

SUGGESTED TOURS

With the help of the East Alabama Planning Commission the Cherokee County Bicentennial Commission has worked out four tours to the different parts of the County to visit the Historical Markers that have been erected by the Cherokee Historical Society. It is the hope that many groups and individuals will study the information on the Marchers, will learn much about the history of the County and therefore have a greater appreciation of our heritage.

TOUR I

Beginning at the County Seat of Cherokee County, Centre, this tour encompasses the area of Centre and Leesburg. Immediately around Centre are markers dealing with a short history of Cherokee County. William Lowndes Yancey, the great Fire-eater and Secessionist. Another marker commemorates the Turkey Town Council site, where in 1816 a council of Cherokees, Creeks and Chickasaws met to settle boundaries and ratify a peace treaty. The inventor of the pterotype, John Johnathan Pratt, is buried two miles west of Centre and a market commemorates his life. On Alabama Highway No. 9, the marker remembers the days of the Civil War with "Union Reconnaissance." Other markers on this tour dealing with the Civil War include the Blue Pond Engagement, located on Alabama 68, the Federal Raid, located on U. S. 411, the Round Mountain Furnace, used to manufacture Confederate ordnance, on U. S. 411, the Leesburg Skirmish on U. S. 411, the Confederate Supply Train on U. S. 411, and the King's Hill Engagement, a Confederate victory, on U. S. 411. Dr. John Perkins Ralls, a Secessionist, is remembered on a marker on U. S. 411, as is the John Johnathan Pratt Cemetery.

HISTORICAL MARKERS LOCATED AT CENTRE IN FRONT OF THE COURT HOUSE

NO. 1—CHEROKEE COUNTY

Area 577 square miles. Aborigines inhabited area 4000 B. C. Cherokee and Creek Indians about 1300—May 1838. Hernando DeSoto—first white man—July 1540. First white settler about 1810 from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. Formed from Cherokee Cession Dec. 10, 1835. Made a county Jan. 9, 1836. Counties of Baine, Benton, Benton, now Calhoun; and DeKalb were in part subsequently formed therefrom. Prior to 1836 Cherokee was a part of St. Clair County.

LOCATED AT CENTRE IN FRONT OF THE COURT HOUSE

NO. 2—WILLIAM LOWNDES YANCEY

Born Aug. 10, 1814 died July 29, 1863. Member of U. S. Congress, 1844-1846, and the Secession Convention at Montgomery in January 1861. Called "Fire-eater of the Confederacy." In December 1860 made one of his early speeches calling for the South to secede from the Union on this site. He was later active in the Charleston Convention and was Commissioner of the Confederate States to England and France.

LOCATED IN FRONT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

NO. 3—TURKEY TOWN COUNCIL

One mile south was an important Indian Council site from about 1707. Named for noted Chief "The Turkey." Here in October 1816, a council of Cherokees, Creeks, and Chickasaws met to settle boundaries and ratify a peace treaty. General Andrew Jackson, Samuel Dale and David Crockett were there.

LOCATED AT CENTRE ON WEST MAIN STREET

NO. 4—JOHN JOHNATHAN PRATT

Inventor of early typewriter—the pterotype. Born 1831, Union Dist., S. C., died 1905, grave 2 miles west. While Register in Chancery and later Editor of the National Democrat near this site about 1860 developed his first writing machine for which he did not receive adequate credit due to the Civil War.

LOCATED AT CENTRE IN FRONT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY HOSPITAL

NO. 5—UNION RECONNAISSANCE—1864

On Oct. 26, 1864, Maj. Gen. J. M. Schofield commanding the Army of the Ohio, made a reconnaissance of Centre from his Cedar Bluff base. He found only a few Confederate scouts and cavalry.

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Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard, U. S. Army, Commanding Second BLUE POND ENGAGEMENT

Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard, U. S. Army, Commanding Second Union Cavalry Div., on Oct. 21, 1864, advanced on Gen. John B. Hood's rear-guard Confederates at Blue Pond, five miles northeast and pushed them westward after a hard fought engagement.

NO. 32—LOCATED ON U. S. ROUTE 411 AT INTERSECTION WITH STATE ROUTE 68 TO COLLINSVILLE: FEDERAL RAID

Six miles northeast, on old road to Cedar Bluff, Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest's advance scouts attacked Col. Abel D. Streight's raiders composed of the 51st Ind. Regt., 73rd Ind., 3rd Ohio and 80th Ill. Regt., on May 2, 1863. Forrest captured the raiders, 12 miles northeast at Lawrence, on May 3, 1863.

NO. 33—LOCATED ON U. S. ROUTE 411 NEAR INTERSECTION WITH STATE ROUTE 68 AT LEESBURG: ROUND MOUNTAIN FURNACE

Five miles northeast at Round Mountain, Moses Stroup erected an iron furnace in 1849 for the manufacture of castings and foundry pig. With the outbreak of the Civil War the furnace was enlarged to manufacture Confederate ordnance. Partially destroyed by Union Forces under Brig. Gen. Frank Blair in Sept. 1864. Rebuilt in 1871, and finally blown out in 1906.

NO. 34—LOCATED ON U. S. ROUTE 411—

LEESBURG:

NO. 31—LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 68—1 MILE NORTH OF LEESBURG AT INTERSECTION WITH COUNTY ROUTE 15:

LEESBURG SKIRMISH

1 MILE WEST OF LEESBURG AND 4 MILES EAST OF KING'S HILL (SLACKLAND):

On Oct. 24, 1864, Maj. Gen. P. Osterhaus, commanding the 15th U. S. Army Corps of the Army of the Tennessee, advanced to this point and encountered Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's Confederate Cavalry, skirmished lightly, and bivouacked for the night.

NO. 35—LOCATED ON U. S. ROUTE 411 NEAR INTERSECTION WITH STATE ROUTE 68 IN LEESBURG: CONFEDERATE SUPPLY TRAIN

General John B. Hood's Confederate Supply Train, under the command of Maj. Gen. Arnold Elzey, encamped at Round Mountain 5 miles northeast in Oct. 1864, while furnishing supplies to Hood's Army in Northwest Georgia via Shinbone Valley Road.

NO. 36—LOCATED ON U. S. ROUTE 411 AT SLACKLAND CHURCH AND ROAD TO POLLARD'S BEND:

KING'S HILL ENGAGEMENT

Brig. Gen. W. L. Elliott, chief of U. S. Cavalry, Dept. of the Cumberland, on Oct. 23, 1864, advanced upon Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's Confederate forces on King's Hill and were repulsed. He was also thrown back in his efforts to enter Will's Valley. Gen. W. T. Sherman at Gaylesville Headquarters ordered Elliott not to attempt to advance—to just watch the Confederates.

NO. 37—LOCATED ON OLD U. S. ROUTE 411 BETWEEN CENTRE AND LEESBURG: DR. JOHN PERKINS RALLS

Dr. Ralls lived on this site. He was a member of the Secession Convention in Montgomery, Ala., on Jan. 7, 1861, as a delegate from Cherokee County. He was a Secessionist and won over the Co-Operationists opposition.

NO. 38—LOCATED ON OLD U. S. ROUTE 411 BETWEEN CENTRE AND LEESBURG:

JOHN J. PRATT CEMETERY

In memory of John J. Pratt Inventor of the Typewriter 1866. American Legion Auxiliary Post 62—1947.