

ROOTS & BRANCHES

Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society

1439 49th Avenue East * Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404

Volume II Issue II

July 1981

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vacation time is here and our minds, genealogically speaking, turn to family reunions, visits with relatives, cemetery searches, and adventures in libraries, archives, and courthouse vaults. For our out-of-town members we hope this is your summer to visit Tuscaloosa, to explore our resources, and, if you can be here on a first Thursday, a chance to visit your fellow genealogists in the Society. Our total attendance in our June meeting was 66, and we are constantly encouraged by our steady growth, good media coverage, and excellent attendance. We are also very excited about the progress on our Tuscaloosa County Pioneers Project under the excellent leadership of June Reese. And I know you are pleased with the work of Helen Roberts and Bettie Brookover in getting out this fine newsletter. Let me express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to make ours one of the finest genealogical societies in the country. Happy searching to you this summer!

Your President,

R. L. Guffin, Jr.

THE PIONEER CHART PROJECT

This project continues to come along very well. We have presently over 200 charts for the book and work is progressing on typing up the balance of the people in the 1830 census. The pioneers on whom we do not have charts will be included in alphabetical order with any information that has been uncovered regarding an individual. If there has been no additional information, the person is named as head of the household and the number of males and females living in the household in 1830 is given.

Thank you for your patience regarding this project. When the listing has been compiled and we can determine approximately how many pages will be involved, we

MCCRAY RESEARCH

Lewis McCray, a guest speaker at the April meeting of the Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society, was introduced as the Executive Director of the West Alabama Planning and Development Council, Chairman of the Tuscaloosa Heritage Commission, and Director of the American Legion Boys State, but he chose to talk about his latest interest, genealogical research. He spoke about experiences in building up a history of his McCray ancestors, who came from South Carolina in the early 1800's. He shared findings and pictures as he recaptured his new interest in tracing his ancestry. His enthusiasm was contagious. Even the dead ends he had encountered were lively.

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Thank you for your patience regarding this project. When the listing has been compiled and we can determine approximately how many pages will be involved, we will be calling on members of the Society to get the ball rolling as to publicity, mailing lists for prospective purchasers of the book, etc. Please begin now to compile names of persons who you feel would be interested in our book and get them to me.

Project Chairman,

June Reese

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"Every great and commanding moment in the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Enthusiasm is the all in all."

William Blake

RESEARCH IN NORTH CAROLINA

At the May meeting, the Society's president, R. L. Guffin, Jr., continued his series of lectures on the South-Eastern States. This second lecture was on North Carolina. It had been given at the Sanford Genealogical Institute by Mr. Mitchell, Director of the State Archives at Raleigh, North Carolina. Mr. Guffin gave extensive information on how to use the North Carolina Archives. He brought handouts published by them and noted that the best resource book was the newly published North Carolina Research Genealogy and Local History. He recommended that researchers begin at Raleigh, the state capital, due to the large collection of originals preserved at the Archives, which are protected by quite an effective security system. Archives will help you with certain records -- answering specific queries -- if you know where a person was and when. Be very precise and specific when corresponding. Do not write letters giving histories, background material, etc. Just state your request. You pay for each name researched, and estimated fees will be returned. There will be only 1 answer in each letter.

ORGANIZATION OF GENEALOGICAL MATERIALS

William D. Jordan, a member of the night group of the Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society, served as the speaker at the June meeting. Mr. Jordan is the head of the engineering mechanics department of the College of Engineering at the University of Alabama and a well organized person. He passed out a big, thick book entitled Genealogical Record, which was the genealogy of him and his wife, Carolyn Carter Jordan. The Jordans were in North Carolina by 1795, and the Carters were in South Carolina 1800 - 1860. He distributed six-page leaflets on organization of materials. This included a Four Generation Ancestor Chart and a Family Group Sheet. He also explained how the numbering system of Family Group Sheets works to give identity to each one listed.

BITS OF NEWS

Suzanne Johnson gave our group excellent coverage in a recent full page spread in the Life and Leisure Section of the Tuscaloosa News.

QUERIES

Queries will be published without charge to members of the Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society. Please identify your ancestor with such information as when and where he was born and ask specific queries. Space does not permit answers in the newsletter.

FAUCETTE - - Richard Faucette was born in S.C., d. in Tuscaloosa Co., Al in 1843. His will lists his wife as Catherine. What was her maiden name? She was born in N.C. Mrs. R. B. Hammer, 11415 Riviera Ct., Sunnymead, Ca 92388.

GIBSON, SANDERS, PEEKS, WOOLBRIGHT families lived in Pickens and Lamar Counties in the 1820's. Would like to correspond with any one working on these lines. Maurine Brevoort Seely, 160 E. 234 St., Carson, Ca 90745.

MOORE - - Would like to correspond with descendants of Joseph Moore's sons--John, William, Moses and also Lewellen--who came to Tuscaloosa Co. and then Fayette County about 1818. Mary Love Berryman, 3106 Rollingwood Drive, Tyler, Tx 75701.

WEDGEWORTH - - Seeks information on parents and siblings of Jane Clark Wedgeworth, born 19 May, 1822, in Jefferson Co. Al. Believed to have had a brother, David Clark, who moved to Tx after Civil War. Jane Clark married James Westly Wedgeworth, son of William Wedgeworth, Jr., 26 Oct. 1842 in Ms. Mildred Wedgeworth Weedall, 6502 Falcon Ave., Long Beach, Ca 90805.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS

Some of the new books in the Local History Collection are listed here.

Alabama Records compiled by Jones and Gandrud:

V 44 Sumter Co V 78 Tuscaloosa Co
V 120 & 154 Greene V 99 Tuscaloosa.

Down Home (Camden, Al) by photo-journalist Bob Adelman

Genealogy of the Fitts or Fitz Family in America by James Harris Fitts of Tuscaloosa, Al.

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Marie Ball contributes to the Tuscaloosa News articles in depth of local places like Convent Street. She is teaching a local history course at the University of Alabama's Continuing Education Center.

Alton Lambert's Genealogy Scout Post for 14-18 year old boys and girls needs new recruits.

The Sons of the American Revolution welcomes any male 12 years old and up. They meet the 3rd Monday of each month.

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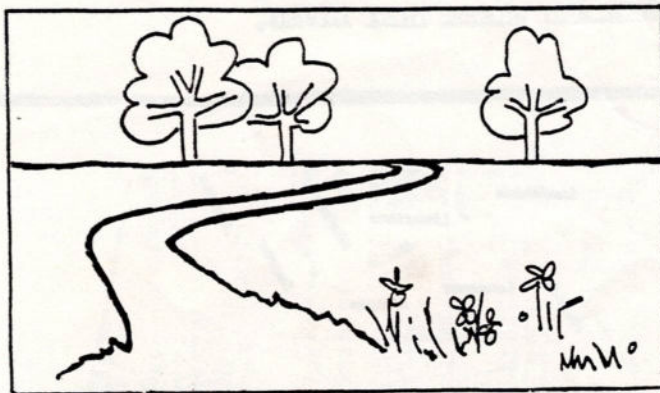
Down Home (Camden, AL) by photo-journalist Bob Adelman

Genealogy of the Fitts or Fitz Family in America by James Harris Fitts of Tuscaloosa, AL.

Genealogy Lawrence - Edwards - Ham - Wheeler - Hicks - Bird - Latham - Spinks, Lawley Family of Bibb & Chilton Co. AL. In the 19th Century & Sketches of Some Related Families by M. Lawrence

The John Holmes Family of Montgomery and Carroll Cos. Ms by Raiford Holmes

MSDAC Bicentennial Ancestor Index for Lineage Vols. 1 to 19 inclusive and Supplemental Vols. 1 and 2 compiled by Hazel K. Eilers, Certified Genealogist



DOWN MEMORY LANE TO FAMILY REUNIONS

The **GREEN/GREENE** reunion will be held at Friendship Baptist Church in Perry County about six miles west of Lawley the first Sunday in August. There are several of the descendants of this family living in or around Tuscaloosa.

The **KIRK** reunion will be August 22 at Aliceville Country Club. A basket lunch will be served at high noon. Every Kirk by name and those who married a Kirk are invited. The family names are Bell, Bailey, Lloyd, Eubanks, Hitt, Hasson, Faucett, Lewis, Acker, Hartin, Noland, Atkins, Johnson, Byars, Gallant, Smothers, Lancaster, Sims, Teer, Alexander, Huff, Mullins, Brazeal, Sharp, Watkins, Wilson, Brooks, Puckett, Driver etc.

The **LAMBERT/LAMBERTH** National Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn in Conree, Texas 24, 25, 26 July with Sanora Lambert Welch in charge. Alton Lambert, National President, from Tuscaloosa along with some of his grandchildren will be attending. Dr. E. K. Austin and his wife Betty will also attend. The Lambert/Lamberth Association is an international association with members in Canada, South America, and West Germany. Alton says he is expecting the largest attendance since the association started in Tuscaloosa in the summer of 1967.

A few days ago Jack and Mary Lambert from Drexel, North Carolina came through Tuscaloosa and reminded Alton that the **LAMBERT/BROWN** reunion will be held in Valdese, North Carolina on the fourth Sunday in August. "Oh, yes," Alton plans to go.

The **NORRIS** reunion was held Sunday, the 12th of April, 1981 at the old Samantha

reunion. Over 150 kin attended this first Norris reunion. Among the family names other than Norris of those who attended were Taylor, Estes, Waldrop, Self, Wilson, Mitchell, Warmack, Collins, Smith, Hocutt, DeRamas, Jobson, Herman, Reynolds, Ramsay, Brandon, Sherwood, Maddox, LeRoy, Kizziah, Rogers, Holcomb, Gregg, Smalley, Ayers, Fowler, Zennah, Nelson, Watkins, Weekley, Meadows, Hewitt, and Sanson.

The **NORRIS/WILSON** reunion was held Saturday, the 16th of May, 1981 at the Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church in Samantha Community, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Dr. Harold M. Wilson, 71 Heritage Hills, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406 was in charge.

The descendants of Robert Minor and Mary Isabel **OSWALT** met at Foster's Community House May 17th. Representatives of five of their seven children were present, with a total of fifty attending. A collection of old photographs was displayed.

Officers elected were Donald Oswalt of Fosters as President and Elizabeth Hilbish Morris, Tuscaloosa, Secretary.

The 1982 reunion will be held at Gainesville. This will be the 150th anniversary of the first documented record of Jacob Oswalt's settling on the Tombigbee River.

PEARSON and **BEATTY** cousins will gather at the Civic Center in Northport on Sunday, July 19, 1981, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. The hosts for the event will be the descendants of William Gibbs Beatty Pearson, who settled in Tuscaloosa in 1858 and married Julia Penn Snow on November 10, 1859, at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Snow, in Tuscaloosa.

Others attending will be the descendants of W. G. B. Pearson's younger brother, John Stokes Pearson, Jr., who settled in Marengo County, and the descendants of their aunt and uncle, Eliza Pearson and William Gibbs Beatty. Because a Pearson brother and sister (John Stokes and Eliza) married a Beatty brother and sister (William Gibbs and Annabella), there is a double relationship between the families.

The founder of this Pearson branch was Richmond Pearson (1751-1819), who came from Virginia to settle in Rowan County, North Carolina. The forefather of the Beattys

about six miles west of Lawley the first Sunday in August. There are several of the descendants of this family living in or around Tuscaloosa.

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The **NORKIS** reunion was held Sunday, the 12th of April, 1981 at the old Samantha School on Highway 43 North, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. This was the first reunion for the descendants of Elder John Norris, born 15 Oct. 1781 at Charleston, S. C. and his wife Elizabeth Harrauld, born in Virginia and said to be of Black Dutch ancestry. She was born 10 July 1789. They were married in Kentucky 26 Jan. 1809 and moved to Tuscaloosa County, Alabama in 1819 after the first seven of their children were born in Kentucky. Four more were born after the family moved to Alabama.

Mrs. Marguerite Smith, Route 1, Box 28, Vance, Alabama 35490 was in charge of the

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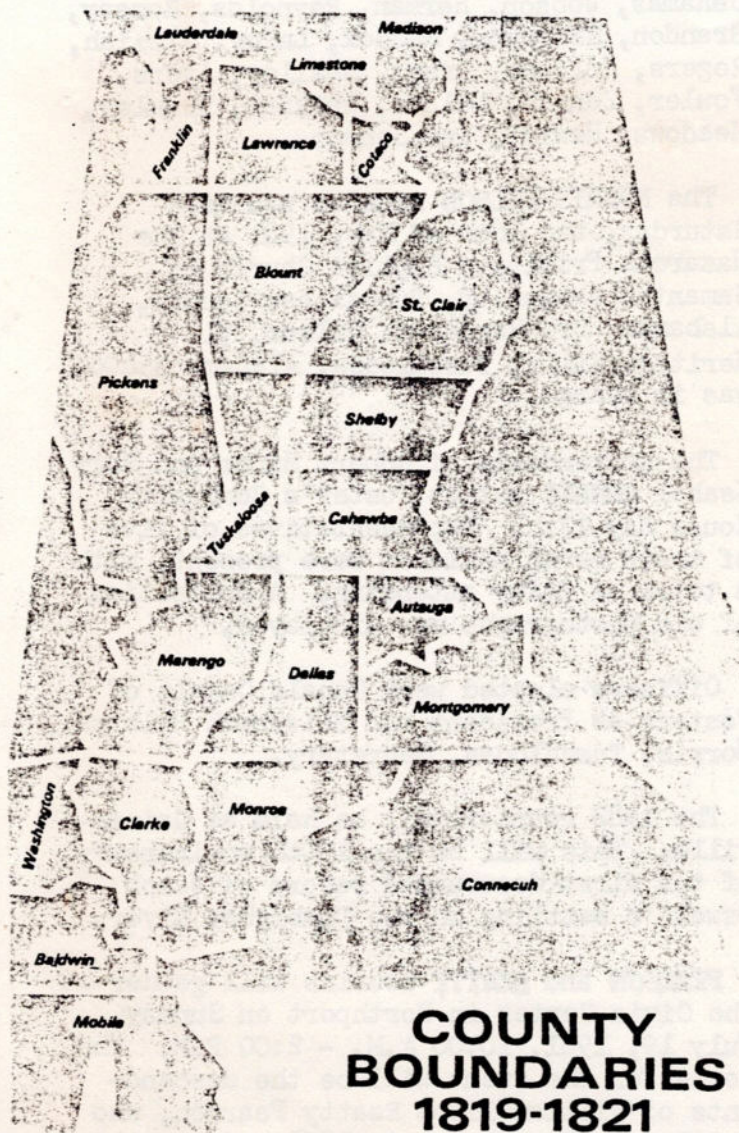
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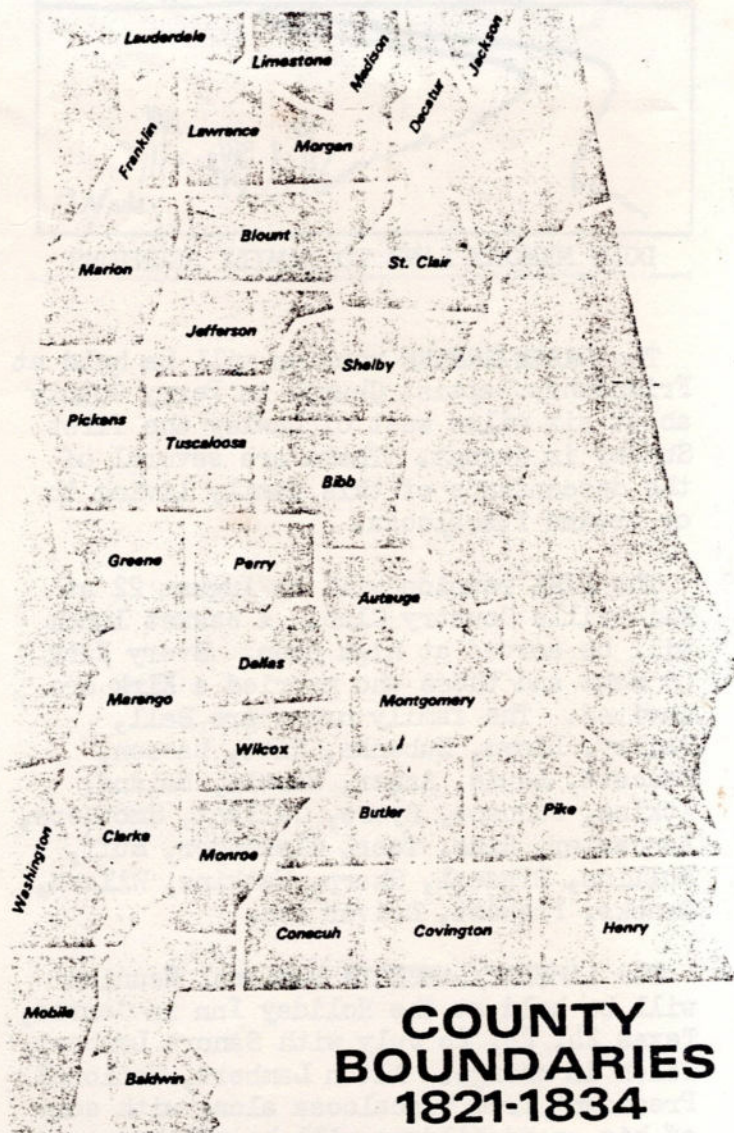
Among those from this area expected at the reunion are the families of John Stokes Pearson, Jr., Northport; John Charles Pearson and Mrs. Robert Palmore, Tuscaloosa; and Mrs. Roy Shultz and Mrs. Robert E. Clark, Greensboro. This will be the sixth consecutive annual reunion for the family.



WE LOCATE OUR PIONEER FAMILIES BY WHEN AND WHERE THEY LIVED.



0 25 50
MILES



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