The Heritage of Marshall County, Alabama

Marshall County Heritage Book Committee

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#1253

MILITARY HERITAGE

A Brief Survey of Military History in Marshall County, Alabama

Prior to any white settlements in the Tennessee Valley area of what is now Marshall County this beautiful country was fought over by competing Indian tribes. The Chickasaw, Creeks and Cherokees all had interests in North Alabama with the Cherokees dominant when white settlement began. The Cherokees although nominally peaceful were allied with the British during the Revolutionary War period. During this period some of the settlers were loyalists who wished to avoid fighting with either side in the Revolutionary War. In any event there is no record of any military activity or recruitment in the Marshall County area during this time.

With the establishment in 1785 of Gunter's trading post at the big bend of the Tennessee River early settlers and the friendly Cherokee Indians began to be concerned about their own defense and military matters. In October 1813 Gen. Andrew Jackson established Fort Deposit (near Guntersville) as a base camp for his campaign against the Creek Indian Nation. He recruited both settlers and Indians for his march south to attack the Creeks. On 27 March, 1814 at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend the Creeks were decisively defeated. In his report on the battle Jackson commended the outstanding performance of his "WHITE PLUMES" the forces recruited from the Marshall County area.

After the end of the War of 1812 settlers began to move into the area in large numbers and the Indians were finally forced to accept relocation to new lands in the Oklahoma Territory. This migration was accomplished under the supervision of US Army troops in several stages both over land and by the river. Gunter's landing was a principle assembly area and embarkation point for this program during the period from 1834-38. This forced migration caused great suffering and loss of life among the Cherokees. The migration is now commemorated as the Trail of Tears and Guntersville is one of the trail sites. During this same period the United States was also engaged in the Seminole Indian Wars of 18[illegible]. Marshall County men participated in this conflict even sending a company of 82 men (FRY's Company, Alabama Mounted Volunteers). Although numbers are not available Marshall County Volunteers also participated in the War with Mexico 1846-48.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861 Marshall County quickly became involved. There was sentiment on both sides and the majority of citizens were not slaveholders. There were no major land battles in Marshall County but there was a number of minor skirmishes and guerrilla actions by partisans on both sides. The war did involved significant naval activities on the Tennessee River including the shelling, partial destruction and temporary occupation of Guntersville in 1862 and 1864. After the Civil War Marshall County like the rest of Alabama experienced the Reconstruction period under Federal troop supervision.

Following the Civil War there was little interest in military matters by most Marshall County citizens. Recovering from the war and expanding agricultural production and population on the mountain plateaus of the county occupied major efforts of the citizenry. By the time of the Spanish American War (1898-1902) Alabama was firmly behind US war efforts. Although Marshall County volunteers participated in the war the few records available do not indicate numbers or extent of their service.

World War I differed from all previous US wars in the extent of participation by all elements of the nation. The draft brought the war home to everyone. Marshall County citizens served by the thousands and on the home front families, businesses and local governments supported the war efforts. This same pattern prevailed in World War II to an even greater extent. During the period between World War I and World War II units of the Alabama National Guard were located in Albertville, Boaz and Guntersville, and after World War II a National Guard Unit was added in Arab. Marshall County support of military forces has been strong ever since World War I and many citizens have followed careers in the US active forces as well as serving in the National Guard and Reserves. Many of those who served in the various military forces have continued their interest in the military readiness of our country through membership in veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. Perhaps the best way to appreciate the extent of the support and sacrifices Marshall County citizens have made (and continue to make) for military forces of the United States is to visit any of the many grave yards in the county. You will see markers commemorating service in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam. Finally, on the Courthouse Square in Guntersville there is a monument which lists all the known deaths of Marshall County citizens who were killed in World War I (27), World War II (131), Korea (17), Vietnam (15) and Grenada (1). We do not have dates on the thousands who have served in the various wars and conflicts, nor can we document the sacrifices and support provided by the families and friends of those who served in the armed forces. We can be sure of one fact, Marshall County has a record of patriotism of which all of us can be proud. *Submitted by: Col. Geo Newman*

Marshall County Military Who Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice

World War I

Richardson, Robert C.
Mashburn, Millard J.
Totherow, Charlie
Shuttleworth, Walter F.
Searcy, Charles H.
Parrish, Steve R.
Walker, Thomas P.
Leach, William G.
Sanders, Allie S.
Powers, Ernest A.
Pope, Hershell A.
Wright, Jesse C.
Taylor, Lester
Payne, Orville B.
Poarch, Peter E.
Fletcher, Newman
Minor, Thomas L.
Johnson, Will
Morris, Green
Kent, Maston
Nix, Miles T.
Sims, Tom
Powell, M.
Scott, Joe L.
Webb, Cecil
Pope, Herschel A.
Kirkland, Walter M.

World War II

Fortenberry, Wallace H.
Pickering, Emerson L.
Richardson, Ordia A., Jr.
Thornhill, Clarence D.
Burleigh, Lawerence C.
Cleckler, Dalton W.
Buchanan, Oliver J.
Rainwater, Robert L.
Smith, Charles C., Jr.
Burbanks, George C.
Campbell, Walter D.
Thompson, Harold A.
Cooley, Crawford S.
Maroney, William T.
Kennamer, Melvin J.
Whitehead, Grady B.
Triplett, William C.
Thompson, Samuel G.
Allbritten, Joe C.
Bannister, John T.
Miller, Barnard W.
Johnson, Murray C.
Shores, Irland, Jr.
Bradshaw, James M.
Darrell, Thomas E.
Thompson, James R.
Vaughn, Garnett W.
McDaniel, Ralph E.
Cherry, William D.
Dennis, Pershing
McClendlon, Carl E.
Thrower, Cecil F.
Battles, Curtis
Whitaker, Edward
Johnson, Vilus C.
Baugh, Fletcher
Cobb, Thomas A. Jr.
Jacobs, Wilmer E.
Lipham, Bryant H.
Thomas, Eugene H.
Harden, Andrew W.
Cochran, James W.
Bishop, Millarh
Lemons, Ernest A.
Smith, Kenneth H.
Latham, Marvin W.
Clines, Leander
Kelley, Munford
Bolton, Donald A.
Tomes, Gilbert D.
Whitten, Assie A.
Bunch, Charles O.
Cooley, Norman L.
Tidmore, James G.
Lindsey, Jacob T.
Burden, Harold L.
Griffin, Claud
Butler, Marlin L.
Nearin, Ollie R.
Carroll, Price W.
Scott, Curtis M.
Morton, Hancel F.
Cordle, Artis W.
Slater, Larence V.
Decker, Marvin
Cowart, Haden C.
Masters, James L.
Dennis, Wilmer
Masters, James R.
Smith, Harmon L.
Tollison, Leon
Martin, Hubert M.
Jones, Vernon G.
Latham, Pervy J.
Weaver, Marlin
Dobbs, Milton S.

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Gertrude. Florence and Nettie died as small children and Emmett died at the age of 20 during a smallpox epidemic. He is buried at Friendship Cemetery near other members of this Hayes family.

Oma lived in the Friendship Community until her marriage to James Clayton Miller. After they married, James went to Jacksonville State Teachers College and obtained a teaching certificate. They moved to the Mount Hebron Community and James taught school and farmed for a few years. After several years of teaching and farming, James went to work at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville and retired there in 1974. Oma and James have three children: James Joseph Miller, Jerry Wayne Miller, and Gaynell Miller Thornhill. They have seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. *Submitted by: Norma Miller, 2612 Clifton Drive, Huntsville, AL 35803, e-mail: NMiller896@aol.com*

William Henry Harrison Haynes

William Henry Harrison Haynes was a brother of my great-grandmother, Susan Ella Haynes Williams. I have traced him to Marshall County in 1880, and I want this article to preserve his memory and perhaps find its way to his descendants.

Harrison Haynes' parents were James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld. James was the son of James G. Haynes and Rebecca Rainwater. It is likely that James G. Haynes is related to Moses Haynes of Elbert County, Georgia, a son of Jasper Haynes. He was possibly a nephew of Moses Haynes. Rebecca Rainwater was a daughter of John Rainwater and his wife Susannah, of Spartanburg, SC. Cassie Ann Threlkeld was probably a daughter of William H. Threlkeld, a teacher born in Virginia and an early resident of Elbert County, Georgia.

James G. Haynes and Rebecca Rainwater had the following children: Thomas Haynes, 1805-1880, born SC, married Margarett Fortenberry, buried at Sardis Baptist Church, Hart County, Georgia (formerly Elbert); Charles W. Haynes, circa 1807-1847, born SC, married Flora McCurry in Elbert County, Georgia, likely died and is buried in Monroe County, GA; James H. Haynes; Martha Haynes; Polly Haynes; William Haynes; Elizabeth Haynes; and Simpson Haynes. James and Rebecca are found in Elbert County, Georgia, in 1835 and have not been located after that time, but it is likely they went back to the Spartanburg, SC, area.

James H. Haynes was born June 20, 1813, in SC. Cassie Ann Threlkeld was born in Georgia January 19, 1816. They were married December 24, 1835, in Elbert County, Georgia. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Monroe County, Georgia, and appear to be in the household of James's brother, Charles W., on the 1840 census. James administered Charles's estate in Monroe County. An obituary for their daughter, Cynthia Rebecca, states that she was born in Monroe County, about 1848. Parts of Monroe County were taken to form Pike and then Spalding counties. The James H. Haynes family is found in Pike County in 1850 and in Spalding County in 1860, but they probably never actually moved. Cynthia Rebecca's obituary also states that her parents moved to Carroll County, Georgia, in 1861. James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld lived out their lives in Carroll County where he was a miller. They were Primitive Baptists.

James H. Haynes died August 20, 1881, and Cassie Ann Threlkeld died July 8, 1886. They are buried in the old Concord Primitive Baptist Church cemetery, a cemetery which is being reclaimed and restored.

Children of James H. Haynes and Cassie Ann Threlkeld, all of them born in Georgia, are: Thomas J. Haynes, 1837-1906, married Sophia A. Williams, buried old Concord cemetery; Eliza Ann Haynes, born about 1839, married John F. Powell; William Henry Harrison Haynes; Cynthia Rebecca Haynes, born about 1848, died March 26, 1891, married James Thomas Hamrick; Amanda Caroline Haynes, born about 1852, married James F. Brock; and Susan Ella Haynes, August 1, 1854-July 19, 1918, married Charles Benjamin Williams, both buried Jordan Cemetery, Carroll County, GA.

William Henry Harrison Haynes married Sarah J. Stephenson on December 20, 1866, in Carroll County. The young family is living next door to his parents in 1870. From census records, Sarah is the daughter of James T. and Elizabeth Stephenson. Sometime after 1874, the family moved from Georgia and in 1880 Harrison and Sarah are found in Marshall County, where he was a farmer.

Their children at that time, all born in Georgia, were: Susan A., born about 1868; Augustus P., born 1870 (the 1880 census says Augusta, female); James E., born about 1872; and Louvenia L., born about 1874. There were probably other children.

The last record I have for this family is an obituary for Sarah, November 16, 1845-Jul 13, 1894 stating that she was a Primitive Baptist and was buried in the Albertville Cemetery. No mention was made of her husband. *Submitted by: Nancy E. Williams, 701 Wind Grove Rd., Marietta, GA 30067, nelizw@aol.com.*

Kirby Lee Hays

Kirby Lee Hays, was born August 11, 1928 in Cullman County near Edison Chapel Community the oldest child of Charlie Kirby Smith Hays and Cora Nell Marsh Hays. Near the age of 2 they moved to Arab, Marshall County, Al. He graduated from Arab High School in 1945. He graduated from API at Auburn in December of 1948 at 16 years old. He went to work for the USDA in San Juan Puerto Rico. He returned to Arab to be sent to the Korea War. He served on the front lines till he was wounded. He did studies anthropods medically important in South Korean and on hemmorrhagic fever control. He was in charge of preventive medical lab for the U.S. army.

Upon his return home, Kirby continued his college career at API in Auburn. He received his masters in 1954, and then received his Phd from the University of Michigan in 1957. Dr. Hays returned to Auburn to teach in the entomology department and was a staff member of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations. While at Auburn, he was known for his pioneering research on the imported fire ant and traveled to South America to study them in their own habitat. He also did research for medical and veterinary entomogical research including the block sucking insects and the disease transmission in Alabama and also the Chagas disease or sleepng sickness transmitted by the kissing bugs. During his career, He was chairman of the Faculty-Senate, was president of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America in 1983.

Malanie, Jane, Emma Dean and Kirby Lee Hays

He invented a backrub for cattle that controlled the flies and protected their eyes. He was on 12 research projects, authored 72 research publications and 14 professional papers. He served on the executive council and finance committee serving as treasurer of the Entomogical Society of America. He became the head of the Entomology Dept. at Auburn in 1975 and held that position until his forced retirement in 1983 because of illness. He was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Gamma Sigma Delta Phi Sigma and Sigma Delta Honorary Societies.

Kirby met Emma Dean Styles born April 17, 1933, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Styles of Burnsville, N.C. They married December 21, 1958. She was an instructor at Auburn University. He joined the Presbyterian Church with his wife. In 1971, he became an ordained Elder. They had 2 girls; Jane Elizabeth born July 19, 1963 and Melanie Lee born April 1, 1970. Kirby was a very loving husband and father. He treated all women like they were royalty. After 25 years he still opened the car door for his wife, and stood when a lady entered the room, spoke softly and he was in every sense a true southern gentleman. He had cancer and died July 17, 1993 from a cerebral hemorrhage. He is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery just 3 blocks from his home in Auburn, Alabama. He was honored posthumously in a resolution by the state legislature, and The Entomological Society of America. *Submitted by: Louisa Hays, 533 1st Ave. N.W., Arab, AL 35016*

Louisa Nell Hays

Louisa Nell Hays was born January 14, 1948 in Guntersville, weight 3 lbs and 6 ounces. She was the daughter of Charlie and Cora Nell Hays. Her sister had gotten a doll bed for Christmas and Louisa was so little that she slept in the doll bed on a heating pad for the first six months. They lived in Arab. Charlie and Cora Nell divorced in 1955 and they moved to Auburn. Louisa was saved and joined the Baptist Church, and was a charter member of Lakeview

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