

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O.Box 276
Brewton, Alabama 36426

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
Mrs. Carolyn P. McLendon, Editor
September 11, 1973

NOTICE OF MEETING - The September meeting of the Society will be held on September 18, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Center of the Jefferson Davis Junior College. Mrs. Bernice McMillan, a native of Stockton, Baldwin County, Alabama, will be our guest speaker. In order that we might be prepared for our Fall Pilgrimage to Fort Mims, Mrs. McMillan will give us a brief history of Fort Mims and other interesting history of Baldwin County. Mrs. McMillan is an avid historian and is Vice President of the Baldwin County Historical Society. We are extending a special invitation to the general public to attend this meeting so that those who would like to join us on the Pilgrimage will also be informed of the historical significance of Fort Mims.

FALL PILGRIMAGE TO FORT MIMS AND MONTGOMERY HILL CHURCH -

On October 14, 1973, the Escambia County Historical Society will journey to Fort Mims in Baldwin County. For this occasion we are inviting the general public to join us and we hope that people from all over the county will join us. It will be announced in the newspapers, over the radio, and on television. The present plans are to leave Brewton from the courthouse parking lot at 1:00 p.m. with the Escambia County Sheriff's Department leading the motorcade, and go directly to Fort Mims where we will be joined by a guide from the University of South Alabama (which has had charge of the excavation at Fort Mims) who will explain the various sites to us. After we have toured the Fort Mims site on our way to Live Oak Landing we still stop by the Old Montgomery Hill Church, possibly one of the oldest church buildings in the United States that is still standing, and the adjoining cemetery. At Live Oak Landing we will hold our picnic. Each person will carry his own picnic lunch. Since so many are on special diets we will not spread the lunches, but each will picnic from his own basket. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hastie, owners of Live Oak Landing and members of our Society, are our hosts for the picnic and have graciously offered to furnish tea or some other soft drinks for the group. After the picnic we will return to Brewton. Mrs. Hastie, who is President of the Baldwin County Historical Society, has invited members of the Baldwin County Historical Society to join us for this excursion and picnic. I am advised that our friend, Buddy Smith, State News Editor for the Mobile Press-Register is going to give us full newspaper coverage before the trip and a feature article complete with pictures of our pilgrimage. The October newsletter will be sent to you before October 14th and will give more information regarding the trip. In the meantime we want to encourage the Atmore members to plan to join the motorcade at the Atmore City Hall as we pass through Atmore and the Flomaton members to join the motorcade at the Flomaton High School; also that each of you encourage your friends, neighbors, their children and your children to join us on our journey into history. We also encourage you to make postcards and affix them

to your cars so that people between Brewton and Fort Mims will know the purpose of the motorcade. It might be wise to carry some folding chairs in case there is not enough seating for the crowd at the picnic area. Someone asked me how many cars I expected to have in this motorcade and I told them "Between 50 and 200, I have learned from experience not to underestimate The Escambia County Historical Society and its many friends." We'll take a superficial count at the September meeting to get some idea of how many to expect.

IN CASE OF RAIN THE FORT MIMS TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE ON October 28th.

The trip to Fort Mims will take the place of our regular October meeting.

We are STILL GROWING! Membership now 207 members, with the following new members entered this month: Tom Croker, Brewton; Wm.R.Armistead, W.E.Mills, Spanish Fort; Maj.J.McK.Larkins, overseas; Miss Corry Edwina Mullins, Mobile; Mrs.Kathleen Wainwright, New Orleans; Mrs. E.A.Murray, Odessa, Florida. New members are being issued copies of the newsletters and quarterlies from January to date. Incidentally, Miss Helen Robertson, Secretary, is doing a great job in getting our material mailed out and keeping our membership and meeting records up to date. She, too, has to look everywhere for help to carry out what is nearly a full time job; and is a definite asset to our Society.

Books Available -

"You Are There With The True Adventures of Rube Burrows, Alabama's Most Famous Train Robber," by Joe G. Acee, from The Lamar Democrat, P.O.Box 587, Vernon, Alabama, for \$5.25. There is a chapter in this book regarding his activities in Escambia County, Alabama.

A limited number of copies of The Monroe Journal 1966 Centennial Edition and Supplement, the first edition at \$3.00, the supplement at \$2.00, through The Monroe Journal, Monroeville, Alabama.

HISTORY RECORDS - We take this means of acknowledging and expressing appreciation for the following history records:

To Mrs. Eunice C.Nadrschal for record of burials in Pilgrims' Rest Cemetery, Alco;

To Mrs. Margaret S. McMillan for the History of The First United Methodist Church, Brewton;

To Mrs.Gertrude Johnson Stephens for numerous articles from the 1931 ATMORE ADVANCE and THE BREWTON BANNER. The editor especially appreciates these Atmore history items as there is little Atmore history available to me for publication at this time.

To the State Department of Archives and History, list of officers and enlisted men of Company H, 17th Alabama Regiment (Infantry) Sept. 25, 1861, known as "The Scotland Invincibles;" muster roll of Captain E.W.Martins' Company, "Miller Guards," Alabama Volunteers, 38th Regiment, Confederate States of America; and muster roll March 23, 1895 of Pollard Light Guards.

CASSAVA and its part in the history of our area -

Sept. 21, 1899, The Pine Belt News -

CASSAVA AS A FOOD CROP - The cassava plant is being experimented with extensively in this vicinity this year, with gratifying results. It grows to a height of from 4 to 6 feet, the tubers, some as large as a man's arm, branching out in every direction in the ground. Our loose, sandy soil is especially adapted to its growth. The stalk is saved for seed for next year's planting, having joints and eyes somewhat like sugar cane. The raw tuber is excellent food for hogs, chickens and stock. Cooked, the cassava root can be made into many palatable dishes. The best variety of tapioca is made from cassava, which takes the place of our potato in South American countries and the West Indies. Like some other articles of food, the root is poisonous when raw. The poison, however, is easily driven out by heat, and the boiled root is not only harmless, but very nutritious. As a starch producing plant, cassava is said to have no equal. While the experiments here are being made with a view to the location at Brewton of a great starch factory, those who are growing small crops of cassava will find it useful for feeding to stock as well as a table delicacy, and no doubt large crops will be grown each year hereafter.

April 19, 1900, The Pine Belt News -

STARCH FACTORY, LETTER RECEIVED TODAY SAYS IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE BUILT HERE - A very encouraging starch factory letter was received from Dr. R.B.Crawford today by J.M.Davison, Esq. He says, "On my return to Chicago I met Messrs. Allen, Arnold and Gunn at my office and I think they entered into an arrangement for the building of the starch factory at Brewton. At least they are negotiating to that end and I think the factory will be built without any doubt. They told me they would want transportation about the middle of May, as they would have their plans all ready at that time so they could submit the proposition to the city council at Brewton. Have all the cassava planted you can, as it will certainly be used."

June 1, 1899, The Pine Belt News -

NOTICE - A meeting of the stockholders of Brewton Land and Cassava Company is called to meet at the courthouse in Brewton at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 10, 1899. The purpose of the meeting is the consideration of a proposition of the town of Brewton to purchase the property of the company, to be used in furtherance of the factory project, and any other business which may properly come before it. A full attendance of the shareholders, in person or by proxy in writing, is desired: By order of the board of directors. James M. Davison, President.

The Cassava Starch Factory was never built at Brewton, but why is it that it is no longer grown as a crop, especially as food for livestock. Until last months' newsletter, the word had probably not even been mentioned in these parts in 73 years. Some things just pass into history, perhaps it is for the best. - Editor's note.

THE CONECUH-ESCAMBIA STAR, Jan. 11, 1883. - Died in Brewton Dec. 12, 1882, Mrs. Eliza C. Brewton better known to the people of this community as Grandma Brewton. She was born in the State of Georgia April 24, 1810 and moved to Alabama in February 1839. She lived to a ripe old age of 72 years, 8 months, 12 days. She leaves a large family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. By a friend.

- Copied by Gertrude J. Stephens