

The

Hoover Historical Log

Confederate Memorial Park & Museum Director, Bill Rambo, to Address the Society at Library March 17th



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Save the Date(s)!

- March 7 Open House: Hoover Historical Society Archives on Park Ave. in Bluff Park
- March 10 BOARD MEETING at the Archive/Office at 10:30 AM
- March 17 GENERAL MEETING of the HHS at Hoover Library: 1 PM for refreshments! Speaker and GM @ 1:30 PM
- April 8 & 9 overnight Spring Trip to Columbus, MS with New Horizons group; deposit due March 3

**Robert E. Lee
1864**

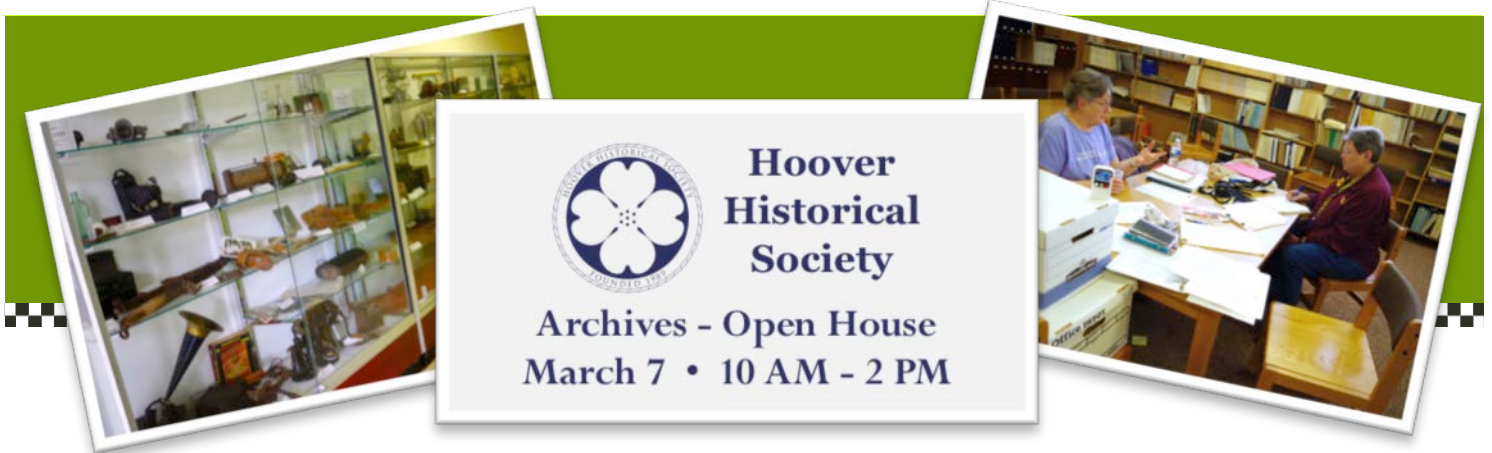
Memorial Park devoted to Confederate Veterans

Located at 437 County Road 63 in Verbena is "the only museum that is strictly devoted to the Civil War and the Confederate side," said our March speaker, Bill Rambo, of the Confederate Memorial Park and Museum located along Interstate 65 (North & South) in Chilton County. Bill Rambo is blessed in that he has made a career out of his academic and recreational study of the War Between the States. Rambo will speak on *"War Horse: the horse as a military asset through the ages, with emphasis on the zenith of equine use in warfare during the American Civil War."*

Rambo holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in American History. A former high school history teacher for a number of years, he accepted a position with the Alabama Historical Commission as Site Director of Confederate Memorial Park. This historic site contains the only Home for Confederate Veterans, housed until the last veteran died in 1934.



The *Hoover Historical Log* is the official newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, PO Box 36033, 569 Park Avenue, Hoover, Alabama 35226. Contact us at www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org, visit our Archive or call 205-822-9392.



A letter from our president...

February 2015

It has been said, 'if you don't like the weather in Alabama, wait a minute and it will change.' We have the cold right now, but soon we will be able to appreciate the spring and all the beauty it brings. Over the last twenty-five years, we have seen great changes in our city. Many of us have memories of the way things used to be, but newcomers do not have that benefit. That is why recording our history is of utmost importance.

At the January meeting, we approved the first step in the process of creating a new history of Hoover. Pam Sterne King has been engaged to begin writing a proposal and outline for the new book. She attended Berry High School, so she has been around here for a while. She teaches history at UAB and has extensive experience in historic preservation. We are looking forward to working

with her on this project.

There is much to be done to produce the resources she needs to accomplish this task. There are many ways we can help.

- Newspapers in our collection need to be reviewed for articles relating to various topics and organized by those topics. A system to do this is ready to go in the archives.
- Many residents will need to be interviewed, including many of our members. If you are interested in doing interviews, plan to attend a **class by Dr. Marlene Rikard at the archives on Wednesday, March 11, 10 – 12.** Peggy Patton is also assisting with an outreach to the elementary schools.

- Materials at the Hoover Library and City Hall need to be researched. Tasks will be determined by Pam King.
- Residents will be asked to donate photographs and documents relating to Hoover's history. These will need to be catalogued and organized. Volunteers are needed to be at the Archives on Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Continued on Page 4...

Pam S. King and HHS President Pam Thompson. 2013.



The Food Chain

By Inez McCollum

I could have entitled this “Feed Them and They Will Come!” which includes a number of members of the animal kingdom who feed at a ‘smorgasbord’ of food always available for the birds in my backyard. Of course, this attracts those cute, but pesky chipmunks as well as raccoons, possums and squirrels. Although I haven’t seen them, I suspect there is an occasional armadillo--the evidence is there! And, the availability of birds attracts the neighborhood cats.

“Miss Ruby”

They brought their young ones by and trained them to eat from the feeders. Now, four bluebirds eat from the feeders year-round. The others flew away to begin their own families. Motley’s descendants tried to scare the bluebirds away a couple of summers ago. Of course, that didn’t set too well with me!

Watching the ruby-throated hummingbirds at their feeders during the summer is entertaining. During what I refer to as their ‘feeding frenzy’--before they migrate further south--I maintain eight feeders and it is difficult to keep them filled. Once, when I was out of town, the feeding frenzy was at its height. My son, Joe, kept those feeders filled. The task kept him quite busy.

An annual four-day event, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), takes place each February. Cornell University and the Audubon Society sponsor it. This program is simple: choose when you want to participate and record the varieties of birds eating at your feeders or flitting around the yard. The first year I participated, I thought the word had gotten out to the birds. They avoided my property during my observation time peeking out the windows! The next year was much better, and February 14-17, 2014, I counted 22 varieties of birds!



A mockingbird such as Motley!

Have I have mentioned Motley, the mockingbird? Motley was unable to fly because of a wing injury. My son, John, brought him home and he lived in a cage in my kitchen until he was well enough to be released to the great outdoors. Whenever I see a mockingbird, I think of Motley.

One or two grandsons once left the door to my sunroom open and two tufted titmice flew into the sunroom. After closing the door to adjoining rooms, I chased the birds outside. Just the other day, I brought in groceries and put them away. By then, I was ready for a short rest and kicked back in my recliner. As I got comfortable, a brown-head nuthatch flew by! The nuthatch wasn’t as easily removed from the house as the titmice were. I closed surrounding rooms to keep him in the den. After several attempts at bird removal, my son stopped by for some quiet time (or so he thought.) He looked in the basement (unsuccessfully) for a butterfly net, then attempted to wrap a towel around the bird. When that didn’t work, he finally captured it in a quart size-measuring cup and released it outside to eat from the feeders.

For several years, I tried to attract bluebirds to my yard. Whenever I saw a “bluebird of happiness” ornament, I dreamed of the real thing. Finally, I was able to attract them to my yard by ‘serving’ chipped nuts in a small feeder.



RAMBO Continued from Page 1

For over twenty-five years, Rambo has directed the development of the facility, preserving the site including outdoor displays and building a new museum interpreting Alabama's Confederate period as well as the history of the Soldiers' Home. In his leisure time, Bill Rambo is a Confederate re-enactor, holding every rank from Private to Brigadier General. He has participated in Civil War movies, documentaries, and battlefield films for state and national military parks.

He is a Son of Confederate Veterans member and recipient of the Jefferson Davis Medal by the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy for meritorious service for preserving the Confederate heritage. He is a descendant of Dr. Samuel Rambo who raised the Secession Flag over the Alabama state capitol in January, 1861, and his great-great-grandmother was a charter member of the Ladies Memorial Association formed in 1866 to provide proper graves and markers for Alabama Confederate soldiers.



Did you know?

The City of Hoover has chosen the snowflake hydrangea as its symbol. More in a future issue!

In Memoriam
Mary Lewis "Frances"
Etheredge and Jane
Schrubbe
2014

Like us!



A letter from our president... (continued from Page 2)

Make plans now to attend the **Open House at the Archives on Saturday, March 7, 10 AM- 2PM**. If you have not visited, you need to see what we have so we can spread the word about our collection and resources that are available for genealogy and research.

The March meeting at the Hoover Library will feature an interesting speaker, but it is also important for members to be present to hear the report of the nominating committee and election of the officers for the coming year. I hope you will be there!

Looking forward to seeing you,

Pam

Pam Thompson



Spring Pilgrimage to Columbus, MS: A 'Rite' of Spring

Spring's arrival means "Field Trip!" for the Hoover Historical Society members. This year, the Hoover New Horizons has invited the HHS members to join them on Spring Pilgrimage to Columbus, Mississippi. The tour, the 75th annual event, is recognized as "one of the best and most authentic home tours in the South." While the events are scheduled over a span of two weeks, organizers have put together an overnight excursion for April 8 & 9, 2015.

The comprehensive tour includes highlights of the annual Pilgrimage—historic homes; a cemetery drama; a play at the Carrollton Courthouse; a stop at Aliceville's POW museum; and use of a double-decker tour bus, weather permitting. Other activities are included.

For more information on the trip, contact hosts Ann & Jim Langley at 980-1827 for costs and other information. Deadline for deposit is March 3, 2015, with final payment due March 16th.

Membership Tea set for Hoover-Randle House

The Hoover Historical Society has entered into contract for their new book--making the next couple of years an exciting time for the membership. The Annual Membership Tea, a well-attended event, is set for April 19th from 2 PM-4 PM at the Hoover-Randle House. New membership is critical to the ongoing work and the tea is a great time to invite community leaders and personal friends to the Tea. Hospitality Chair Sue Knopf would like your input for potential members. Please contact her at suemknopf@yahoo.com or 3303 Pembroke Lane, 35226, or call her at 979-3422.

What's in a name?

According to the Society of American Archivists, things kept in archives are "materials created or received by a person, family, or organization, public or private, in the conduct of their affairs and preserved because of the enduring value contained in the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator..." An archive is the place where archival materials are kept and the archivist is the person in charge of preserving and providing access to those materials. An archivist usually has received academic training with certification, or has a library science degree. - See more at: <http://connecticuthistory.org/the-who-what-where-when-and-why-of-archives-how-to-use-them>. Thus, the HHS houses its archives at the Archive and acts as the archivist to protect the collections.

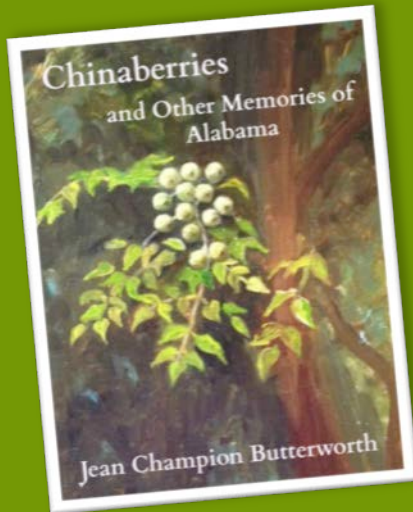


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Jean C. Butterworth publishes her stories as an Amazon E-Kindle book!

The first review is in from reader Elizabeth Barnes: "Such a fun book! ...Brought back so many memories. The author was my neighbor for about 40 years..."

Jean C. Butterworth pays homage to a time before the Internet, cell phones, and all of the distractions of modern life. Readers of all ages will enjoy taking a step back in time and preserving these memories, which, like Chinaberry trees, may soon be hard to come by. *Chinaberries and Other Memories of Alabama [Kindle Edition]*, published by Amazon Digital Services, Inc., 116 pages, \$3.99.



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