

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

## Nomination Form

For office use only - Date added:

### 1. Name

historic Webb Chesnut House  
and/or common Webb Chesnut House (Beechwood Farms)

### 2. Location

street & number 4470 Main ST  
city, town Gaylesville ---vicinity of  
state AL county Cherokee zip 35973

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name MARK Chesnut Phone number 256/835-8184  
street & number 405 Hilldale Rd  
city, town Anniston, AL ---vicinity of zip 36207

### 5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

CO-owners  
→ DAVID Chesnut  
4470 Main ST  
Gaylesville, AL  
35973

RECEIVED

MAY 18 2001

Ala. Historical Commission

**7. Significance** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).**

*See Attached*

## 6. Written Description

- A. The original structure was 2 stories approximately 25' X 60', each story. A single story addition was added in 1912 approximately 22' x 29'.
- B. The entire house sits approximately 3' above the ground on local stone pillars. Brick underpinning was added for insulation in 1968.
- C. The floor structure consist of 12" x 12", 'hand hewn' pine timbers with 2" x 10" floor joist. The framing consist of pegged, mortise and tenon construction. The entire framing is 'rough sawn' pine lumber connected by pegged, mortise and tenon joints. Numerous 'blacksmith' type square nails can also be found.
- D. The entire exterior walls consist of wooden lap boards that have been painted white for the entire life of the structure.
- E. No noticeable exterior wall treatments.
- F. The front porch is 10' X 58' and encompasses both stories with 3 small balconies on the upper level. The porch is supported by 6, 16 ft. tall, 20" diameter wooden columns. The original porch was wooden tongue and groove pine but was replaced in 1985 with poured concrete. The back porch is 'L' shaped, 6' wide treated pine with 3, 6" turned columns.
- G. No bays.
- H. The roof is a double gable with asphalt shingles covering 1" x 10" boards.
- I. All trim around the roof edge is wooden with crown moulding under the drip edge.
- J. There are 3 chimneys all of solid red brick construction. One each is located on the west, east, and south sides of the original structure. The chimneys on the west and east side both support 2 fireplaces, one on each level with double flues. The chimney on the south side also contains 2 fireplaces, both on the first level. One of these fireplaces faces the interior of the original house the other faces the exterior, presumed to be a fireplace for the original detached kitchen.
- K. The main entrance is on the original lower level facing north. It is a double half wood and half glass. There is a transom over the entire length with sidelights on both sides. There are 6 other entrances on the lower level, all solid 6 panel doors. There is an additional 3 doors on the upper level facing north. All doors have black, handmade screen doors attached.

L. There are 8 double hung windows on the front of the house. Each has 9 panes in the upper half and 1 single pane on the lower. All operate via window weights. There are 4 additional windows on each side of the original structure and 4 various other windows on the addition.

M. Each fireplace has a full wooden mantel with varying detail to each. All interior doors are solid, six panel construction with 1" x 6" pine moulding. All window moulding is either 1" x 6" or 1" x 4" pine. There is simple crown moulding throughout the lower levels. The stairs were moved from the original 'dog trot' location with the addition. They are located in the main room with a right turn to the upper level. It is an open design with 2" x 2" balusters secured on 4" x 4" box post. The balusters, post, and risers are painted white, the handrail and runners are dark stained pine.

All walls are either 1" x 6" pine boards or 1" x 4" beaded tongue and groove pine. The lower level ceilings are beaded 1" x 4" pine while the upper level has sheet rock added to the ceilings.

N. The original heating system was the fireplace. The original cooling system was the windows and doors. All door knobs are original metal 'skeleton' key type.

O. A full 22' x 29' addition was added in 1912. The original detached kitchen was moved away from the house to make way for the new addition. The addition included an indoor kitchen, dining room and double porch. The back porch was enclosed around 1935. The front porch was altered in the late 1940's. Most recent was the year 2000 when plumbing and electricity were updated to modern code. An additional full bathroom was added upstairs and the lower two baths were enlarged and modernized.

P. The house sits atop a small hill facing north by northeast paralleling the original Gaylesville to Cedar Bluff road. There was very little landscaping originally with the exception of several hardwood trees and a few bushes planted between 1916 and 1920.

Q. The property includes the house, original kitchen (now a garage), brick smoke house, wooden milk house, tractor shed, concrete silo, silage barn, and a tenant house.



1912 Addition

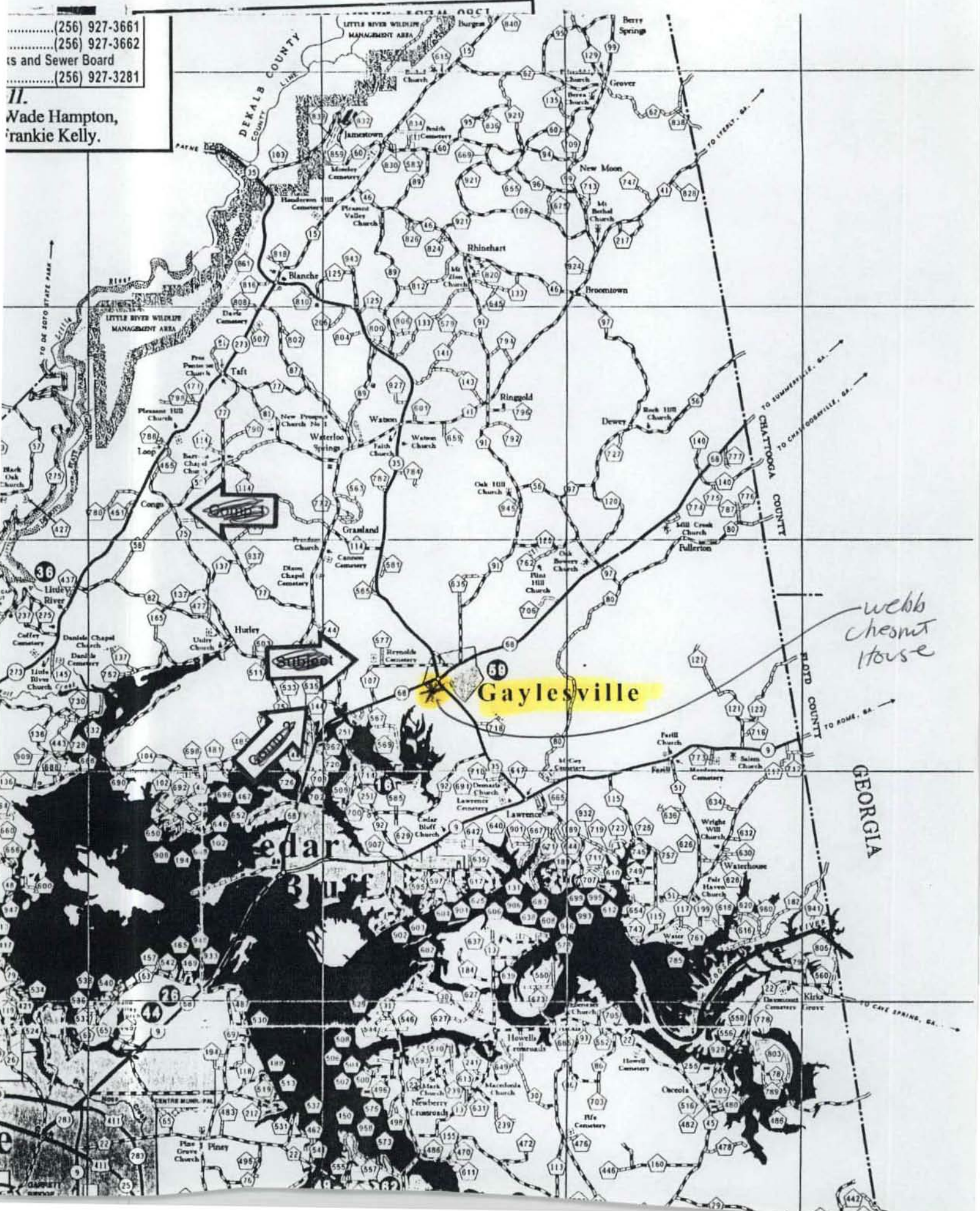
2nd story

— original structure

\* All numbers Approximate

.....(256) 927-3661  
 .....(256) 927-3662  
 ts and Sewer Board  
 .....(256) 927-3281

II.  
 Wade Hampton,  
 Frankie Kelly.



**Gaylesville**

*webb chestnut house*

**CANTON**

**CANTON**

GEORGIA

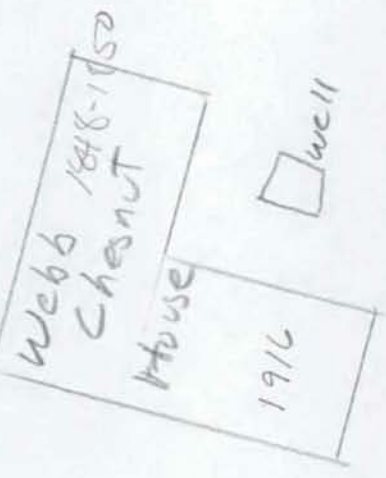
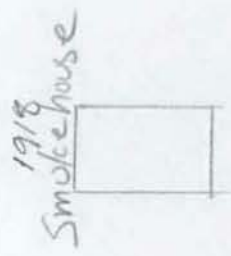
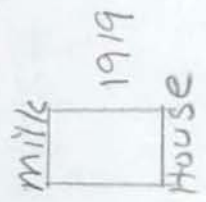
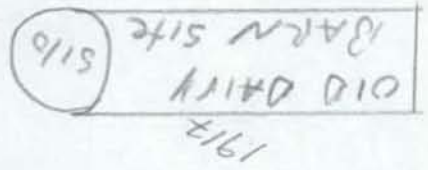
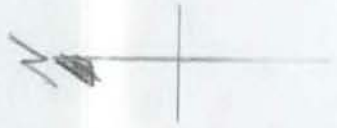
← TO Cedar Bluff

Hwy 68

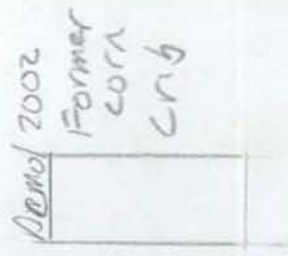
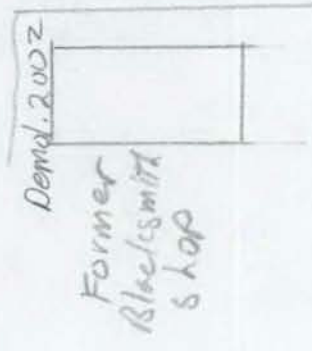
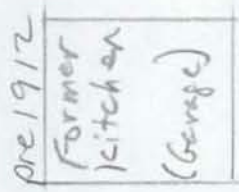
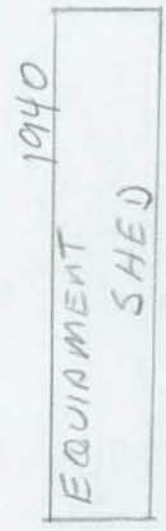
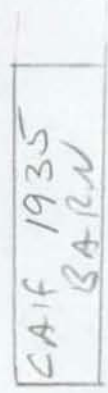
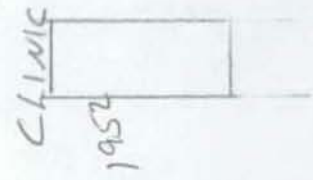
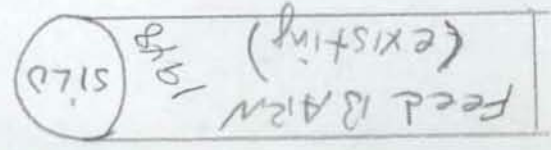
→ TO Gaylesville

Old Cedar Bluff Rd

Driveway



Mother-in-law House



NOT TO SCALE

## Webb Chesnut

Webb Chesnut was born to John Ellis Chesnut and Nancy Almeda Webb Chesnut on 22 Dec. 1883 in Gaylesville, AL in the old Chesnut house (C.E. Chesnut Sr. Home). He was the 5<sup>th</sup> child of 10. He attended the public school at Gaylesville, spent one year at Birmingham Southern Methodist College and later attended Vanderbilt University until a family crises called him to Colorado for several months. He moved back to Rome, GA to begin his banking career in the collections dept of the Exchange Bank of Rome. He later moved to Gaylesville to work in the Bank of Gaylesville under his father as a teller and later a loan officer. He married on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday (22 Dec. 1909) in Hokes Bluff, AL to Mabel Landers, daughter of Dr. Franklin Pierce Landers and Julia Elizabeth Hodges Landers.

Webb and Mabel settled in Gaylesville in a home his grandfather, Jonathan, had built, known as the C.E. Chesnut Jr. home. They stayed there 7 years, had 5 children at that home and moved in July 1916 shortly after the 5th child was born to the present location. Webb and Mabel named the new place Beechwood Farms and began to raise numerous animals and crops with their signature being a state registered herd of Jersey milk cows. Webb was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1934 where he served only 1 term. He is responsible for the construction of Hwy 68 from Centre, AL to the Georgia state line. Webb and Mabel had a total of 10 children, 9 boys and 1 girl who died at 13 months from colitis. At one time they had their own baseball team comprised of the 9 boys with Webb as their coach. 1941 brought the beginning of WW II and the draft of 7 of the 9 boys who served proudly in the Army and the Navy. (The 5<sup>th</sup> son Matthew was killed in an auto accident in 1935 and James, the youngest, was required to stay at home due to the 'Sullivan Brothers' act) All but one returned from the war, Ssgt. Joe Taylor Chesnut was killed in action in Italy.

The end of the war saw the return to farming with some of the boys going to colleges under the GI bill. In 1952, Alabama Power Co. purchased an easement for back water for the new Weiss Hydroelectric Dam. This purchase condemned the dairy barn and feed barn which were torn down due to probable flooding (although that area had flooded before the lake was formed, it has never flooded since i.e. the barns could have remained). This ended the dairy farming of Beechwood Farms, however, Beef cattle and crops have been grown till this present day. Webb died 07 March 1965 at the age of 81 in his home from a heart attack. He is buried in the Randall cemetery outside of Gaylesville. After his death, the property was divided between the remaining heirs. Mabel died in her home on 02 October 1977 at the age of 89 (20 days before her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday). She is also buried at Randal Cemetery beside her husband. Luther Chesnut the 9<sup>th</sup> son, lived in the old house until his death 09 August 1999 at the age of 76. The property was then sold to David and Mark Chesnut, grandsons of Webb and Mabel, sons of James David in 07 December 2000.



## **John Ellis Chesnut**

John Ellis was born 09 May 1850 in Cherokee County Alabama son of Jonathan and Elizabeth McMahan Chesnut. He married (1) Nancy Almeda Webb on 08 Feb. 1870 at Spring Creek Alabama by Rev John Helms. John Ellis was a blacksmith by trade. Around 1872 he went into merchandising and was a successful business man which assisted in establishing the Bank of Gaylesville, of which he was vice president at the time of his death on 29 Dec. 1924. He was member of Gaylesville Methodist church which he helped build.

John Ellis and Nancy Almeda had 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls. Nancy died 11 Jun 1913 and John Ellis remarried 2 years later to Una Mary Hudson and they had 2 children. John Ellis is buried at Randall Cemetery.

## **Jonathan Chesnut**

Jonathan Chesnut was born 10 Jan 1824 in Cherokee County Al son of Joseph and Winney Chesnut. He married Elizabeth McMahan around 1844 or 1845. Elizabeth was from Tennessee and was a red headed Irish lady whose father was John McMahan. They had 5 children, 4 girls and 1 boy. Jonathan was a farmer, a carpenter/cabinet maker and a Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church North and was called "Pap" by most.

We know that Jonathan's first wife died 07 Sept. 1871 and is buried at Round Mountain. We also know that the first organized school in Gaylesville was held in Jonathan's home with 17 students in 1872. Therefore, we can presume he moved to Gaylesville from Round Mountain around 1871-1872. This house was located behind the present day Gaylesville Post Office. Jonathan remarried Malinda Jane Coffman Webb 17 Jun 1878. After his first house burned down, he rebuilt close to the Bank of Gaylesville which is the present day C.E. Chesnut Jr. house. He died 05 Oct. 1917 at the age of 93. He was designated "home front guard" in the Civil War and never saw action although both of his brothers, James and Joseph did serve and both were captured.

## **Joseph Chesnut**

Joseph Chesnut was born 1794 in Campbell County Georgia son of Alexander Chesnut Jr. and Sarah Carr Chesnut. Married Winney ??????. He died in 1831. Joseph's widow, Winney moved to Cherokee County, AL in the Round Mountain area between 1831 and 1840 according to the U.S. Census. She remarried Iven Hellums between 1830 and 1840.

### **Alexander Chesnut Jr.**

Alexander Jr. was born in 1755 son of Alexander Sr. and Sarah Murphrey. He served in the Revolutionary War and owned land around Beaverdam and Six Runs N.C. He sold his property to Owen Holmes on 16 Jul. 1808 and moved his family to Anson County, N.C. where he died in 1812.

### **Alexander Chesnut Sr.**

Alexander Sr. was born around 1710 to John and Betsy Chesnut.

### **John Chesnut**

John was born around 1690 in Ireland to Alexander Chesnut and Mary O'Drairie. He died in 1750 in the Isle of Wright County, Virginia.

### **Alexander Chesnut**

Alexander was born around 1660 in Northern Ireland and died around 1690 in Isle of Wright County, Virginia.

# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Webb CHESNUT**

B: 22 Dec 1883  
P: Gaylesville, AL  
M: 22 Dec 1909  
P:  
D: 7 Mar 1965  
P: Gaylesville, AL

**2 James David CHESNUT Sr.**

B: 17 Sep 1926  
P: Gaylesville, AL  
M: 27 Nov 1955  
P: Decatur, GA  
D:  
P:

**5 Mabel LANDERS**

B: 22 Oct 1887  
P:  
D: 2 Oct 1977  
P: Gaylesville, AL

**1 Mark Taylor CHESNUT**

B: 26 Sep 1961  
P: Decatur, GA  
M: 17 Mar 1984  
P: Birmingham, AL  
D:  
P:

6

B:  
P:  
M:  
P:  
D:  
P:

**3 Joene Elizabeth WHEELUS**

B: 14 Oct 1934  
P: Atlanta, GA  
D:  
P:

7

B:  
P:  
D:  
P:

**8 John Ellis CHESNUT**

B: 9 May 1850  
P: Cherokee County, AL  
M: 8 Feb 1870  
P: Spring Creek  
D: 29 Dec 1924  
P: Cherokee County, AL

**9 Nancy Almeda WEBB**

B: 17 Jan 1853  
P: Cherokee County, AL  
D: 11 Jun 1913  
P: Cherokee County, AL

**10 Franklin Pierce LANDERS**

B: 12 Sep 1856  
P:  
M: 15 Dec 1885  
P:  
D: 23 Feb 1921  
P: Hokes Bluff, AL

**11 Julia Elizabeth HODGES**

B: 15 Apr 1860  
P:  
D: 2 Apr 1945  
P:

12

B:  
P:  
M:  
P:  
D:  
P:  
D:  
P:

13

B:  
P:  
D:  
P:

14

B:  
P:  
M:  
P:  
D:  
P:

15

B:  
P:  
D:  
P:

**16 Jonathan CHESNUT**

B: 10 Jan 1824 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D: 5 Oct 1917

**17 Elizabeth MCMAHAN**

B: 1818 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D: 7 Sep 1871

**18 Jessie WEBB**

B: 20 Aug 1818 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D: 4 Jan 1865

**19 Malinda Jane COFFMAN**

B: 1 Nov 1829 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D: 30 Apr 1909

20

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

21

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

**22 Samuel Henison HODGES**

B: 1814 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

**23 Nancy Cottrell MATTISON**

B: 20 Jul 1814 cont. \_\_\_\_  
D: 1865

24

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

25

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

26

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

27

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

28

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

29

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

30

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

31

B: cont. \_\_\_\_  
D:

Prepared 16 Aug 2003 by:  
Mark T. Chesnut

# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_



Prepared 16 Aug 2003 by:  
 Mark T. Chesnut

SLIDES  
WEBB CHESNUT HOMEPLACE  
CURRENT

1. North Elevation
2. West Elevation
3. South Elevation
4. East Elevation
5. Front Door
6. Front Door -Detailed
7. Window Detail (all windows are basically similar)
8. Stone pillar detail under original house
9. Stone pillar detail north east corner original house
10. Dining room
11. Mantle, dining room
12. Living room
13. Mantle, living room
14. Ceiling, living room
15. Mantle, lower west room
16. Mantle, lower east room
17. Exterior door detail
18. Exterior door detail
19. Interior door detail
20. Staircase
21. Staircase
22. Upstairs railing
23. Interior door detail
24. Mantle, upper west room
25. Mantle, upper east room
26. Exterior library door
27. Hand built cloths hanger
28. Well, hand dug, approximately 60' deep
29. Mother-in-law house
30. Smoke house
31. Old kitchen, current garage
32. Equipment shed
33. Calf barn
34. Feed Barn with silo
35. Milk house
36. Milk house and in ground ice house
37. Ice house and well
38. Old dairy barn site/foundation
39. Animal clinic
40. Railroad trestle
41. Railroad trestle

\*Note: Slides may not be in proper orientation

HDQRS. SECOND CAV. DIV., DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND  
Gaylesville, October 20, 1864-9:30 a.m.

Brigadier-General Cox,

Commanding Army of the Ohio:

General: I have reached this place with but little skirmishing. I learn that only one corps of infantry -- Stewart's -- passed through here; it went on toward Blue Pond. The other two corps are reported to have passed down Shinbone Valley, and in the same direction; no one knows where they have gone from that point, where there are roads leading everywhere. A pontoon had been down at Edwards' Ferry until last Thursday, when it was taken up on the other side. I will take the Blue Pond road from town and send back any information. I will meet opposition, I suppose, in a short time.

Very respectfully, &c.,

K. Garrard,  
Brigadier-General, &C

[Indorsement.]

---

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO,  
Five miles from Gaylesville, October 20, 1864- 9:30 a.m.

Major-General SHERMAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

SIR: The heading of the cavalry must be close upon Gaylesville. I hear of no skirmishing at the front. A deserter, apparently candid, says he knows the pontoon was ordered to Gunter'sville, on the Tennessee. The columns of the enemy are represented as passing by Blue Pond in that direction. This is corroborated by an escaped prisoner. A man who was engaged in our quartermaster department came last night. He says it seemed generally understood among the rebel troops that they were making for Gunter'sville and he had no doubt they were. I am just in rear of the cavalry column, the advance being considerably in front.

Very respectfully, &c.

J.D. COX,  
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

---

HDQRS. CHIEF OF CAVALRY, DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
Gaylesville, Ala., October 20, 1864.

Brig. Gen. K. Garrard,

Commanding Second Cavalry Division:

The general commanding directs that you move out with your command at 8 a.m. tomorrow upon the Gadsden road. You will also detail two companies to report at once to Capt. L. M. Dayton, aide-de-camp, headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, for courier duty.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. Jacobs,  
Captain and Assistant Adjutant General.

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,  
*In the Field, Gaylesville, Ala., October 20, 1864*

General Corse,  
Rome:

The enemy has retreated down the Coosa toward Gadsden. I will not pursue any farther, but want you to begin for our move. Send all your wounded and sick back to Chattanooga far as Resaca till the road is done. Keep as much rations as you can haul in your wagons, and will need about 500,000 rations to replenish in the course of a week. Send me all the intelligence of the condition of the road. I think General Kilpatrick and take care of the cavalry you mention as being below the Etowah.

W.T. SHERMAN,  
*Major-General, Commanding*

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 142

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT  
AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,  
*Gaylesville, Ala., October 20, 1864.*

• • • • •  
V. In accordance with Special Field Orders, No. 99, • Military Division of the Mississippi, copy herewith inclosed, this army will advance to-morrow and take up position on the main Alabama road, some four or five miles in the direction of Blue Pond.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE, CAVALRY DIVISION,  
*Gaylesville, Ala., October 20, 1864 -- 10:50 a.m.*

Major-General Howard:

GENERAL: I have reached Gaylesville without seeing any enemy. Found General Garrard passing through. Citizens all along the road say the rebel army is all moving to Blue Pond.

Respectfully,

LOUIS D. WATKINS,  
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*