



# Hoover Historical Happenings

Vol. 23 No. 5

May 2012

## Dates

May 15 General Meeting,  
1:30

Have a nice summer!

## Executive Committee

Jackie Matte  
Delores Wilkinson  
Lea Pennington  
Shirley Lewis  
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

Published five times annually  
by Hoover Historical Society,  
PO Box 360233, Hoover, AL  
35236-0233, 205-822-9392,  
hooverhistoricalsociety.org.  
Joan Davis and Marie Taylor,  
Editors.

## Hoover Historical Society Enjoys Anniston

Hoover Historical Society members had a wonderful trip to Anniston on April 17 to tour two museums, the Anniston Museum of Natural History and the Berman Museum of World History. Members were delighted with both and were impressed by the high caliber of the museums. The trip was topped off with a delicious lunch at the historic Classic On Noble. Thank you, Charlotte and Tom Laggy, for planning such an adventure for us.

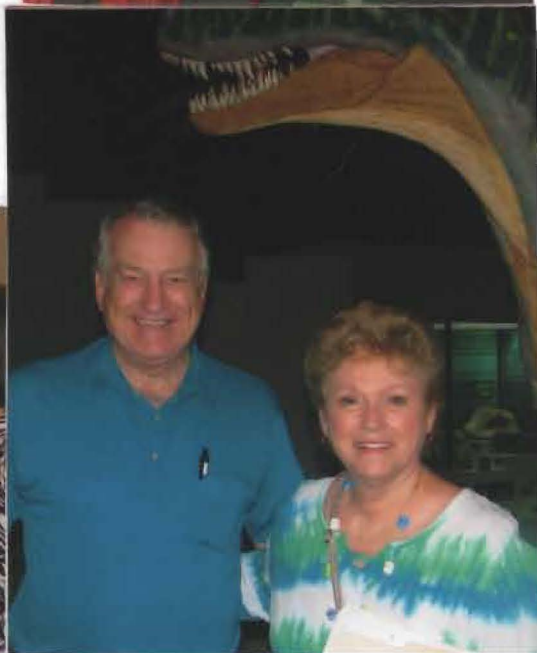


▲ Director David Ford shows off a hidden weapon in the Berman Museum



▼ Win Shelby and Charlotte Patton enjoy lunch at the Classic On Noble

Tom and Charlotte Laggy, our sponsors, in Museum of Natural History ▶





*From the President*

## **Alabama Historical Association Meets In Huntsville**

From all reports, the Spring Tea at Marie Taylor's home was well-attended, the flower arrangements were beautiful and the refreshments were delicious. HHS member and former HHS president Inez McCollum and I missed all of this while we were in County Durham, U.K. with Friendship Force and then in Scotland. Both locations were interesting and educational with nice people and beautiful scenery. My favorite experience of the whole trip was our visit by ferry to Orkney Island, on the northwestern side of Scotland. There we visited Skara Brae, a large stone-built Neolithic settlement. It consists of ten clustered houses and is Europe's most complete Neolithic village. Older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids, it has been called the "Scottish Pompeii" because of its excellent preservation. While there, snow started coming down, first in hard sleet-like pellets and then in large fluffy flakes. It was like a scene from fairy-land. Even more unusual than snow for us Southern travelers was seeing a surfer riding the monstrous waves of the Atlantic Ocean!

Jean Butterworth, former HHS President, and I attended the 65th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association held in Huntsville. Tours included Constitution Village, historic churches and a turn-of-the-century hardware store. Presentations on a variety of topics were interesting and informative. Book sales were brisk at the booths of NewSouth Books of Montgomery and the University of Alabama Press. The Annual Dinner, sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, was held at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The purpose of the Davidson Center is to house one of the world's three remaining Saturn V rockets. One is in Kennedy Space Center in Florida and the other one is at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

-Jackie Matte, President

## **Someday They'll Understand**

My feelings weren't really hurt. But, I did put on a pretty good show and did get apologies from two granddaughters, aged 11 and 13.

"We're sorry, Grandma, we're just teasing. You really do need to take all your cooking things and your

knives, etc., to the Time Cabinets. Course you wouldn't have much left though. Everything would take up all their cabinet space. Anyway, they already have a lot of what you have in that first end cabinet. (It contains the oldest items displayed.) Since you don't cook much anymore, you probably don't use most of these things, whatever they are. Maybe the Foundry will take them."

Partially, some of that's true. I don't do much big cooking anymore. My crowd and I like to eat out as much for fun and fellowship as for the food. When my family does come over, I manage--slowly. I spend a great deal of time looking for "old items" in those drawers the girls went through.

Periodically, they come to check my expiration dates! "We don't want you to be afraid when these cans blow up! Why do you buy so many things and not cook? Should we just take some home to help you out?" So much for having extras on hand.

My cabinets do look better...

- Betty Tucker, Time Cabinet Chairman

## **Nominations For 2012-2013**

The Nominating Committee for the coming year was composed of Doug Harkness, Charles Shelby, Marie Taylor and Charlotte Williams. The slate of officers proposed for the coming year is:

President- Delores Wilkinson

1st Vice President -Tom Laggy

2nd Vice President -Carolyn Kolar

Recording Secretary-Shirley Lewis

Corresponding Secretary- Faye Walker

Treasurer-Anita Dillon

Assistant Treasurer-Betty Bagby

The committee would like to express its appreciation to all those who have graciously agreed to serve the society for the coming year. We would like to encourage everyone to consider volunteering to fill the many committee positions that make the Hoover Historical Society a valued member of the City of Hoover.

- Doug Harkness, Chairman, Nominating Committee



## A Sunday Afternoon Visit In Bluff Park

If you missed the 2012 HHS Spring Membership Tea, you missed talking to old friends, prospective new members, enjoying wonderful refreshments and sitting on a shady porch. A soft breeze and beautiful music helped to make the afternoon visit perfect.

The tea was held at the The Overseer's House, a beautifully restored home located on Park Avenue in Bluff Park. Visitors were welcomed by owner Marie Taylor and Delores Wilkinson, Chairman of the 2012 Tea. Present members were provided a chance to renew their memberships and prospective members were introduced to the Society and its activities.

Members and guests were served punch and cake from a lovely table decorated with white hydrangeas. Hostesses were Charlotte Laggy, Jean Butterworth, Frances Thompson, Anita Dillon, Charlotte Williams, Shirley Lewis, Jerri Hollyfield and Madison Seier.

From 1889 to 1897 the house was occupied by William Hale, son of George and Sophronia Hale, one of the founding families of Bluff Park. A descendant of this family, Bess Hale Hatcher, attended the Tea. We hope to interview her later to record her memories and stories of the Hale family.

As we toured Marie Taylor's home, we saw her Country Store and her playhouse and period furnishings, but space does not allow us to describe everything. Those who came were charmed, educated, and delighted by the afternoon's activities planned by Delores Wilkinson and the HHS 2012 Spring Membership Tea Committee. Thanks go to Marie for inviting us to spend a wonderful afternoon at her home! Now, don't you wish you had come? There's always next year!

- Joan Davis



*Bess Hale Hatcher and Sandra Tyler Ridgeway, descendants of two stately Bluff Park families, enjoy the Country Store*



*State Representative Paul DeMarco signs in on the front porch*



*Jean Butterworth and Anita Dillon served refreshments*



*Delores Wilkinson and Marie Taylor*

For more information on this house and other historic sites in Hoover, check out our web site, [www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org)



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

Return Service Requested



## **Thomas Kaufmann Will Present At Next Meeting**

Hoover Historical Society will welcome Thomas Kaufmann as speaker at the next meeting, May 15, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Artists On the Bluff, the old Bluff Park Elementary School building located at 569 Park Avenue in Bluff Park. We are so privileged to have Thomas Kaufmann as our speaker for our final meeting of the year.

Thomas Kaufmann is an artist and a preservationist who consults for architects, planners, historic preservationists and developers. He formerly served as the designer for the Alabama Main Street Program while on staff with the Alabama Historical Commission from 2001 until 2006.

As an artist Tom has executed architectural renderings for several years, including commissioned work. He has also provided design assistance for improving historic downtown facades.

Tom is very interested and active in preserving fire lookout towers. He has served as Area Representative for Alabama for the Forest Fire Lookout Association since 2009.

We are looking forward to meeting him. We are looking forward to seeing you there, too. Come join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and camaraderie.

- Delores Wilkinson, First Vice President

### **Next Meeting....**

**Hoover Historical Society  
Tuesday, May 15, 1:30 pm  
569 Park Avenue  
at Artists On the Bluff**