



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The September Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama Community College
Brewton Campus
3:00 p. m.



Ruth Elder

The Program:

**The Wade Hall Exhibit of Post Cards of
Alabama Historic Buildings**
Speaker: Ruth Elder

Our speaker will present an overview of Dr. Wade Hall's collection of over 25,000 vintage postcards. She will discuss the creation of the two postcard exhibits (Historic Buildings and Historical Scenes), and some of the stories of Alabama represented by these postcards.

A Troy University cataloging librarian, our speaker is the main researcher, writer, and organizer for the Wade Hall Postcard Traveling Exhibits.

Ruth has two master's degrees and over 35 years of library experience. She moved to Alabama in 2009 and says she has thoroughly enjoyed learning the history of her adopted state. As a result of her research and knowledge of stories of Alabama's past, she says, "I now know more about my adopted state of Alabama than my home state." Commenting on the post card exhibits, she states, "My hope is that visitors to the exhibits will come to appreciate the rich history of this state as I have."

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Upcoming Event

**Wade Hall Postcards
Traveling Exhibit:
'Historical Buildings'**

**Dates: September 24-
October 17, 2019**

**Time: Tues., Wed., and
Thurs.
9:00 am-4:30 pm**

**Location:
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama
Community College
Brewton Campus**

The October Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 3:00 pm

The guest speaker will be Dr. John R Bratten, Chair and Professor of Anthropology at the University of West Florida.

He will give us updates on the excavation of the Luna Colony and information on the ships associated with the colony

No Meeting in November

The Christmas Party

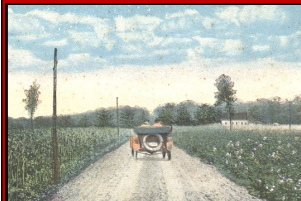
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

McMillan Museum, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The society will provide a ham and drinks.. Plan on bringing sides to go with the ham or your favorite Christmas dish.

ECHS Dues for 2019

- Single Membership \$25.00, changed from \$50.00
- Family Membership \$35.00, changed from \$70.00
- Business Member \$100.00
- Lifetime Membership \$500.00



Hartselle, Alabama

**Volume 46 No 9
September 2019**

About Postcards

The following is taken from the site, Wade Hall Postcards <<https://resources.troy.edu/wadehall/index2.html>>.

What is a Postcard

A postcard is a card sent through the mail at a lesser postage rate than a sealed envelope, one side usually has a picture and the other has space for a written message and the recipient's address.

The first postcards were issued in America in 1873. Postcards became popular because people could send a quick "hello" or show a friend or relative where they were staying for only a penny. Many postcards took the place of pictures in the family albums showing vacation scenes. The Golden Age of postcards lasted from 1900 until about 1920 when widespread use of the telephone began.

Colorization

Many postcards were, and still are, made from photographs. Early postcards were black and white so companies started the practice of colorization to make

them more attractive.

Colorization is the process of sending the postcard photograph to another country to enliven with color. India and Italy were often chosen because they specialized in using exotic colors which caught the eye of the common person.

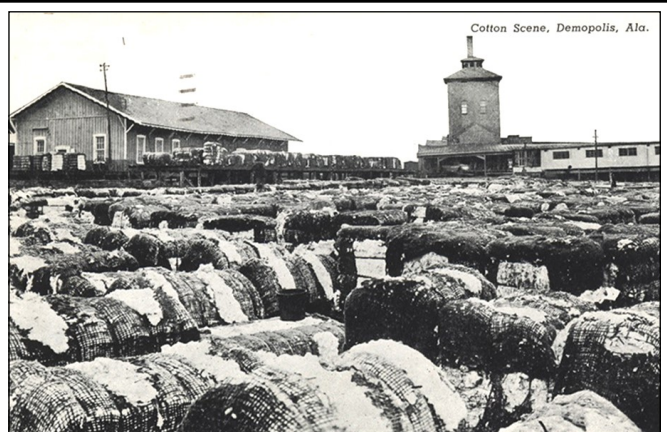
Colorization has a major effect on a picture. It could make an ordinary scene look beautiful or idyllic. Many of the postcards in this collection (the Wade Hall collection) are examples of colorized sights in Alabama.

Postcards and Social History

Photographs can depict social history without words. The postcards in the Wade Hall collection demonstrate that fact. Most of these are known as "view cards" and they document a certain place in time. They give historical references to buildings, streets, and even towns which may no longer exist or that have changed significantly.

By looking at the front of these cards, we can learn

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Historic Street Scene Postcards from the Wade Hall Collection:

**Upper Left, Street Scene,
Childersburg, Ala.,**

**Upper Right, Cotton Scene,
Demopolis, Ala.**

**Bottom Right, Main Street,
Greensboro, Ala.**



About Postcards

(Continued from page 2)

about the history of an area, including early forms of travel, architectural styles of the time, the beginning of power and telegraph/telephone lines, and monuments that may or may not be there now.

The messages on the backs can provide a "snapshot" of the moment since the sender often refers to the weather, travel experiences, and their relationship to the recipient.

Postcards as Social Media

Today, you might snap a photo with your smartphone and send it to someone with a quick

message. In a very similar way, postcards provided an easy way to stay in touch while away from home or on vacation.

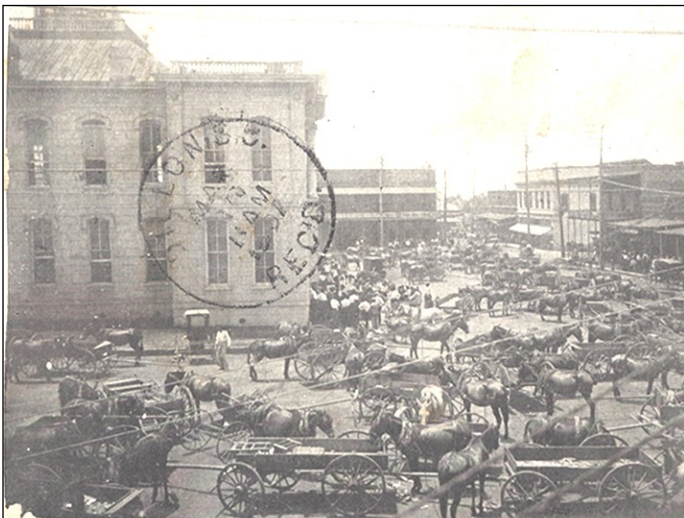
A postcard has advantages over smartphone pictures, namely: it is always a good picture, the photographer could take it from the right angle, and the weather is always perfect. All of these are iffy when you are "there" in person.

For this reason, buying postcards is still common for vacationers. They buy them to keep as souvenirs to remember their trip or to send back home to impress friends, co-workers and family and to say "Wish you were here."

Historic Street Scene Postcards from the Wade Hall Collection



Eastside Public Square, Jacksonville, Ala.



A Busy Day, Troy, Ala.



Scene on Public Square, Huntsville, Ala.

Snapshot from the ECHS August 2019 Meeting



ECHS Members and Guests enjoying the program presented by Coletta Bailey.



Upper left, Coletta at the podium and in the forefront some of the examples of quilts and other household items made from feed and flour sacks.

Upper right, our speaker and more examples of items made from feed sacks.

Left, Coletta and Don Sales, ECHS President.



The ECHS *journal* Section

Alabama's Path to Statehood

The Path to Statehood material is from the Alabama Department of Archives and History section, Alabama History D. I. Y. at <https://www.alabamahistorydiy.org/>.



In 1817, the present-day states of Alabama and Mississippi were both part of one Mississippi Territory.



The U.S. Congress had created the Mississippi Territory in 1798 out of lands north of the 31st parallel formerly claimed by the colony of Georgia. Congress split the territory in 1817 due to pressure from white Southerners who wanted to see two new slave states emerge.

JANUARY 19, 1818 Territorial Legislature Meets in St. Stephens

The territorial legislature wrote the first laws for Alabama, created new counties, and authorized a census to count the population. Under federal law, the territory needed 60,000 residents before it could become a state. Although two counties did not report their numbers, the rest of the territory had 67,594 inhabitants. The legislators and Territorial Governor William Wyatt Bibb, a doctor and former U.S. Senator from Georgia, looked forward to Alabama becoming a state.

AUGUST 2, 1819 Constitution of 1819 Signed in Huntsville

In March 1819, Congress and President Monroe approved the territory's request to hold a constitutional convention and develop a state government. During July and early August, 44 delegates met in Huntsville, which served as the temporary seat of government. The delegates, all white males, included lawyers, planters, physicians, ministers, farmers, and tradesmen. They signed the new constitution on August 2 and sent a copy to Washington, D.C., for consideration.

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The ECHS *journal* Section

Alabama's Path to Statehood

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AUGUST 2, 1819

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OCTOBER 25, 1819

First State Legislature Meets in Huntsville

While waiting for federal approval of the constitution, Alabama conducted elections for state officials in the fall of 1819. The new state legislature held its first session in Huntsville.

It passed laws that set county boundaries, created roads, and established the court system. Governor Bibb signed these bills into law and made plans to move the state government to Cahawba, a new town located where the Cahaba and Alabama rivers meet, near Selma.

DECEMBER 14, 1819

Alabama Becomes the 22nd State

On December 14, 1819, President Monroe signed a congressional resolution accepting Alabama's constitution. His signature formally admitted Alabama as the 22nd state. In Huntsville, the new state government also passed a resolution. Theirs said "thank you" to President Monroe.



WHOSE VOICE MATTERED?

The 1819 constitution was unusual for its time because it gave the right to vote to all white males 21 and older. Unlike most other states, Alabama did not require residents to own property, pay taxes, or serve in the militia in order to vote.

Not everyone could participate, however. African American men could not vote in Alabama until 1867, when the First Reconstruction Act required equal voting rights for freedmen. Regardless of their race, women in Alabama could not vote until 1920, when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution went into effect.

The ECHS *journal* Section

Alabama's State Capitals

The Alabama's State Capitals material is from the Alabama Department of Archives and History section, Alabama History D. I. Y. at <<https://www.alabamahistorydiy.org/>>.



**Alabama's State Capital Building
Montgomery, Alabama**

St. Stephens, Capital of the Alabama Territory, 1817-1818

The U. S. Congress chose St. Stephens to be the Capital of the Alabama Territory because the town was located on an area of early population growth. The territorial legislature met for two sessions at a hotel. A capital building was never established. After a brief time as a boom town, St Stephens was mostly abandoned by the Civil War. Today, St. Stephens is a popular park and the site of important archaeological excavations

Alabama's Capitals

Alabama has had five capitals since it became a territory in 1817. A capital is a city or town where the business of the state government is conducted.

It is the place where the legislative, executive, and judicial branches fulfill their responsibilities to the public, and where records of those activities are held.



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The ECHS *journal* Section

Alabama's State Capitals

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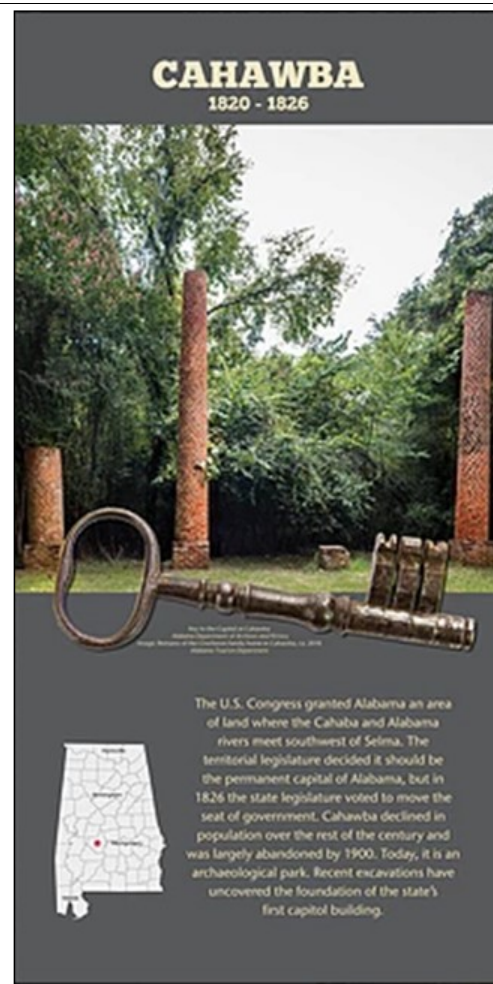
Cahawba, 1820-1826

The U. S. Congress granted Alabama an area of land where the Cahawba and Alabama Rivers meet southwest of Selma. The territorial legislature decided it should be the permanent capital of Alabama, but in 1826 the state legislature wanted to move the seat of government.

Cahawba declined in population over the rest of the century and was largely abandoned by 1900. Today it is an archaeological park. Recent excavations have uncovered the foundation of the state's first capitol building.

Huntsville, 1819

The Tennessee valley, at the northern end of Alabama, also grew rapidly. When the territorial legislature selected a southern site for the permanent capital, north Alabamians convinced legislators that Huntsville should be the temporary seat of government until the new capital was prepared. The 1819 constitutional convention and the first session of the state legislature took place in Huntsville, meeting in a cabinetmaker's shop.

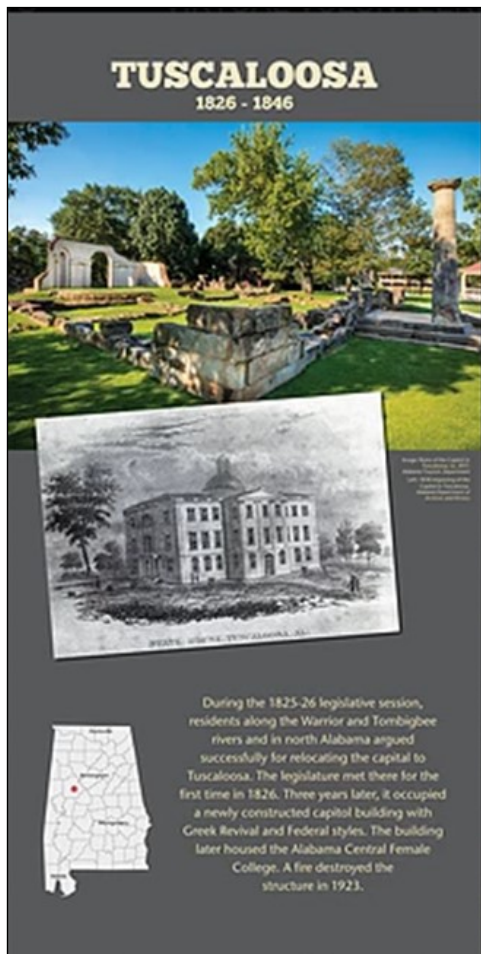


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Alabama's State Capitals

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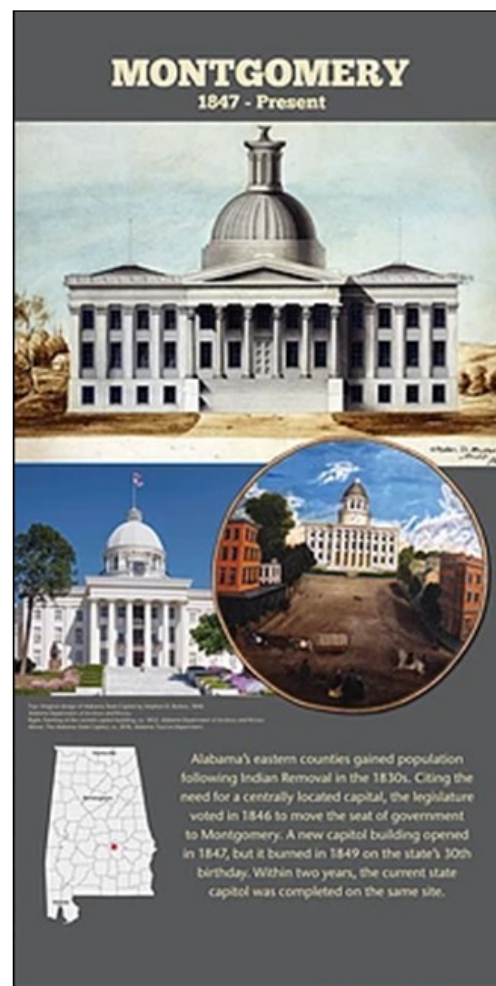


Tuscaloosa 1826-1846

During the 1825-26 legislature session, residents along the Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers argued successfully for relocating the capital to Tuscaloosa. The legislature met there for the first time in 1826. Three years later, it occupied a rapidly constructed capital building with Greek revival and federal styles. The building later housed the Alabama Central Female College. A fire destroyed the building in 1921.

Montgomery, 1847-Present

Alabama's eastern counties gained population following Indian Removal in the 1830's. Citing the need for a centrally located capital, the legislature voted in 1846 to move the seat of government to Montgomery. A new capital building opened in 1847 but it burned in 1849 on the state's 30th birthday. Within two years the state's current capital building was completed on the same site.



ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Books Available by Contribution

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

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

Date ____/____/____

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Address _____

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Email Address _____

**Do you prefer to get your newsletter by
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Dues

(\$25.00/person; \$35.00/ family at same address; Lifetime, \$500.00/person; \$100.00/year business)

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You Will Help With _____

Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year

Many members give a membership as a gift!

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

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

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