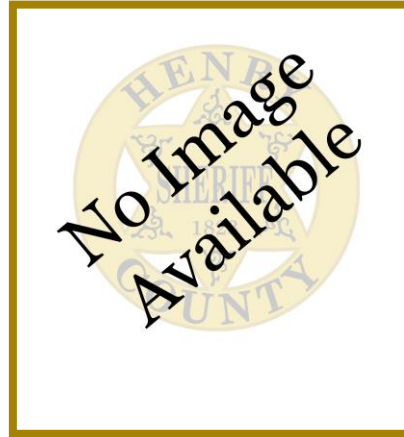




JAMES R. FLETCHER

1ST SHERIFF



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James Richard Fletcher was the first Sheriff of Henry County.

James was born in Rockbridge, VA in 1785 to Robert and Christinah B. (Kinder) Fletcher. Robert served as a Colonel in the Revolutionary War and had been “shot up”. For his service to the United States he received a 2,500 acre land grant in Greene County, Kentucky.

James married Elizabeth H. Stell (later spelled Still) on January 27, 1811 in Morgan County, Georgia and they had seven children.

During the War of 1812, James was commissioned as a Captain on October 3, 1814. After the war, lands were ceded from the Creek Indians for their support of the British. Much of those lands made up the original Henry County.

James was promoted to Colonel of the 42nd Militia Regiment by Georgia Governor William Rabun on October 12, 1819. He was assigned to survey the boundaries of Henry County “by horseback”. Surveyors were paid either \$3.50 or \$2.50 per mile surveyed depending upon their duties out of which all expenses incurred had to be paid.

In 1822 James Fletcher was appointed to the important county office as the first Sheriff. In 1823 he purchased a lot in Square C of the city of McDonough. He is identified as Sheriff in several original documents in the possessions of his descendants.

Sheriff Fletcher died suddenly in 1827 and his grave is reported to be in an old cemetery in the Riverdale area. It is believed that he died from the rapid onset of a disease.

If you have photographs or additional information about past Sheriffs' of Henry County that you would like to share for this display, please contact Major Jack Oakman at 770-288-7034.