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Thank you for allowing me to serve you as president of the Alabama Historical Association. I hope you will participate in this fall’s pilgrimage to Tallapoosa County and Horseshoe Bend, and next April’s annual meeting in Scottsboro. Local committees at both sites are working hard to prepare enjoyable and productive experiences for us.

At the first AHA board meeting I attended, Debbie Bayou La Batre. Some of the prettiest rural territory in the state is found in Blount, St. Clair, and Talladega counties, although it’s hard to beat the road along the Tennessee River in Lauderdale County near Waterloo, or the winding road down the mountain to Ft. Payne.

In our quest we have often been regarded as “marker police” by people who seem to think we’ve come to their community to blame them for a marker’s absence. A municipal worker vowed he knew nothing about our missing marker, but pointed us to the mayor’s house. Appearing at the back door with a fried chicken leg in his hand, the mayor explained that our marker was in storage for road widening, but would be reinstalled soon—and it has been. The municipal worker later stopped us and sheepishly admitted he had known where the marker was all along.

We suspect we’ve been misled by a few residents who know full well why a marker was gone, but wouldn’t say. A county road crew in St. Clair County sent us on a serpentine route to Lock Number 9, or something like that, on a fruitless search for the missing Ft. Strother marker. The next day, by sheer luck, we found the marker, minus its post, leaning against the old train depot in Talladega, where a highway patrolman had left it. Their chamber of commerce people begged us to take it with us, but we didn’t have room for it and promised to send someone to fetch it. AHA member T. R. Henderson went to reclaim it a few months later, but it had gone missing again. To this day we have no idea where it is.

Sometimes marker hunting gets in the way of other things Alabamians are doing. In Holtville we ran into a seemingly endless homecoming parade; in Arab we found ourselves a part of the annual “Poke Salat” festival; in Huntsville we were cut off from several marker sites by a Saturday morning cycling event. Sometimes those other things are delightful: In the little community of Waldo in...
Talladega County we came upon several families unaffectedly enjoying themselves on a weekday afternoon in a very small municipal park, totally unconcerned that the nearby Maria Forge marker was missing. Too often our marker hunting was interrupted by devastation—in Tuscaloosa, in Bridgeport, in Cullman, in Oak Grove, and several other small communities hit so hard by the tornadoes.

Many markers celebrate prominent Alabama citizens and their accomplishments, but there are also those that don’t reflect very well on us at all: The Freedom Riders marker near Anniston, the Cherokee removal marker in Lauderdale County, the bus boycott marker in Montgomery, and the Albert Patterson marker in Phenix City.

Some other memorable markers include: Daniel Pratt’s marker near his fenced gravesite, which is video monitored by the police; Huntsville’s Monte Sano Hotel marker, which features an engraved image of the original structure; the boll weevil marker in Enterprise, with its nearby statue of a bug; the Millbrook marker of our only territorial governor, William Wyatt Bibb, who is buried in an obscure gravesite three miles away; the Pickens County marker near the “face” of Henry Wells etched by lightning into the pane of a courthouse window.

There are markers that have been damaged, some that have been neglected, some that have been expertly refurbished, and many, many that are just gone. Just recently we received a call from a scrap dealer in Fayetteville, Tennessee, who had our John Williams Walker marker that was missing from Madison County. For the price of a good bottle of whisky, a friend of Ron’s drove up and rescued the marker and delivered it to a temporary home in David Robb’s garage.

Our little project has given us an excuse to leave the interstates and highways and get deep into the real Alabama that few people regularly experience. Our state has breathtaking beauty, compelling majesty, and the biggest, brightest, and best of everything. Sadly, she also has abject poverty, civic apathy, tasteless architecture, almost zero municipal planning, and far too little aesthetic emphasis. In my dreams of a brighter day in Alabama, we will, in our own economic and social self-interests, target these shortcomings instead of continuing to shoot ourselves in our own collective foot.
The venue for Friday’s reception will be historic Ginkgo Manor, one of Dadeville’s most beautiful historic houses. Four Greek-style columns rising to the top of the second-story balcony command the attention of passersby. This mansion, once known as the Mitchell House, was bought by Cheryl Haggerty and has been renamed in honor of the Chinese ginkgo tree planted there in the early twentieth century. It is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Dadeville.

There is no solid agreement on when the house was built, but local historians believe it was constructed before the Civil War, perhaps in 1830. It was the birthplace of Sidney Z. Mitchell (1862–1944), who gained wealth and prominence in the US in hydroelectrics, building his first plant in Washington state. By the time he had reached his early 40s, his reputation was enough to be invited to assist in organizing the Electric Bond and Share Company, which became one of the largest holding companies in the country.

The house was included in the 1930 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), which produced the state’s first detailed record of its historic architecture. Varian Feare, a HABS writer, was impressed with the house and wrote:

*The graceful pillars, fluted and tapered, of the classic portico, one of the most charming uncovered in the survey, are based on hand-pressed brick. A balcony with lacy, tied-in triple balusters services the second story and makes a lovely composition of the front façade. Hidden beams support it without sag. It is recorded that the silver-tongued [Confederate William Lowndes] Yancey spoke from this balcony with his eager listeners seated upon the spacious lawn. Green shutters against the white siding make the old mansion truly of the days colonial, and of such interest as to check even the most casual passer-by.*

The Ginkgo tree was a gift in 1919 from Alec Lane to the Lane family, who owned the house at the time. Alec sent the tree home from a visit to China while on a tour of duty with the US Navy.

Cheryl Haggerty has completely renovated Ginkgo Manor, keeping its antebellum appearance while giving it a functional update. Locals and out-of-towners use it for parties, weddings, receptions, and other gatherings. We are pleased to be gathering there for the Friday reception!
First Universalist Church of Camp Hill

With its roots in the European Enlightenment, Universalism was transplanted to the American colonies by religious sojourners and was flourishing by the time of the Revolutionary War. A Christian denomination, the defining tenet of Universalism was universal salvation—the belief that a gentle God would not condemn a soul to a literal hell. The Universalist Church of America merged with the American Unitarian Association in 1961, forming the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The First Universalist Church of Camp Hill was established in 1846 as Liberty Universalist Church. The original meeting place was a brush arbor on the present site of Mt. Lovely Baptist Church. A simple cabin soon replaced the arbor and served until 1884, when a larger wood-frame church was built. Membership burgeoned, and the striking new brick sanctuary pictured here was completed in 1907. Designed by D. A. Heinrich, a Birmingham architect, it was built with local labor using mostly indigenous material. The name was changed in 1909; it became the largest Universalist church in the southeastern United States in the first half of the twentieth century and continues to hold services.

By Elsie Jo Washburn

The Holley-Kernodle-Daniel House

This “Alabama Raised Cottage” style plantation home was constructed between 1837 and 1840 in a style reminiscent of the Creole Cottages of Southern Louisiana. The owner was probably Richard Holley, who came to this country with his brother John from Scotland. They settled in Georgia but came to Alabama when the Indian lands became available. They both purchased several hundred acres and built homes approximately one-half mile apart and served in the state legislature.

David Alexander Green Ross probably acquired the house after his marriage to Narcissa Frances Holley Tower. He served in the Civil War and in the State Legislature. He also funded construction of Ross Hall at the Southern Industrial Institute (now the Lyman Ward Military Academy).

The next owner, J. A. Kernodle, came to this area from North Carolina to sell fruit trees, shrubbery, and other nursery stock. He had the first budded pecan tree in Alabama; all the pecans trees in the area can be attributed to him. Kernodle worked closely with George Washington Carver at Tuskegee; his daughter Ruth was a good friend of Margaret Mitchell, author of Gone with the Wind, through Ruth’s work with the Red Cross in Atlanta. It is not known whether Margaret Mitchell visited the house, but current owners Bob and Cheryl Daniel like to think that she did.

After Mr. Kernodle the house had a succession of owners, and after years of neglect it had fallen into a state of disrepair. Cheryl and Bob purchased the house and moved it to its present site in 1994 and have kept the house as original as possible. The rear wing had to be reconstructed after the move but was done so according to a documentation survey by the Alabama Historical Commission. Cheryl Daniel has named the house “Maewood” in honor of her mother, Mae John Wood Bradshaw.

According to the Daniels, the house has a ghost. Perhaps visitors will be lucky enough to encounter it?
Smith Mountain Fire Tower

The Smith Mountain Fire Tower was erected in 1939, a creation of the Alabama Power Company, the Tallapoosa County Forest Conservation Association, and the Alabama Division of Forestry. Overlooking Lake Martin and the surrounding countryside, it proved an important tool in fighting forest fighters. It was also a landmark for boaters and hikers.

The state soon took over management of the tower and used Civilian Conservation Corps labor to build a ranger station at its base in 1941. None of these buildings survive, although some foundations are evident. The tower itself, built with galvanized steel, remained standing but was decommissioned in 1980.

In 2008 the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association (CRATA) began an effort to obtain the property and restore the tower. Reopened in 2012, the tower and surrounding trails are open for public use. The view from the tower, which is 80 feet above the top of Smith Mountain, is spectacular and offers panoramic views of Lake Martin.

Image courtesy of the Alabama Power Company Corporate Archives.

Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum

On February 17, 1969, a group met to organize a historical association to secure, preserve, and permanently display artifacts, historical documents, and other items of interest. Enough cash was raised to purchase three used display cases which were moved to the basement of the Dadeville Public Library. Later the display was located upstairs over the Tucker Insurance Agency.

Today the Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum has an impressive building to house its many artifacts. The society is currently raising funds to expand facilities into the adjacent building. Among the many items housed in this museum are a Duncan and Son’s delivery wagon, rabbit boxes (used during the Great Depression in order to save bullets), military uniforms, pump organs, parlor sets, a letter from Margaret Mitchell, and the first medical degree ever given to a woman from the Graefenberg Medical Institute (Alabama’s first medical school, which opened in 1852).
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park was established to preserve the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. This battle, named after a bend in the Tallapoosa River in northeast Tallapoosa County, was the final conflict in the Creek War of 1813–14 and marked the defeat of the Red Stick Creeks by Gen. Andrew Jackson and his forces. The 2,040-acre park was established by an act of Congress in 1956 and officially proclaimed on August 11, 1959, by Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**Battle of Horseshoe Bend**

On the morning of March 27, 1814, in what is now Tallapoosa County, Gen. Andrew Jackson and an army consisting of Tennessee militia, United States regulars, and Cherokee and Lower Creek allies attacked Chief Menawa and his Upper Creek, or Red Stick, warriors fortified in the Horseshoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River. Facing overwhelming odds, the Red Sticks fought bravely, yet ultimately lost the battle. More than 800 Upper Creek warriors died at Horseshoe Bend defending their homeland. This was the final battle of the Creek War of 1813–14. The victory at Horseshoe Bend brought Jackson national attention and helped elect him president in 1828. In a peace treaty signed after the battle, the Creeks ceded nearly 23 million acres of land to the United States.

Long before the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the Creek (also known as Muskogee) people lived in a loose confederation of towns along the rivers of Georgia and Alabama. Anglo-American settlers divided the Creek towns geographically into two groups: the Lower Towns along the Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers; and the Upper Towns along...
the Tallapoosa, Coosa, and Alabama Rivers. In 1811, Shawnee military leader Tecumseh visited the southeastern tribes, hoping to encourage them to return to their ancient traditions as well as drive the Americans from their ancestral lands. Many individuals in the Upper Creek Towns responded favorably to Tecumseh. When war broke out between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, a few Creek warriors joined Tecumseh and the British in fighting the Americans. The War of 1812 in turn brought on the Creek War of 1813–14 (also known as the Creek Civil War), a struggle between Creeks in both the Upper and Lower towns friendly to the United States and a faction in the Upper Towns called the Red Sticks, hostile towards the Americans. Many scholars believe that the Red Sticks took their name from their red-painted war clubs.

On July 27, 1813, a small force of Mississippi Territory Militia ambushed a party of Red Sticks returning from Pensacola with Spanish ammunition and supplies at Burnt Corn Creek, located near the border of what is now Conecuh and Escambia counties. One month later, on August 30, the Red Sticks retaliated by killing 250 Creek and American settlers at Fort Mims, a stockade just north of Mobile. The Fort Mims Massacre, as it came to be known, turned the Creek Civil War into a larger conflict, with US forces from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Mississippi Territory launching a three-pronged assault into Creek territory. The governor of Tennessee appointed Andrew Jackson, a prominent state politician and militia officer, to lead a portion of the state’s militia into Creek country. Jackson fought a slow and difficult campaign south along the Coosa River. In March 1814, reinforced by regular soldiers of the 39th United States Infantry, Jackson left the Coosa with a force of 3,300 men, including 500 Cherokee and 100 Lower Creek warriors allied to the United States. He intended to attack a Red Stick refuge and defensive position in the Horseshoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River.

On March 26, Jackson’s army camped six miles northwest of Horseshoe Bend. Menawa, a respected war leader from the town of Oakfuskee, waited at the bend with 1,000 Red Stick warriors and at least 350 women and children. Beginning in December 1813, people from six Upper Creek towns—Newyaucau, Oakfuskee, Oakchaya, Eufaula, Fishponds, and Hillabee—had gathered at Horseshoe Bend for protection. At the toe of the bend they built a temporary village, which they called Tohopeka, consisting of about 300 log houses. Across the narrow neck of the bend they constructed a log-and-dirt barricade nearly 400 yards long. In this fortified place, the Red Sticks hoped to defeat an attacking army or at least delay the attackers while the women, children, and older men escaped down river.

At 6:30 on the morning of March 27, Jackson divided his army. He ordered General John Coffee’s force of 700 mounted riflemen and 600 allied warriors to cross the Tallapoosa about two and one half miles downriver from Tohopeka and surround the village. The 2,000 remaining men, led by Jackson, marched directly for the neck of the horseshoe and the barricade. Jackson knew that it would be difficult to attack the imposing barricade. He chose the 39th Infantry, the most disciplined and best trained of his soldiers, to lead the assault. Before sending them forward, he determined to blow a hole in the wall with his cannon. The bombardment began at 10:30 a.m. For two hours the guns fired iron shot at the barricade protecting the Red Sticks, who waited and shouted at the army to meet them in hand-to-hand combat. Perhaps a third of the 1,000 warriors defending the barricade possessed a musket or rifle.

Meanwhile, across the river from Tohopeka, three of Coffee’s Cherokee warriors slipped into the river and swam to canoes lying on the opposite bank. Using the stolen canoes, the Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors crossed the river in increasing numbers, attacking and burning Tohopeka from the rear. At 12:30 p.m. Jackson launched his attack, after seeing smoke rising above the treetops and hearing gunshots. Drummers signaled the

Continued on page 10
advance, and with bayonets fixed, the regulars swept forward. After a few minutes of brutal fighting, the Red Sticks fell back to the interior of the bend. They fought desperately but were outgunned and vastly outnumbered. Many tried to escape into the river, but Coffee’s men shot them before they reached the opposite bank. The fighting raged nearly six hours before darkness fell and ended the battle.

More than 800 Red Stick warriors died that day, with 557 counted on the battlefield and an estimated 300 shot in the river. Of Jackson’s troops, 49 were killed and 154 wounded. The 350 Upper Creek women and children became prisoners of the Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors. Chief Menawa was wounded seven times but escaped the slaughter. By his own account he lay among the dead until nightfall and then crawled to the river, climbed into a canoe, and disappeared into the darkness. Menawa remained a prominent leader in Creek society and continued to live along the Tallapoosa River until 1836, when he was forced to relocate to Indian Territory in what is today Oklahoma.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend effectively ended the Creek War of 1813–14 and made Jackson a national hero. He was made a major general in the US Army and on January 8, 1815, defeated the British forces at the Battle of New Orleans. The battles of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans made Jackson popular enough to be elected as the seventh president of the United States in 1828. During his presidency, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, a law providing for the removal of all the Southeastern Indian tribes. A few months after Horseshoe Bend, on August 9, 1814, Andrew Jackson and a gathering of Creek chiefs signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, officially ending the Creek War and ceding nearly 23 million acres of Creek land to the United States. Thousands of American settlers poured into this vast area, with much of the land becoming the state of Alabama in 1819.

The Battlefield Becomes a Park

Today, the battlefield is preserved by the National Park Service as Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, near Dadeville. The roots of the park lie in a visit to the battlefield by Alabama Power Company executive Thomas Martin in 1923. At the time, the company was evaluating sites for potential dams and had purchased much of the land on which the battlefield sits some years earlier. Despite its appeal as a site for a dam, Martin recognized the historical significance of the battlefield and requested that the company abandon
its plans for a dam downstream of the site. He also initiated the effort to designate the site a national park. He convinced the company to donate the property to the federal government and helped organize the Horseshoe Bend Battle Park Association, serving as chair. Thomas D. Russell, president of Alabama-based clothing manufacturer Russell Corporation, served as president of the board. The board worked with Alabama congressman Albert Rains and senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman to draft legislation establishing the park. Rains then introduced the bill as HR 11766, and President Eisenhower signed it into law.

On March 27, 1964, the park officially opened to the public with the dedication of the Visitor Center. In 1965, a three-mile touring road through the battlefield was constructed. Today, the Visitor Center features an auditorium that shows a 23-minute video about the park and its history, a museum containing artifacts from the battlefield, and exhibits detailing the Creek War, the War of 1812, and Creek Indian history. Visitors to the park may view important sites on the battlefield by driving the auto tour road or walking a 2.8-mile nature trail. Each year, during the month of March, the park observes the anniversary of the battle with a living history event designed to focus attention on the participants of the battle. Authentic Creek, Cherokee, and military camps are constructed on the field behind the park Visitor Center. In August the park sponsors a second special event, Muster on the Tallapoosa, featuring guest speakers and living history demonstrations.

The park receives nearly 100,000 visitors per year. Groups visiting Horseshoe Bend may schedule battlefield tours or musket demonstrations by contacting park staff.

By Ove Jensen, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, with Claire M. Wilson, Auburn University.

This piece was compiled from two articles on Horseshoe Bend from the Encyclopedia of Alabama (www.encyclopediaofalabama.org), a free, online reference resource on Alabama’s history, culture, geography, and natural environment. EOA is a partnership of Auburn University, the Alabama State Department of Education, and the University of Alabama. It was developed by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University with the generous financial support of its founding sponsors. Auburn University hosts EOA’s editorial office through the Office of University Outreach, in partnership with University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology.

Living History Demonstrations at the Fall Pilgrimage

- Join a group of Tennessee militia historical demonstrators for the firing of the six-pound cannon and a musket/rifle demonstration.

- Steve Abolt, a nationally known historian who specializes in the clothing and uniforms of the War of 1812 period, will have uniforms, equipment, and other items to show meeting attendees.

- There will be a demonstration of Creek camp cooking by Rosa Hall, who uses her knowledge and expertise to demonstrate living history at Fort Toulouse, Horseshoe Bend, and various other places. Her daughter Monica does period Native American textile work. Her husband John will be there as a volunteer with the militia and as an AHA member.
2013 ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
1:00 p.m. TALLAPOOSA COUNTY TOURS
• First Universalist Church of Camp Hill
• Holley-Kernodle-Daniel House
• Smith Mountain Fire Tower
• Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum

6:00 p.m. RECEPTION
Ginkgo House, Dadeville

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION, COFFEE, BOOK SALES
Horseshoe Bend Military Park Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. PROGRAM
• AHA President Gayle Thomas, presiding
• Welcome from Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Doyle Sapp, Superintendent
• Welcome from Friends of Horseshoe Bend, Greg Wilson, President
• Historic Maps of Horseshoe Bend, Dr. Kathryn Braund, Auburn University
• “Sharp Knife Makes the Papers: Horseshoe Bend and the Rise of Andrew Jackson,” by David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler
• Archaeology of Horseshoe Bend and Tour Overview, Heather Tassin and Ove Jensen, Park Rangers

11:45 a.m. LUNCH

1–4:00 p.m. TOURS OF HORSESHOE BEND
Tour of Horseshoe Bend with Ove Jensen, Park Ranger, and living history demonstrations
David and Jeanne Heidler: “Sharp Knife Makes the Papers: Horseshoe Bend and the Rise of Andrew Jackson”

The AHA is happy to welcome David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler as the featured speakers of the Saturday morning program. They will talk about Andrew Jackson’s conduct during the Creek War, culminating at Horseshoe Bend, including his attitude toward Indians and how those factored into the events of 1814.

David and Jeanne were born in Atlanta, Georgia, but did not meet until enrolling in Auburn University’s History graduate program. They married in 1981 and shortly afterward received PhDs in United States History. The matrimony and the academic degrees were purely coincidental.

Their method of collaborative research and writing can make for interesting dinner conversations. After teaching for almost a decade at Colorado State University–Pueblo, David retired from the classroom to devote himself to writing full-time. Jeanne is currently Professor of History and Director of American History at the United States Air Force Academy, where she is the senior civilian member of her department.

The Heidlers are award-winning historians who have written or edited numerous articles and twelve books on the Early American Republic, the Antebellum period, and the America Civil War, including Old Hickory’s War: Andrew Jackson and the Quest for Empire (Louisiana State University Press, 2003) and Henry Clay: The Essential American (Random House, 2010, PBK, 2011). They have also published books on the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Indian Removal.

They have edited such works as The Encyclopedia of the American Civil War (W. W. Norton, 2002) and several series of monographs on subjects ranging from US civil/military relations to the daily lives of civilians in war. Most recently, they have completed a study of how the associates and family of George Washington influenced the man and his presidency. Tentatively titled Washington’s Circle, the book is projected to be published by Random House in 2014.

The Heidlers live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
ACCOMMODATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

RECEPTION
GINKGO MANOR
357 West Columbus Street
Dadeville, AL, 36853
(256) 825-4532

ACCOMMODATIONS
CREEK SIDE LODGE
6993 Highway 49 South
Dadeville, AL, 36853
(256) 307-1440, (877) 740-7404
AHA group rate: $109/night plus tax if reserved before Sept. 19.

COMFORT INN AND SUITES
2945 Highway 280
Alexander City, AL, 35010
(256) 234-5900
AHA group rate: $74.95/night plus tax if reserved before Oct. 4.

PROGRAM VENUE
HORSESHOE BEND NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
Visitor Center
11288 Horseshoe Bend Road
Daviston, AL, 36256
(256) 234-7111

DIRECTIONS TO HORSESHOE BEND
From Montgomery, take I-85N toward Atlanta. Take Exit 32 (Alabama Highway 49). Turn north (left) onto Alabama Highway 49 toward Dadeville. Follow Highway 49 as it "jogs" through Dadeville. Turn left on US 280/Alabama 49, then turn right on Highway 49 north. Follow it 12 miles to the park entrance.

From Birmingham, take US 280 East to Alabama Highway 49. Turn north (left) onto Highway 49 and travel 12 miles to the park entrance.

From Columbus, GA via Auburn/Opelika, take US 280W, crossing into Alabama. Merge onto I-85S and follow to exit 58. At exit 58, travel US 280W toward Dadeville/Alexander City. Turn north (right) onto Alabama Highway 49. Travel 12 miles to the park entrance.

A  First Universalist Church
21620 Senator Claude Pepper Drive, Camp Hill

B Holley-Kernodle-Daniel House
4110 CR 34, Dadeville

C Tallapoossee Historical Society Museum
129 Broadnax Street, Dadeville

D Smith Mountain Fire Tower
Smith Mountain Road, Dadeville

E Reception at Gingko Manor
357 West Columbus Street, Dadeville

F Horseshoe Bend Visitors Center
11288 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Daviston

G Comfort Inn and Suites
2945 Highway 280, Alexander City

H Creekside Lodge
6993 Highway 49 South, Dadeville
The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 67th annual meeting in Scottsboro, Alabama, on April 10-12, 2014. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama from its founding through modern times.

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

Proposals must be submitted by October 11, 2013. Electronic submissions are preferred.

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

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Christopher Lyle McIlwain, Sr.
Hubbard, McIlwain & Brakefield, P.C.
P. O. Box 2427
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403
cmcelwain@hubbardfirm.com

For more information on the
Alabama Historical Association,
Visit www.alabamahistory.net or
Scan this QR code with your smart phone.
Nominations Sought for 2014 Awards

The Alabama Historical Association will present the following awards at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Scottsboro. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for complete nomination instructions and information.

The James Ray Kuykendall Award honors a local historical society in Alabama for outstanding achievements and for significant contributions to a greater appreciation of community and state history. The award is given in even-numbered years. Any historical society is eligible to apply, provided it has not received the award in the last fifteen years. An award application form and instructions are available on the AHA Web site.

The Clinton Jackson Coley Award goes to the best book or pamphlet focusing on local historical concerns, including but not limited to the history of an Alabama community, town, or county, or any institution therein (church, business, nonprofit, etc.). Works published since January 2010 are eligible, and those written by lay or amateur historians are welcome. For more information, please contact Scotty Kirkland through email at scotty.kirkland@cityofmobile.org or by phone, (251) 208-7246.

Jim Baggett Recognized for Building Bridges

Birmingham Public Library’s Jim Baggett was given the 2013 Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award for contributions to Alabama history which encourage joint historical endeavors and mutual understanding among nonprofessional and professional historians.

Baggett is head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and archivist for the City of Birmingham. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists and Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Jim has lectured throughout the US and Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, National Public Radio, and CSPAN. He has authored or edited four books on Birmingham and Alabama history, including A Woman of the Town: Louise Wooster, Birmingham’s Magdalen and Alabama Illustrated: Engravings from 19th Century Newspapers. Jim has written more than 50 articles on archival preservation and Alabama history for Alabama Librarian magazine, Alabama Heritage, Birmingham magazine, and other publications.
On April 12, 2013, the Alabama Historical Association presented the Rucker Agee Service Award to Dr. Ed Bridges in grateful recognition for his extraordinary contributions to preserve and promote Alabama history.

A native of Georgia, Dr. Bridges came to Alabama in 1982 to serve as the director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH). He led the department through 30 years of unprecedented growth until his retirement in 2012. During that time he greatly improved storage, environmental, and security systems for the department’s valuable collection of records and artifacts. During his tenure the department’s collections became more accessible to the public through computerized catalogs, a department website, and digital collections. He led the department to work cooperatively with other organizations to preserve Alabama newspapers and local government records. Under his leadership ADAH provided assistance to state and local agencies and promoted the establishment of over 40 local archives in communities across the state. Bridges expanded the department’s educational commitment, establishing public lecture series and symposia and providing Alabama history curriculum material for teachers and students. At the end of his career, Bridges led a multi-million dollar project and fund-raising campaign to create the Museum of Alabama, which will continue to tell the story of Alabama history for years to come.

Ed Bridges has also been an active member and supporter of the Alabama Historical Association, serving as president, 1997–1998, and serving on committees and as a member of the Board of Directors. Throughout his tenure at ADAH, Bridges has dedicated agency resources in the form of staff time, facility use, and technology support toward making the AHA a more vibrant organization. During lean budget years in state government, when needs were many and dollars were few, Bridges maintained his belief that a healthy statewide historical community should include a membership organization with programs of interest to citizens throughout the state. As a result, he was agreeable to ADAH staff serving as officers, board members, committee members and chairs, and panelists at AHA annual meetings and pilgrimages. He has also been an active supporter of numerous other historical organizations and causes throughout the state.

The Alabama Historical Association is deeply grateful to Dr. Ed Bridges for his commitment to Alabama, for his passion for preserving and telling the story of Alabama, and for 30 years of vital institutional support for the Association.
Jerry Maxwell
Posthumously Recognized

Jerry H. Maxwell (1942–2011) was a noted speaker on Civil War topics. His book *The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham* was selected as the winner of the AHA’s 2013 James F. Sulzby Award, which recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history.

An Alabama native, John Pelham left West Point for service in the Confederacy and distinguished himself as an artillery commander in Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Lee is reported to have said of him, “It is glorious to see such courage in one so young!” Blond, blue-eyed, and handsome, Pelham’s modest demeanor charmed his contemporaries, and he was famously attractive to women. He was killed in action at the battle of Kelly’s Ford in March of 1863, at 24 years of age, and reportedly three young women of his acquaintance donned mourning at the loss of the South’s “beau ideal.”

Maxwell’s work provides the first complete, deeply researched biography of Pelham, perhaps Alabama’s most notable Civil War figure, and explains his enduring attraction.

Coley Research Award Granted

The Alabama Historical Association’s Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant honors Judge and Mrs. Coley by awarding a $500 research fund to a graduate student working on an Alabama-related topic.

The Coley Award for the best work on Alabama local history goes to the best book or pamphlet focusing on local historical concerns, including but not limited to the history of an Alabama community, town or county, or any institution therein (church, business, non-profit, etc.). The Coley Award recipient for 2013 was Jeffrey Thomas Perry of Purdue University, and his topic was “From ‘Disturbers’ to Protectors of the Peace: Baptist Church Discipline and Legalities on the Trans-Appalachian Frontier, 1780–1865.” The Coley Grant will be awarded again in 2015.
Reports and observations indicate that the 2013 Annual Meeting in Eufaula was a hit. I thank the AHA officers, the Local Arrangements Committee led by Deborah Casey, Lakepoint State Park, and everyone who attended for this.

Two unusual things occurred there that merit special mention. The first is that C-SPAN 3 recorded our panel on Birmingham in 1963, which you can see at www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Birmingham. The second is the success of our first foray into poster sessions. While the AHA cannot guarantee a repetition of C-SPAN’s coverage, it can continue the poster sessions into 2014. See the Call for Posters at www.alabamahistory.net.

Special thanks to Laura Hill for the excellent pictures. You can see many more of them on the AHA’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlabamaHistory.
The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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Jerry M. Windsor & Jerry Mae Windsor, Graceville, FL
A. Len Worlund & Kennie Worlund, Huntsville
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The AHA also recognizes members who have passed away in the last year:
Rickie Brunner
Mildred Gargis
Wylene Ebert
Mrs. B. R. Mosley
Sally B. Proctor
William H. Jenkins
Jim Tucker
Dr. & Mrs. Lonnie Funderburg
James Tubbs

Thank you
While it is known best for the infamous trial of the Scottsboro boys, this town on the Tennessee River in northeastern Alabama is also home to historical sites such as its 1856 railroad depot, a soda shop dating back to 1869, and the oldest trade day in the country. It is also home to numerous outdoor attractions, including Lake Guntersville, subterranean caves, and two championship golf courses. More information about the program, tours, and accommodations will be included in the AHA Spring 2014 Newsletter.