

the

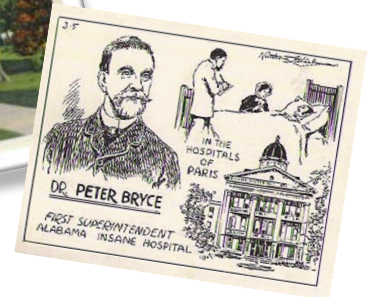
Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama 35226

Congratulations!

The Hoover Historical Society (HHS) was recognized for Excellence in Community Service at the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution's State Conference in Auburn in March. HHS President Pam Thompson and Recording Secretary Deborah Burtnett were on hand to receive the award from ASDAR State Regent Constance Grund. *Continued...*

Shown L-R: ASDAR State Regent Constance Grund, HHS Recording Secretary Debbie Burtnett, HHS President Pam Thompson and ASDAR Committee Chair Martha Whitt. Photo Credit: Phoebe Donald Robinson.



Bryce Hospital is the subject for May meeting at Hoover Library

Historian Steve Davis, a 40+ years employee of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Departmental Historian since July 2008, will discuss the history of Bryce and the plans for a museum located in the historic Bryce Hospital to the Society on May 19 at 1 PM at the Hoover Public Library.

Davis will cover the history of Bryce Hospital from start to Stickney--"Stickney [Dr. Stonewall Stickney who advocated for a patient's right to treatment] being the famous half of *Wyatt v. Stickney* court case that ran for 33 years." Davis will also discuss Dorothea Dix's role in promoting the hospital; the first four superintendents; and the day-to-day operation of the hospital. While most of the emphasis will be on Bryce, Davis will touch upon the creation of Searcy Hospital and Partlow Development Center. At the end of the program, Davis will update the Society on the status of Bryce and patient records.

Both of these articles are continued on Page 2

Society honored with service award

Continued from Page 1

From the DAR Press Release...

HHS was honored for their vital role in keeping history alive in Hoover with diverse activities that encourage young and old to learn about life in Alabama in the mid-1800s. In doing so, they sustain the area's past for the future.

The Lily of the Cahaba Chapter*, which nominated HHS, cited the historical society's contributions such as the Folklore Center. The house, outbuildings and surrounding grounds provide visitors an opportunity to learn first-hand of American crafts, such as quilting, spinning, food preservation, soap making---even medicinal herb gardening.

The nearby History Center and library provide an excellent resource for research on area pioneers, business histories and photographs. The nomination also noted HHS' placements of dozens of historical markers and awarding of educational scholarships.

*The Lily of the Cahaba Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is based in Hoover. Any woman is eligible for membership who is 18 years of age and can prove lineal, blood descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. For information about membership, e-mail lilyofthecahaba@gmail.com.

Published five times annually by the Hoover Historical Society, PO Box 360233, Hoover, AL 35236, a 501 C (3) organization. Copyright 2015. Editor: Deborah Burtnett.

Continued from Page 1

Davis has served in the Human Resources and Public Relations departments at DMH and is an historian with the Bryce Hospital Historic Committee. He is a member of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society; the Alabama Historical Association; Civil War Preservation Trust; Friends of the Alabama Archives; Bryce Hospital Preservation Committee; Alabama Museum Association; and the winner of the National Alliance on Mental Health 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award. Davis is a graduate of the University of Alabama 1975.



Steve Davis

At AHA, Pam King, Marlene Rikard, Pam Thompson and Inez McCollum; with James Harwell at Moss Rock; and at the Folklore Center with artists.



A message from our outgoing president...

Nowadays we use computers a lot, and some words have changed meanings. Lowell Streiker in *A Treasury of Humor*, shares *The Vermonter's Guide to Computer Lingo*, most of which applied to Alabama:

Modem: What you did to the hayfields

Windows: What you closed when it was below 30 degrees

Log On: Making the wood stove hotter

Hard Drive: Getting home during the muddy season

Microchips: What is left in the bag when the big chips are gone.

Download: Getting the firewood off the truck

Megahertz: What you get if you are not careful downloading.

Times have changed but most of us like to talk about the good old days. That is a good reason to join the Historical Society.

Then on Sunday the 19th, we had a wonderful membership tea at the Hoover-Randle House, meeting old friends and new. A few of us traveled to Mobile for the annual Alabama Historical Association meeting where we heard some interesting speakers, toured the sites, and dined on some delicious seafood.

Our last meeting for this term will be May 19 at the Hoover Library. We will be installing the new officers elected at the last meeting. I will be turning the leadership duties over to Carolyn Kolar. It has been an exciting year with many accomplishments, thanks to a great group of members who are willing to work together to get things done. I really appreciate the opportunities I have had to get to know many of you. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President.

Pam Thompson

Several of us have been busy interviewing a variety of Hoover residents for the history book. Betty Bagby has been busy going through newspaper clippings, copying and filing them by topic. She could use some help on Wednesdays. We have had a few items donated to the archives. Please let us know if you have something interesting tucked away in a box at your house.

This month has been a busy one. Although we did not have a meeting, a group of 20 enjoyed a lovely day in Sylacauga at the Marble Festival, thanks to Mayor Ivey providing the transportation.



Kudos and flowers for Pam Thompson's year as president—a job well done!

Spring Trip to Sylacauga

By Carolyn Kolar

Imery-Gantt's Quarry

Society members boarded buses provided by the City of Hoover on April 15th for the Annual Spring Trip. We arrived in **Sylacauga, the 'Marble City'**, for a full day of activities centered around the 7th Annual Magic of Marble Festival. First stop: **Imery-Gantt's Quarry** Observation Point where the scenic overlook offered a view of the stone-lined quarry hole, 400' deep and filled with water. Markers explained the geological history of marble and the discovery of Sylacauga marble by Dr. Edward Gantt, on duty with Andrew Jackson's Army in the early 1800s. Giuseppe Moretti, famous sculptor and creator of Vulcan, called the Sylacauga marble "the finest white marble in the world."



B.B.Comer Memorial Library

Next stop: the **B.B. Comer Memorial Library** where a piece sculpted by Craig Brown stood outside. The library houses many marble sculptures year-round. One piece, by Hoover sculptor Arthur Umlauf, is entitled "The Horse." Paintings by Douglass Crockwell are on permanent display in the library. He was most famous for his illustrations and advertisements for the *Saturday Evening Post* and for murals and posters for the Works Progress Administration. In 1947, he made paintings for a series of advertisements that Avondale Mills ran in the *Post*. He chose local employees of the textile company and their children to model for his paintings.



Buttermilk Hill Restaurant & Bar

The restaurant is located in an historic 1904 Victorian frame home, where the group enjoyed a delicious lunch in a private room. Some sampled the Strawberry Shortcake with sweet cornbread, strawberries, sorghum syrup and whipped cream or the Bread Pudding with vanilla bean ice cream and chocolate whisky sauce. We also stopped at the **Isabel Anderson Comer Museum and Art Center** and further indulged at Blue Bell Creameries. We watched sculptors in action at **Central Park**.



More photographs
from the Spring
Trip may be
viewed on our
Facebook page.



Childersburg's Kymulga Grist Mill

Kymulga is a working gristmill built in 1864 by Confederate Army Captain George H. Forney. It was built from local timber and the machinery was made in a North Carolina foundry. The mill is powered by water turbines, and was once capable of grinding both wheat and corn. Due to structural damage the mill is not open to the public. The 105' Kymulga Covered Bridge, located beside the mill, was built the same year. It provided access to the Georgia Road, a Native American trade route used by frontiersmen and settlers. The Kymulga Covered Bridge is one of two 19th century covered bridges still existing in Alabama.

Alabama Historical Association Annual Meeting held in Mobile

The Hoover Historical Society is a member of the Alabama Historical Association (AHA) and several Society members traveled to Mobile for the 68th Annual Meeting April 9-11, 2015.

The gathering was held at the History Museum of Mobile and Fort Conde, with various classes held in their meeting and conference rooms and at the fort. The event featured tours of the exhibits at the History Museum itself; of Fort Conde; several historic churches and homes; various locations around Mobile including Magnolia Cemetery; and concurrent sessions on a variety of topics of recently published scholarly works.

Perhaps the session of greatest importance to this Society was the "Making History Public" Workshop where members met in fifteen minutes segments, speed dating style, with various publishers including New South Books and the University of Alabama Press. Conference attendees were treated to John Sledge's excerpts of his new book, *The Mobile River*.

Robert Bradley, from the Alabama Department of Archives and History, presented the Civil War Sesquicentennial Feature: "Mobile 1865: The Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely." Next year's event is set for Montgomery at the AL Dept. of Archives and History.



John and Sue Knopf

Annual Tea held at Hoover-Randle Home

By Sue Knopf, Hospitality Chair

The Annual Open House Membership Tea for the HHS was held at the historic Hoover-Randle Home.

The Colonial-style home was built in 1947 by William Henry Hoover, founder of the City of Hoover.

The present owners are Barbara and Ed Randle who continually open their doors in support of functions related to the enrichment of the city. Barbara is well known for her artistic ability, her talent as a seamstress, and teaching and writing books on "Crazy Quilting." Their home reflects Barbara's bright and exciting use of color. Thank you, Barbara and Ed, for hosting the Hoover Historical Society's Annual Tea!

The mission of the HHS is to preserve our history for the future generations. One of our guests and new member, Myrtis Ashley Horton said, "I was delighted to be a part of this historical society event. I felt like I was taking a step back in time as I strolled up to the porch of the Randle home, greeted by the Hoover Belles in their Antebellum dresses. A mix of old and new is always good especially when there is air conditioning involved! I am looking forward to future events."

The HHS gratefully thanks the Hoover Belles for greeting and adorning the home; the city of Hoover Police Department for directing traffic and use of signs, and the members who worked so tirelessly for the success of the Open House.

Approximately 50+ guests attended the Tea, of whom seven became members: Faye B. Anderson; Sharon Chapman; Rep. David Faulkner; Myrtis Ashley Horton; Cherry H. Mathews; Frances A. Moon; and Yvonne Sellers. Welcome!



Dr. Marlene Rikard, Dr.
Wayne Flynt; Pam Thompson

Wilson's Raid 'made' B'ham

On the sesquicentennial of President Lincoln's assassination, members of the Arlington Historical Society hosted a presentation on "Wilson's Raiders" by Historian Jerry Desmond, the story of a 28-day "invasion" that occurred from March 22nd to April 20, 1865.

On this date in History (April 14), what was left to conquer for the Union? The CSA's capital at Richmond, the fort and bay at Mobile, and Central Alabama's industrial areas (Brierfield, Cahawba Iron Works, Oxmoor Works and the Tannehill Iron Works.) The campaign continued through Georgia, concluding at Wilmington, DE. Ironically, the war had already ended, but the 'players' in this drama did not know that. With the destruction of the iron industry at Selma, the advent of Birmingham was possible. "But for Wilson's Raid, there might not be a Birmingham," said Desmond.

For more on the raid, use this link:

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1375>.



Arlington House was occupied by Maj. Gen. J.H. Wilson, related Jerry Desmond.



Hoover Historical Society
PO Box 360233/571 Park Ave.
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233
Archive/Office 205-822-9392

[Recipient]