



NOTICE OF MEETING - OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 21, 1976

7:00 p.m.

Brewton Public Library

SHOW & TELL - bring something regarding Christmas to Show & Tell if possible, or tell of some meaningful thing that happened at Christmas.

Bring small dish of finger food. Punch and hot apple cider will be furnished.

Bring a friend, visitors welcomed.

MUSEUM - Some 712 letters have gone out to our members, area schools, Brewton businesses and civic groups, and Flomaton businesses; and letters will go out next week to Flomaton clubs and to the Atmore businesses and civic groups. We await what we hope will be an overwhelming response from the people indicating their desire to have a museum for this county. Be sure to encourage everyone you see to do what they can to help. Total in Museum Fund - \$3,020.00!

MUSEUM PROJECT DONATIONS - John Jones, Jr., Camden, New Jersey
J. Pat Hayes, Brewton
Mrs. Emily Finlay, Brewton

MEMORIALS - MUSEUM PROJECT -

MR. SAM COALE

Miss Mary Holladay

MISS KATHLEEN DAVISON

Mr. and Mrs. Ross E. Anderson

Mrs. Emily Finlay

Mrs. Carolyn McLendon

LEE H. STRAWBRIDGE

Mrs. Bertha Barron

JOHN DAVID FINLAY

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Henriques, Baskingridge, N.J.

JOHN DAVID FINLAY (memorials, continued)

Frank Currie, Atmore
J.Floyd Currie, Atmore
Miss Mary Holladay
Mr.and Mrs.Ross E.Anderson
Mrs. Ernestine Coale
Mrs. J.D.Crosby,Sr.,Bay Minette
Miss Marjorie Davison
Miss Ethel Davison
Mr.and Mrs. A.D.Dickson, Baton Rouge
Dr.and Mrs.T.C.Hurd,Jr.,Opelika
Mr.and Mrs. Batey M.Gresham,Jr.,Nashville, Tenn.
Miss Pauline Duke

DUES - Your dues for 1977 are due January 1, 1977 and some are already beginning to pay them - \$6.00. Our year runs from January 1 to January 1. This year a special dues notice will be sent because some have indicated that a reminder in the newsletter doesn't get their attention. You may pay your dues to Mrs.Gladys Byrd at the Library, Bert Campbell at Commercial Credit, or Mrs.McLendon on the third floor of the Robbins & McGowing building, or mail it to Box 276.

LOG ROLLING

By J.F.Elliott, 2600 Poplar Street, Montgomery 36107

Log rolling was given this name by the early settlers that came into the Bradley, Alabama area. What is meant by the name log rolling is when a farmer wanted to clear up, or take in an additional piece of land to enlarge his field, this piece of land that he wanted to clear up was most likely covered with large and small timber. At that time timber was of very little value. When a farmer decided to clear up a few acres he would go in there and fell all the standing timber then cut it up in about eight foot lengths. He would then announce that he was going to have a log rolling. This announcement came about a month before the time for the log rolling. The news of the event spread for miles around. This event was always looked forward to.

Months ahead of the event the farmer would go into the forest and cut young hickory sticks about four or five feet long. He would peel the bark off then season the sticks in hot ashes to keep them from bending. These sticks were about two inches in diameter. The idea of the use of these sticks is that they would place one of the sticks under each end of one of these eight-foot cuts of timber. Then four men or boys would attempt to pick this log up and carry it to the pile. Everyone made big sport out of trying to carry more than the ones on the other end of the sticks. The weak ones would finally be weeded out. For the rest of the day the strong ones would be attempting to cut-do the one on the other side of the log. Some of the logs would be too big to pick up; in this case they were rolled in place. The older men or the ones that weren't strong enough to carry the logs would pile brush or pick out some straight grain timber and split rails out of it. It wouldn't be called a complete job until all the logs were piled, all the tops were piled and all the

new area fenced in with the new rails. In the following weeks after the log rolling was over the farmer would dig a deep hole by each stump and build a fire in the hole. Eventually the stump would burn out.

The last one of these log rollings that I remember was on a plantation in the Bradley area in 1904. While the men were rolling logs the ladies were not idle; some were quilting, and some were cooking. (I have always wondered how many chickens it took to fill the huge cast iron wash-pot that was full of chicken and dumplings cooking in the front yard.) A long table was set up in the front yard to put the food on and every kind of good food that was raised on the farm was on that table.

These log rollings were not all work and no play. The plantation owner's home was a huge double pen log house. There were two large rooms on the left and on the right with a huge hall or open breeze-way going through the house. Over in the afternoon the fiddlers took their seats in this hall between the two rooms and started the music. Very soon and on into the wee hours of the morning you could still hear the one that was calling for the dance saying, "Swing your partner and I'll swing mine." And now seventy years later some times as I pass the place where this house stood it seems that I can almost hear the caller saying, "Swing your partner and I'll swing mine." The ground that was cleared by the log rolling is now a pulpwood forest. The spot where the house stood is now also covered with pulpwood trees.

--J.F.Elliott,
Montgomery, Alabama

NEITHER TIME NOR MONEY WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPIER

As for a little more money and a little more time, why it's ten to one, if either one or the other would make you one whit happier.

If you had moretime, it would be sure to hang heavily. It is the working man who is the happy man. Man is made to be active, and he is never so happy as when he is so. It is the idle man who is the miserable man. What comes of holidays, and far too often of sight-seeing, but evil? Half the harm that happens is on those days.

And, as for money--Don't you remember the old saying, "Enough is as good as a feast?" Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it makes one. If it satisfies one want, it doubles and trebles that want another way.

That was a true proverb of the wise man, rely upon it: "Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure, and trouble therewith."

--Ben Franklin

"DO EVERY ACT IN THY LIFE AS IF IT WERE THE LAST"
--Marcus Aurelius