

May 1978

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

Published by -

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

Annual dues -
\$6.00

Little River

Booneville

Old Federal Road

Stewart

Steadham

Balentine

L&N Railroad
ATMORE

Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Secretary/Editor

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Note Change of Time to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23, 1978, 7:30 p.m.

At Brewton Public Library

Speaker: J. FLOYD CURRIE of
Atmore

Topic: "History of West Escambia
County, Alabama."

SPECIAL EVENT:

JEFFERSON DAVIS BIRTHDAY BALL
AND COSTUME PARTY

June 3, 1978 8:00 p.m.

at Jefferson Davis Junior
College Gymnasium, Tickets-\$7.50
Montgomery Symphony Orchestra,
Exhibition Ballroom Dancing,
Costume Contest, Dance Contest

The jovial and beloved former President of this Society (1974-75), J. Floyd Currie of Atmore, will present a program on the "History of West Escambia County???" He states that he will explain the reason for the question marks during the program. The West part of Escambia County was carved from Baldwin County at the time of the formation of Escambia County in 1868, the eastern part of the county being carved from Conecuh County. Mr. Currie has for years been recognized as Atmore's foremost historian and will touch on many historical incidents of the Atmore area. Few are aware that the hero-pilot for whom Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery was named is buried at Robinsonville North of Atmore. Mr. Currie always entertains us well, you can expect to enjoy this program. Come and bring a friend.

Orders are coming in for the tickets rapidly now, don't be left out of the Jefferson Davis Birthday Ball and Costume Party on June 3rd. Only 300 tickets will be sold. The 50-piece Montgomery Symphony Orchestra will play for the ball. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Dell of the Ballroom Dance Association of Montgomery and several of their students will render several exhibition ballroom dances--they can only be compared to Bobby and Sissy of the Lawrence Welk Show. Gladys Chavers is calling some

of the members to ask that they furnish homebaked cakes--we want to have a beautiful cake table similar to the one we had for the Garden Party at the John David Finlay home several years ago. The cakes, iced tea, punch and coffee will be the only refreshments served as no alcoholic beverages are served on campus. Plenty of seating will be provided for those who only want to come to listen and watch. This is going to be an exciting event. This is a benefit for the Museum and we want and need a full house.

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BY TO SEE THE THOMAS E. McMILLAN MUSEUM AND FINE ARTS BUILDING YOU SHOULD! It is well-placed on the campus and will make your heart swell with pride! Be sure to tell everyone that the Curator, Roger Anderson, is accepting items for the museum now and cataloging them for placement in the museum. Mrs. Muriel Brewton of El Paso, Texas has recently given the Society a Map of Brewton drawn by Philip Arends before 1883, along with several other deeds and letters relating to the Brewton family.

MUSEUM FUND PROGRESS -

Many Thanks to ALLIED FOUNDRY & MACHINING for a donation of \$500.00.

MEMORIAL DONATION: ED LEIGH McMILLAN

By: Mrs. Georgia Hart, Flomaton, Al.

Present Balance in Museum Fund	-----	\$ 18, 516.37
Paid out to College to date	-----	170,131.00
Total Receipts	-----	188,647.37
Additional Commitments	-----	600.00
BALANCE TO BE RAISED	-----	\$ 10,752.63
Total Commitment made to college	-----	\$ 200,000.00

MEMORANDUM IN RE OLD FORT CRAWFORD

By: Ed Leigh McMillan

August 15, 1934

John Brewton, who was born in the main Fort building of Old Fort Crawford on August 3, 1857, was in my office this morning. He gave me the following information.

His grandfather was Emanuel Brewton. Mr. Brewton's grandmother's name was Caroline Bacon. He is of the opinion that his grandfather and grandmother were born born in Georgia. Mr. Brewton's father's name was Emanuel Brewton--spelled Brewton. He was born 60 miles from Atlanta --Mr. Brewton doesn't know in which direction. Mr. Brewton's mother's name was Eliza Travis; she was the daughter of Nick Travis and was a niece of Col. William Barrett Travis of Alamo fame.

Mr. Brewton states that after the war between the States, one Zeke Brewton, who had been a prisoner on Ship Island and came from somewhere in Georgia, passed through Brewton and stopped and married Emma Lovelace, daughter of Jim Lovelace. He says that this Zeke Brewton was no relation to the other Brewtons who lived here.

Mr. Brewton says that his grandfather came to the settlement later known as Fort Crawford, the later part of the 18th Century. He stated that his grandmother told him that a fort had been established by the Spaniards sometime previous to their coming.

Mr. Brewton states that he and his sister, Mary Brewton Holland, were born in the old fort building at Fort Crawford. He says that there were originally five buildings at the fort, and that the buildings

were built of hewn logs and were weather-boarded and ceiled with sawn lumber. At the time the fort buildings were erected, Mr. Brewton states that his people told him that no gun could shoot through the walls. He says that the buildings at Fort Crawford were built by United States soldiers, but that there was a fort, or place of refuge, at the spot before the Fort Crawford buildings were erected.

The buildings at Fort Crawford were built so high above the ground that the horses of the settlers and soldiers could be put under the buildings and protected from the firing or attacks of the enemy.

The fort was not at the place where the present fort building is located, but lay about a quarter of a mile to the northeast of the present fort building. Mr. Brewton states that the fort buildings were torn down by his ancestors and others, and the material in the fort used to build barns and stables.

There was a race track at Old Fort Crawford for horse racing. Mr. Brewton has never heard of the soldiers racing their horses, but said that the settlers often raced their horses.

There was a block from which women could mount their horses, and which block was also used as an auction block for slaves. Mr. Brewton says that when the people would put their slaves on the auction block for sale, they would dress the slaves in pants with only one leg and shirt with only one sleeve, so that the physical condition of the slave could be seen; that he was told that if rubbed down with hog lard, an old negro would pass for a young one. He says that it was common practice among the people who sold slaves, to try to deceive the buyer as to the slave's age.

Mr. Brewton tells the following story: He says that Tom Dillon was an itinerant school teacher; that he was employed by Mr. Brewton's grandfather (Nick Travis) to teach his children. He says that one day while Mr. Dillon was in the woods he heard a gun shooting, but couldn't tell the point from which the shots were fired. Finally he saw smoke coming from a mass of moss up in a tree, and that he shot at the moss and an Indian fell out; he killed the Indian and cut a strip of the Indian's hide from his back and made a razor strop.

John Brewton who gave the above information, married Bill Foshee's daughter. At this time he was living in Texas.

God did not call upon you to be like the Canary Bird
Trapped in the confinement of a cage
But, rather to be like the Eagle
To fly across continents
And reach for the Galaxies
So that in the end
Your life will have shown brightly like the Sun
And the very stars will whisper your name.

--Brian Shul

Continuity with the past is a necessity, not a duty.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.