

ECHOES

**The Newsletter of the Escambia County
Historical Society**

December 2004 - Vol. 31, No. 12

Editor, Ranelia Holley



**The William W. Weaver, Jr. House
East Brewton
Picture Courtesy of Paul Merritt**

The December Meeting

**A Christmas Party on Thursday, December 16, 2004,
2:30 p. m., at the William W. Weaver, Jr. home, pictured
above, located at 722 Shofner Street in East Brewton.**

Come and bring a dish of your favorite Christmas “goodies.”

The present owners, David and Willellen Elliott, have graciously invited us to have our Christmas party in this house, which they (actually Dave) have beautifully restored. Willellen’s family home, it was built around 1916 and is typical of the homes of the period. It has a pyramid roof and the original design had four large rooms, two on each side of a central hall, with a porch across the front and the back.

In his restoration work, Dave saved as much as possible of the original plan of the house while modernizing so that it now serves as a comfortable place for children and grandchildren to enjoy when visiting. He says that he suffered sore hands and wrists many times from driving nails, even with a power tool, into the wood used in the construction of the house. Friends who stayed in the home during Hurricane Ivan said the house didn’t sway or shake, testimony to the quality of the original materials.

The outside is covered in tin siding and the house has a new tin roof. The interior rooms have been painted in colors close to those original to the house. Throughout the house, Willellen and Dave have placed pictures that bring back Brewton and East Brewton’s past: the Escambia County Court House, the early East Brewton City Hall, the train depot, and photos of Willellen’s family.

The January Meeting

January 25, 2005, 3:00 p. m., in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the Jefferson Davis Community College Campus.

We have the following information from Ann Biggs-Williams on the speaker, Dr. John Hall, and program for the first meeting in the New Year:

Dr. John Hall, Research Associate for the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History will present the topic: "Alabama History: A Naturalists' Perspective" through the Alabama Humanities Foundation Speaker in the House Program.

There is considerable confusion over what Alabama looked like at the beginning of the historic period. This presentation connects a number of natural history topics that affect Alabama history. These include a brief survey of the geology of Alabama, including the fall line and topography, the influence of the Ice Ages on Alabama river valleys, Alabama's forest cover including ecological succession and the myth of old-growth forest; the observations of the early explorers and why historians, archaeologists, and biologists look at the same data and come to dramatically different conclusions as to what Alabama looked like. Hall also discusses distinctive landscape such as the longleaf pine belt, hardwood forests, the Black belt, canebrakes, cypress, and other swamps. Finally Hall touches on the Native Americans as landscape-shaping forces and using the Federal Road as an example, on how a wetter early Alabama influenced early settlement and travel.

CAN YOU HELP?

An out-of-town historical researcher is trying to locate additional information about a **Rev. L.M. Skelton** who was referenced in Annie C. Waters' 1983 book, History of Escambia County Alabama. On page 44, Mrs. Waters gives the Indian name "**Neyatonchee**" to **Burnt Corn Creek** and sources the name (on Page 76, FN#2 to "Alabama Archives, Escambia County File, letter by Rev. L.M. Skelton, The Brewton Standard.) There is no date reference to The Brewton Standard. There is a possibility that Rev. Skelton wrote this letter as a Letter to the Editor to The Brewton Standard and that someone affiliated with the Archives Building in Montgomery clipped it from the newspaper for the archives' Escambia County File. If any readers know of either a Rev. Skelton and the time frame he lived or has information on the Indian name for Burnt Corn Creek, please contact Ann Biggs-Williams by phone at 251-867-2445 or E-mail at [<annbw@bellsouth.net>](mailto:annbw@bellsouth.net).

Escambia County Courthouse Displays

This note from Ann Biggs-Williams:

Next time you go to the Escambia County Courthouse, please notice all the new wall display cases. The two displays that Carol Madden did are in the hallway adjacent to the Probate Judge's office. Carol's displays are very professional looking and contain loads of historical info about the county. **Well done, Carol!**

An Opportunity of a Lifetime

This exhibit in Mobile is certainly worth a mention in the newsletter. The Mobile Press calls it "An Opportunity of a Lifetime." The paper announces that there will be a southeastern venue of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Exploreum in Mobile from January 20 to April 24, 2005. For more info www.scrollsmobile.com

From the ad in the Mobile Register for Sunday, December 5:

An inspirational experience. An opportunity of a lifetime. The Dead Sea Scrolls are rarely seen outside Jerusalem. This extraordinary exhibition features 12 authentic scroll fragments, including Psalms, Isaiah Jeremiah and the complete text of the 10 Commandments. Also on display are 80 authentic archaeological artifacts from the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea Scrolls are as meaningful and powerful today as they were when scribed two millenia ago"

Books for Sale

A History of Escambia County

Headstones and Heritage

Escambia 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:** 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

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 First **Middle** **Last**

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 Street **City** **State** **Zip**

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