

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

November 8, 1976

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

Federal Rd

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor

NOTICE OF MEETING: Tuesday, November 16, 1976, 7:00 p.m.  
at Brewton Public Library

Program - Miss Mary E. Brantley  
Topic: "A Tribute to the Early Settlers of Alabama"

Special Events- More on Museum and Miss Brantley hopes to  
have some of her books along for members who  
want to buy at "autograph party price" of \$12.00.

Miss Mary E. Brantley of Atmore is a retired public school teacher and has been compiling information for her book "Early Settlers Along the Old Federal Road in Monroe and Conecuh Counties, Alabama" for many years. Because of her interest and dedication her price on these books will only cover the cost of publishing and binding. Her program "A Tribute to the Early Settlers of Alabama" contains some information from her book, but also other interesting items that she uncovered during research. Some history on the families of Salter, Crook, Rankin, Tanner, Watson, Parker, Finklea, Leigh and Kirkland will be given. Since this Historical Society was begun Miss Brantley has been one of our most active members. Let's all come out for the meeting and show her how proud we are of her and for her in her publishing efforts.

MUSEUM PROJECT REPORT - To date we have received in memorials for deceased members, John David Finlay, Mrs. Carrie Girlinghouse and Sam Coale, approximately \$1,995.00 to go toward the establishment of a museum. Plans have been drawn for a building on the Jefferson Davis Junior College campus with the proposed museum at the center surrounded by classrooms including a large arts and crafts facility. The State of Alabama has funds allocated for this building in the amount of \$300,000 but in order to obtain these funds an additional \$200,000 must be raised as the total cost of the building will be \$500,000. Yes, \$200,000 is a great deal of money to have to go out to get dollar-by-dollar, but we believe the people of Escambia County will respond in a great way in order to have a place to house memorabilia for future generations. We have little of our heritage that has been preserved. A museum that is properly administered will be something we can all take pride in. We do not want to establish a dead museum on some street corner that we would come to be ashamed of in a few years for lack of funds or motivation

to keep it going. We hope to be able to interest each individual classroom in all of the area schools in doing their part to raise funds for the museum, every \$1 will help. Several people with large collections have agreed to put their collections in the museum on a lease/loan basis --enough to fill the museum already. Regretably the students of this county are regularly being bussed to Montgomery to visit the Archives and History Department when they could better relate to memorabilia of local origin and would have more time to browse and become involved. Plans are being formulated for placing appeals for donations in the newspapers and for sending special appeals to the area businessmen, businesses and community leaders.

Memorials for the Museum Project have been given by the following:

MRS. CARRIE GIRLINGHOUSE

Mrs. Emily W. Finlay, Brewton

MR. SAM COALE

Mrs. Emily W. Finlay, Brewton

MR. JOHN DAVID FINLAY

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. McCain, Oklahoma

Mr. and Mrs. Doc McCain, Arkansas

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Hurd, Atmore

Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Finlay, Jr., Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. John Byrd, Greenville

Mrs. Mabel Byrd, Greenville

Mrs. Sherwood Gifford, Jr. and John S. Gifford, Greenville

Mrs. Ernestine Weaver, Brewton

Mr. and Mrs. George Painter, Brewton

Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan, Brewton

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Murphy, Brewton

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Low, Brewton

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Brewton

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leigh McMillan II, Brewton

D. W. McMillan Foundation, Brewton

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gardner, Brewton.

These donations have been set up in a Savings Account and will remain on deposit until the full amount of \$200,000.00 has been raised, on or before January 1, 1977, hopefully. We are now receiving donations for the museum, not necessarily as memorials, and hope that the membership of The Escambia County Historical Society will immediately begin to make whatever contributions they can and will help build up the enthusiasm for the project by "talking it up" among their friends and neighbors. All contributions are tax deductible.

ORDER FORM - "EARLY SETTLERS ALONG THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD IN  
MONROE-CONECUH COUNTIES, ALABAMA - by Mary E. Brantley

Price \$15.00, includes postage and sales tax

Special Autograph Party Price \$12.00

(description of book on  
next page)

Miss Mary E. Brantley

301 E. Horner St.

Atmore, Alabama 36502

Enclosed please find my check/money order for \_\_\_\_\_ for which please  
send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies of your book.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of history by Miss Mary E. Brantley- EARLY SETTLERS ALONG THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD IN MONROE-CONECUH COUNTIES, ALABAMA, Limited Edition. A large (8½ x 11) book bound in green buckram with gold lettering. Dust jacket. A 352 page book with map and 20 original photographs. Published by Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. A history of the first road into Alabama with forts and taverns along the way. Story of the development of the postal system. Information on the early settlers: migrations, modes of travel, struggles with the Indians, conquering a wilderness, establishing homes. Record of 25 cemeteries with the veterans of early wars identified in most cemeteries. Items from old newspaper files. Excerpts from an old Civil War diary. Early marriage records of Monroe and Conecuh Counties. (Source references given). Some genealogical data on many of these early settlers. Price \$15.00 includes postage and sales tax. Special autograph party price-\$12.00. May be ordered from Miss Mary E. Brantley, 301 E. Horner Street, Atmore, Al. 36502.

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### A TASTE FOR READING

Give a man this taste  
(And the means of gratifying it)  
And you can hardly fail  
To make him a happy man.  
You place him in contact  
With the best Society  
In every period of history,  
With the wisest and wittiest,  
The tenderest and bravest  
Who have adorned humanity.  
You make him  
A denizen of all nations,  
A contemporary of all ages.

Sir John Herschel,  
Address at the opening of  
Eton Library, 1833.

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### THINKING

Those who have read of everything are thought to understand everything too; but it is not always so--reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what is read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections; unless we chew them over again, they will not give us strength and nourishment.

John Locke

Teach me to feel another's woe, To hide the fault I see;  
That mercy I to others show, That mercy show to me.

Alexander Pope

One of the reasons for reading history is to learn from it and make use of it.

Harry Truman