

The April Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

3:00—5:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: Julia Tutwiler

Education and Prison Reformer

and

Author of the State Song “Alabama, Alabama”

The Program Presented by Sue Bass Wilson of Andalusia



Our Speaker, Sue Bass Wilson, broker and co-owner of Bass Real Estate in Andalusia, is also the current president and historian of the Covington County Historical Society.

She is a fourth generation Andalusian who enjoys “preserving, publicizing, and displaying Covington County history at the Three-Notch Museum” in Andalusia.

Author of the book, An Historical Riding Tour Through Andalusia, she also coauthored “Andalusia in Revue,” a history of Andalusia in songs, dances, and skits performed in Andalusia’s celebra-

tion of Alabama’s “Year of the Small Towns.”

Sue is married to Jimmy Wilson and they have two grown children., four grandsons

In 2010, she appeared before the Alabama Legislature, impersonating Julia Tutwiler, speaking from the grave, and helped to the save the State Song written by Julia Tutwiler.

Honorable Speaker and House Members,

Around 1868, I penned the lyrics to my poem during reconstruction, just after my return from educational study in Germany where I heard patriotic and excit-

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The May Meeting

May 24, 2011

Program TBA

Mondays in the Alabama Room are now

Thursdays in the Alabama Room

Plan on joining the volunteers who are working to organize and update the smaterials in the Alabama Room, beginning with the first Thursday in June.

Volunteers meet at 10:00 a. m.



The Drifting Cowboys, Hank Williams. Band

Volume 38, Number 4

April 2011

The Program *(continued)*

ing songs

I thought the people of Alabama could use some inspiration after the War Between the States, because Alabamians had suffered from the ravages of war. So upon my return to Alabama, I gifted these words to the state (the poem “Alabama, Alabama”).

In 1917, Edna Gockel-Gussen of Birmingham, I am told, won the Alabama Federation of Music Club’s competition for her composition setting my poem to music. Later in 1931, a bill introduced by the Honorable Tyler Goodwyn, House Concurrent Resolution No. 74, was adopted making my poem and Edna Gockel-Gussen’s music the state’s official song.

The song ‘Alabama, Alabama,’ is easy for school children and adults alike to sing in assemblies, gatherings, and club meetings. It is exemplary of a state song with simple and dignified yet meaningful words which are easily memorized and yes, appropriate.

I tried to honor Alabamians with my poetic words



**Sue Bass Wilson as
Julia Tutwiler**

about the state and its people – Tennessee, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Bigbee, Warrior, Northern vale, Southern shore, marble white quarries, magnolia groves, snow- white cotton, perfumed south wind, golden jasmine, broad and fertile prairies, strong-armed miners, sturdy farmers and loyal hearts. ‘Little, little, can (could) I give thee, Alabama, mother mine; but that little – hand, brain, spirit. All I have and am are thine.’

Education is an important issue in the state capitol, and I understand that after my death in 1916, I earned the title of ‘mother of co-education in Alabama.’ Daughter of Henry Tutwiler, a founder and headmaster of the Greene Springs School in what is now Hale County, my career was as a teacher, an administrator, and educational reformer.

My father recognized the value of women being educated. I am buried in the Havana United Methodist Church cemetery in Hale County where my family has deep roots. . . .



Havana, Alabama United Methodist Church and Julia Tutwiler’s Grave

There has been a Methodist assembly in the Havana community since 1835. The first church building was erected in 1842 and the present building in 1870, Julia Tutwiler and her father are buried here in the church cemetery.



Pictures of the church & the cemetery printed by permission from the web site Deep Fried Kudzu at <<http://www.deepfriedkudzu.com/2011/02/julia-tutwiler.html>>.

Julia Strudwick Tutwiler



“Julia Strudwick Tutwiler (1841-1916) was an educator, prison reformer, and writer and an outspoken proponent of education for women. She was closely involved with the founding of institutions that became the University of West Alabama and the University of Montevallo and with innovations in education for women and African Americans during segregation. The women's prison in Wetumpka, Alabama, bears her name, as do several other public buildings in the state, and her poem "Alabama" is immortalized as the official state song.”

The picture and text are from the online Encyclopedia of Alabama's article on Julia Tutwiler <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1112>>.

The following material is taken from the section “Alabama Moments American History” on the Alabama Department of Archives and History Web Site.

Julia Strudwick Tutwiler, 1841-1916, was the daughter of Henry and Julia Ashe Tutwiler of Greene Springs, in what is now Hale County. Henry was headmaster of the celebrated Greene Springs School, a boarding school for the children of the planter class.

The Tutwilers gave Julia a most unusual education for the time. She attended the Greene Springs School, and afterwards she attended a private school in Philadelphia (late 1850's), Vassar College (1866), and the Institute of Deaconesses in Kaiserworth, Germany (1873-1874).

Julia Tutwiler's Career as a Teacher, Administrator, and Educational Reformer:

- ♦ She was head of the highly successful Alabama Normal School at Livingston (1883-1910).
- ♦ She persuaded the trustees of the University of Alabama to admit women (1892-1893), and then saw to it that women at the university had adequate housing.
- ♦ She was an advocate of vocational education, and in 1895-1896 was instrumental in founding what is now the University of Montevallo.

Julia Tutwiler's Career as a Prison Reformer:

- ♦ She undertook jail visitations as early as 1880. In that year she secured passage of an act mandating humane treatment of prisoners in county jails.
- ♦ She worked from 1883 as head of the Prison Department of the Alabama Women's Christian Temperance Union.
- ♦ From 1883 until her death, she lobbied for better, healthier treatment of the prisoners in the mining camps of Alabama's convict lease system.
- ♦ She founded night schools for convicts (1887).
- ♦ She worked for better conditions for women prisoners; the state's prison for women is named for her.
- ♦ She worked (with Booker T. Washington) for separate facilities for juvenile prisoners; by 1910 the state had constructed separate facilities for white and black juveniles.

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Julia Strudwick Tutwiler *(continued)*

(continued from page 3)

The following pictures with text are from the online Encyclopedia of Alabama's article on Julia Tutwiler <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1112>>.



Greene Springs School

Julia's father, Henry Tutwiler, founded Greene Springs School in 1847 in Sawyerville and operated it until his death in 1884.



Alabama Normal College

Alabama Normal College in Livingston eventually became the University of West Alabama.

It was founded in 1835 as Livingston Female Academy. Jones Hall is in the background.

Tuscaloosa Female College

From 1876 to 1881, Tutwiler taught languages and literature at the Methodist-affiliated Tuscaloosa Female College.



Snapshots of the March ECHS Meeting



Summary of Minutes from the March ECHS Meeting

Old Business

- ◆ Members stated that the the Dedication of the Historical Marker for the Pollard Methodist church had been very successful, well done and enjoyable
- ◆ Alan Robinson was recognized for the great work he did on getting the sign ready.
- ◆ The next Historical Marker Project will be for the old Escambia County High School building in Atmore that now houses the Atmore Chamber of Commerce & YMCA. Ranella and Paul Merritt are doing the research for the project.

New Business

- ◆ A new copy machine is now in use as a demo in the Alabama Room. Note: Since the meeting, the

copy machine has been purchased with a gift from the Curtis Finlay Foundation.

- ◆ Megan and Clay Lisenby have agreed to help Tom McMillan with the book on Escambia County to be published by arcadia Publishing.
- ◆ Jacque Stone announced that the douglas Chapel United Methodist Church will have a historical celebration on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at 2:00 p. m.

The Program

ECHS member Kevin McKinley presented a program entitled "Traitors, Vagabonds, and Scoundrels," the history of the 1st Florida Calvary.

Field Trip to Hank Williams Museum in Georgiana, May 2, 2011



**The Hank Williams
Boyhood Home &
Museum**

ECHS will resume Monday Museum trips on Monday, May 2 by carpooling to Georgiana, Alabama to the Hank Williams' Boyhood Home and Museum.

Special admission price for our group tour will be \$2.00 each. Margaret Gaston who works at the museum and who is also an ECHS member will be our

guide.

Please meet at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum

parking lot on campus at JDCC in Brewton at 9 a.m. to carpool to Georgiana. We should arrive in Georgiana around 10 a.m. for anyone who wants to meet the group there.

The group will each lunch in the Greenville/Georgiana area. Details of lunch will be announced at the April meeting. For more information on the Hank Williams Boyhood Home and Museum, the website is <http://hankmuseum.com>

Later in May, the weekend of May 20 & 21, the 32nd Annual Salute to a Legend will be held at the Hank Williams Music Park in Georgiana with a fun-filled weekend of country music, arts & crafts, food & drink and good old-fashioned fun.

Alger-Sullivan Historical Society Sawmill Day and Car Show, May 7, 2011

- ◆ **Place:** in the Historic District, Century Florida; **Time:** 9:00 a. m. until; **Registration:** 8:00 - 11:00
- ◆ **Will include:** Entertainment: live music, dancers; Food; Crafts and displays; History books, cookbooks, and more; Tours of all three museums; Chance to see progress on Old 100 Restoration.
- ◆ **The Car Show will include all classes from Model T to late models, modified, restored and stock. Points for Awards will be counted at 1:00 p. m.**
- ◆ **There will be dash plaques and trophies.**
- ◆ **For general information, call: 850-256-3980, 850-256-2029, or 850-5160-4747**

Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church Historical Celebration

History of Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church

The Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church, located on Highway 29 in Damascus, 17 miles northeast of Brewton, Alabama is planning a church historical celebration on Saturday, May 7th, 2011 beginning at 2 p.m. in the afternoon.



Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church, April 2011

Picture Courtesy of Darryl Searcy

Refreshments will be served after the program.

Douglas Chapel is presently on the charge with East Brewton United Methodist Church. Reverend George Weaver serves as pastor of both churches.

According to Annie Waters's History of Escambia County Alabama, a number of small Methodist community churches were organized in the 1900's where part time preaching services were held and Sunday Schools carried on a strong regular program.

A pastor often served four or more churches, but when the depression came, many had to close their doors. Two of the churches established during that time that still existed when Mrs. Waters wrote her book included Douglas Chapel and Travis Chapel.

Mrs. Amy Beasley has information that, according to a history of the Douglas Family (with information from Mrs. Elizabeth Lovelace who was a granddaughter of the Douglas ministers), the Douglas Family left North Carolina in 1865 for Alabama. Archibald Douglas and William Douglas, who were brothers and licensed local preachers, journeyed southward into Escambia County and rested "near

the shores of the Conecuh River." These men also built a ferry near the river.

Rev. William Douglas was also a physician and practiced medicine for many years throughout the territory. The new-comers from North Carolina founded the little village of Douglasville where they

erected a sawmill, homes, and a church. An old time camp meeting was held every fall in Douglasville.



Earlier Church Building

An article printed in The Methodist Story (July/August 1959, page 29, written by Mrs. Amy McGowin), states that Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church was organized in 1903.

The older church photo, pictured on the left, is of a church located on John Douglas' land about two blocks off highway 29 and about three miles north of Mrs. Amy (McGowin) Beasley's present home at 15464 Highway 29. According to Mrs. Beasley, this area was called Douglasville.

Mrs. Amy writes that for the first 25 years, the church couldn't adequately seat the congregation when there was a revival. However, World War II intervened and people moved away. The church services dwindled to only once a month. The doors to Douglas Chapel finally closed in 1955.

Then in June of 1957, the Rev. Fred L. Hosey was appointed to the Cedar Hill Church in Brewton and the Methodist District Superintendent, the Rev. G. W. Kerlin asked Rev. Hosey to reactivate the Douglas Chapel Church.

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Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church Historical Celebration *(continued)*

(Continued from page 6)

After visiting local residents, fifty people gathered at the chapel in October 1959 and decided to reopen the church. Rev. Hosey began conducting semi-monthly services.

According to Mrs. McGowin's 1959 article, the building that had been closed for four years was ready to collapse. Windows were broken, steps were unsafe.

With usable materials from the old church, the present building was constructed at the current location. A homecoming and consecration program was held

on November 16, 1958 and attended by 125 people.

In recent years, Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church has added a new fellowship hall. New sanctuary windows have been installed and a wheelchair ramp has been added to the structure.

Three wooden crosses were also placed near the church and are easily visible from highway 29.

Area residents with ties to Douglas Chapel United Methodist Church and the community of Douglasville are encouraged to attend the historical celebration on Saturday, May 7

Douglasville

Annie Waters in her History of Escambia County, Alabama gives this background on Douglasville:

Douglasville was a mill town located on Mayo Creek a short distance from the Conecuh River. The mill was owned by C. Y. Mayo and his sons, C. Y. Mayo, Jr. and W. J. K. Mayo. The mill turned out square timbers which were made into rafts and floated to the Pensacola market.

Mayo also owned a flourishing brickyard in 1886 and the bricks were advertised as fireproof. The bricks were hand made and had the trademark CYM on the side of each one. Some few of these bricks are still preserved in buildings in the area.

Douglasville was a thriving small town for many years with a church and school. In 1886, C. F. Grice was the school's instructor.

The Historical Atlas of Alabama (Vol. I, 3rd ed.) notes that a post office was established in Douglasville in 1876 and discontinued in 1893 (p. 141).

C. Y. Mayo

This information about C. Y. Mayo, owner of the Mill in Douglasville in the late 1800's, is taken from the Memorial Record of Alabama, Vol. I, by Brent and Fuller, published in 1893. pp. 983-984, on the

web at

<<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/al/escambia/bios/gbs531mayosr.txt>>.

Charles Y. Mayo, Sr., had no early opportunities for a college education, but acquired a very fair share of knowledge at the schools of his neighborhood. He worked with his father in the mill business until 1847, when he went into the hewn timber business; later, he engaged in saw milling and in mercantile business, which he still follows, being at present the senior member of the firm of C. Y. Mayo & Sons, of Douglasville, Ala.

February 14, 1847, Mr. Mayo married Miss Mary Brackin, of Irish descent

During the late war, Charles Y. Mayo, Sr., was a member of company I, Sixth Alabama cavalry, (Captain J. C. Keyser), having enlisted in August, 1863, and serving until the close of the war. . . .

In politics, C. Y. Mayo is a reliable democrat; in religion he is a Universalist: he is, beside, a member of the order of Good Templars, and is universally esteemed throughout the county of Escambia and adjacent counties.

He is fond of literature and frequently indulges in composition, both, of prose and verse.

Remembering Mr. Fred

ECCHS lost a long-time member and supporter when Fred Dixon passed away recently.

Fred's wife, Barbara Dixon, shared these memories and pictures with us.

Thanks to Jerry Simmons for editing and combining the photographs

Mr. Fred

William Fred Dixon joined the coast guard when he was only seventeen, along with his best friends, "Pig Eye" Watson and Jack Peevy, both of whom still reside in East Brewton.

Fred had his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Dixon, sign that he was eighteen and born in 1925.

He took his basic training in St. Petersburg, Florida, and was assigned the task of playing revelry and taps. Fred, being a former T. R. Miller Band member, intended to ride the war out playing USO dances. However, that plan ended when he blew his eardrum out.

After surgery to correct the problem, he was shipped out to England as a "mess man." However, that plan changed because he was transferred to army transportation to serve aboard an oiler that hauled gasoline.

When remembering his experience aboard the oiler, Fred said that he threw up from St. Petersburg to the Azores, a trip that took thirty days.

Then, on June 6, 1944, D Day, he found himself aboard a ship (a Y 25 oil tanker) at Utah Beach.

After returning to the states, he joined the merchant marines and traveled the Caribbean and South



Mr. Fred

As the Young Sailor During World War Two

And

As the Astute Business Man Of later Years

America as well as the Mississippi.

Sometime in the fifties, he married Oneal Fuqua. They had two children, William Fred Dixon, Jr. (Bill), and Linda Karole.

During this period, Fred became interested in flowers and plants and began trying to root flowers. He visited nurseries in the area to learn how and opened a nursery in what is now the Brewton Farm Center in East Brewton.

He and Oneal divorced during this period and he took his plants to his father's farm off of Travis Road.

Fred never lost interest in growing things but trying to raise two children and remarrying and having three more put the nursery on the back burner.

He was working for Denard Lambeth in the construction business when Mr. Lambeth suggested that Fred purchase Mr. Lambeth's red tractor and go into the landscaping business.

The rest is history.

Fred was an astute business man and invested his money in real estate. He sold land and financed the sale for persons who were unable to obtain financing anywhere else. Many people have related that without Fred's help, they would never have had a home.

Fred always believed in the basic good of man and, given the chance, would help others improve their state in life.

Our Business Members

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

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail

The Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel has designated this as the Year of Alabama Music. As a part of this celebration of Alabama's musical heritage, the department has developed several "trails," places to visit connected with Alabama music and musicians.

Of course, one of those trails had to be about Hank Williams, Alabama's most famous country music singer/composer.

Visiting the places in Alabama connected to Hank Williams basically involves following Highway 31 (designated the "Lonesome Highway"), from his birthplace at Mount Olive near Georgiana to Greenville and then Montgomery.

Although many of the places associated with him (homes in Montgomery and Nashville, clubs he played at, studios he recorded at), are gone, those places in Alabama that can still be visited are listed.

The brochure, Hank Williams Trail, which can be found online at <hankwilliamstrail.com> is the source for many of the pictures and much of the text in this article.

The Time Line material is from the PBS program on Hank Williams, "Honky Tonk Blues," American Masters <<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/hank-williams/timeline/735/>>.

Mount Olive (1923-1930)

On the Trail, Mount Olive West-Baptist Church: is located West of Interstate 65, on Butler County 7.



Mt. Olive Church

Of two church buildings on the site, this would be the one of Hank's boyhood.

Hank was born in Mount Olive in 1923, in a log-house located southwest of Georgiana.

The house no longer exists and the property is now private and



Young Hank

cannot be visited, but the Mount Olive Church nearby can.

His mother, Lilly, played the organ at the Mount Olive Church and his love of gospel music began here.

By 1930, Hank's father's (Lon), face was becoming paralyzed and he would be hospitalized in veterans' hospitals from 1930-1937. Hank only saw him one time during this period.

Georgiana (1931-1934)



The Hank Williams Boyhood Home & Museum

Museum in 1992.

On the Trail, Hank Williams' Boyhood Home & Museum: located at 127 Rose St., Georgiana; www.hankmuseum.com/ or (334) 376-2396.

In 1931, Hank's mother, Lilly, moved the children to Georgiana and rented a house. The City of Georgiana purchased the Williams house and opened it as a

Hank did not live in Georgiana with the family for one year. In 1933, he moved to Fountain, Alabama, to live with his cousins, the McNeils.

The PBS program on Hank's life and influence (Honky Tonk Blues, American Masters Series) notes that at this early age, ten, Hank began drinking.

Many historians today believe that Hank was born with a mild form of Spinal Bifida and he started the drinking to deal with the pain (<About.com> "Country Music").

In 1934 he returned to Georgiana and began per-



Interior of Boyhood Home in Georgiana

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

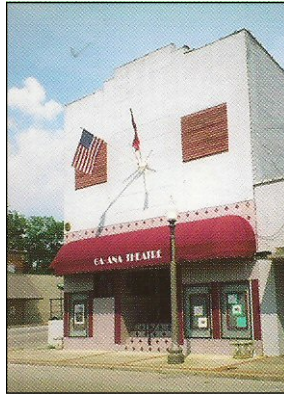
The Hank Williams Trail

(Continued from page 10)

forming on the streets. He met Rufus Payne (Tee-Tot), an Afro-American musician who was the leader of a street band. Hank credited Tee-Tot as his biggest influence.

GA-ANA Theatre, Georgiana: on the trail, located at 602 E. Railroad Ave. S., Georgiana, AL 36033, 334-376-2727

At the right is a picture of the Ga-Ana Theatre, where Hank performed with his band, The Drifting Cowboys, in 1939.



The theater closed in 1959 and was used for other purposes. Nearly demolished in 1996, the theater was purchased and renovated by J.C. Sims, who reopened it in 1999 (Brochures, Hank Williams Trail).

Greenville (1934-1937)



Butler County Courthouse, Greenville, Alabama

Greenville's courthouse and the Ritz are on the trail

In 1934, Lilly moved the family to Greenville.

As a boy of 11, Hank sold peanuts and shined shoes near the Butler County Courthouse. He attended school in Greenville..

At a later period, his band performed occasionally at the Ritz Theater on Commerce Street.

The Hank Williams Trail brochure mentions that on August 14, 1952, he performed two concerts at Tiger Stadium, the local high school stadium, during the "Greenville Homecoming" which was sponsored by the Rotary Club.

He and his mother rode in a convertible in a parade past the Ritz Theatre. He died four months later.

The Ritz Theater, with its interior now restored, hosts community performances.

Montgomery (1937-1941)

Lilly Williams moved her family to Montgomery in 1937, where she operated a succession of downtown boarding houses.

The first was north of the Governor's Mansion at 114 South Perry Street. The one at 236 Catoma Street was next to the Jefferson Davis Hotel where studios for radio station WSFA were housed.



Jefferson Davis Hotel

Hank, now fourteen, tried out for the local radio station, WSFA, and began singing on it. (The WSFA call letters stood for the "South's Finest Airport," where the station began, and whose nighttime beacon would later inspire "I Saw the Light.")

He entered local talent contests and won his first contest in a performance at the Empire Theater, singing a song he wrote called "WPA Blues."

In 1939, he dropped out of Sidney Lanier High School in the 10th grade (at age sixteen) to concentrate on his music career. He formed the first Drifting Cowboys band.

Lilly drove the band to live performances at schools and roadhouses in south Alabama.

The clubs were rough places for the band and Hank hired a wrestler, Cannon Ball Nichols, as a bass player but more for protection than musical ability (<http://www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org/node/259>).

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*

(Continued from page 11)

1941



Chris' Famous Hot-dogs

On the Trail, located at 138 Dexter Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104 334-265-6850

This was young Hank's favorite restaurant, Chris' is in the same location where Hank used to enjoy his favorite meal, a hotdog and bottled coke.

He and the Drifting Cowboys continued to play clubs in and around Montgomery as well as WSFA and WCOV until he went to Oregon to work in the Kaiser shipyard. However, he let there and returned home to work at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co. in Mobile.

1943

While still occasionally working in Mobile, he joined, for a short time, a medicine show touring South Alabama.

This is when he met Audrey Mae Guy, who was married to a service man and had a two-year old daughter, Lycrecia. She was estranged from her husband at the time.



Audrey and Hank

One of his big performances was at Montgomery's City Auditorium with a country music star, Pee Wee King. He sold King a song he had written, "(I'm Praying for the Day that) Peace Will Come" (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/hankwilliams/timeline/735/>>).

1944

He quit the job with the shipyards and returned to Montgomery. Audrey joined him and they married ten days after her divorce was final, on December 15 at John G. Wright Sr.'s automotive garage, Andalusia.



The Former Andalusia Garage, on the trail, located at

120 E. Three Notch St., Andalusia, AL 36420

Hank and Audrey lived in Andalusia in 1944 while he and his Drifting Cowboys band performed at the Riverside Inn on the east bank of the Conecuh River near River Falls.

The highs and lows of the marriage are said to have provided inspiration for many of Hank's most popular songs.

1946

Hank and Audrey went to Nashville. Hank met with Fred Rose and began sending songs to Acuff-Rose Publications. He had his first recording session in December with Sterling Records.

1947

Hank signed a contract with MGM Records and recorded with them his first hit, "Move It on Over."

1948

In April he was committed to a sanitarium for a time because of his drinking problem. His band left him and on April 28, Audrey filed for divorce for

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*

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the first time.

In August, he joined the radio show “Louisiana Hayride” in Shreveport, Louisiana and was featured on their concert tours. He recorded “Lovesick Blues”

1949

“Lovesick Blues” became his first No. 1 county hit and on May 26, Hank Jr. was born in Shreveport. In June, he moved to Nashville to join The Grand Ole Opry.

1950

He recorded in Nashville, for the first time. One session was a recording of narratives using the name Luke the Drifter, a pseudonym for Hank; he also recorded “Cold, Cold Heart.”

1951

“Cold, Cold Heart” became No. 1 on county music charts and Tony Bennett recorded a version of the hit.

Hank was hospitalized for back treatment and detoxification. His first LP was released, and he made his first nationwide TV appearance on the Perry Como Show. He disbanded the Drifting Cowboys of that period.

1952

In January, at Aubrey’s request, he moved out of the family home in Nashville.

During the spring of 1952, he stayed in a cabin at Kowaliga, on lake Martin near Alexander City. He spent weekends with girlfriend Bobbie Jett. A daughter, Cathy (renamed Jett Williams), was born in St. Margaret’s Hospital two days after Hank’s funeral.



The Cabin at Kowaliga, Lake Martin

**1 Our Children's Hwy., Alexander City, AL 35010
334-857-2133**

The cabin is on the Trail. It cannot be visited but can be rented.

The cabin has been restored by Children’s Harbor, a non-profit organization which provides free counseling and support services to children with chronic illnesses and their families.



On the Trail, Sinclair’s Restaurant

Sinclairrestaurants.com or 334-857-2133

The restaurant pictured is built on the location of the original restaurant which Hank and Bobbie Jett frequented while he was staying at Lake Martin in the Spring of 1952.

The older restaurant had a large wooden Indian at the door to greet visitors. This statue, Kaw-Liga, was the inspiration for the song Hank wrote (in collaboration with Fred Rose), about a lovesick Indian. The original Indian statue was so defaced by tourists breaking off parts for souvenirs that Kaw-Liga had to be replaced with a replica.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*

(Continued from page 13)

1952 *(continued)*

In June, he met Billie Jean Jones, who would become his second wife and they began their relationship.

In July, his divorce from Audrey was finalized.

On August 11, he was fired by the Grand Ole Opry.

On September 13, he returned to the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport.

On September 23, he returned to Nashville and in three hours recorded "Your Cheating Heart," "Take These Chains from My Heart," "Kaw-Liga," and "I Could Never Be Ashamed of You." This was his final recording session.

On October 15 he flew to Montgomery to make financial and custody arrangements for Bobbie Jett's child.

On October 18, he secretly married Billie Jean Jones at midnight in Minton, Louisiana. They were then publicly married in performances in New Orleans.

On December 19, he made his final public appearance at the Skyline Club in Austin, Texas and on December 20 moved back to Montgomery.



The Redmont Hotel

On the Trail, 2101 5th Ave. N., Birmingham, AL 35203, 877-536-2085

On December 30, 1952, his plane cancelled because of a blizzard, he left Montgomery to drive to performances in Charleston, West Virginia and Canton, Ohio.

He and the eighteen year old taxi driver he had engaged to drive him to these performances spent the night at the Redmont.

On December 31, the performance in Charleston was canceled and Hank and his driver left for Canton late in the evening.

Hank died sometime during the drive.

On New Year's Day 1953, he was pronounced dead at Oak Hill, West Virginia. At Canton that night the performers sang "I Saw the Light" in honor of Hank.

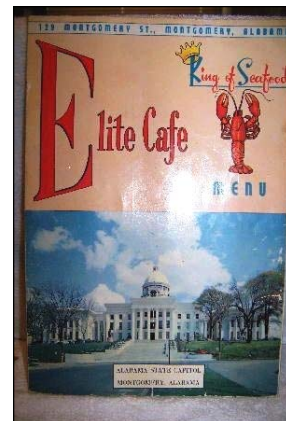
Pictured at the Right

Vintage Menu From the Elite Café

On the Trail, the Elite Restaurant is now Nobles Restaurant, 129 Montgomery Street.

Four days before his death, Hank performed several of his songs at a Christmas Benefit in the lounge of the Elite Café.

Picture from <<http://www.worthpoint.com>>



(Continued on page 15)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

1953



Municipal Auditorium, Montgomery

More than 20,000 Hank Williams fans flocked to the Municipal Auditorium (now Montgomery's City Hall) for his funeral on January 4, 1953.

There wasn't room for the crowd in the auditorium, so many stood outside in the streets. Broadcast over radio, the funeral included performances by Grand Ole Opry stars.

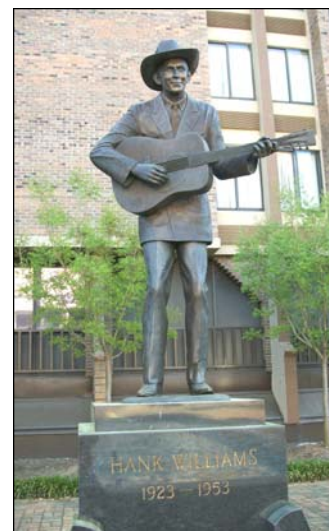


Montgomery City Hall Today,

On the Trail at 103 North Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36101, 334-241-4400

On the Trail, this life-size statue of Hank Williams, Sr., was commissioned in 1991 by Hank Williams, Jr.

It faces Montgomery's City Hall from across the street.



The Powder-Blue Cadillac in which Hank Died in the Early Hours of January 1, 1953

**The Hank Williams Museum,
Montgomery**

***On the Trail at 118 Commerce St., Montgomery, AL
36104
334-262-3600***

While the main attraction in the Museum is the car, the Museum also contains a large collection of records, paintings and personal items such as clothing.

(Continued on page 16)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*

(Continued from page 15)



On the Trail, Hank Williams' Grave/ Oakwood Cemetery Annex

**829 Columbus St., Montgomery, AL 36104
334-240-4630**

Fans and tourists stop by the gravesite by the busload or by private car every year, and many people attend ceremonies that are regularly held on the official anniversary of Hank Williams' death, January 1st, as well as on his birthday, September 17th.

Hank Williams, Jr. had his father's grave moved to the Oakwood annex. At her death, Hank, Jr. arranged to have his mother Audrey buried in a grave with a matching tomb next to Hank.

A Graveside Tradition

Country singer and songwriter, Alan Jackson penned a tribute to Hank, called *Midnight in Montgomery*, which tells a tale of a memorable visit to Hank's gravesite.

'Cause it's midnight in Montgomery
Just hear that whippoorwill
See the stars light up the purple sky
Feel that lonesome chill
When the wind it's right, you'll hear his
songs
Smell whiskey in the air
Midnight in Montgomery
He's always singing there

This song has inspired many fans and locals to visit the grave around midnight, and it is not unusual for cemetery custodians to find beer cans, both empty and full, by the gravesite in the morning.



**On the Trail, Entrance to Hank Williams Grave at the Oakwood cemetery Annex,
829 Columbus St., Montgomery, AL 36104
334-240-4630**

(Continued on page 17)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Hank Williams Trail *(continued)*



On the Trail, Tee-Tot's (Rufus Payne) Grave, Lincoln Cemetery

At the intersection of Lincoln and Harrison roads in Montgomery. A marble marker notes that Rufus "Tee-Tot" Payne, a black street performer who taught Williams to play the guitar, is buried here in an unmarked grave.

Rufus Payne

The following commentary on Rufus Payne is taken from the website <<http://joeb-tallyho.blogspot.com/2010/04/tee-tots-memorial-he-was-hank-williams.html>>.

Born in Lowndes County, Alabama, Rufus Payne grew up in New Orleans in midst of jazz musicians. Young Payne learned every instrument possible.

At the death of his parents, he came back to Greenville where he soon had a following of both races, playing jazz and blues for all segments of society. In nearby Georgiana, he met young Hank Williams, an eager student of the rhythm and beat of Tee-Tot's music.

In 1937, Williams moved to Montgomery and soon thereafter Tee-Tot came to the city where he lived until his death in 1939, a friend of Williams' family and mentor to the singer-composer.

Hank Williams stated that Payne was his only teacher. Tee-Tot died a pauper and lies in Lincoln Cemetery in an unmarked grave.



On the Trail, Alabama Department of Archives and History

624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-4435

From the Trail brochure,

This building, at the left, made of Alabama marble, is packed with historical documents and artifacts, including relics from Hank's short and storied life.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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<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.

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

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