

# 3. HISTORICAL AFRICAN AMERICAN THEMES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

## Coffee School (Rosenwald)\*

The Coffee School was one of four Rosenwald schools in Lawrence County. Its location is unknown. Topographic maps from 1914 and 1916 do not cover much of Lawrence County beyond Red Bank. The first full set of maps for this county were created by the TVA in 1936. However, there is no school named Coffee on the 1936 maps. The school may have not been in use by 1936, or the school changed names.

The distribution of known historic schoolhouses covers the distribution of African American communities in Lawrence fairly well. There were only three other Rosenwald schools between Courtland and Town Creek: Hillsboro, Moulton, and Rocky Hill. Red Bank would be a likely place for another Rosenwald School, but there is nothing in the area named Coffee to give any indication of the school's location.

The school records held at the Lawrence County archives have census cards starting in 1930. There is no school named Coffee in the records. The Hillsboro Rosenwald School was built in 1921/1922, after the Tuskegee era, indicating that Hillsboro had more than one school.

Coffee School was a one-teacher, one-room schoolhouse. The records have no date for this school, but it was built under the instruction of the Tuskegee

Institute, making it mostly from about 1913-1915. Coffee School cost \$850 to construct, with \$300 from the African American community, \$150 from public funds, and \$400 from Rosenwald.

## Ms. Pearl Jackson Green

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green grew up in Moulton, Lawrence County, Alabama. She was one of the women of color from Lawrence County to attend college, but she was not the first, nor, only success in her family. A life-long educator, Ms. Green has lived through the good and the bad of 20th century North Alabama. She is a member of the Echols family who would make a significant impact on the Moulton community of color.

Ms. Green was born in the 1930s to John Dyke Echols (1910 or 1912-1948) and Annie L. Love Echols (1913-1993). Her father died young, when she was only 14 years old. Fortunately, Mr. Echols was a Mason, a member of the Prince Hall Masons of the Huntsville Lodge. This fraternal order and its connections

**MORGAN COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORD**  
 Duke Echols TO Annie Love  
 APPLICATION  
 Comes the undersigned and makes application for a Marriage License for Duke Echols a colored male to Annie Love a colored female, and in order to obtain the same, makes the following report:  
 Age of Man is 21 yrs. Height of Man is 5'4" Weight of Man is 150 Nativity of Man is Ala. Occupation of Man is Farming  
 Age of Woman is 19 yrs. Height of Woman is 5'5" Weight of Woman is 140 Nativity of Woman is Ala. Occupation of Woman is Farming  
 Former Marriages: None  
 Relationship of Parties to each other is: None  
 Religious Belief: Baptist  
 Address of Man: Moulton Rd.  
 Address of Woman: Dekalb Co. Ala.  
 Remarks: None  
 Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 27 day of Jan 1932 B. L. Malone, Judge of Probate  
 DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE  
 STATE OF ALABAMA Morgan County, I, W. H. Thierard, being a legally licensed physician, do hereby certify that I have on this 27 day of Jan 1932, made a thorough examination of Duke Echols, and believe him to be free from all venereal diseases. W. H. Thierard, M. D.  
 MARRIAGE LICENSE  
 STATE OF ALABAMA Morgan County, To any Licensed Minister of the Gospel in regular Communion with the Christian Church or Society of which he is a member, or Judge of the Supreme, Circuit, or City Court, or Chancellor within the State, or Judge of Probate or Justice of the Peace within their respective counties, or the pastor of any Religious Society, according to the rules ordained or custom established by such Society--GREETING:  
 You are hereby authorized to solemnize Marriage between Duke Echols colored, and Annie Love colored, and to join them together in Matrimony, and certify the same in writing in this office, as required by law.  
 Given under my hand this 27 day of Jan 1932 B. L. Malone, Judge of Probate  
 This certifies that I have solemnized Marriage between Duke Echols and Annie Love according to law at Moulton, Ala. in said County and State on the 27 day of Jan 1932 B. L. Malone, Judge of Probate

(Left) Marriage Record for John Dyke Echols and Annie Love, Morgan County, Alabama, 1932 (Alabama, County Marriages, 1805-1967 via Ancestry.com)

provided Ms. Green with relationships that assisted her later in life. In an informal interview conducted at the Lawrence County Archives in early 2018, Ms. Green credited her father's membership to obtaining scholarship funds and employment at Alabama State College in Montgomery.

Mr. John Echols was the son of Price Echols (1886-1964) and Erise Johnson Echols (1889-1947). Price was one of two brothers that made their way from Danville, on the Morgan-Lawrence County line, to Moulton by 1920. Price and his brother, Ben A. Echols (1883-1953), both purchased land and farmed in southeast Moulton. Census records show that the brothers lived next door to each other from at least 1920 to 1940. The Echols brothers were not only landowners and farmers, but



(Left) Mr. John Dyke Echols (1912-1948), Son of Price and Erise Echols and Ms. Pearl's Father (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Right) Ms. Annie Love Echols, Ms. Pearl's Mother (Ancestry.com, User akowe1)

(Left) Mr. Price Echols (1886-1964), Ms. Pearl's Grandfather (Ancestry.com, User akowe1) (Right) Ms. Erise Johnson Echols (1889-1947), Ms. Pearl's Grandmother (Ancestry.com, User akowe1)