



January Newsletter.
The January Meeting will be
Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 3:00 pm
in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum
on the Brewton College Campus.



Brett Chancery

The Program Will Be a Presentation by Society member Dr. Brett Chancery on the Events leading up to the American Revolution

Dr. Brett Chancery, a history instructor at Coastal Alabama Community College will present on events leading up the American Revolution. Beginning with the Proclamation of 1763 and leading to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This will begin our year highlighting America 250 as we celebrate the birth of our country.

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Refreshments

Plan on again bringing your favorite finger foods for the January Meeting.

February 24, 2026

**Huck Carol-
Combat Artist**

**Our Business Members:
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Sons of Liberty

In a secluded corner of the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston in 1765 you might find a group of colonial men. They will be wary of your approach, but if you begin to talk of Liberty, freedom from oppression and "taxation without representation" they might relent. The Sons of Liberty was an organization of colonial men from all walks of life that believed England had overstepped their power over the colonies. While much of their history is unknown, we do know that this underground network was created as a protest to the Stamp Act of 1765 in Boston. Samuel Adams was

one of the founding members as made clear in the Boston Gazette article on the 14th of August 1765 when his article referred to the anti-Stamp Act activists as the "Sons of Liberty". There was also a chapter in New York who met under the "Liberty Pole". The Boston group met under the "Liberty Tree" where one of their first acts was to hang an effigy of Andrew Oliver, a public official in charge of enforcing the Stamp Act. Tensions only heated from that point and spread throughout the colonies where other Sons of Liberty chapters formed. A Revolution would soon be born.

Fleming Engineering

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**Bust of George
Washington-
McMillan
Museum**

**Volume 53
No. 1
2026**

News and Announcements

The Coastal Alabama Historical Society is sponsoring their second Living History Day. This year's event will take place on the Thomasville campus in Clarke County. Local historical societies, educational institutions and museums will showcase information about their history. Talk with local history reenactors and tour the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum located on the Thomasville Coastal Alabama campus. (See flyer).



THE COASTAL ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

COASTAL ALABAMA LIVING HISTORY DAY

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | 9 AM - 1 PM
THOMASVILLE CAMPUS

Dive into the past at Coastal Alabama's Living History Day! Explore booths with artifacts, photos and historical displays from organizations all across our region and beyond! Talk with historical reenactors and experts and, while you're here, check out the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum, located in the Library!

FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Student Organization

Book Honoring Veterans of Escambia County

The Society is collecting material on veterans from Escambia County to honor these veterans. Don Sales is in charge of this project. If you have a veteran in your family, we would like to have a picture and a short biography. Material can be sent to Don Sales, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427. Don can also be contacted at the society email escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com or by phone at 251-809-1528.



Alabama Department of Archives and History

Since 1901, has been the home of Alabama history. Established to collect and preserve the historical materials of the people of Alabama, and to use that material in sharing their stories



Alabama Historical Association, April 9-11, Fairhope, AL.

Defending Democracy: John Peter Zenger Trial



Photo courtesy of National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/feha/learn/historyculture/the-trial-of-john-peter-zenger.htm?mobile-app=true&theme=wiki>.

Defending Democracy

During the early eighteenth century, Americans began to be inspired by ideas of liberty from oppression. A collective feeling of experiencing free will and self-government began to appear. One inspirational event came in the form of a 1735 legal decision in New York of John Peter Zenger. While this decision was before the establishment of our present American court system, it helped to establish the idea of freedom of the press.

John Peter Zenger, a German immigrant was the publisher of the *New York Weekly Journal*. He was supported financially by opponents of New York's royal governor, William Cosby. In 1734, the governor dismissed one of his leading opponents, Chief Justice Lewis Morris, from office. The *Weekly Journal* began publishing articles criticizing the governor. The governor, unable to persecute the author of the articles, charged Zenger with seditious libel and imprisoned him. English law defined libel as any (true or false) criticism of the government. During this time period, in the colonies and in Britain, the press had to seek approval for information before it was printed. There was a movement within the British press to push away from government approval and move toward a free press.

The *Weekly Journal* showed no self restraint in criticizing the governor. It printed his attempts to cover shady dealings and incompetence. Authors called for his removal from office. Governor Cosby was unable to keep the newspaper in line as other colonial governors were able. Journalists were prosecuted whether the information was true or not. In many cases the more true the information the stiffer the penalty.

During his trial, Zenger's lawyer, Andrew Hamilton of Philadelphia, argued that Zenger had printed the truth and the truth is not libelous. He also argued that the people have a right to know what their government was doing. The public should also have a right to air a grievance against the government if they did not agree. The method for this was through the press. The jury agreed and Zenger was exonerated. The Zenger trial is landmark due to the support of the public that the press has the right to criticize government officials and expose the truth. The Zenger case discouraged future prosecutions of the press for seditious libel. It also established a balance between the press and government to hold each other accountable for providing the truth to the public.

Daughters of Liberty

Women were also on the forefront of protests over taxes. The Daughters of Liberty helped support the cause with working through the home. The Daughters of Liberty was not as formal as the Sons of Liberty chapters and was a term used colloquially for women who supported the American Revolution. Women were responsible for purchasing goods for their households and supported the cause through their purchases. For example, after the Tea Act was passed in 1773, women began serving tea substitutes. One such "liberty tea" consisted of leaves from raspberries.

Women refused to purchase British textiles, groups would participate in spinning bees and help produce homespun cloth for colonists to wear instead.

During the War

Women took over household responsibilities for men fighting in the war. They maintained farms and ran stores taking over finances and tasks that men normally performed.

Women were also on the battlefield and traveled with encampments. **Martha Washington** joined George Washington during long encampments and helped to provide aid for soldiers. She also promoted the small pox vaccine for herself and others which saved countless lives on and off the battlefield.

Margaret Corbin enlisted with her husband, John. They were both wounded serving at Fort Mifflin in 1776. She would serve until 1783. She was later the first woman interred at West Point.

Of course one of the most famous is **Deborah Sampson**. She dressed as a man and fought under the name Robert Shurtleff. She is the only woman to receive a full military pension from the war.



Esther DeBerdt Reed

Esther de Berdt Reed was the driving force behind *The Ladies Association of Philadelphia*. Her husband served as George Washington's Secretary. She published "The Sentiments of an American Woman" which called on women to make personal sacrifices to support Revolutionary War soldiers. She along with Benjamin Franklin's daughter, **Sarah Franklin Bache** solicited funds for the Continental Army. George Washington worried the money would be wasted by the soldiers on drink so the ladies used the funds to produce over 2,000 shirts for soldiers in the Continental Army.

The Ladies Association of Philadelphia was the first female voluntary association in the United States. It was an inclusive organization which reached across classes and engaged women to be patriotic. While the organization no longer exists, it inspired other organizations. During the War of 1812, women organized a "Stocking Society" to clothe American soldiers.



Deborah Sampson

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. — We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long Train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. — The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has endeavoured to bring on the Colonies a State of War, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this Time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Age, Sex and Condition. — In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms. — Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated Injury. — A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. — Nor have We been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. — We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. — We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. — We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. — They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Concinnity. — We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock	John Hancock	John Hancock	John Hancock
Samuel Adams	Samuel Adams	Samuel Adams	Samuel Adams
John Adams	John Adams	John Adams	John Adams
Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Franklin	Benjamin Franklin	Benjamin Franklin	Benjamin Franklin
George Washington	George Washington	George Washington	George Washington
Richard Henry Lee	Richard Henry Lee	Richard Henry Lee	Richard Henry Lee
John Jay	John Jay	John Jay	John Jay
Francis Pickens	Francis Pickens	Francis Pickens	Francis Pickens
James Wilson	James Wilson	James Wilson	James Wilson
Robert R. Livingston	Robert R. Livingston	Robert R. Livingston	Robert R. Livingston
George Mason	George Mason	George Mason	George Mason
Patrick Henry	Patrick Henry	Patrick Henry	Patrick Henry
John F. Mercer	John F. Mercer	John F. Mercer	John F. Mercer
Richard Bland	Richard Bland	Richard Bland	Richard Bland
John Banister	John Banister	John Banister	John Banister
John B. Smith	John B. Smith	John B. Smith	John B. Smith
John C. Smith	John C. Smith	John C. Smith	John C. Smith
John D. Smith	John D. Smith	John D. Smith	John D. Smith
John E. Smith	John E. Smith	John E. Smith	John E. Smith
John F. Smith	John F. Smith	John F. Smith	John F. Smith
John G. Smith	John G. Smith	John G. Smith	John G. Smith
John H. Smith	John H. Smith	John H. Smith	John H. Smith
John I. Smith	John I. Smith	John I. Smith	John I. Smith
John J. Smith	John J. Smith	John J. Smith	John J. Smith
John K. Smith	John K. Smith	John K. Smith	John K. Smith
John L. Smith	John L. Smith	John L. Smith	John L. Smith
John M. Smith	John M. Smith	John M. Smith	John M. Smith
John N. Smith	John N. Smith	John N. Smith	John N. Smith
John O. Smith	John O. Smith	John O. Smith	John O. Smith
John P. Smith	John P. Smith	John P. Smith	John P. Smith
John Q. Smith	John Q. Smith	John Q. Smith	John Q. Smith
John R. Smith	John R. Smith	John R. Smith	John R. Smith
John S. Smith	John S. Smith	John S. Smith	John S. Smith
John T. Smith	John T. Smith	John T. Smith	John T. Smith
John U. Smith	John U. Smith	John U. Smith	John U. Smith
John V. Smith	John V. Smith	John V. Smith	John V. Smith
John W. Smith	John W. Smith	John W. Smith	John W. Smith
John X. Smith	John X. Smith	John X. Smith	John X. Smith
John Y. Smith	John Y. Smith	John Y. Smith	John Y. Smith
John Z. Smith	John Z. Smith	John Z. Smith	John Z. Smith

ECHOES
 THE NEWSLETTER FOR
 THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 www.escohis.org

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Books Available by Contribution

	Regular	Mailed
History of Escambia County, Alabama	\$90.00	\$97.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$27.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$16.00
Wildflowers of The Conecuh/Escambia River Basin CD	\$10.00	\$16.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (SC)	\$40.00	\$47.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$37.00

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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.

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