



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The September 26, 2017 Meeting ***Note Change of Location*** This Meeting Will Be Held in the Small Auditorium Located in the Neal Colonial Center at the College 3:00 p. m.



Dr. Bailey

The Program:

**Guest Speaker, Alabama Roads Scholar
Richard Bailey, will Speak on
Alabama's Distinguished Black Athletes**

Richard Bailey has earned the BS, MEd, MA, and PhD degrees. A fellowship made it possible for him to travel and study in Europe and Africa.

Since returning to Montgomery, Dr. Bailey has been a consultant for the Center for Public Television at The University of Alabama, where he was a consultant for their productions on the Lincoln School of Marion. Alabama and Reconstruction Black Officeholders. For the Division of Telecommunication and Educational Television at Auburn University, Bailey was an advisor for the Gee's Bend story and the Horace King documentary. He was a consultant for the award-winning radio documentary, "Remembering Slavery," produced by the Institute for Language and Culture at the University of Montevallo. In the mid-1980s, Gov. George C. Wallace appointed him twice to the De Soto

, 2917(Continued on page 2)

Contents

A Correction	2
News and Announcements	2
Snapshots of August Meeting	5
East Brewton Teacher	9
Brewton, Alabama	10
Our Business Members	11
Hanberry "What's In a Name?"	12

**Remember: No
Refreshments for the
September Meeting.**

Change of Venue for the September Meeting

The McMillan Museum will be a Voting Site for the Alabama Special Election on the day of our meeting. ECHS will meet in the small auditorium in the Neal Colonial Center. Viewed from the parking lot behind the Colonial Center, the auditorium is in the right wing of the building.

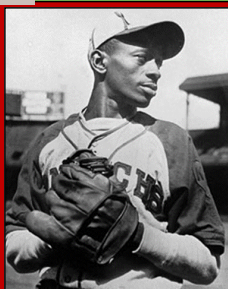
Note: Because of the lack of kitchen facilities, ECHS will not serve refreshments after the meeting.

Remaining ECHS Meetings for 2017

October 24, 2017: Program: Glenn Wills,
Author of Forgotten Alabama.

November: No Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2017:
Christmas Party in The McMillan Museum
2:00-4:00



**Satchel Paige
Legendary Baseball
Pitcher**

Volume 44 Number 9

September 2017

The Program

(Continued from page 1)

Commission to reconstruct the path of the Spanish explorer through Alabama.

Kiosks, small structures, were placed along select Alabama highways identify the route of De Soto.

Dr. Bailey received a joint fellowship to travel and study in Europe and Africa from Cleveland (Ohio) State University and the University of Massachusetts. Kansas State University awarded him the doctor of philosophy degree in American history. He speaks

regularly at grade schools, colleges, and universities and has appeared on radio and television to discuss genealogy, Alabama and American history, and election returns.

Dr. Bailey has authored two books on Alabama History. One is They Too Call Alabama Home: African American Profiles 1800-1999 and the other is Neither Carpetbaggers Nor Scalawags: Black Officeholders during the Reconstruction of Alabama, 1867-1878.

A Correction



**Mother and Daughter
On the Left, Jamie Martin
Dietrick and on the Right
Her Mother,
Mary Finlay Martin
In the August 2017
ECHOES, June Martin
was incorrectly identified
as Jamie's Mother.
June is Jamie's Aunt.**

News and Announcements



**Museum Coordinator
Don Sales shows the
Gold Star Flag**

Sim Ogletree, pictured at the right, served as Technician 5th Class in the U.S. Army, 167th Infantry Regiment of the 31st Infantry Division. He was in the South Pacific and was in the Medical

**Gold Star Flag
Honoring
Sim Ellis
Ogletree
Donated to the
McMillan
Museum/
Alabama Room**

Detachment. He had been there 17 months when he was killed by a sniper on Mindanao Island on June 19, 1945. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Manila, the Philippines.

Sim, the son of Sloan S. and Lena Estell Ogletree grew up in the Gum Tree area of North Brewton. His wife, Annie Ruth, who was left with a young daughter, received the news of Sim's death by telegram.



The rectangular Gold Star Flags were white, bordered in red, with a gold star overlapping a larger blue star. The flags were initially flown by families during World War I.

Some families chose to display the banners, also known as service flags,

(Continued on page 3)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 2)

throughout the year as a solemn tribute to their fallen family members. Paul Merritt commented that he remembers as a child seeing the flags in the windows of homes in Pensacola during World War II.

This flag honoring Sim Ogletree was recently given to the Museum by Jimmy Adkisson



Phonograph Donated

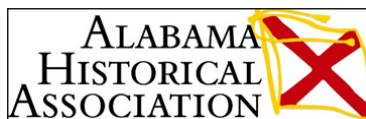
An anonymous donor has given the phonograph, shown at the left, to the McMillan Museum/ Alabama Room.

As mentioned in a previous ECHOES, the Museum has been given a collection of vinyl records. Now, with the donation of the phonograph, those who wish to can enjoy listening to the records in this collection



The August Eclipse Photographed by ECHS Member, Charles Ware.

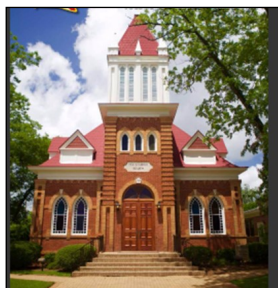
Charles traveled to Sparta, Tennessee to observe the event. He notes on the photograph that this shot was taken at 1:31 CST in Sparta on August 21, 2017. Sparta was listed as a place for viewing the total eclipse.



The Association's Fall Pilgrimage: A Visit to the Wiregrass

**Saturday
October 28, 2017
Abbeville, AL**

Those attending the Pilgrimage on Saturday, October 28, will meet in the Abbeville Methodist Church, shown at the left. The presentations will give attendees the chance to learn about Henry County and its rich history.



**Abbeville
Methodist
Church**



**Dothan
Botanical
Gardens**

Pre-Meeting Activities Planned for Friday, October 27 in Dothan.

Activities for Friday in Dothan include tours and a dinner program about Bicentennial Trivia.

For more information, visit <bit.ly/ahafall2017> to read the Fall Newsletter of the Association or learn more at <bit.ly/ahameetings>.



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

What's Going on at the State Archives?

Book Talk: Wednesday, October 11 at 12:00 -
Getting Out of the Mud: The Alabama Good Roads Movement and Highway Administration, 1898-1928,
Presented by Marty Olliff.

Food for Thought, Thursday, October 19, at 12:00 - Creek Indian Removal from Alabama,
Presented by Christopher Haveman.

(Continued on page 4)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 3)



200th Anniversary Celebration at Fort Toulouse



Depiction of Alabama Indian Meeting French Marine

This event will be observed on Saturday, November 4, 2017, during the annual Alabama Frontier Days. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., special activities will include the unveiling of markers outlining a portion of the original 1717 fort. Also, a short dramatic presentation will bring to life the

moment French marines first met the Alabama Indians.



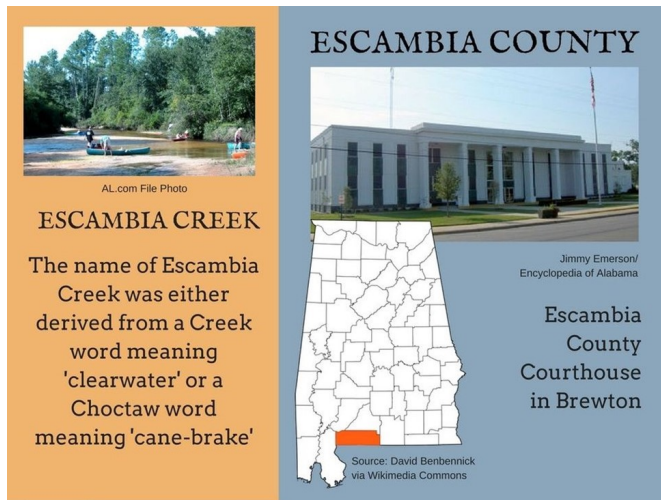
Reenactors Firing Muskets at Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse

Using Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park as its historical backdrop, Alabama Frontier Days focuses on demonstrating frontier life in the southeast during the period 1700-1820.

The public can experience this living history as frontier trades and crafts are demonstrated by living historians in period clothing. The event takes place over four days, November 1 to 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

ECHS members enjoyed a bus trip to Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse in 2016

From, al.com Article on “How Every Alabama County Got Its Name,” this Illustration for Escambia County



ESCAMBIA CREEK

The name of Escambia Creek was either derived from a Creek word meaning 'clearwater' or a Choctaw word meaning 'cane-brake'

ESCAMBIA COUNTY



Jimmy Emerson/
Encyclopedia of Alabama

Escambia
County
Courthouse
in Brewton

Molino, Florida Museum Exhibit on Phone Booths and Superman. Produces Interesting Perspective



In his article on the Museum, Gregg Pachkowski of the Pensacola News Journal comments: , “In this working telephone booth, the museum acknowledges a generation gap in the understanding of the Superman Legend. While most school children are familiar

with Superman, many are perplexed by the concept of the phone booth and fact that Clark Kent used phone booths to change into Superman” (<http://www.pnj.com/story/life/2017/08/27/molino-museum-preserves-memories-once-thriving-sawmill-town/586904001/>).

The Museum is located in the former Molino School.

Snapshots of the ECHS August 2017 Meeting



Speaker Sean Dietrich



In the Background, Ranella Merritt and Darryl Searcy. In the Foreground, Paul Merritt and Sissy Horton.

Sissy served as the Editor of The Heritage of Escambia County, Alabama, published in 2007, which is a part of the series of Heritage books published for each county in Alabama.



Paul Merritt Taking Photographs In Front of Paul, to the left, Lee Merritt, and to the Right, Dawn Merritt.



At the Left, Enjoying the Program. From Left to Right are, Jacque and Charles Stone, and Carol and Al Jokela.



Above, Our Speaker, Sean Dietrich, Visits with Guests and ECHS Members after the Program. Marie Heaton Is Shown at the Right.

Snapshots of the ECHS August 2017 Meeting *(Continued)*



Charles Stone, on the Left, Visiting with Carol and Al Jokela.



Darryl Searcy, Back Row, Enjoying a Laugh



Sean Reading a Passage



**ECHS President Sally Finlay
and
Sean Dietrich**



Enjoying the Program

Snapshots of the ECHS August 2017 Meeting *(Continued)*



**An Attentive Audience
Jamie Dietrich Is Standing Against the Back Wall**



**Left to Right, Jacquie Stone, Marie Heaton,
and June Martin**



Autographing Books after the Program

**In the Foreground, Left to Right,
Ann Biggs-Williams, Jacquie Stone,
and Charles Stone.
In the Background, Left to Right,
Carolyn Geck, Burrell Jerkins, and
Sue Jerkins.**



Snapshots of the ECHS August 2017 Meeting *(Continued)*



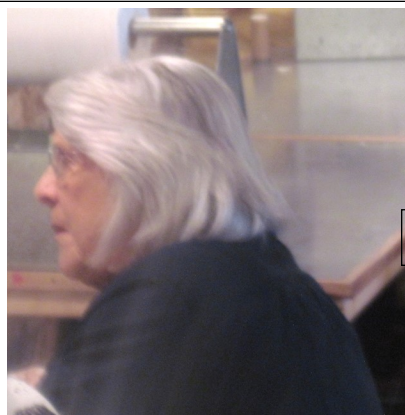
A Family Picture
Left to Right, Blake Martin, June Martin, Jamie and Sean Dietrich, and Mary Martin.



Lunch with the Guest Speaker at Camp 31
Left to Right, Charles Ware, Tom McMillan, Charles Stone, Jacque Stone, and Sally Finlay.



At the Lunch, Don Sales with Sean Dietrich to Don's Right



Mary Finlay Martin



“I taught writing, you know,” she says. “I was a middle-school teacher in East Brewton, nearly all my life. I taught’em, graded’em, and sent’em up.” Miss Jacque had students from all walks of life. The well-off. The not-so-well off. And those living in poverty.”

By Sean Dietrich

On Wednesday, August 23, 2017, after he had presented a program for ECHS the previous afternoon, Sean published this portrait of Jacque Stone in his blog “Sean of the South.”

Brewton, Alabama—Camp 31 Barbecue. A place with pine on the floors, pine on the walls, pork on the plates.

It’s Tuesday, lunchtime. I’m sitting with Miss Jacque. She is a slight, older woman. She has bright blue eyes, and when she opens her mouth, South Alabama comes out.

“You’re a writer, huh?” she says.

“I’ve been called worse, ma’am.”

“I taught writing, you know,” she says. “I was a middle-school teacher in East Brewton, nearly all my life. I taught’em, graded’em, and sent’em up.”

Miss Jacque had students from all walks of life. The well-off. The not-so-well off. And those living in poverty.

She has stories about underprivileged students that would make a grown man leak saltwater.

We are interrupted by our waitress.

Our server asks if we need refills on iced tea. Miss Jacque nods. The girl fills our glasses and leaves the pitcher on the table. She gives Miss Jacque a hug.

Miss Jacque’s face loses four decades.

When the waitress walks away, Miss Jacque remarks: “She used’a be in my class, long time ago. She was a rowdy one, but I sure love her.”

Miss Jacque seems to have a lot of love. In fact, she would’ve taught school forever if she could have. But time caught up with her.

Every cowgirl has to hang up her lasso eventually.

The day after her farewell party, she realized retiring was harder than she thought.

“I was slap miserable. It was horrible. I got so dadgum bored I about died. I’m too old to be bored.”

Too old. Though I do not learn how old she is, exactly. Miss Jacque is a sophisticated belle. And the time-honored rule is: any Alabamian woman who does not disclose her age—consentingly and of her own accord—is thereby twenty-nine until Jesus

comes back.

After Miss Jacque quit teaching, she found other ways to keep busy.

One of her projects: she visits thrift stores. Not for herself. She wanders the aisles of second-hand shops selecting middle-school-sized jeans, shorts, shirts, skirts, and shoes. She buys by the truckload.

“I take’em home, wash’em, and then I iron’em.” Then, she drops them at the school.

I ask Miss Jacque which church program she does this for.

She laughs. “Church? Ain’t no church. Just me. I do it outta pocket. I’ve seen what these kids go through. Some of their parents can’t afford decent clothes.”

Recently, someone called Miss Jacque. There was a teenage boy who didn’t have any underwear. They asked Miss Jacque if she could do anything about it.

Miss Jacque was on the problem like stink on rice.

“I rounded up all sorts of brand-new boy’s underwear. Folks donated so much, we had plenty to go around. Boys need clean underwear, you know.”

So I’ve heard.

The waitress brings our bill. Miss Jacque insists on leaving a healthy tip. She slides money toward the edge of the table. She stands. She hugs me with frail arms.

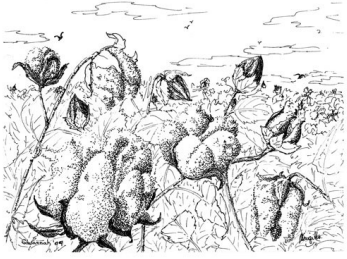
“Folks tell me I talk WAY too much,” she says. “They’re probably right. Hope I didn’t chat your head off, I’m really sorry.”

Sorry. Don’t be.

You’re one of the prettiest things I’ve ever seen.

Text and Illustrations “from Sean of the South”
(<http://seandietrich.com/brewton/>).

BREWTON, ALABAMA



Kids walk the halls, wearing Roll-Tide hoodies and War-Eagle sweat-shirts. There are children of every size. Some eighth-graders are tall enough to qualify for the SEC. Some fifth-graders weigh fifty pounds—soaking wet.

By Sean Dietrich
FEBRUARY 4, 201

Early morning—it's sleepy here in Brewton. A chill is in the air. The middle school is just off Highway 31, tucked in the woods of South Alabama.

Kids walk the halls, wearing Roll-Tide hoodies and War-Eagle sweatshirts. There are children of every size. Some eighth-graders are tall enough to qualify for the SEC. Some fifth-graders weigh fifty pounds—soaking wet.

The walls are lined with art. A drawing of Harriet Tubman. A cardboard cutout of Mark Twain. A painting of Nick Saban riding an elephant.

Mrs. Cave tells me, "Art's important here, we value creativity. We even have a piano lab. I mean, our kids actually get free piano lessons..."

Lucky kids.

Down the hall, the cafeteria is quiet. Miss Betty, Miss Leola, and Miss Diane work the kitchen shift. Miss Leola is renowned for her sweet tea—the same kind your granny used to make. It's sugary enough to break your jaw.

I ask Miss Leola what ingredients make her tea so special.

"Don't know," she says. "Sugar'n water, I reckon." I reckon.

She's an old-fashioned cook who knows what she's doing. They tell me that sometimes families visit school to eat. They rave about the fare.

That's because this is not ordinary food. And this is no average school. It's an institution run by mothers, Sunday school leaders, and small-town saints. I'm talking salt-of-the-earth people like Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Hart, and Miss Leah. People who don't just work here, but who offer shoulders for crying.

A girl hugs her math teacher during class and says, "Love you, Miss McKenzie."

Her teacher says the same thing.

You don't see that much anymore.

"We're lucky," says the guidance counselor. "I've heard of schools where kids fight, and teachers hate their jobs. That's not us. We love our babies."

This is unlike the modern academic world. A universe where children have become numbers, where deputies pat them down, waving metal-detectors. Some public school systems seem more like penitentiaries.

Not here. This place is Cracker Barrel.

Even so, your nightly news anchor wants you to believe schools like this are a myth. They want you to think this country is going to hell. Reporters claim that education is getting dangerous, that art classes are outdated. That good humans don't exist.

Well, I wish they could shake hands with the tall black kid I met. The nice-looking boy had a firm grip. He looked me in the eye, like well-behaved young men often do. I can't help thinking he probably throws one hell of a spiral.

I asked the young man how he liked school.

"Middle school?" he says. "Oh man, I love it. This is my family."

Family. Yeah.

They're doing just fine in Brewton.

Text and Illustrations "from Sean of the South"
(<http://seandietrich.com/brewton/>).

Our Business Members

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY "What's In A Name?"

**"If the fairest features of the landscape are to be named after men,
let them be the noblest and worthiest men alone."**

-- Henry David Thoreau --

Some of the following historical information was recently published in The Heritage of Escambia County, Alabama book. Recognizing that the Escambia County Historical Society would not be able to develop any additional historical information that has not already been presented by the Hanberry family history archives, it was felt that this Society could make some useful contribution by compiling the available information in a logical sequence that would encompass more recent times, particularly where the Hanberry Church itself is concerned. We hope we have treated this intriguing family history with accuracy and respect.

Researched and Compiled by Darryl Searcy

The name of Hanberry never expected to leave lasting impressions. It didn't produce a great scientist or statesman; it didn't accumulate fame or fortune to any earth-shaking proportions. But, what this name left was a rich family history full of romance and adventure. Few people leave their mark on a community or following generations so much as John Chester Hanberry of Escambia County, and certainly few families kept records to prove the family devotion and generous nature of one of its own. Such a record does exist for John Chester Hanberry (1842 - 1908).

John Chester was born the youngest child of John and Eleanor Dowling Hanberry of Graham's Turnout (now Denmark), South Carolina. John Chester was born May 10, 1842 at home, on his father's farm.

Not much is known of John Chester's early life but we do know that on December 28, 1861, at the age of 19 he joined the Confederacy and was assigned to Company D, 14th Battalion, South Carolina Cavalry. On May 24, 1864, he was positioned near the Charles City, Virginia courthouse.



**Photo Headstones of
John Chester and
Elvira Hanberry
Courtesy
Natalie Maynor
Oral Cemetery,
Lamar County,
Mississippi**

During a battle at that location he was severely wounded in the left hand. Three days following the injury John's hand was amputated at the wrist. He was subsequently medically retired on October 22, at which time he returned to his father's home in South Carolina.

One year later on September 29, 1865, John Chester met, fell in love and married Honora Conniffe, daughter of Patrick Conniffe and Julia Meade Conniffe. The Conniffe's had recently immigrated to South Carolina from Ireland. On September 8, 1866, Honora bore her husband a son, whom they named John Francis (Frank). On October 13, 1867, she bore him another son, Joseph George (Joe G.). Sadly, on October 27, two weeks after giving birth, Honora died. It is assumed that her death was caused from complications following childbirth.

At age 26, and on the date December 29, 1868, the widower John Chester, being the loving father and caretaker of two growing boys, took another wife, the vivacious Elvira Jane Padgett. Elvira was two days short of her 15th birthday when she exchanged vows with John. She was the daughter of James

(Continued on page 13)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY "What's In A Name?"

(Continued from page 12)

Graham and Elizabeth Garriss Miley Padgett of South Carolina.

The couple had their first child, a daughter, Frances Julia, in October the following year, and another daughter Eleanor Elizabeth Nellie in May of 1871. They built and occupied a one-room log cabin in the community known today as Smoaks, South Carolina. The cabin, which has had four additions and 12 owners, is standing and occupied today.

During a confrontation in 1872 John Chester shot and killed a black man. Though some of the details of the family legend vary, it is said the black man made an inappropriate advance toward Elvira, which resulted in the shooting. There is no documented evidence of what actually occurred.

With carpetbaggers and scalawags still in power throughout most of the state, John Chester recognized the need to flee South Carolina. He got word to his father that he needed a fast horse and all the cash he could spare. Father met son at a place called "The Crossroads" with the horse and cash, some of which was in gold coins.

Without delay, John left immediately for the home of his sister Rebecca Ann Hanberry Witt, who lived in Pollard, Alabama. She and her husband, Henry Witt, quartered John Chester for several days until he was able to travel through the rugged territory to Mobile. At the Port of Mobile he booked passage on a trading ship bound for Houston, Texas.

Upon arrival in Houston, he immediately sent for his wife. Elvira was at her 18th year when she left South Carolina for Houston, taking the same roads and trails as her husband. She was a strong-willed and brave woman to have begun such a trip with four young children, Frank and Joe (John's children by previous marriage) and their own two daughters, Julia and Nellie. Elvira was also pregnant with their third child.

When Elvira reached the home of John's sister and her husband, she was obliged to rest for a brief period before continuing the journey to join her husband in Houston. No doubt, to her dismay and heartbreak, it was necessary to leave young Nellie with Rebecca

Witt, as the child was seriously ill. Some time would pass before John and Elvira would see their precious little girl again. Elvira arrived at the Port of Mobile and boarded a ship for Houston. Her husband was waiting and they would become a family again.

John Chester, with \$180 in gold coins given him by his father, purchased 10 acres of land on Buffalo Bayou (now downtown Houston, Texas). The land was purchased in the name of E. J. Hanberry (Elvira Jane Hanberry).

Upon arrival in Houston, another daughter was born to John and Elvira. Her name would be H. Lillie Hanberry, born August 1, 1872. Baby Lillie had a short life as slightly more than a year after her birth, she died on September 20, 1873. Using boards from the front porch of their home, John made a small coffin and buried baby Lillie in a corner of the property.

Late in 1876 John purchased a 25-acre parcel of land at Reynolds Station; a train stop in Cherokee County, Texas (about 100 miles slightly southeast of Dallas). It is not known why he took his family away from Houston, or how long he was at Reynolds Station before he purchased the land. What is known is that he farmed the land while Elvira managed a boarding house in nearby Jacksonville.

In late 1878, or early 1879, the family moved to Alabama. On the 10-day trip between Texas and Alabama, the family rode in a covered wagon pulled by eight horses. The older boys, Frank now 13 and Joe G, 12, rode separate horses. Most days the boys rode a considerable distance ahead of their parents for the purpose of locating suitable campsites before nightfall. In later years the boys would complain about the uncomfortable conditions of riding horseback all day and sleeping on the hard ground at night. Both boys vowed never to ride a horse again. Yet, as the years passed, both had a special fondness for these magnificent animals, and a riding horse was usually stabled at their homes.

The family arrived in Conecuh County near the settlement of Repton. John wasted no time in his search for suitable land on which to homestead his family. His search took him to Repton, Monroeville and Foshee. He finally settled on a plot of land near

(Continued on page 14)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY **"What's In A Name?"**

(Continued from page 13)

Wallace. There, on 80 acres of land, John Chester built a five room house, a smokehouse, four stables, a goat house and other buildings necessary for a farm.

Over the years, John Chester and Elvira would have 15 children of their own, including two sets of twins. Of course, there were the two sons from a previous marriage. The five room farmhouse was a lively place with little ones around and plenty of large ones to help with the raising and the chores.

John Chester was a Mason during the early years in Wallace. During the period July 5, 1879 through July 7, 1882, he was a member of Norris Lodge #301 in Brewton. He held the position of Senior Warden in 1880 and Worshipful Master in 1882. He demitted in July 1882, leaving in good standing.

Some time after 1899, John moved his family to Blackcreek, Mississippi, a community near Hattiesburg, and eventually settled near the town of Prentiss. No one can be certain why it happened, but John Chester sold his land to G. W. Faircloth on November 26, 1900, picked up stakes and moved to Mississippi, where he built a mill and farmed.

On February 10, 1908, John Chester suffered a heart attack and died on the porch of his home. His faithful wife Elvira continued to live in the area, and for a time ran a rooming house in Sumrall. She died May 29, 1938 at the home of their son Arthur in Sumrall. John and Elvira are at rest in the Oral Cemetery, Lamar County, Mississippi.

So, what's in a name? Here is part of the John Chester Hanberry legacy. Some of the Hanberry land located near Wallace was later acquired by L. N. Edwards.

In June of 1907, Mr. Edwards donated two acres of land to the local school district. He did so because a small parcel was already occupied by a one-room frame school building called the Hanberry School. Every indication is that John Chester either built the school or provided the land for it, or both. The best kept records suggest that since John and Elvira had a keen interest in educating their sizable family of children, he would have built the school for that purpose in hopes of at least giving them the advantage of knowing how to read and write.

(Continued on page 15)

The Hanberry School



There are no records for the school prior to 1919 and it ceased to exist in 1928 when it was consolidated with the newly constructed Wallace School. The Hanberry School had only one teacher for all the kids during this period. Following is a list of those teachers and the years each taught at the school.

When the school was finally closed, a family occupied the building for a brief period. In 1930 the Hanberry School became the Hanberry Holiness Church.

Teachers at the Hanberry School:

Jennie L. Carter - 1919-1922
Isabel Hammonds Pettis - 1922 - 1923
Flossie Spratlon - 1923 - 1924
Merceil Chandson - 1924 - 1925
Bernice Forte - 1925 - 1926
Maude James - 1926 - 1927
A. L. Lynch - 1927 - 1928

The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY "What's In A Name?"



**The Hanberry Holiness Church
Wallace, Alabama**

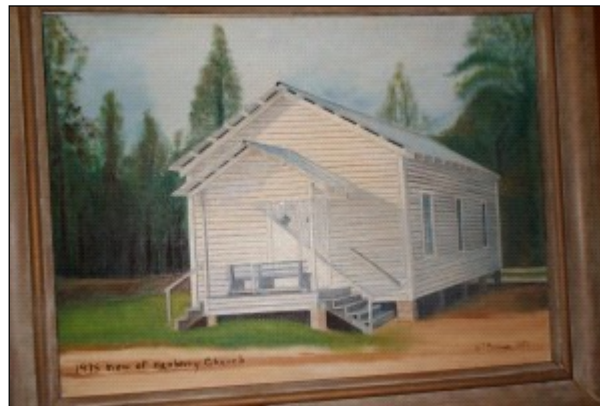
(Continued from page 14)

The Hanberry Holiness Church

The Hanberry Church is located on Highway 41 north of Brewton near the Community of Wallace. The church got its name from the land's original owner, John Chester Hanberry, who established a homestead in the area between 1880 and 1885.

The building has gone through several renovations, including one in 1967 when it was painted and a porch was added. In 1975, the church was moved back a short distance because it was too close to the new road which now ran behind the building (Highway 41 today). The church members simply turned everything around so it would be facing the road.

Also in that year it was bricked in and two



**A Painting of the Original Church by
W. T. Barnes**

restrooms were added. In 1980 a fellowship hall was added to the church to accommodate membership activities. The year 1982 brought even more comfortable changes as the pew seats were padded.

When William Hanberry visited the church in 1977 he described it as "plain but bright." He said the furnishings were "simple and the pews were heavy, straight and strictly country type."

He also described in detail the old ornate piano in the church and a special feature that had been installed to accommodate the older ladies of the congregation.

Several old-fashioned rocking chairs with cushions were at the front of the church. Essie Mae Chavers, the church secretary at the time, told him some of the older women seldom came to church because they

(Continued on page 16)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY "What's In A Name?"



Hanberry Church Interior



Church Timeline
1907 - School
1928- School Consolidated with Wallace School.
1930- Church Started.
1875- Church was moved, enlarge, and bricked.
1980- Fellowship Hall Added.
1982- Pew Seats Padded.



Hand-Crafted Chair

(Continued from page 15)

were too bony to sit in the hard pews. Mrs. Chavers refinished three rockers that she had taken from her attic and now everyone is comfortable. The hand-crafted rockers have remained in place to this day.

The area across the road from the church is called

"Hanberry Fields," and the large acreage is still farmed and used as livestock pastureland today. It is believed to be the location of the Hanberry home as pieces of glass and broken dishes and other items have been found and are being unearthed every year as the fields are prepared for the planting of new crops.

The Hanberry Cemetery

The Hanberry Cemetery is located on Highway 41 approximately 8/10 mile north of its junction with County Highway 40 (Wallace Road), between mile markers 19 and 20, north of Brewton. The cemetery was surveyed and contributed to the Escambia Cemetery Registry by Lygia Dawkins Cutts on 17 August 1998.

While the cemetery is verified to be well over 150 years old, there are many graves that have been lost



Cemetery Sign

through the years, and many that have been created since 1998. In 2003, Darryl Searcy of the Escambia Historical Society completed a new survey on 13 July 2003.

In 2005, the devastating Hurricane Ivan passed through the area and damaged the cemetery when a tornado touched down in and around the heavily wooded area. Several trees located within the cemetery grounds

(Continued on page 17)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

HANBERRY **"What's In A Name?"**

(Continued from page 16)

were uprooted, which displaced a number of headstone markers; scattering dozens of the most lightweight markers far beyond the original gravesite. The 2003 survey of headstones was used to identify the gravesites and to pinpoint where the displaced markers rightfully belonged.

The oldest known grave in this cemetery was marked with a large concrete block and a wooden shaft. The block has been broken into several pieces and the shaft is no longer in place. Nevertheless, from time-to-time some generous person has seen fit to place a small bouquet denoting the burial site. It is said to be the grave of a drifter, thus being the first soul to be laid to rest in what would become the Hanberry Cemetery.

There are some 93 graves without names although each site has a small head and foot marker. The markers were placed by the Eddins family some 60 years ago. Members of the Eddins' had come together to place markers on their own unmarked but known sites. When it was seen that much more was needed to put the old cemetery in order, the elder Eddins set about to place small concrete markers on those sites that could clearly be identified as burial places. It is assumed; however, that many more have been lost through the decades.

The following statements were written and submitted by Charles Lynn "Chuck" Hanberry:

"Not much is known about the early history of the Hanberry Cemetery except that it is named for the original owner of the land, John Chester Hanberry. Though as often was the case, the need for a burial created the need for a cemetery."

According to the June 1993 issue of the Escambia County Historical Society Quarterly, the Hanberry Cemetery is located near Highway 41, approximately



Oldest Grave

11 miles northwest of Brewton at T3n-R9E Section 17. All of the readable inscriptions on the graves were recorded May 3, 1993 by Evelyn Jernigan and June C. Taylor, and appear in the June 1993 edition of the quarterly. They indicated at the time that there are 80 to 100 unmarked graves and some that are unreadable. Veterans of WW-I, WW-II, the Korean War, and the

Vietnam War and even one (J. M. Owens) who fought during the Civil War are buried in the Hanberry Cemetery.

The earliest death found was for Mary M. Manning, who died February 11, 1893 when the property was still owned by the Hanberry family. When Genealogist Lygia Cutts surveyed and recorded the cemetery in August of 1998, she ascertained that the oldest known grave in the cemetery, marked with a large sandstone rock and a wooden cross, is said to be the grave of a drifter. The site stands alone off to the side on the edge of the cemetery.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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