



The July 2023 Newsletter

The June Meeting will be Tuesday, July 25, 2023
at 3:00 p. m. in the Meeting Room
of the McMillan Museum
on the College Campus.



Dale Cox

The Program: Dale Cox Will Present a Program on Fort Crawford.

On his LinkIn Site, Dale says of himself: “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. “

He is the author of 13 books on the history and folklore of the Southeastern United States. Dale divides his time between Two Egg, FL, and Dothan Alabama. His is married with two grown children.

Table of Contents	
News and Announcements	2
Snapshots of June Meeting	4
Fort Crawford : Escambia County, Alabama, Seminole War In Alabama	6
Fort Crawford: Historical Edition Newspaper, Sept. 30, 1976	8
Chinese Laborers In Reconstruction Alabama.	8
The People of Pollard and the Outlaw	9

August Program
Paul Brueske will present a program on the **Raid on Camp Pollard** during the Civil War.

September Program
Archaeologist David Johnson will present a program on **Alabama’s Indigenous People.**

Correction
Apologies to Charlie Ware. In the June 2023 issue of ECHOES, we failed to list him as the author of the story “How Did We Survive? (Confessions of a Dumb Kid).” Great story Charlie and glad that you have some of your nine lives left.

Refreshments
The July meeting will have refreshments after the program. The Society will provide drinks. Don’t forget to bring your favorite finger food.



Portrait of Temperance Fitts Crawford of Mobile, by Sully, 1837.

Volume 50 No. 7
July 2023

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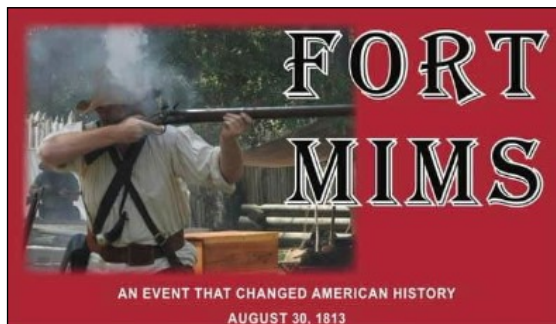
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News and Announcements

August 26 -27 Fort Mims Reenactment 9:00 am-3:00 pm Tensaw, AL



- **Opening Ceremony:** Sat. Aug. 26, 9:00 am
- **Daily Re-enactments on Site:**
 - Burnt Corn,** 11:00 am
 - Fort Mims:** 2:00 pm
- **1800's Crafts & Living History:**
 - 8:00 am-3:00 pm
- **Concessions:** 9:00 am -3:00 pm:
- **Parking:** On-site Parking and Off-site with shuttle
- **Directions to Fort Mims Site:** North Baldwin County 12 miles north of Stockton on Hwy. 59, then west 3 miles on County Rd. 80, finally right on Fort Mims Rd.
- **First Ever: "Delta Explorer" Boat Tours:** Friday, August 25th thru Sunday August 27th, Reservation Required: Contact Blakeley Park @ 251-626-0798
- **The "Delta Explorer" Boat Tour includes:** Fort Mims Ferry Site, Nannahubba Island, the mouth of Holey Creek, Boatyard Lake and more.
 1. **Fort Mims Ferry Site:** From Pickett's History of Alabama: "An advance towards civilization had, however, been made in that region by the establishment of a ferry by Hollinger, an Indian countryman, across the Tombigbee, and another by Samuel Mims to convey people over the Alabama."
 2. **Nannahubba Island:** Located below what is called the "cutoff" on the Alabama River and above where the Tombigbee and Alabama join to form the Mobile River.

The route for the Old Federal Road lay across Nannahubba Island, which is between the two rivers, and for most of the year could be crossed by land. In times of high water,

travelers were ferried across, a distance of ten miles.

3. **Holey Creek:** Holey Creek is located north of Fort Mims and is a way to reach the new channel of the Alabama River.

4. **Boatyard Lake:** Located close to Fort Mims and it is a way to reach the old channel of the Alabama River

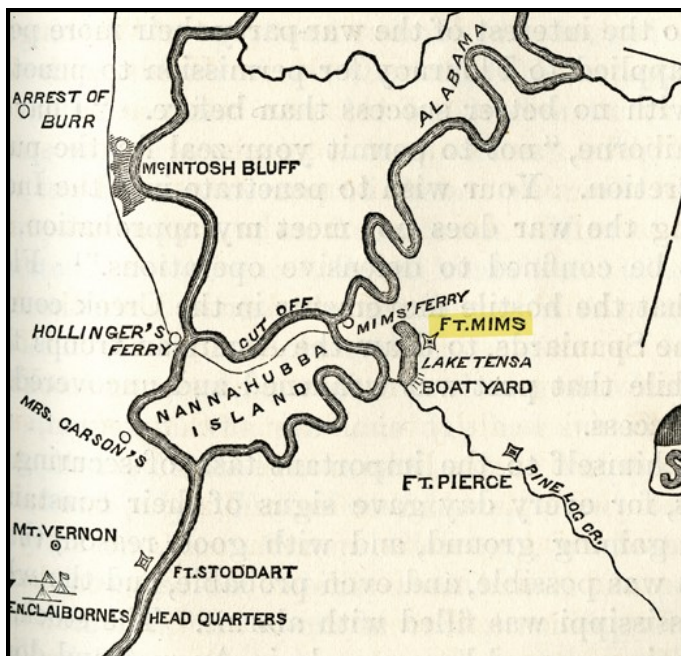


Illustration from The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812 by Benson J. Lossing, 1869.

Battle of Burnt Corn Creek Reenactment Saturday, July 29, 2023



- **Jennings Park, Downtown, Brewton, Ala. 12:00 Noon:** Battle Reenactment.
- **Displays and Exhibits:** Open at 9:00am.
- **Event Includes:** Period Reenactment, campers and displays.

(Continued on page 3)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 2)



Fall Pilgrimage
Sylacauga, Alabama
 October 27-28, 2023

Often referred to as the Marble City, Sylacauga sits atop a bed of marble 32 miles long, a mile and a half wide, and 400

feet deep. Alabama marble occurs in shades of white, pink, gray, red, and black, but the white marble of Sylacauga has consistently drawn the most acclaim.

Annual Meeting
Huntsville, Alabama
 April 10-12, 2024

Huntsville is the county seat of Madison County. Located in the Appalachian region of

northern Alabama, Huntsville is now the most populous city in the state.



Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH)
Food for Thought:
August 17, 2023 at Noon, 12:00 Central.



Author Ed Southern will present a program on the subject of his book, Fight Songs: A Story of Love and Sports in a Complicated South.

Amazon.com's review says of his book: "A wry and witty commentary on college sports and identity in the complicated social landscape of the South."

Programs for Food for Thought are presented both in-person at the ADAH and online via the ADAH's Facebook page and YouTube channel.



The Heritage House,
2465 Wimbush St,
Mobile, AL.

"Clotilda: The Exhibition"
Now on Display at the Heritage House.
Open from
Tue.— Sat. 10:00 to 5:00

From the article, "Opening Date Announced for Long-Awaited Africatown Heritage House":

The exhibit will give the history of the Clotilda, the last slave ship to come to the US, as well as exhibits associated with the ship. However, "the exhibit will be focused on the people – their individuality, their perseverance and the extraordinary community they established. It will introduce the world to 110 remarkable men, women and children, from their beginnings in West Africa, to their enslavement, to



A mural painted on a concrete wall along U.S. 90 near the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge, depicts the Clotilde, which arrived in 1860 . . . The mural was painted in 2017 by 64-year-old Africatown resident Labarron Lewis. "This is inspirational to me," said Lewis, referring to the painting and the likely confirmation that the ship was discovered. "Almost seemed like it was destined for me to do this painting." From AL.com.

Snapshots from the June 2023 ECHS Meeting

The Program for the June Meeting was “Show and Tell.” The presenters shown here and others did an excellent job and created a program with a variety of objects and stories. Baxter Baker brought a large, very heavy Spittoon (no picture), which is from the old Post Office Building in Brewton.

A Special Thanks to Brett Chancery for all the great pictures.



Neil Collier with a gasoline motor from an early Maytag Washing Machine.



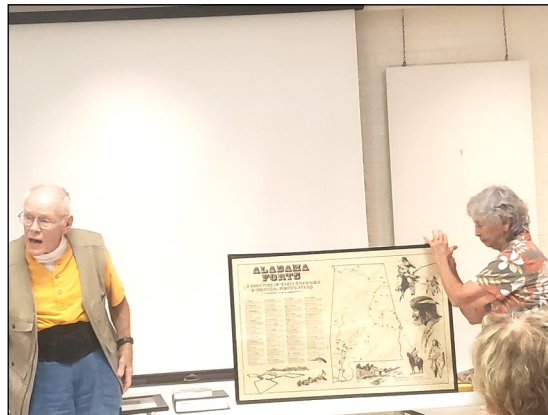
Tom McMillan with a painting, an ink wash, of Afro-Americans houses in Brewton from the 1940's, by artist Abraham Rattner.



Hal Whitman with Memorabilia from the Harvest Jam in Brewton in 1981 organized by William Lee Golding .



Charlie Ware with a picture of his great-grandmother, Mildred Bryars Lowery, daughter of Lucretia Ellen Bryars. Lucretia, Charlie's great, great grandmother, is famous for riding sidesaddle from Canoe, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee while carrying an enfant, her latest child. She traveled to Tennessee to nurse her husband, Benjamin, who had been wounded in a battle during the Civil War.



Robin and Jo Brewton with a map of the forts in Alabama during the Creek Indian War.



Barbara Page with the decorative picture made out of her grandfather's neckties, using quilting techniques.

Charlie's story of his great, great - grandmother, Lucretia, entitled "Grandma Lou-Civil War Heroine" appeared in the March 2022 ECHOES.

Snapshots from the June 2023 ECHS Meeting



Mike Edwards with Cert Stone often used in place of flint to create the spark which would fire a flint-lock gun.

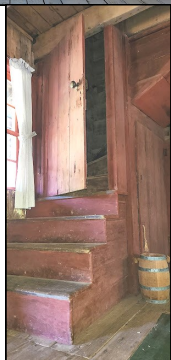
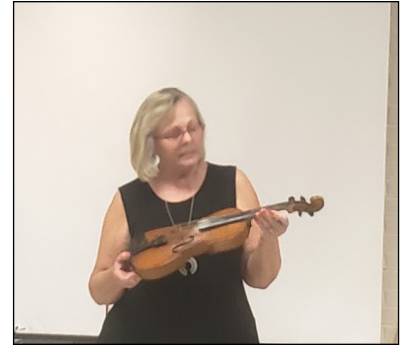


Dick James with newspaper article about family history. His stories of family history emphasized military history.



Ann Biggs-Williams showed a Pewter Mug with stylized dragon, purchased in Okinawa in the 1940's.

Susan Crowell with 3/4th sized fiddle which her grandfather played and she plays. Her memories of her grandfather are of him playing folk music on the fiddle every day.



Some Winners of "Alabama Doors Photo Contest" Sponsored by the Ala. Historical Commission. The Photos will be part of the next Calendar from the Commission.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Fort Crawford: Escambia County, Alabama Seminole War in Alabama



Fort Crawford Historic Marker

Fort Crawford was established in 1816 by elements of the 7th U.S. Infantry under orders from Major General Andrew Jackson. Purpose was to monitor Spanish activities in West Florida and curtail hostile Creek Indian activities.

Named after Second Lieutenant Joel Crawford, the fort was occupied by units of the regular U.S. Infantry and the Alabama Territorial Militia. It was abandoned in 1819 after the United States purchased Florida from Spain and the Indian menace abated.

Erected 1983 by the Alabama Historical Association.

By Dale Cox

The following article is taken from Explore Southern History at <<https://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/fortcrawford.html>>.

Fort Crawford was built in 1816 atop a high bluff in what is now East Brewton, Alabama. The site of the fort is not developed, but a historical marker at the intersection of Shofner and Weaver Streets interprets its history. No visible trace of Fort Crawford remains.

In the months after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (March 27, 1814), refugee parties of Red Stick Creeks made their way south into the valleys of the Conecuh, Escambia and Choctawhatchee Rivers. They were pursued by U.S. troops, Choctaw warriors and even some of their former allies led by William Weatherford.

Multiple raids were launched against these groups and Major General Andrew Jackson attacked the Spanish city of Pensacola in December of 1814. He drove out not only a force of Red Stick Creek warriors, but also a battalion of British Royal Marines who were training, supplying and arming them.

Despite the success of such raids, the Red Sticks survived as a potent fighting force. They formed an alliance with the Seminole Indians who then lived primarily from the Apalachicola to the Suwannee River in Florida. Attacks on settlers continued and even though the Creek War of 1813-1814 was over,

minor fighting went on into 1816.

Concerns that war parties would disrupt the effort to survey land surrendered by the Creeks to the United States under the Treaty of Fort Jackson led to a decision to establish a permanent fort somewhere near the mouth of the Conecuh River.

To build this post, a detachment of soldiers from the 7th U.S. Infantry was ordered to the lower Conecuh in the late spring of 1816. After exploring the area, they settled on a high bluff on the east side of Murder Creek as the best location for a new post. The creek is a major tributary of the Conecuh River, which flows about 2 miles south of the bluff.

The encampment was first called the "Camp near Conaka" and the soldiers built a powder magazine and temporary quarters until they began work on the permanent fort. That project began in August 1816 when Brevet Major Richard Whartenby of the 7th Infantry issued orders for the building of the fort:

An Officer, Sergeant, Corporal and thirty privates will be detailed and reported on Extra Duty, to prepare materials for erecting a permanent work. - Bvt. Maj. R. Whartenby, August 5, 1816.

Whartenby ordered that all privates and non-commissioned officers involved in the work receive "an extra gill of whiskey each, for each

(Continued on page 7)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Fort Crawford: Escambia County, Alabama Seminole War in Alabama



Fort Crawford Cemetery
Local tradition holds that this burial ground adjacent to the fort site was first used as the post cemetery.



This House was either taken from Fort Crawford and moved a short distance away or built of materials taken from structures at Fort Crawford. It survived into the 20th century.

(Continued from page 6)

day employed on such duty." In his orders, which were dated August 5, 1816, Whartenby first used the name, Fort Crawford, for the new post.

The construction project was a major ordeal for the men of the 7th U.S. Infantry. Heavy logs were cut from the virgin forests and dragged to the site for the fort, where they were squared using hand tools. Because the army did not need to build the fort as a hasty defense, the soldiers were tasked with building a much more elaborate post.

Major John M. Davis visited Fort Crawford on an inspection tour during the fall of 1816 and filed his report the following year:

The Fort...is a square log work with two Block houses at diagonal angles. The buildings are erected with square logs of about eight or ten inches square. The barracks for the officers and men form three squares of the Fort, the Doctor's shop, Guard House, and Artificers' Shops form the fourth. The logs are laid so close as to touch, with port holes cut in them, which makes the Fort a complete defense against small arms. - Maj. J.M. Davis, April 1817.

Based on Major Davis' description, Fort Crawford was not a normal stockade of upright logs. Instead the four sides were formed of log buildings. The outside walls of the structures formed the walls of the fort.

Fort Crawford stood as an important defense of the U.S. frontier for the next few years. In the summer and fall of 1818, it served as a base of operations for raids against Red Stick Creeks in the Florida Panhandle by U.S. and volunteer troops. Warriors taken prisoner during these raids were temporarily housed at the fort, along with their families.

These raids were part of a conflict known today as the First Seminole War. It ranged across South Alabama, South Georgia and North Florida. The raids based from Fort Crawford were among its westernmost actions.

Although the First Seminole War ended in 1818, Fort Crawford remained an important post on the southern frontier of the United States for several more years. What is now the Alabama-Florida state line was then the boundary between the United States and Spanish Florida.

The cession of Florida to the United States by Spain in 1821, however, ended the need for the fort and it was evacuated. The soldiers of the 4th and 7th Infantry were withdrawn from the region in September 1821.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Fort Crawford: Historical Edition Newspaper Sept. 30, 1976

The following excerpts are from an article by Lisa Graham published in the *Atmore Advance* and *Brewton Standard Historical Edition Newspaper* Sept. 30, 1976 <<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~alghstwn/escambia/fortcrawford.html>>.

While Gen. Jackson was waging his campaign against the Seminoles in FL., one actual military campaign was launched against Pensacola by men from Fort Crawford. Governor Bibb arranged the expedition which culminated in the attack following Indian atrocities in the Federal road about sixty-five miles from the settlement of Claiborne. Fearing that "when the Seminoles are pressed by General Jackson-- They will retreat to the frontiers, and take revenge on our defenseless inhabitants," he probably thought that a show of force in the West would discourage such a contingency.

On April 28, 1818, Major White Young, in charge of the fort, attacked hostile Indians on Pensacola Bay, within one mile of the town - killed nine, wounded twelve or thirteen, and took eight prisoners with the lose of only one man. The Indians sued for peace and agreed to a meeting at Durant's Bluff from whence they were to be sent to Ft. Crawford. Less than a month later, as a mere incident of his homeward

march, Jackson turned aside and captured Pensacola because he was told that some Indians had taken refuge there. The General's own account of his motives are less than cavalier. Jackson states, " If St. Marks* was necessary to the defense of the frontier of Georgia, Pensacola was much more so for the peace and security of Alabama, for it commanded the navigation of the Escambia, up which had necessarily to pass, all the supplies for our forts erected on its streams."

Undoubtedly, Fort Crawford was regarded as an important link in the forts of the country at that time. Obviously, Gen. Jackson viewed it as extremely important as he said " Our provision must pass to Ft. Crawford by water without interruption." That importance, however, vastly diminished when the United States effected the purchase of what is now the state of Florida from Spain. The treaty of purchase was ratified by Ferdinand VI on October 24, 1821, thus ending the need to defend what was then one of the borders of the country.

* St. Marks is a port city on the Gulf, maybe the third oldest in Florida, now part of the Tallahassee area.

Chinese Laborers in Reconstruction Alabama



Pictures and Text from [Alabama Heritage](https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-8-spring-1988.html) <<https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-8-spring-1988.html>>

Tea-servers kept Chinese laborers in Reconstruction Alabama supplied with their favorite beverage.

From the Spring 1988 issue of Alabama Heritage, an introduction to an article by Daniel Liestman:

In the years following the Civil War, Alabama embarked on what some called "the Chinese experiment." For the experiment's most optimistic proponents, the idea was simple and sure: import inexpensive Chinese workers to redress the dire labor shortages the state was suffering after the Civil War and use Chinese immigrants to rebuild plantations and to construct railroads, thereby resuscitating the state's lifeless post-war economy at the least possible cost. For the most part, the plan did not work.



Image of Chinese Laborer

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The People of Pollard and the Outlaw

From the ECHS Newsletter for March 13, 1973. The introduction to the article is by Carolyn McLendon, editor of the newsletter.

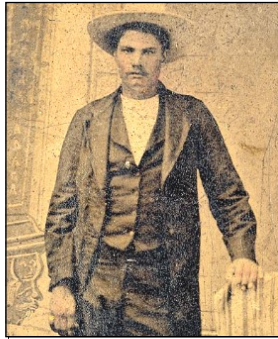
Many books and stories have been written about the notorious outlaw, John Wesley Hardin, but none giving the complete story of his stay at Pollard. The following story which I will call "The People of Pollard and The Outlaw" was among Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan's history files.

"Early in 1874 a man, who went by the name of J. H. Swain, and his wife, showed up in Pollard. His wife was a Bowen. She was kin to Mrs. Malcolm McMillan, wife of the sheriff and the mother of the Probate Judge of Escambia County. They stayed at the sheriff's home. Everybody liked Mr. Swain. He was what they called a "Jolly good fellow." After he had been there a little while, he went down to Santa Rosa County, Florida, where his wife's people lived, and went to logging, but he would come back to Pollard for weekends. He had the reputation of being a successful gambler. Nobody could bluff him.

"Mr. Brown Bowen was his brother-in-law, and he was a different kind of man; he was a bluffer and was supposed to have shot more than one man in the back. Mr. Swain would sometimes go to Pensacola and get in games there with the big gamblers. He soon gained the reputation of being fearless and lots of people were afraid of him; among them was the Superintendent and General Manager of the Railroad that ran from Flomaton to River Junction-Col. Chipley, who lived at Pensacola. He came in contact with this man, Swain, at Flomaton.

"It was said that Swain threatened the life of Col. Chipley at Flomaton, and every time Col. Chipley went to Flomaton, he had people to watch Mr. Swain. Nobody knew who Mr. Swain was, not even the McMillans, where he was staying. The truth was, that he was a notorious outlaw, John Wesley Hardin from Texas. He had killed forty-two men and there was a reward of \$4,000 for his arrest.

"The way they found out that he was at Pollard was, a Texas ranger went to the home of the Hardin family and got a job as a cowboy and farm hand and he found out that they (the Hardin family) were writing to a man by the name of J. H. Swain and addressing the letters in care of Mr. Neil McMillan, Deputy Sheriff, Pollard, Alabama. Two Texas rangers came to Pollard and Flomaton to see if J. H. Swain was John Wesley



**John Wesley
Hardin**

Hardin.

"They learned from Col. Chipley, the Railroad Superintendent, that Mr. Swain had gone to Pensacola and had an engagement to gamble with some of the gamblers there that night. When the rangers identified themselves to the railroad official he gave them a special train. They went to Pensacola, saw the man Swain and notified the officials that he was John Wesley Hardin, the notorious outlaw from Texas.

"They called together all the officers and deputized a number of people. When the man supposed to be Swain, but who was in fact Hardin, got on the train at Pensacola to return to Pollard, they caught him. One man who was with Hardin--a young fellow from Santa Rosa County, Florida--who didn't know what it was all about (his name was 'Mann'), jumped out of the window of the train and was killed.

"They took Hardin to jail at Pensacola, and when they started back to Texas with him, his friends in Pollard, thinking that he was innocent and knowing when the train was going to pass through, organized a group and were going to take him off the train at Pollard, but the train didn't stop. They, the officials, got word of what was about to take place and they ordered the train not to stop either at Pollard or Brewton.

"Hardin's friends in Pollard then got word to Montgomery and had some kind of legal papers gotten out there and the officers took Hardin off the train at Montgomery; but the Judge in Montgomery decided that the Texas officers had a right to carry this man back to Texas to stand trial for murder and he was carried back.

"He was sent to the penitentiary in Texas for several years, and after he had served out his term, or was pardoned, he became a famous criminal lawyer in Texas, but he always had in him the same spirit that he showed around Pollard and lots of people were afraid of him. He had studied law while he was serving his prison sentence.

"One night one of the men, who was afraid of him, was drinking with him in a saloon in San Antonio, Texas, and when Hardin's back was turned, this man shot him in the back and he died before being removed from the saloon floor."

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>.

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Books Available by Contribution

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Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$15.00
Wildflowers of The Conecuh/Escambia River Basin CD	\$10.00	\$15.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (SC)	\$40.00	\$46.00
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Many members give a membership as a gift!
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