

? Who are
? we?

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

November 15, 1977

Published by

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

Annual dues \$6.00

Carolyn Pugh McLendon -
Editor and President

Let's find
out!

NOTICE OF MEETING - Tuesday, November 22, 1977, 7:00 p.m.
Place: Brewton Public Library
Program: Who Are We? Let's Find Out!
Presented by: Miss Mary Brantley, Atmore, Al.

MISS MARY BRANTLEY of Atmore, author of "Early Settlers Along the Old Federal Road in Monroe-Conecuh Counties, Ala." (published last year and lauded as one of the foremost reference works for this area) will share with us many of the things she learned about research while re-searching the history and genealogy contained in her book. Miss Brantley will give suggestions for the beginner in family searching; a special message to grandparents and great-grandparents in making their contribution from their armchair without travel or expense; the best publications for research; patriotic societies and requirements for membership; authentic coat of arms; sources for information for those living in Escambia County; the surprising results from family genealogy searching through faith, patience and hard work. A discussion period will follow the program. Come and bring a friend. Visitors are always welcome.

GENEALOGY CLASS OFFERED AT JEFF DAVIS JUNIOR COLLEGE - Again this quarter (beginning Dec. 5th) the class on genealogy will be taught by Roger Anderson, fee \$13.00, book \$5.95, on Monday nights from 6:00-8:00. Registration for the quarter has already begun.

BOOK AVAILABLE - COVINGTON COUNTY, ALA.; "Early History of Covington County, Alabama 1821-1871" by Wyley Donald Ward, may be purchased from the author for \$16.00 at his home address: 3428 Darlene Circle, Huntsville, Al. 35810. This book was published in 1976.

MUSEUM FUND - The museum fund now has a balance of \$27,679.30, with additional commitments of \$1,100.00. Contributions since the last newsletter was published are as follows:

MEMORIALS:

JOHN DAVID FINLAY

By: Mrs. Clara Thames

MRS. CYNTHIA DANIELS

By: Mrs. Gladys Chavers

Mrs. Lottie Mae Armstrong

American Legion Auxiliary, Post No. 79

MEMORIALS -

W. EMMETT BROOKS

By: Mrs. Clara Thames

JAMES ROBERT STEWART (1858-1930 b.in Scotland)

By: Mrs. Edna Stewart Snider, Pontiac, Mich.

McDUFFIE THAMES

By: Mrs. Clara Thames

MISS MARY HOLLADAY

By: Mrs. John David Finlay

ADOLPH WEAVER

By: Mrs. Alice Till Beall
Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Riley, Jr.
Mrs. Bertie S. Cooper

THOMAS E. McMILLAN

By: James E. Hart, Jr.
Mrs. Clara Thames

WE GET PUBLICITY! The County Record, Blountstown, Florida, from the column "Musings" by Wallace Finlay: "It may never get to her, but one never knows, so I will say it. The lady who edits the Escambia County Historical Journal will be pleased to know that one of our history buffs, George Atkins, is impressed with the good job she does. So, indeed, am I. I wish to publicly express my thanks to Brooks Hayes, who subscribed to the journal for me. I have really enjoyed it, Brooks."

MORE PUBLICITY: The Montgomery Advertiser-Journal, Montgomery, Al., October 30, 1977, from the column by Ed Williams, State Editor: "TO SEE THROUGH A CAUL, DARKLY, Brewton - Ghosts, witches, haunted graveyards, spooky noises coming from abandoned houses. Each county, town and community in the state has its share of strange and supernatural phenomena. Escambia County is no exception and since Halloween was approaching, members of the county historical society got together recently to share supernatural events they'd heard about or experienced. "'Show and tell' type programs are common at the monthly meetings said Carolyn McLendon, historical society president.

"Mrs. Aquilla Simmons told the other members about an orange-colored object her husband had spotted in Kirkland Swamp near Brewton. Mrs. Simmons said her husband, along with about 20 other men, went to the swamp one night to witness the strange object. "My husband really did see it," Mrs. Simmons related to the group, "and I believe anything he says."

Lots of Alabama ghost stories originate in the swampland, and some are explainable. Take Ambrose Riley's story for instance. Ambrose said he was walking through an Escambia County swamp late one evening when he saw a white object drifting among the tree branches. "It turned out to be a white-face cow," Ambrose laughed.

Mrs. Annie Waters said she had a great aunt who, as a child, was able to foresee the future. But folks back then didn't think her supernatural ability was much out of the ordinary since the aunt was born with a membrane, medically termed a "caul," covering her head. "In those days, any child born with a caul was thought to be able to see supernatural things," Mrs. Waters explained.

Thunderstorms also seem to invite the supernatural, and Mrs.

Doris Bruner told of a personal experience that occurred on a stormy night several years ago. "There was a glow coming from my pillow," she told the historical society members. "It wouldn't go away, so I took the pillow and eased it into the closet and shut the door." "Needless to say, I didn't sleep that night and the next day the glow was gone." Mrs. Bruner said she never found an explanation for the incident but "it must have been brought out by the thunder and lightning."

Mrs. Emmett Brooks told a story of two young men who thought the world was coming to an end when it began getting dark in the middle of the day. "They knelt down and prayed, and then it started getting light," said Mrs. Brooks. "They'd never heard of an eclipse," she laughed.

Near the end of the meeting, when the supply of stories was about exhausted, 90-year-old Sally Davison said she'd never seen a ghost "but I'm about to believe in them now."

And Mrs. Betty Campbell agreed--she'd never seen an honest-to-goodness ghost, either. But she did have a fitting comment to close the meeting. "There aren't any witches in my family," she said, "and no skeletons in my closet."

DREAMER OF DREAMS

We are all of us dreamers of dreams,
On visions our childhood is fed;
And the heart of the child is unhaunted, it seems,
By the ghosts of dreams that are dead.

From childhood to youth's but a span,
And the years of our life are soon sped;
But the youth is no longer a youth, but a man,
When the first of his dreams is dead. . . .

- William Herbert Carruth

* * * * *

HENRY DAVID THOREAU Quotes:

"The greater part of what my neighbors call good I believe in my soul to be bad, and if I repent of anything, it is very likely to be my good behavior. What demon possessed me that I behaved so well?

"If I knew for a certainty that a man was coming to my house with the conscious design of doing me good, I should run for my life, as from that dry and parching wind of the African deserts called the simoom, which fills the mouth and nose and ears and eyes with dust till you are suffocated, for fear that I should get some of his good done to me--some of its virus mingled with my blood.

EMERSON "The blazing evidence of immortality is our dissatisfaction with any other solution."