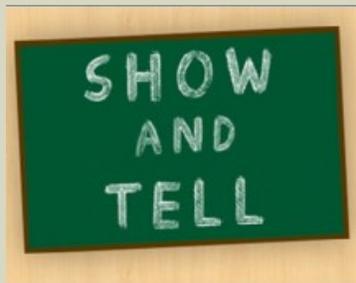


The March Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 3:00 p. m. The McMillan Museum Jefferson Davis Community College, Brewton

The Program



Here is the chance to show a treasured item and give its history or story. Clothing, tools, photographs, kitchen items, equipment, quilts, glassware, letters, mystery items, jewelry; the list is endless for items that will be of interest.

Plan to bring an item to participate in this always entertaining program. There will be tables provided to display items so members and guests can take a closer look after hearing the story behind the item.

Show and Tell: Popular in Historical Societies, Museums, Schools, Advertising, and Cartoons

By Ranella Merritt

The term "Show and Tell" as a concept and teaching device has been popular in the United States from at least the 1940's but the idea is much older.



In the Shakespearean play Coriolanus, Act II, Scene 3, a character states "... for if he show us his wounds and tell us his deeds" indicating the concept

Students at the Willis School in South Plainfield, NJ, appear to be enjoying the tradition of "Show-and-Tell" in 1954.

(Continued on page 2)

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The April Meeting, April 24, 2015
ECHS member Ed Williams will present a program on Author and Storyteller of the South, Kathryn Tucker Windham



**Cooperative Grist Mill.
Prairie Farms, Alabama, 1940's.**



Fink's Grist Mill in Covington County, Ala.

Volume 42, Number 3

March 2015

Show and Tell: Popular in Historical Societies, Schools, Advertising, and Cartoons

(Continued from page 1)

behind “Show and Tell,” the idea of linking something to words explaining it *(from Wikipedia)*.

In popular culture, the PBS program Timothy Goes to School regularly used the practice of “Show and Tell” but called it “In the Spotlight.” Timothy is a raccoon who attends a fictional primary school in the cartoon series *(Wikipedia)*.

In another format the comic strip Calvin and Hobbes, which appeared in newspapers from 1985-1998, illustrates “Show and Tell” as we see Calvin’s experiences in school.

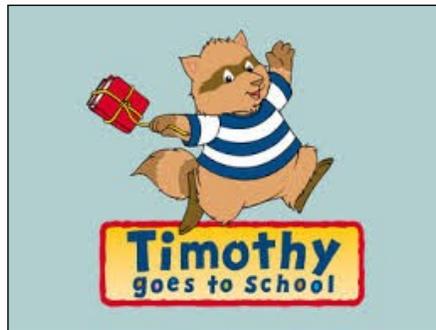
The phrase “Show and Tell” is even used in ad campaigns. The company Leggett and Platt uses it in an ad for carpet cushions referring to their “Show and Tell” program which realizes that “Customers deserve to hear about (as well as touch and feel) our top-tier carpet pad.”

The picture to the right, showing carpet cushion samples plays on another modern theme, ” Do you want fries with that”

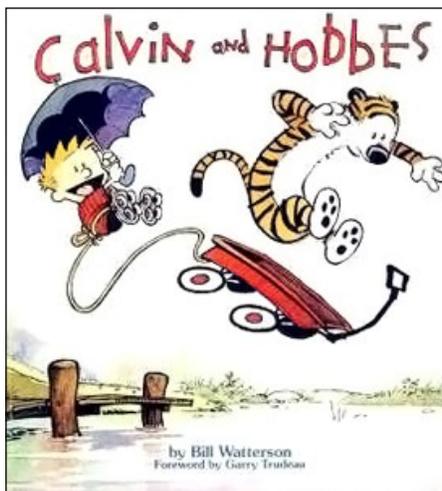
(<http://www.lpurethane.com/show-and-tell-program.cshml>)?

Some historical societies use the “Show and Tell” format to present educational programs in the local schools. Torrington, Connecticut’s Historical Society provides a power-point presentation accompanied by artifacts for the program Torrington History for the Second Grade.

Museums, of course, use the “Show and Tell” format for youth education programs, to promote the purposes or mission of the museum, and to develop new audiences and supporters of the museum. The Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh sponsors a “Show and Tell” program by staff who have had their “Wish List”



Picture from Google Images.



The front cover of the cartoon series Calvin and Hobbes *(from Wikipedia)*.



Carpet Cushion Samples as French Fries.

fulfilled by grants. They show the artifacts acquired by funding in presentations showing the importance of donating to and working with the museum.

Libraries also promote and teach through “Show and Tell.” One interesting program is the Lego “Show and Tell and Building Activities” event at the Novi Library in Novi, Minnesota.

Some “Show and Tell” programs by historical societies can be on special topics such as embroidery or quilts or school experiences of members. Also programs can be a form of Antiques Roadshow where members bring items to learn more about them and get an estimate of value.

The University of Washington uses a “Show and Tell” format to acquaint elementary school children with people who have disabilities and with the technology that helps with the disability. Called “DO-IT Show and Tell,” a presenter, usually a student from the university with a disability, will visit a classroom and show the use of computers and other technology that helps with performing every-day tasks.

In one successful example, Imke Durre, a postdoctoral student, brought her computer that talks and with which she uses a Braille display. The children loved hearing the computer talk. She also brought her cane to demonstrate its use and a child’s cane for the students to experiment with. Each child also received a copy of his/her name printed in Braille *(<http://www.washington.edu/doit/do-it-show-and-tell>)*.

“Show and Tell” programs can often present surprises, sometimes shocking ones. The Bates County, Missouri, Museum at their recent “Show and Tell” program had a display of what the local paper called a

(Continued on page 3)

Show and Tell: Popular in Historical Societies, Museums, Schools, Advertising, and Cartoons

(Continued from page 2)

“Deathly Photo.”

What seemed to be a normal family portrait with members posed around a table actually showed a family member that was deceased. The article reporting the story commented that at the turn of the century, posing a deceased loved one for photographs had become quite popular. The woman on the right in the photograph is deceased (<http://batescountynews-wire.blogspot.com/2015/03/deathly-photo-surfaces-at-museum-show.html>).

Susan Lucille Davis a middle school language arts teacher from Texas summarizes what makes “Show and Tell” such a popular format:



“I don’t know about you, but I loved Show and Tell. I couldn’t wait to bring my favorite doll (a Maori child in custom garb my father had brought back from New Zealand) or book or seashell to class. I squirmed in my seat as I listened to my classmates and waited for my chance to share.

“I also loved Show and Tell because it presented learning as play rather than chalkboard or workbook instruction, and because we sat in a circle rather than in long lines facing

the front of the class. I loved Show and Tell because it involved telling friends about something special we had learned all by ourselves” (<http://plpnetwork.com/2013/02/28/show-pd-teachers/>). €

News and Announcements

JOURNEY TO JACK SPRINGS on Tuesday, May 5, 2015!

After their successful ECHS driving tour to Montpelier and Tensaw in north Baldwin County, ECHS members Jeff Ross and Ann Biggs-Williams are teaming up once again to take ECHS members on a journey back to earlier times in northwestern Escambia County.

Tentative plans for Tuesday, May 5th, are to travel the section of the Old Federal Road that goes through Escambia County, Alabama and then stops in the area of Jack Springs, which many historians state was the oldest settlement in Escambia County.

In early days, this was an unknown wilderness--which was home to Indians, wild animals and hardy pioneers. We will hear the history of one of those pioneer families.

The group will then journey into Baldwin County and have their picnic lunch at a business operated by one of the descendants of this family. More details will follow in the April ECHOES.

West Florida Genealogical Society April Meeting

Meeting Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015

Place: West Florida Genealogy Library. 5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 850-494-7373

Time: 10:00 AM

Topic: What Is a Reasonably Exhaustive Search?
Speaker: Michael Hait, via recorded webinar

The first step of the Genealogical Proof Standard is to complete a reasonably exhaustive search for all relevant records related to your research objective.

This presentation discusses what a reasonably exhaustive search constitutes, why this is necessary, and how to conduct a search. A case study explores how failing to identify all relevant records can lead to missing information and forming inaccurate conclusions about your ancestors’ lives.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00. Contact Charlotte Schipman 850-477-7166 cschipman@mac.com €

Alabama Historical Society 2015 Annual Meeting in Mobile April 9-11

Conference Topics include:

- “Making History Public,”
- “Mobile in 1865,”
- “Mobile’s Roots,”
- “The World Wars and Alabama,”
- “Slave Labor,”
- “Klansmen, Carpetbaggers, and Scalawags,”
- “Latter-Day Saint Beginnings in Alabama.”



The Museum of Mobile Building has served as an old southern market for the city as well as the city hall. Central location for meetings.

Guided Tours include:

- History Museum of Mobile,
- Magnolia Cemetery,
- Government Street Presbyterian Church,
- Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception,
- Condé-Charlotte Museum House.



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

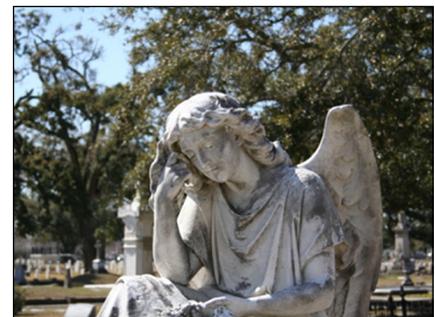
Represents that Mobile has been the center of Alabama's Catholic life since the first decades of the colonial era, when French Catholics first settled the region.



**Government Street Presbyterian Church
Example of Greek Revival Church Architecture.**



**To the Left,
The Conde-Charlotte Museum House
The house was built in 1850 on foundations of a jail which dates from the early 1820's.**



**Magnolia Cemetery
The cemetery is noted for its beautiful funerary art and its place in representing Mobile history.**

Snapshots of the ECHS February 2015 Meeting



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills



To the Right, Gristmill Stones
The stones clearly show the grooves cut into them. The top stone is concave and the bottom stone convex.

Pictured at Left, Plaque in Bronze Map at Alabama Department of Archives and History
The plaque acknowledges the role of grist mills in Alabama's history. It illustrates the variety of patterns cut into the mill stones. The grooves in the stones are called Furrows and the flat areas Lands.



By Ranella Merritt

For many years, Alabamians depended upon local grist mills to grind corn to feed themselves and their animals. Some of these old mills still survive in communities across the state. The dependence on grist mills for grinding corn (a term representing all grains as well as maize) is typical of the early settlements in America.

Having a water powered grist mill nearby meant the settlers could be spared some labor. An article about the first grist mill in the Plymouth Colony comments, "After more than a decade of laboriously grinding corn by hand in wooden mortars, the colony authorized the construction of a water-powered corn grinding mill on Town Brook in 1636" (<http://www.plimoth.org/mill>).

Leo Martin who grinds corn at the reconstructed mill at Plymouth comments on what the corn meal for making polenta and johnnycakes added to the diet of the Puritans. "The corn has so many carbohydrates and gave them instant energy, so they could survive and make it through the day" (from Marti Attoun's arti-

cle "Preserving Historic Gristmills" at Americanprofile.com).

In the 1850's in America there were 100,000 grist mills; today there are only 1,000. Wherever there was water there was a mill, for farmers needed a mill they could take their grain and corn to within a day's travel by horse-drawn wagon. The miller would grind corn, wheat, rye, oats, or barley into flour and meal, keeping a portion of the farmer's grain as payment, the miller's "toll." The article "Preserving Historic Gristmills" comments that because the miller could then sell the grain he kept, many of the millers became wealthy, many becoming bankers.

The grist mill was also the social center of the community. People would come to the mill, often on a weekly basis, and visit while they waited in line. Children could swim or fish in the mill pond. Because it was the gathering place of the community, printers posted their newspapers on the walls.

The "Welcome to Rural Southwest Alabama" web-

(Continued on page 8)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills

(Continued from page 7)

site acknowledges that Wilson's Mill, now a part of the historic park in the town of Needham, was once the center of the social life: "Wilson's Grist Mill was the center of life in Needham for decades during the early 1900's for the people of Choctaw County. The Saturday trip to town to have corn ground into meal was more than just the task of obtaining food for the family for the next week. Walter Wilson's mill was the social center of the town with news, opinions, and even the gossip of Needham and the surrounding area" (<http://www.ruralswalabama.org/tags/choctaw-county-2/>).

There are grist mills that still operate to make stone ground flour and meal. The appeal of these mills is in the atmosphere created by the mill as well as the quality of the product, according to Doug Walsh, who manages a water-powered gristmill near Rogers, Arkansas: "People love the experience of coming here—the wood floors and the mill with the creek in the background really creates a homey feeling" (<http://americanprofile.com/articles/preserving-historic-gristmills>).

However, it is the taste of the product that stone grinding gives that really attracts people to drive down country roads to seek a grist mill and buy the flour and meal." Bob Russell, owner of a grist meal in Oregon, comments on the flavor and texture where the flour hasn't been bleached or the germ taken out, "The cornmeal tastes like corn. . . This really is the taste of 130 years ago" ("*Preserving Historic Grist Mills*").

The attraction to the taste of the product brings farmers and others to one of the few remaining active grist mills in the southeast. Located on the Covington County border with Walton County, Florida, Fink's Mill, originally built in 1932, is currently operated by Rodney Fink and owned by his father, Quin. Farmers bring their corn to be ground mostly for their own use.

One farmer, Leon Clyatt, who recently drove 300 miles to the mill to get his corn stone-ground gave a simple reason for his trip, "There is nothing like it . . . it just tastes better than anything out there on the store shelves" (<http://www.waltonoutdoors.com/finks-mill-one-of-the-last-operating-stone-grist-mills-in-the-southeast/>).

Escambia County has had its share of gristmills. In notes about the settlement of Fort Crawford, there is a reference to an Absalom or Wright Wall, Jr., who is said to have built one of the first grist mills in south Alabama in 1818 near what was called "The Bluff" on the west side of the Conecuh River about four miles from Fort Crawford (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alghstwn/escambia/fortcrawford.html>).

There are references to a Thomas Mendenhall who in 1872 had a gristmill and sawmill east of Brewton where he had dammed a creek. The In late 1876, W.N. Carney built a grist mill, as well as a store, and a sawmill in downtown Atmore. Also, in a government survey in 1886 two mills are listed for Escambia County, a Bradley and a Robert S. S. Overstreet flour and gristmill.

An article by Jesse F. Elliott about the early days in the settlement of Bradley, a community located in the southeastern corner of Escambia County appeared in the January 16, 1975 Newsletter for ECHS. In describing how hard the people in Bradley worked to get a mill, it reminds us how important the gristmills were to a community and how hard members of a community were willing to work to have one:

"In those days, grist mills were few and far between. People had to travel some distance to get the corn ground into meal. A meeting was held and the men decided that they would all pitch in and build an earthen dam across Panther Creek and put in a water-driven grist mill. Everybody worked as much as they could, some using wheel barrows, some wagons, scoops, or anything to move a bucket of dirt. It took around a year to build this dam. When it was finished, from that time on for a long time Bradley went by the name of 'Bradley Dam.' Once the government put a post office there, the name Bradley Dam fell into dis-use" (http://www.escohis.org/pdf/1975_01_echoes.pdf).

From Wikipedia's article, "Oliver Evans," we learn how the milling process for flour was revolutionized in the late 18th century by this American inventor. The bulk of milling in the late 18th century was still done in the home with hand milling. The mills at this time were still labor intensive in moving the grain from one stage to the next and certain stages in the process, such as cooling the grain, were slow

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills

(Continued from page 8)

and inefficient. The quality of milled wheat was poor with hard wheat not sufficiently ground so that the result was a coarse, brown flour and the danger of cross-contamination of the flour with dirt, and grain or other impurities, was a problem because of the way the grain and flour were moved around by hand.

Evans incorporated two devices which were not new but were put to new uses. He used the idea of an elevator with buckets (basically buckets on a chain) to move the grain up to the hoppers which would pour the grain into the grinders. The second automation from the inventor was to create a “hopper boy” which would collect the hot flour and spread it evenly over a floor to dry it and then move it to a central hopper to be sifted and placed in bags (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Evans).

As mentioned, in the mid-nineteenth century there were 100,000 gristmills in America but now there are only 1,000 including those still operating and those in-operative. Some of the existing mills are used not for milling grain or corn. Others are placed in historic parks, some are restaurants, and some as Bed and Breakfast businesses.

Modern mills typically use electricity or fossil fuels to spin heavy steel, or cast iron and serrated and flat rollers to separate the bran and germ from the endosperm to produce a fine white flour or meal which will have a long shelf life. Yet many bakers and natural-food advocates like the nutty taste, think the texture is better for baking, and believe stone ground is more nutritional. Yet what really brings the public to seek out stone-ground meal and flour and help keep alive an old tradition is, “It just tastes better.” €

The Stone Grinding Process

The following narrative from [Wikipedia](#) describes the meal grinding process of water powered gristmills.

“Classical mill designs are usually water powered, though some are powered by the wind or by livestock. In a watermill a sluice gate is opened to allow water to flow onto, or under, a water wheel to make it turn. In most watermills the water wheel was mounted vertically, i.e., edge-on, in the water, but in some cases horizontally (the tub wheel and so-called Norse wheel). Later designs incorporated horizontal steel or cast iron turbines and these were sometimes refitted into the old wheel mills.

“In most wheel-driven mills, a large gear-wheel called the *pit wheel* is mounted on the same axle as the water wheel and this drives a smaller gear-wheel, the *wallower*, on a main driveshaft running vertically from the bottom to the top of the building. This system of gearing ensures that the main shaft turns faster than the water wheel, which typically rotates at around 10 rpm.

“The millstones themselves turn at around 120 rpm. They are laid one on top of the other. The bottom stone, called the *bed*, is fixed to the floor, while the top stone, the *runner*, is mounted on a sep-

arate spindle, driven by the main shaft. A wheel called the *stone nut* connects the runner's spindle to the main shaft, and this can be moved out of the way to disconnect the stone and stop it turning, leaving the main shaft turning to drive other machinery. This might include driving a mechanical sieve to refine the flour, or turning a wooden drum to wind up a chain used to hoist sacks of grain to the top of the mill house.

“The distance between the stones can be varied to produce the grade of flour required; moving the stones closer together produces finer flour. The grain is lifted in sacks onto the *sack floor* at the top of the mill on the hoist. The sacks are then emptied into bins, where the grain falls down through a hopper to the millstones on the *stone floor* below. The flow of grain is regulated by shaking it in a gently sloping trough (the *slider*) from which it falls into a hole in the center of the runner stone.

“The milled grain (flour) is collected as it emerges through the grooves in the runner stone from the outer rim of the stones and is fed down a chute to be collected in sacks on the ground or *meal floor*. A

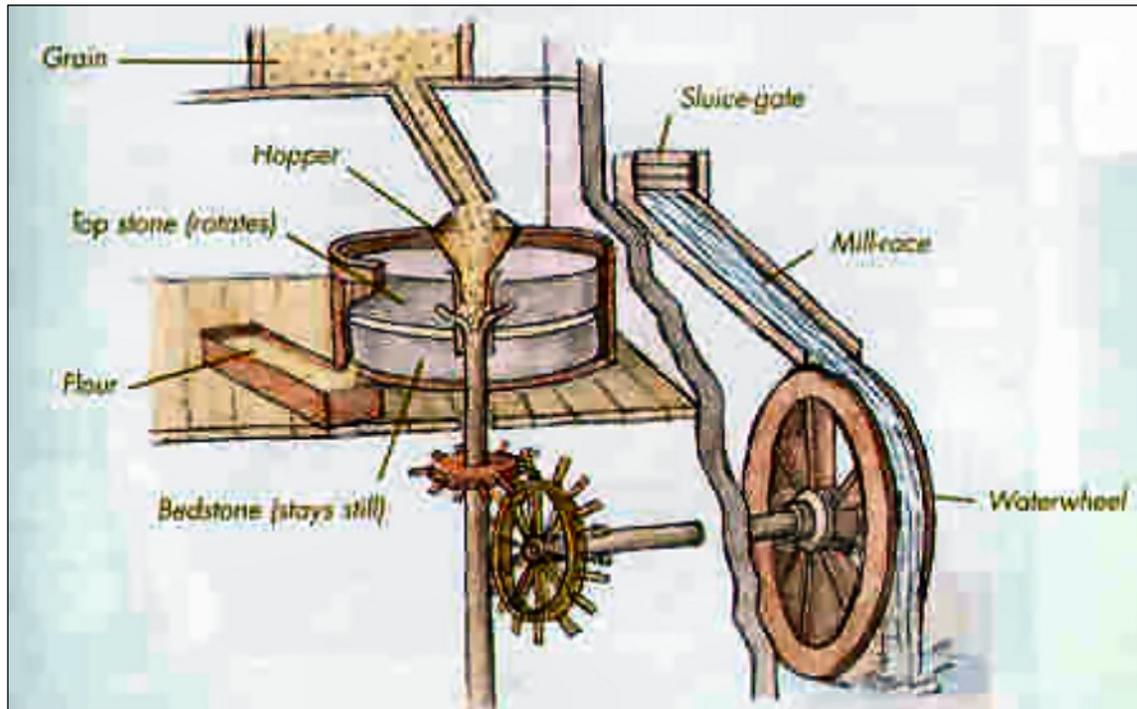
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The ECHS *Journal* Section

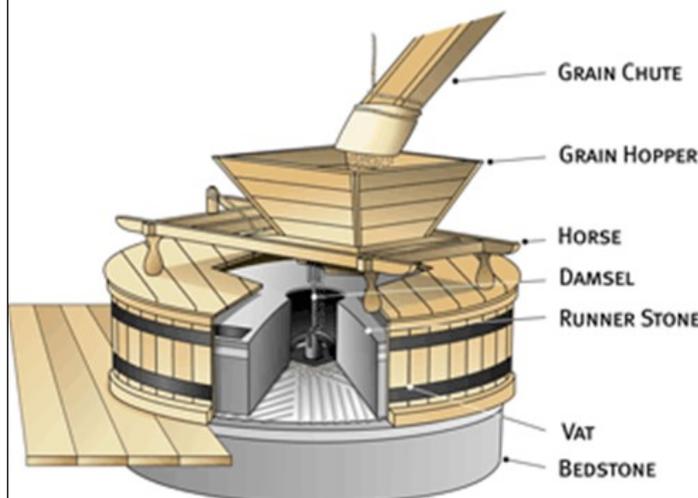
(Continued from page 9)

similar process is used for grains such as wheat to make flour, and for maize to make corn meal.

“In order to prevent the vibrations of the mill machinery from shaking the building apart, a gristmill will often have at least two separate foundations”
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gristmill>). €



CROSS SECTION OF THE MILLSTONES



The drawing above of the milling process is from google images of the mechanism of a water driven grist mill is from google Images.

The illustration to the left shows some of the components of the millstones' enclosure. The grain goes into the hopper where it falls into the shoe (a wooden trough, not shown). The shoe is shaken by the horse which is in turn shaken by the damsel.

Grain drops from the shoe into a hole in the runner stone and spreads out over the bedstone. The grain is ground into flour as it moves outward until it reaches the edge of the stones.

There the flour is trapped between the stones and the vat (a wooden covering for the millstones). The freshly ground flour is moved by the turning stones until it falls into a hole in the floor, leading to an elevator that will take it to the next stage of the process. €

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Stone Grinding Process (Continued)



At the Left, setting the runner (top) stone onto the bedstone. Note the furrows (grooves) in the bedstone (there are also furrows on the bottom of the runner stone). Each of these millstones weighs about 1,200 lbs. (545 kg). These stones are in the Old Stone Mill in Delta, Ontario Province, Canada. Text and photograph from < <http://www.deltamill.org/>>.

As shown at the right, every so often the miller had to "dress" the stones, making sure that the surface was even (flat) and deepening the furrows to maintain their cutting edges.

The stones are known as burrstones (or burhstones) and originate from the Marne Valley in northern France. The stones are made up using pieces of quartz, cemented together with plaster, and bound with iron bands. This type of stone is preferred for gristmills since it is less abrasive than softer stones, cutting rather than abrading the grain, creating a whiter colored flour.

Photograph from [Wikipedia](#)



To the Right is an illustration showing that milling is part science, part art. A small access hole allows the miller to feel the freshly ground flour - and based on the feel, the miller will make adjustments to the stones or rate of feed.

The photograph and text of this illustration and the one above are from the site for the grist mill in Ontario Province, Canada at <<http://www.deltamill.org/>>.



The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills Past and Present



Couple Going to a Water Mill in An Ox-cart in Monroe County 1930's -40's.
From ADAH at
<<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/1355>>.



Worker at Grist Mill in Falco, Covington County, Al.
Photograph by John Collier in 1942.
Mill no longer exists. Once a prosperous sawmill town, Falco is now a ghost town.
Photo from State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory <<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/30298>>



Worker at Falco Grist Mill
Another photo by John Collier in 1942.
From state archives of Florida at <<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/39815>>.



The Grist Mill at Falco
Again a photograph by John Collier, 1942.
From the state archives of Florida at <<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/30297>>.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills Past and Present (Continued)



Boy Pouring His Corn for Grinding into Meal at Cooperative Grist Mill.



Project Families Bring Their Corn to Cooperative Grist Mill for Grinding into Meal.

All of the photographs on this page, which are scenes from Gee's Bend in 1939, are by Marion Post Wolcott. Each photograph has the original caption.

The photographs are from the Yale University digital library at <<http://photogrammar.yale.edu/records/index.php?record=fsa2000031944/PP>>.



Cooperative Grist Mill Where Project Families Bring Corn to be Ground.



Children of Project Families Often Bring the Corn to Cooperative Grist Mill for Grinding into Meal.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Grist Mills Past and Present (Continued)



Kymulga Grist Mill

The mill is located in Talladega County near Childersburg. Built in 1864, it is located in an historic park and is near one of Alabama's 11 remaining covered bridges.

The mill has five sets of grinding rocks, with two sets coming from France. A slave drove two yoke of oxen to Mobile to haul them back to the mill.



Rikard's Mill, Beatrice, Alabama

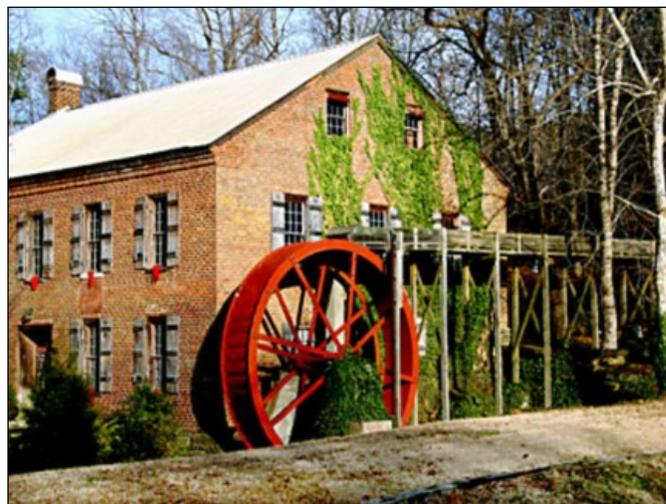
Built in 1845, the mill is both a functioning water-powered grist mill and a museum. Part of a historic park, admission is charged to enter the park.

Picture and information from Kelly Kazak's article at http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2015/03/take_a_tour_of_alabamas_histor.html.



Butler's Mill, Graham, Alabama

The mill is operational from October through April, according to TourEastAlabama.com. Located on the banks of the Tallapoosa River, it was built in 1881. It has a gift shop and restaurant.



Aderholdt Mill

The mill was built in 1836 on Tallaseehatchee Creek in Jacksonville. It was the first grist-mill in Calhoun County.

Picture and information for Aderholdt Mill and Butler's Mill from http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2015/03/take_a_tour_of_alabamas_histor.html.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Some of Alabama's Historic Grist Mills (*Continued*)



The M.N. Lloyd Grist Mill
The mill is located on Pigeon Creek in Covington County. It was built in about 1930 near Red Level.

*From Kelly Kazak article.
Picture courtesy of Connie Baggett.*



Boshell's Mill on Lost Creek seen in 1973 at Alabama Route 124 in Walker County. Mill building is gone but the pillars remain.

From <<http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2015/03/>



Kenan's Mill

The mill is a living-history museum in Selma. According to RuralSWAlabama.org, the grist mill, built in the 1860s, was operated by the Kenan family for more than 100 years before it closed.



The John Wesley Hall Grist Mill

The Grist Mill and Cotton Gin operated at Tannehill from 1867 to 1931. Historic Tannehill Park where the Grist Mill is in McCalla, Alabama.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
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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 escohis@escohis.org or call 251-809-1528.

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