

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

June 13, 1980

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The Escambia County Historical Society

P.O.Box 276

Brewton, Alabama 36427

Mrs. Carolyn L. Emerich, Editor

Rev. J.W.Caldwell, President

Annual Dues: \$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING - Tuesday, June 24, 1980 - 7:00 p.m. at

Thomas E. McMillan Museum on campus of Jefferson Davis State Junior College, Brewton, Al.

Speaker: Mrs. Larry (Pam) Peterson

Topic - "BREWTON HIGHLIGHTS"

In carrying out her duties as Director of the Brewton Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Pam Peterson has been the power behind getting the initial paperwork, histories of buildings, etc. together in attempting to have the Downtown Brewton Historic District put on the National Register of Historic Places. The District has been approved by the State Board and is now in Washington for final approval. Mrs. Peterson has also worked with the Chamber in having a new brochure to be entitled "Tour Historic Brewton" published for distribution by the Chamber. The brochure will depict particular architectural styles and designs in homes as well as many other places of interest to visitors. A picture of the Thomas E. McMillan Museum will be included and information regarding the Genealogical and Historical Reference Center located in the museum. In her presentation she will tell some of the histories of the buildings and explain the different styles of architecture found in Brewton while showing pictures and slides. Pam's husband, Larry, is with South Central Bell Telephone Company and they, with their 11 year old son live on Spruce Avenue. Larry is originally from Tennessee and Pam is a native of Ohio. After coming to Brewton 12 years ago Pam attended and received a degree from Jefferson Davis State Junior College and in 1979 graduated cum laude from the University of West Florida. A question and answer session will follow the program. Come and bring a friend.

ROGER ANDERSON and his family have moved back into their home at 706 Evergreen Avenue and is now hard at work on the Escambia County History which the Society and the County Commission have commissioned him to do with Mrs. Annie C. Waters as co-author.

Contributions to the Museum Reference Center:

Mrs. Helen Drury Edwards - The personal history of J.F. Drury (b. 1/11/1846) stressing his Civil War Experiences as written on 2/18/39.

Miss Ruth Barrow - Letters passing between Alec McGowin, A.L. McGowin, John Moore and family during the Civil War, some of the letters giving details regarding the deaths of four of the McGowin brothers who were killed or died in the service of the Confederacy.

(These will be published in the September Quarterly)

QUERY: From Fran Kyser Johnson, P.O.Box 203, Merritt Island, Fla. 32952: I'm looking for Simeon Kyser or Keyser, born early 1800 died approximately 1838 in Alabama. Also his father, Phillip Kyser or Keyser. Phillip Kyser moved to South Alabama between 1816-1818 from South Carolina.

Membership Renewals Paid since May 16, 1980:

West Fla.Regional Library	Edward C.Earle,Jr.
Mary A. Finlay	Robert H.Jackson
Doris Bruner	Dr.W.O.Greene III
Douglas Mitchell	Albert C.Tate,Jr.
Ruth H. Thompson	Sou.Ala.Reg.Planning Comm.
Wm. D. Melton	John Dana Williams
Mrs. Wm.M.Douglas	Hazel Claire Riley
First National, Brewton	Mrs. V.G.Phillips
J.F.Smith	Mrs.R.D.Pope,Sr.
Mrs.James D.Jones	Reo Kirkland, Jr.
Mrs. Gladys Byrd	Kayo Stanton
Ethel M.Bethea	Woodfin Patterson
Joanna Jones	John R.Miller,Jr.
W.J.Reynolds	Joseph A.Jackson
Vivian B.Jones	Wallace Finlay
Sadie Liles	Auburn Univ.,R.Draughon Library
Nicholas S.McGowin	M.J.Bracken,Jr.
Carl W.Guy	Ed Leigh McMillan II
Dr.Kenneth Hannon	
Thomas E.McMillan,Jr.	We don't want to lose any members,
John H.Douglas	Please send in your dues.
Marie H.Downing	
Mrs. Evelyn Hayes	

MUSEUM FUND MEMORIAL ACCOUNT BALANCE NOW - \$904.77

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF A. E. KELLY (a memorial tribute was published in the May newsletter)

By: Rita Jane Boykin
Mrs. John David (Emily) Finlay
Mrs. Thomas E.(Elvira) McMillan
Mrs. Frank (Bessie) Luttrell

IN MEMORY OF MRS. BEN (ESTELLE BETHEA) FERDON, of Norco, Louisiana. Mrs.Ferdon grew up in the Brewton area and was the sister of the late Mrs. Mabel Parker Dozier. She had a large circle of friends and relatives here who were shocked and saddened to learn of her sudden passing May 22 at Norco, Louisiana. Mrs.Ferdon was very interested in the work of the Escambia County Historical Society. She is survived by her husband, Ben Ferdon.

By: Mrs. James E.(Georgia)Hart

MEMORIALS (continued)

IN MEMORY OF E.C. BOYKIN AND WIFE, RITA AMENT BOYKIN

E.C. Boykin was born at Boykin, Escambia County, in 1872 and died in 1945. He graduated from Mobile Medical School in 1892 in the same class as Dr. P.H.M. Tippins who also returned to Brewton to practice. He worked for Curry Drug Store for a time then travelled for Durr Drug Co. in Montgomery for some time and married there. He came back to Brewton with his wife in 1912 and from then on had a drug store until his death. He was always happy and had for his motto, "Work is not a drudge when you like it." He helped people during the depression by accepting eggs, syrup and other farm products as payment for medicine. He had some of his own prescriptions and concoctions--his own "1312 Rheumatism Medicine" was the best known. He served on the City Council and was a deacon in the Presbyterian Church. His wife, Rita Ament Boykin, born 1888 and died 1964, was a native of Nashville and grew up in Montgomery. She was a housewife until his death, after which she kept the store for 11 years because she was needed to carry it on. She was active in the Presbyterian Church and helped practically every office in the Women of the Church and taught Sunday School. She was a seamstress and made all her children's clothing. Their children were E.C. Boykin, Jr., Gideon (Gid), and Rita Jane.

By: Miss Rita Jane Boykin

IN MEMORY OF W. N. ROBERTS -

Mr. Roberts moved to Brewton in 1937 from Pensacola, coming to take the Ford dealership which he kept as long as he lived. He died in 1970. He was an outstanding citizen and a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church.

By: Mrs. W.N. (Fannie Jo) Roberts

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL LEWIS MCGOWIN 1859-1928

Mr. McGowin was the son of Peter McGowin and Nancy Floyd McGowin, born 10/6/1859 at Boykin, Escambia Co., Al. died 9/29/1928 at Mason, Escambia Co., Al., married first Ada Bethea on 3/13/1881 at Brooklyn, and they had 9 children, after her death he married Madge Parker on 3/15/1894 at Roberts and they had 5 children. Samuel Lewis McGowin lived in the old Blacksher home at Mason until his death. Samuel Lewis McGowin was a County Commissioner, First District, from 1915 until his death. His father Peter Mason McGowin died on 12/19/1863 in a Confederate Camp out from Mobile and his widow went to Mobile and brought his body back for burial in the Foshee Cemetery near Grab Mill.

By: Wayne McGowin Brown, his grandson,
Denver, Colorado

MEMORIALS (continued)

IN MEMORY OF BARNES FLOID PARKER, Son of Allen Parker and Sarah Jane McGowin Parker. He served his country for 16 years and 4 months in the U.S. Navy. He had attained the title of Chief Barnes Floid Parker U.S.N. at the end of World War II. Barnes served in the Battle of Pearl Harbor and the rest of the war was spent escorting one battleship after another in the Pacific. The greater part of his service was on the Destroyer Reid.

By: Mrs. B.F. (Edna K.) Parker,
his widow

(The above is reprinted this month to correct the name of the Destroyer Reid which was misread last month.)

GOOD NEWS! A collection of 50 histories had been donated to the Society by one of our benevolent members as a memorial, which includes all of the books listed in last month's newsletter. The listing of books will be published in next month's newsletter with a memorial tribute to the deceased.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REFERENCE CENTER which some of you might want to purchase as a memorial gift. Appropriate labels will be placed in the books indicating that they were given in memory of the designee.

- "The History of Butler County, Alabama, from 1815 to 1885" by John Buckner Little - \$14.00
- "You Are There With the True Adventures of Rube Burrows, Alabama's Most Famous Train Robber," by Joe G. Acee - \$6.25.
- "The Folks From Pea Ridge" in Covington and Conecuh Counties, Al. by Wyley Donald Ward - not certain of price, abt. \$16.00
- "William Barret Travis, His Sword and His Pen" by Martha Anne Turner - Price \$12.00.

Memorials should be payable to Escambia County Historical Society Museum Fund, and sent to Mrs. John David (Emily) Finlay, Sr., Alco Drive, Brewton, Al. 36426. Information regarding the person to be memorialized will be appreciated. The name of each person memorialized will be placed on the Memorial Plaque in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum. Continuing funds are needed to help the museum continue to grow. All contributions are sincerely appreciated and the use of the funds are administered by the Executive Board of the Society and submitted to the Society for final approval before expended.