

the

Hoover Historical Log

The official newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama 35226



Hoover's school system changed its history...

Our March speakers are Charles E. Hickman, author of the book *History of the Hoover City School System*, and Jason Gaston, Communications Director for Hoover City Schools. The presentation will focus on past, present and future aspects of the school system. Since he was a member of the first school board, Charles will highlight activities that led to the formation of the system. After years of Hoover City Council and citizen committees' support, the system opened in August 1988 ... *Continued Page 3*

Save the Date!

General Meeting

March 20, 2018

Two speakers highlight the Hoover City School System's growth

Spring Tea

April 8, 2018

Hosts Carlo & Dianne Joseph welcome us to their home.

AHA in B'ham

April 12-14, 2018

Historians from around our state visit B'ham for Annual Meeting

Spring cleaning at the Stinson Ole Place

It's time to host our guests for Spring at *The Folklore Center*! On April 12th, historians from around the state will visit the Stinson Ole Place where several of our docents will talk about the curriculum that we teach to public, private, and parochial school children about life in 1840s Alabama!

Spring is also the time for tidying up, and as Pam Thompson says, "Many hands make light work!" If you can join us in a Spring Cleaning of the Stinson Ole Place on April 2nd at 10:30 AM, please contact either Pam or Debbie Burtnett.



Spring Tour: Bright Star & Fox-trotting Mule Tour

Colonel DeBardeleben, founder of Bessemer: "I'd rather be out in the woods on the back of a fox-trotting mule with a good seam of coal at my feet than be president of the United States!"

On May 10, Jim Langley leads us in a bus tour of historical homes, Bessemer, and West Jefferson County. Departing at 8:30 AM from Hoover Public Works Building, 2020 Valleydale Road, activities include visiting the Sadler House, Owen House, McAdory House, lunch at Bright Star Restaurant (at your expense), the Bessemer Museum, Historic Downtown Bessemer, with a return to Hoover at 4:00 PM.

All this for \$20 per person!!

A \$20 check (to Jim) may be given to or mailed to Jim Langley at 3821 James Hill Circle by April 26, 2018. This reserves your spot on the bus; first come, first served! Maximum: 32 persons

Travel on Hoover's new 34-passenger bus; all costs except lunch are covered. A guidebook is available for purchase!

In 1886, Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben, a Birmingham industrialist, founded the city of Bessemer in western Jefferson County, as the site of two iron furnaces. His father-in-law, Daniel Pratt, founded the Pratt Coal and Coke Company in 1878 to furnish coal and coke for the iron-making facilities at Oxmoor near Birmingham. Although DeBardeleben originally named the settlement Brooklyn, he changed the name to honor Sir Henry Bessemer and the process he developed to create steel inexpensively.



Bright Star guests in 1907; Bessemer Museum 2017



Left: Leadership Hoover visited The Folklore Center November, 2017; center: a scene from the *Road to Moultrie* four-minute film; and (right) the Stinson Ole Place.

A message from our president...

Dear Members:

While attending the February Hoover Chamber of Commerce luncheon, I was seated next to Michael Panik, of **Plexamedia**, a firm that designed the **Leadership Hoover** Website and specializes in custom Wordpress-based Website development in Birmingham.

Leadership Hoover participants visited the Folklore Center on November 14th, 2017, while the historical society and its docents hosted 120 first grade students from the Bluff Park Elementary School.

Little did I know when I gave Michael my HHS business card featuring a picture of the log cabin that a few days later, the Stinson Ole Place would be the star of a movie!

Birmingham's Sidewalk Film Festival includes a Sidewalk Scramble where teams of filmmakers have 48 hours to produce a four-minute film. Each team is given two unique themes to be incorporated into their film.

Michael's group was assigned **Western** and **Colonial America**. That is how our log cabin is in three scenes totaling about 30 seconds of the four-minute film titled, *Road to Moultrie*.

I will be cheering for *Road to Moultrie* at the Alabama School of Fine Arts on March 8th where the various four-minute films will be judged. I am looking forward to welcoming the film into our archives and Website!

Enjoy our newsletter and join us in our coming activities!

Arnold Singer



Don't forget!
Board Meeting of the HHS will meet
March 13th at 10 AM, BPES

School System's development spurred Hoover's growth

Continued from Page 1

with seven schools and about 5,200 students. At present there are 17 schools with about 14,000 students. Pictures will be used to illustrate this expansion. As an employee of the Hoover City Schools, Jason will provide an insight on the present status of the system and discuss future challenges such as ensuring adequate financial support, continuing to provide an excellent education for the students and meeting rezoning requirements.

Spring Membership Tea set at Hale-Joseph Home

*All members and guests are invited to
Hoover Historical Society's
Membership Tea*

Sunday, April 8, 2018

2:00-4:00 PM

*at the Historic Home of Carlo &
Dianne Joseph*

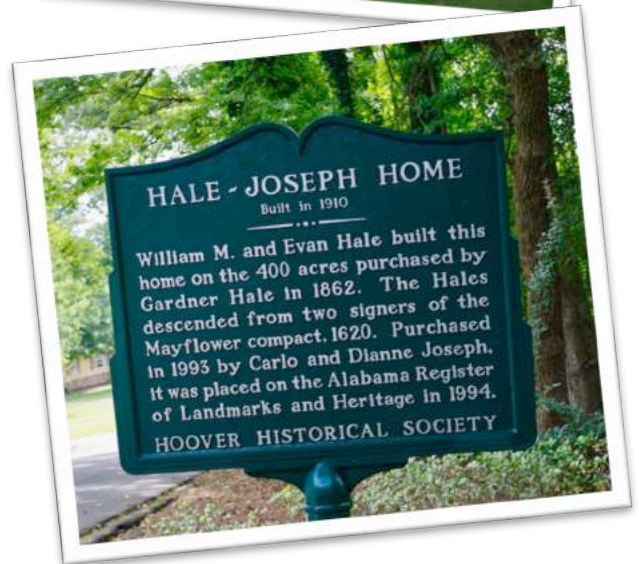
*Please come to enjoy this beautiful
home & refreshments!*

AHA hosts Annual Meeting in B'ham

Alabama historians gather annually to share their research, hear presentations, hold business meetings and workshops, bestow awards, and visit a new locale with its own historical sites for touring. Birmingham is hosting the 71st Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association April 12-14 at the DoubleTree by Hilton downtown.

Local sites include Arlington House, the Birmingham theatres, the Civil Rights District, and a Historic Renovation Walking Tour. Hoover is offering docent-led tours of the Stinson Ole Place and the Hale-Joseph Home in Bluff Park on Thursday, April 12, from 1 to 3 PM. Birmingham's archivist Jim Baggett will discuss the history of Birmingham at the opening session and Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., will address the awards banquet.

Thirteen new historical markers were placed around the state in 2017 by AHA and its Fall Pilgrimage will be held in Camden in late October. More information about the historical association may be found at www.alabamahistory.net.



New Joe Cain marker in Mobile 2017 honors the patron saint of *Mardi Gras* as well as honoring the Alabama Bicentennial; photo courtesy of Mark Wilson.

Mayor describes the state of the city to Prime Timers

Mayor Frank Brocato delivered his second state of the city address to Ross Bridge's Prime Timers group on February 26th (as well as other groups across the city.)

The mayor reported that he kept his full-time commitment to the office and stated that he enjoyed City Hall "bustling with our citizens coming by to talk about many things...every day they want to talk about our city and how to make it better." He said that Hoover citizens are involved in boards, schools, and volunteering.

He cited Hoover's great recreation center, its parks, and the police and fire departments, but gave special note to the Senior Center. The center is "an oasis for many of our seniors" with 24,000 member visits annually. He was proud to announce the center will receive accreditation this year, "the first in the state of Alabama to earn accreditation."

Brocato invited all who may have missed the town hall meetings to visit www.FutureHoover.com, a survey initiative, to share your input. The survey takes about 15 minutes and will accept responses through the end of March 2018.

The mayor focused on three goals for the year: the school system, developers, and economic development. In view of recent current events, school safety led with the announcement that every school now has trained, veteran officers on duty for public safety. On the topic of city development, he cited the City Planner hired six months ago, who is dedicated full-time to planning Hoover's growth and "developing a comprehensive plan." The third goal discussed was that of economic development, with the news that Iberia Bank is locating their Operations Center at an older facility, International Park and McLeod Software, an "IT" company is moving to Meadowbrook. He believes the Highway 31/Riverchase area will rebrand as an "IT Corridor."

Of great concern is the retail industry "taking a big hit" as a result of online shopping. Millions of dollars in tax revenue are lost to the City of Hoover; however, he is working with state and federal representatives to recover some of the tax monies. "The loss is great—\$1



Mayor Frank Brocato with Jim Langley, organizer of the Prime Timers' functions and HHS member.

million dollars spent in the city nets \$30,000 in tax revenue whereas online, that same million nets only \$550," he added.

He stated that City Hall has cut or curtailed travel, office supplies, Professional Development, and trimmed budgets to "run as efficiently as possible." He reported on the 150 Project, expected to finish in July and said the additional interchange at South Shades Crest Road will remove 10,000 cars per day off Hwy. 150. He is working with Congressman Gary Palmer and Senator Richard Shelby to secure monies for the project. The mayor closed with a Q & A session with residents of several neighborhoods in the Ross Bridge area.



Pharmacists Zach Wood and Mary Short discuss the new pharmacy at Ross Bridge, due to open in June 2018.



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: _____

The Hoover Historical Society

P. O. Box 360233
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233



[Recipient]



The Hoover Historical Log is published five times annually by the Hoover Historical Society, a 501 C (3) organization.

Editor: debbie.burnnett@gmail.com

E-mail: info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org