
Chiltonian

Volume 10 Number 1

March 1990

QUARTERLY MEETING

Mrs. Mary Ann Neeley, President, Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery will be guest speaker for the next Chilton County Historical Society meeting. The time and date of the meeting will be 2:00 p.m. on the 8th of April. Arrangements have been made for the gathering to take place in the Chilton/Clanton Public Library Conference Room. Mrs. Neeley is a former resident of Clanton and all of her Clanton friends will find her presentation quite interesting and informative. Subject will be related to the use of the old Clanton Postoffice as a Museum and Archives.

MUSEUM

The Mayor and members of the Clanton City Council voted to honor the Society's request to utilize the vacated Clanton Postoffice as Museum and Archives. We are respectfully grateful to them for providing that facility and will make every effort toward its proper utilization. Steps in that direction have already been taken and a plan of action will be forthcoming. A contract between the City of Clanton and the Society will be formulated and when finalized with the City Attorney will be signed by both agencies. There is a tremendous amount of work and time involved in this project and we hope to elicit support throughout the county and all of its governmental agencies.

THIS ISSUE

Fortunately, Betty Collins, also known as Elizabeth J. Collins, has provided enough information to fulfill this issue of the Chiltonian. Both of her submissions will be welcome information to all of our members and we are quite grateful to her for pulling us out of the fire this time. Sometimes the choices available for information to include are not quite so readily found. Our thanks not only for sharing but for the many hours involved in compiling this first part of an Obituary Index from our local newspapers.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

By Elizabeth J. Collins

The letter written to request genealogical information can be

viewed by the correspondent as a welcome sharing or it may be tossed in File 13 (the trash can). A few simple guidelines can bring, not only a response, but a goldmine of information. Of course, there will always be exceptions. An example of this recently happened to me. I received two very different request letters, both concerning a surname I had placed in a genealogical publication. The first one was brief, easy to read, offered to share what little information she had, and enclosed a SASE (self-addressed-stamped envelope). I happened to have two generations beyond her known ancestor (with proof) and could give her data that might have taken years to find otherwise. Not only did she write to thank me, she furnished me with information that I needed. I believe we will be sharing for years to come.

The second letter ended up in File 13. The writer gave a bunch of names, one date (could not tell what the date pertained to) and not one place was mentioned. I have no idea if the ancestor she was researching was in Alabama, Virginia, Montana, or England. She wanted me to search my files for her family but, not only did she fail to give enough information, she did not send a SASE. It was impossible for me to help her and she probably considers me a scrooge for not answering her. Her time and a stamp was wasted by not knowing a few general guidelines to writing the request letter.

I hope the following will help anyone really interested to gain more from their correspondence.

1- Be brief and to the point.

"My ancestor was Joseph Smith, born 1854, Shelby Co., AL, married Mary Brown the 7 Sep 1878, Chilton Co., AL. The family tradition says that Joseph died about 1891 in Chilton Co. Would you be so kind to check your Smith files for any information on Joseph that may help me find his date and place of death. Being brief and to the point does not mean, "Send me everything you have on the Smith family." Believe it or not, I have received such requests.

2- Always offer to share the information that you have and pay for copies of documents, etc. Remember that the person you are writing has probably spent years and a lot of money in obtaining the data that you want just for the asking.

3- Always send a SASE (self-addressed-stamped-envelope). You can not expect someone to answer your request and pay for the postage, too.

4- After receiving the information, follow up with a "thank-you." It is discouraging to send data that you know will help the person and never even know if he received it. This has kept many a soul from reaping the benefits of information found later.

5- When requesting information from a record center, such as a courthouse, be even more brief. The clerk is not interested in knowing the reason you want the information or that John Brown is your long lost great-great grandfather on your mother's side. An example:

"Please advise me of the cost for a copy of the following:

Record - Marriage
Groom - John Brown
Bride - Mary Smith
Date - Between 1882 & 1886."

Double space between the lines, center the names and dates so the clerk can quickly see the information needed. You may also want to include a check for no more than \$3 to cover the cost and request they advise you if the cost will be more. Don't forget the SASE.

May good manners, simplicity and common sense bring you better results.

OBITUARY INDEX

Compiled by Elizabeth J. Collins

Adams, (infant of)
CHILTON VIEW
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Adams, Margaret (Mrs. Berry)
CHILTON VIEW
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Adams, Mollie (Miss)
BANNER
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Adams, W.M.
CHILTON VIEW
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15 Nov 1894

Ainsworth, S.M.
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Callen,
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CHILTON VIEW
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Callen, Hugh J.
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To be continued ...

CREDITS:

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MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Lifetime \$100.00 Annual, single 7.00

Annual, couple 10.00

Annual, student 5.00

Dues payable in January.

MEETINGS:

Second Sunday in January, April, July, and October at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library unless changed by announcement in this publication.

1990 OFFICERS

President.....Benjamin D. Roberts
Vice President.....Benjamin D. Roberts
Sec/Treasurer.....Mary Richardson
Historian.....Loris G. Thomas
Reporter.....Betty J. Collins

Chilton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045



Chiltonian

Volume 10 Number 2

June 1990

QUARTERLY MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Chilton County Historical Society will be held at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library. Everyone is encouraged to be there promptly at 2:00 pm for a significant presentation. Mr. Jim Smith, of the Historic Shelby Association will be the guest speaker and the subject matter will be of interest to all of us. The history of the Shelby Iron Company from its inception up to the Civil War will be presented along with many other interesting facts that were developed during the course of Mr. Smith's research. More than likely, he and co-member John Brasher will have copies of the "History of the Shelby Iron Company 1862-1868", by Joyce Jackson for sale. We invite our members to bring guests to hear this interesting part of our local history.

QUERY

Jane Holland, POB 574, Escondido, CA, 92025 is seeking help in identifying the parents of Frances Jane Henley who married William Lewis Reynolds in Tuskegee, Al. in October, 1853. This couple was residing in Macon county according to the 1860 and 1870 censuses. They had two daughters, one of whom is Ms. Holland's ancestor. Any members of the Reynolds, Latham, Eddins or related families could benefit by an exchange of information with her at the address previously provided.

MUSEUM

The City of Clanton provided the

Society with a facility to use as a museum and archives. To date there remain minor administrative delays in getting the proper contractual requirements covered. Nonetheless, planning for the eventual use of the Old Post Office continue and will be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Visitors

Included in this issue is a list of visitors to the Court House & Library in search of family history with names of families of local interest included.

Anniversary Special

**Support the Chilton
Historical Society**

Promote Interest in Geneology

Give a copy of
Cemeteries of Chilton
to someone you know

\$30.00
add 2.50 Shipping & handling

Mail your check or
Money order to:
Chilton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045

OBITUARY INDEX CONTINUED

By Elizabeth J. Collins

The index of newspaper obituaries begun in the last issue is continued in this issue and we trust that our members will give us some idea of its usefulness. It has already given us some information we had previously overlooked.

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Gerrell Hector
3119 Capwood Curve
Montgomery, Al. 36116
FOLI: Porter/Ellison/Ray/Meank

Brenda Partin
3000 Pineview Road
Clanton, Al. 35045
FOLI: Wilson/Edwards/Popwell/
Hicks

John D. Glasscock
Rt. 2 Box 5045
Jemison, Al. 35085
FOLI: Glasscock/Clower/
Honeycutt

Bill & Martha Wells
703 Alberta Street
Enterprise, Al. 36330
FOLI: Wells/Stanfield/Downs

Paul Headley
Rt. 6 Box 293
Clanton, Al. 35045
FOLI: Will Headley

Samuel C. May, M.D.
404 Straw Hill
Manchester, N.H. 03103
FOLI: William S. Patton

Lamar Philip De Shong
261 Manor
Beaumont, Tx. 77701
FOLI: Not stated

James B. Trammell
902 Studdard Drive
Clanton, Al. 35045
FOLI: Paul & Mary Kimbro/
William Rolla(o)

Betty G. Prim
POB O
Calera, Al. 35040
FOLI: Prim/Humphries

Don Edwards
POB 7632
Macon, Ga. 31209
FOLI: Jane, Isaac, Roland
Franklin

Gerald & Jean Brittain
523 S. Sutton Road
Jackson, Mich. 49203
FOLI: William Americus Brittain

Jeannette T. Morgan
4317 Palisades Road
Birmingham, Al. 35210
FOLI: Culp/Arant/Dobbs/Culver/
Reynolds/Headley/Chester

Ethel P. Hanson
4820 Birchwood Place
Pensacola, Fl. 32503
FOLI: Alvin Whitworth

Merriam Smith
209 Maplewood Drive
Rome, Ga. 30161
FOLI: Driver/Smith

Ruth & Richard Reid
2546 Jasmine Road
Montgomery, Al. 36111
FOLI: Lowe/Smith/Popwell/
Alfred Baker

Jim Thomas
85 Gardenia Court
Upland, Ca. 91786
FOLI: Thomas/Grant/Yates/
Vinson/DeVaughn

Nellie Kate Morris
Rt. 2 Box 124
Titus, Al. 36080
FOLI: Murchison/Dobbs/Snider/
Penton/Crumpler

Annie E. Mills
POB 495
Oxford, Miss. 38655
FOLI: Littleton/Riggins/Sammons

Alice Caron Watts
1033 Fourth Ave. SW
Alabaster, Al. 35007
FOLI: Alfred Baker/R.A. Miller

Mitchelene Shaddix
Rt. 6 Box 2930
Cullman, Al. 35055
FOLI: Foshee/Crumpton/Raspberry

Pat Moore Roberson
POB 247
Bedias, Tx. 77831
FOLI: John Moore/Matilda C. Peeples

Mary Wood Odom
235 Bell Street
Greenville, Al. 33156
FOLI: Childress/Greathouse/Free/
Odom,Cowart

Wilburn H. Hill
1630 N. 13th Ave.
Bessemer, Al. 35020
FOLI: Alexandria & Cynthia Hill/
Bush/Hixman & Malvenia Hays Hays

Shirley Davis Lathrop
1802 Warwickshire
Houston, Tx. 77077
FOLI: Elijah C. Anderson/William E.
Davis/Jane Anderson Davis

Marion M. Sumerlin
Rt. 1 Box 92D
Jones, Al. 36749
FOLI: Sumerlin/Samuel & William Gray
German Berry Gray

Alma Abbott Carter
POB 1443
Selma, Al. 36702
FOLI: Abbott/Anderson/Judy/Davis/Sims
Roberts/Chandler/Carter

David W. Coggins
Rt. 1 Box 777
Maylene, Al. 35114
FOLI: Coggins/Mullins/Wyatt

Joel H. Sanders
1344 Rayfield Drive
Midfield, Al. 35228
FOLI: John Sanders

Earline G. Foreman
Route 2 Box 383
Verbena, Al. 36091
FOLI: Not stated

Mary E. Lord Thompson
527 S. 80th Place
Birmingham, Al. 35206
FOLI: Harrison/Sanford/Jordon

Mary Anderson
2131 Monticello Road
Napa, Ca. 94558
FOLI: Anderson/Hicks/Dennis/
Armstrong

Claude Eddings
226 Oglesby Ave.
Birmingham, Al. 35209
FOLI: Not stated

Betty Payne Carden
Rt. 1 Box 201
Calera, Al. 35040
FOLI: Thomas F. Carden/Strickland/
Sarah Ann Ball

Lahuana B. Goldsby
3320 Amstead
Shreveport, La. 71118
FOLI: Hayes/Martin/Davenport/
Whatley

Jane Leslie Newberry
6045 Foxchase Tr.
Shreveport, La. 71129
FOLI: Robertson/Farr

Alan Blankenship
5265 Midwood Road
Penson, Al. 35126
FOLI: William A. Candler

(FOLI = Families of local interest)

Giles, (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
31 Oct 1895

Giles, Edmond
CHILTON VIEW
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Giles, Ike
CHILTON VIEW
10 Jul 1890

Giles, Sarah (Mrs.)
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22 Mar 1894

Giles, Sarah (Mrs.)
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24 Mar 1894

Gillam, Josephine (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
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Gillan, (infant of)
CHILTON VIEW
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BANNER
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Givhan, Phillip
CHILTON VIEW
20 Jun 1889

Givhan, Wilbur (son of Allen)
CHILTON VIEW
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CHILTON VIEW
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BANNER
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Glasscock, Elizabeth (Mrs.)
BANNER
29 Apr 1897

Glasscock, Johnnie (son of Calvin)
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Glasscock, Morgan
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BANNER
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Gray, Mary (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
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Green, Cary (dau. of G.H.)
BANNER
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Green, Charlie (wife & children of)
CHILTON VIEW
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Green, Henry
CHILTON VIEW
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Green, J.J. (Mrs.)
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Green, _____
CHILTON VIEW
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Greene, Fletcher (infant of)
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Griffin, Mr.
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CHILTON VIEW
6 Jun 1889

Griffin, Sophia (Mrs.)
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6 Jan 1898

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CHILTON VIEW
4 Dec 1890

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Gullahorn, John W. (Sr.)
CHILTON VIEW
8 Aug 1889

Gullahorn, Mattie
CHILTON VIEW
10 Nov. 1881

Gullahorn, Sam
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4/18 Mar 1897

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Harrison, James

To be continued in next
issue....

CREDITS:

Chiltonian is a quarterly publication of the Chilton County Historical Society and Archives, Inc., PO Box 644 Clanton, Alabama, 35045. (A Non-profit Organization).

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Annual, student 5.00

Dues payable in January.

MEETINGS:

Second Sunday in January, April, July, and October at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library unless changed by announcement in this publication.

1990 OFFICERS

President.....	Benjamin D. Roberts
Vice President.....	Benjamin D. Roberts
Sec/Treasurer.....	Mary Richardson
Historian.....	Loris G. Thomas
Reporter.....	Betty J. Collins

Chilton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 644
Clanton, Alabama 35045



Chiltonian

Volume 10 Number 3

Sept. 1990

QUARTERLY MEETING

The regular quarterly meeting of the Chilton County Historical Society and Archives will be held in the Chilton/Clanton Public Library Conference Room on the 14th of October 1990. The call to order will be promptly at 2:00 pm. All members are urged to attend and bring guest/s or prospective new member/s with them.

SOCIETY LOSES FORMER PRESIDENT

We are saddened to report that former President of the Chilton County Historical Society and Archives, John M. Higgins, after a relatively short illness, died while being treated in a Birmingham hospital. We will all miss his considerable contribution to our efforts and his support in so many aspects of our lives.

John Manning Higgins, was one of three children of Mr. Guy Higgins and his wife Mrs. Mary Davis Higgins. John is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Gowan Higgins, and their two daughters and one granddaughter, his sister, Mary Ellen, and his brother, Guy.

John got an early start in his father's business and when a severe stroke debilitated his father, John was faced with ever greater responsibility. He had been educated in the local school system and attended Auburn University during the term of 1936-37. By the start of World War II, John had made amazing progress with his father's lumber business.

In 1942 he went to New Orleans and

went before a board of Officers and was commissioned directly as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. As a consequence he was assigned to Cornell and then Harvard for intensive training for his future Naval duties. His first assignment in a combat zone was to the U.S.S. Montrose which was involved in the combat associated with the attempted invasion of the Aleutian Islands by the Japanese.

Subsequently, he served on the U.S.S. Montrose in the Pacific Theater and was Communications officer for a Naval Division which participated in the invasion of islands in several parts of that theater. When the war was concluded he had risen to the rank of Lt. Commander, the rank he held at the time he was discharged. John continued his Naval service in the Naval Reserve for several years after the war.

On his return to the local scene he bought a lumber business from two local businessmen in Thorsby. He operated that business quite successfully for a number of years and then in 1962 after having continued his studies, at night, at UAB and Samford, entered the Law School at Samford. After receiving his degree he served as a professor at the same law school. In association with the University of Alabama, John traveled all over the state in an official capacity with City Planning Commissions for about two years. Still he followed the professorial regime until about 1968.

At that time he decided to enter in the practice of law on the local scene which he did with great distinction, serving in many public capacities as

well as serving a host of clients. At the same time he made a number of improvements in the city of Clanton and in some of the local properties which he had acquired.

A devoted father, successful businessman and lawyer, and a historian of no small accomplishment has passed from among us. We will all miss him.

QUERIES

Mrs. LaJauna Goldsby is seeking information (proof) that Clara McCary, wife of Absolom Martin of Bibb County, Al., was a daughter of Revolutionary War veteran Richard McCary, Jr. Anyone who can help should contact her at 3320 Armstead Drive, Shreveport, La., 71118.

Mrs. Eugenia Parker, 5720 Blue Ridge Drive N., Mobile, Al., 36693, is searching for the arrival in this area of Dave A. Martin, whose wife Frances Elizabeth Foshee was the daughter of Hugh Marion Foshee. This couple lived in the Shelby/Baker/Bibb area from about 1870 to the early 1900's. Anyone knowing who Dave A. Parker's parents were or the place he and F.E. Foshee were married (circa 1868-1870) please correspond with Mrs. Parker at the address above.

The parents and first wife of William Americus Brittain, born 26 August 1826 in Perryville, Perry county is the subject of interest to Mrs. Gerald Brittain. William and his wife had a daughter, Catherine, born in 1855 and another daughter, Sarah M. born in 1857, both in Alabama. This man and his family have not been found on the Alabama or Louisiana 1850 census (he died in Louisiana). He is possibly the youngest son of George Brittain, Jr. and his wife Nancy Brewer, household head on 1830 and 1840 Alabama censuses. George, Jr. was the brother of Thomas Jefferson Brittain who married Susan Oakes circa 1850. Please respond to Mrs. Gerald Brittain, 523 Sutton Road, Jackson, Mich., 49203.

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		Latham, Alex (child of) BANNER 7 Sep 1899	

To be continued in the
next issue....

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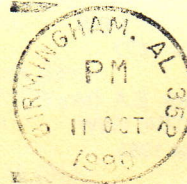
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Chiltonian

Volume 10 Number 4

Dec. 1990

QUARTERLY MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Chilton County Historical Society will be held at the Chilton/Clanton Public Library on Sunday, the January 13th, 1991. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. and everyone is urged to be on time for the guest speaker will be introduced immediately after the meeting is called to order. The Executive Director of the Fitzgerald Museum in Montgomery, Mrs. Glynis Bates, will make a presentation on the lives and times of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Leda Sayre during their stays in Montgomery. Several artifacts from the Museum will be available for perusal.

COUNTY HISTORY

The following article is extracted from the Chilton County News 31 May, 1928. As the author was not named we assume that he wrote it. That particular issue was replete with photographs current at that time and offers the reader an interesting look at the county of that era. We offer the article in its entirety for its inherent value and in spite of a few inaccuracies.

"It would be a pleasing diversion to tell how De Soto crossed the county of Chilton and camped near the present site of Verbena. The narrative makes interesting reading and has but one defect, which is that not a word of it is true. According to Peter Brannon, of the State Department of Archives and History and other authorities on the travels of the Spanish explorer which ended with his burial in the Mississippi river, which he (DeSoto) discovered, never came within 50 miles of that point in the present county of

Chilton.

Chilton County's history is made up of relatively small incidents. The annals of that geographical and political subdivision of Alabama record no great battles upon its soil, no outstanding event of world importance. They tell rather of the struggle of a courageous people against the handicap of many years of isolation through lack of roads and other means of transportation; their efforts to combat the evils of illiteracy, to establish schools and churches, to build towns and homes. One must look for Chilton's great achievements in the near future, instead of in the past. That section of the hilly country west of the Coosa river was originally the hunting ground of the Upper Creek Indians. Their towns were chiefly on the Coosa county—east side of the river. West of the stream were the wooded hills where deer, bear and smaller game were hunted in due season, where numerous creeks afforded good fishing and refuge for beavers, valued for their meat and pelt. The Indian, on his own hunting ground, was a conservationist, rarely killing game during its breeding seasons. The territory reserved for hunting was often used in common by numerous tribes, that recognized a truce from tribal wars when their hunting parties met upon these reservations.

There were Indian villages along Mulberry creek, and the mound builders left their monuments at various points, the largest of which may still be seen about 1 1/2 miles southeast of Thorsby.

Pioneers from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia came with their negro slaves in 1833 and established permanent settlements, chiefly along Big Mulberry creek and other streams in the Coastal Plain areas of the county. Corn and wheat were grown in quantities for local use and ground at numer-

ous mills operated by water power along the streams. Whenever the land became worn out by the crude and wasteful farming methods of those days, new forests were deadened, cleared and planted, while the old fields were used for grazing sheep and cattle and soon were covered with second growth timber.

Before the war between the sections freed the slaves, cotton became the staple crop of that region and some of the plantations contained from 1,000 to 5,000 acres. After the close of the war most of the large plantations were broken up and a new system of agriculture was gradually developed, though cotton has remained the chief crop.

Forests of long-leaf and short-leaf pine covered the greater part of the land and the first industries were the manufacture of lumber and naval stores. Logging and lumbering became the winter occupation of many of the small farmers. When the railroads came, the larger tracts of timber were soon removed and sawn into lumber at several large sawmills in different parts of the county.

Bibb, Autauga, Perry and Shelby counties lost portions of their territory when the legislature carved out of those four the present boundaries of Chilton county, on December 30, 1866 (1869). When first established the new political body was given the name of Baker county, for Alfred Baker, a prominent citizen of the Autauga section. On December 17, 1871 it was changed by act of legislature and named in honor of Judge William Chilton, chief justice of the supreme court and former member of the Confederate Congress, wherein he represented the Montgomery district.

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CHILTON VIEW
24 May 1894

Merriwether, Luckie (Mrs. W.G.)
CHILTON VIEW
13 Apr 1893

Merriwether, Sallie (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
12 May 1887

Middleton, Pattie (Miss)
CHILTON VIEW
12 Apr 1888

Miears, R.A. (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
9 Feb 1888

Miears, R.A. (Rev.)
CHILTON VIEW
3 Sep 1885

Milam, D.M. (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
22 Jan 1885

Milford, John P. (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
20 Mar 1884

Miller, Nancy (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
4 M14 1886

Mills, Geo. W. (Rev.)
CHILTON VIEW
15 Jan 1891

Mills, William (dau. of)
CHILTON VIEW
19 Oct 1893

Mills, William (Sr.)
CHILTON VIEW
5 May 1887

Millsap, S.
CHILTON VIEW
9 Aug 1894

Millstead, William (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
16 Apr 1885

Millstead, (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
1 Dec 1887

Mimms, Henry (infant of)
BANNER
17 Aug 1893

Mims, Bud
BANNER
7 May 1896

Mims, Edward
CHILTON VIEW
15 Dec 1881

Mims, Elijah (Sr.)
CHILTON VIEW
10 Jul 1890

Mims, J.R.
BANNER
19 Nov 1896

Mims, James R.
BANNER
11 Feb 1897

Mims, Joe
CHILTON VIEW
30 Nov 1893

Mims, Joe (son of Richard)
BANNER
6 Oct 1898

Mims, John
CHILTON VIEW
2 Jan 1896

Mims, Julia (Mrs.)
BANNER
31 Mar 1894

Mims, Lettie (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
26 Jun 1890

Mims, Margaret
CHILTON VIEW
17 Mar 1877

Mims, W. Riley
CHILTON VIEW
8 Dec 1881

Minor, J.A.
CHILTON VIEW
12 May 1892

Minter, Grace Lee
BANNER
4 Nov 1897

Minton, McDonald
BANNER
15 Jul 1897

Mitchell, Bessie (Miss)
BANNER
3 Feb 1899

Mitchell, Julia (Mrs.)
BANNER
28 Sep 1899

Mitchell, Rich (Mrs.)
CHILTON VIEW
6 Oct 1887

Mixson, Ellis
BANNER
27 Jul 1893

Moates, John
CHILTON VIEW
11 Sep 1884

Molten, Robert
BANNER
7 Sep 1893

To be continued in ne
issue....

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