Fall Pilgrimage to Livingston ~ October 12-13
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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.

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Cover image: The Alamuchee-Bellamy Covered Bridge now covers the Duck Pond along the UWA Nature Trail. Image courtesy of the University of West Alabama (UWA).
It is a great honor to serve as your president for 2012–2013; as my first official communication with you, I’m pleased to announce that the Fall Pilgrimage will take place in Livingston on October 12 and 13 and that the 2013 meeting will occur in Eufaula, April 11–13.

I hope I can fill the large shoes left by my predecessors. I’d like to extend my thanks to Immediate Past President Marty Olliff.

Steve Murray and Past President Kathryn Braund for working so diligently behind the scenes to effect a smooth transition of The Alabama Review offices from Auburn University to the University of West Alabama. Because of their good work, the Review is stable.

This happy situation allows the president to envision the future, and I have called for an ambitious agenda to move into that future without discarding the characteristics that endear the AHA to us all. My agenda includes change, but the changes I propose add to rather than replace what you have come to expect from the AHA.

The most obvious—and emblematic—of these changes is apparent in the Call for Papers (available on page 17). I have asked the Program Committee to include a call for panel proposals in addition to the traditional individual papers. We hope to add one or two thematic panels to the program that continue our participation in “Becoming Alabama.” The Program Committee is at the mercy of whoever participates, so please make its job tough by sending in your excellent paper proposals.

Other changes that add to rather than detract from our traditions concern membership initiatives and cooperation with similar cultural organizations in the state. As a membership-driven association, the AHA depends on keeping its membership list healthy and expanding. We have suffered some membership loss because of the recession and because we might not be as good at asking people to join as we could be. Secretary Mark Wilson initiated a membership letter-writing campaign at the June 19 board meeting, making use of the wonderful new membership pamphlet he designed in May. We look for a good response from this solicitation. The Board has other ideas, but it is happy to hear yours as well. Please contact me with your thoughts.

Similarly, the AHA wants to strengthen its connections with the local historical societies, large or small, in the state. Their members already have a deep appreciation for history and are a natural “fit” as AHA members, as many of us are also members of local groups. The association has, I believe, an opportunity and obligation to work with local historical societies to strengthen all of us and promote the important place of history as a topic in Alabama. We can decry the defunding of historical agencies by the state and the demise of Alabama history—and history itself—in school curricula, but our *cri de coeur* is not enough. While we advocate for proper consideration of the past from the top-down, we also must build an alternative infrastructure to support history from the bottom-up. Consequently I have asked Danny Crownover of the Etowah Heritage Museum in Gadsden to chair an ad hoc committee to see what the AHA can do for and with local societies. We’d love to have your input on this issue in particular.

In this time of financial pressure on all cultural heritage associations, it is incumbent on the AHA to reach out to other state-level groups who share our mission of promoting the study of the past into the future. Can we share information? Can we share interests? Can we help...
each other provide training and other opportunities for our members? I’ve asked T. R. Henderson of Headland to chair another ad hoc committee to seek answers to these questions. He will begin by compiling a list of such organizations in order to make contact and begin discussion. We hope to see results throughout the year.

Advanced computer technology opens a new world of communication options to us as we work with local historical societies and similar state-wide organizations. But it has also greatly expanded the way we communicate with each other. The AHA is moving into the digital age step by step, without replacing any of its traditional “hard-copy” communications. Here is where addition rather than replacement occurs. The AHA has had a website for quite a while, and we are committed to not only maintaining it but also enhancing its content.

You have been able to find recent newsletters and general information on the website, but in the future you will be able to find the newsletter archives and information on past presidents and the past members after whom our awards are named (thanks, Anna Henderson Martin!). We have begun a new program, the AHA Podcast Series, which at this time contains interviews with our Howard, Colby, and Kuykendall Award winners from 2012 and hope to expand it with more interviews and short videos in the future.

Finally I want to thank the officers, Board, and committee members who take the lead in continuing the good work of the AHA. You can get more involved by letting the officers know of your interest in joining the board or the various committees. Feel free to contact me at molliff@troy.edu.
Welcome to Livingston, Site of the Fall Pilgrimage

The land now host to Livingston, the University of West Alabama (UWA), and the many historic structures of Sumter County once belonged to the Choctaw Indians. The first white settlers in the area were predominantly French soldiers and traders stationed at Fort Tombeche on the Tombigbee river, about ten miles away from modern-day Livingston. The fort was established to strengthen France’s claims to the area and serve as a staging point for French military actions in support of their Choctaw allies. The fort was never attacked during the French and Indian War, but was forsaken in 1763 after the territory was ceded to Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris. The fort was then all but abandoned by the British, was handed over to the Spanish in 1794, and claimed by the Americans in 1797.

American immigrants officially began settling in the area after the Choctaws ceded the territory in the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. They came mostly from North Carolina, but also from South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and even some northern states. According to local legend, water was in short supply in the area and these early arrivals settled by a spring about two blocks away from what is now the Sumter County Courthouse. The street is still called Spring Street.

With the Choctaws removed to western territories, a commission was formed in 1833 to organize Sumter County and select a county seat. Livingston was named after Edward Livingston, a famous jurist and statesman who drafted the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825. The first surveyors came in to survey, lay off, and sell lots in 1834. On January 10, 1835, the Legislature of Alabama passed an act incorporating the town of Livingston, and the town’s first newspaper, The Voice of Sumter, debuted on March 1, 1836.

The town and county were growing. The first courthouse was built of logs at the intersection of Spring and West Main (now Chapman) streets in Livingston. By May 1839 a map of Livingston, as surveyed into lots by William G. Myers, was placed into the county records. That same year the county constructed a frame courthouse to replace the log structure, but it burned in 1901—a fate common to Alabama’s early courthouses (see Anne Feathers’ entertaining “Catfights and Coffins: Stories of Alabama Courthouses” in the July 2008 Alabama Review). The probate judge’s office was the only structure to survive the fire. The present courthouse foundation was laid on July 9, 1902.

The Sumter County Alabama Chamber of Commerce provided a copy of an article describing the early years of the town that appeared in the Sumter County Journal. While the author of the following sketch of Livingston from 1834 until about 1837 is unknown, the description is evocative:

“Livingston in 1834 was a village of rough log huts with wooden chimneys; many of these had only the ground for a floor. The people were a rude, uncultured class, suited to their surroundings. The Court House was built of large hewed logs, the cracks unstopped, the door at one end of the house and the Judge’s stand at the other end. . . . [It] was used once a month for church purposes, a Methodist Circuit rider officiating and occasionally stray preachers of other denominations. . . .

There were three or four stores containing a miscellaneous collection of dry goods, groceries, hardware, and in short any and every thing which the settlers of a new country might want. These goods were hauled from Moscow on the Bigbee River, 14 miles over roads that sometimes had no bottom. The hauling of these goods was the beginning of many a poor man’s fortune.

Two Doggeries, as they were then called, stood about where the Foster house now stands. They were built with their gables projecting over the street, making a shelter under which there was always a crowd, often making the poor Indian drunk to have some fun, which sometimes ended in bloodshed. . . .

Fort Tombeche, as drawn by French engineer Ignace Broutin in March 1737. Image courtesy of UWA.
The flush times, as they were called, were the years between 1834 and 1837. Andrew Jackson was president when Livingston was incorporated; I believe the Choctaws had been sent away by the government in 1830 except a few who positively refused to consent to the sale of their lands, and remained on the reservation. The Choctaw Nation, as this part of the country was called, was then thrown open to settlers. Any one was allowed to preempt 160 acres of lands, paying for them $1.25 per acre. People poured in from all directions. . . . The first school was taught by a Miss Carey. It was of short duration, for women were at a premium in so new a settlement.”

Livingston would, at least, not go long without a school. One of the earliest and most long-lived Livingston institutions was created the same year the town was incorporated. The Livingston Female Academy was established on July 4, 1835, and admitted its first students in 1839. The school was founded by ethnic Scots-Irish Presbyterians to educate future teachers. Jones Hall was the first building, constructed on the campus in 1837 (the building was lost to fire in the 1890s). On January 15, 1840, state lawmakers incorporated the school, granted it tax-exempt status, and gave the board the authority to establish rules and regulations.

According to an advertisement in an 1847 edition of the Sumter County Whig (reprinted in the Dec. 11, 1969, Tuscaloosa News), basic tuition ranged from $12 to $16, with advanced courses in history, grammar, algebra, natural philosophy, botany, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, rhetoric, “moral science, Evidences of Christianity,” piano, French, and embroidery, ranging in price anywhere from $10 to $25. The school was supervised by Margaret McShan, “a lady of known abilities and tested experience in governing and teaching,” who was assisted by Miss Sara J. Inge, “most favorably known to the patrons in Livingston, who can testify that none ever taught more correctly or advanced students more rapidly.”

After difficult times during the Civil War and Reconstruction, the school reopened in the late 1860s or early 1870s. Although it appears that a few male students were admitted following the war, a resolution by the board in 1876 excluded them, a policy that was followed until the beginning of the 20th century. Julia Tutwiler, the well-known educator, prison reformer, writer, and supporter of education for women, became assistant president in 1881. She succeeded in getting a small appropriation from the State Legislature in 1883 to establish normal school training for girls at the Academy. According to statements in the UWA archives, this is believed to be the first State appropriation in Alabama made exclusively for the education of women. Tutwiler changed the school’s name to Livingston Normal School in 1886, and retired as president emeritus in 1910. The Academy went through several more name changes before assuming the name it is known by today: the University of West Alabama.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century Livingston became widely known as a health spa because of its Bored Well. Originally intended to supply the town with additional water, the well was started in 1854. Town
historians say an old blind mule pulled an auger around day after day until completion in 1857 of the artesian well. At first Livingston’s citizens were disappointed with the salty taste of the water, but soon claims were made that the saline, alkaline nature of the water had medicinal value. The fame of Livingston’s mineral water spread far and wide and visitors began flocking to town seeking a cure for their various ailments. A Chinese pagoda originally erected over the well was replaced in 1924; that structure was replaced recently after it collapsed. For years a main part of the initiation rite for incoming freshmen at what is now UWA was a trip down to the Bored Well to drink the salty water, and it continues to be a gathering place for the citizens of Livingston.

Livingston remained the sleepy county seat of a mainly rural county with a declining population until the early 1980s, when efforts were made to revitalize the town. Results were immediate and impressive—the population nearly doubled in ten years, and corresponding increases in industry and business were seen. Major employers include the Livingston Box Company, a paperboard packaging company; Progressive Pipeline Inc.; Lost Soul Entertainment (LSE) Transportation, a supplier of modern and vintage prop vehicles; Custom Sheeting Corporation Paper Mill; Livingston Apparel Inc.; Big River Industries; Gulf Coast Energy Inc.; Mannington Floors; and of course UWA.

Livingston and the University have become centers for the preservation of Alabama history, architecture, and culture. As you will see firsthand during Saturday’s tour, UWA has relocated some of the county’s oldest buildings onto its campus in an effort to preserve these fragile and rare structures. Some of these sites you will find described in the following pages of the newsletter. The Black Belt Museum collects, preserves, exhibits, interprets, and celebrates the landscape and rich history of the Black Belt of Alabama and Mississippi, and is a center for regional study, programs, and other public activities.

The Center for the Study of the Black Belt encourages scholars and citizens to address the region’s challenges by promoting its abundant and unique natural, historical, and cultural resources. It researches and documents the Black Belt, provides programs and instruction to students and the community, and hopes to “help unite the people of the Black Belt in a shared sense of pride, identity, and hope.” Each year it hosts the Sucarnochee Folklife Festival in downtown Livingston. Festivities begin with the popular Cornbread Cook-off and continue with live music and folk crafts demonstrations including metal casting, quilting, woodworking, basket making, cheese making, urban chicken coop construction, soap making, and baking.

The AHA hopes that you will join us as we visit Livingston and explore the rich history it has to offer. Read about the historic houses and churches on the following pages and then, if you can, make plans to see them in person in October.

Carey Cauthen served as the editor of The Alabama Review from 2006 to 2012. She would like to thank Valerie Burnes of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt, the Livingston Chamber of Commerce, the Encyclopedia of Alabama, and the University of West Alabama for providing the information used in the writing of this article.
LUNCH & TOUR:
Lakewood

Lakewood was built around 1840 for North Carolina–born James Lake. Thought to be the work of Hiram W. Bardwell, its striking architecture has caught the eye since its construction. It was photographed in 1936 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (forerunner of the National Register) as part of an initiative to record important examples of early American architecture.

According to Robert Gamble of the Alabama Historical Commission, Lakewood is a fine example of the “traditional southern ‘raised cottage.’ . . . With its elegant Federal and Greek Revival–style trim and well-proportioned Doric portico approached by twin curving iron stairways, Lakewood qualifies as one of the more illustrious examples of raised cottage architecture anywhere in the Deep South.”

Today Lakewood is owned by the seventh generation of the same family, descendants of Joseph Lake. Noted Alabama educator Julia Tutwiler, a kinswoman of the Lakes, lived at the house on and off between 1881 and 1910 when she served as president of the Livingston Female Institute. Lakewood is as mysterious as it is beautiful, with stories of a resident ghost and other spectral encounters adding to the allure of its long history. Unfortunately its location next to UWA makes it a prime target for development, and in 2012 it was placed on the Commission’s list of Alabama’s Places in Peril.

The lawn in front of Lakewood will be the setting for our lunch on Saturday and the owner has agreed to open the main floor for tours. This is a rare opportunity to see the house, and it will be open only during the time scheduled for lunch, so do not miss your chance to see this Sumter County jewel.

TOUR:
Elizabeth Presbyterian Church

A group of Sumter County residents established Elizabeth Presbyterian Church in November 1838. Elizabeth Knox donated the land where the original church was built, and it was named in her honor. The growing congregation replaced the original log structure in 1858 with a two-story wood frame building. Slaves were members of the church and remained part of the congregation after Emancipation until the 1870s. The church ceased to function as house of worship during the 1980s and was threatened by neglect; to prevent further deterioration, members of the Elizabeth Church Cemetery Association deeded the building to the Sumter County Historical Society.
Robert Ezekiel Campbell and Susan Alice Gully Campbell built the Campbell-Strickland House in 1900 in the Whitfield community (it has recently been relocated to the UWA campus). The Campbells raised their eight children in the home and boarded the teacher for the school.

The left section of the house consisted of four rooms: the sun parlor, the teacher’s bedroom, the dining room, and the kitchen. The middle section consisted of two large bedrooms with fireplaces. The five girls—Alice, Laura, Betty, Justina, and Sarah—shared this section. Later on a bathroom was added to the section. The right section of the house consisted of two large bedrooms. The back bedroom was Robert and Susan’s. The three boys—Bob, Slocum, and Wayne—shared the front bedroom.

The house is a twist on the dogtrot, which was typical across the southeast in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the days before electricity there was no reliable way to cool off a house. The typical dogtrot contained a breezeway between the two sides of the house, which allowed cool breezes to blow through the shaded area. Doors opened onto the breezeway, and windows could be opened on every outer wall in order to pull the cool air into the rooms. Due to their economic success, the Campbells were able to expand on this theme and create a double-dogtrot house, with two breezeways and eight rooms.

The Alamuchee-Bellamy Covered Bridge now covers the Duck Pond along the UWA Nature Trail. It was originally designed and constructed by Confederate Army Capt. William Alexander Campbell Jones. Built over the Sucarnoochee River in 1861 of hand-hewn pine timbers joined with wooden pegs, the bridge was used as an access route to Mississippi by Confederate forces led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. It is West Alabama’s only remaining covered bridge. In 1969, it was restored and moved to its current location.
TOUR:

Hagood House

This lovely example of Victorian Gothic architecture was built by the Methodist Church in 1898 to serve as a parsonage. At that time it was across the street from the church, which stood in the Methodist Church Cemetery (now Myrtlewood Cemetery). Rev. Betts and his family were the first to live in the home. During the years between 1898 and 1960, more than 20 ministers lived on the property. In 1960 the current parsonage on Spring Street was built near the present church, and the house on Jefferson was sold.

There are gingerbread-trimmed gables on all sides of the house, with a star motif (a popular trend in Victorian homes of this era) in the front. Gingerbread trim, which mimics that of a home of the same period in Linden, adorns the six front porch columns, and was added by the current owner. In the back gardens a “Rebecca at the Well” fountain lends the happy sound of water to the fish pond where it resides, and a muscadine arbor takes one back to carefree days gone by. The present owner, Margaret Russell Hagood, has owned the house since 2005. Because of her love for the property and its history as a dwelling for men of the cloth, she has named it “Hallowed Ground.”

TOUR:

Cedarwood

Cedarwood, built around 1818, was recently moved to the UWA campus and will be the future home of The Alabama Review. According to state architectural historian Robert Gamble, it is one of the earliest plantation dwellings left anywhere in Alabama. It predates the stereotypical columned “big house” of the late antebellum period and is, in effect, a rare architectural link between the plantation frontier and the full flowering of Black Belt planter society during the 1840s and 1850s. Cedarwood loosely falls into the category identified as the Tidewater cottage, a type that architectural historians trace back to the colonial-period Atlantic coast.
Christian Valley Baptist Church is one of only 25 antebellum Baptist meetinghouses still standing today. It is also the most well-preserved. Originally built in Coatopa, Sumter County, Christian Valley was constituted in 1833 by Asa Wright, Eli Davis, and Jesse Byrd. Land was donated in May 1838 by Joseph Patton and Matthew Brewer. Though the builder of the church is undocumented, it is suspected that Hiram W. Bardwell, the Massachusetts-born master craftsman who worked in the area during the mid-1800s, could be responsible for its design (he is also thought to have designed Lakewood). The building has the crisp, unpretentious lines typical of many rural New England meetinghouses and of the kind of Greek Revival architecture that Bardwell brought to Alabama’s western Black Belt during the 1840s and 1850s.

Christian Valley was relocated to UWA’s campus in the last few years. It still contains its original pulpit, lamp stands, and pews. The pews are divided down the middle of the church, which has two doors—architectural features reminding visitors that the congregation was separated by gender, men sitting on one side while women and small children sat on the other.
The Branch-Burnes house was built in 1903 by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Branch. It has passed through very few hands before becoming the residence of Brian and Valerie Burnes, who have undertaken extensive restoration work to return the interior of the house to its early 1900s beauty.

This Victorian house retains all of its original detail, from columned oak fireplaces with tile surrounds to the original doorbell. The curved, wrap-around porch invites visitors to enter through oak double-doors. Pocket doors separate the living room from the dining room, where a red stained-glass window occupies the center of the bay and casts a warm glow from the late afternoon sun. The unique feature in the dining room is the jib door, which allows access to the glassed-in sun porch (originally a screened sleeping porch) shaded by a magnolia that was planted about the time the house was built. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, complete with a rolling ladder, surround the den.

The guest room in the back of the house once served as the semi-detached kitchen, connected to the house by a breezeway, and the guest bathroom was originally the pantry. The laundry room, just off the master bedroom, was once a back porch. The master bathroom was built sometime in the 1930s and was the first indoor plumbing in the house. The original well for the house is under the back porch, which was built by the Burneses to match the front porch. The windows and transoms in the house are in working order, as are the shutters on the windows, which are opened in the winter to let in the heat from the sun, and then closed in the summer to keep the house cooler.

The home is filled with furniture, artwork, and memorabilia from Mrs. Burnes’ family, as well as pieces from the factory that Mr. Burnes’ great-grandfather built. Those few pieces that are not family pieces, such as an antebellum dough box and half-tester bed, are from local Black Belt homes. The house, and everything in it, has a story, and the Burneses look forward to sharing those stories with you!
The Spence-Moon House, constructed in 1834 by James H. Spence, is one of the earliest residences in Livingston. It is one of eleven homes built by a group of craftsmen from New Hampshire and Connecticut who were employed to build homes in the area and is one of only five remaining examples of Federal Period architecture. A kitchen and the semi-octagonal three-bay porch were added to the house in the late 1800s.

Congressman Samuel Ingle, who represented Sumter County in the state legislature in 1844 and was elected to the US Congress in 1847, called the residence home. Captain W. A. C. Jones, the engineer who constructed the 1861 covered bridge now located on the UWA campus, lived in the house from 1888 until 1905. The Spence-Moon House is now the base of operations for the Sumter County Historical Society and continues to serve the community, hosting family gatherings, weddings, club meetings, and banquets.

TOUR: Saint James Episcopal Church

Livingston’s St. James parish was organized in 1836, two years after the town itself was laid out. Services were first conducted at residences as the small parish collected funds for the construction of the church—the ladies of the church, for example, held a fair in 1841 that collected $414 for project. By 1842 services were being held in a “neat though small” structure while additional funds were found to complete the building. St. James was consecrated by the Provisional Bishop of Alabama, the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk, on March 8, 1844. The church housed an organ and had been well-furnished by its 30 parishioners, and the church regularly shared the services of a rector with nearby communities.

More than 50 people worshipped at St. James before the outbreak of the Civil War. The conflict and Reconstruction brought some chaos to the church, however; by 1872 there was no rector and only 29 parishioners. The St. James community did not sit still, but launched a series of improvements to the church in hopes of attracting a rector and increasing the fold. A rectory, spire, and stained glass windows were added. Despite these improvements a succession of rectors came and went, and parish membership declined. St. James was officially declared a mission in 1901. The aftermath of World War II saw a positive change in the parish’s fortunes, as students taking advantage of the GI Bill enrolled at Livingston’s State Teachers College, later to become UWA. St. James’s first full-time rector arrived in 1955, and services continue to be held regularly.
ACCOMMODATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

RECEPTION AND PROGRAM VENUE
Bell Conference Center
University of West Alabama
Foust Drive
Livingston, AL, 35470
(205) 652-3527

ACCOMMODATIONS
Comfort Inn
141 Trucker Blvd.
Livingston, AL, 35470
(205) 652-4839

Call by September 12, 2012, and mention the AHA to receive a rate of $76.49 plus tax.

DIRECTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA

From Birmingham, AL, and Atlanta, GA, take I-20 West/I-59 South toward Tuscaloosa. Continue on I-20 West/I-59 South past Tuscaloosa and take AL-28 toward Livingston Blvd (Exit #17). Turn LEFT off the exit onto AL-28 East. Go approximately 2 miles, then turn RIGHT onto North Washington Street. Turn RIGHT onto University Drive, and then take an immediate LEFT onto Student Union Drive.

From Montgomery, AL, take I-65 South. After approximately four miles, merge onto US-80 West/Alabama 8/Selma Hwy toward Selma (Exit #167). Continue to follow US-80 W for approximately 110 miles (passing through Selma, Unontown, and Demopolis). Turn RIGHT onto AL-28 West. Go approximately 12 miles, then turn RIGHT onto North Washington Street. Turn LEFT onto Astrid Street and then RIGHT onto Student Union Drive.
2012 Annual Pilgrimage—Livingston, Alabama

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:00 p.m. Dinner
Bell Conference Center, University of West Alabama

6:45 p.m. Presentation on Fort Tombecbee
Dr. Ashley Dumas, UWA, and Mr. Brian West, UWA

7:30 p.m. Walking Ghost Tour of Downtown Livingston
Led by Dr. Alan Brown
(Golf carts available for persons with limited mobility)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:30 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales
Bell Conference Center, UWA

Optional Walking Tour of Black Belt Prairie Restoration
UWA Campus, led by Dr. John Hall

10:00 a.m. PROGRAM
“Barbecue Clubs of Sumter County” by Valerie Pope Burnes, Director
Center for the Study of the Black Belt

11:30 a.m. Lunch
Lakewood House

1–4:00 p.m. Individual Tours
• Elizabeth Presbyterian Church
• Campbell-Strickland House
• Covered Bridge
• Hagood House
• Cedarwood
• Christian Valley Baptist Church
• Branch-Burnes House
• Spence-Moon House
• St. James Episcopal Church
The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 66th annual meeting in Eufaula, Alabama, on April 11-13, 2013. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama from its founding through modern times.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author’s email address, postal address, telephone number, and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.) Panel discussions, (three presentations and a moderator) must also include a brief overview of the panel’s theme and relevance. Roundtable panel discussions will also be considered.

**Proposals must be submitted by October 10, 2012. Electronic submissions are preferred.**

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Scotty E. Kirkland  
Curator of History  
History Museum of Mobile  
P.O. Box 2068  
Mobile, Alabama 36652-2068  
skirkland@southalabama.edu

For more information on the Alabama Historical Association, visit [www.alabamahistory.net](http://www.alabamahistory.net) or scan this QR code with your smartphone.
The Alabama Historical Association will present the following awards at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Eufaula. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for complete nomination instructions and information.

The James F. Sulzby Book Award recognizes the most important book that has contributed to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history published in a two-year period. The award is made in odd-numbered years. Books published in 2011 and 2012 are eligible for nomination. Three copies of each book should be mailed to: David E. Alsobrook, History Museum of Mobile, PO Box 2068, Mobile, AL, 36652-2068. Nominations must be postmarked by December 31, 2012.

The Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant honors the memory of Jackson and Coley with a graduate student grant awarded in odd-numbered years. The $500 grant is open to any 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 chair of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student’s major professor. Please submit nominations to: Mark Palmer, Alabama Department of Archives and History, PO Box 300100, Montgomery, AL, 36130-0100, or send the information in an email to mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov. The deadline for all nomination materials is January 31, 2013.

The Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award is given every other year to a distinguished professional whose work encourages joint historical endeavors and mutual understanding among nonprofessional and professional historians. Past winners of the award include Ed Bridges, Hardy Jackson, and Leah Rawls Atkins. Emphasis will be given to persons nominated for work accomplished since the previous presentation of the award. Please send nominations to Harriet Doss, Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 360 Heritage Hall Building, 1401 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL, 35294, or through email to hadoss@uab.edu. Nominations should include the name of the nominee, reasons for nomination, supporting documentation, and contact information for the person making the nomination. If you have any questions about the nomination process, call Dr. Doss at (205) 934-5634. Deadline for receiving all nomination materials is January 15, 2013.
Mary Ann Neeley

Works of Matthew Blue Named Best Local History Book

Mary Ann Neeley, recently retired from Old Alabama Town and past-president of the Alabama Historical Association (1989–1990), received the 2012 Clinton Jackson Coley Award for best book published on local history in the previous two years for *The Works of Matthew Blue, Montgomery’s First Historian*, published by NewSouth Books in 2010. She spent over a decade pondering this edited edition of Blue’s 1878 narrative history of Montgomery, his history of Montgomery churches, a genealogy of the Blue family, and the diary of Blue’s sister, Elizabeth. Neeley noted that winning an award named for her friend and Alabama history benefactor Judge C. J. Coley is particularly special to her.

Shelby County Historical Society Wins the Kuykendall Award

The winner of the Association’s James Ray Kuykendall Award, which recognizes local history societies, was the Shelby County Historical Society. Headquartered in Columbiana, the society is involved in public outreach, historical research, and historic preservation, and uses innovative ideas and techniques to promote history and historical places. It educates the public through newspapers, newsletters, websites, libraries, and public events. The society also involves University of Montevallo students in its work, thereby training the next generation of county residents and giving them awareness of and appreciation for their history and historic places.
Tuskegee Airmen Article Honored by the Association for Groundbreaking Research

Dan Haulman was a co-winner of the 2012 Milo B. Howard Award for best article published in The Alabama Review over the previous two years. Dr. Haulman won the award for his article “The Tuskegee Airmen and the ‘Never Lost a Bomber’ Myth,” published in the January 2011 issue. As Chief of the Organization History Division of the Air Force Historical Research Agency based at Maxwell Air Force Base, Dan researched the unit, mission, and other official reports to fully support his once-controversial conclusions.
Opelika POW Camp Article Also Recognized for Excellence

Daniel Hutchinson shared the 2012 Milo B. Howard Award for best article published in The Alabama Review over the previous two years for his October 2011 work “‘We . . . Are the Most Fortunate of Prisoners’: The Axis POW Experience at Camp Opelika during World War II.” Hutchinson, formerly of Cullman and now at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina, examines the living conditions of 3,000 German, Italian, and some non-German Axis prisoners in the now-defunct prison camp in Opelika. He relies on official Provost Marshal records as well as the personal memoirs, correspondence, and writings of the prisoners themselves.
The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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Thank you
2013 Annual Meeting of the AHA
Eufaula, April 11-13

The Association’s 66th annual meeting will take place on the banks of the Chattahoochee in historic Eufaula. The “Bluff City” is home to one of the largest historic districts in Alabama, as well as the state’s oldest tour of homes, the annual Eufaula Pilgrimage. Join us for a stroll down Eufaula’s picturesque tree-covered streets, visit some of its most storied residences, and take in the views of scenic Lake Eufaula.

Full details will appear in the Spring 2013 issue of the newsletter. The Lakepoint State Park Resort is now taking reservations at a special AHA rate. Call (334) 687-8011 or (800) 544-5253.

Fendall Hall is one of Alabama’s outstanding Italianate houses, and it is one of the locations AHA members will be able to explore in Eufaula. Image courtesy of Fendall Hall.