Join us for the 67th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association!
April 14-16, 2011 ~ Mobile Bay’s Eastern Shore
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Pre-Meeting Opportunities
Tour Preview: Old Mobile
Tour Preview: Historic Daphne Museum
Tour Preview: Malbis Memorial Church
Tour Preview: The Village
Meeting Sites and Accommodations
Map
E. O. Wilson to Deliver Keynote Address
Breakfast Program to Feature Master Chef Scott Peacock
Pilgrimage to Moundville a Success
2010 Historical Markers
Contribute to History

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.
Kathryn H. Braund
Auburn University

As we have planned the upcoming AHA meeting—which has been a joy—I, along with the AHA Executive Committee, have grappled with another problem that has been anything but joyful. And that is a funding crisis regarding the Alabama Review. As most of you know, the AHA pays a small percentage of the costs involved in producing the journal. Our direct expenses include printing, postage, a modest honorarium to the editorial office, and a few incidentals.

Auburn University’s history department donates space for the editorial office and provides the editor a one-course release from teaching duties to compensate for his time spent working on the Review. The rest of the funding, which amounts to approximately $50,000 in direct costs, has come from the university’s appropriation in the state education budget.

After successive years of cuts in the state budget, those funds were not available in fiscal year 2011. The loss of funds has left the history department without resources to cover the costs of the associate editor and a graduate research assistant beyond this April. For years, the AHA leadership has grappled with the funding issue. An endowment fund established to support the journal has grown to only $56,000—not nearly enough to generate earnings sufficient for operations. Tapping the principal of this fund to continue publication is an unattractive option, and it would buy us only one year before we reach this same sad spot again.

The time has come for the members of the Alabama Historical Association to face the fact that we must make substantial changes in the funding model for our journal. At the January meeting of the AHA Executive Committee, members engaged in an intense conversation about the future of the Review. Most spoke fervently about the journal as a benefit of membership. And there is no question it is that. It provides timely reviews of books related to Alabama history and is the state’s only peer-reviewed journal producing high-quality essays on all aspects of the state’s history.

Current editor Bill Trimble observes that a peer-reviewed journal is the “gold standard” for historical scholarship. Any manuscript submitted is subjected to a critical reading by knowledgeable scholars in the field, who offer comments and suggestions for strengthening the paper. This “peer” critique, along with the expert editorial feedback and fact-checking provided by the editorial staff, combines to produce stronger articles and more readable ones as well. There is a world of difference between an unedited paper and one that has been vetted through a rigorous scholarly process, is strongly documented with citations, fact-checked, and appropriately edited.

As former editor Jeff Jakeman notes, the Review and the process through which scholarly papers become published articles “plays an important and unique role in encouraging scholars to study Alabama history.” Jeff’s comments are worth quoting in full:

Many of the articles that are published in the journal are ultimately expanded into books, but publishing in a journal gives scholars the opportunity to present their work sooner and obtain valuable feedback and criticism that will strengthen subsequent work. Many of the AR’s authors are junior scholars just beginning their careers studying Alabama history. Offering them an opportunity to publish in a refereed journal helps train and encourage the rising generation of historians studying Alabama history. The AR offers young scholars the opportunity to have their research critiqued by scholars, rigorously fact-checked, and carefully edited for writing style—building on the principles and experience of graduate school.

In an age of instant opinions offered online with little research or thought, it is increasingly important to protect and nurture a publishing venue such as the AR, which holds authors to a high standard of accuracy, accurate citation, and clarity of expression.

There is no doubt that the Alabama Review is a tremendous benefit to members—and to the larger goals of the organization. I’d like to suggest something else. I would like to suggest that far from being a mere “benefit” of membership, the Alabama Review is our RESPONSIBILITY. As the state’s oldest historical association, we have an obligation to do everything in our power to preserve the Alabama Review. For our core mission—to promote and diffuse knowledge about our state’s history—is intimately linked to scholarly publishing.

Having reached this crossroads, the Executive Committee took two actions at its January meeting. It authorized the use of up to $25,000 from the Association’s general operating funds to complete the 2011 volume. It also asked me to appoint a task force to consider ways to provide both short-term and long-term funding solutions to the perennial problem of funding our journal, with a preliminary report due at the June meeting of the full Board of Directors. We welcome your ideas—and your support—as we move forward.
Baldwin County, Alabama, founded in 1809, boasts a heritage steeped in the tradition of numerous cultures. Native peoples as well as Spanish, French, and British settlers all left their marks on this rich land, ultimately creating a unique culture that fused Native American ways with European technology. The allure of the region, then as now, is its unique biodiversity, rich farmland, and the strategic value of the waterways of the delta. The relationships that grew among these varied groups, whether contentious or amiable, shaped the future of Baldwin County. No county in the Southeast can boast a richer heritage and no people can be prouder of how that heritage has been maintained.

Evidence of early Native American occupation is found throughout the county in the distribution of shell middens along many of the waterways of the delta, the bay, and along the Gulf. A shell midden is a mound of discarded oyster, mussel or clam shells left in one area over a long period of time. Archaeologists have been able to study these remains to determine the amount of dietary meat in each oyster, the possible food-processing methods used, and the length of time that the site was used by the inhabitants. In addition to shell middens, the Mississippian mound builders left behind the most noteworthy evidence of their lives in the mounds found in Baldwin County. These flat-topped pyramidal mounds, used extensively for temples and houses, are best exemplified on Mound Island at the Bottle Creek mound site. The location, administered by the Alabama Historical Commission, contains eighteen earthen mounds, the highest standing 45 feet tall. According to the South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies, the Mississippian site (AD 1200 to 1450) is the largest of its kind on the north central Gulf Coast.

Later, as the arrival of Europeans signaled a change in lifestyle for many of the native inhabitants of North America, the Creek Indians came to dominate the area that included Baldwin County. Their dominance was short-lived, however, as first the French, and later English, Spanish, and Americans migrated into the area. Indeed, the Creek presence in Baldwin County was almost always in conjunction with that of the European. The French entered Mobile Bay in 1699. The Spanish and the British claimed the region at various times during the 16th through the 19th centuries. American settlers migrated into the area in the late 18th century, coming on the heels of the American Revolution.

Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda first explored the Alabama Gulf Coast in 1519 for the Spanish government. He reported details of the coast and of Mobile Bay, noting several “Indian villages” along the banks of the Alabama River. Hernando de Soto is thought to have passed through the region on his quest for wealth in 1540, yet did nothing to advance Spanish colonization. The results of de Soto’s entrada were catastrophic for the indigenous population. A loathing for the Europeans among the Indians grew as a result of the brutal encounters between de Soto’s men and the local tribes and made the Indians very apprehensive of any subsequent relationship with Europeans. Ever determined to establish themselves in North America, the Spanish returned in 1559 with an expedition commanded Don Tristan de Luna, which incorporated 500 soldiers and
more than 1,000 settlers including women and children. Unfortunately for the Spanish, the attempt was short-lived as the colonists lost many of their supplies in a storm and eventually resorted to surviving on the boiled leather from their armor as their only food source. The colonists abandoned the northeast corner of Mobile Bay. It was not until 1630 that the Spanish made a triumphal return to Baldwin with the settlement headed by the Suarez brothers (Jose, Rosa, and Francisco). The brothers settled in Perdido and gradually extended their claims beyond what is now the Lillian community. The land grants issued by the Spanish government to the Suarez family remain the oldest title to land in Baldwin County.

By the time the permanent Europeans settlers arrived along the Gulf Coast, the native people had united into tribes such as the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Alabamu, and Creeks. The French landed in Mobile Bay in February 1699 under the charge of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. From there the French expanded their claim as far east as Perdido Bay due to the inability of the Spanish to mount an effective protest. While most of the French attention was placed on settlement of the western shore of the Bay, a presence along the Eastern Shore was also maintained as a destination to escape the summer heat and the associated illnesses that befell Mobile each year. Lands in Baldwin County were also essential in the supply of food and naval stores for the growing French enclave in Mobile.

Following d'Iberville’s direction, the French remained very aware of the importance of a workable relationship between them and the Indians for safety and for trade. As a result, the French cultivated a bond with the Choctaw and the Creek but failed to convince the Alabamu of their good intentions. So even though the French departed from the heavy-handed approach of their predecessors, they never gained the complete trust of the Gulf Coast Indians.

Throughout the 18th century, French settlers established themselves along the expanse of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Around 1700 Jacques Cook founded a community in Bon Secour named for the Montreal Cathedral Notre Dame de Bon-Secour. In 1715 Joseph Simon de la Pointe settled a parcel along the mouth of Weeks Bay, and later Augustin Rochan carved out a plantation in the Spanish Fort area.

The close of the French and Indian War in 1763 brought an end to French control in Baldwin and elsewhere in North America and ushered in the reign of the British. Many of the French settlers who had carved out homes in the wilds of Baldwin remained as the British took over. Even though they controlled Mobile, the English political emphasis was focused on Pensacola, where the capital of British West Florida was located. Major Robert Farmar entrenched British military and political control in Mobile with immediate enhancements to the viability of the French Fort Charlotte. Mobile remained an important element in the control of the region, especially in the realm of the complex political and economic affairs associated with local Indian tribes, particularly the Choctaw and Chickasaw. And, as such, Farmar remained integral in strengthening the English presence in the region.

Farmar, like his French counterparts before him, was intrigued with the potential for land acquisition in Baldwin County. And much like many other officers along the fron-
tier of North America, he saw an opportunity to make a place for himself and his family in his post-military life. In the end he purchased property in the future Stockton community which he named Farm Hall, and there built a large home on the Tensaw River.

The British realized their ability to develop their new colony of West Florida depended on maintaining good relations with the Creek and Choctaw Indians. The key to success with the Choctaw lay with establishing a British trade out of Mobile and continued peace with the Creeks as well. In a 1763 memorandum to his officers, Farmar directed:

“You are to use your utmost endeavours to Cultivate, and preserve a good understanding with the Indians, obliging all that Trade with them, to deal Justly, take care that they give full, and just weight, and measure, such as shall attempt in any respect to defraud them, seize their persons, and Effects, and after satisfying the Indians (which I take for granted will be the injured party) oblige the aggressors to leave the Country, that by these acts of Strict Justice, the Indians may receive a good impression of the English Na-

tion, which their late Masters have endeavoured by every artifice to figure to them in the worst Light.”

The American Revolution wrought even more change on the Alabama Gulf Coast as the British grudgingly left their Mobile and Pensacola strongholds to the Spanish. The end of the war also steered more American settlers toward Baldwin. During the eight-year conflict, numerous British Tories made their way into the region to escape the conflict along the eastern seaboard and to hopefully find a more welcoming environment among the people of the Mobile Bay region. Ultimately, they witnessed increasing tensions between white settlers and the Indians due to the rising white population in the area.

Violent upheaval in 1813 signaled a turning point in the development of Baldwin County. Militarized bands of Creek Indians (Red Sticks) raided a makeshift fort (Fort Mims) in North Baldwin County and killed nearly two hundred fifty of the settlers that had sought safety at the Mims farm. That bloody affair in August 1813 condemned all Creeks and a way of life that had spanned generations. Driven by the desire for vengeance, whites in the territory called on Andrew Jackson to remove the Indian threat. He did so, and with the Battle at Horseshoe Bend, the dominance of the Native American, at least in the southeastern United States, was over. Jackson extended his mandate as he marched on New Orleans to face the British, who sought to regain their foothold in North America. With his striking victory over the British in January 1815, the United States could lay claim to the lands of West Florida that remained in the feeble control of the Spanish. Thus, by 1819 the vast lands of the Florida panhandle and beyond were officially turned over to the United States in the Adams-Onis Treaty, incorporating a large portion of the future Baldwin County into the Union.

Settlement in Baldwin County along the rivers and Mobile Bay came first with the prehistoric Indians that built mounds, hunted the swamps and nurtured the fields of the upper river delta. The arrival of Europeans forever changed the life of the indigenous population and provided the social underpinning for those who chose to settle there. While many current residents of the county can trace their heritage to a second wave of immigration that took place in the late 19th and early 20th century, the foundation of Baldwin County was laid by the efforts of these early settlers, both Indian and European. The synthesis of these varied peoples makes Baldwin County unique and its heritage rich.

Map (left) by Walter Overton (1892-1976), a long-time Fairhope resident and artist who compiled an amazing artistic history of early Baldwin County and the Gulf Coast through syndicated sketches which were printed in numerous newspapers, his water-color paintings, Gulf States Tour Guides, Southland Sketch calendars and short stories, both published and unpublished.Courtesy of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, Bay Minette, Alabama.
TOUR THE MOBILE DELTA BY BOAT

Come early and join other AHA members and the captain of the Pelican for a Mobile Bay Delta tour. The two-hour eco-safari will meander through mostly open-river forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress/Gum swamp and dryer sand hill habitats surrounded by low wetland swamps.

Two-hour tours will launch from 5 Rivers Center at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.

Cost: $20.00 per person

Limited to 46 participants total! Secure your space on the registration form found in this newsletter.

ENJOY AN ALABAMA AFTERNOON WITH AUTHOR ROY HOFFMAN

Join us at 5 p.m. before the 6 p.m. reception at the fabulous 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center for a book talk by award-winning journalist and novelist Roy Hoffman on his new book Alabama Afternoons: Profiles and Conversations, published by the University of Alabama Press.

*Alabama Afternoons* is a collection of portraits of many remarkable Alabamians, including Mary Ward Brown, William Christenberry, Kathryn Tucker Windham, Winston Groom, Vivian Malone, and James Hood. Roy Hoffman is a staff writer for the Mobile Press-Register and author of the nonfiction collection *Back Home: Journeys through Mobile* and the novels *Almost Family*, winner of the Lillian Smith Award for fiction, and *Chicken Dreaming Corn*, a BookSense pick.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.
Thursday, April 14

1:00 PM  **Pre-meeting Delta Boat Tours**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

3:00 PM  **Pre-meeting Delta Boat Tours**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

5:00 PM  **An Alabama Afternoon with Author Roy Hoffman**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

6:00 PM  **Reception**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

Friday, April 15

8:30 AM  **Registration**, Daphne United Methodist Church

9:30 AM  **General Session**, Daphne United Methodist Church

10:45 AM  **Concurrent Sessions**, Daphne United Methodist Church

**Session A: Old and New Interpretations of Alabama’s Early History**
“The First Interpretations of Alabama’s Early History,” Johanna Shields, University of Alabama at Huntsville

“New Interpretations of Alabama’s Early History,” Daniel Dupre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

“Whither the South’s Frontier History?” Thomas Hagood, University of Georgia

**Session B: Industry, Commerce, and Labor**
“The Eclectic Industrialism of Antebellum Baldwin County, Alabama,” Angela Lakwete, Auburn University

“When Two Greeks Meet…’: Greek Immigrants and the Food Service Industry in Birmingham, Alabama, 1896-1965,” Angela Jill Cooley, University of Alabama

“Rethinking the Great 1908 Alabama Coal Strike: Race, Religion, Economics, Violence, and Community,” Glenn Feldman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Session C: Civil Rights**
“Mobile and the Boswell Amendment,” Scotty Kirkland, University of South Alabama

“Segregation and Sterilization: Reassessing Alabama’s Eugenic Past,” James M. Hurst, University of Alabama at Birmingham

“Persevering in the Face of Adversity: The Response and Repair of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church,” Faye Doss, Samford University

**NOON**  **Lunch**, Daphne United Methodist Church

1:00 PM  **Afternoon Tours**
Option A: Bus Excursion to Old Mobile Archaeological Site
Option B: Local Historical Sites (on your own; maps available at registration)
Saturday, April 16

8:00 AM Breakfast, Daphne United Methodist Church
Presentation by master chef and foodways documentarian Scott Peacock

9:00 AM Registration, Daphne United Methodist Church

9:45 AM General Session

10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

Session A: War and Memory
“A Confused Identity: The Fourth Alabama’s Delay in Reconciling its Military Reputation to the Nation,” Patrick Cecil, University of Alabama

“A Badly Arranged Bouquet of Blue Roses’: William March, Company K, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” Steven Trout, Fort Hayes State University

“Their Names Liveth for Evermore’: Remembering the Great War in Mobile,” Jacob Laurence, Museum of Mobile

Session B: War and Identity
“Hobson as Hero: The Creation of American Identity During the Spanish-American War,” Ben Osborne, Vestavia Public Schools

“Disgraced Monsters’ or Soldiers of Virtue: Southern Women, Military Service, and Contested Meanings of ‘Womanhood’ in the Cold War Era,” Joseph Pearson, University of Alabama

“We Must Conquer No Matter What it Costs:’ Alabama Women and Confederate Identity During the American Civil War,” Jennifer Trevino, Troy University

Session C: Cultural Identities
“New Archeological Research at Colonial Fort Tombecbee,” Richard Brownlee and Ashley Dumas, University of West Alabama

“Academic Eclecticism and Southern Identity: George B. Rogers and the Spanish Colonial Revival in Mobile,” Cartledge Blackwell, Mobile Historic Development Commission


11:45 AM Annual Luncheon, Daphne United Methodist Church
Presidential Address by Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund
On Friday, April 15, AHA members will have the opportunity to board buses for travel to the archaeological site of Old Mobile (travel time 60 minutes) for a tour with archaeological experts. Special thanks to Dr. Greg Waselkov, director of the University of South Alabama’s Center for Archaeological Studies, for making this special opportunity available. Buses will depart from Daphne United Methodist Church at 12:30 p.m. and will return to the same location by 5 p.m.

Old Mobile, capital of French Louisiana (1702-1711), has been undergoing excavation since 1989. The sites of eight buildings—out of more than fifty found—have been partially or completely excavated, with the recovery of thousands of artifacts.

Excavations always follow the same scientific procedure. After the overlying few inches of soil have been dug, and carefully screened through 1/16-inch mesh, any differences in soil color and texture are carefully mapped and photographed. These stains are the best clues for the appearance of the houses, made mostly of wood and clay, that once stood here.

Some of the French buildings, like excavated Structures 1 and 5, had foundation sills that were layed directly on the ground (poteaux-sur-sole style). Others were built with supporting wall posts placed in a trench (poteaux-en-terre). Surrounding this house was a palisade fence in another trench. Perhaps this small house belonged to a soldier in the garrison of Fort Louis, which stood not too far away.

French colonists drew two maps of the community, and both depict personal land claims and plans for future town development. One drawn in 1704-1705 shows the fort and the seminary priest’s house in great detail, but we must depend on archaeology for information on buildings elsewhere in town.

Today the site of Old Mobile falls within the boundaries of Axis Alabama, on the property of Accordis, DuPont, and the Alabama Power Company. DuPont has taken the lead in site preservation by donating an archaeological easement to the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit conservation organization.
THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH
MUSEUM OF DAPHNE

Built in 1858 on land donated by Captain William and Elizabeth Howard, this church is one of only two remaining antebellum churches and is the second-oldest church building in Baldwin County. The design is typical of the day: Greek Revival style with country adaptations. It was constructed from heart pine logs with handmade wooden pegs. The interior features the original pews and random-width floorboards evidence of the crude lumber-cutting methods of the era.

In the cemetery, grave markers date from 1847 and include two brothers killed in the last two weeks of the Civil War at Spanish Fort, four casualties from the ironclad Osage, the beloved slaves Becky Ann and Snake, and the son of the first Native American to graduate from West Point, David Moniac. Many gravesites are unidentified because their wooden markers decayed with time. Tradition holds that on these grounds there is a mass grave of Union military men, brought ashore after a torpedo hit their freighter.

In 1924, Peter McAdam enclosed his family plot with clay posts (a Celtic tradition); some of these posts remain intact. From 1870 to 1939, this church was known as the Daphne Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Then in 1939, when the Methodist congregation reunited and forgot their pre-Civil War differences, the name was changed to the Daphne Methodist Church. Later on, a museum was born.

Photos and text courtesy of Ken Balme and Lucy Cunningham, Old Daphne Museum
When Jason Malbis, a former Greek Orthodox monk, immigrated to America and bought thousands of acres in Baldwin County in 1906, he founded Malbis plantation. Among his last wishes, before his death in 1942, was that a church be built. With white marble from Greece, icons and paintings rendered by Greek artists, and beautiful, rich colors, Presentation Theotokos — known informally as Malbis Memorial Church — opened in 1965, and is now available for guided tours.

The church was a dream — and request — of Jason Malbis. Malbis, whose birth name was Antonios Markopoulos, had been a Greek Orthodox monk at Mega Spileo, a monastery high on a mountain near Kalavrita, Greece. But Markopoulos decided to leave the monastery. He cut his beard, traveled to America and took the name Jason Malbis. When he arrived in Baldwin County in 1906, according to “The Faith of Jason Malbis,” a booklet at the church, he pronounced, “The Almighty has revealed to me that this is the land for which we are looking.” With a friend, William Papageorge, Malbis bought thousands of acres of land for $5 an acre.

At Malbis plantation, which became a growing community, there were, among other endeavors, a flower nursery, an ice plant and a bakery that expanded into Mobile and became the former Malbis Bakery. In 1939, Malbis returned to Greece, unable to leave when World War II broke out. He fell ill and died in Greece in 1942.

One of Malbis’s last wishes, written in a letter sent by a friend, was “my desire that you build a church near the cemetery and close to the living quarters ... for we must have a place to come together and praise Almighty God.” For five years builders labored to build the glorious Presentation Theotokos, which became informally known as Malbis Memorial Church.

Central to the construction were three artisans from Greece. The church’s ties to the old country are evident everywhere, inspired by a Greek Orthodox church in Athens. The paintings inside the church of the apostles, saints and religious scenes are vivid and bright. The ceiling of the church is deep blue with stars painted on it — the firmament.

Jason Malbis’ yearning for a place “to praise Almighty God” was realized in another way: His remains were brought from Greece and interred in the sanctuary. As spring begins to unfold, the church rests serene and spectacular, set back among magnolias and pines.

These excerpts of Roy Hoffman’s feature article (March 13, 2010) reprinted by permission of The Mobile Press Register. To read the article in its entirety, with accompanying photos, go to the link: http://blog.al.com/living-press-register/2010/03/the_jewel_of_malbis.htm
VILLAGE POINT PARK PRESERVES
EASTERN SHORE HISTORY

The historic Village Point in Daphne is as fascinating today as it was in 1939 when Federal Writers’ Project author Francois Ludgere Diard captured the beauty and history of the place:

“Standing on the site of an obliverated [sic] bayshore town termed ‘The Village,’ these stately oaks have seen history in the making. Indians, French, Confederate and Union forces, as well as local militia, have all held councils, sought enemies or camped beneath their spreading limbs .... ‘The Village’ waned in popularity before the Civil War and became a resort of some wild people who were a law unto themselves. It has been a deserted village, though occupying a beautiful site overlooking the bay and having a fine beach of clear sand at its front. But the glory of ‘The Village,’ old as its oaks, some of which are 200 years old and over, has come down to us as part of the history of South Alabama.”

The Village Point Preserve Park is home to one of the largest and most historic live oaks in Alabama. This giant tree, which is 95 feet tall, with a circumference of 28 feet, was a landmark in the eighteenth century: it is shown as a survey line marker in the original Spanish Land Grant survey map of 1787. According to local traditions, General Andrew Jackson made a speech to his army from one of its massive limbs on his way to Pensacola during the War of 1812.

The Park also contains the D’Olive cemetery site, which dates back to the early 19th century, making the D’Olives the oldest family in Daphne and one of the oldest in Baldwin County. There are several graves remaining in the cemetery dating back to the 1800s with headstone inscriptions in French. It was customary to bury on one’s own plantation, and often these silent reminders are all that is left to tell the story of the early pioneers.

Special thanks to Selena Vaughn and Al Guarisco, Village Point Foundation, for their assistance with information and photos. Historic photo of Jackson’s Oak courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.
MEETING SITES & ACCOMMODATIONS

RECEPTION VENUE
5 Rivers – Alabama’s Delta Resource Center
30945 Five Rivers Blvd.
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 625-0814

MEETING VENUE
Daphne United Methodist Church
2401 Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 626-2287

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET VENUE
The Grand Hotel
1 Grand Boulevard
Point Clear, AL 36564
(251) 928-9201

HOTELS
Hampton Inn Mobile East Bay/Daphne
29451 Us Highway 98
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 626-2220
Mention the AHA to receive a special rate of $89 ($99 for bayside rooms). Reservations must be made by April 4.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Spanish Fort
12000 Cypress Way
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 370-1160
Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $99, plus tax. Reservations must be made by March 24.

Courtyard Marriott
12000 Cypress Way
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 370-1161
Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $109, plus tax. Reservations must be made by March 24.

Hilton Garden Inn Mobile East Bay/Daphne
29546 N. Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 625-0020
Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $109, plus tax. Reservations must be made by April 4.
1 = 5 Rivers Center (Reception)
2 = Courtyard by Marriott
3 = Fairfield Inn
4 = Hampton Inn
5 = Hilton Garden Inn
6 = Daphne United Methodist Church (Meeting)

NOTE: A map containing the location of tour sites and Annual Awards Banquet will be distributed at registration.
Edward Osborne Wilson, Alabama native and Pellegrino University Research Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, is generally recognized as one of the several leading biologists in the world. He is also recognized as one of the foremost naturalists in both science and literature, as well as synthesizer in works stretching from pure biology across to the social sciences and humanities. Wilson is acknowledged as the creator of two scientific disciplines (island biogeography and sociobiology), three unifying concepts for science and the humanities jointly (biophilia, biodiversity studies, and consilience), and one major technological advance in the study of global biodiversity (the Encyclopedia of Life).

Since the early 1970s, Edward Wilson has also been very active in promoting conservation biology and its practical applications to conservation practice. The landmark work *BioDiversity* (1988) introduced the term *biodiversity* and the concept of a broadened new field of biodiversity studies. In a series of books, he explained to wide audiences the nature of biodiversity studies and the practical, religious, and moral reasons for protecting it (*The Diversity of Life*, 1992; *Consilience*, 1998; *The Future of Life*, 2002; and *The Creation*, 2006). In 2003 he invented the concept of the *Encyclopedia of Life*, the digitized database for all knowledge of all known species of organisms, available free, by single access, on command (http://www.eol.com).

Wilson is the recipient of 40 honorary degrees from North America and Europe, and more than 120 awards from around the world, including in science, the U.S. National Medal of Science, the Crafoord Prize, given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science as the Nobel equivalent in ecology, and the International Prize of Biology, Japan. In letters, he has received two Pulitzer prizes in non-fiction (*On Human Nature*, 1979; *The Ants*, 1991), the Serono and Nonino Prizes of Italy, and most recently, the Heartland Prize of the Chicago Tribune for his novel *Anthill*, which is set in Mobile, Alabama. His forthcoming book is a history of Mobile from the time of French explorers to the recent Gulf oil spill.
Widely recognized as a culinary treasure of the South, Scott Peacock is one of the nation’s most respected and influential chefs. He has been at the forefront of the local food movement since the early 1990s, when he and his longtime friend and collaborator, the culinary legend Edna Lewis, co-founded the Society For the Revival and Preservation of Southern Food. They organized symposiums that drew the participation of highly respected writers and food professionals from all over, laying the groundwork for what is now the nationally revered Southern Foodways Alliance.

Born and raised in rural Alabama, Mr. Peacock was chosen at the age of 24 to man the kitchen of the Georgia Governors Mansion. Later he was the opening chef of Atlanta’s Horseradish Grill, where he built a reputation for restoring purity and refinement to Southern cooking.

Mr. Peacock’s extraordinary longtime friendship with Ms. Lewis has been celebrated throughout the media. They have been featured twice in the New York Times Sunday Magazine, and major articles have been written about their relationship in Gourmet, Time, Newsweek, and many other publications. In 2003, the two chefs published the best selling cookbook, The Gift of Southern Cooking, which was a nominee for best regional cookbook in both the James Beard and International Association of Culinary Professionals cookbook competitions.

An accomplished writer, speaker, and media personality, Mr. Peacock has for the past two years produced the monthly American Classics column for Better Homes and Gardens magazine, and appears regularly on the Today show. He has also cooked on Good Morning America as well as Martha Stewart’s television show, and has been interviewed on National Public Radio. He has written pieces for Gourmet and Bon Appetit magazines, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. His essay on “The Art of the Biscuit” was selected for Holly Hughes’ Best Food Writing 2008 anthology. Photographs of his recipes have graced the covers of Gourmet, Food & Wine, and Fine Cooking, and Food & Wine proclaimed his fried chicken one of the 25 best recipes ever.

Mr. Peacock left the restaurant business in 2010 to focus on writing and produce a documentary about the traditional foodways of Alabama, as told through oral histories of its longest living citizens. That same year, he was honored for his work with Southern food by Yale University with a prestigious Masters Tea.
The 2010 AHA fall pilgrimage to Moundville Archaeological Park was a huge success, thanks to park director Bill Bomar; Eugene Futato, University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research; and Dr. Jim Knight, University of Alabama professor and archaeological expert.
**AUTAUGA COUNTY**

**HAPPY HOLLOW**

Known as Fair Road, Sixth Street from Northington Street to the big curve was called “Happy Hollow.” The road went to the Fair home place but also curved right, into Warren Circle. Here stood a small frame church where the congregation’s enthusiastic preaching, singing, and shouting led to the name Happy Hollow Church. Bethlehem Colored Methodist Episcopal was relocated in 1947 to Chestnut and Sixth, and renamed Bethlehem Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Within the Hollow the “Spring,” one of Prattville’s signature artesian wells, provided water for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing before the city had a central water system. The mail route ended at the home of Miss Molly Burt where all the neighbors picked up their mail. These gathering places made for a close-knit community.

A traditional African American neighborhood, the Hollow was home for domestic workers, farm laborers, landowners and sharecroppers. Descendants of these families became leaders in Prattville and beyond: educators, nurses, doctors, accountants, carpenters, armed forces and ministers.

Beloved as a place to grow up even in segregated times; black and white children could not go to school together but played together in the branch that runs the length of The Hollow. [2010: Prattville]

**COLBERT COUNTY**

**SIDE 1**

**CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL**

Cherokee High School began here in 1921 as a grammar school with two teachers in a new frame building. The building was erected by African Americans using a Julius Rosenwald Grant with additional funds from the local community. The county school board agreed to operate the school after it was built. The cost of the school was $2,900 -- $1,200 from the African American community, $800 from the Rosenwald Grant, and $900 from public donations raised through nickel and dime donations, individual church gifts, picnic sales, and ball-game admissions. Some farmers planted and gave an acre of cotton or donated lumber or labor.

**SIDE 2**

**CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL**

Cherokee was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Colbert County and one of 5,357 such schools, workshops, and teacher homes built in the South. As it grew, more teachers and classrooms were added. Grammar school graduates from Lane Springs, Barton, and Pride attended the school plus additional students from Carter Branch, MS. The first class graduated in 1938 and the last class in 1969. Total graduates exceeded 500. Five principals served the school: Alfred Carter, Amanda Bailey, E.Z. Matthews, C.K. Calloway, and P.B. Reynolds. Due to integration, the school closed and students moved to Cherokee Vocational High School. Later, after renovation, the school reopened as a middle school.

Sponsored by the Cherokee High School Alumni and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010: ¾ mile east of Main Street & Hwy 20, Cherokee]

**PIKE COUNTY**

**MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY**

Founded prior to 1850, at the same time as the original church near Fryer’s Bridge, which became the village of Linwood in the late 1850s. Original cemetery included the graves of both black and white parishioners of the early church. In the 1870s, black communicants established their own congregation and cemetery while the remaining white congregation continued to use the original cemetery. Earliest marked grave site is dated 1858. Among the headstones are those identifying Confederate soldiers. [2010: County Road 9]
In 1832, the Alabama legislature authorized the Florence Bridge Company to construct this bridge across the Tennessee River. In 1840, it opened as a toll bridge. Twice damaged by storms, it was reopened in 1858 as a double-decked bridge by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Additional piers were added to support the large wooden superstructure with trains using the upper deck while the lower deck served as a toll bridge. In April 1862, the Confederate army burned the bridge. Later in the Civil War, the piers were used to assist in ferry crossings and to anchor a pontoon bridge built by Gen. John B. Hood’s Confederate Army of Tennessee in November 1864. After the war, both decks of the bridge were rebuilt and returned to service in 1870.

**SIDE 2 OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE**

In 1892, an engine and five cars crashed through both decks into the river. The superstructure was replaced with steel spans which are still visible. A turn span crossed the navigation channel until 1962 when a lift span was installed and used until 1992. Trains used the upper deck until 1988, as did streetcars from 1904 to 1933. The lower deck served as a toll bridge until O’Neal Bridge opened in 1939. In 1993, the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company donated the bridge to the Old Railroad Bridge Company. The 1560-foot long lower deck was restored to serve as a walking trail. With the original piers a part of the present structure, it is the oldest river bridge in Alabama. 

**Ashe Boulevard**

Ashe Boulevard was built on the early railroad bed which connected Florence and Southport to the main railroad line in Tuscumbia. Trains first traveled along the railroad bed and across the Tennessee River in 1858 after the Memphis and Charleston Railroad replaced the old Florence Bridge with a double-decked bridge. The upper deck was used for trains to transport passengers and freight. The lower deck was open to the public as a toll road. Large warehouses once lined both sides of the railroad bed to accommodate a busy cotton trade. In 1864, over 29,000 Confederate troops camped and assembled around this site before crossing the Tennessee River, prior to the Battle of Franklin in Middle Tennessee.

**COLBERT COUNTY SIDE 1 OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE**

In 1904, the Sheffield Development Company replaced local passenger train service with streetcars which utilized the railroad tracks until 1933. The railroad was abandoned in 1988 by the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company and was donated in 1993 to the Old Railroad Bridge Company with the adjoining right-of-way. In 1995, this property, minus the bridge, was given to the City of Sheffield. The railroad bed was paved by the city in 1999 and named Ashe Boulevard in memory of Laughlin Ashe, Mayor of Sheffield from 1992 until his death in 1995.

**Sponsored by the Old Railroad Bridge Company and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010]**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY THE E.L. POSEY PARKING LOT**

This site, known as “Posey’s Parking Lot,” served the black
community as one of two major transportation centers during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mrs. Rosa Parks’s December 1, 1955 arrest following her refusal to surrender her seat at the order of the white bus driver sparked protests against segregation on the Montgomery City Bus Lines. After city authorities outlawed the use of black taxis as an alternative form of transportation for boycotters, the parking lot, operated by local black business owners, Eddie L. and Dorothy Posey, served as a transportation hub in the midst of the city’s black business district. Over 200 sedans and station wagons, dubbed “rolling churches” since many were owned and operated by African-American churches, shuttled some 2,000 black passengers daily over more than a year to work and to shop. On November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower federal court decision in Browder vs. Gayle, declaring segregation in city bus seating unconstitutional. Integrated bus service began on December 21, 1956. This parking lot continued to operate until 1967. [2010: McDonough Street, Montgomery]

**STERLING HIGH SCHOOL**

Sheffield Colored School was renamed Sterling High School in 1942 in memory of the late Benjamin Sterling. The Board of Trustees worked diligently with school officials to obtain equipment and qualified teachers to make Sterling an accredited school. Land for an athletic field and playground was acquired in 1946. A gymnasium and dining room were added in 1950, and the entire building was renovated when grades 1-6 moved to a new school in 1959. Rev. Richard A. Stewart served as principal, 1944-1968. The Sterling band greeted President John F. Kennedy as he arrived at TVA in 1963. Sterling closed in 1968 under federal court orders and its 225 pupils and 12 teachers were absorbed into Sheffield Junior and Senior High Schools. The vacant building was razed in 1978 and 19th St. was renamed Sterling Blvd.

Sponsored by City of Sheffield, Sterling Alumni, and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010: E. 19th Street, Sheffield]

**SOUTH OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Founded in 1880 as Oak Grove Baptist Church, the congregation added “South” to its name in ca. 1912. The church began under the Macedonia Baptist Association and, in 1919, joined with the Washington County Baptist Association. Among its many pastors was one, Brother J.W. Singley, who served over fifty years. Until Fruitdale High School opened in 1924, the church also served as a community school. The community and the state jointly owned the property until October 1950, when Governor James E. Folsom and Washington County Schools Superintendent A.R. Meadows, for a promissory note of $50,000, sold the school board’s interest to members of the South Oak Grove Baptist Church and their successors. The church stands on the foundation of Christ’s love and meeting the spiritual needs of the surrounding area.
THE AHA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY’S FINDINGS

By Marty Olliff and Robert Burroughs

In the Fall 2010 issue of the Alabama Historical Association Newsletter, we reported the findings of our demographic survey of the AHA Board of Directors. This was a pilot, question testing project for a much larger venture—a demographic and satisfaction survey of the association’s general membership supported by a generous grant from the Troy University Faculty Development Committee.

Between mid-April and mid-June, 2010, we mailed a two-page questionnaire to 261 randomly-selected AHA members (25 percent of the 1044 names appearing on the membership list at that time). In July and August, our assistant conducted telephone interviews with many of those who did not complete the survey. Together these contacts yielded 178 responses.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings from that survey tell us many things we assumed—and a few things we did not know—about the AHA.

The AHA membership is significantly older than the population of the United States and the state. Sixty-three percent of AHA members are over 65 years of age compared to 12.4 percent of the population of the US and 13 percent of Alabama residents. Furthermore, only 8 percent of AHA members are under 45 years of age.

Members work in a wide variety of fields, though education predominates (over 39 percent). Medical professionals, from doctors and nurses to office workers, are the second-largest occupational group at slightly more than 12 percent. Information professionals including librarians, archivists, museum workers, and similar occupations account for more than 8 percent, followed by business managers and owners (7 percent), and those in the legal profession (almost 6 percent). The survey revealed two surprises—the surprisingly large number of hard scientists among AHA members (2.4 percent) and the low number of ministers (1.2 percent). Retired and working members split almost evenly.

Furthermore, survey results indicate that they are well-educated, well-to-do, and live in larger towns and cities. Almost 94 percent of respondents had a bachelors’, masters’, doctoral, or professional degrees. Half of those surveyed made between $60,000 and $124,999, while over one-third made more than $125,000 annually. Approximately 20 percent live on farms or in rural areas while almost 48 percent live in cities over 50,000.

The survey captured more men than women (56.7 percent to 43.3 percent) and informed us that almost three-fourths of us are married. In addition, 98 percent of AHA members are white, with a few African-American and racially “other” members.

In addition, AHA members and their families have lived in the state for a long time. Almost 77 percent report living in Alabama for thirty or more years, and 91 percent have lived in the state over ten years. Eighty-five percent report that their Alabama connections stretch back to their great-grand parents and beyond.

Not surprisingly, over 70 percent hold individual memberships in AHA while almost 23 percent hold family memberships. Interestingly, however, slightly more than half have been AHA members for less than ten years (though 17 percent have been members for more than thirty). Nine out of ten members replied that the AHA satisfies their needs. When asked why or why not, 72 answered with praise, information about how they view the association, criticism, or suggestions for improvement. The final solicitation for comments drew 32 responses. All are very helpful in determining the future of the AHA.

Back to the original question: Who are we? We’re well-educated, well-to-do, older city-dwellers who trace our Alabama connections back a number of generations and have lived in the state much of our lives. We come from a variety of occupations, have joined the AHA in the past decade, and are generally satisfied with our association. And if you ask, we’ll tell you what we think.

Robert Burroughs is an associate professor of sociology and Marty Olliff is an archivist and associate professor of history, both at Troy University Dothan Campus.
The Alabama Historical Association began sponsoring historical markers as early as 1950, and a standing AHA marker committee was created in 1952. The committee’s duties are to encourage and assist interested parties in the purchase and erection of markers for historical sites. The committee also serves to check the accuracy of information carried in the proposed marker texts and to attest to a site’s historic importance. The distinctive design of the Alabama Historical Association marker is a double-faced case aluminum plate with a baked enamel finish. The plate has a deep blue background and the text is portrayed in gold letters. The insignia at the top is the Alabama flag, the St. Andrew’s cross, in red, white and gold.

For more information regarding historical markers, please visit www.alabamahistory.net

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Catch all the details inside!

Image: Fishing in the Mobile Delta. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.