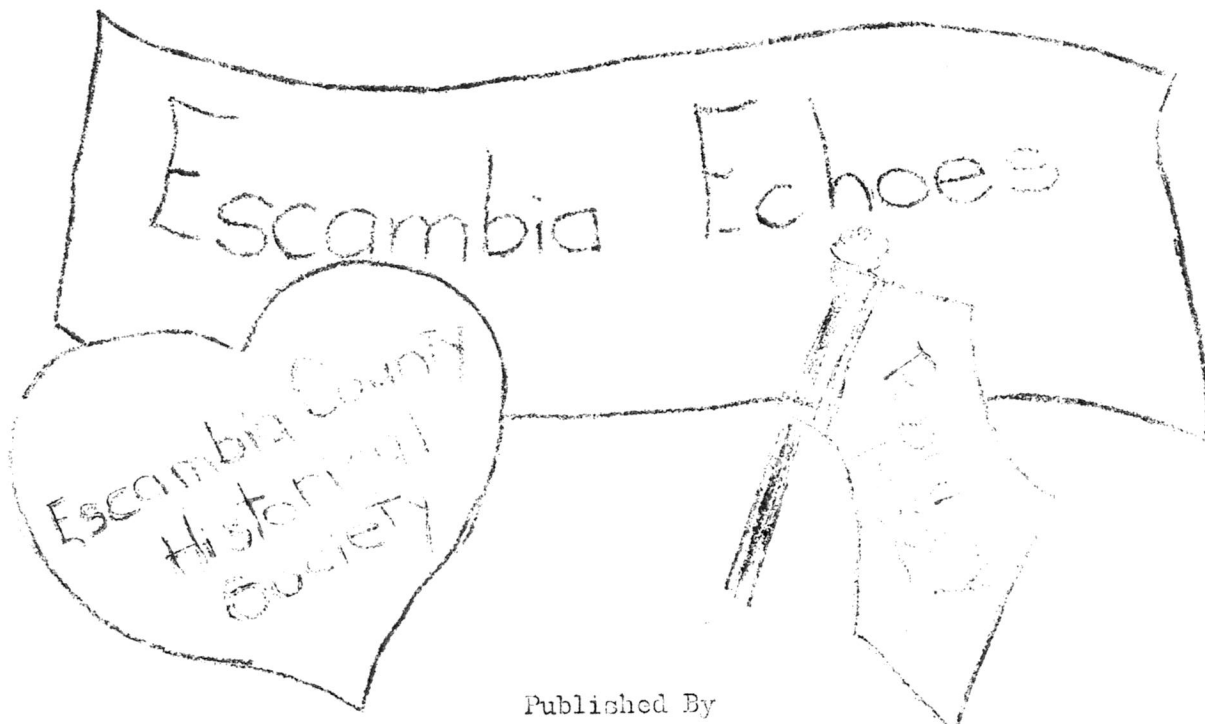




Published By

ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEETING

The Escambia County Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting February 23, 7 p.m. in the museum. The program will be given by Troy L. Curtright, "Collecting Old Bottles". He is a pharmacist and is owner of Brewton Super Drugs in the Brewton Heights Shopping Center.

Troy was born in Dothan, Alabama, grew up in Tuskegee Alabama, and graduated from Tuskegee High School. He attended Auburn University and graduated in 1966. After graduation he moved to Brewton Alabama and was employed by Brewton Medical Center Pharmacy from September 1966 until July of 1972. He opened his own store, Brewton Super Drugs, in December 1972. He is a member of Kappa Psi Professional Fraternity and a member of American Collectors Club. Troy is married to Carolyn McLean Curtright, also from Tuskegee and graduated from Auburn University. She is employed as the City Community Education Director. They have two children, Beth 14 and Lewis 12. His mother Mrs. Elenor Curtright lives in Montgomery, Alabama and he has one brother, Dr. W. H. Curtright of Mobile.

Troy's interest in collecting old bottles started in Brewton. The many different and unusual patent medicines and the "Humorous Cures" that were claimed on the labels, or embossed in the glass on early medicine bottles was very interesting to him and he started collecting these. Later he began to expand from medicines to soda bottles, ale and mineral water.

Going on bottle digs is a lot of fun, and very satisfying when a good bottle is found. He also trades for bottles with other collectors or at markets. Old drug stores provide a good source of prescription bottles and patent medicine. Bottles can tell much about the period in which it was made and the method of glass-making.

MUSEUM NEWS

The exhibit, "Treasures of the Orient" will be shown at the museum through February. The collections consist of materials from 1500 B.C. to modern day. There are included in the showing, fine collections of oriental ceramics and porcelainwares from Japan, Viet Nam, China and Korea. Included are materials from the Jung, Tang, and Ming dynasties of China; costumes, personal goods, artworks, and other materials placed together to form a basis for capturing the flavor of oriental culture over ten centuries.

Mrs. W. Emmett Brooks has donated the first radio used in Brewton to the museum. This was made in 1914 and purchased in 1922 by W. Emmet Brooks. Mr. Brooks' enthusiasm led him to found the first radio station in Brewton, WBJ, in 1947.

Mr. Frank Luttrell, Jr., has donated a 1916 model Kodak Brownie camera to the museum. This will be used with other old photographic materials to be placed on permanent exhibit when a sufficient collection has been brought together.

Mrs. Thomas T. McMillan has donated a 1930's illuminated stereographic viewer by Keystone, complete with over one hundred stereophotographic viewing cards of scenes of the world in their original book-back camouflage boxes. This will be placed in such a way as to allow tour groups to look through the viewer.

Mrs. Betty Hoopes has donated two 1950's Kodak cameras, one of which is in its original box with flash, accessories, and instructions. This will be tied with the photographic collection to show how photography by the average person evolved into a major hobby field in more recent years.

POLLARD MARKER PROGRESS REPORT

The Alabama Historical Association has approved the text to be embossed on a historical marker which will be placed at the junction of the Old Pollard Road and U.S. Highways 29-31 as soon as it is manufactured and delivered. After the funds to pay for the marker have been allocated, the delivery date will be about five weeks following the actual order date. This means that the marker can be expected to have been placed by late April or early May.

MEMORIAL

Emily Wallace Finlay

By

John David Finlay, Jr.

During the summer of 1981, my mother talked with me several times about writing articles on the lives of my father, John David Finlay, and my grandfather, John Edward "Ned" Finlay. She wanted this done so that they might be included in future issues of the "Escambia County Historical Society Quarterly". Not having done any writing, so to speak, since taking some courses at Jefferson Davis Junior College in 1975-76, I was not eager to start this task. I never dreamed that in the winter of 1982 I would be writing an account of my mother's life.

Emily Wallace was born in LaFayette, Alabama on July 2, 1907, the seventh child of James Howard and Emily Fuller Wallace. Her father was a partner in the Stanley and Singer Construction Company. The family lived on a small farm on the edge of town, and I remember as a child seeing the farm animals, vegetable garden and fields of corn. On her mother's side she was the grand-niece of Civil War hero William A. Fuller. It was Fuller who was the conductor on a passenger train in Georgia where twenty yankees led by James J. Andrews high-jacked Fuller's train while the passengers and crew were having breakfast at a hotel in Big Shanty, (Kennesaw) Georgia. Fuller's successful eight hour, eighty-seven mile chase and capture of the yankee spies made him and his locomotive "The General" famous. This steam-engine has been preserved in the Chattanooga train station. In 1962, one hundred years after the chase, "The General" toured the southeast, stopping in Brewton on November 21, 1962.

Emily and her family were members of the LaFayette Baptist Church. She attended the public schools in LaFayette and was valedictorian of her high school class. Following her graduation, she entered Florence State Teacher's College and earned her teacher's certificate in elementary education. After teaching for two years in Jasper, Alabama, she accepted a job with the Brewton City School System. She always enjoyed telling about her arrival in Brewton. It was the custom for the young bachelors to meet the trains and see the new teachers arrive. She never forgot her reception at the Brewton Depot in 1929. Other teachers in Brewton at this time who later married local men included: Mary Agnew (Mrs. Bob Finlay), Lydia Winklea (Mrs. T. C. Hurd) and Henrietta Coston (Mrs. Paul Till). Maude Cheatham, later Mrs. E. P. Yelldell, was school principal.

Emily Wallace was fortunate in being able to board with Circuit Judge and Mrs. John D. Leigh. Their large home at 315 Belleville Avenue was directly across the street from the Brewton Elementary School. The house still stands as the Leigh Place. Mrs. Habel Leigh ran a boarding house in a manner and style rarely equalled. The huge rooms were filled with antiques. Meals were served by a man-servant in a white coat and the food was excellent. Mrs. Leigh and her cook were especially known for their desserts, a fact not overlooked by Judge Leigh's nephew, John David Finlay, who joined his relatives each Sunday for dessert.

Emily and John David were married on July 3, 1930, at the home of her parents in LaFayette. A large Brewton contingent was in attendance. The groom's half-brother, Ed Leigh McMillan, took moving pictures during the reception. The

clothing styles and the jerky movements of the people in the film always intrigued me when I watched the films as a young child at my uncle's house.

The new couple lived with Mr. Ned in his large home at 435 Belleville Avenue. The new bride learned quickly to be hostess to many of her father-in-law's relatives who regarded the Finlay home in Brewton as the place to be during the various holidays. Visiting Methodist ministers and bishops usually stayed with Mr. Ned who attended Methodist Annual Conference for fifty years. It was a large, happy household like so many others of that time.

Two children were born to John David and Emily: John David, Jr. in 1931 and Emily in 1935. The family continued to live on Belleville Avenue until 1941 when a new home was completed on Alco Hill. This twelve acre site had been in the family since Judge H. R. Leigh purchased it January 24, 1902 from J. B. O'Bannon. John David's mother, Kate Leigh McMillan Finlay, had given the property to him prior to her death in 1929. On this location in September, 1813, a skirmish took place between an American Border Patrol force, made up of volunteers, and a war party of Creek Indians. Relics of this skirmish, recovered by Curator John Powell in 1980-81, are on display at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum.

As her children were growing up, Emily taught Sunday School at the First Methodist Church, was president of Women of the Church for several years, and also served as president of the P.T.A.

During the 1960's Emily and John David started traveling. Their first trips were usually with R. J. and Lula Murphy and the Alabama Banker's Association. They visited such places as the Caribbean, Mexico City and Acapulco. Also, during this time a trip was made to Europe. In 1970, they took a ten week tour around the world. Their group was one of the last to visit the temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Highlights of the trip included visits to the Taj Mahal, the Kenya Game Preserves in Africa, Egypt, Hong Kong and the Chinese Nationalist Museum in Formosa. Within the next few years they toured Russia and other countries behind the Iron Curtain and South America. In the Spring of 1975 John David became ill while on a trip in the American west. He died October 1, 1976. In 1977, Emily took her last long trip with her close friends Joe and Mary McCain of Oklahoma City. Mary had been her roommate in college. This tour included Australia, New Zealand, and Tahiti. Thus, during her life-time, Emily visited almost every major country and city in the world.

Both she and her husband were charter members of the Historical Society. Both were very active with its various projects and thoroughly enjoyed their association with the organization. On May 16, 1974, they hosted a special meeting of the society at their home. Emily was Historian at one time and then Memorial Chairman and a Trustee.

A keen bridge player, Emily enjoyed being a member of a bridge club for over thirty years. She loved flowers and studied arrangements learning to execute them with skill. She often arranged flowers for friends and family members who were entertaining. An excellent cook, she always enjoyed preparing new dishes.

Her co-workers on various projects found her to be a straight forward, hard-working individual who stayed with a job until it was finished to a high standard. She lived a full and rewarding life and died at the age of 74 on November 27, 1981.

IN MEMORY OF:

Emily Wallace Finlay

Mrs. Maude Yeldell
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Finlay, Jr.
Mrs. Helen Robertson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. McMillan

IN MEMORY OF:

Clara Beeland Brooks

Mrs. Maude Yeldell

IN MEMORY OF:

Helen Roberts Kelly

Mrs. Maude Yeldell

QUERY

Interested in Byrd, Lampkin, Lambkin, Johnson, Snowden families.

Mrs. Clarence Cole
306 South Pine
Brady, Texas 76825

HELP! HELP!

Were your ancestors residents of Escambia County? If so, would you like to have them included in a history of the county? If you so desire please send the family genealogy to:

Mrs. Annie Waters
Rt. 5, Box 471
Brewton, Alabama 36426

Begin with your earliest known American ancestor and trace the direct line to the first one in Escambia (Gonzalez and Baldwin), then give names, dates, marriages and children down to 1925 or 1930. If you are limited in the amount of data that you have please send it in anyway. Send in as soon as possible.

NOTICE OF DUES

Your 1982 dues are now due. Send to:

Escombria Historical Society
P.O. Box 276
Brewton, Alabama 36427

MEMORIALS

Send your memorials to. . .

Mrs. Alvira McMillan
Drawer No. 649
Brewton, Alabama 36427