

Sketches of Alabama

Mary Gordon Duffee

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Mary Gordon Duffee : Sketches of Alabama before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sketches of Alabama:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy Alice OwensYou left off one of the editors, Mary Virginia P. Brown. She was a well know Ala. History writer.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy NissiI'm glad I found this. She even mentions my grandparents in the book.

Mary Gordon Duffee's father, Matthew Duffee was born in Ireland and immigrated to Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1823. In Tuscaloosa he operated a popular tavern, and he later bought a resort hotel at Blount Springs. Mary Duffee was born in Alabama in 1840 and spent many summers with her family at the resort. It was the journey to and from Blount Springs that inspired Duffee's best-known work, *Sketches of Alabama*, which originally appeared as fifty-nine articles in the *Birmingham Weekly Iron Age* in 1886 and 1887. She also contributed articles to several out-of-state newspapers, wrote guide books, advertising copy, and poetry. She died in 1920. This collection contains typescripts of some of Mary Gordon Duffee's *Iron Age* columns "Sketches of Alabama," manuscripts of seven of Duffee's poems, a typed biographical sketch of Duffee, undated, and Duffee's obituary from the *Birmingham Age-Herald*.

This gem [is] not only prime history, but a highly entertaining account of the characters and the life of the ante-bellum Jefferson Countyof Jones Valley and the hill country whose riches of coal and iron gave birth to Birmingham. . . . A

fascinating adventure in early Alabama history.