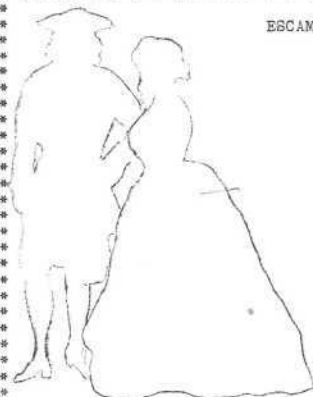

ESCAMBIA ECHOES 1776 - 1976

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Editor -
Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon
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June 4, 1976



The Members of The Escambia County Historical Society and
their spouses are cordially invited

to attend the
BICENTENNIAL GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON PARTY
to be held on

June 15, 1976, at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan
at 105 McLellan Street
Brewton, Alabama

Don your 1776 duds, bring a dish of hors d'oeuvre or "finger food" or any specialty food you enjoy making sufficient for six people and meet us there. Certain members have been asked to bring potatoe salad, deviled eggs, casseroles, biscuits, and cakes to go with the ham, punch and coffee to be furnished by the Society. The hors d'oeuvres brought by others will make the meal extra tasty.

A special program of the "Life and Times of George and Martha Washington" in song and script will be presented by guest soloists Mrs. Robert T. (Marsha) Maxwell and Mrs. Bob (Wanda) Hamil and narrators Miss Rita Jane Boykin and Mrs. Jack (Doris) Bruner with Mrs. Bert (Betty) Campbell, accompanist.

The George and Martha Washington costume contest will be conducted by Mrs. Jack Bruner in two categories--rental costumes and hand-made costumes (we will faint if anyone comes up with an authentic 200 year old outfit). Mrs. Bruner has appointed judges for the event and will present appropriate prizes to the male and female winner in each category.

Mrs. Theron (Dumas) Jennings is to be congratulated for once again planning a fabulous historical outing for us with the able assistance of Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Mrs. Jack Bruner, Mrs. J.R. (Harriett) Miller, and the gracious cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McMillan in opening their home to us for this event.

New Members - David C. Diamond, Rt. 1, McDavid, Fla. 32568;
 Mrs. Marle B. Jones, P.O. Box 1106, Andalusia, Al. 36420;
 Mrs. A. L. Davis, Repton, Al. 36475;
 Mr. Joseph R. Murphy, 1459 E. Fleetwood Dr., Mobile, Al. 36605;
 Mrs. John W. Woodham, 431 Church St., Andalusia, Al. 36420.

This would make a total membership of 309, but we were still carrying on the roll 84 members whose dues are not current for 1976. Letters have been sent to them and we hope that nearly all of them will send in their checks.

Of a sad note - J. R. and Harriett Miller are moving to Augusta, Georgia in the near future. Both Harriett and J. R. have contributed so much energy to the community in their undertakings that we will all feel a loss. We are pleased that they have already made contact with the historical and preservation groups there and have been given assistance by the groups in helping to locate an historic house so that they can use their talents in restoring and modernizing it. We will sorely miss them (and especially Harriett because her energies and talents are boundless at partytime) but, we can't help but be proud knowing that they will make equal contributions to their community in Augusta.

A REVIEW OF PIONEER DAYS FESTIVAL,
 An East Brewton Bicentennial Event

History played an important part in the Pioneer Days Festival held in East Brewton on May 7, 8 and 9, in which several members of the Escambia County Historical Society participated. The interest of visitors in history was demonstrated in the number of people who returned to browse through the "little museum."

The old house where exhibits were held was built in 1888 by the late Henry Zepernick, and is located in the area once known as Little Germany, due to the number of Germans who settled there. Mantel Branch, once known as Mill Branch, forms one of the boundaries of the place, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bruner.

Hosts and hostesses were on hand to answer questions concerning exhibits. Among the items displayed were documents signed by Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson, old store ledgers, photographs, estate inventory dated 1752, rare coins, arrowheads and Indian grind rocks, pot and tongs from the old Sparta Stage Coach line, a 100-year-old buggy, a buggy whip holder, and war memorabilia.

A glimpse of past school days was presented in a figure display of a small overall-clad boy seated at a desk which held a McGuffey Reader and a Blue Back speller, while in a case nearby were play items including hand-formed clay marbles.

Excellent workmanship surviving more than 100 years was apparent in a quilt hand-pieced and quilted in 1849, owned by Miss Kate Johnson, and in a slave-woven coverlet brought to this area by the Grice family who settled here in the early 1800's.

Pioneer tools exhibited included a broad ax, foot adze, turpentine box ax, free drawing knife, cotton scales and other items. A blacksmith anvil, tongs and blower were shown, and turning the crank of the blower to keep the live coals burning proved to be a fascination to children.

Also interesting to children were old time games in which small children participated; the live goats and chickens, horses on which children were given short rides, and Indian dancing in which everyone was invited to join from time to time.

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The festival was not altogether based on the past. Modern arts and crafts were shown and ideas shared. Larry Manning's pottery demonstrations captivated young and old. A "doll house" showed old and new dolls, with the apple dolls of Hazel Wood, the storybook dolls of Mrs. W.E. Black, and the dolls of Mrs. Alma Halford sharing honors with drape dolls, bottle dolls, composition and china dolls, and Miss Becky Gibson, a "Live Raggedy Ann Doll."

There was so much more - the charm of Harriet and Leah Painter as they provided music to banish the rain-dampened spirits; the excellent Boy Scout primitive camp; the Kilgore-Allan aluminum foundry. (History buffs will be interested to know that restoration work of the fountain in Seville Square, Pensacola, and reproductions of fence sections of the old Pratt home are among the painstaking casting jobs done here).

There was the excellent welcoming job done by Mayor Malcolm Edwards, Bicentennial Belle Gwen Jones, and throughout the entire three days by the Golden Age Club of East Brewton. There were the guest exhibitors, who failed to be dispirited by the weather.

Why a festival?

The East Brewton Bicentennial Committee felt that a festival of this type offered maximum opportunity for participation by people with varied talents, it afforded an opportunity to honor our heritage, it provided a chance to share in ideas and to bring people together, and it was presented without funds from any source other than money made from the festival itself.

Several members of the Historical Society served on the festival committee. We especially appreciate help given to us by Mrs. Annie Waters who has researched Fort Crawford and provided us with much material we needed, and to Carolyn McLendon, who provided pictures and other materials for our use.

Tentative plans are to have a similar festival next year.

--Mrs. Winifred (Jewel) Williamson

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

As news of every kind flows out of Washington, D.C. let us not permit it to hinder our celebration of this great nation's Bicentennial and honoring the people who have made it great. NEVER have we been so insulted, but, let the people smile as Washington's elite tremble in their boots in fear of being unseated at the polls because of their indiscretions. If they haven't learned to behave themselves yet, they need to stay at home!

--Carolyn Pugh McLendon

Reader's Digest, June, 1976
"Quotable Quotes"

If you think that one individual can't make a difference in the world, consider what one cigar can do in a nine-room house.

--Bill Vaughan, NANA