

Native American History in Alabama

Local Historical Sites In West and Southwest Alabama

For more information on touring these sites, visit our websites at AlabamaFrontPorches.org and TourWestAlabama.com



Above: A bulletin board in The Alabama River Heritage Museum.

The Alabama River Heritage Museum: Includes a Native American exhibit that showcases weapons, tools, and clothing. The collection spans from the pre-historic tribes through the Creek Indians.

Bashi Skirmish: Occurred on October 4, 1813, during the Creek war. A commemorative marker is located in the Failletown community.

Battle Branch: This was the second skirmish in Conecuh County between whites and Native Americans

Burnt Corn Creek: Location of a skirmish, which was the start of the First Creek Indian War in July 1813. 180 Mississippi militia men attacked Creeks indians.

Choctaw Corner: This was northeast corner of the land ceded by the Indians to whites in Alabama. A 1765 Treaty gave England the land from this point south to the gulf. In 1808, this land was also the center of dispute between the Creeks and Choctaws. They settled the dispute by playing two ballgames; the Choctaws ultimately won. The Kimbell-James Massacre occurred here.

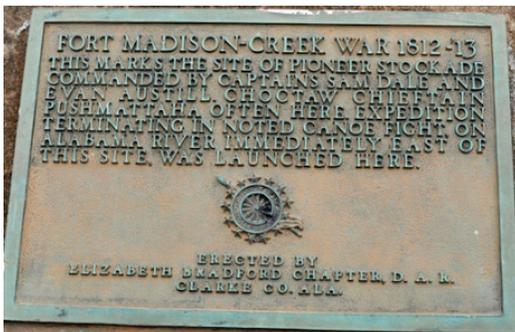
The Clarke County Museum: Includes many Native American artifacts. These include projectile points, tools from the Paleo-Indian and Mississippian periods, and artifacts from Fort Sinquefield.



Above: The Kimbell House, site of the 1813 Kimbell-James Massacre.

Fort Mims: One of the most brutal massacres in American history took place here during the Creek Indian War. The Creeks, led by Red Eagle, took the fort, killing all but about 36 of some 550 in the fort.

The Kimbell House: The home of Isham Kimbell, who was the only family member to survive the Kimbell-James Massacre in 1813. The massacre took place on September 1, 1813, during the Creek War. Creek warriors led by the Prophet Francis descended upon the Kimbell House scalping and bludgeoning fourteen persons. The house was then scavenged and burned.



Above: The commemorative marker at Fort Madison.

Fort Claiborne: Built by General Ferdinand L. Claiborne as a base for his invasion of the Alibamo country with U.S. Regulars, Lower Tombigbee Militia, and friendly Choctaws. Claiborne's campaign was ultimately successful with the American victory over the Creeks at the Holy Ground during the Creek Indian War.

Fort Madison: A pioneer stockage commanded by Captain Samuel Dale and Evan Austill. Choctaw Chief Pushamataha often visited here.

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Above: Traders Circle and Arts Market at the award-winning Moundville Native American Festival.

Gainestown: A small community in Clarke County was founded as a Choctaw-Creek trading post. It was founded in 1809 by George Strother Gaines and was the largest river port between Selma and Mobile at one time.

Holy Ground Battlefield: In 1813, Red Eagle led the Creeks against General Claiborne and his Choctaw allies. The Creeks were forced to retreat with Red Eagle escaping by jumping his horse from a 12-foot bluff into the Alabama River. A marker commemorating this is located two miles north of the Town of White Hall.

Moundville Archaeological Park: Provides the public an opportunity to learn about what was once one of the most powerful and largest Native American cities in North America. There are more than two dozen mounds within the park's

boundaries. The park's museum also houses many Mississippian age artifacts excavated from within the park.

The MOWA Indian tribal headquarters: Located south of the Mobile/Washington County line in Mt. Vernon, along with the Choctaw cultural center. The MOWA are descendants of the Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee, Mescalero, and Apache tribes. Two powwows are held at the reservation each year.

The Museum of Mobile: Has an exhibit highlighting the Native American tribes of South Alabama. The museum's exhibit focuses heavily on Bottle Creek, which is a remote island in the Mobile-Tensaw delta on which eighteen earthen mounds exist.

Old Town: Believed to have been an important trading site for Native Americans and settlers. The site is known for the "Old Flag Tree," which comes from the banner-like shape of its branches at the top. The tradition among early white settlers was the tree was a signal to the Indian traders passing from the Chattahoochee to Pensacola.

Below: Poarch Creek Pow Wow



Above: Holy Ground Battlefield Park, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers day-use recreation area. Red Eagle escaped by taking his horse across the river at this spot while under heavy fire.

The Poarch Creek Indians: The only federally recognized Indian tribe in the State of Alabama. The tribe is a segment of the original Creek nation that occupied the majority of Georgia and Alabama until their removal in 1836. There are over 1,840 members of the tribe, of which approximately 1,000 live in or around Poarch, Alabama.

St. Stephens: Was situated on a high bluff the Indians called Hobucakintopa. Between 1790 and 1820, St. Stephens served as the site of a Spanish fort, an American fort and trading post, and the Alabama Territorial capital. Today, St. Stephens Historical Park visitors can tour the historic town and partake in various outdoor activities.