

ECHOES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The June Meeting will be Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 3:00 pm at the McMillan Museum.
Dr. Lonnie Burnett will be speaking on “The Most Famous Divorce in History: America's Declaration of Independence”.

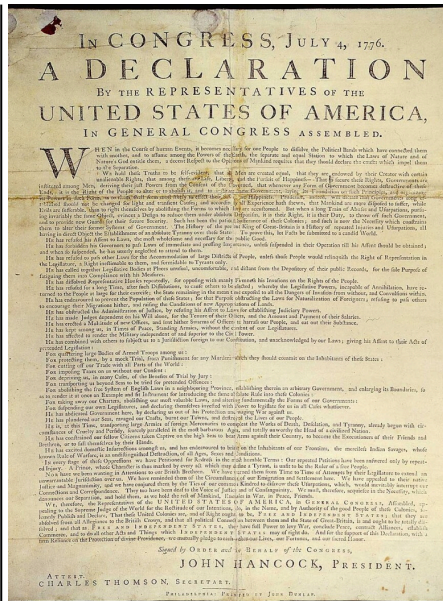


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Declaration of Independence



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The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776 by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thomas Jefferson was the main drafter with a “Committee of Five”--John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman-- They were chosen to write the British government and establish America as its own country. The Declaration listed their grievances against King George III and established this experiment in democracy. Inspired by the writings of John Locke and Thomas Paine, Jefferson wrote of a philosophy that justified revolution when the government failed to represent or listen to their citizens.

The men signing the Declaration of Independence were risking their life and livelihood. Mary Katharine Goddard is the only woman to sign the Declaration of Independence. She was the publisher and postmaster of Baltimore commissioned by Congress to print the first copy of the Declaration of Independence with the signatures. It is know as the Goddard Broadside. “Printed by Mary Katharine Goddard” is written at the bottom. Prior to this time, she always wrote her name M.K. Goddard, this is the first time she wrote out the spelling of her name.

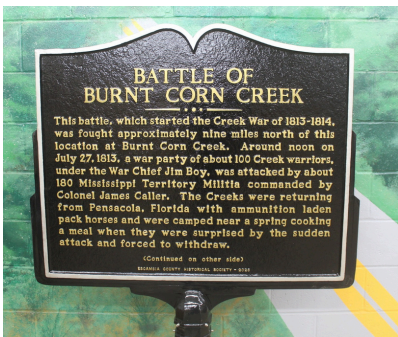
These brave souls risked their lives and livelihoods by putting ink to paper with their name. The crime was High Treason against the British Crown and the punishment was death.

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Revolution Celebration

On Sunday, June 14, 2026, Atmore was the host for a Flag Day celebration like no other. The Strand Theater in downtown Atmore was packed for a journey back in time to Revolutionary War days. Reenactors told the story of our Founding Fathers and Mothers who envisioned the United States of America. Paul Revere, George Washington, Deborah Sampson and Margaret Corbin were a few of the patriots who told their story. It was a wonderful celebration of patriotism and citizenry for our country's 250th !



Save the Date:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 25, 2026. We will dedicate the new Battle of Burnt Corn Creek Historical Marker. More details to follow!

ELIJAH CLARKE AND JOHN CLARKE

Stories from the American Revolution

By John Angel



Elijah Clarke

Elijah Clarke was born in 1742 near Tarboro in Edgecombe County, Province of North Carolina, the son of John Clarke of Anson County, North Carolina. He served in the Georgia Militia during the American Revolutionary War. When the state troops disbanded after the surrender of Savannah, he became a lieutenant colonel in the Wilkes County Militia. He fought in the southern theater and served under Colonel Andrew Pickens in the Battle of Kettle Creek (1779), which was the first major victory for the patriots in the back country of Georgia. He was one of three American commanders at the Battle of Musgrove Mill, South Carolina (1780), during which he was wounded.

After the war, Clarke was elected to the Georgia legislature, serving from 1781-1790. In early 1794, he was asked to lead a French invasion of Spanish East Florida, but President George Washington persuaded the French government to cancel the project. Instead of invading Florida, Clarke led men from Wilkes County into Creek lands. Also in 1794, he organized the Trans-Oconee Republic, several settlements in traditional Creek territory. He was eventually forced to withdraw his settlements by Georgia Governor George Matthews. He died on December 15, 1799.

John Clarke

The eldest son of Hannah Arrington (sometimes seen as Harrington) and Elijah Clarke, John Clarke was born on February 28, 1766, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. In the early 1770s, his family moved to “the Ceded Lands” of northeastern Georgia, later Wilkes County.

After the start of the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) he spent a short time in school in North Carolina, but soon returned to Georgia and joined his father’s patriot militia unit. He fought at several engagements, including Kettle Creek (1779) and Augusta (1781) in Georgia and Musgrove Mill (1780) in South Carolina. At age sixteen, he achieved the rank of Captain in the Georgia militia.

After the war, the Georgia state legislature granted him 800 acres of land as a reward for his effort. Clarke continued to serve in the militia and achieved the rank of Major General by 1796. During his service, the Georgia frontier was still very dangerous, and he spent much of his time protecting frontier settlements. His most distinguished action was under the command of his father in a 1787 militia victory over the Creek Indians at Jack’s Creek in present day Walton County.

Clarke ran for governor unsuccessfully in 1813 and 1817; he finally won the office in 1819. During his tenure as governor, Clarke oversaw the Treaty of 1821, which opened the Creek lands between the Flint and Ocmulgee rivers for settlement. His repeated attempts to gain more land from the Creeks earned him the name “E-cun-naw-au-po-po-hau,” which translates as “always asking for land”

Clarke County was formed from Washington County on December 10, 1812 and was named for John Clarke because of his prominence in the area. When formed, Clarke County was part of the Mississippi Territory, with the territorial government in Natchez, Mississippi. On March 13, 1817, the Alabama Territory was formed, including Clarke County, with the seat of government in St. Stevens, Washington County. Clarke died of yellow fever in St. Andrews Bay, Florida, on October 12, 1832; his wife, Nancy Williamson Clarke, died two weeks later. Their remains were relocated to the National Cemetery in Marietta, Georgia, by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1923.

YANKEE DOODLE AND LIBERTY TREE

Stories from the American Revolution

By Emily Sommer

Music has been used throughout American history as a unifying force. During the 250th year celebration, here is a look at two of those songs. The military has great pride in their bands and it is an honor to be selected for one of the service bands. Music used on the battlefields during the Revolutionary War given the lack of microphones or modern amplification this was the line of communication with soldiers on the battlefield. For example, drummers used their drum beats to signal when to prepare, aim and fire their weapons. Chants are still used today to mark time for marching.



An illustration of the "Hip, Hip Hooray for the U.S.A." songbook, published in 1918.

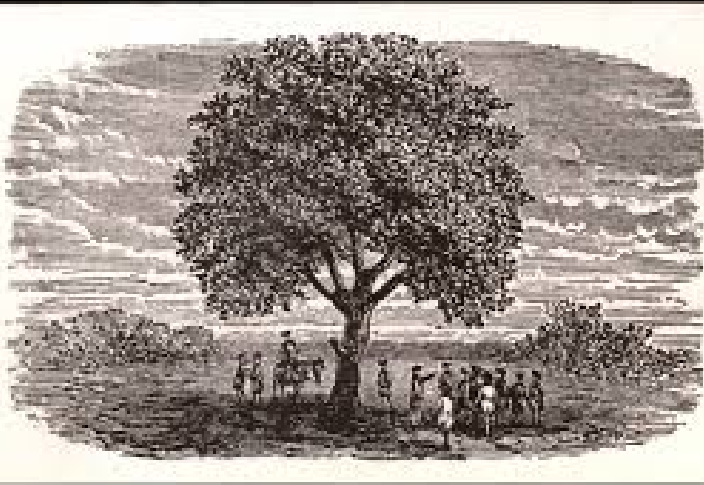
Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle was actually a British song that was sung by British soldiers to make fun of the American soldiers during the French and Indian War. The American soldiers took it on to change a few words and make it their own. It soon caught on and was sung by American troops who added their own verses to mock the British soldiers.

*Yankee Doodle went to town
A-riding on a pony
Stuck his feather in his cap
And called it macaroni.*

The American version was played during the British surrender following the Battle of Saratoga.

Yankee Doodle was resurrected in 1904 in the Broadway musical "Little Johnny Jones" written by George M. Cohan to create his song, "The Yankee Doodle Boy".



Liberty Tree

Liberty Song

The "Liberty Song" was written by John Dickinson, a founding father. It is often attributed to the phrase "United We Stand, Divided We Fall"

*Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall
In so righteous a cause let us hope to succeed
For heaven approves of each generous deed.*

WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF POLLARD

This month we are going to travel east on Highway 31 from downtown Atmore, through Flomaton you will then turn south on US Highway 29 and find yourself in downtown Pollard. In the 2020 census there were about 130 citizens of Pollard. Its peak in population was during the Civil War which was around 1,000 people. Pollard was the first county seat of Escambia County in 1868, It held this role until it was moved to Brewton in 1883.

Named for Charles T. Pollard who was the founder of the Alabama and Florida Railroad. He constructed a rail line from Montgomery to Pollard, over time rail lines to Pensacola and Tensaw would be established. A railroad turntable was added at one point. The economy was driven by the timber industry and rail traffic.

During the Civil War, Camp Pollard was an integral part of the area serving as a training camp and also stationed to protect the railroad lines from Montgomery to Pensacola. In December 1864, Union forces from Fort Barrancas attacked Pollard and burn the town's buildings and destroyed the rail lines. Afterwards the rail junction was rebuilt in nearby Flomaton.



Pollard Train Station built 1879



Left: Charles T. Pollard



*Right: Pollard
Historical Marker
located intersection
of US-31 and Old US-31
in Pollard*

ECHOES

**THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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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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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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Officers</p> <p>President, <i>Jimmy Adkisson</i> Vice-President, <i>Don Sales</i> Secretary, <i>Vacant</i> Treasurer, <i>John Angel</i> Echoes Editor, <i>Emily Sommer</i> Librarian, <i>Vacant</i> Publicity, <i>Clay Lisenby and John Angel</i> Historian/Curator, <i>Tom McMillan</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ECHS Poet Laureate and American Military Historian, <i>Robert Smiley</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trustees <i>Ranella Merritt</i> <i>Tom McMillan</i> <i>Sally Finlay</i> <i>Charlie Ware</i> <i>John Angel, Alternate</i></p>
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