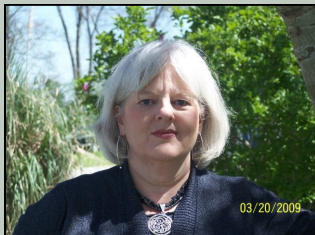


# ECHOES



The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971

**The July 2021 Newsletter**  
The July Regular Meeting will be  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 3:00**  
**In the Woodfin Patterson Auditorium**  
**at the Coastal Alabama College in Brewton.**



**Karen Duke Shaver**

**The Program**  
**Guest Speaker Karen Duke Shaver Will Present a**  
**Program on Andrew Jackson Based on Her**  
**Experience as an Historical Interpreter**  
**at the Hermitage,**  
**Jackson's Home in Nashville.**

A native of Brewton, Alabama, Karen graduated from T.R. Miller High School in 1978. She attended Jefferson Davis Community College from 1978-1980, then transferred to the University of South Alabama where she received her B.S. in Medical Technology in 1983.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Table of Contents

<b>News and Announcements</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Alabama History, June 28-July 4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Alabama History, July 5-July 11</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Alabama History, July 12-July 18</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pinckney's Treaty</b>	<b>15</b>



**The Hermitage, Andrew Jackson's Estate.**  
**Chromolithograph by Endicott & Co., 1856.**

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**U. S. Stamp of**  
**The Hermitage, 1959**

**Volume 48 No. 7**  
**July 2021**



**The hall at the Hermitage with pictorial**  
**wallpaper printed in Paris about 1853. Original**  
**to the house, the paper is of outstanding**  
**historical interest, one of the few historic,**  
**scenic papers preserved in this country.**

## The Program

(Continued from page 1)

After the birth of her son in 1988, Karen earned her Master's Degree in Secondary Education and Biology at Auburn University in Montgomery. She worked in hospital laboratories and taught biology at Hillcrest High School in Evergreen, Alabama, until her retirement in 2010. Karen moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 2017, and worked part-time as an Historical Interpreter at Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage, from 2018 until 2020.



She now resides in Greenville, Alabama. She has one son, 33, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

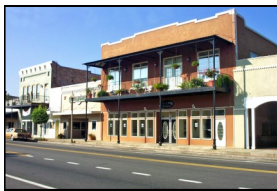
**At the Right,  
Celebration of  
the Victory at New Orleans,  
at the Hermitage.  
Karen in Period Dress  
at the Left.**

## News and Announcements



### **The Alabama Historical Commission Announced that the Atmore Commercial District Has Been Added to the National Register of Historic Places.**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.



Listed on June 18, 2021, the Commission notes that the Atmore Commercial Historic District illustrates the town's development into an important commercial center in Escambia County between

1900 and 1970. The collection of industrial and commercial buildings in the Atmore Commercial Historic District represents locally significant examples of national architectural trends.

The district includes Carney, Main, Trammell, Roberts, Presley, E. Church & Ridgeley Streets, as well as Pensacola, Nashville & Louisville Avenues in the downtown area.

### **Other Escambia County Districts and Properties Listed on The National Register of Historic Places**



#### **The Brewton Historic Commercial District.**

This is a 13-acre 5 historic district centered on U.S. Route 31. During its heyday it was the largest commercial center on the railroad

between Montgomery and the Gulf Coast ports of Pensacola and Mobile. The district was the early commercial area of the town, with the majority of the structures dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It contained 47 properties. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 1982



#### **The Commercial Hotel, later known as the Hart and Flomaton Hotel, located at the corner of Palafox and Cary Streets.**

The historic hotel building in Flomaton was a two-story wood-frame structure built from 1904–05 in

(Continued on page 3)



## News and Announcements

(Continued from page 2)

the Queen Anne style. It had a brick pier foundation. Fish scale shingle patterns decorated the front of each gable end. The front facade featured a full-width porch with neoclassical columns.

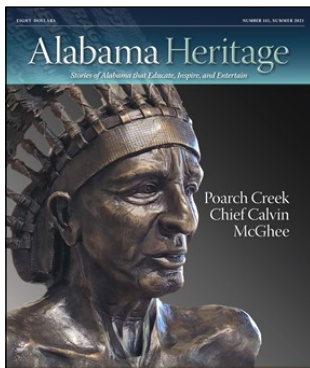
The hotel contained 18 guest rooms, all with a fireplace. The interior retained its original woodwork throughout.

The Flomaton Hotel was significant for its associations with the early growth and development of Flomaton, Alabama. Initially a railroad junction (Pensacola Junction) serving as the intersection of two major lines, Flomaton, AL was one of several small towns that sprang up along the L & N Railroad lines during its rapid expansion beginning in 1879.

The Flomaton Hotel was one of five hotels that pre-dated the 1908 incorporation of the town.

The hotel was destroyed by fire in late 1986. It has been replaced by a local church.

\*\*\*\*\*



**On the cover:  
A bronze bust of  
Poarch Band of  
Creek Indians  
Chief Calvin  
McGhee by sculp-  
tor Fernando  
Guérard.**

### **Poarch Creek Indian Chief Calvin McGhee Featured on Cover of Summer Issue of Alabama Heritage Magazine.**

The feature article for the summer issue is "Chief Calvin McGhee and the Poarch Creek Renaissance" by Frye Galliard.

*From Alabama Heritage:*

In the mid-twentieth century, Calvin McGhee led the Poarch Creek Band of the Creek Indians and advocated for their rights, visiting Washington to petition

for compensation for tribe members whose land had been claimed, arguing that Poarch students should be served by local school buses, and representing Native American culture on the national stage. He also helped draft "The Declaration of Indian Purpose: The Voice of the American Indian," working with other leaders to ensure that Native

American identity and culture was not abandoned or overlooked <https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-141-summer-2021.html>.

*Note: The Alabama Room has copies of the issues of Alabama Heritage.*

\*\*\*\*\*



### **New Interpretive Signage Installed at Fort Mims**

New interpretive signage was added at Fort Mims Historic Site in Baldwin County in March. These signs offer

visitors a more complete understanding of the battle of Fort Mims, which took place on August 30, 1813.

"Our hope in providing new interpretive signage at Fort Mims is to bring a greater understanding of the complex relationship of all the peoples who struggled to create the territory that was becoming Alabama," said Eddie Griffith, Alabama Historical Commission Chairman.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Reenactment of Battle of Burnt Corn Creek Saturday, July 24, 2021, 12:00pm -3:00 pm. Jennings Park, Brewton, Alabama**



*From the City of Brewton Website:*

Want to learn some local history? Come to Jennings Park on Saturday, July 24th to learn about the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek. The reenactment takes place at noon.

## Alabama History for June 28 - July 4

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

**June 29, 1846**

#### The 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment Organizes in Mobile to Fight in the Mexican War.

Alabamians volunteered in large numbers to fight against Mexico when war came over the annexation of Texas, but only this single regiment, a battalion, and several independent companies actually were received into federal service from the state. During its eleven months of service, the 1st Alabama lost only one man in battle but 150 died from disease.



**The Battle of Buena Vista was fought on Feb. 23, 1847. The American Army, led by Gen. Zachary Taylor, was victorious.**

*Currier & Ives Print.*

<<https://alabamaneWSCenter.com/2018/06/29/day-Alabama-history-Alabama-regiment-mobilized-war-Mexico/>>.

*From Alabama News Center:* The war was relatively brief – two years – and the United States won every battle, despite being outnumbered on the field. But primitive conditions and poor hygiene took their toll on the troops. Soldiers suffered from yellow fever, malaria, dysentery, smallpox, measles and other maladies (<https://alabamaneWSCenter.com/2018/06/29/day-alabama-history-alabama-regiment-mobilized-war-mexico/>).

**June 30, 1928**

#### As Mandated by the Legislature, Convict Leasing Ends in Alabama.

While many southern states leased convicts to private industry as laborers, Alabama's program, begun in 1846, lasted the longest, and for much of that time the notorious system was a key revenue source for the state.

*From "Convict-Lease System"*  
By Mary Ellen Curtin:

Between 1875 and 1928, the state and counties of Alabama profited from a form of prison labor known as the convict-lease system. Under this system, companies and individuals paid fees to state and county governments in exchange for the labor of prisoners on farms, at lumberyards, and in coal mines. Following their convictions, prisoners were transported directly to the work site and remained there for the duration of their sentences.

State prisoners deemed unable to work were sent to the state penitentiary in Wetumpka in Elmore



**Guards watching a convict-lease work gang in Birmingham. Between 1875 and 1928, the state and counties of Alabama leased prisoners to agriculture and industrial firms. The Birmingham District was by far the most invested in the use of convicts for labor.**

Photo and text from <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-3776>>.

County; after 1888 all women convicts were sent to Wetumpka as well. The Wetumpka site held relatively few prisoners, however.

The vast majority of Alabama convicts worked for private enterprises and generated substantial amounts of revenue for the state and counties. By the 1880s, nearly all of the several thousand state and county prisoners working under the convict-leasing system labored in coal mines located around Birmingham . . .

In 1924, the death of a prisoner who had been tortured by being lowered into a vat of boiling water prompted an investigation. The Sloss Company continued to work county prisoners at its mines until 1928, but in that year, prison mining and the convict-leasing system finally came to a halt (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1346>). Co).

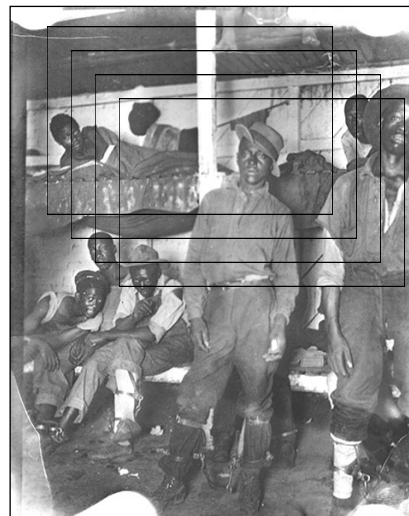
(Continued on page 5)



# Alabama History for June 28 - July 4

## From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 4)



**This front page of the Birmingham News reports on the deadly explosion at the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company's Banner Coal Mine on April 8, 1911. The tragedy renewed debate on the convict-lease system and helped Gov. Emmet J. O'Neal push a mine safety bill through the state legislature later that month.**  
*Photo And text from Encyclopedia of Alabama.*

**Convict miners in their sleeping quarters in Birmingham in 1907.**

*Photo and text from  
<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-3779>.*

### July 1, 1915

#### Statewide Prohibition Goes into Effect in Alabama, Five Years before Nationwide Prohibition.

The sale and regulation of alcohol has often been a bitter issue in Alabama politics, and the 1915 ban was first vetoed by Gov. Charles Henderson, but the legislature overrode his veto. Despite prohibition, 386 illegal stills were seized in Alabama in 1915.

*From "Prohibition in Alabama" by Matthew Downs: Alabama enacted Prohibition in 1907, well before the federal era of nationwide Prohibition (1919-1933). Throughout the early decades of the twentieth century, reform-minded Alabamians worked at the local, state, and national level to outlaw the manufacture and distribution of*



**Members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union campaign for a Prohibition to the U.S. Constitution outside the Birmingham View Company on November 29, 1909. Debate over national prohibition factored heavily in a number of elections in Alabama.**

*Photo and text from <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-5252>.*

alcoholic beverages. Although state laws and the 18th Amendment, ratified in 1919, prohibited liquor sales, Alabamians found it nearly impossible to enforce the laws. Prohibition was more successful at the local level, and even after the 21st Amendment repealed national Prohibition in 1933, many Alabamians continued to support local prohibition and repeal initiatives into the 21st century. . . .

Prohibition had an important effect on Alabama. The reform movement demonstrated the influence of Progressive reformers on state politics, most notably

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Alabama History for June 28 - July 4

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 5)

women and evangelical Christians. Prohibition also exposed fractures within state politics and divisions between Democrats over federal power and states' rights and urban progressives and rural conservatives. Alabama's experiment with Prohibition revealed a state grappling with modern life, negotiating questions of social reform, political power, and community integrity as the state entered the twentieth century (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-4126>).



**Bangor Cave, ca. 1930s.**  
The entrance to the series of caves in Blount County was the site of an illegal nightclub and casino during Prohibition until Alabama governor Bibb Graves ordered the operation closed.

Photo and Text from <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2976>>.



**Tuscaloosa County law enforcement officers pose with the mound of moonshining equipment, including multiple stills, outside the county jail in 1921.**

Photo and text from <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-9205>>.

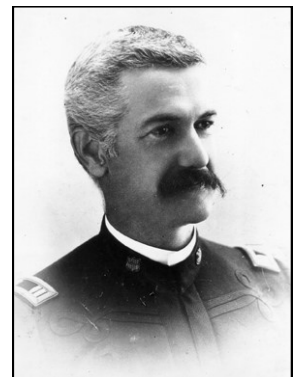
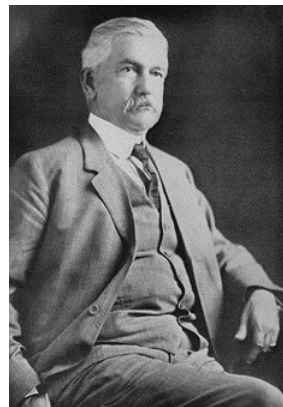
**July 3, 1920**

**William Crawford Gorgas, U.S. Surgeon General, 1915-1918, and World-Renowned Expert on Tropical Diseases, Dies in London while En Route to South Africa.**

Gorgas was born in Mobile in 1854 and served as the Chief Sanitation Officer in Havana, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War and during the building of the Panama Canal, 1904-1914. In those tropical climates Gorgas saved hundreds of lives by successfully eliminating mosquito breeding grounds and thereby controlling the spread of yellow fever.

From "William Crawford Gorgas" by Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins: He had travelled to Europe and Africa and then to London, where he suffered a stroke. At Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Gorgas received a visit from King George V, who knighted him in the hospital. Gorgas's condition worsened, however, and he died on July 3, 1920.

Following a funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral, a full military cortege, including Coldstream Guards playing Chopin's *Funeral March*, processed through the streets of London. Gorgas's family transported his body back to the United States, where it lay in state for four days at Washington's Church of the Epiphany. Burial followed at Arlington National Cemetery <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1048#>>.



**William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920)**

**A physician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Gorgas was elected president of the American Medical Association, and served as U.S. Army Surgeon General.**

Photo at left, Gorgas in 1920.  
Photo at right, Gorgas in uniform, around 1893.



## Alabama History for June 28 - July 4

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

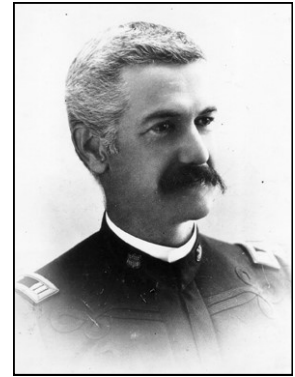
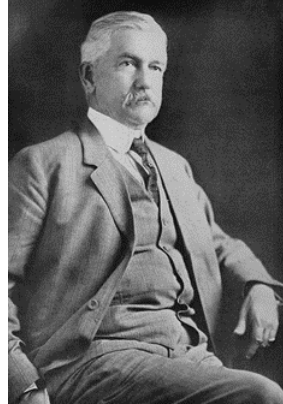
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**William Crawford Gorgas  
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**Photo at left, Gorgas in 1920.  
Photo at right, Gorgas in uniform, around 1893.**

**July 3, 1927**

**Grover C. Hall, Sr., Editor of the Montgomery Advertiser, Publishes the Cornerstone Editorial in a Series of Pieces that Won Him the 1928 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing.**

The editorials, directed against the Ku Klux Klan, called for Alabama politicians and citizens to take a stand against Klan violence. Hall especially reprimanded Gov. Bibb Graves, a Klan member, urging him to take measures to end the countless floggings of white and black men and women across the state.

From *Alabama NewsCenter*: The official citation specified "his editorials against gangsterism, floggings and racial and religious intolerance."<sup>[4]</sup> Hall had previously supported the Ku Klux Klan until it challenged the



**Grover Cleveland Hall  
(1888-1941)**

**Photo from <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-7561>>.**

state's dominant political establishment, the Big Mule/Black Belt coalition,\* in the election of 1926 (<https://alabamanewscenter.com>).

\*Note : The label Black Belt-Big Mule Coalition refers to a political coalition of businessmen and politicians who represented and promoted the interests of large-scale agriculture and industry and dominated Alabama state politics throughout much of the twentieth Century (*Encyclopedia of Alabama*).

(Continued on page 8)

## Alabama History for June 28 - July 4

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 7)

*University of Alabama Professor Virginia V. Hamilton said of Hall:* Colorful, magnetic, and blunt-spoken, Hall exemplified the personal editor with

whose opinion readers and politicians either warmly identified or heatedly disagreed. After receiving his Pulitzer, Hall reigned as the preeminent personality among Alabama editors until his death in 1941 at age fifty-three (<https://academic.oup.com/jah/article-abstract/70/4/915/717943?redirectedFrom=PDF>).

## Alabama History for July 5 - July 11

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

#### July 5, 1819 Alabama's First Constitutional Convention Is Convened in Huntsville.

Less than a month later the forty-four delegates, representing twenty-two counties, adopted what would become known as the Constitution of 1819, the first of six Alabama constitutions.

The state held the convention in a local cabinet shop, the only building large enough to accommodate the meeting. A replica of the two-story building, now known as Constitution Hall, stands in its original location at the Alabama Constitution Village.

Convention leadership was furnished by two Huntsvillians, John Williams Walker, president, and Clement Comer Clay, chairman of a committee appointed to draft the document.

Completing Alabama's first constitution ensured its entry as the 22<sup>nd</sup> state in the Union.

The 1819 Constitution remained in place until 1861 when a new constitution was written which took Alabama out of the Union just before the outbreak of the American Civil War.



**Constitution Hall**



**John Williams Walker  
(1783 – 1823)**

*Author Hugh C. Bailey writes in his biography of Walker:*

**When Madison County, Alabama, was still wilderness, Walker trekked across the mountains from Georgia with his bride, Matilda Pope, his slaves, and all his household possessions, to build a plantation near Huntsville. Here he began his extraordinary political career: member of the first territorial legislature; speaker of the house in the second; U.S. territorial judge; president of Alabama's Constitutional Convention; and when statehood was won, first U.S. Senator.**

*Image from Wikipedia and  
Text from*

*<<http://www.uapress.ua.edu/product/John-Williams-Walker,1406.aspx>>.*



**Clement Comer Clay (1789-1866) was governor of Alabama from 1835-37. Prior to becoming governor, he was a member of the Alabama territorial council, a state court judge, the first Alabama Supreme Court chief justice, and a U.S. congressman representing Alabama.**

*Photo and Text from <<http://cyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2443>>.*



## Alabama History for July 5 - July 11

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

**July 10, 1820**

### Alabama's First Governor, William Wyatt Bibb, Dies as a Result of Injuries Received in a Riding Accident

As specified in the 1819 constitution the president of the state senate automatically became the new governor. The new governor was Bibb's younger brother, Thomas Bibb, who had represented Limestone County at the Constitutional Convention

and in the state senate. Thomas did not stand for re-election, but later served again in the legislature and as director of the Huntsville Branch of the Bank of Alabama.



**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.

*Image and text from*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2441>>.



**Thomas Bibb (ca. 1783-1838)** was Alabama's governor from 1820-21, taking office when his brother, William Wyatt Bibb, died mid-term. While influential in financial and political sectors, he struggled with reapportionment and a faltering economy during his Governorship.

*Image and text from*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4271>>.

**July 10, 1862**

### Forty Men from the Hill Country of Northwest Alabama Sneak into Decatur to Join the Union Army, Prompting Gen. Abel Streight to Mount an Expedition to the South to Recruit More Volunteers.

With the help of an impassioned speech from fervent Unionist Christopher Sheats of Winston County, a center of anti-secessionist sentiment, Streight added another 150 Alabamians to his force.

There is a musical drama about Charles Sheats, entitled The Incident at Looney's Tavern. The play is a fact-based musical drama about events in [Winston County](#) following the 1861 Alabama [Secession](#) Convention in [Montgomery](#). The drama

centers on the actions of [Sheats](#), the Winston County delegate who ardently opposed secession.

In 1993, it was named Alabama's Official Outdoor Musical Drama. The play was written by Lanny McAlister in 1986 and first performed in 1987.

The play was performed in Winston County along with other events as a part of promoting tourism in

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Alabama History for July 5 - July 11

### From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 9)

the county by celebrating the history of the "Free State Of Winston."\* However, the program was discontinued in the 2000's and the drama is no longer produced.

\*Note: From "Free State of Winston" by David McRae,

The Free State of Winston is a popular name given to Civil War-era Winston County, as a reflection of the county's generally pro-Union stance and resistance to Confederate rule during the war. During the secession crisis, the Unionists in Winston County declared their right to secede from Alabama; much as the state seceded from the Union. Although the county pulled back from the bold step of secession and hoped to remain neutral in the conflict, it remained under state control and was the scene of violent acts of retribution during and after the war (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1850>).



**Charles Christopher Sheats (1839?1904)** was the Winston County representative at Alabama's secession convention in 1861 during the lead-up to the Civil War. Sheats and many in Winston County opposed secession and declared the county neutral during the war.

Photo and text from <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4862?>>.



**Abel Streight (1828-1892)** was a Union Colonel during the Civil War who led a failed raid through Alabama in 1863 to disrupt Confederate supply lines. Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest eventually captured Streight in northern Alabama in May 1863, with the help of teenager Emma Sansom.

Photo and text from <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-3428>>.

### July 10, 1864

#### Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau of the Union Army Begins His Raid through Alabama at Decatur.

Under orders from Gen. William T. Sherman, Rousseau's 2,200 cavalrymen raided south more than 300 miles to the West Point and Montgomery Railroad in east Alabama. By July 20 they had destroyed more than thirty miles of track between Chehaw Station and Opelika, thereby aiding Sherman's march on Atlanta by cutting a vital supply line to the city.

From "Rousseau's Raid" By Brett J. Derbes: The raid began in Decatur, Morgan County, and concluded near Columbus, Georgia. One of several federal cavalry incursions into the state, Rousseau's was the first into central Alabama and is considered one of the most daring and effective cavalry raids of the American Civil War (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3596#>).



**Lovell H. Rousseau (1818-1869)** was a Union general during the Civil War who was responsible for a series of successful raids on Confederate rail lines and other infrastructure in east-central Alabama and west-central Georgia. He served as a U.S. congressman from Kentucky after the war and was one of the key figures overseeing the transfer of the territory of Alaska from Russia after the United States purchased it in 1867.

Photo and Text from <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8300>>.

(Continued on page 11)



# Alabama History for July 5 - July 11

## From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

(Continued from page 10)

### **Actions at East Alabama Male college, now Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Rousseau's Raid**

*From "Rousseau's Raid" by Brett J. Derbes:*

In Auburn, an ill-equipped Confederate force of 18 convalescents from the Texas Confederate Hospital, established in the Old Main building (*replaced after a fire by present-day Samford Hall*), attempted to repel the Ninth Ohio Cavalry. Following a brief engagement, the Auburn defenders retreated as federal soldiers burned lumber, quartermaster, and commissary supplies at Auburn Station and destroyed three miles of track north of town.

By the morning of July 18, the citizens of Montgomery were alerted to the raid and in an uproar. Gov. Thomas H. Watts issued appeals to all available state reserves and citizens for assistance, but the Militia Act of August 1863 had depleted home guard units. Nearly 300 young Confederate soldiers hastily gathered, including 54 cadets from the University of

Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, led by Lt. George E. Redwood. They loaded two cannons, horses, caissons, and guns aboard a train and travelled eastward to meet the federal invaders.

The Confederates on the train from Montgomery encountered Rousseau's raiders just past Uphaupee Creek and engaged them in what became known as the Battle of Chehaw Station. The Confederate forces, on a hill behind a substantial rail fence, fired upon the federal cavalymen commanded by Maj. Harlon Baird of the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. A small group of mounted Confederate militiamen from Tuskegee joined the skirmish. Shortly after noon, the Eighth Indiana Cavalry arrived with the repeating Spencer rifles and led a frontal assault against the Confederate line. The outnumbered and largely inexperienced Confederate soldiers retreated toward Loachapoka. Rousseau's cavalymen formed a rear guard, and the rest of the men continued their objective of destroying the railroad toward Notasulga (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3596>).



**"Sherman's Neckties" was the term used to describe the twisted rail lines left behind by Union raiders in the Confederacy during the Civil War. The name referred to Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, who devised the strategy for heating and twisting the rail lines so that they were rendered unusable.**

*Photo and Text from*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8301>>.



**Janney Furnace in Ohatchee, Calhoun County, was built in 1863, during the Civil War, to provide pig iron to the Confederate Army but was destroyed soon after completion during a raid by Union General Lovell H. Rousseau.**

Now managed as a park by the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Office, the site is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

*Photo and Text from*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-7872>>.



**Old Main, shown here circa 1883, was the center of learning at East Alabama Male College (now Auburn University), until it burned in 1887.**

Samford Hall, which replaced it, was named for William J. Samford, Alabama's 31st governor.

*Photo and Text from*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2411>>.

## Alabama History for July 5 - July 11

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

July 7, 1915

### Author Margaret Walker is born in Birmingham.

Walker is best known for her collections of poetry and her novel, Jubilee, which is based on her maternal grandmother's memories of slavery. Walker taught for many years at Jackson State University in Mississippi. She was also the Director of its Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People.



**Margaret Walker, in full Margaret Abigail Walker, married name Margaret Alexander, (born July 7, 1915, Birmingham, Ala., — died Nov. 30, 1998, Chicago, Ill.), American novelist and poet who was one of the leading black woman writers of the mid-20th century.**

Photo and Text from  
<<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Margaret-Walker>>.

## Alabama History for July 12 - July 18

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History

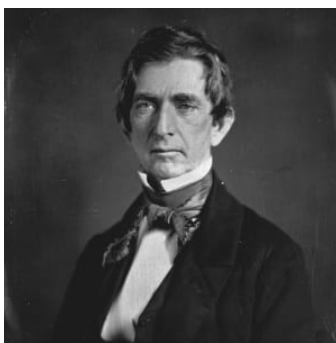
July 13, 1868

### The Alabama Legislature Ratifies the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Thereby Meeting One of the Requirements for Readmission to the Union.

In part, the amendment guaranteed that states could not abridge citizenship rights of "persons born or naturalized in the United States," which included freedmen.

*From "Fourteenth Amendment is adopted, July 28, 1868" by Andrew Glass (<https://www.politico.com/story/2009/07/fourteenth-amendment-is-adopted-july-28-1868-025472>).:* The practical effect of the amendment was to resolve pre-Civil War issues of African-American citizenship by stating that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States ... are citizens of the United States and of the state in which they reside."

It also granted all U.S. citizens the "equal protection of the laws." The amendment thus reversed the portion of the U.S. supreme Court's Dred Scott decision that held that black people were not and could not become citizens of the United States nor enjoy any of the privileges



**William Seward was a New York governor and U.S. senator before serving as secretary of state under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson.**

and immunities of citizenship.

*From the Jack Miller Center:*

The Fourteenth Amendment's ratification generated some controversy for a time, particularly from legal scholars of the south who claimed that the amendment was invalid because of its ratification process. Despite withdrawing their approval of the amendment, two states (Ohio and New Jersey) were counted as ratifiers of the amendment.

Aware of this difficulty, Secretary of State Seward waited until Alabama and Georgia had additionally ratified before officially certifying the Fourteenth Amendment on July 28. Southerners still argued that the amendment

was invalid, however, because the beaten southern states, then ruled by federal military commissions, were forced to ratify the amendment in order to

(Continued on page 13)



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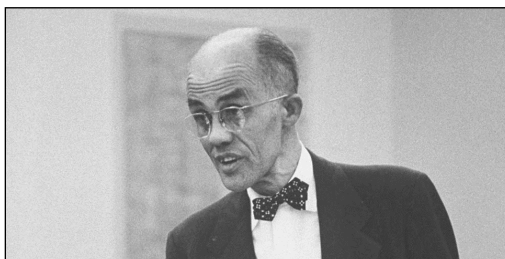
(Continued from page 12)

regain their full legal status.

Since the 1860s, all of the originally dissenting states have approved the Fourteenth Amendment, putting to rest any question of its legal status. A number of landmark Supreme Court cases have relied on Section 1's provisions for due process, equal protection, and privileges and immunities for all U.S. citizens. (<https://jackmillercenter.org/fourteenth-amendment>).

### July 16, 1900 Harper Council Trenholm, President of Alabama State College from 1925 to 1962, is born in Tuscumbia.

A graduate of Morehouse College and the University of Chicago, Trenholm served as instructor and director of the college extension program before assuming the presidency. During his long tenure Alabama State graduated its first four-year college class in 1932, developed a model teacher in-



**Trenholm, H. Council  
(1900-1963)**

service program that served African-American teachers statewide, and began the legendary Turkey Day Classic football rivalry between Alabama State and Tuskegee Institute.

### July 14, 1948 At the National Democratic Convention in Philadelphia, Half of the Alabama Delegation Walks Out in Protest of the Party's Stand for Civil Rights.

Three days later those delegates and other southerners formed the States' Rights party, or "Dixiecrats," at a convention in Birmingham, nominating Strom Thurmond of South Carolina for president.



**Pictured at the Left, Congressman Lister Hill (center) takes the microphone from the Alabama Lieutenant governor Leven "Handy" Ellis as Ellis prepares to lead a faction of Alabama's delegates to the 1948 Democratic National Convention off the floor in protest of candidate Harry S. Truman's civil rights policies.**

Protesting delegates from Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Louisiana, among others, then formed the rival States' Rights Democratic Party, popularly known as the "Dixiecrats."

Future governors Chauncey Sparks and George C. Wallace remained on the convention floor.

*Photo and Text*  
<<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2240>>.

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July 17, 1948

### The Dixiecrat Convention Assembles in Birmingham, with Over 6,000 Delegates from Across the South in Attendance.

They selected Strom Thurmond as the presidential candidate for their States' Rights Party. In the 1948 presidential election the Dixiecrats carried four states, including Alabama, where Democratic candidate Harry Truman's name did not even appear on the ballot.



Barbour County native James McDonald (Donald) Comer (1877-1963) was the son of Braxton Bragg Comer and began to take over management of his father's textile company, Avondale Mills, when he became governor of Alabama in 1907. Like many of Alabama's industrial and political leaders, Donald Comer aligned himself with the Dixiecrats, who favored limited regulation on business and industry.

Photo and Text from <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4524>.

James Strom Thurmond (1902-2003) was a governor of South Carolina and was one of the longest-serving senators in the history of the U.S. Congress. He was the 1948 presidential nominee of the States' Rights Democratic Party, also called "Dixiecrats," which promoted segregationist policies.

Photo and Text from <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4525>.

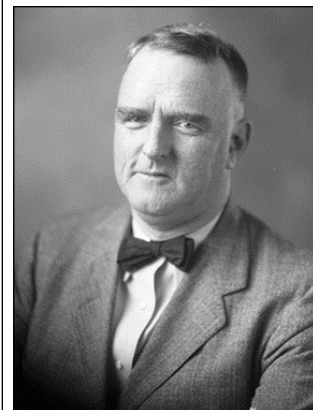


View of a crowd of men at the Dixiecrat Convention in Birmingham, Alabama jeering at a woman with an anti lynching, pro-Henry Wallace poster.

Photo and Text from <https://album.atlantahistorycenter.com/digital/collection/MJohnson/id/2>.

Long-time Mobile resident Gessner T. McCovey (1882-1965) was a prominent attorney and served as chair of the state Democratic Executive Committee. In 1948, McCovey was a leader in establishing the southern Dixiecrat movement, which arose in response to the national Democratic Party's support for civil rights.

Photo and Text from <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4523>.





# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Pinckney's Treaty

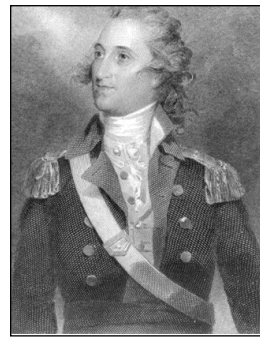
From *Wikipedia*: Pinckney's Treaty, also known as the Treaty of San Lorenzo or the Treaty of Madrid, was signed on October 27, 1795 by the United States and Spain. It defined the border between the United States and Spanish Florida, and guaranteed the United States navigation rights on the Mississippi River. With this agreement, the first phase of the ongoing border dispute between the two nations in this region, commonly called the West Florida Controversy, came to a close.

Thomas Pinckney negotiated the treaty for the United States and Don Godoy represented Spain. It was presented to the United States Senate on February 26, 1796, and, after debate, was ratified on March 7, 1796. It was ratified by Spain on April 25, 1796 and ratifications were exchanged on that date. The treaty was proclaimed on August 3, 1796 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s\\_Treaty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s_Treaty)).



**Map showing the boundary between the United States and Spanish Florida as set by "Pinckney's Treaty"—signed on October 27, 1795 and became effective on August 3, 1796—at 31°N; also shown is the portion of Spanish West Florida between 31° N and 32° 22', which Spain relinquished its claim to in the treaty. On April 7, 1798, Congress organized the region as the Mississippi Territory.**

*Photo and Text from*  
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s\\_Treaty#/media/File:Pinckney's\\_Treaty\\_line\\_1795.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s_Treaty#/media/File:Pinckney's_Treaty_line_1795.png)>.



**Thomas Pinckney  
(1750-1828)**



**Manuel Godoy  
(1767-1851)**



**"Ellicott's Stone" boundary marker along the 31st parallel now in northern Mobile County, Alabama.**

**Ellicott's Stone at Bucks, Alabama. This boundary marker was placed on April 10, 1799 by a joint U.S.-Spanish survey party, headed by Andrew Ellicott, on the border between the United States and Spanish West Florida. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on 11 April 1973. This side (south) reads: Español: Dominio De S.M. Carlos IV, Lat. 31, 1799 (Dominion of his majesty King Charles IV, Lat. 31, 1799).**

*Photo and Text from* <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s\\_Treaty#/media/File:Ellicott's\\_Stone\\_01.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinckney%27s_Treaty#/media/File:Ellicott's_Stone_01.JPG)>.

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com) or call 251-809-1528.*

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