

## **A marker of two cities: One still here, one long gone**

By Rebekah Davis

Limestone County Archivist

It's time for more stops on the historical marker tour of Limestone County.

I've been spending a few months sharing the information about these markers. To see the list of most of the markers and more information, you can get maps and GPS coordinates to each one by searching for Limestone County's historical markers on [www.lat34north.com](http://www.lat34north.com), or to view additional markers and directions, visit [www.limestonecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.limestonecountyhistoricalsociety.org).

Today's marker shares the tale of two cities, one on either side:

- **Cottonport:** The town of Cottonport flourished in the early years of Limestone County. It was settled in 1818 and chartered in 1824. It was located approximately 1-1/2 miles southeast, near the point where Limestone Creek flowed into the Tennessee River, and was a prime boat landing. Steamboats from East Tennessee brought much-needed goods to this area. During high water, flatboats loaded with bales of cotton departing Cottonport could cross the river's rocky shoals and float to New Orleans. Cottonport, once boasting a town square, handsome houses, brick stores, warehouses and a racetrack, gradually ceased to exist. Residents left, fleeing malaria epidemics common to the location. By the 1850s no trace of it remained. The long-forgotten town cemetery was unearthed by construction of I-65.
- **Mooreville:** This quiet village was once a bustling town with doctors, lawyers, business houses, craftsmen and shops, including a tailor shop where a future president, Andrew Johnson, apprenticed for a time. Named for an early settler, Mooreville was the first town incorporated by the Alabama Territorial Legislature. The buildings exhibit the various architectural styles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1840s Post Office is the oldest in continual use in Alabama. There are two churches, the 1839 Brick Union Church and the 1854 white frame church where a future president James Garfield once preached a sermon. The Stagecoach Inn and Tavern dates to the 1820s. The Disney movie "Tom and Huck" was filmed here in 1995. The entire village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This marker is in Mooreville at the end of Mooreville road and south of the I-565 exit at Mooreville.

### **About the Archives:**

Limestone County Department of History and Archives

**Established:** 1980

**Staff:** Archivist Rebekah Davis and Assistant Archivist April Davis

**Location:** 102 W. Washington St., in the 1905 L&N Passenger Depot

**Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

**Phone:** 256-233-6404

**E-mail:** [lcarchives@knology.net](mailto:lcarchives@knology.net) or [lcarchives2@knology.net](mailto:lcarchives2@knology.net)

**Web:** [www.limestonearchives.com](http://www.limestonearchives.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/limestonecountyarchives](https://www.facebook.com/limestonecountyarchives)