Yea, Alabama!

A Peek into the Past of One of the Most Storied Universities in the Nation

The University of Alabama

(Volume 1 - 1819 through 1871)

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By
David M. Battles

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Yea, Alabama: A Peek into the Past of One of the Most Storied Universities in the Nation:
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I would like to express my gratitude to a number of people who have helped to make this project a success. All the fine faculty at the University of Alabama American Studies program are to be thanked for the years of guidance and inspiration I received as a student in their department as I was completing my American Studies degrees. This book is dedicated to the UA American Studies Department. I also wish to thank the UA History department for their inspiration in early American history and early Southern history. The staffs of the Hoole Special Collections and the Natural Science departments at UA are thanked for invaluable assistance and for allowing me to peruse their collections for hours, days, and months at a time. They are also thanked for allowing so many of their treasures to be scanned and included as illustrations in this book. Clark Center is to be thanked for advice on the advance of the Union Army, while Steven Tomlinson must be thanked for sharing insight on Dr. Alva Woods. Clive Pyne is thanked for his creation of a thorough index for this volume.

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Much of the information in this book has been gleaned from previous historical works and analyses on the University of Alabama, including books, lectures, diaries, letters, and other miscellaneous correspondence from many people involved in some way with the University of Alabama. All are thanked and are named in the bibliography section of this volume; however, a few of the books need to be named here. First are the works of UA historian James Sellers, titled *History of the University of Alabama*, volumes one and two. Volume one, covering 1818 to 1902, was published in 1953. The other volume is a typed and bound document covering 1903 through the 1950s and is held in Hoole Special Collections at the University of Alabama. Suzanne Wolf's *The University of Alabama: A Pictorial History*, published in 1983, contains a wealth of rare photos and prints associated with the University of Alabama, as does Mary Chapman Mathews' book, *A Mansion's Memories* (updated and reissued in 2006 in celebration of the University's 175th anniversary). These books have been used extensively for research and publication purposes by researchers, publishers, and media for many years, and are referenced and otherwise utilized in this series. I thank these authors for their enduring contributions toward the historical preservation of the University of Alabama. I also thank the many other authors who have written articles and books whose subjects include or touch upon the history of the University. I apologize to anyone I have managed to omit from this list of important acknowledgments. Let it be said that I thank you also. Spencer Kyser is thanked for his contributions to the centrefold.

Note: James Sellers was one of UA's most distinguished faculty members. Because of his tireless research and scholarship, his name is intimately associated with UA history. I did not read Sellers's historical volumes until after I had written the first two drafts of this book, as I did not desire to be influenced by his prose and organization. If the reader discerns similarity in prose or organization in this book, please note that similarity in prose and organization is a hazard that sometimes occurs when two authors are writing of the same subject and timeline. Any similarity is unintentional, and deference is given to Mr. Sellers in any such occurrence(s).

PREFACE

Most colleges and universities have interesting characters and stories associated with their histories. The University of Alabama has an exceptionally colorful and fascinating history. From its conception in 1819 through today, the University of Alabama has exemplified the southern U.S. university. The young state of Alabama was part of the American wilderness in 1819 when the University was established. It was still a wilderness when the University of Alabama opened its doors in 1831.

The first students were sons of the early pioneers of the state, and as such, shared their parents' traits of individualism and socioeconomic superiority. The first two University of Alabama presidents, who were Baptist ministers, clearly did not understand this mind-set and its accompanying corollaries. Their definition of well-trained, studious, and *submissive* academic students conflicted tremendously with these southern boys' societal codes, which defined many of those associated with academia as socioeconomic inferiors. The presidents, the boards of trustees, and the faculty found themselves and their authority challenged over and over again when these young men believed that their southern codes were being violated or challenged.

Volume 1 of this comprehensive history of the University of Alabama covers the first several tempestuous decades through the Civil War years, when the students finally put their differences with administration aside to become one of a handful of Deep South military universities for the Confederacy. The volume concludes with the dawn of the 1870s when a Union-burned University was desperately attempting to rise from the ashes.

This series also considers the University of Alabama as something of an organic–psychological entity. The parts discern periods roughly parallel to the passages of a family wherein the offspring continually attempt to establish a favorable balance of power between themselves and their elders. The story is told in present tense so that the reader is observing history as it happens. For the same reason, personal quotes are utilized as much as possible. These two approaches are not commonly used in historical books; however the author believes that these techniques will enhance the story telling in this volume. Reminiscences of persons quoted in this volume may be in past tense, as most are direct quotes, so there may be some juxtaposition of tenses in such cases. Sections of analysis, thoughts, and synopsis [noted only as Analysis] are in standard tense.

The first five parts tell the story of the University's conception, infancy, childhood, and early adolescence. Subsequent parts concentrate on two special stories regarding the University's early years: one reveals the untold story of slavery and the University of Alabama; the other relates the fascinating story about a Tuscaloosa editor and the radical Alabama government, whose opposing philosophies and subsequent altercations very nearly thwarted efforts to reestablish the school. A final chapter makes a nominal comparison of the University of Alabama with two other early southern universities. Volume 2 of this series will examine the extended adolescence of the institution. Future volumes will analyze the years of maturation.

Two aspirations have guided the author in the writing of this series. One is that the volumes will be eminently useful for historical, scholarly, and popular research; the other is that the book will also serve as a pleasurable and informational read for the general public, including the legion of Tide fans. In deference to these two goals, the decision was made to present these volumes in chronological fashion so that the story will flow most smoothly for the reader.

For the benefit of genealogists, some biographical information on most persons named in this volume has been included. As many of the sources of this information are quite old, please bear in mind that some of the information might be inaccurate, but it is the most accurate the author could find.

*NOTE: The following words are capitalized throughout this book when they function as major characters within it, as they are usually capitalized in the journals and diaries of this period.

President
Faculty
Tutor
Board of Directors (and Board of Regents)
Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
Legislature and Legislator
Governor
University

PART I

CONCEPTION AND BIRTH

Most accounts date the beginning of the history of the University of Alabama on Monday, April 18, 1831, when the University opened its doors to fifty-two students, and subsequently mention that enrollment gradually increased over the next few weeks to swell the roll to a total of ninety-four students in attendance that first year.[1] However, in order to better appreciate the birth of this beloved and storied University, as well as its contributions to and effects on the world around it, the reader should also consider the circumstances under which the institution arose. It is necessary to consider the people who conceived the very idea and mission of the institution, as well as the people who affected the institution in various ways. Some of these people include the politicians who guided (and indeed, sometimes misguided) the conception and infancy years; the president, faculty, and trustees whose fingerprints would be indelibly inscribed upon the institution; and the students, people, and places whose traditions provide us a context with which to understand the institution. One should also consider the location of the institution, the time during which the institution was created, and the decades during which it matured.

Notes

[1] Many sources indicate that April 17 marked the first day of classes. However, as April 17 fell on a Sunday, it is highly unlikely that either the Board of Trustees or President Woods, a devout minister, would have allowed a Sunday opening of a secular institution.

CHAPTER ONE

WILDERNESS, TERRITORY, STATE…AND A TOWN

Analysis

The Mississippi Territory, which would later be divided into the Mississippi and Alabama Territories, was still a wilderness even in the early 1800s. Immigration to the region that would become the Alabama Territory [sometimes referred to as just Alabama] began in earnest after the Creek War, which started in 1813 and ended on August 9, 1814, when the Creek Nation surrendered to General Andrew Jackson and ceded all lands to the federal government.[1] However, as Albert Moore notes, Congress took so long in setting up legislation to grant the area territorial and statehood rights, including land ownership laws, that people "grew tired of waiting for land surveys and the adjustment of private claims" and began to move into the region where they "staked out their farms."[2]

People migrated to Alabama from the north via the Tennessee River and the east via the Chattahoochee River. These families, consisting mostly of Scots-Irish and English, migrated primarily from Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Virginia, all looking to begin a new life.[3]

Sarah Ann Haynsworth[4] notes that when her family moved to Alabama from South Carolina in 1810, roads were either nonexistent or "wild." Many Native Americans still lived and roamed throughout the region. While on their journey, Haynsworth's family was approached by Native Americans on numerous occasions, causing the family grave concern and prompting her father to begin sleeping with "arms under his head."[5]

Once these white migrants had found and staked out their land claims, they continually marveled at the vastness and sometimes intractability of the wilderness that stood before them, challenging them, and sometimes claiming lives before it would yield to these hardy pioneers. Even the richest planters found themselves reduced to clearing land of hundreds or thousands of trees, bushes, and stones before they could begin planting crops or building their homes.

As has been noted, many of these Alabama settlers hailed from Scots-Irish descent. Senator Jim Webb of Virginia, who recently published *Born Fighting*,[6] argues that these men, women, and children helped to shape the personality of the region. Webb suggests that Scots-Irish traits from this period[7] include individualism, intense family loyalty, a healthy distrust of authority and rules, and a propensity to own and use firearms. These traits clearly influenced the actions and attitudes of Alabama college students of early to mid-1800s.

During the decade before statehood, which occurred in 1819, the population of the Alabama Territory increased more than 1000 percent, growing to a total of 127,901. Many who migrated to Alabama were trying to escape the poor economies of the East. Others were attracted by inexpensive land and dreams of wealth tied to the high prices that could be had for raising cotton. Leah R. Atkins notes that while some of the early Alabamians were sons of wealthy planters in the East come to Alabama to seek their own fortunes, most of the frontiersmen were quite poor.[8]

Some of these early immigrants settled on the banks of the Warrior River, commonly known as the falls, in the western part of the region. One of the earliest maps of this area, which would come to be known as Tuscaloosa, was drafted in 1707 by French cartographer Guillaume DeLisle.[9]

DeLisle spelled the town name *Taskaloussas*. Thomas Owen speculates that Taskaloussas might have existed as a minor town or village in the Maubila [Native American] Confederacy as early as 1540. Ship captain Bossu[10] noted the town in one of his reports in 1759.[11] The next mention of the area is in 1809 when Ocechemotla, a Creek Native American, with the consent of the Choctaw Americans, reestablished the settlement "at the falls of the Warrior River." The Native American settlement, which became known as Black Warrior Town, was destroyed by Tennessee militia in 1813, led by General J. Coffee,[12] Davy Crockett, and 800 cavalrymen.[13]

There is general agreement that the first white settlers to build in the falls area arrived in 1815 or 1816 and named the area *Tuscaloosa* (or *Tuskaloosa*). In line with other early Alabama settlers, most Tuscaloosans of this era were of Scots-Irish and English descent.[14] The original settlers to Tuscaloosa are variously noted as John Wilson; Isaac Cannon; Thomas, John, and Jonathan York; Jesse Brown; John Dudgin; Joseph Thompson; Samson McCowan; and Zach, Joe, and Gabe Taylor.[15]

Later settlers included William Wilson, who built the first log house near the location where the state capitol would be built. Jonathan York was said to have built the first board shanty.[16] Other prominent early settlers included John King and the Lincecum family. In 1817, Joshua Halbert was said to have been the first white man to drive a farm wagon in Tuscaloosa. The first coroner was probably Dr. Jeptha V. Isbell; the first physician, likely Dr. Thomas Levell; and the first sheriff, likely Ebenezer Horton.[17] William R. Smith remembers Simon L. Perry as the first lawyer in Tuscaloosa in 1817. Physicians noted in 1821 included John Tindell, James Isbell, Samuel Meek, and William and John Owens. Many of these physicians were self-taught; one was a Methodist minister.

By this time, the Baptists and Methodists had already established churches in the area. Thomas Baines and Nathan Roberts organized Ebenezer Baptist (later called First Baptist) in 1818. In 1820, the Presbyterians had formed a church, and in 1828, an Episcopal church had been founded.[18] The first newspaper appears to have been established by Tom Davenport, although there is disagreement as to whether this first paper was the *Tuscaloosa Republican*, said to have been established in 1819, or the *American Mirror*, said to have been established in 1820.[19]

By most accounts, from 1816 to 1826, most of the early settlers lived in "dirty, small sod and mud cabins" that had leaky roofs, and which also had "rough boards on the ground" that served as floors. The population of the as yet unincorporated town of Tuscaloosa was only a few hundred in 1818. It had increased to 8,229 by 1820 and 13,646 by 1830 (by which time one-third of that population was African American).[20] James H. Dearing moved to Tuscaloosa in 1819 and built a log storehouse on Main Street. In 1827 he built a mansion, which is now known as the University Club, on University Boulevard and Queen City Boulevard.[21]

After several years of dragging its feet, the US Congress passed an act establishing the Alabama Territory on March 3, 1817, with St. Stephens "the most flourishing town" in the territory, as its seat of government until the Territorial Legislature deemed otherwise. President Monroe appointed Dr. William Wyatt of Georgia as Governor.[22] The first meeting of the Territorial Legislature was on January 19, 1818, in St. Stephens at the Douglas Hotel.[23] On February 6, 1818, the Territorial Legislature created the county of Tuscaloosa. This was modified a week later, as well as a year later, when the Legislature created more counties in West Alabama. The city of Tuscaloosa had been incorporated earlier by the Alabama Legislature on December 13, 1819.[24] What is now

known as Tuscaloosa County proper was fully realized by the Alabama Legislature on December 20, 1820.[25]

Notes

[1] Matthew William Clinton, *Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Its Early Days, 1816–1865* (Tuscaloosa, Ala: The Zonta Club, 1958), 65.
[2] Albert Burton Moore, *History of Alabama and Her People* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1927), 385.
[3] See Clinton, *Tuscaloosa*, 3 and Thomas McAdory Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*, vol. 2 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921), 1334–1335.
[4] Sarah Haynsworth was later married to Alabama Governor, John Gayle. Gayle was born September 11, 1792 in Sumter District, South Carolina. He graduated from South Carolina College in 1813 and moved to Alabama soon thereafter. Gayle was Alabama's seventh Governor, serving from 1833 through 1837. He was an avid supporter of the state bank, accessed March 19, 2011, http://www.archives.state.al.us/govs_list/g_gaylej.html.
[5] Both quotes are from Lucille Griffith, *History of Alabama: 1540–1900* (Northport, Ala.: Colonial Press, 1962), 191.
[6] See James Webb, *Born Fighting* (New York: Broadway, October 11, 2005).
[7] And indeed, today, one could argue.
[8] William Warren Rogers, et al., *Alabama: The History of A Deep South State* (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1994), 54–55.
[9] An alternate date for the making of this map might be 1718.
[10] Bossu was a French Captain of the Marines who visited the Louisiana area in 1751 and 1761. For more information, accessed March 11, 2011, see http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Louisiana/_Texts/LHQ/1/3/Bossu_Exceprts*.html.
[11] Information in this paragraph is from Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1334.
[12] "General John Coffee was a frontier merchant, a soldier, a promoter and a planter, who epitomized the type of dependable, public-spirited private citizen who contributed substantially to the development of Tennessee and North Alabama in the 19th century," accessed March 11, 2011, http://www.cba.ua.edu/alumni/hof/general-john-coffee.
[13] Quote is from *The Story of Alabama: A History of the State*, vol. 1 (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949), 203. Crockett returned to Tuscaloosa for a visit in 1815. A letter from August Zannelly to Dr. James A. Anderson, May 16, 1940, Hoole Special Collections, University of Alabama, notes that one of the soldiers, Colonel John McKee, liked the area so much that he returned in 1821 and registered his name for land sales.
[14] See Ben A. Green, *A History of Tuscaloosa, Alabama: 1816–1949* (University/Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Confederate Publishing Company, 1980), 3; and Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1334–1335.
[15] See "Factors in the Early History of Tuscaloosa, Alabama: 1816–1846," UA masters thesis by Morris R. Boucher, 1947; and Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1333.
[16] Marie Bankhead Owen, *The Story of Alabama: A History of the State*, vol. 1 (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949), 203.
[17] See Green, *Tuscaloosa*, 3, and Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1334–1335.
[18] See Boucher, "Factors," 28, 46, 64, 66, and 69.
[19] Ibid., 17, and Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1333.
[20] Quotes are, respectively, from Owen, *Story*, 200 and 203. Population figures are from Boucher, "Factors," 32.
[21] Concerning the mansion: "James H. Dearing, a steamboat captain and member of the Alabama Legislature. Dearing spent $14,000 to erect, reputedly under the direction of architect William Nichols, the magnificent structure that continues to maintain its position of imposing authority on University Boulevard. The house had the same general appearance it has today, although it had no sun porch on the south side, and in the center of the roof there was a square platform from which the smoke of the river boats could be seen as they approached the town bringing supplies from Mobile. The kitchen stood on the north side, separate from the house but connected by a covered walk to the north porch....The Dearings lived only two years in this beautifully planned home because students from the University helped themselves to their poultry and fruit and trampled Mr. Dearing's cherished flowers. Dearing noted in a letter to the editor of the local paper that 'night after night and week after week . . .companies of students came by . . . singing songs, most obscene, and using language that was most disgraceful and offensive to decency.'" See, accessed March 19, 2011, http://www.universityclub.ua.edu/pages/history.html. Also, see Boucher, *Factors*, 28–29.
[22] Quote and information are from Owen, *Story*, 191. The town of old St. Stephens, now St. Stephens Historical Park, was located sixty-seven miles north of Mobile in Washington County, on a bluff that overlooked the Tombigbee River. For more information see http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1674.
[23] Moore, *History*, 134.
[24] Owen, *Story*, 203.
[25] Ibid., 516.

CHAPTER TWO

NASCENT UNIVERSITY

Analysis

On April 20, 1818, Congress officially apportioned a township in territorial Alabama to be dedicated for the use of a seminary when the territory became a state.[1] This was the catalyst that enabled the Territorial Legislature to begin consideration of a state university. On March 2, 1819, Congress passed an enabling act, which allowed the citizens of the Alabama Territory to write and adopt a constitution, a prerequisite to becoming a state.[2] Congress also added an additional township to be used as an endowment for the state seminary. The Constitutional Convention met at Huntsville[3] from July 5 through August 2, 1819.

Accepting the provisions of statehood as set forth by the US Congress, including the proposal for a state seminary, the convention wrote the education portion of the constitution to read as follows: "Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged in this State." The General Assembly "shall take like measures…for the support of a Seminary of learning…for the promotion of the arts, literature, and the sciences."[4] Further, "It shall be the duty of the General Assembly, as early as may be, to provide effectual means for the improvement and permanent security of the funds and endowments of such an institution." The University of Alabama had been officially conceived.[5]

Pursuant to this mandate, on December 17, 1819, three days after Alabama had been granted statehood, Governor William Wyatt Bibb,[6] noting the generous donation of land made by the US Congress for a seminary of learning, called upon the General Assembly to officially incorporate an institution to be known as the State University of Alabama. The General Assembly [hereafter referred to as the Alabama Legislature or the Legislature] appropriated monies needed for such outlays, and authorized the Governor to appoint commissioners to manage the lands set aside by Congress.[7]

The Legislature also passed an act that authorized Governor Bibb to appoint commissioners in the townships of the counties that had been given as an endowment to the University. The Governor then authorized these commissioners to lease the land in tracts through January 1, 1821. The funds realized from these leases were to be set aside for anticipated outlays of construction and materials needed to construct and open the state seminary.[8] On December 18, 1820, the Legislature officially named the seminary-to-be, **"**The University of the State of Alabama."[9]

In December 1821, at its third annual session, the Alabama Legislature appointed a Board of Trustees, made up of the Governor ex-officio and twelve men (two from each judicial circuit, to be chosen by ballot of both houses to serve for three years), to administer the new University, to sell the congressionally ceded lands as needed to fund the enterprise, and to submit annual financial reports to the Legislature. In a subsequent session, the Legislature ruled that the site was to be chosen by joint ballot of both houses.[10] In 1822, six more Board members, who were required to live within fifty miles of the University, were added to the Board of Trustees, their terms set to coincide with the terms of the original members. The Alabama General Assembly allowed an honorarium of three dollars per day, plus three dollars for each twenty-five-mile segment that a Trustee had to travel to attend meetings[11]

During the first meeting of the newly appointed Board of Trustees, the recording secretary of the Board was directed to write, “In pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, passed at Cahawba, the 18th day of December in the year of our Lord, 1821, entitled, ‘An Act supplementary to an Act to establish a State University,’ a meeting of the Trustees was begun, and held, in the town of Tuscaloosa on the fourth day of April, 1822.”[12]

One of the first directives of the Board was the hiring of individuals to continue the leasing of the tracts the federal government had given as an endowment to create and sustain a state university. The Board president also asked members to consider a location for the University. In their final action, the Board authorized the designing of a University seal.[13] Attendees of these meetings included Governor Israel Pickens,[14] George W. Owen,[15] Hume R. Field,[16] Henry Hitchcock,[17] John McKinly,[18] Thomas Fearn,[19] Jack Shackleford,[20] Henry Minor,[21] Robert W. Carter,[22] and Clements C. Billingslea.[23] In December 1822, the Alabama Legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars “from the receipts of such sales” and leases of University lands “for the erection of necessary buildings,” while earmarking excess funds to be used only toward “the benefit of the University.”[24]

In 1823, the Board of Trustees, in its annual report to the state, complained of problems in ascertaining the amount of income from land sales. Members requested that the Legislature reiterate its ruling that authorized the application of the funds from the sale of the lands to be used only for “the construction of the necessary buildings for the University.” Because the Legislature had not yet chosen a site, the Trustees were obliged to wait for the Legislature to act before they could appropriate monies to begin building the State University. The Trustees authorized funds from the University Land Funds for payment of Board expenses, including advertising the sale of lands in newspapers, creation of a University seal (for which fifty dollars was paid to George S. Gaines),[25] surveying of lands, and general printing. University funds from land sales and bonds totaled $132,503.07 as of December 16, 1823, before expenses noted above were subtracted.[26]

That same year, the Trustees deposited $52,602.75 into the state treasury. Governor Pickens, who was an avid supporter of a state university, considered the creation and funding of a state bank as more important. Pickens, who intensely disliked the presence of the federal bank in the state, persuaded the Legislature of the imminent need for a state bank. On December 20, 1823, the Bank of Alabama was established by the Legislature. The bank’s first president was Andrew Pickens, brother of Governor Pickens.

Pickens was also aware of the keen need to fund the bank both at its birth and during its first years of service. Eying the steady inflow of funding from the State University land sales and leases, Pickens convinced the Legislature that forcing the University Board of Trustees to invest $100,000 of these funds into the state bank would keep the bank afloat and allow the state to have a major influence in the financial affairs of the new state. The Legislature then directed that all funds from the sale of University lands be deposited as part of the capital of the new bank.

The Trustees strongly, but futilely, protested this legislative action as a state appropriation of funds that had been raised solely for the benefit of the University. Although funds that were required to be on deposit in the state bank were originally limited to $100,000 in 1826, the Legislature changed the law such that all University land sales were to be deposited in the Bank of Alabama.[27]

Pickens realized that the flow of dollars from the sale and lease of University lands would slow and diminish once the Board of Trustees begins appropriating funding for the erection of University buildings. The Governor adroitly manipulated the selection of a definite location for the

state University to keep the issue in flux for several years, during which the funds from land sales kept the state bank in business.

Misuse of these funds by the bank and the Legislature over the ensuing years cost the University tens (if not hundreds) of thousands of dollars in losses of legitimate revenue. Scant records appear to remain of the land leases, payments, and amounts given to the bank. These records are likely untrustworthy. Many records were made, but are apparently lost to history.[28] In 1848, the Board, in a hotly worded report to the Legislature, claimed that the state owed the University at least $255,745.73. Dr. W. S. Wyman later made the bitter remark that the prescribed investment of University funds into the state bank was a "forced loan" in which the University was "not made a stockholder in the bank to share in the profits."[29]

Agents of the Trustees continued selling and leasing University land over the next several years, depositing the funds into the state bank. The Trustees noted that sometime before or in 1827, the federal government accidentally sold 904 acres of University-grant lands in Madison County. In 1829, the government ceded an equivalent number of acres to the original grant.[30]

Meanwhile, the Board fumed at the Legislature for putting politics above the educational needs of the state.[31] Political infighting among the Legislators was due to disagreement as to the selection of a location for the state University. Encouraged by Governor Pickens, it seemed that every region of the state had a town in which its Legislator wanted to situate the school. Locations lobbied by Legislators included Greensboro (Hale County), Athens (Limestone County), Lagrange (Colbert County), Montevallo (Shelby County), Honeycomb Springs (Jackson County), Moulton (Lawrence County), Somerville (Morgan County), Davis (Autauga County), Greenville (Butler County), Village Springs (Jefferson County), Elyton (Jefferson County), Gage's (Perry County), and Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa County).[32]

An ongoing matter of concern to the Legislators was the problem of continual flooding of Cahaba, the first state capital, which was located near the confluence of the Cahaba and Alabama rivers. This had been the choice of the Territorial Legislature, and the State Legislature had been meeting there since 1820. However, as the state population began to see a heavy concentration in its eastern counties, residents demanded a capital that was more centrally located. The 1825–26 Legislature provided an amendment to the state Constitution, passed by a vote of the people, to move the capital to Tuscaloosa. This gave Tuscaloosa legislators a little more clout in state affairs.[33]

On December 13, 1827, the Board of Trustees notified the Legislature that "the financial situation of the University will now authorize the commencement of this great and desirable work." The Board, in making this publicly known, was hoping to prod the Legislature into acting sooner rather than later in naming a region to be developed as the University grounds.[34] The maneuver worked. A few days later, the Legislature took up the issue of location. All the locations noted above were placed into nomination by their respective legislators. After nineteen sometimes contentious ballots, Tuscaloosa was chosen, and the legislators directed that the buildings be erected within fifteen miles of the town.[35]

The Board of Trustees, during its next scheduled meeting in March 1828, concurred with the selection of Tuscaloosa, noting, "It is the opinion of this Board that a site for the University buildings should be selected within [an unnamed number of] miles of the Town of Tuskaloosa, provided a suitable place can be found within that distance."[36] Three locations were mentioned as being in contention for the construction of the campus, including Marr's Field, on the Huntsville Road (now University Boulevard); Childress' Place, which was also on the Huntsville Road; and Taber's Place, although no record seems to remain that would locate Taber's Place.[37]

On March 22, the Board narrowed the location in Tuscaloosa to Marr's Field, which lay one and one-quarter miles east of Tuscaloosa. As a bonus, this land was already part of the land Congress had donated for the purpose of the University. The acreage was 1062.88 acres. Major Marr was a "wealthy plantation owner"[38] who had been growing crops on this land at the time the location was selected. William R. Smith, an early University of Alabama student, and later, University President, recalls that this person was Major William M. Marr, whose home stood "on or near the spot where the steward's hall is now located." Smith also recalls that Marr's slave cabins were located "along the brow of the hills overlooking the ravine running north toward the river; at the foot of this ravine issued numerous springs of delicious water; the largest of these springs was known by name as Marr's Spring."[39] After one final vote of the Board, "Marr's field on the University land" was "therefore declared by the President of the Board to be duly selected the scite [sic] on which the University buildings were to be erected."[40]

The Board purchased the adjacent fifty acres to serve as a moral buffer zone between the University and the town proper (i.e., to prevent local rabble-rousers from exerting an undesirable influence on students). The fifty acres was purchased from James Paul, a tinsmith, for $1,250.[41] This tract would also provide clay and trees for building purposes.[42] The nearby quarries would supply stone for not only the University but also for the State Capitol and state bank buildings. By the end of 1828, contracts had been awarded for the first buildings, and the Board and Legislature began to refer to the University proper.[43] In addition, the first slave was purchased.[44]

The Board of Trustees created the following standing committees in 1830 to take care of day-to-day business: University land, property and grievances, the library, accounts and claims, and University of Alabama regulations. A committee was also created to draft the Board's annual report to the Legislature.[45]

During the eight years between the naming of the University and selection of a location, the young state of Alabama had begun to climb out of its infancy. Most of the young boys who comprised that first 1831 University of Alabama class were born between 1807 and 1816,[46] thus giving them the distinction of being the first non-Native American children and teenagers to have matured in the state during this period.[47] It was their mostly Scots-Irish and English parents who defined the life, traditions, and work ethic during this period, and these traits were passed along to their children, who brought these individualities with them to the University in 1831. Since these characteristics and mores had a distinct bearing on the functioning of the University, the following section is a synopsis of life in Alabama in the 1820s and 1830s.

Notes

[1] *3 U.S. Statutes at Large*, 1818, 466–67.
[2] *3 U.S. Statutes at Large*, (1819), 489, and *Independent Monitor* (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: May 29, 1841). Also see Moore, *History*, 136.
[3] Huntsville is considered the first English-speaking settlement in Alabama, settled by John Hunt around 1805.
[4] Quotes are from *Constitution of State of Alabama*, 1819.
[5] Quote is from Willis G. Clark, *History of Education in Alabama: 1789–1889* (Washington, DC: Washington Government Printing Office, 1889), 31. Clark was a University Trustee from 1876 through 1898. For more information, see *Constitution of State of Alabama* 1819, and *Crimson-White*, July 25, 1923.
[6] The Alabama Department of Archives notes that Alabama's first Governor, William Wyatt Bibb, was born in Amelia City, Virginia. He entered politics while residing in Georgia, serving in the US Congress. He was appointed Governor of the Alabama Territory in 1817 and was elected as the state's first Governor, serving 1819 through part of 1820. "He died on July 10, 1820. William Wyatt Bibb's brother, Thomas, automatically became acting Governor by virtue of his position as President of the Alabama Senate. William Wyatt Bibb was married to Mary Freeman," accessed March 28, 2011, http://www.archives.alabama.gov/govs_list/g_bibbwm.html.
[7] Willis G. Clark and H. Taylor, *Memorial Record of Alabama* (Madison, Wis.: Brant and Fuller Publishing, 1893, reprinted by Spartansburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company, 1976), 154.
[8] See Clark, *Education*, 31 and Harry Toulmin, *Digest of the Laws of Alabama*, 1823, 544.

[9] Notes from "2nd Annual Session of the General Assembly of State of Alabama," 1820, and *Independent Monitor* (Tuscaloosa newspaper), May 29, 1841.
[10] Notes from "3rd Annual Session of the General Assembly of State of Alabama," 1821; Clarke, *Memorial*, 155; and Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1356.
[11] See "Acts Passed at the Third Session of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama," 1821, 3–8. While this compensation was to end when the University opened its doors, records of its cessation are murky.
[12] Quote and information are from the "Journal of the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees," [hereafter referred to as "Minutes of the Trustees"] April 4, 1822, 1.
[13] "Minutes of the Trustees," 1822, James Anderson, and *Crimson-White Centennial Edition*, May 1931, 2.
[14] Alabama's third Governor, Israel Pickens, hailed from North Carolina. He served from 1821 through 1825.
[15] George Washington Owen was born October 20, 1796 in Virginia. He graduated from the University of Nashville and began practicing law in Alabama at about the time Alabama became a state. He was later a Congressman and Mayor of Mobile.
[16] According to Ancestry.com, accessed March 11, 2011, Hume Rigg Field was a Virginian who moved to Alabama in 1821. Field was the first Judge of Tuscaloosa County Court, Alabama, serving from 1821 to 1827.
[17] According to the online *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, "Henry Hitchcock (1792–1839) was a leading citizen of early Alabama who served as the first secretary of the Alabama Territory, participated in the writing of Alabama's first constitution, won election as the state's first attorney general, authored the first book published in Alabama, received appointment as a United States district attorney, and served on the Alabama Supreme Court as both an associate justice and chief justice," accessed March 20, 2011, http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1095.
[18] This is likely former Virginian John McKinley who was serving as a representative to the Alabama Legislature at the time. He was appointed in 1837 as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, accessed March 19, 2011, http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=m000519.
[19] Born in Virginia in 1789, Fearn moved to Alabama in 1810. He became a well-respected physician. He was an Alabama state representative from 1822 through 1829 and was also a UA Trustee. Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 567.
[20] Genealogy.com notes that John "Jack" Shackleford was a physician who bought a plantation in Shelby County, Alabama in 1818. Shackleford was probably born in Virginia, accessed March 24, 2011, http://genforum. genealogy. com /shackleford/messages/414.html.
[21] Judge Henry Minor, originally a Virginian, was an attorney general in Alabama, and later served on the Alabama Supreme Court, accessed March 29, 2011, http://www.theowensfirm.com/CM/Custom/TOCMinor-SearcyOwens AlmondHouse.asp.html.
[22] No information has been found on Robert W. Carter other than his being a UA Trustee from 1821 through 1823. *Register of the Officers and Students of the University of Alabama, 1831–1901* (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama, n.d.), 32–47. Thomas Waverly Palmer is noted as editor. [Subsequent citations are in the form of *Register of Officers*, page number.]
[23] James Clement Billingslea was born in Georgia and became a physician. He lived in Marion, Alabama for some years. See Jeannette Tillotson Acklen, *Tennessee Records: Bible Records and Marriage Bonds*, n.d., 225.
[24] All quotes are from Clark, *Memorial*, 155.
[25] If this is George Strother Gaines, he was born in North Carolina in 1784. He moved to the Alabama Territory in 1804 to work at the Choctaw Trading House at St. Stephens. He worked extensively with Alabama Native Americans, accessed March 13, 2011, http://www.history1700s.com/articles/article1018.shtml.
[26] Quote and information are from *Annual Report of the Board of Trustees to the Alabama Legislature*, December 16, 1823. No page numbers available.
[27] For preceding paragraph, see Clark, *Memorial*, 156.
[28] One story accuses a student associated with the storage of these documents with accidentally burning some of these records in his fireplace on a particularly cold day when he could not find other means to build a fire.
[29] Quote is from Owen, *History/Dictionary*, 1356–57. For more information on the bank debacle, see Clark, *Education*, 34; James Anderson, *Crimson-White Centennial Edition*, May 1931, 1–2; and *Alabama Legislature Committee Report on the State University*, 1848.
[30] "Minutes of the Trustees," 1822–32, 107.
[31] Ibid., December 22, 1826, 90.
[32] See *Independent Monitor*, Tuscaloosa, May 29, 1841, and Clark, *Education*, 36. The counties listed for each town are based on maps of the time. Any that are found to be inaccurate will be corrected in future volumes.
[33] According to the Alabama Department of Archives, Andrew Dexter, a Tuscaloosa founding father, had long been holding property in Tuscaloosa in anticipation of such a move. This piece of land was often referred to as goat hill because it was prime pastureland. When the capital moved to Tuscaloosa, the appellation, goat hill, stuck, and is often used today when referring to the state capital and/or politics, which has been seated in Montgomery since 1846, accessed March 11, 2011, http://www.archives.state.al.us/capital/capitals.html.
[34] "Minutes of the Trustees," December 13, 1827, 103.

[35] Quote is from "Minutes of the Trustees," December 13, 1827, 103. Other information is from *Senate Journal*, December 29, 1827*; Independent Monitor*, Tuscaloosa, May 29, 1841*;* Clark, *Education*, 36; and Clark, *Memorial*, 156.
[36] "Minutes of the Trustees," March 18, 1828, 123.
[37] Ibid.
[38] William R. Smith Sr., *Reminiscences of A Long Life: Historical, Political, and Literary*, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: Press of Rufus H. Darby, 1889), 202. Hoole Special Collections, University of Alabama.
[39] All quotes and information are from Smith, *Reminiscences*, 202.
[40] See "Minutes of the Trustees," March 22, 1828*;* Clark, *Education*, 36; James Anderson, *Crimson-White Centennial Edition*, May 1931, 2; and "Ordinations and Resolutions of the Board of Trustees," 1831. A natural spring is still located on the University campus on Marr's Field. Marr's Street (located between Campus Drive and Stadium Drive) and *Marr's Field*, one of UA's literary journals, are both named in honor of the original site. University of Alabama (or UA) records reveal that a Major Marr's son, Daniel Price Perkins Marr, enrolled as one of the first students at the University in 1831. *Register of Officers*, 42.
[41] Boucher, "Factors," 59.
[42] *Alabama Senate Journal*, 1828.
[43] "Minutes of the Trustees," December 13, 1828, 145.
[44] In the ensuing years, a number of African American slaves are either purchased or hired to build and maintain the campus. For the complete story of slavery in connection with the University of Alabama, see part VII.
[45] Smith, *Reminiscences*, 202.
[46] *Register of Officers*, 32–37.
[47] It should be noted that there were African American slave children who passed their teen years in the state during this time; however, these adolescents are generally relegated to the dustbins of history, unnamed and unremembered.

CHAPTER THREE

ALABAMA IN THE 1820S AND EARLY 1830S

Analysis

By the close of the 1820s, Alabama's population stood at 309,527, with an estimated third of that number being African American slaves who worked on the larger farms and plantations. This represented a population increase of 142 percent since 1820. The four generally recognized major regions of population in the state were the Tennessee Valley area, the Tombigbee district (which included Tuscaloosa at its northernmost reach), the Alabama River district (which included Montgomery), and the old Mobile district.[1]

Most Alabamians were small farmers or plantation owners. At first, in the 1810s and early 1820s, many (if not most) farm homes and plantation homes were actually two-room log cabins, usually with a breezeway built between the two large rooms. Housewives were often the administrators of the plantation, while the men in the family were engaged in the oversight of workers, work, and financial matters. Sometimes, the family of the planter constituted the entire workforce and administration of the plantation, living in these log cabins until the plantation afforded them the luxury of better living quarters (i.e., plantation mansions), workers and slaves, and time for the leisurely activities now associated with antebellum southern plantations.[2]

Many families planted climbing plants, such as the *Glycine frutescens* (wisteria) with lilac-type blossoms, scarlet and crimson Cypress vines, and Trumpet Honeysuckles to adorn the entrances to these breezeways and to provide a little more shade during Alabama's hot summers. Rough-hewn logs were the primary source of lumber even in richer planters' homes during this early period. These logs could shrink and warp, resulting in crevices of an inch or more that had to be filled. Often, there were no windows in these houses; rather there was a twenty-four inch square cut into one of the rooms to provide extra ventilation and air. The door was usually left open during hot weather. A fireplace adorned at least one end of every house and both ends of many houses as Alabama could oftentimes have quite punishing winters. While a few very rich planters built brick houses with a few amenities, by and large, these breezeway houses constituted the design of most Alabama houses in the late 1820s and early 1830s.[3]

As cotton crops brought flush times to Alabama in the late 1820s and the 1830s, houses became better finished and more ornate. This newfound wealth was evident in the opulent dining habits of the plantation class of the 1830s. When students enrolled at the University, they would be served meals three times a day. This stood in contrast to four or five daily meals that many of the planters' sons may have been served much of their lives. In the wealthier planters' homes, breakfast, served at 7 a.m., might consist of three types of bread, waffles, grits, hominy, eggs, three types of meat, tea, and coffee. Lunch, usually at eleven, might include cake and wine. Dinner, served at two, often consisted of soup and four or five types of meat, bread, potatoes, salad, and pickles. Supper was usually at six or seven and consisted of foods similar to dinner, plus perhaps waffles and sweet cake. Finally, at approximately ten o'clock, many planters had a final snack of cake and liquor or wine.[4]

And while a number of diaries and letters of the time lauded the genteel southern manners of some Alabamians, many other observers, such as English author and traveler James S.

Buckingham, who made a journey through Alabama during the 1830s, made less than charitable observations of the state's citizens. Men in Alabama, wrote Buckingham, rarely took off their hats even when entering a home, with the exception of mealtime. Spittoons adorned many homes where "chewing and spitting was nearly universal." While men did not sit to dine before women were seated, such manners disappeared during and after the meal when diners left and came back to the table at whatever times they pleased without asking leave of others. Food was conveyed to the mouth by knife. Mealtime was often short, around ten minutes, so conversation was at a minimum during eating, and diners could be seen leaving the table, still with a mouthful of food, in order to go to another room to light a cigar. Buckingham also observed that folks in Alabama gave him no privacy when he was reading or writing, a habit that appalled the poor Briton.[5]

Historian Albert Moore adds, "Drinking was almost as common as eating" in the state. Every town had at least one saloon. This led to much "rowdyism" during daily discourse, which led to many "black eyes, bloody noses, dislocated teeth, and broken bones." Knives and guns were a ubiquitous part of men's attire, although it was considered a mark of cowardice and disgrace "to carry concealed weapons." Moore lists Alabama men's pastimes during the late 1820s and early 1830s as wrestling, horse racing, cockfighting, dog fighting, fisticuffs, hunting, foot racing, and playing cards, which included, of course, gambling.[6]

More civilized pastimes, which were beginning to evolve, included church revivals, singing schools (associated with churches), dances, and planter socials.[7] It was within this society that the University's first students had matured; and as the University's administrators would discover, these young men were great imitators of their fathers' individualistic virtues and vices.

Planters' sons were expected to emulate their fathers in dress, speech, habits, and attitudes. Dress was usually a step or two above that of the average Alabama boy, especially when the boys were engaged in public venues such as education, social events, and church. Speech could be coarse, particularly when these boys were around plantation workers, slaves, or other boys, but it could be more refined as well when the situation warranted.

Leisure activities for the boys ranged from church activities to gambling, cockfighting, chewing tobacco, and occasionally partaking of strong spirits (especially when Father, from whom most of these habits had been learned, was absent). Other social activities that boys in the state enjoyed included logrolling (often accompanied by jugs of moonshine), watching fireworks on the holidays, and attending occasional lectures, revivals, plays, dances, and music shows performed by local touring companies.[8]

As previously noted, firearms were an important part of men's and boys' daily accoutrements. Besides hunting, a popular pastime for young men that involved rifles was a game called driving the nail, in which a nail was hammered halfway into a post, and the shooter, standing from an appropriate distance, attempted to drive the nail into the post with his shot. Another rifle game was called threading the needle, in which a hole, just large enough to let a rifle ball or bullet pass through, was cut into a post, and men were expected to shoot through the hole without touching the post. One other game of marksmanship was called snuffing the candle, in which, in the darkness of night, a candle was placed on a board, and the marksman was expected to snuff out the candle without the bullet touching the candle itself.

It should also be noted that during this period, public education in the state was oftentimes nonexistent. Most county governments appropriated little if any funding toward public education. As a result, private schools were the norm, and only families of some wealth were able to afford an education for their sons.[9] Sons of the early plantation pioneers were usually educated at home by their parents or by the occasional tutor. Some fortunate lads lived close enough to (or parents

boarded them near) the handful of academies in the state. Many of these academies educated boys only through their early teens.

During the first decade of statehood, there were no colleges in Alabama, so the few boys old enough and wealthy enough to further their education were sent to colleges and universities in the older southern states, often to the alma maters of their fathers. This tradition constituted part of the reason that the University of Alabama would later find it difficult to attract state boys to its halls of learning. Many of the planters preferred to send their sons to colleges of renown rather than to a newly minted college planted in the middle of what only a decade or two before had been little more than a wilderness.[10]

However, it was primarily the social and attendant political attitudes of Alabama planters' sons that would give early University administrators major headaches. That mind-set, inherited from their influential fathers, was one of self-mastery, high self-esteem, self-reliance, privilege (often including the service of a personal slave), and autonomy, particularly in regard to one's personal and business affairs.

Notes

[1] See Moore, *People*, 122–23, and Owen, *Story*, 232.
[2] John Witherspoon Dubose, "Recollections of the Plantation," *Alabama Historical Quarterly* 1, 2 (Spring 1930): 110–18.
[3] Griffith, *History*, 149–51.
[4] Ibid., 158.
[5] Quotes are from "Alabama in the 1830's as Recorded by British Travellers," *Birmingham-Southern College Bulletin*, 31, 4 (December 1938): 37–38.
[6] All quotes in this paragraph are from Moore, *Alabama*, 197–98. (See also page 202.)
[7] See Moore, *Alabama*, 197–98, 202.
[8] Lucille Griffith, *Alabama: A Documentary History to 1900* [Revised and Enlarged Edition.] (University, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1972), 156–57, 308.
[9] Clinton, *Tuscaloosa*, 82.
[10] See Dubose, *Recollections*, 110–18.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE CAMPUS TAKES SHAPE

Analysis

As these boys were entering their mid to late teens, the Trustees were working hard to bring their vision of a college campus to fruition.[1] The first buildings constructed on University grounds included a dining hall or Steward Building, a Rotunda, two boys' dormitories, the Lyceum (laboratory), and two professors' homes. Materials for the first campus buildings included nearby sandstone supplied by Constantine Perkins; lumber from University of Alabama lands; and brick, which was made on the construction site.[2]

The Steward Building was built by an English architect named William Nichols,[3] using "imported English brick, brought over as ballast in ships which were to return to England filled with Southern cotton." The walls were "18 inches thick. The framing and the floor of the house" were made of "heart pine, and the original structure" was "made almost entirely without nails." The steward was to live "on the upper floor." Directly behind the Steward Building was a two-story building wherein the kitchen and dairy room were situated downstairs, and two servants' rooms were located in the upper story.[4]

By 1830, the other six buildings had been started. All were completed by the opening date in April 1831, with the exception of the Rotunda, which was near completion, but which could be used for most of its educational purposes. The Rotunda was designed to be the center of the campus. It was three stories high, seventy feet in diameter and in height, encircled by two dozen Ionic columns, and was topped with a dome and a spire. It was built to be utilized as a library, recital hall, and at one point it would serve as a chapel.

West and east of the Rotunda were the student dorms—Washington Hall and Jefferson Hall. Each dorm had three entrances, and each boasted twelve study apartments with each study having two sleeping porches attached. The Lyceum was built north of the Rotunda. It was a two-story building, fronted by six stately columns. Constructed of natural brick, the façade included sections painted to resemble stone. The parts constructed of wood were painted dark green. Other sections were painted white. The Lyceum served as the primary instruction building and also housed the chemical lab and the cabinet of geology and mineralogy.[5]

Constructed west of the Lyceum were the two faculty buildings. Each building was three stories in height, and each consisted of seven rooms.[6] Built between and adjacent to the faculty buildings was a one-story recitation room. In 1833, Franklin Hall, the third dormitory, was completed.[7] The Trustees estimated the cost of the original buildings for the campus to be fifty thousand dollars, of which ten thousand dollars was allowed for the first year of construction; thirty thousand dollars for the second year; and ten thousand dollars for the third year.[8]

The Huntsville *Southern Advocate* described the "taste and elegant plan of the buildings, their strength, convenience, and durability, with the great economy of money" as doing "honor to the minds of those connected with their" construction. The grounds were described as having "flower gardens and walks with shady trees [which] are truly delightful in this climate." In addition, the *Advocate* noted the "wise and beneficent" governing Board of Trustees. This auspicious beginning

would, the newspaper predicted, allow the University to "go on to prosper—be the pride and honor of this young and happy commonwealth."[9]

On January 13, 1830, the Board made its decision regarding the structure of the faculty. There would be four professors. One would teach ancient languages (this professor would also be responsible for teaching geography); the second would teach mathematics and natural philosophy; the third would be responsible for teaching natural history; and the fourth would teach moral philosophy.[10] In addition, the Board authorized purchase of lab equipment and library books in the amount of twenty thousand dollars.[11]

Now, the Board was ready to appoint a president to administer the University and to stamp his philosophy upon it. The Board offered the presidency to Dr. Philip Lindsley, who was president of the University of Nashville and a highly respected southern educator. Lindsley declined the offer.[12] After Lindsley turned down the presidency, Trustee James G. Birney[13] was given nine hundred dollars and told to "visit any part of the United States to search for a president, as well as a professor for languages." Birney gave his report during the November Board meeting.[14] After discussing Birney's recommendations, the Board emerged from its November 25 meeting to offer the office to Reverend Alva Woods, president of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. Woods accepted and began making plans to turn his attention to the University of Alabama.[15]

According to the Rhode Island Historical Society, Woods was born in 1794 to Baptist minister Abel Woods and his wife, Mary (Smith), in Shoreham, Vermont. He attended Phillips (Exeter) Academy, followed by Harvard, where he graduated in 1817, and Andover Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1821. His first teaching position was at Columbian College [now George Washington University], Washington, DC, where he served as professor of history/philosophy and mathematics from 1822 to 1824. Woods also served a very brief time as interim president of Columbian College. He was soon appointed president of Transylvania University (Kentucky), where he served until 1831, when he was called to the Deep South to head the University of Alabama. He married Almira Marshall of Boston in 1823, and had two children, Marshall (1824) and Priscilla (1826).[16]

William R. Smith later describes Woods. "His feet fell very lightly as he walked, and his restless eye indicated that his ear was in suspense. There was an air of vigilance about him that threw one off his guard against a watchfulness that appeared almost offensive. With such a characteristic, it is quite impossible that he should have inspired the boys with any feeling akin to affection; on the contrary, he was an object of awe."[17]

Smith also remembers Mrs. Woods, Dr. Woods' "charming wife" whose "beauty was without a flaw; and her graceful and gracious manners carried her straightway to the hearts of the students. It was quite impossible to spend an evening in her presence without softening toward the man on whom she lavished the boundless wealth of her loveliness."[18]

Now armed with a man to lead the University, the Trustees turned their attention to filling the professorial chairs, setting salaries at fifteen hundred dollars for professors and three thousand dollars for the president. Woods, in addition to his presidential duties, would also serve as professor of moral philosophy during his tenure.[19]

Gurdon Saltonstall was selected to teach mathematics. Saltonstall was a physician in Tuscaloosa at the time of his hire. Smith remembers Saltonstall as "an elegant and engaging person, of lofty stature and benignant countenance…of easy manners and uncomplaining disposition."[20] Smith recalls Saltonstall as a professor who was "too good-natured to even rebuke a rebellious pupil for an unmitigated breach of discipline." In one of his recollections of his teacher, Smith relates a funny story:

> Once, when the class was at recitation, and the professor at the blackboard expounding a shady problem, his back to the class, a rooster strutted in at the door, when an imp of a pupil seized the bird and threw it at the professor, so that it lit upon his broad shoulders! The gravity of the class seemed in no way disturbed, and the urchin had resumed his seat, while the professor, with a quick movement of his right arm, and turning around facing the class, dashed away a few stray feathers; then, without a word, turning again to the blackboard, resumed the explanation; while the rooster, somewhat bewildered, dashing toward the door, paused at the threshold, uttered a magnificent crow, and then strutted off into the yard.[21]

Henry Tutwiler was selected to teach ancient languages. Tutwiler was born in 1807 in Harrisonburg, Virginia and was a graduate of the University of Virginia, earning one of Virginia's first master of arts degrees in 1829. Tutwiler had been teaching only a few years before he was appointed to serve as an instructor at the University of Alabama.[22]

Smith notes that Tutwiler and Saltonstall were the first of the Faculty that most of the boys met, as these two men conducted "the [University entrance] exams."[23] Smith also recalls that some of the boys who passed the entrance exams remained in Tuscaloosa to await the opening of classes. During these first days, many of these boys came to associate Tutwiler with leadership at the University. This would later create some conflict between Tutwiler and Alva Woods. When Woods arrived a few days later and assumed the office of president, some of the boys let it be known that they preferred Tutwiler's personality to that of Woods.[24]

Smith writes that Tutwiler was "altogether the most noted and marked of the first corps of professors. He was so…gentle in his demeanor and graceful and apt in his mode of imparting wisdom that every boy fell absolutely in love with him." Smith also recalls that Tutwiler "was a whole Faculty within himself…as much at home in the chemical laboratory as he was in his own room with the classics…familiar with all the sciences and…handy with a telescope." Tutwiler "at once became the friend, companion, and instructor of all….The feeling entertained for him by the earlier students…amounted to real affection…and this was reciprocal."[25]

John Fielding Wallis had been tapped to teach natural philosophy and chemistry since summer 1830. He began drawing a salary on July 1, 1830, when he was tasked with procuring scientific equipment for the University. At the time of his hire, Wallis was touring in Europe, thus Tutwiler was tapped to fulfill Wallis' duties until midsummer, when Wallis was able to assume his teaching duties at the University.

Smith labels Wallis as a man of "retiring and solitary habits, of dejected, melancholic appearance" and a widower who was known as a "devoted father of an accomplished daughter," Ann Eliza, an older teenager who was just then "blooming into womanhood." While in Tuscaloosa, Ann Eliza graduated from the Female Academy and was tutored by many of the UA professors in many of the same subjects that the boys were studying.[26] Woods and Tutwiler were officially placed on the University payroll on February 1, 1831, shortly before the beginning of the school term.[27]

By January 1832, two more professors were added. Henry W. Hilliard would teach elocution, and Francois Bonfils would teach modern languages. Hilliard was noted as a brilliant orator. According to Smith, Hilliard, who "must be considered the very first in Alabama of the Whig Party," exercised his oratorical skills across the state, earning a reputation as the state's best and most graceful and persuasive speaker.

Bonfils was remembered as a strict and pious professor who was perhaps not as well liked by the students as Tutwiler and Saltonstall, but who ably carried out his duties.[28] In addition to these new teachers, Calvin Jones would be appointed as a tutor in ancient languages.[29]

The Board of Trustees required the Faculty to regularly "hold brief meetings to deliberate on the concerns of the college, to secure the most perfect uniformity of discipline, and to inflict