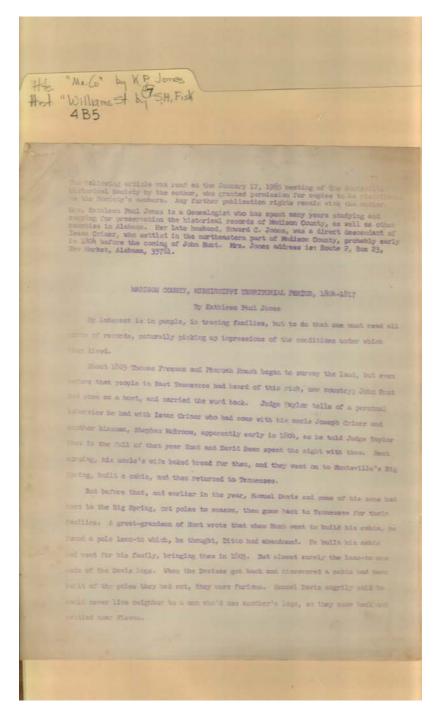
Image 1 r04b05-07-000-0355 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



#### Names:

Bean, David Criner, Isaac Criner, Joseph Davis, Samuel Ditto,

Places:

Huntsville, AL

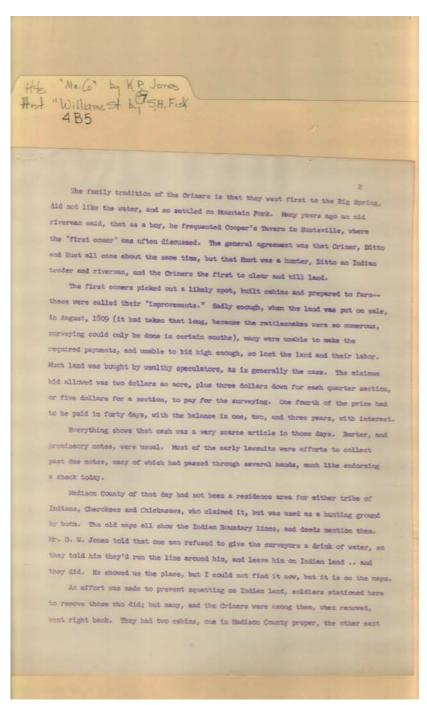
**Types:** 

article

**Dates:** 

Freeman, Thomas Hunt, John Huntsville Historical Assn. Jones, Howard C. Jones, Kathleen Paul Madison County, Miss. Terr. McBroom, Stephen Mississippi Territorial Period Roach, Pharoah Taylor, Judge

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Names:

Criner,

Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

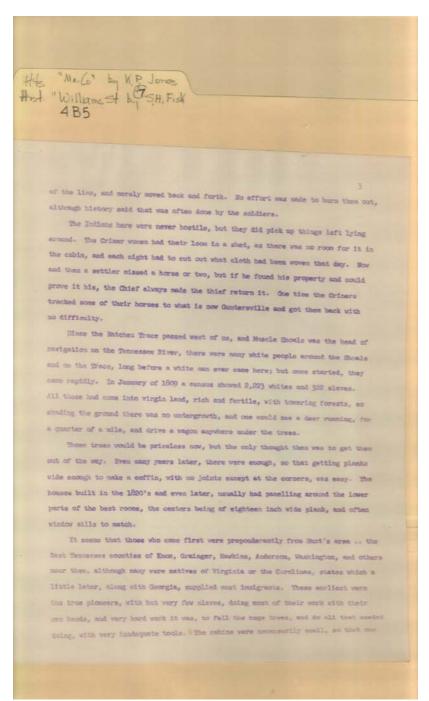
article

Ditto,

Hunt, John

Jones, G. W.

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Names:

Criner,

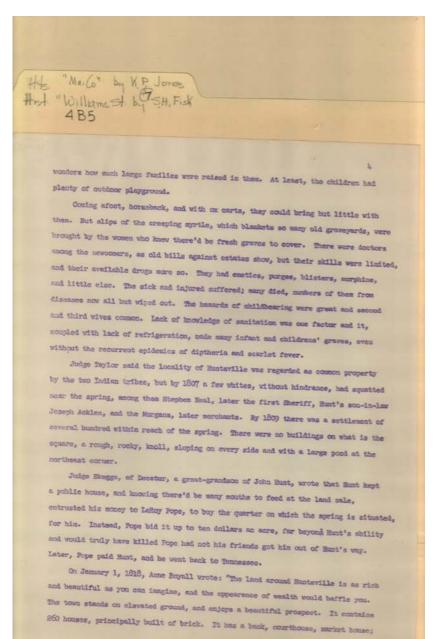
Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

article

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Names:

Acklen, Joseph Hunt, John

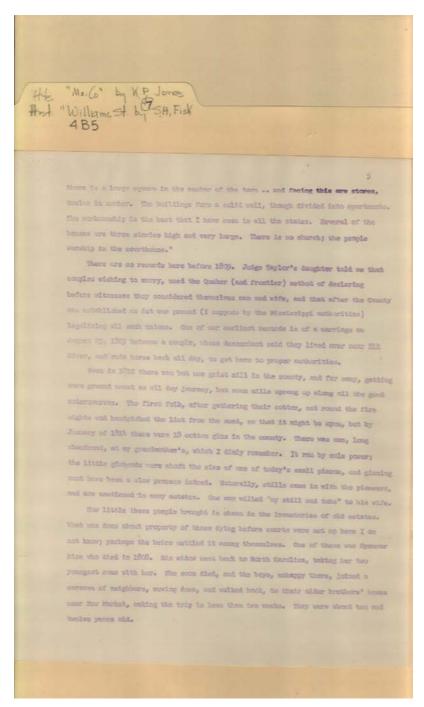
Places:

Madison County, AL

Types: article

Morgan, Neal, Stephen Pope, LeRoy Royall, Anne Skeggs, Judge Taylor, Judge

Image 5 r04b05-07-000-0359 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Rice, Spencer

Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

article

Taylor, Judge

Image 6 r04b05-07-000-0360 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

Het "Ma. G" by K.P. Jones
Hest "Williams St. by S.H. Fisk
AB5

E

When laws here were established, after the executor or elministrator was named, men were appointed to appraise the personal property of the decedent, down to the last pot, pen, or other small article; then a sale was held, and what the family wished to keep, they had to bid in. Later a "years provision" was allowed to be set uside for the widow and minor children. One of these listed a tablespoon of papper-

From the start, Alabam's laws were in some dagree conserned about women; at least no man could sell his homestead without her, "without fear, constraint or threat" signing the deed, or later signing a relinquishment of her dower right. In a few cases, suit was brought, and her right established.

But the poor married woman could not hold title herself; whatever she had before, or inherited after marriage, was immediately vested in her husbend, and subject to spiture for his debts. So the careful father often left his daughter's heritage in the hands of a trustee, for her benefit and after her death to go to the heirs of her body. Not only local non did that, but we have transcripte of Wirginia wills, proving a family's alaxes belonged to the wife and children.

Of course, schools were few. While many newcomers were well educated, there are many more papers signed with a mark than with the maker's signature. Where there were enough children, often someone, usually a prescher, set up a little private school, but for the children of the very early years getting an education was a struggle.

In clearing the great forests, the trees were first girdled and let die. A
little corn could be raised between them, but not much. After a time, the branches
rotted and fell, and had to be piled. When the trunks were felled, the huge logs,
some so large a man could not see over them, were notched at about ten foot intervals,
a fire built, and a dead branch laid across it, and as that branch burned out, another
replaced it, until the fire had burned all the way though. Enough of these "cuts,"
and the landowner sent out a call for a log rolling. All the able botied men
about were expected to come and help, and the caller, in turn, had to help them with
their logs. There were often forty or fifty man present.

First, the first cut above the one at the roots was turned at right angles, then

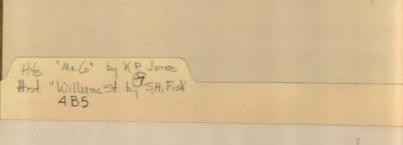
Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

article

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asveral others rolled alongside, for the base of the hesp. Long degreed spikes were inserted under the remaining cut logs, and at a word the sen raised the log and walked with it to the log hesp and slid it into place. There was quite an art in getting the handsticks placed so that the load was distributed fairly; this originated the phrase "to tote fair," and also probably the one about getting the short end of the stick, since if the sen at each end of the stick were both strong, the stick was placed evenly. If the were less strong, the some able san was given the shorter end, and so the beaver pert of the load.

After all the logs were piled, they were set aftre, and illuminated the night. These any rollings were indeed hard work, and with not even a rope and pulley to help. They worked from early norming till numbows, and the host always furnished supper, persed the jug, and frequently had a dance, or "frolic."

These men were skilled axemen; they cut the trees for their buildings, rived the boards to roof them, added the half logs for the puncheon floors. The roof boards were held down by weight poles, nails being too few and precious for such. Fegs were used in construction, instead. Later the blacksmiths who came made the square ended handwrought nails so common in my childhood, in old fences and buildings.

The early settler usually arrived with dogs and gun, an exe or so, some iron wedges, and held or could borrow a cross cut saw. If he had only his wife for help, he had to use poles he could handle himself; if there were friends to sid, larger logs could be cut, notched, and put in place. Chimmeys were stick and clay, window shutters of boards, and hinges made of wood.

These people were hardy; they had travelled long distances over new or no roads, through unbridged streams, often waiting for flooded ones to go down, and camping at night, no natter the weather. Water had to come from a well the pioneer dag, or more likely a spring, often some distance sway. Issue Crimer's was at the foot of a steep bluff, and until old ago blinded him he washed his face in it every sorving, often returning to the house with icicles in his beard.

Weahing was probably done as it was in my mother's childhood, in the afterwar years .. with battlin' sticks and soft somp. The clothes were wet, somped, and laid on

#### Names:

Criner, Isaac

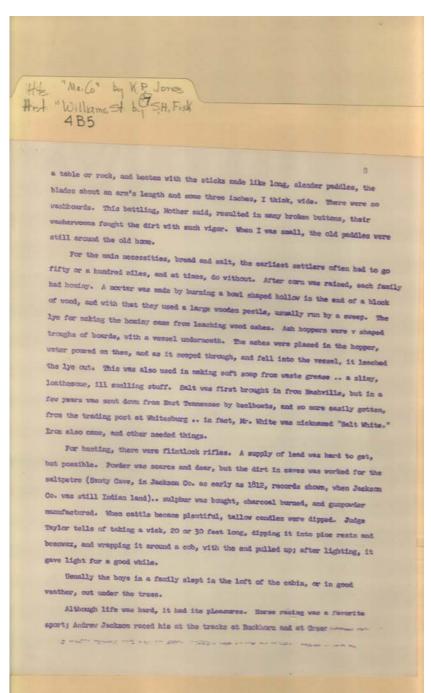
#### Places:

Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

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Names:

Jackson, Andrew

Places:

Madison County, AL

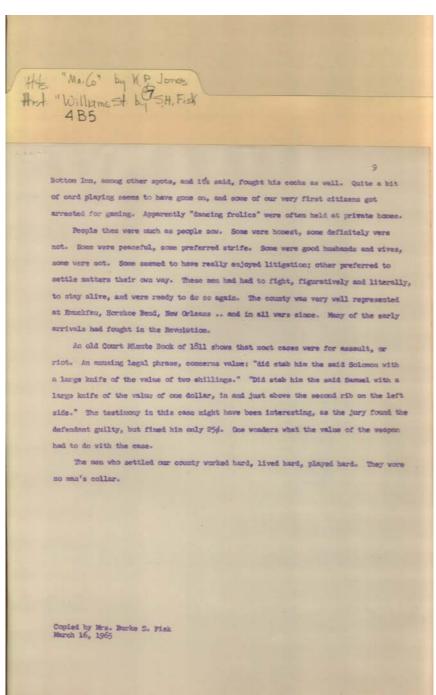
Types:

article

Taylor, Judge

White, Salt

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Names:

, Samuel

, Solomon

Fisk, Burke S., Mrs.

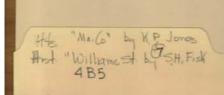
Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

article

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The following article and accompanying map were prepared from information assemble by the Research Countities of the Emsterille Fistorical Society: Wrs. Burke S. Fire. Mrs. V. 7. Sparkson, and Mrs. Wayne L. Smith.

This paper was read by Dr. William M. McKissack at the Society's meeting on June 20, 1969.

#### THE WILLIAMS STREET AREA IN THE EARLY 1800'S

Buntaville's historic Williams Street, originally the town's southeastern boundary, lies in the area where more than one hundred and fifty years ago our earliest acttlers found a sagnificent grove of tall oak and stately poplar trees.

Home sites on the rolling scree that stretch from Williams toward the foothills of Monte Sano were early recognized as choice spots, and many of the people who built their town houses and mansions here were leaders, not only in the development of our city, but of our state and nation as well. Numbers of the homes they created in this lovely setting remain today and are cherished by our generation as they were cherished by generations of the past.

Williams Street was maned for Robert Williams, Governor of the Mississippi Turritory at the time of the erection of Old Medison County on December 13, 1808. On the original town plat, the street was only four blocks long, and only a scant half-block has been added since--to connect with Adams and McClung Street on their opening around 1825.

Williams Street and the area bordering it lie within the southwestern and southeastern quarters of Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 1 West of the basis meridian. These two quarter sections were among those purchased by LeRoy Pope on August 25, 1809 at the Machville sale of Federal Lands in Madison County. Pope must have noted the exceptional besuty of the location above the spring and had great faith in its possibilities when he became the highest bidder for the southwest quarter of this section, at a price of \$23.00 per acre, considerably

#### Names:

Fisk, Burke S., Mrs. McKissack, William M., Dr. Pope, LeRoy

#### Places:

Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

#### **Dates:**

Jun 20, 1965

Smith, Wayne L., Mrs. Sparkman, W. F., Mrs. Williams, Robert, Governor Williams Street in Early 1800's

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Host "Williams of by K.P. Jones Host "Williams of by S.H. Fish 4B5

2.

higher than others who wanted this particular screage were willing to pay.

When the town site was relected along the bluff and laid out in 1810, under the name of Triebenham, Pope agreed to sell most of the southeastern half of the town area, around 38 lots, to the Commissioners so that they could realize from the sale of the lots to individuals enough to erect the public buildings. This sale—not made final until September 1, 1815—included all the lots on the north side of Williams, except numbers 71 and 72.

By consulting the map furnished you as a souvenir of this program, you can identify the various lots we will discuss today. No. 72, which is the last of the numbered city lote in the original plat, lies opposite the Masonic Temple. No. 71 joins 72 on the west. All of the town lote, as originally laid out, were 150 feet square and contained one-half acre.

Incidentally, you will note that the area shown on the map to the east and south of Williams Street was outside the original town limits and has no numbered lots. All of this land remained in the possession of LeRoy Pope until he sold it to various individuals. For his own home, he selected a choice spot, on the bluff east of Lincoln Street. There he began the erection of his manuson, before 1815, facing it toward the town.

Pope operated a cotton gin, which stood in the approximate spot shown on the cusp, at the far southeast of Williams Street. The gin was there as early as 1820, and probably very much earlier. His other acreage in the present McClumg and Adams Street areas was used as pasture land or cultivated until around 1824.

In our examination of the early history of the area adjoining Williams Street we will proceed lot by lot, beginning with So. 71, on the corner of Williams and Greene Streets.

This lot was apparently purchased from Pope by Simeon Jennings sometime before 1815, though a deed does not appear to have been recorded. On July 6, 1815, Jennings sold this lot and another one to Heal B. Rose, who held it for three years, selling during the boom times of 1818 at twice what he had paid for it.

Names:

Jennings, Simeon

Places:

Madison County, AL

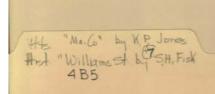
**Types:** 

article

Pope, LeRoy

Rose, Neal B.

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For more than a hundred years, lot 71 held only a stable and a garden-a gorden that became rather famous in the late 1800's. Here "Uncle Champ" with his hoe, reigned supreme, immortalized in the verses of Howard Weeden, Suntswille's artist-poet.

The lot where the Howard Weeden home stands is 80. 63, to the northwest of No. 71. It was first sold in 1816 by the city commissioners to Alexander Wasson for \$50.00. Two years later, John Jones purchased it for \$350.00. On May 15, 1819, Henry Bradford purchased it for \$700.00. This price increase from \$50.00 to \$700.00 for a vacant lot within a space of three years is a good example of our scoring land values during Huntsville's first land boom in 1818 and 1819.

After Bradford acquired Lot 63, he built on it, sometime in 1819 or 1820, the brick house which stands there today. On Lot 71, which he had also purchased, Bradford built a frame stable. However, he mortgaged and lost both of these lots early in 1821.

The next owner was John Read, a city commissioner and the Registrar for the Sale of Public Lands when the Federal Land office was opened in Euntsville in 1811. Read made this house his residence until he sold in 1824 to John McKinley for \$6,000.00.

McKinlay was one of a number of distinguished public men who owned property in this area in the early days. He was a lawyer, United States Senator, and from 1837 to his death in 1852 he served as Associated Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Other owners of both of these lots were Bartley M. Lowe and Mrs. Martha Betts, who sold the property in 1845 to William Weeden, father of Edward Weeden. The Weeden family owned it for over a hundred years.

Lot No. 72, across Lincoln Street from the Masonic Temple, was sold on February 13, 1816 by LeRoy Pope to Alexander Wasson for \$50.00--the deed stating that Masson lived on the lot. On January 29, 1818, Wasson was still living on the lot when he sold it to Jesse Searcy for \$700.00. Wasson had noved by August

#### Names:

, Uncle Champ Betts, Martha, Mrs. Bradford, Henry

#### Places:

Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Jones, John Lowe, Bartley M. McKinley, John Read, John Searcy, Jesse Wasson, Alexander Weeden, Howard Weeden, William

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of that year, however, when Searcy sold to John I. Winston, receiving almost twice what he had paid for the property only eight months before.

In 1825, Catherine G. Brown acquired this lot for \$1,650.00. But two years later it was levied on to cover her debts and Sheriff John P. Real sold the property to Henry Cook, the highest bidder, for only \$525.00. The "For Sale" ad in The Southern Advocate of March 2, 1827 described the property as "one house and lot known as the place where Robert Grrell, Jr., formerly lived and fronting the Masonic Ball." If newspapers spelled names incorrectly in those day, this was probably intended for Sobert Sorrell, Jr., an impleaser here in the early days.

After the Sheriff's sale of Lot 72, it changed hands several times in a short period, the price continuing to decrease. In 1830, Bartley M. Lowe acquired it for \$500.00. Apparently there was no house, or only a very small one, on the lot at this time.

Lot 64, the fourth lot in this block, was sold by the city commissioners on August 16, 1817 to John E. Eyls for \$400.00. On January 12, 1826, Edward G. Eyls and his partner, Estbaniel Berbert, sold to Harry Innis Thorston for \$4,000.00. This 1826 deed is particularly interesting for it describes Lot 64 as "being the same whereon William P. Moore now resides and opposite the Presbyterian Church."

Therefore held this property for ten years and was residing on it when he sold to Bartley M. Love. At that time, Love was residing in the Weeden house. The acquisition of Lot 60 made him owner of the entire block.

The house now standing on Lot 64 is not the one occupied by Thornton.

Facing Lot 64 across Lincoln Street, on a lot which originally extended to
the boundary of the Masonic Lodge's property, stands today what appears to be one
of the very earliest of Huntaville's hoses.

On December 2, 1819, Leroy Pope sold this lot to Arthur F. Hopkins, another of the distinguished public figures who owned property in this area. Bookins, at the time a resident of Laurence County, was a prominent lewyer and a member of the convention which framed the State Constitution. His deed to this property is very informative. It describes the lot as containing half an acre and including the

#### Names:

Brown, Catherine G. Cook, Henry Herbert, Nathaniel Hopkins, Arthur F.

Places:

Madison County, AL

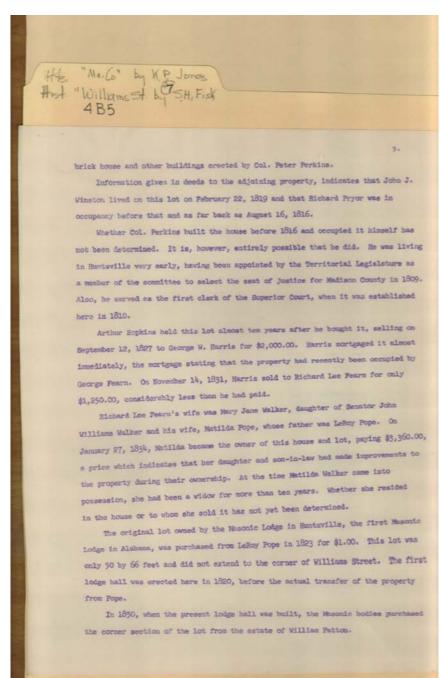
**Types:** 

article

Kyle, Edward G. Kyle, John K. Lowe, Bartley M. Moore, William F. Neal, John P., Sheriff Orrell, Robert, Jr. Pope, LeRoy Searcy, Jesse Thornton, Harry Innis Williams Street Area Winston, John I.

map

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#### Names:

Fearn, George Fearn, Richard Lee Harris, George W. Hopkins, Arthur F.

#### Places:

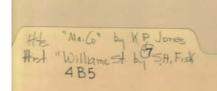
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Masonic Lodge Perkins, Peter, Colonel Pope, LeRoy Pope, Matilda Pryor, Richard Walker, John Williams Walker, Mary Jane Winston, John J.

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6.

Turning now to the south side of Williams Street, one of the first pieces of property sold in this area by Pope was at the southeastern corner of the Junction of Williams with Franklin. On March 21, 1816, David Manroe paid Pope \$150.00 for two acres here, and Pope agreed in the deed to extend Franklin Street southeastward from its junction with Williams and to keep it open as far as the sectional line.

Manroe held this property for three years to the day, selling on March 22, 1819 to John Boad. The deed stated that said John Boad was at that time residing on the property. The \$3,000.00 that Boad paid indicates the presence of a substantial house, and it is believed that this was the bouse, or at least the main part of it, presently known as the Brakins-Dilworth house.

At the time that John Read lived on this corner lot, he was acquiring all the land on the east side of Franklin down to the Samuel Bazard property, which we now know as the Rhett-Pipes homes, just north of Dry Branch Creek. On August 9, 1819, Read sold all of this land to Robert Fearn for \$9,000.00 and the deed stated that Pearn resided on the property. All indications are that he lived in the house on the corner lot, Read having vacated it on April 14, 1819 when he bought the second lot to the east.

On June 2, 1820, Feers sold this corner lot (not his other property along the east side of Franklin) to Alexander Erskine for \$6,232.00, which price indicates the presence of a fine house. Fifty-nine years later, Susan C. Erskine, widow of Alexander Erskine, sold to Este Erskine her life interest in this property, stating that it had been her residence for more than fifty years. These transfers seem to indicate that the Erskine-Dilworth house, at least part of it, was erected before June 2, 1820.

On April 2, 1817, Fope sold two large adjoining lots on the south side of Williams. The purchaser of the most vesterly of the two lots was Heary Minor, another of the noted public men who resided in this area. Minor served Madison County in the Constitutional Convention in 1819 and the same year was chosen Reporter of the State Supreme Court. In 1823 he was elected to the bench and

#### Names:

Erskine, Alexander Erskine, Kate Erskine, Susan C.

#### Places:

Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Erskine-Dilworth House Fearn, Robert Hazard, Samuel Minor, Henry Munroe, David Pope, Read, John Rhett-Pipes Home

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Hot "Williams & by K.P. Jones Host "Williams & by S.H. Fisk AB5

two years later became Clerk of the Supreme Court, a position in which he distinguished himself until his death in 1838.

Minor built a large house on this lot and resided there until his public offices necessitated his soving nearer to the state capitol. It has been said that the house that Minor erected was similar to the Bibb mansion on the adjoining lot to the east. It stood very near to the line of the Bibb lot and almost directly in front of the Greene Street intersection. One loss wing, possibly a kitchen or servants' wing, extended behind the house. Though the main house is now gone, replaced more than fifty years ago by the present house, there still stands near the northeastern property line an old building which very likely may be the old wing of Minor's house.

In 1824 Minor sold this property to George W. Malone and the deed stated that the house and lot were then occupied by James W. McClung. McClung, for whos McClung Street was later named, was a lawyer who served Madison County in the State Legislatum at various times, being Speaker of three different legislatures.

In 1826 this property went to Josephine DeVendel and her husband Emile
DeVendel, who conducted one of the first schools in Euntsville. In 1834 Robert
Fearn acquired the property and occupied it for a number of years. All of these
transfers, from Minor down to Fearn, were for almost exactly the same amount of
money, about \$4,150.00.

The lot to the northeast of Minor, which had been sold by Pope on the same day, was purchased by John M. Taylor. The deed, which was dated April 2, 1817, carried a consideration of \$A45.50.

Taylor, a lawyer, had apparently only recently come to Huntsville and had established himself in the merchantile businesss with Phillip A. Poots, who was his wife's brother. Seemingly this business ran into difficulties and Taylor resumed the practice of law. He was chosen to represent the county at the Constitutional Convention here in 1819 and served on the sub-committee which

#### Names:

Bibb, DeVendel, Emile DeVendel, Josephine

#### Places:

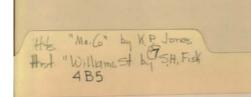
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Fearn, Robert Foote, Phillip A. Malone, George W. McClung, James W. Minor, Henry Taylor, John M.

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drafted the Constitution. He was subsequently the law partner of Henry Minor and succeeded him on the Supreme Court beach in 1825.

8.

After Taylor acquired the lot adjoining Minor on the northeast, he built a large house and resided there. On April 14, 1819, he sold this property to John Head for \$16,000.00. This large sum (by far the largest encountered in this area) indicates either the presence of a mansion on this lot, or some arrangement for an exchange of properties, which is not apparent from the records.

Read occupied this property, after selling his corner lot to Robert Pears, and remained in occupancy until he purchased the Weeden house and moved there in 1821, thus making three lots that Read owned and occupied in this neighborhood in a period of three years.

On April 30, 1821, Read sold the property for which he had paid Taylor \$15,000.00 to Thomas Bibb for \$5,000.00. Perhaps this great difference in his purchase and solling price was due to the cotton market crash in late 1819 or to some other property deal. Anyway, the deed is most interesting, for it not only states that John Read had lately resided on the lot but that it was now in the occupancy of Thomas Bibb.

At this time, April 30, 1821, Bibb was serving as Alabama's second governor, filling the unexpired term of his brother, William Wyatt Bibb, who had died while in office. After coming to Madison County in 1811, Bibb had lived on his large plantation at Maridianville until he sold it in 1818 upon the purchase of extensive lands in Limestone County. The manusion that he built on his plantation in that county at Bolle Mina still stands today.

What happened to the original large house built by John M. Taylor on the Williams Street lot is a matter of interesting conjecture. Did Bibb tear it down after paying \$3,000.00 for it? Or did it burn? According to Betts' Early Mistory of Huntaville, Alabama, Bibb built the present house on the lot for his daughter, Mrs. James Bradley, in 1837 at a cost of \$32,000.00 and nine years of labor. The house is said to have been patterned after Bibb's home at Belle Mins.

#### Names:

Betts, Bibb, Thomas Bibb, William Wyatt

#### Places:

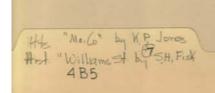
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Bradley, James , Mrs. Fearn, Robert Minor, Henry Read, John Taylor, John M. Weeden, Early History of Huntsville

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9.

On September 9, 1836, Bith devied the Williams Street property to his son-in-law, James Bradley, for \$5,000.00. The deed describes the property as "a certain lot of ground and tenements formerly occupied by Thomas Bibb fronting on Williams Street, containing 2-80/100 acres."

After Bibb's death, his heirs sold the property on August 6, 1844 to George T. Beirne--who was already in occupancy at the time--for the sum of \$7,500.00. No transfers indicate the presence of a \$32,000.00 house, however Governor Bibb must have been able to build one had he wished, for he was very wealthy. His costate included numerous plantations, several in Hississippi.

The lot northeast of Bibb was cold by Pope to Clement C. Clay on January 15, 1819 for \$1,465.00. This is about a thousand dollars more than the two lots to the west had sold for two years earlier, but the increase was probably due to the land boom, for when Clay disposed of this lot on October 1, 1823--after the market crash--he received only \$300.00.

The purchaser, Captain Francis T. Mastin, is said to have built, soon after he acquired the property in 1823, the beautiful home which stands on the lot today. Captain Mastin's wife was Ann Elizabeth Caroline LaVert, daughter of Claudious LeVert, who had come to American from Lyons, France, during the Revolutionary War to assist the colonists in their struggle for freedom. This property remained in the Mastin family for a number of years.

The lot on the south side of Williams across from the Masonic Hall was not sold by Pope until January 27, 1824. In that year, neither McClung nor Adams yet existed as streets, all of this area still being part of Pope's pasture and farm land.

The purchaser of this corner lot was Dr. Dabmey M. Wharton, who paid \$515.00 for the two acres. Dr. Wharton, one of the earliest physicians here, erected a large house on the lot and made it his residence until he sold in 1831 to George P. Beirne for \$4,500.00. Beirne lived here until he bought and moved into the Bibb house in 1844.

John Patton became the new owner of the corner lot and resided there until

#### Names:

Beirne, George T. Bibb, Thomas Bradley, James Clay, Clement C.

#### Places:

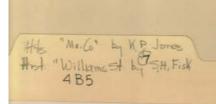
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

LeVert, Ann Elizabeth Caroline LeVert, Claudious Mastin, Francis T., Captain Patton, John Pope, Wharton, Dabney M., Dr.

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10.

he sold it on September 18, 1855 to Leroy Pope Welker.

Leroy Pope Walker's father was Senator John Williams Walker, who in 1819 had presided over the Convention here that framed our State Constitution. His mother was Matilda Pope, who was contioned earlier in this paper as once owning the house on the lot that originally joined the Masonic Ball lot.

At the time Walker purchased the lot on the corper of Williams and what was later to be known as Adams, he was returning to Buntsville after making his residence in Laurence and Lauderdale counties, and other localities, where he had distinguished himself as a lawyer and in various positions of honor in the state. During the time he occupied the large brick house on this corper lot, he served as a delegate to the historic Couvention in Charleston in 1860. He was chosen as the first Secretary of War of the Confederate States and gave the order to fire on Fort Sunter.

While Walker owned the corner lot, the home and all its contents were destroyed by fire, on March 3, 1862-shortly before the Federal troops occupied Buntaville. There still remain on this lot, behind the present house, two small brick buildings which appear to be some of the original buildings which did not burn.

On the northwest side of Williams, Lot 69 was sold by the Commissioners of Huntaville to Rebecca Ballard on August 28, 1820 for \$212.00. Apparently, the purchaser built a house of good size on this lot for when she sold it on April 1, 1823 to Thomas Bibb, the deed mentions a transfer of houses, buildings, and appurtenances, the consideration being \$2,000.00.

It is very likely that Covernor Bibb bought this house for his eldest daughter Adeline, who had married Major James Bradley in 1821. He deeded the property to James Bradley on March 15, 1830 for \$2.00 and the deed stated, "Whereone the said James Bradley now resides."

This property remained in the Bradley family for years. After James Bradley and his wife Adeline moved into the Bibb manaion on the mouth side of Williams, this lot and the adjoining No. 61 were occupied by Joseph C. Bradley, a brother

#### Names:

Ballard, Rebecca Bibb, Adeline Bibb, Thomas

#### Places:

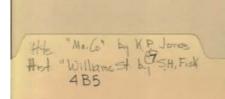
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Bradley, James, Major Bradley, Joseph C. Pope, Matilda Walker, John Williams Walker, LeRoy Pope

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11.

of James. In 1861 there were two houses on Lot 69 and Joseph Bradley appears to have occupied the one on the northwest. It is possible that the houses there today today may include some part of these original structures.

Lot 61 was sold by the city commissioners on October 3, 1816 to Clement Comer Clay for \$500.00. On December 22, 1819, Clay sold to Clayton Talbot, local inn-keeper, for \$3,500.00. Though the deed does not state, there surely must have been buildings on the lot. Mother these buildings were occupied by Clay and his wife, Susanna Claiborn Withers, who were married here in 1815, is undetermined. They did not purchase their home on the present site of the West Clinton Grammar School until 1823 and Botts is in error in stating that they occupied the Clay home on Maiden Lane.

Clement Comer Clay served as Chairman of the Committee which reported the original draft of our State Constitution. His illustrious public career included the offices of Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, Speaker in 1868, Number of Congress 1869, Governor of Alabama 1836, United States Senator 1837.

The two remaining lots in this block, Nos. 62 and 70, are unique in at least two respects. They seem to have always been owned together by the same owner, and no record appears to indicate that a residence has ever stood on Lot 70.

The main portion of the present house on Lot 62 (now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Goldswith, Jr.) is believed to have been built before 1825 by one of the lot's first owners, Phillip A. Foote, brother-in-law and merchantile partner of John M. Taylor, mentioned earlier as the original owner of the Bibb property on the south side of Williams.

On March 31, 1825, the settlement of a Circuit Court suit against Phillip Poote by complainants John Brahan and William Atwood brought about the public sale of Lots 62 and 70. A Philadelphia fire purchased for the high bid of \$3,000.00. The deed of transfer stated that the house and lots being sold had foreerly been owned and occupied by Phillip A. Foote and were now occupied by John Brahan.

On Pebruary 27, 1827, Brahan purchased the property from James T. Mather,

#### Names:

Atwood, William Betts, Bradley, Joseph Brahan, John

#### Places:

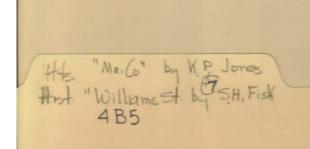
Madison County, AL

#### **Types:**

article

Clay, Clement Comer Clay, Susanna Claiborn Withers Foote, Phillip A. Goldsmith, Oscar, Jr. Mather, James T. Talbot, Clayton Taylor, John M.

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12.

representative of the Philadelphia fire, for \$4,000.00. This deed also stated that Brahon resided on the lots.

General Brahan, for whom Brahan Spring was named, was an extensive landholder here and a city commissioner. When the Federal Land Office was opened here in 1811 he served as Receiver of Public Monies.

brehen was still in occupancy of these two lots when he sold the property on August 2, 1833 to Edmind Irby, whose family held it for many years.

The property on Williams and Gates Streets south of their intersection with Franklin could not be included in this paper for lack of time, since most of it was sold in small lots and transferred often.

It is hoped that more information can be found concerning the Williams Street area in its early days, for here, where the pioneers found tall oaks and stately poplar trees, came to live many of the men who were leaders in the founding and progress of our great city and state.

Names:

Brahan, General

Irby, Edmund

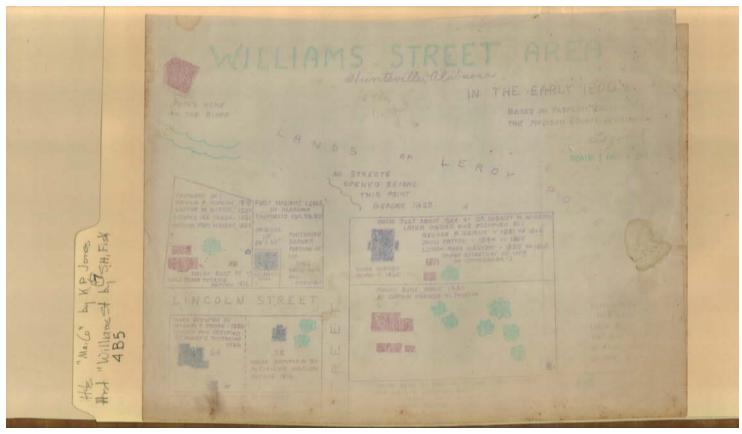
**Places:** 

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

article

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#### Names:

Williams Street Area

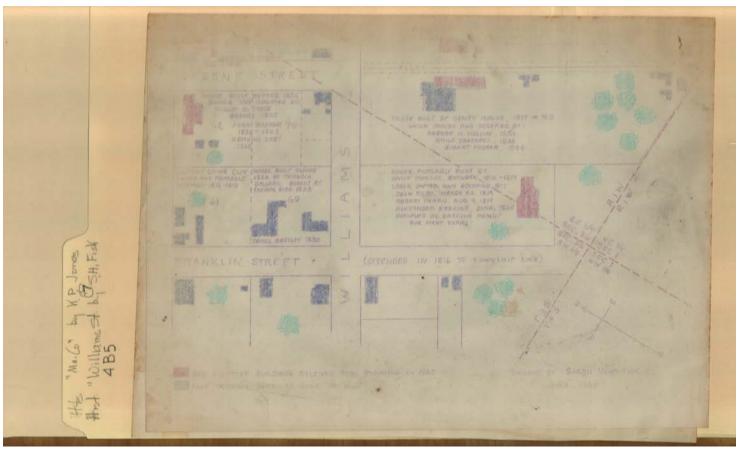
#### Places:

Madison County, AL

## **Types:**

map

## Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 7 Madison County 1804-1817 by Jones, K. P. and Williams Street History by Fisk, Sarah Image 23 r04b05-07-000-0377 Contents Index About



Names:

Williams Street Area

Places:

Madison County, AL

**Types:** 

map

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 5, Folder 7
Madison County 1804-1817 by Jones, K. P. and Williams Street History by Fisk, Sarah
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## **Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection**

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**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.

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