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The August 2023 Newsletter The August Meeting will be Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 3:00 p. m. in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum



Paul Brueske

The Program: Paul Brueske, Author, Historian, Coach Will Present a Program on the Last Raid on Pollard during the Civil War.

Coach Brueske presented a program last year to ECHS on his book, <u>The Last Siege: The Mobile Campaign</u>, <u>Alabama 1865</u>. A lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast, He is a native of Gulf Breeze and a graduate of the University of South Alabama.

Fascinated by local Civil War history, his study of the subject led to the book on the last campaign, the Mobile Campaign. The raids

on Pollard to cripple key railroads, which met in Pollard at the time, were a part of

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with Yankee Troops

September Program

Archaeologist David Johnson will present a program on Alabama's Prehistoric Indians and Artifacts.



Members of a fire department, probably stationed in Union Springs, Alabama. Photo from the 1880's.

Refreshments

ECHS is grateful for all those who furnish refreshments at the meetings and the August meeting will have refreshments after the program. The Society will provide drinks. Plan to bring you favorite finger food.



Charles Pollard (1805-1888) Planter and Railroad Executive, Pollard Named for Him.

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The Program

(Continued from page 1)

the Mobile Campaign.

In addition to his busy life as the Head Coach of Track and Field at the University of South Alabama, he is active in civic groups, especially those dealing with his favorite subject. local history.

He founded the Mobile Civil War Round Table and regularly gives talks on Civil War topics. Brueske is a member of the Friends of Historic Blakeley State Park, the Mobile Historical Society, and the Mobile Optimist Club.

At the right he is shown leading the Blue and Grey Tour in Mobile in 2020, walking guests to the places where dramatic events took place in the Port City.



Battle of Burnt Corn Creek Reenactment, Jennings Park, Brewton, 2023

The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek was not an open field confrontation, but took place in a southern wooded area near Brewton, AL. The text relates the most common version of what happened.



July 27, 1813, one of the hottest days in July, the Redstick Creek Indians take a lunch break in the shade along Burnt Corn Creek near Brewton.



They are spotted and attacked by the Mississippi Militia.

Pictures and Text from video at Greater Brewton Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page.



After being caught off guard, the Redsticks are forced to abandon their supplies and retreat to Burnt Corn Creek.



The militia overtakes the Redstick position and begins to loot the abandoned supplies.

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Battle of Burnt Corn Creek Reenactment, Jennings Park, Brewton, July 2023

(Continued from page 2)



Seizing an opportunity, the Redsticks reorganized their numbers and mounted an offensive to overtake the distracted militia to re-capture their property.



One month later on August 30, this battle would lead to the Red Stick massacre of settlers at Fort Mims.



The militia takes heavy causalities from overwhelming creek numbers and is scattered throughout the Tensaw area for weeks.

211th Anniversary of Fort Mims
August 26-27, 2023 Tensaw:
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Daily Re-enactment on Site:
Burnt Corn 11:00 a.m.
Ft. Mims 2:00 p.m.
For more information:
North Baldwin County Chamber
at 251-937-5665
First Ever:
Delta Explorer Boat Tours
of the Alabama River Delta in Tensaw
Friday, Aug. 25 thru Sunday, Aug. 27
Reservations Required:
Contact Blakeley Park @ 251-626-0798

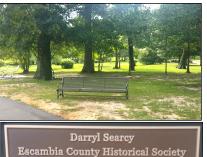
News and Announcements



John Powell, Former Curator of the McMillan Museum, ECHS Member and History Instructor at Jefferson Davis Community College Passed Away Last Month.

As Curator of the McMillan Museum, John created many of the exhibits that are still in use. Don Sales, current administrator of the Museum, comments that John's exhibits in the Museum always receive positive comments and he is grateful for the work John did in developing the Museum.

Retired from his job as curator and history teacher at Jeff Davis, John moved to St. Augustine but continued work in archaeology and history. He also participated in the living history programs of the city.



Darryl Searcy.
Has Been Placed
in Jennings Park
The bench is in a
beautiful shaded
area near the
Creek. To visit,
take the path to the
left after entering

Park Bench,

Honoring

the park from the parking lot on St. Nicholas. Behind the ice cream parlor, go to the right for a short distance and cross two small bridges.

The society would appreciate any donations to the cost of the bridge. Thanks to John Angel for the photographs of the bench.

(Continued on page 4)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 3)

Coastal Alabama College, Brewton Campus, Student Historical Society



Brett Chancery

ECHS President Don Sales and Brett Chancery, history instructor at the college, are working together on this new organization.

As a way of encouraging an interest in history, Chancery gives extra credit to students who visit the Museum and Alabama Room.

There are plans to organize history groups at the other campuses that are part of Coastal Alabama Community College.

Information from the July Program On Fort Crawford, Alabama

Documents have been found that indicate the fort was used through 1821, until Spain ceded Florida to the US that year; after that, the troops were recalled and the fort was taken apart by locals over time for the building materials.

Jackson himself never visited, just the local commanders. There are also some records of the soldiers that died at the fort (heat, disease, etc.) and a list will be put together for the families who have asked for these records over the years.

Some Ft. Crawford (AL) documents have been found in files at Ft. Crawford, Colorado. Some files for Ft. Crawford, Colorado have been found at Ft. Crawford, Wisconsin and a fort in Illinois.

The Other Fort Crawfords

Fort Crawford, Colorado

Fort Crawford, first known as Cantonment at Uncompanyer, was a U.S. military post along the Uncompanyer River, south of Montrose in Montrose County, Colorado. It was built following the Meeker Massacre and operated from 1880 to 1891.

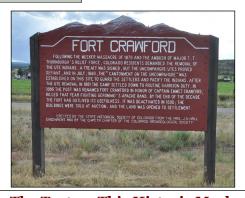
Montrose County is in southwest Colorado, on Colorado's western border with Utah.

Background on the Meeker Massacre, from <u>Wikipedia</u>: The Ute Indians hunted on ancestral hunting grounds and foraged for food, but they were increasingly pushed off the best land by settling farmers.

When Nathan Meeker became a White River Ute Indian agent in 1878, he tried to force them to change their way of life and become farmers. When he was unsuccessful, he asked for help from the U.S. Army. Chief Douglas and warriors from his band attacked Meeker, killing him and seven other agency members on September 29, 1879, in what was called the Meeker Massacre.

There was also a following attack on the forces of Major Thomas T. Thornburgh, killing him and nine others. Area residents then demanded removal of the Utes. After violation of a treaty by the Utes and the Anglo-Americans, the Utes would not leave and the Cantonment at Uncompahgre was established in July 1880 on the west bank of the Uncompahgre River.

The Utes were moved to a desolate Utah reservation the following year (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Crawford_(Colorado).



The Text on This Historic Marker: Following the Meeker Massacre of 1879 and the ambush of Major T. T. Thornburgh's relief force, Colorado residents demanded the removal of the Ute Indians. A treaty was signed, but the Uncompangre Utes proved defiant, and in July, 1880, the "Cantonment on the Uncompahgre" was established on this site to guard the settlers and pacify the Indians. After the Ute removal in 1881 the camp settled down to routine garrison duty. In 1886 the post was renamed Fort Crawford in honor of Captain Emmet Crawford, killed that year fighting Geronimo's Apache band. By the end of the decade the fort had outlived its usefulness. It was deactivated in 1890; the buildings were sold at auction, and the land was opened to settlement. Erected by the Historical Society of Colorado.

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The Other Fort Crawfords

(Continued from page 4)

Fort Crawford, Wisconsin was an outpost of the U. S. Army located in Prairie du Chien, Crawford County in the southwest part of Wisconsin.

The First Fort Crawford (1816-1828):

The first Fort Crawford was a wooden structure built on an island in the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, during 1816. The fort was built just after the War of 1812 over the site of one of the war's battles. It was named in honor of William H. Crawford, the Secretary of War under James Madison. The fort was the site of one of the largest Indian Councils in history, where over 5000 representatives of nearly a dozen Native American nations gathered to sign the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825.

Because of the first Fort Crawford's location alongside the Mississippi River, diseases such as malaria and dysentery were common among the troops, and the fort's wooden walls rotted

because of the flooding that took place nearly every spring. In 1826, after a major flood, the garrison at Fort Crawford was ordered to leave Prairie du Chien and reinforce Fort Snelling in Minnesota.

During 1827, while no troops remained in Prairie du Chien, a group of hostile Winnebago Indians led by chief Red Bird murdered a family of settlers near the abandoned fort. This incident prompted the return of soldiers to Prairie du Chien. When the troops returned, it was decided that the first Fort Crawford was no longer inhabitable. In 1828 it was decided that a new fort would be built, but in the meantime army doctor William Beaumont would do his best to keep the troops healthy. Beaumont is known for his "groundbreaking experiments" on digestion when he was an army surgeon

The Second Fort Crawford (1829-1856):

The construction of the second Fort Crawford started in 1829 under the direction of the new commander, Colonel Zachary Taylor. The new fort was built of limestone on a small hill on the east side of the

Fort Crawford, Wisconsin



Fort Crawford was the name of two fortifications of the United States Army built in Prairie du Chien. Both of the forts were part of a string of fortifications along the upper Mississippi.



Ft. Crawford, WI, Museum

Mississippi River in Prairie du Chain.

In 1832 the Black Hawk War broke out in Illinois and the Fort Crawford troops participated in the war. After the Battle of the Bad Axe, Black Hawk surrendered to Colonel Zachary Taylor at Fort Crawford.

Black Hawk was imprisoned at the fort until he was escorted by Lt. Jefferson Davis to St. Louis, Missouri. It was while at Fort Crawford that Davis met and fell in love with his first wife, Sarah Taylor, daughter of Zachary

Taylor, who would be a U. S. President.

During the 1840s the garrison at Fort Crawford was assigned the task of building a road between Fort Crawford and Fort Winnebago in Portage. After the road was completed and the Winnebago Indians were relocated from Wisconsin to Minnesota, the fort had little use. It was abandoned in 1849. In 1855 it was reoccupied to prevent an

uprising among the remaining Native Americans, and troops left the fort for the last time on 9 June 1856.

Current Status

Upon the Federal abandonment of the fort in 1856, it became the object of several lawsuits and was left officially unoccupied until 1872. Some of the fort buildings were rented as apartments. In 1864 some of the military reservation was sold to the public at auction. The unsold portion was transferred to the Department of the Interior, which sold it the following year. From 1872 to 1926, the site of the reservation was occupied by Saint Mary's Academy (later Saint Mary's College). The College in turn moved to Milwaukee in 1926.

In 1930, a portion of the fort's hospital was restored for use as a museum of medical history, and the remaining parts of the dilapidated fort were cleared away to allow for development. The Museum was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1960.

(Continued on page 6)

The Other Fort Crawfords

(Continued from page 5)

Site of the Second Fort Crawford 1829 – 1856

The first Fort Crawford was built in 1816, and stood on the site now occupied by the "Villa Louis." After a decade of Mississippi River flooding, the U.S. Army relocated Fort Crawford to this site, constructing the new fort of locally quarried limestone. Under construction from 1829-1834, the fort included housing for eight companies of soldiers and their officers. The army added a separate surgeon's quarters and military hospital. The soldiers built the fort while on fatigue duty but were often called away from the construction to settle Indian disputes. In 1825, 1829, and 1830 important Indian treaties were negotiated at the first and second Fort Crawford, Here, on August 27, 1832, Sauk Indian leader Black Hawk surrendered, ending the Black Hawk War. Colonel Zachary Taylor, Colonel Willoughby Morgan, Lt. Jefferson Davis, and Dr. William Beaumont served at Fort Crawford in the 1830s. The Fort Crawford Hospital was partially reconstructed by WPA workers in honor of Dr. William Beaumont, renowned for his pioneer experiments in human digestion.

Erected 1999



Making Cane Syrup





Paula Mason posted the pictures and comment at <tps://www.facebook.com/groups/223394524364985/>.

During the Depression money was really tight. My grandparents were creative in various ways to make a little money and for a while grew sugar cane and made syrup to sell. According to my Dad the purchase price was 50 cents a bucket. Although all of that equipment has long since disappeared from the old homestead, when I was a child the posts were still standing and you could see the track the mule had made going around in a circle to crush the cane and extract the juice.

The ECHS Journal Section

A Tale of Raiding Yankees

This article by Lydia Grimes was published in the Brewton Standard in 2006 *https://*

www.brewtonstandard.com/2005/04/06/a-tale-of-yankees-raiding-rebels/>.

Recently I was looking at some old bound volumes of The Brewton Standard and found several articles that bear repeating. I thought I would rerun a couple of them in this space. This first one was run in 1980, so there must be many of you who haven't read this or won't remember it. This was written by Andrew J. McCreary and came from the files of the Escambia County Historical Society.

Major General Frederick Steel, U.S. Army, Commanding U.S. Forces operating from Pensacola Bay, Fla., started making plans early in 1865, to invade west Florida and south Alabama as early as possible. The Confederate Army had a small force at Milton along with the home guard. There was a sizable force at Camp Pollard, Ala., and cavalry units of considerable size in the area of

Gonzales, seven to eight miles north of Pensacola at this time.

The Confederate Army had firm control of the west side of the Escambia River from the Alabama state line to Camp Gonzales. The Yankees had control of Fort Barrancas, Santa Rosa Island, Pensacola, Pensacola Bay and Escambia Bay. There were no Yankee troops in Santa Rosa County until Lt. Col. Andrew B. Spurling landed his cavalry units from the steamer Matamoras on Feb. 22. He embarked 50 mounted and 250 unmounted cavalrymen on Blackwater Bay.

This action was taken to see what forces and how

many Confederate soldiers were stationed in the Milton area and to pick a landing place to be used later on for the raid into south Alabama. The raid was made by the Second Marine Cavalry and they

Civil War Raids on Pollard From <u>Encyclopedia of Alabama</u> <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/ pollard/>.

In December 1864, federal raiders from Fort Barrancas near Pensacola overran Pollard, burned the town's buildings, and destroyed the railroad tracks. Late in the war, the town experienced three federal incursions. A U.S. Army brigade under Lt. Col. Andrew B. **Spurling marched on Pollard in late** March 1865 as part of the movement against Fort Blakeley and took control of the town and the camp which had been abandoned by Confederate troops. About the same time, Maj. Gen Frederick Steele came through, and then Maj. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson passed through in mid-April.

From the Archives of the Baldwin
County Historical Society
https://baldwincountyal.gov/docs.
Spurling's command (Steele's cavalry) followed the railroad as far as Pollard, capturing both north and south bound trains, destroying considerable stores, and bringing in 120 prisoners, 200 negroes and 250 horses and mules.

landed six miles below Milton at Pierce's Mill at 10 p.m. and moved north at once to surprise the Confederate camp, just north of Milton.

The attack was made at daylight the next morning without even alerting the guard that was on duty. One Rebel was killed and 20 captured along with 20 horses and five mules, 50 stands of arms with full accouterment along with all their camp equipment and food stuff being destroyed. It was not known how many Confederate soldiers escaped into the swamp, but it must have been at least 20 according to the number of rifles that were in the camp.

Lt. Col. Andrew B. Spurling, Second Marine Cavalry, U.S. Army, acting on orders issued by Gen. Steele moved his cavalry units from Fort Barrancas, Fla., to Creigler's Mill on the east

side of Blackwater Bay, just north of the mouth of the Yellow River on March 19, 20 and 21 on the steamer Matamoras. At 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 21, the last of Col. Spurling's troops and horses were unloaded.

This raid was to be known as "The Special Cavalry Expedition" and was composed of the Second Illinois Cavalry, 420 enlisted men and 14 officers; the Second Maine Cavalry, 212 enlisted men and 10 officers; the first Florida Cavalry, 177 enlisted men and five officers, a total of 847 cavalrymen all on good horses and all well trained soldiers.

The ECHS Journal Section

Annie Waters History Tells of Camp Pollard

The following article introduced by Lydia Grimes is from the Brewton Standard in 2009 < https://

www.brewtonstandard.com/2009/06/17/

book-tells-of-camp-pollard/>.

Most of your old-time residents of Brewton know about Camp Tattnall (or Camp Pollard) and its usefulness during the Civil War, or, as my Aunt Ethel would say, the War of Northern Aggression.

But, I'll bet there are some younger folks out there who have not heard of Camp Pollard.

During the Civil War, after Pensacola had fallen into the hands of the Union Army, it became necessary to build a Confederate camp to make sure that southeastern Alabama would not be invaded by the federal troops.

Much of the following is taken from Annie Waters History of Escambia County.

No records have been found to signify just exactly when the camp was built, but it is thought that it was in 1861. It's official name was Camp Tattnall, named after Col. John R. F. Tattnall, who was the commander of the camp in 1862, but most people in this area called it Camp Pollard, as it was located near Pollard.

Camp Tattnall was located two miles northeast of Pollard and five miles southwest of what would become Brewton. It consisted of at least three areas: an infantry camp, a cavalry camp, and a battery camp with a butchering area. When Mrs. Waters wrote her book, she said that there was still some evidence of the cavalry camp and many artifacts had been gathered and put on display at the museum at JDCC.

Mrs. Waters also said that several springs in the area furnished plenty of water for the camp. Barracks were log cabins and housed four to eight men each. The cabins had dirt floors and a fireplace for cooking and heating. The beds were made of straw.

The forces assigned to the camp maintained a full guard at Burnt Corn Creek (Brewton), Little Escambia (near Pollard), Big Escambia (Flomaton), Perdido and Pine Barren, Fla. (all the bridges in the area).

Troops were constantly busy watching to make sure that advancements were not made into south Alabama by the federals along the coast, and to make sure the railroads were kept open for the shipment of supplies. Auxiliary camps were also set up around the area and one of those camps was located on the hill where BankTrust in Brewton is now.

As the war progressed, there came the time when

the Union Army were in possession of Pensacola, and the Florida coast. In 1864, Mobile was taken when both Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan were taken by the Union Navy. It became clear that the garrison at Camp Tattnall could not hold its position. Then early in 1865, Union forces arrived in Pollard to find it abandoned. No armed confederates could be found. and the small village of Pollard was peacefully taken.

It was a small village, having, perhaps 20 wooden storehouses, used by the confederates, but there was no property, save a barrel or two of hard-bread. The public storehouses were burned.

Mrs. Waters wrote a story of a legend concerning a desertion from Camp Tattnall. It is not known if it is true or not. It was said that two deserters from the camp were caught and the incident became a story told to a young girl, who would later remember and tell to others.

There was a family living in the area by the name of Barker and it was a daughter of the family that remembered being told this story. It was of two deserters from Georgia who attempted to return home on their horses. They were captured and hung from a limb of an oak tree in the vicinity of the Catawba Baptist Church. Graves were dug beneath them and the bodies were buried where they died.

John Francis Drury, a member of the 15th Cavalry, Company E, was associated with two men, Dick Solace and a man named Hobbs, at Camp Lomax who became deserters and were collaborators with the Federals. Drury stated that they were captured and that Solace was hung at Pollard, and that Hobbs was also hung, but there were no records to prove the story.

Another tale told relates the story of a group of four deserters that were helped in their escape by an old man and a girl, who met the men and led them to a house two miles away where a guide was to meet them. The story was that the girl was the daughter of a man who had been well-to-do, and driven from his home because of his devotion to the Union. Her mother had died broken-hearted, and the 14-year-old girl had found a refuge with the old man. According to tradition, the old man and girl who met the escapes at Burnt Corn Creek were a Mr. Franklin and a Miss Riley.

The ECHS Journal Section

Rambling Through Creek Trails with Yankee Troops

This article by Andrew J. McCreary is introduced by Lydia Grimes https://www.brewtonstandard.com/2005/04/13/rambling-through-creek-trails-with-yankee-troops/.

I am continuing with the material begun last week and written by Andrew J. McCreary. This will take a while but I believe you will derive some information about the area. He gets away from the raid many times to tell about people who lived in the area and the way they lived that is interesting.

The route that the expedition was going to take through Santa Rosa County, Fla., and Conecuh and Covington Counties, Ala. is shown on a map drawn under the direction of Lt. S. E. McGregory, U.S. Army commanding Topographical Party of the Army of west Mississippi and southern Alabama, March and April 1865, by order of Bvt. Major Clester, Bvt. Major U.S. Army.

The first unit landed from the steamer Matamoras was the First Florida Cavalry and two companies under command of Capt. E. D. Johnson were sent to Milton on the 19th to see if the Confederates had reoccupied any of the areas there, and to confuse the Rebels as to when and where the Yankees were going to strike next. A large Yankee force was going to move from Pensacola toward Camp Pollard shortly. Only a few Rebel pickets were found in Milton and they were driven toward Camp Pollard and disappeared into the swamps. Capt. Johnson was to stay only two days and then join the main column on the march into south Alabama.

As soon as the last unit was unloaded at Creigler's Mill, the expedition started moving north, bypassing Milton to the west and crossing the Blackwater River several miles upstream, and made camp 25 miles above Milton at 6 p.m. Travel was slow as it had been raining for several days and the streams were swollen with rain water. The first day's march was through sandy country and notwithstanding the rainy weather, the roads were in good condition, but narrow.

The advance guard under Capt. Robinson joined the expedition that night. He did not leave any troops at Milton because he felt the Rebels did not have enough troops available to cause any trouble in that area. Not meeting any armed resistance, Col. Spurling moved on through Santa Rosa County into Alabama on the west side of the Conecuh River to his planned crossing of this river at Montezuma Landing,

just below what is now River Falls.

The main body of the cavalry rode on roads which followed trails made by Creek Indians and used by Indians and Indian agents to bring furs and other products from the Indian tribes of south and central Alabama to Pensacola from Alexander McGillivary for the Payton and Company in the late 1700s or early 1800s. These products were brought into Pensacola from as far north as Tookabatcha, north of present day Montgomery, Ala.

Ponies raised in the Creek Indian Nation were used as pack animals. They were unusually small animals but were very strong and could carry a load of 150 pounds with ease on the very narrow trails. There were as many as 150 pack ponies in some pack trains moving through the wide and unsettled area of south Alabama and west Florida.

Other than furs, honey, bear oil, bees wax, snake root, hickory nut oil, pine tar and medical plants were transported by pack animal to Pensacola over these trails. Some furs and products were brought down the Escambia River in canoes to Pensacola.

As the Yankees moved north, the road they used, for the most part, was only wide enough for an ox cart to travel on. Side roads were nothing more than Indian trails. In 1865 this was not a well used road north from Pensacola and Milton. Parts of the road were so narrow that two cavalrymen could not ride abreast, they had to ride Indian fashion, one behind the other, as Indian ponies moved 75 and 100 years before, or knees and shins would be injured by trees and brush along the side of the road.

The raiders did not meet any armed resistance after leaving Milton. The only thing that hampered their movement was rain. It rained every day they were on the raid. They passed very few houses until they crossed the Alabama state line. Shortly thereafter they entered Lewis' Station, which was only a cross road community with a few houses. This is where the Yankees did their first looting and destroying of private property to any extent. They looted the houses, destroyed farm equipment, robbed potato banks, stole sugar cane syrup and replenished their saddle bags with corn for their horses which they had not had a chance to do since leaving Fort Barrancas.

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 251-809-1528 or escambiacohistoricalsociety@gmail.com We're on the weh! www.escohis.org The Museum is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com. McMillan Museum>.

FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL Address Correction Requested

"Donations and contributions that are not for books or membership dues may now be made online through PayPal to <<u>escambiacohistoricalsociety@gmail.com</u>>. Please continue to use the form shown for book requests and membership dues, by mail, as your complete name and address are needed for our records. Thank you again for your support!"

· · · · · ·	Regular	Mailed
History of Escambia County, Alabama	\$90.00	\$96.00
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
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	\$46.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$36.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$52.00

Clip the following form and send to ECHS Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427

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