

McKinley to Highlight

April Meeting

Kevin McKinley to speak on War Between the States

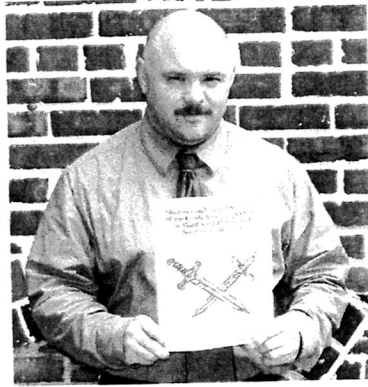
Kevin McKinley, from Canoe, Alabama, will present the April 25th meeting entitled "Pollard Civil War Camp." Kevin, also a columnist for the *Tri-City Ledger*, will discuss the role that Pollard played in the war, the camps located in and around Pollard and the socio-economic forces that dealt the town a fateful blow during and after the war. He will also compare the town with Sparta, the old county seat of Conecuh County.

Kevin is a graduate of Faulkner University, Montgomery, Alabama, attends Jones Law School in Montgomery and plans to complete his Juris Doctorate at Jones Law School in December of this year.

where he works in law enforcement, and is Treasurer of the William Carney Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Atmore, Alabama.

Kevin writes a weekly column for the *Tri-City Ledger* on local history relating to the War Between the States. He has just published the book entitled Shadows and Dust: The Journal of the Confederate Experience in Northwest Florida and Southwest Alabama. According to a press release, the book covers the rural areas of Southwest Alabama and Northwest Florida during the War Between the States with biographies of local veterans, unit histories from the area, and the ef-

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Currently employed with the law firm of Earnest Ray White in Brewton, he is in the U.S. Naval Reserve

Minutes for March Meeting

Ann Biggs-Williams, President, welcomed 30 attendees to the March 28, 2006 meeting of the Escambia County Historical Society, held at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum in Brewton.

Ada Adams, Compiler of the book JDCC: 40 Years was available for members to purchase the book about JDCC history. Mrs. Adams also had tickets to sell for the Art & Architecture Tour of Homes

to benefit the JDCC Foundation. Minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March

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The May Meeting

The Escambia County Historical Society will meet May 23, 2006 at the old Luttrell Hardware Building in downtown Brewton at 3 p.m.

April Meeting

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fect of the war on the home front. The book is illustrated with countless photos from the author's own collection and reference photos from other sources. The book mentions more than 450 Confederate veterans from the Southwest Alabama/Northwest Florida area.

McKinley's articles in the *Ledger* deal with the history of the War Between The States and the effect the war had on a micro-geographical area, Southwest Alabama and Northwest Florida.

The War Between The States (the Civil War to some) was fought in more than 10,000 places. The focus of this book is a tiny crossroads of the war; a crossroads of America where history, honor, and courage collided head on.

The Canoe native said he has always had a big interest in history, especially about the

Civil War. He said there were a lot of people from this area who served in the war and many of their stories have never been mentioned.

"I have never read any book on the Civil War which strictly covered the rural aspect of the war," stated McKinley. "There were a lot of major things which happened in Southwest Alabama and Northwest Florida during the war."

In a report published in the *Tri-City Ledger*, McKinley, who serves as the treasurer for the William Carney Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), said he also published the book to help purchase a historic marker for Canoe.

"Canoe was settled in the 1850's and the area saw a lot of action during the Civil War," he said. "The area has almost been completely forgotten and the SCV wants to purchase a marker to say when the area was settled, what happened during the war

and to give a verbal timeline.

"The cost for the marker will be about \$1,600 to \$2,000," he continued. "I have decided to donate \$1 from each book sold to the fund to purchase the marker."

According to McKinley, each book will be \$20. He said people who want information about purchasing a book can E-mail him at McKinley2971@yahoo.com. People can also mail a check to Kevin McKinley, 357 Page Road, Atmore, AL 36502.

He also said anyone wanting to make a donation to the fund to purchase the marker can send an E-mail to the same address for additional information.

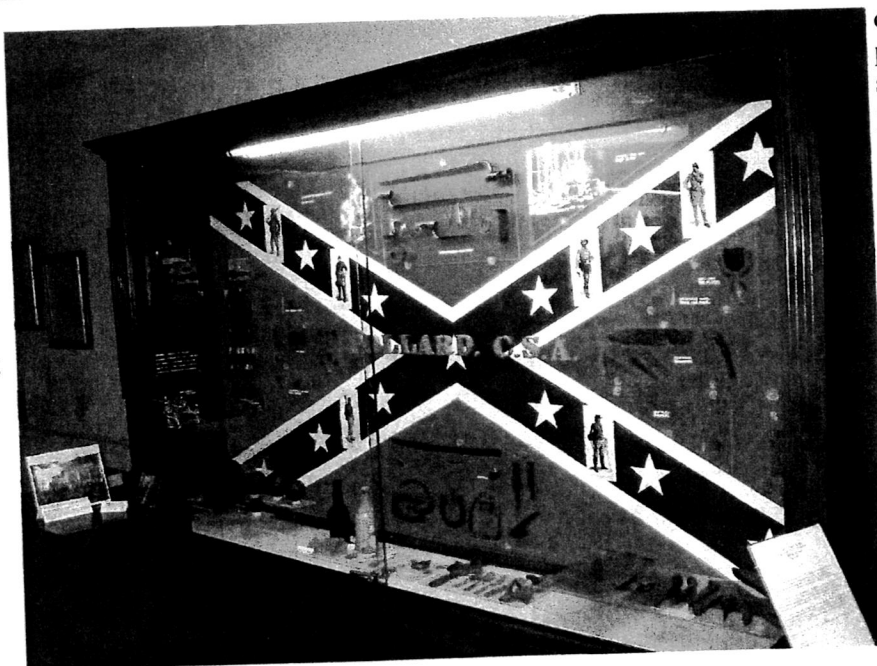
McKinley is a 1991 graduate of Escambia County High School in Atmore. He is currently a third-year law school student intern.

He said he is planning to continue writing columns and hopes to be able to publish another book in the future.

Museum Has Confederate Display

That rusty old piece of metal you found while plowing out in the garden - don't throw it away yet! The NW Florida and Southwest Alabama region was a hotbed of activity during the war and still today can yield important artifacts, according to Kevin McKinley, Treasurer of the William Carney Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Atmore, AL.

McKinley, the speaker for the ECHS April meeting, believes this area has been virtually forgotten in the writing of the history books, but he's set out to remedy that.



The Thomas E. McMillan Museum has been working toward that end since its inception. A beautiful display

of artifacts most people might consider as worthless is prominent with items found in the area. From a monetary viewpoint, they might be worthless, but from an historical point of view, that funny little lead ball could be priceless.

The museum's "Camp Pollard, C.S.A." exhibit contains many items discovered near the Confederate encampment at Pollard from about 1861 until the war's end.

This May Be Your Last Newsletter!

If your mailing label does not have "06" on the newsletter then our records show you have not paid dues for 2006.

Dues are for the calendar year and are due in January. If you think you have paid and our records show you have not, please contact us at escohis@escohis.org

We need your help in updating our membership roll. The Society is in need of a membership chairperson as there has not been a membership chairperson in several years. If you would be willing to accept this role, please contact the president.

Word From Camp Pollard C.S. A.

This book by William H. Davidson tells us that the late Ed Leigh McMillan of Brewton was very interested in the history of old Conecuh County (Escambia County since 1868). Mr. Ed Leigh located the military camps near Pollard for the late Dr. Peter A. Brannon, former director of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History. His locations are cited in the book.

A large portion of the book contains letters written from Pollard by Private James H. Barrow, a soldier of Company F, 61st Alabama Regiment Volunteers, Clanton's Brigade. The letters are significant and important because practically nothing of the Pollard post records are to be found. Barrow was 40 years of age when Fort Sumter surrendered. He was over conscription age then. He lived in the little community of Providence Church, Chambers County, Alabama, and had continued the operation of his plantation until the draft age was raised to 45 years.

When the opportunity came, he went to LaFayette, the county seat, to volunteer. Other volunteers joined a company being formed by Captain Alfred F. Zachry, a friend and citizen of the village of Bluffton, a few miles east of Barrow's home. Captain Zachry represented Clanton's brigade in the county. Barrow and 38 men enlisted for Zachry's company on July 30, 1863. A few more joined in the weeks following. Most of the officers were veterans while enlisted men were conscripts.

The book is worth reading. It is available at the Alabama Room and at the Leigh Library at Jefferson Davis Community College.

Meet the Officers



ECHS Vice-President

Darryl Searcy

Darryl Searcy officially moved

to and established permanent residence in Escambia County in 1986, although he had previously built a retirement home near the community of Barnett Crossroads in 1978. Retiring from International Business Machines, he established a home in Escambia county primarily as a resting place for his ailing father.

Darryl describes himself as "a frustrated Republican and an

even more frustrated botanist." He tells of having moved to Escambia county and discovering quickly that the area was an unexplored wilderness when it came to identifying and cataloging the herbs, shrubs and trees of the Escambia region. With some modesty, Darryl says, "I

Darryl describes himself as "a frustrated Republican and an even more frustrated botanist."

then set about to correct that." He photographed every known flower and described it in a CD collection, Wildflowers of the Escambia. The collection is also featured in a web site hosted by the Jeff Davis Community College.

Over 200,000 students from around the world have logged on to study and compare coastal plants of their own country with those of the Gulf Coast. To Darryl's surprise, the greatest number of hits on the site are students located in the Balkan countries and Asia.

The City of Brewton Tree & Beautification Board tapped him to join their committee to head up the Burnt Corn Creek Park project. He served the Board in numerous capacities until he resigned in 2005. He surveyed and interpreted the newly established Turtle Point Environmental Science Center on Big Escambia Creek as a volunteer.

Currently he is working on special projects for the Brewton

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ECHS Calendar of Events

April 24, Confederate Memorial Day

April 25, ECHS Meeting, Pollard Civil War Camp, 3 p.m.

May 2, May 6, May 11, and May 23 are dates for enrollment for a one day Elderhostel program in Alabama entitled "A Day of Discovery with the Tuskegee Airmen."

Prior to 1940, African-Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. Military. Civil rights organizations exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all black pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1941. They became known as the **Tuskegee Airmen**.

- The program will be held at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and



Lee Anne Wofford, Mary Catherine Luker, and Sherry Johnston at the Franklin Cemetery located at Smurfit-Stone last month

George Washington Carver Museum in Tuskegee.

- Cost per person is \$72.
- For info, please call 877-426-8056 or visit www.elderhostel.org

May 6, Mayfest, Tom Byrne Park, Atmore

May 6, "Flesh on the Bones: Putting Your Ancestors in Historical Perspective," Workshop at Samford University

May 19--21, Civil War Expo at Rhodes Civic Center in Bay Minette (website: <http://liddellmosb.com>)

May 23, ECHS Meeting at the old Luttrell Hardware Building in downtown Brewton at 3 p.m.

June 11--16, Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, Birmingham

June 27, ECHS Meeting, Show & Tell, 3 p.m. Thomas E. McMillan Museum

Bits and Pieces

- **The hostesses** for the April meeting will be: **Mary Catherine Luker**, **Dement Hayes**, and **Marjorie Haigler**.
- **Thanks to:** **Terry Watson** for his mother's 1941 diploma from Wallace High School; **Joe Ross** for photos for the archives; **Tom McMillan** for a book (Drilling Ahead, by Alan Cockrell) to the library; **E.P. Grondine** for a book to the library (Man and Impact in the Americas, by E.P. Grondine)
- **Alan Baker** has accepted the challenge to be a liaison to the high school and college history teachers in the county to foster the Society's communication with

this group. Alan has worked for the past 27 years as a high school history teacher and multi-sport coach.

- **On the Society mailing list** is one of the owners of the land where it is believed the Pollard camp was located. He lives in Texas and will be unable to attend but hopes to attend one of our meetings soon.
- **As a follow up** to our last Society meeting, **Lee Anne Wofford** has informed us that two cemeteries in Brewton have been added to the Alabama Register of Historic Cemeteries. Union Cemetery is the first Escambia County cemetery to make the list. Also, the **Franklin Cemetery**, located on the grounds of Smurfit Stone has been added.

- **Alan Robinson** will take on the job for the Society to fill book orders that the Society receives by mail or E-mail.
- **An article about Herrington Springs**, a rural resort in Escambia County about a century ago, was featured in the *Mobile Press Register* on April 3, 2006 on page B1. The article, written by Connie Baggett, will be available at the April ECHS meeting for members who are interested
- **James and Norma Rogers** have volunteered to serve as the Escambia County reps for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance. Thank you, James and Norma.

March Meeting Minutes

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Newsletter. The Treasurer's report by Susan Crawford was also approved.

Lynn Wixon, Immediate Past President, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under items of unfinished business, Parliamentarian Paul Merritt read aloud the proposed bylaws changes that were published in the March newsletter. The changes will be voted on at the April meeting.

As new business, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Annie Smith and



Ann Biggs-Williams presents Annie Smith and George Ward Certificates of Appreciation

George Ward for their efforts to preserve cemeteries in the area. The program on cemetery preservation was then presented by Lee Anne Wofford, Cemetery Program Coordinator with the Alabama Historical Commission and Ted Urquhart, President of the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Members were reminded of the upcoming April 6 Tour of Homes, April 8 105th Anniversary at Century and the April 25th ECHS meeting with the topic "Pollard Civil War Camp."

The meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Paul and Ranella Merritt.

Meet the Officers

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Beautification Board, and as Grounds Consultant for the D. W. McMillan Hospital Healthcare facilities, Environmental Services Department.

Ann Biggs-Williams and Darryl were both members of the Alabama Wildflower Society and Ann invited him to attend an Escambia Historical Society meeting, and Doris Atkins and Merlin Huff soon booked him to present a program on wildflowers of the area.

A deep friendship developed between Darryl and the Williams' of Teddy, and their country place became a second home to him. Darryl became a member of the Society in 1995. It was a couple of years later that Ann invited him to present a second program on the history of roses.

In 2002, the Nominating Committee asked Darryl to be a candidate for the office of President of the Society. With much reluctance, he agreed and his election to office was a landslide victory. His acceptance words were, "I work in the swamps, I enjoy the woods,

"I work in the swamps, I enjoy the woods, and I dress as if every day is a field trip. So, what you see is what you get."
- Darryl Searcy

and I dress as if every day is a field trip. So, what you see is what you get. But regardless of all that, I promise to do my best for the Society and to make you proud."

With those words, he became very active, steering the Society

through changing times, the most notable being the combining of the Museum and the Historical Society archives into a single entity; the naming of two alternate trustees, and numerous changes in the Society bylaws to bring the rules into the mainstream of current times.

Darryl declined re-election to the office in 2004, but did accept the position of Historian-Curator. Working with Ranella Merritt, they changed the face of the newsletter and journal, gearing the publications to the surrounding communities and counties, rather than on Escambia county alone.

In 2006, with reluctance, he accepted election to become Vice-President of the Society, an appointment accepted only because Ann Biggs-Williams would be at the helm.