



Hoover Historical Happenings

Vol. 23 No. 1

September 2011

Dates

Sept. 6 Board Meeting 10:00
Sept. 20 General Meeting 1:30

Executive Committee

Jackie Matte
Delores Wilkinson
Lea Pennington
Shirley Lewis
Christine Simonton
Jim Lyons
Sharon Jones
Joy Elliott
Marilyn Janda
Charlotte Williams
Jean Butterworth
Barbara Lyons
Inez McCollum
Arnold Singer
John Williams
Betty Bagby
Charles Shelby
Doug Harkness
Peggy Patton
Katherine Staursky
Marshall Morgan
Joan Davis
Marie Taylor
Vadie Honea
Charlotte Patton
Charlotte Laggy
Tom Laggy
Betty Tucker
Faye Walker

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Joan Davis and Marie Taylor,
Editors.

Pioneer In Local and Family Research To Address Hoover Historical Society

Hoover Historical Society welcomes Robert Scott "Bob" Davis to the September meeting of the 2011-12 season. Mr. Davis is the director of the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State Community College, Hanceville. He has earned two masters degrees and is a graduate of the Institute of Documentary Editing of the National Historical Records Publications Commission. His more than 1,000 publications on records and research include a number of books and more than 100 articles. His books include *Requiem for a Lost City*:

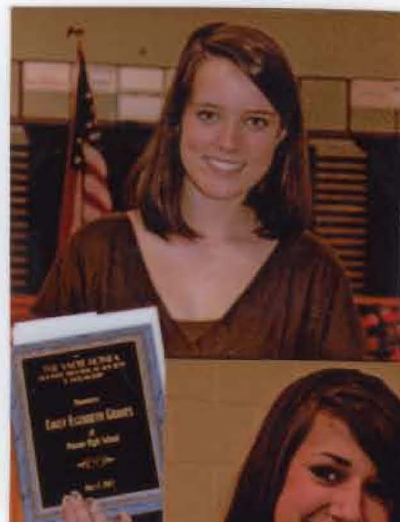
Sallie Clayton's Memoirs of Civil War Atlanta and Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville. He has been quoted on or in CNN, NPR, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian* and other media outlets, as well as appearing on the History Channel.

You will not want to miss this important program and the first meeting of Hoover Historical Society's year.

General Meeting
September 20, 1:30
Hoover Community Education Building

HHS Scholarships Are Awarded

Hoover Historical Society awarded two \$1000 Vadie Honea Scholarships this year, one to Emily Graves at Hoover High School and one to Jordan David at Spain Park High School. Our scholarship is named after the society's first president. Academic performance, community awareness, and community involvement are the specific criteria. A 600-700 word typed essay was also required. The essay was entitled, "A person in American History who impacted my life." Our recipients demonstrate great aptitude and character, just as our founding members did!



Emily
Graves

Jordan
David and
Vadie
Honea



From the President

As the incoming president for 2011-2012, I am motivated by the experience and dedication of the Board members who have served in various positions in the past. They are knowledgeable and are willing to continue working to make Hoover Historical Society a vibrant organization. As a "newby" on the Board, I am very appreciative of the help given to me, especially past president, Marie Taylor, parliamentarian, Barbara Lyons and Doug Harkness, who furnished the by-laws.

Several projects are in the works for the upcoming year, the Fire Tower Project, refurbishing the Folklore Center, which includes building a new fence, promoting the Vadie Honea Scholarship Awards and developing an HHS website. Each requires the support of members, so please volunteer where your talents lie.

Our first meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2011, at 1:30. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend to hear Robert Scott Davis, well known Director of the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State Community College. In 2006, the American Association for State and Local History awarded the program that he has built up with its Outstanding Leadership in History Award of Merit. In Alabama and Georgia, Bob has worked to raise public awareness on saving local government records and has been a member of the Alabama governor's historical records commission. His topic, set in the American Revolution era, will be *Loyalists (a.k.a. Tories) in the State of Alabama*.

Our officers and committees have planned a wonderful new year. Attend all the meetings and be part of all the activities they have in store for you!

- Jackie Matte, President

Fire Tower To Shine Again

The Fire Tower Committee is very pleased to report that great progress has been made on the Crawford Fire Tower cab restoration. Approval has been obtained from the City of Hoover to proceed with the project. Following the restoration of the cab, it will be placed on a concrete slab at ground level for easy viewing. It is our intention to equip the cab with accessories that our research has established existed when the fire tower was erected in about 1939. The City of Hoover will select the site and develop the site plan to ensure that all legal requirements are met.

The research which has consisted of identifying old

documents, interviews of fire tower experts and operators and visiting several existing fire towers is nearing completion.

The cab has been relocated to a maintenance facility where deteriorated wood in the floor has been replaced, and the cab has been sandblasted and is in the process of being repainted. The cab interior accessories are currently being fabricated or purchased.

The committee members are: Barbara Clark, Alec Jones, Barbara Lyons, Jim Lyons, Charles Shelby, Arnold Singer and Delores Wilkinson.

- Jim Lyons, Fire Tower Committee Chairman



The Fire Tower cab under renovation.

Recording Hoover's History

Last year we included many stories from our members. All of these were so interesting and helped us learn about all the many paths we each have followed to get to this point in our own history. Everyone has favorite stories of their families, trips, and thousands of experiences we can share. This is the "stuff" of history!

We are fortunate to have talented writers in our midst who would be happy to help us in this adventure. Jean Butterworth and Inez McCollum have written stories for *Senior Living* and *The Tannehill Trader* and are still featured writers for these publications. So...start thinking of all those favorite memories and share them in a short paragraph or two. If you get stuck, call on one of our "seasoned" writers.

Our newsletter deadlines are August 1, October 1, December 1, February 1 and April 1. Send to Joan Davis (jmdavis06@bellsouth.net or 2512 Matzek Road, Hoover, AL 35226)

Save For the Scrapbook

Please save any news articles or photos of club members for the Hoover Historical Society scrapbook. Pass them on to Inez McCollum as you collect them.

Get Out Of the House!

by Inez McCollum

Our state has so many beautiful places to visit before those long, cold days of winter arrive. My family and friends have indulged me by making some of those trips through the years.

During a visit we made to **Ave Maria Grotto** in Cullman several years ago, my mother, an aunt, a cousin and I also went by a couple of covered bridges near Oneonta. Both bridges were built in the 1930's. One is the **Horton Mill Bridge** and the other is the **Swann Covered Bridge**. My mother and aunt experienced a bit of nostalgia as they walked through one of the bridges. Another place to visit in the Cullman area is the **Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament** in Hanceville. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes.

Guntersville State Park is a beautiful fall tour location. The park there is absolutely gorgeous. There are chalets, a lodge, and cabins. Before you get to the State Park, there are also the floating condos. My children, their families and I have been to both locations. We have spent long weekends at these. During a weekend at the chalets in the State Park, we drove to Huntsville to the **Space Center**. The State Park also has beautiful walking areas. While at the floating condos, my youngest son enjoyed fishing from the deck late at night. We rented a pontoon and were able to see rock formations and birds beyond belief as we floated along.

Some friends and I went to **Gorham's Bluff** and spent the night at the Bed and Breakfast Lodge. Located on the Tennessee River, there are some beautiful walking areas here, too. If your joints work better than mine, bikes are available for rental. After leaving the B&B, we went to **Unclaimed Luggage** in Scottsboro. Alas, we found no luggage containing small fortunes; but there was a little of everything else in every direction.

The **Renaissance Ross Bridge** is a Hoover place to get lots of fresh air. They have restaurants for lunch or dinner and bagpipes at sundown. Don't forget about **Oak Mountain State Park**. There is plenty to do in that place!

I had never been to **Cheaha State Park** until one day I was returning from Heflin and took Exit 191 from Interstate 20. Cheaha is the highest point in the state of Alabama and promises to be even more spectacular in

October. As you drive up the mountain, there are two pull overs to enjoy looking into the valley and over **Talladega National Forest**.

Please excuse my excitement as I have attempted to describe some of the vistas in our wonderful Alabama. Just get out of the house and drive to some of them!

Front Porch News

from the Hoover Historical Society Folklore Center



I guess the question so far is "How hot is it?" Uncle Charles tells me that he can remember back in... well, you know the rest. I guess that is what old folks do best is remember when. Just this morning we were rocking and shelling peas on the front porch and talking about which season we liked best. We both decided it is hard to beat Indian summer....fresh field peas, tomatoes, okra, squash and sweet corn all served up with fresh corn bread with sorghum syrup. On Sunday Grandma Elliott will fry a chicken and make blackberry or a huckleberry cobbler. To make it even better Grandma will pull the milk jar out of the well and let us top off the berry cobbler with fresh cream right off the top. I don't think it can get any better than that.

You know there is never a slack time on the farm. We got up early this morning to cut the fence row before it got too hot. We made a material list for fixing the rail fence. I sure am glad they opened that new rail fence company. Uncle Charles and I just need to get Uncle Jim Lyons to loan us enough money to buy the posts and rails so we won't have to split them. Uncle Charles has found us a neighbor of Uncle Jim that needs work so he agreed to dig the post holes. With a little luck Uncle Charles and I will just keep rocking, shelling peas and shucking corn in the shade of the old front porch. Now that is walking in high cotton!

Till next time.....

- Doug Harkness

At a Glance

September 20, 2011 - General Meeting
November 15, 2011 - General Meeting
January 17, 2012 - General Meeting
March 27, 2012 - General Meeting
April 1, 2012 - Membership Tea
May 15, 2012 - General Meeting

Hoover Historical Society
P.O. Box 360233
Hoover, AL 35236-0233

Return Service Requested



HHS Opens Its Library/Office

In March 2011, the Historical Society reopened its Library/Office. While preserving history doesn't draw large crowds, there are many things to be done. I am very grateful to these volunteers for giving up two hours, some every month, to keep our space open. Volunteers are Jean Butterworth, Arnold Singer, Charles Shelby, Inez McCollum, Joan Davis, Charlotte Patton, Lea Pennington, Mary Ross Searcy, Betty Bagby, Marilyn Janda, Jim Lyons, Alec Jones, Betty Tucker, Carolyn and Robert Kolar, Shirley Lewis, and Jackie Matte. These folks are All-Stars! This fall YOU can be an All-Star, too. Contact Barbara Lyons at 987-9172. You do not accept a permanent day, just one every two months or so, as needed. You will find it an easy two hours and will be serving our Historical Society in a creative way!

We learn from the past, but do not stay there; we live one day at a time and prepare for whatever will cross our path.

- Jerry W. Brasseale, Mayor of Pleasant Grove, in a speech to the PGHS graduating class, May 2011

Don't Wait To Give

Around the last of May, I distinctly recall thinking. With clubs and many meetings over for the summer, now I will have time to finish those picture albums, to go through those packed boxes and to read a few of those nightstand novels. Needless to say, time flies and intentions, too.

My friend, who lived in Pleasant Grove for thirty years, had been accumulating a box of Time Cabinet possibilities for over a year. I looked forward to the acquisitions for us. Her children were not interested in the collection, and she had finally decided she was not, either. Somehow it was never the right time to get them and visit. She mentioned last week, when she called to give me her new address, that the box and its contents were gone, along with everything else. The tornado took care of her contributions to our Time Cabinets.

She suggested, carefully, that I might want to part with several things now rather than later. Time flies, intentions fly; sometimes things fly also.

-Betty Tucker, Time Cabinet Chairman