
* ESCAMBIA ECHOES *



"Climbing my family tree!"

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

March 7, 1977

Annual membership dues - \$ 6.00
January thru December

NOTICE OF MEETING -

March 15, 1977, at 7:00 p.m. at

BREWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

on Belleville Avenue

Speaker: Ronald A. Stratton of Pittsfield,
Massachusetts, Vice President of
Massachusetts Society of Genealositis
and President of the Berkshire Chapter

Topic: "LOVE THY FAMILY HORSE THIEF AS
THYSELF," a funny speech about
genealogy.

Ron Stratton first contacted your President and became a member of The Escambia County Historical Society over a year ago, having been referred to me by Miss Elizabeth Riley of Evergreen. Ron was searching in Conecuh County for his Pugh family connections, and has since written a brief history of Peter Lazarus Johnson which we published. He is also interested in researching the Parker family. Ron is much in demand as a speaker in his area for service clubs and Chambers of Commerce as well as historical and genealogical groups. Ron tells me that this is no "tame talk" and promises to keep his audience in stitches as he tells of his world travels in putting happy faces on some horse theives he found in his family tree. You'll hear about: "The Indiscretions of Jane Mabbs," "The Olden Day 'Hippie'," "King Richard de Bruce," "A Mighty Oak in the Forest," "How Genealogy Helped My Wife Learn to Swim," "Why Young People Are Turning To Genealogy," "A Contribution to History as a Way To Be Remembered," "David Johnson's Love Letter," "The 'Flim Flam' Man."

Ron and his wife will be doing research in Tallahassee, Florida on March 13 and will work their way into South Alabama in order to be with us on the night of the 15th. They also plan to go into Monroe and Conecuh Counties. Because I knew you would all want to hear Ron, I have taken the liberty of again having our meeting on the third Tuesday for this month. Invite your friends as this should be most enjoyable. Visitors are always welcomed.

H. Eugene Pettis of Flomaton, our Vice President, will have charge of our program for the April meeting to be held on the fourth Tuesday night of April, April 26th.

MUSEUM FUND DRIVE - Fly sheets for distribution about town are being printed and we hope to have an intensive fund drive all over Brewton during the week of March 18 to 25. The County School System has given

permission for our campaign which will be headed by Miss Rita Jane Boykin to be taken into the schools. Mrs. John David Finlay is spearheading this intensive drive and we hope that everyone will give her your utmost cooperation and best efforts. During this intensive campaign your President will be making many personal calls to further the museum fund project. We were all thrilled by the plans Mr. Woodfin Patterson outlined for the museum at our February meeting and can hardly wait to see the building a reality with the Alabama Great Seal at the entrance, and a statue of a benefactor (who is yet to step forward) in the garden of the parking area. Anything worth having at all is worth working for. We want the best, and we will have to give our best!

We now have in our Museum fund - \$13,743.82. The following additions have been made since our February newsletter was published:

REGULAR DONATIONS:

Mr. and Mrs. H. Eugene Pettis, Flomaton
Mrs. Kathleen Allen Powell, Brunswick, Georgia
Miss Nellie Mae Parker
Mrs. Flora P. Koon
Miss Maxine Parker
Mrs. Homer Lambert
Miss Eleanor Booker
Miss Merlie Booker

MEMORIAL DONATIONS:

MR. JAMES DONALD BYRD
Mr. and Mrs. Luther J. Gillis

MR. MALCOLM McMILLAN
Mrs. John David Finlay

MR. J. E. FINLAY
Mrs. John David Finlay

JUDGE AND MRS. JOHN D. LEIGH
Mrs. John David Finlay

MR. E. A. DAW
American Legion Auxiliary No. 79

MR. AARON LAZARUS
Mrs. Bertha Barron
W. T. Barron

MRS. BESSIE SMITH
Mr. and Mrs. Woodfin Patterson

MR. FINLAY OWENS
Mrs. John David Finlay

MR. JOE LARKIN
Mrs. John David Finlay

MR. E. P. YELDELL
Mrs. Maude C. Yeldell

MR. E. C. BOYKIN, JR.
Miss Rita Jane Boykin

MR. JOHN DAVID FINLAY
Mr. and Mrs. Woodfin
Patterson
Mrs. Carrie Mae Scott

THE COAL BIN

By Eddie Badger, Pinch-shoveling for Henry Vance

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

Contributed by Miss Sallie M. Davison, Douglas Avenue, Brewton, Ala.

ALABAMA, HY, is quite a state. Don't you agree? I have had a lot of fun the last 10 years as state editor of The News. During that time I believe the paper has used almost every form of transportation except dog-sled and rickshaw to get stories and picture to Fourth-av and 22nd-st, n, in Birmingham in time for the first edition.

Alabama's 67 counties include 51,609 square miles of stickey, red clay, Black Belt loan and Gulf Coast sand. The state's population of a little more than three million gives us a population density of approximately 60 persons per square mile. From sea level in Mobile, Alabama terrain climbs gradually until it reaches a 2407-foot peak at Cheaha State Park in Cleburne County. Climatically, Alabama offers a lot to the escapist from far above the Mason-Dixon Line. Freezing temperatures normally do not continue more than 48 consecutive hours, even in the northern part of thestate. Summer daytime temperatures are not excessively high.

As for trees, there are at least 50 common native varieties ranging from ash to yellow poplar. The State tree is the Southern pine, the state flower the goldenrod. State bird is the yellowhammer. Alabama doesn't have a state fish. But, if such a motion should be in order, here's a nomination for the Tennessee River catfish. Having been on both sides of the fence, I am forced to side with the succulent "cat" in its recent congressional imbroglio with the Rocky Mountain trout.

Since 1939 Alabama has had a new coat of arms with the motto: "We Dare Defend Our Rights." Prior to that legislative action the motto was "Here We Rest." It has been said that no state has a coat of arms more significant historically than Alabama. The shield contains the emblems of the five governments which have held sovereignty--either in whole or in part--over the state some forty years. These are Spain, France, Great Britain, the United States, the Confederacy, and again the United States.

The first white man to set foot in Alabama is believed to be Doroteo Teadora, a Greek chemist who was a member of the DeNarvaez expedition (1528). DeSoto led the first expedition on Alabama soil 12 years later and the first permanent settlement in the state was at Twenty-seven Mile Bluff on Mobile River (site of old Mobile) in 1702. (Mobile was the first capital of the province of Louisiana, 1702-20.)

Washington (1800) was the first Alabama county created, and Cahaba (1818) was the first state capital. Alabama boasts the first common school system in the Southern states and also granted the first diploma issued to a woman by any chartered institution authorized to confer degrees.

Alabama inherited its name from an Indian tribe and I have always been fascinated by the names which the red men contributed to physical features of the state. These would include Boguechitto Creek, Cuttahatchee River, Chattahoochee River, Choctawhatchee River, Chubbehatchee Creek, Elkhatchee Creek, Enitochopico Creek and many others. Then there are those quaint little town names like Ball Play, Canoe, Dancy, Ellawhite, Eastaboga, Nanafalia, Notasulga, and so on.

(Editor's note: The date was not preserved on this item and some of the figures are outdated. The feelings expressed are not!)