

# ECHOES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JULY 2005 - Vol. 32, No. 7  
EDITOR, RANELLA HOLLEY



FIG. 1 PICTURE OF SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO ENJOYED THE  
JUNE "SHOW AND TELL" MEETING. PAUL MERRITT AND ALAN  
ROBINSON ARE SEATED IN THE WORLD WAR II JEEP WHICH  
ALAN HAS RESTORED.

THE JULY MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2005 AT 3:00 P. M.  
IN THE THOMAS E. MCMILLAN MUSEUM ON THE JEFFERSON  
DAVIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS.

The Program –

**Nevin Heller, owner of The Flomaton Antique Auction in Flomaton, Alabama will speak to us about the history of the auction, the historic location of the auction house, and a bit on the history of Flomaton.**

The Flomaton Antique Auction is known regionally and nationally. People come in from the Carolinas to Texas and from Kentucky to the Southeast. For more information on The Flomaton Antique Auction, check out their website at

[www.FlomatonAntiqueAuction.com](http://www.FlomatonAntiqueAuction.com)

The next scheduled auctions are August 5th and September 3rd.



**Fig. 2. Picture of Item to be offered in the Flomaton Auction for August.**

**Description of this center table and instructions for bidding on it can be found at the Flomaton Antiques Auction Web Site.**

**The Following History is from the Flomaton Antique Auction Web Site:**

Flomaton Antique Auction had its beginnings in 1967 when Herbert Heller unloaded and auctioned a truckload of antiques from Pennsylvania. The auctions were held biweekly in South Flomaton through 1976 when the historic Jackson theatre was purchased. This 1920's Spanish style building is a natural place to conduct auctions, having been built for stage theatre/silent movies with an angled audience floor. Larger single-day monthly Saturday auctions were held through the 1980's. Restoration and building additions were also being done at this time. The early 90's saw the transition to bimonthly two-day antique auctions with an occasional on site estate auction being held. The regional and national sales increased throughout this decade as the floor space in the restored theatre expanded to approximately 11,000 square feet. In May 2001 Herbert & Dorothy Heller retired after 34 years. The reins of the business were passed to the second generation, Nevin Heller.

Having seen the business develop from 1967 and involved in the activities of a growing small town antiques business, Nevin along with the

team at Flomaton Antique Auction are continuing to look forward into the 21st century. We are excited for the ability to offer the auction method of sales, our professional services, many years of experience, and established customer base of thirty-seven years. Flomaton Antique Auction is actively promoting and selling fine antiques from the 19th century (1800-1899) with color brochures, full online catalogs and national/regional advertising. We feel this venue in Flomaton, Alabama, provides the highest possible exposure and current market prices for a variety of items.

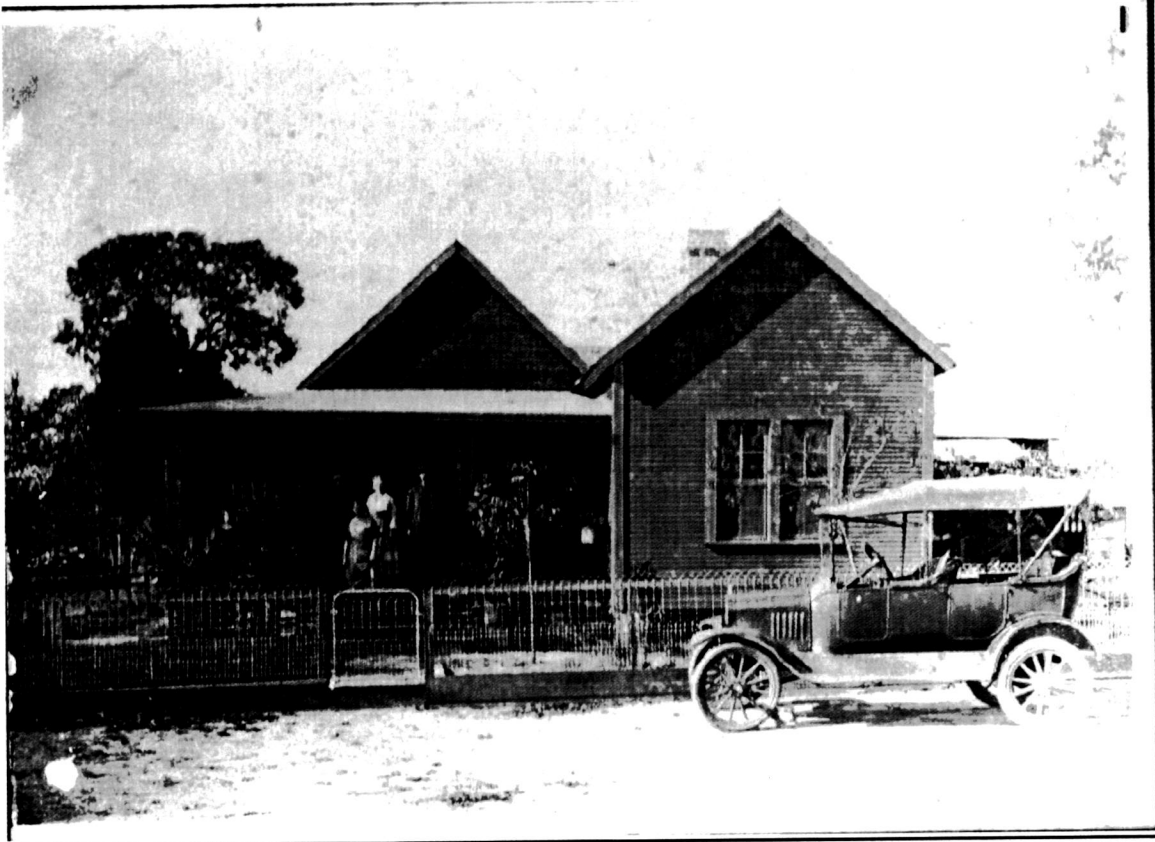
### **ANOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Brewton Spring Tour of Homes**

Art & Architecture: Brewton Spring Tour of Homes, sponsored by the Jefferson Davis Community College Foundation, April 6, 2006, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **Scouting the Area for Wooden Churches**

Society members are asked to help find wooden churches that are at least 100 years old. Two gentlemen, Robert H. Couch and Joe Harrington, retired college professors, are compiling the information. So far, they have photographed some 175 churches in about half of the Alabama counties. To contact these gentlemen the E-mail address is [rcouchauburn@charter.net](mailto:rcouchauburn@charter.net).



**Fig. 3. A photo shared with the society by Society Trustee Mary Catherine Luker. She was reminded of this photo by the story “The Two Way Trip” in last month’s newsletter about a Model T Ford. This is a picture of Mary Catherine’s family. Mary Catherine is the little girl pictured on the porch.**



**Fig. 4. Two Dandies, Two Brothers.**

Pictured above (picture is from 1910) are two brothers, Fred (on the left), and Paul. In the 1920's, Fred went to Lockhart, Alabama to become Vice-President and General Sales Manager for Jackson Lumber company, a very large lumber company at the time. The company furnished him with a limousine and a driver and Fred

was very generous with the car and its driver, often loaning the car and driver to the teachers in the Lockhart schools for trips for students, and on the weekends, to the teachers for outings among themselves.

In the 1930's, a young first-grade teacher came to Lockhart and boarded in the local rooming house with other single teachers. She often told her daughter of this first experience away from home and how she would listen to the whistle of the 11:00 p. m. train going by and feel so homesick. Eloise, the young teacher, also had many fond and happy memories of her first teaching experience (in a forty-six year career), such as the time a young boy came running up to his mother on the first day of school shouting, "Ma, Ma, come look at nine springs a' spouting," after he had his first drink at the school's water fountain, a pipe with nine holes drilled in it.

Eloise also remembered one trip in particular that she and her fellow teachers enjoyed in the company's limousine. This was a picnic trip to Bellingrath Garden one spring weekend. When Eloise and the others arrived at the Gardens and prepared to spread out their picnic, she discovered that her sister and her sister's husband (they were living in Thomasville, Georgia at the time) were also spending the day at the Gardens. Fred's limousine and driver provided a happy family reunion for a homesick teacher.

More than seventy years later, the families of Fred and Paul Merritt, the brothers in the picture, and Eloise Bundy, the young teacher from Andalusia, would meet again. Paul B. Merritt, Sr. is the grandfather of society member Paul B. Merritt, III (who often wears a hat very similar to the one his grandfather is wearing in the photo). Fred Merritt is Paul's great uncle. Eloise Bundy Holley is the mother of newsletter editor Ranella Holley.

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

**Get in Touch with Us**

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**Phone:** 251-809-1612; **Email:** [Ranny1@earthlink.net](mailto:Ranny1@earthlink.net)

**Membership:** \$15.00. 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** \_\_\_\_\_  
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