THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ECHOES

The February Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

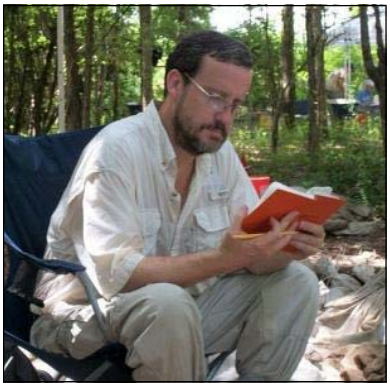
3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program:

Colonial History and Archaeology of the Escambia/Conecuh River: The Known and the Unknown

Dr. Worth has sent us the following introduction:



Dr. John E. Worth (pictured at the right), an historical archaeologist in the Department of Anthropology at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, is our guest speaker. Dr. Worth specializes in archaeology and ethnohistory, focusing on the Spanish colonial era.

He will discuss his recent research into the history and archaeology of the middle to lower Escambia/Conecuh River during the European colonial period, focusing on Native American groups documented for the region, including Ochuse, Panzacola, Chisca, Apalachee, and Tawasa.

His talk will include details of the multi-year archaeological project at the site of Mission San Joseph de Escambe, namesake for the Escambia River and both Escambia Counties, which was finally discovered in Molino, Florida in 2009.

A native of Georgia, Dr. Worth received his dual Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 1988, and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Florida in 1992.

In his professional career, he spent 15 years creating and administering public archaeology programs in Georgia and

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Contents

The Next Meeting

March 22, 2011

Guest Speaker Kevin McKinley

Mondays in the Alabama Room

10.00 a. m.

Join the volunteers who are working to organize the Alabama Room Collection

Sunday, March 6, 2011

2:00 p. m.

Dedication of Historical Plaque

For the Pollard Methodist Church

Lead Bale Seal from Mission San Joseph

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The Program *(continued)*

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Florida, before becoming a member of the faculty at UWF in 2007.

Dr. Worth is the author or co-author of two major books and more than one hundred-thirty book chapters and appendices, reports, presented papers, journal, magazine, and newsletter articles, and book reviews.

Dr. Worth at an excavation site.

He was married in Spain in 1992 and has two sons.

Spanish Florida: Evolution of a Colonial Society, 1513-1763

The following article by Dr. Worth is taken from his web pages at <http://www.uwf.edu/jworth/spanfla.htm>.

Pensacola Bay during Colonial Period

"From the 16th through 18th centuries, Florida was a remote colonial outpost on the northern frontier of Spain's expansive New World empire. In stark contrast to many of its Spanish colonial neighbors to the south and west, Spanish Florida survived only with an annual monetary stipend from the Viceroyalty of New Spain, and never resulted in a net profit for the Spanish crown.

"Florida was ultimately maintained primarily for its strategic value in protecting the New World fleets during their annual return from Havana to Spain, and as such, Florida's Spanish residents (mostly garrisoned soldiers and their families) came to be substantially reliant upon labor and food from the indigenous chiefdoms that were eventually assimilated within this evolving colonial society.

"The success or failure of Spanish Florida was tied intimately to the fate of its predominantly Native American inhabitants, and the sociopolitical and economic system that developed over the course of the colony's two and a half century history represents a remarkable example of a new, multi-ethnic colonial society within an increasingly global world system on the edge of the modern era.

"With respect to Native American relations, Spain's colonial strategy in the New World focused more on assimilation and labor than exclusion and commerce, and hence Spanish Florida formed a marked contrast to concurrent British colonial endeavors farther to the north, particularly as regards the direct and explicit incorporation of functioning Native American societies into the political, economic, social, and even religious fabric of the new colonial society.

"At its zenith in the mid-17th century, Florida's colonial system was fundamentally based on the multi-regional integration of large Native American populations extending from the lower Atlantic coastline to the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, all under the administration of a single colonial port city at St. Augustine. The multi-ethnic population of greater Spanish Florida was at that time no more than 5% Spanish, with the remaining population almost wholly dominated by Native Americans distributed in a multiplicity of local and regional provinces, still governed by hereditary native leaders who filled the role of mid-level administrators within a broader

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Spanish Florida: Evolution of a Colonial Society, 1513-1763 *(continued)*

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Spanish paramountcy.

"Corn production and exchange played a primary role in the economic infrastructure of Spanish Florida, with literally hundreds of thousands of pounds being grown annually both in the mission provinces and in fields surrounding St. Augustine. An extensive web of land and water transportation routes linked human and natural resources into a functioning colonial society, the scale and complexity of which had never before been witnessed in the same region.

"Despite the fact that this system grew and collapsed within the space of less than two centuries, when viewed in anthropological perspective, Spanish Florida can nonetheless serve as an instructive case-study of the evolution and decline of colonial systems in general."

From the Minutes of the January Meeting

1. The **general fund balance** for January was $1849.70. President Tom McMillan encouraged members to add an extra donation when paying their dues, to help cover the cost of printing our newsletter.

2. President McMillan has located a business in Pace, Florida that restores old paintings. As soon as he receives permission in writing from the donor of the **St. Lawrence River painting**, he will have it cleaned.

3. He is still searching **for pictures from the past of Escambia County**, and asked members to look for any pictures they may have.

4. The Officers and Trustees will continue **planning field trips,** but are waiting for better weather.

5. The **Scholarship Committee** will continue awarding a scholarship to a Jefferson Davis Community College student, and contributions to the scholarship fund are encouraged and appreciated.

6. President McMillan introduced **Carolyn Jennings** as a new lifetime member, and **David Allen** and **Sharon Marsh** as new members. **Barbara Dixon** was also welcomed back after a long absence.

7. Paul Merritt read a letter from **Darryl Searcy,** who has developed **sudden deafness syndrome,** thanking members for their concern. Darryl is **continuing to survey cemeteries**, and information can be obtained at <www.findagrave.com>.

Note: Further information from Darryl is that he is **making good progress with treatment** and his doctors feel he will have some hearing restored.

8. Any members who are interested in **saving the state song** are encouraged to call, write, or email their state representatives. Further information may be obtained at <www.savethealabamastatesong.org>.

A bill which would change the state song to "Stars Fell on Alabama" has been introduced in the legislature, seemingly as a result of the state tourist bureau looking for appropriate music for a sound track to go with television advertising and finding the current state song not a good choice.

Note: The **present state song, Alabama, was adopted in 1931**, with words by **Julia Tutwiler**, music by **Edna Gussen**. From the Alabama Department of Archives and History, this background on the song:

"The inspiration for writing the poem Alabama came to Julia Tutwiler after she returned to her native state from Germany where she had been studying new educational methods for girls and women. She recalled that in Germany patriotism was kept aflame by spirited songs. She thought that it would be helpful toward restoring the spirits of her own people to give them a new patriotic song, so she wrote a fatherland song and called it Alabama."

Changing the state song has been suggested at least three times**. George Wallace wanted to change it to "Sweet Home Alabama."**

Upcoming Events

Dedication of Historical Plaque for the Pollard Methodist Church

Pollard Methodist Church, 2008

Picture Courtesy of Paul Merritt

Dedication of the plaque at the church will be Sunday, March 6, 2011, at 2:00 p. m. This is the first in a series of historical markers which ECHS plans to place in Escambia County. The Church and the town of Pollard had significant roles in Escambia County history. The Pollard Church building is the oldest church building in the county still standing, and the town of Pollard was the first county seat. Plan to attend. You will be able to see the beautiful church, and enjoy refreshments after the dedication.

Archival Training Collaborative Workshop: Records Management for Small Cultural Organizations and Non-Profits

Monday April 4, 2011 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tracey Berezansky of the Alabama Department of Archives and History describes this workshop:

"Participants in this one-day workshop will learn about records management tools that help an organization be efficient and cost-effective. Each organization will leave with a complete list of the records they create and their retention periods. The registration fee of $30.00 includes a class materials and lunch. Registration is limited to 15."

For further information contact Tracey Berezansky at 334 353 4604

Southern Normal Centennial Celebration

The Southern Normal School Founder's Day Program will be Sunday, February 28, 2011, 2:30 p.m. in the Van Vorst Auditorium at the Alabama State University Southern Normal School campus .

The theme for the centennial is: "Educating the Head, Heart, and Hand: Mr. Dooley's Love and Labor Produced a School of Excellence."

Yard Sale by Alger-Sullivan Historical Society

March 19, 2011, at the Historical Park

Hours, 8:00 until

For more information call 850-256-398-

Family History Workshop

The Alabama Department of Archives and History will present an all-day family history workshop on Saturday, March 12, 2011, 9:00 until 3:00. Archivist Nancy Dupree will direct the workshop.

A Pre-registration fee of $35 includes all workshop material and a box lunch. Discounts are available for Friends of the Archives members.

For more information and registration forms contact ADAH at:

<http://www.archives.state.al.us/>.

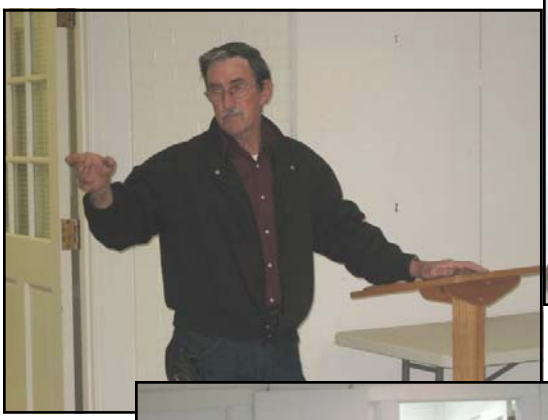
Antique Show and Tell

The Jay Historical Society is sponsoring this event on Saturday. Feb. 26, 2011 at the Jay High School Auditorium.

The event will enable visitors to get expert appraisals of their antiques. The charge is $5.00 per item.

For more info contact Lori Brabham at <lori.brabham@gmail.com> or call 850-675-6480.

Snapshots



Our Business Members

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

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Watch History

This third installment of this article by Darryl Searcy continues the story of the development of the wristwatch as soldiers discovered its usefulness.

Another timely issue was the vulnerability of the glass crystal when worn during combat. This was addressed by utilizing "pierced metal covers", frequently called shrapnel guards. These were basically metal grills (often made of silver), placed over the dial of the watch—thereby protecting the glass from damage while still allowing the time to be easily read.

Elgin's WW-I Military Wristwatch with Hooks

A less common solution was the use of leather covers, snapped into place over the watch. While they did offer protection from damage, they were cumbersome to use, and thus were primarily seen in the extreme climates of Australia and Africa.

Even with their success in combat, the popularity of the wristwatch was still limited to ladies' models. They didn't reach the mainstream market until some two decades later, when soldiers from around the world converged on Europe to help defeat the German Empire in WW-I (1914-1919). Due to the strategic lessons learned in the Boer War, the demand for reliable, accurate wristwatches was at its peak.

While German troops were largely issued the more primitive "pocket watch" designs, Allied troops had a wide range of new models to choose from. Many examples featured small silver pocket watch cases fitted with leather straps and displayed radium-illuminated porcelain dials protected by shrapnel guards.

Wristwatches were no longer considered a novelty but were now a wartime necessity, and companies were scrambling to keep up with the demand. One company that enjoyed success during this time was Wilsdorf & Davis, Ltd., founded in 1905, and later renamed The Rolex Watch Company, Ltd., in 1915.

Hans Wilsdorf, the founder and director of Rolex, was a strong proponent of wristwatches since the turn of the century. While others scoffed at them, Wilsdorf continued to experiment with their accuracy and reliability. Thus, some would argue that he did more for their advancement than anyone in history. In fact, he is even credited with sending the first wristwatches to the Neuchatel Observatory (Switzerland), for accuracy testing. They all passed the rigorous battery of tests, which encouraged Wilsdorf to push them even further.

Rolex subsequently received the very first Wristwatch Chronometer awards from the School of Horology in Bienne (1910), and the Class "A" Certificate of Precision from the Kew Observatory in England (1914). To this day, Rolex watches consistently receive more Chronometer Certificates from the Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres (COSC), than every other watch company in the world, combined.

After the Great War, many soldiers returned home with souvenir trench watches -- so named for the trench warfare in which they were used. When these war heroes were seen wearing them, the public's perception quickly changed, and wristwatches were no longer deemed to be feminine. After all, no one would dare consider these brave men as being anything but.

In the final years of the war, wristwatches began to see numerous improvements. Case makers like Francis Baumgartner, Borgel and Dennison introduced revolutionary designs, which aided in making them more resistant to water and dust. These designs were later improved on when Rolex introduced the first truly waterproof wristwatch, the Oyster, in 1926.

Also around this time, new models were introduced with fixed lugs (often called "horns"), which gave them a more finished appearance. And to aid in their durability, new metal dials superseded porcelain, which had been quite susceptible to cracking and chipping and the fragile glass crystals were replaced with a newly invented synthetic plastic.

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Watch History *(continued)*

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Over the next decade, watch companies slowly added additional models to their catalogs, and finally, by the mid-1930s, they accounted for 65 percent of all watches exported by Switzerland. It was an uphill battle, but the wristwatch had finally arrived. They were now accurate, waterproof and, by 1931, perpetually self-winding, when Rolex introduced the Auto Rotor, a revolutionary design, which is used to this day by watch companies around the world.

The success of the wristwatch was born out of necessity, and Rolex continued this tradition by introducing a series of professional, or "tool watches" in the early 1950s. These models, including the Submariner, Explorer, GMT-Master, and Turn-O-Graph, were also designed out of necessity, as they included features and attributes that were essential for a specific task or profession.

Because of its rugged design, variations of the Submariner have subsequently been issued to numerous militaries, including the British Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and British Royal Marines, as well as the U.S. Navy Seals. Over the years, dozens of companies like Omega, Benrus, Bulova, and Panerai have also supplied specialty watch models for military duty.

Thus, the role of the wristwatch seems to have come full circle. With the general public now leaning toward high-tech, digital gadgets, the classic mechanical wristwatch has once again found its home on the wrists of those brave soldiers who welcomed it some 100 years ago.

The history of the wristwatch is short, as it didn't begin to see widespread use until the 1920s. Men tended to regard them as effeminate. So, the vintage Rolex men's watch quickly became a rare timepiece, fetching prices upwards of $500,000 and beyond.

Watches were actually adapted to the wrist and made sporadic appearances as early as the late 1500s. Queen Elizabeth I is said to have been given one. In the early 1800s the wristwatch made more frequent appearances when jewelry and watchmakers began creating gem encrusted timepieces for royalty.

Toward the end of the 1800s, women began to embrace the wristwatch as an item of adornment. Despite the feminine association, the concept became accepted as indispensable to military campaigns as mechanization in war grew. The ability to read time with a quick glance rather than having to dig through one's pockets was critical in battle.

Officers in the South African Boer war (1899-1902) used them, and by World War I, military organizations began to demand them. They became especially crucial to fledgling aerial combat operations.

As demand for heart rate monitor watches in warfare grew, rugged timepieces covered with metal grids were introduced. The first chronograph wristwatches were developed, and luminous hands and markers were developed.

Between the wars and following, automatic (self winding) wristwatches were created, drawing on technology used in pocket watches. Initially they were unreliable, but were perfected by the late 1930s and early 1940s. In the 1920s, the wristwatch became the dominant means of timekeeping among both men and women. Then, as now, men seemed to prefer more rugged, sportier models, including chronographs. Rolex created the first Wrist watch which was worn unscathed by a female channel swimmer in 1927. Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart strapped on wristwatches for their celebrated flights. Accurate timing was indeed becoming more and more precious.

During the Great Depression, demand for wristwatches withered and many top watch making companies went out of business. Despite reversals, many design innovations were introduced. With the advent of World War II, watches in most countries were an unattainable luxury and production ceased for all but military needs.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Watch History *(continued)*

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The Railroad Timepiece

The railroad pocket watch also has an interesting history. Although railroad workers had carried timepieces for many years, it was April 19, 1891 that all things changed and the rail operators, of necessity, sat up and took notice of the importance of time accuracy. On that date, a great train disaster occurred that would forever change timekeeping on the railroad. Two trains, because of an engineer's faulty timepiece, collided near Cleveland, Ohio.

Southern Railway conductor C. Frank Marshall and engineer David J. Fant, 1929 - Synchronizing the time before departing the rail yard
Photo courtesy CSX Rail System.

Following the disaster, a commission was appointed to adopt a universal set of timekeeping standards by all railroads. Precision was needed in this enormous industry, and the timing of those standards could not wait.

Although the general railroad timepiece was in effect as early as 1893, the watches were manufactured by numerous companies and had become known as "railroad watches." The various rail companies had, in effect, set their own standards according to the terrain and time zone in which they operated.

Webb C. Ball, a great watch inspector and entrepreneur, had his watch-making enterprise franchised to manufacturers including Hamilton, Illinois, Waltham, Elgin, Bulova, and Hampden. These watches are extremely undervalued today, and are the ones that collectors prefer and trade the most. Mr. Ball's primary customer was the railroads.

His "railroad watches" became the modern timepiece- timekeeper- pocket watch. So popular and valuable they were to the industry that no self-respecting rail company would ever think of letting an employee retire without receiving the company's trademark timepiece. Over time, as the watch-making industry grew and diversified into more decorative timepieces, only Bulova continued to supply the transportation industry, and it became the primary railroad timepiece by choice. Thereafter, Bulova became a household name, and as history-making as the railroads themselves. The name Bulova became synonymous with transportation.

My, my, how times have changed. The railroads were literally ruled by the train conductors, who carried beautiful pocket watches, and who kept the passengers and railway employees informed of the time the train stopped, started, or neared a destinations. These timepieces were called "railroad watches," or more accurately, "railroad approved watches." Over the last hundred years the railroad watch has been on a great sojourn of its own to advance into the new modern era.

From a safety standpoint the conductor's railroad watch is the primary piece of safety equipment on the train. The conductor is the chief officer in charge of any train. This is true for freight trains and passenger trains. The engineer is in charge of the locomotive, but he is responsible to the conductor for operating the train on time.

To be continued . . . .

The ECHS *Journal* Section

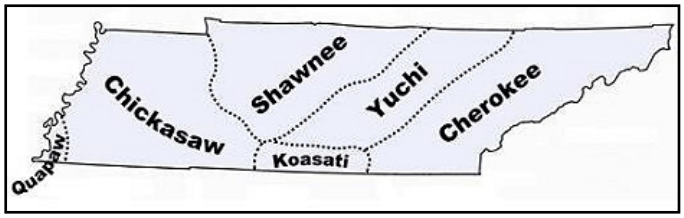
The Heritage of a Pioneer Woman at Fort Crawford

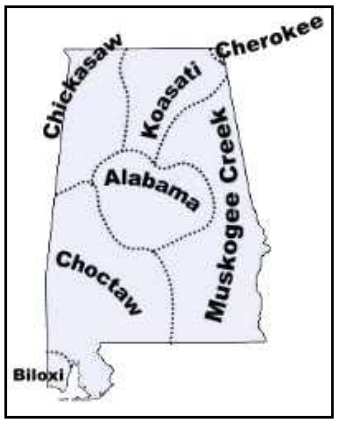
By Kathryn Harrison Wilkinson

The men who settled at Fort Crawford and the surrounding area are often noted and written about. It is said that Thomas Mendenhall built one of the first sawmills near Cotton's Bluff.

Benjamin Jernigan, Benjamin Brewton and R. 1. Cook are recorded as having settled near Fort Crawford in late 1816 or early 1817.

The women who accompanied these men and shared the hardships are seldom, if ever, mentioned. The heritage they contributed is not remembered. Something is now known about the background of one of these women and she was Vashti Vann, wife of Benjamin Jernigan (in early records listed as Benjamin Journagan).





Theses diagrams of the location of Native Americans in Tennessee (top), Mississippi (left), and Alabama (right) are from <*www.native-languages.org/languages*>.

The Jernigans came from Edgefield, South Carolina, an area located across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia. They were accompanied by nine children, most of whom stayed in this region. Son William settled in Pollard, while others like Joseph Jefferson followed their father to Santa Rosa county (then Escambia county), Florida in the 1820s and 1830s.

On June 14, 1902, Thomas Jefferson Jernigan, grandson of Benjamin and Vashti, wrote about their coming to Fort Crawford. He also included this, "He had not lived here long before he went to Pensacola then occupied by the Spaniards and caught yellow fever. But he survived the attack himself but his wife taken the fever from him and died, leaving a good many children."

We now know that Vashti was the daughter of Edward "Ned" Vann, and was thought to be the first cousin of James Vann, chief of the Cherokee Nation who died in Georgia in 1809.

Her mother was Mary King, daughter of the Squirrel King, a Chickasaw chief and a Shawnee woman. It is Vashti's connection to the Squirrel King that brings this amazing chapter to her history.

The story begins in what is now Mississippi. The Chickasaws were a small tribe who occupied the northeastern part of Mississippi and a small area in northwest Alabama. The Chickasaws were organized in villages. In 1708 it was recorded that they had eight villages and 700 men. From the time the white traders came to their area, they had intermarried so that many called the Chickasaws "the Breed," because of their mixed blood.

Since the white men had entered their territory, the Chickasaws had been firmly allied with the British on the east coast. The Choctaws, a tribe to the south, were allied with the French in Mobile. In the frequent wars between the two, each was supplied with guns and ammunition by their trading partner. The British supply of arms to the Chickasaws saved them from being annihilated several times.

In 1723 the British in South Carolina were themselves having trouble with attacks from the Cherokees and the Creeks. They invited the Chickasaws to come to South Carolina, take up land and protect the colony from its attackers. " ,

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Heritage of a Pioneer Woman at Fort Crawford *(continued)*

Characteristic Chickasaw Head

Significance of the Chickasaw in Eventual Dominance of Britain over France in Colonial America

From the internet website Chickasaw History <http://www.tolatsga.org/chick.htm>.

Although generally the least known of the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, Seminole), no other tribe played a more significant role in Britain's victory over France for control of North America.

Variously described as the "Unconquered and Unconquerable" or the "Spartans of the lower Mississippi Valley," the Chickasaw were the most formidable warriors of the American Southeast, and anyone who messed with them came to regret it, if they survived!

British traders from the Carolinas were quick to recognize their prowess in this regard and armed the Chickasaw to the teeth, after which, no combination of the French and their native allies was able to dislodge the Chickasaw from the stranglehold they imposed upon French commerce on the lower Mississippi.

The Chickasaw could cut New France in two, which seriously crippled the French in any war with the British. From the high ground overlooking the Mississippi River at Memphis, the Chickasaw took on all comers, including tribes four to five times their size and never lost until they picked the wrong side in the American Civil War. Even then, the Chickasaw Nation was the last Confederate government to surrender to Union forces.

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The Squirrel King accepted their invitation. The 'Squirrel King" (or *Fanni Mingo* in the Chickasaw language) was a title given to a warrior whom a village had chosen to be its leader and protector. He could be from that village but more often was from another village.

The book Guardians of the Valley by Edward J. Cashin is an account of the Chickasaws who went to South Carolina to protect that colony from hostile Indians and later moved to the Georgia side of the Savannah River to protect Georgia. The valley involved was the Savannah River valley.

The book begins with the welcoming of the Chickasaws under the leadership of the Squirrel King by Governor Francis Nicholson in Charlestown (now Charleston). The date was September 14, 1723. The Squirrel King's group consisted of forty men and forty women and children. They were granted land on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River across from where the future city of Augusta, Georgia would be built.

The area the Chickasaws settled was well suited to the Indians' way of life. Game was plentiful. The men hunted bear and deer and sold the hides at Fort Moore. Nearby were the trading posts in Savannah Town where the packhorse men formed caravans in order to take ammunition, cloth, pots and pans to the Indians in the interior and, in time to return with hides that had been obtained from the Indians in present day Alabama and Mississippi.

In 1730 war broke out again between the Choctaws and Chickasaws in Mississippi. Since the French were very angry with the Chickasaws, they supplied many arms to the Choctaws. As a result a number of Chickasaws joined their tribal brothers in South Carolina at New Windsor (new name for Savannah Town).

Note: The French sought revenge against the Chickasaws since the Chickasaws had given sanctuary to members of the Natchez tribe whom the French were determined to destroy because of the devastating attack by the Natchez against the French at fort Rosalie (now Natchez, Mississippi) in 1729.

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The Heritage of a Pioneer Woman at Fort Crawford *(continued)*

(Continued from page 11)

In order for the Chickasaws in the East to stay in touch with their kinsmen in Mississippi, they established a camp about halfway between the two. This was called the Breed camp and it was located on the east bank of the Coosa River probably in what is now Coosa County, Alabama.

In 1733 General James Oglethorpe established the colony of Georgia. Four years later he began building Fort Augusta (later to become the city of Augusta) across the river from the Chickasaw settlement. Squirrel King offered his assistance in building the fort. As a reward for the Chickasaws help, land was given to them twelve miles south of Augusta. In 1738 South Carolina granted the Chickasaws legal title to 21,774 acres situated across the river from Augusta. Many Chickasaws moved back to their original settlement now that it was legally theirs. Squirrel King and his group preferred to remain on the Georgia side.

In 1739 war broke out between Britain and Spain. General Oglethorpe took an army to invade Spanish Florida. Along with the army came Squirrel King and his thirty warriors. An English officer noted that it was said that they were the "equal of a hundred common men." The British captured the two Spanish forts. In a letter Oglethorpe singled out Squirrel King and Mingo Stoby, an important Chickasaw leader, for special mention. The Spanish surrendered and the Chickasaws were back in their settlement within a few months.

The British success encouraged Oglethorpe to undertake the capture of St. Augustine in the spring of 1740. Oglethorpe stationed his army around the town, but to his horror the Spanish attacked his army and killed sixty-three men. The Yamasees, a neighboring tribe, who were fighting for the Spanish, cut off the heads of two wounded soldiers. According to Cashin, "Finally on June 24 the Chickasaws took the initiative. Carrying their weapons, they swam across the harbor ... a prodigious feat in itself, and engaged in a skirmish with a party of Yamasee Indians, killing several.

"Squirrel King severed the head of his victim in revenge for the beheading of the British soldiers and with his grisly trophy and weapons swam back" to the British camp. Cashin recounted that Squirrel King proudly presented the head to the general. Oglethorpe drew back in revulsion and called the Chickasaws "barbarous dogs." Squirrel King was highly insulted.

When the general ordered the Chickasaws forward, Squirrel King threatened to join the Carolinians instead. Oglethorpe requested one of his officers intercede and soothe the feelings of the Chickasaws. Two days later Squirrel King relented and joined the Georgians.

By summer, disease was taking a high toll on the British soldiers, so Oglethorpe abandoned the campaign. During the retreat they were attacked by the Spanish. The Chickasaws took part in this last skirmish. They routed the Spanish, took two scalps and captured an important official. Since Squirrel King was still angry over Oglethorpe's rejection, he turned the prisoner over to the Carolinians.

The South Carolina Assembly investigated Oglethorpe's actions during the invasion and blamed him for its failure. The Carolinians regarded the Chickasaws as the heroes of the otherwise botched invasion, according to Cashin.

In the coming years several threatened attacks by the Spanish caused the governments of South Carolina and Georgia to call on the Chickasaws for assistance. During these years the British continued to hold Squirrel King in high regard, although as the years passed, he was less able to control the conduct of his young men. ,,Cashin wrote that sometime between February and June, 1755 Squirrel King died.

He was buried under his house in New Savannah (the Chickasaw settlement south of Augusta). Edmond Atkin, the British Indian superintendent, wrote in 1755, "Their King or Chief named Squirrel.. .. hath more Personal Weight and Authority than any

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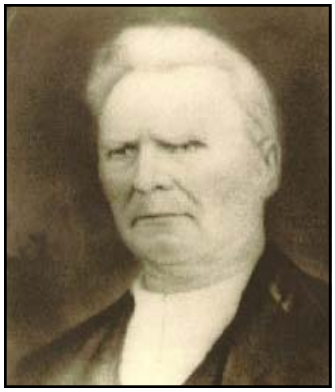
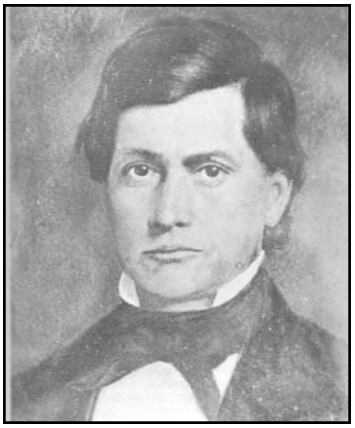
other; his talks being listened to attentively by other Nations as well as his own."

With the beginning of the American Revolution, the Chickasaws, because they were still loyal to the British, had no place in the Carolinas or Georgia. They returned, therefore, to Mississippi to live again among their tribal brethren.

This article was written by the great, great, great, great granddaughter of Vashti Vann Jernigan, since she is descended from two of her children, Edith Jernigan who married Loften Cotton and Joseph Jefferson Jernigan who married Caroline Dixon.



Joseph Jefferson Jernagan, son of Benjamin and Vashti Journagan



Cyrus Harris, 1st governor of Chickasaw Nation, 1875

William Jernigan and second wife Ellender Hoolander Jernigan

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ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 276
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Phone: 251-809-1528

E-mail: escohis@escohis.org

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Books for Sale	Mailed	Regular
A History of Escambia County	$55.00	$50.00
Headstones and Heritage	$40.00	$35.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	$10.00	$ 5.00
Wildflowers of The Escambia CD	$12.50	$10.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)	$51.00	$45.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (hc)	$66.00	$60.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	$46.00	$40.00

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