



The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971

## The December Meeting The Christmas Party Tuesday, December 13, 2016 5:00-7:00 p. m. The L-House

### The ECHS Christmas Party



**Location:** The L-House, located  
next to the Bank of  
Brewton and the Ritz  
**Date:** Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016  
**Time:** 5:00-7:00 p. m.  
**Refreshments:** No need to  
bring food unless you wish to  
bring a dessert.



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**The January ECHS Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017  
McMillan Museum  
3:00 p. m.  
Program TBA**



**The Parade at Frontier Day  
Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson**

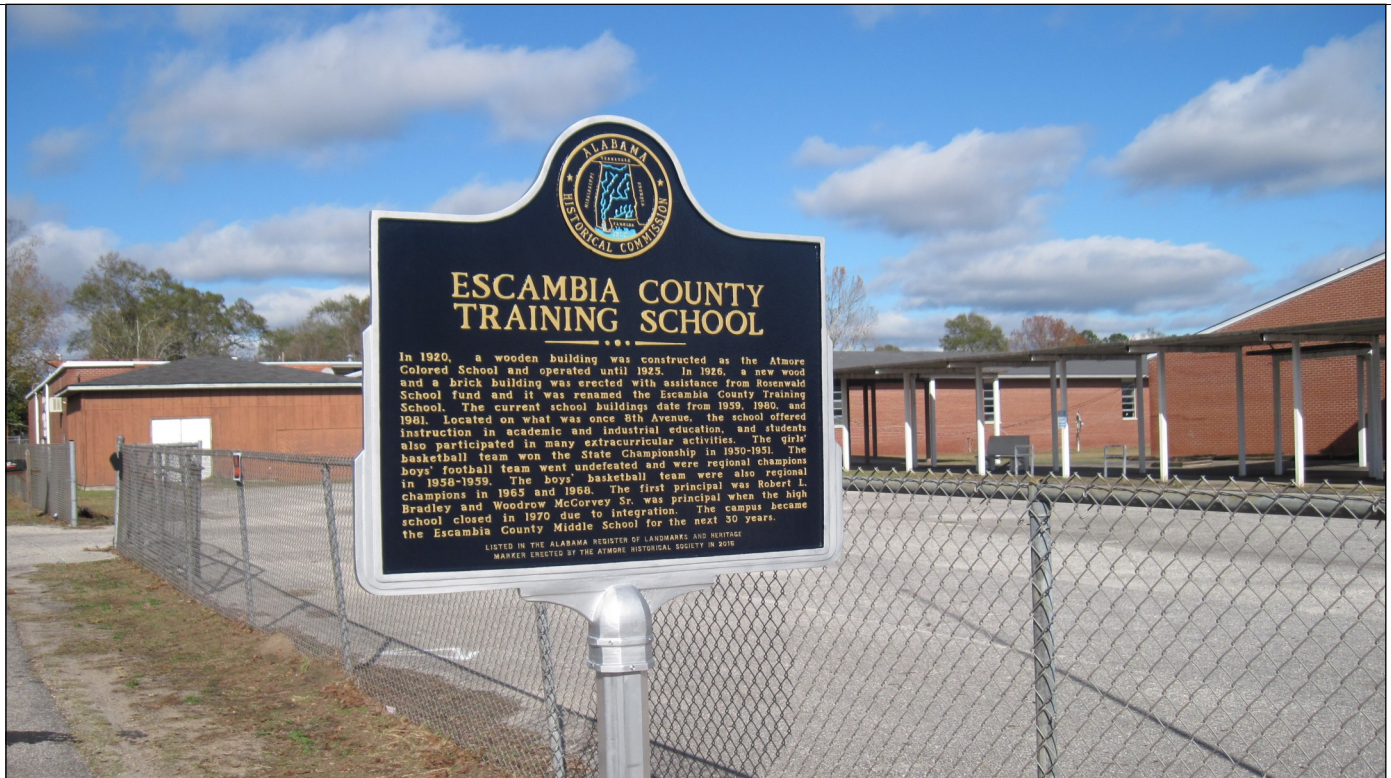


**Bagpipers and  
Drummers**

Volume 43 Number  
11/12

Nov./Dec. 2016

## News and Announcements



## The Historical Marker for the Escambia County Training School

***The text for the marker reads:***

In 1920, a wooden building was constructed as the Atmore Colored School and operated until 1975. In 1976, a new wood and a brick building was erected with assistance from the Rosenwald School Fund and it was renamed the Escambia County Training School. The current school buildings date from 1959, 1980, and 1981. Located on what was once 8th Avenue, the school offered instruction in academic and industrial education, and students also participated in many extracurricular activities. The girls' basketball team won the State Championship in 1950-1951. The boys' football team went undefeated and were regional champions in 1965 and 1968. The first principal was Robert L. Bradley and Woodrow McCorvey was principal when the high school closed in 1970 due to integration. The campus became the Escambia County Middle School for the next 30 years.

**LISTED IN THE ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARK AND HERITAGE MARKERS ERECTED BY THE AT-MORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2016**

## Escambia County Training School (Atmore) Receives Historical Marker

*From the Atmore News,*

“The Alabama Historical Commission has approved the listing of Escambia County Training School, which was built in the early 20th century to help educate local black children, on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

“Members of the Atmore Historical Society were informed of the decision in late June in a letter noting that such designation represented a ‘prestigious

listing of (the state's) historic, architectural and archaeological landmarks' (<http://www.>

atmoreadvance.com/2016/11/30/training-school-gets-historical-recognition/).

On Friday, Dec. 2, the marker was placed at the original site of the school at the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Fourth Street. Listing the school on the Register of Landmarks and Heritage was a project of the Atmore Historical Society.

The school was opened in 1926 and closed in 1970.

(Continued on page 3)

## News and Announcements

(Continued from page 2)



**At the unveiling, from left, Barbara McCoy, Willie J. Grissett, Dorothy McCorvey.**

**The Atmore News in recounting the ceremony for the dedication of the marker noted that Barbara, a member of ECHS and the Atmore Historical Society, was praised by all the speakers at the ceremony for her leadership in obtaining the marker.**

*For further information on this school, this issue of the newsletter includes in the Journal section an article by Kevin McKinley, "Sears, Washington, Rosenwald, and an Escambia County School."*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ECHS Member Jeff Ross Passes Away in October 2016**

ECHS will miss Jeff and his contributions to ECHS programs and field trips. .



Jeff, shown conversing with Charlie Booher at an ECHS meeting, always brought interesting items to the society's "Show and Tell" programs as well as

made donations of artifacts to the



**Jeff, on the left, with Tom McMillan.**

McMillan Museum.

He participated in many projects and field trips, including tracing the Ellicott line and the Federal Road in Escambia County.

He will be remembered for his participation in the planning and execution of the society's field trips to North Baldwin County and along the Federal Road, where he would hold a flag out of the back window of Ann Biggs-Williams' SUV to call attention to a loca-

tion or site. This action was a fun part of those trips as well as a helpful one.

Jeff was devoted to conservation and history as shown by his membership in the Sons of the Confederacy Veterans and Alabama Department of History and Archives. He also worked with the Alabama Department of Conservation Enforcement Officers.

Jeff was retired from the Alabama Department of Corrections where he had been a Corrections Officer for 35 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **New Date for Dedication of the Historic Marker for the Traveler's Well at Damascus, Escambia County**



The dedication, which had been planned for December, is rescheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2017, 2:00 p. m. If the weather is too cold or there is rain, the dedication will be at the Damascus Baptist Church.

## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson

It was all aboard by 8:30 on Saturday, Nov. 5 for the ECHS members and guests on the way to the Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson State Park in Wetumpka for the celebration of Frontier Days. During this event every fall, the park depicts the south as it transitioned from Creek Indian lands to military forts and civilian homesteads during the period 1700 to 1820.



**Our very comfortable bus from the Good Time Tours Company in Pensacola.**



**Waiting to board" Charles and Jacque Stone on the far left talking with Barbara Page and June Martin. Doug Finlay strides past the flagpole and Libby Davis shields her eyes.**



**David Allen, on the left, visits with our bus driver.**



**On our way on I-65**



**Darryl Searcy is first in line to board in this group, followed by James Guley.**



**Our Driver.**

## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson *(Continued)*



**Lunch, provided by the society, was turkey sandwiches and chips from Bates House of Turkey in Greenville.**



**Doug Finlay, in the center of this group to the left, talking with one of the reenactors.**



**The Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson Park is located near the confluence of the Tallapoosa and Coosa Rivers which join and become the Alabama River.**



**Reenactors dressed as American soldiers with some of the tents for the reenactors who camp out during Frontier Days. These tents are on the grounds of the Fort Jackson reconstruction.**



**Tents with displays of items representative of the 18th century frontier, reenactors in period dress, and tourists visiting with the reenactors, all part of the scene at Frontier Days.**



**A lone piper playing for those passing by.**

## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson (Continued)

### Fort Toulouse

From the left, top, Fort Toulouse stockade with visitors watching a canon firing; A cannon on a platform ready to fire; Next, the fort from a distance showing the stockade around it; bottom left inside the reconstructed fort; To the right, Aerial photograph of Fort Toulouse, showing the design of the fort.



Pierre B. Cadieux



**Reenactors standing by tent next to stockade wall of Fort Toulouse.**



**Reenactor as French Soldier outside Fort Toulouse holding musket and posing for visitors.**

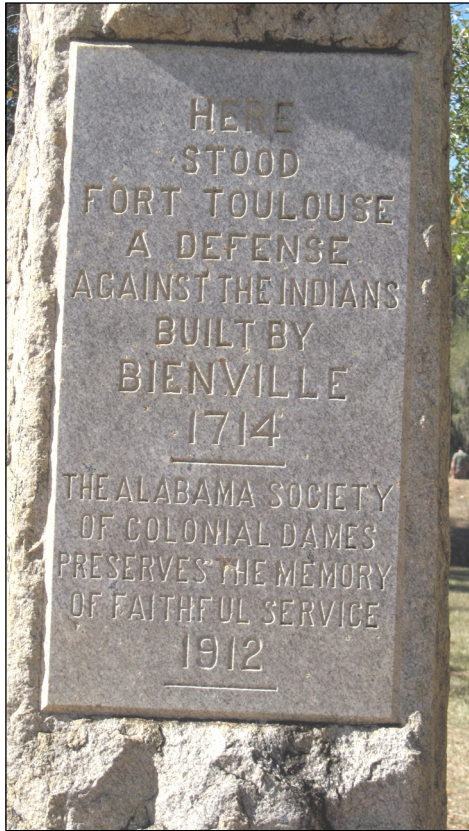
## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson (Continued)



At the left top, Diagram of Fort Jackson; To the right, entrance to Fort Jackson; To the left below the diagram of the fort, the guardhouse; To the right, partially restored walls of Fort Jackson with the American Flag; To the left, firing a cannon at Fort Jackson; Below, left, a reenactor dressed as a gentleman in the 18th century; At the bottom, a Reenactor dressed as an American officer.



## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson (Continued)



### MONUMENTS NEAR SITE OF FORT JACKSON

*The text for the monument to the left reads:*

**HERE STOOD FORT TOULOUSE A DEFENSE AGAINST  
THE INDIANS BUILT BY BIENVILLE 1714.**

**THE ALABAMA SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES PRESERVES  
THE MEMORY OF FAITHFUL SERVICE 1912.**



**THE INSCRIPTION FOR THIS MONUMENT READS:**

**FORT TOULOUSE**

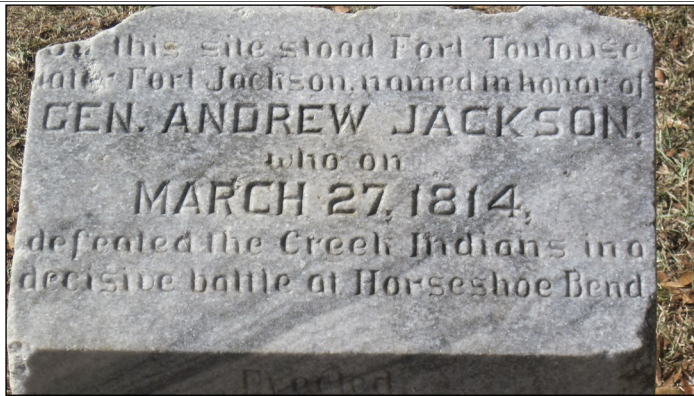
**HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARK**

**UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE HISTORIC SITES ACT OF  
AUGUST 21, 1935**

**THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE  
IN COMMEMORATING OR ILLUSTRATING  
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson (Continued)



**Also, near Fort Jackson, this monument to**

**Andrew Jackson**

**The Granite monument reads:**

**On this site stood Fort Toulouse**

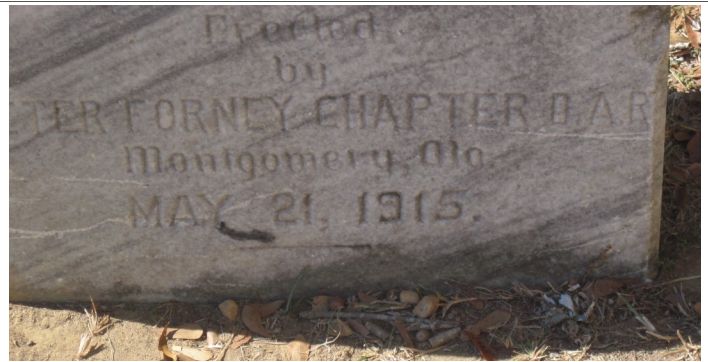
**(Word Unknown) Fort Jackson named in honor of**

**Gen. Andrew Jackson**

**Who on**

**March 27, 1814**

**Defeated the Creek Indians in a Decisive battle at Horseshoe Bend**



**Bottom of Monument to Andrew Jackson**

**The Text Reads:**

**Erected by**

**PETER FORNEY CHAPTER D.A.R.**

**Montgomery, Ala.**

**May 21, 1915**



**Above, reenactors representing American soldiers in the group to the left and French soldiers in the white coats in the group to the right. They are taking a break after participating in a parade where they marched from Fort Toulouse to Fort Jackson.**



**Above, Reenactors representing British units on the parade ground of Fort Jackson after the parade through the park. This unit includes pipers and drummers. They are from New York state.**

**At the right, this same group is shown at the head of all the units of reenactors in the parade.**



## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson *(Continued)*

The parade at Frontier Days was led by reenactors representing the British. This bagpipe and drum unit, was followed by reenactors representing American soldiers, then French soldiers, frontiersmen, and finally civilians.



## Field Trip to Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson *(Continued)*

The “living history” events of Frontier Days included many frontier crafts and trades demonstrated by specialists dressed in historic costume illustrating how people lived and worked in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Reenactors represented Creek Indians, French soldiers and their families, British traders who lived among the Creeks and American soldiers who fought in Andrew Jackson’s army during the Creek War. There were balladeers, entertainers, period musicians and a magician as well as merchants selling quality reproductions of items used on the frontier.

The pictures below show tents with crafts, musical instruments of the period, and musicians playing and demonstrating the instruments.

ECHS members attended lectures on the history of the site, experienced the musket and cannon firings, saw examples of foods, spices, cooking utensils and methods, sampled the foods, bought some of the homemade beer, and saw a performance by a magician, as well as enjoyed the parade, talked with the reenactors, and toured the forts.



## Recent Visits to the McMillan Museum by W. S. Neal Elementary School Students



At the left, Don Sales, as George Washington, with one group of students outside the Museum; below, Don and Darryl Searcy, who assisted Don with the visitors, stand in back of a group portrait of the students. .



Below, to the left, a group picture in front of the Museum.

To the Right, below, Don is showing students exhibits in the Museum.

The bottom picture shows students in the Elvira Parlor gazing admiringly at George (Don).



**Marina Chancery, Guidance Counselor at W. S. Neal Elementary School, arranged the visits.**

*Here is one of the "Thank You" notes from the students:*

**"Dear Mr. Sales, my favorite part of the museum was when we learned that a saber tooth and a bear could be so very big. I also liked the Civil War battle gear. It was so awesome. It was really surprising to know that instead of calling them Spanish soldiers, they called them Spanish conquistadors. I loved it when we saw all of old-day tech and buildings. It was the best field trip ever!"**



## Snapshots of the ECHS October 2016 Meeting



**Jacque Stone and Carolyn Jennings.**



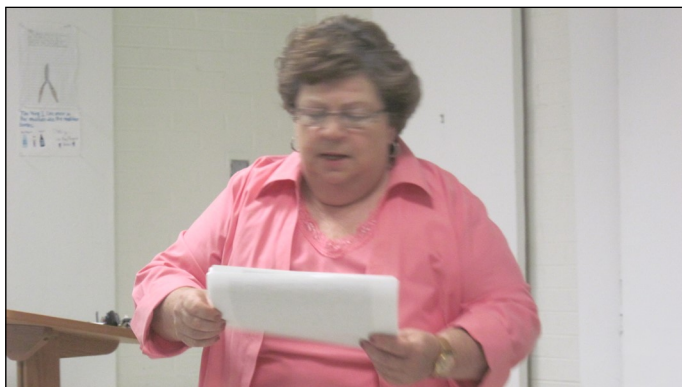
**Tom McMillan, Darryl Searcy, and Karla Brown, Wife of Our Speaker for the Program, Russell Brown.**



**Barbara Page, Carolyn Jennings, and Darryl Searcy**



**Jacque Stone, Don Smith, and Darryl Searcy**



**ECHS President Sally Finlay**



**Back Row: Carol Jokela, Al Jokela, and Bill Jokela.  
Front Row: Barbara Page, and Carolyn Jennings**

## Snapshots of the ECHS October 2016 Meeting (Continued)



**Darryl Searcy**



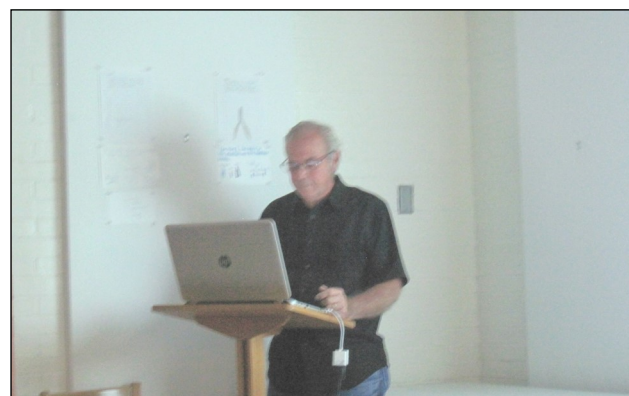
**Back Row: Dawn and Lee Merritt  
Front Row: James Gulley**



**Back Row: Al Jokela  
Front Row: Susan Crawford and  
Jacque Stone**

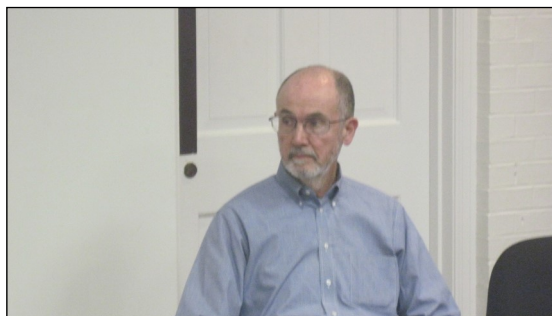


**The Refreshment Table**



**Russell Brown, Our Guest Speaker**

**Reproduction of  
an  
Old Fashioned  
Cooler  
Used for  
Refreshments**



**Don Smith**

## Our Business Members

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- Local closings
- Minimum fees on all loans

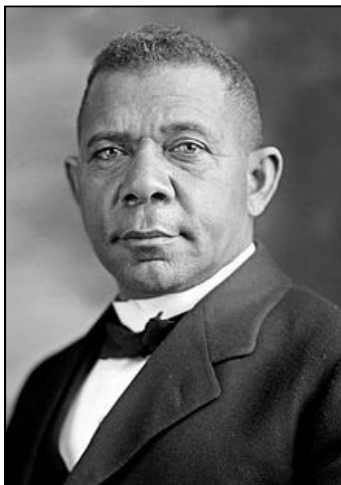


**ESCAMBIA**  
COUNTY BANK

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

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Sears, Washington, Rosenwald, and an Escambia County School



**Top, left, Dedication  
of Historic Marker.**

**Top, Right,  
Julius Rosenwald.**

**Bottom, Left,  
Booker T.  
Washington.**

**Bottom, Right,  
Historic Marker  
Dedication**



### By Kevin McKinley

The efforts at public education in the South date back as far as the founding of the state itself. Early school children often had to walk many miles to school, often in bad weather, to gain an education and even then, many only attended a few months out of the year because of the necessity to work the fields and farms of our area.

Times were hard for all Southerners and groups arose to help different segments of the population gain an education. Religious institutions operated schools; Catholic schools were among the most successful privately funded institution.

Later, the Alabama legislature passed a bill requiring a school to be located within walking distance of every student in the state. Thereafter, Escambia County had 70 schools at one point in time.

In the black community, a union between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, allowed thousands of black children to attend schools.

Julius Rosenwald was born to an immigrant family. He became a clothier by trade after learning the business from relatives. His first business went bankrupt; however, he tried again and became a major supplier to Sears, Roebuck and Company which was a growing mail-order business which served many rural Americans.

*(Continued on page 17)*

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Sears, Washington, Rosenwald, and an Escambia County School

(Continued from page 16)

Sears was truly the Amazon of its time and, in anticipating demand, Rosenwald helped plan the growth in what many years later marketers would call "the softer side of Sears": clothing.

Booker T. Washington was a famed educator, who in 1881 started as the first principal of the normal school which he developed as Tuskegee University in Alabama. Washington's core belief was for the black community to slip the bonds of poverty, it would be necessary to become an indispensable part of the economy by gaining an education or skill and marketing those skills.

It was a solid premise which any American could and should respect as in people who pull themselves up are a model for all to admire.

Washington, who had gained the respect of many American leaders including U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, had also obtained financial support from wealthy philanthropists such as Andrew Carnegie, George Eastman and Henry Huttleston Rogers. Washington encouraged Rosenwald, as he had others, to address the poor state of African-American education in the U.S.

In 1917, Rosenwald established a fund for the "well-being of man-kind." The fund donated \$70 million dollars to schools, colleges and universities.

The Rosenwald school building program was one of the largest programs administered by the Rosenwald Fund. The Fund planned and designed schools using professors at Tuskegee Institute. The Fund spent more than four million dollars to build 4,977 schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings in 883 counties in 15 states, from Maryland to Texas.

The Rosenwald Fund required white school boards to commit to maintenance and black communities to aid in construction in order to qualify for the funds.

One result of the collaboration between Booker T. Washington and Rosenwald was the Escambia County Training School in Atmore.

The school, which began in 1920 as a wooden building, was called "The Atmore Colored School" and operated until 1925. The school's name was

eventually changed to "Escambia County Training School." In 1926, a new wooden and brick building was erected with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. The current buildings on the site date from 1959 and 1980.

The Escambia County Training School focused on industrial and academic instruction. The location of the school was on the north side of what was once North 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Atmore.

The school also offered extracurricular activities such as basketball. The girls' basketball team won the Alabama State Championship in 1950-51. The boys' football team went undefeated and were regional champions in 1958-59. The boys' basketball team were also regional champions in 1965 and 1968.

The first principal of the school was Robert Bradley and Mr. Woodrow McCorvey Sr. was principal when the high school closed due to integration in 1970. The campus became the Escambia County Middle School for the next 30 years and many children from the Atmore area gained an education and made friends for life along the side-walks and inside the classrooms of the school. This author is one of those fortunate enough to attend the middle school during the 1980s.

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 276  
Brewton, AL 36427  
Phone: 251-809-1528  
E-mail: [escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com)

We're on the web!  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**DATED MATERIAL**  
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**requested**

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	Mailed	Regular
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<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$15.00
<u>Wildflowers of The Escambia CD</u>	\$10.50	\$15.00
<u>History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)</u>	\$35.00	\$40.00
<u>Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook</u>	\$30.00	\$25.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Headstones & Addendum Together	\$40.00	\$50.00

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Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Interests \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year**

**Many members give a membership as a gift!**

**Business members get a large scale**  
**advertisement 11 months of the year.**

*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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