Rebecca Skipper, the Last in a Line of Cheroenhaka Skippers, The Great-great-granddaughter of Chief George Skipper

Rebecca Skipper

1862-1935

Rebecca's Skipper Line

Rebecca Skipper 1862 Louisiana
Silas Skipper 1826 Tennessee
Barnabas Skipper, 1776 North Carolina
Barnaby Skipper 1727 Virginia Colony
Chief George Skipper and Mary Bailey, 1700 Virginia Colony
George Skipper, 1668 Isle of Wight, Virginia Colony
George Skipper, 1644, the Anglicized name
of
Unknown Cheroenhaka of pre-Colonial America

INTERNET ARCHIVE IMAGE,
UNNAMED IROQUOIS CHIEF,
EARLY 18TH CENTURY ARTIST

Born in 1862, Rebecca Skipper was a child of the American Civil War. Her birth to Silas and Harriet Owens Skipper in 1862 Louisiana took place during troubling times. She was their sixth child. Adding significance to the danger a family faced in a war zone, her parents, living in a Confederate state, were as ardent Unionists as their founding fathers who once pledged to the nation their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

The Skippers were married in 1846 in Butler, Alabama, and they moved from there to Jackson Parish, Louisiana in 1859. The same year, Silas picked up 277 acres in neighboring Ouachita Parish and started a Louisiana plantation. In 1860 Jackson Parish he owned $2,000 in real estate and $600 in personal wealth. Some of what he owned was now invested in the enslavement of other human beings.

Owning slaves was new to Silas and went against his Native American heritage and a tradition of freedom that traced back to the ancient Haudenosaunee of pre-colonial America. None of his Skipper forefathers, including a tribal chief, had ever owned slaves. His slaves and the increase in his personal wealth most likely materialized as a result of a marriage endowment from Harriet's father.

NEGROES FOR SALE — JOSEPH BRUIN, a regular trader in this city for the last twenty-six years, has just arrived with a large lot of Maryland and Virginia NEGROES, such as Mechanics, House Servants, Cooks, Washers and Ironers and Field Hands, and will be receiving a fresh supply during all the season. For sale on reasonable terms for cash or approved city acceptances, at his Old Stand, corner of Esplanade and Chartres streets, Third District. se20 3m&W

FOSTER'S SLAVE DEPOT, No. 76 BARONNE STREET, New Orleans, keeps constantly on hand and for sale, Mechanics, Field Hands, Cooks, Washers, Ironers and General House Servants. Also, buys and sells Slaves on commission. o23 6m&W

NEGROES FOR SALE — THE UNDERsigned has reopened the well-known Slave Depot, No. 47 Esplanade, corner of Chartres street, recently occupied by John B. Smith, with a very likely lot of field hands, house servants, washers and ironers, seamstresses, etc., on sale, all imported from Virginia and South Carolina.

Additional supplies will be received from those States during the season. Terms, reasonable for cash, or approved city acceptances. THOS. E. MATTHEWS.

Office, 47 Esplanade street, cor. Chartres.

☞Delta and True Delta please copy. n1 6m

PLEASE CALL AT 58 BARONNE STREET, where Planters and others will at all times find a CAREFULLY SELECTED and WELL ASSORTED LOT OF SLAVES for sale.

o25 6m R. H. ELAM.

SALE OF NEGROES — OVER ONE HUNDRED NEGROES were brought in last night from my farm within eighty miles of the city, and are for sale. A large number of them have been on the place for the past year and longer, and all passed the last summer. Virginia and Maryland negroes, with this advantage of acclimation, and trained to plantation labor, offer inducements to purchasers.

WALTER L. CAMPBELL,

o12 tf 54 Baronne, near Common st.

NEGROES FOR SALE — I HAVE just arrived with One Hundred and Fifty NEGROES, from Virginia and Maryland, such as Mechanics, House Servants, Cooks, Washers and Ironers, and Field Hands. I will also receive during the season (every month) large supplies, exclusively from those States. I am determined to sell at prices to suit the times, for cash or approved city acceptances. They can be seen at my house, corner of Baronne and Gravier streets, New Orleans.

o20 6m J. M. WILSON.

CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA NEGROES—The subscriber has just arrived with a gang of very likely Carolina and Virginia NEGROES, consisting of Field Hands, House Servants, Cooks, Washers and Ironers, also a No. 1 Bricklayer, and will be receiving fresh supplies during the season. Persons wishing to purchase will find it to their advantage to call, as they will be sold on accommodating terms.

H. F. PETERSON,

se28 6m 15 Perdido street.

C. M. RUTHERFORD, COMMISSION Agent for the Purchase and Sale of Slaves. Office and Yard, No. 68 Baronne street, New Orleans, La.

ja1 tf

FOR SALE—ON REASONABLE TERMS, SEVERAL very fine properties on Esplanade street, improved and unimproved. Also, several very large properties close to Esplanade street and the various parts of the city. For particulars, inquire at

se30 tf 47 EXCHANGE ALLEY.

C. F. HATCHER, No. 195 GRAVIER ST., New Orleans, La. J. M. CURETON, Superintendent of Slave Depot.

Notice to Merchants, Planters, Traders and Slave Owners—Having made extensive alterations and accommodations on my old stand, I am now prepared to receive and accommodate from two to three hundred slaves for sale on Commission. I can also accommodate the owners with good board and comfortable rooms on reasonable terms.

Those having business in my line would do well to call and see for themselves before looking elsewhere, as the inducements I offer are unequaled.

A good stock of Negroes for sale will be kept constantly on hand, consisting of Field Hands, Mechanics, House Servants, Seamstresses, Nurses, Hair Dressers, etc.

☞Liberal advances made on property placed in my hands for sale.

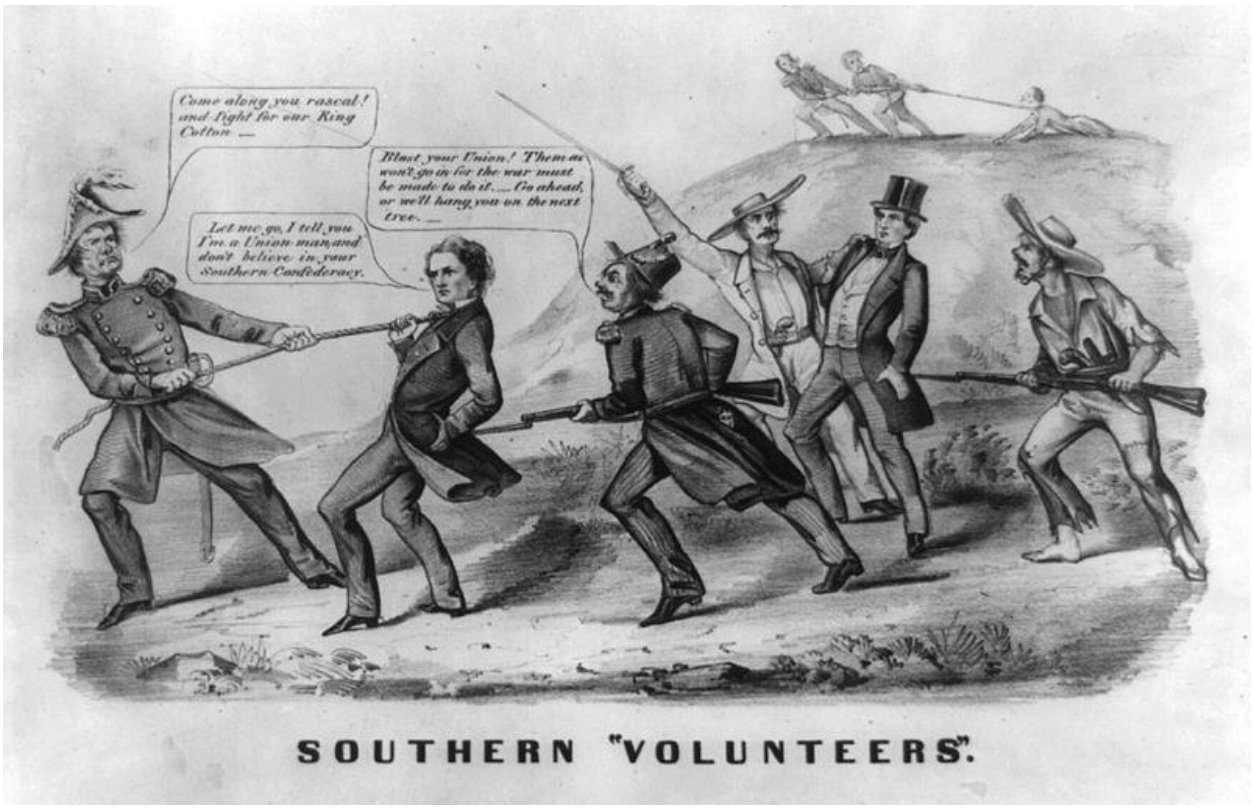
Slaves, and Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana Lands bought and sold.

se23 1y C. F. HATCHER.

NOTICE—AFTER SLAVES HAVE BEEN PLACED in other Yards or Depots, I will not receive them at No. 195 Gravier street.

ja6 tf C. F. HATCHER.

Newspaper listings for slave depots at Barrone and Gravier Street, and at 54, 58, 68, and 78 Barrone represented but a slim fraction of the trade in the city.
New Orleans Crescent, *January 10, 1861*. **Wikipedia**



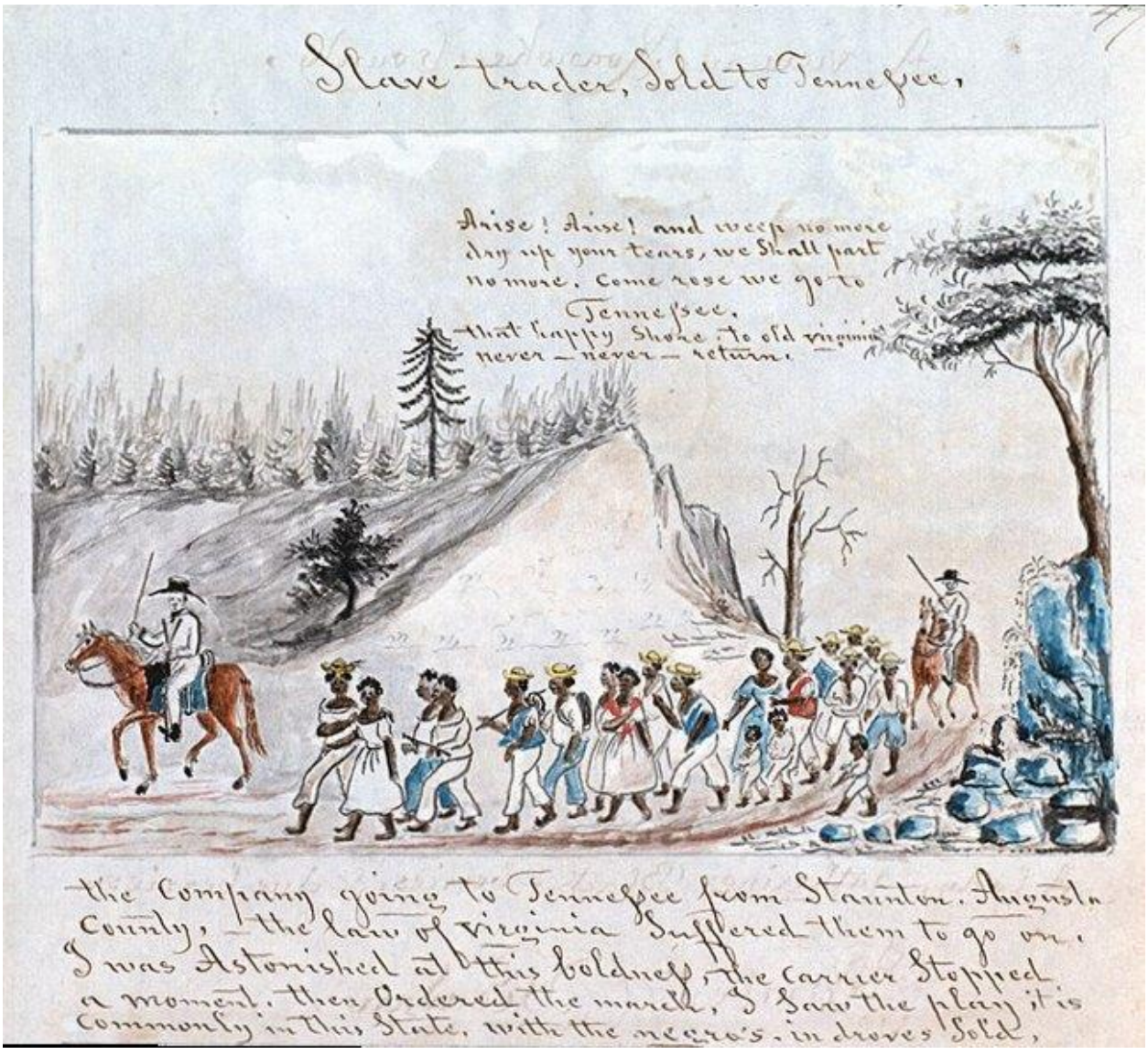
Currier and Ives, 1862, Southern "Volunteers"

After the Civil War started, the Jackson and Ouachita neighborhood became notorious as an anti-secessionist region. The attachment of southern planters to the notion of forced, free labor that drove them to war had not infected the hearts and minds of most of the people there. Whilst in the midst of these anti-secessionists, Silas told his wife he was going to free their slaves, and he did. His view on the benefits of doing one's own work and his philosophy on the equal right of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was on a collision course with the new Confederate States of America. The consequences of the course he and Harriet eventually chose were life changing and held a lasting weight on the lives of Rebecca and her siblings.

"The Civil War stole childhood from Brother, and from me and my sisters," Rebecca would recall as a grandmother. "We never played no more, after it started."

When the Skippers chose to dwell in the Ouachita-Jackson Parish area they made their home where a civil war within the Civil War would soon be raging, but their region was filled with Union patriotism, so there was a large number of Confederate conscripts hiding out in their neighborhood to keep them company. Their father, Silas, was a good and

decent man who loved his country, and he became one, among a sizable number of men who had declined the Confederate draft, and he went into hiding. In response to Silas and the sizable number of draft dodgers who were hiding out, Jefferson Davis ordered two Confederate training camps established in the Skipper area to search for Silas and his loyalist friends.



Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia)
Public Domain
File: Slave Trader, Sold to Tennessee.jpg
Created: 1850

Ouachita residents piled up obstacles for the Confederacy. Not only did they refuse to serve, they refused to help any Rebel. For example, secessionist refugees raced into the Skipper's parish from the east, fleeing the forces of Union General Ulysses S. Grant who spent the winter of 1862–1863 in northeastern Louisiana. There, he prepared for the capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Union sympathizers made life miserable for the frightened Mississippi refugees, with Ouachita residents refusing to offer them food or shelter. On the other hand, Union boats that came up the Ouachita River to Monroe, the parish seat, were welcomed. Yankee coffee, liquor, dry goods, and good money were traded for Louisiana cotton.

General Ulysses S. Grant, 1864

Jefferson Davis ordered Confederate General Richard Taylor to set up camps to try and search out the many Louisiana conscripts who failed to report for duty. He sent five companies into Jackson to arrest "the shirkers"—to hunt them down and shoot them if they couldn't be forced into the Monroe camps. When Silas Skipper became one of the Confederate draft-dodgers Taylor had his men looking for, the Louisiana canebrakes, swamps, and hills where he could hide out made Taylor's order impossible to carry out. The woods on his plantation, added to the terrain, insured this shirker's safety. All the while, during their searches, the Confederates had to watch out for the sympathizers who were helping Union troops. Moreover, they had to stay on guard against Yankee soldiers and General Grant, himself.

The Union sympathizers who aided and abetted Silas was a special group of dissidents—it was made up of his wife and his former slaves. Former, because before he left home he had kept his word and freed his loyal servants. With the help of Harriet and appreciative freed black people, he and his horse were cared for wherever he hid out, and with friendly guns in the area, Silas eventually rode his gallant steed into the U.S. 2nd Cavalry and joined up.

His older children could remember his goodbyes, but Rebecca was only a toddler and had to remember him through her siblings' eyes.

Historical U.S. Army reports claim tens of thousands of white southern men and boys enlisted with Yankee troops. Every rebel state except South Carolina sent at least one regiment north. These loyalist

southern soldiers against secession slammed a double whammy on the CSA. Not only did they not fill Confederate ranks, they stood for thousands of soldiers the undermanned Confederacy had to fight.

In addition, Rebel soldiers increasingly lost their rebellious zeal.

Oct 20, 1864, **Chattanooga Daily Gazette**:

> *Our reserves of able bodied men are exhausted, and two-thirds of those now enlisted in the army, are declared by President Davis as absent without leave now. . .*

Besides leaving the children fatherless, the choice Rebecca's parents made was not without consequences.

On the home front, monstrous atrocities, hatched out of the politics and intrigue of the war, devastated the homes and farms along the fields and streams up and down Rebel infested rivers that lay near the knobs and ridges of southern mountains. Every Southerner knew someone personally who was against secession, and when men who were loyal to the Union put together enough soldiers to send several regiments North, their loyalty infuriated all those who were trying to organize the Confederate States of America. Although the part women play in historical events is usually left out, Southern women, who lost their menfolk to the fight and were left with fields to tend, began fighting back as soon as the war started. When food they raised was requisitioned for hungry soldiers instead of nourishing their hungry children, they tried to hide and hoard all the food they could. Some even learned to read and write so they could complain to their governors.

The war lasted long enough that Rebecca grew old enough that she could recall being hungry.

THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE UNIONIST SOUTH

The problem of not recording or reporting truth in history is that a nation can't know itself unless it is true to itself, for good or bad. For whatever reason American historians chose to leave out the Unionist South and keep choosing--to this day--to ignore the good southern white people who fought against the evils of the Confederacy. The legacy of the Skippers begs academic circles to remember them.

The actions of Silas and Harriet Owens Skipper, along with their slaves, plus the resistance of countless white Southerners, if not for the reports of their daughter Rebecca, would remain unknown to this day. Silas crafted their story, and Harriet's reports of it were handed down from a

mother to a daughter. The details Rebecca remembered and eventually shared with her grandchildren fit perfectly into the history her parents and their kind created. History they created but were left out of--clearly left out of—in traditional historical accounts.

Saturated by the diatribe of the planters, as they were, it's amazing that some people of the South were brave enough to take issue with their secessionist schemes. Since the planters couldn't win a secessionist vote by playing fair, they were forced to call a number of conventions in state after state before they could rig enough secessionists votes.

The Secessionist Vote

--Rather than secede from the Union, almost half of Virginia seceded from Virginia to form the new state of West Virginia.

--In East Tennessee martial law was declared, so that state was forced into the Confederacy. Armed Confederate soldiers were rafted into East Tennessee to vote in rigged secessionist conventions.

--In Texas dozens of Unionists were dragged out of their beds by night riders and hanged. Dozens.

--Free State of Jones, Mississippi was formed where one Confederate army deserter returned to Mississippi and led a militia of fellow deserters and women in an uprising against the Confederacy.

Beginning with suppression of the southern vote, the claims of planters that the U. S. government was oppressive stared in the face of their own tyranny. In the end their government became bankrupt—financially and morally—and could not, and did not, pay for the war it started. During the war soldiers were sick, starving, half-naked, out-manned and out-gunned, but they were able to see how the planter-led Confederacy kept sending them into useless battles to suffer and to die. Farms were over-taxed and rundown. Disgruntled women no longer had the right to complain. Though the slaves were long-gone, thousands of soldiers kept dying on the despotic planters say so. Even so, there were sons of the South who believed in their ill-gotten government. The language of historians says that men went to their graves believing they had a cause.

When Jefferson Davis sent General Taylor into Silas Skipper's parish to establish training camps to search for loyalist partisans, he had reason to be concerned. Love for the Union was rising up out in the hills and hamlets of his Confederacy.

Tales of Horse Thieves

VIRGINIA. As gunfire raked back and forth across hearth and home, barnyard and pasture, when military control of the area changed hands, some soldiers changed sides. Stories exist that tell of horses that did too. Grudges grew out of misunderstood loyalties, sometimes cropping up around horse thieves or a man's hogs or his garden. It didn't take much more than the theft of a cabbage to get hungry folks to fighting each other.

By the thousands, Rebels were reported as missing or captured on battlefield after battlefield. On occasion, a soldier boy no longer felt rebellious toward the United States as he made his way to the foothills of Appalachia and slipped back onto a family farm. Some poor boys were mad enough over being duped into fighting a rich man's war, they joined the other side.

Before the war was over, men trying to go home—hoping to get out of harm's way, jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. Fitting into the controversy that hangs over military history and service records is family lore that tells of one man's life and death struggle with local rebels in 1864 at his home near the tortured Virginia-Tennessee border. Hiram England's records appear to be those of one of the soldiers whose switching sides angered the Rebels. Enlisted as a Private in September 1862 at the age of 24 in Company I, 64th Infantry Regiment Virginia, he had deserted from Company I, by March 1863.

Hiram England was born Feb 18, 1839 in Scott County, Virginia. At the start of the War, he was just the right age for a soldier.

Hiram, a first cousin to Hiram E. Payne was at Payne's Virginia home August 1863 when Payne's horses were stolen. They were seen being driven by Confederates through the woods up the Clinch River Knobbs southwards towards the Clinch River and the Virginia and Tennessee State line. The two Hiram's and Payne's teenage son, Anderson G. Payne, tried to overtake and recover their

horses when Hiram E. Payne was killed and Anderson G. shot in the knee; Anderson was crippled for life. Hiram England ran for his life and obtained help of his neighbors and kinsmen. They retrieved the body of Hiram E. Payne and that of the wounded son. The horse thieves made their escape through the south woods. Both armies targeted horses and mules for their officers and cavalries, with war horses switching sides as frequently as their riders

A little more than a year later there was a second shooting. Less than three miles west of where Hiram Payne was murdered, on the south side of Clinch River Knobbs in Hancock County, on the farm of James Kilgore, Hiram England faced danger once again. James Kilgore had purchased 120 acres and was clearing a new ground of some large brush. Rebel bushwhackers spotted Hiram and William Lyon in the field. Tom Edison and his Confederate guerillas attacked them. As William and Hiram tried to escape northward up the Knobbs, William was shot in the back and killed. Hiram managed to crawl under one of Kilgore's huge brush piles and hide. The rebels walked all over the brush, ramming muskets with bayonets on the end, barely missing Hiram England. He was terrified they would hear his heart thumping and find him.

Edison's Rebels stripped the body of William Lyon before they left. When he felt it was safe, Hiram England finally dug himself out of the brush pile and went for help. He walked on across into Dry Valley to Isom Edens's home; Edens's son David was married to William Lyon's sister, Lucille Ellen Lyon. Knowing that bushwhackers were still on the prowl, the ladies of the house—including his sister--went to pick up William's body. As they went about gathering up the body of William Lyon, as fate would have it, one of them stepped on his musket which had slipped from his dying hands into the brush.

The date that all this happened was October 20, 1864. The War was coming to an end, and many Rebel soldiers, shoeless and nearly naked, had already returned home.

Story: Family Information taken from the stories of Eula Mae McNutt, letter of Dec. 17, 1986 to Mary England.

WEST VIRGINIA. All over the South people witnessed a struggle between patriots and traitors. It became a place where families were as divided as the Confederacy itself--where sons, brothers, in-laws, nephews, and neighbors were the combatants--against each other. For the faithful amongst them, their founding fathers happened to be their own flesh and blood—their grandfathers. The grandfather of Silas, Barnaby Skipper, served in North Carolina against Cornwallis, yet some of his grandsons fought for the South. His father was a veteran of the War of 1812.

Initially, no state that put secession up for popular vote voted against the United States. It took stealth and multiple conventions on the part of the slave owners to bottle up enough secessionist delegates to finally garner enough rigged “ayes” for eleven states to leave the Union. Such votes could not be wrenched out of the defiant patriots in western Virginia--who kept almost half of Robert E. Lee’s state, his home, he claimed--in the Union. Silas Skipper was never a lonely dissident.

1861 Fort Sumter Flag with 33 stars. Kansas was 34th. W VA was 35

It was not unusual for common folk up in the hills to look down their noses at the planters, poking fun at them for putting on airs. Men who thought they could stick a feather in their hat and tie a satin sash around their belly and call themselves a cavalier were prissy sissies to hardy yeomen and mountaineers. The delusional planters could not help openly displaying their longing to be part of the long gone, privileged aristocracy. When they, the profiteers of human bondage, began their frantic calls for secession, low lying Louisianians, mountaineers in western Virginia, North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee, Texas Germans, and new immigrants in every state were appalled by the traitorous Confederacy.

Early on, West Virginians responded by seceding from Virginia and, thus, the Confederacy. When East Tennessee tried to do the same, before the people could act, the pro-slavery governor called in the troops and declared martial law, pitting traitors against patriots from the very beginning.

EAST TENNESSEE. If a state could secede from the powerful United States, a man could certainly step out of a league of states that was as divided and impoverished as the Confederacy, and many Rebel soldiers did just that.

COMPANY D, 2ND TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT, U.S.A

Every Confederate state, except South Carolina, sent regiments North to serve in the United States Army. Company D served in one of many from Tennessee.

Before the Civil War East Tennessee was a community of small farming villages--a community of neighbors with a culture bannered in patriotism. Just about every member of an East Tennessee family had a Revolutionary War story to tell, as did Silas Skipper, concerning a father or grandfather. Forefathers, not long dead, had trumpeted a legacy of pride in the United States, shaped out of their defeat of the mighty British Empire. In East Tennessee, uninterrupted as they were in the Appalachians, day by day, the experiment in self-government that their forefathers had wrenched

out of the American Revolution was at work. They lived life enjoying the rights and freedoms their government guaranteed them. The storied sound of soldiers marching out of Valley Forge to fight the British was more powerful to their ears than the angry uproar of plantation lords who were wailing and gnashing their teeth over the election of Abraham Lincoln.

All over the South the CSA responded to patriots in the South with a hatred of the resistance that ended up in war crimes. In East Tennessee when the resistance decided the best way to help the Union was to burn some bridges, some of the conspirators were hanged.

Passers-by abusing the corpses of conspirators Hensie and Fry, as depicted in newspaper publisher, William "Parson" Brownlow's "Sketches." Wikipedia

After the destruction of bridges in East Tennessee, dozens of known Unionists were arrested and jailed, including newspaper publisher, William "Parson" Brownlow. Several suspected bridge burners were tried and convicted, and hanged.

Brownlow published facts about the illegal arrests and hangings in his 1862 anti-secession sketch, "Sketches of the Rise, Progress and Decline of Secession." As an elderly man, he was arrested for this and other publications and thrown into a dungeon.

1862 **Harper's Weekly** and East Tennessee Bridge-Burning Conspiracy

Engraving from Harper's Weekly showing members of the East Tennessee bridge-burning conspiracy swearing allegiance to the U.S. flag.
Wood engraving.
Date 29 March 1862

From the first shot of the war, there were too many patriots in East Tennessee's hills for secession to have a chance--*"You must give us a secession majority of over 10,000 west of the mountains or I fear East Tennessee will defeat us,"* wrote secessionist Stuart McClung of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad. Governor Isham G. Harris did what he could—legally, and not so legal. East Tennessee never supported secession, so the planter tyrants finally bottled up enough delegates to garner enough votes for the state to leave the Union by hook and by crook—even rafting up Confederate soldiers from the deep South to vote at polling places in Tennessee. To keep control of the area martial law had to be declared, because it took guns to put East Tennesseans in the Confederacy.

After Confederate Army losses at Vicksburg, Mississippi and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1863, Rebel soldiers began to wonder if they had made a mistake. Letters home described the fix in which men of the South found themselves:

> *Camp Sweetwater July 4th, 1863*
> *Dear Father I seat myself to inform you that I am well, hoping these few lines may find you all well. I would like to see you all in the best kind of way but I cant get to come home, Lt. Anderson wont come up,*

and Lt. Edison being captured, I cant get off to come home. I want you to send John and Thos back as soon as you get this for if they stay over their time they will be reported as deserters and punished. I sent for a pare of pants by Thos when he come home, I havent got none attall. The report is that Bragg is falling back from Tulihomy & if that be so we will have to fall back from East Tennessee & then we will not get to come home. Larkin D. W. Moneyham, 2-Lt. 16th TN Cav. BN, F Company, CSA.

Unfortunately for Larkin, and John and Thomas--his brothers who were also in Co F--the South had no pant factories, or manufacturing of any kind. Its only business—bigger than all Northern industries combined—was a multi-billion dollar slave market, an industry that had enriched only Southern planters, shipping magnates, and New York bankers. If Mr. Moneyham had any Confederate money—it was worthless. The Confederacy had no treasury, no banks, and no cash—not even for its war profiteers.

Even if Southerners had a Yankee dollar, mothers could not find simple necessities— kitchen utensils, cookware, staples such as salt and flour, or fabrics, thimbles, needles and thread. Rich or poor, the few husbands who were still around could not get new tools or gear to harness their work animals, and their children went without new hats, belts, and shoes. Scarcity of basic provisions—not Yankee bullets--drove many a barefoot Rebel off the battlefield. Or, on to one--the Battle of Gettysburg got started, all for the lack of shoes.

Pictured: *Shoeless Confederates*

And yet--another shoe story. A war crime:

In Johnson County, as far east as you could go without entering Virginia or North Carolina, an East Tennessee shoemaker named Thomas Jordan had made a home for his family in a place with the fetching name of Doe Valley. At the close of the Civil War the last troupe of Confederate Soldiers that passed through Doe Valley, after pillaging Jordan's home, found him about two hundred yards from the house, making a pair of shoes. They shot him, took him by the feet and

dragged him to the house. Up at the house the Rebels made Rebecca, his wife, pour water over their hands until all the blood was washed away. After the soldiers' hands were dried, they drew their guns and dared the mother and her three fatherless children to shed another tear. Jordan was an executed American citizen. ***Edited from a family contribution to ancestry.com***

The Execution of Tennessee Farmer, Samuel Wright
Retold from actual court records

Part 1, The Mob

The fourth year of the war, rogue rebels, invaded the farm of Samuel Wright. According to trial testimony they were a mob of Confederate soldiers. Wright was a Union man whose crime was wanting to vote for Abraham Lincoln.

It was early one morning. Before daylight the dog began barking, waking Samuel and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth, a lovely woman everyone called Betsy, told her husband, "Something's wrong."

"No, no," Samuel assured her, using the familiar tone he often took up when she worried over the children. Still, he got up and went out to see if anything was bothering his mare. Many a civilian had lost a horse or two to the war.

He started from the house after his mare, and when he got a few steps from the porch, Elizabeth heard somebody yell at him, and she went to the door. She heard an angry voice tell him that the company had been lying out ever since before the cock crowed, watching for him. More voices accused him of sympathizing with the Yankees. George Thomas swore at her husband and accused him of carrying news to the Union soldiers who were camped nearby.

"Your son is with the Yankees, and you will be against us next."

Elizabeth stepped off the porch and went to stand beside her husband.

Samuel answered, "I have never loaded a gun on either side in this war."

The men began to search him then, and he handed his wife his horse's bridle. They took his pocket book, his knife, and half a dollar in green backs. He was unarmed. The party—eighteen in all--had no warrants or legal authority with them—they were simply a gang of lawless Confederates.

With all the commotion in their front yard, the children began to clamor out of their beds. Mary Jane Wright, sixteen at the time, recalled George Thomas coming “to our house with a whole passel of men” to arrest her father. She and the other children witnessed their dad being violently shoved around by men who called him names for supporting the Yankees. Mary Jane’s brother, Jim Wright, was thirteen.

Mary Jane recalled, “George Thomas took the bridle from Mother,” and went after her father’s mare, and then the others took Samuel away. “We never saw Father again.”

Elizabeth accompanied her husband for a minute, then she went back after his coat and took it to him. “Go home, now, and do the best you can till I get back,” he told her. These were the last words he ever said to his wife.

That same day about ten o'clock, the men, still traveling the same road, pushed Samuel Wright to his knees and put a bullet through the back of his head. After he was executed, there was a trial and Elizabeth testified against George Thomas for killing her husband.

Part 2, The Trial

In the summer of 1864 Rebel soldiers were seen trampling through East Tennessee wheat and clover fields and passed by one farmer who was harvesting flax. They eventually marched off onto a road to gather at a farm, aiming to capture Samuel Wright for spying—"*for carrying news to the Yanks"*--and to take him to the nearest Rebel encampment—or, to kill him.

In 1864 George Thomas was brought to trial for the murder of Samuel Wright. Beginning a saga of Homeric proportions, at the Thomas trial the widow told how the happy life of the couple came to a cruel end at the hands of the lawless Rebels.

After Elizabeth Wright described the abduction and execution of her children’s father, a fiery teenage daughter’s testimony echoed that of her mother’s. Mary Jane said, “George Thomas came to our house, arrested Father, and took him off. Thomas was the first one who captured him and was shoving him about with his gun. Father told him not to shove him so. He had a lame leg. Thomas called Father a Bushwhacker and said he had been to the Yanks.”

She added how Thomas first handed her father over to the mob and then went to the field and stole her father’s horse. The lame Samuel Wright would be forced down the road on foot. “They took Father on and

killed him. Never saw Father after they took him, till I saw him dead. He was shot in the head, face beat all to pieces."

Next, she described how she, a mere school girl, tried to get back her father's mare, three weeks later. "Thomas was riding our mare and I went to take it."

But Thomas ". . .saw me and came out and jerked the bridle out of my hand. He threatened to kill me. I jawed him, and he said he would put me where he had put my damned old Bushwhacking father."

In later testimony by others, the horse reared up again and again to prove Thomas was at least a horse thief. War horses were valuable in the Civil War and were stolen back and forth between the two sides as the opportunity arose.

For the rest of her life the fiery Mary Jane continued to curse the men who took her father from her. Following Mary Jane, her married sister took the stand and recalled a night of terror when night-riding Rebels came to search her house. The men dragged her out of bed, all the while cursing her father's name.

Testifying further against Thomas were fellow East Tennessee farmers. Soldiers were seen in the Darter's clover field by one; another remembered he had pulled flax that morning. Thomas Barrett recalled how in the night, "a Scout of Rebels passed through my wheat."

Several of the men risked their own lives to beg the rabble for the life of their neighbor as they witnessed the old man being prodded and shoved down the road past their homes. At one of those homes, the man pleading with the outlaws was David Hickman. George Thomas had been listed among Hickman's household members on the census of 1860. The murder of his neighbor by another neighbor haunted Hickman. In years to come he and his wife, Nancy Vaughan Hickman, offered their house as a sanctuary to Wright's children and to men who would become known as the Wright Gang. The sole purpose of the gang was to kill Rebels and all those who were responsible for the death of Samuel Wright.

In his testimony David Hickman said, "On the morning they killed Wright I met Thomas and Scribner. After conversing a little about the mare, Thomas said, yes, they had the mare and they had Sam Wright too. Then I asked Thomas what they were going to do with him, he said they were going to put him where he would not steal any more horses or do any more Devilment. When I requested him not to have Wright hurt, he made no reply."

Emmanuel Rutledge, out on the road on an errand, met the men with Wright and spoke to his neighbor. Rutledges and Wrights had been neighbors a long, long time. He testified that he told Thomas and one of the others . . . "not to hurt him and they said they would not hurt the old man." Coming back from his errand, on learning that Wright was dead, Rutledge fearlessly called out the killers of his neighbor and friend. He yelled, "You wicked wretches!" at a mob of men who could have just as easily put a bullet through his head.

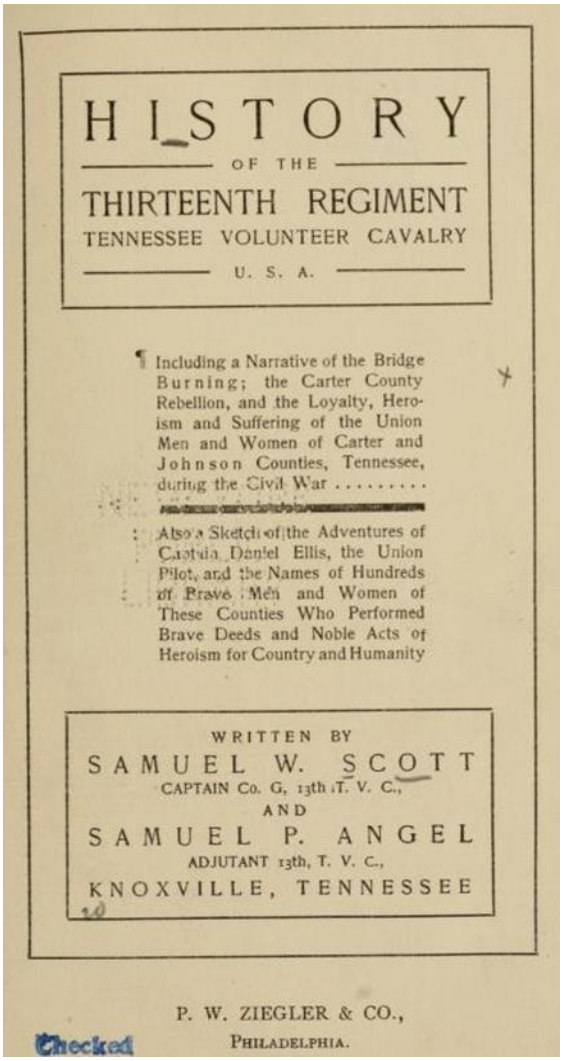
The last argument of testimony put the words and cruelty of George Thomas on the stand. Wylie Wilson, a Yankee prisoner of war, was being held at a Rebel camp where he was being guarded by George Thomas, and he testified that Thomas said that he and some men had gone to Mr. Wright's house and had taken him out and killed him. Thomas had bragged, "…that he had rode away on a nag from Wright and called it, Betsy Wright."

This was a cruel and vulgar taunt aimed at the victim's widow, Elizabeth Wright, who family and friends called, Betsy.

Children of the murdered Samuel Wright who would spend the next forty years seeking justice for their slain father and grieving mother—James Wright from 1902 sketch and Mary Jane Wright in enhanced image.

A Book For The Ages

All over the world, freedom fighters are honored in story and song for the sacrifices they made in their fight against tyranny, except in the United States. Here, there have been very few to sing a song for the white



HISTORY
OF THE
THIRTEENTH REGIMENT
TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER CAVALRY
U. S. A.

Including a Narrative of the Bridge Burning; the Carter County Rebellion, and the Loyalty, Heroism and Suffering of the Union Men and Women of Carter and Johnson Counties, Tennessee, during the Civil War .....

Also a Sketch of the Adventures of Captain Daniel Ellis, the Union Pilot, and the Names of Hundreds of Brave Men and Women of These Counties Who Performed Brave Deeds and Noble Acts of Heroism for Country and Humanity

WRITTEN BY
SAMUEL W. SCOTT
CAPTAIN Co. G, 13th T. V. C.,
AND
SAMUEL P. ANGEL
ADJUTANT 13th, T. V. C.,
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

P. W. ZIEGLER & CO.,
PHILADELPHIA.

Checked

Southern freedom fighters in the Civil War. Very few writers tried. While heroic opposition to secession in the South remains mostly an untold tale of the Civil War, in the annals of warfare no soldiers or citizens ever provided richer material for history books than did the Union-loving citizens who dwelled there.

Four decades after the war, two old soldiers took pen in hand to record the epic deeds of these forgotten heroes and heroines in East Tennessee. Written in 1897, **History Of The Thirteenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry USA,** by Samuel W. Scott, Captain, Co. G, 13th Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry and Samuel P. Angel, Adjutant 13th, Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, tells of the “loyalty, heroism and suffering of the Union men and women” of East Tennessee during the Civil War. Their epic tale includes. . . “the names of hundreds of men and women who performed brave deeds and noble acts of heroism for country and humanity.” The two men dedicated their memoirs to the soldiers and citizens of East Tennessee, “who were true to their Flag, their Country, and their Homes.” The purpose of their history was, “To rescue from oblivion the Heroes and Heroines,” who were left out of traditional anthologies. As authors they provide sketches of many thrilling adventures of individuals--like the daring of a scout who took more than 4000 men into the Federal Army from East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Western North Carolina. Especially significant, they tout the incomparable courage of the women up in the Tennessee hills who rode midnight missions, led troops safely through dangerous territory, fed them, and kept them hidden in mountain caves of East Tennessee and West North Carolina--similar to the brave deeds of Harriet Owens Skipper and her former slaves. As old soldiers who were there, the authors are able to fill their pages with the untold stories of American citizens who suffered and

died at the hands of an ill-begotten government that was founded and led by the cruel criminals who controlled plantations.

In spite of the efforts of Scott and Angel, the heroism of Southern whites who opposed secession is unknown to this day.

TEXAS. Lynching of men suspected of participating in any resistance movement took place in trees all over the Southern Confederacy. In Texas, next door to Louisiana, night riding slave owners invaded dozens of the homes of known Lincoln supporters and abolitionists, snatched them from their beds, and hanged them.

The Great Hanging at Gainesville

The Great Hanging at Gainesville was the execution by hanging of 41 suspected Unionists (men loyal to the United States) in Gainesville, Texas, in October 1862 during the American Civil War. Confederate troops shot two additional suspects trying to escape. Confederate troops captured and arrested some 150–200 men in and near Cooke County at a time when numerous North Texas citizens opposed the new law on conscription. Many suspects were tried by a "Citizens' Court" organized by a Confederate military officer. It made up its own rules for conviction and had no status under state law. Although only 11% of county households enslaved people, seven of the 12 men on the jury were enslavers.

The suspects were executed one or two at a time. After several men had been convicted and executed, mob pressure built against the remaining suspects. The jury gave the mob 14 names, and these men were lynched without trial. After being acquitted, another 19 men were returned to court and convicted with no new evidence; they were hanged, all largely because of mob pressure.

Enslavers controlled the volunteer state militias and often led them on expeditions against nearby Native Americans. Extralegal violence against Natives, suspected white collaborators, and abolitionists was commonplace and cyclical.[9] **Wikipedia**

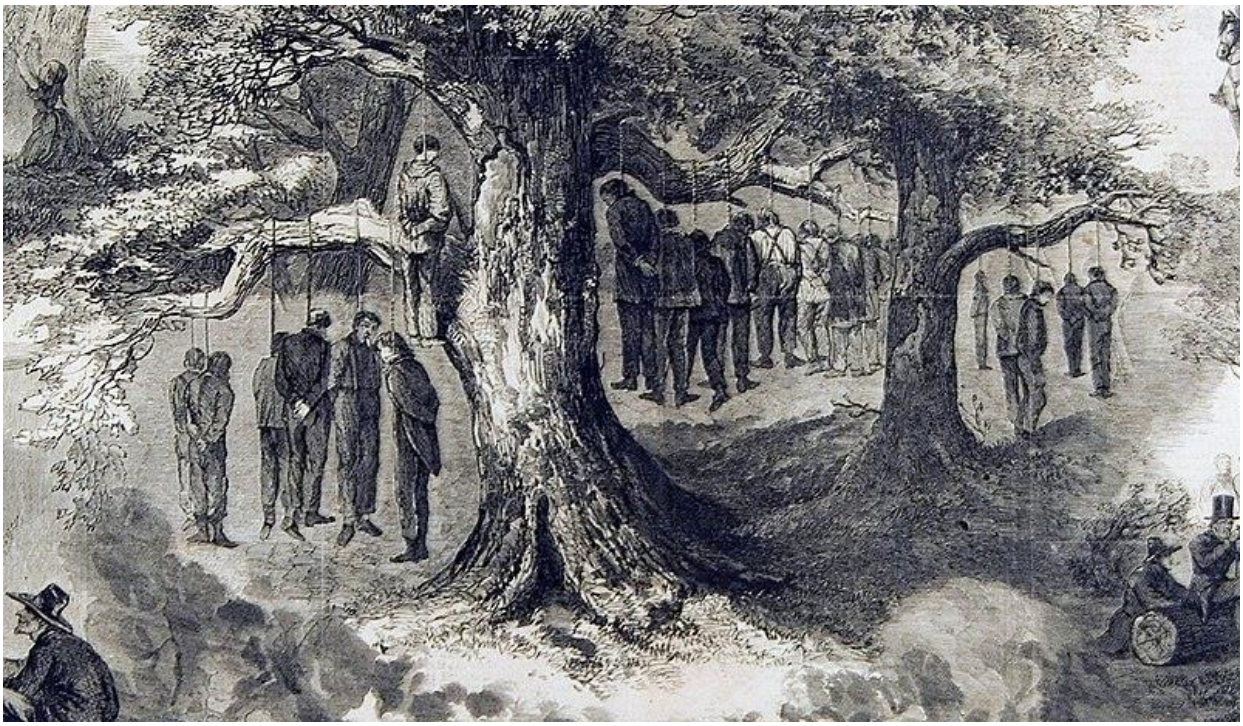


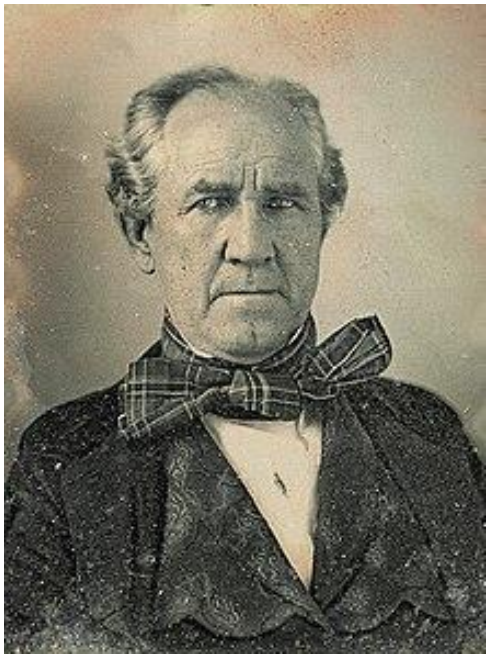
*Illustration from **Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper**, published, Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas, 20 February 1864.*

New arrivals in Texas were automatically suspected of being abolitionists. Fearful suspicions evolved into the lynching of three slaves and a Methodist minister in Dallas, and in hundreds of whippings. Many northern Texans were chased out of Texas by vigilantes.

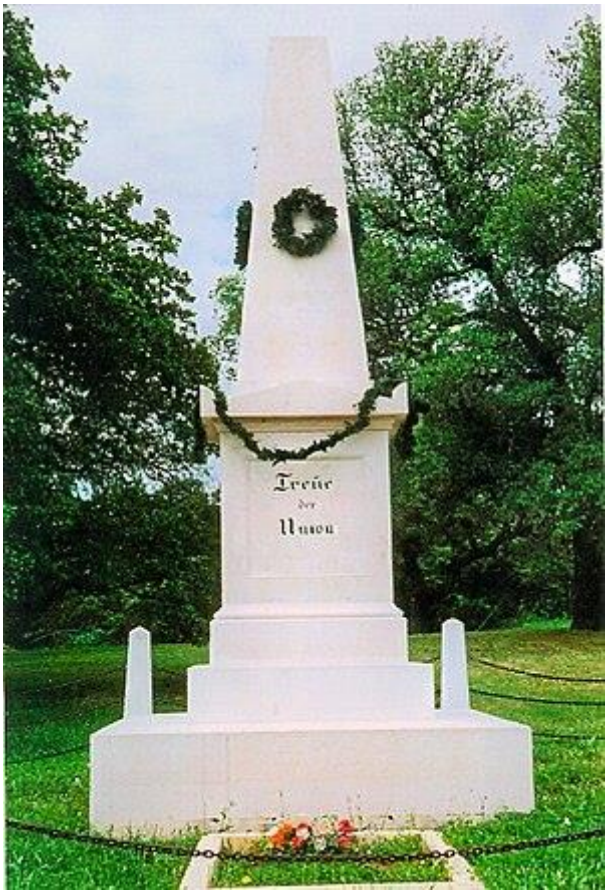
> *In the 1859 gubernatorial elections, 73% of Cooke County residents voted for Unionist Sam Houston. In North Texas, enslavers began holding secessionist rallies in late 1860, though the sentiment was not unanimous in Cooke County nor the governments of Texas and the United States. But, the January 1861 session of the Texas Legislature overwhelmingly voted in favor of secession.*
>
> *A referendum, marred with secessionist violence and intimidation, was held in February; 61% of Cooke County votes were for staying in the United States, making it one of 18 of 122 Texas counties to vote against secession.[12]*
>
> *Texas seceded from the United States on 4 March 1861. When Governor Sam Houston refused to pledge allegiance to the Confederate States of America, he was deposed. With secession, North Texans left the state by the hundreds for free soil.* Wikipedia

Governor of Texas, Sam Houston, left office with a warning:

"Let me tell you what is coming. After the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, you may win Southern independence if God be not against you, but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of states rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche, and they will overwhelm the South."



It did not take a prophet to predict that the coming conflict would be one favoring the industrialized and populated North, but if the South had had a military genius such as Houston to lead them, it would have saved an estimated 620,000 lives--360,000 Union deaths and 258,000 Confederate —and an unmeasurable amount of human suffering.



>>>Nueces Massacre

The Nueces Massacre, also known as the Massacre on the Nueces, was a violent confrontation between Confederate soldiers and Texas Germans[5] on August 10, 1862, in Kinney County, Texas U.S. Many first-generation immigrants from Germany settled in Central Texas in a region known as the Hill Country. They tended to support the United States and were opposed to the institution of slavery. Because of these sentiments, the Confederate States of America imposed martial law on Central Texas. A group of Germans, fleeing from the Hill Country to Mexico and ***onward to U.S.-controlled New Orleans****, was confronted by a company of Confederate soldiers on the banks of the Nueces River. The ensuing German defeat represented an end to overt German resistance to Confederate governance in Texas, but it also fueled outrage among the German-Texan population.[6] Disputes over the confrontation and the efficacy of Confederate actions after the battle, according to historian Stanley McGowen, continue to plague the Hill Country into the 21st century.[7]* Wikipedia

LOUISIANA. Unlike other southern states where loyal U.S. citizens suffered and died in their struggle to retain a united government, Louisiana was a state with a powerful ally on the scene to protect its freedom fighters. General Benjamin Franklin Butler was a fierce nationalist whose victorious troops took control of the state early in 1862, the year Rebecca was born. His occupation forces provided law and order and protected Louisiana's patriots from the type of Confederate zealots who could be found roaming in local vigilante gangs, lynch mobs, and groups called home guard all over the rest of the South.

General Benjamin Franklin Butler

On his imposition of a social revolution in New Orleans, Butler wrote:

I saw the war was a war of the Aristocrats against the Middling men, of the rich against the poor, a war of the Landowner against the Laborer; that it was a struggle for the retention of powers in the hands of the few against the many,. . . I therefore felt no hesitation in taking the substance of the wealthy, who had caused the war, to feed the innocent poor, who had suffered by the war.

In all areas where they were given support, the Unionists of Louisiana fought back against the aristocratic secessionist regime, and were able to keep up the fight. After 1862 Louisiana was essentially a Federalist state.

War was especially hard on children, taking their fathers as it did, so Butler's efforts were a godsend to the Skippers. For a while, at least, with General Butler's policies in place, this family, living in a war-torn community in Louisiana may not have suffered the way widows and orphans suffered in other parts of the Confederacy. Then, General Butler got his marching orders to go east and help General Grant with Robert E. Lee, leaving Harriet Skipper to face a world of hurt in an uncertain future.

General Butler's image—along with that of Ulysses S. Grant--became one of the victims of the post-war historians who favored stories that aided and abetted the biased history of the leaders of Confederate states.

NORTH CAROLINA. Thirteen Madison County, North Carolina patriots were slaughtered in January of 1863 in a place called Shelton Laurel Valley. The killing was ordered by Confederate Lieutenant-Colonel James A. Keith at the height of the American Civil War. The event was called the Shelton Laurel Valley Massacre and enraged North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance. It was reported in newspapers as far away as Europe.

During the war, salt was guarded like the treasure it was. When the ladies of Madison County had gone without it as long as they could they stirred up an armed band of Madison County citizens who ransacked salt stores in Marshall and looted the home of a Confederate colonel. Twelve looters were killed, and several were captured. In spite of the local regiment losing nearly two-thirds of its original force from combat and desertion, troops were sent out, and they were ordered to target Union supporters.

Understanding the plight of mothers who couldn't feed their families, Brigadier General W.G.M. Davis said, "I think the attack on Marshall was gotten up to obtain salt, for want of which there is great suffering in the mountains. Plunder of other property followed as a matter of course."

A less understanding general dispatched his soldiers to the Shelton Laurel Valley in pursuit of the looters, a pursuit that turned into a frantic search for Union supporters. Armed locals fired on the men in grey and in the returning fire, Confederate soldiers killed eight men.

At the home of Bill Shelton, they encountered over fifty riflemen and took some captives. Realizing that the locals were unlikely to volunteer information, the Rebels rounded up several Shelton Laurel women and began torturing them to force them to give up their sons' and husbands' whereabouts. They hanged and whipped Mrs. Unus Riddle, a woman of eighty-five. They hanged Mary and Sarah Shelton by their necks until they were nearly dead. ***The Memphis Bulletin*** reported: "Old Mrs. Sallie Moore, seventy years of age, was whipped with hickory rods till the blood ran in streams down her back to the ground. … Martha White, an idiotic girl, was beaten and tied by the neck all day to a tree."

The soldiers burnt homes and slaughtered livestock. After fifteen Unionists were rounded up, they began marching the captives toward East Tennessee, which was under martial law at the time. However, two prisoners escaped, and the remaining thirteen were taken into the woods and shot. Among the executed were three boys and an elderly man.

When the war-weary soldiers hesitated to murder boys and an old man their commanding officer ordered, "Fire or you will take their place!" The soldiers killed all their captives.

FINDING THE LOST LEGACY OF
Private Silas Skipper and Harriet Owens, a Southern Unionist Couple

Rebecca's parents were insurgents in a dangerous land. Thanks to her post war reporting the actions of Silas and Harriet Owens Skipper, and their slaves, and the resistance of other white Southerners can be known. Thankfully, her version of what happened were handed down by her mother, Harriet Owens Skipper.

The problem of not recording or reporting truth in history is that a nation can't know itself unless it is true to itself, for good or bad. For whatever reason American historians chose to leave out the Unionist South and keep choosing to this day to ignore the good southern white people who fought against the Confederacy. The legacy of the Skippers begs academic circles to remember them in a better light.

Post War Louisiana

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Jim Crow laws were inflicted on the people of the Southern United States. Vomited up out of the hate-filled influence of former plantation masters, Daughters of the Confederacy, Ku Klux Klansmen, and white citizen cults--who were terrorizing black folks out of the rights the Civil War had won for them--Jim Crow laws were state and local laws that enforced racial segregation. Led by the unpunished and unrepentant plantation lords, racist groups of this ilk were re-writing Lost Cause causes as they went around placing concrete Confederate statues on every courthouse lawn in the South. They were preparing a place in which the movie "Birth of a Nation" could be shown--including at the White House and making a bed of shame for an entire area in which black men could be lynched by white men without any repercussion.

The rotting influence of racism carried out by these groups became a cover up for the mistakes of Robert E. Lee and provided a cushion for the crimes of his government to lie on.

After 1900 the losers of the Civil War and their racist heirs moved into the field they had plowed with their narrative of hate and began to sow their fabrications into contrived tales that grew like kudzu and smothered historical truths about black people and their allies for over one hundred and fifty years.

Their tales,

Were always told in the voice of a Southern sympathizer
Defended the Missouri border wars, 1850
Ignored the Fugitive Slave Act, 1850
Shielded Stephen A. Douglas and his Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854
Demonized abolitionist, John Brown, 1859
Overlooked the fact that Abraham Lincoln wasn't on southern ballots
Disregarded the racism of Fire-eaters at secessionist conventions
Left unheeded the heroes of Lee's Virginia who formed West Virginia
Omitted the war crimes and atrocities committed by the Confederacy

The lives of Union men and their partisan families were daily threatened by the tyranny of an increasingly vicious Confederacy. The malice and spite generated by the war the planters had craved for so long forced thousands and thousands of loyal United States citizens into resistance movements to become dissidents, saboteurs, assassins, and spies, to work underground and to seek refuge in swamps, forests, and mountainous caves all over the South. In Vicksburg, Mississippi, Confederate devotees dug out five hundred caves and hid out in them for a few weeks during General Grant's siege of the town—and their ordeal takes up pages, upon endless pages, of admiring text put out by admiring historians. On the other side, the loyal Unionist southerner had to stay out of sight for years, and many were hanged, murdered, thrown into dungeons and jails, and had their property confiscated, but their sacrifice is hardly a footnote to traditional American history. Silas Skipper left his hiding place on his plantation and enlisted in the 2nd Regiment, Louisiana Cavalry, Company G, early in 1864 and became one of the thousands and thousands of unsung and forgotten American freedom fighters who lived, and died, in the Civil War South.

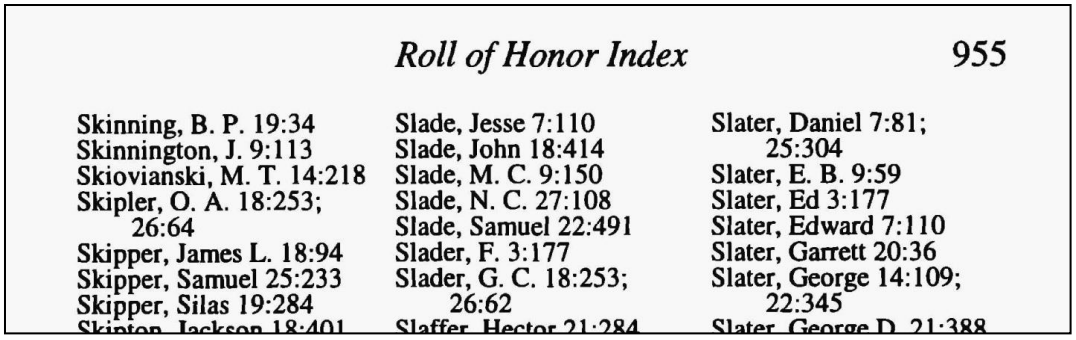
Under Siege: In 1863, Vicksburg, Mississippi, its people dug out five hundred caves to hide in for a few weeks.

The ownership of slaves went against the life his forefathers had lived since the time of the Haudenosaunee, on through the *Nottoway* years, during wartime, and throughout migration from state to state to state. Silas Skipper had no desire to own slaves. When the chance came for him to free his and to fight for their freedom, he took it. Soon after enlisting, he was killed.

For his actions, he, his wife, his family, and his former slaves had to face the wrath of the Confederacy. And, he was but one of 5,488 Union enlistees in Louisiana. Ignoring the anxiety they felt, white men, women, and children all over the south rose up in defiance of the Confederacy--an absent detail in American history books which only traditional historians can explain.

Baton Rouge National Cemetery

Name: Silas Skipper; Service Info.: PVT US ARMY CIVIL WAR; Death Date: 16 Jul 1864; Cemetery: Baton Rouge National Cemetery



Roll of Honor Index 955

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Buried as a hero and enlisted in the Roll of Honor in the National Cemetery at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, …that's how Rebecca and her family remembered him. Freedmen honored her father as well. Choosing their names, as did Skipper Native Americans when they became Anglicized more than two hundred years earlier, many of Silas Skipper's freedmen allies chose the name of Skipper for their own.

HARRIET OWENS SKIPPER AND DAUGHTER, REBECCA

Two Warnings

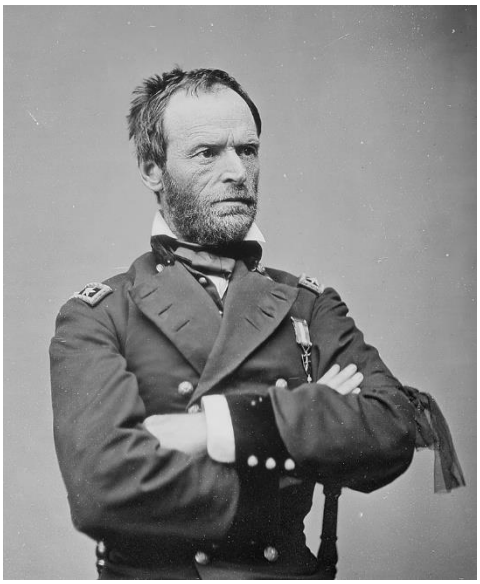
Luke 21:23--But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. **The Bible, King James Version (KJV)**

In January 1861, when William Tecumseh Sherman, the first President of Louisiana State University, was required to turn over the U.S. Arsenal at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he refused. He resigned his position at LSU and returned to the North, declaring to the governor of Louisiana, "On no earthly account will I do any act or think any thought hostile ... to the ... United States." He left with a warning that any true military genius ought to have recognized:

> *You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end. It is all folly, madness, a crime against civilization! You people speak so lightly of war; you don't know what you're talking about. War is a terrible thing! You mistake, too, the people of the North. They are a peaceable people but an earnest people, and they will fight, too. They are not going to let this country be destroyed without a mighty effort to save it... Besides, where are your men and appliances of war to contend against them? The North can*

make a steam engine, locomotive, or railway car; hardly a yard of cloth or pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical, and determined people on Earth—right at your doors. You are bound to fail. Only in your spirit and determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared, with a bad cause to start with. At first you will make headway, but as your limited resources begin to fail, shut out from the markets of Europe as you will be, your cause will begin to wane. If your people will but stop and think, they must see in the end that you will surely fail.

William Tecumseh Sherman, on South Carolina's secession from the United States



William Tecumseh Sherman

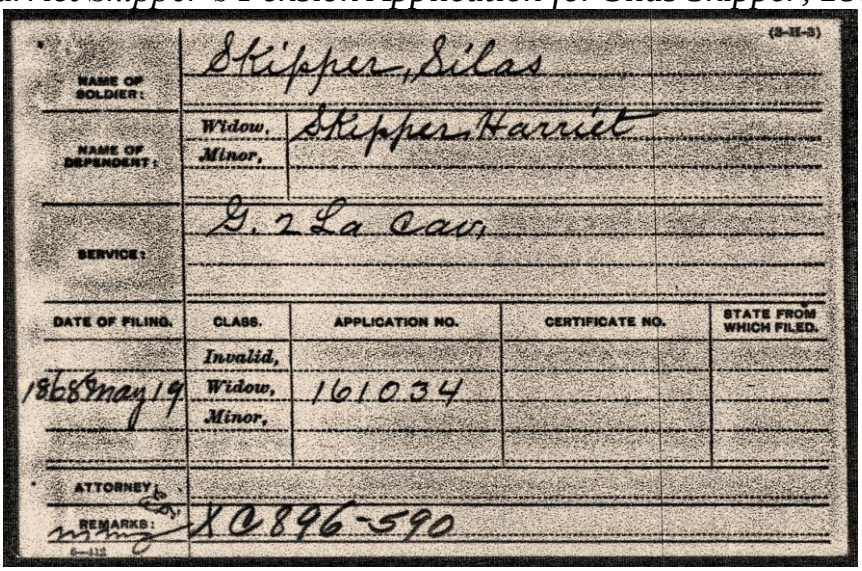
Photograph by Mathew Brady of Sherman in Washington, D.C., in May 1865. The black ribbon of mourning on his left arm is for President Abraham Lincoln.

Wikipedia

When the South left the Union, each state left with all the rights and liberties of their citizens in hand, but within a year they were being drafted, over-taxed, and their basic freedoms suppressed. After four years of fighting, the home-life and very existence of southerners were ruined, and the planters no longer had their slaves in chains. The war they contrived out of their greed, lust, and fear cost over a million men their arms, legs, faces, or lives. Millions of children were left with fathers who were mutilated beyond recognition, crippled beyond rehabilitation, unable to hear small voices, powerless to hold a little hand, and blinded to a child's growth into adulthood; and, some children were left with no father at all.

With seven fatherless children to care for, in 1868 Harriet applied for the pension that was due her family--Martha J. Skipper, 1848; Mary A Skipper, 1849; John Wesley. Skipper, 1854; Elizabeth Sarah Skipper, 1857; Harriett Malinda Skipper, 1859; Rebecca Skipper, 1862; Silas Ann Skipper, 1864. In the hard years to come, the family would need every cent.

Harriet Skipper's Pension Application for Silas Skipper, 1868



(3-12-3)

NAME OF SOLDIER: Skipper, Silas

NAME OF DEPENDENT: Widow, Skipper, Harriet
Minor,

SERVICE: G. 2 La Cav.

DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
	Invalid,			
1868 May 19	Widow,	161034		
	Minor,			

ATTORNEY:

REMARKS: X0896-590

6—115

Conditions kept getting worse in the post war era. As soldiers returned to their burned-out farms and their suffering families, the unrepentant planters aggressively continued their war within the defeated CSA. The entire South was a burnt-out war zone that unfortunately held open a gate for the planters--without their black slaves--to slip through and begin enslaving everyone. Cotton was still king, and most everyone who had a hand old enough to pick it, began doing so.

Soon blacks and whites, young and old, were sharecropping the fields of former slaveholders, working for wages they owed to the company store that was owned by the planters. Harriet's brood would serve time in their fluffy white fields that lined the Mississippi River. Her descendants for the next two generations, young and old, were cotton pickers all the way to Texas.

Former Slaves and Former Masters

When the war was over, remembering General Butler's acts against them, it didn't take long for unrepentant and unpunished planters to move back in, seeking revenge. With her father dead, with no one to protect them, Rebecca and her family faced violent reprisals from former slaveowners and angry whites who stirred up the mob against dissident white people, unfaithful Confederates, and freedmen. The planters couldn't get back their slaves, but they could make them pay, starting with a massacre in New Orleans.

"The Massacre at New Orleans"__ 1866 Political Cartoonist, Thomas Nast United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division

> ***The New Orleans Massacre of 1866 occurred on July 30, when a peaceful demonstration of mostly Black Freedmen was set upon by a mob of white rioters, many of whom had been soldiers of the recently defeated Confederate States of America, leading to a full-scale massacre.*** **Wikipedia**

Ten years later, Congressman Butler continued to campaign for civil rights for all, expanding his list to include women's suffrage. Butler's biographer Hans L. Trefousse writes, . . . *he deserves recognition as a*

persistent critic of southern terrorism and is one of the chief authors of the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

The ghost of Butler's lonely voice whispered in and around the solitude of a political wilderness for another forty-five years relating to women's suffrage, and until 1964 for justice for blacks—a whisper that hasn't been heard till yet in some of the Divided States of America.

On his way to Congress in the fall of 1866, Butler began aiding and abetting the promotion of the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. Johnson was charged with seven offences, three of which involved the massacre at New Orleans:

> **** "Corruptly abusing the constitutional power of pardons" with his pardons for ex-Confederates.***
> **** "Knowingly and willfully neglecting and refusing to carry out the constitutional laws of Congress" in the former Confederate states, "in order to encourage men lately into rebellion and in arms against the United States to the oppression and injury of the loyal true citizens of such States"***
> **** "Unlawfully, corruptly, and wickedly confederating and conspiring with one John T. Monroe...and other evil disposed persons, traitors, and Rebels" in the New Orleans massacre of 1866.***

By 1874 the planters had their racist policies well in hand, and Butler's efforts to preserve the civil rights of freedmen and their supporters made little difference for another hundred years.

More Post War Louisiana

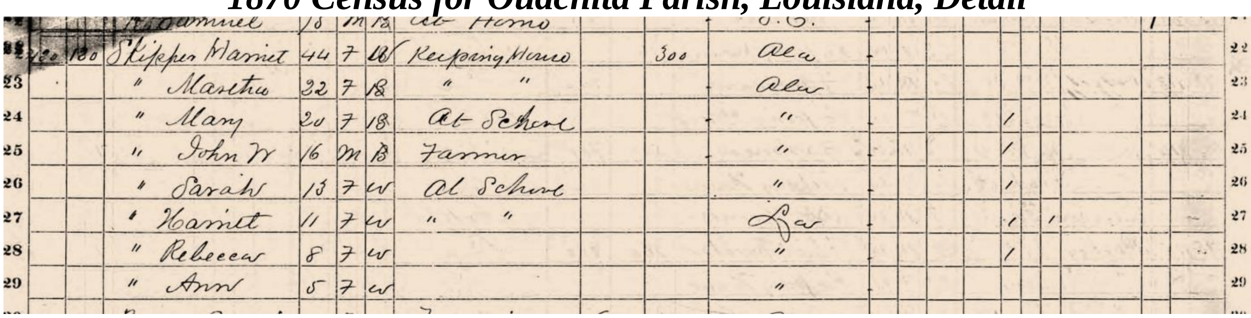
Just as General Butler had warned, the unpunished and unrepentant planter class consolidated its power and began hatching out in secret, terroristic sects. Madder than ever, white citizen groups of a later age had their genesis in the aftermath madness of the Civil War. Throwbacks to the 1776 Tories, like a disease, these criminals were still wriggling and writhing in the southern heat, and they continued to suck the life out of the idea that all men were created with equal rights. Followers of Robert E. Lee who didn't want to admit he had been whipped began putting a virtuous spin on the Confederacy, its leaders, and their part in the Civil War. Using their racist propaganda, they contrived a history that lasted and beat back every effort of the black man to prove his equality until 1965.

General Grant was elected President in 1868, and he was known and loved all over the world—except in the ruins of southern plantations—but even the celebrated reputation of a man so revered was no match for the "Lost Cause" rhetoric that came after him. The children of Silas Skipper grew up in a world that was far removed from the kind of nation for which their father and his brothers in arms had fought and died.

Saddest of all, the federal policy of "malice toward none and charity for all" at the end of the war allowed patriotic Unionists of the South to be pushed aside, and while its national heroes were treated to well-deserved parades, these victory revelries would begin to seem meaningless to freedmen and their friends when evil slave owners were allowed to take back their lands and regain most of their odious way of life. While national heroes were treated to celebrations they rightly deserved, the mockery of the war by CSA apologists tolerated patriotic Unionists of the South being pushed aside and even maligned, forever.

During his time, General Butler worked tirelessly for civil rights legislation to help control the racist regimes of the former slave holders, but short of another war, there was little he or even President Grant could do to control the disease of so much hate. These were dangerous times for black people and their friends. In this harsh atmosphere Harriet and her children were driven out of Louisiana by 1874.

1870 Census for Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, Detail



22	180	180	Skipper Harriet	44	F	W	Keeping House	300	Ala
23			" Martha	32	F	W	" "		Ala
24			" Mary	20	F	W	At School		"
25			" John W	16	M	W	Farmer		"
26			" Sarah	13	F	W	At School		"
27			" Harriet	11	F	W	" "		La
28			" Rebecca	8	F	W			"
29			" Ann	5	F	W			"

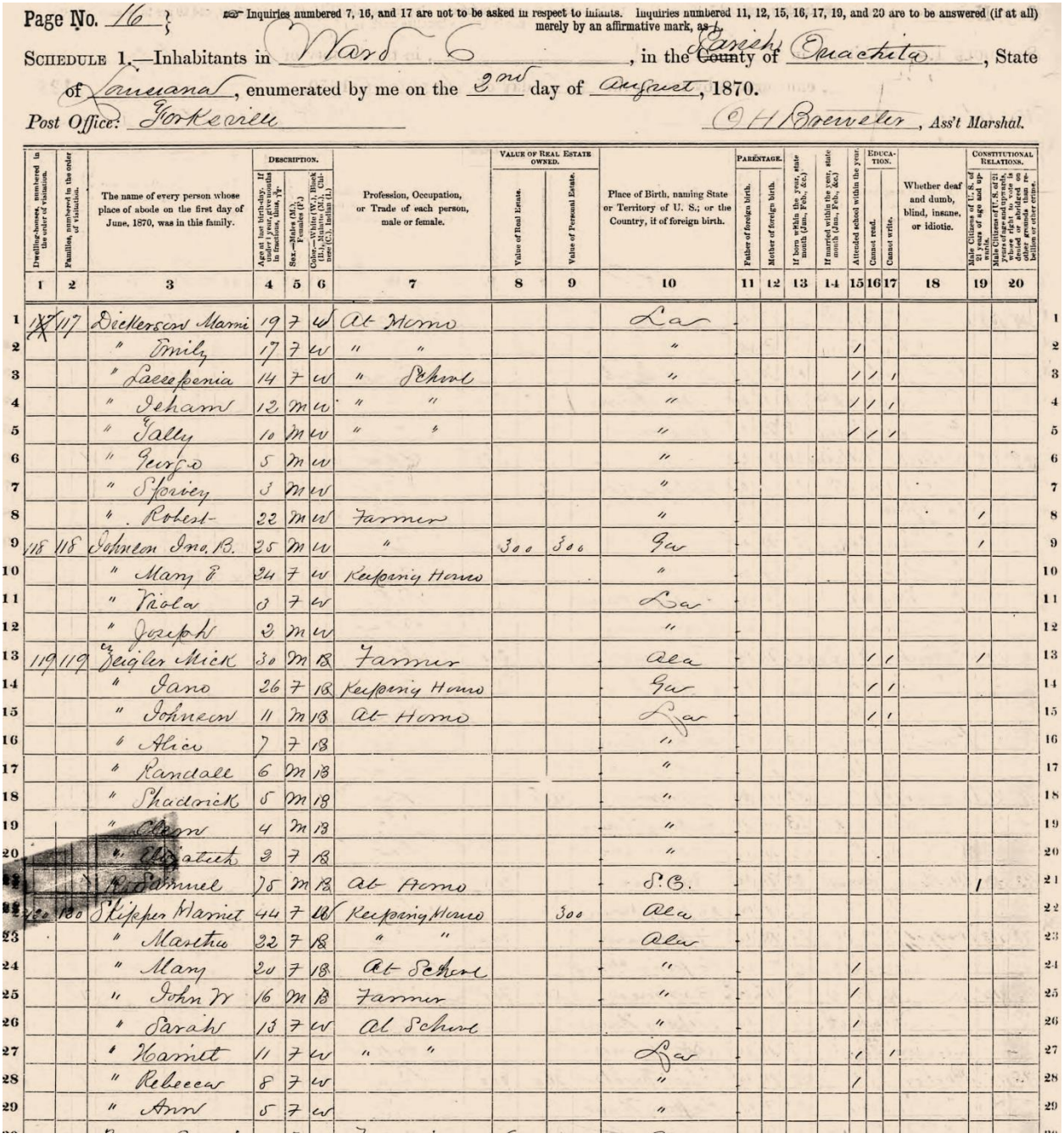
Rebecca at eight.

Image of mobs rioting entitled "The Louisiana Outrage." White Leaguers at Liberty Place attacked the integrated police and state militia, in New Orleans, September 1874. Published, 1874. **Wikipedia**

In 1870 Rebecca M. Skipper was eight years old. Ten years after the death of her father, her besieged mother took the Skipper children off their former plantation and escaped Ouachita Parish. Sometime after 1874, Harriet moved her family to Rankin, Mississippi to sharecrop in the delta for their very life. On the next census John Wesley was listed as the head of the family. Since, it is believed, Martha J. eventually returned to Louisiana, it is known that the family managed to stay linked to Ouachita Parish.

From Louisiana, to a stint in Mississippi, and finally settling into Texas, Rebecca Skipper would spend her younger years in seasonal migrations, with her own children eventually working similar fields of the nation's enemy—the fields of former slave owners and their wealthy heirs. Some of their fields were once battlegrounds that were soaked in the blood of soldiers like her father.

Her 1870 United States was a whole new kind of country.



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☞ Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as ✓.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Ward 6, in the ~~County~~ Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, enumerated by me on the 2nd day of August, 1870.

Post Office: Yorkeville — O H Brewster, Ass't Marshal.

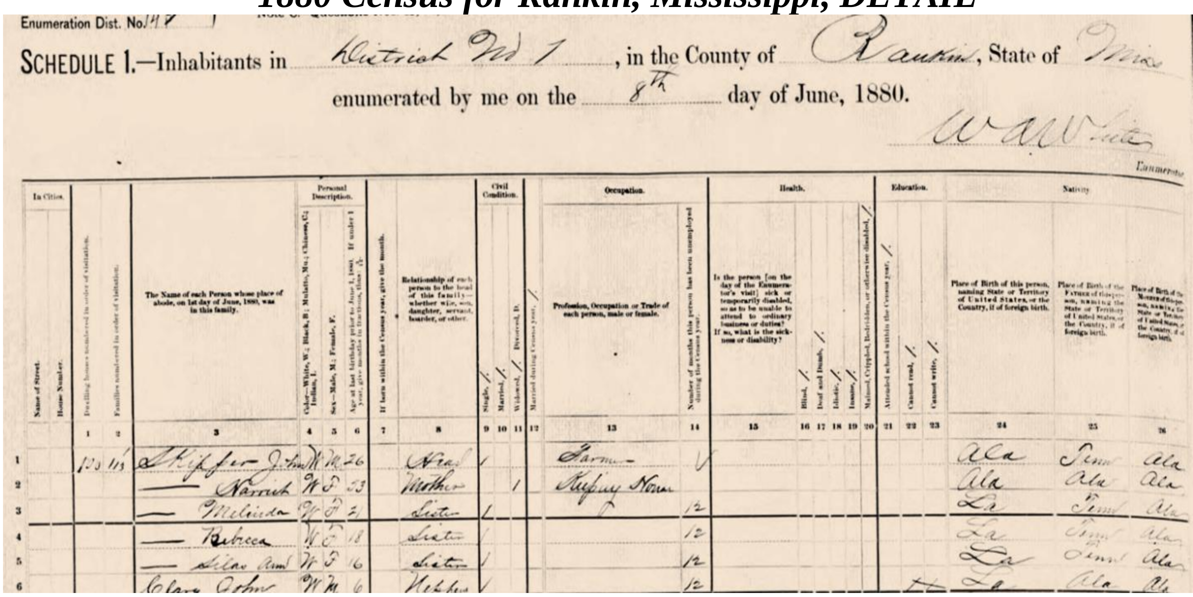
Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION. Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give months in fractions.	Sex.	Color—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	PARENTAGE. Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	EDUCATION. Attended school within the year.	Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	117	Dickerson Mami	19	F	W	At Home			La										
2		" Emily	17	F	W	" "			"					✓					
3		" Lacesfenia	14	F	W	" School			"					✓	✓	✓			
4		" Jehams	12	M	W	" "			"					✓	✓	✓			
5		" Sally	10	M	W	" "			"					✓	✓	✓			
6		" Jerso	5	M	W				"										
7		" Sforiey	3	M	W				"										
8		" Robert	22	M	W	Farmer			"									✓	
9	118	118 Johnson Jno. B.	25	M	W	"	300	300	Ga									✓	
10		" Mary E	24	F	W	Keeping House			"										
11		" Viola	3	F	W				La										
12		" Joseph	2	M	W				"										
13	119	119 Seigler Mick	30	M	B	Farmer			Ala					✓	✓			✓	
14		" Jane	26	F	B	Keeping House			Ga					✓	✓				
15		" Johnson	11	M	B	At Home			La					✓	✓				
16		" Alice	7	F	B				"										
17		" Randall	6	M	B				"										
18		" Shadrick	5	M	B				"										
19		" Clem	4	M	B				"										
20		" Elizabeth	2	F	B				"										
21		Samuel	75	M	B	At Home			S.C.									✓	
22	120	120 Skipper Harriet	44	F	W	Keeping House		300	Ala										
23		" Martha	32	F	B	" "			Ala										
24		" Mary	20	F	B	At School			"					✓					
25		" John W	16	M	B	Farmer			"					✓					
26		" Sarah	13	F	W	At School			"					✓					
27		" Harriet	11	F	W	" "			La					✓		✓			
28		" Rebecca	8	F	W				"					✓					
29		" Ann	5	F	W				"										

1870 Census for Ouachita Parish, Louisiana

While Ouachita Parish was still the family home in 1870, sixteen-year-old John W. farmed an estate that was now worth a total of only $300. Most of the family could read and write, and everyone between the ages of eight and twenty—no matter what--went to school. Showing signs of a learning difficulty that may have become a lifelong problem, eleven-year-old Harriet Malinda could not write. Never married, she was to spend most of her adult life in the home of her baby sister, Silas Ann. After tending to Harriet Malinda for a lifetime, Silas Ann would mark her eccentric sibling's grave with a simple, but poignant, epithet; "SISTER."

"SISTER," Headstone of Harriet Malinda

1880 Census for Rankin, Mississippi, DETAIL



Enumeration Dist. No. 147

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in District No 1, in the County of Rankin, State of Miss enumerated by me on the 8th day of June, 1880.

W A White, Enumerator

Line	Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Color	Sex	Age	Relationship	Single	Married	Widowed	Occupation	Months unemployed	Place of Birth	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
1	120	113	Skipper John	W	M	26	Head	/			Farmer	V	Ala	Tenn	Ala
2			— Harriet	W	F	53	Mother			/	Keeping House		Ala	Ala	Ala
3			— Melinda	W	F	21	Sister	/				12	La	Tenn	Ala
4			— Rebecca	W	F	18	Sister	/				12	La	Tenn	Ala
5			— Silas Ann	W	F	16	Sister	/				12	La	Tenn	Ala
6			Clary John	W	M	6	Nephew	/				12	La	Ala	Ala

Rebecca was now eighteen.

1880 Steen, Rankin, Mississippi

Following the family's flight from Louisiana, when Harriet took refuge in Rankin County, Mississippi, in the town of Steen, Harriet found a home for four of her children and two grandchildren. They owned nothing, so they share-cropped, picking cotton. In this reduced condition “they owed their souls to the company store,” as did most southerners in those troubled times.

However, their family was fortunate to be among the most literate in the area—a tradition that Rebecca would hold up for her own generation of cotton-picking children.

Harriet’s oldest daughter, Martha J., lived in Steen, but she lived with her very own new family. Perhaps it was she who opened a path for her mother into Mississippi. Earlier, sometime before 1874 Martha J. had married and got separated from a man named William Madison before leaving Louisiana. She had a child from this marriage whose name was John Madison, and he was staying with his grandmother Harriet in 1880 Mississippi. Back in 1879, when there was still a shortage of males of marrying age, caused by the war, she had married her younger cousin, John William Skipper, and they had a baby son named *Silus*. Once more a Skipper, Martha J’s second family returned to Ouachita Parish where she died in 1912.

The Death of Harriet Skipper

Harriet Skipper
1890 Headstone
Hunt County, Texas

Sometime after the 1880 census was taken, Rebecca’s mother moved her and two of her youngest daughters to Hunt County, Texas. Perhaps they had heard picking Texas cotton had become more lucrative than picking cotton in Mississippi.

Shortly after their move, the brave and noble Harriet Owens Skipper died December 16, 1890 in Hunt County, Texas. Rebecca was still a teenager, as was her youngest sister, Silas Ann. Their sister Harriet Malinda was a little older, but seemingly in need of someone to watch over her. Sadly, the three young girls, their brother, and older sisters were now left without the bold and unconquerable guiding hand of their mother.

REBECCA'S TREK AROUND NORTHEAST TEXAS

In 1889 Texas, Rebecca had met and married Richard Calhoun McFadden. Even at twenty-eight, she was ten to fifteen years younger than her new husband. They were married in Collin County, a neighboring county next to Hunt County. It was his second marriage. There is no further record here of Mary A. or Elizabeth Sarah and none for John Wesley after their mother's death. Their sister Harriett Malinda never married and was living with Silas Ann at least till the 1920 census. She died while on furlough from a Texas state hospital in1926. Other, more tragic records, turn the pages of Silas Ann's biography. Silas Ann married Barton Bush and died in Texas in 1939. She and a son were brutally murdered in Harris County by another son who had become insane.

With the death of Harriet Malinda in 1926 and the unknown whereabouts of John Wesley, this branch of the Skipper family bearing Chief George Skipper's name came to an end.

Collin County, Texas Map

When Rebecca Skipper became a McFadden she was living in Texas. Here, cornered in Texas, she would spend the rest of her life, trying to make a steady home for her migrant family.

1889 Texas Marriage Record, Collin County, Texas

R.C. McFadden
Spouse: Rebecca Skipper
Spouse Gender: Female
Marriage Date:1889
Marriage Place: Collin, Texas

Main Street, Cleburne, Texas, 1910

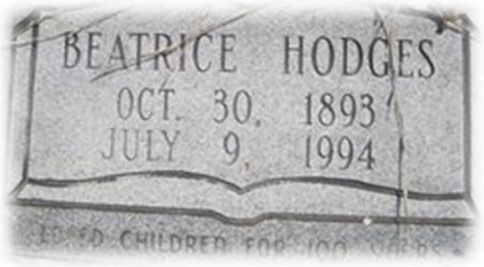
Following her wedding, Rebecca began her new family south of Collin and Hunt Counties. In one of many, many moves to come the couple took up residence in Johnson County. In June of 1890 Rebecca's first child, Bessie Malinda McFadden, was born there near the town of Cleburne. Bessie Malinda was born six months before the death of her grandmother.

Johnson County, Texas Map

Never again to leave northeast Texas, two years after Bessie, a son was born in Fannin County. Rebecca named her son, Richard Silas for her husband and for the father the Civil War took from her. Before he was twenty years old, young Richard Silas died. He is buried in Savoy, Fannin County.

Fannin County, Texas Map

October 30, 1893, a daughter, Beatrice Rebecca was also born in Fannin. During her younger years she was known as an "Old Maid" schoolteacher who taught several of her nieces and nephews at the Bloomfield school in Cooke County. Called Aunt Biddie, although there is no record of a marriage, a husband, or any children, her signature on her mother's death certificate, her headstone and her Social Security Record say Beatrice Rebecca was married.



When she died in 1994, Beatrice still lived in Fannin County. She was just three months shy of her 101st birthday.

Beatrice McFadden's Bloomfield School, Then and Now

Pictured: 1. 1930's Annie Mae McFadden on steps. 2. 2016 Classroom reenactment. 3.1930's Class

4. Pictured on a 2016 Field Trip, An Indirect Descendant of Rebecca Skipper.

By the time she was thirty-eight Rebecca and her family of four daughters and one son lived in Kaufman, Texas where, August 2, 1896 Annie Mae McFadden (pictured, right) was born. Their residence was still Kaufman in 1899 when her next daughter, Vallie, was born.

Kaufman County, Texas Map

1900 Kaufman County, Texas Federal Census

Name: Rebecca Mc Fadden
Age: 38, Birth Date: May 1862
Birthplace: Louisiana
Home in 1900: Prairieville, Kaufman, Texas
Spouse's Name: Richard McFadden
Marriage Year: 1889; Years Married: 11
Mother: number of living children: 5
Mother: How many children: 5
Name/Age
Richard McFadden 50
Rebecca McFadden 38
Bessie McFadden 9
Richard McFadden 8
Biddie McFadden 6
Annie M McFadden 3
Vallie E McFadden 1

Ten years later the census taker found Rebecca Skipper McFadden back in Collin County. Daughter Kate (pictured right) had been born eight years earlier while the family was living somewhere between Kaufman and Collin. They were renters and the circuitous migration of this family tells the story of how they were migrant farmers following seasonal crops of cotton, grain, vegetables, and hay. Even the girls, except for eight-year-old Kate, were listed as farm workers.

1910 Collin County, Texas Federal Census

Name: Rebecca M Mc Fadden
Age in 1910: 47
Birth Year: abt 1863
Birthplace: Louisiana
Home in 1910: Justice Pct 1, Collin, Texas
Marital Status: Married
Spouse's Name: Richard C McFadden
Able to Read: Yes
Able to Write: Yes
Years Married: 20
Number of Children Born: 6
Number of Children Living: 6
Family:
Richard Calhoun McFadden 63
Rebecca M McFadden 47
Bessie M McFadden 19
Richard Silas McFadden 18
Beadie Rebecca McFadden 16
Annie Mae McFadden 13
Vallie Elizabeth McFadden 11
Katy Belle McFadden 8

Wherever they moved—from Cleburne in Central Texas, and round and round several counties up in the Northeast corner of the state--there was a cotton gin nearby. The Carlton, Texas gin was near the birth place of Cleburne-born Bessie Malinda.

Carlton, Hamilton County, Texas

While Rebecca raised all of her six children out of childhood, in 1913 Richard Silas, her only son, died February 27. He died while the family was living in Savoy, Fannin County and is buried in Sunnyside Cemetery. He was twenty-one years old.

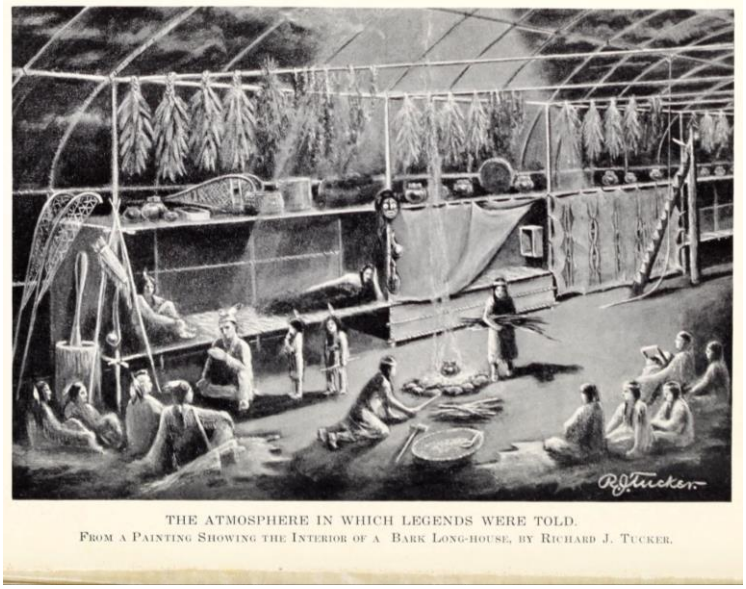
For Rebecca, Savoy would be home for the rest of her life. When the Fannin County census taker came to the McFadden home in 1920, the McFaddens were no longer renters. With two daughters still at home, she and her seventy-three-year-old farmer husband owned a home with a mortgage. They were a family who valued literacy, and Beatrice Rebecca, twenty-four and unmarried and still at home, was a public school teacher. Rebecca's other daughters had married and left home; Annie Mae, at eighteen, had married Herbert Sitzes. The daughter of Annie Mae and Herbert, Flossie Marie, born in 1918 would become a student in her Aunt Beatrice Rebecca McFadden's Bloomfield, Cooke County classroom.

1920 Fannin, Texas, Federal Census

R M Mcfadden, Age: 57
Birth Year: abt 1863; Birthplace: Louisiana
Home in 1920: Savoy, Fannin, Texas
Spouse's Name: R C Mcfadden
Able to Read: Yes
Able to Write: Yes
Household Members:
R C Mcfadden 73
R M Mcfadden 57
Beatrice Mcfadden 24
Katy Belle Mcfadden 17

From Longhouse to a 1920 House with a Mortgage

In between the Longhouse tradition of Chief George Skipper and the mortgage of his great-great granddaughter was a plantation in Louisiana and the rent houses of the cotton pickers. Everywhere, snowy white plants colored the landscape, even in the front yard of migrant shanties, where, instead of playing, Rebecca's children worked for King Cotton.



THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH LEGENDS WERE TOLD.
FROM A PAINTING SHOWING THE INTERIOR OF A BARK LONG-HOUSE, BY RICHARD J. TUCKER.

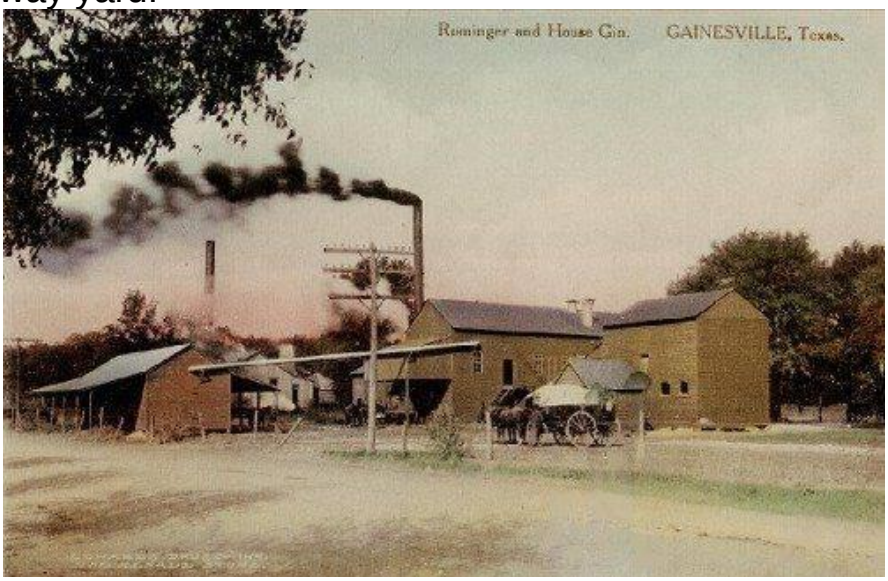
Richard J. Tucker , 1876 – 1956, Original publication: Seneca Myths And Folk Tales: https://archive.org/details/senecamythsfolkt00park

King Cotton

After leaving Louisiana, then toiling in Mississippi, and finally, living in Texas, Rebecca would spend forty to fifty years in seasonal migrations, working the fields. Eventually, the small hands of her barefoot children and many of her grandchildren planted cotton seeds, picked cotton, and pulled bolls in someone else's fields. The descendants of freed blacks for whom the parents of Rebecca sacrificed their lives and fortune labored under the menacing eyes of guards armed with guns and dogs.

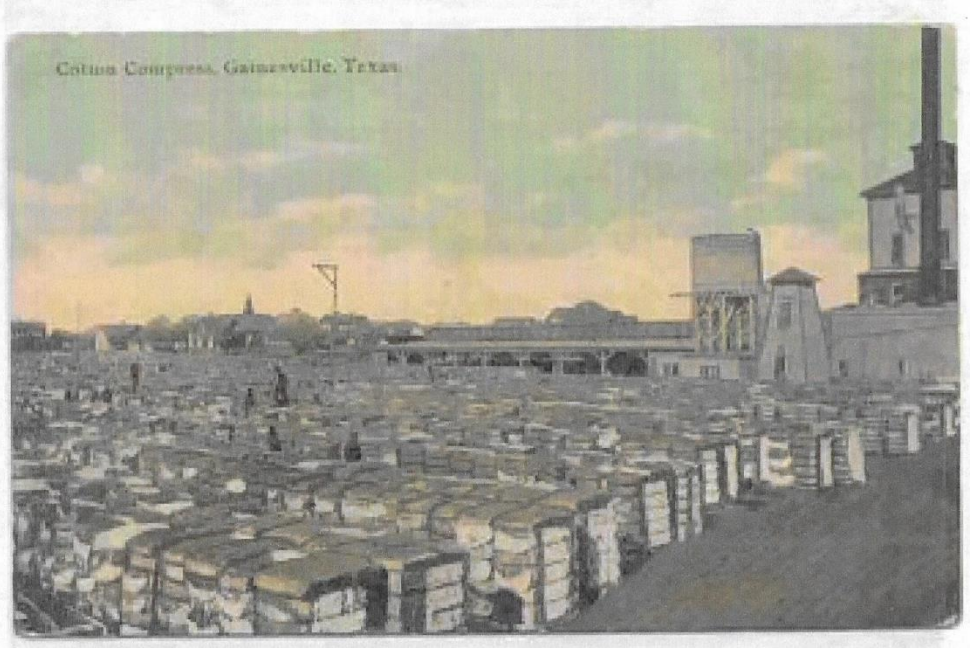
Wagon loads of cotton bales waiting at Sherman, Grayson County, Texas market

A world of granaries, mills, and gins grew up around the Gainesville, Cooke County railway yard.



Reminger and House Gin at Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas

Cotton compress, Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas.



At the old cotton gin on Dixon Street in Gainesville, near the rail yard, bales of ginned cotton awaited trains. Even today, aged descendants of the cotton pickers remember stories their mamas told about the cotton bales, especially. As kids they played in the evening till after dark on the rows of bales they had helped bring in under the blistering Texas sun.

Cotton was not the only crop brought in by young hands. Hay and grain crops were harvested by the ton with the help of teenagers. Hay fed the farmer's livestock; grain was ground into flour and meal at the granary. At Gainesville, freshly ground grain was bagged for rail shipment, but some was sent out to grocery stores and to as many as a half dozen local bakeries. The heavenly aroma of fresh baked bread fanned through Gainesville streets all the day long, thanks to the Whaley Mill and Elevator Company (pictured below), and of course, the farm workers.

More on King Cotton. . .

The Early History of Decorative Feedsacks

Cloth sacks for feed started to be produced in the mid-19th century, following the development of industrial sewing machines that were capable of producing strong seams that did not burst open when the sacks were filled or being transported. During the latter half of the 19th century, these sacks were often made of linen or burlap. Later on, cotton sacks became popular.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries feedsacks were normally marked with the name of a mill or producer. Small farms required a few sacks per month, but bakers, chicken farmers and others could use hundreds. Sometimes the marked sacks were . . . given away to women to make into clothing (especially underwear) and household items, such as kitchen towels or the backing of bed quilts.

It was in the 1920's, however, that manufacturers realised the potential of the cloth sack decoration to promote sales, by persuading the farmer's wives to purchase specific brands.

The idea was patented in 1924, but it did not prevent cloth and bag manufacturers from producing cotton bags with a variety of attractive designs.

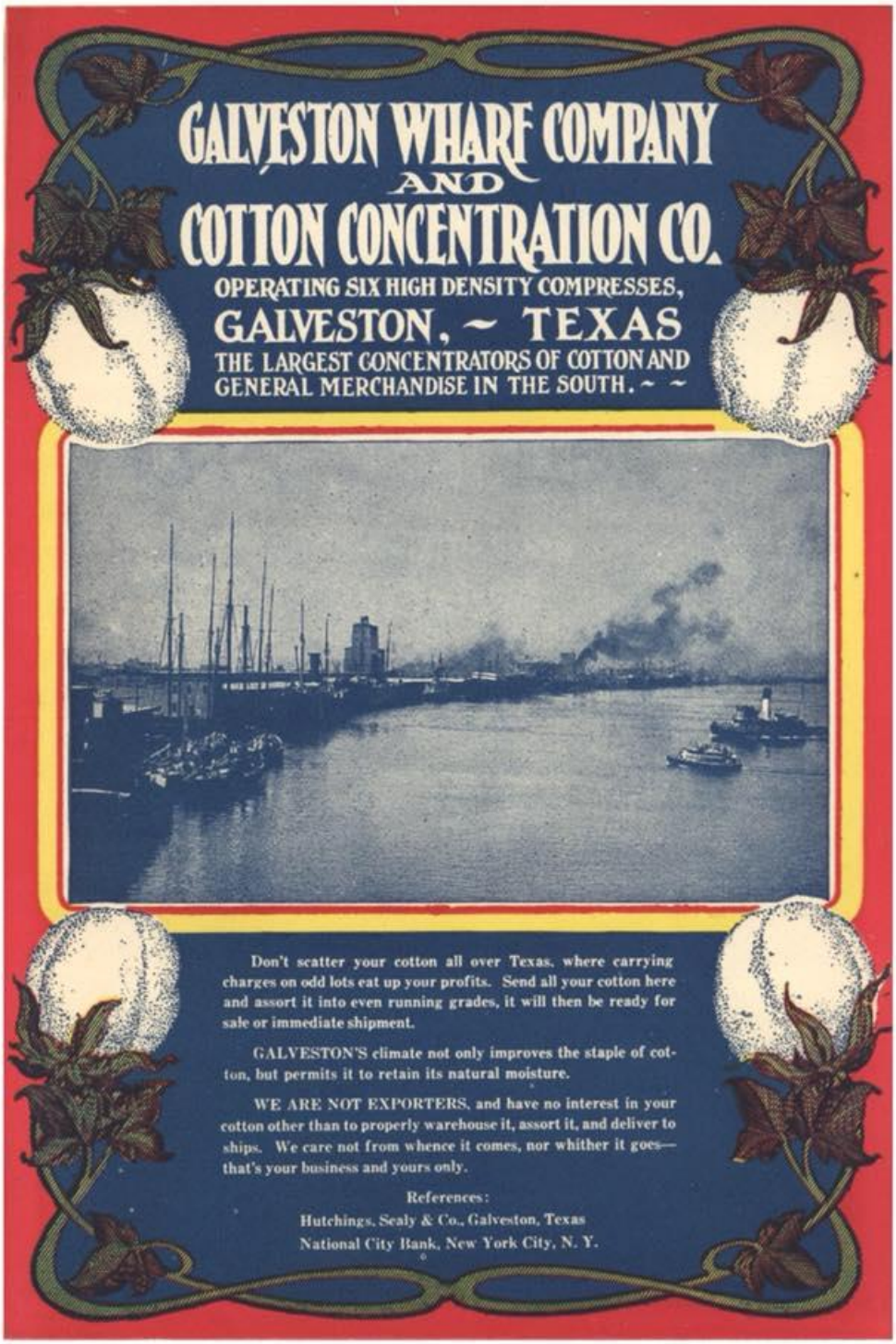
Various schools and institutes in America were set up to help train women and girls in household skills, included the teaching how to use feedsacks. One such establishment, The Household Science Institute. . . put out one of the first of a series of helpful booklets, called Sewing with Cotton Bags (c. 1929), which had a wide range of suggestions for how sacks could be used by the busy and inventive housewife.

https://trc-leiden.nl/trc-digital-exhibition/index.php/for-a-few-sacks-more/item/118-2-the-early-history-of-decorative-feedsacks

Floursack Dresses

A Couple Of Rebecca Skipper McFadden's Great-Granddaughters Wearing Floursack Dresses, c.1947

Pieces of lace and organdy were added to the course cotton material of flowered flour sacks, and pretty little dresses were pedaled out of the decorative iron of many a mother's Singer sewing machine.



Poster advertisement for Galveston Wharf Company that spread Texas cotton out to clothe the world.

The Last Skipper

The first Skipper in Rebecca's lineage was a Nottoway Indian named George who the Jamestown colonists found living in what they called, the Isle of Wight, Virginia. The area was NOT Virginia, their tribe was NOT the Nottoway, and George Skipper was NOT her ancestor's real name. They called the area, home, and their tribe was the Cheroenhaka, and George Skipper's real name is lost to British arrogance called Anglicization.

In her branch of George Skipper's family the Skipper name almost ended when she got married at the age of twenty-eight. That title was to go instead to a sixty-five-year-old unmarried sister. After moving her daughters out of Mississippi and into Texas, when the indomitable mother of the fatherless girls died December 16, 1890 in Hunt County, and with the disappearance of their brother John Wesley, this limb of the family tree bearing Chief George Skipper's name nearly came to an end early on. But, Harriet Malinda Skipper never married, and she died a Skipper.

In Texas, three years following the 1920 census, Richard Calhoun McFadden died, and Rebecca buried her husband in Savoy's Sunnyside Cemetery with their son. The death of her sister, Harriett Malinda, followed on March 6, 1926 in nearby Quinlan, Hunt County. Harriett Malinda was a spinster who lived most of her adult life with Sister Silas Ann's family. Hunt County set in between Kaufman, Collin, and Fannin counties, so the three youngest Skipper girls never strayed far from one another.

Rebecca lived for twelve years following the death of her husband. She died in Savoy where she is buried in Sunnyside Cemetery with her husband, her son, and other family members. For those twelve years she had plenty of time to reminisce and reflect. Though their story was never told in the nation's history books, Rebecca told it, and by becoming the family storyteller, the legacy of the undying spirit of her parents can live on and on and on.

The End