

Burnt Corn & Old Scotland

From Courthouse Square, go two blocks south from the Courthouse on Hwy 21, just beyond Cannon Station, veer left on Drewry Road. (Co Rd 20) (.4 miles from Courthouse Square); it is .9 miles to Vanity Fair Drive from the square (on your right will be the VF Factory Outlet Store — stop here if you like to shop — this place has great bargains on women's intimate apparel, jeans and sportswear).

Continue on to the next landmark, the Bermuda Grocery. As you travel Drewry Road, you will pass Eastwood Subdivision and Baptist Church, and the old English home, a white frame house on your right at approximately 2.3 miles from the square. At 5.2 miles from town, take the right fork in the road past Hornady Metal Works.

As you drive to Bermuda and Burnt Corn, you will pass through land dedicated to pasture as well as pine plantations and hardwood forests. There are also a great variety of wildflowers on this route. In the fall, the red spider lilies and yellow goldenrod are in full bloom.

At the former Bermuda Grocery, note the Old Federal Road Granite Marker. The Old Federal Road is the entire eastern border of Monroe County. The Old Federal Road was built from Washington, D. C. to New



John Watkins House, 1820s

Orleans, Louisiana in 1806. This road was essentially the same as the Indian Trail followed by William Bartram in 1775-1776.

Continue east on County Road 5 in front of the Bermuda Grocery. (If you turn right at the Bermuda Grocery, you are on Conecuh County Road 5, which will take you to Repton). Continue straight to get to Burnt Corn.

At 11.2 miles from the Courthouse Square you will cross over the west branch of Burnt Corn Creek. One mile further north, on your left, is the location of Burnt Corn

Springs and the site of the second Post Office established in Monroe County, Alabama Territory, October 1817. In 1823, the Post Office was moved north to the present day community of Burnt Corn.

At 14.3 miles from Courthouse Square, you will dead end at a T-shaped intersection. Turn right and proceed to Burnt Corn, via the Old Federal Road. At 14.8



Lowrey Trust Store at Burnt Corn, 1890

miles, you are in front of Bethany Baptist Church (on your left). On your right, is the home of the late Samuel G. and Evelyn Lowrey. This home, now used by hunters, is owned by the J.F.B. Lowrey Trust. The Bethany Baptist Church is a property owned and maintained by Monroe County Museum. The church was organized in 1821. There is a small cemetery, and to the right of the church is another Old Federal Road Marker.

Burnt Corn is one of Monroe County's oldest settlements. It was here that the Great Pensacola Trading Path, or Wolf Trail, intersected the Old Federal Road. The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek however did not take place in the vicinity of the community of Burnt Corn. The initial skirmish of the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814 took place on July 27, 1813, some 20 miles southeast, where the Wolf Trail from Pensacola forded Burnt Corn Creek in present day Escambia County. The town itself maintains its original flavor with several of the buildings still intact, cared for by the J.F.B. Lowrey Trust.

The Lowrey Trust Store originally housed the Burnt Corn Post Office, which was closed by the U. S. Postal Service under protest from local residents in 1998. The store was built by Mr. James K. Kyser who became the Postmaster in January 1891. The upstairs once housed meetings of the Masons and the Burnt Corn Methodist Church. The store still houses its original rolling ladders, and some old merchandise is on display.

Mr. Kyser built the general store, the cotton gin and the Victorian house across the road from the general store. In 1910, J.F.B. Lowrey purchased all of these properties from Mr. Kyser. Next door to the right is the Burnt Corn Methodist Church, founded in 1913. A small cemetery sits to the rear of this property.

If you continue to the north past the Lowrey Trust Store about 1/2 mile, you will approach the John Watkins House. Built in the 1820s, the two and a half story structure with lower wing extension presents an interesting architectural design. Dr. John Watkins, one of the early and few physicians in Monroe County, Mississippi Territory, moved to Burnt Corn in 1819, served in the Alabama Legislature and also became Postmaster in 1825. Turn around and go back south.

From Burnt Corn travel south, but do not turn left on County Road 5 to Bermuda, instead continue on east on County Road 30 to Peterman. At 8.5 miles from Burnt Corn. Peterman was at one time a thriving rail town, in the days of the passenger railroad. The old depot and some of the original buildings in Peterman are property of the Peterman Historical Society. This group sponsors the annual Peterman Station Arts & Crafts Fair, which is always held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and brings thousands of visitors to the county. Peterman is also the site of a recent movie set for "Mi Amigo," a western musical written by Mobile songwriter Milton Brown.

Proceed to the top of the hill by the



Old Scotland Presbyterian Church

depot, and take a left on Old Peterman Highway. Continue on Old Peterman Highway until you get to a Stop Sign that will be the intersection of Old Peterman Highway and State Highway 21. Continue straight across intersection and proceed to a t-shaped intersection where you will turn right on County Road 42.

On the way to Tunnel Springs, you will see an intersection with a dirt road on the left, paved road to the right. Turn left on dirt road. Go to a dirt road on the left at the top of a small hill. You will see a small, old sign pointing left to Old Scotland Church. Old Scotland was settled by families from Georgia and the Carolinas, many of whose families immigrated to this country from Scotland and Ireland. It got its name due to the land's resemblance to the settlers' native country. The community at one time had the only high school in Monroe County. Scotland Church was originally made of logs and was replaced in 1837 by the wooden frame building now standing. By the 1920's most of the residents had moved to either Franklin or Monroeville, which forced the closure of its Presbyterian services. On the fifth Sunday of a summer month, descendants of the former church members meet to hold a picnic and homecoming on the church grounds. The churchyard houses graves of

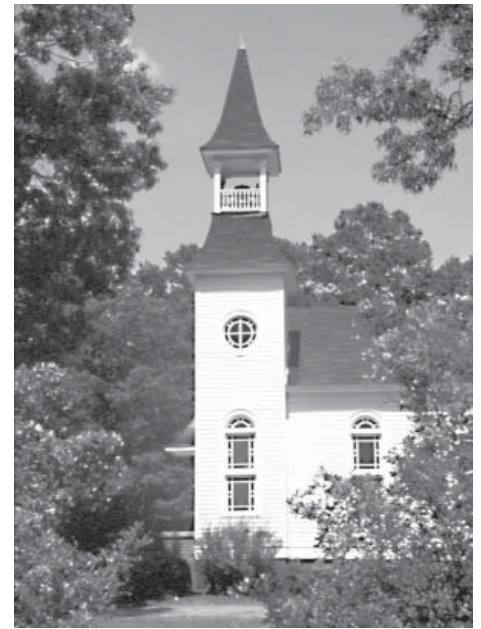
several Civil War soldiers.

Turn around, go back to Co. Rd. 42. Tunnel Springs-named for the old railroad tunnel that goes under the hill at Tunnel Springs. To your right is the two-story Georgian style home of Dennis and Diane Stallworth. Continue on to Philadelphia Baptist Church, which will be on your left. This beautiful old churchyard is surrounded by a wrought iron fence, and contains several graves dating from mid-1800.

Continue on to the intersection with Highway 21, and turn right by the now closed Drivers Grocery to return to the Courthouse Square.

For more history on this area, see Monroe County Heritage Museums publications Legacy – Burnt Corn and Historical Quarter – Tunnel Springs.

All information, including open hours and site availability are subject to change. Please call ahead for accurately updated information. Monroe County Museum (251) 575-7433, or visit MonroeCountyMuseum.org



Philadelphia Baptist Church

