History of Covington County Alabama Part 2

Early Settlers

Legend has it that in the year 1813, Andrew Jackson came from South Carolina and traveled through this area on his way to Pensacola, Florida. He cut three notches on trees as he passed through this wilderness to enable him to find his way back. Andalusia has an East Three Notch Street and a South Three Notch Street, which supposedly lie on the famous "Three Notch Trail."

The State of Alabama was admitted to the Union in 1819 and Covington County was made a county by the Alabama Legislature on December 7, 1821. Covington County was named in honor of Brigadier General L.W. Covington, a native of Maryland, who was killed in Canada during the War of 1812. At that time, Covington embraced several other counties, but through the years has been reduced to its present size by the carving out of other counties.

The first white settlers came to what is now Covington County in the year 1816. They came from Georgia on ox wagons and settled near Green Bay. People from North and South Carolina established a second settlement near Rose Hill. The earliest church was established near Rose Hill in 1823 and was called the Macedonia Church.

The village of Montezuma, located approximately four miles west of the present City of Andalusia, was the first county seat and the site for the first Covington County Courthouse. The structure was a log building, which was constructed at the falls of the Conecuh River in 1823. This original courthouse burned in the spring of 1839. Before another courthouse was constructed, the town of Montezuma was completely washed away in 1841 by a flood called the "Harrison Freshet." Worse still, the flood created an epidemic of mosquitoes and fever.

After much disagreement and several legislative acts, a site for the new courthouse was finally chosen. The site was a forty-acre tract on higher ground that was called "New Site" until 1844 when a post office was established and the town was designated as Andalusia. No one knows where the name Andalusia originated, but legend has it that the Spanish explorer, DeSoto, passed through this area in his travels from Florida to Mississippi. It is assumed that since Spain has an Andalusia Province, the City of Andalusia was so named because DeSoto passed through.

Source: *http://covingtoncountyal.org/history.php*