

Notable dates in Limestone County's 200 years

By Rebekah Davis

Limestone County Archivist

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, Limestone County celebrated its 200th birthday with the Limestone County Bicentennial Celebration at the Limestone County Event Center.

As part of the celebration, the Limestone County Archives compiled this list of notable dates in Limestone County history. Take a look at what we came up with. What would you add to the list?

- **Oct. 3, 1807** – Sims Settlement established on Elk River
- **1810** – Fort Hampton established to remove settlers from Chickasaw Territory
- **May 9, 1817** – Territory of Alabama establishes Elk County
- **Feb. 6, 1818** – Territory of Alabama establishes Limestone County from former Elk County
- **Nov. 16, 1818** – Mooresville incorporated
- **Nov. 19, 1818** – Athens incorporated
- **1820** – First Courthouse built
- **1822** – Athens Female Academy established, today's Athens State University
- **1825** – Second courthouse built
- **1835** – Third courthouse built
- **1854** – Trains start running through Limestone County
- **May 2, 1862** – Limestone County sacked and occupied by Union troops
- **Sept. 23-25, 1864** – Confederate troops take county in battles of Athens and Sulphur Creek Trestle
- **May 28, 1865** – Trinity School established to educate freed former slaves
- **1869** – Third courthouse rebuilt after 1864 fire
- **Mar. 28, 1873** – Elkmont incorporated
- **1874** – Limestone's George Houston elected governor
- **1900-1915** – County booms, new train depots and water system built
- **1919** – Fourth and current courthouse built
- **1922** – Ardmore incorporated
- **1934** – Athens contracts with TVA for electric power
- **1941-1945** – Limestone soldiers fight in World War II
- **1951** – Athens-Limestone Hospital opens
- **1967-1970** – TVA builds world's then-largest nuclear plant, Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant
- **1970** – Trinity school closes, ending school segregation Limestone County
- **Apr. 3, 1974** – Destructive tornadoes, 16 die
- **Apr. 27, 2011** – Destructive tornadoes, 4 die

- **1980-2018** – Limestone County booms with opening of I-65 and I-565 and industries locating in county
- **Jan. 10, 2018** – Toyota-Mazda announces plans to build \$1.6 billion auto plant in Limestone County

For more information about the Limestone County Bicentennial, and to stay up-do-date as additional bicentennial events are announced, like “Limestone County, Alabama, Bicentennial” on Facebook.

About the Archives:

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