

The Two Portraits of Jean Baptist and Elizabeth Chumar Fiquet
by Julia Burns
Honorable Mention, Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts

As one walks through the main entrance of the Southern History Museum in the Morris Cultural Arts Center there are two paintings that are hanging titled Jean Baptist Fiquet III¹ and Elizabeth Chumar Fiquet (his spouse) circa of the portraits are 1863, in New York by Nicola Marschall (a German artist with deep southern ties.) The portraits are titled as being that Mr. Fiquet was married to Lydia then to Elizabeth in 1840 and they were initially sisters. They both settled in Marion, Alabama. In researching the Fiquets, no records were located to where neither Lydia Chumar nor Elizabeth Chumar would have been married to J B Fiquet III; the portraits were not painted in New York but in Marion, Alabama; and how did the paintings end up in Texas from Alabama.

Jean (John) Baptist Fiquet (fig. 1) who was married to Elizabeth Chumar (fig. 2). He was born in New York in 1806.² Since the portraits are circa 1863, the earliest beginning point would have been the census of 1860. J B Fiquet was a merchant in Marion, Alabama. This record was verified with the cemetery records as being the same person.³ According to the census records they were residing in Montgomery, Orange County, New York in 1850. In the household was listed as follows:

J B Fiquet (Sr) -- merchant/m/42 years/ b. NY
Elizabeth – spouse/f/48 years/b. NY
Charles – in school/clerk/m/15/b. NY
William H – in school/m/11/b. NY.⁴

J B Fiquet (Jr) -- clerk/m/20/b. NY
Harriett – f/16/b. NY
Mary J – in school/f/13/b. NY

¹ Jean is French for John; on all records located it is listed as John. Baptist Fiquet.

² Dr. Judy Davis. 2002. *USGenWeb Project Archives*. “Records-Marion Cemetery, Perry, Alabama.” J B Fiquet b.11/10/1806/d.11/01/1883. Elizabeth C Fiquet (wife of JB Fiquet. d. 02/13/1870 –age 68 years, 8 months (estimated birth date June 1801.)

³ Hugh LeBaron. *Federal Census Marion, Perry County, Alabama-1860*. (Sheet #4, page 113/ House hold 787/lines 10, 11, 12.)

⁴ Family Search. *United States Census – 1850 Indexes and Images*. (Dwelling 548/family 613)



(fig. 1) Jean (John) Baptist Fiquet



(fig. 2) Elizabeth Chumar Fiquet ⁵

⁵ Artist- Nicola Marschall. Courtesy Southern Museum, Morris Cultural Arts Center, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX. (fig. 1 and 2)

In comparing the 1850 to the 1860 US Census, they are the same family. It appears that J B Fiquet (Sr), his wife, and Mary J moved to Marion, Perry Country, Alabama, before 1855, because they are not listed in the 1855 Census of New York.

As noted in the 1850 Census, J B Fiquet was classified as a “Sr” (senior) with a son of the same name. The records have not proven that there was a J B Fiquet before “Sr.” The only records that could be found that might disprove this is dated 1805 is a New York City directory. (Fig.3)⁶ There is a listing for a John B. Fiquet who is a merchant, residing at 92 Broad Street. This could possibly be the same John B Fiquet born 1774 and died 31st August 1824.⁷ But there was no concrete evidence located to tie any of them together. Another record showing up is John B Fiquet who is listed as the grand-son of J B Fiquet in his last will and testament; he received his grand-fathers pocket watch for being named after him.⁸ If J B Fiquet (grand-son) is considered “III” (his parents married in 1865), he could not have been married to his grandmother Elizabeth Chumar Fiquet. If J B Fiquet, Jr. is considered the “III” he could not have been married to his mother. (Various spellings of Chumar was used to locate records in searching.)

According to the Census of 1860 for the State of Alabama, Nicola Marschall is listed as living in Marion, Perry County, Alabama; he is listed as a Persia German painter.⁹ He also resided in Marion in 1870 according to the census.¹⁰ The Alabama Archives documented he came to Marion in 1851, traveled to Europe to study, and came back to Marion in 1859; then he

⁶ John F Jones. Fold3. “City Directories of New York. NY-1805”, page 195.

⁷ “New York Deaths and Burials, 1795-1952. Index and Images. *Family Search*. Reference Book 5. Age 50, b. France 1775.

⁸ “Alabama County Probate Records, 1830-1957” Index and Images. *Family Search*. John B Fiquet 1883. File No. 53-011-0534.

⁹ U S Census Bureau. “Population Schedule 1860 Census.” *The National Archives*. Marion, Perry Country AL. Western Division of Marion Beat, Page 125.

¹⁰ “United States Census, 1870.” Index and Images, *Family Search*. Page 20 family 132. Marion, Perry County, AL.

Ferguson, Wm. and J. timber-merchants, 378 Greenwich
 Ferguson, William, lumber-merchant, Greenwich road
 Ferguson and Day, merchants, 92 Greenwich [Water
 Ferris, George, auctioneer and commission merchant, 139
 Ferris, James, dry-good store, 392 Pearl
 Ferris, John, merchant, 11 Whitehall
 Ferris and Crumbie, merchants, 12 Beekman
 Ferris, J. and E. merchants, 285 Pearl
 Ferris, Jonathan, merchant, 12 Beekman
 Fine, widow of Jacobus, merchant, 117 Flymarket
 Fiquet, John B. merchant, 92 Broad
 Fisher, David F. merchant, 12 Nassau
 Fisher, Henry and Joshua, Irish linen warehouse, Pine
 Fisher and Tweedy, merchants, Old-slip, corner of South
 Fitch, Samuel, flour-merchant, 97 Water, store Dover-st. wharf
 Fitch, Samuel, merchant, 33 Beekman-slip
 Fitch and M-Neil, merchants, 131 Pearl
 Flack, John, dry-good store, 101 William
 Flanagan, Christopher, bookseller, etc. 151 Water
 Fonday and Wipne, merchants, 72 Cedar
 Fort and Swartwout, merchants, 27 Front
 Fontaine, Claudius G. merchant, 17 Broad
 Forbes, Grant and co. merchants, 62 South
 Forbes, James, merchant, 30 South, house 25 Greenwich
 Forbes, Ralph B. merchant, 65 South
 Forbes, widow of Duncan, store-keeper, 14 Cliff
 Forbus, Samuel, stock and commission broker, 167 Pearl
 Ford, John, hat-store, 5 Maiden lane
 Ford, Eliakim, dry-good store, Water, corner of New-slip
 Forman, George, bookseller, etc. 64 Water
 Forsyth, John, merchant-taylor, 116 Water
 Fort, John A. merchant, 27 Front
 Foster, Andrew, merchant, 97 Greenwich
 Foster, Jacob, lumber-merchant, Cherry, near Rutgers
 Foster, Jacob, lumber-merchant, Catharine-slip, h. 48 Oak
 Foster, Jacob, merchant, 44 Oak
 Foster, J. and co. merchants, Catharine-slip
 Foster and Giraud, merchants, 135 Front
 Frudgeley, Thomas, millinery store, 115 William
 Franklin, John, merchant, 334 Pearl
 Franklin, M. and R. merchants, 309 Pearl, and 161 Water
 Franklin, Samuel, merchant, 279 Pearl

(fig. 3) "City Directories for New York, New York – 1805"¹¹

¹¹ John F Jones. Fold3. "City Directories of New York. NY-180", page 1805.

moved to Mobile in 1873 and finally settled Kentucky in 1873.¹² “Marschall briefly served in the Confederate Army as a private in 1862 and again in 1864, serving as a draftsman in Company B of the Confederate Engineers under Lieutenant Colonel Samuel H. Lockett until the end of the war in 1865.”^{13 14} (fig 4) Marschall was not in New York in 1863 but in Marion. If he would have gone north, he probably would have been arrested because his participation in the Confederacy was more than just engineer. He designed the first flag for the confederacy but according to Bob Bradley—for the Marion Light that was flown in the first battle of Bull Run in Manassas, VA. It was also implied he helped design the Confederate Uniform.¹⁵ With certainty since Marschall studio was in Marion and the Fiquets were living there, it is not likely the portraits would have been painted in New York. Also supporting this was the fact that J B Fiquet was a merchant, with a store there in Marion, and that store was a supplier to the Confederate troops in 1863 and 1864.¹⁶ (fig 5)

It is interesting how the portraits ended up in Texas because there are many possibilities. In 1861, William H Fiquet (the youngest son of J B and Elizabeth Fiquet) was wounded at the First Bull Run, Manassas, Virginia, discharged, returned home to recuperate and eventually ended up working with his father.¹⁷ (fig 6) When he passed away in 1883, William H. Fiquet was the executor of the estate. In the papers it mentioned where all the heirs lived. J B Fiquet Jr. lived

¹² The National Archives. 2010. *Ancestry.Com*. “1880 United States Federal Census-database on line.” Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky; Roll 423, Page 351B; District 121; Image 204.

¹³ Alabama Department of Archives and History. “Nicola Marschall: Artist of the Deep South”

¹⁴ Anne Tidmore. Montgomery Museum Fine Arts. “Exposition –Nicola Marschall and the Walker Family.”

¹⁵ Anne Tidmore quoting Bob Bradley, Chief archivist and historian at the Alabama Department of Archives. 3/14/2011-“The First Confederate White House.”

¹⁶ “United States. Civil War Confederate Papers of Citizens or Businesses, 1861-1865.” Index and Images, *Family Search*. J B Fiquet, 1861-1865.

¹⁷ “Alabama Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865.” Index and Images. *Family Search*. William H Fiquet 1861. Folder 3, NARA Microfilm pub. M311, roll 121.

(Confederate.)

No. 4 Ala. Militia.

Nicola Marschall

1st Lt., Capt. Moore's Co., Byrd's Reg't,
90 Day Troops.*

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Apr 10 to June 25, 1862

Enlisted:

When Apr 10, 1862

Where Marion, Ala.

By whom John Moore

Period 90 days

Last paid:

By whom

To what time , 186 .

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

*This company was also known as Captain Moore's Company,
4th Regiment Alabama Volunteer Militia.

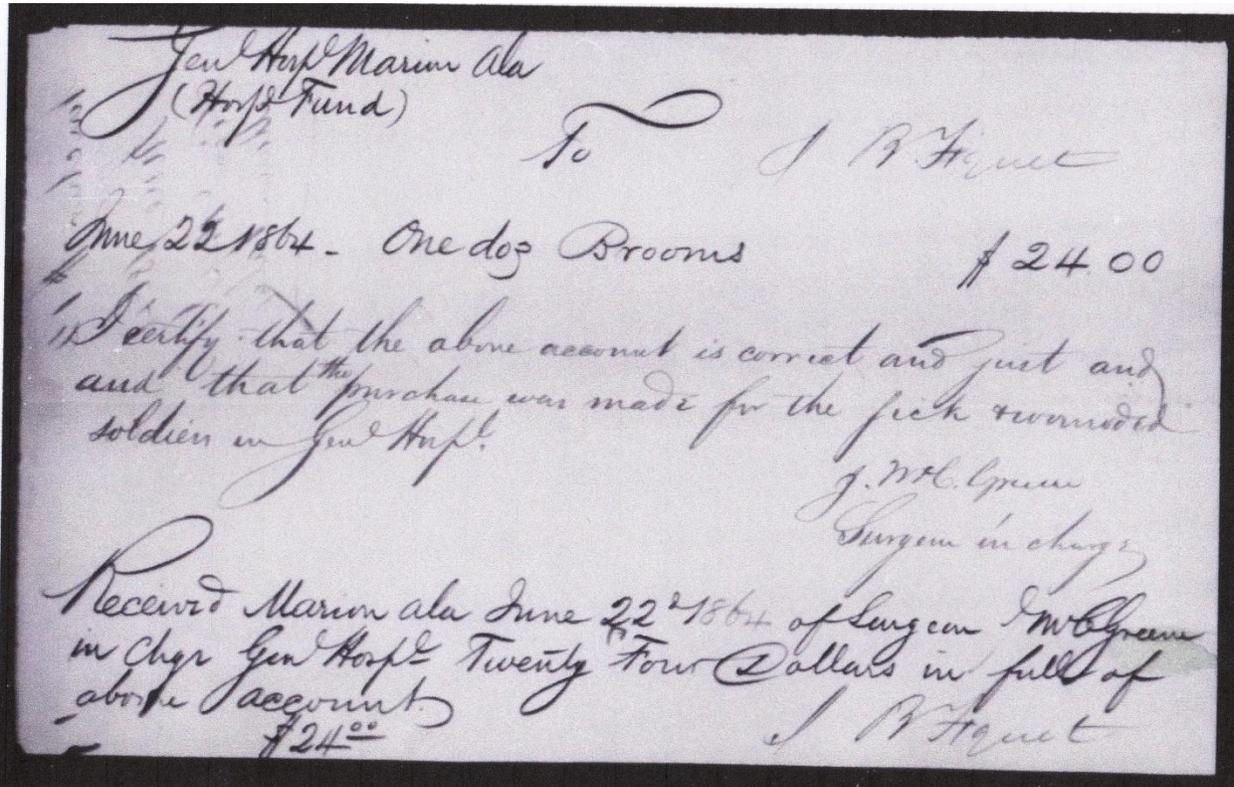
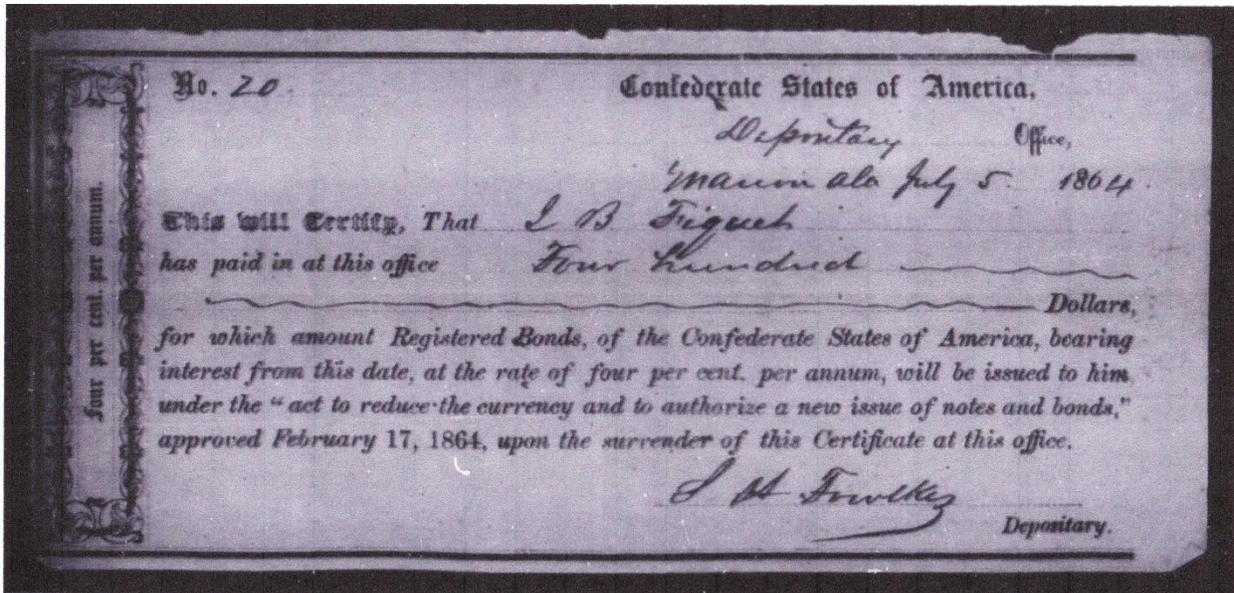
Book mark:

J. J. Jones

(642) Copyist.

(fig. 4) Company Muster Roll Card- Nicola Marschall. 1862¹⁸

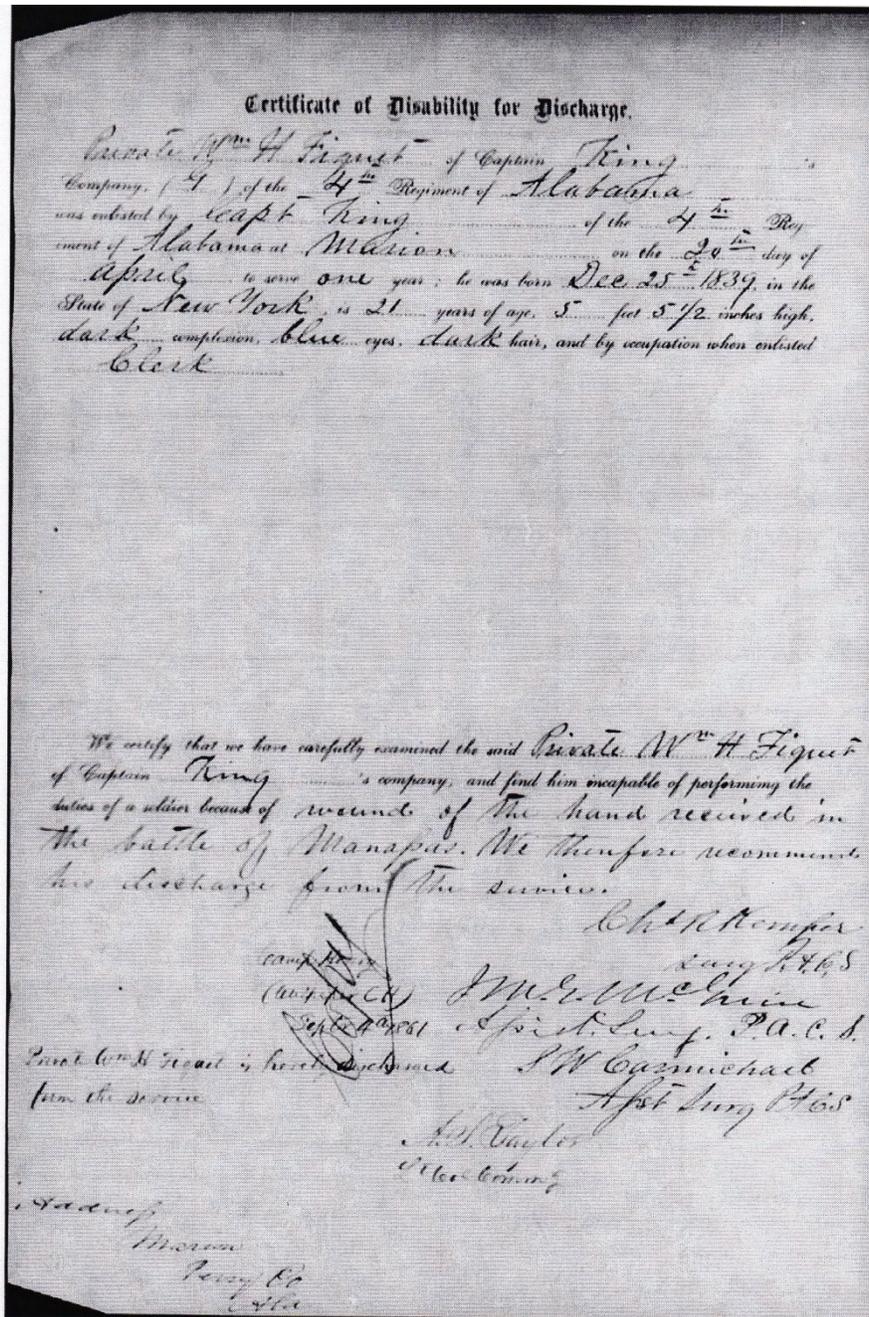
¹⁸ "United States Civil War Confederate Papers. 1861-1865" *Family Search*. Nicola Marshall 1961-1965.



(Fig. 5) Two business Papers where J B Fiquet had been doing business with Confederacy.¹⁹

¹⁹ "United States. Civil War Confederate Papers of Citizens or Businesses, 1861-1865." Index and Images, Family Search. J B Fiquet, 1861-1865.

(fig. 6) William H Fiquet's Discharge Papers²⁰



²⁰ "Alabama Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865." Index and Images. Family Search. William H Fiquet 1861. Folder 3, NARA Microfilm pub. M311, roll 121.

in Shelby, Alabama. Mrs. J C (Harriett Fiquet) Boak lived in Austin. Charles Jerome Fiquet lived in New York. Mrs. J. Jordan (Mary J Fiquet) lived in Kansas.²¹ After William settled the estate he eventually moved to Honey Grove, Fanny County, Texas. He shows up on the 1910 Census with his wife and two sons (Theodore and John B).²²

There were no records to be located that Charles Jerome Fiquet ever had any children. J B Fiquet's (Jr.) children, Ann remained in Michigan after 1870²³ and there are no other records for their other children other than a death record for Adaliade.²⁴ Mary Fiquet Jordan had one son that came to Texas and that was Charles Jerome Jordan.²⁵²⁶ Harriet Fiquet Boak had all daughters and one son. The daughters settled in Texas—Julia Boak Bass, Harriett Boak Battles, and Mabel Boak Jackson. There is no other information on possible son Lewis Boak.²⁷²⁸

The portraits came to Texas either by Charles Jerome Jordan (son of Mary Fiquet Jordan—daughter of J B Fiquet Sr.), William H Fiquet (executor and youngest son of J B Fiquet Sr.), or Harriett Fiquet Boak (oldest daughter of J B Fiquet Sr.) Due to the fact that there was no establish J B Fiquet III, he could not have been married to Elizabeth Chumar Fiquet but J B Fiquet Sr. was married to Elizabeth. It has not been proven that there was a Lydia Chumar as a sister to Elizabeth. What would possibly verify this information was that Charles Jerome Fiquet

²¹ "Alabama County Probate Records, 1830-1957" Index and Images. *Family Search*. John B Fiquet 1883. File No. 53-011-0534.

²² "United States Census, 1910." Index and Images. *Family Search*. William H Fiquet, Honey Grove, Ward 2, Fannin, TX. Sheet 5B, family 125.

²³ "United States Census 1870." Index and Images. *Family Search*. Shows Anna Fiquet living in house with M L Richards as head of household. Student-all female boarders.

²⁴ "Michigan Deaths, 1867-1897." Index and Images. *Family Search*. #4207819, Image 381.

²⁵ "United States Census 1900". *Family Search*. Lavaca, TX. ED 90 Justice Precinct # 3, Shiner Town. House hold 85.

²⁶ "United States Federal Census 1880." *Ancestry.com* Washington Township, Washington County, Indiana. Page 25, House hold # 283.

²⁷ "United States Census-1860. *Fold3*. City New York, County New York, NY. Page 145 House hold #1623.

²⁸ "United States Federal Census – 1880." *Ancestry.com*. Austin, TX: Roll 1329. Page 249A: District 136. Family 4.

married Margaret Tribet in January 1870, in New York. He listed his mother as being Elizabeth. He was born (according to the 1850 census) about 1834/35.²⁹ The Civil War was from 1861 to 1865 and it would have impeded travel between the states. It would not have been impossible but extremely difficult. It would seem more probable since J B Fiquet Sr and Elizabeth were living in Marion in 1863; Nicola Marschall had taken leave of his Civil War duty in 1863 and returned to Marion to paint and rest, it is most likely the paintings were done in Marion and not New York.

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²⁹ “New York Marriages, 1686-1980.” Index and Images. *Family Search*. Charles Jerome Feiquit and Evaline B Tribet 27th January 1870. FHL Microfilm 1544275.

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