Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association
Scottsboro, Alabama, April 10-12, 2014
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Cover image: Scottsboro Depot Museum, courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor

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.
By the time you read this message, my term as AHA president will be nearing its end. It has been a full and enjoyable year, and has provided me far more numerous pleasant experiences than challenges. Our Fall Pilgrimage was a success despite the failure of the weather or the Congress to cooperate, and we now look forward to a productive annual meeting.

Months ago the decision was made to bring the AHA’s annual meeting to Scottsboro. The fact that our meeting has never been held in northeast Alabama contributed to that decision, which was made despite the fact that Scottsboro is a 6 hour drive from my home. The local arrangements committee, chaired by Ann Chambless with the help of other Jackson County Historical Society members Jen Stewart, Susan Fisher, Kelly Goodowen, and Judge John Graham, has thoughtfully planned tour stops to showcase the diversity of Scottsboro and Jackson County and I hope you will enjoy visiting the sites that are described elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

There are, however, many unique sites in Jackson County that are not on our tours because time would not permit. One of these is Buck’s Pocket State Park, which is situated in three Alabama counties. Featuring breathtaking rugged mountains and canyons, the park also advertises itself as the “Haven for Defeated Politicians,” who come here to overcome their political wounds.

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Woodville, the oldest town in Jackson County, was the county seat of Decatur County. When Decatur County was abolished, Woodville was attached to Jackson County. Jackson County has more caves than any other county in the United States, making it a favorite destination for spelunkers. At one of the most popular such attractions, Neversink Pit, a limestone sinkhole near Scottsboro, visitors must use a rope to get to the floor of the cave. The Sauta Cave National Wildlife Preserve is home to the largest population of the gray bat east of the Mississippi River. People from all over the US come to view the emergence of approximately 250,000 gray bats from the cave in the early evening. Since the cave is not open to the public, the audience must stand outside to watch the emergence, and the prepared observer brings an umbrella as the bats fly overhead.

The Walls of Jericho, named by a traveling minister who felt the majestic beauty of this area was so breathtaking that it merited a biblical name, opened as state park in 2004, and has been called the Grand Canyon of the South. The Upper Paint Rock River runs through the park and provides a home for a number of rare and endangered species. One of the more notable creatures of this area is the rare Tennessee cave salamander, which is only found in parts of Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. Rare and endangered mussels inhabit the Paint Rock River, which is the only place in the world that the Pale Lilliput and Alabama Lampshell varieties are found. Other imperiled species that call the Paint Rock home are the palezone shiner, the sawfin shiner, blotchside logperch and the snail darter. Davey Crockett visited this area in the late 1700s because his family owned land near here.

Central to Jackson County’s economy is the TVA’s Lake Guntersville. Not only did the TVA’s investment bring electricity and jobs, but also it provided beautiful scenery, recreational opportunities, and increased property values. TVA’s investment came with a measure of prosperity for not only Jackson County but all the northernmost counties of Alabama.

I hope to see you at our annual meeting in April, and I am sure that among the many treasures Jackson County has to offer, you will find some that will be enjoyable and memorable.

Photo courtesy of Terry Martin
Scottsboro: Making the Past Work for the Future

By Ann B. Chambless, Founding President of the Jackson County Historical Society

Scottsboro was conceived and born due to Robert Thomas Scott’s visions from his past and his dreams for the future. Between 1848 and 1858, R. T. Scott acquired 1,240 acres of choice land with minimal flood prone acreage that was surrounded by mountain ridges on three sides and a short distance from Sauta Creek and the Tennessee River on the fourth side. One of his first enterprises was to establish a grist mill and a saw mill that provided lumber for building business houses and residences. For this reason, Scott’s Mill became the name of the post office.

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AnnuAl MEETING

established in May 1854. Shortly before the 1860 Federal Census, the name of Scott’s Mill was changed to Scottsboro.

Due to Robert T. Scott’s forward vision, it was no coincidence the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company’s right-of-way traversed the center of Scott’s property. He knew the railroad would bring the world to his fledgling village. The first passenger was delivered to Scott’s Mill railroad station in March 1856.

By May 1857, the line was offering regular service over the entire 272-mile route from Stevenson, Alabama, to Memphis, Tennessee. From 1857 to 1860, Scottsboro was served by a wooden platform with a small, wooden shed-like building. In 1860, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company began construction of Scottsboro’s first brick building, a combination passenger-freight depot that was opened in January 1861. It is easy to imagine the pride Robert T. Scott felt on that momentous opening day. Today, that building is Scottsboro’s crown jewel.

Robert T. Scott and his saw mill partner, Joseph Wilson, were both killed by Union troops in 1863. A large steam boiler was one of the items in the R. T. Scott estate inventory made shortly after the Civil War. This same document stated the saw mill and a shingle mill grip were burned by Union troops.

While the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company was building its tracks, Robert T. Scott had the acreage on both sides of the track surveyed and a town plat was developed. He quickly sold lots on each side of the railroad. The lots were 33 feet across the front and extended 133 feet north to Chestnut Street. The first business houses were located on the north side of the track opposite the depot.

Today we know that street as Maple Avenue. However, in 1860, this was called Main Street.

In the beginning, what is known today as Houston Street was called Railroad Street. The street on the south side of the tracks known today as Mary Hunter Avenue was first called Railroad Avenue. When the town was first incorporated in 1869, the city limits extended one-half mile in all directions from the Scottsboro Depot.

Robert T. Scott sold 40 acres on the west end of Railroad Avenue to John Whitfield who, in turn, sold lots for family residences and a hotel. Martin and Nancy Conley built the first brick residence in Scottsboro on a lot they purchased from John Whitfield. In November 1868, this house was rented by Probate Judge David Tate as a repository for county probate records until the courthouse construction in Scottsboro was completed in 1870.

Elizabeth Ann Scott, Robert T. Scott’s widow, donated the site for a courthouse in Scottsboro. The Scott family and John Whitfield donated every other lot around the courthouse square to the county. Proceeds from the sale of these lots were used to defray the cost of building the courthouse.

When the county seat was moved from Bellefonte to Scottsboro in 1868, the various county court offices were first located in a building owned by T. J. Woods (on Main Street diagonally across from the depot) in the building that had also served as Scottsboro’s first school and church. A temporary building for use by the Circuit Clerk was soon constructed on what is now Laurel Street. The Courthouse was completed in 1870, and was called “the pride of Jackson County” although it is doubtful the good people of Stevenson took much pride in the building as they felt the privilege of serving as the county seat had been “snatched away” from them by the good people of Scottsboro.

With the advent of the new courthouse and flourishing railroad traffic, Scottsboro began to grow after the Civil War. Most of the Bellefonte business and professional people who had been “burned out” by Federal troops during the Civil War relocated to Scottsboro. There was a building boom from 1875 to 1895 around the courthouse square, and Scottsboro soon outdistanced much older towns as Jackson County’s prime farm-to-market center.

The next major boon for growth in Scottsboro followed the advent of the Tennessee Valley Authority and its benefits of cheap electricity for the town and its urban areas.

The citizens supported educational and cultural facilities/activities, and Scottsboro’s population and business community flourished. Today’s city and business leaders continue to make the past work for the future as they introduce new ideas and growth in Scottsboro, which is truly “Some Place Special.”

Sage Town, a group of 19th-century buildings adjacent to the Brown-Proctor House, provides visitors with an authentic view of early local architecture. Photo courtesy of Terry Martin and the Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.
Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association
Scottsboro, Alabama, April 10-12, 2014

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  MAKING HISTORY PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Scottsboro Depot Museum (pre-registration required)

2:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  PRE-MEETING TOURS (see map in newsletter for directions)
• Cowan House
• Ft. Harker
• Russell Cave National Monument
• Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

6:00 p.m.  RECEPTION
Brown-Proctor House, home of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center, 208 S. Houston Street
FRIDAY, APRIL 11

8:30 a.m.  REGISTRATION AND BOOK SALES
   Page Administration Building, 305 South Scott Street

9:30 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

10:45 a.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION A:
A conversation with contributors to *The Yellowhammer War: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama*

SESSION B:
“Frontier Liberalism: Alabama Constitution of 1819,”
Jim Lewis, Birmingham

“Sarah Haynsworth Gayle on the Southwest Frontier,”
Sarah Wiggins, University of Alabama

“Winston County, Alabama During Secession and Civil War,”
David Davenport, Sam Houston State University

SESSION C:
“Bullets without Ballots: Alabama Soldiers and the State Election of 1863,”
Ben H. Severance, Auburn University Montgomery

“Emancipation and the Alabama Supreme Court,”
Mills Thornton, University of Michigan

“Black Belt Populism: Choctaw County Politics, 1880-1902,”
Sam Webb, University of Alabama Birmingham

Noon   LUNCH
   Page Administration Building Gymnasium

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  AFTERNOON TOURS
   Scottsboro Depot Museum
   Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center
   Skyline Farms Historic Rock Store Museum
   Mason-Robinson Home

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  PRE-BANQUET RECEPTION
   Ivy Knoll, 804 Benwood Drive

7:00 p.m.  ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
   Page Administration Building Gymnasium

   Keynote address by Dr. Daniel Feller, University of Tennessee
SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 a.m.  BREAKFAST  
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

9:00 a.m.  REGISTRATION AND POSTER SESSION  
Page Administration Building

9:45 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

10:30 a.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SESSION A:
“Alabama Constitutions: From the Frontier to the Eye of Disfranchisement,”
Paul Pruitt Jr., University of Alabama

“The 1899 Constitutional Convention: How Disfranchisement Failed in Alabama in 1899, and How it Succeeded in 1901,”
R. Volney Riser, University of West Alabama

J. Wayne Flynt, Auburn University

SESSION B:
“Skyline Farms: The Story of a New Deal Settlement Project,”
David Campbell, Northeast Alabama Community College

“We Hope He Brings a Long-Handled Shovel,”
Good Roads Days in Alabama, 1912-1915,”
Marty Olliff, Troy University Dothan

“Views from the Bench: Judicial Framing and the Scottsboro Boys”
Steven P. Brown, Auburn University

SESSION C:
“The Art of Writing History,”
George Rable, University of Alabama

“The Craft of Writing History,”
Guy Hubbs, Birmingham-Southern College

“Copyright Law for Historians,”
George Kobler, Huntsville

11:45 a.m.  ANNUAL LUNCHEON  
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

Presidential Address by Gayle Thomas
HAMPTON INN & SUITES SCOTTSBORO
24747 John T. Reid Parkway, Scottsboro, AL 35768 / 256-259-5200
Make reservations by April 1 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of $85 per room per night.
A Page Administrative Auditorium and Carter Gymnasium
Intersection of College Avenue and Scott Street
B Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church
402 Scott Street
C Latham-Jones House
414 South Scott Street
D Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center
302 South Houston Street
E Scottsboro Depot Museum
Corner of Houston Street and Maple Avenue
F Scottsboro Boys Museum
428 West Willow Street
G Jackson County Court House
Middle of Town Square
H Unclaimed Baggage Center
508 West Willow Street
I Ivy Knoll
804 Benwood Street
J Hampton Inn
24747 John T. Reid Parkway
**The Cowan House**

**310 West Main Street, Stevenson**

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**Ft. Harker**

Constructed by the Union Army in the summer of 1862 and expanded in 1864, using soldiers and freed slaves, Ft. Harker was built on a broad hill a quarter mile east of town. It overlooked Crow Creek and was well within firing range of Stevenson’s strategic railroad lines, supply depots and warehouses.

Ft. Harker was an earthen redoubt, 150 feet square, with walls 14 feet high, surrounded by an 8 foot deep dry powder moat. It contained 7 cannon platforms, a bomb-proof powder magazine, a draw-bridge entrance and an 8-sided wooden blockhouse at its center. Soldiers building the fort reported that “the soil is very hard, requiring the continual use of a pick.” Despite that, Ft. Harker was critical to Union plans. The officer in charge was ordered by his commanding general “to work night and day” to complete the fort “as rapidly as possible.”

One other large fort, two smaller redoubts and at least seven blockhouses were constructed along the railroad lines at Stevenson during the Civil War. No major fighting occurred here, but skirmishes and sniper attacks were common as territory traded hands between Union and Confederate forces.

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The Cowan House is a classic Greek Revival farmhouse constructed around 1850 by Thomas A. Nance. William A. Austin (1812-1875), an Alabama state senator, Reconstruction-era commissioner of oaths, former merchant, and staunch Unionist, acquired the house in 1855. Family tradition says the house was used as a Civil War hospital during the brief Confederate occupation of Stevenson. It later became a headquarters for Union Brevet Brigadier General Wladimir Krzynowski and his staff while the Union forces occupied Stevenson, 1863-1864. Wartime maps and other documents sometimes referred to it as “Fort Stevenson.”

In the late 1870s, William A. Austin sold the house to William A. Cowan; the house remained in his family until 1992. The Cowan House was the scene of countless social events during the 20th century. Stevenson’s elders recall that “there always seemed to be a party going on there,” including events as diverse as festive dances, ladies’ teas, weddings and even funerals. The Cowan House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978.

AHA visitors to the Cowan House in Stevenson will be able to hear more about its interesting history from the current owners, Judge and Mrs. John H. Graham, on Thursday afternoon between 2 and 5 p.m.

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Photo courtesy of Monica Davis
Russell Cave

Russell Cave National Monument, located in Bridgeport, Alabama near the Tennessee line, is an archaeological site that provides detailed information regarding the early inhabitants of the southeastern United States. Human remains and artifacts, such as spearheads, arrowheads, and pottery have been found that provide clues of life dating back to 10,000 B.C. Early inhabitants of the area survived by hunting deer, black bears, and other smaller animals. They also collected water from the Tennessee River and gathered nuts and edible plants that grew in the forested area.

The cave structure consists of six entryways, with the main entrance opening to the east, thereby facing the morning sun and blocking cold winds from the north. The cave, stretching a little over seven miles, is the third longest in Alabama. It was named after Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Thomas Russell, and it was selected as a National Monument in 1961 during the presidency of John F. Kennedy.

Russell Cave is currently open to visitors every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Visitors can take guided tours to learn the history of the cave and the people who lived there thousands of years ago, or they can enjoy a nice hike along one of Alabama’s designated bird trails to view the 115 species of birds that live in the area.

Photo credit: National Park Service

Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

The Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum is located at 207 West Main Street in the heart of downtown Stevenson and is situated between the tracks of two major railroads.

The depot museum’s mission is to preserve an important part of railroading history through the display of related artifacts. The museum, which also chronicles modern times, displays hundreds of artifacts from the area’s past that are of interest to young and old alike. These include artifacts recalling Native American culture, pioneer life, and Civil War events. Of all these artifacts, the largest, and one of which Stevenson is most proud, is the historic depot building itself.

The depot, which was built in 1872 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, stands on the ruins of Stevenson’s first railroad depot, which was built around 1852 for common use by the Nashville & Chattanooga and the Memphis & Charleston Railroads. That original depot was destroyed either during, or shortly after, the Civil War. Bricks salvaged may have been used in the building of the present structure.

Photo courtesy of Monica Davis
pursue a business demanding less physical exertion as well as mental wear and tear, offers for sale, and is determined to sell, the following valuable property, viz:

A new two-story brick residence in the town of Scottsboro, with six rooms besides spacious halls, on a beautiful eminence on a lot of ground containing two acres – fine garden, young fruit trees and all the conveniences that good taste, energy, and a liberal expenditure of money could secure. The residence and improvements are just completed in modern style, and cost in cash, beside the labor of the owner, $3,200. He will make a sacrifice to secure the sale of this property.

Mr. A.W. Brooks purchased the property in 1883 and then sold it to General John R. Coffee in June 1884. General Coffee returned to Jackson County after the Mexican-American War, and he became a leading citizen and one of the largest land owners in the county. The General died in 1896. Ownership of the house passed to his daughter, whose husband, Charles W. Brown (John A. Brown’s half-brother), served as a representative and senator in the Alabama Legislature.

In 1907, prominent lawyer John Franklin Proctor purchased the house. Earlier, Mr. Proctor served as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, the Alabama Senate, and the Constitutional Convention of 1901. Mr. Proctor served as a solicitor in Scottsboro until his death in 1939, and he was one of the court-appointed attorneys in the 1931 Scottsboro Boys’ trial. Two more generations of the Proctor lawyers lived in the house.

Mr. John F. Proctor extensively remodeled and enlarged the house between 1907 and 1911. Additional bedrooms, a new staircase, and a new kitchen were built. The neo-classical revival portico was also added at this time. The Brown-Proctor House was vacated in 1974. The house sat empty until the Scottsboro Museum Commission acquired the property in 1981.

The simple but elegant Brown-Proctor House, with its neo-classical revival porch and pillars, typifies one aspect of the romantic Southern tradition. Leading citizens of Scottsboro have owned the house since it was built in 1881. It was, therefore, appropriate that the house was to become a focal point of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center. The Brown-Proctor House has been placed on the Alabama Tapestry of Historic Places, the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and the National Register of Historic Places.

All the elements of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center have been designed to bridge the past, present, and future for the citizens of northeast Alabama. The museum is programmable for local and regional historical artifacts and exhibits. The library houses genealogical records, area histories, and research materials.

The Brown-Proctor House is an appropriate location for important historical materials since its owners have been actively involved in shaping the history of Scottsboro and the State of Alabama. Completed in 1881 by John A. Brown, the home was advertised for sale in 1882:

Mr. John A. Brown having fully made up his mind to disengage himself from a multiplicity of oppressive cares and responsibilities, and on account of failing health, to
Winfield Scott Mason built this house near Larkinsville between 1853 and 1857. The property contained some appurtenant structures, which likely including a small cabin. Current owner Lewis Robinson believes the east side of the house is a remnant of the old cabin, since the interior mouldings and fireplaces are different from those on the west side and center hall. The original property consisted of 159 acres but was increased to 500 acres before the Mason’s death in 1861.

During the Civil War, federal troops commandeered the house and used it as a battalion station to guard the railroad and field hospital. One of the rooms is rumored to have bloodstains on the floor, which was later covered over with pine flooring to stop winter drafts.

The property remained in the family until 1897, when it received a new tin-shingle roof, a shed in the rear, and new orchards to complement fresh landscaping. A local Shelton family lived in the house from the 1940s to 1950s, and they preserved photographs depicting the smokehouse/kitchen, as well as the rises in the fields where slave and sharecropper cabins once stood. Mr. Robinson worked to restore the house to its original character, including the original exterior and interior paint colors found in several rooms.

Mr. Robinson furnished the home in classic furniture from the 1820-1850 period, including a recent acquisition of an Anthony G. Quervelle game table and gilt pier mirror signed by Lewis Keith. Mr. Robinson’s home also includes more pedestrian furniture from the period, and visitor will have a chance to view locally-made pieces, on of which is signed by its maker. The owner’s favorite rooms are the south-facing center hall, southwest dining room, and his office in the northeast room of the house.

Robinson’s current projects include the restoration of the front garden, performed according to the last, remaining remnant of landscaping: thousands of daffodils that presumably lined a white picket fence with boxwoods on the garden side. He is also returning the long destroyed oak alley with baby Water Oaks grown from acorns produced by the few trees remaining that followed the mile-long plantation road to the railroad tracks. Lewis Robinson looks forward to greeting AHA visitors on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2014. Photo courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor.
Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum in Skyline, Alabama

Skyline Farms Colony on Cumberland Mountain in Jackson County was established in 1933 as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s work programs. One of the first steps taken was construction of the road now known as Alabama Highway 79 North. Local men were employed to cut the road up the mountain and through the center of the Colony. The early settlers harvested mountain timber and sandstone to build homes, a school, and a community store. The federal government provided breeding stock, seeds, and other essentials needed by the settlers to begin their new life within the Skyline Farms Colony. The plan called for the settlers to sell any excess from their farms to the community store as payment for their homesteads.

Today, the community store – constructed of rusty, yellow sandstone – is the focal point of Skyline Farms Heritage Association’s restoration efforts. The rock store is now home to the Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum. Their restoration and museum exhibits attracted the interest of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation which helped write a Heritage Development Plan for the colony and the museum. These plans, coupled with the dedication and hard work of volunteers from the Skyline Farms Heritage Association, have enabled the Association to qualify for preservation grant monies.

In addition to preserving and creating a museum in the rock store, the timely efforts of the Heritage Association prevented the demolition of the “Old Rock School Building” on the campus of Skyline High School in the Fall of 1998.

Scottsboro Depot Museum

The Scottsboro Depot Museum houses a wide range of exhibits in the Scottsboro brick depot constructed by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company in 1860. It is thought that the same architect designed the Scottsboro Depot and Huntsville’s pre-Civil War depot. The Scottsboro depot opened for business in January 1861 and serviced both passengers and freight until January 1892, when a separate passenger depot was opened in Scottsboro.

The depot is considered a city, county, and State of Alabama treasure. It is Scottsboro’s and Jackson County’s oldest, extant original business house and has been in continuous operation for 153 years. It is significant to the state since this building is one of only three pre-Civil War depots still standing in Alabama.

Before the Civil War ended, men fought in armed combat to control the Scottsboro depot and its access to the railroad. The crack caused by cannon balls still visible in the depot’s east wall is a silent, enduring testimony to the skirmish fought in and around the depot on January 8, 1865.

The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center

The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center located on West Willow Street is four blocks from downtown Scottsboro and the Jackson County Court House where the Scottsboro Boys first stood trial. The Scottsboro Boys Museum opened in February 2010 and contains a growing collection of memorabilia that includes original Jackson County arrest and trial documents, scrapbooks not previously available for public viewing, a jury chair occupied during the first Scottsboro court trials, 1930’s newspapers articles, stamps sold to raise funds for the nine boys’ defense, and photos from the trials. The exhibits also contain flyers, other documents, and photos used to draw worldwide attention to the Boys’ plight. Visitors will have a chance to experience interpretive exhibits and video and audio clips relating to the Scottsboro Boys and their trials.
Shortly after, the rock school building was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The Association continues to work with owners of local historic sites to preserve the community’s unique heritage. This includes the Rock House that served as the administration building for the Colony, a warehouse and cotton gin, and a rope factory that have also been added to the Alabama Historical Register. On December 4, 2012, the Skyline Farm Resettlement Project was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The volunteer docents of Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum extend a warm welcome to all AHA members to visit and enjoy the variety of their museum exhibits on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2014.

Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Benham built Ivy Knoll in 1940. Mrs. Fletcher (Jacobs) Benham’s father founded Scottsboro’s Jacobs Banking Company, and the Benhams lived with her widowed father after their marriage in 1926. Following his death, they resolved to build their own home. They engaged Paul Meredith Speake who had just begun his architectural practice in Huntsville. The Benham house was the third of many of Mr. Speake’s distinguished commissions, including the campus of Samford University.

Upon both Benhams’ deaths, Dr. Janice Jones Bragg and her first husband (the late Dr. Grady Jones) purchased the house in 1967 when they moved back to her hometown to begin their medical practice. Being a true Anglophile and remembering that houses in England have their own special name, Dr. Janice thought the house should have a name, and Ivy Knoll was a wise choice. After Dr. Janice’s marriage to Tom Bragg, they added a downstairs master bedroom addition to the house. The Braggs will host a cocktail hour on Friday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Hospitality Hour at Ivy Knoll to Precede the Annual Awards Banquet**
NOTED JACKSON SCHOLAR DANIEL FELLER TO PROVIDE BANQUET ADDRESS

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Daniel Feller will provide the keynote address, “Andrew Jackson and Alabama Politics,” on Friday, April 11, at the annual awards banquet. Daniel Feller is Professor of History and editor/director of *The Papers of Andrew Jackson* at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and taught previously at Northland College and the University of New Mexico. His books include *The Jacksonian Promise: America 1815–1840*, *The Public Lands in Jacksonian Politics*, and a new edition of Harriet Martineau’s 1838 American tour narrative, *Retrospect of Western Travel*. Three volumes of the Jackson Papers, covering the first three years of Jackson’s presidency, have appeared under his stewardship. Feller was the lead scholar for the PBS biography, "Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and the Presidency," and has appeared on "History Detectives."
BREAKFAST SPEAKER TO DISCUSS THE USE OF ART AND ARTIFACTS IN THE TEACHING OF HISTORY

Dr. Richard Neely, a Scottsboro native with over 30 years of teaching experience at the high school and college level, will discuss the use of poetry, art and artifacts in the teaching of history on Saturday, April 12 as part of the annual meeting.

Neely, an award-winning history teacher with degrees from Samford University, the University of Alabama, and the Pennsylvania State University, currently teaches history at Indian Springs School in Birmingham, Alabama. He is the recipient of numerous awards for historic preservation, and he is an authority on historic military weaponry.
COVINGTON COUNTY

Andalusia Railroad Depot Side 1
On September 20, 1899, the first Central of Georgia locomotive with a work train arrived in Andalusia over these tracks, which extended to Cotton Street. Track laying was under the supervision of G.L. Burtcheall and C.B. Yancey, with J.N. White in charge of the track men. The Covington Times wrote “the engine stopped within 50 yards of the Courthouse and just sat there and ‘blowed’ for several minutes.” The train was pushed by engine No. 1542 with H.H. Ward as engineer and W.E. Pye, fireman. Service was discontinued on March 31, 1983, with engineer A.M. Evans guiding the last train of empty cars out of the station. The Depot building was completed soon after the turn of the century and, since opening to the public in 1987, serves as headquarters for the Covington Historical Society and its Three Notch Museum. The building, the oldest wooden commercial structure in use within the city, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Andalusia Becomes the County Seat Side 2
The first county seat on the banks south of the falls of the Conecuh River was “Covington Courthouse,” sited soon after the county was created in 1821. In 1826, when John Devereux was postmaster, the name was changed to Montezuma. Early citizens of the area included John Devereux, John Barrow, Dave Bullock, Captain Tatum, Henry Jones, John H. Stone, Samuel Bracken, Samuel Jones, Seaborn Jones, William Spurlin, Samuel Gates, Charles Stanley, and William Carter. After this small community was repeatedly flooded, a new site on top of Devereux Hill was chosen for the county seat in July 1844, and called Andalusia. The choice of name probably reflected the importance of the region’s principal trading center, Pensacola, which was so long ruled by Spain.

[2013: Andalusia]

FAYETTE COUNTY

Berea Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ was established in 1829 when John Taylor preached the ancient gospel to a large gathering at the nearby home of David Thornton; the baptism of forty souls was the result. The church assembled in the homes of members until the early 1840s, when a meeting house was constructed near Stud Horse Creek, one mile west of this site. The building burned in 1858, and a new building was built here. That building was destroyed during the Civil War, and a third building was built in 1867. In 1959, the current structure became the fourth home for the church. Berea is one of the oldest Churches of Christ in Alabama. For several years, it was the only Church of Christ between Moulton and Montgomery. Rising from the ashes of the Civil War and the hard years of Reconstruction, its influence was felt throughout the northwest section of the state. Berea was the oldest and largest church in the area, and many congregations were started by members of Berea Church. The pulpit at Berea has been filled by many of the most prominent preachers in the Restoration Movement.

[2013: 335 Co. Rd. 50, Fayette]

JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Altamont Apartments
Built during the Roaring Twenties, the Altamont Apartments broke ground in 1924 and were completed in 1925. Designed by architect Jacob E. Sallie as an apartment/hotel, they were built to attract affluent businessmen who desired luxury, comfort, privacy, and a wholesome environment for their families, as well as accessibility to the city’s commercial district. Planned as a community for its residents to experience the pleasures of luxury apartment living, many amenities were available on-site, including full plumbing and telephone service (rare features in 1920s apartments), a ballroom, and a full-service restaurant.

[2013: 2831 Highland Ave. South, Birmingham]
**RANDOLPH COUNTY**

**Randolph County Training School (1919-1970)**

“The Maroon & Gold Bulldogs”

Randolph County Training School (RCTS) was chartered on September 15, 1919 as a public school for African Americans. It opened in the fall of 1920 with 73 students. The original two-story wood structure was built with contributions from black parents and community leaders and the local white community. The Rosenwald Fund provided seed money for the seven-teacher RCTS, as it did for nearly 5,000 other schools for African Americans in the South between 1912 and 1932. The original building burned in 1943 and was replaced, in 1948, by a masonry building that was still in use when the school was closed by a federal court’s desegregation order in 1970. During its 51-year history, the dedicated staff of RCTS provided a solid education to thousands of students in spite of the “separate and unequal” circumstances. The school also was the nucleus of many social, civic, and educational activities in the black community.

[2013: Roanoke]

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**JACKSON COUNTY**

**Union Civil War Encampment in Scottsboro** Side 1

In late December 1863, Union Maj.-Gen. John A. Logan established his Fifteenth Army Corps headquarters in Scottsboro, Alabama. On January 11, 1864, by command of Gen. Logan, Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing, commanding the Fourth Division, was ordered to guard the railroad and telegraph line from Scottsboro to Stevenson. Gen. Ewing sent his First Brigade under the command of Col. Reuben Williams to Scottsboro, and it set up four separate regimental camps on either side of the Memphian & Charleston Railroad, adjacent to or within one block of the Scottsboro Depot. The regiments under Col. Williams’ command included some 3000 men of the 26th Illinois, the 70th Ohio, the 12th Indiana, and the 97th Indiana, as well as an Illinois artillery battery.

**Union Civil War Encampment in Scottsboro** Side 2

After the war, Col. Williams returned to Indiana and established the Warsaw Daily Times. In his 1904 Civil War memoir he included an in-depth description of the facilities created within the Scottsboro encampment and his troops’ military and social activities between December 26, 1863 and May 1, 1864. In the early spring of 1864, Col. Williams coordinated a successful dance in a building located on Main Street (now Maple Ave.) that served as Scottsboro’s first school and church. He wrote that the site was “large enough for the waltz and gavotte.” The dance was attended by his officers and their visiting wives, enlisted men, and local ladies who were transported by “military ambulances” to the Scottsboro encampment.

[2013: Maple Avenue, Scottsboro]
The Sullivan Cabin Side 1

The Sullivan Cabin was built on the east side of Bassett Creek, in 1874 by Gibeon Jefferson Sullivan, a Confederate soldier who served in Co. A, 32nd Ala Infantry, an all-volunteer company made up of men from Washington County. The cabin is a type of folk house common to south Alabama from the time of settlement until the end of the 19th century: a round-log, double-pen with dogtrot cabin.

The spraddle roof as seen from the gable end puts porches under the main house roof. Wide over-hanging eaves extend the roof beyond the chimney. Long logs on the corners of the pens at ceiling height extend front to back to support the porch roof. Logs are plainly notched without dovetails or chinking; battens cover the spaces. Timbers are hand-hewn (ax marks still visible) and some floorboards are as wide as 20 inches, with large sills in the foundation beneath. The original pillars probably were large round-log sections. The two back shed rooms were probably added later as Gibeon’s family grew.

The Sullivan Cabin Side 2

When the home was completed in 1874, Gibeon nailed three boards together to create a “cooling board.” The feature turned his front porch into a place of central importance to the Wagarville community. When a death occurred, the board was used by neighbors to transport the body back to Gibeon’s home where it was prepared for burial. As one of the few homes in Washington County with a cooling board, the Sullivan Cabin became a community gathering place where people came to grieve, pay respects, and find comfort.

The cabin remained Gibeon Sullivan’s residence until he died in 1914, when it passed to his grandson, G.G. Sullivan, who lived here until his death in 1960. At G.G. Sullivan’s death, the cabin became the property of D.K. Sullivan, who maintained it faithfully all of his life. His heirs sold the cabin to other Sullivan descendants, who gave it to the Pvt. Gibeon Jefferson Sullivan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in June 2009.

[2013: Alabama 56, Wagarville]
Making History Public Workshop
Thursday, April 10, 2014 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m
Scottsboro Depot Museum
Corner of North Houston Street and Maple Avenue

Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University

Are you a leader or volunteer in a local historical society, museum, or nonprofit organization that preserves, interprets, or makes history available to the public?

Join with others for a day of networking, learning about resources and funding opportunities, and hearing about the work of the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

The cost of the workshop is $15, which covers lunch, and you may add the cost to your AHA registration fee using the form in this newsletter.

For more information, contact Maiben Beard at meb0015@auburn.edu or (334) 844-4903.

Pebble Hill in Auburn. Image courtesy of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, Auburn University.

Girls dressed in asparagus costumes. Image courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Auburn University Libraries.
The AHA Fall Pilgrimage will be held October 10-11, 2014 in Montevallo and Columbiana!

Photo: Historic Courthouse, courtesy of the Shelby County Museum and Archives.