

July Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: A Power Point Presentation by John A. Jackson on the Creek Wars and the American Fortress System of the Southwest



Speaker John Jackson

Our guest speaker, who is the director of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, has previously visited ECHS, when he presented a program on Baldwin County's development of its department of archives and history.

At that time, he was also working on plans for the Baldwin County's bicentennial celebrations, which took place in 2009.

He comments that his role with Baldwin County's Department of Archives and History

is to be in charge of the collection and maintenance of the historical record of the county government as well as the collection of materials that document the history of the county, including manuscripts, diaries, correspondence, and artifacts.

He notes that projects planned for the Department of Archives include "scanning of maps and documents for access on the department's website, employment and instruction of interns from the University of 'South Alabama, Auburn University, and the University of Alabama, and indexing of long held county documentation."

Research Project Scheduled for ECHS Members

ECHS member Alan Robinson is working on a committee with Sally Finlay about identifying plaque designs and historical sites in Escambia County Alabama worthy of recognition by ECHS.

There will be a special scheduled work day at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on **Monday, July 26 beginning at 10 a.m.** to research in the

historical literature the sites already identified and to discuss other possible additions.

If you are willing to help with this research, all you have to do is show up at the museum on Monday, July 26th. ECHS hopes to provide the committee with a brief synopsis on each property that will be nominated to this listing.

Contents

Map of Early Forts in Alabama	2
Lottie, Alabama's Memorial Day	3
Snapshots of the June Meeting	8
Our Business Members	9
Fort Crawford	10
Memorandum in Regard to Fort Crawford	11
Compromise of 1850	12

The Next Meeting Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Program: TBA

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)



Baldwin County Department of Archives & History

Volume 37, Number 7

July 2010

Map of Early Forts in Alabama

This map from the Historical Atlas of Alabama, Volume I, appears on the University of Alabama web site. It shows the location of historic forts and settlements as well as current towns. Only the middle and lower sections of the state are shown.



LOTTIE, ALABAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING

By E. Ann Biggs-Williams

Residents of Lottie, Alabama unveiled the historical marker that the community received from the Alabama Department of Tourism on Memorial Day 2010. With the help of local newspaper outlets, planners of the Lottie Memorial Day were able to identify 53 veterans buried in the community's four major cemeteries to honor on Memorial Day.

Two more veterans, who were buried overseas during World War II, were also honored with flags on either side of the Lottie Historical Marker. In fact, these two veterans are also listed on the World War II Monument, located at the Escambia County Courthouse in Brewton, due to their Atmore mailing address.

Lottie, Alabama is located in northeastern Baldwin County and is flanked on the east by the Escambia County Alabama line. Lottie is only minutes away from I-65. The residents of Lottie therefore have the option to travel in many directions for their jobs.

The area that became to be known as Lottie was known geographically as being located at the Head of Pine Log Creek and was known as "Head of Pine Log." Other surrounding areas often took the name of those settled there such as Langham, Taitsville, Presley, ...

The namesake of Lottie, Alabama was a young girl named Lottie Presley. Lottie's name was selected at a random drawing among the young girls in the community by the first postmaster of Lottie, Robert Mansfield Chambless, when a name needed to be submitted to Washington D. C. for the new post office application in 1903. Although there are many versions of how the name was selected, the most frequent story is that Mr. Chambless placed all the girls name in a hat and drew



Veterans Attending the Lottie Memorial Day Services

Veterans Pictured are (left to right):

Robert Hughes, Grady Slay, Rev. Chris Pruitt, Willie Wearren, D'Wayne Dean, David Dean Jr., James Milstid, Dale Hunt, Rodney Drew, Charlie Chambless, Garth Branch, Wayne Dean, Jim Eddins and Donnie Hicks.

Those veterans attending but not pictured include: Benny Biggs, Charles Biggs, Elbert Croley, Albert Dean, and Calvin Hayles.

out the name **Lottie Presley**.

Lottie Presley was the youngest of 11 children of Elbert Floyd Presley and Marinda Pettis (Pettus). She was born September 24, 1890 and eventually married Rufus Mann, a worker on her father's farm. Lottie died on December 20, 1968 in Fairhope, Alabama in Baldwin County.

Mail service was discontinued to Lottie, Alabama on April 15, 1935. Currently, the majority of Lottie's residents receive that mail with an Atmore, Alabama address, while a few receive mail at a Perdido, Alabama

route. At one time, all utilities came through Escambia County, Alabama. Land line phones and DSL Internet is through Frontier Communications which has an office in Atmore. Electricity is provided by Southern Pine Cooperative, located in Escambia County, Alabama. Water services which originally came via Southern Pine is through North Baldwin Utilities in Baldwin County.

It's only 11 miles from Lottie to Atmore, Alabama. The nearest hospital to Lottie is in Atmore in Escambia County and Atmore is the closest town where folks do their weekly shopping. Many Lottie residents who have lived their entire lives in Baldwin County are still listed as being born in Escambia County, Alabama since that was the location of the nearest hospital.

However, school age students attend school first in Perdido about 9 miles away and then transfer to Baldwin County High School about twenty-two miles away.

The day of the Lottie Historical Marker unveiling, Memorial Day activities began at 10 a.m. at the Lottie Volunteer Fire Department. After a welcome, visitors

(Continued on page 4)

LOTTIE, ALABAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 3)

were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag flown at half mast outside the Fire Department by Lottie native, D'Wayne Dean, who retired from the U.S. Air Force as a MSgt-Master Sergeant with 22 ½ years service. As visitors registered, veterans were identified and those patriots in attendance were presented a USA made American flag, as well as a red poppy made by veterans in the nation's veterans hospitals. John Brady, ROTC student at BCHS presented the flags. Catie Brady presented the poppies.

Nineteen veterans attended the Lottie Homecoming. These included: **Benny Biggs, Charles Biggs, Garth Branch, Charlie Chambless, Elbert Croley, Albert Dean, David Dean Jr., D'Wayne Dean, Wayne Dean, Rodney Drew, Jim Eddins, Calvin Hayles, Donnie Hicks, Robert Hughes, Dale Hunt, James Milstid, Rev. Chris Pruitt, Grady Slay, and Willie Wearren.**

Mrs. Earlene Hayles, who originally had the idea for celebrating Memorial Day in Lottie, was the flag bearer at each of the four cemeteries visited. At each cemetery, the flags were blessed by a local minister before the roll call of veterans and presentation of the flag to the family to place on the grave. Family members were also presented Memorial Day poppies. Flags were placed on the graves of all veterans who served, not just those soldier killed in service.

A video tribute was prepared by Veteran Donnie Hicks ran continuously at the three locations. Seeing the photos of those veterans superimposed over the headstone made the Memorial Day tribute very personal to all who attended.

At the Lottie United Methodist Cemetery, Rev. Harry Giles blessed the flags. Local resident and veteran, **Robert Hughes**, read aloud the list of names at the Lottie UMC Cemetery.

Family members placed flags on the graves of the following veterans: **John Leon Biggs, Charlie D. Capers,**



Family members ready to place flags on graves at the Lottie Memorial Day Services.

Joseph D. Chancery, Burl Ganey, Jr., Burt J. Ganey, Silas J. Ganey, Doil Hadley, Leamon Hadley, Verlon Hadley, Preston Hall, Cecil Hayles, William Wayne Hayles, Dolphus Jones, Rufus Mann, Norman H. Poston, William L. Ray, Robert Oneil Richie, Ira Lafate Tuberville, Joe Weaver, Melzie Benjamin Whidbee.

A motorcade flanked by fire engines from the Lottie Volunteer Fire Department then caravanned to the Lottie

New Home Cemetery. A bus was available for those who wanted to ride. At the New Home Cemetery, veterans names buried there were read aloud by **Wayne Dean**, another local veteran. The blessing of the flags was by Louise Parker from New Home Church. Jacob Bingamon and James Bingamon of Bay Minette sang "The Star Spangled Banner" with the assistance of Cheryl McWilliams as those assembled faced the flag pole.

Jacob and James are the grandsons of the late Mac Caldwell, World War II Veteran who fought at the Battle of the Bulge and who is interred at New Home Cemetery. Cheryl McWilliams is the niece of World War II Vets Claude Dean Sr. and Frank Dean, who are buried at Lottie New Home Cemetery.

Family members then placed the flags on the graves of the following veterans:

Gladden Amos, Ewing Ardis, Thomas B. Boatwright, William McCord "Mac" Caldwell Sr., Carl L. Chambless, Robert L. Chambless, Edmund O. Chancey, Frank L. Chestnut, William Coulter, Claude E. Dean Sr. Sherman Frank Dean, Onas Drew, David Lee Hadley, Jr., David Lee Hadley, Sr., Eldridge B. Hadley, Fred William Hadley, Jr., John William "Bill" Hadley, Jr. Evan N. Johnson, Benson Ray Jones, Charles Russell Jones, Ralph Jones, William H. Jones, Thomas Frederick Little, Sr., Robert Herman Milstid, Harold David Searcy, Roy Samuel Whittington, Kenneth Gordon Wilson, Raymond B.

(Continued on page 5)

LOTTIE, ALABAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 4)

Wilson.

At New Home Cemetery, each vehicle in the patriotic motorcade was presented a flag which they were asked to wave in the motorcade to the Milstsid and Presley Family Cemeteries for the next placement of flags. Names of Veterans in the Milstid Cemetery were read aloud by **Linda Shiver**.

Names of veterans in the Presley Cemetery were read aloud by **Annette Roberts**. Rev. Chris Pruitt blessed the flags before family members placed the flags on the graves.

Veterans' graves honored at the Milstid Cemetery included **Jerry Milstid, Leslie Milstid, and Sylvester Milstid**. Veterans honored at the Presley Cemetery included **Dallas E. Presley, and David Cole "Dock" Presley**.

The caravan then proceeded to the Fellowship Hall of the Lottie Baptist Church for the beginning of the historical marker dedication.

The two Lottie, Alabama Veterans buried overseas during World War II included **Henry Ardis and Elbert Jenks**. Flags for these two veterans were placed on either side of the historical marker as part of the unveiling ceremony to follow.

A brief overview of the process to obtain the historical marker was presented by Ann Biggs-Williams, local historian who applied for the marker on behalf of the community.. Special guests recognized included local members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, descendants of Richard Bailey "Dick" Padgett, one of the first settlers., descendants of Robert Mansfield Chambless, the first postmaster of Lottie and relatives of the namesake of Lottie, Lottie Presley.

Handouts of the genealogy of Lottie Presley were prepared and distributed by Denvard Harold Biggs, family genealogist from Fairhope, Alabama who has researched many Lottie surnames while doing his own family history research. (Harold Biggs' Grandfather, John Wesley Biggs was a brother-in-law and best friend to Lottie's brother, Tom Presley.) Mr. Biggs traced Lottie Presley's



Left to right: John Brady, ROTC member of Baldwin County High School poses with flags to be given to veterans attending the Lottie Memorial Day Services. Catie Brady poses with Memorial poppies to be given to veterans. Ann Biggs-Williams, event coordinator, poses with John and Catie before event begins.

ancestry back to Johannes Valentine Presler (Preslar, Presley) who was born in 1669 in Hochstadt. {Palatinate) (present day Germany).

Lottie's Presler family ancestor, Valentine Presler, age 40 and his wife and sons (ages 6, 4, 1 ½) and daughters (ages 10, 8) arrived at St. Catherine's, England on May 6, 1709. The family converted from Catholic to the New York Reformed Dutch Church to fit the requirement of Queen Anne that the immigrants become Protestant before relocation. The family arrived in colonial New York, New York on the ship, **Hunter** between June 13, 1710 and August 2, 1710—some 300 years ago.

Mr. Biggs traced the ancestry though Valentine's son Hans Jurie Presler (aka John) to John's son, Anthony Presler, Sr., listed on the 1820 census in Conecuh County. Anthony was born about 1763 in Anson County, North Carolina. Anthony was a Loyalist in the American Revolution in South Carolina. He migrated to Conecuh County, Alabama by 1817-1818, prior to statehood. Harold Biggs explained that Anthony Presler's descendants would qualify for membership in the First Families of Alabama. Anthony died in 1850 in Butler County. He was 61.

Anthony Presley, Sr.'s son, Floyd Presley was born about 1799 in Kershaw, South Carolina. He made his living in farming. Floyd died in Escambia County, Alabama sometime around 1870. Floyd was listed on the 1870 Escambia County census as 65 years of age with the nearest post office being in Pollard, Alabama.

Floyd Presley's son, Holden Presley was born about 1822 in Conecuh County, Alabama. He was a farmer and a logger. Holden was still in Conecuh County in 1850 but died sometime after 1880 in Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Holden Presley's son, Elbert Floyd Presley, a farmer and teamster, was born on April 19, 1847 in Conecuh County and died on January 29, 1929 in Lottie in Bald-

(Continued on page 6)

LOTTIE, ALABAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 5)

win County, Alabama where he had set up a logging operation sometime around 1878-1883. Logging brought Elbert Floyd Presley to Pine log and farming kept him there according to researcher Denvard Harold Biggs.

Earlene Hayles, planner of Memorial Day Services was presented with a flag for her home as a token of appreciation. Ann Biggs-Williams was presented a dozen long-stemmed red roses by those who worked on the local arrangements committee.

Local arrangements were handled by: Earlene Hayles, Wayne Dean, Libby Dean, Louise Parker, Annette Roberts, and Linda Shiver.

The actual marker unveiling took place at high noon at the intersection of County Road 47 (Jack Springs Road) and County Road 61 (Lottie Road), known locally as a "the crossroads." Calvin Hayles, Retired Volunteer Fire Chief and Ann Biggs-Williams, local historian, served as contacts for the state sponsored Great Alabama Homecoming.

They unveiled the marker, along with Jewel Dockens, and Annette Roberts, relatives of Lottie Presley, the namesake of Lottie, Alabama.

Although there are various stories concerning why Lottie



**Lottie Memorial Day Services
Family Members placing Flags and Poppies**

cial postmaster on February 12, 1903. He served as postmaster for 29 years until his death on August 14, 1932. The Lottie area was previously known by many different settlement names in different areas but was most commonly referred to as "Head of Pine Log" due to the physical location at the head of Pine Log Creek..

Rev. Chris Pruitt, Pastor of the nearby Lottie Baptist

Presley's name was selected—the most commonly repeated version is that the first Post Master, Robert Mansfield Chambless, placed the names of all the young girls in a hat and drew out the name Lottie Presley to submit on the post office application to Washington D.C.

According to records of the United States Post Office, Mr. Robert Mansfield Chambless was appointed the community's first offi-

Church, read aloud side one and two of the historical marker after the unveiling.

Descendants of Robert Mansfield Chambless met briefly at the Chambless-Biggs Home built by Mr. Chambless circa 1896-97.. The Chambless-Biggs' House located on Jack Springs Road was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on June 30, 1995. The first Lottie Post Office was in the right corner of the store that was located in the yard of Mr. Robert Chambless's home. The store



Lottie Marker Is Unveiled

On the far left, David Dean, Jr., longtime Lottie resident, looks on at the unveiling.

On the left of the marker are Annette Roberts and Jewel Dockens, relative of Lottie's namesake, Lottie Presley.

On the right of the marker are Calvin Hayles, Retired Volunteer Fire Chief, and Ann Biggs-Williams, local contact of the Alabama Homecoming Event sponsored by the Alabama Department of Tourism.

(Ann Biggs-Williams submitted the application for marker on behalf of the Lottie Volunteer Fire Department.)

(Continued on page 7)

LOTTIE, ALABAMA'S MEMORIAL DAY AND HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 6)

was torn down in the 1930's.

Direct Descendants of Robert Mansfield Chambless attending the 2010 Memorial Day Services included : **Pearl Bixler of Frisco City, Alabama** and **Joyce Henderson of Flomaton, Alabama** who are both granddaughters of Robert Mansfield Chambless. **Rodney Drew from Mobile, Alabama**, a great grandson attended. Three great granddaughters attending were **Marie Henderson from Pensacola, Florida**, **Shelia (Little) Mullins from Daphne, Alabama** and **Wanda (Drew) Prine from Mobile, Alabama**. **Mr. Charlie Chambless of Mobile, Alabama** who was a nephew of Mr. Chambless also attended.

After the marker unveiling, lunch was served at the Lottie Firehouse with refreshments courtesy of the ladies of the three Lottie churches.

A Bluegrass Gospel Singing with "The Highwater Band" was held in the afternoon at the Lottie New Home Church.

Lottie Presley's grave marker in the Lottie United Methodist Church Cemetery has the quote, "In our hearts she still lives." Nelda Hayles Kennedy from Montgomery named her pet "Lottie" in honor of her home community and the author has a pet Yorkie known as "Little Lottie."

However, a very special honor came on February 10, 2010 this year when **Lottie Shaye Wade** was born to Stephen and Kristin Wade. Kristin's parents Scott and Denise Dauenheimer were wed in Lottie and Denise's parents Wayne and Libby Dean still reside in Lottie. As many grandchildren whose grandparents live in Lottie, going to Lottie becomes synonymous with going to Grandma and Grandpas. Kristin wanted to honor the name Lottie by naming her first daughter Lottie.

Although cousins of Lottie Presley Mann were at the marker unveiling, event planners were unable to make contact with any of Lottie Mann's direct descendants. Rufus and Lottie Mann had three children. The names of Lottie's children were: Cellars Mann, born October 9, 1908, Nathan Mann, born June 17, 1911 and died September 30, 1911, and Alma Mann born about 1912. If you descend from either of Lottie's children, Lottie resi-



Kristin Wade and Daughter Lottie

dents would like for you to know about the historical marker in Lottie and the part your ancestor played in the history of their community. For additional contact information, please contact the Escambia County Historical Society.

Lottie Historic Marker

Lottie has the highest elevation in Baldwin County. A ridge forms a divide where waters to the east flow into Pensacola Bay and waters to the west flow into Mobile Bay. Pine Log Creek begins in Lottie. Pine Log Ditch, used to float logs for over 100 years, started in Lottie and ran to The Alabama River.

Naturalist William Bartram, in 1775, followed the ridge path to Mobile, passing through Lottie on part of County Road 47. This Indian trading path later became part of the Federal Road of 1805 and is known today as The Old Stage Road. The stage stopped in Lottie near The New Home Church.

Taitsville on early maps is Lottie. In July, 1813, Col. James Caller led a militia group from St. Stephens to camp at Davy Tate's cow pens in Lottie to wait for reinforcements from Tensa. His band, 180 men strong, started up the Federal Road for Burnt Corn Springs, then south on the Wolf Trail to the ford on Burnt Corn Creek for the first skirmish of the Creek Indian War.

Creek Indians were Lottie's first inhabitants. A Creek Indian Reservation is located in nearby Poarch. One of Lottie's first settlers was Richard Bailey (Dick) Padgett who was Creek Indian and English. Turpentine, logging and farming were once the lifeblood of Lottie. W. M. Carney Mill Co. operated a camp and turpentine still at Redtown.

There was a school, store, and church. Carney Camp had a population of 100 in the 1890 census. Three logging railroads crossed Lottie—in addition to Carney, Swift-Hunter and Hubbard Brothers operated logging rail operations. Pre-Lottie settlements included Carney, Langham, Magic City, Pine Log, Red Town, and Taitsville.

In 1903, when a post office was established, one name was needed and --Lottie Presley was selected from the names of the teenage girls. Today residents commute to neighboring towns for work but maintain ties to the land through gardening and other outdoor recreation. Former residents return annually to homecoming events at Lottie Churches and visit the resting places of ancestors at Lottie cemeteries.

Snapshots from the June Meeting



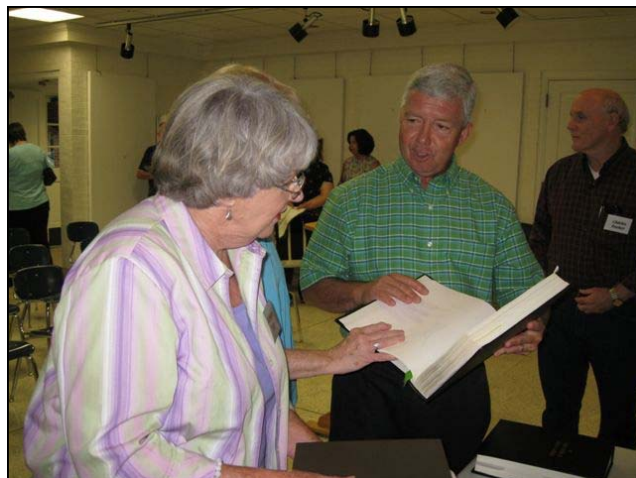
Pictured Above, the Refreshment Table with hosts Pat McArthur (on the left) and the Listers.

In picture below, speaker for the June Meeting, Charles Jackson, with ECHS president Tom McMillan.



To the left, our speaker, Charles Jackson, with his wife, Cindy (on the left), and his mother, Clara Jackson (on the right).

On the right, ECHS member Barbara Page with Charles Jackson as they examine book on the Jackson family history.



Our Business Members

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

DIXON'S NURSERY
Nursery—Landscaping—Irrigation
323 Dixon Nursery Road
Brewton, Alabama 36426
Phone (251) 867-5847

Richard's Oar House
Seafood, Steaks and More
428 Douglas Avenue
Brewton, Alabama 36426
251-809-1090

Open 7 days a week
Owner Denny Hammac

KEVIN ONEIL MCKINLEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

100 NORTH MAIN ST. 251-446-3495
ATMORE, AL 36502 MCKINLEY2971@YAHOO.COM
(A proud sponsor of the Escambia County Historical Society)


Hurri-Clean
109 St. Joseph Avenue
Brewton, AL 36426
Telephone (251) 867-5895
Emergency (251) 809-0900
Fax (251) 867-8865

www.hurri-clean.com

Woodlands
LAWN CARE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
CHARLIE GERMAN
OWNER
400 Stallworth Street
Brewton, AL 36426
Home 867-7919 Cell 363-2274

Herrington's
The FLORIST, Inc.
"Where Flowers Are Special"
719 Douglas Ave.
Brewton, AL 36426
(251) 867-7085
(800) 235-0824
RONNY HERRINGTON

Place your future in our hands...



"The Bank To Believe In"

A Locally Owned Community Bank
Striving to Meet Your Financial Needs

Personal Loans	Real Estate Loans	Local Decisions
• Rates based on length of time and type of collateral	• Fixed rates up to 15 years • Adjustable rates up to 30 years • Home Equity Loans • Construction Loans	• Fast approvals • Local closings • Minimum fees on all loans

ESCAMBIA COUNTY BANK
P.O. Box 601 • Flomaton, Alabama 36441
Telephone (251) 296-5356

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Fort Crawford

This article by Lisa Graham originally appeared in the Atmore Advance and Brewton Standard Historical-Edition-Newspaper for Sept. 30, 1976. It appears online at the website Roots Web, which is part of Ancestry.com <<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alghstwn/escambia/fortcrawford.html>.

Many Legends have grown up about Fort Crawford, located in present-day East Brewton. According to these, it was built by General Andrew Jackson, used in the Creek War, and named for a Lieutenant Crawford of the Seventh GA. Regiment. Supposedly Jackson spent a lot of time at this Fort.

Actually, Fort Crawford was once one of the points earliest settled in Conecuh County from which Escambia was formed.

Benjamin Jernigan seems to have been the first to pitch his tent in this region and he settled within two and a half miles of where Ft. Crawford subsequently stood, according to the History of Conecuh County published in 1981. At the time, in 1816 or 1817, not more than two or three settlements had been made in the County. Soon after Jernigan came to the region, he was joined by James Thompson, Benjamin Brewton, R. J. Cook, and Lofton and Loody Cotten.

At this time, the fort was occupied by the Seventh Georgia Regiment. General Jackson was in the habit of visiting the home of General Jernigan who had moved here from Burnt Corn Springs for the purpose of herding Cattle for Jackson's Army.

The erection of the Fort was commenced in 1817, but prior to this time, only temporary earthworks had been thrown up. In the winter of 1817, tracts of swamp land were cleared of trees and rank cane, which were burned in the following spring and the soil planted in corn.

Soon after the formation of the settlement, Rev. Radford Cotton, a Methodist clergyman, settled in its midst. He was afterwards joined by Reverend Shaw, also a Methodist Minister. In 1818, a church edifice was built on the west side of the river, about four miles from the Fort, at a point called "The Bluff," also later known as Cotton Bluff.

The inhabitants living in the neighborhood of Fort Crawford were devoted to cattle and hogs. In 1818, Mr. Walls, brother to the Minister, erected a small grist mill near "the bluff" and a few years later, Thomas Mendenhall built a saw mill above Ft. Crawford. Very little of the lumber sawn here was sold to the citizens, and Mr. Mendenhall, aided by the man whose name was Rolly Roebuck, transported his lumber on rafts to Pensacola.

The readiness with which man adapts himself to surrounding circumstances is strikingly illustrated by the unique plan adopted here by the residents for conveying the products of their diminutive farms to favorable market. In order to ship these to Pensacola, a huge Cypress was scooped out, somewhat in the shape of a mammoth bateau

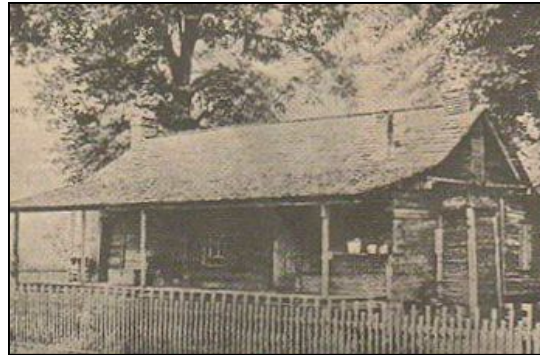
and of the sufficient capacity to hold 300 pumpkins. With a cargo like this, the heroic farmers would speed away down the river, and when Pensacola was reached, would sell their golden fruit, realizing for each pumpkin 25 to 50 cents.

Game abounded here, as elsewhere in the area. But strangely enough, the community was destitute of dogs. To deal with this disadvantage, the officers of the Fort, having become very intimate with Willie Jernigan, then a boy of 16, engaged

him to "Play Dog" for them in routing the deer from their hiding places at the head of the streams. With many a yelp and bark he would plunge into the thick covers and the frightened deer would scamper out in all directions, only to be greeted by leaden bullets of the officers from their stands.

While Gen. Jackson was waging his campaign against the Seminoles in Florida, one actual military campaign was launched against Pensacola by men from Fort Crawford. Governor Bibb arranged the expedition, which culminated in the attack, following Indian atrocities in the Federal road about sixty-five miles from the settlement of Claiborne.

Fearing that "when the Seminoles are pressed by General Jackson-- They will retreat to the frontiers, and take revenge on our defenseless inhabitants," he (Governor Bibb) probably thought that a show of force in the West would discourage such a contingency.



House in East Brewton which was built of logs taken from Fort Crawford.

(Continued on page 11)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Fort Crawford *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)

On April 28, 1818, Major White Young, in charge of the fort, attacked hostile Indians on Pensacola Bay, within one mile of the town- killed nine, wounded twelve or thirteen, and took eight prisoners with the lose of only one man. The Indians sued for peace and agreed to a meeting at Durant's Bluff from whence they were to be sent to Ft. Crawford.

Less than a month later," as a mere incident of his homeward march, Jackson turned aside and captured Pensacola because he was told that some Indians had taken refuge there. The General's own account of his motives are less than cavalier. Jackson states, " If St. Marks was necessary to the defense of the frontier of Georgia, Pensacola was much more so for the peace and security of Alabama, for it commanded the navigation of the Escambia, up which had, necessarily to pass, all the supplies for our forts erected on

its streams."

A description of the Fort, written at the time, said that it consisted of square log work with two block house and diagonal angles." The buildings were erected with square logs of about 8-10 inches square and the barracks for the officers and men form three squares of the fort; the doctor's shop, guard house and artificers shops form the fourth. The logs are laid as close as possible to them, which makes a fort a complete defense against small arms."

Undoubtedly, Fort Crawford was regarded as an important link in the forts of the country at that time. Obviously, Gen. Jackson viewed it as extremely important as he said " Our provision must pass to Ft. Crawford by water without interruption." That importance, however, vastly diminished when the United States purchased what is now the state of Florida from Spain. The treaty of purchase was ratified by Ferdinand VI on October 24, 1821, thus ending the need to defend what was then one of the borders of the country.

Memorandum in Regard to Old Fort Crawford, by Ed Leigh McMillan, August 15, 1934.

The following article comes from the "Early History of Escambia County," The Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. VIII, Issue No. 1, March, 1980, p. 12.

John Brewton, who was born in the main Fort building of Old Fort Crawford on Aug. 3, 1857, was in my office this morning. He gave me the following information:

Mr. Brewton states that he and his sister Mary Brewton Holland, were born in the old fort building at Fort Crawford. He says that there were originally five buildings at the fort, and that the buildings were built of hewn logs and were weather boarded and ceiled with sawn lumber.

At the time the fort buildings wee erected, Mr. Brewton states that his people told him that no gun could shoot through the walls. He says that the buildings at Fort Crawford were built by the United States soldiers, but that there was a fort, or place of refuge at the spot before the Fort Crawford buildings were erected.

The buildings at Fort Crawford were built so high above the ground that the horses of the settlers and soldiers could be put under the buildings and protected from the firing or attacks of the enemy.

The fort was not at the place where the present fort building is located, but lay about a quarter of a mile to the north-east of the present fort building. Mr. Brewton states that the

fort buildings were torn down by his ancestors and others, and the material in the fort used to build barns and stables.

There was a race track at Old Fort Crawford for horse racing. Mr. Brewton has never heard of the soldiers racing their horses, but said that the settlers often raced their horses.

There was a block from which women could mount their horses, and which block was also used as an auction block for slaves.



Picture from the Alabama Department of Archives and History

The description on the picture reads, "The only sign of Old Fort Crawford in Brewton, just back of the C. L. Wiggins Hall at East Brewton. The pencil marks around the bricks that were left of the chimney mark the place."

Picture is labeled as from the 1930's or 1940's.

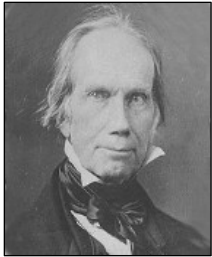
The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Compromise of 1850

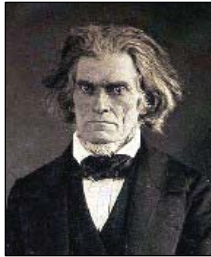
The following article on the Compromise of 1850 will be published as a series. It has been compiled by Darryl Searcy from the following sources:

- ♦ [Wikipedia](#) - The Free Encyclopedia
- ♦ [Resources Bank](#) - A Teacher's Guide
- ♦ [About.Com](#) Web Pages on American History
- ♦ [Compromise of 1850](#) - Historic Timelines, American Public University
- ♦ [Compromises of 1820 and 1850](#) - University of Missouri K12 Net
- ♦ [Compromise of 1850](#) - Primary Documents of American History
- ♦ [The Road to Disunion](#), William Freehling, Oxford University Press

The Players



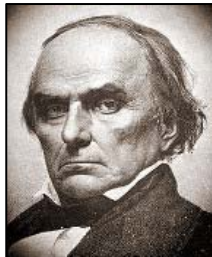
Henry Clay



John C. Calhoun



Stephen Douglas



Daniel Webster



Willard Fillmore



William Seward

The **Compromise of 1850** was a complex package of five bills that passed in September 1850, defusing a four-year confrontation between the slave states of the South and the free states of the North that arose from expectation of territorial expansion of the United States with the Texas Annexation (December 29, 1845) and the following Mexican-American War (1846–1848). It avoided secession or civil war at the time and quieted sectional conflict for four years until the divisive Kansas-Nebraska Act.

The Compromise was greeted with relief though each

side disliked specific provisions. Texas gave up its claim to New Mexico but received debt relief, El Paso, and the Texas Panhandle. The South did not get their keenly desired Pacific territory in Southern California or extension of the Missouri Compromise line allowing slavery anywhere south of parallel 36°30' (the demarcation line for slavery as set by the 1820 Missouri Compromise). As compensation, the South got the possibility of slave states via popular sovereignty in the newly created New Mexico and Utah territories, which territories were unsuited to agricultural plantation and was populated by non-Southerners. The compromise also brought about a stronger Fugitive Slave Act, which in practice outraged Northern public opinion and preservation of slavery in the national capital, though the slave trade was banned there except in the Virginia portion of the District of Columbia.

The Compromise became possible after the sudden death of President Zachary Taylor, who although a Southerner himself, tried to implement the Northern policy of excluding slavery from the Southwest. Whig Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky designed a compromise which failed to pass in early 1850, however, in the next session of Congress, Democratic Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois and Whig Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts narrowly passed a slightly modified package over opposition by extremists on both sides including Senator and former Vice-President John C. Calhoun of South Carolina.

Background and Earlier Proposals

Three major types of issues were addressed by the Compromise of 1850, to wit: a variety of boundary issues; status of territory issues; and the issue of slavery. While capable of analytical distinction, the boundary and territory issues were actually implicated in the overarching issue of slavery. Pro- and anti-slavery interests were each concerned with both the amount of land on which slavery was permitted and with the number of States which respectively would be in the Slave or Free camps. Since Texas was a Slave State, not only the residents of that State, but the pro- and anti-slavery camps on a national scale had an interest in the size of the State of Texas.

Senator Joseph Underwood referred to "a threatened civil war, unless we appease the hot bloods of Texas." Historian Mark Stegmaier wrote, "The Fugitive Slave Act, the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, the admission of California as a free state, and even the appli-

(Continued on page 13)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Compromise of 1850 *(continued)*

(Continued from page 12)

cation of the formula of popular sovereignty to the territories were all less important than the least remembered component of the Compromise of 1850--the statute by which Texas relinquished its claims to much of New Mexico in return for federal assumption of the debts..." Stegmaier also refers to "the principal Southern demand for a division of California at the line of 35°30' north (just north of Santa Maria and the Grapevine and says that "Southern extremists made clear that a congressionally mandated division of California figured uppermost on their agenda."

The general solution that was adopted by the Compromise of 1850 was to transfer a considerable part of the territory claimed by the State of Texas to the federal government, to formally organize two new Territories, that of New Mexico and Utah, which would expressly be allowed to determine whether they would become Slave or Free Territories, to add another Free State to the Union (California), adopt a severe measure to recover slaves who had escaped to a Free State or Territory (the Fugitive Slave Law), and to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia.

Texas

The Republic of Texas was proclaimed at convention on March 2, 1836. Thus followed the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836 resulting in the defeat of Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Santa Anna escaped capture during the battle, but was subsequently captured the following day.

On May 14, 1836 Santa Anna and the interim President of the Republic of Texas, David G. Burnet, signed the Treaties of Velasco. The Treaties recognized the Rio Grand River as the western boundary of the Republic of Texas, but the Treaties were repudiated by the government of Mexico on the ground that Santa Anna was not the President at the time he signed them. To the extent that there was a de facto recognition Mexico treated the Nueces River as the western



Henry Clay takes the floor of the Old Senate Chamber; Millard Fillmore presides as Calhoun and Webster look on.

*This Picture and Previous Ones of the "Players,"
Courtesy of Wikipedia*

boundary of the Republic of Texas, leaving a huge area between the two rivers to be in dispute.

However, neither Mexico nor the Republic of Texas had the military strength to assert an effective territorial claim. It followed December 29, 1845 that the Republic of Texas was simultaneously annexed to the United States and became admitted to the Union as the 28th state. Texas was staunchly committed to slavery, with its constitution making illegal the unauthorized emancipation of slaves by their owners. With this annexation the United States inherited the territorial

claims of the former Republic of Texas against Mexico.

The territorial claim to the area between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River and Mexican resistance to it led to the Mexican-American War. On February 2, 1848 that war was concluded by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Among the provisos of the Treaty was the recognition by Mexico of the area between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River being a part of the United States.

The State of Texas was heavily burdened with debt which had arisen during its struggles as a Republic. The federal government agreed to pay \$10,000,000.00 in "stock" in trade for the transfer of a large portion of the claimed area of the State of Texas to the territory of the federal government and for the relinquishment of various claims which Texas had upon the federal government. (This "stock" bore interest at the rate of 5 %, collectible every six months, and the principal was redeemable at the end of fourteen years.)

The Constitution did not permit Congress to reduce the territory of any State. Article IV, Section 3, of the United States Constitution provides that "no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State without the Consent of the Legislature of the State concerned as well as of the Congress." Accordingly, the first statute of the Compromise of 1850 had to take the form of an offer to the Texas State Legislature, rather than a unilateral enactment. The Texas State Legislature did ratify the

(Continued on page 14)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Compromise of 1850 *(continued)*

(Continued from page 13)

bargain and in due course the transfer of a large swath of land from the State of Texas to the federal government was accomplished.

Texas was allowed to keep the following portions of the disputed land, that which is south of the 33rd parallel, and that which is south of the 36th parallel north and east of 103rd meridian west. The rest of the land that had been disputed between Mexico and the Republic of Texas was transferred to the federal government.

New Territories Organized

The first law of the Compromise of 1850 organized the Territory of New Mexico

The second law that was enacted September 9, 1850, organized the Territory of Utah

The land committed to each of these newly organized territories was drawn from two distinct sources. One of these sources was the Mexican Cession of 1848 under the major provision of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the treaty then concluded the Mexican-American War on February 2, 1848. The land transferred from Mexico to the United States included all of present-day California, Nevada and Utah, most of present-day Arizona, most of the western part of present-day New Mexico, present-day Colorado west of the crest of the Rocky Mountains, and a small portion of present-day Wyoming. (A strip of land along the southern border of present-day Arizona and New Mexico was not acquired from Mexico until 1853 with the Gadsden Purchase.)

The other of these sources was land which had been claimed by the Republic of Texas. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo made no mention of the claims of the Republic of Texas; Mexico simply agreed to a Mexico-U.S. border south of both the "Mexican Cession" and the Republic of Texas claims. Prior to the Compromise of 1850, this disputed land had been claimed but never controlled by the State of Texas. This land included present-day eastern New Mexico, southern and western parts of present-day Colorado, and small parts of present-day Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.

As discussed in a previous section of this article, the land claim transferred from Texas to the federal government was in trade for a federal assumption of Texan debt. The portions of this particular land that became part of the Territory

of New Mexico or the Territory of Utah, respectively, were only provisionally assigned to these newly organized territories. The final assignment of their respective portions of this disputed land had to await ratification by the Texas State Legislature for constitutional reasons. That ratification was achieved and these newly organized territories were thus able to incorporate these areas under their respective jurisdictions.

The land assigned to the Territory of New Mexico, which was derived from the Mexican Cession of 1848, consisted of most of the present-day State of Arizona, most of the western part of the present-day State of New Mexico, and the southern tip of present-day Nevada, i.e., that which is south of the 37th parallel.

The land provisionally assigned to the Territory of New Mexico that had been transferred from Texas consisted of most of present-day eastern New Mexico, a portion of present-day Colorado, i.e., that which is east of the crest of the Rocky Mountains, west of the 103rd meridian, and south of the 38th parallel, and a small portion of present-day Wyoming.

In fact, New Mexico was never divided at the Rio Grande but was captured as a whole early in the Mexican War and governed as a unit by the federal government.

The land assigned to the Territory of Utah, which was derived from the Mexican Cession of 1848 consisted of present-day Utah, most of present-day Nevada, i.e., all that is north of the 37th parallel, a major part of present-day Colorado, i.e., that which is west of the crest of the Rocky Mountains, and a small part of present-day Wyoming.

The land provisionally assigned to the Territory of Utah that had been transferred from Texas consisted of most of present day eastern New Mexico, and some of present-day Colorado that is east of the crest of the Rocky Mountains.

A key provision of each of the laws respectively organizing the Territory of New Mexico and the Territory of Utah was that slavery would be either permitted or prohibited as a local option (Popular Sovereignty). This was an important repudiation of the Wilmot Proviso, which would have forbidden slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico.

California

In 1846, 33 settlers proclaimed a Republic of California independent from Mexico. The rebel government had little

(Continued on page 15)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Compromise of 1850 *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

effect and gave way to US control in less than a month.

The California Gold Rush starting on January 24, 1848 quickly attracted a much larger and multi-ethnic population to California. Anglo-Americans were a majority, with more from the North than the South, especially in Northern California.

The third statute of the Compromise of 1850, enacted on September 9, 1850, admitted California to the Union as the 31st State

Geographically, the State of California was bounded in 1850 on the east by the Territory of New Mexico (south of the 37th parallel) and the Territory of Utah (north of the 37th parallel), and on the north by the Territory of Oregon.

California was expressly admitted as a State free of slavery. A subsequent effort to divide the state received some support from those who hoped to establish a slave state on the Pacific coast, but it failed.

Fugitive Slave Law

The fourth statute of the Compromise of 1850, enacted September 18, 1850, is informally known as the Fugitive Slave Law or the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

This statute bolstered the Fugitive Slave Act of 1792. The new version of the Fugitive Slave Law required federal judicial officials in all States and federal territories, including in those States and territories in which slavery was prohibited, to actively assist with the return of escaped slaves to their masters in the States and territories permitting slavery. In addition to federal officials, the ordinary citizens of free States could be summoned into a posse and be required to assist in the capture and/or custody and/or transportation of the alleged escaped slave.

This particular law was so rigorously pro-slavery as to prohibit the admission of the testimony of a person accused of being an escaped slave into evidence at the judicial hearing to determine the status of the accused escaped slave. Thus, if a freedman were claimed to be an escaped slave under the Fugitive Slave Law he or she could not resist his or her return to slavery by truthfully telling his or her own actual history.

The Fugitive Slave Act was a result of the Mexican-American War, passed to settle turmoil that arose from other decisions made concerning the issues that surfaced from the victory. As a consequence of the Mexican War,

the balance in the country between slavery and antislavery territories was briefly upset. The decision to make newly-acquired California a free state, as well as the other provisions after the war that opposed slavery, caused this disturbance.

After the United States won California in the Mexican War, a decision had to be made about whether it should become a slave or free state. After it was proclaimed free, pro-slavery Americans were angered by this shift in the balance of power towards free states and threatened secession. The Fugitive Slave Act was strengthened to prevent further turmoil. This act bolstered the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, aided slaveholders by mandating that all escaped slaves must be returned to their masters, and - more crucially for the impending war - that ordinary citizens were required to aid slave catchers.

Many northern citizens deeply resented this pressure; but in serving their duties, they saw many scenes of such tragedy that former slavery fence-sitters landed squarely on the side of the abolitionists. This renewed act did help appease the Southern states and their contingent slave owners by assuring the return of the slaves they considered property.

However, once the secession threat was quieted, resentment towards this act continued to heighten tensions between the North and South, being thoroughly despised by the former. This Fugitive Slave Act is seen as one of the key steps towards civil war. It was included partly because of the public reaction to the Pearl incident.

The result of the Fugitive Slave Act was that any federal marshal or other official who did not arrest an alleged runaway slave was liable to a fine of \$1,000. Law-enforcement officials everywhere in the United States had a duty to arrest anyone suspected of being a fugitive slave on no more evidence than a claimant's sworn testimony of ownership. The suspected slave could not ask for a jury trial or testify on his or her own behalf. In addition, any person aiding a runaway slave by providing food or shelter was to be subject to six months' imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. Officers capturing a fugitive slave were entitled to a fee for their work.

To be continued . . .

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 276
Brewton, AL 36427
Phone: 251-809-1528

E-mail: escohis@escohis.org

We're on the web!

www.escohis.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL

Address correction
requested

<u>Books for Sale</u>	Mailed	Regular
<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>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

Clip the following form and send to ECHS
Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427.

Membership Renewal/Application Form

Date ____/____/____

Names) _____

Mailing Address _____

Do you prefer to get your newsletter by
U.S. Mail ____ or email? ____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues _____

(\$25.00/person, \$35.00/two family members - Lifetime,
\$250.00/person; \$50.00/year business)

Donation _____

(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the
newsletter. Larger sized ads are available)

Amount enclosed _____

Your interests _____

You will help with _____

❖ Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the
year. Give a membership as a gift!

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.

OFFICERS

President, Tom McMillan
Vice-President, Robin Brewton
Secretary, Jo Brewton
Treasurer, Susan Crawford
Echoes Editor, Ranella Merritt
Librarian, Jacque Stone
Publicity, Lydia Grimes
Historian/Curator, Barbara Page

TRUSTEES

Wilellen Elliot
Doris Bruner
Ranella Merritt
Tom McMillan
Ann Biggs-Williams, Alternate