

**ECHOES**  
**The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society**  
**May, 2003 - Vol. 30, No. 5**  
**Editor, Ranella Holley**

**The Next Meeting**

**Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2003; Time: 3:00 p. m.; Location: The Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the JDCC Campus; Program: Guest Speaker: Larry Caver whose topic will be how to research genealogy using newspapers and other media; Refreshments: Pat McArthur and Darryl Searcy.**

**More about Our Speaker**

Larry E. Caver, Jr. was born in **Birmingham, Alabama** in 1967. He moved as a small child with his parents to **Okaloosa County, Florida**. His family resided in **Destin, Ft. Walton Beach**, and **Crestview** before moving to **Mobile, Alabama** in 1975. He attended **Mobile College**, the **University of Alabama at Birmingham**, and **Liberty University** in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he obtained the **Associate of Arts Degree** (1991). He also attended **Wallace State Community College** in Hanceville, Alabama where he took several courses in **Genealogy** and **Family History Research**. He has written and compiled several family histories and genealogical sources including: **The Caver Family of North America**, **My German-American Roots**, **Oberlag-Pottebaum Family Histories**, **The History of the Tyus Family**, **Death and Notices from the Prattville Progress (1890-1910)**, **Death, Marriage and Probate Notices from Montgomery, Alabama Newspapers, Volume I (1821-1865)**, **Death and Marriage Notices from Jefferson County, Alabama Newspaper, Volume I (1854-1881)**.

Mr. Caver is an active member in several **genealogical societies** in Alabama, especially the **Autauga Genealogical Society** and the **Montgomery Genealogical Society**. He has also **spoken to several groups** across Alabama on many **genealogical related topics**.

**The April Meeting**

**President Darryl Searcy** called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were read. There was a correction to the time of THE meeting of the **Conecuh/Sepulga Watershed Alliance**. The **Treasurer's report** indicated that the Society continues to have a balance of over **\$3000.00** in its account.

Vice-President Lynn Wixon introduced the speaker, **Dr. Anne Torrans**, who presented a program on the **history** and **culture** of **Nigeria**. Anne appeared in a **dress** and **head scarf** which is typical of the women of Nigeria., She brought **slides** of her most recent visit to this country as well as displays of **pictures, clothing, and art** representing Nigeria.

**Anne-Biggs Williams** served delicious refreshments.

### **Speakers and Activities for the Historical Society Meetings for 2003**

- **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 members 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 way 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.
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### **News from the Past: (almost) One Hundred (and more) Years Ago This Month**

- From the **Pine Belt News**, May 20, 1903, a column entitled **“Alabama’s Easy Condition”**:

“**Under Governor Jelks’** careful supervision Alabama is living on Easy street. It is estimated that there will be on hand

when the legislature meets in December about **\$100,000** more than the treasury held two years ago when **Governor Samford** became governor. The **result will not be due to an increase in the tax rate**, and it will be accomplished in the face of heavily **increased payments** to the **old soldiers** of the state, to the **public schools**, and to the **constitutional convention**.

“The **convicts** are now so well managed that they earn a net profit of **\$150,000** year, a sum far in excess of previous earnings. The insurance department is also turning in handsome sums, and the valuations of property are rising year by year. They stood in **1896** at **\$242,000,000** and in **1901** at **\$286,000,000**. They may go to **\$300,000,000** this year.

- From the **Atmore Spectrum**, May 27, 1904
  - The **annual reunion** of the “**General Clanton Camp**” of the U. C. V. was held in Brewton at the court house. **Forty-five “comrades”** were present. Also attending the Meeting was the “**Chapter of Daughters.**”
    - **W. S. Neal** (Commander), **T. J. Stevens** (First Vice-Commander), **W. J. Holland**, Second Vice-Commander), **J. M. Davison** (Adjutant), **E. P. Loveless** (Quartermaster), **J. W. Terry** (Sergeant Major), **W. J. Jackson** (Treasurer), and **Rev. E. A. Smith** (Chaplain), were elected to another term.
    - **Sponsor** and **maids of honor** appointed for the camp for the next reunion were **Anna Slaughter**, sponsor, and **Mary H. Sowell, Anna Marie Davison**, and **Alyce Miller**, maids of honor.
    - **Mrs. G. W. L. Smith**, secretary of the Chapter of Daughters, gave an invitation to “**all honorably discharged veterans** to make application through her chapter for **crosses of honor.**”
  - From the “**Brewton News**” column: **Dr. P. H. M. Tippin** was reported as having returned to Brewton from **Charity Hospital of New Orleans** where he had been taking a special course in surgery.
  - From the “**Lottie News**” column: **R. M. Chambliss**, Superintendent, and **A. A. Drew**, Chairman of the Committee, write of a union day celebration: “We have a **post office, two stores and two churches**, and there is a **union Sunday school at New Home Free Will Baptist church**, and every preparation is

being made to make the **Children's Day** a grand success, it having been changed to **New Home church** instead of **Free Point Methodist church**, as originally planned. This change was desired by a majority and was unavoidable. It meets at **New Home church** on the second Sunday in June, at 10 a. m. **A grand treat.** Everybody is invited. **Dinner on the grounds.** We have a **fine spring of water** and good shade." A postscript adds "**Preaching** at the **Methodist church** at 3 p. m. on the same day."

- From the "**Local News**":
  - The **Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist church** gave an **ice cream supper** at **Peavy Hall** for the benefit of the church.
  - An advertisement from a **local drug store**: "Do you smoke? Then go to Dr. A. P. Wedb's drug store and ask for that **little cigar, 'Lover's Choice.'** It's fine."
  - **Mr. Tom Bucey of Century** was in town inquiring for **stray cattle**.
  - **Blank mortgages, warrants, affidavits and turpentine leases** were for sale in the newspaper office.
  - A **new post office** had just been established at **Bratt**, eight miles south of Atmore, referred to as "in the Godwin neighborhood." **Joe Hanks** was the post master.
  - **Robinsonville** also had just received a **post office**. **Mrs. J. C. Gully** was the postmistress. "The place is about seven miles northeast of Atmore and is in one of the finest agricultural sections of the county. "
- From the "**Canoe**" column, a reference to the opening of the **missionary barrels** with **Miss Mattie Hall** winning the Bible as a prize for collecting the most money.
- From the **Atmore Spectrum**, May 25, 1905
  - **Reverend George W. McRae** returned from **Bon Secour**, where he had assisted in a "**protracted meeting.**"
  - **Trains** had started going on a **regular schedule** on the **Bay Minette and Fort Morgan railroad**.
  - **One** of the **horses** of **Mr. A. B. Tennant** was reported to have "**dropped dead in harness** Sunday afternoon between Atmore and the Fowler place."
  - **Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Carney** had returned from a visit to

Tennessee. They had been in a **railway wreck** near **Columbia Tennessee**. **Mrs. Carney** was reported to be “**slightly bruised** about the face as a result of the wreck.”

- **Robbins & McGowin** of Brewton advertised “**Imitation Panama Hats for 75c.**,” stating “It’s the best **cheap imitation** of the **Panama Hat** yet made. These look well for a **cheap negligee hat.**”

- From the **Atmore Spectrum**, May 24, 1906, an article entitled “**Electric Lights Now in Operation**”:

The **Atmore Mill & Gin Company** installed an **electric light plant**. About **300 lights** were connected with **150** more to be connected within a short time. The lights were giving **night service only** at the time of the article, but when the lines were finished, the article reported that the company assured citizens that the power would be on from “**6 a.m. to 5 a.m.** with **5 minutes at each 12 o’clock for oiling.**” The company had donated an **arc light** for the **railroad crossing** and planned to solicit **public subscriptions** for **arc lights** for the other crossings.

- The **Atmore Mill & Gin Company** had received **machinery** which **doubled its capacity**, from producing **eleven bales a day** to the capability of producing **thirty-five bales a day**.

### **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.

| <b>Books for Sale</b>                       | <b>Mailed</b> | <b>Regular Price</b> |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| <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](mailto:Ranny1@earthlink.net)

**Membership: \$10.00. Clip the following form and send to Treasurer: Peggy Bracken, 602 Edgewood Drive, Brewton, AL 36426.**

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| <b>Membership Renewal/Application Form</b> |               |               |              |            |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Name</b>                                | _____         |               |              |            |
|  | <b>First</b>  | <b>Middle</b> | <b>Last</b>  |            |
| <b>Address</b>                             | _____         |               |              |            |
|  | <b>Street</b> | <b>City</b>   | <b>State</b> | <b>Zip</b> |
| <b>Phone</b>                               | _____         |               |              |            |
| <b>Email</b>                               | _____         |               |              |            |

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