

The July Meeting

**The Thomas E. McMillan Museum
Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 3:00 p. m.**

The Program:

Guest Speaker Cartledge Blackwell, Architectural Historian, will present a program on American architect George B. Rogers who designed many of Mobile's historic buildings and homes, as well as possibly two buildings in Brewton.

Cartledge Blackwell



Our speaker, pictured at the left, is an architectural historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission.

His education includes degrees from the College of Charleston and the University of Vir-

ginia. Among his publications is one on the subject of this program, architect George B. Rogers, entitled, "George B. Rogers and the Spanish Colonial Revival."

Following the program, he has offered to answer questions about the architecture of local buildings and homes for anyone who wishes to bring pictures. €

George Bigelow Rogers

Wikipedia introduces the architect George Bigelow Rogers (1870–1945) as "an American architect, best known for the wide variety of buildings that he designed in Mobile, Alabama. Born in Illinois in 1870, he studied painting in France, then apprenticed from 1894 to

1898 as an architect in Hartford, Connecticut.

"He stopped in Mobile in 1901, while en route to a vacation in Mexico. He decided to stay in the Gulf Coast city and went on to design many of what today

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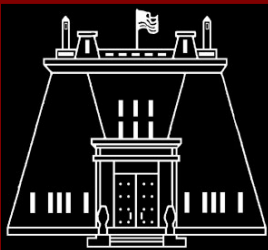
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**Meeting September 25, 2012
Dr. Diedra Suwanee Dees
of Poarch Creek Indians**

Correction on Page Five of July 2012 ECHOES

If you have not already figured it out, there was a typo on the heading for the picture of the McCall Students. It should be Circa 1930's rather than 1830's.

The Logo in the box to the left is from the website <thetempledowntown.com>.



**Stylized Logo of the Temple
Downtown, formerly the
Scottish Rite Temple**

Volume 39, Number 07

August 2012

George Bigelow Rogers (continued)

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are among its best known buildings.[

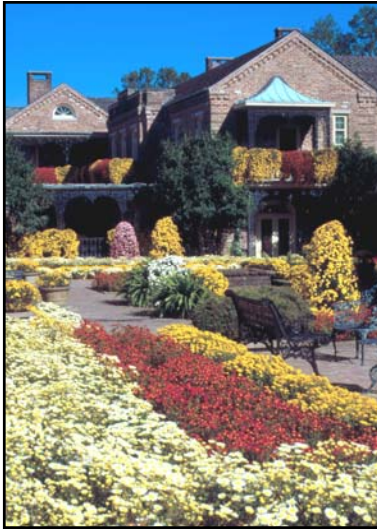
He was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1941, an honor bestowed on fewer than two percent of all registered architects in the United States. He died in Mobile in 1945.

“His architectural library is housed in the archives

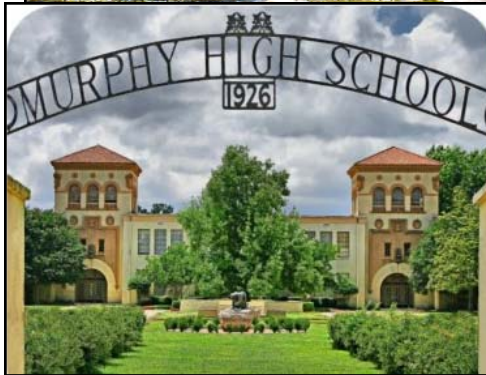
of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bigelow_Rogers).

The pictures of Rogers’ buildings in Mobile show what a great variety of architectural styles he successfully employed over the course of his career. €

George Bigelow Rogers Buildings in Mobile



Bellingrath Home and Gardens
Rogers called the style of the home, English Renaissance. It was built in 1935.



Murphy High School
Pictured above and to the left, the school is an example of the Spanish Mission Style. It was completed in 1926.

The Van Antwerp Building

The first skyscraper in Mobile and the first building in the city in reinforced concrete, it was designed for Garet Van Antwerp, a wealthy druggist. His initials (GVA) can be seen in the cartouche, shown on the far right.

The building’s façade is terra cotta over concrete. Completed in 1907, it had decorative details in classical motifs on the façade, some of which have been lost because the building has not been maintained.

It has been referred to as an example of the beaux-arts style because of these classical details on the cornice, the corners, and around the windows.



George Bigelow Rogers Buildings in Mobile (continued)



The Crown Theatre, Now the Atlantis

Completed c. 1909, when the theatre opened in 1911, the Mobile Press commented, "When the doors of the beautiful new edifice located on Dauphin between Jackson and Joachim streets, were thrown open to the public, the people of Mobile were permitted for the first time to enjoy a moving picture performance in a building especially constructed for that purpose -- beautiful, sanitary and refined in appearance"

(http://blog.al.com/live/2011/02/today_in_history_8.html).

At the far left is the theatre as it looked around 1920. All the advertisements on the billboards are for silent films.

At the near left is the remodeled theatre now named the Atlantis. At one point the theatre was renamed the Midtown.



The Government Street Methodist Church

In 1904, George Rogers was hired to remodel the church's gothic revival building. The work began in 1907 and was completed in 1917.

Rogers commented, "I had a wonderful time designing that façade! I played with the symbols and wove them into a message for that was the true following of the Baroque traditions." Of the entrance he said, "My goal, chief aim was to make the entrance to the church so beautiful that people would want to come near and enter in " (http://blog.al.com/pr-community-news/2011/09/raise_the_roof_sept_8_fundrais.html).

The church is described as Spanish Colonial style with a Spanish Baroque doorway.



George Bigelow Rogers Buildings in Mobile *(continued)*



Mobile Public Library

Called the Ben May Main Library, the original building opened in 1928. The building was restored and expanded beginning in 2006 and reopened in 2007. The architectural style is Classical Revival.



National African American Archives and Museum

Originally this building was known as the Davis Avenue Branch of the Mobile Public Library when it was opened in 1931 to serve the African American population of Mobile. Gradually, government documents and other articles of history were deposited in its collection, and with the ending of segregation, the library branch became a museum and archive.

Designed as a smaller version of the Ben May Main library building, it is also in the Classical Revival style.



Scottish Rite Temple

Completed in 1922, the building was designed as a meeting place for Mobile's Scottish Rite members of freemasonry. It is Mobile's only remaining example of an Egyptian Revival styled building.

The sphinxes beside the entrance are by sculptor Allen W. Barr. The obelisks on the roof originally were used as chimneys.

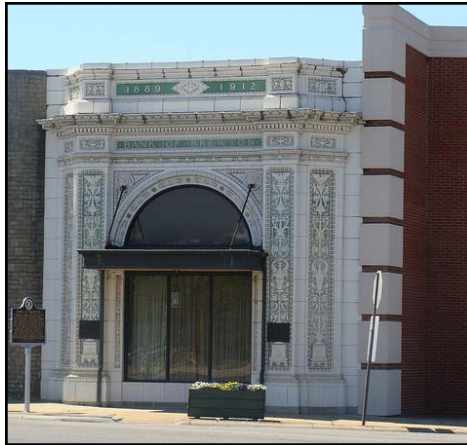
The Temple is now known as the Temple Downtown.



The Dave Patton House

Built for a local African-American entrepreneur, the two-story house was completed in 1915. It represents the Mediterranean Revival style.

Possible George Bigelow Rogers Buildings in Brewton



George Rogers is said to have possibly designed the Lovelace Hotel entrance of the Bank of Brewton.

Above is a panoramic view of the town, probably 1920's showing the Bank of Brewton and Lovelace Hotel among other buildings. To the left on the top is a close up of the two buildings.

The middle picture is a current one showing the elaborate entrance to the bank with the decorative green tiles.

To the left on the bottom is a postcard of the front of the Lovelace Hotel from the 1920's.

Annie Waters in her History of Escambia County, Alabama, states that the Lovelace Hotel was "one of Brewton's most beautiful architectural achievements" (p. 260). It had been built in 1912 by E. M. and W. Y. Lovelace on the site of the old Coleman Hotel. The hotel was three stories high with fifty-five rooms and twenty-two baths (Waters, p. 259).

The historical marker for the Bank of Brewton notes that it was organized in 1899. The bank was moved to the present site in 1912. It acquired the Lovelace Hotel in 1957 and constructed a new building on its site in 1964.

Thomas E. McMillan Museum Sign Missing



Museum Sign
The sign disappeared in July.



What's Left of the Sign
No leads on what happened to the sign.

Railroad Bill's Grave Found

The following article was sent to us by Larry Massey who is writing a book on Railroad Bill.

Railroad Bill Found

“After over 100 years, the grave of Railroad Bill has been found. In July 2012, author Larry Massey inquired about the grave of Morris Slater. Wesley Odom (cemetery volunteer) easily was able to locate the unmarked grave thanks to the work of the volunteer project. He then met Massey at St. John's and showed him the spot in Section 42--an old black-only area of the cemetery. Massey is completing a book about the infamous black railroad robber.

“According to Massey, Slater was a turpentine worker with his great, grandfather at Bluff Springs until Slater exchanged gunshots with a deputy from Pensacola one day in 1894. Slater thereafter became “Railroad Bill”, conducting robberies on L&N trains, wounded two brakemen, became engaged in a gunfight with about a dozen railroad employees at Hurricane Bayou, killed a deputy named James Stewart at Bay Minette, killed Sheriff McMillan at Bluff Springs, and finally was killed at Atmore in March 1896.



Larry Massey at Grave of Railroad Bill

“The undertaker from St. John's Cemetery (SJC) embalmed Slater before his body was sent to Montgomery to be verified. Thereafter, the body was returned to SJC, where the undertaker and Mayor removed the gunman's pistol and rifle, then sealed and buried the body in a metal coffin.

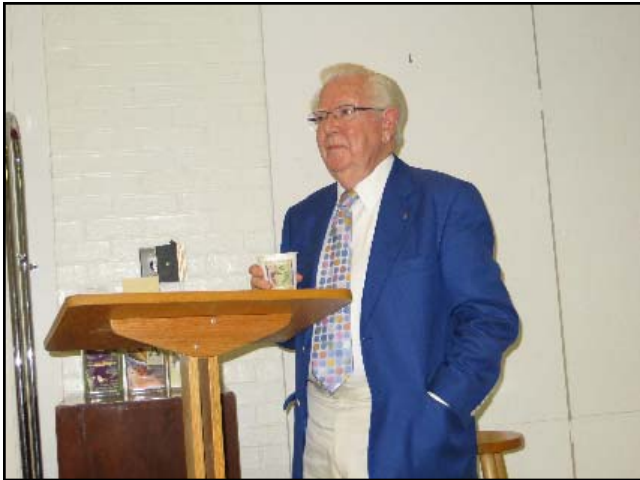
“In the 1920s Slater became an item of folklore, and a Negro ballad emerged, titled ‘Railroad Bill.’ It swept the south. Carl Carmer in his classic book, ‘Stars Fell on Alabama,’ dedicated a chapter to him. He was often written about in retrospective local newspaper articles. In fact, when John Lennon met Paul McCarthy for the first

time, John was performing at Woolton with a new band he called The Quarrymen. One of the songs he sang that day was ‘Railroad Bill.’

“The last photo of Railroad Bill has been put on the website along with the robber's biography. Thank you, Larry Massey, for sharing this bizarre story. All will want to purchase Massey's book when it is released in 2013.”

The article is from the newsletter Friends Of St. Johns' Cemetery Foundation, Summer 2012, Issue #2. €

Snapshots of the July 2012 ECHS Meeting



Snapshots of the July 2012 ECHS Meeting *(continued)*



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

A Family History



Above are members of the Long Family who were part of the family's reunion for this year, summer 2012. This group came for a tour of the McMillan Museum.

In the back row on the right is Teresa Long who had previously visited the Alabama Room for family history information.

A member of the Long Family by marriage, Teresa is the person who initiated the researching and writing of the history which is given below.

Introduction

(From a booklet prepared for a Long Family Reunion July 2006)

Exploring family history is learning about who our ancestors were; how they made a living; their medical history; what they did for fun; and what they liked to eat. Learning about Brewton "back in the day" gives us an idea of what the "climate" of living was like when your great-great grandparents were living.

When Jeffrey Hall (son of Marilyn Long Hall and Henry Hall) submitted information for the family history, he stated that the "family history is rich and should not go unnoticed and most importantly, should not be forgotten. We often feel that our resources of help are only available from outside parties and there's nothing wrong with receiving assistance from those outside of our family; what is wrong is that we are led to feel as if there's no one in our family we can count on when we're in dire need. The world is a much different place in our times because we've forgotten the principle so well regarded by our ancestors, and that principle is to take care of one another."

You will read in the history how your ancestors helped each other and worked together to make a good life for their family, their friends and their

neighbors. We have worked hard to put as much in this book as we could. There may be some errors: names may be misspelled, a child may have been placed with a wrong parent; etc. We ask that you provide us with corrections so that when the next update is developed, it will include those corrections.

The History

There are more than 600 people in the Long Family tree. Seven generations are included in this history. Research for this project included viewing the Census, military records other genealogy resources and many telephone calls to family members. We would like to thank Dorcus Louise Long Baxter, Bessie Mae Long Buffington, Lava Stallworth Collins, Cynthia Culliver, Eddie Drakeford, Marilyn Long Hall, Vickie Drakeford Gibson, Jeffrey Hall, Annie Laura Long Hardy, Mariah Lucille Long Mackey, Betty C. Long Watson, and Gloria Long Watson for their efforts in pulling the family history together.

Noah Long, Sr., the 4th child of Oscar and Amanda, married Jessie Lewis in 1909. They were known as Daddy Noah and Mama Jessie and they had 12 children. For a while, they worked at the Blackshear Dairy Farm. Daddy Noah would milk the cows and deliver it door to door. He did other chores on the farm while Mama Jessie cooked and cleaned.

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A Family History *(continued)*

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Noah Long, Sr.

When they had saved enough money, they bought 130 acres of land in Pea Ridge and built their own house. Daddy Noah believed you could live off the land and Mama Jessie supported him. There were plenty of vegetables such as com, peas, beans, okra, squash, etc.

They also raised soybeans and cane (for syrup). They had hogs (there was a smoke-house for curing meat), chickens (eggs were plentiful), and a mule. Sometimes they would take some of the children to Baldwin to pick white potatoes. They would also round up people to pick cotton, and stack peanuts and hay. There was always plenty of food, work and fun. Neighbors and relatives worked together and shared crops.

At one point, Daddy Noah and Mama Jessie lived off of Highway 31 near Bonnie Beach, close to the railroad. Drifters would hop off the trains and ask for food, and no one was ever turned away. One drifter was a regular visitor and would stop on his way to Monroeville and stop again on his way back.

Daddy Noah also had a wood-cutting business, cutting different kinds of wood for heaters and fire-places. He was very proud of his business, but one day a piece of wood hit him in the eye. It was extremely painful for a while, but he didn't lose the eye.

He also made syrup from sugar cane, working day and night with the help of his children.

In the early 1940s, Daddy Noah worked in Pensacola at the Naval Air Station for Hardaway Construction Company. Momma Jessie, meanwhile, worked away from home, attending to mothers with newborn babies. She was sometimes away for a few days, or even up to a week or two. Momma Jessie was always cooking, sewing or canning, and had many flowers in the yard. Momma Jessie was also a skilled seamstress and made beautiful quilts. She could just look at a picture of a dress and make it, and made dresses out of the feed sacks for the girls.

Oscar Long was born in 1855. While it is believed that he was born in Butler County, the 1910 Census lists his place of birth as Africa. He married Amanda Jackson who was born in 1862 in Escambia County. Her parents were probably John and Sarah Jackson. Oscar and Amanda lived in Brewton and had 11 children. It is believed that Oscar may have worked for the Blackshears. Mandy liked to cook and made the best beef stew, often serving it with candy, sweets and cornbread. Oscar was a hard-working farmer and eventually bought property in Brewton.

Sarah Long, the oldest child of Oscar and Amanda, married Joseph Simmons and they had 9 children. Joseph and Sarah lived in Brewton next door to Oscar and Amanda for a while. In 1920 they were living on Mushroom Alley and owned their home. He was a laborer, and she made her living by doing domestic work and taking in sewing and laundry for white people. Joseph moved to Lansing, Michigan when the children were very young.

In addition to raising her children, Sarah subsequently raised some of her grandchildren. Grandma Sarah was a very kind and sweet natured person with phenomenal mothering instincts. All of the grandchildren went to her with problems, and she would listen and then say "pray on it, for prayer changes things." She always had time to help anyone who

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A Family History *(continued)*

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needed her services, day or night, and she never complained. All who knew her, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, know that they are blessed to be the off-spring of Grandma Sarah.

Rufus Long, born in 1895 to Oscar and Amanda Long, made himself into a very successful businessman during the early-mid 1900's. The road to success was far from trouble-free as he had to endure many trials before embarking on a life as a thriving black business owner in Mobile, Alabama. As historically documented, blacks didn't have an easy time trying to flourish in the south during this period of time. Racism, poverty, illiteracy and health concerns (among other things) were constant roadblocks as black families did their best to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families.

Rufus encountered some of the aforementioned obstacles as well as a speech impediment and a prison sentence for a manslaughter charge after accidentally killing another black man during a scuffle. Fortunately, Rufus didn't allow his misfortune to negate his vision of being a positive influence and therefore he was able to leave behind a tremendous Long Family legacy.

While in prison, he didn't allow himself to fall prey to the perils that exist within the confines of that type of environment; he kept a strong faith in God and used his time wisely by learning to read and write. Though the situation was not ideal, he was able to use his circumstance as a platform for future success.

Rufus' vision led him to not only work as a professional barber, but to establish and operate grand-style barbershops in the Mobile area. He pursued his vision and along the way became well-known throughout the city of Mobile. His success came with perks, as he was able to wear fine tailor made suits, nice (always) polished shoes, and wonderful smelling fragrances.

Christmas was a tremendous time for his nieces,

nephews and other family members, as he would often return to Brewton and give wads of money away as gifts. Each year the family children looked forward to this extravagant black Santa Claus to ride into town not by reindeer but by train. He would also bring pounds upon pounds of magnificent fish from the Mobile waters for family and friends to feast upon.

God blessed Rufus with a daughter, Annie Ruth, whose mother was Gertrude Moore. Annie Ruth gave birth to ten children; 5 daughters: Fannie, Gertrude, Ester, Olivette, and Celestine and 5 sons: Joseph Jr., Rufus, Malachi, Ernest, and Freddie. He later again found love and married Bessie, who he remained with him until his death in 1980.

Just as the Hebrew people of the Old Testament endured 40 years in the wilderness, those who truly believed in God's power endured and made it to the Promised Land. The life of Rufus Long was one which details how perseverance during and after times of adversity can lead to triumph. It shows us that our situation, no matter how bleak it may seem does not define who we are and what we can become. Our generation can learn a lot from the life of Rufus and how this humble man of God, went through the fire and allowed God to transform him into a masterpiece.

James "Jim" Long Sr., aka "Daddy Jim" was born to Oscar and Amanda Long of Brewton, Alabama in March of 1897. Jim grew into a tall, slender man who was a hard worker in every sense. Living during an era when African-Americans, if successful, were entrepreneurs and had to depend on one another for survival; Jim used every avenue he could in order to make himself a successful businessman while helping many others along the way. He was not the type to demand respect, but garnered plenty of it as he became a pillar of the black community in Brewton.

Jim opened several businesses around Brewton; the Country Club in Lincoln Park, the Dew Drop Inn

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located in Pea Ridge, the Ice Cream Parlor in West End, and the Hot Spot also located in West End which was totally destroyed by fire, rebuilt, and still stands today. He had a very limited education but would negotiate business ventures successfully with the most educated of white men and anyone could tell you that he could calculate precisely when it came to money. He was certainly frugal when it came to his money, but if he knew you were in need he would be the first and most generous in offering his assistance.

Jim at one point owned much of the land in the West end section of town and helped many of its residents acquire their first homes by selling them parcels of land for dirt cheap. The myth is that he also placed his job on the line with the T. R. Miller Mill Company by selling the people of the black community supplies and wood for far under the suggested retail price to help them accomplish their dreams of owning homes.

The myth was most likely fact because he inevitably lost his job because of complaints of him doing such. The movies depict Robin Hood as a white man but it sounds as if he was a black man who-resided in a small rural town of Alabama. In honor of his dedicated service, Long Street in the West End community was named after him.

Jim not only helped others, he made a pretty nice life for himself and his family. He was one of the first blacks to have indoor plumbing and in the mid 1940's even the "white folks" would spend a portion of their Sundays traveling to see the big house this "Negro" (nice terms) was building off of Hwy 41 on the edge of Brewton. His family life consisted of 5 children, two prior to marriage; a son James Pressley, and a daughter, Leola Madison.

Three children came with his marriage union to Elizabeth Lee; Marilyn (Long) Hall, Bessie Mae (Long) Buffington, and James Long Jr. Elizabeth

passed away eight days after giving birth to James Jr. and Jim went on to marry Daisy Lofton who raised the children as her own. The children of Jim Long bore 19 grandchildren, James (5 children), Leola (2 children), Marilyn (5 children) Bessie Mae (1 child), and James Jr. (6 children), and from them came numerous great grand and great-great grandchildren to continue the Jim Long legacy.

Amanda "Big Baby" Long was the youngest of Oscar and Amanda's children. As in the mold of many of the Long children she grew into a tall woman who was slightly stout in stature, hence the name "Big Baby". She was a somewhat reserved lady who enjoyed many things in life and one of those was a love of cooking. She used this love and transformed it into a career with the local jail in her birthplace and home residence of Brewton, Alabama.

Big Baby gave birth to a son, William Arthur "Pop" Bradley, whose father was Richard Bradley. "Pop" added to the Long Family tree with a son named Joe. "Big Baby" loved her grandson, and she was crazy about Gloria Long and treated her like she was her grandchild. "Big Baby" passed away untimely in 1958 of a heart attack. Though she left this life somewhat early she was an important fixture of the Long Family. Let's not forget her life or her legacy.

Lucille Long was the 9th child of Oscar and Amanda Long. Her birth name was Rose Lucille, but she didn't care for Rose so she dropped it, and was fondly called Sistah by all. She married Charlie Drakeford and they had three sons.

Miss Sistah, Aunt Sistah, Mama, Big Ma, Cuttin' (cousin'), Lucille, and Mrs. Lucille - just a few of her handles - was a homemaker. She never had an outside job that anyone can recall, but she did take in washing from time to time. Sistah was an amazing cook and had quite a few specialties. Family members and neighbors would send over a deep pot with a raw chicken in it for Big Ma to send back chicken

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and dumplings. If they sent over a deep pot with blackberries and sugar, she would send back a blackberry cobbler; a bag of apples or peaches would fetch an apple pie or peach cobbler; a jar of black syrup was for her to prepare syrup bread as she called it - a delicious spice pan cake.

She was the fastest cook ever and no matter what time they sent the request over, she immediately got busy. Sistah didn't like to visit very much, but she really enjoyed company. She is remembered for preparing huge meals for visiting family members and she would get very excited doing this. She is remembered also for her "gift of gab" - she could carry on some long winded conversations and she had quite a sense of humor; she could make everyone laugh and all of her sons inherited that same sense of humor.

Another really fine quality about Sistah is that she always wanted to share what she had with others. When she would go to town, spending up her husband's money, she would often buy little gifts for people such as handkerchiefs, talcum powder, fancy undies, material so that they could get a dress made, etc.

Sometimes people would ask for her quilts or dishes, etc. and she would give them away. She would look at an item and say "I sure do love this, but Sugar Babe keeps asking me for it so I'll just let her have it." Sistah would always take time out to visit or make us visit the sick or elderly kin or neighbors. Lucille left a loving legacy of caring, sharing and kindness that many will always remember.

Noah Long, Jr. married Annie Mae Bert and they lived in a house owned by the Blackshears on the corner of Pea Ridge Road. The house was called the



Noah Long, Jr. and Ann

"White House" because the Blackshears were a white family. Noah and Annie worked in the Blackshears' home and Noah also ran the dairy. Around 1940, Noah got a job in Pensacola, Florida at the Naval Base, while Annie continued to work for the Blackshears and live in Brewton.

Noah moved the family to Pensacola until about 1944 when they moved back to Brewton. Back in Brewton, Noah had numerous jobs including working at the T.R. Miller Lumber Mill as a fireman for 27 years; serving as a caretaker for the Union Cemetery; and he was the only black butcher working at the slaughterhouse. Noah would take home unused meats (chitterlings, tripe, etc.) and share them with family, friends and neighbors. Noah played catcher on his baseball team, and owned a beer garden called the Cotton Club. Every 4th of July, Noah would dig a pit to barbecue ribs, chicken and goat meat, and people would come from miles away for Annie Mae's barbecue and her famous homemade barbecue sauce.

The first family home had no running water or electricity. Annie Mae did laundry for the family and others at the spring nearby. Around 1947, the family moved into a house owned by Uncle Wilbert (Noah's brother). Annie Mae always insisted on her girls looking neat, with hair done up with bows, and dresses ironed to perfection. All of the children attended the Oak Grove School, and went to Sunday school and church services at St. Mark's Baptist Church. Gloria and Fannie Jean used to clean the church for 50 cents each a month. Dora Stallworth was Gloria's first Sunday school teacher.

Growing up in Brewton was hard and all the children helped by picking cotton to earn money. Momma Jessie would prepare a lunch, usually con-

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sisting of buttermilk and cornbread, and sometimes greens. It was rare to have any meat in their lunch; however, once in a while there would be a piece of fat meat or some chicken. Someone would have to wring the chickens' necks and pluck their feathers before cooking them.

The children hauled wood and water by hand until Noah bought "Booly", a goat, and a cart. Noah and Annie Mae were very loving and caring people, always helping others, and were well respected in the community. When Gloria was accidentally shot in the back of the head by a hunter, many of the white men volunteered to lend Noah their trucks to take Gloria to the hospital for treatment. This was demonstrable respect in a time when segregation was still a fact of life and prejudices ran deep.

There were many good times, including when Jean got her driver's license and Noah allowed her to drive her siblings to the west end on Sundays to meet up with their cousins. A favorite gathering spot was a playhouse built on Noah's land, and there were many good times shared there. When arguments came up among the grandchildren, they were resolved by the parents forcing them to hug each other. Even though this sometimes brought tears to their eyes, it taught the children how to get along.

There were many funny stories told about Noah. He would get the discarded shoes of the Navy servicemen and sell them in Brewton for 50 cents. Once, Uncle James sold two left shoes to his cousin, Albert Lewis! Noah built a brick house around 1955 and it was in this home that Noah and Annie Mae spent their final years. €



**Louise Hurst
Long
Circa 1954**



**Pearlie
Hurst**



**Unknown
Family Member**

**Long Fam-
ily Pictures**

**Jesse Wilbert
Long Family**



**Unknown
Long
Family
Members**

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
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