



**The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971**

**The July Meeting  
Tuesday, July 24, 2018  
McMillan Museum  
Coastal Alabama Community College  
Brewton Campus  
3:00 PM**



**The Program  
“What’s going on at the Museum?  
A Presentation by Museum  
Coordinator Don Sales on Activities and  
Plans for the McMillan Museum”**

Don has held offices in several historical organizations. He has been president of the Alger Sullivan Historical Society of Century Florida and the Panhandle Historic Preservation Alliance, an alliance of history-related organizations in the Florida Panhandle. He is now Museum Coordinator for the Thomas E. McMillan Museum and Vice-President of ECHS.

**At left, top, Don presiding over a recent ECHS Meeting, and below, a picture of the interior of the Museum.**

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**The August ECHS Meeting,  
Tuesday, August 28, 2018  
McMillan Museum, 3:00 p. m.  
Program To Be Announced**

**A Correction**

**Please Change the Top Line of Your June 2018 Newsletter from The May Meeting to The June Meeting**



**Sketch by Penrose Stout, Alabama Artist & Architect.**

**Volume 45 No. 7**

**July 2018**

**Don’t forget to Bring Your Favorite Finger Food or Snack for the Refreshment Period after the Meeting. ECHS Will Provide the Drinks and Ice.**

**Hale County Courthouse,  
Greensboro,  
Alabama**



## The Thomas E. McMillan Museum: The Beginning

Establishing an historical museum for Escambia County was one of the first major projects for ECHS according to Carolyn McLendon, the first editor of the society's newsletter. When Woodfin Patterson, then President of Jefferson Davis Jr. College, at the June 1975 ECHS meeting provided a program on the college's plans to build a fine arts building which would include a museum, the society was very interested in supporting these plans.

However, the plans for the museum presented a challenge since the fine arts building would cost an estimated \$500,000 and the state would only fund \$300,000. The Historical Society would be taking on the task of raising \$200,000.

Ms. McLendon wrote of the challenge and benefits presented by Mr. Patterson's proposal:

"Yes, \$200,000 is a great deal of money to have to go out to get dollar-y-dollar, but we believe the people of Escambia County will respond in a great way in order to have a place to house memorabilia for future generations. We have little of our heritage that has been preserved. A museum that is properly administered will be something we can all take pride in.

"We do not want to establish a dead museum on



Thomas E McMillan Museum

After the successful completion of the Thomas E McMillan Museum, Carolyn McLendon reflected on what the Historical Society had achieved.

"Looking back to the time the decision was made to locate our museum on the college campus (and you will recall that we had already raised some \$18,000 at the time the decision was made), Mr. Woodfin Patterson talked to us extensively regarding his plans for a campus museum and Fine Arts Building and that in order for a museum to be in the building, an additional \$200,000 would need to be raised.

"You will recall that this editor who was at that time your President and Museum Fund Raising Chairman reported to you that in visiting museums over the state, many were found in deplorable condition, many lacking in volunteers to keep them open and that the college museums were the best kept and most active. We also considered the possibility that the Society might not always have an active membership and we wanted the museum to be perpetuated for posterity.

"In the past few weeks we have learned that the museum can continue not only without the Society, but in spite of the Society that sponsors it, and that is a good thing to know. The decision was a good one; the museum is there and will be there as long as the college exists. With the help of this Society, it can be truly great" (ECHOES, May 1979).

some street corner that we would come to be ashamed of in a few years for lack of funds or motivation to keep it going.

"We hope to be able to interest each individual classroom in all of the area schools in doing their part to raise funds for the museum, every \$1 will help.

"Several people with large collections have agreed to put their collections in the museum on a lease/loan basis – enough to fill the museum already.

"Regrettably, the students of this county are regularly being bused to Montgomery to visit the Archives and History Department when they could better relate to memorabilia of local origin and would have more time to browse and become involved" (ECHOES, November 1976).

The society had already begun raising funds for a museum before joining with Mr. Patterson's proposal, mainly through donations for memorials. However, the group, expanded its fund raising methods soon to engage clubs, civic organizations, schools and businesses, making an effort to involve the

entire county in the project. Records of the money raised appear regularly in the 1977 through 1978 issues of ECHOES.

After receiving very generous donations from

*(Continued on page 3)*

# The Thomas E. McMillan Museum: The Beginning

*(Continued from page 2)*

the McMillan family and other private donations, the society reached its goal. ECHS recommended that the Museum be named the Thomas E. McMillan Museum and the Jefferson Davis Jr. College Advisory Board accepted the recommendation.

The Fine Arts Building/Museum was completed in the summer of 1978; however it was necessary to postpone the original plans for a dedication that year because commitments by the contractor for the building had not been fulfilled.

Although the new museum was not yet completely organized and there had not been an official dedication, the society held its first meeting in the museum on August 22, 1978. ECHS member Rita Jane Boykin gave the program on "Capsules of American History," described as presenting "events that occurred in America History that are not commonplace in history books, unusual information about some of our great statesmen."

On September 26, 1978 the society again held its regular meeting in the new museum at which time the society presented an Award of Merit to Woodfin Patterson. Mr. Patterson was planning to retire in October of that year.

Carolyn wrote of Mr. Patterson and the Award: "The idea of a museum for this area was in the mind and heart of Woodfin Patterson long before this Society began to put efforts behind it. Many will remember that we have had the full cooperation of Woodfin Patterson from the time this Society was organized and began to hold its meeting on the college campus.

"We had his assistance with the 'Sowell House Project' (an unsuccessful attempt by the Society to save an historic home in Brewton), and know of his dismay over its failure.

"Finally, when he set out to build the Fine Arts Building, he had his full confidence in this Society even before we launched our \$200,000 fund drive.

"We regret that Mr. Patterson is retiring and will not be present to daily watch the collections for the museum grow, but we are pleased to honor and recognize him for noteworthy service contributed to the preservation of Alabama's heritage relating to it architectural, archaeological and historic resources" (ECHOES, September, 1978).

At this meeting, Roger Anderson, the first curator of the museum, gave the members a tour of the

museum.

The museum was dedicated in May of 1979. The plans for the dedication called for exhibits by local people in addition to those already in the museum. There would be special exhibits of art, sculpture, ceramics, paintings, drawings, and sketches by artists from several Alabama colleges as well as an exhibit of the War of 1812 artifacts.

There would be refreshments and Jefferson Davis Jr. College music instructors would provide background music, performing on harpsichord and recorder.

Ms. McLendon not only included high praise for Woodfin Patterson's role in establishing the McMillan Museum but also for Curator Roger Anderson who was replaced as curator when a new president was appointed after Woodfin Patterson's retirement.

In the February 1979 newsletter she writes:

"Now a word in praise of Roger Anderson. Few have ever embarked upon a task with as much enthusiasm as did Roger Anderson. He is a man of immeasurable resourcefulness and energy, and he put his 'all' into the setting up of the museum.

"The display cases were designed by him, and with Mr. Woodfin Patterson's guidance, he furnished the museum in 1860 to 1880 period décor. Mr. Patterson had asked him to work closely with the Society in carrying out its wishes regarding the museum, which he did.

"He has done an excellent job of setting up the displays and gathering the Society's collections into the museum building from sundry storage places, selected items from Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan's collections, and has been in the process of cataloging and indexing the reference materials.

"It was through Mr. Anderson's efforts that the Escambia County Commission agreed to move the old newspaper records and county records to the museum.

"As an active member of the Escambia County Historical Society, Mr. Anderson has taken much of his free time to help with the Society's projects such as the Jefferson Davis Ball held last June, preparation of the float for the Christmas Parade, and assistance in getting the Quarterly publications up to date.

"His talents are innumerable and he is an excellent genealogist. In fact we know of nothing he

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# The Thomas E. McMillan Museum: The Beginning



**The Escambia County Historical Society**  
Publishers of Escambia Echoes, a monthly newsletter, and  
The Escambia County Historical Quarterly  
P.O. Box 276  
Brewton, Alabama 36426

Members  
Escambia County  
Historical Society

Dear Members:

At the close of my tenure at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum I wish to express my thanks to the members of this society for their unwavering support of me as curator. Though my tenure has been short and the museum is young the museum has grown greatly. The museum has the largest collection of newspapers for Escambia County in existence, a good research file for local genealogy and history, and some fine examples of local artifacts.

After notification of my termination of employment, I decided it would be a mistake to have a "lame duck" curator. I tendered my resignation effective March 2, 1979. The new curator can assume the responsibility and save the museum the continuation of hard feelings.

This is a great museum and must have a strong leader. Thank you for your support and friendship from me and my family.

Regretfully,  
*Roger D. Anderson*  
Roger D. Anderson



The Thomas E. McMillan Museum  
Roger D. Anderson, Curator  
on the campus of Jefferson Davis  
State Junior College, Alco Drive,  
Brewton, Alabama

ECHS was not happy with the decision of the new President of the College, George McCormick, to terminate Roger Anderson. McCormick cited a lower student enrollment and the need to have all instructors with Masters Degrees in their field as the reason for his action.

Carolyn McLendon wrote of the situation in the February, 1979 newsletter: "While we might not agree with Dr. McCormick's actions regarding the museum, we have to try to understand his position and hope that once he gets to know all the wonderful-concerned people in this part of the state and in this Society, and those who have brought the museum to its present stage, he will know that our only intention is to make the Thomas E. McMillan Museum the finest museum for archives for historical and genealogical research in this area. If he has the best interest of the college at heart, he can't be at cross purposes with the Escambia County Historical Society. We must work together to bring his intentions into focus with ours and help him to understand what has gone on before he arrived in Brewton, and all will be well."

**To the Left, Roger Anderson's  
Letter of Resignation as  
Curator of the McMillan Museum  
The Text of the Letter is Below.**

**Dear Members:**

**At the close of my tenure at the Thomas E McMillan Museum, I wish to express my thanks to the members of this society for their unwavering support of me as curator. Though my tenure has been short and the museum is young, the museum has grown greatly. The museum has the largest collection of newspapers for Escambia County in existence, a good research file for local genealogy and history, and some fine examples of local artifacts.**

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(Continued from page 3)

can't do well.

"We are sorry to lose him just as the museum has begun to take shape. We will all want to express to him our heartfelt thanks for his efforts on our behalf and on behalf of the museum. He didn't

just go the extra mile as was the custom in Biblical times, but went two, three and four extra miles, and exuberantly!

"A letter from him to you is attached to this newsletter (see above). We wish him well in whatever he undertakes to do in the future."

## East Brewton: A 100 Year Celebration and a History



**City of East Brewton  
Celebrated  
100 Year  
Anniversary  
June 27—July 3, 2018**

As a part of honoring its history, the city displayed in the East Brewton City Hall a History

Gallery of artifacts and memorabilia, such as photos and quilts.

Also, Police Chief Kenny Brazille invited former police chiefs to a reception at the police department. Of seven living former police chiefs, three attended the event: Glenn Cook, Danny Parker and Gene Powell.

*As an introduction to a pilgrimage to East Brewton by the Historical Society, Carolyn McLendon wrote this history of East Brewton for ECHOES for September 19, 1977:*

In order to impress upon the members of the Escambia County Historical Society and the general public who will be making a pilgrimage into the East Brewton area on September 25, 1977, the rich history of the East Brewton area, the following historical notations are given without elaborating upon the contents of the booklet, A Documentary History of Fort Crawford (published by the East Brewton Bicentennial Commission which also contained brief histories of Little Germany and the City of East Brewton).

The first post office in this area was just across the river north of Henley Bridge on Travis Creek. It is named Nathanville with Nicholas S. Travis as first Postmaster. This was in the community now known as Riverview. Nicholas S. Travis had a mill there and the post office was at the mill site

The next post office in this area was on Cedar Creek where the original Cedar Creek Mill, operated by water, was located. It was named Filmore with E. T. Brewton as Postmaster. He moved the post office from Filmore to Fort Crawford. Fort Crawford



**Site of Fort Crawford**  
**Fort Crawford was established in 1816**  
**by elements of the 7<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry**  
**under orders from**  
**Major General Andrew Jackson.**  
**Purpose was to monitor Spanish**  
**activities in**  
**West Florida and curtail hostile Creek**  
**Indian activities.**  
**Named after**  
**Second Lieutenant Joel Crawford,**  
**the fort was occupied by units of the**  
**regular U. S Infantry**  
**and the Alabama Territorial Militia.**  
**It was abandoned in 1819 after the**  
**United States purchased Florida from**  
**Spain**  
**and the Indian menace abated.**

was established in 1816 as an army outpost.

Little Germany adjacent to the Fort Crawford community was a community of German settlers begun by George and Elizabeth Harold who came to this country from Bavaria, Germany. Their children born in Alabama were Charles, born in 1841; Henry on October 19, 1843; and Elizabeth on February 25, 1847.

George Harold and his family were later joined by his brother Henry and Dora Harold Harsuldt, whom Henry married in Bremen, Germany in 1839. Henry and Dora came to this country with their children in 1853. Six of their ten children, including Andrew and George C. Harold, were born in Germany. Four were born in this country.

Also settling in Little Germany were Haller Mantel and wife Sophia,

who were born and married in Germany, but their sons, John and William, were born in this country.

Fred Bauer (Bower) who was a half-brother of Haller Mantel, along with the Zepernick, Schawdt (Schad) and other families still live in Escambia County today.

A notable fact about Mrs. Zepernick is that she made bullets and was able to identify the bullet that killed Mr. Nicholas S. Travis from ambush as one

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## East Brewton: A 100 Year Celebration and a History

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that was made by her and sold to the assailant.

In looking at the notable early businesses of the area, Harold Bros. stands out. According to The Memorial Records of Alabama published in 1893, the business firm of Harold Bros., was organized in 1873, and changed in 1881 by the admission thereto of J. S. Scott, who purchased a third interest in the concern, which then became known as the firm of Harold Bros. & Scott. In that year the company purchased 2,000 acres of timber land and a large stock of general merchandise. The company did a very profitable business. In 1888 Mr. Scott withdrew and a stock company of G. C. Harold, J. H. Harold, and C. W. Zimmerman was incorporated under the laws of the state.

The firm was known as the Harold Mill Company – G. C. Harold, president; C. W. Zimmerman, vice-president; J. H. Harold, secretary; and A. Harold, treasurer. The company manufactured yellow pine lumber and timber, pine and cypress shingles, and dealt in all kinds of merchandise demanded by the general trade.

The main mill, to which a railroad track had been constructed, was situated about four miles east of Brewton and had a capacity of about 40,000 feet of lumber per day. The firm did a yearly business of about \$125,000, and the plant and other property represented a capital of \$100,000.

John and Maria Weaver came to the settlement from South Carolina in 1818. John was born in 1794 and died in 1857. Maria was born in 1795 and died in 1870.

There is a vacant space in the Fort Crawford Cemetery where two rows of Fort Crawford soldiers are buried. Nothing marks the space, but it is located between Bill Coleman and his wife's graves (the oldest graves in the cemetery) and the creek.

Born in the main fort building at Old Fort Crawford on August 3, 1857 was John Brewton, son of Emanuel Brewton and Eliza Travis. Emanuel Brewton was the son of Emanuel Bruton and Caroline Bacon; Eliza Travis was the daughter of Nick Travis and a niece of William Barret Travis of Alamo fame.

According to John Brewton, both he and his sister were born in the old fort building. There were originally five buildings at the fort built of hewn logs and weather-boarded and sealed with sawn lumber.

Another familiar name in the area is Mayo; the

earliest Mayo (John W. and wife Nancy Gainer) settled on Mayo Creek (now called May Creek) in Escambia County in 1815. John and Nancy later settled in the Douglasville area on a creek now called Mayo Creek.

John W. Mayo's father came to this country from County Mayo Ireland and settled first in Virginia where John W. Mayo was born. The Mayos were in the sawmill business.

Just outside East Brewton, on what is now called the Jay Road, a family of Lindseys settled in about 1850, John L. Lindsey, Sr. and wife, Rebecca Prescott Lindsey. The Lindseys were also in the timber business, hewing and squaring timber and floating it down river to Pensacola.

Mr. Lindsey also operated a ferry on the Conecuh River. The Lindsey Ferry opened the community, gave it access, to Herrington and Pollard, which were on the railroad. The Lindseys had eight children; one of the sons, Martin Lindsey, operated a water-powered sawmill on the creek, which became known as the Lindsey Mill Creek.

Another ferry, this one across the Conecuh River, was operated by Dan Henley near the location of the present day Henley Bridge.

Old roads passing through the East Brewton Area were the Fort Crawford /Fort Gaines Road, the Wolf Trail, the road to Georgia, and the Three-Notch Road.

A detail about the west side of the Conecuh River is that "The Bluff" which is on that side of the river, four miles above the fort, was the site of a church (from Riley's History of Conecuh County, published 1881).

The first Probate Judge of Escambia County, Jesse Howard, is buried in a lone grave at the old Harold Mill site. The grave site has been tended by the East Brewton boy scout groups from time to time

According to Ed Leigh McMillan, local historian, the only duel ever fought on Escambia County soil was fought in East Brewton (2½ miles east of Brewton on the River Road) between Lem Evans and Bob Alford, witnessed by Joe Evans (who was mortally wounded) and George Bell. Alford was tried and convicted at Pollard for accepting a challenge to fight a duel but was pardoned before serving any time.

One of East Brewton's unique early settlers was John Ashton, father of Alex, John, and Will Ashton. Mr. Ashton died December 23, 1896, his wife, Charlotte Tippins Ashton, died in 1893. A more

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## East Brewton: A 100 Year Celebration and a History

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detailed story of John Ashton is given in the Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. I, No 4, December, 1973.

Mr. Ashton was truly a soldier of fortune. Born on a farm in Ohio, his father wanted him to remain on the farm, but the odor of gun powder and the report of muskets and cannons had a greater call. Consequently, when General Scott organized his army to go to the aid of Texas in the Mexican War, Mr. Ashton volunteered, being at that time 21 years of age.

He was with General Scott through the Texas campaign and then went with the army to Mexico. After the army was withdrawn from Mexico, it was ordered to Florida to subdue the Seminole Indians. Mr. Ashton was still in the army so he traveled with it to Florida and the new campaign.

After the subjugation of the Seminole Indians, the army, with General Scott in command, was sent to subdue a tribe of mixed breed-Negro, Indian and Scotch-on the Apalachicola River in Florida, just south of where Blountstown is now located. The descendants of the Scots are still there in the area south of Blountstown and between the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers.

After the Scots were subdued, Mr. Ashton procured his honorable discharge from the army and went to Quincy, Florida, where he was overseer of General Scott's tobacco plantation

After leaving Quincy, he went to Pensacola and worked in the shipyard, then settled on Murder Creek three miles northeast of Brewton. Later he sold the land and acquired a farm across Murder Creek in the community now known as East Brewton and remained there for the rest of his life.



**Students at Downing Shofner Institute**



**First Methodist Church of East Brewton in the "Early Days."**

Mr. Ashton was too old to join the Confederate Army but did belong to the Home Guard and did active service during the war.

In glancing over the 1883 Yellow Fever report, this writer saw no names of people who might have lived in the present-day East Brewton area but cannot say definitely that residents East of Murder

Creek were not touched by the disease.

East Brewton has had its share of schools-the East Brewton Academy built in 1888 (its name changed to East Side Academy in August, 1890), the Downing Industrial School (its name changed to Downing-Schofner Institute after Dr. Shofner's retirement), and W. S Neal School.

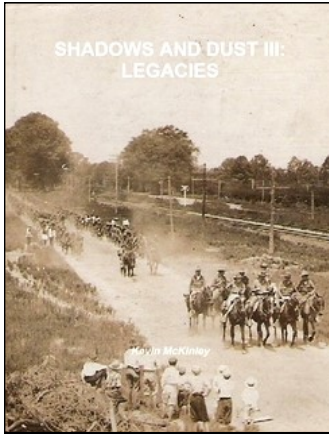
A complete history of the Downing Industrial School prepared by Annie C. Waters was published in the Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. IV, No 3, September, 1976. One other note about education in the earliest period of East Brewton's history. During the

Fort Crawford period, a tutor named Tom Dillon was hired by Nick Travis to teach his children.

The 1929 Flood made the residents of the East Brewton area seek high ground. During the worst of the flooding, food was dropped by plane to people who were stranded on high ground without provisions. The Brewton Standard, March 28, 1929, stated "In East Brewton, Murder Creek extended almost to the intersection of the concrete highway with the Ridge Road."

It is hoped that the residents of the East Brewton area who experienced the 1929 flood will make a record of the happenings and make it available for publication by the Escambia County Historical Society.

## News and Announcements



### **Book Signing for Atmore Attorney Kevin McKinley's Fourth Book at the Brewton Public Library, Thursday, July 26, 2018 1:00 p. m.**

The reviewer for the website [Lulu](#) says of Shadows and Dust III: Legacies - This book is a

compilation of the author's column, "All Things Southern," which runs in several Southern newspapers. This book is the third installment in the Shadows and Dust series and the author's fourth book. It contains more than 1000 names of local soldiers, settlers, farmers, ministers and newspaper articles relating to early history and genealogy in the South West Alabama/Northwest Florida region.

The book contains the Confederate census for Escambia and Monroe County Alabama for 1906 and draws upon newspaper reports from the last 150 years of regional history, as well as interviews, first hand accounts and numerous visits to historic sites and places across the area. In the Falco, Alabama section, the author visits a long lost Alabama ghost town in Covington County Alabama where old brick buildings dot the piney woods and the outlines of old streets fill the imagination.

\*\*\*\*\*



**John Angel**

### **The Alabama Room Vertical File Collection has a new file on Escambia County Government Officials , Brewton Mayors, and other information on Escambia County Government.**

The file, compiled and contributed by ECHS Treasurer John Angel, also contains interesting articles on the "History of Brewton Iron Works," "The Origin of Escambia County," and "Escambia County Court Houses," among others.

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**Sketch by Penrose  
Stout.**

### **Now on exhibit, "Penrose Stout's Illustrated War," at the Department of Archives and History, on display through the end of 2018.**



The Museum of Alabama, located inside the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), has debuted a new temporary exhibit, "Penrose Stout's Illustrated War." The exhibit features large-scale reproductions of sketches, photographs, letters, and diary entries by Alabamian Penrose Vass Stout who is shown in the photograph at the left, dated 1917-

1918.

Stout left a richly illustrated history of his service as a World War I aviator through his sketchbook and letters home. Born in Montgomery in 1887, Stout completed engineering and architecture degrees at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) in 1907 and 1909.

A member of the 1st Pursuit Group, 27th Aero Squadron, Stout was shot down near Charny during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in September 1918. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for attacking a German artillery installation and battling numerous enemy pilots. After the war, Stout returned to practicing architecture in New York and became well known for his designs of country homes.

In 2014, Nathaniel Stout donated his grandfather's sketchbook, letters, and wartime diary to the ADAH. Stout's writings were meant only for himself and his family. But a century later, his collection offers the public an unvarnished view of the often-romanticized life of a World War I aviator. Combining artistic talent and comedic wit, Stout describes the monotony of camp life, the thrill of combat, and the joy of flight.

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## News and Announcements

(Continued from page 8)

### **Donation for funding Heroes' Highway Section of Hwy 31**

Bill Gates of Atmore has acknowledged receipt of ECHS's check for \$500 to help fund signs honoring Medal of Honor winners Manning and Seay.

### **A Correction**

The VFW Post 7015 noted in the Heroes Highway project is actually VFW Post 7016.

## Alabama's Places in Peril for 2018



### **Acmar Civic Center, Acmar, St. Clair Coun- ty**

Nominated by the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), the struc-

ture is a gabled-roof building with clapboard siding. It was recently listed on the Alabama Register of Landmark and Heritages for its importance to the African American mining village in Acmar. Built in 1905 by the Acmar Mining Company, it served as the First Missionary Baptist Church until 1977. Until the 1930s, the building also served, for a time, as the community's Acmar junior high school.

The village of Acmar was associated with two coal mines operated by the Alabama Fuel and Steel Company.

The village was entirely segregated, which necessitated the construction of a church and community space for African Americans. While serving as the Baptist church and junior high school, the Acmar Civic Center also held Methodist services every other Sunday.

The mining company built a separate school across the street in the 1930s, but the civic center continued as an additional educational space into the 1950's, as well as providing trades education and a space for returning GI's from WWII to finish their education.

The building continued to serve the Baptist and Methodist communities until 1977, when the Baptist church moved out. The building continued as a community meeting space for the Acmar Civic League, the Acmar Environmental Preservation Group, and the local masonic lodge,

The building was closed in 1990, but the Acmar Civic League continues its efforts to maintain the structure. The group is now focused on saving the building and recreating the public space that once served the community. Stabilizing the structure is the first step in a plan that involves marking this site as an important historic community space for African American miners in Alabama.

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### **Hamburg Building, Foley, Baldwin County**

The Hamburg building is nominated by the

current owners, the City of Foley. Sometime before 1918, local Farmers in Baldwin County formed the Farmers Mutual Cooperative to represent the farms of the area in state and regional markets. The cooperative constructed the multi-functional building as a processor, warehouse, and store front that operated as a feed and seed.

It is a frame building with board and batten siding, painted red, and a long ell that extends down the length of the railroad tracks. The co-op remained open until 1949 when it shut its doors and was bought by former members, H. M. Hamburg and his sons. The co-op's former members continued to rely on the company. Farmers brought in their crops to be cleaned, graded, packed, sold, and shipped. The proximity to the railroad made Hamburg and Sons

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## Alabama's Places in Peril for 2018

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an easy shipping point.

The building was an important place for the agricultural community in that part of Baldwin County. Farmers stored their crops there while preparing them for market. Their families relied on the feed and seed for their seasonal farming needs. Hamburg and Sons Inc. operated until 2004 when H. M. Hamburg's grandson retired.

Today, the building sits vacant and several ideas for its use are being considered. Ideally, a community effort is the best path to rehabilitation. A local high school has taken on the project of restoring the floors in the building. However, the City of Foley lacks the funding for a full rehabilitation and needs help planning viable uses and prioritizing work.

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### **Ada Hanna School, Hamilton, Marion County**

Another nomination by the Alabama Historical

Commission (AHC), The Ada Hannah School, began as a Rosenwald school that served the African American community of Marion County for several decades. However after the *Brown v. Board* decision in 1954, the state of Alabama committed itself to maintaining "separate but equal" educational accommodations for both whites and blacks and began a period of school construction not previously seen in Alabama.

The schools built between 1954 and 1969, are referred to as "Equalization Schools." The Ada Hannah School in its equalization form was completed in 1965 as one of two schools built for the African American community. The new school building served Marion County for four years until Alabama integrated its public-school system and the county abandoned the new school.

The school was used as a community recreational facility and later converted into a manufacturing facility for showers and bath tubs. In 1985, the property was purchased by its current owners.

Since then, the building has been a victim of several arsons. Now, the building is in poor condition and in need of immediate action to save it.

When the current owners purchased the building, they planned to convert it into a community space and senior center. Those plans never came to fruition. However, there is a community that supports the resurrection of the building and would greatly benefit from the reuse of the only remnants of an African American School in Marion County.

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### **Shoal Creek Baptist Church, Fruithurst, Cleburne County**

Tucked deep in the woods and hills of the

Talladega National Forest is the Shoal Creek Baptist Church. Nominated by the Shoal Creek Church Preservation Society, the church is a gabled log structure on foundation piers.

People settled this part of the state in the 1830s and the Shoal Creek area was incorporated in 1866 as a part of Cleburne County. In the 1880s, the Missionary Baptist Church constructed a building near the present site, but it burned and was replaced by the current building.

The population of this area declined into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and by 1914 the congregation stopped meeting regularly. However, the building was not abandoned and is used annually for sacred harp singing. It remains a prominent landmark on the Pinhoti National Recreation Trail.

Despite its annual use, the building is still threatened. Currently, the floor joists and foundation piers are failing, causing the floor to sag. Unfortunately, the Shoal Creek Preservation Society lacks the knowledge, skills, and funding to undertake a restoration of the foundation and floor. Ideally, the preservation society would receive help either through financial donations or through donations of time and skill, to make the necessary repairs before issues begin to affect the integrity of the entire structure.

(Continued on page 11)

## Alabama's Places in Peril for 2018

(Continued from page 10)



### **George W. Braxdall Lodge #28, Decatur, Morgan County**

In 1903, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge

of Alabama, the primary group of African American Free Masons in Alabama, granted charter to the George W. Braxdall Lodge, the twenty-eighth lodge in Alabama to receive a charter. That same year the lodge occupied the building at 817 Church St. in Decatur, a space they have utilized for 115 years.

The structure is a two-story, stucco over block building with a gabled roof and a balcony supported by three brick columns. Over the years, the membership, and funding levels of the lodge has declined. Because of this, the building has suffered decades of deferred maintenance.

Recently, the City of Decatur issued notice to the group requiring these repairs be made or face demolition. The lodge lacks the funding and knowledge to accomplish these repairs and save their historic building. However, they have the organization to succeed with the needed assistance that potentially comes with the recognition afforded listing to Places in Peril.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **The Old Hale County Jail, Greensboro, Hale County**

Located behind the neoclassical, historic Hale County Courthouse, the Old Hale County Jail served Hale County from its completion in 1908, when it was replaced by the modern Hale county corrections

facility.

The masonry building is distinct with its 24 large windows inset with iron bars, and its crenelated battlements. The jail was constructed during a period of socially conscious prison reform. During the nineteenth century, large convict labor camps were commonplace, but around the turn of the twentieth century prison farms and county and city jails began taking their place.

The jail is three stories with offices on the first floor and holding cells on the second and third. The second and third floors were each divided into two separate cells. The jail could hold up to 71 inmates, but on average held 42.

The jail is owned by the Hale County Commission and sits vacant. The primary threat is vacancy and decay, leaving the building to the possibility of demolition. The building is under the purview of the probate judge in Hale County, Arthur Crawford Jr, a sponsor of the PIP nomination.

There are several structural issues that need to be addressed, including a damaged roof. A thorough Historic Structures Report would help to identify key weaknesses in the building's structural elements and consider rehabilitation plans.

The building is listed as a contributing building the Greensboro National Register District. Two private individuals, including Judge Crawford, as well as the Greensboro Area Business and Tourism Association are sponsoring the nomination. This group has the necessary decision-making opportunities that come from listing.

### **From the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation and Alabama Historical Commission**

We are proud to announce that the Places in Peril program facilitated by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation is entering its 25th year.

Over the years the listing has featured bridges, caves, antebellum houses, and other structures that represent the history of Alabama. Places in Peril has elevated many historic places around the state, bringing preservation into the spotlight and showing us how important it is to save Alabama's history.

Photos and Text from Places in Peril <[https://ahc.alabama.gov/placesinperilPDFs/PlacesInPeril\(PIP\)2018.pdf](https://ahc.alabama.gov/placesinperilPDFs/PlacesInPeril(PIP)2018.pdf)>.



## Snapshots of the June 2018 ECHS Meeting



**Examples of Feed Sack Dresses**

**The Dress on the Left is a Day Dress. The Dress on the Right, a Wrap Around Dress is probably for a thirteen year old.**



**Coletta Bailey at the Beginning of Her Presentation.**



**Coletta Showing Popular Red, White, and Blue Feed Sack Print. Part of her Power Point Presentation is Shown in the Background.**



**Don Sales Remembers a Pair of Overalls Made for Him from a Similar**



**The Display Table.**

**At left, Don and our speaker Coletta.**

## **Snapshots of the June 2018 ECHS Meeting (Continued)**



**Testing, One, Two, Three.**



**Visiting before the Meeting.  
Barbara Page is on the Left and  
Jacque Stone Has Her Back to the  
Camera.**



**Enjoying the Displays.**



**Charlie Ware, on the Left, Visiting  
with a Guest.**



**Shannon Jones with a Nice Smile  
for the Camera.**



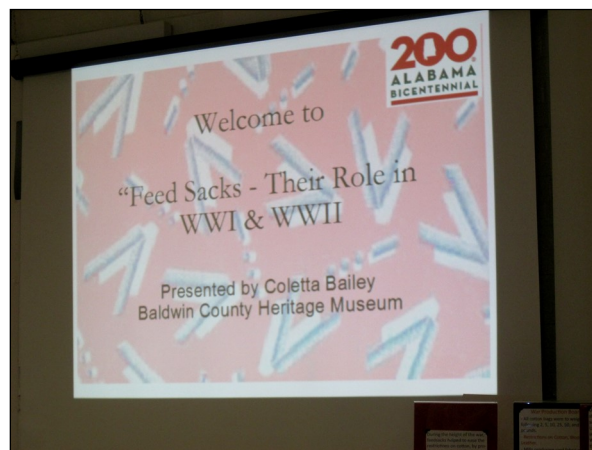
**Front Row, Center and Right, Ann  
Biggs-Williams Chats With  
Shannon Jones.**



## Snapshots of the June 2018 ECHS Meeting *(Continued)*



**Amanda Bell.**



**The Title for Coletta Bailey's Program.**



**Left to Right, Shannon Jones and Marie Heaton.**



**Beautiful Flowers on the Refreshment Table.**



**More Flowers by Robert.**



**Robert Smiley Who Brought the Flowers shown at the left and above.**



## Snapshots of the June 2018 ECHS Meeting *(Continued)*



**Enjoying Refreshments, from Left to Right,  
Darryl Searcy, Charlie Ware,  
Robert Smiley, and Don Sales.**



**The Seal for Jefferson Davis Jr.  
College Now on Display in the  
Elvira Parlor.**



**Carolyn Geck, Barbara Page, and  
June Martin. Darryl Searcy is in the  
Background**



**Darryl Searcy Visiting with Robert Smiley.**

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## **The Rare Green Fly Orchid / Bartram's Tree Orchid** **Epidendrum Magnoliae** **Variations: Mexicanum, Larnandra, Conopsea** **Family: Orchidaceae - Sub-family: Epidendroideae**

### **By Darryl Searcy**

If you've never seen this small, but beautiful and inspiring orchid, look no further than the swampy wooded areas around Brewton. We have it, but in isolated spots along Murder and Burnt Corn creeks, as well as the wetlands that are associated with the Conecuh River. I do not give specific and exact locations where it can be seen due to its rarity and an intense need to protect it. Nevertheless, to the avid wildflower enthusiasts, bird watchers in our community, and to the trail hiking folks who frequent, Jennings Park, E. O. Wilson Conservation area, and the O'Bannon Recreational area, the plant is well-placed, flourishing on the trunks and branches of an ancient magnolia tree.

This diminutive epiphyte (a plant that grows on another plant but is not parasitic, such as the numerous ferns, bromeliads, air plants, and orchids growing on tree trunks in tropical rainforest) is the most far-ranging epiphytic orchid in the United States, growing along the Gulf coast into western Louisiana, skipping Texas and then re-emerging in eastern Mexico. To the east, it ranges up the Atlantic coast into North Carolina. In Florida, it ranges down about three-quarters of the way into the peninsula, but is generally not seen south of Lake Okeechobee. It usually grows in close association with resurrection fern on various species of trees, including live oak, eastern red cedar, bald cypress, and southern magnolia.

Apparently, the first botanical description of this orchid was in association with the last of the trees mentioned above. The priority of that description was somehow lost and the name, *Epidendrum conopseum*, published two weeks later, became the recognized name for this species. It was only within the last few years that this mistake has been remedied.

The species is divided into two subspecies, *ssp. magnoliae* tends to be more northerly, has much smaller canes (reaching lengths of 3-4 inches with 3-4 leaves at most) and smaller flower counts (between 3 and 12 flowers per spike). The southern variant, *ssp. mexicanum*,



**Pictured above is an *Epidendrum Magnoliae* ssp. *Magnoliae* Collected from a Large Plant that Has Taken Habitation in the Brewton Area and Has Lived Happily Here for Many Years.**

occurs in Mexico and in central-southern Florida. It has canes that can be 10 inches or more tall with 8 or 9 leaves and flower counts that can range up into the 30's.

The small, green flowers range from 1/2 to 3/4 inch in diameter, are usually green on the lip and petals and range from greenish to reddish brown on the sepals depending on light levels. The opening beneath the column is usually ringed with purple. The flowers become intensely fragrant at night. Flower spikes usually emerge from the leaf axils during the late spring to early summer, but a separate growth that is just a spike can emerge in

late summer through early winter.

To those of you who are growing orchids in your home or greenhouse, these plants are reasonably easy to cultivate, but must be kept in balance between two competing elements -- their roots like to stay somewhat moist, perhaps a little drier than one would keep a *Phalaenopsis*, but the plant itself can succumb to rot easily. Although I am not an orchid fancier, I do have a wild one growing from the bark of a magnolia that stands at a seepage pond, which I fertilize very lightly once a year. I have found that fertilizing at the same strength as recommended for regular orchids tends to burn the root tips, so I pull back on the amount and strength of plant food sprinkled among the resurrection fern, as well as a healthy growth of mistletoe. The roots seem to respond well to hormone treatments, such as Superthrive and Rootone, branching much more frequently than would normally be expected in the wild. I cannot control light levels, aside from occasional pruning of tree branches and cutting away Virginia creeper vines that often invade the area. However, I know when a sufficient light is afforded as a bit of a reddish suffusion on the leaves is a good indicator of adequate light. These wild orchids are cold tolerant, able to withstand winter temperatures down into the upper teens and lower 20's Fahrenheit, although plants grown in greenhouses tend to do just as well at more even temperatures.

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## A Duel

**By Ed Leigh McMillan in 1930.**

As far as I know, the only duel that was ever fought in Escambia County, Alabama was the duel between Bob Alford against Lem and Joe Evans. Joe Evans was mortally wounded in the fight and one of the participants was tried and convicted for participating in a duel.

The duel occurred at what was then known as the George Bell place on the River Road east of Brewton, and now the property occupied by Andrew Coxwell, and in Section 31, Township 2, Range 11. I obtained the following story about the duel from Joe Alford, who is a nephew of Bob Alford.

Bob Alford was a logger and timber man. He had approximately 1300 pine logs on land adjacent to Murder Creek. The logs were cut to be hauled to Murder Creek. Alford hired Lem Evans to haul the logs to the creek bank and agreed to pay him \$1.00 per log to haul them. The logs were stacked all the way from the creek bank to several miles back.

Lem Evans hauled approximately 300 logs, getting the ones nearest to the creek. Alford and Evans met in Brewton for a settlement for the logs hauled up to that time. Alford paid Evans for the logs that he had hauled.

After this settlement had been made, Evans told Alford that he was not going to haul any more logs. Alford said to Evans, "Lem, you've acted the damn rascal." Joe Evans, the brother of Lem Evans, then interceded and said to Alford that he could not stand by and hear his brother called a damn rascal and started on Alford with a knife. Alford knocked him down, and Major O'Bannon parted them. Major O'Bannon was the father of Mr. J. B. O'Bannon and Dr. W. H. O'Bannon. This fight took place in Dr. O'Bannon's store.

I don't know where Dr. O'Bannon's store was, but I remember a wooden building located on the East side of the railroad just south of where the T. R. Miller Mill Company's switch joins the main line, on the door of which was the sign "W. H. O'Bannon & Co." written with nails driven into the door.}

Dr. O'Bannon took Alford away and hid him. The Evans continued to curse and call for Alford until Alford came out of the place that Dr. O'Bannon had placed him and made his presence known to the Evans brothers. They came in the store and said to

Alford, 'You've got a gun. We don't have ours, but we 'll go home and get'em.

"We'll wash our hands in your heart's blood before you go home tonight." Lem and Joe left.

The Evans lived near where Mr. Will Crawford now lives. This is on the Ridge Road just West of May Creek in Section 28, Township 2, Range 11. Bob Alford then lived at the place known as the old George Barnes place and where Mrs. Eph Mayo now lives.

After the Evans brothers left, Bob Alford started home on horseback. Will Alford, Bob's brother, accompanied him on foot. The Alfords met Lem and Joe Evans on the River Road about 2 miles east of Brewton.

The Evans told Alford to get down off his horse. "All right, let me get my horse out of the way of the shooting so she won't get hurt, so that some of the other boys can use her if I get killed."

Alford took his horse out in the woods and tied her and came back. "This is a bad thing that we're going into. While you may get me, I'm going to get one or both of you."

"That's all right. We'll go up to Cousin George Bell's place and shoot it out."

Bob Alford walked between Lem and Joe Evans several miles up to the George Bell place. When they got there, they called Mr. Bell out and told him what they were going to do. Mr. Bell shamed them and tried to keep them from shooting it out.

After a while, Lem Evans shot at Bob Alford and then the shooting really started. There were eleven shots fired. This was all the cartridges that the participants had. Bob Alford was shooting against Lem Evans and Joe Evans. Will Alford did not have a pistol.

Alford shot Joe Evans who fell down but raised up on his hip and shot at Alford again. Alford then shot Evans again. Lem Evans ran after he had shot out and Joe Evans had been shot down. Joe Evans was carried home and died a few days later.

Alford was indicted and tried at Pollard for accepting a challenge to fight a duel. He was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment and fined \$500.00. Alford never served any time because he was pardoned.

The duel took place in the fall of 1876.



**ECHOES**  
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