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THOMAS E. McMILLAN MUSEUM

\* ESCAMBIA ECHOES \*

\* February 15, 1980 \*

\* Published by \*

\* The Escambia County Historical  
Society \*

\* P.O.Box 276  
Brewton, Alabama 36426 \*

\* Annual Dues - \$6.00 (Jan.to Jan.) \*

\* Editor: Mrs. Barry L. Emerich \*

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NOTICE OF MEETING:

Fourth Tuesday, February 26, 1980, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Thomas E. McMillan Museum in Fine Arts  
Building on campus of Jefferson  
Davis State Junior College

Speaker: ED LEIGH McMILLAN II

Topic: History of the Brewton Universalist  
Church

Ed Leigh McMillan II had planned to give this history of the Brewton Universalist Church for the November meeting, but for unavoidable reasons was unable to do so. His great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Miller, were two of the founders of the church and during their lifetimes and the lifetimes of their children, Iva Lee, David B. and John R., their love of the church gave it endurance. Ed Leigh McMillan II's love of the church came thru his father, Thomas E. McMillan, who was inspired by his mother, Iva Lee Miller McMillan--four generations of Universalists. Ed Leigh II acts as the Church Secretary/Treasurer and his brother, Thomas E. McMillan, Jr., is President. Ed Leigh II is an excellent speaker and the program will be a good one. Come and bring a friend.

INSIGNIA AT TOP OF NEWSLETTER - is the new logo for the Thomas E. McMillan Museum and is printed on its stationery. It seems to signify the upward progressive movements of the museum since its inception with the forward and backward "m" depicting its glancing into the future while looking into the past. As a result of John T. Powell, Curator's, efforts in digging up local sites, several new exhibits from 1812 through the Civil War period have been put up. Tell everyone about our museum and encourage groups to visit.

IN MEMORIAM - Mrs. Jack (Mary Rose Harold) Peavy. It is such a loss when one so young and active is snatched from our midst as was Mary Rose. One of our charter members, she has been active in this Society since its inception helping to plan the East Brewton Pilgrimage in 1976, and was always interested and willing to help with whatever needed to be done no matter how large or small the task. She had done extensive work on her family lineage and was glad to help anyone working on their related lines. She was at the time of her death serving on the Courthouse Historical Committee. She was one of the world's special people who did well everything that she did. We

grieve with her family and share with them their great loss. She was an active member of First Methodist Church of Brewton.

MEMORIALS - IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARTHA McIVER STRONG (a widow) and  
her son, THOMAS LOUIS STRONG  
By: Mary Strong Thames  
Lois Strong Bell

The sweetest note accompanied this memorial that I want to share with the members, leaving the amount of the memorial blank, although it was a considerable sum:

"The enclosed check for \$\_\_\_\_ is for the Memorial Fund in memory of our grandmother, Mrs. Martha McIver (the widow) Strong, and her son (our father) Thomas Louis Strong, \$\_\_\_\_ each. Our little grandmother was the kindest, most deserving person we have ever known. Our early life and formative years spent in her home and influence have done much to steer a course toward a worthwhile, productive life. Her gracious friends, the people of Brewton, always had time and a welcome for us. I am sure we are better world citizens because of the foundation we received in Brewton. Our father, Thomas Louis Strong, having been raised by the widow Strong, was a good man. His father died of yellow fever when he was 22 months old and the twins were two weeks old. They had few advantages, but their mother's love and efforts and the friendship of the people of Brewton saw them through.

Mary Strong Thames and Lois Strong Bell"

MEMORIALS - IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY ROSE HAROLD PEAVY  
By: Mrs. John David Finlay, Sr.  
Mrs. Carolyn L. Emerich

NEW OFFICERS - 1980 and 1981:

PRESIDENT - Rev. J.W.Caldwell  
VICE PRESIDENT- Mrs. Gladys Huff Byrd  
SECRETARY - Miss Rita Jane Boykin  
TREASURER - Bert M. Campbell, Jr.  
EDITOR - Mrs. Carolyn L. Emerich  
REPORTER - Mrs. Doris Bruner  
LIBRARIAN - Miss Janel Redditt  
MEMORIAL CHAIRMAN - Mrs. John David (Emily Wallace) Finlay, Sr.  
HISTORIAN - Mrs. M.G. (Annie Crook) Waters  
NEW TRUSTEE - Mrs. John David Finlay, Sr. (to replace  
Woodfin Patterson who has moved away and  
requested to be replaced)

EXECUTIVE BOARD - Your new President, J.W.Caldwell, better known to many as Brother Jim, has reactivated the Executive Board and it met on February 5th. This is one of the penny-pinchingest Executive Board's you've ever had--and admirably so! They determined that membership cards will no longer be sent for renewals and new members because of the cost of postage and that most people pay by check anyway. Hereafter a list of renewals as well as new members will be published in this newsletter each month.

BOOK COMMITTEE - Your Escambia County History Book committee has interviewed and tentatively agreed to commission, Mrs. Viola Harper of Mobile, a niece of Mrs. Annie Waters, to compile the history, ask-

ing that she complete the same in two years. The Committee and the Executive Board will have a letter agreement with Mrs. Harper and a commitment contract with the Escambia County Commission to present for your approval at the meeting. Be sure to come and be a part of this important step.

YOUR MIMEOGRAPHIC MACHINE - bought in 1973 when we first began our publishing efforts, cannot be repaired and the Executive Board is considering the purchase of a new or used one. The September/December, 1979 quarterly is to be mimeographed on a borrowed machine until another is acquired.

MEMORIAL CHAIRMAN - In the past the Treasurer and his wife, Bert and Betty Campbell, have been acknowledging and recording the memorials received--and they have done an excellent job although it was a tremendous job with over \$200,000 in contributions. We applaud their efforts in our behalf and extend our sincere appreciation for a job well done. In the future memorials may be sent to the Society at P.O.Box 276, Brewton, Al. 36426, or to Mrs. John David Finlay, Sr., Memorial Chairman, P.O.Box 737, Brewton, Al. 36426. And I'll tell you right now, you can't send in enough memorials to keep Mrs. Finlay happy. Her late husband wanted this museum on Alco Hill more than anything else, and she has given the Curator of the Museum permission to do whatever digging is necessary regarding the 1813 battle on Alco Hill by soldiers from Fort Crawford and the Indians. She has herself contributed to the museum a display of the five flags over Alabama--some of them having to be hand-made! Let's keep her happy! She wants everybody's name on the memorial plaque!

NEW MEMBERS - January-February:

Mrs. Milton E. Adams, 5309 Helene Dr., Charleston Heights, S.C.  
Mr. Kenric Minges, 203 Woodrow Street, Brewton, Al. 36426  
Miss Katherine L. Botts, 901 Oak Ridge Road W., Mobile, Al.  
Mr. George Williamson, S. Pear St., Blountstown, Fla. 32424  
Mr. Charles D. Stout, Box 43223, Middletown, Ky. 40203

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1979 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Balances 1/1/79:	Museum Fund -----	\$ 1,800.04
	Regular Fund -----	455.43
		<u>\$ 2,255.47</u>
INCOME:	Interest on Savings -----	\$ 14.11
	Quarterlies sold -----	67.90
	Dues from members -----	1,400.00
	Museum Fund Donations -----	660.00
	Total Income -----	2,142.01
Expenses:	Publication of quarterlies etc.:	
	Postage -----	\$ 345.52
	Supplies -----	706.41
	Repairs to mimeo machine ---	22.50
	R.S.V.P. for assembling -----	60.00
	Gift for resigning curator -----	48.23
	Dues -National Trust for	
	Historic Preservation--	<u>10.00</u>
	Total regular expenses -----	(1,192.66)

(continued)

Museum Expenses:

Jefferson Davis State Jur. College to	
complete commitment for \$200,000---	\$ 615.00
JDJC for museum supplies (laboratory)	500.00
JDJC for-microfilm machine -----	1,702.50
Orleans Coin Shop, coins for museum	
display -----	15.00
Total Museum Expenses -----	( 2,832.50 )

Balance left in Regular Fund on 12/31/79 ----- \$ 372.32

Museum Fund Account Balance - \$.00 - account closed.

RENEWALS TO DATE FOR 1980:

Dr. Ralph W. Adams	Frank A. Luttrell, Jr.	Maclyn Weaver
Mrs. Ella D. Allen	Greg Mantel	Miss Ella Wesson
Mrs. Bertha Barron	Mrs. Barbara McConnell	Mrs. Maude C. Yaddell
Ms. Bonnie R. Barrow	W. K. McConnico	Mrs. Muriel Brewster
Mrs. Alice T. Beall	Dr. Virgil D. McCreary	Travis C. Campbell
Gould Beech	Dr. Andrew McCreary	Mrs. Jennie Rankin Stone
Mrs. Lois S. Bell	Mrs. David L. McDavid	Rev. J. C. Caldwell
Miss Rita Jane Boykin	Earl McGowin	
Gid Boykin	Mrs. Carolyn Emerich	<u>NEW MEMBERS PAID FOR</u>
Miss Sally Brooks	Mrs. Elvira McMillan	<u>1980:</u>
Mrs. W. E. Brooks	Duncan Merriwether	Amos J. Wright
Mrs. Gladys Byrd	Mrs. David B. Miller	David L. Sanders
Mrs. Norma B. Carroll	W. E. Mills	W. Y. Jernigan, Jr.
Mrs. Percy D. Corbin	Charles R. Mixon, Sr.	Frank Ashton
J. Floyd Currie	Mrs. Ernestine M. Nettles	Maury Weaver
Mrs. J. Floyd Currie	Charles W. Northcutt	Hershel Weaver
Miss Ethel Davison	Mrs. Grace E. Odom	Dave Elliott
Mrs. Margorie Davison	Mrs. Howard E. Palmer	R. L. Weaver
Miss Sallie M. Davison	Mrs. Nettie T. Parker	Mrs. George M. Eddins, Jr.
Solon Dixon	H. Eugene Pettis	Ed Williams, Jr.
Dr. W. J. Donald	J. C. Rasher	Ms. Diana W. Haney
John Lee Downing	Ms. Helen Robertson	Mrs. Myrtle Coogie
Judge A. H. Elliott	Mrs. G. A. Robinson	Col. John W. Sowell
J. F. Elliott	Dr. Hugh I. Rodgers	Mike English
Lt. Col. L. H. Evans, Jr.	B. T. Sankey	Mrs. Anne Gometz Foshee
J. H. Findley	Mrs. B. T. Sankey	Mrs. Milton E. Adams
John D. Finlay, Jr.	Mrs. Mary E. Sowell	Kenric Minges
Louis M. Finlay, Jr.	Mrs. Emily F. Smith	Miss Katherine L. Botts
Mrs. Louise Hall Gary	W. P. Smith	George Williamson
Mrs. F. N. Hall	Mrs. Edan Stewart Snider	Charles D. Stout
Mrs. Willa R. Hassell	Mrs. Ruby Stallworth	
Brooks Hayes	Mrs. Eldse G. Stout	
Mrs. Evelyn Hayes	Mrs. B. F. Stokes, Jr.	
J. P. Hayes	Mrs. Laurie B. Strong	
T. C. Hurd	Mrs. Nellie Travis	
Mrs. T. C. Hurd	W. L. Waller	
Mrs. Evelyn Jernigan	Mrs. M. G. Waters	
John M. Jones, Jr.	Rev. M. G. Waters	
Merle B. Jones	Mrs. Lillian B. Watson	
Judge R. E. L. Key	R. B. Watson	
Mrs. W. A. Lovelace	Earl H. Weaver	
Mrs. Bessie Luttrell	Harry L. Weaver	

\$38,000.00 GRANT AWARDED - The Alabama Historical Commission has awarded a \$38,000 grant to the Jefferson Davis State Junior College for research and archaeological study of two important early military sites in Escambia County--the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek and Fort Crawford. The grant from the state preservation agency will help fund the survey of American frontier military sites in a 200-square mile area of Escambia and Baldwin counties known as the Tensaw Country military complex. Other sites in the survey include forts Mims, Pierce, and Montgomery, Cantonment, Montpelier and Camp Hope at Blakeley.

A highly significant period of military activity from the time of the War of 1812 through statehood is represented in the complex. Fort Crawford was a chief Alabama post for General Andrew Jackson during the First Seminole War which began in 1817. The fort was abandoned after the war and its site has tentatively been identified within the City Limits of East Brewton.

The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek on July 27, 1813, was the initial battle of the Creek Indian War. There has been no intensive archaeological investigation of either site and the grant from the Alabama Historical Commission will help save the areas from destruction by relic collectors.

The large project will be under the direction of John T. Powell, director of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the junior college campus in Brewton. He will be assisted by a professional archaeologist and field assistants. Artifacts recovered in the survey will be housed, preserved and exhibited at the McMillan Museum. The public museum is dedicated to the study and exhibition of Alabama's historical and archaeological resources and has a permanent staff and security system. The project is being undertaken in cooperation with the James H. Faulkner Junior College at Bay Minette, where archaeological field teams will be temporarily housed.

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The above is a Press Release from the Alabama Historical Commission, 725 Monroe Street, Montgomery, Al. 36130, Cathy Donelson, informant. On further inquiry we are advised that the award is for \$35,000 rather than \$38,000--that somebody made an error, and that after it has been published! Facts are that Baldwin county applied for \$53,000, we applied for \$38,000 for the Fort Crawford and Burnt Corn Creek sites only. Only God knows how they managed to clump Escambia County and Baldwin County together, giving Escambia the funds it needed for its two sites and all the responsibility of the six sites in Baldwin County as well. And, is it fair that we should take the artifacts salvaged from Baldwin County for our museum, even though we'd love to have them? If anybody is ever able to explain what motivates the Alabama Historical Commission, please send a written explanation so we can let everybody know!

DEFINITION: Civilization is a method for living: an attitude of respect for all.