



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The August Meeting
Tuesday, August 28, 2018
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama Community College
Brewton Campus
3:00 p. m.

The Program



**Alabama Dry Dock and Ship-
building Company in Mobile
held bond drives to support U.S.
involvement in World War II.**

*From the Doy Leale McCall Rare
Book and Manuscript Library*

An episode from the "WWII with Walter Cronkite" video series entitled Home Front. The series is a magnificent 8-DVD documentary set that chronicles the events of the most devastating war in world history and is presented by Walter Cronkite (1916-2009).

These episodes were meant for TV in the 60s (with commercials), were put out as a VHS set in the 80s and are now on DVD, as many videos are.

"Home Front" will help us experience what life in America was like during wartime and see how America responded during the challenging,

News % (Continued on page 2)

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Refreshments

For this meeting refreshments will be served during the movie. Plan on bringing your favorite bite sized sweets or savories.

ECBS will provide drinks. These plans apply to this meeting only. Next month we will return to our regular schedule and serve refreshments after the program.



Logs on the Conecuh
River Floating to
Pensacola.

Volume 45 No. 8

August, 2018

September Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2018
McMillan Museum
3:00 p. m.

The Program:

Local historian, lawyer, Kevin McKinley will present a program on his new book, Shadows and Dust III: Legacies. This is the third in a series which is a compilation of the author's column, "All Things Southern." Kevin's column runs in several Southern newspapers. Kevin writes of the Civil War period.

A Correction

In last month's issue, Jesse Howard was mistakenly identified as the First Probate Judge of Escambia County, Alabama.

Actually, Frank. B. Bonifay (1835-1903) was the first Probate Judge of Escambia County, Alabama. He was also, at one time, the Probate Judge of Escambia County, Florida.

Judge Bonifay is remembered for his participation in the Mayor's race in Pensacola, May 26, 1903 where he gave an impassioned speech and then dropped dead from a heart attack.

The Program

(Continued from page 1)

chaotic days from Pearl Harbor to VJ day.

Run time is about 40 minutes. A second episode entitled "Victory: The Last Six Months of the War in the Pacific" may also be shown, but only if the

audience would like to take the time to view it. It also has a run time of about 40 minutes.

Don Sales, John Angel and Walter Cronkite will do the intro for the presentation.



From the early 1960s to early 1980s, Walter Cronkite, shown at the left, was a much admired evening news anchor on CBS, serving as a reliable source of information for many Americans.

He was often cited as "the most trusted man in America" after being so named in an opinion poll.

He helped launch the CBS Evening News in 1962 and served as its news anchor until his retirement in 1981.

Cronkite is well known for his departing catchphrase, "And that's the way it is," followed by the broadcast's date.

World War II and Alabama: The Homefront

This article from the Encyclopedia of Alabama is by Allen T. Cronenberg
<<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1348>>.

The Home Front

Alabamians on the home front contributed to the war effort in countless ways. Communities mounted scrap drives to collect metals and rubber. Red Cross chapters and other groups made bandages, knitted sweaters, and collected clothes for people injured or displaced during the war. Many more sent gift packages, letters, and newsletters to hometown men and women in the military. Montgomery's Soldier's Center, later known as the Army–Navy USO Club, was the first civilian-run servicemen's club in the United States. Other Alabama towns, churches, and civic groups established similar clubs for servicemen and defense workers. Every county in Alabama achieved its quota—a national record—in each of the federal government's eight war bond campaigns.

Rationing began in 1942. Limits on the purchase of rubber tires and gasoline reduced mobility, and hitchhiking became a common means of transportation. Public opinion polls reported that people missed sugar more than any other rationed good, including shoes, meats, and coffee. In order to save electricity, daylight savings time was introduced. The government imposed a coastal dim-out, implemented beach patrols, and restricted fishing and recreational boating in the Gulf of Mexico. For the most

part, Alabamians accepted these and other wartime inconveniences without complaint.

World War II was not just waged "over there" in the Pacific, North Africa, and Europe. The war erupted off the Alabama coast in May 1942 when German submarines arrived in the Gulf of Mexico. During the next two months the gulf was one of the most dangerous places in the world for Allied shipping. Between May 1942 and December 1943, German U-boats sank nearly 50 freighters and tankers in the Gulf of Mexico.

Alabamians on the home front got their first glimpses of the enemy a year later, in the summer of 1943, when German prisoners of war (POWs) began arriving. Four major POW camps—Aliceville, Opelika, Camp Rucker, and Fort McClellan—and numerous smaller camps housed thousands of war prisoners captured when German and Italian forces surrendered in North Africa. Local farmers, lumbermen, and businessmen often contracted with camp officials to hire war prisoners, who were paid in scrip (tokens that could only be redeemed at the camp store) for their labor.

A Changing Landscape

The state—favored by a good climate and cheap land—offered ideal sites for U.S. military bases. Fort McClellan, established in Anniston in 1917, became a major induction center. Camp Rucker, constructed

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World War II and Alabama: The Homefront



As the United States military began to grow rapidly, Franklin Roosevelt realized the need to provide support for the military and link the armed forces with the civilian population. Therefore he created the USO by bringing together these organizations: the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic community Services, National Travelers Aid Association, and the National Jewish Welfare Board.



USO Dance held in Montgomery, Alabama during World War II.

Source of Images and text: Life on the Home Front in Alabama, a Power Point Presentation, online as a PDF File.

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in 1942 near Ozark in Dale County, was Alabama's other large infantry training center. Camp Sibert near Gadsden opened that same year for chemical warfare training.

From the days of the Wright brothers, Alabama has played a conspicuous role in aviation. During World War II so many aviators trained at Maxwell Field that it came to be said that the "road to Tokyo" led through Montgomery. Gunter Field, Montgomery's municipal airport, became a flight school, and new aviation training facilities were built, including Craig Field outside Selma, Napier Field near Dothan, and Courtland Field in the Tennessee River Valley.

One of the most important and pioneering projects was the Tuskegee Army Air Field, where nearly 1,000 African Americans received their wings as pilots. Brookley Field on Mobile Bay trained air corps glider pilots and housed both the Southeast Army Air Depot, which supplied military bases in the Southeast and the Caribbean, and the Mobile Air Service Command, which modified and repaired military aircraft.

Alabama also played an indirect but critically important role in the manufacture of military aircraft. The state contained two of the nation's five plants that

played a part in the manufacture of aluminum, the most crucial metal in aircraft production, a Reynolds plant at Listerhill in the Tennessee Valley and, more important, an Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) plant at the Alabama State Docks in Mobile.

By 1943 the Mobile facility was producing 34 percent of the industry's entire output. Alcoa also operated a fleet of 29 company-owned vessels and dozens of chartered vessels to haul bauxite (a mineral used in making aluminum) from South America to the Mobile plant. The Alcoa plant was among the potential targets of German saboteurs arrested and executed in the summer of 1942.

Shifting Populations

The war produced enormous demographic changes in Alabama. Lured by the prospect of better paying jobs, thousands of Alabamians and workers from nearby states flocked into boom towns such as Mobile, Montgomery, and Huntsville. Approximately 10 percent of Alabama's rural whites and more than 25 percent of the state's rural blacks moved into towns or out of the state in search of jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. Alabama's urban popu-

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World War II and Alabama: The Homefront



Brookley Field in Mobile was the site of the Southeast Army Air Depot and the Mobile Air Service Command during World War II. The field was turned over to the city of Mobile in the 1960s and is now Mobile Downtown Airport.

Photo Courtesy of Air Force Historical Research Agency <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1348>>.



Women employed at the Redstone Ordnance Plant in Huntsville examine ammunition produced at the facility for the U.S. Army during World War II. By 1942, more than 40 percent of the employees at the facility were women.

Photo Courtesy of U. S. Army <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1348>>.

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lation grew by 57 percent during the war years. Even though wartime production began tapering off in 1944, by the end of World War II industrial and commercial jobs in the state had increased by 46 percent.

The greatest increase in urban growth occurred in Mobile, where some 90,000 people surged into the city in search of employment. Brookley Field and Mobile's two shipyards—Gulf Shipbuilding and Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding (ADDSCO)—employed 60,000 workers at their peak. Thousands of merchant seamen sailed on ships operated by the Waterman Steamship Company and Alcoa. The port of Mobile, anchored by the Alabama State Docks, was the nation's 15th busiest port. Mobile's wartime population explosion severely strained the area's infrastructure. Only San Diego, California, and the Norfolk, Virginia, area experienced comparable wartime urban stresses.

Elsewhere in Alabama, 20,000 workers flocked into the Coosa Valley to build a gunpowder plant in Childersburg—a town with only 500 residents and no paved streets—and an artillery powder bagging plant

in nearby Talladega. The construction of two arsenals in Huntsville transformed the peaceful county seat of 13,000 residents into a major center of ordnance production.

At the height of wartime production, the Redstone Ordnance Plant, which manufactured conventional explosives, and the Huntsville Arsenal, which manufactured chemical and incendiary ordnance, employed 11,000 civilian workers. Demand for steel led Birmingham's Tennessee Coal and Iron (TCI) to increase its workforce from 7,000 in 1939 to 30,000 two years later. Other Birmingham companies ramped up production to meet wartime needs as well.

The war also benefited agriculture. Cotton prices, stagnant throughout the Depression, rose as textile mills won contracts to produce uniforms, bedding, tents, and sandbags. Alabama's forest-products industry, aided by increased demand for lumber and paper products, ranked third in the nation. Labor shortages plagued agriculture during the war. Some farmers experimented with mechanization, but the scarcity of metal for civilian use postponed the tractor revolution until after the war. In some areas, farmers relied on

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World War II and Alabama: The Homefront



A poster displayed during the early 1940s encouraging voluntary participation in civilian defense during World War II, showing an airplane flying over an outline of Alabama.

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Work Projects Administration Poster Collection <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1348>>.



Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company in Mobile joined the rest of the U.S. during World War II in incorporating women into industrial roles formerly reserved for men, such as welding.

Photo Courtesy of University of South Alabama Archive <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1348>>.



Jim Sherman of Mobile received this ration book and stamps at 8 years old. Each ration stamp was numbered and featured a tank.

From a PBS special on the Homefront featuring four towns <https://www.pbs.org/thewar/the_witnesses_towns_mobile.htm>.

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Axis prisoners of war to chop cotton, harvest crops, and fell timber. The mobilization of nearly 4,000 POWs saved Alabama's \$38 million peanut crop in 1944.

With approximately one-third of Alabama's draft-eligible men in uniform, defense industries across the United States launched drives to recruit women. At the height of war production in 1943–44, women comprised about one-fourth of the labor force in Alabama's defense industries. Women who had once taught in public schools for \$800 annually found jobs as assembly-line workers in the Huntsville or Redstone arsenals for \$1,400 or as welders in the Mobile shipyards for \$3,600. Long excluded from the ranks of skilled and semi-skilled laborers, some African American men found increased opportunities in industry. More than 20 percent of the workers at

the Huntsville Arsenal were African American, including a significant number of African American women.

Alabama at War's End

By 1944 war's end was in sight. Defense plants and shipyards began scaling back production. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Allies established a beachhead on France's Normandy coast, and in less than a year Germany had surrendered. Grateful for Germany's defeat but mindful of the continuing war in the Pacific, Alabamians celebrated VE (Victory in Europe) Day somberly. Fearing massive Allied casualties in a conventional invasion of Japan, President Harry Truman, having succeeded President Roosevelt after his death in April 1945, ordered atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 15 Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender. Two weeks later, a flotilla of Allied warships, including the battleship **USS Alabama**, sailed into Tokyo Bay for formal

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World War II and Alabama: The Homefront

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surrender ceremonies.

World War II and its aftermath had a profound impact on Alabama and the nation. For many veterans the most significant—and democratizing—benefit of military service was the GI Bill of Rights of 1944, which provided greater access to college and vocational education, home ownership, and health care. Some veterans brought home to Alabama women that they married or met elsewhere. These wartime and post-war marriages produced an unprecedented "baby boom."

Fought to defend democracy and freedom, the war served as an incubator for the modern civil-rights and women's

movements, as women and African Americans were forced to give up jobs to returning veterans. In Alabama, these changes, combined with the expanding power of the federal government, gave rise to the postwar Dixiecrat movement and its inflammatory racial politics of the 1960s and 1970s. The military bases that were established or expanded during the war provided a significant boost to Alabama's economy, and many continue to do so in the present. The technological developments associated with the war industry positioned Alabama to become a leader in the aerospace industry, which it remains today.

News and Announcements



**The Annual
Reenactment of
the Battle of
Fort Mims
August 25-26,
2018.
9:00am–3:00pm
Tensaw, Alabama**

- Opening Ceremony: Saturday 9:00 with DAR memorial
 - Daily Re-enactments on site: Burnt Corn 11:00am and Fort Mims 2:00 pm
 - Enjoy 1800's Crafts and Living History.
- Location: Stockton on Hwy. 59 then west 3 miles on Co. Rd. 80.



ECHS Member Charles "Bubba" Crawford Passes Away

We will certainly miss "Bubba," here shown with his wife Susan. A member of ECHS who was a regular

at the monthly meetings, Bubba also enjoyed participating in ECHS field trips. The picture of him with Susan is from a trip to the historical museum in Baker, Florida with lunch at the Gator Café where the picture was made.



Korean War Memorial Washington, D. C.

Honoring Korean War Veterans

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking Korean War veterans for the Korean Ambassador of

Peace medal. The Korean government would like to show their respect and gratitude for the devotion and sacrifice of the U.S. troops during the Korean War by presenting the medals to veterans.

Sometimes called "The Forgotten War," in part because its memory is often overshadowed by World War II and the Vietnam War, it began after some 75,000 North Korean soldiers poured into South Korea on June 25, 1950. By the time the war ended in July 1953, an estimated 5 million soldiers and civilians had died, including more than 700 from Alabama.

South Korea's government began offering the medals in 1975 to veterans who visited the country through its "Revisit Program," which was meant to show gratitude for the vets' service, as well as see how the country has prospered since the armistice was signed.

In Alabama, there are 21,991 Korean War veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. But the state does not have a list of their

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News and Announcements

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names and addresses, so has to rely on word of mouth and local media to alert veterans to the honor.

Veterans should call 334-242-5084 to receive an application for the medal. A medal presentation ceremony will be held at a later date.



Connie Baggett of Brewton Receives Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) Award for 2018.

Connie, who is the Director of Program Management for Brewton, received the award for Outstanding ACE Local Coordinator.

The ACE Star Awards recognizes individuals who have performed above and beyond the call of duty and embody the principles of the ACE Program, a comprehensive development program designed to assist Alabama's smaller communities in their efforts to plan, grow and prosper.

The Atmore Historical Society Announces It Has Acquired Ownership of the Historic Watson Cabin



The cabin, shown above, which is located next to the Peavy-Webb building in Atmore's Heritage Park, will become the society's museum. The Peavy-Webb Building has been serving double duty as the society's Welcome Center and Museum.

"Having the Watson Cabin for Museum space will be an asset to Atmore, and Heritage Park," officials said in a release. "This acquisition is part of our on-

going effort to increase tourism and develop historic downtown Atmore. The Peavy-Webb Building is not large enough to create displays, and we have been seeking another building to house our collections and tell the story of Atmore's history."

The Watson Cabin belonged to the Atmore Leadership Corporation, and AHS signed agreements and a bill of sale, with the city of Atmore to officially, legally transfer ownership of the Peavy-Webb Building and the Watson Cabin to the Atmore Historical Society.

The city owns Heritage Park, but the Atmore Historical Society will now be in charge of scheduling all events located in the park. The city will pay for the utilities, and maintain the park grounds, and AHS will be responsible for the upkeep of the buildings.



**This plaque on the Watson Cabin
reads:**

**Watson Cabin
Built in Wilcox County,
1845
This ancestral home of the Watson
family was donated to
Leadership Atmore in 1999
In memory of
Robert Basil Watson
1905-1981**

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Favorite Historical Marker of ECHS Member Appears in Recent Issue of Alabama Living Magazine



In the April issue of the magazine, the editors had asked readers to submit photos and memories associated with their favorite marker. Ann Biggs-Williams' photo of the Lottie, Ala. Marker is one of those appearing in the magazine.

Ann’ commented about her submission: “The Lottie, Alabama historical marker at the crossroads of County Roads 47 and 61 in Baldwin County is my favorite historical marker. Seeing the marker instantly takes me back to 2010 when the entire community came together to plan a Memorial Day event that recognized veterans and placed flags on the community’s graves of area residents that had served in the military. ... Having researched the text for the marker, it is a special blessing to pass and see someone reading or photographing our marker.”

In the article, “Permanent Markers Tell Stories about an Area’s Past,” author Allison Griffin comments: “They’re often overlooked by motorists flying down the highway, but the historic markers that dot Alabama’s roadsides are a valuable, permanent resource for history buffs and travelers alike.”

ECHS certainly believes in the importance of historic markers as a permanent record since the society has placed five markers in Escambia County in the last few years. They include markers at: the Pollard Methodist Church, Pollard; the Escambia County High School, Atmore; The Lindsey-Fitzgerald House, Pollard; the Robbins and McGowin Building, Brewton; and the Elim Baptist Church, Roberts.

ECHS has plans for placing more markers. You can find photos and descriptions of all of the historic markers in Escambia County, not just those placed by ECHS, at the society's webpage at <www.escohis.org>.

Historic Marker For McCullough High School and Junior High School



This Marker Reads:

**McCullough High School
1925-1948
McCullough Junior
High School
1948-1963
Presented by McCullough Friendship
Club
1990**

Thanks to Charlie Ware, we now have a picture of this historic marker to add to our list of markers in the county.



September Program for Food For Thought,

On September 20, the lunchtime lecture series held at the Alabama Department of Archives and

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News and Announcements

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Department of History at the University of Alabama, in a program entitled, "Nott, Our Doctor: How Medicine, Race, Religion, and Evolution Collide."



Dr. Peterson, shown at the left, says of Dr. Nott,

"The name of Alabama physician Josiah Clark Nott (1804-1873) adorns a building on the campus of the University of Alabama perhaps in part because he

made it possible for scientists to speak of the origins of humanity and an antiquated Earth without first nodding to Genesis. Nott popularized a fully secular science that investigated the development of humanity two decades before Darwin's *Descent of Man* (1871). But Nott also provided solid scientific support for some of the most repugnant racial theories of the Victorian era" (<http://alabama.academia.edu/elpeterson/>).

Food for Thought is held at noon on the third Thursday of every month in the Archives' Joseph M. Farley Alabama Power Auditorium. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch, complimentary beverages are provided. Admission is always free.

Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018



ON SATURDAY night at 6:30, enjoy tales of the river's colorful past with historian Tom McGehee in the courtroom of the historic Old Monroe County Courthouse in Monroeville, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

**OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2018: SATURDAY 10 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY 1 PM - 5 PM**

TICKETS
Adults \$35
Museum Members \$25
(Monroeville Old Courthouse Museum)
Students \$10

DAY OF EVENT TICKETS
will be available at the Old Courthouse Museum on the square in Monroeville and at the Masonic Hall in Perdue Hill at 10115 US Hwy. 84 West (event days only).

ADVANCED TICKETS
will be available at the OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM on the square in downtown Monroeville. Please call the museum at (251)575-7433 for tickets and to reserve your picnic lunch.

PICNIC BOX LUNCHES
Will be available on Saturday for purchase by ticketholders. Reservation recommended.

Pioneers, planters and paddle wheelers created a town called Claiborne. Come and see what happened next ...

The Pilgrimage

Nathan Carter, Director of Sites, Monroe County Museum writes:

The Old Claiborne Pilgrimage scheduled for Oct. 13-14, 2018 promises a unique glimpse into the settlement of the forgotten town of Claiborne and of Monroe County, which was founded three years be-

fore the State of Alabama.

Claiborne's ferries, steamboats, and bustling commercial center made it our nation's gateway to the "old southwest" in the early 1800's. This event will feature docent tours of stately antebellum plantation homes rarely open to the public, historic churches, and other sites of historic significance along the

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Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018

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Alabama River in Monroe County and in neighboring Clarke County.

Other highlights will include the site of Fort Claiborne; the home of William Barrett Travis, who commanded at the Battle of the Alamo; and the oldest standing public building in the state, the Masonic Lodge where the Marquis de Lafayette was entertained in 1825.

Tom McGehee will present a program on tales of life on the river in antebellum times at 6:30 pm on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Old Courthouse Museum, followed by a reception on the lawn.

Sites on the Pilgrimage—Houses

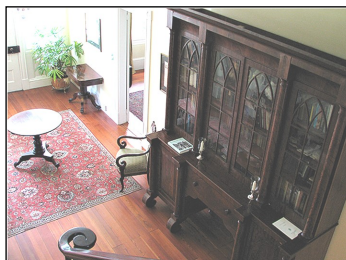
Dellet Park 1835-1839



The Dellet House at Claiborne, sometimes referred to as Dellet Park, was built 1835-39 for James and Harriet Dellet. Dellet was in Alabama by 1818, and settled in Claiborne. One of the state's early luminaries, Dellet was a lawyer, judge, planter, the first speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives and a U.S. Congressman.



The house combines Federal and Greek Revival architectural styles. Lauren Campbell, a master builder from Connecticut, oversaw construction of the 4,600-square-foot original structure. The home still has its original



doors, shutters and hand-planed woodwork, and much of its period hardware.

The detached kitchen and one slave house remain on the premises. Tucked away in the side garden are the tomb-

stones of Dellet family members.

Current owner Agee Broughton III acquired the home in 1993.

Dellet Park was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934. One can explore the recorded photos and drawings housed at the Library of Congress.

Woodlands Plantation 1834



Woodlands was built in 1834 by Frederick Blount of Mobile, an attorney and member of the Alabama legislature. His daughter, Emily, gained notoriety in Mobile society due

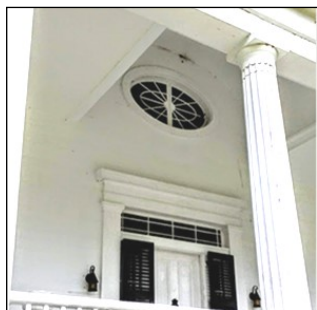
to her turbulent romance and marriage to a French nobleman, Baron de Riviere. Caldwell Delaney's book *Deep South* detailed the scandal.

The home is a classic antebellum example of a Creole cottage with Greek Revival detailing, yet it features a rare Federal style bullseye window overlooking the front portico. More uniquely,

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Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018

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Unique Ogee Window, a Window with Curves in the Molding, Over the Entrance.

the window slides! All columns are solid, hand-hewn cypress, except one, which was hollowed to store valuables.

The staircase landing served as a musician's gallery when the Blounts entertained Mobile friends, who traveled upriver by steamboat. Reflections from a mirror hanging above the gallery, and one situated above an upstairs bedroom window, allowed an "absentee

chaperone" to monitor courting couples below.

The original kitchen stood 30 feet from the rear of the house, along with five slave cabins and a sewing room. The kitchen burned, and the other buildings were razed over time. One period log building remains behind the house.

The home's second owner was riverboat captain Clay King. In 1914, George Edward Wilson bought the home, and it remains in the Wilson family. In recent years, it has also served as an events venue.



the 1830s. Before joining the Confederate cause, Bullard wisely deeded the property to his mother, to safeguard it.

The home's design and construction are attributed to Alexander "Sandy" Bragg, who also is credited

with design of the 1859 Wilcox County Courthouse. The house contains exceptional moldings and ceiling medallions characteristic of Bragg's work.

The present owner is Ann Broughton Magee. Her grandmother, Cornelia Deer Broughton, bought the home in 1931. She structurally restored it in 1952 and used it as a hunting lodge until 2005. In 2014,



View of the Alabama River

Mrs. Magee completely restored the home and gave it a much-needed facelift.

Today, the home is a favorite gathering spot

for family and friends, at holidays and year-round.

The Bullard House 1858-1859



The Bullard House was built 1858-59 for Capt. Joel Bullard on property his grandfather acquired in

The Governor John Murphy House-1820's



Local legend suggests that this early home belonged to a son of Alabama Gov. John Murphy (1825-29), whose Murphy Hill plantation was on nearby Pigeon Creek. Some believe it came into the Murphy family when Gov. Murphy married the widow of the man who built it. It was moved five

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Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018

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miles from its original site and restored by former state senator Ann Bedsole and her late husband, preservation architect Nicholas Holmes Jr.

The oldest part of the house – a family room and a smaller adjoining room – is believed to date from the 1820s. The third room in the core layout, built some years later, may have been an office.

The home features a broad Carolina-type front porch. Original

18-paned sash windows and “cross and Bible” doors were reworked and reused. The three cut limestone chimneys also were rebuilt. Across the back of the house, a contemporary addition affords breathtaking views of the winding Alabama River far below.



View Looking up the Alabama River from the home.



William Barret Travis Home-1820's



Travis cottage is a simple, two-room structure built in the 1820s and furnished with primitive artifacts of the period. It is believed that the future commander of the Battle



of the Alamo lived here with his wife and young son and practiced law in Claiborne before moving to Texas in 1831.

The home was transported 2-1/2 miles from its original location in Claiborne, and restored by Palmer and Ann Bedsole. It now stands in the shadow of the Masonic Hall where, as a law partner of James Dellet, a young Travis likely argued cases.



William Barret Travis

Sites on the Pilgrimage-Churches, A Cemetery, and the Masonic Lodge

Perdue Hill Union Church



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Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018

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town hall, school, and church.

The upper floor was used by the Masons until 1919 and retains the architectural furnishings of the order.



The arrival of the Marquis de Lafayette, pictured at left, on his farewell tour of the United States remains the most significant point in its history.

The Revolutionary War general arrived by steamboat, was entertained here, and addressed Claiborne's citi-



**Interior of the
Masonic Lodge.**

zens on April 6, 1825.

Many noted early Alabamians practiced law here, including William B. Travis, before his departure for Texas gained him eternal fame as Commander of the Alamo.

The Perdue Hill-Claiborne Foundation, Inc. was created to acquire, move, and restore the hall in 1981. It was brought to its

present site in 1984.

Today it houses a collection of historic mementos of the region. Recently, the Masonic order has resumed meeting in the Lodge Room.

The Masonic Hall was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934. Explore the recorded photos and drawings housed at the Library of Congress.

Brewton's New Mural



On the Left, "Logging," the New Mural, is by Wes Hardin of Dothan, the artist for the other murals in Brewton.

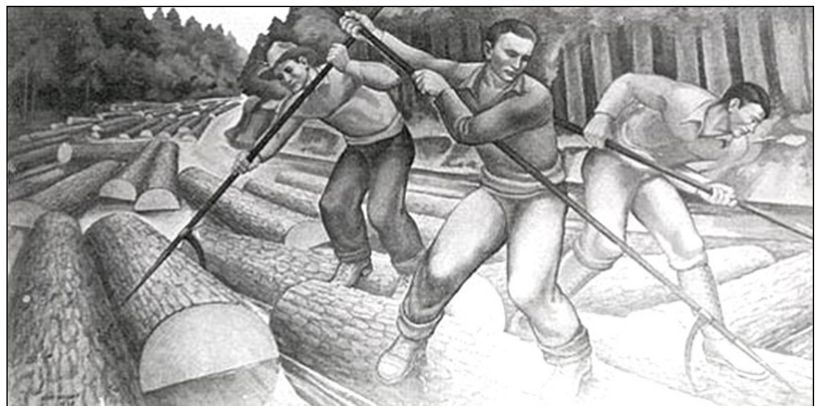
The men in this mural and the one below are depicted using a "hook and Jam" to roll the logs, dangerous work.

The new mural is located on Mildred Street, the south wall of the store Twice the Treasures, by the curb market.

On the Right, the mural "Logging," by John Von Wicht, which was on a wall in Brewton's old post office, now the county's board of education offices.

The mural was either painted over or scraped off sometime between 1965-1968. The Brewton mural is the only Post Office New Deal Art in Alabama that has not been preserved.

Photo of the mural is from the National Archives, Washington, D. C.



Fall Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne: October 13-14, 2018

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The Union Church was built in 1878 for joint use by the congregations of the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches of the Claiborne and Perdue Hill areas. Earlier in the century, many of these congregations had enjoyed their own church buildings.

But, with the demise of Old Claiborne and the burdens of the Civil War and Reconstruction, these congregations decided to relocate to Perdue Hill and build a shared house of worship to survive. The building is said to have been built from materials salvaged from an old hotel and tavern at Claiborne, at a cost of \$210, on land donated by Alfred Agee and S.S. Gaillard.

Gradually, all but the Presbyterians built their own churches or disbanded. The Presbyterians – who had founded one of the earliest churches in the area (1815) as the Claiborne Presbyterian Church -- continued using the Union Church until 1995. The pews, altar rail and most furnishings are original.

Barbara Locklin Baptist Church



The Barbara Locklin Church was built in 1888 and named for the first wife of Capt. Charles W. Locklin, owner and captain of the steamer *St. Nicholas*. Mrs. Locklin died in 1885 after the couple had retired to Perdue Hill from Mobile, and Capt. Locklin gave the money to buy the land for the church. The project ran

out of money before completion; however, the Bush family of Mobile donated the needed lumber and Capt. John Quill steamed it upriver free of charge “as a favor to the people of Perdue Hill.” These generous gifts allowed the building to be completed and pews to be built. The church has enjoyed 130 years of continuous use.



McConnico Cemetery at Perdue Hill dates to the early 1820's, the oldest marked graves being those of a mother and child who died in October 1825. The cemetery is named for pioneer and early legislator William Washington McConnico (1785-1830), who donated the property for the establishment of a Baptist church and cemetery to be named for his mother, Elizabeth Dargan McConnico. The McConnico Baptist Church was destroyed by a storm about 1900

The Claiborne Masonic Lodge=c. 1824



Claiborne's Masonic Hall is Alabama's oldest standing public building, dating from around 1824 when it was constructed on the bluff using funds from a public lottery. Its first floor served as a courtroom,

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Snapshots of the July 2018 ECHS Meeting



A Little Research before the Meeting Begins
Tom McMillan is at the computer and John Angel is standing with his back to the camera.



Visiting the Museum

As a part of his program on “What’s Going On at the Museum?” Don Sales, Museum Co-coordinator, gave a tour of the Museum to show the rearrangement and additions he has made to the Museum’s collections.

In the upper right-hand corner, viewing exhibits are Lee Merritt in the left foreground with Marie Heaton in the background and Carolyn Geck, back to camera.

The second picture in the row is of the stuffed giraffe head, the item in the collection which Don says the children who visit the museum go to immediately.

In the third and fourth pictures down the right side, Marie Heaton and then Carolyn Geck are reading descriptions for the exhibits they are examining

Above, Robin Brewton is in front of one of the first exhibits in the Museum arrangement, containing interesting archaeological artifacts found in the county.



Snapshots of the July 2018 ECHS Meeting *(Continued)*



**The Refreshment Table.
ECHS members always bring
delicious snacks.**



Enjoying the Program



**Museum Coordinator & ECHS
Vice-President Don Sales**



The McMillan Museum



**Enjoying a Visit
Before the Program,
Left to right, Jacque Stone, Lydia
Grimes, and
June Martin.**



**Flags on Display in Front of the
Museum**

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Chinese Jujube Tree (*Zizyphus jujube*) Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn) Family

**By Darryl N. (Dobbs)
Searcy**

Never heard of it?
Allow me a few minutes
of your time and I'll tell
you what I know about
it, what I was told,
where I've seen it, and
what one can do with it.
There is at least one
such tree in Escambia
County in downtown
Atmore.

Chinese poets spoke
about the wonderful ju-
jube (also known as jujuba) in 600 BC, when the
fruit was used in ancient Chinese medicine for many
nutritional remedies. Since the 1600s the plant has
been used in Europe as a medicinal herb to treat ail-
ments of the kidneys, lungs, and liver.

When harvesting plant specimens for pharmaceu-
tical companies during expedition work, the harvest-
ing of jujube leaf and fruit specimens was required
of our team while in the Indian subcontinent,
Malaysia and Madagascar. When locating a jujube
tree, our team members harvested the green fruits
and ate them as trail snacks. Our cooks often used
them as a table treat similar to apple butter, and the
dried fruits were used in breads and in mincemeat
turnovers.

The Chinese Jujube tree was first brought to
America by Oriental immigrants who came here to
build the Arizona Eastern and the Phoenix Eastern
railroads during the 1800's. Since that time, hun-
dreds of grafted jujube cultivars have become avail-
able throughout the world. For test purposes, in 1908,
the USDA imported the standard trunk tree for
development at the Tifton, Georgia Experimental
Station.

Accordingly, most plantings beyond the experi-
mental station were as ornamentals in the domestic
landscape, while the valuable fruits were rarely
harvested for anything other than an occasional fruit
picked for amusement. Simply put, the tree could
not compete with the delicious apples and peaches



Jujube Tree with Fruit

grown throughout the
Southern and Midwest-
ern states. As well, the
American farm house-
wife found it too time
consuming to gather the
small olive-like fruit,
wash and cook it for a
few minutes to tender
the pulp, and then load
the batch in a food mill
in order to separate the
pit from the core.

In about 1924 the
USDA again introduced
the jujube to the western

U.S. where it was described as a "Chinese Date" not-
ing that "they have a delicious fruit with a smooth
brown skin and ivory pulp (you eat the pulp and the
skin). It is not as firm as an apple, but is more like a
peach." It was suggested that the fruits be rendered
into jams and jellies or candied.

Even though the trees were known to be well
adapted to dry and sandy soils, requiring little to no
special attention, the tree branches develop stout
prickles that are intended to discourage animals for-
aging on the vitamin rich leaves. The tree is cold
hardy, late flowering, and virtually frost proof. The
flowers attract hordes of honeybees, which, in turn,
render an abundance of delicious honey. Again, ex-
cept for the Asian communities that sprang up
throughout the western states, the experiment was a
total bust.

Nevertheless, while in Atmore in late July, I came
upon a very healthy jujube tree in downtown
Atmore. I set about harvesting a gallon or so of the
fruits for my home use. During foraging the fruits,
an older gentleman and his wife stopped at the tree
location to talk and soon offered a hand to gather the
fruits alongside me. They knew all about the tree, as
well as some of its history.

We talked at length about how the tree came to be
in this particular location. The couple knew it was
there, but was not aware that the fruits could be con-
sumed, aside from gathering the dried drupes, or to

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Chinese Jujube Tree (*Zizyphus jujube*) Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn) Family

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punch out the pit and eat it as a green olive. The couple apparently loved to tell a story as they knew it and related to me that in olden days an Armenian Jewish hottentot (referring to the family as a first of their kind) settled at Williams Station - now known as Atmore.

The Armenian family had brought with them a few seeds from the fruit, which they called "Russian Olive." The seeds took hold and flourished around the cabin that the family constructed at about the spot that is today a large car park located directly behind the Tot Shop and the old Strand Theater. The car park area covers a wide expanse behind several businesses that face onto South Main Street.

The Armenian couple were known to let the small fruits turn reddish-brown on the tree and then gathered them throughout the summer and autumn. The pits were removed and the pulp was chopped and treated as dates are treated today. When the family left Atmore, the trees were cut down, but a few of them sprouted back from the remaining roots and were allowed to stay and flourish.

Eventually, in more modern times, the car park was paved and small businesses grew up around it (Hwy. 31 to the north, and West Owens on the south, Trammell on the west, and Main Street to the east). The trees were left in place, so the asphalt was spread in such a way as to create an oasis-like island that did not disturb the root system. Although the remaining tree has been cut down several times, a stout trunk remains today that continues to bear fruit as it has done for more than 100 years.

Few people in Atmore are aware of its existence and history; consequently the growth is ignored while its branches produce a wonderful crop of fruits year after year, which no doubt is feeding a great assortment of birdlife, as well as small nocturnal animals that take habit in the nearby woods. .

The Armenian couple was among the immigrants that began to spread east and southward prior to 1866 and the American War Between the States. Then again, following World War I, an influx of immigrants began to settle in the area and to transplant trees and shrubs as garden fruits, which were known in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Louisiana.

A few of these delicious fruit trees remain, as German and French immigrants, as well as the Creek Indians, depended on them as food sources. One such tree of unknown origin is the Jujube that stands alone at the edge of an open lot in downtown Atmore.

The Jujube is native to China, Japan, and much of Asia. The deciduous tree grows to roughly 25 - 30 feet tall, is loaded with sharp spines until it ages and the spines fall off as the bark is formed. The fragrant yellow flowers are small, maturing into oval fruits a little larger than an olive. New cultivars of improved jujubes can grow as large as a plum and can be round or oval shaped, ripening to a reddish-brown color.

The jujube fruit can be eaten fresh off the tree, even when there is much green color on the fruit with faint reddish marks just developing. In dry locations the fruit will ripen and dry on the tree, but in the Southeastern United States, where the humidity is high, the fruit must be harvested when the color change happens and then put away to be dried in a cool place.

Some gardeners describe jujube as tasting like dates flavored with apples and chocolate. The pulp of the jujube fruit is centered on a core that contains a large seed, or pit. The pulp is sweet, crunchy, and yellow in color, with some cultivars producing white pulp when ripe.

After being cured-out and dried, the jujube shrivels up to form a wrinkled delicacy. The fruit is commonly treated similar to raisin production to be preserved for consumption at a later time. To the landowner, the jujube tree is prized for its delicious tasting fruit, the bright-green waxy leaves, and the fascinating silhouette of the tree. The leaves turn bright yellow before they fall after the first autumn frost.

The small tree or large shrub thrives in poor grade soils such as those found in urban developments, and easily flourish in dry conditions. However, a little well-placed fertilizer produces amazing results in a short time. There are many species of jujube that have found use all over the world; especially the continents of Asia, Europe, Africa, and Australia.

Arab nutritionists use the leaves of the jujube tree to kill worms and other parasites that attack the human intestinal tract. A jujube tree that is native to Spain, France, Italy, Syria, and Asia Minor is similar to the Asian jujube and has been used medicinally as a food item in Europe, Asia Minor, and Africa. Jujubes were

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Chinese Jujube Tree (*Zizyphus jujube*) Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn) Family

(Continued from page 18)

grown in Algeria and eaten mostly by Algerian and Armenian Jews in the third century to celebrate the New Year's Eve.

The Chinese believed that eating the fruit from the jujube tree would improve a person's stamina and strength, as well as an improvement in the function of the liver and the immune system. They also believed that consumption of the uncooked jujube would mildly tranquilize a person, act to fight allergies, and cause a slender person to gain weight.

Nutritionists have found that the fruit of the jujube contains beneficial concentrations of Vitamins A, B2, and C, as well as minerals necessary for health, such as

phosphorus, calcium, and iron.

In Asia the fruit is marketed mainly like dried dates and can be found at any food store. The fruit is prized as a health food as well as a tasty treat.

Can a market for jujubes be developed for this easy to grow delicacy? Indeed, the USDA had hoped it would. Very few fruit trees can be grown that have as many desirable qualities, such as no natural pests, good taste, heavy production, unfailing yearly crops, no fertilizer required, thrives in poor soil, 4000 years of growing history in China, and no climatic limitations.

A magnificent tree indeed.

Plan on trying some jujube butter made by Darryl which will be part of the refreshments.

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Reenactment of the Battle of Burnt Corn, Brewton



Reenactment took place on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at Jennings Park. Photos posted by Dale Cox, historian and author from Two Egg, Florida, who has given programs at ECHS at <<https://twoegg.tv/2018/07/burntcorn2/>>.



At the left, reenactors in a moment of relaxation after the battle. At the right, Rachael Conrad portrays Milly Francis, daughter of the Red Stick Creek prophet Josiah Francis. Francis and William Weatherford planned the attack on Fort Mims as counter response to the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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