

HISTORY

. . of . .

BARBOUR COUNTY, ALABAMA

. . by . .

MATTIE THOMAS THOMPSON

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History brings to generations as they come and go,
The real facts and fancies, in printed story,
That glisten and shine bright, as they show
The deeds, that bring to men and women, glory
That lives on, as the years glide by;
The sad, the glad, that grips the heart
With memories that bring the song and the sigh,
From all, the writer of research seeks to impart.

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EUFULA, ALABAMA

DR. MITCHELL

Dr. William A. Mitchell, in the early eighties, was the brilliant Doctor just making a record for himself in Medicine that was so phenomenal that he was selected by the state Medical society of Alabama to represent that organization at a National Medical convention in New York in 1881.



DR. MITCHELL

The address that he made before that body, was so wonderful, revealing the strides made in his profession, that he was quickly chosen to represent the American National Society in Paris, France, that year.

He accepted this honor and the European and American Press commented so favorably on the address the American Doctor made before the great assembly of Doctors from all parts of the world that he was called "the most famous Doctor in America."

He was the first and only Barbour County Doctor to procure from an institutional Morgue a dead body and with his own process of acids, eradicate the flesh from the bones and again put the skeleton in form in his office. The writer saw him at work when scraping and polishing them to fit on the wires and he told some interesting things about acid process, to a group of school girls studying Anatomy.

Dr. Mitchell loved horses and his beautiful charger, "Black Charlie," with his distinguished master astride him, was the admiration of all this section.

He was a literary genius, as well as a great physician and wrote numbers of valuable articles for the leading Medical Journals of the Country, solely to give to his brothers of the Medical fraternity, the benefits of his investigation and study of many things of great import in the practice of Medicine.

He was born in Glennville, Russell County, (adjoining Barbour—when it was Barbour) April 4, 1848, and died at Eufaula July 15, 1905, and was buried in Atlanta, Georgia,

the home of his only child, Mrs. Robert Ormond, 388 Capitol Ave., Atlanta.

He married Annie Dawson, daughter of W. L. Dawson, pioneer citizen of Glennville, and she also is buried in Atlanta.

DR. COPLAND

Dr. William Preston Copeland also contemporary with Drs. Baker and Mitchell, was born and reared in Eufaula and first became famous as the inventor of the "air treatment" for burns. He found that lotions and bandaging with cotton or gauze impeded, rather than hastened, healing and to his idea of washing a burn with Phenolsodique or Dalby's fluid and leaving it exposed for air healing, is practiced with great success.

Like Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Copeland wrote many interesting articles for the Medical Journals and held high office in the Medical societies of the State and County.

In 1891 his horse ran away and threw him against a telephone pole. Both legs were broken and while his fellow doctors set the shattered bones, he directed them. Unfortunately one of the Doctors insisted on setting on leg differently from the manner Dr. Copeland and Dr. Drewry directed, and Dr. Copeland, who was tall and erect, afterwards slightly limped.

Dr. Copeland was the only Eufaula Doctor ever to make a specialty of the eye, ear, nose and throat, in which he was eminently successful.

The first operation of the eye he performed was catarect. The patient, an old man who had been blind for many years. The removal of this catarect restored his sight completely. He performed this operation in his office with equipment far less scientific than that now used.

As a citizen, Dr. Copeland was one of the most valuable Eufaula ever had. His record was brilliant and enviable in the highest degree. He was born in Eufaula September 1, 1845, at the old historic home on the bluff afterwards known as the "Austin Cargill place". He was the son of John Nelson and Caroline (Cannon) Copeland who moved from Charleston, S. C. to the ancient town of St. Joseph, Fla., on the Gulf and an epidemic of yellow fever brought them fleeing to Eufaula in 1840.

He received his education at the University of Alabama and Belview College and hospital, New York.

He was a student at the University of Alabama when it was burned and took part in the fight with the Yankees at Tuscaloosa on April 3, 1885, the day before the burning.

He began the practice of medicine in Eufaula immediately after graduation. He was one of the first Pecan enthusiasts