Join us for the Fall Pilgrimage to Montevallo and Columbiana, October 10-11, 2014
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The AHA Newsletter is designed and printed by Davis Direct, Montgomery, Alabama.

Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.
First of all, let me say what an honor it is to serve as president of the Alabama Historical Association for 2014-2015. When I look at the long list of former presidents, I see many notable names from our profession as well as some of my favorite people in general. Each of these presidents has contributed to the association in his or her unique way and we are a stronger group for their service. After a brief period of flat growth, the AHA is, once again, seeing an increase in its membership. A recent string of very successful gatherings has set the bar high for your leadership team. Particularly encouraging is the sight of young (a relative term as I get older) faces at our events. During the upcoming year, I hope to explore ways to reach out to some untapped markets to bring in the next generation of the AHA.

At the recent annual meeting in Scottsboro, I was involved in a conversation about the value of the Alabama Historical Association. Our group was in agreement that, in addition to the obvious professional and educational benefits, one of the most important aspects of the organization was that it exposes us to places and venues that, under normal circumstances, we would most likely never experience. Recent examples such as Lowndesboro, Eufaula, Horseshoe Bend, and even Scottsboro were offered as evidence. All agreed that were it not for the AHA, we would have missed out on a lot of good times as well as the opportunity to meet many great people.

This October, our members will have the chance to experience just such an opportunity. As a life-long resident of Alabama, I cannot count the number of times I have made the journey from Mobile, north on I-65, to Birmingham and beyond. It was not until last fall, however, that I veered off on exit 228 and made the short drive to Columbiana. I have never experienced such hospitality from people who are justifiably proud of their history. Our Fall Pilgrimage will take place on October 10 - 11 in south Shelby County. On Friday, we will explore the area west of I-65 in and around Montevallo. Professor Jim Day will lead walking tours of the historic University of Montevallo campus in the afternoon. Our friends at the American Village have opened up their impressive facility to us for guided tours in the late afternoon. In the evening, we will have a reception in Liberty Hall—a replica of the East Room of the White House. On Saturday we will invade downtown Columbiana. Bobby Joe Seales and the wonderful people of Columbiana have lined up a wonderful day in this charming community. Without giving away all of the details, let’s just say the day will involve, among other things, an award-winning local history museum, the second largest collection of George Washington family artifacts (behind Mount Vernon) in the country, trolley rides, a quilting exhibit, and a train trip to a winery.

Again, I am most fortunate to get the chance to work with such a dedicated group of people and I look forward to seeing you all in Shelby County in October.
Comprising approximately 800 square miles, Shelby County lies at the southern end of the Appalachian mountain range and is located near the geographic center of the state. Shelby County was created by an act of the Alabama Territorial General Assembly on February 7, 1818, some two years before Alabama became a state. It was one of Alabama’s largest counties, area wise, until the legislature began to pilfer portions of it to add to the successively created counties of St. Clair, Jefferson, Talladega, and Chilton. Today Shelby County is one of seven counties comprising the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Area and is bounded by Jefferson and St. Clair counties to the north, by Talladega and Coosa counties to the east, and by Chilton and Bibb counties to the south and southwest.

This central Alabama county was named in honor of Isaac Shelby (1750–1826), a Revolutionary War hero of the Battle of King’s Mountain and the first governor of Kentucky. The original county boundaries encompassed lands acquired from the Creek Indians in the 1814 Treaty of Fort Jackson following their defeat at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Most of the initial white settlers came from Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Many of them had served under General Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend and returned with their families after the war in 1815 and 1816, settling in the Cahaba Valley near Shoal Creek. The first towns in the Cahaba Valley were Wilson’s Hill (now Montevallo) and Shelbyville (now Pelham). People also began settling the Coosa Valley, particularly in the vicinity of Big Springs (now Harpersville) and Wilsonville.

Shelby County’s court during the territorial period was located in Shelbyville at the home of William S. Wallace. Following statehood, Shelbyville became the first county seat, and in March 1820 the court approved construction of the county’s first courthouse. This structure served as the county courthouse until 1826, when the decision was made to move the county seat and courthouse. Wilson’s Hill and Columbia vied for the right to become the new county seat, and although Wilson’s Hill was larger, Columbia was more centrally located and was supported by the residents of nearby Harpersville and Wilsonville. When Columbia was chosen as the new county seat, the celebratory explosions of gunpowder could be heard for miles. In 1832, the Alabama state legislature changed Columbia’s name to Columbiana because the town of Columbia in Henry County laid prior claim to the name. An old wood-frame building served as the county courthouse until 1854, when it was replaced by a brick structure that today houses the Shelby County Museum and Archives. The present courthouse was constructed in 1906. In June 2006, the centennial celebration of the building included the opening of a time capsule placed in the cornerstone in 1906 by members of the Alabama Masonic Grand Lodge. The town placed a new time capsule in the space, to be opened in 2106.

In October 1896 the Alabama Industrial School for Women was opened in Montevallo, where young women were trained to be teachers, artists, bookkeepers, and dressmakers, to name just a few, so that they could become self-supporting. The school went through several name changes until it settled upon Alabama College, State College for Women in 1923. Men began enrolling in the late 1950s, and in 1969 the school changed its name yet again to the University of Montevallo to reflect its expansion into a coeducational institution and its four distinct colleges (Arts and Sciences, Education, Business, and Fine Arts) were
established. Today, the University of Montevallo offers degree programs in more than 70 academic disciplines.

Until well into the twentieth century, farming was the prevailing occupation in Shelby County. Cotton dominated agriculture until about 1900, when farmers diversified into corn, wheat, peanuts, soybeans, and vegetables. Early white settlers also quickly began taking advantage of the abundant minerals in the area, particularly iron ore and coal. As early as 1825, a Shelby County settler established a forge for making iron bar on Shoal Creek near Montevallo. Iron production increased in the late 1840s, when Horace Ware established the Shelby Ironworks near Columbiana. This facility progressed from its modest beginnings in the 1840s into a significant industrial complex. By 1860, the Shelby Ironworks property contained a blast furnace, forge, foundry, school, church and homes housing several hundred people. During the Civil War, the Shelby Ironworks became a major supplier of iron to the Confederate Naval Arsenal in Selma until its furnace’s blast engine and boilers were destroyed by a detachment of Wilson’s Raiders on March 31, 1865, just before the war ended. After the war, Ware and John W. Lapsley attracted northern capital to rebuild the facility and to establish it as a nationally renowned for producing railroad-car iron. The Shelby Ironworks finally went out of production in August 1923.

Its ruins are located on Highway 42 a few miles south of Columbiana, and an annual festival is held there each fall.

In 1851 William Phineas Browne, a lawyer and businessman from Vermont, began operating the state’s first systematic underground coal mines near Montevallo in Shelby County. Browne lobbied hard for a rail line to be built to Montevallo so as to make it easier for him to get his coal to market. He reported to the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad Company that his land contained 1.6 million tons of coal. Although finally successful in obtaining a rail line to his property, Browne was frequently beset with labor problems due to the unreliability of free labor and the reluctance of owners to allow their slaves to be leased out to work underground. Nevertheless, by 1856 Browne was able to remove five tons of coal per day from his mines and Browne’s business prospered as the Civil War approached. In 1858 he contracted to supply 1,000 tons of coal to the Montgomery Gas and Light Company, in the summer of 1861 in excess of 1,500 tram-loads of coal was extracted from his mines, and in 1862 he was under contract with the Confederate government to furnish it 4,000 tons of coal. The Civil War took its toll on Browne and his business interests. He reported to his northern friends and relatives that he lost at least a quarter of a million dollars due to the destruction inflicted by Wilson’s Raiders during the last days of the war. Browne’s failing health and a disagreement with his business partner in 1867 eventually ended the career of Alabama’s pioneer of underground coal mining.

Other minerals were important to the development of Shelby County besides coal and iron. Among these include limestone, which is important for smelting iron and cement manufacturing; barites used in making paints, paper, and
chemicals; and manganese used in the making of chemicals and steel.

Today, Shelby County offers a variety of attractions that cater to the interests of genealogists, and those interested in the history of both Shelby County and the nation as a whole. The Shelby County Museum & Archives and the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. are located in the old courthouse in Columbiana. The building contains much more than old records, so those wanting to learn about the county’s history will find many artifacts donated by Shelby County families, as well as a collection of historical books. One of the largest attractions in Shelby County is the American Village, located on Highway 119 just north of Montevallo. It is a multi-building complex that serves as a stage and theater for recreating the early American experiment in liberty and self-government. The village contains historical replicas of Mount Vernon, George Washington’s home, as well as the nation’s first executive mansion in Philadelphia and the White House Oval Office. Perhaps the most interesting, and yet least known attraction, is the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington located in the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library in Columbiana which houses the largest collection of George and Martha (Custis) Washington memorabilia outside of Mount Vernon.

Other points of interest include the Aldrich Coal Mine Museum located near Montevallo, the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera, Old Town Helena, the Shelby Iron Works near Columbiana, and the Shelby Springs Confederate Cemetery between Columbiana and Calera. The Women’s Missionary Union located in North Shelby County contains a publishing house, as well as artifacts from nearly every continent in the world. In early 2012, the Kenneth R. Penhale City of Helena Museum and the City of Chelsea Historical Museum opened.

Shelby County’s diverse terrain offers many opportunities for recreational activities. Oak Mountain State Park in the northern part of the county is Alabama’s largest state park. It encompasses almost 10,000 acres and provides visitors with such diverse activities as golfing, hiking, camping, canoeing, horseback riding, fishing, swimming, and mountain biking. Two of the state’s major rivers run through the county: the Coosa River on the southeastern border and the Cahaba River in the north. The Cahaba is one of the most ecologically important rivers in the nation and is home to 113 species of fish, including the rare Cahaba Shiner, which is found nowhere else in the world. Numerous tributaries of the Coosa and Cahaba Rivers offer scenic views, including waterfalls and stands of Cahaba lilies. The Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area located on County Road 91 west of Helena consists of 41,500 acres and offers excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing. Lay Lake, a 12,000-acre lake, has 289 miles of shoreline and has served as the host site for the Bass Masters Classic Tournament.
Friday Afternoon Walking Tour and Visit to The American Village

Dr. Jim Day, AHA Board Member and Professor of History at the University of Montevallo, will lead walking tours of the Montevallo Historic District at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10. The district includes several nineteenth-century houses, including Reynolds Hall (1851), named for Captain Henry Clay Reynolds, a local merchant who served as the first president of the University of Montevallo. The historic district lies in the heart of the campus, and twenty-eight campus structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Attendees should meet Dr. Day at 2 p.m. at Jeter Hall (parking is available). Jeter Hall is located at 840 North Boundary Street—the intersection of North Boundary and Oak Streets—adjacent to campus.

At 4:00 p.m., AHA members will enjoy a walking tour of The American Village, a nationally-pioneering classroom and American history and civics education center. Highlights of the campus include Washington Hall, inspired by George Washington’s beloved Mount Vernon; the Colonial Courthouse; the Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel, inspired by one of America’s oldest churches, Bruton Parish Church of Williamsburg, Virginia; and a full-sized replica of the Oval Office, including an exact replica of the Resolute desk used by most Presidents since Rutherford Hayes. A pilgrimage reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Liberty Hall.

Perry Hall will be open to AHA visitors from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, October 10. Built around 1834, Perry Hall was the manor house of an 800-acre plantation owned by Sion Jacob Perry III and his family. The City of Montevallo received the house as a gift from Elizabeth A. Mahler in 2013.

Image Credit: City of Montevallo
The Shelby County Museum & Archives is maintained by the Shelby County Historical Society in the Historic Old Courthouse in Columbiana, which was built in 1854 and is designated a historic landmark by the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum displays many old Shelby County photographs and artifacts from the Indian era through World War II, including the bell from the Alabama, a well-known railroad engine during its time; Creek Indian artifacts; the 1906 Shelby County Courthouse cornerstone contents removed on June 24, 2006; and three chestnut wood cars and several feet of wood track found in the forgotten Confederate Gurnee Coal Mine in West Shelby County. Also on display is a serving for 12 of the Alabama College Wedgwood 50th Anniversary Reynolds Hall dinner plates, 1896-1946, and a serving for 12 teacups and saucers, introduced in 1949.

On October 11, the Museum will feature a special exhibit, “The Quilts of Shelby County,” planned by quiltmaker and author Agnes M. Pool and additional local quilters. The exhibit will include quilts from each of the communities in Shelby County, antique and contemporary examples of the county’s rich heritage in the art of quilting. Sheila Gallups, co-leader of The Alabama Chapter of Quilts for Kids, Inc., will be present, as well as a representative from Quilts of Valor.

Unless otherwise noted in the image file name, Photo credits: Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society
The Shelby County Arts Council will open its new exhibit “All Things Shelby County” on the Saturday afternoon of the pilgrimage. The fine art and photography exhibit will feature the work of ceramicist and sculptor Scott Meyer and photographers Hank Seigel, Paris Farzad, Rachel Fowler, and Stacy Gill Perry.

The Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington is home to one of the larger privately owned collections of George and Martha Washington artifacts in the United States. The collection contains paintings, letters, furniture, porcelain, glassware, silver, jewelry, busts and much more. Martha Washington’s prayer book printed in New York in 1783, an original 1787 Samuel Vaughn sketch of Mt. Vernon grounds, writing instruments and tools from George Washington’s survey case and an original tintype depicting Robert E. Lee in his uniform for the last time are just a few collection highlights (from www.washingtonmuseum.com)
Shelby Iron Works

Within the town of Shelby sits what used to be Alabama’s largest charcoal blast furnace. Horace Ware bought the land that the furnace resides upon in the 1840s, and by the 1860s he had established one of the state’s most impressive iron complexes. The site consisted of a forge, foundry, rolling mill, blast furnace, and community facilities, such as a school and church. The rolling mill was the first of its kind in the state, and it was capable of producing twelve tons of bar iron every day. The iron produced in Shelby was sent to places such as Talladega County, Jefferson County, Montgomery, Mobile, and Prattville. Additionally, during the Civil War, the complex shipped materials by rail to Selma for the Confederate Navy to use. Shelby Iron Works continued production until 1923, when it was unable to match the growth of competition.

Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum

The Heart of Dixie Railroad Club, a chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, was organized about fifty years ago to preserve railroad history. Several railroad enthusiasts began the group after organizing for an event in the Birmingham area in 1962 that featured The General, a famous Civil War locomotive. The group worked to retain railroad items, such as train cars, from entities like as the Seaboard Air Line Railway and the Woodward Iron Company. They leased an area to store the items from the St. Louis – San Francisco Railway. That area is now Birmingham’s Railroad Park. After facing problems with vandalism, the club decided it was time to purchase their own land in Calera. They purchased ten miles of the Alabama Mineral roadbed that ran from Calera to Shelby. The museum still works to acquire historical railroad memorabilia, and the Wilton Depot, which was moved from Wilton, Alabama, serves as the depot museum. Visitors have an opportunity to ride the Calera and Shelby Railroad.
### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00, 2:00,</td>
<td><strong>Montevallo Historic District Walking Tour</strong></td>
<td>Montevallo Historic District</td>
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<td>and 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Led by Dr. Jim Day&lt;br&gt;University of Montevallo&lt;br&gt;Park and meet at Jeter Hall&lt;br&gt;(840 North Boundary Street)</td>
<td>Montevallo Historic District</td>
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<td><strong>Mahler House Open for Tours</strong></td>
<td>2679 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL</td>
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<td>2 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Tour of The American Village</strong></td>
<td>3727 Alabama 119, Montevallo, AL</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Reception</strong></td>
<td>Liberty Hall</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Reception</strong></td>
<td>The American Village</td>
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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Coffee and Book Sales</strong></td>
<td>Columbiana United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Columbiana United Methodist Church&lt;br&gt;200 N. Main Street, Columbiana, Alabama 35051</td>
<td>Columbiana United Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong></td>
<td>Mayor Hollie Cost, Montevallo&lt;br&gt;Mayor Stancil Handley, Columbiana</td>
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<td><strong>“Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama’s Cahaba Coal Field,”</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Jim Day, Professor of History, University of Montevallo</td>
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<td><strong>“Early Families of Shelby County.”</strong></td>
<td>Herbert James (Jim) Lewis, Board Member</td>
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<td>Shelby County Historical Society</td>
<td>Shelby County Historical Society</td>
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<td><strong>Overview of Tours</strong></td>
<td>Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>1 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Tours</strong></td>
<td>Old Shelby County Courthouse&lt;br&gt;1854 Old Courthouse Circle, Columbiana, Alabama</td>
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<td><strong>Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington</strong></td>
<td>50 Lester Street, Columbiana, Alabama</td>
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<td><strong>Shelby County Arts Council</strong></td>
<td>104 Mildred Street, Columbiana, Alabama</td>
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<td><strong>Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum</strong></td>
<td>1919 9th Street, Calera, Alabama</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Shelby Iron Works</strong></td>
<td>10268 County Road 42, Shelby, Alabama</td>
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MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

A Jeter Hall @ University of Montevallo (840 N Boundary St)
B Perry Hall (2679 Hwy 119)
C Liberty Hall @ American Village (220 Village St)
D Columbiana United Methodist Church (200 N Main St)
E Old Shelby County Courthouse (1854 Old Courthouse Cir)
F Karl C Harrison Museum of George Washington (50 Lester St)
G Shelby County Arts Council (104 Mildred St)
H Shelby Iron Works (10208 Hwy 42)
I Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum (1919 9th St)
Accommodations: Call 205-668-6565 and reserve a room at the Hampton Inn Calera. Call by September 15 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of $99 per night.
“VOICES OF A DEEP SOUTH STATE: LIVING WITH ALABAMA’S PAST”

68TH ANNUAL MEETING
MOBILE, ALABAMA
APRIL 9-11, 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 68th annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama, on April 9-11, 2015. Scholars, educators, public historians, local historians, students, and the general public are encouraged to submit proposals that focus on the history of Alabama. The AHA program committee would like to extend a special invitation to undergraduate and graduate students who have conducted original research and would like to present their work in a professional setting. Special consideration will be given to paper and panel proposals that incorporate this year’s theme of “Voices of a Deep South State: Living with Alabama’s Past.”

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a twenty-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a CV or resume that includes the author’s email address, telephone number, postal address, and academic or civic affiliation (if any). Electronic submissions are preferred for quicker response times and follow up questions.

Presenters will be required to register for the conference and be current members of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the meeting. The committee gives preference to authors who have not presented papers at the annual meeting within the past three years.

Please send your submissions and any questions you may have to the program committee chair at:

Dr. John F. Kvach
Department of History, UAH
409 Roberts Hall
Huntsville, AL 35899

Or email proposals and/or inquiries to: john.kvach@uah.edu

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: NOVEMBER 2, 2014
The winner of the 2014 Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award for best work on Alabama local history is *Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama’s Cahaba Coal Field*, by James Sanders Day. The book reconstructs the historical moment that defined the Cahaba Coal Field, a mineral-rich area that stretches across sixty-seven miles and four counties of central Alabama.

“It’s a special honor to receive the Coley Award because of its focus on local history,” says Day. “My intent was not just to write a technological history of an extraction industry, but to give voice to the people who did the work. *Diamonds in the Rough* represents a quarter-century of research, and I trust that I have done justice to the thousands of miners and their families who lived and died in the Cahaba Coal Field.”
The Tallapoossee Historical Society is the winner of the 2014 James Ray Kuykendall Award honoring an exceptional local historical society. THS president Bob Daniel accepted the award at the annual meeting in Scottsboro. AHA President Gayle Thomas noted the Society’s many accomplishments, which include the erection of historic markers, the publication of books on the history of Tallapoosa County, a quarterly newsletter, and the establishment of a museum.

“The quarterly meetings of the Tallapoossee Historical Society are always interesting and informative,” President Thomas stated. “Fundraising has included an antique show and sale, and for the past nine years the annual fundraiser has been a Christmas Tour of Homes, which has allowed the purchase of the building adjacent to the museum for future expansion.”

Bob Daniel
The Milo B. Howard Award is for the best article published in *The Alabama Review* for a two-year period. The winners of the 2014 award include:

- Scotty Kirkland, “Mobile and the Boswell Amendment” (July 2012)
- Charles Roberts, “New Deal Community – Building in the South: The Subsistence Homesteads around Birmingham, Alabama” (April 2013)
- Kristopher Teters, “Albert Burton Moore and Alabama’s Centennial Commemoration of the Civil War: The Rhetoric of Race, Romance, and Reunion” (April 2013)
Nominations Sought for 2015 Awards

- The James F. Sulzby Book Award recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history. Books published between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 are eligible. Please send three copies of each book submission to the following committee chair by January 15, 2015:

  J. Bradley Creed  
  Sulzby Book Award Committee  
  800 Lakeshore Drive  
  Birmingham, AL 35229

- The Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant provides $500 to a graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. Applications should include a statement of the student’s intended plan of work, a letter of reference from the chairman of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student’s major professor. Electronic submissions are welcome. Please submit nominations by February 15 to:

  Mark Palmer  
  Alabama Department of Archives and History  
  P.O. Box 300100  
  Montgomery AL 36130-0100  
  mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov

- The Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award honors contributions to Alabama history that promote appreciation and better understanding of Alabama history among the general public.

  Nomination packets should include a letter of nomination (not to exceed two pages) that outlines the nominee’s accomplishments; supporting materials and documentation of accomplishments; letters of support (not to exceed five).

  Please submit nomination packets by January 15, 2015 to:

  Dr. Donna Cox Baker  
  Alabama Heritage  
  Box 870342  
  Tuscaloosa, AL 35487  
  donna.baker@ua.edu
The History Museum of Mobile will host the AHA annual meeting April 9-11, 2015. Highlights include a special lecture by Robert Bradley of the Alabama Department of Archives and History on the Battle of Blakely, which will take place on April 9, the 150th anniversary of the battle. Dr. William J. Cooper, Boyd Professor of History at the Louisiana State University will deliver a banquet keynote address at the historic Battle House Hotel.

Tours will include historic churches, the Conde-Charlotte House, a Mobile civil rights tour, and others. Reserve your hotel room now at the Hampton Inn by calling 251-436-8787.

The unique diversity of Jackson County just seemed to beckon to AHA for an annual meeting site, and the fact that AHA had never met in Scottsboro before was an added impetus. Ann Chambless had mentioned to Steve Murray at the annual meeting in Huntsville her desire for the Jackson County Historical Association to host an annual meeting. From this casual conversation came a very memorable and well attended event.

The challenges of holding a meeting in a small town such as Scottsboro, with a population of approximately 16,000, were met and exceeded by the Local Arrangements committee: Ann Chambless, chair, Jen Stewart, Susan Fisher, Kelly Goodowens, Judge John H. Graham, Reid Henshaw, Sandra Patton, and a host of volunteers. We not only enjoyed local historical preservation efforts, but also experienced firsthand the civic pride, warm hospitality, and the can-do spirit of the citizens of Jackson County, Stevenson, and Scottsboro.

Chris McIlwain and his program committee put together an interesting program and Alabama Public Television popped in to film snippets. The “Making History Public” workshop was as well received in Scottsboro as it was in Eufaula and I hope this will become another AHA tradition.

Special thanks to my local arrangements committee and to Laura Hill for her wonderful photographs. No expression of thanks would be complete without mentioning our secretary, Mark Wilson, who helped make the meeting a success.

Serving as president this year has been a wonderful learning experience and I enjoyed every minute of it. Steve Murray said it best when he said, “About the time you learn your job, your time is up.”

Photo credits: Laura Hill, Opelika
The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

**Patrons ($500 level)**
Jacob Lowery, Greenville, SC
William D. Melton, Evergreen

**Sponsors ($250 level)**
Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins, Birmingham
Congressman Spencer Bachus, Washington, DC
Mrs. Wallace Buchanan, Selma
Mrs. Charles T. Clayton, Birmingham
Joe Dennis, Bessemer
Dr. Ralph Draughon Jr., Auburn
Anne Feathers, Greenville
Sally A. Finlay, Brewton
Norman W. Gayle, South Amboy, NJ
Elizabeth T. Heflin, Tuscumbia
David Herring, Birmingham
Tammy Leclare Hope, Bessemer
Frank Alex Luttrell III, Madison
Bibb Graves Mims, Uriah
Glenn Peddy, Prattville
Frances and David Robb, Huntsville
George H. Smith, Birmingham
Carroll C. Strickland, Huntsville
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Sulzby III, Birmingham
Ronald Thomas, Abbeville
Scott Vowell, Birmingham
A.S. Williams III, Birmingham
Larry Ward, Birmingham

**Sustainers ($100 level)**
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