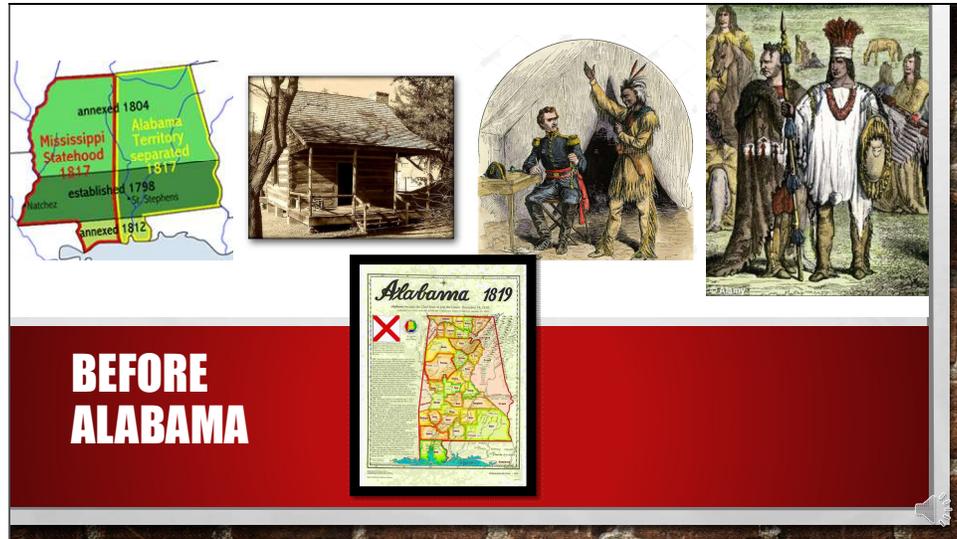




Experience and learn about the Birthplace of Birmingham: Old Elyton and its centerpiece, Arlington Plantation

- Arlington Antebellum House and Gardens
 - Six (6) acres gardens (originally 475 acres)
 - Elyton - west end of Birmingham
 - Two-story 1840s
 - Greek Revival architecture
 - Decorative arts museum
 - 19th century furniture, textiles, silver, and paintings.
 - National Register of Historic Places Dec. 2, 1970
- Plantations:
 - Then: Plantation homes represent monuments to antebellum southern architecture, furnishings, and the opulence of the owners.
 - Now: Plantations serve as memorials to the African slaves who built the houses, farmed the fields, tended to household chores and helped raise the owner's children; but they are also symbols of the cruelty and injustice of slavery.



1800 – 1819 Alabama

- **1800 Creek Indian nation used as sacred hunting ground**
- **1811 - Creek Civil War – Red Sticks spurred on by British and White Sticks friendly to white settlers**
- **War of 1812 – second Revolutionary War with British, Red Sticks**
- **1814 Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated Red Sticks at Horseshoe Bend, ceded lands to U.S.**
- **Jones Valley – first settler John Devil Jones 1815**
- **1815 Mississippi Territory (current Mississippi and Alabama)**
- **1817 Mississippi statehood – Alabama Territory established**
- **1817-18 Alabama Fever – land rush to new Alabama Territory**
- **1819 Alabama becomes State**

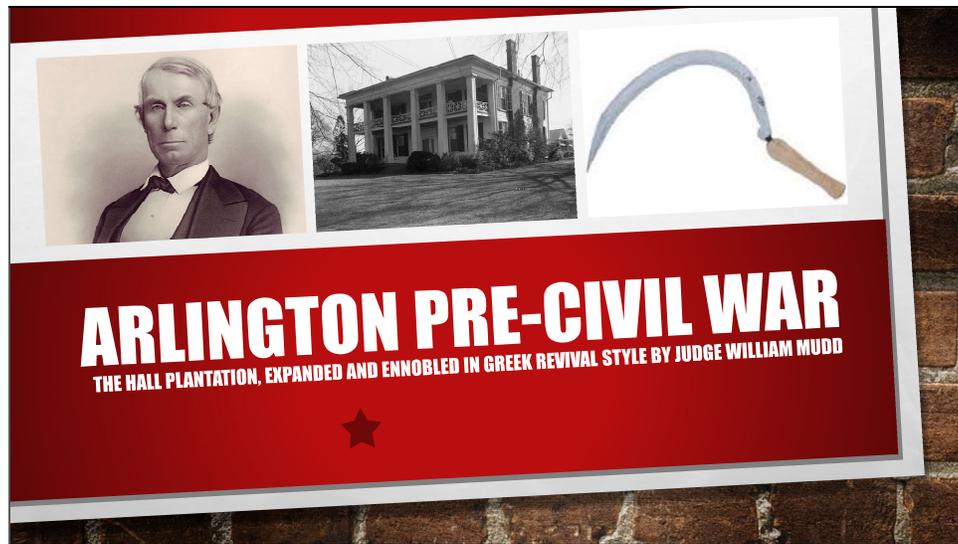


- **Frog Level 1815 – 1819**
 - **Large limestone spring, forming a deep pool about 15 feet across; drew settlers**
 - **Flat land for Horse Races**
 - **Prominent crossroads trading center in southwestern Jones Valley near the head of Valley Creek**
 - **Several pioneer-era coach roads crossed, including Huntsville Road, Georgia Road, Montevallo Road, and Arkadelphia Road.**
- **Oldtown 1819-20**
 - **2,560-acre parcel around Frog Level was granted by the U.S. Congress to the American Asylum for the Instruction and Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Connecticut.**
 - **Their agent, William Ely, traveled to Jones Valley to view the property and found it "broken, poor, and barren"**
 - **Settled by homesteaders without official deeds, he recommended that the Asylum sell it for cash.**

- **Bids between \$15 and \$100 per acre as families already living on the land bid against speculators.**
- **Ely, who had hired two guards to protect his life, proceeded to sell 27 acres around Frog Level, also known as Oldtown, to the county for 1 cent, on the condition that a courthouse and jail be constructed there within four years.**
- **Elyton 1820**
 - **The wood-framed Elyton Courthouse was located in the center of Broad (Center) Street, north of Main. It was rebuilt in brick in 1847**
 - **The town was incorporated by the state legislature December 20, 1820, and by the following year boasted a population of 300 (1000 by 1873)**
 - **Elyton (Ely's Town) was the county seat of Jefferson County from 1821 to 1873. *It was the county's second seat, after Carrollsville (1819-1821) (now the Birmingham neighborhood of Powderly).***
 - **Elyton Methodist Episcopal Church, first organized on April 29, 1816, was located north of Tuscaloosa Avenue.**
 - **Elyton Cemetery was developed a few blocks east of Broad.**
 - **Jefferson Academy was incorporated in 1822.**
 - **Elyton Presbytery (formed in 1832)**
 - **1853 John Cantley established the Elyton Herald *the paper became the Birmingham Post-Herald in 1950.***
 - **Two Hoover Connections: Thomas Farrar first attorney, Henry Hale editor Elyton Herald**
 - **In the late 1860s Elyton was reached by the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad running through Jones Valley and it grew to more than 700 population.**

- **During the planning of the North & South Railroad, Elyton was considered the most likely crossing, and was set to become the principal railroad connection for the mineral resources of the Birmingham District's expected industrial development.**
- **Elyton 1873**
 - **Elyton Land Company, plans for a new industrial city called "Birmingham", and schemed to move the crossing to a parcel of farmland they purchased from William F. Nabers and Elizabeth Nabers**
 - **1873 the company arranged for a referendum to move the county seat and enticed voters with free rail excursions to the polls, music and barbecue.**
 - **Colonel Powell had determined to capture the Court House On the day fixed by law for the election, the first Monday in May 1873**
 - **He had perfected arrangements with the railroads to run excursion trains from the furthest confines of the County and perhaps beyond, and to transport free every voter, without reference to "race, color or previous condition of servitude," who would vote his way.**
 - **About noon on the day of the election, these trains packed almost to suffocation with a dark mass of perspiring, hungry humanity, rolled into Birmingham.**
 - **Colonel Powell, mounted on old man Dobbins' calico pony, with a drawn sword in his hand, was at the depot to marshall his forces and march them to the ground, where long tables, improvised for the occasion**
 - **some wag caused it to be whispered among them that the tall, dignified gentleman on the calico pony was General Grant,**

- **and forthwith every mother's son of them was prepared to exercise the prerogative of a free American citizen by voting for Birmingham as General Grant (?) wanted them to do.**
- **The contest resulted in an overwhelming majority for Birmingham, and the Court House of Jefferson County was by the edict of the people permanently located at the Magic City.**
- **Most of Elyton's more than 1,000 townsfolk moved with the courthouse, leaving Elyton as a depopulated suburb.**
- **Plantations in the vicinity were subdivided in the 1880s**
- **The district continued growing as an important suburb through the early 1900s, with the emergence of West End beyond Elyton.**
- **The community was re-incorporated as a municipality in 1907. The small city and neighboring areas were annexed into Birmingham as part of the Greater Birmingham legislation which took effect on January 1, 1910.**
- **The Earle-Greene plantation in Elyton was redeveloped as Elyton Village public housing project in the late 1930s.**
- **The area that was Elyton is currently bordered by 7th Street Southwest and Cotton Avenue in the West End of Birmingham.**



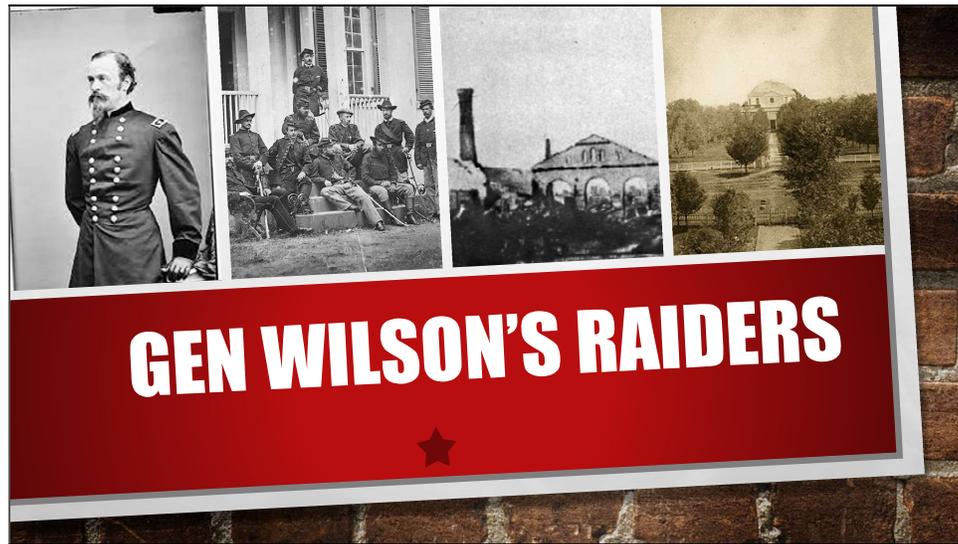
Arlington

- **1821 - Two portions of the original land grant were purchased by William O. Tarrant and John Burford, Jr. & Sr**
- **1822 - The 475-acre property was purchased by Stephen Hall, a trustee of the Jefferson Academy.**
- **Hall erected a log house on the knoll, along with various outbuildings, including a blacksmith's shop.**
- **Over time he enlarged the home to two stories with four main rooms. The house consisted of two rooms downstairs and two rooms above facing east toward Elyton.**
- **The front porches were plain. Steps to bedrooms were on the outside of the building, a feature traditionally understood to be a clever method used to circumvent property taxes imposed on landowners based on the number of stairs inside the house.**
- **At his death, the property was inherited by his son, Samuel, who depleted his wealth, forcing the sale of the house and grounds at auction in 1842.**

1842 - Mudd bought the estate at auction.

- **In 1846 he married Florence Earle and began building a larger home in place of Hall's, which he called The Grove for the numerous old hardwoods surrounding the house site.**
- **With the help of his slaves, Mudd constructed a grand eight-room mansion in the Greek Revival style.**
- **Mudd's filled with 10 children**

- **1843 to 1848, Mudd served in the Alabama legislature. In 1856 he was elected Circuit Judge, a position he held until his health forced retirement in 1883.**
- **Judge Mudd was not a planter. He had 13 slaves, all in one family. He gave them their freedom before the war."**
- **Birmingham almost Muddtown**



Arlington during Civil War

- **Between 1862 and 1865, thirteen Confederate blast furnaces and a major armament were built in Alabama**
- **March 28, 1865 - At the end of the Civil War, General James Wilson arrived with over 13,000 troops and used Arlington for his headquarters**
- **Made plans for General Croxton to Tuscaloosa to burn the University of Alabama, which trained cadets for the Confederacy and was operating a hospital for soldiers.**
- **Also to destroy the iron furnaces including at nearby Oxmoor and Irondale and the Confederate arsenal at Selma**
 - *Mudd was entertaining the poet Mary Gordon Duffee ,a newspaper reporter and as a Confederate spy. Mudd hid her in the attic. When she overheard the general's plans to destroy the iron furnaces at Tannehill, Duffee snuck out of the attic in the dead of night so that she could warn the workers of the impending invasion.*

- **The Northern general was very courteous and considerate of the Mudd household and he posted sentinels to guard it from marauding soldiers under his command.**
- **There are many speculations as to why Arlington House was left undisturbed. General Wilson camped on the grounds instead of within the house, thus sparing damage to the house.**
- **Some believe General Wilson spared the mansion because Judge Mudd and General Wilson were both Masons. Judge Mudd also opposed secession. However, he supported the South during the Civil War after hostilities broke out.**

ARLINGTON POST-CIVIL WAR

- **WHEN MUDD DIED IN 1884, COLONEL HENRY DEBARDELEBEN PURCHASED THE HOUSE AS AN INVESTMENT.**
- **HE NEVER LIVED THERE, AND SOON SOLD IT TO FRANKLIN H. WHITNEY WHO NAMED ARLINGTON**
- **THE HOUSE WAS PURCHASED IN 1902 BY ROBERT MUNGER, OWNER OF CONTINENTAL GIN COMPANY**
- **MUNGER DIED IN 1924 LEAVING THE MAIN HOUSE TO HIS DAUGHTER, RUBY AND HER HUSBAND, ALEX MONTGOMERY.**
- **THEY RESIDED THERE FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES, PUTTING THE PROPERTY UP FOR SALE IN 1952**



Arlington Post Civil War

- **1884, in the midst of iron making, that Judge Mudd sold the Arlington estate to Henry F. DeBardeleben. Debardeleben never occupied the house, but purchased it as an investment .**
- **He never lived there, and soon sold it to Franklin H. Whitney of Cass County, Iowa, who converted it for use as a boarding house and subdivided some of the property into lots for sale.**
- **However, he did "his part to preserve the old era by naming the house 'Arlington' for General Robert E. Lee's home in Virginia." "Mr. Whitney was a devoted Christian, and he admired Lee because he was a devoted Christian also For sixteen years Arlington was an upscale boarding house.**
- **The house was purchased in 1902 by Robert Munger, owner of Continental Gin Company which manufactured cotton gins in Avondale.**
- **he devised a system of cotton ginning that would prevent lint from heavily burdening the air. This invention, known as the "Munger System," was the first of many inventions for the cotton industry. He became second to Eli Whitney as the greatest inventor of cotton ginning machinery.**
- **He continued to divide the former plantation to provide houses for his children as they married.**

- **Munger died in 1924 leaving the main house to his daughter, Ruby and her husband, Alex Montgomery.**
- **After Robert Munger's death in 1923, followed by his wife's death in 1924, their daughter, Rose Munger Montgomery moved into the house. She and her husband lived there until 1943, but found living in the house to be too primitive. They were the last to use the estate.**
- **They resided there for nearly three decades, putting the property up for sale in 1952**
- **A steering committee headed by Morgan Smith began raising money to make the purchase, which was completed in 1953 for \$53,000. The house was restored and furnished by the Arlington Historical Association and soon became one of the signature landmarks for visitors to Birmingham.**
- **The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The ashes of former mayor George Seibels, who died in 2000, are interred at Arlington**