

## May Meeting

Tuesday, May 25 , 2010

3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

### The Program: A Presentation by the Supervisor of the Cartographic (Map) Laboratory of the University of Alabama

If you love maps - to study, use, collect - this month's program is one you will certainly enjoy.

Our speaker, Wayne Craig Remington (pictured), could be called the "Map Man." His program will be about his work as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama and Supervisor of the Cartographic Laboratory at the University.

He has sent us this description of his activities:

"I have been the Supervisor of the Cartographic Research Laboratory in the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama since August 1984. I am responsible for the organization and management of various research projects pertaining to production cartography and Geographic Information Systems. The Lab is currently staffed by five geography graduate students



under my supervision. I am a member of the Department's graduate faculty and teach classes in Map and Aerial Photographic Interpretation, Computer Mapping and Graphics and the Geography of Alabama

"The Cartographic Research Laboratory is a self supporting facility. Contracts and grants from federal, state and local governments

along with services to the University community and private interests provide funding for student and facility support. Significant works most recently completed include '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.'

"Organizations which have a long established working relationship with the Lab include the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the University of Alabama Press, and the Alabama Historical Commission."

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### The Next Meeting Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Charles Jackson of Brewton is going to speak on early settlers of Conecuh and Escambia Counties.

### 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 (business card size)



1st & 2nd Ave., Mt. Vernon  
Barracks, Mt. Vernon, Ala.

Volume 37, Number 5

May 2010

# Historic Atlas of Alabama

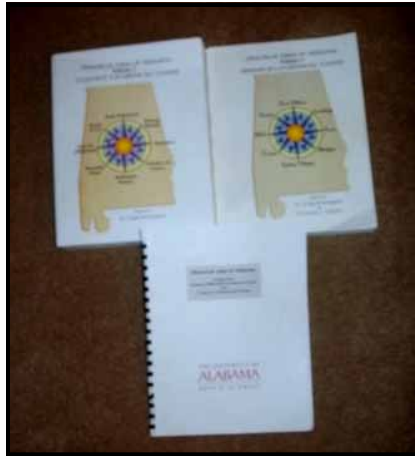
Our speaker, Wayne Craig Remington, is editor of one of the most valuable resources in the Alabama Room: the two volume Historical Atlas of Alabama. It is useful for those interested in local or family history.

Volume I, Historical Locations by County (edited by W. Craig Remington and Thomas J. Kallsen), includes information on Post Offices, Landings, Forts, Bridges, Indian Villages, Towns, Mills, and Ferries.

Volume II, Cemetery Locations by County (edited by W. Craig Remington), covers Early Interments, Famous Burials, Surnames, Number of Graves, Settlement History, Mortality Rates, Church Affiliations, and Status of Use.

The Alabama Room has both of these volumes as well as a supplement which covers only the material on Escambia County.

An example of material on historical locations for Escambia County is the first entry which is an historic place, Acty, with a reference to its location on a coordinating map of the county, and the comment that



**The Two Volume Historical Atlas of Alabama with the Supplement for Escambia County**

this was the name of a rail station found on a map dating from 1915.

Historic place names are given in bold type in the descriptive chart. On the map of the county, they are located by a number. Current places are named on the map of the county.

The second reference on places in Escambia is Alaflora, a current place, which has the comment that there was a post office in this community in operation from 1932-1939.

The material on cemeteries covers both named and unnamed cemeteries, giving location by reference to a coordinating map and comments on church affiliation with other remarks about the cemetery's history.

The first reference to a named cemetery is to Atmore Cemetery with the location and then the comments that it began when 11 graves were moved to the location from an abandoned Williams Station Cemetery. Further comments are that the first known interment was that of Adeline Goldsmith (born and died 1911), and the last known Joseph Jones (1867-1913). Final comment is that "(3) Bradfords are found here ." *Note: ECHS will soon have the new editions of the Atlas.*

## Maps Highlighted at the University of Alabama Cartographic Site



**America siue india nova**

**By Michael Mercator**

**1595**



**Map of the European Settlements . . .**

**By Thomas Kitchin**

**Department of Geography**  
**University of Alabama**  
**U of A Map Library**

<http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/>



**A Map of the British Empire in America**

**By Henry Popple**

**1733**

# Moundville Museum Reopens



**Entrance to the Renovated Jones Museum**

The Jones Archaeological Museum at Moundville Archaeological Park has reopened

after a 10-year, \$5 million renovation. The museum is said to combine “the latest technology with more than 200 artifacts to describe one of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in the United States” (from the website University of Alabama Moundville Archeological Park <http://moundville.ua.edu/> ).

**Traffic Jam at Entrance to the Park when museum opened in 1939**



The Museum was first opened and dedicated on May 16, 1939 at what called “Mound State Monument.” The museum was built with Civilian Conservation Corps labor. It was designed



**Visitors Outside the Museum in 1939**

with two wings containing burials and a center section containing exhibits with artifacts taken from the site. The burials were closed in 1989 and a theatre and exhibit halls replaced the burial wings

Both the information on the 1939 opening

and the pictures are from the website Moundville Archaeological Park, part of the University of Alabama Website at <<http://museums.ua.edu/moundville/moundmus.html> >).

From the Tuscaloosa News website, we have these comments:

“The Redesigned Museum has the goal of creating an interpretation of the culture of Moundville. The program's executive director, Robert Clouse, said,

‘Moundville offers a rare look into the lives of upper-class Native Americans.’

“The museum's main hall shows what a Native American wedding ceremony would have looked like in Moundville. The other two wings explore the dwelling of the tribe's sacred ruler and the tribe's belief in the afterlife.’

“One of the things that makes Moundville unique is the high status of the people who occupied the tops of these mounds here,’ Clouse told The Tuscaloosa News. ‘We have an incredible amount of high-status material wealth found here that is very rare in other archaeological sites.’

Among the exhibits are several Moundville artifacts that have been housed at the Smithsonian Institution for more than a century. In all, the museum will have more than 200 historic pieces (< <http://www.tuscaloosanews.com> >)



**One of the New Exhibits in the Museum**

**Artifacts on Display in the Museum**



**Pictures of the Park and the Museum are by Michael Williams, staff photographer for the Birmingham News ( from the website al.com).**

**Picture of One of the Mounds.**





## Snapshots

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The ECHS Rummage Sale was so successful that there are plans for another one this coming fall.

Thanks to Jo Brewton and Susan Crawford who were in charge of the Sale and all those who helped make it a success.

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Searcy Hospital and the Mt. Vernon Arsenal

*This article compiled by Darryl Searcy shows his family's connection to the hospital, since the hospital was named for James T. Searcy.*

In 1962 a book entitled, We Used What We Had, by Dr. Harvey B. Searcy, was published by the Colonial Press of Northport (Tuscaloosa County), Alabama. In the book Dr. Searcy describes his ancestors, Harvey Bryson Searcy, and Andrew Bartlett Searcy, as having settled in the Tuscaloosa area.

He states: "While migrating throughout the southeast from North Carolina, Georgia, and Arkansas after the Civil War, some family members decided to remain in northern Alabama to establish farms and small businesses." One of these was Andrew Bryson Searcy.

To him a son, William, was born. In 1899, when the boy was 15, he entered the University of Alabama. Feeling that he had gone as far as he could go in that school, he continued his studies at the University of Michigan and received a Doctor of Medicine in 1907.

Wearing a name that had already distinguished itself in medicine through Harvey and Andrew, the younger Dr. Searcy added further distinction in his own right in the field of E.N.T. (Ear-Nose-Throat). To this day, in almost every EN&T office there are Searcy techniques and instruments in use. He served as a past president of the Alabama Medical Association and for 20 years was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama State Hospitals.

*Note: The reason for Searcy interest in E.N.T. is due entirely to a family history of cleft palate and a disease that affects the soft bones in the ears and neck known as *holestomatoma*.*



**James T. Searcy House**



**James T. Searcy**

**Pvt.**

It was this line of the Searcy clan that led to one physician, Dr. James T. Searcy, to become the second superintendent to serve at the Bryce Mental Hospital in Tuscaloosa, and later as the first superintendent at the facility established at the Mount Vernon Psychiatric Treatment Complex near Mo-

bile. The facility later became known as the Searcy Hospital Complex.

Wikipedia gives this history of Searcy Hospital and the Mt. Vernon Arsenal:

"The Searcy Hospital Complex was formerly home to the Mount Vernon Arsenal, a United States Army munitions depot. The munitions depot was located on the Mobile River three miles west of Fort Stoddert, approximately 30 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico near Mount Vernon, Alabama.

"Along with the Kennebec Arsenal in Augusta, Maine, it was one of the most complete antebellum arsenals surviving to the present day. It was established by the United States Army in 1828 as an ordnance manufacturing base and served as one of the US Army's main ammunition plants from its inception until the Civil War.

"On January 4, 1861, troops of the Alabama state militia took possession of the arsenal on the orders of Alabama governor Andrew B. Moore. The takeover from the small US Army force, commanded by Captain Jesse L. Reno, was peaceful and bloodless. After Alabama joined with other seceded states to form the Confederacy, the Arsenal was turned over to the Confederate Army for the duration of the war.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Searcy Hospital and the Mt. Vernon Arsenal *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

"In 1862, after the Battle of New Orleans, the Confederacy moved ammunition manufacturing from the Mount Vernon Arsenal to Selma, Alabama, as Selma offered a more secure location farther away from Union forces.

"The Confederate Army held the Arsenal until the end of the Civil War. After the war, the arsenal was returned to the federal government and the site was renamed the Mount Vernon Barracks.

"From 1887 to 1894 the Barracks was used as a prison for captured Apache people, including Geronimo and his followers. Walter Reed, the United States Army physician who confirmed that yellow fever is spread by mosquitoes, served as post surgeon in the 1880s. In 1895, the site was deeded to the state of Alabama.

"In 1900, the Alabama Legislature established a mental health facility on the site to relieve overcrowding of the Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa. The new facility was named the Mount Vernon Hospital upon its opening in 1902 but was renamed Searcy Hospital in 1919, in honor of Dr. J. T. Searcy, the first superintendent.

"In the beginning it served African-Americans exclusively until 1969, at which time it was desegregated following the Civil Rights Act of 1964. On May 26, 1988, the Mount Vernon Arsenal/Searcy Hospital Complex was added to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

"The district is made up of 25 buildings spread over 360 acres, with nine of the structures dating from the 1830s and are still in use. Searcy Hospital currently has 408 extended-care beds and a 124-bed intermediate care unit for patients with severe mental illness. Patients are now housed in modern buildings. It also serves the female forensic in-patient psychiatric center for the southern one-third of Alabama" (<<http://wikipedia.org>>).

In October of 2009, Mr. David Jackson of the Alabama



**Mt. Vernon Arsenal**

**The Old barracks Building in 1935**

**Picture courtesy of Wikipedia**

**<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Vernon\\_Arsenal-Searcy\\_Hospital\\_Complex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vernon_Arsenal-Searcy_Hospital_Complex)>**

Department of Mental Health's Chief of Staff, announced that the State Department of Mental Health were considering a proposal to move the Searcy psychiatric hospital to Mobile, citing reasons for the needed move was that many of its patients end up living at the hospital long term because it is too far away to adequately provide outpatient services to some of its at-risk patients.

Mr. Jackson said that moving Searcy to Mobile would serve two purposes. First, Searcy is in an aging building that was established in 1902 and is expensive to maintain and would

be very costly to update. Second, Mobile has a higher core population and moving the hospital to a more populated area would make it more convenient for a majority of patients.

The plan to move Searcy to Mobile is not a new one. It has been talked about for years, but became a real goal after the plan was recommended by a reconfiguration task force.

However, making the move is dependent on a number of things, the main one being money. It will depend a lot on what happens with the Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa.

**Note: Since this article was written, the Mental Health Board of Alabama has accepted the University of Alabama's offer of \$60 million for purchase of Bryce Hospital.**

### **Source material:**

**Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia**

**"We Used What We Had" by Dr. Harvey B. Searcy, Colonial Press, Tuscaloosa, Alabama**

**"What's In A Name - Cercey to Searcy 1694 to 2004" a family history**

**"Searcy Hospital" - A paper published by Alabama Department of Mental Health, 2001**

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Channel 10 news for Oct 28, 2001 at <[FOX10tv.com](http://FOX10tv.com)>**

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Geronimo's Stay at Fort Pickens Boosted Tourism

By Dave Goodwin, Journal Staff Writer,  
from The Pensacola Journal, Saturday,  
August 4, 1984.

*The article on Searcy Hospital/Mt. Vernon Arsenal naturally leads to the story of the most famous prisoner of war held at Mt. Vernon, Geronimo. However, the last Apache chief to surrender to the US was first taken to Pensacola and Fort Pickens. The following article from the Pensacola Journal tells of Geronimo's stay at Fort Pickens as one of Pensacola's most famous tourist attractions.*

"The special train moving across the nation had an eerie fascination for the men and women who turned out at each whistle stop hoping to catch a glimpse of the man they viewed as a fierce savage. The Chiricahua Apache medicine man Geronimo was aboard with his band of renegades, believed to be responsible for the deaths of hundreds of settlers in the American Southwest and Mexico. They were enroute to imprisonment at Fort Pickens, Florida, and the public could not have been more intrigued.

"The year was 1886 and the American West was in heavy development. The Indian Wars were drawing to a close, and the oft-uttered phrase of U. S. Army General-in-Chief Philip Sheridan: 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian' was still a part of American culture.

"The Apaches had never been captured but had surrendered and been placed on reservations several times, says Pensacola historian Woodard B. Skinner, author of Geronimo at Fort Pickens. Just as often as they had surrendered they had turned into renegades and left the reservations, usually driven off by other Indians as well as Army veterans of the Indian wars, who had little use for the Indians.

"On September 3, 1886, they had surrendered at Skeleton Canyon, Arizona Territory, for the last time to Brig. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, and had been promised they would join their families. Niles said they would be forgiven their past crimes and would start a new life.



**Geronimo at Fort Pickens**

*Picture courtesy of the website Native Americans Prisoners of War: Chiricahua Apaches 1886-1914*

*<<http://www.chiricahua-apache.com/blog/photographs/fort-pickens-photo-gallery/>>*

*All pictures in the Fort Pickens article are courtesy of this source,*

**The Chiricahua Apache Geronimo was a medicine man, not chief, and had no cell at Fort Pickens. But he did live in a casemate at the Fort and later in the old officers' Quarters: with his wives. He made a dandy tourist attraction and reportedly sold buttons off his coat to visitors.**

**World Book Encyclopedia states that Geronimo was a chief of the Chiricahua Apaches, but that he was not a hereditary chief, rather that he rose "through the ranks." Geronimo was converted to Christianity in 1903 and joined the Dutch Reformed Church. His followers still living in 1913 were freed by the U. S. Govt.**

"These promises infuriated the U. S. War Department and President Grover Cleveland, who, along with most newspaper editors, preferred that Geronimo and his band be tried and hanged for their crimes, says Skinner. The New York Times editorialized that the conditions had to be honored because Geronimo and his band had not been captured but had surrendered under those specific terms. That didn't mean the paper's editors liked it one bit.

"Into the fray stepped the newspaper The Pensacolian, which circulated a petition to have the Apaches detained at Fort Pickens. Eventually, the petition worked its way to the president. Influential Pensacolians figured Geronimo would make a dandy tourist attraction. The Pensacolian called Geronimo 'the greatest living American general' and said 'Fort Pickens is well suited as an abiding place for one of Geronimo's genius, for there he can, like his great prototype, Napoleon at St. Helena, live again his conquests without being disturbed by the outside world.'

"Geronimo, Chief Naiche (Natchez, son of the famous Cochise) and 13 of their men arrived in Pensacola at 2 a.m. on Oct. 25, 1886, aboard a train that consisted of four coaches. Their 11 wives, six children and two enlisted Apache scouts were sent on to St. Augustine. Despite the late hour, a large crowd turned out. By the time they boarded the steamer Twin, the crowd had grown to the point that soldiers had to form a double line to give the Indians passage onto the boat.

The Apaches had taken in stride the large and curious crowds along the way, until Geronimo grew tired and demanded money for his appearances. But now, as they crossed Pensacola Bay heading toward the pass into the Gulf of Mexico, the Apaches were frightened.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Geronimo's Stay at Fort Pickens Boosted Tourism *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 8)*

"The Apaches were extremely superstitious, says Skinner, and didn't appreciate the porpoises playing around the boat or the alligators whose red eyes shone in the light. To the Indians, water animals contained the spirits of bad Apaches and bad spirits were always around to disturb the good ones.

"Spirits of good Apaches most often rode the Ghost Pony to a happy place beyond the sun. Apaches had never attempted to explain why there was thunder or lightning, says Skinner, nor the seasons of the year, why plants grew in certain places, why animals migrated, mental illnesses nor body deformities.

"A reporter for The Pensacolian described the Indians as undersized, but very broad. Chief Naiche, however, was more than 6 feet tall and Geronimo, at about age 60, was nearly as tall. They had fierce black eyes, long black hair, and heavy lips. They wore white cotton breeches, except one still wearing a breechcloth with no underwear, says Skinner. They wore shirts and store-bought boots, purchased from a traveling salesman in San Antonio. All except Geronimo wore felt hats, and his was made of straw. They painted their faces purple, with a yellow stripe across their noses.

"Because of their spiritual beliefs, they did not eat fish - except for an occasional pompano cooked whole, covered in mud - nor reptiles or even hogs, which ate snakes and entered the water. When their wives eventually joined the group, variety was added to their diet, and they were fond of animals' lungs, livers, hearts, stomachs and particularly intestines. Meat, they made into jerky. They enjoyed grits. Geronimo once told a reporter that his favorite meal was bread, especially tortillas, says Skinner. Bread made from corn meal was a man's food, while wheat bread was a woman's.

"Although the War Department had directed the Indians be placed behind bars and not allowed to mingle with one another, the Apaches made their homes in the fort's casemates. When the women joined them in April 1887, mar-



**Geronimo, on the right, with two of his warriors and fellow prisoners at Fort Pickens, Naiche and Mangus.**

ried individuals, including Geronimo and Naiche, each with three wives, moved into the old officers' quarters. Never was Geronimo placed in a cell, the popular belief.

"Without their families, the Indians had been lonely. Geronimo, in a letter he dictated, said to his wives, "I am very satisfied here, but if I only had you with me again I would be more so." He said as sure as the trees budded and bloomed in the

spring, so sure was his hope of seeing them again, says Skinner. He had looked into the eyes of Gen. Miles when he had surrendered, and "believed what he told me, and I still think he will keep his word. He told me I would see you soon; would also see a fine country and lots of people. The people and the country I have seen, but not you."

"The government had been good to Geronimo and his men, the letter said. "It has given us pants and coats with pockets on, and shoes, and enough to eat. I think of God (Ussen, the Good Spirit), the President and you in the same light. I like you so much." He expressed great love for his family: "I think you have influence with the sun, moon and stars. If the government would only give us a reservation, so we could support ourselves -- Oh! Wouldn't it be fine? We are at peace now, and by God's help will remain so."

"Shortly after the men had arrived alone at Fort Pickens, they had been put to work cleaning up the fort, cutting brush and scaring snakes away. But tourism developed rapidly. The first boatload included a young lady who pinned a bouquet on one of the Indians, perhaps Geronimo, says Skinner. The newspapers railed, 'We confess our lack of sentimentality that makes much of murderers and cut throats,' said one.

"Prejudice was still very much alive.

"One of the guarding soldiers gave a 'good answer' when a young woman had asked if he knew what would be a good gift to give Geronimo. 'Yes, madam, the best thing you could give him would be an ounce of lead between the eyes,' he said.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Geronimo's Stay at Fort Pickens Boosted Tourism *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

Wrote a reporter of Geronimo, 'When one looks at this old villain and thinks of the desolate homes in Arizona and the murders committed by his band, an involuntary wish escapes one that he be made to endure some of the tortures he inflicted upon others.' In describing one Indian chief, the reporter said, 'Mangus, strange to say, has a rather pleasant face, in fact he is the mildest mannered man that ever burnt a cabin or cut a throat.' Geronimo was said to have a bad face. 'There is a cold cruel glitter in his eyes, and his mouth, cut straight across his face, is hard and pitiless.'

"But on and on, the tourists came.

"The Southern Shipping League, Pensacola's first important convention scheduled for October 1886, moved its dates back to November so its members would have a chance to see the Apaches. The secretary of the National Shipping League sent word that 'I trust he will draw as largely as Jumbo, for he had proved a bigger elephant to Uncle Sam.'

"Many visitors brought gifts, and the Indians were eager to accept. Many gave them cigars and Geronimo accepted them with a mechanical motion of his arm and hand, says Skinner. He never changed facial expression and in the early days he never expressed gratitude. Later, he learned he was supposed to offer thanks.

"In conversation with a Spanish-speaking sea captain, Geronimo said that everyone 'ought to be liberally assessed (charged a fee) for he was "poor, yes, very poor" and he raises his arms to express pantomimically [sic] that he has not a red cent in the world.' Some accounts say he sold buttons off his coat to boatloads of tourists, then hurried to sew more on before the next boatload arrived.

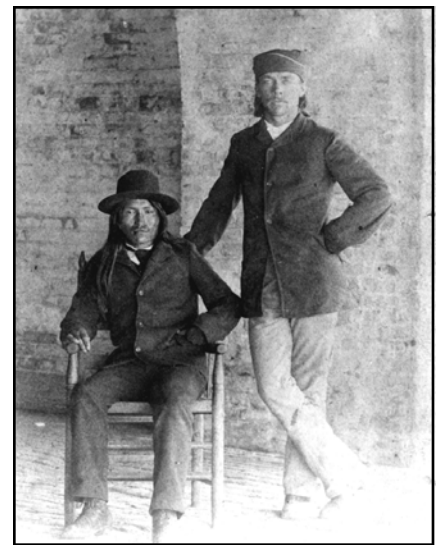
"Wealthy world travelers came to see the Apaches, including the Rockefellers aboard their yacht Alva, and the Scottish Duke of Sutherland aboard the Sans Puer, says Skinner. The duke brought news that one of Geronimo's wives had given birth to a baby girl and that their people at St. Augustine were well. When the women arrived at Fort



**Perico, cousin of Geronimo, whose family joined him at Fort Pickens when other apaches were sent from Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, to Mt. Vernon Barracks.**

Pickens, a tribal dance was held and almost the whole town turned out to watch it.

"But the Apaches' stay at Fort Pickens was soon to end. On a Saturday night in May 1888, without warning, the Apaches were taken from Fort Pickens and moved to Mount Vernon, Ala. Then in 1894, they were taken to Fort Sill, Okla. Eventually Geronimo appeared as a spectacle at a World's Fair. He died in 1909."



**Ananda, one of the Apache prisoners, and George Wratten, interpreter, at Fort Pickens**

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Why Was Geronimo in Alabama?

By Clark Powell

from *The Mobile Press Register*,  
Sunday, August 6, 1989.

"On September 9, 1894, Chappo Geronimo died of tuberculosis at Mount Vernon, and Geronimo, the great Apache warlord, came to bury his son two days later in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery.

"Why Geronimo was in Alabama and how his son died here is quite a story.

"When Geronimo stopped fighting in 1886, his people were in serious danger from western ranchers and farmers who would blow away any Apache prisoner they could notch in their sights. So Geronimo's starved and bedraggled band was sealed in boxcars, jolted a thousand miles from their native Chiricahuas and, after a dogleg through Florida, disgorged on April 28, 1887, at Mount Vernon barracks in North Mobile County. They were supposed to be temporarily bivouacked there until they could safely return to their own lands. Their Alabama getaway, however, lasted seven years. Life at Mount Vernon was pretty rough for the Chiricahua Apaches.

"They were fed grits and quartered in square log-tents set in orange mud. Within two years, almost one-fourth of the prisoners had died. The humid Gulf air proved deadly to the Apaches, accustomed as they were to the dry air and open spaces of the Southwest. Later, Geronimo noted, with typical understatement: "We were not healthy in this place, for the climate disagreed with us."

"Mount Vernon was less a prison camp than it was a zoo or sideshow. Trainloads of the curious came up on the Mobile & Birmingham line to have a look at the great and terrible Geronimo. "Prehistoric hunter-gatherer, desert nomads, folks! Just 50 cents!" The prisoners had nothing to do but gamble with each other, sell ersatz "Geronimo" trinkets to tourists, build huts, and die.



**Photograph of Apache Chief Geronimo at Mt. Vernon Barracks, Mt. Vernon, Ala.—time period 1890-1899**

*Photograph by Silas Orlando Trippe. From the Alabama Department of Archives and History's (ADAH) Digital Archives <http://www.archives.state.al.us/>.*

*All the pictures of Mt. Vernon in this article are from this collection at ADAH.*



**Barracks and Canteen at Mt. Vernon**

"The Army had to find something to keep the men busy, so it was decided to form an all-Indian infantry. The Apaches were invited to join Company 1, 12th Infantry, Alabama Division. For this, they would draw a soldier's pay. SO they did. Why not? Were they not warriors?

"The new soldiers drilled and marched in the swamps, training to defend the United states against all invaders. Once they marched down Water Street in Mobile. They had long braids, blue uniforms--and rifles! The good citizenry of Mobile ran inside and locked the doors.

"Were the rifles loaded? The fearsome Apaches sauntered nonchalantly to Monroe Park and had a grand picnic. They knocked on doors and invited the Mobilians to join them, and most did. Everybody had a great time.

"In a way the men of Company 1, Alabama Division gave their lives for their country. They died of tuberculosis, malaria and despair. Each was given a military funeral in Magnolia Cemetery. Their markers are there to this day: privates Jes-Good, Ah-NawDia, Go-Nol-Tsis, Cezinny, Che-Chil, Diteon, Seel-Toe, Na-To-AhGahun, Colle, and Corporal Juan and the great war chief Fawn, under a marker bearing the words 'Lanny Fun.' And, apart from the others, is a marker bearing the name,

'Chappo Geronimo.'

"You can stand today in Magnolia Cemetery where Geronimo probably stood to bury his son. In the shade of an oak old enough to have shaded his own father, you will be separated from Chappo Geronimo by more than four feet of earth, by more than time, by more than culture. You and I can never really know what this son was like or what his father felt the day he buried him. We are of the race they

*(Continued on page 12)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Why Was Geronimo in Alabama? *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

call Indah - the living and they are, as they call themselves, Indeh - the dead.

"We may know some facts, but to get at the truth, we would have to imagine the Apaches in Magnolia Cemetery on that September afternoon.

"Geronimo does not speak. He does not need to speak. Power has come to him, and his people know it. In his heart he addresses his son by his secret name, by his death name. It is the name that Geronimo himself, then called Go-Khla-Yeh, first whispered into the ear of the infant thirty years before in the Chiricahua mountains.

" 'Ussen,' he had said to the Life-Giver, 'here is your son. This is his name. Know him. Make him strong. Keep him well.'

"But now it is late afternoon in Alabama; the sun is tangled in the live oaks on the horizon of the cemetery. Geronimo feels his daughter Dohn-Say standing behind him with Zi-Yeh and the other women. He feels pride for Dohn-Say; more than anyone she loved her brother, yet she will not show her pain before the White Eye soldiers loitering nearby, or the crowd of townspeople leering from the picket fence along the street they call Virginia.

"Geronimo notices a young woman in the crowd. It is Mrs. J. J. Lemon, prettily attired in black crepe. Geronimo remembers her from the Trinity Church Bazaar held five years earlier in Temperance Hall. The commander at Mount Vernon had explained to Geronimo that bazaars were popular money-



**Indians at Mt. Vernon Barracks/Arsenal, Mt. Vernon, Ala.**

**Depicted are Geronimo (seated) and two of his fellow chiefs, Nachez and Loco (not identified in the photograph)**



**Indian Camp at Mt. Vernon Barracks**



**Residence at Mt. Vernon Barracks**

making fetes for worthy causes. He said that the ladies of Trinity Church thought the famous war chief would make a great drawing-card for their bazaar, and had asked if he would send Geronimo down. And please, for a proper effect, they asked, would the great chief wear his war paint?

"Geronimo, predictably, turned them down flat. 'I am no monkey to be put on display,' he said. He told the commander that if the ladies insisted on his presence at the bazaar, then he would go attired as any other gentleman, in formal evening-wear. The commander knew that argument with Geronimo was out of the question, and told the ladies so. They gave in; Geronimo could wear whatever he pleased, and they would do their utmost to see that he was welcomed just like any other important guest.

"Well, the big night arrived. Outside Temperance Hall, under Japanese lanterns, a queue of black coups and vis-a-vis drawn by combed horses paused while their passengers alit. At last, a plain wagon pulled by mules and driven by a soldier rolled up. From the back, another soldier with a carbine and a Yankee captain in splendid military dress formally stepped down the iron carriage steps of St. Emanuel Street. They waited as Geronimo, wearing a Prince Albert coat and a silk top hat, and his interpreter, a tall, handsome young man named Chappo, climbed down. They followed the captain into the flickering candlelight of the grand ballroom.

*(Continued on page 13)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Why Was Geronimo in Alabama? (continued)

(Continued from page 12)

"The guard with the rifle fell in behind. A man with a pearl stickpin and prematurely gray hair greeted the party. He did not wait for the Captain to introduce him, but walked straight toward the older Indian, whose stare he recognized from the newspaper photographs, and extended his hand. 'We are so grateful you have come, Mr. Geronimo,' he said. 'I am Rev. John Lemon. Trinity Episcopal. Welcome.'

"The older man ignored the reverend. In fact, he ignored the whole affair. He seemed to be rather far away. The captain groaned and looked beseechingly at Chappo, who spoke softly in Apache to his father. Geronimo made a sign and Chappo said something to the captain. The captain shook his head. 'I'm sorry, but the guard has to stay. Orders. It's not my choice, but...'



**Indian Camp at Mt. Vernon, Alabama**

*Photograph by Silas Orlando Trippe. From the Alabama Department of Archives and History's Digital Archives <http://www.archives.state.al.us/>*

"Geronimo was led in silence to a high black chair, where he sat, arms folded, stern as a Buddha, beside a table filled with pralines and cakes and homemade items up for auction. He acknowledged none who had the temerity to attempt to speak to him. Chappo, dressed in a borrowed tuxedo, was just as implacable. No one knew quite what to do about it; the ladies of Trinity were distressed.

'We knew how to handle a situation of this kind with our own men,' one would remember for her grandchildren. A pout or a kiss and they are vanquished. But these silent red men had us cornered.'

*(Editor's note: The reader will note a discrepancy in the date when Geronimo arrived at Mount Vernon. In the article in the previous quarterly, Dave Goodwin has Geronimo going to Mount-Vernon in May, 1888, while the above writer has him moved to Mount Vernon on April 28, 1887. Can any historian comment on this? We do feel that essentially the events recounted above are correct.)*



**Residence of Rev. Kerr, Chaplain at Mt. Vernon Barracks**

" 'My father thought he would be treated as any other important guest,' Chappo said, loudly enough for the entire door committee to hear his words. All they could understand was that somehow the dignity of the great Geronimo had been violated, and that they were involved in the greatest sin possible for Mobile society, impoliteness.

'Sir,' said Rev. Lemon, 'couldn't the guard wait outside?'

'I'm afraid not. Orders are orders.'

### **Silas Orlando Trippe**

*From the Alabama Department of Archives and History we have this comment on the photographer Silas Orlando Trippe whose are photographs appear in this article on Geronimo and the other Apaches at Mt. Vernon, Alabama:*

"Silas Orlando Trippe was a jeweler and photographer. Born March 22, 1843 at Windman, Pa, Trippe was educated in the schools of Pennsylvania and when he was 10, enlisted in Co. K of the 109<sup>th</sup> New York infantry regiment, U. S. Army.

"He was wounded seriously at Cold Harbor and mustered into the reserves and out of service in 1865. In 1870, he moved to Selma where he worked in Hobb's jewelry Store for twenty-five years. For thirteen years, Trippe belonged to the Selma Guards.

"Trippe was also an amateur photographer who made photos of Mt. Vernon, Alabama for the U. S. War Dept. He died in Selma in 1907."

With his photographs, Silas Trippe not only shows the Apaches who were being held at the Mt. Vernon but the structures and architecture of the location.

*His widow donated his photographs to the Alabama Department of Archives and History in 1910.*

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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