

PIONEER PERIODS IN BOLIVAR COUNTY

BY FLORENCE W. SILLERS

There were two distinct pioneer periods in the history of Bolivar County. The first was from 1836, when the county was organized, until the Civil War; during these twenty-five years the county was settled by the planter class, among whom comforts and leisure reigned. The second period was from the close of the war until the march of progress reached our devastated country—a time when hearts must need be brave and bodies strong to overcome poverty and despair.

Among our biographical sketches, there are two that picture these two periods from the woman's point of view, one told by Mrs. A. E. Clark Jacobs, portraying conditions of the ante-bellum years; the other by Mrs. Dan Sessions, now Mrs. Little, performing a like service for the post-war era. We have yet a third sketch which depicts the war period itself; this last relates the experiences of a general's wife—Mrs. Charles Clark—and it, too, is written by Mrs. Jacobs, the daughter of Mrs. Clark.

What a story they tell. Soon the written page will be all that we have of these days in Bolivar County. The story is almost finished for the early builders of our county. God grant that the present and future generations shall carry on the ideals of those we seek to honor in this history.