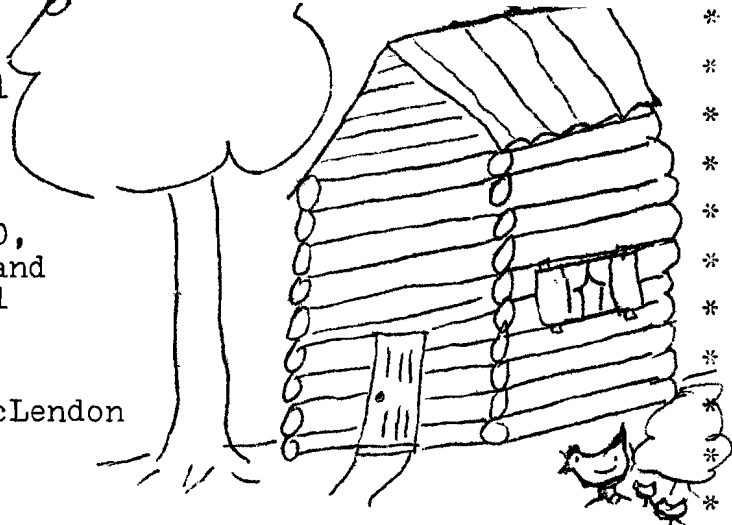


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The Escambia County Historical  
Quarterly

Editor/Secretary -Carolyn P.McLendon



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NOTICE OF MEETING: Tuesday, March 27, 1979, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Thomas E.McMillan Museum on campus of  
Jefferson Davis State Junior College,  
Alco Drive, Brewton, Alabama

Speaker: Dr. Virgil S.Davis, Mobile, Al.

Topic: The Woods People

Dr.Virgil S.Davis, who has been Professor of History and Chairman of the Social Sciences Division of Mobile College, is serving under a Federal educational grant and is presenting programs of an historical nature throughout the area under the provisions of the grant, has been asked to present the program for the March 27th meeting. He has chosen as his topic "The Woods People" which should be most beneficial and interesting to all age groups in helping to understand our ancestors who came to this part of the country to settle in the vast timberlands. Dr.Davis has been active in the Alabama Historical Association for many years and last spring hosted its annual meeting in Mobile. On the Board of Advisors for the Alabama Historical Commission and a member of the Southern Historical Association, he was named in 1971 an "Outstanding Educator of America." He received his B.A. degree at Furman University, a B.D.from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, an M.A.from the University of Alabama, and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Fraternally he is associated with Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Gamma Mu. Come and bring a friend to this meeting.

NEW MEMBER: Mrs. Sandy Dutcher, P.O.Box 237, Roy, Utah 84067.

DUES - \$6.00 - ARE DUE on January 1st each year. Be sure to send them in as soon as possible. A final letter reminding members that have not paid will be sent to them prior to removing their names from the mailing list. We want to keep our present membership and increase it this year.

BALANCE IN REGULAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$794.47. The Museum Savings Account has been completely depleted after the payment of the balance of the \$200,000 was paid to the college and the microfilm camera was paid for. Some funds were used out of the regular account to cover the cost of the camera.

AGREEMENTS REGARDING MUSEUM: For your information copies of the letter agreements between the Historical Society and the Jefferson Davis State Junior College are attached to this newsletter, also a copy of the resolution of the State Board of Education setting the \$200,000

aside as an endowment fund, the income from which is to be used exclusively for the museum, and the principal to be withdrawn and re-invested by a committee composed of the President of Jefferson Davis State Junior College, the President of The Escambia County Historical Society, and the State Superintendent of Education.

Then the little red hen said, "Now, who will eat the breat," and all the barnyard animals cried, "We will." A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR AND FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUSEUM PROJECT. Let's be fair! Having raised the \$200,000 for the museum, the income from which is to be used for the benefit of the museum, many of this Society's membership felt that the Thomas E. McMillan Museum Advisory Council should be made up entirely from this Society's active members; however, the persons selected for the Council by Dr. George McCormick, President of Jefferson Davis State Junior College, are outstanding citizens of Brewton and can each give valuable insight into the workings of the museum. It is good to have these younger people become involved in the museum and historical preservation, and hopefully to join and take an interest in this Historical Society. Speaking for myself as the "mother of the museum", I have no objection to any of the members of the Advisory Council as set up by Dr. McCormick, but in fairness to the organization that had the vision and raised the funds for the museum, I do feel that at least half of the Council should be made up of active Historical Society members--people who are basically interested in historical preservation. To this end a request has been made of Dr. McCormick to consider adding five active Historical Society members to the Advisory Council. This would give the Council 14 members of which 7 would be active Historical Society members. Dr. McCormick has advised that he will take this matter up with the Advisory Council at its next meeting. For those of you who have expressed concern because I am not on the Advisory Council, I want you to know that I asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Of course, I want to and will help in every way possible for the benefit of the museum, but I felt that because of other responsibilities, I could not effectively serve on the council. Let's all pull together to fulfill our original intent "to have one of the finest museums and archives in the state."

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING HELD

MARCH 17 at State Capitol: Continuing in their efforts to fulfil their responsibility to advise the Alabama Historical Commission pertaining to historical preservation throughout the state, the Board of Advisors voted unanimously on March 17th to request that the Alabama Historical Commission -

- 1 - "give each of the 7 district representatives of the Board of Advisory copies of requests for grants of funds pertaining to historical preservation in their district and that the district representative be a part of the Review Committee for the grants." It was reported that Mr. Milton Parsons, Commission member, refused to vote on the Fiscal Year budget for some \$1.4 million because no information was furnished for his study, and only a skeleton list was presented that simply gave the name of the project and the amount requested. The other members of the Commission did vote and approved the budget.
- 2 - "that the Pilgrimage Council provided by the legislature in 1975 be called on to fulfil its task of co-ordinating pilgrimages and homes tours throughout the state." Some of the tours in close proximity overlapped this year.

- 3 - "request that a list of National Register applications on hand be given to the Board of Advisors so that it can give input to the Commission as to priorities, also that the Commission notify applicants when National Register applications are received and advise applicant when it will be processed." Some registration requests are in the Commission office that have been there over 4 years, and others have forwarded applications to the Commission and the applicants don't know if they were received or not.
- 4 - "that the Commission give the Chairperson of the Board of Advisors, Marvin Harper of Tuscaloosa, notice of the meetings of the Commission and in ample time that he can be present for the Commission meeting.

The Annual Preservation Conference of the Alabama Historical Commission will be held in Tuscaloosa on July 27-28, at which time the Board of Advisors will meet again.

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QUERY: A query regarding the Crapps-Eubanks family appeared in the December, 1978 quarterly with out the address of the person to contact. It will be re-run in the March, 1979 quarterly, but for your information, the query came from Mrs. Barbara McConnell, P.O.Box 174, St.Elmo, Alabama 36568.

QUERY: Marie Palmer, 21621 Columbus Avenue, Cupertino, CA 94014, is seeking information on Coleman O'Gwynn (O'Guyenn) b.ca 1790, married Abigail, b. ca 1790-1800. Was her maiden name Crapps? Children were: John married Susannah Broughton, James married Mary McCall, Hardy married Mary Frances Bowen, Coleman, Jr. married Martha Stott, Holden married Delaney (what was her maiden name?) and Mary H. who married Clavin W. Croker or Mary L. who married John Craps. Would also like to hear from descendants of John Davison, b. 1782, and Martha Ann Miller, b. 1784. Did his son James marry a Holly? Also seeking other information on Holly-Holley families.

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PILGRIMAGES: Historic Selma, Alabama, 4th Annual Pilgrimage, March 30 through April 1, 1979, for information contact: Chris Vaughan, 622 McLeod Ave., Selma, Al. 36701, phone 872-6489 or Chamber of Commerce 875-7241.

Tuscaloosa's Heritage '79, March 28-April, for further information contact Jim Walker at Chamber of Commerce, 758-7588, or write Heritage '79, Box 1302, Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401.

Pensacola's Day of History and Flowers, March 31st, sponsored by Pensacola Historical Society and Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs, in Seville Historic District, Register Old Christ Church, 405 S.Adams on the Square for guided walking tours 10:00 a.m. to noon, flower shows staged in all museums, Walton House and Shops 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. NO CHARGE.

Lowndesboro Pilgrimage and Antique Show, March 23-25. For information all Mrs. Tyson Howard 278-3382.

8th Annual Calico Fort Arts and Crafts Fair, Box 7, Fort Deposit, Al. 36032, April 7 and 8, 250 top artists and craftsmen, country store, etc. Contact Linda Wilkinson or Susan Haigler, Fort Deposit, Al.

ALABAMA REGISTRY OF MILITARY HERITAGE has been established as a permanent part of the American Legion Department of Alabama's military historical program. It is the purpose of this Registry to allow the

general public the opportunity to recognize local landmarks and objects that have played a role in Alabama's military history. The Registry is open to all Alabama cemeteries where our veterans are buried, as well as buildings or sites that have played a role in our military's history. An important aspect of the Registry is that it is also open to military collections such as weapons, insignia, and official records. Registry applications may be obtained by writing to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Box 1069, Montgomery, Al. 36102, or to Warren S. McEachern, Chairman, Historical Restorations Committee, same address.

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THOSE WHO REFUSE TO GO BEYOND FACT, SELDOM GET AS FAR AS FACT.

December 13, 1977

Mr. Woodfin P. Patterson, President  
Jefferson Davis Junior College  
Alco Drive  
Brewton, Alabama

Dear Mr. Patterson:

A commitment was made by The Escambia County Historical Society last fall to raise \$200,000.00 for a museum facility to be housed within a Fine Arts Building on campus of Jefferson Davis Junior College at Brewton. It was our understanding at the time of making the commitment that the museum facility would be made available to The Escambia County Historical Society for its meetings, that the facility will house all the collections and materials of The Escambia County Historical Society, and that The Escambia County Historical Society could recommend a name for the museum facility.

First, let me say again to you that this Society has had a good working relationship with you and the other officials and teachers at the college since our Society began six years ago, holding meetings at the college facility and housing some of our reference material and microfilm (which have been greatly utilized by your student body) in your library under the direction of Miss Janel Redditt--your Librarian who is also official librarian for The Escambia County Historical Society, We anticipate that this good relationship will continue for years to come regardless of any changes in personnel.

For the benefit of the people who have made contributions toward the Museum Fund and to whom we all have a responsibility and for the reference of future officers of The Escambia County Historical Society who might not now be familiar with these proceedings, the Society would like to have our understanding in writing from you and have your Board to pass on this prior to December 27, 1977, at which time our Society will hold its December meeting and at which it will instruct its Treasurer to turn over to the proper college authority as designated by you the funds collected for the museum as of December 31, 1977.

Attached to this letter is a copy of a letter from Ed Leigh McMillan II dated December 13, 1977, regarding the commitment of the McMillan family to contribute \$150,000.00 for the museum fund. We request that you write a separate letter to the McMillan family setting out your agreements with them as requested in said letter.

In consideration of the efforts by The Escambia County Historical Society to raise funds and stimulate community interest in establishing a museum on your campus we would like to have the following assurances in addition to those requested by the McMillan family:

1. That the college authority will complete and maintain the museum facility in the Fine Arts Building now in construction on its campus, using the center portion, approximately 48'x70' for the museum facility, and that the college will engage a curator and other appropriate personnel and will operate and maintain the museum at its expense with such appropriate personnel in perpetuity, open to the public during reasonable hours.

2. That the college will display the collections of The Escambia County Historical Society and reference materials of The Escambia County Historical Society, making the reference material available to the public and your student body, but not to be removed from the museum facility or checked out as library material. This Society has collected some valuable area history books some of which cannot be replaced and which are invaluable to people doing historical and genealogical research.

3. That should the college and/or museum cease to exist at some future date for some unforeseeable cause the collections of The Escambia County Historical Society (the Ed Leigh McMillan family collection not included but returned to the McMillan family as requested) will be given back to the Society if it is still in existence and if not to be given to some group of local citizenry with the understanding that it is to be publicly displayed in the Escambia County area, and if no such group exists then to be given to the Alabama Department of Archives and History to be displayed as "The Escambia County Historical Collection."

4. That The Escambia County Historical Society will be permitted to hold its regular meetings within the museum facility and be permitted to add to its collections from time to time.

5. That the request of the McMillan family regarding the naming of the museum with appropriate plaque be carried out.

6. That an appropriate dedication ceremony will be held at the facility when the museum is ready to be opened to the public.

7. That The Escambia County Historical Society recognizes that the name Thomas E. McMillan Museum and/or Thomas E. McMillan Historical Museum is an appropriate name for this museum facility. Thomas E. McMillan, a charter member and Trustee for this Society at the time of his death on June 27, 1977, is a worthy preservationist and historian. He having received an Award of Merit from the Alabama Historical Commission in December, 1975, citing him for his efforts in this field. In Escambia County he has restored and preserved Brewton's first courthouse built in 1885 which is open to the public and was on the 1976 Bi-Centennial Trail through Alabama as was Jay Villa Plantation (also preserved and restored by Mr. McMillan in Conecuh County. Jay Villa was a post office in the 1820's, and Jay Villa Plantation is a joiner of several plantations near Old Sparta all of which are rich in the annals of Conecuh County history. Attached to this letter is a copy of the July 20, 1977 newsletter published by The Escambia County Historical Society which contained a tribute to Mr. McMillan.

8. That a space on the wall be provided for the Society to put small name plates formemorials that have been paid in for the museum fund and for future memorials as we intend to continue our memorial museum fund in order to make future purchased of items for the museum.

This Society pledges its continued support and interest in the museum facility and its continued cooperation with the college authority in helping to keep the public interest stimulated and towards making this museum an outstanding attraction and research institute for Escambia County and its environs.

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Respectfully submitted,  
The Escambia County Historical Society  
By: /c/ Carolyn Pugh McLendon  
Its President

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December 20, 1977

Mrs. Carolyn P. McLendon  
President Escambia County Historical Association  
Brewton, AL 36426

Dear Mrs. McLendon:

Reference: Your letter of December 13, 1977. The Administration of Jefferson Davis State Junior College is very grateful to you, The Escambia County Historical Society and to all who have contributed interest, encouragement, vision and money toward making a museum possible on the campus of Jefferson Davis College. I anticipate no problems whatever in the administration of the museum at the college.

As you requested we submit the following as our mutual understanding:

1. That the college will complete and maintain the museum facility in the Fine Arts Building now under construction on its campus, employing the necessary personnel to develop and operate the museum open, and free, to the public on a reasonable schedule.
2. That the college understands that this museum collection is very valuable and will maintain reasonable security at all times.
3. That the title to the Escambia County Historical Society Collection remain with the Society and on a loan status to the college museum.
4. As at present, the Escambia County Historical Society has a cordial standing invitation to hold its meetings in college buildings and hopefully it will grace the museum with its regular meetings.
5. That a gift of \$200,000.00 and the recommendation of the Escambia County Historical Society that the museum be named the Thomas E. McMillan Museum be accepted and a plaque similar to the one memorializing Mr. W.T. Neal in the lobby of the college auditorium be properly placed and erected.
6. That a proper space on the wall of the museum be provided for The Escambia County Historical Society to recognize donors and display memorials.
7. That the museum will be properly dedicated when it is officially opened to the public.

The administration of Jefferson Davis College offers its profound thanks and pledges its cooperation and support to the Escambia County Historical Society and to all the people of its attendance area who have helped in the establishment of this Historical Museum. We pledge to make it second to none.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Woodfin Patterson  
President

Addendum to Letter, February 20, 1978:

The Administration of Jefferson Davis State Junior College expects the Thomas E. McMillan Museum to be operated in perpetuity on the campus in the center space of the building now under construction for that purpose (the space being approximately 48 feet by 70 feet in size) as a museum containing materials relating to the history of Escambia County,

Alabama and environs--that the Museum's purpose will be the display of materials relating to the history of the County and nearby areas.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Woodfin Patterson,  
President

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Resolution No. 9, Presented at  
Alabama State Department of Education  
at its meeting held on February 9, 1978

ACCEPTANCE OF CASH CONTRIBUTION

JEFFERSON DAVIS STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, BREWTON

WHEREAS, the Escambia County Historical Association desires to collect, preserve, share and exhibit the history of Escambia County and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County Historical Association has worked hard and long to create an air of love, appreciation, and support of the history of Escambia County and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County Historical Association wishes to contribute to the State of Alabama for the benefit of the Jefferson Davis State Junior College museum known as the Thomas E. McMillan Museum; and

WHEREAS, the president of the college and the State Superintendent of Education approve of this project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the State Board of Education hereby grants permission to Jefferson Davis State Junior College to accept the \$200,000 donation from the Escambia County Historical Association for the Thomas E. McMillan Museum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this money be invested in securities approved by a committee composed of the president of Jefferson Davis State Junior College (Chairman), the president of the Escambia County Historical Association, and the State Superintendent of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the principal of the gift be preserved and only the income from the investments of the gift be used to help support the museum.

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Once I did a noble deed, on which I worked so hard;  
Only to see that noble deed, picked up, tossed about, marred.  
Does this inspire some future lass, who might see some need,  
To also undertake a task, to work so hard at planting seed?

-Carolyn Pugh McLendon

Lives of great men, all remind us,  
We should make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
FOOTPRINTS on the sands of time.

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow