



Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society

1439 49th Avenue East * Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404

Volume I Issue I

March 1980



President's Corner

It is my privilege to welcome into our organization a number of new members who share an interest in Genealogy. Also a special welcome to those out-of-town members who, in most cases, have a heritage touching our West Alabama area. The purpose of this letter is to provide for communication between us who meet together in Tuscaloosa each month and those of "Us" who cannot attend Society Meetings.

To handle our communications, we have two very capable ladies who are dedicated to their responsibilities as corresponding secretaries, for our morning and evening groups. They are Helen Reid Roberts and Jean Hamm Nicholson. Helen retired from the Tuscaloosa County Department of Pensions and Securities in 1978 and has worked for sometime now as a volunteer at the Tuscaloosa County Library. She is an excellent writer who has co-authored a book on the descendants of Nathan Reid, and more recently published a volume of sonnets. Helen is a charter member of our Society and one of its most active participants. She is a native of Franklin County, Alabama and is currently working on her Stanfield/Stanphill ancestry. Jean is a native of Jefferson County, Alabama and has been an active member of our Society for nearly a year. She is a very energetic young wife and mother of three with another child due in September. She is currently working on her Ham, Lewis, and Harris lines.

We will welcome all correspondence from non-resident members with your suggestions as to how we can best serve you. It will be necessary because of space considerations that we limit queries to one per person in each issue and we will also have a limitation on the number printed in each issue. However, we plan to list all eventually in the order they are submitted. We hope you will be patient with us in this new venture.

Happy hunting,

R. L. Guffin, Jr.
President



WE DIDN'T ALL COME OVER ON THE SAME SHIP,
BUT WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT !



Welcome to Distant Members

A very special welcome to our "Long-Distance Members". We have several states represented, and we say "HELLO".

- * Mrs. Patricia Sudduth Dear in Laguna Hills, California
- * Mrs. R. Ben Hammer in Sunnyland, California
- * Colonel James R. Howton in Silver Springs, Maryland
- * Mr. Richard E. Patton in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- * Mr. B. D. Scott in Maryville, Missouri



Minutes

DECEMBER

Both morning and evening groups discussed getting a newsletter published for our out-of-town members and our new project. The groups viewed Brent Holcomb's recent publication, Marriage and Death Notices from the Southern Christian Advocate, Volume 1 1837-1860. It was brought to Mr. Guffin's attention of some official court records on the 7th Floor of the Tuscaloosa County Court House that were not being cared for properly. A committee may be organized to follow-up on this project.

Mr. Guffin briefly discussed the Julian and Gregorian Calendar system- Also about the first census, as recorded in the HOLY BIBLE in Numbers 1:1. With the help of visual aids, he explained the genealogy of early Biblical families.

JANUARY

The societies' "Pioneer Families of Tuscaloosa Co., Alabama by 1830" project was discussed. A new source of information for genealogists was discussed: Mr. Guffin read the Index from the Chancery Court Record Minutes for the Northern Division of Alabama, Fifth Division 1830-1857. Mr. Guffin spoke to the groups about helpful hints to remember when doing research such as: How the wife's surname was used in the 1700's, the old custom of surnames used as given names, and how family names were used in the 1700's.

FEBRUARY

Mr. Guffin had attended a lecture of a Professor McCracken from Northern Ireland, at the University of Ala. speaking on Scotch-Irish Immigration in the 1700's and he



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The T. G. S. is compiling material for a book to be entitled PIONEER FAMILIES OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA which will be a brief family history of those families who were in the county by 1830. Ms. June Reese is chairman of the project. Anyone wanting to contribute material or work on the project, the committees are listed below. Please let us know.

COMMITTEES:

Charts committee
Indexing committee
Editorial committee
Research committee
Typing committee
Mailing committee
Publicity/Sales committee
Treasurer



Coming Months

The T. G. S. meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. at the Tuscaloosa County Library on River Road, second floor.

responding secretaries. For our morning and evening groups. They are Helen Reid Roberts and Jean Ramm Nicholson. Helen retired from the Tuscaloosa County Department of Pensions and Securities in 1978 and has worked for sometime now as a volunteer at the Tuscaloosa County Library. She is an excellent writer who has co-authored a book on the descendants of Nathan Reid, and more recently published a volume of sonnets. Helen is a charter member of our Society and one of its most active participants. She is a native of Franklin County, Alabama and is currently working on her Stanfield/Stanphill ancestry. Jean is a native of Jefferson County, Alabama and has been an active member of our Society for nearly a year. She is a very energetic young wife and mother of three with another child due in September. She is currently working on her Ham, Lewis, and Harris lines.

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FEBRUARY

Mr. Guffin had attended a lecture of a Professor McCracken from Northern Ireland, at the University of Ala. speaking on Scotch-Irish Immigration in the 1700's and he shared many points of interest that he learned. Also, information compiled by Dr. Chalmers G. Davidson of Davidson College who published a booklet on the "Colonial Scotch-Irish of the Carolina Piedmont."

MARCH

Special guest, Mrs. Bernice Clinton, wife of deceased Tuscaloosa historian, Matt Clinton, brought the newly published book, Scrapbook, for members to purchase. Mrs. Clinton edited her husband's notes based on years of Tuscaloosa history and research. The new book on William Nichols, Architect was presented and discussed. Pioneer Project chairman and committees were set-up.

GENEALOGICAL QUOTES

"THE HISTORIAN (GENEALOGIST) IS A PROPHET LOOKING BACKWARD."
(Schlegel)

"GENEALOGIST: ONE WHO TRACES BACK YOUR FAMILY AS FAR AS
YOUR MONEY WILL GO." (Anonymous)

"WHAT YOU THINK OF YOUR ANCESTORS IS NOT SO IMPORTANT AS
WHAT THEY WOULD THINK OF YOU." (Tomothy Coolidge)

"LET US PRAISE FAMOUS MEN AND OUR FATHERS THAT BECAME US."
(Ecclesiastes 44:1)

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April's guest speaker will be Miss Mary Bess Kirksey, Curator of the Southern History Room at the Birmingham Public Library. This will be a combined morning and evening group, meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the Tuscaloosa Public Library on April 3, 1980.

Coming in the next few months, we will have Mrs. Betty Collins of Birmingham, Alabama as our guest speaker. She has been doing genealogy for a number of years and will be very interesting.

? Query ?



Due to lack of space, these queries are shortened and a complete answer is being sent to the inquirer.

QUESTION: "Four Sudduth brothers left CA before 1824 and made their way to an area of AL which became Moores Bridge in Tusc. County. They were: My ancestor, Richard Parham Sudduth, James Smart Sudduth, David Burton Sudduth, and a Jared Sudduth. Jared Sudduth b. 1827 Married Tabitha Land 27 Aug 1848. I need help in identifying the parents of Jared Sudduth. I have very little info regarding James Smart Sudduth & he seems to be the most likely prospect."

Patricia Sudduth Dear
3460 A Bahia Blanca
Laguna Hills, CA. 92653

ANSWER: Enclosed find the marriage of Jared and Tabitha on 31 Aug 1848. Also find the lineage chart of the T. G. S. chart #206 as it shows James as father of Jarred. You might write to Lucille Dorroh Burton, 208 So. 59 Pl., B'ham, AL. 35212, as she is the one who completed this chart.

QUESTION: "My g.grandfather, Silas Maxfield Kennedy, Jr. married Nancy. They were in Tusc. in the 1840's, in Miss. in 1850 census, and back in Tusc. in 1851. I would like to know when and where Silas was married and is buried."

Grady Kennedy
9610 Todd Mill Road
Huntsville, AL. 35803

ANSWER: We could not locate your Kennedy on any marriage records in this county, so they must have married before coming to Tusc. We spoke with Mr. Alton Lambert, who has compiled cemetery records, and he remembers no Kennedys. He is still looking and if we locate where he is buried, we will let you know. Also find lineage chart # 120, Tusc. which shows Maxfield Kennedy as son of Dr. Joseph Kennedy. You might correspond with Michael Towery Lee of Orange, TX, as he is the one who submitted the chart.

QUESTION: "My grandfather, Milledge Moses Ratliff, Married Teresa Tucker in 1848 in Tusc. Born about 1820/1825 in AL. died 9 April 1864. My father and his eldest brother told us a number of times that the Ratliffs came to America from Germany. Who were Milledge Moses Ratliff's parents and where in AL. was he born?"

N. Hughes Ratliff
614 Windsor Place
Tyler, Texas 75701

ANSWER: Please find census records reports of Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc. which shows all Ratliffs for 1830, 1840 and 1850. You might write to Mrs. William T. Ratliff, 3501 Cliff Road, B'ham, AL. 35222, who is a member of the George Maris Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVIIth Century and as such is interested in genealogy.

QUESTION: "Seeking info on g.g. grandparents, Thomas Jefferson Scott b. 1814 CA married Margaret Ray c. 1833 in Alabama. Margaret (Peggy) Ray had a brother named Hiram and I have good reason to believe her mother was a Va. born lady named Rebecca. Is it possible that the Ray's are related to those on the 1830 Tusc. Co. census?"

B. D. Scott
117 S. Grand Rt. 1
Maryville, Mo. 64468

ANSWER: We refer you to the State of AL. Dept of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL. 36130, where they have about 47 volumes on the Ray family. Mr. William Wayne Nordan, Abbeville, AL. has researched on this family for years and has contributed to these volumes.

surnames

EVANS ancestry write: Mrs. Doris Patterson
104 Ease Oxford Street
Pontotoc, Miss. 38863

HICKMANS ancestry write: Kathleen S. Brown
Route 1 Box 159
Gordo, Alabama 35466

FRANKS or **WATERS** write: B. D. Scott
117 S. Grand, Rt. 1
Maryville, Mo. 64468

New Additions

Some books of genealogical interest have been placed in our Public Library. Some of these were contributed by the T.G.S. as follows:

HAYSOP, A CHURCH, A COMMUNITY, A PEOPLE OF HAYSOP CREEK, BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA by Charles E. Boyd of New York City. Part I is the story of Haysop Baptist Church, which was founded in 1830. Part II gives chapter by chapter accounts of the early settlers of Haysop along with cemetery notes of an alphabetical list of surnames, birthdates and dates of death, copied from the Markers at Haysop Cemetery.

EARLY GEORGIA MARRIAGES, 4 volumes., shows early Georgia marriages and licenses from many counties, plus the 1850 census records of Morgan County.

MATT CLINTON'S SCRAPBOOK, one hundred and fifty years in the life of Tuscaloosa and Northport, by Matthew W. Clinton. While Mr. Clinton wrote factual articles he never thought of himself as a genealogist. He traced several lineages with a series of names, dates and relationships and added interesting anecdotes of the prominent families he delineated. Such family names as Maxwell, Moody, Fitts, Jamison, Monnish, Bryce, and Searcy are familiar for any one who has been in Tuscaloosa for any length of time.

1907 CHILTON COUNTY ALABAMA CENSUS OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS bound in a single volume with Marriage Book I, II, and III of Chilton County, and the census of 50 cemeteries. The census of the soldiers was copied from a book found in the basement of Chilton County Court House, by Sue Hardy Thomas.

HISTORY OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, Volume III, by Alton Lambert. Mr. Lambert explores the church records and gives information about the dates of establishment of some of the county churches. He provides illustrations and an alphabetical name index. He is a charter member of the T. G. S., and a very enthusiastic member we can rightfully be proud of.

WILLIAM NICHOLS, ARCHITECT, The University of Alabama is proud to present this presentation of the architecture of William Nichols. In Tuscaloosa he designed the Capitol, University buildings, Episcopal Church, and many others.



Membership Info

If you are not a member of our society, and wish to join for 1980, the dues are \$3.00 yearly and can be sent to one of our corresponding secretaries:

Jean Hamm Nicholson 1621 Alaca Place, Tusc. AL. 35401
Helen Reid Roberts 16 Parkview Drive, Tusc. AL. 35401

If you are submitting a query, please give as much information as possible, including dates and full names.

Need a Name!

As you know, this is the first edition of our newsletter, and as of yet, do not have a good title for it. If you are interested, please help us find a name! Please submit a title to go with "Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society", which will not be easy!! Thank you!

