

# HISTORICAL AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ROME AND FLOYD COUNTY, GA.

By

LOUIS JOSEPH MALOOF

Author of

"My Beloved America," "Son of Allah,"

"Reminiscence of New York,"

"Memory Lingers On,"

etc., etc.

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WHO WERE THE FOUNDERS OF ROME?

DO YOU KNOW WHO BROUGHT TO ROME:—

The first bath tub?

The first piano?

The first auto?

The first bike?

DID THE INDIANS PLAY FOOTBALL?

WAS ROME ONCE AN ISLAND?

HOW MANY WHISKY SALOONS DID ROME

ONCE HAVE?

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Sincerely yours,  
Louis Joseph Maloof

To James Madison Burke, Jr.

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## *Preface*

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Dear Reader:

May I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation of George McGruder Battey, Jr., thoughtful Roman — now doing newspaper work in Shanghai, China — who preserved many historical and interesting facts about Rome and Floyd County in his invaluable encyclopedic history. Far be it from me to place myself on literary equal with him, but I shall endeavor to carry on where he left off.

Perhaps the enclosed matter is not absolutely complete. Time and time again I called for Roman facts of interest, but received little or no response. Consequently, I am not responsible for any injustice that may have been done in this work. It is well to note at this time that while most of the facts in this booklet are genuinely historical, others are merely facts of interest.

Now, close your eyes while I write a little note to George: "Come home, boy, come home! The brass band has waited at the old station many a day to welcome you back to these dear old, pine-covered hills you knew so well. God bless you!"

LOUIS JOSEPH MALOOF.

P. S.—Mather Daniel said don't come home wearing "pig tails"!

## SYNOPTICAL HISTORY

### FLOYD COUNTY

1832 — 1932

THE GEORGIA Legislature, having gained control of the Cherokee Country over which the Indians and white settlers had long been at war, passed an act December 3, 1832, providing for a division of that country into ten large counties. Floyd County, named for the great Indian fighter, General John Floyd, was one of the new counties thus created.

Situated in the beautiful hills of northwest Georgia, Floyd has become one of the most outstanding counties in the State—not only historically, but in commerce and culture as well.

### ROME

1834 — 1934

FROM A MERE handful of wigwams and huts in Chiaha Village, between the fork of the Oostanaula, Etowah, and Coosa rivers, arose the beautiful City of Rome, the present county seat of Floyd.

In 1834 Zachariah B. Hargrove, Philip W. Hemphill, Daniel R. Mitchell, lawyers, and William Smith, planter, founded the new town. Names were drawn from a hat, and one put in by Colonel Mitchell was chosen. Thus Rome in the seven hills of Georgia was named after Rome in the seven hills of Italy.

The wigwams and huts of Chiaha disappeared. The Indians were driven to western reservations. Homes and buildings of the pale-face brother arose on streets and avenues only to be confiscated a few years later in the war that left the old South but a sweet memory of what used to be.

After "the burning of Rome," courageous Romans, as of old, began to rebuild and reinhabit the city. Time passed! History was written. Rome and Floyd County grew and prospered.

## TABLOID FACTS

FERDINAND DE SOTO, Spanish cavalier, spent nearly 30 days on the site of the present Rome in 1540. A part of the 4th Ward of Rome has always been called "De Soto."

\* \* \*

A SWORD HILT, a carved pipe and piece of breast plate were unearthed near the 5th Avenue bridge in 1886. These are believed to have belonged to De Soto.

\* \* \*

THE REGION north of th Chattahoochee River was called "Cherokee Georgia" before the Civil War.

\* \* \*

THE CHEROKEES were the most intelligent nation of Indians on the North American Continent. The Rome section was their actual though not their nominal capital.

\* \* \*

JOHN ROSS, principal chief of the Cherokees, lived in De Soto and started his letters "Head of Coosa" there.

\* \* \*

CHIEF ROSS offered to sell the Cherokee lands to the government for \$20,000,000, but the proposition of his rival, Ridge, was accepted.

\* \* \*

MAJOR JOHN RIDGE, leader of the Treaty Party of the Indians, lived about 40 years up the Oostanula River two miles from Rome.

\* \* \*

CHIEF JOHN RIDGE was brevetted Major by General Andrew Jackson for bravery at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, March 1814, Tallapoosa River, Ala. The Cherokees nicknamed Jackson "Straight Talk."

\* \* \*

SEQUOYAH, who invented the Cherokee Alphabet, lived in the adjoining county of Chattooga, near Alpine. He was a frequent visitor to Chiaha.

IN JUNE 1839, at an Indian Territory settlement, Major Ridge was shot to death from an ambush; his son John was killed with knives, and Elias Boudinot, editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, was hacked to death with tomahawks by the Cherokees who claimed they had been betrayed.

\* \* \*

GENERAL JOHN SEVIER defeated a band of Indians at the foot of Myrtle Hill Cemetery in September, 1793.

\* \* \*

CHIEF JOHN ROSS was once arrested in Tennessee with JOHN HOWARD PAYNE, author of "HOME SWEET HOME," and "Big John " Underwood, of Rome, was one of their military guards.

\* \* \*

GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST, with 410 Confederates, Sunday, May 3, 1863, captured 1,600 Union Soldiers, marched them into Rome and saved it from destruction. The Forrest Monument is situated at the junction of Broad Street and 2nd Avenue.

\* \* \*

GENERAL FORREST hitched his horse where the Hotel Forrest now stands. His locks were cut by admiring women when he saved Rome from Streight's raiders in 1863.

\* \* \*

GENERAL SHERMAN occupied Rome May 18, 1864. He spent several days on 4th Avenue. After the War he visited Rome several times.

\* \* \*

ROME'S BUSINESS district was burned by Sherman's army in 1864, and the message that brought his orders to MARCH TO THE SEA was sent from Rome.

\* \* \*

GENERAL JEFFERSON DAVIS, president of the Southern Confederacy, also occupied Rome. When he was captured in 1865, he was in the company of two Romans, Colonel and Mrs. C. I. Graves.

GENERAL MARCELLUS A. STOVALL, a Roman, was room-mate of Gen. Sherman at West Point. Sherman loved Stovall's sister, Miss Cecelia. When he marched through Georgia he placed guards to protect her home at Cartersville, and assured her safety.

\* \* \*

GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON attended school at Hearn Academy, Cave Spring.

\* \* \*

COLONEL CUNNINGHAM M. PENNINGTON, of Rome, laid before the Confederate Cabinet in 1861, at Montgomery, a plan for an armored warship.

\* \* \*

GENERAL BEAUREGARD said after the first Battle of Manassas, "I LIFT MY HAT TO THE EIGHTH GEORGIA REGIMENT!" (Rome companies.)

\* \* \*

THE NOBLE FOUNDRY made cannon for the Confederacy in the Civil War, and the machine lathe that ground them is still in use at the Davis Foundry and Machine Shop. The cannons were tested by shooting them into a bluff across the Etowah River.

\* \* \*

THE "WM. R. SMITH," a locomotive of the Rome Railroad, was used April 12, 1862, in pursuit past Kingston after Andrews' Wild Raiders on the "GENERAL," which is now on display in the Chattanooga Station. The General was sent to Chicago for the World's Fair.

\* \* \*

FLORENCE FOUCHE, as a young bride, wife of Capt. Edward Jones Magruder, of Rome Light Guards, went marching off to war with him with pistol and dagger in her belt.

\* \* \*

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, BENJ. H. HILL and ALFRED IVERSON visited Rome in the same week in 1860. Stephens was guest of C. G. Samuel at 101 2nd



Avenue. His private secretary during the Civil War was a Roman, Col. Wm. Hidell. The Hidell home is still standing in North Rome.

\* \* \*

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE, at the time of his death, left on his desk a clipping from the ROME TRI-WEEKLY COURIER, mentioning prominent Romans. The desk is still as left it.

\* \* \*

FATHER ABRAM JOSEPH RYAN, poet priest of the South, author of the "Sword of Robert Lee," "The Conquered Banner," and many others, once visited Rome and was the guest of Mrs. Mary Adkins, mother of Wm. H. Adkins.

\* \* \*

BENJ. YANCEY, brother of Wm. L. Yancey, of Alabama, secession leader, served as minister to Argentina. He was slated for Ambassador to Great Britain by President Buchanan when Civil War complications interfered.

\* \* \*

CAPT. JOHN D. WILLIAMSON, a Roman, participated in the last affair of honor in the South under the code duello, with PAT CALHOUN, of Atlanta, near Cedar Bluff, Ala., Saturday, August 10, 1889.

\* \* \*

THE FIRST MONUMENT to the WOMEN OF THE CONFEDERACY was erected in Rome. (Located at the intersection of Broad and 3rd Avenue.)

\* \* \*

GENERAL JOS. E. JOHNSON, C. S. R., visited Rome Dec. 3, 1863, as guest of Major Chas. H. Smith.

\* \* \*

MAJOR CHAS. H. SMITH ("BILL ARP"), wrote a sunny open letter to "ABE LINKHORN."

\* \* \*

THE CHEROKEES used to play a game similar to Football.

THE SITE of Rome 381 years ago was probably an island.

\* \* \*

THREE of the four founders of Rome lie buried in Myrtle Hill.

\* \* \*

A STEAMER STEAMED up Broad Street to 3rd Avenue in the flood, March 1886.

\* \* \*

THE NOBLES left Rome and founded Anniston, Ala.

\* \* \*

BAUXITE WAS first mined in Floyd County.

\* \* \*

JOHN HUME brought the first bath tub to Rome from Charleston about 1850.

\* \* \*

DANIEL R. MITCHELL owned the first piano in Rome.

\* \* \*

BOLLING SULIVAN owned the first pneumatic tire bicycle in Rome.

\* \* \*

EDWARD H. INMAN drove the first automobile to Rome from Atlanta.

\* \* \*

MORGAN SEAY, Roman, actor, and playwright, once made motion pictures for Thomas A. Edison.

\* \* \*

BAYARD FRANKLIN JONES, noted New York artist, was born in Rome in 1869.

\* \* \*

TERRELL SPEED, Oostanula River fisherman and trapper, was known as "The Coonskin Statesman," and a cigar was named for him.

\* \* \*

WM. G. CAMPBELL, of Rome, established a world's record for looping-the-loop in an aeroplane.

JIM MONTGOMERY, of Rome, created the "Velvet Joe" tobacco advertising.

\* \* \*

WILLIAM SMITH built Rome's first steam boat, the Wm. Smith.

\* \* \*

ROME once depended upon her steamboat trade for her life.

\* \* \*

CAPT. FRANCIS MARION COULTER built 12 steamboats at Rome.

\* \* \*

ROME KIWANIS CLUB was the first in the South to indorse FORD'S MUSCLE SHOALS BID.

\* \* \*

ROME once had thirteen whisky saloons.

\* \* \*

DANIAL R. MITCHELL was known as the father of the Rome bar.

\* \* \*

GENERAL LA FAYETTE saw Mrs. John Wesely Connor, mother of Prof. W. O. Connor, as a young girl, and pronounced her the prettiest young lady he had seen in America.

\* \* \*

MARTHA BALDWIN SMITH (Mrs. Robt. Battey) was the first white child brought to Floyd County.

\* \* \*

THE SANTA ANNA silver service, captured by SAM HOUSTON at the Battle of San Jacinto, was once the property of Henry Pope at Pope's Ferry.

\* \* \*

ROME AND GEORGIA doctors held indignation meetings and threatened to lynch Dr. Robert Battey for performing the Battey operation, August 27, 1872. Dr. Battey defended himself so ably at a meeting in the State Capitol, that Henry Grady referred to him as the "Cicero of the

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Georgia Medical Profession." On Thursday, April 5, 1921, the Medical Association of Georgia unveiled a monument at City Hall Park to Dr. Battey.

\* \* \*

CAPT. MELVILLE DWINELL, noted Rome newspaper editor, gave HENRY GRADY his first job.

\* \* \*

JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS (Uncle Remus) once came unannounced to Rome to see his friend, Henry Grady. He found him riding a "Flying Jenny." The ride over, young Grady rushed to Mr. Harris and embraced him fondly.

\* \* \*

FRANK LEBBY STANTON, Georgia's Lyric poet, served as night editor of the Tribune of Rome under JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES. JAMES B. NEVIN, another Rome editor, was one of Georgia's most brilliant sons.

\* \* \*

FRANK LEBBY STANTON wrote many of his famous poems in Rome. "Jest a-Wearin' fer You" was written on Third Avenue.

\* \* \*

THEODORE P. SHONTS, Chicago and New York traction magnate, came to Rome about 1900 to select a school for his two daughters, and on requesting a negro cabman to take him to the most interesting spot in town, was driven to Myrtle Hill Cemetery.

\* \* \*

REV. LUTHER R. GWALTNEY first suggested to Col. Alfred Shorter the establishment of Shorter College. Prof. J. J. Darlington furnished the inspiration for the establishment of Darlington School. Both of these institutions are internationally known.

\* \* \*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT visited Rome Saturday, October 8, 1910, and PRESIDENT HARDING spoke to her citizens Friday, January 21, 1921.

THOMAS BERRY and COL. J. G. YEISER once commanded American troops on the Mexican Border, and CHARLES I. GRAVES served in the Khedive of Egypt's army.

\* \* \*

COL. BENJ. YANCEY served in the Legislatures of South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia.

\* \* \*

CLYDE M. SHROPSHIRE was once speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, and ran for Governor of Tennessee in 1918.

\* \* \*

REV. G. A. NUNNALLY and SEABORN WRIGHT once ran for Governor on the Prohibition ticket.

\* \* \*

SEABORN WRIGHT was once mentioned for PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

\* \* \*

JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES once ran for VICE-PRESIDENT on the Independent ticket.

\* \* \*

HOOPER ALEXANDER ran for Governor and Congress.

\* \* \*

COL. J. LINSEY JOHNSON served as census director of the Philippines and died in the islands.

\* \* \*

SPROULL FOUCHE filled the post of American Vice-Consul at BUCHAREST, ROUMANIA.

\* \* \*

HOWARD TINSLEY served in the consular service of MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY.

\* \* \*

DONALD HARPER, Roman, became a Paris Lawyer and chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

\* \* \*

THE "KNOWN SOLDIER" of the World War, a Rome boy, Charles William Graves, is intombed in famous Myrtle

Hill. An effort is being made to have the plot accepted by the United States Government as a National Shrine.

\* \* \*

THELMON C. SMITH-CUYLER shook hands with GROVER CLEVELAND and KING EDWARD VII., of England.

\* \* \*

WOODROW WILSON was visiting an uncle, James Woodrow Bones, in Rome, when he met his first wife, ELLEN LOU AXSON.

\* \* \*

REV. SAMUEL EDWARD AXSON, father of Mrs. Wilson, became pastor of First Presbyterian Church in 1886. (The church stands on 3rd Ave. and East 1st St.)

\* \* \*

MRS. WOODROW WILSON I attended Rome Female College. She now lies buried in the Axson lot on Myrtle Hill.

\* \* \*

THE ORGAN played by GEORGE WHITEFIELD, the great Churchman at Savannah, was installed in Saint Peter's Episcopal Church.

\* \* \*

PRINCESS RASPOLI, of Rome, Italy, formally Miss Eugenia Berry, of Rome, Georgia, and sister to Martha Berry, is donor of the \$30,000 painting which hangs over the altar in Saint Mary's Catholic Church on North Broad.

\* \* \*

BENITO MUSSOLINI, Rome, Italy, gave Rome, Georgia, the duplicate of the Capitoline Wolf with Romulus and Remus, legendary founder of Rome, Italy. The monument stands on the plaza of the city hall.

\* \* \*

CAPTAIN JOHN TOWERS, Roman, commanded the trans-Atlantic expedition of 1919, and personally had charge of the NC-3, which was nearly lost in a storm. It was thought that he would be selected to succeed the late Admiral Moffett, of the ill-fated Akron.

ROME'S DE SOTO THEATER, owned and operated by the Lamb Amusement Co., was the first sound theater built in the South for Talking Pictures. The De Soto has one of the finest talking machines in America.

\* \* \*

JOSEPH CANNON, JR., son of the millionaire textile manufacturer, while a student at Darlington School, 1933-34, an attempt was made to kidnap him and his niece, Annie Cannon Smith, daughter of the late Smith Reynolds, tobacco fortune heir.

\* \* \*

DAVID GOLDSTEIN, internationally famous author, convert to Christianity from Judaism, and known as "the Apostle to the man in the street," lectured to the citizens of Rome in the spring of 1933. He was first to explain the doctrines, history and practices of the Catholic Church to the man in the street since the time of Saint Francis of Assisi, 700 years ago.

\* \* \*

WILEY POST and GATTY, world-famous flyers, visited Rome during their tour of the country.

\* \* \*

DR. MARTHA BERRY, founder of the internationally famous Berry School, is a native Roman. The Log Cabin in which Berry had its beginning is still standing and well preserved. Miss Berry was one of three persons in the United States to receive the Roosevelt Medal in 1925.

\* \* \*

DR. ALBERT SHAW, of N. Y., editor of the American Review of Reviews, visited Berry April 21-26, 1921, and called the school idea the greatest in America. He was also a recent visitor to Mt. Berry (commencement, 1934).

\* \* \*

AMONG THE NOTABLES that have addressed the Berry students are:

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN  
WILLIAM G. McADOO  
COL. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON  
DR. S. PARKS CADMAN  
IDA M. TARBELL  
DR. HOWARD A. KELLY  
HENRY FORD, MRS. FORD  
MRS. JAMES ROOSEVELT  
AMELIA EARHART

\* \* \*

ELIZABETH LANIER, granddaughter of SIDNEY LANIER, Georgia's first Poet Laureate, visited Berry from January 24th to 30th in 1921.

\* \* \*

ELIZA FRANCES ANDREWS, Rome's beloved writer and naturalist, wrote text books for HARVARD and YALE, the SCHOOLS OF FRANCE, and ELEVEN STATES of the UNION. She was one of three Americans ever to be honored with membership in the "International Academy of Science," one of the first to work for conservation of forest, native flowers. She was invited to address the body of the Academy in Naples, Italy, but declined on account of her age.

\* \* \*

PAUL NIXON, Rome musician, director of Lindale Band, is author of the American Legion anthem of the Georgia department. The anthem, "LEGION OF AMERICA," received a marked popularity at National Conventions, having been selected and played by the official band at the Omaha convention on the entrance and departure of former President and the late Calvin Coolidge at the convention hall. Other of Mr. Nixon's original works may be found in "SONGS OF KIWANIS," the official song book of Kiwanis International.

\* \* \*

ISH WILLIAMS, Rome youth, holds the Georgia Tech records in free style swimming for the 50-100-220-yard dashes; also the same records in Georgia State, Florida, Mid-Atlantic, South Eastern A. A. U. He was chosen for the All-American Team, and won the National A. A. U.



100-meter championship in 1931. At the Lake Shore Athletic Club in Chicago he participated in the finals against Kojak, national intercollegiate champion. Ish broke Kojak's old record, thereby causing Kojak to make another record.

\* \* \*

DAISY WOOD LANIER, beloved Roman, who departed September, 1933, was active in child welfare work long before she became the first active president of the Seventh District Parent-Teachers' Association, an office which she held for seven years, 1923-1930. She founded branches of the P.-T. A. throughout the district, and her work was so noble in the eyes of the entire State that she was nominated State President of that association. Refusing to accept this honor, she was made State Extension Chairman, an office which she held two years.

\* \* \*

WHEN VON GAMMON, a Rome youth, lost his life in a football game 37 years ago, the State Legislature introduced a bill to outlaw the game in Georgia. Acting on what she believed would have been her son's wishes, Mrs. Gammon urged the Governor to veto the bill. This heroic mother probably saved football for the entire nation. A plaque to their honor was erected in Memorial Hall at the University of Georgia.

\* \* \*

FLOYD COUNTY celebrated its centennial in the fall of 1933, during which thousands flocked to Rome, center of the celebration of a hundred years of progress; also many notables, including Governor Eugene Talmadge.

\* \* \*

THE EDITORS of the Georgia Press Association held their annual convention at Rome in the summer of 1933. Each generously lavished his praise and admiration upon Rome and her citizens.

\* \* \*

THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS of Atlanta have had in the past and still have prominent Romans on their staffs. At present the Atlanta Journal has Mrs. Madora Field Per-

kerson; the Georgian-American has Miss Helen Knox Spain, and the Constitution has Riley McKoy.

\* \* \*

SENATOR RICHARD B. RUSSELL, JR., spoke before a radio broadcasting microphone for the first time over Station WRGA (then WFDV), of Rome, Georgia. At the time, he was Governor of the State, campaigning for Senatorship. His brother, Rev. Henry Edward Russell, of McDonald, Georgia, also made his radio debut over Station WRGA.

\* \* \*

MIDSHIPMAN James Pressley Craft, Jr., Rome youth, son of Rev. J. P. Craft, former Shorter College teacher, whose name appears in "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA," has at times led his entire class in mathematics and electrical engineering. He is a member of the crew, and was in great danger once when his ship was caught in a bad storm off the coast of Spain. He was in the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, four years, and was graduated in 1934 with high honors.

\* \* \*

MRS. W. P. HARBIN, Roman, was president of the Georgia Federation of Music Lovers' Clubs from 1928 to 1930. She was also Junior Director of Georgia for four years, two of which she had charge of the entire South Atlantic District, covering several states.

\* \* \*

MARY COOK COWARD, famous blind "Nightingale of the South," who studied with several great teachers abroad and at home, and who was introduced recently by Lawrence Tibbett as "the great American Artist," was in Rome Sunday, May 6, 1934, and gave a concert at First Methodist Church under the auspices of Rome Music Lovers' Club.

\* \* \*

LILLIAN SWINFORD, Rome's own beloved "Nightingale," with her beautiful soprano voice won a complete

scholarship to the Chicago Musical College. She also won her way into the Young Artist Association, of Chicago (an extremely difficult association to enter), who sponsored her in two brilliant concerts during which she took their hearts. She is now studying with her teacher, Graham Reed, in De Paul University.

\* \* \*

THE COMPILER once had the peculiar and embarrassing pleasure of sitting on the coat of Lily Pons.

\* \* \*

MRS. HOWARD HULL, former Roman, who taught music here for many years and whose memory is still fresh in the minds and hearts of the hundreds of children and adults who knew her, was once a favorite singer of the Queen of England.

\* \* \*

TOM CLEMMONS, Roman, is at present running for Congress against M. C. Tarver. Clemmons, it is said, will be our next representative in Congress from the Seventh District. Before the Civil War Rome sent only two men to Congress, and only two were sent after the war.

\* \* \*

RICHARD REID, editor of the Bulletin, president of the Catholic Press Association in the United States, together with two prominent Georgians, spoke to the parishioners of Saint Mary's Sunday, May 20, 1934.

\* \* \*

THE COMPILER of this booklet, a native Roman, received a silver medal from the Vatican, a Holy Year gift from Pope Pius XI, 1933. He has had the pleasure of viewing and interviewing over 150 of the nation's most prominent people, politicians and actors, including: Former Governor Al Smith, President Roosevelt, James Farley, former Mayor O'Brien, Cardinal Hayes, The Apostolic Delegate, Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Msgr. J. H. Ryan, Pola Negri, Al Jolson, Mae West, Marx Brothers, Jack Dempsey, Aimee Semple McPherson, etc.

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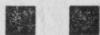


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