

Hello Friends! Happy New Year!!

It's time to update everyone on the latest happenings at Fort Mims—and there are LOTS of things in store for 2012! As you already know, permission was granted by AHC for the building of the Blockhouse, the area was cleared by USA Archeologists, and we are hoping to get moving on the above-ground foundation shortly. After that comes the exciting beginning of placing the logs. With our funding campaign you remember that our goal is 100 sponsors—and we are 1/3 of the way to reaching this! PLEASE, if you want to help out, send your money! If you can't go for the entire log (\$300), just send what you can. Your name will be included with the others on the plaque, you'll receive a certificate to hang in your home, and you'll be helping complete this beautiful structure!! Mail your check made out to FMRA to 64960 Slaughter Lane, Stockton, AL 36579...(earmark: Log)

If you are unable to donate money, don't worry! There are a lot of ways you can assist in making the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a success! Just read on.

There is a new **SPRING EVENT**—our first **COOL WEATHER** happening!

Lots of folks who are intolerant of the late summer heat have been asking about this—so now we have one on the schedule.

Mark your calendar for **March 17 & 18**, 2012, 9a-2p. This event will be commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and its effects on this area (the Tensas Country). There will be encampments of settlers and militia who will highlight Fort Montgomery—built after Fort Mims was attacked and burned.

Skirmishes are planned between the US Regulars, militia, and Indians—ones that actually took place and are documented in history! Speakers will hold informative sessions about the War, what happened here, and all about Fort Montgomery!! A cannon, similar to those at Fort Montgomery, will be firing throughout the day. Bread and basket makers, sketch artists along with other crafters of the era, a horse-drawn wagon show, on-site excavation of the East Gate by the Archeology

Department of the University of South Alabama, and a tour of 'Heirloom and Medicinal Plants' led by Fred Nation of Fairhope are among other things to visit. Period Music will play throughout the day. An amazing 'Dusk Tactical' skirmish will provide a beautiful light display near sunset on Saturday afternoon. Times/Schedule of events will be posted in late February. Concessions will be available and provided by several groups, clubs and organizations.

Be sure to come see the progress being made at Fort Mims!!

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We had originally planned for our Dinner/Theatre to be on this date—but because of unforeseen happenings, it was necessary for us to schedule this in May. I have included a description of the event below, so watch for the advertisements of when tickets will be available in April!

In **May**, there will be a one-of-a-kind **DINNER/THEATRE!!** A professional theatre group will be putting on a play about Fort Mims and afterwards there will be a delicious seated dinner by a well-known caterer. **Reservations are required**, so get your tickets when sales begin in April. We will only be able to seat/serve a certain number of people. Don't miss this. It will be an evening to remember—campfires, lanterns and candles will illuminate dusk on one of the most historic sites in South Alabama! Flickering light from the encampment will provide a realistic pioneer setting, old-time music will play in the background, and you will be served an outstanding meal. Suggested dress for the occasion is 'Southern Pioneer'.

The cost for this enchanting evening will be \$50 per ticket. All monies, after expenses, will be used to complete the Blockhouse! Imagine, a play and a wonderful dinner for this amount—plus you will be helping us reach the goals for completing an awesome structure! Send your check to the above address with number of tickets requested and the tickets will be mailed back to you or held

until the day of the show. Please feel free to call with any questions you may have @ the North Baldwin Chamber 251-937-5665 or FMRA at 251-533-9024.

**\*\*\* ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF A FORT MIMS SURVIVOR? \*\*\***

A listing of surnames of those known to have survived is included in the SURVIVORS area of the website. Check them out and begin studying your family history. You may be a part of this amazing group of people! If your name is not listed and you know you are descended from a survivor, please contact us. We would love to hear your story and see your documentation to add to what is already available.

Be sure to look over the plans for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are attempting to locate as many Descendants of Survivors of Fort Mims as possible! How wonderful it would be to have these families come together during the bicentennial event in 2013! Begin making your plans now.