

1776

1976

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

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

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor

Annual Membership Dues - \$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING : Tuesday, July 20, 1976.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Brewton Public Library*

Guest Speaker:

W. Warner Floyd,
Executive Director,
Alabama Historical Com.

Our special guest speaker for the July 20th meeting will be W. Warner Floyd who has been the staff administrator of the Alabama Historical Commission since its establishment in 1967. He was born near Luverne, grew up in Troy and is a graduate of Troy State University, has done graduate work at the University of Alabama and Auburn University-Montgomery, and attended Jones Law School. Mr. Floyd will also make presentation of Awards of Merit to Mrs. M.G. (Annie C.) Waters, and Tom Gardner of Brewton and to J. Floyd Currie of Atmore for their significant efforts in preserving the history of this area--to Mrs. Waters for her diligence in researching, recording and writing area history much of which has been, and will be used in the publications of The Escambia County Historical Society, to Mr. Currie for his many efforts in recording and presenting history of the Atmore area, as Bicentennial Chairman for the Atmore area, and serving as President of The Escambia County Historical Society for the past two years; and to Tom Gardner in the field of publishing who has used his newspaper, "The Brewton Standard" to promote interest in history and who was largely responsible for making The Escambia County Historical Society and its Editor aware of the need for publishing a quarterly in order to make history available to students, historians and genealogists. Let's have a good turn out for this special occasion and let Mrs. Waters, Mr. Currie and Mr. Gardner know that we appreciate them!

Vote of membership required for item of business- James E. McDowell, C.P.A., who is handling the paperwork in attempting again to have this organization approved as a tax-exempt organization by the IRS, has advised that it will be necessary for us to amend our articles of incorporation in order to provide for the proper distribution of assets should the Escambia County Historical Society ever be dissolved in accordance with the laws as regard tax exempt organizations.

HISTORY OF CENTURY, FLORIDA available, \$2.00, from Mrs. John L. Hare, Century, Fla. 32535 entitled "A Bicentennial Treasure of Century--An Album of History and Heritage."

JUNE QUARTERLIES are a little late, but will be mailed out on July 17th. They contain a brief history of the Ehlert-Elliott family, incorporation papers of the Town of Flomaton, history of the W.S. Neal School, and brief history of the Bradley family.

ANOTHER GIFT ACKNOWLEDGED from Duncan Merriwether of Chester Springs, Pa.--this time an Index of the 1850 Alabama Census listing the heads of household, county where located, and the page number of the census record for that family. He purchased this for us thru the Accelerated Index System.

The Bicentennial Martha and George Washington Party turned out to be a fantastic array of the many diversified talents of the membership. Held in the beautifully-decorated enclosed swimming pool and recreation hall of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan, about 70% of those in attendance wore lovely costumes of the 1776 era and a lavis table of specialty dishes made and brought by the members was spread. Mrs. Theron (Dumas) Jennings, as Chairman of the event, did an excellent job in planning the party for us, while Mrs. J.R.(Harriett) Miller took charge of the plans and arrangements for the food. Pooling their literary talents, Miss Rita Jane Boykin and Mrs. Jack (Doris) Bruner, came up with a most delightful program regarding Martha and George Washington, a narrative entwined with tunes of the era sung by guest soloists--Mrs. Robert T. (Marsha) Maxwell and Mrs. Bob (Wanda) Hamil accompanied on the organ by Mrs. Bert (Betty) Campbell, Jr., all of whom were appropriately dressed. In the costume contest Joseph R. Murphy of Mobile and Bert M. Campbell, Jr. won awards for the men's division, and Miss Sallie M. Davison and Mrs. Winfred (Jewel) Williamson received the honors in the ladies division. No one envied the task of our judges--J. Floyd Currie, Mrs. Mary Rose Peavy and Mrs. Bertha Barron, because all of the costumes were lovely and appropriate. There were approximately 100 present for the occasion. We appreciate the efforts made by everyone to cause this event to be special, as well as Pine-Belt Cablevision's showing of snapshots by Mrs. Nan Shirley, and the full page spread in The Brewton Standard. Pictures made at the party may be ordered at the July meeting. There are approximately 36 color photographs and cost \$3.50 each, which were made by Mr. Billy Turner of Turner Studio. Ted and Carolyn Jennings also made numerous snapshots.

200 YEARS AGO

By: Elizabeth Autrey Riley, Evergreen

During the years of the American Revolutionary conflict, Tories were to be dreaded. They killed and burned houses of any Colonial who opposed the Crown of England. They planned to burn the home of Lt. Francis Johnstone of South Carolina. Thinking that he was in his home, they burned it, but he had been put in a large barrel by his daughter and a slave and rolled down the hill into a briar patch. His life was spared, but his home destroyed. The Tories went their way satisfied that Lt. Francis Johnstone was dead.

Capt. Frank Leslie, a British Officer, was sent to negotiate peace terms with General Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox." General Marion received his guest in his office, which was a log under an oak tree. Capt. Leslie was invited to have luncheon of roasted potatoes cooked in the embers. Capt. Leslie asked General Marion why fight

his Mother Country, who would see that he had better clothes, food and living quarters. General Marion replied, "I have a sweetheart and her name is "Miss Liberty."". Capt. Leslie returned to his superior officer, asking for a leave of absence. He said that he had no spirit to continue to fight these Colonists who wore rags, went hungry for love of Country, with a courage he could not combat.

OLD CLAIBORNE. Judge John White Leslie of Monroe County, Alabama, was asked to introduce General Lafayette at Claiborne, Alabama, when General Lafayette visited the Colonies in 1825 after the Revolutionary War. It was quite an event for Monroe County and an honor for Judge Leslie and Gen. Lafayette who was given by the Government 250,000 acres of land.

Jeremiah Riley was a close friend of General Washington. He was employed by General Washington as a surveyor, and was given a special citation by General Washington as being the first man to create the theory of Coastal Defense.

A VOICE FROM TENNESSEE

Southern Agriculturist, reprinted in Brewton Standard, March 19, 1908

Mr.W.M.Carney, of Atmore,Alabama, has sent the Agriculturist a beautiful photograph of a park for deer that he has at his handsome home. He has for several years been raising and domesticating this herd.

The picture shows about twenty young deer, and we know there are a number more, for the old bucks are so suspicious that they cannot be tamed and handled like younger deer. He has about 20 acres of land supporting towering long leaf pine trees, good soil, the natural grasses covering the plot, where his herd of deer rest in quiet. Ever and anon he has fresh deer meat on his well provided table, and he and his noble wife are worthy of the special favors they enjoy from this herd of deer.

He has a vast tract of level, first-class agricultural lands where the climate is so mild that the spontaneous grasses support cattle and flocks of sheep all the winter without a bushel of feed. That portion of Alabama now grows strawberries of the finest variety, peaches and Keiffer pears by the thousands, besides pecans, figs, corn and cotton to perfection. The homeseeker cannot find in that cheerful southland a more desirable residence than that locality. Any industrious farmer can become independent and live in style on the cultivation of sweet potatoes alone.

_Copied and Contributed by
Mrs. Annie C. Waters.

(Mrs. Waters also notes that Mr. Carney had a 1905 calendar published displaying a picture of his tame deer.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs.Wm. M.Douglas,621 Church St.,Andalusia 36420
Mrs.Leon Jones, Century,Fla.32535
Mrs.S.O.Howington,P.O.Box 156,Brewton,Al.36426
Mr.Billy L.Turner,P.O.Box 993,Brewton,Al.
Mrs.Odis Little,P.O.Box K, Red Leval,Al.36474