



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The September Meeting
Tuesday, September, 25, 2018
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama Community College
Brewton Campus
3:00 p. m.



The Program: Historian, Author Kevin McKinley Will Present a Program on His New Book Shadows and Dust III: Legacies.

Kevin, shown at left, writes of himself: "I was born in Canoe, Ala. and have lived most of my life there. I attended Faulkner University and Jones School of Law and began practicing law solo in October 2007.

"I started writing for the Tri City Ledger in January 2005 and later the "All Things Southern Column" would be added to the Brewton Standard with regular contributions in the Atmore Magazine too. I've written four books Shadows and Dust 1-3 and Canoe: History of a Southern Town.

"I reside in the Canoe/Robinsonville area with my wife Sondra, three kids Autumn, Abby and Jake, as well as three dogs and numerous cats."

In addition to being a compilation of the "All Things Southern" columns, "Shadows and Dust III: Legacies contains other items of interest for

News % (Continued on page 2)

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Lafayette



/The Lafayette Bell Rung in Montgomery for the General's Visit

Volume 45 No. 9

September, 2018

October Meeting
Tuesday, October 23, 2018
McMillan Museum
3:00 p. m.

The Program: Dr. Phillip Carr of the University of South Alabama will present a program on Native Americans: The First Alabamians

Refreshments
Bring your favorite snacks, finger food for refreshments after the program.
ECHS will furnish drinks.

Our Business Member

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131 Saint Joseph Avenue
Brewton, Alabama

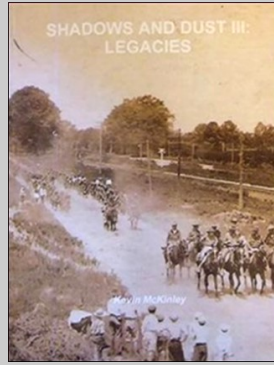
251-867-9962
Lhouseprinting@gmail

The Program

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researchers, such as 1000 names of local soldiers, settlers, farmers, ministers as well as newspaper articles relating to the early history and genealogy in the South West Alabama/Northwest Florida region.

Another feature of Shadows and Dust III: Legacies is that it gives the Confederate census for Escambia and Monroe County Alabama for 1906.



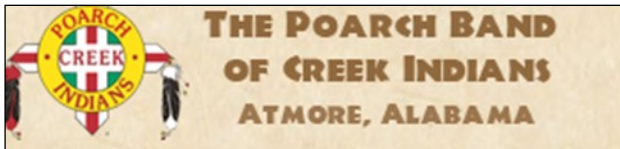
Drawing upon newspaper reports from the last 150 years of regional history, this latest book by Kevin also includes interviews, first hand accounts and numerous visits to historic sites and places across the area.

**At the Left, The Cover for
Shadows and Dust III:
Legacies.**

News and Announcements

An Evening with the Elders September 25, 2018 at 6:00 p. m Wind Creek Ballroom Atmore, Alabama

From the Office of Archives and Records Management at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Join us to hear the voices of Creek Matriarchs Mame McGhee, Clara Rolin and their families.



Everyone is invited. Dinner will be served.
Questions: contact Ms. Leasha Martin,
Ms. Luvader Cejas or Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees
at 251-446-4942



Dedication of the Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden and the Unveiling of Bessie McGhee Sculpture

The dedication will be at the Mobile Medical Museum on Friday, October 19, 2018, 9:00 a.m. 1664 Springhill Avenue, Mobile, Alabama 36604.

For more information, contact Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 446-4940 or ddees@pci-nsn.gov <<https://www.mobilemedicalmuseum.org/>>.



Food for Thought October 18, 2018 Martin T. Olliff: “The Girl the Wildcats left Behind: Irene Pierce and Tallassee’s Soldiers in World War I.”

Dr. Olliff, pictured, is currently a Professor of History and the Director of the Wiregrass Archives at the Dothan Campus for Troy University.



Pictured, Ms. Nellie Irene Pierce of Tallassee, Alabama (1895-1971), who corresponded with a number of soldiers in various units during World War I.

Most of those soldiers were from Tallassee, including her brother William S. Pierce and her future husband, John R. Godwin (1892-1960).

Martin Olliff says, “By early 1918, many of Tallassee’s young men had volunteered or were drafted into the US army, and a number served in the American Expeditionary Force in France until mid-1919.”

Dr. Olliff also notes that Irene Pierce was seventeen years old when America entered World War I. She had worked in the Tallassee, Alabama, cotton mill, a good job at the time, since she was twelve.

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,

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News and Announcements

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complimentary beverages are provided. Admission is always free.



Shannon Jones New ECHS Publicity Officer

ECHS is lucky to have Shannon as an officer. She has already been posting announcements of our monthly meetings on the Escambia County (AL) Historical Society Facebook page to help us with publicity.

At the left, Shannon at the August 2018 ECHS meeting.



To celebrate the Bicentennial, Alabama Public Television will air a Special Episode of "Discovering Alabama" on Thursday Night, September 27, 8-10 p.m.

There will be 3 "Discovering Alabama" episodes hosted by Doug Phillips.



Alabama Department of Archives and History

The first episode explores the fascinating Matera preserved by the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH).

In her article in the Encyclopedia of Alabama, Rebecca Lapczynski Hebert comments:

"Founded in 1901, it was the nation's first

publicly funded, independent state archives agency. Located in Montgomery, ADAH identifies, pre-

serves, and makes accessible records and artifacts of enduring historical value to the state and serves as the official repository for records created by state agencies. For more than a century, the department has followed its core tenets of advocating for the preservation of the state's historical resources and promoting education, specifically regarding Alabama's history" (<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2014>).



Capitol Park Tuscaloosa

The second episode, "State Capitals," explores the histories and mysteries of the state's five capitals as told through archeology and ghost stories, facts and folklore, written records and off-the-record

legends. Host and nature writer Dr. Doug Phillips visits each of the capital sites—St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahaba, Tuscaloosa, and Montgomery—and reveals how archaeological investigations are bringing new information about each site to light.

Capitol Park, pictured above, was the site of the Alabama Capitol when Tuscaloosa was the seat of state government from 1826-1846. In 1847 the capitol was moved to Montgomery, and the building became the home of the Alabama Central Female College. A visible reminder of the old capitol building that burned in 1923 is the stone foundation and two small columns.



The third episode, "Whooping Cranes," is characterized as an episode about one of Alabama's rarest Visitors.

Because of loss of habitat due to construction and development as well as hunting, the Whooping Crane is one of the most endangered birds in all of North America and the World. In 1941 there were only 21 wild birds left on the planet, but thanks to conservation efforts there are now believed to be a growing population of nearly 600.

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News and Announcements

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The whooping crane (*Grus Americana*) is one of just two crane species found in North America.

As the tallest flying bird in North America, it stands five feet tall and has a seven to eight foot wing span. They are distinguished from other cranes by their size and their

bright white feathers with black tips.

More than one third of the eastern migrating whooping crane population spends part of their winter in and around Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur, Alabama.



Pilgrimage to Old Claiborne

Featuring public and private historic sites in Perdue Hill, Gosport and Monroeville, Alabama, the Old Claiborne Pilgrimage

promises a rare glimpse into the settlement of Monroe County's forgotten Alabama River town of Claiborne, founded three years before the state. Private antebellum homes, early churches and Alabama's oldest standing public building are among more than 10 sites you can explore.

DATE: Saturday, October 13 and

Sunday, October 14

TIME: Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday 1 PM - 5 PM

TICKETS: Adults \$35

Old Courthouse (Monroe County)

Museum Members \$25

Students \$10

BOX LUNCHES: \$12.00. purchase by ticketholders. Reservation recommended.

ADVANCED TICKETS:

Will be available at the Old Courthouse Museum on the square in downtown

Monroeville.

Call the museum at (251) 575-7433 for tickets and to reserve your picnic lunch.

VISITING THE SITES:

Maps for location of the sites will be given to visitors when they pick up their tickets. Also this will be the time to pay for and receive the Box Lunches.

Visits to the sites are at the discretion or choice of the visitors as to order and time. The visit to a site is self-directed.

There will be volunteers at the site available to answer questions but there will be no formal presentations.

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.

The Sites



Claiborne's Old Masonic Lodge at Perdue Hill – 1824

Claiborne's Masonic Lodge served as a fraternal lodge, courthouse, church, and community center in the early 1820s river port. It is remembered especially as the site of the reception for the Marquis de Lafayette in April of 1825.

The great Revolutionary War general traveled the Alabama River from Montgomery to Mobile visiting the state's largest towns as part of his farewell tour to the nation. You'll see the podium from which he spoke in Alabama's oldest standing public building in the Lodge.



The Bullard House – 1858-59

The Bullard House was built 1858-59 for Capt. Joel Bullard on property his grandfather acquired in the 1830s. Before joining the Confederate cause,

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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, 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.



**Governor John
Murphy House –
1820s**

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 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.



Dellet Park – 1835-39

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 tombstones of Dellet family members.

Current owner Agee Broughton III acquired the home in 1993.



**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, 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

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“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.



William Barret Travis Home – 1820s

The 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.



Perdue Hill Union Church - 1878

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 - 1888

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 – circa 1825

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.

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Site of Fort Claiborne



Situated near the Federal Road, Claiborne began during the Mississippi Territory period with a ferry over the river. During the Creek War, a large stockade fort, named Fort Claiborne, was established at the site by General Ferdinand Claiborne. He used the fort as a base for the invasion of the Creek nation with the Regular Army of the United States, the Lower Tombigbee Militia, and friendly Choctaw. The community of Claiborne began in 1816, on the former fort site.

Historic Marker for Fort Claiborne



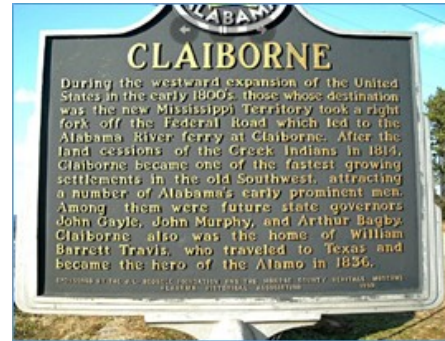
The Marker reads:

FORT CLAIBORNE
Creek Indian War 1813-1814
Built by Gen. Ferdinand L. Claiborne
as a base for his invasion of the
Alibamo country with U.S.
Regulars, Lower Tombigbee Militia,
and friendly Choctaws.
Claiborne's campaign culminated
In the American victory
over the Creeks at the Holy Ground.

Claiborne Historical Marker



The Claiborne Historical Marker marks the site of old Claiborne. This marker is located beside Highway 84 near the river bridge on the east side of the Alabama River.



The Marker reads:

During the westward expansion of the United States in the early 1800's, those whose destination was the new Mississippi Territory took a right fork off the Federal Road which led to the Alabama River ferry at Claiborne. After the land cessions of the Creek Indians in 1814, Claiborne became one of the fastest growing settlements in the old Southwest, attracting a number of Alabama's early prominent men. Among them were future state governors John Gayle, John Murphy, and Arthur Bagby. Claiborne also was the home of William Barrett Travis, who traveled to Texas and became the hero of the Alamo in 1836.

Snapshot of the August 2018 ECHS Meeting

Watching "The Homefront," a Film about How Americans Dealt with Supporting the War Effort during World War II



Left to Right, Jacque Stone, Susan Blair, and Susan Crawford



Front Row Left to Right, Don Sales, Barbara Page and Lydia Grimes



At the Left, Robin Brewton in the Foreground with Lee and Dawn Merritt Shown in the Background.

Snapshots of the August 2018 ECHS Meeting (Continued)

Watching the Film



Front Row, Left to Right, John Angel, Jacquie Stone, Susan Blair, and Susan Crawford. Second Row, Carol and Al Jokela, Third Row, Lee and Dawn Merritt.



Front Row, Left to Right, Don Sales, Barbara Page, Lydia Grimes, and Ranella Merritt (next to John Angel). Second Row, Carolyn Geck (behind Lydia Grimes) and Jo Brewton. Back Row, Far Left, Charlie Ware with Mike Edwards and Darryl Searcy last Two on the Row.

Enjoying Refreshments after the Program



Top Left, Jo Brewton (Back to Camera), Visits with Carol and Al Jokela. Top Right, Dawn Merritt in Foreground with Carolyn Geck at the Refreshment Table. Bottom Left, Susan Blair and Charlie Ware Visiting. Jacquie Stone Is Pictured in the Background.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

General Lafayette's Visit to Alabama in 1825



Lafayette the Young General



**Lafayette When He Returned
to the United States**

190 Years Ago, Alabamians Welcomed Revolutionary War Hero Lafayette like a Rock Star

The following article by Kelly Kazek is a chronological account of the visit of Lafayette to Alabama.

Introduction

It was the last day of March 1825 and Alabamians were abuzz with excitement. The Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, was returning to the country he helped win its independence from the British.

At the time, it was like visiting royalty, or a tour in the heyday of Elvis Presley or the Beatles.

Lafayette Greeted by Creeks

Author Herbert James in Alabama Founders: Fourteen Political and Military Leaders Who Shaped the State says of the reception for Lafayette:

To Dale [Samuel Dale], the most noteworthy aspect of the reception was the enthusiasm displayed by the Creeks under the leadership of Chilly McIntosh, son of General William McIntosh, in greeting Lafayette by marching past the general in single file, each one giving him their hand.

Everyone wanted a glimpse of the famous general and Alabama's most prominent citizens were called upon to entertain Lafayette in style.

Today, historical markers can be found in several southern Alabama cities commemorating his visit.

State-funded Entertainment

The Alabama Legislature, not to be outdone on the Marquis' tour of the fledgling

country's 24 states, authorized using taxpayer funds to provide the best entertainment. Gov. Israel Pickens ap-

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pointed committees to plan lavish festivities to be held in Montgomery, Cahaba and Mobile. Lafayette also would visit Selma, Demopolis and Claiborne.

In that more primitive time, when Alabama had *been a state for only six years, the state also stored* refreshment and supplies along the rugged carriage route for the marquis and his entourage, according to the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

"Although Alabamians treated Lafayette's visit with enthusiasm and fanfare, the visit was in fact a severe

financial burden for the state," Jim Lewis wrote in his article for the Encyclopedia of Alabama. "The total cost approached \$17,000, which was quite a strain on the limited resources of the new state considering it only spent \$10,000 to build the capitol building at Cahaba." That would equal about \$400,000 in today's dollars. Lewis said the cost was high despite the fact that members of Lafayette's local military escorts paid their own expenses. Still, officials felt it was worth it.

"Lafayette's visit to Alabama exposed its early citi-

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Commander of the Committee and the Militia Sent to Greet Lafayette, Brigadier General Thomas Woodward Wrote of the Arrival of Lafayette at the Chattahoochee River

Our trip to the Chattahoochee was pleasant indeed. We made our head-quarters three miles from Fort Mitchell on Big Uchee [Creek].

After some three or four day's' stay at Crabtree's [The owner of a tavern on the Federal Road], we learned that Gen. Lafayette had passed White Water [White-water Creek, Georgia, close to the Chattahoochee River], and we knew at what time he would reach the river. The Indians seemed to take as much interest in the matter as the whites. All hands mustered on the Big [Uchee Creek], at Haynes Crabtree's, west bank or the Alabama side, where we could see the Georgia escort approach the east bank of the Chattahoochee with their charge.

On the east bank, Gen. Lafayette was met by Chilly McIntosh, son of the Indian Gen. McIntosh with fifty Indian warriors, who were stripped naked and finely painted. They had a sulky [light, open, two-wheeled buggy] prepared with drag-ropes, such, as are commonly used in drawing cannon. [The sulky was to be used to get Lafayette up the steep bluff on the West side or Alabama side of the Chattahoochee River after he had been ferried across the river.]

The General was turned over by the Georgians to the Indians after he was ferried over the river. That was the greatest show I ever saw at the crossing of any river. It beat all of Gen. Jessup's wind bridges across the Tallapoosa, and other places where there was never

much more water than would swim a dog, only at a high rise.

As the ferryboat reached the Alabama side, the Indians, in two lines, seized the ropes, and the General, seated in the sulky, was drawn to the top of the bank, some eighty yards, where stood the Alabama Delegation. At a proper distance from the Alabama Delegation, the Indians opened their lines, and the sulky halted " (<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/quarterly/id/768/rec/1>).

General Thomas S. Woodward

Indian scout, friend of General Andrew Jackson, and a slave owner, General Thomas S. Woodward was an active participant in the Muskogee Creek Indian Wars.

During a two-year period, 1857-1859, he submitted letters to J. J. Hooker, editor of the Montgomery, Alabama Mail correcting errors, misinformation and the romanticized versions of the history of the period he found in Colonel Albert James Pickett's History of Alabama. The editor, with his permission, published those letters periodically, and after Woodward's death in December 1859, as a collection of reminiscences <<https://www.amazon.com/Selected-Letters-General-Woodwards-Reminiscences/dp/0980217563>>. €

The ECHS *Journal* Section

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zens to a world beyond the confines of its frontier borders," he wrote. "The excitement it generated prompted numerous inhabitants of isolated areas of the state to travel hundreds of miles to Montgomery, Selma, Cahaba, Claiborne, and Mobile, to see America's most prominent foreign dignitary. Among these were a few remaining veterans of the American Revolution, who came to pay respects to their old comrade in arms."

Lafayette's 1825 Tour of Alabama: a Timeline

March 31, Party Enters Alabama From Georgia

Lafayette and his entourage entered Alabama in Creek territory. Near Fort Mitchell in Russell County, the par-

ty crossed the Chattahoochee River, where it was greeted by Creeks who entertained the men with games of stickball.

That night, Lafayette slept at a stagecoach inn run by Haynes Crabtree.

April 1, on the Federal Road

On April Fool's Day 1825, Lafayette's procession traveled the Old Federal Road toward Montgomery.

"Lafayette was transported in an elegant carriage, surrounded by cavalry troops and 100 Creek horsemen," Lewis said. While many of the men bunked at Kendall Lewis's Tavern, Lafayette continued a few more miles to Warrior Stand, the homestead of Creek leader Big Warrior, who had recently died.

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Lafayette at Claiborne

After attending the ball [at Cahaba] the General and his retinue, consisting of his son Secy and Mr. Deseon, departed accompanied by the Gov. and suite and the other escorts at 11 o'clock and reached Claiborne about 12 o'clock on Wednesday.

Here a numerous assembly of persons from the town and adjacent country met the guest at the bank of the River, after landing the Genl. was introduced by the Gov. to the committee of arrangements at that place and was addressed by Mr. Dellet their chairman, and returned a suitable answer.

A procession was formed, composed in part of Capt. Moore's troop of Cavalry who had formed part of the Chattahoochee group to greet the General and who had returned home by land from Montgomery. The procession continued to the Court House which was tastily decorated for the occasion. Here the Genl. was introduced to a crowded assembly of ladies and other citizens and after retiring to his quarters partook of a public dinner.

The great urgency of the guest to proceed on his long and arduous journey, in consequence of having

lost several days from his calculated rout before reaching the state denied the citizens of Claiborne their expected pleasure of the company of the guest to partake of a ball according to preparations. Late in the afternoon the Guest and retinue, the Executive and staff and escorts re-embarked and proceeded during the night.

Note: Sources contradict with references to a courthouse and the references to the Masonic Lodge. Some say that the General was welcomed and spoke in the courthouse since Claiborne was the Monroe County Seat at that time and that a cornerstone for the Masonic Lodge was laid during the General's visit.

Other references refer to the Masonic Lodge as the place where Lafayette spoke to the crowd that welcomed him, in fact referring to the podium in the Lodge today as being the one from which Lafayette gave his address.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

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April 2, Across Line Creek

The party crossed Line Creek and Lafayette spent the night at Lucas Tavern. The historic tavern was moved from its location to Old Alabama Town, where the room he slept in is displayed with period furniture.

April 3, Enter Montgomery

Lafayette's party was greeted by a crowd of about 3,000 people when he entered Montgomery on April 3. The sounds of bugles, French horns and a band playing "Hail to the Chief" welcomed his arrival at Goat Hill, which would later become the site of Alabama's capitol.

A Montgomery delegation, led by Col. Arthur Hayne,

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State of Alabama,
Executive Department
Cahawba Dec. 25th, 1824

Major General Lafayette

Sir,

In behalf of the State of Alabama, and in compliance with the unanimous Resolution of the Legislature thereof, I have the honor to invite you to favor the State with a visit, and to afford to its citizens the felicity of testifying to you personally the grateful respect which they feel for the most distinguished benefactor of the Republic living.

I present you with the Legislature Resolve as the best expression of the wishes of that body, and of the feelings of their constituents.

Never on any occasion of my life have I enjoyed so valued an honor as that now afforded me, of being the medium of communicating to you the sentiments of my fellow citizens.

Although this new State has only within a very few years been admitted into the family of American Republics, and but recently indeed has the territory it occupies emerged from a wilderness; yet its inhabitants are the immediate descendants of your companions in the great first struggle for liberty: And they are not insensible that most of the soil they inhabit, & the valuable privileges they enjoy from a portion of the patrimonial inheritance then achieved

I have appointed our worthy fellow citizen Major Genl. Thomas W. Farrar, as a special delegate to wait on you, and who will understand your pleasure in relation to the subject of this address. He will also confer with you as to the most convenient time at which you may find it agreeable to honor our wishes.

I am Sir, with sentiments of veneration and respect

Your most obedient Humble Sert.

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a veteran of the War of 1812, and Gov. pickens met the General. Hayne and Pickens gave speeches.

April 4, Montgomery Celebrations

On April 4, Lafayette was honored with a dinner

followed by a ball at Freeny's Tavern in Montgomery before members of the party went up the Alabama River on steamboats toward Selma.

April 5, Selma and Demopolis

The boats, the Balize and the Henderson, made a

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Governor Pickens Letter to his Brother-in-Law Gen. Edmund Jones from April 18th 1825 on the Steamboat Fanny on the B. Warrior Returning from Mobile

I am returning from a most gratifying rout which has fallen to my lot to be obliged officially to take in receiving & conducting our great patriarch of liberty through this State. I have not seen my little boys for about four weeks. I hope to reach home tonight, & to give you all that concerns me or them by tomorrow's mail.

While waiting the regular but tedious march of this vessel around the bends of this winding little river I cannot adopt a better expedient to check impatience than by giving you a brief view of the journey of Lafayette in Alabama.

An invitation was given our guest comfortably to a legislative resolve, which he accepted in very pleasing terms; At Chattahoochee our State boundary, I had him received by a delegation of our most respectable citizens, who attended him through the Indian country to Montgomery (formerly the 10 mile bluff below Fort Jackson) where I received him. From Chattahoochee also a military escort of two fine troops of neatly uniformed cavalry commanded by a Maj. Gen. with his suit & other Gen. & field Officers accompanied our guest.

Three elegant carriages also, one of white drawn by four elegant greys & about 20 outriding attendants were sent to Chattahoochee in which the guest, his son & secretary, were carried. Beds, furniture, provisions & refreshments were transported for accommodation in the Indian country, & deposited at proper points on the road.

On the arrival at Line Creek (the Indian boundary) many General, field & staff officers met, among whom part of my own military family, and an immense cavalcade of citizens from the adjoining Counties assembled & formed a procession & continued to Montgomery. Here on a very high eminence (Capitol hill of today), commanding a view of the thriving village & many miles of surrounding country, farms &c two very spacious tents were erected—between them a civic arch, decorated with evergreens, flowers &c.

The first tent, through which the guest was conducted after alighting, was filled with the beauty of the country. In the second were seated the civil magistracy & committees of citizens I had nominated to aid in the reception. At the arch I received & addressed him on behalf of the State, & received his reply—When after being introduced to the citizens &c, I took him in my carriage & the procession continued through the town to the quarters provided for him & myself.

After enjoying the festivities of Montgomery, a great dinner, ball &c, we embarked in a steam boat, other steam boats attended to transport civil & military escorts & ladies.

At Cahaba where we next stopped, a great parade was made & dinners, balls, etc., repeated. At Claiborne the same, and at Mobile a still more brilliant reception was given Three hundred ladies attended the ball & a still greater number of gentlemen, illuminations of houses, vessels in the harbor, etc. Here a committee of citizens from Louisiana with military escort, with a very large steam boat from N. Orleans, met us to receive our guests.

We proceeded to Mobile point 30 miles down the bay, being the last point of our territory, where a corps of Engineers have been stationed, & fortifications are erected by the U. S. Here again splendid entertainments were provided. Here the civil & military citizens attending with me took our leave of our guest after delivering him a farewell address & receiving a most affectionate answer. I am just now returning & almost home from the grand frolic.

I consider this a very fortunate occurrence which has given me occasion to be the fellow traveler & host of one of the first men that ever graced and adorned the human family In private life & as a companion he is not less valuable & worthy than in his exalted public character. He is gone & our prayers are with him.

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190 Years Ago, Alabamians Welcomed Revolutionary War Hero Lafayette like a Rock Star

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brief stop at Selma to greet citizens, then another in Cahaba, which was the state capital at the time but is now a ghost town and archaeological site. In Cahaba, the party was treated to a reception and barbecue dinner. Lafayette also met with some former French citizens and Bonapartists, who settled the Vine and Olive Colony near Demopolis in Marengo County. ol-

ives at the site.

Three miles from Selma, an oak tree was planted, a gift from Lafayette to William Rufus King, the only U.S. vice president from Alabama, according to the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The tree was called the Prince Charley Oak.

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Israel Pickens (1780-1827)



Israel Pickens was governor of Alabama from 1821-25. He promoted agendas of the "North Carolina" faction versus wealthy former Georgians and oversaw the founding of a state bank. Prior to his governorship, Pickens represented North Carolina in the U.S. Congress.

Text and Picture from Encyclopedia of Alabama

The Difficulties Faced by those Planning the Visit

This discussion of the difficulties faced by the state in welcoming and touring Lafayette is taken from the Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 01 & 02, Spring and Summer Issue 1955.

He made the tour from Fort Mitchell to Mobile, stopping enroute only at Montgomery, Cahaba and Claiborne. Because of delays elsewhere, his stay in the State was of necessity cut short. His movements were hurried throughout and, consequently, there was disappointment at more than one place where the people hoped to be favored with a halt in his progress and were prepared to receive him with extra-ordinary honors

At that period conditions in Alabama were crude. Possessing abundant facilities for entertaining, the

people of today can hardly appreciate the difficulties which confronted Lafayette's entertainers in their efforts to honor their guest suitably. Having as the only means of communication an inefficient postal system, for many days the whereabouts of the approaching visitor and the time of his arrival could only be conjectured.

With only scanty facilities for transportation overland, means for his conveyance over long stretches had to be improvised; the country through which he journeyed being a wilderness, even the simplest comforts had to be provided beforehand. It was agreed that a Military escort was a necessary honor and, since only cavalry could be employed on the long

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April 6-7, Claiborne and on to Mobile

Lafayette stopped in Claiborne, a town of about 2,500 people at that time. A reception was held at the Monroe County courthouse and Lafayette attended a ceremony

to lay the cornerstone for a new Masonic Hall. The building still stands although it was moved to the Perdue Hill community.

(Continued on page 17)

Governor Pickens' Role in Planning the Visit of Lafayette

In his article on Governor Pickens in the Encyclopedia of Alabama, Daniel S. Dupre says that Pickens planned every detail of Lafayette's visit as well as played host to the general who was touring the country to the great acclaim of Americans grateful for his support in the Revolutionary War.

Lafayette, accompanied by his dog, Quiz, entered Alabama through Creek Nation lands. He then proceeded to Montgomery, where he was welcomed by the governor and entertained at a lavish ball. From Montgomery,

Lafayette traveled to Cahawba, then the state capital, where he enjoyed another ball and a more informal barbecue, and then he journeyed on to Mobile.

Governor Pickens supervised every detail of the visit, from hiring a New Orleans band to play at the ball to selecting the military officers who escorted the old general through the state. Lafayette's visit cost Alabama more than \$15,000, but most citizens were pleased that he had honored them with his

Background for Lafayette's Tour in 1824-1825

Herbert J. "Jim" Lewis, in his article on Lafayette's Tour from the Encyclopedia of Alabama reminds readers of Lafayette's role as a hero of America's Revolutionary War:

Lafayette had first come to America from France 47 years earlier to support America's war for independence from Great Britain. At the age of 20, Lafayette was made a major general and served with distinction on Washington's staff, fighting in important battles at Brandywine in Pennsylvania and Yorktown in Virginia. Upon returning to France after the war, Lafayette became embroiled in the French Revolution and ultimately had to flee France because of his opposition to the excesses of the revolutionary Jacobin Party.

Lafayette served in the 1787 Assembly of Notables, an advisory group to the king of France that worked for governmental reform, and served as commander-in-chief of the French National Guard from 1789 to 1791. After raising the ire of the French government, Lafayette attempted to escape to the United States but was captured by Austrian authorities and imprisoned until September 1797.

Lafayette returned to France in 1800. In 1818, he was

elected to the French Parliament, where he served until 1824 as a leader of the opposition party and promoted such liberal measures as freedom of the press and religious tolerance. After losing his seat in Parliament, Lafayette accepted an invitation from Pres. James Monroe in 1824 to make a grand tour of what were then the 24 U.S. states. The invitation was extended not only to honor Lafayette's service to America but also to expose a new generation of Americans to the "Spirit of 1776."

Lafayette's extended tour began on August 15, 1824, when he arrived at Staten Island, New York. The Alabama General Assembly passed a joint resolution officially inviting Lafayette to Alabama, and Gov. Israel Pickens issued a formal invitation in late December 1824.

Lafayette and his party, which included his son George Washington Lafayette, had toured the northern and eastern states in the fall of 1824, including stops at Monticello to visit Thomas Jefferson and Washington, D.C., where he was received at the White House by Pres. James Monroe.

Lafayette began his tour of the southern states in March 1825, arriving at the Fort Mitchell crossing of

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April 7, Arrival in Mobile

A lavish banquet and ball were held in Lafayette's honor at a hotel on Royal Street

April 8, party leaves for Louisiana

Lafayette's party boarded the steamer The Natchez in Mobile Bay and met his Louisiana welcoming party, headed for New Orleans.

The Effect of the Tour on the Nation and Alabama

In "The Friend from France: The Popular Image of the Marquis de Lafayette in Early America", Elisabeth Iacono points out that Lafayette's tour of America brought back a sense of unity and patriotism which cultural and economic divisions had divided. This feeling of patriotism was the effect President Monroe hoped for when he invited the Marquis.

Iacono writes:

The journey across America was arduous, with the elderly Marquis constantly traveling from one place to another. However, he seemed to keep up his energy despite of his age.

Not only was his perseverance admirable, but his speeches were extremely popular because he could read, write, and speak in English. This skill endeared him to the American people even further, as they realized they could have conversations with him in their own tongue.

And, as Monroe may have intended, Lafayette's visit had an outstanding effect of unifying the country. The question of Presidential elections and politics alike were overshadowed in newspapers by the rejoicing over Lafayette's visit. The Marquis himself

noticed the effect his visit had on the American people, commenting in a letter to his family that 'I have the satisfaction of thinking my presence has effected many reconciliations between political parties; men, who had not spoken to each other for more than twenty years, have made arrangements together and have invited one another to entertainments in our honor, and revive together their common memories of the Revolution.'

Herbert Lewis in his article on the visit in the Encyclopedia of Alabama comments: Lafayette's visit to Alabama exposed its early citizens to a world beyond the confines of its frontier borders. The excitement it generated prompted numerous inhabitants of isolated areas of the state to travel hundreds of miles to Montgomery, Selma, Cahaba, Claiborne, and Mobile, to see America's most prominent foreign dignitary. Among these were a few remaining veterans of the American Revolution, who came to pay respects to their old comrade in arms."



Lucas Tavern when it stood on the Old Federal Road in Waugh, Ala.



The room in Lucas Tavern where Gen. Lafayette stayed during his 1825 visit to Alabama



Lucas Tavern Today Has Been Moved to Old Town in Montgomery

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

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