

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 12, 1978 - 7:00 p.m.

at the <u>THOMAS E.McMILLAN MUSEUM</u> on campus of Jefferson Davis State Junior College

Program presented by <u>Miss Rita Jane Boykin</u> with assistance of <u>Miss Eleanor Booker</u> at the piano

This will be a Musical Program with a holy Christmas theme.

Please bring a small dish of party food for refreshments. Mrs. Lillian Watson is calling several members to ask for certain items, but would like a nice assortment of small items for the tray.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND OR PROSPECTIVE MEMBER.

THE CHRISTMAS PARADE this year was one of the finest Brewton has ever had. This was accomplished by the many talented people of this area, putting their energies together with their imagination and creating a Fairyland parade through the streets. This Society entered its first float in this parade, entitled "Christmas as a Legend", with a parlor scene complete with oriental rug, pump organ, and a Christmas tree decorated with popcorn. Our Curator, Mr. Roger Anderson, who really went over and beyond the call of duty in working on this float was assisted by Miss Rita Jane Boykin and Miss Lula Pearl Neal who are both members of this Society and Mr. Earl Evans who was recruited by Carolyn McLendon to help in her place. Mrs. Lillian Watson, Mrs. Pauline Duke, and Mrs. Maude Yeldell popped and strung popcorn for the tree until they were fairly exhausted. Riding on the float in the parade were Mr and Mrs. Roger Anderson and their two daughters, Mr. Earl Evans and Mrs. Carolyn McLendon. Mrs. Anderson played the pump organ through the streets filling the air with lovely Christmas hymns. Although the Society's float won no prize, it was good that we put in an appearance as one of the outstanding organizations supporting this city.

Dr. George McCormick is named as new Jefferson Davis State Junior College President. Dr. McCormick is 31, a native of Boaz, Alabama, and is presently Dean of the Tuscaloosa Campus of Brewer State Junior College. His wife, the former Jane Moore of Anniston, and their 18-month old son will move to Brewton soon. At the November meeting this Society voted to write Dr. McCormick a letter inviting him to take part in our organization and pledging our full support in helping to make this college and the Thomas E.McMillan Museum even greater. We look forward to his arrival and working with Dr. McCormick in these endeavors.

A BOOK REVIEW

"Word From Camp Pollard"

by: Mrs. Virginia Brannan Smith, Correspondent, Ledger-Enquirer East Alabama TODAY

West Point, Ga. - "Word From Camp Pollard" by West Point historian and author William Davidson is his third book, in addition to the more than 12 edited by the talented and prolific writer for the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society. Davidson chooses local people, places and events for his subject matter and the 1978 book compares favorably with "Pine Log and Green Revival," homes and buildings in Chambers, Harris and Troup counties and "Brooks of Honey and Butter," plantations in Meriwether County, Ga.

The camp Pollard book, however, is very different from the other Davidson books. In this 369-page book with original illustrations of the Barrow family and postmarks and stamps, he has used letters from a 40-year old Chambers County peoneer plantation owner who chose to volunteer for the Confederacy rather than be conscripted or choose the various ways and means of avoiding army service. Just as in reading the many books on the reconstruction of Williamsburg, Va., the research followed by Davidson is well documented, plus the notes at the end of each chapter are as interesting as the actual true story, told in the letters from James Heath Barrow, his wife Nancy and from a daughter, Mary Susan Barrow. Davidson first came across the letters while writing his now rare collector book "Pine Log and Greek Revival,"

Inc letters were in the upstairs rooms of the Barrow-Meadors plantation house built by James Heath Barrow and saved by his daughter Irene Barrow Headors and her descendants. Davidson was not sure of the location of James Pollard, except that it was in Conecuh County, Ala., so this began more months of research. It also involved the trials of the Confederacy in 1863 when things were not good for the South and both men and materials of war were in short supply. The book includes the military career of Confederate Gen. James Holt Clanton, under whom Barrow served, as well as the strategic location of Camp Pollard a relation to Mobile and the Gulf of Mexico.

Davidson talked to many pioneer families in Brewton, Ala., but had to continue his search in military records in Washington for details, as many in Pollard had never heard of the Confederate Camp. A map of the camp is included in the book.

James Heath Barrow enlisted at Lafayeette with his good friend Campt. Alfred F. Zachary and before leaving for army service, Barrow made careful plans, paying his debts and closing out accounts and transformed the overall management of the plantation to his wife Nancy. He also wrote his will, not knowing if he would ever return home again. The early letters are addressed to Mrs. Nancy E.Barrow, West Point, Troup County, Ga. and he begins his letters with "Alabama, Conecuh Cty., Folk All are dated beginning in November 1863. Barrow did not make claim to exceptional education or writing abilities, but the letters speak for the details of camp life, which, most of the time, was hard and sometimes ted out. There was real danger also, not only from an enemy bullet but from disease and the lack of medical care. Barrow shows his love and devotion to his wife and children and is always concerned about it task his wife had to carry out with the help of the plantation oversect and faithful slaves.

Camp Pollard had 125 cabins to house the men, with most of the work done by the soldiers. There seemed to be no critical food shortages but Darrow had few pieces of clothing and, at one time, after failures, to get a pair of pants sent home for Nancy to patch, Pvt.Barrow wrote, and it myself." He often volunteered to nurse the sick and to pass the time, when not on guard duty at the important bridges, made small trinkets and rings from animal bone and hooves for his children. A foldout map of Camp Pollard is at the back of the book.

Lee Stripling Davidson, brother of the author compiled the excellent and complete index. The book is of the highest quality paper with a builth green cover. The first printing of 150 copies has been sold a second printing has been made. The cost of the book is \$19.95 plus \$171 for postage and insurance for a total of \$21.66. Copies may be ordered from William Davidson, 309 East 9th St. West Point, Ga.

From Camp Pollard" is a book well worth the price and one employed to be a collectors' item.