

The May Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Thomas E. McMillan Museum

3:15 p. m

Program for the May 22 Meeting

The Descendants of the Confederate States of America

and

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Guest Speaker

Bert Blackmon.

Bert Blackmon of Bay Minette, Alabama, is a retired school teacher who loves history. He is also retired as a Sergeant (Armor) from the Alabama National Guard.

Blackmon has researched over 100 ancestors who fought in the civil war from his or his wife's families.

Mr. Blackmon sometimes assists with marker dedication ceremonies and recently helped with a civil war marker ceremony in Escambia County, Alabama at the Steadham Family Cemetery near McCullough, Alabama.

Blackmon is a member of many historical and genealogical associations includ-

ing: Sons of the American Revolution, The Descendants of the Confederate States of America (DCSA), The Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB), First Families of Alabama, First Families of America, The Butler County (Alabama) Genealogy Society, The Grayson County Virginia Genealogy Society and The New England Genealogical Society.

While Mr.

Blackmon has several colorful characters from the Civil War era that he portrays in costume, his program for ECHS will discuss:

- Suggestions to track ancestors from the confederacy,
- The DCSA (Descendants of the Confederate States of America),
- The MOSB (Military



Bert Blackmon

Order of the Stars and Bars),

- How to obtain civil war markers from the VA (Veterans Administration),
- The annual Civil War Expo that will be May 19 & 20 in Bay Minette at the Civic Center.



April Meeting at Herrington Springs—see page 11 for larger picture

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May 2007

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The June 26 Meeting

Guest Speaker Francis Robb will present the topic

Science into History: The Photographs of Eugene Allen Smith, State Geologist."

Pictures of rural Alabama from 1885--1910 including rare photos of mineral springs and their hotels, ferries and river landings, farms and early industrial sites.

News of Members

Museum Coordinator Jerry Simons made a presentation to a Civil War Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans of W.M. Carney Camp on April 26th.

Alan Baker, ECHS member who is also State Representative, participated in the Ribbon Cutting at the dedication of the new Five Rivers Delta Resource Center in neighboring Baldwin County on the causeway near Mobile in April. The Resource Center will be the site of the upcoming Bartram Trail Conference on Oct. 26-28.

Kathryn Wilkinson of Pensacola donated a copy of Lumbering in Northwest Florida and Alabama by John Appleyard to the Alabama Room Collection. (Copies of this book are for sale in the museum for



Robert Winther of Brewton donated seven World War I bayonets and swords that were left to him by his father to the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

\$12)

Tom McMillan of Brewton brought smiles and thanks to ECHS Newsletter Editors when he donated two brand new flat screen monitors for ECHS to use in the museum.

Jacob Lowrey of Greenville, SC recently made a generous donation to ECHS to assist with costs of map framing.

(Note: The last Newsletter incorrectly spelled **Jacob Lowrey's** name as **Lowery**. Our apologies to Mr. Lowrey.)

Tom McMillan brought to the museum a brass flint lock pistol, which, although it lacks the wood, has markings to indicate an English make with approximate date of 1700-1720.

The pistol was discovered a number of years ago on the bluff at Ft. Crawford by **Mr. John R. Downing** of Foshee Road. Mr. Downing is seeking information on his ancestor, **Elisha Downing** who served in the 2nd Florida Infantry, CSA.

Dedication ceremony at Union Cemetery

The City of Brewton held the unveiling of a historic marker for the Union Cemetery, located off College Drive in the Alco area of Brewton. Steve Yuhasz with the City of Brewton Community Development Office, made the application for the marker with the Alabama Historical Commission on behalf of the City of Brewton and coordinated the marker dedication ceremony that was held Tuesday, May 15 at 10 a.m. at the entrance to Union Cemetery.

Union Cemetery was named to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register in 2006 and thus became eligible to apply for a marker from the Alabama Historical Commission. Marked graves in Union Cemetery date back to 1879 and there are numerous unmarked graves in the cemetery that would probably



date the cemetery back even earlier. In addition to City of Brewton officials and the employees who maintain the Union Cemetery, present at the dedication ceremony were representatives of the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Escambia County Historical Society.. Lee Anne Wofford, represented the Alabama Historical Commission, Sherry S. Johnson, 1st VP and

County Coordinator for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance (ACPA), and Ann Biggs-Williams, President of the Escambia County Historical Society spoke briefly after comments by Brewton Mayor, Ted Jennings, and Dr. Bob Hays with the Brewton Tree and Beautification Committee.

For more information on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, interested parties may contact Lee Anne Wofford at the Alabama Historical Commission at www.preserveala.org. For information on the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, check out the website at <http://alabama-cemetery-preservation.com>. Jackie Marky of Brewton, volunteers as the Escambia County Coordinator for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Events in Alabama History

June 2, 1943: Aliceville's World War II prisoner-of-war camp receives its first contingent of captured German soldiers. By the end of the week, Aliceville housed 3,000 prisoners. Nearly 5,000 POWs eventually would be imprisoned in the facility, the largest of four such camps in Alabama.

June 11, 1949: Country music legend Hank Williams debuts on Grand Ole Opry. He performs "Lovesick Blues" and "Mind Your Own Business."

June 11, 1963: Robert Muckel, a 29-year-old white high school teacher from Nebraska, unintentionally becomes the first student to successfully integrate a public educational institution in Alabama. Shortly before Gov. George Wallace made his "stand in the schoolhouse door" at the University of Alabama, Muckel sat down for his first class at Alabama A&M College, an all-black institution. Attending a summer science institute, Muckel did not realize when he applied that A&M was a segregated school.

June 11, 1963: Gov. George C. Wallace makes his infamous "stand in the schoolhouse door" to block the admittance of African Americans to the University of Alabama. Vivian Malone and James Hood both registered for classes quietly away from the spotlight to become the first two black students to successfully enroll at the university.

June 12, 1832: Alabama's first railroad, the Tuscumbia Railway, opens, running the two miles from Tuscumbia Landing at the Tennessee River to Tuscumbia. That railroad was needed in order for river traffic to avoid the dangerous and often unnavigable Muscle Shoals of the Tennessee River.

June 12, 1933: Actor and singer Jim Nabors is born in Sylacauga. Nabors began acting while a student at the University of Alabama, and is best known for his Gomer Pyle character, who appeared on "The Andy Griffith Show" from 1960 to 1964, and later on his own series, "Gomer Pyle, USMC."

June 18, 1954: Albert Patterson, Democratic Party nominee for state attorney general, is assassinated in his hometown of Phenix City. State and local officials were implicated in the crime, but only Russell County Chief Deputy Albert Fuller was convicted. The murder drew national attention because of Patterson's promise to rid Phenix City, called the "wickedest city in America," of corruption and organized crime. Adding to the drama, John Patterson was elected attorney general in his father's stead, and therefore had charge of the prosecutions in the case.

June 22, 1937: Alabama native Joe Louis defeats James J. Braddock at Chicago's Comiskey Park to become the first black heavyweight boxing champion since Jack

Johnson in 1908. Born near Lafayette as Joseph Louis Barrow, the "Brown Bomber" held the world heavyweight title until 1948.

June 24, 1896: Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute, becomes the first African American to be awarded an honorary degree by Harvard University. Born into slavery in Virginia, Washington moved to Alabama in 1881 to open Tuskegee Normal School.

June 27, 1880: Helen Keller is born in Tuscumbia. Keller's life story and activism inspired new attitudes toward those with handicaps.

June 30, 1928: As mandated by the legislature, convict leasing ends in Alabama. While many southern states leased convicts to private industry as laborers, Alabama's program, begun in 1846, lasted the longest, and for much of that time the notorious system was a key revenue source for the state.

June 11, 1963: Dr. James Hardy, a native of Shelby County, Alabama, and chief of surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, performs the world's first human lung transplant. The patient lived for three weeks before dying of chronic kidney disease. The next year Hardy transplanted a chimpanzee's heart into another patient, marking the first transplant of a heart into a human.

POLLARD: A CENTER OF MILITARY ACTIVITY

From the exhibit Pollard, CSA in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum:

"Pollard was a Center of Confederate Military Activity during the Civil War (1861-1865).

The town's railroad roundhouse guided trains full of troops gathered at camps nearby to battlefields further North while local garrisons protected bridges and did scout duty along the Alabama Florida border.

The camps were raided in December, 1864, and in March 1865, Union forces burned Pollard's roundhouse en route to their capture of Mobile at war's end."

Museum Advisory Board

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum (and the Alabama Room) now has an Advisory Board. Prompted by a request of Museum Coordinator Jerry Simmons and with the approval of Dr. McBride, President of JDCC, a five member Museum Advisory Board was appointed last month.

Members of the Board are Jerry Simmons, Museum Coordinator, Chair of the Committee; Susan McBride, President of JDCC; Sherry Martin; Director of Administration and Personnel at JDCC; Tom McMillan, ECHS member; and Ranella Merritt, ECHS trustee.

In its previous two meetings, the committee has considered both short term and long term goals for the Museum/Alabama Room and has addressed two con-



Early 20th century portable dentist chair—one of the many interesting artifacts you may find in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

cerns of all committee members, the need for more space for the Alabama Room and the need for more publicity for the Museum/Alabama Room.

Addressing the lack of space, Dr. McBride has offered the space which will be vacated by the college's Technology and Internet Services staff when that department moves to another building at the end of the summer term.

Plans are to join the two areas with a door from the Alabama Room which will connect the two parts of the Museum.

There are also plans to place signs on Highway 31 South advertising the Museum.

Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research to Be Held at Samford University

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research is gearing up for their annual week of intensive genealogical study led by nationally prominent educators at Samford University June 10--15, 2007.

Students may choose one of 11 courses. The institute is academically

and professionally oriented and is co-sponsored by the board for certification of Genealogists.

For additional info, go to www.samford.edu/schools/ighr or call Jean Thomason at Samford at 205-726-2846.

UPDATE

The goldfish hatchery mentioned in the April issue of ECHOES in the article, "The E. O. Wilson Brewton Connection" was located behind the area of the present day location of the Brewton Fire Department, which is located at 601 St. Nicholas Avenue.

If you have additional info on the goldfish hatchery, please contact the Society at

escohis@escohis.org

Amazing Find In Back Yard



Trustee Willellen Elliott and husband David Elliott of East Brewton, with the assistance of Tom McMillan, identified a belt buckle found in East Brewton in 1997 or 1998. They pulled out an old stump in their yard and found the buckle caught in the root.

Turns out the buckle dates to the Indian War/Spanish-American War Era of 1880-1900 and was probably left by a member of the Alabama Guard of US Volunteers on the way to Florida to depart to Cuba.

See picture above (arrow)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Convict Leasing—a Reprehensible Practice

(Paraphrased from Wikipedia)

While most believe that the 13th Amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, a loophole was opened that resulted in the widespread continuation of slavery in the Southern states of America--slavery as punishment for a crime. According to the 13th Amendment, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, nor any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Convict leasing began in Alabama in 1846 and lasted until 1928, when Herbert Hoover was vying for the White House. In 1883, about 10 percent of Alabama's total revenue was derived from convict leasing. In 1898, nearly 73 percent of total revenue came from this same source. Death rates among leased convicts were approximately 10 times higher than the death rates of prisoners in non-lease states. In 1873, for example, 25 percent of all black leased convicts died. Possibly, the greatest impetus to the continued use of convict labor in Alabama was the attempt to depress the union movement.

The Southern states were generally broke and could not afford either the cost of building or maintaining prisons. The economic but morally weak and incorrect solution was to use convicts as a source of revenue, at least, to prevent them from

draining the fragile financial positions of the states. The abolition of the system was also motivated mostly by economic realities. While reformers brought the shocking practice to the public eye, politicians saw its demise as a sure way to gain votes.

The following is an account of some of the misery caused by the atrocities permitted on one individual. He apparently was arrested on vagrancy charges and ... well, read this story from the *Brewton Standard Gauge*, reprinted from the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

5/9/1901

A CONVICT CAMP

How They Work 'Em In The Turpentine Orchards

Ex-Convict reports to the Governor That Prisoners Leased to Jennings Bros., of Manistee, are Grossly Wronged.

The following is a story told by Benjamin McNeil, an ex-convict, to a representative of the Advertiser, at Montgomery, on the 4th inst.

Benjamin McNeil, who says his home is in Sault St. Marie, Michigan, reached Montgomery yesterday from Manistee, Monroe County, where he has been serving a sentence in the convict camp of Jennings Bros., owners of a turpentine orchard, tells a harrowing tale of mistreatment.

McNeil is apparently about 26 years of age. He has a good face and tells his story intelligently, and in a straightforward manner. He admits that he was rightfully arrested and convicted of unlawfully riding on a railroad train, but bitterly complains of his treatment at the

convict camp. ...

In January, McNeil says he was making his way from Galveston, Tex., to Pennsylvania. His funds were limited, and as he had for several years been employed as a railroad man in the East, he had little trouble in securing passage on freight trains. In Mobile he says that he arranged with a brakeman to put him in an empty box car, and to take him to Montgomery. He gave the brakeman some money and some whisky, according to his story.

McNeil says he was awakened from a sound sleep by an officer, who placed him under arrest. He afterward learned that he was confined in jail at Brewton. He remained there nine days, when he was given a legal trial. In the meantime, he says that he had learned that it was unlawful to ride on railroad trains without permission in Alabama, and he pleaded guilty to the charge, having determined to abide the consequence.

He was fined \$10 and costs and not having sufficient money to pay the fine, was sent the next morning after the trial, to the convict camp of Jennings Bros., at Manistee, Monroe County, a distance of about 60 miles from Brewton. The trip was made across country in a wagon.

MEN WERE WHIPPED

He says he expected to be treated as a convict but he expected humane treatment. He was stripped of his clothing, and was dressed in the garb of a convict. A long chain was attached to his legs, which he had to carry throughout the day while at work. At night, McNeil says, he, with other convicts, was chained in the sleeping "bunks." In case of fire, he said there would have been no way by which the convicts could have gotten out of the building. The food was of the coarsest

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Local Battles of the War Between the States

By
Kevin McKinley

Kevin McKinley, who gave a program for ECHS last year, has sent us this article with permission to publish.

An expert on the civil war action in south Alabama and northwest Florida, he also writes a regular column for the Tri-City Ledger.

Kevin is the Provisional Treasurer of the William Carney Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Anyone interested in learning more about Confederate history or the local Sons of Confederate Veterans should contact Kevin via his email at <mckinley2971@yahoo.com> or the camp's website at <williamcarneycampscv.com>. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

When the subject of Civil War battles comes to mind, many people think of the epic battles that occurred in Virginia, Tennessee, or Georgia. Names such as Shiloh, Chickamauga, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg will always be remembered for the events that happened there.

A lot of people (even locally) are unaware of the number of battles that occurred in this area and just how widespread the fighting was in those days.

Southwest Alabama saw its own share of carnage and destruction in the war; from Mobile to Brewton, from Monroeville, to Pensacola, armies of men fought each other over control of the railroads and settlements that dotted the local map.

Early on in the war, the Confederate army seized Ft. Barrancas in Pen-

sacola. The Confederates in the fort faced northern troops across the bay at Ft. Pickens.

Even though the Confederates weren't the best equipped and ready for the beginning of the war, their Union counterparts were suffering from other ailments just as debilitating.

Union Generals had ordered a group of New York troops to take up position in Ft. Pickens not long after the war started. The journey was a hazardous one, as the troops had to sail from New York around the tip of Florida and then to Pensacola.

Wisely, perhaps, the Union commanders kept the troops' destination a secret until they rounded Florida. Once the troops heard their destination, a near mutiny occurred on ship (one has to wonder why the destination was so objectionable).

Upon arrival at Ft. Pickens, the troops found the large cisterns (used



Silas Buck was from Mississippi...he was part of a unit that was stationed at Pollard and at Canoe Station.

He was wounded at the Battle of Pine Creek and shot through the jaw. He continued on through the battle and carried the Battle Flag.

He received special recognition from General Lee after the war.

(courtesy of Kevin McKinley)

for catching rainwater for drinking) completely dry as the area had been suffering from a protracted dry spell that summer. The men chose to drink the brackish water just east of the fort and many became ill.

Further plaguing the men were the thick uniforms they wore, which were ill-suited to the humid southern climate. Thus, the Union troops suffered casualties before ever encountering their Confederate nemesis across the bay.

Confederate and Union forces exchanged a heated volley of artillery early on in the contest with no clear damage to either side (the breach in the wall at Ft.

Pickens was due to a magazine explosion in the 1890s),.

The shells did not have the range to hit either fort; they were meant for hitting ships in the channel, not opposing forts.

Later, Confederate troops crossed the channel at night and fought a ground battle at the fort. However, the Confederates were forced to retreat back to Barrancas and eventu-

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Local Battles *continued*

ally they retreated from Pensacola as well.

Pensacola was heavily damaged during this contest, but eventually became a safe haven for Confederate deserters who would sneak through the swamps and back creeks around the Escambia River until they could make their way to Union lines.

Following the contest for Pensacola, General Steele's forces advanced up the railway. Over the course of the next few years, battles and skirmishes would be fought at various locations throughout the area.

The Union raids came at different intervals during the war and resistance varied depending on the amount of troops capable of opposing them.

Steele's probable intention was to deny the Confederates use of the railway and thereby slow or eliminate the movement of men and materials between locations.

Pollard, AL was surely high on the Union list of targets in that it was an important Confederate military post and rail center during the war. Several raids on the town show its importance.

The first raid on Pollard happened in November 1864 when the 8th Alabama Calvary, as well as troops under Gen. J.H. Clanton, clashed with the Union forces in and around Pollard.

The next month, on December 16, 1864, Union troops made another raid on Pollard.

Note: Annie C. Waters in History of Escambia County Alabama writes that the report from the commander of the union forces stated, "destroyed the depot and other public buildings and a large amount of public property, consisting of forage, clothing, camp and garri-son equipment, etc.; also, the railroad for miles, including several bridges, one very important one over the Little Escambia River (the Big Escambia Creek)" (p. 136).

The following night, December 17, when the union troops had withdrawn and were on their way back to Pensacola, they were met by a Confederate Force at Mitchell's Creek (located south of Century, FL).

In the ensuing battle, the rebels routed the Union 82nd and 97th Infantry Regiments. The Union forces suffered eighty killed or wounded and lost ten wagons to the Confederates. The remainder of the stunned Federals beat a quick retreat back to Ft. Barrancas.

The following year, 1865, saw the Federals at it again, this time advancing towards Pine Barren Creek. Union forces brought artillery to the contest and even though the Confederates made a brave stand, many were captured at the battle.

Pollard was also the scene of another raid by Federal troops when in January 1865, the town was burned.

In March of 1865, Confederate and Union forces battled at Mitchell's and Pringle's Creeks which are both south of Century. Pringle's Creek located at Bluff Springs, FL.

Thousands of Union troops faced 400 Confederate cavalry troops on the north bank at Mitchell's Creek. In the face of such numbers, the Confederates withdrew to Pringle's Creek. The Confederates fought a heated battle here and retreated to Pollard and ultimately to Montgomery,

In Escambia County, there were also smaller skirmishes at Canoe Station (Canoe), Brewton, Escambia Bridge (Flomaton), and several other locations.



1836 map of the area showing trails and rivers

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Convict Labor

(Continued from page 6)

character, and the supply was limited. It consisted of half-cooked corn bread and a very short supply of bacon.

The men were awakened at 3:30 a.m. to go to work. Their breakfast and dinner, of bread and bacon, was packed in a bucket, and forty odd of them were chained together and marched from seven to twelve miles to the turpentine orchard, where they worked throughout the day, and were "driven" to the camp at night. He says he uses the word "driven" advisedly, as the men were in charge of a "woods rider" and a "whipping master," who rode horses and compelled the convicts to walk as fast as the horses could walk. Whites and blacks were chained together indiscriminately, and if one of them became exhausted, he was whipped with a long leather strap by the "whipping master."

Notwithstanding some of the white men were frequently exhausted to the limit of human endurance when they reached the turpentine orchards, they were compelled to go to work swinging a six-pound axe at chopping turpentine "boxes." This work, McNeil says, requires some skill, and new convicts were given two days to learn it. At the expiration of this time they were expected to do as skillful work as experienced "box-choppers," and if they failed they were punished severely. At 12 o'clock of each day the men were expected to rush "to their cold dinner, and rush back to work."

McNeil says he saw men whipped without mercy. There were five or six guards, a "wood rider" and a "whipping master." John Cox filled the latter position and McNeil says he was entirely devoid of human feeling or sympathy. He appeared to have the confidence of the convict lessees, and badly abused the men.

FILTHY SLEEPING APARTMENTS

Late in the afternoon the men were allowed to quit work. They were driven back to the camps and had to sleep in a "shack," which McNeil describes as "the vilest place on earth." He says the Negroes slept in one room and the whites in another. There was only a thin partition between the rooms, which had no windows and no ventilation whatever. The sanitary condition of these rooms, he says, was terrible, and the beds were filled with vermin.

When McNeil had been at Manistee a week he came near cutting off his right foot with an axe while at work and according to his story, he was in a dangerous condition for some time. He says that notwithstanding one of the owners of the camp, Mr. Jennings, was in the woods in a buggy when the accident befell him, he was told that he would have to walk to the camp, a distance of about fifteen miles. He started for the camp in company with a guard, and Jennings passed him on the road. When he had walked a mile he says he told the guard that he could go no further. The guard secured a horse, for which he paid 50 cents, and McNeil rode to the camp. McNeil says he will ever feel grateful to the guard for securing the horse, and before he left Manistee he reimbursed him for having secured the horse.

McNeil says that, notwithstanding the terrible cut on his foot, which he showed to a representative of the Advertiser, he was not given surgical attention, and did not see a surgeon. For some time he was compelled to lie in a "bunk" in the bad-smelling shack, and thinks that it is remarkable that he survived.

When he recovered sufficiently to be about, he was put to work sawing staves. In the meantime he had written to his relatives, and having secured money, he paid the remaining costs and

was released. He says when he bade one of the Jennings farewell, he was asked not to give them "a bad name" when he readied Michigan.

McNeil remained at Manistee forty-seven days. He says he was taken into the interior of the State and after he paid his fine he was given to understand that he would have to get to a railroad train the best way he could. Had it not been for a kindly disposed farmer he would have been compelled to walk twenty miles to Repton, where he boarded a train. He left Manistee last Thursday,

REPORTED TO THE GOVERNOR

Asked why he stopped in Montgomery, McNeil said he stopped here for the express purpose of seeing Governor Samford, and requesting him to make an investigation of his statements in the interest of humanity. He says that he never expects to be in Alabama again, but that other men will be sent to Manistee, and he hopes that the convict department will undertake to see that they are given better treatment.

Yesterday McNeil had an interview with Governor Samford, and laid the matter before him. He says the Governor assured him that the matter would be carefully investigated. He says he told the Governor many instances of the inhumanity of the guards, and recited to him one case of a Negro boy who died from mistreatment.

McNeil left Montgomery last night. He said he would go direct to his home in Michigan.

End of article from the *Advertiser*

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Photograph Of Soldiers, Possibly at Camp Pollard



Ben Oppenheimer. Eleven C.S.A. Soldiers, near Pensacola, Courtesy Private Collection, Florida.

Near Pensacola Could Mean Camp Pollard

Francis Robb, who will present the program at the June meeting, has sent us this photograph, with the comment that this picture should be of interest to us, since it could be a depiction of a scene at the Civil War Camp, Camp Pollard.

In her email, she includes the information that the photograph has a paper tape on it inscribed with the phrase “near Pensacola, Florida” and the photographer’s name, Ben Oppenheimer. She thinks that Oppenheimer probably wrote the inscription.

“Near Pensacola, Florida” she believes could mean Camp Pollard since “near Pensacola could apply to Camp Pollard as well as any other camp.”

Ms. Robb also supplies us with the information that the men in the photograph are “presumably from Demopolis (Marengo County), Alabama, where Oppenheimer had his main studio from 1859 until early in the war, or in Greensboro (Hale county), Alabama, which he occasionally visited as a traveling photographer.”

Note: Annie Waters in her History of Escambia County Alabama writes:

“No extant records have been found to pinpoint the date of the establishing of a Confederate Camp two miles northeast, of Pollard, Alabama, and five miles southwest of Brewton. It is the general belief that it was initiated in 1861.

“It has often been called Camp Pollard but its official name was Camp Tatnall, named in honor of Col. John R. F. Tatnall, who was commander of the post in 1862” (p. 108).

Field trip to Keego



Above, 2007



Martin family



At right, circa 1899



Refreshments after a hard day field tripping



ECHOES

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Escambia County Historical Society
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**Clip the following form and send to ECHS
Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427.**

Membership Renewal/Application Form

Notice that some pages are "Journal" pages. On these pages are longer and often more in-depth stories of interest usually found in the Society's **Journal**. You may expect at least 2 journal pages in each newsletter.

Due to rising costs and to keep membership rates the same, the membership voted to include journal-type pages in the newsletter instead of making a separate publication. We hope you enjoy this new format.

If you have a suggestion for a topic, or will help in research, please let us know!

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ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society is published monthly except November. Editor, Ranella Merritt; Assistant, Jerry Simmons

Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at escohis@escohis.org or call 251-867-7332.

Mailing address:

ECHOES

Escambia County Historical Society

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Brewton, AL 36427.