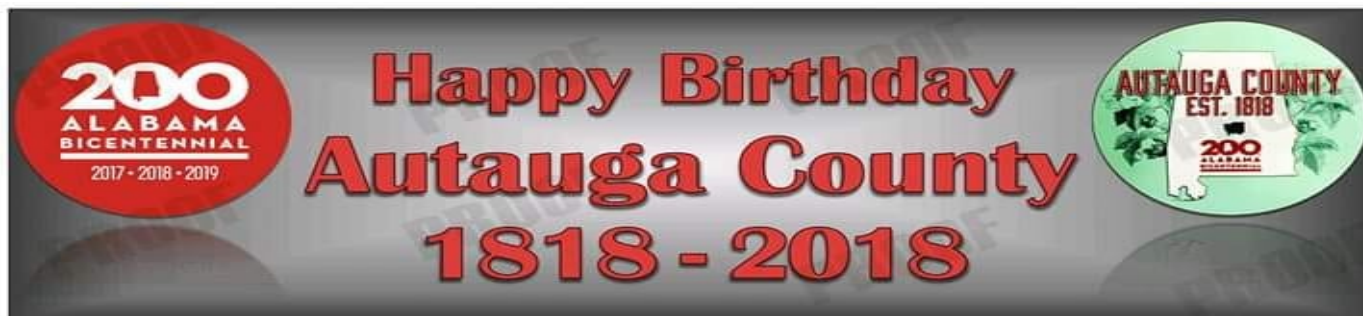


NEWSLETTER



November 2018 is Autauga County's **200th Birthday** month and lots of special events will be taking place!

Nov 3 - 17 , 9-3 pm, Mondays thru Saturdays, 1-4pm Sundays. the Prattaugan Room (old Courthouse on Court Street) in historic downtown Prattville, The Making Alabama Bicentennial exhibit will be in Prattville. This interactive exhibit will feature 8 periods of time in Alabama's distinctive history. This is a free exhibit sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Nov 16 & 17, 9 - 6pm, Doster Center, The Autauga Genealogy Society is hosting the Autauga County Bicentennial Fair which has over 120 displays on the people, places, & events in Autauga's rich history.

Saturday Nov 17, 5 - 8 pm, Autauga Creek Walk (behind City Hall) Come celebrate Autauga County at the Birthday Party hosted by the Bicentennial Committee and the City of Prattville. Cake, food vendors, and the band **OTI**.

Free admission at all events! Mark your calendars. Join us in making history in Autauga County!



A World War I Remembrance
On November 11, 2018 @ 11:00am local time...

Americans across the nation will toll bells 21 times in
remembrance of those who served and sacrificed.

Join other great organizations and **#TollTheBell**

Making Alabama Traveling Exhibit Volunteers

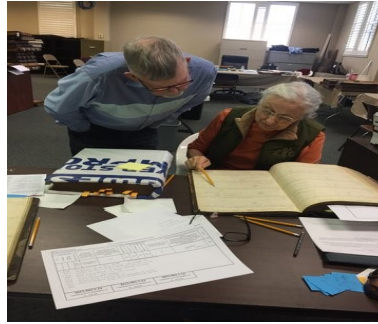
The Exhibit is a self-guided exhibit composed of eight kiosks covering eight different time periods of the state's history. While there is no need for tour guides, there is a need for volunteers to staff this free exhibit during the hours it will be open.

I am asking for volunteers who would be able to take a 9- 12 or 12 – 3 shift. We invite civic clubs to participate as well as high school students needing community service hours for their school requirements. You can contact Barbara Gaston at museum@autaugahistory.org to reserve time slots.

Prattaugan Museum

We are currently in need of volunteers to come to the museum one day a month to be available to greet and give tours to visitors or to assist travelers with questions and to answer phone calls. Volunteers enable us to keep the museum doors open. Depending on individual interest, there are various organizational projects that can be worked on to include museum inventory, labeling of folders and photographs, re-shelving books in the library, properly storing artifacts, transcribing hand-written diaries, researching information for new museum exhibits and research requests that come in by email or phone calls.

Call 334-590-6652 to volunteer!



Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Preservation Project

The work on the Daniel Pratt/ Continental Gin Company Preservation Project continues! ACHA has approximately 25 dedicated volunteers that report to Hancock Whitney Bank every Tuesday and Thursday to preserve the paper documents from the Gin Shop. Preserving the leather bound ledgers is the current focus. The ledgers date from as early as 1835 when Daniel Pratt was still located at McNeill's Mill to around 1945. Though there were thousands of typed and computerized financial records for post 1945, it was decided we would only preserve the older, leather bound books. In addition to financial records for Pratt's industries, the town of Prattville, and the Methodist Church, we have machinery record ledgers where each gin, press, linter, condenser, etc is listed by type, serial number and date produced. Surprisingly, we have had calls for the history of a particular gin, and we have been able to find the serial number of the machine and age the machine by the date it was produced.

Other interesting information has been found in the ledgers. One entry showed that the DP Gin Co. rented office space to the Autauga County Probate Office while the 1870 Courthouse was being built. We also found that Daniel Pratt paid his subscription of \$4,000 that he pledged toward the construction of the building and his wagon drivers delivered 31,800 bricks from the town of Washington to be used in the building of the structure.

We thought we had an idea of Pratt's industrial and business undertakings and yet we continue to discover new information. In an 1865 – 1871 Ledger, we found many entries for "Wheless & Pratt". Not being familiar with the name "Wheless", research was done. It was found that Wheless & Pratt was a banking institution in the city of New Orleans! Pratt was a partner with Charles Wheless in the formation of this bank during the period of Reconstruction when financial transactions proved difficult in the South. The bank liquidated in 1869 but probably offered support of Pratt's business as he shipped his gins and equipment from the New Orleans' harbor. We were aware that Pratt had built a warehouse on St. Charles Street in New Orleans as early as 1846 but this banking business had not shown up in any of historical accounts of Pratt's life.

It's historical information such as this that makes this work interesting and worthwhile. ACHA invites you to come be a part of this exciting project!



Buena Vista written by Darlene Leistner, Buena Vista Coordinator

I love weddings! Buena Vista has recently had some beautiful wedding ceremonies. Other events have taken place at Buena Vista as well, and it's always a pleasure to serve our clients in various ways. I would like to extend a big thanks to several individuals who have helped or donated items to Buena Vista. First, a big thanks to the Daughters of the American Revolution who refurbished our county road 4 sign; a big thanks to Nancy Wallace who donated some beautiful furniture, an area rug for upstairs, and a silver tea set; to Chris Wood from the City of Prattville who gave us red gravel to line our brick walkway out back;

to Ricky Post who donated a chandelier for our upstairs hallway and to John Parks, Jr. for installing it; to John Parks Sr. who donated a beautiful English sideboard for our dining room, to ACHA for installing the new air-conditioner for the bride's room side of the house upstairs. **Our Christmas Open House will be Friday, December 7th and Saturday, the 8th from 3pm to 7pm.** Light refreshments and hot drinks will be served. There will be live entertainment for you to enjoy traditional Christmas music.

Buena Vista is open for Historic Tours Tuesday from **10am to 2pm** or other times by appointment. Donations are accepted. You may also contact us to find out how your wedding, personal or corporate events can become part of the unique history to take place within the walls of this gracious home.

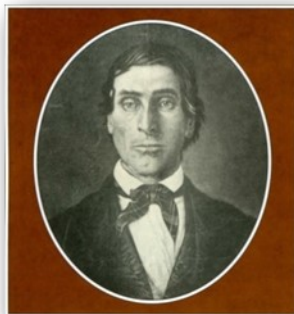
Contact Darlene Leistner

(334) 365-3690

Email: buenavista@autaugahistory.org

ACHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mission Statement: *The mission of Autauga County Heritage Association is to collect, preserve and disseminate information and display artifacts concerning the history of Autauga County and its people.*



Date _____

Name _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email Address _____

- ◇ Individual Membership \$50
- ◇ Couple Membership \$75
- ◇ Contributing Membership \$100
- ◇ Lifetime Membership \$1000

Make checks payable to ACHA and mail to:
 102 E, Main Street, Prattville, AL 36067.
 You can also join and pay dues online at
www.ataugaheritage.org, or in person at the
 museum.

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**Autauga County Heritage
 Assoc.**
 102 East Main Street
 Prattville, AL 36067
 334-361-0961

www.ataugahistory.org

ACHA Membership

Thanks to all of you who joined or renewed your ACHA membership for 2018. This year the organization has transitioned to an annualized membership which goes from January 1 to December 31. **We encourage you to join or renew your 2019 membership by December 31, 2019.** Membership dues are used to carry out ACHA activities including newsletters, events, general meetings and Buena Vista improvements. Members who pay dues and volunteer are the lifeblood of the organization.

The **Autauga County Heritage Association 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting**
on Sunday, November 4th at 2PM at 145 S. Court St, Prattville.

PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE from past meetings.

The meeting will be held in the Prattvillian Room in the Old Autauga Courthouse Building (CJ's Dance Factory) to highlight the "Making Alabama" traveling exhibit sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in conjunction with the state's Bicentennial Celebration. The exhibit will only be available in Autauga County for 2 short weeks.

On Thursday August 30th, 5 volunteers from Autauga County traveled to Andalusia to assist in the assembly and set up of the "Making Alabama" traveling exhibit. Our assistance to Covington County also served as training for assembly of the exhibit once it arrives in Autauga County later this month and officially opens to residents on the 3rd of November. There were participants there from multiple locations who will also host the exhibit in their respective counties in the future. The participation in a long day of hard work by so many individuals, demonstrates the excitement for, and commitment to, sharing this wonderful exhibit with the residents of Alabama.

Help us spread the word about this opportunity with everyone you know. Encourage them to come out and experience the exhibit first hand and get a sample of what the Autauga County Heritage Association is all about.

Light refreshments will be served.

VISIT US ONLINE @
WWW.AUTAUGAHERITAGEHISTORY.ORG

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Prattville, Alabama 36067
(334) 361-0961

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