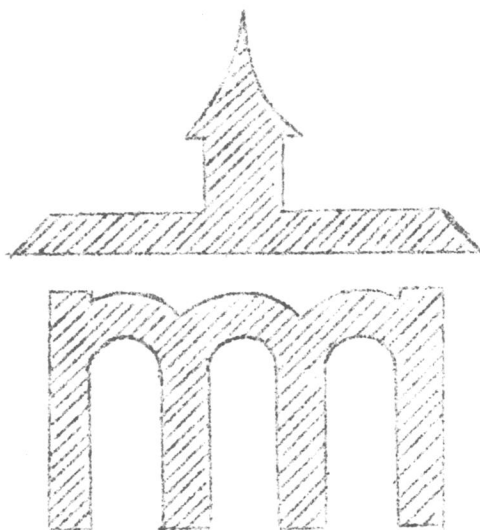




THOMAS E. McMILLAN MUSEUM

Published by--

Escambia County Executive Board

Meeting: Tuesday, October 26, 1982

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Thomas E. McMillan Museum

Public cordially invited.

Topic: Founders Day - A Backward Glance-A Forward Look

A brief history of The Escambia County Historical Society
September 1971 - October 1982

The Mobile Press Register - August 8, 1982

The June 1982 issue of "Escambia Echoes (ALA) Historical Quarterly" might be called an ecumenical issue. It is devoted entirely to the histories of three churches, two in Atmore and one in Brewton.

First in order of appearance is "History of The First Baptist Church, Brewton, Alabama". This covers the years from its founding in September 1854 to its centennial in 1954. Next is "History of Atmore Methodist Church, 1886-1940". The first structure used as a church by this congregation had formerly housed a saloon. Finally, there is "A History of Trinity Episcopal Church" in Atmore. The Church was erected in 1900, and was first called The Church of the Heavenly Rest. In 1925 the name was changed to its present designation - Trinity Episcopal Church.

All of these essays are well written. All contain plenty of names and dates, thus all are good genealogical documents as well as good church history. Unfortunately, none of these essays has an index.

-Robert Zietz, Genealogy Division

Former Publisher Writes of Brewton's Street Names

Of interest to Brewton natives and newcomers are reprints of a weekly column "Talking It Over" written by W. Emmett Brooks which appeared in issues of The Brewton Standard in 1956. The columns were devoted to background of the names of two streets of Brewton.

Taking St. Nicholas Avenue, it is interesting to note that this thoroughfare was only within recent years given its present designation, although there is one shown on the original map.

For many years this avenue was officially and popularly known as Mill Street. However, some fifteen years or so ago, those who owned homes along its route decided the name was no longer appropriate and requested the city council change it.

The council agreed and several suggested names were kicked around before someone referred to the first map of the town made by a Catholic priest. It was found that the Father had designated it on the map as "ST. NICHOLAS" and the new-old name was adopted by the council.

For many years the name Mill Street was most appropriate. Located on the west side, and extending from the present Farmers Exchange to a point about opposite the county jail, were operations of first, Blacksher-Miller Lumber Company and later Lovelace Lumber Company.

Beyond mere assumption it would be rather difficult to trace the reason for the name that was assigned to "Evergreen Avenue". Evergreen Street, as it was originally known, has always been the shortest of the older north-south streets of Brewton and has always come to a dead end.

Until about thirty years ago it was even shorter than it is now and came to an end at Granberry Street. In the late twenties Dr. A. M. Gowan and John R. Downing bought the property beyond Granberry and developed it into the Bellevue Park Subdivision.

The developers extended Evergreen for two additional blocks and terminated it at Underwood Street which they opened as the north boundary of their development; this street, of course, being the south boundary of the high school property. What these two gentlemen purchased was what had been known for many years as the Parker Farm and that was really what it was.

Henry T. Parker, one of the earlier residents of Brewton, who had engaged in the lumber and mercantile businesses, operated a farm which lay on both sides of Douglas Avenue, north of Granberry, and his residence stood at the tend end of Evergreen Street.

When the Parker property was developed by Messrs. Gowan and Downing, the residence which had faced south was turned to face west and on the Evergreen extension and converted into an apartment building.

Beyond mere assumption, it would be rather difficult to trace the reason for the name that was assigned to Evergreen Avenue. The town of Evergreen was in existence long before Brewton was heard of, and it might be that early residents here decided to honor it by naming a street for it. On the other hand, the word is both proper and common and there are Evergreen parks, subdivisions and cemeteries all over the country. Probably the city founders just liked the name and applied it.

-W. Emmett Brooks, Brewton Standard 1956

Museum News

From Monday, September 20 through Friday, October 8, the Thomas E. McMillan Museum housed an exhibition of the knives of Melvin Pardue. Pardue formerly of Tampa, Florida, is one of but 150 world-wide members of the Knifemakers' Guild. He presently resides and has his workshop in Repton, Alabama, where he manufactures pocket, hunting, presentation, and fighting knives of superbly hand-crafted quality.

Included in the exhibition will be photographs and accompanying interpretive materials illustrating the step-by-step process of making a knife from scratch. The knives exhibited represent a cross-section of the types Pardue makes, and after their showing here the examples will be sold at a major show.

From October 11 through October 29, the screen prints and line art work of Brewtonian Brian Ward will be shown in the Museum. Ward received his degree in art from the University of Montevallo, and his interests in art range from graphite drawings through multi-register silkscreen printing.

Several donations have been made to the museum recently:

The World War II uniform, with accessories, of James Henry Harrington of Brewton, courtesy of Mr. Georgia Lanier;

A late-nineteenth century brass Bausch and Lomb microscope of superlative quality, donated by Dr. Robert Smith of Brewton;

A Yashica Mat twin lens reflex camera, courtesy of Johnny Byrd, Jr., Esq., of Brewton; and

A collection of early, original photographs of Brewton as well as a group of personal goods and needlework accessories of the late 19th-early 20th century period, donated by Alice Till Beall, of Brewton.

We express our thanks to these persons and the others who have so generously donated materials to contribute to the museum's collections of interpretive, historical objects.

Memorials

It is important that we remember and memorialize those who have gone on before us leading the way and inspiring us to do better things and leaving the world a better place by their having been here.

A memorial paid to the museum fund assures that the persons names will be placed on the memorial plaque in the museum for all future generations to see.

Send your memorial to: Elvira McMillan
P. O. Box 649
Brewton, Al. 36427

Query:

Do you know of other family member who might have additional information on the family of: Bailey, Kyser, Majors, Mathews, Seaborn and Smith. Send any information to: Fran Kyser Johnson

P. O. Box 203
Merritt Island, Fl. 32952

Query:

Any information on The Huxford Family of the community. Send information to: J. David Huxford
52 Fennell Street
Skaneateles, N. Y. 13152