

# ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Escambia County  
Historical Society  
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Editor, Ranelia Holley



**A.F. Tait. "American Frontier Life. On the War-Path."**

This copy of a Currier and Ives print courtesy of the website of The Old Print Shop, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania <<http://www.philaprintshop.com/currier.html>>. The Currier and Ives print depicted here is not the one which our speaker will refer to in our February program but does depict a frontier scene by one of the best artists employed by the company, A. F. Tait.

## **THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Date: February 22, 2005; Time: 3:00 p.m.; Place: The Thomas E. McMillan Museum, Fine Arts Center, Jefferson Davis Community College; Program: Jacob Lowrey, a native of Burnt Corn, Alabama who is currently a resident of Greenville, South Carolina, will present "The Wolf Trail--Some Additional Facts to Consider," and "A Scene**

**Revisited" of an 1818 event that supposedly took place close to Fort Crawford which is depicted in an 1860 Currier & Ives lithograph.**

**The Old Wolf Path:** In a section entitled "Old Wolf Path," the web page Burnt Corn, Alabama <<http://www.burntcorn.com>> , describes the Old Wolf Path as an "old Indian trail and horse path that passed through Burnt Corn to Pensacola," a path which some believe the present day Highway 29 follows. Used by the Indians as a route for trade with the Spanish, who occupied Florida at the time, the path is part of the story of the Battle of Burnt Corn. This battle, now credited as being the first battle in the Creek Indian War of 1812-1814, occurred when a group of Creek Indians, who had purchased weapons from the Spanish in Pensacola, were attacked by the U. S. Military on their return trip on the path.

**Currier and Ives:** "Currier & Ives Prints," from the web page, The Philadelphia Print Shop Ltd. <<http://www.philaprintshop.com/currier.html>>, has this introduction to the firm's collection of Currier & Ives prints:

From 1834 to 1970 the firm of Currier & Ives provided for the American people a pictorial history of their country's growth from an agricultural society to an industrialized one. For nearly three quarters of a century the firm provided 'Colored Engravings for the People' and in the process became the visual raconteurs became the visual raconteurs of nineteenth-century America. Some of the finest artists of the day were engaged by the firm to produce a variety of prints, including images of newsworthy events and prints depicting every subject relating to American life.

### **NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM**

**March 22, 2005:** Lee Otts, retired Brewton attorney, will discuss his World War II diaries and letters that became the basis of an account of his wartime experiences during World War II in an American rifle company in Patton's famed Third Army. The book which relates to Mr. Otts' experiences, G Company's War: Two Personal Accounts of the Campaigns in Europe, 1944-1945 , by Bruce E. Egger and Lee MacMillan Otts, relates parallel accounts of the same events by Lee Otts and another member of the company, two GI's who did not know each other at the time. The book is said to "record parallel accounts of the same events--one from an enlisted man's view and one from an officer's vantage."

### **FINDLEY GRAVES DISCOVERED**

Ann Biggs-Williams has sent us this information from a letter to the editor of the county newspaper:

This letter-to-the-editor is intended to inform descendants of Magilbra and Dolly Findley (circa 1796-1884) of South Carolina, Georgia, and Covington-Conecuh-Escambia Counties of Alabama. Recently, their common graves were re-discovered in a land-locked, abandoned family plot in the Red Level/Loango area of Covington County. A 14 inch tree had grown directly through the graves and nature had totally reclaimed all access to the grave site.

The property had been sold outside the family for several decades and was purchased by a land/timber speculator in 2003. Learning of the graves, he petitioned a Covington Co. Court and an order was issued for the removal of both graves and all attachments, and that they be re-interred in a nearby established cemetery, Fairmount, in Red Level, where several Findley descendants are buried.

Magilbra Findley had an impressive military record and fought with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans (War of 1812). With his wife, Dolly, he fathered the following children: William, Robert, Martin, John, Riley, Celia (who married John Franklin), Bluford, George, Mary (who married Solomon Jackson), and Martha (who married Nick Harwell).

Five of the sons fought for the Confederate States of America (CSA) and all survived except Robert, who was killed. The Sons of Confederate Veterans are assisting in this effort. All remains of Magilbra and Dolly Findley have been removed from the property and a suitable/proper re-burial is being planned, tentatively at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 12, 2005 at Fairmount Cemetery in Red Level, Alabama. Both remains will be re-interred with proper and impressive military/civilian pomp and circumstance, including a 21 gun salute.

The general public and especially all descendants of the Findleys are invited and asked to circulate this information. Donations are needed and can be mailed to: P.O. Box 415, Red Level, Alabama 36474. All excess monies will be used for the repair/maintenance of the listed Findley's graves. Several are in dire need of repair. Some have broken headstones/slabs etc. Make checks payable to Findley Cemetery Fund. Include

your address or email and you'll be notified of final plans. For additional info e-mail: [mfindley@alaweb.com](mailto:mfindley@alaweb.com)  
Robert Findley, 490 East Fork Dr., Cleveland, TX 77228

## **ANNOUCEMENTS**

**Welcome To New Members:** Carol Madden and Johnnie Stutts

### **The Alabama River Festival**

Scheduled for March 10--12th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the festival will include as one of its features, last month's ECHS speaker, Dr. John Hall, in his portrayal as William Bartram. Other events at the Alabama River Festival held annually at the Claiborne Lock and Dam in Monroe County include: Native American dance, river music, flintknapping, live demonstrations, prehistoric fossil exhibits, and riverboat exhibits. Admission is only \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors and children. For more information, call 251-575-7433.

### **Art Exhibit**

Jefferson Davis Community College's Art Department and Museum are hosting a display in the Gallery room of Historical Society Member Alma Lou Hall's folk-art paintings. The paintings will be up for six weeks. They are labeled and priced for public sale. The Museum also has signed copies of her book Rabbit Stew and Pee Bucket available for purchase. Thanks to Carol Madden for this information.

## **BREWTON AND THE BRUTON PARISH CHURCH IN WILLIAMSBURG**

This fascinating piece of information on the early history of Brewton and the name "Brewton," is contributed by Ann Biggs-Williams. The background is that Jacob Lowrey in preparing material for the incident depicted in the Currier and Ives lithograph (an incident that took place near Fort Crawford), found a loose paper entitled "Ft. Crawford Again," written by a J. E. Garrett. The clipping (found in the lateral vertical file for Escambia County at the Alabama Department of Archives and History), does not name a newspaper or a date. Jacob sent Ann a copy of the clipping.

Ann had recently heard Major Jennings on his Brewton T. V. show, "Coffee with the Mayor and Mabry," in her words, "wonder aloud when interviewing Joe Gordy if there was a connection between Brewton and Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg."

The following is from the clipping:

". . . Before the War of 1812, Conecuh County's old court record shows that a man by the name of Jurnigan, a ranchman, homesteaded a track of land in the neighborhood of Brewton. He moved from the Fort Mims district. All Journigans of South Alabama sprang from this ancestral stock of whom the present nightwatchmen of Brewton is a great-great-great-grandchild. It seems that ranching has followed the name till now.

"Pretty soon a colony from Bruton, Virginia, the old home county and church of Thomas Jefferson, came in. Their chief business was lumbering, or gathering woods for a factory in Georgia. Spinning wheels and all kinds of household utensils company. When the colony became homesick, they could think of no other name so fitting as their old home church. Bruton, in Bruton Parish, Va., where many of them had been imprisoned for Sabbath breaking. It is said that the religious freedom amendment to the Federal constitution had its origin in the imprisonment of Thomas Jefferson in the Bruton Parish church.

"Hence the name Bruton, not Brewton as spelled today. When mail service was established on the old stage road to Mobile, the spelling of the post office was Brewton, from a man living there by that name....."

\*A note of caution. Ann points out that with no name of a newspaper or a date given with the clipping and no supporting evidence of the accuracy of this account from another source (Ann has checked Annie Waters' The History of Escambia County, Alabama and it does not mention a J. E Garrett), there still remains research to be done concerning the clipping and the information in it.

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<u>Books for Sale</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Regular Price</u>
<u>A History of Escambia County</u>	\$55.00	\$50.00
<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$40.00	\$35.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
<u>Get in Touch with Us</u>		

Address: Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; Phone: 251-809-1612; Email: [Rannv1@earthlink.net](mailto:Rannv1@earthlink.net)

Membership: \$10.00. Clip the following form and send to Treasurer: Peggy Bracken, 602 Edgewood Drive, Brewton, AL 36426.

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#### Membership Renewal/Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First	Middle	Last
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street	City	State	Zip
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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