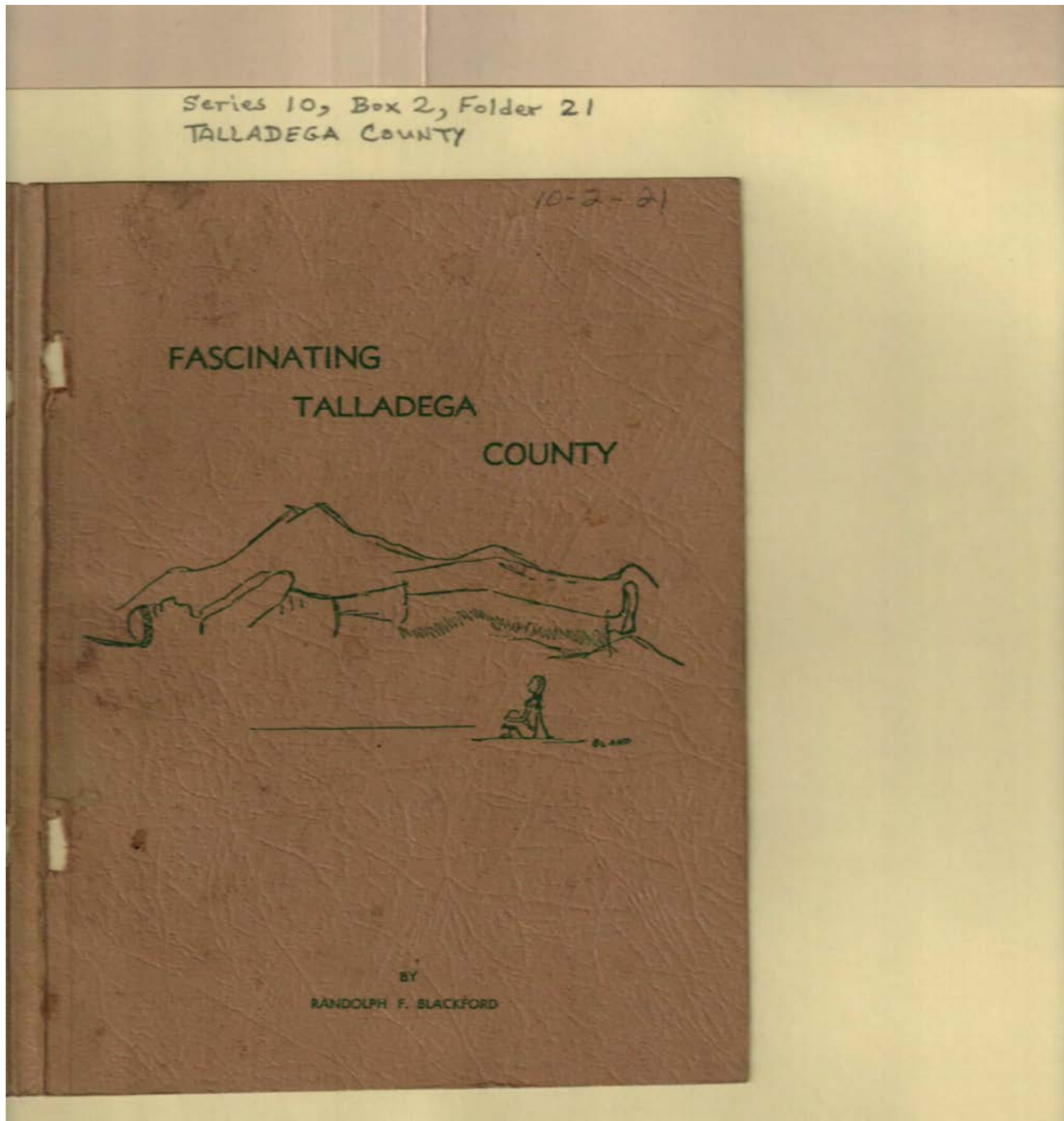


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 1 r10_02-21-000-0071 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Blackford, Randolph
F.

Fascinating Talladega
County

Places:

Talladega County, AL

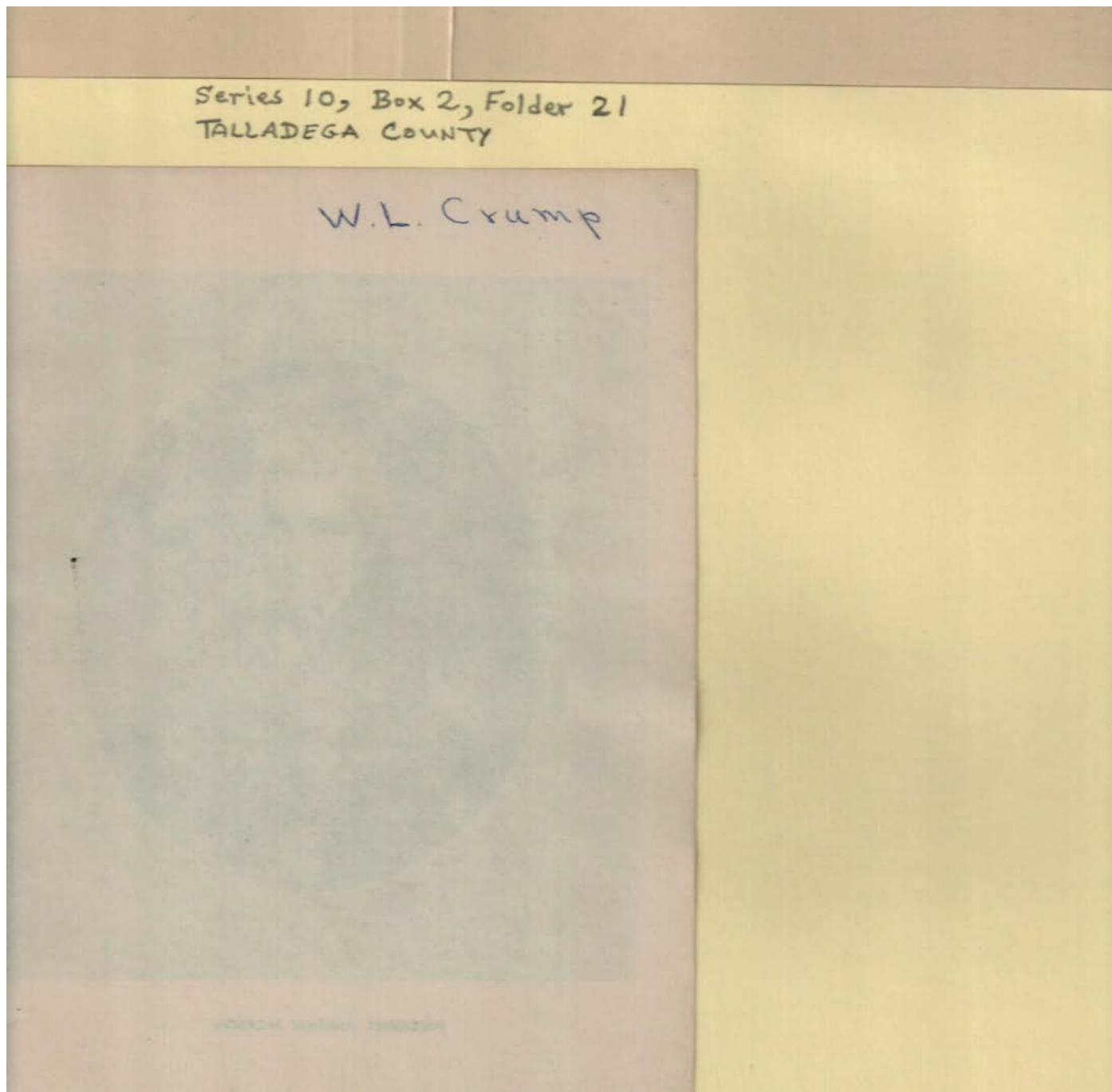
Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 2 r10_02-21-000-0072 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Crump, W. L.

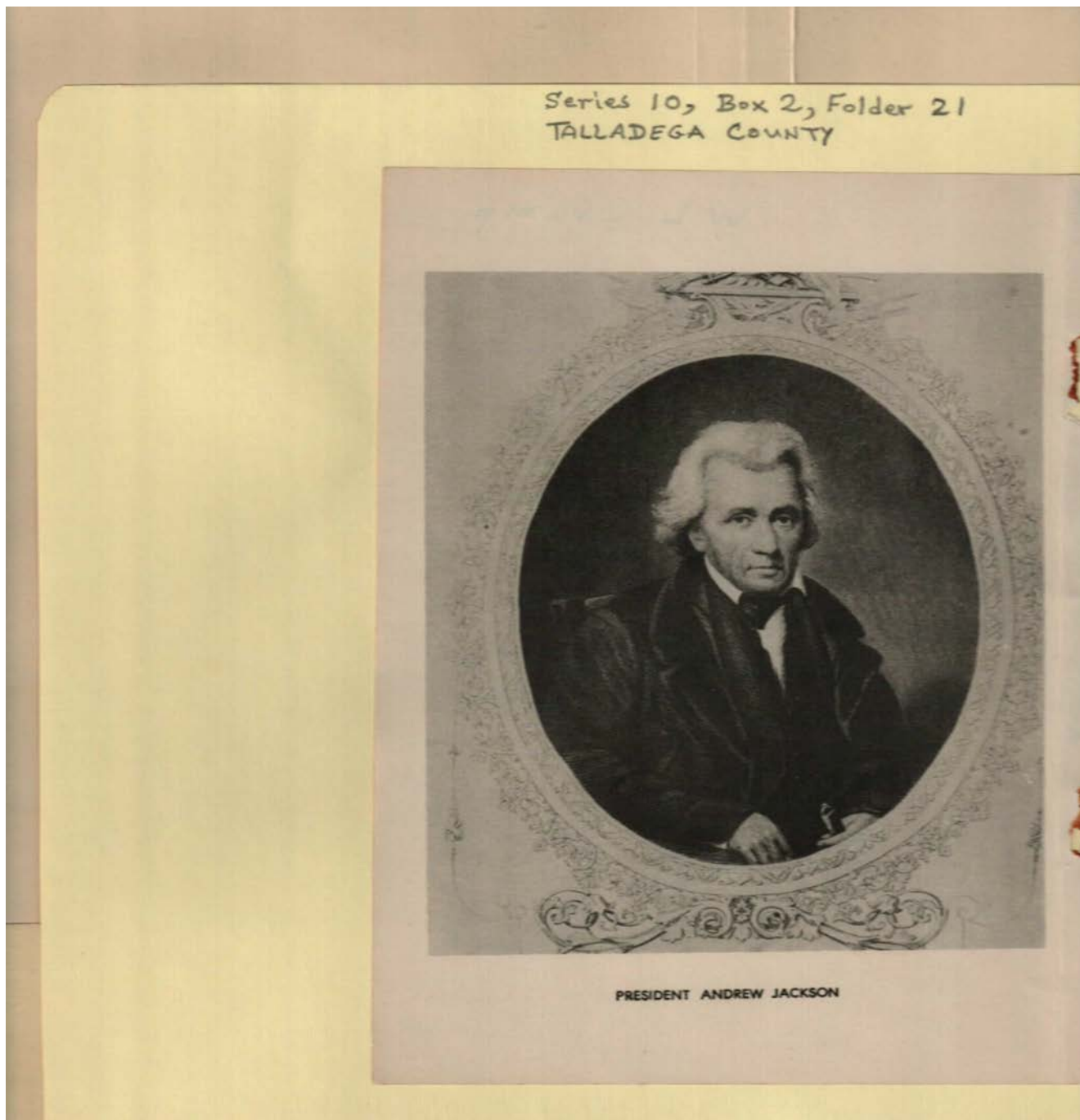
Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 3 r10_02-21-000-0073 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Jackson, Andrew,
President

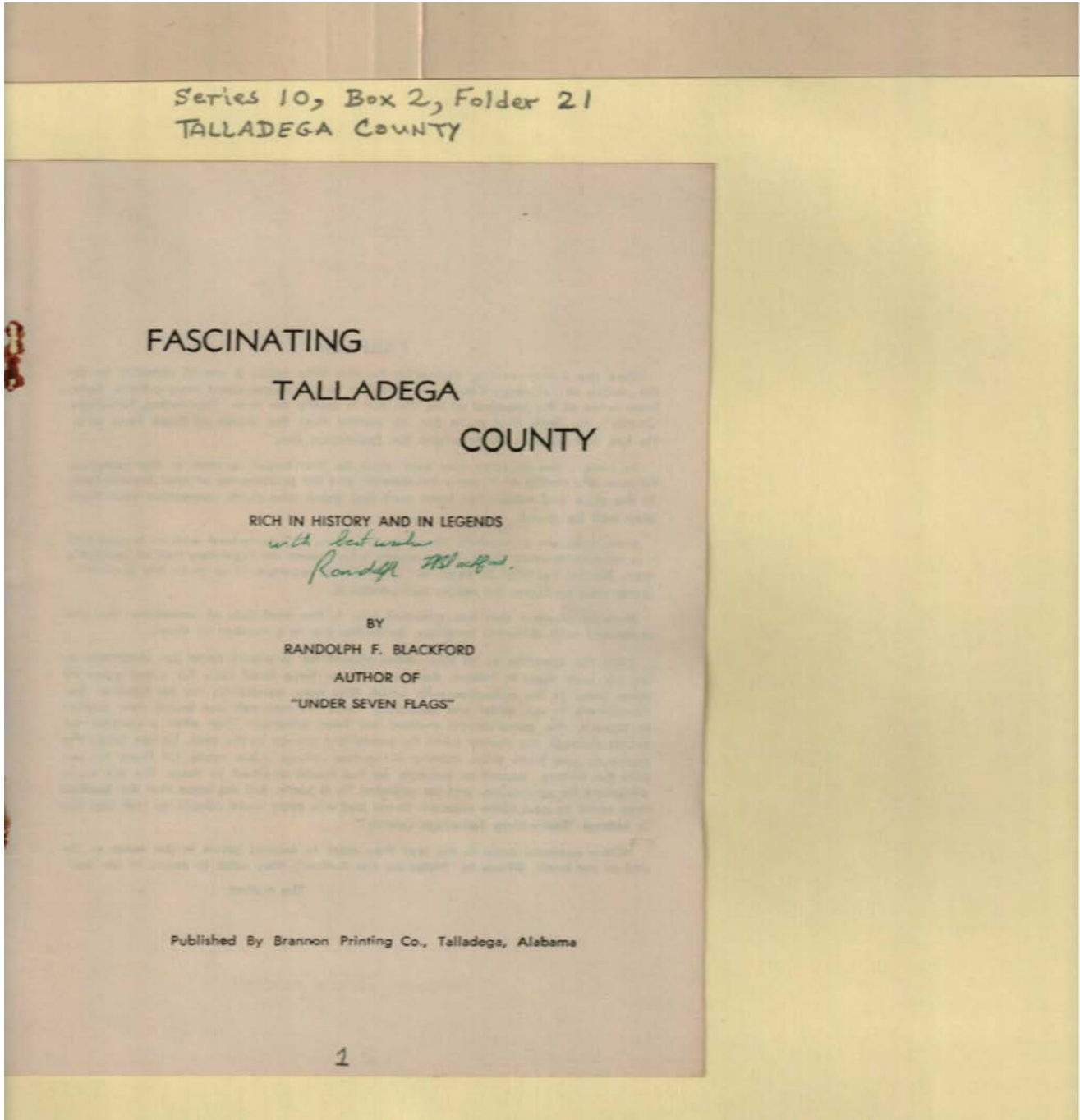
Types:

painting

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 4 r10_02-21-000-0074 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Blackford, Randolph
F.

Fascinating Talladega
County

Places:

Talladega County, AL

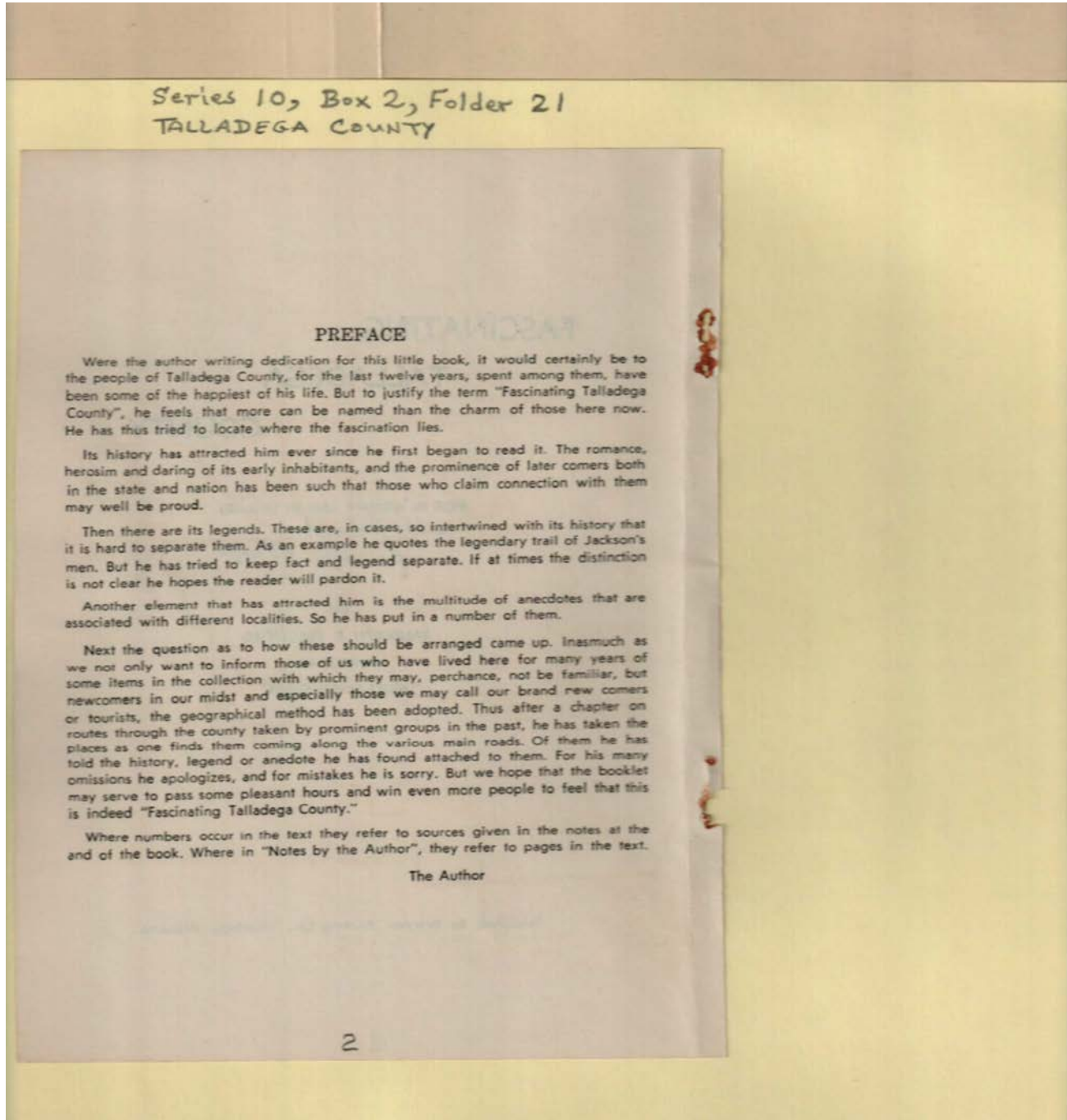
Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 5 r10_02-21-000-0075 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Jackson, Andrews

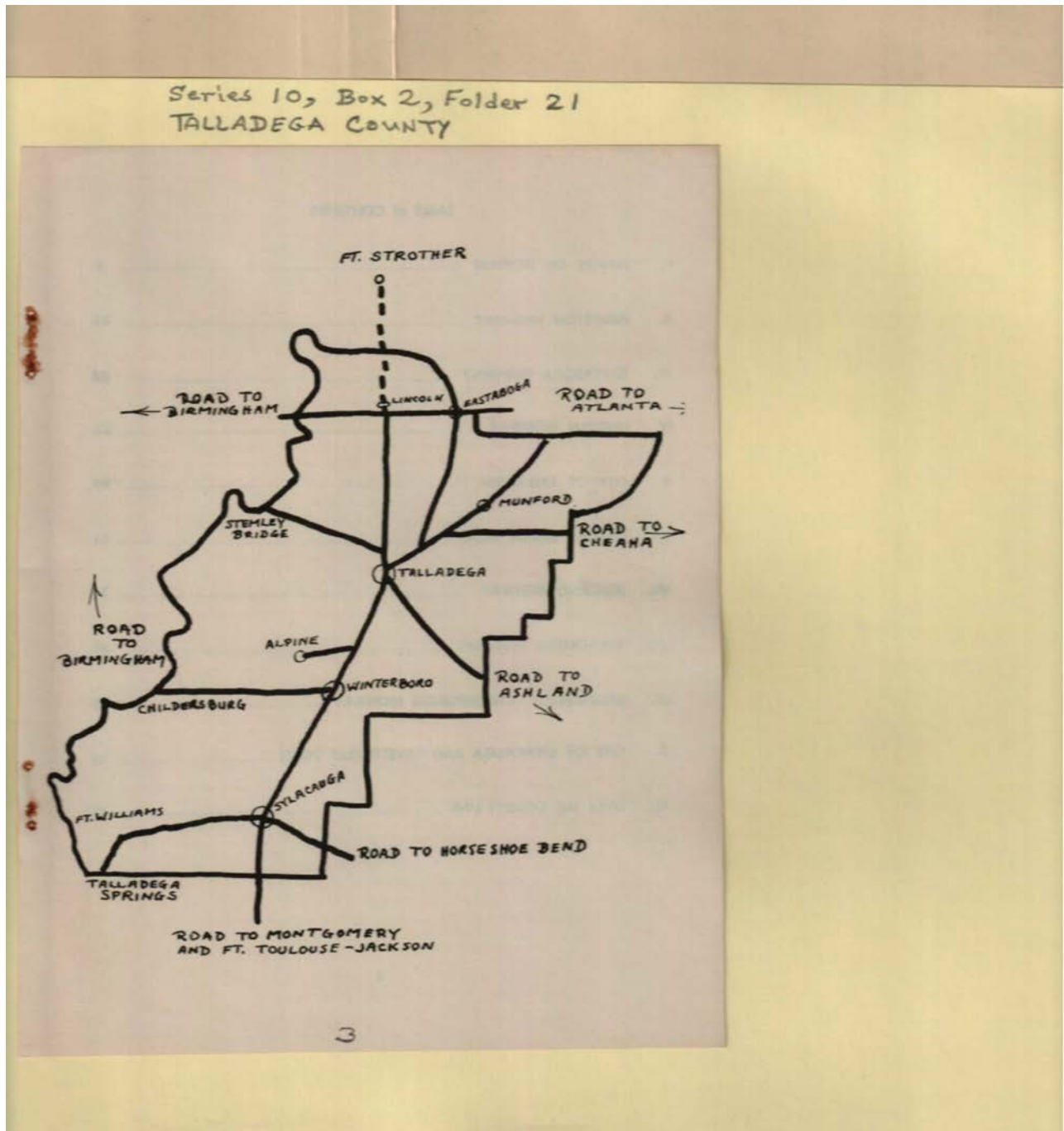
Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

Image 6 r10_02-21-000-0076 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Talladega Routes

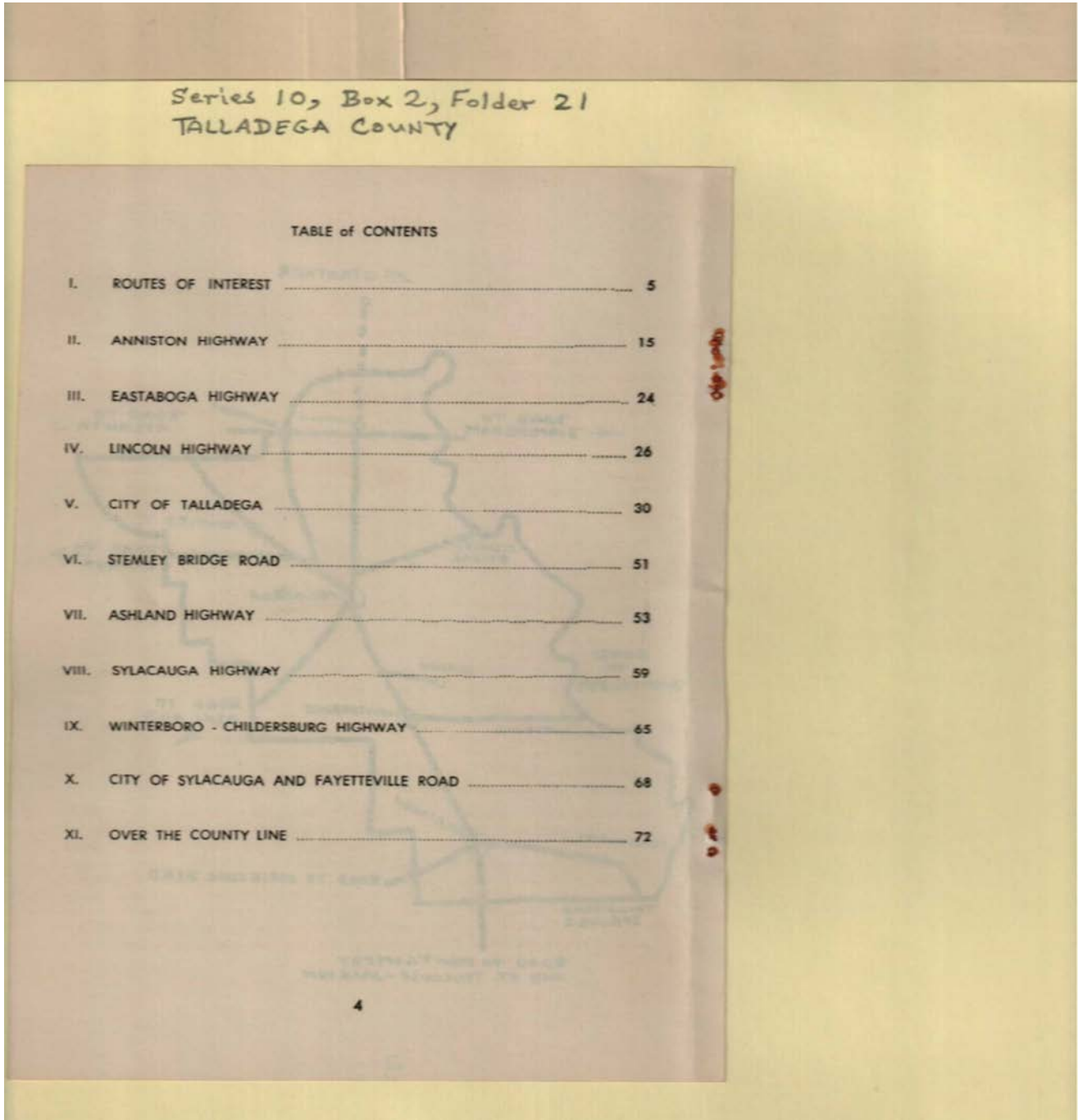
Types:

map

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21

Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Types:
booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

ROUTES OF INTEREST

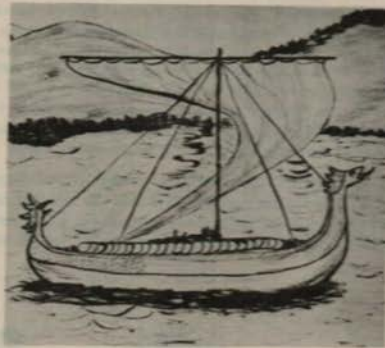
1. THE LEGEND OF MADOC 1175

Coming into Talladega County from almost any direction we are likely to see historical markers. Thus our minds go back to the way in which others have come into this beautiful section.

The tradition is that the first white man to see its charms was Madoc, a Prince of Wales. This gentleman in 1175 A.D., having had trouble with the English King, and also with other notables of the British Isles, procured three vessels and sailed away to the west.

Just why he came so far south as to land in Mobile Bay is not told. But so the story runs. There some of his party decided to settle while the remainder sailed home for reinforcements! This first party soon had trouble with the Indians and were driven inland. Following the Alabama River they came into the Coosa and by this route passed through Talladega County. Thence they went into Northern Georgia, and then into Tennessee. In what is now these two states it is said that they built the Fort we now call Fort Mountain, near Chatsworth, Georgia, and Stone Fort, near Manchester, Tennessee.

The second colony came a few years later. It landed near the mouth of the Mississippi. They too were soon driven inland. Eventually the two colonies, hearing of each other, managed to combine and move into what we now call Missouri. There their descendants became known as the Mandan tribe of Indian. These attracted attention as their eyes were blue. About 1800 certain English explorers found them. These claimed that certain Welchmen among them stated that the Mandans spoke Welch. Shortly after 1800 they were wiped out by an epidemic. Those interested in this legend and in what are called its proofs may read more of it in "Who Discovered America" by Miss Zella Armstrong. The Book was published in 1952.



Names:

Armstrong, Zella,
Miss

Madoc, Prince

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

THE ABORIGINEES

Whether Madoc visited our section of the country we cannot say definitely. But whether he did or not we know that the first white men that did come certainly found Indians here. These Indians did not leave any written records so that anything we know of them we get from the white man's accounts, or what we glean of their culture from artifacts unearthed by the spade of the archaeologist. (1)

Until very recently practically nothing was known of our Alabama Indians through this latter method. But within the last fifteen years much has been discovered. The greater amount of this has been found near Decatur. A couple of years ago, however at Russell Cave in the northeastern corner of our state, record of continuous occupation from 6000 B.C., was discovered. And within the past year several Folsom Points (date about 25000 B.C.), have been found in Bibb County to the southwest of us. In the Decatur district a number of Clovis Points have been definitely dated 40,000 B.C. (Though we say definitely, the Carbon radiation method of dating is considered accurate to within 150 years in either direction.)

These discoveries have not been made in Talladega County, but as they have been made all around us we feel that equally ancient artifacts may at any time be found within our borders. Thus we are claiming all of prehistory as a probability although the oldest yet discovered are considered to be about 6,000 years old.



Prehistory may roughly be divided by the cultures into four periods. The first of these is from 40,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C. It is called the period of the EARLY HUNTERS. In it all the objectives were that the hunter might be able to kill the huge game that was so plentiful. Two of these were the Taylor Bison, like our modern buffalo only much larger, and the Mastodon. Their method of hunting these seems to have been to either herd them over a cliff where they would be killed by the fall, or

Names:

Madoc, Prince

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

else to entrap them in pits and then to kill them with spears and, sometimes, to surround them when exhausted and isolated from the herd and kill them with spears. These facts have been gotten from the bones of these animals found with the Folsom, or Clovis points in the bones. These points were very carefully made and had grooves down the heads to increase the bleeding from wounds.

The second period is called that of the GATHERERS. This may have been another group of tribes living when the big game disappeared from the land. In this culture they went after smaller animals and birds, and the women gathered herbs and fruits to make out their menu. It is thought to have lasted from about 6,000 B.C. until about 1,000 B.C. It is sometimes called the Archaic Period. Five points were found belonging to this period near the mouth of Choccolocco Creek, and a number of artifacts were recently disinterred near Sylacauga. This period probably gradually merged into the period known as that of the Early Farmers where in addition to gathering fruits the women began to plant them.

The third period is called the WOODLAND period. It lasted from about 1,000 B.C. to about 1,000 A.D. During this period it is thought that a group of very brilliant and very cruel people came in and took over from the Early Farmers and improved on their methods and instead of raising only pumpkin and squash, added to their crops the many vegetables we get from the Indians such as the Irish Potato, beans, maize, and a host of others. They enslaved their predecessors and compelled them to bring dirt in baskets from great distances to build the mounds we find in Moundville. Another of these mounds, though not so well known is to be found on the McIntosh Trace (which see). These mounds were used for temples and also for the Kings and nobles to live on. In time of flood the common people could also come up on them for safety. Their mounds are to be found in many places all over the Eastern part of the country.

The successors of these moundbuilders are thought to have been the Muskogean Stock who inhabited the entire Southeast when De Soto discovered Florida. They were made up of many peoples and furnished the groundwork of the Muskogee Confederation of later times. Their boundaries were the Cherokees on the North, roughly the Tennessee boundary, and the Mississippi on the West. In Talladega County they were represented by the Coosa Indians who had their capitals at Coosa (which see-2). The Coosa Empire in the time of De Soto seems to have been divided or else there were two of them. One centered about what is now Augusta, Georgia, and the other was this group. This Empire extended roughly from Gadsden to Wetumpka and was on both sides of the Coosa River.

(Authors Note: Those interested in the prehistory of the Indians of this section should turn to articles on "Akibakoochee" on p 64, "Choccolocco" on p 28, "Coosa" on p 81, "Econchardee" on p 29, "Cheaha Mountain" on p 20, "Kymuiga" on p 65, "Kymulga Cave" on p 65, and "Sleeping Giant" on p 59)

Names:

De Soto,

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

ROUTE OF DESOTO

The second white man, or the first, if we exclude Madoc, was Hernando de Soto. (3) He landed near Tampa in 1539 and spent the winter at Tallahassee, Florida, to give the name of the nearest town of modern times. He then came through Georgia and into South Carolina at a point near Augusta. Through South and North Carolina and Tennessee to approximately Chattanooga, and then down the Tennessee River to Gunterville. Then he came south making for Coosa. The Smithsonian Institute some years ago appointed a Commission to determine his route and this Commission states that he approximately followed a route paralleling, if not actually following, the route through Lincoln to Talladega. Tradition tells us that he was overnight at Shocco Springs where he became fascinated by its waters. Thus when his interpreter, Don Juan Ortiz, became unwell at Coosa he sent back to Shocco for its waters which cured him.

The Spaniards stayed at Coosa for several weeks and then went southward. Probably they stayed rather close to the Coosa River, for a little later we are told that they passed over the site of the future Montgomery.

4. ROUTE OF DE LUNA'S MEN

It is stated that De Soto's custom was to take burden bearers to carry his baggage from one section to another. These burden bearers were often taken from both men and women. As was natural the Spaniards often consorted with the women thus forced to accompany them. From the records a number of these women were baptized and married to the soldiers. A few are mentioned as accompanying their husbands all through their journeys and finally to their homes in Mexico or Spain. These women probably kept their husbands reminded of the pleasant time they had had in the Coosa country. But, whatever the cause, shortly after the veterans of De Soto's expedition returned home the story spread that Coosa was the most desirable of all countries visited and the King of Spain ordered that the Viceroy send a well-equipped expedition to settle Coosa and to open communications with the section we now designate as Port Royal, or Beaufort, South Carolina.

A well-known nobleman by the name of Tristran de Luna (4) was selected to head this attempt. Many of the expedition came no farther inland than where Claiborne, Alabama, is now located. But several hundred penetrated to Coosa after tremendous hardships. Their adventures have recently been republished in a book "Tristran de Luna" by Priestly. They stayed about three months. While there they made an expedition to the west to assist the Coosa collect some tribute from rebellious tribes. There is one school of thought that considers that the Muskogees were at this time on their way to the Coosa empire which they were to conquer and absorb. This rebellion is thought to have been a sign of gradual breaking up of the domain which De Soto had found so strong.

De Luna seems to have contracted malarial fever at the coast and to have lost his hold over his men. The Coosa expedition was therefore recalled, and they all sailed away. As far as their route can be traced they would seem to have come close to

Names:

De Soto, Hernando

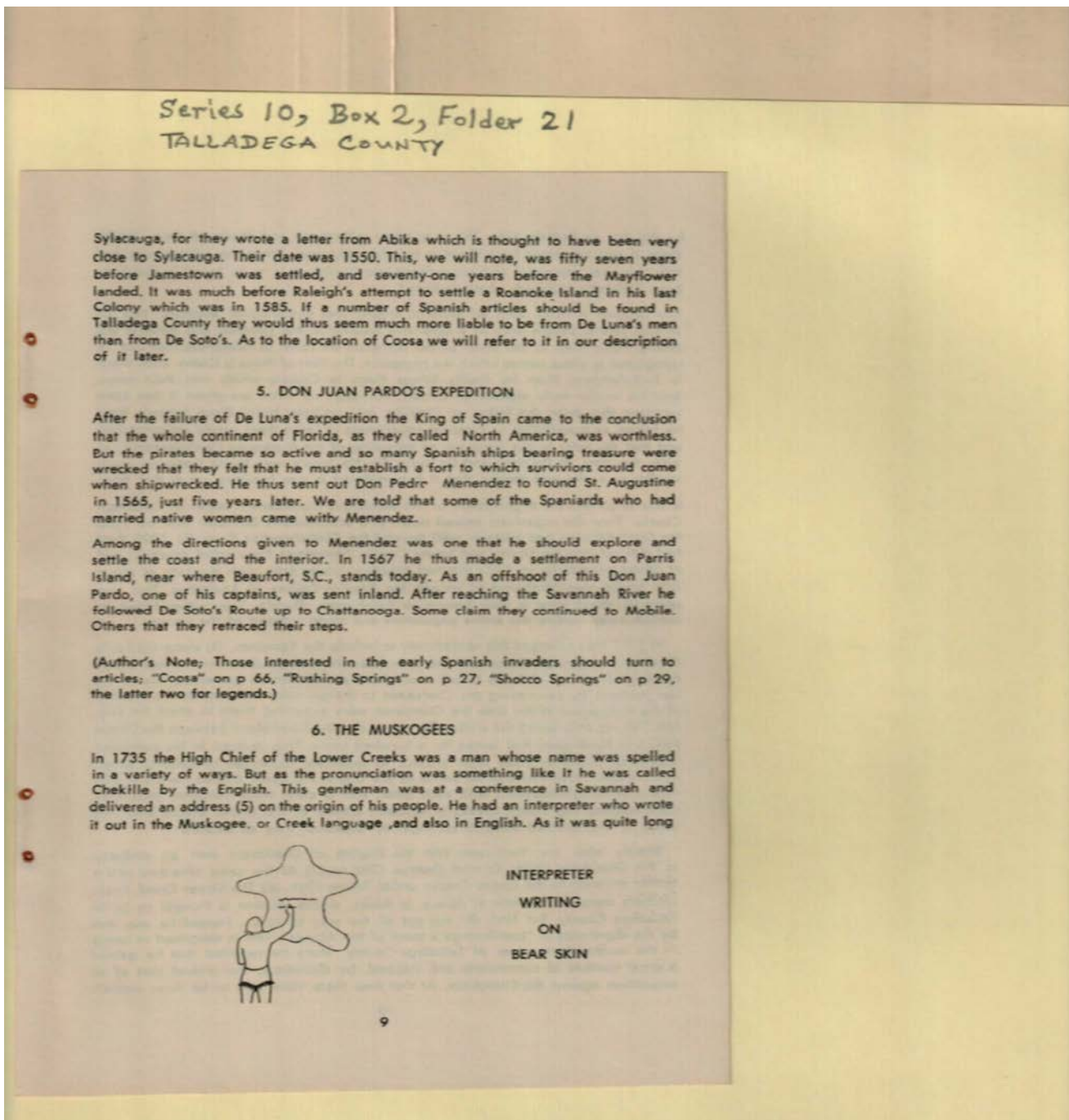
Madoc, Prince

Ortiz, Don Juan

de Luna, Tristran

Types:

booklet



Names:

Abika,
Chekille, (Indian
Chief)

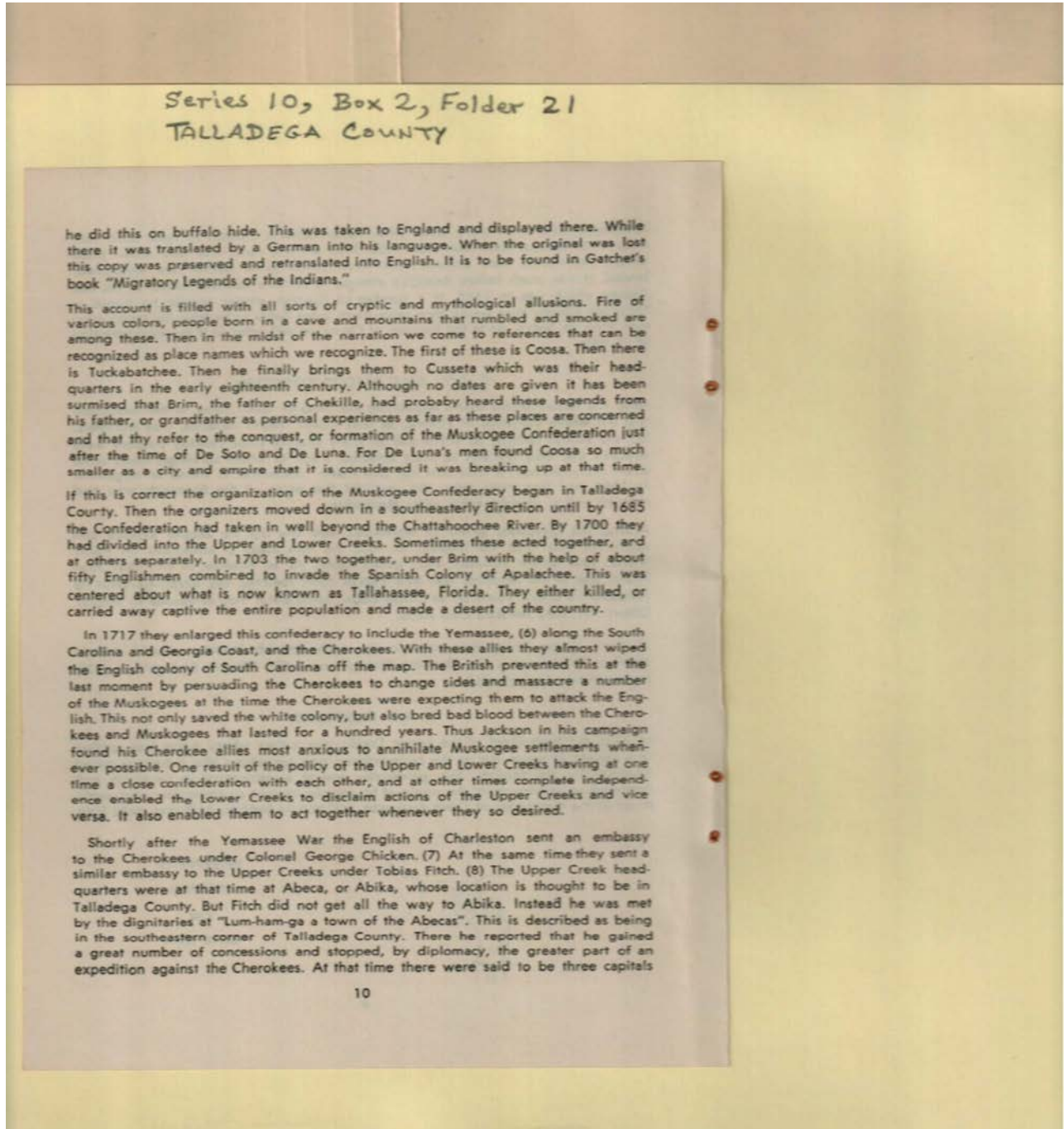
De Luna, Tristran
De Soto,

Menendez, Don
Pedro
Pardo, Don Juan

Raleigh,

Types:

booklet



Names:

Brim,
Chekille, (Indian
Chief)

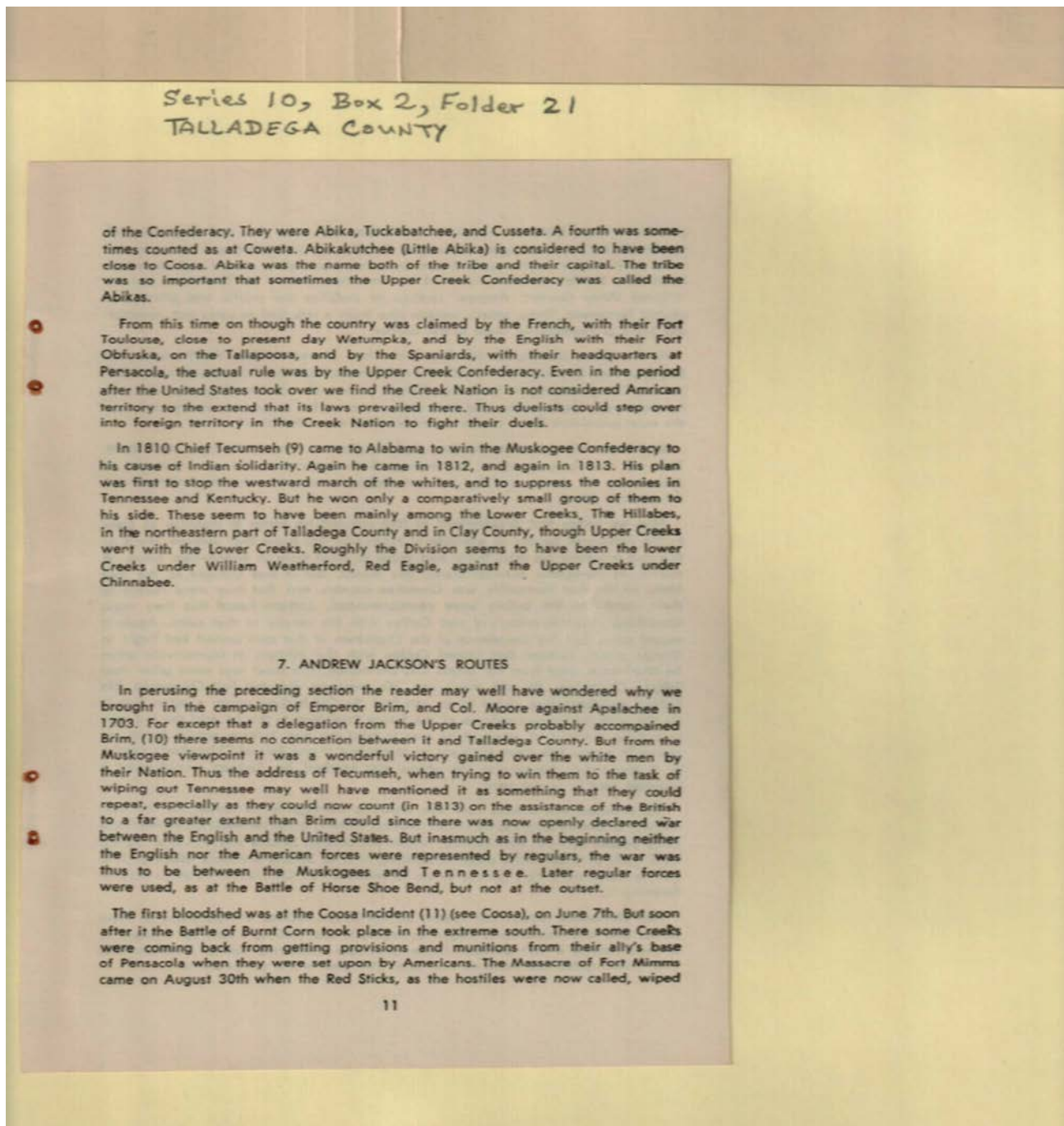
Chicken, George,
Colonel
De Luna,

De Soto,
Fitch, Tobias
Gatchet,

Jackson,

Types:

booklet



Names:

Brim, Emperor
Jackson, Andrew
Moore, Colonel

Red Eagle (Indian
Chief)

Tecumseh (Indian
Chief)

Weatherford, William
(Indian Chief)

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

out about three hundred American militiamen. This was the real beginning of the Creek War, or Muskogee - Tennessee Conflict. Of it a half-breed trader by the name of Alexander Leslie, spelled later by Jackson as Lashley, heard and started to build Fort Lashley. It was also told to Governor Blount, of Tennessee and he ordered Major General Andrew Jackson to mobilize the militia and proceed to protect Tennessee. These orders Jackson rose from a sick bed to carry out, assembling them at Fayetteville, close to the border.

As has been mentioned the Red Sticks had chosen William Weatherford, Red Eagle, as their Commander in Chief. It is rather remarkable that he was only one-eighth Indian, being descended from the French Commander of Fort Toulouse about a hundred years before this. Old Chinnabee, who as far as can be ascertained, was the most prominent Chief on the American side, was a full blood.

Red Eagle left no written orders. Had he done so few could have read them. Thus we may only guess at his strategy from the reports that were brought to Jackson by his scouts, and by Jackson's actions to counter what he believed was the enemy's plans.

Thus we judge that Weatherford at first ordered his forces to mobilize as close to the Tennessee border as possible at Huntsville. We know that Jackson heard of this and marched his men thirty odd miles to meet them in twenty-four hours. A marker in Huntsville commemorates this march. But it was brought to the Red Sticks notice that Huntsville was Cherokee country and that they were hostile to their cause. So the orders were countermanded. Jackson heard that they were assembled at Guntersville and sent Coffee with his cavalry to that point. Again it would seem that the prevalence of the Cherokees at that spot caused Red Eagle to change plans. Jackson had joined Coffee with the Infantry at Guntersville when he received a scout from his friend Old Chinnabee. This scout was none other than Selocta Chinnabee, the old man's son. His message was that Fort Chinnabee, his father's residence was about to be attacked. So Old Hickory wrote a letter that is on file with the correspondence of the future President. In this he told the old man to not be alarmed. If attacked he was to hold out and Jackson would be to his rescue in a very few days. He went on to say that if one hair of Chinnabee's family, or if any Indian friendly to the whites was touched, he, Jackson would exact a hundred fold in punishment.

We presume that Selocta took this welcome message to his father, for the next we hear of him he seems to be at Fort Lashley. Jackson in his correspondence mentions three people as from Fort Lashley. These are Lashley, Selocta and Jim Fite. So we think each of these had a share in building it. If so Selocta probably asked permission to come on to Fort Lashley when he reached Fort Chinnabee, so as to assist in finishing it.

Fort Chinnabee was at Ten Islands on the Coosa. Jackson arrived there on November 2nd and immediately began enlarging it and making a base for himself of it, rechristening it Fort Strother. Close to Lincoln a historical marker mentions that it is fifteen miles due north of that spot. The road is not yet paved to it.

Names:

Blount, Governor
Chinnabee, Old
(Indian Chief)
Chinnabee, Selocta

Coffee,
Fite, Jim
Jackson, Andrew,
General

Lashlie,
Leslie, Alexander
Red Eagle (Indian
Chief)

Weatherford, William
(Indian Chief)

Types:

booklet

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On November 7th Jackson hears that the mobilization has at last taken place at Fort Lashley. He also hears that the three hundred friendlies have been given three days in which to prepare food. At the end of that time if they still refuse to go with the Red Sticks, they will be massacred. It may be a coincidence but the Commander of the Red Sticks is Bill Scott, a Hillabee. His favorite battle cry was "Death to the whites and to all the Indians friendly to them." This seems to be echoed in the letter (12) of Jackson to Old Chinnabee where he says "If one hair of any of your family, or of any Indian friendly to the whites is touched I will exact punishment a hundred-fold". Touching a hair seems to be the same that westerners used to call "taking a hair" meaning taking of scalps.

Jackson immediately made another of his lightning marches making thirty miles and more in twenty-four hours. The Battle of Talladega was won and he returned, cutting the "Jackson's Trace" approximately parallel to what is now known as the Lincoln Highway. Jackson's Shoals to the east of the highway a mile or so is where he crossed Choccolocco Creek.

Twice after this he was to make the same trip. He usually spent the night at Fort Lashley. One of these trips was to fight the Battles of Enntiochoppee Creek, and of Emucktau Creek. The other was to the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend. The first of these he seems to have gone to Sylacauga and thence east below Horn Mountain and to have returned by the same route. On the second trip he went to Sylacauga, thence to the west to where he had sent men to build Fort Williams as a base. Then he came through Sylacauga and so east to Horse Shoe Bend. After that battle he retraced his steps with his wounded. He hoped to go down the Coosa to Fort Toulouse, near present-day Wetumpka. But scouts reported this was not feasible, so leaving his wounded at Fort Williams he went back to the Tallapoosa River. There he followed the river down to Fort Toulouse which he activated, calling it Fort Jackson. There after a few days Red Eagle came in and surrendered.

(Author's Note; Those interested in the Muskogee and Andrew Jackson's campaigns should turn to articles; "Fort Lashley" on p 48, "Fort Strother" on p 26, "Fort Williams" on p 71, "Fort Toulouse" on p 72, "Horse Shoe Bend" on p 73, "Jemison Place" on p 16, "Monument of 1812" on p 41, "McIntosh Trail" on p 15, "Old Brick Store" on p 24, "Seloctas Grave" on p 17, "Trail of Tears" on p 52, "Big Spring" on p 47, "Coosa" on p 66, "Fort Lashley Reconstructed" on p 50, "Horse Shoe Bend Reconstruction" on p 50, "Ironaton" on p 22, "Opera House" on p 35, and "Socopatoy Trail" on p 54

8. FEDERAL SKIRMISHERS

On July 10th, 1864, General Rousseau of the Federal Army left Decatur with 2300 Cavalry to destroy stores and iron works in Calhoun and Talladega Counties and to cut the Montgomery and West Point Railway.

Finding one of his objectives in the "Old Foundry", now called the International Foundry (which see) on the site of old Fort Lashley, he destroyed it. He then ap-

Names:

Chinnabee, Old
(Indian Chief)

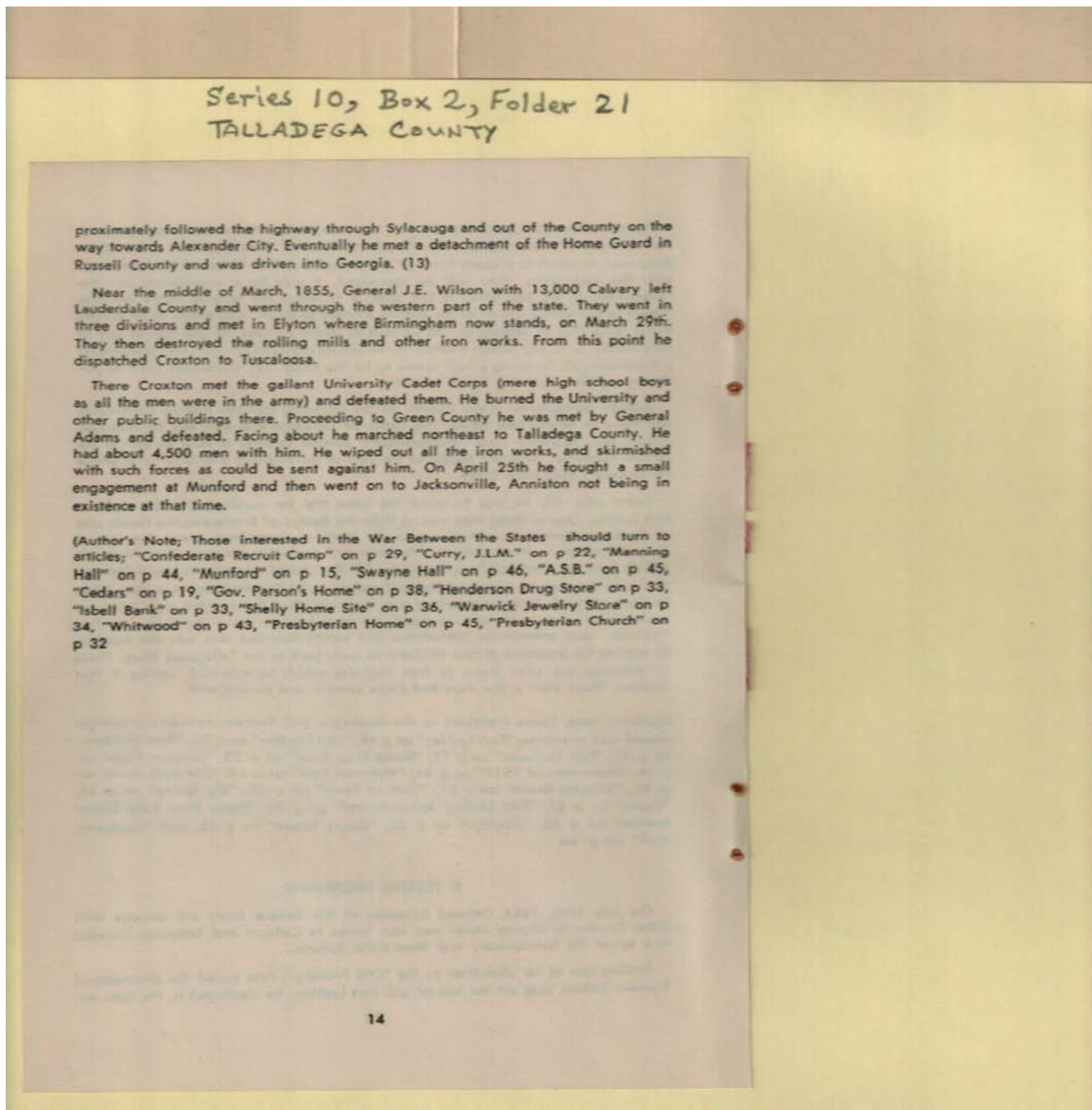
Jackson, Andrew
Rousseau, General

Scott, Bill (Indian
Chief)

Seloctas,

Types:

booklet



Names:

Adams, General

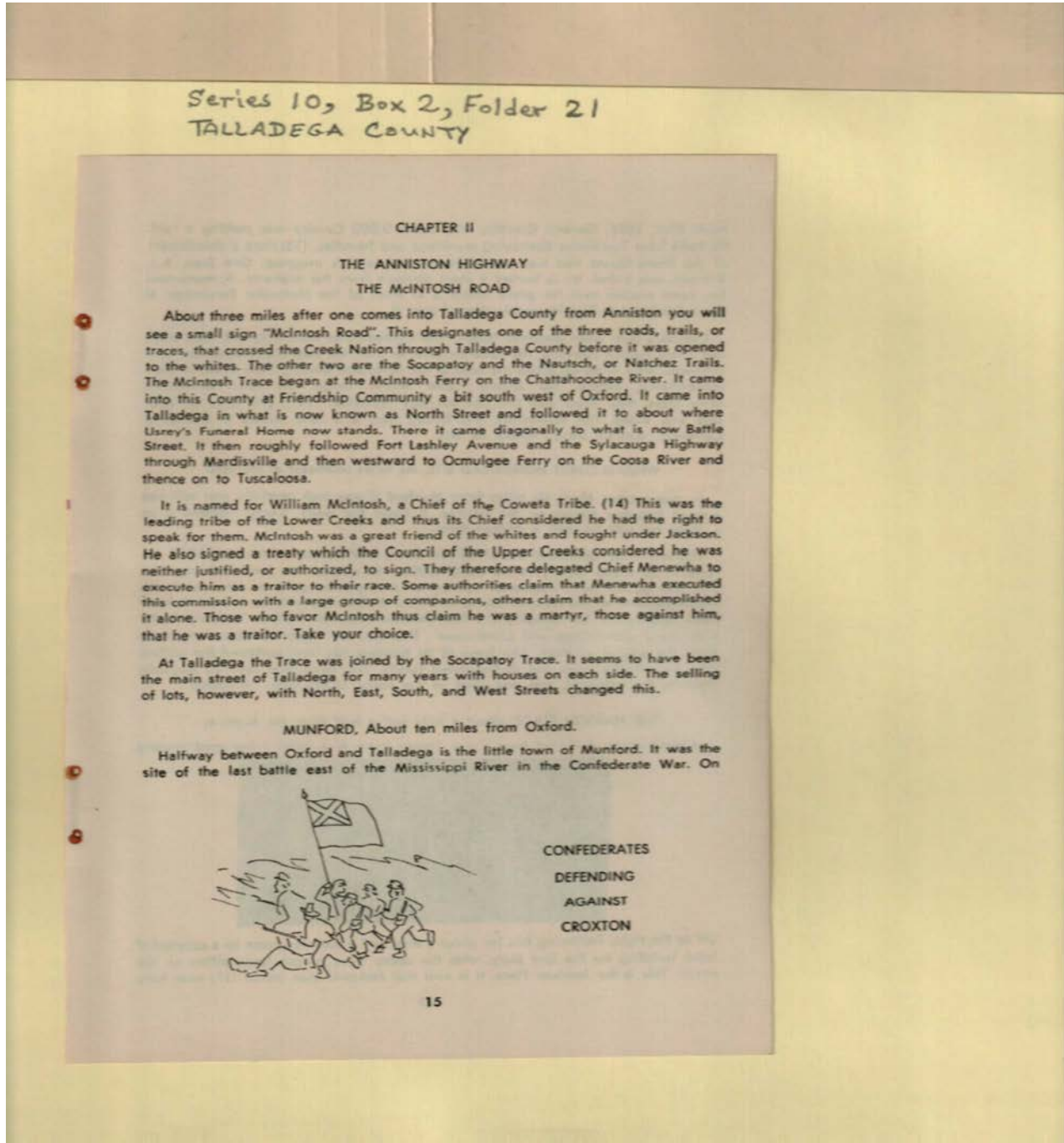
Croxton, (Indian Chief)

Curry, J. L. M.
Parson, Governor

Shelly,
Wilson, J. E., General

Types:

booklet



Names:

Jackson, Andrew

McIntosh, William
(Indian Chief)

Menewha (Indian
Chief)

Types:

booklet

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

April 23rd, 1865, General Croxton, with about 2,000 Cavalry was making a raid. He came from Tuscaloosa destroying munitions and foundries. (15) Here a detachment of the Home Guard met him and attempted to stay his progress. One man, A.J. Buttram, was killed. He is buried a short distance from the highway. A monument has been erected over his grave which is in front of the Methodist Parsonage. It has a Confederate Flag in marble draped over it.

Croxton's men were seasoned troops. The Confederates were only old men, boys and a few ragged veterans. The Federals came in from the west (Talladega). The Confederates were lined up across the road at the Methodist Church. They fired, in their inexperience, before the enemy came within range. As the Northerners came close they fired and the Confederates retreated. (121) One man on each side was killed. The Northerner was buried here and later moved to a Federal Cemetery. Buttram sleeps where he fell.

WILLIAM CURRY HOMESTEAD SITE, six miles southeast of Munford

As one reaches about six miles from Munford if you look carefully you will see a small flag-stop station on the railway. It bears the word "Curry". Behind it on a slight hill will be seen a chicken farm.

This marks the homestead site of William Curry. (16) He was a veteran of 1812. He came to Talladega County in the early 1830's. He cleared this land and from the first was known as a successful farmer, or planter. He grew to be one of the wealthiest men of the County. Along with Mr. Walker Reynolds he is said to have been responsible for bringing the first railway here. He built a "princely home with many outbuildings and storehouses". This has, we regret to state, long since gone the way of all flesh. The fame of its builders has long outlasted the edifice. Here he raised a large and distinguished family. This place was seen by Augustin Thomas, the playwright, and was used as the scene of his play, "Alabama."

THE JEMISON PLACE, about a mile and a half from the highway.

Almost across the road from Curry Station there is a good clay road leading



off to the right. Following this for about a mile and a half you came to a substantial brick building for the first story, with the upper story having large pillars on the porch. This is the Jemison Place. It is said that Jackson's men rested (17) near here

Names:

Buttram, A. J.
Croxton, General

Curry, William
Jackson, Andrew

Jemison Place
Reynolds, Walker

Thomas, Augustin

Types:

booklet

photograph

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on their march to fight the Battle of Talladega. It is one of the oldest homes in the county.

Those who like ghost stories (18) may like one about this place. In the slave quarters behind the house it is said that the Master used to punish refractory slaves by putting them in very heavy irons. This they resented intensely, and ever since it was first done the manacled slaves have returned to their quarters and rattled their chains so strongly that they are plainly heard in the Big House. Actually when you ask someone if they have heard them, they will tell you that they have not. But they will point out a third party who did hear them. This third party will tell you the same. But most ghost stories are like that when are investigated.

Another story with which good narrators make their listeners' hair stand on end is the tale of how someone was killed in the Big House in the War Between the States. As he fell no one was near to help and the blood ran out so profusely on the floor that a great stain was made. Even today, they say, in spite of hundreds of washings and scrubbing the stain is still there. This can be verified (?) as well as the other, we understand.

ON THE CHEAHA ROAD

Coming on for about a mile or so one finds a paved road leading off to the left and marked "Cheaha State Park". If we take this road and go about four miles we come to McElderry Station and

SELOCTA CHINNABEE'S GRAVE

Beside a store at McElderry Station there is a square block of concrete that stands about eighteen inches above the ground. This covers the space where the floor of the cabin of Selocta Chinnabee once stood.

Beneath it lies the body of Selocta, the son of "Old Chinnabee". Above it rises a boulder to which is attached a bronze likeness of the old scout and friend of



SELOCTA
CHINNABEE

Names:

Chinnabee, Old
(Indian Chief)

Chinnabee, Selocta

Types:

booklet

painting

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Andrew Jackson. Around his neck he wears in the picture a medallion (19) of which he was very proud and which was given to him by the President. It bears the likeness of Old Hickory.

Private Tom McElderry had been so fascinated by Talladega County when he first came in as one of the Tennessee Volunteers in 1813, that he later came back and built his house on the hill just above Chinnabee's house. The two of them became great friends, and he purchased much of the bottom land from Selocta. It appears that when Alexander Lashley, the trader, was building his Fort Lashley that he requested Selocta to come in and share in the building and to bring his family. The reason for this opinion is Jackson's frequent mention of Selocta as from Fort Lashley. (20) It is thought that, thus he lived here before the War, and moved back to this spot after hostilities were over.

While "Old Chinnabee" is in the history books many years before this, Selocta first is mentioned as the messenger who brought the letter from his father to Jackson at Fort Deposit, as Gunter'sville was called. We know that he was a scout from many other references (20), so that we think it quite possible that he was also the one who brought the news, or rumor, of the mobilization of the Red Sticks at Huntsville a bit before this. If so he returned to "Fort Chinnabee" in time to bring the message that it was about to be attacked. He was almost certainly the messenger that took Jackson's letter to Old Chinnabee telling him to hold fast if attacked as Jackson would soon be there.

If our reasoning is correct, on his return to his father he would have gotten permission to return to Fort Lashley to help complete its fortifications. Arrived there he would have assisted in its completion and been present on the seventh of November when it was surrounded by the Red Sticks. Then when the question of a messenger to carry Jackson word of their predicament arose it would seem that he would have been the one selected to go. Lashley as the owner would probably feel that he was needed. Jim Fite who later was to command warriors (20) in battle up to the number of two hundred, would probably have been needed there. And Selocta as a scout accustomed to long trips seems to have been the logical one to have been selected for the task. Some accounts say two went. If so Selocta was probably one of them.

Pickett (21) tells us he escaped in a pig skin. Another authority says it was in a bear skin. (22) For the bearskin advocates there is the great difficulty in skinning a pig, as any farmer knows. But the pig skin advocates argue that a bear would probably be pursued as soon as sighted, whereas the Indians had many pigs and would respect each other's property. Pigs often wore bells about their neck so that they would not be hunted, so that a bell would thus add to the messenger's safety. Andrew Jackson tells us one messenger arrived with the message.

After the War Selocta (23) went to Washington with other chiefs and is said to have been leaning against a pillar when some one made a slighting remark about him which the President heard. His reply was "There stands the bravest man I have ever known."

Names:

Chinnabee, Old
(Indian Chief)
Chinnabee, Selocta

Fite, Jim (Indian
Chief)
Jackson, Andrew

Lashley, Alexander
McElderry, Tom
Pickett,

Types:

booklet

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Selecta had a yen for fire water and on one occasion secured a keg of it. When he had imbibed rather freely he and his horse had a difference of opinion as to their route. Close to the store at Mardisville he fell off of it and was killed. (24) His white friends prepared a long shroud and dressed his body in it that he might lie in state. A number of Indian friends came to do him honor and asked if they might be alone with the body. In a few minutes they all streamed out led by one of their number clothed in the shroud, and the last thing they saw of it, it was streaming behind the rider of a galloping horse followed by the dozen friends.

Some time after his burial Mr. McElderry heard a noise around the grave. He ran off the intruder. The next day he went to town and got a sufficient supply of cement to put the present covering over his grave so that it could never again be bothered by grave robbers.

(Author's Note; Those especially interested in Pioneer Days should turn to articles; "Chilton Place" on p 39, "Wm. Curry Site" on p 16, "Morgan House" on p 41, "Academy Site" on p 56, "Alpine" on p 62, "Alpine Baptist Church" on p 62, "Clairmont Springs" on p 57, "Chandler Springs" on p 57, "Chilton Place" on p 39, "Court House Square" on p 35, "Douglas Hiatt Store" on p 35, "Elliott Apartments" on p 37, "Howells Cove" on p 52, "Ironaton" on p 22, "Isbell Bank" on p 33, "Johnson House" on p 37, "Manning Hall" on p 43, "Maria Forge" on p 54, "May Virginia Mine" on p 55, "Mt. Ida Site" on p 63, "Mrs. Heddon's Grave" on p 21, "Name of Talladega" on p 30, "Nine Mile Hill" on p 56, "Opera House" on p 35, "Orangevale" on p 61, "Presbyterian Church" on p 32, "Riddles Mill" on p 54, "Ronald Tavern" on p 46, "Shelley Home Site" on p 36, "Sylacauga's First Cafe" on p 68, "Sylacauga High School" on p 69, "Talladega Springs" on p 70, "White Town of Talladega" on p 31, "Whitwood" on p 42

THE CEDARS, about a half mile farther on the Cheaha road.



This beautiful old house was built in 1838. It is now the home of Mr. A.G. McMillan, Jr. Its builder was the Reverend Joseph Camp.

The story is told that during the Civil War Mr. Taylor Camp (25), at the age of seventeen was leaving for the front. His mother came out on the road to bid him

Names:

, Selectas
Camp, Joseph, Rev.
Camp, Taylor
Chilton,
Curry, William

Heddon, Mrs.
Hiatt, Douglas
Howell,
Isbell,
Manning,

McElderry, Tom
McMillian, A. G., Jr.
Morgan,
Riddle,
Ronald,

Shelly,
The Cedars

Types:

booklet

photograph

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farewell. When the parting was over he rode off. When he came to the turn in the road he looked back. The sight that met his eyes was his mother kneeling in the road, dusty as it was. She was beseeching Divine help that he might come back safely to her.

CAMP MAC, about six miles farther.

A few miles farther one comes to Camp Mac. This was built during the depression to house the Civilian Conservation Corps. When they moved out of it it was bought by Mr. E.A. McBride, the present President of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. He and his family have used it as a camp for young people. Around their camp fires they tell the following ghost story every year;

"THE STORY OF MR. TAYLOR'S EYES"

They say (26) that in this neighborhood a number of years ago there were four men who were drinking and gambling in one of their houses. The name of one of them was Taylor. The others shall be nameless for obvious reasons. We will call them simply Messers A., B., and C.

As the evening wore on Mr. A. decided he would go to the spring for a drink of water. While he was gone Messers B and C and Taylor got into a drunken brawl. The result of this was that Mr. Taylor was killed and his head was severed from his body. It rolled over on the floor and eventually stopped just below the steps with his eyes gazing at his murderers.

Frightened out of their drunkenness Mr. B. and Mr. C. now began to plan how they might escape the consequences of their act. As Mr. A. was some time in returning they had time to make their plans and decided to tell him that he had been the one who was the murderer. As he was so befuddled, he could not contradict them. They carried out their plan with the result that Mr. A. was convicted and served a number of years in the penitentiary.

When Mr. A. came out he revisited the site of the crime. There he heard a voice calling him. Looking around he saw the head of Mr. Taylor with its eyes open and fixed upon him. Again he heard the voice of Mr. Taylor. But he decided not to wait and took to his heels. Ever since then the story is that people walking the woods are apt to see Mr. Taylor's eyes staring at them and begging them to stay so that he can tell them which person really killed him.

One day this story was being told about a camp fire when one of the larger boys said "Oh, I do not believe that." But a very small boy in the back of the room rose up and said "But I know that that is a true story. Mr. Taylor was my uncle."

CHEAHA STATE PARK

Coming about ten miles farther we reach the Cheaha State Park.

At the bottom of the mountain there is located a beautiful swimming pool and lake in which there are usually to be found a number of fishermen. As we approach it we can see PULPIT ROCK standing against the sky line. Then a few yards beyond

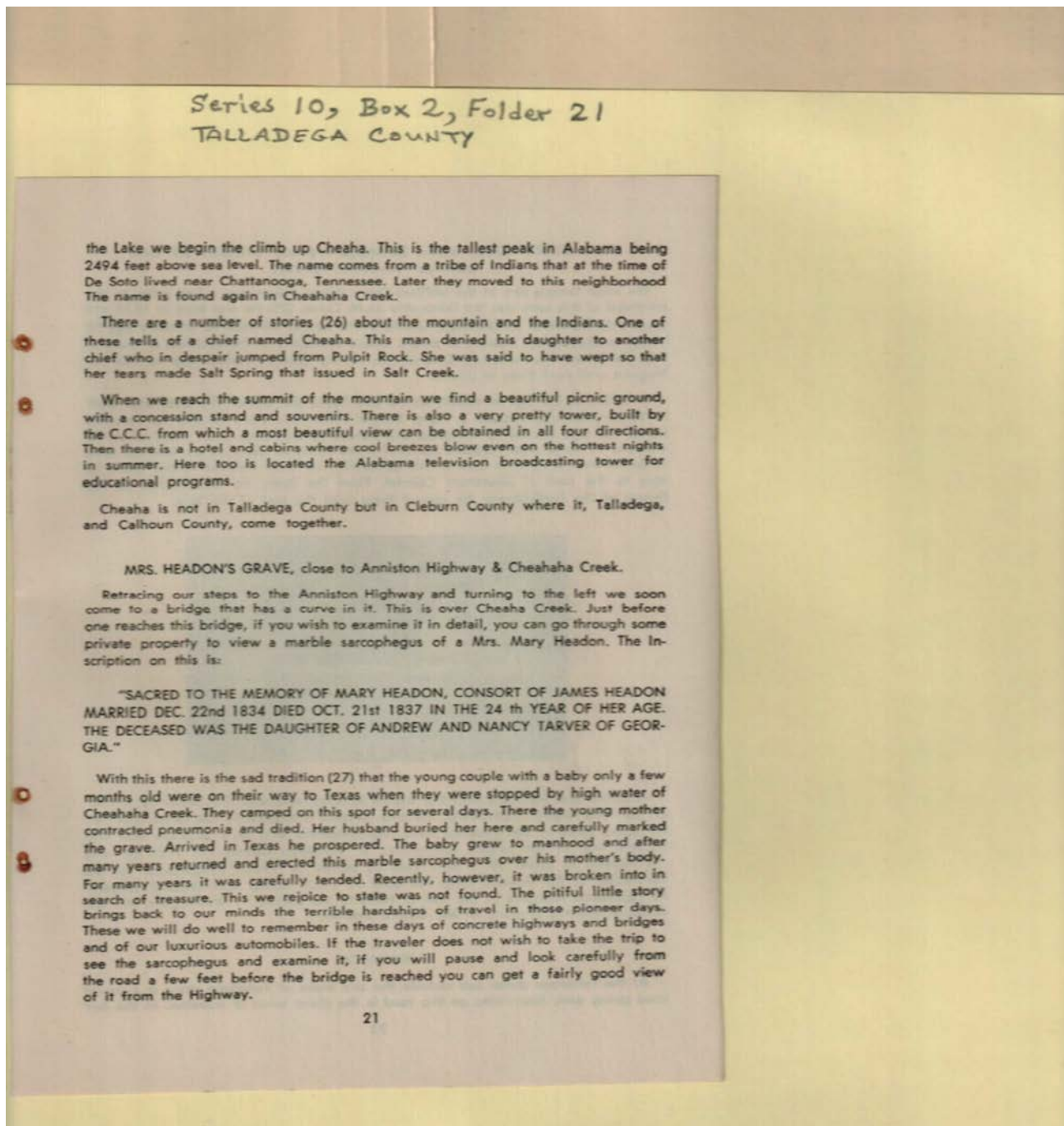
Names:

McBride, E. A.

Taylor,

Types:

booklet



Names:

Cheaha (Indian
Chief)

De Soto,
Headon, James

Headon, Mary, Mrs.
Tarver, Andrew

Tarver, Nancy

Types:

booklet

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J.L.M. CURRY HOME, where Eastaboga highway branches off from Talladega - Anniston Highway.

The most famous son of the William Curry whose home was a few miles to the northeast of this spot was the Honorable J.L.M. Curry. (28) He was born in 1825 and came with his father to Talladega County at the age of thirteen. At an early age he began to show great interest in public affairs especially in the problem of slavery. Thus he joined the American Colonization Society whose solution was to free the Negroes and send them to Liberia.

In 1851, at the age of twenty-six he had heard the call of the west and went to Texas where he became a Texas Ranger. After two years of this he returned home. He was elected to Congress and served in that body until 1861 when he was one of those who resigned his seat in the National body to go with his State at Secession. Along with most of his generation he went into the Army. There he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. From the Army he was elected to the Senate of the Confederacy. He served there until the end of the War.



After the War he went into the Baptist ministry and was the Presiding Officer of the State Baptist Convention. He now became interested in Education and was for years head of the Peabody Fund. He prospered also in a business way and became one of the largest landowners in Talladega County. In 1888 he was Ambassador to Spain. At a later date he served as Special Ambassador for the Coronation of the Spanish King. He died in 1903. Along with General Wheeler he represents Alabama in the Hall of Fame in the Capital in Washington. His old home is now the property of Mr. Grover Smelley.

IRONATON

At the Talladega Motel just outside the city limits of Talladega there is a paved road going east. Four miles on this road is the ghost town of Ironaton. In the last

Names:

Curry Home
Curry, J. L. M.

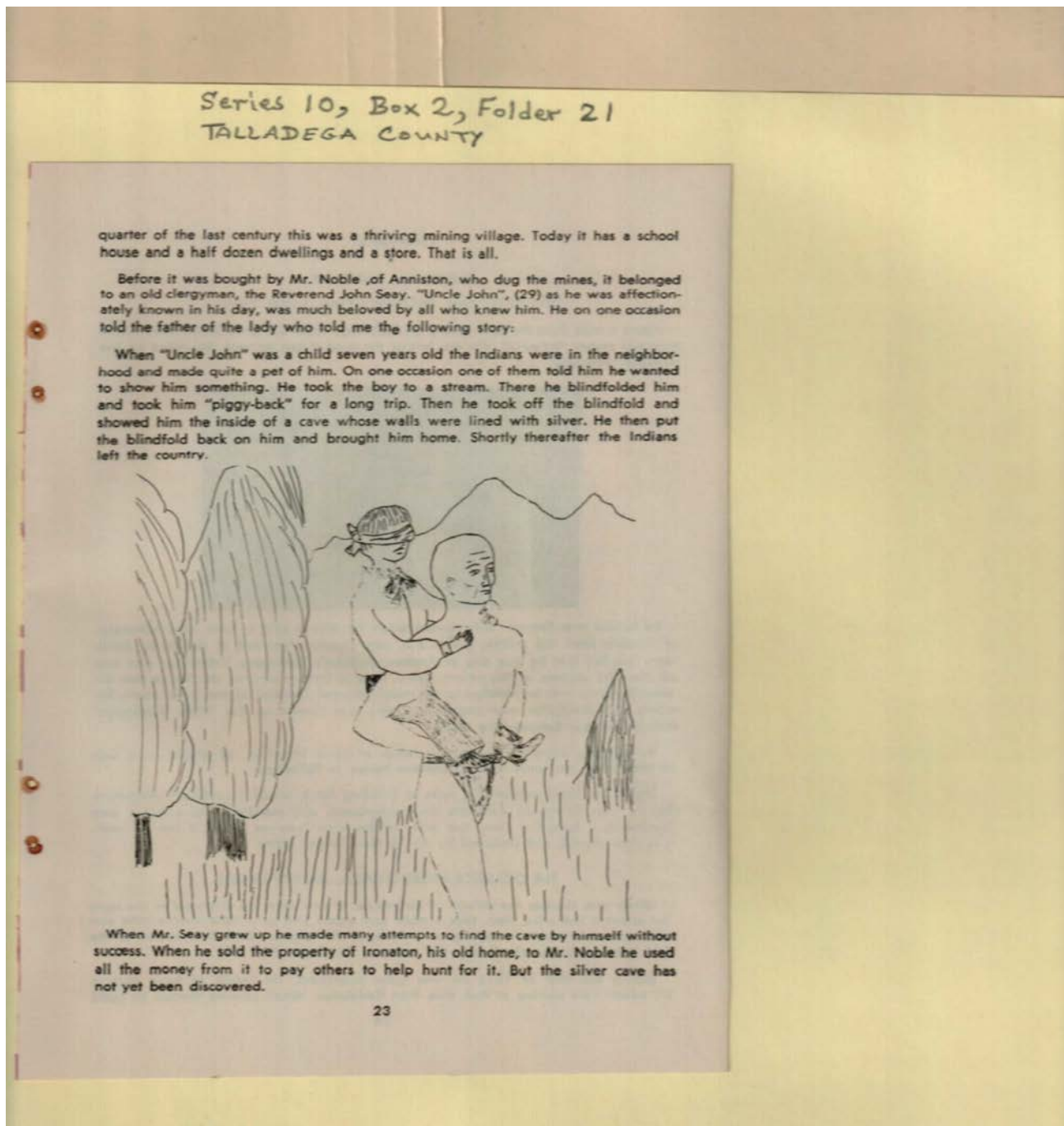
Curry, William
Smelley, Grover

Wheeler, General

Types:

booklet

photograph



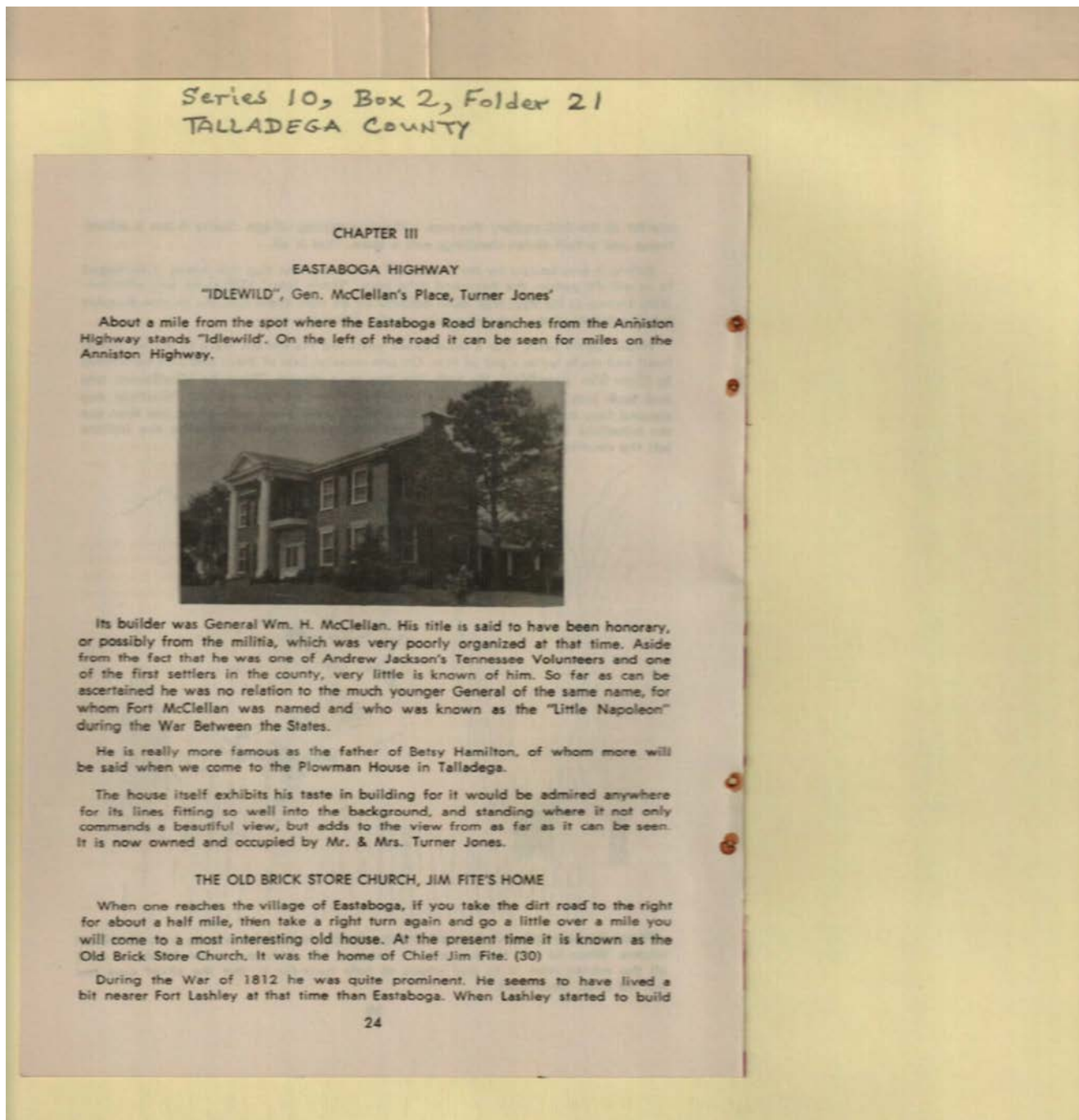
Names:

Noble,

Seay, John, Rev.

Types:

booklet



Names:

Fite, Jim
Hamilton, Betsy

Idlewild Home
Jackson, Andrew

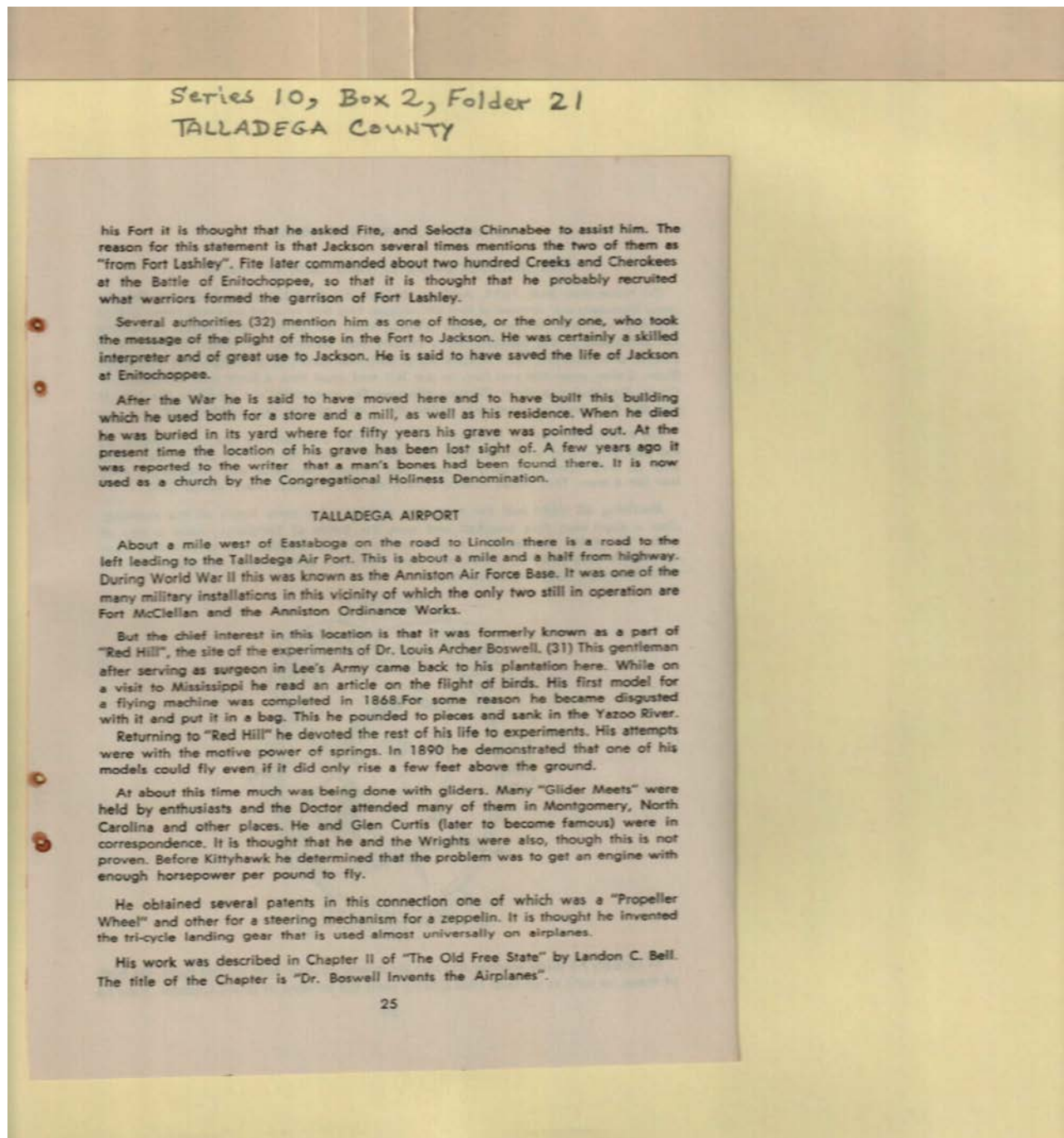
Jones, Turner
Lashley,

McClellan, William
H., General

Types:

booklet

photograph



Names:

Bell, Landon C.
Boswell, Louis
Archer, Dr.

Chinnabee, Selocta
Curtis, Glen
Jackson, Andrew

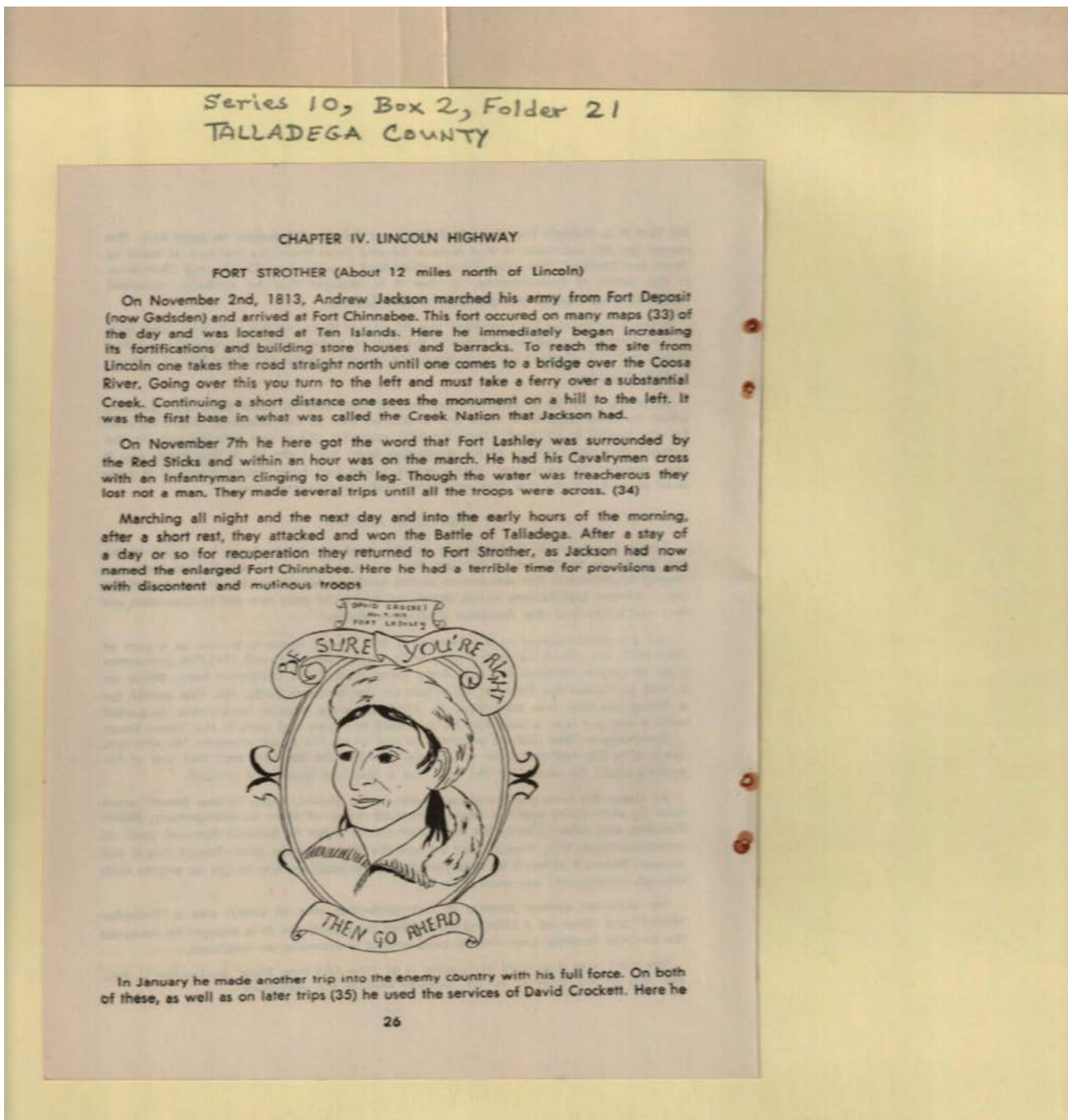
Lee,
Wright,

Types:

booklet

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Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

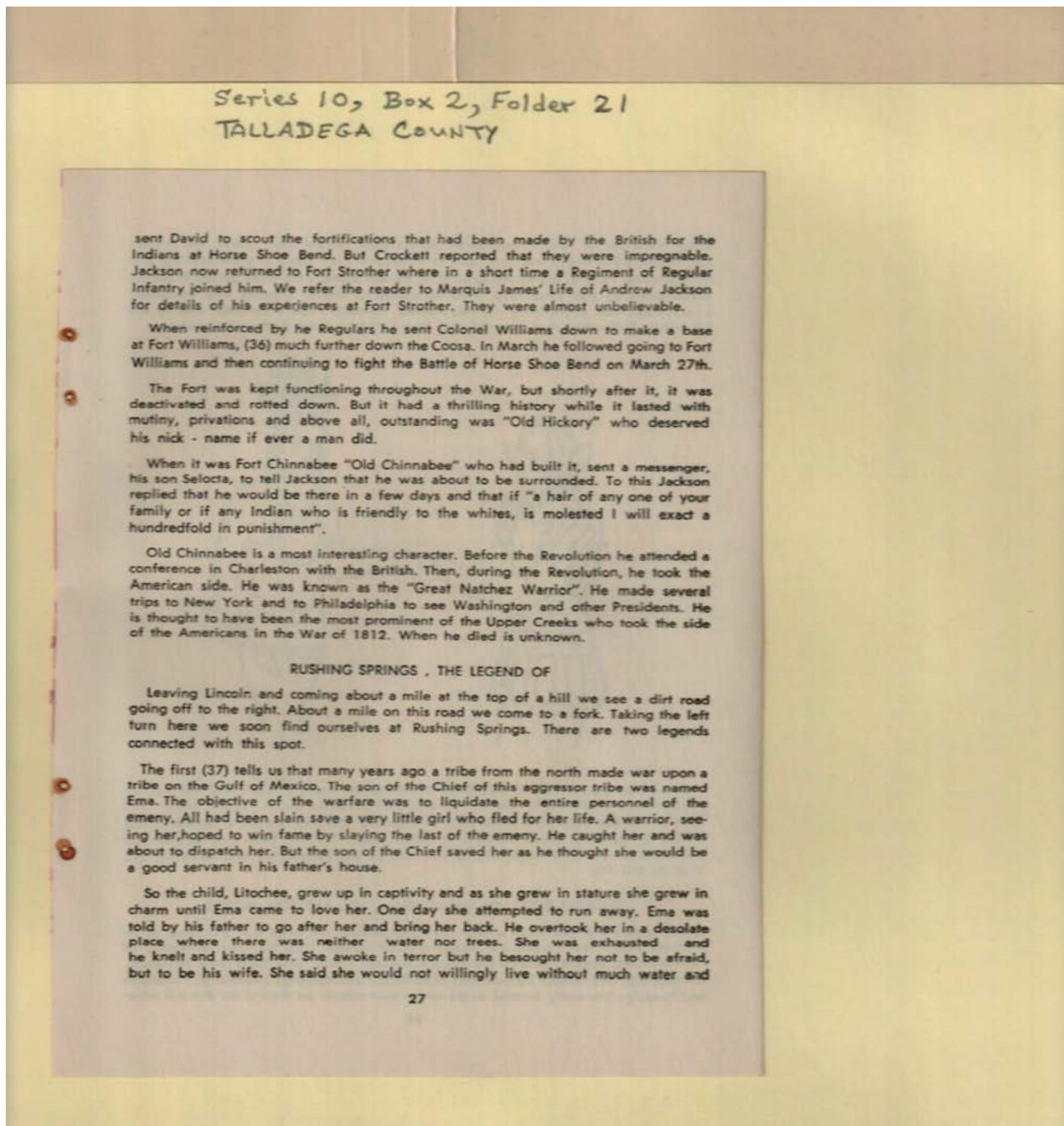
Crockett, David

Jackson, Andrew

Types:

booklet

drawing



Names:

, Ema
, Litochee

Chinnabee, Old
Chinnabee, Selocta

Crockett, David
Jackson, Andrew

James, Marquis
Williams, Colonel

Types:

booklet

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many trees. So he said he felt certain Great Spirit willed their union. He prayed that Great Spirit would convince her. In a moment they heard a great rushing and springs came rushing out of the ground in all directions. Also trees began to sprout miraculously so that soon they were in wonderful shade. Litochee was convinced so she stood and pronounced the two names together "Ema - Litochee" and he did the same. They were thus married and their children lived there many years.



Chief Ema Litochee XXIII was there when DeSoto came through and the two of them made a covenant. In this it was said that someday DeSoto would return and they would have eternal brotherhood. In token of this they buried a hatchet in the Indian fashion, and shook hands in the white man's fashion. Then they pronounced a curse upon any who would dig up the hatchet. But no one has ever found or dug it up to this day.

CHOCOLOCCO, the Indian Village, also JACKSON SHOALS

The custom was that when a town, or tribe became too large that a number of its warriors would leave home and found another village. Thus the town of Abika, or Abikakutchee, decided to send out not one but four towns. (38) These were Talladega, Choccolocco, (Big Shoal), Econchardee (Red Earth) and Kymulga (Mulberry). Talladega and Kymulga are easily located as the white man rebuilt on their sites. But the other

Names:

DeSoto

Ema Litochee, XXIII,
Chief

Types:

booklet

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two are not.

Choccolocco, however, is the name of the stream over which one passes between Lincoln and Talladega. So that it might well be felt that Choccolocco Village was on it. If we leave the Highway just before we reach this bridge and follow the Creek on a dirt road past Schmid's Mill to the next cross roads we find a bridge where the Alabama Power Company has built a power plant. Here a shoals begin that last for well over a half mile. Although no proof has been found archaeologically it is thought that somewhere along that shoal will be found the site of the village of Choccolocco.

This shoal also bears the name of Jackson's Shoals because of the legend that Jackson crossed it on his way either to or from the Battle of Talladega.

ECONCHARDEE, Indian Village

It has already been stated that Econchardee is a village (39) whose site is unknown. But along in the 1880s an article was published in the Talladega local paper (37) telling of how certain parties visited a spot where there were Indian mounds, and that formerly this was called Econchardee and that the old timers of that day pointed out the spot where there had formerly stood the Council House of the village. Although none of those who took that trip are now alive the location of that village would have seemed to be across the creek from Rushing Springs and can best be viewed by taking the dirt road after crossing Choccolocco Creek going westward and then northward and looking to the right just before you cross the creek again.

CONFEDERATE RECRUIT CAMP. Just to North of Talladega.

As one approaches Talladega there is a marker of a Confederate Recruit Camp. Here the conscripts were assembled before being sent on to the Regular Army. A great number of families migrated from the Mobile district both from the viewpoint of refugeeing here and being near their men. One of those who came was the reverend Mr. Nicholson, (40) the Episcopal Rector of a church in Mobile most of whose congregation had refugeed here. He came as chaplain for the troops but also managed to gather quite a congregation from local people and the newcomers thus keeping the Episcopal Church alive during the war years in this community.

SHOCCO SPRINGS, The Legend of

A short distance north of Talladega the road branches off to go to Shocco Springs. This is now a Baptist Assembly where they have many things going on especially in the summer. The Legend is that when DeSoto came through this section in 1540 that he was much struck by medicinal power of its waters and sent for some of it from Coosa for his sick interpreter. Soon the waters had the desired effect and, so goes the story, Juan was as good as new.

Names:

, Juan

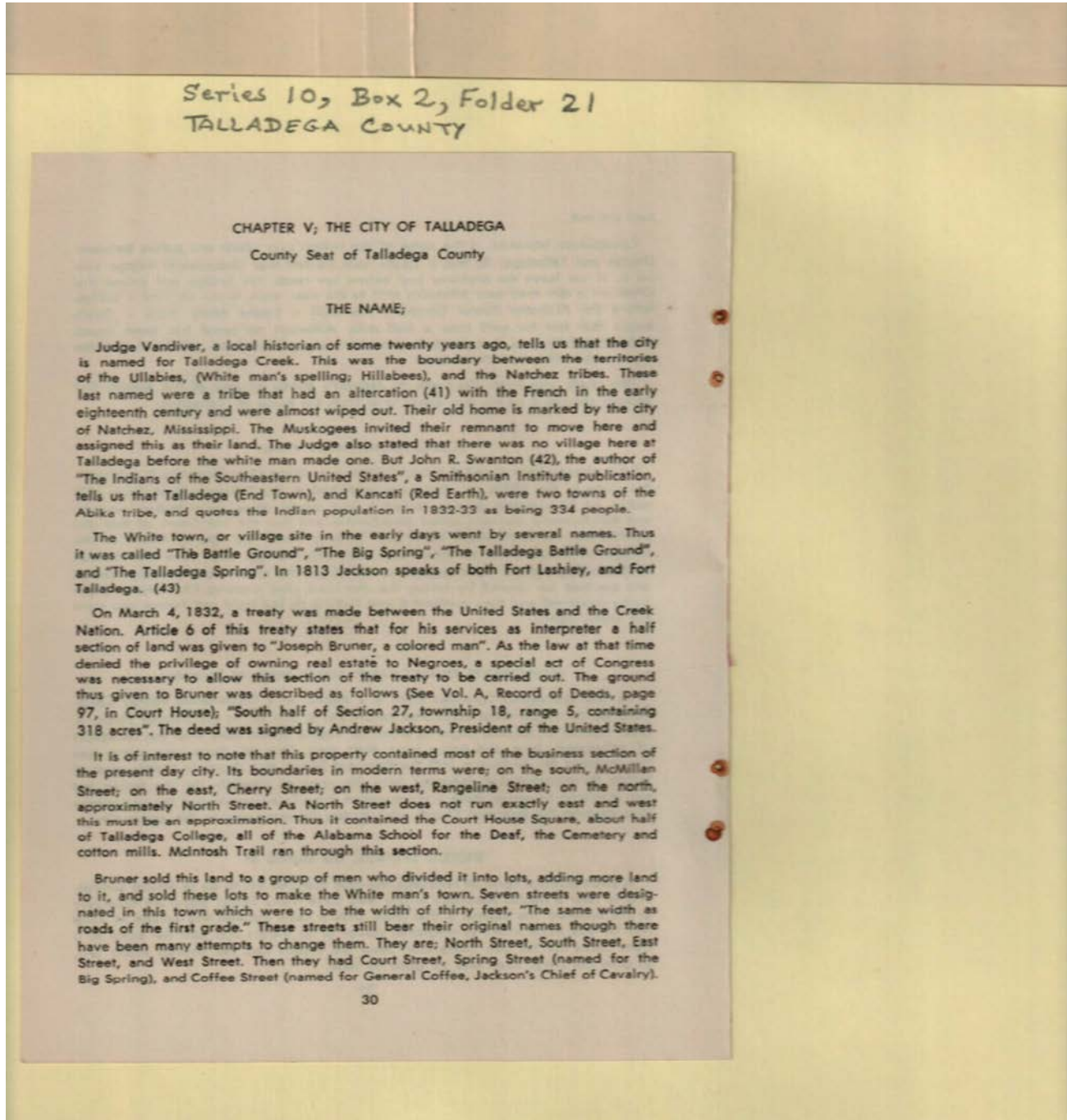
DeSoto

Jackson, Andrew

Nicholson, Rev.

Types:

booklet



Names:

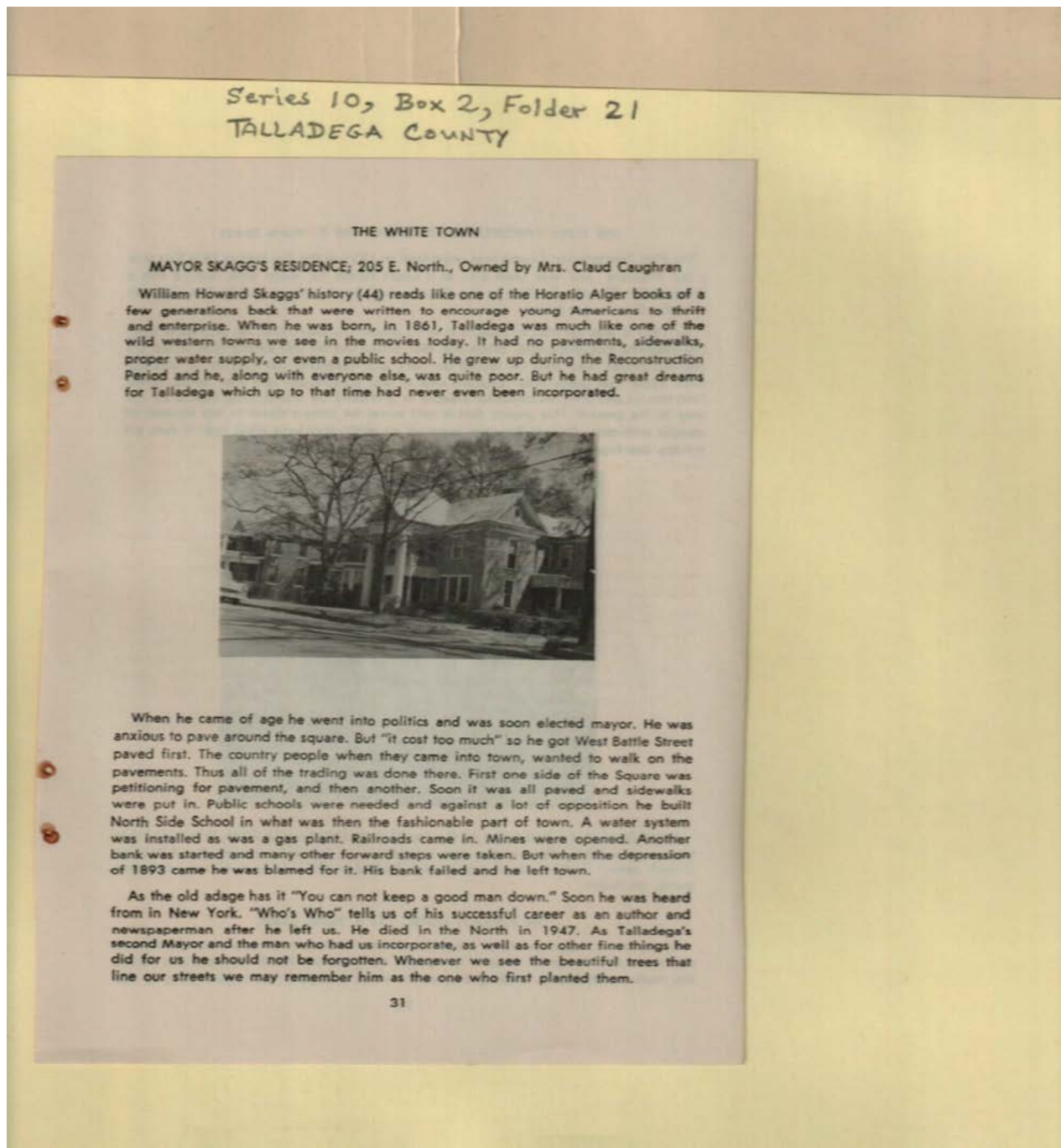
Coffee, General

Jackson, Andrew,
President

Swanton, John R.
Vandiver, Judge

Types:

booklet



Names:

Alger, Horatio

Caughran, Claud,
Mrs.

Mayor Skagg's
Residence

Skagg, William
Howard

Types:

booklet

photograph

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 130 E. North Street.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1835 at the Big Spring. (43) This was a log structure and was used also as a Court House for some time. Before this a Presbyterian Church, the first in the County, had been built at Mardisville. But this was the first in our town.

In 1861 it was decided to rebuild it in its present location. (45) An architect from Philadelphia was employed. When the War broke out he left saying that when the unpleasantness was over he would be back and complete the Church. It was not until 1866 that work was resumed and it was completed. But they could never find him to pay him. Its beautiful steeple is anchored by interlocking beams all the way to the ground. This means that it will never be blown down in the opinion of steeple architects. Its weathervane rests on an eight foot long steel rod. It runs on marble bearings as it was built before steel bearings were in use.



At the hour of the dedication of the log Church, (46) back in 1834, it is stated that there was a total eclipse of the sun. In addition to the white people that filled the Church many Indians stood around and looked in the windows to see what was going on inside.

THE PUREFOY HOTEL, 117 E. North Street.

It may seem inappropriate in a booklet devoted mainly to history a hundred years and more old, to speak of such a modern thing as the hotel, or motel, in which the tourist probably is reading this, or in which he spent last night. Yet it is felt

Names:

First Presbyterian
Church

Types:

photograph

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that no account of Talladega County would be complete that did not mention the Purefoy. For not only is its food known and praised from coast to coast, but its owner and proprietor has collected a group of most interesting items that make it almost a museum.

We begin with the clock in the lobby. It makes you think that your coffee must have been spiked. You see, it runs backward. Then you look in the hallway and see his beautiful collection of Indian arrowheads. But you must ask Ed Hyde, the manager, to show you all of the beautiful things he has collected, such as carved fourposter beds, old style washstands and other things in keeping. For otherwise you will miss one of the most interesting items in your trip to Talladega.

ISELL BANK, 106 E. North Street.

The Isbell National Bank was started in 1848. (46) It claims to be the oldest Bank that has been in continuous operation since its founding, in the state.

Its founder was an interesting character. He came to Alabama from Virginia (47) in the early days on horseback. He first went to the south of the state and then moved here and opened a grocery store. In those days grocers used to send boys out to take orders, it being long before the days of the telephone. When they would bring them in, these orders would be packaged and sent out by a wagon.

Mr. James Isbell was successful from the start because of his courtesy and consideration for all. Soon people began to trust him as well as like him. In fact this trust became somewhat of a burden in time. He charged many accounts and first one and then another of his country customers would come in to pay his bill. They often had large sums and would tell him to "Take what I owe you out of that, and keep the rest of it for me." Finally in self defense he determined that he would have to open a bank and did so. It can well be imagined how proud those who claim him as their grandfather even with a few "greats" tacked on to it, are.

As early as 1858 Major Isbell, (48) as he was called, foresaw that slave property might soon be of very doubtful value and determined to make outside investments in land and lots in and around growing towns in what was known then as the "North-west". He especially invested in property around St. Joseph, Missouri, Sioux City and Kansas City. When the War came and destroyed almost all of his securities such as stocks and bonds, he had invested his Confederate money in cotton which he had stored in out-of-the-way places. When the war was over, from the proceeds of this cotton he reestablished his banking business.

HENDERSON DRUG STORE (49), 107 N. Court St.

This store claims to be the oldest Drug Store in the state. It was started in 1847. It takes pride in the fact that in the one hundred and ten years of its existence it has never closed a year in the red. During the Confederate War there was a great lack of money. Not having gold, the National Government from the first had paper money. (49) This rapidly deteriorated, so that there was great need for more money than was in circulation of any kind. In this emergency many states and municipalities

Names:

Hyde, Ed

Isbell, James

Types:

booklet

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issued their own currency. But when this was not enough many well established business firms, who felt that their credit was strong, issued their own money. Among these was the Vandiver Henderson Drug Company. Its issue eventually amounted to a million dollars. It is said that it circulated not only in the immediate neighborhood, but as far away as the Tennessee border.

Another item of interest in those days was that after the war a law was made that any business firm that had had dealings with the Confederate Government should have all its assets confiscated. The Vandiver Henderson Drug Company was one of these as its building (50) had at one time been used as a Confederate headquarters in Talladega. Just exactly how this law was evaded has never been exactly explained. But though the case was called certainly its assets were not confiscated. We fortunately had some very good lawyers in those days. (The source of these two incidents is Vandiver's History of Talladega County, Volume II).

SITE OF WARWICK JEWELRY STORE, "on North side of square"

A few years ago when Pacifism was more popular than it is today many used to tell us that our enemies in World War I were much maligned when people claimed that they had committed atrocities.

Recently, however, there has come to our notice a petition (51) for redress, sworn to and witnessed by several witnesses under affidavit by a British citizen, Mr. Thomas Warwick. It was addressed to the British Consul in Mobile after the Civil War asking that he collect damages from the United States Government. It referred to action by soldiers in General Croxton's Raid on Talladega. After affirming his neutrality it affirms, in part that:

"On or about the twenty-fifth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, a portion of the military forces of the United States, commanded by General Croxton—did in broad day light, and in the presence of the Commanding General aforesaid, and of other commissioned officers—forcibly break into the workshop of said petitioner, and did break open the iron safe therein, and did forcibly carry off sundry articles as per schedule hereto affixed." Then follows an itemized list which included:

60 gold watches, valued at	\$6,000.00
silver watches, valued at	3,500.00
Gold and silver bulk	1,500.00
Watch material & articles of value	300.00
Current money	9,000.00
Total Value	\$20,300.00

The document has attached affidavits to the fact.

Thus, if those who affirm that our enemies in any war are innocent of atrocities can prove why Germans, or other enemies, are necessarily better than United States soldiers, their case would be much stronger.

Names:

Croxton, General

Vandiver,

Warwick, Thomas

Types:

booklet

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SITE OF DOUGLAS & HIATT STORE "on southside of square and on the corner"

Exactly which of the eight corners that this might be is not specified in our records. It was one of our earliest stores and seems to have been pretty much what we would call a general store. The first fire (52) that occurred in Talladega was here. They lost everything. What the fire spared the Indians stole and carried off. One seized a large looking glass. It being the first time he had ever seen his ugly face he was perfectly delighted. Coming out of the door he dropped his treasure and shattered it. He was so distressed that he howled and uttered the most piercing shrieks and yells that only a savage could make. The entire town was terror stricken. The cause of the outcry was investigated. They did everything possible to quiet him but he would not be comforted, and be quiet until someone looked up another mirror and gave it to him. Then, and then only was there peace. (This story comes from M.L.M. Taylor, a pioneer).

THE OPERA HOUSE, 104 East Court Street. (now Talladega Furniture Co.)

On the southeast corner of Battle and Court Streets there stood in 1836 a large frame two story store. In the second story (52) of this the women and children took refuge when the Indians, who had been assembled out on the Stemley Bridge Road for the Trail of Tears, were announced as about to attack the town. What had actually happened was that the group of militia who were guarding them, were having a guard mount. The guard that was being relieved in their exuberance decided to get rid of the loads in their guns by the simple expedient of firing them. This was heard by a man plowing who hurried into town and announced that the Indians, most of whom happened to be women and children, had overpowered the guard and were marching to massacre the townspeople. The women and children retired upstairs in this two storied store and the men threw up barricades in the street to repel the attack. When it was over laughed heartily.

Later this building was torn down and in 1888 the Chambers Opera House (53) was built on the spot. At that time vacant lots behind and to the side of the building made it stand out as it does not now do. This Opera House seated 1100 people. It had gas chandeliers, handsome decorations and a commodious stage. It was one of the show places of Northern Alabama. The building is now occupied by the Talladega Furniture Company. It is the property of Mr. Harry Clardy.

THE COURT HOUSE SQUARE

One cannot pass the Court House Square without remembering the first street fair that ever took place in Talladega. It was put on by the Fire Department. They earned a little over \$200.00 for their part of it. It took place in April 1902. To quote from Vandiver's History of Talladega County. (54)

"The people turned out in immense crowds - One of the attractions endeavored to work off a fake show by constructing a booth. In this was a man hideously made up under the title of the "Hoot Man". He would emit bloodcurdling yowls and strange gutturals while the open-mouthed yokels looked on in wonder. G.A.

Names:

Clardy, Harry

Douglas,

Hiatt,

Taylor, M. L. M.

Types:

booklet

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Mattison paid his money to see this attraction and plentifully sprinkled the straw about the Hoot Man with a pound of Cayenne pepper. In about three minutes the Hoot Man had something to hoot about sure enough. The expeditious way in which he climbed out of the straw and made for water looked as if he were exceeding the speed limit. Nothing more was heard of the "Hoot Man Show".

SITE OF JACOB SHELLY RESIDENCE, 224 W. North Street

Across the street from the Talladega Insurance Company there was formerly a log house in which Captain Jacob Shelly lived. In fact he built it. The site is now a parking lot.

Captain Shelly was one of Andrew Jackson's men (55) who came back when the country was opened up. Not only did he fight under Jackson, however, but he raised a company when the Indians began causing trouble in the 1830s. When the Mexican War came he raised a company that served in that conflict. He left Talladega before the War Between the States arrived and went to another town (Selma). But the old war horse was still full of fire and it is said that he raised a company for the Confederate Army and led it in that war.

But his claim to fame did not rest in his military prowess alone. His son, walking in his father's footsteps, became a Colonel in the Confederate Army, and is buried in our Cemetery. Jacob was the first Clerk of the Court, and formed one of the Company that bought the land from Joseph Bruner to get Talladega started. It is said that he was one of the most popular men that ever lived in our city. It was rare according to Judge Vandiver, that he would not have fourteen or fifteen wagons hitched on the street near his home of visitors from one place or another. He did a continual round of entertaining. Though he could not sleep all of them it is said he never let one of them cook his own dinner. He also was the contractor for the Court House.

NORTHSIDE SCHOOL, North Spring Street.

Dear to the heart of the older citizens is the North Side School. (56) It was the first public school in Talladega, and for many years it was the only one. When it was built in the middle eighties, its location was the most stylish section of the city. Mr. Skaggs had a great deal of trouble getting the bond issue through. It was to pay for three things. The first of these was the School. The second was the stone curbing around the square, and the third was to build the City Hall. This last was the building now occupied by the Owl Drug Store, on Battle Street. Much bitterness was engendered in his campaign but Skaggs won out.

As an example of the stories that old timers (57) like to tell of their school days in it we will mention the one about the stove pipe that used to come up through the floor in the winter so as to heat one of the upstairs class rooms. But as the weather grew warmer the pipe was removed which left this round hole in the floor. Then the tobacco chewers used to use that round hole as a cuspidor. Just what happened when a large juicy stream came through the hole and hit someone in the class room below is not recorded. It was often a topic of conversation as

Names:

Bruner, Joseph
Jackson, Andrew

Mattison, G. A.
Shelly, Jacob, Captain

Skaggs,
Vandiver, Judge

Types:

booklet

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

to what would happen.

Another story involves (58) one of our most honored and respected citizens, Mr. Samuel Wilson, who has just retired from being the President of Talladega National Bank. The tale goes that he was not always the soul of rectitude and on at least one occasion richly deserved a spanking from his teacher. But little Sam viewed the drain pipe just outside the window while waiting his turn. To see was to act and down the pipe he climbed and so escaped his punishment.

ELLIOTT APARTMENTS, Hill Street, behind Presbyterian Church

This building began life as a girl's school (59) under the name of the Isbell, or Synodical College. It was named for Mr. Isbell who gave the land on which it was built. It was later used as a school for both sexes. It always had a Presbyterian Minister as its president. It is of interest to know that before the days of public school Talladega had four schools, this, of the Presbyterians, one of the Baptists, one, run by an Episcopal Minister, and the fourth was started by the Masons and later was run by the Methodists. This building is now an Apartment House.



THE JOHNSON HOUSE, 208 McConnell St. (Old Episcopal School)

In 1850 the Rev. Thomas A. Cook, an Episcopal Clergyman started a school (60) in his residence about a quarter of a mile behind the Broadway Drive-In Theatre's



Names:

Cook, Thomas A.,
Rev.

Elliott Apartments
Isbell,

Johnson House
Wilson, Samuel

Types:

booklet

photograph

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

present location. This building has since been burned. When he gave up his school other Episcopal ministers held school beginning with the Rev. J.E. Smith in about 1869. The building at 208 McConnell Street was used for both residence and school. In 1893 a Rectory was built next to the Church, and a Church school room was built. Between these times the Johnson House was used for both Rectory and school. With the coming of public schools the various private schools dwindled and died.

GOVERNOR PARSONS' HOME, 608 Stone Avenue.

Lewis Eliphalet Parsons was born in 1817 in New York. In 1841 he came to Talladega. Coming by water to Charleston, S.C., he was able to be of some service to some ladies on the boat. Being invited to their houses he met the lady from Kentucky he was soon to win for his bride. (61)

In Talladega they lived in various houses where six of his seven children were born. But in 1853, or '54, he built this beautiful residence in the center of an estate comprising several acres. It had a road to its front door coming straight from North Street. The ground floor was given up to his wine cellar, store rooms and kitchen. The next floor had a double drawing room and library in it. The two topmost floors had the bedrooms.

Mr. Parsons decided to have in his new house a feature not often seen in this section but common along the coast in the North. It is said that seafaring men often built a walk, or platform on top of their houses so that their wives could go up to watch for their ship returning from their voyages. Often when ladies heard that their husbands' ships had been lost at sea they refused to give up hope for many years and would stay long hours there searching the sea with their eyes.



Thus they came to bear the name of "Widows' Walks".

Of this particular one Mr. Parson's daughter used to tell her children of how she once went to sleep on it late one afternoon during the war. She woke late

Names:

Governor Parson's
Home

Parsons, Lewis
Eliphalet

Smith, J. E., Rev.

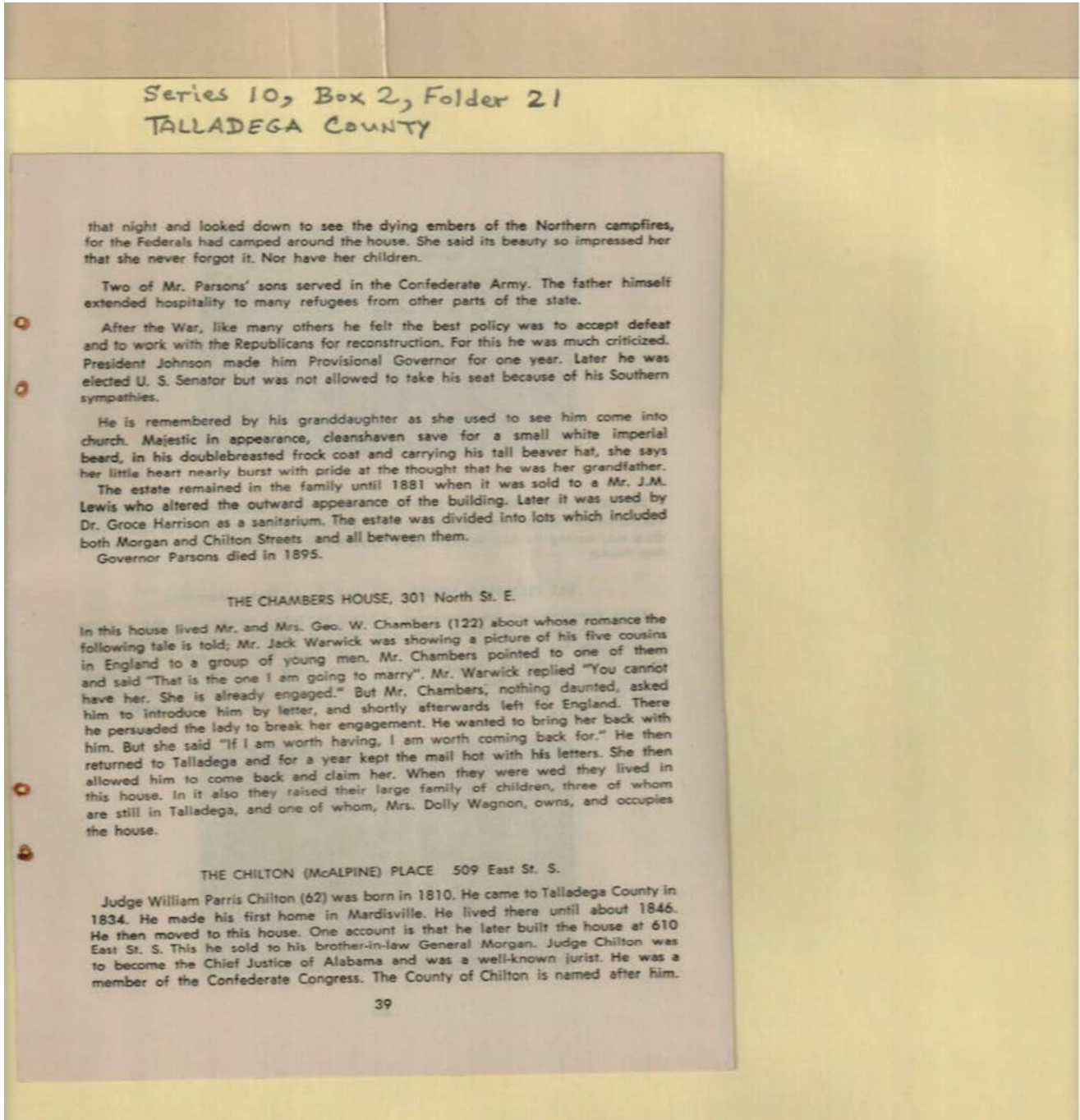
Types:

booklet

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

Chambers, George
W., Mr. & Mrs.

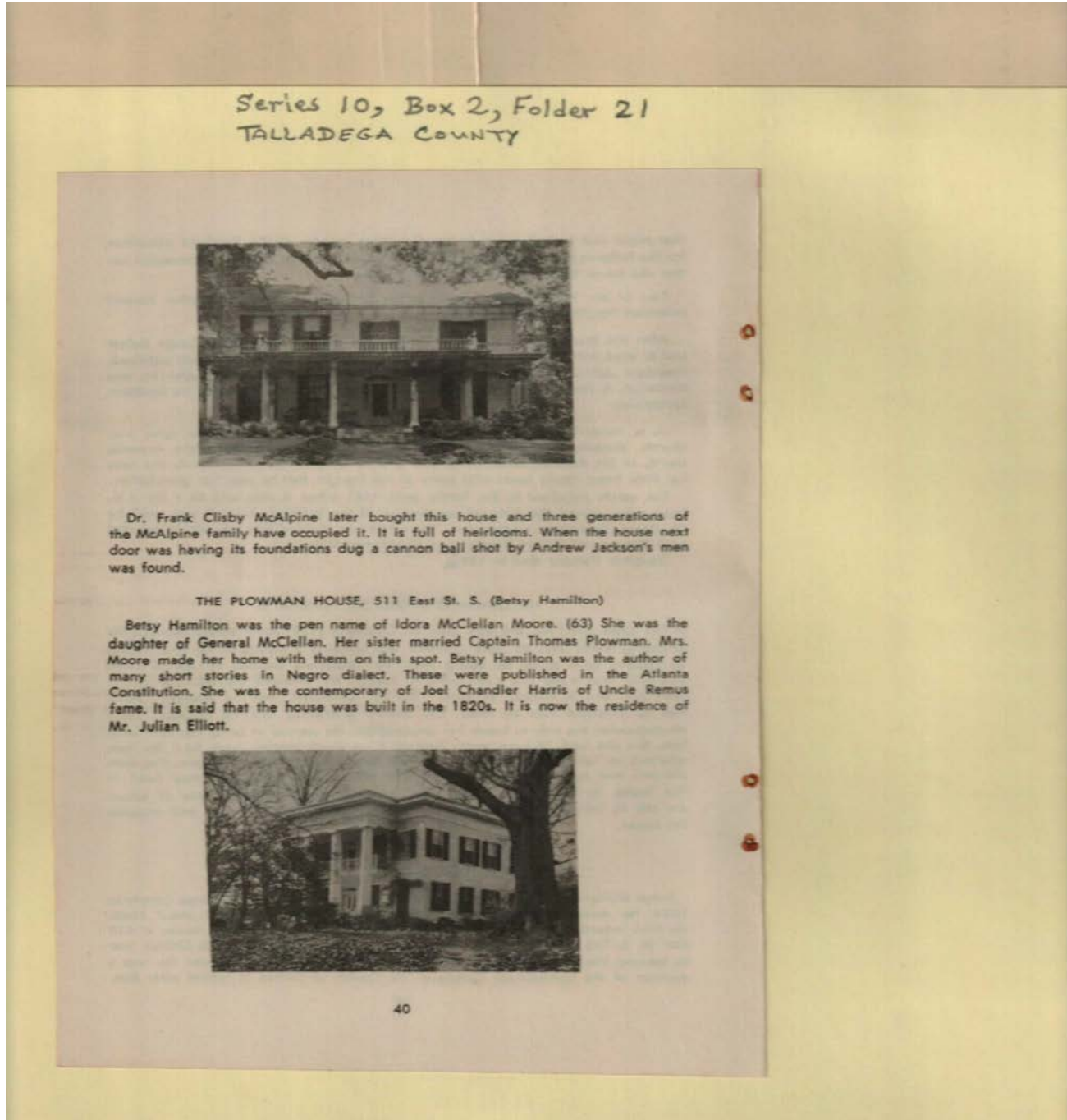
Chilton, William
Parris, Judge
Harrison, Groce, Dr.

Johnson, President
Lewis, J. M.
Morgan, General

Parsons,
Wagon, Dolly, Mrs.
Warwick, Jack

Types:

booklet



Names:

Elliott, Julian
Hamilton, Betsy
Harris, Joel Chandler
Jackson, Andrew

McAlpine House
McAlpine, Frank
Clisby, Dr.
McClellan, general

Moore, Idora
McClellan
Plowman House

Plowman, Thomas,
Captain

Types:

booklet

photograph

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
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THE 1812 MONUMENT (in north east corner of cemetery)

As you drive past the Cemetery down Bradford Street you will pass this monument on your left. It is triangular or shaped like a steep pyramid.

On November 9th, 1813, after the Battle of Talladega, the record tells us that the bodies of seventeen of the Tennessee Volunteers who fell in that battle were interred close to where they fell. This was said to be about 300 yards southwest of Lashley's Fort. This is approximately where the Fort is now being reconstructed. Major James Isbell marked the spot with a stone wall and a roof of pine straw above it.

The bones lay there from 1813 to September 1900. (64) Then it was pointed out that the slag from the International Furnace, as it is now called, was apt to destroy them as it was running in that direction. So the Andrew Jackson Chapter of the D.A.R. disinterred them. Much to their surprise instead of the remains of seventeen men they only found ten skeletons. They had no wrap or coffin or any identifying marks upon them. The uniforms had deteriorated entirely except for the buttons.

At first it was hoped that the National Government would put a monument over them. But when this was given up the local ladies caused the rocks that had originally been placed over them to keep them from being disturbed, to be dressed and built into the present pyramid.

MORGAN HOME, 610 East St. S., (Power's Place)

Born in 1834 John T. Morgan (65) was remarkable as opposing the slave trade. He was a member of the Legislature that passed the Secession Ordinance. He voted for it. He was said to have been second only to Yancey in power of debate. At the outbreak of hostilities he enlisted in the Cahaba Rifles. Later these became Company G of the famous Fifth Alabama Infantry. He was soon promoted to Major and eventually to Brigadier General under Forrest. He took active part in all of Forrest's campaigns, but he should be distinguished from John Hunt Morgan, the Raider, who was also a Brigadier under Forrest. After the War he went to



Names:

Forrest,

Morgan, John Hunt,
General

Morgan, John T.
Power's Place

Types:

booklet

photograph

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
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the U. S. Senate where he was much respected. While in that body he was a great worker for the Panama Canal. The bridge over the Coosa River at Childersburg is named for him. The home is now the property of Mr. J.A. Power.

Like many old houses this one a ghost story (66) attached to it. One feels like recalling with a slight variation the couplet;

"The little old man upon the stair,
The little old man was not there."

It has been mentioned that Morgan was the brother-in-law of Judge Chilton. His wife, "Aunt Mary", is said to have so loved the house that even after death she could not be separated from it. Thus it is claimed that people have often seen her by the fireplace in her rocking chair, rocking and gazing into the fire. When one approaches someone who is said to have seen the apparition he, or she, invariably says "I have never actually seen her myself, but I know that — did see her." But when — is approached he, or she always says it was someone else that saw her. The present owners tell us definitely that they have never heard or seen anything supernatural. But that is the story. There are two explanations for her not appearing. One of these is that Mrs. Power has a picture of her hanging on the wall. The other is that recently her bones were moved from their resting place on Southwood Hill, and deposited in the cemetery. If you are one that believes in ghosts you may take your choice.

Originally the house had its front porch on the north side when there were no other houses close to it there. It is certainly one of the oldest houses in the city. The front porch now faces the street which gives its entrance on the west front. One statement is that it was built in the 1820s.

"WHITWOOD", THE MILLER HOUSE, 115 South Street E. (Whitson's)

This house was a log cabin in 1835. I was built by George Miller. (67) He lived in it for some time, and in it was born George Knox Miller. George Knox was said to have been the first white child born in Talladega. He was first Lieutenant, and then, Captain of the Talladega Troop of Cavalry in the War Between the States.



Names:

, Mary, Aunt
Chilton, Judge
Miller, George

Miller, George Knox
Morgan,
Power, J. A., Mrs.

Whitson,
Whitwood, the Miller
House

Types:

booklet

photograph

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Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Later Mrs. Pinckney Wood, the owner of the property converted it into a beautiful Spanish Colonial building. Four generations of the same family have lived in it. The present owner is Mr. Carson Whitson. Mr. & Mrs. Whitson and his sister, Miss Maria Whitson, occupy it.

"MANNING HALL", 205 South Street E. (Administration Building of Alabama School for Deaf)

This building was erected on a large lot that has since become the campus for the Alabama School for the Deaf. It was sold by Mrs. Jofin Rice to the Masonic Order for a school for girls. This was well before the Civil War. Somehow the Masonic School got into financial difficulties and they sold it to the Methodist Church for a school for that Church.

In about 1850 Dr. Joseph Johnson (68), a physician from Western Georgia, moved here for his health and rented the second floor of this building for his residence. He planned to practice medicine. But in his family was his little deaf brother, Seaborne. Dr. Johnson gradually collected a few other deaf children and in 1858 the Alabama School for the Deaf opened in this building with one class.



During the War the Talladegans were much afraid that their silver and jewelry would be stolen by Northern troops. Thus many of them hid these valuables in bags and hung them in the great white pillars of the front porch of this building. Though the Federals made their headquarters in this very building, they never discovered the valuables.

Names:

Isbell, James, Major

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

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Names:

Isbell, James, Major
Johnson, Joseph, Dr.

Manning Hall
Rice, John, Mrs.

Whitson, Carson, Mr.
& Mrs.

Whitson, Maria, Miss
Wood, Pickney, Mrs.

Types:

booklet

photograph

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After the War the School for the Deaf resumed its activities, and in 1869 the Department for the Blind was added to it. But its story will be told under another heading. In recent years the various buildings of these schools have been named after people prominent in the School's history.

ALABAMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND - 805 Ashland Road

During the Civil War Mr. Reuben Asbury was captured. (69) He was imprisoned in an underground cave near Lake Erie. It is said that he remained in pitch darkness for about three years. Thus he brooded much over the plight of the blind. While there he determined that if he ever escaped he would try to do something for the blind. After the War he approached his brother-in-law, Dr. Johnson, and the two of them, with others, worked with such good effect that in 1869 the Blind School was added to the School for the Deaf. In course of time it was felt that much better results could be obtained if the two schools were separated. So the Blind Department was moved to its present beautiful location.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME - 905 Ashland Road

The Presbyterian Home (70) which today stands on the Ashland Highway as it leaves South Street, was started after the longest Prayer Meeting in Presbyterian Alabama History. It was at the meeting of the Alabama Synod in Selma in November 1864. All present were much concerned about the fate of the many orphans of Confederate soldiers. Led by the Reverend Dr. Small, Pastor of the local church, after a day and a half of prayer, they decided to start the Home. Four months after this, on April 2nd, Dr. Small was killed in the Battle of Selma.



One of the first substantial gifts given for the Home was by the Governor of Alabama, the Hon. Mr. Patton. It so happened that a number of years later the three months old great grandson of the Governor, Robert Miller Hart, and his namesake, was brought to the Home to be reared by it. Robert, now grown to manhood, is a much loved pastor of a Presbyterian church in North Carolina.

The Home was opened with three children at Tuskegee on June 5th, 1868. But after some years of successful operation it was moved to Talladega for health reasons. It now has ten buildings and five hundred acres of land. The program is a long time care for those certified as worthy. The children care for the farm,

Names:

Asbury, Reuben
Hart, Robert Miller

Johnson, Dr.
Patton, Governor

Presbyterian Home
Small, Dr., Rev.

Types:

booklet

photograph

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the laundry, the dairy and the kitchen. Children are not allowed to be adopted from it. It has never closed, save for vacations, and its children participate in the public schools and are valued members of the community. They come from all parts of the state, and from all denominations. Many have had a most sketchy religious background before coming. But they receive the best of care.

NEGRO SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, Chaffee and McMillan Streets

In 1892 the idea of popular education for the masses reached to handicapped Negroes, and a Department for the Negroes Deaf and Blind was added to the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. The location was selected and buildings of wood were erected. In 1947 these original buildings were found to be inadequate. The wooden buildings were torn down and the present handsome and up - to - date buildings were erected for the Blind, and the School for the Deaf was started. In 1948 the Deaf moved into their new buildings on Fort Lashley Avenue.

IN TALLADEGA COLLEGE
SWAYNE HALL,

Before the War between the States the Baptists built this building for a "College for Boys", though apparently it did not go beyond high school grades. (71) This was in line with the Presbyterians and Episcopalians each having schools. To it came many of the boys of Talladega as it was well before the days of the public schools.

During the war it was used as a prison by the Confederates and many a Federal soldier languished there



After the war it was sold in 1867 to the American Missionary Association. This organization was later to become an entirely Congregational concern, but at that time it was interdenominational. At one time the A.M.A. had five hundred schools and more, for Negroes, under its wing. Most of these, however, have now either closed or been turned over to school districts or other organizations. It now has only six of college grade under it.

Names:

Swayne Hall

Types:

photograph

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Gradually Talladega College for Negroes was built around it. Today it serves as the Administration Building and for class rooms. From its beginning it has been dedicated to the cause of integration and has usually around three hundred students.

RONALD'S TAVERN SITE, W. Battle & West Street

Thomas Ronald opened a tavern in (72) the early days on the spot now occupied by the Talladega Cotton Factory. (A rival was kept by Larndy and Lovel on the spot across Battle Street from it).

These were double log cabins with a wide hall. This hall was the dining room. There is a tradition that these taverns leaked dreadfully. The boarders had to hoist umbrellas over themselves when they went to bed at night. Those unfortunate enough not to have an umbrella had to crawl under the bed to sleep in rainy weather.

But with all these disadvantages they had a real jolly time, especially at night-sitting by big log fires, swapping travelers' yarns, relating hairbreadth escapes from Murrell and his gang of land pirates that infested the country and had relieved many a traveler of money on his way to the Creek Nation. Usually in the corner was a man scraping away on an old red fiddle. The tavern was club room, town hall and general meeting place. But outside what a contrast! Owls hooted in the trees, whippoorwills chanted their doleful dirges and an army of frogs, inhabiting the Spring Branch doing their level best to outcroak each other. Added to the dismal sounds was the yell of a savage skulking around, and for all they knew mediating an attack.

But the poor women had no such resources as the men had. They suffered terribly with loneliness and homesickness, and lived in continual dread and terror. What Spartans they were not to grow beside themselves amid such surroundings. (Copied from M.L.M. Taylor)

THE BIG SPRING (On Spring Street just off Battle)

Those who view this Spring today must go behind some little buildings to the enclosure that keeps children and animals from falling into it. But in 1834 J.L.M. Curry tells us in his Reminiscences, in the Alabama Baptist, that it was "in the midst of a beautiful grove of oak that in point of beauty had no rival."

It is thought that the presence of this beautiful Spring was the reason that Talladega was first selected as a trading place by the Indians. (71) It was included in the original land grant to Jacob Bruner. It is said that the original settlers built their houses as close to it as possible. For many years it was the only water supply for the city. In the Skagg period the water system was decidedly enlarged. Around World War II many people became mysteriously ill with typhoid. Careful investigation showed that the Spring had become contaminated. Thus an entirely new water system was arranged for. It is said that there are a number of springs with underground connection so that a cork dropped in one would soon appear in another.

Names:

Bruner, Jacob
Curry, J. L. M.

Larndy,
Lovel,

Murrell,
Ronald, Thomas

Taylor, M. L. M.

Types:

booklet

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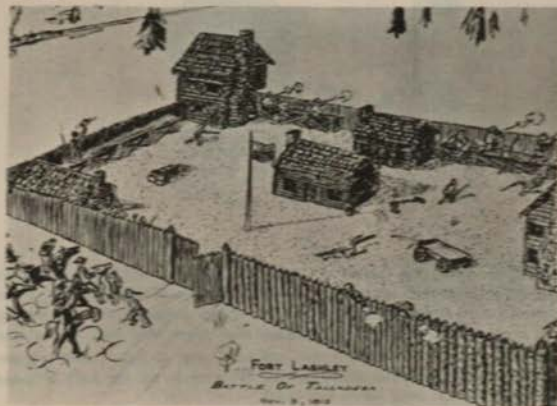
INTERNATIONAL FURNACE (Sign for this is on Fort Lashley Avenue but ruins of Furnace are reached by a road on left just past the Mattress Factory.)

Just as one leaves the city, if he looks to the left he will see the "Furnace Quarters", a group of Negro cabins rather close together. A little further on he will come to the sign that states "Talladega Furnace (1889-1930) "The International Furnace" built by a British Group in 1889, run by Americans during the Spanish American War, Japan bought it in World War I and made iron until the Armistice. First furnace to ship low phosphorus iron to North. Dismantled for scrap in 1930."

Old Fort Lashley was originally built on this site. But its reconstruction is taking place about fifty yards farther west.

FORT LASHLEY, just off of Fort Lashley Avenue, opposite Negro Deaf School.

Fort Lashley, or Fort Leslie, is one of, if not the main historical point of interest in the county. Especially is this the case since it is now being rebuilt. Inasmuch as it is called by the two names a word of explanation is necessary. Some time just before the American Revolution a man by the name of Alexander Leslie came to America and found employment with the firm that was later to be known as the Panton and Leslie Trading Company. This kinsman of Alexander's was most ardently loyal to the crown during the Revolution and was exiled from South Carolina and Georgia because of it. Young Alexander went with him and eventually became the secretary of Alexander McGillivary (72), who was at that time the great leader of the Creeks.



Before the Revolution, however, Alexander came through this section and married an Indian woman. Their son was undoubtedly known at first as Alexander (73)

Names:

Fort Lashley
Fort Leslie

Leslie, Alexander

McGillivary,
Alexander

Panton,

Types:

booklet

drawing

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Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

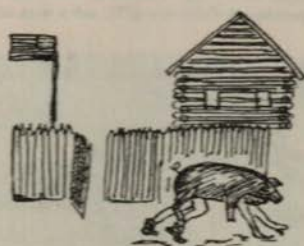
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Leslie, Junior. But as time went on, either because the Scotch pronunciation sounded like Lashley, or for some other reason the name was both pronounced and spelled Lashley. Certainly in the time of Andrew Jackson, though his spelling varied, it was so called. Thus in future we will call the son Lashley. Though the father had a good education the son did not seem to have been so fortunate.

Lashley was pro-American as his father was pro-British, and when the news of the Massacre at Fort Mims arrived, he determined he would not be caught napping, and, calling on his friends Selocta Chinnabee and Jim Fite, started the construction of Fort Lashley. We thus presume that each of them would have constructed his own house in the Fort.

The fort was completed on November 6th, 1813. But on November 7th it was surrounded by 1080 Red Sticks. This appears to have been the mobilization for which Jackson had been looking. It was demanded that those in the Fort come out and join Bill Scott (74), the leader of the hostiles, in his march against "Captain Jack", as the General was called. In order to gain time they agreed to do this but asked for three days in which to grind corn for the war party. The Red Sticks wanted to come in but Lashley replied that there was no room for them. Scott agreed but said that when the three days were up that unless they came out he would attack.



Pickett, the great Alabama historian, tells us that they sent a messenger dressed in a pig skin as a disguise. This, as we have explained we believe to have been the well-known scout, Selocta Chinnabee, crawling beyond the besieging line he got away and reached Jackson's Fort Strother that night. He was taken immediately to Jackson by the guard. This guard we are told was a Sgt. Camp whose nephew tells us that he felt they would soon be on the march so he sent a messenger to prepare the horses which had been hobbled.

Starting within the hour, Jackson had his men march until the small hours of the 9th. They had then reached the Jemison Place about six miles from Talladega.

Names:

Camp, Sgt.

Chinnabee, Selocta

Fite, Jim

Jack, Captain

Jackson, Andrew

Leslie, Alexander, Jr.

Pickett,

Scott, Bill (Indian

Chief)

Types:

booklet

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A reconnaissance patrol was sent out to investigate while the troops, about twenty-five hundred of them, got a bit of well-earned rest.

When the scouts reported, Jackson had the army on the march immediately. (75) The tradition is that they came into what is now Talladega along what is now Johnson Street to North Street. There they made a right turn. The leading infantry marched down North Street to about where the Negro Deaf School now is. His second division had its center where the Post Office now stands, and the third division had its center at about Johnson and North. Cavalry were on both flanks and their orders were that when the firing began they were to circle the enemy and drive them towards the Infantry.

David Crockett, who was in the battle (76), tells us that the 80 scouts who were sent forward under Major Russell to start the battle saw the friendly Indians "on top of the fort, calling out "Howdy-do, brother, Howdy-do, Brother"." We consider that this meant that they were on the fighting platforms looking over the palisades. They were also making gestures. As they were passing the fort looking for the enemy two men jumped down and grasped the Major's bridle, pointing ahead. Then the Red Sticks displayed themselves firing their guns and arrows. The Americans jumped off their horses and ran into the fort. The horses ran up what is now Fort Lashley Avenue and Battle Street with the enemy in hot pursuit. Now the Infantry came over the hill. The enemy tried to retreat, but found their rear was being pressed by the Cavalry. They then tried their right but found the Americans were encircling them. Eventually they had a group of Jackson's militia retreat. He brought others in from their left to strengthen the line thus opening a hole through which seven hundred of the Red Sticks escaped. Later we are told that three hundred of these died of their wounds.

Jackson never made the mistake of underestimating the strength of his enemy and always paid the Indians the compliment of not attacking unless he had double their number. Some have claimed that Jackson was a bloodthirsty Indian hunter who attacked and killed whenever possible. But when we remember that the enemy in this case with more than three times the number in the Fort were planning to massacre them, Jackson's attack can hardly be called unprovoked.

Though not the last of the campaign this was its first great victory. Jackson now returned to Fort Strother. The end of the Campaign was the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend in the following March. It broke the power of the Muskogees and made possible the eventual settling of this section of Alabama by the whites.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF FORT LASHLEY

When it was decided to reconstruct Fort Lashley careful search was made for either a plan or picture of the old Fort that could be considered authentic. Lacking either of these we gleaned from the word picture of David Crockett that it was enclosed "by a branch that ran partly around the fort" and had fighting platforms around the inside of the palisades that formed its fortifications. Also as to size it was large enough to contain 300 people, 180 of whom were warriors. This we felt required a space 200' x 100'. Then as to buildings we are told by Jackson

Names:

Crockett, David

Jackson, Andrew

Russell, Major

Types:

booklet

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on several occasions of three chiefs that hailed from it. These were Lashley, Selocta Chinnabee, and Jim Fite. So we estimate that each of them would have built a house there. A trader well enough off to build a fort would have had a separate trading post so we felt it would be in a different building. Also all forts of that time had block houses that were at least two stories high, and which were used as lookouts and as barracks. Thus we felt that five buildings should be in it. For their architecture many old forts reconstructed from existing plans were examined and a party of men journeyed especially to Fort Nashborough to study it.



The family of Mr. Leonard Goldberg, of Sylacauga, gave us the land. The Coosa River Newsprint Company built the first of the buildings, the blockhouse. It is now used as the first unit of our museum. Miss Bertha McElderry interested the Daughters of the War of 1812 and in their name had the old Horn House, built in the 1830s, taken down and its erection was begun on our location. Next the Trading Post was undertaken and has been completed. As soon as show cases can be secured it will be in use as a museum.

Many exhibits have been contributed showing Indian and Pioneer Life. Also two Indian skeletons have been transported from a village near Sylacauga in the earth they were buried in and are in show cases.

NEGRO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, On Fort Lashley Avenue

In 1948 the present beautiful campus was set aside for the School for the Negro Deaf, and the handsome brick buildings were erected. These are modern in every respect and the community is quite proud of them. At the entrance to Talladega from the south west its grounds are being beautified and will soon be as decorative as are its buildings.

The central building of the group is the Administrative Building. It also has classrooms in it. On each side are dormitories, one for boys and one for girls. To the right of the Administration Building is the residence of the principal built by the boys of the two schools. Behind these are other dormitories and workshops.

Names:

Chinnabee, Selocta
Fite, Jim

Goldberg, Leonard
Lashley,

McElderry, Bertha,
Miss

Types:

booklet

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Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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CHAPTER VI

THE STEMLEY BRIDGE ROAD

When we leave Talladega on the Road to Lincoln and go about four miles we come to a paved road going to the left. This is the Stemley Bridge Road. It leads to the Coosa over which there is a narrow bridge and a dirt road from it to the paved road between Pell City and Harpersville. Inasmuch as not many people like to go on unpaved roads this road is not used as much as other through roads.

Several miles on it one comes to another paved road that leads at right angles to the left. That marks the center of what is known as Howell's Cove. Here was

THE STARTING POINT FOR THE MARCH OF TEARS

On December 18th, 1832, the United States signed the treaty of Cusseta with the Creek and other nations in Alabama and Tennessee. This was much like what used to be called the Pax Romana which was the more powerful nation imposing its will on the smaller. By it the Indians were to give up their homeland and be deported to other lands in Oklahoma. It was 1836 before the Indians were actually deported and then they were they were assembled at this spot, among others, to await their journey.

On August 6th a group of Muskogees (77) had been gathered from Randolph, Calhoun and Talladega Counties in a field about a mile from this junction. They included also 400 who had been captured by troops in Tennessee. The total amounted to 1170. They had a guard of about a third their number. A Lt. Edward Deas was in charge and had an armed guard over them at all times.

On August 6th Lt. Deas conducted his charges to Gunter's Landing, (Guntersville). There they were joined by two thousand more on September 18th. Lt. Deas now returned to Talladega while his original group with their increased number went on to Memphis. Here he found another 2320 whom he conducted over the same route and on to Memphis where they joined the first party on October 25th.

Bad weather began in November. Roads were terrible. Sleet and snow fell on the poor Indians who were inadequately clothed. Many had no shoes. Their suffering was terrible. Food was scarce in many districts, and the Alabama Emigration Company, who were responsible for providing food and water, were often derelict in their duty. With no comforts at all most of them walked all the way. They averaged about twelve miles a day.

After about 96 days of travel they arrived in the Indian territory. They were tired and sick. "Poor, wretchedly and depravedly poor, many of them without a garment to cover their nakedness, they expended what little money they had for intoxicating drinks or some gaudy article of jewelry." The journey was well named the "Trail of Tears", as well as the "March of the Broken Spirited".

Names:

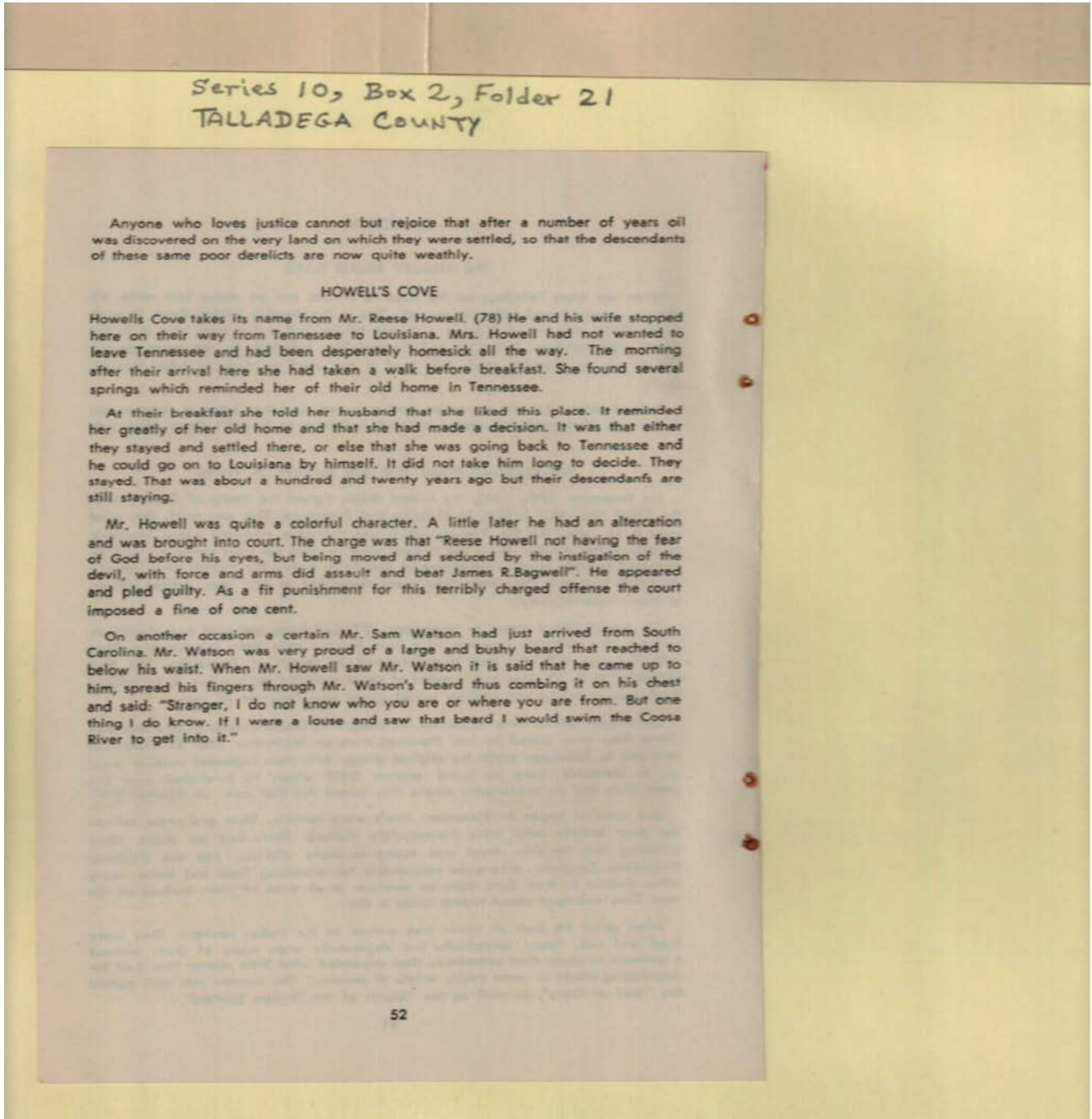
Deas, Edward, Lt.

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

Bagwell, James R.

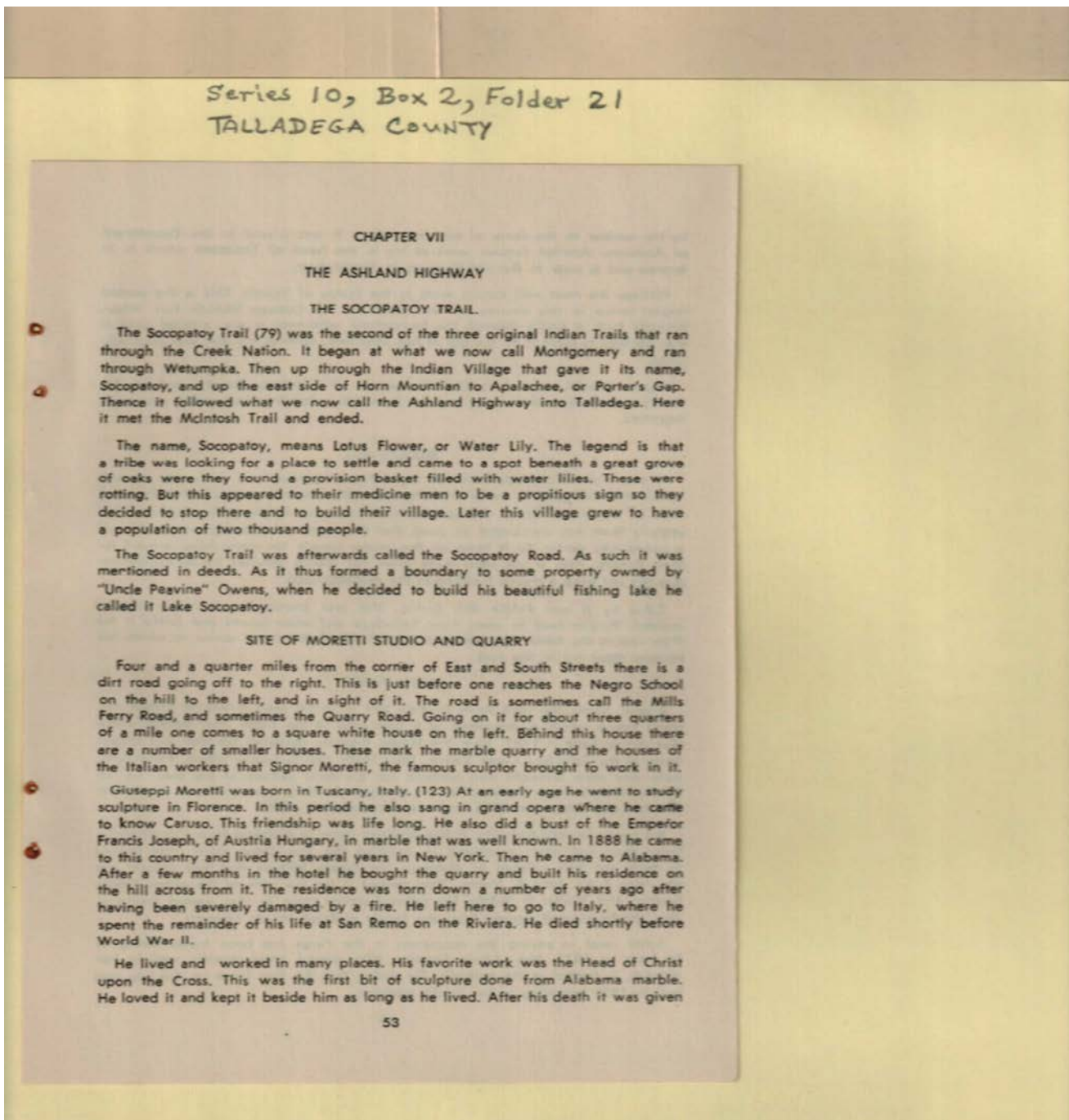
Howell, Mrs.

Howell, Reese

Watson, Sam

Types:

booklet



Names:

Caruso,

Joseph, Francis,

Moretti, Giuseppi

Emperor

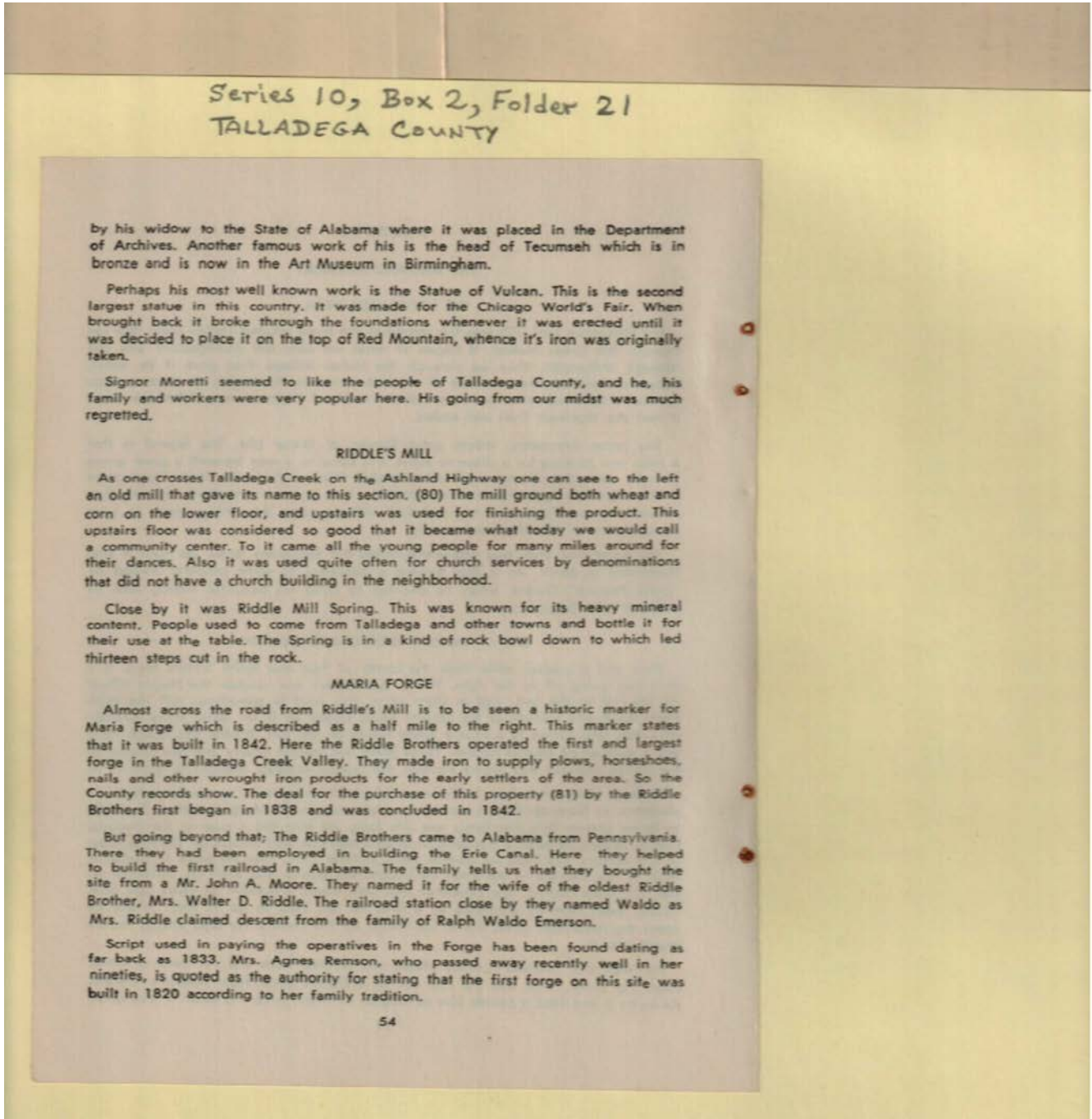
Moretti, Signor

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

Emerson, Ralph
Waldo
Moore, John A.

Moretti, Signor
Remson, Agnes, Mrs.
Riddle,

Riddle, Walter D.,
Mrs.

Tecumseh (Indian
Chief)

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

The original forge was run by water power from Talladega Creek. The dam for this was ten feet high. The wheel was eight feet in height and eight feet in width. It operated a five hundred pound hammer that was twelve feet long. This was the beginning of industry in the County.

From such small beginnings our County grew steadily. As has been before stated the County was formed in the early thirties. Thus the first census figures were in 1840, and were slightly over 12,000. By 1860 the population had gone above 25,000. By 1890 it was 35,000 and by 1950 it had gone over 68,000.

To bring this about our almost unbounded water supply and our fertile fields contributed from the first. Today our 2983 farms with a value of ten million dollars exclusive of crops, live stock, poultry and turkeys tell of this growth. But along with this agricultural wealth our industries have kept pace. There is a wide diversification of these. Some of them employ up to a thousand people. Manufacturing concerns of almost every type have found advantageous locations here. The Bemis-to Bag Co., with one of the most modern villages in the South, two other cotton, and one worsted mill, the Goodall Co., home of Palm Beach suits, an oil-mill, a dedhydrating plant, foundries, cotton gins, a mattress factory and many other manufacturers of various products are to be found in the County seat.

Then at Childersburg many new industries are in operation employing several thousand people. The Coosa River Newsprint Mill, the South's biggest development is a thirty million dollar Paper Mill. The Beaunit Mills, a rayon plant, has completed another new plant thus doubling its capacity.

At Sylacauga the Avondale Mills have located three of its mills, and at Sycamore is another. Then at Sylacauga there is a similar list of industries about equal to those in the County seat. In other places are foundries such as at Lincoln and at Munford.

THE MAY VIRGINIA GOLD MINE SITE

A quarter mile from the covered bridge at Riddle's Mill was the May Virginia Gold Mine. Its location was described as between Monk's Run and Garden Branch. It was the center of several gold mines. Seventy years ago (82) there was a hotel in operation here that cared for a hundred miners who worked in these gold mines. The cook for the hotel was an exslave "Aunt Martha" Riddle. She used to claim that she was sold on the block at Mardisville. Her son, "Uncle Jack" Riddle, up to about a year ago used to still live in the neighborhood. Then he passed away, well beyond the century mark. In his will he stipulated that he wanted some of his white friends to be his pallbearers. A number of the most prominent citizens of the town thus did the last honors for their old friend.

Some gold dust from the mine, and several articles used in the mining are owned by Mrs. Woodfin Owens.

Names:

Owens, Woodfin,
Mrs.

Riddle, Jack, Uncle
Riddle, Martha, Aunt

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

THE ACADEMY SITE

Close by the May Virginia Gold Mine is what is known as "Old Academy Site". (83) When Alabama became a state it specified that certain lands should be used for schools. Thus on this site a school was built. For many years it was taught by Mrs. W.D. Riddle, the daughter of the Rev. J.F. Smith, the much beloved Rector of the Episcopal Church in Talladega.

NINE MILE HILL

Just nine miles from Talladega there is a hill topped by a large oak tree that is known as Nine Mile Hill. Beneath this tree and in its neighborhood there used to be a camping ground for wagons passing through. (84) It might have thus been called a Trailer Camp of the vintage of the 1840s.

In 1847 a certain Mr. Thomas Warwick and his wife, Keziah, were enroute from Coventry, England, to Virginia. They had first planned to settle in Mobile but did not care for the climate there. So they started by wagon for Virginia. One night they stopped at Nine Mile Hill Camp and Mrs. Warwick had the misfortune to break her ankle. This, of course, necessitated their stopping over for a few days, or weeks.

The longer they stayed the more they fell in love with Alabama's mountains. The result was that on September 28th, 1847, there appeared a notice in the Talladega paper that Mr. Thomas Warwick, watchmaker and jeweler, formerly of Coventry, England, was opening his place of business on the north side of the public square.

Not only did the couple spend the rest of their days in our midst but the ensuing hundred and ten years have not been long enough to prize their family away from this section for they are still represented here.

APALACHEE, or PORTER'S GAP

About ten and a half miles from Talladega there is a paved road that branches to the right to Marketville. It is at the top of a hill and marks what used to be known as Apalachee Gap. Later the name was changed to Porter's Gap for a family that moved into the neighborhood. "Uncle Jack" Riddle, of whom mention has already been made, used to say that all the early settlers used to say that they could prophesy what the weather was going to be from the way that the wind blew through Apalachee Gap. (85) Whether this is correct or not we are told that today quite often on one side of the mountain it will often be covered with snow or sleet while on the other it is balmy and springlike.

HORN MOUNTAIN TOWER

Between the paved road from Porter's Gap, and the Ashland Highway clinging close to the mountain is a dirt road that is not particularly smooth. It leads up to Horn Mountain Tower. Though a bit rough it is always passable and those who wish

Names:

Riddle, Jack, Uncle
Riddle, W. D., Mrs.

Smith, J. E., Rev.
Warwick, Keziah

Warwick, Thomas

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

a view can well take it for about four miles to the Tower. First on one side of the mountain top and then on the other it winds along until the Tower is reached. There a picnic ground is located beneath the Tower and a gorgeous view in every direction can be seen. Though not as high as at Cheaha the mountain is steeper and many consider the view superior. But take your lunch as there are no concessionaires, and you will have to go back to the foot of the mountain if you have not brought your own food.

CHANDLER'S SPRINGS

In Van Buren's administration (1837-41) a Mr. Chandler (86) came to this spot which is quite close to the Highway. He built his own house at a spot where there were three springs. One of these was freestone, but the others were heavily impregnated with minerals. Soon the word of the beauty of the spot got around and visitors came with such frequency that he built a hotel that managed to be filled for many years. Others came and built cottages in the neighborhood. People came from greater and greater distances. Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia contributed these visitors. For many years it was one of the popular watering places of the state. But it has gone down so that only one or two houses are there now and only one of the springs is now in use.

CLAIRMONT SPRINGS.

Though a little over the County Line of Clay County so many people from Talladega and other places in the state patronize Clairmont Springs that it must be included in any sketch of Talladega County.

The marker for Clairmont Springs is about two miles from the Talladega - Clay County line. The springs are about seven miles by paved road from the marker. Before 1832 an Indian village (87) was on this spot. Their shop for making arrow-heads and pottery was only a few hundred yards from the hotel site. There are three caves on the property. One of these is 40' x 60' dug out from under a rock bluff. The other two are so small that one must crawl to get into them. There was also a copper mine on the property.

In 1832 the Springs were ceded by the Creek Nation to the United States. Shortly after this the father of Senator (and General) John T. Morgan "squatted" on this site. (settled on it without title to it). The future Senator spent his boyhood here and moved from here to Talladega to study law in his brother-in-law's office. The brother-in-law was Wm. P. Chilton, who was later to become Chief Justice of Alabama. On August 16, 1841, Mr. Chilton bought the property from the Government. A little later Morgan secured it. In 1873 he sold it to Wm. Jenkins and Taul Bradford. It then passed through the hands of three land companies, being known as Jenkins Springs. The third of these developed it. They built the present 50 room Hotel there in place of the much smaller hotel. They also sold cabins. Before this time many used to come and camp, pitching tents near the Springs. In 1909 the present owners, the Dwight Jacksons, opened the Hotel.

Names:

Bradford, Taul
Chandler,
Chilton, William P.

Jackson, Dwight
Jenkins, William

Morgan, John T.,
General
Van Buren,

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

Miss Carrie Haralson, of Erin, tells of how, before the Jacksons came, she visited the Springs. At that time the log hut the Morgans had lived in (88) was still standing. She used to take long walks in the woods. On one of these she found a pyramid of round rocks piled as if to be a boundary mark. Near it was a large poplar tree with some figures carved on it. One of these was of a bird and



another of an arrow. Both of these were flying in the same direction. She made careful inquiry but no one was able to tell her anything about it or them.

A year or so later she had an Indian working for her. She told him of her discovery. He told her that had she counted the rocks on the ground layer it would have told her the number of paces to go in the direction the bird and the arrow were flying, and had she gone to the spot indicated she would have found a treasure in gold the Indians had buried before they went west. He said also that for many years the Indians in the hope of returning had sent men back to be sure that this was not disturbed.

Miss Haralson, of course decided to look up these markers as she had a pretty good idea of how to locate them. But when she went back she found that lumbermen had come through and cut down all of the large trees and that they had scattered the rocks.

Names:

Haralson, Carrie,
Miss

Jackson,
Morgan,

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

CHAPTER VIII

THE SYLACAUGA ROAD

THE LEGEND OF THE SLEEPING GIANT

As you go west on Battle Street you will see in front of you the Sleeping Giant Mountain. Of it the following legend is told:

It is said that many years ago there lived in this region a great Chief whose name was Choccolocco. (89) (A creek now bears his name as does a little town in the vicinity of Anniston). He had a beautiful daughter whose name was Talladega. As the maiden grew to womanhood many suitors came from far and near. But, though his councilors urged her father to insist that she make her choice, he would not unduly urge her. He said that she might choose her own mate. One day there appeared a young brave who said his name was Coosa. Though handsome and attractive, he seemed to have no wealth and to be smaller in size than met the approval of the councilors. The maiden, on her first sight of him, made up her mind that he was her choice. The councilors objected, saying he was too small. Coosa said he had been told that some day he would be greater in size than any man now living. He therefore asked for three days in which to search for a calumet with which to convince them. His request was granted and he disappeared. When the three days had gone Talladega went to search for him. In the woods she found him asleep with a magic sleep. She strove to wake him but without success.

Already his body had grown greatly, and as she gazed at him he continued to grow. This she said was proof that he was alive. She refused to leave him. When they tried to drag her away from his side, she plunged a dagger into his heart. So they buried her by his side. Coosa continued to grow until his body became the size of a great mountain. Everyone that passed by picked up a handful of earth and in token of respect threw it upon the bodies of the lovers, for Talladega was now called the "Bride of the Mountain". The tribe was especially regretful when they heard that he was the son of the great Coosa and that it had indeed been the promise of a medicine man that he should be taller than any man alive. And, so goes the tale, when the need of his people is very great, the Sleeping Giant will rise from his sleep, awaken his bride with a kiss, and the two of them will go forth in great power to reign over the realm of the Coosa land, conquering the enemies of his people and rewarding all who have done them good.

MIDDLE TOWN

In 1834 there were three towns in this section of approximately the same size. (90) They were Talladega, Middle Town and Mardisville. Of the three Mardisville was slightly the larger. Talladega came next. When the first land office was made it was set up at Mardisville. When it was determined that a county of Talladega was to be formed each of these was anxious to get it. Middletown had received its name because it was midway between the other two. It was on the south side

Names:

Choccolocco (Indian
Chief)

Coosa (Indian)
Talladega (Indian)

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

of Talladega Creek near where Thornhill now stands. It had several stores and a hotel.

When the voting came it is said that Talladega won the election by promising to move the entire population of Middle Town to Talladega and to help them build homes without charge if they would cast their vote for Talladega. As Mardisville had not heard of this in time to issue a counter proposition, or maybe they thought the Middle Towners would not trust the Talladegans, they did nothing. At any rate when Talladega was selected Middle Town was abandoned and all its people moved to Talladega thus making it the largest town in the County.

THORNHILL, The Lee Place

Just after one crosses Talladega Creek, two miles south of Talladega one sees to the right the beautiful home of Mr. Scears Lee, Thornhill. This is the first of four of the seven old homes of this section of the County. Three of these were destroyed many years ago so that they are but memories.

It was built by a sturdy Scotsman, John T. Hardie, (91) and named for his home in faraway Kinrossshire. He left Scotland as a young man and in twenty years had made his fortune owning 1700 acres of land and fifty slaves. In writing to his brothers he told them the slaves here were better cared for than the poor people of Scotland. He built Thornhill about 1834 or 1835, but lived a comparatively short time after coming to Alabama. Mrs. Hardie reared a large family of seven sons and two daughters. Six of the sons served in the Confederate Army. All were wounded or imprisoned, but none were killed.

One of the daughters married J.M. Lewis. He bought the place, built stables and a mile race track, to train and raise blooded horses. The place was in their hands until her death in 1880. It changed hands several times until the early 1900s. Then Mr. T. L. Welch, the father of Mrs. Scears Lee, bought it.

A number of books in recent years have been written that depict Alabama before the Civil War as having been the wildest type of frontier, more or less like the wild West of the movies today. We know of no better refutation of this charge than to invite those who make it to visit such a home as Thornhill. Such building was not done by people of no culture.

MARDISVILLE

This community was originally called Jumper's Spring for a white man that settled near here. Nothing more is known of him more than his name.

Here, however, in the early days lived Foshatchee Fixco (92), according to M.L.M. Taylor who wrote his recollections a number of years ago. Fixco was chief of the Talladega Tribe. On May 27th, 1833, he appointed a friend, Ansel Sawyer, with power of attorney. The Indians in the days that were coming needed a real friend. We hope Mr. Sawyer treated him well.

60

Names:

Fixco, Foshatchee
(Indian Chief)

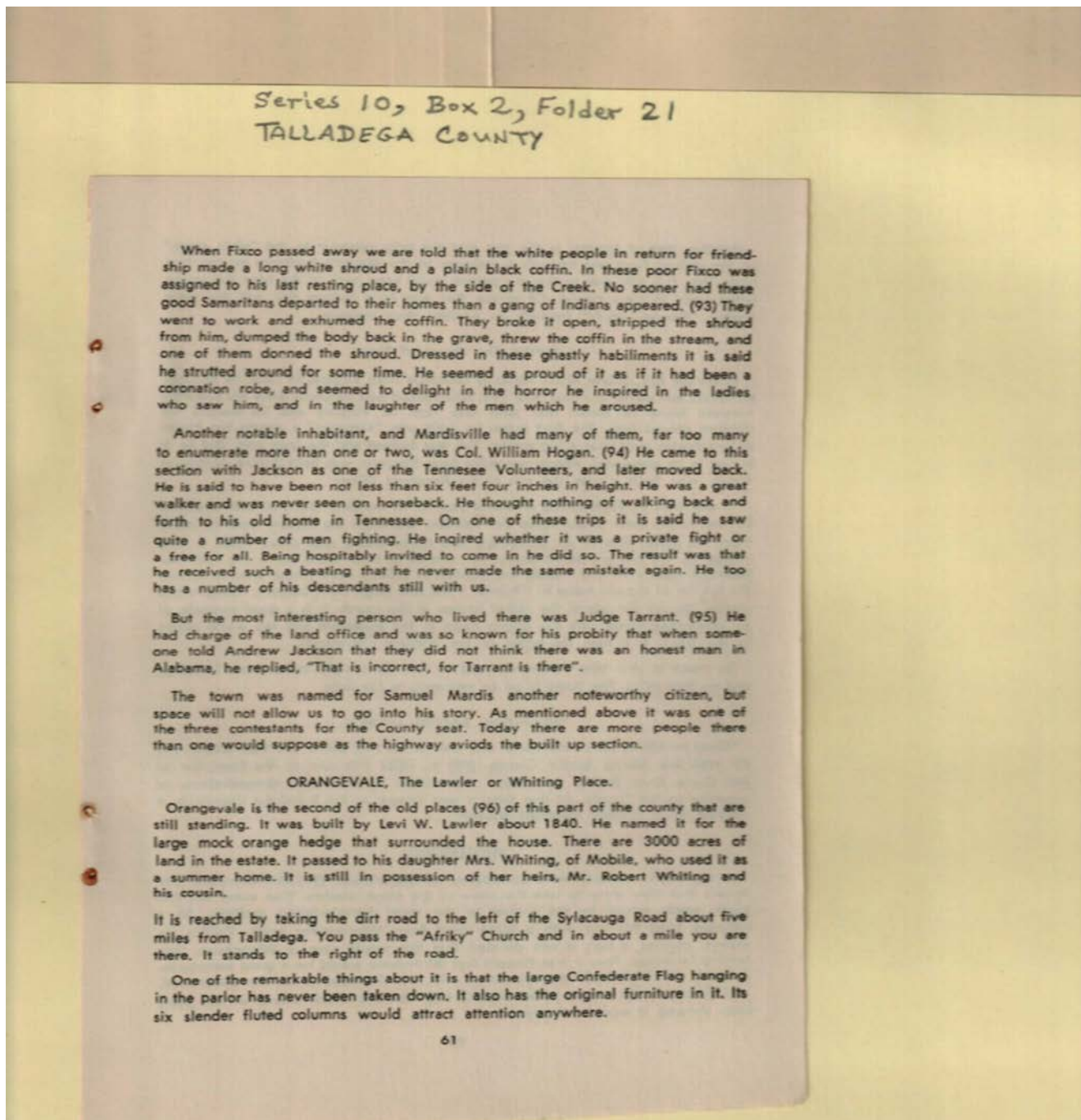
Hardie, John T.
Lee, Scears

Lewis, J. M.
Sawyer, Ansel

Taylor, M. L. M.
Welch, T. L.

Types:

booklet



Names:

Fixco, Foshatchee
(Indian Chief)

Hogan, William,
Colonel
Jackson, Andrew

Lawler, Levi W.
Mardis, Samuel
Tarrant, Judge

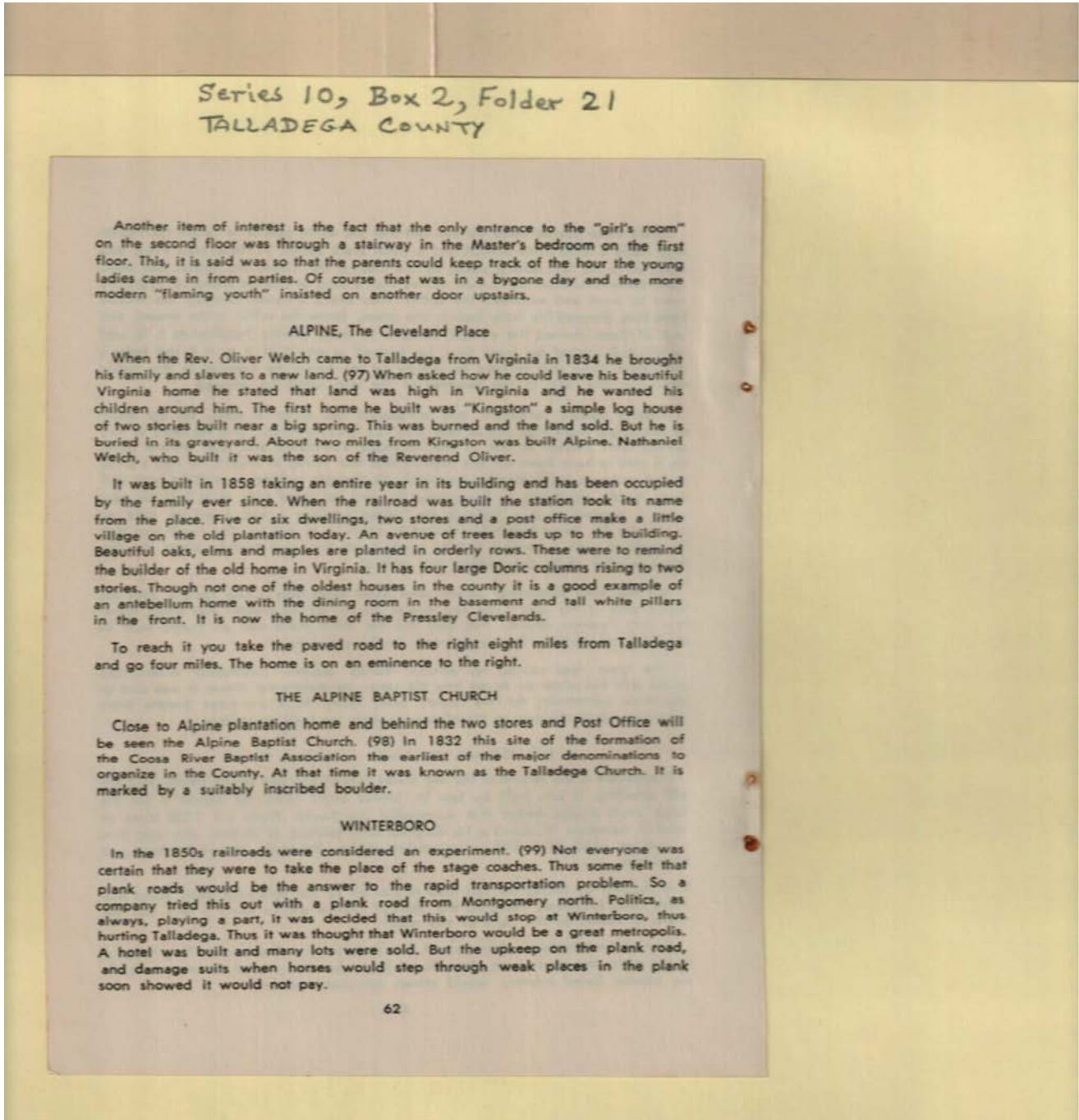
Whiting, Mrs.
Whiting, Robert

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

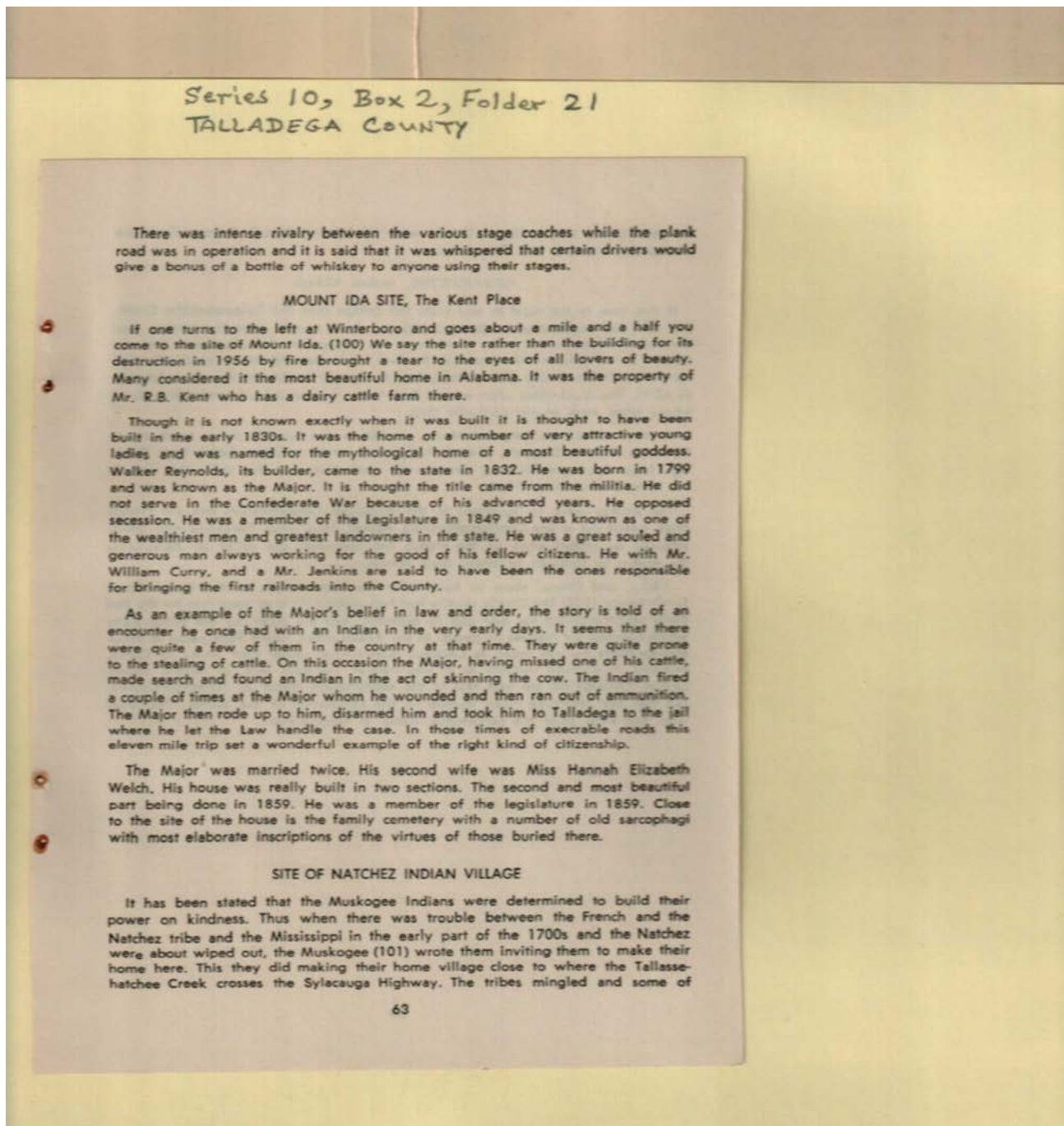
Cleveland, Pressley

Welch, Nathaniel

Welch, Oliver, Rev.

Types:

booklet



Names:

Curry, William
Jenkins,

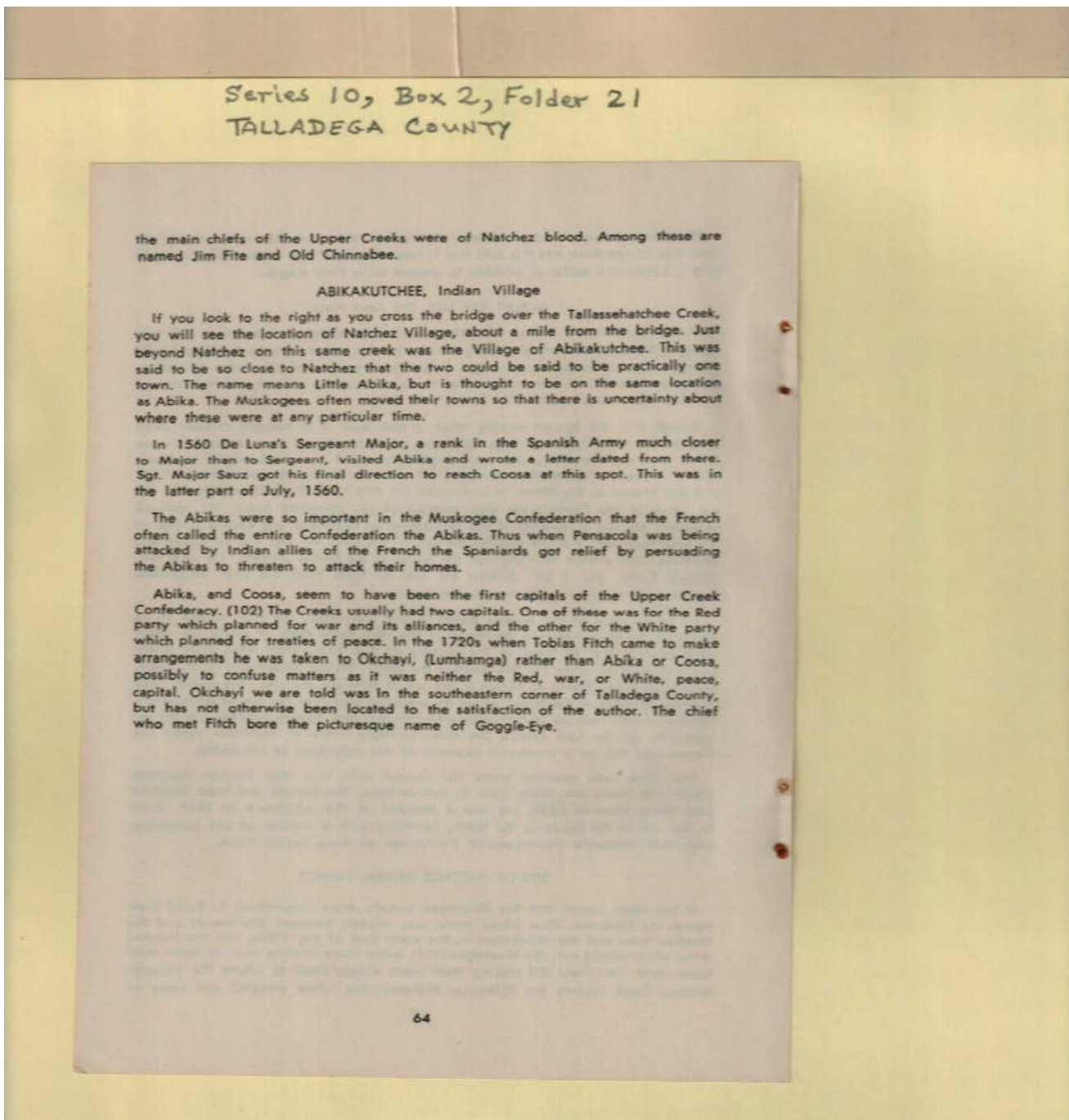
Kent, R. B.

Reynolds, Walker,
Major

Welch, Hannah
Elizabeth, Miss

Types:

booklet



Names:

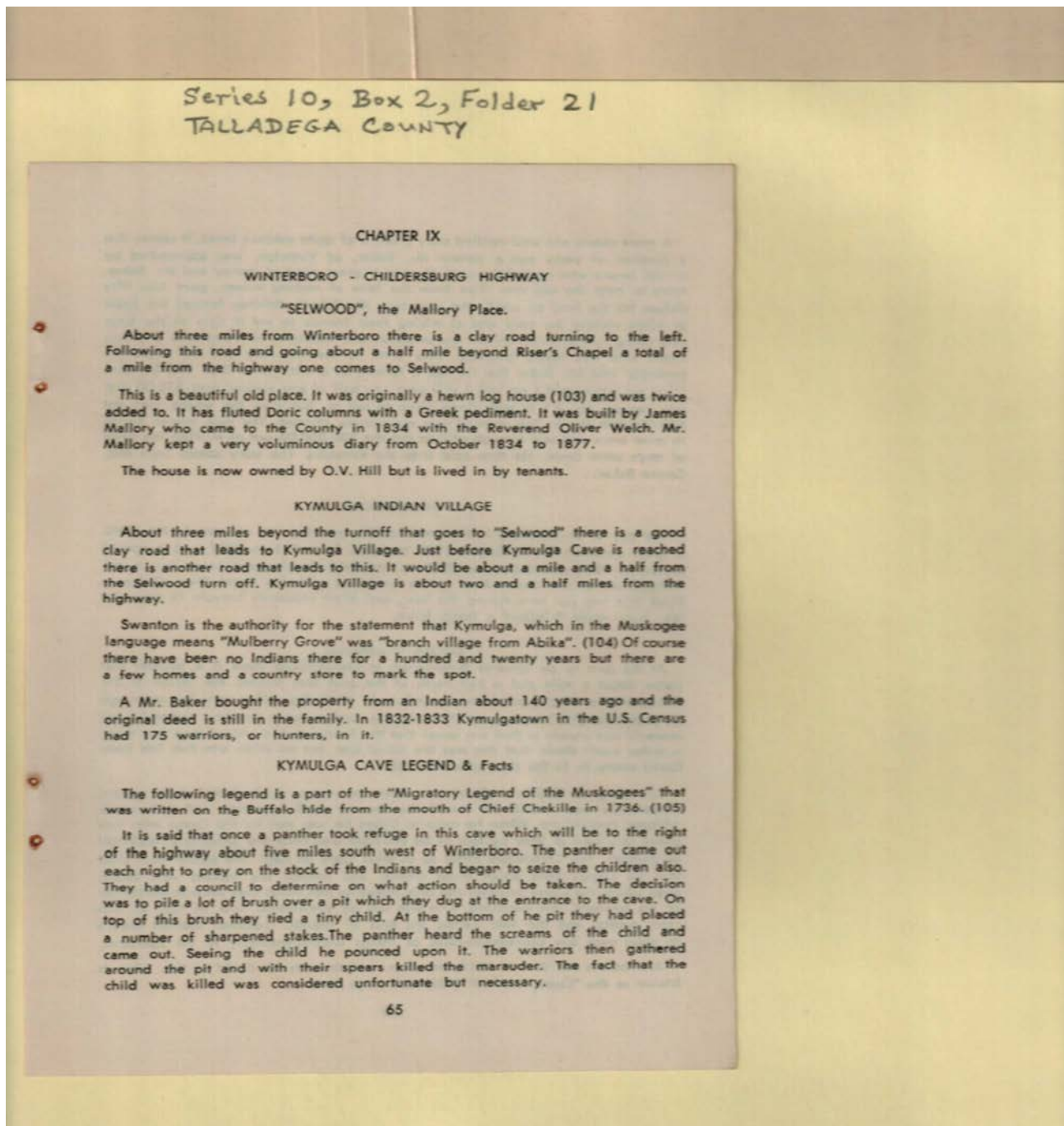
Chinnabee, Old
(Indian Chief)
De Luna

Fitch, Tobias
Fite, Jim (Indian
Chief)

Goggle-Eye (Indian
Chief)
Sauz, Sgt. Major

Types:

booklet



Names:

Baker,

Chekille (Indian
Chief)

Hill, O. V.
Mallory, James

Welch, Oliver, Rev.

Types:

booklet

Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
TALLADEGA COUNTY

A more recent and well verified story (106) is of quite modern times. It seems that a number of years ago a certain Mr. Baker, of Kymulga, was approached by an old Negro who owned the cave. He was in great need of money and Mr. Baker, more to help the old man than from the idea of making money, gave him fifty dollars for the land on which the cave was. Mr. Baker's children formed the habit of often visiting the cave and of talking their friends to see it. One of the boys was going to the University on one occasion and happened to bring back a young friend who was taking geology. They went to see the cave and that night the geologist told Mr. Baker that he had a fortune in it. Mr. Baker then told his son: "You are young and I am old. I will give you half of any amount over \$50.00 that you can get for it." It took three years to sell it. But then the young man got \$30,000.00 for it. This amount was accordingly divided. The new owner began to mine onyx and sold enough of it to get the \$30,000.00 out of it. Then the price of onyx went down. He then sold it to the Venables. The story comes from Mrs. Carson Baker.

CHILDERSBURG

The city of Childersburg is the most rapidly growing city or town in the state. It grew between the 1940 and 1950 censuses from 515 to 4023, and a special census in 1956 recorded it as 5257. Its industrial development being due to the waterpower of the Coosa River which combined with the Coosa River Ordnance Plant that was put here during the War, and other industries brought in since the War have made it indeed a boom town.

COOSA (Traditional)

At the turn to go towards Birmingham at Childersburg there is a boulder that states about a mile and a half north of the spot was located the capital of the Coosa empire which was visited by DeSoto in 1540. Up until a very few years ago all authorities (107) were agreed that this was correct. But at that time archaeological research was unable to find any proof that the Spaniards had visited it so that there is today much doubt that this was the actual site. But no other site that has been found seems to fit the description so well.

According to DeSoto's chroniclers when he came south from about where Guntersville now stands he found the country well populated and with many villages everywhere. When he came to Coosa he was met by the Coosa who was borne in a kind of litter by four of his principal men each one wearing a headdress of feathers. The Chroniclers differ as to what went on here. The earlier ones state that he stayed here about three weeks, and treated the Indians very badly, even taking the Coosa prisoner and only releasing him when they came to the border of his territory. But Garcilaso, who was not an eyewitness, tells us that all was most cordial and the two parted the best of friends. Garcilaso seemed always to gloss over any unpleasantnesses or things uncomplimentary to the Spaniards.

Just before the War of 1812, however, and there is no doubt of this, what is known as the "Coosa Incident" (108) took place here.

Names:

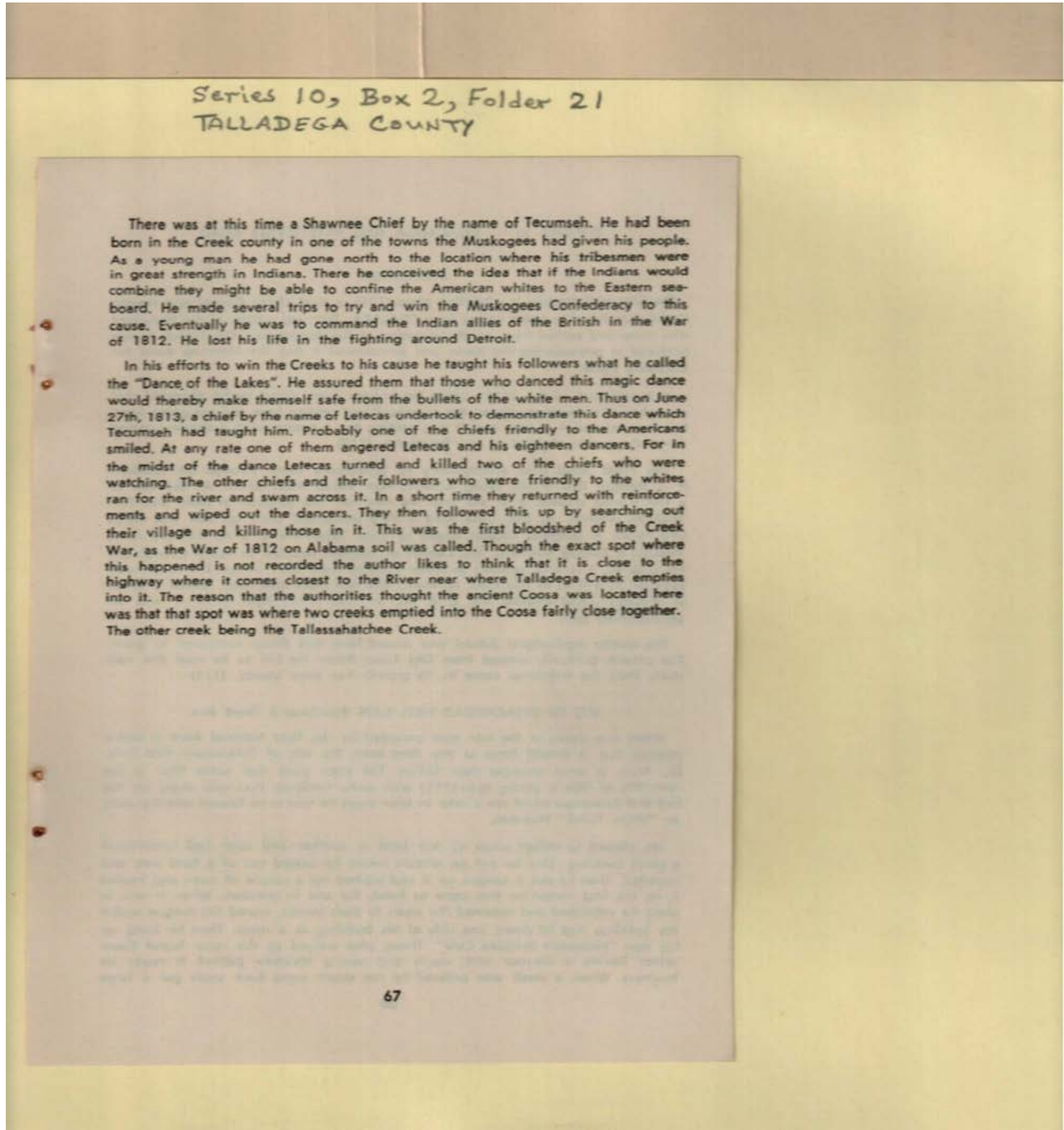
Baker,
Baker, Carson, Mrs.

DeSoto,
Garcilaso,

Venable,

Types:

booklet



Names:

Letecas (Indian Chief)

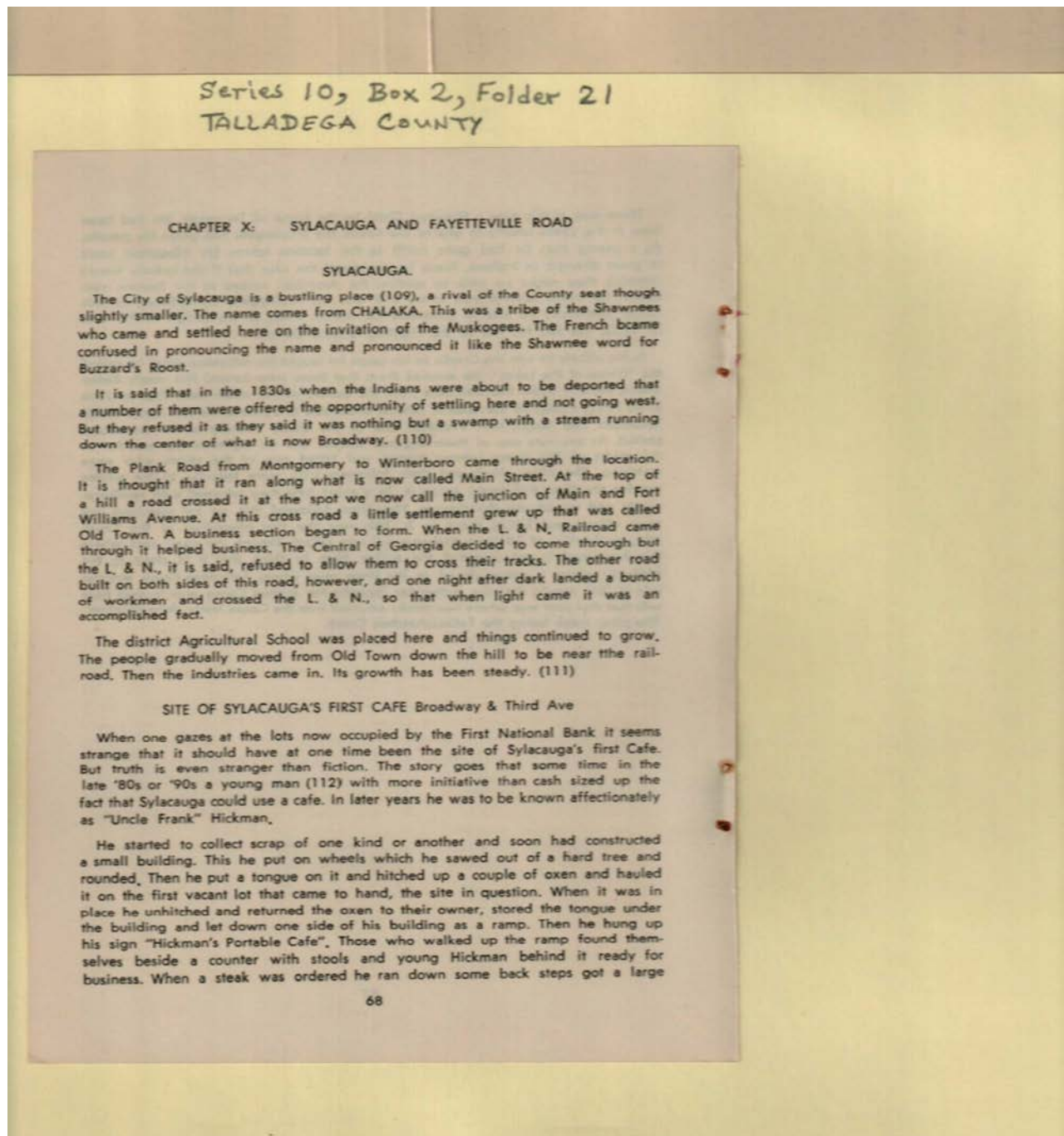
Tecumseh (Indian Chief)

Types:

booklet

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Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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Names:

Hickman, Frank,
Uncle

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

steak from a nearby market and in a moment was frying it. For he was messenger, cook and waiter, all in one. With the customer who ordered ham and eggs it was the same, or any other choice of a customer.

When the owner of the lot protested Hickman simply rehired the brace of oxen and moved to another lot in a few minutes. Then one day a catastrophe happened. During the night some mischievous boys stole the cafe and hauled it off. For a week Sylacauga was without a restaurant and Hickman without a business. Then he found it in the depths of the swamp that is now known as Noble Park. So he hauled it back to another vacant lot and opened shop once more.

Such initiative deserves to succeed, and did. For soon "Uncle Frank" got a bit ahead and purchased a lot across from what is now the City Hall. On it he built first one building and then several. Richards Dress Shop now occupies the place he put his cafe and he rented the other places. He called his new place of business the Eagle Cafe and placed above the door a large wooden eagle. Later this was replaced by a metal one. There he reigned the Hamburger King of Sylacauga until his death about sixteen years ago, and old timers still tell of the fine meals he served.

SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL.

On February 18th, 1895, the State Legislature established the Fourth District Agricultural School located in what was then the little cross roads settlement of Sylacauga. (113)

One day when a number of men were chewing the rag in Hickman's Cafe an enterprising young lawyer by the name of Billy Oden began to talk of a three story hotel that had recently closed. This was painted a bright yellow and was located close to where the Recreation Hall is now standing only a bit closer to Broadway. The thought occurred to someone what a good thing it would be if "Those Yankees up in Boston" who had built it with its forty-two rooms would present it to the city for the New Agricultural School. Billy said that if someone would contribute a two-cent stamp for a letter he would write and ask them to do just that thing.

"Uncle Frank" donated the stamp and the letter was written. Oden must have been very persuasive for when the reply came it not only made the desired gift but for one dollar agreed to throw in the thirteen acres that make up what is now Noble Park. Quite a reasonable real estate deal for Sylacauga, a comparatively new hotel, (built in 1890) and a park site for \$1.02.

But that was not the only reasonable thing connected with the 4th D.A.S. For an 1899 catalogue is in existence that proclaims its charges for rooms and board in the dormitory, including light and fuel was seventy-five dollars for the year. But there were other charges. These amounted to \$1.00 a quarter for elementary and intermediate grades, and \$1.50 a quarter for college grades. We marvel how the school could have found places to put such fabulous funds,

Names:

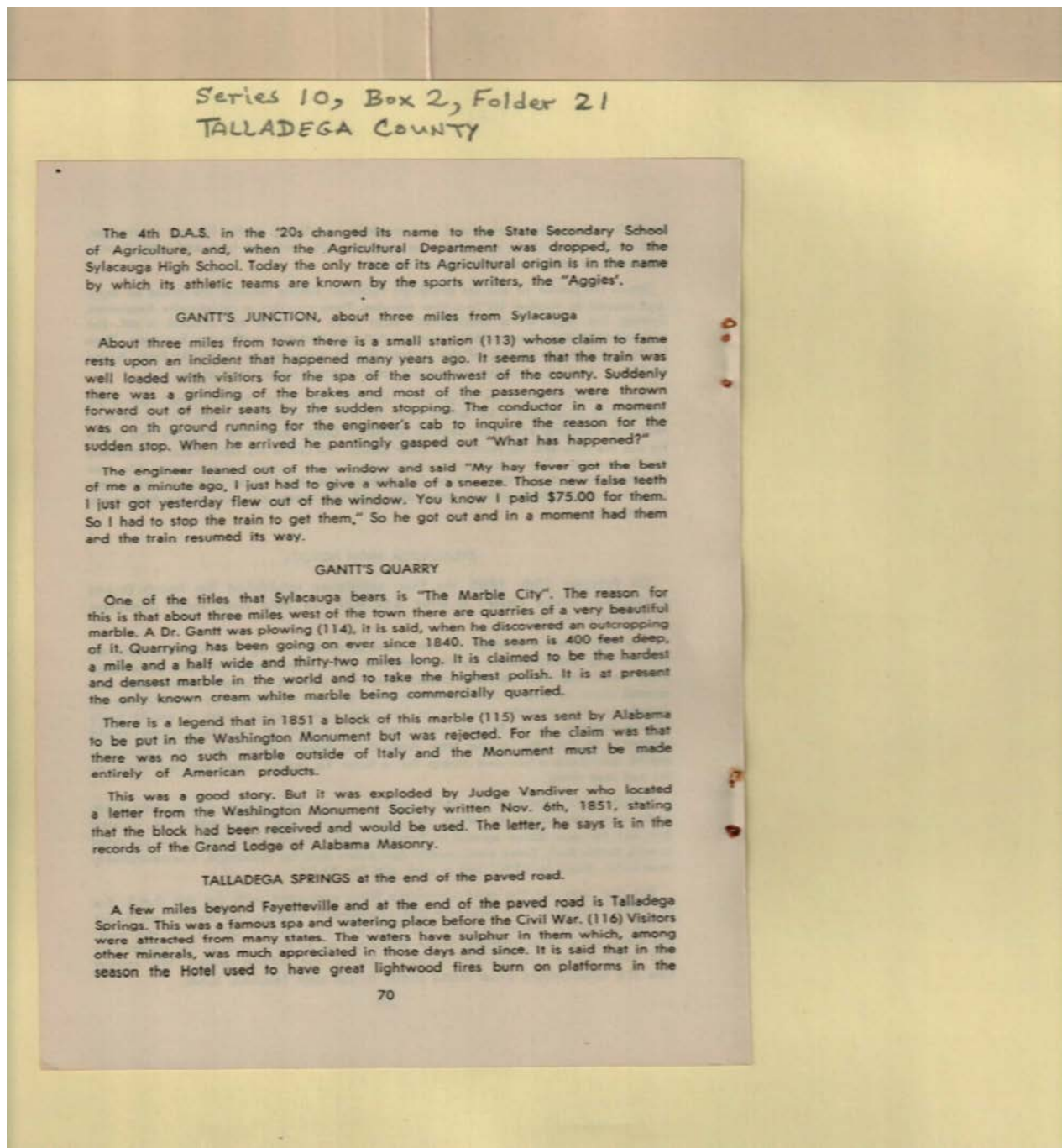
Hickman, Frank,
Uncle

Types:

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 21
Blackford, Randolph F. "Fascinating Talladega County"

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TALLADEGA COUNTY

The 4th D.A.S. in the '20s changed its name to the State Secondary School of Agriculture, and, when the Agricultural Department was dropped, to the Sylacauga High School. Today the only trace of its Agricultural origin is in the name by which its athletic teams are known by the sports writers, the "Aggies".

GANTT'S JUNCTION, about three miles from Sylacauga

About three miles from town there is a small station (113) whose claim to fame rests upon an incident that happened many years ago. It seems that the train was well loaded with visitors for the spa of the southwest of the county. Suddenly there was a grinding of the brakes and most of the passengers were thrown forward out of their seats by the sudden stopping. The conductor in a moment was on th ground running for the engineer's cab to inquire the reason for the sudden stop. When he arrived he pantingly gasped out "What has happened?"

The engineer leaned out of the window and said "My hay fever got the best of me a minute ago, I just had to give a whale of a sneeze. Those new false teeth I just got yesterday flew out of the window. You know I paid \$75.00 for them. So I had to stop the train to get them," So he got out and in a moment had them and the train resumed its way.

GANTT'S QUARRY

One of the titles that Sylacauga bears is "The Marble City". The reason for this is that about three miles west of the town there are quarries of a very beautiful marble. A Dr. Gantt was plowing (114), it is said, when he discovered an outcropping of it. Quarrying has been going on ever since 1840. The seam is 400 feet deep, a mile and a half wide and thirty-two miles long. It is claimed to be the hardest and densest marble in the world and to take the highest polish. It is at present the only known cream white marble being commercially quarried.

There is a legend that in 1851 a block of this marble (115) was sent by Alabama to be put in the Washington Monument but was rejected. For the claim was that there was no such marble outside of Italy and the Monument must be made entirely of American products.

This was a good story. But it was exploded by Judge Vandiver who located a letter from the Washington Monument Society written Nov. 6th, 1851, stating that the block had been received and would be used. The letter, he says is in the records of the Grand Lodge of Alabama Masonry.

TALLADEGA SPRINGS at the end of the paved road.

A few miles beyond Fayetteville and at the end of the paved road is Talladega Springs. This was a famous spa and watering place before the Civil War. (116) Visitors were attracted from many states. The waters have sulphur in them which, among other minerals, was much appreciated in those days and since. It is said that in the season the Hotel used to have great lightwood fires burn on platforms in the

Names:

Gantt, Dr.

Vandiver, Judge

Types:

booklet

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streets so that the night festivities were as great as, if not greater than, the many activities during the day.

FORT WILLIAMS

To reach Fort Williams one may leave the paved road at Fayetteville, go about a half mile to the north and then to the left and go about four miles to a school house. There another left turn is made. At about three quarters of a mile you make a sharp turn to the right and go about a mile and the monument and graves will be seen. Though it is said that the actual site is underwater, this is the place that is marked. The graves are those of Jackson's men who either died there after the battle of Horse Shoe Bend, or whose bodies were brought back from Horse Shoe Bend.

It will be remembered that when Jackson was making his second expedition against that fortification he sent Col. Williams to make a base at the place where Cedar Creek emptied into the Coosa River. Col. Williams came by water (117), but Jackson came later by land, March 7th, 1814, was the date it was founded. Jackson went on from here and fought the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend on March 27th. and came back to Fort Williams on April 2nd. He had hoped to be able to then go down the river to Fort Toulouse which seems to have been the very center for William Weatherford. But his scouts brought word that shoals made this impractical. So leaving his wounded here he went back to the Tallapoosa and came down it to Fort Toulouse which he reactivated under the name of Fort Jackson. It was there that Red Eagle came in and surrendered. As is shown by the number of graves many of those left succumbed to an epidemic, or from wounds. But there was one that, fortunately, survived. This was Ensign Sam Houston, Severely wounded in the Battle he was brought here and stayed for many months, and finally showed up at his home in Tennessee in May of the following year.

COOSA RIVER NEWSPRINT COMPANY

Four miles north of Childersburg is a plant that has an interesting history. Before World War II the little village of Childersburg had about 500 people in it. Then came the war and with it the Alabama Ordnance Plant was established in this neighborhood. When the war ended Childersburg was confronted with a payroll like a deflated balloon. To remedy this situation the "Talladega County War Plants Conversion Committee" was formed by a number of citizens of the County. This organization, realizing that water, wood and power were what made paper, got together with the Southern Newspaper Publishing Association and arranged that the Coosa River Newsprint Company be located here. By a lease in June, 1947 they obtained electric power, water and steam from the War Department. The Government also made available 615 acres of land adjacent to the Alabama Ordnance Work plant. The Kimberly Clark Corporation took the contract for building the plant, and the first rolls of paper rolled from it in 1950. We consider this a splendid example of cooperation between forward looking citizens, wide awake business corporations and the Government. The plant is one of the largest in the country.

Names:

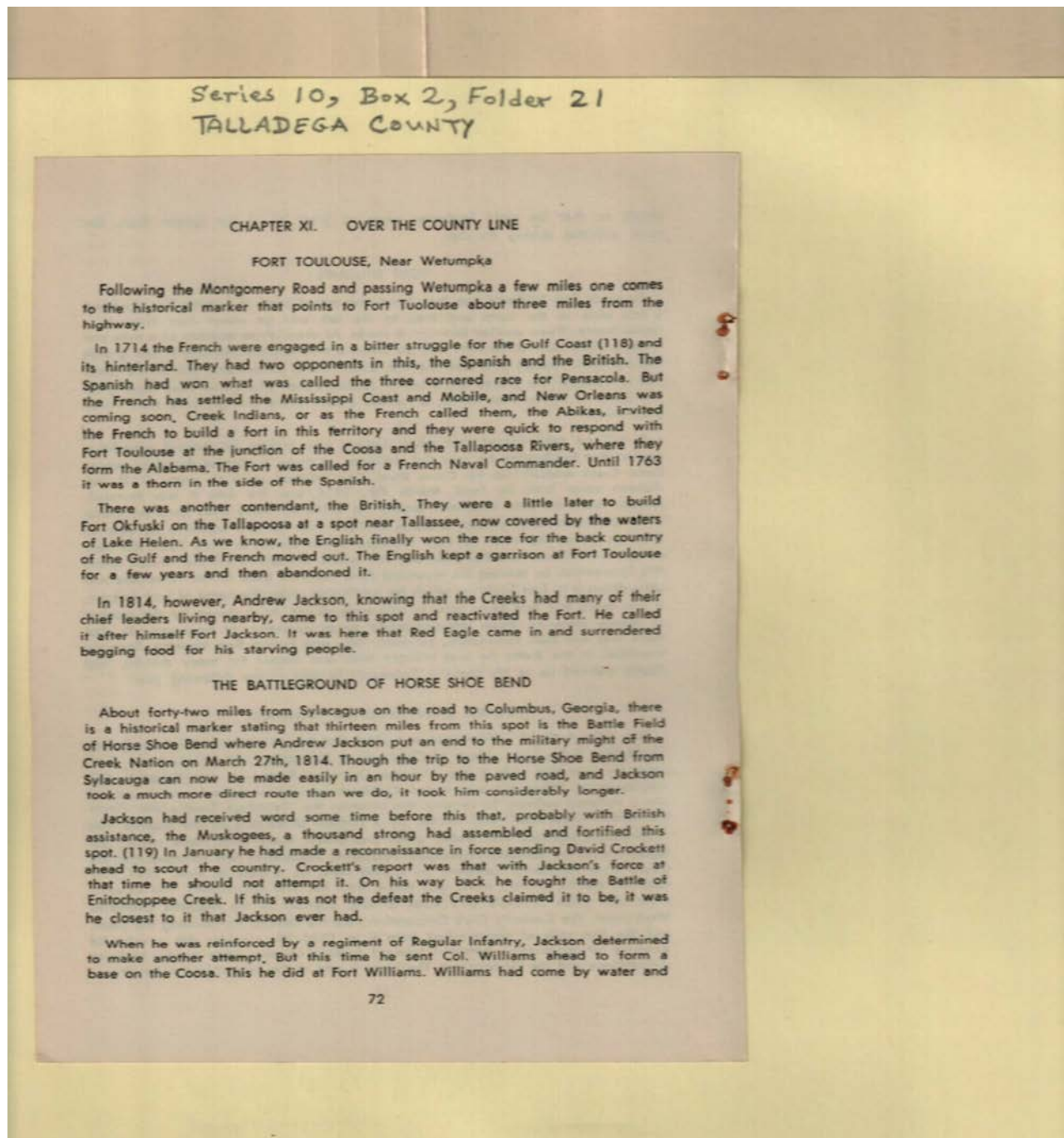
Houston, Sam

Jackson, Andrew

Williams, Colonel

Types:

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Names:

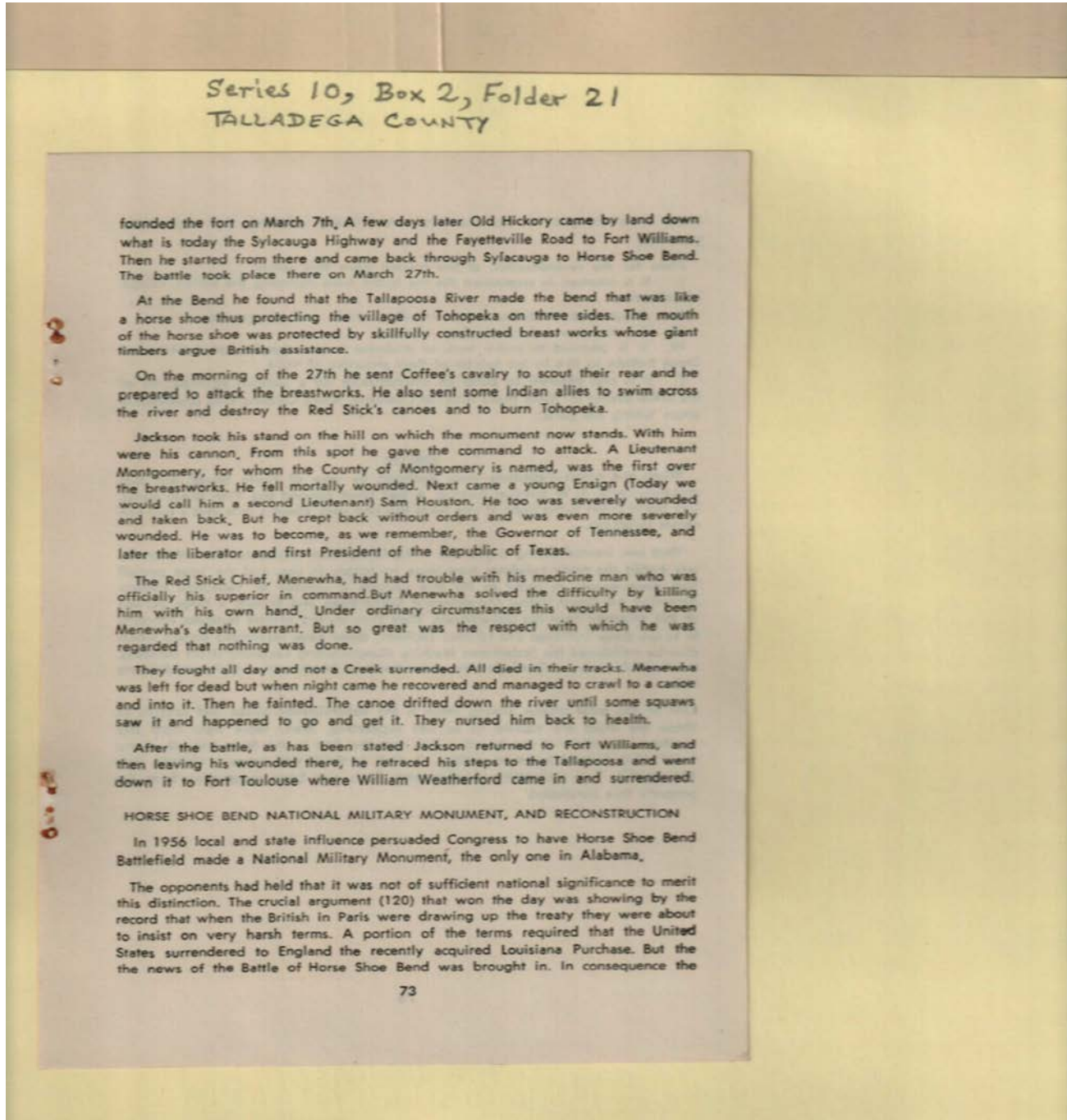
Crockett, David

Jackson, Andrew

Williams, Colonel

Types:

booklet



Names:

Coffee,
Houston, Sam
Jackson, Andrew

Menewha (Indian
Chief)
Montgomery, Lt.

Weatherford, William
(Indian Chief)

Types:

booklet

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terms were changed to the ones that were finally adopted, that were very generous.

Plans for the reconstruction at the present have five points:

I. It is planned to reconstruct the the battle lines including the Indian Village of Tohopeka.

II. A spacious recreation area including picnic and playgrounds.

III. An attractive and commodious museum.

IV. It is planned to move back to Alabama several families of full-blooded Creek Indians to live in the habitat of their ancestors of 1814.

V. It is also planned to build an amphitheatre for a summer reproduction of the battle similar to "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee, North Carolina with professional actors taking the parts.

BRECON

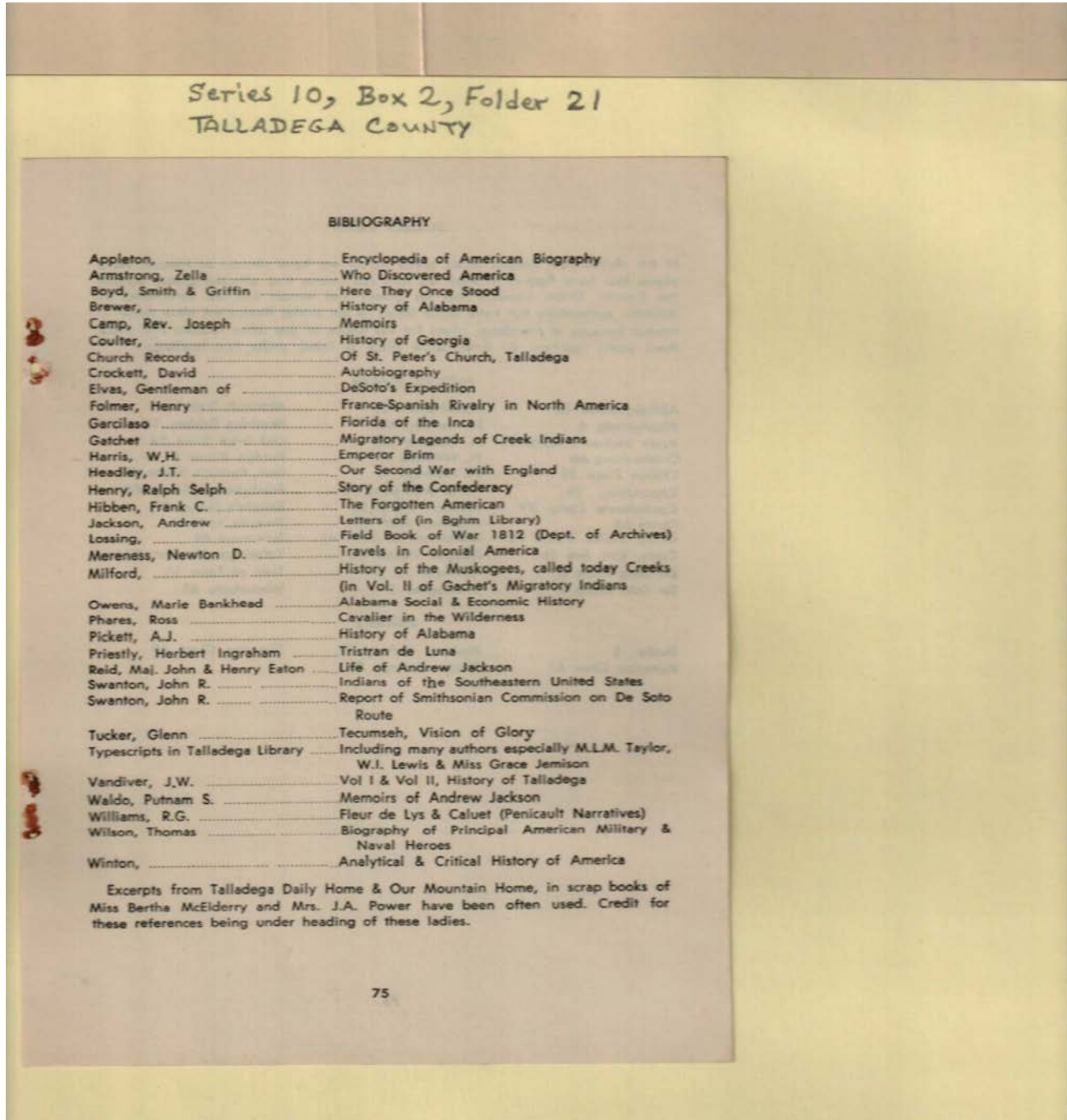
When one enters Talladega from Anniston by way of North Street, the first shopping center is at Johnson Avenue. A half block beyond this 17th Street comes into North Street in the right. If one takes this and goes about a mile and a half one comes to Brecon.

Here was located during World War II the Coosa River Ordnance Plant. When the war ended the many buildings here were no longer in use, and the large payroll had disappeared. In order to fill this vacuum a number of Talladega citizens organized the Coosa Valley Development Corporation and bought a large portion of this property from the Government. They then invited private business concerns in to use these buildings and railroad facilities. Many have responded among which may be mentioned the Soderhamn Machine Manufacturing Company (from Sweden), the Goodall Garment Company who make the Palm Beach suits, and Brecon Knitting Mill.

One of the most unique among these is the Rehabilitation shops and schools. In these the Blind are trained to be self supporting. Many work here from this territory, regardless of sex or color. This was the first in the State and others are now being formed in other sections. A visit to these will repay a visitor's time and trouble. Two real estate developments have also been constructed from the property thus purchased.

Names:
Appleton,

Types:
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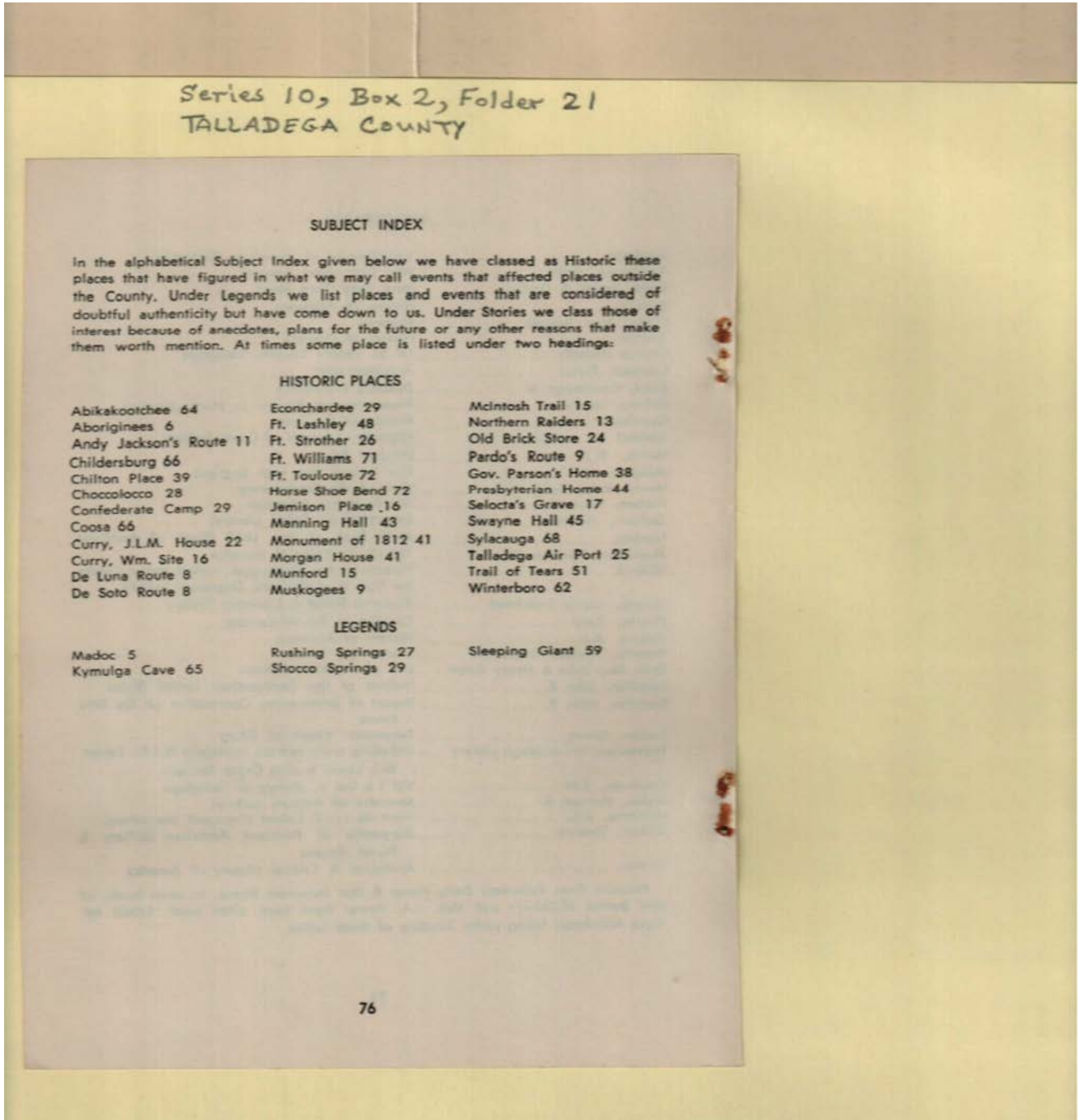


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Miss | Gatchet,
Griffin, | Mereness, Newton D. | Reid, John, Major |
| Boyd, | Harris, W. H. | Milford, | Smith, |
| Brewer, | Headley, J. T. | Owens, Marie | Swanton, John R. |
| Camp, Joseph, Rev. | Henry, Ralph Selph | Bankhead | Tucker, Glenn |
| Coulter, | Hibbben, Frank C. | Phares, Ross | Vandiver, J. W. |
| Crockett, David | Jackson, Andrew | Pickett, A. J. | Waldo, Putnam S. |
| Elvas, | Lossing, | Power, J. A., Mrs. | Williams, R. G. |
| Folmer, Henry | McElderry, Bertha, | Priestly, Herbert | Wilson, Thomas |
| Garcilaso, | Miss | Ingraham | Winton, |
| | | Reid, Henry Eaton | |

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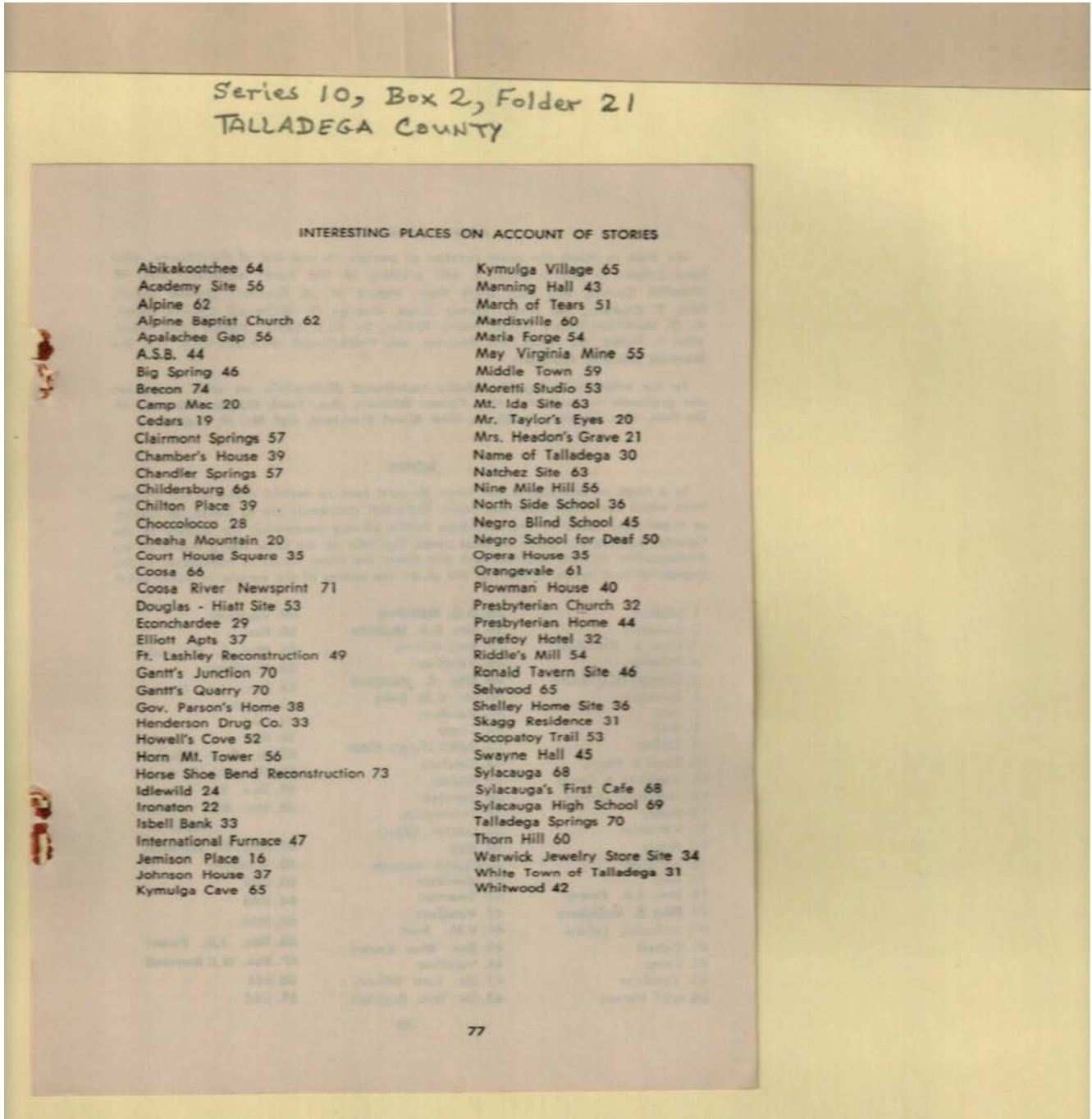


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Historic Places &
Legends

Types:

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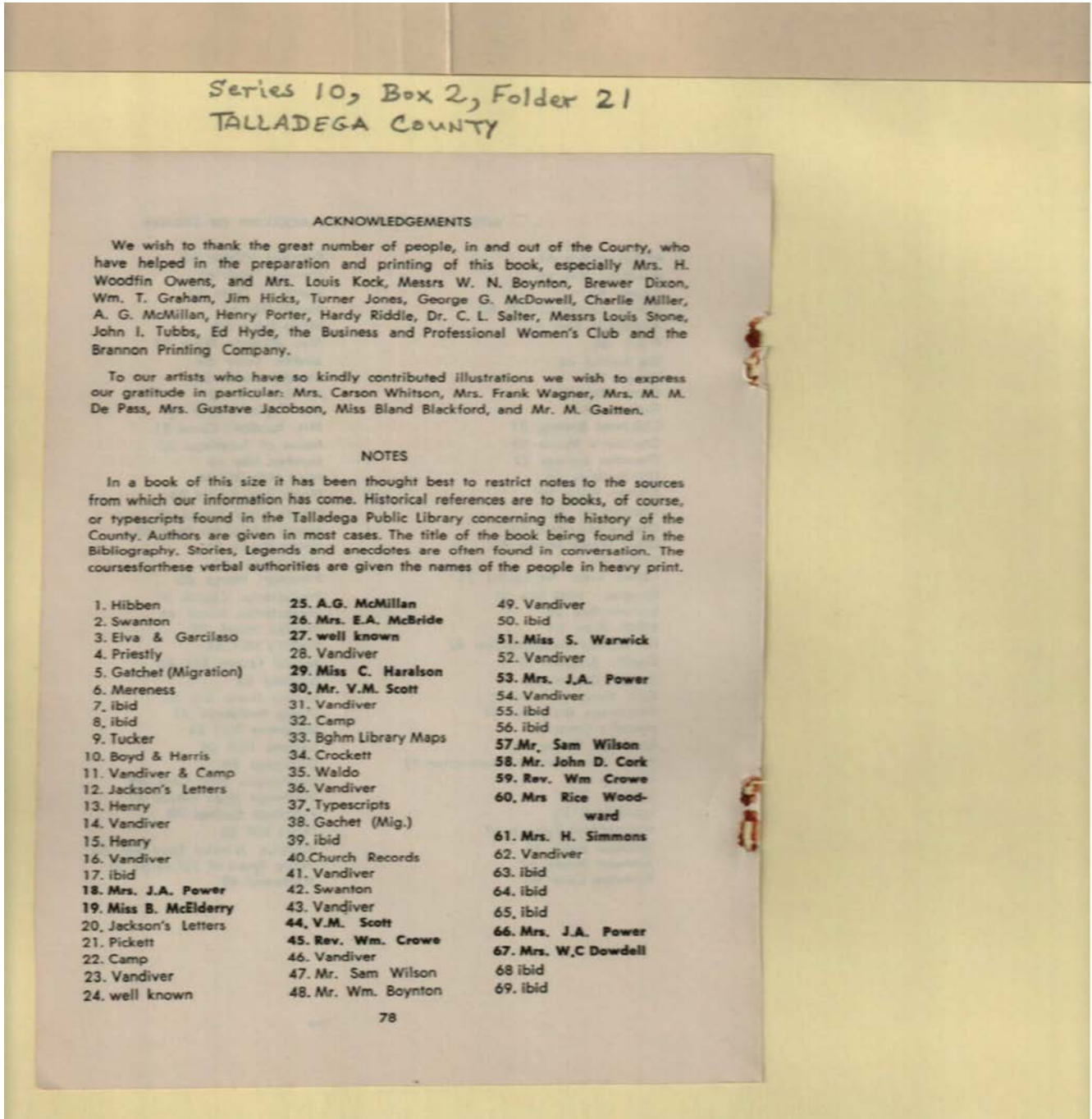


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Dixon, Brewer
Gaitten, M.
Graham, William T.

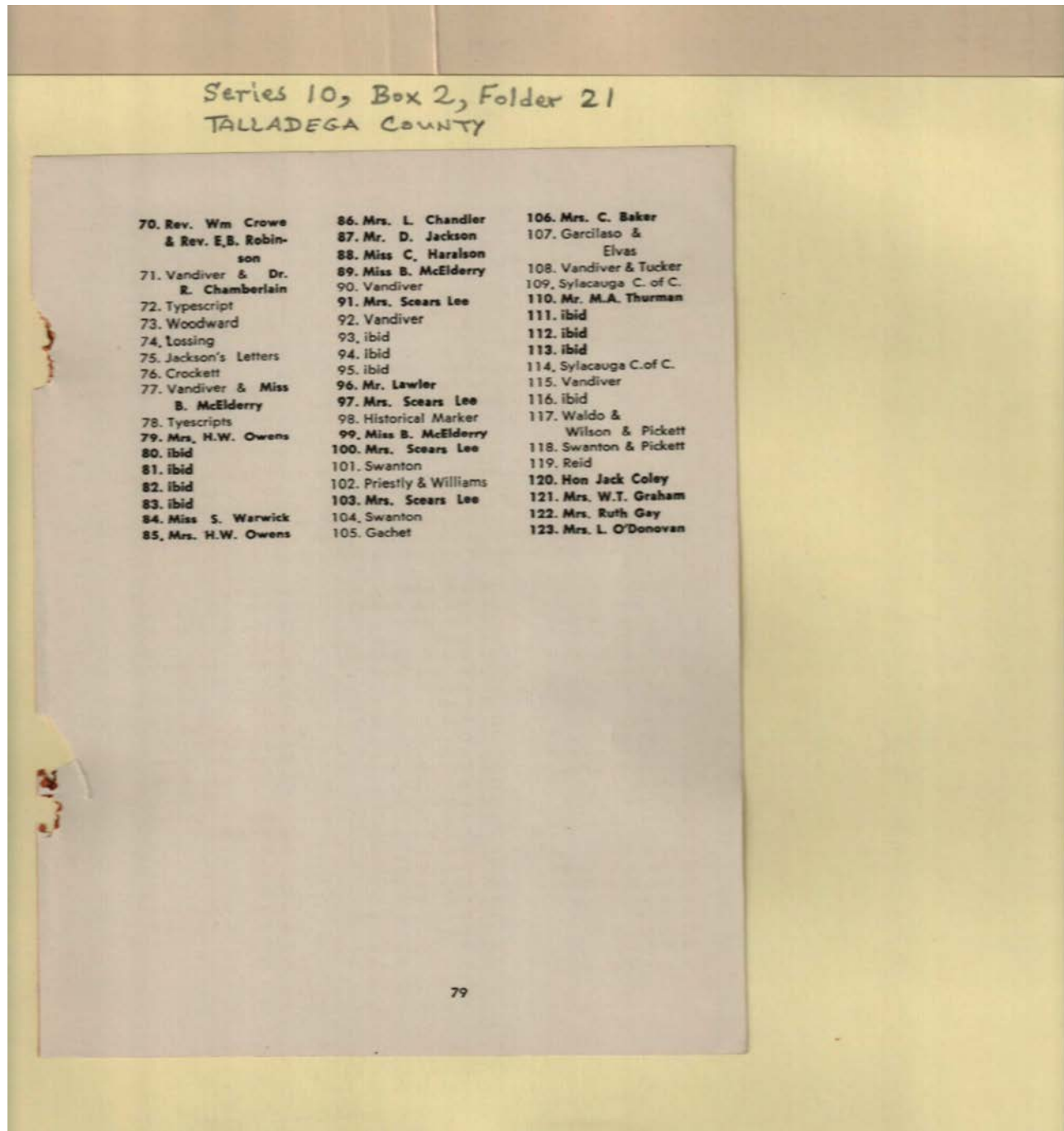
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Hyde, Ed
Jacobson, Gustave,
Mrs.
Jones, Turner
Kock, Louis, Mrs.

McDowell, George
G.
McMillan, A. G.
Miller, Charlie
Owens, H. Woodfin,
Mrs.
Porter, Henry

Riddle, Hardy
Salter, C. L., Dr.
Stone, Louis
Tubbs, John I.
Wagner, Frank, Mrs.
Whitson, Carson,
Mrs.

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Chamberlain, R., Dr.
Chandler, L., Mrs.
Coley, Jack
Crow, William, Rev.

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Graham, William T.
Jackson, D.
Lee, Scears, Mrs.
McElderry, B., Miss

Owens, H. W.
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O'Donovan, L.,
Mrs.

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Thurman, M. A.
Warwick, S., Miss

Places:

Talladega Co., AL

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