

ECHOES
The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society
March, 2003 - Vol. 30, No. 3
Editor, Ranella Holley

The Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 25; Time: 3:00 p. m.; Location: The Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the JDCC Campus; Program: Guest Speaker George Perry will discuss the federal courts in Alabama as well as his work with the 11th Appellate court in Atlanta. Now retired, Mr. Perry was a former law clerk in the 11th Appellate court. A graduate of T. R. Miller High School, he left Brewton to attend Harvard University and to teach in the Houston Independent School District before working with the Appellate Court.

The February Meeting

President Darryl Searcy called the meeting to order. Darryl Searcy announced that he has cancelled our bulk mailing permit with the post office since we no longer send 200 or more pieces of mail at a time. The permit costs \$150.00 a year. He also announced that he has located a great deal of information about the Brewton Collegiate Institute.

President Searcy wished Ms. Elvira McMillan a happy birthday. He asked members to search through their own materials and other archives for articles on family history, since that will be the theme of the next issue of the journal.

Society member Elizabeth Edwards asked to be able to give a program this year on material she has concerning family artifacts.

President Searcy announced that Turtle Point Environment Center has been awarded a Plaque designating it as a "Treasured Forest" by the Alabama Forestry Department.

Vice President Lynn Wixon introduced the speaker for the meeting, Chief Lawrence Weaver of the Brewton Fire Department. Chief Weaver emphasized that the Fire Department is happy to serve the community in any way possible. The chief duty, of course, is fire safety and prevention. He stressed the use of home fire alarms and the need to check them every year. The fire department will check alarms or install them for those who need help. The Department makes an extra effort to help the elderly, the handicapped, and those with low income in purchasing and installing fire alarms.

After the program, members and guests enjoyed delicious refreshments in the parlor. Hosts were Pat McArthur and Darryl Searcy.

Upcoming Events

The Conecuh/Sepulga Watershed Alliance (CSWA)

Beckie Hill, a UWF Graduate Student who spoke to the Historical Society a few years back while she was working on her master's thesis has now completed her thesis and will present an updated program on "Antebellum Settlements Along the Conecuh River" on Saturday, April 12 at 12 p. m. at the Solon Dixon Forestry Educational Center Auditorium, located off Highway 29 north of Brewton. ECHS members are cordially invited to attend.

West Florida Genealogical Society Spring Conference

The West Florida Genealogical Society will hold its Spring

Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2003, at the Bayview Senior Citizen's Center, 2000 East Lloyd St., Pensacola, Florida.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. with the conference running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The speaker will be Sharon Moody, President of the Georgia Genealogical Society, and her topics will be Airing your Dirty Laundry (court cases), With All My Worldly Goods (wills), As the Streams Meander (migration), Guyon-Miller Rolls (Indian records), and The Only Thing Worth Dying For (land records).

The cost is \$25 per person, including lunch. Register by Sending name, address and phone number, along with your check payable to WFGS, at P.O. Box 947, Pensacola, Fl 32591. For further information contact Ms. Pete Baucum at 850-433-5715.

News from the Past

From *The Atmore Spectrum*, March 11 1909

Mrs. J. Bryan of Flomaton won the Spectrum Popularity Contest, with 476, 380 votes. Her prize, a \$350 piano.

County Superintendent of Schools, J. R. O'Bannon urged school children to participate in the Alabama Corn Campaign, which offered prizes to the boys growing the largest yield on an acre of land.

From *The Atmore Spectrum*, July 2, 1908

The young people of Atmore enjoyed a dance at Peavy's Hall in honor of the Stockton Baseball Nine. However, when the Stockton Nine met Atmore in two games over the weekend, the scores were Atmore 10, Stockton 9, and Atmore 9, Stockton 0.

The manager of the Magnolia Hotel took over the management of the new hotel on the corner of Louisville Avenue and Mill Street, erected by Mr. W. M. Carney, and christened Hotel Carney.

From *The Laborer's Banner* (Brewton paper), March 10, 1900

There was a revived interest in a factory to make starch from the casava plant.

The Mayor of Evergreen spent a day in Brewton looking at the water works and electric light plant "with the view of giving his town folk the benefit of a complete, modern system of these conveniences."

The Masonic fraternity had a special service at the Methodist Church. The Masons met at their hall and marched to the church. The public and friends were invited to "enjoy these interesting exercises."

Rev. F. L. Leavitt of Brewton was in attendance at the State Conference of the Universalist Church of Florida in Pensacola.

The old Baptist Church and the Masonic Hall had been moved off their site to make room for a new structure.

A. C. Smith advertised that he wanted one-hundred dozen chicken hens for which he would pay 27½ cents each. Mr. Smith also was willing to pay 15 cents per pound for flint hides (hides that had been salted and then air dried), and said that "coon hides were in good demand as well."

Capital had been found (\$400,000), to construct a cotton milling plant for 20,000 spindles. The product would be "finished goods of coarse grade."

March is Women's History Month

The 2003 National Honorees for Women's History as selected by the National Women's History Project are:

Rebecca Adamson (b. 1950)

Native American Advocate

A member of the Cherokee nation, she has worked directly with grassroots tribal communities and as a national advocate of local tribal issues for over 25 years. She is the founder and president of First Nations Development Institute, a project that enables Native Americans and other indigenous peoples to become economically self-sufficient while maintaining their cultural values.

Rachel Carson (1907 - 1964)

Scientist and Environmentalist

One of America's greatest nature writers, she published *Silent Spring* (1962) which focused international attention on controversial use of pesticides and became the foundation of the modern environmental movement, leading to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Linda Chavez-Thompson (b. 1944)

Labor Leader

The daughter of sharecroppers, she worked as an agricultural laborer before joining the labor union, eventually rising through the ranks of the AFL-CIO to become the first person of color, and the first woman, elected to be the Executive Vice-President of the AFL-CIO in 1995.

Mae C. Jemison (b. 1956)

Scientist, Educator, and Former Astronaut

Currently the director of the Jemison Institute, an organization she founded to advance the use of technology in developing countries, she holds degrees in chemical engineering, Afro-American studies, and is a medical doctor, and, as a former astronaut, was the first woman of color in space.

Yuri Kochiyama (b. 1922)

Civil Rights Advocate

Having been interned in a Japanese relocation center during the Second World War, she moved to an ethnically diverse neighborhood in New York and began her life long campaign for social justice, focusing on building bridges between people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

Tania León (b. 1943)

Composer and Conductor

An internationally renowned musical composer and conductor who brings the influence of her Chinese, Nigerian, French, and Spanish ethnic background to her compositions, she is also highly regarded for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations.

Robin Roberts (b.1960)

Broadcast Journalist

One of the most versatile broadcast journalists of our time, her groundbreaking and award-winning work in the field of sports commentary challenged long held assumptions about the authenticity of women as sports broadcasters.

Harilyn Rousso (b. 1946)

Disability Rights Activist and Psychotherapist

For over 20 years, she has worked as an educator, social worker, psychotherapist and pioneering activist in the disability rights field, with an emphasis on issues of women and girls with disabilities.

Margaret Chase Smith (1897 - 1995)

Congressional Representative and Senator

The first woman elected to both houses of Congress, serving 8 years in the House of Representatives and 24 in the US Senate, she courageously challenged

Senator Joseph McCarthy's brutal tactics and anti-communist crusade on the floor of the Senate on June 1, 1950, becoming the first senator to do so.

Wilma L. Vaught (b. 1930)

Brigadier General, USAF, Retired

One of the most decorated military women in US history and the Air Force's first female Brigadier General from the Comptroller career field, she was the driving force behind the building and dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, DC - honoring all military women from the American Revolutionary War through the present and future.

Rebecca Walker (b.1969)

Youth Organizer and Writer

Founder of the Third Wave Direct Action Corporation, which is now the Third Wave Foundation, an organization empowering young women to be at the forefront of social change movements. As an author she gave voice to the struggle for self-identity of children of mixed cultural backgrounds.

The Escambia County Historical Society Memorial Plaque

Anyone wishing to add a loved one to our memorial plaque should send his/her request and a donation of \$25.00 or more to the treasurer. A notice of the memorial will be placed in the newsletter at the time the name is added to the plaque. Those members wishing to make a tax exempt gift to the Society may send the gift to the treasurer.

Sponsors for Publication of the Newsletter or Journal

If you know of any person or business who would like to sponsor the publication of a newsletter or journal please contact the society at the email of mailing address noted below.

Books for Sale	Mailed Regular Price
A History of Escambia County	\$55.00 \$50.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$40.00 \$35.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00 \$ 5.00

Get in Touch with Us

Address: Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427;

Phone: 251-809-1612; Email: Rannyl@earthlink.net

Membership: \$10.00. Clip the following form and send to Treasurer: Peggy Bracken, 602 Edgewood Drive, Brewton, AL 36426.

Membership Renewal/Application Form

Name _____
First Middle Last
Address _____
Street City State Zip
Phone _____
Email _____