

**PAPERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Memoirs of Henry Tillinghast Ireys
Papers of the Washington County
Historical Society
1910-1915

Edited by

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and

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HENRY TILLINGHAST IREYS

1837-1923

DEDICATED
TO
ALFRED HOLT STONE

FOREWORD

Washington County, one of the richest counties in the Mississippi Delta region, was created January 29, 1827, by an act of the Mississippi Legislature. It was named in honor of President George Washington, and was one of the numerous counties formed from the so-called "New Purchase," acquired from the Choctaws by the Treaty of Doaks Stand, in 1820.

The county lies wholly within the fertile Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, and many settlers of character and wealth were attracted to the rich region before its organization, and during the 30's and 40's, coming from the states of Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, and the older parts of Mississippi, as well as from other sections of the United States.

The papers which comprise this volume were read at meetings of the Washington County Historical Society between the years 1910 and 1915, and concern miscellaneous memorabilia of early days in Washington County, as these days were recalled by pioneers of the Mississippi Delta. The Washington County Historical Society and its efforts to collect and disseminate local historical information were almost entirely the results of the interest and leadership of Henry T. Ireys.

To the Honorable Alfred Holt Stone, chairman of the Mississippi State Tax Commission, member of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, former president of the Mississippi Historical Society, and distinguished citizen of Washington County, must go the credit for the publication of this volume. For more than thirty years Mr. Stone carefully preserved these papers, which originally were printed in the Greenville *Democrat* and the Greenville *Times*. He not only insisted on their publication, as extremely valuable local history, but he and other members of the Ireys family also provided a substantial financial contribution toward the cost of printing this volume.

It has not been the purpose of the publishers to edit these papers to any extent. They are presented almost as they were read by the citizens who made Washington County. The main

work of the editors has been the correcting of the numerous mistakes in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation which naturally appeared in long articles printed in newspapers of that time. Some of the papers are valuable compilations of fact, others are equally valuable for the warmth of their human interest.

The original members of the Washington County Historical Society felt that they should collect and preserve source material out of which history might be written. They have left a proud record of the beginnings of a unique and highly cultivated society, which should be of inspiration as well as of interest to the Mississippians who followed them.

William D. McCain

Charlotte Capers

Jackson, Mississippi

1 February 1954

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