



Escambia Echoes

November 1981

Published by

ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Notice of Meeting

The Society will meet on Tuesday, November 24, at 7 p.m. at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the campus of Jefferson Davis State Junior College in Brewton.

This month, all attending members will share in a group participation discussion entitled "Memories of Thanksgivings Past." We will all, individually and collectively, talk about how we celebrated Thanksgiving as youths, with inferences of comparison to modern gatherings of this type. Dinner menus, celebratory customs, and other related recollections will be focused upon. We will share in this way the true meaning of this important day and its significance in our heritage for the future.

THE HARVEST

"Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit;
sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap
a destiny." --

Museum News

The McMillan Museum will be exhibiting a selection of graphite portraits of Brewton Founding Fathers through the month of November. Such personages as T. R. Miller, E. S. McMillan, Bill Kelly, and Oscar Gordon--as well as other notable Brewtonians--are featured in large format form as presented by Phillip's Exclusives of Atmore. These graphite renderings are of the highest quality and are well worth seeing before the exhibition ends and the pieces go to their respective owners.

There will be no special exhibition in the museum during the month of December due to the shortness of that month's college academic schedule.

Long, Long Ago

In 1892, Mr. Henry Carl had a mercantile business in the building now owned by Ed Everage and now housing The Living Word, a book store. Mr. Carl's wife was the former Bessie Mayo, sister of J. G. Mayo, Sr. Mr. W. R. Larkin was employed by Mr. Carl when Mr. Larkin first came to Brewton. Later Mr. Larkin was employed by Robbins & McGowin Co., which was then owned and operated by Mr. Greely McGowin. After a few years the business of Mr. Carl was bought by Mr. Jim Harold and later sold to Mr. Albert Smith and Mr. Marvin Smith who operated it as the Brewton Bargain House. The next owner of this building was Mr. A. E. Everage who operated a clothing business. He was succeeded by his son, Charles, until 1977 when the business was discontinued. Where Elmore's was, Escambia Mercantile Co. was established about 1904. The owners were Mr. E. M. Lovelace, Mr. W. Y. Lovelace, Mr. J. M. Padgett, Mr. W. R. Larkin, and Mr. Will Binion. It was the largest general merchandise establishment in the county. It was housed in two buildings now vacant. There was a men's clothing department, a grocery department, and an upstairs balcony where the bookkeeping was done. About 1908 the business was purchased by Mr. W. C. Rogers from Geneva, Alabama. After a few years, V. J. Elmore purchased the building and Brewton's "dime store" was set up as Elmore's. Where A. Plant Jewelry now stands, Mr. James T. Douglas once operated a jewelry store which was later sold to Seaborn W. Martin who continued the jewelry business. This was about 1914.

By--Mrs. Roshell Garrett, 1981
Submitted By--Mrs. Annie Waters

SUCCESS

"The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed."
--Sheridan

120 Years Ago--November 18, 1861

Camp 5th Ala Reg,
at Union Mills,
Virginia
November 18th 1861

Dear Brother

I received yours of the 28th of Oct. last Sunday, and would have replied sooner but Bill Abb wanted to write to you and I thought that would answer for a while.

We have moved our encampment since I last wrote, and are now camped on the hill where Gillis was taken sick. Our batteries are on this hill.

I was happy to hear that the health of the family was so good and glad to inform you that mine still continues good, though I have had a spell of the head aches to which you know I am subjected every winter. I suffered considerably for several days, but am all right again.

I was more than proud to hear that our corn crop was turning out so well. I hope that Pa will be able to raise his own meat as it is so awfully high now and no prospect of it getting any lower. I pay 22½ cts for bacon here, and had the good fortune the other day to stumble upon ten pounds of butter for which I paid 65 cts per pound, and glad to get it at that. Eggs are worth 50 cts per dozen, chickens not to be had at any price. Tell Moma I would like very much to have some of her pepper sauce, but its no use whishing for such things this far off.

The boys from Germany (Old Germany, Monroe County) were very very glad to hear from home, George Nettles more especially as he had not heard from his mother in some time.

George, I have not been able to sell your suit as you requested, so I packed it away in my trunk. I would have sent one trunk of clothing home by Maj. Andress but he complained so much that I would not insist in his carrying it. I have not settled with Jns Ford yet, Our's will be a pretty large bill there, about 50 dollars. I will give it to him shortly. I expect you have heard of the promotion of Col Rodes to Brig. Gen. We have not yet elected a Col. You wished to know about whether Holly was dead or not. I am not able to say. We have not heard from him since he left. David Jay returned to camp the other day, but was taken sick before he got to us with a sore-throat. I think we will discharge him. Brother has returned from hospital, Jasper Davidson has not yet returned Ernest Gray is also at the hospital. We have not heard from him since he left and do not know where he is. Bob Farnham is

120 Years Ago--continued

at the hospital also. King was not dead at last accts but improving.

Tell Pa that I have 250 dollars that I can spare him now and wish he had it. I was paid off the again yesterday. Give my love to all the family and tell them all to write. Potts sends his respects to you and Sis. Bradford says you lie when you say you want to come back. Write soon and remember me as your brother.

Tom

Bill Abb sends his respects, also others.

--This letter was written to William George Riley, Flat Creek Plantation, Pineville, Alabama; from Captain Thomas Mercer Riley. Captain Riley was an unvle to Ms. Elizabeth Riley of Evergreen.

History of the Evergreen Beat

Written in 1879-1880 by Young Madison Kabb, originally published in the Conecuh-Escambia Star.

Reprinted this year(1981) in connection with Conecuh County Heritage Year 1981-1982 by Frank Alex Nuttrell III of Brewton and David L. Sanders of Mobile.

This book contains many early anecdotes of historical interest and includes much family information that should be of interest to those with Conecuh heritage. It has been reprinted from the original and has not been altered. It does, however, contain a biography of the author and a complete index. The text runs to nearly 100 pages.

It will be available about November 1st. Copies will be five dollars each. Postpaid copies can be ordered from David L. Sanders, 21 South Julia Street, Mobile, Alabama, 36604, for \$5.50.

A limited edition, each book will be individually numbered.

--David Sanders

"A Book may be compared to your neighbor: If it be good, it cannot last too long; if bad, you cannot get rid of it too early."

--Brooke

Query

CEMETERY--John Marcellus Granberry, May 1833-October 1901, is buried in Furman Cemetery called Palmer Cemetery in Furman, Alabama, Wilcox County. The marble monument is 4 feet tall and in good condition. Since there are no Granberry connections in this area, why is he buried there? He is buried next to the child of Rev. R. Curry and an infant of Boardman Watson and Lota Curry. Since he had moved to Boston in 1898, this is a mystery. If you have any information, contact Mrs. William D. Fuller, Route 2, Box 73, Pine Apple, Alabama 36768.

The BOOK--To order the book From Cabins to Mansions, write the author, Ms. Mary E. Brantley at the following address:

Ms. Mary E. Brantley
301 E Horner Street
Atmore, AL 36502

Enclose \$15 for the book, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Bookstores get a 20% discount.

New Members

The following people are the Society's newest members:

Mr. Cleveland Pittman, 1515 N. "B" Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501

Mrs. Mary Frances Gause, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

Mrs. Katie McLeod, 405 Mandalay Drive, Pensacola, Florida 32507

Mrs. L. G. Fulton, Box 665, Pine Hill Drive, Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Notice of Dues!!!

Due to increase postage material and handling costs incurred, your annual dues are \$7.50 for the 1982 year.

Memorials

If you have a memorial, please send it to

Mrs. Elvira McMillan
Drawer 649
Brewton, AL 36427