

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

NOVEMBER 1980

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING

The General meeting of the Escambia County Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 1980, at 7:00 P.M. at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum at Jefferson Davis State Junior College in Brewton.

This month's program will be presented by Edward Chase Earle, Jr. of Reedville, Virginia. Mr. Earle was born in Escambia County in 1918, the son of Edward Chase and Mary Abigail Southwell Earle. Moving to Virginia at the age of 10, Mr. Earle became a history and genealogy enthusiast early in life, an interest that he has pursued vigorously ever since.

Earle has written articles for and given presentations to such organizations as the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Genealogical Society, the Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Northern Neck of the Virginia Historical Society.

Mr. Earle possesses great expertise in both historical and genealogical research and he is thoroughly familiar with many archival, documentary, and manuscript collections that would have a direct bearing on those of us within this society interested in doing research. Himself a native of this area with many relations here, Mr. Earle's program promises to be interesting and very informative.

MEMORIALS

The following memorials have been received:

In memory of Mrs. William Gardner Champlin, from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fidler of Pensacola.

In memory of Miss Bernice Larkin, from Mrs. Jeanette Hall, who nursed Miss Larkin in her last years.

In memory of Miss Clara B. McKee by Mrs. David Miller.

In memory of Mrs. W. G. (Catherine Brooke) Champlin (biographical data to appear in the December newsletter).

IN MEMORY OF MISS BERNICE LARKIN

---Continued from October Echoes

While working in Grant and Cleburne Counties in Arkansas after her graduation from George Peabody College, Miss Larkin served as a Home Demonstration Agent to and for the citizens of that area from the 1930's until 1944.

During this time, Miss Larkin organized many Home Demonstration Clubs for the women of her service area. Community canning kitchens were built, where families learned the usefulness of pressure cookers and the foods canned for home use, and gardening was updated in many ways. Miss Larkin was also instrumental in forming local 4-H clubs. Numerous small fairs--again, started by Miss Larkin--were held in the fall in small communities such as Paxton, Tull, Poyen, and Prattsville, Arkansas to help the communities get together and learn.

During the years 1937 to 1944, Miss Larkin was the Home Demonstration Agent for Cleburne County, Ark., where, in addition to her services teaching women about modern cooking and growing methods, she taught mattress making. She is survived by two sisters, Mary Larkin and Roshell Jarrett of Brewton. She passed away on Sept. 13, 1980. (For more details, see last month's newsletter.)

IN MEMORY OF MISS CLARA B. McKEE

One of Escambia County's oldest citizens, Miss Clara B. McKee passed away on October 30, 1980 in a Brewton Nursing Home.

Miss McKee was born in Springfield, Illinois, on January 3, 1884. She was the daughter of a lawyer and one of eight children. After a bout with influenza during a severe northern winter, she came South to recuperate at the home of her sister in Opp, Alabama. Later, she went to Montgomery to teach business courses at Massey-Draughn Business College.

Miss McKee came to Brewton in 1909 as the secretary to Mr. J.W. Adkisson at the Luttrell Hardware Company; she held this position until her retirement.

She worked untiringly with the Grey Ladies and with the Red Cross Bloodmobile program. She will probably be most fondly remembered in Brewton for her love of children and animals.

Funeral services for Miss McKee were held on November 1, 1980 at the Union Cemetery in Brewton.

Please remember: "Memorials are a living remembrance which continues to serve."

Send all memorials and other pertinent data to:

Mrs. John David Finlay
P.O. Box 737
Brewton, Alabama 36427

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Due to increased postage, material, and handling costs incurred producing the Society's Quarterly, mailed back issues of this periodical will be \$1.50 each for ECHS members and \$2.00 each for nonmembers. If you pick up the copies yourself at Jefferson Davis College, this price will be reduced by 50¢ each. All monies for membership or back issues of the Quarterly should be sent directly to B. Campbell, Treasurer, Escambia County Historical Society, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427. Checks should be made out to the Escambia County Historical Society.

GET WELL SOON!

Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Secretary of the Society, recently fell and fractured her hip. After her stay in the D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital, she will be recuperating in the Nursing Home here in Brewton next to the hospital. We hope you will be getting out soon, Rita Jane, and all of our best wishes go out to you. Knowing you, though, this won't keep you down for long!

SOCIETY GIFTS

A copy of Stallworth Roots and Recipes (1980) has been donated to the Society's Library by the Stallworth family. This book contains a brief genealogy of the Stallworth family as well as some excellent "down home" recipes for you to work with.

MUSEUM NEWS

A showing of original Ancient Peruvian Textiles--dating from 200 B.C. to about 1500 A.D.--will be exhibited at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum from now until Christmas. You are cordially invited to come and see this outstanding collection of extremely rare materials from the Chrysler Museum of Norfolk, Virginia.

The museum will be undergoing a remodeling of its exhibit areas during the next few months. We apologize for the fact that, at times, things will be a bit hectic; but we hope that you will enjoy the end results for yourselves and your families.

RESEARCH CENTER ESTABLISHED

An Alabama History Room is to be established at Leigh Library at Jefferson Davis State Junior College. Here, records pertaining to the history and genealogy of the area will be housed for use by the general public and students on a reserve (in-house use) basis.

All expenses for the center will be borne by the college with the exception of certain book purchases. The facility will be open during after hours periods for those who cannot come to do research during the regular working day, and library personnel will be there to assist visitors. The center will be opened in a short time; for now, the society's collections of books, papers, and microfilm will still be housed in the McMillan Museum. Although the collections of the Society and some of those of the college will be housed together in this Room, the materials will be identified and catalogued so that the two organizations' properties will not be confused. The additional open hours, the spacious and comfortable reading facilities, and the assistance of trained professionals will make the Alabama History Room a place where any researcher can do work under the best of circumstances.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

By Annie C. Waters

June 2, 1892: "The long-looked-for game of ball between Brewton and Flomaton was played at Flomaton on Saturday last, the score standing at 9 to 32 in favor of Brewton. The winning of the game was due principally to Mr. Corrie Frederick, who twirls a ball with as much grace and effect as some of our "Southern League" professionals, in fact the Flomaton boys couldn't find his ball at all and it was a sad sight to see them striking at the ball as if they would throw their shoulders out of place, and the ball would only curve around into the hands of the catcher, leaving the batsman to gaze at the pitcher with a puzzled look on his face, 'but such is life' and the Flomaton club may be more successful next time.

The Flomaton boys did everything they could to make the visitors enjoy themselves. After finishing the game and having eaten supper all repaired to Drury's Hall where to delightful music the light fantastic was tipped until 11:30 P.M."--From 1892 Standard Gauge

"Mr. O. Self is the champion deer hunter of these parts (Flomaton) A few days ago he was a member of a part of hunters that went out for a 'drive' a few miles from town. Mr. Self was honored with a 'stand' known to be a good one. About 10 O'Clock the dogs started a deer lively in the direction of Mr. Self, and the other men waited patiently to hear the report of his gun, but they waited in vain. Finally the hunters came to the spot where Mr. Self was posted, and there he lay fast asleep. It was agreed to wake him by firing off the guns. Getting up and rubbing his eyes, he said, 'Boys where's the deer?' There was a big laugh and the crowd turned homeward after a unanimous vote (lacking one) that Mr. Self be put in the 'drive' next time." --Standard Gauge, 1892.

BOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

The Escambia County History Book Committee of the Society reports that the manuscript being prepared for that text by Roger Anderson and Annie C. Waters is now one-fourth completed. The society has voted to authorize payment of the first installment to the co-authors for their work.

- - - - - HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING! ! ! ! ! - - - - -