

the

Hoover Historical Log

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

Spring Trip reminder...

The Hoover Historical Society Spring Trip is upon us! There are 34 participants exploring the history of West Jefferson County and the city of Bessemer! Three historic plantation houses will be toured as well as the Bessemer Museum. We will see a number of interesting houses and businesses in the city of Bessemer. Lunch is at the oldest restaurant in the Birmingham area—the Bright Star. Currently, ten people are on the 'standby list.'

We'll depart from the Hoover Public Safety Center at 2020 Valleydale Road, at 8:30 AM on May 10 and return mid-afternoon.



Hoover Belles founder to speak

"Faye Anderson will keep you laughing! She is an excellent speaker," says one of her friends. Faye is the final speaker in our Hoover Series for the 2017-18 club year.

Educated at Middle Tennessee State University and University of Tennessee, Faye holds a Bachelor and Master's degree in Physical Education. However, her life has found her in varied positions—e.g., as dance teacher, dinner, garden, and historical club memberships and author of *Disco Made Easy*—following her time as a teacher at Appalachian State University and UT.

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Save the Date!

Board Meeting

May 8, 2018

10 AM at the
Archive/Office at
Bluff Park
Elementary School

Spring Trip

May 10, 2018

Jimmy Langley
leads the group to
West Jefferson
County/Bessemer

General Mtg.

May 15th, 2018

Faye Anderson,
guest speaker;
Hoover Public
Library at 1 PM

Faye Anderson, continued from Page 1

She is best known for her civic works and interests. Faye has been an officer in the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as instrumental in other clubs associated with her interests. She was affiliated with the Hoover Chamber of Commerce from 1980-2000. She founded the Hoover Belles, ambassadors for our city and coordinated the Belles from 1979-1995. Sue Knopf, Society member, recalls, "As founder and Director of the Hoover Belles, not only did she teach them etiquette, gracefulness and how to represent the city, she taught them and their fathers how to dance. When one of her Belles spots her, you hear a squeal in the crowd...[the Belle] can't wait to tell Mrs. Anderson 'thank you' for making such a positive difference in [her] life," added Sue.

The stories Faye tells about serving on the Hoover City Council will also entertain you. Beginning in 1984, the Hoover City Council unanimously approved significant financial support for Hoover public school students and their schools. City Council President William Billingsley and council member Faye Anderson led this effort. Anderson was tasked with the responsibility of developing a plan to divide these funds in a fair and equitable manner. The City of Hoover contributed more than \$250,000 each year for three years. The program was discontinued when the Hoover City Council unanimously approved the formation of a school system in October 1987. "Anderson should be credited for her foresight in establishing the Hoover City School System, which has become an exemplary system in Alabama," commented Dr. Charles Hickman, member of the First School Board and author of the *History of the Hoover City School System*.

Today, Faye continues to work at her company, Manufacturers Packaging Services, where she is President and Chairman of the Board. She also currently serves as an advisor for M2 Solutions, Inc., a new construction specialty products company, an expansion of her company. Faye has earned various awards for her work at both the city and state levels—one of those a National Volunteer Service Recognition Award from President Ronald Reagan.

Please join the HHS as we welcome Faye Anderson at the Hoover Public Library on May 15th.

A Spring Tea Album

Several guests got into the picture with Mayor Frank Brocato, Councilman John Lyda, and the Josephs. Below: Carolyn Kolar, Dianne Joseph, and Liz Wells welcomed guests.



Carlo and Dianne Joseph hosted the Annual Spring Tea at their home in Bluff Park. Seventy-one guests enjoyed refreshments while touring the house and gardens. Two Hoover Belles greeted guests on a crisp, clear Spring Day!



Faye will also install new officers for the 2018-19 club year. Our meetings are open to the public and parking is free at the HPL.



Left: Arnold Singer mans our table in the tent at *Celebrate Hoover! Day* on April 28th; middle, Faye Anderson speaks at the 50th Anniversary of Hoover kick-off; and right, Liz Wells chats with a friend at our table at the AHA Annual Meeting in B'ham.

A message from our president...

As my first term as President of the Hoover Historical Society ends, I am thankful for a wonderful Board of Directors who are actively involved in our diverse activities.

HHS has three primary missions: maintaining our Hoover archives while packing for a move to a new location, public education meetings at the Hoover Public Library, and the Folklore Center, with its centerpiece of the 1840 Stinson family log cabin.

In November, while hosting 120 first grade students at the Folklore Center, the first class of Leadership Hoover arrived and were able to witness the involvement of the students in learning about life in the 1840's.

Our March public meeting featured Dr. Charles Hickman, author of a new book on the history of the

Hoover City Schools. Dr. Hickman was a member of Hoover's first Board of Education. Jason Gaston provided insight into the current status of the school system.

On April 8th, Carlo and Dianne Joseph hosted our Membership Tea at their historic home and several days later, welcomed members of the Alabama Historical Association who also visited the Folklore Center.

Please join us at our May 15th meeting at the Hoover Public Library where our newly elected officers will be installed by Faye Anderson.

We hope to see you there!

Arnold Singer

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

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The Hoover Historical Society regrets the recent losses of two charter members—Mrs. Aline Anderson and Mrs. Wayne Phelps.

Stinson Ole Place: a feature of local tours & AHA

Jim Langley has developed a tour of Hoover, “the do-it-right city.” John Lyda served as driver on the first tour of April 3. The tour began with a visit to City Hall and a Q & A session with John. Various sites followed—Aldridge Gardens, Refuge (a community in the area of Patton Chapel), two historical districts, historic homes, Moss Rock Preserve, and new projects at the Hoover Met. The groups lunched at the Bluff Park Diner and took in the view from the Tip Top Grill. For more on Jim’s career as writer, artist, and storyteller, visit

<http://hooversun.com/peopleplaces/author-sharesfamily-with-local-legends1125/>.

Two tour groups toured the City of Hoover April 3 & 10; guests shown here at Moss Rock Preserve and the Stinson Ole Place.



As part of AHA’s pre-meeting events, our own Stinson Ole Place, the Hale-Joseph Home and the Civil War-era culvert at Ross Bridge, were available for guided tours. Many thanks to the docents and volunteers who helped at the cabin and the Joseph’s home—Hoover Belle Grace Bauder, Jim Langley, Pam Thompson, Liz Wells, Carolyn Kolar, Marie Taylor, Inez McCollum, Brenda Pritchett, Doug Harkness, Peggy Patton, Arnold Singer, Carlo and Dianne Joseph, and Deb Burtnett.

Left: Peggy Patton, Jim Langley, and Doug Harkness; middle: Inez McCollum Marie Taylor and storyteller/singer Brenda Pritchett. Above: Charles & Jane Ellis.

Ross Bridge visited

AHA Board Member Jane Shelton Dale from Camden, AL, asked to visit the Ross Bridge Civil War-era bridge, so we took her there! Jane heard about the bridge from a presentation for the United Daughters of the Confederacy in March and made time to visit the culvert on the Ross Bridge Parkway during the AHA Annual Meeting.



B'ham hosts the Alabama Historical Association's Annual Meeting

Birmingham was the perfect setting for the 71st Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association as many of the presentations included topics specific to the city and its role in our nation's history.

Jim Baggett, head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library delivered the opening address. He discussed three items from the Archives that "completely encapsulate the history of Birmingham." The items included a bar of the "lowly pig iron"; fragments of a bomb used against the Bethel Baptist Church in December of 1962; and a note from immigrant Frank Tortorice that read:

*I can write my name
I like to learn English
I am a good American and I'm 61 years old.*

The making of pig iron in the 1880s 'made' the Magic City industrially. By 1920, B'ham was a city of immigrants that brought "energy, life and vitality ...when [they] come, immigrants remake us."

Jim feels he comes to know some of the people in the archives "personally" and was deeply moved by their dedication in becoming Americans. However, the bomb shrapnel in the Archive represents a "level of hate that most of us can't understand."

After concurrent sessions featuring the latest research and publications by Alabama historians, afternoon tour offerings included the Civil Rights District; Historic Birmingham Theatres; and a Renovation Walking Tour. The First United Methodist Church and the Alabama Historical Radio Society were also open for guests. The Awards Banquet featured Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., Freedom Rider and participant in all phases of the Civil Rights Movement.

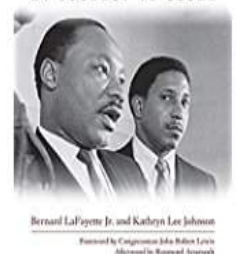
Professor Pam King awarded the James Ray Kuykendall Award to Leeds Historical Society. The Association's Fall Pilgrimage will be held in Camden, AL, on October 27, 2018.



Pam Thompson and Debra Love, AHA Board member, check out posters created by UAB students featuring local history. Below, Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. and wife Kate autograph copies of Dr. LaFayette's book entitled, *In Peace and Freedom—My Journey in Selma*.



Bernard LaFayette Jr. (b. 1940) was a cofounder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a leader in the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins, a Freedom Rider, an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the national coordinator of the Poor People's Campaign. —Goodreads



Birmingham is experiencing a Renaissance of sorts as it hosts yet another historical group in the Fall—the Southern Historical Association's 84th Annual Meeting, November 8th-11th at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.



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

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[Recipient]

