

branches, including strawberry and ice  
Court Street side furnished water for all of

November 24, 1946

#### ONE OF HISTORIC TOWNS

cently celebrated the completion of an 8-  
te highway connecting those two interest-  
last Sunday the writer would like to assert  
It is one of the finest and most beauti-  
uld be taken as a model by the rest of the  
ing Anniston with its beautiful residences  
wealth on every hand and to the natural  
sonville, one of the finest historical com-  
sonville that one finds the brick residence  
n 1838. It was built by his son-in-law, a  
the brick being made in the backyard. Mr.  
largest slave-dealer in Northeast Alabama.  
se built before the War Between the States.  
Caldwell family which is a distinguished  
D. Edwards, was built in 1867 by Judge  
rk was done by hand. The wood was cut  
ne example of colonial architecture is the  
built in 1834 by Judge Alex Wood. The  
three times. It was bought from Judge  
ok in 1866 and by Mr. Treadway in 1918.  
ount for it in 1918 that Mr. Crook paid  
me home is one built by General William  
ob Forney. The home of Mrs. Henry Ed-  
340. The Grant home, the McAdams place,  
now owned by C. W. Daugette, known as  
W. T. Morton which is 90 years old, the  
as built by his grandfather, Colonel J. B.  
ven the States, and many others not re-  
h the charming old town are among the  
d examples in all Alabama.

he landmarks of Jacksonville. St. Luke's  
1835 when an exodus mostly Lutherans,  
N. C. . . Among them were Daniel  
one of the Hoke children were married and  
he Hoke, Abernathy and Forney families  
he Aderholt family and others soon joined  
copalian and he soon induced the Luther-  
uld an Episcopal Church . . . That was in  
architect, Upjohn, drew the plans for the

little building that still stands as an example of art and workmanship. The  
First Methodist Church is 116 years old and its membership has included the  
names of some of the most distinguished in Alabama. The congregation was  
organized in 1833 . . . The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1834.  
The Nisbet, Gregg and Robertson families were among the founders. The  
original wooden building was erected soon after the congregation was form-  
ed. The present one, a brick structure, was begun in the late 1850's. Gilli-  
land Southers, one of the elders, supervised the carving of the woodwork.  
During the War Between the States the old building was used as a hospital  
for sick and wounded soldiers. You don't have to go to Natchez or any-  
where else to see typical examples—and exquisite one at that—of homes and  
churches of the old South.

September 12, 1947

#### TURKEYTOWN NAMED AFTER A CHEROKEE

Turkeytown, a prosperous farming section touching Gadsden on the  
northeast and sprawling some distance along the Centre highway was named  
after Chief Turkey, one of the big rulers of a Cherokee Indian tribe that  
was found there by the first whites to come into this territory, according to  
legend. It is thought likely that Chief Turkey was one of the Indian leaders  
that signed the peace treaty negotiated with General Jackson, a treaty that  
brought peace between the whites and the Redmen.

The Cherokees were among the least warlike Indians on this continent  
and the most civilized of all tribes. The Cherokee nation had its capital in  
what is now Cherokee County and Turkeytown was one of the largest and  
most important villages in the country. Great warriors lived there and some  
of them attained distinction far beyond the borders of the Cherokee nation.  
Stau Wattie, a Cherokee chief who became a Confederate general in the  
Trans-Mississippi Department, was born in Turkeytown.

In 1812 General Jackson, with his army, passed through this county  
in a southerly direction, cutting a road through it to Fort Strother at Ten  
Islands on the Coosa River. From that point he marched to the battlefields of  
Tallahatchee, Horseshoe Bend and Talladega. On his return from those  
victories he marched through the county again, halting at Turkeytown  
where he concluded his peace treaty with the Cherokees. This treaty put an  
end to hostilities and in a few years the county began to fill up with white  
settlers. In 1816 quite a number of whites had settled in the western portion  
of the county. The eastern and northern portion were not settled extensiv-  
ly until 1833-34 when there was a large influx of whites into the entire  
state. The first white settlers in this county of record were John Radcliffe  
who located near Attalla in 1800 and James Leslie who settled in Turkey-  
town. In 1836 the Creeks started to war on the whites but they were soon  
conquered. The leaders were captured and were sent west in chains. That was  
in 1836. A year later the friendly Creeks were removed to the Indian Terri-  
tory. The Cherokees were removed in 1838. They were all collected at Ross'

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Landing on the Tennessee River, now Chattanooga, and were shipped to the Territory.

Turkeytown has produced some of the finest families in this county and many of their members rose to prominence throughout the years that followed the dispossession of the Indians. They were always solid and substantial men and women who built schools and churches and laid a foundation for civilization that will exist as long as time.

September 12, 1946

### CITY SCHOOLS HAVE ADVANCED STEADILY

Gadsden took its first step toward creating a real public school system in 1895 when the city council adopted an ordinance authorizing the appointment of a board of education to take over the entire administration of all school matters.

Prior to that time the council itself ran the schools, named the teachers, fixed their salaries and, in fact, had full control. While the mayor and aldermen were almost invariably good men, they necessarily were politicians. That meant political control and its consequent evils. If memory serves, Col. O. Hood, who was then an alderman, was author of the ordinance and proposed the appointment to the board of education such men as J. H. Disque Sr., J. M. Moragne, R. B. Kyle, W. G. Brockway and A. F. Goodhue, Col. Kyle was the largest individual taxpayer in Etowah County. Judge Moragne was one of the largest land owners of the city. A. E. Goodhue was a large owner of city real estate. Mr. Brockway was a banker and Judge Disque was owner of much city property. The latter continued as chairman for 31 years. For more than 50 years it has been the policy of the city government to name property owners and businessmen and women to membership on the board, it having been found that those who pay the most taxes are the ones that are the strongest supporters of public schools. Col. Hood had experience as a school teacher and he had studied the local system under political control. His move was one of the wisest along that line ever made in connection with the public school system.

In 1896 the board elected I. W. Hill as superintendent of the system and right here it can be confidently said that from that day to this Gadsden has had about the ablest superintendents in the state. Mr. Hill served from 1896 to 1903 when he resigned to take up school work with the federal government as an expert with boys and girls. He was succeeded by Walter E. Striplin who served from 1903 to 1912 when he died. W. C. Griggs was named in 1912 and he served until 1922 when he resigned to become superintendent at Mobile. The next superintendent was C. A. Donehoo, the incumbent, who was elected in 1922. All of those men have unusually fine records. Prof. Hill established the grade system, but not until after a fight. One of his assistants was selected by the U. S. government to set up his system in Cuba after the Spanish-American War. Messrs. Striplin and Griggs were the right men for the right place and the same can be said of Mr. Donehoo.

When Mr. Donehoo took over, from 700 to 800 pupils in the low grades attended only half-day sessions—a double shift being necessary because of a lack of room. Tuition was being charged in the high school that was soon abandoned and for the first time in the city's history Donehoo had created free schools.

During Mr. Donehoo's term Alabama City became a part of Gadsden and its school problem was a heavy one, but from 1895 on the present day the board has found the money to provide additional buildings and right now it is planning to build more and to modernize and enlarge most of the ones.

January 22, 1948

### CAREER OF JURIST AND CIVIC WORKER

John Harold Disque, lawyer, jurist and civic worker of the highest order was one of the most useful citizens Etowah County and Gadsden ever had and it is likely that he will be remembered as such as long as the city exists, for the reason that he was one of several men who created and perfected the fine public school system here. He will also be long remembered as a man who brought law and order to the county when they were most needed, accomplishing that end while being on the bench as judge of the Gadsden City Court for more than 20 years.

Judge Disque was born in New Orleans, March 23, 1848, the son of Charles H. Disque, a native of Frankfort-on-the-main. The father of Charles H. was born in Paris, France. John Harold was educated in New Orleans and while still in his youth he came to Gadsden and studied law, being admitted to practice in 1872. . . . Immediately after he began practice he elected prosecuting attorney for the county and held that office for five years. It was as a prosecutor that he learned about lawlessness and its cause. He was vigorous in prosecuting all persons charged with crime but was fair and honest with all persons who came into court for any reason. He quickly established a reputation for ability and for honesty of purpose. He did so well that the people of Gadsden elected him mayor during his term with the county and he made a fine record. In 1880 he was elected a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and in 1887, without solicitation on his part, he was again elected mayor. When the City Court of Gadsden, which had the same jurisdiction as the circuit court, was created by the legislature, he was appointed judge and held the office for nearly a quarter of a century, or until the court was established and provision was made for two circuit judges. He was recognized as one of the greatest jurists in the state. Through quick trials and speedy but accurate justice he brought about law and order in the county such as had never been known before. Time after time he faced mobs bent on lynching prisoners and won out by his courageous action. His charges to juries were legal masterpieces. He was firm and fair in all of his rulings and did not tolerate unnecessary delays by any counsel or by lawyers.