ပ

ဟ

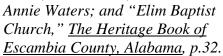
Ι

#### **The March Meeting** Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 3:00 p. m. The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program: "The Elim Baptist Church" Ronnie Herrington will present a program on the church and two nearby cemeteries.

#### **Elim Baptist Church**

The following information about the founding of the church itself and the Elim Baptist Association comes from the "History of the Elim Baptist Church, Roberts, Alabama" by Nellie Mae Parker: The History of Escambia County, Alabama by



The Elim Church was founded by John Parker, the great grandfather of Nellie Mae Parker, author of the church



**Elim Baptist Church** 

history mentioned in the introduction. In 1817, he had migrated into Alabama from Georgia, along with his brothers Samuel, Noah, and Peter.

In 1825, with the aid of his brothers and circuit rider Alexander Travis, Mr. Parker estab-

lished the Elim Church, the oldest Baptist Church in Escambia County, Alabama.

According to the Heritage Book of Escambia County, the first services were held in a log cabin located some two and

(Continued on page 2)

#### **Contents**

	Mile 2101	•
	.179	THE STREET
Ce de		
-te-	o tell	
T	四区	
The state of		
7	Deserve	Comment of the last
Calment	Sec. (022)	ALLEY THE THE PARTY OF

Elim Church in1920's

Volume 41, Number 3

March 2014

The Elim Baptist Association 2 **Elim Baptist Association Minutes** 3 4 **News and Announcements** 5 Snapshots **Fort Mims Event** 6 **Our Business Partners** 7 Alabama's Log and Antebellum 8 Wooden Churches

The April Meeting Tuesday, April 22, 2014 3:00 p. m. in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum **Program: Guest Speaker Chris** Griffin will present the program.

014 Page 1

#### **Elim Baptist Church**

(Continued from page 1)

one-half miles north of the present location of the church. The church was first known as the Siler (Silas) Creek Church because of the location near the Creek, but the name was changed to Elim Church in 1831/32. Elim was chosen because it is the name of the second place the Israelites camped after crossing the Red Sea. The Biblical Elim was said to have had "fountains of excellent water" and the Elim Church had an excellent spring.

a frame building which was constructed near the present day location of the church. According to Annie Waters in her History of Escambia County,

Alabama, this building had a partition down the middle to separate the races and wooden shutters for light (p.348). Nellie Mae Parker writes that under the leadership of Pastor R M. Murray this building was torn down and another one constructed in its place in the the 1920's...

The circuit rider and missionary Alexander Travis, was the first preacher at Elim. He was followed by Baptist Minister Noah Parker, one of the original founders of the church. Annie Waters reports that he "appears repeatedly in the minutes of the Bethlehem After several years, the log cabin was replaced with Association [Baptist organization of the time] from 1836 through 1861" and that he served the Association as a missionary for several years "at a salary of \$400 per year" (Waters, History,

#### The Elim Baptist Association

An important event for the Elim Church was the formation in 1872 of the Elim Baptist Association. Nellie Mae Parker's writes:

In the fall of 1872, Rev. J. L. Bryars, Rev. G. W. Miller, Rev. S. C. Johnson, and Rev. H. G. B. Ray, met at Elim Church and formed the Elim Baptist Association which was part of the old Bethlehem Association. The Association they formed took in all of Escambia County and Baldwin County in Alabama and Santo Rosa and Escambia County in Florida.

It flourished until 1909. The Pensacola Bay Association in Florida and the Escambia County Association in Alabama soon took its Members, and in 1909 [or 1914] it dissolved at Judson Church seven miles of Atmore.

The Elim Association held its sessions three days and the older members of the church can tell you about the great times they had at the association

had. The people went to the Association on horseback, in ox-wagons, buggies and walked.

Annie Waters points out that the Elim Baptist Association was established because the Bethlehem Association covered such a big territory. She writes, "Constituted in 1816 as the Beckbe, [it] extended from the Mississippi border to the eastern boundary of Conecuh County, and from the southern boundary of Lowndes County to the Gulf of Mexico.

Messengers often had to travel on horseback, requiring a week each way" (History, p. 348). Bad roads and bad weather increased the time and difficulties of communication. She also notes that only a few of the Escambia County Alabama churches joined the Elim Association.

Most remained with the Bethlehem Association until the Conecuh Association was formed (Waters, History, p. 348).

#### **James Lazarus Brayers**

A well-known and respected Baptist minister in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, FL, as well as in Escambia and Baldwin Counties, AL, Rev. Bryars began preaching at age 24. Among the churches he organized in Escambia County, FL were Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1856) and Oak Grove Baptist Church (1883).

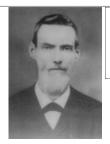
In Escambia County, AL, he organized Sardis at Wawbeek (July 1865) and First Baptist Church in

(Continued on page 3)

#### The Elim Baptist Association

(Continued from page 2)

Flomaton (1878). A Sunday afternoon preaching point begun in 1870 became First Baptist Church, Atmore in 1886. For many years, James Lazarus walked four and one-half miles from his Florida home to the Williams Station sawmill of John



James Lazarus Bryars, One of the Founders of the Elim Baptist Association. then James Lazarus stood pine blocks upon end and laid rough slabs across them to seat his

faithful congregation.

Text and photo taken from the website <u>Dickinsongenealogyproject</u> at <a href="http://dickinson-tree.net/getperson.php">http://dickinson-tree.net/getperson.php</a>?

personID=I0120&tree=Dickinson>.

Roberts. His daughters swept the sawmill floor and

#### The Elim Baptist Association Minutes from 1885

The Elim Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment, with Pleasant Hill Church, at 11 o'clock, A.M., Oct. 3d, 1885.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Elder S. W. Jones, from 4 chapter and 2d verse of Malachi.

After a recess of one hour and a half, the body was called to order by Elder J.L. Bryars, the former Moderator. After stating that he could not act, on account of

having to absent himself for a time, Bro. J.Z. Bryars was appointed Moderator pro tem., Bro. G.W. Curtis, Clerk, pro tem. Devotional exercises by Elder S.W. Jones.

The following brethren were appointed to read the letters from the churches: Elder J.T. Fillingim, Frank Barlow and Elder R. W. Brooks.

The letters were read and the names of delegates were enrolled as follows:

- Elim G.M. Parker and T.R. Stephens.
- Pleasant Hill J.L. Bryars, J.T. Fillingim, R.W. Brooks and J.Z. Bryars.
- Little Escambia W.C. Godwin and G.B. Milstead.
- Sardis B. Miles, Sr., B. Miles, Jr., W.C. Pace and H.G.B. Ray.
- Bay Minette Frank Barlow
- Milton G.W. Curtis and W. Edwards
- Damascus W.M. Diamond, D.D. McDavid and G.S. Diamond
- Pine Barren R.M. Guy, J.H. Grimlar and Henry Bryars.
- Enon J.L. Matthews, J.W. Grimsley and W.W. Lo<wery.
- Concord Neal Campbell and Thomas M. Nelson.

From <a href="http://files.usgwarchives.org/al/escambia/churches/elimbapt106gbb.txt">http://files.usgwarchives.org/al/escambia/churches/elimbapt106gbb.txt</a>

#### **News and Announcements**

Online Genealogy Research Help Available In Alabama Room Now Through May 2014 Thursdays 1: 00-3:00 p. m.



Pictured in the ECHS meeting room at JDCC on Thursday, March 13, these young missionaries were available to help with online genealogy research.

Picture courtesy of Josh Edwards. Pictured from left to right are Logan Kimball, Johsh Edwards, Laura Cooper, and Anna Smith.

Missionaries from the Church of Jesus-Christ-of-Latter-Day-Saints will be available to give help in researching online individual family histories as well as teaching individuals how to navigate these online resources...

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

West Florida Genealogical Society Meeting April 5, 2014

Place: West Florida Genealogy Library. 5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL

850-494-7373

Time: 10:00 AM

Speaker: Webinar from Judy Russell

Topic: The Ties That Bond

The program will be a video of a webinar presented in February for Legacy Family Tree. Bonds have been used in a variety of circumstances throughout history and can provide information about family members and their community associates. Types of bonds covered include marriage, appearance, administrator, executor, guardian, appeal, special, peace, forthcoming, attachment and freedom.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Poarch Creek Indians and the University of South Alabama Launch Native American Studies Program



Shown from left, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Poarch Band of Creek Indians' archivist; Dr. Steven P. Furr, University of South Alabama Board of Trustees Chairman; Dr. John W. Smith, USA Acting President; Buford Rolin, Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Chairman; and Robert McGhee, Tribal Government Relations Adviser; with a resolution thanking the Tribe for its gift of \$500,000.

Picture and text courtesy of <u>Atmore News</u>, March 12, 2014.

(Continued on page 5)

#### **News and Announcements**

(Continued from page 4)

#### The Alabama Historical Association Fall Pilgrimage in Columbiana and Shelby County



Courthouse in Columbiana

The Spring Meeting for the association is next month, April 10-12, 2014, but plans for the location of the Fall Pilgrimage are already announced.

. Pictures and images are from the Facebook page for showing items in the collection the Columbiana Archives and Museum at <a href="https://pt-br.facebook.com/schsociety/app\_2309869772">https://pt-br.facebook.com/schsociety/app\_2309869772</a>.



Business Street in Columbiana with historic old courthouse in background.

www.facebook.com/shelbycountypilgrimage



Old Saluria
Depot
From collection
at the
Columbiana
Archives and
Museum

## **Snapshots from the February 2014 Meeting**



From Left to Right: ECHS President Sally Finlay welcoming visitors and members, Vice-president Carolyn Jennings introducing Darryl Searcy as the speaker, and Darryl presenting the program on his expedition to Cameroon.

Remember to support our Business Members



## the L house

Printing & Frames

Custom Event Stationery Business Documents • Custom Framing

131 Saint Joseph Avenue Brewton, Alabams 251-867-9962 Lhouseprinting@gmail.com



## Place your future in our hands..



## "The Bank To Believe In"

A Locally Owned Community Bank Striving to Meet Your Financial Needs

#### Personal Loans

 Rates based on length of time and type of collateral

#### **Real Estate Loans**

- Fixed rates up to 15 years
- Adjustable rates up to 30 years
- Home Equity Loans
- Construction Loans

#### **Local Decisions**

- · Fast approvals
- Local closings
- Minimum fees on all loans



P.O. Box 601 • Flomaton, Alabama 36441 Telephone (251) 296-5356

#### Fort Mims Event Commemorates 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812

#### **By Ann Biggs-Williams**

The Commemoration of the War of 1812 continued in the Tensaw Country in Northern Baldwin County this past Saturday, March 15, 2014,

Although the War of 1812 program at Ft. Mims was planned to continue on Sunday, March 16th, rain hampered plans for that day. Saturday, however, was beautiful.

Dr. Stephen McNair, Director of Historic Sites of the Alabama Historical Commission, was there to display artifacts from Fort Montgomery and Montpelier.

These artifacts were discovered by a team from Jefferson Davis State Junior College in the 1980-1981 led by John Powell, who was then the Curator of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

By Action proper systems (1997) and the state of the stat

This poster board display of artifacts from Fort Montgomery was used at the event. The exhibit is part of the collection of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

These ceramics from Fort Montgomery, which were displayed at the Fort Mims event, are from the Thomas E. McMillan Museum collection.





Claudia
Campbell,
president of the Fort
Mims Restoration
Association, is shown
here in costume at
the Fort Mims commemoration of Fort
Montgomery

Claudia and her sister were our guides for the ECHS field trip to the Tensaw. The group visited the sites of Fort Montgomery, Cantonement Montpelier and Fort Mims.

Pictures courtesy of the Fort Mims Facebook page.



Farris Powell and his daughter Angela.

Farris narrated the story of the fight at Bashi at the event..

From the historic Marker at the Choctaw Line:

"CHOCTAW CORNER, Established by Choctaw and Creek
Indians about 1808 as the northern limit of boundary line between
their lands. This line begins at the cut-off in South Clarke County,
follows the watershed between Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers
without crossing water. The disputed territory boundary was settled by two ball games, one between the warriors and one between
the squaws of each tribe. The Choctaws won both games clearing
forever their title to the lands." Actual site of corner is 1.7 miles
North, N.E.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches

#### By Kelly Kazek

All of he text and the pictures are from <a href="http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2014/03/alabamas\_picturesque\_log\_and\_a.html">http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2014/03/alabamas\_picturesque\_log\_and\_a.html</a>>.

The author of this article is the North Alabama region reporter and humor columnist for al.com.

Log and clapboard churches were among the most important buildings in the Alabama Territory in the early to mid-1800s. In addition to providing space for worshipping, they were often multi-purpose buildings used as schools and for community events.

In the nearly 200 years since Alabama became a state

in 1819, many of those buildings were lost to age, progress and the Civil War. But incredibly, Alabamians have preserved dozens of those early churches.

#### **Beginnings of Religion in Alabama**

Although there were plenty of outlaws among the pioneers settling the Alabama Territory, they were far outnumbered by law-abiding, church-going citizens. Early parishioners were mostly Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists with fewer numbers of

Episcopalians, Jews and Catholics. Methodists and Baptists established their first congregations in 1808, according to historian Wayne Flynt in an article in the Encyclopedia of Alabama. Before long, some Baptists would split from the church to form the Primitive Baptist Church.

Before the Civil War, women and black people were not welcome in the pulpit. As slaves always sat separately from white congregants, women sometimes had separate seating from men.

The Civil War changed the course of religion in Alabama. Many Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Christian churches split from their national denominations over the issue of slavery, forming southern divisions. Afterward, the human and financial costs of the conflict halted progress on most church projects such as new colleges.



Uchee Methodist Church,
Hatchechubbee, 1859
Uchee Methodist Church is a GreekRevival style building constructed in 1859
in Hatchechubbee. It was added to the
National Register of Historic Places in
1997.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Andrew's Chapel, McIntosh, 1860 Andrew's Chapel, also known as McIntosh Log Church, was built in 1860 and named for James Osgood Andrew, a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It is still used for Memorial Day celebrations and other special events.



Shoal Creek Baptist Church,
Edwardsville, 1895
Built in 1895, this log building was the third church on this site in Cleburne
County. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Open only for special events.



Claybank Log Church, Ozark, 1852 Constructed by a Methodist minister, this hand-hewn log church is thought to be the oldest building in Dale County.



Pine Torch Church,
Bankhead National Forest, 1890
This church built somet sometime in the
1890s is likely the oldest building in the
Bankhead Forest.

According to legend, Pine Torch got its name from the pine knots that were set ablaze to light the building after dark.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Clark Chapel United Methodist Church, Gainesville, 1867

Despite its completion date of 1867, this church is included on the list because construction was begun by freed slaves shortly after the Civil War ended. It still has its original pews.



Mount Sterling Methodist Church, Choctaw County, 1859 Mount Sterling Methodist Church located in the rural community of Mount Sterling was completed in a Greek-Revival style in 1859.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Chapel, Mobile, 1859 Saint Paul's Episcopal Chapel is of a vernacular Gothic Revival style. It was built in 1859 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Ackerville Baptist Church of Christ, Wilcox County, 1848 Ackerville Baptist Church of Christ is a Greek Revival wood structure built of handhewn lumber circa 1848. The church was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1991 and to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

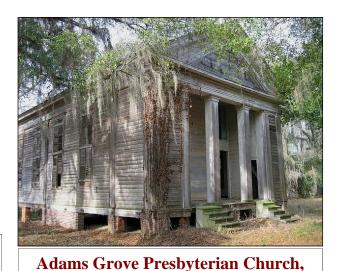


1860
Bethsaida Baptist Church was founded in 1831 near its present site in Wilcox County. The present building was erected between 1858 and 1860.

Bethsaida Baptist Church, Furman, 1858-

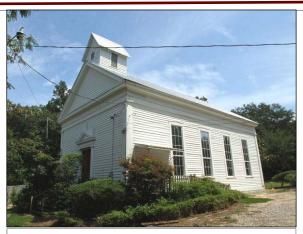


Old Scotland Church, Tunnel Springs, 1837
The community of Old Scotland was settled in
Monroe County by families from Georgia and the
Carolinas, many of whose families immigrated to
this country from Scotland and Ireland. The Scotland Church was originally made of logs but was
replaced in 1837 by a wooden-frame building. It is
listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and
Heritage.



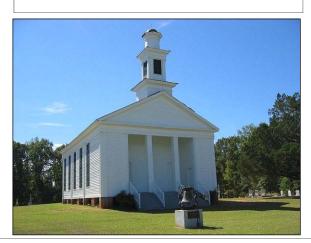
Sardis, 1853
Adams Grove Presbyterian Church is a
Greek Revival style building erected in
1853 in rural Dallas County. It was added
to the National Register of Historic Places
in 1986 and is now privately owned.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Methodist Episcopal Church South, Daphne, 1858

Also known as Old Daphne Methodist Church, this church was built in 1858 in a Greek-Revival style. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, Dallas County, 1851 or 1852

Originally known as Mount Carmel Presbyterian Church, this Greek Revival church was built between 1851 and 1852. It was placed on the Alabama Register of Historic Landmarks and Heritage in 1990 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.



Newbern Presbyterian Church, Newbern, 1848

Newbern Presbyterian Church was organized in 1844 by North Carolinians who settled the area in the 1830s and the church was built in 1848. The church typifies rural church architecture of the old South with hand-hewn lumber joined with wooden pegs. The early membership included slaves who sat on benches flanking pulpit.



Montgomery Hill Baptist Church, Tensaw, 1853

Built in 1853 in Tensaw, it is a Greek-Revival style. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Robinson Springs United Methodist Church, Millbrook, 1848 Robinson Springs United Methodist Church was built in 1848 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Sardis Baptist Church, Union Springs, 1850

Sardis Baptist Church was founded in Bullock County in 1837 and the church was erected in 1850. The church was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1991 and the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.



Indian Springs Baptist Church, Monroe County, 1825

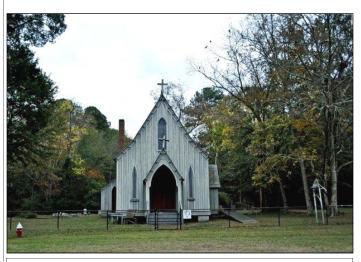
A marker for Indian Springs Baptist Church in the McWilliams community of Monroe County reads: "This sanctuary was built one mile west of this site about 1825 near springs used by local Indians. The original wood-frame building survived virtually unchanged – with no modern conveniences."



Sumterville Baptist Church, Sumter County, 1833

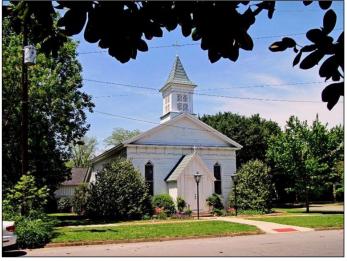
Sumterville Baptist Church was organized in 1833, according to the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



St. John's-In-The-Prairie, Forkland, 1859

St. John's-In-The-Prairie, now known as St. John's Episcopal Church, is a Gothic Revival structure built in Forkland in 1859. Originally located south of Greensboro, the church was moved across the Black Warrior River to Forkland in 1878. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.



St. James Episcopal Church, Livingston, 1841-'42

St. James Episcopal Church was established in 1833 and the church was built in 1841-'42 and consecrated in 1843 by Leonidas Polk. The church was originally Greek Revival style and later altered to add Gothic elements. It was placed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1984.

Sodality Chapel, Mobile, 1850 Sodality Chapel is a historic Roman Catholic chapel building on the campus of Spring Hill College in Mobile. It was built in 1850 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



#### Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



State Street AME Zion Church, Mobile, 1854

The church is home to Mobile's oldest African American congregation, which was established in 1829 as the African Church. The current Romanesque Revival building was completed in 1854. It is on the African American Heritage



St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cahaba, 1854 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a Carpenter Gothic church, was built in 1854 at Cahaba, Alabama's first capital, which is now a ghost town. The building originally had a square bell tower, but it was not rebuilt when the church was relocated in 1878. Owned by the Alabama Historical



Carlowville Baptist Church Carlowville Baptist Church was founded in 1837 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.



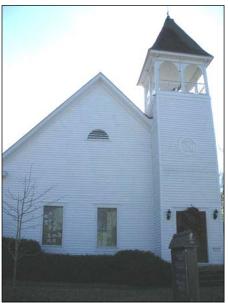
Cambridge United Methodist Church, Athens, 1818

Cambridge United Methodist Church, constructed in 1818 in Limestone County, was used by Confederate soldiers who drilled on the grounds before the Civil War. Later, the building was nearly destroyed by occupying Union troops. Cambridge church is one of the stops on the state's Hallelujah Trail.

## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Gainestown United Methodist
Church, Clarke County, 1854
Gainestown United Methodist
Church was founded in 1819 by Rev.
Joshua Wilson. In 1854, this two-story
building was erected for use as a
church and Masonic Lodge. It was
damaged by a tornado in 1911 and
rebuilt as a single-story building using
material from the original building. It
was added to the National Register of
Historic Places in 1999.



## Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Auburn, 1865

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church was the first African American church built in the Auburn area after the end of the Civil War in 1865 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Church members built the church out of hand-hewn logs, transported from miles away by mules. It currently houses the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Uchee Methodist Church, Hatchechubbee, 1859

Uchee Methodist Church is a Greek-Revival style building constructed in 1859 in Hatchechubbee. It was added to the National Register of His-



## Alabama's Log and Antebellum Wooden Churches (Continued)



Elizabeth Presbyterian Church, Sumter County, 1858

Elizabeth Presbyterian Church was established in 1838 about nine miles south of York. It was named in honor of the woman who donated the land: Elizabeth Knox.

The original log structure was replaced in 1858 with this wooden frame, two-story building. Slaves were members of the Elizabeth Church and remained part of



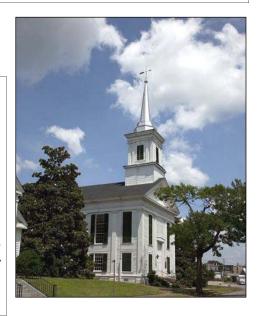
St. Stephens First United Methodist Church, St. Stephens, 1857

First United Methodist Church was built in about 1857 for \$500. The main sanctuary of this church is the original structure. Classrooms have been added to the sides and rear. It was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage in 1976.



To the Right, First Presbyterian Church, Eutaw, 1851

This church is a Greek Revival church built in Greene County in 1851. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.



#### **Above Left, The Camden Church**

According to the historical marker in front of this Camden church, "This building was constructed circa 1849 as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Camden Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation was organized in September 1890 in the parlor of the William Joel Bonner home. This building was purchased soon after."

# ECHOES THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

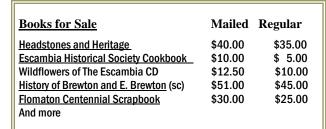
P.O. Box 276 Brewton, AL 36427

Phone: 251-809-1528
E-mail: escohis@escohis.org

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

# FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL

# Address correction requested



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

	<b>Date</b> //
Names)	<del></del>
Mailing Address	
Phone	
Email Address	Do you prefer to get your newsletter b
Dues	U.S. Mail or email? (\$25.00/person, \$35.00/two family members at same address; Lifetime, \$250.00/perso
	\$50.00/year business)
Donation	\$50.00/year business)  (Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the
	(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the
Donation Amount enclosed Your interests	(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the newsletter. Larger sized ads are available)
Amount enclosed	(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the newsletter. Larger sized ads are available)  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
Amount enclosed	(Business members get a business-card sized advertisement in 11 issues of the newsletter. Larger sized ads are available)  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.  OFFICERS  TRUSTEES