

# ECHOES

## The October Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 3:00 p. m.**

**At the Thomas E. McMillan Museum**

**Jefferson Davis Community College Campus**

### The October Program

Charlie Booher of Pensacola will present a "Show and Tell" program of items from his extensive collection. An enthusiastic collector for some twenty-eight years, Mr. Booher has objects not only from Pensacola, but from other towns in northwest Florida and south-west Alabama as well.

Among the items he will bring are celebratory and honorary Medals; a ship's invoice from July 7, 1770, of primary merchandise shipped to Pensacola (the oldest item he will bring); horse and buggy tags; bicycle tags (dating from the late 1880's); paintings by Ada Wilson, two of which are previously unknown paintings of Dr. Daniel W. McMillan of Brewton; brick paper weight and paper items from the McMillan Mill at Pine Barren, Florida (W. A. Finlay Jr., President); post office items from Brewton; railroad items from Flomaton and Brewton; a scrapbook from Atmore High School, season of 1947-1948.

### High School Student Campaigning to Honor CCC Workers

Grant Atkinson, a senior at Thompson High School in Alabaster, AL, is spearheading the campaign to honor CCC Workers in Alabama.

He has selected as a project for his Eagle Scout Badge to raise money for placing a life-size bronze statue of a CCC Worker at Mt. Cheaha State park.

The Statue, a model of which is shown on the right, is to be



**Bronze, Life-Size Statue of CCC Worker.**

placed in front of the Observation Tower at the top of Mt. Cheaha.

ECHS collected over \$150.00 at the September meeting for the CCC Worker Statue fund.

Anyone interested in contributing to this fund can contact Grant Atkinson at this address:

*Grant Atkinson,  
1331 Waxwing Trail,  
Alabaster, AL 35007*

Or at this email address:  
<GreenGrant1@aol.com>



*The Log House in Flomaton*

Volume 36, Number 10

October 2009

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### ECHS Does Not Meet In November

**The next meeting and last meeting for 2009 will be the Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. 2:00—5:00 p. m.**

**Our hosts will be Ashley Feeley and her husband, who have invited us to their home on Belleville Avenue.**

***Note: Their home, known as the David Miller House, was also the home of Ashley's mother Betty Jean Low***

## Monday at the Museum

*On Monday, October 5, 2009, ECHS members enjoyed a full day of visiting museums in Flomaton and Century*

### First Stop, Flomaton: the Railroad Museum & the Log House

Located in a beautifully restored Victorian home, the Railroad Museum in Flomaton serves as a welcome center as well as a museum.

Outstanding parts of the museum's exhibits include a mural of the Flomaton Depot (unfortunately, the depot was demolished), and a recreation of a railroad clerk's office with telegraph key and Royal typewriter.

The Renfroe Log House behind the Railroad Museum was built in 1887 out of hand-hewed logs which were wedged and pinned in place. The roof is made of cypress shingles from local trees. A restored chimney in the main room is made of sticks, dirt, and native ironstones, as was the original.



**The Railroad Museum with Log House in the background**

The well in front of the house is a restoration, also made of the native ironstones. Hopefully the original split-rail fence will soon be added to the house.

### Lunch at Turtle Point Environmental Center

Everyone enjoyed a brown-bag lunch either at a picnic table in the



**Turtle Point Environmental Center**

open area under the building or inside in the education/lecture room. This room with its exhibits of bob cats, turkeys, beavers and other animals of the area was a pleasant place for lunch as well as a room filled with interesting exhibits.

The most fascinating is the model, mural, and actual fossils of a mammal, a sea creature (a predecessor of the whale), which lived over 40 million years ago. This creature often would be 60 feet long. The fossils of this mammal were



**ECHS Members and Tour Guide Betty Ash Jones (back center) on the steps of the Log House in Flomaton**

found in Escambia County, Alabama.

### Century: The First Methodist Church

The First Methodist Church of Century was built in 1902. The building has been modified and modernized for comfort without losing the beauty of its original design and interior of beautiful woods.

It has survived and been beautifully restored and maintained in spite of a major fire which destroyed much of the bead-board walls.

On the wall behind the altar, three large panels of burlped pine enhance the beautiful wood used in the sanctuary's interior.

### The Alger-Sullivan Historical Society, Century

At the James Houston Jones Historic park in Century, we visited three museums: the 1913 Post Office Museum, the Box Car Museum, and the Leach House Museum.

The first room in the post office (the building is the original 1913 post office, not a restoration) contains photographs of Century at the time the post office was in use. The clock in this room was the official timepiece which ran the mill and the town. Century was a company town.



**Post Office in Historic Park in Century**

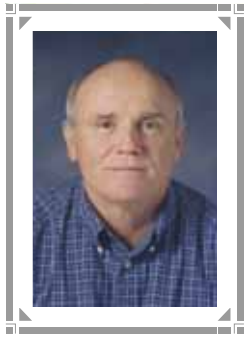
The second room in the post office contains a fascinating collection of tools used in the lumber business as well as photographs of the lumber industry. This room is officially known as the Blacksmith Shop but unofficially is referred to as the Joe Ross room, since our ECHS member Joe is the only one who knows what many of the tools are.

The group then visited the Box Car Museum which contains photographs and a model of the lumber camps in which box cars were used as living quarters for the men and their families in camps distant from the mill itself.

Our last stop was the Leach house where the Alger Sullivan Historical Society meets. Along with many items of equipment, tools, and memorabilia, the Leach House also contains a scale model of Century and the mill yard and its buildings from the 1940s when the Alger Sullivan Mill was in operation.

## Meet Our Speaker

*Charlie Booher sent us this brief biography:*



"I was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, but my family moved to Pensacola when I was less than a year old. My Mother was from Pensacola and my father was in the Navy.

"My family bought the T. T. Wentworth, Jr., home, which was north of the L & N railroad depot and around the corner from T. T. Wentworth's bicycle shop (built in the 1920's). Perhaps that period and that proximity to

Mr. Wentworth, with his love of collecting, is where my collecting interest stems from.

"I attended local public schools and graduated from the University of West Florida in 1970 with a BS degree in Physical Education and an MS degree in 1978. I taught for thirty-nine years (retiring this past June) at three Special Education Schools: Petree School, Judy Andrews School, and Escambia Westgate School. My students, who ranged in age from three to twenty-one, were all special needs students. I also taught Adapted Physical Education.

"I began to collect in 1981, starting with the Galvez Celebration Medal Commemorating the Bicentennial Battle of Pensacola, in which the Spanish General Galvez defeated the British forces. My brother designed the Galvez Medal for the Pensa-

cola Historical Society and that work started our interest in finding out if any other Pensacola medals existed.

"We wondered if there were any more Pensacola medals and found out that, yes there were. Over a period of years I collected medals commemorating Pensacola historical events/buildings, people (such as Captain Lewis Warrington, Civil War Lt. Adam J. Slemmer/The Defense of Fort Pickens), and Mardi Gras medals.

"From this start, I branched out into collecting other fields of exonomia, such as bus tokens, trade tokens, wooden nickels, food-stamp-change tokens. At some point, I thought, "Why not collect ephemera, such as photos, business receipts, bottles, signs, books, pamphlets, brochures, art work, furniture (signed), postcards, ledger books, currency, and just about anything that was related to Pensacola history. As I branched out my collecting interest, I also included Northwest Florida towns, Baldwin County and South Alabama towns.

"So, twenty-eight years later, I have several thousands of items in my collection. Since my retirement, I have started to catalog/inventory my collection, which will take years.

"Items from my collection have been illustrated in five published books and three soon to be published books. I have spoken/exhibited to the Pensacola Historical Society, Pensacola Yacht Club, T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Museum, Alger Sullivan Historical Society, and the Pensacola African-American-Heritage Society."

### Anecdotes from the Judson Church history

There was related an amusing story, whether embellished over the years or not is of no consequence, but lore being what it is, there is always a measure of romance and intrigue as such stories gain momentum through passing generations. It was told that a visiting preacher wandered away from the gathering while the women spread their offerings on the community tables. When it was time to turn thanks, the preacher was nowhere to be seen. Inquiries were sent out and eventually the preacher was located.

It seems that in the interim between services and the meal, the preacher had more sinister things in mind. He had apparently seized upon an opportunity to make his return trip home a little more comfortable and a lot less expensive, as he was found on the church parking area with a short siphon hose in hand. The good reverend was draining off a few cups of gasoline from the parked automobiles. One might say that he was not invited to participate in future church gatherings. Or, to see it as a congregation member might say, "so much for the evening sermon, but the good food and renewed acquaintances were enough to restore the soul and to keep the faith."

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The area had grown to the point where the postal service wanted to put a post office there. Sometime between 1900 and 1915 the postal service put a post office in Will Malone's store. The postal employee wanted to know what to name the new office. There was always a group at the store, so someone said there is a porch on the front of the store and one of the back so why not name it "Porch?" The name stuck, but with a different spelling - it became Poarch, Alabama.

*Darryl Searcy*

## Show and Tell



**Presenters at Show and Tell**

**Front Row, Left to Right: Evelyn Franklin, Katherine Wilkinson, Alma Hall, Susan Crawford, Sammie McGlothren, and Katie Nelson**

**Second Row, Left to Right: Robin Brewton, Elizabeth Edwards, Beth Bain, and Barbara Page**

**Back Row, Left to Right: Ann Biggs-Williams, Byron Findley, Jerry Simmons, and Joe Ross.**

### **Newspaper Article on Moyer #1**

Evelyn Franklin brought this picture (right) and the article accompanying it of Moyer #1, Alabama's first oil gusher.



### **Yo—Yo Pillow and Doll**

Alma Hall brought the yo-yo pillow and doll shown on the right.

The yo-yo's or puffs of cloth are a technique for using scraps of left-over material, similar to using scraps for quilts.

A square of material is sewn so that the thread can then be pulled to create the puff.



**Photograph of Naval Regiment from 1932**

Katie Nelson and her sister Sammie McGlothren brought this photograph of their father's naval regiment. The picture was made in Virginia..

## Show and Tell (Continued)



**An Antique Pitcher**

Beth Bain shows a pitcher which she inherited from her grandmother, who lived in Bellville, AL.

Beth brought the pitcher to see if anyone could tell her about it, materials, style, value.



**Horse Collar Bells**

Barbara Page shows the bells, which she inherited from her grandmother.

The collar could be placed on the horse which pulled a buggy or sleigh, or the vehicle itself.



**Handwritten copy of Flomaton High School Alma Mater**

Susan Crawford shows an original copy of the Alma Mater for Flomaton High School written by her mother.



**Brewton Genealogy Chart and Book**

Robin Brewton shows a genealogy chart of the Brewton families from which he is descended, as he says, "Brewton on both sides." Jo Brewton, Robin's wife, prepared the chart of the genealogy.

The book tells the story of the Brewtons and is the source of the information on the fold-out chart.

The hat on the left is Paul Merritt's "genuine Panama Hat" by Stetson. Although not part of the "Show and Tell" program, the hat came in handy when it was passed around for the collection for the statue honoring CCC workers which is to be placed at Mt. Cheaha State Park.

### **Pictures Illustrating the Turpentine Industry**

Katherine Wilkinson brought the two pictures shown on the left. The picture on the left shows her grandfather's turpentine still which was located in North Carolina.

The picture is from 1887. The picture on the right shows barrels filled with products of the naval industry lying on a wharf in Savannah, Georgia.



## Show and Tell (Continued)



### Signature Quilt Made by Members of Cedar Hill Methodist Church

Byron Findley and his sister, Jackie Rabren, this quilt made in 1941. Names of the church members and non-members are stitched on each square.



### Tools, Some Are for Shoeing a Horse

Joe Ross, who always brings some of the most interesting items to Show and Tell, brought these tools which most were used in Blacksmithing.



### Dress Is Over 100 Years Old

Elizabeth Edwards brought this dress made by her grandmother, Rebecca Roberts.

Born in 1849, Rebecca was an accomplished seamstress.

The dress is over 100 years old.

To the left is a picture of Rebecca's son, Malcolm Roberts.

### Feed Sack Quilt

Ann Biggs-Williams shows a quilt made of feed sacks.

Ann discovered the quilt in her mother's home in Lottie, Alabama.

She discovered that feed sack quilts have become a valuable collector's item when she found how much such quilts sell for on EBay.



### Grain Cradle

Jerry Simmons explained the purpose and use of the grain cradle pictured on the left.

The worker would sweep the blade and cradle through the grain (the thin bars on the side would catch the grain shafts), shake it to let the chaff fall out through the narrow bars on the bottom, and then dump the grain into windrows out by tilting the cradle, all in one swoop.

The cradle has been loaned to the Museum by T.C. Jordan of Century.

## Show and Tell (Continued)



**Hostess Pat McArthur at the Refreshment Table**

Pat MacArthur is shown in the Elvira McMillan Parlor ready to serve from a table loaded with "good eats."

Irene Lister and Darryl Searcy joined Pat in providing refreshments for the meeting.



**Centerpiece for the Refreshment Table in the Elvira Parlor**

Enjoying good food and good company after the program is one of the highlights of ECHS meetings.



### **66th Anniversary**

Elizabeth and Buddy Edwards recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Elizabeth and Buddy Edwards are shown in the Elvira McMillan Parlor in front of the stained glass panels, once were in Brewton's second courthouse.

Congratulations to them and best wishes for many more!

### **Enjoying the Meeting**

Elizabeth and Buddy Edwards are shown to the right in the foreground in front of the table with "Show and Tell" items.

In the background are, seated, Jo Brewton; standing, left to right, Tom McMillan and Paul Shelley.

Special Thanks to Darryl Searcy for taking the Pictures for the Show and Tell Section.



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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Judson Church: The Founding and Early Years of Development

Compiler, researcher, and writer Darryl Searcy. Edited by Ranella Merritt.

- ♦ **1873 or 1875 – The Church is founded at a site eight miles northwest of Atmore, in what is today the Poarch Community.**

*Editor's note: Annie Waters in her History of Escambia County refers to settlers in the area as early as the 1850's who were Baptist, met under the trees in the beginning, and organized a Missionary Baptist Church.*

- ♦ **A. T. Sims, a missionary from Beatrice, Alabama, helps establish the church.**
- ♦ **Called The Baptist Church in the beginning, the church is eventually given the name "Judson" in honor of Doniram Judson, the first significant missionary to the far East.**

*Editor's note: one source says the name of the church was Judson Missionary Baptist Church until 1897 (Handwritten copy of church history, dated 2001, author Florence Crane).*

- ♦ **Services are held once a month under the oak trees on the property, with those attending sitting on seats made of blocks or planks, and then in a small wooden building that sits on a parcel of land donated by Dr. Charles Moore.**
- ♦ **1889 – The Oldest Membership List is recorded 1873 or 1875**

*Darryl Searcy writes of the date for the founding of the church,*

"There is some mild dispute as to just when the Judson Church was first organized on Jack Springs Road, north of Atmore, but it is believed to have been around 1873.

"However, Mrs. Florence Agee Crane, one-time Judson Church

*Doniram Judson, who spent almost forty years as a missionary in Burma, now known as Myanmar. Picture courtesy of (<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doniram\\_Judson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doniram_Judson)>).*



Historian, felt like the exact year was 1875. All things considered, the Escambia County Historical Society will defer to the superior knowledge of Mrs. Crane."

*Further support for Mrs. Crane's dating comes from the following article, dating the founding for the spring of 1875:*

### Judson Baptist Began with a Special Contribution

"When A. T. Sims, a missionary from Beatrice, Alabama, boarded a train in Montgomery (the train was bound for Birmingham), he noticed a frail youth of about 15 years pleading with his mother for some coffee. She replied that she would probably not have time to get it even if she knew how to find it.

"Being familiar with the depot and knowing the train wouldn't leave for several minutes, Mr. Sims volunteered his services to take care of the matter. It was an act that brought about an instant friendship, and, although Sims had no way of knowing it at the time, it was the beginning of Judson Baptist Church.

"The two persons that Mr. Sims had befriended were a Mrs. Long and her son Ollie. The Longs lived in a suburb of Chicago, where her husband was a locomotive engineer. She had been doing missionary work for a number of years until Ollie's illness required the two of them to go to south Florida. This [move], advised doctors, was the only hope for Ollie, but after several months, the condition was unchanged, so they were returning home.

"As both Sims and Mrs. Long were missionaries, they had quite a lot to talk about, and as they separated at the Birmingham depot, she promised to send a contribution for his work. Just a few weeks later, Sims received a mourning letter (in those times a letter edged in black indicated a death) from Mrs. Long saying that Ollie had died. The promised contribution was enclosed.

*(Continued on page 10)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Story of the Judson Church: The Founding (continued)

(Continued from page 9)

“Mr. Sims wanted to use the money where it would do the most good, so he set out looking. In late May, he visited a community near the head of Perdido Creek, about eight miles northwest of Atmore in Escambia County. There he got up a good congregation and had a night of fine services under some water oak trees with a good lighter wood fire furnishing the light.



**Camp Meeting Under the Trees in a Western Setting**

Image courtesy of <googleimages.com>.

“At the close of his sermon, Mr. Sims told the Ollie Long story and proposed a Sunday school in his honor. It was organized and W. T. Fickling was named superintendent. In July, Mr. Sims returned and held a revival in that same spot. At that time, the church was named Judson in honor of a noted Missionary to the Far East” (Bill Shipp, the *Mobile Press Register*, Nov. 14, 1988).

### Stories of Andrew Jackson and Reminders of the Civil War

*From the Handwritten History of the Judson Church dated 2001, author Florence Crane*

“There has been a lot of history at this location and this community. My family history passed on to me by my father, indicates that Andrew Jackson came through here and crossed Perdido Creek behind the church on his way to New Orleans to fight the British during the War of 1812. The old crossing was marked until gravel dredging removed all evidence of its existence.

“There was a Civil War campground on the hillside behind my father’s and brother’s house. We picked up a lot of mini-balls in the field. My dad, as a boy, beat them flat on his father’s anvil to make fishing sinkers.”

### Uncle Joe and Aunt Serene Coley

Mrs. Florence Agnes Crane, one of the Judson Church historians, writes, “There are no existing records to verify the number of members who attended the church at the time of its founding, but there is plenty of evidence that there were a few Native Americans and two Negro slaves who worshipped at Judson on a regular basis.

“The slaves were simply called Uncle Joe and Aunt Serene Coley. A special little bench was set in the rear of the church that was intended for their exclusive use.” *Note: When Darryl Searcy asked if the bench had been preserved, he was told “No.” “It was suggested that since the church was heated by a cast-iron-pot-bellied stove, the bench could have been used as firewood”.*

The author of the 2001 Handwritten History, Florence Crane, said of Uncle Joe and Aunt Serene Coley:

“In the membership were several Indians and two ex-slaves who worshiped there. The ex-slaves were Uncle Joe and Aunt Serene Coley. They had a special little bench at the rear of the church to sit.

“Their home was on a hill just north and behind the present Judson Cemetery. They are buried in Judson Cemetery close to where the old back fence was.” *Note: Headstones and Heritage credits Joe and Serena Coley with donating the land for the Indian section of the Judson Cemetery.*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Story of the Judson Church, Early 20th Century: Growth and Change

- 1889 – The oldest membership is recorded.
- 1904 or 1905 – The first Sunday school is organized.
- 1907 – A new church building replaces the original wooden building. Florence Moore, after the death of her husband, Dr. Charles Moore, donates the land on which the new and larger church is built.
- 1912 – The Church joins the Baptist Association. The Rev. R. M. Hunter is pastor at the time and W. P. Bates Sr. is Clerk. The membership is reported to have been 52, and 62 were enrolled in Sunday school. L. F. Knowles is the Sunday school superintendent.
- 1948 – In July, the Church for the first time has a minister twice a month. Reverend Dennis Howell is pastor. The church building is remodeled with the two side entrances changed to a central one with concrete steps. More Sunday school rooms are provided; and additions to the landscaping include a fence around the grounds and shrubbery.
- 1953 – For the first time, the church has a full-time minister and a church choir is organized.
- 1956 – The first parsonage is built. David Strebeck is pastor. When the parsonage is finished and dedicated, there are only two charter members living: Mr. W. P. Bates and Mrs. Henry Agee.
- 1966–1967 – The church building from 1907 is torn down and an Educational Building/ Fellowship Hall is built behind the site of the old church and serves as the Sanctuary for fifteen years.
- 1981 – A new Sanctuary is built.
- 1999 – A new Parsonage is built. One member recalls that when the new parsonage was finished the old parsonage was demolished and carried off in dump trucks.
- 2005 – The church celebrates its 130th Anniversary. Jimmy Dukes, who has served the church for twenty-five years, is honored for his service.
- 2006 – Henry Wilson becomes pastor.

### Building the Church

*Darryl Searcy writes from notes provided,*

“The construction of the building was done by the men of the church while the ladies and children kept materials handy, as well as prepared food for the workers and kept plenty of cool water nearby for the thirsty.

“The Jordans, Malones, Agees, Bates, Moores, Bullocks, Ficklins and others were filled with determination and they worked long and hard to erect this small temple dedicated to the Worship of Christ.

“It was not easy in those times as the community was

small and the families lived far apart . “The appointed minister came only one Sunday out of every month and many times was paid with farm and garden produce instead of cash.”

### Preaching and Eating

“However, everyone looked forward to “Preaching Day” and they came in wagons, buggies, on horseback and some walked many miles to hear the Word of God.”

“There were Sunday school picnics, conventions, fifth Sunday meetings and associations, with everyone coming for miles, dressed in their best clothes

*(Continued on page 12)*



***The Judson Church of 1907***  
***This picture shows the Church after the additions from 1948 of the fence and shrubbery..***

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Story of the Judson Church: The Early Twentieth Century (Continued)

(Continued from page 11)

bringing boxes and trunks of food to be spread at noon time on a long table built in the yard.

“Who can imagine the wonderful dishes prepared by hard-working and loving hands? Who can imagine not enjoying a wonderful meal and knowing happy fellowship with far-away neighbors? Children laughing, playing, and making friends -- older folks rejoicing in song and being filled with hope for good harvest, and lounging in a restoration of faith in the Almighty.

“This is where everyone was invited to join in and to enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship. Such meetings for worship, food and information exchange with one’s neighbors was referred to as ‘dinner on the grounds.’”

“As the years passed, there were ups and downs, of course, but the membership grew and as it grew, so did the church become better organized to handle the needs of its membership and the community.

### Visiting Pastors

*From the Handwritten History by Florence Crane, 2001,*

“There were many pastors over the years, and fine revivals were held that renewed the spirit. In the earlier years some pastors came to Atmore by train; met by one of the deacons of the church and rushed to the site to meet his congregation.

“Most visiting pastors would stay from Saturday until Monday morning. Some pastors traveled to the church by horse and buggy. Often the church was without a pastor, but the faithful members, with the help of deacons and substitute ministers, kept it together.”

### Homecoming

“It was decided that there would be a Homecoming Day set aside each year, so everyone who wished could come back to the home church and enjoy fellowship with old friends and relatives. Each year, even though a few are missing, these homecoming days are enjoyed by a large gathering of membership, and many who simply want to renew old acquaintances” (*Handwritten History*). Note: This would have been in the 1948 time period.

### Logging

*From Handwritten History by Florence Crane.*

“The area grew due to the logging operations north and west of the church. There was a logging railroad track laid through the woods from Atmore northwest almost to Monroe County. This was the old Carney Mill railroad that went from the Carney Mill sawmill in downtown Atmore where the city hall is now. That area had a large pond to hold all of the saw logs brought in.

“A large number of the workers would ride the train out to Red Town where they would stay in red, tar-paper-covered frame buildings. There was a commissary there to supply their basic needs.

“Around Huxford was the headquarters for the Alger-Sullivan workers who were logging in that area. They stayed in nine railroad cars during the week. At one time there was a hotel close to Perdido Creek called the Sullivan Hotel. It was close to the sawmill that was on Perdido Creek. This is the area where the Perdido and Fletcher creeks merge.”

### Another Use for Front Steps

Mr. Chris Terry remembers that the concrete steps that stood at the entrance to the “old” church remain intact today and are preserved under a stand of oaks behind the “new” church. When the Sunday school classrooms become overcrowded, a few of the children might be asked to sit on the old steps to hear their lessons for that day.

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Story of the Judson Church, Last Half of the Twentieth Century: New Buildings but Fond Memories

*From the author of the Hand-written History, these personal memories:*

### Growing Up in the Church

"Most of my generation grew up in church during the late 1940s and 1950s into the 1960s.

"The teachers that I remember are Ruth Agee, Mabel Helton, Erma Higdon, Lucille Moore, Mary Lou Malone, and Loretta Hall. Mr. Julian Agee was Sunday school superintendent for more than 40 years.

"The church fellowships included suppers, lunches, water melon cutting, ice cream socials, Christmas plays and programs, exchanging of gifts at Christmas, and always a Santa Claus. The ladies quilted at church, usually in one of the rooms in back of the old church.



**The Judson Church Today**

**This is the Sanctuary which was finished in 1981 with the Education Building behind it.**

"I remember that our boy's group would go down to the old millpond on Saturday afternoon and swim and fish and spend the night. We would usually go on Mr. Agee's tractor and wagon so we could sleep off the ground.

"Mr. Agee always made it clear that we had to be back [by] Sunday morning so we could go to Sunday school.

"Usually one or more of the men in the church would come and check on us or spend the night with us. I can remember

my father, Hugh Malone, Bryon Higdon, and Kenneth Green coming down on different occasions.

"As children and teenagers, before driver licenses, we would play hide-and-seek in the Helton's barn or play ball at the Agee's or Crane's on Sunday afternoon."



**Judson Church 1930s**

### Remembering the Old Church

As the Judson Church and its congregation grew, so did the trees that shaded the church yard. Alas, in time it was necessary to build a fence around the church to keep cows and pigs out, as there were no laws governing livestock roaming freely in those days.

One particular oak tree that stood near the fence found itself being obstructed by hog wire. There was nothing for the tree to do but continue its growth pattern. As the tree grew in size and circumference its stout trunk began to put a little pressure on the fence. Over the years the tree trunk began to absorb the wire into the wood until its lower branches lifted the wire fence right off the ground. The solution, then, was not to damage the beautiful tree, but simply cut the wire.

Today, if one stands on the east side of the tree and gazes upward into its mighty branches, you will readily see the rusted wire extending outward like a flag and a reminder and testament to the strength of the oak.

Today this small church and its congregation stand as mighty as the oak.

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Story of the Judson Church, the 21st Century: Celebration of 130 Years

### 2005 – The Judson Church celebrates its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 25th anniversary of Pastor Jimmy Dukes.

In August, 2005, *The Alabama Baptist Magazine* published a tribute to the Church and its Pastor of 25 years, Jimmy Dukes..

From the tribute in *The Alabama Baptist*:

“Judson Baptist Church in Poarch, near Atmore, celebrated two important anniversaries -- June 26 was the church’s 130th anniversary and Jimmy Dukes’ 25th year as pastor. ‘It was one of the biggest days of my life,’ Dukes said. ‘It was everything I thought it might be,’

“Church member Chris Terry said. ‘Combining the two reasons to celebrate made it a meaningful day for everyone involved.’

“‘Rev. Dukes has been a special pastor for so long here and means a lot to us,’ Terry said, adding that the celebration gave the church a good opportunity to let Dukes and his family know how much they are loved and appreciated.”

*Note: Jimmy Dukes, who began to serve the Judson Church in 1979 as Interim Pastor and then became Pastor in 1980, is the brother of Sissy Horton, who chaired the group which produced the valuable resource book *The Heritage of Escambia County, Alabama*.*



**Church Bell on the lawn of the Judson Church is the bell from the steeple of the 1907 Church**

### 2006 – The church elects Its present pastor, Henry Wilson.

In 2006, with the retirement of Jimmy Dukes., the Search Committee appointed to find a new pastor, examined over 100 applications and selected Reverend Henry Wilson.

At a special Business Meeting, the members of the Church attending voted unanimously 45-0 to offer Reverend Wilson the position of Bi-Vocational Pastor. Henry Wilson accepted the nomination at the annual Thanksgiving Supper in 2006.

“Rev. Wilson, with his wife Maxine, has served as the interim pastor since May 2006. In that short time they have become a beloved part of our Church. Rev. Wilson’s knowledge and enthusiasm for the Gospel has found a welcoming congregation.”

#### Sources

- ◆ “The History of the Organization of Judson Baptist Church” by Chris Terry
- ◆ “A Summary of Judson Baptist Church History” by Florence Agee Crane
- ◆ “Judson Baptist Began With Special Contribution” by Bill Shipp
- ◆ *The Mobile Press Register*, Nov. 14, 1988
- ◆ “Judson Church Dates to 1875,” *Atmore Advance and Brewton Standard Historical Edition*, Sep. 1976;
- ◆ “Judson Church Oldest in Atmore,” *The Atmore Advance*, Feb. 1989
- ◆ “Atmore-Area Church Celebrates 130 Years,” *The Alabama Baptist*, 2005
- ◆ *History of Escambia County, Alabama* by Annie Waters.

## The Heritage of the Judson Church

*Florence Crane, author of the History of 2001 reflects on what this church has meant to its members,*

“As we grew and matured in this church we also began to see other parts of life as we went to school, graduated, either went to college or started a work career. Some of us left to work in careers that caused us to go to other parts of the country; some were able to stay close by.

“But what we learned here was taken with us to be used in other churches and to help us face difficult times in our

lives.

“Church buildings are built and some are torn down but God’s church lives on in the body of believers . . .

“And so it is that the good people of this fine community continue to show unwavering faith and devotion to itself and its House of Worship. These are the threads that hold such people bonded to the land in their Christian beliefs and hard work.”

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## The Judson Cemetery or Judson Indian Cemetery

*The information about the Judson Cemetery comes from Headstones and Heritage by McFarland & Shelton.*

*The pictures are courtesy of Paul Merritt, taken September, 2009.*

The Judson cemetery is located near Atmore in the Poarch Community on the Jack Springs Road, near the Judson Church.

The cemetery is divided into two parts -- the white section and the Indian section. Originally a fence divided the two sections, but in recent years the fence has been removed and a one-lane blacktop road marks the division.



The land for the Indian section was given by Joe and Serena Coley. Joe Coley homesteaded his land and built his home about 400 feet from the present cemetery.

He and his wife are buried in the right hand corner of the land they donated. The graves are marked with red sandstone rocks. At one time a piece of tin with the names impressed with nail holes was here.

Both Joe Coley and his wife have been dead for more than 80 years.

**The top picture shows the sign placed on the Jack Springs Highway.**

**The sign reads**

**Judson Indian Cemetery**

**Established 1800**



**The Picture to the Left shows the road separating the parts of the cemetery, Indians on the right and whites on the left.**



**Graves on the left and right sides of the cemetery**



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

Following is a list of gravesites that have been placed since the original cemetery survey of 1972, ***Headstones and Heritages***, McFarland & Shelton, 1972, Pages 162 - 167. The list is not in order according to the original survey, but are simply listed alphabetically without regard to the order in which they would appear if placed amongst the 1972 numbered list.

## WHITE CEMETERY

Bullock, Claudia Bates, 1900 - 1989  
Carter, Florence Malone, 05-02-1898 - 01-10-1998  
Carter, Mattie Lou, 04-15-1900 - 08-26-1974  
Cassidy, Kitty Still, 09-03-1910 - 10-18-1998  
Cassidy, Jack Venters, 05-13-1914 - 01-29-1968  
Crane, John Wilson, 8-28-1942 - 12-06-2002  
Crane, Florence Moore Agee, 02-02-1910 - 07-19-1989  
Crane, John Campbell, 10-19-1907 - 09-05-1978  
Dockers, Emma, 03-06-1928 - ( )  
Harris, Willie, 10-10-1921 - 07-21-1907  
Higdon, Byron Moore, 03-23-1927 - 09-02-2000  
King, John Alfred, 07-19-1896 - 12-30-1972  
Malone, Stephen Hugh, 08-01-1915 - 08-28-2006  
Malone, Mary Lou Lassiter, 04-01-1921 - 04-29-2002  
Moore, John Lawrence Sr., 04-01-1929 - 05-28-2004  
Moore, Lucille Jordan, 03-31-1921 - 02-03-2005  
Peevy, Margaret Moore, 08-13-1925 - 10-16-1990  
Rhoades, Early D., 12-16-1929 - 03-23-1987  
Rhoades, Ewin Jackson, 04-17-1899 - 11-03-1989  
Rhoades, Edward Lee, 10-26-1934 - 02-23-1983  
Rhoades, Lizzie Josephine, 05-28-1904 - 08-21-1998  
Rhoades, Orrie C., 03-10-1946 - 12-23-2008  
Rhoades, Florence Qualls, 04-09-1941 - ( )  
Smith, Nelson E., 10-10-1937 - 08-30-2002  
Smith, Annie C. Crane, 03-02-1935 - 05-17-1991  
Still, Louis Bryan, 09-07-1966 - 12-02-2006  
Still, Merrill Harlan, 05-20-1936 - 01-04-2008  
Still, Patricia Adelaine, 01-07-1947 - 05-02-2008  
Unidentified infant  
Unidentified slab in southwest corner  
Wood, Horace Hammond, 04-27-1931 - 10-19-1981

## INDIAN CEMETERY

Adams, William Carl, 10-16-1960 - 01-21-1994  
Balaban, Annette Hubbard, 12-15-1961 - 02-23-1998  
Bailey, Inez Lister, 01-20-1915 - 03-21-1988  
Bishop, Hilda Eleese, 09-10-1947 - 01-21-2009  
Daughtry, Burlie Houston, 07-12-1942 - 11-29-2006  
Daughtry, Autry Delanie, 11-23-1951 - 05-07-2001  
Gibson, Marie, 11-03-1918 - 05-20-1986  
Gibson, Willie, 02-24-1915 - 02-13-1989  
Holland, Elsie Martin, 08-05-1912 - 07-26-1997  
Hubbird, Mildred McGhee, 05-15-1928 - 04-12-2000  
Hubbird, Clayton, 08-25-1957 - 10-05-1998  
Hubbird, Shelby, 09-20-1951 - 12-05-2006  
Hayes, Lennie Presley, 03-28-1915 - 02-17-1977  
Jackson, Larry Juniore, 02-03-1947 - 02-18-2005  
Jackson, Alton, 02-06-1927 - 09-08-1999  
Jackson, Linoa Sue, 03-16-1954 - ( )  
Jackson, Viola, 01-31-1904 - 06-28-1974  
Jackson, Johnny, 07-20-1924 - 04-19-1983  
Jackson, Bonnie W., 05-04-1921 - 09-25-1979  
Jackson, Franklin, 01-04-1937 - 12-17-2008  
Jackson, Earl, 10-04-1937 - 05-01-2009  
Jackson, Joyce Ann, 05-01-1940 - ( )  
Lassiter, Hazel Aline, 07-19-1924 - 04-23-1994  
Linam, Samuel Bert, 11-15-1892 - 10-19-1981  
Lister, Marvin, 03-01-1926 - 04-02-2002

Lister, Hubert Lee, 03-27-1928 - 03-29-1997  
Lister, Lewis, 08-22-1907 - 01-09-1982  
Lister, Vivian, 07-02-1920 - 08-27-1993  
Lister, Charlie, 08-13-1913 - 08-23-1983  
Martin, Alex W. "Jody", 09-19-1946 - 10-05-1996  
Martin, Willie Lee, 09-05-1920 - 04-23-1996  
Martin, A. D., 09-20-1916 - 05-20-1994  
Martin, Robert "Bobby", 04-01-1956 - 03-13-1996  
Martin, Paul (infant), 07-14-1957 - 07-17-1957 (new marker)  
Martin, Robert Otis, 02-13-1878 - 09-10-1973  
Martin, Randall P., 06-05-1962 - 02-27-2002  
McGhee, Doris D., 12-26-1946 - 06-16-2005  
McGhee, Robert L., 05-13-1947 - ( )  
McGhee, Howard D., 11-22-1926 - 08-22-1992  
McGhee, Hattie Mae, 07-15-1928 - 11-08-1988  
McGhee, Don, 4-08-1901 - 02-09-1982  
McGhee, Alice Rolin Martin, 11-02-1886 - 10-31-1973  
McGhee, Julius "Bubba" Jack, 11-06-1927 - 02-09-1994  
McGhee, Lunie Mae, 07-31-1910 - 02-18-2001  
McGhee, Clifton, 03-18-1946 - 04-19-1982  
McGhee, Arentha, 05-30-1921 - ( )  
McGhee, Willis M., 09-04-1912 - 12-07-1995  
McGhee, William Thomas, 08-15-1910 - 05-31-1980  
McGhee, Cora L., 12-10-1923 - 02-20-1984  
New gravesite, no marker  
New Gravesite, no marker  
Nix, Delia N., 07-04-1914 - 01-02-1985  
O'Barr, Michael Anthony, 08-05-1958 - 02-29-2000  
O'Barr, Joe Evans, 12-23-1923 - 10-11-1993  
Patrick, Letha G., 07-06-1926 - 11-25-1974  
Pickern, Mary A., 05-04-1910 - 12-19-1997  
Polk, Charles, 03-21-1937 - 02-04-2006  
Presley, Lola D., 03-23-1907 - 04-08-1991  
Price, Tracey L, 02-12-1972 - 04-26-2007  
Reed, Arthur, 08-11-1916 - 08-07-2001  
Reed, Glenn R., 03-18-1951 - 04-26-1993  
Reed, Agnes, 07-03-1917 - 08-12-1992  
Reed, Maxin G., 11-28-1951 - ( )  
Rolin, Grady Bill, 01-11-1926 - 02-25-2000  
Rolin, Claudia G., 11-29-1928 - 12-13-1976  
Rolin, Gilbert, 08-26-1954 - 09-18-2009  
Rolin, Dora Ann Kelly, 05-23-1930 - ( )  
Rolin, Bessie M., 09-29-1924 - ( )  
Rolin, Eugene Buster, 05-03-1919 - 09-20-1992  
Rolin, Bradley Robert, 04-26-1978 - 06-11-1978  
Rolin, Clara R., 04-14-1918 - 10-10-2003  
Sales, Alton Bookie, 10-05-1966 - 09-07-2004  
Snyder, Ella R., 05-03-1919 - 09-20-1992  
Vaughn, Judy Jalyn, 12-05-1968 - 12-04-1996  
Walker, Jason Lyle, 08-29-1979 - 12-18-1979  
Walker, Leon Glenn (infant) 1934 (new marker)  
Walker, W. D., 11-25-1927 - 07-22-1987  
Walker, Reva M., 12-07-1923 - 05-11-1991  
Walker, Lawrence L, 09-18-1911 - 01-07-1977  
Weaver, David Zimmerman, 03-24-1922 - 04-17-1997  
Weber, Ida, 12-27-1921 - ( )  
Williams, Ashkia Lynn, 03-16-1985 - 03-10-1986  
Wilson, Lizzie Pearl, 06-25-1932 - 07-22-2007  
Wilson, Deborah Jean, 10-27-1958 - 08-14-1985

## Just Briefly

The response to the "Monday at the Museum" theme has been mighty good. Even though the field trips haven't all been on a Monday, the turnout has been great and each of the trips have been enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Ann Biggs-Williams who thought of the idea and has done all the work in coordinating the trips, even to the point of writing the "Thank yous" to our hosts.

It's time for dues again. Sorry to bring that to your attention, but it's my duty. Dues are payable in January for the year, but this year we've a special offer for those of you who attend with your spouse. This past year, you may recall, the membership approved a "family" plan. You and one member of your family may pay only \$35.00 instead of \$50.00 (\$25.00 for each member).

Be sure to make a note of that and remember that you should get your dues in early—if you can.


Many of our members enjoy attending the events sponsored by our neighbor in Monroe County, the Monroe County Heritage Museum. I felt reproducing the flyers below that they sent to our email address is a good way to let you know what's coming up over there in the next couple of months.

The flyers have some small print that is rather hard to read, but if you have questions, contact them at telephone 251-575-7433 or email them at <http://www.tokillamockingbird.com>.

Happy Birthday wishes to Mary Catherine Luker on October 9!




**Cane Syrup**



**Making Day**  
**RIKARD'S MILL**  
BEATRICE, ALABAMA  
**November 7**  
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
ADMISSION: \$5 ADULTS, \$3 SENIORS/CHILDREN

 **will be Available**

 Monroe County Heritage Museum  
info@ccheritage.net  
[www.tokillamockingbird.com](http://www.tokillamockingbird.com)  
(251) 575-7433



**It's Fruitcake Weather!**  
Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory"  
Friday, November 13, 2009 • 7 p.m.  
Old Courthouse Museum • Monroeville, Alabama  
Tickets are \$25 and include a reception with fruitcake, of course!

Master storyteller Dolores Hydock brings Capote's tender tale of family, friendship and fruitcakes to life as the highlight this year's fruitcake festival. Based on Capote's childhood with elderly cousins in Monroeville, "A Christmas Memory" remains one of his most popular works.

**Other Fruitcake Festival Events**  
all day on November 13

- Alabama's best homemade fruitcakes available for sale in Capote collector tins.
- Fruitcakes made by some of the South's best chefs will be auctioned.
- Kites! — We have homemade kites like the ones Sook and Buddy make in Capote's story.
- An outstanding array of Truman Capote & *A Christmas Memory* items for sale! All make perfect Christmas gifts!

 Truman & Sook

 Dolores Hydock

The Fruitcake Festival is a project of the Monroe County Heritage Museum. All proceeds benefit our Endowment Fund. For more information call 251-575-7433 or visit [www.tokillamockingbird.com](http://www.tokillamockingbird.com)



**ECHOES**  
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Address correction  
requested

<u>Books for Sale</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Regular</u>
<u>A History of Escambia County</u>	\$55.00	\$50.00
<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$40.00	\$35.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$ 5.00
<u>Wildflowers of The Escambia CD</u>	\$12.50	\$10.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)</u>	\$51.00	\$45.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (hc)</u>	\$66.00	\$60.00
<u>Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook</u>	\$46.00	\$40.00

Clip the following form and send to ECHS  
Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427.

### Membership Renewal/Application Form

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Names) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer to get your newsletter by  
U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_ or email? \_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues \_\_\_\_\_

(\$25.00/person, \$35.00/two family members - Lifetime,  
\$250.00/person; \$50.00/year business)

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the  
newsletter. Larger sized ads are available)

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your interests \_\_\_\_\_

You will help with \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the  
year. Christmas is near. Give a membership  
as a gift!

**ECHOES**, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at [escohis@escohis.org](mailto:escohis@escohis.org) or call 251-809-1528.

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