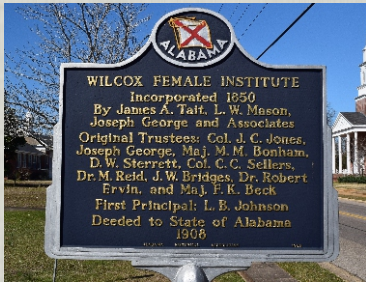




The Dale Masonic Lodge

Enjoy a BBQ plate lunch benefitting the Lodge and a tour of the building. The Lodge was organized at Dale Town (later Prairie Bluff) in 1827. When the town declined in the 1840's, members voted to move the lodge to Camden. The Dale Masonic Lodge building that's shown was built circa 1848. Union troops camped in this building while passing through Camden in 1865.



Wilcox Female Institute

Enjoy the Quilt Collection of Betty Kennedy and other Wilcox County memorabilia, while enjoying lunch prepared by Blue Spoon Catering Company.



GainesRidge Dinner Club

This historic antebellum structure is currently owned by Betty Kennedy who operates GainesRidge Dinner Club on the premises. This house was built in 1837 by Ebenezer Hearn, a Methodist Minister in the area. The home was acquired in 1898 by the family of the current owner and was a family residence until 1985 when it became GainesRidge Dinner Club. GainesRidge also has its share of ghost stories. It is included on the Alabama's Ghost Trail.



Canton Bend United Methodist Church

The Canton Bend United Methodist Church congregation was organized on December 12, 1897. In 1910, Percy Smith and Irvin Smith deeded land for the church building. This land adjoined the cemetery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Canton whose organization dated from the 1830's. (The Presbyterian Church later disbanded and its building was torn down.) The Canton Bend United Methodist Church building was erected beside the old cemetery during the years of 1912 and 1913. The cemetery beside the Canton Bend Methodist Church dates back to the early years of Old Canton.



Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center

Formed as a non-profit economic development program to market high quality products from the Black Belt region of Alabama. The gallery showcases art work, sculpture, pottery, woodwork, baskets, jewelry, books, and much more. Located at 209 Claiborne Street, Camden.



Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal

Houses the Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce. Brochures and information are available here. The ferry runs from 6:40 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. daily. Located on Hwy. 28 W, Camden.

WILCOX HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS
*Homes of the
River's Bend Tour
2017*

March 25, 2017



SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Tickets:

\$20 Adults \$10 Youth
6 and under free

Tickets available at
Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal
& Black Belt Treasures

For advanced tickets/group rates
or additional information:
334-682-4929
www.wilcoxareachamber.com



Black Belt Treasures
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER



**Yaupon
Matthews-Tait-Rutherford Home**

This antebellum home was built by William T. Matthews who came to Camden by way of Haiti. Construction began in 1840 and took five years to complete. The home is now situated among large oak trees, but was originally surrounded by "Yaupon" shrubs from which it derived its name. It features sliding interior doors and plantation windows making it possible to convert the entire first floor into a dance floor. The most distinguishing feature about the home is the full basement, the only home of this era known to have this feature. The home and property were purchased by the Tait family around the turn of the century and remained in this family until being purchased by the Rutherfords in 1999.



The Beck-Miller-Bonner Law Office

This historic building located in Camden's downtown historic district served as the law office for Colonel Franklin King Beck. Colonel Beck, commanded the 23rd Alabama Infantry. On October 12, 1864, Colonel Beck was mortally wounded at the Battle of Resaca, Georgia. After the turn of the century, the building became the law office of Joseph Neely Miller and his younger brother, Benjamin Meek Miller (Governor of Alabama from 1931-1935), and in later years, William Joel Bonner. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a contributing property to the Wilcox County Courthouse Historic District. In 1995, the building was acquired by the Wilcox Historical Society. With the assistance of a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission, the Beck-Miller-Bonner Law office was fully restored in 1999.



**Liberty Hall
McDowell-Harris Home**

John Robert McDowell built this home of heart pine timbers cut from plantation lands and bricks baked in a kiln near the construction site. The year was 1850 when the McDowells moved into the mansion, which a daughter-in-law, Julia Tait McDowell, was to call "Liberty Hall". Julia originated the name to signify the open house of hospitality of the McDowell family. With its two round and two square columns, Liberty Hall is a strikingly individual example of antebellum architecture. The central columns are of the Ionic order, which is unusual in Wilcox County Plantation homes. Original furnishings, family portraits and other heirlooms are found throughout the home. It remains in the McDowell family still today. Renovations of the home are still in progress.



**River Bluff Plantation
Beck-Bryant-Talbot Home**

This home was built around 1847 for William King Beck, a nephew of William Rufus King, Vice-President of the United States. Like many men of the Old South, Beck combined his law practice with cotton planting and achieved considerable local prominence. The home is a large Greek Revival Cottage with a recessed porch supported by octagonal columns. The columns and the "eared" architraves framing the interior window and door openings strongly link this building to Alexander Bragg as the builder. According to local history, J. D. Bryant, who owned the home in the late 1800's altered the hipped roof line from the original form. The home is now owned by Doug and Judy Talbot of New Orleans, Louisiana.



**Dry Fork Plantation
The Original Tait Family Plantation**

Dry Fork is one of the oldest documented homes still standing in Wilcox County and is a fine example of late Federal style double-pile house form containing examples of folk versions of Federal style woodwork. It was constructed for James Asbury Tait during the years of 1832-1834. The original house required more than 25,000 board feet of cut lumber, and the roof was covered with 6,000 wooden shingles. The chimneys required 12,000 bricks, made from clay on the plantation. Gail and James Edwin (Jim) Tait, great-great grandson of the builder, have beautifully restored the original home and have constructed majestic additions to the original structure. Appurtenances and gardens result in a one of a kind property.



**White Columns
Tait-Starr-Woodson Home**

White Columns at Possum Bend is a nationally known Wilcox County plantation home. It was built by Major Felix Tait for his family home during the latter 1850's. Major Tait served in the Mexican War and in the Confederate Army. Following the War Between the States, Samuel Tepper, English born Camden resident obtained the home from Major Tait. He presented it to his daughter, Molly and her husband, Dr. Lucius Ernest Starr as a wedding present. The Starr family moved into White Columns on January 1, 1880 and descendants still reside in the home today.