



The January 2023 Newsletter

The January Meeting will be
Tuesday, January 24 at 3:00pm in
The Meeting Room of the Museum
On the College Campus, Brewton, AL



**Our Speaker
Dana Vickery**

The Program:

Dana Vickery Will Present a Program on the Atmore Historical Society.

An agent with Alfa Insurance of Atmore, she has had a distinguished career with the company. She is a graduate of Jefferson Davis Community College and has a degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama. She is also a FSCP (Financial Services Certified Professional), a designation awarded from The American College of Financial Services.

(Continued on page 2)

Table of Contents

From the Atmore Historical Society Facebook	2
The Robert B. Smiley Collection of American Military History	6
The 2023 Food For Thought Schedule	7
Organizations Honoring the American Military	8



South Main St. in Atmore around 1907.

Upcoming Speakers

February: Tom McMillan with a program on T. R. Miller Mill Company and its 150th Anniversary.

March: Larry Manning, Potter, Artist, and Former Instructor at JDJC, Subject of Program not Yet Announced.

April: Rear Admiral Kyle Cozad, President and CEO of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Speaking on His Book Relentless Positivity.



"The Letter Box," a mural in the Atmore Post Office (1938) by Anne Goldthwaite, a Montgomery artist, shows a group of rural children eagerly gathering to await the daily mail delivery.



Atmore Historical Society Welcome Center and Museum

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THE L HOUSE

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
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The Program

(Continued from page 1)



As a member of the Atmore Historical Society and of the Atmore Bicentennial Committee, she worked to have the Bicentennial Exhibit “Making Alabama” shown in Atmore. An article in the *Atmore Advance* speaks to Dana’s support of recording history, especially local and family history. In a speech to the Rotary Club of Atmore, she said that history, documentation wise, is fading. She encouraged the club members to sit down with their living relatives and write down any local piece of history they can provide through their families (<https://www.atmoreadvance.com/2019/05/22/history-is-important-to-archive-do-your-part/>).

A lifelong resident of Atmore, she and her husband Todd have two sons.

At left, the Atmore Historical Society was awarded a grant from The William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a Legends & Lore marker highlighting the infamous outlaw Railroad Bill.

In comments about the bandit, Russell Brown with the Alger Sullivan Historical Society said the marker was not to celebrate Railroad Bill’s life because he was an outlaw. However, he was part of Atmore’s lore.

Shown at the unveiling Thursday, October 21, 2021 are, from left, Herb Hackman and Dana Vickery with the Atmore Historical Society, and Russell Brown.

The marker is in front of the Atmore Railroad Depot, on the city hall side (<https://atmorenews.com/2021/10/27/honoring-railroad-bill/>).

This Statement from the Atmore Historical Society explains how the organization serves the community.

We are a community-based organization focused on preserving the history of our town and surrounding community, and helping make our city a better place. We maintain the Peavy-Webb Building, which is the home of the Atmore Welcome Center. We plan to make the Watson Cabin next door the home of our museum and archive. We have partnered with "Save the Strand" and "The Pride of Atmore" to revitalize our downtown.

From the Atmore Historical Society Facebook



The Strand Theatre, Atmore, in 1920, the Theater’s Second Anniversary.



The Strand Today. The Theater is Now used for Concerts

(Continued on Page 3)

From the Atmore Historical Society Facebook

(Continued from page 2)



Atmore's Trinity Episcopal Church, founded in 1900 as The Church of the Heavenly Rest. The Easter offering of William Marshall Carney was a gift of three lots of land, the labor, and "nothing but the finest materials."

Considered to be the oldest public building in continuous use in Atmore, the church was founded in 1900 and consecrated on November 19, 1900.

The photograph was taken in the spring of 1903. The Rev. Howard R. Walker, the Priest in charge at that time, is pictured at the bottom of the photo with his wife. She is in the carriage and he is standing by the side of the carriage holding the reins of the horse.

The name of the church was changed in 1926 from The Church of the Heavenly Rest to Trinity Episcopal. Except for the windows, most everything in the church is as it was in November, 1900.

Thanks to Bonnie Latino for the photograph and information.



These photos of a Ribbon Mill, location unknown, are courtesy of Anne McGuigan. In her note about the photos, she says, "During the 1940s women went to work, and the men pictured were not physically able to serve. The mill made necessary war material during this time."

Both photos are copyrighted by Anne McGuigan.

(Continued on page 4)

From the Atmore Historical Society Facebook

(Continued from page 3)



The Historic Watson Cabin, which is located next to the Peavey-Webb building in Atmore's Heritage Park.

The plaque on the Watson Cabin reads: "Watson Cabin built in Wilcox County, 1845. This ancestral home of the Watson family was donated to Leadership Atmore in 1999 in memory of Robert Basil Watson (1905-1981)."

The cabin is historically significant for its "Carolina Rain Porch," which is an architectural feature extending past the edge of the porch, has columns or posts that are freestanding. The columns or posts helped keep the porch shaded and protected from the elements.

**Harper Lee
and Her
Father
Amasa
Coleman
Lee**



From Kelli Wells', Alabama's History and Mysteries:

Amasa Coleman Lee was born in Georgiana, Butler County, Alabama in 1880. And although he had very little formal training and no college education, he passed the Alabama teacher's exam and moved to Monroe County to teach.

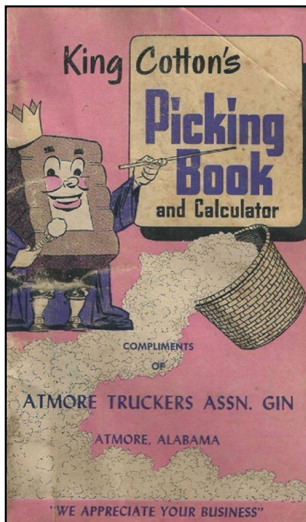
In 1915, having read law under the guidance of the Barnett & Bugg lawyers, Lee passed the Alabama bar exam and began to practice law. When he became a partner, the firm was renamed Barnett, Bugg & Lee.

In 1929, Lee bought the Monroe Journal, which he would own and edit until 1947. As a lawyer, Lee represented various individuals in Monroe and surrounding counties, as well as the railway. Even so, with all of these accomplishments, Amasa Lee would not go down in history for his particular accomplishments, but for another reason. He will always be known as the fictional character of Atticus Finch in the award-winning novel written by Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird.

Amasa Coleman Lee was the father of Harper Lee. Although the story in the novel is loosely based on the Lees' life during that time in Monroeville, it is, without a doubt, based on actual events.

In the book Atticus tells Scout, "Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." When Scout asks him why he says, "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy...but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

As Amasa grew older, Lee assumed significant care responsibilities for her father, who was thrilled with his daughter's success. He even began signing autographs as "Atticus Finch." After their deaths and as it should be, both Father and daughter were buried next to each other at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monroeville, Alabama.



**Courtesy of Ann Biggs
Williams and Lottie
Historic Page.**

(Continued on page 5)

From the Atmore Historical Society Facebook

(Continued from page 4)

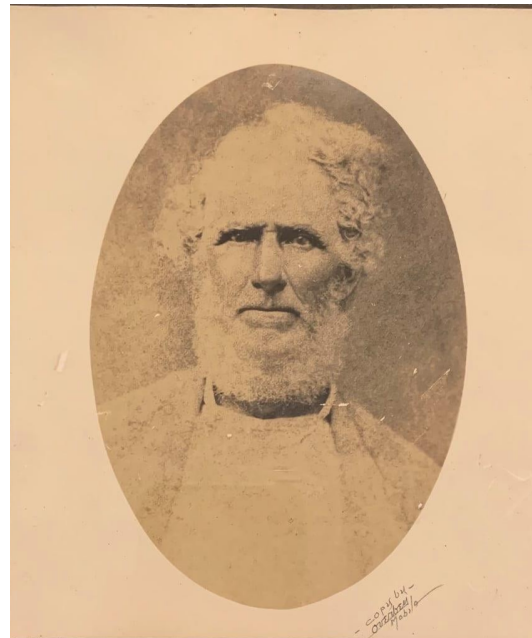


This is the old potato shed which was located at the end of Wilson Ave. The farmers would bring their crops here, which would then be graded by mostly women, then bagged, then loaded into boxcars to be shipped to various locations.

After being loaded into the cars, they were moved to a different spur and ice blocks were placed on top of the sacks of potatoes to keep them from spoiling while shipping.

Picture and text courtesy of Carolyn Sample Blanton.

William Larkin Williams, who is credited with building the first structure in what would become Williams Station, and later Atmore. It was a small shed built along the railroad, for supplies for his logging operation, ten miles south, in Florida. The photo is used with the permission of the owner, Randy Howell, a descendant.



**William Larkin Williams
1807-1900**

Born in Burke Co., Georgia.

Moved with his parents, David Williams (1778-1862) and Sabra Lanier Williams, in 1819 to Barrancas, Florida.

Married-first, Margaret McMillan-second, her sister, Mary McMillan.

Reared family of thirteen children.

Lived in Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties, Florida.

Died at McDavid, Escambia County Florida.

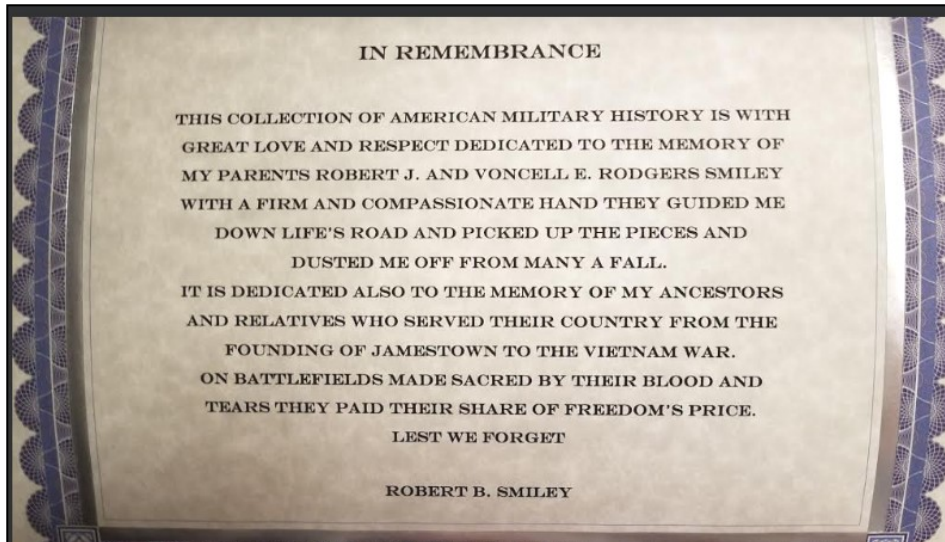
Known and loved far and wide as "Uncle Bud."

Presented by his grandson William Murphy Williams Of Mobile, Ala. to Wiley G. Williams.

September 24, 1940

(Continued on page 6)

The Robert B. Smiley Collection of American Military History



The Dedication Plaque.



**Robert J. Smiley
and
Elizabeth Rogers
Smiley**

This introduction to the Collection is by ECHS Member Robert B. Smiley who has placed this American Military Collection in the Alabama Room.

This private collection was placed in memory of Robert B. Smiley's parents, Robert J. Smiley and Elizabeth Rogers Smiley. Robert's father, Robert J. Smiley, served in the Pacific under General Douglas MacArthur, where he earned a Bronze Star. Robert's mother, Elizabeth Rogers Smiley, served on the home front by helping to build bombers in Mobile.

This collection, located in the Alabama Room, of the McMillan Museum, covers the French-Indian, Revolutionary, 1812, Mexican, Civil, Spanish-American, WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan Wars. The purpose of the collection is to honor the American soldier and to provide material both historical and genealogical.

Another great value of this collection is in genealogical research. Located in the index of each volume is information on where regiments, brigades, and

divisions were on battlefields. By knowing the regiment your ancestor served in, this information will give you the position, movements, and actions of that regiment. If you get to these battlefields, you can follow the path of your ancestors—walking where they walked and perhaps stand in the place where they paid the ultimate price.

This is a research collection and books cannot be removed from the Alabama Room. The collection is available to the serious researcher, but also to high school and college students writing reports.

Robert Smiley is a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and can trace many ancestors back to the Revolutionary War.

He is also a member of the following organizations:

- The Admiral Nimitz Foundation
- The Army Historical Foundation (Funding Sponsor)
- The Battleship Iowa Foundation

(Continued on page 7)

The Robert B. Smiley Collection of American Military History



Two Views of the Collection

(Continued from page 6)

- The Commemorative Air Force
- The Fort Ticonderoga Association (Founding Sponsor)
- The General Patton Memorial Museum (Honorable Legacy Sponsor)
- The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation
- The National Battlefield Trust
- The National D-Day Foundation
- The National Mounted Warfare Foundation (Founding Member)

The 2023 Food For Thought Schedule

January 19 • Kathryn Braund

Traveling With William Bartram and Friends

February 16 • Fred Gray

Alabama v. King: The Trial That Launched the Civil Rights Movement

March 16 • James C. Cobb

What Dr. King Didn't Say about C. Vann Woodward's The Strange Career of Jim Crow

April 20 • Victoria Ott

The Failure of Our Fathers: Family, Gender, and Power in Confederate Alabama

May 18 • Bob Beatty

Play All Night! Duane Allman and the Journey to Fillmore East

June 15 • Maigen Sullivan

Invisible No More: Alabama's LGBTQ+ History

July 20 • Todd Steury

Black Bears: The Past and Present of Alabama's State Mammal

August 17 • Ed Southern

Fight Songs: A Story of Love and Sports in a

Complicated South

September 21 • Greg Waselkov

Discovering An Ancient Dugout Canoe Canal in South Alabama

October 19 • Sophia Bracy Harris

Finding My Own Way: A Journey to Wholeness Against the Odds

November 16 • Christopher Rein

Mobilizing the South: The 31st Infantry Division, Race, and World War II

December 21 • Haley Aaron

Spaces of Self: Diaries and Scrapbooks of Young Alabamians

Lectures are held on the third Thursday of every month at 12:00 pm CT. Programs are presented both in-person at the ADAH and online via the ADAH's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Visit archives.alabama.gov for the latest information about individual programs. Admission is always free. Food for Thought 2023 is sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Organizations Honoring the American Military,

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)



The SAR Genealogical Research Library in Louisville, KY.

The SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that states it is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and teaching American history to future generations to fully appreciate the sacrifices that generations of American soldiers have made to safeguard the freedoms of the nation. Founded in 1889, it is based in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Foundation is the designated official fundraising organization for the National Museum of the United States Army, located in Arlington, VA.

The historical buildings housing the SAR's Administrative Offices, Library, and Center Gallery are buildings on West Main St. in Louisville's "Museum Row" in the Main Street Historic District. In 2014 the SAR's headquarters moved from Washington D. C. and opened their new facility in Louisville.

The Fort Ticonderoga Association



Fort Ticonderoga, formerly Fort Carillon, is a large 18th-century star fort built by the French at a narrows near the south end of Lake Champlain, in northern New York. Purchased by a private family in 1820, it became a stop on tourist routes of the area. Early in the 20th century, its private owners restored the fort. The Fort Ticonderoga Association now operates the fort as a tourist attraction, museum, and research center. Because of its location, the Fort played an important role in the French/Indian War. Although it did not play as important a role in the American Revolution, as many thought it would, there was a key victory at the fort for American forces.

On May 10, 1775 Benedict Arnold joined Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont in a dawn attack on the fort, surprising and capturing the sleeping British garrison. The capture of Fort Ticonderoga was the first offensive victory for American forces in the Revolutionary War. It secured the strategic passageway north to Canada and netted the patriots an important cache of artillery which was more important than the battle itself.

In an effort led by Henry Knox, the artillery from Ticonderoga (including 58 large cannon and other armaments), was dragged on sleds through the snow and ice of the winter landscape of Massachusetts to the heights commanding Boston Harbor. With these weapons Washington was able to intimidate the British, forcing them to withdraw from that city.

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Organizations Honoring the American Military

Battleship Iowa Foundation



Battleship Iowa

The Foundation supports the Battleship USS Iowa Museum, a maritime museum located at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, Los Angeles, California. The museum's main artifact is the USS Iowa, lead ship of the Iowa class of battleships, a class of six fast battleships ordered by the United States Navy in 1939 and 1940.

Known as the Battleship of Presidents, USS Iowa was outfitted in WWII to be the flagship that carried President Franklin Roosevelt across the Atlantic in 1943 for meetings with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. Battleship USS Iowa served in WWII, Korea and the Cold War.

The National Battlefield Trust



The Chancellorsville Battlefield, shot by Theresa Rasmussen.

Founded in 1979 in Fredericksburg, Va., the American Battlefield Trust preserves America's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters. The American Battlefield Trust is now located in Washington, D.C.

The American Battlefield Trust is a charitable organization whose primary focus is in the preservation of battlefields of the American Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 through acquisition of battlefield land. The American Battlefield Trust was formerly known as the Civil War Trust. On May 8, 2018, the organization announced the creation of the American Battlefield Trust as the umbrella organization for two divisions, the Civil War Trust and the Revolutionary War Trust, which was formerly known as "Campaign 1776."

The National Mounted Warfare Foundation



The 50,700-square-foot, new National Mounted Warrior Museum will preserve and honor the history of those who have served at Fort Hood and provide an interactive educational experience for visitors. The museum will house large exhibits, galleries, classrooms, a store, playground and simulations for visitors to experience operating military equipment, such as tanks and helicopters.

Building construction plans are for completion, November 2020; building possession by the U.S. Army from the National Mounted Warfare Foundation, Spring of 2022; projected opening, 2023.

At Left, National Mounted Warrior Museum

(Continued on page 10)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Organizations Honoring the American Military

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation



The Foundation is part of the National Museum of the Pacific War, located in Fredericksburg, TX, and considered one of the premier museums in the US.

Established in 1971, the Nimitz Foundation provides development funding for the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz exhibit honoring Fredericksburg's native son and Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces, Pacific Ocean Area.

At left, the National Museum of the Pacific War

Marine Corps Heritage Foundation



The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation preserves and promulgates the history, traditions and culture of the Marine Corps and educates all Americans in its virtues. The Foundation was established in 1979. It is located in Triangle, VA.

At left, the National Museum of the Marine Corps

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation



The National D-Day Memorial

Located in Bedford, Virginia, the National D-Day Memorial Foundation's mission is to preserve the lessons and legacy of D-Day. The Foundation maintains and operates the National D-Day Memorial in direct support of that educational mission. The Memorial serves as the national memorial for American D-Day veterans.

(Continued on page 11)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Organizations Honoring the American Military

The Commemorative Air Force



Some of the Commemorative Airforce Collection at the Dallas Executive Airport

This organization based in Dallas, Texas, preserves and shows historical aircraft at airshows, primarily in the U.S. and Canada. The CAF was founded in 1961 to find and preserve World War II-era combat aircraft for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The organization was originally known as the Confederate Air Force. Following a membership vote in 2001, and made effective on January 1, 2002, the organization is now called the Commemorative Air Force. The name was changed to better reflect the mission of the organization.



This Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress named “Texas Raiders,” shown here displaying its “Nose Art,” was part of the celebration which took place in July 2000 in Brewton, called “Operation Overlord Returns,” honoring James Carroll. Some ECHS members, including Paul Merritt who rode in the nose of the plane, were in the plane as it flew over the parade in Brewton.

The plane is pictured in September 2022 at Centennial Airport, Dallas, two months before it crashed in a mid-air collision with another Commemorative plane in an airshow. Tragically all six members of the B17 crew as well as those in the other plane died and the planes were destroyed.

General Patton Memorial Museum



Honoring General Patton's life and legacy, the Patton Memorial Museum pays particular attention to the general's command in the California Desert Training Center. Though Patton spent less than four months at the Desert Training Center, his establishment of the training grounds directly impacted more than one million troops.

Exhibits include a large collection of tanks used in World War II and the Korean War, as well as memorabilia from Patton's life and career. Museum established in 1988.

At left, Statue of Patton standing on tank treads, installed outside the General George S. Patton Memorial Museum.

ECHOES
 THE NEWSLETTER FOR
 THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

251-809-1528 or
 escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com

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

The Museum is on Facebook at
 <http://www.facebook.com.
 McMillan Museum>.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
DATED MATERIAL
 Address Correction
 Requested

"Donations and contributions that are not for books or membership dues may now be made online through PayPal to <escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com>. Please continue to use the form shown for book requests and membership dues, by mail, as your complete name and address are needed for our records. Thank you again for your support!"

Books Available by Contribution

	Regular	Mailed
History of Escambia County, Alabama	\$90.00	\$95.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$15.00
Wildflowers of The Conecuh/Escambia River Basin CD	\$10.00	\$15.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (SC)	\$40.00	\$45.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$35.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$50.00

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Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427

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Do you prefer to get your newsletter by
 U.S. Mail ___ or email? ___

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(\$25.00/person; \$35.00/ family at same address; Lifetime, \$500.00/person; \$100.00/year business)

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

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

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