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JACKSON'S PURCHASE.

An Interesting Sketch of Its Purchase From the Indians.

ARTICLE BY C.H. TODD.

There is no section of Kentucky so rich in historical interest as the "Kentucky Purchase," nor on which historians have touched so lightly, says the *Owensboro Messenger*.

This territory which was purchased from the Chickasaw Indians in 1818 by a commission appointed by the government, consisting of Governor Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, and Gen. Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, embraced the territory in Tennessee and Kentucky west of the Tennessee River. The distinctive name, however, only clings to that portion lying in Kentucky.

The author of the sketch below is Dr. C. H. Todd, of Owensboro, who is the youngest grandchild of Gov. Shelby, to whom fell a number of private letters and papers of Kentucky's first governor, as well as a file of Kentucky and Tennessee papers of the date of the negotiations. From this data Dr. Todd prepared this paper, which was read before a society of scholars of Owensboro known as the "Investigators," on resolution of which society the paper was permitted to be published:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Club—I have selected for my subject tonight some historical facts in regard to that portion of our state known as "The Purchase."

In 1818, under an act of Congress, President James Monroe appointed Gov. Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, and Gov. Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, commissioners to treat with the Chickasaw Indians for all their lands lying west of the Tennessee River, being the district known today as Western Kentucky and West Tennessee.

Gov. Shelby with his private secretary, his son, left his home, "Traveler's Rest," in Lincoln County, on horseback September 10th, and reached the "Hermitage," General Jackson's home, September 15, where they were guests a few days, and then, accompanied by General Jackson, they proceeded to Nashville.

In a day or two the commissioners set out for the treaty ground, accompanied by eight or ten gentlemen friends of General Jackson.

The commissioners met all the Indian chiefs and warriors in council at the Chickasaw agency, which is stated to have been in Monroe County, Mississippi.

The Chickasaw Indians were a brave and powerful tribe and were loyal to the United States government during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and so true were they that General Washington gave two of the principal chiefs, the Colberts, commissions in the army.

The Indians as a race were treacherous people to trade with, and the land speculators who were present added no little to the delay and difficulties encountered by the commissioners in making the treaty.

The commissioners could not agree between themselves as to the price asked (\$300,000) by the Indians, Shelby contending that it was too much.

Finally, after the second council was held, the Indians proposed to sell for \$300,000 provided a reservation of valuable lands embracing the

Big Spring, near Colbert's Ferry on the Tennessee River, was made to Col. George Colbert and Maj. Levi Colbert, two of the principal chiefs.

Shelby would not consent to this reservation being made to the Colbert chiefs unless they were forbidden to sell to private individuals without giving the United States government preemptive right at the price stipulated.

The treaty was signed as above, October 19, 1818, and the same day the Colberts deeded to James Jackson their reservation for \$20,000 cash.

James Jackson resided in Davidson County, Tennessee, and was a partner of General Jackson in land speculation in Tennessee, though not a kinsman.

The territory allotted Kentucky is the extreme western portion of the state, and bounded as follows: On the east by the Tennessee River, extending from the Tennessee line to Paducah; on the north by the Ohio River from Paducah to Cairo; on the west by the Mississippi River, from Cairo to the Tennessee line near New Madrid; and on the south by the Tennessee line, extending from the Mississippi River to the beginning on the Tennessee River, embracing the following eight counties, to wit: Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, McCracken and Marshall.

On the 17th day of January, 1819, Congress approved the treaty and in conformity with its provisions, James Jackson, on the 15th day of May, 1819, conveyed the reservation to the United States government for the sum of \$20,000 cash, the same amount he gave the Colberts.

The deeds from the Colberts to Jackson, of October 19, 1818, and from him to the United States government of May 15, 1819, were both proved on July 24, 1819, and are of record in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

In 1824 the presidential candidates were Adams, Jackson, Crawford and Clay. The people failing to make a choice the election was thrown into the house. Clay being the lowest in the list, he was excluded from the house by the constitutional provision, which makes it the duty of Congress to select one of the three highest candidates.

However, Clay held the balance of power, and his friends elected Adams. Mr. Adams appointed Mr. Clay Secretary of State.

In the presidential race in 1828, between Adams and Jackson, Mr. Clay threw his strength to Adams, and the supporters of Jackson made the charge that Mr. Clay's appointment of Secretary of State in 1824 was bargain and intrigue.

The followers of Mr. Clay retorted by charging Jackson with bargain and sale in the Chickasaw Indian treaty in 1818.

The issue of the presidential race in 1828 hinged upon the charges against Gen. Jackson in the Chickasaw treaty, and so his action in the matter became of national importance.

Gov. Shelby died in 1826, and had he lived those charges against Gen. Jackson would not have been made.

It was during the presidential race in 1828 that the territory allotted the State of Kentucky by the Chickasaw treaty of 1818 was dubbed by the Clay party the "Jackson Purchase."

Andrew Jackson

