

Hoover Historical Happenings

Vol. 23 No. 4

March 2012

Dates

March 6 Board meeting, 10:00
March 27 General Meeting,
1:30
April 1 Spring Tea
April 17 Spring Trip

Executive Committee

Jackie Matte
Delores Wilkinson
Lea Pennington
Shirley Lewis
Jim Lyons
Sharon Jones
Joy Elliott
Marilyn Janda
Charlotte Williams
Jean Butterworth
Barbara Lyons
Inez McCollum
Arnold Singer
John Williams
Betty Bagby
Charles Shelby
Doug Harkness
Peggy Patton
Katherine Staursky
Marshall Morgan
Joan Davis
Marie Taylor
Vadie Honea
Charlotte Patton
Charlotte Laggy
Tom Laggy
Betty Tucker
Faye Walker

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Editors.

This is your invitation...

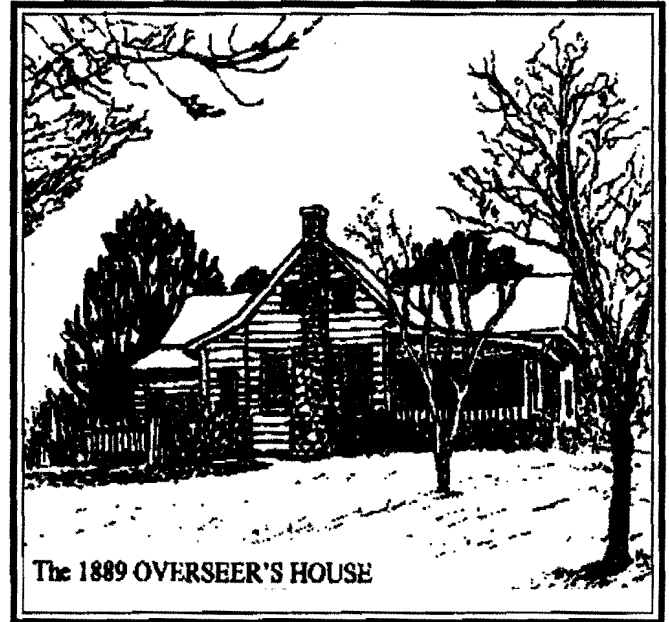
Overseer's House Is Site Of HHS Spring Tea

April 1 is the day for Hoover Historical Society's Spring Tea at the Overseer's House, the home of Marie Taylor. Plans are well underway for the event that is traditionally hosted by HHS for its members and for prospective members. It is a time for people to meet and greet, have some of the beautiful refreshments and enjoy a neighborhood home in Hoover.

We are looking forward to going to the Overseer's House, 393 Park Avenue, Bluff Park, from 2:00 - 4:00. This is one of three Hoover homes designated with an HHS historical marker. Chairman Delores Wilkinson is once again preparing a delightful event for you there.

Limited parking for the Tea will be available at the house. We will also run a shuttle from Shades Crest Baptist Church, which is just a block away.

Members, this is your invitation to the Spring Tea, and it is your responsibility to invite any and all to come with you. Only an email reminder will be sent. Place this important date, April 1, on your calendar now!



The 1889 OVERSEER'S HOUSE

Vadie Honea

Anniston Is Spring Trip Destination

Hoover Historical Society travels! And this year we're going to Anniston to the Anniston Museum of Natural History and Berman Museum of World History. The date of the trip is April 17, and the deadline for reservations is March 15. Send \$50 to Tom and Charlotte Laggy, 127 Newgate Rd., Alabaster 35007.

Same Place, New Name

Hoover Historical Society meetings are held at Artists On the Bluff, the new name for the old Hoover Community Education Building on Park Avenue. We'll be looking for you at our next meeting:

HHS General Meeting
March 27, 1:30



Front Porch News

From the Folklore Center

It has been a mild winter so far at the Ole Stinson Place. I notice that some of the early blooming trees are already in bloom. Even the chipmunks have not gone into hibernation yet. Uncle Charles and I neither one have been complaining about not having to split more wood for the fireplace. If you look for it, finding something good in almost every situation is not too hard.

My, how we have been blessed to have lived in this special time. Some folks are concerned about the future, but every time we get together with a bunch of third graders at the cabin I can't help but begin to feel better about the future. All that energy, excitement and questions they bring is contagious.

The only regret is that with all the wonders that God created we just love to enjoy them but often forget the creator. I read this week where the folks living today are the most educated of any people ever to live on this earth but have no knowledge of the Bible. Sounds like an oxymoron to me. But then old folks' opinions don't count much so Uncle Charles and I will just keep rocking till Aunt Marie Taylor decides there is something that just has to be done right now. If you know what I mean.

- Cousin Doug Harkness

Website Words

Do you spend a lot of time at your computer? Do you never turn yours on, or you don't want to, ever? Well, I have a reason for you to spend a minute or two on a great site - www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org. First, it's a new effort by several members to get a colorful site of which you can be proud. Second, it will have information on it to help you be a better member. Third, it will help you know what's coming up if you can't find your newsletter. We have the basics running but have lots more to add to broaden the site. The Folklore Center is number 11 on the historical sites list. Doug Harkness did a terrific job getting the pictures and verbiage together, and Charles Shelby provided the video. Our webmaster, net2net, is doing a good job of editing; and although it's taking more time than we thought, we are making progress. We need you to help, too! Volunteer to work a two hour shift in our Office/

Archive and you, too, can write for the site. Carolyn Kolar is scheduling the volunteers at 823-4405. It's so easy, and Charlotte Patton will be there to help you. I hope to hear from you.

-Barbara Lyons, 987-9172

Message From the President

Several of us are planning to attend the annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, April 12-14, in Huntsville. We hope that other Hoover Historical Society members will also attend. The program sounds very interesting and will focus on the history of Huntsville and all the changes that have taken place over the years. Steve Murray, this year's president of AHA, says that attendees of this year's annual meeting should come prepared to think about change, from the period when Huntsville witnessed the birth of the twenty-second state, to a time of turmoil as it shifted hands repeatedly between Federal and Confederate forces, to the veritable explosion of the city as it hosted the development of our country's space program. Sites we will visit include Mooresville, Constitution Village, historic Twickenham, the oldest neighborhood in the city, and of course, the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Whatever your interests, I am sure you will find the AHA annual meeting an interesting and informative experience. I look forward to seeing you there.

- Jackie Matte, President

Linda Derry Speaks At Next Meeting

Our speaker for the March 27 meeting will be Linda Derry, who is the site director of the Old Cahawba Archaeological Park located near Selma. She has worked for the Alabama Historical Commission for 25 years.

Her experience in archaeology dates back to the early 1970's while in high school. Her graduate degree in historical archaeology is from the College of William and Mary. She has worked in the state historic preservation offices in Illinois, Massachusetts, Virginia and Alabama, and has been a field archaeologist in those states as well as California. In the early 1980's before moving to Alabama, Linda was the lead field archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

We are in for a real treat! Please mark March 27 on your calendar.

- Delores Wilkinson

About the Tylers Of Bluff Park

Robert Tyler came to our Hoover Historical Society January meeting, and I got to visit with him! He and his wife Clara are members. His dad, Luther Tyler, had been so helpful when we were gathering Bluff Park history to celebrate the birthday of the school back in 1988. Luther had even given the Bluff Park Elementary the podium that his wife Irene used while teaching at the Summitt School. We walked down to the lunchroom to see the podium and read the inscription on the brass plate. As we walked, Robert shared some interesting stories about the settlement of the Tyler family on Shades Mountain.

Mr. Tyler's father was Luther Tyler, and his grandfather was William Marion Tyler. Robert's mother was Irene Hagins Tyler. Irene was one of two teachers at the Summitt School. (The other was Ann Susan Hale Copeland - "Susie")

Just a little Tyler history--three Tyler brothers (Job, Jim and William Marion) began living on Shades Mountain in 1888. They came from Tallapoosa County (Waverly) to farm. (The grave of their father, William Henry Tyler, is in Waverly). They bought 240 acres and each brother developed his own 80 acres. William Marion Tyler's first wife was Mattie Hale. William Marion and Mattie had four children. The oldest was Cecil, then Lillian, Luther (born in 1898) and Harvey. Mattie Hale died on Christmas Day 1902, and it was for that reason that Luther Tyler never cared for Christmas; it was such a sad time. William Marion was left on the farm with the four children. He had a sister named Vera who lived in Bessemer and she came and helped with the children until he married Mary Warren. She came from Columbus, Georgia, with her two children from a previous marriage, Dupont and Irene. They married in 1909. Mr. Tyler's four children and Mrs. Tyler's two children all became one big happy family.

In those days Oxmoor was the nearest place to shop and the nearest place to get the train. The six children had plenty of room to roam and play in that day--and no traffic to worry about. There were only a dozen or so families on the mountain in the area known now as Vestavia and Bluff Park.

Robert remembers picking peaches in the acreage behind his grandfather's house. The house is no longer there, but the property is where Shades Mountain Independent Church is now on Tyler Road.

- Peggy Patton

In this our first year to award scholarships to outstanding history students in our city, our two scholarship winners were Jordan Davis, Spain Park High School, and Emily Graves, Hoover High School. We thought you would enjoy reading their essays submitted as part of the scholarship application. Here is Emily Graves's essay; Jordan Davis's essay was printed in the previous issue.

Amelia Earhart: A Wonder Woman in a Man's World

At the young age of twenty-three, Amelia Mary Earhart discovered her passion for aviation when a friend took her for a life changing flight at a stunt-flying exhibition. Little did Earhart know, her love for a male-dominated industry would inspire the women of future generations to excel in all aspects of life, no matter the prejudicial barriers set forth by society.

As a child, Earhart was notorious for her stubborn and unconventional behavior. She never acted like the young lady she was expected to be; instead, Earhart deviated toward boyish activities such as climbing trees and roughhousing. It can be assumed that her unorthodox ways led to her interest in a different type of occupation like aviation for a woman of her time period. Earhart also collected newspaper clippings about women who were successful in male-oriented fields. Her determination to achieve her goals was obvious in all of her actions.

Through her tireless commitment to her dreams, Amelia Earhart's legend has influenced me to reach my goals in life. After graduating from Hoover High School, I will be attending Auburn University with hopes of entering the School of Architecture. This field of study requires an immense amount of dedication. The time, thought, and energy that go into this program is something I have considered greatly and I have decided architecture is what I want to pursue more than anything else.

Like Amelia Earhart, I hope to excel in the industry I choose to be a part of and change the standards set forth by those in the past and present. She not only pushed past the prejudicial barriers that stopped many women from doing what they loved, she advanced the field of aviation with her accomplishments as well. Earhart was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean, and the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. The idea of a female achieving →

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(from p. 3)

such novel feats changed the world of flying and the capabilities of women as a whole.

Amelia Earhart's contributions to her field made me realize my potential to change the view of architecture as an occupation. In general, architecture is a male-dominated industry because of its focus on construction. Women have had a positive effect on the field because of their feminine influence on design, but my goal is to become a successful frontrunner and female representative in my career. I hope to be a voice for other women working as architects who may have struggled with sexist obstacles in their lifetime. Earhart managed to change the lives of women through her career and has inspired me to strive to do the same in my future profession.

In addition to her influence on my career plans, Earhart's actions prove what I am capable of in all aspects of my life, no matter what I am doing. Her incredible dedication and spunk have given me an optimistic outlook in life. I tend to think, "If Amelia could have that much enthusiasm for something, I can find my passion, too." The idea of living a life where I am

continuously doing what I love appeals to me in every way possible. Earhart lived this way by following her dream and carrying it out, even when others did not approve.

In her attempt to circumnavigate the globe, Earhart tragically went missing and was never found. Even though she did not accomplish all of her goals, Earhart is still an amazing role model for women of all generations, for hard workers, and for me. Her commitment, positive attitude, and contributions to aviation inspire many to work towards their dreams. Most importantly to me, Earhart's advances for working girls in male-dominated careers has given me the courage to do the same as an architect. Most of my future professional goals are due to the Wonder Woman that is Amelia Earhart.

- Emily Graves

With a poke bonnet a woman's head could be "poked" around corners and her face would not be scratched by brush or stung by bees. The bonnet shaded her face outdoors and kept the terrible blaze of the open fire from blistering her face while cooking.