

the

# Hoover Historical Log

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

## Hoover is 50!

Our Society has worked with the City of Hoover to assist in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Tom Bailey compiled *50 Hoover Fun Facts*, which the city printed as a poster. It was displayed at a Kickoff event in March at the Hoover-Randle home. Tom also assisted the *Hoover Sun* in the preparation of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition magazine. Tom traced Hoover's rapid business development in an article entitled, "Hoover commerce explodes with highways expansion," pp. 12-15. His *Hoover Timeline* is shown in a graphic display on pp. 30 & 31.

As a member of Hoover's first school board, Charles Hickman was interviewed and mentioned in an article about schools on pp. 34-37. Eileen Lewis wrote us a report on the history of her Monte D' Oro neighborhood. She was interviewed for a spotlight on the neighborhood on p. 49. And, Carolyn Kolar wrote on the history of Bluff Park's Troop 21. It appeared in the April 2017 issue of the *Hoover Sun*, p. A-25, under the headline "Bluff Park Boy Scout troop nears 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."



## Jim Baggett presents the Hawes Murder Case

Archivist Jim Baggett, a popular speaker from the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library (remember Miss Fancy?), is returning to present a 19<sup>th</sup> century murder mystery.

Jim has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists and Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. He is a renowned lecturer throughout the United States and Europe, and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, NPR, and CSPAN. He has written or edited four books...

***Continued on p. 5***

## Save the Date!

### Spring Tea!

**May 21, 2017**

At the Hoover-Randle Home on Tyler Road; the public is welcome! 2-4 PM; take the shuttle!

### Gen. Meeting

**May 16, 2017**

At the Hoover Public Library with refreshments at 1 PM, followed by the program at 1:30 PM

### Dedication

**May 18, 2017**

The Hoover Time Capsule at City Hall; 10 AM in the lobby; public invited!

## Spring Trip 2017!!

**Pickens County Courthouse, Camp  
Aliceville, Lunch at The Cypress Inn, The  
Tuscaloosa Museum of Art**

Learning about history with one's friends is so much fun! That's why the Spring Trips sponsored by the HHS are so special. Forty members and guests just returned from Aliceville and Tuscaloosa!

An alien program was established in 1939-40 due to the threat of war. Internment camps for Germans and Italian\* prisoners of war (POWs) might be needed. A joint Army-Navy commission met in October 1940 in Seattle, WA, to make plans. In addition to internment camps, permanent camps were built to house POWs. For example, prisoners taken in the North African campaign under Field Marshal Rommel's Afrika Corps were put on ships, taken to New York, then transported on trains to either the Southwest camps or Aliceville, AL, beginning in 1943.

POW camps were known by four-digit numbers. The 1434<sup>th</sup> SCU was Aliceville's numerical designation as a POW camp and housed 6,150 POWs. Today, the curator at the Aliceville Museum receives the descendants of those German prisoners and became friends with many of the internees over past decades.

\*POW camps differed from Japanese Internment Camps that were established later, but all foreign nations were referred to as 'aliens' at that time.

After a wonderful lunch at The Cypress Inn, our group visited the Tuscaloosa Museum of Art where *The Westervelt Collection* is housed. Nestled on the Black Warrior River, the collection includes original masterpieces by John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth, Jamie Wyeth, Albert Bierstadt, Duncan Phyfe, and Charles Lannieur—along with many others. Many of us vowed to return! Special thanks go to Gene Smith and Joyce Randall, our drivers, and the City of Hoover for the transportation and kudos to our Spring Trip Chairpersons, Jimmy and Ann Langley, for their work and handling logistics!





Left: Carolyn and Thomas Hoover; center, Don Young views the three-panel display; and (right) the cover of Hoover Sun special edition on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## A message from the outgoing president...

The HHS continues assisting the City of Hoover in its celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of incorporation. In addition to the efforts you read about on p. 1, several members distributed decals and magnets at the kickoff in March.

Working with Erin Colbaugh at City Hall, Pam, Arnold, Carolyn, Jim Lyons, and Debbie participated in a Time Capsule Photo Shoot during which we packaged items in archival material. The public is invited to its dedication on May 18 at 10 AM in the Lobby at City Hall.

We set up an extra booth at Celebrate Hoover to display our new panels featuring twelve of Hoover's historical markers. Caroline Boone and I created a three-panel display with photos of the markers and 46 additional photos. The City printed fans featuring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo, our HHS logo, and an image of the Hoover-Randle home. Two new flyers were created: a Kid's Hoover

Scavenger Hunt and a list of Historic Markers with GPS coordinates. These were popular items along with Bud's Best Cookies. Gilbert Douglas brought a 1905 map of the area destined to become Hoover and it attracted lots of interest. Both Arnold Singer and Don Young helped 'man' the historical marker display, along with Bob Kolar.

The city is creating short videos to spotlight Hoover, which will appear online throughout the year. Faye Anderson appears in one and our Folklore Center with Doug Harkness and docents were filmed April 28 during a school field trip.

Carolyn, Tom, and Debbie Burnett provided photographs from the archives to reporter Jon Anderson with photo credit to our Society. Original school board member, Charles Hickman, has written his own *History of Hoover School System* that is ready for publication. Special thanks go to Cecilia Olarte and Bethany Mitchell for their help.

We've added 20 new members this year due to Pam Thompson (Chair, Membership), our Open House, the Moss Rock Festival, and other events. And, 41 members and friends attended our Spring Trip to Tuscaloosa planned by Jim Langley!

Please join us May 16<sup>th</sup> for our final meeting of the year with installation of officers and presentation of the Crouch Award. Check out the article on our Annual Membership Tea on p. 4 of this newsletter!

Most of these events have occurred since March! You can see that we have been extremely busy. I have enjoyed being your president and appreciate the hundreds of hours our volunteers have contributed to make this year a success. I look forward to working with you as Membership Chair next year!

*Carolyn Kolar*

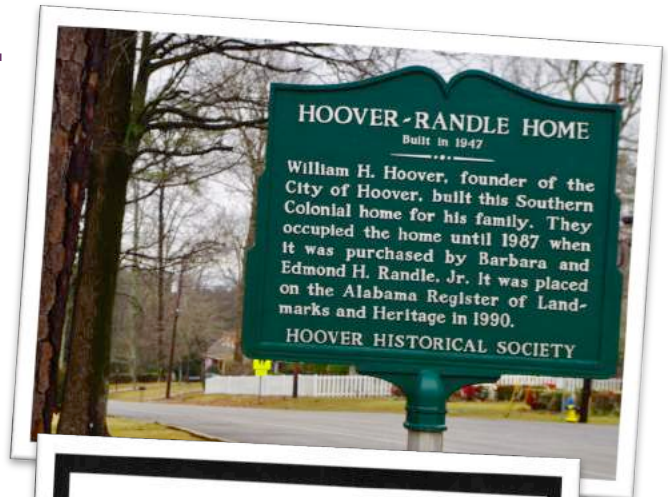
## HHS Membership Tea set for May 21<sup>st</sup>



Many things make The City of Hoover a special place to live. Hoover is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year! Yet, in this short time, the city has managed to build beautiful communities, a large business tax base, state-of-the-art Parks and Recreation facilities, Class A Police and Fire Departments, and a world class City School System. Even though Hoover is young, it has a rich history that must be preserved.

The Hoover Historical Society invites you to make a connection with Hoover's past and work to preserve our history for future generations.

—Sue Knopf  
Hospitality Chair



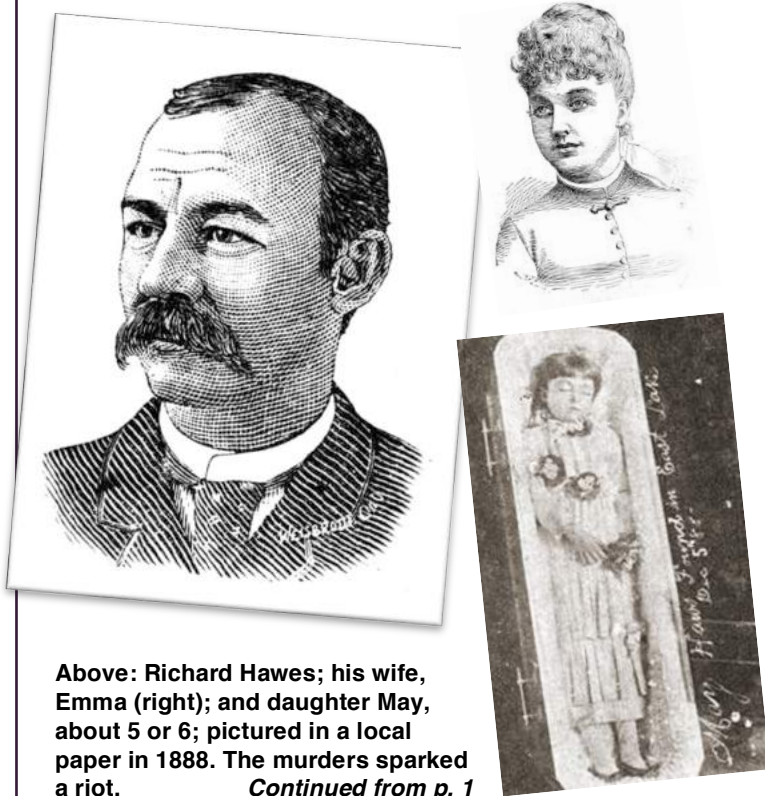
## Liz Wells honored with endowment

Earlier this year, our HHS Curator and renowned archivist at Samford University, Elizabeth Wells, was honored—and surprised—with the naming of the first endowment fund for Samford's Davis Library Special Collection Department.

The archives, cultivated by Liz Wells for over 40 years, contain the history of Samford, and Alabama Baptist history as well as Alabama history. The collection includes rare items (such as a draft of MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail and a 16<sup>th</sup> century Geneva Bible) and is used by researchers and scholars from around the nation.

## The Hawes Murder Case...

*Continued from p. 1*



Above: Richard Hawes; his wife, Emma (right); and daughter May, about 5 or 6; pictured in a local paper in 1888. The murders sparked a riot. *Continued from p. 1*

including *A Woman of the Town: Louise Wooster*, *Birmingham's Magdalen* and *Alabama Illustrated: Engravings from 19<sup>th</sup> Century Newspapers*. He has written over 50 articles on archival preservation and Alabama history for several publications.

In December 1888, young Birmingham experienced its first notoriety with the Hawes murders and subsequent riot. The victims were Emma Hawes and her two daughters, May and Irene. The suspect? Her husband Richard Hawes!

Apparently in a troubled marriage, Hawes was a Georgia-Pacific railroad employee who worked the Birmingham to Columbus, MS line. When a body was found in East Lake on December 4, it was transported to a mortuary, unidentified. In order to identify her, the body was made available for viewing. Even school was closed so children could view the body. Then, two more bodies were found in the lake. *Whodunit?* Richard Hawes or Albert Patterson, a companion of housemaid Fannie Bryant? Why did a mob riot over this crime? You'll have to hear Jim's story to find out!

## Alabama Historical Association (AHA) Meets at Auburn

Auburn University Conference Center hosted the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the AHA April 21-23, 2017. Pre-meeting activities included tours of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Arts and the Donald E. Davis Arboretum. Carolyn and Bob Kolar and Pam Thompson joined several docents for the tour of the Arboretum led by Patrick Thompson, Assistant to the Curator, and Pam's son. He pointed out historical landmarks such as the Little Texas Stagecoach Trail and "The Founders Oak" which predates the establishment of the university. Some native azaleas were in bloom, and the Pitcher Plant Bog looked spectacular. Patrick explained how the arboretum is used as an outdoor classroom by many Auburn classes as well as many primary school field trips.

Patrick  
Thompson



### The General

Session Friday Morning included a welcome by Auburn President Dr. Jay Gouge, who discussed the federal legislation that established Auburn as the land grant university in the state with the "three-legged stool" of teaching, research, and outreach. Dr. Wayne Flynt spoke about the founding of the university as a Methodist institution, East Alabama Male College, with classical education for young men in 1859. After the Civil War, under the Morrill Act, it became Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama. Later, it was Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and in 1960, was granted university status by the state legislature, becoming Auburn University.

A variety of breakout sessions were held, including many focusing on The Great War (a/k/a WW I), in this centennial year of the United States joining the conflict. The Keynote Speaker, Dr. John Morrow, University of Georgia, spoke on *Soldiers of Color on the Western Front of the Great War, 1914-1918*.

On Saturday, it was announced that the 2018 AHA meeting is set for Birmingham in April. After more breakout sessions, outgoing President Jeff Jakeman spoke about an Alabamian in WW I, *From Alabama to the Skies of France: 1917-1918: Penrose Vass Stout's Improbable Journey* from a collection of letters donated to the Alabama Archives by his grandson. Other members of our Society in attendance were Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins, Dr. Marlene Rikard, and Marty and Helon Everse.



## HOVER 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: \_\_\_\_\_



*The Hoover Historical Society*

P.O. Box 360233

Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

Archive: 571 Park Avenue

Hoover, Alabama 35226



*Recipient*



Published five times annually by  
the Hoover Historical Society, a  
501 C (3) organization.  
Debbie Burtnett, Editor  
Debbie.burtnett@gmail.com