

ECHOES



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

**The October Meeting Scheduled for
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Has Been Canceled.**

**The Brewton Campus of the Alabama
Costal Community College Is Now Open
for the Fall Term. The Museum and
Alabama Room Are Still Closed.**

News from the Museum and the Alabama Room

Although there is still no date for reopening the Museum and Alabama Room, Don Sales is hopeful that there can be an Historical Society Meeting in the first quarter of next year. Don continues to work at the Museum. He reports that Darryl Searcy, Robert Smiley, and Tom McMillan have visited at the museum and helped with the ongoing work of "sprucing up."

Remember the museum and Alabama Room are still available to individuals who contact Don for an appointment. Address: P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; Phone: 251-809-1528; E-mail: <escambiacohistoricalsociety@gmail.com>.

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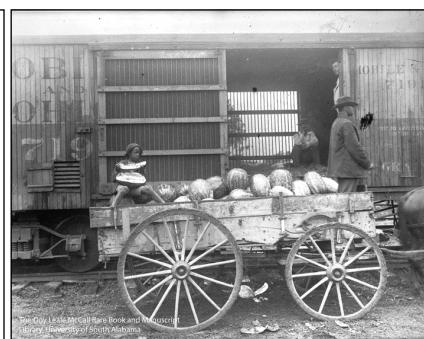
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**This photo was taken in the county court-
house on June 27, 1920 where women in
Mobile were first allowed to register.**
*Erik Overbey Collection, The Doy Leale McCall Ra-
re Book and Manuscript Library,
University of South Alabama.*

**A child gets to
sample from
the wagon
load of water-
melons be-
side a boxcar
1896.**
*Doy Leale
McCall
Collection*



**Southern Bell Phone
Booth, 1943**

**Volume 47 No. 10
October 2020**

News and Announcements

Williams Station Day will be held Saturday, October 24th, 2020.

ATMORE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



*"Supporting Atmore, its businesses, economy, and culture
thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for all"*

This message from the Atmore Chamber,

One day a year in October, Atmore steps back in time to 1866 when it was called Williams Station, just a small supply stop on the Mobile and Great Northern railroad. Atmore invites you to join in on the celebration again as it honors its rich heritage at Williams Station Day, a regional event that celebrates the importance of the railroad in the life, artists, and craftsman of this community

Truly a family event, Williams Station offers something for everyone! From a fiddler's tent to local talent on the main stage, featuring AFA Puppet Ministries, Nostalgia Road, Jason Crysell, Twirl Time, Paul Therrell, and fiddlers. Enjoy a leisurely hayride from the main festival site to Heritage Park where there will be a car show hosted by Cruisers' Unlimited. Animal lovers can watch the BARK-tober Fest Pet Costume Contest at 10 am on the main stage, or you can participate—call the Chamber for more details; applications due by October 21. Get your morning run in during the 5K that will begin at 8 am. The Student Art Show, Amateur Photography Contest, Pumpkin Painting Contest, and 4th Grade Writing Contest offer experiences for every art connoisseur. All of these wonderful offerings and more await you at Williams Station Day 2020.

With the unique challenges 2020 has brought us, we would like to note that we will be enforcing CDC guidelines to protect against COVID-19. Booths will be spaced 10 feet apart, we will have handwashing stations set up through the festival grounds, and masks will be required. These are just a few of the many ways we will keep everyone in attendance's health in our best interest.

50 Years of Archaeology at the University of South Alabama: A Virtual Exhibit Preview



**Archaeology Museum
University of South Alabama**

Gregory Waselkov, professor emeritus of Anthropology at South Alabama says of this preview:

Between 1970 and 2020, University of South Alabama archaeologists—faculty, staff, students, and volunteers—carried out more than 1,250 research projects. Some of these projects contributed profoundly to our understanding of life in this region from ancient times to the present.

To celebrate 50 years of archaeology at the University of South Alabama, the Center for Archaeological Studies and the University's Archaeology Museum present this preview of a few of our most informative projects, a sample of our Greatest Hits.

**The Virtual Exhibit Preview is available at
<<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/53605ffdf0f4c2dbc8332d469b27b6a>>.**

**The Virtual Exhibit is available now
and the exhibits will be available for
in-person viewing
at the Archaeology Museum
fall 2021.**

This Week in Alabama History October 18 - October 24 from Alabama Department of Archives and History

October 18, 1540



Mural by Roderick D. MacKenzie depicting the meeting of Hernando de Soto and Chief Tuscaloosa. The mural is in the dome of the Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

The largest Indian battle in North America occurs at the village of Mabila (or Mauvila) between Hernando de Soto's Spaniards and Chief Tuscaloosa's (or Tascaluza's) warriors.

Accounts vary, but most agree that the Indian village was destroyed and most of its more than 2,000 inhabitants were killed. The exact location of this battle has eluded researchers for centuries.

nineteenth century. The primary function of most steamboats was to carry as much cotton as quickly and as cheaply as possible from the interior of the state to the ports along the Gulf Coast. In antebellum Alabama, steamboats going downstream to Mobile stopped to load cotton bales at nearly 300 landings along the Tombigbee River and 200 more along the Alabama River.

October 20, 1832



Representatives of the Chickasaw Indians sign the Treaty of Pontotoc, thereby ceding "all the land which they own on the east side of the Mississippi river" to the United States. That land included a portion of northwest Alabama.

The Chickasaw Nation signed the Treaty of Pontotoc following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. In the agreement, the Chickasaw ceded the land, some six million acres, to the federal government in exchange for land in present-day Oklahoma.

While white settlers began occupying the land later that same

Chickasaw Nation Territory in Mississippi in 1832. Most of the Chickasaw land was in Mississippi with a portion in Tennessee and a very small section in northwest Alabama.

year after its survey and sale, Chickasaw removal took years because suitable land in the West could not be found. Most Chickasaws did not arrive in Oklahoma until 1838, after the Choctaw Nation agreed to sell the western part of their new land to the Chickasaws.

October 22, 1821



This photo was taken in the 1890s of Steamboat Sidney P. Smith.

Bales of cotton sit on the bank beside the boat. The "Sidney P. Smith" was operated on the Coosa River from Rome, Georgia, to Gadsden, Alabama.

The steamboat Harriet reached Montgomery after ten days of travel from Mobile. This was the first successful attempt to navigate so far north on the Alabama River and opened river trade between Montgomery and Mobile.

Steamboat transportation made possible the plantation-based cotton economy that flourished during the steam era and

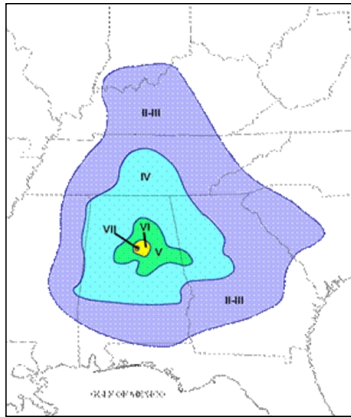
lasted from approximately 1820 to the end of the

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This Week in Alabama History October 18 - October 24 from Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 3)

October 18, 1916

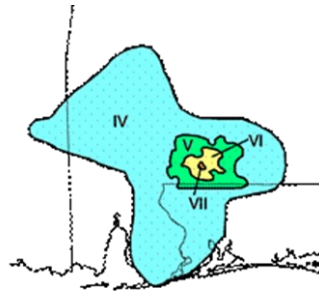


A strong earthquake occurs around 4 p.m. in an unnamed fault east of Birmingham, with the epicenter near Easonville in St. Clair County. The earthquake caused buildings to sway in downtown Birmingham and tied up all phone lines in the city with 25,000 calls recorded at the main

exchange in the hour following the quake. Two additional weaker tremors were reported that evening

According to the *Birmingham News*, Alabama's largest earthquake, 5.1 magnitude, was felt in seven other states. Hundreds of chimneys were toppled, windows cracked and water wells quickly bled dry in the Birmingham area. No injuries or deaths were reported (https://www.al.com/birmingham-news-stories/2009/04/1916_earthquakewould_cause_mo.html).

October 24, 1997



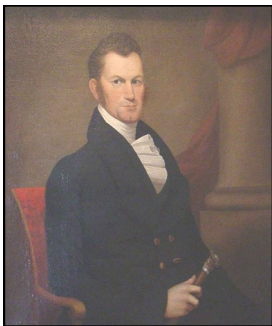
The second largest quake recorded by seismographs in Alabama occurred on October 24, 1997 at 3:30 am, in Escambia County and was a 4.9 magnitude event. Effects from the shaking were seen as far away as Lawrence County where a berm

around a pond failed, spilling water and fish across a road. Large cracks also developed in sand along a creek. Shaking from the quake was felt into Mississippi.

Illustrations for both the 1916 and 1997 earthquakes are from Geologic Investigations Program at <https://gsa.state.al.us/gas/geologic/hazards/earthquakes/alquakes>.

This Week in Alabama History October 25 - October 31 from Alabama Department of Archives and History

October 25, 1819



Thomas Bibb

In anticipation of achieving statehood, Alabama's first state legislature assembled at Huntsville, the temporary capital. The General Assembly, as it was called, was composed of nineteen senators and forty-seven representatives from Alabama's nineteen counties. Thomas Bibb of Limestone County was elected President of the

Senate, while James Dellet of Monroe County was elected Speaker of the House.

Bibb was also the **second Governor of Alabama**, serving from 1820 to 1821. He was president of



James Dellet

the **Alabama Senate** when his brother, Gov. **William Wyatt Bibb**, died in office on July 10, 1820, as a result of a fall from a horse. By virtue of his senatorial office and in accordance with the state Constitution, Thomas Bibb took over as governor for the remainder of his brother's term. He did not seek election as governor on his own, but later served in the Alabama House.

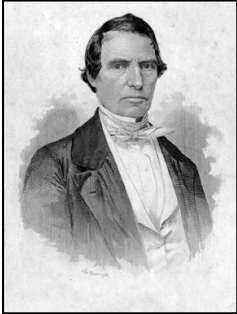
In addition to his role as Speaker of the House for Alabama's first House of Representatives, James Dellet also served in the House of Representatives for the U. S Congress.

(Continued on page 5)

This Week in Alabama History October 25 - October 31 from Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 4)

October 28, 1819



The Alabama legislature elects William Rufus King, left top, and John W. Walker, left bottom, as Alabama's first United States senators. King served several terms in the Senate and in 1852 was elected U.S. Vice President. Walker, who had been president of the Alabama constitutional convention of 1819, served in the Senate until 1822, when he resigned. The terms of both senators officially began December 14, 1819, the day Alabama became the 22nd state.



King was the only U.S. Vice President from the state of Alabama and held the highest political office of any Alabamian in American history. He held the

office for only 45 days before his death from tuberculosis. He was the third vice president to die in office.

Hugh C. Bailey in an article for the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* notes that few persons have played a more significant role in early Alabama history than John Williams Walker, noting that Walker "promoted the development of the state economy and transportation system and although he died at 40, Walker's role in the evolution of Alabama as a territory and a state and passage of the Land Law of 1821 significantly influenced the direction of Alabama history" (<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1181>).

Bailey also notes that Walker is the Senator who at the Alabama Constitutional Convention introduced an amendment to include West Florida in the state boundaries of Alabama. The amendment was narrowly defeated, most southern senators voting against it, probably from fear that a larger new state would have too much power.

October 25, 1941



Groundbreaking ceremonies are held in Huntsville for the U.S. Army's Redstone Ordnance Plant.

Renamed Redstone Arsenal in 1943, the installation produced conventional artillery ordnance during World War II, but in 1949 became the Army's missile and rocket development center. Led by German scientist Wernher von Braun, pictured, Redstone developed the rocket system that propelled the first U.S. satellite into space



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.

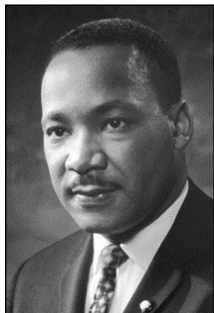
Picture from Wikipedia.

(Continued on page 6)

This Week in Alabama History October 25 - October 31 from Alabama Department of Archives and History

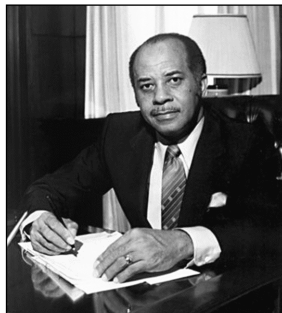
(Continued from page 5)

October 31, 1954



Martin Luther King Jr. of Atlanta is installed as minister of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. A little more than a year later, on the first day of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, he was named president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, a role which made him a national civil rights figure.

October 30, 1979



In a run-off, Richard Arrington is elected as the first black mayor of Birmingham, Alabama's largest city at that time. Arrington served in that post for nearly twenty years, until his resignation in July 1999.

Hank Locklin

The following biography of Hank Locklin is from the webpage for the Florida Artists Hall of Fame (<https://dos.myflorida.com/cultural/programs/florida-artists-hall-of-fame/lawrence-hankins-hank-locklin/>).

Florida native Hank Locklin was one of country music's early honky-tonk singers. A three-time Grammy finalist, Locklin saw more than 15 million copies of his songs sold worldwide before his death in 2009. In a career that spanned nearly seven decades, he recorded 65 albums and charted 70 singles including eight that became Top 10 hits. Although he didn't write the song, Locklin's "Please Help Me I'm Falling," released in 1960, was ranked the second most popular country song for the first 100 years of Billboard Magazine. Today he's immortalized as a major player in taking country music's popularity to an international scale.

Locklin's own songs have been recorded by more than 1,000 artists including Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Dwight Yoakam, Charley Pride, Roy Rogers



This month Hank Locklin will be remembered in the program, "Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor." Produced by WSRE of Pensacola, the program will be shown: Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 8:00 pm and Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:00 am.

and Gene Autry. He influenced a wide range of artists, including Vince Gill, George Jones, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers and Merle Haggard. Locklin was bestowed many high honors in the country music field, and in 1960 was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.

Locklin (born Lawrence Hankins Locklin) was the youngest son of four children born to a farm family living in the tiny Florida Panhandle hamlet of McClellan, near the town of Milton in Santa Rosa County. He grew up picking

cotton to help support his family. His mother, Hattie, played piano at church, which is where as a young child Locklin started singing.

When he was 8, Locklin was severely injured when struck by a school bus. During his long recovery at home, he began to learn to play guitar. When he was 10, he won an amateur performing contest in nearby Milton. By his mid-teens, Locklin had mastered the guitar, honed his Irish tenor voice and had become something of a radio star, being featured on

(Continued on page 7)

Hank Locklin

(Continued from page 6)

the Pensacola station WCOA.

Eager to launch a career in music, Locklin dropped out of high school and hit the road, learning his chops as an entertainer. By the mid-'40s, he was a regular performer on radio and in honky tonks throughout the Southeast. When the U.S. entered World War II, Locklin's childhood injury kept him out of the draft. In the late war years, he joined Jimmy Swan's dance band in Mobile, where he met another up-and-coming Hank who sat in occasionally—Hank Williams.

In 1947, Locklin formed his first band, the Rocky Mountain Boys. The group became popular radio favorites and led to Locklin's first big break, signing up with Four Star Records in Houston. Locklin soon had his first major regional hits, "The Same Sweet Girl," and "Send Me the Pillow That You Dream On" written by Claude Casey. In 1953, he finally drew national attention with "Let Me Be the One," which shot to the top of the country music chart.

After signing with RCA in 1955, Locklin's career took off. In 1957, he had three songs that reached the Top 5 on country charts, beginning with "Geisha Girl," a re-release of "Pillow" (soon covered to great success by both Dean Martin and Johnny Tillotson) and "It's a Little More Like Heaven."

But in 1960, Locklin scored his biggest hit of his career with the Chet Atkins-produced "Please Help Me I'm Falling," written by Don Roberson and Hal Blair. The song spent a total of nine months on the country charts, including 14 weeks as No. 1. For the recording, Chet Atkins hired session pianist Ralph



**Lawrence Hankins
"Hank" Locklin**

Cramer, who introduced his signature "slip-note" playing style into the song. The technique of slurring keystrokes, combined with twangy guitar, became associated with a rebirth of country music later identified as "the Nashville Sound."

"Please" became Locklin's entree to the Grand Ole Opry, which invited him to join in 1960. He followed the song with an unbroken, 17-year string of hits, often with multiple chartings each year from 1960 through 1977. Three songs reached the Top 10 on country charts, "Happy Birthday to Me" (1961); "Happy Journey" (1961) and "The Country Music Hall of Fame" (1967).

Locklin's music became popular overseas, particularly in Norway, Britain and Ireland. In 1963 he recorded an album targeted specifically for his Irish fans entitled *Irish Songs Country Style*. After touring Japan with Chet Atkins, Locklin began to be credited as the performer who spread the honky-tonk sound around the world.

Locklin stayed productive almost his entire, long life. In 2001, he recorded *Generations In Song*, which included duets with Dolly Parton and Jett Williams. An all-gospel album, *By The Grace of God*, followed in 2006—his 65th album.

In 1970, Locklin married his second wife, Anita Crooks of Brewton, Alabama, a town close to his home place in Florida. Four sons and a daughter were born to the couple. He retired to his Brewton home in 1984 and died there in 2009 (at 91) as the oldest member of the Grand Ole Opry at that time.



A woman stands near an ox-drawn wagon in this rural scene from the John Starke Hunter Plantation, near Selma, Alabama (Dallas County), undated.

Gaylord Lee Clark Collection, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama

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

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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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