
ESCAMBIA ECHOES

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THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O.Box 276
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Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Editor

September 19, 1977

Annual dues - \$6.00

ANNUAL FALL PILGRIMAGE - September 24, 1977, Saturday
EAST BREWTON AREA

2:00 p.m. Meet in Parking lot at Escambia County Courthouse,
Bring sack or basket supper for picnic.

The Pilgrimage will take the place of the September meeting. We will
be leaving the courthouse parking lot at 2:00 p.m. sharp going by

motorcade to Fort Crawford Park area (settled in 1813) and to visit the
older graves in Fort Crawford Cemetery, then going out the Florida
Highway (#41) to the old Travis Cemetery and settlement, to the Dixon
Cemetery, then back to historic Tar Landing in East Brewton on the far
end of Williamson Street (there will be a sign pointing to the dirt road
that turns to the left off Williamson Street). We will be the guests
at the cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Wink Williamson at Tar Landing on Conecuh
River. In keeping with the historic nature of the site Jewel and Wink
have furnished their cabin with many historic and handmade relics. Tar
Landing was used in the early days for loading pine tar in barrels onto
rafts or boats for shipment to Pensacola. Many of the early settlers
made pine tar for sale as a livelihood. After we have leisurely made
the tour of the sites, cemeteries and the Tar Landing cabin, we will
enjoy our picnic suppers, with sovvee furnished by The Escambia County
Historical Society and old-fashioned pies for dessert made by Jewel
Williamson--buttermilk pie, sweet potatoe pie, cushaw pie, etc. After
we finish our suppers which will be about 6:00 p.m. we will gather at
the porch for a short history of Tar Landing and the surrounding lands
to be given by Mrs. Kenny (Inez) Ashton, and country music for our enter-
tainment by James Sunday of Brewton on the guitar with his son on the
banjo. This should be a good foot-patting time of fellowship. James
Sunday recently entered the Country Music Contest in Pensacola and as a
result was offered a recording contract for recordings of some of his
original songs. Bring your children and grandchildren so they can see
and better appreciate some of the early history of this area. We have
several conflicts with our date--the REA annual meeting, Alabama-Vanderbilt
game and a W.O.W.dinner, so everybody that can, come on out and bring a
friend. The public is invited and welcomed for our pilgrimage into the
historic East Brewton area. IN CASE OF RAIN we will proceed directly to
Tar Landing from the courthouse and enjoy refreshments, the history by
Mrs. Ashton and music by the Sundays. Should the weather brighten up
we can still leave by motorcade and take the tour later in the afternoon.

MISS MARY ELIZABETH HOLLADAY - one of our most talented members, passed away on August 25. Although Miss Mary had a hearing problem and did not attend many of our meetings for this reason, she used her talent for arranging flowers and decorating for parties for this Society on many occasions. Her lovely home was decorated throughout with items she had designed and handmade. She was also very active in the Pineview Garden Club and helped with its many beautification projects in the Brewton area. She will long be remembered by the members of this Society.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Fall Pilgrimage, to be held at Alexander City, October 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Newsite High School. After lunch bus tours will be provided through the Horseshoe Bend National Military Museum and Park. If you wish to go on this trip as my guest please contact me. - Carolyn McLendon, 867-2382 or 867-4881.

MUSEUM FUND PROJECT : Now \$27,313.86 with firm commitments for another \$1,100.00. Most of you have noticed that the Fine Arts Center building which will house the museum facility as well, has been begun, and I am sure you are all excited by this. The building should be completed within nine months. The following donations have been made since the August newsletter was published:

REGULAR DONATIONS: Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan
Mrs. Grace Shell
Mrs. Jackie Raburn
Mrs. Lucy Hawsey

MEMORIALS: JOHN DAVID FINLAY, SR.

By: Mr. and Mrs. W. David Lang

W. EMMETT BROOKS

By: Mr. and Mrs. W. David Lang
Mrs. H.E. Cheatham, Greenville
Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Anderson
Mrs. Alice Till Beall
Mrs. Joe Larkin
Mr. and Mrs. Dan W. Hebert, Vincennes, Ind.
Mrs. Troy Brannon

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By: Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon

HIGHLIGHTING EAST BREWTON AREA HISTORY

By Carolyn Pugh McLendon

In order to impress upon the members of the Escambia County Historical Society and the general public who will be making a pilgrimage into the East Brewton area on September 24, 1977, the rich history of the East Brewton area, the following historical notations are given without elaborating upon the contents of the booklet entitled "A Documentary History of Fort Crawford" (published by the East Brewton Bicentennial Commission which also contained brief histories of Little Germany and the City of East Brewton which are available at the East Breton City Hall).

The first post office in this area was just across the river north of Henley Bridge on Travis Creek. It was named Nathanville, with Nicholas S. Travis as first Postmaster. This was in the community now known as Riverview. Nicholas S. Travis had a mill there and the post office was at the mill site.

The next post office in this area was on Cedar Creek where the original Cedar Creek Mill was operated by water. It was named Filmore with E.T. Brewton as Postmaster. He moved the post office from Filmore to Fort Crawford. Fort Crawford was established in 1816 as an army outpost.

Little Germany adjacent to the Fort Crawford Community was a community of German settlers begun by George and Elizabeth Harold who came to this country from Bavaria Germany. Their children born in Alabama were Charles in 1841, Henry, October 10, 1843, Elizabeth born February 25, 1847. George Harold and his family were later joined by his brother Henry and Dora Harold (Herauldt) who married in Bremen, Germany in 1839 and came to this country in 1853 with their children. Six of their ten children including Andrew and George C. Harold were born in Germany, four were born in this country. Also settling in Little Germany were Haller Mantel and wife, Sophia, who were born and married in Germany, but their sons, John and William, were born in this country. Fred Bauer (Bower) who was a half brother of Haller Mantel, along with the Zepernick, Schawdt (Schad) and other families made up the settlement. Many of the descendants of these families still live in Escambia County today. Mrs. Zepernick made bullets and was able to identify the bullet that killed Mr. Nicholas S. Travis from ambush as one that was made by her and sold to the assailant.

According to The Memorial Records of Alabama published in 1893, "the business firm of Harold Bros., was organized in 1874, and changed in 1881, by the admission thereto of J.S. Scott, who purchased a third interest in the concern, which then became known as the firm of Harold Bros. & Scott. In that year the company purchased 2,000 acres of timber land and a large stock of general merchandise, and did a very profitable business until 1888, when Mr. Scott withdrew and a stock company of G.C. Harold, A. Harold, J.H. Harold, and C.W. Zimmerman was incorporated under the laws of the state. The firm is known as the Harold Mill Company--G.C. Harold, president; C.W. Zimmerman, vice-president; J.H. Harold, secretary, and A. Harold, treasurer, and manufactures yellow pine lumber and timber, pine and cypress shingles, and deals in all kinds of merchandise demanded by the general trade. The main mill, to which a railroad track has been constructed, is situated about four miles east of Brewton and has a capacity of about 40,000 feet of lumber per day. The firm does a yearly business of about \$125,000, and the plant and other property represents a capital of \$100,000."

John and Maria Weaver came to the settlement from South Carolina in 1818. John was born in 1794 and died in 1857, Maria was born in

1795 and died in 1870.

There is a vacant space in the Fort Crawford cemetery where two rows of Fort Crawford soldiers were buried. Nothing marks the space, but it is located between Bill Coleman and his wife's (the oldest graves in the cemetery) graves and the creek.

Born in the main fort building at Old Fort Crawford on 8/3/1857 was John Brewton, son of Emanuel Brewton and Eliza Travis. Emanuel Brewton was the son of Emanuel Bruton and Caroline Bacon; Eliza Travis was the daughter of Nick Travis and a niece of William Barret Travis of Alamo fame. According to John Brewton both he and his sister were born in the old fort building and there were originally five buildings at the fort built of hewn logs and weather-boarded and ceiled with sawn lumber.

Another familiar name in the area is Mayo, the earliest Mayo (John W. and wife, Nancy Gainer) settling on Mayo Creek (now called May Creek) in Escambia County in 1815 and later settling in the Douglasville area on a creek now called Mayo Creek. John W. Mayo's father came to this country from County Mayo Ireland and settled first in Virginia where John W. Mayo was born. The Mayos were in the sawmill business.

Just outside East Brewton on what is now called the Jay Road a family of Lindseys settled in about 1850, John L. Lindsey, Sr. and wife, Rebecca Prescott Lindsey. The Lindseys were also in the timber business, hewing and squaring timber and floating it down river to Pensacola. Mr. Lindsey operated a ferry on the Conecuh River known as Lindsey Ferry, opening the community to Herrington and Pollard which were on the railroad. The Lindseys had eight children; one of the sons, Martin Lindsey operated a water-powered sawmill on the creek which became known as Lindsey Mill Creek.

A ferry across Conecuh River was operated by Dan Henley near the location of the present day Henley Bridge.

Old roads passing thru the East Brewton area were the Fort Crawford-Fort Gaines road, Wolf Train, Road to Georgia, and the Three-Notch Road.

"The Bluff" on the west side of Conecuh River four miles above the fort, according to Riley's History of Conecuh County published in 1881, was the site for a church edifice.

The first Probate Judge of Escambia County, Jesse Howard is buried in a lone grave at the old Harold Mill site. The grave site is tended by the East Brewton boy scout groups from time to time.

According to Ed Leigh McMillan, local historian, the only duel ever fought on Escambia County soil was fought in East Brewton (2½ miles east of Brewton on the River Road) between Lem Evans and Bob Alford, witnessed by Joe Evans (who was mortally wounded) and George Bell. Alford was tried and convicted at Pollard for accepting a challenge to fight a duel, but was pardoned before serving any time.

One of East Brewton's most unique early settlers was John Ashton, father of Alex, John and Will Ashton. Mr. Ashton died 12/23/1896, his wife, Charlotte Tippins Ashton died in 1893. A more detailed story of John Ashton is given in Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. I, No. 4, December, 1973. Mr. Ashton was truly a soldier of fortune. Born on a farm in Ohio, his father wanted him to remain on the farm, but the odor of gun powder and the report of muskets and cannons had a greater call. Consequently, when General Scott organized his army to go to the aid of Texas in the Mexican War, Mr. Ashton volunteered, being at that time 21 years of age. He went with General Scott through his Texas campaign and then to Mexico. After General Scott's army was withdrawn from Mexico, General Scott was sent with his army to Florida

Florida to subdue the Seminole Indians. Mr. Ashton was in the army that was sent to Florida. After the subjugation of the Seminole Indians, General Scott was sent with his army to subdue a tribe of mixed breed--Negro, Indian and Scotch--on the Apalachicola River in Florida just south of where Blountstown is now located. This mixed breed race of people is still there south of Blountstown and between the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers. They are called Scots. After this tribe was subdued by General Scott's army, Mr. Ashton procured his honorable discharge from the army and went to Quincy, Florida, where he was overseer of General Scott's tobacco plantation. After leaving Quincy he went to Pensacola and worked in the shipyard, then settled on Murder Creek 3 miles northeast of Brewton until he sold the land and acquired a farm across Murder Creek in the community now known as East Brewton and remained there for the rest of his life. Mr. Ashton was too old to join the Confederate army, but he did belong to the Home Guard and did active service during the war.

In glancing over the 1883 Yellow Fever report this writer saw no names of people who might have lived in the present-day East Brewton area, but cannot say definitely that residents East of Murder Creek were not touched by the disease.

East Brewton has had its share of schools--the East Brewton Academy built in 1888 (its name changed to East Side Academy in August, 1890), Downing Industrial School (its name changed to Downing-Shofner Institute after Dr. Shofner's retirement), and W.S.Neal School. A complete history of Downing Industrial School prepared by Annie C. Waters was published in Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. IV, No. 3, September, 1976; and a complete history of W.S.Neal School and its forerunners was published in Escambia County Historical Quarterly, Vol. IV, No. 2, June, 1976. During the Fort Crawford period a tutor named Tom Dillon was hired by Nick Travis to teach his children.

The 1929 Flood made the East Brewton area residents seek high ground and food was dropped by plane to people who were stranded on high ground without provisions. Many area residents speak of their experiences during the flood. The Brewton Standard, March 28, 1929 stated "In East Brewton Murder Creek extended almost to the intersection of the concrete highway with the Ridge Road."

It is hoped that the residents of the East Brewton area who experienced the 1929 flood will make a record of the happenings and make it available for publication by The Escambia County Historical Society.

DOUGLASVILLE CEMETERY

Recorded by Frank Harris and Tram Black, Feb. 5, 1973

2 Hicks children	Hicks infant 1892
Johnson child	Ruel Howell, Jr. 1927-1952 Korean War
Mrs. Barnett Black	J.E. Black Veteran
Yancy Black 1902-1916	Nannie F. Black 1881-1935
Abraham Black, Jr. 1866-1912	Arthur Lee Black
Palestine Floyd Bird 1861-1910	Lillie Howell 1901-1959
Cotie Douglas 1873-1880	Howell infant
Samuel Haynes	1 unknown adult
Oscar Haynes	Abraham Black, Sr., Co. E. 15 Confederate
J.I. Black's infant 1900	Clara O. Black 1834-1907 Calvary
1 adult unknown	H.H. Spence 1892-1940
1 child unknown	Mrs. H.H. Spence
Thomas J. Scott 1845-1899	Ruth Spence 1926
Rev. J.B. Huggins 1847-1886	Jack Spence
Charlie Solomon 1872-1881	Mrs. Jack Spence