

## **Neshoba County, Mississippi**

**Neshoba County** is one of the more sparsely counties, a little east of the central part of the state. The county has a land surface of 543 square miles. It was formed December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1833, from the territory ceded by the Choctaw Nation three years earlier, and a desirable class of emigrants from the older states and the other parts of Mississippi came into the region at an early day.

The name “Neshoba” is an Indian word meaning “grey wolf”. The county is in the form of a square, containing sixteen townships and is bounded on the north by Winston County, on the east by Kemper County and on the west by Leake County. It originally embraced the townships numbered 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. February 5, 1836, townships 5, 6, 7 and 8 were taken from it to form the present county of Newton.

Its interests are almost entirely agricultural. It has one railroad, the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City, which has recently been completed, and now traverses the county from north to south. It is a county of farms and small settlements. The county seat is Philadelphia which is located on a picturesque site, near the center of the county. It is an incorporated town of 700 inhabitants. A few of the other villages are Dixon, Emmet, Centralia, Trussell, Waneta, Northbend, Neshoba, Cushtusa, McDonald, Burnside and Pilgrim. The county is well watered by the Pearl River and the numerous tributary creeks which form its head streams. It is an undulating and hilly region with level reaches along the river and creek bottoms. The soil varies a good deal in composition; it is fertile on the bottoms, fairly good on the rolling lands and sandy and light in the hills, with a clay subsoil. The timber growth consists of oaks, pine, hickory, black walnut, beech, and cypress. The products are those common the central parts of Mississippi: corn, cotton, oats, wheat, peas, sweet and Irish potatoes, sorghum, and a large quantity of fruits and vegetables raised for home consumption. Large beds of green sand marls have been found in the county and there are numerous “reed brakes”. Considerable attention of later years has been given to raising live stock and the industry has assumed considerable proportions. The value of the live stock in 1900 was considerably over \$400,000. Since the advent of the new railroad the county has develop rapidly.

The following statistics, taken from the twelfth United States census of 1900, relate to farms, manufacturers and population: Number of farms, 2,256, acreage of farms 266,491, acres improved, 74,470, value of lands excluding of buildings, \$702,680, value of buildings, \$353,160; value of lands exclusive of buildings, \$702,680, value of building \$353,120, value of the live stock, \$439,445; total value of products not fed, \$817,228. Number of manufacturing establishments, 28, capital invested, \$31,740, wages paid \$3,662, cost of materials, \$20,674; total value of products, \$27,573.

The population in 1900 consisted of whites, 9,874, Colored, 2, 852, a total of 12,726 and an increase of 1,580 over the year 1890. The manufactories in the county have increased fully 50 per cent, since 1900, and real estate values have increased four-fold during the same period. New settlers are rapidly coming in and in 1906 the population was estimated at 15,000. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Neshoba county in 1905 was \$1,355,398 and in 1906 it was \$2,767,769, which shows an increase of \$1,412,371 during the year.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Neshoba County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Aden**, a hamlet in Neshoba County, 14 miles northeast of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Alice**, a post-village in the northwestern part of Neshoba County, twelve miles northwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 200.

**Beechspring**<sup>32</sup>, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Neshoba County, about 15 miles southwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 45.

**Centralia** (no report)

**Burnside** (no report)

**Coffiadeliah**, a hamlet in the eastern part of Neshoba County, 10 miles east of Philadelphia, the county seat. The post office was discontinued in 1903 and mail now goes to Cushtusa. Population, 90.

**Coy**, a post office in the northeastern corner of Neshoba County, about 15 miles from Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 21.

**Cushtusa**, a post-hamlet in the eastern part of Neshoba County, 12 miles southeast of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 56.

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<sup>32</sup> Correctly Beech Springs.



**1907 Railroad Commissioners Map, Neshoba County, Mississippi**

**Dixon**,<sup>33</sup> a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Neshoba County, about 10 miles from Philadelphia, the county seat. It had a money order post office, and a high school. Population in 1900, 100.

**Emerson**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 12 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 55.

**Emmet** (no report)

**Engine**, a post office in the southern part of Neshoba County, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., 8 miles south of Philadelphia, the county seat. It has a money order post office, and one rural free delivery route.

**Fairground**, a post office in Neshoba County<sup>34</sup>.

**Fish**, a hamlet in the northwestern part of Neshoba County, near the north bank of the Pearl River, and about 10 miles from Philadelphia, the county seat. The post office here was discontinued in 1905, and it now has rural free delivery from Edinburg.

**Flakeville**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 10 miles southwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 25.

<sup>33</sup> So named for Adam Dixon McKee, who had a general store at this location.

<sup>34</sup> This is probably the location that operates at the Neshoba County Fair.

**Franks**, a post office of Neshoba County, on the south bank of Pearl River, about 10 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Fusky**, a post office of Neshoba County, 10 miles northwest of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Hope**, a post office of Neshoba County, 8 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Java**, a hamlet in the southeastern part of Neshoba County, 15 miles southeast of Philadelphia, the county seat. It has a money order post office.

**Jewel**, a hamlet in the southern part of Neshoba County, 12 miles south of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 52.

**Kentarkey**, a hamlet of Neshoba County. The post office here has been discontinued and mail now goes to Engine.

**Laurelhill**<sup>35</sup>, a hamlet in the western part of Neshoba county, 12 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat. The post office at this place was discontinued in 1905. It now has rural free delivery from Madden. Population in 1900, 48.

**McDonald** (no report)

**Nearby**, a post office of Neshoba County, on the Pearl River, 7 miles northwest of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Neshoba** (no report)

**Northbend**<sup>36</sup>, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 6 miles northeast of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 40.

**Olney**, a hamlet in the northwestern part of Neshoba County, 12 miles from Philadelphia, the county seat. It has rural free delivery from the town of Edinburg.

**Philadelphia**, the county seat of Neshoba County, is an incorporated town of more than 700 people on the new line of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., 34 miles north of Newton. Twelve miles north of the town is the site of Nanih Waiya, the celebrated sacred mound of the Choctaw nation, and the greatest of the pre-historic monuments of the State. On the site of the town formerly stood the Indian town of Lune-bu-osh-ah or "burnt frog". There is much to indicate that the country around Philadelphia was once the gathering center of the great Choctaw nation of Indians. Many evidences of their former occupancy of the region abound.

Philadelphia has two churches, several mercantile establishments, two saw milling plants, a large cotton compress, a cotton gin, and a bank, The Bank of Philadelphia, organized in 1904. *The Neshoba Democrat* is a weekly paper, edited by W. T. Quinn. The town supports and

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<sup>35</sup> Correctly Laurel Hill

<sup>36</sup> Correctly North Bend

excellent high school. The Masons, Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World have lodges. There are 4 rural mail routes leading from Philadelphia.

**Rest**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba county, 9 miles due north of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 36.

**Sierra**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 7 miles southwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Saw**, a post office in Neshoba County, 8 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Sol**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 8 miles south, southwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 24.

**Stone**, a post office of Neshoba County, 6 miles north of Philadelphia, the county seat.

**Trapp**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 6 miles west, southwest of Philadelphia, the county seat. Population in 1900, 40.

**Trussell**, a hamlet in the southeastern part of Neshoba county, 16 miles from Philadelphia, the county seat. It has rural free delivery from Battlefield station, Newton County.

**Waldo**, a post-hamlet of Neshoba County, 10 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 55.

**Waneta** (no report)

**Worth** is a post office in Neshoba County, 7 miles west of Philadelphia, the county seat.

### **Scott County, Mississippi**

Scott County was organized December 23, 1833, and was named in honor of Abram M. Scott, seventh Governor of Mississippi.

The act which established the county defined its boundaries as follows: "Beginning at the northwest corner of Jasper County, and running from thence north, with the line between ranges 9 and 10 east, to the line between the townships 8 and 9; from thence west with said line to the line between ranges 5 and 6 east; from thence south with said line to the western boundary of the Choctaw Nation; from thence directly south to a point directly west of the line, between townships 4 and 5; and from thence east with said line to the place of beginning." (On) February 8, 1838, the county was enlarged by the addition of "all that portion of territory lying east of Pearl River and the old Choctaw boundary line, designating the dividing line between the Indian and white settlements prior to the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, in 1830, from the point where the said boundary line crosses Pearl River, to the point where the same intersects the present western boundary line of the county of Scott."



**1907 Mississippi Railroad Commissioners Map, Scott County, Mississippi**

It is now a nearly square area of land in the center of the state, containing about 584 square miles of territory, and was one of the sixteen counties formed at the above time from the territory ceded by the Choctaws in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, September 27, 1830. It is bounded on the north by Leake County, on the east by Newton County, on the south by Smith County, and on the west by Rankin County; the old Choctaw boundary line, Treaty of Doak's Stand, October 18, 1820, forms part of the western boundary between Scott and Rankin, and the Pearl River, in the extreme northwest corner separates it for a short distance from the county of Madison.

The first members of the Board of Police for the county were John Dunn, President of the Board; James Russell, Wade H. Holland, Stephen Berry and Jeremiah B. White. The first sheriff was John Smith, the first Clerk of the Probate Court, Nicholas Finley, and Wm. Ricks, Sr., was the first Probate Judge, and served in that capacity for several years. Besancon's Annual Register, for 1838, gives the following list of county officers at that time: M. Patrick, E. Smith, J. L. Jenson, J. Summers, J. Carr, members of the Board of Police (Commissioners); J. J. Chambers, Clerk of the Probate Court; Wm. Ricks, Sr., Probate Judge, J. B. White, Sheriff, Assessor and Collector; A. Eastland, Range and Coroner; M. D. Young Treasurer; W. J. Denson, Surveyor.

The original county seat was located at Berryville<sup>37</sup>, about four miles southwest of Forest, but after the streets were laid out, it was abandoned within twelve months and the court house was removed to Hillsboro in the fall of 1836, where it remained for thirty years (See *Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. 1, p. 244.*). It was finally

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<sup>37</sup> Stephen Berry served as Postmaster at Berryville from 22 Feb 1836 until 13 July 1838, at which time postal service was discontinued. Stephen Berry, an elder in the (Primitive) Baptist Church, was a prominent minister in the early days of Scott County. Antioch Primitive Baptist Church is among the churches he helped found.

removed to Forest, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., which is a thriving little town of 1,000 people and the center of trade for the region round about it for some distance.

Some of the other towns are Harperville (pop. 130), noted for the excellence of its Collegiate Institute and schools; Morton (pop. 200) and Lake (pop. 236), situated on the railroad, and Pulaski (pop. 200), Ludlow, Norris and McDill.

The Alabama & Vicksburg R. R. runs through the center of the county from east to west and affords an outlet for the products of the county. The numerous creeks in the northern and southwestern sections are tributaries of the Pearl River, and those in the eastern and southeastern part are tributaries of the Leaf River. Most of the county is undulating in character, with some level stretches on the creeks and river bottoms, and some hilly portions. About one-third of the acreage is improved and the timber growth consists of long and short leaf pine, oaks, hickory, poplar, beech, red and sweet gum, etc. Scott County lies in the central prairie region of the state and the soil is extremely varied in character. Sandy in the hills, scattered patches of black prairie, pine and bottom lands. The reed brakes are very fertile and when properly drained and cultivated, produce from 50 to 80 bushels of corn to the acre. Considerable limestone and extensive beds of marl are found in the county, providing excellent fertilizers, which have been extensively applied at small cost.

The last census reports an expenditure of \$19,756 in the county for fertilizers for the year 1900. Much of the county is readily cultivated and the products are those common to the middle section of the state and the yields good. Fruits and vegetables do well and it has all the requirements of a good stock country, as Bermuda and other grasses grow luxuriantly. Manufactures have attained a small start; there is a large spoke factory near Lake, and a number of other manufactories elsewhere.

The following statistics were taken from the twelfth United States census and relate to farms, manufactures and population: number of farms 2,083, acreage in farms 236,061, acres improved 70,943, value of the land exclusive of buildings \$599,310; value of buildings \$330,910; value of live stock \$376,662, total value of products not fed to stock \$687,820. Number of manufactures 28, capital invested \$85,570; wages paid \$12,695, cost of materials used \$44,461, total value of products \$86,047. The population in 1900 consisted of whites 8,107, Colored 6,209, total 14,316, increase of 2,576 over the year 1890. The population in 1906 was estimated at 16,000 which shows a prosperous growth. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Scott County in 1905 was \$1,681,235 and in 1906 it was \$2,828,525 showing an increase of \$1,147,290 during the year.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Scott County, Mississippi, in 1907 are listed below.**

**Balucta**, a post office of Scott County.

**Beach**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Scott County, about 15 miles northwest of Forest, the county seat. Population in 1900, 33.

**Berryville**, an extinct village of Scott County, and its first seat of justice. The town was located about four miles southwest of Forest, but only survived about a year, when the seat of justice was transferred to Hillsboro, in the north-central part of the county.

**Branch**, a post-hamlet of Scott County, about 18 miles northwest of Forest, the county seat.

**Cash**, a post-hamlet in the northern part of Scott County, about 16 miles north of Forest, the county seat and nearest railroad and banking town. It has a fine cotton gin, a steam gristmill; also, a sawmill. The town is surrounded by a good farming country.

**Cooperville**, a post-hamlet in the extreme southwestern part of Scott County, about 15 miles from Forest, the county seat. Population in 1900, 66.

**Damascus**, a post-hamlet in the northeastern part of Scott County, about 20 miles from Forest, the county seat. Population in 1900, 26.

**Eley**, a post-hamlet in the northern part of Scott County, on Balcuta Creek, a tributary of the Pearl River, about 15 miles northwest of Forest, the county seat. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 30.

**Forest**, the capital of Scott County, is an incorporated post-village, located at the geographical center of the county, and on the line of the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., 45 miles east of Jackson. The original county seat was located at the extinct town of Berryville, four miles southwest of Forest; it was removed to Hillsboro in 1836, and thirty years later located at Forest.

The town lies in a pine forest district. It has express, telegraph, telephone and banking facilities, and a cotton warehouse. The Bank of Forest was established in 1901, with a capital of \$12,500; the Merchants & Farmers Bank was established in 1905 with a capital of \$20,000. It has three churches, a good school, and the *Scott County Registrar*, a Democratic weekly established in 1867, is now published here by E. F. and Mrs. L. Butler. Its population in 1900 was 761; the population in 1906 is estimated at 1,000.

The town has about 25 business establishments, a fine cotton gin, two saw-mills, a grist mill, a machine shop, bottling works, a wood working plant, three hotels and three livery stables. Three rural free delivery routes emanate from Forest, and it owns a water plant which supplies it with excellent artesian water. It will soon have an electric light plant. The town has excellent schools for both whites and Colored. Its first merchant was John Biscoe. The Presbyterians built the first church. The total valuation of taxable property is \$282,000; the tax rate is 9 mills. There are annually shipped from Forest about 14,000 bales of cotton. It also ships large quantities of ties and staves and other forms of timber. It handles more railroad ties than any other station on the A. & V. R. R.

**Forkville**, a post-hamlet of Scott County, about 12 miles northwest of Forest, the county seat. Morton is its nearest banking town, Population in 1900, 22.

**Gilbert**, a post-hamlet in the southern part of Scott County, on the Leaf River, 10 miles southwest of Forest, the county seat, and the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 52.

**Harperville**, a post-village in the northeastern part of Scott County 9 ½ miles north of Forest, the county seat and nearest railroad and banking town. It was named for G. C. Harper, an old resident. It has three churches, the Harperville Collegiate Institute, a flour-mill and a saw-mill. Population in 1900, 300.

**Hays**, a post-village on Turkey Creek in Scott County, 16 miles northeast of Forest, the county seat. Lake is its nearest railroad and banking town. It has a good water mill. Population in 1900, 40.

**Hillsboro**<sup>38</sup>, a post-hamlet of Scott County, 8 miles north of Forest, the county seat, and the nearest railroad and banking town. It has two churches, and four stores. Population in 1900, 112.

**Homewood**, a post-hamlet of Scott County, 7 miles south of Forest, the county seat, and the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 73. It has a splendid school, 2 grist and saw mills combined, 2 cotton gins, 2 churches and 4 good stores.

**Horseshoe**, a post office in the northeastern part of Scott County, on Young Warrior Creek, about 18 miles north of Forest, the county seat, and the nearest railroad town. It has a good water mill, and a gin and grist mill combined.

**Lake**, a post-office in the eastern part of Scott County, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., 54 miles east of Jackson, and 10 miles east of Forest, the county seat. It has a money order post office, four churches, two seminaries, a bank which was established in 1905, two saw mills, one of which is the largest in the county, good hotels and livery stable. Its population in 1906 was estimated at 500.

**Ludlow**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Scott county, situated on Coffee Bogue, a tributary of Pearl River, about 20 miles from Forest, the county seat. Morton is its nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 100. It has a good saw and grist mill combined, and a good gin.

**Malco**, a hamlet in the northern part of Scott County, situated on Taalo Bayou, about 13 miles north of Forest, the county seat. The post office here was discontinued in 1905, and it now has rural free delivery from Harperville.

**McDill**, a post office in the northeastern part of Scott County, 12 miles distant from Forest, the county seat. Lake is its nearest railroad and banking town.

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<sup>38</sup> Also shown in records as Hillsborough, it was the second county seat for Scott County and directly on the route of Sherman during the Civil War.

**Morton**, an incorporated post-village in the western part of Scott County, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., 34 miles east of Jackson and 12 miles west of Forest, the county seat. It was given the maiden name of the wife of Col. E. W. Taylor. It has two churches, a high school, a bank, which was established in 1904, a grist mill and cotton gin combined, ten or fifteen business houses, and two good hotels. Its population in 1906 was estimated as 500.

**Norris**, a post office of Scott County, 4 miles southeast of Forrest (sic), the county seat, and nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900 was estimated as 500.

**Orion**, an extinct village in Scott County, located in the southwestern part of the county, not far from the present town of Morton. We are told that a lively business was carried on at the place in the early days, but it was before the War 1861-1865

**Pulaski**, a post-village in the southwestern part of Scott County, 10 miles southwest of Forest, the county seat. Morton is the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 200.

**Raworth**, a post office in Scott County, on the Alabama and Vicksburg R. R., 6 miles by rail west of Forest, the county seat.

**Sebastopol**, a post-hamlet in the extreme northeastern corner of Scott County, about 18 miles from Forest, the county seat. It has two churches and two stores. Population in 1900, 43.

**Spencer**, an old village in Scott County which was abandoned before the War 1861-1865. It was located in the southwestern part of the county a few miles south of the station of Morton, on the A. & V. railroad.

**Stage**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Scott County, about 13 miles from Forest, the county seat. Morton is its nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 26.

**Steel**<sup>39</sup>, a hamlet in the northeastern part of Scott County, about 10 miles north of Forest, the county seat, and nearest railroad and banking town. The post office here was recently discontinued, and it now has rural free delivery from Harperville. Population in 1900, 40.

**Sun**, a post office in the southeastern part of Scott County, 12 miles from Forest.

**Track**, a post office of Scott County.

**Vera**, a post office in Scott County, 12 miles northwest of Forest, the county seat.

### **Part III: The Four “Corner” Counties of Newton County, Mississippi**

*Newton County, Mississippi is cornered on the southwest by Smith County, on the southeast by Clarke County, on the northeast by Kemper County, and on the northwest by Leake County.*

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<sup>39</sup> *Steele* is the more common spelling. The nearest landmark today is Antioch Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

## **Clarke County, Mississippi**

Clarke County is situated in the eastern part of the state on the Alabama border and was established December 23, 1833. The county has a land surface of 664 square miles. It was named in honor of Judge Joshua G. Clarke, the first Chancellor of the state.

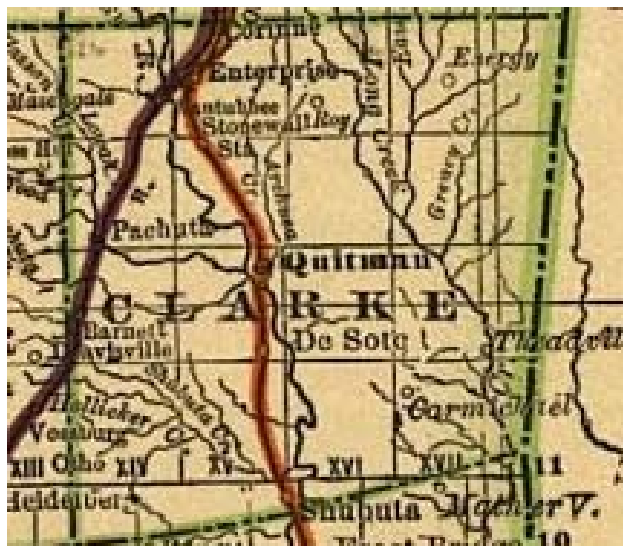
The original act defined its limits as follows, "Beginning on the state line of Alabama, at the point at which the line between townships four and five strikes said state line, and running from thence west, with said line between townships four and five, to the line between ranges thirteen and fourteen east; and from thence south, with said line between ranges thirteen and fourteen east to the southern boundary line of the Choctaw Nation; from thence east with said boundary line, to the northwest corner of the Higoowanee reserve; from thence to the northeast corner of the same; thence east along said boundary line, to the point at which the southern boundary of township number one strikes the same; and from thence directly east to the State of Alabama, and from thence north with said state line to the place of beginning," The total area is 664 square miles.

The following is a list of the first officers of the county: David B. Thompson, Sheriff, George Evans, Treasurer; Henry Hailes, Probate Judge; William Covington, Clerk of the Circuit and Probate Courts; Norman Martin, Samuel K. Lewis, George Knight, Stephen Grice, Calvin M. Ludlow, members of the Board of Police.

It was bounded on the north by Lauderdale County, on the east by Alabama, on the south by Wayne County and on the west by Jasper County. The old Choctaw boundary forms its southern line and divides it from Wayne County.

The county seat is Quitman, located at the center of the county on the line of the Mobile & Ohio railway. The site was owned and laid off into lots by Gen. John Watts, afterwards Circuit Clerk. It is a place of 1,000 inhabitants and was named for General John A. Quitman, second Chancellor of the state, afterwards Governor and a prominent officer in the Mexican War. Two more of the more important towns in the county are Stonewall, (population 1,000 in 1900) and Enterprise, in the northern part of the county on the line of the Mobile and Ohio containing 1,000 inhabitants. The Stonewall cotton factory is a flourishing industry. Some of the other towns are Shubuta, Pachuta, DeSoto. The Chickasawhay River flows through the center of the county, and, with its numerous tributaries, provides ample water facilities. All the waters of the county flow southward, and join the Pascagoula River in Greene County. The Mobile & Ohio railway runs through the center of the county, and the New Orleans & Northeastern railway through the western part, giving it excellent railroad communication north and south. The general surface of the county is level and it is well timbered with long-leaf or yellow pine; in the bottom lands with oak, hickory, magnolia, beech, pecan, etc. The soil is a light sandy loam with a clay subsoil which is very rich on the bottoms. It produces cotton, corn, oats, peas, peanuts, sugar cane and rice, as well as all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Pasture for stock is extensive and the industry of stock raising and sheep husbandry will eventually attain to the large

proportions. Manufacturers to exploit the wealth of raw materials in this region are rapidly developing, and products of the value of nearly three quarters of a million dollars are now being turned out.



**1907 Railroad Commission Map, Clarke County, Mississippi**

The United States census for 1900 gives the following data for the manufacturing industries of the county: Total number of establishments 60, total capital invested \$977,535 and total wages paid \$118,217, total cost of materials used, \$381,235, and total value of products \$692,882. Farm statistics, taken from the same source, are as follows: Total number of farms in the county 2,308, total acreage in farms 232,888, acres under cultivation 73,488, value of the land and improvements, exclusive of buildings \$775,850, value of the buildings \$421,720, value of the live stock \$412,059 and total of products \$820,542. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in the county in 1905 was \$2,221,947.71 and in 1906 it was \$3,113,143.16, which shows an increase for the year of \$891,197.45. The population in 1900 was composed of 9,245 whites, 8,496 Colored, a total of 17,741 and an increase over 1890 of 1,915. The total population in 1906 was estimated at 20,000. Artesian water has been found at Quitman, Enterprise and Shubuta.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Clarke County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Barnett**, a post-station in the extreme western part of Clarke County, on the New Orleans and North Eastern R. R., about 12 miles west of Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 56.

**Basic**, a post-station in the northern part of Clarke County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 12 miles northwest of Quitman, the county seat.

**Beaver Dam**, a post office in the southwestern corner of Clarke County, about 20 miles distant from Quitman, the county seat.

**Brewer**, a post-town located on the Miss. Eastern R. R., 10 miles east of Quitman, the county seat and nearest banking town.

**Carmichael**, a post office of Clarke County, about 12 miles southeast of Quitman, the county seat.

**Crane**, a hamlet of Clarke County, about 10 miles southwest of Quitman.

**Elwood**, a hamlet of Clarke County, 5 miles west of Quitman, the county seat. The post office here was discontinued in 1905, and it now has rural free delivery from Quitman. Population in 1900, 36.

**Energy**, a post-hamlet of Clarke County, 17 miles northeast of Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 27.

**Enterprise** is an incorporated post-town of Clarke County, on the Mobile & Ohio and the New Orleans & Northeastern R. R., 15 miles southwest of Meridian. There was considerable traffic on the Chickasawhay River between this point and the coast in the early days by means of flat and keel-boats.

The town is located in a cotton district and manufactures lumber. It has express, telegraph and telephone facilities, and one bank, the Bank of Enterprise, established in 1900 with a capital of \$6,000. Two newspapers are published here, *The Clarke County Times*, a Democratic weekly established in 1887, and the *Eastern Banner* (Colored), a non-political weekly. Population in 1900, 739; the population in 1906 was estimated at 1,000. There is a saw mill, three gin and grist mills combined, a canning factory, two livery stables, two hotels, one of which is noted for its cuisine. The town has about twenty business establishments in a flourishing condition, and seven churches, four white and three Colored. It has two good schools, one of which is an excellent white school and other is a Colored school. The town is surrounded by a good farming country, especially adapted to fruit and vegetable culture, while considerable cotton is grown and marketed here.

**Eschol**, a post office of Clarke County, 5 miles east of Quitman, the county seat.

**Goodwater**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Clarke County, 15 miles from Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 20.

**Hale**, a post-hamlet of Clarke County, situated on Bogue Homo Creek, about 10 miles southwest of Quitman, the county seat and nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 29.

**Horne**, a post-hamlet of Clarke County, 15 miles southeast of Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 50.

**Hurricane Creek**, a post-hamlet in the extreme northeastern corner of Clarke County, about 25 miles from Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 35.

**Langdale**, a post-hamlet in the southeastern part of Clarke County, about 15 miles southeast of Quitman, the county seat, and 8 miles east of Shubuta, the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 36.

**Linton**, a post office of Clarke County, 9 miles east of Quitman, the county seat and nearest railroad and banking town.

**Mannassa**, a post office of Clarke County, 10 miles southeast of Quitman, the county seat.

**Middleton**, a post office of Clarke County, 11 miles northeast of Quitman, the county seat.

**Nancy**, a post office of Clarke County, 12 miles southeast of Quitman, the county seat.

**Orange**, a post-hamlet in the western part of Clarke County, on Souenlovie Creek, about 15 miles northwest of Quitman, the county seat. Population in 1900, 26.

**Pachuta**, an incorporated post-town in the western part of Clarke County, on the New Orleans & North Eastern Railroad, 10 miles northwest of Enterprise. The name is a Choctaw Indian word meaning “possum creek”, from the creek of the same name on which it is situated. Population in 1900, 131; in 1906, 250. The town has several good stores, two churches, a good school, cotton gin and a bank—The Bank of Pachuta—established in 1905, capital \$10,000.

**Quitman**, the capital of Clarke County, is an incorporated town and important station on the Mobile & Ohio and the Mississippi Eastern Railroad, 25 miles south of Meridian, on the Chickasawhay River. The county seat was given the name of the second Chancellor of the State, John A. Quitman, as the county was named in honor of the State’s first Chancellor, Joshua G. Clarke.

The county seat was originally located at the geographical center of the county, but was soon removed for some cause to Quitman, where it has since remained. The site for the court house was donated by John Watts, who died in the early seventies. It has two churches, a good school, an express office, a telegraph office, a newspaper office, a bank, eleven stores, and a large saw mill. The first newspaper in the county was established at Quitman about 1851, and was called the *Quitman Intelligence*, A C. Horn being the editor and J. T. Ballance, the publisher. The *Quitman Globe*, a Democratic weekly, was established in 1902. It is published by The Quitman Printing Co., Inc., with S. H. Terral, pres., J. K. Kirkland, vice-pres., and Sam A. Leming, editor and manager.

The Mississippi Lumber Company located its extensive plant here in 1900, with a capital of \$100,000. It is one of the largest lumber plants in the state, with a capacity of about 25,000,000 feet of lumber annually. It planes and manufactures all its lumber ready for the builder. The plant also has large holdings of timber lands and enough timber in sight to keep it running 25 years, employs about 300 men and has about 13 miles of standard gauge railroad. The Bank of Quitman was established in 1902, with a capital of \$12,500.

The town is surrounded by a good farming district and ships about 1,000 bales of cotton annually. The population was about 1,000 in 1906.

**Roy**, a post office of Clarke County, 11 miles north of Quitman, the county seat and nearest banking town.

**Sable**, a post office of Clarke County, 14 miles north of Quitman.

**Shubuta**, an incorporated post-town in the southern part of Clarke County, on the Chickasawhay River, and a station on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 39 miles south of Meridian. It has telegraph, express and banking facilities. The Bank of Shubuta was established here in 1902 with a capital of \$25,000. A Democratic weekly newspaper, the *Mississippi Messenger*, established in 1879, is published here by C. A. Stovall. It is an important cotton shipping point, and also ships wool and naval stores. It has a money order post office, and a high school. There is a large saw milling plant, a large oil and fertilizer plant and a cross-arm plant. The town is growing and had a population in 1906 of 750.

**Springs**, a post office in the southeastern part of Clarke County, 2 miles east of Buckatunna Creek, and 16 miles from Quitman, the county seat and nearest railroad and banking town. There is a splendid mineral spring located here.

**Snell**, a post office of Clarke County.

**Stonewall**, a prosperous town in the northwestern part of Clarke County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 3 miles by rail south of Enterprise, the nearest banking town, and 8 miles northwest of Quitman, the county seat. Chickasawhay River, a fine water power stream flows one mile west of the town. A large cotton factory is located here, and it has two churches, a public school, and a money order post office. Population in 1900, 1,000.

**Stop**, a hamlet in the north-central part of Clarke County, 8 miles northeast of Quitman, the county seat. It has rural free delivery from Quitman.

**Sykes**, a post office in Clarke County, situated on the East Fork of Buckatunna Creek, 10 miles northeast of Quitman, the county seat and nearest railroad town.

**Tubal**, a post office of Clarke County, 18 miles southwest of Quitman, the county seat.

**Wautubbee**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Clarke County, on the New Orleans & North Eastern R. R., 10 miles from Quitman, the county seat. Enterprise is the nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 40.

## **Kemper County, Mississippi**

**Kemper County** was erected December 23, 1833, and received its name from Reuben Kemper, an American soldier in the Florida and Mexican Wars.

It is situated near the center of the eastern line of the state on the Alabama border. It was one of the sixteen counties formed in that year from the territory acquired from the Choctaws, by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, and the act defined its boundaries as follows: "The territory within townships nine, ten, eleven and twelve, of ranges fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen." It is bounded on the north by Winston and Noxubee Counties, on the east by Alabama, on the south by Lauderdale County, and on the west by Neshoba County, and has an area of 704 square miles.

The following is a list of its officers for the year 1838, taken from Besancon's Annual Register: Lawrence W. Pennington, Sheriff, Lewis Stovall, Clerk of the Circuit Court; Benjamin C. Oppelt, Judge of Probate; William G. Gill, Clerk of Probate Court; C. R. McKaskill, Assessor and Collector; Silas Manor, Ranger; Mathew Newton, Coroner; William B. Jay, County Treasurer; David Henderson, Surveyor; Board of Police, John Rhodes, Mathew Jackson, John F. Aulds, Washington McDaniel, Solomon Lanham; Justices of the Peace, James W. Jones, Rivers, Daniel Ship, Presley Floyd, Alsa Pace, Spears, Benjamin C. Oppelt, Washington A. Cook; Constables, Andrew Jester, Hezekiah Chepman<sup>40</sup>, William Killin.

The interests of the county are almost exclusively agricultural, and while it possesses a considerable population, 29,492, there are no towns of any size within its borders. The county site is DeKalb, a place of 240 people, near the center of the county and off the railroad. Numerous other small towns are scattered over its area, among which are Sucarnoochee, Porterville, Scooba, Enondale, and Wahalak on the railroad. The county has grown very rapidly in wealth and population since 1890, and the productive lands of the region are attracting more settlers every year, the Mobile & Ohio R. R. aiding materially in the work. The principal market for the region is Meridian, a few miles to the south. The streams that water the county are tributaries of the Tombigbee River for the most part and flow to the southeast into Alabama. The most important ones are Sucarnoochee, Scooba, Blackwater, Bodea and Pawticfaw Creeks.

The Mobile & Ohio Railroad runs through the eastern part of the county from north to south and gives it access to the market of Meridian. Much of the county is timbered with long and short leaf pine, oaks, walnut, chestnut and gum. In the eastern part the lands are prairie, in the middle and western parts the soil is a sandy loam with clay, soil, easily worked and productive. Good crops of cotton, corn, oats, wheat, sugar-cane, sorghum, field peas, potatoes, fruit and vegetables are raised, Pasturage of native grasses, switch cane and Japan clover is excellent and considerable attention is paid to stock raising and dairying.

The twelfth census of the United States for the year 1900 shows that there were in the county 3,314 farms, 312,641 acres in farms, 132,562 acres improved, the value of the land exclusive of buildings was \$1,205,500, value of the buildings \$531,520, value of the live stock \$621, 930, and

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<sup>40</sup> Correctly Hezekiah Chipman (1791-1858); by his first wife, Sarah Lewis, his daughter Elizabeth married William P. Ezelle and they settled in Beat 3 of Newton County. They are the common ancestors of the Ezelles/Ezells that live in this area today.

the total value of the products not fed to stock was \$1,247,194. The number of manufacturing establishments was 47, capital invested \$81,475, wages paid \$14,683, cost of materials \$36,157, and the total value of products \$86,007. The population in 1900 consisted of 17,669 whites and 11,823 Colored, a total of 29,492, an increase of 11,531 over the census returns for 1890. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in the county in 1905 was \$2,226,990 and in 1906 it was \$2,934,945.50, showing an increase during the year of \$707,955.50. Owing to the great number of Negroes who left the county for the lumbering districts of the state, the total population has not materially increased since the last census. Artesian water is found in the east central part of the county. The schools of the county are in a flourishing condition.

**Towns, hamlets and post offices in Kemper County, Mississippi in 1907 are listed below.**

**Binnsville**, a post-hamlet in the extreme northeastern part of Kemper County, 8 miles east of Wahalak, the nearest railroad station on the M. & O. R. R., and about 20 miles northeast of DeKalb, the county seat. It lies in a good farming region, has a money order post office, several stores, a cotton gin, a church, and a school. Population in 1900, 250.

**Bodge**, a post office of Kemper County, established in 1905.

**Calvert**, a hamlet in the extreme southwestern part of Kemper County, on Calvert Creek about 16 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. The post office was discontinued in 1905 and it now has a free delivery from Battlefield. Population in 1900, 43.

**Cullum**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 8 miles south of DeKalb, the county seat. Population 1900, 24.

**Darnell**, a post-village in Kemper County, 12 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 17

**DeKalb**, the capital of Kemper County, in an incorporated post-town, 13 miles southwest of Scooba which is on the Mobile & Ohio R. R. and about 42 miles north of Meridian. Scooba is the nearest railroad, telegraph, express and banking town. DeKalb lies in a good farming region, and two miles distant is Sucarnochee Creek, a good mill-stream. *The Southern Star*, a Democratic weekly established in 1898, is published here, Crawford Gewin, editor and publisher. It has several good stores, five churches and a courthouse, and jail. Near the courthouse is a fire-proof vault for the records of the county. Population in 1900, 240. The town is not increasing in population.

**Dixie**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Kemper County, located on Okatibbee Creek, about 20 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Dock**, a post office in Kemper County, about 9 miles northwest of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Ennis**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 10 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. The population in 1900, 30.

**Enondale**, a post-hamlet in the southeastern part of Kemper County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., about 12 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 80.

**Giles**, a post-hamlet in the northeastern part of Kemper County, 18 miles east of DeKalb, the county seat. Scooba Station on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., is the nearest railroad town. Population in 1900, 45.

**Hand**, a post office of Kemper County, 12 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Herbert**, a post-hamlet in the west-central part of Kemper County, 15 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 70.

**Howe**, a post office of Kemper County, on Bogue Chitto, 11 miles west of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Hull**, a post office of Kemper County, 3 miles west of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Kellis Store**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, on Sucarnoochee Creek, 9 miles north, northwest of DeKalb, the county seat. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 27.

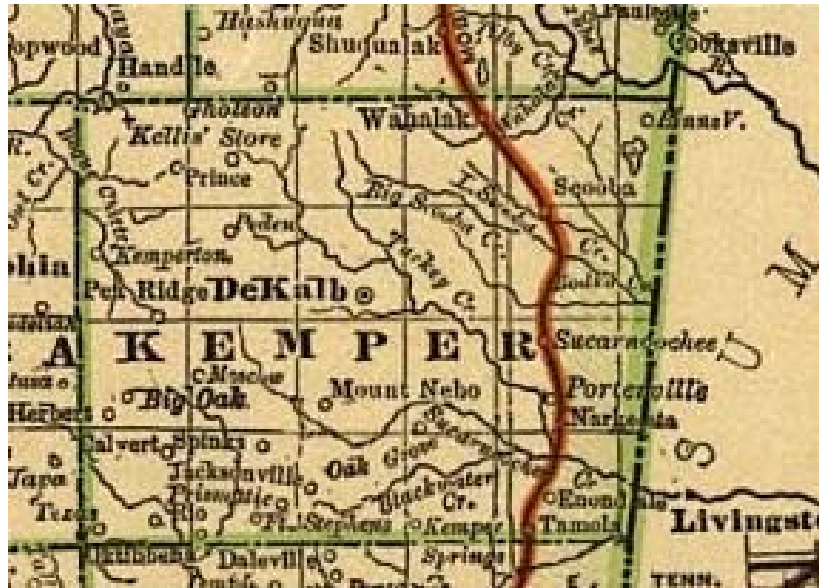
**Kemper Springs**, a hamlet in the southern part of Kemper County 12 miles south of DeKalb, the county seat. The post office at this place was discontinued in 1905, and it now receives rural free delivery from Lauderdale.

**Kipling**, a post office in the south-central part of Kemper County, on Pawticfaw Creek, 6 miles due south of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Kodel**, a post office of Kemper County.

**Mattox**, a post office of Kemper County, 10 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Minden**, a post-hamlet in the extreme southeastern part of Kemper County, on Wild Horse Creek, about 18 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. It is 4 miles east of the main line of the Mobile & Ohio R. R. Population in 1900, 30.



**1907 Railroad Commissioners Map, Kemper County, Mississippi**

**Minieola** a post-hamlet of Kemper County, on Sucarnoochee Creek, 5 miles north of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Moscow**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 10 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 30.

**Moses**, a post-hamlet in the north-central part of Kemper County.

**Mount Nebo**, a post office of Kemper County, 6 miles south of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 45.

**Navina**, a post office of Kemper County.

**Oktibbeha**, a post office in Kemper County, 14 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Pawticfaw**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, about 8 miles south, southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 50.

**Peden**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 8 miles northwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 43.

**Pearidge**, a post office of Kemper County, 9 miles west of DeKalb, the county seat.

**Porterville**, a station on the Mobile & Ohio R. R. in the east central part of Kemper County, about 12 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. It has a money order post office and an express office. It has several stores, a church and a school. In 1906, it had a population of 200.

**Preston**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Kemper County, 14 miles northwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 35.

**Prince**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 15 miles northwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Prismatic**, a post-hamlet in the southern part of Kemper County 16 miles north of Meridian. Population in 1900, 40.

**Rio**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Kemper County, on Oktibbeha Creek, about 15 miles from DeKalb, the county seat. It has two churches. Population in 1900, 32.

**Safety**, a hamlet of Kemper County, situated on Sucarnoochee Creek, about 9 miles north of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 65. The post office was discontinued in 1906 and mail is addressed to Minieola.

**Scooba**, an incorporated post-town in the northeastern part of Kemoer County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 41 miles north of Meridian, and 6 miles west of the Alabama line. Big Scooba Creek, an affluent of the Tombigvee River flows a short distance to the south of the town. Scooba is an Indian word meaning "reed brake".

Scooba lies near the northeastern prairie region of the state, and is surrounded by a good farming section. *The Kemper Herald*, a Democratic weekly, established in 1876, is published here. A. W. Struthers is the editor. The town has several good general stores, two saw milling plants, a fine Munger System cotton gin, five churches, three white and two Colored (schools), a graded school and a bank, Bank of Kemper, established in 1904 with a capital of \$25,000. The population in 1906 was estimated at 600. During the first six months of 1906 three large brick business houses, eight dwelling houses and a large hotel containing 19 rooms were erected. One of the best livery barns in the county is located here. The Scooba post office is the third largest distributing office on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., between Mobile, Ala., and Jackson, Tenn., and the town has held its own with Meridian as a cotton market for the last twenty years.

**Skipper**, a post office of Kemper County, 8 miles north of DeKalb, the county seat. It has a saw mill, a church and a school.

**Snoodly**, a post office of Kemper County, 5 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Spinks**, a post-hamlet of Kemper County, 10 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. Population in 1900, 35.

**Stella**, a post office of Kemper County, 7 miles southwest of DeKalb, the county seat. It is situated on Pawticfaw Creek, 23 miles north of Meridian.

**Sucarnoochee**, a post-hamlet and station of Kemper County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 34 miles north, northeast of Meridian, and 10 miles east of DeKalb, the county seat. The creek of the same name, a stream about 100 miles long, flows about 2 miles southwest of the station. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 92.

**Tamola**, a post office and station in the southeastern part of Kemper County, on the Mobile & Ohio R. R., 16 miles southeast of DeKalb, the county seat, and 23 ½ miles northeast of Meridian.

**Toles**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Kemper County, about 15 miles from DeKalb the county seat. Population in 1900, 30.

**Van**, a post office of Kemper County.

**Wahalak**, a post-village of Kemper County, on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, 15 miles south of Macon, and 7 miles south of Shuqualak. Scooba is the nearest banking town. Valuable forests of ash and white oak are in the vicinity. It has a church and a school. Population in 1900: 115.

**Wahalak (Old)**. An extinct town in Kemper County, which flourished before the construction of the Mobile & Ohio R. R. a few miles to the west. It was situated on Wahalak Creek, a tributary of the Noxubee River, about 3 miles south of east of the present station of Wahalak. Victor Welsh laid off the town in 1837, and Loomis Brothers were its first merchants. It was an educational center of note before the war, with a flourishing school for boys, and another for girls. It had a number of business houses, including a prosperous bank, and is an exception to most of the early settlements in the state in that it never had a grog shop.

**Zada**, a post office in the southern part of Kemper County, situated on Blackwater Creek, 10 miles south of DeKalb.

## **Leake County, Mississippi**

Leake County was established December 23, 1833, and was one of the sixteen counties created at the time from the final cession of the Choctaw Indians, under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, 1830. It was named for Governor Walter Leake, member of the Constitutional Convention of 1817, United States senator and twice governor of the state.

The original act defines its limits as follows: "Beginning at the northeast corner of Scott County, and running from thence north with the line between ranges 9 and 10 east, to the line between townships 12 and 13; from thence west, with the line between townships 12 and 13; from thence west, with the line between townships 12 and 13, to the line between ranges 5 and 6 east, to the line between townships 8 and 9; and from thence east to the place of beginning."

The county is an exact square, contains 16 townships or 561 square miles and is located almost at the center of the state. It is bounded on the north by Attala County, on the east by Neshoba County, on the south by Scott County and on the west by Madison County. There are as yet no railroads within its borders, but transportation facilities are afforded by the Pearl River, which runs through the county from the northeast to the southwest and is navigable to Edinburg on the eastern border. Besides the Pearl, the region is watered by it numerous tributaries, the Yokahockany River, Yellow, Young Warrior and Standing Pine Creeks.

There are no large towns within its area. Carthage, near the center, two miles north of Pearl River, is the county seat and contains a population of 416. Some of the more important settlements are Walnut Grove, Edinburg, Standing Pine and Goodhope.

As early as 1837 it possessed a population of 1,136 whites and 531 slaves. Among the earliest settlers may be numbered the families of the Harpers, Loyds, Warners, Freeney, Dicksons, Boyds, Eades and Vanansdales.

The general surface of the region is undulating and hilly, and a large section is composed of level bottom or swamp lands. The last census shows about one-third of the land is improved, the rest timbered with pine, oaks, hickory, beech, poplar, chestnut, maple, walnut, sycamore and cypress. The soil is red clay in the hills, loam, second-bottoms and alluvial soils called "reed-brakes". These bottom lands, when reclaimed by drainage, are extremely productive.

The products of the county are cotton, corn, sorghum, sugarcane, rice, potatoes and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. There is little manufacturing done, but pasturage is good and live stock does well and many have embarked in this industry. The live stock in 1900 was valued at nearly \$500,000.

The twelfth census of the United States for the year 1900 shows that there were in the county 2,756 farms, embracing an acreage of 302,264, of which 102,736 were improved. The value of the land, exclusive of the buildings is \$886,180, value of the buildings \$394,860, value of the live stock \$468,227, and the total value of products not fed \$966,529. The number of manufacturing establishments is 48, capital invested \$84,401, wages paid \$9,278, cost of materials \$32,203 and total value of products \$62,069. The population in 1900 consisted of whites 10,747, Colored 6,613, a total of 17,360 and 2,557 more than in the year 1890. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Leake county in 1905 was \$1,549,795 and in 1906 it was \$2,626,254, showing an increase during the year of \$1,076,459.

#### **Towns, hamlets and post offices in Leake County, Mississippi, in 1907 are listed below**

**Barnes**, a post office in the extreme north-central part of Leake County, 12 miles north of Carthage, the county seat.

**Bertice**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern corner of Leake County, near the east bank of the Pearl River, and about 10 miles southwest of Carthage, the county seat.

**Bolatusha**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Leake County, about 15 miles distant from Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 24.

**Carthage**, the capital of Leake County, is located at the geographical center of the county on the Pearl River, 33 miles northeast of Canton, and 50 miles northeast of Jackson. It is an incorporated post-town, and when first selected as the county seat in 1834, was known as Leakville. The name was changed to Carthage on July 31 of that year. Kosciusko is the nearest railroad, express, telegraph and banking town, on the Illinois Central R. R.



**1907 Railroad Commissioners Map, Leake County, Mississippi**

Carthage is located in a good farming and cotton growing section. Shipping facilities are afforded by the Pearl River, navigable for steamboats to this point. It has three churches—Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian, an academy, a Masonic lodge, and a Democratic weekly newspaper, the *Carthaginian*, established in 1872, of which L. M. Garrett is the present owner and editor. Population in 1900, 416.

**Conway**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, about 10 miles southwest of Carthage, the county seat. Kosciusko is the nearest railway and banking town. Population in 1900, 54.

**David**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Leake County, 15 miles from Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 27.

**Dossville**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, 12 miles north of Carthage the county seat. Population in 1900, 50.

**Dowell**, a post-office of Leake County.

**Edinburg**, a post office in the eastern part of Leake County, on the Pearl River, about 60 miles northeast of Jackson, and 12 miles from Carthage, the county seat. It has a money order post office, a church, and an academy, the Edinburg High School. Population in 1900, 123.

**Estesmill**<sup>41</sup>, a post office of Leake County, 6 miles south of Carthage, the county seat.

**Freetrade**<sup>42</sup>, a post-village of Leake County, on Standing Pine Creek, about 7 miles southeast of Carthage the county seat. A money order post office is maintained here. Population in 1900, 100.

**Gip**, a post office of Leake County, 7 miles northwest of Carthage, the county seat.

**Goodhope**<sup>43</sup>, a post-hamlet of Leake County, 20 miles north of Morton Railroad station, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R., and 10 miles southwest of Carthage, the county seat. It has two churches. Population in 1900, 100.

**Gray**, a post-hamlet in the north-central part of Leake County, about 12 miles north of Carthage, the county seat. Kosciusko, about 14 miles to the northwest is the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 88.

**High Hill**, a post office in the southeastern part of Leake County, about 13 miles southeast of Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 27.

**Hopoca**, a post office of Leake County, 6 miles north of Carthage, the county seat.

**Jessie**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, 5 miles southwest of Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 37.

**Lameta**, a post office of Leake County.

**Lena**, a post-hamlet in the southern part of Leake County, 12 miles south of Carthage, the county seat. The station of Raworth on the A. & V. R. 15 miles to the south, is the nearest railroad town. Population in 1900, 83.

**Lucy**, a post office of Leake County, 10 miles northwest of Carthage, the county seat.

**Luther**, a post office of Leake County, 6 miles north of Carthage, the county seat.

**Madden**, a post village in the eastern part of Leake County, 12 miles southeast of Carthage, the county seat. Philadelphia, 18 miles to the northeast, is the nearest railroad town. Forest if the nearest banking town. It has a money order post office. Population in 1900, 200.

**Marydell**, a post office in the northeastern part of Leake County, 12 miles from Carthage, the county seat.

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<sup>41</sup> Correctly Estes Mill.

<sup>42</sup> Correctly Free Trade.

<sup>43</sup> Correctly Good Hope

**Ofahoma**, a post-village of Leake County, situated on the Yokahockany Rivet, ten miles west of Carthage, the county seat, and 24 miles east of Canton, the nearest railroad and banking town. It as a church and a money order post office. Population in 1900, 106.

**Palona**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, 10 miles north of Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 35.

**Remus**, a hamlet of Leake County, situated on Humbleton Creek, an affluent of the Pearl River, about 14 miles northeast of Carthage, the county seat. The post office here was discontinued in 1905, and it now has rural free delivery from Edinburg.

**Renfro**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, situated on Yellow Creek, 10 miles north, northeast of Carthage, the county seat.

**Saint Anns**, a post-hamlet in the west-central part of Leake County, on Yokahocknay Creek, 10 miles west of Carthage, the county seat. Kosciusko is the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 59.

**Standing Pine**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, 7 miles southeast of Carthage, the county seat, and about 22 miles north of Forest, the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 100.

**Thomastown**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Leake County, on the Yokahockany River, 55 miles northeast of Jackson and 12 miles northwest of Carthage, the county seat. Kosciusko is the nearest railroad and banking town. It has two churches and a college. Population n 1900, 54.

**Tuscola**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, on Tuscalamita Creek<sup>44</sup>, an affluent of Pearl River, 8 miles south of Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 41.

**Walnutgrove**,<sup>45</sup> is an incorporated post-town in the southeastern part of Leake County, 17 miles north of Forest, the nearest railroad station and banking town, on the Alabama & Vicksburg R. R. It is located in a good farming section, and has a large trade from the surrounding country. It has two churches, an excellent school, known as the Mississippi Central Normal School, a steam mill, several mercantile establishments, and a newspaper, --*The Dawn of Light*--a Democratic weekly, established in 1883, and now owned and edited by G. S. Ellis. Population in 1900, 207.

**Williston**, a post-hamlet of Leake County, near the south bank of the Pearl River, 7 miles east by north of Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 20.

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<sup>44</sup> Tuscalameta Creek originates near Lawrence in Newton County, Mississippi. Its course is largely northward until it merges with Pearl River.

<sup>45</sup> Correctly Walnut Grove.

**Yorka**, a post-hamlet in the extreme northeastern part of Leake County, about 16 miles from Carthage, the county seat. Population in 1900, 28.

**Zion**, a post-village in the southeastern part of Leake County, 12 miles distant from Carthage, the county seat. Forest if the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 100.

### **Smith County, Mississippi**

Smith County was established December 23, 1833, and was named in honor of Major David Smith of Hinds County. The county has a land surface of 610 square miles. It lies a little to the south of the center of the state, and was the southwest corner of the large area of land finally ceded to the United States by the Choctaws, in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit, September 27, 1830. Its limits were defined as follows by the act which created the county: "Beginning on the line between ranges 9 and 10 east, at the point at which the line between townships 4 and 5 crosses said line, and from thence south with the said line between ranges 9 and 10 east, to the southern boundary of the Choctaw Nation; from thence west, with said southern boundary line, to the western boundary line of said Choctaw Nation; from thence north with said western boundary line, to the point at which the line between townships 2 and 3 strikes said western boundary line; from thence west to the line between ranges 5 and 6 east; from thence north with said line between ranges 5 and 6 east, to the line between townships 4 and 5; and from thence to the place of beginning."

A large influx of settlers from the older parts of the state poured into the new county at an early date, and by 1837, there were 1,085 free whites, owning some three hundred slaves. A list of the county officers for the year 1838 follows: Abraham Carr, Sampson Ainsworth, Emanuel A. Durr, Thomas J. Husbands, John Sprinks, members of the Board of Police; James B. Graham, Sheriff, Assessor and Tax Collector; Benjamin Thornton, Clerk of the Circuit and Probate Courts; John Campbell, Judge of Probate; James L. McCaugh, County Surveyor; Abner Lewis, Coroner; Charles C. Horton, Ranger, Reuben Craft, County Treasurer; David Ward, Justice of the Peace; Jesse Rose, Constable.

The original county site was located at Fairfield, about four miles south of Raleigh, but was soon abandoned. The county seat was then established at Raleigh, so called for Sir Walter Raleigh, and was a place of 200 inhabitants in 1900, situated near the center of the county.

There are no large settlements in the region, but numerous small villages abound. Two of the oldest towns are Polkville and Trenton, established during the 40's and located on the east and west bank of Strong River in the northwestern corner. Some of the other towns are Boykins (pop. 350), Lorena, Lemon, Sylvarena, Taylorsville, and Summerland. The only railroad in the county is the Laurel branch of the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., which cuts across the southern part of the county from west to east. The water courses are Strong and Leaf Rivers and their numerous tributary streams, affording very good water power. About one-fourth of the acreage of the county is now improved, and the balance is well timbered with long-leaf pine for the

most part; on the river and creek bottoms are found white, red, and black oak, hickory, chestnut, beech, magnolia, pecan and cypress. The surface of the land is level on the bottoms, undulating and hilly elsewhere. The soil is of various kinds; partly red and black prairie, good for corn and cotton; partly fertile bottoms, and partly hill lands, where the soil is not so good. All the agricultural crops, fruits and vegetables common to the central part of the state are raised in fair abundance. Sheep raising and animal husbandry are profitable, as the pasturage is good, wood range in summer and switch-cane on the bottoms in winter. The climate is mild and healthful and schools and churches are to be found in every neighborhood. No manufactures of importance are to be found in the county, though the census lists some 46 small ones.

The following statistics, taken from the twelfth United States Census for 1900, relate to farms, manufactures and population: number of farms, 2,400, acreage in farms 270,831; acres improved 75,602; value of lands exclusive of buildings \$749,490; value of buildings, \$335,620; value of live stock \$421,041; total value of products not fed to stock \$751,744. The number of manufactures was 46, capital invested \$66,914, wages paid \$7,796, cost of materials \$47, 135, total value of products \$80,672. The population in 1900 consisted of whites 10,695, Colored 2,360, total 13,055, increase of 2,420 over the year 1890. The total assessed valuation of real and personal property in Smith County in 1905 was \$1,996,641 and in 1906 it was \$3,404,118 showing an increase during the year of \$1,407,477.

***Towns, hamlets and post offices in Smith County, Mississippi, in 1907 are listed below.***

**Abel**, a post-hamlet in Smith County, on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., about 10 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat. Its population in 1900 was 40, which has been materially increased.

**Andover**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Smith County and distant about 7 miles from Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 22.

**Andrew**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Smith County, distant about 12 miles from Raleigh, the county seat. Low station on the Laurel branch of the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., is the nearest railroad point.

**Bezar**, a post-hamlet in the south-central part of Smith County, 7 miles north of Mize Station on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., and 4 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 30.

**Boykins**, a post-village in the eastern part of Smith County, 11 miles east of Raleigh, the county seat. Montrose, on the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City R. R., is the nearest railroad station. Population in 1900, 350.

**Brit**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Smith County, about 16 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat.



**1907 Mississippi Railroad Commissioners Map, Smith County, Mississippi**

**Bunker Hill**, a post-hamlet in the southern part of Smith County, about 16 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Burns**, a post-hamlet in the northern part of Smith County, on Oakohay Creek, about 8 miles north of Raleigh, the county seat. It has a money-order post office. Population in 1900, 62.

**Craft**, a post office of Smith County.

**Currie**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, on Oakohay Creek, 7 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat. Abel Station, on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., is the nearest railroad town. Population in 1900, 40.

**Daniel**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Smith County on Strong River, about 15 miles from Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Faroe**, a post-hamlet in the south-central part of Smith County, 6 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 48.

**Ford**, a post office of Smith County, about 12 miles southeast of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Gunn**, a post-hamlet in the western part of Smith County, about 11 miles west of Raleigh, the capital of the county. Population in 1900, 37.

**Hissop**, a post office of Smith County, 10 miles southeast of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Klein**, a post office in Smith County.

**Lemon**, a post-hamlet in the northern part of Smith County, 9 miles north of Raleigh, the county seat and 15 miles south of Forest, the nearest railroad and banking town. Population in 1900, 100.

**Lingle**, a post-office in the northern part of Smith County, 13 miles north of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Lorena**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, 12 miles south of Forest, on the A. & V. R. R., the nearest railroad and banking town, and 12 miles north of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 100.

**Low**, a post-hamlet in the southwestern part of Smith County, 12 miles distant from Raleigh, the county seat. It is a station of the Laurel branch of the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., 8 miles north of Mt. Olive, the nearest banking town, Population in 1900, 45.

**May**, a post office of Smith County.

**Music**, a post office in the southwestern part of Smith County, 4 miles north of Mount Olive, on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R., and the nearest railroad and banking town.

**Ouda**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, about 12 miles southeast of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 46.

**Pineville**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, situated on Hatchuhse Creek, 10 miles northeast of Raleigh.

**Polkville**, a post-hamlet in the northwestern part of Smith County, 13 miles from Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 45.

**Raleigh**, the capital of Smith County, is a post-village, about 48 miles southeast of Jackson. The station of Abel on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R. is the nearest railroad town, and Taylorsville is the nearest banking town. It was named for Sir Walter Raleigh. It has two churches, a school, and a courthouse. The surrounding county is well timbered, chiefly with the long leaf, yellow pine. Population in 1900, 200. The *Smith County Reformer*, a Democratic weekly newspaper if published here, established in 1892, and owned and edited by J. T. Watkins.

**Relay**, a post office in Smith County, about 12 miles northeast of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Royal**, a post office of Smith County, situated on Hatchushe Creek, 8 miles northeast of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Sandpoint**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, 5 miles northeast of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 23.

**Shongelo**, a post-hamlet in the north-central part of Smith County, 6 miles north of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 20.

**Summerland**, a post-hamlet and station in the southeastern part of Smith County, on the Laurel branch of the Gulf & Ship Island R. R. Taylorsville is the nearest banking town. Population in 1900, 75.

**Sylvarena**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, 10 miles east, southeast of Raleigh, the county seat. Taylorsville is the nearest banking town. It has two churches and a school called the Sylvarena Institute, W. S. Huddleston<sup>46</sup>, principal; and a money order post-office.

**Taylorsville**, a post-town in the southern part of Smith County northwest of Laurel. It has telegraph, express and banking facilities, and has grown at a rapid rate since the coming of the railroad. A branch of the Bank of Laurel was established here in 1902. *The Signal*, a non-partisan weekly newspaper, was established here in 1901, T. W. Jarvis being the editor. Population is about 400.

**Ted**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, 12 miles due east of Raleigh, the county seat. Population in 1900, 25.

**Traxler**, a post office of Smith County, 6 miles west of Raleigh, the county seat.

**Trenton**, a post-hamlet of Smith County, about 40 miles south by east of Jackson, and 11 miles west by north of Raleigh, the county seat. Forest is the nearest railroad and banking town. It has a church. Population in 1900, 102.

**Waco**, a hamlet in the south-central part of Smith County, 8 miles south of Raleigh, the county seat. The post office at this place was discontinued in 1905, and mail now goes to Mize, 3 miles southwest, on the Gulf & Ship Island R. R. Taylorsville is the nearest banking town. The town was named for a tribe of Indians, the name meaning "heron". Population in 1900, 51.

**Walters**, a post office of Smith County, 15 miles northwest of Raleigh, the county seat. Forest is the nearest banking town.

**Zula**, a post office in the northeastern part of Smith County, situated on Hatchushe Creek, about 13 miles from Raleigh, the county seat.

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<sup>46</sup> Walter S. Huddleston (1860—1925) was a native of Newton County, Mississippi and is buried in Eastern Cemetery at Forest, Mississippi.

## **Sam Dale**

**By**

**Dunbar Rowland, L. L. D.**

Sam Dale was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, of Pennsylvania parents who were of Scotch-Irish descent. In 1775, the family moved to the forks of Clinch River, on the Indian frontier, and as a boy Sam Dale was familiar with the scenes of horror that were common on the frontier during the War of the Revolution. Afterward the family moved to Georgia, near the present site of the town of Greensboro. Here also, they were associated with the red men, and the boy's life was one of constant adventure. In the Christmas season of 1791, just after they had moved to a new home, in Georgia, the parents both died, and Sam, under twenty years of age, was left to care for eight younger brothers and sisters.

In 1793, he was authorized by the state government to raise a troop of horses for the protection of the frontier, and the pay he received freed him from debt. Until 1796 he had much scouting duty, and was in various romantic fights with the red warriors, by which his personal valor became famous. In 1799, he began trading among the Creeks and Choctaws, and running a wagon line for the transportation of emigrants through the Indian country to the Tombigbee. He and Alex Saunders were the guides of the commissioners who laid out the government road through the Cherokee county, in 1803, after which he and Joseph Buffington set up a trading post in the Cherokee country.

From this he turned to milling within the settlements, but could not endure it long, and accompanied Col. Hawkins<sup>47</sup>, the great Indian agent, to the council at Tookabatcha, on the Tallapoosa, which was addressed by Tecumseh, in October, 1811. He was again in the transportation work when trouble began in the latter part of 1812, and in the summer of 1813 he joined the party that attacked the Creeks returning from Pensacola at Burnt-Corn Creek. He was wounded there, but was on duty again soon, and at Ford Madison, when it was evacuated by the volunteers, he organized a force to defend it. He contrived a system of protective illumination, not with search lights, but flaming pine fagots run up to the top of a fifty-foot pole, that aided in securing the trail to Pensacola known as the Wolf path, and with Jim Smith, Jerry Austill and a Negro, Caesar, encountered a party of Creeks, the famous Weatherford being near at hand. The battle was partly fought in canoes, and Dale was victorious, after he and his comrades had killed twelve antagonists. Dale took part in the expedition to Holy Ground, and in February, 1814, in command of Austill's Company and Foster's horse, accompanied Russell's Third Regiment in an expedition to the Cahawba towns. He and Maj. Joseph Carson in the summer of that year went to Pensacola to treat with the fugitive Creeks; in September, he rode

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<sup>47</sup> Col. Benjamin Hawkins was stationed in Franklin County, Georgia, and among other duties, was charged with settling boundary disputes between the white settlers and Cherokees and also with issuing passports to white persons who wished to travel through Indian country.

express to Fort Hawkins, security from attack. In November 1813, he set out on a scouting expedition of 150 miles, in three days, and in December, he carried dispatches from the War Departments to Gen. Jackson, riding from the Creek agency in Georgia, carrying a wallet of Indian flour for food and feed, and reached Madisonville, in seven and a half days. He delivered his dispatches to Jackson in the midst of the Battle of New Orleans. Thereupon, Jackson insisted he should carry back the reply, and he did so, using the same horse, Paddy, that had brought him.



After the war, Dale lived at Dale's Ferry, serving as colonel of militia and holding various other offices of Monroe County, by appointment of Governor Holmes. He was a member of the Pearl River Convention of 1816 and a delegate to the Alabama General Assembly of the year 1817 at St. Stephens. In the same year, also, he was made a colonel of militia and entrusted with the suppression of the Indian outlaws led by Savannah Jack, a bloody villain. He built Fort Dale, and

after several months drove the outlaws out of the country. He was in the Alabama legislature of 1819-1820, and again in 1824-28; was made a brigadier-general of militia, with the pay of a colonel in the United States Army, in 1821, and was one of those selected to meet General Lafayette at the Chattahoochee in 1824. In 1821, he and George S. Gaines were commissioned by the Secretary of War to remove the Choctaws to Indian Territory, after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. He purchased from a Choctaw chief two sections of land which he afterward made his home, near the site of the town of Daleville, Lauderdale County, Miss. He was the first Representative in the Mississippi Legislature, of Lauderdale County, after its organization.

The death of Gen. Dale occurred May 24, 1841, at his home near Daleville. He was a rawboned, square shouldered man, standing six feet two, and known on the frontier as "Big Sam". He even had a facial resemblance to the Indians, the light footfall of the forest roamer, and the taciturn manner, slow speech and unsmiling countenance of the red men, whom he understood and loved, and who loved him, though he was often in battle against them.