

ECHOES



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The August Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2019
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama Community College
Brewton Campus
3:00 p. m.



From our speaker's, Coletta Bailey's, Power Point Presentation on Feed Sacks and the Great Depression.

The Program: "Feed Sacks and the Great Depression"

Coletta Bailey, from the Baldwin County Heritage Museum (BCHM) will present the program on the role feed sacks played in the Great Depression.

Since she has presented programs to ECHS before, Coletta is well known to ECHS members for her informative presentations with excellent displays.

In this program she will cover the value of the cotton bag in the average home, how the manufacturers of feed

(Continued on page 2)

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Upcoming Event

**Wade Hall Postcards
Traveling Exhibit:
'Historical Buildings'**

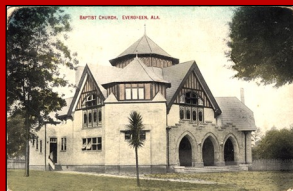
**September 20, 2019
through
October 31, 2019
Venue: McMillan
Museum
Sponsor: Escambia
County
Historical Society
City: Brewton**

The September Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2019

The Program

**Subject: The Wade Hall Exhibit of Post
Cards of Alabama Historic Buildings**

**Presenter: Ruth Elder. Librarian at Troy
University Library who helped prepare
the traveling exhibit.**



**Baptist Church
Evergreen, Alabama**

**Volume 46 No. 8
August 2019**



**Jackson County Court House
Scottsboro, Ala.**

The Program



Baldwin County Heritage Museum



This picture of Coletta was taken during a program at Orange Beach/Gulf Shores.



Feed Sack Quilt from the 30's



Coletta speaks to guests at the opening day of the World I and II exhibit at the Baldwin County Heritage Museum.

(Continued from page 1)

invented new products to help everyday consumers, from cut-and-sew toys to “cheaters” for people who didn’t know how to quilt, and the Federal Government’s mandates in the Great Depression and their effects on clothing from the fullness of sleeves to the length of dresses.

The power point presentation includes samples of feed sack fabric (Chicken Linen) with articles of clothing from the 30s.

From an interview for the article, “This is Baldwin Visits Baldwin County Heritage Museum, Coretta commented on the exhibit in the Museum on feed sacks which she had developed: “I love the ingenuity of the women, especially during the 1930s when the depression was in full force and people didn’t have

much money to go out and buy material and the feed sack companies decided to put prints on them,” “They went from anything from art deco to gingham to baby prints.”

The article states, “Many girls of the time wore dresses fashioned from these recycled materials. Some of the earliest bikinis were also fashioned from used feed sacks. Because of a shortage of materials during World War II, for each year the war continued, the government required less material be used on civilian clothing.”

Coletta laughingly summed up this information with, “The swimsuits were getting smaller and smaller unfortunately or fortunately. It depends on your viewpoint.”

(Continued on page 3)

The Program

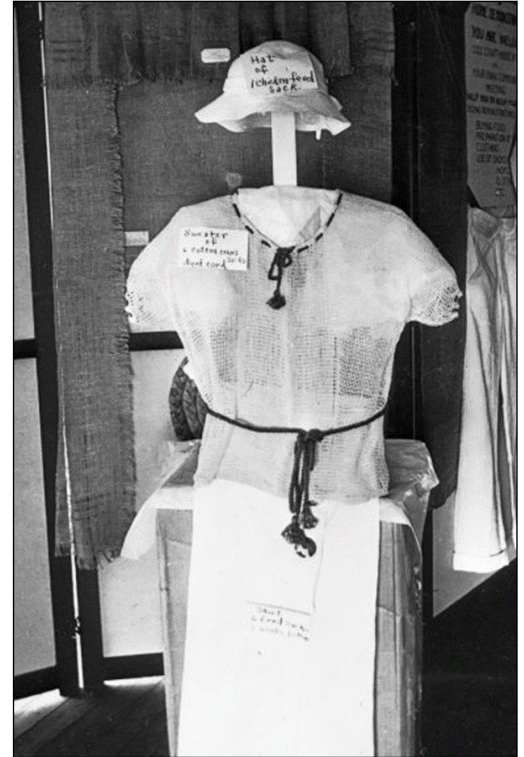
(Continued from page 2)

Coletta has served on the Board of Directors of the Baldwin County Heritage Museum, is currently an active docent at the Museum and works in all aspects at BCHM with special emphasis on textiles.

She volunteers her time and experience at least once a week at BCHM. She is also a member of the Baldwin County Historical Society.



**Above and to the Right,
Feed Sack Clothing Made in Florida**

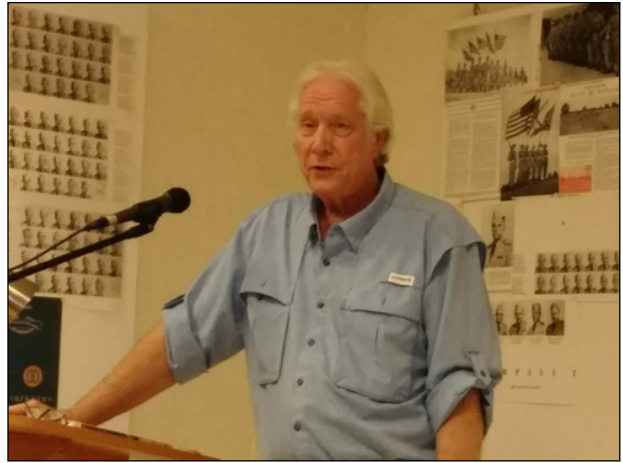


**Jorena Pettway making flower
decorations for her home. She has
made practically all her own
furniture and her own bedspreads
and chair covers from flour sacks,
etc. Gee's Bend, Alabama, 1939.**

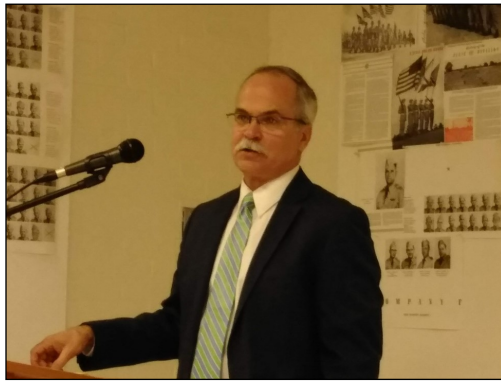
Photos from the July 2019 ECHS Meeting



Sally Finlay Announced her Resignation as President at the meeting.



Don Sales, former Vice-President, is now the President.



Circuit Judge David Jordan Presented the Program.

Photo from Early History of Point Clear, Alabama



Post Office in Point Clear

Point Clear

Point Clear is an unincorporated community in Baldwin County. In the 1800s, it was a popular destination for wealthy families from all over the country.

Many tourists from New Orleans and Mobile spent their summers in Point Clear, for perceived health benefits. Most came by ferry boat which is why the homes and cottages face Mobile Bay. The historic Grand Hotel, built in 1847, is located in Point Clear.

This Brodbeck-Zundel Brothers General Merchandise store was built in 1905 and served the citizens of Point Clear as the local store and post office. It burned in 1945 and was not rebuilt.

From the Wade Hall Postcard Collection.

A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County



Lucretia Ellen Bryars
Canoe
1837-1916
(Civil War Heroine)

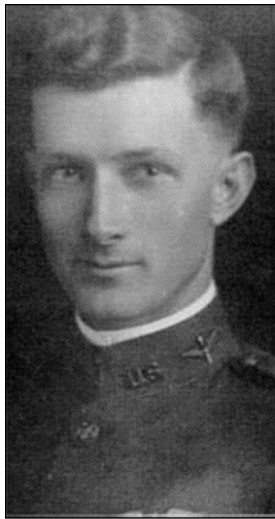
This is part of the series of biographies created by Charlie Ware for ECHS as part of the commemoration of Alabama's bicentennial.

Born near Canoe, Lucretia married Benjamin Henry Bryars and they made their home just south of Canoe. After the outbreak of the Civil War, Benjamin left home to join the Confederate army leaving Lucretia at home with three young children.

In 1862, Benjamin was severely wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga near Chattanooga, Tennessee. A week after learning of the critical condition of her husband, she made plans to go to Tennessee. Leaving the two oldest children with her sister, she packed food and clothing into saddle bags, with her baby in her arms, and riding side saddle, she set out for Tennessee. It was said that she mounted the horse, crooking her left leg over the saddle horn, placed her right foot in the only stirrup, neatly arranged her billowing skirt, and rode away to "rescue Ben."

She rode constantly, often into the night, luckily finding kind people who gave her food and shelter. Arriving at the makeshift hospital, she found deplorable conditions. Her husband's pillowcase was covered with dried blood and it appeared that most of the other patients had not had their bandages changed for weeks. Lucretia made pillowcases and bandages from her white petticoats and any other unneeded clothing. She labored tirelessly caring for the wounded at the same time attending to her infant son and waited for Benjamin's wounds to heal.

Benjamin recovered and returned home after the war. He credited Lucretia with saving his life and that of many others. They became the parents of seven more children. A daughter, Mildred, married Andrew M. Lowery of Canoe who became the first pastor of the Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola.



Lt. William C. Maxwell
Atmore
1892-1920
(Aviator-Namesake of Maxwell Air Force Base)

Born in Natchez, Ala. On Nov. 8, 1892, William Maxwell grew up in Robinsonville, a small community just outside of Atmore. He graduated from Escambia County High School and then entered the University of Alabama and enrolled in the school's Army ROTC program.

When the U. S. entered World War I, he left Alabama and enlisted in the Army. He received his commission as a second lieutenant in April 1918 after completing flight training at Kelly Field, Texas, but before he could complete his combat flight training, the war was ending. He was assigned to the 3rd Aero Squadron in the Philippines. On August 12, 1920, he was flying a mission with his flight mechanic in a DH-4 biplane when the engine suddenly quit.

He picked a spot near a sugar plantation to try to land the plane. However, as he came close to the place he had picked, he spotted a group of children playing in the path of the plane. He banked his plane to avoid the field and hitting the children. The wing of his plane hit a flagpole hidden by tall sugar cane and the plane crashed killing him and seriously injuring his mechanic.

On the recommendation of his former commanding officer, Major Roy C. Brown, Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot was renamed Maxwell Field on November 8, 1922, in honor of Lt. William Maxwell. Maxwell Field later became Maxwell Air Force Base and is today the home of the Air University of the United States Air Force.

The ECHS *journal* Section

Wade Hall Postcard Collection



From the Troy University Website for the Wade Hall Collection:

Dr. Wade Hall was a deltiologist, the formal name for a postcard collector. The quality and size of his collection is impressive because he built it at a time when good, historical postcards were scarce.

Hall grew up near Union Springs, attended the small Inverness Consolidated School and Troy State Teachers College. After teaching in Opp and serving in the U.S. Army in Germany, he earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Hall taught English at the University of Florida, Kentucky Southern College, and Bellamine University. Hall collected these postcards during his travels around the country.

From the Collection



Boaz

Boaz was founded in 1878 and incorporated in 1897. It was named for the Old Testament husband of Ruth.

Boaz Seminary began as a preparatory school in the home of the Methodist minister E.B.L. Elder in 1898. Its name changed in 1906 to John H. Snead Seminary to honor a Boaz businessman who contributed land, money, and leadership to the school.

The Methodist Church retained the school until 1967 when it became a part of the Alabama two-year college system. Snead State Community College is the oldest school in Alabama's community college system to award associate degrees.

This postcard shows the seminary in the 1910s.



Athens

Athens is the county seat of Limestone County. The city was incorporated in 1818, a year before Alabama became a state.

In 1822, the town founders obtained a charter for the Athens Female Academy which evolved into Athens State University, the longest-operating institution of higher education in Alabama.

This is a picture of businesses on the east side of the courthouse square in the early 1900s.

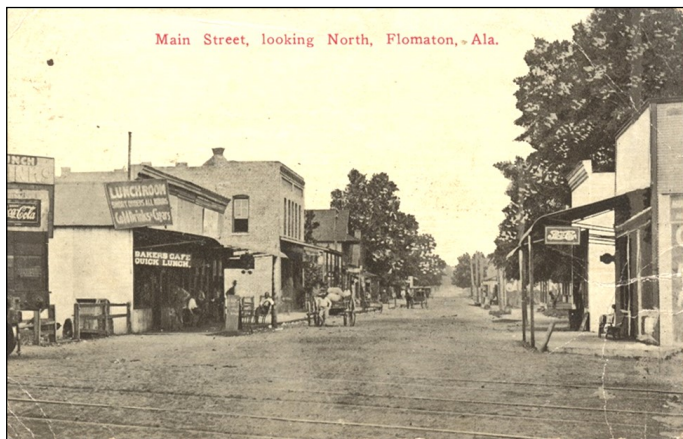
Photo and text from the Hall Collection

(Continued on page 7)

The ECHS *journal* Section

Wade Hall Postcard Collection

(Continued from page 6)



Main Street Looking North, Flomaton, Ala.



Belleville Street Evergreen, Ala.
Hand written note at the bottom of the card says: "Does it look inviting?"



Universalist Church, Brewton Ala.
The Brewton Universalist Church used this building until the 1980's. In the 1940's the Universalists established Brewton's first public library. *Comments from Greetings from Alabama.*



The Baldwin County Courthouse in Bay Minette
The Baldwin County Courthouse in Bay Minette was built in 1800 by architect Frank Lockwood and contractor F. M. Dobson. It was remodeled in 1855 and again in 1996. The modern courthouse does not much resemble this one, but it does retain the clock.
Comments by Wade Hall in Greetings from Alabama.



Hotel, Elberta, Alabama
Elberta was founded in 1903 by the Baldwin County Colonization Company to take advantage of the area's timber tracts. The company began building a town for the German immigrants recruited to the area and the first hotel was opened in 1904. *Photo and comments from the Wade Hall Collection.*

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The ECHS *journal* Section

Wade Hall Postcard Collection

(Continued from page 7)



Laurel Ave. Looking West, Foley, Alabama

Foley is named for J.B. Foley, a Chicago businessman, who bought land in the area in 1901 and sold lots through his company the Magnolia Springs Land Company.

Knowing that better access would result in more settlers, he persuaded the railroad to run a spur from Bay Minette to the area and used his own money to lay the rails.

By 1905, the town was large enough to warrant a post office, and it was incorporated in 1915. This is a postcard of Laurel Avenue in the early 1910s.



Sand Island Lighthouse Close to Dauphin Island
Alabama's first and only seacoast light was constructed in 1837 on Sand Island. It stood 55 feet tall roughly three miles from the Mobile Bay entrance on 400 acres. Over the years, the island has eroded and it is now less than one acre. This postcard, postmarked June 12, 1911, shows the 132 foot brick tower that was completed in 1873. The lighthouse is no longer in service and its Fresnel lens is located in the Ft. Morgan Museum. *Photo and Comments from the Wade Hall Collection.*



Brenau College, Eufala, An Early Example of College and University Branch Campuses

From a blog entitled "Alabama Yesterday," this history: Brenau College was founded in 1878 in Gainesville, Georgia, as an institution for the education of women.

Today Brenau University remains a private institution, but men are admitted to many programs.

Sometime around 1905 Brenau opened "Alabama Brenau" on the campus of a failed women's college, the Union Female College, in Eufaula, Alabama. The location never thrived and ceased operations after a few years.

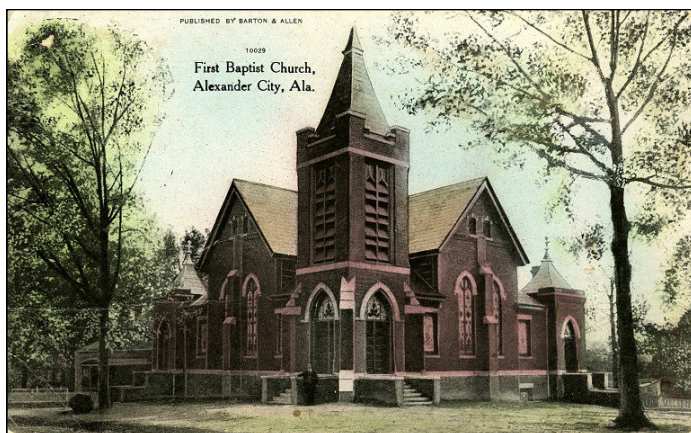
The "failed" Union Female College had opened in 1854 and as noted below was advertising for students in southern newspapers as late as 1893

(<http://alabamayesterdays.blogspot.com/2018/10/alabama-brenau-college-in-eufaula.html>).

The ECHS *journal* Section

Wade Hall Postcard Collection

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**First Baptist Church,
Alexander City, Alabama**



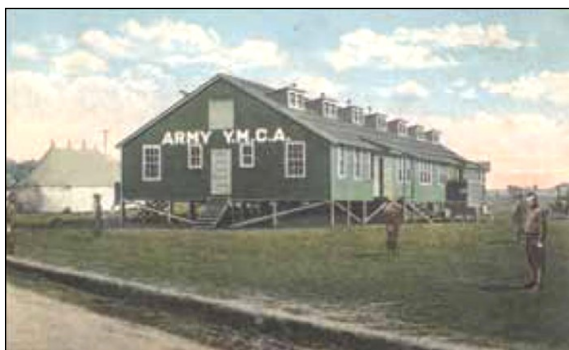
**First Methodist Church
Lanett, Alabama**

Of his postcard collection, Wade Hall is quoted as saying his intent was “to document in words and pictures the culture that has shaped me and was beginning to fade as people adjusted to new ways and inventions of the 20th century.”

Ruth Elder, Troy University Librarian who helped organize the exhibit, said that in less than 150 years since postcards were introduced to the United States, they have become one of the most popular items to collect. The first postcards were issued in America in 1873. Postcards became popular because people could send a quick “hello” or show a friend or relative where they were staying for only a penny. Many postcards took the place of pictures in the family albums showing vacation scenes (<https://www.troymessenger.com/2017/02/04/postcards-home-new-exhibit-on-display-at-troy-university-library/>).



**Campus, Alabama Polytechnic Institute,
Auburn, Alabama**



Where F. Scott Fitzgerald was stationed when he met Miss Zelda during World War I, Camp Sheridan in Montgomery.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Books Available by Contribution

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

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**Do you prefer to get your newsletter by
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(\$50.00/person; \$70.00/ family at same address; Lifetime, \$500.00/person; \$100.00/year business)

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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 escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com or call 251-809-1528.

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