

The following book, "Tuscaloosa, Alabama – Its Early Days 1816-1865" was written by local historian Matthew William Clinton. Mr. Clinton was a local historian and taught history at Tuscaloosa High School for many years. The following account was (scanned) copied By Doster L. McMullen from Mr. Clinton's book. (Some of the wording is not considered politically correct at this time, but in the interest of history, the wording is exact.)

Chapter I

THE BEGINNING, 1816-1826

Early Visitors to Tuscaloosa County

THE BEGINNINGS of Tuscaloosa are hidden in a sort of historical mist; we do not know for a certainty the identity of the first European who set foot on what is now Tuscaloosa County soil or the name of the first white settler. However, some facts connected with the exploration and settlement of this region are known, and some interesting conjectures have been made.

In May, 1539, Hernando De Soto, with an army of 600 well-equipped men, left Havana, Cuba, for the purpose of exploring Spanish Florida. He landed at Tampa Bay, moved through northern Florida, across Georgia, into South Carolina, through a corner of Tennessee, and entered Alabama at a point near Bridgeport in Jackson County. He descended the Coosa and Alabama rivers until he reached Mabila, the chief town of the domain of Chief Tuscaloosa, which was probably located somewhere in what is now Clarke County. Here, in October, 1540, was waged one of the bloodiest battles ever fought with the Indians. After the battle the Spaniards rested several weeks and then moved in a northwesterly direction, passing near the present site of Columbus, Mississippi, and crossing the Mississippi a little below Memphis. After De Soto's death the survivors of his army eventually made their way to Tampico, Mexico.

The main body of De Soto's men passed through Hale, Greene, and Pickens counties. Their route was a little west of Eutaw. Hunting parties and scouting parties were sent out from time to time, and there were some who were lost or who strayed from the column. It is not certainly known, but it is quite possible, that some of De Soto's men set foot on Tuscaloosa County soil.

Equal uncertainty exists regarding a possible expedition of some of Tristan de Luna's men to this region. In 1559 Luna established a colony called Nanipacna in Monroe County. Food became scarce, and in April, 1560, Luna sent Mateo del Sauz with 200 soldiers and about 100 others to Coosa, which was located in what is now Talladega County, for the purpose of obtaining provisions. Some of Luna's men had been with De Soto and remembered that De Soto's soldiers had fared particularly well at Coosa. Sauz's men, although unwelcome guests, found food at Coosa.

There is a story to the effect that Sauz, because of the gratitude toward the Coosa Indians or because of a bargain he made with them, sent fifty of his men with 300 Coosa Indians to fight the Napochies, who had been subject to the Coosas. A battle, or several battles, with the Napochies is supposed to have been fought at the confluence of the North River and the Black Warrior.

Priestly, in his "Tristan de Luna, Conquistador of the Old South", casts doubt on the occurrence of the expedition. He says: "It is a matter of more than ordinary interest that none of the contemporary documents collected and preserved by Luna himself mention any of the exciting incidents which the garrulous Dominican historian (Davila Padilla) obtained some thirty years later from his coreligionist Father Anunciacion ... Davila's story has been accepted by American historians, notably Woodbury Lowery in his Spanish Settlements." Priestly also says: ".since we have seen that none of the letters from Coosa spoke of such a war as having occurred, it either must have been a very insignificant affair, or else it happened after the letters were written."

The account says that the Napochies were driven west of a stream called Oquechiton, which Davila thought to be the Mississippi. On this point Priestly says: "On the whole the assumption of the discovery of this river by this party must be set down as a romantic yarn. In all probability the stream crossed was not further west than the Tombigbee river."

From these facts and surmises we must conclude that the Sauz party could have been the first Europeans to set foot on Tuscaloosa County soil, but we have no positive evidence that such was the case.

An Indian trail called the Great Charleston-Chickasaw Trail crossed the Savannah River at Augusta, led to Okfuskee in Talladega County, Alabama, crossed the Black Warrior at Squaw Shoals in the northern part of Tuscaloosa County, and continued to Cotton Gin Port on the Tombigbee in northern Mississippi. Over this trail, in 1698, traveled Colonel Welsh, a British officer. He crossed the Warrior River where Lock 17 is located and was the first European we know of who passed through the northern part of our county.

Spain was a member of the alliance against England during the American Revolution, and the governor of Spanish Florida, Bernardo Galvez, having captured Mobile and Pensacola, was, in May, 1781, ready to move against the British at Natchez. More than a hundred British Loyalists with some of their slaves set out from Natchez with the intention of joining their fellow Loyalists in Savannah. In the party were men, women, and children. The journey required 149 days, and not a life was lost. About their crossing the Warrior an account of their journey says: "They next made the Warrior at Tuscaloosa Falls, which they crossed by alternately wading and swimming from rock to rock." In the party were Dr. Theodore Dwight and his wife and five members of a family named Lyman, two sisters and three brothers. These people were the first Europeans we know of who came to the present sites of Northport and Tuscaloosa.

The next visitor to what is now Tuscaloosa was a Mrs. Crawley of Tennessee, who was held as a prisoner for several months by the Indians of Black Warrior's Town. Incidents such as the capture of Mrs. Crawley helped start the Creek War of 1813-1814, but did not cause it. The westward movement of our people was the principal cause.

Our War of 1812 with England was in the making for some years before war was declared. In the latter part of 1811 the British sent Tecumseh to Alabama for the purpose of stirring up the Indians against the white Americans. Tecumseh was a fit envoy. His parents had lived with the Creeks and had moved north of the Ohio only a short while before his birth. It was Tecumseh's purpose to unite all of the Indian tribes living between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi River into one big resistance movement against further encroachments of the white people on Indian lands. He first arranged a joint meeting of representatives of the Choctaws and the Chickasaws. The Choctaws lived in

what is now southwest Alabama and Mississippi, and the Chickasaw territory extended from northwest Alabama to the Mississippi River. Pushmataha, the great Choctaw chief, led the opposition to Tecumseh. After the arguments were over, the Choctaws and the Chickasaws voted for peace, and the Choctaw chief, Moshultubee, ordered Tecumseh out of his kingdom. Moshultubee directed David Folsom, a half-breed chief, and a company of Choctaws to accompany Tecumseh and his Shawnee warriors to the Tombigbee River, which was the eastern boundary of his kingdom. The crossing place was at Memphis in what is now Pickens County, about forty miles west of Tuscaloosa.

It was necessary to build a raft for the purpose of transporting Tecumseh's party and their horses across the river. At nightfall Tecumseh and some of his men had crossed, while Folsom's Choctaws and some of the Shawnees were still on the western bank. During the night a party of Creeks from Black Warrior's Town crossed the river below Folsom's camp and stole some of the horses of the Choctaws. Next morning the Creeks ambushed the Choctaws, who were tracking their horses, and killed several of them.

Tecumseh and his party proceeded to Black Warrior's Town. They probably crossed at the shoals which were a mile or two up the river from the village. We may be sure that there Tecumseh made his war talk to the Creeks, though we have no record of the event. From Black Warrior's Town Tecumseh moved toward the east to speak to the Seminoles and the Creeks.

Tecumseh's visit to Black Warrior's Town may have been interrupted by an event that took place soon after the murder of the Choctaws on the Tombigbee. Folsom, having been wounded, returned to his home. The remaining Choctaws elected another leader and made a raid on Black Warrior's Town. They recovered their stolen horses, burned several cabins, and killed some of the Creeks.

The name of the chief of Black Warrior's Town was Oche-motla, which, in the English language, means "The Full-Grown Warrior, Little Hickory." It was the custom of old chief Oche-motla and some of his warriors to go to St. Stephens twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, for the purpose of trading their furs and other articles for guns, powder, and other necessities. As usual, in the fall of 1811, just before or just after Tecumseh's visit to Black Warrior's Town, the old chief and thirty or forty of his warriors paddled their canoes down to St. Stephens. The chief called for Tandy Walker to act as his interpreter. Walker had once been a blacksmith among the Creeks and was a great favorite with them. The usual procedure was for the Indians first to pay a debt of \$100 incurred on the occasion of the previous visit, then to trade their pelts and furs for the articles they wanted, and finally to buy \$100 worth of goods on credit. During the visit in the fall of 1811, Chief Oche-motla called Tandy Walker aside and made him a proposition which was dishonest and alarming. He proposed that Walker use his influence with George S. Gaines, U.S. Indian agent at St. Stephens, to obtain on credit for the chief and Walker as large an amount of goods as possible. Walker was to accompany the chief back to Black Warrior's Town and be his partner. The chief said that by the time payment was due war would have started and that St. Stephens would be one of the first places to be attacked. Walker refused the chief's proposition and informed Gaines, who allowed the chief only the usual credit of \$100.

In the spring of 1812 a party of Creek Indians were on their way back home after a visit to Tecumseh and the Shawnees near the Great Lakes. It is possible that they had accompanied Tecumseh back North after his Southern visit.

At the mouth of Duck River, where it flows into the Tennessee, lived a family by the name of Crawley. A family named Manley were staying with the Crawleys while Crawley, Manley, and Crawley's eldest son were away from home on business. A

young man by the name of Charles Hayes was hired to protect the women and children while the Crawley and Manley men were away. On the morning of April 22, 1812, Hayes saddled his horse, and after he had ridden about a hundred yards from the house, the Indians fired on him, inflicting two mortal wounds. Hayes was scalped; one of the Manley children was torn to pieces by the Indians' dogs; then the Indians charged the house. Mrs. Crawley attempted to hold the door shut, but was forced back with the door between her and the Indians. Mrs. Manley's baby, only eight days old, was thrown into the fire, and two other children were killed. Mrs. Crawley had hidden two of her children in a cellar below the floor of the cabin, and they escaped injury. Mrs. Manley was scalped, and other atrocities were committed on her body. About four hours later she was found alive by some neighbors and survived the ordeal.

When Mrs. Crawley knew that she could not hold the door of the cabin against the Indians, she begged for her life, and for some reason known only to the Indians she was spared and led off as a captive. She was forced to go with them from town to town and finally brought to Black Warrior's Town.

Soon after her arrival at this place Mrs. Crawley was told by an Indian squaw that her captors intended killing her. That night Mrs. Crawley escaped and hid in the woods. Old Chief Oce-oché-motla bought Mrs. Crawley from her captors and sent some of his warriors into the woods to find her. After two or three days she was found and returned to the village. When one remembers that the land on which Tuscaloosa now stands was an almost solid canebrake and that the forests were full of panthers, wolves, and bears, it is evident that she must have suffered physically and mentally.

Tandy Walker, at St. Stephens, learned from a Creek Indian that a white woman had been brought to the Falls of the Black Warrior by a party of Creeks returning from a visit to the Shawnees on the Great Lakes. He informed George S. Gaines. Mrs. Gaines, who was present, requested Walker to try to rescue the woman. Tandy agreed to make the attempt but said that it would be at the risk of his life. He said that he could walk up to Black Warrior's Town on the pretense that he was paying a visit to his old friend Chief Oce-oché-motla and that he could obtain a canoe and either buy Mrs. Crawley's freedom or steal her out of the village.

The exact manner of Mrs. Crawley's rescue is not related in Gaines's Reminiscences, but Gaines says that Walker returned in about two weeks with the woman in a canoe. He says that Mrs. Crawley's mind had been impaired by her suffering and that it was a week before she was able to tell her story.

Mrs. Gaines nursed Mrs. Crawley back to health, and after several weeks she was able to undertake the journey home. She was guarded by a party of gentlemen who were traveling to Tennessee. Mary Gordon Duffee, for many years a writer for the Birmingham Age-Herald, says: "It is quite probable her party came up the St. Stephens Road, now called the Greensboro Road, to Tuscaloosa and followed the Indian trail by McMath's spring and Mound Camp Ground, through what is now Elyton and continued along the same trail through the territory of the present city of North Birmingham and past Mount Pinson to Bear Meat Cabin (Blountsville) on the Tennessee via Ditto's Landing (near Guntersville). The Indians who lived at Mound Camp Ground and around Elyton often spoke of a white woman who had been a captive going back home and the fine horses they rode. Old Bear Meat... said that she passed through his village and that he had conversed with her. The late Mr. Tom Nations, one of the earliest pioneers of Blountsville Valley, ... often said that the party of gentlemen and Mrs. Crawley passed up that road." Mrs. Crawley was returned safely to her home and was relieved to learn that her husband and the two children she had hidden in the cellar were alive.

Gaines immediately informed Governor William Blount, of Tennessee, of the murders on Duck River and the treatment of Mrs. Crawley. Blount wrote the U.S. Secretary of War and demanded that the Indians responsible be punished. The Secretary of War directed Benjamin Hawkins, U.S. Indian agent among the Creeks, to notify Tustenugee Thlocco (The Big Warrior), principal chief of the Creek confederacy, that he should at once summon a grand council of all the Creeks for the purpose of sending out warriors to

capture the Indians who had committed the murders on Duck River. According to a treaty made in New York in 1790, the Creeks had agreed to capture and surrender to the United States authorities any Indians who committed murder or other capital crimes on any citizen or inhabitant of the United States. The council met at Tukabatchi (east of Montgomery) and instructed a party of warriors to carry out the council's verdict. The leader of the band of outlaws, Hillabee Haujo, was killed at the Holy Ground (on the Alabama River between Montgomery and Selma). Another, Tustenugooche ("the Little Warrior"), was killed near Wetumpka. Eventually all of the culprits were slain.

The Creek War was part of the War of 1812, and the War of 1812 was part of the war between England and France which began in 1793 and ended with the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. The Creek War began with the battle of Burnt Corn (Coneduh County) on July 27, 1813. A party of hostile Creeks had been to Pensacola for the purpose of obtaining guns and ammunition and were ambushed by three small companies of militia under the command of Colonel James Caller. The militia were poorly trained and were badly defeated. The Indians wanted revenge and, at a council held a month later, chose as their objective the destruction of Fort Mims in Baldwin County on the Tombigbee River. On August 30, 1813, occurred the Ft. Mims massacre, in which more than 500 men, women, and children were killed.

The principal armies operating against the Creeks were those of General F. J. Claiborne, commander at Fort Stoddert, and General Andrew Jackson of Tennessee. Claiborne defeated the Creeks at the Holy Ground, and Jackson won the battles of Tallasehathe, Talladega, and Horseshoe Bend.

After crossing the Tennessee River at Ditto's Landing Jackson ordered Colonel John Coffee, with a force of about 800 men, to proceed to the Falls of the Black Warrior to destroy Black Warrior's Town. This was in October, 1813. Davy Crockett was a scout in Coffee's command, and in his autobiography written in 1834 he describes the expedition as follows: "We pushed on till we got to what was called the Black Warrior's Town, which stood near the very spot where Tuscaloosa now stands which is the seat of government for the State of Alabama.

"This Indian town was a large one; but when we arrived we found the Indians had all left it. There was a large field of corn standing out and a pretty good supply in some cribs. There was also a fine quantity of dried beans, which were very acceptable to us; and without delay we secured them as well as the corn, and then burned the town to ashes; after which we left the place.

"In the field where we gathered the corn we saw plenty of fresh Indian tracks; and we had no doubt they had been scared off by our arrival." Coffee, in his report of the expedition, stated that he had burned about fifty cabins and a long house. Colonel John McKee and Chief Pushmataha, with their Choctaw and Chickasaw warriors, came a few weeks after Coffee's men had burned the town, but found the town deserted and in ashes.

About the location of Black Warrior's Town Dr. W. S. Wyman says: "If any reader of this true story wishes to visit the site of the old Indian town, let him walk down Eighth Street, Tuscaloosa, toward the west. At or near the west end of this street he will find a wagon gate owned by Mr. E. N. C. Snow. Passing through this gate, if he will turn to the right and walk northwardly towards the river, he will soon find himself on the spot where the old town stood." This description places Black Warrior's Town on the Snow place just west of the Country Club grounds. Dr. William Stokes Wyman married Melissa Dearing, daughter of Alexander Dearing, whose brother, James H. Dearing, came to Tuscaloosa in the very first year of its existence as a town inhabited by white people. That was in 1816. Dr. Wyman learned much about the early days of Tuscaloosa from these and other early settlers.

Thomas P. Clinton located the town on the north side of Sanders Ferry Road about a hundred yards west of the intersection of Sanders Ferry Road and old Highway 11 branching off Eighth Street. He stated that the town was on the north side of the road and that the fort stood on the south side. The fort was called Seminole Fort. In the Creek language "Seminole" means "Separatist" Since the Creek Territory extended into Georgia and their chief settlements were on the Alabama River and its branches, the Creeks on the Warrior were truly separatists. Thomas Clinton owned the land where he says the fort was located, and he stated that when he had the field subsoiled, several large Indian cooking vessels and other artifacts were plowed up.

The location of the fort was also verified by Martin Sims, who came here in 1818 and who was for many years the bridge keeper at Tuscaloosa, and by Charles Whitfield, an old Negro, who told Thomas Clinton that he remembered the remnants of the old fort. Judge Washington Moody also stated that he used to pass the site of the old fort every day on his way to school. The Moodys, at that time, lived west of Tuscaloosa on the Sanders Ferry Road. Sims stated that the Indian town was on Sanders Ferry Road one and one-half miles west of Tuscaloosa on the Inge place, afterward known as the O'Connor place. Still later this property was owned by E. N. C. Snow. A descendant of William Wilson, who settled in Tuscaloosa in 1816, said that William Wilson had lived at the Inge place and related that the fort had stood across the road from his house.

Actually, there is not a great deal of difference in the sites specified by Dr. Wyman and Thomas Clinton. The two sites are within three hundred yards of each other. The village could have extended from one site to the other, since it is described as a large one. There is a spring almost midway between the locations, and we may be sure that the Indians lived near that spring.

By treaties made after the war all of the Indian tribes, friendly as well as unfriendly, were pushed back and confined to smaller areas than formerly; therefore there was more land made available for settlement by white people. The central portion of the state from the Tennessee River on the north to the southern boundary of the state and from the Tombigbee on the west to the Coosa on the east was opened for settlement by white people. The land belonged to the U.S. government and was to be surveyed and then sold to individuals or to land companies. Many settlers just moved in and took possession of the lands they wanted. These people were called "squatters". Their activities caused endless trouble and confusion, but the American pioneer was impatient and wanted to get there first.

Soldiers of the conquering armies were among the first to come. They had seen the new territory and knew where the good lands were. From the commanding general down to the private they came. General Jackson, General Coffee, and President Monroe bought land in northern Alabama.

Among the home seekers was Davy Crockett. Soon after the war his wife died. Within a short time he married the widow of a soldier killed in the Indian war and decided to get a new start in a new country. He was then living on Bean's Creek in Franklin County, Tennessee. Franklin County borders Alabama and is northwest of Huntsville and not far from the Huntsville Road, which led to where Tuscaloosa now stands. Crockett's account of his trip follows:

"The next fall (1815) after this marriage, three of my neighbors and myself determined to explore a new country. Their names were Robinson, Frazier, and Rich. We set out for the Creek country, crossing the Tennessee River; and after having made a day's travel, we stopped at the house of one of my old acquaintances, who had settled there after the war. Resting here a day, Frazier turned out to hunt, being a great hunter; but he got badly bit by a very poisonous snake, and so we left him and went on. We passed through a large

rich valley, called Jones Valley, where several other families had settled, and continued our course till we came near to the place where Tuscaloosa now stands. Here we camped, as there were no inhabitants, and hobbled out our horses for the night. About two hours before day, we heard the bells of our horses going back the way we had come, as they had started to leave us. As soon as it was daylight, I started in pursuit of them on foot, and carrying my rifle, which was a very heavy one, I went ahead the whole day, wading creeks and swamps, and climbing mountains; but I couldn't overtake our horses, though I could hear of them at every house they passed. At last I found I couldn't catch up with them, so I gave up the hunt, and turned back to the last house I had passed, and staid there till morning. From the best calculation we could make, I had walked over fifty miles that day; and the next morning I was so sore and fatigued that I felt like I couldn't walk any more. But I was anxious to get back to where I had left my company, and so I started and went on, but mighty slowly, till after the middle of the day. I now began to feel mighty sick, and had a dreadful headache. My rifle was so heavy, and I felt so weak, that I lay down by the side of the trace in a perfect wilderness too, to see if I wouldn't get better. In a short time some Indians came along. They had some ripe melons, and wanted me to eat some, but I was so sick I couldn't. They then signed to me that I would die and be buried; a thing I was confoundedly afraid of myself."

One of the Indians assisted Crockett to a nearby house, where he stayed until the next day, when two of his neighbors came along. Crockett set out with them with the idea of finding his companions and their horses. He continued ill, however, and was taken to the home of Jesse Jones, near the present site of Bessemer. His sickness lasted for about two more weeks, during five days of which he was unable to speak. His condition was so desperate that the woman who was nursing him decided to use heroic means. Concerning his medication, Crockett says: "And so the woman who had a bottle of Bateman's drops, thought if they killed me, I would die anyhow and so she would try it with me. She gave me the whole bottle, which throwed me into a sweat that continued on me all night. ...I began slowly to mend, and so kept on till I was able at last to walk about a little. "

Crockett began to improve from the time he took the "Bateman's drops". He had no difficulty in obtaining a ride back to Tennessee, as there was a steady stream of immigration. His wife was astonished at his return because the friends with whom he had originally started to the new country had reported that they had talked with men who claimed to have seen Crockett draw his last breath and to have seen him buried. Concerning the report, Davy says, "I know'd this was a whopper of a lie as soon as I heard it."

But for the accident of his horses running away and his sick- ness Davy Crockett might have been Tuscaloosa's first settler. Probably before the first white people settled in Tuscaloosa, and certainly before 1817, Tuscaloosa County had a mysterious visitor or a party of visitors.

About five miles down the Warrior River and on the north side, Big Creek turns sharply to the east and pours its waters into the river upstream. This leaves a peninsula between the creek and the river. Across this peninsula was an embankment about six feet high. This embankment had several large trees growing out of it.

In 1817 Tommy Scales was helping his father clear some new ground near the mouth of Big Creek. On top of the bank, at the- base of a large poplar tree, partly buried in the earth, Tommy discovered a large sandstone with some carving on it. The stone is conical in shape and measures 21-1/2 inches in height, 18 inches in breadth, and 12 inches in thickness, and it weighs 204 pounds. The stone was taken to the little town of Tuscaloosa and placed near the door of the log cabin which was the office of Levin Powell, Tuscaloosa County's first tax collector. In 1824 it was given to Silas Dinsmore of Mobile, who was a trustee of the American Antiquarian Society of Massachusetts. It was catalogued as "The Alabama Stone," and it is exhibited as one of the earliest evidences of the white man's exploration in America.

The inscription on the stone reads:

HISPAN ET IND REX

1232

Dr. Wyman says that this writing in full is HISPANIAE ET INDIARUM REX and that the translation is "King of Spain and the Indies."

There have been many conjectures as to the meaning of the inscription and as to the identity of the person or persons who placed it at the mouth of Big Creek. One guess is that the stone was left to mark the place where De Soto's party crossed the Black Warrior River after the battle of Mabila and that the number represents the number of leagues traveled by De Soto from the time he left Tampa Bay until he crossed the Warrior. But the best studies of the route taken by De Soto indicate that De Soto did not come as close to Tuscaloosa as the place where the stone was found. It has been suggested that the number is really a date and may have been 1532, but the idea is merely a supposition, and the date 1532, as far as we know, has no particular significance in the history of this region.

It was Dr. Wyman's opinion that the embankment may have been constructed at some time far back in the past by a band of Indians, probably Choctaws, for defense against their enemies and that at a much later date some white man who was a trader among the Indians carved the inscription which may have been copied from a Spanish coin. U one looks across the Warrior River from the mouth of Big Creek where the Alabama Stone was found, he can see a large mound, probably an Indian mound. Hence on each side of the river near Tuscaloosa and Northport stood mute evidence of the past--a past about which we do not know, and will never know, the complete story.

The First Ten Years

In naming the first permanent white settler of Tuscaloosa and specifying the date he came authorities differ. William R. Smith, in his *Reminiscences of a Long Life*, says, "It is also a fact that there was a village at Falls of the Black Warrior River called Tuskaloosa previously to 1816, inhabited by white persons." He does not name a first settler, nor does he give any evidence that the settlement occurred before 1816. Thomas Maxwell, in a paper read before the Alabama Historical Society in 1876, stated that a bill of lading was made out in New York in 1815 and that the goods were to be delivered to a party at the Falls of the Black Warrior. Maxwell said that the first settlers were William Wilson, Jonathan York, Patrick Scott, Josiah Tilley, Pleasant H. Dearing, John Barton, John Click, Matthew Click, and Levin Powell. Thomas M. Owen, in his *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*, says that the earliest settlers were Isaac Cannon and John Wilson, who came to this place in 1815. He also named as early settlers Patrick Scott, Jonathan York, John Barton, Joseph Tilley, and William Wilson.

Dr. Wyman, in an article entitled "The Beginning of Tuscaloosa and Newtown" printed in the *Tuscaloosa Times* May 12, 1899, says: "According to Judge Moody's manuscript history of Tuscaloosa, which was compiled from statements of Dr. Tindall and other first inhabitants of the town, and from Judge Moody's own recollections, the first white settler at the Falls of Tuscaloosa was Thomas York, who came to this spot in the spring or early winter of 1816 from Blount County and planted a crop of corn that year. About the same time came Jonathan York and Emanuel York, who were probably sons of Thomas York; John Barton, a blacksmith; Patrick Scott, Josiah Tilley, and John G. Ring."

Dr. Wyman states that there was a tradition in the family of A. B. Meek that the first house occupied by the family in Tuscaloosa had been the home of York, the first white settler. A. B. Meek was born in South Carolina in 1814 and came to Tuscaloosa about

1819 with his father, Samuel Meek, who was a physician, druggist, and Methodist minister. Samuel Meek is one of our best authorities on early Tuscaloosa history. A. B. Meek was a distinguished man in Alabama history. He was a lawyer, public official, and author. As a member of the legislature from Mobile County, in 1854, he introduced a bill which established the public school system of Alabama.

Dr. John L. Tindall was in Tuscaloosa as early as 1817. He and Marmaduke Williams represented Tuscaloosa County in the convention which met at Huntsville in 1819 to write the state's first constitution. He was a member of the building committee in charge of the erection of the state Capitol, a member of the state House of Representatives, president of the State Bank, and a practicing physician.

Judge Washington Moody came to Tuscaloosa in 1819 or 1820 with his father, Francis Moody. He became a leading member of the legal profession in Tuscaloosa and in 1871 founded the First National Bank.

Dr. William Stokes Wyman was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1830. He was educated at Harvard and the University of Alabama. After earning his M.A. degree he began his long teaching career at the University of Alabama, being raised to the rank of professor of Latin and Greek in 1855. He was a recognized authority on Southern history. He was offered the presidency of the University of Alabama several times. He served as president temporarily, but refused permanent appointment because he preferred to teach. He died in Tuscaloosa in 1915.

These men--Tindall, Moody, the Meeks, and Wyman--are competent witnesses that Thomas York was our first settler.

On old maps of the city of Tuscaloosa the avenue we now call Twentieth Avenue is called York Street. No other street or avenue bears the name of any person who is known to have settled in Tuscaloosa at an early date. This fact seems to be corroborative evidence that York was our first settler.

In Nelson F. Smith's History of Pickens County we are told that Jonathan York, son of Thomas York, and Josiah Tilley were married to daughters of Patrick Scott, and that John Barton, a blacksmith, performed the ceremony. We have no knowledge of Barton's being a minister. However, it was not uncommon for ministers of that time to combine the ministerial vocation with some other occupation. Dr. Wyman says that it is more probable that Barton, in performing the first wedding ceremony, usurped the functions of a justice of the peace because of stress of circumstances. It must be remembered that in 1816 Tuscaloosa was a part of Washington County of the Territory of Mississippi and that the county seat was at St. Stephens, which was about 250 miles distant from Tuscaloosa by way of the Warrior and Tombigbee rivers. Soon after Tuscaloosa's first wedding a third daughter of Patrick Scott was married to John G. Ring, who came in 1816.

Within a few years after their historic first settlement Thomas York and John Barton moved to Jones Valley, and Jonathan York, Josiah Tilley, and John G. Ring moved to Pickens County. Tilley left Tuscaloosa in 1817 and settled on the Tombigbee River near Pickensville. In 1830 he left Pickens County with some Choctaw Indians and moved to Texas. After the death of his first wife he married an Indian woman. A report written in 1855 says of him: "His head of long black hair was turned as white as snow, and he is surrounded by a family of half-breeds." Catherine York, daughter of Jonathan, was the first white child born in Pickens County.

William Wilson, a first-year settler, cleared part of the land on which the state Capitol was built. He later moved to a place on Sanders Ferry Road about a mile and a half below

the Falls of the Black Warrior, and his testimony, handed down to his descendants, helps us locate the site of the Creek village of Black Warrior's Town. Major James Childress, who came a few years later, built a log cabin on the spot where the Capitol was built.

Settlement continued at a rapid rate, and the community began to assume the proportions of a town. Most of the settlers came from Tennessee, Kentucky, the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia. First came those whose economic needs were greatest and then the wealthy class of people. Almost from the beginning most of the professions and the less skilled occupations were represented--merchants, doctors, lawyers, tavern keepers, farmers, blacksmiths, and others.

According to William R. Smith, Tuscaloosa's first merchant was Levin Powell. This could be true, since Powell is listed among the settlers who came here during the first year. Levin Powell is known to have been the first tax collector of Tuscaloosa County, an early postmaster, and a justice of the peace. Smith calls Powell "the most level-headed man of that day in the community." It is believed that when Powell was postmaster, the post office was located a little north of where the First Baptist Church stands today. Powell probably combined several jobs. He fought in Jackson's army in the Creek War and after that war engaged in the mercantile business in Huntsville. In 1822 he was elected to the state Senate and twice served as president of that body. He married a sister of Washington Moody. He died in 1833 at the age of thirty-nine.

John and Matthew Click were among our earlier merchants. In 1818 M. B. Click was clerk of the county court.

In 1819 John M. and Elias Jenkins had a log store house on the northeast corner at Broad Street and Greensboro Avenue, the present site of the First National Bank. It must be remembered that Tuscaloosa had not yet been surveyed and that locations are, therefore, only approximate.

In the same year Benjamin Cox, George Cox, and James Hogan came to Tuscaloosa from Huntsville, bringing their goods in wagons. Their first location seems to have been at, or near, the First National Bank corner. They soon moved to Newtown Their store was located on the northwest corner at Eighth Street and Thirty-sixth Avenue.

Captain James H. Dearing came to Tuscaloosa on an exploratory trip in 1816. He stayed at a "little shanty of a hotel" kept by Joshua Halbert. This hotel was located close to the site of the old water tower at the north end of Twenty-seventh Avenue. There on Christmas Day in 1816 he is said to have made the first eggnog ever made in Tuscaloosa. He had served in the United States Army during the War of 1812 and had engaged in merchandise at St. Stephens. He 'built a steamboat called the Tombigbee, and upon it he transported his family and goods to Tuscaloosa. His log storehouse was built on lot number 165, the present site of the City National Bank. He engaged in agriculture and in the operation of steamboats and steam-mills. Sometimes he commanded his own boats. In 1827 he built a splendid mansion at the head of Main Street fronting the old Capitol. This house later became the home of Governor Bagby and was for that reason known as the governor's mansion. It is now used by the University Club. Dearing also built a house east of Queen City Avenue facing Fourteenth Street.

Dearing was a director of the State Bank and a member of the Legislature. It is believed that he exerted a material influence in causing the removal of the state capitol from Cahaba to Tuscaloosa. He married Miss Julia A. Searcy, sister of Dr. Reuben Searcy.

Captain Otis Dyer came to Tuscaloosa in 1819. His store was located near the southwest corner at Broad Street and Greensboro Avenue. He was more interested in speculative enterprises and left the management of the store largely to his clerks. He operated a ferry across the Warrior River between Tuscaloosa and Northport, which was quite profitable

until a bridge was built in 1835. Dyer became rich. His wife was a devoted member of the Methodist Church. Smith calls her "a mother to the church."

The store of Fontaine and Battle was located on the south side of Broad Street about midway between Greensboro Avenue and Twenty-third Avenue. They came in 1821. Benjamin B. Fontaine prospered as a merchant, first in partnership with Battle and later with James Hogan. He built a two-storied brick home which was later occupied by Thomas Maxwell. The house was located in the block west of the present court house site. Alfred Battle built the house on Greensboro Avenue now occupied by Hugo Friedman. His son, William Battle, built the house north of and across the street from the home of Robert Jemison. The former home of Robert Jemison was recently donated to Tuscaloosa County by Hugo Friedman for the use of the Tuscaloosa County Library.

John B. Pass and William Toxey came to Tuscaloosa in 1820. On the corner now occupied by the First National Bank they built the first two-storied brick building. Pass and Toxey used the lower story for their store, and the upper rooms were used as a hotel by Billy Dunton, who called his hotel the Golden Ball. From time to time this building was added to and became Washington Hall. It extended northward through the block.

The first to build on this corner (or near it) was Thomas Lovel, who built a two-roomed log house. The place was known as Lovel's Tavern. A few years later the Jenkins brothers occupied the corner. There is no record of Lovel's owning the lot. Possibly he was a squatter, as indeed were all who settled here before the town was surveyed in 1821. At the land sales of 1821 William Toxey bought the lot. It is probable that the brick building was not built before 1831. Dr. John Neilson, who came to Tuscaloosa in 1831, stated that when he came here a log house stood on the corner.

John O. Cummings, a native of Tennessee, came to Tuscaloosa in 1824. He formed a partnership with John T. Irby and, after the closing of this firm, entered partnership with Charles G. Picher. The Cummings and Picher business was located on the First National Bank corner. They probably succeeded Pass and Toxey in that location. This firm met with disaster in the panic of 1837. Both men retired to live on farms. Their friends tried to reestablish them in the business world, and Cummings became a commission merchant in Mobile. In 1859 he fell a victim to yellow fever. Picher had lost confidence in himself and refused help. The man who had been a prosperous merchant, wearing linen of pearly whiteness, boots of the nicest fit, and a hat of finest beaver, had degenerated into a listless farmer wearing blue jeans, a home-made wool hat, and brogans.

Ed Sims and David Scott came to Tuscaloosa in 1822. They built a large brick storehouse on the northeast corner at the intersection of Broad Street and Twenty-third Avenue. When Tuscaloosa became the state capital, the State Bank was located on this corner. At a later time the famous "Bee-Hive" store of Thomas Maxwell was established there. The Belk-Hudson Company now occupies the old site

At the land sales of 1821 Sims and Scott bought many lots for speculative purposes and profited considerably from their merchandising and real estate businesses. Sims was particularly interested in establishing schools for girls. He presented the Methodist Conference with a brick house to be used as a boarding school for girls. It was established in 1828 and was known as the Sims Female Academy. It was located on the northwest corner at the intersection of Fourth Street and Twenty-second Avenue. Dr. Wyman says that it was probably the first boarding school for girls located in Alabama. Later Sims cooperated with other citizens in starting the Tuscaloosa Female Academy, an interdenominational school. Later this school came under the control of Professor and Mrs. Samuel Stafford. Sims also aided in the establishment of the Wesleyan Female Institute, which was located opposite the First Methodist Church on Eighth Street in the building formerly owned and occupied by E. N. C. Snow and later used as the Doctor's Clinic. Sims lived on the Hargrove Road in the present Mosely home. Scott withdrew from the firm and started a cotton factory in Bibb County. Before the Civil War Scott returned to Tuscaloosa and reestablished his business.

Henry A. Snow came to Tuscaloosa in 1822. His business firm was styled Henry A. Snow and Company. His younger brother, Zabdial B. Snow, was probably a member of the firm. Their store was located on the north side of Broad Street between Twenty-second and Twenty-third Avenues. William R. Smith says that Henry Snow was "of a delicate frame, with a meditative face of highly intellectual cast" and that when Snow was not engaged in the routine of his profession, "he exhibited the utmost cheerfulness; his spirits were congenial, and his habits eminently social." He was a staunch member of the Episcopal Church.

George Morgan came to Tuscaloosa in 1820 and built a one- storied frame store on the south side of Broad Street between Greensboro Avenue and Twenty-fifth Avenue. His brother-in- law, John Tyler Irby, is credited with having established the first book store in Tuscaloosa. The book store was made a branch of Morgan,s business. George Morgan's son was the famous senator from Alabama, John Tyler Morgan.

Charles M. Foster came from Philadelphia to Tuscaloosa in 1824. He established a shoe factory and sales store on the City National Bank corner and operated a tannery on the bank of the river east of the bridge. It is said that Foster preferred to use as employees in his shoe factory those who were physically handicapped. His business prospered until Croxton's raiders burned his tannery in 1865. The tannery was rebuilt, and Foster continued in business until 1874, when he retired. A few years later he was drowned in the Warrior River at Ward's Ford, a point ten miles above Tuscaloosa. In early life Foster was a member of the Episcopal Church, but later joined the Catholic Church.

Brewer states that William L. Adams was the first lawyer to come to Tuscaloosa. He does not give any more information about Adams, and other writers on early Tuscaloosa history do not mention him. Sion L. Perry came to Tuscaloosa in 1817 from Tennessee. He had been in Jackson's army during the Creek War. He was born in Tennessee. At one time he practiced law with Henry W. Collier. He was elected to the state Legislature and served as a circuit judge in northern Alabama. In later life he devoted himself to the pursuit of agriculture.

Constantine Perkins came to Tuscaloosa from Tennessee in 1819. He had also served in the Creek War. He was elected district solicitor, attorney general of the state, to the state House of Representatives, and to the state Senate. William R. Smith describes him as having a large frame and a distinguished bearing.

R. E. B. Baylor was born in Kentucky. His father had served as aide-de-camp to General Washington. He had fought under William Henry Harrison and was present at the battle of the Thames, the battle in which Tecumseh was killed. He came to Tuscaloosa in 1824. Baylor was elected to the state legislature and, in 1829, to the U.S. House of Representatives. He moved to Mobile and later to Texas, where he achieved distinction as a judge. He became a minister of the gospel before leaving Alabama, and it is said that in Texas he often occupied the judicial bench by day and the pulpit by night. Baylor University was named for him.

Seth Barton was born in Virginia and moved to Tuscaloosa in 1821. He was elected to the Legislature in 1825 by the deciding vote of the sheriff, Hiram Cochrane. The contestants were Barton, Henry W. Collier, and William H. Jack. When the votes. were counted, it was found that all three candidates had the same number of votes. Barton was defeated for Congress in 1829 by Baylor and moved to New Orleans the next year. William R. Smith says that Barton was aristocratic and "held himself quite aloof from the vulgar populace," that "when he played a game it was to win."

Harvey W. Ellis was born in Kentucky and came to Tuscaloosa in 1823. His first law office was in Newtown, but he later moved to Tuscaloosa. He was elected to the Legislature five times and served as attorney for the State Bank.

With Harvey W. Ellis came Robert D. Bomar. They came from Kentucky on horseback. Smith says that Bomar was a very handsome man. He was here as late as 1829, attending a celebration of Washington's birthday in that year. He moved back to Kentucky.

John G. Aiken was born in 1803 in South Carolina and moved with his parents to Tuscaloosa. He attended preparatory school in Tuscaloosa and received his higher education at Yale. He received his legal training at Yale also and began practice at the age of twenty-one, that is, in 1824. He was a law partner with Baylor. Both men were unusually tall, and it is said that their aggregate height was nearly thirteen feet. Aiken weighed 240 pounds. He was elected by the Legislature in 1833 to prepare a digest of the laws of the state, for which he received \$ 2, 500 plus \$ 800 for superintending its printing. He later moved to Mobile and then to Stockton. He served in the Mexican War.

Hiram and Eli Shortridge were born in Kentucky and came to Tuscaloosa in 1822. Hiram remained in Tuscaloosa only a few years. He practiced law with Colonel Baylor. He married Margaret Penn, daughter of James Penn, who was believed to be the first who improved the beautiful place afterwards occupied by Gen. George W. Crabb and afterwards owned by James H. Vanhooze. The Stewart family moved into this old mansion soon after 1900. It was partially destroyed by the tornado of 1932 and is no longer used as a residence. It is located on the north side of the Sanders Ferry Road a short distance west of Stillman College.

When Eli Shortridge was a boy ten years old, his father was killed on the Virginia side of the line between Kentucky and Virginia over a property dispute. Eli and his brother, Levi, who was twelve, got in a canoe and by a circuitous route brought their father's body back to his home place in Greenup County.

Eli Shortridge practiced law with Harvey W. Ellis. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1828, represented Tuscaloosa County in the state Legislature, and in 1835 was elected to the circuit court bench, which necessitated his moving to Talladega. He was considered to be one of Alabama's best orators. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and a Mason. His son, George D. Shortridge, also became a judge.

Francis Moody came to Tuscaloosa in 1820. With him came his son Washington Moody who was destined to distinguish himself in Tuscaloosa and Alabama history. Francis Moody died soon after, and it was Washington Moody's good fortune to have as his adviser Levin Powell. Powell was postmaster and a justice of the peace, and Moody assisted in making records and listened to the trials. He also aided Judge Minor and George W. Crabb in a similar capacity. He was a writer for the Alabama Sentinel in 1829. Later he became a leading member of the bar and, in 1871, established the First National Bank. He married Sara Sims, a daughter of Edward Sims.

Judge Henry W. Minor was born in Virginia and moved to Alabama at an early age. He was a member of the state Supreme ~~XXX~~ Court and afterwards clerk for that court. It is for his work as court clerk that he is best remembered.

Henry W. Collier moved, in succession, from Virginia to South Carolina, to Tennessee, and to Alabama. He came to Tuscaloosa in 1823 and became a law partner with Sion L. Perry. In 1828 he was elected by the Legislature to the Supreme Court and served as chief justice from 1837 to 1849, when he was elected governor of the state. He lived in the house now occupied by V. G. Overbey on Ninth Street and Twenty-first Avenue.

Samuel G. Frierson came from Tennessee in 1819. He was admitted to the bar in 1826. He served in the state Legislature, as postmaster of Tuscaloosa, and as state treasurer. He was a very large man, weighing over four hundred pounds. Garrett says, "His humor was inexhaustible in the line of mimicry."

William R. Smith also names as early Tuscaloosa lawyers John H. Jones, George W. Stewart, and Judge Hume R. Field.

The influence of lawyers on public affairs was great. It is but a step from the profession of law to law making and to the judicial interpretation of the laws. Another reason is that, in the pioneer days of our state, of all the professions the lawyers were the best trained.

The first physicians in Tuscaloosa were Dr. John L. Tindall and Dr. Jephtha V. Isbell. Both were here by 1817. Doctors here by 1821, in addition to these two, were William Purris, Thomas Hunter, Robert L. Kennon, Samuel M. Meek, Nicholas Perkins, William Owen, John Owen, and James Guild. William R. Smith names Dr. James Isbell also, but does not name Jephtha Isbell. Possibly there were two doctors named Isbell, or there may have occurred a confusion of names. Richard Inge, eldest son of Richard Inge, Sr., who came to Tuscaloosa in 1821, probably practiced here a short while before moving to Greensboro. Smith simply states that Dr. Richard Inge "belonged to the medical faculty of Tuscaloosa." Dr. John R. Drish came in 1822, Dr. Mitchell in 1826. Dr. Doric S. Ball came about 1824. Smith tells us that Dr. Reuben Searcy came to Tuscaloosa "at a very early age, in 1826." Dr. William A. Leland was one of Tuscaloosa's early doctors.

Very few of these early medical men had received training at medical colleges. Most of them had studied and practiced with older doctors. Four of them were not only medical men but were ministers in the Methodist Church. Dr. Kennon is listed as pastor of the Tuscaloosa Methodist Church for the years 1829- 1830 and 1837. Doctor Meek was a minister before he became a doctor. He also operated a drug store. Doctors John and William Owen were brothers. Smith says that they were both more devoted to the church than to medicine and that Dr. John Owen was a regularly ordained Methodist minister, but he did not belong to the conference.

Dr. James Guild, after graduating from Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1821, moved to Tuscaloosa. He said that the first six or eight years of his professional life was a hard struggle for an honorable existence. However, his strict attention to business and his thorough medical knowledge brought him to the front rank of the medical profession, and for sixty years he occupied a place of preeminence as a learned and scientific physician. He acquired a national reputation in the field of surgery. He was a trustee of the state mental hospital and of the University of Alabama. He served one term in the state Senate and one term in the House of Representatives. Smith says, "He was literally forced into the political arena--entering it with reluctance and quitting it with alacrity." He married Agnes, a daughter of Marmaduke Williams, who had represented Tuscaloosa County in the Constitutional Convention of 1819. His son, Lafayette Guild, served on General Lee's staff as medical adviser.

Dr. Reuben Searcy came to Tuscaloosa at an early age in 1826. He served as clerk on the steamboat Tuscaloosa, which was built in Tuscaloosa by James H. Dearing. He taught school, first in Northport and then in Tuscaloosa. His school was located near the site of the old water tower at the northern end of Twenty-seventh Avenue. He believed that to spare the rod was to spoil the child. Smith says of him, "The doctor was young then, and slender and trim--and was equally ready for a footrace or a fight, if need be." Smith was one of Searcy's pupils and expresses gratitude for the thorough training he received from the young school master. Searcy studied with Dr. Guild and later at Transylvania.

After graduation he entered upon his medical career in Tuscaloosa and achieved "a high stand as an eminent, popular, benevolent, and industrious practitioner of medicine." For thirty years he was president of the board of trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital. He served one term in the state House of Representatives. He was defeated for reelection and decided against a political career.

Dr. Searcy was not averse to a little fun and recreation. He was a 'famous chess player, and it is said that when he pulled a tooth if the patient hollered the fee was a dollar, and if he did not holler the fee was fifty cents.

Dr. Searcy married Abigail Fitch, who had come to teach in the Tuscaloosa Female Academy. Miss M. B. Brooks, later to become Mrs. Stafford, was the principal. Dr. Searcy's son, James T. Searcy, in 1892, became the second superintendent of the state mental hospital. Dr. Reuben Searcy died in 1887. Dr. Harvey Searcy is the grandson of Dr. Reuben Searcy.

Dr. William A. Leland came to Tuscaloosa from Virginia. He was an educated man and a competent physician. He was independent in thought and questioned many medical practices of his day. He had a theory about the cause of yellow fever and tried to get help from the national government in testing his idea. He did not get the help he desired, and his theory followed him to the grave. He also believed in preventive medicine, which was a new idea in those days.

In 1798 Congress created the Mississippi Territory. Its southern boundary was 31°, which is the present boundary between Alabama and Florida, and its northern boundary was 32°28' north latitude. Columbus (Georgia), Montgomery, Selma, and Demopolis are all near this line. The western boundary was the Mississippi River, and the eastern boundary the Chattahoochee River. In 1802 Georgia ceded her western lands to the national government, and the northern boundary of the Mississippi Territory became 35°, the present boundary between Alabama and Tennessee. The capitol of the territory was Natchez. By proclamation of the territorial governor Washington County was created in 1800. It finally included all of the present state of Alabama except that part south of 31° which was taken from Spain during the War of 1812.

On March 3, 1817, Mississippi was admitted into the Union, and Alabama was made a territory. St. Stephens was made the capitol. By an act of the territorial legislature passed February 7, 1818, Tuscaloosa County was created. By an act of Congress, passed the same day on which Alabama was made a territory, the position of surveyor general was created, and General John Coffee was appointed surveyor general for northern Alabama. This same act provided that certain town sites were to be reserved for entry and sale as public lands. These reserved sections were to be laid off into streets and lots, and the lots were to be sold to the highest bidders whenever the President of the United States should direct. That part of section 22 of township 21 south (from the northern border of the state), range 10 west (of Huntsville) which lay south of the Warrior River, was selected by the President as the site of a town.

As the population increased the need for a legal government became apparent. On December 13, 1819, the territorial legislature passed a bill incorporating the town of Tuscaloosa. This event occurred one day before Congress admitted Alabama to the Union. For the first time the town was designated as "Tuscaloosa."

The month after Tuscaloosa was incorporated as a town, that is, in January, 1820, all white male citizens who were twenty-one years old and older and residing in section twenty-two were invited to meet at the court house to choose by ballot seven householders to serve as commissioners for the town of Tuscaloosa. No record of the names of the commissioners has been found. The earliest record that we have shows that William R. Bolling was mayor in 1828. Dr. John Owen served as mayor after Bolling, but the dates of his administration are not shown. William R. Smith was mayor in 1837. The entire police force consisted of the Marshall, who was elected by the people. The mayor's office was located at the mayor's regular place of business. In 1822 William P. Gould was appointed the first postmaster of Tuscaloosa. Levin Powell was the second postmaster.

Tuscaloosa County was created by the territorial legislature in 1818, after which Julius Sims represented the county in that body. Under the territorial government Isaac Patrick was the first justice of the county court, John Smith the sheriff, Wm. H. Terrell the first clerk of the superior court, and Matthew Click the first clerk of the county court. Marmaduke Williams and Dr. John L. Tindall represented Tuscaloosa County in the Constitutional Convention of 1819.

Under the state government Hume R. Field was the first judge of the county court, Henry T. Anthony the first clerk of the county court, John Hodge the first sheriff, Matthew Click the first circuit court clerk, Ebenezer Horton the first coroner, and Levin Powell first tax collector. Sheriffs who followed Hodge were William Y. Glover, Hiram Cochrane, and Elias Jenkins. John McKee was the first registrar of the Land Office in Tuscaloosa and William P. Gould the second.

State senators from Tuscaloosa County were Thomas Hogg (1819-1821), Levin Powell (1822-1832), Dr. James Guild (1833), and Constantine Perkins (1833-1835). Representatives in the first legislature under the new constitution were James Hill, Hardin Perkins, and Julius Sims. Others who served before 1826 were Dr. Jephtha Isbell, Marmaduke Williams, Levin Powell, Sion L. Perry, Dr. Thomas C. Hunter, Dr. John L. Tindall, R. E. B. Baylor, Seth Barton, and Richard Inge. Tuscaloosa then had three members in the state House of Representatives. John McKee was the first to represent the Tuscaloosa district in the U.S. Congress. He was followed by R. E. B. Baylor, Joab Lawler, and George W. Crabb.

Since the call for the election of the first officials of the town of Tuscaloosa was issued in December, 1819, and since the call specified that the meeting was to take place in the court house, we know that there was a court house in Tuscaloosa as early as December, 1819. There is no existing and known record to tell us where that court house was located. On this point Dr. Wyman says: "I conjecture that it was a temporary structure of logs built on the lot which was afterwards designated on the plat of the town as 'Court Square.' This was the lot on the north side of Broad Street, immediately opposite the present Washington Hotel." In 1899, when Dr. Wyman wrote the article in which this statement is made, the Washington Hotel was on the southwest corner at the intersection of Broad Street and Twenty-second Avenue, that is, the present site of the post office. (Washington Hotel was the Bell Tavern with a new name. It is not to be confused with Washington Hall, which stood where the First National Bank is now.)

In 1821 the Masonic Hall was adopted as a temporary seat of justice. An annual rent of \$80 was paid for use of the building. In 1822, by a vote of the people of Tuscaloosa County, the seat of justice was moved to Newtown. Newtown had been incorporated in December, 1820, and, because Tuscaloosa had not been surveyed at that time, grew faster than Tuscaloosa. The courthouse in Newtown was located in lots 9 and 10 of the survey of that town, that is, west of Thirty-second Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets. The Newtown Company donated the land and the building. A "handsome brick edifice" was erected, and court was held in the building until 1826, when the courthouse was moved back to old town. Peter Donaldson was paid \$15 "for use of house in which to hold court." Donaldson was a hotel keeper in Tuscaloosa and was probably at that time proprietor of Washington Hall. It is possible that court was held in the large room on the second floor of that building.

In 1830 a two storied brick court house was erected at the northwest corner at the intersection of Market (Greensboro Avenue) and Union (Seventh) Streets. A special tax was levied for three years for the purpose of paying for the lot. John S. Fitch was paid \$25 for drawing the plan of the building; Pleasant Wilson was paid \$15 for legal services; and a contract was made with Edwin Sharpe for the building of a court house. The contract price was \$2,478.

In 1845 the courthouse was moved to the southeast corner of Greensboro Avenue and

Sixth Street, the corner on which the Alston Building is located. The purchase price of \$4,000 was to be paid from a special fund derived from sales of unclaimed runaway slaves and strays. In 1846 the town government was authorized to erect a tower at the west end of the courthouse. On this tower there was placed a clock which remained the property of the town.

The courthouse we now have, at the southwest corner of Greensboro Avenue and Seventh Street, was built in 1907.

The first county jail was built by John Baker in 1818. It cost \$138 plus \$10 for making a lock. Soon after the building was put up, \$75 more was spent for "repairing and making secure the door of said jail." During the first three years \$240 was paid to different persons who served as guards at one dollar per day.

The location of the first county jail is a puzzle. An early record defines the prison bounds of the Tuscaloosa County Jail yard as follows: "Commencing at the jail, thence in a direct line at Lewin's, including Lewin's houses; thence to J. V. Isbel's; from thence to John Read's; including Nash's cotton gin; from Read's to Powell's; thence to Lovel's tavern; thence across the lot to the jail." The paper is signed by Abel Pennington, probably a deputy sheriff, and is dated June 14, 1819. Lovel's tavern was located where the First National Bank is now, and the jail lot seems to have been located between that corner and the McLester Hotel, that is, in the middle of what is now Greensboro Avenue. Charles Lewin later moved to Newtown and was one of its incorporators.

When the court house was moved to Newtown, the jail was also moved. Lot number 91 was deeded to the county for the jail lot. Lot number 91 of the survey of the Lower Part of the Town of Tuscaloosa was located on the northwest corner of Richmond and Sandusky Streets. Today these streets are called Fifth Street and Thirty-fourth Avenue, respectively. There is no record of the land or the building costing the county anything, and the conclusion is that the Newtown Company paid for the jail. In 1847 a jail was built on lot 168 of Tuscaloosa at a cost of \$403.87. Lot 168 is on the southeast corner at the intersection of Broad Street and Twenty-third Avenue and is now occupied by the Kress store. In 1856 a jail was built on the southwest corner at Sixth Street and Twenty-eighth Avenue, that is, across the street from and south of the old Capitol building. The building was erected by William B. Robertson at a cost of \$8,029.40. In 1890 a jail was built on the courthouse lot (Alston Building) at a cost of \$11,000.

The care of the poor, the helpless, and the unfortunate took a very considerable part of the county revenues in the early years. In 1829 a tract of forty acres was purchased at a cost of \$ 45, and a building was put up for \$ 255. In 1836, \$110 a year was paid for the upkeep of each pauper. Later the amount was made \$150. Then competitive bids were accepted, and the cost went down to \$35 for each inmate. A report made in 1848 stated that the lands were poor and worthless, that there was on the land one frame building, and that there were no bedsteads, only five split-bottom chairs, no knives, plates, cups, or saucers. At that time there were in the poorhouse five grown men, five white women, one "crazy" Negro woman, and four white children.

Thomas P. Clinton states that the first mail route to Tuscaloosa was established in 1818, that Levin Powell was the first postmaster, and that the first post office was located a few yards north of the First Baptist Church. Powell was justice of the peace and had an office near the present church site. However, James A. Anderson says that William P. Gould was the first postmaster. He was appointed in 1822. The post office was later located in one of the rear rooms of Washington Hall and was at that location at the time of the Civil War.

In the meanwhile, the population of the settlement at the Falls of the Black Warrior was increasing rapidly. Major Pleasant H. Dearing, who came to Tuscaloosa in 1817, said that the settlement at that time consisted of a cluster of log cabins with mud and stick chimneys situated about where the base of the old water tower stands today.

Hiram Cochrane also came to Tuscaloosa in 1817. William R. Smith says: "When Cochrane came here the place presented nothing as a village but a rude cluster of log huts, heterogeneously arranged, with little regard to regularity as to streets. My own very dim recollections open here in 1821. Even then there was scarcely a plank or a brick in the village. It was full of shrubby little oak and pine saplings; and literally swarming with the native Indians. Here the red men resorted to trade and to drink, and here they came to exhibit their skill at their favorite sport of ball playing."

Niles' Register for February 28, 1818, says: "The Black Warrior River, which is called the Nile of the western country, is spoken of as the great outlet for the products of this interesting part of the republic. A town has been established immediately below the falls of this river, which, though a wilderness ten years ago, now contains, by a late census, two hundred and ninety-six inhabitants."

In September, 1818, Joseph Noble in a letter written at the "Falls of Tuscaloosa" to his friend, Samuel Bidgood of Jackson, Clarke County, Alabama, said, in part: "This town makes but an indifferent appearance with respect to buildings, but it contains some very respectable inhabitants, and has, I suspect, more retail trade than Saint Stephens and Jackson put together. The population of the town is about six hundred, and probably will not increase until the lands are sold. "Choice lots will sell for \$30.00 at the sales, without doubt. ...The neighborhood affords beautiful highlands. ...and I should be content to own them at a fair price; but there are capitalists who will give forty dollars per acre for them."

In 1821 William Gilmore Simms passed through Tuscaloosa and describes it as follows: "The town was little more than hewn out of the woods. Piles of brick and timber crowded the main, indeed the only street of the place, and denoted the rawness and poverty of the region in all things which could please the eye and minister to the taste of the traveler. But it had other resources in my sight. The very incompleteness and rude want of finish indicated the fermenting character of life."

Simms stated that he stayed at the only hotel in the place and was required to share his room with two other people. Next day he crossed the river on a flatboat. About the farming people who lived in the surrounding area, he wrote: "Like the people of all counties who live in remote interior situations and see few strangers who can teach anything, these people had a hundred questions to ask and as many remarks to make upon the answers. They were a hearty, frank, plain-spoken, unequivocal set who would share with you their hoecake and bacon, or take a fling or dash of fisticuffs with you according to the several positions as friend or foe which you might think proper to take. Among all the people of this soil good humor is almost the only rule which will enable the stranger to get along safely."

A less favorable description of Tuscaloosa is found in the letters of William H. Ely, agent of the Connecticut Asylum, a school for the instruction of the deaf and dumb. In 1819 the United States Congress granted to the Connecticut Asylum a township (36 square miles) of land. William H. Ely was appointed as the agent of the asylum and it was his duty to select and sell the lands donated by Congress. Ely arrived in Huntsville early in 1820 and visited Carrollsville, Tuscaloosa, Cahaba, Jones Valley, and other communities. He probably left Alabama in the late summer of 1821. Ely wrote many letters to his wife and to officials of the asylum.

Ely did not like Alabama. His journey from Knoxville to Huntsville was "pretty unpleasant." In Huntsville he was ~~XXX~~ disgusted with the "noise, filth, dissipation and want of every accommodation at even the best hotel in the place." The lands of north Alabama were "poor and barren." He became "weary with traveling over Mountains, thro Swamps and Mud and living in the middle of Piles of Logs with no other windows than the large spaces between them (there not being a Pane of Glass to 5,000 People in the Country) of living on Hog and Corn, with a few racoon (?)." He finally became "so

unhappy as an Enemy could wish." His situation became "anxious & joyless" and he looked forward to the moment when he could leave "this detested state."

It was not all bad. He said, "The woods here are full of beautiful blossoms." He mentions "the almost innumerable Plants & beautiful flowers which grow wild in this Country. ..." To his children he wrote, "the Deer and Squirrels are thick in the Woods & caper around me & that there are plenty of Turkeys running wild. ..." However, to him, the spring season did not "possess the delightfully exhilarating character that it has in New England."

Ely's discontent with what he saw in Alabama was, no doubt, due partly to the new frontier conditions that confronted him. He also keenly felt the long separation from his family. In spite of the drawbacks of the new state, Ely experienced good health during the first year of his stay. In his letters he repeatedly refers to his good health. It was only after Ely had become unpopular with the people that his health became a problem. His shrewd bargaining, his selection of choice lands, and his suspicion that his person was in danger began to prey on his mind. On a trip from Elyton to Huntsville he hired two men to guard him as he was taking with him money, bonds, mortgages, and contracts to the amount of \$25,000. From Tuscaloosa he wrote, "My health is not very good, though I am able to attend to business, but the constant care and anxiety I experience, both on account of my Business, and the hazard to myself & the Property in my Custody among such a barbarous People, many of whom are incensed against me, & the confinement I find it prudent to subscribe to, never going out here unarmed, pray severely on my health & spirits & render me quite unhappy."

In spite of his woes Ely was pleased that the legislature of Alabama named the county seat of Jefferson County Elyton in his honor. He had previously donated to the county a quarter section of land "on condition that the courthouse should be erected there."

About Tuscaloosa, which had "about 20 Stores & little Groceries, or Hucksters Shops," Ely wrote: "It is but 4 or 5 Years since the first white Family settled here & the Population now may be from 6 to 800 Souls, not one of whom, except a few to whom I have sold Land since I came here, have any title to the Land they live on. What they call their houses, are either the most despicable rough dirty & uncomfortable rolling log cabins, or less durable & more mean buildings; most of them without a single Pane of Glass, with scarcely a saw'd board or Plank, Nail or any other Iron about them, all with wooden Chimneys & fire Places & almost as destitute of furniture as of Glass or Iron, some have no floor but the bare Earth, others have split flat pieces of Timber, or rough boards, laid either flat on the earth or on logs or poles lying on the Ground without any fastening; others again are raised from the ground high enough for Hogs, dogs, Cats & fowls to go under, which is their common place of retreat from bad Weather & I have sometimes been very much annoyed by the growling, squealing, barking, squalling & cackling of those animals under the floor where I slept."

He said that a few of the inhabitants were possessed of wealth and intelligence and a few of the ladies dressed in good taste, but the general population were careless about their clothes. He deplored the lack of religion and qualified religious instructors. The people were addicted to excessive drinking. Education was lacking; teachers were grossly ignorant and immoral. Ladies had no taste for reading; they were only interested in catching their men. Courtships were short. The white population was lazy and indolent. Men were interested in lounging about the taverns and gambling houses, attending horse races and cock fights, shooting at marks, hunting and fishing. Their government was "Mobocratic"; public officials and laborers mixed promiscuously. Flagrant crimes were committed and went unpunished. Slaves were treated as outcasts.

Ely concludes his castigation of Alabama and says, "But enough of Alabama, which I am soon to quit forever." He survived the ordeal and lived to a ripe old age, dying in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1847. He did not enjoy his stay but he has left us a priceless eye-witness account of early Alabama.

For the first five years of Tuscaloosa's existence all of the settlers were squatters; that is, they had no title to the land. The town was surveyed in 1821. A letter written January 9, 1821, by Josiah Meigs, commissioner of the general land office, to General John Coffee says, in part: "The survey of the township on which the town of Tuscaloosa is situated is much wanted. You will please send a plat of it immediately to this office, and cause the section or fractional section on which the said town stands to be laid off into town lots without delay, forwarding a plat thereof to this office without delay."

The actual survey was made by Collin Finnell, grandfather of Judge Woolsey Finnell. Dr. William Cochrane, who came to Tuscaloosa in 1817, at the age of one year, is our authority for the method used in laying out the town. The surveyors began at the boat landing below the Falls and followed the road up the River Hill. From this point a wide street was laid out perpendicular to the river. This street is now called Greensboro Avenue. Broad Street was laid out at right angles to Greensboro Avenue, and the other streets were laid out in conformity with these two.

The sale of lots began in the fall of 1821, probably in October. Colonel John McKee was appointed registrar of the land office in Tuscaloosa and served from March 7, 1821, to January 13, 1824. The land sale began with the auctioning of lot number 1, which is located in the northeast corner of section 22. Other lots were sold in numerical order.

In the act incorporating Tuscaloosa the town is for the first time officially designated "Tuscaloosa." Previously this place was usually called the "Falls of the Black Warrior" or "Tuscaloosa Falls."

Richard Breckenridge left his home in Tennessee in search of good lands. He kept a diary and on August 23, 1816, wrote: "Noon. Having this morning met with Mr. George Reed and others going down to the Falls of the Black Warrior and Cahaba, I concluded to accompany them and so returned with them. We continued down Jones' Valley--saw some excellent land and then camped about four miles above Click's store." On August 27, he says, "We came this day to the Falls."

The Port Folio was published between 1811 and 1817 by Harrison Hall in Philadelphia and reprinted in London. In the July, 1817, issue the editor, Oliver Oldschool, printed a letter from Samuel Haines, in which Haines described the commercial towns and waterways of Alabama. Concerning this place, Haines wrote:

"At the Falls of the Black Warrior (the east branch of the Tombigbee) a very flourishing town, in all probability, will before long be erected. This place being the natural head of boat navigation on that river in the heart of a fertile country, and being already a village of some trade, no doubt can be entertained of its immediate prosperity. The lands, however, are not yet surveyed, and it is uncertain, therefore, when they will be in the market. It may be remarked that merchandise destined ~~XXX~~ to Huntsville in Madison County (A. T.) passes from that place over land to Tennessee River." Joseph Noble, in his letter to Samuel Bidgood, written in 1818, gives his own address as the "Falls of Tuscaloosa."

This location was also called "Shelltown" and variations of that name, such as "Shelly town" and "Shelleyville." The first recorded transfer of property in Tuscaloosa County was a deed of gift of certain slaves, executed by William Smith to his son in Mecklinburg County, North Carolina, on December 31, 1817. The deed was headed as follows: "Territory of Alabama, and Town of Shelleyville, otherwise The Falls of the Black Warrior." Martin Sims, who had served as a missionary among the Indians and who later was a keeper of the bridge over the Warrior River, said that this place was called "Shelltown" and that the name was "suggested by a large bank of mussel shells that marked the site of an old Indian camp or village just below Newtown (West End)."

In 1903 Colonel H. S. Halbert wrote Thomas P. Clinton from Meridian, Mississippi as follows: "As you are engaged on a history of Tuscaloosa County, I would like to mention a few incidents that I have frequently heard mentioned in my family history. The Rev. Joshua Halbert who was born in S.C. in 1788, was the first man who ever drove a horse wagon to the site of the present town of Tuscaloosa. He married Matilda Nash, and I have always heard that Tuscaloosa was first called Matildaville in honor of her, before it received its final name of Tuscaloosa."

"Tuscaloosa" is made up of two Choctaw words--"tushka," meaning "warrior," and "lusa," meaning "black." The origin of the name is unknown. Dr. Wyman says that "Tuscaloosa" was a war title among the Choctaws, but it was also a name common to the languages of the Chickasaws, Alabamas, and some other tribes. The great chief who opposed De Soto in 1540 was named Tuscaloosa. In 1557 Dr. Santander proposed four settlements in Spanish Florida, one of which was "Tuscaluza on the river Despiche" to be called Caesarea. The plan did not receive royal approval, and the colony was not established. In 1566 the Spanish commander on the Atlantic seaboard sent Captain Juan Pardo to conquer the interior of the Alabama country. Pardo's expedition marched from South Carolina to northern Alabama and turned back because Indian opposition was too strong. He did not reach Tuscaloosa, but he heard of it. It was supposed to have been several days' journey south of Coosa (modern Childersburg) on the Alabama River.

The earliest record of the association of the name, Tuscaloosa, with this place is found on a map made by Guillaume de Lisle for the king of France in 1707. The name "Taska-Loussas" appears on the map near the place where Tuscaloosa is now situated. On the earliest maps of this region the Black Warrior is designated as the "Potagahatchie." In the Choctaw Language "apotaka" means "edge" or "border." The river was the boundary of the Choctaw-lands, the Choctaws living west of the river. The Creeks lived east of the ridge that lies between the Alabama and Black Warrior rivers. The area between the Black Warrior and the ridge was neutral territory.

After the middle of the eighteenth century the river was called the Tuscaloosa or the Black Warrior. In 1759 the French Captain Bossu, on an expedition from Mobile to Fort Tombeckbee (where Highway 11 crosses the Tombigbee) met a party of Choctaws who were on the warpath. The Indians said that they had crossed the river at a place called "Tuscaloussa." Their "Tuscaloussa" was probably the shoals of the Black Warrior at this place. This statement implies that the site was abandoned. Further evidence is found in the fact that the French for a while contemplated moving their garrison from Fort Tombeckbee and establishing it on the Potagahatchie "in order to decoy many of the Choctaws to settle there by degrees, and intercept the English traders. ..."

George S. Gaines, U.S. Indian agent at St. Stephens, tells us that soon after 1800 the Creeks obtained permission from the Choctaws to establish a town in the neutral zone near the Falls of the Black Warrior. It was this town that Coffee and his Tennesseans burned in 1813. The white people called the place the Black Warrior's Town, but the Indian name of the town has not been preserved. Dr. Wyman says, "We may therefore safely venture the conjecture that the old Indian town which stood here was named for some noted Choctaw chieftain whose war title was Tuska-loosa. ..." The war chief could have been Chief Tuscaloosa of De Soto's time, or it could have been some other chief with the same title.

Water transportation has always been the cheapest form of transportation, and because there were no good roads, it was a necessity for the town at the Falls of the Black Warrior. From the first year of the town's existence the settlers used the stream regularly. Richard Breckenridge, in his journal, says that he stayed at the home of John Jones in Jones Valley. Breckenridge wrote, "I got considerable information from Mr. Jones concerning the navigation of the Black Warrior, as he was the first man that brought a boat up that river." Breckenridge does not give any details of Jones's trip.

In 1816, James O. Crump, a merchant of Huntsville, had a boat load of goods brought up to the Falls from Mobile. The account of the voyage is published in the Alabama Republican, a newspaper published at Huntsville, and is dated December 6, 1816. Crump left his home about September 1 for Mobile, and on his way engaged with Captain Bacon to take charge of his boat, which he procured at Mobile. The boat drew about two feet of water when loaded and was about 35 feet in length. At St. Stephens the cargo was completed. Captain Bacon stated that the trip from Mobile to the Falls of the Black Warrior took twenty days. The cargo consisted of brown and white sugar, coffee, rum, wine, oranges, and dry goods. The goods were taken to Huntsville in two wagons, and Crump states that out of one thousand oranges, not more than half a dozen spoiled.

Dr. Wyman tells the story of the first steamboat to ascend the Warrior River to Tuscaloosa. His information came from the American Mirror, the first newspaper published in Tuscaloosa. The Cotton Plant, with S. Chandler master, left Mobile December 5, 1820 and arrived at Tuscaloosa on December 21, 1821. The return trip to Mobile took nine days. The Cotton Plant's second trip up the river was made in five in five and one-half days. In 1824 the Cotton Plant sank a few yards west of the Tuscaloosa wharf and lay on the bottom of the river until salvaged during the Civil War.

The second steamboat to reach Tuscaloosa was the Tombigbee with James H. Dearing master. Dearing built the Tombigbee at Blakely and on the boat's first trip transported his family and his stock of goods from St. Stephens to Tuscaloosa. This event probably occurred sometime in the spring of 1822.

Early explorers of America found the Indian villages connected by a network of trails. Some of these trails were developed into roads by the white man. The Huntsville Road probably originated in this manner. In 1813 Davy Crockett was a scout in Colonel Coffee's command. In an account of a scouting expedition, Davy mentions a road going south from Ditto's Landing (Guntersville). He also refers to it as an Indian trace. In his account of his second trip to Tuscaloosa in 1815 he mentions a trace near the present site of Bessemer. Mary Gordon Duffee, in describing the return of Mrs. Crawley to Tennessee in 1812, says that the party probably came up the St. Stephens Road, now called the Greensboro Road, to Tuscaloosa and that they followed the old Indian trail past Elyton to Ditto's Landing. James O. Crump, whose boat was the second one to reach Tuscaloosa in 1816, in the account printed in the Alabama Republican, tells of the transportation of his goods to Huntsville. He says: "In eight days the wagons reached this place from the Falls of the Black Warrior over a road three-fifths of which is level and the balance not much broken. ... There has been very little labor bestowed in cutting out the road." In 1822 the Legislature of Alabama established the Huntsville Road from Tuscaloosa to Jonesboro as a public road.

An act of the Legislature passed December 16, 1819, empowered John Byler of Lawrence County and associates to cut out and prepare for a wagon track a road from a point on Big Shoal Creek in Lauderdale County to Tuscaloosa. The road was to be twelve feet wide and was completed in 1822. Byler and his associates were permitted to collect tolls from those who traveled over the road for a period of twenty years. Toll rates were as follows: on a four-wheel carriage and team, seventy-five cents; on a two-wheel carriage, fifty cents; on a man and horse, twelve and one half cents; for each head of cattle, one cent; for each head of hogs or sheep, one half cent.

Thomas D. Crabb was empowered to build the road that now bears his name. The road was completed in 1822, and Crabb was allowed to collect tolls for a period of twelve years.

Sam Dale, a hero of the Creek War, was one of a party of men employed to cut out a road between Pensacola and Tuscaloosa. He said that they were engaged at hard labor for seventy-eight days. In the Tuscaloosa area this was probably the Greensboro Road.

An Indian trail ran from Coosa Town in Talladega County to the site of Tuscaloosa and from there to Ft. Tombeckbee on the Tombigbee River near its confluence with the Black Warrior. Thomas P. Clinton writes, "In leaving Tuscaloosa and verging south it is just possible that it ran somewhere near the present Foster's Ferry Road."

Sanders Ferry Road was established at an early date. A ferry existed on the river in 1831 and was probably established much earlier.

There were three chief routes into Alabama from the older states. The Natchez Trace connected Natchez with Nashville, the Valley Road brought settlers from western Virginia and the Carolinas into northern Alabama, and the Federal Road (sometimes called the Capital Road) started at Washington and went through the capitals of the states from Virginia through Georgia. At Fort Mitchell (Columbus, Georgia) the road took a southwestward direction and extended to New Orleans.

Tuscaloosa County roads connected with these main roads, the Huntsville Road with the Valley Road, the St. Stephens (Greensboro) Road with the Federal Road, and the Byler and Crabb roads with the Natchez Trace.

The condition of the roads is revealed by the journal of Dr. John Owen. In 1818 Dr. Owen left his home in Virginia. The party, consisting of Dr. Owen's family and some slaves, traveled in a carriage, a cart, and a wagon. They passed through Lynchburg, Abington, Knoxville, Jones Valley, and on to Tuscaloosa. They spent nine weeks on the road. He relates that the roads were muddy or rocky, that there were many hills, that the teams were unruly, and that the vehicles were upset many times. As he approached Tuscaloosa the roads were little better. His entry for December 26, 1818, is as follows: "Passed broken roads and got to Tuscaloosa and feel thankful to Heaven that after nine weeks' traveling and exposed to every danger that we arrived safe and in good health."

Crossing the Warrior River at this place was of great importance to those seeking homes in the new country and to the developing trade of the little town of Tuscaloosa. The Dwight party, in 1781, on their way from Natchez to Georgia, came this way because the shoals of the Black Warrior afforded a convenient crossing place. We are told that they crossed the river "by alternately swimming their horses, and by wading from rock to rock." Thomas P. Clinton says that old residents of Tuscaloosa told him of their ancestors' swimming their horses across the river and transporting their wagons and goods across, piece by piece, in a dugout. William Gilmore Simms, in 1821, crossed the Warrior River at Tuscaloosa by means of a flatboat. William R. Smith says that Otis Dyer came to Tuscaloosa in 1819 and that he established a ferry across the river. During the time that Newtown existed as a separate corporation (1820-1826) a ferry was established for Newtown. The state Legislature, by an act passed December 27, 1821, authorized Otis Dyer and associates to build a toll bridge across the Warrior River. The bridge was to extend from lot 23 in Tuscaloosa to a point in section 22 on the Northport side. On the same day the Legislature authorized a party of residents of Newtown to build a bridge. Neither bridge was built, and a ferry was the means of crossing until a bridge was built in 1835.

Baptists were the first to organize a congregation in Tuscaloosa. On January 24, 1818, Rev. Thomas Baines and Rev. Nathan Roberts met with the congregation in the home of Benjamin Higginbotham. They organized a church, which they called Ebenezer. In April Rev. Nathan Roberts was called as first pastor, and Collin Finnell was made clerk. Other ministers who served as pastors of this church were as follows: Rev. Daniel Brown (1821-1822), Rev. Thomas Baines (1822-1824), Rev. Hosea Holcomb (1824-1827), and Rev. Robert Marsh (1827- 1831). On October 3, 1818, this group united with nine other congregations to constitute the Cahaba Association. A frame building was erected near the brow of the hill at the north end of Twenty-seventh Avenue. North of and in the rear

of the church the first dead of the town were buried. The earliest known burials in Greenwood Cemetery were made in 1821, and it is not probable that burials were made there before that date, as the town was not surveyed until 1821.

The original Baptist Church building was converted into a school house about 1832. Young Reuben Searcy taught William R. Smith and a "wild set of boys" there before studying medicine. In 1830 a brick church and lecture rooms were built on the property on which the Allen & Jemison Company is located.

Rev. Ebenezer Hearn was the pioneer Methodist minister in this region. His circuit extended from Tennessee to Demopolis, Alabama. In the summer of 1818 he came to Tuscaloosa and preached his first sermon in a log cabin used as a tavern. This was probably the tavern of Joshua Halbert, who later became a Methodist minister. The tavern was located near the brow of the river hill on Twenty-seventh Avenue. The Tuscaloosa Circuit was founded, and Rev. John Kesterton was sent to Tuscaloosa by the Tennessee Conference. About the same time came Rev. John Owen, his brother, William Owen, Dr. Samuel Meek, and Dr. Robert L. Kennon. These four men were ministers of the gospel and at the same time physicians. Rev. Robert Paine, who later became a bishop, was pastor in 1820. He was followed by Rev. William M. Curtis (1824-1825) and Rev. Joshua Boucher (1826). In 1824 at a meeting held in Tuscaloosa, and presided over by Bishop Soule of the Mississippi Conference, the Tuscaloosa church was made a full-time station. Services were held until 1834 in a building on the north side of Eighth Street near the present church building.

The Presbyterians of Tuscaloosa were organized on May 6, 1820, by Rev. Andrew Brown of the South Carolina Presbytery. The congregation was made up of eighteen members, and they were all from South Carolina. The courthouse in Newtown was their first house of worship. Later they worshipped at a place on the northwest corner at Eighth Street and Twenty-fifth Avenue. Discipline was very strict. One member was admonished for intemperance in drinking, one for attending a circus, and another for fighting. Rev. Brown was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Hodge (1823), and he was succeeded by Rev. R.W. Cunningham (1824-1832). In 1830, under the pastorate of Rev. Cunningham, a new church building was erected on the present site of the church.

An Episcopal congregation was organized in Tuscaloosa on January 7, 1828, by Rev. Robert G. Davis, the agent of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church. This was the second Episcopal congregation organized in Alabama, the first being organized in Mobile. Approximately \$1700 was subscribed for a church building, and a lot was purchased from the town of Tuscaloosa for \$150. This was the corner lot on which the church is now located. The building was completed in 1830. Membership never exceeded twenty-eight before 1843. The first vestrymen were Henry Minor, William R. Colgin, Judge Hume R. Field, Robert Weir, Jr., Thomas R. Bolling, and George Starr.

Catholics were numerous enough in 1819 to hold an organizational meeting. One of those present was Thomas Cummings, a merchant. His daughter, Margaret, was the only person killed by the tornado which swept through Newtown in 1842. Father Larap and Father Shallow of Mobile were the first Catholic clergymen to visit Tuscaloosa. Bishop Portier made his first visit to Tuscaloosa in 1835 and his second visit in 1844. On the occasion of his second visit the bishop brought with him Father Thomas Hackett, who became the first resident pastor. The church building was erected in 1845 and was dedicated on January 28, 1846.

Smith, in his *Reminiscences*, says that the first newspaper published in Tuscaloosa was the American Mirror and that it began publication in 1820 with Thomas M. Davenport as the publisher. However, Dr. Wyman, in a newspaper article written in 1898, states that there was then a record in the court house showing that a newspaper called the Tuscaloosa Republican was published as early as 1819. It is possible he says that Davenport was the publisher of both newspapers and that he may have changed the name of his

publication. Subscription rates of the Mirror were four dollars in advance or five dollars at the end of the year. Advertisements from a distance, the publisher stated, must be accompanied with cash. Smith describes the issue for May 8, 1824. The paper was small, having only four columns. The first page and part of the second contained an act of Congress making appropriations and was signed by Henry Clay. There was another government advertisement (of land sales) and eighteen advertisements by individuals or companies. Four local news items, each about an inch long, and extracts from other newspapers completed the issue.

Davenport is described by Smith as being "without pretensions to capacity as a writer or editor" and as being an "improvident father." He was assisted by his daughters, Eliza and Sarah. The daughters set the type. Eliza was "a girl of more than ordinary accomplishments, with genius to write well, and ability to conduct the mechanical department of the office." She married Dugald McFarlane, "a strong-minded Scotchman with little education or information, and less energy or perseverance and was sorely beset with the sin of intemperance." In 1829 the Mirror was merged into the Tuscaloosa Chronicle under the same-management.

A second newspaper, the Alabama Sentinel, was established in 1826 (perhaps in 1825). It was published by Thomas Grantland, who came from Huntsville. Grantland was no writer and depended upon others for his editorials. Washington Moody, then quite youthful, reported the proceedings of the first sessions of the Alabama legislature held in Tuscaloosa. A sensation was created in Tuscaloosa when a printer by the name of Singleton offered a wager that he could set the entire inside pages of the Sentinel, consisting of ten columns, in a single day. Smith says that the whole town was in a bustle of excitement on that occasion, and crowds were collected about doors and windows of the printing office looking at the lion of the hour." Singleton made good his boast.

In the first ten years of its existence Tuscaloosa had grown to a town of about 1,500 people. In 1826 the population of the county was about 10,000. Churches, newspapers, and a few private schools had been established. The principal roads of the county had been laid out and river traffic established. The little town was ready to go on to bigger and better things.