



The September 2022 Newsletter
The September Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 27
at 3:00 pm in the Meeting Room in the Museum
on the Brewton College Campus.
Refreshments Will Be Served.
Masks are Optional.



The Program: Southern Writer and Historian, Dale Cox, Will Present a Program on the Fort at Prospect Bluff

Our speaker, who grew up in Two Egg, Florida, is a descendent of the Yuchi Indian Milly Barnard and the Lower Creek warrior Efau Emathla. His ancestors were among the Red Stick warriors who came to Prospect Bluff to join the British in the summer of 1814.

Cox says of his history: Retired after managing television news operations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and elsewhere! Founded parent company of Two Egg TV. Author, historian and lover of Troy University football, basketball, baseball and more! I spend most of my time trying to help rural communities and people.

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Covid is Still Here

Be thoughtful about attendance at the September society meeting. If you are not feeling well, consider staying at home.

The October Program
 Sierra Stiles will present a program on the Turtle Point Science Center.



The Riverside Inn in River Falls (1937)

“Remember when – the Riverside Inn combination service station, grocery store, and dance hall was located in River Falls on the Andalusia side of the Conecuh River before one crossed the old iron bridge built at the turn of the century. Historian Sidney Waits wrote about the ‘tourist cabins’ that were operated in connection with the inn. He said it was one of the ‘earliest motels.’

“Hank Williams played there on many occasions.”
By Sue Wilson From the Andalusia Star News, March 2019



The Q. Elizabeth, II, an Alabama camellia named for the queen and sent to her in 1954.

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The Program

(Continued from page 1)

He is the author of nineteen books, including his acclaimed study of the Fort at Prospect Bluff.

Cox divides his time between the quaint community of Two Egg, Florida and Dothan, Alabama. He is married with two grown children and supports a number of historic preservation causes.

Timeline for Prospect Bluff Historic Sites

1763 In the First Treaty of Paris at the end of the French/Indian War, Britain acquires Florida.

1783 In the Second Treaty of Paris, Britain cedes Florida back to Spain.

1812 British and American War of 1812 begins.

1814

1. The British, under the direction of the British Royal Marines, build a Fort at Prospect Bluff. Known as a British Post (1814-1815), it occupies a strategic spot along the Apalachicola River, which was the "highway for commerce" in those pre-road, pre-railroad days.
2. As it was for the Native Americans, the Apalachicola River was a major transportation resource for the early pioneers, and an easy way to get people in and agricultural products out of the interior, Florida, eastern Georgia and western Alabama. Cotton was the center of the economy until the late 19th Century, when logging took over.
3. Prospect Bluff was valuable militarily not only because of the elevation its name suggests, but because it was at a "strategic location," a bend in the river, giving an important sight advantage over any boat.
4. Apalachicola, the county seat of Franklin County, Florida, lies at the mouth of the Apalachicola River, off Apalachicola Bay on the Intracoastal Water Way. It was the major port on the Gulf for the Apalachicola River System.
5. During the British era (1814 to 1815), several hundred people including British troops, Maroons (escaped slaves), and Native Americans (Red Stick Creek, Seminole, Miccosukee) lived at Prospect Bluff.
6. December 24, 1814, Treaty of Ghent ends War of 1812 with terms of status quo of land held by U. S. and Britain before the War.

1815

1. January 1815, Battle of New Orleans. The American victory at the Battle of New Orleans soon became a symbol of American democracy triumphing over the old European ideas of aristocracy and entitlement. The battle was the last major armed engagement between the United States and Britain.

2. When the British evacuate Florida in the spring of 1815, they leave a well-constructed and fully-armed fort on the Apalachicola River in the hands of their allies, about 300 African Americans and 30 Seminole and Choctaw Indians.
4. Over the next year, the fort becomes a growing colony of escaped slaves from Georgia and the Mississippi Territory, and becomes known as the Negro Fort (1815-1816). It was the center of the largest community of free Blacks in North America before the U.S. Civil War.

1816

1. In July of 1816, the Negro Fort is destroyed by an attack from the river by gunboats of the U. S. Navy.
2. U.S. officials considered the Negro Fort to be a threat to the system of chattel slavery in the Deep South. Its very existence served as a beacon of freedom to those living as slaves. American troops from the fourth U.S. Infantry – supported by 250 Muskogee (Creek) – attacked the fort on July 20 to 27, 1816. The commander of the fort, a former Spanish slave named Garcon, answered a surrender demand with a cannon shot. The battle raged for seven days with the U.S. forces being driven back on each attempt to approach the fort.
3. The U.S. Navy joined the battle on July 27, 1816. Gunboat No. 149 and Gunboat No. 154 started firing their 9-pounder cannons at the Negro Fort from a point nearly two miles downriver. The fifth shot – a cannonball heated until it was red hot and fired from Gunboat No. 154 – ignited the gunpowder magazine in the citadel of the fort.
4. The fatal cannon shot that day was the deadliest in American history. The explosion of the magazine killed 270 men, women, and children and ended the existence of North America's largest free black settlement. Most of those killed had escaped slavery in Spanish Florida. Only a few were from the United States.

1818

1. Fort Gadsden (1818-1821) is built by the U. S. at Prospect Bluff within the walls of the former Negro Fort.

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Timeline for Prospect Bluff Historic Sites

(Continued from page 2)

2. General Jackson directs Lieutenant James Gadsden to build here, in spite of Spanish protests.
3. It is a U.S. fort in the heart of Spanish territory.

1819

Under the Onís-Adams Treaty of 1819 (also called the Transcontinental Treaty and ratified in 1821), Spain cedes East Florida to the United States and renounces all claim to West Florida.

1821

1. U. S. abandons Fort Gadsden.
2. This is the year Florida becomes a U.S. territory and there is no longer a national border to defend between Spanish Florida and Georgia and Alabama.

1862

1. Confederates occupy Fort Gadsden (1862-1863) to protect communications from plantations in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama with the port of Apalachicola.
2. Confederate troops occupy the fort until July 1863 when malaria forces its abandonment.
3. Fort Gadsden has no direct involvement in any military endeavor, either in 1818-1821 or during the Civil War.

1961

1. Fort Gadsden Historic Site Created.
2. Process of memorializing the site begins when Florida acquires a parcel of 78 acres including the site of Prospect Bluff.

1972

1. Site of Prospect Bluff Named a National Historic Landmark.
2. Known as the site of Fort Gadsden, emphasis is given to Fort Gadsden while many feel the story of the Negro Fort is the most important.

2016

1. The site is renamed Prospect Bluff Historic Sites which acknowledges in the name that more than Fort Gadsden existed there.
2. The site contains an explanatory kiosk with artifacts, picnic area with pavilion, grills, and rest rooms.
3. There are four historic markers: "Fort Gadsden," "British Fort Magazine," "Steamship Tragedy" and "Millie Francis."
 - a. The "Fort Gadsden" Marker reads: "Built in 1814 by Lieutenant Colonel Edward Nichols of his Majesty's Marines as a rallying point to encourage the Seminole Indians to ally themselves with England against the United States in the War of 1812.

"Abandoned after 1814, [the date is wrong,

should be 1815], it was occupied by a band of free Negroes, and was known by 1816 as "The Negro Fort." Its location in Spanish Florida did not deter Major General Andrew Jackson from ordering its elimination as a threat to American commerce on the Apalachicola River.

"On July 27, 1816, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas L. Clinch, with U.S. forces and 150 Creek Indians, fired on the fort and destroyed it with a 'hot shot' cannon ball which exploded in the powder magazine killing all but 30 of 300 occupants.

"In 1818, General Jackson directed Lieutenant James Gadsden to build 'Fort Gadsden' here, in spite of Spanish protests. Confederate troops occupied the fort until July 1863, when malaria forced its abandonment."

- b. "The British Fort Magazine" marker reads: "It is hard to imagine the horrible scene that greeted the first Americans to stand here on the morning of July 27, 1818. The remains of the 270 persons killed in the magazine explosion lay scattered about. They also found an arsenal of ten cannons, 2,500 muskets and over 150 barrels of black powder. Some original timber from the octagonal magazine were uncovered here by excavations."
- c. The "Steamboats Tragedy" Marker reads: "In 1838 the steamship Irvington, carrying 200 bales of cotton on a downstream run, burned and sank four miles upstream from here. This 115 foot side-wheeler was constructed in 1836 in Marion, Indiana. These boilers and parts were dredged from the river about where the Irvington went down and probably represent her remains. The ship's short life on the river came during the early part of the Apalachicola steamship period. Later over 200 ships worked the river as far north as Columbus, Georgia."
- d. The "Millie Francis" Marker reads: "Francis the Prophet, whose Indian name was Hillis Hadjo, was an important Creek chief who was forced to leave his home in the Alabama Territory at the end of the Creek War of 1813-14. He established a new town on the Wakulla River several miles above Ft. St. Marks.

"In 1818, Gen Andrew Jackson led an army into Spanish Florida to campaign against the restive Seminoles. With the army was a young Georgia militia private named Duncan McKrimmon. While Jackson's forces were at recently constructed Ft. Gadsden in the spring of 1818, McKrimmon went fishing, lost his way, and after several days was captured by Indians from

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Timeline for Prospect Bluff Historic Sites

(Continued from page 3)

Francis Town. Duncan McKrimmon was taken to that village where he was stripped and bound to await execution.”

“The younger of Francis’ two daughters, a girl of about fifteen named Malee (Anglicized as ‘Milly’), begged Private McKrimmon’s captors to spare his life. This they agreed to do. Instead of being shot, he was sold to the Spaniards at Ft. St. Marks, who then released him.

“Not long afterwards, Francis the Prophet was detained by U.S. forces and on April 8, 1818, was hanged at the order of General Jackson. A few months later, Francis’ family surrendered themselves along with a number of other Seminoles. They remained at Ft. Gadsden for several weeks awaiting removal to a reservation in the West. Duncan McKrimmon traveled to Ft. Gadsden and,

out of gratitude, offered to marry Milly, but she refused his proposal.

“Milly went to live in Indian Territory on the Arkansas River where she married and had a number of children. In 1842, Lt. Col. E. A. Hitchcock found Milly living there widowed and in poverty. He initiated actions which led to the granting in 1844 by Congress of a pension of \$96.00 a year and a Congressional medal to Milly. Delays occurred and when the pension was finally activated in 1848, Milly was on her deathbed.

“There is no evidence that the medal recommended to honor Milly for saving the life of Duncan McKrimmon was ever cast.”

4. There is no marker for the Negro Fort, but the Negro Fort at Prospect Bluff is a recent addition to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.



Nicolls' Outpost and Prospect Bluff:

1814—During the closing year of the War of 1812, British forces built two forts on Florida's Apalachicola River, the British Post at Prospect Bluff and Nicolls' Outpost at what is now Chattahoochee. They were part of a plan to recruit Red Stick Creek and Seminole Indians to take part in planned invasions of Louisiana and Georgia (<https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/nicolls.html>).

Fort Scott (Flint River, Georgia)

This was a small fortification on the Flint River near the Georgia/Florida border, built in June 1816 by the US Army as a staging base for operations against Creek and Seminole Indians operating in western Spanish Florida. Less than six weeks after arriving at the site and building defenses, Lt. Col. Duncan Lamont Clinch, led his men from the site of Fort Scott down the Apalachicola to take part in the operation against “The Negro Fort” at Prospect Bluff.

After the destruction of the “The Negro Fort,” Clinch and his men returned in November 1816 to the site of Fort Scott. Barracks and officer’s quarters were added, but in December 1816, as a part of downsizing, the site was again abandoned. The fort was ransacked and burned shortly after by Red Stick Creeks. However, the fort was again considered important as a safe guard on the Spanish Florida border, and rebuilding began in June 1817, finishing in December, 1817. In spite of large losses of those stationed at the fort due to malaria, U. S. forces were stationed at Fort Scott until 1821 when Florida was turned over to the U.S. by Spain (<https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com//fortscott1.html>).

Prospect Bluff National Historical Site

The following history of Prospect Bluff is from the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture site at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3828073.pdf>.

Imagine an historic fort overlooking the peaceful Apalachicola River. This mental image is probably one of quiet territorial life, but the actual history surrounding Fort Gadsden is one of bloody battles for power during Spanish Florida's last days.

Called the "Hill of Good Vistas" by the Spanish and "Achackweithle" by Native Americans the prominent bank on the majestic Apalachicola River hosted international conflict that determined the destiny of nations.

Escaped slaves had long found refuge in Spanish Florida since before the Revolutionary War. But in the early 1800s, Spain was losing its hold on Florida. Seeing an opportunity to advance its own interests on the continent, Britain took advantage of Spain's weak defenses. Unchallenged, British Col. Edward Nicolls and Captain George Woodbine established a stronghold called "British Fort" on the Apalachicola River and, by offering land and freedom in the British West Indies for service, recruited more slaves from Louisiana, Mobile, Pensacola, Georgia and the Lower Creek Nation.

Nicolls constructed the fort in 1814 at a small company storehouse and settlement called "Prospect Bluff," and in the early summer of 1815, he sailed for England with prominent members of the Nation in order to negotiate an agreement with the Creek Nation. Ample artillery and military supplies were left behind and a black military leader named Garcon*¹ took command.

Before leaving, the British had trained and armed about 3,000 Indian and 300 black soldiers to protect the fort, which safeguarded families, fields and pastures extending 50 miles along the Apalachicola River. Sometimes known as the "Negro Fort," the post earned a reputation as a threat to supply vessels that traveled the Apalachicola River between the United States and the Gulf of Mexico. In response, the United States ordered that the fort be destroyed.

Alerted to the impending attack, black families and Choctaw, Upper Creek and Seminole women and children took refuge in the fort. Others hid in the surrounding forests. On July 17, 1816, Col. Duncan Clinch left Fort Scott at the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers in Georgia and traveled down the Apalachicola River with 116 men. Clinch and his men combined forces with Maj. William McIntosh and his company of 150 Lower Creek Indians.

They surrounded the British Fort that flew the

Union Jack flag. Though they had been met with threats that any American vessel attempting to pass would be sunk, Clinch ordered his men to move up. Around 5 a.m. on July 27, their advance was accompanied by shots from gunboats.*²

Early in the battle, a heated shot, glowing red, landed in the magazine of the fort, literally blowing it to pieces. Clinch later reported that "the explosion was awful and the scene horrible beyond description." Of the 300 people, about 200 women and children and 100 men, who took refuge in the fort at the time of the attack, only 33 survived the blast.

The defending leaders, Garson and a chief of the Choctaw Nation, were two of the survivors. When the Americans learned that Edward Daniels, who had earlier been taken captive, had been tarred and burned alive, Garson and the Choctaw chief were turned over to McIntosh's Creeks, who sentenced them to death. Survivors that were once slaves were eventually returned to their owners.

American soldiers burned what was left of the fort and all of the surrounding settlements. The fort had been well stocked with weapons, much better than the Americans had suspected. To encourage support, the Americans had promised McIntosh's Lower Creeks they could have whatever weapons were taken after destroying the fort, and it proved to be a surprisingly fortunate acquisition.

The pace of destruction and bloodshed increased over the next 2 years for everyone along the Apalachicola River on the American border. Settlers were killed, plantations raided, livestock and slaves seized. Ft. Scott was evacuated in the fall of 1816 after the destruction of British Fort, leaving custody of the buildings to a Creek ally named Perryman.

In April 1818, Andrew Jackson led a force down the Apalachicola River to destroy Seminole and allied Upper Creek villages in what is called the First Seminole War. Impressed by the strategic location of the old fort, Jackson instructed Lt. James Gadsden to build a new fortification upon the site as a supply base. Inspired by the lieutenant's zeal, Jackson named the fort in Gadsden's honor.

Jackson seized St. Marks (*located 20 miles below Tallahassee, at the site of an early Spanish fort*) in April 1818. Later the same month, under Jackson's direction, a court-martial sentenced a Scottish trader and a former British Lieutenant to death, for supplying blacks, Seminoles and their allies with weapons and powder. Jackson's extreme measures in Spanish Florida exceeded orders from the War Department and almost led to

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Prospect Bluff National Historical Site

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war with Spain and England.

Jackson's actions decisively ended Spanish and British interests in Florida. Survivors of British Fort fought later in the Seminole Wars on both sides. Some black descendants left for Texas and played major roles in the Mexican American War, some adapted to a life within Native American societies. Seminoles eventually joined their kin and allies in southern Florida or settled in Oklahoma during Indian Removal of the early 1830s. The Choctaw and Upper Creek survivors either joined the Seminoles or dispersed with family elsewhere, some also settling in Oklahoma.

Gadsden, later known for the famed Gadsden Purchase of 1853,^{*3} maintained the fort until Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1821. The fort was virtually forgotten until 1862, when the Confederate Army realized that Apalachicola was the largest exporting and importing route in the region, and that the river led to plantations in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Confederate troops actually occupied the fort until July of 1863, when malaria forced them to move from the lowlands along the river.

Notes

^{*1} From <http://claudiowalker.com/faqs-negro-fort-bombing_392.html>.

Who ran the fort after the British left? Despite the eclectic composition of its populace, the Negro Fort still flew the Union Jack. Its new leaders - two free blacks from Pensacola called Garcon and Cyrus, and a Black Seminole named Prince - often paraded around in tat-

tered British army uniforms. The charismatic Garcon and fierce Cyrus became spokesmen and principal organizers of this complex community.

^{*2} *The two little gunboats, each of which was armed only with one 9-pounder cannon, came from their station at Pass Christian, Mississippi. They were commanded by Sailing Master Jairus Loomis of the U.S. Navy and had been ordered to escort two leased transport vessels, the General Pike and the Semelante, which carried ordnance supplies and other necessities for two new U.S. Army posts recently established on the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers in Southwest Georgia (Fort Scott on the Flint River near the Georgia/Florida border and Nicolls' Outpost on the Chattahoochee at what is now the town of Chattahoochee.)*

Pirates including Jean Lafitte were active on the Gulf of Mexico in those days, so Brig. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines of the army and Commodore Daniel Patterson of the navy used their activities as a pretext to add the firepower of the two gunboats to supply mission. Loomis was instructed to convey the General Pike and Semelante safely past the Fort at Prospect Bluff. If any resistance was encountered, he was to assist the army in destroying the fort, despite the fact that it did not stand on U.S. soil.

^{*3} *Gadsden Purchase, or Treaty, was an agreement between the United States and Mexico, finalized in 1854, in which the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for a 29,670 square mile portion of Mexico that later became part of Arizona and New Mexico.*



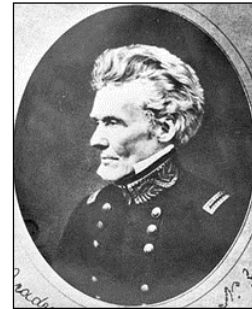
**Sir Edward Nicolls
(c.1779-1865)**

Nicolls, of the Royal Marines, armed ex-slaves, Red Sticks, and Seminoles to fight alongside the British from the British fort erected at Prospect Bluff.



**General Duncan Lamont Clinch
(1787-1849)**

In 1816, Clinch, in charge of construction of Fort Scott on the Flint River, under orders from Maj. Gen. Jackson, led his men to the attack on the Negro Fort at Prospect Bluff.



**Gen. Edmund Gaines
(1777-1849)**

In 1816, following orders from then Major General Andrew Jackson, he was the commander in charge of the attack against the Negro Fort at Prospect Bluff.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Wood Working: Brewton's T.R. Miller Mill Celebrates a Century-and-A -Half.

**Top Left, the Company's First Log Truck; Top Right, Log Workers Take a Break
Bottom Left, The Log Crew in Front of the Train Locomotive;
Bottom Right, The Wood Crew**



The following article by Emmette Burnett from Alabama Business is reprinted by permission.
<<https://businessalabama.com/brewtons-t-r-miller-mill-celebrates-a-century-and-a-half/>> .

This year, T.R. Miller Mill Co. turns 150 years old. Let that sink in. One hundred and fifty years ago, Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States, the newly invented internal combustion engine was all the rage, and mill acreage was purchased near Brewton, 46 years before Brewton was Brewton.

Today, with about 208 workers, T.R. Miller Mill Co. is one of the 150 largest softwood lumber produc-

ers in America. It is also one of the oldest privately held forest product companies in business today. But to understand this hometown success story, one must understand its history, beginning seven years after the U.S. Civil War.

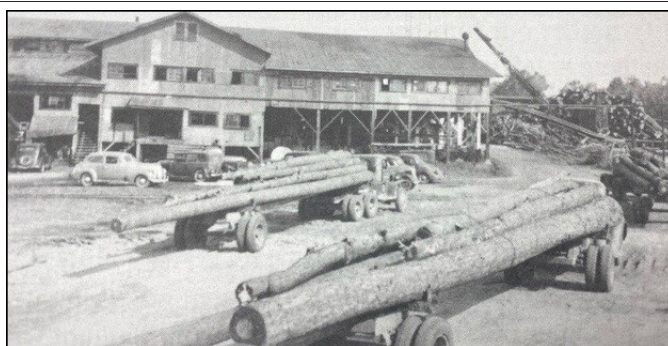
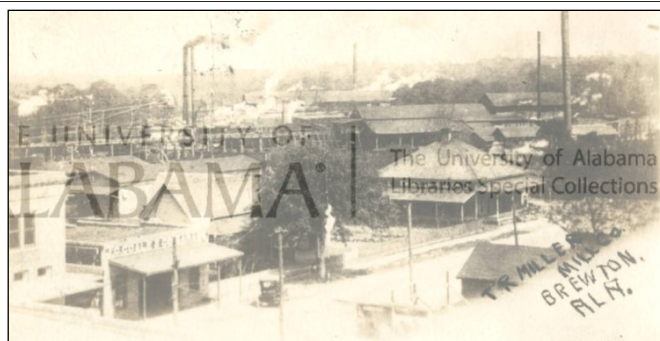
“When we hire people, they have to hear our story,” says the company’s human resources director, Michael Baty. “We believe this is one of the best companies to work for in the area. Our history illustrates that. It is part of our culture.”

The tale begins as Cedar Creek Mill Co., with a land purchase by Elisha Downing on June 26, 1872.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Wood Working: Brewton's T.R. Miller Mill Celebrates a Century-and-A -Half.



T. R. Miller Mill Co.

The Picture on the left from the University of Alabama Library has this note at the bottom, “126 acres in this mill yard.” The picture on the right appears on the Company Web Site at <<https://trmillermill.com>>.

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The rest is history — 150 years’ worth. A working mill was already in place on Downing’s acquisition, three miles from present day Brewton. But little is known about the pre-1872 days.

Downing developed and operated the fledgling business until 1899. He then sold the company to his son, Wiley Downing, and Thomas Richard (T.R.) Miller and Francis C. Brent, the latter two had been a captive audience, literally.

“Earlier in their lives, Brent and Miller were Confederate prisoners of war held in the same prison,” says Thomas E. McMillan, Jr., former director of T.R. Miller Mill Co., and author of Logging the Mill. “We are not sure if they knew each other back then.”

With the team in place, operations continued. “Originally, logs were obtained by oxen pulling carts,” notes McMillan, who is also partner and director of PMT Publishing. The lifeblood of the wood mill, like all mills of the day, was the network of creeks and rivers used for wood transportation. “Logs were off-loaded from ox carts and floated down Cedar Creek,” recalls the company’s former director.

Actually, it was more than off-loading— it was an art. While traveling down the creek, each log was turned “butt-end” first for mill delivery. Log turners were tasked with keeping the logs straight as they flowed downstream.

The men balanced, walked on and jumped from log to log, agile as cats, as the procession moved down-

stream. According to early company records, good log turners never got their feet wet. But in the late 1800s and early 1900s the future was upon us, including ox-free deliveries. The ever-trusty beasts of burden, who never questioned company benefits, were phased out in the 1940s.

In 1892, the company’s main site moved to Brewton, then 7 years old. The flagship location started Brewton operations as a steam-operated mill. After several changes in ownership and various land purchases, the company became the T.R. Miller Mill Co.

Rail transportation became the primary means of log transit in 1905 and continued until about 1940, when trucks became Miller’s principal hauler for raw materials and finished lumber.

The Brewton company was not without challengers. Southern yellow pine to Alabama was like the Gold Rush to Alaska— highly sought and perpetually valuable. The lumber business back then, like today, was highly competitive. T.R. Miller persevered where others did not.

“At one time there were at least 27 other sawmills around here,” recalls McMillan. “But others only had the means to cut nearby timber within about a three-mile radius. Oxen could not travel much past that distance,” he adds.

McMillan continues, “In addition, all of those mills were located on or near a creek, which was relied on for log transport. Creeks were not always dependable.” Occasionally, mills delayed or ceased production due to drought. Operations often shut down as

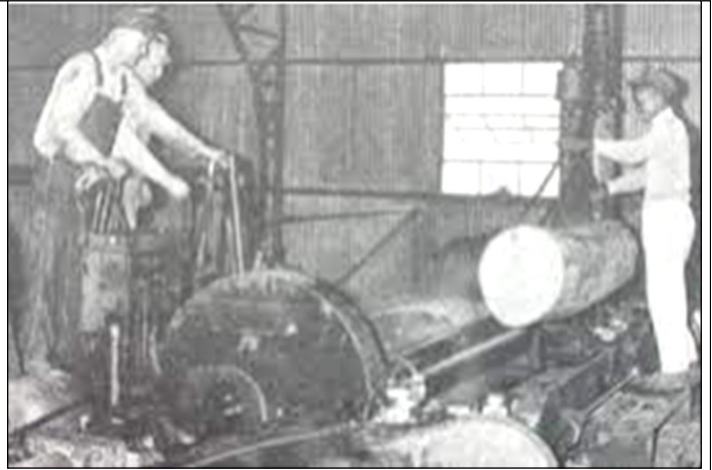
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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Wood Working: Brewton's T.R. Miller Mill Celebrates a Century-and-A -Half.



The Hawkins Rail site says of this locomotive, “Handsome and nimble, Baldwin #101 worked their mill [T. R. Miller] well past the time most of her southern sisters had been scrapped and replaced with diesel-electric power (<https://hawkinsrails.net/industrials/trmmc/trmmc.htm>).



T. R. Miller Mill Workers

(Continued from page 8)

companies waited for a good rain.

“T.R. Miller saw the value of trains and trucks and the necessity to reach out to greater distances for timber,” says McMillan. “He also recognized the value of good environmental practices, which also helped the business. While other mills practiced ‘cut and move on,’ Miller replanted his forests.”

In the early days, most of the finished lumber products were transported to Pensacola, Florida, where they were loaded on ships for European customers eagerly waiting across the Atlantic. Today, most of the company’s products are sold domestically.

Since its founding, T.R. Miller Mill Co. has been a family-owned business. Today the primary owners are the Miller, McMillan and W.T. Neal families. Other prominent area families had administrative and/or ownership stakes over the years. Familiar names include Dixon, McGowin, Blacksher, Foshee and Douglas— many of the names you’ll find on Brewton streets signs.

Even if the surnames don’t match, says Baty, the employees seem like family, too. “Approximately 33% of our workforce has been with the company for over 25 years,” he says. “That is unheard of in today’s industry.” One such employee is Ricky Stanley. Born in nearby Atmore, Stanley moved to Brewton at age 15. He graduated from T.R. Miller High School,

named for the mill he would one day lead as president and CEO.

“I hired into the research and development department of the box plant,” recalls Stanley, a 40-year employee. “I designed wire bound boxes and industrial products.” In 2016 he was named president.

He believes T.R. Miller’s opportunities are available to all employees. “We are a private company where everyone is a person,” says Stanley. “We each have different responsibilities but at the end of the day we are here for a common goal: we make great things from southern yellow pine.”

Today’s economy is a puzzle: “The country is in an economic slowdown and inflation is the highest it has been in decades,” he says. But he remains positive. “The housing market is strong and lumber is connected to the housing market. I believe we have underbuilt housing in this country for years. The next several years should be good for us.”

With log trucks rolling into 215 Deer St. and finished product rolling out all day, T.R. Miller Mill Co. has a promising future. The sawmill is budgeted to cut 3.2 million board feet a week, totaling approximately 165 million board feet for the year. In addition, Miller manufactures about 100,000 utility poles annually—one-sixth of the U.S. market.

T.R. Miller’s production schedule is ambitious. It always has been. But not to worry — the company has 150 years of experience.

ECHOES
 THE NEWSLETTER FOR
 THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

251-809-1528 or
 escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com

We're on the web!
www.escohis.org

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 <http://www.facebook.com.
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Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$50.00

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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.

<p>OFFICERS</p> <p>President, <i>Don Sales</i> Vice-President, <i>Charlie Ware</i> Secretary, <i>Shannon Jones</i> Treasurer, <i>John Angel</i> Echoes Editor, <i>Ranella Merritt</i> Librarian, <i>Vacant</i> Publicity, <i>Clay Lisenby and Stephen Salter</i> Historian/Curator, <i>Tom McMillan</i></p>	<p>Trustees</p> <p><i>Ann Biggs-Williams</i> <i>Ranella Merritt</i> <i>Tom McMillan</i> <i>Sally Finlay</i> <i>Charles Ware, Alternate</i></p>
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