

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society

February 2002

Vol. 29, No. 2

The Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 26 **Time:** 3:00 p.m. **Location:** The Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the JDCC Campus **Program:** Guest speaker, Danial Harris, a brick mason and artist who specializes in fired-clay art.

The January Meeting

At the first meeting of the year, the Society elected new officers for the coming biennium: (1) **President:** Darryl Searcy (2) **Vice President:** Lynn Wixon (3) **Treasurer:** Peggy Bracken (4) **Recording Secretary:** Mary Anne Hawthorne (5) **Newsletter/Journal Editor:** Ranella Holley (6) **Publicity Chair:** Ann Biggs-Williams (7) **Curator/Historian:** John Powell (8) **Librarian:** Brooke Walker

By-Laws Revision

The following proposal, prepared by the society President will be discussed at the February meeting

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1, 2, AND 3

At the January 22, 2002 Annual Meeting of the Escambia County Historical Society a question of residency was brought to the floor; whether or not a member living outside the Escambia County boundary is eligible to hold office. The issue was open for membership comment in order to seek differing interpretations regarding the question of residency when viewed in light of the overall intent of the existing article VI, Section 3.

A Committee was appointed to study the provision and to make a recommendation of change in the By-Laws as practiced in the past and as practiced at present.

The existing Article VI, Section 2 reads:

“An officer changing his or her residence to another section of the State or to another state automatically vacates the office, and shall notify the President of his intention to vacate the Office.”

It was recommended by the Committee that Section 3 of Article VI be deleted in its entirety as the provision is ambiguous and no longer serves the accepted practices of today’s Society.

It was also recommended by the Committee that punctuation (comma) be placed in the wording of Article 3 VI, Section I, following the word (s) Historian/Curator so as to clearly separate the two distinct officer positions. As each sentence now reads, it might be interpreted as meaning that the Historian /Curator and Editor of Journal and Newsletter are held by the same officer.

The Committee has further recommended that Article VI, Section 2 shall be amended to read, “Officers shall be elected biennially and shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected.”

- All voting members are encouraged to attend the general meeting to be held at 3:00 PM, March 26 in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum meeting room on the campus of Jefferson Davis Community College. Amendments to the By-Laws will be voted “Yea” or “Nea” at that time.

Rita Jane Boykin

This January, the Historical Society lost one of its charter members, Rita Jane Boykin. Known for her love of history, she was dedicated to the Historical Society, which she helped organize. She was active in the organization, helping to prepare the time capsule for the centennial celebration of Brewton, donating her father’s pharmaceutical bag and the wedding gown of an aunt to the Museum, and attending the meetings until the last few years, when her health failed.

Known to family members as Ditty, a name given to her by her brother Gideon, who couldn't pronounce Rita Jane, she was also known for her ability to share her love of music with others. Her pupils at W.S. Neal remember sitting on a rug in front of a pink and yellow piano (the piano changed colors every year), singing, as Ms. Boykin taught them songs and accompanied them on the piano. One of her pupils remembers that she couldn't wait to get up in the mornings to go to school because Ms. Boykin's class was so much fun.

She used her love of music in her church work as well, playing for the children in Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. In her last years, she went to Sunday school and church just to play for the children. When the First Presbyterian Church celebrated Founder's Day, church members knew that Rita Jane would know their church history and the story of its founders better than anyone else. Her work with children extended to her participation in the after-school program of the YMCA, where once again she taught songs to the children, and even gave a piano to the Y.

A talented lady who contributed her time and skills to the community, she will be remembered and missed.

One Hundred Years Ago This Month

From The Standard Gauge for Thursday Feb. 6, 1902:

- Mr. George C. Harold, his daughter, "Miss Cora," and "little Earl," left on the train to go to the wedding of their relative, Miss Annie Pfeiffer, in Pensacola.
- Robbins and McGowin Co. "Brewton's Greatest Store," advertised that they had a large lot of live stock, including mules, horses, an ox-team, a single yoke-of-oxen, or stock cattle, and could make anyone "some interesting prices."
- E. A. Dixon, Sr., of Brewton, offered a "suitable reward" for anyone who would return a black horse, with a white spot on the forehead, which had been taken off of Mr. Dixon's lot.
- The Brewton Drug Co. advertised Herbine, a tonic capable of infusing "new energy, new life into the exhausted nerves, the overworked brain or muscular system."
- Many students of the Brewton Collegiate Institute were being kept at home because of "sore eyes."
- In Atmore, William Carney was drilling a well to either find water or oil.

- The news roundup from Pollard noted that the town was steadily growing. There was a new hotel (the eighth building put up within a few months), a new mill “up and running,” and a new bridge almost completed. The merchants were said to be doing a good business considering the number of drummers in the town.

NEWS FROM THE ALABAMA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society will have its Spring Seminar, Saturday, May 4-5, 2002, at Sanford University, Birmingham, Alabama. The seminar will feature guest speakers Margaret M. Hofmann who has published several books on land patents and grants, and Christine Rose, a full time genealogical lecturer who lives in Sam Jose, California.

For more information, contact: the President of the Society at jylhardy@bellsouth.net;

Brenda Thomas at stripesstus@aol.com; or write to the Alabama Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 2296, Sanford University Library, 800 Lake Shore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229-0001

Books for Sale

	Mailed	Regular
Price		
<u>A History of Escambia County</u>	\$55.00	\$50.00
<u>A Pictorial History of the Brewton Area</u>	\$35.00	\$30.00
<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$40.00	\$35.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$5.00

Get in Touch with Us

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Membership Fees

Send the \$10.00 Membership/Renewal Fee, now due, to the Treasurer: Peggy Bracken, 602 Edgewood Drive, Brewton, AL 36426.

- ❖ Please clip the following form and return whether you are mailing membership fees or not, so that we can verify addresses.

Membership Renewal/Application Form

Name	<hr/>			
	First	Middle	Last	
Address	<hr/>			
	Street	City	State	Zip
Phone	<hr/>			
Email	<hr/>			