

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
of  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O.Box 276  
Brewton, Ala. 36426

June 12, 1973

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor

NOTICE OF MEETING - A most interesting program has been planned for the regular meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Davis Junior College Student Center, but, we have been asked not to announce the speaker or the topic. Come ready for a pleasant surprise and an opportunity to learn more of our county's history.

We are STILL growing! Since the newsletter was published last month we have received membership application from the following persons: Brewton - Mrs. Annie H. Criswell, Miss Mary Holladay, Mrs. Gertrude S. Ashton, Mrs. Marie H. Downing, and Mrs. George B. Mills. Out-of-Town - Mrs. Melbourne J. Catha, Jacksonville, Fla.; James D. Peavey, Foley, Ala.; Mrs. Rosalie Weaver DeRieux, Birmingham, Ala.; and Mrs. Mildred Geisendorff, Grapeland, Texas.

For your information:

- (1) "A King's Country--the History of Santa Rosa County, Florida" by M. Luther King, may be purchased from his widow, 106 Mary Street, Milton, Fla. I think the price is \$7.50.
- (2) T.H. Balls 1879 "History of Clarke County and its Surroundings" is being reprinted in limited number by the Clarke County Historical Society. Copies may be ordered for \$10.00 from Mrs. Carl D. Brown, P.O. Box 721, Jackson, Ala. 36545.
- (3) The Butler County Historical Society has several publications available thru their Society. They will send you a list of their publications if you inquire to Mrs. James D. Moody, Rt. 3, Greenville, Ala. 36037.
- (4) "Family Tree of John Peallicker Johnson and William Johnson (brothers), Conecuh County, Ala." from Mrs. Gertrude Johnson Stephens, 2 Lee Circle, Spanish Fort, Ala. for \$12.50 each.
- (5) Mrs. Lennis Shelton advises that the book containing all the cemetery records of Escambia County, Alabama, and other information, will be published in about six months. Mr. Reginald McFarland, another of our members is working with her.

Gratuities - We take this means to thank Mr. Floyd Currie of Atmore for copy of Mrs. Stephens book on the John Peallicker Johnson family which he has presented to the Society; also, Mrs. Lennis Shelton for 1927 record of Claiborne Cemetery and 1879-1892 Marriage Record "A", Escambia County, Alabama; also Tom Gardner, publisher of The Brewton Standard, for all the first-rate publicity he has given to our Society and its endeavors as this has meant much to our success.

More on the Fort Mims Excavation - Excerpts from Alabama Archaeological Society Newsletter, June, 1973: The University of South Alabama began excavating Fort Mims in northern Baldwin County on March 15, 1973. This project was made possible by a grant to the University by the Alabama Historical Commission. Participating in the excavation under the direction of Mr. N. Read Stowe, Archaeologist at the University, are the following students: Rod Gillespie (Field Supervisor), George Jones, Hope Bokus, Don Horton, Al Adams and Pat Hallett.

(Fort Mims--continued)

Mr. Chuck Crosby has spent several hundred hours as a volunteer worker on the project. Other volunteers include Yvonne Giordano, Dan Jenkins and Debbie Carpenter. The Baldwin County Commission has provided several EEA workers for the dig. Mr. Litchman Wilson, an employee of Baldwin County, has become an invaluable asset to the project in that he has first hand knowledge of woodworking techniques that were used on the Alabama frontier.

To date, 53 ten-foot by ten-foot squares have been opened. In the center of the site we have located what was probably the foundation and basement of Samuel Mims house. In the northern end of the basement several skeletons have been excavated and preserved in place. Portions of the fort stockade have been excavated and a ten-foot long section of the southern part of the stockade has been reconstructed. The reconstruction is based on archaeological features (postmolds) and a historical description of the fort. At present a well is being excavated approximately 150 feet east of the fort.

Laboratory activities have run concurrently with the excavation. A representative collection of artifacts from Fort Mims is on display in the Baldwin County Court House.

The dig at Fort Mims will continue until at least the 15th of July. Future plans at the site include continuing work on the fort stockade and the excavation of interior structures at the site. We anticipate additional funds for reconstruction of the fort and the establishment of a museum at the site to be forthcoming.

(N. Read Stowe, University of South Alabama)

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More Railroad-Civil War History, An Explanation, by Mrs. Annie Waters

In the Escambia County Historical Society's Newsletter of May 10, 1973, we find the statement "During the Civil War the Southern soldiers tore up the railroad track from Pollard to Pensacola and burnt the bridges," appearing in "A Bit of Railroad History" by R. W. Brooks. One will remember having read statements or implications that the Yankees destroyed the railroad track between Pensacola and Pollard. These are not a contradiction when we consider all the facts.

The Yankees did indeed, on occasions, make raids on existing rails of this line as the destruction of all railroads of the Confederacy was one of their main objectives. However, the Federal destruction on this particular line was insignificant.

The Alabama Florida Railroad from Pensacola to Pollard was completed in May 1862. In the same month the Union forces occupied Pensacola. The confederates evacuated the city by the eastern exits, without incident, while the Yankees arrived on the other side.

O. M. Avery, president of the railroad, in order to prevent the A. & F. from being used by the Federals, ordered the rails to be taken up from Pensacola to Pine Barren Creek, a distance of 27½ miles. This left a distance of 20 miles of rails from Pine Barren to Pollard. As the Civil War wore on the Confederacy in desperate need for rails sought to place existing rails in the most strategic areas. Thus, Samuel Tate, the Military Superintendent was given the task of checking the lines and taking up those that were less used; so Santa Rosa County, Florida, lost another 15 miles of her railroad leaving her with only 5 miles out of Pollard. In 1864 these rails were shipped north, the first ones having been shipped earlier.

(More Railroad - continued)

Mr. Avery opposed the dismantling of this line, even going to Richmond in an attempt to save it, but without success.

After the War the entire line from Pensacola to Pollard had to be rebuilt and at this time the junction was established at Flomaton instead of Pollard, the original site. This rebuilt line was completed in 1869.

This information was given to me by Mr. J. M. McLellan with the exception of the first two paragraphs. It was taken from "Railroads of the Confederacy" by Robert C. Black III, University of North Carolina Press.

(Mrs. Annie Waters)

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#### "NEWSPAPERS IN CONECUH COUNTY"

(Excerpt from "The Evergreen Old Historical Cemetery" by Miss Elizabeth d'Autrey Riley, Evergreen, Alabama, copies of which may be purchased from Miss Riley, one of our members.)

A few interesting records, about the Conecuh and Escambia paper, which was called "The Star" - This was published in 1885 - J.W.Davison, Publisher - price for one year \$1.00.

Evergreen must have been a flourishing town, as so many lawyers had their names in The Star - Attys-at-law Stallworth-Burnett, Farnham-Rabb (M.A.R.), Bowles-C.S.Rabb, Jas.M.Davison, Whitehead, W.D. Atkinson.

Also advertised in "The Star," was the following "Brewton Institute" showing a picture - "primary Dept. - \$2.00 per month - Intermediate \$3.00 per month - Academic \$4.00 per month.

1889 The Star - R.A.Lee, Publisher and Editor -

Down in the little old aristocratic town of Sparta, there was published a newspaper called, THE SPARTAN - published every Thursday - In 1857 - Sparta was county seat before "The War."

E.B.Witten, Jr. Publisher - This was during the era of Judge A.D.Cary, and Governor John A. Winston of Alabama.

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We are continuing to accept membership applications, but we are advising the applicants that membership runs from January, 1973-January, 1974, which includes the quarterlies and newsletters. If you have a friend or know of someone who would like to join the Society or subscribe to the quarterly, you may give them the following form.

Escambia County Historical Society  
P.O.Box 276  
Brewton, Alabama 36426

Invitation has been extended to me by \_\_\_\_\_  
to join the Escambia County Historical Society. Enclosed is  
\$5.00 for 1973 membership. Please address publications to me  
as follows:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (include zip code)

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
SIXTH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE AND AWARDS  
House of Representatives Chamber, State Capitol Bldg.,  
Montgomery, Alabama

Sunday, July 15, 2:30-6:00 - During this session there will be several distinguished speakers and presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to Individuals, Institutions and Industry.

6:00-8:00 Tour of Perry Street Historic District, the Washburn, Cody and Teague homes will be open and Garden Party at Teague home (Charge of \$4.00 for tour and party).

Monday, July 16, 10:00-12:00 a number of speakers and the annual address of Milo B. Howard, Jr., Chairman.

1:30-3:00 Address by Governor Wallace and Distinguished Service Awards for Groups and Professionals.

You will recall that the Escambia County Historical Society has nominated Thomas E. McMillan for the Distinguished Service Award for his preservation of Brewton's first courthouse now known as "The Leigh Place." If he receives one of these awards it will be presented on Sunday afternoon, July 15th. I feel sure that we will have several cars of people to go to the Sunday meeting and it would be well worth our time and money to go on the Historic Homes Tour and Garden Party. We would be back to Brewton shortly after 10:00. Others of you might want to stay overnight or go back on Monday for the balance of the program. Since this is the first meeting of this type we have attended as a group, I think it would be good for us to be well represented.

If you wish to attend any of these meetings, please return the form below indicating your intentions. We will have to send our registration in by the 12th of July with the \$4.00 per person for the Tour and Garden Party. We will need several who have air-conditioned automobiles to drive us. If there are enough who want to attend we will try to arrange for a bus. We will meet in the parking lot across the street from the courthouse at 12:15 on Sunday. Plan to have lunch ahead of time or bring a sandwich to eat on the road as we will not have time to stop for lunch.

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Escambia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 276  
Brewton, Alabama 36426

I would like to attend the Sunday afternoon session  
and Historic Homes Tour and Garden Party from  
2:00-8:00, for which I enclose my check for \$4.00- (     )

I would like to attend the Monday sessions from  
10:00-3:00 ----- (     )

I would be glad to drive a group up and back in my  
car for the Sunday meetings (     )  
Monday meetings (     ).

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Member

No need to return the form if you do not wish to attend.