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Huntsville's John Campbell Greenway (1872 – 1926)

By Gilbert Greenway White III



Photo from *Who's who in Arizona*. Vol I. (1913); Jo Conners, ed. Tucson: Arizona Daily Star. p 466.

John Campbell Greenway was born in Huntsville, Alabama, to Dr. Gilbert C. Greenway Sr. and Alice White Greenway. Dr. Greenway ran a medical practice and raised his family on Adams Street near downtown. Dr. Greenway and his wife Alice are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery at the White/Greenway family property.

As a boy, Greenway spent time on his grandfather Addison White's farms and hunting camps in Jackson and Limestone counties hunting and being in the outdoors. He left Huntsville at an early age to attend Phillips Academy in Andover, MD.

Family: On both sides, Greenway was a direct descendant of a line of notable Americans dating to before, and during, the Revolutionary War including William Campbell, Isaac Shelby, Samuel

McDowell, Ephraim McDowell, and Addison White. Addison White was the son of Col. James White the salt merchant and plantation owner. The community of Whitesburg south of Huntsville and Whitesburg Drive are named after James White.

Greenway's brother was James C. Greenway Sr. who married Harriet Lauder Greenway of the Lauder Greenway Family. His nephews include renowned ornithologist and Naval Intelligence Officer James Cowan Greenway and arts patron G. Lauder Greenway, longtime chairman of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Education: Greenway attended Phillips Academy, Andover, MD followed by the University of Virginia for his undergraduate degree before earning a PhD in 1895 from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. Greenway was a member of the Book and Snake secret society, President of his class, and a member of noted the Yale Football teams from 1892–1895 that went a combined 52–1–2 and were national champions four years in a row. Immediately following his graduation, Greenway joined the Carnegie Steel Company where he worked briefly before enlisting in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry of the US Army at the outset of the Spanish–American War.



(left) Colonel Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the top of the hill which they captured, Battle of San Juan, by William Dinwiddie. 1898. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

Spanish-American War: Greenway volunteered for service in 1898 and joined Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders (Troop A - 1st Lt.) in the Spanish-American War. Originally commissioned a second lieutenant, he was promoted to brevet then acting captain in the field by Colonel Roosevelt. Greenway was awarded a Silver Star for his courageous service at the Battle of San Juan Hill.

Greenway is referenced on numerous occasions by Roosevelt in his book *The Rough Riders* and a book of Greenway's own correspondence was turned into a book entitled *It Was the Grandest Sight I Ever Saw: Experiences of a Rough Rider As Recorded in the Letters of Lieutenant John Campbell Greenway*.

Business Life: At the end of the Spanish-American War in 1899, having completed his active duty commitment, Greenway returned to steel and mining and held executive positions in a number of mine, steel, and railroad companies. He supervised development of United States Steel's open pit Canisteo Mine and Trout Lake Washing Plant in Coleraine, Minnesota, one of the first large-scale iron ore beneficiation plants in the world. Following the successful commissioning of the Trout Lake plant, in 1911 Greenway was recruited by the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company (led by US Steel executives, the combined entity created by J.P. Morgan which included Carnegie Steel) to develop their newly acquired New Cornelia Mine in Ajo, Arizona. He developed the Ajo town site and developed the New Cornelia into the first large open pit copper mine in Arizona. Greenway also served for one year as a regent of the University of Arizona before the United States entered World War I.

World War I: Greenway was returned to active service as a lieutenant colonel at the dawn of America entering World War I. Originally based at Toul (French Sector), Greenway partook in the Battle of Cantigny, the first large-scale counterattack on German lines by the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) with the 1st Battalion of the 26th Infantry commanded by Major Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the son of Greenway's commander during the Spanish–American War, Theodore Roosevelt. During the war, Greenway would fight in numerous battles including Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Battle of Château-Thierry. Greenway was especially praised for his heroic conduct in battle and was cited for bravery at Cambrai. France awarded him the Croix de Guerre, the Legion of Honor, and the Ordre de l'Étoile Noire for commanding the 101st Infantry Regiment during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He also received a Distinguished Service Cross and the World War I Victory Medal. In 1919 Greenway was promoted to the rank of colonel of the infantry, and three years later he was promoted to brigadier general. Greenway's post-war military career included work with the Office of Naval Intelligence, the oldest branch of America's United States Intelligence Community.

Honorifics: In 1930 Arizona placed Gutzon Borglum's statue of Greenway in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection. The statue remained there until being replaced in 2015 by one of Barry Goldwater; the Greenway statue was moved to the Polly Rosenbaum Archives and History Building near the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix. A statue of Greenway's great great grandfather, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, was placed in the National Statuary Hall in 1929 by Kentucky making them the only direct

relatives to share the honor. Greenway Road in Phoenix, Arizona, Greenway High School in Phoenix, Greenway Public Schools in Coleraine, Minnesota, and Greenway Township, Itasca County, Minnesota are named in his honor.

Funeral: John Greenway's funeral was held in Ajo, Arizona on Saturday, January 26, 1926. Five Pullman cars arrived. Over 3000 people were at the funeral, believable since nearly all of Ajo would have turned out. 17 of the 18 living Arizona Rough Riders were in attendance. Governor George Wylie Hunt and ex-governor Thomas E. Campbell were there. P. G. Beckett, Vice President and General Manager, Western Organization, Phelps Dodge Corporation" was also in attendance. The President of the University of Arizona (Cloyd Heck Marvin) and the President of Valley National Bank (C. E. Mills) were there too. The funeral directors called it the funeral of the century. Bi-planes flew overhead dropping flowers on the gravesite.



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Ezekiel Craft

Patriot, Farmer, Clergyman and Politician

By Arley McCormick

April 17, 1775 marked the date the British commander decided to march on Lexington and Concord to secure arms warehoused there in preparation for the Colonials resistance against the British Crown. At the end of the day, on April 19, 1775 49 colonial subjects of the Crown lay dead or dying, 39 wounded and 5 missing. The contest resonated throughout the colonies and around the world signaling the beginning of a revolution.

Years before that remarkable day in Massachusetts, on January 10, 1762 in Duplin County, North Carolina, Ezekiel Craft was born to James and Sara Craft and at age thirteen, Ezekiel would no doubt be aware of the fighting in Massachusetts but probably without considering its significance. North Carolina subjects of the Crown were reacting strongly against the British tax and reorganization schemes that were introduced in 1763 and when the news of that “shot heard around the world” reached the county many believed that a fight was not too far away. They were right.

In February 1776 Tories were beaten at Moore’s Creek Bridge. Ezekiel was nearing his 14th birthday and may have known that the citizens of North Carolina rallying to intercept the British had repulsed the first invasion. It would be 1780 before the British and their Tory allies would return to North Carolina.

During Ezekiel’s youth he would have ample opportunities to adapt to the warrior culture of the colonies. North Carolina citizen soldiers joined George

Washington in Maryland in 1754 to fight for the English Crown in the French and Indian war. Veterans of the British tactical disasters of 1756 would reminisce at church meetings and other gatherings for years. The British inspired agreement between the British, Colonials, and the Cherokee (that set the Cherokee against the French), the Shawnee, and Catawba tribes in 1757. It was an uneasy agreement that eventually caused a succession of violent episodes between the Cherokee and the colonists on the frontiers of South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina ending with a massive relocation of settlers from the frontiers to the interior of the colonies.

With the successful conclusion of the French and Indian war in 1763, North Carolinians were left to defend themselves against periodic Cherokee incursions and the citizen soldiers of the colony would respond to punish the Cherokee for their barbarism. Then there were taxes to pay the English King; saddled with a massive debt as a result of fighting the Seven Years War, as the French and Indian War was referred to in Europe. The Crown failed to provide manpower to defend the frontiers and increased taxes to pay for the French and Indian war contributed to the fight for American independence.

It is not clear when or if the Craft's migrated from Duplin County to Guilford County, as farm families normally did not travel too far from their farms and Guilford county was over 160 miles away. It would be as much as a 7-day trip to enlist if Ezekiel's family did not reside there.

The Continental Congress used militia drafts in the late 1770s to maintain the Continental Army, and substitution was permitted. Annual recruiting began in 1777 with a soldier's term of service not to exceed

one year and it would end in December each year. Quotas were established for each state and in turn each state distributed the quota among the towns. An appointed militia commander called for volunteers in a town and when the quota was not met, the state, town, or private citizens (sometimes all three) could offer a bounty to fill the quotas. Ezekiel responded to an offer from John White to act as his substitute in the Militia on or about November 10, 1778. At the tender age of 16 he became a drummer in the North Carolina militia.

Drummers and fife players played a unique role in the 18th Century armies. The Commander of large formations communicated to his units with the fife, drum, and bugle. They entertained in camp and set the pace of march. Each instrument, depending on the terrain could be heard for several miles. The high pitch of the fife and the low pitch of the drum could be heard even through the sounds of a battlefield. The instruments were also used to signal all the events of the day; reveille, break camp, dinner, last call, form for battle. Drumming was a task, while its significance to the formation is frequently overlooked, young teenagers like Ezekiel at age 16, who was probably a normal undersized man not carrying the weight or strength for toting a 10-lb. long rifle or standard British Army issue Old Bess with extra ball and powder plus rations for endlessly long miles of march, would be suitable to be a drummer. That is how he began his contribution to the Revolution.

According to Ezekiel's application for pension he was attached to Captain Enoch Davis' company of Colonel Francis Locke's regiment under General Griffith Rutherford. His military training would take place on the march through Rowan County, Salisbury,

Mecklenburg, and Charlotte into South Carolina, through Camden and down the Santee river to Moncks Corner, Ten Mile House to the Savannah River at Purrysburg, and up and down the left bank of the Savannah. When his six-month term of service ended on April 9, 1779, his captain discharged him.

During the spring of 1780, the American Southern Department was beginning to feel the pressure from Regular British Troops. The Colonial Army defined the region composed of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia as well as the western frontier south of Virginia as the Southern Department. The geography and weather provided the possibility of year-round operations and thus dictated a more independent command than the northern states.

Ezekiel had obviously made his way home and enjoyed the respite from marching and with the news that the British were invading Charleston, South Carolina the bounty was good and on May 10, 1780, he enlisted as a substitute for Jacob McDaniel in the Randolph County, North Carolina militia. His Captain was Robert McLane. His Colonel was John Collier and his unit was attached to General Richard Caswell's brigade.

The tranquility of the Southern Department had been disrupted by British sponsored Cherokee raids from time to time but grew worse when the first British Army under General Charles Cornwallis, captured Charleston on May 12, 1780, two days after Ezekiel enlisted for the second time. There was little time for training only preparations for a meeting engagement. No doubt there were delays while commanders recruited and equipped the new members of the militia and while there was a sense of urgency, consolidating an effective combat force took time. They marched to

Ramsey's Mill to Cross Creek and to the upper part of Randolph County then continued near Pedee in South Carolina and on to the river where they linked with General Rutherford. General Rutherford directed a march to Lynches Creek to join Major General Horatio Gates.

Controlling Camden's road network and using Francis Marion (the Swamp Fox) to raid south of Camden would force General Cornwallis to hold his 2,200-man force in Charleston. Initially, the route of march options was discussed; whether to use an indirect route through friendly country for better security and collect rations or take the more direct route between the swamps and low land. Certainly, the direct route was shorter but also more dangerous. Adding to the matrix of competing priorities one of Gate's commanders wanted to raid British outposts a little further east and of course the baggage train needed protection. Each mission would reduce the strength of the organization when it faced Cornwallis. All the strategic and operational consideration regarding the expected engagement would take place without Ezekiel's knowledge or input. He was 17 years old and a drummer.

On July 27, Major General Gates and Brigadier General Johann Baron de Kalb's departed the Deep River camp in North Carolina. General Gates chose the direct route through Tory territory and directly to Camden. General Gates was confident his Colonial Militia and schooled Colonial Regulars could win battles. General Gates expected General Cornwallis to remain in Charleston leaving Camden unattended but Cornwallis became aware of General Gates movement on 14 August and sent an advance guard through Camden while he followed with another 1000 men. It

was the British advanced guard that the Colonials met at 2 am on the morning of 16 August about 5 miles north of Camden and each side pulled back to wait for dawn.

General Gates was not prepared to engage an experienced British force. He apparently had anticipated Loyalist troops that, while not easily handled, would be easier than the battle tested regulars of the Welsh Regiment. As the sun was rising the orders were transmitted through drum, bugle, and fife. Commanders departed from General Gates side. With his force depleted by other missions and dysentery, just shy of 3,000 soldiers were on the field to face British Regulars numbering over 2,200.

The Royal Welsh Regiment faced the Virginia Militia on General Gates left. The center was held by the North Carolina Militia and Ezekiel, probably positioned directly behind the infantry and the few artillery pieces integrated in front of the main line of battle, would see the British forming just over 100 yards in front of his North Carolinian's and could hear the orders of both their officers and his. The tension would steal his breath as the reality of the first battle sunk in. He, no doubt observed short skirmishes while on the march, but now he stood eye to eye across a field and no understanding of what hell awaited him. Ezekiel may have wondered why he chose to enlist and more appropriately why he decided to stay with the unit even though his enlistment contract had ended 3 or 4 days previous. He was, at that point in time, technically a civilian not a soldier except for the minor detail that the Commanding General could extend enlistments during an emergency.

General Gates tactical decision was fatal.

The battle tested red coated Royal Welsh Fusiliers facing the Virginians began to fix bayonets. The Virginians had no bayonets and were armed with hunting rifles and a few British Brown Bess flintlocks. Slowly at first, the Virginians ranks began to waver and the officers, no doubt, screamed to maintain order and receive the British charge. General Gates directed the right flank, under General de Kalb, to advance. The canon did not fire, the left flank did not fire and the Virginia militia formation fell apart. The British cavalry commanded by the notorious Banastre Tarleton, recognizing the opportunity to add to the chaos, attacked, and enveloped the American left flank. In less than 30 minutes the battle was totally lost. General Gates abandoned General de Kalb to die on the field and ran to Charlotte, North Carolina. Ezekiel had no choice but to abandon his post and scurry as far north as possible.

At the end of the day, 900 Americans lay dead or wounded and 1000 captured. Ezekiel got away. It was the worst defeat of an American Army in the field and opened the Southern Department to the exploitation of Loyalists and the British Army.

Ezekiel was sufficiently motivated and 11 days later on August 27, 1780, he again volunteered in the Randolph County militia for six months under Captain John Hinds and Colonel John Luttrell's regiment of Horse. They were stationed at a Barracks in Chatham County, North Carolina until December till they marched into South Carolina and at Cheraw Hill, joined the army of Major General Nathaniel Greene, proceeded up the Yadkin to the Trading Ford until his term expired and he received his discharge.

Ezekiel was not discouraged. On March 30, 1781 Ezekiel volunteered for three months in the Randolph

County Regiment under Captain John Hinds, now commanded by Colonel Thomas Dugan, Colonel Luttrell was killed in action on September 13, 1781.

Repeatedly the notorious David Fanning's name was spoken in disgust. The Randolph regiment's primary base camp was at Bell's Mills on Deep River. From that point, it could deploy against the Tories at various times and places as the situation dictated. On one occasion, in the company of Captain Hinds they attacked a Tory formation and, in the fight, Ezekiel was seriously cut and mangled by sabers and left for dead on the field. When the belligerents withdrew into the countryside two ladies, Lucretia Stroud and Margaret Bane were inspecting the casualties and found Ezekiel bleeding, near death, and nursed him back to life.

Anyone may consider his contribution sufficient but instead in January or February 1782, he volunteered for six months in Randolph County's rangers. Under Captain William Gray. Several companies were raised to guard the civil authorities and their equipment and supplies collected to support North Carolina against the incessant assaults of the Tories.

During this enlistment, he served under Colonel Thomas Dugan at Mrs. Spink's plantation and when the infamous Colonel Fanning was spotted the Rangers assaulted. It was a brisk fight and Ezekiel was once again badly wounded. The incident occurred most timely for a couple of Whigs as the Loyalist Colonel Fanning was commencing to hang them when rudely surprised by Ezekiel and Colonel Thomas Dugan's Rangers. Colonel Fanning was captured and a short time later Ezekiel was discharged.

1782 was a decisive year for the Colonials. Early in 1782 the British Parliament voted to suspend all

offensive operations in North America. Of course, it took a few months for the political guidance to reach the field operating forces but their vote was principally guided when General Cornwallis' defeat by a combined force of American and German land forces, and the French blockade at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. It took till September 3, 1783, for the belligerent parties to sign the Treaty of Paris, formally ending the war, and Britain recognizing the sovereignty of the United States.

For the final time, on the September 1, 1782 Ezekiel volunteered for four months and served as a minute man or ranger for the state of North Carolina under Captains Hinds and York. When the news reached the countryside, it took time for the Loyalists to accept their effort was futile and while the Colonial Army, Continentals and Militia, remained vigilant, the United States political focus shifted to building a country rather than fighting.

At the tender age of 20 Ezekiel's war with the British ended and during his war he had met the two most notorious villains in the Southern Department, British Cavalryman Col Banastre Tarleton and Tory Colonel David Fanning.

Ezekiel returned to farming in North Carolina when his enlistment ended. The tax records of Wilks County indicate he witnessed a deed for land near Brier Creek in 1789 but in 1790 there is no indication that he owned land. He may have been a tenant or squatter but records do not support the assumption but it does imply that he was not particularly keen on following through with legal documentation. It is also difficult to date the marriage of Ezekiel to his wife Sally precisely, but it appears to be about 1796. After his marriage the challenge of greater opportunity or cheaper land,

whatever the calling, Ezekiel at age 37 departed North Carolina for East Tennessee in 1799 and moved west through the Blue Ridge Mountains settling on the Kentucky/Tennessee border well north of Knoxville with his family and made his home in the future County of Claiborne in Tennessee. Claiborne County was created from Grainger and Hawkins county in 1801. Ezekiel became active in civic affairs of the County. Upon Claiborne becoming a county and the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions organized, he was selected as the counties first Registrar. The Minute Docket for the September Term, 1801, shows he served as chairman of the Grand Jury. Records for the November term, 1806 indicate his reappointment for the following term. During the May term of 1807, Ezekiel served as security for William Williams appointment of Constable and the Court awarded him \$30 for transcribing the original book of the Register according to an act of the assembly. He and Sara were apparently doing well and became acquainted with the Huntsville founder and name sake John Hunt as well as a number of others that eventually made their way to Huntsville. It may have been John Hunt's influence that encouraged them to migrate to Madison County. Ezekiel and Sara were also becoming wealthy with offspring. Children were arriving from the union nearly on an annual bases Sara (Sally), Ezekiel Jr., Labun, Jane, Elizabeth, Ann, and Hugh.

By the fall of 1808, Alabama Fever, spreading from Virginia to Georgia struck Ezekiel and he packed up his family and headed to the Mississippi Territory and Madison County, Alabama specifically. He is listed on the Squatters' Census of 1809. He and Archealous Craft, who could have been his brother or cousin, are listed on the Madison County tax lists beginning in

1810. Ezekiel settled near Big Cove where he acquired several land patents and became a farmer.

The Register of Applications & Permissions in Madison County, Mississippi Territory indicate Ezekiel's January 20, 1809 land application was granted on February 9, 1809. He received 320 acres between Aldridge Creek and Green Mountain. His brother settled in Cotaco County, now Morgan County, Alabama.

Ezekiel was a staunch Primitive Baptist and may have been the founding pastor of the Meridian Line Baptist Church. The church was established sometime before October 1810 when it joined the Elk River Association. In 1812, it reported 31 members with Ezekiel Craft as its Pastor. The association was the only form of church union among Primitive Baptists but in no way interfered with the absolute independence of the individual churches. Messengers from the different churches met once a year and preserved a loose form of organization.

“Ezekiel Craft apparently became a licensed minister in 1818 and 1819 he was the sole messenger from Penal Baptist Church to the Flint River Baptist Association, which largely functioned in Madison County and adjacent areas of north Alabama and lower central Tennessee. The church had 11 members when it affiliated with the Association in 1818, probably the same year it was organized. It was represented by Ezekiel Craft and again in 1819. In the next three years, 1820-22, it had no letter or messenger at the Association, and from

1823 on, there is no entry to the church in the Association records.” F. Wilburn Helmbold, Curator, Alabama Baptist Historical Society, Samford University Library.

The civic minded Ezekiel made the most of his time. By 1820 he added a new responsibility to farming and preaching when on April 12, he was appointed the Justice of the Peace. Numerous records illustrate marriages he performed as both a Justice of the Peace and a Minister of the Gospel.

A couple of years later in 1823, Ezekiel and three other civic minded citizens were elected the first County Commissioners of Madison County. Each commissioner came from a different section of the county and Ezekiel represented the eastern portion. They had jurisdiction over a variety of matters including the regulation of taverns. His duties required him to periodically inspect and regulate annually, the schedule of charges to be made by public houses. His duty may have contributed to some of his opponents and Methodists to view him as less than a pious preacher.

The commissioners' appointed all county officers not elected by the people and those included the county assessor and collector, coroner, treasurer and surveyor. In February, 1823, these offices were filled by various appointments and Commissioner Craft appointed himself, County Treasurer. He served as Treasurer from 1823 to 1826, apparently holding both offices at the same time.

He remained active with his ministry and Big Cove joined the Flint River Association in 1822, when their number was 10; his church grew until 1827 when its

membership reached 88 and began a decline to 38. His critics were vocal about his ministry and complained he was never a great advantage to the denomination or to the cause of Christ. One unknown orator proclaimed; *“We have learned from some of his neighbors and old acquaintances, particularly our old venerable Methodist brother, Mr. R___, that Mr. Craft cannot preach, neither can he be considered an orderly man.”*

He was the minister of the Big Cove Church and while not universally revered, non-the-less, Ezekiel continued as pastor until after 1840. “Brother R’s” comments may very well be related to Ezekiel’s duty of inspecting Taverns in the County which required him to verify the quality of the products offered by a Tavern.

On September 22, 1825 Ezekiel was authorized to perform marriages as a Minister of the Gospel by the State of Alabama.

On October 11, 1832, he applied for a Federal pension and executed an affidavit detailing his service during the Revolutionary War and he was awarded an annual allowance of \$93.33. He also, as a clergyman, swore an affidavit supporting the pension application of Benjamin Glover, a personal friend and patriot whose son married Ezekiel’s daughter, Jane, in 1820.

He continued to serve his neighbors and in 1840 was the appraiser of the perishable property estate of Thomas Vann.

He resisted the lure of new land when the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed, opening east central Mississippi to settlement. Many of his extended families moved to the new land but Ezekiel remained in Madison County. On October 17, 1843, at the age of 81 he died. The day before, probably anticipating his

death, he deeded property to his two-year old Grandson, Ezekiel B. Craft. It was customary in Alabama at the time for the youngest male member of the family to inherit. Ezekiel died intestate. The Orphan Court Minutes for January 1, 1845 record letters of Administration for his estate were granted to his son, Ezekiel, with another son, Joseph, and William Write as securities.

The Rest of the Story

In 1976, the Madison County Military Heritage Commission placed a plaque in the lobby of the County Courthouse in Huntsville along with Revolutionary War veterans known to live in the County and more recently, the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter rededicated the plaque on the Veterans Memorial Park Patriots walkway.

Craft's decedents continue to reside in Madison County and you can meet one; the proprietor of Grandma's House at 3980 Old Highway 431, Owens Cross Roads, AL; an outstanding restaurant featuring traditional Southern cuisine.

His gravesite is in the Moon Cemetery on Cave Spring Road, Owens Cross Roads, AL.



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Dr. Harold Fanning Drake, A very dedicated Doctor of Madison County

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

Huntsville had been served by many great leaders who fade away with time and passing generations. Dr. Harold Fanning Drake is one who should never be forgotten. He arrived in Alabama on April 14, 1922, as the only son of Dr. Joseph Drake, the fourth president of A&M College, and Annie G. Drake. Dr. Harold Drake was the first to change the medical scene of Huntsville and open the doors breaking the color barrier at Huntsville Hospital. With his help and bravery, Huntsville moved forward to its future without destruction.

Marrying Geneva Lucretia Nall on April 14, 1945, he continued with his education and graduated from Meharry Medical College in Tennessee in 1946 then served his internship at Harlem Hospital in New York City. He did his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Mercy-Douglass Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He started his private practice in Madison County in 1948 and administered to patients in Donalson Hospital in Fayetteville, Tennessee. Becoming the first Negro doctor to gain a membership into the Madison County Medical Society working all hours of the day and night having very little time off. To be allowed to join the Society in 1950, the doctors of Huntsville Hospital agreed he could join but only attend the business meeting, not the social or lunch part.

By becoming an accepted member of the Madison County Medical Society, he was given a special arrangement to admit Negro patients to the Colored Wing of Huntsville Hospital. As the first Negro medical doctor on Staff at Huntsville Hospital, he wrote a letter on behalf of Dr. Hereford to be accepted to the Hospital staff with Dr. Drake. Dr. Hereford wrote in his book, *Beside the Troubled Waters*, "As the only two Black Doctors at Huntsville Hospital, we always had to make sure we didn't offend anybody or make

any mistakes.” Dr. Hereford wrote that Dr. Drake was a doctor that people looked up to and admired. Dr. Drake was able to build up white patients into his practice by going to sporting goods stores and hobby stores to meet potential clients.

In 1953, while doing surgery on ten-year-old Tommy Scruggs’ fractured elbow, Dr. Drake and Dr. Robert Bibb was suddenly confronted with a stopped heart. Dr. Drake made an incision into the upper abdomen and rhythmically massaged the child’s heart muscle for five minutes. A week later the child walked out the hospital on his way home. Ebony ran a two-page article, “The Dead Boy Who Came Back To Life,” in the February 1953 magazine.

In 1946, nurse Johnnie LouJean Dent was the first Negro nurse hired by the Madison County Health Department to improve the training of local midwives. She and Dr. Harold F. Drake organized the Triana Maternity and Child Health Clinic in 1950 to provide health care for expectant Negro mothers and children, many of whom, until then, did not have access to health care. He worked there up until the 1970s. He was the only medical doctor helping young women who found themselves with unwanted pregnancies during the late 60s. He experienced being arrested several times for performing abortions even though charges were always dropped against him. He experienced a sadden incident of a young woman dying during the procedure.

Dr. Drake was involved with many aspects of Huntsville serving as the school physician at Oakwood College and A&M University. He became a medical officer at the US Army Troop Health Clinic. He was a member of the Staff of Family Practice of Huntsville Hospital. He spent many years working at the Huntsville Hospital Emergency Room. He served as Medical Advisor for the Family Planning, Head Start, and Comprehensive Childcare Program of the Community Action Agency of Huntsville-Madison County, Inc. He also looked after patients in the NHE Nursing Home, Madison Manor in Madison, Big Spring Manor and the Huntsville Nursing Home. Dr. Drake was integral part of the healthy growth of Huntsville and Madison, AL.

Dr. Harold Drake continued to break the colored barrier but without negative attention to himself. Lawrence Goldsmith, the owner of the Russell Erskine Hotel, invited Dr. Drake to integrate the hotel smoothly providing an example for the rest of the town to follow. Dr. Drake and Dr. Cashin integrated the new municipal golf course and Huntsville Public Library. In 1964, Dr. Drake ran for City Council but did not win. His run helped expand the registered black voters and bring about more change.

He stayed very involved with the community through serving at a deacon of the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, member of the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter, and a member of the Evening Star Lodge No. 6. He received many service awards and plaques for his civic work. He was given a "This is Your Life" tribute at the Loveman's Mall. He was a member and involved with many civic community and national organizations.

Dr. Drake when he had the time enjoyed golf, tennis, dancing, music, and played several instruments. He enjoyed model airplane building and was a member of the Rocket City Radio Controllers Model Airplane Club. Being a diabetic he knew the importance of exercise and rode his bike daily. On October 2, 1979, he was riding his bike on Alabama Highway 53 north and collided with a pickup truck. The accident triggered a heart attack and along with his other injuries, he passed away on November 3, 1979. A Harold Drake Memorial Fund was established at Huntsville Hospital Foundation after his death. He was a doctor that people looked up to and admired. Dr. Drake dedicated his life to the health of Madison County.



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Early Days in Big Cove

By: William Sibley

In the early 1800s, the land that is now Big Cove was a part of the Mississippi Territory until 1817 at which time it became a part of the Alabama Territory before it became a part of the State of Alabama in 1819.

Big Cove had been the property of the Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians, but the United States Congress made treaties with those Indian tribes in 1805 and 1807, making the land a possession of the United States.

In 1807 the U. S. Congress authorized a survey of its newly-acquired lands in the Mississippi Territory, with Seth Pease of Washington County, Virginia in charge of the surveys. Mr. Pease sent a survey team to what would become "The Big Cove." That survey team was headed by Thomas Freeman and his assistant, John Clan Grayson.

Mr. Grayson and his team constructed a bunkhouse on the east side of Old Big Cove Road about two-hundred yards north of Terry-Drake Road and occupied that home while the survey was done. The survey began in early 1807 and was completed in late 1807.

Before starting the survey, Mr. Grayson had moved his family from Virginia to Tennessee where they lived until the survey was completed. When communicating with his family, Mr. Grayson told them that he was surveying "The Big Cove" and the name stuck. Mr. Grayson traveled to Tennessee to move his family to "The Big Cove."

Mr. and Mrs. Grayson had a large family. Some writers think there were fourteen children, but I found identifications of only thirteen. Several children were born in Virginia and several were born in the Big Cove. When the Grayson family (John Clan Grayson and Sarah "Sally" Carter and children) were traveling to their Big Cove home, they carried bridge-building equipment among their supplies. They saw fewer and fewer people and the children probably asked several times, "Are we there yet?" I like to refer to Mr. Grayson as the "Father of Big Cove" and Mrs. Grayson as "Big Cove's First Lady."

Both of my parents had ancestors in Big Cove in the earliest years of its settlement. Robert Wright, Sr., a soldier in the American Revolutionary War, who "assisted in the Capture of Cornwallis" was my paternal gr-gr-gr-grandfather, who emigrated to Big Cove in 1808. When Robert arrived in Big Cove, he was widowed from Keziah Bibb. He married Peggy Calvert in 1811 in Madison County. Robert was the father of fourteen children.

My maternal gr-gr-gr-grandparents, Robert Uel Childress (1799-1886) and Temperance Connally (1798-1865) were married on June 6, 1817 at Colliers' Beat in Berkley, on Big Cove's east side. They were the parents of seventeen children, including popular twins who both died in the Civil War in separate battles. Sgt. John William Connally (Father of Temperance) was my gr-gr-gr-gr-grandfather and was a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.

Very few families, if any, have had as much positive influence on Madison County, and in particular Big Cove, as the Drakes. In 1807 when Big Cove was being surveyed, Drake brothers, James, aged 27 and William aged 18, and their brother-in-law, James

Neely, arrived South of Huntsville at Little Cove after sailing down the Tennessee River in their flat-bottomed boat. They were pleased with the Little Cove area and decided to settle there and made plans for the arrival of other Drake relatives, including Capt. John Drake, Revolutionary War soldier and father of James and William.

Captain John and five more sons arrived in Little Cove in 1810 or 1811. They purchased lots of land in the area and renamed Little Cove to Drakes' Cove.

Captain John Drake's wife was Jean Neely, daughter of Robert and Anna Neely. Future President of the United States, Gen. George Washington used Neelys' landing when making his famous crossing of the Delaware River.

Captain John Drake was probably a humorous sight to the young people of his day. He was a Quaker Baptist who spoke Olde English and who wore knee breeches and high buckle shoes. Adults probably thought he was a distinguished looking gentleman. The captain had a favorite horse named Selah, which he rode from Drakes' Cove to Philadelphia to visit relatives.

Captain John Drake's son, Elijah, married Elizabeth Wills Buford, daughter of Henry Buford, Jr. and Mattie Sherman, early Big Cove residents. Elijah and Elizabeth reared a very large family in Big Cove. Much has been written about Andrew Joel Drake who was Elijah's brother, but I could never find if he lived on the east side of Huntsville Mountain. Andrew has many descendants in the New Hope area.

The Drakes were well-known farmers, educators, and ministers. They owned much land, especially in Big Cove. Capt. John, who was a Quaker Baptist had three descendants (generations) who were ministers in

the Big Cove Free Holiness church. They were Revs. Emmett Neeley Drake, Edward Mitchell Drake, and Edward Oakley Drake.

Rev. John Henry Drake, son of Elijah, was a circuit-riding Cumberland Presbyterian preacher, whose ministry covered Madison, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. Those circuit-riding preachers usually delivered sermons in the morning and afternoon at different churches. Bad weather and overflowing creeks sometimes caused preachers to spend a night or several days with their church members. Revs. Burns Drake (Cumberland Presbyterian) and Lewis “Drake (Presbyterian) were popular ministers.

Rev. John Henry Drake had two marriages:

1. Nancy Worthem of Maysville – two children.
2. Mary Ann Anderson of Warrenton – seven children.

Several of Rev. John Henry Drake’s children, including Elijah Donnell, William Ewing, Frazier McAdow, James King and Tate Estill, were successful Big Cove farmers. William owned thousands of acres of land in three counties, owned a cotton gin, was a bank director and church elder. James King was a long-time member of the Madison County Board of Education, was a sheep farmer, owned a seven acre peach orchard and was a church elder, Grace Ellen’s daughter, Lucy Graham, was an unsuccessful candidate for Mayor of Huntsville. Tate was President of the Alabama State Cattlemen’s Association and Zachariah was an attorney.

In 1870 the Alabama legislature passed a bill that required all public schools in Alabama who received state tax money to elect school trustees. The Drake family had its own private school in Big Cove, which was not required to elect trustees, but two public

schools in Big Cove did elect trustees in the 1871 election. Those schools were Camp Ground and Drakes' Mills Free Public School House.

I was unable to find who the elected trustees were in 1871, but I did find who the election officials were.

Camp Ground School, located at Township 4, Range 1 East – No section given.

Election Officials: My great-grandfather John Wesley Miller, John Anyan,

William King, and J. L. Webster.

Drakes' Mills Free Public School House, located at Township 4, Range 2 East –

No section given.

Election Officials were W. C. McBroom, Sugar Bond Middleton, and J. K. Sanford.

The school was located in or near Little Cove. The late Margaret (Sanford) Connally, a historian of Gurley and Big Cove, was a descendant of J. K. Sanford, and she said that he lived near the Hampton Cove Clubhouse. I have talked with several Drake family researchers and they do not know those Drakes.

I found that two of those Drakes were outstanding pupils at Gurley's Robert Donnell High School (1894-1908) and the family bought and sold expensive, imported horses that they boarded "at the Peevys" and shipped them into and out of Gurley by train.

Siblings Burns Thomas "Tom" Drake and Dr. Mary Frances Drake, children of Rev. Burns Drake and great-grandchildren of Rev. John Henry Drake, were probably the best known educators in the Drake family. Tom was a school principal for almost fifty years, and many of those years were spent at Huntsville's Grissom High School. Mary Frances was a professor at the University of Tennessee for many years.

The Drakes were involved in almost every aspect of Big Cove's history and their influence is still obvious in Big Cove.



Sources:

- General knowledge of the Drake family.
- Writings by Howard Wilson Drake and Mary Eleanor Taylor-Compton in *The Heritage of Madison County*.
- Mary Louise Thedford, author of *Drake Reunion Fifty Years Golden Anniversary 1977*.
- Cynthia Snider, author of *A Grayson History* and many related families.
- (Mrs. Snider is a retired superintendent of schools).
- Old newspapers and other periodicals – Bobby Drake, descendant of Andrew Drake.

A Very Special Basement: Huntsville's Post-Civil War Treasure

By Donna Castellano

Ed. Note: The March 12th speaker for the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table, Donna Castellano, shared this profile in advance of her presentation on Huntsville's historic homes.

A trip to the Harrison Brothers basement brings you face to face with Huntsville's early history. Buildings began to line the streets of Southside Square, originally called Commercial Row, as early as 1810. While the original buildings have been altered through renovations, the brick masonry walls of the original building remain. The foundation of our city is clearly visible in the basement of Harrison Brothers.

In 1897, James B. and Daniel T. Harrison opened a tobacco shop at 124 Southside Square. A few years later, a fire swept down this street and heavily damaged most of the buildings, including the one owned by the Harrisons. The brothers doubled down on their investment in downtown Huntsville. They purchased the adjoining bay (the west side of the store), added a third floor, and thoroughly renovated the building's façade. Then, they settled in to run their family-owned business for decades.

The death of John Harrison in 1983 (a grand nephew of James and Daniel) threatened to bring the legacy of Harrison Brothers to an end, but the Historic Huntsville Foundation negotiated with Harrison heirs to buy the building and operate the store. Today, the Historic Huntsville Foundation continues the Harrison Brothers legacy in Huntsville.

In the early 1980s, the Historic Huntsville Foundation established an architectural warehouse filled with historic salvage materials for folks restoring their historic homes. The items in basement consist of donations from property owners who could no longer use the salvage materials—sinks, doors, windows, even a wooden toilet tank! There are also materials that remain from stocked merchandise and fixtures of the old Harrison Brothers store, including auto parts, massive shelving and a rope-operated freight elevator.

In 2001, the Historic Huntsville Foundation received a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service, and used these funds to stabilize the building’s foundation. The basement received its concrete floor at this time. The basement at Harrison Brothers Hardware is not a carefully-curated, pristine space. It’s authentically dirty—and wouldn’t be changed for the world.

The Historic Huntsville Foundation is a membership based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; and welcomes the membership and support of all who care about our historic places. Visit the website at www.historichuntsville.org for more information and membership materials!



The Huntsville Historical Review; Editorial Policy

The Huntsville Historical Review, a biyearly journal sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, is the primary voice for local historians to document Madison County history. This journal reflects the richness and diversity of Madison County and North Alabama and this editor will endeavor to maintain the policy established by his predecessor with regard to the primary focus of the Review as well as material included in it. A casual examination of every community in the world reveals the character of its citizens and, if you look closely, voices from the past express their expectations for the future. Today is based upon our collective experience and the socialization of our ancestor's existence.

Although this publication focuses on local history, we cannot forget that what happens here has roots often connected by state, regional, national, and international events. In an effort to build on past traditions and continue the quality of our *Review*, an editorial policy will be implemented to guide contributors who wish to submit manuscripts, book reviews, or notes of historical significance to our community. The Historical Society wants you to submit articles for publication. Every effort will be made to assist you toward that goal.

You can contribute to our history through the *Huntsville Historical Review*.

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

Please submit an electronic copy of your article or book review to arleymccormick@comcast.net or send to:

Huntsville-Madison County
Historical Society
Box 666
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Review Content and Style

- In matters of form and style, a good guide is the fourteenth or fifteenth edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- If you choose to include footnotes the preferred citation method for full articles would be best.
- Manuscripts should be in 12-point font and in Times New Roman. Microsoft Word
- This is a guide and not intended to discourage the creative process nor constrain authors from contributing to the Review.

Book Review

Please limit your book review to topics relevant to local, state, or southern history. A good review should clearly and concisely describe the nature, scope, and thesis of a book that would be relevant to Madison County history. Emphasis on local and regional history will be given in order to help readers expand and contextualize their knowledge. Your review should be helpful to the general reader interested in Madison County or North Alabama and here are some good rules to follow when writing a book review:

- Your first obligation in a book review is to explain the subject of the book and the author's central thesis or main points.

- Your second obligation is to evaluate how successfully the author has made his/her point. Is the author's argument reasonable, logical, and consistent?
- Your third obligation is to set the book into a broader context. If you can, place the book into a wider context by looking at broader issues.
- Your fourth obligation is to render a judgment on the value of the book as a contribution to historical scholarship.

News and Notes Submissions

Please keep your submissions limited to 250 words and please include contact information if you are making an inquiry or asking a question. The editor has the right to change or delete wording or information.

Little Reminders . . . Good Writing Rules

- Write in the active voice, and the past tense.
- Cast your sentences in the positive.
- Topic sentences should be clear and straightforward statements of what the paragraph is about. Every sentence in a paragraph should work to explain the topic sentence.
- Write in the third person.

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The HMCHS was formed more than 65 years ago by thoughtful citizens who were concerned about preserving the unique heritage of this area. The richness and diversity of 200 years of local history indeed should be shared and celebrated. To that end; the Historical Society has been collecting, preserving, recording and promoting history since 1951.

Check out our website <http://www.hmchs.org>

An Invitation to Membership

Membership in the Society will give you an opportunity to express your interest and participate in preserving the history of Huntsville and Madison County. Enjoy the opportunity to be with other individuals who share your interest in our history by attending the Society's four meetings a year, each one featuring a speaker of local or regional note. A membership includes subscription to *The Huntsville Historical Review*.

If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please share this application.

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