

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

3:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: A Presentation by Betsy Irwin, Educational Outreach Coordinator with Moundville Archaeological Park.

Betsy Irwin is an artist and anthropologist specializing in Southeastern Indians. Growing up in a military family, she lived in Germany and the Philippines where she became interested in other cultures.

Ms. Irwin has a B.A. through the University of Alabama's New College in Fine Arts and Anthropology and graduate work in Anthropology. She worked as an archaeological technician in the UA's Office of Archaeological Research for over a decade.

She currently serves as the Education Outreach Coordinator for Moundville Archaeological Park, the largest city north of Mexico in its heyday. In addition to overseeing guided tours, specialized programs and school outreach, Ms. Irwin directs the Moundville Native American Festival - one of the most highly recognized events of its kind.

Ms. Irwin's presentation is entitled *Ten Thousand Years in an Hour*. She initially discusses the basic principles of archaeology and then delves into the prehistory and history of Alabama Indians.

A variety of artifacts and reproductions representing cultures as old as 10,000 B.C. (which archaeologists use in distinguishing different prehistoric Indian cultures from one another) are displayed and passed through the audience.

After a question and answer session at the end of the discussion, Ms. Irwin is more than happy to look at and analyze artifacts brought in by audience members.



**Moundville State Park
Mound with Hut**



View of Mound at Moundville State Park

Volume 37, Number 9

September 2010

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The Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

The Program: Show and Tell

A Reminder

It is now time to pay dues for the coming year.

- ◆ \$25.00/person,
- ◆ \$35.00/two family members
- ◆ \$250.00/person for Lifetime Members
- ◆ \$50.00/year business (business card size)

Minutes for the August Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice-President Robin Brewton with 23 members present. Jerry Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Jo Brewton read the minutes from the last meeting. The general fund balance in the treasury report for June was corrected to \$1851.00. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Susan Crawford gave the treasurer's report for August, 2010, with a general fund balance of \$1697.29. The report was accepted as presented.

Old Business:

The field trip to Monroeville will be Monday, August 30, 2010. Members are to meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum to caravan. For those who are interested, there will be a drive by Little River State Park on the return trip to Brewton.

New Business:

Jacque Stone reported that member Alma Hall had fallen and is in Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

Ranella Merritt asked that members send her any ideas and/or material she might use in the newsletter.

Ann Biggs-Williams reported that Barbara Page, Beth Bain, and Beverly Stark cleaned off the Ft. Crawford historical marker.

Susan Blair and Jo Brewton were recognized as having birthdays.

Sammie McGlothren expressed an interest in keeping Little River State Park open. Representative Alan Baker offered assistance, and said some non-profit agencies have expressed an interest in taking over the park. The worst case scenario would be that the Forest Commission would continue to own it, but would have no one to work there.

Jerry Simmons reported the following books have been donated to the Alabama Room:

1) Ancestor Hunt: Finding Your Family Online, donated by Larry Massey.

2) Family Maps of Escambia County, Alabama, donated by Frances Bishop Grochowski.

3) History of Atmore (Through 1942) by William Hugo Yancey, donated by Paul and Ranella Merritt.

4) Atmore Area Chamber of Commerce 2010 Community Profile and Resource Guide.

5) June Walking Tours 2010, on loan from the Alabama Tourism Department.

Jerry Simmons reported that if the copier to the microfiche is taken to Montgomery, the charge will be \$90.00 to inspect it and give an estimate to have it fixed. Paul Merritt made the motion to pay the \$90.00 and have a volunteer take it to Montgomery. Susan Crawford seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Vice-President Robin Brewton introduced the speaker, Everette Price, who related his personal experiences as director and actor for 16 years with the Monroeville players in the production of "To Kill a Mockingbird." The play started in 1991, and Mr. Price auditioned in 1994. He left the play in 2009. He noted that Nelle Harper Lee uses her humor to deal with things no one wanted to deal with in 1960.

After a question and answer session, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Hostess for the refreshments served after the meeting was Sally Finlay.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Brewton, Secretary



Shadow Walk, Part of the Nature Trail at Moundville State Park



**Moundville Artifact
Pottery bottle with incised design.**

Moundville: Ancient Site/Modern Archeological Park

The following article by Vernon James Knight is taken from the article "Ancient site" at the website University of Alabama Moundville Archeological Park <http://moundville.ua.edu>.

Dr. Knight is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama, is the Museum's Curator of Southeastern Archaeology.

"The Moundville site, occupied from around A.D. 1000 until A.D. 1450, is a large settlement of Mississippian culture on the Black Warrior River in central Alabama. At the time of Moundville's heaviest residential population, the community took the form of a three hundred-acre village built on a bluff overlooking the river.

"The plan of the town was roughly square and protected on three sides by a bastioned wooden palisade. Moundville, in size and complexity second only to the Cahokia site in Illinois, was at once a populous town, as well as a political center and a religious center.

"Within the enclosure, surrounding a central plaza, were twenty-six earthen mounds, the larger ones apparently supporting noble's residences alternating with small ones that supported buildings used for mortuary and other purposes.



Artist's Rendering of Ancient Moundville

Illustration is from the "Ancient site" at the University of Alabama Moundville Archeological Park <http://moundville.ua.edu>.



Moundville Today

Aerial photograph courtesy of the Britannica Online Encyclopedia <<http://www.britannica.com>>.

"The 185-acre site was a planned community. The huge plaza was artificially filled and leveled, and the 29 mounds were placed deliberately around it. Mounds were constructed by piling up basket loads of soil dug from nearby pits (now small lakes). Most of the mounds are flat-topped platforms and were built up over many decades in a series of construction stages. The mounds range from three to 57 feet high" from the Encyclopedia of Alabama <<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org>>.

"Of the two largest mounds in the group, Mound A occupies the center of the great plaza, and Mound B lies just to the north on the site's central axis. The latter is a steep pyramid with two ramps, rising to a height of fifty-eight feet.

"The arrangement of the mounds and plaza gives the impression of symmetry and planning. In addition, archaeologists have found evidence of borrow pits, other public buildings, and dozens of small houses constructed of pole and thatch, many of which have yielded burials beneath the floors.

"Striking differences between the nobles and commoners showing a highly stratified society can be seen among the excavated burials with their grave goods. Some include rare artifacts that may be associated with particular political or religious offices. Evidence shows that Moundville was sustained by tributes of food and labor provided by the people who lived in the nearby Black Warrior Valley floodplain farmsteads as well as other smaller mound centers.

"At its height the Moundville community contained a population

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Moundville: Ancient Site/Modern Archeological Park

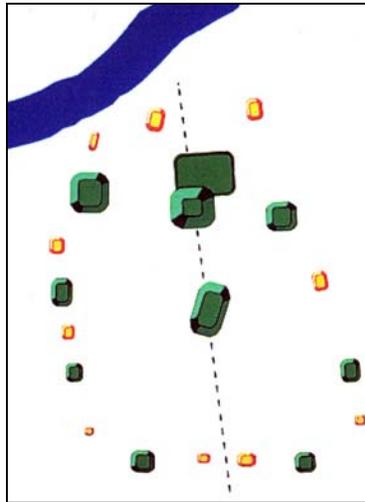
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of about one thousand with around ten thousand in the entire valley. Like other Mississippian societies, Moundville's growth and prosperity were made possible by intensive cultivation of maize, or Indian corn.

"The nobility dominated a traffic in such imported luxury goods as copper, mica, galena, and marine shell. Renowned particularly for their artistic excellence in pottery, stonework, and embossed copper, the inhabitants of Moundville produced artifacts bearing a high degree of skilled workmanship, making the site a benchmark in the study of Mississippian imagery.

"Neither the rise of Moundville nor its eventual decline is well understood by scholars. The immediate area appears to have been thickly populated, containing a few very small single-mound centers just before the creation of the public architecture of the great plaza and of the palisade about A.D. 1200.

"However, by about A.D. 1350, Moundville seems to have undergone a change in use. The site lost the appearance of a town, but retained its ceremonial and



This Moundville Map shows Mounds with human burials (yellow) paired with mounds without burials (green). Illustration from online *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.

political functions. A decline ensued, marked by abandonment of some mounds and the loss of religious importance in others. There was also a decrease in the importation of goods which had given prestige to the nobility.

"By the 1500s, most of the area was abandoned with only a few portions of the site still occupied. Although the first Europeans reached the Southeast in the 1540s, the precise ethnic and linguistic links between Moundville's inhabitants and what became the historic Native American tribes are still not well understood."



Earth for the mounds was dug from pits that are now small ponds (foreground).

Excavations of Moundville

The following excerpt from an article by John H. Blitz appears in the online Encyclopedia of Alabama.

"Little attention was paid to the Moundville site until 1869, when **Nathaniel T. Lupton, fifth president of the University of Alabama, mapped the site.**

"Early in the twentieth century, **private collector Clarence B. Moore conducted several excavations into the mounds** and unearthed dozens of attractive pottery vessels, stone pipes, axes, and palettes (disk-shaped objects covered with paint pigments), and copper and shell ornaments.

"Moore, a wealthy Philadelphian, traveled the South

in his steamboat The Gopher, collecting ancient artifacts and publishing picture books of his finds.

Alarmed at the extent of Moore's digging and the fact that he sent the artifacts back to Philadelphia, the state of Alabama passed an antiquities law in 1915 to protect archaeological sites from looting.

"**In the 1920s, several local citizens and state geologist Dr. Walter B. Jones** led efforts to turn the site into a park. Jones mortgaged his house to fund the purchase of the site, and Mound State Park (later renamed Mound State Monument) was established in 1933.

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Excavations of Moundville

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“Jones, assisted by David L. DeJarnette, began the first scientific excavations at the park in 1929.

“From 1933 to 1941, at the height of the Great Depression, the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** restored the mounds, built roads, and constructed a museum. Jones, DeJarnette, and others at the **Alabama Museum of Natural History** directed the force, excavating 500,000 square feet of the site, and more than 2,000 burials, 75 house remains, and thousands of artifacts.

“DeJarnette became director of the park in the 1950s, was a founding member of the University of Alabama Department of Anthropology, and was the leading archaeologist in the state for two decades.



Moundville Decorative Disc
Ground stone-disk from the Mississippian period (ca. 800-1500 AD) with incised rattlesnake motif found at Moundville in the nineteenth century.

“From the late 1960s through the 1970s, **Dr. Christopher S. Peebles (Indiana University)** and his students analyzed the enormous Depression-era collections of artifacts and society.

Much remains to be learned about the Moundville site and the people who built it. Only 14 percent of the site has been excavated. The development, sociopolitical organization, and eventual abandonment of ancient Moundville remain poorly understood.

Every fall, a Native American festival is held at the park.

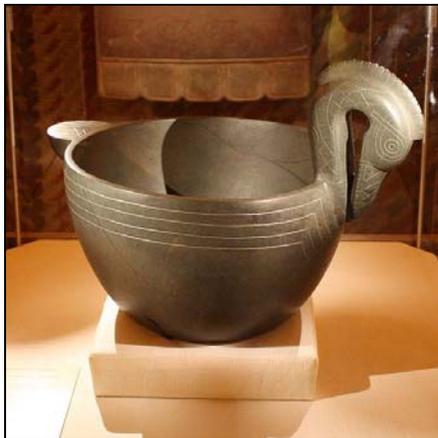
“Moundville Archaeological Park was designated a National Historic

Landmark in 1964.”

On the right, exotic (non-locally produced) Mississippian–Culture pottery from Moundville Site



“The site (Moundville) is renowned by scholars for the artistic excellence displayed by the artifacts of pottery, stonework, and embossed copper left by the former residents” (Wikipedia <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moundville>>).



Carved Bowl Depicting a Crested Wood Duck

This bowl from the site, carved from diorite (a type of stone), now displayed on-site at the Jones Archaeological Museum, is on loan from the **Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian**.

The Museum at Moundville has been completed remodeled and was reopened in May 2010. Some of the valuable artifacts from the site that had been displayed in other Museums are now returned to the Jones Museum.

Clarence Bloomfield Moore's removal of this bowl and many other of the site's finest pieces caused the Alabama Legislature to bar people from taking any other artifacts from the state.

Snapshots from the August Meeting



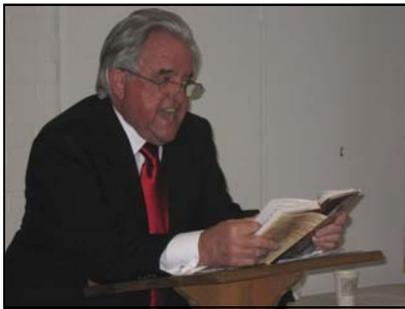
Above, the speaker, Everette Price with Vice-President Robin and below, Everette at the podium.



Display on the Mockingbird Players brought by our speaker for the August Meeting, Everette Price.



Above and below, ECHS members enjoy refreshments after the meeting.



Snapshots from the Monroeville Trip



Above left, ECHS members and guests who enjoyed the tour of the old Monroeville courthouse and former Probate Judge Biggs' presentation about Monroeville's success in saving the old courthouse and developing the Mockingbird players.

The background of the photograph is the courtroom, the setting for the trial in the book To Kill a Mockingbird.

Above right, members of the group enjoying lunch.



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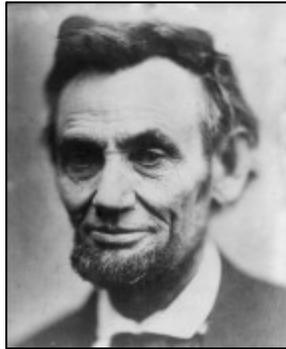
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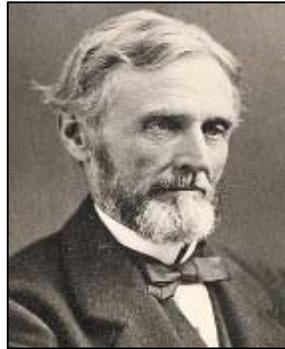
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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The 1850 Compromise



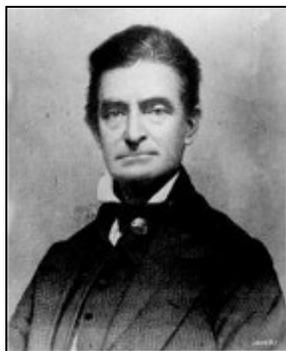
Abraham Lincoln



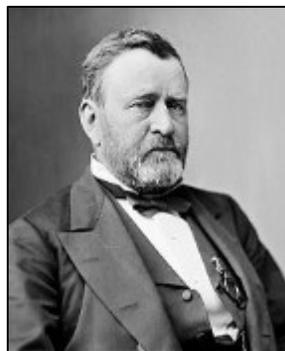
Jefferson Davis



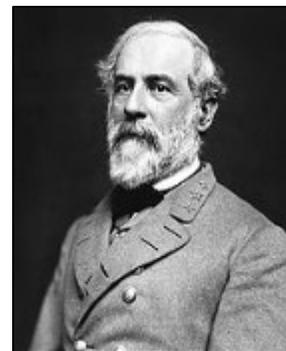
Dred Scott



John Brown



Ulysses Grant



Robert E. Lee

The following is the final part of an article which has been published as a series. The previous sections were published in the July and August ECHOES.

The End Game

Researched and compiled by Darryl Searcy.

From the University of Missouri American History Archives, a historical document states that when Zachary Taylor assumed office in early 1849, the question of the extension of slavery into former Mexican lands was becoming critical.

The immediate pressure point was California, whose population mushroomed during the Gold Rush. Enthusiastic Californians petitioned for admission to the Union as a free state, thus laying down a challenge to the existing sectional balance of 15 free states and 15 slave states.

Taylor, never one to equivocate, was prepared to

approve the admission of California, regardless of the impact on sectional politics. His death in July 1850 brought Millard Fillmore into office. The new president was open to a compromise that would address the concerns of both sides.

The Congressional cast of characters contained a mixture of old and new faces who labored to enact five separate laws which, considered together, constitute the Compromise of 1850.

The provisions of the compromise were watered down in order to reach a balanced sectional interest. In brief, the following was enacted:

1. California was admitted to the Union as a free state.
2. The New Mexico and Utah territories were to

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decide the question issue by relying on “popular sovereignty,” allowing the actual settlers to vote on the issue.

3. Texas would lose the New Mexico territory, but would receive \$10 million from the federal government for its loss.

4. The slave trade in the District of Columbia would be abolished, and

5. A new Fugitive Slave Act would be passed.

The documents entitled, “Primary Documents of American History,” stated that the 1850 Compromise had generated positive and negative results. Its passage quieted sectional animosities for a few years (until the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854) and held off the Civil War for about 10 years. On the other hand, Northerners were so enraged by the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Act that it was impossible to strike any future compromises.

The Compromise added some new laws. Buying and selling slaves in Washington, D.C. was outlawed. The people living in Washington, D.C. could still own slaves but could not buy more. That provision did not go over well with local aristocracy. Further, the Fugitive Slave Act was the most controversial, as it required citizens to assist in the recovery of fugitive slaves.

Southern Reactions .

The Southern response to the Compromise of 1850 was outwardly less volatile but in the end more dangerous to the Union than the Northern reactions. The immediate result of the compromise was to take the wind out of the sails of advocates of secession.

The Nashville Convention, held in June 1850, which had agreed to meet after the compromise to decide policy, could muster only a handful of radicals in November 1850.

Unionist candidates won the races for governor in Georgia and Mississippi, and supporters of the Com-

promise won fourteen of the nineteen congressional seats from Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Even in South Carolina, by far the most aggressive “disunionist” state, voters overwhelmingly rejected an appeal for secession in a statewide referendum.

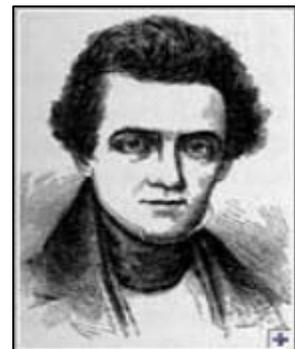
Unionism in the lower South after the Compromise seemed stronger. Several states embraced the “Alabama/Georgia Platform” of 1850, which threatened resistance and even secession if Congress enacted additional antislavery measures.

Moreover, the Compromise left leading Whigs from the lower South estranged from their party. Northern Whigs like William Henry Seward had not only led the protest against permitting slavery in the Mexican cession but had seemed to control Whig president Zachary Taylor. Repairing the sectional bonds of party politics would be crucial to cementing loyalty to the Union.

The Alabama/Georgia Platform, 1850 **(Commonly referred to as the Georgia Convention)**



Henry W. Collier
Gov. Alabama



George W. Towns
Gov. Georgia

Unhappy with the outcome of the Compromise of 1850, the Georgia legislature passed a series of resolutions condemning the measure. Governor Towns had strongly supported a pro-secession stance for the Georgia delegates to the Nashville Convention and

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only Georgia and South Carolina voted for secession. Towns called for a special convention in Milledgeville to consider the options for the state following the Compromise. Delegates from the state of Alabama were invited to participate.

As the delegates arrived it quickly became apparent that the convention was decidedly Unionist. Led by future Governor Charles Jenkins, the only measure coming out of the convention was the “Alabama/Georgia Platform,” which reads as follows:

To the end that the position of these States may be clearly apprehended by their Confederates of the South and of the North, and that we may be blameless of all future consequences, be it resolved by the people of Alabama and Georgia in Convention assembled.

That we hold the American Union secondary in importance only to the rights and principles it was designed to perpetuate.

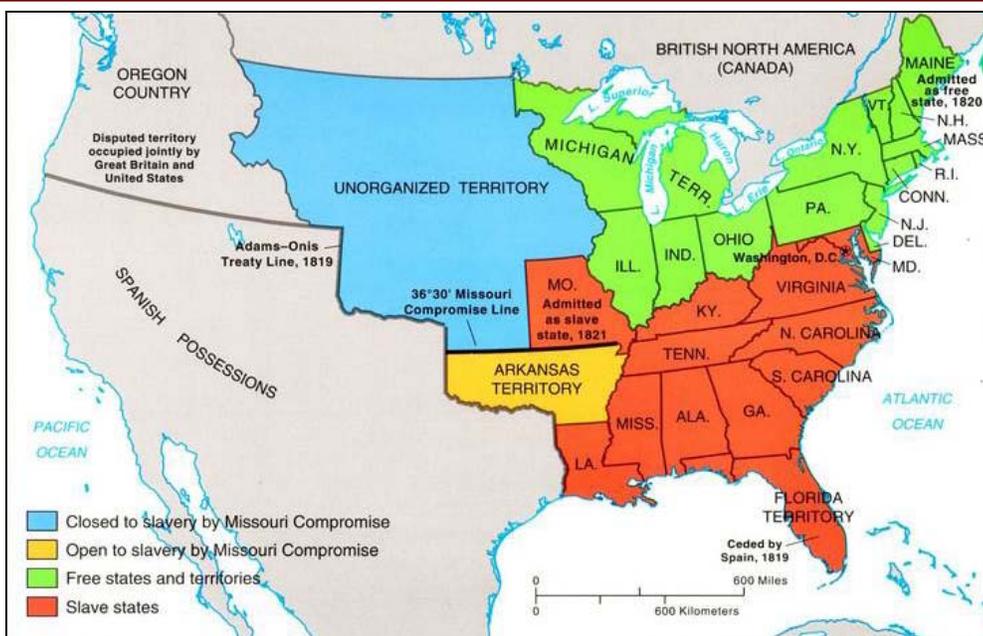
That past associations, present fruition, and future prospects, will bind us to it so long as it continues to be the safe-guard of those rights and principles.

That in this spirit the States of Alabama and Georgia as maturely considered the action of Congress . . . and whilst we do not wholly approve, will abide by it as a permanent adjustment of this sectional controversy.

That the States of Alabama and Georgia, in the judgment of this Convention, will and ought to resist, even (as a last resort) to a disruption of every tie which binds us to the Union, any future Act of Congress abolishing Slavery in the District of Columbia, without the consent and petition of the slaveholders thereof, or any Act abolishing Slavery in places within the slave-holding States, purchased by the United States for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, navy-yards, and other like purposes; or in any Act suppressing the slave-trade between slave-holding States; or in any refusal to admit as a State any Territory applying because of the existence of Slavery therein; or in any Act prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the Territories of Utah and New Mexico; or in any Act repealing or materially modifying the laws now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves.

That it is the deliberate opinion of this Convention, that upon the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Bill by the proper authorities, depends the preservation of our much loved Union.

Map of the Missouri Compromise of 1820



The Compromise of 1820 was enacted to settle the issue of maintaining the balance of free versus slave states when the territory of Missouri applied for statehood as a slave state. The compromise in 1820 which admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state kept the balance of slave to free states.

The 1820 compromise lasted until 1850 when more territories applied for statehood and there was the question of allowing slavery in the territories and in new states.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Some Gulf Coast Hurricane History

By Jerry Simmons

The following article is reprinted by permission from an Alger Sullivan Historical society (ASHS) Column for 07 29 2010

Bonnie made a noise like a hurricane but never made it to that status. As one who cowered alone all night through Ivan, I'm glad, but am thankful for the little rain it brought us up here.

Hurricanes haven't always been named, nor have they always been as precisely tracked like they are today. In years past a huge storm would come up quickly, and surprise people both at sea and onshore, with deadly results. One storm circa 1763 sunk a Spanish ship near the mouth of the river that today bears its name, the "Perdido."

In our lifetime there have been some monstrous storms (can you say Camille, Ivan, Katrina, et al?), but there've been one or two that may have actually changed the course of the history of the United States. During the period of the Revolutionary War, the British navy was stretched out all around the globe, but concentrated a lot of ships near the "colonies." The years of 1766, 1772, 1778-1781 were especially difficult for the British. In October 1778, for example, the Royal Navy lost fourteen ships and crew in Pensacola along with much of the town proper.

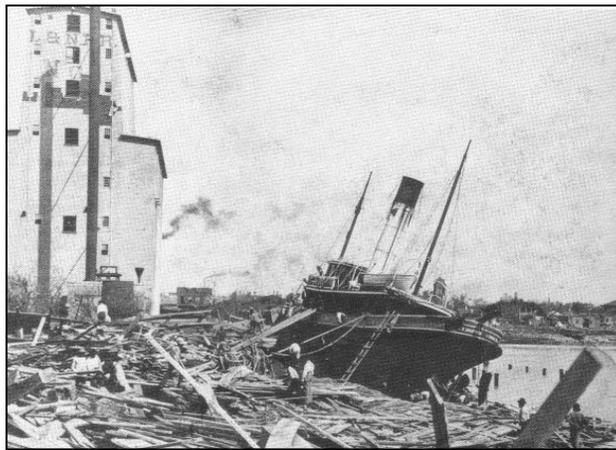
1780 is noted as the most treacherous for hurricanes in the entire 18th century. The British were



Pensacola Hurricane of 1906

Pensacola experienced her first major hurricane as a modern city in 1906. Although the winds reached only 83 miles per hour, 33 people died. Tides were 9 to 10 feet above normal in Pensacola Bay and damage was estimated at \$3,000,000.

The hurricane struck from the east, cutting two channels through Santa Rosa island. Much of the flooding resulted from the fact that almost nine inches of rain followed the hurricane.



Pensacola Hurricane of 1906

The Tugboat E. E. Simpson is shown grounded.

as 1906 by many, and highly publicized by Colonel W.D. Chipley that Pensacola could NOT have another hurricane! His reasoning was that the "pull" of the Gulf Stream to the east, and the "pull" of the low area

forced to endure eight hurricanes that year as they swept through the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. Other unusual events occurred, too. Particularly unusual for Pensacola was an earthquake in February 1780 that was "so severe that in the barracks the weapons fell off the walls and furniture was overthrown in the rooms. Chimneys fell down... houses tumbled down, and people buried beneath were crying for help. There was a tidal wave and lightning and thunder without ceasing" ("Florida's Hurricane History," Jay Barnes).

Most of the storms of 1780 did not strike Florida, but they had great political consequences for the region. One in August and two more in October sank several large British fleets, including one off the Florida coast and one near Rhode Island. It was said that these hurricanes "left a track thousands and thousands of sea miles long." If nothing else, the two storms severely reduced Great Britain's military advantage at sea.

Due to a lack of hurricane activity in Pensacola for years, it was thought as late

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Some Gulf Coast Hurricane History

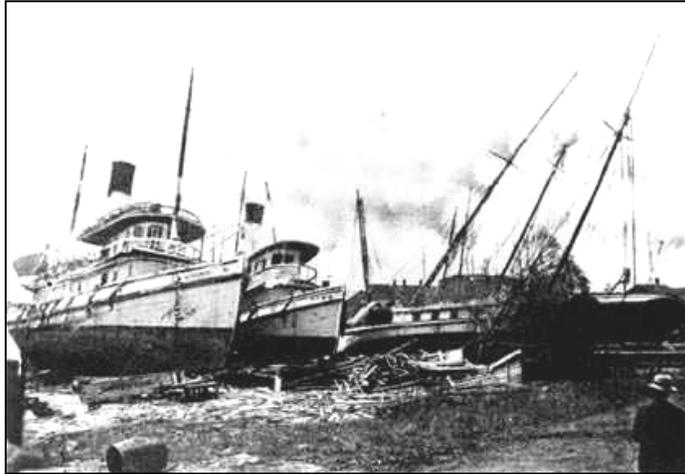
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between the Mississippi River and the Rio Grande, coupled with the unusual shape of Florida, protected Pensacola. In 1896 a true hurricane was laughed off by Chipley as “just a gale.” The Galveston Hurricane and flood in 1900, with a loss of more than 5000 lives, hundreds of miles west of Pensacola, Chipley said was further proof of that theory.

The following is part of a 1947 account written by my uncle, F.F. Bingham, of the September 28-29, 1917 hurricane that hit Pensacola.

“There was ample warning and we were now Hurricane-wise. I had the 600 ton motor schooner ‘Pensacola’ nearly ready for launching at my shipyard, where the Standard Oil Company marine terminals are now. I had sold her to the French Government for delivery after launching. For this work, French Veritas carried me in its list of Accredited Naval Architects.

“All signs pointed to a Hurricane. For two days I had my whole crowd, which ranged from 100 to 125 men, blocking-up and shoring-up the ship. Nearby, off the east side of the Frisco dock, the USS Quincy, about 6000 tons, was tied up. She was the seized German SS Vogesen.14, manned by a Naval Reserve crew, pretty green. Officers and crew [would] short-cut through my shipyard going to or coming from town. I had a joshing acquaintance with many of them and they called me Pop, which I did not exactly like. As the Hurricane slowly approached, the Quincy outfit stretched more and more wire ropes



Stranded Boats after the Hurricane of 1906

“Pensacola has had many Hurricanes. The first one of note destroyed 4 of the 7 Spanish ships in Don Tristan DeLuna's ill-fated 1559 expedition to settle Pensacola. This photo is of tugs left aground three blocks from the bay by the storm surge that preceded the Hurricane of 1906.”

The caption is taken from the website [Brown Marine](http://www.browmarine.com/pboat12.htm) at <<http://www.browmarine.com/pboat12.htm>>.

Picture from the John C. Pace Special collection of the University of West Florida.

from the ship down to the dock. On her port side she looked like the pictures of Gulliver when he awoke and found that the Lilliputians had made him fast.

“Along late in the afternoon the Quincy skipper came by and we chewed the fat a bit about the weather. I politely suggested that he borrow a brand new coil of 5" manila hawser that I had in the shed for the Pensacola and give his ship good long <http://www.browmarine.com/pboat12.htm>

lines up and down the dock. He laughed, called me Pop, bid me sweet dreams, and went his way.

“Dusk. Wind SSE with increasingly heavy rain squalls. Tide rising rapidly. This was IT, coming. I let all hands go as there was nothing more they could do. The water was then ankle deep between my shipyard and Main Street, a couple blocks away. I stayed at the ship until about 9 o'clock, wading and feeling my way around and driving fresh wedges into the blocking that showed signs of loosening. Wind and tide rising by the minute. Then I waded ashore, the water nearly waist deep. Drifting debris all around.

“In town lights were out, signs were tearing loose and the chinaberries and locusts uprooting. The Post Office was packed with people from the Tanyard section that had suffered so severely ten years earlier. A dim light showed from the Weather Office on the 10th floor of the American National Bank Building [this building is still at the NE corner of Palafox and

(Continued on page 13)

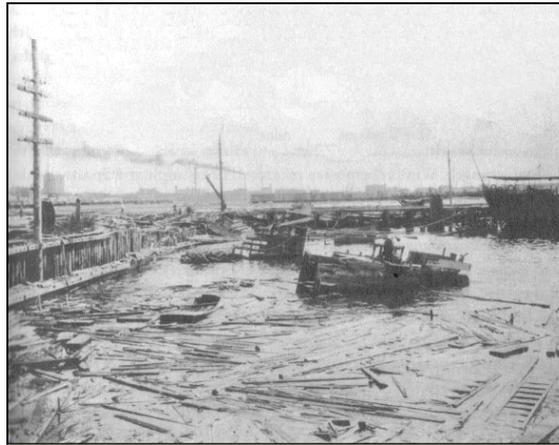
The ECHS *Journal* Section

Some Gulf Coast Hurricane History

(Continued from page 12)

Government Streets]. Getting my small aneroid barometer on the way up, I climbed to the Weather Office. Observer Reed (he went way up in the Service and was the best we ever had) was about the busiest man I have ever seen, checking and recording wind velocity, rainfall and making barometric observations every five minutes. His barometer stood as high as Grandfather's Clock. Reducing his readings to sea-level readings was a complicated two or three minute computation. I soon found that by a glance at my sensitive little aneroid, I could tell him what his reading would be at the end of his calculation. By jumps the Hurricane grew steadily worse. The trembling of the 10-story building changed to swaying. Pictures on the wall swayed a full inch. The swaying of the building at the top must have amounted to several inches.

"The falling barometer commenced to steady about 11 o'clock but no slackening of the blasts. At 11:40, after a reading, Mr. Reed calmly remarked, "This is IT. If we hold together another 20 minutes, we will be all right." Outside it seemed to lighten a little and at times I could make out the dim outline of the Pensacola, and of the larger Quincy, on beyond her. At midnight, right on the nose, the wind commenced to shift - S, SSW, SW, WSW (the swaying stopped but the Hurricane roared as loudly as ever), W, WNW, then steady at NW. The shift took about 30 minutes.



Hurricane of 1916
Pensacola's port after the hurricane.



Hurricane of 1926
Wharf and boat damage

"I left the Weather Office about 12:30, intending to make my way down to the shipyard, but on the streets I decided it was too dangerous. Tumbling chimneys, flying tin roofs and sign boards, falling oak trees and tangled wire, and not a human being in sight. So I took a room at the Merchants Hotel [SW corner of Palafox and Government] intending to sleep until daylight. I couldn't shut my eyes. The Hurricane roar, with special clatters and bangs every now and then, made sleep impossible. I got up about 3 o'clock and cautiously made my way to the waterfront. Apparently the tide rose about 3 feet between 9 o'clock and midnight. At 3:30 it was back down to about as I had left it at 9 o'clock, and falling rapidly with the offshore wind.

"Yes, there was the Pensacola just as I had left her. Some blocking and shores were gone, but there she

was. The Quincy! She was gone. The wire ropes had snapped like pipe stems and with the change of wind she bumped her way out of the slip and she was GONE, At daylight, two or three hours later, with the weather clearing somewhat, I made the Quincy out, high and dry on Town Point across the Bay [at Gulf Breeze]. They dug her off, two or three months later.

"Oh, well - 'the Government has lots of money.'"

The Bingham story was part of a larger work edited by Dr. Brian R. Rucker and Dr. Joe Knetsch.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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