Join us for the 68th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, Mobile, Alabama, April 9-11, 2015
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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: History Museum of Mobile, Courtesy of History Museum of Mobile.
In an 1860 *Debow’s Review* article, a visitor to Mobile noted that, in the port city, “the fine climate, the suburban attractions, and the creation of a thousand allurements, that cluster around social life, have operated much in her favor.” Another 19th-century resident summed up the prevailing local attitude by claiming that “there is no more delectable city on all the Gulf of Mexico than Mobile.” Indeed, Mobilians have been bragging about their city for over three centuries. Today Mobile is a community proud of its past yet also looking to the future. On any given day in the city, you can sit on the porch of an antebellum home and see the navy’s most modern destroyers being assembled across the river or stroll along the wall of a re-created colonial fort and observe the construction of the nation’s newest aircraft assembly plant.

As president of the Alabama Historical Association, it will be my pleasure to welcome you to my hometown of Mobile this April 9-11 where I believe you will enjoy many of the aforementioned “allurements.” Although the Association will be hard-pressed to top the hospitality shown to us by our friends in south Shelby County at the Fall Pilgrimage, the local arrangements committee in Mobile has gone to great lengths to roll out the welcome mat as you experience our 300-year-old community. The program committee has had the (pleasant) problem of having to sort through a large number of quality paper proposals. The wonderful staffs of the History Museum of Mobile as well as the other local historic venues have been more than gracious in opening their facilities and are anxiously awaiting your visit.

Our spring meeting will coincide with the official end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Locally, it will also mark the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Spanish Fort, the Battle of Blakeley and the surrender of Mobile. As such, we have several special features planned. Our traditional Thursday night reception will be sandwiched between two “bonus” presentations. For the early arrivers, Frye Gaillard will present a talk entitled “Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family’s Civil War Letters.” After the reception, Bob Bradley will speak on “The Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely.” Additionally, during the Friday afternoon tours, we have arranged for several “tour talks” for those that want a more in-depth experience at the selected sites. Perhaps the highlight of the weekend will be our annual banquet. This event will be held at the historic Battle House Hotel and will feature LSU’s award-winning historian William J. Cooper, Jr. There is even a rumor of a late night tour of the Dauphin Street entertainment district.

For the most part, this will be a walking event. Plan to arrive early on Thursday, park your car, and enjoy three days of great programs, venues, and Mobile hospitality. If you have not been to downtown area lately, you are in for a treat. I am honored to serve as your president and I look forward to seeing you all in Mobile.
A lingering fog hovered above the river as journalist Edward King made his way into Mobile on a stagecoach along the Old Shell road in the spring of 1873. From the carriage, he peered through the light haze as the pace of the horses quickened near the city’s main thoroughfare. The waterfront emerged from the fog, giving King what he called “a dimly seen vision” of the bustling harbor, the artery of a southern seaport slowly emerging from more than a decade of war and Reconstruction. The sights and smells of the little city surrounded him:

“The delicate hint of infinity on the mingled wave and haze-horizon; the memories of siege and battle, awakened by the sight of the dim line of Blakely coast; the penetrating perfume wafted from magnolias and pines; the soul clarifying radiance of the sunshine, which industriously drove away the light mist, all conspired to surround me with an enchantment not dispelled until I had once more gained the streets of the town.”

As members of the Alabama Historical Association gather for the group’s tenth meeting in Mobile, many will catch a similar glimpse of the faraway city. A fleeting glance from the apex of the Delta Bridge, or the panoramic scene at the beginning of the I-10 Bayway, reveals the Port City’s smattering of skyscrapers in the distance, appearing to have sprung up like a kind of curious foliage from the marsh alongside the river that gave the place its name. One wonders what Edward King might have thought of such colossal steel structures.

Mobile, three centuries-rich in its own historical associations, seems an appropriate meeting site, indeed, for the oldest organization committed to preserving Alabama history. The city and the surrounding region boast a complex, and often eminently colorful array of characters, from the Native American chieftains who called the area home for centuries, to the Brothers Le Moyne and the hardscrabble settlers who followed them in the name of the king, each of them forming a tapestry of life in this once remote frontier. Here was the place where Robert Farmar dreamt of a British empire in the New World, and where the cannonades of Bernado Galvez brought these dreams to their destructive end. A place marked by the footprints of explorers, from La Salle to Andrew Ellicott, and by the eager thousands who later descended the Federal Road, caught up in “Alabama fever.” Later in the mid-twentieth century, the onslaught began anew, this time ignited by the promise of wartime employment. These settlers of a new age flooded into the city like a torrent of water, and left in their wake a trampled town, the victim of a kind of human hurricane. The end of the war left a dramatically changed city, with a complex history of race relations and internecine struggles for control between the newcomers and the Old Guard. Modern Mobile is a city of contradiction, an ever-changing, quixotic seaport, embracing its continued opportunities for greatness although seemingly encased at times in Antebellum amber.

There may be no more appropriate host for the Association’s return to Mobile than the History Museum of Mobile, located in the Old City Hall/Southern Market, a beautifully-restored Italianate structure that has commanded the corner of South Royal and Church streets for more than 150 years. Commissioned in 1855, city leaders intended the dual-purpose facility to be “an ornament to the city.” Through a never-ending array of change, through wars and storms both political and real, the venerable old building has remained. Since 2001 it has served as the home of the History Museum of Mobile. Old City Hall, gleaming white and trimmed in ornate black iron lace, now holds the history of south Alabama, building from a core collection of over 100,000 artifacts. Members of the Association will find quite an array of new offerings at the History Museum, but none
Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia

This colorful exhibit follows artist Roderick D. MacKenzie, who grew up in Mobile, on his twelve-year sojourn through India near the turn of the twentieth century. The History Museum’s exhibition, and accompanying book, offers the first exhaustive exploration into the artist’s time in India, a country he described as exotic, colorful, and dangerous. The exhibition includes a replica of the masterwork of MacKenzie’s career, an eighteen-foot painting depicting the coronation of Edward VII as king of England and emperor of India. Returning to America in 1913, Alabama scenes filled the final decades of MacKenzie’s life, but the people of India remained a lifelong muse.

A chronicle of a different kind will accompany the MacKenzie exhibit. In March, the History Museum will mark the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with an exhibition that serves as a poignant reminder of those horrific months when the waters of the Gulf teemed not with life, but with deadly thick, black tar. More than twenty local artists and students will lend their works to this exhibit entitled, What’s at Stake?, designed to remind visitors of the beauty and the uniqueness of the Gulf region, and the necessity of its protection.

Several years ago, the History Museum hosted an exhibition of wreckage from the World Trade Center on the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. It seemed equally important to the staff to mark the fifth anniversary of the oil spill, another story in our recent past that shapes our everyday lives, and that does not yet have an ending.

Complementing these highlights, members of the Association will find several new additions to the museum’s permanent displays, including the Semmes gallery, which features one of the cannons recovered from the wreckage of the CSS Alabama, captained by the irascible Raphael Semmes. On the second floor, visitors can explore the new Mary Jane Slaton Inge Gallery. Named in memory of one of the museum’s longest-serving volunteers and most-loyal patrons, the Inge Gallery features some of the museum’s finest pieces, including Boehm porcelain, Baccarat crystal, Limoges china, as well as souvenirs from several of Mobile’s oldest mystic societies.

The walls of the museum’s auditorium are now home to its newest permanent display, a portrait gallery entitled, Faces of Mobile. Visitors will find a diverse array of Mobilians upon these walls, men and women both famous and obscure, including the founder of Mobile’s modern Carnival revelry, Joe Cain; civil rights activist
John LeFlore; Antebellum socialite Octavia LeVert; African American businessman and journalist A.N. Johnson; New South merchant Leopold Hammell; and Mary Fenollosa, author of books on Mobile and Imperial Japan. The History Museum envisions a long and bright future for the Faces gallery, including a forthcoming publication, and an online collaboration with our colleagues at the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

In the fall of 2014, these efforts were aided tremendously by Mobile Mayor William S. Stimpson, who removed the History Museum’s admission fees, ensuring, to our delight, that nothing stands in the way of Mobile’s families and visitors from reaping the benefits of what the History Museum of Mobile has to offer. The results have been truly amazing.

We at the History Museum of Mobile are proud to host their friends and colleagues from the Alabama Historical Association as they return to the old seaport. Mobile has many names, some more apt than others. Eugene Walter called it “sweet lunacy’s county seat.” Henry Miller preferred “Mozart for the mandolin.” It’s the Port City, the Azalea City, Cotton City, the City of Perpetual Potential, the Passive-Aggressive Capital of the World (that one’s mine), and the City of Five Flags. It’s the birthplace of American Mardi Gras – and don’t you forget it – and a host of pirates, politicians, poets, and pugilists, the denizen of scoundrels and scriveners alike. It’s home, and we welcome you back to it.

Across the street from the History Museum, members of the Association will find a renovated Fort Condé. When the History Museum took over operation of the replica French fort several years ago it was clear that this venerable downtown tourist trap had seen better days. Little had been done to the facility since its dedication in 1976 as part of the American Bicentennial. After long delays, including two hurricanes, the facility has been restored to serve a much greater purpose as the History Museum’s colonial history wing and the center of its education department. New exhibits grace the main room, with additional developments planned for the coming year.

The future is bright, indeed, for the History Museum of Mobile, and the lion’s share of the credit goes to its director, and longtime Association member, David E. Alsobrook. In his eight years at the History Museum, Alsobrook has encouraged a return to more in-house exhibitions, better public programs, and more focused educational opportunities for the region’s schoolchildren. Alsobrook was responsible for the decision to produce Ark of India as a traveling exhibition, launching a string of planned rentable exhibits on topics as diverse as the New Deal in Alabama, south Alabama’s notorious outlaws, and the experiences of south Alabamians during the Great War. These exhibitions, combined with a new publications division and exciting public programs bode well for an institution entering its fiftieth year.

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68th ANNUAL MEETING of the Alabama Historical Association
April 9-11, 2015 • Mobile, Alabama

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  MAKING HISTORY PUBLIC WORKSHOP
History Museum of Mobile, Classroom

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  PRE-MEETING TOURS
Fort Condé
Guided Tours of the History Museum of Mobile

5:00 p.m.  BOOK TALK: Frye Gaillard, Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family’s Civil War Letters
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

6:00 p.m.  RECEPTION
History Museum of Mobile, First Floor

7:30 p.m.  CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL FEATURE
“Mobile 1865: The Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely”
Robert Bradley, Alabama Department of Archives and History
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 a.m.  REGISTRATION, COFFEE
Christ Church Cathedral

9:00 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION
Christ Church Cathedral

10:45 a.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS
History Museum of Mobile

Session A: Mobile’s Roots

• “Widow’s Row and the Mobile Female Benevolent Society, 1829-1865,”
  Rachel Powell, Auburn University

• “Appearance and Experience: An Exploration of the Side Hall With Wing Houses of Mobile, Alabama,” Cartledge Blackwell, III, Mobile Historic Development Commission

• “Jones Mitchell Withers: The Unsung Hero of Three Wars and Popular Mayor of Mobile,” John Allen, Huntsville
FRIDAY, APRIL 10 Continued

Session B: The World Wars and Alabama
• “Forgotten Voices of the Great War: Remembering the Alabama Wildmen of the Rainbow Division,” Nimrod T. Frazer, Montgomery
• “A Diarrhea of Plans and Constipations of Action: The Influence of Alabama Cotton Farmers, Merchants, and Brokers on Anglo-American Diplomacy during the First World War, 1914-1915,” Ryan Floyd, Lander University
• “To Help Business and Alabama Grow Together: Economic Development in Alabama in the World War II Era,” Matthew Downs, University of Mobile

Session C: Crime and Punishment in Alabama
• “The Civil Rights Movement in Perry County,” Valerie Burnes, University of West Alabama

Session D: Emerging Scholars in Alabama
• “In the Cross Hall: Dr. James Searcy, Bryce Hospital, and the Madness of Woman Called Andrew Sheffield,” Thomas Bockhorn, University of Alabama in Huntsville
• “Latter-Day Saint Beginnings in Alabama,” Adam Petty, University of Alabama
• “The Team that Never Lost a Game: Monday Morning Quarterback Club and the Crippled Children’s Foundation,” Beth Hunter, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Noon  LUNCH  Fort Condé

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOURS
• Guided Tours – History Museum of Mobile
• Magnolia Cemetery, Tour Talk at 2:00 p.m.
• Government Street Presbyterian Church
• Cathedra-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Tour Talk at 3:00
• Condé-Charlotte Museum House

6:00 p.m.  COCKTAIL HOUR  
Battle House Hotel

7:00 p.m.  ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
• Battle House Hotel
• Keynote address: “Jefferson Davis and the Meaning of the War,” by Dr. William Cooper, Jr., Louisiana State University
SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:45 a.m.  REGISTRATION, COFFEE, BOOK SALES
History Museum of Mobile Lobby

9:45 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

10:30 a.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session A: The Impending Crisis and Its Legacy
• “Free Versus Slave Labor: An Industrial Conflict in Antebellum Auburn,” Ralph Draughon, Jr., Auburn
• “Amusement-Hungry City: Mobile Under Threat by Union Forces, 1864-1865,” Harriet Amos Doss, University of Alabama at Birmingham
• “Searching for Freedom: Klansman, Carpetbagger, Scalawag, and Freedman,” Guy Hubbs, Birmingham-Southern College

Session B: Alabama’s Past, Present, and Future: Planning for Alabama’s Bicentennial
• Keith Hebert, Auburn University
• Carolyn Barske, University of North Alabama
• Jay Lamar, Alabama Bicentennial Commission

Session C: A Life in Color: A Retrospective of the Career of Artist Roderick D. MacKenzie
• Scotty Kirkland, History Museum of Mobile
• Marlene Rikard, Samford University
• Jacob Laurence, History Museum of Mobile

Session D: Alabama’s Contested Roots
• “The Alabama Campaign of 1965: A Student Crusade for Voting Rights,” Howard Robinson, Alabama State University
• “Defining an African Heritage in Alabama,” Justin Rudder, ADAH

Noon:  ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Centre for the Living Arts
Presidential Address by Dr. Lonnie Burnett
MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

MAP KEY

1. History Museum of Mobile
   111 South Royal Street

2. Hampton Inn
   62 South Royal Street

3. Fort Condé
   150 South Royal Street

4. Condé-Charlotte Museum House
   104 Theatre Street

5. Battle House Hotel
   26 North Royal Street

6. Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
   2 South Claiborne Street

7. Christ Church Cathedral
   115 South Conception Street
   (off Church Street)

8. Gov. Street Presbyterian
   300 Government Street

9. Centre for the Living Arts
   301 Conti Street

10. Magnolia Cemetery

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile Downtown Historic District

Book your room by March 9 and mention the AHA to receive a special rate of $110 per night. You may call the hotel directly at 251-436-8787 or register online at www.mobiledowntown.hamptoninn.com
Making History Public Workshop to Feature Publishers on April 9

On Thursday, April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the History Museum of Mobile classroom, learn about publishing Alabama history from the staff of *Alabama Heritage*, *The Alabama Review*, Encyclopedia of Alabama, NewSouth Books, and the University of Alabama Press. Anyone interested in publishing historical research is invited to attend this workshop. Although there is no charge to attend, please register online at www.alabamahistory.net.

The Making History Public Workshop is co-sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University and the Center for Public History at University of Alabama Huntsville.
History Museum and Fort Condé
Open on Thursday Afternoon

On Thursday afternoon, as part of their regular business hours, staff members will offer guided tours at the History Museum of Mobile, including Ark of India, the museum’s current anchor exhibit chronicling Roderick MacKenzie’s time in India. Staff will also conduct tours of the museum’s Faces of Mobile portrait gallery, the Mary Jane Inge Gallery, which features some of the finest pieces in its collection, and the Semmes Gallery, which features several artifacts recovered from the wreckage of the CSS Alabama.

Across the street, at the recently renovated Fort Condé, staff will discuss Mobile’s Colonial roots and provide a glimpse into the upcoming exhibitions that will complete the first retrofit of the fort since it opened in 1976.

Fort Condé will remain open until 4:30 p.m. and the History Museum of Mobile will be open until 5:00 p.m. The History Museum will host a book talk with Frye Gaillard at 5:00 p.m., followed by the AHA’s reception at 6:00 p.m. The History Museum of Mobile and Fort Condé will also be open during the Friday afternoon tour sessions, and a schedule of exhibit tours will be available on site.
On Thursday, April 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the History Museum of Mobile, author Frye Gaillard will discuss his latest book Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family’s Civil War Letters.

In the book, Gaillard reflects on the war—and the way we remember it—through the lens of letters written by family members, including great-great grandfather, Thomas Gaillard and Thomas’s sons, Franklin and Richebourg, both of whom were Confederate officers. As Gaillard explains in his deeply felt introductory essay to Journey to the Wilderness, he came of age in a Southern generation that viewed the war as a glorious lost cause. But as he read through family letters collected and handed down, he confronted a far more sobering truth and offers a personal critique of the haunted identity of the South.

Frye Gaillard is Writer in Residence at the University of South Alabama and the award-winning author of more than twenty books, including Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America, winner of the Lillian Smith Award. Journey to the Wilderness is published by NewSouth Books and will be available for purchase and signing.

Images courtesy of NewSouth Books
Robert Bradley to Discuss the Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, 1865

As a bonus lecture following the Friday evening reception – the 150th anniversary of the fall of Fort Blakely – Robert Bradley will discuss the siege and reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the History Museum of Mobile.

As the American Civil War began to draw to a close in April of 1865, part of the last major campaign of the war was played out in Alabama. Bradley will discuss the specifics of the campaign and how the events in Alabama in April, 1865 fit within General Grant’s plan for ending the war. According to Bradley, “The campaign for Mobile and Wilson’s Raid are often treated as separate events and almost as local history when they were, in fact, coordinated and part of a much bigger picture.” He will also discuss the current condition of the sites.

Robert (Bob) Bradley is the Chief Curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. From 1974-1986, he was a historian with the National Park Service, specializing in the management, preservation, and interpretation of 18th -to mid-20th-century fortifications and military sites. From 1986-1988, Bradley was Historic Sites Administrator for the Alabama Historical Commission. He is the author of Documenting the Civil War Period Flag Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, which is available on the Department’s web-site, and he has contributed to a wide variety of Civil War publications. He is also very active in Civil War battlefield preservation.
In 1835, Bishop Portier directed the laying of the cornerstone to begin this ambitious project. It would take 15 years to complete the structure of Roman design. Doric columns supported the barrel-vaulted ceilings of the 162 by 90 foot cathedral. The 1880s saw the addition of the portico with the adjacent towers being completed during the next decade. The new century saw the installation of the Franz Myer stained glass windows. These magnificent works of art highlight Mary’s role in the life of Jesus and the Church. In 1962, Pope John XXIII designated the structure a Minor Basilica due to its historical, cultural and artistic importance. Interior renovations were required after a devastating fire in 1954. Additional restoration and enhancements which highlight French and Irish heritage of the area’s Catholic community were completed in 2004. For 180 years the Cathedral has withstood the vicissitudes of time, fire, war and wind to serve the spiritual, cultural and community needs of Mobile. AHA members are invited to tour the Cathedral on Friday between 1 and 4. A special Tour Talk will begin at 3 pm.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Condé-Charlotte Museum House is a gateway to Mobile’s history. Built in 1850 by the Kirkbride family on the foundation of a jail dating back to 1822, cell doors and a portion of a jail floor can be seen in the house today. The museum’s mission is to preserve its historic structure and collection in order to interpret the history of the site and the influence of those who have flown their flags over the city – France, England, Spain, the Confederate States of America, and the United States.

In the house are a British Commandant’s room, an American Federal dining room, two Confederate parlors, a French Sitting room and bedroom, and two American bedrooms. A walled Spanish garden of late 18th century design and a kitchen filled with late 19th and early 20th century equipment complement the house. The variety and authenticity of the furnishings make the house a charming museum.

Located in the heart of Fort Condé Village, the Condé-Charlotte Museum House is owned, preserved, and operated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Alabama.
Government Street Presbyterian Church

Nestled on the corner of Government and Jackson streets just five blocks west of the History Museum of Mobile, Government Street Presbyterian Church offers a vista of the Port City’s architectural grandeur in the decades preceding the Civil War. In 1836 the Government Street Presbyterian congregation purchased the lot on which the church currently resides after outgrowing their previous accommodations a few blocks to the east. Architects James Gallier and the brothers James and Charles Dakin designed the church, which upon its completion in 1839 became one of the first – and finest - examples of the Greek Revival style outside of New York City. Local businessman Henry Hitchcock underwrote the initial construction of the building, complete with a steeple and Mobile's first fire bell before an 1852 hurricane removed those features. Additions were made in the early twentieth century to offset a shortage of space in the original building, yet throughout the interior and exterior of Government Street Presbyterian Church has retained its original Greek Revival character and captivates visitors to Mobile.

Magnolia Cemetery

Located minutes from the heart of downtown Mobile, Magnolia Cemetery covers over 120 acres and contains 80,000 grave sites, including two Alabama governors, seven congressmen, mayors, generals, rabbis, free blacks, society women, among other notable figures. Established in 1836, the oldest portion of the cemetery includes Confederate Rest, with 1,100 burial plots from notable Confederates including General Braxton Bragg and memorials to the crew of the submarine *H.L. Hunley*, and National Cemetery, which includes veterans’ graves from the Civil War and later conflicts. The cemetery also includes a number of plots belonging to Mobile’s fraternal and professional organizations, characterized by striking decorations symbolizing the work or interest of those groups. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and visitors can expect to experience beautiful funerary art and memorials while exploring Magnolia’s colorful history. The cemetery is open for public tours during the conference, with a special talk on the cemetery’s history scheduled for Friday, April 10th, at 2:00 pm.
During the opening session of the Mobile meeting, historian John S. Sledge will read selections from his forthcoming book entitled *The Mobile River*.

Sledge, senior architectural historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission and a member of the National Book Critics Circle, is well-known to members of the Alabama Historical Association and the southern literary scene. He is the author of several notable books on south Alabama, including *Cities of Silence: A Guide to Mobile’s Historic Cemeteries* (University of Alabama Press, 2002), *An Ornament to the City: Old Mobile Ironwork* (University of Georgia Press, 2006), and *The Pillared City: Greek Revival Mobile* (University of Georgia Press, 2009).

His most recent publication is *Southern Bound: A Gulf Coast Journalist on Books, Writers, and Literary Pilgrimages of the Heart* (University of South Carolina Press, 2013), a collection of essays and book reviews from his long tenure as editor of the Books page with the *Mobile Press-Register*.

Those who know Sledge realize that the river book has been a long time coming. What has emerged from this lifelong fascination with the river is a dynamic book, rapid in pace, and beautifully written. Inspired by the venerable *Rivers of America* series, Sledge mixes chronological and thematic elements with his own personal experiences to form a resonating portrait of the Mobile, from its hinterland headwaters to the breezy and deadly Gulf of Mexico.

The History Museum of Mobile will be taking preorders for the book during the annual meeting.
Dr. William J. Cooper, Jr. will discuss “Jefferson Davis and the Meaning of the War” at the annual awards banquet on Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the historic Battle House Hotel.

William J. Cooper is a Boyd Professor at Louisiana State University and a past president of the Southern Historical Association. He was born in Kingstree, South Carolina, and received his A.B. from Princeton and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He has been a member of the LSU faculty since 1968 and is the author of *The Conservative Regime: South Carolina, 1877–1890; The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828–1856; Liberty and Slavery: Southern Politics to 1860; Jefferson Davis, American*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *We Have the War Upon Us: The Onset of the Civil War, November 1860-April 1861; Jefferson Davis and the Civil War Era*; and coauthor of *The American South: A History*. He lives in Baton Rouge.
CONECUH COUNTY

Alexander Travis
August 23, 1790—December 2, 1852

In the fall of 1817 Reverend Alexander Travis settled his affairs in South Carolina and immigrated to Conecuh County, where, in the spring of 1818, Beulah Baptist Church was constituted. In rapid succession Travis’ firm resolve and his devotion to the Gospel of Christ led to the successful constituting of other churches in Conecuh County including Belleville, Burnt Corn, Brooklyn, Owassa (now Olive Branch), and Evergreen, as well as others in the surrounding counties and even in Florida.

In 1830, he was elected Moderator of the Bethlehem Baptist Association, a position he filled for twenty years. Reverend Travis’ ministry extended far beyond his ability to interpret the Scriptures to multiple congregations. His zeal for missions conclusively led to his being considered the father of the Baptist denomination in the area where he preached and baptized and adjudicated disputes with courage and unconditional love. Primarily known as a spiritual leader, Reverend Travis was also an advocate for education and was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees for Evergreen Academy.

[2014: 100 Williams Ave., Evergreen]

COOSA COUNTY

Socopatoy

Although the Creek Indians retained ownership of this territory after the Treaty of Fort Jackson ended the Creek War of 1812-14, whites began settling here before Alabama achieved statehood. This site included a Native American village, frontier fort, and pioneer town. The village gave its name to the Socopatoy Creek and the “Socopatoy Trail,” which connected Wetumpka and Talladega.

A post office operated between 1837 and 1866, and the cemetery was established in 1840 along the Rockford Road. On July 16, 1864, during the Civil War, Union General Rousseau’s Raiders passed here.

William Garrett (1809-1876), Secretary of State from 1840-1852, lived in the area, as did Samuel Smylie Graham (1805-1883), the Assistant State Geologist, who was known as a “walking encyclopedia” and for his long walks as far as Wetumpka.

By the early 20th century, the once thriving town was reduced to a handful of structures and most of these were removed in 1979 for the rerouting of U.S. Hwy. 280.

Nearby are the ruins of Bradford Factory, a textile mill chartered in 1845. The Central Plank Road of 1852 went by the Factory, its product hauled by wagons to Montgomery.

[2014: U.S. Hwy 280 northwest of Alexander City]

ELMORE COUNTY

Tallassee Confederate Officers Quarters

In the Spring of 1864, the Confederate States of America (CSA) moved the Confederate Armory in Richmond, VA to Tallassee, AL, necessitating new housing for the officers and staff. With the help of the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Company, four houses were built on King Street at 301, 303, 305, and 307.

The Confederate Armory closed in April 1865 at the end of the Civil War and the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Co. gained possession of the houses. The house at 303 King was demolished when the Bank of Tallassee was built. The other three remain.

After the Civil War, Brigadier-General (CSA) Birkett Davenport Fry (1822-1891) returned to Tallassee to live at 301 King Street until 1880, in his capacity as secretary for the Tallassee Mfg. Co., the successor to the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Co. From 1880 until 1966 it was the residence for the managers of the Tallassee Mills Company Stores. Samuel Hugh Scott (1867-1942) lived there from 1900-1942; Belser Ray Carr (1895-1966) followed from 1942-1966. In 2005, it became the office for The Segrest Law Firm.

Brigadier General Birkett Davenport Fry, CSA (1822-1891)

In his lifetime, General Birkett D. Fry was a cadet at Virginia Military Institute and West Point; 1st Lt. (U.S. Infantry) in Mexican War; lawyer in California; mercenary-soldier of fortune in Latin America; colonel (adjutant) of the 13th Alabama (CSA) Infantry Regiment in the Civil War when he was wounded in four different battles including Gettysburg, taken prisoner of war, then promoted to Brigadier General (May 1864); engaged in the tobacco business in Cuba; executive in the Tallassee Textile Mills; public school superintendent in Montgomery, AL; and president of the Richmond, VA Cotton Mill until his death. His body was returned to Montgomery where he was buried next to his wife in Oakwood Cemetery.

Fry was born in Kanawha County, WV (24 June 1822) and died in Richmond, VA (21 January 1891). The son of Thornton Fry (1786-1823) and Eliza R. Thompson (1794-1885), he was married to Martha Augusta Micou (1823-1878), the sister of Benjamin Hall Micou (1825-1887) who was president of the Tallassee Manufacturing Company beginning in 1871.

[2014: 301 King St., Tallassee]

JACKSON COUNTY

Averyville

During the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War, a freedmen’s community was established in this area called Averyville, named for the Pennsylvania minister and
successful businessman Charles Avery, a longtime and faithful champion of Negro education. Wilmer Walton, a Quaker missionary, moved to Stevenson and Averyville as early as 1865, opening a school financed by the Quaker “Friends’ Association for Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen.” Soon, some seventy-five students, both adults and children, were enrolled in Walton’s school. Another teacher and Quaker missionary, Henrietta Starkweather, succeeded Wilmer Walton at Averyville. This noble and pioneering effort to educate freedmen was short-lived; Ku Klux Klan violence, threats, and intimidation drove the teachers away by the early 1870s, and the school closed.

– Reverse –

Averyville

Averyville School’s most notable student was William Hooper Councill (1848-1909), a former slave brought to Alabama in 1857. He attended Averyville School as a freedman, becoming a teacher himself by the end of his third year here. He moved to Huntsville in 1869 and opened the Lincoln Normal School to train black teachers. In 1873, Dr. Councill founded Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, using funds appropriated by the Alabama Legislature to train black teachers. Dr. Councill rose to state and national prominence, becoming an influential leader alongside Booker T. Washington and others. His only formal education was here at the Freedman’s School at Averyville. Here the seeds of learning were planted which grew into Alabama A&M University, educating thousands of students to this day.

[2014: Avery Street, Stevenson]

JACKSON COUNTY

Jones House

The Jones House was constructed in 1907 in the second subdivision recorded in the Scottsboro City Plat in 1889. The steep Pyramidal-roof, thin wooden columns, large interior chimney, and veranda that surrounds three sides exhibit overtones of the French Colonial Style. The house was purchased in 1909 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Jones, Sr. who maintained the residence until the death of Mrs. Jones in 1966. Their children were Rudolph, Cecil, and Ruth Jones, Sydie Jones Snodgrass, and Robert E. (Bob) Jones, Jr., who was born in this house on June 12, 1912. A graduate of Jackson County High School and the University of Alabama School of Law, Robert E. Jones, Jr. was admitted to the bar on January 20, 1937. After practicing law in Scottsboro, he was elected judge of Jackson County in 1940. He served in the U. S. Navy from December 1943 to February 1946, in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, and as a member of the legal staff of General Douglas MacArthur.

– Reverse –

Robert E. Jones, Jr.

In 1946, Robert E. Jones, Jr. was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives to fill Alabama’s 5th Congressional District seat vacated by John J. Sparkman’s election to the U.S. Senate. Elected to 15 consecutive terms, 1946-1976, Congressman Jones became Alabama’s longest-serving Representative. The Robert E. Jones Bridge that spans the Tennessee River east of Scottsboro was dedicated in his honor in September 1985. Congressman Jones is remembered for his ardent support of legislation leading to the expansion of the Tennessee Valley Authority, construction of the nation’s interstate highway system, development of the U.S. Space program, protection of the environment, and construction of major public works that included the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Madison Annex to the Library of Congress. He retired to Scottsboro in 1977 where he lived until his death in 1997.

[2014: Scott Street, Scottsboro]

MADISON COUNTY

Buffalo Soldiers

After the Civil War, the future of African Americans in the United States Army was in doubt. In July 1866, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry and four infantry regiments to be made up of African-American soldiers. The mounted regiments (9th and 10th Cavalries) conducted campaigns against Native-American tribes on the Western Frontier, where they were nicknamed “Buffalo Soldiers” by Native Americans. Their service also included subduing Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, and rustlers, and building frontier outposts, roads, and telegraph lines. In 1898, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to Cuba to participate in the Spanish-American War. They fought alongside Teddy Roosevelt in the charge up San Juan Hill.

– Reverse –

Buffalo Soldiers, Huntsville, AL

After the Buffalo Soldiers finished service in the Spanish-American War, one of the four regiments returned to the U.S., serving first in New York and then in Huntsville. They were sent to Huntsville’s Monte Sano to escape the scourge of yellow fever and to recuperate from wounds and other diseases they brought back from the war. After an incident between black and white soldiers, African-American and white troops were separated. The Buffalo Soldiers were moved to what is now known as 10th Cavalry Hill, named by the residents of the area. [2014]
MORGAN COUNTY

King's Memorial United Methodist Church

King's Memorial United Methodist Church, formerly St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church, evolved out of the Decatur First Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1827. In 1854, Richard Rather, Charity Barnes Rather, and Robert Murphy led the church’s black congregants in hiring Sawney Price to build a separate sanctuary for them at Lafayette and Bank Street. After the Civil War, Northern Methodists returned to Alabama and, in 1867 at Talladega, the congregation was received into the Alabama Conference. During this Reconstruction era, the Methodist Freedmen’s Aid Society used the church building, then located on Market and Oak Street, as a school. In 1881, the congregation moved to this site, soon after which the City of Decatur leased the church building as the first city-supported facility for black education. Lightning destroyed the church building and parsonage in 1907. The congregation worshipped in railroad cars until famed architect Wallace A. Rayfield was employed to design a raised cottage-style brick sanctuary. The Rev. Willis Jefferson King, later elected Bishop, was invited to lead a revival which proved so successful that the congregation changed the church’s name to honor the preacher’s father in 1908. In 1978, King’s Memorial and Jones Chapel Congregations united to strengthen the Methodist presence in the area. Church buildings built in 1986 and 2014 are currently located on this McCartney Street site.

– Reverse –

Trustees
1872
Howell Echols, Pastor
Robert Murphy
William Newman
Richard Rather
Samuel King
Fink Kelly

Trustees
1881
H. H. Cantrell, Pastor
Robert Murphy
James Scott
William H. Blackwell
Alex Smith
Jack Walden
Robert Chardavayne
Bynum Davis
Ishmael Allen
Major Luster

MORGAN COUNTY

Rising Sun Lodge No. 29
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

Dr. Henry W. Rhodes, for whom Rhodes Ferry Landing was named, was Decatur’s first Postmaster and one of the organizers of the Lodge (Nov. 22, 1826). Chartered in 1827, its first Worshipful Master was Colonel Francis Dancy, builder of the Dancy-Polk House. It is the oldest Lodge in Morgan County and the first fraternal organization in Decatur. Early members were the pioneer settlers of Morgan County. Two of Decatur’s founders, Isaac Lane and General Jesse Winston Garth, were Masons and Directors of the Decatur Land Company which laid out the city streets. A Lodge was built in 1834 with the lower floor used for school and church purposes. Rising Sun Lodge was destroyed by the enemy during the War Between the States (Nov. 25, 1864). In 1873 a Lodge was built on the NW corner of Bank and Pond Streets, across from the Old State Bank. W.W. Littlejohn and Colonel C.C. Harris were Masons and founders of the Decatur Land Improvement & Furnace Company which planned the city of New Decatur (1887). Three members, all doctors in faithful discharge of their Hippocratic Oath, were lost to the 1888 Yellow Fever epidemic. James McGinnis Brundidge, PM, is the only Mason in the history of the Alabama Grand Lodge to be bestowed the title of ‘Honorable Past Grand Master’ (1899). In 1934, the Lodge moved into the Masonic Temple on Johnston Street, formerly the Cotaco Opera House.

[2014: 1 Walnut Dr., Decatur]

PIKE COUNTY

Academy Street High School

On May 9, 1921, S.B. Innis, C.L. Jenkins, James Henderson, Pres Thomas, and C.B. Brooks, the “colored school committee,” entered into a school mortgage for the construction of a building for “colored school purposes” on East Academy Street. The debt of $3,028.89 was “satisfied in full” on July 18,
1922, whereupon the City of Troy assumed ownership. Beginning with two grades, one teacher, and a term of seventy-two days in a two-room dwelling, by 1927, the school had become a junior high school with six teachers and six classrooms. Administrators of this period included Mr. John Wiley, Mr. Floyd, Mr. C.L. Jenkins, Mrs. F.M. Innis, and Mr. S.T. Wilson, the first principal.

Mr. A.J. Fields became principal in 1926. His twenty-two years of leadership saw the addition of an auditorium, new programs of Diversified Occupation and Home Economics, and elevation of the school to senior high-school status.

– Reverse –

**Academy Street High School**

The City Board of Education changed the school’s name from “Troy Junior High School on Academy Street” to Academy Street High School in 1941, the year of the school’s first graduating senior class. The building was destroyed by fire in 1946, and a new brick building was erected in 1948.

Mr. C.G. Griffin was principal from 1948 to 1966. During his administration, the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, courses of study were expanded to include vocational agriculture and typing, and an emphasis was placed on band and choir performances. The physical plant saw the addition of an agriculture building and a modern gymnasium.

The school was last under the administration of Mr. John E. Nolen, from 1966 to 1971, during which time two of the school’s three yearbooks were published. The last graduating class was in 1970 with the transition from Academy Street to Charles Henderson High School in January 1971.

[2014: Academy Street, Troy]

**RUSSELL COUNTY**

**Colonel John Crowell’s Race Track**

During the early 19th century, Colonel John Crowell, United States Indian Agent from 1821 to 1836, used this field as a track to train his race horses. His famous champion, John Bascombe, won the North-South Race at Union Course, Long Island, New York, in 1836. [2014]

**RUSSELL COUNTY**

**Little Prince (Tustunnuggee Hopoi)**

According to Alabama historian Peter Brannon, the remains of Little Prince, a Creek Indian chief, were buried near this site. Little Prince lived at Broken Arrow and was a principal chief of and speaker for the Lower Towns of the Creek Nation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He died in 1832. [2014]

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

**Camp Winnataska**

Dr. Elwyn Ballard, commissioner of Boy Scouts in Birmingham, and his wife, Florence Aye Ballard, discovered this site in 1914, and became vital forces in the founding and growth of the camp. Boy Scouts and Boys Club members from the area first camped here in tents in 1916. Through Dr. Ballard, the Interdenominational Birmingham Sunday School Association acquired the camp in 1918 and offered sessions not only for boys but for girls as well -- the first organization-sponsored camping for girls in Alabama and among the first in the South. Daniel Ray Price, Executive Secretary of the Association, directed the camp 1922-1957. Rosa V. Strickland, educator and church leader, served as girls camp director 1919-1954. Winnataska early received national recognition for excellence of staff, facilities, and programs. Since its founding, the camp has continuously provided outdoor experiences and educational programs for thousands of Alabama children and adults.

Sponsored by the Friends of Winnataska, Inc. [2014: 260 Winnataska Dr., Pell City]
THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE will be held October 9, 2015 at Old Cahawba in Orrville.

Photo courtesy of Old Cahawba Archaeological Park.