



The February Newsletter

The Meeting will be
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 3:00 pm
in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum
on the Brewton College Campus.



**Robin and
Gwenyth
McCorquodale**

The Program: Our Speaker, Gwenyth McCorquodale Of Brewton Will Present a Program on Her Memories of Growing Up in the Small Southern Town of Mexia in Monroe County as Well as Plans for an Organization of Local Writers.

Before moving to Brewton, Gwenyth and her husband, Robin, lived in Marion, Alabama where Gwenyth was Head of the Depart-

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Refreshments

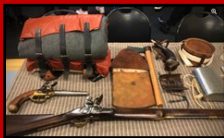
Plan on again bringing your favorite finger foods for the January Meeting. The Society will provide drinks.



Brewton's first National Guard, Known as the Brewton Rifles.

The picture was taken some time during the early 1900's. The Unit saw some duty in New Mexico at the time the American government was having trouble with Mexico's Villa.

Mrs. Esther Downing presented the Rifles with a flag which she made and the affair was honored with a dinner.



From the
Living History
Day at Coastal
Community
College.

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The Program

(Continued from page 1)

ment of Education, and Chair of the Social Science Division at Judson College. As part of her career as an educator, she has had articles published in national education journals.

Robin is an interior designer.

In her presentation she will recount some of her memories of growing up in Mexia, a small community near Monroeville. Many of these memories have been recounted in her book, Gifts from Mexia: My Small, Alabama Hometown.

Presently she is working on forming a writer's group here in Brewton. The group has planned three events for this spring. First, on March 20 and April



Gwyneth

their works.

The organization is designed to encourage and showcase local talent. The public is invited to attend.

3, programs to be held in the meeting room of the Museum on the college campus. The third event will be on April 10 with location to be determined.

The schedule for these programs is Coffee at 10:30 with the actual program starting a 10:45 and ending at 12:00. The program will start with a minister giving a prayer. As Mrs. McCorquodale reminds us, prayers are personal writings. Local students, selected by their teachers, and others will read selections from

Living History Day, Coastal Alabama Community College, Brewton Campus



From Forgotten Trails: 'Why Not' Area's Name Has Quite a Detailed History

Lydia Grimes wrote in the column "Forgotten Trails" in the Brewton Standard the article "Why Not' Area's Name Has Quite a Detailed History."

Published February 14, 2007.

Sometime back I told you about a Mr. Gillis who worked with the railroad and his experiences with a hurricane. In the material I was given was an article about Why Not and how it got its name. I thought you might be interested also.

Most of you, especially hunters, know of Why Not Camp, which is located on T.R. Miller Mill Company land. The camp has long been associated with the preservation of wildlife in this area.

In the early 1900s it was a farm of 600 acres operated by T.R. Miller Mill Company during World War I when food was scarce. The company responded to the call by the government and cleared land to be planted with foodstuff. Included in the acreage was a spot that was known as Why Not. The farm was operated until 1936 when the land was replanted in pines.

The history of Why not goes even further back. By 1903 the Cedar Creek Mill Company, now known as T.R. Miller Mill Company, realized the value of transporting logs by the railroad. In 1904 the company began construction of a railroad from Brewton to a fishpond where it established logging quarters, and built a number of buildings for housing and a locomotive roundhouse. Around 60 miles of ditches had

been dug to float the cut logs from the mill to the mill in Brewton. The railroad was to carry logs to the ditches and was constructed by J.N. Gillis.

When the first trainload of logs were taken to the ditch and unloaded, it was discovered that the locomotive could not pull the cars back up the incline from the ditch to level land. They unhooked about half of the cars and tried again and found that the locomotive still had difficulty in pulling the cars.

The solution was to decrease the degree of the elevation from the ditch landing to level land. The first time it was tried, it still didn't work so the incline was deepened and lengthened. The train was still having difficulty making the climb.

The whole situation presented a big problem for the mill and there was much discussion as to what could be done. It was during one of the discussions between T.R. Miller and W.W. Downing, the owners of the mill, that Gillis made the remark that became the name of the location of Why Not.

It seemed so simple. Why float logs when they could be sent all the way from where they were cut to the mill in Brewton? Ever since that discussion between Miller, Downing and Gillis, the spot where the decision was made has been known as "Why Not."

The Invitation, A Poem By Robert Smiley

I hear Death's footsteps behind me. I hear him tapping on the windowpanes of my heart. I hear his soft murmurings late in the night of calm and restful places where no sorrow or worries dwell. To drift away on a stream of forgetfulness and serenity. No pain or heartaches there he gently whispers.

But!

No sun in a blue sky splashed by snowdrifts of cotton clouds.

No rosebuds encased in diamonds of dew.

No sound of bees in the orchard's hue.

No twilight lulled into night by cricket's song, and

bejeweled by firefly swarms.

No full moon rising out of the bay pouring a river of golden lava across a silver sea. These things should always be. So -

I thank him for the invitation,
But want from it a long vacation.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
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)	\$40.00	\$46.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$36.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
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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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