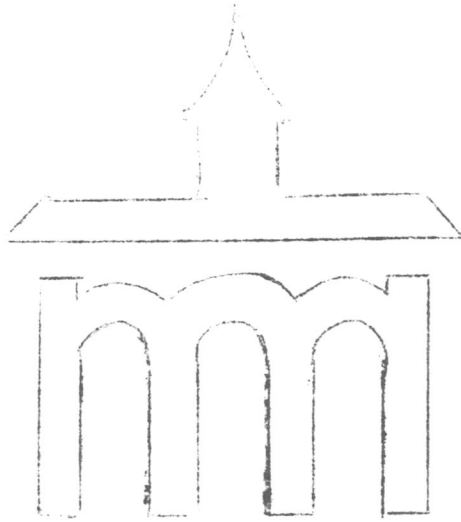




Escambia Echoes

PROGRAM

Mrs. Annie C. Waters will give a program of interest on items of Historical Signification from her numerous scrap books. Mrs. Waters is the Historian for the E.C.H.S. She is an excellent researcher and a writer of History. She has indexed several cemeteries in this area.

Mrs. Waters is a former school teacher and an authority on the events of the past. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our Society and a speaker for the September meeting.

"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart; I breathe at this hour the fragrance of the lilacs, the violets, and the roses, as at twenty years ago. The nearer I approach to the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the worlds which invite me."

--Victor Hugo

Museum News

As of October 1, the Tensaw Country Archaeological Project will have been completed. After this time, more intensive efforts will be expended on the preservation and exhibit of materials recovered during the project field period. Copies of the completed project report will be kept by the college for the Alabama History Room for reference use.

An exhibit of fish prints by local artist Terry Ravey will be in the museum through September. Ravey has had works shown in the Smithsonian Institution and his technique is an innovative adaptation of the Japanese art form of Goyaku.

Memorials

In loving memory of...

Mrs. M. C. (Katie B.) Pittman
by Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Sid and Barbara Boykin,
Mrs. W. S. West, and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. West, Jr.

Mr. James Knox
by Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Mrs. W. S. West, and Mr.
and Mrs. W. S. West, Jr.

Mrs. A. E. (Helen Roberts) Kelly
by Mrs. F. A. Juttrell, Miss Rita Jane Boykin, and
Mrs. John David Finlay

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kelly
by Mrs. W. S. West and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. West, Jr.

Mrs. J. S. (Mari S.) McDonald
by Miss Rita Jane Boykin

Mrs. Ben (Annette Jordan) Martin, Jr.
by Mrs. W. S. West and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. West, Jr.

Rev. Jacob Smith
by Hugh Rodgers

"If there be any virtue, if there be any praise,
think on these things."

--Saint Paul

THOMAS EDWARD MCMILLAN

Thomas Edward McMillan was born July 10, 1912, at Brewton, Alabama, son of Ed Leigh McMillan and Iva Lee Miller McMillan, and was named for his maternal and paternal grandfathers.

At the age of six months he was christened into the Brewton Universalist Church and was a lifelong member of that church.

Mr. McMillan attended Brewton Grammar School and T. R. Miller High School of Brewton, Alabama, Culver Military Academy, of Culver, Indiana and the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he received his B. A. and J.L.B. degrees. While at the University, he played on the Varsity football team and joined the D.K.E. Fraternity. In 1973 he was presented a "Dean's Award" from the University of Alabama.

While attending the University of Alabama he met and married Elvira Minge Cochrane. They were married August 11, 1935. To this union were born five children: Ed Leigh McMillan II; Elvira Cochrane McMillan; Katherine Elizabeth McMillan; Thomas E. McMillan, Jr., and Robert Cochrane McMillan.

Returning to Brewton in 1937 he entered his father's law firm of McMillan and Caffey and later established the Southern Title and Abstract Company of Brewton. Besides his many business pursuits, Mr. McMillan was actively involved in many projects for the betterment of the area, helping to found the Rural Electric Association for Escambia County and was attorney for Southern Pine Electric Coop. from 1941 until his death. He was active with Boy Scouts from 1938 until his death, receiving the coveted Silver Beaver Scouting Award in 1970. Mr. McMillan also served on the Escambia County Board of Education for twelve years.

After purchasing several adjoining plantations in Conecuh County in the late 1930's and early forties, McMillan began a cattle operation there, naming it the Jay Villa Plantation, and restored the historic plantation home. He also preserved the old post office building built in the early 1800's which was on the property at the time he purchased it. Mr. McMillan served as Vice President and Director of the Alabama Polled Herford Association, member of the Escambia County Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Association.

Mr. McMillan was Director, Secretary and General Counsel for the T. R. Miller Mill Company, Inc., from 1946 until his death. Also Mr. McMillan was a Director of Neal Land and

Timber Company of Blountstown, Florida for more than twenty-five years. Among his individual forest products endeavors he established the McMillan Mill Company of Brewton and AlaFlora Forest Products of Brewton. He served on the Forest Resource Committee of Southern Pine Association.

Mr. McMillan served on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank from Brewton from 1968 until his death and on the Boards of Cotton States Life Insurance Company of Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Southland National Life Insurance Company, also of Tuscaloosa.

Posthumously in 1978 the Brewton Chamber of Commerce named Thomas E. McMillan the "Man of the Year" and presented his widow with the "Man of the Year Award."

Mr. McMillan was intensely interested in the oil and gas development of this area and his knowledge in this field was respected by all. His active pursuit in this field brought about a great deal of leasing in this area and ultimately the discovery of the area's oil and gas fields.

Mr. McMillan helped to establish the Escambia County Historical Society in 1972. In 1973 he purchased and restored Brewton's first courthouse building and established it as a business house, naming it "The Leigh Place." It, along with Jay Villa Plantation was on the 1976 Bicentennial Trail in Alabama. In 1975 the Alabama Historical Commission presented him with an "Award of Merit" for his leadership and achievements in historical preservation.

Mr. McMillan's endeavors in the field of historical preservation won for him much recognition during his lifetime. After his death the Escambia County Historical Society established a museum on the campus of the Jefferson Davis State Junior College and named the museum in his memory "The Thomas E. McMillan Museum" at its dedication on May 6, 1979.

Mr. McMillan died on June 27, 1977 and was interred in the Union Cemetery, Brewton, Alabama. He left surviving him his widow, Mrs. Elvira Cochrane McMillan, his children, Ed Leigh McMillan II; Elvira McMillan Tate; Katherine McMillan Owens; Thomas E. McMillan, Jr.; and Robert Cochrane McMillan; his grandchildren, Ed Leigh McMillan III; Daniel Webster McMillan; Minnie Leigh Tate; Elvira Minge Tate; Albert Clark Tate; Edward McMillan Tate; Katherine Leigh Owens; Elizabeth Owens; Mary Allison Owens; Thomas Edward McMillan, III; and Lucile McMillan. Since his death a twelfth grandchild was born, Robert Cochrane McMillan, Jr., and two great grandchildren, Ed Leigh McMillan IV and Jonathan Rigby McMillan.

--The Ed Leigh McMillans
Historical Records

JACOB SMITH

Pioneer Farmer and Preacher

The Rev. Jacob Smith was born about 1810 in Georgia and died on August 13, 1886, in North Brewton. Some inconclusive evidence suggests that Jacob Smith's father was the Jacob Smith who moved with his family from Warren County, Georgia to Conecuh County, Alabama, before 1820. The Rev. Jacob Smith's brother was David Smith (born in Georgia about 1812). These two are the ancestors of many of the Smiths of Escambia County and southern Conecuh County.

Shortly before 1830, Jacob Smith married his first wife, Lucretia _____ (born c. 1810 in Georgia; died between 1860 and 1863, Conecuh County). At that time, he farmed near Sparta, seat of Conecuh County, and was active in local affairs. The State Department of Archives and History has a record of his 1840 election as Captain of Company No. 5, 28th Regiment, 8th Brigade, 4th Division of the Alabama Militia. He was also an active member of the Baptist faith. There is a record of Jacob Smith as a messenger (delegate) of the Murder Creek Baptist Church to the annual Baptist meeting of 1852. In the mid-1850's, he became a licensed preacher active in lower Conecuh County (later Escambia County). He was pastor of Catawba Baptist Church in 1858 and 1861 and also pastored a congregation which formed Point Pleasant Baptist Church (later named North Brewton) in 1863.

On August 30, 1863, Rev. Smith married his second wife, Axey Holland (born June 13, 1827, in Conecuh County; died June 1, 1905, in North Brewton). Axey was a daughter of Dempsey Holland (born in Georgia c. 1790) and Jane _____ (born in Georgia c. 1795). Dempsey Holland had settled in Conecuh County before 1830 and came from Warren County, Georgia. With his new wife, Rev. Smith sought greater material support for his life. Fortunately, after the close of the War between the States, there still existed much public land in lower Alabama.

In 1869, Rev. Jacob Smith filed homestead applications. Before his death he had acquired 240 acres. The homestead applications were not approved until 1882 and 1884, after frustrating delays which necessitated inquiries at the Federal Land Office by Rev. Smith's friend, State Representative T. S. Sowell and the services of an attorney, John Rupert of Pollard. Even before the land patents were issued, however, Rev. Smith had become a substantial farmer in the 1870's in addition to his ministerial work. He farmed the usual crops with two

horses and two draft oxen. He also raised cattle, sheep, and hogs, grazing them in the open woods and swamps of the area from which they had to be rounded up periodically for branding and for sale. The draft oxen were also useful in Rev. Smith's logging activities. He had a small sawmill on Little Juniper Creek where lumber was cut and logs prepared for floating to Burnt Corn Creek.

Rev. Smith's residence was a typical south Alabama pioneer dwelling: a large log building with rooms on either side of a breezeway or "dog trot." Eventually, wide front and side porches were added and a dining room and kitchen were connected by a covered porch to the main house. This residence was located on the south side of Georgia Lane, diagonally across from the current residence of Frank Norsworthy. The original construction was torn down after World War II. The farmstead included numerous buildings such as a blacksmith shop, corn cribs, a cane mill, and pens for cattle, sheep, and hogs.

Rev. Smith's health began to fail him in the early 1880's. His numerous undertakings were carried on by his sons. The marriage of Rev. Jacob Smith to Axey Holland produced three sons: Ransom (born in 1865; he married Hattie Posten); Jacob Andrew Smith (born in 1866); and William David, born in 1869, who died as a young man from a riding accident. Rev. Smith's active life as a pioneer farmer-preacher came to an end on August 13, 1886. His obituary in the "Escambia-Baldwin Times" of August 18, 1886, concluded: "The deceased was an honest and upright citizen and one who believed in the Golden Rule and all can point with pride and say, "There lies an honest Christian." Axey Holland Smith Survived her husband by 19 years until she too passed away on June 1, 1905 and was buried in Weaver Cemetery next to him.

Rev. Smith's second son and namesake, Jacob Andrew Smith, was born on September 4, 1866, and died October 11, 1904. After certain property settlements with his brother Ransom, Jacob Andrew carried on the successful farm established by his father. He married on February 27, 1887, Frances Josephine Georgia Ann Lee (born February 26, 1863; died August 25, 1950). Georgia Ann was the daughter of George W. Lee (born March 14, 1835 in Georgis; died in the Civil War, March 1, 1863), and Elizabeth Tolbert (born November 15, 1838 in Covington County; died December 11, 1933, in North Brewton).

Jacob Andrew Smith and Georgia Ann Lee Smith were widely known for their hospitality and cheerful willingness to assist others and they were active in church and community life.

Their home was open to many and such school teachers as Professor E. P. Yeldell boarded with them. After Jacob Andrew Smith's sudden and unexpected death while inspecting a cotton field in 1904, his widow managed the household of six young children and the farm. Georgian Ann Lee Smith's faithfulness to the Baptist Church became a community legend. This couple's six children were: Elbert, who married Lottie Lynn; Richard, who married Mamie Tolbert; Emma, who married Fred Norsworthy; Hezekiah, who married Ila Smith; Jacob Boardman Crumpton, who married Nan Norsworthy; and Bessie Lee who married Henry H. Rodgers. These marriages provided numerous descendants of their pioneer ancestor, Rev. Jacob Smith.

Mrs. Bessie Smith Rodgers
Mr. Hugh Rodgers

COMING SOON!!!

October 27, 1981

Ms. Mary E. Brantley will give a review of her new book, "From Cabin To Mansions," a book about Southwest Alabama People. Ms. Brantley is a native of Burnt Corn, Alabama, a village located on the Monroe-Conecuh county line. Many of her ancestors came from England, migrating to Georgia and Alabama as early as 1816. Ms. Brantley received her A.B. Degree from Montevallo University, Montevallo, Alabama and did her graduate work at the University of Alabama. She is a retired school teacher and makes her home in Atmore, Alabama. She has compiled two booklets: "Poetry for the First Grade," and "Recollections and Reflections of Childhood." Her first published book was "Early Settlers Along The Old Federal Road in Monroe-Conecuh Counties."

"RECOLLECTION is the only paradise here
on earth from which we cannot be turned
out."

--Richter

"TRIUMPH--There never shall be one lost
good. All we have willed or hoped or
dreamed of good shall exist."

--Robert Browning