



The May Newsletter

The Meeting will be
Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 3:00 pm
in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum
on the Brewton College Campus.



Our Speaker
Deane Foss

Deane Will Present a Program on “An Incomplete History of the Discovery and Development of Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Oil Fields.”

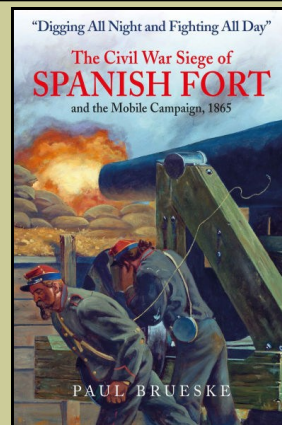
From the SIPES Newsletter for 2024: Deane is a petroleum engineer who has worked independently for over twenty years. The last several years he has been focused on the Smackover geologic formation in southwest Alabama and south Arkansas. He was involved in the mid-late stage development of the Brooklyn Oil Field. He says the presentation has to be called incomplete because no one ever knows the whole story of significant field discoveries and development.

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Refreshments

Plan on again bringing your favorite finger foods for the May Meeting. The Society will provide drinks.



Apologies for introducing the wrong speaker for the April meeting. We had an excellent presentation by author Paul Brueske on his book Digging All Night and Fighting All Day: The Civil War Siege of Spanish Fort and the Mobile Campaign, 1865.

Upcoming Programs

June: Speaker- Robert Amackar.

Topic-The Civil War and Ole Miss.

July: Speaker Alex Luttrell.

Topic-Growing Up in Brewton.

August: No Meeting-

Because of the state elections on August 26, the meeting room in the Museum will be used for voting.

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Iconic Image
of Pump Jack.

Volume 52
No.5 May
2025



Meet Thomas McCormick, Intern at the McMillan Museum



**Thomas with
Don Sales**

Hello, friends of the Thomas McMillan Museum!

My name is Thomas McCormick. I am a history major with a museum studies minor at the University of South Alabama. My interest in history has led me to intern at the Thomas McMillan Museum. Through this opportunity, I am gaining valuable experience in museum curation, artifact preservation, and genealogical research.

I was honored to have been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Macy Wims Reid Endowed Scholarship, an award given to an outstanding junior or senior history major at the University of South Alabama. I plan to graduate at the end of the Spring 2026 semester, and I look forward to applying what I have learned here to my future career.

Thomas McCormick

An Overview of the Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Fields December 2012

Little Cedar Creek Field

The Little Cedar Creek Field was discovered by Hunt Oil Company in 1994 with the drilling of the Cedar Creek Land & Timber Company 30-1 No. 1 Well, Permit No. 10560, in Section 30, Township 4 North, Range 12 East, in Conecuh County, Alabama. The well was drilled to a total depth of 12,100 feet and completed in the Upper Jurassic Smackover Formation as an oil producer. The initial flow rate of the well was 108 barrels of oil per day and 49,000 cubic feet of gas per day through a 12/64-inch choke with a flowing tubing pressure of 248 psi.

Located approximately 10 miles southeast of Evergreen, Alabama, the Little Cedar Creek Field remained a one-well field until Midroc Operating Company of Dallas, Texas, became operator of the field in May 2000. Since that time, Midroc has drilled over 70 wells into the Smackover reservoir.

In January 2006, Sklar Exploration Company, L.L.C. drilled its first well in Little Cedar Creek Field. Sklar has since drilled 20 additional wells in the field.

Columbia Petroleum LLC became the third operator active in the field when it drilled a well in October 2008 and Fairways Exploration & Production, LLC became the fourth when it drilled a well in October 2010.

In the summer of 2011, Midroc Operating Company contracted Pruet Production Company of Jackson, Mississippi, to operate its wells in the field and to continue field development with new drilling. Development of this oil reservoir continues, primarily

to the northeast and southeast. To date the field limits have been expanded to include more than 22,000 acres in Townships 4 and 5 North, Ranges 12 and 13 East, Conecuh County, Alabama.

The Smackover Oil Pool in the Little Cedar Creek Field consists of two main porosity zones separated by a dense nonproductive zone. The Smackover Oil Pool in the field is officially defined as those strata of the Smackover Formation productive of hydrocarbons in the interval between the depths of 11,490 and 11,580 feet measured depth in the Pugh 22-2 Well, Permit No. 13472, which is located in Section 22, Township 4 North, Range 12 East.

The highest known water (oil/water contact) in Little Cedar 2 Creek Field, as indicated on the high-resolution induction log for the McCreary 21-1 #1 well, is at a subsea depth of 11,365 feet.

The field is located near the up-dip limit of the Smackover Formation, and the trapping mechanism is interpreted as stratigraphic. There is no faulting or structural closure based on current well control. The Smackover Formation simply displays monoclinally dip to the southwest at a rate of about 200 feet per mile.

The western portion of the Little Cedar Creek field was unitized January 1, 2005. This partial field-wide unit includes over 6,100 acres and was unitized based on a two-phase allocation formula. Phase I was based on 50% net hydrocarbon pore volume and 50% productivity. Phase II became effective March 1, 2011, when 5,622,557 barrels of oil had been produced from the unit, and is based on 100% net hy-

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An Overview of the Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Fields

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drocarbon pore volume.

The net hydrocarbon pore volume determination for the upper Smackover uses a porosity cutoff of 10%, while the lower Smackover zone uses a porosity cutoff of 6%. Net hydrocarbon pore volume is defined as porosity greater than the applicable cutoff, multiplied by the number of feet of pay meeting the minimum porosity value, multiplied by hydrocarbon saturation as determined by log analysis.

As additional data became available with the drilling of new wells within the unit area, allocations for unit tracts were recalculated or redetermined. Technical exhibits presented at a public hearing in support of the last redetermination of the tract allocations for the unit can be viewed from the State Oil and Gas Board's webpage under the "Exhibits" tab of "Hearings" for Board Order 2007-122.

In October 2007, Midroc Operating Company began a gas-injection secondary recovery project within the Upper Zone of the Smackover Formation in the unitized portion of the field. A response to the gas injection has been observed in the field. Production from wells surrounding the two injection sites has increased since the project was initiated. Establishing a second unit for the same purpose is currently being considered.

Since 2005, Little Cedar Creek Field has been the top oil-producing field in the State. Cumulative production from the field has exceeded 16 million barrels of oil. The significant increase in oil production from this field since 2005 is primarily responsible for reversing the declining trend in the State's oil production.

Brooklyn Field

In August 2007, Sklar Exploration Company, L.L.C., drilled and completed a wildcat, the Logan 5-7 No. 1 Well, Permit No. 15363, located about three miles south of the Little Cedar Creek Field in Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 13 East, in Escambia County. The well initially tested 21 barrels of oil per day and produced an average of 8 barrels of oil per day from the Smackover Formation. About a year and a half later, in January 2009, Sklar drilled another wildcat, the Johnston-Steward 32-12 No. 1 Well, Permit No. 15934, located in Section 32, Township 4 North, Range 13 East, in Conecuh County, about a

mile northwest of the Logan 5-7 No. 1 Well, in the direction of Little Cedar Creek Field. It produced 16 barrels of oil from the Smackover Formation before it was plugged and abandoned. Consequently, the field limits of Little Cedar Creek Field were not expanded to include the two wells, and the Logan 5-7 No. 1 Well produced independently as a wildcat well for another two and a half years.

In October 2010, Fletcher Petroleum Corp. of Gulf Shores, Alabama, spudded the Amos 36-3 Well, Permit No. 16376, as a wildcat at a location just over a mile south of the Little Cedar Creek Field boundary in Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 12 East, in Conecuh County.

The well was drilled to a total depth of 11,968 feet and completed as an oil producer from a reservoir within the Smackover Formation. The well encountered a reservoir pressure significantly higher than the reservoir pressure in the wells of the Little Cedar Creek Field, showing it to be a separate and distinct reservoir from the Smackover Oil Pool of the Little Cedar Creek Field. The initial flow rate of the discovery well was 531 barrels of oil per day and 374,100 cubic feet of gas per day through an 18/64-inch choke with a flowing tubing pressure of 950 psi.

Following the discovery, Sklar Exploration Company, L.L.C., and Pruet Production Company, in addition to Fletcher Petroleum Corp., drilled and completed several development wells in the same reservoir roughly along a line parallel to the southern boundary of Little Cedar Creek Field. Subsequently, the Brooklyn Field was established in September 2011, and the Logan 5-7 No. 1 Well and the Johnston-Steward 32-12 No. 1 Well, drilled years earlier, were incorporated into the field boundaries. To date the field limits have expanded to include nearly 4,500 acres and 26 producing wells. Developmental drilling continues in a southwest-northeast direction along a line parallel to Little Cedar Creek Field and extending into the adjacent Escambia County.

The Smackover Oil Pool in the Brooklyn Field is understood to be separated from the Smackover Oil Pool in Little Cedar Creek Field by a "tight" low permeability barrier within the Smackover Formation. The Smackover Oil Pool in the Brooklyn Field is officially defined as those strata of

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An Overview of the Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Fields

December 2012

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the Smackover Formation productive of hydrocarbons in the interval between the depths of 11,572 feet and 11,769 feet measured depth in the Mary Mack 30-14 Well, Permit No. 16398, which is located

in Section 30, Township 4 North, Range 13 East, in Conecuh County.

Reported production for the Brooklyn Field, through July 2012, is over 1.5 million barrels of oil and 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas.

Some Interesting Facts About Alabama's Oil and Gas Industry

Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Production as of 2018

The Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn oil fields, located in southeast Conecuh County, Alabama, are significant producers of oil and natural gas, particularly from the Upper Jurassic (Oxfordian) Smackover Formation. They have been a major source of hydrocarbons for the state, with more than 79 producing wells. As of 2018, these fields had produced a total of 59.400 million cubic feet (MMCF) of natural gas and 42.748 million barrels (MMbbl) of oil, according to MDPI*.

**Note: MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute) is a Swiss-based publisher of open-access scientific journals.*

Little Cedar Creek

Little Cedar Creek: Has over 100 wells, with individual wells producing between 200 and 400 barrels of oil per day.

Brooklyn Field: A newer field located south of Little Cedar Creek, with around 20 wells.

Combined Production: These two fields together contribute roughly 50% of Alabama's annual oil production, which is 7.4 million barrels, according to Business Alabama.

Alabama Oil and Gas Industry History

Alabama's oil and gas industry has a long history, dating back to the early 1800s when Native Americans were selling oil from asphaltic rocks. The state has played a significant role in the nation's oil and gas history, with early oil wells drilled in the 1860s and the discovery of giant fields like Citronelle in 1955. Alabama also became a world leader in coalbed methane development in the 1980s.

Production as of 2024

It's difficult to pinpoint exact production rates for Little Cedar Creek and Brooklyn Oil Fields for 2024. However, Business Alabama Magazine states that these fields collectively produce about 50% of Alabama's 7.4 million barrels of oil annually. This suggests they are significant contributors to Alabama's oil production.

Alabama Oil and Gas Regions

Oil in Alabama generally occurs in the state's two sedimentary basins, the Interior Salt Basin in the southwest and the Black Warrior Basin in the northwest, both of which extend westward into Mississippi.

Alabama Production of Oil and Gas
Alabama is among the top 17 producers of oil and among the top 16 producers of natural gas in the United States. Oil and gas are found in many counties as well as in Mobile Bay.



Oil rigs in the Gulf are located anywhere from a few hundred meters to 250 miles offshore, with some drilling as far down as 2 kilometers beneath the surface. Smaller rigs and platforms might be just a few meters from the shore, while larger, more complex facilities can operate in water up to 10,000 feet deep and 250 miles from shore.

Alabama's First Oil Well

Article from Petroleum Pioneers

At <<https://aoghs.org/petroleum-pioneers/first-alabama-oil-well/>>.

Reports of a “mineral tar” from the 1840s helped H.L. Hunt discover an oilfield a century later.

Swallowing “tar pills” supposedly had been curing ills since the mid-1800s, but Alabama’s petroleum industry officially began in 1944 with a Choctaw County well drilled by a well-known Texas wildcatter. On February 17, independent producer Haroldson Lafayette “H.L.” Hunt completed his Jackson No. 1 well after discovering Alabama’s first oilfield. H.L.

Hunt had found success in the earliest Arkansas oilfields of the 1920s and even greater success in the East Texas oilfield of the 1930s. He now had revealed the Gilbertown oilfield of western Alabama, about 50 miles southeast of Meridian, Mississippi. had been drilled in Alabama. Despite limited knowledge of the state’s geology, regions with oil and natural gas seeps had attracted interest as early as the mid-19th century. Before Hunt’s Choctaw County wildcat well, 350 dry holes had been drilled in Alabama.

In Alabama’s case, Sorenson uncovered an account by an early expert in the scientific field of geology. The first Alabama state geologist, Michael Tuomey, described reports of a “mineral tar,” and cited an 1840s account of finding natural oil seeps six miles from Oakville in Lawrence County.

With quantities of oil and water emerging from a crevice in limestone, Tuomey observed that “the tar,

or bitumen, floats on the surface, a black film very cohesive and insoluble in water.”

Similar to “Kentucky oil,” Alabama’s Lawrence County oil became popular for its medicinal qualities. Oil from the county was claimed to be “a known cure for Scrofula, Cancerous Sores, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia,” and other diseases.

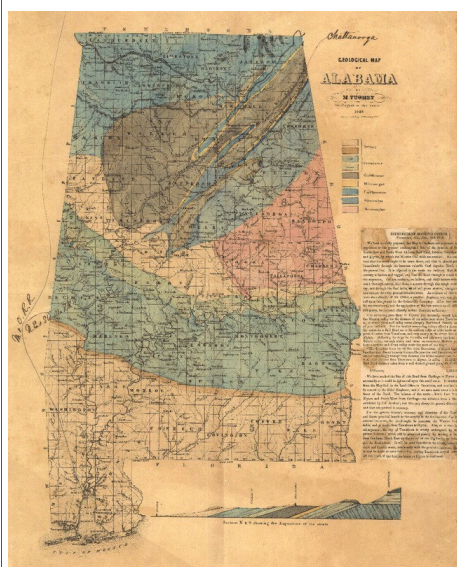
“Patients visiting the Spring find the tar taken and swallowed as pills, the most efficient form of the remedy,” Tuomey quoted the observation from “Tar Spring of Lawrence” in the 1858 Second Biennial Report On the Geology of Alabama (published one year after his death).

Tuomey served as the state geologist of South Carolina from 1844 to 1847, and as the first state geologist of Alabama from 1848 until his death in 1856.

His Geological Map of Alabama was printed in 1857.

In addition to oil, traces of natural gas were discovered in Alabama in the late 1880s, and by 1902, natural gas was being supplied to Huntsville and the town of Hazel Green, according to Alabama historian Alan Cockrell.

“In 1909, a small discovery by Eureka Oil and Gas at Fayette fueled that city’s streetlights for a time, but no natural gas was recovered anywhere in the state for several decades afterward,” he added.



Geological Map of Alabama, printed in 1849 by Michael Tuomey, professor of geology, mineralogy and agricultural chemistry at the University of Alabama. Toomey published his First Biennial Report of the Geology of Alabama in 1850.

Map courtesy University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.



The A.R. Jackson

No. 1 well in 1944 revealed an Alabama oilfield near the Mississippi border.

Photo

courtesy Hunt Oil Company.

Gilberttown Oil Discovery

According to Cockrell, Alabama's oil and natural gas industry did not truly begin until H.L. Hunt of Dallas, Texas, drilled in Choctaw County near the Mississippi border and discovered the Gilberttown oilfield.

After five weeks of drilling, the well was completed on February 17, 1944, at 2,585 feet in the Selma chalk of the Upper Cretaceous. Hunt's A.R. Jackson Well No. 1 two miles southwest of downtown Gilberttown had reached a total depth of 5,380 feet before being "plugged back" to its most productive oil-producing geologic formation.

H.L. Hunt's first Alabama oil well produced just 30 barrels of oil a day, but launched the state's petroleum industry. "The discovery of this well led to the creation of the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama in 1945, and to the development and growth of the petroleum industry in Alabama,"

The first oilfield would produce 15 million barrels of oil, "not a lot by modern standards but enough to make 'oil fever' spread rapidly," Cockrell noted in

"Oil and Gas Industry in Alabama" in 2008. The search for another oilfield took 11 more years.

The 1955 oil discovery at Citronelle, a town above a geologic salt dome, finally launched a new drilling boom; five new Alabama oilfields were discovered by 1967. Mobil Oil Company drilled Alabama's first successful offshore natural gas well in 1981.

As production technologies advance, geologists believe opportunities exist in the "hard shales of the deep Black Warrior Basin beneath Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties and in the thick fractured shales of St. Clair and neighboring counties," according to Cockrell.

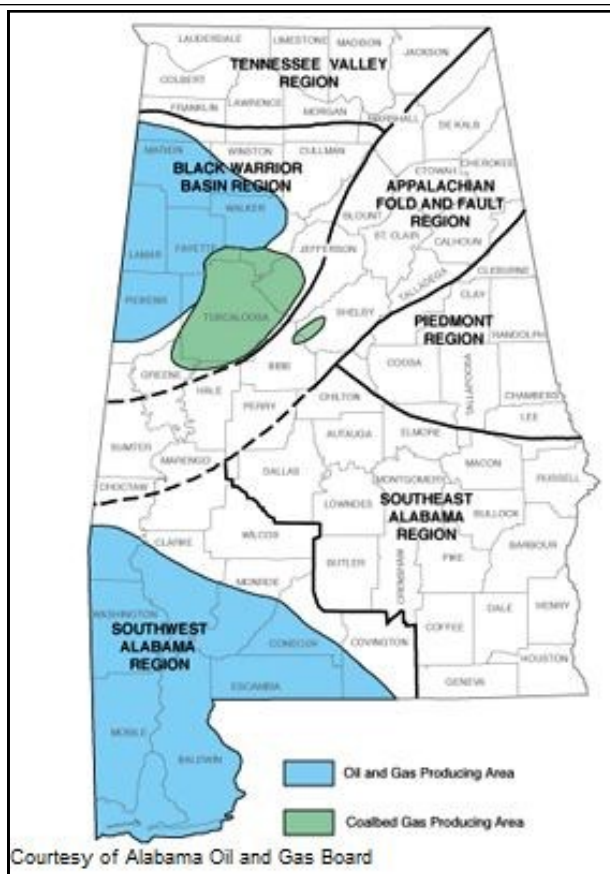
By 2022, more than 17,500 oil and natural gas wells had been drilled in Alabama since the state's first commercial oil discovery in 1944. According to the Washington, DC-based Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), about 10 percent of the Alabama wells produced oil, 59 percent natural gas, and 30 percent (about 5,000 wells) were nonproductive.



Above: Concrete foundations are all that remains of Alabama's first oil well, the A.R. Jackson Well No. 1, completed in 1944 near Gilberttown.

Below: Historic Marker at Gilberttown, location of Alabama's First Oil Well.

Photos courtesy Explore Rural S.W. Alabama.



Courtesy of Alabama Oil and Gas Board

Deeper drilling led to more Alabama petroleum discoveries in the 1980s.

Map courtesy Encyclopedia of Alabama.

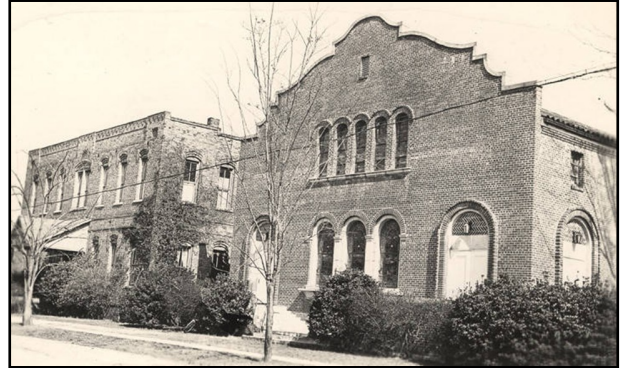
The ECHS *Journal* Section

Photographs of Churches in Escambia County from the Federal Writers Project of the 1930s

The Federal Writers' Project (FWP) was a federal government project in the United States created to provide jobs for out-of-work writers and to develop a history and overview of the United States, by state, cities and other jurisdictions. It was launched in 1935 during the Great Depression. The project also included photographs. The ones shown are from the 1930s;



**Atmore Baptist Church
1930s-1941
The sign reads:
"EVERY MEMBER PRESENT
AT EVERY SERVICE"**



**Atmore Methodist Church and
Sunday School Building**



Atmore Church of Christ



Atmore Presbyterian Church



Canoe Christian Church



Canoe Baptist Church

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Photographs of Churches in Escambia County from the Federal Writers Project of the 1930s



Canoe Methodist



Jack Springs Primitive Baptist Church



Pollard Methodist Church



McCullough Baptist Church



Pollard Baptist Church



Poarch Indian Episcopal Church



St. Anna's Indian Mission in Atmore

the ECHS *Journal* Section

Some Escambia County Schools in the 1930s.



A Log Cabin School in Escambia County



Wallace School



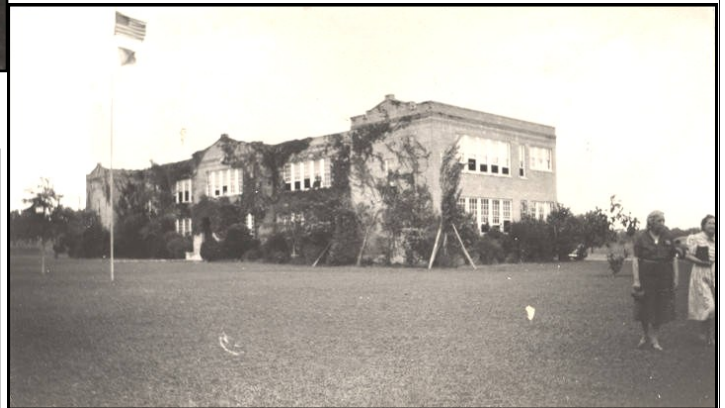
Pollard School



Flomaton High School



High school for African Americans in Atmore.



T. R. Miller High School

The photographs of the churches and the schools are from the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

251-809-1528 or
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www.escohis.org

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<http://www.facebook.com.
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Books Available by Contribution

	Regular	Mailed
History of Escambia County, Alabama	\$90.00	\$96.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
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)	\$40.00	\$46.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$36.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$52.00

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Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year
Many members give a membership as a gift!
Business members get a large scale
advertisement 11 months of the year.

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

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