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NATCHEZ TRACE TRAVELER

POOR FARM INMATES, 1850 – 1900

CONTRIBUTED BY: Darrell A. RUSSEL, 501 West Cleveland Avenue, Florence, AL 35630-2045

Several years ago, when several of the volunteers in the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library's genealogy room were indexing the early Lauderdale County court records, we found frequent references to the "poor farm". Consequently, while I was reviewing the 1880 census of Lauderdale County for some purpose or other, I noticed an entry for the inhabitants of the poor farm. The term was not new to me. But, on the other hand, I do not recall ever seeing poor farm records published in any of the many genealogical journals that I review and so I decided to publish the record. Similar records were then located in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1900 censuses.

In those days before Government welfare checks, it was the responsibility of the county to provide a home for those who had no home. This included widowers and widows no longer able to work because of age as well as younger widows who were unable to support their children. Similarly individuals with a disability that prevented them from working and had no family to support them also depended on the county for their support. Almost from the time a county was organized, it had a poor farm. Whether the superintendence of the poor farm was let on a bid by the county commissioners or granted as a political favor is not known. We do know that the location was moved from time to time.

Census records before 1850 are not designed to show the names of those living on a poor farm and census indices also do not index the term. When the county ceased to operate a poor farm has not been researched. We do know from census records that such farms were continued at least to 1900. Due to space limitations, not all the information in the 1880 and 1900 censuses has not been printed here. Usually each poor farm had its own cemetery. Graves apparently were not marked with a tombstone. Today, all vestiges of a cemetery location have completely disappeared.

1850 Poor Farm Records

The 1850 Lauderdale County poor farm records are found in Federal Census Microcopy M-432, Roll 07, page 236B, Household 89. The census for this household was taken on 29 Oct 1850 by Mat[thew] T. WILSON, Enumerator. This household was in District 1 of Lauderdale County.

HH	Names	Age	Sex	Color*	Occupation	Birthplace	Remarks.
89	IMES, Joseph	51	M		Farmer	N.C.	
	" Elizabeth	50	F			N.C.	
	" Elvira	28	F			N.C.	
Poor	" Marthy Ann	26	F			N.C.	Deaf & Dumb
Farm	" John	24	M			Ala	Deaf & Dumb
	" George W.	20	M		Asst	Ala	
	" Bassle	16	M		"	Ala	
	MAY, Darkus	65	F			Unknown	
	WATSON, Mary	3	F			Ala	

*This column was not filled in but should be marked W = White

On the actual census there are no ditto or Do marks for the wife and children of Joseph IMES but the relationship is obvious.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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1860 Poor Farm Records

The 1860 Lauderdale County poor farm records are found in Federal Census Microcopy M-653, Roll 13, page 190A, Household 105. The census for this household was taken on 11 June 1860 by E. R. **KENNEDY**, Assistant Marshall. This household was in District 1 (T1, R10) of Lauderdale County. The post office address was Greenhill.

HH	Names	Age	Sex	Color*	Occupation	Birthplace	Remarks.
105	Henry CLEMENS	47	M		Farmer	Tennessee	
	Rebecca "	41	F			Kentucky	
	Sally Ann "	24	W [sic]		Domestic	Alabama	
	Aaron Thomas "	21	M		Farmer	Alabama	
	Benjamin "	17	M		Farmer	Alabama	
	William H. "	10	M			Alabama	
	Thomas MASON	70	M		Pauper	Georgia	Pauper
	Sarah LASH	30	F			Tennessee	Pauper
	Betty J. "	6	F			Alabama	Pauper
	Nancy C. "	4/12	F			Ala	Pauper
	Sam GILL	21	M			Tennessee	Pauper
	Clinton BARNS	55	M			N Carolina	Pauper
	James GOLIKELY	89	M			Ireland	Pauper
	Sally HIGGINS	65	F			Ala	Pauper
	Sarah BLASENGAME	30	F			Ala	Pauper
	Leanner BLASENGAME	4	F			Ala	Pauper

* This column was not filled in but should be marked W = White

1870 Poor Farm Records

The 1870 Lauderdale County poor farm records are found in Federal Census Microcopy M-593, Roll 21, page 44A, Household 145. The census for this household was taken on 8 June 1870 by B. F. **CHISHOLM**, Assistant Marshall. This household was in T1, R9 of Lauderdale County. The post office address was Green Hill.

HH	Names	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Birthplace	Remarks.
145	CLEMENS , Henry	58	M	W	Farmer	Tenn	
	" Rebecca	53	F	W	Keeping House	Ky	
	BLASINGAME , Sarah	45	F	W	Pauper	Ala	
Poor	" Leanna	13	F	W	Pauper	N C	
Farm	SMITH , George	22	M	W	Pauper	Va	
	BROOKS , James	70	M	W	Pauper	N C	
	KEYS , Jere	80	M	B	Pauper	N C	
	KERNACHAN , Mc	75	M	B	Pauper	N C	

1880 Poor Farm Records

The 1880 Lauderdale County poor farm records are found in Federal Census Microcopy T-9, Roll 18, page 127A, Household 1. The census for this household was taken on 7 June 1880 by Ed **BROWN**, Enumerator. This household was in Beat 5, T1, R9 of Lauderdale County. A post office address was not given but should be Florence

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HH	Names	Age	Sex	Color	Rel	Occupation	Birthplace	Parents	Remarks
1	CLEMENS, A. T	42	M	W		Keeper of poor farm	AL TN	KY	
	" Elizabeth	38	F	W	wife	Keeping house	AL VA	TN	
	" Alice	12	F	W	dau		AL AL	TN [sic]	
	" Nancy J.	10	F	W	"		AL AL	TN [sic]	
	" Anna	4	F	W	"		AL AL	TN [sic]	
	" James P.	1	M	W	son		AL AL	TN [sic]	
	SMITH, Hester	64	F	W	mother-in-law		TN TN	TN paralyzed	
	McCLUSKY, H. J.	19	M	W		Laborer	TN TN	TN	
	SEYMONS, Robt	60	M	W		Pauper	IRL IRL	IRL broken leg	
	NOLEN, William	68	M	W		Pauper	TN	Unknown	
	ORALEY, Jane	60	F	W		Pauper	AL	"	
	CECK, Mary M.	64	F	W		Pauper	TN TN	TN genl debility	
	STEPHENS, Mary	40	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	HENSON, Mat	25	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	PELT, Sarah G.	60	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	

1900 Poor Farm Records

The 1900 Lauderdale County poor farm records are found in Federal Census Microcopy T-623, Roll 24, page 296A, Household 109. The census for this household was taken on 11 June 1900 by Thomas J. BOND, Enumerator. This household was in Precinct 10 of Lauderdale County. A post office address was not given but should be Florence

HH	Names	Age	Sex	Color	Rel	Occupation	Birthplace	Parents	Remarks
109	HOWELL, David W.	63	M	W		Farmer	AL AL	AL	
	" Sarah C.	56	F	W	wife		AL IN	AL	
	" Myrtle	18	F	W	dau	Teacher	AL AL	AL	
	PATERFISHER, Manuel	63	M	B	serv't	Farm laborer	AL AL	AL	
	BRAYAN, Henry	40	M	B	serv't	Farm laborer	AL AL	AL	
	HENDRIX, Sylvis	60	F	B	serv't	Cash	AL AL	AL	
Poor House	HINE, Sarah	84	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	DODD, Dolly	45	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	McCAFELTY, Becky	42	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	MASON, Lucy	45	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" Water	8	M	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" Benton	5	M	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	ISABELL, Nan	60	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	GOLIKAR, Sallie	60	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	PRINCE, Mary J.	57	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	LANTZ, Sun	70	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	WEATHERS, Lucy	29	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" Aubrey D.	6	M	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" Lizzie	4	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	REEDER, Delia	34	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" William	2	M	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	SEYMORE, Robert	73	M	W		Pauper	IRL IRL	IRL	
	HENRY, Levi	63	M	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	
	" Rada	3	F	W		Pauper	AL AL	AL	

[End]

1866 CENSUS OF COLORED PEOPLE
 (Third Installment - Continued from Vol. 17, No. 1 & 2, Feb & May 2003)

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Early in 1866 the Alabama legislature, in obedience to an ordinance from the 1865 convention, passed an act for taking a population census. This act, No. 99, provided for a census as of 1 April 1866. Four schedules were used in recording the population: 1. White Population, 2. Colored Population, 3. White Population by Township, and 4. Recapitulation by Townships, including educational institutions (colleges, common schools, etc.) in each county. The enumeration listed the heads of households by name and then the number of males in each 10-year category and the same for females. The white population schedule contained additional questions. The schedules are on Microfilm Roll M653-91 available from the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Schedule 1 was published in *Valley Leaves*, Vol. 21, 22, and 23, 1986-1988.

This is the first census in which Afro-Americans are listed by name. The slave schedules of 1850 and 1860 listed each slave by age and color, but only rarely by name. The 1860 slave schedule for Lauderdale County shows a total of 6737 Afro-Americans. Now in 1866, just a year after the close of the Civil War, there were 5070 Afro-Americans in the county. The 1870 census for Lauderdale County listed everyone by name, blacks and whites. In order to perhaps make the present schedule more useful, your editor has added an extra column to the 1866 schedule. This column shows whether the family was still present in the county and enumerated in 1870. Consequently, there are 24 columns, as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. males under 10 | 12. females under 10 | 23. total number in family |
| 2. males 10-20 | 13. females 10-20 | 24. enumerated in 1870 census = X |
| 3. males 20-30 | 14. females 20-30 | |
| 4. males 30-40 | 15. females 30-40 | |
| 5. males 40-50 | 16. females 40-50 | |
| 6. males 50-60 | 17. females 50-60 | |
| 7. males 60-70 | 18. females 60-70 | |
| 8. males 70-80 | 19. females 70-80 | |
| 9. males 80-90 | 20. females 80-90 | |
| 10. males 90-100 | 21. females 90-100 | |
| 11. total no. males | 22. total no. females | |

Column No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ROWEL, Adline	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	—
FOSTER, John	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	X
SUMMERHILL, Dick	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	X
HOWELL, Martha	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	—
COLE, Henry	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	X
CARROLL, Miles	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	—
JONES, Stephen	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	—
WILLIAMS, Tony	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	—
KEYS, Niele	1	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13	—
MOON, Green	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	—
PETERS, Saml	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	—
BAY, Z.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	—
WALKER, E.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	—
PETERS, Ben	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	—

