

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

December 8, 1975

Published by -  
The Escambia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 276, Brewton, Ala. 36426

Mrs. Carolyn Pugh McLendon,  
Editor  
Annual Dues - \$6.00

CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 16, 1975 at 7:00 p.m.  
at BREWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPECIAL EVENT - Presentation of Alabama Historical Commission Merit Awards to Ed Leigh McMillan, Thomas E. McMillan and The Escambia County Historical Society for significant efforts in preserving area history. Rep. Brooks Hines will make the presentations.

Public invited. Bring a small item for Searcy Hospital's "Operation Santa Clause."

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Brewton Public Library on Tuesday, December 16, 1975, at 7:00 p.m. We are all going to share in the food, fun and fellowship, but this year we are being asked to "Do Unto Others" by bringing a gift for "Operation Santa Clause". There are many patients at Searcy Hospital who are called "forgotten ones" because they have been forgotten by their families and former acquaintances. Without "Operation Santa Clause" these people would receive no Christmas gifts at all. Almost anything will do, toiletries, cosmetics, pens, pencils, soap, candy, nuts, raisins, instant tea, coffee, coffeemate, costume jewelry, handkerchiefs--even money! State Representative Brooks Hines will give citations and present the Merit Awards on behalf of the Alabama Historical Commission to Ed Leigh McMillan--historian; Thomas E. McMillan--preservationist; and The Escambia County Historical Society for its significant group efforts. So far as we know, no awards of this type have ever been presented in this county, and we can be justifiably proud that the efforts of this young society brought about this recognition to two people who have been preserving our area's history for many years--Mr. Ed Leigh McMillan with his voluminous history records and enviable museum collection of this area's Indian artifacts, fossils and early American tools; and Mr. Thomas E. McMillan who has preserved and restored our first Brewton courthouse built in 1885, and the Jay Villa plantation house and barn in Conecuh County. Both of the McMillans are charter members of this Society and have steadfastly backed all of this Society's endeavors with their moral and financial support. We could not have accomplished as a Society what we have, had not Ed Leigh McMillan and Thomas E. McMillan been our fore-runners. Come and bring a friend.

Dues of \$6.00 are due January 1st. This would make a nice Christmas gift for someone who is not a member! Please pay your dues as soon as possible, 1976 being the bi-centennial year we will have many extra expenses--including the publishing of a book containing Scribner's History of Brewton, a History of Atmore, 1883 Yellow Fever History, and Railroad Bill, and possibly sponsoring a countywide "Heritage Day." We do want to carry on in the manner that an historical society should in this bi-centennial year of our country.

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE for officers for 1976 and 1977 has been appointed with Mrs. Alice T. Beall as Chairman. Please let her know of any suggestions you might have (867-3353). New officers will be elected at the January meeting. The out-going officers have done an excellent job and we thank each of them for their many efforts. A special vote of thanks goes to our President, Floyd Currie, who has come up from Atmore for all our meetings and borne the expense of many long distance calls on our behalf. He has entwined our meetings with an air of old-fashioned graciousness and charm, and for each meeting brought an item of special interest to delight us.

POLLARD PILGRIMAGE - Our visit to Escambia's old capital was delightful and enlightening. Most of you have read the "review of the pilgrimage" in The Brewton Standard but we want to take this opportunity to again express appreciation to all of the people who made it so special--the Brewton Police Department and Escambia County Sheriff's Department who directed the motorcade; Messrs. Skippy and Johnny White who conducted the tour; Pollard Mayor Curtis Finlay, Douglas Finlay and the Messrs. White who planned a lovely and memorable welcoming program at Pollard Methodist Church; the wonderful ladies of Pollard--Mrs. G.S. Vinson, Mrs. Richard Finlay, Mrs. Rufus White, Mrs. Ed Kelly, Mrs. Edna Arant, Mrs. Annie Finlay Harper, Mrs. Charles Wilson, and Mrs. Stella Walker, who prepared the church, parsonage and much food for our visit; and all of the people of Pollard who joined us for the outing. It couldn't have been nicer, the people of Pollard overwhelmed us with their graciousness and generosity.

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Be careful of the words you say,  
Keep them soft and sweet;  
You never know from day to day  
Which ones you'll have to eat!  
-Author unknown

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MORE ABOUT THE "REDMEN"  
by Mrs. Annie Waters

A picture appeared in the March 12, 1974 Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society showing the Brewton members of the Order of the Redmen.

This order was a national fraternal society organized in 1765 and composed of local lodges. The members paid dues which entitled them to the order's social functions and benefits in case of sickness, accident, and death. They dressed in the regalia of the Indians from whom they derived their name.

The society was formally reorganized as The Improved Order of Redmen under a charter granted by the Maryland Legislature in 1835.

Its women's affiliate, The Degree of Pocahontas, was organized in 1886.

In 1950 the membership had reached 150,000 in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii, with National Headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Brewton lodge of Redmen was organized in November 1904 and held a sumptuous banquet at the Arends House. The local paper stated,

"A full stomach makes a glad heart" when reporting the incident.

Greenville, Alabama had a very active lodge and one of its members, Radford Buckhaults, was killed by Daniel Stallings in 1904. The lodge buried him with rites of the order and turned a white pigeon loose over his grave. To the dismay of the citizens of Greenville the pigeon went to the home of Stallings and took up his abode.

In the Mohawk State Park in northwest Massachusetts there is now (1975) a memorial marker to the Order of the Redmen which was placed there by the members of the Degree of Pocahontas.

--Mrs. Annie Waters

Sources of information:

Marker in Mohawk State Park, Massachusetts  
Old Brewton newspapers  
World Book Encyclopedia

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#### THE COLOR COMES

The New York Times, October 5, 1959

The color creeps in, down from the north, along the ridges and in the valleys where night coolness flows like water. The sumac is first to color, as always, but the dogwood is seldom far behind. Then the viburnums are tinged with purple, the ash shows yellow and blue, the elm is touched with rusty-russet. And the maples, from swamp to rocky hilltop, blaze with every shade of red and yellow. The leaves, their season's work accomplished, round out their span in a flame of glory.

Color comes on its own terms, in its own time, and always as quiet as the morning mist. Last week the tree down at the first bend in the road was as green as August. Then it showed a dozen crimson leaves. The crimson spread, to a whole branch, to several branches; then it seemed to leap up the tree like a flame, touching every leaf. And yet another maple near by, perhaps sprung from the same parent, will wait ten days before it begins to turn. And so it is throughout the woodland, the color coming branch by branch and tree by tree, for a little while; and then it is like flame itself, leaping through all the tree tops, a blaze of color.

So it begins with the sumac. And it will end with the oaks, in their leather-browns and their russet-reds and their wine-rich purples. And for a little while every hill and every woodland will celebrate, every bush with a dozen leaves. Summer's shade becomes autumn's glory. The lush green of growth becomes the lavish gold and the potent wine of maturity achieved.

--Contributed by Mrs. Rochelle Garrett

Our country, right or wrong,  
When right, to be kept right;  
when wrong to be put right.

--Carl Schurz  
October, 1899