

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 276  
Brewton, Alabama 36426

- - - ESCAMBIA ECHOES - - -

October 14, 1975

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon,  
Editor

Annual Dues- \$6.00

NOTICE OF MEETING - Date: Tuesday, October 21, 1975

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Jefferson Davis Junior College Student  
Center

Speaker: GOULD BEECH of Magnolia Springs, Ala.,  
former editor of The Montgomery Advertiser  
and The Southern Farmer

Mr. Beech will give a "progress report" on research he has been doing for a history of Pollard. As a boy he visited Pollard many times with his step-mother, Mrs. Carrie Kelly Beech, and also visited the R. H. Strain family in Brewton. He recalls happy hunting trips with the late Robert Hill Strain, Sam Foshee, Ben Kelly Strain and others. The late Mrs. Strain and Mrs. Carrie Beech are sisters. Mrs. Gould Beech and Mrs. Thomas McMillan are cousins, and both couples were friends and classmates at the University of Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Beech lived in Houston for a number of years, but returned to Alabama two years ago to their favorite spot--the Magnolia River in south Baldwin County. Mr. Beech relates that "for some years Curtis Finlay, Pollard's permanent mayor, and a friend since boyhood, has been urging me to write a history of the town. With his cooperation and the help of a great many people, I am making a beginning."

Mr. Beech asks that those who have material related to Pollard's past contact him by writing to him at River Route #43, Magnolia Springs, AL. 36555, or by contacting Mrs. McLendon at 867-4881 or 867-2382. He plans to spend a day or two a week at Pollard and in Brewton, where he will be using the records of the Society, the historical records of Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan, and other sources.

Let's all help Mr. Beech. Perhaps when he finishes his Pollard story we can convince him to write a History of Escambia County.

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs. Esther Shellenberger, Mrs. Henrietta C. Till, Mrs. Audrey Ballard, all of Brewton; Earl Horton, East Brewton; Mrs. J. H. Kizer, Atmore; Louis M. Finlay, Jr., Jackson, AL.; Mrs. Wm.H. Askew III, Eufaula, AL.; Mrs. James E. Brown, Lockhart, Fla.; Walter F. Cox, Jr., Elliott City, Md.; making a total membership of 278.

BI-CENTENNIAL FALL FASHION SHOW, October 28th. Many of our members will have "old fashions" modeled in this show being sponsored by The Brewton Civic League, and some of our members are modeling fashions. This will be held at the Jefferson Davis Junior College Auditorium.

MONTGOMERY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH of Tensaw has invited our members to a Special Bicentennial Celebration, November 2, 1975, at 11:00 A.M. They plan to re-create an old-fashioned Country Worship Service followed by dinner on the grounds. Costumes are not required but would add to the spirit of the occasion.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - Contributions to our Library:

JAMES RECORD of Huntsville, Al., President of Alabama Historical Association, his publication "A Dream Come True", Volume 1, the story of Madison County, Al., published in 1970.

WAYNE BROWN, Postmaster of Brewton, copies of William Fountain Brewton, Howell and Grady Long, Hutch Brown, and William and Mary House Parker family histories of Falkville, Morgan County, Al.

DUNCAN MERRIWETHER, of Chester Springs, Pa. microfilm census records as follows: 1830 Census, 4 rolls; 1840 Census, 4 rolls; 1870 Census, 7 rolls, 1880 Census 18 rolls.

We appreciate these gifts and the spirit that prompted them. The microfilm are especially needed, many have heretofore had to rent microfilm census records to do genealogical research for this area.

PRaise AND APPRECIATION have been pouring in from every direction for the fine display of Southern hospitality shown not only by the owners of the homes and businesses on the tour, but by our group and everyone who was involved in hosting the Alabama Historical Pilgrimage to Brewton. Every detail was carried out in the loveliest and best way possible. We didn't mean to astound these visitors with our hospitality. We did want them to come here for their pilgrimage and it just seemed such an easy thing for everyone to do their assigned tasks in their own special way. Early Saturday morning Worth P. Smith had put up the large numerical markers in front of the homes on the tour. At the college our visitors were greeted by our own Woodfin P. Patterson, College President, with Chamber of Commerce Manager Ralph Barbour assisting in setting up the University of Alabama Press book display, and Boy Scout Troop No.42, dressed in uniform, with coffee, cokes, and cupcakes with American flags in the center of each. Miss Cathy McLendon distributed programs for the day. Our Mayor Ray Sherrer gave a most appropriate welcoming address and stayed through the entire program--something they'd never had a Mayor to do before. Rev. J. W. Caldwell was on hand to give the invocation; and Harry Weaver gave his excellent story on "Early Days of Brewton." During the picnic hour many of our members joined the group for the picnic while Mr. and Mrs. H. Eugene Pettis of Flomaton (our newest members) handled the sale of our Quarterlies and The Brewton Standard. At each of the homes the visitors were given warm welcomes by the owners of the homes and were courteously directed through the homes by scores of Escambia County Historical Society hostesses who have been declared to be more "gracious and efficient than the docents of Williamsburg." Special appreciation is expressed by this Society to Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan, Mrs. John R. Miller, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Hines for opening their homes for this tour and for being such wonderful hosts; and to Thomas E. McMillan for opening The Leigh Place and allowing us to hold our reception there, and to the John David Finlays, Dr. and Mrs. Emily Finlay Smith, John

David Finlay, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Finlay, and Mrs. James M. Martin  
For allowing our group to tour Robbins & McGowin to see the historic building and the murals, and for giving such a warm welcome to the visitors. Since the names of all the hostesses and guides were listed in The Brewton Standard we won't list them again. We do express to each of you our heartfelt thanks for giving so freely of yourselves and being such wonderful ambassadors for this Society and the Greater-Brewton area.

Each of you will want to express appreciation to those who so graciously opened their homes and businesses for this tour and bore the expense of the beautiful floral arrangements in their homes as well as the cleanup tasks after the tour.

MANY OF OUR TOURING VISITORS PROCLAIMED that the homes on our tour were lovelier and better furnished than any of the tours they had ever participated in, including Williamsburg.

We displayed our best and gave of our best, we could not help but be very proud that we succeeded in this endeavor.

---

#### PRIMEVAL CALF

(Note: This poem on judicial precedent was printed in Vol.62, Colorado Laws, page 4, written by Professor Frank W. Donaldson, School of Law, Samford University.)

"One day through the primeval wood a calf walked home as good calves should;  
But left a trail all bent askew, a crooked trail, as all calves do.  
Since then, three hundred years have fled, and, I infer, the calf is dead.  
But still he left behind this trail, and thereby hangs my moral tale.  
The trail was taken up next day by a lone dog that passed that way;  
And then a wise bell-wether sheep pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,  
And drew the block behind him, too, as good bell-wethers always do.  
So from that day, o'er hill and glade, through those old woods a path was made,  
And many men wound in and out, and bent and turned and dodged about,  
And uttered words of righteous wrath, because 'twas such a crooked path;  
But still they followed--do not laugh--the first migrations of that calf,  
And through this winding woodway stalked because he wobbled when he walked.  
This forest path became a lane, that bent and turned and turned again;  
This crooked lane became a road, where many a poor horse, with his load,  
Toiled on, beneath the burning sun, and traveled some three miles in one.  
And thus a century and a half they trod the footsteps of that calf.  
The years passed on with swiftness fleet, the road became a village street, and this,  
Before men were aware, a city's crowded thoroughfare.  
And soon the central street was this of a renowned metropolis.  
And men two centuries and a half trod the footsteps of that calf.  
Each day a hundred thousand rout followed the zigzag calf about;  
And o'er his crooked journey went the traffic of a continent.  
A hundred thousand men were led by one calf near three centuries dead.  
They followed still his crooked way, and lost one hundred years a day;  
For thus such reverence is lent to well-established precedent.

A moral lesson this might teach were I ordained and called to  
preach.  
For men are prone to go it blind along the calf-path of the mind,  
And toil away from sun to sun to do what other men have done.  
They follow in the beaten track, and out and in, and forth and back,  
And still their devious course pursue to keep the path that others do.  
But how the wise old wood-gods laugh, who saw the first primeval  
calf!  
Ah! many things this tale might teach;--But I am not ordained to  
preach."

---

FROM THE TAFT MEMORIAL TOWER  
Washington, D.C.

by  
Robert A. Taft

Liberty has been the key to  
our progress in the past  
and is the key to  
our progress in the future.  
If we can preserve liberty  
in all its essentials;  
There is no limit to the future  
of the American People.

If we wish to make democracy  
permanent in this country,  
let us abide  
by the fundamental principles  
laid down in the Constitution.  
Let us see that the  
State is the servant  
of its people and that the  
people are not the servants of the  
state.