

ECHOES



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The October Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
McMillan Museum
Coastal Alabama Community College
Brewton Campus
3:00 p. m.



Dr. Bratten

The Program **Updates on the Luna Colony Excavation** **and the Ships Associated with the Colony.**

Dr. Bratten is the chair and associate professor of anthropology at the University of West Florida, where he teaches archaeology, maritime studies, shipwreck archaeology and artifact conservation.

Located in a developed neighborhood in Pensacola, the Luna project is the excavation of and research into the first multi-year European settlement in the United States. Artifacts discovered in 2015 are evidence of the Spanish settlement by Tristan de Luna y Arellano from 1559 to 1561, the earliest multi-year European colonial settlement ever archaeologically identified in the United States.

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No Meeting in November

The Christmas Party

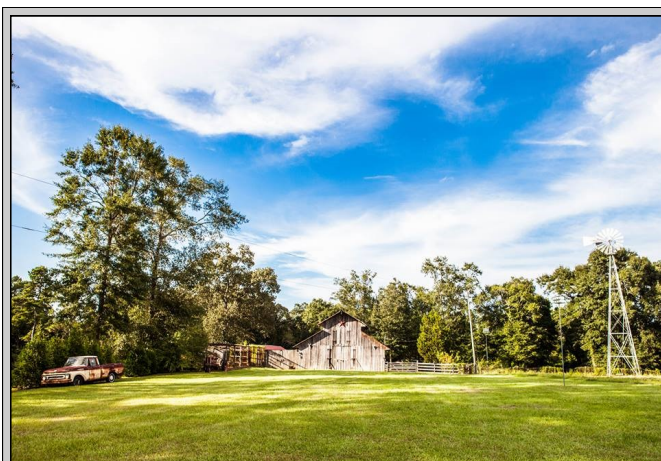
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
McMillan Museum, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
The society will provide a ham and drinks..
Plan on bringing sides to go with the ham or
your favorite Christmas dish.



**Don Tristan de Luna
y Arellano**

Volume 46 No 10
October 2019

Upcoming Events
ECHS President Don
Sales will make a presenta-
tion on the history of
Dixonville at the Dixonville
200 and Larae Harvest
Festival on November 9.
See details of this event in
the News and Announce-
ments section of this news-
letter.



Dixonville

The Progam

(Continued from page 1)

The Spaniard de Luna and about 1,500 soldiers, colonists, slaves and Aztec Indians traveled in 11 ships from Veracruz, Mexico to Pensacola. A hurricane struck Pensacola about a month later, sinking six ships into the bay and wiping out a significant portion of their supplies.

The remains of three of the six ships that sank in the bay have been found and are being investigated by teams from the University of West Florida. Dr. Bratten is co-principal investigator of the second shipwreck discovered, called Emanuel Point II.

The Loss of a Fleet

The following article about the De Luna colony and the loss of the ships associated with it, is taken from the University of West Florida site <<http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/anthro/ep2/fleet/>>.

On the night of September 19, 1559, Pensacola Bay was struck by a violent hurricane which raged incessantly for the next 24 hours. What made this hurricane different from all previous storms in this area was the presence of a fleet of 10 Spanish sailing vessels anchored alongside the recently-established colonial settlement of Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano, consisting of some 500 soldiers and 1,000 civilian colonists, including a diversity of Spaniards, Africans, and Mexican Indians, as well as a handful of Dominican missionaries.

The fleet consisted of a wide range of vessels, both small and large, old and new, some privately-owned and some royally-owned. During the course of the storm, most of the largest ships broke loose from their anchors and floated free, ultimately grounding or sinking with considerable loss of life. The contents of the vessels, many of which apparently broke apart, were inundated and scattered in the storm waters. One vessel was pushed inland by the storm surge and deposited intact in a dense grove of trees. Surviving colonists and sailors scavenged the shores for days, but the loss of the fleet ultimately proved to be a fatal blow for the Luna expedition, because in those ships was the one item most pivotal to the success of the colony: food.

Luna's 1559 colonial venture was a carefully-planned expedition, financed by the Spanish crown, organized in New Spain (present-day Mexico), and intended to become the first successful Spanish colony in what is now the present-day Southeastern United States. It would have been a launching-point for overland expeditions to the Atlantic coast of modern-day South Carolina, and would have established a firm foothold for Spain in

North America.

In 1558, a small fleet of reconnaissance craft had been specially constructed in Veracruz in order to scout potential settlement locations along the northern Gulf of Mexico, and when the colonial fleet comprised of 11 ships finally sailed on June 11, 1559, the 1,500 colonists were supplied not just with the equipment, supplies, and armament they would need to establish a new settlement on Pensacola Bay, but also with more than a year's worth of food packed into the many large merchant vessels that formed part of the fleet.

Where previous expeditions such as that of Hernando de Soto had failed in part due to their reliance on local food stores either bartered or taken from neighboring Native American communities, the Luna expedition was specifically designed to avoid such potential tensions by providing more than enough food for all the colonists to be able to sustain themselves until a colonial town was built, and crops were planted and harvested. This had been the most important advice provided by four Southeastern Indian women, originally captured during the Soto expedition, who were brought along on the expedition as advisors and interpreters.

So important were these food stores that when the fleet entered Pensacola Bay on August 15, most of the food was left on board the ships until a secure warehouse could be constructed on land. Based on Luna's initial reports, the Viceroy of New Spain believed Pensacola Bay to be completely safe for Spanish ships, claiming extravagantly that the port is so secure that no wind can do them any damage.

Though one fortunate galleon was sent back to Mexico on August 25 with news of the expedition's successful landfall, the rest of the ships were unloaded gradually over the course of the first month, focusing first on soldiers and colonists, along with their

(Continued on page 3)

The Loss of a Fleet

(Continued from page 2)

equipment, supplies, and weapons. During this time, two exploratory expeditions were sent inland to reconnoiter the countryside while two vessels were outfitted for a voyage directly to Spain, awaiting only the return of the reconnaissance parties. When the winds began to blow during the night of September 19, however, the Spaniards were caught completely by surprise.

After the storm, only 3 ships were still afloat, including two small barks and the expedition's only caravel. Though Luna's colonists scavenged whatever they could from the remnants of the fleet, the damage was done, and news of the calamity was sent to Mexico on one of the remaining barks, which was dispatched on September 29. When news finally arrived in Veracruz on October 5, the Luna expedition was instantly transformed from a bold colonial venture into a rescue operation, and all subsequent ship traffic between Veracruz and Pensacola focused on sending food and other supplies to the hapless colonists.

The colonists ultimately became so hungry that they moved inland to the nearest large Indian town along the Alabama River, and were ultimately forced to send a detachment of soldiers hundreds of miles upriver to the edge of the Appalachian summit in northwest Georgia, trading whatever they owned in exchange for corn and other food supplies.

When the remnants of the expedition were finally withdrawn in 1561, Luna's colony joined the ranks of all previous failures by Spanish adventurers in the Southeastern United States. Over the course of the next decades and centuries, the wrecks of Luna's seven ships dissolved quietly into the sand and mud of Pensacola Bay, hidden from the modern world. But within these ships remained a moment in time, captured and preserved as a result of the hurricane of September 19-20, 1559, waiting only for the light of modern underwater archaeology to rediscover this forgotten era of Spanish explorers and colonists along the northwest Florida Gulf coast.



The Galeón Andalucía, a Replica of a 16th Century Manila Galleon

Emanuel I, the first ship discovered that is related to the Luna Expedition, is a galleon. The following comments on the role of the galleons in Spain's exploration of the Americas comes from the website Lost Ship of the Desert at <<http://www.lostshipofthedesert.com/spanish-galleon-andalucia/>>.

These ships were the type of vessel used by the Spanish Crown for maritime expeditions during the 16th through the 18th centuries. Galleons were intended to discover and then establish trade routes between Spain, America and the Philippines islands, and formed what was then called the "Fleet of the Indies". For three centuries, these Spanish galleons crossed the Atlantic Ocean back and forth, sailed around the Caribbean Sea and the American coasts, and covered the Pacific route as well. They carried plenty of seamen, merchant traders and settlers, while their holds bore the fabulous loads resulting from American and Asian trade.

News and Announcements

**The Dixonville 200,
a Community Celebration,
in Collaboration with the
Fourth Annual LaRae Harvest Festival
Will Also Celebrate
Alabama's 200th Anniversary
Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019 at
446 HWY 41 South, Dixonville, AL.
An All-Day Event
First Event, the Five-K Cotton Pickin'
Run/Walk is at 8:00 am**



The Dixonville 200 is a cultural heritage celebration of Dixonville, Alabama, and its connections to all of Escambia County and the state of Alabama. Although Dixonville is a small community, the community has written its own chapter in the story of Alabama's rich history. From cotton to peanuts to pine trees, the community is deeply rooted in Alabama's agriculture, cultural history, and music. It is also the birthplace of William Lee Golden, famed baritone of the country vocal group, the Oak Ridge Boys.

The location for the celebration which will also celebrate Alabama's centennial (Alabama 200), is six miles south of Brewton on HWY 41. directly across from William Lee's birth home. William Lee Golden has graciously offered to attend, participate in a "meet and greet" and provide entertainment to his hometown community.

In addition to William Lee Golden, entertainment

for the Alabama 200 event will consist of local singers and musicians celebrating their south Alabama roots with country, gospel, and bluegrass including Chris Golden, 2019 Inspirational Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year. Bo Bice, of American Idol fame, will be also on hand to perform. Pensacola's WSRE will be in attendance promoting its upcoming documentary on local musician Hank Locklin.

History buffs will not want to miss a lecture on the history of Dixonville by Don Sales, Director of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum as well as President of the Escambia County Historical Association, and Professor James Pate's lecture on the new edition of Pickett's History of Alabama.

The Wade Hall Traveling Postcard Display featuring Alabama's historical buildings and streets will also be displayed at the Full Gospel Community Church, a trolley ride away from LaRae.

Alabama artists and authors will proudly present their work. Escambia County's schools will be represented in various capacities including choirs and a youth art show. Students representing the Future Farmers of America will promote agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry. The Escambia County Extension Agency will bring their Chick Chain poultry project to the event.

The festival's showcase artists will be Larry Manning Pottery and the local artisans Shannon and Megan Brantley designers of Flannel and Floral. Representation by communities will include Atmore, Brewton, East Brewton, Flomaton, and Jay.

The local Dixonville church and fire department will also be represented. The day's festivities will kick off at 8:00 AM with a 5K run/walk, the Cotton Pickin' 5K.

The festival is easily accessible from main state highway 41 and more than adequate parking and trolley service is available

For more information contact: Dana L. Bratten, (850) 723-8582 <Brattendana7@gmail.com>.

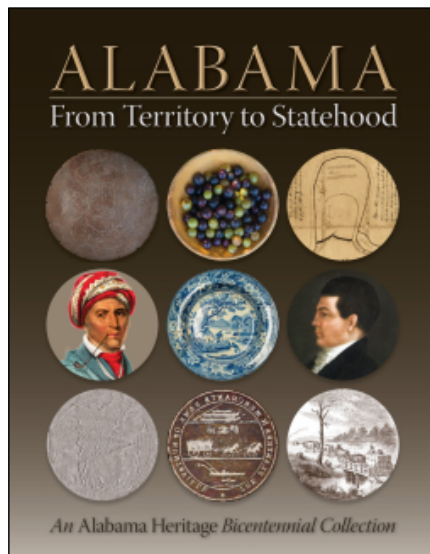
Note: The area south of the Florida border adjoining Dixonville is referred to as Dixonville, Florida. Thus, some say Dixonville is in Alabama and some say it is in Florida.****

(Continued on page 5)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 4)

New Book on the History of the State's Formative Years Alabama from Territory to Statehood



From Alabama's Archives and History site, this description of the book <https://archives.alabama.gov/press_release/2019/AFTTSreleaseADAH.pdf>:

Inspired by Alabama's Bicentennial celebrations, and produced by NewSouth Books in partnership with Alabama Heritage magazine and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, Alabama From Territory to Statehood compiles the work of experts on the history of the state's formative years.


Very little has been written on this period since the mid-20th century, making this volume a welcome addition to the Alabama history canon. Lavishly illustrated articles illuminate the Alabama story. Experts describe the state's prehistory and colonial settlement.

They describe border disputes and land surveys, squatting, prospecting, and the land rush remembered as "Alabama Fever." They tell of the early settlements and growing towns, the architecture, food, the cultures of a place in flux.

They sketch the experience of Creeks on the verge of removal and enslaved persons adjusting to arrival. They analyze the demise of a fragile economy and the legal and political creation of a new state.

A Conference on Creek History Saturday, November 2, 2019 From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Poarch Creek Community Center- Multipurpose Room Breakfast and Lunch Will Be Served

The Office of Archives and Records Management and the Regulatory Affairs Division at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians invite you to a Conference on Creek History



Hillis Hadjo, father of the Creek Pocahontas, 1816

THE CREEK POCAHONTAS

Featuring
DALE COX

Saturday, November 2, 2019
From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Poarch Creek Community Center – Multipurpose Room
Everyone is invited. Breakfast & Lunch will be served.

You are invited to hear historian Mr. Dale Cox talk about his book, Milly Francis: The Life & Times of the Creek Pocahontas. Become inspired by Creek history from talks by former Tribal Chair Mr. Eddie Tullis and former Seminole THPO Mr. Willard Steele. Come for the morning or afternoon, or stay for the whole day. Mvto.

Questions? Contact Ms. Leasha Martin, Ms. Brittani Rolin, Ms. Luvader Cejas, Mr. Jon Dean, Mr. Clayton Coon, or Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 446-4942

ECHS has been invited to hear historian Dale Cox talk about his book, Milly Francis: The Life & Times of the Creek Pocahontas.

Other speakers at the conference include Poarch Tribal Chair Eddie Tullis and former Seminole THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) Willard Steele.

One can come to the morning or afternoon sessions. For more information Contact Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 448-4942.

* Note: Dale Cox lives in Two Egg, Florida. He has presented a program to ECHS on his book The Claude Neal Lynching: The 1934 Murders of Lola Cannady & Claude Neal.

A Gallery of Significant People from Escambia County



**Luverne "Toad"
Wise Albert
(Atmore)
(1922-1982)
First Female High
School Football
Player**

**This is part of the
series of biog-
raphies created by
Charlie Ware for
ECHS as part of the
commemoration of
Alabama's
bicentennial.
(To be continued)**



**Lyn Stuart
Atmore
(1955-)

Associate Justice
of Alabama
Supreme Court**

"Toad" Wise Albert became a sports icon as America's first female football player. She played on the Escambia County High School team from 1939-1941. Though she was primarily a kicker, she also had a good arm and was always a threat to throw a pass.

Albert put Atmore on the map when she gained fame and was featured in Sports Illustrated, Life magazine, the New York Daily Mirror, the Atlanta Constitution, and the Mobile Press. Reporters from major news organizations were in attendance at most games. Columbia Pictures and Acme News Pictures sent representatives to Atmore to interview her and film her in action. A newsreel feature was made which was shown in theaters around the country. That newsreel clip is still available today as a YouTube video.

During Albert's last two playing seasons, the team's record was 17-1 and she was making good on about 75% of her field goal and extra point attempts. A correspondent from UPI wrote in 1940 about an Atmore vs. Monroeville game where, on an extra point attempt, the center's snap had been high. "She went back and picked up the ball as the entire Monroeville team rushed through together. She threw a beautiful long spiral lateral to Captain 'Red' Vickery, who in turn passed to end Harry Brislin, scoring the extra point."

Albert's coach, Andy Eddington, described her as a player who made good grades and who worked hard. He said she worked part-time as a cashier and usher at Atmore's Strand Theater and that while working one night, she looked up at the screen and unexpectedly found herself featured in a national newsreel that was being shown prior to the night's movie.

"Toad" married Toni Albert and the couple owned and operated Rex Sporting Goods on Main Street in Atmore for several decades. The Alberts had three daughters, none of whom played football.

"Toad" passed away in 1982.

Jacquelyn Lufkin Stuart was first elected to serve on the Alabama Supreme Court in 2000. Since then she has been re-elected twice; the last time in 2012, she ran unopposed.

Stuart is a native of Atmore, Alabama and graduated from Escambia County High School in 1973. She received a B.A. degree, with high honors, in sociology and education from Auburn University in 1977 and her Juris Doctorate degree from The University of Alabama Law School in 1980. While at Alabama, she served as Secretary of the Student Bar Association, was a member of the John A. Campbell Moot Court Board, and received the Dean's Service Award at graduation.

After graduation from law school, Stuart worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama and served as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Special Assistant Attorney General for the State Department of Corrections. Later she became Assistant District Attorney for Baldwin County.

In 1988, Stuart was elected District Judge, and was re-elected in 1994. Governor Fob James appointed her to the Circuit bench in January 1997 and she was elected, without opposition, to a six year term in 1998.

Stuart was invited and served as a Faculty Advisor at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. She is a past president of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, training judges and other professionals on the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. She has also served as President of the Blue Ridge Institute for Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

The ECHS *journal* Section

Pindo Palm - Jelly Palm *Butia Capitata* “Nectar of the South American Gods”

By Darryl Searcy

The fruit of Pindo Palms are often called dates in error and are used for making jelly -- hence Jelly Palm. Because the fruits contain a good amount of pectin, it may not be necessary to add Sure-Jel to your recipe. That same

pectin-loaded juice also makes a delectable cloudy wine, the other common use and name for the plant, Wine Palm.

Its botanical name is *Butia Capitata*. *Butia* is a Portuguese corruption of an aboriginal term meaning “spiny.” *Capitata* is Latin, meaning “with a dense head” referring to the seed heads. The name Pindo comes from the town of Pindo in southern Brazil where the palm is native, and its common local name is Yatay. Its habitat is grasslands, dry woodlands and savannahs of South America. It ranges across northern Argentina, southern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. In North America, besides Florida, it’s a popular landscape plant throughout the Gulf and southeastern Atlantic coastal regions and northern California at places that are subject to only occasional frosts.

Quite frankly, Pindo Palms remind me of cemeteries, as they are a common landscape plant in Alabama and Florida cemeteries; public parks as well. In fact, they are a very common landscape plant in this area and most owners are happy to give you the fruit - some even showing surprise to learn that the fruits are edible.

Locally, we call it “the little palm that produces too much fruit!” That’s a major complaint of homeowners who used the little tree as a landscape piece. The palm is quite prevalent throughout the southern United States where it is grown both as an ornamental and for its tolerance to the hot climate known to Alabama. It’s a palm with spreading fronds that



drape off the main trunk like a giant feather. Not too tall either - usually no more than 15-20 feet (as opposed to its cousins, the Date Palm or Queen Palm, which reach the lofty heights of 50-90 feet).

Pindo Palms bear fruit and a lot of it, but the question is, “Can you eat it?”

Read on my friend, to learn if the fruit is edible and what else can be done with these little yellow cherry sized fruits that cover your lawn in early autumn attracting bees, butterflies, ants and moths. Let me scratch my head for a moment and then I’ll unload on you an unbelievable story of just how fruitful this awesome landscape plant really is.

First, you eat Pindo Palm fruit! Yes, believe it; you can. Jelly Palms do indeed bear edible fruit, although with the abundance of fruit dangling from the fruit-bearing twigs, and its absence from the consumer market, most people have no idea the fruit is not only edible but delicious. Once a staple of practically every southern yard, the Pindo is now more often thought of as a nuisance, and is rarely seen in the landscape plan any more. This is due in large part to the fact that the fruit can make a mess on lawns, driveways and paved walkways. The mess is due to the astounding amount of fruit it produces, more than most households can consume. And yet, the popularity of design principals and an interest in urban harvesting is bringing the idea of edible Pindo Palm fruit back into vogue once again.

Learn for yourself why the tiny fruit is called the Nectar of the South American Gods.

The tree itself is a medium sized palm with pinnate feather-like leaves that arch towards the trunk. In the late spring, a pink flower emerges from amongst the

(Continued on page 8)

The ECHS *journal* Section

Pindo Palm - Jelly Palm *Butia Capitata* “Nectar of the South American Gods”

(Continued from page 7)

palm leaves. The flowers are small, mind you, almost to the point of being totally insignificant. In the summer, the tree is laden with yellow/orange fruit that's about the size of a cherry.

Descriptions of the flavor of the fruit vary, but generally speaking, it appears to be both sweet and tart. The fruit is slightly fibrous with a large seed that tastes like a combination of pineapple and apricot. When ripe, the fruit drops to the ground. Don't rake it around and break the skins, and don't put it in a pile for the trash man - simply get down on your knees and gather the little fruits for processing into something very, very special.

The little palm tree bears fruits in the U.S. from early June to as late as November. The fruit is often ingested raw, although some find the fibrous quality a bit off-putting. Many folks simply chew on the fruit and then spit out the seed and fiber. As the name suggests, the high amount of pectin renders the juice as a match made in heaven for those who are keen on putting up jams and jellies for all occasions. I say “match” because although the fruit does contain a significant amount of pectin, which will help to set the jelly, it isn't enough to completely do the job, so you will likely need to add additional pectin to the recipe. The fruit can be used to make jelly immediately after harvest or remove the pit and freeze the fruit for later use.

As mentioned above, the fruit can also be used to make wine. Further, the discarded seeds are 45% oil and in some countries the oil is used to make margarine. The core of the tree is also edible, but to tickle your taste buds with the tree marrow will kill the



Pindo Palm with Fruit
This palm stands near the downtown boardwalk

tree. So to those folks living in this area, I encourage you to think about putting a Pindo Palm in your yard decorations and enjoy, not only its esthetic beauty, but the good harvest in autumn. The tree is hardy and fairly cold tolerant and makes not just a beautiful ornamental but a tasty addition to the family table.

Way back in the late 1990s and early 2000, when I was working for the City of Brewton to clear the swamp for a place known today as Jennings Park, as well as overseeing the construction of the boardwalk at The Turtle Point Environmental Center, a few small palm trees were placed into the city landscape in an out-of-the-way place in hopes that the resulting fruits would catch on and become a local treat, as the trees could certainly survive our mild winters and the playful youngsters of Brewton would learn how to enjoy the sweet fruits. Even mom might “put up” a few jars of jelly for household enjoyment, and dad might join in the fun and squeeze out a few gallons of sweet juice for making a little smooth and smoky table wine.

Alas, it didn't quite work out that way, as the fruit was never “discovered” and consequently it lay on the ground to become a nuisance for the grass cutters to deal with. Folks, let's change that. On a day when you stroll along the downtown boardwalk, or pass through the parking area, look to the north side of the old Ideal Café building and you'll find a group of Pindo Palm trees living beautifully, healthy and happy; a couple of which might be laden with yellowish-orange delights at this time of year; fruits just begging to be gathered and rendered useful.

Now, I don't do this for everybody, but for my

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *journal* Section

Pindo Palm - Jelly Palm Butia Capitata “Nectar of the South American Gods”

(Continued from page 8)

friends at Escambia County Historical Society, I have cooked up a batch of jelly that can be sampled at this month's general meeting. I hope you'll join us at the Fine Arts Building Museum and take a moment to sample the Pindo Palm jelly along, with all the other delicious treats at the refreshment table.



Snapshots of the September 2019 ECHS Meeting



Upper left, our speaker Ruth Elder holding a gift to her from ECHS, a plate honoring Brewton's 100th anniversary.

Upper right, ECHS President Don Sales in front of one of the panels for the Wade Hall Post Card Exhibit.

Bottom Left, Ruth Elder's husband with Carol and Al Jokela. Tom McMillan is in the background.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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
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Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
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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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