

CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

IN MAY, 1833, MADISON COUNTY OFFICIALS APPOINTED MAJOR JOHN B. PEYTON TO DETERMINE THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER OF THE COUNTY TO LOCATE THE COUNTY SEAT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, CANTON CAME INTO EXISTENCE AND WAS INCORPORATED IN 1836.

MYSTERY SHROUDS THE REASON HOW AND WHY THE NAME "CANTON" WAS SELECTED. SEVERAL THEORIES ARE GIVEN BY OLD RESIDENTS: ABOUT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY, A WEALTHY FAMILY TRAVELING FROM BOLTON TO KIRKWOOD VIA CANTON HAD IN THEIR SERVICE A CHINAMAN WHOM THEY HAD CHRISTENED CANTON. HE BECAME SICK ON THE TRIP AND DIED AS THEY NEARED THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTY AND WAS BURIED HERE. IN SPEAKING OF THE NEW TOWN AND WHERE IT WAS TO BE BUILT, PEOPLE HAD ONLY TO SAY, "WHERE THE CHINAMAN, CANTON, IS BURIED." OTHERS SAY THAT IT WAS BECAUSE THE TOWN LIES DIRECTLY ABOVE CANTON, CHINA, AND LIKE THAT FOREIGN CITY, THE MAINS OF TRAVEL AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS BY WAY OF THE PEARL RIVER.

CANTON TODAY BOASTS OF A POPULATION OF 10,000, A PROGRESSIVE CITY GOVERNMENT AND MANY FINE INDUSTRIES, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS PRODUCE WOOD PRODUCTS, MILK, COARSE YARN, SKI BELTS, TENTS, CHEMICALS, AUTO SPRINGS, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE. MADISON COUNTY, ONE OF MISSISSIPPI'S RICHEST AGRICULTURAL AREAS, PRODUCES COTTON, CORN, OATS, WHEAT, SOYBEANS AND IS THE SECOND LARGEST CATTLE COUNTY IN MISSISSIPPI. THE COUNTY ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF PRODUCING OIL WELLS.

FOR RECREATION, CANTONIANS PLAY GOLF AT THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY CLUB, FISH IN THE MANY NEARBY LAKES AND THE PEARL AND BIG BLACK RIVERS-- AND ARE ONLY 20 MILES FROM JACKSON, THE CAPITOL CITY WHERE ARE PLAYED SOME OF THE YEARS BIGGEST AND BEST FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES.

CANTON DISPLAYS MANY BEAUTIFUL ANTE-BELLUM STRUCTURES. ON THE 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1854, THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MADISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE WAS AWARDED TO PATRICK AND WILLIS FOR THE SUM OF \$26,428.58. THE COURT HOUSE WAS COMPLETED AND FORMALLY RECEIVED JANUARY 6, 1858. THE BEAUTIFUL IRON FENCE WHICH ENCLOSES THE COURTYARD WAS BUILT IN 1858 FOR THE SUM OF \$5,250.00.

THE OLD NATCHEZ TRACE WAS LOCATED JUST A FEW MILES EAST OF CANTON. EARLY MAPS SHOW THE NATCHEZ TRACE AS AN INDIAN TRAIL RUNNING FROM NATCHEZ TO THE CHOCTAW VILLAGES AND THENCE TO THE CHICASAW VILLAGES IN WHAT IS NOW NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI. THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY MEMORIALIZES THE INDIAN PATH THAT BECAME A WILDERNESS ROADWAY BETWEEN NATCHEZ AND NASHVILLE AND DURING 1800-1830 SUCCESSIVELY A POST ROAD AND HIGHWAY BINDING THE OLD SOUTHWEST TO THE UNION.

CANTON FELT THE DEVASTATION OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES. IT WAS ON THE ROUTE OF SHERMAN'S HISTORICAL MARCH TO THE SEA. BUT TIME HEALS ALL SCARS, AND TODAY CANTON HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND RECREATIONAL PARADE OF PROGRESS.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

Madison County was originally part of the Choctaw Nation. Just north of Spanish West Florida, it was claimed by Georgia until 1804 when it was ceded to Mississippi Territory. Pushmataha, Choctaw chief, relinquished Indian claim to most of the county's area to Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hinds at Doaks Stand, a trading post, in the second Choctaw cession of 1820.

The land of the "New Purchase" was divided into counties in 1828 and Madison County assumed its present form in 1840 adding a wedge from the third Choctaw cession.

14 Choctaw line of 1820: this wedge of land was ceded at the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit 1830

Added Miss Territory 1804

West Florida 1795 Miss Territory 1798

GEORGIA

MISSISSIPPI

FLORIDA

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

BLACK RIVER

Doaks Stand

Pushmataha cedes 975,000 acres 1820

Methodist Conference Miss Academy 1837 SHALON

4th permanent Co. 1st 40 acres of land called Deer Stand bought in 1839 Possibly got name from Chinese who named "Canton" buried here

Madisonville Settled 1827 3rd Co. 3000 1833

Pearl River Church (the Lambuth)

Chapel of the Cross 1849

RIDGELAND

HISTORICAL MADISON COUNTY

The Hatcher Trace, a prehistoric Indian trail, was declared a government road in 1801 when the Indians ceded free passage to whites. Its course was shortened many times, but even after a stage line was established through Madisonville, a character called Walking Johnson beat the Nashville mail Stages, and Old Hickory got his nickname leading his troops over it from the battle of New Orleans. The land route home for flatboatmen like Mike Fink, it attracted scores of outlaws looking for easy money and safe hiding.

petrified forest

Vernon, site of great, early plantations, now industrial center.

Murrell, famous outlaw, plots slave uprising 1835

Beatties Bluff, 1st Co. seat 1828 cotton flatboats from upriver

Livingston, 1st town 1824 2nd County seat 1828-39 famous gullies, spring

Moundsdale

VAUGHN Casey Jones' wrecks 1900

to Memphis

CAMERON

Kirkwood, the grave of Gov. Rowles

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HISTORICAL MADISON COUNTY

My Name: _____

MADISON COUNTY INDUSTRIES

Canton

American Tent Co.

Product: Tents, gun covers, tow targets, canvass, and or leather products, etc.

Manager: D. R. Yandell

Champion Chemical Co.

Product: Insecticides, fungicides

Manager: J. T. Conner

Canton Casket Co.

Product: Burial caskets

Manager: Clyde Sullivan

Canton Poultry Market

Product: Dressed Poultry

Manager: J. D. Raspberry

Canton Pulp Yard-L. A. Penn and Son

Product: Pulp wood

Manager: L. A. Penn, Jr.

Canton Ready Mix

Product: Concrete, sand and gravel

Manager: Russell Lovell

Canton Textiles

Product: Coarse yarns

Manager: Emmett C. Ross

Canton Treating Co.

Product: Creosote poles

Manager: L. H. Dunham

Coastal Chemical Co.

Product: Fertilizer

Manager: John Williamson

Ely and Walker Dry Goods Co.

Product: Men's shirts

Manager: J. W. Gardner

Farco Plumbing Specialities Mfg.

Product: Plumbing fixtures

Manager: Bill Faris

Gilbert Wood Products

Product: Furniture parts

Manager: Henry Anderson

International Papaer Co.

Product: Pulp wood

Manager: Dave Fortgang

Jackson Wood Products

Product: Furniture

Manager: P. C. Garner

Jones and Yandell

Product: Ski belts, life jackets

Manager: Hermit Jones

Madison Co. Cooperatives

Product: Grain elevators

Manager: Sam Estess

Madison Co. Dairies

Product: Milk

Manager: Herman W. Mosby

Rebel Concrete Co., Ridgeland

Manager: Bobby Moore

Madison Furniture Industries

Product: Upholstered furniture

Manager: L. H. Shornick

Madison Woodworking Co.

Product: Furniture parts

Manager: L. H. Shornick

Milcraft Products, Inc.

Product: Kitchen cabinets

Manager: Bill Wells

Mississippi Federated Coops

Product: Egg grading and freezing

Manager: Bill Myers

No-Sag Spring Co.

Product: Coil springs

Manager: Robert O'Dell

Gold Kist Pecan Processing Plant

Product: Shelled pecans

Manager: Burnie Butler

Sho-Case Mfg. Co.

Products: Decorative throw, pillows, utility bags, stadium cushions, and seats

Manager: Stanley Case

T-L Metal Polishing Co.
Manager: Paul Buskirk

Udico Mfg. Co.
Product: Electrical appliances
Manager: Mike Brabo

FLORA

Norris-Thermador Corp.
Product: Kitchenware
Manager: Ralph Cantlay

Magnavox Wood Products
Product: Dimensional stock
Manager: C. D. Blancett

M-R-S Mfg. Co.
Product: Tractors, scrapers,
hauling equipment
Manager: H. H. White, Jr.

Flora Cotton Compress Warehouse
Product: Cotton storage
Manager: E. H. Stratton

Southern Vital Records
Product: Record storage
Manager: Dozier Willard

MADISON

Amid Plastic Mfg. Co.
Product: Plastic products
Manager: Lawrence Lewis

RIDGELAND

Hunt Process Inc.
Product: Concrete curing compound
Manager: C. A. Adcock

GANTON

American Tent Co.
Product: Tents, gun covers, tow
towers, canvas, and
other leather products, etc.
Manager: D. R. Randall

Ganton Chemical Co.
Product: Insecticides, fungicides
Manager: J. T. Gannon

Ganton Casket Co.
Product: Funeral caskets
Manager: Clyde Sullivan

Ganton Fertilizer Market
Product: Fertilizer
Manager: J. D. Haskerby

Ganton Pulp Yard-L. A. Penn and Son
Product: Pulp wood
Manager: L. A. Penn, Jr.

Ganton Ready Mix
Product: Concrete, sand and gravel
Manager: Russell Lovell

Ganton Textiles
Product: Garment yarns
Manager: Ernest C. Ross

Ganton Treating Co.
Product: Gaseous gases
Manager: L. R. Dugham

Ganton Chemical Co.
Product: Fertilizer
Manager: John Williamson

W. and Walker Dry Goods Co.
Product: Men's shirts
Manager: J. W. Gardner

Three Humping Specialties Co.
Product: Fishing lures
Manager: Bill Smith

Albert Wood Products
Product: Furniture parts
Manager: R. C. Anderson

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT....

CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

AREA --- 2084.8 ACRES, 3.2575 SQUARE MILES	CITY BUDGET - \$ 423,100
MILES OF PAVED STREETS --- 42.22	CITY INCORPORATED - 1836
ASSESSED VALUATION --- \$7,110,983.00	CITY EMPLOYEES - 141
CITY REAL ESTATE TAX RATE --- 16 MILLS	COMMERCIAL BANKS - 2
CITY TREASURY SURPLUS FUND (2/1/64)---\$65,799.31	
SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATIONS - 1	RETAIL OUTLETS -- 400
POPULATION --- APPROX. 11,000 (1960 CENSUS - 9,707)	ANNUAL RETAIL SALES - (\$14,000,000)
AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL --- 60"	DWELLING UNITS (1/1/62) 2,446
AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE --- 83 DEG.	INDUSTRIAL FIRMS - 26
PREVAILING WINDS --- SSE 5-15 MPH	ELEVATION - 228'

PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED --- TENTS, GUN COVERS, TOW TARGETS, CANVASS GOODS
LEATHER PRODUCTS, INSECTICIDES, FUNGICIDES, BURIAL CASKETS, COARSE
YARNS, MEN'S SHIRTS, FURNITURE, SKI-BELTS, LIFE JACKETS, FURNITURE
PARTS, KITCHEN CABINETS, COIL SPRINGS, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, PLUMBING
SPECIALTIES, DECORATIVE THROW PILLOWS, BEACH BAGS, STATIDUM CUSHIONS
AND SEATS, CONCRETE.

PRODUCTS PROCESSED -- PULP WOOD, MILK, EGGS, PECANS, METAL FINISHING,
CREOSOTE POLES, GRAIN, POULTRY.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS -- COTTON, CORN, OATS, WHEAT, SOY BEANS. MADISON
COUNTY IS THE SECOND LARGEST CATTLE COUNTY IN MISSISSIPPI.

LOCATION: CANTON, COUNTY SEAT OF MADISON COUNTY, LIES 23 MILES NORTH
OF JACKSON, STATE CAPITAL OF MISSISSIPPI. LOCATED ON INTERSTATE
HIGHWAY 55 AND THE ILLINOIS RAILROAD, AND BEING ONLY 23 MILES FROM
HIGHWAY 80 AND THE JACKSON JET AIRPORT, IT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL POINTS.

MYSTERY SHROUDS THE REASON HOW AND WHY THE NAME "CANTON" WAS SELECTED.
SEVERAL THEORIES ARE GIVEN BY OLD RESIDENTS: SOME SAY THAT A CHINAMAN
NAMED "CANTON", IN SERVICE OF A WEALTHY FAMILY TRAVELING THROUGH THE
COUNTY, DIED AND WAS BURIED HERE; OTHERS SAY THAT IT WAS BECAUSE THE
TOWN LIES DIRECTLY ABOVE CANTON, CHINA.

CANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Notes from interview with Mr. X, ex-bootlegger

He spent almost twenty years in the business- quit in 1963. Most of the whiskey he ran in came from Jackson or Vicksburg; he paid the cops nothing over there. He doesn't know whether the sellers in those towns paid them off or not.

He said that the highway patrol used to stop, search, arrest and fine people if they caught them. X said that in 1959 it came over the news that the highway patrol could no longer make arrests of people carrying sealed bottles if the tax (to state) had been paid on it, although they could arrest people carrying corn. He said that the highway patrol would stop cars and often notify the sheriff and surmised that the sheriff would split the take from whatever bribe involved with the individual patrolmen in these cases.

When asked for specific instances when he had been notified by the sheriff of impending raids, X said that in 1950, when Lloyd Simpson was sheriff, he was so notified by Simpson. At this point X said he was paying about \$25 a week for "protection."

In 1950 he said he moved to Canton; while inside the city limits, he paid the chief of police (Dan Thompson- now chief; he's been in and out of office for quite some time) \$50 a week. Although he paid the sheriff nothing within the city limits, he was never raided. He guesses that there was some sort of arrangement between the sheriff and the chief.

His brother, w