

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society

July 2002 - Vol. 29, No. 7

Editor, Ranella Holley

The Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2002; **Time:** 3:00 p.m.; **Location:** The Meeting Room in the **Thomas E. McMillan Museum** on the JDCC Campus; **Program:** Guest Speaker, Gayle Thrower; **Refreshments:** Doris Bruner

Our Speaker for the July Meeting

Gayle Thrower is the **Cultural Archives Director of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians**. Her program will cover the topic of **ancient tribal medicines and herbal remedies**.

Programs for the August and September Meetings

August – Guest speaker, **Al Schotz**, who is with the **Heritage Program of the Alabama Conservancy**.

September – a visit to **NDI**. The society has been invited to meet for a **brown bag lunch** and a **tour of the facility**.

The June Meeting

President **Darryl Searcy** called the meeting to order and led members in the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Brooke Walker** read the minutes from the last meeting. **Brooke**, the **Society Librarian**, is filling in for **Recording Secretary, Mary Ann Hawthorn**, who has taken a **leave of absence** for health reasons. All members agreed with **Darryl's** expression of concern and support for **Mary Anne** with hopes that we will see her back at the meetings soon.

Treasurer Peggy Bracken reported that the Society has **\$3, 275.83** in its account. The Society received **\$ 365.00** in book sales in June, along with **\$40.00** for membership dues.

President Darryl Searcy reported that the wallpaper in the **reception room/parlor** of the **Thomas E. McMillan Museum** is peeling at the edges. **Darryl** will take care of the repair, which can be done at very little cost. He also reports that the family of **Rita Jane Boykin** has donated her archival materials to the Society. **Darryl** is calling for **volunteers** who will be willing to **sort and file these materials** for the **Alabama Room**.

Lila Greenberg recommended that the Society give a copy of **Alma Hall's book, Rabbit Stew and Pee Buckets** to the **Brewton Public Library** in memory of the young woman from East Brewton who was killed

in the Pentagon on September 11. The Society voted to **accept this recommendation.**

“Show and Tell” was the program and members responded with a variety of topics and items. **Ranella Holley** brought an **1851 Mitchell map of the state of Florida** showing counties, towns, villages, railroads, rivers, canals, and steamship routes. It is a reminder of the time when, since there were few good roads, railroads and boats were favorite methods of travel.

Paul Merritt used a print of a perspective of **Pensacola** drawn as if it were an aerial view. **Paul** used this **nineteenth century** view of the city to point out **buildings, streets, and businesses** that are still part of Pensacola. This print also showed that the city was a **major port** with a harbor full of **large sailing ships** waiting to pick up logs sent from Brewton and other parts of Alabama and Florida down the Conecuh River.

Darryl Searcy showed a **petrified log** that he had found in the area. **Lila Greenberg** presented a summary of the book **“The Bondwoman’s Narrative,”** a clothbound, handwritten manuscript, which is the only known novel by a female slave and perhaps the first novel written by a black woman anywhere.

Helen Hildreth brought a copy of the **commencement program** for the **Brewton Collegiate Institute** of 1918 as well as original **pictures** of Brewton streets, homes and businesses as they looked in the **flood of 1929**. She also brought a copy of **Harper’s Weekly** from May 23, 1861.

Louise Stone brought letters from **M. M. Brooks**, county clerk of Escambia, written to a lawyer, **Francis E. Ayers**, of Aurora, Illinois, dated December 17, 1896, and referring a matter to **Nathaniel Ashley**, Judge of Probate, of Atmore.

Ann Biggs-Williams was unable to attend the meeting but provided **delicious refreshments.**

News of Members

Jack and Lynn Wixon celebrated their anniversary on June 28.

During the last two weeks of July, Paul Merritt will be attending the international fly-in at **Oshkosh, Wisconsin.**

Queries

Faye Dreadin McBurney of Charlottesville, Virginia is doing research on her family, the **Dreadins**. Faye has been told that the **Blacks** and the **Lanes** were already in the **“Butler Street” (Huxford)** community when her ancestors (the **Dreadins**) arrived. **Edward Lane, Sr.** supposedly named the road or the community, **“Butler Street.”**

Faye's great-grandfather was the son of **William Dreading (Dreadin, Dreaden, Driding)** and **Lydia Rebecca Taylor**, who raised their children in Conecuh County, Alabama. The third son (and the sixth child) **Samuel Paul Hutchinson (or Henderson) Dreading** was born June 28, 1848 in Conecuh County. He died December 8 or 9 in 1939 in Atmore. His **first wife** was **Elizabeth Wiggins**, who was born on November 14, 1853. She died on July 19, 1905 in Alabama.

Faye knows the following about **Sam and Elizabeth**, who moved to Butler, Alabama. They had **thirteen "known" children**; the first children may have been born in Conecuh County. These children are

- **Mary Francis**, who was born in 1871 and married **Thomas Sellers**;
- **John Wiley**, who was born in 1873 and married **Margie Wilkinson** and then **Anna/Annie Jordan**;
- **William Alonza**, who was born in 1875 and married **Mary Freeman** and then **Anna Croley**;
- **Samuel G. B.**, who was born in 1877;
- **Sarah Jane**, who was born in 1878 and married **James Mancill**;
- **Annie L. (Liddie Ann)**, who was born in 1885 and married **William H. Garrett**;
- **Nancy L**, who was born in 1883 and married **Edward Cruitt Lane, Sr.**;
- **Charlie Thomas**, who was born in 1885 and married **Mary Louisa Cruitt** and then **Pearl Manning**;
- **George Washington**, who was born on December 12, 1886 and married **Era Black**;
- **James**, who was born in 1888;
- **Conrad**, who was born in 1891 and married **Cora Lewis**;
- **Francis**, who was born August 12, 1892; and
- **Zema Bundie**, who was born in 1896 and married **Mittie Viola Croley**.

The family moved to the **Huxford, Escambia County, Alabama** area in **December of 1892**. This date is known because **George** had his sixth birthday on the trip. To the best of her knowledge, Faye McBurney finds that the first twelve children were born in **Butler County**. The twelfth child,

Francis Ann, would have been four months old on the trip. Faye's research finds that only **Zema Bundie** was born in **Huxford** (on Butler Street)

Faye McBurney asks anyone who has knowledge of these families to contact her at her email address of <fmcburney@aol.com> or mailing address: **Faye Dreadin McBurney, P. O. Box 2691, Charlottesville, VA 22902**. Faye also sent notice of the **DREADIN REUNION** to be held **October 19, 2002** at **Claude Kelley State Park**, north of Huxford, beginning about 10:00 or 10:30 a. m.

Another query is from **B. J. Johnston**, who is trying to contact **W. T. Baggett**. Also, Mr. Johnston is interested in information on the **Emmons, Knowles, Bell and Baggett families**. Mr. Johnston can be contacted by phone at **(760) 408-8206**.

Finally, **Carlton Johnson** is looking for information on the **Wallace School**. He would like information on **when the school opened, when it closed, which schools students were sent to when the school was closed, the formal name of the school, as well as information on grades or grading, and enrollment**. He also would like information on locating any **records concerning the school and what the school is used for today**. Carlton Johnson was a **student at Wallace** from **1935-1945**. He can be contacted at <kpjgen@webtv.net>.

Summer Hours for the Alabama Room

The **JDCC Library** and thus the **Alabama Room** will be **closed August 12th - 16th** (Semester Break). **Regular Hours for the Library** for this summer are: **Mon-Thurs 7:30 AM-7:00 PM; Friday: 7:30 AM- 12:00 PM**

News from the Past

- The **Pine Belt News** for Tuesday, December 18, 1894 reported that the **bridge** over the **Muscogee River** was completed. On the day the authorities received the bridge, **twenty-five teams** in a long procession crossed over from the Baldwin side. **W. A. Lovelace**, who helped build the bridge (it cost **\$2,100**), called it "first-class in every respect."
- The **Standard Gage** for August 9, 1888 suggested that a **bushel of scuppernongs** would pay for **one year's subscription** for the paper, and warned readers to come early since only a limited number "could be accommodated in this way."
- The same issue of the **Gage** announced that **Baldwin County** would "send out her **first newspaper, the News and Advertiser**" with **D. C.**

Byrne of Atmore as publisher. The **Gage** called the newspaper “a very newsy sheet.”

- The **Standard Gage** for August 23, 1888 published the news from **High Pine** reporting that **crops were fine** (a good potato crop), and a **five-month school** was being taught by **Chas L. Adcock**. There was not much work “going on” on the **River**, because of the **suspension** of the **Muscogee lumber mills**.
- In the **Standard Gage** for October 4, 1888, the reporter from **High Pine** stated that **Aunt Susan**, who was said to be the **oldest resident of the county** and perhaps in the state, had died at the age of **115**. She was said to have known a great deal about “**Andrew Jackson** and the **Indians**.”
- The **Standard Gage** for July 17, 1890 announced a two-day “**Religious Debate**” to be held at **Flomaton** between **J. F. Love, Jr.** and **George E. Mize**. The subject would be the need for **Christian baptism** with **Mr. Love** arguing for and **Mr. Mize** against.
- From the **Standard Gage** for September 21, 1893, there was notice that **Mr. O. F. Luttrell** was taking up a **collection** for the **yellow fever** sufferers of **Brunswick**. The paper commented that, “**Brewton** once the recipient of such aid should remember those now in distress.”
- The **Escambia Banner** for June 9, 1888 reported that there was trouble between the **contractors** and the **citizens** of the county concerning a **railroad** being built from **Muscogee** to a point on the **M. & M. Railroad** (Mobile and Montgomery) in Baldwin County.
- In the same issue, the **editor** lamented that the **flea season** was in with “all of its horrors. The **crop** is enormous.” He continues that the “**incorrigible** little creatures” had “**welcomed him** into his sanctum [. . .] in a manner **not at all agreeable**”

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

Get in Touch with Us

Address: Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; **Phone:** 251-809-1612; **Email:** Ranny1@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				