

## **The August Meeting** **Tuesday, August 23, 2016. 3:00 p. m.** **In the Neal Auditorium of the Neal Colonial Center** **on the Jefferson Davis Community College Campus**

### **The Program:**

**"Early Soda Pop Bottles of Escambia County and South Alabama in the 1875-1910 Victorian Period."**



**John Hoomes with Samples of His Soda Bottles Collection.**

John Walker Hoomes is a native of Escambia County, Alabama and a life-time member of the Escambia County Historical Society. He graduated from W. S. Neal High School, attended Jefferson Davis Community College, and holds B.S. and M.S degrees in the Social Sciences from Troy University.

John is currently employed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources where he is the Assistant Manager at Hard Labor Creek State Park near Rutledge, Georgia.

John is a collector of Victorian Period Soda Bottles and will be

presenting on this subject as it relates to local and regional history. In addition to historic soda bottles, John's collections include Ice Age fossils and Native American artifacts. He has donated 90% of his collections to various educational institutions in Escambia County and throughout the State of Alabama for scientific research and public education.

In August of 2013, John presented a program to ECHS on "Escambia County during the Ice Age." John's mother is Jacque Stone, ECHS's Recording Secretary.

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**September ECHS Meeting**  
**September 27, 2016, 3:00 p. m.**  
**McMillan Museum**

**The Program: Mary Humphrey, Brewton native and student, teacher and principal at Southern Normal will be our guest speaker. Her topic "Memories of Southern Normal."**

**The July Meeting is being moved to the Neal Auditorium in the Neal Colonial Center only because municipal voting will take place in our normal meeting place.**

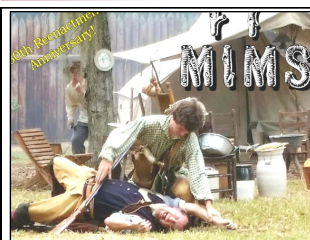


**The Neal Colonial Center**  
**JDCC Campus**

**Volume 43 Number 8**

**August 2016**

## News and Announcements



**August 27-28, 2016  
30<sup>th</sup> Reenactment  
Anniversary at  
Fort Mims  
9:00 a. m. - 3:00 p. m.  
Tensaw, AL,  
North Baldwin County**

Burnt Corn Battle Reenactment Daily

11:00 a. m.

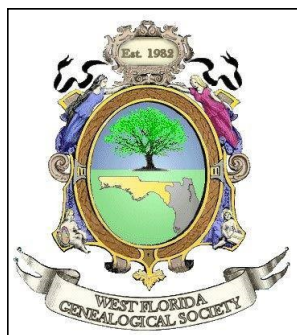
Ft. Mims Battle Reenactment Daily

2:00 p. m.

Also, activities daily include Creek Indian games and cultural presentation; Speakers on Fr. Mims History; Artifacts on display in Museum;

Crafts on display daily include: arrow heads, wool spinning, black-smithing, quilting, period music, basketry, pottery, skinning, archery, flintknapping, and woodworking.

\*\*\*\*\*



**West Florida  
Genealogical Society  
Meeting  
Saturday,  
August 6, 2016  
West Florida  
Genealogy Library  
5740 N. 9th Ave,  
Pensacola, FL**

**9:45 Refreshments  
10:00 a. m. Meeting  
Begins**

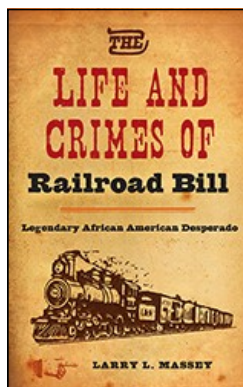
Bert Outlaw, past-president of WFGS, will present a program on "Land Entry Case Files."

Publicity Chair Charlotte Schipman writes: "Whenever the Federal Government gave, sold, or granted land to an individual, a 'Land Entry Case File' was generated. In this program we will try to answer these questions: What is a land entry case file? What is in a file? Where is it located? Where can I obtain one?"

Bert Outlaw is past-president of WFGS and has done extensive genealogical research on his family, using land records to enhance his knowledge.

Members and guests are welcome to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Alabama Heritage  
Magazine Reviews  
Larry Massey's book on  
Railroad Bill in the  
Summer, 2016 Issue**

In the article "Reading the Southern Past: Outlaws and Desperadoes," reviewer Stephen Goldfarb writes that outlaws and desperadoes fascinate us,

but "their lives also can be an interesting window into the era in which they lived" (*Heritage*, p. 60).

He reviews both the book on Moris Slater (*Railroad Bill*) as well as a book on the outlaw sheriff, Stephen Renfroe. In comparing these outlaws as relative to and windows of the times in which they lived, he notes that both were natural leaders but that Slater's choice to become an outlaw is more understandable than Renfroe's since opportunities were limited for Afro-Americans in the South of the nineteenth century.

Noting that in his book Larry Massey relates the claim that when John Lennon met Paul McCarthy in 1975 at a fair at St. Peter's Church in Woolton, England, Lennon was singing a "Railroad Bill" ballad, Mr. Goldfarb remarks "just one more piece of evidence that outlaw legends transcend their era, gaining widespread cultural notoriety" (*Heritage*, p. 62).

Copies of *The Life and Crimes of Railroad Bill* are available for purchase from ECHS.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Century's United  
Methodist Church to  
Be Rebuilt**



Pictured to the left before and after the tornado damage, the beautiful 114 year old historic church has been dis-



mantled. Plans are to rebuild on the same spot. As many original materials as possible will be used in the new church building.

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

### Alabama Committee at Work on Plans for World War I Centennial Celebrations



**"To Hell Mit the Keiser"  
"Mobile to Berlin. "**

**During World War I, young men aboard a train passing through Conecuh County. The train is painted with messages for Kaiser Wilhelm II**

An international commission has been organized to commemorate the World War One Centennial. The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) have developed the state's website as part of the United States WWI Centennial Commission's Website and the Alabama in World War I website is now live at <[WW1CC.org/Alabama](http://WW1CC.org/Alabama)>.

The Alabama WWI Centennial Committee is interested in locating WWI monuments, memorials and historic sites in Alabama. Those that have been located have been posted on an interactive map at: <<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/alabama-wwi-related-places.html>>.

A message on this internet site asks for help: *"We Need Your Help! Does your community have a WWI monument, memorial, or historic site not listed here? Do you have photographs or information about a particular site's history?"* Those with information are asked to contact Graham Neeley of the Alabama Department of Archives and History at:

<[graham.neeley@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:graham.neeley@archives.alabama.gov)>  
or (334) 353-4629.



**World War I victory parade for the 167th Infantry regiment on Commerce Street (at the intersection with Tallapoosa Street) in Montgomery.**

### Cemeteries or Graves and Tombstones of Veterans of WWI.

In regard to a WWI Veteran (or a veteran from any other era) that you would like to recognize, it is recommended that you visit the National Veterans Shrine & Register of Honor hosted by The American Village at: <<https://www.veteransregisterofhonor.com/Pages/Home.aspx>>.

Please also note that this is a National register and not limited to Alabamians.



**Floral tribute in memory of the six hundred and sixteen members of the 167th Regiment who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War. Carried in line of march by surviving comrades during the welcome home ceremonies in Montgomery, May 12, 1919.**





**Group Picture at Dry Forks Plantation**

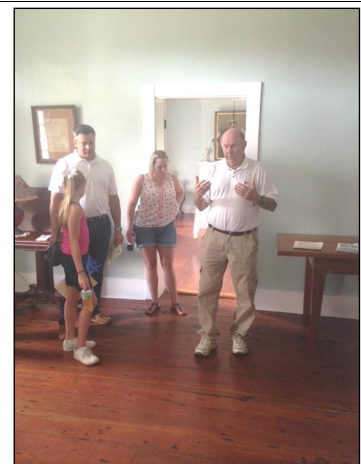


**On the Gee's Bend Ferry**



**Greeted by Officers of Wilcox County Historical Society at Female Academy Building.**

**Visiting the Meeting Rooms for the Wilcox Historical Society with the President of their Society**



**At left, detail of quilts made by Betty Gaines Kennedy, Owner of Gaines Ridge Dinner Club.**

**L to R: Viewing Betty G. Kennedy's quilts, front porch of Betty's home, and once again, beautiful quilts.**





## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Dry Fork

Dry Fork, south of Camden, near Coy, Alabama, is one of the oldest documented homes still standing in Wilcox County and is a fine example of late Federal style double-pile (four rooms on top of four rooms with a central hall) house form, containing examples of folk versions of Federal style woodwork. It was constructed for James Asbury Tait during the years of 1832-1834 by two skilled carpenter/joiners, Hezekiah and Elijah, both slaves.

The builder of the house, James Tait, came to Alabama from Georgia. He eventually became a U. S. senator and was the first federal judge for Alabama. He was appointed to that position by President Monroe

Starting in 1998, Dry Fork was restored by Gail and James Edwin (Jim) Tait, great-great grandson of the builder. Gail Tait is related to the founder of Wilcox County.

During our visit, Gail Tait gave us the history of the house and answered questions about it. She graciously invited us to tour everywhere, upstairs and down. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.



**Front View of Dry Fork**  
The Plantation is named for nearby Dry Fork Creek.



**View from the gallery at the back of the house**  
which looks out over a formal garden, pool, and pool house



**Ranella and Paul Merritt visiting with Elizabeth Grimes Reaves, our tour guide.**  
The location is the parlor at Dry Fork. Elizabeth has recently joined the staff of the Chamber of Commerce of Wilcox County. She arranged our visit to Dry Fork.



**Owner Gail Tait, in the blue top and white pants, answers questions about the house.** Here the group is gathered in the glassed-in gallery which replaced a porch originally at the back of the house.



## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Dry Fork (Continued)



**Bridal Suite**  
A bedroom upstairs at Dry Fork. The plantation serves as a wedding venue as well as a private home.



**Original wooden mantel at Dry Fork with decorative detail.**

## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Gee's Bend Ferry



**Loaded on the Ferry**



**Top of the Ferry, Captain's Perch**



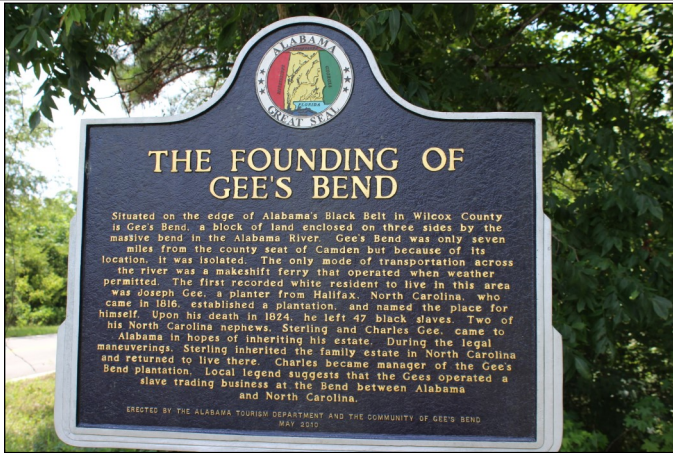
**Making a Point**



**Enjoying the Ride**



## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Gee's Bend



### The Founding of Gee's Bend

Situated on the edge of Alabama's Black Belt in Wilcox County is Gee's Bend, a block of land enclosed on three sides by the massive bend in the Alabama River. Gee's Bend was only seven miles from the county seat of Camden but because of the location, it was isolated. The only mode of transportation across the river was a makeshift ferry that operated when weather permitted. The first recorded white resident to live in this area was Joseph Gee, a planter from Halifax, North Carolina, who came in 1816, established a plantation, and named the place for himself. Upon his death in 1824, he left 47 black slaves. Two of his North Carolina nephews, Sterling and Charles Gee, came to Alabama in hopes of inheriting his estate. During the legal maneuverings, Sterling inherited the family estate in North Carolina and returned to live there. Charles became manager of the Gee's Bend plantation. Local legend suggests that the Gees operated a slave trading business at the bend between Alabama and North Carolina.



Quilters sometimes work here rather than at the Quilt Collective. On our visit there were no quilters. The Center had just finished serving lunch to seniors.



### Gee's Bend Quilt Collective

Many of the Gee's Bend Quilters work here. On the day we visited, we found quilts on stretchers, obviously being worked on, but no quilters. The large room in the building for quilting also has framed black and white photographs lining the walls which show many events and people connected to Gee's Bend.



Sign on the Quilt Collective Building.



The Boykin Post Office  
Gee's Bend's official name is Boykin.



## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Lunch at the Ferry Terminal



**Ferry Terminal**



### **Our Tour Planner and Guide**

We were so fortunate that Elizabeth Reaves has joined the Wilcox Chamber of Commerce Staff in time to help plan our visit. She made the arrangements for us to tour Dry Fork.

She also arranged a lunch for us at the Ferry Terminal. It was beautifully served and delicious.



**Above, Enjoying the Lunch.  
Below, the Buffet.**



## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden



**First Stop in Camden**  
Top left, children's toys.  
Bottom left, Jacque Stone talks with a member of the staff.

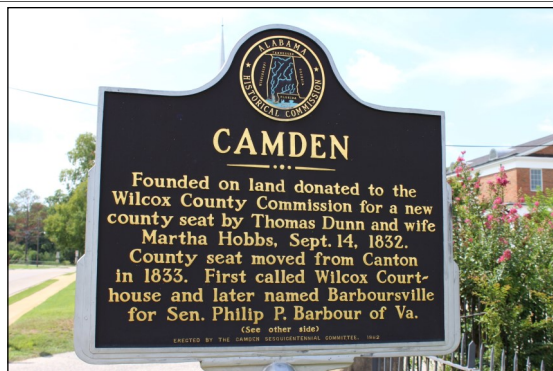
Top Right, Sally Finlay with great nephew and niece, making a purchase.

Bottom Right, Mike Edwards and Robin Brewton look at gourds with intricate artwork painted on them.

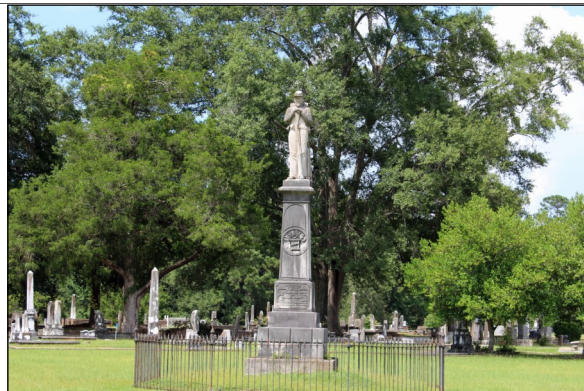




## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden (Continued)



### History

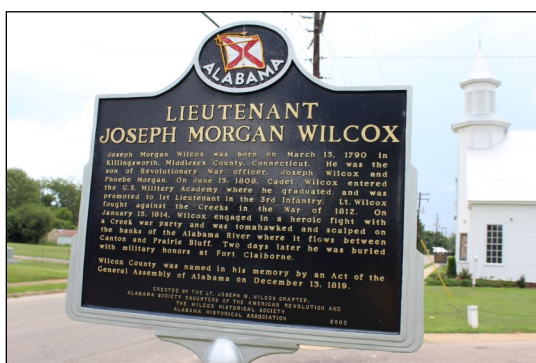


**Monument to the Wilcox County soldiers who died in the War Between the States. Located in the Camden Cemetery, the monument was erected in 1880.**

**Camden**  
**Founded on land donated to the Wilcox County Commission for a new county seat by Thomas Dunn and wife Martha Hobbs, Sept. 14, 1832. County seat moved from Canton in 1833. First called Wilcox Courthouse and later named Barboursville for Sen. Phillip P. Barbour of Va.**



**Close up of Monument to the Wilcox County Soldiers Who Died in the War Between the States.**



### LIEUTENANT JOSEPH MORGAN WILCOX

**Joseph Morgan Wilcox was born on March 15, 1790 in Killingsworth, Middlesex County, Connecticut. He was the son of Revolutionary War officer Joseph Wilcox and Phoebe Morgan. On June 15, 1808, Cadet Wilcox entered the U. S. Military Academy where he graduated and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in the 3rd infantry. Lt. Wilcox fought against the Creeks in the War of 1812. On January 15, 1814, Wilcox engaged in a heroic fight with a Creek war party and was tomahawked and scalped on the banks of the Alabama River where it flows between Canton and Prairie Bluff. Two days later he was buried with military honors at Fort Claiborne.**

**Wilcox County was named in his memory by an Act of the General Assembly of Alabama on December 13 1819.**

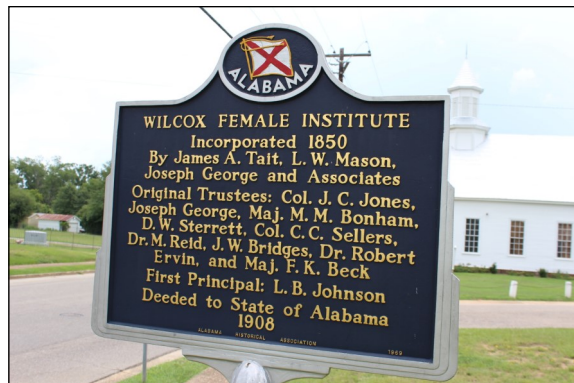
## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden (Continued)

### Wilcox Female Institute



**The Wilcox Female Institute**  
The Wilcox Female Institute was built between 1848 and 1850 and chartered as an academy for women in 1850.

The building was deeded to the Wilcox Historical Society in 1974 and today it serves as the headquarters of this group. The Wilcox Female Institute was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1937 and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on April 3, 1975.



**Sally Finlay with Officers of the Wilcox County Historical Society.**

## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden (Continued)

### Drive By of Camden's Antebellum Churches and Homes





## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden *(Continued)*

### The Wilcox County Courthouse and Public Library



The Camden Pubic Library is on the Second floor of the Wilcox County Courthouse. The library is well know for its extensive genealogy collection.

On our visit, we were happy to find that in its history/genealogy section, the library carries a familiar publication, ECHOES, the newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society.



Three of the ECHS Visitors to the Wilcox County Courthouse and Camden Public Library. Pictured in front of the massive Doric Columns that distinguish the building are left to right, Robin Brewton, Jacque Stone, and Ranella Merritt.

## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden *(Continued)*

### Betty Gaines Kennedy's House, Forty Quilts, and the Gaines Ridge Dinner Club



Front Porch of Betty Gaines Kennedy's House, which is located behind Gaines Ridge Dinner Club.

Our Hostess and Guide for the trip, Elizabeth Reaves, is visiting with two members of the ECHS group.



Leave it to Darryl to find the perfect spot to relax in the swing on the porch of Betty Kennedy's house.



Some of Betty's Quilts.

To the Left, Collectibles in Betty Kennedy's Home



## Field Trip To Wilcox County: Camden (Continued)

### Betty Gaines Kennedy's House, Forty Quilts, and the Gaines Ridge Dinner Club





## Snapshots from the July 2016 ECHS Meeting



**Charlie Ware and David Allen in the Alabama Room**



**Barbara Page, Ann Biggs-Williams, and Susan Crawford.**



**Back Row, Left to Right, Eva McInnis and Beverly Stark. First Row, Robin Brewton, Jo Brewton, and Marie Heaton.**



**At the Left, the Refreshment Table.**



**Mike Edwards, back row, talking with Don Sales. In front row, left to right, Jacque Stone, Ranella Merritt, and Barbara Page.**



**David Allen checking his camera.**



**Back Row, Charlie Booher. Middle Row, Left to Right, Mike Edwards, Robin Brewton, and Standing, Jo Brewton. Front Row, Jacque Stone.**



The painting at the left is a portrait of Dr. H. L. Kennon, signed by N(icola) Marschall and dated 1854.

Charlie stated that the artist was connected to Alabama and all of the Confederate States.

Marschall was born in Germany in 1829 but emigrated to New Orleans in 1849, then Mobile and relocated to Marion, AL in 1851, where he set up his art studio.

He also taught art at the Marion Female Seminary. He designed the 'Stars and Bars' Confederate flag as well as the gray Confederate military uniform.

During his career, he painted portraits of the members of various Southern families (including the portrait shown at the left), Confederate and Union soldiers, landscapes and religious paintings.



Our Speaker for the July Program, ECHS member Charlie Booher, shown here, presented items that illustrated the connection between Escambia County, Florida and Escambia County, Alabama.

During the program, he referred to two items he needed help identifying.

Here Charlie is holding an item shown in an enlarged version shown above.

From Charlie's description:  
"The last item I have for show is from the Brewton Iron Works. It's made of two pieces of aluminum, welded together, with a dog's head in relief on the top piece. The two holes on the flat bar look like it could be attached to something. Any clue as to what it could be used for?"

The second item he requested help with is a token from Pollard.

From Charlie:

"It says 'Fowado Store Co. Pollard, Ala.-Good for 50 cents in merchandise.' I have searched GenealogyBank, Ancestry.Com, United States and Alabama census records, AL business directories and yet to find this name (Fowado) or business. Any help would be appreciated."



## Our Business Members

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Cynthia Dean of 6-Hand Piano a Descendant of the Gee Family

By Cynthia Dean

### Joseph Gee (1763-1824)

(Cynthia Dean's notes. Info from book *The Gee Family* by W. J. Fletcher ©1937 and personal knowledge.)

Joseph Gee is my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, 5<sup>th</sup> removed. See attached chart.

Our common ancestors were Charles (died 1709) and Hannah Gee of Prince George and Surry Counties, VA.

Descendants quickly spread around VA, NC and on to other parts of the U.S. This family is said to be from England and, possibly, Manchester.

Joseph<sup>4</sup> Gee, born March 12, 1763 was a great-grandson of Charles and Hanna Gee. Joseph was the 4<sup>th</sup> generation. I am the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Joseph was the son of Charles<sup>3</sup> Gee who is buried in the family graveyard on his plantation, "Poplar Grove," a few miles out of Weldon, NC in Halifax Co. In the will of Charles<sup>3</sup> Gee, probated in Halifax Co. in November 1810, he left to his son Joseph a negro man, a negro woman and children.

Joseph<sup>4</sup> Gee was the fifth of nine children. He, eventually, moved to Wilcox Co., AL. According to the book *The Gee Family* by W. J. Fletcher, "Edmond Neville executed a deed to Joseph Gee in Halifax Co., NC in 1806. Joseph Gee went to Wilcox Co., Ala., and died at Mobile on Dec. 1, 1824. He was a bachelor, left an estate estimated at from \$40,000 to \$60,000, and his nephews Sterling H. Gee and Charles J. Gee offered to probate an alleged nuncupative will by which the deceased bequeathed all his property exclusively to the two nephews in question. But the excluded heirs contested it, apparently successfully, in a chancery suit, and from the bill we learn who were the other heirs through the brothers and sisters of the deceased by the whole blood."

**[Noncupative Will -** *The oral expression of a person's wishes as to the disposition of his or her property to be performed or to take effect after the person's death, dictated by the person in his or her final illness before a sufficient number of witnesses and afterward reduced to writing. Known as a "death bed will," such wills are invalid in certain states and in others are valid only under certain circumstances.*]

[Chancery Suit - **Chancery suits** are initiated by a bill (bill of complaint or injunction) which outlines the plaintiff's grievances against the defendant. The defendant then responds to the complaint and, after consideration of all the evidence presented, a judge issues a final decree or decision.]

According the Gee book, the Chancery Suit between heirs of Joseph was filed in 1825 in Wilcox Co., AL. The Gee book implies that the heirs were successful. The mention of it is used in the book to prove relationships. It would be interesting to look it up in the court records. Eventually, Sterling Gee bought out the other heirs.

Info about Joseph from the Auburn web site <https://www.auburn.edu/academic/other/geesbend/explore/history.htm>

Joseph Gee, a large landowner from Halifax Co. in NC, came to fertile land in the bend of the river in 1816 to grow cotton. He brought 18 enslaved blacks with him and established a plantation. When he died, he left 47 enslaved blacks and his estate to two of his nephews, Sterling and Charles Gee.

In 1845, the Gee brothers sold the plantation to a relative, Mark H. Petteway. That family name remains predominant in Wilcox Co. After emancipation, the freed black population stayed on the plantation and worked as sharecroppers and tenant farmers.

The Pettway family held the land until 1895 when they sold it to Adrian Sebastian Van de Graaf, an attorney from Tuscaloosa. But Van de Graaf never ran the cotton plantation there; a family relative was the overseer.

Joseph's nephews, Sterling and Charles Gee mentioned above, were son's of Joseph's brother Neville Gee.

Google Gee Family of Halifax Co. NC. where is mentioned manuscripts (Duke U. & Trinity College) of business papers and other correspondence of Joseph and his family.

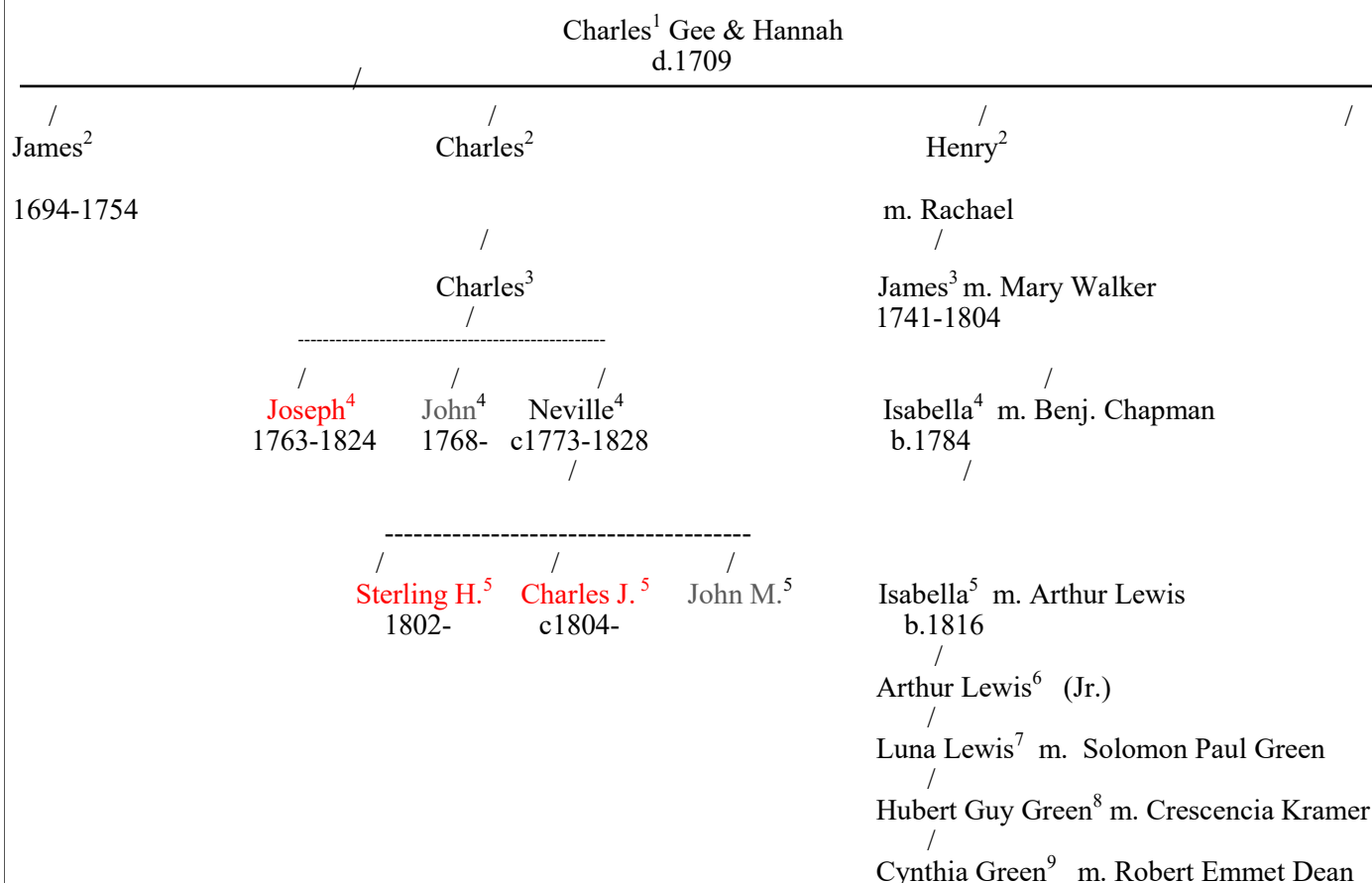
See this web site for all about the Gee Family and Gee's Bend. Also tells the Petteway connection:

<<https://geesnmore.wordpress.com/charles-gee-iii/joseph-and-neville-ge/>>.



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Cynthia Dean of 6-Hand Piano a Descendant of the Gee Family (Continued)



Charles<sup>2</sup> and Henry<sup>2</sup> were brothers  
 Charles<sup>3</sup> and James<sup>3</sup> were 1<sup>st</sup> cousins  
 Joseph<sup>4</sup> and Isabella<sup>4</sup> were 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins  
 Joseph and Cynthia are 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins, 5<sup>th</sup> removed – (5 generations removed)

### Thank You Note to ECHS from the Wilcox County Historical Society

August 9, 2016

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Wilcox Historical Society, I am overwhelmed with your most generous contribution to our Society. We are so pleased to have you all visit. No doubt you were “charmed” with Dry Fork, and Betty Kennedy’s quilts, along with Gaines Ridge and Black Belt Treasures. In addition, your encouragement to have a tour of homes may have inspired us. We will stay in touch. Again thank you for your generosity.

With appreciation,  
 Garland Cook Smith



**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-mail: [escambiacohistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:escambiacohistoricalociety@gmail.com)

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**Books for Sale**

	<b>Mailed</b>	<b>Regular</b>
<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$20.00	\$25.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$15.00
<u>Wildflowers of The Escambia CD</u>	\$10.50	\$15.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)</u>	\$35.00	\$40.00
<u>Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook</u>	\$30.00	\$25.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$50.00

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

**Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do you prefer to get your newsletter by**  
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(\$25.00/person, \$35.00/two family member at same address; Lifetime, \$250.00/person; \$50.00/year business)

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**Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year**

**Many members give a membership as a gift!**

**Business members get a large scale**  
**advertisement 11 months of the year.**

*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](mailto:escohis@escohis.org) or call 251-809-1528.*

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*Ranella Merritt*  
*Tom McMillan*  
*Sally Finlay*  
*Charles Ware, Alternate*  
*Darryl Searcy, Trustee Emeritus*



Our recent field trip to Gee's Bend (a.k.a. Boykin, AL) and Camden in Wilcox County went very well! We left Brewton in the drizzling rain and arrived at Dry Fork Plantation, where we were welcomed by Gail Tait. She and her husband, James Edwin Tait, great, great grandson of the builder, James Asbury Tait, worked to restore the 1832 house. In 1999 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. You can go on line and google Dry fork Plantation and have a tour of the home and grounds, BUT you will miss out on the detailed description of the restoration process and historic family stories told us by our hostess. After being warmly extended "the run of the house" and gardens, then looking about, we took a group picture and said farewell. As we headed to Miller's Ferry, the sun came out. A very pleasant and safe trip across the Alabama River by ferry, complete with blue sky, white clouds, and even a white heron flying by us and landing in the cattails and lilies along the water's edge. A brief visit to Gee's Bend and we make our return crossing. A big mouth bass or a sturgeon leaps from the river to get a glimpse of our group. After landing we head to the modern air conditioned terminal. Awaiting us there was our friend, Elizabeth Grimes Reaves, who had prepared an attractive assortment of sandwiches complete with garnishes, chips, homemade cookies and cheese straws with lemonade and ice water. De-licious! After lunch we were off again to visit the Black Belt Treasures, a large store where Alabama artists and craftsmen display their art for sale. There were quilts, oil paintings, books, jewelry, baskets, and many lovely "treasures". I found mine, an oil painting titled, "Wash Day", done by Stephen James of Monroeville. My great niece and nephew found theirs (a bracelet with a heart that had a cross cut out and a harmonica). Jacques Stone found a few treasures, but Don Sales may have found the best one of all, an autographed copy of a small book by Kathryn Tucker Windham. Nice going Don. There were about 20 in our group, so we separated for about an hour to rest or look around town. Our group drove around town and on the outskirts of town to see some beautiful old homes and churches. In Camden we went through the Old Court House, one of six antebellum Court Houses left in the USA. Four are in the state of Alabama. Our group was impressed by the oversized red clay bricks of the building and the black wrought iron stairs outside. The dedication plaque told of how this man had lost ten sons and two grandsons in the War Between the States. Sad. Later we met Don Donaldson, President of the Wilcox County Historical Society for a tour of the 1849 Female Institute. Next we visited the charming cottage home of Betty Gaines Kennedy, a descendant of General Gaines. Her handmade quilts, forty of them, were beautiful! Her grandson, Jack, told us they are were her pride and joy. A short walk from the cottage was Gaines Ridge Dinner Club, owned by Mrs. Kennedy. The House circa 1820's was a perfect setting for our early supper. As we gathered in the dining area, rich in history and antiques, we gave thanks to our Lord, for a beautiful and very pleasant day. Then we enjoyed fried green tomatoes and our choice of entrees (fried shrimp, grilled fish or chicken, or steak) and topped it off with their homemade Black Bottom or Key Lime Pie. It was the perfect ending to a perfect day!!

Our next field trip is November 5<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday. We will travel to Wetumpka, AL and Ft. Toulouse/Ft. Jackson to enjoy "Alabama Pioneer Days". In late March early April we will take another field trip. We will attend the Pilgrimage at Eufaula, AL and their popular Tour of Homes. These trips are for our membership to enjoy traveling to nearby places and sharing our mutual interests in history. I hope you can join us! Your President,

*Sally*