

ECHOES



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

**The September Meeting Scheduled for
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Has Been Canceled.
The Brewton College Is Now Open
for the Fall Term.
The Museum and Alabama Room Are
Still Closed.**

News from the Museum and the Alabama Room

There is still no date for reopening the Museum and Alabama Room. However, the Museum and Alabama Room are still available to individuals who contact Don Sales for an appointment. Address: P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; Phone: 251-809-1528; E-mail: <escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com>.

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**Party of Tourists in Wagon Drawn by
Oxen, 1896.**
*Armitstead Collection, the Doy Leale McCall Library,
University of South Alabama.*

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*Armitstead Collection the Doy Leale McCall
Library, University of South Alabama*



**Bear Bryant and
Pat Dye, 1972**

**Volume 47 No. 9
September 2020**

News and Announcements

ECHS Secretary Jacque Stone

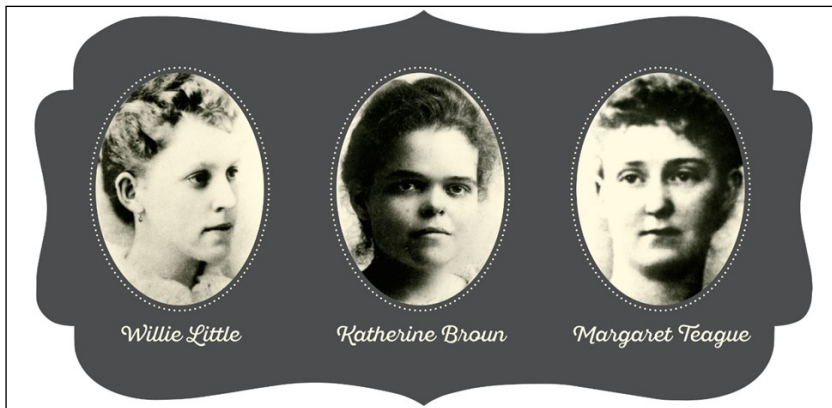
Jacque has recently been in the hospital and is now recovering at home. She has always sent cards on behalf of ECHS, so now members might want to send one to her. Her address is: Jacqueline Stone, 3848 Brooklyn Road, Brewton, AL 36426

Books on the History of Wars in America on Loan to Alabama Room

Robert Smiley, ECHS member, has loaned the collection to ECHS. Robert, a retired history teacher, is also known for the beautiful flowers he cultivates and shares with ECHS at our meetings.

This Week in Alabama History September 13 - September 19 From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

September 13, 1892



Three women pass entrance exams to earn admission to the junior class at Auburn, making the college the first in Alabama and the second in the Southeast to become coeducational. The young ladies, one of whom was the daughter of the Auburn president (Katherine Broun), were allowed on campus only when attending class.



The first women students at the University of Alabama, Anna Adams and Bessie Parker, enrolled for the fall semester at the university in 1893. This was due in large part to the successful lobbying of the UA board of trustees by Julia S. Tutwiler. Tutwiler, then president of the Livingston Normal College for Girls, was a lifelong advocate of the right of women to be self-supporting members of society.

(Continued on page 3)

This Week in Alabama History September 13 - September 19

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 2)]

September 19, 1923



Hank Williams is born in Georgiana, Alabama. After his first appearance on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry in 1949, the singer-songwriter went on to become a country music legend despite his death in 1953 at age twenty-nine. His grave is located in Montgomery's Oakwood Cemetery.

More than thirty years after it became law, the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote, is ratified by the Alabama legislature. Although Alabama complied with the provisions of the amendment as soon as it went into effect in 1920, the 1953 legislature wanted "to record its approval of extending the right of suffrage to women."

September 13, 1939

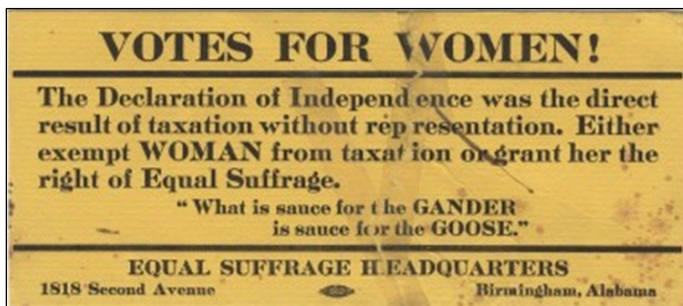
The Alabama legislature outlaws open-range live-stock grazing in Alabama, effective March 1, 1941, although counties are given the option of holding referendums on allowing cattle to range free within county boundaries. Closing of the range in Alabama began shortly after the Civil War, when fencing of livestock was required in certain agricultural districts, and various local-option measures followed in subsequent years. In 1951, the legislature, in what by then was largely a symbolic act, took away local option, thereby permanently closing the open range

September 15, 1963



The 16th Street Baptist Church in 2005. The steps beneath which the bomb was planted can be seen in the foreground.

September 19, 1953



Flyer from the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association, relating women's suffrage to the fight for independence during the American Revolution.

Four black girls are killed and 21 others are injured when a bomb explodes at Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, a center for nearby civil rights demonstrations the previous spring. The girls, ranging between the ages of 11 and 14, were preparing for Youth Day activities when the Sunday morning explosion occurred. Three Klansmen accused of the bombing were convicted: one each in 1977, 2001, and 2002. A fourth suspect who died in 1994 was never put on trial

(Continued on page 4)

This Week in Alabama History September 13 - September 19

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 3)

September 15, 1964



Rev. K. L. Buford

The Rev. K. L. Buford and Dr. Stanley Hugh Smith become the first black elected officials in Alabama since Reconstruction when they win seats on the Tuskegee City Council. Buford, a civil rights leader, and Smith, a sociology professor at Tuskegee Institute, defeated white incumbents in a run-off election

September 14, 1969



Legions of fans attend the 2004 Aaron's 312 Busch Race at Talladega Superspeedway, in Talladega County.

Courtesy of The Birmingham News.

Talladega Speedway opens with its first running of the Talladega 500 which is won by Richard Brickhouse. Over 30 top drivers boycotted the first run saying the track was unsafe at high speeds. The facility cost \$4 million dollars to build and attracted a crowd of 65,000 to the first major race. In April 2000, a crowd of 180,000 watched Jeff Gordon win the Diehard 500

This Week in Alabama History September 20 - September 26

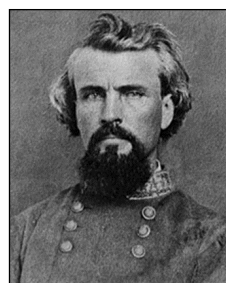
From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

September 20-21, 1819



William Wyatt Bibb (1781-1820) was a U.S. senator and member of the "Broad River Group," wealthy Georgians who settled in what would become Alabama around the turn of the nineteenth century. Bibb was the first governor of the Alabama Territory and retained the governorship when Alabama became a state in 1819.

September 24, 1864



Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest takes more than 1,400 Union soldiers prisoner when he tricks Col. Wallace Campbell into surrendering a fort on Coleman Hill near Athens. Forrest convinced Campbell that his force was three times its actual size and that resisting or waiting on reinforcements was pointless. Most of the Union troops were from the 110th U.S. Colored Infantry, which was made up of former slaves from northern Alabama and southern Tennessee.

(Continued on page 5)

This Week in Alabama History, September 20 - September 26 From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

September 25, 1867



Joseph A. Adams
Founder of the
Southern Star

The oldest newspaper in Alabama owned by a single family, The Southern Star, is first published in Dale County. Except for a few issues, the editor has always been a family member. The current editor, Joseph H. Adams, is the fourth generation family editor.

Founder Joseph Adams, a former Confederate soldier with no journalism experience, started the paper in Newton, Alabama.



Today, the Southern Star is the newspaper of Ozark, Alabama, a weekly publication delivered every Thursday

Piddle

By Ted Searcy

An ECHS member, Ted is Darryl Searcy's brother. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

A question for my friends and family, if you please. Do you ever piddle? Now, there is something to ponder. Folks these days may have never heard the word. To piddle is doing something unimportant that was not planned in advance, merely a trivial task. We elderly Southern kids heard it spoken often in our youth, but like the gourd water dipper, and laundry-day washboard, our piddling days were of the last century. We still piddle, but the word has been replaced by "TV watching, gym classes, meditation, and yoga" all to pass the time, but it is never-the-less piddling. We just do not use the word.

If our grandchildren today should ask, "What have you been doing" and we respond with "Just piddling around," it might be taken as a curse word. The youngster is apt to reach for a cell phone and Google the word, then sigh with relief.

At times my younger brother, Darryl, who lives in Alabama, does some volunteer inventory of cemeteries for the Fine-A-Grave organization, and he came across the tombstone of an elderly man with the inscription "He loved to hunt, fish, and piddle." Wow, that is classic. It says it all about the old fellow. I'll wager he was never lonely.

My dad, in his elderly age, would sharpen his pocket-knife and whittle on a stick while sitting on the porch. That was his way to piddle at times.

During this COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, when most people have been quarantined in their homes, it is likely we all have piddled more than usual. Performing necessary chores that have been put off, such as cleaning a closet, or thinning down an overstuffed file drawer, may have all been done, and now we have time on our hands and don't know what to do. We cannot go to Walmart and cruise the aisles, nor visit the grocery store to get something not needed, so we no doubt settle for a time to piddle.

There, we have it. Let's piddle. Sitting around with empty hands (and probably an empty mind) perhaps we'll thumb through an old photo album, put on a music CD that has been around ten years and is still in its cellophane wrapper, or eat an apple when not hungry, all in pursuit of piddling. Doing something that amounts to nothing is my idea of first-class piddling.

Did you ever ask an old person how they're feeling, and get the answer "Fair to middling," meaning mediocre. I think middling is a cousin to piddling, and it is a nice way to say you are not lazy, and your aging health is OK.

Now that we all know the meaning of piddling, let us do more of it. Possibly, we will live longer.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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

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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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