



***THE RIDGE MACON COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT
2015 ANNUAL REPORT***



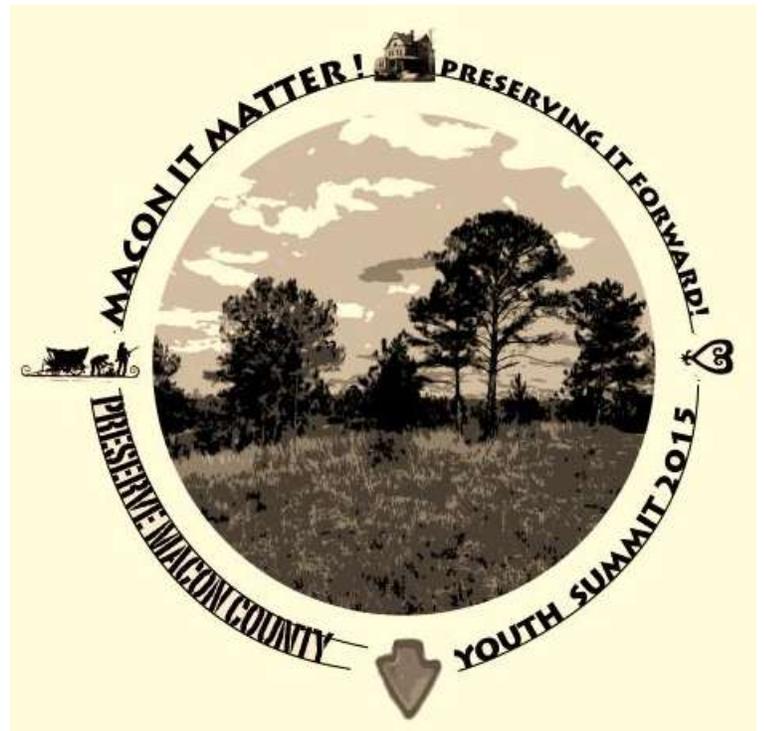
1st row: Mr. Ballou's visit to The Ridge, and Jerry Washington with Young Preservationists and 4H volunteers at Washington Meadows Garden

2nd row – Portrait of the McLeod family - Warrior Stand early settlers from the Ballou collection, and Perry Reunion family members with TRMCAP Board members at the Warrior Stand cemetery

3rd row: a Tuscan Rose platter from 19th century Warrior Stand

Letter from the Executive Director
April 2016

The logo shown to the right was designed by Board member Jocelyn Zanzot for the first-ever Macon County Historic Preservation Youth Summit (story on pages 18-19). The logo represents the diverse cultures and significant time periods of Macon County history within the setting of Macon County's timeless and expansive timberland. The symbols are:



- **Top – The Oaks, home of Booker T. Washington** – to honor the ideals of Booker T. Washington for rural community outreach.
- **Right – African Sankofa symbol** - to honor the legacy of enslaved Alabama pioneers and their descendants, with an eye toward building the future.
- **Bottom – Arrowhead** - to honor the pre-historic and historic Native American tribes and their descendants who originally inhabited Macon County.
- **Left- Pioneer Wagon and Pioneers** - to honor the free pioneers from the eastern United States who bravely forged the “Old Southwest” frontier during the period of Alabama Fever.

This is our fifth year of operations and you will hear more about our new theme: **Hands-On Alabama History – The Beginning of the Story**. The theme, created by Board member Katrina Love, speaks to our goals this year to (1) build on the success of our interactive programs and activities, and (2) to increase awareness of The Ridge project area as the Macon County Federal Road gateway into Alabama. We have engaged Kelsey Daenen to be our Marketing and Social Media Intern for this summer to assist in accomplishing these goals (see page 3).

Our Young Preservationist Association's activities will start in May and will include: container gardening at The Ridge Interpretive Center; craft and creative dance workshops; family history and historic cemetery projects; field trips; and, creating a new product to sell in our gift shop.

Thank you for your continued support of our hands on-Alabama educational, cultural and community-enrichment work!

Sincerely,

Shari L. Williams

***Introducing Kelsey Daenen
Summer 2016 Marketing and Social Media Intern***



Kelsey Daenen is a Georgia State University graduate student. She is pursuing an Anthropology Master's degree with a concentration in Visual Anthropology and Anthropology of Mass Media. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Kennesaw State University in 2013.

Kelsey googled the keyword "Anthropology," while searching for an internship opportunity and found our internship job posting. She starts work with us on May 2. Kelsey wants to hone her writing and editing skills while marrying her interest in anthropology with media. She explained that visual anthropology is related to the field of communications and is community based. The Ridge Project's community-based focus is a good fit with her interests.

Kelsey will assist with upgrading The Ridge Project's website and Facebook page and expanding our social media presence.

New 2015 Interpretive Center Photo Exhibits



William Edward Reynolds and his wife Addie Perry Reynolds lived in Warrior Stand in the late 1800s. This exhibit features photos of the couple's furniture, crystal, china, pottery and flatware. Several of these items came to Warrior Stand with pioneers traveling from Georgia on the Old Federal Road. The exhibit is courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. W. Reynolds. McLeod.



Mr Clarence Ballou is a descendant of the Grover family. They were Alabama Fever pioneers who lived in Cotton Valley which is located near Warrior Stand. He donated vintage portraits of other settlers from that era. The exhibit is courtesy of Mr. Ballou.

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Email: contact@digtheridge.com for more information.*

2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Balance forward from 2014: **\$1,925.91**

Income Jan-Dec 2015:

Grants:

Black Belt Community
Foundation, Inc. \$524.00

Macon County
Commission re-grant \$100.00

Donations: \$3,614.50

Group visits/tours: \$641.89

Gift shop & snack sales: \$455.95

Bank refunds: \$72.00

Fundraisers: \$174.00

Reimbursements: \$190.50

Total income: \$5,691.84***

Total income: **\$7,617.75**

***Income amount does not include the fair market value of in-kind donations of goods and services that supplemented expenditures to offer programs, maintain operations or to add to collections. Expenses that were covered and/or supplemented by in-kind donations include: Macon County Young Preservationist Association activities, gift store inventory, Lee-Scott Academy Field Trip, addition of Early Warrior Stand Settlers photo exhibit, addition of Old Federal Road artifacts exhibit, Youth Summit, and Taste of The Ridge. Non-profit organizations are not responsible to set the dollar value of in-kind donations. The value is set by each individual in-kind donor and recorded privately for their tax records. We estimate that the value of in-kind donations of goods and services for 2015 would be \$2,500.00.

Expenses Jan-Dec 2015:

I. Operations

Interpretive Center Lease: \$4,800.00**

General Liability Insurance: \$497.00

Gift Shop merchandise: \$244.97

CPA fee (2014 financial statement):	\$300.00
Printing:	\$80.00
Bank service charges:	\$88.80
Web hosting renewal:	\$104.64
Business license:	\$10.00
Equipment rental:	\$363.75
<u>State and local sales taxes:</u>	<u>\$19.48</u>

Total operating expenses: \$6,508.64

II. Programs (see full annual report for a complete listing of programs and activities)

Interpretive Center Lease ****overlaps with operations (see note below)**

Native American craft workshop:
(Presenter and assistant stipends,
and meal funded 75% by BBCF,
Inc. grant and 25% TRMCAP) \$672.07

Perry Family Reunion: \$226.69

Lee-Scott Academy Field Trip: \$102.29

Total program expenses: \$1001.05***

Total Expenses: \$7,509.69

***The Interpretive Center was the location for 72% of programs and events (see summary on page 5).*

****Total expenses for operations and programs exclude the value of the time and expertise contributed by volunteers, and it excludes their unreimbursed travel expenses. The value of volunteer contributions is the equivalent to the expense we would incur for having full and part-time employees, such as wages, employer-paid taxes and benefits, and unemployment taxes and insurance. We conservatively estimate that the payroll expense would be \$60,000 - \$75,000 per year.*

Impact Summary of Interpretive Center Use for Mission-Critical Programs/Activities/Events Offered – FY 2015

Program/Event/Activity	Month	Location	Engagement (including local residents, visitors, volunteers, and TRMCAP Board members)
Enterprise Exploration Group Meeting	January	Interpretive Center	12 participants
Clarence Ballou Visit and Tour	March	Interpretive Center	6 participants
Macon County Young Preservationist Association-	May, June, July	Washington Meadows Garden	8-12 participants
Pace-Mahone-Ellison Reunion Visit	July	Interpretive Center	20 participants
MCYPA End of Harvest Meeting and Pizza Party	August	Interpretive Center	15 participants
The Ridge Featured on Absolutely Alabama	August (taping)	Interpretive Center	8 participants
Perry Family Tour	September	Interpretive Center & Warrior Stand Cemetery	40 participants
MCYPA and Guests Learn Native American Fingerweaving	September	Warrior Stand Community Center	24 participants
Fourth Annual Lee-Scott Academy Field Trip - October	October	Interpretive Center	65 participants
Macon-It Matter! Preserving It Forward! Youth Summit	November	Warrior Stand Community Center and Warrior Stand Cemetery	15 participants
Third-Annual “Taste of The Ridge”	November	Interpretive Center	30 participants

Total programs and events = 11

Total programs and events held at Interpretive Center = 8

Percentage of programs and events held at Interpretive Center = 72%



DONOR RECOGNITION



Our sincere thanks is extended to these individuals and organizations who supported the work of The Ridge Project during 2015 through one or more of the following ways: financial contributions, in-kind donations of goods or services, technical support, volunteerism, marketing and publicity.

Ballou, C.	Perry, Mr. & Mrs. B.
Carlisle, J.	Perry, C.
Carter, Mr. & Mrs. M.	Perry, R.
Chandler, D.	Perry, S.
Clark, C.	Rader, R.
Crocker, Mr. & Mrs. A.	Sharp, G.
Daniel, L.	Slaughter, L.
Drummond, G.	Smith, Mr. & Mrs. A.
Ellison, T.	Smith, S.
Germany-Smith, D.	Sullen, D.
Gibbs, W.	The Pace-Ellison-Mahone Family Reunion
Gray, D.	The Perry Family Reunion
Henderson, M.	Tolbert, E.
Hopkins, Mr. & Mrs. N.	Tolbert, M.
Huffman, E.	Trammell, G.
Lamar, J.	Washington, J.
Lang, E.	Williams, Mr. & Mrs. L.
Love, D.	Wilson, H.
Love, K.	Wilson, L.M.
Lunsford, L.	Youson, H.
Maxwell, L.	Zanzot, J.
McLeod, Dr. & Mrs. W. Reynolds	
Moore, J.	
Neil, D.	
Pace, L.	
Pace, S.	
Pace, W.	
Patterson, T.	
Perry, B.	

FIRST QUARTER - JANUARY – MARCH

Enterprise Exploration Group Meeting

A group of local growers who share a common agricultural legacy met for the second time at The Ridge Interpretive Center. Their first meeting was held in December of 2013. This is an exploratory group. District 2 Commissioner Huffman was in attendance at the meeting. The farmers are interested in starting a farming co-op and other businesses to maximum use of their landholdings and other assets. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm thoughts and ideas on viable community-based enterprises. In accordance with TRMCAP mission “to facilitate the local community’s capacity for maximizing its cultural and historic resources through community-based tourism (CBT),” the group was invited to hold the meeting at The Interpretive Center. Shari Williams followed up the meeting by mailing out information to meeting participants on resources that are available to persons who are interested in starting a farming co-op.

Clarence Ballou Visit and Donation



Clarence Ballou is the grandson of Warrior Stand pioneers Green Middleton Grover (born about 1850 in Georgia) and Susan Miers Grover (born about 1855 in Alabama). The Grovers lived in Cotton Valley, but their three sons, who died as children, are buried in the Warrior Stand cemetery. Mr. Ballou contacted Shari Williams in February to inquire about visiting The Ridge and the Warrior Stand cemetery. Mr. Ballou also indicated that he wanted to donate photos of early Warrior Stand settlers to TRMCAP. Mr. Ballou and his friend Linda visited the Interpretive Center on Saturday, March

14. A customary tour of the Center and dig site were conducted. Mr. Ballou presented 18 portraits (also called cabinet cards) dating from approximately 1890-1920. An exhibit of the portraits was opened in September (see page 3).

Visitors to The Ridge on March 14 included Mr. Ballou, Linda, and three members of the Warrior Stand VFD. Two of the volunteer firefighters joined in an extensive tour to the Warrior Stand cemetery, covering both the European-American and the African-American sections. During the tour, Mr. Ballou located the grave sites of the Grover children.

Mr. Ballou said that he thoroughly enjoyed the visit and he promised to return with additional photos. He made a request for assistance with researching his grandmother Susan Grover. Mr.

Ballou said that she was also known as Susan Perry Miers. Using internet resources, Shari Williams conducted family history research as an activity of TRMCAP. She emailed a report to Mr. Ballou on March 21. Mr. Ballou later explained the report provided information that he used to contact relatives in Oklahoma that he did not know about prior to the receipt of the report.

SECOND QUARTER – APRIL - JUNE

Family History Archives

The first four weeks of April were busy in the area of genealogy and family history research. Surname reports that are suitable for incorporating into a family history research archive include:

KEY – white and African American

HUFFMAN - (aka Hoffman) – white and African American

HUBBARD (aka Herbert) – white and African American

GROVER & MIERS – white

SWANSON – white and African American

TRMCAP continues to evolve as a stand-out resource for researchers who are looking for South Macon County ancestors. We are receiving inquiries for assistance, particularly in conjunction with upcoming family reunions. We were instrumental in connecting three researchers who live in different states from the Swanson family.

2015 Preserve Macon County Youth Summit Implementation Team Update



The Youth Summit implementation team met at the Interpretive Center on March 14. The focus was on identifying grant prospects. Each team member took an assignment of a task or tasks to complete in order to submit a grant application to the Plum Creek Foundation by the April 30 proposal submission deadline.

An impromptu educational session was held with Tuskegee Youth Safe Haven Students who were attending the meeting with Guy Trammell. Dan Neil conducted an informal discussion on preservation of vintage photos using the photos that were donated by Mr. Ballou. It was a teachable moment for all participants on dating the photos and the methods used to curate and preserve them.

(Logo designed by Jocelyn Zanzot)

On April 30, The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project submitted a grant proposal to the Plum Creek Foundation for the Foundation's third yearly grant cycle. A request was made for funding for the Youth Summit. Guy Trammell and Shari Williams met in May with Timothy Sinclair, Director of Interpretive Programs with the National Parks Service to request in-kind technical assistance to change the initial Youth Summit program outline into workable lesson plans. The implementation team continued to hold conference call meetings on a regular basis. The Youth Summit was presented in November 2015; the final version was scaled down in accordance with the available budget (see page 20).

Macon County Young Preservationist Association - 4-H



The idea to launch a young preservationist association was presented during the planning phase of the 2015 youth summit. The purpose of the group would be to establish a structured way to generate and sustain enthusiasm in young people for preserving Macon County's historic assets. Shari Williams wanted TRMCAP to sponsor the group in order to have a more sustainable working relationship with local youth and adult community members. Will

Golden, Macon County Cooperative Extension Coordinator, encouraged her to consider launching the group as a 4-H Club in order to take full advantage of the many resources that exist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the 4-H program.



In April, Shari Williams completed the background check and training required to serve as a 4-H leader. The next step is to meet the requirements to charter a club. A group of young people met on Saturday, May 23 and on Saturday, May 30 to learn about chartering a 4-H club. On these dates, they participated in planting a garden that they have named "Washington Meadows Garden." On Saturday, May 30 and June 6, the group was joined by Daniel Sullen, Macon/Bullock County Cooperative Extension Agent and two seasoned 4-Hers. So far, the children have planted corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, zucchini and yellow squash, peppers, okra, eggplant, turnip, mustard and collard greens, sweet potatoes, and peas.

(Pictured: Purple Hull pea plants in the Washington Meadows Garden)



Update on the Nomination of the Creek Stand AME Zion Church to the National Register of Historic Places

The Alabama Historical Commission National Register Review Board met on April 23, 2015 and approved the nomination of the Creek Stand AMEZ Church cemetery to proceed to the national level (NPS/Dept. of the Interior) for further consideration and review for listing to the National Register. Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle

Tennessee State University, presented the nomination PowerPoint presentation. Shari Williams and other supporters of the nomination were in attendance. (2016 update: the nomination is currently under review by the NPS).

Update on the South Macon County Foundation, Inc. (SMCF, Inc.)



The 2015 activities of the SMCF, Inc. include: March Town Hall meeting at Cotton Valley to report on the progress of the restoration project; April 12, 2015 site blessing ceremony; April and May community-wide clean up days with dates scheduled through October 2015; May 21, 2015 presentation to the Macon County School Board to provide an update on the progress of the restoration.

The deed for the school and 16.5 acres was conveyed to the SMCF, Inc. by the Macon County School Board in November 2015. In November 2015 the school and contributing resources were listed to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage as the “The Macon County Training School and Community Historic District.” Shari Williams wrote and submitted the nomination for the listing.

Black Belt Community Foundation Grant Awarded to The Ridge Project



The Ridge Project received notification from the Black Belt Community Foundation that the proposal to present an introductory Native American finger weaving project was selected for funding in the amount of \$523.50. The grant awards ceremony was held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 in Selma, Alabama. Katrina Love, Board Member, Willie Pace, Volunteer, and Shari Williams attended the ceremony. The workshop was held in September 2015 (see page 15).

THIRD QUARTER – JULY - SEPTEMBER

Macon County Young Preservationist Association Updates

The MCYPA met in July at the Washington Meadows Garden to pick the purple hull peas they planted back in May and June. The children were amazed at the difference in the appearance of the garden since they last visited in mid-June. The few plants that thrived were the purple hull peas, watermelons, yellow squash and a few peppers. The rest of the vegetables succumbed to lack of water or too much water. Jerry Washington took advantage of a teachable moment when one of the children inquired about the fate of the corn. He gathered the children around to show them how one stalk was attempting to develop an ear of corn in spite of nature working against it.



After the peas were picked, the group enjoyed a picnic and a surprise dish was served, made from a recipe that included fresh peas from the garden. The dish was test-driven by several groups and has received rave reviews. The MCYPA may be well on its way to developing its first marketable product!

Perry Family Tour

On September 14, 2015, The Ridge Project was delighted to host a group of Levi Perry's descendants during their visit to The Ridge Interpretive Center and the Warrior Stand cemetery. Their visit also included a trip to nearby



wooded acreage that was once owned by Levi's son Jetson Perry (1801-1878).

In advance of their arrival to Warrior Stand, Williams researched and wrote a document for the family to provide background information on pioneer life, Perry family landholdings and the Warrior Stand cemetery. Willie Pace, TRMCAP volunteer, worked diligently to spruce up the cemetery prior to the visit. The group visited the cemetery, and afterwards, they visited the former homestead of Jetson Perry, located in close proximity to the Interpretive Center. TRMCAP volunteers were invited to accompany the family to the homestead. After an approximate 1/3 mile trek into the woods, the group ventured upon a hidden portion of the Federal Road that has been undisturbed over the years and thus retains a high degree of historical integrity. Jetson Perry's property fronts the old road. The homestead was located on a ridge overlooking the Federal Road.

Brian Perry commented that the visit to The Ridge exceeded the family's expectations. Family members commented that they appreciated the endeavors of The Ridge staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers to make their experience enjoyable.



Pictured: Perry family members (left) at the Jetson Perry property viewing the Old Federal Road (right)

MCYPA and Guests Learn Native American Fingerweaving

On Saturday, October 19, members of the Macon County Young Preservationists Association (MCYPA), and guests from South Macon County and Tuskegee connected with the Creek Indian heritage of The Ridge when they participated in an "Introduction to Southeastern Native American Finger Weaving Craft Workshop." The workshop was presented by Ms. Monica Newman Moore from



Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and was sponsored by The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project with a 2015 Arts Grant awarded by the Black Belt Community Foundation, Inc...



The ancient Native American craft of twining is a utilitarian art form that is over 9,000 years old. The workshop presenter was Ms. Monica Newman Moore, a living historian from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who practices the Native American skills of making twined bags and deer toe leggings shakers, for traditional Native American stomp dancing. Ms. Moore is the author of: Twined Bags: An Historical Finger-Weaving Craft of Native Americans.

During the half-day session, Ms. Moore taught participants how to finger weave a bookmark made of yarn. There was a lunch break and the session picked up with the introduction of twining. Participants learned how to make a twined bracelet. On display were the beautiful twined bags and sashes that Ms. Moore has made over the years.

The overall feedback from workshop participants was positive. Getting the hang of the finger weaving took a little time for most participants, but crafting the book mark became easier once they were able to see the pattern taking shape.



FOURTH QUARTER – OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Fourth Annual Lee-Scott Academy Field Trip - October



All of the fourth grade classes, along with teachers and parent chaperones from Lee-Scott Academy visited The Ridge on October 21, for a field trip with activities that were developed in accordance with Alabama State Standards, and designed to enrich classroom study of Southeast Native Americans. Fourth grade teacher

Malinda Powers is the field trip coordinator for Lee-Scott Academy.



The activities this year included a hands-on introduction to archaeological excavation and sifting techniques, presented by Dana Chandler, Tuskegee University Archivist and Head Archaeologist for The Ridge Project. Students excavated pottery fragments, charcoal, and

arrowheads. They enjoyed a Creek Indian food demonstrations presented by local volunteers. Corlis Clark prepared a wild-onion Creek Indian dish and Willie Pace prepared sassafras tea. Henry Wilson, another local volunteer, presented an information scavenger hunt, and Shari Williams presented a segment on the history of the Old Federal Road. *(Photos courtesy of Willie Pace)*



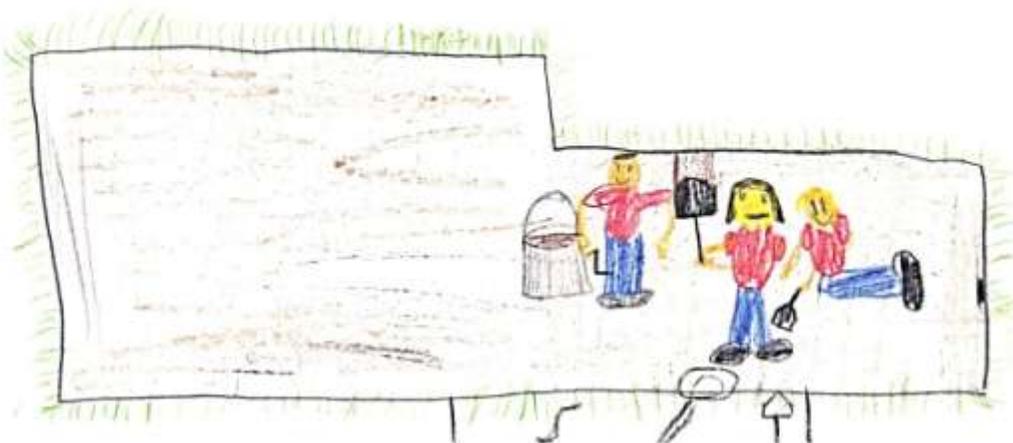
Thank you letter from a Lee-Scott student:

October 21, 2015
Lee-Scott Academy
1601 Academy Dr.,
Auburn, AL 36830

Dear Ms. Shari and Mr. Dana

Thank you for letting us come to the Ridge. You and your helpers are awesome. I enjoyed all the activities like eating wild onions and eggs and drinking sassafras tea. They were delicious. I also liked the archaeology dig. Using the metal detector was fun! I learned so much more about archaeology and Indians.

From,
Emily



The Ridge Featured on Absolutely Alabama

In August, The Ridge was pleased to host Fred Hunter from the television show *Absolutely Alabama* at our Interpretive Center and dig site for a taping that aired in early November.

The show featured the archaeological component of The Ridge Project's mission. Board members and community volunteers participated in a dig in our front yard "pit."



From left: Henry Wilson, Shari Williams, Fred Hunter, Dana Chandler, Daniel Neil, Willie Pace, Jocelyn Zanzot.
(Photo courtesy of Absolutely Alabama)

Macon-It Matter! Preserving It Forward! Youth Summit

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, The Ridge Project hosted the first-ever Macon County Historic Preservation Youth Summit at the Warrior Stand Community Center. The



program served the members of the Macon County Young Preservationist Association, ages 9-13. A pancake breakfast was served. The presentation that followed included a welcome and an introduction to the theme and presentation on the significance of the Warrior Stand historic cemetery, which contains burials dating back to the 1850s of the early white settlers, and graves

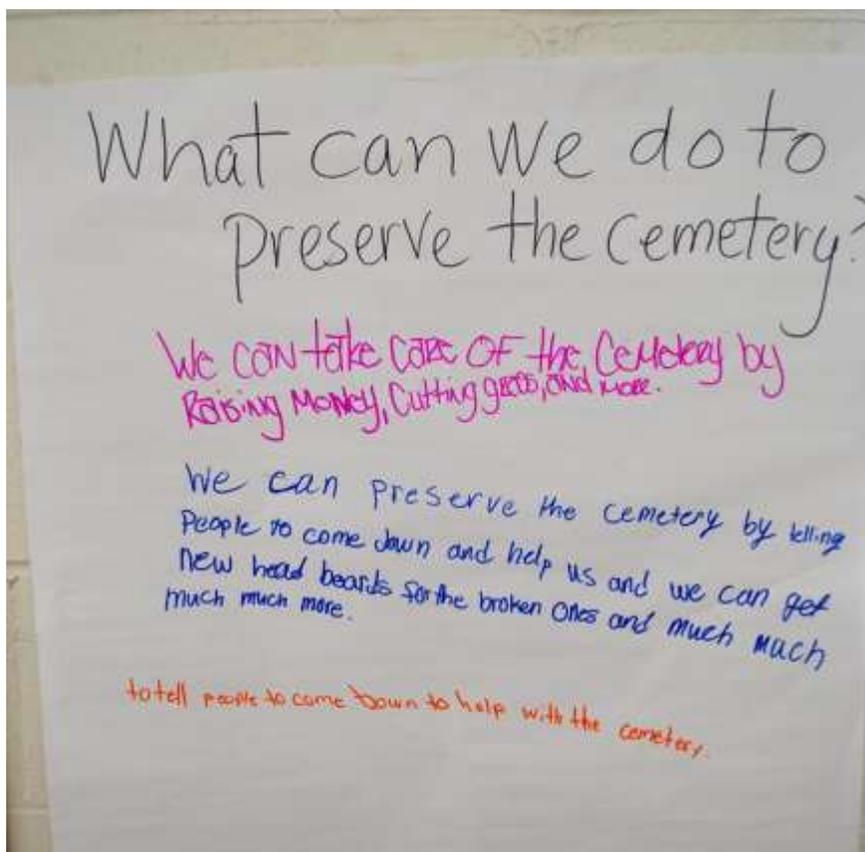
dating back to the late 1800s of former enslaved persons and their descendants.

At the cemetery, the students participated in a tour of the nearly five-acre cemetery and then used crayons and interfacing material to do grave rubbings.

After the cemetery visit, the students traveled back to the community center to debrief the cemetery activity. They used flip charts to record their answers to questions about what they learned at the cemetery and about steps to take to preserve the cemetery. In 2016, plans are for the group to begin working on a nomination of the cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery register.



Community volunteers Corlis Clark and Lessie Daniel, Jocelyn Zanzot, Board member for The Ridge, and Shari Williams conducted the summit. Students received goody bags, that included a Youth Summit t-shirt and a “Year of Alabama” t-shirt. The t-shirts were donated by Board members Jocelyn Zanzot and Daniel Neil, and by Jay Lamar, with the Alabama 200 Bicentennial Commission. *(Photos courtesy of Joceyn Zanzot)*



Third-Annual "Taste of The Ridge"

Saturday, November 14 was the date of the annual Taste of The Ridge, an event that was both a fundraiser for The Ridge and a community supper. community.

Jocelyn Zanzot, Daniel Neil and Willie Pace organized the event as well as cooked up delicious meats and side dishes. The proceeds benefited Interpretive Center operations and the MCYPA. *Poster and photos courtesy of J. Zanzot and the Mobile Studio.*

