

## ECHOES

**The May Meeting****Tuesday, May 24, 2011****3:00—5:00 p. m.****The Thomas E. McMillan Museum****The Program: The British in Pensacola, 1763—1781****Guest Speaker: Alan Gantzhorn**

Although the British Period is a short one in Pensacola's history, it is significant because it includes a time of rebuilding and refortifying Pensacola after it had been abandoned in earlier periods by the Spanish and the French, a time of the development of the economy, the period of the introduction of the town plan which is still in place today, and it ends with the Spanish victory in 1781 in the battle for Pensacola which assures there will be no British reinforcements through Florida to fight against the colonists in the American Revolutionary War.

**Our Speaker: Alan Gantzhorn**

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Alan grew up in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, graduating from Choctawhatchee High School in 1973. He attended Okaloosa-Walton Junior College and the University of West Florida, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in history in



1977.

From 1977 to 1979 he completed course work toward a M.A. in history at UWF. In 1979 he began working as an historic sites specialist at the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, where he was responsible for historic site surveys and for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

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**The June Meeting****June 28, 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 materials in the Alabama Room, beginning with the first Thursday in June.**

**Volunteers meet at 10:00 a. m.**

**Canon at the site of Fort George, a reconstruction of the main British Fortification in Pensacola.**

**Volume 38, Number 5****May 2011**

## Our Speaker Alan Gantzhorn *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

After marrying Jackie Reeves, Alan embarked on a new career, beginning studies at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. After graduating third in his law school class, he worked from 1989 until 2002 for the Georgia Department of Law as a senior assistant attorney general.

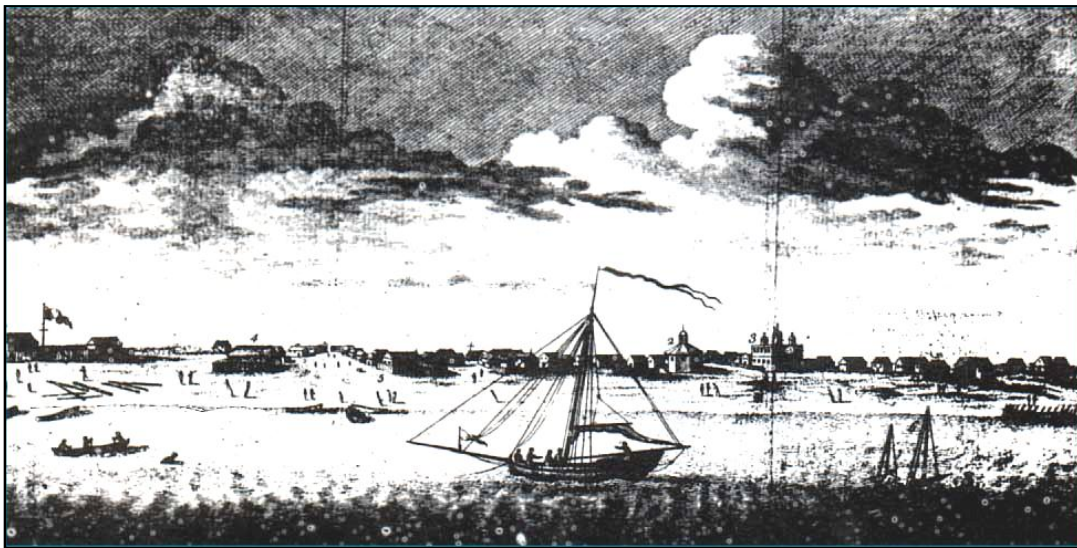
Feeling the call to ministry in 1998, he enrolled in

the Masters of Divinity program at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, graduating in 2002.

Alan served as associate pastor at Pensacola First United Methodist Church for three years.

Since 2005 he has served as pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Molino, Florida, and since 2010 he has additionally served as pastor of Cottage Hill United Methodist Church.

### Five Flags Over Pensacola



**“Illustration of Pensacola, Florida made by an English traveler and printed in a 1743 magazine. During this time period the city was located on Santa Rosa Island. The towers to the right of the center ship are of the Governor's palace. The military quarters are on the left” (Illustration and text from the article “Revolutionary War, Pensacola, Florida,” by Frank Howard at <<http://www.littletownmart.com/fdh/pensacola-war.htm>>).**

*To understand the British period in Pensacola history, it is helpful to get an overview of the different periods in that history. The following summary, “Florida’s Historic Places: Pensacola,” is quoted from Exploring Florida, an instructional summary developed by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology of the University of South Florida <<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/pensacola/pensacola.htm>>.*

#### **Florida's Historic Places: Pensacola**

Pensacola has a long history. Known as the “City of Five Flags,” it has been Spanish, French, British, Confederate, and American. Pensacola has actually changed hands 17 times in its more than 400 years

of written history. Even before that, Native Americans lived in the area for more than 10,000 years.

#### **First Spanish Period 1513-1719**

European exploration of the area began in the 16th century.

*(Note: There is disagreement about who was the first European to explore Pensacola. Several sources say the First Spanish Period of Pensacola history begins with Ponce de Leon exploring Florida in 1513.)*

First, Panfilo de Narváez arrived in Florida (1516)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Five Flags Over Pensacola *(continued)*



### City Plan of Pensacola by Elias Durnford

Map of the plan for the city was made in 1778 by Joseph Purcell.

According to the article “British Pensacola,” in *Pensapedia*, “Britain's most lasting contribution to Pensacola was a city plan and street grid, laid out by Elias Durnford in 1764, which remains largely intact to the present day.

“British Pensacola centered on a large public space which included modern-day Plaza Ferdinand VII, Seville Square and the space between the two (the area which today lies between Palafox and Alcaniz Streets and south of Intendencia Street). The water line at that time was located approximately where Main Street lies today. Within the public space was a large fort. The fort and its surroundings were the center of public life. Richard L. Campbell in his “Historical Sketches of Colonial Florida,” 1892 wrote,

“In the centre of [the public space] was a star-shaped stockade fort, designed as a place of refuge for the population in case of an Indian attack. Near it were the officers’ quarters, barracks, guard house, ordinance store-house and laboratory, two powder magazines, the King’s bake-house, cooperage shelter, and government store-house. This park was, therefore, in the early days of Pensacola, the liveliest and busiest part of the town” (quoted in *Pensapedia* <[http://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/British\\_Pensacola](http://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/British_Pensacola)>).

*(Continued from page 2)*

to search for gold. He was disappointed in his search. He was also hassled by the native people. He returned to the coast, built crude ships, and sailed for Mexico.

Next, Francisco Maldonado (1528) waited at Pensacola for Hernando de Soto. De Soto never showed up.

Then, a Spanish expedition led by Tristan de Luna sailed 11 ships into the Gulf of Mexico. They landed

near the Bay of Ochuse (Pensacola Bay) in 1559. Scouting parties found neither adequate food nor Indian settlements from which needed supplies could be obtained.

The troubles of the Spanish settlers increased when a violent storm arose. It resulted in the loss of ships, supplies, and men. In 1561, the Pensacola settlement was abandoned. It was forgotten for more than 100 years.

News of French plans for an expedition to the Gulf

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Five Flags Over Pensacola (continued)

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(Continued from page 3)

of Mexico in 1698 caused Spain to act. Spain again moved to occupy Pensacola. The second Spanish base at Pensacola lasted until 1719.

### French Period 1719-1722

The French captured Pensacola. Before returning Pensacola to Spain, France burned it.

### Second Spanish Period 1722-1763

During this period, little was done by Spanish authorities to develop the Pensacola colony. New fortifications were built and a new town constructed on Santa Rosa Island. But the Pensacola settlement, like that at St. Augustine, was not self-supporting. It had to rely on Spanish supplies and support routed through Havana. A hurricane destroyed the Santa Rosa Island settlement in 1752. The survivors returned to the mainland. Another hurricane damaged the mainland settlement in 1760.

### British Period 1763-1781

England acquired Spanish Florida by the Treaty of Paris. The territory was divided into British East and British West Florida. Administrative centers were at St. Augustine and Pensacola. When the British entered Pensacola, they were not impressed with the town. Pensacola consisted only of some 100 shabby huts, neglected gardens, and a rotting wooden fort.

During the British period, progress was made. The town became the center of trade with the Creek and other Indian tribes in the area. Naval facilities were improved. A new fortress, Fort George, was constructed. This was important to England's control of the territory and the Gulf of Mexico. British development of Florida was hurt by the outbreak of the American Revolution.

The article "British Pensacola" notes that "Britain also introduced the slavery-based cotton plantation system to the area, which, as with Britain's other colonies in what is now the southern United States, came to dominate the area's economy prior to the American Civil War" ([Pensapedia <http://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/British\\_Pensacola>](http://www.pensapedia.com/wiki/British_Pensacola)).

### Third Spanish Period 1781-1821

Spain regained control of Florida. During this period of Spanish control, Pensacola remained a small isolated settlement. A weakened Spain could not control or govern Florida effectively.

### Territorial Period 1821-1845

Newly appointed territorial governor, Andrew Jackson, accepted the transfer of Florida. This took place in the Plaza Ferdinand VII at Pensacola. During the territorial period of Florida, Pensacola developed rapidly as a leading seaport. It grew as a result of its two major industries, lumber and brick making. The town still reflected its early Spanish heritage.

### Statehood 1845

Florida gained statehood. At this time, Pensacola had passed St. Augustine in economic importance.

### Confederate Period 1861-1865

Pensacola's progress was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War. The Civil War almost began at Pensacola. Ever since Florida voted to secede in 1861, Confederate forces from Alabama and Florida had been gathering in Pensacola. They talked about attacking Union-held Fort Pickens. The attack was about to happen. But before the Confederates located in Florida could attack Fort Pickens, the Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The Civil War had begun.

Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island and Fort Barrancas and McRee in the Navy Yard were the city's defenses. Fort Pickens remained in Union hands. The Union blockaded the Bay of Pensacola throughout the war. Supplies could not get in or out through the bay.

### Readmitted to the United States 1868

After the conclusion of the war, Pensacola's importance as a center of lumber trade and as a commercial and naval port continued. "Pensacola Pine" lumber was exported to all parts of the world. A fish, known as Red Snapper, was exported to the Northeast.

# Summary of the Minutes of the April 2011 Meeting

## Old Business

Tom McMillan is working to have the historic marker for the Downing-Shofner School cleaned, painted, and freshened up. He will ask Alan Robinson to help him find someone to complete this project.

## New Business

The Scholarship committee will meet soon to choose a recipient out of fourteen applicants.

Ann Biggs-Williams was nominated for the position of Trustee for ECHS to replace Doris Bruner. Ann's nomination was approved by vote of the membership.

Sally Finlay was nominated for the position of Alternate Trustee to replace Ann and Sally's nomination was approved.

Kathryn Wilkinson reported that at the spring 2011, Alabama-Historical-Association meeting she found the presentation on the forts of the Tom Bigbee to be one of the most interesting programs.

## The Program

Guest speaker Sue Bass Wilson presented a program on Julie Tutwiler, education and prison reformer and author of the poem "Alabama! Alabama!" which became the state song.

## News and Announcements

### Donations to the Alabama Room

Recently, the library of the Alabama Room has become enriched by the donation of several items. Two books were donated by Betty Sparks of Pensacola: The Formative Period in Alabama 1815-1828, by Thomas Perkins Abernethy; and Mary Gordon Duffee's Sketches of Alabama, edited by Virginia Pounds Brown and Jane Porter Nabers.

Sherry Johnston of the Evergreen Public Library donated Deep South Quarterlies, issues from 1965-1996.

### Memorial Donations

David and Wilellen Elliott made donations to the Escambia County Historical Society at the April 2011 meeting.

A generous donation was made to the memory of the late Doris Bruner, a former ECHS Trustee.

Donations were also made in memory of former ECHS members J. Henry Hildreth and his wife, Helen May Hildreth. Families of those honored were notified of this donation and the names of those memorialized have been added to the Memorial Plaque, located on the wall in the Elvira McMillan Parlor of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

Thank you Dave and Wilellen for your thoughtful gesture.

## Snapshots of the April 2011 Meeting



**At Left: ECHS Members enjoying refreshments after the meeting. Below: Guest Speaker Sue Bass Wilson.**



# Field Trip to Hank Williams Museum, Georgiana



**ECHS Members in Front of the Museum**

**Left to Right: Charles Stone, Jacque Stone, Susan Crawford, Ann Biggs-Williams, Jo Brewton, Robin Brewton, Charles Crawford, and Evelyn Franklin**



**Above: ECHS member Margaret Gaston is pictured in the Museum where she served as a guide for the ECHS visit.**

**To the Right, Top: Margaret Gaston and Jacque Stone in the Museum.**

**To the Right, Bottom: Susan Crawford and Margaret Gaston outside the Museum.**



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# Field Trip to Hank Williams Museum, Georgiana (continued)

(Continued from page 6)



## Quilt for Silent Auction

In the three pictures on the left, a quilt made by the Avan Homemakers Quilting Club of the Georgiana area is being shown by:

Top Picture, Museum Guide Margaret Gaston and friend of the museum Joan Andrews,

Middle Picture, Joan's husband Wendell Andrews, and

Bottom Picture, ECHS members Evelyn Franklin and Susan Crawford.

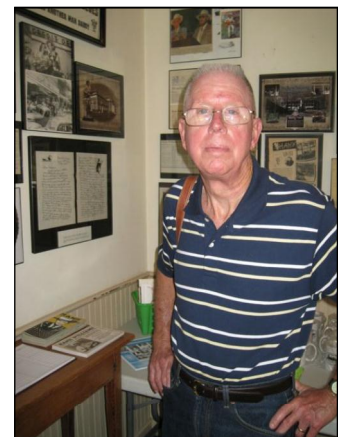
The silent auction will be held at the 2011 Hank Williams Festival on May 20, 2011.



With Hank singing over their shoulders, ECHS members Robin and Jo Brewton.



ECHS Member  
Charles Stone in  
the Museum



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# Field Trip to Hank Williams Museum, Georgiana (continued)

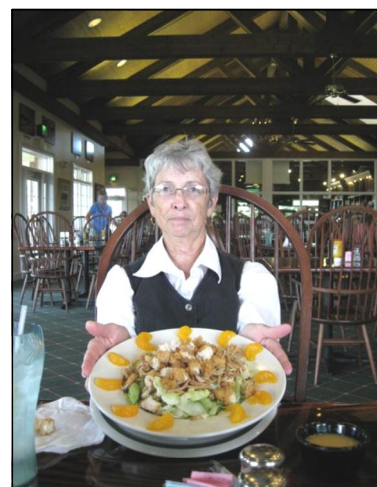
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## Lunch at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Greenville

Left: the scene from the back of the clubhouse.

Below: ECHS Secretary Jo Brewton at lunch in the clubhouse.

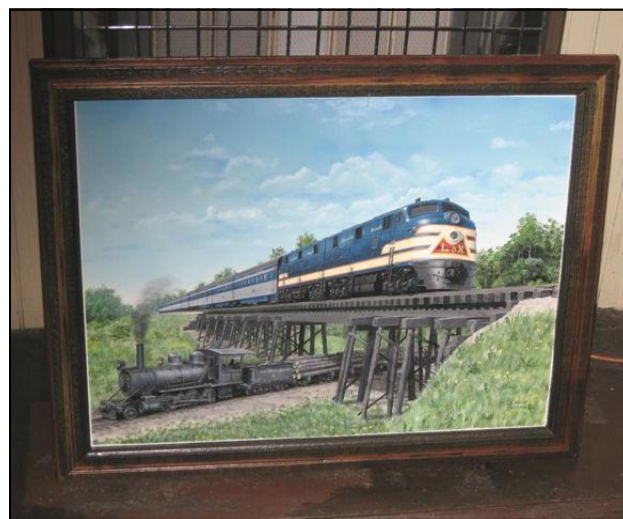


## Last Honky Tonk in Butler County

The small building with the porch and double doors is the last Honky Tonk/Juke Joint in Butler County, which has been moved to the Hank Williams Museum.



Painting of Hank in the Museum



Above, a symbolic picture showing an old steam engine used by the W. T. Smith Lumber Company (lumber company near Chapman Alabama in Butler County), emerging from under a trestle over which a diesel engine is crossing.

The picture suggests the new overcoming the old since diesel engines replaced the old steam ones,

Hank Williams' father is said to have driven one of the old steam engines for the W. T. Smith Lumber Company.



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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Citronella, Citronelle Connection

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By Virginia Lee Clark

Trying to be funny during the conversation about citronelle rocks at the February meeting, I asked if the rock warded off mosquitoes. When no one laughed, I knew I had some explaining to do.

Before Deep Woods Off and Deet, there was citronella.

A cherished part of my childhood in the 1930s was spending summer vacations at the New Jersey seashore. The town of Seaside Park, with its Victorian houses and broad beaches, was on a three block wide barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay.

I loved going in the ocean and before I knew how to swim my brother taught me how to dive under the breaking waves before they could knock me down.

I can still hear the poignant whistle from the Pennsylvania Railroad locomotive and the clickity clack as it pulled its train every night over the wooden trestle that crossed the bay.

Even now, when I think of rocking in a wicker chair on the wide covered front porch during a thunder storm, I feel cozy and safe.

And I remember the mosquitoes.

They came out at dusk when the wind blew from the mainland. If you were taking a sunset stroll on the Oceanside boardwalk you danced the mosquito boogie-woogie. This consisted of the violent flailing of the arms while hopping, skipping and jumping as you hit yourself all over. You also had non-punishable permission to hit anyone else if you even thought you saw a mosquito on them.

Citronella let you to walk in peace.

This pungent, oily liquid smeared on every uncovered part of your body warded off these blood sucking pests. It didn't kill them but definitely detracted them. There may have been brand names but citro-

nella was the basic ingredient.

Citronella candles, that date back to 1882, were an alternative to be used when you sat outside. They could be used inside, too, in case the screens weren't doing their job.

These candles are still in use. Recently, my daughter and I attended a concert at Ravinia Park, a large outdoor music facility in Highland Park IL summer home of the Chicago Symphony. Patrons can either elect to sit in the seats surrounding the music shell or sit in lawn chairs and bring a picnic supper.

Some of these can be quite elaborate featuring lobster, candelabra and damask cloths. We were more modest just bringing two buckets, one filled with the Colonel's crispiest and the other packed with citronella wax sporting a wick standing up in the middle.

In looking up the source of citronella oil, I learned it comes from the leaves and stems of various species of *Cymbopogon*, another name for lemon grass or oil grass. One of its uses is as a source for perfume chemicals. It's hard to believe that the powerful odor of citronella and the captivating scent of Chanel No. 5 come from the same plant.

As a renowned plant based insect repellent, oil of citronella is considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a biopesticide with a non-toxic mode of action. It also calms barking dogs and dog collars are available for this purpose.

Producing 40 % of the world's supply, China and Indonesia are the largest manufacturers of citronella. South and Central America as well as Mexico and South Africa also grow the plant. However, *Cymbopogon* plants can be found quite close to home.

When I first saw exit signs for Citronelle AL off I-10 after moving down to Pensacola, I thought, "So, this is where the citronella of my youthful beach

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Citronella, Citronelle Connection *(continued)*

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days comes from.ö

I had to Google to find out.

Citronelle, a city in Mobile County Alabama that covers 24.7 square miles, has a population of about 3,700 according to the 2,000 census.

The area was first explored by Europeans in the 18th century after serving as home and a hunting area for thousands of years to indigenous peoples including tribes of Choctaw and Creeks. The land was found to have healing herbs and mineral springs.

The name Citronelle came from the plant, which the article called citronella but was probably Cym-

bopogon, which grows throughout the town. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the town was a popular resort area because of the climate, herbs and supposedly healing waters. So, the citronella that found its way to Seaside Park, NJ in the 1930s very well may have come from Citronelle, AL.

There's one more note of interest.

The Citronelle Formation is composed of weathered reddish brown fine to coarse quartz sand and beds of clay and clay-like gravel. It is found in Alabama and is widespread in the Gulf Coastal Plain. It was formed in the Pleistocene-Pliocene geological period.

And, that's why I asked if citronelle rocks warded off mosquitoes. One never knows.

## Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army

### Genealogy of Partisan-Ranger Bright Malcolm "Duck" Waters

**Julius Arkansas Waters (1816 - 1870) -- Mattiebel Booker (1818 - 1881)**

**Hubert Luke Waters (1843 - 1889)**

**Bright Malcolm "Duck" Waters (1846 - 1882)**

**Missy Cora (1848 - 1878)**

**Bright Malcolm Waters - Janie Weatherford**

**2 sons, Walter Herman and George Lee "Duck"**

**1 daughter, Suzanna (Waters) Salte**

**George Teasle Waters - Daisy Harpe**

**George Lee "Duck" Waters (1894 - 1970)**

**George Lee "Duck" Waters married Lena Searcy on February 2, 1922. Their first born son, George Clayton Waters, was born June 15, 1931 and until his early death in 1981 he was called with much affection "Duck."**

**Through the generations of Waters there were no heroes, but there were proud pronouncements that a duty had been served and a history made.**

### By Darryl Searcy

It must have been a cold winter in Burnt Corn, Alabama the night that young Bright entered this world. It is said that his hair was the color of snow and his eyes were the color of blue ice. His hair and brows were so white that his mother worried the child might be afflicted with some extraordinary

disease - bad blood - no color. But he turned out to be a strong boy and gained his weight quickly.

In his first day of life, the boy was hungry. His hair was long and it swept toward the back of his head. His father made jokes about it saying it looked like a duck's tail. Believe it, the nickname

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army *(continued)*

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stuck and he would be called ōDuckö from that day forward. Every generation that followed young ōDuckö Waters would have at least one son to be called the same.

Bright was not a sickly child at all. In fact, the time came that his mama and daddy worried that he would be a handful to handle. It is said that she told her mama ōthat boy will be trouble some day.ö But he proved her wrong. He burned his energies working with his father on the small farm and tussling with his older brother until sundown. He never ran short of energy.

Mattiebel, Bright's mother, was a woman of much energy as well and her stern nurturing was just the mix that a growing child needed. She fed her husband and children well from their modest farm garden and whatever Julius garnered from the fields at the Snowden Plantation near Fairnelson. They built a gristmill and a cane mill, Julius raised horses and cows, pigs, goats, and chickens. Produce from Mattiebell's garden and barnyard was aplenty. There was food to share with every needy family that needed help.

She raised most vegetables that went on the table, kept a couple of milking cows, and butchered porkers and goats for the brine larder. She and Julius stored potatoes, onions, rutabagas, turnip roots, and smoked hams in a springhouse, and in the evenings she sewed the finest shifts for her daughter, Missy Cora, and mended work clothes for all the family.

The children grew tall and strong like their father. Young Bright often talked of adventure, of making his own way just as soon as he could leave the farm. His mother worried that with all the talk of war and the rush to ōjoining up timeö that he would jump the traces too soon.

And when a few southern states decided to ōjump the tracesö and form a union of their own, a war was sure to come and every household prepared for the

day that its men folk would have to leave. Julius was spared as his services were needed at home to increase the farm's produce output. Providing for war meant more than armament, as food and clothing would forever be high on the priority list of every family.

Bright would have to leave and join the effort. No doubt his mother's heart was breaking but duty was duty and she sent her boy off to fight in a war that few people understood.

His first assignment was with the 34th Alabama Infantry Company, along with his neighbor Joseph Peavey. It was their job to provide and tend horses and deliver supplies to the fighting soldiers. Both commodities being in short supply, it was often necessary to confiscate anything that remotely resembled a horse. Bright and Joseph became expert at ōhorse trading,ö not once thinking that their thievery would serve them well at a future time.

Joseph was lucky enough to have the company of his brother Dial, but letters home told of Dial's bitterness for fighting a war that seemed to be going nowhere. He missed his wife and child and wanted nothing more than to be at home and away from this horrible business of fighting against his fellow Americans, and probably sons and grandsons of men who fought alongside his ancestors for American Independence, and who were more than likely using weapons that those men had fought with as well.

Old man Peavey had fought in the Seminole Indian Wars in Florida, and Stanley Middleton was just one year old when he lost his grandfather, who died of complications due to the yellow fever he had brought back from the swamps of Florida.

Richard Henry's mother Lucinda Childress Medlin saw all three of her sons become prisoners-of-war in far-away camps. There was nothing she could do to comfort them. She was left alone with her daughter-in-law and two small grandsons, all under three

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

years of age. The house was burned to the ground and the women lived in the woods. The children died of either starvation or exposure.

Bright wrote to his mother that Dial was not himself and that he talked in riddles as they marched from Montgomery to Athens, Alabama and was there when the town was captured. Dial kept a diary and on the pages he wrote of a German officer having told his men, "for one hour I will turn my back." Fortunately, the local college was strictly off limits.

Whether true or not, it was later said that Abraham Lincoln was friends with the head-mistress and gave orders that no harm would come to the college. The young girls stood on the balconies that night singing "Dixie" and the federal soldiers sat on the grass outside and listened. It seemed that the German general was a loan from the Fatherland, placed with the Union armies so he could gain combat experience.

It was during this time that Bright and a handful of other able-bodied foot soldiers were called out for a special assignment. All the group were sharpshooters and particularly adept at night hunting. These traits would serve them well. Stealth and secrecy would be key to their mission. The men would be sent back to Monroe County to join with others who would be the nucleus of an elite group of soldiers known as "Partisan Rangers."

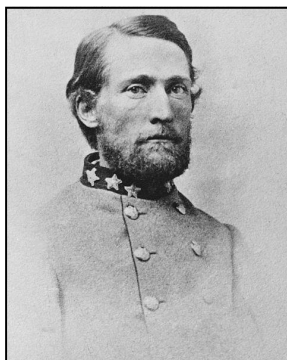
Bright, Dial and a companion, William Tomlinson, accepted their selection as being of highest honor, as it was not the first time that they



**Turner Ashby**



**John H. Morgan**



**John S Mosby**

had heard whispered stories of night raiders, and highwaymen being sanctioned by the Confederate States Army.

Throughout the Civil War, there existed many bodies of irregular cavalrymen, who, by sudden dashes on the rear and flanks of the Union armies, or in a night attack on Federal trains, had kept the outposts and train guard continually on the alert. It was also well known that much of the rationing of the Confederate armies was through captured stores. These irregular bands of men often brought substantial aid to their starving comrades in the shape of Federal provision wagons and weapons.

These independent partisan bands were far from being guerrillas, bushwhackers, or "jayhawkers," as were those of the Quantrill type, who left trails of fire and blood through the disputed territory of Kansas and Missouri.

The leaders of the best of these partisans were men whose personalities had much to do with their success, and as their fame increased with their annoying operations against the Union armies, the latter had strict orders to kill or capture them at any cost. Bright's young blood made him anxious to get started and he, along with his friends, threw themselves into the task with every fiber.

William Tomlinson wrote to his family in Goodway that three of these brilliant and daring Southern raiders became especially noted and feared. It was later recorded in the history of the Confederate irregular cavalry, that the names of Turner Ashby, John H. Morgan, and John S. Mosby stood in a class by themselves. The

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army *(continued)*

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*(Continued from page 13)*

first two were killed during the war, but Mosby, a native of Gainesville, Florida, whose death or capture was probably more desired by the North than that of either of the others, survived every engagement, fighting stubbornly for the Confederacy, even after Lee had surrendered at Appomattox.

They were handsome men, daring soldiers, and superb horsemen. Indeed, at the outbreak of the war, it was Mosby who received a commission as captain of a band of handpicked raider/rangers. The band worked in conjunction with the main operations of the Confederate armies, but were unhampered by specific instructions from a superior. Eventually, promotions and field commissions came rapidly, until he reached the high rank of colonel.

General Lee is said to have commented that Mosby was such a continual menace to the Federal trains, and moved with such rapidity as oftentimes to create the impression that several bodies of mounted troops were in the field. Coming upon an isolated column of army wagons at dawn, he would strike a Federal camp thirty miles away by twilight of the same day.

His men were picked with great care, and although there is reason to believe that Southern writers surrounded these troopers with a halo of romance, there is no disputing that they were brave, daring, and self-sacrificing. Bright and William fit exactly into the mold that Mosby had in mind to be a part of his daring band of men.

Quite often the Partisan Rangers were looked upon by the officers and men of the Union armies as mythical characters. It was said that no such man existed, and that the feats accredited to the rangers were in reality the work of several separate forces. Much of the mystery surrounding Ashby was due to his beautiful white horse, strong, swift, and a splendid jumper.

He and his horse, standing alone on a hill or

ridge, would draw the Union troops on. When the latter had reached a point where capture seemed assured, Ashby would slowly mount and canter leisurely out of sight. When his pursuers reached the spot where he had last been seen, Ashby and his white charger would again be observed on the crest of a still more distant hill.

Only once during his spectacular career in the Confederate army was Ashby outwitted and captured, but even then he made his escape before being taken a mile by his captors -- a detachment of the First Michigan Cavalry.

The group with which Bright and William were attached did suffer a brief capture, but their guile and wisdom of escape served them well. Bright related to his uncle that they were surrounded before anyone was aware of the Union troop presence. They surrendered as they were trained to do, but when Tomlinson saw several Union soldiers pushing along a cross-road, he felt like that crossing would afford them an avenue of escape.

Reaching the cross-road, they made a dash for freedom when each man vaulted into the saddle behind a Union soldier, making it an easy task to overpower and eject the Union man from his mount. Tomlinson waved for the others to follow his lead. The daring rangers raced to beat the foremost Union trooper to the open road, where they split up making pursuit nearly impossible, owing to the fatigue of a night march and the union soldiers having no thought as to the huge prize they had taken into tow.

A Sergeant Pierson, who was actually in command of the little body of rangers, stepped aside when it became obvious that Tomlinson had the upper hand and that all should follow. Sergeant Pierson grabbed a Union handgun from an officer as he took flight on a confiscated horse. He fired the weapon at a trooper who attempted pursuit, but the Union trooper did not attempt to return the fire. Only a few weeks after their narrow escape was it

*(Continued on page 15)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army (*continued*)

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(Continued from page 14)

learned that Lee had surrendered to Grant. The war was over.

In a brief note that Bright wrote to his father he stated that Ashby was by far the most gallant of all partisan leaders, adding in post-script that Ashby's death created a greater loss to the South than that of John Hunt Morgan.

To explain, John Hunt Morgan had seen service in the Mexican War. When the call to arms as an officer of the Patriot Rangers, he was the first to organize a company and pledge his support to the Southern cause. He was fearless and tireless, a hard rider, and a man of no mean ability as a tactician and strategist. Morgan's men were picked for their daring and their horsemanship, and until the day of his death, he was a thorn in the flesh of the Union commanders.

Starting before daybreak, Morgan and his troopers would rush along through the day, scarcely halting to rest their weary and jaded horses. When, worn to the very limit of endurance, the exhausted animals refused to go farther, the cavalymen would quickly tear off saddle and bridle, and leaving the horse to live or die, would hurry along to the nearest farm or plantation and secure a fresh mount.

At night, far from their starting-point, the dust-covered troopers threw themselves, yelling and cheering, on a Union outpost, riding them down and creating consternation in the camp or bivouac. Then, with prisoners or perhaps captured wagon trains, the rangers rode, ghostlike, back through the night, while calls for re-enforcements were being passed through the Federal lines.

By dawn, Morgan and his weary horsemen would have safely regained their own lines, while the Union troops were still waiting an attack at the spot where the unexpected night raid had been made. Morgan's famous raids through the State of Ohio exerted a moral and political influence which was

felt throughout the entire North.

As Morgan was promoted from grade to grade, and the size of his command increased accordingly, he became more and more of an annoyance and even a terror to the North. His troopers were no longer mere rangers, but developed into more or less trained cavalry. Yet even then, his command showed a partiality for sudden and highly successful attacks upon Union outposts and wagon trains. The death of Morgan occurred near Greeneville, Tennessee, on September 4, 1864, when, being surrounded, he was shot down in a dash for life.

Bright died quietly in his own bed at his residence near the community of Midway in Monroe County. He was laid to rest at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on cool spring morning in 1882. His friend William Tomlinson is resting in Enon Churchyard at Goodway, Alabama.

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Family Bible and notes of Janie Weatherford Waters

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Cercy to Searcy, 800 years

Lena Searcy Waters collection of diaries, letters, and pictures

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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