# E NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL FOR

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# The February Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 3:00 p. m. The McMillan Museum Jefferson Davis Community College, Brewton



Jo and Robin Brewton on the Porch of the General Store in Burnt Corn during an ECHS Field Trip in 2014.

#### **The Program**

ECHS Member
Robin Brewton (shown at left with his wife Jo),
will present a program on:
The Development of Forts in the
Western United States
during the 1800's,
particularly as Relating to
Indian Wars and Trails West."

#### **More About Our Speaker**

A native of Fairhope, where he graduated from High School in 1960, Robin Brewton has been studying historical forts as a hobby since his high school years. His fascination with and knowledge of them has been increased by his visiting more than 100.

Robin's formal education and

professional activities revolve around criminal justice and law. His formal education includes an M. A. degree in Sociology from Mississippi College and a J. D. degree in law from Oklahoma City University. He has served in a variety of occupations, as a field agent

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The March Meeting March 24, 2015 McMillan Museum Program: TBA

#### **Correction for Burnt Corn Tour**

The Tour for the Escambia County Baptist Senior Adults will begin at 10:00 a m on April 17, not 2:00 p m, and the group will

meet at the General Store in Burnt Corn, not at the Burnt Corn home of Wayne and Judy Purnell.

ECHS members are invited to join this group for the tour and brown bag lunch.



Stage Departs Fort Davis, Texas with Escort

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#### **More About Our Speaker**

(Continued from page 1)

for the Northwest Florida area with General Motors Acceptance Corp. based in Jacksonville, as a criminal investigator for the Second Judicial Court in Tallahassee, and as a special agent for the Office of the U. S. Inspector General and the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Bureau of the U. S. Treasury Department. As another part of his Career, he practiced law in Oklahoma City

Robin has also worked in the field of education. He established the criminology program at Blue Ridge Community College in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and has taught criminology at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, and at Western Carolina University in

Cullowhee, North Carolina.

His companion in this busy and varied career has been his wife of fifty years, Jo Brewton. The couple has three children.

When Robin and Jo joined ECHS, they immediately contributed to its programs and activities. While still living in Pensacola, they entertained ECHS members on a field trip to Pensacola, serving the group lunch at their home. Robin and Jo moved to Brewton in 2009 where they have continued their participation in ECHS. Robin has served as Vice-President and Jo as Secretary of the society.

As an interesting genealogy note, Robin's great grandfather, Ezekiel Glenn Brewton, who married Emma Lovelace, was a first cousin to Edmund Troupe, the namesake of Brewton Alabama. €

#### **News and Announcements**



Birmingham Public Library Again Rated as a Top Ten U. S. Public Library Resource for it's Tutwiler Collection of Southern History and Literature

The rating comes from the Jan./Feb 2015 edition of <u>Family Tree Magazine</u>. The <u>Wikipedia</u> article on the library says the Tutwiler collection is one, "that covers every facet of Southern life and culture. If you are interested in Alabama or Southern regional history, arts and sciences, geography, genealogy, or folklore you can find information on all these subjects in the Tutwiler Collection" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham\_Public\_Library).

Speaker: Amy Raley

Amy Raley will discuss why researching migration patterns can be helpful in genealogy, the major migration trails coming into our area from Georgia and the Carolinas, the history of those trails/roads, and how to use that information in your research today. She will focus on The King's Highway, The Upper Road, The Fall Line Road, and The Federal Road.

Following the business, program, and a 20-minute break, those interested are welcome to stay for a session on "Genealogical Proof Standard." These sessions are planned for the months of March, April, and May. The March topic will be an "Introduction to Genealogy Proof Standard."

For more information, contact: Charlotte Schipman at <u>850-477-7166</u> < <u>cschipman@mac.com</u>>.

#### West Florida Genealogical Society March Meeting

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Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015 Place: West Florida Genealogy Library. 5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 850-494-7373

Time: 10:00 AM

Topic: Researching Migration Pat-

terns



The Association's Annual Meeting is in Mobile April 9-11, 2015

This message from the Association:

President Lonnie Burnett, the local arrangements committee, and the program committee have prepared an annual meeting that you will not want to miss. Details and registration forms are

(Continued on page 3)

#### **News and Announcements**

(Continued from page 2)

found in the spring newsletter at < <a href="http://www.alabamahistory.net/newsletters.html">http://www.alabamahistory.net/newsletters.html</a>>.

If you prefer to register online using PayPal, or if you need to download a copy of the registration form for mailing, go to <a href="http://nebula.wsimg.com/">http://nebula.wsimg.com/</a>
57ba464f0252e5a9e95084af15961849?AccessKeyId=
4A59DE735972411EB322&disposition=
0&alloworigin=>.

If you haven't reserved your hotel room, you can do so at the Mobile Downtown Historic District Hampton Inn & Suites for \$110 per night. Mention the AHA to receive this special rate. The deadline for registration within the room block is March 9. You may call the hotel directly at 251-436-8787 or register online at <www.mobiledowntown.hamptoninn.com>.

Keep up with all the latest news related to the 2015 annual meeting by liking the <u>meeting's dedicated</u> Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> AHA2015Mobile>.

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Sunday
February 22, 2015
The Baldwin County
Historical Society
Will Present a Program
On the History and
Recollections of
Belforest

2:00 p m: Social Period with light refreshments 2:30: Program

The program will be an historical and contemporary look at the settlement of Belforest as it grew from a rural area of farmlands and orchards in the early 1800s to the large community that it is today. The presentation will be held in the building that served as the third school house for the community. The first school building, built in 1896 was severely damaged in the September hurricane of 1906 and the second building was destroyed by a fire during the 1937/38 school year.

The location for the program is the Belforest Community Center at 25500 County Road 54 West. Belforest is just east of Daphne, Alabama.

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# Marker from the The Alabama Historical Association Placed at Location of Alexander Travis's Home In Evergreen

Alexander Travis August 23, 1790—December 2, 1852

The text of the marker reads:

In the fall of 1817 Reverend Alexander Travis settled his affairs in South Carolina and immigrated to Conecuh County, where, in the spring of 1818, Beulah Baptist Church was constituted. In rapid succession Travis' firm resolve and his devotion to the Gospel of Christ led to the successful constituting of other churches in Conecuh County including Belleville, Burnt Corn, Brooklyn, Owassa (now Olive Branch), and Evergreen, as well as others in the surrounding counties and even in Florida.

In 1830, he was elected Moderator of the Bethlehem Baptist Association, a position he filled for twenty years. Reverend Travis' ministry extended far beyond his ability to interpret the Scriptures to multiple congregations. His zeal for missions conclusively led to his being considered the father of the Baptist denomination in the area where he preached and baptized and adjudicated disputes with courage and unconditional love. Primarily known as a spiritual leader, Reverend Travis was also an advocate for education and was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees for Evergreen Academy. [2014: 100 Williams Ave., Evergreen]

• Note: Alexander Travis also served, along with Noah Parker, as one of the first pastors for the Elim Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist Church in Escambia County. The Elim Church has been awarded an historic marker by ECHS.

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(Continued on page 4)

#### **Introduction to the Program**

(Continued from page 3)



ECHS Member Ann Biggs-Williams in Baldwin County Video Collection Now On YouTube

The videos produced by the county cover a variety of

subjects from meetings of the county commissioners to documentaries on the county's schools and history.

Ann appears as one of several speakers giving commentary on the Perdido School.

The Picture is from the catalogue for the YouTube videos at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/BCCommission">https://www.youtube.com/user/BCCommission</a>>. €

#### **Snapshots from the January, 2015 ECHS Meeting**













#### **Snapshots from the January, 2015 ECHS Meeting (Continued)**

















#### **Snapshots from the January, 2015 ECHS Meeting (**Continued)

















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#### **Frontier Forts of the West**

This introduction to the forts of the west is by Darrel Page from his website at <a href="http://www.ida.net/users/lamar/historicfort.html">http://www.ida.net/users/lamar/historicfort.html</a>.

"The early posts of the old West were seldom solidly constructed forts as we conceive of them today. Often there were no high stockades or permanent buildings. Sometimes there was only a blockhouse or two at opposite corners of the area being inhabited. Occasionally an underground shelter was the fort. Many fortifications were constructed by traders to protect their businesses and by settlers to protect their homes.

"As more and more settlers mowed west, the US Army was called upon to move with then. Occasionally the Army would occupy fortifications already constructed by early settlers. Usually the soldiers were required to build their own forts. The material used in constructing these forts varied with the geography of the surrounding countryside. In the desert, adobe was used; in forested areas, wood was the material of choice; in rocky areas, rock was used if masons were available to shape it.

"During the years of western expansion, Army posts were established on the basis of anticipated use. As the Indian tribes of the East moved to new reser-

vations in the west, the Army was called out to keep the tribes from waging war with each other. As settlers cleared new lands, the Army moved their posts to protect the fledgling settlements from hostile Indians and to protect the Indians' lands from being encroached upon by settlers and merchants. After gold and silver were discovered, the mass migration of miners and settlers began crowding the large Indian territories. As the Indians had no place to move, war between the whites and Indians intensified. The Army was ordered to subdue the Indians and keep them on their reservations.

"Reacting to the fast changing needs of the country, the Army would set up a post and then abandon it when no longer needed. In order for a post to be designated a fort, however, a contingent of troops had to be permanently assigned to it.

"Regardless of the life of the fort, each new outpost opened a new era in the history of the frontier, a new chapter written in courage by the soldiers, settlers, and Indian braves who fought, built, bled, and often died while creating the history of the country's growth westward. These western forts are monuments to this heritage." €

#### Fort Davis, Texas: Protecting the Way West

The National Park Service website for Fort Davis calls it, "one of the best surviving examples of an Indian Wars' frontier military post in the Southwest. From 1854 to 1891, Fort Davis was strategically located to protect emigrants, mail coaches, and freight wagons on the Trans-Pecos portion of the San Antonio-El Paso Road and on the Chihuahua Trail" (http://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm). It is considered perhaps the best preserved of all the 19<sup>th</sup> century frontier forts and one of the best preserved "Buffalo Soldier" forts in the west.

The Fort was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and became part of the National Park System in 1961. There are 24 restored historic buildings and 100 ruins and foundations. Five of the buildings have been furnished to recreate the 1800's period.

The San Antonio-El Paso Road, also known as the Lower Emigrant Road or Military Road, was an economically important trade route between the Texas cities of San Antonio and El Paso between 1849 and 1882. The road carried mail, freight and passengers by horse and wagon across the Edwards Plateau and dangerous Trans-Pecos region of West Texas (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San\_Antonio-El Paso Road).

The "Upper Emigrant Road" originated at Austin and skirted the north of the Edwards Plateau. It intersected the Lower Road near Horsehead Crossing of the Pecos River.

The Chihuahua Trail is a major land route from New Mexico through the state of Chihuahua to central Mexico.

(Continued on page 9)

#### Fort Davis, Texas: Protecting the Way West

(Continued from page 8)

To show the importance of the Chihuahua Trail, this highway in the United States " (http://discussion from Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chihuahua\_Tra

"In the late 16th century Spanish exploration and colonization had advanced from Mexico City northward by the great central plateau to its ultimate goal in Santa Fe. Until Mexican independence (1821) all communications of New Mexico with the outer world was restricted to this 1,500-mile (2,400 km) trail. Over it came ox carts and mule trains, missionaries and governors, soldiers and colonists. When the Santa Fe Trail sprang up, traders from the United States extended their operations southward over the Chihuahua Trail and beyond to Durango and Zacatecas. Superseded by railroads, the ancient Mexico City-Santa Fe road was revived as a great automobile highway of Mexico. The part in

New Mexico, State Highway 85, pioneered by Franciscan missionaries in 1581, may be the oldest highway in the United States "(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chihuahua Trail).

Fort Davis is important in understanding the presence of African Americans in the West and in the frontier military because the 24th and 25th U.S. Infantry and the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, all-black regiments (known as the Buffalo Soldiers), which were established after the Civil War, were stationed at the post.

Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt led Troops C, F, H and I of the 9th Cavalry in reoccupying the fort on 29 June 1867. They rebuilt the fort, using limestone and adobe, outside the canyon walls. The fort had been evacuated in April 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War. €



Non-commissioned Officers and their Wives Posed on the Rocks Behind Fort Davis

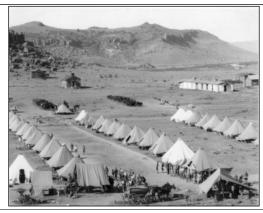




Fort Davis: 9th Cavalry NCOs

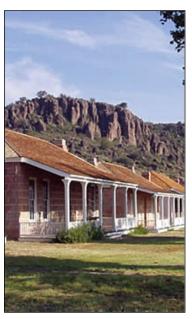
The post hospital, shown from rear, in late 1880s after additional construction increased capacity. With renovation and the addition of a second ward, the hospital was considered one of the most up to date medical facilities west of San Antonio. Photos this page courtesy National Park Service: Fort Davis National Historic Site.

#### Fort Davis, Texas: Protecting the Way West



7th or 13th Infantry at Fort Davis, ca. 1922

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service: Fort Davis National Historic Site.



Wide front porches on the quarters along officers' row encouraged socializing among the post families.

Photo by Susan Dial.
Photo and text from
Beyond the History at
<a href="http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/davis/camp.html">http://camp.html</a>>.

Troop C, 3rd U.S. Cavalry, Posing on Rocks behind Fort Davis. Photo, circa 1886-1887.

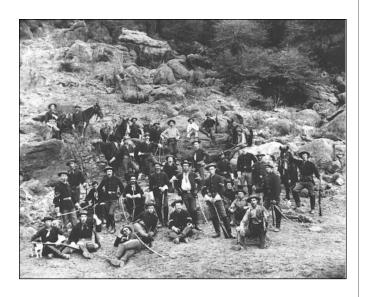
Photo and text courtesy of the National Park Service: Fort Davis . National Historic Site.



Post surgeon John Lauderdale and his family at Fort Davis in the late 1880s.

Lauderdale came to Fort Davis from Fort Clark, after most of the fighting in the Trans Pecos had ceased. Based on Lauderdale's accounts, he spent much of his time supervising the making of ice and treating soldiers suffering chiefly from "too free use of alcohol."

Photo and text courtesy of the National Park Service: Fort Davis National Historic Site.



#### Fort Davis, Texas: Protecting the Way West



Stretching across the mouth of a mountain canyon, a row of officers' quarters at Fort Davis reflects an early fall sunrise.

Photo by Susan Dial



Comforts of Hme on the Frontier. The parlor of Col. Benjamin Grierson shows the influence of his wife, Alice, who, like many other officers' wives, insisted on bringing crate loads of furnishings to make the stay on the frontier more pleasant.

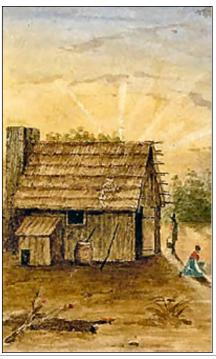
Photo by Susan Dial.



Constructed at the base of a rugged cliff in 1885, this two-story shared quarters was often occupied by junior officers.

Photo by Susan Dial.

Photos and text this page from <u>Beyond</u> the <u>History</u> at <<u>http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/davis/camp.html</u>>.



The first buildings at the fort were constructed of wood, using timber hauled from as far as 25 miles away. When more permanent structures of stone were built two years later, the earlier, crude buildings were converted to kitchens and mess rooms.

From "In Maggie's Kitchen," by Capt. Arthur T. Lee, courtesy of the Rochester Historical Society.

#### Fort Davis, Texas: Protecting the Way West



Officer's Quarters at Fort Davis in 1930's



Commanding Officer's Quarters, Fort Davis

#### Fort Larned, Kansas: Home of the Guardians of the Santa Fe Trail

The following summary of Fort Larned's history is taken from <u>Wikipedia</u> at <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Larned\_National\_Historic\_Site">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Larned\_National\_Historic\_Site</a>.

The Camp on Pawnee Fork was established on October 22, 1859 to protect traffic along the Santa Fe Trail from hostile American Indians,. It was renamed Camp Alert in 1860, as the small garrison of about 50 men had to remain constantly alert for Indians.

In May 1860 it was moved upstream to the Pawnee Fork, and by the end of the month was renamed Fort Larned. It served the same purpose as

Camp Alert and as an agency for the administration of the Central Plains Indians by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the terms of the Fort Wise Treaty of 1861.

The fort's service ended as a combination of the tribes' relocation to reservations and the completion of railroads across Kansas that ended the need for the Santa Fe Trail.

The fort became a National Historic Site in 1964. It is the first national historic site in Kansas and is overseen by the National Park Service It is one of

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#### Fort Larned, Kansas: Home of the Guardians of the Santa Fe Trail

(Continued from page 12)

the best preserved forts in the Indian Wars era. An article on the fort's 50th anniversary as a National Historic Site pointed out that when restoration began,

the fort was not in ruins as many of the frontier forts were. The entire parade ground and nine of the original buildings with original floors and original glass windows survived at Fort Larned <a href="http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article1312915.html">http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article1312915.html</a>>. €



Fort Larned as sketched by Theodore R Davis in Harper's Weekly, New York, June 8, 1867.

Pictures this page from
<http://
www.kansastravel.org/
fortlarned.htm>
and
<http://en.wikipedia.org/
wiki/
Fort Larned National His

toric Site>.



Fort Larned, Looking northwest, from a photograph of 1886.



To the Left, Fort Larned Today

To the Right, Restored Officer's Quarters



#### Fort Laramie, Wyoming: Crossroads of a Nation Moving West

This introduction to the Fort is from the National Park Service Site for Fort Laramie:

Originally established as a private fur trading fort in 1834, Fort Laramie evolved into the largest and best known military post on the Northern Plains, before its abandonment in 1890. This "grand old post" witnessed the entire sweeping saga of America's western expansion and Indian resistance to encroachment on their territories. . . .

Located at the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte Rivers in southeast Wyoming, this famed outpost - first as a fur trade post and then as a military garrison-played a strategic role in transforming the United States. Here, for 56 years successive waves of trappers, traders, Native Americans, missionaries, emigrants, soldiers, miners, ranchers and homesteaders interacted and left their mark on a place that would become famous in the history of the American west (http://www.nps.gov/fola/index.htm). €



Fort Laramie from the outside as it looked prior to 1840. Painting by Jacob Miller.

The post/fort was approximately 150 feet square, according to Miller, with bastions at the diagonal corners. Miller's paintings are the only known visual records of the fort, because the original fort was torn down in 1840 before any other artist had traveled the Oregon Trail; it was replaced with another structure, located perhaps on the same site in 1841.

Text and painting from <http://art.thewalters.org/detail/20579>.





Interior of the Original Fort Laramie as it looked prior to 1840. Painting from Memory by Jacob Miller.

Source <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Laramie\_National\_Historic\_site">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\_Laramie\_National\_Historic\_site</a>.

At Lower Left, Model of Early Fort Laramie Fort John (Fort Laramie) was originally built of logs in 1841 then rebuilt in adobe in 1934. this digital reconstruction from a NPS/CyArk project is based on archaeological data, descriptions, and illustrations from the period when the Fort still stood. It shows the south and east facades of the high-walled Fort John, which as a private trading post was fortified to prevent theft rather than out of fear of an attack. Fort John fell into disuse following the military takeover of the Fort in 1849 and disappeared from records by 1860.

At <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Fort\_Laramie\_National\_Historic\_Site>.

#### Fort Laramie, Wyoming: Crossroads of a Nation Moving West

The pictures on this page of life at Fort Laramie in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are taken from a National Park Service Historical Handbook at the website <<u>http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\_books/hh/20/hh20s.htm</u>>.



The cast of an Amateur Tableau in 1889 Featured Col. H. C. Merriam, the Commanding Officer. Picture Courtesy of Col. Louis Brechem.



Barracks for Five Companies and the New Guardhouse Viewed across the Parade Grounds about 1889. Picture Courtesy of U. S. Signal Corps.



Officers and Children in Front of Now-Missing Units of Officers' Row, about 1889. Picture cCurtesy Gen. G. W. McIver.



In 1888, Officers' Row Featured Boardwalks, Picket Fences, and Family Gatherings on Vine-Shaded Verandas. Picture Courtesy of Col. Louis Brechemin.



Guard Mount, about 1885, Facing Officers' Quarters, Now in Ruins.
Courtesy Wyoming Historical Department.



Officers' Row in the Winter of 1889. Picture Courtesy U. S. Signal Corps.

#### Fort Laramie, Wyoming: Crossroads of a Nation Moving West



Restored Barracks at Fort Laramie



Old Bedlam, Built in 1849, is the Oldest Military Building at Fort Laramie. To Many People It Is and Was the Symbol of Fort Laramie. Originally a Bachelor's Quarters.

Text and Photograph from <a href="http://www.ultimatewyoming.com/">http://www.ultimatewyoming.com/>.



Commanding Officer's Quarters, Fort Laramie

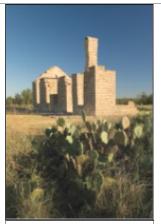
#### Fort Griffin, Texas: Commanding the Southern Plains

Holding command over the Southern Plains, Fort Griffin served as one in a line of western defensive forts from 1867 to 1881. It was established by four companies of the Sixth Cavalry in the northern part of West Texas, to give settlers protection from Comanche and Kiowa raids. Remnants of the fort remain today at Fort Griffin State Historic Site, which is also home to the official State-of-Texas Longhorn-Cattle-Herd.

The fort served as a stop for expeditions headed westward and for a time a

settled community built up around it, catering to passing wagon trains and military personnel that sought the town's saloons for recreation.

By 1870, a rough town, called the Flat, emerged



Ruins of the Old Fort

just north of the fort and quickly became known as one of the wildest places in the west. The Flat was a stopoff place for cattle drives headed north to Dodge City, Kansas.

Several notable gun fighters passed through the town, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. John Selman, who eventually became known for killing outlaw John Wesley Hardin, worked there and in the surrounding county as a deputy sheriff. General William Tecumseh Sherman visited the fort in 1871

Following the Red River War of 1874, the Comanche and Kiowa threat on the prairies was gone and the fort was abandoned. There are plans to restore buildings at the fort. €



3803 Junior White Company

This is the CCC group which worked at Fort Griffin in 1940-1941 on restoration of the site of the fort. The group was disbanded after only 18 months because of the war.

#### Fort Bowie: Guardian of Apache Pass

The National Park Service introduction to Fort Bowie states that it "commemorates the bitter conflict between Chiricahua Apaches and the U.S. military - a lasting monument to the bravery and endurance of U.S. soldiers in paving the way for settlement and the taming of the western frontier. It provides insight into a "clash of cultures," a young nation in pursuit of "manifest destiny," and the hunter/gatherer society fighting to preserve its existence" (http://www.nps.gov/fobo/index.htm).

Kristin Sanderson of the Fort Bowie National Historic Site notes that the conflict was based on who would control Apache Pass which lead to Apache Springs, a source of water, a commodity so valuable to those traveling through and living in the arid, hot lands of Arizona.

Fort Bowie was established after Union forces, the California Volunteers, were ambushed at Apache pass as they were in pursuit of confederate forces who were in New Mexico territory.

Sanderson writes, "Days after this battle Fort Bowie was established to guard the water and the pass and to escort travelers, mail couriers, and military supply wagons safely through the pass" (<a href="http://www.frontiertraveler.com/arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizona-territory/">http://www.frontiertraveler.com/arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizona-territory/</a>. €

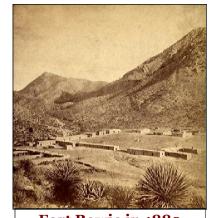


Geronimo in Fort Bowie

http://
www.frontiertraveler.com/
arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizonaterritory/



Above and Below
Fort Bowie Today
Adobe Walls of the Ruins
Are Covered with Cement
to Protect Them.



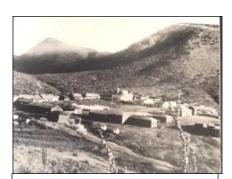
Fort Bowie in 1880 http://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Fort Bowie



Cavalry Leaving Fort
Bowie, 1880's
<a href="http://www.frontiertraveler.com/arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizona-territory/">http://www.frontiertraveler.com/arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizona-territory/</a>







Fort Bowie, 1886

<u>http://</u>
<u>www.frontiertraveler.com/</u>
<u>arizona/visit-ft-bowie-arizona-</u>
<u>territory/</u>

## ECHOES THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$25.00	

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