

## History of Columbus in 19th Century

(Continued from Last Sunday.)

### CHAPTER IV.

#### Earliest Inhabitants of Columbus.

The following names of the earliest inhabitants of Columbus were taken from the Public Records of 1850, Rev. George Shaeffer's History of Columbus, published in The Columbus Index when Gen. J. H. Sharp was editor, Lowry's History of Mississippi (large edition 1891) and from family records.

#### Before 1821.

Thomas Thomas, Spirus Roach, Thomas Sampson, William Vizer, William Poor, Silas McBee, Thos. Townsend, Greene Bailey, Dr. B. C. Barry, Silas Brown, Richard Barry, Hancock Chisholm, William Conover, William Fernandes, Robert D. Haden, William Leech, Gideon Lindecum, William Coker, Bartlett Sims, Martin Sims, Ovid P. Brown, William L. Moore, Edward Kewen.

As the history of Columbus is necessarily contained in the lives and deeds of these earliest pioneers, it may be deemed best to give a short sketch of the most prominent. They are taken somewhat according to the date of their settlement.

Thomas Thomas, or Thomas Moore, as some historians call him, is entitled to the honor of being the first settler in Columbus. The hard features and peculiar manners of that rugged pioneer, Spirus Roach, were the occasion of that Indian name, Shuk-ha-tah Toma-ha, or Opossum Town. Silas McBee first suggested the euphonious and historic name Columbus. He left the town at an early date and settled on the bank of the creek, which now bears his name.

Judge Thomas O. Sampson settled in Columbus in 1818. In 1821 he was the charter worshipful master of Columbus lodge No. 5. He was perhaps the earliest judge and clerk of the Probate court of Lowndes county. He moved to his farm on the Military road, thirteen miles from Columbus, and died there. He had two daughters. The elder married James Henry, a citizen of Columbus. Mr. Henry built the cottage on College street known as the Womelsdorff cottage. His son, Robert Henry, was born there and now lives in Pickens county, Ala.,

eleven miles from Columbus, on the upper Tuscaloosa road. His younger daughter married Hon. M. M. Rowan, whose son, Mr. Frank Rowan still resides at the old Sampson homestead.

Hon. Robert D. Haden came from Tuscaloosa, Ala., in 1819 and opened a store near the center of the square on Main street opposite the Gilmer hotel. He was a member of the commissioners that surveyed the town of Columbus in 1821 and a charter officer of Columbus Lodge No. 5. He represented Monroe county in the State Legislature in 1826 before Lowndes county was organized. He was for several terms judge and clerk of the probate court in Lowndes county, original officer in the Columbus Riflemen. He belonged to the very first society of the Methodist church formed in Columbus and worshipped with them in the Franklin Academy. He assisted in the building of the first church in Columbus in 1821-2 and was a working, faithful, consistent member to the date of his removal to Texas in 1885. He died in Texas, past eighty years of age and totally blind. His first wife was a daughter of Hamilton McGowan, a farmer in the southern part of Lowndes county. By this wife he had two children, Dr. John M. Haden and Miss Sophie Haden. Dr. John M. Haden read medicine in the office of Dr. Dabney Lipscomb, graduated in the medical department of the University of Louisiana, and was appointed assistant surgeon in the United States Army. He served on the western frontier at different posts from Oregon to E. Paso, Texas, at which place he was on duty when the war broke out in 1861. He with Major, afterwards Gen. Longstreet, resigned their positions and accepted service in the Confederate army. He was made surgeon and appointed medical director of the army of Louisiana and Mississippi, with headquarters at New Orleans. After the capture of New Orleans he was made medical director of the Trans-Mississippi department. After the war he settled in Galveston, Texas, and died suddenly on the steps of a hotel in Philadelphia, where he had gone to enter his two sons in Jefferson

Medical College. These two sons are the oldest grand-children of the subject of this sketch. The oldest daughter of Robert D. Haden married Mr. Williamson Glover, a wealthy planter in the canebrake region, Greene county, Alabama. Her step-grand-daughter, Mrs. Ledyard Vaughan, now resides in Columbus. Judge Haden's second wife was the widow of Dr. Bartlett Hunt, who at the time of her marriage had two children, Bartlett C. Hunt and Cerynthia Hunt. Miss Cerynthia Hunt married W. C. Mills, and her daughter, Miss Minnie Mills, has at this time charge of the Palmer Orphanage in Columbus. Judge Haden's son by his second marriage moved to Texas, and became a prominent physician in that State. His third wife, Miss Mary Eldridge, of North Alabama, by whom he had two children, James and Virginia, moved with him to Texas, where they now reside.

Hon. Ovid P. Brown was a South Carolinian and moved to Columbus in 1819. He lived first in a log house on the bluff where Thomas Thomas, the first inhabitant settled in 1917, and where Spirus Roach kept the first tavern, now known as the Eckford place. His wife was Lucinda Sims, step-daughter to William Coker, who married her mother Keziah Sims, and whom history states was the first person who died in Columbus (doubtful). This log house on this historic spot, was for several years a rendezvous for the Sims, Coker, and Brown families. In 1824 Ovid P. Brown moved to a farm on Military road on Black creek, now known as the Gaston place. He resided there until 1832, when he returned to Columbus and built a residence on the southwest corner of the square on which Mrs. Ann Franklin now lives, which was his home until his death. He was for many years clerk of the Circuit court of Lowndes county. He joined the very first organization of the Methodist church in Columbus in 1822, worshipped in the Franklin Academy, and afterwards assisted in building a church in 1832. He had a large family of children. His oldest son, Stephen A. Brown, was born in Columbus, in 1823, and moved with his father to his farm on Black Creek, near which he received his earliest education in a country log school house, with dirt floor, puncheon seats, dirt chimney, and doors made of split



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boards hung with wooden hinges. His first teachers were Martin Sims, Mr. McCrary, Capt. Abram Botters, and a Mr. Frazier. He returned to Columbus in 1832 and resumed his education under Rev. David Wright, then principal of Franklin Academy. This is the first authentic record of Lowndes county school teachers, and of a principal of the Franklin Academy. He finished his education at La Grange, Ala. Judge S. A. Brown lived his whole life in Columbus, Miss., and filled many places of local honor and usefulness, both in church and state. He had the city, and the Methodist church especially, are indebted for many valuable and accurately kept records. Mr. Ovid P. Brown and Mrs. Fannie Beale represent their grand-father in Columbus at this time. Judge O. P. Brown's second daughter, Miss Mary Bettie Brown, also resides in Columbus, which has been her home for 69 years.

Maj. Richard Barry arrived in Columbus in 1819, where he began life as a hotel keeper. His first location in the town is a subject of much dispute by his early friends. Some locate it at the southeast corner of Main and Market streets, now occupied by Osborne & Pope's drug store; others, the site of the Gilmer hotel; still others place him at the southwest corner of the same square, where Mrs. O'Malley now lives. The probabilities are in favor of the site of the Gilmer hotel. Maj. Barry had several brothers and sisters who came with him to Columbus, viz: Dr. B. C. Barry, who married the sister of Col. C. H. Abert, and a brother, who was the father of Mrs. Clarissa Barry Shaeffer, wife of the Rev. Geo. Shaeffer, and Mrs. Nancy Barry Brooks, wife of Col. Madison Brooks, of Noxubee county. His sisters married Dr. B. C. Hunt, of Columbus, and Mr. Sullivan, of Monroe county, Miss. Maj. Richard Barry was a member of the survey commission in 1821. His business of hotel keeping, being a most lucrative one, and success in land speculation made him a rich man in the early history. He settled farms on the east and west sides of the Tombigbee, and in 1834 built the Marry mansion at the south end of Market street. His oldest child, a son, W. S. Barry, was born in Columbus. He was educated at Yale College, studied law, and soon after his majority was elected to the

State legislature and speaker of the house. He was a member of the United States Congress, President of the Mississippi Secession Convention, and in the Civil War was Colonel of the 35th Mississippi regiment. He was wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Altoona, Ga., and from the effect of this, and a constitutional disease he died in Columbus. He married Miss Sallie Fearn, of Huntsville, Ala., and left an only son, Hon. W. S. Barry, a wealthy planter in LeFlore county, Miss.

Maj. Richard Barry's oldest daughter married Dr. B. W. Benson, who was Secretary of State under one of the early governors. Her second husband was Mr. Ricks, a wealthy planter in Madison county, Miss. His second daughter married Dr. R. F. Matthews, of Columbus, their only daughter, Mrs. Sully Bradford, with the children, representing at this time the ancient and honored Barry family. His third daughter, Mrs. Mary Frierson, wife of Rev. S. A. Frierson, who resided in Starkville, Miss., leaves several families as representatives in that county. Miss Juliette Barry married Col. Bradford, father of T. B. Bradford, late husband of Mrs. Sully Bradford mentioned above, thus making her family double representatives of their grandfather. Miss Patty Barry married Col. Geo. Abert, now a resident of this city. His daughter and family reside in Richmond, Va. Maj. Richard Barry was an elder in the Presbyterian church from

the date of its organization in Columbus in 1832. Dr. B. C. Barry was the first State Senator from Monroe county. He died young and was buried in the graveyard on the Tombigbee bluff at the northwest corner of Capt. W. W. Humphries' square. Dr. Hunt was also buried at this place.

Hon. William Coker moved from Kentucky after he had received distinguished honors from that State. He had been United States Senator and held other honorable positions. He was the father of Hon. Stephen Coker by his first wife. He was a member of the survey commission in 1821 and represented Monroe county in the State legislature in 1822. He moved in Columbus in 1820. His second wife, whom he married in Columbus, was Miss Keziah Sims. He had no children by this wife. He lived a quiet and useful life and died in Columbus about 1824. His son, Hon. Stephen Coker, was a prominent lawyer and politician from Monroe county. Rev. Martin Sims was an interpreter for the government and the Mayhew mission to the Choctaw Indians. He died in Columbus at the advanced age of 85 years. Benjamin F. Sims was the first sheriff of Monroe county. The descendants of William Sims live in Aberdeen, Miss.

(Continued Next Week.)

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Get a small package of Hamburg Breast Tea at any pharmacy. Take a tablespoonful of the tea, put a cup of boiling water upon it, pour through a sieve and drink a teacup full at any time during the day or before retiring. It is the most effective way to break a cold and cure grip, as it opens the pores of the skin, relieving congestion. Also loosens the bowels, thus breaking up a cold. Try it the next time you suffer from a cold or the grip. It is inexpensive and entirely vegetable, therefore safe and harmless.

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We, the undersigned lawyers, county and town officials, and citizens of Louisville, Mississippi, most heartily and cheerfully endorse the candidacy of our fellow townsman, the Hon. Z. A. Brantley, to fill the unexpired term of Hon. A. Y. Woodward, resigned, at the special election to be held on the 3rd day of January, 1920.

Judge Brantley has been a citizen and practicing lawyer of this county for the past twenty years. He is a good citizen, a good lawyer and a hightoned Christian gentleman.

He has served as special chancellor for the past several months and has given universal satisfaction to the bar, litigants and people generally. We commend him to the good people and voters of the district with the assurance that if he is elected by them, as their next chancellor, they will never have cause to regret it.

Respectfully submitted,

#### Louisville Bar

J. B. Gully, Mayor  
L. H. Hopkins  
R. W. Boydston  
H. H. Rodgers  
R. C. Jones  
(Being the entire bar of Louisville.)

#### County Officials

A. P. Hull, Sheriff  
E. E. White, Deputy Sheriff  
E. M. McCully, Chancery Clerk  
H. E. McCully, D. C.  
Neal Priscock, Supt. Education

W. R. Hull, Circuit Clerk  
C. C. McNeel, Sheriff-elect  
R. E. L. Kirkpatrick,  
Circuit Clerk-elect.

#### Town Officials and Other Citizens

Blon Harris, Alderman  
J. R. Holmes, Alderman  
J. D. Doss, Alderman  
J. T. Earhart, Alderman  
L. M. Sharp, Alderman  
G. W. E. Bennett, Clerk  
T. A. McCreary, Marshal  
W. C. Hight, Editor Journal

John Rundle, Supt. Public School  
J. L. McCracken,  
Cashier Bank of Louisville  
J. M. Harris, Assistant  
Cashier Bank of Louisville  
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Pastor Baptist Church  
J. W. Dorman  
Pastor Methodist Church  
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Pastor Presbyterian Church,  
U. S.  
R. A. Cody,  
Pastor Presbyterian Church,  
U. S. A.