

Hoover Historical Happenings

November-December 2013

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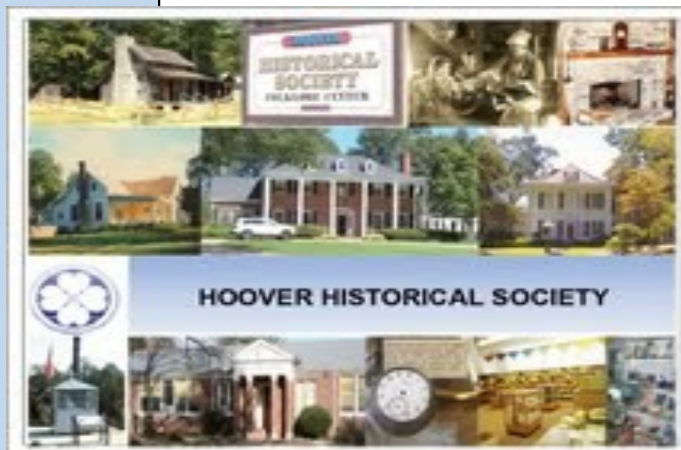
Last Saturday and Sunday, the Hoover Historical Society made its debut at the Moss Rock Festival, a celebration of all things green and eco-friendly at The Preserve in Hoover. Among the 411 venues was the Society's booth, "a great location ... the first spot across from Town Hall ..." said HHS Coordinator Pam Thompson. With exposure to over 15,000 people, the Society and its work became known to many more people. The new postcard was distributed to those who stopped by the HHS booth. The Society sold several copies of Hoover's History [the first 25 years] with plans to have the second twenty-five years book done by the city's 50th anniversary. Note cards netted some donations.

Festival-goers could partake of local food trucks and cakes as well as taste beers. Artists displayed their works in various media--clay, computer generated, drawings, jewelry, metalwork, paintings, photography, fiber, glass, print-making, sculpture, and wood. Onstage were live acts from local talent and the SmartLIVING venue offered gluten-

-free alternatives, wellness initiatives, organic food, education, yoga, and cooking demonstrations with free samples. Children attended workshops such as "Butterfly Sculpture."



Event Founder Eileen Kunzman explained the purpose and meaning of the festival to al.com. "If we don't design some new ways of living, we're not going to have a place to live anymore." Proceeds support conservation education and projects throughout the year, including the Every Planet Project during which students research a topic for a year and build art installations based on that research for the festival. If you missed it this year, check out mossrockfestival.com for next year's event and eco re-cycling projects throughout the year..



Postcard delights festival crowd

The Society's new postcard features historic scenes from the Folklore Center (row 1); the Overseer's House, the Hoover-Randle Home and the Hale-Joseph House (row 2); and the restored Fire Tower Cab; Bluff Park Elementary School; and the Society's Archives and Time Cabinet (row 3). In addition, the address for the website and Facebook pages are listed as is the Archives' phone number of 205-822-9392.



The Hoover Historical Society Archives



A letter from our President, Inez McCollum

Dear Members:

It's Fall already! Even though we have had Fall-like weather for several weeks, it officially arrived September 22nd and we will have that annual time change around the date you receive this letter.

I thanked several members, in my last letter to you, for their stepping up to responsibility for our 2013-2014 Club Year. I would like to mention a few more. Thanks to Delores Wilkinson for agreeing to be Chair Person for our Spring Membership Reception in April. Delores is one of the few people I know who actually enjoys steering us through this annual celebration. Thanks also to Genoa McPhatter for agreeing to be Scholarship Chair. She has put together her committee of Veronda Garner and Delores Wilkinson. If any of you would be interested in sponsoring our Scholarship, please contact Barbara Lyons. Our Society gives two \$1,000 scholarships, one to a graduating Hoover High Student and the other to a graduating Spain Park High Student. Last year's scholarships were sponsored by members Carlo and Diane Joseph and by King Acura and the Henry King family.

Thanks to Carolyn Kolar for compiling the 2013-2014 Member Guide. This required a lot of input of membership information. Her responsibility does not end there! She must keep up with information of people who join our organization during the club year. If you have changes in your listed information, please contact Carolyn. Another person whose responsibilities are continuous is Anita Dillon, Treasurer. She keeps excellent records according to our Auditors, Barbara Clark and Barbara Lyons.

Please don't forget our General Meeting time has changed. The time for our November 19th meeting is 2:30 PM. Because of lack of parking space, please carpool if possible. Pam Thompson has plans for another very informative program. I recently had a guest from Oklahoma in my home. I wish she could be here for this upcoming program about the Trail of Tears. Our two states share a lot history on that subject. I look forward to seeing you on November 19th at 2:30 PM. Inez McCollum, President

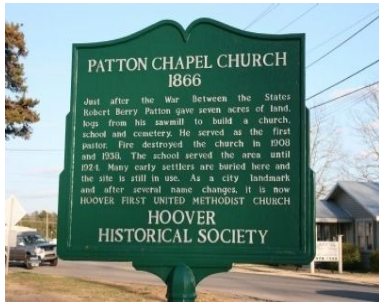
Opinion

Preservation is key to saving historical archives

Recently, the value of the work of historical societies has been in the news. When a train derailed on July 6 of this year in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, Canada, along with the loss of life and buildings was the destruction of the library and its irreplaceable local history archive. Library Journal Magazine reported "The library started gathering historical documents and personal effects from residents in 1996, and the collection had since grown to include everything from local social club records to the earliest known photos of the town, to information about Donald Morrison, a Lac-Megantic resident and notorious 19th century outlaw." Some newly arrived materials, not yet catalogued, were also lost.

On the importance of the value of historical societies, Archivist Michael Saunders, Managing Archivist for the Central, Northwest and Puget Sound Regional Branches of the Washington State Archives, stated in 2010 [to this writer] that "While it is the responsibility of the State Archives to preserve and provide public access to historically valuable records from state and local government agencies, local heritage organizations fulfill a key role in collecting, preserving and providing public access to records, photographs and artifacts generated by business, organizations and individuals outside of government. This material and information documents that nature and identity of communities through time and its preservation and accessibility gives succeeding generations of residents an informed understanding of their communities that they can't get from other sources." This is the value of local historical archives—primary sources.

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Early Hoover families rest in Patton Chapel Cemetery

Robert Berry Patton first came to Alabama in the 1840s from Tennessee and settled in Elyton (Ely's Town, founded 1821 in the West End of Birmingham, served as county seat for fifty years). His land grant of nearly 320 acres, now in the heart of Hoover, was signed by President James Buchanan on June 1, 1858. An additional 40 acre tract was purchased for his sawmill on a creek

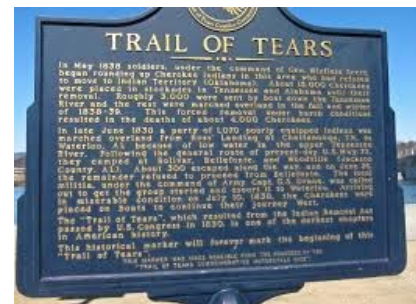
in the area that bears his name. Patton cut the timber at his sawmill, donated the land, and built a church for the community, now the Hoover First United Methodist Church on Patton Chapel Road. The original name was Patton Chapel Church. Patton was ordained as a Deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1872 and served as its first pastor. The church also served as the local school until 1924. A fire in 1908 destroyed the building and early records. After a second fire in 1938, services were held in a tent until a new church could be built.

Originally, members were able to keep the cemetery clean, then later contributed to the cost of hiring labor for the work to be done. On April 19, 1970, a Patton Chapel Cemetery Authority was established. This Committee wanted a separate and independent bank account for the purpose of grounds upkeep and equipment repairs. Funds were provided by the church.

Names of early families connected with the church and burial in the cemetery include Patton, Bailey, Taff, Shoemaker, Lee, Everett and Tollett.

—Betty Bagby

Bill Hawkins of Gardendale presents “The Turkeytown Trail of Tears:” — the removal of the Cherokee to Oklahoma, and a love story! Nov. 19, 2:30 PM at Bluff Park — Artists on the Bluff Cafetorium.



Archives, continued from page 2

Did you know that October 10 was Celebrate Electronic Records Day? The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) sponsored the day to “promote awareness and the need to manage and preserve our digital records.” Although some libraries are accommodating local historical societies by providing a ‘history room’ for research, these collections are vulnerable to fire, flood, tornadoes and other disasters. The purpose of digitizing a collection is preservation—the key to avoiding the loss of irreplaceable archives. Certainly such a project would take time; many volunteer hours as well as professional expertise; and money—but the results, priceless!



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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

We're on the Web:
hooverhistoricalsociety.org



HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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<http://nearyous.com>

TO:



Betty Bagby, Anita Dillon, and Jim Lyons, the 2013 Jack Crouch Award winner. Congratulations!!

Published five times annually by the Hoover Historical Society, Deborah Burtnett, Editor.

Jim Lyons wins Crouch Award

The Jack Crouch award is given each year by the Hoover Historical Society to a member who has contributed to the Society in a significant way. The award for 2013 was given to Mr. Jim Lyons. Jim has served as Treasurer for two years from 2010-2012. He identified technical equipment that was needed and procured. When a suggestion was made that the Crawford Fire Tower be restored as a project for the Society, a committee was formed with this recipient as chairman. Through research done by this committee, original equipment used in the tower cab was identified, found, and installed. The cab now stands at Fire Station #2 on Patton Chapel Rd. The cost for this project was absorbed by the city of Hoover but was made possible by the vision of the Hoover Historical Society and the oversight of the Fire Tower Committee, especially the chairman Mr. Jim Lyons. A genealogy committee has been established that he chairs. He has offered to help others research their family history with equipment available in the Society's library. Many thanks to Jim Lyons for all he has done for the Hoover Historical Society over the years.