

MADISON

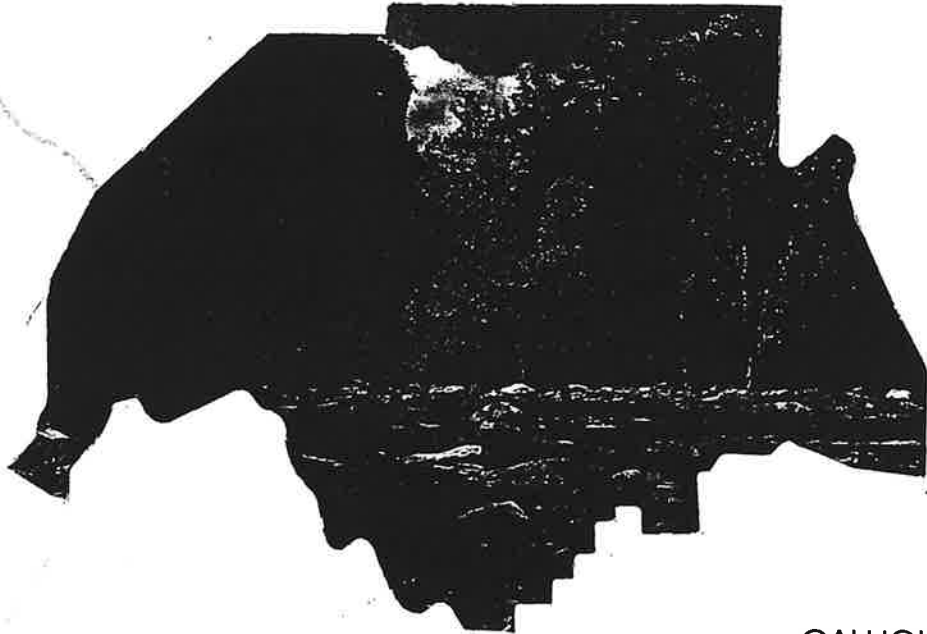
JACKSON

\$4.00 #404

DEKALB

MARSHALL

CHEROKEE



BLOUNT

CALHOUN

inside **Etowah**

and SISTER COUNTIES

SON

SAINT CLAIR

CLEBURNE

TALLADEGA

SHELBY

CHEROKEE INDIANS

The earliest primitive inhabitants in the northern portion of Etowah County were the Cherokee Indians. The Cherokee Indians, rightful owners of their Cherokee territory, had many accomplishments to their credit. The civilized Iroquois tribe stood proud and tall, one of the many traits characteristic of their fierce independence. They had their own alphabet, schools, and printing presses, and many of the Cherokee spoke fluent English. The Indians roamed freely over the ancestral lands in the eastern United States which they had claimed for centuries.

During the American Revolution the Cherokees retreated south and west building new settlements and villages and around 1780 two Indian Chieftains, Red Headed Will and Little Turkey, founded villages called Will's Town and Turkey's Town. Chief Will, a half-breed whose real name was Will Webber, chose his village site near Valley Head in DeKalb County. Chief Little Turkey and his followers located

their village, Turkey's Town, along the northern bank of the Coosa River. Turkey's Town, or Turkeytown, as it was later called, was an area extending from south of Centre to below Gadsden where the Coosa River and Big Will's Creek formed the Cherokee boundary line. Little is known about Turkey Town, for Indian leadership gravitated to the new capitol of Echota, Georgia. But early Turkey Town was noted for important treaties and decisions that were made there.



Little Turkey believed that factionalism and aggression if continued, would destroy the Cherokee Nation. He excelled in diplomacy and retained respect of both races. President Thomas Jefferson sent Little Turkey a golden chain as an emblem of friendship and promised to protect Cherokee land from intrusion by the white man.

By 1820 the Cherokees faced an insurmountable task of keeping intact their northeast Alabama homeland. First slowly, then with quickened tempo, the white man pushed his way into their territory causing violent and bloody struggles as treaties and promises were made and broken by both sides. Some of the whites who had settled in the northeast region intermarried with the Cherokees, many being former soldiers of General Jackson.



When President Jackson, known as the veteran Indian fighter "Big Knife", was in office, he continued to regard the Indian tribes as separate nations within the individual states, yet Jackson also harbored protective feelings toward the Indians. Their present condition, he told Congress in 1829 "contrasted with what they once were, makes a most powerful appeal to our sympathies". He asked could something not be done to preserve "this much injured race"? Jackson proposed moving the chief tribes — Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw beyond the Mississippi River. Individual Indians might remain if they adopted the white men's ways. Emigration should be voluntary, because it would be "cruel and unjust to compel the aborigines to abandon the graves of their fathers". The federal government negotiated two treaties among others, the Treaty of Cusseta in 1832 with the Creeks and the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 with the Cherokees causing them to give up their southern homeland and move west of the Mississippi. More than 100,000 Indians were more or less forcibly uprooted in the 1830's. Many died on the "Trail of Tears" to the new Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma where they were to be "permanently" free from white aggression. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in 1836 to administer relations with the American peoples' original inhabitants. Thus the black pages of American history affecting the Cherokees' loss of their homes and possessions had ended by 1840.





SOUTHSIDE

The town of Southside is located in the southeastern section of Etowah County. It is bounded on the west by the Coosa River and area extends to the Calhoun County line of the south and east.

Until a few decades ago, this was a typical small town farming community. Some of the best farm land in the county lies at this site. With the construction of Highway 77, which runs in the middle of the town, many new homes have been built and with beautiful lake Gadsden created, it has caused a continuous boom in construction of water front homes. It now has a beautiful new City Hall and an excellent school system.

The area lying east of the Coosa River was a part of the Cherokee Indian Nation and was not ceded until 1836. The area on the west side of the river was a part of the Creek Nation. The ceding of that area came about much earlier than that of the Cherokee Nation.

DeSoto and his troops camped in the area where Southside is located in 1540. The old Pensacola Trading Path crossed through the Southside area and it was here that General Jackson on his way to fight the Creeks in 1813-1814 crossed the river on the way to the battle area.

Another note of interest is the amazing amount of Indian artifacts that have been found in this area.

Southside enjoyed the same travel of the steam boats that Hokes Bluff and Gadsden enjoyed. The river and the traffic that will be on the river will result in a never-ceasing boom in the industrial development. Southside was incorporated in 1949 and has today reached a plateau that few towns in the South enjoy. It is almost assumed that a new huge recreational park will be built in the city limits. It has available areas for future development that few towns of its size have, not only in Alabama but in the entire south.

The opportunities that await Southside are unlimited. It has a wonderful future. W. W. (Pete) Burns is the current Mayor.

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