The AHA’s 2008 annual meeting will be held in The Shoals. Registration and lodging information is located on page 17 and 18.
The Shoals Community

By Milly Wright

Four towns form the community known as “The Shoals:” Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia. Tuscumbia, Sheffield, and Muscle Shoals are on the south side of the Tennessee River in Colbert County, and Florence is on the north side in Lauderdale County.

Tuscumbia was settled around 1817 when Michael Dickson came from Tennessee to live near the big spring. A few dwellings, a mill and a store were soon built. The town grew rapidly due to the fact that Jackson’s Military Road was routed through it, and that it had easy access to the river by means of a creek that flowed from the powerful spring.

In March of 1820 Gen. John Coffee published a “Plan of a Town at the Coldwater Spring” with a central business and residential district surrounded by a wide commons area. The town was incorporated in December of that year as Ococoposo, or Cold Water. In 1821 the name was changed to Big Spring, and in 1822 it became Tuscumbia, in honor of a Chickasaw chief.

Peter Wier, in an 1823 letter, stated, “We have five dry goods stores and some grocery merchants, mechanics of almost every description, and will in all probability have a printing press shortly... People are flocking in and settling fast.” A row of log cabins on the hill above the big spring was used as a hotel, though more substantial facilities were soon built, including the famous Challen House, built in 1824, where Gen. Andrew Jackson is said to have “danced with the belles of the town.” Many comfortable and attractive homes, such as Ivy Green and Locust Hill, were built alongside the wide streets.

Some of the oldest commercial buildings in Alabama are located in Tuscumbia. The Keaghy building (right, center structure) dates from the 1830s. This structure (currently the Morgan House, 107 E. Fifth Street) now has a stucco exterior that covers the red brick walls which were laid in Flemish bond pattern for strength and beauty.

Michael Dickson traveled to the source of Spring Creek in 1817 and established a settlement that eventually became Tuscumbia. A Works Projects Administration project is responsible for a stone archway bridge and pavilion at the park. The manmade waterfall (pictured above) is a favorite feature of Big Spring (Spring Park) in Tuscumbia.
The William Winston Home (located on the Deshler High School campus) was built about 1830. This is the largest surviving antebellum structure in Tusculumbia.

The spiral staircase located in the William Winston Home is unique and one of many outstanding features of the dwelling.
The Forks of Cypress
James Jackson (photo below) was one of the founders of Florence and built the Forks of Cypress between 1816 and 1820. Jackson is also known for importing and breeding horses. The Forks of Cypress burned in 1966. A replica of the Forks of Cypress (bottom photo) was built by Amsouth Bank (now Regions Bank) in downtown Florence.
A few miles away, at the foot of the great shoals in the Tennessee River, at least five towns were formed after the 1818 government land sales: Florence, South Florence (South Port), Bainbridge, Marion, and York Bluff. It seemed to be a natural place for commerce and trade as boats could not cross the shoals during times of low water, and cotton and other merchandise would likely be stored in warehouses alongside the river.

General Jackson bought a section of land between the river and present Tuscumbia in 1818 with the intention of establishing a plantation and helping to set up the town of York Bluff. He wrote to his friend General Coffee in 1817 that he felt sure that the place would become “one of the largest towns in the western country—here will capital concentrate itself—and it will become the Nashville of the Tennessee.” York Bluff was laid out by General Coffee in 1820 and several people purchased lots, but the town was never developed.

Though York Bluff, Bainbridge, Marion, and eventually, South Florence, fell by the wayside, Florence and Tuscumbia became thriving towns. Lots were sold in July of 1818 in the new town of Florence, on the north side of the river. A group of men whose families were originally from Virginia and Ireland had formed the Cypress Land Company in Huntsville for the purpose of establishing the town. Laid out among a forest of great white oaks by General Coffee with the help of Ferdinand Sannoner, a circular road enclosed orderly streets and squares that were reserved for a college, a female seminary, a “public walk or pleasure ground,” a market, a courthouse, a jail and a burial ground. The town was incorporated in 1826. Sannoner was allowed to name the town “Florence,” as it reminded him of the beautiful town of Florence in his native Italy.

A highly diverse group of people came to visit or to live in Florence—travelers from Europe, lawyers, doctors, teachers, merchants, hoteliers, builders, manufacturers, laborers and planters—as well as gamblers, prostitutes, entertainers and fortune hunters. Men recklessly discharging firearms while riding galloping horses shared the muddy streets with hordes of people traveling from Nashville to points south. Well-dressed ladies, strolling sheep, leaping goats, howling dogs and wandering cows added to the downtown melange.

Travelers made their way down the steep hill south of the town, wound around the old Indian mound, passed the “doggeries” and houses of ill repute, navigated through the crowds of people described as “white, black, red and white.”

A large Indian mound was constructed near the Tennessee River between 100 B.C. and A.D. 400. This mound is 43 feet in height and is the highest domiciliary mound in the Tennessee Valley. The City of Florence maintains this historic site and a museum located on the grounds (1028 South Court Street). The museum contains numerous artifacts and displays that illustrate the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian Native American ages.
yellow, big and little” who were gathered around the “groceries” near the river, and took the horse-powered ferry over to South Florence and continued their journey.

In 1830 a group of enterprising Tusculumbia citizens formed the Tusculumbia Railway Company. When completed, by 1834, it was said to have been “the best equipped and best managed railroad in the world.” Operating as the Tusculumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railway, it transported cotton around the dangerous shoals in the river and took much of the business from the river boats.

Social groups in both Florence and Tusculumbia were formed according to family ties, church worship, education, and occupation. Though many people lived in log cabins, fine homes were built by those who were successful in their professions, many of them reflecting the architectural styles prevalent in the places where they had formerly lived. Anne Royall described the Florence household of lawyer John McKinley, in July of 1821, as containing “more taste and splendor, by one half, than I ever saw in my whole life.” The lovely home built by lawyer George Coalter, which is now called Mapleton, stood as a twin sentinel with the McKinley home on the cliff overlooking the river.

Daughters of wealthy planters and professionals were instructed at Locust Dell Academy from 1834 until 1843 by Nicholas Hentz and his wife, author Caroline Lee Hentz. The Florence Synodical Female College became active in the 1850s, as did Wesleyan University, which was chartered in 1855 after a portion of the faculty of LaGrange College moved to Florence.

LaGrange College, situated on LaGrange Mountain in Franklin (present Colbert) County, was Alabama’s first institution of higher knowledge, having been chartered in 1830, predating the University of Alabama. A Female Academy, as well as a Male Academy, had been set up in Tusculumbia by 1825.

Even though there was competition between the towns of Florence and Tusculumbia from the beginning, those who had the resources to do so kept in touch with relatives and friends who lived on the opposite side of the river, forming a loosely-joined early Shoals community. Those who worked on small family farms and had neither money nor time for travel were unlikely to cross over the river, even after a bridge was built, in 1840.

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Established by the Methodist Church, LaGrange College (top left photo) was Alabama’s first chartered school (1830) and is the forerunner of the University of North Alabama. In the 1850s, the school moved from to Florence and became Florence Wesleyan University. The LaGrange College site is open to the public and a large marker (top right photo) has been erected at the park site. One of the original buildings at Wesleyan University is Wesleyan Hall (bottom photo). Built in 1855, this building is still used by the University of North Alabama.
The “dread and stern realities” of the Civil War came as a shock to citizens in both counties, many of whom had strongly opposed secession. By 1861 Tuscumbians had formed a flourishing and culturally interesting community that included enterprising businessmen from the northeast and abroad, as well as professionals from the older southern states. Those who prided themselves upon their kind and “courtly” manners were particularly affronted and outraged by brutal soldiers and renegades who invaded their town, stole their food, and destroyed their property.

Florence was occupied many times over by both armies, and was also besieged by roaming bands of vandals. Cotton and woolen mills and other enterprises were destroyed. The bridge connecting the two sides of the river was burned in 1862 by Confederate Col. Ben Hardin Helm and was not rebuilt until 1870. After the Civil War, when there were no slaves to do menial work, mechanization was quickly adopted. Industrialization took place on the north side of the river in East Florence. “Florence Light Running Wagons” that became famous all over the world were among the many products that were produced in factories along the river, beginning in the 1880s.

In 1885 land that had been part of the early town of York Bluff was incorporated into the new town of Sheffield. Engineers and mechanics from the northeast were brought in to set up power plants and mills in a place considered by some to be “the best point in the U.S. for the manufacture of iron and steel.” The new town was named Sheffield after its industrial counterpart, Sheffield, England. “Well-educated, financially-secure” people came to manage the new industries and to provide jobs for local people.

An experiment in new town building, Sheffield was organized in Atlanta by Walter and Eugene Gordon, at the instigation of Capt. Alfred H. Moses of Montgomery. In 1889 some of the streets were laid out forty-five degrees askew from those of adjoining Tuscumbia, supposedly in order to give a sense of a separate community.

Beginning in 1904, streetcars, powered by electric current from the Sheffield Company’s steam-powered generators, traveled between Florence, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield. Sunday afternoon excursions became popular, and the towns became easily accessible to one another for the first time. Some people actually lived in one town and worked in another.

The fashionable new Victorian-style houses built by industrialists and entrepreneurs who came into the area during the “boom” years bore little resemblance to the early log houses, “Williamsburg” cottages, and Federal-style homes as their inhabitants did to the people who had settled in the area nearly a hundred years earlier. Mill workers formed their own communities and entertained themselves and their neighbors with their music, dancing, and story telling.
Originally built in the 1840s, the Florence Bridge was damaged by storms several times and had to be repaired. Then it was burned during the Civil War.

By World War I, trolleys were used in the Shoals area. This was a particularly popular form of travel in the Shoals area on the weekends.

The railroad bridge with Wilson Dam in the background.
While the iron and steel industry developed in Sheffield, agriculture was important to Tuscumbia. Cotton gins thrived in Tuscumbia.

Muscle Shoals was incorporated in 1923. This scene of citizens posed at the new post office was taken in the 1920s.

Teacher, writer, and philanthropist, Maud McKnight Lindsay (photo to the left) was born in Tuscumbia and was the founder of the first free kindergarten in Alabama. Challenging the defined roles of class, Maud started a free kindergarten in 1898. She also published numerous books and became internationally known for her work. “One of the truly progressive women of the southland” and a representative of “Alabama’s true wealth and greatness” was the way Helen Keller described Maud.
In 1918 President Woodrow Wilson authorized a dam to be built at the Muscle Shoals. In 1921 Henry Ford offered to buy the partially-completed dam, along with two nitrate plants, steam plants, and other facilities that had been built on the south side of the river. His plan was to create a manufacturing town that would stretch along the river from the Muscle Shoals 75 miles eastward. A great deal of publicity was given to the project.

Though Congress declined to sell the property to a private citizen, people all over the country had become familiar with the name Muscle Shoals. Local historian Jesse C. Bradford says that investors, foreseeing future growth, laid out a town called Muscle Shoals Township in 1923. It was bounded by the river on the north, and Sheffield and Tuscumbia on the west.

*continued on page 16*
Presidential Visits to the Shoals

Presidents from William McKinley to Jimmy Carter have visited the Shoals. President McKinley came to Tuscumbia in 1901. The Palace Drug Store (visible in the 1901 photo below right) is now a landmark in Tuscumbia; originally a railroad hotel built in the 1830s, it became a pharmacy in the early 1900s. The soda fountain is still in use.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s visits to the Shoals are among the most famous. In January 1933, Roosevelt and Sen. George W. Norris (right) visited Wilson Dam. It was in Sheffield (bottom left photo) that Roosevelt announced the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Near the site where Roosevelt announced the creation of TVA, Sheffield is erecting a marker (bottom right photo) to commemorate the event. The marker is nearing completion.
From a WWI Newsstand to Books•A•Million

Today, Books-A-Million is the third-largest book retailer in the United States. Its origins can be traced back to an enterprising teenager in Florence, Alabama.

Clyde W. Anderson began a street-corner newsstand in 1917 in Florence. He and his family were facing difficult times, but the resourceful young man found a way to capitalize on the changes occurring in the Shoals because of the building of Wilson Dam. The influx of construction workers presented opportunities to provide individuals with publications not readily available in the Shoals. Within a few years, Clyde transformed his spartan newsstand into a thriving business because of his initiative and creativity.

In the 1950s Charles C. Anderson (Clyde’s son) joined the family business and launched a chain of stores called Bookland. As the company expanded into the superstore business, Books-A-Million, Inc. emerged.
In 1925, the year that Wilson Dam was completed, developers A. L. Howell and C. T. Graves purchased a part of the Muscle Shoals Township and constructed streets and sidewalks and a city hall that contained a post office. In 1927 they built a fine brick school and a modern service station. The main street, Wilson Dam Highway, was lighted, and water mains, a sanitary sewage system, and sanitary drinking fountains were installed. Several nice homes were built in the vicinity of the school.

By 1933, when new plans for the area were being discussed, the town had barely grown. An article in a New York Better Business Bureau publication at that time warned investors about buying lots in Muscle Shoals. Pictures of weedy streets and undeveloped lots were shown.

In January of 1933 President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Muscle Shoals area, and in April of that year sent a message to Congress saying that, “It is clear that the Muscle Shoals development is but a small part of the potential public usefulness of the entire Tennessee River. Such use, if envisioned in its entirety, transcends mere power development; it enters the wide fields of flood control, soil erosion, afforestation, elimination from agricultural use of marginal lands, and distribution and diversification of industry. . . . I, therefore, suggest to the Congress legislation to create a Tennessee Valley Authority.”

Eventually, after the establishment of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which had a great impact on the development of the entire area, and especially after Woodward Avenue became an extension of Highway 43, the town of Muscle Shoals began to grow. It has become a major shopping center for the area, as well as the place where industry has been concentrated for many years. It was never planned, as Tuscumbia, Florence and Sheffield were, with a central area for governmental and business facilities. Today a new city hall, a new library, a fire station, banks and schools are located along Avalon Avenue, which leads to the regional airport. Once again it is a magnet for investors, with fashionable homes and highly-rated schools.

“The Shoals” has become a complex and energetic mix of four distinctive towns inhabited by people who have come here from around the world during the past two hundred years.

Milly Wright is chair of the Local Arrangments Committee for the 2008 Shoals annual meeting. Consultants for this article: Tuscumbia, Ninon Holder Parker; Florence, Dr. Kenneth R. Johnson; Sheffield, Richard C. Sheridan; Muscle Shoals, Jesse C. Bradford.

Shoals Recording Studios

The Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield) and Fame Recording Studios (603 E. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals) are locations for many famous recordings. Established in 1959, Fame was the first successful studio in Alabama and helped earn the Shoals the title of “Hit Recording Capital of the World.

Bob Seger, Cher, the Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Linda Ronstadt, Cher, and Bob Dylan are just a few of the artists who have recorded hits at one of these two recording studios.
ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
2008 SHOALS MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION (APRIL 17-19)

Please note that the Saturday breakfast ticket is not included in the basic registration fee.

Full registration (# persons) _____@ $70 per person = ____________
(*includes Thursday evening reception, Friday lunch, Friday banquet, Saturday luncheon, historical tours, and Friday and Saturday sessions)

Print names below for name tags:

_____________________________________      ___________________________________
_____________________________________      ___________________________________

Saturday only registration (# persons) _____@ $25 per person = ____________
(*includes Saturday sessions and luncheon)

Print names below for name tags:

_________________________________
_________________________________

Saturday breakfast tickets (# persons) _____@ $10 per person = ____________
(PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registering for the breakfast is strongly encouraged. Ensure your place by pre-registering!)

Contribution to Student Scholarship Fund (See page 56 for details) _____________

Total enclosed :   $ ____________

Your name________________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________
City _____________________ State ______ Zip code _________ Day-time telephone (_____)______________

Pre-registrations will be accepted until April 11. Registrations received after that date will be charged $80 for full registration and $35 for Saturday only registration. For questions concerning registration, contact Burt Rieff (256-740-0278 or brieff@aol.com).

Make checks payable to the Alabama Historical Association and mail with this form to:

Alabama Historical Association
PO Box 640
Florence, AL  35631-0640

Bill my: ☐Visa ☐MC  Account number:_______________________ Expiration Date:__________

Name as it appears on card (please print):____________________________________________________

Signature:_________________________________________ Phone #: (_____)___________________

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William Underwood Eiland will be the banquet speaker for the 2008 annual meeting. A native of Sprott, Alabama, Dr. Eiland is director of the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia. His presentation is entitled “Not All The Lamps Are Out: The Southern Scene and Alabama.” The address covers the visual arts in Alabama from roughly 1920 to 1950. He will present works from an extensive slide list in order to talk about the artists and artistic movments in Alabama during the entre-deux years.

Cassandra King, author of numerous novels including The Sunday Wife, Queen of Broken Hearts, and The Same Sweet Girls, will be the breakfast speaker on Saturday morning at the 2008 annual meeting. Born and reared in Pinckard, Alabama (a small town outside of Dothan), Cassandra grew up on a peanut farm which is still in the King family. Her novels have won numerous book awards and earned high praise from reviewers. Cassandra presently lives in the Low Country of South Carolina with her husband, novelist Pat Conroy.

Accommodation Information

The Holiday Inn in Sheffield is the headquarters hotel for the 2008 annual meeting.

Holiday Inn
4900 Hatch Blvd
Sheffield, AL 35660
For reservations, call (256)381-4710 and ask for the AHA group rate.

Alternate accommodations in the Shoals:

Hampton Inn and Suites (downtown)
505 South Court Street
Florence, AL 35630
(256)767-8282

Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
800 Cox Creek Parkway S
Florence, AL 35630
(256)246-3630

Best Western Fairwinds Inn
2807 Woodward Ave
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
(256)381-0236

Coldwater Inn
712 Highway 72 W
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256)383-6844
Directions to The Richards Center from the Holiday Inn

From the Holiday Inn, turn left onto AL-157 (Hatch Blvd). Travel north a short distance and then take Highway 43/72 to Florence. This road crosses O’Neal Bridge. As you ascend the incline into Florence, continue straight but move to the left lane. At Dr. Hicks Boulevard (City Lodge will be on your immediate left), turn left. Travel a short distance, and then turn left onto Riverview Drive (watch for the AHA signs). Travel .2 miles, and The Richards Center (541 Riverview Dr.) will be on your left.

Directions to Coby Hall from the Holiday Inn

From the Holiday Inn and turn left onto AL-157 (Hatch Blvd). Travel north a short distance and then take Highway 43/72 to Florence. This road crosses O’Neal Bridge. As you ascend the incline into Florence, continue straight. You will travel between the Lauderdale County Court House (on your left) and the Suntrust building (on your right). You will now be on Court Street. Continue to the end of this street (Rogers Hall will be in front of you). At the end of Court Street, Coby Hall (459 N. Court St.) will be on your left. Parking is available on all sides of Coby Hall.

Directions to the Holiday Inn in Sheffield.

Travel north on I-65. At Cullman, take the AL-157 exit (Exit 310) toward Cullman/Moulton. Turn left onto AL-157 and follow AL-157 through Moulton to the Shoals. Just outside the Shoals, you will approach JCT 43/72. At JCT 43/72, AL-157 turns north (turn right at this junction—a Hardee’s store will be on your immediate right). AL-157, US-43, and US-72 become the same road at this point, and the road also becomes Woodward Avenue. Travel straight north on AL-157 for 3.6 miles. The Holiday Inn will be on your left.
2008 Alabama Historical Association Meeting
The Shoals, Alabama

Thursday Evening, April 17, 2008

5:30 P.M. Walking Tour (departs from Coby Hall) of historic region in Florence; Billy Warren to conduct tour.

6:00-8:00 P.M. Reception and Registration, Coby Hall

Friday, April 18, 2008

8:30 A.M. Registration, The Richards Center

9:30 A.M. General Session, The Richards Center

10:45 A.M. Concurrent Sessions, The Richards Center

Session A

“Helen Keller and Washington National Cathedral as ‘America’s Westminster Abbey,’” David R. Bains, Samford University

“The Effects of the Civil War on Upper-Class Women in Lauderdale County, Alabama,” April D. Folden, Tennessee Valley Historical Society

“Alabamians in German Stalags in World War II,” Donald E. Wilson, Samford University

Session B

“Iconographic Resources at the Eufaula Athenaeum,” Stephen Rowe, Eufaula Athenaeum

“Choctaw/Chickasaw Delegation Debates of 1811,” Treva Dean, University of Alabama

“Responding to Terrorism: A.B. Moore’s Alabama Volunteer Corps, 1859-61,” Alan J. Pitts, Indian Springs

Session C

“Alabama’s Adopted Confederate: The Propaganda Mission of Henry Hotze,” Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile

“Music of the Mines,” Karen Utz, Curator, Sloss Furnaces

“Henry Ford is Coming to Town: His Quest to Lease Wilson Dam, 1921-1924,” Clint Cvacho, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Noon Box Lunch, The Richards Center

1:30 P.M. Afternoon Tours (Tuscumbia); maps will be available at annual meeting.
7:00 P.M.  Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
“Not All the Lamps Are Out: The Southern Scene and Alabama,” William Eiland, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia

Saturday, April 19, 2008

7:30 A.M.  Dutch-Treat Breakfast, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
“You Can’t Make this Stuff Up,” Cassandra King, Fripp Island, South Carolina.

9:00 A.M.  Registration, The Richards Center

9:45 A.M.  General Session, The Richards Center

10:30 A.M.  Concurrent Sessions, The Richards Center

Session A

“Emory O. Jackson, the Voice of Black Birmingham,” Mary Stanton, New York City

“Gathering the Alabama Saints to Zion,” Mary Ella Engel, Western Carolina University

“The Reconstruction Ku Klux Klan, A Social Profile,” Michael Fitzgerald and Adam Lozeau, St. Olaf College

Session B

“Bear Creek, Nickajack, and Alabama’s Northern Boundaries,” David Robb, Huntsville Museum of Art

“Divided Loyalties: Politics, Regionalism, and the Creation of Houston County,” Scotty E. Kirkland, University of South Alabama

“The Stones Talk: Returning from the Trail of Tears,” George Makowski and Zach Stanfield, University of North Alabama

Session C

“The Life and Times of Captain Arthur Henley Keller,” Richard C. Sheridan, Sheffield City Historian

“Press Coverage and Civil Rights: the Albany Movement and the Birmingham Demonstrations Considered,” Zac Peterson, University of Alabama Birmingham


12:00 P.M.  Annual Luncheon Session, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
Presidential Address. “Cat Fights and Coffins: Stories of Alabama Courthouses,” Anne Herbert Feathers
Workshops on Teaching, Grants, and Family Photographs

In an effort to increase its service to the historical community, the Alabama Historical Association is sponsoring workshops prior to the 2008 annual meeting. These workshops will be held at the Richards Center (Florence City Board of Education, 541 Riverview Drive, Florence), 3:30-5:30 P.M., Thursday, April 17, 2008. Reservations are required, and space is limited. There is no cost for the workshops, but individuals should preregister. Provided below is general information about the workshops.

Teachers’ Workshop—Alabama: The History, Geography, Economics, and Civics of an American State. Authors Leah Rawls Atkins and Hardy Jackson will offer this workshop to teachers who use the Atkins/Jackson textbook on Alabama history.

Grants for Cultural Outreach Programs—The Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Randy Shoultz of the Alabama State Council (ASCA) on the Arts and Susan Perry of the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHP) will discuss grants their organizations make to local cultural organizations. Discover what they fund, how much they offer, how to apply, and the mysteries of the ASCA and AHF funding. Open to all, but specifically targeted at representatives of organizations that promote arts and humanities in their locality.

Your Old Photos—Make Them Meaningful. A Family Photograph Workshop. David and Frances Robb will cover the basics of dating, identifying, organizing, caring for, and interpreting family photographs for attendees who find their own pictures overflowing shoe boxes, dressers, and file boxes. Topics include dating by technologies and formats; dating by content; and managing, preserving, and interpreting family photos. There will be a question and answer period, and the Robbs encourage participants to bring their most interesting or puzzling photos.

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2008 Workshop Registration (April 17)

Please note that there is no workshop fee, but that reservations are required to ensure a place at the sessions. Complete this form and return to the address below.

Your name:____________________________________________________________________
Organization/Institution (if applicable):____________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________
City:________________ State:_____ Zip Code:______ Day-time Telephone:(___)____________
Session you plan to attend (please check only one):
_____ Teachers’ Workshop
_____ Grants for Cultural Outreach Programs
_____ Your Old Photos

Return your registration form to:

Alabama Historical Association
PO Box 640
Florence, AL  35631-0640.
Officers of local historical societies are invited to attend a complimentary breakfast meeting on Friday, April 18 at the Holiday Inn in Sheffield with special guest Bob Beatty of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The breakfast buffet will be open at 7:30 A.M., and the program will begin at 8:00 A.M.

Beatty, director of programs for AASLH, will discuss the "Changing Landscape of Public History." "History organizations and the communities they serve are undergoing accelerating change," according to Beatty, "due, in part, to demographic and societal trends, the digital revolution, volatile local and national economies, and changing perceptions of the American past." Beatty will give an update on some of the latest developments in public history and the work of AASLH, as well as some strategies and suggestions for local society officers to implement in their respective communities.

The breakfast is free but limited to fifty attendees. The event is co-sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University.

Please call the Draughon Center at (334)844-4948 or email mwilson@auburn.edu by Monday, April 14 to reserve your place.

Bob Beatty of the American Association for State and Local History will be the speaker at the breakfast.

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University is co-sponsoring the complimentary breakfast for officers of local historical societies. The Center is located in Auburn at Pebble Hill.