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THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER 2021

Research & Genealogical Tips

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Do You Think You Know The Informant? Some documents used in genealogical research clearly state the name of the person providing the information. Others do not. Knowing who provided information helps the researcher judge the probable reliability of that information. If you have a record that does not specifically state who gave the information, indicate *in your notes* who you think likely provided the information—and give a reason if possible. Certain individuals are more likely to know certain details about the family or their life than others are.

At This Time And Place: Things change over time. Different places have different practices and different cultures. While most of us know this, it can be easy to forget when we are waist deep in a genealogical research problem. Just because the first always got a larger share of his father's estate in a specific place in 1690 does not mean that same practice was taking place in 1790. Just because your immigrant ancestors in the 1870 named children for their sponsors does not mean that their parents did the same thing in the 1840s in Ireland. Laws change. Culture changes. Religious practices change as well. Find out what was going on at the time and place your ancestor was living. Don't assume the only differences between you and your ancestor in 1850 was the lack of indoor plumbing and modern medicine. There were other differences as well.

Wife Keeping Separate Property: If a legal document for a married woman refers to property as her "separate property," it could have been property she had before the marriage or something she obtained during the marriage. Often this separate property was obtained from an inheritance, but not always. When seeing this reference, determine how the property was obtained—starting with land and estate/probate records. Indicating that a property was a married woman's separate property was usually done to prevent the property from being sold to pay the husband's debts or otherwise being "wasted" by him. It's possible that a married couple may set aside property as separate property for the wife during their marriage in order to try and prevent it from being used to pay for the husband's debts or in a "we'll live apart but we are not getting divorced" situation. There was a reason the property was kept separate. Knowing more about the family and their financial situation may help to discover that reason.

The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner

Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor

FEDERAL LAND RECORDS IN ALABAMA

by Robert S. Davis
Family & Regional History Program
Wallace State College
PO Box 2000
801 N. Main Street
Hanceville, AL 35077-2000

Alabama is a federal land state, which means that all land ownership based upon land grants comes through the United States government. (All states are federal land or "public domain" states except for the original thirteen states, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.) Several books have been published on the history of federal/public lands. Among the best such works are Malcomb J. Rohrbough, *The Land Office Business: The Settlement and Administration of American Public Lands, 1789-1837* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968), Benjamin H. Hibbard, *A History of Public Land Policies* (New York: Macmillan, 1924); and Vernon R. Cartstensen, ed., *The Public Lands: Studies in the History of the Public Domain* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1963). For using the records, researchers should consult the special federal lands issue of *Heritage Quest* 15 (May/June 1999), number three; James C. Barsi, *The Basic Researcher's Guide to Homesteads & Other Federal Land Records* (Colorado Springs: Nuthatch Grove Press, 1996) and the National Archives' booklet *Research in Land Entry Files of the General Land Office* (Washington: National Archives Trust, 1998). An excellent discussion of federal lands in Alabama, starting with 1820, is the introductory chapters of Wyley Donald Ward, *Original Land Sales and Grants in Covington County, Alabama* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Company, 1991).

HOW FEDERAL LANDS WERE (AND ARE STILL TODAY) LOCATED

The system used by the federal government to grant lands in federal land states like Alabama is based upon a report compiled by a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson in 1784. The resulting Ordinance of 1785 determined that federal lands would be organized into squares of six miles by six miles called townships. **Even modern Alabama county, topographical, and other maps use this system as do all deed records, past to the present.** The townships are not numbered but are located by the intersections of numbered range (north-south or longitude) lines with numbered township (east-west or latitude) lines. These township lines (six miles apart) and range lines (six miles apart) . Each such township was subdivided into smaller squares, each of one mile by one mile or 640 acres square, called sections. Each section, within a township, has a unique number. All property in Alabama is identified by the intersection of a township line with a range line and by the section number within the township. For example township 34, range 19, section 12 would refer you to where township line 34 intersects with range line 19 to form section number 12. We have in microfilm drawer 152 records of landowners in Bibb, Blount, Cullman Etowah, Fayette, Jefferson, Marion, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston counties in 1913, arranged by township, range, and section from records of the Alabama Mineral Map Company.

The Alabama Secretary of State has posted online free access to incomplete indexes to Alabama's county tract books: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/GovtRecords/Land.aspx>. The Eastern Division of the Bureau of Land Management has also posted similar records on its site but so far these records lack the surveyor's field notes found in the Alabama copy: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> Alabama maps shows range and township lines as well as sections. a huge collection of Alabama maps (access free) is Alabama Historical Map Archive:

WHERE FEDERAL LANDS WERE GRANTED

Obtaining federal lands often proved complicated and expensive. The ordinance of 1785 allowed only cash sales. The acts of 1796 and 1800 allowed settlers to buy lands on "credit" through four cash payments of \$80 each.

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The act of 1820 reverted back to only cash sales. Under the act of May 18, 1796, federal lands as small as 320 acres (half sections) could be sold. By act of March 26, 1804, quarter sections (160 acres could be sold) and, in 1817 and under certain conditions, quarter quarter (or half-quarter) sections (80 acres) were sold. By 1820, quarter quarter sections were available everywhere and even forty-acre tracts were available for sale.

Lands were granted through land offices to male and single female adult citizens. Each land office served a specific district. District boundaries changed over the years and researchers should consult the maps in the books below for boundaries at different periods. Alabama's last land office, Montgomery, closed in 1927 and all remaining unclaimed land went to the Federal Land Bank. For maps and information on the first of these offices see Malcom J. Rohrbough, *The Land Office Business: The Settlement and Administration of American lands, 1789-1837* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968). The land offices in Alabama were:

St. Stephens (opened December 26, 1806). Many names from land entry books and other records for this office at the Alabama Department of Archives and History appear in Marilyn Davis Hahn, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands VOL. I 1768-1888* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1983).

Huntsville (opened July 27, 1810; moved from Nashville, Tennessee to "Twickenham," i.e. Huntsville by act of February 11, 1811; moved to Montgomery by March 1, 1905). Many names from land entry books and other records for this office at the Alabama Department of Archives and History appear in Marilyn Davis Barefield, *Old Huntsville Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1810-1854* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1985).

Cahaba or Conecuh Court House (opened August 4, 1817; moved to Cahaba and opened there on October 20, 1818). Many names from land entry books and other records for this office at the Alabama Department of Archives and History appear in Marilyn Davis Hahn, *Old Cahaba Land Office Records & Military Warrants, 1817-1853* (revised edition, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986).

Tuscaloosa (opened by July 2, 1821; moved to Montgomery, March 30, 1866). Many names from land entry books and other records for this office at the Alabama Department of Archives and History appear in Marilyn Davis Barefield, *Old Tuscaloosa Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1821-1855* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984).

Sparta or Conecuh Court House (opened August 1, 1822; moved to Elba, April 1, 1854). Many names from land entry books and other records at the Alabama Department of Archives and History for this office appear in Marilyn Davis Hahn, *Old Sparta & Elba Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1822-1860* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1983).

Demopolis (opened by July 15, 1833; moved to Montgomery, March 30, 1866). Many names from land entry books and other records at the Alabama Department of Archives and History for this office appear in Marilyn Davis Hahn, *Old Demopolis Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1818-1860 and Records of the Vine and Olive Colony* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1983). The Vine and Olive Colony refers to exiled followers of the Emperor Napoleon who settled in Marengo County, Alabama under the federal Act of March 3, 1817.

Montevallo (opened December 20, 1833; moved to Mardisville by January 1834).

Montgomery (opened January 1, 1834; closed 1927). Many names from land entry books and other records at the Alabama Department of Archives and History for this office appear in Marilyn Davis Barefield, *Old Montgomery Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1834-1869* (Birmingham, AL: Southern University Press, 1991).

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Mardisville (opened January 1834; moved to Lebanon, April 12, 1842; moved to Centre by August 1, 1858; moved to Huntsville, March 30, 1865; moved to Montgomery, May 26, 1866). Many names from land entry books and other records at the Alabama Department of Archives and History for this office appear in Marilyn Davis Barefield, *Old Mardisville, Lebanon, & Centre Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1834-1860* (Birmingham, AL: Southern University Press, 1990).

Elba (opened April 1, 1854, moved to Montgomery, March 30, 1866). Many names from land entry books and other records for this office from the Alabama Department of Archives and History; Hoole Library of the University of Alabama; and the Scruggs Collection of the Birmingham Archives, Birmingham Public Library appear in Marilyn Davis Hahn, *Old Sparta & Elba Land Office Records & Military Warrants 1822-1860* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1983).

Greenville (opened June 16, 1856, moved to Montgomery, March 30, 1866).

RESEARCH IN OTHER FEDERAL LAND RECORDS

With the exception of military bounty and homestead land grants (see below), federal land records usually contain little personal data. For any grant, typically the paperwork provides little information beyond the name of the applicant, applicant's place of residence when applying for the grant, description of the location of the land, and date of application. Case files can, in a few instances, give information on heirs or other data; see William Dollarhide, "Federal Land Records: Send Me The Case Files!," *Heritage Quest* 15 (May/June 1999): 21-32. Copies of the case files can be obtained from the National Archives (see below).

Records of the individual land offices exist in many places The Alabama Department of Archives and History has microfilm of the Secretary of State's copies of the county tract books. These tract books can ALSO be read on the free website of the Alabama Secretary of State at: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/GovtRecords/Land.aspx> Computer searches on this site can only be made by township and range. The books are often illegible and the original records remain in the custody of the Secretary of State. The Archives also has 550 receipt books that show the purchases of federal lands and many related federal land records. It has at least a partial card catalog index to some fifty of these volumes. The William Stanley Hoole Library of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa has many other records. Federal copies of the land office records are in the National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001 (which has an alphabetical name index to land grantees and applicants to land grants to 1908 for Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, and Utah; copies of the order forms can be ordered through the NARA web site) and in the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

The Bureau of Land Management (Eastern States) 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, VA 22153 has annotated federal copies of the county tract books and the actual patents to the individual land grants. An index to patents issued to land grantees that **excludes** the persons paying in installments (on "credit"), 1796-1820; military bounty lands; and homestead applications has been completed and is available on the BLM website. The patents for the other types of grants are being added.

This index is also widely available on CD-ROM computer disk and, with the patents themselves, through the bureau's Internet web site: www.glore.blm.gov. Bill Tubbs is publishing this information for Alabama and parts of Mississippi on a county by county basis, with accompanying local maps. Also see as a source for miscellaneous land grants Fern Ainsworth, *Private Land Claims: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida* (Natchitoches, LA: The Author, 1978).

Each probate court in each Alabama county has a county tract book for its respective county wherein information on land grants within the county appears, arranged by township line, range line, and section number.

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Some of these county tract books have been published. Margaret Matthews Cowart has published these records for Colbert, Franklin, Jackson, Laurence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan counties.

Military Bounty Land Grants

Originally federal bounty land for veterans and heirs of veterans of the War of 1812 (1812-1815) could only be taken out in designated districts in Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri. An act of 1842 allowed the claimants to receive their land in any federal land state, including Alabama. Until 1852, veterans/heirs of veterans could not sell their bounty land claims but they could accept government land script in lieu of a grant and, starting in 1830, could sell that script to anyone. Acts of 1850 and 1855 offered bounty lands to veterans and widows of veterans of all conflicts from 1790 on and the act of 1855 granted bounty lands on service of as little as fourteen days. In 1856, bounty lands were offered based up Revolutionary War service. The last additional warrants for military bounty lands were issued in 1858 and lands on such warrants were no longer allowed to be located after 1863.

The applications for bounty land warrants, often containing extensive personal information, should be requested from Military Records, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408. Most of the War of 1812 bounty land claims are indexed in National Archives microcopy M848 War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants. For use of these records see E. Wade Hone, "Federal Military Bounty Lands," *Heritage Quest* 15 (May/June 1999): 9-16 and for historical background see James W. Oberly, *Sixty Million Acres: American Veterans and the Public Lands before the Civil War* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1990).

The military bounty lands are currently not indexed through the Bureau of Land Management indexes but the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern Division, is currently preparing to place military bounty land patents on its Internet web site. The National Archives and Records Administration is preparing an index to military bounty land claims and has so far indexed them through the letter "H."

Homestead Applications

Federal lands were essentially given away to individuals, over age twenty-one and heads of households, willing to develop the land, starting with the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862. Each adult head of household could receive up to 160 acres of land worth no more than \$200, for a ten dollar fee. No one could receive land where someone else had a "preemptive claim," i. e. a claim based upon occupancy without having applied for a grant. An act of March 21, 1864, allowed federal veterans to receive homestead grants of relatives with preemptive rights. Time spent in the United States military during the Civil War counted towards time needed to receive a homestead grant. No one having borne arms against the United States (i. e. Confederate veterans) or who had aided anyone in such action could apply for a homestead grant until 1876. Only United States citizens could apply for homestead grants. Foreign-born applicants had to provide proof of naturalization. The act of June 21, 1866 limited, for two years, homesteads in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi to no more than eighty acres per grant but also reduced the grant fee from ten to five dollars.

Applications for homestead lands, often containing extensive personal information, should be requested from National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Md. 20740-6001. The Bureau of Land Management land grant indexes do not include homestead applications that were begun but never finished.

Selling Land Before it is Granted or Inherited

Farris Cadle wrote: The situation here is what in law is called "after acquired title." Put the term in quotation marks in google for lots of cases and definitions. It happens fairly often in conveyancing. A person executes a deed to a third party for land he or she expects to acquire in the near future. The moment the person who executed the deed acquires title to the land, the title passes to the third party as a result of the previously executed deed. The law requires this to prevent inequities and fraud. The most common situation is someone is in debt, they have no assets,

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they expect to receive some land in the near future through inheritance or otherwise, they immediately execute a deed to their creditor for the land, the creditor is willing to accept the arrangement because it is unlikely the debt will be discharged otherwise, and the creditor can be the first in line to receive the land that the debtor expects to receive.

This sort of thing was done with regard to land warrants, land lottery tickets, and land grants in Georgia. There are many variations but in general a person might sell his or her draw in the upcoming land lottery. If already a successful drawer, he or she might execute a deed for the lot before taking out the grant. Upon the grant being issued, title to the lot immediately passed to the grantee in the deed.

Dues Reminder: Dues for the year 2022 are payable on or before January 1, 2022.

If you have not already paid your dues for 2022, please make checks (amount \$20.00/individual or \$25.00/family) payable to the Birmingham Genealogical Society and mail to:
The Birmingham Genealogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2432 Birmingham AL 35201



EARLY WEATHER EVENTS IN ALABAMA

The first organized weather service were made by weather observations in the State were made by voluntary reporters to the agricultural journals of the day. Shortly after 1850 the Smithsonian Institution took charge of this work, and while the reports were more or less irregular, there were some records made, and the observations were published in the Patent Office Reports, and in Transactions of the Smithsonian Institution. In 1870, the system was transferred to the Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army, who established two stations in the State, one at Mobile and the other at Montgomery. These were both in charge of paid observers. These were the only regularly organized stations until 1880, when sets of thermometers and rain gauges were installed in a number of railway stations, and the agents were placed in charge. They were compensated for telegraphing the observations, during the crop seasons, to the central stations at Mobile and Montgomery.

In February, 1881, a meteorological station was established at Auburn by the Agricultural and Mechanical College. By direction of the Chief Signal Officer, in 1884 Auburn was made the central station of the Alabama Weather Service. In March, 1884, the first bulletin was issued, compiled by Capt. W. H. Gardner, containing reports from 22 observers. During the first three months, the number of observers was increased to 45. On the organization of the service at Auburn, the commissioner of agriculture and industries agreed to publish the bulletins as a part of the transactions of his department, but this support was withdrawn in February, 1885, and the publication of the bulletins was transferred to the college. Bulletins were issued monthly, and during the crop seasons, weekly on Saturdays. Special bulletins were issued at irregular periods. The method of indicating changes of weather in advance by the present system of flags was introduced in Alabama in September, 1884, more than a year before it was adopted for the entire country by the Chief Signal Officer. A cold wave flag, however, did not belong to the Alabama system.

The year 1840 was the driest of which there is record. Fish died in great numbers in the Warrior River, which came very near drying up. The Alabama was too low for navigation. The total rainfall at Huntsville was only 29.08 inches. An immense cotton crop was produced on this account. The years 1854 and 1855 were very dry and only 37.85 inches fell at Auburn during the entire year. In 1870 a very dry year resulted in a large cotton crop, but in 1883 the same conditions resulted in the opposite way, since the drought continued through October. General droughts have been recorded for 1825, 1839-40, 1845, 1851, 1853, 1857, 1860, and 1904.

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Storms have usually come in March and April. The prevailing direction is southwest to northeast. The highest hourly wind velocity recorded in the State was at Mobile, on the 18th of October, 1916, when 115 miles from the east was reached. The year of greatest frequency was 1884, when there were 19 storms.

A destructive cyclone on the Gulf coast in 1740, totally ruined the rice crop, and much privation resulted. More than 300 head of cattle were drowned on Dauphin Island. From August 31 to September 3, 1772, a destructive storm visited Mobile Bay. Vessels were driven into the heart of the town of Mobile, and the salt water, forced over the ground, destroyed all vegetation. In August, 1794, a tornado is recorded. On August 25, 1819, and again on August 25, 1852, occurred violent storms in Mobile, and on the Gulf coast. In 1878, 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883, storms occurred in March and April, and on September 9 and 10 in 1882.

The year 1884 witnessed 19 violent storms throughout the State. The most remarkable was on February 19, in the afternoon, and passed through Montgomery, Perry, Elmore, Coosa, Jefferson, Cherokee, and Calhoun Counties. Nineteen were killed and thirty-one wounded. Leeds in Jefferson County was almost destroyed. Tornadoes occurred on March 11, 24, 25, April 2, 14, 15, 16, and December 12, 1884. Numbers of people were killed, and there was much property damage. On January 11, April 30, May 6, and November 6, 1885, there were tornadoes, resulting in much property damage and a number of deaths. On March 27, 29, and 30, 1886, storms did considerable damage in Clarke, Lee, and Bullock Counties.

A cyclone lasting two days, March 26 and 27, 1888, accompanied by heavy rainfall, caused much damage to railroads and telephone and telegraph communication over most of the State.

West Indian storms on the Gulf coast in 1907 and 1916 resulted in millions of dollars loss of property and some deaths. The storm of July, 1916, was the most destructive in the history of Mobile at the time, where there was a property damage of nearly \$2,000,000. During the storm of 1907 there were many deaths on the coast below Mobile, and much damage to shipping.

The earliest reference to cold weather in the Gulf section is by Cabeza de Vaca. In his narrative of the Narvaez expedition to Florida in 1528, in describing the stay of 25 days in June and July at Apalache, probably near the present Tallahassee, Fla., he says: "The country is very cold." Records show the years 1748, 1768, 1772, 1779-80, 1793, 1794, 1796, and 1799 to have been severely cold during the winter months. The winter of 1779-80 was extremely cold, beginning November 15. Snowstorms continued throughout the entire winter, rivers and creeks froze over, wild turkeys froze in the forests, domestic fowl on their roosts, deer sought refuge around the settlers' cabins, and many wild animals perished in the forests. The year 1783 was cold during the entire period, July and August being cold enough to resort to winter clothing.

The years 1807, 1816, and 1823 were very cold, and the lowest temperature up to that time recorded at Mobile, was registered on February 16, when 5° above zero was reached. February 16, 1807, was so cold that the sap in trees froze, causing the bark to explode. Killing frosts formed every month in the year, as far south as latitude 34°, and on June 8, frost reached 33° South. During the year 1825 there was little cold weather, and immense crops were produced.

On May 27, 1827, a killing frost damaged the cotton crop. After winter had set in the ground continued hard frozen until March, 1828. The winters of 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1846-47, 1852, 1855-56, and 1857 were extremely cold. In the winter of 1855-56 the streams froze over, and there was skating at Mobile, almost unusual occurrence for that latitude. For 1823, 1835, and 1857 the lowest mean average temperatures were shown.

On April 13, 1857, there was a very heavy snow; and on December 30, 1876, occurred the fiercest snowstorm ever known in Alabama. During the first week in January, 1877, the Tombigbee River as high up as Columbus, Miss., was frozen over. The temperature at Columbus reached zero. The years 1884, 1885, 1886, and 1887 were severely cold. In 1886, during the early part of the year, considerable stock was killed. During the month of December snowstorms of unusual intensity occurred. On December 5, a fall of 20 inches was recorded in north Alabama, and as much as 12 inches was reached in the southern counties.

The winters of 1898 and 1899 were severe, and the temperature reached at Mobile, on February 13, 1899, the lowest record for that section of the State, recording 1° below zero. Snow fell over most of the State on February 23, 1914.

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The most spectacular meteoric display ever recorded in the history of the State occurred November 13, 1833, during the early part of the night. The event has long been known as the "night the stars fell."

References.—Henry, "Climatology of the United States," U. S. Weather Bureau, Bulletin Q (1906), pp. 364-381; U. S. Weather Bureau Report, 1900-1901, vol. 2 (Serial No. 4320); U. S. Weather Bureau, Climatological data, Alabama section, 1901-1916; F. P. Chaffee, in Alabama Official and Statistical Register, 1907, pp. 348-351; P. H. Smyth, "Climate of Alabama," in Alabama's new era, 1911, vol. 1, pp. 96-101, also in the Alabama land book, 1916, p. 22 and also in Montgomery Journal, Nov. 17. 1913; Dr. P. H. Mell, "Climatology of Alabama," (Alabama Experiment Station - Bulletin No. 18, n. s., August, 1890). The last named title contains the fullest available details as to actual weather conditions in the State, and was compiled from all available historical and other sources, including meteorological observations from 1811 to 1890.

TROTWOOD PARK

Information submitted by Becki McAnnally

Two horse racetracks flourished around the turn of the century. Trotwood Park was located at 75th Street and 9th Avenue North. "The eastern end of the Birmingham Municipal Airport lies adjacent to the former location of the track. The other track, built in 1889 by the Birmingham Jockey Club, was one mile in length and ran parallel to Third Avenue West. It was part of the Birmingham Fair Association." The Jockey Club track failed in its first year of operation but later became the main attraction of the Alabama State Fair. On October 7, 1906, a motorcycle race was held on the track and automobiles used the track on Saturdays from October 10, 1906 though 1917. The track closed in 1921 due to dilapidated buildings, tracks and grandstands.

In 1925, it opened again with a new track and seating for 10,000 and horses raced Monday through Friday. "An estimated 30,000 fans witnessed Frenchman Jean La Costa set a world speed record of 60 mph on a closed course that year."

Beginning in 1925, a special automobile race was held on Saturday's and soon became very popular so by the mid-1930s, horse racing at fairgrounds disappeared and automobiles took over. The former horse track is still at the same location but it has been shortened to five-eighths of a mile, paved and now named the Birmingham International Raceway. Dr. Marvin Whiting, city archivist, said the horse races were one of the most popular events at the state fairs at the turn of the century with people coming from all over the country to watch the races.

Trotwood Park in East Lake closed shortly after the turn of the century. Mrs. Thelma Green, of Helena, reported to the Birmingham News that she was born and lived in a house that served as the stables and grandstand for Trotwood Park. Her Aunt Susie and Uncle Charlie Graham, managed the park and her mother worked at the track boarding the horses. (Charlie and Susie were also the Aunt and Uncle of Becki McAnnally, an Alabama Pioneers' author). Mrs. Green recalled, "I can still remember when I was 4 or 5 years-old and we'd run around the track and play out there. The house was built 12 foot in the air with the big front porch serving as the grandstands. The space under the house was fenced in and that was where the horses were stabled."

"I wasn't born until after they had quit running the races, but I sure remember the track, " Mrs. Green continued. "I still remember my mother and aunt and uncle telling stories about the races, too. The races were for rich folks then. Birmingham's rich folks would come and sit on the porch and watch the races every weekend. It was a big social event."

Mrs. Green said there was no legalized gambling ("Aunt Susie would have run them all off"). Both horse tracks in those days were all harness races with a driver operating from a two-wheeled, one seat sulky carriage pulled behind the horse.

Judges at the state fair races, according to *The Birmingham Daily News* of 1891, "noted that year's state fair races judges were Hamilton Bushey and David Bonner. Bushey was editor of *Turf, Field and Farm*, a well-respected horseman's journal, and Bonner was the 'most noted owner of fast horse in the world' and founder of the *New York*

Ledger. Horses and drivers who raced were not usually from Birmingham but in 1902, Katie S, belonged to a Birmingham owner, stole the show with a big victory by beating horses from Kentucky, North Carolina and around the country.

The Birmingham News, 11 July 1903

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TROTWOOD PARK INAUGURATION A gala day is certain at Trotwood Park on Saturday. The program will consist of six fast horse-racing events, two trotting, two pacing, a free-for-all, and a running race. Entries are free, and the purses \$25 each. About thirty entries are filed, and more are expected. Anyone can enter who so desires. The races will begin at 2 p. m. But there will be plenty of fun and plenty of amusements all day. The great barbecue will be ready at 9 a. m-, when the gates will open. Many people will go with their children and spend the day there picnicking In the park. All car lines give transfers for East Lake, and the park is on the East Lake line about one mile this side of the lake. Free busses will be in waiting at the Seventh street station. East Lake, to carry all visitors into the park. Those who prefer can walk as it is only a short distance. Everybody Is going because there are many attractions besides the races. Memolis band will play all day; the Pratt City miners will have quoit pitching and other games; the Brandon Light Artillery will fire a salute; John Trotwood Moore will present the silver cup to Mrs. Brooks, and will also deliver an address, and all the fun of a circus will be capped by an ample flow of circus lemonade. It will be distinctly the peoples' day. With flags flying and music playing everybody will be happy and everybody will have a good time. One of the events will be the wedding. A young couple will be married at the park and will receive all the presents that are on exhibition In the big show window of the Stowers Furniture Company. The Matinee Club would like to hear of another young couple who would like to be married at the same time. There will be no charge on the grandstand. Prices of admission will be 50 cents for men. 25 cents for women, 15 cents for children. Children under five years free. *The Birmingham News, 23 July 1903*

The advertisement is a rectangular box with a decorative border. On the left side, there is a diamond-shaped logo for 'EARLE PLACE' which also mentions 'JEMISON REAL ESTATE' and 'INSURANCE COMPANY'. The text '3 CAR LINES' is written vertically on the left side of the diamond. To the right of the logo, the headline reads 'From Home to Work In Seven Minutes'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'The residents of Earle Place can do that. On three car lines with seven-minute schedule to business portion of Birmingham. Improvements are of the very best.' At the bottom of the ad, it says 'Lots \$500 to \$1,000—Terms Easy' and features the 'Jemison Real Estate & Insurance Co.' logo with the address '2024 Third Ave. Birmingham, Ala.' and names of partners: 'W. S. SIMPSON and P. A. POLLEY'.

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Website/Social Media: Patrick Henry & Melissa Hogan
Publicity: Melissa Hogan - genealogistinal@yahoo.com

Director: Jim Anderson - jaa@compuserve.com
Director: Yvonne M. Brakefield Knowles - ybrakefield@mac.com
Director: Jyl Hardy - jylhardy@charter.net
Director: Scott Martin - bevel67@aol.com
Director: Mary Beth Newbill - mnewbill@bham.lib.al.us
Director: Caroline Thomas - carolinethomas@yahoo.com