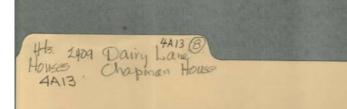
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WITHERS - CHAPMAN BOME

The quaint ante-bellum home of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Chapman IV is situated on a sleping hillside almost in the center of their 600 acre farm. This general area, known as Chapman's Mountain, has been the scene of many interesting incidents in Madison County's history.

The southeast quarter of section mineteen, township three, range one, east, on which the house is located, was originally marketine assigned to George Maiser on May 11, 1810, by the United States government. Allen Christian and Lewel Mead then purchased the land from him and held it as joint owners. In 1835, a division of the property gave the western helf of the area to Allen Christian. At the time of his death he willed his plantation, which included this area, to his wife for her lifetime. Judging from the contents of his will, it apparently seems that the first occupants of the Chapman home were members of the family of Allen Christian who must have constructed it sometime prior to his death in 1836.

In 1866, the property was sold at public auction to Daniel Turner who in turn sold it to Augustus H. Ford within the same year.

Phillip Woodson, founder and editor of the Huntsville Democrat from 1823 to 1859, bought the property in 1849. It then became the home of his daughter, Mary Woodson Withers, wife of Augustine Withers. As executor of her father's estate, Mrs. Withers sold all of the Woodson property, with the exception of a few acres, to Reuben Chapman II in 1873. Since that time it has been in possession of the Chapman family, though not eccepted by them until 1891.

During this intervening period, the home was rented by the William E. Matthews family. The house to the rear of the main dwelling was constructed by Mr. Matthews as an office and quarters for his sons. The old smoke house in the garden east of this structure is one of the original out-buildings.

It was not until 1891, shortly after the death of Reuben Chapman III, that his widow and three children, Ellelee, Elizabeth, and Reuben IV came to occupy the residence.

Today, the floor plan of this colonial type cottage remains in tact as it was originally constructed. There are four large rectangular rooms on the first floor

Names:

Chapman Reuben, III Chapman, Elizabeth Chapman, Ellelee Chapman, Reuben, II

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

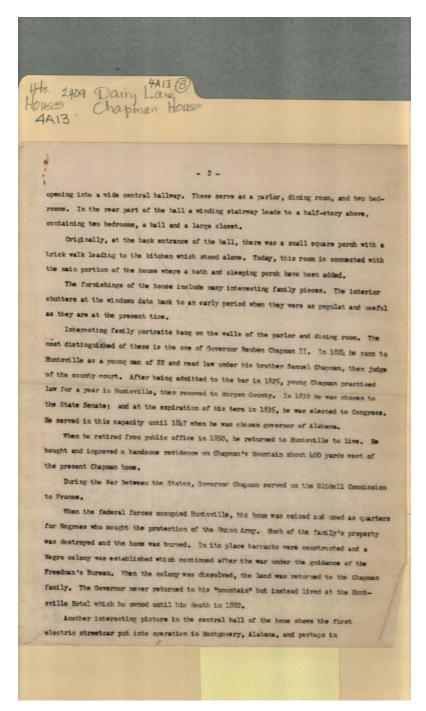
history

Dates:

Chapman, Reuben, IV Christian, Allen Ford, Augustus H. Kaiser, George Matthews, William E. Mead, Lemuel Turner, Daniel Withers - Chapman Home Withers, Augustine Withers, Mary Woodson Woodson, Phillip

1844	1873	May 11, 1810
1849	1891	
1049	1091	

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Names:

Chapman, Reuben, II, Gov.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types: history

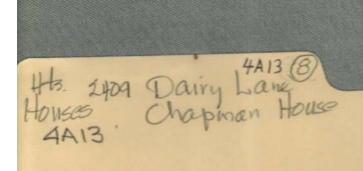
Chapman, Samuel, Judge

Slidell Commission to France

Huntsville, AL, CSA

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About



the United, in 1886. This was an engineering feat of Joseph Arthur Gaboury, a Canadian engineer, and father of Mrs. Reuben Chapman IV.

Wisitors who go on the morning tour which begins at 9:00 A.M. on April 20th, will be privileged to meet the two daughters of Reuben Chapman III, Mrs. Earl Pettus and Miss Elizabeth Charman, who will serve as hostesses at this home. Also, on hard to greet guests, will be Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Chapman IV and their granddaughter, Frances Brandon Chapman. This little lady has the distinction of being the great, great granddaughter of Governor Reuben Chapman, and Governor A. B. Moore and the great neice of Governor William Brandon,

Names:

Chapman, Reuben, IV, Mrs.

Gaboury, Joseph Arthur

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

history

Dates:

1886

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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