

August 15, 1977



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THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O.BOX 276
BREWTON, ALABAMA 36426

Carolyn Pugh McLendon, President and Editor
Annual Dues - \$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING:

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August 23, 1977 - 7:30 p.m., 4th Tues.
Brewton Public Library
Speaker: Mrs.C.W.Young, Jr.
Topic: "History of Canoe, Escambia Co., Ala."
Business: Consider changing meeting date back to third Tuesday.

Through the efforts of Miss Mary Brantley of Atmore, Mrs. Vivian Stallworth Young will bring our August program. Mrs. Young, a teacher at A.C. Moore school, was youngest of ten children born to Dr. and Mrs. J.P.Stallworth of Canoe, both of whom were long time residents of Monroeville. Dr.J.P. (jim) Stallworth was the son of Nicholas J. Stallworth, a former Probate Judge of Monroe County. Mrs. Stallworth, the former Ida Louise Watson, was born in Beaumont. Texas, but grew up in Monroeville. They moved to Canoe in 1907, where Dr. Stallworth practiced medicine for 50 years before his death in 1957. We are pleased to have Mrs. Young present a program on the "History of Canoe, Escambia County, Alabama" as our Society has little of record on the history of Canoe. Canoe, a small neighborhood now, was at the time of the formation of Escambia County in 1868 a larger settlement than Brewton, Flomaton, or Atmore. Canoe, like Pollard, was best known then because of its railroad Through the years Canoe has been considerably larger than it is now--especially the business area. It has played an important place in the history of Escambia County. Mrs. Young will also tell about Evansville, a sawmill town near Cance. Come and bring a friend. The public is always welcome.

Mrs. Annie Waters, one of our most active and concerned members, has requested that the Society consider changing the date of our monthly meeting back to the third Tuesday because several of our more regular members are unable to attend on the fourth Tuesday. We will discuss and vote on this motion at the August meeting—be prepared to voice your opinion. Several have asked about the appointment of successor trustees to Thomas E.McMillan and W.Emmett Brooks, according to our by-laws this can only be properly done at the first annual meeting following the vacancies.

MUSEUM FUND PROJECT: Now \$23,768.61 with firm commitments for another \$1,100.00. The following donations have been made since the July newsletter was published.

MEMORIALS - THOMAS E. McMILLAN

Mr. and Mrs. David Cochrane, Jr., Tuscaloosa Mr. and Mrs. James T. Cochrane, Tuscaloosa Mrs. Joe Larkin Mrs. Alice Till Bealle Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Hayes Mrs. Mary G. Echols, Tuscaloosa Mrs.Sara L. Sowell Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Low Mrs. Maude Yeldell Mrs. Georgia Hart Mr. and Mrs. J.F.Smith Mrs. Henrietta C. Till Mrs. Frank Alex Luttrell John David Finlay, Jr. Norris Lodge #301, F & AM Mr. and Mrs. H. W. McMillan, Hattiesburg, Miss. Mr. and Mrs.E.L. Williamson, New Orleans Mr. and Mrs. Mabry H. Huggins, Evergreen Miss Bonnie Ruth Barrow, Andalusia

W. EMMETT BROOKS

By: Mr.and Mrs. Bert Campbell Dr.and Mrs. R.E.Low

Mr.and Mrs.J.P.Ashmore, Sr. and family, Graceville, Fla.

Mrs. Albert P. Boyd, Graceville Mrs. Neal Williams, Graceville Mrs. Paul C. Hamilton, Graceville

Mrs. John David Finlay
Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan
Mrs. Frank Alex Luttrell
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cheatham, Opp

Mr. and Mrs. John Byrd, Greenville

Mrs. S.E.Gifford, Jr., Pensacola Mr. John Gifford, Pensacola

Miss Mabel Byrd, Pensacola Mrs. Henrietta C. Till

Mr. and Mrs. J.F, Smith

Bank of Graceville, Florida

Mrs. Maude C. Yeldell

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Leonard, Blountstown Mr. and Mrs.C.C.Harrison, Jr., Marianna

J. J. Jones, Graceville

Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Williams, Graceville Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Bailey, Sarasota

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Rainey, Vincennes, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. W.R.E. McFarland, Vincennes, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gardner

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McMillan, Jr. Bartow and Lorene Liddon, Dothan Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Bissell, Birmingham

(continued next page)

Memorials -

W. EMMETT BROOKS (continued)

By: Mr.and Mrs.William B. (Martha Hayes) Leath,
Panama City, Florida

Mr.and Mrs. T.E. (Minnie Hayes) Rast, Birmingham

Mr. and Mrs. M. Brooks Hayes, Blountstown

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hayes

GURDON A. ROBINSON

By: Mrs. Irene S. Robinson, Mobile

COL. JAMES MILLER DAVISON and

KATHERINE ELIZABETH McMILLAN DAVISON

BY: Miss Sallie M. Davison Mrs. Eleanor Davison Phillips

DR. CHARLES PRESTWOOD

BY: Claude McCall Post #79, American Legion

MRS. SYLVESTER DANIELS, Jackson, Ala.

BY: Claude McCall Post #79, American Legion

HURBERT I. LESTER

BY: Claude McCall Post #79, American Legion

JOHN DAVID FINLAY

BY: Mr. and Mrs. Tom McMillan, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Owens, Sr.

ANNIE LAURIE LINDSEY

BY: Mrs. John David Finlay

Miss Ethel Davison

Miss Marjorie Davison

Miss Lula Pearl Neal

Mrs. Frank Alex Luttrell

B. F. STOKES, JR.

BY: Mrs. Gertrude S. Ashton

MISS KATHLEEN DAVISON

BY: Mrs. Frank Alex Luttrell

WILLIAM THOMPSON BARRON

BY: Mrs. W. T. (Bertha) Barron

A TRIBUTE - W. EMMETT BROOKS HISTORIAN, COMMUNICATIONS PIONEER, EXEMPLARY CITIZEN

W. Emmett Brooks walked among us for 80 years, his steps leaving indelible footprints of the kind described by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his immortal poem "Footprints." Mr. Brooks in his busy and meaningful life was many things to many people. To this Society he was an inspiration, an organizer, a charter member and trustee, helping to draw up its by-laws and attending its meetings regularly until his health prevented him. In 1973 he presented a program on the "History ofBrewton" which Mrs. Rochelle Garrett has on tape, and which we plan to transcribe for publication soon. Mere words cannot express the loss we feel as we walk in the footprints of W. Emmett Brooks.

Mr. Brooks, born December 26, 1896, was the youngest child of Judge and Mrs. Millard Fillmore Brooks (see History of Brooks Family,

Tribute to W. Emmette Brooks (continued)

June, 1974, Volume II, No. 2, Escambia County Historical Quarterly) and an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Brewton. The following is a beautiful tribute paid to Mrs. Brooks over the "BREWTON TODAY" program, and printed with the permission of Wes. Gardner, present owner of WEBJ Radio of Brewton:

"This is Wes Gardner, present owner of Radio Station WEBJ, with a special tribute to the founder of this station, William Emmett Brooks, who passed away on Friday, July 15, 1977. Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Alabama in 1917. Following graduation he enlisted in the army serving as Sgt. Major with the 31st Division Headquarters, spending most of his tour of duty overseas. After World War I he helped organize the Claude McCall Post of the American Legion serving as its First Commander. Mr. Brooks bought The Brewton Standard in 1920 and was its publisher and editor until he sold the paper in 1958. During that time he was President of the Alabama Press Association in 1930 and 1931. He was County Solicitor from 1922 until 1935, amember of the Brewton City Council in the 1920s, President of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Citizens Athletic Commission which he organized and he supervised the building of Brewton's first lighted football field. He served on the Rationing Board during World War II. He was the first Director of the Department of Labor from 1943 to 1947, a Charter member and President of Brewton Rotary Club in 1922, a director of the Farmers & Merchants Bank for forty years; and director and President of Happiness House, a private rehabilitation center in Sarasota, Florida, and he was instrumental in organizing the United Fund in Brewton. Mr. Brooks founded radio station WEBJ in 1947 and was personally active in its operation until he sold it to its present owners in 1958. During this time he served as President of the Alabama Broadcasters Association in 1951 and 1952, and as First Chairman of the National Association of State Broadcasting Association Presidents. In founding WEBJ in August of 1947 Mr. Brooks blazed a trail for small town broadcasting. Prior to this time only the large metropolitan areas was served by this form of communication and WEBJ was for many years the only radio station between Montgomery and Mobile. Of the few small town stations in operation at this time WEBJ was one of the few to stay on the air full time, others were only part-time operations or daytime only, and as a result the people in the rural and outlying areas were provided with local as well as national coverage of news and sports. Mr. Brooks always took personal pride and enjoyment in handling the various news casts on this station and his 6:00 p.m. news cast with his own personal touch and comments were for many years one of the highlights of the broadcast day. Thanks to the foresight of Emmett Brooks thirty years ago WEBJ was established to serve the needs of Brewton and its environment, and we as present owners are proud to be able to carry on this tradition of community service. '

SUCCESS - To live well, to laugh often, to love much, to gain the respect of intelligent men, to win the love of little children. To fill one's niche and accomplish one's task, to leave the world better than one finds it whether by an improved flower, a perfect poem or another life ennobled. To never lack appreciation of earth's beauty or fail to express it, to always look for the best in others, to give the best one has. To make one's life an inspiration and one's memory a benediction. THIS IS SUCCESS!