Portrait of Historic

Gadsden County

May 10 - July 13, 2013

Gadsden Arts Center - Quincy, FL

Object Catalog
# Table of Contents

**Introduction** ......................................................................................................................... 3

**Early History: Original Cultures** .......................................................................................... 4
  - Pre-Historic Creatures ........................................................................................................... 5
  - Indigenous Cultures of Florida .............................................................................................. 5

**Explorers: Control of the Land** .............................................................................................. 6
  - The Spark of War .................................................................................................................. 7

**Settlers: Making Gadsden County Home** ............................................................................ 8
  - Cabins to Castles .................................................................................................................. 9
  - Schooling Gadsden’s New Residents .................................................................................. 9
  - Gadsden County and the Civil War .................................................................................... 10

**Industry and Growth** ............................................................................................................ 11
  - Shade Tobacco Revives the County .................................................................................... 12
  - Railways to Growth ............................................................................................................. 12

**20th Century and Beyond** ..................................................................................................... 13
  - Coca-Cola Connection ......................................................................................................... 14
  - Life and Leisure .................................................................................................................. 14

**List of Objects** ...................................................................................................................... 15
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*A Portrait of Historic Gadsden County*

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**Introduction**

Gadsden County has long piqued the media’s interest, from the Miami Herald to the Oprah Show, with stories of the famed shade tobacco industry, the largest vein of Fuller’s Earth in the world, and the legendary Coca-Cola connection. Like a “crazy quilt,” Gadsden County is stitched together as a community rich in history, culture and folklore, and situated in one of the most picturesque and fertile places in Florida — a highlands plateau located between two rivers.

Artists, too, have long been charmed by Gadsden County’s unique features: from its weathered tobacco barns and moss-draped oaks, to its classical architecture and humble people. As a community, people of Gadsden County have enthusiastically supported the creative spirit of these artists, and most of the works included in this exhibition are from their private collections.

“A Portrait of Historic Gadsden County” is an opportunity to bring together the work of artists who have captured the essence of bygone days along with selected artifacts loaned by area collectors. While it is impossible to cover 12,000 years of history in depth, we hope viewers will experience a taste of historic Gadsden County; share stories and memories of the past; question, discuss and investigate the county’s fascinating history.; and gain a renewed appreciation for the unique place we call “home.”

Dawn McMillan & William Hugh McKeown
Co-chairs, “Portrait of Historic Gadsden County”
Early History: Original Cultures

The history of Gadsden County begins far before the initial borders of the county were established in 1823. At its largest, Gadsden County extended all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, with the natural borders of the Apalachicola River to the west and the Suwannee River to the east. Prehistoric fossils indicate that mammals including mastodons, bison, bears, giant armadillos, giant cats, and a plethora of reptiles, fish, and birds, lived in this region.

The oldest settlers in Florida lived at least fourteen millennia ago, when Paleo-Indians began inhabiting what is today North America. Paleo-Indians were people whose ancestors entered North America during the Ice Age from eastern Asia across a land bridge, which connected Siberia to North America. The land of Florida looked much different, extending farther into today’s Gulf of Mexico as the sea levels were much lower. When glaciers began to melt around 9000 BCE,* Florida’s lakes and rivers rose, and Paleo-Indians began settling near sources of water. The next archaeological period, the Archaic (beginning 7500 BCE), saw similar features in native settlers, as they congregated around water sources and began developing their own distinct cultures. Today, archaeologists use the individual patterns in pottery and shapes of projectile points to distinguish between different groups of people. In Gadsden County, the most recognized native groups are the Seminoles, Creeks, and Apalachees.

* BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) are frequently used as equivalent to BC and AD respectively, in academic and scientific publications.
**Pre-Historic Creatures**
Archeologists exploring all of Gadsden County and along the Apalachicola River have found evidence of early creatures, such as shark, bison, and mastodons, that inhabited this region before and while it was settled by Paleo-Indians.

The American mastodon (*Mammut americanum*) resembled a wooly mammoth, with a furry body and tusks up to five meters long (see right). It disappeared around 12,000 years ago.

A direct ancestor of the living American bison, the Ancient Bison or *Bison antiquus* was an herbivore on the North American continent for over ten thousand years. While it may seem strange that bison and mastodons once inhabited Florida, fossils indicate that they did indeed live in this area.

**Indigenous Cultures of Florida**
Gadsden County once was home to Native American tribes such as the Seminoles, Creeks, and Apalachees, and tribes from the Paleolithic (2.6 mil years ago to 8000 BCE) and Archaic (8000 BCE to 1000 BCE) eras. Archaeologists used the ceremonial mounds and distinctive ceramics found in Gadsden County to identify Native Americans living in this area as part of the Weeden Island and Fort Walton cultures. There were as many as seven temple mound complexes; however, only five smaller mounds still remain, such as the Aspalaga Bluff east of the Apalachicola River. Oral tradition among the Creeks indicates the Aspalaga Bluff was a place of healing.

While living on the lands that would become Gadsden County, Native Americans crafted a variety of tools and pottery. Many archaeologists have found arrowheads or projectile points in areas where Native Americans once lived. They might have been attached to arrows, spears, darts, or knives and used as tools or weapons. Once considered to be just useful objects, many now realize the beauty and skill of Native American pottery in the objects themselves and the designs and patterns, making pottery a popular archaeological find today.
2013 marks the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León’s arrival on Florida’s east coast. Ponce de León and other Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to document such a landing and give Florida the name La Florida. In 1539, Hernando de Soto, a Spanish conquistador, landed in Florida and began a march up the interior peninsula of Florida. Though still debated, it is likely that de Soto crossed Gadsden County during this march, passing north of Lake Jackson and Havana.

For most of the following 100 years, Gadsden County remained a wilderness buffer separating the Apalachee and Chacato tribes. In the 1600s, Spanish explorers attempted to forge alliances with Native Americans by negotiating peace between warring tribes and pursuing missions to the various tribes, for fear of the English presence. Spanish control of Florida was lost as a result of the French and Indian War (1754-1763); however, control of Florida was returned to Spain in 1783, after only 20 years of British occupation. In 1795, the Treaty of San Lorenzo established the boundary between the United States and Spanish Florida, which remained until Andrew Jackson invaded Florida in 1816. In 1821, Spanish Florida became a United States Territory.

In 1816, Andrew Jackson invaded Florida in pursuit of Seminole Indians, thus beginning the First Seminole War. The tragic incident at Prospect Bluff marked an early starting point for the war. In 1816, General Jackson took a supply fleet past the fort at Prospect Bluff in Spanish territory. At the time, it was occupied by Native Americans and freed blacks. In 1817, another major battle of the First Seminole War, Scott’s Massacre, took place in Chattahoochee. This retaliation attack by Seminole and African warriors occurred near Chattahoochee Landing. It led President James Monroe to order Jackson to invade Spanish Florida and destroy principle Seminole towns.
The Spark of War

The Seminole Wars, or Florida Wars, were three conflicts in Florida between the Seminole (both Native Americans and freed blacks who had joined the Seminole people of Florida) and the United States Army. Gadsden County was primarily involved in the First Seminole War (1814-1819); however, the Apalachicola Arsenal, now part of the Florida State Hospital, which was constructed from 1834-1839, served as a supply depot and protection from refugee Creek attacks during the Second Seminole War of 1835-1842.

In 1816, the tragic incident at Fort Gadsden, then called Negro Fort, sparked the beginning of Gadsden County’s involvement in the First Seminole War. After Andrew Jackson won the Creek War of 1813-1814, many Creek refugees moved to Florida and joined the Seminoles. Around the same time, the War of 1812 (1812-1815) resulted in the British leaving a fort to Native Americans, who were told their land would be returned through the Treaty of Ghent.

This fort, Fort Gadsden or Negro Fort, was seen as a threat to the United States, and was destroyed at the beginning of the Seminole Indian War period. Later, after the end of the First Seminole War, the United States signed a treaty making Spanish Florida a United States territory (1821). Shortly after, settlers began to make Gadsden County their home.
Settlers: Making Gadsden County Home

Many Gadsden County settlers arrived shortly after Florida became a United States territory in 1821. Named after James Gadsden, the aide-de-camp to General Andrew Jackson, Gadsden County was established in 1823 (see map for original borders). Most settlers during the 1800s arrived from Maryland, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Many settlers uprooted their families, coming here to enhance their lives. They worked quickly to establish the county by building houses, schools, and churches.

When a new building was constructed, it often served many purposes: a place of worship, a schoolhouse, and a meeting place. Many architectural features in churches and homes from this time were taken from architectural pattern books; often the more educated and skilled settlers would take details from these books and replicate them in their homes.

Education was important, and several schools were built. Other instruction was housed in churches. The 1835 ledger from the Quincy Academy shows that tuition for basic reading and writing cost $8 per semester.

Gadsden County’s involvement in the Civil War war began with the seizure of the United States Arsenal at Chattahoochee (now part of the Florida State Hospital). At war’s outbreak, approximately 600 out of the 4,000 white residents of Gadsden County were sent to fight for the Confederacy.
**Cabins to Castles**

Gadsden County is home to various styles of architecture. Outstanding examples of 19th and 20th century residential architecture are found within the county borders. On one corner, you might find quintessential Southern and Creole-styled cottages with porches for relaxing with friends and family. Around another corner, you might find an elaborate Victorian or Classical Revival mansion.

Common attributes of many outstanding Gadsden County homes are columns and pediments. Many are Doric columns; both rounded and squared, the simplest of the three orders of ancient Greek architecture. The pediments are the triangular structures that are typically supported by columns.

Many large homes were constructed to accommodate large households. The Garden Center, constructed in 1893, is an early home. A family story tells that Mark Welch Munroe built the house for his wife, with the hope of a child’s head hanging out of each of the 38 windows.

Please visit our Gift Shop to purchase a walking tour of historic architecture in Quincy.

**Schooling Gadsden’s New Residents**

One of the first orders of business for early Gadsden County pioneers was the education of their children. In a speech, Chief Justice Dupont encouraged the advent of education, so that settlers’ offspring might have a better life. Some of the territorial settlers from Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas were highly educated, and the first school lessons were no doubt conducted in their homes.

The private Quincy Academy, originally located on the lower floor of the Masonic Lodge, was incorporated in 1832 and served the educational needs of the community until 1912. By 1845 a Female Academy building had been constructed next door to the First Presbyterian Church. Special emphasis was placed on offering girls a solid and fundamental education, and although male and female students were separated, each received the benefit of instruction from the Principal.

Dotted throughout the county were quintessential “one-room schoolhouses” — buildings that served as religious meetinghouses on Sunday and schoolhouses during the week. Many churches throughout the county served as the first schools for African-American students following the Civil War. In the late 1800s Old Mitchell Hall on West Clark Street was a one-room schoolhouse for African-American students under the tutelage of Rev. Cupid Whitfield. Born in 1868, son of former slaves, he began teaching school at the age of 16. Rev. Whitfield received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Morris Brown College in 1906. He taught English literature and ancient history at Waters College in Jacksonville and later became Principal of the college.
Gadsden County and the Civil War

On the morning of the 6th of January 1861, the United States Arsenal at Chattahoochee was seized by the Quincy Young Guard under orders from Gov. Perry of Florida, beginning the involvement of North Florida in the Civil War. This arsenal was used as a Confederate Army training facility and encampment until the end of the War when it was returned to Federal control for use by the Freedman's Bureau as a safe haven for newly emancipated slaves.

The Battle of Natural Bridge south of Tallahassee was the beginning of the end of the Civil War. The local militia, the Gadsden Grays played a critical role in this battle, putting up a fight and giving Confederate soldiers time to bring reinforcements. When the battle ended, the Confederates had lost 49 men, and the Union troops had lost 151 men. Amazingly, none of the citizen soldiers from Gadsden County were killed or wounded.
Industry and Growth

For nearly twenty years following the Civil War, Gadsden County was decimated both socially and economically. As was the case all across the South, planters left the area in search of opportunity elsewhere, and emancipated slaves left for jobs in the North, leaving former plantations and fields abandoned. By the late 1880s revival of the tobacco industry, the discovery of Fuller’s earth, and railroad expansion led to an era of prosperity in Gadsden County. Quincy’s population rose dramatically from 700 in 1890 to 4,000 in 1922.

Tobacco, which had been grown in Gadsden County before the Civil War, found success as an industry again with the introduction of shade-grown tobacco. Wooden slats, and later cheesecloth, covered the tobacco plants, protecting them from natural elements and producing fine tobacco for cigar wrappers. Some of the tobacco barns from this successful period can still be found around Gadsden County.

Fuller’s earth was discovered in 1893 on the Owl Cigar Company’s property, just north of Quincy. This clay-like earthy material, used to filter oils, spurred some measure of growth in Gadsden County as companies mined for the valuable substance.
Shade Tobacco Revives the County

Downtown Quincy in 1926 was unrecognizable in comparison to the small town that existed just 35 years earlier. The decayed village was swept away, and in its place stood a city, symbolic of the economic success that shade tobacco had brought to Gadsden County.

D. Alexander Shaw, manager of the firm Schroeder & Bon, is credited with constructing the first wooden shade over tobacco in the spring of 1896. Using this method of laying wood slats over a network of wooden supports and wire, 40,000 slats were required to cover one acre of tobacco. Shade-grown tobacco was primarily used for cigars.

The introduction of cheesecloth provided the answer to successfully growing fine cigar tobacco in this area. Not only did it provide the shade necessary to create a thinner and finer texture of the leaves, but it also protected the crop from insects, rain, and hail. This method of growing tobacco led to a high quality product that rivaled the texture and quality of imported leaves. The first shade tobacco sold for $4 a pound, versus just 40 cents a pound for the sun variety. Unfortunately, overproduction led to a decrease in prices and demand. Many residents of Gadsden County still remember that much of the county was built on the tobacco industry.

Railways to Growth

The first railroad in Gadsden County arrived in 1862. The Pensacola and Georgia Rail was built running east from Quincy to Tallahassee, connecting with the Florida Atlantic & Gulf Central Railroad, which ran to Lake City and Jacksonville. The East-West rail line through Gadsden County under the control of the Seaboard Line increased passenger rail and transportation of timber minerals and produce in the 1890s.

Other than Quincy, which was established as the county seat in 1828, most of the cities in Gadsden County were developed due to improvement in transportation, especially the railroad. River Junction, once existing just south of Chattahoochee, developed through river traffic and then railroads, and it became the hub of the second largest train terminal in Florida in the late 1880s. Frequent floods eventually caused residents to move up the hill to Chattahoochee. Greensboro and Gretna were developed following the railroad industry as well. Havana construction began adjacent to the railroad tracks and the town was incorporated in 1906.
20th Century and Beyond

Gadsden County saw much change during the 20th century. From the early 1900s, when residents were seeing steady growth due to shade tobacco and booming industry, to the legendary Coca-Cola connection, and finally to today. Gadsden County’s five major cities (Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, and Quincy) each have different but memorable histories: Gretna’s town center remains intact with its original churches and schoolhouse; Greensboro is home to ornamental nursery operations; Chattahoochee entertains through recreational fishing, boating, and nature trails; Havana thrives as an antiquing center; and, Quincy maintains a rich relationship with the arts.

Gadsden County today is the only county in Florida with a majority African American population. In 1984, it was the first county to elect an African American as school superintendent: Dr. Robert Bryant. With a motto of “Enter to learn, depart to serve,” Dr. Bryant served two terms, during which he introduced Dual Enrollment for 11th and 12th grade students. Gadsden County also is the original home of famous watercolor artist, Dean Mitchell, whose grandmother raised him in Quincy.

While no single exhibition can capture the spirit of Gadsden County’s rich history, this Portrait of Historic Gadsden County acts as a glimpse into the life and times of those who lived here.
**Coca-Cola Connection**
The connection of Coca-Cola to Gadsden County is legendary. To those outside of the county, it may appear that Coca-Cola built much of the county when, in fact, tobacco provided much of the growth.

Mr. Pat Munroe, President of the Quincy State Bank was a long-time friend of W. C. Bradley, the Chairman of the Board of the Coca-Cola Company from 1919-1939. Bradley urged Mr. Pat to purchase Coca-Cola shares. In the 1920s and 1930s, Mr. Pat also encouraged his friends to invest in Coca-Cola shares. He justified the purchase, saying that even during hard times people would spend a nickel on a Coke. When Coca-Cola was made public, shares cost $40 per share.

Gadsden County was also home to bottling companies. When bottling began to be popular, with parent companies selling the supplies, many of the thousands of bottlers were locally owned and operated. In Gadsden, there were bottling companies in Quincy and River Junction.

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**Life and Leisure**
Across Gadsden County, new towns and enterprises grew, but others were left behind. Residents of River Junction finally decided they had had enough of the floods and moved to higher ground in Chattahoochee. Havana, which suffered a devastating fire in 1916, found success with antique shops and fine restaurants. All over Gadsden County, remnants of tobacco wealth are visible; those that found success in tobacco and growth in business built much of the lasting architecture—beautiful homes that still exist today.

For leisure, many residents would enjoy visiting the local theaters. Audiences could see a film at the Roxy on Jefferson St., the Leaf on Washington St., or the Hill Drive-In Theater on E. Jefferson St. Others enjoyed nature by visiting local lakes, such as Lake Talquin. Named after the two cities surrounding it (Tallahassee and Quincy), Lake Talquin is home to recreational fishing and the Lake Talquin State Park.
List of Objects
1. Beth Appleton, Land Between Two Rivers, (2013) cut paper assemblage 20 x 28 inches
   Early History

   Gadsden County was a very important crossroad lying right in the middle of what would have been an enormous trade exchange between all the Mississippian Native American cultures. Busy footpaths including one that came right through Quincy and Chattahoochee likely linked other mound building communities who were part of the great Southern Ceremonial Complex perhaps reaching as far as the Mayan area. Paved highways now lay on top of native routes leading from the rich Appalachian foothills to valued treasures along the sandy coast.

   Many things so important to native culture are still in plain sight; large whelks, pearls, sharks teeth, wild tobacco and yaupon holly tell a colorful story of trade routes made easier by river travel and let us envision a hunter warrior requiring extraordinary prowess fueled by the abundance of wild grown caffeine and tobacco. Although researched, this piece is not about absolutes; it is about interpretation. Shards, arrows, bones, shells, pearls, pipes all reveal clues. Images on ceremonial plates, pottery and jewelry fuel imagination making a "lost" civilization come alive. I quieted myself to search out commonalities known best by my personal history; my own footpath is well worn from the coast to each Gadsden border. I connected with the people who lived before me on this land between the two rivers; a place which has enriched my life and allowed intuition to let the creative spirit soar.

2. Extinct (Bison Antiqua) Bison Horn Core
   Early History

   The bison antiquus is an ancestor of the living American bison that migrated from Siberia to Alaska over 200,000 years ago and inhabited various parts of North America. They reached 7 ft. 6 in. tall, 15 ft. long, and almost 2 tons in weight.

3. Mastodon Tooth Fossil, (more than 12,000 yrs old)
   Early History

   The American mastodon is the most recent of known mastodons, disappearing around 12,000 years ago. Mastodons were similar in appearance to elephants and mammoths, with shaggy hair and long tusks. Their average height was 7 ft. 7 in. and could weigh as much as 5 tons.

4. Robin Rodgers, Lizard Effigy Pot, (2013), clay
   Early History

5. Effigy Shard
   Early History
6. Bowl - Mississippian period: Ft Walton culture, (900-1500 CE)  
Early History

Pottery often falls into both the art and craft categories as it is created for a purpose, but often contains delicate details like this Mississippian period bowl. Mississippian period refers a period of Native American culture from 800-1500 AD in the Midwestern and Southeastern US. The Native American archaeological term for the Apalachee people flourishing in the Gadsden County area around this time is Fort Walton culture, named for the Fort Walton Mound near Fort Walton Beach. In their pottery, the Apalachees used clay or sand materials and stamping or engraving techniques. This bowl features incised designs in circular patterns as well as punctuations.

7. Pottery Shards  
Early History

8. Stone Axe  
Early History

9. Stone celt  
Early History

A celt is an early prehistoric axe-like tool. It was probably inserted into the socket of a wooden handle.

10. Arrowheads  
Early History

As an archaeological term, projectile point refers to an object that is attached to a spear, dart, arrow, or perhaps a knife. Crafted from stone, artifacts like these can survive for long periods and therefore there are many surviving examples. Both the type of stone and the shape of the projectile point give archaeologists clues to the people that made them. Most projectile points contain a body, point, and stem. Some are also serrated or barbed.

11. Bowl - Weeden Island period, (300-900 CE)  
Early History

The Weeden Island Culture is a group of related aboriginal cultures that existed throughout Middle Florida from 200-1200 AD. Scholars believe the culture emerged at the junction of Chattahoochee, Flint and Apalachicola rivers, where Alabama, Florida and Georgia meet. Weeden Island cultures are defined by ceramics, which fall into two categories, sometimes called secular and sacred. Sacred ceramics are found primarily in mounds, while secular ceramics are found primarily in middens and house sites and show considerable variation between regions.

12. Clay Pipe  
Early History
13. Cannon ball
Early Explorers

Made of iron, this Spanish cannonball weighs 15 pounds 6 ounces and has a 15-inch circumference.

14. Olive oil jug, (17th-18th century)
Early Explorers

Olive oil was a popular oil from the Mediterranean area. Today, it is most commonly used in cooking, but it was also used in cosmetics, soaps, and fuel for oil lamps. Spanish explorers would have brought this olive oil jug with them when they crossed the Atlantic and explored Florida.

15. Spanish Military button, (1769-1808)
Early Explorers

Successive Spanish occupation of Florida led to the discovery of many military articles across Gadsden County. The size and shape of this particular button indicates that it was probably a coat button for an 18th century Spanish military uniform.

16. Pewter buckle, (c. 18th century)
Early Explorers

This moderately embellished pewter buckle recovered from Gadsden County was probably used as a shoulder-strap buckle by a Spanish explorer.

17. R. Patrick Elliot, The Tragic Incident at Prospect Bluff
Early Explorers

A fort at Prospect Bluff on the eastern bank of the Apalachicola River was built in 1814 by British Lieutenant Colonel Edward Nichols, as a rallying point to encourage the Seminole Indians to ally themselves with England against the United States in the War of 1812. Abandoned after 1814, it was occupied by a band of free Negroes, and was known by 1816 as "The Negro Fort." Its location in Spanish Florida did not deter Major General Andrew Jackson from ordering its elimination as a threat to American commerce on the Apalachicola River. On July 27, 1816, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan L. Clinch, with U.S. forces and 150 Creek Indians, fired on the fort and destroyed it with a "hot shot" cannon ball which exploded in the powder magazine killing all but 30 of 300 occupants. In 1818 General Jackson directed Lieutenant James Gadsden to build "Fort Gadsden" here, in spite of Spanish protests.

18. Champagne Bottle, (early 1800s)
Early Explorers

19. Musket balls
Early Explorers

A musket is a firearm, fired from the shoulder. Muskets were designed to be used by infantry soldiers.
20. Artillery Hat Plate
   Early Explorers

Headgear for the US during the First Seminole Indian War consisted of a leather, cylindrical "tombstone cap," that stood about 3 inches in the front, with white trim, cap plates, and a white plume. Artillery cap plates showed a flag with staff, cannon, and stack of cannon balls. This plate is an 1814 design from die-struck brass, formed by striking a gold or silver sheet in a die or between two dies.

21. Infantry Hat Plate
   Early Explorers

Infantry caps did not always feature metal cap plates, but when present they bore an eagle, flag and drum motif. Like artillery hats, they were made of leather, with white trim and the regiment number. This 1815 pattern was sold to military officers circa 1820-1830.

22. Pipe, (early 1800s)
   Early Explorers

23. Rifle flint
   Early Explorers

Flintlock rifles used a mechanism in which a piece of flint was attached to a spring-loaded hammer striking a piece of steel and creating a spark, igniting the gunpowder, and causing the weapon to fire.

24. Script I Infantry buttons, (1812-1815)
   Early Explorers

This common pewter "I" button with an oval around a star, indicates it was worn by a member of the infantry from 1812-1815 during the First Seminole War.

25. Artillery buttons, artillery corps, (1814-1821)
   Early Explorers

Like the Artillery cap plates, these artillery buttons feature an eagle, a cannon and a stack of cannon balls. This specific button would have been worn during the First Seminole Indian War.

26. Land grant signed by John Quincy Adams
   Settlers

A land patent is an exclusive land grant made by a sovereign entity over the land in question. To make such a grant “patent,” the proprietary landowner must document the land grant, securely sign and seal the document (patent), and openly publish it for all the public to see. An official land patent is the highest evidence of right, title, and interest to a specifically defined tract of land; usually granted by a central, federal, or state government to an individual or private company. In the United States, all land can be traced back to the respective land patent, to first title deed and to claims that document titles for land originally owned by France, Spain, United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, or Native Americans. The grant was made by the sixth President of the United States, John Quincy Adams.
27. Pete (Noah) Hinson, Old Philadelphia, watercolor
Settlers

Presbyterians came to this area from Georgia and the Carolinas as early as 1822. These worshippers built Old Philadelphia, a log meeting house, in 1828. It was served by itinerant ministers until 1832, when the Reverend Leander Kerr arrived. The log structure was replaced in 1859 by the present building, Gadsden County's oldest remaining meeting house. Philadelphia served until 1912 as a house of worship, a place of education, and a center of community life. Many Presbyterian churches in Florida and southern Georgia trace their origins to Old Philadelphia.

28. A.L. Wilson Company crate
Industry

A. L. Wilson Company, established in 1888, was a prominent mercantile business in Quincy. This top once covered a crate shipped from Richmond, Va. in the early 1900s containing cotton piece goods.

Industry

This painting done from an 1898 photograph shows a cross-section of the community at the time: old and young, black and white, men and women, shop keepers and bankers. In the picture are Mr. A.L. Wilson, Judge E.C. Love, Rev. Quarterman, and Mrs. Nicholson. Also pictured are Mr. Pat Munroe and Mr. Willie Curtis from the Quincy State Bank located next door. The scene shows hitching posts and a kerosene street lamp that would be replaced later that year by electric street lights installed by African-American William Hardon's electric light and ice company.

30. Nancy Sofge, River Junction, (1975), watercolor
20th Century

From left to right in this image shows the post office of River Junction, which opened in 1884, the W. F. Johnson & L. W. Scarborough store, the store of Aubrey Duke (the grandfather of artist Robin Rodgers), a Washeteria, a service station, and the store of D. S. Parkman.

31. Brick from A. O. Duke Store
20th Century

This family relic is a brick from artist Robin Rodger's grandfather's (the Duke) general store in River Junction. The area and all its buildings are no longer standing, but when the Duke had the store torn down, Robin Rodgers saved one of the bricks, with his grandfather's name etched into it. The store is depicted in Nancy Sofge's River Junction painting.

20th Century
33. William Hugh McKeown, Shepard's Mill Pond Industry

The last of Florida's water-powered mills, Shepard's Mill exists as a relic from pioneer days. Built in 1875, the mill has served as a sawmill, gin mill, and power plant, but it was best known for its water-ground cornmeal. Today, the mill lies dormant. In the background, beyond the bridge, the gates that diverted water to the mill are visible.

34. Handpainted Plate, English (1820-40) Settlers

35. Transferware pearl bowl, English (1820-40) Settlers

36. Hector Bruce Powder Horn Settlers

Hector Bruce was the nephew of Robert Forbes, one of the original land grantees of Gadsden County and original Sheriff of Quincy.

37. Bologna transferware side plate by William Adams & Sons, (c. 1835) Settlers

Transferware is a style of ceramics developed in England around the Staffordshire region. The process begins with an engraved copper plate. The image on the copper plate is printed onto tissue paper and the wet ink is transferred from the tissue paper to the ceramic surface. It is then fired at a low temperature kiln to fix the pattern to the surface. Each design has a pattern title. This romantic Bologna pattern was made by the William Adams & Sons Company, which operated from 1830-40. The central scene features lovers enjoying an afternoon excursion on a gondola.

38. French mustard bottle, (1830-40) Settlers

European imports such as French mustard found a ready market in the Florida territory. Wealthy planters coming from established regions desired and could afford these luxury items.

39. Wine bottle, (1800-1820) Settlers

40. China pitcher made for A.L. Wilson Company depicting old Quincy Courthouse which was demolished in 1912, (c. 1890s-1912) Settlers

This circa 1890-1912 China pitcher depicts the 1850 Quincy Courthouse. A Gadsden County souvenir, the bottom of this pitcher reads "Made in Austria expressly for The A. L. Wilson Co. Quincy, Fla."

41. China Pitcher Settlers

42. Stoneware jug Settlers

Watson & Sanderson was a stoneware company operating as Main Street Potteries in Poughkeepsie, NY in the early 1800s. This c. 1830 jug was found in Gadsden County. As the territory of Middle Florida opened, general mercantile companies offered early settlers goods shipped from faraway places including New York, arriving by ship at Apalachicola before being transported to Quincy.

43. Pipes (early 1800s) Settlers
44. Quincy State Bank 50th Anniversary souvenir, (1939), framed thermometer

The Quincy State Bank, pioneer commercial banking house, opened August 20, 1889 under State Charter No. 1. Issued twelve days earlier under the Act creating a State Banking System, it became a strong institution under Mark W. ("Pat") Munroe, President from 1892 to 1940. Deposits reached one million dollars in 1919 and its doors never closed during the Bank Crisis of 1933.

45. Glass bottles from City Drugs

The City Drug Store, a long time fixture on the northeast corner of Madison and Jefferson streets, was located in the Ward Building built in 1888. One of six drug stores at the time in downtown Quincy it sold medicine in specially made bottles embossed with its name.

46. Stirrups from Lines Plantation, (c. 1840-1850)

Settlers

In antebellum Gadsden County horses were considered valuable commodities and were used for recreation as well as labor. The Lines Plantation located within the Forbes Purchase was no exception. The 3,476 acre plantation comprised of many farms, including "Race Track Farm" where horse racing, "The Sport of Kings," was a recreation enjoyed by the Planter Class. This pair of finely crafted stirrups, c. 1850, attest to the popularity of the sport in Gadsden County.

47. Love & Hearin Pure Plantation Syrup from Cane Jug

Love & Hearin was a wholesale/retail mercantile store which sold shoes, furniture and groceries and was located in the first brick building on the south side of the courthouse square. This jug dates after 1896 when the building was completed.

48. Solomon's Dairy Glass Bottle

Locally owned Solomon's Dairy began operations in 1922. Dairy operations continued until it was sold to Borden's Dairy in 1950. The ice cream facility, largest independent in the southeast, was sold to Foremost Dairy in 1952.


This painting was done from a 1907 photograph of the long-forgotten Magnolia Hotel. The photograph, a recent discovery, is the only known image available of the Italianate hotel that once stood on the south side of Jefferson street between Madison and Duval. Built in the 1890s, this fine hotel accommodated cigar buyers arriving from Europe, New York and Chicago, accustomed to first-class lodging.

50. Munroe Seed Bag, by Munroe Seed Company, Inc. owned by Robert F. Munroe (mid 1950s)

Robert F. Munroe started the Munroe Seed Company in 1949. His company bagged and sold farm seeds. He remained active in his company until his death in the 1960s.
51. William Hugh McKeown, Planters Exchange, (2013), watercolor
20th Century

The Planter's Exchange opened in 1928 on the corner of 7th and Main in Havana, Florida. The store's warehouse was located by the old depot back on 2nd Street. In 1931, a new store and warehouse was erected on the present site. Growth continued during World War II and into the '50s until the complex expanded to span a city block. In 1999, the complex was designated a National Landmark and in 2001 was reborn as an antique and collectibles mall. This painting is of the older portion, which was the fertilizer plant.

52. Deer Antler hat/coat Rack given to Dr. Thomas Freeman Munroe by his patients, (c. 1870s)
Settlers

This hand-made coat rack circa 1875 is fashioned from one piece of hand-carved wood adorned with deer antlers. The coat rack was a gift to Dr. Thomas Freeman Munroe from a group of patients in appreciation of his medical services.

53. Print of the Davidson House by Mary Cox
Settlers

54. Mantle from the Davidson House
Settlers

This 1836 Greek Revival mantle once graced the Dr. J.M.W. Davidson’s Quincy home on the northeast corner of King and Madison streets. It features a raised pediment and finger-fluted pilasters created by using a carpenter’s pattern book. A testament to the cultural refinement of the home owners, the Davidson house, arguably Quincy’s finest raised cottage was removed in 1970. The site now exists as a parking lot.

55. Three piece Girandole Candleabra set, Paul et Virginie motif
Settlers

56. Portrait of Ammittee Wilder Gregory, (early 1800s)
Settlers

One of a pair of portraits painted of Ammittee Wilder Gregory and her husband Jason Gregory Sr. The Gregorys arrived in Gadsden County from Onslow County, North Carolina between 1821 and 1823.

57. Zeigler-Jones Bentwood Baby Cradle, (c. 1849)
Settlers

Bentwood objects are made by softening wood through soaking or steaming methods and then bending to a desired curved shape or pattern before the wood dries and hardens. This technique was often used for furniture, such as this baby cradle which has passed down through the family of Rebecca Zeigler Jones.

58. Handmade Working Dress, (c. 1840s)
Settlers

This handmade working house dress is more than 150 years old. It belonged to Gadsden County pioneer Mary Drew Sibley Harris.
59. William Munroe Sea Chest brought over from Scotland in 1836
   Settlers

Scottish immigrant William Munroe came to Gadsden County as a boy of 16 in 1836 from Inverness. One of 17 children, all of his worldly possessions were transported across the Atlantic in this sea chest marked with his initials. Munroe embodied the classic immigrant success story. Planter and merchant, he fathered 22 children from whom many Gadsden County families descend.

    20th Century

61. WWI Cast Iron Toy Soldiers
    20th Century

62. Kenneth MacGowan International Aviator License, (1918)
    20th Century

63. Letter from King George V to the Soldiers of the United States, (Apr 1918)
    20th Century

64. Edison-Mazda Light Bulb from in River Junction, FL, (1900-1920)
    20th Century

65. Pipes from River Junction, FL


This model was called the "hero" model and was probably used as a dueling pistol.

67. Telephone Receiver from River Junction, FL

68. Big Man, painting by Ray Chapman
    20th Century

Old Glory's Big Man won the World Grand Champion in 1950, the first time a horse both owned and trained outside Tennessee won the Grand Championship Stake. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Budd of Quincy, Florida and ridden by trainer Carl Edwards, Big Man was cheered and applauded by 14,000 people at the 1950 Celebration Grand Championship for his spectacular speed and form.

    20th Century

In the late 1920s, a growing need for hydroelectric power led to the construction of a dam and power plant at the Jackson Bluff Formation on the Ochlockonee River. As a result, an 8,800-acre reservoir formed in the floodplains above the dam. The new lake's proximity to the cities of Tallahassee and Quincy led to its name, Lake Talquin, home to recreational fishing and the Lake Talquin State Park. The Hinson Dock on Lake Talquin was built at the end of World War II.

70. Casual Times, painting by Margaret Edwards Cooksey
    20th Century

Born and raised in Gadsden County, Margaret Edwards Cooksey began painting in the early 1970s. Endowed with natural artistic talent, she studied art locally to hone her skills. Her favorite subjects are regional wildlife and rural landscapes.
71. Fall Hunt, painting by Margaret Edwards Cooksey
    20th Century

72. Gadsden County canvas backdrop by W. Crispin, likely used at State Fairs
    Industry

Gadsden County proudly displayed its agricultural products at the State Fair. This canvas backdrop painted by W. Crispin was likely a used in the county's display at one of the fairs held annually in Tampa, FL. It was recycled the following year. There is an equally spectacular painting on the reverse side.

73. Tobacco Barn, watercolor painting by R. Patrick Elliot
    Industry

74. West Gadsden Trading Company Token, (1909)
    Industry

Tokens such as this were issued as payment to workers. In turn, they would use them only in stores where they were accepted as trade for goods.

75. Cigar Boxes and labels (San Faro, Havana-Good, Nordacs)
    Industry

76. Max Wedeles Tobacco Company Flyers
    Industry

Arriving in 1896 German immigrant Max Wedeles lived and worked in Quincy. In 1912 he incorporated under the firm name of Max Wedeles Tobacco Company. To advertise and sell their tobacco, the Max Wedeles Tobacco Company exhibited at fairs, giving out flyers such as these.

77. Agricultural tool, row spacing wheel
    Industry

This tool was used in tobacco fields to create equal spaces between tobacco plants.

Figure 5 - Wedeles Tobacco Fair Exhibit
Daily activities on a tobacco farm included bunching and tying tobacco leaves, punching a time card, keeping records through tallying, and inspecting the finished cigars.

The American Sumatra Tobacco Company, established in 1910, was comprised of 34,000 acres in Georgia and Florida. The AST Company was formed by the merger of twelve growers with 41 shade-tobacco farms. AST produced one-half of all tobacco in the region in the early 1900s.

At the height of operations the American Sumatra Tobacco Company employed 2,000 people, mostly women and children. Managers and employees dressed in their Sunday best assemble in front of the company's headquarters on Jefferson street.

This painting represents land operations of the American Sumatra Tobacco Company. Tobacco barns and cheesecloth covered shade-grown tobacco and be seen sharing the land with the company's cattle herd, an important component of successfully grown tobacco. This particular location later became Imperial Nurseries in 1950.

Tying up, provided a cord support for shade tobacco plants. The large leaf plants were fast growing and needed support as it grew to the top of the shade.

Cheesecloth was sewed and hung to overhead wires to cover tobacco plants. This shading made the tobacco leaves lighter in color and silky in texture. This process demanded higher prices. This painting is based on a photograph of workers at Davis Farm, Sawdust.

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The mid-morning Florida sun beat down on the cheesecloth canopy protecting the 8-ft stalks of shade tobacco. If not for its protective covering, this precious crop—a centerpiece of Gadsden agriculture for much of the 20th century—would wither and burn in the intense heat. The eerie quiet of this scene, this isolated moment in time, offers no preview to the story that would begin to unfold early the next morning.

The following morning, the summer-long harvest and curing process began and the scene was abuzz with activity. The scene would be repeated all over the county and, indeed, all over the North Florida/South Georgia region. Here, I chose to illustrate an iconic image of the south that I lived every summer from the time I was 8 years old to the early 1970’s, when Gadsden County began the transition from tobacco to vegetables, corn and cattle as its primary agricultural offering to the world. This scene and this crop, however, left an indelible impression on all who earned their living from the processing of its massive green leaves.

The farmers, who were very hands-on and spent significant time in the fields, often knew the names and family of every farm hand. They frequently developed significant relationships with key workers based on mutual respect. Many workers lived in small houses on the farm year-round. This was the case with my family.

Working, sweating and singing in the tobacco fields of Gadsden County created a deep respect for and genuine love of nature, which set the tone for my life as an artist. Growing up in Quincy, surrounded by family, faith and hard work gave me a solid foundation and the confidence to pursue my dreams. This is the reason much of my art has been built around the notion that “southern is a state of mind”

This home in the Greek Revival style features red Doric columns, with a large red "G" featured in the triangular pediment of the porch. Many homes in Greensboro and across Gadsden County feature these architectural attributes of columned porches with triangular pediments.

Built in 1912 by James A. and Margaret Leila "Maggie" Shepard Dezell features Prairie Style and Arts & Crafts features that served as a family home for 46 years. James Dezell moved to Gadsden County in 1886 and married Gadsden County native Maggie in 1893. James A. Dezell was the first mayor of Greensboro, serving several terms following the first organizational meeting in 1908. Obviously confident in the materials and techniques he chose for the house, he constructed the home close to the ground, with fine craftsmanship and windows that crown the roofline--giving light to the entry hall.

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91. Chief Justice Charles Henry Dupont's Law Texts
Settlers

The books on display were used by Dupont in his law practice. They are inscribed in Dupont's hand. Today these books are in the law library of Lines, Hinson and Lines. Alexander L. Hinson and Blucher B. Lines are lineal descendants of Judge Dupont.

92. Daguerreotype of Charles Henry Dupont and wife, Mary Ann DeGraffenreid Hobson (1842)
Settlers

The daguerreotype (pronounced da-gehr-oh-type) is a photographic process invented around 1837. A daguerreotype itself is a positive made in the camera on a silvered copper plate. The surface is very fragile, and mirror-like, as the image is made directly onto the silvered surface, making each image an original with no copying capabilities (there is no negative). To protect them, cases have a cover lined with velvet or plush, thus providing a dark surface to reflect into the plate for viewing.

93. Photograph of Chief Justice Charles Henry Dupont
Settlers

Charles Henry Dupont was one of the first lawyers to come to territorial Gadsden County to practice law. Born in the Beaufort District of South Carolina to French Huguenot parents in 1804, he commenced his law practice in Quincy in 1827. While he did not study law as law students do today, he graduated in 1826 from Franklin College, which was the antecedent college of the University of Georgia.

Dupont had an active political life in addition to his law practice. He was the first state senator from Gadsden County first elected in 1842. He also served with the House of Representatives and was the county judge. When Florida became a state in 1845, the Constitution was subsequently changed to permit popular election of the Court. Dupont was elected to the Supreme Court in 1853 and was elected Chief Justice in 1859. He served through the Civil War. Again the Constitution was changed and he was appointed by Governor Walker to the Court in 1865, continuing to serve as Chief Justice until 1868.

He was married to Mary Ann deGraffenreid Hobson. They had five children. One of his daughters, Mary Ann Dupont Lines, was a founder of Phi Mu sorority at Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia. He died in Quincy on October 14, 1877.

In addition to the practice of law, Dupont was an early planter of tobacco and cotton. In 1875 he hosted the Southern writer Sidney Lanier who included an essay by Dupont on the cultivation of figs in his travelogue of Florida. The Judge honored his French heritage in naming his plantation Alsace. It was located generally where the Quincy Airport is located today.

This photograph of Dupont belonged to William Dupont Lines, the founding partner of Lines, Hinson and Lines and its predecessor firms beginning in 1939. Lines, Hinson and Lines is the oldest continuing law firm in Gadsden County.

94. Glenn Julia School photograph, (1886)
Settlers
Margaret Elizabeth Love, Handmade sampler, (c. 1842)  
Settlers

On this sampler, you will find the initials of the parents and children in Margaret Elizabeth Love's family. John Jay Rice Love was the grandfather of Sara May Love, a founding supporter of the Gadsden Arts Center.

Quincy Academy Ledger with list of students and tuition paid and cash paid by the Board of Trustees (1835)  
Settlers

The Quincy Academy was incorporated in 1832. Private institutions such as this were common in newly settled frontier areas. Rates were reasonable and the Academy enjoyed a good reputation, attracting both boarding students and day students. Both male and female students attended the Quincy Academy. This ledger book contains the names of children of early pioneer settlers.

Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare (1847), textbook that belonged to C. E. L. Allison, son of governor A. K. Allison  
Settlers

Still popular today, Shakespeare's works were studied in the early schools of Gadsden County. This 1847 textbook belonged to C.E.L. Allison, son of Gov. A.K. Allison.

The Vision; or Hell Purgatory, & Paradise of Dante Alighieri." 1844 textbook  
Settlers

Gadsden County was settled in part by college educated men and women. Considered essential to any scholar's library, Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy was written in the early 14th century and is widely considered a preeminent work of Italian literature.

Pair of gold wire spectacles  
Settlers

Ambrotype of Mollie and Celia Sibley, students at Wesleyan (1862)  
Settlers

Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia was considered the premier higher education institution for many Gadsden County young women. Remarkably, the daughters of Mr and Mrs Charles Sibley attended Wesleyan in the midst of the Civil War.

Ephemera, made by children: paperdoll, Forget Me Nots, Paper Celtic Knot & Poem (early 1800s), calligraphy sample  
Settlers

Recently discovered pressed between the pages of an 1857 edition of Webster's Dictionary are these small paper items made by the children of Dr. J.M.W. Davidson. Hidden away and preserved for nearly 150 years, they were discovered along with pressed flowers and tree leaves.

Assorted children's marbles.  
Settlers

Usually made of glass or clay, marbles vary in size. They are often collected for nostalgia and their aesthetic colors. This simple game would have entertained children as they attempted to knock their peers' marbles out of play.

Small turned wood bowl, inscribed JM Davidson on bottom. Student desk accessory (early 1800s)  
Settlers

Inscribed in ink is JM Davidson's name on the bottom of this small wood turned bowl. Possible used as desk accessory when he attended the University of Virginia in the early 1800s, it may have been used as an ink well or pen nib holder.
104. William H. McKeown, Gretna Schoolhouse, built 1908, (2013), watercolor

Settlers

In the late 1800s the railroad pushed further west into Gadsden County. A settlement was established in Gretna in 1897 by the Humphrey Company. After Gretna was platted as a town in 1905 there was a desire to have a school in the town limits. One of the men who settled the area was W.P. Humphrey. In 1908, he with wife Sarah and J.W. Mahaffey and his wife Addie deeded the land for the school to the Board of Public Instruction for $100. R.A. Gray, who later became Florida's longest serving Secretary of State, was a principal here from 1910-1911. The building served as a school until 1935. The school has since been used as a health clinic, town hall, Masonic Hall, community center and for church related activities.

105. Quilt, by Lucy Fitzgerald Jones Shepard, (c. 1885)

Settlers

This c. 1885 crazy quilt was hand sewn and embroidered by a group of young Quincy women, and includes unique designs by Lucy Shepard. Crazy quilts did not use any repeating motifs or patterns. The fabrics in this quilt were donated by residents of Quincy, including the silk linings of men's hats. Featured are unique stitches with names like chain, feather, lazy daisy and fern stitch. Some stitches were very complicated such as the Parisian stitch found in this quilt. Exotic animals and oriental motifs popular at the time are seen throughout the quilt.

106. Tin Canteen, like those carried by the Confederate cavalry

Settlers

While wooden canteens were most common, thousands of tin drum canteens were issued to regular Confederate troops. Like their wooden counterparts, these tin canteens were made by private contractors for the Confederate Government. The example displayed would most likely have been carried on the saddle of a cavalry trooper due to the short leather carrying strap.
107. Thomas, Griswold & Co. Cavalry Saber, like those carried by the Confederate Cavalry
Settlers

This is an example of a popular New Orleans-made cavalry saber, by Thomas, Griswold & Co., that is representative of those carried by the Confederate Cavalry. The company is best known for the solid brass scabbards they created at the corner of Canal and Royal Streets in New Orleans, from Aug 1861 to April 1862. This popular sword was envied by officers, both North and South, during the Civil War, including those from Florida.

108. Richmond Carbine, like those carried by the Confederate Cavalry
Settlers

Capture of the U.S. Arsenal and Armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia on April 18, 1861 was a most important event for the manufacture of arms within the Confederacy. While the defeated Union garrison set fire to the arsenal and armory buildings, Confederate forces were able to salvage the gunmaking machinery, materials and several thousand unfinished arms. The machinery, materials and arms were then removed to Richmond, Virginia where everything was eventually installed in the Virginia Armory. So it was with these captured war materials that the South was initially able to equip and arm her military forces. Produced in Richmond, with the machinery and materials taken from Harpers Ferry, site of John Brown’s infamous raid, is this carbine dated 1862 and displayed here as an example of the arms carried by Confederate cavalry.

109. Ginger beer bottle
Settlers

110. Beer bottle
Settlers

111. Griswold Revolver, representative of those carried by Confederate Infantry Officers
Settlers

An industrial pioneer based in Georgia, Samuel Griswold's cotton gin factory was used to make weapons after the outbreak of the Civil War. This revolver is representative of those carried by Confederate Infantry Officers.

112. Union belt buckle
Settlers

113. C.S.A. belt buckle, like those worn by the Confederate Infantry
Settlers

The C.S.A. Arms Factory, established by Louis Froelich and B. Estvan produced many weapons and accouterments for the Confederate Infantry from 1861-1864. A small part of their business, C.S.A Arms Factory produced around 1,700 sets of infantry accouterments in their three years of operation. While there were literally hundreds of buckle designs used by various Confederate military and naval units, the rectangular C. S. A. sand-cast brass buckle held up more Southern pants than any other pattern. Referred to as the Atlanta Arsenal style, the buckle displayed here was common to Florida troops serving in the Western armies.
114. Photograph of Col. R.H.M. Davidson
Settlers

These photographs were generally taken by itinerate photographers travelling by wagon. During the War, they found a literal “gold mine” of business among the armies – both North and South. Many books have been written about America’s greatest conflict, but nothing brings to life this tragic conflict like seeing the faces of the men who fought it.

Quincy native Col. R.H.M. Davidson was a U.S. Congressman representing the First Congressional District of Florida. After serving two terms in the Florida House of Representatives, he was elected to the Florida Senate in 1860. He left the Florida Senate in 1862 to join the Confederate army rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sixth Florida Infantry. He was wounded in battle in 1864, ending his military service. He returned to Quincy and in 1877, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives serving seven terms.

115. Ambrotype of Confederate soldier, like those sent made by soldiers to send home to their families
Settlers

Ambrotypes are photographs created on glass as a positive image (i.e. no negative is created like the photographic process). In the United States, ambrotypes first came into use in the early 1850s. While much more difficult than a snapshot today, ambrotypes were used during the Civil War so that soldiers could send them home to their families. The example displayed here is of an unknown Southern soldier speaks volumes on behalf of the many men from Gadsden County who served in the War.

116. Minné balls
Settlers

117. Daguerreotype of Gov. A. K. Allison
Settlers

Gov. A. K. Allison was acting Governor of Florida in 1853 and became 6th Governor of Florida on Apr. 1, 1865. He was the last Confederate Governor of Florida resigning in May, 1865. Gov. Allison went into hiding the day before the Federal troops occupied Tallahassee, following the end of the Civil War. He was captured by Union troops on June 19, 1865 and held for several months at Ft. Pulaski.

118. Gen. A. K. Allison tie ring give to him by his friend, E. Simpson
Settlers

119. A. K. Allison Secession Pen
Settlers

120. Fighting Knife, like those carried by the Confederate Infantry
Settlers

The fighting knife Jim Bowie made famous at the Alamo was also the type of knife every Confederate soldier thought that he had to have early in the War. The example displayed here is known as a Type One pattern. These knives were issued out of the Georgia State Arsenal located in Milledgeville, Georgia. Note that the soldier’s initials are carved in reverse.

121. Froelich foot officers sword, representative of swords carried by Confederate Infantry officers
Settlers

Louis Froelich (a German immigrant) and B. Estvan (a Hungarian) went into business around 1861, forming the "C.S.A. Arms Factory" in which swords, bayonets, lances, sabers, and knives were fashioned for Confederate forces. This infantry sword is one of the
thousands of infantry weapons provided by the C.S.A. Arms Factory.

122. Wooden canteen, like those carried by the Confederate Infantry Settlers

123. Enfield Rifle with strap and bayonet, like those carried by the Confederate Infantry, (1853) Settlers

The Confederates imported more Enfields during the course of the War than any other small arm, buying from private contractors and gun runners. It has been estimated that over 900,000 P53 Enfields were imported to America and saw service in every major engagement. The example displayed here, complete with the triangular bayonet is representative of this principal Confederate infantry weapon. It is documented by personal correspondence, that Florida troops (which included men from Gadsden County) were issued new Enfield rifle-muskets just before the Battle of Atlanta.


Tobacco workers in a barn hand stringing tobacco leaves onto wooden slates. The slats were hung between rafters where they leaves would cure to a golden brown color. Specialized electric sewing machines were used on some farms. This painting is based on a photograph of workers in a tobacco barn at Davis Farm, Sawdust.

125. Wood carving of Havana agriculture 20th Century

126. Wood carving of Havana town 20th Century

127. Wood carving of Havana Iron Bridge 20th Century

128. Gadsden County postcards from the 20th Century 20th Century

This extensive collection of Gadsden County business and landmarks advertising postcards dating from the late 1800s belong to collector David Gardner, Executive Director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

129. Pecan and Walnut Bowl by Elvin Kever 20th Century

A superb craftsman, Elvin Kever turned his woodturning talents into art by making hand-turned bowls, vases, and vessels. Each piece he created was crafted to reflect the beauty of the wood and its patterns. Elvin Kever was a popular artist and friend to the Gadsden Arts Center; he sold art in the Gadsden Arts Center Gift Shop, participated in many exhibition such as Art in Gadsden, and volunteered for art demonstrations.

130. Randy Brienen, Quincy Dome, (2013), acrylic 20th Century

131. Debra Brienen, Local Folks, (2013), oil 20th Century
Coca-Cola (introduced in 1886) and Pepsi-Cola (introduced as Brad's drink in 1893) were the most popular carbonated soft drink companies, but that doesn't mean there weren't others. References to the Lime Cola Bottling Company in Gadsden County were mentioned in 1917 in the Gadsden County Times. Despite the fact that the company never had any success in Gadsden County, this mural still remains today.

Mark Welch 'Mr. Pat' Munroe built the Pat Munroe House for his first wife, Edith Adelaide Walker, in 1893. The couple had 10 children before her death in 1896. 'Mr. Pat' later married Mary Frances Gray in 1912. Eight children were born from this union. 'Mr. Pat' was the son of William Munroe, an immigrant from Inverness, Scotland. Serving for 50 years as president of the Quincy State Bank, 'Mr. Pat' was regarded as a prominent and respected businessman. His family occupied the house until 1972 after which John Welch Bates, a grandson of 'Mr. Pat,' purchased the home from the estate of Mary G. Munroe. The home was then donated to the City of Quincy. The Quincy Garden Club has leased the home since that time. The Pat Munroe House is built of heart pine in an unadorned Victorian style. Notable features of the house include stained glass windows, sculptured mantels, and plaster ceiling medallions. The basic structure of the house has not changed since 1893. The grounds, however, have gone from a farm-like atmosphere with chickens, a cow, and vegetable garden, to a well-landscaped area with camellias, azaleas, and other plants of interest.
135. Coca Cola Syrup barrel
20th Century

Bottling companies and shops that sold Coca-Cola as a fountain drink were shipped barrels of syrup to make the popular beverage.

136. Coca-Cola Sign, 6¢
20th Century

This rare sign from a Coca-Cola machine reflects a time when the popular drink cost 6 cents. This sign is rare because in most cases, the price of Coca-Cola went from 5 to 10 cents, especially in vending machines since they could only accept nickels.

137. Coca-Cola bottles in display case
20th Century

For a brief time, the original Quincy Coca-Cola Bottling Company operated on Adams Street, one half block from the courthouse square. In 1907, the new brick building formerly housing a bakery became Quincy's first Coca-Cola franchise. The iconic drink was first delivered in 1908. Straight-sided bottles were used between 1900 and 1915, with the widely recognized contour bottles arriving in 1915.

138. Bill Abel, Coca-Cola Advertisement on a Barn, watercolor
20th Century

Barns and country stores across the South were popular places to display metal signs advertising the refreshing drink, Coca-Cola. This rusted remnant was painted by Bill Abel.

139. Joel Sampson, Coca-Cola Mural, watercolor
20th Century

At Coca-Cola, painted wall signs were one of the earliest forms of advertising, dating back to the 1890s. Owners of properties around the country often rented wall space to advertisers like Coca-Cola. In 1910 approximately 25 percent of the company’s entire advertising budget was devoted to wall signs. The signs were typically in high-traffic areas — at busy intersections or next to railroad tracks that carried passenger trains from point to point. This faded mural is a remnant of the golden era of hand painted advertising wall murals.

Figure B - Coca-Cola Bottles Throughout the Years
140. Mary Barber Cox, The Apalachicola Northern Depot in 1907, pen and ink
   Industry

   This depot is the last original Apalachicola Northern Railroad (AN Railway) depot in existence. The AN Railway, a shortline railroad, has operated since 1907 and still runs on 96 miles of track between Port St. Joe, FL and Chattahoochee, FL.

41. John Raymond (Ray) Bevis, Mt. Pleasant Depot, Mt. Pleasant, FL, (c. 1916), watercolor
   Industry

   Ray Bevis was born in Mt. Pleasant, Florida in 1899. The home he grew up in was just down the lane from the Seaboard Railroad Depot. From young adulthood Ray painted primarily local scenes in watercolor and oil. Painting remained a hobby he enjoyed throughout his life. It is believed that Ray Bevis made this painting of the depot around 1916.

   Mt. Pleasant was a small but thriving rural community at the turn of the 20th century. The train brought the mail twice a day, and provided shipping service for produce and other items to and from the two general stores. Ray’s father, Charlie Bevis, owned a general store and watch repair shop just a few hundred yards from the depot. The post office was across the street from the depot, inside another general store owned by Daniel Grubb. Though the date the depot was built is unknown, Mt. Pleasant first became a rail stop in 1872 when the Jacksonville Pensacola & Mobile Railroad extended their rail line from Quincy to Chattahoochee. A train schedule published in 1881 lists arrival and departure times for Mt. Pleasant every day except Sunday.

142. "Where to Go, What to See  FREE 1940 Florida Map" from Gulf poster 
   Industry

   By the 1940s Florida had become a popular destination for automobile tourists. Free maps were available at most gas stations to help visitors navigate the state. This rare poster advertises "Where to go, what to see" in Florida.

143. Carl Cerniglia, Country Junction: 270 & 159, watercolor
   Industry

   This old Gulf Oil gas Station, a county landmark, once stood on the corner at the intersection of Shady Rest and Scotland Roads.

144. Gulf Oil Globes
   Industry

   Glass globes such as this one from the Gulf Oil Company sat atop gas pumps. The Gulf Oil station on the Highway US 90 coming into Quincy from the east, has been restored showing the interesting gas pump designs of years past.

145. Vintage Cast Aluminum Quincy License Plate Topper c. 1950s
   Industry

   World famous shade tobacco and tournament Bass fishing were two symbols that represented Quincy in the 1950s on this vintage cast aluminum license plate topper.
146. Luis Maza, Roxy Theater, (1958), oil on board, 20th Century

The Roxy Theater once stood at 12 W. Jefferson Street. It opened in 1929 in a converted tobacco packing house that was built in 1905. Until the opening of the Leaf Theater in the 1940s, it was a segregated theater called the Shaw Theater. Once it was changed to the Roxy Theater, it served strictly black audiences. Now demolished, Luis Maza memorializes the unique architecture of this historic building.

147. Roxy Theatre Movie Advertisements 20th Century

From the films listed, it is likely that this movie listing dates from around the 1960s.


The Wilson House (circa 1910) is the only "folk" Victorian/Queen Anne house in Quincy's Pepper Hill, an African American neighborhood. The Wilson House has been a home, boarding house, and hotel. In the 1960's civil rights leaders sought shelter there.

149. Thomas Harris, Drawing of Dean Mitchell, Crayola ® Crayon 20th Century

Dean came to art class at Carter Paramore High School during his freshman year and told his teacher he was going to give up art because he agreed with some family members that he did not have the talent or ability to compete as an artist.

His teacher, Thomas Harris, sat Dean down on a concrete bench and spoke the truth: "Dean, you have a feel for composition that I have never seen in my life. You can learn technique just like you learned to read and write. If you work really hard and develop your technique, the sky is going to be the limit." Harris spoke the truth and Mitchell's art career has soared ever since.
The 20th Century was a century of enormous change—two World Wars, the Cold War, political upheaval, great technological advances, man even went to the moon... the list could go on, but we all experience and remember historical events differently, in large part those events have affected our personal lives. I have tried in this portrait/collage to imagine how an elderly gentleman living in Gadsden County for most of the twentieth century viewed that century.

I know that I can not really know how such a person saw this period of history, but I have come to know many African Americans, and feel I have heard something of what it was like through their stories.

We came to Tallahassee in 1966. My husband Lynn took a position teaching soil science and horticulture, one of the first white professors at FAMU. In 1969, we came to Gadsden County, and have lived here ever since on our small farm east of Havana. We moved to the area during the first year of public school integration. Our four sons went to the newly integrated schools, so we experienced first-hand what “separate but not equal” meant.

The elderly gentleman I have portrayed is representative, not a real individual. The newspaper articles are from the Havana Herald and the Gadsden County Times. I used photos from the archives of both papers dating to the 1940’s, and researched previous events. Some events did not occur in Gadsden County, but similar events happened here.

Happily times are changing, and we have been able to participate in this change—illustrated by the "Signs of Hope" at the top of the painting. We're still learning how to live together in harmony, but hopefully we are on our way.

Sara May Love, a native of Quincy was inspired to support the physical development of the Gadsden Arts Center because of her love and appreciation of art. The main gallery of Gadsden Arts was named for her.

From the fields, tobacco leaves were brought to the barns for curing. A labor-intensive process at all stages, the workers would stand at stringing stations and string together "hands" of tobacco. Thirty to forty tobacco leaves would be hand strung with a needle and string pushed through the stems and tied to a wooden stick. These sticks were then lifted and hung from barn rafters for curing.

Painted in the late 1990s, this portrait was conceived when artist Jerry Ongley passed by Mr. Troy, one of Ongley’s insurance clients, as he sat in the Coon Bottom area, east of Havana. Ongley asked if he could take Mr. Troy’s photo, to which he agreed. Years later, Ongley found the photo and decided to paint it. Mr. Troy was a long-standing member of the community and lived to see much of Gadsden County grow to its present size. Jerry Ongley also lived and worked in Gadsden County.
154. Allan Bostick, Vase  
20th Century

Allan Bostick was a Gadsden County artist who was an early exhibitor at the Gadsden Arts Center.

155. Harris Wiltsher, As I Was Walking Around the Square, 2013, mixed media  
20th Century

"This is a reaction to the moment where I realized that open dialogue and feedback was key to my inclusion in this exhibition. My work has always been about education, inspection and cultural understanding. In my approach to this project I wanted to capture the history of Gadsden county in real time; explore opportunities to record the information from previous conversations; and implore the viewer to interact with the work from their own personal experiences. This is not just an extension of the essence for which my work begins but a departure from the expected imagery I have for so long reproduced."