



Lamp on Porch of Bryce
Hospital

Volume 37, Number 4

April 2010

April Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum



The Program: History of the Prison System in Alabama

Speaker Jeff Ross is no stranger to the speaker's platform for ECHS programs. Recently he gave a program on the Ellicott Line in which he presented not only material on the history of that landmark survey, but could also speak from personal experience since he participated in a recent re-survey of the line.

As with that program, Jeff can speak on the subject of Alabama's Prison System and its history from both personal experience as well as research. (he is retired from Alabama's Department of Corrections).

Jeff recommends as an excellent source on the history of the Alabama Prison System, a

book we have in the Alabama Room, Alabama Bound: Forty-Five Years inside a Prison System, by Ray A. March.

Published in 1978, the introduction on the cover of the book describes it as "The powerful story of three men-father, son, and grandson-whose combined experience in dealing with prisoners in Alabama spans more than 45 years.

"Told in their own down-to-earth conversational styles, their accounts- moving, often brutal, and disturbing-illustrate difference approaches to the basic questions of crime and punishment."

The Department of Corrections Website has an excellent history of the Prison System in Alabama at <http://www.doc.state.al.us/>.



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The Next Meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Wayne Craig Remington who is the "Map Guy" at the University of Alabama will be the guest speaker.

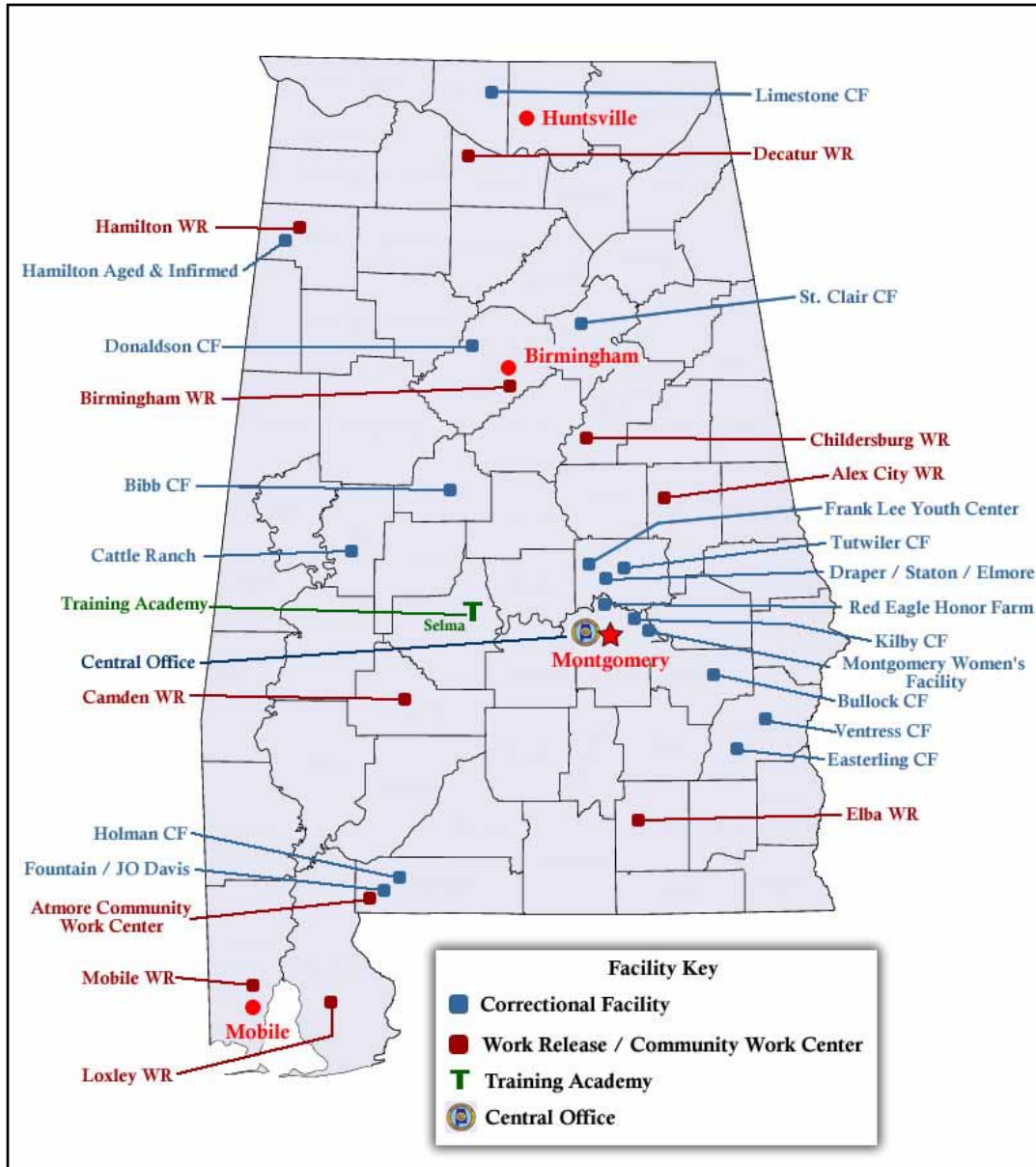
He is the author/editor of The Statistical Atlas of Alabama, The Atlas of Alabama Metropolitan Areas, The Atlas of Alabama Counties and The Historical Atlas of Alabama, Volumes 1 and 2.

A Reminder

It is now time to pay dues for the coming year.

- ♦ \$25.00/person,
- ♦ \$35.00/two family members
- ♦ \$250.00/person for Lifetime Members
- ♦ \$50.00/year business

Alabama Department of Corrections Facilities



Map of Facilities Operated by the Alabama Department of Corrections

The Facilities Map courtesy of the web site of the Alabama Department of Corrections <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>.

“The Alabama Dept. of Corrections operates 29 facilities within the state. Five are considered maximum security: Holman, Kilby, St. Clair, Donaldson and Tutwiler. Eleven are considered medium security, with a total of eleven Work Release / Community Work Centers “ (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

“As of May 30, 2009 there were a total of 30,896 inmates assigned to ADOC. 28,560 are male, 2,336 are female” (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

“During Fiscal Year 2008, the annual cost to house an ADOC inmate was \$15,223 or \$41.71 per day. According to the American Correctional Association this is one of the lowest cost-per-day rates in the country ” (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

Escambia County Department of Correction Maximum Security Facility

Holman State Prison



Picture of Holman courtesy of the web site of the Alabama Department of Corrections <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>.

“Holman Correctional Facility opened during December 1969, with a basic capacity for 520 medium custody inmates that also included a 20 death row cellblock. It was constructed for \$5,000,000 during Governor Lurleen Wallace and Commissioner James T. Hagen’s administration. Named in honor of a former warden, William C. Holman, it is located in south west Escambia County, nine miles north of Atmore on State Highway 21.

“Holman currently maintains 630 general population beds, 200 single cells, and 168 death row cells for a capacity of 998 maximum through minimum custody inmates to include a large contingency of ‘life without parole’ inmates. The death chamber is located at Holman where all executions are conducted. Holman also operates two major correctional industries within the facility’s parameter, a tag plant and a metal fabrication plant” (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

Holman Named after William C. Holman

The following article was originally printed in the Atmore Advance Reflections 2020 Edition, March 3, 2010, page 1C.

“On March 13, 1928, a 3,600 acre farm in Escambia County was purchased and Moffett State Farm was built to receive the final movement of convicts from the mines on June 30, 1928. Similar to road camp construction, Moffett had wood-framed barracks with concrete foundations with baths and toilets on each wing.

More land was purchased for a total of 8,360 acres, and Moffett, also referred to as the Atmore Prison farm, became a demonstration farm for the state. Buildings were also purchased for the wardens and guards, a cold storage plant, a canning plant, and a 42 mile railroad.

The total cost of Moffett State Farm was \$452,544.90 with a capacity of 850 inmates. Provisions were also made for showing movies, radios, baseball, and football outfits, as well as other amusement/recreation facilities.

On February 11, 1949, a fire burned Atmore Prison. By September 1950, a temporary barracks and hospital had been built and a modern prison was under construction. However, because of a lack of appropriations, it was 1955 before

the new 852 inmate capacity Atmore prison (later named Fountain) was completed at a cost of \$850,000.

“As planned, in response to Kilby Prison’s continued deterioration, the Main Office moved to 101 South Union during Thanksgiving week of November 1968. To accommodate the inmates, during November of 1969, Holman Prison was completed. Named after William C. Holman, a former warden at Kilby, the maximum security unit houses all death row inmates and was designated by statute to be the location for all electrocutions.

“On July 31, 1972, a furlough program began which allowed selected inmates to have family sponsored visits at home. In December of 1972, the Atmore Work Release Center opened to expand the program in south Alabama.

“Also the 1923 legislation provided for state-performed executions by electrocution in a room provided at Kilby. Up to that time, each county had conducted hangings held in private gallows instead of the public hangings of the frontier past. A convict, Ed Mason, built the electric chair, “Yellow Mama,” for Kilby’s death row.

“In 1926, the average total prison population was 3,000 convicts.

Escambia County Department of Correction Facilities

Atmore Work Release Center



Picture of Holman courtesy of the web site of the Alabama Department of Corrections <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>.

“The Atmore Work Release Center began within Fountain Correctional Facility during 1973 with 10—15 inmates who were employed in the local timber industry. In 1976, the program was moved into a mobile home complex at the current location. During June of 1989, the Center moved into a permanent structure. The structure had a designed capacity for 192 inmates and two double-bunked holding cells and a chapel. Subsequently the capacity has increased to 225 inmates.

“The center is located on five acres about seven miles north of Atmore on State Highway 21; sitting about one mile off the highway. The Center provides work release inmates to wide spread employers in Baldwin, Escambia and Monroeville counties. The facility also provides free inmate labor for the city of Atmore, Frisco City, Jefferson Davis Community College, and Conecuh County on a daily basis” (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

Fountain/J. O. Davis Correctional Facility



Picture of Fountain courtesy of the web site of the Alabama Department of Corrections <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>.

“G.K. Fountain Correctional Facility originated in 1928 as the Moffett Prison Farm, later renamed Atmore Prison Farm until it burned in 1949. The facility was eventually rebuilt in 1955 and has a capacity for 855 medium custody inmates.

“The facility was named in honor of an officer killed in the line of duty. Located on 8,200 acres about seven miles north of Atmore on State Highway 21, Fountain maintains cattle, agricultural operations, and vegetable gardens. Additionally, the facility offers vocational programs through the nearby Jefferson Davis Community College. Fountain has an annual budget of approximately \$8,132,000” (the Alabama Department of Corrections Website <<http://www.doc.state.al.us/>>).

News. Events, Announcements

Rummage Sale

The ECHS Rummage Sale will be held May 8, 2010 beginning at 6:00 a. m. at the Hourglass in downtown Brewton. One caution: Do not bring clothes to sell.

Field Trip to Arcadia Mill:

Wednesday, May 19, 2019

The Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site in Milton, Florida represents the largest 19th-century water-powered industrial complex in northwest Florida.



This site was the location of a multi-faceted operation that included a water-powered sawmill, a lumber mill with planing and lathing machines, gristmill, bucket and pail factory, shingle mill, cotton textile mill, and even an experimental silk cultivation operation.

The Arcadia Mill complex also included many other structures and industries, which all came together to produce Florida's largest antebellum industrial complex (from the Historic Pensacola website at <<http://www.historicpensacola.org/arcadia.cfm>>).

Tentative plans are to meet at the Museum at 9:00 and travel to the Mill to be there by 10:30.

Details to be announced at the April meeting.

A Query

ECHS is looking for anyone who might have memories of a **prison** that was located in Escambia County in the **Whitey** Community located a few miles north of present day Bradley Community in northeastern Escambia County.

According to Mrs. Annie C. Waters in The History of Escambia County, Alabama, Whitey was named for the operator of a mill at a naval store operation on Miller Creek.

Mrs. Waters reports that "a legend relates that Mr. Whitey purchased a new copper still, and before using it for turpentine distilling, he ran off some liquor. To age the product, called "white lightning," he collected peach seeds with which to color and flavor it."

A railroad ran through Bradley and Whitey that was built by The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company. This company leased prisoners from the State of Alabama to work in the turpentine industry, housing them in a large stockade at Whitey. There was also a hotel, a commissary, and other businesses.

When the timber supply was exhausted, the railroad was taken up and the community then became mostly agricultural, with part of the area in the Conecuh National Forest.

A Query

The owner of this log home near Bradley, pictured blow, is looking for information on the history of the house. Please contact ECHS if you have information.



Historic Markers for Escambia County Named

As part of the celebration of the Great Alabama Homecoming, three historic markers will be unveiled in Escambia County: in Brewton, for the Bank of Brewton, on June 19, at the Blueberry Festival; in Atmore, for Williams Station, on October 23, at Williams Station Day Celebration; and in Flomaton, for the town of Flomaton, on October 22-24, for Homecoming Weekend Celebration.

Snapshots



The March Meeting

The pictures above from the last ECHS meeting include, from left to right: ECHS Vice President Robin Brewton presenting a certificate of appreciation and a copy of Annie Waters' History to speaker Lou Vickery; the refreshment table: Lou Vickery autographing copies of his book The Rise . . . ; and ECHS Treasurer Susan Crawford holding the birthday cake presented to her at the meeting.



Trip to Poarch Indian Reservation

The pictures on the left are from the ECHS field trip to the Poarch Indian Reservation in Atmore, the most recent trip in the society's trips to museums.

Pictured on the top from left to right are: Robert Thrower, our host and guide, who is standing in front of the collection of pictures used to tell the story of the history of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians; the chimney on the log house, constructed in the manner of the log houses actually used by the Poarch Indians in the early days of settlements, which is inside the new Cultural and visitor's Center on the Reservation.

On the second row from the left are a picture of Robert showing the beautiful cape made by his sister using turkey feathers and again Robert explaining the history of the Poarch Indians through the use of his and his mother's collections of photographs and illustrations.

Our Business Members

Please patronize our business members. Be sure to tell them you appreciate their support of the Escambia County Historical Society!

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital

This History of Bryce is from the website [Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Project](#).

- ◆ “1852: Alabama Insane Hospital established by the Alabama Legislature on a 326-acre tract adjacent to the University of Alabama.
- ◆ “1860: Peter Bryce, 26, elected first superintendent. During his tenure, Bryce abolishes strait-jackets and restraints and insists on treating patients with dignity and respect.
- ◆ “1861: The immense hospital, built on the model developed by Thomas Kirkbride and Samuel Sloan, opens. It features running water, flush toilets, gas lighting and is the first building in Tuscaloosa to have gas lights and central steam heat.
- ◆ “1865: From the hospital's dome, observers watch Union troops burn the University of Alabama.
- ◆ “1900: The state Legislature renames the hospital for Bryce, who died in 1892.
- ◆ “1949: A report finds the state's two mental hospitals, Bryce and Searcy near Mobile, have an average daily patient population of 5,732 with 10 full-time staff physicians, the largest patient load of any state in the nation at the time.
- ◆ “1970: A class-action lawsuit in federal court, Wyatt vs. Stickney, alleges that persons involuntarily committed to Bryce were not being treated. At the time, Alabama was 50th out of the 50 states in spending for the care of people with mental illness or mental retardation in public institutions, allotting 50 cents per day per patient.
- ◆ “1971: U.S. District Court Judge Frank Johnson rules persons committed for treatment have a constitutional right to receive treatment.
- ◆ “1972: Johnson issues minimum standards for mental



Bryce Hospital

The original hospital building with its famous dome, porticos, and wings is considered the finest example of the designs for mental hospitals by the psychologist Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride. Dr. Kirkbride collaborated with the architect Samuel Sloan on the actual structure of the building.

**Photograph courtesy of the website [Kirkbride Buildings](#)
<<http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/blog/bryce-hospital-in-the-news>>.**

health and mental retardation facilities.

- ◆ “1995: U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson releases several mental health facilities from supervision under the Wyatt case and finds the department in compliance with about a third of the mental illness and mental retardation standards.

- ◆ “1996: The Mary Starke Harper Center on the Bryce campus opens as the first psychiatric facility in the country designed specifically for geriatric patients.

- ◆ “2003: Thompson terminates Wyatt vs. Stickney case after 33 years.

- ◆ “2009: University of Alabama's bid to buy

Bryce Hospital (remaining buildings and grounds) for \$60 million is approved by the Alabama Mental Health Board of Trustees” (<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/history_establishment.html>).

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Aerial Photograph of Bryce Hospital

**Photo Courtesy of Kirkbride Buildings website
<<http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/blog/images/2008/08/08/1.jpg>>**

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital *(continued)*

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The following article is taken from the website of the Alabama Department of Mental Health <http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/history_civilrights.html>.

Establishment of the Alabama Insane Hospital

“Before the construction of the Alabama Insane Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, care of the state’s people with mental health conditions had been a private responsibility. Wealthy and educated families could provide attendants and humane treatment for relatives with mental health conditions, but all too frequently less affluent, desperate families consigned loved ones to locked rooms, outbuildings, or heavy restraints. The extremely violent or criminally insane were sometimes jailed with common criminals.

“In 1846-47 Dorothea Dix, an internationally known, crusading philanthropist, visited Alabama to advocate on behalf of the deaf, blind, and the insane. The Alabama Medical Association was formed in 1847 in Mobile. One of its first items of business was to discuss the need to establish a state asylum. A recommendation was presented to the legislature by Dr. Benjamin Hogan of Dallas County.



Not only was Dorothea Lynde Dix, pictured on the left, an activist on behalf of the indigent insane, during the Civil War, she served as superintendent of Army Nurses and was noted for insuring that Confederate soldiers received the same treatment as Union soldiers.

“In 1849 Miss Dix returned to Alabama to have a speech on the need for a state asylum read to the legislature by Senator George N. Stewart. The speech described the plight of people with mental health conditions across the nation in graphic detail:

I have seen hundreds of patients restored to their health and returned to the enjoyment and blessings of domestic life, and I have seen thousands living in misery, wearing life slowly out in dungeons, in cells, in pens, in bams and outhouses, exposed to every variation of weather, filthy and neglected, abandoned of friends, cared

for with less consideration than the oxen in the stall, or the swine in the sty, melancholy monuments of the imperfections with which society discharges its social and moral obligations.

“On Nov. 15, 1849, a bill to establish a state insane hospital was read to the legislature by Senator Stewart. It was not passed during that session because a fire had seriously damaged the capitol building in Montgomery. The necessity of expending a large sum of money to rebuild the capitol apparently dampened the altruistic instincts of the legislators.

“On February 6, 1852, after considerable effort by Miss Dix and the Alabama Medical Association, the Alabama legislature passed a bill to establish the Alabama Insane Hospital and appropriated \$100,000 to purchase property and construct the building. . . . Three hundred twenty-six acres of land adjacent to the University of Alabama was purchased for \$6,525 from Robert Ellyson.

“Before constructing the hospital, Dr. Aaron Lopez of Mobile toured the country’s “most approved” insane hospitals to determine the best plan of construction and governance. He also sought guidance from the Association of Medical superintendents of American Hospitals for the Insane (AMSAH)” (from the Bryce Hospital Restoration Project website <<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/default.aspx>>).



Bryce Hospital in 1940's or '50's

The hospital facility was first known as the Alabama State Hospital for the Insane and later as the Alabama Insane Hospital, and eventually named for its first superintendent, Dr. Peter Bryce.

Picture Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital (continued)

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Dr. Bryce and Moral Treatment

The Encyclopedia Wikipedia gives this summary of the years in the late 19th century when Dr. Peter Bryce became the first superintendent of the hospital.:

“The Alabama Insane Hospital opened in 1861. It was later renamed for its first superintendent, Peter Bryce, a 27-year-old psychiatric pioneer from South Carolina. Bryce had been brought to the attention of the hospital trustees by Dorothea Dix.

“He had studied mental health care in Europe and worked in psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey as well as his native South Carolina. His tenure was marked by absolute discipline among the staff of the hospital.

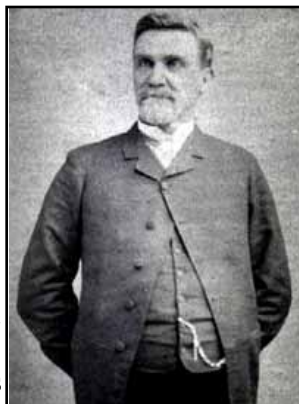
“He demanded that patients be given courtesy, kindness and respect at all times. The use of shackles, straightjackets and other restraints was discouraged, and finally abandoned altogether in 1882.

“Various work programs and other activities were encouraged, including farming, sewing, maintenance and crafts. Between 1872 and the early 1880s, some of the patients wrote and edited their own newspaper, called The Meteor.

“These writings provide a rare inside look at life in a progressive mental institution in the late 19th century” (from *Wikipedia*).

Moral Treatment Movement

“Moral Treatment was an approach to mental disorder based on humane psychosocial care or moral discipline that emerged in the 18th century and came to the fore for much of the 19th century, deriving partly from psychiatry or psychology and partly from religious or moral concerns” (*Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Project website* <http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/history_moraltreatment.html>).



Peter Bryce

Elected to the Alabama Hall of Fame, his achievements for that honor are noted as:

“Peter Bryce (1834-1892) laid the groundwork for the care of the mentally ill in Alabama, not by the mere holding of a position, but by his own sensitive, patient nature and by the inauguration of treatment methods that mark him as a pioneer in psychiatry. . . . “Bryce created a mental institution recognized as one of the best managed in the country”

(From the Roots Web section of *Ancestry.com* http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~asylums/bryce_al/index.html).

The Meteor

Concerning the Meteor, the newspaper written and published by the patients of Bryce Hospital, The Alabama Department of Archives and History notes:

“The *Meteor* was written, printed, and published by the patients of Bryce Hospital. Its original purpose was for the benefit of the patients and to explain the practical operation of the institution to its patrons. Later, it intended to inform the friends and patrons of the hospital, state newspaper editors, and state legislators of the conditions and purposes of the Hospital. It was designed to provide something for everybody.

“The newspaper was named *The Meteor* because meteors come as a surprise, appear at irregular intervals, and have brilliant though short, temporary careers. The paper was also meant ‘to glow with a kindly and generous sentiment to all mankind.’

“It appeared quarterly for five years and then became a ‘semi-occasionally’ because the printer and editor,

‘disgusted with the succession of years that still found them at the Hospital, determined . . . to print a number only when inclined to do so.’

“The editor also surmised that people would not expect a regular publication from a hospital patient” (<<http://www.archives.state.al.us/meteor/meteor.html>>).

In the first edition of The Meteor, one patient joked about Bryce’s neighboring institution, the University of Alabama, comparing the two:

“The inmates of the University come to acquire ideas. We to get rid of them.”

(from the website *Kirkbride Buildings* <<http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/blog/the-meteor-bryce-hospital-newspaper>>).

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital *(continued)*

(continued from page 10)

From the "Mental Health Civil Rights" Section of the Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Project website, we have this discussion of the developments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century:

Dr. Bryce's Death and the Beginning of the Problem of Overcrowding

By 1872 the hospital had become overcrowded. According to its designer, Dr. Kirkbride, 250 patients constituted the maximum capacity for a moral therapy insane hospital. There were now 300, and thirty new patients were added in the next year.

"Dr. Bryce suggested in a speech to the Medical Association that a new hospital be built in another section of the state. This suggestion was not acted upon, and from this point onwards, Dr. Bryce and his successors were faced with overcrowding.

"That same year on August 14th, Dr. Bryce died of Bright's disease and, at his request, was buried on the south lawn of the hospital. At her death, his wife Ellen Peter-Bryce was buried beside him.

"On October 6th Dr. James Searcy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees became the second superintendent. The hospital was terribly overcrowded with a patient population of 1,148.



Gravestone of Dr. Bryce

In the background can be seen a building being constructed on the University of Alabama campus.

Bryce Hospital and the University have lived side by side for 158 years. However the University could not expand to the east because of Bryce. Now the University has bought the 183 acre campus for \$60 million but there is not firm decision on a new location for Bryce and its patients.,

Photograph by Robert Sutton courtesy of the Tuscaloosa News is from the Kirkbride Buildings website at:



Pistachio Tree on Hospital Grounds Planted in 1872 by Ellen Bryce, wife of Peter Bryce.

Photograph by Robert Sutton courtesy of the Tuscaloosa News http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/history_civilrights.html.

Partlow Established

"The state legislature established the 'Alabama Home for Mental Defectives' in 1919. That same year, Dr. William Dempsey Partlow was named superintendent of all state hospitals.

"In 1922 the 'Alabama Home for Mental Defectives,' later renamed Partlow State School in 1927, was completed. While laws

had been in effect for years forbidding Bryce and Searcy hospitals from receiving feeble minded patients,

Dr. Bryce and Dr. Searcy had both described the hospitals as "dumping grounds" for the senile, the feeble

minded and the paupers from all over the state.

"The establishment of the "Alabama Home" helped remedy the situation at the insane hospitals (<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/history_civilrights.html>).

Being under funded was not new. Dr. Bryce, many believe, used farming, mining and other work programs at Bryce during tenure, not only for therapeutic reasons but because of a chronic shortage of funds to practically no funds from the state. Farming, gardening, and producing goods and selling them meant the hospital could be sustained.

However, during the 20th century the conditions due to overcrowding and underfunding from the state became critical. Nurses, orderlies, and doctors were working and living in terrible conditions because there was not enough staff to care for the patients and the facility.

From Wikipedia, this comment on the conditions at the hospital:

"In 1970, Alabama ranked last among U. S. states in funding for mental health. Bryce Hospital at that time had 5,200 patients living in conditions that a Montgom-

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

ery Advertiser editor likened to a concentration camp.

"That same year, a cigarette tax earmarked for mental health treatment was cut. One hundred Bryce employees were laid off, including twenty professional staff.

"Members of the Department of Psychology at the University of Alabama attempted to file suit on behalf of the laid-off workers, but Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson ruled that the courts had no standing to intervene on behalf of fired employees. He left open, however, the possibility of a suit filed on behalf of patients, whose quality of care was affected" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital>).

"Alabama Governor Lurleen Wallace viewed the facility in February 1967, and was moved to tears after an overweight, mentally challenged nine-year old attempted to hug her, crying "Mama! Mama!"

"She lobbied her husband, George Wallace (who held the actual power of her governorship) for more funds for the institution" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital>).



Bryce Hospital Laundry

Patients working in the laundry at Bryce Hospital, a mental care facility founded in Tuscaloosa in 1859. Patient engagement in manufacturing and chores were central to the facility's approach to mental health treatment. Picture courtesy of W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama Libraries.



Patient Bedroom at Bryce

Picture Courtesy of W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama Libraries

Civil Rights for Patients and The Wyatt v. Stickney Case

Ricky Wyatt was a fifteen year old who had been labeled a juvenile delinquent and housed at Bryce even though there was no evidence that he was mentally ill.

He became the named plaintiff in a class action suit beginning in October of 1970. The suit which began with only the suit against Bryce was expanded in 1971 to include Searcy Hospital at Mt. Vernon and Camp

Part low at Coker.

Eventually the standards established in the suit would serve as a model nationwide (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital>).

On April 13, 1972 the Wyatt v. Stickney Court Order established a patient's individual right to treatment.

The court also established thirty-five standards for hospital compliance that would guarantee a patient's treatment and dignity in a humane environment (<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/story_civilrights.html>).

"The case of Wyatt vs. Stickney came to a conclusion after 33 years, through the tenure of nine Alabama governors and fourteen state mental health commissioners, the longest mental health case in national history.

"The State of Alabama estimates its litigation expenses at over \$15 million" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital>).

Patient Ward at Bryce Hospital

Picture Courtesy of Hoole Special Collections



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Bryce Hospital *(continued)*

(continued from page 12)



Bryce Hospital

Bryce Hospital showing the wings of the Kirkbride Plan. The original building had only three wings on each side. Wings that were added later have been demolished so that today the original is back to the original design.

Picture is from a postcard showing the hospital from around the turn of the 20th century (From [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryce_Hospital>).

Bryce Hospital Architecture



Dr. Kirk bride

The hospital was built according to the designs of Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane and considered a leading authority on asylum design.

Dr. Aaron Lopez, the first superintendent of the Alabama Hospital for the Insane (Bryce), visited Dr Kirkbride who persuaded Dr. Lopez of the advantages of his “ideal asylum de-

sign” (<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/brycehospitalproject/history_architecture.html>).

Dr Kirkride worked with architect Samuel Sloan to draw up a design for what would become Bryce Hospital. Kirkride and Sloan both considered Bryce the best architectural representative of the “ideal asylum” for the time.

From the [Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation](http://www.brycehospital.org) website this comment on the architectural significance of the Kirkbride design or system:

“These hospitals would attempt to increase the individual attention paid to each patient and to the effectiveness of the hospital staff.

Architect Samuel Sloan’s translation of Kirkbride’s system into the distinctive linear plan used at the Alabama Hospital for the Insane was the first fully executed hospital of its type and, in Kirkbride’s opinion, the best architectural expression of his system.

“It consisted of a large building with a central administrative section surmounted by a dome flanked on either side by three patient wings and cross halls en echelon.”

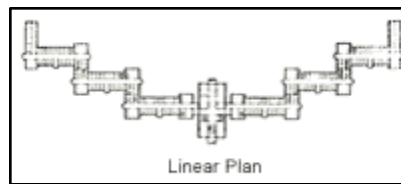


Diagram of the Kirkbride Design for Asylums

Illustration from

<<http://www.kirkbridebuildings.com/about/history.html>>

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Bryce Hospital *(continued)*

(continued from page 13)

The Bryce Cemeteries

The descriptions on the markers for the four cemeteries are as follows:

Old Bryce Cemetery

"This is the oldest of four historic cemeteries located on the campus of Bryce Hospital, Alabama's oldest mental health facility. The first recorded burial dates to 1861.

"While only a few graves are currently marked, it is estimated that thousands of individuals are buried here."

Bryce Hospital Cemetery #1A

"This cemetery features at least thirty-seven marked graves, the earliest of which dates to 1892.

"There are an undetermined number of unmarked burials. It is speculated that these burials were originally part of Old Bryce Cemetery, located north of here, but were moved during the construction of River Road in the 1960s."



Cover Picture for the Invitations to the Dedication of Four Historic Markers Erected at the Four Bryce Hospital Cemeteries on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

Bryce Hospital Cemetery #3

"This cemetery was established in 1953 and is still in use.

"It contains approximately 500 burials mostly marked with simple, chronologically numbered concrete grave markers that correspond to cemetery ledger books in the possession of the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

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All information comes from the website of the Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation at
<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/BryceHospitalProject/historic_markers.html>.

Wagon Train to Missouri

This is the fifth and final episode of Uncle Bill Campbell's diary kept as he travelled by wagon train from Lexington, Virginia to Saint Charles Missouri in 1829.

We left this group in the last episode in New Albany, Indiana. They had just crossed the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky. There were 55 people, 20 horses, 10 dogs and 4 cows in the wagon train. The diary is copied verbatim.

Sept. 24, 1829 Passed 6 miles into Indiana over very steep bad roads. Encamped after a very hard rain. The first county after our entrance to the state was Floyd, a rough broken county heavily timbered with a filthy, lazy, degraded population.

New Albany is the county town.....Greenville.

Sept 25, 1829 Crossed Blue River at Fredericksburg. Next day passed through a poor county and a small town called Paol, the county seat of Washington County. Roads very steep and hilly. Encamped at Pistareens.

Next day came through a rough country with a miserable population of the low order. Country is limestone, some stone, coal, water bad from wells.

Sept 26, 1829 Encamped at Markells where our best horse died suddenly, the effect of a hard drive after a hearty dinner of green corn; hard luck, roads very hilly.

Came next day to Big White River at Hindoston. A year ago this was a flourishing town, but it is now going to ruins in consequence of the county seat having been removed higher up the river.

White River is a beautiful stream, sufficient for the navigation of large keel boats in the season when the waters are full. Forded it easily.

Encamped at Washington, the county town of Davies County, a tolerable decent village.

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Wagon Train to Missouri

(Continued from page 14)

Next day had incessant hard rains nearly all day. We pushed on to get over Little White River; got very wet crossed the river easily; a fine stream nearly the same size as Big White River. Roads very muddy after the rain.

The country between the forks of the White River is level; a part of it is good land, but a part is barren. Encamped at Purcells, road and country are level, many movers.

Next day came through Vincennes a beautifully situated town on the bank of the Wabash, with a number of fine brick houses and some miserable old French dwellings.

Here we obtained the first sight of a beautiful prairie, a noble sight.

The Wabash is a fine stream, smooth, gentle and magnificent. Crossed on a good ferry, decent ferryman. Ferriage \$1.62.

Set foot in Illinois; soon entered a fine large prairie, the greater part of which is sometimes overflowed, so as to make the Wabash five miles wide.

People rather more cleanly in their persons and houses than in Indiana. More marks of industry.

Sept 29, 1829 Encamped at Sheilders Orchard. The country is alternately prairie and wood. Some of them glorious views.

Passed through Lawrenceville, the county seat of Lawrence County, a small town of twenty houses on Ambrose (Embrarras) River.

Next day finished our journey over fine roads. Generally though wide prairies. Some of the prairies are eight miles across and extended as far as the eye could see in length.

No sight can be more magnificent than one of the boundless prairies covered with grass, weeds, flowers and sometimes clumps of trees. They abound with larks and prairie hens.

Sept 30, 1829 Crossed Fox River, encamped at Muddy fork of Little Wabash. A deep dirty little stream which we were compelled to cross on one of the worst bridges I ever saw, for which we were charged and extortionate toll of 87 and 1/2 cents.

Next day two miles of very bad road between Muddy Fork and Little Wabash said to overflow in winter. Passed through Maysville, the county town of Clay County. It consist of a small wooden court house and jail, 2 houses and 3 cabins.

Alternately prairie and wood. Crossed one prairie 10 miles wide through which passed a small stream called Elm River. The rising and setting of the sun in the prairie is a glorious site.

Encamped in a prairie near a skirt of wood. Entered Marion County. Land fine, roads excellent.

Came through Salem, the county seat of Marin. It consists of a court house, two taverns, a grocery and horse mill.

Saw a glorious sight, the Militia officers of Marion training. This day saw five deer running in the prairie.

October 2nd, 1829 Encamped three miles in Grand Prairie at a skirt of wood projecting into the prairie.

Here ends Uncle Bill's diary. But a brief record of the rest of this trip is mysteriously engraved on his tombstone in Saint Louis.

October 1----- 20 miles on Grand Prairie

October 2----- 18 miles on Grand Prairie

October 3----- 29 miles to Stinking Creek

October 4----- 23 miles to Lebanon

October 5----- 24 mile to Saint Louis, Toll \$6.00

October 6 ----- 12 mile to Breckenridge

October 7----- 20 mile to Koontz

October 8----- Home Saint Charles, Missouri

Total----- 750 miles in 53 days,

August 21 to October 8, 1829.

Map Quest says you can now drive this route in 11.5 hours. Uncle Bill Campbell died young in 1850. He was only 45. He never married. He practiced law in St. Charles and St. Louis. He served several terms in the Missouri Senate, was the first president of the Missouri Historical Society and was editor of the Saint Louis Gazette when he died

His sister, my Aunt Sophie Campbell McCleur, lost her physician husband to illness two years after they got to Missouri. She remained in the area, ran the family farm and raised her children there near Saint Charles. Her descendants are still in the area.

The original diary is in the special collections at the University of Missouri Library.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Brewton, AL 36427
Phone: 251-809-1528

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www.escohis.org

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<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$40.00	\$35.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
<u>Wildflowers of The Escambia CD</u>	\$12.50	\$10.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)</u>	\$51.00	\$45.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (hc)</u>	\$66.00	\$60.00
<u>Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook</u>	\$46.00	\$40.00

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ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at escohis@escohis.org or call 251-809-1528.

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