Join us for the 69th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association
Montgomery, Alabama • April 14-16, 2016
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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.
It was wonderful to see so many of you at the pilgrimage in Old Cahawba this past October. We had fabulous hospitality, excellent food, decent weather, and outstanding presentations and tours. Many thanks to the staff at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, the Alabama Historical Commission, Jawana Jackson and James Richie, and the many volunteers who helped make the pilgrimage such a great success.

Now it’s time to move on from our first permanent capital city to our current capital city. Of course, the AHA has met in Montgomery on many occasions, most recently in 2005. With such a historic city that we have visited many times before, it was a challenge to decide what to highlight for this meeting. I served as a member of the 2005 local arrangements committee, and it was clear to me that this year we needed to focus on the changes to downtown in the last ten years. So much has happened near the riverfront to make that area attractive and lively with restaurants, bars, hotels, and baseball. People are moving to downtown to live in lofts and apartments, some newly built and others in re-purposed historic buildings. For the first time in years people are excited to visit downtown after the sun sets.

Friday afternoon tours will offer a chance to walk the streets of downtown Montgomery and experience its past and envision its future. Some of our favorite local historians will lead guided walking tours exploring Montgomery’s role in the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. Local developers have agreed to open their doors to give us a peak at lofts under development in some of Montgomery’s most historic retail stores and see those already occupied by our “urban pioneers.” I have been so impressed by the passion and dedication of some of these young developers and tenants, many of whom grew up in Montgomery and are back to help transform their historic city. Much of Montgomery’s history and its most recent development is focused in the area around Court Square. Many thanks to AHA member Mark Dauber for allowing us to use his gorgeous photograph of Court Square Fountain for the cover of this Newsletter.

As a public historian and archivist, I am always looking for new ways to help people connect to the past and appreciate the value of historic records. Last year I heard Dolores Hydock use a diary from the collections of the University of North Alabama to create a one-woman show on the life of Sallie Independence Foster of Florence. I knew immediately that I wanted to bring this presentation to the AHA. I hope you will find this shortened version of her presentation for our banquet as entertaining, enlightening, and moving as I did.

We are grateful to Landmarks Foundation for offering free admission and tours of Old Alabama Town late Thursday afternoon, and for providing the venue for the opening reception on Thursday evening. The Ware-Farley-Hood House, an 1850s Italianate house surrounded by porches and filigree, has only recently become available for events and has quickly become a favored location for Montgomery social occasions. I think you will agree that it is the perfect location to kick off our return to Montgomery.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in April. Get your taxes filed early, get your walking shoes on, and join me in Montgomery, April 14-16.
The Local Arrangements Committee has been hard at work for the past year in anticipation of welcoming AHA members back to Montgomery. Much has changed in downtown Montgomery since AHA met in the capital city ten years ago. Montgomery prides itself as the birthplace of the Civil War and Civil Rights movement, but as the 21st century dawned little attention was being paid to preserving or celebrating the historic character of the downtown area. All that began to change a few years ago and today downtown Montgomery is undergoing a transformation. This year’s meeting will celebrate Montgomery’s rich heritage and introduce attendees to the changes that have the potential to revitalize the downtown area.

Our headquarter hotel, The Embassy Suites, is in the heart of the Riverfront district. All sessions and the Friday and Saturday lunches will take place at the headquarters hotel. All Embassy Suites rooms are two room suites and the competitive rate includes a full breakfast served in the attractive atrium. Other hotels in the immediate area include the Hampton Inn (with special rates for AHA members), the Renaissance Hotel and Spa, and the nearby Doubletree Suites.

The Lower Commerce Street area hotels are in easy walking distance to historic Union Station, Riverfront Park, and the restaurants and bars in the Alley Entertainment area. Much of the development in this area was just a dream in 2005. Riverwalk Stadium, home of the Montgomery Biscuits minor league baseball team, is just a few blocks away. The Biscuits will be in town for their season opener against the Mississippi All-Stars and baseball fans can plan to come early or stay late to catch a game in the unique stadium which incorporates portions of Montgomery’s historic Western Railroad freight station. The Alley is also the home of The Dauber Gallery, where you can see more of Mark Dauber’s beautiful photographs of Montgomery and Alabama.

Ten years ago the Thursday evening reception was held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. This year we hope attendees will arrive early and spend the afternoon visiting the new exhibits at ADAH or stop by on Saturday before leaving town. Early arrivals will also have an opportunity to visit Old Alabama Town on Thursday afternoon before the evening reception at the Ware-Farley-Hood House in Old Alabama Town. This elegant 1850s Italianate style home has been the home of three prominent Montgomery families, including

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OVERVIEW OF THE 69TH ANNUAL MEETING

Union Station, courtesy of Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitor Bureau

Ware-Farley-Hood House, courtesy of Landmarks Foundation
Horace Hood, founder of the *Montgomery Journal* in the 1890s, who also served in the legislature and as Montgomery County sheriff from 1907-1915.

Put on your walking shoes and get ready to explore downtown Montgomery on Friday afternoon. Walking tours will focus on the area from the Alabama River up to Court Square and along Lower Dexter Avenue. Two concurrent themed guided tours will leave every 30 minutes from 1:00 – 3:00 or you can choose to explore on your own. Guided tours, led by area experts, will focus on Montgomery during the Civil War and Montgomery’s African American history. Self-guided tours will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to peek into Montgomery’s Lower Dexter Avenue, where former retail establishments such as Montgomery Fair, Belk-Hudson, and Kress are being transformed into loft living areas in the new Market District. Attendees will want to be sure to stop by NewSouth Books headquarters to visit with Randall and Suzanne in their bookstore and enjoy afternoon refreshments and to visit the Freedom Riders Museum.

The Friday night banquet will be held at the Capital City Club, a few short blocks away from the Embassy Suites. Located on the top of Montgomery’s tallest building, the RSA Tower, the Skyline Ballroom is surrounded by terraces with beautiful views of the Alabama River and downtown Montgomery. Banquet speaker, Dolores Hydock will bring Alabama history alive with a unique one-woman show about Florence native, Sallie Independence Foster, and her life in North Alabama in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Of course, AHA meetings always feature wonderful papers on various topics in Alabama history and this year our program committee, chaired by Dan Puckett, has assembled a fine array of offerings. An additional bonus session on Friday afternoon at 4:00 at the Rosa Parks Museum will stimulate discussion and allow us to explore the legacy of the Confederate flag and its meaning in Alabama in 2016. As always, the AHA annual meeting is packed with opportunities to learn and explore and see Alabama in new ways.
On December 3, 1819, with the merger of John Scott’s East Alabama Town and Andrew Dexter’s New Philadelphia, an act of the Alabama Territorial legislature established a new municipality along the banks of the Alabama River. That the town was named for the gallant general Richard Montgomery of Revolutionary War fame was a clear indication the settlement was destined for distinction.

Foresight led Dexter to set aside a parcel for a future capitol, calling the area Goat Hill. His vision became a reality with the relocation of state government to Montgomery in 1846. The public-minded Scott and Dexter also donated acreage for a city cemetery. Dexter made his donation in 1817; Scott’s contribution came in 1819, making Oakwood Cemetery the city’s most historic resting place.

In October 1821, two years later, the city boasted of a steamboat, the Harriot. The Harriot II currently provides a site for cruises-entertainment. Also in 1821 Clement Freeney built his tavern at Tallapoosa and Commerce Streets, with a bell to signal the time and to invite patrons for food and drink. The Renaissance Hotel and Spa currently occupies the spot.

Montgomery, 1844 – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Continuing its rapid pace towards distinction, Montgomery became the county seat in 1822. In addition, after spending the night of April 2, 1825 at Lucas Tavern, Marquis de Lafayette met a crowd of more than 3,000 at Goat Hill the next day. On April 4, he was treated to a lavish ball at Freeney’s Tavern. The city later named a school in his honor near the site of the visit.

In the antebellum South, Montgomery was a center for slave trading. Still, the Alabama Baptist Association, through the reverend James McLemore (1782-1834), permitted Caesar Blackwell (1769-1845) to accompany Reverend McLemore and to minister to separate black and white congregations. In providing a final resting place for Blackwell in the McLemore-Taylor Burial Ground, the family plot in now-East Montgomery, the McLemore family and the association laid the foundation for one of the best-kept secrets regarding race relations in the country.
In 1844 German immigrant Henry Lehman came to America. In 1847 his brother Emanuel joined him in his dry-goods business at 17 Court Square. Mayer joined his brothers in 1850 to form Lehman Brothers. In 1862 Lehman-Durr was formed with the addition of merchant John Durr. The new company financed Alabama Reconstruction and later moved to New York—following the lead of Emanuel Lehman in 1858—where it helped to found the New York Cotton Exchange in 1870 and helped to fund Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the 1930s; Shearson/American Express acquired Lehman Brothers in 1984 for $360 million.

The capitol burned on December 14, 1849, nearly two years after its opening in Montgomery and 30 years to the day of Alabama achieving statehood. It was rebuilt in 1851, and Horace King, who would represent Russell County for two terms in the legislature beginning in 1868, built its spiraling staircases. The legislature manumitted King on February 2, 1846. He was accorded the state’s highest tribute with his induction into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame in 1989. King’s portrait was displayed in the lobby of the capitol in February 2003.

On February 4, 1861, more than a decade after the burning, the Alabama capital began its three-month stint as the first capital of the Confederacy, relocating to Richmond on May 29, 1861. Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 52 years later. Jefferson Davis (February 18, 1861) and George Corley Wallace (January 14, 1963) were inaugurated in the same spot at the capitol, nearly 102 years apart.

Much of yesterday’s traffic is absent from Union Station today, but the interest in the structure is manifested by the presence of the Montgomery Area Visitors Center. Built in 1897 by Benjamin Bosworth Smith for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Union Station opened for business one year later. A bustling presence in its heyday, providing for such notable passengers as Clark Gable and Katherine Hepburn, Union Station steadily declined in the 1950s and 1960s. As it closed in 1979, an era in local history disappeared.

With the dawn of the 20th century, Montgomery continued to enjoy its place in the sun. In 1901 the state adopted a new constitution at the capitol. In the same year and building on December 14, 2014—almost 103 years to the day of its founding—the Department of Archives and History welcomed patrons to its Museum of Alabama.

The National Archives in Washington, DC, is modeled after the Alabama archives in Montgomery.

Also in 1901 John William Beverly became the first African American to have a history book adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education as a supplementary text for classroom use. A building on the campus of Alabama State University bears the name of Beverly, who headed the school from 1915 to 1920.

On March 19, 1910, Orville and Wilbur Wright also found
the city to their liking, later building an airfield and establishing the first school for flight. On November 8, 1922, Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot was renamed Maxwell Field for Natchez, Alabama, native Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, who, on August 12, 1920, gave his life instead of taking the lives of children in the Philippines. Paradoxically, on August 8, 1957—nearly 37 years later to the day—harassment and a lack of employment forced Raymond Parks, a barber at the base, and his wife Rosa to relocate to Detroit, Michigan. Wright Brothers Park and Maxwell Boulevard are located near the base.

Klan violence was problematic, particularly in the South. Nevertheless, the Montgomery City Commission on Wednesday, August 1, 1923, voted 2-1 to endorse a ban on masked parades on city streets. The ordinance provided for a fine ranging from $1 to $100 for violations and prohibited anyone from wearing a mask on a city street unless the identity of the person was known. Police commissioner James V. Hardaway introduced the measure at the Tuesday, July 24, meeting, and Mayor William A. Gunter assured its passage at the August meeting by voting for its adoption.

In 1941 Gunter (1871-1940), an advocate of aviation, was honored posthumously with the naming of Gunter Field. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the original Montgomery Municipal Airport at the same site in 1929.

Court Square sets the standard for historical significance. As examples note that on February 18, 1861, a crowd of 10,000 witnessed Jefferson Davis’s inaugural parade that began at the Exchange Hotel; with a band playing “Dixie” during inaugural celebrations on April 11, 1861, Confederate secretary of war Leroy Pope Walker dispatched Phil Gayle to the Winter Building with orders to fire on Fort Sumter on April 12; April 12, 1865—exactly four years later—Gen Edward Moody McCook and his forces marched up Dexter Avenue to accept control of the city; January 1, 1866, the Emancipation parade traversed the area towards Wilson’s Grove for the area’s first celebration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; in 1887, Montgomery converted one mile of streetcar use to electricity, creating America's first electric trolley system; October 20, 1887, President Grover Cleveland, accompanied to the city by his bride of one year, spoke from the balcony of the Exchange Hotel; May 12, 1919, the 167th Rainbow Division marched through this area, as soldiers of the Spanish-American War had done in 1898; January 21, 1933, president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt crossed the area en route to the capitol; December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus; and, March 25, 1965, marchers from St. Jude turned this corner as they headed to the steps of the capitol.

These events help to solidify Court Square as one of the most historically significant areas in the city, if not the country.

People who call Montgomery home have contributed
immensely to the city, state, nation, and world. Isaac Taylor Tichenor, Edgar Gardner Murphy, Andrew Jackson Stokes, and John Wesley Alstork added much-appreciated dimensions to religiosity; journalist William S. White said of Senator Lister Hill: “He has done more for the public health than any American in history”; Victor Hugo Tulane and L. B. Whitfield carved out a role for honesty and hard work in business; Tallulah Bankhead excelled as one of Hollywood’s best—ever; F. Scott Fitzgerald called his wife Zelda the first American flapper; Nat “King” Cole, Willie Mae “Big Momma” Thornton, Hiram “Hank” Williams, and Toni Tennille kept the world singing; millionaire Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the treatment of glaucoma and arthritis, was the first black inductee into the National Inventors Hall of Fame; Caesar Belser and Bart Starr brought renewed interest to athletics; Martin Luther King, Ralph D. Abernathy, Fred D. Gray, E. D. Nixon, and Rosa Parks made Montgomery the civil rights capital of America; and Morris Dees continues to provide cogent evidence that the prerogatives of the poor and minorities will not be disregarded.

Several institutions of higher learning call Montgomery home: Alabama State University was incorporated in Marion in 1867 and relocated to Montgomery in 1887; Troy University established a local branch in 1965; and Auburn University introduced its campus in 1967. Private schools have thrived in the city since 1908, when the Tuskegee Female College arrived in present-day Cloverdale. Established as Montgomery Bible School, Faulkner University has maintained a solid reputation since its founding in 1942.

Several cultural outlets are located in East Montgomery, especially the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, which was founded in 1930, making it the oldest such institution in Alabama. In addition the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which moved to Montgomery from Anniston in December 1985, puts on 6-10 theatrical productions each year.

Montgomery is also home to the First White House of the Confederacy, Freedom Riders Museum, Rosa Parks Library and Museum, Southern Poverty Law Center, Hank Williams Museum, Dexter Parsonage Museum, and the National Center for Civil Rights and African American History and Culture. In 2004 Sherri Myers re-introduced the city to professional baseball. Appreciation for her work was shown in 2015, when the Alabama Chapter of the March of Dimes named her Citizen of the Year. Professional baseball came to Montgomery in 1903 with the Montgomery Rebels, but in 1981 the team moved to Birmingham as the Barons. Initially playing in the Southern Association, the team played under several affiliations and monikers. Games were played at Paterson Field.

The Montgomery Grey Sox had won a championship at least four years before the Negro Southern League was established in 1920. The team played its early games at Southside Park. A special section was set aside for white patrons.

Since 2014 the Camellia Bowl game has been played in December at Cramton Bowl. Before the Camellia Bowl, the man who put the University of Alabama in the Rose Bowl and pushed Johnny Mack Brown out of football and into the movies also brought the Blue and Gray game to Montgomery. Played on Christmas Day, William “Champ” Pickens’ contest featured college seniors from 1939 to 2002.

Chris’ Hot Dogs on Dexter Avenue, which is celebrating 99 years of business, is one of many local eateries. The Alley Entertainment District in downtown Montgomery satisfies the need for food, weddings, banquets, receptions, and corporate events.

Montgomery has been home to a Hyundai Manufacturing plant since 2005 and has loaned its name to two US Navy ships.

USA Today took note of Montgomery’s giant strides, calling the metropolis the Best Historic City, and in 2014 the National Civic League labeled it an All-American City. Indeed, the likes of Andrew Dexter anticipated a mark of distinction centuries ago.

Dr. Richard Bailey, Sr., is chairman of the Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission.
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 69th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN MONTGOMERY / APRIL 14-16, 2016

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 14

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| 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Tours of the Museum of Alabama  
Alabama Department of Archives and History                                                |
| 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Alabama Bicentennial Workshop  
Farley Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History |
| 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Student Workshop: What Can You Do with a History Degree?  
Milo Howard Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History |
| 5:00 p.m. | Walking Tour of Old Alabama Town  
Meet at the Ware-Farley-Hood House, Old Alabama Town                                       |
| 6:00 p.m. | Reception  
Ware-Farley-Hood House, Old Alabama Town                                                 |

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 15

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| 8:00 a.m. | Registration, Coffee, Book Sales  
Embassy Suites                                                                       |
| 9:00 a.m. | General Session  
Embassy Suites                                                                       |
| 10:45 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions                                                                        |

#### SESSION A

**“The Stormy Village: Auburn University, 1865-2006,”**  
Dwayne Cox, Auburn University

“For More Info: Leveraging Impulsive Information Seeking with Smartphones and the Web,”  
Martin T. Olliff, Troy University Dothan

“Depicting the Depression: Let Us Now Recover Alabama Literature,”  
Walter Bertram Hitchcock, Jr., Auburn, AL

#### SESSION B

“Fighting for Marengo Democracy: The Political Life of Charles H. Miller, 1884-1917,”  
Caroline Jones, Auburn University

“Edmund Pettus: For Whom the Bridge was Named,”  
Alston Fitts III, Selma, AL

“Robert Sylvester Munger: Birmingham Inventor, Educator, Philanthropist,”  
Carolyn Green Satterfield, Birmingham, AL
FRIDAY, APRIL 15  Continued

**SESSION C**
“General Jackson, Savannah Jack, and the First Seminole War in Alabama Territory”
*John T. Ellisor, Columbus State University*

“We Alabama Farmers’: Responses to Post-World War II Federal Peanut Policies,” *Hayden McDaniel, The University of Southern Mississippi*

*Jeffrey J. Frederick, University of North Carolina at Pembroke*

Noon  Lunch  
Embassy Suites

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  Friday Afternoon Tours
*Two concurrent themed guided tours will leave every 30 minutes from Court Square from 1:00 – 3:00 or you can choose to explore on your own using the map provided at the meeting.*

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  Confederate Flag Panel Discussion
*Rosa Parks Museum and Library*

6:00 p.m.  Cash Bar  
Capital City Club

7:00 p.m.  Annual Awards Banquet  
Capital City Club

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

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| 8:00 a.m.    | Registration, Coffee, Book Sales  
Embassy Suites                          |
| 9:00 a.m.    | General Session  
Embassy Suites                            |
| 10:30 a.m.   | Concurrent Sessions                                                   |
|              |                                                                      |
|              | **SESSION I**                                                          |
|              | “The Rise and Fall of Alabama’s Black Belt,”  
*Valerie Pope Burnes, University of West Alabama* |
|              | “The Big World at Last Reaches Gee’s Bend,”  
*Mary Stanton, New York, NY* |
|              | “The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Denomination in Alabama,”  
*Dot Moore, Montgomery, AL* |
|              |                                                                      |
|              | **SESSION II**                                                          |
|              | “Alabama in 1865: From War to Peace in a Slave Society,”  
*Christopher L. McIlwain, Sr., Tuscaloosa, AL* |
|              | “Free People of Color in Madison County, Alabama: Slaves without Masters,”  
*Nancy M. Rohr, Huntsville, AL* |
|              | “Prelude to the Civil Rights Battles of the 1950s and 60s: Paternalism and Daily Life in the Smyth Ore Mining Camp on Red Mountain, 1880-1920,”  
*Jack R. Bergstresser, Sr., Birmingham, AL* |
|              |                                                                      |
|              | **SESSION III**                                                         |
|              | “Militarizing Mobile: Identity and Perception in a Southern City between 1861 & 1865,”  
*Peter R. Thomas, Jr., Auburn University* |
|              | “An Education on Race: School Attendance Trials and Defining Race in Jim Crow Alabama,”  
*L. Kathryn Tucker, Troy University* |
|              | “Hellish Historiography Meets Wandering Welshman,”  
*Robert D. England, Tuscumbia, AL* |
| 11:45 a.m.   | Annual Luncheon  
Presidential Address by Debbie Pendleton  
Embassy Suites                          |
Embassy Suites
300 Tallapoosa Street
334-269-5055
Reserve your room by March 24th by calling the hotel or online at www.embassysuitesmontgomery.com.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

Hampton Inn & Suites
100 Commerce Street
334-265-1010
Reserve your room by March 30th by calling the hotel or online at www.hilton.com or www.montgomerydowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

Alabama Department of Archives & History
Pre-meeting workshops
624 Washington Avenue
334-242-4364

Ware-Farley Hood House
Reception
450 N. Hull Street

Capital City Club
Banquet
RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
334-834-8920

Court Square Fountain
Commerce Street & Dexter Avenue

NewSouth Books
105 S. Court Street
334-834-3557

Freedom Rides Museum
210 South Court Street
334-230-2676

Rosa Parks Museum
252 Montgomery Street
334-241-8615

State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
334-242-3188

Alley Entertainment District
Commerce Street

Union Station
300 Water Street
334-261-1100

Riverwalk Stadium
200 Coosa Street
334-323-2255
Embassy Suites
300 Tallapoosa Street
334-269-5055
Reserve your room by March 24th by calling the hotel or online at www.embassysuitesmontgomery.com.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

Hampton Inn & Suites
100 Commerce Street
334-265-1010
Reserve your room by March 30th by calling the hotel or online at www.hilton.com or www.montgomerydowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

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334-242-3188

Alley Entertainment
District
Commerce Street

Union Station
300 Water Street
334-261-1100

Riverwalk Stadium
200 Coosa Street
334-323-2255
On Thursday, April 14, the AHA will offer several pre-meeting opportunities at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130. There is no separate charge to attend these events.

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Tours of the Museum of Alabama
ADAH staff will be available to help AHA members experience the Museum of Alabama. All exhibits will be available for touring, including the award-winning *Alabama Voices* exhibit and two temporary WWI exhibits -- *Alabama and the Great War* and the *Art of the Great War* poster exhibit.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Alabama Bicentennial Workshop
Alabama Bicentennial Commission staff members will conduct a workshop for AHA members on how they can become involved. Come and find out about local initiatives being planned in communities across the state, about exciting opportunities to make genealogical information available online, and how our schools will celebrate Alabama history and heritage during the Alabama Bicentennial commemorations.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – What Can You Do with a History Degree?
Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to network with representatives from the archives, museums, and preservation communities, as well as professors in public history programs around the state, and discover answers to this important question. This workshop will also include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Free limited off-street parking is available in the Archives parking lot across from the rear (south) entrance of the building off Adams Street. Please note the south entrance bears the inscription ALABAMA WORLD WAR MEMORIAL above the doors.

Making History Public opportunities on Thursday are co-sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities at Auburn University.

*Images courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama*
When one thinks of Montgomery history, one thinks of Mary Ann Neeley. The seventh-generation Alabamian has played an integral role in preserving Montgomery’s history through her tireless efforts in preserving Montgomery’s historic structures, her numerous writings detailing the capital city’s history, and her ability to captivate an audience through her vivid storytelling. Her enthusiasm and passion for Montgomery’s rich history is contagious, her talks captivating, her knowledge abundant, and her influence widespread.

Mary Ann has been involved in the Montgomery historic preservation scene since its beginning in the late 1960s. While teaching middle school English and History, Mary Ann was appointed to the Montgomery Historic Development Commission in 1975, where she performed one of the first architectural surveys of the downtown area. In 1979 she shifted her preservation efforts to a full-time position when she was appointed Executive Director of the Landmarks Foundation (Old Alabama Town). During her twenty-five year tenure, Landmarks flourished in restoring and acquiring additional properties, educating Alabama’s schoolchildren, and playing an important role of advocating for preservation throughout Montgomery.

The term “retirement” is foreign to Mary Ann. She conducts walking tours at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery’s historic neighborhoods, and the downtown area. She has mastered the ability to answer the basic question of why is this important with simple, yet humorous, and thought provoking answers. When not on her feet, she is answering reference questions, writing grants for Cultural Crossroads, speaking to locals and tourists on Montgomery history, and participating in various historical societies and community boards. She has authored several articles and books, including Montgomery in the 20th Century: Tradition and Change, 1880-2010 (2012), Old Alabama Town: An Illustrated Guide (2002), and Montgomery: Capital City Corners (1997). One of her most recent works, The Works of Matthew Blue, Montgomery’s First Historian (NewSouth, 2010) received AHA’s Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award in 2012. Throughout her career, Mary Ann has received numerous awards and honors including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Preservation Alliance, induction into the Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame in 2014, and an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Huntingdon College.

Mary Ann holds degrees from Huntingdon College and Auburn University, and is a past president of AHA (1989-1990). She will deliver the local history feature on Friday morning of the annual meeting.

Graham Neeley is a curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and the grandson of Mary Ann Nelley. Images courtesy of NewSouth Books.
Friday’s banquet speaker and story performer Dolores Hydock will introduce us to a young woman from Florence, Alabama, in the nineteenth century. In “A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart,” Hydock tells the story of Sallie Independence Foster, who began keeping a diary in 1861 when she was twelve years old. Her performance reveals the life of a young girl who confronts the realities of war as her brothers and family friends leave to fight in the Civil War. Sallie’s diary continues for another 22 years and Hydock’s performance allows us to journey with Sallie through adulthood, marriage, and child rearing in north Alabama through the late 1880s. Hydock’s program has been described as “richly entertaining,” and “funny and moving in unexpected ways.” Her presentation at the AHA banquet will provide a unique interpretation of archival materials from the University of North Alabama Special Collections.

A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, Hydock has lived in Alabama since the 1970s when she came to interview people of Chandler Mountain for a folklore project. She is well known for her one-woman shows, storytelling, acting, and as an Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar.
During my undergraduate studies at Howard College, now Samford University, I served as a student assistant for Dr. William Pratt Dale, a historian who associated with sophisticated leaders in higher education and enabled me to meet them through our friendship that lasted until his death in 1971. Dean Dale was close friends with James Sulzby, founding president of the Alabama Historical Association, and I was usually present when Sulzby came to visit Dale to talk history, politics and gossip.

One day in early 1956, I received a letter from Sulzby informing me that he was inviting me to become a member of the Alabama Historical Association, which was an organization of professional and lay historians. It acquired members by invitation only; not just anybody could join according to Sulzby.

As a result, I attended my first meeting of the AHA in April of 1956 in Montgomery during the time of the Bus Boycott. As we drove into the Capital City on old Highway 31, we met two or three city buses. The only persons on any of the buses were the white drivers and one or two black passengers seated about middle ways of the bus.

Continued on page 18
At the opening session I soon noticed that the only ladies present were the spouses of the historians attending the meeting. Sulzby acknowledged the presence of former U.S. Senator Dixie Bibbs Graves of Alabama whom he had to stand. She was stately dressed in a dark blue suit, hat and gloves. I remember her saying a few words about history and speaking positively about AHA. Her introduction caused me to think a woman senator from Alabama, how could that be? I soon learned that Mrs. Graves was appointed to fill the remainder of Senator Hugo Black’s term after he was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. I also learned it was understood at the time of her appointment that she would not run for a full term.

Later that day, Dean Dale and I enjoyed a visit to the Governor’s Mansion. Governor Folsom’s eldest daughter, Rachel, gave us a full tour of the first floor, including the library where Folsom, we later learned, had entertained Congressman Adam Clayton Powell. When I mentioned the Bus Boycott, she laughed and said, “Well, Governor Folsom’s position is well known and the matter is in the courts. They will work it out.” Andrew Jackson was one of Folsom’s favorite historical figures. He named his daughter, Rachel Jackson after Mrs. Andrew Jackson. His second son was named Andrew Jackson Folsom.

Back at the hotel, we met with a group of men that included Drs. Draughon, Owsley, Summersell, Macmillan and Bailey. They wanted to know how we got invited to the governor’s mansion and Dean Dale told them it was one of my projects. (Rachel and I knew each other from Cullman. She was one of my supporters in my successful, but tough campaign for president of the student body of Cullman High School.)

The one item of interest at the meeting was the announcement of the retirement of Marie Bankhead Owen as Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History and Peter Brannon as her successor.

Some of the men wanted to know what we learned about the Bus Boycott and Dale responded nothing that we did not already know. While some of the men thought that the boycott would blow over, most felt that the movement was “on a roll” and it would not subside until a lot of changes occurred.

Later that afternoon, Dean Dale and I went to the office of the State Chamber of Commerce. During a conversation about the Bus Boycott we learned that the Chamber folks were concerned about the economic impact, but they seemed to be guarded about what they said and how they said it.

The format of the meeting was very simple, but generally the same as today. There were groups that sat around discussing primarily historic matters, current events, and new productions in the history sphere. To me this was a singularly inspirational and learning experience that remains indelible to this day. At that meeting, I was the youngest member present and possibly I am still young in attitude, but oldest chronologically in attendance at this 2016 annual meeting. Never do I come to an annual meeting of AHA that I do not reminisce about attending the annual meeting in 1956 and the many wonderful and interesting leaders and members I have met along the way.

Chriss H. Doss is an attorney in Birmingham and longtime member of the Alabama Historical Association.
CHAMBERS COUNTY

New Hope Rosenwald School
The Rosenwald School program was a collaboration between educator Booker T. Washington and Sears CEO Julius Rosenwald to improve educational opportunities for African American children in the rural South during the early 1900’s. The Rosenwald program resulted in the construction of 4,977 schools scattered across 15 southern states. This New Hope Rosenwald School was constructed in 1919 at a cost of $1200, one-third of which was funded by the African American community. The one-teacher type school remained open until 1958. One of twenty Rosenwald Schools built in Chambers County, Ala., the New Hope School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 and received National Treasure Status in 2011.

Sponsored by the Town of Fredonia
[2015: Fredonia]

CULLMAN COUNTY

Holly Pond Cemetery
Established 1894
Listed in Alabama Historic Cemetery Register 2014
Marked by an antique arch, the Holly Pond Cemetery encompasses 10 acres and a chapel built in 1975. The site was chosen to replace the burial ground in the center of town and make room for the town to grow. The first acre was deeded to the deacons of the Baptist Church and the stewards of the Methodist Church. The first burial was a child, W.R. Hendrix, on 15 August 1894. Interred here are many of the early settlers who came here after the Civil War, including veterans of that conflict. The cemetery has been maintained by the Holly Pond Homemakers Club since 1949. As Holly Pond has grown, so has the cemetery providing the final resting place for over 2000 people.

Sponsored by the Holly Pond Historical Society
[2015: County Road 1669, Holly Pond]

CULLMAN COUNTY

First Baptist Church Holly Pond
First Baptist Church of Holly Pond was organized in 1885 as Holly Pond Missionary Baptist Church. Charter members included the families of P. R. Tennison, William Jefferson Hazelwood, Bill House, Seaborn Shaw, and Isaac Barnett. Over the course of the church’s life, the congregation worshipped in three different locations and five different sanctuaries. The first, destroyed by fire in 1895, was a wood-framed structure located in the triangle formed by HWY 278 and Blountsville Road. The second, destroyed by a wind storm in 1914, was a wood-framed building located 1/10 mile west of the first site. The third sanctuary was white, wood-framed, and located at the triangle formed by HWY 278 and New Hope Road, as was the fourth, a brick, Georgia Colonial structure built in 1939. The last was built on this site in 1978, the same year the church’s name was changed to First Baptist. Many preachers and missionaries have been sent from here to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dedicated October 2015 on the occasion of the church’s 130th anniversary.

Sponsored by the Holly Pond Historical Society
[2015: Holy Pond Missionary Baptist Church, 598 Countyline Drive, Slocomb]

DALLAS COUNTY

George Washington Carver Homes Projects, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street
In 1952, the City of Selma accepted federal funds to build the George Washington Carver Homes Projects. The residences became “The Face of the Civil Rights Movement” to many in the 1960s because Dr. King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and other organizers would dine and live with those families while fighting to secure the right to vote for African Americans. Many families who lived here were active participants in the Civil Rights Movement.

[2015: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, Selma]

GENEVA COUNTY

Countyline Missionary Baptist Church Slocomb, Alabama
The Countyline Missionary Baptist Church and adjoining cemetery were established in November 1882, on land donated by Shade Adams. Originally donated by way of a gentlemen’s agreement with the founding members, the land was deeded to the ‘Countyline Baptist Church of Colored People’ in 1892. The first parishioners, including Adline Adams (wife of Shade), Jane and Alexander Johnson, and Robert and Harriett Wadsworth, had moved to the area from Brundidge, naming their new church after the mother church they left behind. In the cemetery are the graves of the donor and the founding members, as well as those of scores of community members. The earliest marked grave, that of Novie Miller Copeland, is dated November 13, 1893.

[2015: 598 Countyline Drive, Slocomb]
HALE COUNTY

Candy's Landing
A significant port on the Warrior River, Candy's Landing was established by Jason Candy. Candy was the first merchant in the area, and was instrumental in founding the village of old Troy in 1817, on the eastern edge of what became Greensboro. The landing served as a shipping and receiving point for goods to and from Mobile by steamboat. Steamboats plied the river as far as Tuscaloosa beginning as early as 1821, and remained the primary mode of transportation for the next half century.

[2015: Southwest of Greensboro on the Warrior River]

LEE COUNTY

Desegregation at Auburn
The first African American student entered the library to register at Auburn University at this site. Acting on a court order, Auburn president Ralph Brown Draughon accepted the application of Harold Franklin as the first African American student in 1963. Hoping to avoid conflicts as had occurred during the desegregation of other universities across the South, Draughon scheduled the registration for Saturday, Jan. 4, 1964, and closed the campus to the public. University officials and FBI agents met Franklin at the nearby Auburn Methodist Church to escort him to campus. State troopers sent by Governor George Wallace blocked their access, forcing Franklin to proceed alone and unprotected. Some protesters assembled nearby, but no violence occurred and registration was concluded peacefully. A century of institutional segregation effectively ended that day, clearing the path for other African American students to enroll and attend Auburn University. Erected to commemorate 50 years of desegregation at Auburn University.

[2015: Draughon Library, Auburn]

LOWNDES COUNTY

The Crosby Water System – “The Well”
On land donated by Ed Crosby, a group of African American community leaders had a well dug in January 1955 to provide the people of Gordonville with running water. The Well, the first black-owned water system in Alabama, initially had just four spigots. Incorporated as the Crosby Water System in 1963, the company’s initial board members included Rev. J.C. Lawson, Lee Jackson, Sr., R.C. Maye, Coley Whiting, Russell Stallworth, Sidney Logan, Sr., J.T. Haynes, Albert Ross, Nap Nelson, and Cornelius Williamson. The system was expanded in the same year to pump water from its 3,000-gallon tank to the homes of the original thirty-nine stockholders. As the community grew, its need for water exceeded the capacity of The Well and the water rights were sold in 1994.

Listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, June 2012
[2015: Wall Street, Gordonville]

LOWNDES COUNTY

Varner’s Cash Store
On August 20, 1965, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a 26-year-old Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, was shot dead at point blank range here. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and was attending Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Daniels came to Selma in March, 1965, and led a movement to integrate the Episcopal Church there. On August 14, he went to support a demonstration in Fort Deposit. The group was arrested, brought to the Hayneville jail, and held for six days. Released on August 20, Daniels and the others walked from the jail to Varner’s Cash Store to buy soft drinks. As they approached, Tom Coleman emerged with a shotgun, raised it, and fired. Daniels pushed Ruby Sales, a seventeen-year-old Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee worker, out of the way before being killed by the blast. As the others fled, Coleman fired again, wounding Father Richard Morrisroe, a Catholic priest. Coleman was tried for manslaughter and acquitted by an all-white jury. Hours after the verdict, Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. dismissed all charges from the Fort Deposit demonstration. Daniels is honored on August 14th on the calendar of the Episcopal Church.

[2015: Hayneville]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Birth of Montgomery Bus Boycott
Boycott Planned & Publicized Here at ASU’s Councill Hall
On Dec. 1, 1955, at Alabama State College (now Alabama State University) in a basement room in Councill Hall, the Montgomery Bus Boycott was planned and publicized after the arrest that day of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white person on a segregated city bus. Following Parks’ arrest, Alabama State College took action. Jo Ann Robinson, a faculty member, authored the text of a flyer calling for blacks to boycott segregated city buses and, joined by others, responded to Parks’ arrest by mimeographing thousands of flyers here calling for a one-day boycott of the buses to start the following Monday, Dec. 5. Assisted by members of the Women’s Political Council (WPC), they distributed them throughout the city’s black community in hopes of ending segregation on city buses.

Sponsored by the Kenneth Mullinax Foundation
Birth of Montgomery Bus Boycott

Boycott Planned & Publicized Here at ASU’s Councill Hall

Robinson was perhaps the person most instrumental in planning and publicizing the 1955 Boycott, proposing the idea to the WPC more than a year before it was implemented. She was assisted by WPC members who included Thelma Glass, Irene West, Mary Fair Burks & others; and advised by activist E.D. Nixon & attorney Fred Gray (ASU alumnus ’51) who was also eager to challenge the segregated bus law. Because of the spark that was lit here, news of the planned protest received widespread publicity & on Dec. 5, the Boycott was successful with over 90% of the city’s black citizens staying off the buses. The city’s black leaders extended the Boycott into a long-term campaign that lasted from Dec. 5, 1955 until Dec. 20, 1956, with widespread black support. It was successful when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed Browder v. Gayle, which struck down laws requiring segregated seating on public buses. This was the seminal birth of the modern American Civil Rights Movement.

Sponsored by the Kenneth Mullinax Foundation

Archives and War Memorial Building

A monumental structure to house the Department of Archives and History was envisioned at the close of World War I and again in a 1930 Olmsted Brothers plan for the Capitol Complex, but inadequate resources delayed its construction. In 1937, Marie Bankhead Owen, second director of the Archives, secured New Deal funds to build the central portion of a design by architect William T. Warren of Birmingham. The building opened to national acclaim in 1940 and was dedicated as the state’s World War I memorial. The addition of an east wing in 1974 and a west wing in 2005 fulfilled Warren’s vision for the complete structure. In 2014, the state dedicated an expanded and updated Museum of Alabama on the second floor.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Cecil School

Rosenwald schools, built from 1912-1932, were conceived by Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck, to educate black children in the rural South. The Cecil school was built in 1924-25 on five acres of land as a two-teacher type at a cost of $3,850. Rosenwald funds, local donations and hands-on-work by black and white community members helped to build the school. After 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court’s educational desegregation ruling rendered Rosenwald schools obsolete. Many Rosenwald schools, once the pride of their communities, have been neglected, abandoned or demolished.

Sponsored by the East Montgomery County Historical Society

Chantilly Plantation

Chantilly Plantation was purchased in 1832 at public outcry by Dr. Thomas Burge Taylor of Columbia, SC as a wedding gift for his bride, Harriott Pinkney Raoul. John Ashurst, its original owner, had moved further west. Harriott, a French woman, chose the name Chantilly after Chantilly, France. She was responsible for enlarging the home and landscaping the grounds in the 1830s. Chantilly supplied many goods to other area plantations. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had no children, so Chantilly passed to his sister’s children, the Charles, who lived at Rose Hill. Chantilly has descended to Dr. Taylor’s heirs for eight generations.

Sponsored by the East Montgomery County Historical Society
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Montgomery County Circuit Court
Site of Major Civil Rights Cases 1956-1960

In 1956, 89 persons were indicted for violating an anti-boycott law; Rosa Parks' conviction was appealed; the Montgomery Improvement Association car pool was enjoined; and Fred D. Gray was accused of legal misrepresentation (actions in all 4 cases ended with the successful end of the boycott). In 1957, the NAACP was banned from Alabama (later overturned). In 1960, black Alabama State College and white MacMurray College (Illinois) students were jailed for eating together at the Regal Cafe, and a white and a black student were arrested for attempted desegregation of the Jefferson Davis Hotel; all convictions in these cases were reversed. Also in 1960, local black ministers were sued for libel in the case that resulted in the landmark 1964 Times v. Sullivan ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, and Martin Luther King Jr. was acquitted by an all-white jury in a tax case. African American lawyers acting in the courts here included attorneys Fred D. Gray, Charles Langford, Solomon Seay Jr., Charles Conley, Orzell Billingsley, Peter Hall, Arthur Shores, and Robert Carter.

Sponsored by the Montgomery Improvement Association

Side two

Sit-Ins and Marches at the Montgomery County Courthouse

On February 25, 1960, Alabama State College students demanded service at the “Whites Only” Courthouse Grille located on this site. When refused, the students occupied all the tables. The Grille was then closed, the lights turned off, and the students asked to leave. Subsequently, 9 ASC students were expelled, a dozen professors were pressured to resign, and the president was compelled to step down. Fred D. Gray filed St. John Dixon v. Alabama as a result of these actions and ultimately the students were reinstated. On March 17, 1965, after a week of voting rights demonstrations in Montgomery marred by police violence against the protesters, some 4,000 students from Montgomery and Tuskegee marched on the Montgomery County Courthouse where leaders met with city, county, state, and federal officials. During the 7-hour meeting, students sang and chanted in the rain outside. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged from the meeting, he announced that officials had apologized for the recent violence.

Sponsored by the Montgomery Improvement Association

[2015: 252 Montgomery Street, Montgomery]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was arrested on this site for refusing the order of city bus driver J. F. Blake to vacate her seat under the segregation laws of the Jim Crow era. She was taken to police headquarters at City Hall for booking, then to the municipal jail on Ripley Street. Civil rights leader E. D. Nixon, accompanied by attorney Clifford Durr, soon arrived to post her bail. Parks’s arrest galvanized black leaders to organize a boycott of the bus system for December 5, the date she was to appear in Municipal Court. Her conviction and the success of the one-day bus protest inspired the creation of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to continue what came to be known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Side two

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

The 382-day boycott was the first sustained mass demonstration against segregation in the U.S. and launched the 20th-century civil rights movement. It also thrust Martin Luther King Jr., the elected leader of the MIA, into national prominence. The boycott ended after a lawsuit filed by Mrs. Parks’s attorney, Fred D. Gray, ultimately led the federal courts to declare segregated bus seating unconstitutional. Mrs. Parks went on to become a national heroine, but in the aftermath of the boycott she and her husband were denied employment in Montgomery. They moved to Detroit, where she lived out her life. She died October 24, 2005, universally honored for her courage and activism.

[2015: South Lawrence Street]

MORGAN COUNTY

Battle of Decatur

The Battle of Decatur, Oct. 26-29, 1864, was the result of Confederate Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood’s effort to move his army across the Tennessee River and into central Tennessee in an attempt to reclaim Nashville. The engagement occurred as part of the larger Franklin-Nashville Campaign. The Union garrison at Decatur, commanded by U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert S. Granger, prevented Hood from crossing and forced him to move his army westward and eventually cross the river at Tuscumbia some 40 miles away. Ultimately the engagement here would delay Hood’s crossing of the Tennessee River and contribute to his failure in December to retake Nashville for the Confederacy. A lack of provisions for his starving army and stiff resistance put forth by Granger’s garrison, combined with the arrival of two Union gunboats, convinced Hood and his superior, Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, who had arrived on the scene the night of Oct. 27, that further action against Decatur would be foolhardy. During the engagement, the South suffered approx. 450 casualties, whereas the Union lost 155 men.

[2015: Decatur]
MORGAN COUNTY

Cherokee Trail of Tears

Of the various detachments that removed the Cherokee People from their home lands in the southeastern United States, three of them landed in Decatur at what became Rhodes Ferry Park. Due to the difficulty of navigating the Muscle Shoals portion of the Tennessee River, the Cherokee were transported from Decatur Landing to Tuscumbia Landing using the newly built Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur Railroad. On March 7, 1837, the Major Ridge party docked at Decatur with 471 Cherokee. The Lt. Edward Deas detachment landed here on June 9, 1838 with 800 Cherokee, and on June 21, 1838, the Lt. Robert H. K. Whiteley detachment landed with 1000 Cherokee. Out of the three detachments, there was but one documented fatality in Decatur, that of an elderly Cherokee woman. A second documented fatality happened en route between Decatur and Tuscumbia involving a Cherokee man crushed by the train.

[2015: Rhodes Ferry Park, Decatur]

TALLADEGA COUNTY

Tallasahatchie Baptist Church

Founded in 1833, Tallasahatchie Baptist parishioners have been meeting on this site in the same raw-log sanctuary since 1837, longer than any Baptist church in Talladega County. Its historical significance to the area was recognized in October 2014, when it was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

[2015: 3343 Tallasahatchie Road, Alpine]

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Side one

Edward Bell High School

On this site Tallapoosa County Training School, later renamed Edward Bell High School, became the first high school for African Americans in Tallapoosa County, Alabama in 1931, with graduation of its first two students in 1933. It was a pioneer educational institution for students in the County and beyond, with an emphasis on college and vocational curricula. In 1947, citizens of the community built the first gymnasium, lunchroom, and additional classrooms from donated building materials. During the late 1950’s the older building burned and a new building was constructed at a nearby site. Extracurricular activities included sports, band, newspaper, photography, solar energy, hydroponics, aquaculture, greenhouse, and gardening projects. The school bore the name of Edward Bell, one of its several outstanding principals. School colors were Royal Blue and White and the mascot was the Bear.

Side two

Alma Mater

Hail to thee, Our Alma Mater, Dear
Thru the years, you’ve shone your beacon light
Over hills and mountain valley clear
Let our hearts go forth and show thy love and might.
Dear EBH, thou name and fame
Shall ever live and flourish through the ages.
Our school so dear, All hail to thee!
Our Alma Mater, All Hail!

[2015: Ala. Highway 50, Camp Hill]

Fletcher Napoleon Farrington, Sr
1902 - 1968, County Agent and Civic Leader

Fletcher Farrington, after graduating from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), came to Tallapoosa County as a county agent for the Agricultural Extension Service in 1932. Concluding that soil erosion was the local farmers’ most pressing problem, he launched a cooperative program that loaned small farmers the large tractors needed to introduce the newly developed “Nichols terrace” method of plowing hillside cropland. With the support of the county judge and commissioners, the program was widely emulated as an effective soil conservation tool during the Great Depression. In 1934, Farrington organized the Dadeville Kiwanis Club and served as its first president. As county agricultural agent and Dadeville community leader, he embraced the idea of “Farm-City Week,” a program that brought agricultural and business leaders together to share ideas. Soon after it was introduced to and adopted by Kiwanis International in 1955, Farrington became one of the program’s national spokesmen. He retired from the Extension Service in 1961 and began working for the Alabama Farm Bureau’s Rural – Urban Relations Division. There, he initiated the Agribusiness Career Day program to encourage youth to stay in farming as a business.

[2015: Dadeville]

WINSTON COUNTY

First 9-1-1 Call

The first 9-1-1 emergency services telephone call was made from the office of the mayor on February 16, 1968. Earlier in the year, AT&T, which had a near monopoly in the telephone industry at the time, had announced its plans for launching the service from an Indiana exchange. The Alabama Telephone Company, an independent entity, resolved to beat the telecommunications giant to the mark and chose the Haleyville exchange to launch its successful effort. With much fanfare, Alabama House Speaker Rankin Fite placed the first 9-1-1 call in the nation to U.S. Congressman Tom Bevill, who answered in the Haleyville police station.

[2015: 1901 11th Avenue, Haleyville]
SAVE THE DATE!

THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE

will be

October 7-8, 2016

in Decatur!

Old State Bank, Courtesy of the Decatur Convention and Visitors Bureau