

December Meeting/The Christmas Party

Thursday, December 9, 2010

3:00—5:00 p. m.

At the Home of Tom and Jane McMillan



The Program: A Party

Bring your favorite finger-food and plan on celebrating the season at the ECHS Christmas Party.

This year Tom and Jane McMillan have invited us to their home. The address is 474 Long Boulevard, Brewton.

Tom has given us these directions:

- ♦ Take a left onto Old Castleberry Road at the light at the Oaks Café
- ♦ Go about 1/2 mile and then veer to the left onto Long Boulevard

- ♦ Go down Long and go through the gate on the right

- ♦ Drive down the drive, which is in a pasture, to arrive at the house.

For anyone who is interested in caravanning, Ann Biggs-Williams will be at the Museum at 2:45 on the afternoon of the party to lead the way to Tom and Jane's home.

For questions about refreshments, contact Susan Crawford at 867-5784. ECHS will provide punch and coffee.

Contents

Minutes for October Meeting & Presenters at Show & Tell	2
Snapshots	3
Alabama Cultural Commons Meeting	4
Alabama Mosaic	4
Our Business Members	5
Written in Stone	6
The Nancy Harts	7
Heroines of the Flood	8
Watch History	9

The Next Meeting

January 25, 2011

Tentative Topic for Program is
Turpentine

Dues

Remember that paying your dues at the January meeting would be a good way to start the new year.



Confederate Rose

ECHS October Meeting

Volume 37, Number 11/12

Nov./Dec. 2010

Summary of Minutes for October 2010 Meeting

Visitors: **Golson Harrison**, first cousin of Kathryn Wilkerson, **Mike and Claire Carter** from Pensacola, FL, who were recognized by Darryl Searcy, and **Carolyn Jennings** of Brewton. Mike and Claire are active with the 'Find A Grave' Project.

General Fund Balance: \$1046.35.

Don Sales announced the formation of the **Flomaton High School Historical Society**, with 50+ students joining. He requested the Escambia County Historical Society send them a letter of congratulations.

Ann Biggs-Williams asked for **volunteers to clip articles from newspapers**. Those interested should come to the volunteer meeting next Monday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. Don Sales suggested the student members of the Flomaton High Historical Society could help with this.

The following members presented items for the "**Show and Tell**" program:

- **Golson Harrison and Kathryn Wilkerson** presented a painting of the St. Lawrence River on loan to the Elvira Room. It was painted in the late 1800's by the oldest sister of Golson and Kathryn's grandmother.
- **Willello Elliott** showed a picture of the Pauline Taylor Hall at the Downing Industrial School for Girls.
- **Kathryn Wilkerson** shared a copy of the Civil War Journal of Captain William Wallace McMillan, M. D.
- **Sammie McGlotheran** showed two pictures of a man and woman from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. She was told the pictures came from an estate in Brewton.
- **Robin Brewton** displayed a map of early stockades and frontier fortifications of Alabama.
- **Barbara Paige** shared an Oneida Heirloom silver plate set her mother-in-law purchased in the late 1930's, and a letter from the company dated in 1941.
- **Charles Booher** showed several items he has purchased, including 1918 sermon outlines by L. L. Hawthorne, former pastor of the Saint Siloam Baptist Church in Brewton.
- **Bucky McCoy** brought an antique gumball machine which had been used as a gambling machine in Illinois.
- **Ann Biggs-Williams** displayed a china doll her mother had received as a child for Christmas. She also showed a postcard dated 1910, with the postmark from Kirkland, Alabama.
- **Beverly Stark** brought a wooden, handmade game called Mancala which was played with river rocks.
- **Alan Robinson** displayed a 1937 radio made by International Detrola and sold under the name ARIA
- **Tom McMillan** displayed Leonard McGowin's Winchester Rifle, 1873 model that was used to kill "Railroad Bill" on March 7, 1896. Railroad Bill was known to have killed Tom's great-grandfather, Sheriff McMillan.

The Presenters for Show and Tell

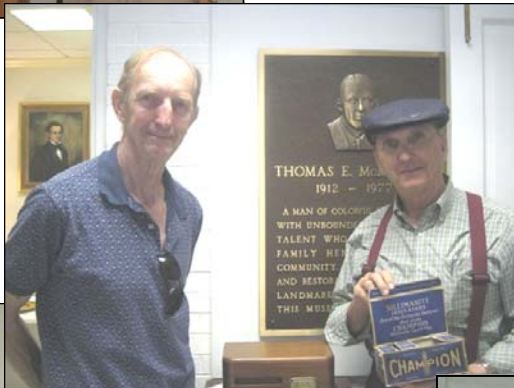
Left to right on the back row are Alan Robinson, Sammy McGlotheran, Charles Booher, Tom McMillan, Robin Brewton, Ann Biggs-Williams, and Golson Harrison.

In the middle row are Beverly Stark, Barbara Page, Kathryn Wilkerson, and Willello Elliott.

In front is Bucky McCoy.



Snapshots from the October Meeting



Alabama Cultural Commons Project

According to *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collection*,
190 MILLION ARTIFACTS NEED IMMEDIATE CARE.

From the web page for the Alabama Cultural Commons:

"The mission of the Alabama Cultural Commons is to identify the location and condition of Alabama's heritage collections and develop a plan of action that meets their preservation needs."

Three members of ECHS—Sherry Johnston, Ann Biggs-Williams, and Jerry Simmons—participated in a recent meeting in Evergreen on applying this mission to local museums and libraries.

Jerry Simmons says his major concern as Museum Coordinator for the Thomas E.



Participants in the Evergreen Meeting of the Alabama Cultural Commons Project include Sherry Johnston (third from the left on the front row), Ann Biggs-Williams (second from the left on the back row), and Jerry Simmons (on the back row, far right).

McMillan Museum and the Alabama Room is to develop a "Disaster Plan."

This would include ideas for protecting materials from wind and rain damage in case of a tornado or hurricane. It also would plan for dealing with the problems of mold and mildew which are a constant problem with collections as well as a more serious problem as a result of storm damage.

The planning session, not surprisingly, identified funding as the major problem, locally and state wide, for implementing plans for preservation.

Alabama Mosaic

Check out this interesting web site <<http://www.alabamamosaic.org/about.php>> Alabama Mosaic, "a repository of digital materials on Alabama's history, culture, places, and people."

All photographs here are from this web site's Escambia County collections.

To the right is the Christian Church in Canoe, from the 1930's or 40's.

Below to the right is a picture of the Methodist Church at Pollard from the 1930's—1941.



Above is a picture of the Flomaton Bus Stations from the 1930's or 40's.

To the right is a photograph of young men and women at the Downing/Shoftner School, 1910-1929.



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Written in Stone

This article by Sherry Johnston originally appeared in the Evergreen Courier for 2 December 2010 and is re-printed with permission.

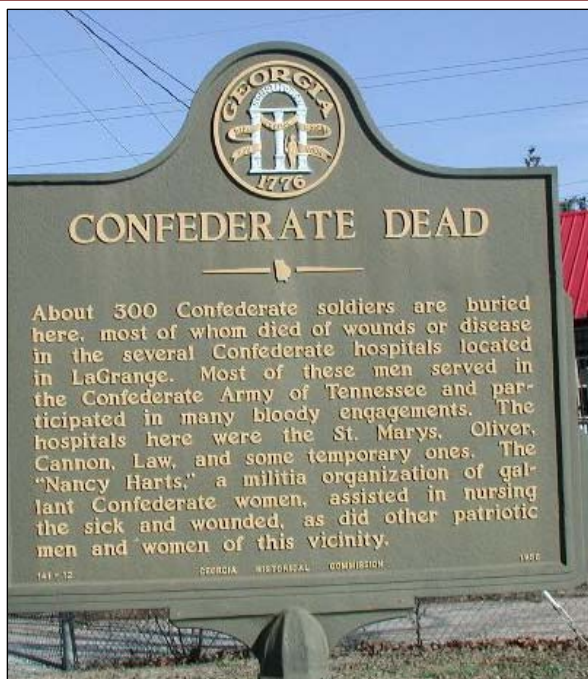
There is a little saying about 'you know you're a genealogy addict if....you cannot drive past a cemetery without wondering if your ancestors are buried there...' and sometimes we add a few more lines. I know that on a personal basis, I cannot drive past a cemetery without stopping and checking to see if there is a surname there that is connected to my own research or some of those I am researching for.

This past October a cousin of mine, Mark Henderson, of KY got up at 4 AM one morning, drove 351 miles to LaGrange, GA to replace the headstone of his 3rd great grandfather's grave on the 147th anniversary of his death, drove back home the 351 miles before dark and took pictures to prove all of it. I asked him if I could share his story as well as that of one of our own Conecuh Sons: Daniel R. Henderson.

According to family history, Daniel Henderson was born around 1815 somewhere in South Carolina. He moved to Brooklyn, Conecuh County, AL in 1820 with his father, David F. Henderson. His first purchase of land occurred in 1839 in Brewton AL and he also became Constable in that same year.

At that time, Escambia County was still a part of Conecuh County. He married Sarah Elizabeth Tippins, daughter of James Augustus Tippins. They had nine children: Caroline, John L., Charles, George Tippins, James, William, Phillip H.M., Charlotte and Daniel Webster.

Daniel's next land purchase was around the Brushy Creek, Lenox area around 1858 where he and Sarah (Eliza) were active members of the Brushy Creek United Methodist Church. When the Civil War broke out, Daniel joined the Louisiana Nineteenth Infantry while they were stationed in Pollard, a prominent town in Conecuh at the time.



Historic Marker, Confederate Cemetery, LaGrange, Georgia

The 19th was stationed there to guard against attack at Mobile and Pensacola. Daniel enlisted in November of 1862, and eventually, he and his 19th LA Infantry were sent to Chickamauga, Georgia where they led in the first attack on September 20, 1863.

Daniel Henderson received a flesh wound to his right hip and was shipped by railway to St. Mary's Hospital at LaGrange, GA where he died 19 days later on October 9th, 1863. Daniel Henderson was buried in the Old Confederate Cemetery located on Miller Street in LaGrange.

When Mark first viewed Daniel's gravesite, his headstone was in disrepair and

barely legible, so he requested a new headstone from the US government with the aid of the cemetery caretaker, Mr. Mike Hanners. On the 147th anniversary of Daniel Henderson's death, he, along with Mr. Hanners and son-in-law, Jeff Gammons, installed a new headstone for Daniel R. Henderson.

I think it's only fitting that Daniel's 3rd great grandson who has sincerely loved his ancestral hunt for his family is the one to lovingly replace his headstone and pay tribute to this Confederate soldier for his service to his country.

LaGrange GA is known as a beautiful old railroad town located on the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, and according to the text on the historical marker for the old cemetery, it lists over 300 Confederate soldiers from every state in the Confederacy to be buried here.

Most of these men participated in some of the bloodiest engagements of the war, having been a patient in many of the hospitals found in the surrounding region, including the St. Mary's at LaGrange. Visiting hours are from Sunrise to Sunset, and I imagine, you can almost hear the bugle call that called our soldiers home to eternal rest.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Nancy Harts

The reference to the Nancy Harts (who nursed the soldiers wounded in the battle of Chickamauga, including the Escambia County settler, Daniel Henderson) prompted interest in this group of women.

From the website, [Explore Southern History.com](#), "The Nancy Harts of LaGrange, GA, we have this story of a women's militia group who saved their town.

"As [Wilson's Raid through Alabama and Georgia](#) pushed east for the Chattahoochee River, a large column of Union troops swept north to strike [Fort Tyler](#) at West Point and the Georgia city of LaGrange. In LaGrange they encountered something totally unexpected, the Nancy Harts.

"It is a little known fact that the women of the South often offered to take up arms in the defense of their homes and families and sometimes did so. In LaGrange they took their willingness to serve an extra step and formed an all female militia company.

"Named the Nancy Harts after a Georgia heroine of the American Revolution, the women of LaGrange participated in regular drills and target practice.

"The company organized in 1862 after the members realized that regular Confederate troops were being withdrawn from the area and sent north to fight. Approximately 40 women turned out for the first muster, electing Nancy Morgan as their captain. Using whatever arms they could obtain, the Nancy Harts drilled twice weekly. Although their initial efforts were as clumsy as those of their militia organizations, over time they developed military cohesiveness. Their target practice improved and they also learned basic infantry tactics.

"For three years LaGrange's all female militia continued to drill. Despite some alarms during Sherman's campaign on Atlanta, the city remained peaceful and the Nancy Harts were spared their baptism of fire.



In Lagrange, Georgia, the Home of a Member of the Nancy Harts

moving in their direction.

"As Colonel Oscar H. LaGrange approached the city with thousands of men, the 40 members of the Nancy Harts formed ranks on the grounds of the home of Lieutenant Mary Heard. Despite the pleas of regular soldiers and others that they go home and lock their doors, Captain Morgan marched her company out to meet Colonel LaGrange and his oncoming Federals.



Bellevue House

The home of Sen. Benjamin Harvey Hill,

The Nancy Harts drilled in a grove belonging to Sen. Hill.

"As they met the Union force on the West Point road, Morgan formed her women into a line of battle. Colonel LaGrange did not mention the incident in his official report, but members of the Nancy Harts later recalled that a captured Confederate major intervened to prevent bloodshed. Bringing LaGrange forward, he introduced him to Captain Nancy Morgan.

"LaGrange complimented the women on their gallantry and agreed to spare their homes and families if they would return home. The woman agreed. The Union troops did do considerable damage to the tannery, railroad and other facilities in LaGrange, but the colonel kept his agreement with the Nancy Harts and spared the private residences of the city. To show their appreciation, the female soldiers hosted him for dinner that evening.

"From LaGrange the Union troops continued on to Macon, where they met the rest of Wilson's command and learned that the war was officially over. The women of the Nancy Harts returned home to live out their lives.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Heroines of the Flood



The following article and photographs are reprinted with permission from the book the Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook, edited by Jerry Simmons. The article originally appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser telling of the awarding of the medals to telephone operators who remained at their posts during the flood of 1929.

“Mrs. Hattie Louise Mims, Flomaton, and Miss Vivian Harper, Elba, are two of the four Southern Bell Telephone employees who have been awarded the Theodore N. Vail bronze medal for courage, perseverance and devotion to public service.

“Mrs. Mims won her medal for her courage, resourcefulness and loyalty to public service during the floods of March, 1929. She anticipated the flood, stored food in the central office, and when the waters rose gave aid to more than 100 citizens who sought shelter in the building. Assisted by the other operator, she continued to give service and secured aid by notifying the mayor of Pensacola, Fla.

“Miss Harper received her award for courage, initiative and devotion to public service. On the morning of March

14, 1929, when the town of Elba was completely flooded, she continued to give service until every telephone was out of commission, warned the Town of Geneva of the flood, and by advising authorities at Troy of the situation in Elba, was largely responsible for the prompt organization of relief work. She remained in the building until water was rising over the floor, and left shortly before the building collapsed.

“Theodore N. Vail medals and honorable mention are awarded each year to employees of the Southern Bell Company who performs noteworthy public service and displays loyalty and devotion to duty.

“An interesting feature of the present awards is the fact that most of those who received honorable mention gave first aid to or saved the lives of members of the general public. Telephone employees are continuously trained in accident prevention and safety

methods and in public emergencies frequently rendered assistance which prevents injury and loss of life or property.”



The ECHS *Journal* Section

Watch History

Pocket Watches - Railroad Timepieces – Wristlets

What's The Connection?

History and Evolution

This article by Darryl Searcy will be published serially.

- ♦ The most expensive watch made is the 201-carat Chopard - \$25,000,000.
- ♦ Followed by the Patek Phillipe "Super Complication" - \$11,000,000
- ♦ Rolex "Paul Newman" Oyster - \$350,000.
- ♦ Omega "Speed Master" goes for a mere \$255,750
- ♦ Omega "Planet Ocean" as worn by James Bond 007 - \$17,800.
- ♦ Omega "Seamaster" as worn by Prince William - \$4,500.
- ♦ Timex "Indigo" as worn by me - \$29.95

Now, let's explore the world of the watch so we'll be better armed to value shop the next time we're in need of a timepiece.

A watch is a simple mechanism consisting of a series of small wheels, pinions, and arbors held together by plates. Its movement is powered by springs and regulated by a balance-wheel rather than the pendulum, so that the watch will continue to run when moved or turned in various positions. Many watches have jewels, which are small pieces of hard minerals inserted into the watch plates at the points of pivot of the arbors.

The types of watches are: key wind, stem wind, or automatic self-winding. and these are either open face or hunter case. Stem wound watches are stem-set or stem-wind, lever-set or pin-set, jeweled movement or adjusted



**Schrader's Infinity Gold Watch and Chain
Railroad Approved Timepiece Designed for Locomotive
Conductors**

movement. The self-winding watch is a mechanical watch, whose mainspring is wound automatically by the natural motion of the wearer.

A pocket watch is one that is made to be carried in a pocket, as opposed to a wrist watch, which is attached to the wrist. The pocket watch was the most common type of watch from its development in the 16th century until wristwatches became popular after

WW-I, during which a transitional design (trench watch), was used by the military. It is the watch in general that will be dealt with in this article.

Pocket watches generally have an attached chain to allow them to be secured to a waistcoat, lapel, or belt loop, and to prevent them from being dropped. Watches were also mounted on a short leather strap or fob, when a long chain would have been cumbersome or likely to catch on things. The fob could also provide a protective flap over the face and crystal. Women's watches were normally of this form, with a fob that was more decorative than protective.

Chains were frequently decorated with a silver or enamel pendant, often carrying the arms of some club or society, which by association also became known as a fob. Ostensibly "practical" gadgets such as a watch winding key, vest case or a cigar cutter also appeared on watch chains, although usually in an overly decorated style. Also common are fasteners designed to be put through a buttonhole and worn in a jacket or waistcoat;

(Continued on page 10)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Watch History (Continued)

(Continued from page 9)

this sort was frequently associated with and named after train conductors.

An early reference to the pocket watch is in a letter written in November 1462 from the Italian clockmaker Bartholomew Manfredi to the Marchese di Mantova Federico Gonzaga, in which he offers him a 'pocket clock' better than that belonging to the Duke of Modena.

By the end of the 15th Century, spring-driven clocks appeared in Italy, and in Germany. Peter Henlein, a master locksmith of Nuremberg, was regularly manufacturing pocket watches by 1524. Thereafter, pocket watch manufacture spread throughout the rest of Europe as the 16th century progressed. Early watches only had an hour hand, the minute hand appeared in the late 17th century. The first American pocket watches with machine made parts was manufactured by Henry Pitkin and his brother in the later 1830s.

The watch was developed in Europe sometime after 1500, but it is doubtful that watches were constructed in America before 1809. Machine-made watches were first attempted in 1838 and successfully made after 1850, when many firms were organized specifically for that purpose. Some lasted only a short time; others achieved enormous success and produced millions of watches, most being of modest price, but often beyond the reach of the average citizen. After 1875, less-expensive watches were introduced, some selling for under a dollar. Between 1850 and 1950 the watch making industry in America enjoyed a healthy market but after 1950 there were signs that the industry was on the decline.

Initial development of the watch is credited to Peter

Henlein (1479-1542) of Nuremberg, Germany. At his death in 1542, Henlein was referred to as an "urmacher" or watchmaker.

In the Cosmography of Pomponius Mela (published c. 1511), is the following description:

"Hoc tempore sollerti sunt reperta. Petrus Hele, adhuc admodum adulescens, quod facit opera miratur, etiam doctissimus scientiarum. Nam



**Breitling
Grande Complication
Price: \$280,716**

Unveiled at Baselworld 2010, this pocket watch has a perpetual calendar that displays the date, day, month, leap years, and moon phases and a minute repeater that strikes the hours, quarters, and minutes on demand. It comprises almost 700 parts. The case, made of 18 carat yellow gold, features an engraving of Walter Owen Bentley, founder of Bentley Motors, one of Breitling's partners.

Picture and text from Bloomberg .com < http://images.businessweek.com/ss/10/04/0406_most_expensive_watches/1.htm

paululum ferro facit parvas containing timepieces rotas, quamvis sint signa converterat, et percutiebant tempus significare Quadraginta Horarum, quamvis pectore gerebat in ora vel."

Loosely translated from the Latin, the above quote would read: "Peter Hele, still a very young man, performs works that astonish even the most learned scientists. For, from a little iron, he makes timepieces containing many small wheels that, no matter how they are turned about, both indicate time and beat forty hours, even though carried on the chest or in the pocket."

From other records it was ascertained that "Peter Hele" was actually Peter Henlein.

Watch making spread throughout Europe and England. Centers of fine watch making were established during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, especially in London, Paris, and Geneva. Initially, a watch was made by several craftsmen: rough castings were made by one artisan and the parts were finished and assembled by the watchmaker, who then engraved his name on the finished product. Cases were made by an artisan in the case-making trade. Since the parts were finished individually and by hand, they were never interchangeable, even though the parts were produced by the same maker.

(Continued on page 11)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Watch History (Continued)

(Continued from page 10)

Oh, how far we've come since then?

Colonial America had many artisans who considered themselves watchmakers. David Johnson of Boston was taxed as a watchmaker in 1687 and many men advertised themselves as such thereafter. It is almost certain, however, that they did not construct the watches; rather, they sold and repaired watches imported from England and Europe. Watches are occasionally found bearing the name of an American "watchmaker," but close examination by experts indicated that the name had been engraved by the importer. (For example, the names of Edfingham Embree of New York and Ephraim Clark of Philadelphia often appeared. Customs documents exist that prove both men brought in crates of timepieces from England during the 1790s.)

There is evidence at the National Museum in Washington, D.C., that Thomas Harland (1735-1807) was the earliest watchmaker in America. Harland, an English-trained clockmaker, settled at Norwich, Connecticut, in 1773. On December 9, 1773 he advertised that he *"makes in the neatest manner and on the most approved principles, horizontal, repeating, and plain gold watches: gold, silver, metal or covered cases."* He also noted *"watch wheels and fuzees (sic.) (winding chain or spring) of all sorts and dimensions, cut and finished upon the shortest notice, neat as in London and at the same price."*

It is not known whether Harland actually made the watches or just engraved his name on imported examples, but he certainly had the ability to make them. He perhaps made a few after his arrival and later found it more economical to import them. In later advertisements, such as the one dated January 9, 1800, he no longer claimed to make watches, but had *"for sale at his shop in Norwich, an assortment of Warranted Watches, vis. English sliver Watches, cap'd and jeweled; day of month and seconds, in silver and gilt cases; second-hand watches, various sorts; French gold and silver Watches, day of month, seconds, and plain."*

Further evidence that Thomas Harland, Sr., made watches is found in an obituary that appeared in the Connecticut Gazette of April, 1807: *"Died at Norwich, Mr. Thomas Harland, age seventy-two, Goldsmith; he is said to have made the first watch ever manufactured in Amer-*

ica." After 1800, Harland's watch business was being conducted by his son, Thomas, Jr. On the younger Harland's death in 1806, his estate papers listed 117 watches. All were noted as being of foreign manufacture, except for one that carried the name of Philip Sadler of Baltimore (though it was probably a foreign made watch too).

Luther Goddard (1762-1842) of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, made ten purchases at an estate auction in 1807. He bought two French gold-case watches, one for twenty-eight dollars and one for ten dollars (a hefty sum in those days). He also spent fifty cents for a pair of small rollers, a dollar for two dozen old seals, and ten dollars for a set of watch tools. Goddard began producing watches at Shrewsbury two years later; it is probable that he had received some watch making instructions from the Harlands.

Goddard began his business in a very small shop that measured less than 100 square feet. He bought hands, dials, hairsprings, mainsprings, balance verges (spindle of a watch balance), fusees chains, and pinions from Boston importers. The plates, wheels, and other brass parts were cast at the Shrewsbury shop and the watches assembled there. The plates and watch cocks were fire gilded and engraved by an engraver in nearby Marlborough. Goddard's watches were made in a typical English style; however, his casting, plate finishing, and the quality of the engraving were not as fine as on imported watches.

One of Goddard's apprentices, William H. Keith, later wrote: *"His tools consisted mainly of a tooth-cutting engine, a common foot lathe, brass pivot turns, and upright tool, and sinking, depthing, grooving and hairspring tools; and the usual variety of pliers, tweezers, files, and other appliances in use by watch repairers, all of which were of English manufacture."*

Goddard's first watches were marked "L. Goddard"; after taking his son Parley into the business, he used the name L. Goddard & Son. The business was apparently unprofitable, for after 1814, he again began importing watches. In 1817, Goddard moved to nearby Worcester and opened a watch-repairing business. Less than 530 watches had been finished when he moved; his sons Parley and Daniel finished another 70 watches thereafter.

To be continued in next newsletter . . .

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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<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

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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 or call 251-809-1528.

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