

10-23  
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
TALLADEGA NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

S. 2596

71st. CONGRESS

2nd. SESSION

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*



71ST CONGRESS 13  
2D SESSION 10

S. 2596 7

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 1930

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs

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## AN ACT

To provide for the commemoration of the Battle at Talladega,  
Alabama.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That for the purpose of commemorating the Battle of Talla-  
4       dega, in the State of Alabama, on the 9th day of November,  
5       1813, the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to  
6       acquire approximately one acre of land, free of cost to the  
7       United States, at the above-named battle field; fence the  
8       parcel of land so acquired or demarcate its limits; and erect  
9       a marker thereon.

10       SEC. 2. There is authorized to be appropriated the  
11       sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to  
12       carry out the provisions of section 1 of this Act.

1        SEC. 3. The land acquired under section 1 of this Act  
2        shall be under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary  
3        of War, and there is authorized to be appropriated for the  
4        maintenance of such tract of land and marker a sum not to  
5        exceed \$250 per annum.

Passed the Senate April 1, 1930.

Attest:

EDWIN P. THAYER,

*Secretary.*

# Calendar No. 79

71st CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 81

## COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF TALLADEGA, ALA.

JANUARY 6 (calendar day, JANUARY 11), 1930.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BLACK, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 2596]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 2596) to provide for the commemoration of the Battle of Talladega, Ala., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

This bill conforms to the recommendation of the board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War to make a study of battle fields in the United States for commemorative purposes, as authorized by act of Congress approved June 11, 1926, which recommendation is contained in Senate Document No. 46, Seventy-first Congress, second session. The battle field of Talladega, Ala., is listed under Class II-B of the board's classification. In connection with Class II-B the board says in part:

If Congress determines that any battle field or place of military historic interest in this classification should be commemorated, the proper method generally would be to erect a monument, marker, or tablet on the site, to fence the land required when deemed advisable, and in certain cases to build an approach to the memorial over and on the ground acquired by the Government.

Col. H. L. Landers, of the historical section, War Department, who made the survey in Alabama, makes the following statement:

In the early part of the nineteenth century the region south of the Tennessee River, in what is now the State of Alabama, was generally referred to as the "Creek country." This powerful Indian nation had been persuaded by the noted Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, and the Prophet, to join a confederation of Indians for the purpose of exterminating the white invaders of their lands. When the second war with Great Britain was imminent, Tecumseh turned the strength of this confederation over to the British.

What was to be a bloody war of extermination started with the massacre of Fort Mims, Ala., on the 30th day of August, 1813, engaged in by a band of 1,000 blood-crazed Creeks under a near-white leader, William Weatherford. The great

## 2      COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF TALLADEGA, ALA.

menance to the colonists along the Gulf basin had been realized for some time by the Federal Government, and plans were made to defeat this nation of hostile Indians to the point of extinction. To this end it was proposed to invade the Creek country by sending three columns against it. One force of 1,500 militia was to come from Georgia, another of the same strength from Tennessee, and a third, a regiment of Regulars, was to advance up the Alabama River. The three forces were to be under the control of Maj. Gen. Thomas Pinckney. Before this plan could be carried into effect, however, hostilities began with the battle of Burnt Corn, followed by the massacre of Fort Mims.

This terrible slaughter of women and children roused the whole southeast to action without waiting for the Federal Government. The citizens of Tennessee were particularly anxious about the safety of their southern and western frontier, and Governor Blount called the militia of the State into active service. Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson was given command of the troops from the western part of the State and Maj. Gen. John Cocke those from the eastern part. General Jackson had been seriously wounded in a duel early in September, but from his sick bed directed the concentration of his troops at Camp Blount, Fayetteville, Tenn., where he finally joined them on October 7, 1813.

Meantime it had been learned that the Creeks were threatening Huntsville, Ala., and Brig. Gen. John Coffee was hastened to that point at the head of a detachment of Cavalry. On the 10th of October Jackson broke camp at Fayetteville and hurried to join Coffee. He brought troops with him to the number of 2,000, while the strength of Coffee's force was about 1,000. Jackson's plan of operations was to establish a base at Fort Deposit, at the most southerly point of the Tennessee River, another some 50 miles distant at the Ten Islands on the Coosa River, and from thence continue down the Alabama River in the direction of Mobile.

While engaged in establishing one of his base points at Fort Strother, Jackson, on the evening of November 7, 1813, received word by an Indian messenger that at Fort Lashley, 30 miles to the south of the Ten Islands of the Coosa, 160 friendly Creeks and their women and children were besieged by a large body of hostile Creeks. Jackson determined to go to the relief of the friendly Indians with all possible speed, and at midnight a force of 1,200 Infantry and 800 Cavalry commenced crossing the Coosa. By a forced march the column arrived within 6 miles of Fort Lashley before nightfall.

At 4 o'clock on the morning of the 9th of November Jackson moved toward Talladega, and three hours later his force arrived within a mile of the hostile Creeks and dispositions were made to attack. The Creeks numbered about 1,000, under the leadership of William Weatherford, who had perpetrated the Mims massacre. The field on which the battle occurred is very largely within the confines of the city of Talladega. The action was sharp and decisive. Jackson's Tennesseans were determined to avenge Fort Mims, and the hostile Indians were terribly slaughtered. Jackson reported that "299 were left dead on the ground, and no doubt many more were killed who were not found." The American casualties were 15 killed and 85 wounded. Upon the conclusion of this victory Jackson hastened back to Fort Strother to complete the establishment of that depot of supplies.

## Calendar No. 79

71st CONGRESS  
2d Session

# S. 2596

[Report No. 81]

### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4 (calendar day, DECEMBER 11), 1929

Mr. BLACK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs

JANUARY 6 (calendar day, JANUARY 11), 1930

Reported by Mr. BLACK, without amendment

## A BILL

To provide for the commemoration of the Battle at Talladega, Alabama.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That for the purpose of commemorating the Battle of Talla-  
4       dega, in the State of Alabama, on the 9th day of November,  
5       1813, the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to  
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7       United States, at the above-named battle field; fence the  
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11       sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to  
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2 shall be under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary  
3 of War, and there is authorized to be appropriated for the  
4 maintenance of such tract of land and marker a sum not to  
5 exceed \$250 per annum.

CALENDAR NO. 79

71<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESS }  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION } **S. 2596**

[Report No. 81]

## A BILL

To provide for the commemoration of the  
Battle of Talladega, Alabama.

By Mr. BLACK

DECEMBER 4 (calendar day, DECEMBER 11), 1929

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Military

Affairs

JANUARY 6 (calendar day, JANUARY 11), 1930

Reported without amendment



10-23  
(May 1929)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
TALLADEGA..... NATIONAL PARK

32755

Box 248

FILE NO. 0-36

PART I

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS

TALLADEGA

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LAST DATE ON TOP

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IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Director.



PROPOSED TALLADEGO NATL. HISTORICAL PARK,  
ALABAMA.

*geller*  
*0-36*  
*Talladega*

LOCATION: The scene of several battles during the Indian War of 1812-1814. Contains the graves of 27 Tennesseans who rendered brave service to Andrew Jackson. Said to contain 300,000 acres.

HISTORY  
AND  
REMARKS:

Brought to Mr. Wirth's attention by letter dated Jan. 21, 1934, from G. T. McElderry, Talladega. He suggests that it be called the Andrew Jackson Park or Reservation, and that a dam be built with CWA labor, across Cheaha to form a lake to protect the farm lands from floods and erosion and so help the farmers in this vicinity.

Mr. Wirth replied to Mr. McElderry on Feb. 26, 1934, stating that he had asked the Historical Division to make a full and careful investigation and would advise him of what action, if any, this Service will take in regard to his proposal.

*Alexander*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
STATE PARK CONSERVATION WORK

Washington, D. C.  
November 18, 1933

*[Handwritten signature]*  
O-36  
*J. A. Lagley*

Colonel Page S. Bunker,  
Commissioner of Forestry,  
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Colonel Bunker:

Inclosed herewith is a copy of a letter from G. T. McElderry  
which we are forwarding to you for such action as you may care to  
take.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Evison,  
Supervisor,  
State Park Conservation Work.

Inclosure 335008

DBA:phw

CC for Melvin S. Borgeson

Talladega, Alabama,  
December 30 1933,

*File  
6-2*

*[Signature]*

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth,  
Ass't Director, Dept Interior,  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

I was very glad to get your letter of the 26th, and feel assured that investigation of the project will prove worthy the attention of the State and Federal Governments: Far more so than to waste money on the parasites in the OWA Bureau. I saw at least 75 men, supposed to be earning 40 cents an hour, all leaning on their shovels as we passed by, not caring a tinkers dam whether any worth while work was accomplished or not: if they could draw their breath and pay at government expense. A machine gun is what they need to teach them they had to earn money now being paid them.

It is evident that men are now holding high positions under the present administration, are doing all in their power to discredit the administration of Mr. Roosevelt. Farmer who produce the wealth of the country, are being discriminated against, in favor of the parasites aforesaid, who create nothing except trouble and expense.

Cordially and sincerely  
G.T. McElderry,



Talladega, Alabama,

Dec. 15 1933,

Hon. Conrad Wirth,  
Ass't Director,  
Department of Interior,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

Replying to your letter of the 12th inst: Please permit me to say that we at first thought to build a dam for the purpose of forming a lake for fish, and as we have been trying for four years to get a reservation of the 300,000 acres East of Talladega, to conserve the timber, protect game and at the same time develop one of the most beautiful spots in Alabama. This is one of the best dairy sections in Alabama, and I thought power could be developed for lighting the three camps in the proposed reservation, as well as furnish enough power for a small feed mill, to prepare mixed feed for dairy cattle. The cut over land would furnish excellent grazing during the summer for cattle, and grazing the forest would lessen fire hazard, as vegetation after frost burns like tinder.

Maj. Alex O. Taylor went over the project with me twice and it was his opinion that the Bureau of Forestry could have the C.C.C. boys, located in camp S 52 could easily build the dam, or a succession of dams on Cheaha creek, preventing overflow, and erosion of farm lands for 20 miles. Cheaha empties into Choccolocco creek six miles below the proposed dam, and Choccolocco creek empties into Coosa river some 14 miles below the point where Cheaha joins Choccolocco creek.

I was told the Department of War has charge of all erosion projects, but Mr. Robt Fechner says it is under his supervision. I don't care a continental who has charge of the work, but it seems to me that as there is a C.C.C. camp in half mile of the proposed dam, it will be economy for camp S 52 to do this much needed work. Cheaha Park is six miles from the proposed site selected for a dam, and the source of Cheaha creek is a spring about one fourth of a mile from Cheaha Park.



# 2

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a letter published in the Talladega Paper Dec. 12. I do not know who has charge of the C.W.A. work, but farmers are entitled to some consideration. The Director of this work at Talladega says the authorities at Washington instructed him to give preference to the town folk out of employment. These folks are parasites, and the farmers have been producing the money that supported these people all the year. Why discriminate against the wealth producer, in favor of the damn parasites who do not want to work, but want to lean on their shovel and be supported by farmers, who have not been receiving money enough for their products to pay taxes, and tens of thousands farmers in Alabama are advertised for sale for taxes.

Cordially & sincerely

G.T. McElderry

were applied strictly.

So the big question now is: How are we going to use it?

FROM MR. M'ELDERRY

To the Editor of The Home:

The farmers of Talladega are not getting a square deal in the allocation of government work. Give the farmer that to which he is justly entitled and you are giving it to yourself. The farmers of Talladega county produced \$1,500,000 of new wealth in the cotton crop. This wealth was not taken from some other man, but from mother earth. It is new money and the money paid the farmer for work on the roads and other government projects will be spent in the town for shoes and socks, for hats and clothing for his children, not for coffee for South America, for the farmer's children drink milk produced on the farm, not for meat and lard that comes Chicago, not for canned goods that comes from God knows where. The farmer has his own meat this year produced on the farm, canned goods, jellies and other sweets from his own garden. The goods sold the farmer do not as a rule, takes heavy freight—much of the cost taken up in transportation. The farmers money abides with town people. The crowd shown a preference have been supported by the Red Cross all the year in the main. Money paid these people goes for meat and lard from Chicago, coffee from South America, sugar from Cuba and canned goods from out of the state. The little rake off for profit is the only thing that remains with our merchants. Give the farmers a square deal and the thousands of dollars paid for hauling gravel and slag for the roads will practically all be spent with the

merchants for such goods as take the best profit and least cost for transportation. Help yourself by giving the farmer a square deal.

G. T. M'ELDERRY.

## TODAY 20 YEARS AGO

as recorded in the  
columns of

THE DIALY HOME

December 12.

Hazele Burgess and the American Beauty Chorus will appear at the Elks' Theatre Wednesday night in George M. Cohan's musical farce, "The Little Millionaire".

Edna Wallace Hopper has quit the movies and goes back into vaudeville.

The Talladega Athletic association has organized a four-team basketball league and will begin a 10-game schedule on December 13. . . . The teams that will play Friday night are as follows:

First game: Reds—McElderry, c; Bruner, Argo, f; Stewart, Graham, Porter, Thomas, g; Blacks—Wren, c; Michael, Stringer, f; Rogers, Ivey, Dixon, Reeves, g.

Second game: Whites—Matson, c; Wilkins, McCargo, f; Storey, A. Jones, Trammell, Striplin, g; Blues—W. Argo, c; Lewis, Van Pelt, f; Rozelle, Giddens, Garrett, Berkstresser, g.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
STATE PARK CONSERVATION WORK

Washington, D. C.  
December 26, 1933.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
6-36  
Talladega

Mr. G. T. McElderry,  
Talladega, Alabama.

Dear Mr. McElderry:

I have your letter of December 15 in further reference to the area east of Talladega.

As stated in our previous letter, this matter would have to be worked out in the field between the state authorities and our field representative. Therefore, I have forwarded a copy of your letter to our District Officer, Mr. Earl Weatherwax, with offices at Richmond, Va., requesting him to contact you and the state authorities and make arrangements to go over this proposition with you in the field.

Very truly yours,

Conrad L. Wirth.  
Assistant Director.

CLW-fmd  
CC: Mr. Earl Weatherwax



Talladega, Alabama,  
January 21 1934,

*File / Cas*  
*Alexander*

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth,  
Washington, D.C.,

*0-36*

*Talladega Nat*  
*Hist. Ph.*

My dear Mr. Wirth:

As you apparently are the practical the only man with whom I have come in contact in this administration, and your department seems to have more business ability than all the other departments combined, possibly you like Alexander the Great can cut the Gordian Knot, and we can go from here, I am writing you this letter.

Mr. Gadsby, of the Bureau of National Parks called to see me on yesterday, sent by Mr. Weatherwax, like all the others was inclined to pass the buck.

With a committee of farmers I called to see Secretary Wallace, with reference to giving the farmer a profit above cost of production. Mr. Wallace said:

" There are 80,000,000 people protesting against any increased cost of living". I asked Mr. Wallace if it was not better for 120,000,000 people to pay a tax than for 30,000,000 farmers, who produce the food and material for clothing <sup>for</sup> all the folks, to be impoverished and made paupers? When I put the matter up to the War Department, which is supposed to have charge of erosion projects, I was met with the statement that no appropriation had been made for Cheaha Valley, while Choccolocco Valley had an appropriation. Only six miles of Cheaha Valley is involved in this project, while



# 2

seventeen miles of Choccolocco Valley is involved, in the erosion project: But the dam is on Cheaha. It reminds me of a lot of doctors with their code of ethics: permitting a poor devil to die because he is Dr Jones Patient, and Dr. Jones 20 miles away looking after another patient.

I found Mr. Gadsby a very pleasant man to talk to, and he gave me an idea, that this could be handled as a "recreational project", and I submit this to you for your consideration: I am improving a park of 20 acres, but can make it 50, or 250 acres for that matter. The land is located on the scenic highway, from Talladega to Cheaha Park-five or six miles distant from Cheaha Park, of interest from a historic point of view, as the hill in this park was a signal station of Chinneby Chief, a famous scout under Andrew Jackson, and overlooks the spot where Chinneby's village stood. There is a cave under this hill, and a legend that an Indian got lost in this cave and came out 11 miles away, below Talladega City. If you ask me I will say it was a dam lie, as my older brothers 75 years ago found the Indian skull in the cave. The dam across Cheaha can be considered as a connecting link of the road to Cheaha Park, as it will be a means of crossing the gorge from one hill to another, and a lake is formed by the dam, which will not only be good fishing ground for trout, bass, and bream, but furnish pure water for, Munford, Oxford and Talladega, with no necessity for chlorination. Talladega County will build the road on to CCC camp

# 3

Another lake will be formed by this dam across horse creek, which will also be good fishing ground for the people of Talladega, Oxford, Anniston, and Birmingham. Horse creek empties into Cheaha  $3/4$  of mile below the proposed dam on Cheaha, and adds very materially to the flood of water that frequently inundates and erodes the valley for twenty miles to Coosa river.

Now as to the cost of constructing the dams: While I am no "dam expert", I can take a dozen negro laborers, who by the way need the work, at 10 cents an hour, and not 40 cents an hour as CWA is paying and playing hell with all farm labor, because ten cents is the limit farmers can pay: (this by the way), one truck and pair of ~~xxx~~ mules to pull a scrape, and build the dam in a week across Horse creek. I can take the same outfit, and in four weeks time build the dam across Cheaha.

Why dont I do it you ask? Well I have not the money in the first place, because I have not been receiving cost of production for my products in several years. It is a public proposition, and I am not personally interested. The work should be done because; the flowers and shrubs along the way would gladden the heart of man with their fragrance and beauty; the farm lands for 20 miles would be protected from floods and erosion, and labor would be fed and clothed while doing the work.

Pardon this long letter, because it is the last effort on my part to get this 300,000 acre project up to the attention of the government, and I have been five years trying.

Cordially yours  
G.T. McAderry

OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS  
RECEIVED

JAN 31 1934

MAILS AND FILES

*Chotela the  
What is  
dope? he*

Talladega, Ala. 1/28/1934

Dear Mr. Wirth:

In my letter of the 21st inst, it occurs to me that I did not play up the historic feature, of the Andrew Jackson Park of 300,000 acres as I should have in order that you might fully understand my interest in the project I have so continuously kept before you.

Nothing much has been done to commemorate the service rendered by Andrew Jackson and his brave Tennesseans to the country during the Indian War of 1812-1814.

This the richest and most powerful country in the world, can easily afford to take over the territory of which I speak, as it is one of the most beautiful and attractive spots in all the country. The battles of Tallahassee, Talladega, Enitachopco, Emuckfa, and Tohopeka- (Horseshoe Bend), were fought in the territory of which I speak: None of the battles were more than 50 miles from Talladega, and the spot where Andrew Jackson had his recuperation camp after the battle of Horseshoe Bend, is in Talladega county. Twenty seven Tennesseans are buried there: The graves have been neglected; not even a marker, which is a disgrace to this great nation. It is true \$5,000 was appropriated by the Congress a few years back, but the money has not been used for the purpose it was appropriated.

My father was one of Jackson's men in 1812, and a monument, with a bronze tablet with Selocta's picture engraved on the tablet, was set up by my sister-Mrs L.A. Jemison at McEliderry Station, on the L&N R.R. three miles from the site of the proposed dam on Cheaha creek.

Selocta was a brave Indian Scout under Jackson and rendered valuable service to the Americans at Tallahassee and at Talladega. He put on a



800 cavalry, and as many infantry: each horse carrying two men, swam the Coosa to the East side, reaching Talladega at break of day, Dec. 9th, 1813. 300 or more Indians were killed in the battle and 27 Tennesseans were either killed outright or died from their wounds.

The ladies of Talladega disinterred the bones of the Tennesseans, buried them in the Cemetery at Talladega with a suitable monument. But the U.S. Government has done comparatively nothing to commemorate the service rendered by these brave men.

In the opinion of the writer, this rich country of ours can do no better service to the dead as well as the living, than to take over the 300,000 acres - name it the Andrew Jackson Reservation, and protect from overflow and erosion the fertile Chinneby Valley, so named from the name of Selocta's father, who is also buried at McElderry Station. Picket in his history of Alabama, mentions both Chinneby and Selocta as visitors to Gen Jackson while encamped on the Tennessee River at Whitesburg, not far from the city of Huntsville.

In order to keep the record straight, you will have to consider this letter as a post scrip to my letter of the 21st, as I stated that letter would be my last effort to get action from the government.

Cordially and sincerely

G.T. McElderry

Hon Conrad L. Wirth,  
Ass't Director  
Washington, D.C.,



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS  
AND RESERVATIONS

7/17/34

Mr. Cox -

Get P.C.

Rebuck's letter  
saying that investigation complete  
then.

Give me full report based on  
research - within short  
time

Chodolan

File

to

be

↓

Returned to Mr

V. E. Chatelain

Lmd.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF  
NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS

WASHINGTON

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

*Charles  
Wirth*

February 26, 1934.

Mr. G. T. McElderry, ✓

Talladega, Alabama.

My dear Mr. McElderry:

Acknowledgment is made of your letter of January 28 with reference to the development of a scenic and historic park in the vicinity of Talladega. I am asking the Historical Division to make a full and careful investigation of the area mentioned in your letter and as soon as this study has been made I will be able to write you what action if any this Office will be able to take in regard to the proposal presented in your letter.

*0-32  
Talladega Nat.  
Historical Park*

Thanking you for your interest in the matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. L. Wirth  
Assistant Director.

EC:RMS.

Talladega, Alabama,  
March 6th, 1934,

*Handwritten: OSA, Harlan, Chatelain, Fee*  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth, Director,  
Department of The Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

MAR 17 1934

My dear Mr. Wirth:

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Since through your kindness my pet project has been called to the attention of your Historic contingent, I am enclosing a brief history of Chinneby and his son Selocta, and the service rendered Gen. Jackson and his Tennesseans, during the Indian War of 1812-1814.

The facts stated may be familiar to the Historic crowd, and may not, but it will do no harm to present the facts.

If the Government will furnish the cement, and labor, I will see that the dozen or more dams are built on Fain creek, East Creek, Barbaree creek, Horse creek, Potato creek, and Cheaha, to prevent flooding the valley and from erosion. In the past two days the valley has been flooded for five or six miles from the spring freshets. Talladega County will build necessary roads, and Maj. Alex O. Taylor, who is a water conservationist as well as dam expert now in charge of Glencoe CCC camp, about 50 miles from Chinneby, can easily bring his boys down and do the necessary work.

Cordially and sincerely

G. T. McElderry



Chinneby, for whom Chinnaby Valley was named, was a sub chief of the Cherokees who had his village on Fain creek, near the centre of the Valley, is first heard of at "Ditto's Landing" now Whitesburg, twelve miles south west of Huntsville, Alabama, on the Tennessee river; After Gen Andrew Jackson had crossed the river, Chinneby with his son Selocta (who became a ~~xxx~~ famous scout under Gen. Jackson - in the Creek War) October 28 1918 came to Gen Jackson and asked help for his people at Tallassahachie, on the Coosa river, one hundred miles south of Whitesburg. Chinneby told Gen Jackson that 10,000 hostile Creeks threatened the Indians who were friendly to the white men. Selocta came a second time, urging speed, as his people were in great danger of being exterminated by hostile Creeks. It was however Dec 5th, or 6th, before Gen Jackson sent Gen Coffee to the relief of Chinneby's people. The friendly Indians were protected by a white eagle feather, or the tail of the white tailed deer; worn in the scalp lock. Gen Coffee killed 300 or more of the hostile Indians, and unfortunately there were women and children among the slain. The village of Tallahassee was totally destroyed. Eighty women and children were captured by Gen Coffee, and were kindly treated by the Tennesseans. Five of the Tennesseans were killed and forty wounded.

Selocta and the friendly Indians came to Talladega for protection, in Fort Lasley; approximately forty miles from Tallasahachie. On Dec. 7th, Selocta appeared at Ft Strother, on the Coosa river, and told Gen Jackson that his fathers people, with the whites in Ft Lasley, were threatened with extermination by hostile Indians, who were innumerable, and surrounded the Fort. Gen. Jackson with 800 cavalry and approximately 2000 infantry crossed the Coosa river and came to Estell Springs, two miles from Ft. Lasley and camped till scouts could reconnoitre. December 9th, Gen Jackson advanced in regular order of battle, towards the

# 2

Lieutenant Easton, who was in the battle at Talladega, says, 600 to 1000 Indians were killed in the fight. Gen. Jackson 80 wounded and 18 killed outright. The bones of these 18 Tennesseans were removed from where Gen Jackson buried them on the battlefield, to Oak Hill Cemetery, by the ladies of the Andrew Jackson Chapter, of the D.A.R. and a suitable monument built with the names of the Tennesseans killed, inscribed thereon the monument. A monument with a bronze tablet and the likeness of Selocta, was erected by Mrs. L.A. Jemison at McElderry Station, on the L&N Railroad. Mrs Jemison's father came to Alabama with Gen Jackson, and when the land was open for settlement bought twenty one quarter sections of land around what is now known as McElderry Station, and the land is now owned by the heirs of Col. Thos McElderry, the father of Mrs Jemison.

Game was very plentiful in Chinney Valley: If the Indians wanted deer or wild turkey, to replenish their larder; with bow and arrow they could easily supply their need, Or if fish was wanted, a gig easily supplied all the fish desired, as the stream was bountifully supplied. The gig was made with a flint arrow head and cane for a staff: The arrow head being fastened with thongs from a deer, to the cane staff. If partridge, squirrel or raccoon was desired, the Indian had only to take his blow gun made from cane, with the joints burned out: With little effort all food necessary was secured. Squaw and papoose worked the corn patches around the wigwam to supply bread for the family. The Indian was not improvident as is the white man, he killed only so much game as his needs demanded. The white man exterminate all in sight.

Half mile from Chinney Valley, there is a deposit of plastic clay, from which material the Indians made their pottery. To embellish this pottery Kolin was used, a deposit of this material being conveniently located approximately one mile from the village. Stones from the creek supplied implements for skinning animals, for cutting wood, to be used for canoes, or stones for their ball games and paint

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS

*Chittenden  
Bryant*

March 27, 1934.

*0-52  
Talladega*

Mr. G. T. McElderry,  
Talladega,  
Alabama.

My dear Mr. McElderry:

I have received your letter of March 6, dealing with the early history of the Chinneby country. This material was referred to the Historical Division, where it was read with great interest.

We cannot authorize the expenditure of funds for projects that are not in National Parks or Monuments and in the case of State Parks Emergency Conservation Work only on lands owned by State, County, or Metropolitan Parks.

Sincerely yours,

*(Sgd) CONRAD L. WIRTH*

Conrad L. Wirth  
Assistant Director

VEC:ICS:tvw



10-39

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

Here's another juicy  
letter from good old  
G.H. McElenny

Dudstrom "All right wise-cracker"  
you try answering it and  
get rid of him

Malibu, Alabama,

April 2nd, 1934,

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth, Director,  
Department of The Interior,  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

I have heard nothing from the "Historical" crowd at Washington relative to a park, in commemoration of the service rendered the United States in the War of 1812-1814, and am writing you to ascertain if there was any possibility of my getting control <sup>of</sup> a bunch of these CWA loafers, to build the dams, about which I wrote you?

There are hundreds of idle loafers, who really need employment: especially the negroes, who are helpless as infants, apparently, in securing jobs, by which they can make a living, under present conditions.

If the federal government will furnish the labor and cement-Maj. Alex O. Taylor, who is a dam expert and water conservationist, says: a concrete dam six inches thick is ample for the dam; merely to prevent the water from going through the earth and rock, with which the dam can be reinforced: I will have the dams constructed, and prevent the spring overflows, that damage crops and erodes the valuable farm lands as well as the roads for twenty miles, between the dam sites and Coosa River.

I am personally interested to the extent of being owner of one thousand acres of farm land below the dams proposed to be constructed.

If it is possible, or probable for me to get the labor, please advise me as to the right people to take this matter up with. I do not want a job, I have had one job for 64 years-farming-but I want to see this

# 2

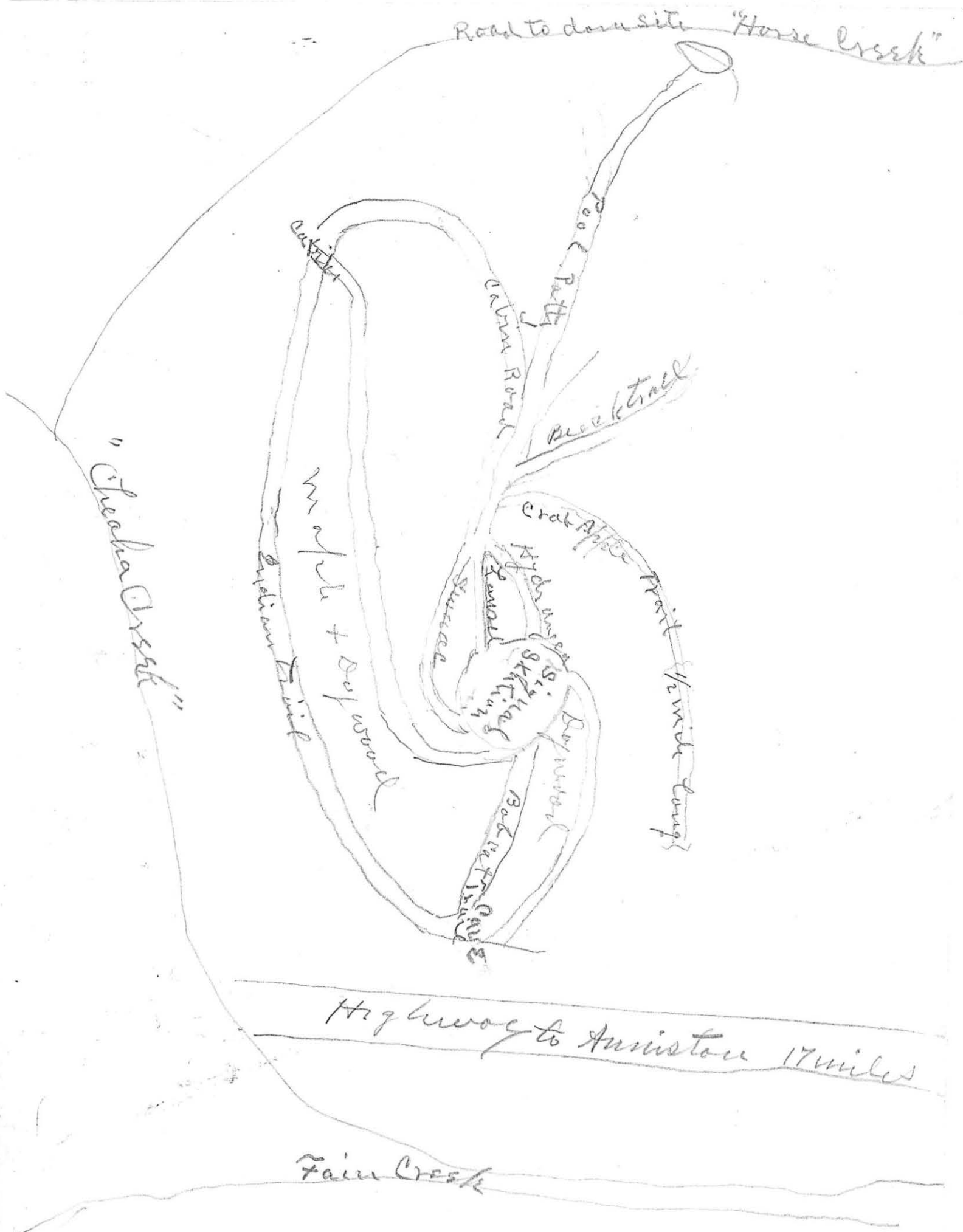
the Chinneby Valley protected from overflow and erosion, and also want to see "Andrew Jackson Park" reservation a reality; hence my interest.

I am enclosing a rough sketch of "Cave Hill", on which hill Chinneby Chief and his Indians built a mound for a signal station, to warn his people in the village located in the Valley, of the approach of hostile tribes. The hill covers about twenty acres. On the crest of the hill, I have set out hundreds of Crab Apple, Dogwood, Mountain Laurel, Bush Honey suckle, Wild Hydrangia, and Sumac, and constructed "paths" to the crest of the hill, and around the hill. It is my purpose to sow Kentucky Blue grass, and other grasses on the hill to make the Park(?) more attractive, if I can get your Historical bunch to "come and see".

Please pardon me for troubling you, but when I undertake to accomplish a worth while project, I hate like hell to give up without doing anything.

Cordially and sincerely

G.T. McEliderry





Recd 4/5/34

Talladega, Alabama,

April 3rd, 1934,

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth, Director,  
of Interior Department,  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

Since writing you on yesterday, I received your letter, advising that no help can be given, other than for State or National Parks. I wrote Col. Page S. Bunker, Alabama State Forester if he would not help me out by accepting the land described to you, for a State Park. Col. Bunker is as enthusiastic for the reservation, as is the writer, and I am sure will approve and accept the land. The dams when constructed will make a number of beautiful lakes in one of the prettiest spots in Alabama, or any other state.

I note that your personnell in the Historical division were interested in what I had to say relative to Chinney and Selocta, his son. I would appreciate their interest more if they would take the matter up seriously, and go about assisting me in getting the Park.

Cordially and sincerely,

G. T. McElderry,

Talladega, Alabama,

May 31st, 1934,

Hon. Conrad L. Wirth, Director,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

I have never heard a word from  
the Historical Division of The Department of The  
Interior. Could you put me in touch with some mem-  
ber of the Division?

I recently had a letter from Secretary Cordell Hull,  
in which letter he stated that he not only approved  
the project I have in mind, but would take the matter  
up with President Roosevelt, and as he had opportunity  
would take the matter up with each member of the Cab-  
inet.

When member of Congress from Tenn. Secretary Hull  
endorsed the idea of a park, to be called Andrew Jack-  
son Park, in commemoration of the services rendered by  
Tennesseans to the U.S. Government, during the Indian  
War, and got the entire Tennessee Delegation to approve  
the project. If the Historical Division will take this  
matter up in real earnest, there will in my judgement  
be no difficulty in putting the project through, as  
200,000 acres of land can be bought at \$1.25 an  
acre.

Sincerely G.T. McElherry

*Alexander*

May 10, 1934.

Mr. G. T. McElderry,

Talladega, Alabama.

Dear Mr. McElderry:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letters of April 2 and May 5.

I am sorry not to be able to be of assistance to you in helping to work out your problem of constructing the dams about which you have written previously.

The National Park Service has no funds for the purchase of property and consequently could not undertake the acquisition of the land which you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

DBA-fmd

Conrad L. Wirth.  
Assistant Director.

1. Mr. <sup>VEC</sup> Chatlain

2. ~~Russell Lee~~ :

If there is no objection, we  
will draft a recommendation  
of disapproval for Director's  
signature.

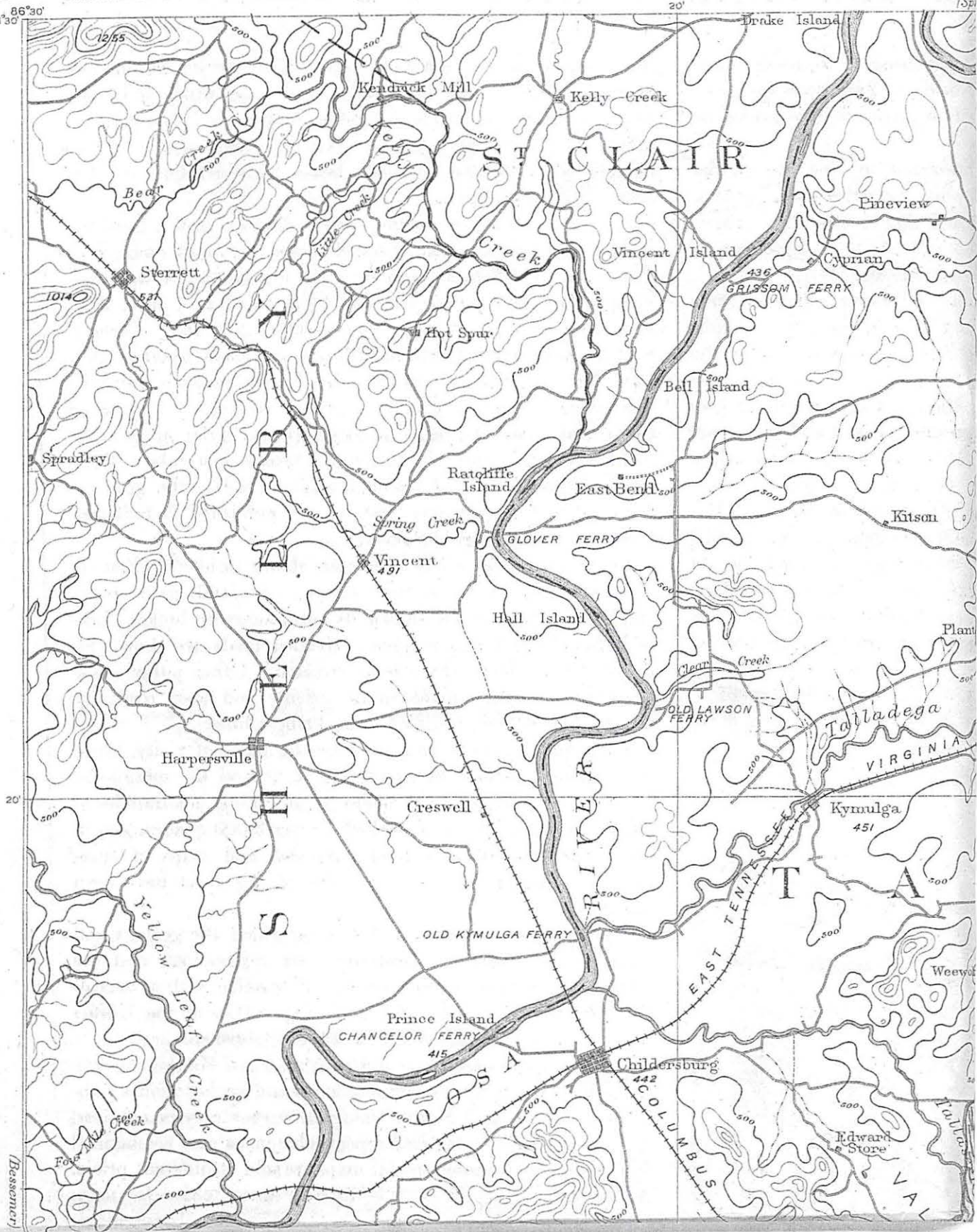
Lee Brown  
Alton



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RECONNAISSANCE

33°30' 86°30'

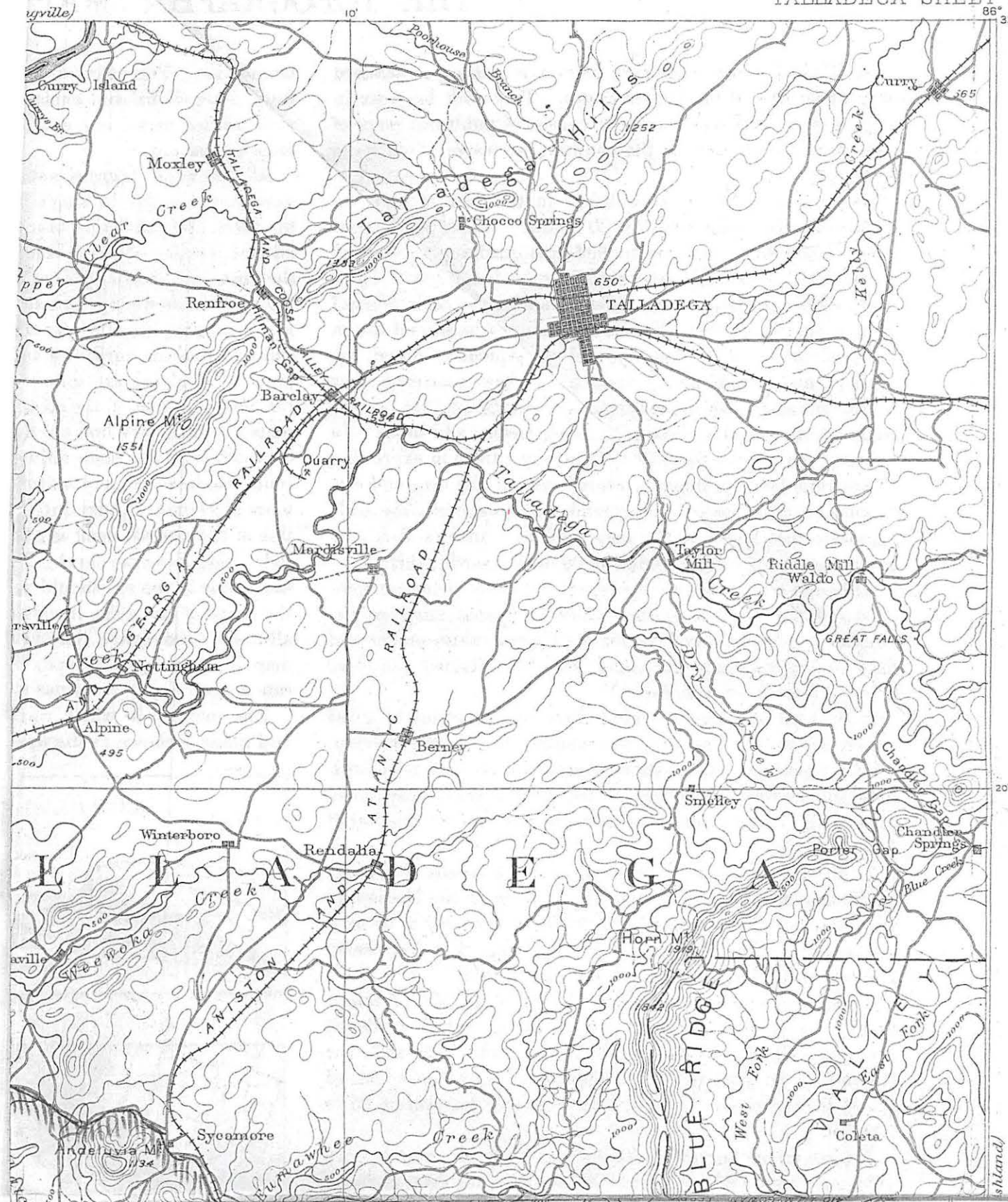




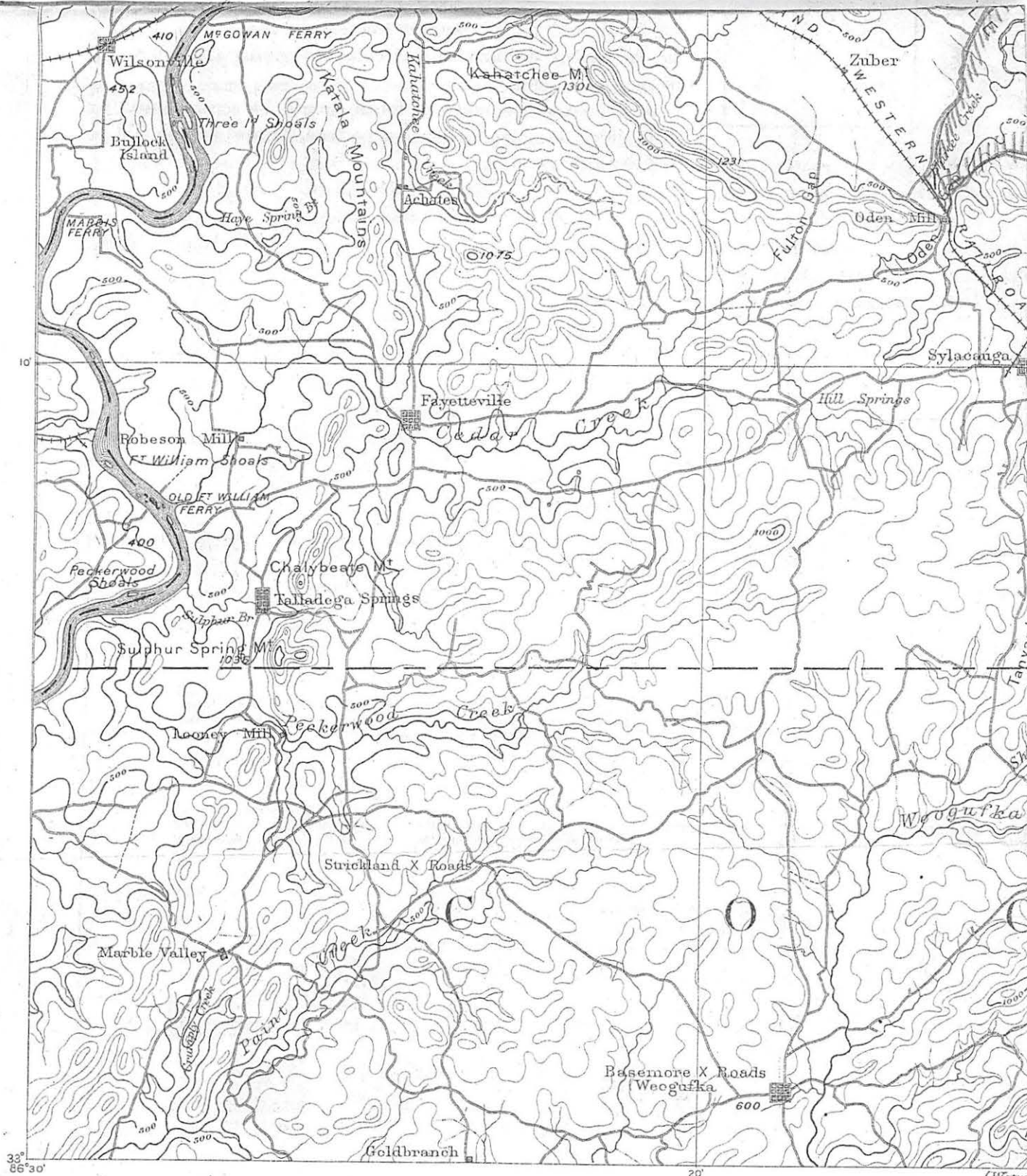
SANCE MAP

ALABAMA  
TALLADEGA SHEET

86° 33' 30" (Arriiston)



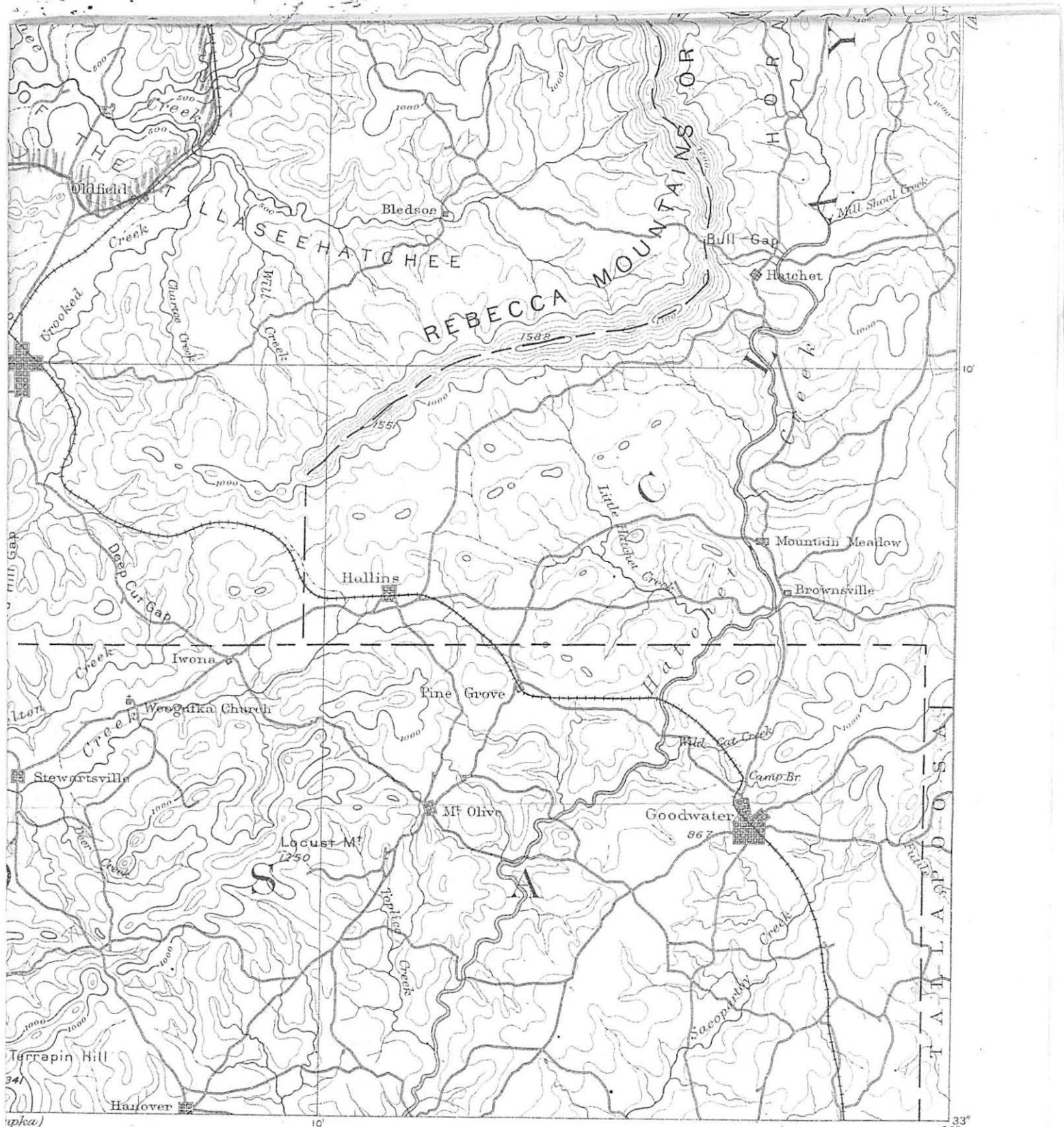




Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer.  
 Gilbert Thompson Geographer in charge.  
 Triangulation by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and Louis Nell.  
 Topography by Louis Nell.  
 Surveyed in 1887-8.

Contour Interval





Edition of April 1892, reprinted 1928.

Polyconic projection.

TALLADEGA, ALA.

33°  
86° (Dudman)



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION  
June 11, 1935.

Mr. J. H. Gadsby, Regional Officer,  
309 Glenn Building,  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Gadsby:      Subject:      Form 100532 Concerning Proposed  
Talladega Historical Park.

I submit herewith the above form and recommend that the area not be brought under the administration of the National Park Service. However, in connection with the Land Program it will be a fine thing if a small area could be set aside at the Battle Ground Tallasahatchee as described in the form. This area has little National significance and therefore I think should be administered by the State Department of Archives and History.

Yours truly,

Graham Rushton.  
Acting Regional Inspector.

GR/kd

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BRANCH OF PLANNING  
EXTENSION DIVISION

*Branch of Planning*

*M. J. Brown*  
*Files*

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

(Form of report from Regional Officers)  
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)

Name of Project:

Location- (state, county, distance and direction from known city)

**Alabama, Talladega County, 50 miles S. E. of Birmingham.**

Area - Total 300,000 Acres 466 Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)

Proposed:

**300,000 acres in vicinity of Battle grounds  
of Indian Wars - 1812-14  
This would include all land in county and more.**

Recommended:

**500 acres at site of battle of Tallasahatchee  
would make suitable state monument.**

Accessibility:

Railway: **Southern-branch line**  
Highway: **Fla. Short Route U. S. 241**  
Airline: **None**  
Waterway: **None**

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features- (topography, elevation, plant cover, water, etc):

**High foot hills, and level loamy valleys.**

2. Historical or prehistoric features:

**Graves of Tennessee soldiers.**

3. Geological features:

**Rock out crops on hill sides.**

100532

Sewerage disposal facilities: **One septic tank.**

Capacity for handling of visitors: **Small.**

Practicability of administration and protection: **Could be most economically administered as State Monument.**

Other land uses-

Mining resources: **Iron ore.**

Agricultural resources: **Good. Southern field crops.**

Grazing: **Limited.**

Cultivated crops: **Corn, cotton, and truck growing.**

Timber: **Lone leaf and loblolly pine. Small, second growth.**

Hunting & Fishing uses: **Limited.**

Power Resources: **None.**

Irrigation Resources: **Not needed.**

100532

4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

National: **None**

Local: **Recreation already served by nearby  
Cheaha State Park.**

Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles: **250,000**  
100 " **200,000**  
200 " **5,000,000**

5. Biological features:

Vegetative: **Typical southeastern timber and cover.**

Wildlife: **Large game abound in adjacent National  
Forest purchase area.**

Need for conservation: **National Forest seems logical and best method.**

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar  
nature elsewhere:

**Compares favorably in national significance with Horse Shoe Bend  
National Monument 50 miles distant.**

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

**Not needed.**

Utilities -

Water supply: **None.**

Parking space, capacity: **Small.**

Campground sites, capacity: **None.**

Light and power facilities: **None.**



100532

## Ownership:

Railways:	<u>None</u>
State:	<u>None</u>
Municipalities:	<u>None</u>
Private:	<u>500 Ac</u>
Total alienated lands	<u>500 Ac</u>

Mining claims:	<u>None</u>
Grazing permits and withdrawals:	<u>None</u>
Power permits:	<u>None</u>
Total permit acreage	<u>None</u>

National forest lands:	<u>None</u>
Public domain:	<u>None</u>
Reclamation projects:	<u>None</u>
Indian lands:	<u>None</u>
Total public lands	<u>0</u>
Total acreage	<u>500</u>

Land values: **\$20.00 per acre.**

## History of project:

**Proposed by Mr. G. T. McEldery. State Department of Archives and History is interested in site as State Monument.**

## Local attitude:

**Indifference, Ignorance.**

## Persons interested:

**Mr. G. T. McEldery, Mr. Peter Brannon, Curator.**

Itinerary (Sheet to be attached)

**Department of Archives and History**

## Bibliography:

**Picketts History of Alabama**

List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted:  
(Sheet to be attached)

Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes:

Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36"

*Handwritten: 1/20/36*  
1/20/36

Note to: Mr. Preece  
Mr. Ronald Lee  
~~Mr. Chatelain~~

*Handwritten: noted R7L*  
*Handwritten: noted VPC*

I am not sure whether you had an  
opportunity to note this report, as it came  
back to me without comments.

J. Lee Brown.

*Handwritten: 6-36*  
*Handwritten: Inclusive*