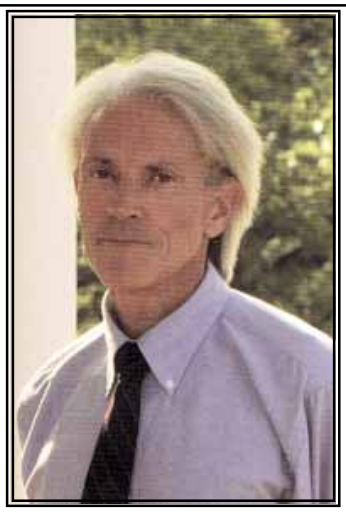
THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ECHOES

The July Program

Scheduled for 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Dr. Clifton Perry is one of the speakers whose program is coordinated by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities at Auburn University. He is currently an instructor at the University.



Dr. Clifton Perry

Dr. Perry holds the Hudson Chair Professorship and is a professor of political science and specializes in public law and ethics. He has been admitted to the bar in Alabama, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation, and Arizona.

The program, which will be a variation on "Citizenship Rights of Native Americans," will be presented at the Fine Arts Gallery Room at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the campus of Jefferson Davis Community College in Brewton.

Native Americans hold a unique position in American society. They are members of sovereign nations, albeit dependent (e.g., Navajo Nation or Poarch Creek Nation), and they are state and United States citizens. The relationship between Native Americans and the United States government has evolved throughout time and the policies affecting the relationship between the two have changed significantly since the first treaties were signed with Native American tribes.

This lecture explores the evolution in the relationship and explains the impact of semi—sovereign nations within the United States and what that means for citizenship rights of Native Americans. It also examines the relationship between states and tribes.

Mauser 98

Volume 36, No. 5

May 2009

Inside This Issue

The June Program

Jeff Ross, a victim of a mixup in scheduling a couple of months back, has graciously consented to bring us his program on the Ellicott Line in June.
Commissioned before 1800, part of this surveyed line comprises the border between Alabama and Florida. Mr. Ross describes the difficulty encountered and the results of this survey.

Dues

Remember to check your records to see if you have paid your membership dues.

Just Briefly...

From Jerry Simmons

In this issue we are featuring a *Journal* article, compiled by **Darryl Searcy** about weapons of war, one of which was recently donated to the **Thomas E. McMillan Museum.** We appreciate Darryl and his writing, and not simply because he most often chooses unique topics. His writing is comprehensive, no matter what the subject, and this month's article is no exception.

Of course, this is the Escambia County Historical Society's newsletter, but we'd be remiss if we didn't have a variety of subjects for you to read, even if it has little to do directly with Escambia County. I was told many years back that it never hurts to "stretch your paradigm." and we attempt to do that for you. If you don't know what that means, please look it up. When you do, I think you'll find that I used the right term.

Since I claim responsibility for this month's newsletter (for better or for worse), I'm taking advantage of the fact our editor **Ranella Merritt and husband Paul** are way over in Europe on vacation. If Paul comes back and tells you that it was simply a fact-finding mission, you'll know he's in the running for a seat in Congress.

A great article was contributed by **Susan Crawford** about **Benjamin Franklin Pringle**, one of her direct ancestors. The Pringle family name may be familiar with some because that's the name of a creek near Bluff Springs where a running battle was fought during the (not very) Civil War. If you'd like to read it, there's a great story by ASHS member **Neal Collier** in one of the Alger-Sullivan Sawmill Scrapbooks. We have one here in the Alabama Room or you may purchase one from one of the ASHS members. Incidentally, there are other local names in Susan's article that might be familiar to you.

Thanks also to **Sherry Johnston** for allowing us to publish one of her "Written in Stone" columns (see page13)

We have two scholarship recipients this term: **Leigh Ann Wiggins** and **Terry Walker**, both of Brewton. We have invited them to attend our May meeting to receive a certificate. The Scholarship Committee is very proud of our Society in working to assist these young people obtain an education. Kudos to you all!

Jerry Simmons

June Alabama History

June 3, 1898: Richmond Pearson Hobson of Greensboro becomes a naval hero when he sinks his own ship, the Merrimac, during the Spanish-American War. Hobson, aided by a crew of seven, sank the collier in an attempt to block the Spanish fleet in Cuba's Santiago harbor. For this act of bravery, Hobson was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1933.

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 infamous "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 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 1960-1964, and later on his own series, Gomer Pyle USMC. Nabors has also appeared in several feature films, but has concentrated his later career in music.

June 19, 1864: The CSS Alabama, captained by Mobile's Raphael Semmes, is sunk at the end of a fierce naval engagement with the USS Kearsarge off the coast of Cherbourg, France. The Alabama had docked there for maintenance and repairs after 22 months of destroying northern commerce on the high seas during the Civil War.

June 27, 1880: Helen Keller is born in Tuscumbia. Having lost both sight and hearing by illness as a small child, Keller's life story and activism inspired new attitudes toward those with handicaps.

Our Business Members

Benjamin Franklin Pringle
Of Escambia, Alabama and Florida

Contributed by Susan Crawford

Benjamin Franklin Pringle was born October 25th, 1837 at Pringle's Bluff, Florida, now called Bluff Springs. He was the son of **John A. and Lucretia Nettles Pringle.** When he was about seven years old, his family moved to Ferry Pass, Florida, and then to Lauderdale County, Mississippi, when he was about thirteen years of age. He was reared there to manhood.

While visiting a sister near Brewton, Alabama April 10th, 1861, he enlisted with Company F, Metropolitan Guards, 3rd Alabama Regiment, under Captain Vince Hunter and Lt. Col. Lomax. He was one of the first to volunteer at the call of the Confederacy, although opposed to secession, he yielded and cast his lot with the wishes of his State.

Under one of the world's greatest military geniuses, **Stonewall Jackson**, he was selected the first part of 1862 as one of Jackson's sharpshooters and later made First Lieutenant of the Sharpshooters. He had been relieved of picket duty only a short time when the general was struck down by his own men.

He was in the Seven Days fight around Richmond, Virginia, and had his left hand torn off by a shell. In Malvern Hill, he received a wound over his right eye; in Boonesboro, Maryland, he was wounded in his hand and his hip. At the Battle of the Wilderness, his right leg was broken. He said this was really the hottest fight of the war.

He made it through Gettysburg with no wounds, but at Frederick City, Maryland, his left arm was broken. This was July 9th, 1864, and was the last important engagement he was able to serve in. He never received any pension or assistance of any kind for his services.

Mr. Pringle married **Mattie Jane Herrington** March 12, 1868 and they resided at Pollard, Alabama. Fourteen children were born to this union of whom seven were still alive at the time of his death. He died March 6th, 1917 in the Mobile Infirmary from hardening of the arteries.

He was buried with Masonic honors in the **Beulah Cemetery near Pollard**, within one mile of the farm home he developed and first settled in 1868. He had said the place was four miles northwest of Pollard. The property is located in Sections 5, 6 and 8, Township 1 North, Range 9 East, Escambia County, Alabama.

He never had any limb amputated during the War and always enjoyed the best of health, but frequently he would complain from "misery" in his right arm and sometimes in one of his legs. However, this was only during inclement weather.

He had one brother, **John Pringle**, who went to the front in the latter part of 1861, but we have no record of the battles he was in. He died in the hospital at Norfolk, Virginia in 1863 from measles. His mother's father, **James Herrington**, volunteered for services but was turned down on account of a rupture and was unable to serve. **Wade McBride** and **Bill Jones** of Montgomery and **John T.** Parker of Brewton were in the same company. They were not with him when he first volunteered; it was later in the war when they came in.

(Part of this report came from an article written April 19, 1917 by **J.F. Feagin** in an issue of *The Pine Belt News*)

Snapshots from the April Meeting

Emilie Mims, Probate Judge, an entertaining and informative speaker

Leigh Ann Wiggins ready to help serve the goodies from the lovely refreshment table

Susan Crawford catching a snack

An attentive audience

The Greatest Battle Rifle Ever Devised

A Compilation of Articles and Material

The Escambia County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has come into possession of an original Model 98 German rifle, the Mauser Gew-98. Unfortunately, the donor of this fine gift wishes to remain anonymous. The rifle was presented to one of our members with a simple statement that he wished it to have a permanent home. The Escambia County Historical Society and the Thomas E. McMillan Museum can indeed give it a home, and will proudly display it with other WW-1 and WW-II artifacts. This particular rifle contains the original wood stock and varnish finish.

Source material was gleaned from published articles by:

Samco Global Arms, The Yugoslavian Mauser, Miami, FL
Modern Firearms - The Mauser 98 - A website (Mauser 1910, 1914, 1934)
Mauser - Legend and Vision, Vision of A Legend Contest, Augusta, GA 1996
The Mauser Rifle at the Kragujevac Arsenal, The Bolt-Action Rifle 1948
Battle Rifle of the Prussian Army, "Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871, by Michael Howard
The Needle Ignition Rifle, Wickipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

By Darryl N. Searcy

The Mauser rifle was rated of highest value at the time of its design nearing the end of WW-I. It proved to be of incalculable benefit in WW-II as well, considering that at the time of its early production there were numerous firearms manufacturers in the industry but none could match or surpass the Mouser's size, range, caliber, or accuracy. It was one of the first to feature a bayonet mount as well as a gauge for measuring wind velocity, and a grenade launcher. The rifle was absolutely deadly at a range of 600 yards.

Wilhelm Mauser
1834-1882

Peter Paul Mauser
1838-1914

The Mauser company was established by two brothers, Wilhelm and Peter Paul, who had already earned for themselves an enviable reputation for designing and building firearms in the last decades of the 19th century. The company continued to build this well thought-out and skillfully built firearm until the end of WW-II, at which time, like so many other war material manufacturers in Germany, was demolished and forbidden to reopen in territories occupied by allied forces in the west.

However, some years after WW-II ended, the Mauser company was restored in East Germany and resumed building firearms, but mostly larger-caliber firearms, like aircraft cannons and sports rifles.. But some of the earlier Mauser works became the standard against which all other designs are judged, including the American M-1 Garand, even after some 100 years following its introduction.

One such design is undoubtedly the Mauser model 1898 rifle, also known as Gew-98 or G98 (G = Gewehr). This rifle was born from the experience gained on previous Mauser designs, and first appeared in 1898 as a standard German army infantry rifle. It was carried by Germans through the First World War, along with shortened version of the Carbine, known as K98 (or Kar-98, from Karbiner = carbine). In 1904 Germany was the first to introduce the new, "spitzer" bullet (with pointed tip, instead of the older blunt, round-shaped tip). The new bullet had much better long-range ballistic, so all sights and windage were redesigned for the newer ammunition.

During the interwar period this fine rifle was slightly altered to became the K98k - Karbiner Kurz, or short carbine - a somewhat shorter, lighter and handier version of the original Karbiner. This version appeared in 1935 and was manufactured until 1945 in large numbers, not only by Germany but in countries that had been occupied by Germany.

Many versions of this design were licensed to other countries that used it to build their own versions of the G98. Most famous of these "foreign Mausers" were the Persian Mauser, Turkish Mauser, Czech VZ-24 Mauser, Yugoslavian Mauser and the American M-1 Garand, followed by the shorter and lighter version Carbine.. The list of varieties of the Mauser-type versions is understandably long.

(Continued on page 7)

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Briefly, the model 98 rifle is a manually operated, magazine fed, bolt action rifle. The magazine and the bolt action are the two most famous features of the model 98. The magazine is a two-row integral box, with a detachable floor-plate. The magazine could be loaded with single rounds by pushing them into the receiver top opening, or by cartridge clips. Each clip held five rounds, and was inserted into the clip guides that were machined into the rear receiver bridge. After loading, the empty clip is ejected automatically when the bolt is closed. The magazine could also be unloaded by operating the bolt, or by removing the magazine floor-plate.

Above, a picture of a Mauser exactly like the one now in the museum collection. The bayonet is similar to one donated in 2007 by Robert Winther.

The Mauser bolt is a simple, extremely strong and well thought out design. The bolt has three locking lugs, two at the bolt head and one at the rear part of the bolt. The bolt handle is attached to the bolt body. The original Gew 98 rifle was straight and located horizontally when the bolt was in the closed position. On the K98k the bolt handle is bent down, allowing for more comfortable carrying and operation. The bolt has gas vent holes that were designed to move the hot gases away from the shooter's face and into the magazine opening in case the cartridge case or primer should rupture.

The next famous feature of the model 98 bolt is its feed control. The non-rotating claw extractor was designed to engage the cartridge rim as soon as a cartridge left the magazine, and to hold the cartridge case firmly until it is safely ejected. Combined with a slight bolt retraction at the last stage of the bolt turn-open rotation, caused by the cam-like surface on the rear receiver bridge, this resulted in a very efficient extraction of the casing.

The Model 98 is a striker-fired weapon. The striker is cocked when the bolt is rotated to open, allowing for a smoother forward bolt pull. The rear part of the striker is protruded from within the bolt, so all the mechanical functions (cocked or not) can be checked visually or manually. The bolt housing is easily removed from the receiver simply by pulling out the bolt stop and then rotating and pulling the bolt out. The safety switch was designed with three positions and is located at the rear of the bolt. To the left, when looking from behind the rifle, it locks the bolt in place so it can't be rotated and opened in the middle (raised) position. In the right position, the rifle is ready to fire. The safety could be easily operated by the right thumb finger.

The Model 98 rifle featured a one-piece wooden stock with semi-pistol grip. Gew 98 and Kar 98K differ not only in the length of the barrel and the front part of the stock, but also have different sling mountings. While Gew 98 has two sling swivels, the K98k has only one; a forward swivel. Instead of the rear swivel there is a cut in the buttstock, through which the sling is passed.

These rifles also have different rear sights: The Gew 98 has a curved sight, while the K98k has a leaf-type rear sight. The front sights are open (called barleycorn type), on some carbines with removable semi-circular front sight hoods.

Peter Paul Mauser, the genius behind these rifles, was born in Oberndorff, Neckar, in 1838. He died in 1914 at the age of 76. Mauser worked in an arms plant prior to entering the German Army in 1859. Working with his brother Wilhelm Mauser (1834-1882), he also developed a needle gun (see sidebar) that was adopted by the German Army in 1871. Mauser's first successful design was a single-shot, 11mm, bolt-action rifle that became the forerunner of many improved designs.

(Continued on page 8)

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

In 1880, Mauser applied a tubular magazine to his rifle, and it became the main battle rifle of the Prussian Army in 1884.

The Dreyse needle-gun, Zündnadelgewehr (which translates roughly as "needle ignition rifle") was a military breech-loading rifle, famous as the main infantry weapon of the Prussians, who adopted it for service in 1841.

Its name comes from the 0.5-inch (13 mm) needle-like firing pin, which passed through the paper cartridge case to impact a percussion cap at the bullet base. The Dreyse rifle was also the first breech-loading rifle to use the bolt action to open and close the chamber, executed by turning and pulling a bolt handle. It had a rate of fire of about 10-12 rounds per minute. The gun was the invention of the gunsmith Johann Nikolaus von Dreyse (1787-1867, who, beginning in 1824, had conducted multiple experiments, and in 1836 produced the complete needle-gun. Dreyse was ennobled in 1864.

The first types of needle-gun made by Dreyse were muzzle-loading, the novelty lying in the long needle driven by a coiled spring that fired the internal percussion cap on the base of the bullet. It was his adoption of the bolt-action breech-loading principle, combined with this igniter system, that gave the gun its military potential, allowing a much faster rate of fire.

From 1848 onwards the new weapon was gradually introduced into the Prussian service, then later into the military forces of many other German states, except Austria. The employment of the needle gun radically changed military tactics in the 19th Century.

The needle gun first made its appearance in street fighting during the May Uprising in Dresden in 1849. It also played an important role in the Second War of Schlerwig in 1864. The gun saw its heaviest use in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. Because the breech-loader made it possible for a Prussian soldier to fire five (or more) shots, even while lying on the ground, in the time that it took his Austrian muzzle-loading counterpart to reload while standing, it was seen as allowing the Prussians to sweep the field. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia quotes an observer to proclaim, “the needle-gun is the king."

The success of the Dreyse needle gun spurred subsequent developments in firearms technology, and prior to the start of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, the French introduced the Chassepot rifle. Although the Prussians won the war, the Chassepot proved superior in virtually all respects compared to the needle-gun, which was slowly becoming obsolete. With the subsequent unification of Germany, the Dreyse needle gun was replaced by the Mauser Model 1871 rifle in German service.

In 1897 having produced the Mauser Gewehr magazine rifle, it was declared to be Germany’s answer to the French Lebel M1888, and was indeed the most successful bolt-action rifle ever designed.

A new and improved Mauser model was adopted by Spain as the 7x57mm Modelo Espanol 1893,

(Continued on page 9)

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

which began the evolution of the Mauser rifle to become the most desired military arm for half a century. This rifle was manufactured by Loewe & Co. in Berlin, and by Mauser for Turkey in 7.65x53mm, with a magazine cut off device as the Turk Model 1893. The Spanish model was adopted by Brazil and other Latin American nations.

Derivatives were adopted by Chile as the Modelo 1895, China as the Model 1895, Serbia as the Model 1899, and by other nations under various designations as a short version of the 7x57mm. It was also used by one Boer contract based on the 7.65mmx53mm case (the 7x53mm), or 7.65x53mm, as desired by the purchaser. Sweden adopted a 6.5x55mm carbine as the Model 1894 and a long rifle as the Model 1896.

The Mauser Gewehr magazine-rifle, Model 98, is generally accepted as the most successful bolt-action rifle ever designed. Peter Paul Mauser died in 1914 and did not see how devastating the German Mauser was in WW I.

In 1903 an improved form of 7.92x57 ammunition was introduced. This is what we call the 8mm Mauser. It featured a lighter "spitzer" (pointed) bullet of .323" diameter (as opposed to .318") and provided superior ballistic potential. This required modification of existing barrels and sights to the new standard. A certain number of Gewehr Model 1888 rifles were also converted to use the new ammunition. An "S" was stamped on the receiver to indicate conversion with the rear sight calibrated from minimum setting of 200 meters to 400 meters.

In 1907 all regular front line troops were equipped with the 1898 pattern rifle, including a special variation carbine with a small diameter receiver ring and stacking rod, the Karabiner Model 1898AZ, dates from 1904. This had a sight calibrated from 300 to 2000 meters (600 yards). The "A" stood for "with bayonet", the "Z" stood for stacking pyramid, meaning carbine Model 1898 with bayonet attachment point and stacking rod device. Reserves remained armed with the Model 1888 pattern rifle.

During WW-I, both the Gew.98 and Kar.98AZ were modified. The rear sights and a stock bushing which could be used to dismount the firing pin and also to lock weapons together in a rack or shipping case were the most notable changes.

Germany lost most of her small arms after WWI, and there was a strict limitation on new arms manufacturing. Many German gunsmiths used Model 98 Mausers as the basis for building future sporting rifle conversions. These can often be identified by stocks with severely thin forearms and wrist areas. Many of these sport stocks were formed from original military stocks to make them light, fast handling, and delicate in appearance. Most have had the original military stampings ground off and are usually without serial numbers. Sometimes the gunsmith is identified but often he is not.

Under the Versailles Treaty the German Army was limited in many ways. Only carbines were permitted to be produced. A new type of "carbine" was introduced in the early 1920's, known as the Karabiner Model 1898b. The new rifle had a long Gewehr 98 type barrel, tangent rear sight, wider lower band with side sling attachment bar and side butt attachment point, and a turned down bolt handle.

All rifles in service today have been modified to conform to this pattern, and will have an "S" for Simson & Co. in Suhl stamped on the receiver. This was the only entity allowed by the treaty to manufacture small arms for the Reichwehr. The old Karabiner Model 1898AZ was officially adopted as the Kar.98a.

In 1933 Mauser Werke in Oberndorf began producing a design to compete with Belgian and Czech Mauser export rifles. It was essentially a Kar98b with a shorter 24" barrel. It could be ordered with horizontal bolt handle as a short rifle, or turned down bolt handle as a carbine. It was marked on the rail "Standard Model of 1933." This design was also made for domestic use by the DRP, the German Post Office, and many went to paramilitary formations such as the SA, the SS and other NSDAP (NAZI Party) units.

(Continued on page 10)

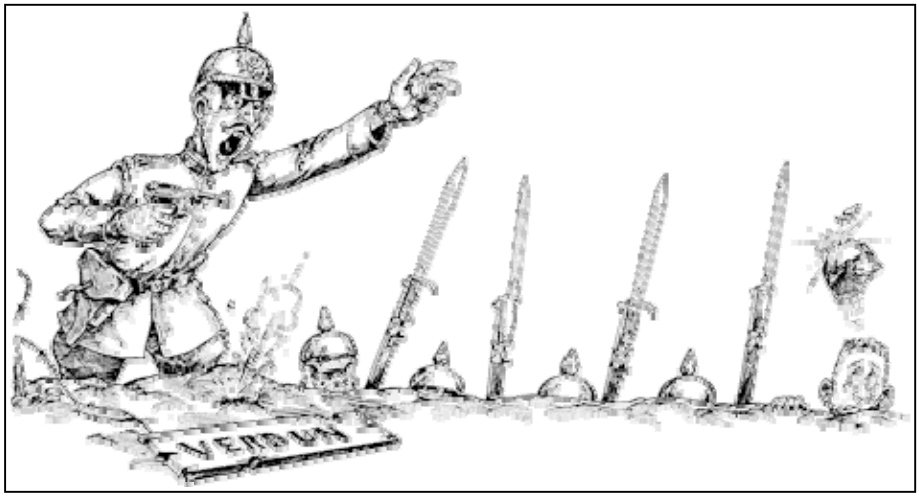
The ECHS *Journal* Section

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

(Continued from page 9)

In 1934 a new variation, the "Standard Model of 1934" appeared. This lacked finger grooves in the forearm, which dated back to the Kar.98b design. This design was adopted as the Kar.98k and was made by Mauser, Sauer & Sohn and later others. A receiver ring code was adopted to indicate manufacturer and date of fabrication. The design was not officially adopted until June 21, 1935. ERMA, Berlin Luebecker Werke, and the old DWM factory called Berlin Borsigwalde, under Mauser Werke management, produced this design.

As the years went on, other plants in Germany and occupied states began making the Kar.98k to the standard pattern. A new marking scheme was adopted and, as WW II advanced, production short cuts were introduced. These essentially cheapened the design and degraded the finish in order to lower costs and increase production. A KrigsModel variation became the norm and this led to cruder variations in the last days of the war.



The French produced very late war variants of the 98k at Mauser Werke from June 1945, receiver codes SVW45 and SVW46. Many of these were issued during the Indochina war 1946-54.

Yugoslavia produced the last production Mauser rifle at the Kragujevac arsenal. This was the Model 1948 98k Short Rifle, otherwise called the Yugoslavian M48.

Yugoslavia produced quite a few of these rifles. Manufactured into the 1950's, they became obsolete with the onset of the semi-automatic battle rifle. They have been stored under periodic inspection for the past 50 years. These rifles have been offered to the surplus market in new to like new condition. The 8mm rifles are excellent shooters that are well made and offer a unique opportunity for the collector to purchase a like new variant of the Mauser 98k.

ORAL HISTORY QUESTIONS

We're beginning a series of questions you may want to ask your loved one when composing a family history. It never hurts to have a pattern to go by, so we'll continue this series in the next few months. These are just a sample:

1. What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
2. When and where were you born?
3. How did your family come to live there?
4. Were there other family members in the area? Who?
5. What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?
6. Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
7. What is your earliest childhood memory?

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

The Mauser 98K

(Translated from the German by Darryl Searcy)

Im Fall 1871, Mauser Erfolg des Industriellen beginnend, fing an, als die deutsche Armee das Mauser Gewehr als die primäre Schußwaffe für die vollkommene(komplette) militärische Einrichtung akzeptierte.

"Beginning in the fall of 1871, Mauser Industrial's success started, when the German Army accepted the Mauser rifle as the primary firearm for the entire military establishment."

Dank Regierungsunterstützung, Mausers wurde schnell sehr populär weltweit, welcher abwechselnd Entwerfer in ständig Entwickeln neuer und verbesserter Modelle der grundlegenden Waffe stimulierte. Die Besten von ihnen sind Gewehr 98, Gewehr, das 1898 entschleiert wurde.

"Thanks to governmental support, Mausers quickly became very popular throughout the world, which in turn stimulated designers into constantly developing new and improved models of the basic weapon. The best of them is Gewehr 98, rifle which was unveiled in 1898."

This was to become the primary rifle of the German army until the end of World War II. The advantages of Mauser rifles over all others is the reliability of the bolt mechanism, and the precision workmanship that went into each and every weapon. These rifles were successfully converted into "sports and hunting" models, which are still in widespread use today. Besides, it was possible to shoot much stronger than standard 7.92 x 57 ammo.

Reliability of the Mauser's bolt locking system depends on three locking-lugs. Two in front lock the bolt socket on barrel inlet (prior to the rounds entry into the bore) and one in the rear of the rounds opening. It was a standard four movement bolt. This system is uncomfortable for most riflemen to get used to – he must move his whole arm to reload the rifle. A better solution was introduced in Lee-Enfield rifle, where the rifleman used only his wrist to reload the weapon. That's why Mauser rifles never achieved the high firing rate of the Lee-Enfield rifles; those results were obvious on the battlefield when compared to the Lee-Enfield and the M-1 Garand rifle.

The first model of Gewehr 98 rifle was the so-called "long rifle". Whole length 125 cm (49,21 in); barrel length 74 cm (29,13 in). Soon there was developed a shorter version, with 60 cm (23.62 in) barrel for artillery, cavalry and soldiers, whose primary task was not fighting "with rifle in hands". In 1903 British and Americans developed their own "short rifles," middle between "long" and "short" rifle – universal rifles.

This idea was taken by Germans, what came about was the rifle 98 with an entire length of 94,5 cm (37,20 in) and a barrel length of 43 cm (16,93 in), that soon replaced the Gewehr 98 rifle and became the standard version of armament in the entire German army. The Rifle 98 was modified several times, and resulted in the model Kar 98k that was the standard rifle of Wehrmacht during WW-II. It provides a non-removable magazine for 5 rounds cal. 7.92 mm; with a muzzle velocity of about 860 m/s. Mauser was used also by the Polish Army as a standard rifle until 1939. Initially it was made in Warsaw, later in Radom.

The Mauser 98k was a very popular rifle in German army. It was the final modification of Mauser 98 rifle, developed in 1898. The Mauser 98k was very similar to his predecessor, but his barrel was shorter – it was 60 cm (23.62 in) length; in 98 model it was 74 cm (29.13 in) length. In 1935 it became primary Wehrmacht infantry weapon. Production continued thru until the end of war with approximately 11 million weapons produced in several versions. Minor modifications were made such as to the bolt but nothing significant was changed again. One of the most popular variations of this rifle was the sniper version which was equipped with either a ZF 41 or ZF 42. This version was popularized in the recent motion picture, "Enemy at the Gates".

The Mauser rifle has existed in many sport versions throughout the world, quite a few examples were brought home by the allied servicemen at the end of the Second World War. These were then modified for use by civilians for hunting purposes. The design of the safety is by far the simplest but by

(Continued on page 12)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Greatest Battle Rifle (continued)

(Continued from page 11)
far the most reliable. It is among one of the safest rifles that exist even by today's standards. One of the other innovations was the cocked indicator for the weapon. It is obvious to a rifleman that the weapon is cocked, even in the darkest of nights. All one has to do is feel the rear of the bolt and if it is cocked the rear area of the bolt is protruding.

M1 Garand Rifle In Front Of A 48 Star Flag

The safety itself consists of a handle or blade that is on the rear of the bolt assembly. It has three positions as you look at the bolt from the rear in the shooting position. With the handle full to the left the rifle is in the "firing position" with the handle in the vertical position the rifle is on safe, but the bolt can be opened to unload or reload the weapon. And when the handle is in the full right position the weapon is on full safety.

In other words, you cannot pull the trigger nor can you open the bolt. The two stage military trigger is also of exceptional quality. It is designed for the common soldier to learn his trigger and breathing control quite well. One of the lesser known accessories for this weapon was the grenade launcher adapter. This consisted of the actual launcher, which attached to the front of the rifle barrel, and the grenade launcher sight which aided in placing the rifle grenade on target. These items were carried in a leather bag normally on the left side of the soldier's waist belt.

Vielen Dank dafür übersetzen Gehen Zu krähen und mein Freund Marvin!!

Thanks for translate going to Crow & my Friend Marvin !!

And for the sake of comparison, we go to The Newbie Site, "The M1 Garand Rifle, An American Companion In Three Wars"

The M1 Garand Rifle also known as the Caliber .30 M1 was truly an American companion in three wars including World War Two, Korea, and Vietnam. It continues to be an American companion as thousands of people across the USA avail themselves of the pleasure of owning a piece of history that General George S Patton called "The greatest battle implement ever devised." Look closely at the picture below and compare the M-1 with the Mauser 98.

The M1 Garand Rifle is best known for its role as the United States Armed Forces' main battle rifle, until it was replaced by the M14 and the M16. Indeed the ruggedness and 'real' appearance of the Garand Rifle made it a favorite of many soldiers and even 40 plus years after it was replaced, many still consider the M1 superior to the guns that supplanted it.

Over the years we have been grateful for John Cantius Garand and the legendary M1 Rifle that he designed. His rifle was indeed the mainstay of the American military. This great man was born in Canada but his invaluable contribution to America's arsenal goes far beyond that of most of our own citizens. John C. Garand designed a beautiful yet robust rifle that has seen action in three major American 'conflicts' of the twentieth century.

Written in Stone

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Through time, the pioneers of our country have been admired and respected for their spirit as they braved the unknown dangers in just getting to this place; the known dangers for staying; and the hopes they had for a better future. Conecuh County was one such beautiful place, and home to many of these pioneers; and those of us who have had a deep root in Conecuh soil for several generations can appreciate what these pioneers had to do in order to settle the territory and raise families, creating communities; establishing churches; schools; businesses; and cemeteries.

Because of boundary changes and the WBTS (War Between the States), several had feet in two or more counties. Many of the families you find in Conecuh, you will also find in Escambia, Monroe, Butler, and Covington Counties AL as well as in Escambia and Santa Rosa, FL counties. I visited an old community this past weekend known once as "Miles' Crossing" or "Evansville" in Escambia County, AL.

Two cemeteries that clamored for my attention were the Bowman and Sardis Cemeteries; and in both, you would find the names of the same ancestors and their descendants.

Bowman Cemetery is located where the town of Evansville or Miles Crossing was in the mid- to late 1800's. The community was named for an early settler's family: Miles. Several of these families have ties to the Bowman, Brooks, Bryars, Cooper, Creamer, Evans, Horn, Kendrick, Mathis, Moye, and Mullins family groups. In present day Escambia County, the community is located about 2 miles east of Wawbeek; and according to a local resident, many descendants of these families still call the community home.

The Alabama Historical Atlas of Cemeteries list the first burial as A.M. Lowery, Sr. (1833-1871). Andrew Madison Lowery was born of Scottish immigrant parents in GA 1833; married Kesiah Jane Mathis about 1851; served in Finnegan's FL Regiment in the WBTS; lived in GA at the end of the war; and brought his family by oxcart to Evansville, AL. The census records show A.M. Lowery, wife Kesiah and 10 children.

Most of the family is buried in the old Bowman Graveyard, as are others that lived and worked in the town which had about 200 residents, the first telegraph office for Escambia County, a sawmill, stores, post office, and a fine spring. Read next weeks' column about the pioneer spirit of Kesiah Jane, her sons, the families that lie in the graveyard and more about Wawbeek, Escambia County, AL and the ties to Conecuh County.

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're on the web!
www.escohis.org

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Headstones and Heritage	$40.00	$35.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	$10.00	$ 5.00
Wildflowers of The Escambia CD	$17.50	$15.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	$ 50.00	$ 45.00
History of Brewton and East Brewton HB	$ 70.00	$ 65.00
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ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society is published monthly except November. Editor, Ranella Merritt; Assistant Editor, Jerry Simmons Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at escohis@escohis.org or call 251-809-1528.

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