A Guide to the

BRONZE MAP

at the Alabama Department of Archives & History







624 Washington Avenue Montgomery www.archives.alabama.gov



DAMN THE TORPEDOES - FULL SPEED AHEAD!

Mobile Bay

On August 5, 1864, U. S. Rear Admiral David Farragut led the Union attack on Mobile Bay. The Confederates protected the bay at Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines using mines, called torpedoes. When the lead ship struck a mine and sank, Farragut allegedly urged his men on with the cry of, "Damn the Torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead!"

ALABAMA BEACHES

Gulf Coast, Mobile and Baldwin counties

Alabama's sugar white beaches offer entertainment and relaxation for all the family.

GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESERVE

Western Mobile County

The Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge preserves several rich coastal habitats such as a tidal marsh, wetlands, and rich coastal habitats such as a tidal marsh, wetlands, and a pine savannah. It is home to endangered species such as the Gopher Tortoise.

AMERICA'S FIRST MARDI GRAS

Mobile, Mobile County

The first Mardi Gras celebration took place in the new Michael Krafft, organized the first mystic societies in the 1830s and the first official Mardi Gras parade in 1840.

IBERVILLE AND BIENVILLE FOUND MOBILE, 1702

Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff, Mobile County

5 Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and his brother, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, led the French in exploring French settlements along the Gulf coast. In 1702 Bienville began construction of Fort Louis de la Mobile, the first European settlement in Alabama, on a bluff twenty-seven miles up the Mobile River from Mobile Bay. The Mobile settlement moved down the river to its permanent site in 1711.

ATTACK ON FORT MIMS, 1813

Northern Baldwin County

6 Red Stick Creek Indians and Creeks who had sought refuge militia, and mixed-blood Creeks who had sought refuge Red Stick Creek Indians attacked settlers, Mississippi at a hastily built stockade at Samuel Mims's farm. Hundreds of settlers and Creeks died that day. The attack caused the Americans to raise militia units to fight the Indians in the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814, which led to the crushing defeat of the Creek Nation.

SURVEYING ELLICOTT'S LINE, 1799

31st parallel

Using a 67-foot-long surveyor's chain, U.S. Surveyor General Andrew Ellicott led a team to survey and establish the U.S. southern boundary with Spanish West Florida. This line remains the boundary between Alabama and Florida, except in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

WIREGRASS

Southeastern Alabama

The Wiregrass region of Alabama is named for a distinctive grass that grows in the sandy soil of the southern pine flatwoods.

ALABAMA PEANUTS

Southeastern Alabama

About one-half of all peanuts grown in the United States are grown in a 100-mile radius of Dothan. The nation's largest peanut festival, the National Peanut Festival, takes place in Dothan each fall.

BASILOSAURUS CETOIDES SWAM HERE 35 MILLION YEARS AGO

South Alabama

In the Cretaceous Era an ocean covered the southern half of the state. Remains of Alabama's state fossil, Basilosaurus cetoides, an ancient whale, have been found in Clarke, Choctaw, Washington, and other counties.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Monroeville, Monroe County

Monroeville native Harper Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 for her world-famous novel To Kill a Mockingbird.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Statewide, especially the Piney Woods of south Alabama

Alabama has long been a major producer of forest products, from turpentine and logging to the pulp and paper industry.

RATTLESNAKE RODEO

Opp, Covington County

In 1959, the Opp Jaycees organized the first Rattlesnake Rodeo. Held annually every year since 1964, the event attracts thousands to Opp in early April to enjoy musical performances and a karaoke and songwriter's contest, to select beauty pageant winners, to browse arts and crafts, and to visit displays of rattlesnakes.

BOLL WEEVIL MONUMENT

Enterprise, Coffee County

The Boll Weevil is a beetle that destroys cotton buds and bolls. After it entered Alabama in 1910, it devastated the cotton crop, and farmers in the Wiregrass turned to peanut farming, which actually proved more profitable. The citizens of Enterprise dedicated the Boll Weevil Monument in 1919 in mock appreciation of the Boll Weevil which compelled farmers to diversify their crops.

FORT RUCKER: HOME OF ARMY AVIATION

Dale County

The U.S. Army established Camp Rucker during World War II and consolidated all army aviation flight training at Fort Rucker in 1973. Today, Fort Rucker is home to the U.S. Army Aviation Center and the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

ST. STEPHENS, U.S. FLAG FIRST RAISED IN ALABAMA, 1799

Washington County

On May 5, 1799, U.S. Army Lieutenant John McClary took possession of Fort San Estaban from the Spanish government under the terms of the Treaty of San Lorenzo (1795). McClary raised the U.S. flag for the first time on soil that would eventually belong to Alabama.

SALT WORKS

Clarke County

Clarke County is home to salt deposits that have been important throughout history. As one of the main sources of salt for the Confederacy during the Civil War, the Clarke County salt works produced more than 600 bushels of salt each day. More than 5,000 men, mostly slaves, worked in the salt works from 1862 to 1865.

SHIPPING COTTON TO THE WORLD

Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers

18 Alabama's chief market commodity during the antebellum period was cotton. Steamboats transported cotton from the fields of the Black Belt to the port of Mobile for shipment to factories in the North and in Europe.

LONGLEAF PINE. ALABAMA STATE TREE

Statewide, but mostly south Alabama

19 Pinus palustris, the Southern Longleaf Pine, is Alabama's official state tree. It has the largest pine cone of any pine tree in the eastern United States. It can grow to be 100 feet tall, and its wood is often used for poles or tapped for turpentine and resin. Can you find the longleaf pines growing on the Archives lawn?

HANK WILLIAMS

Georgiana, Butler County

20 Country music legend Hank Williams was born in 1923 in Mount Olive, near Georgiana. His songs, such as "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" and "Your Cheatin' Heart," are still popular today.

PIONEER LIFE

Statewide

21 Most early settlers in Alabama, especially in the Wiregrass and Hill Country, lived a simple, resourceful life. With their own hands they grew, hunted, made, or traded for everything they had. You can learn more about pioneer life at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama in Troy, Pike County.

HOME OF GEORGE AND LURLEEN WALLACE

Barbour County

22 Four-time Alabama Governor George Wallace was born in Clio in 1919. His first wife, Lurleen, served as Alabama's first female governor. They lived in Clayton in the early years of their marriage.

ALABAMA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL WELL, 1944

Choctaw County

The State of Alabama granted Hunt Oil Company a permit to drill the A. R. Jackson Well No. 1, near Gilbertown, in January 1944. When the company discovered oil in February, Alabama became an oil producing state.

GEE'S BEND QUILTERS

Gee's Bend or Boykin, Wilcox County

People around the world recognize the African-American quilt makers from the Gee's Rend great facilities. artistry.

SHARECROPPING

Statewide

25 Many poor Alabama farmers, both white and black, became caught in a system of economic dependency following the Civil War. Without money to purchase land, they agreed to live on land owned by another farmer and pay him with a share of the crop produced. The system was common across the state well into the twentieth century.

BIRD DOG FIELD TRIAL MONUMENT

Union Springs, Bullock County

26 Since the 1920s, people of Bullock County have held bird dog competitions to gauge a hunting dog's ability to locate and point out quail. In 1996, the town of Union Springs erected a statue of an English Pointer as a monument to the Bird Dog Field Trial Hall of Fame.

LAKE EUFAULA

Barbour and Russell counties

27 Located on the Chattahoochee River, Lake Eufaula (also known as the Walter S. George Reservoir) is often referred to as the "Big Bass Capital of the World."

STATE SONG

Livingston, Sumter County

28 Julia Tutwiler wrote the words to Alabama's state song, "Alabama." She also served as the first president of Livingston State Normal School (now the University of West Alabama). Tutwiler was a pioneer social reformer as well as an educator, championing education for women and prison reform.

BLACK BELT PLANTATIONS

South Alabama Black Belt

29 Alabama's Black Belt region was named for its dark, fertile soil, well adapted to growing cotton. Before the Civil War, large cotton plantations, supported by slave labor, provided some planters with great wealth, allowing them to build lavish homes, some in the Greek Revival style.

ROOSTER BRIDGE

Demopolis, Marengo County

Rooster Bridge was partially financed by a public auction of roosters donated by famous personalities of the day of roosters donated by famous personalities of the day. Opened in 1925, the bridge spanned the Tombigbee River near Demopolis. Although demolished in 1980, we also know its replacement as Rooster Bridge.

VINE AND OLIVE COLONY: ALABAMIANS WELCOME FRENCH REFUGEES, 1817

Demopolis, Marengo County

31 Demopolis was founded in 1817 by exiled French supporters of Napoleon Bonaparte. The colonists attempted unsuccessfully to grow grapes and olives.

CATFISH FARMING

Statewide, especially western Black Belt counties

Alabama is the nation's second is get paragraph.

Catfish, the state's 8th largest cash agricultural crop. Alabama is the nation's second largest producer of

KING COTTON

Statewide, especially the Black Belt and Tennessee Valley

5 Because cotton was Alabama's major cash crop from the 33 antebellum period until well into the twentieth century, Alabama became known as the Cotton State.

CAHABA, FIRST STATE CAPITAL, 1820

Cahaba, Dallas County

34 Alabama's first constitution made Cahaba the temporary seat of government for the new state of Alabama, and the legislature began meeting in the new statehouse, or capitol building, in November 1820.

1965 VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

Selma to Montgomery - Dallas, Lowndes and Montgomery

35 The events of Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965—when law enforcement officials attacked peaceful civil rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma—and the successful Selma to Montgomery march two weeks later, led to the passage of the federal 1965 Voting Rights Act.

DANIEL PRATT'S COTTON GIN FACTORY

Prattville, Autauga County

36 A pioneer industrialist, Daniel Pratt established a cotton gin factory in 1838 that became one of the world's largest suppliers of cotton gins.

WRIGHT BROTHERS' FIRST FLYING SCHOOL, 1910

Montgomery, Montgomery County

Wilbur and Orville Wright came to Alabama to establish the first pilot training school. Alabama to establish the several aviation records were set and the first night flight in history was made here. The site of this school is now part of Maxwell Air

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT, 1955-1956

Montgomery, Montgomery County

38 Many regard the bus boycott as the beginning of the modern Civil Rights Movement. The boycott was sparked by Rosa Parks's refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus on December 1, 1955. African Americans refused to ride the city buses for more than a year, until the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of the city buses in December 1956.

FIRST CAPITAL OF THE CONFEDERACY, 1861

Montgomery, Montgomery County

39 Montgomery served as the first capital of the Confederate States of America. President Jefferson Davis was inaugurated on the portico of the state capitol on February 18, 1861. Three months later Confederate officials moved the capital to Richmond, Virginia.

FORT TOULOUSE / FORT JACKSON

Wetumpka, Elmore County

40 In 1717, the French constructed Fort Toulouse to facilitate trade with the Creek Indians. During the Creek War of 1813-1814, the Americans built a fort at the same site and named it Fort Jackson. The fort served as Andrew Jackson's base camp, and at this site Creek Indians ceded 23 million acres of land in the Treaty of Fort Jackson.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Tuskegee, Macon County

In 1881, Booker T. Washington became the first principal of Tuskegee Normal School, later known as Tuskegee Institute, and now Tuskegee University. Under Washington's leadership the school attracted many talented teachers, such as Dr. George Washington Carver, and became one of the most celebrated colleges in the U.S.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn, Lee County

42 Founded in 1856 as East Alabama Male College, Auburn became the state's first land grant college in 1872. Samford Hall, built in 1888, is a school landmark.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

Statewide

43 Starting in the 1990s, the Retirement Systems of Alabama engaged in the largest golf course construction project in the world. The Grand National in Opelika is one of the ten popular sites on the Trail.

THE FEDERAL ROAD OPENS ALABAMA TO PIONEERS Russell County

Adaptate Alabama on the Old Federal Road. Begun in 1811 and expanded over the course of the next few decades, the road crossed the Chattahoochee River from Georgia into Russell County, proceeded west to near Montgomery, and turned southwest, linking Fort Stoddert, on the Mobile River, with Milledgeville, Georgia.

TENN-TOM WATERWAY CONNECTS TENNESSEE VALLEY TO THE GULF

Tombigbee River

The completion of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in 1985 linked the Tennessee River to the Gulf of Mexico and brought increased barge traffic and trade to Mobile.

MOUNDVILLE MISSISSIPPIAN INDIAN CIVILIZATION, 1000-1450 A.D.

Moundville, Hale County

46 Eight-hundred years ago Moundville may have been one of the largest cities in North America. People of the Mississippian culture built an elaborate settlement here on the banks of the Black Warrior River with numerous large earthen mounds.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County

As one of its first acts after statehood, the state legislature established the "University of the State of Alabama" in 1820, but the school did not open until 1831. The Denny Chimes tower was dedicated in 1929 and is a school landmark.

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING

Vance, Lincoln, Montgomery

48 In 1993, Mercedes chose Vance as the location of its first U.S. automobile plant. With the addition of a Honda plant in Lincoln and a Hyundai plant in Montgomery, automobile manufacturing became a major new industry in Alabama

CAHABA LILY

Cahaba River, Bibb County

49 Cahaba Lilies bloom in the swift-moving currents of the Cahaba River. The town of West Blocton hosts the annual Cahaba Lily Festival each May.

CHILTON COUNTY PEACHES

Chilton County

50 Chilton County is known for its delicious, juicy peaches. Scandinavian settlers in Thorsby began growing peaches commercially in the early 1900s.

ALABAMA RAILROADS

Statewide

While the first railroad in Alabama was completed in 1832, the state's railroad industry did not flourish until the late nineteenth century. Hundreds of Alabama towns sprung up along the rail lines that criss-crossed the state. The Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera celebrates Alabama's railroad heritage.

STARS FELL ON MRS. HODGES, 1954

Sylacauga, Talladega County

52 On November 30, 1954, an 8½-pound meteorite crashed through the roof of a Sylacauga home, hitting Mrs. Ann Hodges, who was napping on her sofa. This was the first recorded injury of a human struck by a falling meteorite.

DESOTO EXPLORES ALABAMA, 1540

Statewide

The first Europeans to explore Alabama, Spaniard Hernando DeSoto's expedition traveled through Alabama in 1540 searching for gold. While their exact route is unknown, most researchers agree that they probably followed the east side of the Coosa River for a portion of the expedition.

FINAL BATTLE OF THE CREEK WAR, 1814

Horseshoe Bend, Tallapoosa County

In a fierce battle, Tennessee militiamen, led by Andrew Jackson and supported by Native American allies, crushed Red Stick Creek Indians who had taken refuge in the bend of the Tallapoosa River. This battle crippled Creek resistance, marked the end of the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814, and resulted in the transfer of 23 million acres of Creek land to the United States.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Statewide

The textile industry prospered in Alabama in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Industrialists built many cotton mills along rivers' fall lines, and the Chattahoochee Valley was home to a major concentration of these mills.

BIRTHPLACE OF HUGO BLACK, U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Ashland, Clay County

President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Clay County native Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1937. He served as an Associate Justice until his death in 1971 and became known for his strong support for civil liberties and civil rights.

GRIST MILLS

Statewide

For many years Alabamians depended upon local grist mills to grind corn to feed themselves and their animals. Some of these old mills still survive in communities across the state.

PIONEER DOGTROT CABIN

Statewide

Many early Alabama settlers, especially in the Hill Country, built log cabins as their first homes. Some had a central open breezeway, often called a "dogtrot."

COAL MINING

Birmingham Industrial District, including Bibb, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties

59 In the hills of the Birmingham area, where coal is abundant, mining became a major industry in the second half of the nineteenth century.

VULCAN: SYMBOL OF ALABAMA'S IRON INDUSTRY Birmingham, Jefferson County

60 Birmingham was founded in 1871 as an industrial center because the area was rich in coal, iron ore, and limestone, all needed to make iron and steel. Birmingham became known as the "Pittsburgh of the South," though the iron industry became less important in the late twentieth century. The statue of Vulcan is the largest cast iron sculpture in the world and was designed by Giuseppe Moretti to represent Birmingham and Alabama in the 1904 World's Fair.

ABERNATHY, KING, SHUTTLESWORTH: CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS

Birmingham, Jefferson County

61 In the spring of 1963, national civil rights leaders Ralph David Abernathy and Martin Luther King, Jr. arrived in Birmingham to assist Fred Shuttlesworth and other local civil rights leaders protesting discrimination in Birmingham. The city became known around the world after protestors were met with police dogs and fire hoses and King wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Birmingham, Jefferson County

62 Established in the 1940s, the University of Alabama medical school at Birmingham embarked on an expansion program in the 1960s that led to international recognition of Birmingham as a center for medical research.

TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY

Talladega County

63 Alabama's Talladega Superspeedway opened in 1969 and quickly became a leading track for NASCAR racing. A frequent sight at the Speedway was the number 12 car of Bobby Allison, one of the "Alabama Gang" drivers. The Speedway is also home to the International Motorsports Hall of Fame and Museum.

HIGHEST POINT IN ALABAMA

Mt. Cheaha, Cleburne County

64 At 2,407 ft., Cheaha Mountain is the main feature of Cheaha State Park in the Appalachian Foothills.

ANNIE'S TOWN

Anniston, Calhoun County

The Woodstock Iron Company established Alabama's "Model City" as a private industrial town in 1872. Eleven years later the company opened the town to the public and renamed it "Annie's Town" after the wife of the local railroad president.

JOHN H. BANKHEAD: FATHER OF THE U.S. HIGHWAY **SYSTEM**

Jasper, Walker County

66 A major political figure in Alabama, John Hollis Bankhead held several state offices and served in the U.S. House and Senate, where he became known as an advocate for good roads and interstate automobile travel. The crosscountry Bankhead Highway, which ran from Washington, D.C. to San Diego (and through Bankhead's hometown of Jasper), was one of America's first two transcontinental highways.

TRADITIONAL POTTERY

Statewide

67 Folk artisans across the state, such as Jerry Brown in Hamilton, have made traditional pottery using techniques, materials, and designs passed down through the generations.

WINSTON FOLLOWS ITS OWN PATH

Winston County

68 Many Alabamians in the Hill Country did not support the call for secession or the South's position in the Civil War. In Winston County in 1861 a large group of citizens met at Looney's Tayern to express their neutrality, and the legend of the "Free State of Winston" was born.

AVE MARIA GROTTO

Cullman, Cullman County

69 Located at St. Bernard Abbey, the Ave Maria Grotto showcases the miniature creations of Brother Jospeh Zoettl, a Benedictine monk who lived at the abbey for nearly seventy years. "Jerusalem in Miniature" is the Grotto's centerpiece.

COVERED BRIDGES

Blount County

Of Alabama's remaining covered bridges, Blount County's are best known.

EMMA SANSOM GUIDES GENERAL FORREST

near Gadsden, Etowah County

During the Civil War, teenager Emma Sansom became a heroine of the Confederacy when she guided Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest across Black Creek in pursuit of Union General Abel Streight and his forces.

CORNWALL FURNACE IRONWORKS, 1862-1875

Cedar Bluff, Cherokee County

77 Cornwall Furnace supplied pig iron for the Confederate war effort until Union raiders destroyed it in 1864. The furnace resumed operations briefly after the Civil War, finally ceasing production in 1875.

BIRTHPLACE OF JESSE OWENS

Oakville, Lawrence County

Famed Olympic athlete J. C. (Jesse) Owens was born near Oakville in 1912. The the grandson of a slave, Owens became a national hero at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin when he embarrassed Nazi officials by winning four gold medals in track and field.

ALABAMA STATE BANK BUILDING, 1833

Decatur, Morgan County

The Alabama legislature established a state bank in 1823 and built the Decatur branch in 1833. The failure of the state banking system in 1843 was a major political scandal. The old state bank building in Decatur serves today as a museum and archives.

EAGLES RETURN TO LAKE GUNTERSVILLE

Lake Guntersville, Marshall County

75 In 1984, Alabama conservation officials began a program to return Bald Eagles to their native Alabama habitats. Today the area around Lake Guntersville is home to one of the largest Bald Eagle roosts in Alabama.

SHAPE-NOTE SINGING

Statewide

76 Shape-Note or Sacred Harp singing is a sine with musical tradition in Alabama. Singers use hymn books with distinctly shaped note heads to aid in sight reading of the songs. Shape-note singing is practiced throughout the state by both white and black singers, though the tradition is particularly strong in the Sand Mountain area.

SOCK CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Fort Payne, DeKalb County

Fort Payne established its first hosiery business in 1907 and by the end of the 20th century could boast that it was the largest sock producer in the world. In the 21st century foreign competition threatens that claim.

SEQUOYAH: CREATOR OF THE CHEROKEE SYLLABARY

Wills Town, DeKalb County

78 In 1821, while living in Wills Town, Sequoyah created a system of writing the Cherokee language using symbols to represent the sounds of syllables. Sequoyah was the son of a Cherokee mother and a white father, and he fought with the Americans against the Creeks in the Battle of Horsehoe Bend.

HELEN KELLER AND ANNE SULLIVAN W-A-T-E-R Tuscumbia, Colbert County

70 Anne Sullivan taught the concept of language to seven-yearold Helen Keller, blind and deaf since she was a toddler. The breakthrough in Helen's understanding came when Sullivan held Helen's hand under the water spilling from the Kellers' outdoor pump and used hand signs to spell the word "water" in her hand. Keller became one of the world's leading writers, a social activist, and a humanitarian who inspired others.

W. C. HANDY PLAYS THE BLUES

Florence, Lauderdale County

80 Musician and composer W. C. Handy, known as the "Father of the Blues," was born in Florence in 1873. Some of his famous works include the Memphis Blues and the St. Louis Blues.

WILSON DAM: TAMING THE TENNESSEE RIVER

The Shoals, Colbert and Lauderdale counties

The first dam built on the Tennessee River, Wilson Dam was constructed between 1918 and 1924 to supply power for constructed between 1918 and 1924 to supply power for a government nitrate plant. The dam later became part of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) system that controlled flooding on the river and provided power to residents of the Tennessee Valley

FIDDLING TRADITIONS

Statewide

Throughout the state's history, fiddle players have provided entertainment at Saturday-night dances, barbecues, and political rallies. Athens hosts the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention each year, which features string band music played on a variety of instruments such as fiddles, banjos, guitars, and mandolins.

ROCKET CITY

Huntsville, Madison County

Huntsville is home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Huntsville engineers planned and developed the Saturn rocket system that launched American astronauts to the moon in 1969.

FIRST STATE CONSTITUTION, 1819

Huntsville, Madison County

Here delegates drafted Alabama's first constitution in anticipation of Alabama's relative At the time it was recognized as one of the most democratic of all state constitutions.

RUSSELL CAVE: 10,000 YEARS OF HUMAN HABITATION

Jackson County

Russell Cave served as shelter and home for pre-historic peoples for thousands of years. Today it is a National Monument operated by the National Park Service.

THE BRONZE MAP was designed and sculpted by Greag LeFevre and Jennifer Andrews, with the assistance of Jose Marti & Bill Muller, and Mary Walton Upchurch, Landscape Architect, Inc. The map was commissioned by an anonymous donor and was dedicated December 14, 2006.

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