



A torch is passed --

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

Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor and President\*

NOTICE OF MEETING - Tuesday, October 19, 1976, 7:00 p.m.  
Brewton Public Library  
Note Change of time to 7:00 p.m.

Program: Gala Bicentennial Events Remembered

Mrs. Jack (Doris) Bruner will have charge of our program and in conjunction with Mrs. Jack (Mary Rose) Peevy will bring a review with pictures and slides of the East Brewton Bicentennial Celebration on July 4, 1976, at Fort Crawford Park, after which Mrs. Theron (Dumas) Jennings assisted by her son, Ted Jennings, will show films which Ted made at his own expense of our Society's Bicentennial Martha and George Washington Party. Most of you knew that Dumas was our party chairman, but you didn't know that she wanted to commemorate the event so badly that she threatened to quit work at Jennings Pharmacy if son Ted didn't make pictures and a film for her of the costumes. This should be a most enjoyable program, bring a friend to enjoy it with you.

The East Brewton Bicentennial Council still has available at the East Brewton City Hall their booklet on Fort Crawford and other East Brewton history and pictures for \$1.50. Add another 50% if it is to be mailed.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND - A TRIBUTE to Mr. John David Finlay, our Curator, charter member and benefactor, is in the current quarterly, but because of the nature of that publication the tribute is brief. Mr. Finlay took an active day-to-day interest in all of the affairs of this Society, supporting it with his time and possessions, writing history, giving programs, assisting other historians, hosting our 1975 guardian party at his home, the Alabama Historical Association pilgrimage in October, 1975, at Robbins & McGowin Company, and especially by his attendance at all meetings and functions until his health hindered his doing so. No one in this Society wanted a museum for Brewton worse than he did, but his health prohibited him in the last year from taking the overt action he wanted taken. As your Editor was bemoaning his loss this morning over the phone to Rita Jane Boykin (who assured me that some one would come to lend encouragement on the museum project) Mrs. John David Finlay was coming down the hall with a \$50.00 check for the museum project from a couple in Oklahoma City as a memorial to Mr. John David Finlay because they knew of his love for this Society. Mrs. Finlay says that she will also make a sizeable contribution to the fund in his memory and will help in making contacts to raise funds to have a

museum established on the college campus. There will be joy all over God's heaven the day Mr. John David Finlay sees a museum on his beloved Alco Hill. Your Editor's memorial gift to Mr. Finlay will also be made to the museum project.

Belleville Pilgrimage - Although the weather looked threatening on the day of our tour we had a beautiful sunny afternoon. The Brewton Police Department escorted the motorcade to Highway 31 from whence Mrs. Margaret Gaston lead the group to the Belleville Cut-Off beyond Castleberry where the Castleberry Police Department directed traffic so we could safely leave Highway 31. Stopping first at the lovely new Hampden Ridge Methodist Church and cemetery where we were met by Mrs. Larry Pate, J. Vernon Brantley and others, then to the well-ekpt Belleville Methodist Church where Miss Helen Barlow gave the church's most interesting history beginning 150 years ago with the Sardis Church which was later renamed. Our next stop was at The Country Place where our welcome by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williamson was most gracious as they proudly showed us through the home telling us of their joys and trials in restoring it, and divulging their plans to turn their barn into a museum for antique farm equipment etc. Looking through the house Mrs. Williamson's interest in collecting dried flowers and bottles was evident. Historic Belleville Baptist Church with its slave gallery and cemetery with graves dating back to the early 1800's was our final stop. Here the ladies of the church had not only prepared coffee, tea and soft drinks for our sack lunches, but also had a table laden with delicious home-baked cakes and candies. This was one of the most pleasant tours we've made and we cannot thank Mrs. Margaret Gaston, our tour chairman, and Mrs. Roy Hayes, Mrs. W. C. Booker, Mrs. E. L. Raines, Mrs. Conrad Booker, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williamson, Mrs. A. L. Davis, Miss Helen Barlow, Mrs. Hugh Jones, and Mrs. Larry Pate, all of the Belleville community for their splendid show of hospitality. The people of Belleville are proud of their heritage and it is evident in their well kept homes, churches and cemeteries. When you leave you have the feeling that Belleville will continue to withstand the passage of time and will be a place you can go back to again and again.

THE MICROFILM READER given to this Historical Society by Mr. Duncan Merriwether of Chester Springs, Pa. was picked up at Chester Springs, Pa. for us by Mr. J. Vernon Brantley, and has been delivered to your Editor's home. Since there is a reader at the Junior College, it will be housed at my home until I have recorded several of the census' for this area for use in the quarterlies. Words cannot express our appreciation to Mr. Merriwether for the reader, and to Mr. Brantley who went several hundred miles out of his way to get the reader and bring it back to Alabama for us. This Society is fortunate to have such friends and benefactors. Along with the microfilm reader Mr. Merriwether also sent six copies of The Genealogical Helper, some are 1975 and some 1976 issues.

Our membership continues to grow. The membership secretary has been gone for several weeks, and I have lost count, but we do have two new members: Mr. John M. Jones, Jr., Camden, New Jersey, and Mr. Henry W. McMillan of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

See you Tuesday night - 7:00 p.m.!