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The Escambia **County** Historical Society, Founded 1971

The February, 2021 Newsletter There Will Not Be A February Meeting. **Students Are on the Campus for the** Spring Term. However, the Museum and Alahama Room Are Still Closed.

News from the Museum and the Alabama Room

There is still no definite date for reopening the Museum and Alabama Room or a date for an ECHS meeting. However, Don still welcomes visitors to the Museum. He is there Tuesday—Thursday, 9:00 am-4:30 pm.

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>.

Remember this is the time to renew your membership to the society. The current dues are: Single, \$25 - Multiple members at the same address, \$35 - Business, \$100, and Lifetime, \$500 (per individual). You can mail payments to: *Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427.

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Remember to Support our **Business Members**



Exterior of the Chapel at the Visitation Convent, Mobile, Ala. 1895

The Convent of the Visitation was founded by Bishop Michael Portier, first bishop of Mobile. Aware of the lack of schools in his diocese, he remembered the fine work of the Visitation nuns throughout his native France. He obtained permission from Pope Gregory XVI to found a convent in Mobile, Alabama. Five nuns from the convent in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. boarded a sailing ship in November, 1832 and arrived in Mobile a month later.



of Alabama

Volume 48 No 2 February 2021

News and Announcements



What's Happening at the Alabama Historical Association



The Spring 2021 Annual Meeting

The 73rd Annual Meeting will be a Virtual Meeting Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm - Fri, Apr 9, 2021 12:30 pm.

The meeting will feature a panel discussion on the Clotilda discovery and the future of Africatown (both located near Mobile) with local leaders and a keynote address by author Beth Duke.

Beth Dial Duke is an Amazon #1 Best Selling author and the recipient of short story awards. Her best selling book Tapestry is said to be "Southern Fiction at its best.'

The schedule for the two days of the meeting as well as registration information can be found at https://www.alabamahistory.net/2021-virtual- meeting>.

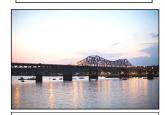


Landscape Blakeley Park

Fall Pilgrimage at **Historic Blakeley State** Park

In response to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Pilgrimage at Historic Blakeley State Park has been 6:30pm - Harper Lee Award postponed to October 2021.

Blakeley Park is near Mobile.



Bridge over **Tennessee River** at Florence

74th Annual Meeting April 2021 Florence, Alabama

In response to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). the Annual Meeting in Florence has been postponed to April 2022.



Monroeville Literary Festival. Online -March 4-6, 2021

All sessions are free and will be held via Zoom. Links will be emailed to attendees on Wednesday, March 3 for the sessions on March 4-6.

Registration online is located at

<Monroevilleliteraryfestival.com/registration>.

A Full description of the festival events and the participants can be found at https:// www.monroevilleliteraryfestival.com/post/the-festivalgoes-virtual-bringing-the-literary-arts-to-where-youare>.

The Schedule is:

Thursday. March 4, 2021

10am - Salaam Green, Healing the Healer Writing Workshop

2pm - Foster Dickson - ASCA Literary Arts Fellow 6:30pm - The Eugene Current Garcia Award

Friday, March 5, 2021

10am - Mike Bunn, The Fourteenth Colony

2pm - Nabila Lovelace and Charlotte Pence – ASCA Literary Arts Fellows, Poetry

6:30 - The Truman Capote Prize

Saturday, March 6, 2021

10am - White Lies with Andrew Beck Grace and Chip Brant

2pm - Joshilyn Jackson, Never Have I Ever

Thursday, March 18, 12:00 "Food For Thought" A Virtual Presentation **by Author Briana Royster** "I Will Not Move" The Story of Alabama **Suffragist Indiana Little**

From the Biography of Indiana T. Little by Briana Royster: Even with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, white officials in Birmingham still did not allow local African

(Continued on page 3)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 2)

American citizens to vote. So, on the morning of January 18, 1926, Indiana Little led a march of African American men and women to the registrar's office. The reported numbers of those involved in the march ranged from hundreds to a thousand.

While at the registrar's office, Little reportedly stated, "I am a free-born citizen of America and by the fourteenth amendment of the U.S. Constitution I shall not be denied the right to vote because of race, color, or sex, and I will not move until I have been registered." City officials did not allow Little and her followers to register to vote at that time.

Moreover, officials arrested and possibly beat Little for her efforts. Local, state, and national newspapers, such as *The Pittsburgh Courier* and *The Chicago Defender*, covered the march and expressed outrage at Little's arrest. Little's march also sparked other marches in Birmingham in subsequent years, and newspapers continued to reference Little's march through 1930.

Note: The program can be seen virtually through the ADAH's Facebook page <www.facebook.com/Alabama Archives> and YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/alabamaarchives>. No social media account or advance registration is required to livestream the presentations on Facebook and YouTube.

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History This Week in Alabama History, February 15 - 21

February 19, 1807 Arrest of Aaron Burr



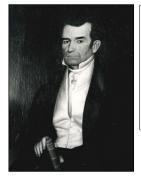
Aaron Burr

Former U.S. vice-president Aaron Burr is arrested in the Mississippi Territory at McIntosh Bluff, Washington County, in present-day Alabama. Burr was accused of treason for attempting to form a new republic in the southwest. After spending several weeks in custody in Alabama, Burr was returned to Richmond,

Virginia, for trial. Burr was acquitted of the charges, but quickly left the country to avoid other charges relating to the killing of Alexander Hamilton during an 1804 duel.

From the article by Samuel P. Menefee "Aaron Burr's Arrest," <u>Encyclopedia of Alabama</u>,

The events surrounding Burr's capture in what is now south Alabama were recorded in several contemporary sources, most notable the verbal testimony of Nicholas Perkins in Burr's 1807 trial and in letters written by some of the principals, including Lieutenant Gaines and Burr's traveling companion, Robert Ashley.



Washington County attorney Nicholas Perkins III (1779-1848) who played a key role in the capture of fugitive and former U.S. Vice President <u>Aaron Burr</u> in 1807.

According to these sources, on the night of February 18, at approximately 11 o'clock that

evening, Perkins was standing in front of Sheriff Theodore Brightwell's house in the upper end of the Wakefield settlement in Washington County, in what was then Mississippi Territory, when he saw two travelers on the road in the moonlight.

The first, who would turn out to be Aaron Burr, passed without stopping or speaking, but his companion Robert Ashley, stopped and asked for directions to Major John Hinson's home. Perkins directed him but noted that Hinson was not at home and that high creek water might make the journey difficult. This did not appear to deter the pair, who proceeded on their way.

Perkins became suspicious of the men, given their

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late hour of travel, Burr's silence, and the unwillingness of the pair to stop at an inn, even when they were told of the high water and Hinson's absence. Believing that they were robbers, or possibly the fugitive Burr and a friend, Perkins roused Sheriff Brightwell and convinced him to ride to Hinson's home.

When they arrived, Perkins spoke with Ashley, and Burr, who had been warming himself in the kitchen, came into the room where the other men were. He spoke little and avoided observation but seemed to be interested in whether he was being watched. Convinced of Burr's identity, Perkins decided to plan for his capture. He left the house after mentioning the direction he planned to take, one opposite to that he thought Burr might take. Out of eyeshot, he took the road to Fort Stoddert, where he informed the

commandant, Lt. Edmund P. Gaines, of his suspicions.

Perkins and Gaines left the fort with several other men the following morning. After starting out about 14 miles north, the pursuers met with Burr, who was being escorted by Sheriff Brightwell to the ferry on the Tombigbee River. Burr planned to stop and wait there for his servants and baggage, which had lagged behind.

According to some sources, Burr planned to travel to Pensacola, and from there to Europe to enlist British and French support in the conquest of Spain's North American territories. Ashley, who was not present when Burr was seized, later claimed that Burr was heading toward Washington, D.C.

Gaines detained Burr, based on the proclamations of the president and the territorial governor, and escorted him back to Fort Stoddert. Ashley, who told Perkins that he had met Burr on the road and decided to travel with him, was allowed to continue on his way, as was Brightwell.

Burr remained at the fort for the rest of February. After arrangements were made, Burr was placed



Edmund Pendleton
Gaines (1777-1849) was an
officer in the U.S. Army
who arrested former U.S.
Vice President Aaron
Burr in Washington
County, in what is now
Alabama, in 1807.

Gaines served in the War of 1812, the Seminole Wars, and the Black Hawk War and was promoted to the rank of brevet major general. Fort Gaines, located on Dauphin Island, is named for him.

under a military guard headed by Gaines in early March and taken by boat up the Alabama River into Lake Tensaw in Baldwin County. After the party landed, Burr was delivered to an escort party headed by Perkins for the journey to Richmond, Virginia, where he was tried and acquitted on September 1, 1807.

The Three Wars Referenced in Edmond P. Gains' Description:

• War of 1812 - Historian Jeanne T. Heidler writes that the War of 1812, (June 18, 1812–February 17, 1815), was a conflict fought between the United States and Great Britain over British violations of U.S. maritime rights. It ended with the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of Ghent

https://www.britannica.com/event/ War-of-1812>.

- The Seminole Wars From Wikipedia: Also known as the Florida Wars, the Seminole Wars were three related military conflicts in Florida between the United States Army and the Seminole, a Native American group which had coalesced in Spanish Florida during the early 1700s. The fighting occurred between about 1816 and 1858, with two periods of uneasy truce between active conflicts. Both in human and monetary terms, the Seminole Wars were the longest and most expensive of the Indian Wars in United States history https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seminole Wars.
- Black Hawk War Professor James Lewis writes in <u>Britannica</u> that the Black Hawk War was a brief but bloody war from April to August 1832 between the United States and Native Americans led by Black Hawk (Maka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak), a 65-year-old Sauk warrior who in early April led some 1,000 Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo men, women, and children, including about 500 warriors, across the Mississippi River to reclaim land

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in Illinois that tribal spokesmen had surrendered to the U.S. in 1804.

The band's crossing back into Illinois spurred fear and anger among white settlers, and eventually a force of some 7,000 mobilized against them—including members of the U.S. Army, state militias, and warriors from various other Indian peoples. Some 450–600 Indians and 70 soldiers and settlers were killed during the war. By 1837 all surrounding tribes had fled to the

West, leaving most of the former Northwest Territory to white settlement.

Among those who participated in various roles during the war were a number of men who would figure prominently in U.S. history, including future U.S. presidents **Abraham Lincoln and Zachary Taylor**, longtime military

leader and presidential candidate Winfield Scott, and Jefferson Davis, who would become president of the Confederate States of America https://www.britannica.com/event/Black-Hawk-War.

February 15, 1854 Alabama Establishes a Statewide Public School System

The legislation, which provided funding for the system and created the position of state superintendent, cited the state's 1819 constitution as the basis for a system of free schools in Alabama: "Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged in this State."

While the office of State Superintendent of Education began in 1854, it was not until 1919 that there was a well defined organization as authorized by a legislative act. < https://archives.alabama.gov/timeline/1800/school3a.html>.



William F. Perry (1823-1901) was a self-taught teacher and lawyer, although he never practiced law. He was Alabama's first superintendent of public education and served from 1854 to 1858. He then served as the president of the East Alabama Female College in Tuskegee (present day Huntingdon College in Montgomery).

During the Civil War, Perry was an officer in Gen Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and took part in the Battle of Antietam, the Battle of Little Round Top, and the Second Battle of Deep Bottom, among other conflicts.

After the war, he resumed his career in education at Ogden College in Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Children and adults standing outside the school building in district 34 of Cleburne County ca. 1900 Picture from Alabama Department of Archives and History First School Building in Birmingham, Ala. Photo and text from https://www.alabamapio neers.com/asystem-ofeducation-didnot-exist-in-theearly-days-ofalabama/>.



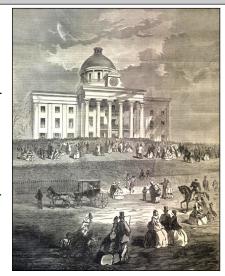
(Continued on page 6)

February 18, 1861 Jefferson Davis Is Inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America.



Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) He served as a U.S. senator and Secretary of War before his inauguration in Montgomery.

After being welcomed to Montgomery with great fanfare, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated on the portico of the Alabama capitol. Davis, a former U.S. senator from Mississippi, lived in Montgomery until May, when the Confederate government was moved from Montgomery to its new capital of Richmond, Virginia.



Inauguration of Davis. Illustration from the March 9, 1861, edition of the popular newspaper Harper's Weekly.

Photo and text from the Encyclopedia of <u>Alabama</u>

February 17, 1864 The H.L. Hunley, a Confederate Submarine, Becomes the First Submarine in History to Sink an Enemy Ship

From the Britannica Website https://ww.britannica.com/ topic/H-L-Hunley>:

The Hunley was designed and built at Mobile. Alabama, and named for its chief financial backer, Horace L. Hunley. Less than 40 feet (12 meters) long, the submarine could hold up to nine crewmen, most of whom propelled the vessel by hand cranking a single screw. Its commander controlled steering and depth.

The Hunley was shipped

by rail in 1863 to Charleston, South Carolina, where it was launched in July. In practice runs and attempts to attack



1864 painting of H. L. Hunley by Conrad Wise Chapman. Image from Wikipedia

blockading Union warships, it went to the bottom three times with great loss of life—including that of Hunley himself. Raised one more time, it successfully attacked the Union sloop Housatonic with a spar torpedo on February 17, 1864, sinking the vessel. The Hunley, however, was lost shortly after the attack, along with its eight crew-

The vessel lay in only 30 feet (9 meters) of water some 4 miles (6 km) offshore until it was found by

preservationists in 1995. It was raised intact in 2000 and taken to North Charleston's Warren Lasch Conser-

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vation Center, which had been constructed for the Hunley. The crewmen's remains were later removed for burial, and the submarine underwent extensive preservation work and research.

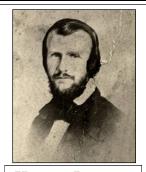
Of particular interest was the cause of the crew's death, long thought to be suffocation or drowning. However, when the Hunley was unsealed, the bodies were found at their posts, and there was no indication

that the men had tried to evacuate. In addition, the submarine showed no major damage. Various theories were proposed, and in 2017 researchers at Duke University speculated that the blast from the torpedo that sunk the Housatonic produced a shock wave that ruptured blood vessels in the men's lungs. Known as blast lung, it either killed the crew instantaneously or incapacitated them, causing the Hunley to sink.

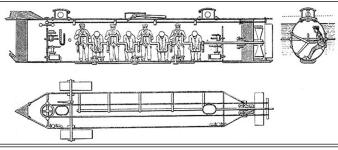


The Hunley in a water tank at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, North Charleston, South Carolina.

Image: Mic Smith Photography LLC/Alamy.
Text and Image from https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hunley.



Horace Lawson
Hunley, the
submarine's
namesake and
inventor.
Image and text from
Wikipedia



Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley. Cutaway drawings published in France, based on sketches by William A. Alexander, who directed her construction. Image from Wikipedia





USS Housatonic - Sunk by H. L. Hunley Feb. 17, 1864

Confederate Ironclads
Chicora and Palmetto State.
Nineteenth-Century photograph of a painting
by Conrad Wise Chapman, depicting the ships
in Charleston harbor, South Carolina, during
the Civil War. Note the spar torpedo fitted to
the ironclad in the right center.
The original painting is in the Confederate
Museum, Richmond, Virginia.
Image and text from Wikipedia.

February 16, 1895 Alabama Formally Adopts a State Flag for the First Time



Alabama formally adopts a state flag for the first time. The legislature dictated "a crimson cross of St. Andrew upon a field of white," which was the design submitted by John W. A. Sanford, Jr., who also sponsored the bill. This flag remains Alabama's flag today.







To the left, the Two Sides of the Flag of 1861
Also Called the Secession Flag.
On January 11, 1861, the Alabama Secession
Convention passed a resolution designating an
official flag. Designed by several women from
Montgomery, final touches were made by Francis
Corra of that city. On the top, one side of the flag
reads "Independent Now and Forever." On the
bottom, the reverse side reads "Noli Me
Tangere" ('touch me not'), the Latin version of a
phrase spoken, according to John 20:17, by Jesus
to Mary Magdalene.

St Andrew crucified on a diagonal cross. From a 14th-century manuscript. Image and text from Wikipedia.

February 15, 1965 Nat King Cole, "the Man with the Velvet Voice," Dies in Santa Monica, California



From the <u>Encyclopedia of</u> Alabama:

Nat "King" Cole (1919-1965) was a leading figure in American popular music in the 1940s and 1950s.

Although born in Montgomery, Nat "King" Cole grew up in the jazz scene of Chicago during the Great Depression.

Hoping to seek opportunities and escape the extreme racial discrimination in the Deep South, Nat's father had moved his family to Chicago, Illinois, in 1923 as part of the Great Migration of southern blacks to the Midwest and East.

A jazz pianist, composer, and singer, he was widely beloved for his smooth, silky voice. He was the first African American artist to host his own television program and fought for civil rights in a determined but understated manner. He remains one of Alabama's most famous sons. Cole was inducted

into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.

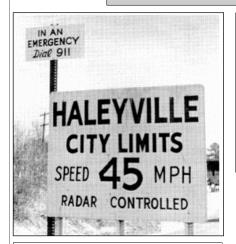


Cole and the "Father of the Blues" W. C. Handy. In 1958, Cole played fellow Alabama native Handy in the film St. Louis Blues, based on Handy's life and career and named after his most famous composition.

From the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

Picture Courtesy of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

February 16, 196 The First-Ever 911 Call Is Placed in Haleyville, Alabama



The information sign
"In an Emergency Dial
911" was erected at the city
limits to inform residents
and visitors of the new
three-digit emergency
telephone number.

The first-ever 911 call is placed in Haleyville. State Representative Rankin Fite made the call from the mayor's office and it was answered at the police station by Congressman Tom Bevill. The system was put into operation within weeks of AT&T's announcement that it planned to establish 911 as a nationwide emergency number. Alabama Telephone Company, in a successful attempt to implement the number before AT&T, determined that Haleyville's equipment could be quickly converted to accommodate an emergency system.



All information and images on this story at http://rchives.ubalt.edu/bsr/articles/feb%2016.pdf>.

In this photograph from the Feb. 9, 1968 issue of the <u>Daily Northwest Alabamian</u>, B. W. Gallagher (left), president of the Alabama Telephone Co., displays the bright red telephone that was installed at the Haleyville police station to receive the first 911 call.

In the middle is Haleyville mayor James Whitt, and on the right is Robert Normal, Commercial manager of ATC.

This Week in Alabama History February 22 – 28

February 28, 1887 Alabama Passes Its First Child Labor Law, Fixing Age Limits and Restricting Work Hours for Certain Types of Labor.

The legislation, which also protected women workers, was repealed in the 1890s, but efforts of reformers like Rev. Edgar Gardner Murphy of Montgomery resulted in new child labor laws during the first two decades of the 20th century.

From the article "Edgar Gardner Murphy by Hugh C. Bailey, <u>Encyclopedia of Alabama</u> at http://

encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1183>: In 1887 the Alabama legislature had established a pioneering law forbidding children under 14 from working.



Edgar Gardner Murphy

Alabama's textile industry expanded rapidly, however, and the law was repealed in 1894. By 1900 one-fourth of Alabama textile workers were under the age of 16 and usually working 12 or more hours a day. Murphy persuaded the Montgomery Ministerial Association to support a bill prohibiting for those under 12.which was defeated.

Disgusted, he turned to his partners from the Conference on Race Relations in 1901 to form the Alabama Child Labor

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This Week in Alabama History February 22 – 28

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Committee, which worked to expose the horrors of child labor and lobby for laws to correct them. To aid in this mission, the committee published "An Appeal to the People and Press of New England." This work became the first of 10 pamphlets published by the committee, including "Child Labor in Alabama," some 28,000 of which were issued nationally and formed the basis for improved child legislation in many states.

As Murphy wrestled with the problems of racism and child labor, he increasingly felt that a lack of education was the main factor in southern social and economic problems. Twenty percent of white children were completely illiterate in 1900, as they had been in 1850, and one-half of African Americans never attended any school. He joined the Southern Education Board in 1903 and worked to increase educational support.







Three young laborers at Avondale Mills in Birmingham, Alabama, 1810.

Picture from Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH)

Child laborers at
Barker Cotton Mill in
Mobile in 1914.
Courtesy of Library of
Congress. Photography by
Lewis Wickes Hine.

Oyster Shuckers in Bayou La Batre in 1911 Picture from <u>Encyclopedia of</u> Alabama.



February 22, 1893
The First Alabama/Auburn
Football Game
Is Played in
Birmingham's Lakeview Park
Before a Crowd of 5,000 Spectators

Auburn won this first match-up 32-22. The rivalry continued until 1907 when games were stopped, with the renewal of the series not coming until 1948.

From "Iron Bowl," <u>Encyclopedia of Alabama by Clyde</u> Bolton at http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1797:

Alabama regarded the match as its final game of the 1892 season, whereas Auburn considered it as the first game of its 1893 season, so the rivalry was marked by disagreement at the outset.

Both schools fielded their first football teams in 1892, after Auburn history professor George

Petrie promoted the sport he initially saw played while at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. W. G. Little of Livingston is considered the father of Alabama football.

Little attended prep school in Massachusetts, where he discovered football and organized Alabama's first squad and served as its captain. (The oldest rivalry in the Deep South exists between the Auburn Tigers and the University of Georgia Bulldogs, dating from February 20, 1892.)

Auburn and Alabama stopped playing each other after

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This Week in Alabama History February 22 – 28

(Continued from page 10)

1907. Over the years, a myth grew that a huge fight among players and fans had led to the severing of relations between Auburn and Alabama. The truth, however, was decidedly less dramatic. The schools' officials simply could not agree on contractual details, such as per diem pay rates for the players, and thus there was no game in 1908.

Another myth has persisted that the state legislature mandated resumption of the series, but a resolution approved by the legislature on August 15, 1947, merely officially requested that the schools resume the annual contest. In 1948, Auburn president Ralph Draughon and Alabama president John Galalee simply agreed that the schools should play, and the rivalry was renewed in the modern era.



Montgomery native George Petrie (1866-1947) was a historian and educator at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama (now Auburn University). He also coached the school's first football team and was involved in the establishment of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Eugene B. Beaumont
was the University of
Alabama's first football coach, leading the
team during the 1892-93
season. Beaumont's
team included future
U.S. senator William B.
Bankhead and future
Alabama governor
Bibb Graves. From
Encyclopedia of Alabama



The 1892-1893 Auburn Football Team, then Known as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama.
On the football is Written "93 Champions Ala. & Ga."



The 1892 University of Alabama Football Team. Among those identified, head coach Beaumont (bowler hat, suit & tie), William Bankhead (3rd from left, 2nd row), William Little (2nd row, 4th from left), & team captain Eli Abbott (seated in middle with "A" on shirt). From Bryant Museum

February 26, 1965 Jimmie Lee Jackson, a Young Black Man, Dies Eight Days after Being Shot by a State Trooper during Civil Rights Protests in Marion, Alabama.

His death gave immediate impetus to the decision of civil rights organizers to lead a march from nearby Selma to the state capital in support of voting rights for black Alabamians. The historic Selma-to-Montgomery March took place the next month.



Jimmie Lee Jackson

ECHOES THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; Phone: 251-809-1528; E-mail: escambiacohistoricalsociety@gmail.com We're on the web! www.escohis.org

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