

The Hoover HistoricalLog

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

Volume 28, No. 3



Save the Dates!

- January 17th General Meeting at the Hoover Public Library
- January 23rd Friends of Hoover brunch/lunch at Capers with HHS Open House
- April 6th and April 29th Spring Trip date and Celebrate Hoover!/50th Day
- May 21st Annual Membership Tea at the Hoover-Randle House on Tyler Road

Wartime Jefferson County 1860s

“What role did Jefferson County play in the War Between the States?” Dr. John Killian, a noted Baptist pastor, teacher, theologian and historian, will deal with this question at our next General Meeting on January 17th, 2017.

After earning his BA from Tennessee Temple University in the late 1970s, Dr. Killian married Martha Jeanie and raised a family (son John Jr., who works at 365.com in Birmingham as Account Manager and daughter Sarah, an Alabama grad in Communications, who works at the local NBC affiliate, WVTM.) While serving pastorates, Dr. Killian pursued his Master and Doctoral degrees in Divinity and most recently, earned his Master of Arts in Teaching.

Continued on Page 4



Gold Check...

This postcard from 1908 shows a check written on the Bank of Good Luck for 365 days of Health, Happiness and Prosperity in the New Year. HSS wishes you the same!



A Message from our President...

Dear Members:

2017 will be an exciting year for the Hoover Historical Society!

On January 23rd, newly elected Mayor Frank Brocato will give the annual State of the City address to the Friends of Hoover at Capers on Park Avenue.

We will host an Open House at our Archive/Office as well as the Folklore Center following the meeting.

This is a rare chance for the public to view these spaces and learn more about the Hoover Historical Society. Our new Curator, Liz Wells, will help us spruce up the archives for the Open House and will assist us in developing a collection plan and institute ways to protect our materials in the Archive over the coming

months. The public is welcome to the Friends of Hoover luncheon and joining in the tours.

We are happy to announce that a ramp has been installed at the Folklore Center to make it accessible to all.

Over 25 notecard sets and/or history books were purchased for use as Christmas gifts. Remember these are available year-round. The Spring Trip committee met and Jimmy Langley will finalize our plans for an

exciting trip in April. Tom Bailey and I met with Erin Colbaugh, Hoover's Event Coordinator, to suggest activities for Hoover's 50th Anniversary. Hospitality Chairman, Sue Knopf, has secured the historic Hoover-Randle house for our Membership Tea this year.

We will be asking for your help in making projects for Hoover's 50th Anniversary. Mark these important dates on your calendar:

January 17, HHS General Meeting at the Hoover Library;

January 23, Friends of Hoover and HHS Open House starting at 11 AM;

April 6th Spring Trip;

April 29th *Celebrate Hoover!* Day and 50th Anniversary Celebration; and

May 21st HHS Membership Tea 2-4PM at the Hoover-Randle Home.

See you in 2017!

Carolyn Kolar

Above, l to r: HHS President Carolyn Kolar with Mayor Frank Brocato; the new access ramp at the Stinson Ole Place; and Membership Chair Pam Thompson with Shelley and Mike Shaw, new members. *The Hoover HistoricalLog* is published five times yearly by Editor Deborah Burtnett. Contact: debbie.burtnett@gmail.com



Washday Blues

Two major ways to wash clothes included letting water flow over and through them (as in a stream) or by abrasion using a washboard and bucket.

When children visit the Folklore Center, each of the learning stations deals with daily household chores ranging from planting and raising food (both animal and crops) to food preservation to making clothing and quilts and especially the “weekly affliction” of doing laundry.

The students take their seats in front of a pot of hot water bubbling over a fire, with a ‘bat’ in the tub for stirring and removing garments. Nineteenth century laundry equipment included tubs of hot water for rinsing, a washing tub with a washboard, laundry soap, a clothesline, and an iron—for use the day after “washday.” A large cauldron made possible boiling some items, but for knits and sweaters, a cold wash was needed.

Monday was usually devoted to washing, hanging, and folding, with ironing left to the next day. One had to have Sunday’s best ready for the next weekend!

While most laundry was done at home, as Western standards of cleanliness improved, industries devoted to doing laundry were born—e.g., making and selling both wrapped and flaked soaps; improved washday equipment, and a developing service sector where families “sent out” laundry to be cleaned by washer women. Another service was ironing, usually done in someone’s home. (My Belgian-born, War Bride aunt took in ironing upon her arrival in America, returning the piecemeal items freshly starched and ready to wear, Editor’s note.)



Docent Cheryl Patton explains the washing, rinsing, drying, and ironing to students at The Folklore Center.



Continued from Page 1



Dr. Killian is also Chaplain of the AL Republican Party.

Dr. Killian continues his involvement in denominational activities as well as community work at various colleges and on Boards including a past-presidency of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is a three-time winner of the Roanoke National Historical Oration Contest.

The Society's January 17th meeting is at the Hoover Public Library. Please come early and enjoy refreshments at 1 PM; with the speaker's presentation at 1:30 PM and a short business meeting to follow. Parking is available and free!



Book Reviews...

Alabama newspaper celebrates 175 years!

The Alabama Baptist, a weekly subscription-based Christian newspaper, is celebrating its 175th year of continuous ministry beginning in February 2017.

As part of this commemoration, author Elizabeth Wells gathered together material from the archives of Alabama Baptist life and the paper itself to illustrate ways the newspaper has impacted individuals, churches, communities and the state.

While covering wars, politics, cultural changes, civil rights, technology shift, etc. *The Alabama Baptist* has served its readers with the three-fold mission of informing readers for perspective and understanding; inspiring believers for growth as Christian disciples; and connecting Baptists for missions and ministry. Historically, *The Alabama Baptist* has been in the forefront of debates about national social issues; sometimes reflecting the culture of its surrounding such as during the Civil War and the struggle for Civil Rights a century later. At other times, the paper challenged its culture on issues such as child labor, women's suffrage, and war and peace.

Today it is the largest circulated Baptist newspaper in the nation. This one-of-a-kind book is available at www.thealabamabaptist.org or by calling 1-800-803-5201.

Another new book on Alabama which might interest our members is *Exploring Wild Alabama: A Guide to the State's Publicly Accessible Natural Areas* by Kenneth M. Wills and L.J. Davenport.

Although not a history book, the detailed site entries to 150 destinations often include background historical information as well as written directions, GPS coordinates, and notes on local plants and animals, landscape features, and the overall ecology. The Birmingham area section includes information on Shades Mountain (and Bluff Park's Lover's Leap) and a lengthy section on Hoover's Moss Rock Preserve.

Author Kenneth M. Wills is president of the Friends of Moss Rock Preserve. Larry Davenport is the Paul N. Propst Professor of Natural Sciences at Samford University.



Meet Liz Wells!

HHS is proud to announce that Elizabeth Wells, a distinguished archivist, will be working with us to improve our archives. She recently retired as Special Collection Librarian and University Archivist at Samford University where she served as chair of the department for 38 years.

She has received many awards including the Marvin Yeomans Whiting Award from the Society of Alabama Archivists and the Virginia Hamilton Award from the Alabama Historical Association. She just completed the first book devoted to the history of *The Alabama Baptist newspaper*.

Liz will be promoting the preservation and protection of Hoover's historical materials. She is developing procedures for collecting new items and will help us utilize historical records to increase our knowledge of Hoover. Special efforts will be made to digitize our materials make them more accessible to the public.

Mayor Brocato to address the Friends of Hoover in Bluff Park

The Friends of Hoover will meet on Monday, January 23rd at Capers Restaurant at The Artists on the Bluff located in the historic Bluff Park Elementary School at 569 Park Avenue.

The Friends of Hoover will meet at 11AM to enjoy lunch consisting of salad, a choice of two entrees, two sides, dessert, iced teas and/or soda for \$13.

Mayor Frank V. Brocato will present his State of the City program. Every mayor has presented this program since The Friends of Hoover was established in 1992. Our own Arnold Singer is president of this group.

Following the program, tours of Artists on the Bluff; the Hoover Historical Society Archive; and the Folklore Center a/k/a the Stinson Ole Place, are



The Stinson Ole Place is an historic home built by the Stinson family around 1840, and relocated to the campus of Bluff Park School in 1996-97 under the leadership of the late Jack Crouch.

The cabin is used for teaching Hoover's school children about life in 19th century Alabama. See related article(s) in this edition of the *HistoricalLog* and back issues on our Web site: hooverhistoricalsociety.org.

Membership Report ... by Pam Thompson, Chair

We ended the year with 140 paid members. Welcome new members Charlie Faulkner, Charlotte Brown and Hoover City Councilman Mike Shaw and his wife Shelley. You can still pay dues at any time (see membership form page 6).

We encourage businesses to join as corporate sponsors for \$150. Benefits include a certificate for display, a copy of the Barefield's *History of Hoover* and an opportunity to link from our Web site to yours. Historical Society members, please ask any business owners you may know to join the HHS, especially in this 50th Anniversary year, as we will be participating in many activities to celebrate our city's founding.



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) _____

Interests: Publicity Archives Speakers' Bureau Historical Research Newsletter

Other interests/skills: _____

SPEAKER/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____



*Hoover
Historical Society*

PO Box 360233

Hoover, AL 35236-0233

Archive: 571 Park Avenue

Hoover, AL 35226

www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org

[Recipient]

