



**MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA
HISTORY & FAMILIES BOOK**
Our American Heritage Project
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Inside...

**The History of
Marengo County
and YOUR family...**

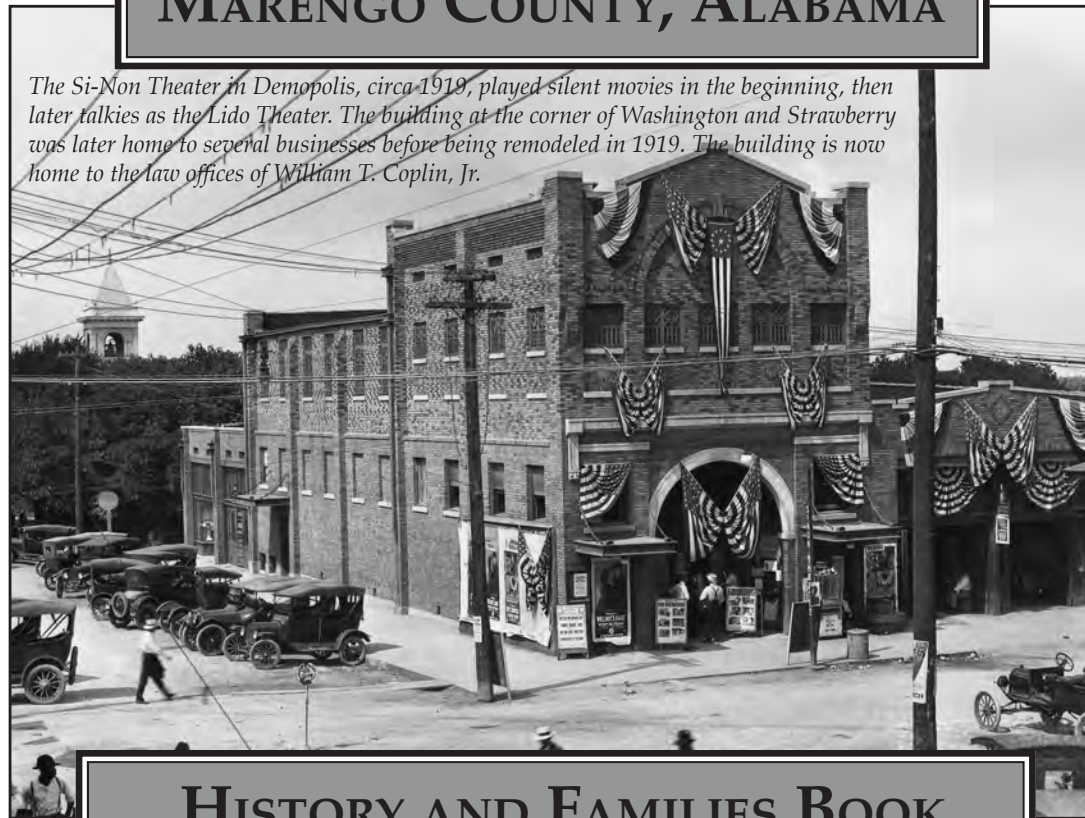
DEADLINE: November 15, 2017



Want to learn more?
LOOK INSIDE!!

MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA

The Si-Non Theater in Demopolis, circa 1919, played silent movies in the beginning, then later talkies as the Lido Theater. The building at the corner of Washington and Strawberry was later home to several businesses before being remodeled in 1919. The building is now home to the law offices of William T. Coplin, Jr.



HISTORY AND FAMILIES BOOK



MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA HISTORY & FAMILIES BOOK

Sponsored by the Marengo County Historical and Archives Museum

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF MARENGO COUNTY'S HISTORY!

In celebration of the rich heritage of our county and its families, the Marengo County Historical and Archives Museum is sponsoring, compiling and publishing a new book, *Marengo County, Alabama History & Families*. This book will include the history of our county including family histories, communities, churches, schools, businesses, farms, memorials, tributes, clubs, organizations, and much more! It is important that **every family in the county** be included in this historic publication.

WHO MAY BE INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK? Anyone who has ever lived in Marengo County.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO HAVE MY FAMILY HISTORY PUBLISHED? Nothing! You don't even have to purchase a book to be included.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE INCLUDED? Type your family's history in 500 words or less, including one family photograph (please identify family members on the back of the photo, all photos will be returned), and send it to:

**Marengo County History Book
101 N. Walnut Ave.
Demopolis, AL 36732**

You may also drop off your submission at the address above Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MY FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HISTORY. WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT MY FAMILY? Everyone has a family history. Tell when you or your ancestors first came to Marengo County, where they arrived from, their vocations, children and marriages. Tell about military service within your family, hobbies and stories handed down from generation to generation. Before you know it, you'll have a fascinating story that will be preserved and cherished for generations.

WHAT IF I DON'T WRITE VERY WELL? Submit your family history anyway! Professional editors will be proofing and correcting everyone's stories for grammar and spelling. You'll be proud of your heritage when you read your family's legacy in this fine publication.

Right: The Opera House in Demopolis

WHAT WILL THE BOOK LOOK LIKE? This hardback, collector's quality, 8-1/2" x 11" book will be bound in a beautiful, swirl-grained leatherette cover with a gold foil stamped seal depicting the book logo on the front cover and a gold lettered spine. Its archive-quality pages will be Smyth-sewn for durability. This book will be in libraries and offices across the county, state and USA! This book will be a family heirloom that can be handed down from generation to generation.

HOW MAY I PURCHASE A BOOK? This historic book is available on a pre-sale basis ONLY! It is priced at \$54.95. That means that only those who order now, before publication, will be assured a copy of this LIMITED EDITION printing. Send check or money order and the enclosed order form to the Marengo County History Book Committee no later than November 15, 2017. You may also order in person at the museum.

We are looking forward to seeing your family in our upcoming history book.

Sincerely,

Mary Jones Fitts
Marengo County Historical and Archives Museum
(334) 289-0599
or e-mail marengomuseum@yahoo.com



DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017

MARENGO Co. AL HISTORY AND FAMILIES BOOK

Sample family histories — Deadline to submit is November 15, 2017

Use these examples as a guide in writing your 500 word history. Remember: It's FREE to be included!

Send one (1) family history with one (1) family photograph per household.

NIXON – I, Lewis Nixon, was born on February 1, 1949 in Gallion, Hale, AL. (Hale County, Alabama was Marengo County prior to January 1867). I wasn't born in a hospital, but instead in a small shotgun house. My mother was assisted during the delivery by a midwife. My mother is Alfreadia Nixon and my father is John C. King. They were not married. My mother was a sophomore in high school and due to my birth had to drop out of school to care for me. She never returned to get her high school diploma.

After my delivery, there was some question as to what my name would be. My Aunt Roena Norris simply said that my name would be Lewis. That name was present in many generations of my Nixon family.



Judge Lewis Nixon

I came to Chicago with my mother and grandfather, Lewis Nixon in 1949. I lived with my grandfather until 1958 when I went to live with my mother, who had married in 1956. While living in my grandfather's home, he stressed education and vowed that I would obtain one "if he had to beat it into me!" He made sure that I completed all assigned schoolwork and he went to school during parent teacher conferences to review my progress. I was an above average student during my primary school years, but had significant conduct problems. This continued until I went to live with my mother and enrolled at S. Dorothy's Catholic School in the Chatham area of Chicago, where I subsequently graduated in 1963. I firmly believe in working as I had a job helping shoppers with their groceries on weekends.

I spent 1½ years at De La Salle High School and then transferred to Harlan High School in 1965. I enrolled in a work-study program my senior year and did so well I was named "Student of the Year." I earned a small scholarship stipend and was accepted into St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. After college, I attended DePaul University of Law. I had earlier entered the Illinois National Guard and subsequently achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In 1974, I graduated from Law School and passed the Illinois Bar Exam in 1975. I married in 1974.

During law school, I was an investigator with the Illinois State Police. After passing the bar I spent four years as a federal prosecutor with the United States Attorney. Upon leaving, I worked for a small law firm then went to the Burlington Northern Railroad as a trial attorney. In 1983, I was named the first black Regional Counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for the Midwest Region. In 2001, I was appointed a Cook County Circuit Court Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court and elected to a six-year term in 2002. I was retained in 2008. Today, I currently serve as the Supervising Judge in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court. – Lewis Nixon is a member of the African American Genealogical Society of Chicago and a member of the Alabama Study Group of the Society.

WHITFIELD – Bryan Watkins Whitfield was born on March 27, 1828, the son of General Nathan Bryan Whitfield and Elizabeth Watkins Whitfield. On February 13, 1855, he married Mary Alice Foscue, daughter of Augustus Foscue and Mehetable (Hatch) Foscue.

In 1845 Bryan attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1849. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and received his degree in 1853.

Bryan returned to Demopolis and opened an office. When the yellow fever epidemic reached Demopolis, he was the first physician to properly diagnose the condition. Dr. Whitfield practiced medicine in Demopolis for 40 years while also managing his farm. During the Civil War he was a surgeon in the Confederate Army.

Dr. Whitfield's wife died in 1889 and soon thereafter he moved to

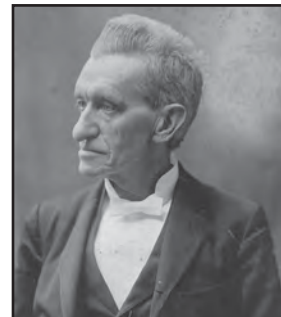
Walker County, where he practiced his profession full time, serving as company doctor for several coalmines. While in Walker County he was one of the founders of the Alabama Medical Association.

When his health failed he returned to Demopolis and lived with his daughter, Bessie, until his death on December 15, 1908.

Dr. Whitfield and Mary Alice had 13 children, eight living to be adults—Bessie Alice, Jesse George, Augustus Foscue, Bryan Watkins, Alice Hall, Mehetable Hatch, Mary Elizabeth, and Nathan Bryan.

Jesse George, born November 25, 1859, became a civil engineer and was noted for his accuracy in surveying lands in Marengo County. Jesse married Penelope Clinton Holmes of Aberdeen, MS on June 7, 1882. Their children were Foscue Bryan and Thomas Holmes. Foscue was a veterinarian in Dothan, AL. Thomas lived in Birmingham. He had a daughter, Nellie Whitfield Ulmer.

Augustus Foscue and Bryan Watkins opened the first coalmines in the Harlan Coal Field in southeastern Kentucky. They have descendants who live in Kentucky.



Dr. Bryan W. Whitfield

Alice Hall married Levin Sledge Compton. She has one descendant who lived in Marengo County, Adm. Bryan Whitfield Compton.

Mehatable Hatch married Thomas Ledyard Sharp. She had a son, Thomas Ledyard Sharp, Jr., who lived in Marengo County.

Mary Elizabeth married Thomas Edwin McKinley and had one son, John Henry McKinley, who lived in Demopolis.

Nathan Bryan was born January 18, 1866. He married Elizabeth (Aunt Lib) Hatch. They had four children, Bryan

Watkins, Nathan Bryan, Jr., Asa Hatch and Joseph Ernst.

Bryan Watkins was a physician and lived in Murphy, NC.

Nathan Bryan was born September 3, 1898 and lived in Demopolis. He married Kathleen Breslin Whitfield and had one child, Kathleen. She married George Lipscomb and lived in South Carolina.

Asa Hatch was born November 21, 1901, married Nell Nichols and lived in Marengo County.

Joseph Ernst was born November 29, 1903, married Miriam Ernst and lived in Kentucky. They had one son, Joe, Jr.

Bessie Alice was born April 25, 1858. She married Dr. James Bryan Whitfield of Marengo County on June 7, 1882. Dr. Whitfield was a physician. They had seven children, Mary Annie, Bryan, who died as a young adult, Bessie Eugenia, Eleanor Foscue, James Bryan, Grace Fonville, Alive Mehetable and Edith.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Type your family history in 500 words or less (see samples on opposite page). If you need more space, add .15/word for each additional word over 500. Write in third-person (he-she-they). Use 8.5 x 11" white paper, double-spaced, or submit your history as a Word document via e-mail.
- Send a photo (historic or recent). The first photo submitted is free, additional photos are \$15/each. Write a caption for each photo on the back of the photo or on your family history.
- If you'd like to order a book, complete the order form at right and mail with your check to the address listed.
- Invite friends and family to participate — the more families included in the book, the better this historical record will be for everyone!

MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA HISTORY & FAMILIES BOOK COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mary Jones Fitts, Faunsdale
Hester M. Brown, Demopolis
Tommy Younger, Thomaston
Josephine Blackwell, Linden

For more information or assistance, call the Marengo County Historical and Archives Museum at (334) 289-0599, or e-mail marengomuseum@yahoo.com

W.G. Allen house in Jefferson, 1935



A QUALITY PUBLICATION

This hardback, collector's quality, 8-1/2" x 11" book will be bound in a beautiful swirl-grained leatherette cover with a gold foil stamping on the front cover and spine. Its archive-quality pages will be Smyth-sewn for durability. Acid-free paper will be used for superior photo reproduction and durability. This book will be in libraries and offices across the county, state and USA! This book will be a family heirloom that can be handed down from generation to generation.

Order Form

Marengo County, AL History & Families	Qty	Price	Total
Limited Edition		\$54.95	
Deluxe Leather Edition		\$89.95	
Emboss your name on the book cover		\$ 6.00	
*Shipping & Handling (if mailed, \$6.50 per book, see below)		\$ 6.50	
Family history extra words over the first 500 - add 15¢ word		\$ 0.15	
Extra photos - add \$15 per photo		\$15.00	
GRAND TOTAL			

*Check one of the following:

Please mail my order to me. I will pick up my order.

I am interested in knowing more about the printed BUSINESS, FARMS, MEMORIAL/TRIBUTE and ORGANIZATION/CLUB pages. The cost of these special pages are:

1/2 pg. --\$175.00 full pg. --\$250.00

SCHOOLS & CHURCHES:

1/2 pg. --\$85.00 full pg. --\$125.00

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Marengo County Cities and Towns Included:

Dayton • Demopolis • Faunsdale • Linden
Myrtlewood • Nanafalia • Providence • Putnam
Sweet Water • Thomaston

Along With These Unincorporated Communities:

Aimwell • Alfalfa • Baptist Hill • Calvary
Campground • Clayhill • Consul • Coxheath
Dixons Mills • Doyle • Exmoor • Geneva
Half Acre • Half Chance • Hampden • Hill Top
Hoboken • Hotamville • Hugo • Jefferson
Knoxwood • Lasca • Magnolia • Marengo • McKinley
Miller • Moores Valley • Moscow • Nicholville
Octagon • Old Spring Hill • Pin Hook • Pope
Rembert • Rockcut • Salt Well • Shiloh • Shortleaf
Siddonsville • Spocari • Surginer • Vangale
Vineland • Wayne

Send all material, checks, and orders to:

MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA HISTORY & FAMILIES BOOK

Marengo County Historical and Archives Museum
101 N. Walnut Avenue
Demopolis, AL 36732
(334) 289-0599

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Name to be embossed on cover (up to 24 spaces) _____

OUR AMERICAN
HERITAGE PROJECT

NOTE: Proceeds from the sale of this book will also help other communities and organizations preserve their history through Our American Heritage Project, a non-profit organization.