



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
FOUNDED BY THOMAS M. OWEN, LL. D., 1901
MONTGOMERY

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NO.

December 10, 1941

Mrs. R. H. Walker
201 East Washington Street
Athens, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Walker:

In reply to your letter of December 7 to Mrs. Owen, I am writing to state that we did receive the sketch of your grandfather, Mr. Thomas J. McClellan. I should have acknowledged receipt of the sketch long before this time but I have been out of town a great deal since receiving it.

As to the reason the newspaper sketch went to your husband is that it was prepared before receiving the information from you. We wrote similar articles for newspapers located in counties where we were seeking information about delegates. Until we began this move to obtain such information we had very little biographical data on thirty-one delegates to the Alabama Secession Convention. Obviously, it requires a great deal of time to prepare newspaper sketches for so many counties. We should have taken the sketch going to Limestone County out of the others but we overlooked this matter.

This Department is collecting biographies, letters, diaries, scrap books, business records and other items of such distinguished men as your grandfather. Papers of this type are kept together under the name of the person giving them or the one originating the materials. By this manner all the papers of the person or family are filed together as a memorial to such people. Not only would the papers be preserved for the generations to come, but they would be set-up as a memorial to the family. As you know we are now in a new fire-proof building and valuable family papers of distinguished Alabamians can now be protected from the insects and the fires in the years to come. Doubtless Mrs. Owen wrote to you regarding this matter.

Let me express my appreciation for your splendid cooperation in sending us a sketch of your forbear. If we can ever be of service to you please feel free to call on us.

Cordially yours,

David L. Darden

DLD:jf