



HOME OF MRS. NAPOLEON LOCKETT

MANY years have come and gone, and both time and man have dealt ruthlessly with the beautiful home and gardens of Mrs. Napoleon Lockett; but the house remains, though greatly changed, in the little town of Marion, Perry County, and the people refer to it with pleasure and pride, as it was "before the war."

The fathers of Napoleon Lockett and his wife, Mary Clay Lockett, were brothers, and on account of the close relationship were opposed to their marriage, but finally consented, and on June 26, 1834, the wedding was solemnized. In 1837 with their young sons, Powhatan and Samuel, and their servants (slaves), they left their native state, Virginia, and traveled the long distance by private conveyances carrying with them many personal effects for comfort in their new home in Alabama.

Mrs. Lockett's elder sister, Fanny, had married Albert Jones, a wealthy planter, and settled in Marion. This influenced Mrs. Lockett greatly in making her home there; but the fact that Marion was a town of churches, colleges, and schools also had weight with her. Their home was the usual Southern Colonial type with double verandas, and was built on top of a hill with seven acres surrounding it.

As ten more children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lockett their home became the center of much entertaining, and all kinds of pleasant amusements as well as beautiful social functions were enjoyed there.

The house was furnished comfortably with the usual good furniture of the day. That of the parlors was of mahogany, upholstered in horse-hair. The library table, on which lay the sketches of the First Flag of the Confederacy, drawn by Nicola Marschall, was a heavy drop leaf design, and is now owned and used by one of Mrs. Lockett's granddaughters. The frescoing in the home was done by a slave who had studied the art.

Her gardens were the admiration of every one. A large three-tiered fountain, whose flowing water was supplied by a windmill on the place, adorned the front lawn of the home, and another of smaller design stood in the garden. The formal garden was planted in rose beds edged with small flowering plants of the old-fashioned varieties, and bordered by winding walks, one walk ending in a summer house covered with climbing roses, woodbine, and honeysuckle, making a retreat of perfumed beauty. As there was no public park in the town, it was the custom of the students of Judson College and the Female Seminary, to frequent Mrs. Lockett's gardens, and visitors often carried away tulips, hyacinths, or lilies, so abundant were these lovely flowers and so generous was the hostess.

The eldest son, Powhatan, named for the county in Virginia in which he was born, was educated at the University of Virginia, and later practiced law as a partner of his father. The second son, Samuel, graduated from West Point with honors, and held many positions of trust and prominence during his eventful life. The third son, Albert, was educated at the Virginia Military Institute, and later became a distinguished physician. Many others of this large family were prominent along their various walks of life.

Over this scene of happiness and contentment arose the ominous clouds of approaching war, and as there was no home more devoted and loyal to the welfare and interests of the South than that of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Lockett, these rumors were of great concern.

Governor Andrew Barry Moore, whose two daughters, Martha and Annie, had married Powhatan and Albert Lockett, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Lockett, was governor of Alabama, and it was during his administration that the state seceded from the Union.

As his wife was an invalid and ill in a sanitarium, his home was then with their daughters. Consequently news of importance concerning the state's interests was often discussed among them. On one of these occasions Governor Moore spoke of the seceding of the state and of the impending war, and that the South should have her own flag, as no design had been accepted. Immediately Mrs. Napoleon Lockett, realizing the importance of this, went to Nicola Marschall, a painter of note and teacher in the Marion Female Seminary, and requested him to make some sketches of a flag that would be suitable, saying it should be somewhat like the United States flag, but not enough to cause confusion. This he did, submitting three designs to Mrs. Lockett. The first design which was "two red stripes and one of white, with a blue field bearing seven white stars—indicating the number of states that had seceded—in the upper left hand corner," was the one selected by the Confederate Congress. It was this flag which was raised and unfurled from the dome of the Capitol at Montgomery on March 4, 1861, by Miss Letitia Tyler, granddaughter of John Tyler, ex-president of the United States.

This flag, known as the Stars and Bars was later replaced by the flag known as the Battle Flag, for which General Beauregard was responsible. This change was made on account of the similarity of the Stars and Bars to that of the United States flag, which did cause confusion on the battlefield. Then, the first shot was fired at Fort Sumpter, which "resounded around the world," April 12, a little over a month after the flag had been adopted.

The War Between the States followed and from Mr. and Mrs. Lockett's home went forth seven young men—four sons, two orphan nephews, and one son-in-law—to serve their country. Napoleon Lockett, too old to enlist for the battlefield, served at home, and gave generously of his means for the cause.

Mrs. Lockett, president of the society called "Sheltering Arms," organized for the care of sick and wounded Confederate Soldiers, gave to the utmost of her self and means to serve the cause.

When all was over and six of the young soldiers returned home, one having been killed in action, another problem was presented in providing the bare necessities for this large family. The four years struggle had exhausted all available means.

The home remained, but very little else.

Each member of the family accepted responsibilities, and carried his share of the burden.

In the First White House of the Confederacy, located in Montgomery, hangs an oil portrait of Mrs. Napoleon Lockett, also one of Nicola Marschall, and the many who annually visit this Confederate Shrine look with interest on the faces of these two who were responsible for The First Flag of the Confederacy.

Alabama remembers and honors them, too, for in the rotunda of the State Capitol has been placed a handsome tablet with this inscription: "From the dome of this building, the first capitol, floated the first flag of the Confederacy, known as the 'Stars and Bars,' designed by Nicola Marschall of Marion, Ala., at the suggestion of Mrs. Napoleon Lockett of that place. Adopted by the Confederate Congress, March 4, 1861, and raised that day by Letitia Tyler, granddaughter of former U. S. President John Tyler."

At Marion, Alabama, on the Court House grounds of Perry County, just two blocks from the extinct Marion Seminary where he taught, stands a monument to the German immigrant, Nicola Marschall, painter and designer of the flag of the Confederate States of America.

EUGENIA BRAGG SMITH.

