

the

Hoover Historical Log

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

Moss Rock Festival

The Moss Rock Festival is coming up this weekend, Nov. 5 & 6 at The Preserve in Hoover. In the past, admission was free but to cover expenses and demand for additional festival programming, the non-profit has initiated these admission fees:

- \$5 Advance online
- \$7 Gate, Adult Pass
- \$10 Gate, Weekend
- \$3 Gate, for Seniors/Students
- Kids 15 and under are

Visit the HHS tent/display!



Holiday Traditions in the Antebellum South

Just in time for the holidays, speaker Terri Hicks, member of the Arlington Historical Association and specialist in early Birmingham history, will discuss "*Holiday Traditions at Arlington and the Antebellum South.*"

Arlington was built about 1842 by William S. Mudd, lawyer and legislator.

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Save the Date!

Board Meeting
November 9, 2016
10:00 AM at the Archive; date changed due to the elections

General Mtg
November 15
Speaker: Terri Hicks, @ 1 PM at Hoover Public Library

Board Meeting
January 10, 2017
10 AM at the Archive; General Meeting Jan. 17 at 1 PM





Holiday traditions at Arlington

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During the Civil War, General James H. Wilson, who conducted the largest Union raid into Alabama in the spring of 1865, set his headquarters at Arlington while planning his raid to destroy Confederate factories and munitions at Selma. Because of his occupation, the house remained unscathed. After Mudd's death, industrialist Henry F. DeBardeleben bought the home and lived there until its sale in 1884 to Franklin H. Whitney, a former Union cavalryman from Iowa. Whitney renamed the home Arlington, believed to honor Robert E. Lee who gave his former home to our country (now Arlington National Cemetery.) Learn more about www.arlingtonantebellumhomeandgardens.com. Christmas events are set for December 2nd through 4th, 2016.

A noted speaker, Terri's reenactments range from Lou Wooster to Grace O'Malley to Suicide of a Socialite. She earned her Master of Arts in History from UAB after her undergraduate work in Arts, History, and Art History. She volunteers at a number of historical sites including The Lyric and Alabama Theatres and the Birmingham Museum of Art. She published "Oak Hill Cemetery" in the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* and the "Cahaba Bridge Train Wreck, December 27, 1896" in *Alabama Heritage Magazine*.

Historical markers at BMRR are set on trail

Through collaboration with the Director of Red Mountain Park and with assistance by the staff of Red Mountain Park, James Lowery (HHS 's first speaker this 2016-17 year) installed three signs (numbers 111, 112, and 113) at strategic locations in Red Mountain Park as part of the Historic Birmingham Mineral Railroad Signs Project. This was a significant installation because:

1. This completes the coverage of having signs in all Jefferson County Commission Districts.
2. As explained in the items below from the *Bham-MRR.com* Website, this installation was in the location where the BMRR first began.

Birmingham -- Red Mountain Park

111. Sign Location: Red Mountain Park — South Trail. THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN! The first rails of the BMRR were laid in 1884 as the BMRR South Branch in present-day Red Mountain Park. The Park has named the trail that is on the BMRR South Branch roadbed the "BMRR South Trail." This sign location commemorates the beginning of the BMRR and illustrates that parts of its original roadbed are still in use as walking trails.

112. Sign Location: Red Mountain Park — Main Kiosk. This sign is near the main kiosk on the way to the Park's "BMRR South Trail" which is named for the BMRR South Branch where the first rails of the BMRR were laid in 1884.

113. Sign Location: Red Mountain Park — Main Entrance. This sign is at the main entrance to Red Mountain Park that is preserving a significant part of the history of the BMRR and the mines and facilities it served on Red Mountain beginning in 1884 and continuing to the end of mining in that area.

Stay tuned—more sign installations are on the way!
—James Lowery



Sue Knopf (left); one of the new signs for the Folklore Center; and Peggy Patton at the bazaar.



A message from our president...

Dear Members:

Thanks to the City of Hoover (and a suggestion by Pam Thompson and Jim Lyons), we now have three signs pointing the way to the Folklore Center!

Members created new packaging for our notecards, which now includes 11 designs. Fay Anderson generously donated the plastic bags for the cards. We have had, in the Archive, cassette tapes of oral interviews done for our History book in 1992. Currently, Bob Kolar is digitizing these so they will be available online soon.

Members have a great opportunity to volunteer and have fun at the same time by volunteering to work at our booth during the Moss Rock Festival, November 5th and 6th. We especially need several men to help dismantle the tent and display on on Sunday afternoon.

We have two new members who joined after visiting our Archive—Jim Langley and Sandy Atchison. Jim is on the board of Hoover New Horizons and was a speaker on Oak Hill Cemetery in 2016. He is scheduled to present *Alabama Idioms* in March 2017. Sandy is interested in historical research and has already donated a photo of the 1921 class of Summit School.

Three of our members (Sue Knopf, Peggy Patton, and Jim Langley) recently participated in the 'Crafty Creations Bazaar' at the Hoover Senior Center.

Please let a board member know if you would like to help do research, artwork, or make displays for Hoover's 50th Anniversary. I am working on updating a display on the Tyler family. Suggestions include such topics as schools, businesses, and churches—another chance to volunteer!



Our Archive is seeking donations of Berry High School, Hoover High School, and Spain Park High School yearbooks and memorabilia.

Please join us November 15th for our program on *Holiday Traditions at Arlington Antebellum House and Gardens*. Library renovations should be complete and we will meet downstairs.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Carolyn Kolar

Hoover, like America, is a mosaic ...

When the Birmingham Islamic Society (BIS) joined as a Corporate Member of the Hoover Historical Society last year, we met with the President of that organization in May to discuss issues of diversity in Hoover, AL.

Ashfaque Taufique has become a well-known figure in the community as leader of the BIS.

Born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, Taufique has “lived here longer [in the United States] than in the place where I was born.” As a member of a religious, conservative family, his mother, “a feminist of her time...made sure that not only her sons were educated, but also her daughters.” She was “the primary motivational force in our lives and all the social work and charity work we’ve done is what she has instilled in us,” he added. Taufique and his siblings were educated in Catholic missionary schools, known to be the height of the educational system in Pakistan. After earning a degree in Chemistry, he and other family members emigrated to the United States. Taufique and his wife and children lived in several southern states and came to Birmingham to work for the power company. After retiring, he began serving as president of the BIS in 2001.

Like many parents, the Taufiques settled in Hoover in 1989 because of its school system. He stated, “All the recommendations we got, common among immigrants in my community, the Hindu community, and others was [for Hoover] the better school system; safe neighborhoods, and affordability.” UAB had the main concentration of the Muslim community so having a student association for Muslims was “not difficult at all.” It provided a place to worship. However, he recounted the effort to buy land for a mosque and a school (in 2006-07) “as an uphill battle.” He recalled many planning and zoning commission meetings and the many



requirements, some previously not enforced. After many such meetings where members of the community spoke for and against the mosque, the zoning and building were approved.

The 2010 Census recognized the diversity in Hoover’s population. Alabama’s total population at that time was 4,858,979 of which 3.5% were foreign born. Hoover’s estimated population in 2015 was 84,848 of which 12.1% speak languages other than English. When the HHS visited Gwin Elementary on International Day earlier this year, the students participated in an Olympic-like parade into the cafeteria representing 44 different countries.

Taufique stressed the need to recognize the diversity in Hoover’s population. He stated, “It’s Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Christian...Many people look to call America a melting pot; I prefer to look at it as a mosaic. In other words, like a stained-glass window. Each color stands by itself but together makes something beautiful.”

To learn more about the BIS or Islam, go to www.bisweb.org.

Also available: *An Open Letter Condemning ISIS Ideology and Our Stand Against Terrorism*.

For 2010 Census Data on Hoover, access 2010 data on www.hooveral.org Website.

Above: Arnold Singer and Carolyn Kolar with Ashfaque Taufique at the mosque.

Let's Talk about HHS's Oral History Project!

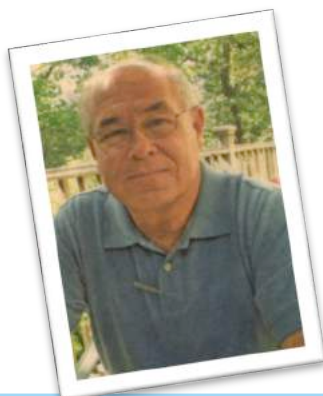
Being part of a city entering only its 50th year in 2017, Hoover Historical Society has a wonderfully rare opportunity to capture the details of the events from those whose actions and efforts brought Hoover forward to become the city it is today.

One of the most challenging tasks for historical societies is the locating, gathering and vetting of accurate historical data that predates the lifetimes of those who were a part of the historical events. The rare opportunity for Hoover Historical Society is that a great many citizens who have played a role in the city—even in its formative years—are still alive. What a wonderful opportunity to capture our history directly from those who lived it!

The Society is seeking to identify as many citizens, or former citizens, as possible who played roles in the development and growth of Hoover from its very beginning to today. Our goal is to contact those individuals and ask them to share their memories of the many events that brought about Hoover's growth.

Please think of the individuals you know—either personally or by reputation—who played a role in this city. Then, submit those names to the Hoover Historical Society so that they can be contacted for a possible oral history interview. Also, please submit any contact information such as address, e-mail address or telephone number that you may have for the individuals whose names you submit.

Tom Bailey worked for The Birmingham News for 30+ years and although retired, offers free-lance editorial services.



This is not a project to chronicle only government activities. Our goal is to interview individuals from all walks of life who played a role in the city. Areas of interest include government (of course), education, churches and religion, recreation, construction, commerce, land planning and development, industry, real estate, geography, geology, history, to name a few.

Once a list of individuals is developed, each person will be contacted to determine if they would be willing to be interviewed for the oral history project. If they agree, Historical Society members will schedule a time and place for the interview. Each interview will be recorded and the recordings will be maintained as a permanent part of the Historical Society Archives. They will be available to all citizens wishing to learn more about Hoover's history.

The project will span a number of months and will coincide with the city's 2017 50th Anniversary Celebration.

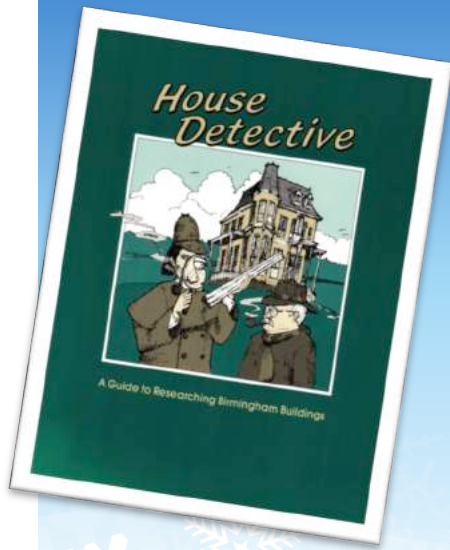
Please submit your nominations in either of the following ways:

By mail to Hoover Historical Society, P.O. Box 360233, Hoover, AL 35236-0233 or

By e-mail to info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org.

Please title your list as "Oral History Project Recommendations."

Questions? Please contact the Hoover Historical Society at 822-9392 or Tom Bailey, Archives Committee Chairman, at 823-0277 or by e-mail at seacoast@charter.net.



House Detective available for research

A recent acquisition to our archives is a book donated by Betty Bagby.

House Detective: A Guide to Researching Birmingham Buildings is a valuable resource for anyone interested in their home's history. The 66 pages are packed with information. Birmingham's Southern History Library reports that this is one of their most frequently consulted sources. The book guides you to probate court records, property tax records, mechanic's liens, etc. The records are defined with detailed lists of the kind of information they contain. Information in these records can reveal construction dates, previous owners, historic photographs, the chain of title for a piece of property, or even an inventory of items purchased for a house. Consult this book to determine if your property is of historic significance. You may find fascinating information to add to your family history. Visit our archives to examine this book.

—Carolyn Kolar



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[Recipient]

Published five times annually

by the Hoover Historical Society, a 501 C (3) organization.

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