

ECHOES



The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

**The March Meeting Scheduled for
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Has Been Canceled.**

**The April Meeting Scheduled for
Tuesday, April 28, 2020, Is
Under Review .**

**The McMillan Museum and Alabama Room
Are Closed until Further Notice.**

The March and April Meetings



President Don Sales has notified Sierra Stiles who was to be our speaker for the March meeting that the meeting has been cancelled. Sierra is the new Director of Turtle Point in Flomaton. She is shown at the left with her husband, Jimmy Stiles. We hope that she can be scheduled for a future program.

Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Tribal Archivist of the Poarch Creek Indians, is our planned speaker for the April 28 meeting. Hopefully we will be able to enjoy her program as

scheduled.

Table of Contents

Yellow Fever In Escambia County	2
A Legend Reconnects with University of Alabama Museums	3
Digitized Newspaper Files in the Alabama Room	4
News and Announcements	5
Yellow Jasmine	6
2020 Centennial For Women's Right to Vote	6
Snapshots and Our Business Members	7
The Old Federal Road in Alabama	8



**Speaker for the Tentative April Meeting,
Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees.**

Dr. Dees is the Director/Tribal Archivist of the Office of Archives and Records Management of the Poarch Creek Indians.



Flowers on Bridge in Brewton

Volume 47 No. 3
March 2020



Women's Suffrage Booth at State Fair, Birmingham, 1914. Leading Alabama Suffragist, Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, is seated on the left.

From
<<https://www.facebook.com>>.

Yellow Fever in Escambia County

Years and Places of Most Severe Epidemics in Escambia County

From "Yellow Fever killed many people in Alabama – here are the years & places of most severe epidemics" by Donna R. Causey at <<https://www.alabamapioneers.com/yellow-fever-killed-many-people-in-alabama-ere-are-the-years-places-of-most-severe-epidemics/>>.

1874. Epidemic at Pollard. Infection brought from Pensacola. No statistics. At that time it was thought the infection was passed from person to person, rather than by mosquitos

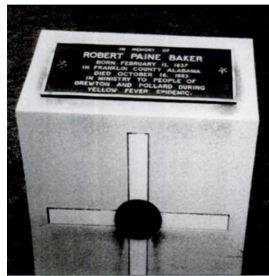
1883. Severe epidemic at Brewton; the first case, September 12, the last, November 6; 70 cases, 28 deaths. The presence of yellow fever was never admitted to by the local physicians, but it was so pronounced by the U. S. Marine Health Service and the state health officer.

1897 Alco, one case, no death; Flomaton, 98 cases, 5 deaths.

From Lydia Grimes' book Brewton and East Brewton.

A monument was placed in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery to honor the Reverend Robert Payne Baker who worked tirelessly to help yellow fever victims. He worked to tend the sick and caught the disease himself.

It was a dark time in the history of the area. In just a few months in the late summer and early fall, 28



people died and 42 had the disease but recovered. The town was quarantined and people had no one to help. Some who died left loved ones who were near death too.

Those who were not ill evacuated the town and moved to a campsite nearby. With the coming of cooler weather, the number of those dying began to drop.

From Recollections of My Boyhood in Brewton (1880-1896): Earliest Recollections

By Robert Colley Granberry

My earliest recollection, which comes trooping out of the storehouse of memory, is in the fall of 1883, following the terrible scourge of yellow fever in Brewton.

In those years medical science had no understanding of the cause of yellow fever, and knew but little concerning its treatment. Yellow fever, in that general area north of New Orleans and Mobile, was a terrible and appalling scourge. Whenever people could do so, they fled toward the Tennessee and Kentucky territory, even at the faintest rumor of the presence of or the possible approach of yellow fever.

In mid-summer of 1883, a resident of Brewton visited Pensacola for a brief spell, and, upon returning to Brewton, was taken suddenly and violently ill. He died after a few days of illness. No one knew that he had died of yellow fever; the doctors were not experienced in its diagnosis. His many friends had called



**Robert Colley
Granberry**

to see him when he was so sick, and they went to the funeral.

Following this first death, the fever spread rapidly. State officials came from Montgomery and announced that the malady was none other than yellow fever, which had been brought into Brewton from Pensacola. Everyone who could do so fled the town. Some of the merchants left their keys in their doors in order that their neighbors and friends who could not get away might have food if they needed it.

For some reason, our entire family was caught with fever in Brewton. All of us were stricken,—father, mother, four children. We secured a trained nurse from Mobile but she soon came down with the fever.

There were only two doctors in town, Dr. H. H. Malone and Dr. Farish, and they were worked by day and by night. Sometimes in taking the pulse of a

(Continued on page 3)

Yellow Fever in Escambia County

(Continued from page 2)

patient, seated by the bedside, the doctor would fall asleep from sheer exhaustion. Dr. Farish died of the fever.

My father was so low that the doctor gave him up to die, and had the casket (pine box) sent to the home. The casket was left in the hall, outside father's room. But father recovered. He had a fine sense of humor, and in the later years I often heard him say, with a twinkle in his eye, "When I knew they had placed that box outside my room it made me mad, and I wouldn't die for spite."

The town authorities took charge of all of the food in the stores, and a horse-drawn wagon was sent around every morning, leaving at each door its share of food for that day. Food got so low that at one time only two eggs were left at our house for the entire group stricken with the fever. In later years I heard my mother tell about the shortage of food and the awful fever, and how she suffered because she knew that her family was starving. Some friends of my father in Georgia heard of the distress and of the raging fever, and sent every week a box of cooked foods, and that was all that saved us during those hot days of famine and fever.

The trains would not stop in Brewton during the epidemic. Miles away from the town, all windows and doors of the trains were closed, and under orders engineers opened their throttles wide, and ran full speed through the town. Express men opened their doors and kicked those boxes of food out as they

passed through. An old Negro man, whom father had befriended, picked up the boxes from the dirt road hauled them to our home in an ox cart, and opened them.

Of course, I heard all of these things related in after years by my parents. One of the facts which should be mentioned here is the loyalty of ten or a dozen Negroes, who refused to leave the town, stating that they were going to stay and help their white friends. And this should be recorded: Not a single Negro died of the yellow fever, while thirty-seven percent of the community perished during those awful days. Mr. Colley, for whom I am named, was among those who died. But not a colored person had the fever. There must be some pigment in the Negro's skin which makes him impervious to the bite of the mosquito.

The fever was checked with the coming of the first frost. But as the little community went into the fall of 1883, there were many familiar faces which were missed upon the streets of the town, and there were many vacant chairs as families gathered about the table.

Now, my earliest vivid recollection is the big bonfire in our backyard when the clothing and household goods of the entire family were burned; bedding and all the personal wardrobes, together with such possessions as rugs, had to be burned. As stated above, the other facts which I have recorded about the yellow fever calamity of 1883 have come down to me from family conversation.

A Legend Reconnects with UA Museums



In November 2019, University of Alabama Alumnus and Legend, Dr. E. O. Wilson, visited the UA Museums collections and saw specimens he had catalogued as a University of Alabama student.

Dr. Wilson is shown with students who were given the task of developing new exhibits for the Alabama Museum of Natural History featuring some of the over 250 awards he has received throughout his career.

From the UA Museum Chronicle: "His accomplishments serve as a reminder that protection of the natural world is a responsibility we should all carry."

The Digitized Newspaper Files in the Alabama Room

The following is the list of newspapers from the Alabama Room which have been recently digitized and can be viewed on the computers in the Alabama Room.

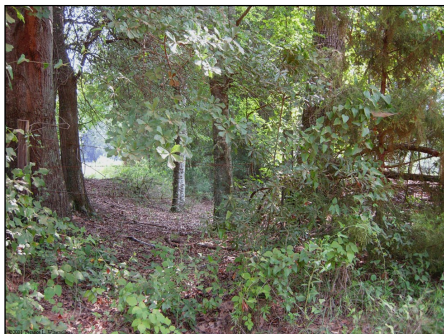
Included in the list is the name of the newspaper, with beginning and ending dates of the issues available, as well as the drawer in the filling cabinet in the Alabama Room in which the old microfilm version of the newspaper files are stored.

Description	Beginning Date	End Date	Drawer
Atmore Advance	10/06/1927	12/27/1951	E-1
Atmore Advance	01/01/1952	12/01/1986	E-2
Atmore Record	05/12/1912	12/28/1922	E-3
Atmore Spectrum	09/18/1903	04/25/1912	E-3
Brewton Banner	07/01/1886	01/12/1888	F-3
Brewton Leader	05/31/1892	01/23/1894	F-3
Brewton Standard	01/04/1900 (Missing, 1925)	12/31/1942	C-1
Brewton Standard	01/07/1943	12/28/1961	C-2
Brewton Standard	01/11/1962	06/28/1974	C-3
Brewton Standard	07/04/1974	12/31/1981	C-4
Brewton Standard	01/07/1982	04/27/1988	D-1
Brewton Standard	05/02/1988	10/28/1992	D-2
Brewton Standard	11/01/1992	12/28/1994	D-3
Escambia And Baldwin Times	12/15/1886	07/11/1888	F-2
Escambia Banner	06/02/1883	12/29/1883	F-2
Escambia County News	03/29/1934	04/05/1935	F-1
Escambia Record	01/11/1923	11/29/1828	E-4
Flomaton Enterprise	07/02/1908	12/24/1908	E-4
Flomaton Journal	01/06/1938	09/18/1958	E-3
Flomaton News	10/05/1928	09/12/1930	E-2
Pine Belt News	02/27/1894	11/08/1917	D-4
The Banner	01/03/1884	06/17/1886	F-3
The Brewton Blade	01/07/1882	02/04/1882	F-1
The Laborers Banner	03/03/1900	05/17/1902	E-2
The Standard Gauge	01/04/1894	12/28/1899	F-4
The Standard Gauge	01/07/1888	12/25/1890	F-4
The Standard Gauge	01/08/1891	12/28/1893	F-4
The Tri-City Ledger	07/03/1974	12/27/1984	E-4

News and Announcements

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) is presently closed but tentative plans are to reopen in April. The book on the Old Federal Road was to be a feature on “Book Talk,” a program which takes place at ADAH.

The three exhibits mentioned are displayed in the State House which houses the state legislature.



A New Book: The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide Has Ties to ECHS

The Department of Archives and History's (ADAH) comment on the the book, which was released in 2019, is that it is “a narrative history of this physical and symbolic thoroughfare that cut a swath of shattering change through the land and cultures it traversed.”

According to ADAH, it covers a wide variety of topics, including: how the road was mapped historically and how those sources were used to identify existing portions of the road today; nineteenth-century travelers and their effect on the Creek Nation; and archaeological and historical research that tells the story of Samuel Moniac, one of the most prominent Creek men of his day, and his house located on the Old Federal Road

Co-authors are Dr. Kathryn Braund, Hollifield Professor of Southern History at Auburn University; Dr. Gregory Waselkov, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of South Alabama; and Raven Christopher, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

For maps of the Old Federal Road in Alabama and in Escambia County as well as ECHS's connection to this book see the Journal Section of this newsletter.

New Exhibits On Display in the Alabama State House



Panels in the Exhibit

Women in Alabama Politics, On Display Outside the Senate Gallery

This multi-paneled poster exhibit chronicles the story of women's suffrage in Alabama and profiles Alabama women who were trail-blazers in state and national politics. It also highlights women who paved the way in the state's legal field.



**Tom's Place in
Montgomery,
photograph by
Jim Pepler.
Tom's Place, located
on Holt St., was a
place for music and
dancing.**

A Paper for the People: The Jim Pepler Southern Courier Photograph Collection

The Collection, displayed outside Senate Committee Room 825, contains dozens of photographs taken by Jim Pepler while working as the staff photographer for the Southern Courier newspaper in the mid-1960s. The photographs document daily life in Montgomery's neighborhoods, local musical performances, and civil rights events.



**Photograph by Robert
Chambless at the Mount Pisgah,
Ala. annual all day singing,
May 21, 2016,
Mount Pisgah Primitive Baptist
Church.**

Sweet Communion: The Johnathon Kelso Alabama Sacred Harp Collection, also outside Commit- tee Room 825

(Continued on page 6)

News and Announcements

(Continued from page 5)

Sweet Communion: The Johnathon Kelso Alabama Sacred Harp Collection is a series of stunning, color photographs taken over the last decade at sacred harp singing events in Alabama. They provide a beautiful glimpse into the world of this unique musical style

and the community of people that continue the tradition of shape note singing.

The exhibits will be on display throughout 2020. All the text for the three new exhibits in the State House come from Alabama Department of Archives and History <<https://archives.alabama.gov/>>.

Yellow Jasmine, Carolina Jessamine - Poor Man's Rope Gelsemium Sempervirens Gelsemiaceae (Jessamine) Family

By Darryl Searcy

Gelsemium sempervirens, commonly called false jasmine or false jessamine, is an evergreen twining vine that is native from Virginia to Florida west to Texas and Central America. It is typically found in open woods, thickets and along roads.

Bright, fragrant, funnel-shaped, yellow flowers appear either solitary or in clusters (cymes) in late winter to early spring (February – April depending on location). The flowers often serve as a demonstrative signal that winter is coming to an end.

As a vine, it grows on wiry reddish-brown stems to 20' long. As a bushy ground cover, it grows to 3' tall



and will sprawl somewhat indefinitely by runners. Shiny, lance-like, light green leaves are 1 to 3 inches long; evergreen, but may develop yellow to purple hues in winter. Plants are semi-evergreen toward the northern limits of their growing range.

Flowers and foliage are poisonous if ingested. The name of this vine is varyingly spelled as jasmine or jessamine. Carolina jessamine was named the official flower of South Carolina in 1924.

The genus name comes from the Latinized version of *gelsomino* the Italian name for jasmine.

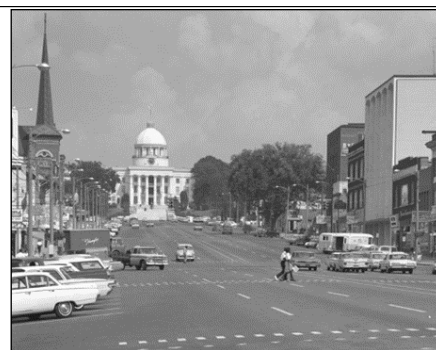
2020 Is the Centennial for Women in the U. S. Gaining the Right to Vote.



In 1890, Wyoming is admitted to the Union as the first state to grant women the right to vote in its constitution.



In 1920 Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify the proposed amendment, meeting the required majority to grant women the right to vote



In 1953 Alabama Ratifies the 19th Amendment

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." - Amendment XIX

Snapshots of the ECHS February 2020 Meeting



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The ECHS *journal* Section

The Old Federal Road in Alabama



This map shows the route of the 1811 Federal Road through Alabama. Beginning in Milledgeville, Georgia, and ending in New Orleans, Louisiana, the road was constructed to provide ease of movement for federal troops in the lead-up to the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. The Federal road is the Dotted Purple Line. The Dotted Green Lines are Federal Road Branches.

Map Courtesy of the University of Alabama Press. From *The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide* (2019) by Kathryn H. Braund, Gregory A. Waselkov, and Raven M. Christopher <<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-9005>>.

Originally designated as a postal route through Creek Territory, the Federal Road became a vital artery connecting the Alabama frontier to the United States. Its creation amplified already tense relationships between the government, settlers, and the Creek Nation, culminating in the devastating Creek War of 1813–1814.



In 2011, Members of ECHS participated in University of South Alabama's survey helping to locate parts of the Old Federal Road in Escambia County.

**ECHS members shown are:
Back Row: left to right, Jerry Simmons, Ann Biggs Williams, and Ranella and Paul Merritt. Front Row: left to right: Dianne Simmons and Sherry Johnston.**

The ECHS *journal* Section

The Old Federal Road in Alabama

(Continued from page 8)



Old Federal Road in Escambia County uploaded by Gregory Waselkov
at <https://www.researchgate.net/figure/1-The-route-of-the-Old-Federal-Road-across-Alabama-circa-1830_fig1_259398790>.



ECHS member Paul Merritt is pictured here with Greg Waselkov and Raven Christopher of the University of South Alabama. They are shown on a road in Jack Springs where Paul helped them trace the Federal Road in the area, pointing out where older residents had told of the location of an inn/coach stop.

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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(\$25.00/person; \$35.00/ 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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