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# Hoover Historical Log

*The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama*



## B'ham nurse developed anesthesia procedure

The Great War of a century ago is known for its many inventions in war weaponry including airplanes, tanks, chemicals, flamethrowers, and the use of trenches. But, innovation also occurred in the development of nursing as a profession—as Florence Nightingale demonstrated in the Crimean War—with new techniques to help the injured. Birmingham's Anne Mae Beddow played a significant role in the use of anesthesia.

Our March speaker, Anne Gibbons, is the niece of one of the *Birmingham Ten* who served in Vicenza, Italy. She will present the story of her mother's older sister, Anne Mae Beddow, her "Aunt Mae."

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## You are invited to a Spring Tea!

All members and the public are invited to Hoover Historical Society's Membership Tea Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Historic Home of Carlo & Dianne Joseph. Please come to enjoy this beautiful home & refreshments! A special guest is attending our Spring Tea. Gregory Evan Thompson, descendant of Evan Hale, founder of Hale Springs, now Bluff Park will attend. His grandfather, Evan Hale, helped build the Hale-Joseph home in 1910. Please come tour this home & meet Mr. Thompson!

### Save the Date!

#### General Meeting

March 19, 2019  
1:30 PM

Hoover Public  
Library; refreshments  
1PM; program 1:30

#### Genealogy Talk

April 9, 2019

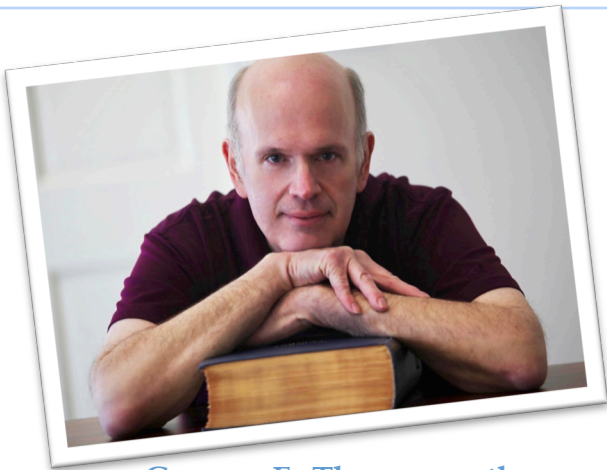
1PM for refreshments;  
1:30 program at Shades  
Crest Baptist Church  
location; featuring  
Gregory E. Thompson

#### Spring Tea

April 7, 2019

Visit the Hale-Joseph  
Home in Bluff Park; 2-4  
PM. Parking at the  
Stinson Ole Place—take  
golf cart shuttle!





Gregory E. Thompson; the Hale home in 1910



## Special guest at Spring Tea

A special guest is attending our Spring Tea at the Hale-Joseph Home in Bluff Park.

He is Gregory Evan Thompson, grandson of Evan Hale, one of the founders of Hale Springs, now Bluff Park. Greg traces his lineage to the Mayflower and his grandfather, Evan Hale, helped build the Hale-Joseph home in 1910. We know this because Thompson is a noted genealogist from East Haven, Connecticut, and he has published three books using his skills and one is a comprehensive history of the Hale Family.

Thompson, a professional genealogist for over 40 years, is involved in many different genealogical groups and societies. He is currently Governor of the CT Society of Mayflower Descendants and has served on many committees for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as well. He is in the process of updating the Mayflower Society's Silver Book series on Stephen Hopkins from the Mayflower. He is also chairman of the 2020 committee that is planning the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary events celebrating the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620.

He also serves as Archivist for the Old Saybrook Historical Society where he "gathers, preserves, and archives materials pertaining to the original Saybrook Colony that was settled in 1635."

Thompson has authored three books—*The Ancestors and Descendants of Gardner Cole Hale*; *The Stories of the Saybrook History Buffs*, and the third, about to be published, *The Story of Jonathan Brewster and the Windsor Trading Post*.

Since publishing the last Hale book, Thompson has been updating it—the book is over 430 pages. The unpublished manuscript will be "given to relatives and [I] will present the HHS with its own copy at the Tea. It includes hundreds of pictures and many more Hale descendants that have been found in the last 20 years." Thompson wrote, "I am very much looking forward to returning to Alabama and seeing many of my friends and cousins!"

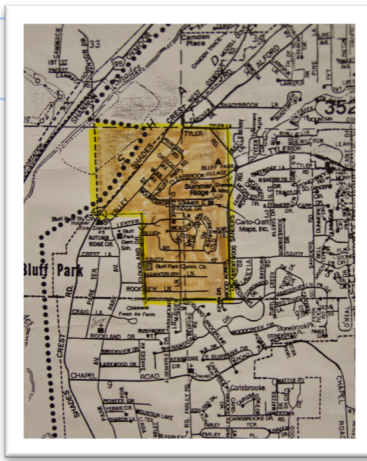
## Learning is a lifelong process!

HHS Treasurer Bob Kolar recently appeared on ABC 33/40 to advertise an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) program featuring political columnist John Archibald. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author shared his observations on Alabama politics to an overflow crowd of 170 members and guests at the Hoover Public Library. For information on OLLI, contact: <http://www.olliham.org/> or <http://olli.ua.edu/>





Holly Hale, Chuck Hale, Doug Hale and Greg Thompson  
at Book signing, March 11, 2001



Gregory Thompson at his book signing in 1997;  
a map of the area; members assemble box  
shelving at the Archive.



## Hale! Hale! Bluff Park!!

The History of the Hale family runs deep in the fabric of Bluff Park.

If you are interested in history or genealogy, you're in for a treat on April 7th and 9th when the Hoover Historical Society holds its Annual Membership Tea and special public meeting, respectively.

The Membership Tea will be held at the Hale-Joseph Home where the Joseph family will again host Gregory Evan Thompson, grandson of one of the builders of the home. A tour of this historic home includes our collection of Hale artifacts and displays as well as our Folklore Center just across the road. HHS volunteers will host your tour at the Stinson Ole Place.

Mr. Thompson is a grandson of one of the builders of the home as well as a professional

genealogist and has written, *The Ancestors and Descendants of Gardner Cole Hale*.

A special public meeting will be held on April 9th at Shades Crest Baptist Church from 1-3 PM and will feature two grandchildren of the Hales who built the Hale-Joseph Home together with Carlo Joseph who has been a gracious host of previous Hale Family Reunions.

For this month, don't forget our General Meeting on March 19 at 1:30 PM at the Hoover Public Library! Read about our speaker in this issue. Board members will meet on March 12 at 10 AM at the Valleydale location. You are also invited to hear Mr. Thompson speak on genealogy research at Shades Crest Baptist Church on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM for refreshments; 1:30 for the talk. Please join us!

*Arnold Singer*



Mayor Gary Ivey

Mayor Gary Ivey passed away in January of natural causes at age 63. He served as Mayor of Hoover from September 2011 through November 2016. I first met Mayor Ivey shortly after my husband's death. My son Joe took me by Crest Cadillac to shop for a new car. This was before Ivey became Mayor. Son Joe was acquainted with the Mr. Ivey through the friendship of their daughters. Not wanting to show favoritism, Mr. Ivey passed us off to one of the salesmen.

Mayor Ivey's fairness followed him to the Mayor's office, and he was definitely a friend to the Hoover Historical Society. He was always available to discuss our needs and concerns. Even though we have a good relationship with those who followed Mayor Ivey, we do miss his friendship. —Inez McCollum



## The Hale Legacy on Shades Mountain

Gardner Hale bought 400 acres of land from Octavius Spencer on April 11, 1863. Most of it was located on Shades Mountain—320 acres—and the remaining 80 acres was located in Shelby County.

Gardner Hale was in failing health when he moved his family to the mountain during the Civil War. He hoped that the waters of the Chalybeate and Freestone Springs would restore his health. The area was nothing more than a rundown campground. With much hard work he, his children, and many hired hands transformed the area into a resort that became very popular with those who were constructing and inhabiting the newly created city of Birmingham. He called this place “Hale Springs.”

The Hales operated a boarding house named Pinnacle Hall where they received guests from all over Alabama who wished to enjoy the hospitality, cool summer breezes, and the breathtaking sights from the mountain’s crest.

After Gardner’s death in 1880, his daughter Hannah purchased the Hale residence and opened a second boarding house called “Liberty Hall.” She continued to run the resorts until her death in 1905. In 1906, a group of investors including Evan Presley Hale and William Marable Hale sold stock in a newly organized company, the Hale Lumber Company. They tore down the Hale houses and built the Bluff Park Hotel—which remained popular until a fire destroyed it.

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### Anne Mae Beddow *...continued from Page 1*

Anne Beddow devised a method of delivering pentothal sodium intravenously, along with oxygen, to soldiers undergoing surgery. “When administered properly,” Beddow wrote, “the patient could avoid the sensation of smothering” often experienced when using ether administered via a mask.

Beddow kept meticulous records of her work including a journal, medals and papers, published works, and articles about her. Anne Gibbons inherited these items after the deaths of both her aunt and her mother. The collection remained “hidden until 2014 when I read and inspected the Beddow collection,” said Anne Gibbons. She has since donated the collection to the *Alabama Department of Archives and History* where the items were digitized, and some of these images will be used in her talk.



Anne  
Gibbons

Photo by Jon  
Anderson in 2016

Anne Beddow returned from war to lead the state’s professional nursing groups and helped found the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1931. She also founded the Southeastern Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and in 2016, receiving the Alabama Women in History Award posthumously.



## It's March already!!

It's March already! This is the last month of the first quarter of 2019. The word "March" has held many places in literature and everyday conversation throughout the ages. I suppose the one that dates back farthest is "Beware the Ides of March," a warning soothsayers gave Julius Caesar. The Ides of March was on March 15 of the Roman calendar. Julius Caesar was assassinated March 15, 44 BC.

Another "March" term is "mad as a March hare". March is considered to be the mating season for hares. They reportedly have mad behavior during that time. I guess that is where "multiplying like rabbits" comes from! A similar one, the March Hare was a guest for tea in the story of *Alice in Wonderland*.

March weather can be very cruel. This has earned it the title of "Fickle March. We also often make the statement: "In like a lamb and out like a lion" or vice versa. We also have "March wind", another weather-related term. Back to Fickle March, it seemed that when my children were elementary school students, the week before Spring break (an important March occurrence) would be ideal and then reverse the week of Spring break. Those sons were definitely not happy campers. March wind is also perfect for flying kites if it isn't raining. I believe the most fun my sons had flying kites was while visiting their grandparents in Arkansas during one Spring break. They got out in the middle of a field away from electrical wires and flew those kites to their hearts' content.

March can be a beautiful time of year here in Alabama. We have beautiful blooming spring flowers in every direction. There are the daffodils, azaleas, forsythia, and many more. My Mother had a shrub that had the ugliest



form you ever saw, but it would bloom with beautiful, bright yellow color every March. She gave me some of that plant which she thought was Little March Rose.

I could not find that in any lists of spring blooming plant life. I asked different ladies the name of it. None of them knew; but thought "Little March Rose" sounded like it. I finally found it in a nursery catalog. My shrub no longer is "Little March Rose"— it is Kerria.

Besides being surrounded with flower and fauna in March, we also have March Madness, the basketball playoffs. If you don't appreciate March Madness, take a stroll through some of the beautiful gardens in our area.

—Inez McCollum



## Hale Legacy *Continued from Page 4*

The area eventually lost its appeal as a resort. Many housing developments were built on Hale land. The area's land was renamed Bluff Park. Some important residences that were built on Hale Land include the Hale-Joseph Home, the Little Yellow Cottage on Shades Crest Road, and other residences using lumber from the Hale Lumber Company. Most of these residences remain today, and you can see some of this wood at the Hale-Joseph Home during the Spring Tea.

Members of the Hale family, so instrumental in developing Shades Mountain, still live on or near the mountain. —Adapted from research by the HHS in the 1990s



## HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form

**Make checks payable to Hoover Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 360233 Hoover, AL 35236-0233  
Archive/Office 205-739-7316

### Types of Memberships

Individual	\$10
Couple	\$20
Sustaining	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Archives \_\_\_\_\_ Speakers' Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Research \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests & Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

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[Recipient]

