

# ECHOES



The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971

**The July Meeting Scheduled for  
Tuesday, July 28, 2020  
Has Been Canceled.  
The Brewton Campus of the  
Alabama Coastal Community College  
Is Closed Until Fall.  
Thus the McMillan Museum and  
Alabama Room Are Closed.**

## Reopening of the Museum and the Alabama Room

For now, the McMillan Museum and the Alabama Room are closed to the general public but open for individuals who contact Don Sales, Museum Co-coordinator, for an appointment to do research in the Alabama Room or to see the Museum.

Information for contacting Don is: Address: P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; Phone: 251-809-1528; E-mail: <escambiacohistoricalociety@gmail.com>.

Although we are all anxious to resume meetings and other activities of ECHS, it doesn't seem wise to speculate on when a resumption of activities could take place, especially considering the recent spike in Covid-19 in Escambia County and in the state. Thus there is no date set for an ECHS meeting.

The College is presently doing online registration for the fall semester and tentatively plans to open with in-person and virtual classes in late August.

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**An advertisement published during the  
Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918. It appeared  
on the Facebook page of Antique Store's  
Drawer**



Autauga County  
Sunflower Field

Volume 47 No. 7  
July 2020

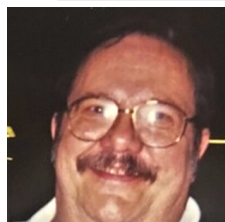
## News and Announcements

### **ECHS Saddened by the Loss of Larry McCoy, Husband of Barbara McCoy, and Quida Grissett, Sister of Darryl Searcy**



Darryl says of his sister that one of her favorite pictures shows her with her husband Arnie C. Grissett before he passed away in 1989. They were married for 36 years and had three sons. Another of her favorite pictures shows her holding her old doll at our Show & Tell in 2014. Few people knew it, but the old doll was buried with her at her request. When my sister passed, she was 87 years and the doll was 78.

Ouida was just three years older than I, but many times I had to take the lead and be the older brother and quite often people thought us to be the twins, rather than our brother James Ray, who was in fact her twin. We had always kept close, and upon retirement I chose to live in a community where I would be near her, because in so many ways she was the mother that I barely knew. She had her home and garden work and I had a career to do. But, we always knew where the other would be at any given time.



Larry and Barbara are shown in the picture above at the dedication of the Sullivan Cemetery Historic Marker. Larry is third from the left and Barbara is shown on the far left. Barbara was instrumental in leading the effort to get the cemetery recognized.

Larry served in the United States Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division and served during the Vietnam War. He was a graduate of Southern Illinois University. He served 30 years with the National Mine Service and served on the rescue team where he was awarded the Coal Mine Rescue Hall Of Fame Award for his twenty six rescues. Mr. McCoy then continued his protection work with his Company Mc2 and worked six years with Draeger Safety.

\*\*\*\*\*



***This notice from WSRE, "Commemorating the 60th anniversary of his 1960 Grand Ole Opry induction, Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor (a film being produced by PBS member station WSRE in Pensacola, Florida) recalls the unquestionable talent, unorthodox career path and notable contributions of prolific songwriter, Grammy-nominated recording artist and Grand Ole Opry star Hank Locklin." Mary Riker of WSRE recently visited the Museum and Alabama Room to view information on Mr. Locklin.***



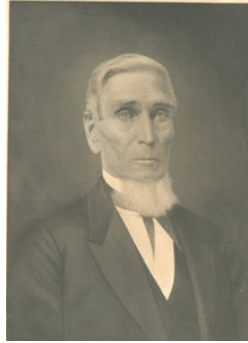
## What Happened in Alabama History the Week of July 19-July 25 and July 26-August 1

**July 19, 1941:** The first black pilots in the American military begin their primary flight training at Tuskegee Institute's Moton Field. This first class of "Tuskegee Airmen" graduated the next March after transferring to Tuskegee Army Air Field to complete their training. The group saw its first action in World War II in 1943 as members of the segregated 99th Fighter Squadron of the Army Air Corps.

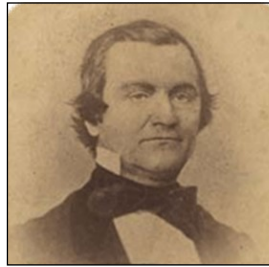
**July 20, 1799:** Daniel Pratt, who was to become a significant industrialist in nineteenth-century Alabama, is born in Temple, New Hampshire. After arriving in Alabama in 1832 he founded the town of Prattville and established what would later become the largest cotton gin manufacturing plant in the world.

**July 21, 1962:** The federal district court in Montgomery rejects the Alabama legislature's plan to reapportion itself, ordering it instead to implement the court's plan. Although Alabama's Constitution of 1901 mandated reapportionment every ten years, the state's legislative districts had not been redrawn since 1901, with the result that less-populated districts came to dominate the legislature in violation of the principle of "one man/one vote."

**July 25, 1868:** For the first time since 1861, Alabama's two U.S. senators take their seats in Congress, thus signifying Alabama's readmission to the Union. "Carpetbaggers" George E. Spencer and Willard Warner, both natives of northern states, served as Republicans.



**Daniel Pratt**



**William  
Lowndes  
Yancey**

**July 26, 1914:** Erskine Hawkins, famed jazz musician, is born in Birmingham. His band, the 'Bama State Collegians, became the Erskine Hawkins Orchestra in the late 1930s after gaining a following in New York and winning a recording contract with RCA Victor. The band's biggest hit was the immensely popular "Tuxedo Junction" (1940).

**July 26, 1952:** Alabama Senator John Sparkman is named the Democratic vice-presidential running mate with Adlai Stevenson. Sparkman was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Alabama in 1936 and served in that body until 1946 when he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1979. The Democratic ticket lost the election to Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

**July 27, 1813:** The first engagement of the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814 takes place at Burnt Corn Creek in present-day Escambia County, Alabama. Creek leaders Peter McQueen and High Head Jim were returning from Pensacola, where they had secured supplies and arms from the Spanish and British, when they were attacked by American forces.

**July 27, 1863:** William Lowndes Yancey dies at his home near Montgomery at the age of 48. The main author of Alabama's ordinance of secession, which removed Alabama from the Union, Yancey was one of the leading "fire-eaters" who influenced southern states to secede.

**Photos and text from the Alabama  
Department of Archives and History**

## How Spanish Influenza Came to Western Samoa in 1918

*At the end of World War I, the western Samoan Islands were given to New Zealand to administer. The following story from the article "SS Talune" in [Wikipedia](#), tells the story of how the influenza came to Western Samoa.*

The second wave of the global influenza pandemic came to Western Samoa from New Zealand on board an island trader, the Talune, on 4 November 1918. The acting port officer at Apia, was unaware that there was a severe epidemic at the ship's departure point,

Auckland, N.Z.

As a result, he allowed passengers ashore, including six who were seriously ill with influenza. Within a week influenza had spread throughout the main island of Upolu and to the neighboring island of Savai'i. Approximately 8500 people – more than one-fifth of the population – died.

New Zealand issued an official apology to Samoa in 2002. (*Samoan Islands owned by the US mainly avoided the influenza.*)

**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
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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**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](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com) or call 251-809-1528.*

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