



## February Newsletter. The February Meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 3:00 pm in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum on the Brewton College Campus.



**Marcus Gordon**

### The Program Will Be a Presentation by Marcus Gordon.

Marcus Gordon is the campus director for the Coastal Alabama Community College campus in Thomasville. He has an extensive background in history, not only as an instructor, but also as the president of the Clarke County Historical Society. He is a native of Grove Hill and worked for the local newspaper.

#### Table of Contents

News and Announcements	2
"Mad" Anthony Wayne	3
Phillis Wheatley	4

#### Just a Reminder:

2026 dues are due by  
February 15

#### Next Meeting:

March 24, 2026

### Our Business Members: Remember to Support Our Business Members

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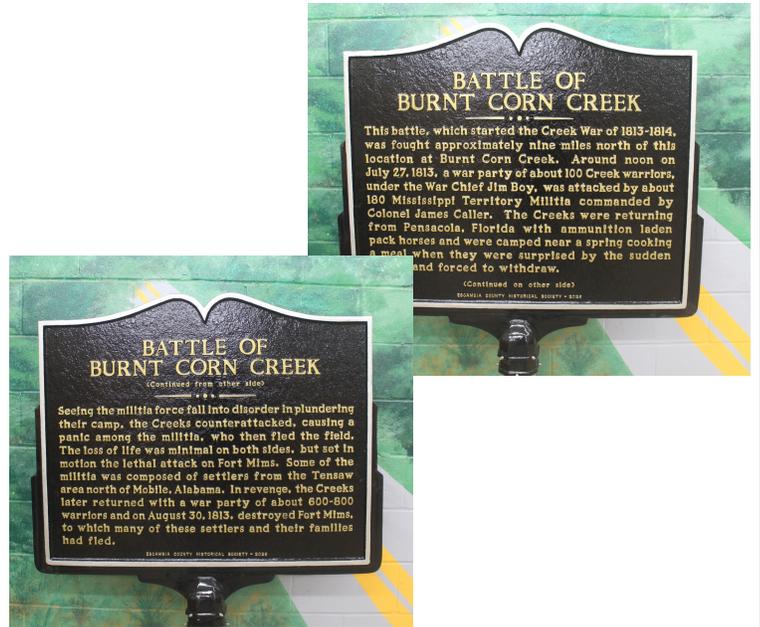
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### New Marker Planned

A new marker is planned to be installed at the site of the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek.



#### Fleming Engineering

802 Douglas Ave.  
Brewton Al. 36426  
867-3446

#### Brewton Paws Crossed

Dog Rescue, Inc  
501(c)3  
Visit Us On Facebook

**BANK OF BREWTON**  
"Alabama's Oldest Bank"



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No. 2  
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](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com) or by phone at 251-809-1528.

Thank you to Mr. Robert Smiley for donating the large refrigerator in the museum break room.



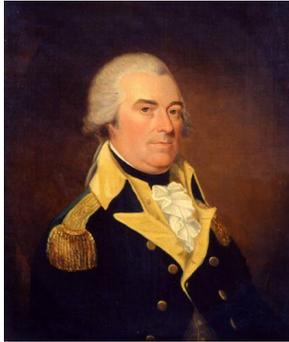
**Alabama Department of Archives and History**

Since 1901 it 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.

## Stories from the American Revolution: "Mad" Anthony Wayne by John Angel



The son of Irish immigrants and one of ten children born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Anthony Wayne (January 1, 1745 – December 15, 1796) was among the first to answer the calls to fight for independence. His father owned 500 acres and he soon realized that farming was not for him. A friend of Marquis de Lafayette and Benjamin Franklin, the rowdy Irishman soon gained a reputation for fierceness in battle, taking part in the Invasion Of Quebec (1775), the Philadelphia Campaign (1777) and the Yorktown Campaign (1781), becoming one of General George Washington's most trusted commanders.

In 1778, Washington's forces were in dire straits after a string of defeats. Pushing deeper inland, the British forces seized control of the Hudson River as part of a strategy to pin down Washington's army. The river crossing was protected by a well manned British fort named Stony Point, which was surrounded by water on three sides. The hilltop was further fortified with hundreds of men, cannons and earthen work defenses.

Washington asked his Irish companion if he could take the fort (1779), despite being outnumbered. Wayne retorted, "Issue the orders, sir, and I will storm hell".

Lacking the men to take the fort in a conventional assault, Wayne split his forces in three. One was to lead a feint through the swamp by night, up the only path to the fortress in what appeared to be a conventional assault. The other two were ordered to empty their firearms.

The night was so dark, the rebels tied white papers to their hats so they could tell themselves apart from the British Regulars.

With nothing but bayonets, hundreds of men silently waded through the low tide on each side of the peninsula fortress. Distracted by the forward feint, the British commanders didn't realize what was happening until the patriots surrounded them. The Irishman's forces were now too close to the hill for the British to effectively use their cannons. Now in close quarters, Wayne personally charged the fortress with an unloaded musket against a hail of fire.

The unexpected rebel bayonet charge punched through the fortifications on both sides simultaneously, and the terrified British Regulars began to surrender en masse. The fort, and the river with it, was again in American hands. In the complete attack, Wayne lost 15 men, and was himself shot in the charge. In total, more than 550 British Regulars surrendered.

Despite seeing his own men slaughtered by the British after surrendering earlier in the war, Wayne treated each redcoat with honor, earning praise from both sides. For the extraordinary act of leading a night charge on a high ground fort with only a bayonet, he earned the moniker "Mad"Anthony Wayne, a nickname he'd proudly use for the rest of his life.

When Washington came to the injured general to congratulate him after the battle, Wayne stated, "Our officers and men behaved like men determined to be free".

"Mad" Anthony Wayne fought through the remainder of the war, earned a final promotion to Major General in 1783 and went on to be one of the nation's first congressmen from Georgia (March 4, 1791 – March 21, 1792).

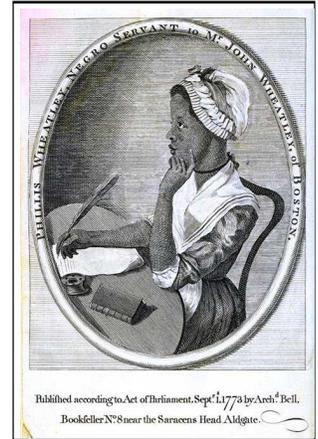
# Phillis Wheatley

Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784) was born in Gambia, Africa and sold as a slave in Boston in 1761. In 1773, she accomplished something unheard of by a woman of her status. She became the first American slave, the first person of African descent and only the third colonial American woman to have her work published. Her book of poetry, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was published.

Phillis was captured in Africa at age 8 by enslavers, brought to Boston and sold to the Wheatley family. She was named Phillis after the ship that brought her to America. The Wheatley family educated her with the Bible, Greek and British literature. She quickly took to writing poetry and published her first poem in 1767. Her poem "An Elegiac Poem, on the Death of the Celebrated Divine George Whitefield" brought her notoriety. While her poems received acclaim locally in Boston, she could not find a publisher in America. She gained financial support from an English Countess and published her book *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* in London. The forward in her book was signed by John Hancock and endorsed by Boston elite. She was emancipated shortly thereafter.

Phillis' poems were influenced by her religious studies and African roots. The elegy, is likely one of these African influences where girls took the roles of performing funeral dirges. Her poetry was serious and lamented over life and religion.

Much about Phillis life between 1776 and 1784 is a mystery. Most of the Wheatley family died between 1774-1778. Phillis married a free black man, John Peters in 1778. They lived in poverty and John Peters was placed in jail due to debt. It is believed that none of their children survived infancy. While she continued to write, she was unable to find a publisher for a second book in America. She took a job as a maid in a boarding house where she became ill and passed away December 5, 1784.



## An HYMN to the MORNING Phillis Wheatley

**ATTEND** my lays, ye ever honour'd nine,  
Assist my labours, and my strains refine;  
In smoothest numbers pour the notes along,  
For bright *Aurora* now demands my song.

*Aurora* hail, and all the thousand dies,  
Which deck thy progress through the vaulted skies:  
The morn awakes, and wide extends her rays,  
On ev'ry leaf the gentle zephyr plays;  
Harmonious lays the feather'd race resume,  
Dart the bright eye, and shake the painted plume.

Ye shady groves, your verdant gloom display  
To shield your poet from the burning day:  
*Calliope* awake the sacred lyre,  
While thy fair sisters fan the pleasing fire:  
The bow'rs, the gales, the variegated skies  
In all their pleasures in my bosom rise.

See in the east th' illustrious king of day!  
His rising radiance drives the shades away--  
But Oh! I feel his fervid beams too strong,  
And scarce begun, concludes th' abortive song.

This poem is in the public domain.

# GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

A FREE INTRODUCTION TO  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES AT



**LIBRARY SERVICES**  
COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Open to the  
Public

First  
Session:  
February 25  
at 1pm

Leigh Library -  
Brewton Campus  
(251)809-1584

Contact:  
Emily.Sommer@CoastalAlabama.edu  
for more details

**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  
 McMillan Museum  
 NEW on Instagram Thomas E.  
 McMillan Museum

**FIRST CLASS MAIL  
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"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	\$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

**Clip the following form and send to ECHS  
 Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you prefer to get your newsletter by  
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**Dues**

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

Dues \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Interests \_\_\_\_\_  
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You Will Help With \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 10 months of the  
 year.**

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

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