



**The October 2022 Newsletter**  
**The October Meeting will be Tuesday, October 25**  
**at 3 pm in the McMillan Museum.**  
**There will be no November Meeting.**  
**The Christmas Party will be December 6**  
**at 1:00 pm in the Museum.**



**Pictured in Front of Turtle Point with her award, Sierra was named the Best Environmental Educator for the Environmental Association of Alabama for 2022.**

**The Program: Director Sierra Stiles Will Make a Presentation on the Turtle Point Science Center**

Our speaker has Masters Degrees in Biology and Science Education from the College of Science and Mathematics of Auburn University. She became Director of Turtle Point on July1, 2019.

*An article about Sierra by Jarrett Rogers in 2017 explains her love of the outdoors and desire to pursue a career in biology:*

“From early childhood, she has devoted a tremendous amount of time and resources to the outdoors. Stiles was exposed to wildlife through the support

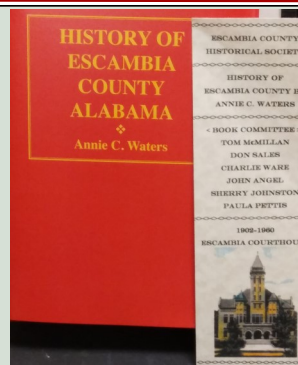
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**There will be no ECHS November Meeting**

**Christmas Party**  
**Tuesday, December 6,**  
**1:00 pm**  
**McMillan Museum**  
**Plan on bringing your favorite Christmas dish: cookies, vegetables, nuts, casseroles, dips, desserts, etc. The society will provide drinks and a ham.**



**The History of Escambia County, Ala.**

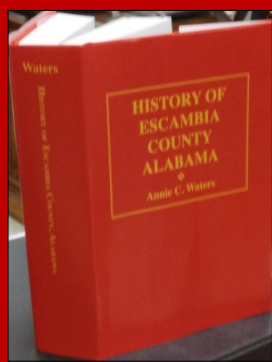
**by Annie C. Waters was first published in 1983. The text and pictures in the new reprint are the same as those in the original but the pictures have been enhanced and the book is printed on heavier paper. Also, the book has a dust cover. The**

**cost is \$90.00; mailed \$95.00.**

**This popular history includes not only the story of the county but also the genealogy of its pioneer settlers. An unrivaled resource of information, it would make excellent Christmas presents.**

**The bookmark, which comes with the book, shows the committee members who worked on the reprint and a picture of the County Court House of 1902-1960.**

**Book Committee members were Tom McMillan, Don Sales, Charlie Ware, John Angel, Sherry Johnston, and Paula Pettis.**



**Annie Water’s History of Escambia County, AL, reprinted by ECHS, now available.**

**Volume 49 No. 111-12  
October 2022**

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## The Program

(Continued from page 1)

of her parents, who were biologists and avid bird watchers. Stiles said she was raised as an, “Audubon Kid;” discouraged from staying in front of the television too long, and instead encouraged to take up bird watching and spend time creatively outdoors. As Stiles grew, so too did her fascination with wildlife, and she would often spend her days wading in rivers and overturning rocks looking for salamanders.

“At 16, Stiles met her future husband, Jimmy, while conducting fieldwork together for his father. Within a year, the couple headed west for a six-week camping trip, and Stiles said that was when she knew they were meant for each other.

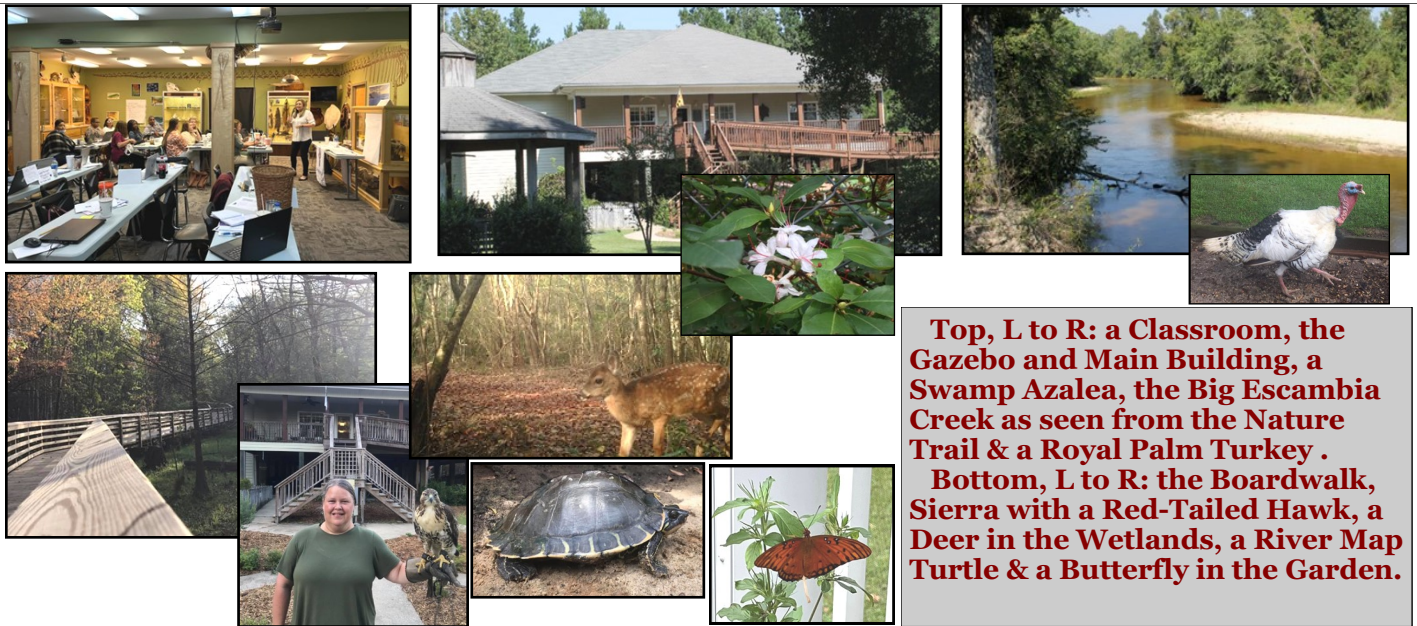


“If you want to test your relationship, just go camping for six weeks, and you’ll know when you come back, because we pretty much came back married at that point!” said Stiles” (<https://auburn.edu/cosam/news/articles/2017/09/nature-lover-and-herpetologist-sierra-stiles-discusses-life,-love-and-the-outdoors.htm>).

Pictured at the left is Sierra with her husband Jimmy who describes himself as naturalist, field biologist, outdoorsman. He is currently working on Alabama's herpetofaunal diversity (study of the reptiles and amphibians that inhabit a given area) with the Alabama Natural Heritage Program.

The couple presented a program to ECHS in September 2006 on fossils, including the fossil of a 35-million-year-old Manatee that they found in the Yellow River and other fossils from the Conecuh and Sepulga Rivers.

## Turtle Point Science Center



**Top, L to R: a Classroom, the Gazebo and Main Building, a Swamp Azalea, the Big Escambia Creek as seen from the Nature Trail & a Royal Palm Turkey .**

**Bottom, L to R: the Boardwalk, Sierra with a Red-Tailed Hawk, a Deer in the Wetlands, a River Map Turtle & a Butterfly in the Garden.**



**Turtle Point Science Center is an adventure in hands on science exploration. Since opening in October 1999, Turtle Point has educated and entertained thousands of school children and visitors from all around the world. Situated on 20 acres adjacent to Big Escambia Creek, the Center is home to a variety of reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and mammals. In addition to animal encounters, visitors enjoy a butterfly house, vegetable garden, herb garden, fish pond, and boardwalk. Turtle Point is open to the public from 8 am until 3 pm when school is in session.**

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Time Line for Creek Indian Removal from Alabama

*The following material is taken from the Encyclopedia of Alabama article, "Creek Indian Removal," by Christopher Haveman (<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2013#>).*

### **1825: Treaty of Indian Springs Signed which Ceded Land in Parts of Alabama and Georgia to Federal Government.**

1. February 12, 1825—Coweta headman William McIntosh signed the Treaty of Indian Springs, which ceded all the Lower Creek land in Georgia and a large tract in Alabama to the federal government.
2. In return, McIntosh and his followers received \$200,000 and land in present-day Oklahoma.
3. Most Creeks were overwhelmingly opposed to the land cession, and the sale of land without the approval of the Creek National Council was punishable by death under Creek law.
4. May 1825—McIntosh was executed at one of his plantations on the Chattahoochee River.
5. A delegation of Creeks travelled to Washington, D.C., to try to nullify the treaty. A federal investigation of the treaty arrangements revealed that McIntosh did not have the support of the National Council and that Creeks were deeply opposed to the terms.

### **1826: Treaty of Washington Negotiated which Nullified the Treaty of Indian Springs and Gave Back Creek Land in Alabama but still Ceded Land in Georgia to Federal Government.**

1. On January 24, 1826, the Treaty of Indian Springs was nullified, and Creek leaders signed the Treaty of Washington, marking the only time that a ratified treaty with an Indian nation was overturned.
2. The treaty affected only the Lower Creeks, whose towns were clustered along the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers.
3. The Upper Creeks, who were further west, near present-day Montgomery, did not lose any land.

### **1827: First Group or Detachment of Creeks Emigrate to Oklahoma. Emigration Was Voluntary.**

1. In late 1827, 703 Creeks, including 86 slaves, began their emigration to Fort Gibson in present-day Oklahoma (near present-day Muskogee).
2. These emigrants were primarily supporters of William McIntosh and most were from McIntosh's town of Coweta or its satellite town of Thlakatchka, although a number of other Creek towns also were represented.
3. The emigrants rendezvoused briefly at Harpersville, just southeast of present-day Birmingham, before moving north to Tuscumbia.
4. In Tuscumbia, a large group of women, children and elderly men boarded keelboats for their trip on the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers on their way to Memphis.
5. The remaining men, along with a number of women and children, continued by land to Memphis, where the parties reunited.
6. From Memphis, the keelboats continued by water to Fort Gibson, as the other party travelled by land, despite heavy rainfall that made the roads muddy and slowed their progress considerably.
7. In some instances, the wagons containing their possessions could not be ferried across the many swollen rivers and were left behind.

### **1828: Second of Voluntary Emigrations.**

Almost a year after the first McIntosh party left Alabama, a second party of about 400 McIntosh supporters and their slaves travelled approximately the same route to the west.

### **1829: Third Voluntary Emigration.**

1. A larger party than the 1828 group, a party of about 1,200 Creeks, emigrated to present-day Oklahoma.
2. Some of these Creeks were supporters of McIntosh.
3. Others were Creeks who had previously resided on land that now belonged to Georgia.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Time Line for Creek Indian Removal from Alabama

(Continued from page 3)

4. Still others felt threatened by white settlers who illegally squatted on their land.
5. The party left Alabama from Fort Bainbridge and Line Creek in east-central Alabama in June 1829.
6. Like the two previous emigrations, the 1829 party also took land and water routes
7. While on the Arkansas River, the steamboat *Virginia* ran aground, and many of the emigrants lost property in the river.
8. September 1829
  - a. The last of the travelers arrived in the West in September 1829, in the midst of a Cholera epidemic.
  - b. The disease was so rampant that many people packed their belongings and returned to Alabama.
  - c. A delegation of Chickasaw, who were exploring the west for possible emigration, observed that the Creek emigrants were "in a poor condition" and were "continually mourning for the land of their births."
  - d. Creeks left in Alabama had been suffering also from continual white encroachment on Creek land.

### **1832: The Treaty of Cusseta. Creeks Give Up Sovereign Claim to Land for Legal Ownership.**

1. A delegation of prominent Creek chiefs travelled to Washington to negotiate an agreement that they hoped would salvage the Creek Nation.
2. The Treaty of Cusseta was signed in March 1832.
  - a. The Treaty traded the Creeks' sovereign claim to their land in exchange for legal title to their land.
  - b. Parcels of 640 acres for chiefs and 320 acres for everyone else were issued to Creek families, who could then sell them or remain on them for as long as they wished.
  - c. The Treaty failed to accomplish its goals.
    - (1.) Whites continued to encroach on Creek land.
    - (2.) When Creeks tried to sell their reserves they often were cheated by unscrupulous land speculators.

### **1834 and 1835: Third and Fourth Voluntary Emigration.**

1. Two more voluntary emigrating parties left Alabama.
2. However, a majority of the Creeks denounced emigration and refused to go west.

### **1836: Developing Violence between Creeks and White Settlers Leads to Second Creek War. Jackson Orders Removal of All Creeks from Alabama. Forced Removal Begins with Fifth Detachment.**

1. Continued movement of whites settlers onto Creek lands and land frauds, tricking Creeks into selling their lands at devalued prices, led to some violence between Creeks and white settlers into the 1830's.
2. The skirmishes led to the outbreak of war in the spring of 1836.
3. Called the Second Creek War, during this event, Creeks attacked whites and looted and destroyed plantations in the present-day Alabama counties of Chambers, Macon, Pike, Lee, Russell, and Barbour.
4. The Fifth Detachment and Forced Emigration.
  - a. The violence allowed President Andrew Jackson to begin to remove all the Creeks from Alabama.
  - b. After capturing the Creeks who participated in the uprising, soldiers chained and marched the prisoners to Montgomery, followed in wagons by related women and children.
  - c. At Montgomery, the prisoners and their families were placed on steamboats and taken by ship to Mobile and New Orleans, then up the Mississippi before being marched through Arkansas to Fort Gibson.
  - d. The remaining "friendly" Creeks were rounded up into five large detachments and marched west in August and September 1836.
  - e. Because of his status as perhaps the most prominent Creek Indian, the government assigned leader Opothle Yoholo to lead the initial party.

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Time Line for Creek Indian Removal from Alabama

(Continued from page 4)

- f. As they moved west, the emigrants experienced drought, torrential rains, and extreme cold and suffered from hypothermia as they arrived at their new homes in the West.
5. Sixth Detachment
  - a. Consisted of relatives of the warriors who had remained behind to fight alongside federal troops against the Seminoles.
  - b. These relatives were told that they would be allowed to remain in east-central Alabama until the warriors' tours of duty were over.
  - c. Were moved to Mobile Point (located on the peninsula which contains Fort Morgan), because they were harassed by whites in their camp.
  - d. While in the camp at Mobile Point the group was plagued by sickness and many died.
  - e. Government decided to move them to Pass Christian, Mississippi, which was thought to be healthier.

### **1837: Creek Warriors Return from Florida, Sixth Detachment Departs from Pass Christian to New Orleans by Steamboat.**

1. In October, the group departs for New Orleans and then takes a steamboat to travel up the Mississippi, up the Arkansas River and eventually reaches Oklahoma Territory.

2. During the journey the steamboat Mammoth, which was carrying the members of the Sixth Detachment, was rammed by another steamboat traveling up river and 300 of the 600 Creeks aboard died.
3. Government tries to round up the remaining Creeks who had sought refuge among the Cherokees and Chickasaws.
  - a. Five Hundred Creeks found among the Cherokees were rounded up, marched to Gunter's Landing (present day Guntersville), and taken by boat to the west, to Oklahoma.
  - b. Three hundred others who had escaped to Chickasaw lands travelled west as part of 1,000 emigrating Chickasaws.

### **1837-1838:**

#### **Government Sponsored Removal Ends.**

1. Between the McIntosh Party Emigration in 1827 (first voluntary emigration) and the end of removal in 1837, more than 23,000 Creeks emigrated from the southeast.
2. Today, the Poarch Creek Indians of Atmore, Escambia County, reside on the only remaining officially recognized Creek lands in the state.

### **1840's and 1850's:**

#### **Emigration by Small Family Units.**

Creeks continued to emigrate from Alabama in small, family-sized detachments.



**William McIntosh  
(ca. 1775-1825)**

**Creek headman and speaker of the Lower Creek Council. McIntosh led troops alongside the American forces during the Creek War of 1813-14 and the First Seminole War. On April 30, 1825, McIntosh was executed by order of the Creek National Council for approving illegal land cessions.**

*Picture and text from Encyclopedia of Alabama.*

**This print from the 1832 The History of the Indian Tribes of North America was likely made from a portrait of Opothle Yoholo by famed painter Charles Bird King. Opothle Yoholo was a leader of the Tuckabatchee Creeks and became the principal chief of the Creek Nation. He was one of the most outspoken opponents of Creek Removal (from Encyclopedia of Alabama).**



**Opothle Yoholo  
(ca. 1798-1863)**

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Maps for Creek Indian Removal from Alabama

The map shows the routes of the five southeastern tribes that were forced to leave their homelands in the Southeast and live in Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. (<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/Indian-removal>).



**Map of Oklahoma showing the 1866 boundaries of the Five Civilized Tribes.**  
*From Wikipedia*



### **“Partings”** A Poem by ECHS Member Robert Smiley

Together once we walked the pathway of life.  
This happy, carefree group of childhood friends.  
So bright the sun did shine that we saw not childhood’s  
End of time, we saw not partings, sickness, death,  
And to times hurrying footsteps we were quite deaf.

Most are gone now, but like jewels along the shoreline  
Of life they still sparkle in my memory,  
And light the way to the far off shore  
Where we’ll be parted nevermore.

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Spanking

**By ECHS Vice-President Charlie Ware**

“You better behave if you know what’s good for you.”

“If you don’t mind me I’m going to wear you out.”

“If you talk back to me one more time, I’m going to blister your behind.”

“You keep that up and I’ll give you something to cry about.”

“I’m going to tan your hide.”

“Don’t make me have to go and get a switch.”

Those phrases, and many others like them, were something that I, and most other kids of my day, heard regularly when we were growing up. They all meant one thing, that we were close to getting a spanking and that we had better watch our step. Spanking was an accepted form of punishment both in the home and at school and I don’t know of many kids back then who were not subject to being spanked. “Spare the rod and spoil the child” was the motto of the day.

Spanking is defined as a type of corporal punishment involving the act of striking the buttocks of another person to cause temporary pain. Most people my age don’t need to be reminded of what spanking is; we remember it all too well.

Spanking is a very controversial subject and I don’t intend to jump in on one side or the other. I don’t know if kids today even get spankings. A parent would not dare spank a child in public today for fear of being reported for child abuse. Some studies report that spanking is psychologically damaging to both the child and parent. Most states have now banned spanking in school and forty-five countries have outlawed any type of corporal punishment, even in the home. But in my childhood it was a way of life. It was just taken for granted that if you misbehaved, you were going to get a spanking.

There is a difference in a spanking and a beating. I never felt that I had been beaten as a child. I never bled nor had bruises as the result of a spanking, though I did have red whelps sometime. With my parents, spankings were not done in anger and there was no yelling or discussion. I always knew the reason for the spanking I was getting.

Even though I may have been angry for a little while, I never hated nor resented my parents for spanking; in fact, I don’t even remember thinking about it. Even as a little kid, I just felt they were doing their duty. The stage was reset after a spanking and family life soon returned to normal.

When I learned that I was going to get a spanking, I would beg and plead for mercy, but that never worked. Once the decision was made, it was cast in stone. When the spanking started, I would pretend I was in great pain and try to make myself cry as much as possible so my parents would think the spanking was doing some good and maybe let up a little bit. I think I also wanted to make them feel sorry for me, though I don’t believe that was ever the case. My parents never apologized or said anything like, “This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you.”

I wasn’t taken “out behind the woodshed” for a spanking. For me it usually took place right at the spot of the offense. A really bad situation was to be away from home and be told, “You are going to get a spanking when we get home.” That meant I would have to go through the rest of the day anticipating the pain. I always hoped my parents would forget about it before we got back home, but they never did.

I seldom got a spanking that came as a total surprise. We kids knew the limits and we knew the actions or remarks that were likely to lead to a spanking. But being kids, we sometimes just had to test our parents or we would just go ahead and do things we knew were wrong with the hope of not getting caught. Spanking was as much a deterrent as a punishment. I know I would have done many more bad and dangerous things if not for the fear of being caught and getting a spanking.

In my home there was no other form of punishment. My sister and I never were put on restriction, made to sit in the corner, made to go to our rooms, had a favorite toy or television withheld, nor put into timeout. We may occasionally have gotten a stern talking to, but if punishment was warranted, we got a spanking, period.

My mother had a certain evil stare that said “You are going to get a spanking!” It communicated volumes and when I saw it I knew I was in trouble. I saw this stare a number of times when I would be

*(Continued on page 8)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Spanking

*(Continued from page 7)*

caught doing things like whispering during church service or misbehaving at someone else's house.

My mother was usually the one to administer spankings at our house. Her weapon of choice was a switch plucked from a ligustrum bush that grew outside our back door, but she has also used a spatula, a yard stick (which broke), bedroom slippers, a pancake turner, a hair brush, an old windshield wiper blade, a rolled up newspaper, and on occasion, just her open hand.

For really bad offenses I would be made to go outside and pick the switch myself. I can still hear her saying, "Go out and get me a switch." As I prepared the switch, I would try to let a few leaves remain on the end, thinking the leaves would somehow slow the speed of the switch through the air.

Spanking by my dad didn't happen often, but when it did he used his belt. When I had crossed the line, he would suddenly jump up, snatch the belt from his pants and bend me over for a good tanning. The time from crime to punishment was just a matter of seconds. I didn't have to fake crying after a spanking by my dad. I can still remember that terrible flapping sound his belt would make when he jerked it from his pants.

Spanking wasn't limited to just one's own home. Kids were subject to being spanked anywhere they were caught misbehaving. Parents didn't have to ask permission to spank other parents' children. It was just assumed that if they got it, they deserved it. In my case, if my parents found out I had gotten a spanking outside our home, I got another one from them when I got back home. I remember my mom spanking me and several other boys who had come over to play one Saturday afternoon. She had no idea who they were. All we had done was set the yard on fire (on purpose). I once got a spanking from my Bible School teacher.

Girls weren't immune from spanking. My sister probably got as many as I did, though none from my dad. It was rare, but I do remember girls being spanked at school right up through the twelfth grade.

Every teacher I had in grammar school was a spanker. Most used a twelve inch Coca-Cola ruler (Coke gave those to kids at the beginning of a school

year) or a bolo paddle (remember those little paddles with a rubber band and a ball attached). Though they may have been embarrassing, those spankings were not something to be feared.

Things changed significantly when I got to high school. Spanking there was something to be feared. On opening day I saw the principal, Mr. R.E. Hodnette, for the first time. Mr. Hodnette was an imposing man who stood well over six feet and always had a stern, no-nonsense look on his face. In his hand was a baseball bat that had the barrel end planed flat so it could be used as a paddle. I knew that could hurt quite a bit more than those little twelve inch rulers did. I never saw him use that bat. He didn't have to because just the image of him patrolling the halls with a bat in his hand was enough to keep us in line.

One of the first things boys learned in shop class was how to make spanking paddles. They had to cut out a batch every now and then to make sure all the male teachers had an ample supply. The paddles were half an inch thick and about two feet long. They had a hole in the handle where a string could be attached so they could be hung on the wall or on a desk. Some had the handles taped for a better grip.

All the male teachers used the paddles frequently and they didn't pull any punches. They often swung as hard as they could, usually with both hands. I have seen paddles shatter and chips fly all over the classroom. You could hear a paddling taking place from one end of the hall to the other. Paddling at football practice usually took place in the locker room and on a bare behind. I can still feel the pain!! No doubt, some of these actions would bring charges of assault today.

Offenses that warranted a paddling varied and could include being disruptive in class, not turning in homework, a disrespectful remark, cheating, or missing football practice (even with an excuse). Sometimes though, the reasons would be frivolous. I remember one boy being paddled for buttoning his shirt in an unusual way and another for putting taps on the heels of his shoes. Sometimes boys would even be paddled by teachers for something that occurred away from the school.

I was probably one of the best behaved kids in school, but I still got my share of spankings. The last

*(Continued on page 9)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Spanking

(Continued from page 8)

one I ever got was only about a week before graduation.

Most of the spankings I got were probably well-deserved. There was only one that I was sure I didn't deserve. This occurred when I was about four years old. I was with my parents as they were visiting some of their friends and walking with them through their back yard. I went wandering off to explore the yard on my own and discovered this garden ornament, a shiny glass ball on a pedestal, in the center of the yard. I went over to check it out and when I looked into the ball, I saw my reflection which was all distorted because of the curvature of the ball. I thought it was some kind of a monster in the ball and it scared me to death. My first reaction was to push it away which caused the pedestal to fall over and the ball to break.

Of course, my parents had no idea why I had done what I did. Besides, they would never believe I thought I had seen a monster in the ball. All they could think was that I was just a destructive little kid, breaking other people's property and causing a lot of embarrassment. Before I could begin to try to explain, I got what was probably the worst spanking of my life to that point. I don't think I had earned that one.

I don't know when the concept of "time-out" came along, but I've always been a little skeptical of its effectiveness. I can't recall ever seeing a kid change his behavior to any degree when threatened with being sent to time-out. I'm certainly not advocating spanking though. Who knows, psychologists may be right about all the terrible mental damage it can do. I'm just saying, it sure seemed to have gotten the job done way back when I was a kid.

## Alabama's First Ladies of Flight



**Katherine Stinson**  
(1891 – 1977)



**Katherine Stinson and her Curtiss airplane.**



**Ruth Elder**  
(1902-1977)



**Katherine Stinson (February 14, 1891 – July 8, 1977) was an aviation pioneer who in 1912 became the fourth woman in the United States to earn the FAI pilot certificate. She set flying records for aerobatic maneuvers, distance, and endurance. She was the first female pilot employed by the US Postal Service, and the first civilian pilot to fly the mail in Canada. She was also one of the first pilots to ever fly at night and the first female pilot to fly in Canada and Japan. (Text and pictures from Wikipedia).**

**Billy J. Singleton writes in the introduction to the article, "Alabama's First Ladies of Flight," though Amelia Earhart may be the most well-known female aviator, several other women helped pave the way, including Katherine Stinson and Ruth Elder, both Alabama natives. Stinson was only the fourth woman to earn a pilot's license, while Elder tried an Atlantic crossing before Earhart's successful attempt. Both women embraced the numerous challenges involved in seeking recognition in an emerging field that had been previously open only to men, and they advanced aviation history in the process (<https://www.alabamaheritage.com>).**

**ECHOES**  
 THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
 THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

251-809-1528 or  
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 www.escohis.org

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**Books Available by Contribution**

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History of Escambia County, Alabama	\$90.00	\$95.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$15.00
Wildflowers of The Conecuh/Escambia River Basin CD	\$10.00	\$15.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (SC)	\$40.00	\$45.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$35.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$50.00

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**Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year  
 Many members give a membership as a gift!  
 Business members get a large scale  
 advertisement 11 months of the year.**

*ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at [escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com) or call 251-809-1528.*

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 Historian/Curator, *Tom McMillan*  
 Chaplain, *Rev. Patrick J. Madden*

**Trustees**

*Ann Biggs-Williams*  
*Ranella Merritt*  
*Tom McMillan*  
*Sally Finlay*  
*Charles Ware, Alternate*