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A GLANCE

Local History

INTO

THE GREAT SOUTH-EAST,

OR,

CLARKE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

AND ITS SURROUNDINGS,

FROM 1540 TO 1877.

REFERENCE

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INDIANA, FROM 1834 TO 1872," "PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH
GOVERNMENT," "LAKE OF THE RED CEDARS."

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She has been a Baptist church member more than thirty years. She has good use of her faculties, is intelligent and sprightly in mind, apparently cheerful and happy. Her eyes are rather dim but her hearing is good.*

BENJAMIN McCURE, a brother of James and Robert McClure, married Mary Ann Woodard, sister of C. E. Woodard, whose daughter, Miss McClure, married and was the mother of Rev. ROBERT A. GILBERT, now an enterprising and prosperous citizen of Grove Hill.

There were four brothers named BUMPERS, Robert, Nathan, John, and a fourth whose son was named Robert. Three of the sons of the last named Robert Bumpers, are now living near Tatilaba Creek in the western part of the county.

Dr. T. J. PRIM resides north of Jackson near the river. He was formerly county commissioner. He is an active Baptist member and very sociable, fond of conversing with his friends, intelligent and a practicing physician.

ISAAC PAINTER came into Clarke about 1812. He formerly lived near Choctaw Corner but now resides west of the river. He is a dealer in cattle and sheep. He is about eighty years of age, and is still hale and active.

* Captain JAMES DE WITT is another of these early residents. His home was north of Jackson. He was a brother of Rev. L. L. De Witt, and the father of Rev. R. J. W. De Witt. The above name has usually been written Dewitt, and pronounced with the accent on the first syllable.

JOHN ULMER and JOHN OLDS became about the same time citizens at old Clarkesville.

* Mrs. Parker died May 12, 1879, quite suddenly, falling "lifeless to the floor from the chair in which she was sitting."

Dr. RAINEY afterward came to Clarke, settling on the old St. Stephens road. These families as well as many others have gone westward.

It will be observed here, that of several who are named on these pages, and who were also among the prominent citizens of Clarke, very scanty records are all that have been obtained. Several of these families have now no representatives in the county. In their distant homes they may be assured that they have at least not been forgotten.

HENRY SHAMBERGER and WILLIAM SHAMBERGER were two brothers of Dutch descent from North Carolina who were early settlers on James Creek. They had several sisters who married into prominent families. These families were well off and influential. They at length removed westward to a newer region.

JOHN BISHOP, STEPHEN BISHOP, and REUBEN BISHOP were three brothers, also early settlers. Stephen Bishop was quite wealthy.

JOHN SMITH, from North Carolina, settled in 1810, probably on Bassetts Creek, but soon removed to the neighborhood of the Pugh settlement west of the present Grove Hill. His daughter, who was in Fort Sinquefield and probably in Landrum's Fort, became Mrs. FORD and was the mother of David Ford; T. J. Ford, George Ford, James Ford, and John Ford, so well known in the county. A tax receipt signed by Samuel Dale, dated in 1817, was, in 1877, in the hands of T. J. Ford, preserved probably among papers connected with his grandfather's estate. As Monroe county was constituted in 1815, and as General Dale was the first or second tax collector of that county, it

years. He afterward settled in Marengo, and in 1859 commenced preaching. Brother Kirven has labored faithfully in Marengo and Clarke as pastor, and as missionary for the Association; and is an earnest, devoted, practical, intelligent preacher; a man of brotherly and loving disposition; a leading spirit in the Bethel Association. He has a growing intellect and heart, and is capable of taking large and liberal views.*

Elder L. L. DE WITT was for many years pastor of Salem Church. He had twenty children. Thirteen of these, seven daughters and six sons, are now living. Five of the daughters are married. He was an active and useful minister, but was obliged to give some attention to gaining means for the support of a large family. He died in 1871. One son, W. H. DE WITT, is now an active and leading pastor in the association, a man of exemplary, fervent piety. He has quite a large family of interesting children growing up in his home, requiring a father's care, as the churches to whom he ministers require a pastor's care. Well ought the churches of Bethel Association to appreciate the self-denials required from their pastors, who maintain large households on scanty salaries and devote their own time to the Gospel ministry. A cousin of the above named pastor, R. J. DE WITT, resides at Stave Creek, of which church, and of some others he is pastor. He is a young and promising minister.

Elder M. F. WHATLEY was born near the "Holy Ground" in 1819. He is of Huguenot descent in one maternal line, the Huguenot name having unfortunately been lost. He came to Clarke after the close of the civil war. His grandfather was a brother of Elder W.

* 1892. Now a pastor in Texas.

Whatley. He has been, in Clarke, a successful pastor. He has a good plantation on Tattilaba Creek. The River Road from Jackson to Coffeerville, running near, passes over table lands or ridges and conducts the traveller through a fine part of the county. It is about three miles from the river and passes near several settlements. Elder Whatley has one son Dr. HORACE E. WHATLEY, who resides at home with his father, and besides him he has "neither son nor daughter." (1877.)

Elder C. J. MILES is a native of Alabama, but spent a few years of life in Mississippi, where he was licensed to preach in 1851. He was ordained at Liberty church in Marengo county. He commenced preaching in Clarke and Marengo in 1855. His work is another example of a toilsome, self-denying life. For ten years he was missionary of Bethel Association, was appointed in 1862, and continued in service through the years of the war. He constituted the churches of River Hill, Satilpa, and New Prospect. His remuneration for labors, so far as a salary was concerned, was one dollar per day while in active service. (The contrast is great between such a pittance and the many thousands paid as salaries to some of the city pastors. Perhaps the work of evangelization needs some re-adjusting.) Brother Miles was afterward colporteur for Bethel Association, distributing the publications of the South-western Publication Society at Memphis, and organizing and sustaining Sunday-schools. His labors were mostly in Clarke county. His salary now was one dollar and a half per day. He has baptized quite a number in his field of labor and has organized several Sunday-schools. He is (1877) resident pastor of Deep Creek church, organized in 1876, which church has services every