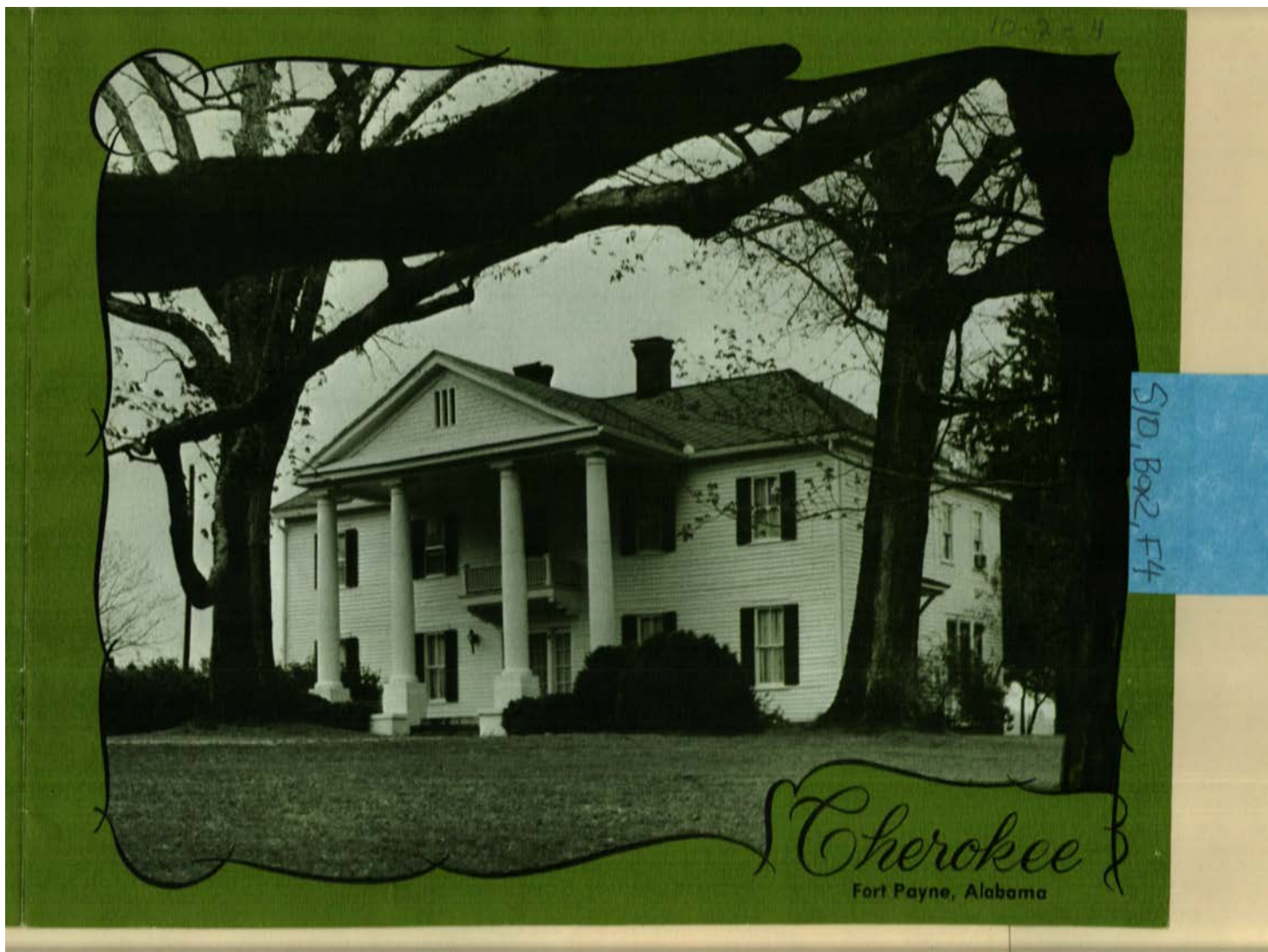


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 4
"Cherokee House"

Image 1 r10_02-04-000-0001 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Cherokee House

Places:

Fort Payne, AL

Types:

photograph

"Cherokee House"



The living room combines a formal arrangement of French styles and antique accessories to produce a quietly elegant room.



Shades of greens and whites are mixed with crystal and gilt accessories to achieve an atmosphere of Old World Charm.



More than any other room, the dining room recalls the splendor of days that are "Gone with the Wind." Adding to the formality of the room is the symmetrical arrangement of antique accessories.



Warm colors and interesting textures are used to create an inviting space. The organized clutter of accessories and rural styles gives the room an "easy to live in" look.

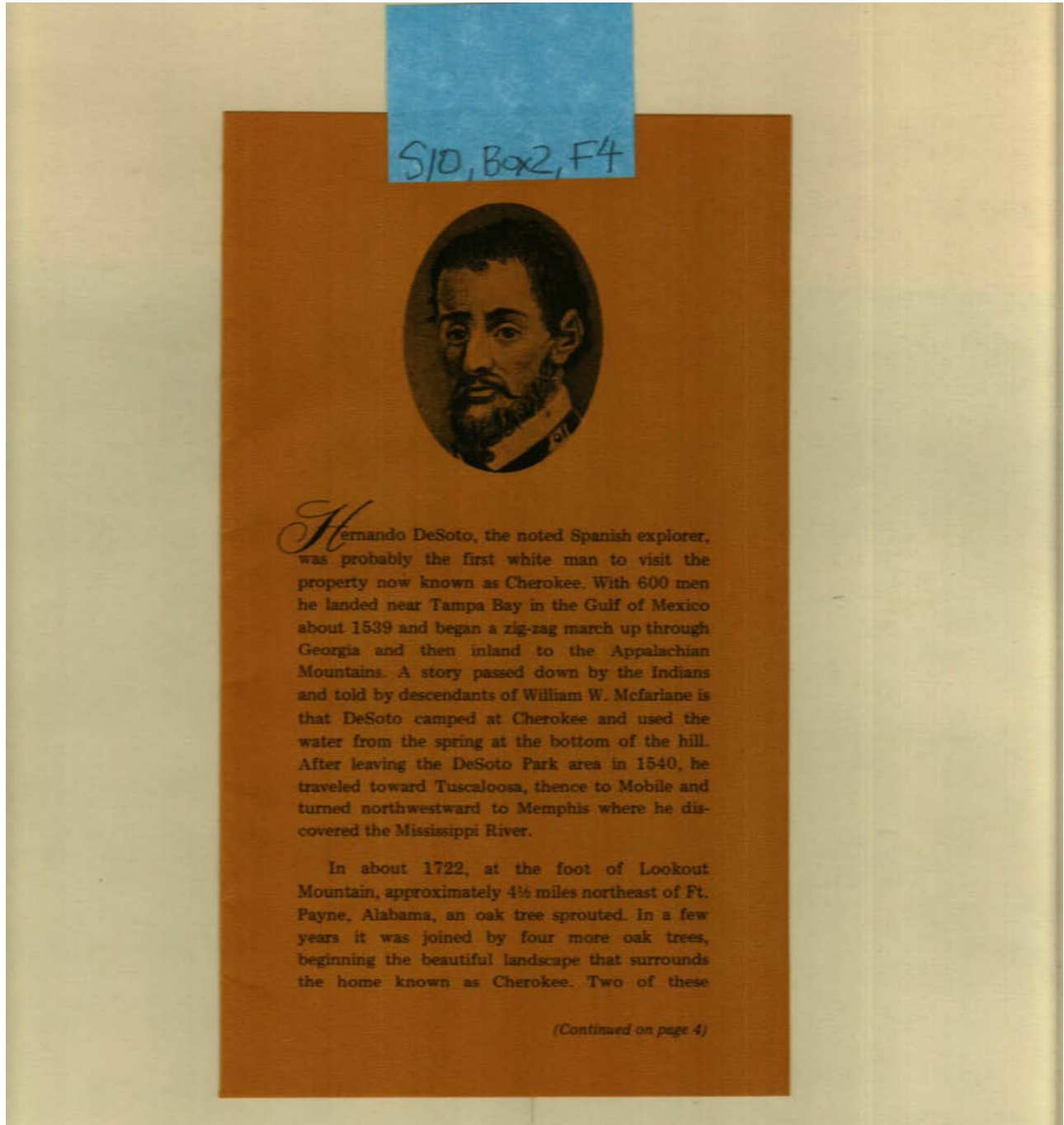
Names:

Cherokee Interiors

Types:

photograph

S10, Box 2, F4



Names:

DeSoto, Hernando

Mcfarlane, William

W.

Types:

brochure

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 4
"Cherokee House"

Image 4 r10_02-04-000-0004 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Lookout Mountain

Types:

photograph

"Cherokee House"



English fabrics and furnishings create this "Gentleman's Study."



In the breakfast room, Victorian wicker sits on a grass green carpet under a wall paper trolis of green and yellow.



The Master bedroom has a king size bed of white and gilt flanked by hand painted French commodes.



The wall paper in the Guest Room is an authentic reproduction of a Victorian paper. Flanking an octagonal English table are unusual Spanish Victorian beds with hand painted medallions.

S10, Box 2, F4

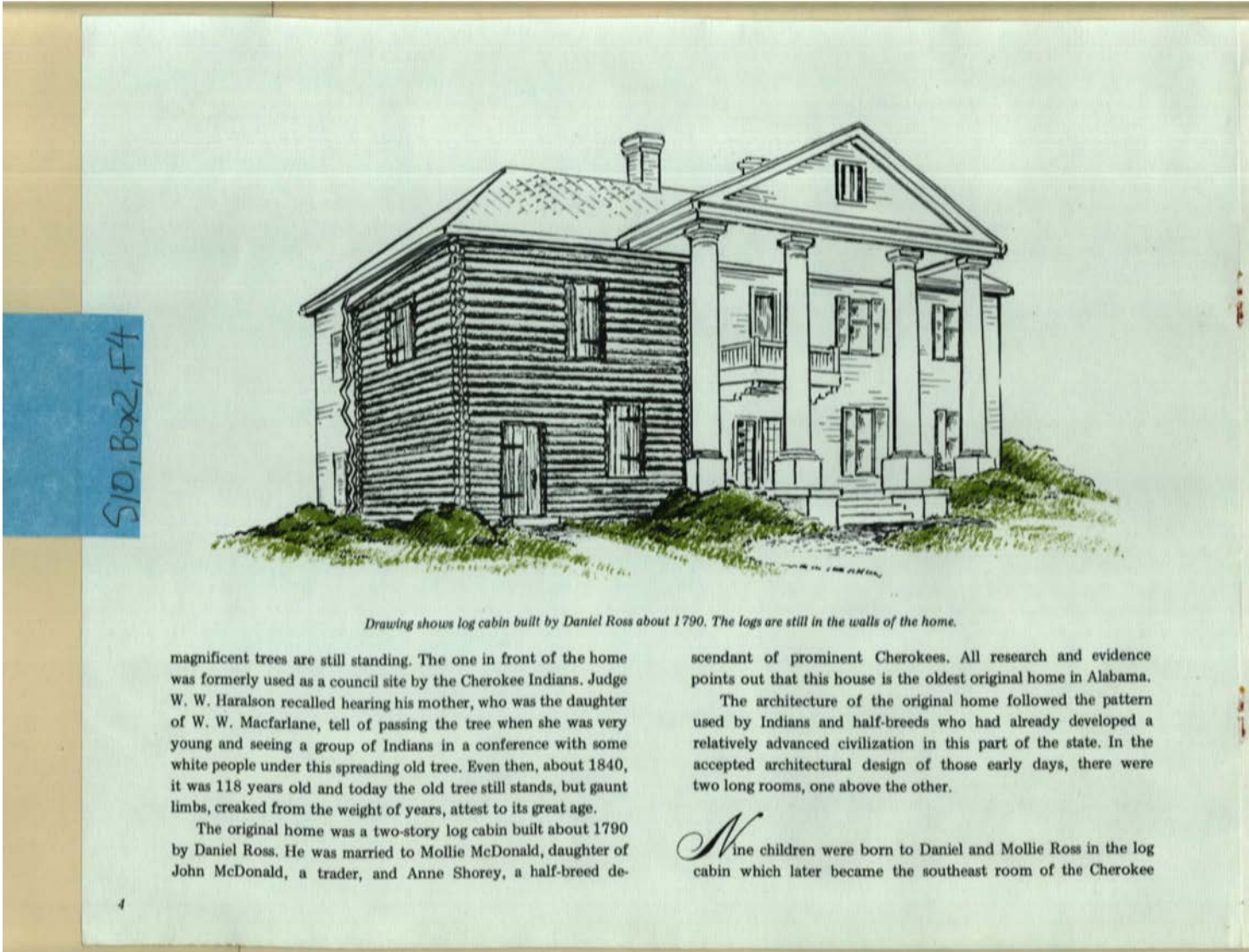
Names:

Cherokee Interiors

Types:

photograph

"Cherokee House"



Names:

Haralson, W. W.
Macfarlane, W. W.

McDonald, John
McDonald, Mollie

Ross, Daniel
Ross, Mollie

Types:

brochure

drawing

"Cherokee House"

Image 7 r10_02-04-000-0007 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

home. John Ross, their third child, became chief of the Cherokees although he was only one-eighth Indian. Daniel Ross founded probably the first school in the Cherokee nation at this home to educate his children. John B. Davis, who was approved by the Cherokee council, was then employed as the teacher. Sequoyah, the famous Indian scholar and teacher who originated the Cherokee alphabet, also taught school under the oak trees. Sequoyah has been honored by having Sequoyah National Park in California and Sequoyah Caverns named after him.

The Ross family occupied the two-story log cabin around 1790 until the early 1830's. William W. Macfarlane then bought the house and land including the oak grove in front of the house. However, it was 1845 before President James K. Polk granted the property to William W. Macfarlane under Patent No. 6292. From a study of the floor plan, it is evident that the Macfarlanes made the first additions to the log cabin, probably by enclosing the log cabin, adding what is now the library, the kitchen, the room behind the kitchen and improving the second floor of the log cabin.

When William W. Macfarlane died he left the property to his wife, Letitia Beeson Macfarlane, who was born December 11, 1808, and died June 26, 1889. Letitia Macfarlane deeded the property to her daughter, Cornelia, who married William J. Haralson in 1855. The W. J. Haralsons lived in the house for many years, at least until 1875. Judge W. W. Haralson, who practiced law and was a very prominent judge in Ft. Payne for most of his life, was raised at Cherokee.

Captain Joe J. Nix, a Federal Army officer, purchased the property from Cornelia Macfarlane Haralson around 1885-90. He and his wife, Ella J., lived there only a short time and made no improvements. Major C. O. Godfrey, later to become the first mayor of Ft. Payne, bought the place and deeded it to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. H. R. (Mai) Godfrey about 1895. C. O. Godfrey came to Ft. Payne about 1878 hoping to find copper, but after many tests he discovered there was not enough copper to be mined commercially. He returned to Ft. Payne in 1889 and was

largely responsible for the real estate boom which started about that time. It is reported that he sold \$5,000,000 worth of stock in one month to New Englanders. This was about the time the old hotel, the Opera House which is now being restored, and the old Southern Railroad station, which is made of limestone and is in perfect condition even after years of constant use, were built.

C. O. Godfrey's son, H. R., promoted and constructed the telephone system in Ft. Payne. His wife, Mai, completed the



Sequoyah
1770? - 1843

SID, Box 2, F4

Names:

Davis, John B.
Godfrey, C. O., Major
Godfrey, H. R.
Godfrey, H. R., Mrs.
Godfrey, Mai

Haralson, Cornelia
Macfarlane
Haralson, W. W.,
Judge
Haralson, William J.
Macfarlane, Cornelia

Macfarlane, Letitia
Beeson
Macfarlane, William
W.
Nix, Ella J.
Nix, Joe J., Captain

Polk, James K.,
President
Ross, Daniel
Ross, John
Sequoyah

Types:

brochure

drawing

"Cherokee House"

present additions to the house at Cherokee, including the wing on the east side and the upstairs bedrooms. They also added the first indoor bathroom in DeKalb County to the home. A water system which they installed piped water from a spring on top of the mountain to a tank about half a mile from the house and then on to the house. (This water system was still in operation in 1914 when C. G. Kershaw purchased the property.) The Godfreys also built a huge barn in 1895 after they purchased the place and on the west end of the barn was printed in huge letters, MAI-CLIFF FARMS. This barn is shown in one of the photographs.

Cherokee has never before nor since known such boom times until 1931 and again in 1969 when it was completely redecorated and restored. The Godfrey family not only made improvements to Cherokee that still exist today, but also played a prominent part in the development of Ft. Payne as evidenced by Godfrey Avenue which begins at First Street, extends northward to the City Limits and connects with Kershaw Road, Kershaw Road was named for C. G. Kershaw and ends at the entrance to Cherokee.

On June 20, 1902, H. R. and Mai Godfrey deeded the place to A. L. Campbell, maternal grandfather of Jeff Haralson and Mary Haralson Davenport of Ft. Payne. Mr. Campbell owned the place only a short time and in 1902 sold the property to T. F. Steele.

T. F. Steele and wife, Sally P., sold Cherokee on May 8, 1914, to C. G. Kershaw and wife, Rosa Mathis Kershaw, for \$5,750. "Miss Rosa" then changed the name from Mia-Cliff Farms to Cherokee. "Miss Rosa" also made the first major improvements in 1914 by adding the four colonial columns and porch to the front of the house. Cherokee was enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Kershaw and his six children, Roscoe, Otha, Royce, Hugh, Lillian and Knox, for many years as a summer home.

The second major improvement by the Kershaws was made in 1931 by Julia Lawrence Kershaw, who had married C. G. Kershaw in 1922. These improvements were the most extensive made since the house was constructed and included leveling all the floors, extra foundation supports, new windows with a bay window in the living room and dining room, French doors opening to the

yard from the living room, a bathroom in the upstairs northeast bedroom, a powder room near the kitchen, new servants' quarters and a garage. "Miss Julia" also spent months collecting antiques to furnish the house. After these modifications and refurnishings, it was considered one of the most tastefully furnished homes in DeKalb County.

The Kershaw family enjoyed this home as a weekend meeting place and particularly for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners planned by "Miss Julia" and prepared by Fanny the cook. The C. G. Kershaws made Cherokee their permanent home from 1936 until he died in 1946. "Miss Julia" sold the home shortly thereafter to settle the estate. C. T. Skidmore, Henry C. Christopher, Albert Hildebrandt, Kingsberry Homes and Pierre Noel also owned Cherokee at one time after 1946 and before it was purchased by Royce Kershaw, son of C. G. Kershaw. Mrs. Royce (Miriam) Kershaw completely redecorated and furnished the home in a summer-Mediterranean decor. All additions which had been made since the home was sold in 1946 were removed and the house restored to the condition and floor plan that was previously enjoyed by the Kershaws.

by Royce Kershaw, Sr.
May, 1970



The entrance to Cherokee.

S10, Box 2, F4

Names:

, Fanny
Campbell, A. L.
Cherokee Entrance
Christopher, Henry C.
Davenport, Mary
Haralson
Godfrey, H. R.
Godfrey, Mai

Haralson, Jeff
Hildebrandt, Albert
Kerkshaw, C. G., Mr.
& Mrs.
Kershaw, C. G.
Kershaw, Hugh
Kershaw, Julia
Lawrence

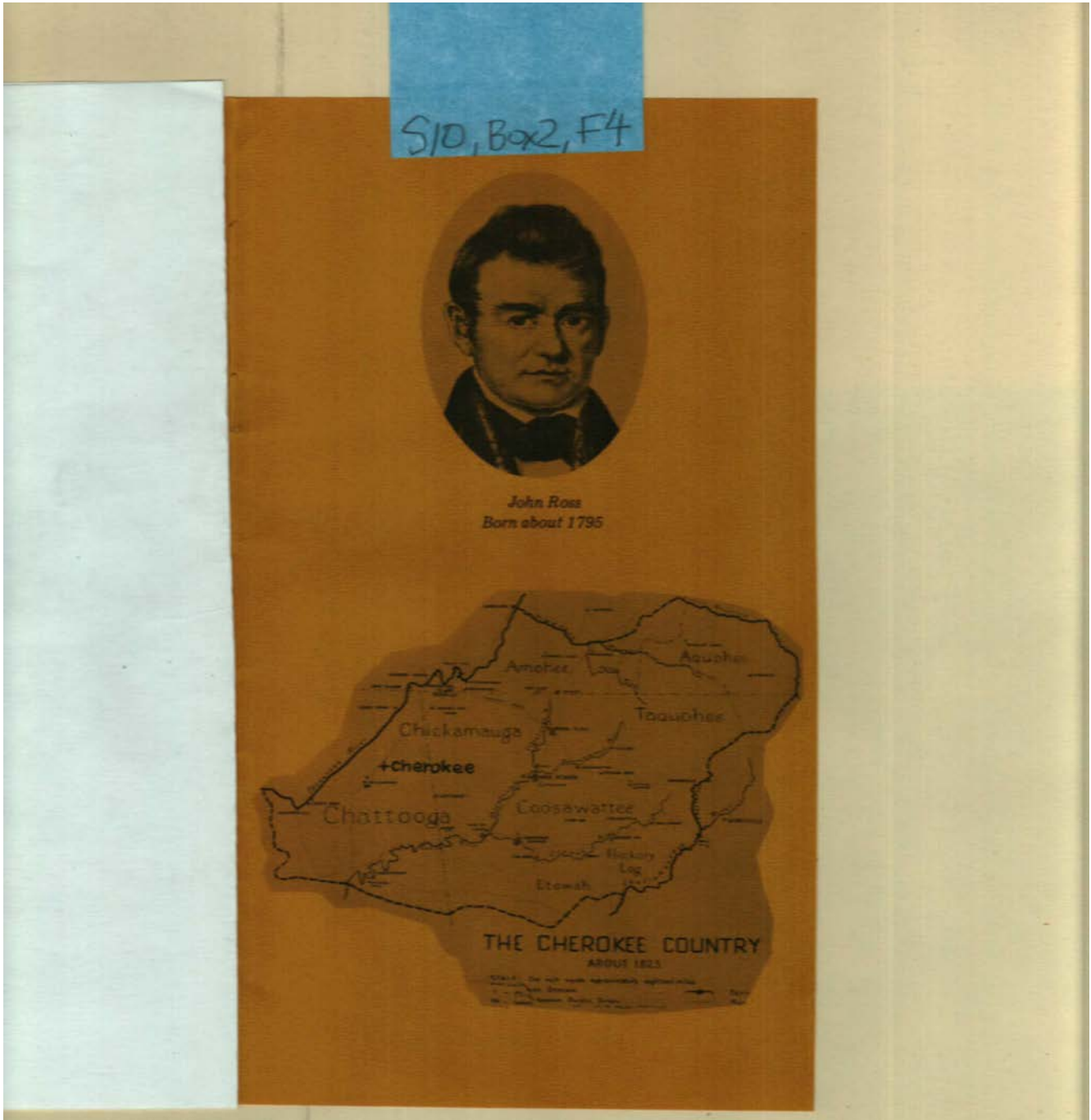
Kershaw, Knox
Kershaw, Lillian
Kershaw, Miram
Kershaw, Otha
Kershaw, Rosa
Mathis
Kershaw, Roscoe
Kershaw, Royce

Kershaw, Royce, Mrs.
Noel, Pierre
Skidmore, C. T.
Steele, Sally P.
Steele, T. F.

Types:

brochure photograph

"Cherokee House"



Names:

Cherokee Country,
1825

Ross, John

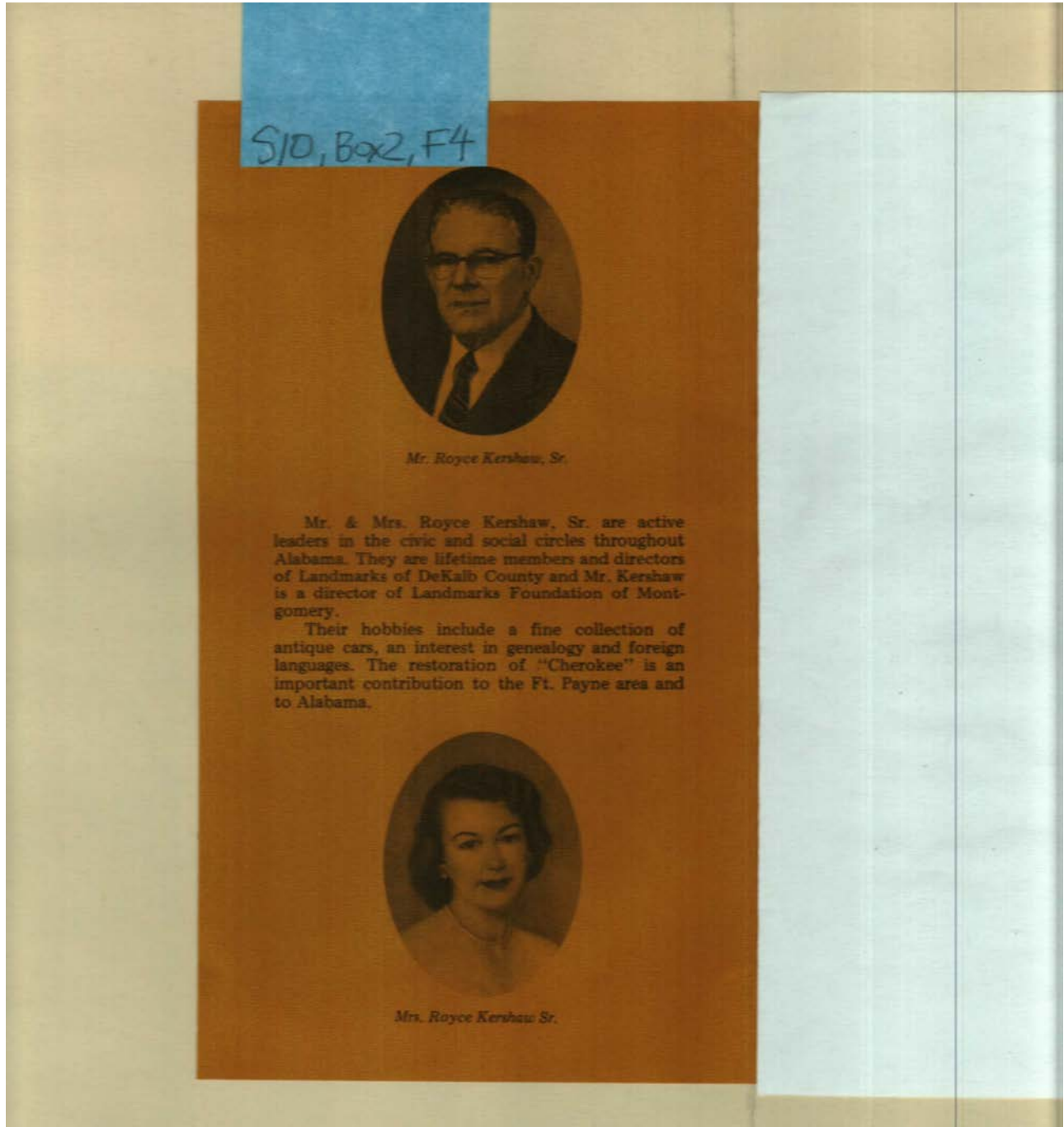
Types:

drawing

map

Dates:

1825



Names:

Kershaw, Royce, Sr.

Kershaw, Royce, Sr.,
Mrs.

Types:

photograph

"Cherokee House"

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Names:

Cherokee House

Godfrey,

Kershaw, C. G.

Price, L. M.

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1927

"Cherokee House"

*Owners through
the Years*

Daniel & Mollie Ross and John Ross
1790? - 1835

William W. & Letitia Beeson Macfarlane
1835 - 1855?

W. J. & Cornelia Macfarlane Haralson
1855 - 1890?

Capt. Joe J. & Ella J. Nix
1890? - 1895

Major C. O. & Sarah Williams Godfrey
1895 - 1895


Mrs. H. R. (Mai) Godfrey
1895 - 1902

A. L. & Cordelia Lyons Campbell
1902 - 1911

T. F. & Sally P. Steele
1911 - 1914


C. G. Kershaw
1914 - 1946

Royce & Miriam Kershaw
Present Owners




Letitia Ellison Beeson Macfarlane was born 14 miles west of Greensborough in Guilford County, North Carolina on the 11th of December 1808, and died at Ft. Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama, at 9 o'clock the 26th of June, 1889.


William W. Macfarlane was the first legal owner of Cherokee. When he died he left the home to his wife, Letitia.




*Cornelia Macfarlane Haralson
Born - 24 October 1834
Died - 28 July 1890*




*Major C. O. Godfrey
Born - 21 February 1833
Died - 16 December 1900*




*Mrs. C. O. Godfrey
(Sarah Lathrop Williams Godfrey)
Born - 4 March 1833
Died - 4 March 1902*



*Mrs. H. R. Godfrey
Mai Godfrey
Born - 20 May 1873
Died - 25 June 1952*



*C. G. Kershaw
Born - 28 June 1868
Died - 17 April 1946*



*Mrs. C. G. Kershaw
(Julia Lawrence Kershaw)*

Names:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Campbell, A. L.
Campbell, Cordelia
Lyons
Cherokee Owners
Godfrey, C. O., Major
Godfrey, C. O., Mrs.
Godfrey, H. R., Mrs.
Godfrey, Mai | Godfrey, Sarah
Lathrop Williams
Godfrey, Sarah
Williams
Haralson, Cornelia
Macfarlane
Haralson, W. J.
Kerkshaw, C. G.,
Mrs. | Kershaw, C. G.
Kershaw, Julia
Lawrence
Kershaw, Miriam
Kershaw, Royce
Macfarlane, Letitia
Beeson
Macfarlane, Letitia
Ellison Beeson | Macfarlane, William
W.
Nix, Ella J.
Nix, Joe J., Captain
Ross, Daniel
Ross, John
Ross, Mollie
Steele, Sally P.
Steele, T. F. |
|--|---|---|--|

Types:

- | | | | |
|------|------------|--|--|
| list | photograph | | |
|------|------------|--|--|

Dates:

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1835 | 1890 | 1902 | 1914 |
| 1855 | 1895 | 1911 | |

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 2, Folder 4
"Cherokee House"

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[Image 5](#) (r10_02-04-000-0005)

[Image 6](#) (r10_02-04-000-0006)

[Image 7](#) (r10_02-04-000-0007)

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[Image 9](#) (r10_02-04-000-0009)

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Kershaw, Lillian [8](#)
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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

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Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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