

The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society
April, 2003 - Vol. 30, No. 4
Editor, Ranella Holley

The Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 22; **Time:** 3:00 p. m.; **Location:** The Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the JDCC Campus; **Program:** **Guest Speaker: Dr. Anne Torrans**, who will give a brief overview of the history, geography, economics, and religions of **Nigeria** with a **slide presentation**. Dr. Torrans also plans a short discussion of **Nigerian recipes**, since foods we eat every day-**yams, greens, okra, and blackeyed peas**-originated in Nigeria; **Hostesses:** Ann Biggs-Williams and Ranella Holley.

More about the Speaker

Dr. Torrans was born in **Shreveport**, Louisiana, and lived there until she started to college. She has a **B. A. in General Speech** from Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, LA, an **M.A.** from LSU in **Rhetoric and Public Address**, and a **Ph.D.** from Michigan State University in **Speech-Language Pathology**.

She taught at the **junior-senior high school level** for 3 1/2 years, at the **college-level** for “thirty something,” at **Auburn, Western Illinois U., Montevallo, and LSU at Shreveport**. She retired from LSU Shreveport four years ago. She has been traveling since she retired, **China, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Freeport (the Bahamas), and twice to Alaska**. She says that she spent all of her travel money, so she “**un-retired**” and is **teaching** as a fill-in for one year at **JDCC**.

The March Meeting

President Darryl Searcy called the meeting to order. He reminded us that as we watch the news of the war with Iraq we must remember that the people of Iraq are **defending their country** and the American troops in the war are our **friends and neighbors**.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read. The **Treasurer’s report** indicated that the Society, after paying the expenses for the previous month for printing the Newsletter and other miscellaneous expenses still has over **\$3000.00** in its account.

President Searcy wished **Society Trustee Doris Bruner** a Happy Birthday. He again asked that anyone who has **material of historical or genealogical interest** submit it for

publication in the Newsletter or the Journal. President Searcy also stated that he would be glad to have any **suggestions for speakers** who could give programs of historical interest. He announced that Dr. Anne Torrains would be the speaker for the April meeting.

Anne Biggs-Williams made a correction in the March Newsletter concerning the time for the **Concecu/Sepluga Watershed Alliance**, which will meet at **12:00** rather than at 2:00. Ann also showed pictures of Society members who participated in the **Send-off for the National Guard** from the **Brewton unit**.

Vice-President Lynn Wixon introduced the speaker, **George Perry**. Mr. Perry introduced his **special guest** for the meeting, his Mother, **Margaret Perry**. In his presentation on the **Federal Court System**, he gave a brief **history** of the development of the **Court Systems**, federal and state.

Mr. Perry believes that one of the most significant aspects of the federal court system is that the **judges are appointed for life**, establishing the **independence** of the **federal judiciary**. He also noted that in the **dual system of State and Federal Courts**, the federal courts have limited jurisdiction and that the state systems handle most grievance cases. Thus, the **federal appeals courts** usually handle cases involving **habeas corpus**, that is prisoners who argue wrongful convictions, or **civil rights cases**.

Following the meeting, **Peggy Bracken** provided delicious Refreshments.

Speakers and Activities for the Historical Society Meetings for 2003

April 22, 2003 – Anne Torrains. Dr. Torrains will speak and show slides of a recent business and pleasure trip she made to Nigeria.

May 27, 2003 – Larry Caver. Mr. Caver will discuss ways in which newspaper, radio and other media can be used to research genealogy.

June 24, 2003 – Elizabeth Edwards. Ms. Edwards will display and discuss family artifacts dating from the Civil War period.

July 22, 2003 – Jerry Simmons, Alger-Sullivan Historical Society. Mr. Simmons will welcome member of the Escambia County Historical Society to “Old” Century, FL as well as guide us on a tour of the Alger-Sullivan Museum.

August 26, 2003 – Dr. Chris Bachman and Stephanie Cassidy. Dr. Bachman will show slides and talk about his wonderful and sometimes terrifying experiences while fighting the seas, coping with nature, and escaping from pirates on his, and Stephanie’s, trip all the around the

world in a small sailboat

September 23, 2003 – Bob Pasquill. Mr. Pasquill will discuss the activities and display pictures of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and WPA projects in Escambia County.

October 28, 2003 – A picnic and nature outing at Turtle Point Environmental Center. The outing will include a boardwalk stroll through the big Escambia Creek swamps.

November – No meeting planned.

December 13, 2003 – A Christmas Party. Meeting time and place to be announced.

Heritage Sunday

The **First United Methodist Church of Brewton** will hold its Heritage Sunday on **April 27, 2003**. This year the church will honor those who have been a member of the church for fifty years or more. Included on the list of those to be honored are **Historical Society Members Henry and Helen Hildreth, Mary Catherine Luker, and Frank Luttrell**.

News from 106 Years Ago This Week

From the **Pine Belt News** for **April 22, 1897**.

- **J. E. Finlay** made a business trip to Flomaton during the week.
- **Mr. T. R. Miller and son, Mark**, were in Pensacola earlier in the week.
- **Dr. Dan McMillan of Pensacola** visited relatives in Brewton/
- **“Imported Sailors”** were to arrive the first of the next week at **Mrs. Cave & Son’s**.
- **Hurley’s “soda fount”** was said to be “in full blast” with the comment “with such delicious soda as he keeps on draft!”
- The **ice tea season** was said to be upon the area with “the best and freshest teas on the market at Hurley’s.”
- **Miss Mattie Lou Trammell of Bayminette** was the guest of friends in Brewton during the week.
- There was the comment that “Wars and disturbances in Europe mean **better prices for cereals** this country will export.”
- The paper called for “an angel” or someone else to put a stop to the **whole sale slaughtering of Christians in Turkey**.
- The **Pine Best News** quoted the **New Decatur Advertiser’s** comment that “One third of our troubles come from talking too much and another third from eating too much.”

- The paper reported **controversy** over the appointment of an Afro-American from the **first Ohio district** to the **Naval Academy at Annapolis**. The representative of the district, Representative Shattuc, was said to have aroused a storm of protest from his constituents. The young man who had received the appointment had made the **best scores on the examination** of any of the applicants.
- **Atmore** was reported to be putting everything in first class style with ditching the streets and putting down sidewalks.
- **Atmore** also reported that it would not be long before it would have a **bicycle race course** and then the town would invite “the Brewton boys down to race with us.”
- There is a notice that **Mr. James MacMillan**, “our most efficient sheriff,” had attended the Tobacco Growers Association in Tallahassee, the previous week.
- There was an announcement that the “young divine,” the **Rev. W. F. Loveless, son of Rev. E. L. Loveless**, had been advanced from the office of assistant rector of St. John’s church at Montgomery to the office of rector of the Episcopal church at Prattville.
- The **Cedar Creek Mill Company** had decided to close its work indefinitely or until timber brought a better price.
- The paper noted that “**quite an enjoyable dance**” had been given the previous Saturday night at the home of **Miss Lizzie Miller**.
- An **ice cream supper** on the previous Thursday at the residence of **Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Harold** of Alco was said to be a “grand success, and everyone reports a good time.”

Also in the paper this account of a train wreck:

“A Terrible Wreck.”

“Nearly an hour late and running at a high rate of speed, fast **south bound mail No. 3**, which leaves Montgomery at 9:30 p. m., went into the **trestle over [the] Sepulga river**, about **one mile north of Wilcox**, a small station ten miles above **Evergreen** at an early hour this morning.

“The **engine, postal, baggage and express, and smoking cars** are a **total wreck**. It was a heavy train. The **passenger coaches and sleepers** were only **slightly injured**, and none of the passengers hurt.

“The engineer, **Oliver Adams**, of Mobile, **died** about ten o’clock

today from injuries sustained when his engine went through, he being terribly scalded. His colored [sic] **fireman** was also **badly hurt**. A negro [sic] **tramp** was **killed** and one or two more seriously injured.

“A **relief train** was quickly made up in Montgomery and soon arrived on the scene to find one of the **worst wrecks in the history of the L. & N.**

“**The trestle** is about 20 or 30 yards long, the stream being small, and ten or fifteen feet above the water.

“**The track** had been **cleared** at noon and a large force of hands was busy **rebuilding the trestle**. Traffic will be resumed this afternoon.

“It is the opinion of some that the wreck was **caused by robbers or train-wreckers**, while others think it was **due to negligence** of track hands in not properly fastening the rails.

“**The dead engineer** was one of the most **trustworthy and popular** gentlemen in the employ of the L. & N. His family lived in Mobile to which place his remains were carried today for internment. His **brother, Mr. J. P. Adams**, lives at Atmore.

“In a **collision near Greenville** a few months ago **Harvey Adams**, another engineer brother, was killed on engine No. 6.

“**The ‘Big 7’** was pulling the fast mail last night, and is the one on which **Engineer Bill Weiss** lost his life last year near Greenville.”

The Escambia County Historical Society Memorial Plaque

Anyone wishing to add a loved one to our **Memorial Plaque** should send his/her request and a donation of \$25.00 or more to the treasurer. A notice of the memorial will be placed in the Newsletter at the time the name is added to the plaque. Those members wishing to make a tax exempt gift to the Society may send the gift to the treasurer. The latest names added to the **Plaque** include

Mary C. Skelton, Irene M. Carmack, Doris Atkins, Jessie Mae Weaver-Ashton, Frank R. Ashton, David P. Elliott, Sallie Bell Weaver-Brooks, Alvin Byron Weaver, Maclyn A. Weaver, Maury O. Weaver, Herchel A. Weaver, and Gordon E. Weaver

Sponsors for Publication of the Newsletter or Journal

If you know of any **person or business** who would like to **sponsor the publication of an issue of the Newsletter or Journal**, please contact the society at the email or mailing address noted below.

Books for SaleA History of Escambia CountyHeadstones and HeritageEscambia Historical Society Cookbook**Mailed**

\$55.00

\$40.00

\$10.00

Regular Price

\$50.00

\$35.00

\$ 5.00

Get in Touch with Us**Address:** Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; **Phone:** 251-809-1612; **Email:** Rannyl@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				
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