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Hoover Historical Log

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

Greetings from Alabama!

AL's Bicentennial Celebration planned

The state of Alabama celebrates 200 years of statehood in 2019. Beginning in 2017, Alabama will honor its people and places in a three-year long celebration.

Each year features a different theme. In 2017, it is exploring our **places**; in 2018, **people** will be honored; and in 2019, Alabamians share their **stories**.

Continued on Page 5



Kitchen Gardens during the Civil War Era

Jason Kirby of the Birmingham Botanical Society, Inc., presents *From Kitchen Gardens to Flora of the Civil War* for our May 17th program. This 20-30 minute presentation covers different types of southern historic gardens with a focus on kitchen gardens during the Civil War period. Kirby covers flora from herbs to common cure-alls, to sweet herbs for hearth and health, to teas and vinegars. Learn how our ancestors 'made-do' back in the old days! *Continued on Page 5*

Save the Date!

Prayer B'fast

May 3, 2016

At the Wynfrey Hotel
with Mayor Gary Ivey;
guest Bobby
Humphreys

Board Meets

May 10, 2016

At the
Library/Archive at
Artists on the Bluff –
10 AM

General Mtg.

May 17th, 2016

At the Hoover Public
Library; 1 PM for
refreshments; 1:30 for
the speaker and
business meeting.

Spring Membership Tea with our hostess, Marie Taylor

“It was just a lovely day for a tea! The azaleas bloomed, the rain held off and the weather warmed up—all to help make the HHS tea successful! It was truly a delight to have everyone come inside the Overseer’s House. I can’t tell you how many people have said, ‘I’ve passed by the Overseer’s house for years, and I’ve always wondered what it was like inside.’”

“It is an honor to live in the Overseer’s House, and I am so proud of its heritage. When you go up in the attic or crawl beneath the floor, you see the true meaning of this house. All that remains from 1889 that is visible today is the lower half of the living room chimney—the stone part. But underneath it all—underneath the rafters—is history. I am always happy to share that history and I had a wonderful time telling everyone the story of the Overseer’s House at our tea.”

—Marie Taylor



Distinguished guests (below) included Derrick Murphy, the Natters, Joe and Bonnie Rives, the Middlebrooks, and neighbors and friends from Bluff Park, Hoover, and the Society. Above, HHS president Carolyn Kolar and long-time member Marie Taylor. Below right, Delores Wilkinson, Hospitality Chair.

Dr. Casey Middlebrooks said, “I had a great time visiting with the Hoover Historical Society this past Sunday. Thank you for the tour of the Overseer’s House built in 1889. Mike Wolfe & Frank Fritz from American Pickers would be proud of the preservation of local history this wonderful society does for our community. I particularly enjoyed the old general store and the playhouse.”





A message from our president...

Dear Members,

Since our May meeting last year, we have been very busy.

We traveled to Gardendale to hear a program on Blount Springs and visit their historical society. We visited the Shelby County Archive and learned a lot from our trip to Montgomery at the Annual Alabama Historical Association Meeting.

We spread the word about HHS at Moss Rock and at Hoover's Chamber of Commerce meetings and gained four corporate sponsors since last August. We just participated in the fourth *Celebrate Hoover! Day*.



Mayoral candidate, Frank Brocato, posed with Carolyn on the lovely, airy porch of The Overseer's House.

Left, Carolyn chatted with Frances Robb about the Bicentennial Postcard project. (See article on pages 1 & 5.)

We thank the City of Hoover for repairing our air conditioners in the Archive last summer and replacing the historical marker at the Overseer's house. We have interviewed past mayors and Hoover citizens for the next Hoover history book.

Our archives were busy this year with visitors, donations and volunteers. Elsie Braddock donated framed Hoover incorporation papers. While our archive depends on donations, please do not drop off unsolicited items. We need paperwork on the item and then a review process before we can accept a donation.

We had a wonderful Membership Tea on a gorgeous day. Several political candidates enjoyed the opportunity to tour Marie's historic home. Please renew your membership so that your name will be in our guide in the Fall!

We have been fortunate to enjoy great programs this year along with wonderful refreshments provided by Delores Wilkinson and her committee.

Please join us for our final program on May 17th. We will install our new officers and announce the Jack Crouch Award winner and our scholarship winners. I am so grateful for the support of our officers and our volunteers.

Debbie Burtnett composes our outstanding newsletter. We are fortunate to have dedicated members who are hard workers. We could accomplish nothing without them. It has been an honor to serve as your President. We need high energy for next year when we celebrate Hoover's 50th Anniversary and the start of Alabama's Bicentennial!

Thank you all, *Carolyn Kolar*

Alabama Historical Association

Annual Meeting held in Montgomery

The Alabama Historical Association held its Sixty-Ninth Annual Meeting in Montgomery April 14-16. Members from all over the state attended to present research papers, showcase local and state history via publishers as well as network with other professionals in the field.

Historians from the Birmingham area making presentations during the sessions included Carolyn Green Satterfield on *Robert Sylvester Munger: Birmingham Inventor, Educator, Philanthropist* and Jack R. Bergstresser, Sr. with *Prelude to the Civil Rights Battles of the 1950s and 60s: Paternalism and Daily Life in the Smyth Ore Mining Camp on Red Mountain, 1880-1920*. Society members attending included Carolyn Kolar and Debbie Burtnett as well as Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins, Dr. Marlene Rikard, and Professor Pam S. King. The state's foremost historian, Dr. Wayne Flynt was also in attendance. Tours were conducted around Montgomery including a walking tour of Old Alabama Town and the recently revamped Alabama Archives; a Civil Rights tour with Dr. Richard Bailey; and Civil War sites. A self-guided tour is also available anytime and incorporates QR codes for use with smartphones. Dolores Hydock entertained with *A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart: The Journals of Sallie Independence Foster, 1861-1887* at the Annual Dinner held at the Capital City Club.

Special attention focused on Alabama's Bicentennial Celebration that will run over the course of three years—2017, 2018, and 2019.



Above, Historian Dr. Marlene Rikard, HHS president Carolyn Kolar, and UAB Professor Pamela King at the annual AHA meeting in Montgomery.

At the close of the meeting, author of the HHS's second history book on Hoover, UAB Professor Pamela King, was elected to the AHA Board of Directors. Congratulations!



Director Dorothy Walker of the Freedom Riders Museum and Dr. Richard Bailey, retired president of the Alabama Archives, were docents on the Civil Rights Tour. At the Historic Greyhound Bus Station, site of the museum, artwork recreates the events of May 20, 1961.

BBG Archivist to address Society May 17th

Continued from Page 1

A native of Gadsden, Kirby attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) with a background in Biology. He has worked within the Jefferson County Public Library System for the past sixteen years and the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Society for over seven years as Archivist. In his role as the very first archivist, he created the Archives and Rare Book Room in August 2008, overseeing 300 rare books, Japanese Tea Ceremony artifacts, scrapbooks, antique seed catalogs and garden manuals, plant fossils, botanical prints, photographs and other horticultural and botanical ephemera.

Recently (2015), Kirby was honored with a lifetime membership in the Garden Club of Alabama; is a member of the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA), and a graduate of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association (JCMGA). "I have a deep love for gardening, science and history and give numerous presentations to different garden clubs and plant societies across Jefferson County," he stated.



Jason Kirby and Carolyn Kolar at the HHS Archive in late April 2016.



Craig Field in Selma was the training ground for many military pilots in World War II. Here, an instructor gives students some tips about banking their airplanes during flight. Behind them, a row of training planes are carefully inspected by trainee mechanics.

Greetings from Alabama!

Continued from Page 1

The Great Alabama Bicentennial Postcard Project will be a special event in 2017. Alabamians will be asked to share personal stories in connection with a postcard from their town. For example: using real photo postcards of factories, coal mines, hotels and department stores, share the story of a family member working/shopping/visiting at one of these locations.

The example (above) is from a poster displayed at the Alabama Historical Association meeting recently.

Events will be held in each county to scan the postcards and gather these stories. The Alabama Bicentennial Commission will publicize these meetings and prepare displays to be exhibited in a local library in every county.

So, dig out those postcards and share your memories! (More information on the project in a future edition.)



HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form

Make checks payable to **Hoover Historical Society**
P.O. Box 360233 Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233
 Archives /Office: 205-822-9392

Types of Membership	
Individual	\$10
Couple	\$20
Sustaining	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150

NAME : _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

<p>Interests: Publicity ___ Archives ___ Speakers' Bureau ___ Historical Research ___ Newsletter ___</p> <p>Other interests/skills: _____</p> <p>SPEAKER/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____</p>
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[Recipient]

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