
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 276
Brewton, Alabama 36426

NEWSLETTER,
March 11, 1975

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon,
EDITOR

Annual Dues - \$ 6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING -

March 18th (Tuesday), at 7:30 p.m. at
Jefferson Davis Junior College Student Center
(Note change of time to 7:30 p.m.)

Program: "Escambia's Kill Kenny Cat Fight"

Speaker: Mrs. M. G. Waters.

Special Announcement: Winner of Name-the-
Newsletter Contest will be named.

Mrs. Waters, nee Annie Crook, needs no introduction to our group. She is our best loved and most avid historian. She has recently completed an excellent work on the Creek Indians which will appear in the March quarterly, and is nearing completion of her research on Fort Crawford which we hope to publish later in the year. Also to her credit is much genealogical work on her own family as well as many others. She is the wife of Rev. M. G. Waters, a Baptist minister here who is well known for his attention to the needs of his flock.

DUES should be paid before March 31st. We sincerely hope that all of our members will stay with us this year as we are going to need these funds to help with the bi-centennial celebrations as well as expenses for paper, postage, ink, etc.

3 New Members: Miss Bessie Mae Harold and R. E. McCall, both of Brewton, and Gid Boykin of Knoxville, Tennessee, making a new total membership of 285.

Live Oaks' Country Fair and Art Festival, Stockton, Alabama, April 5 & 6, 1975, open Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., open Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Those interested in displaying crafts should contact Miss Lynn Hastie, Live Oaks Country Crafts, P.O. Box 69, Stockton, Ala., before March 15. This is to be a family oriented festival. Everyone is cordially invited.

Genealogical Exchange, published by the Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society, first issue available for \$2.00 from Roy Shoffner, President, 406 Doster Street, Enterprise, AL 36330. The purpose of the first publication is to determine if there is enough interest in the Pea River and Wiregrass areas to justify continued publication of the exchange. The Pea River area covers Covington, Pike, Coffee, Geneva, Dale, Barbour, Henry and Houston counties. If you are interested, let them hear from you.

Bible presented to Society - Miss Bessie Mae Harold has presented in memory of her mother, a bible that was given to the H. G. Harold family by the Brewton Methodist Church following the destructive flood of March, 1929. We appreciate this addition to our archives.

A Special "Thank You" to each of you from your Editor! I wish that I could thank each of you personally for your friendship and your many expressions of appreciation for my endeavors on behalf of the Historical Society. Together we have enjoyed many triumphant moments for which I have received much praise and credit, but the success of these endeavors lies not in my printing of data, but in the enthusiastic manner in which it is received by the group and the public. The gifts presented to me shall be treasured always. I promised several of you that I would publish the poem composed for me by one of our members, Mrs. Jack Bruner, very expertly done:

"C A R O L Y N" . . .
 We like your views,
 We like the news.
 And no one else
 Can fill your shoes.
 Our group keeps growing
 In size and style,
 Because you walk
 That second mile!

Never was such a tribute paid, and to me, a country girl!

COURTESY MAILING LIST

Free copies of the newsletters and quarterlies are sent to the following for publicity purposes:

The Brewton Standard	Alabama Historical Commission
The Atmore Advance	State Department of Archives and History
The Tri-City Ledger	
The Evergreen Courant	
The Mobile Press, Buddy Smith	
Mobile Public Library, Mrs. Ruth Warren, Titles and Tales	
South Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission	

Free copies of the quarterlies are sent to the following libraries, schools, and historical groups, to be used as reference materials:

Alabama Historical Commission	Brewton Elementary School
State Dept. of Archives and History	Rachel Patterson School
A.C.Moore School	Escambia Academy
Huxford School	Flomaton High School
Southern Normal School	Escambia County High
W.S.Neal School	Byrneville School
Atmore Jr. Division School	Century High School
Carver High School, Century	Lauren Rogers Library & Museum
Flomaton City Schools	Mobile Public Library
Evergreen High School	Brewton Public Library
Brewton Middle School	Samford University Library
Freemanville School	John C. Pace Library
McCall School	Faulkner Junior College
North Crewton School	Mississippi University for Women
Escambia Co.Elementary-Middle	Birmingham Public Library
Atmore Sr.Div. School	Fairhope Public Library
Century Elementary School	Flomaton Public Library
Castleberry High School	Auburn University,Serials Dept.
T.R.Miller High School	

University of South Alabama
 Jefferson Davis Junior College
 Lowndes County Public Library,
 Columbus, Miss.
 Atmore Public Library
 Foley Public Library

Evergreen Public Library
 University of Alabama, Main Lib.
 East Carolina University Library
 Fort Worth Genealogical Society

LEST WE FORGET

by Mrs C. B. (Rochelle Larkin) Garrett

Furl that Banner, softly, slowly! Treat it gently--
 it is holy--For it droops above the dead.

--Father Ryan

When the South observed Jefferson Davis' birthday on June 3rd, I thought of a treasured bit of history stored in my memory since early childhood. I saw the funeral train that bore the ex-Confederate President's body from a temporary tomb in New Orleans to its last resting place in Richmond, Virginia. Davis had died in New Orleans, December 6, 1889, and was buried there with honors.

The teenaged black girl, whose charges we were at play, had categorized us as "lap chillun," "porch chillun," and "yard chillun." I was still in the second category and my vantage point for observing everything I couldn't participate in was my bannister perch, which afforded me a superb view of the activities outside my play limits.

At four-and-a-half years of age, I was fascinated by the trains that passed through town each day, not a great distance from my "grandstand" lookout. Years later, I was to learn and store reverently in my memory the real significance and the impact of the black-draped train I saw passing through Brewton on May 29, 1893.

Taken from an article in The Mobile Press Register dated February 14, 1965 is this account:

"The nine-car special train bearing the body of the ex-confederate president left New Orleans for Richmond, Virginia at 7:50 p.m. May 28, 1893, according to Edson H. Thomas, L. and N. News business manager at Louisville. Thomas said the special stopped at Bay St. Louis, Beauvoir, and Pascagoula, Mississippi that evening, and at Mobile on the night of May 28, 1893. The next day at Montgomery, Alabama, Davis' body lay in state for four hours in the rotunda of the Alabama Capitol. Stops were made en route at West Point and Atlanta, Georgia; Greenville and Columbia, South Carolina; Ridgeville and Raleigh, North Carolina. The train arrived in Richmond early on the morning of May 31, three days after leaving New Orleans."

Historians have recorded that the funeral train moved slowly through the towns along the route as, night and day, the crowds bowed in respect and made floral tributes and scattered magnolias and other white flowers on the train tracks.

Jefferson Davis was buried with full military honors in a plot near the James River in Richmond, Virginia.

Lest we forget, our country's strength is from her strong men and women. From Jefferson Davis himself came this message to his countrymen, April 1882: "It is our duty to keep the memory of our heroes green. Yet they belong not to us alone; they belong to the whole country; they belong to America."