

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O.Box 276
Brewton, Alabama 36426

-- ESCAMBIA ECHOES --
-- September 9 --
1975

Mrs. Carolyn Fugh McLendon,
Editor

Annual Dues-\$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING - Date: Tuesday, September 16, 1975
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Jefferson Davis Junior College Student Center
Speaker: HARRY WEAVER, immediate past Vice President
of Escambia County Historical Society, and
member of Alabama Historical Association
Topic: "EARLY DAYS IN BREWTON"

Since some of us will be too busy with arrangements for the tour of homes and reception to hear his part of the program on October 4th, we have asked Mr. Weaver to "air" his talk prepared for the Alabama Historical Association program for us at this meeting. Come and bring a friend. The public is always welcome at our monthly meetings.

NEW MEMBERS- Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Peace, Jr., 812 Douglas Avenue, Brewton, Al.;
Mr. William T. Jackson, 626 N. Main St., Gainesville, Fl. 32601;
Mr. H. Eugene Pettis, College St., Flomaton, Al.

OCTOBER 4th - ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE BREWTON, ALABAMA - The Escambia County Historical Society is host for the Pilgrimage to Brewton, and we want to extend a warm welcome to the visitors. Volunteers are still needed, please call Carolyn McLendon at 867-4881 or 867-2382. Because of recent illness in the Finlay family the Finlay homes have been taken off the tour list, and the members of the Finlay family will be on hand to greet the visitors at the Robbins & McGowin store and explain the historical murals and displays in the store. This is the last newsletter before October 4th, so once more the schedule for the day is as follows:

The Morning Program will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Jefferson Davis Junior College Auditorium, concluding at 12:00 for the picnic lunch on the college grounds. The tour of homes will begin at 1:00, concluding with a reception at The Leigh Place from 3:00 to 3:45. The group will leave the college grounds and proceed to the junction of Belleville Avenue and McLellan Street where they will tour the homes of Mrs. John R. Miller, Sr., Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan, and Mr and Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan, then proceeding up Belleville Avenue to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Hines on Escambia Avenue, then back down Belleville Avenue to The Leigh Place for the reception. Part of the group will take the tour in reverse order beginning with the Hines home. A bus will be located at The Leigh Place all afternoon to take groups downtown to the Robbins & McGowin building in order to prevent traffic problems in the downtown area. The public is

SEASON TICKETS — \$12.00 for Adults

\$ 6.00 for Students

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE TICKETS — \$5.00 for Adults

\$3.00 for Students

For tickets or further information write:

BREWTON COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

P. O. Box 432

Brewton, Alabama 36426

or call:

JEFFERSON DAVIS JUNIOR COLLEGE

867-4832

Ext. 47

JEFFERSON DAVIS JUNIOR COLLEGE INVITES ALL IN ATTENDANCE TO A RECEPTION IN THE LOBBY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EACH PERFORMANCE.

THIS PROJECT IS JOINTLY SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS IN WASHINGTON D.C., A FEDERAL AGENCY.

Brewton Council

FOURTH ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES

of

The Arts



Concert Series

1975-76

THE BREWTON COUNCIL OF THE ARTS
presents its
FOURTH ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES

JEFFERSON DAVIS JUNIOR COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

Curtain time for all performances: 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1975

CARL RATCLIFF DANCE THEATRE

Mr. Ratcliff is making his second appearance on our concert stage. The dancers will present a new and unique program of dance theatre....presenting, singly and collectively, the individuality and skill of four distinct personalities in one performing unit.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1975

CONTINENTAL THEATRE COMPANY IN GODSPELL

This company will be remembered for their outstanding performance of I Do! I Do! Godspell is a wonderful modern rock musical. A group of today people will tell the St. Matthew gospel in a modern way. CTC offers the first production of the play to be included in a touring repertory. The outstanding score includes: "Day by Day" and "The Light of the World."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Amerigo Marino - Music Director and Conductor

The official Symphony Orchestra of the State of Alabama has been a tremendous cultural success, and has inspired an enthusiastic and devoted following.

Mr. Marino's exceptional musical talents have been recognized and acclaimed from New York to Hollywood. His professional background encompasses all phases of musical achievements from composer and conductor for CBS to guest appearances with America's finest Symphony Orchestras. The 1975-76 season will mark Mr. Marino's twelfth year as the leader of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976

YARBROUGH AND COWAN, DUO-PIANISTS

Yarbrough and Cowan will be in Brewton February 16 through February 19 acting as Artists in Schools. They will climax their stay with a concert on February 19.

"Their impeccable ensemble stems from their splendid musicianship coupled with meticulous preparation. The performance was delightful."

--Die Tat, Zurich

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1976

THE MAC FRAMPTON TRIUMVIRATE

Surely the most popular concert of the 1974-75 series, Mac and this trio will be back on our concert stage. On March 2, this dynamic group will present their Special Bicentennial Concert. A Toast to Americana. An Anthology of Distinctive American Music and A Tribute to America's Broadway Tradition is the billing for this concert.

welcome to attend the morning program, but only members of Alabama Historical Association and Escambia County Historical Society and their guests may tour the homes and attend the reception.

BREWTON ARTS COUNCIL CONCERT SERIES- For your convenience in placing your order for tickets for the Concert Series a leaflet is being attached to the newsletter of the persons residing in the Escambia-Conecuh County area. The address is P.O.Box 432, Brewton, Alabama.

R.S.V.P. PRESENTS CERTIFICATE - The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of the United States of America has presented The Escambia County Historical Society of Brewton with a certificate recognizing it "for invaluable support in furthering the efforts of the R.S.V.P. to provide significant volunteer service to the community." We appreciate our senior citizens and their efforts in our behalf in assembling and mailing publications. A million "thank you's" wouldn't be sufficient to express our gratitude.

FLOOD PICTURES in full color are available at Moorman Drug Company. There are four different groups of 12 pictures each, for \$5.00 per group, these were made and are being offered by the Frank A. Luttrell, Jr. family.

MEMBERSHIP IN ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, Alabama's oldest historical society, formed in 1947. If any of you wish to join the Alabama Historical Association you may mail your check for \$7.00 payable to Alabama Historical Association to Carolyn McLendon, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, Alabama, and I will be glad to recommend you for membership in that group. They publish a quarterly entitled "The Alabama Review" edited by Dr. Malcolm C. McMillan of Auburn University.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - our heartfelt thanks go to:

Mr. Duncan Merriwether, of Chester Springs, Pa. who has contributed for our use and also to be made available to the public and students at J.D.J.C. -The 1850 Alabama Census, complete--13 rolls of microfilm; the 1860 Alabama Census, 3 rolls of microfilm with counties A-G and M-P; Index to Service Records of Alabama Volunteer Soldiers during Cherokee Removal (1 roll); Index to Service Records of Alabama Volunteer Soldiers during Creek War (2 rolls); Index to Service Records of Alabama Volunteer Soldiers during The Florida War (1 roll). Mr. Merriwether also plans to bring the 1880 Alabama Census microfilm to us during the winter, along with various other records he wants to be made available to the people of this area. We appreciate this fine contribution to our records and will begin publishing some of these records as soon as they can be "read" and copied.

Eugene H. Pettis, Flomaton, Al., a photostatic copy of the incorporation papers of the Town of Flomaton, February, 1908, as taken from the Probate Records of Escambia County, Al.

QUERY - Can anyone help Mrs. Doris Newsom, P.O. Box 361, Vernon, Fla. 32462? She wants information regarding Uriah Chavers for whom Uriah, Al. was supposed to have been named, and the Chavers family, one of whom married an Indian girl, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Arthur Smith and his wife, Elvanie Boutwell Smith. Also, information regarding Sarah Hughes of Conecuh County, widowed in 1850, the widow of either James or John Hughes. She was mother of William, born 1814, and Young, born 1819 and listed in the 1840 Butler County Census. Mrs. Newsom would like to correspond with any descendants of these families or anyone having knowledge regarding the same.

MORE REGARDING BREWTON'S FIRST AIRPLANE

Mr. Earl M. McGowin of Chapman, Al. writes that he was ten years old at the time and recalls that his uncle, William Foshee, paid the aviator \$50.00 to circle the mills at Chapman before landing at Georgiana on his flight from Evergreen. The mills were stopped so that everyone could go out and see it. He came in at a low altitude with the name "Fowler California Flyer" clearly written on the underside of the plane. After circling Chapman, he landed in Mr. Boone's pasture in Georgiana. We hope Mr. McGowin will be able to locate and loan us a copy of a picture he has of the plane taken while at Georgiana so that our local newspapers can publish it.

"THE COUNTRY PLACE"
BELLEVILLE, CONECUH COUNTY, ALABAMA

By: Miss Elizabeth A. Riley
Evergreen, Alabama

Houses are like people - if lived in and loved, there is always indications of Life, Happiness and Security. Such is a lovely old home in Belleville, which was built in 1830, by the late Kedar Hawthorne, who came from North Carolina, settling in Belleville, Alabama.

The first plan a pioneer made was the establishment of a home, so Mr. Hawthorne and his wife, who was Miss Martha Baggett, selected the beautiful sight where they built their lovely home, just about a mile from the center of Belleville. It is a large two-story house, large rooms, high ceilings, with thirty-two inch handcarved wainscoting made of solid mahogany (designed and put in by Italian craftsmen), plastered walls, and beautiful floors. The house has always been painted white with green blinds, the latter having been discarded.

One is impressed by the spacious entrance gallery, which opens with double doors into the foyer with its ceiling scroll work also done by the artist from Italy. The breezeway in the rear leads to a two-room building where a governess once taught the children of the household. In later years, these two rooms were removed.

Fine families have owned and lived in this lovely old place which stands facing a grove of pines and some oaks, with a circling driveway. In the early days of this grove there were huge live-oaks standing as if they were sentinels, guarding this lovely old place. The huge live-oaks fell victims of storms and heavy winds.

Mr. Hawthorne decided to remove his family to Mount Moriah in Wilcox County. He died in Greenville, Alabama in 1877. He was the father of the late Rev. J. Boardman Hawthorne, a prominent Baptist minister. Mr. Hawthorne sold his place to Mr. Joseph H. McCreary of the near Burnt Corn area. Mrs. McCreary was born Almyra Strange of Brooklyn, Alabama and was the widow of Mr. Lorenzo Autrey of Hampden Ridge. These were all fine old pioneer families. When Mr. McCreary decided to sell and return to his first home, he sold to Dr. John Shaw, a brilliant surgeon and doctor of that era.

Dr. Shaw married Miss Pamela Crosby, a daughter of Chesley Crosby, and whose mother was a first cousin of General Marion, the "Swamp Fox." Mr. McCreary and Dr. Shaw exchanged or sold to one another this old home twice; then it finally remained in the Shaw family for seventy or more years.

It was here the late Dr. E. F. Riley married Miss Emma Shaw, the lovely daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Shaw.

As one drives into the driveway the white chimneys, built of limestone rock, impresses anyone. The limerock abounded plentifully

in a creek near the mansion. Here, one visiting this place and walking through the flower gardens, sees and feels the peace, solemnity and happiness.

Today it is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williamson, who love and appreciate the comfort, beauty, and history of this grand old place and never tire in greeting callers and very graciously conducts anyone, who is interested, over the house and grounds. Their talented daughter who lives in Mobile has composed a poem regarding "The Country Place" which closes with the following verse:

The sounds of the "Country Place"
Are heard loud and clear,
And what they're saying
Is that, "You're Welcome Here!"

Editor's note regarding the above story: In an inventory of the Belleville Baptist Church Cemetery, prepared in 1962 by Mrs. Nelle Morris Jenkins of Emelle, Alabama, the following graves are listed:

- Almira, daughter of Joseph H. and Almira McCreary,
born Jan. 15, 1841, died June 11, 1851
Almira N. Strange McCreary, born Aug. 26, 1810 Brooklyn, Ala.,
died Nov. 17, 1861, Belleville, Ala.
Joseph Hartwell McCreary, born Barnwell Dist. S.C., July 25, 1803,
died Belleville, Ala. Oct. 13, 1864
Frances E. Hawthorne, wife of J. K. Hawthorne, daughter of Mabry and
Ursula Thomas, born Aug. 23, 1829, died Mar. 28, 1859
John J. Hawthorne, born Sept. 5, 1830, died May 20, 1855
James R. Hawthorne, born Oct. 6, 1828, died Mar. 9, 1845
Patience Elizabeth Hawthorne, wife of J. P. Hawthorne, born Dec. 15,
1815, died June 18, 1850
Sarah C. Hawthorne, wife of Joseph R. Hawthorne, died Dec. 9, 1835
in 29th year.
Joshua Hawthorne, born Jan. 15, 1776, died Nov. 19, 1836
Sarah Hawthorne, wife of Joshua Hawthorne, born Feb. 16, 1776,
died Dec. 23, 1857
C. E. Hawthorne, wife of J. T. Hawthorne, born Nov. 8, 1816,
died Dec. 18, 1847
Sarah, wife of J. H. Stamps, daughter of John L. and Permellia Shaw,
born Apr. 5, 1852, died May 17, 1887
Dr. John L. Shaw, born Robeson Co., N.W. Dec. 22, 1814, died Oct. 8, 1885
Permellia Shaw, born Oct. 22, 1820, died Dec. 1, 1896
Dr. Wm. C. Shaw, born Sept. 20, 1863, died Nov. 13, 1898

COMMEMORATION

If we are remembering the lives of our forebears and the
pioneers of this country, the lives lost in battle and
striving for the betterment of this country for future
generations, and
If we are recognizing that it was because of them that we have
what we have,
Then can we truly celebrate the Bicentennial of our nation.