



# Clearing the Thickets: A History of Antebellum Alabama (History & Heroes Series)

*Herbert James Lewis*

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The name *Alabama* comes from the Choctaw word meaning “clearers of the thickets,” inspiring the title of this fascinating new book. The volume's purpose is to examine Alabama's early history beginning with the era of European colonization and culminating with the state's controversial secession from the Union—after just 41 years as a state (recognizing, of course, that the actual history began long before this emigration, with Native American civilizations). In so doing, the author traces how Alabama emerged from a raw frontier of European settlement into a fully functioning state that provided much-needed order to its new citizens.

The book begins by exploring the colonial period during which three European powers—Spain, France, and Great Britain—continually vied for control of what was to become part of Alabama. Each culture, along with the Native American communities that lived throughout most of the region, contributed to the development of the emerging territory and left its enduring stamp. Later chapters examine Alabama's territorial period, the Creek War of 1813-1814, the Constitutional Convention of 1819 and statehood, the first years of state government in Cahaba, removal of the capital to Tuscaloosa, King Cotton and the ignominy of slavery, further relocation of the capital to Montgomery as secession loomed, and social and economic advances during the antebellum period that were interrupted and stunted by the tragedy of secession and war.

“*Clearing the Thickets* is narrative history in the grand old style—a spirited effort to make sense of the ideas, human beings, and events that came together to shape Alabama's first tumultuous decades. ... Anyone interested in antebellum Alabama will be grateful for what Lewis has accomplished.”

— Paul Pruitt, Jr., B.A., M.L.S., Ph.D.

Special Collection Librarian, Bounds Law Library, University of Alabama  
Author of *Taming Alabama: Lawyers and Reformers, 1804-1929* (2010)

“Lewis has carefully crafted a thoughtful, deliberate, and well-balanced history of antebellum Alabama. Perhaps not coincidentally, we are now in the decade of Alabama's bicentennial. In days such as these, his book should be on the shelf of anyone interested in Alabama's early history.”

— James L. Noles, Jr., B.S., J.D.

Chairman, Alabama Humanities Foundation

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Clearing the Thickets: A History of Antebellum Alabama (History & Heroes Series) can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Clearing the Thickets: A History of Antebellum Alabama (History & Heroes Series) although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

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