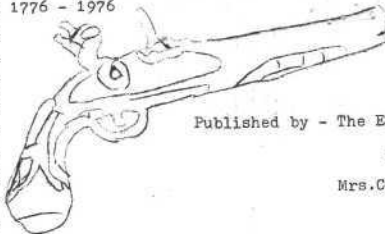

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ESCAMBIA ECHOES

March 9, 1976

Published by - The Escambia County Historical Society
P.O.Box 276
Brewton, Alabama 36426

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor

Annual Dues - \$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING - Tuesday, March 16, 1976

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Program: Miss Lynn Hastie, owner of Live
Oaks Country Crafts, Stockton, Al.

Miss Hastie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan Hastie, has a distinctive and unusual craft shop at Live Oaks Landing which she personally established, making by hand many of the items she has in stock.

After learning of her specialty shop your society extended an invitation to her to come and show some of her historical, specialty items to us explaining their historical significance and in some instances, how they were made. She is a very lovely and young lady, and this is her first try at presenting a program of this type, although her mother is immediate past President of the Baldwin County Historical Society. You will recall that the Hasties were our hosts at Live Oak Landing on our pilgrimage to Fort Mims three years ago.

Our new padded chairs have been delivered to the library--come and bring a friend.

NEW MEMBERS: Myron J. (Jack) Bracken, Jr., P.O. Box 996, Brewton, Ala.; Mrs. J.L. Ryals, Rt. 3, Box 24, Brewton, Ala.; Mrs. S.W. Chapman, 200 E. Nashville Avenue, Atmore, Ala. 36502; W.B. Finlay, Juniper Street, Blountstown, Florida; and Mr. Gaines S. Smith, 828 Pine Run Road, Mobile, Ala. 36608. Total membership now 298!

Be sure to send in your dues of \$6.00, and ask a friend to join! Let's not lose any of our members by non-payment of dues this year.

Our THANKS to N. J. Finlay for sending in the series of articles being published on the "History of Bagdad" in The Press-Gazette of Milton, Fla.

Have you seen the Historical Salute to Baldwin and Escambia Counties published by Southern Business Editions and being distributed by several of the businesses here? There is no charge to customers.

Books Available:

COLONIAL MOBILE by Peter J. Hamilton, long out of print and a collector's item, annotated by Dr. Charles G. Summersell, reissued as a highlight of the University of Alabama's participation in the Bicentennial. Cost \$17.50, released in April by University of Alabama Press, Drawer 2877, University, Alabama 35486.

Riley's History of Conecuh County, Alabama, reprint of 1883 edition, \$6.30 per copy from J. Vernon Brantley, Rt. 3, Repton, Ala. 36475.

FALL OF 1876

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, ALABAMA DUEL

By: Ed Leigh McMillan, 1930

As far as I know the only duel that was ever fought in Escambia County, Alabama and for the fighting of which one of the participants was tried and convicted was the duel between Bob Alford against Lem and Joe Evans, in which fight Joe Evans was mortally wounded. The duel occurred at which was then known as the George Bell place on the River Road east of Brewton, and now the property occupied by Andrew Coxwell, and in Section 31, Township 2, Range 11. I obtained the following story about the duel from Joe Alford, who is a nephew of Bob Alford:

"Bob Alford was a logger and timber man. He had approximately 1300 pine logs on land adjacent to Murder Creek. The logs were cut to be hauled to Murder Creek. Alford hired Lem Evans to haul the logs to the creek bank and agreed to pay him \$1.00 per log to haul them. The logs were all the way from the creek bank to several miles back. Lem Evans hauled approximately 300 logs, getting the ones nearest to the creek. Alford and Evans met in Brewton for a settlement for the logs hauled up to that time. Alford paid Evans for the logs that he hauled. After this settlement had been made Evans told Alford that he was not going to haul any more logs. Alford said to Evans: 'Lem, you have acted the damn rascal.' Joe Evans the brother of Lem Evans then interseided and said to Alford that he could not stand by and hear his brother called a damn rascal and started on Alford with a knife. Alford knocked Joe Evans down, and Major O'Bannon parted them. Major O'Bannon was the father of Mr. J.B.O'Bannon and Dr. W.H.O'Bannon. This fight took place in Dr. O'Bannon's store building."

(I don't know where Dr. O'Bannon's store was, but I remember a wooden building located on the East side of the railroad just south of where the T.R. Miller Mill Company's switch joins the main line, on the door of which was the sign W.H. O'Bannon & Co. written with nails driven into the door.)

"Dr. O'Bannon took Alford away and hid him. The Evans continued to curse and call for Alford until Alford came out of the place that Dr. O'Bannon had placed him and made his presence known to the Evans. The Evans came in the store and said to Alford: 'You have a gun and we haven't ours, but we will go home and get

our guns and we will wash our hands in your heart's blood before you go home tonight.' The Evans left to go home to get their guns."

(The Evans lived near where Mr. Will Crawford now lives. This is on the Ridge Road just West of May Creek in Section 28, Township 2, Range 11. Bob Alford then lived at the place known as the old George Barnes place and where Mrs. Eph Mayo now lives.)

"Bob Alford started home on horse back. Will Alford, Bob's brother, accompanied him on foot. The Alford's met Lem and Joe Evans on the River Road about 2½ miles east of Brewton. The Evans told Alford to get down off his horse. Bob Alford said: "All right, let me get my horse out of the way of the shooting so she won't get hurt, so that some of the other boys can use her if I get killed." Alford took his horse out in the woods and tied her and came back, and he said to the Evans: 'This is a bad thing that we are going in to. While you may get me I am going to get one or both of you.' The Evans said: 'That is all right. We will go up to Cousin George Bell's place and shoot it out.' Bob Alford walked between Lem and Joe Evans several miles up to the George Bell place. When they got there they called Mr. Bell out and told him what they were going to do. Mr. Bell shamed them and tried to keep them from shooting it out. After a while Lem Evans shot at Bob Alford, then the shooting started. There were eleven shots fired. This was all the cartridges that the participants had. Bob Alford was shooting against Lem Evans and Joe Evans. Will Alford did not have a pistol. Alford shot Joe Evans down and Joe Evans raised up on his hip and shot at Alford again. Alford then shot Evans again. Lem Evans ran after he had shot out and Joe Evans had been shot down. Joe Evans was carried home and died a few days later.

"Alford was indicted and tried at Pollard for accepting a challenge to fight a duel. Alford was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment and fined \$500.00. Alford never served any time because he was pardoned."

--Contributed by
Ed Leigh McMillan

QUIZ - Can you answer these questions?

1. What was the first name of Brewton?
2. How did Alco get its name?
3. How did Brewton get its name?
4. Has proof been found that Fort Crawford was a military outpost in the early 1800's?
5. Where was "Little Germany"?
6. How did Murder Creek get its name?
7. Did the incident that named Murder Creek occur in this county?
8. How did Burnt Corn Creek get its name?
9. What tribe of Indians inhabited this area when the white settlers came?
10. Was Brewton invaded during the Civil War?
11. Why was W.S.Neal school named for W.S.Neal?
12. Name the banks Brewton has had.
13. Has a bank in Brewton ever "failed"?