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ESCAMBIA ECHOES

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

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon,  
Editor

Annual Dues and Membership - \$6.00

Meetings held Third Tuesday of each month.  
Public invited.



NOTICE OF MEETING -

August 17, 1976, at 7:30 p.m.

BREWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Honorable Hugh Rozelle, Judge of  
Inferior Court

of Escambia County, Alabama,  
Speaker

Subject: The Creek Indians

Mr. Floyd Currie of our Program Committee will present to us Judge Rozelle who is well known as a speaker throughout the area and is well acquainted with the Creek Indians of Escambia County. For some time he assisted the Creek Indians in their quest for payment for the lands ceded to the United States, and we are pleased that Judge Rozelle can be with us. Many of our members are of Indian descent and have researched their ancestry in order to receive their portions of the payment made by the government to the Creek nation. Come and bring a friend.

QUERY: Researching the Hobbs, Spurlin and Davis families of the Bradley/Rock Creek communities, will answer all letters. Ramona Spurlin Garrett, P.O.Box 175, Clewiston, Florida 33440.

QUERY: Seeking information regard the John Maston Pugh (born Monroe County) family, and daughter Martha Adeline Pugh born 6/6/1890 in Brewton area. Also seeking information of Bryant B. Downing born about 1861 in Brewton. Mrs. Sandra Wilcox Ray, 102 Bonnie Brae Street, Denton, Texas 76201.

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The James M. Davison Home  
434 Douglas Avenue  
Brewton, Alabama

By: Miss Rita Jane Boykin

The order of the modern day seems to be somewhat of a paradox. Some old houses are demolished while others are restored. The old two-story house at 434 Douglas Avenue in Brewton, Alabama is being demolished. Its absence there on the corner of Douglas Avenue and McLellan Street is another chapter in the history of the old residence.

The tract of land on which the Davison house was built has a history which can be traced back to a patent. A patent dated September 1, 1858 shows that the United States granted it to James Snowden. In 1866 the land was a gift from James Snowden to C.H.Snowden but the actual deed was recorded at old Sparta. In 1870 the land was deeded by C. H. Snowden and wife, Mary, to C. L. Sowell. This deed was destroyed by fire at Pollard.

On May 15, 1880 for the sum of fifty dollars C. L. Sowell and wife, Anna, deeded the land to John T. Daniel. By then the price of the land was going up for on March 5, 1884 the land was deeded by John T. Daniel and wife, Adlin, to Cora L. Storts for the sum of seven hundred dollars. Cora Storts and husband, John Storts, Jr., deeded the land to Blacksher Brothers on March 19, 1885 for the sum of five hundred seventy-five dollars. All of these deeds were duly recorded.

The land was to change hands again. On July 1, 1885 David Blacksher and wife, Maggie E., and U. Blacksher and wife, Mattie, deeded the land to A. T. Douglas for the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars. Now the price was going down, for on January 29, 1889 for the sum of one hundred fifty-four dollars the land was deeded to G.B.Frierson. On February 25, 1892, G. B. Frierson and wife, Kate Whitfield Frierson, deeded the land to John M. Rabb. This deed was signed by N. R. Leigh, Judge of Probate.

Mr. Rabb evidently bought the land for selling as the next deed is also dated March 2, 1892. On that same day the land was deeded to Sam E. Henderson, who was Mr. Rabb's brother-in-law. Each description of the land states "two acres more or less" north of the "enclosed premises of Mrs. Mary Frierson Boykin in the town of Brewton." Mrs. Boykin was a sister of Mr. G. B. Frierson who sold it, and the Boykin lot (and home) continued to be next door to the Davison lot until 1967 when the Boykin property was sold.

On September 19, 1892 Mr. Sam Henderson sold the lot to Mrs. Annie C. Curry. Between 1892 and 1910 a house must have been built because deeds prior to 1910 described land only. A deed dated May 23, 1910 shows that Annie C. Curry and husband, Turner W. Curry, sold the lot to James M. Davison. This land description states "land lying north of enclosed premises of Mrs. M. F. Boykin....with the buildings and improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging and appertaining."

Thus James M. Davison acquired the house in 1910. Records are on land showing a complete abstract and twelve deeds on the property. Mr. Davison was a lawyer and kept accurate records of transactions. For the sum of seventeen hundred fifty dollars Mr. Davison acquired the "Curry House" which from then on was known as the "Davison House." Into the house moved Mr. and Mrs. Davison, three sons and six daughters.

The house became a hospitality house. Many friends and relatives have enjoyed it. There was always a beautiful vegetable garden in back and a beautiful yard full of flowers in front. The children grew up happy, healthy, active and loved. Each day began and ended with family prayer.

Three weddings took place in the spacious living room. Eleanor Davison married Volney Graham Philips. Adah McCaskill Davison married John Angus Beall, and her daughter, Sara Olivia Beall, married James Willett Weaver. Two babies were born in one of the downstairs bedrooms; Volney Graham Philips, Jr., and John Angus Beall, Jr.

The family were devout Presbyterians. They always fed the

"visiting preacher." They shared the garden produce with many friends and neighbors. Church "socials" were enjoyed there. No house contained more happiness, friendliness and spiritual uplift.

But the sons and daughters grew up and made homes elsewhere. Lizzie Kate remained with her mother and father. Sadness came in the death of Mr. Davison in 1931 and then Mrs. Davison in 1939. John and Adah Mc Beall came back to live with Lizzie Kate in the old home. Yet it continued to be a haven for friends and relatives. On July 4, 1940 tragedy struck in an automobile wreck and the life of Adah Mc was ended while Kathleen was left an invalid.

By 1949 the old Davison House was too large to be kept up by Lizzie Kate with Kathleen an invalid. A smaller and more modern house was built next to it and they moved in. In 1958 Sallie retired in Birmingham and moved to Brewton with them.

Finally, the old house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith. Some remodeling was done and the cupola on top was removed. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Smith the old house remained vacant for years. Today, in 1976, it has been sold to Bob McMillan and it is now in the process of being leveled. Keepsakes--mantels, carved doors, colored glass windows--have been preserved. The lot will remain as it was in 1858 but many memories and history will remain too. It will always be "where the Davison House was."

--Contributed by  
Miss Sallie M. Davison

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THE OPP NEWS has recently published another historical edition covering Covington County and surrounding area. There is an entire section on the Brooklyn community, much of which was written by R. G. (Bob) Kendall, Jr., now deceased.

The historical edition now being prepared by THE BREWTON STANDARD is shaping up to be one of the finest of its kind.

The East Brewton Bicentennial Commission has published its heritage project, a booklet containing a documented history of Fort Crawford, and brief history of Little Germany and early history of the City of East Brewton. A nominal charge is being made for copies of the booklet to help defray the cost of publication, and may be ordered through Mayor Malcolm Edwards' office in East Brewton.

#### NO TIME LIKE THE OLD TIME

There are no times like the old times, -  
they shall never be forgot!  
There is no place like the old place, -  
keep green the dear old spot!  
There are no friends like our old friends,  
--may Heaven prolong their lives!

-Oliver Wendell Holmes