

the

Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society

Lover's Leap

By Jim Langley

A group of Hoover organizations, businesses, and citizens joined together on April 28th to clean up one of Hoover's oldest historical sites, Lover's Leap. The Hoover Historical society, the Hoover Rotary Club, Heather's Corner, the Tip Top Grill and a group of Hoover youth volunteers all pitched in for an afternoon of hard work. I would like to personally thank Heather Skaggs, Curt Reamer, Pat O'Brien, Larry Sparks, the Hoover Fire Department and all the young people who gave their time and effort to make Lover's Leap look presentable. Also, thanks to the others who planned and supported the effort. We made a substantial improvement at the site, but there is still some work to do, so we will have other opportunities and cleanup efforts in the future. If you'd like to help, contact me. — Jim Langley
JL091649@yahoo.com.



Grace O'Malley (Granuaile): Ireland's Pirate Queen

Have you ever dreamt of becoming a pirate and sailing the seven seas? Or, maybe of living a life full of adventure and danger? If so, come hear about Ireland's most famous pirate, Grace O'Malley... a woman who commanded ships, struck fear into the hearts of sailors and won the respect of a Queen. Listen as Terri Hicks regales you with Grace's adventures as a pirate, a wife and a mother.

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Save the Date!

Board Meets

May 15, 2019

Wednesday, May 15th,
at the Archive/Office
on Valleydale Road,
10 AM

General Meeting

May 21st, 2019

Program 1:30 PM @
Hoover First Baptist
Church, 2025 Patton
Chapel Rd.

Summer Board

Meeting will be

August 13, 2019 at

10 AM at the

Valleydale location.

Hale descendants attend Spring Tea

A Letter from Gregory Evan Thompson...

My recent visit to Birmingham, Alabama was a wonderful experience of meeting new people and seeing old friends and cousins, of which there are many in the Birmingham area.

I flew in on Sunday Morning, April 7th from my home in East Haven, CT and arrived at the home of Carlo and Dianne Joseph who had invited me to stay with them at their wonderful home built by my Great-Grandfather, the Hale-Joseph Home. This would be my fourth visit staying with the Josephs while visiting Alabama. They are and always have been wonderful hosts and friends.

I was pleased to be the special guest of the Hoover Historical Society Tea that was held at the Hale-Joseph home that afternoon. It was great to see cousins and friends again after a 17-year gap between this visit and my last one. Many of my cousins stopped in to visit, including Marshall Morgan, Wayne Morgan, Hanson Morgan, Richard Dabney and his friend Stephen Schaeffer, Donnie Olis, Nicki Linton, Sarah Polhemus, Ashley Fierman and last, but not least, Jim and Bessie Hatcher and their son Stephen. I would assume that there probably were a few more that I didn't get to chat with or else I may not have recognized or known all of them by looking at them. I have so many cousins in that area that I have not met all of them. We had set up displays that I had made many years ago, and brought one of my Hale family scrapbooks along with me to share. Everyone, not just Hale family members, seem to be very interested in them. The Mayor of Hoover also stopped by for a visit and took his picture with me and welcomed me to Alabama.

I had just finished an updated Hale Family Genealogy of *The Descendants of Gardner Cole Hale* which was in the form of an unpublished manuscript of 570 pages which I gifted to the Historical Society for their collection. What a better place to put my research than in the area from which our family settled in the 1850's from Swansea, Massachusetts!

I could hardly believe that 17 years had passed, because believe it or not, everyone looked the same; it was as if no one aged in all those years, which I suppose is a good thing. As always, Southern Hospitality is alive and well because as in the past, everyone made me feel so welcomed and special, as they had during my last three visits.

The Tea was a successful event as there were probably about 80 or more people who attended. I was asked to do a lecture on Tuesday, April 9th on *Beginning Genealogy* at a local Church.

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Greg Thompson, Ashley Fierman, Mayor Frank Brocato; Greg with Donnie Olis, Nicki Hinton, Sarah Polhemus. Lower right: James, Stephen, Bessie Hale Hatcher; Richard Dabney and Stephen Schaeffer.





Hoover Belles Audrey and Amelia graced our Tea; Jonathan Belcher of Signature Homes gifted two scholarships; and Greg Thompson presented his book to the HHS on April 9th.

An outgoing message from our president...

It has been my honor to serve as President of the Hoover Historical Society for the past two years.

As someone who has been active in the leadership of non-profits for over two decades, I realized that as an all volunteer organization, I would be wearing two hats: Board President and Executive Director because there is a lot of activity between scheduled meetings.

The Hoover Historical Society has a very special relationship with Hoover as its Official Archive; the City facilitated the move from the old Bluff Park Elementary School to temporary quarters at the Public Safety Center.

Thanks to HHS Board member Dr. Charles Hickman and Craig Kelley of the BOE for crafting a lease with the city for the 1/3-acre occupied by the Folklore

Center and its 1840's log cabin.

Thanks to former Mayor Frank Skinner for obtaining and erecting the cantilever shelving and his contribution of slightly used box shelving.

The Historical Society administers donated scholarship funds. Thanks to Signature Homes for sponsoring two new scholarships for graduating Hoover City Schools seniors—including the first for Skilled Trades.

Last, but not least, **thank you** to all the Board members who gave their time and expertise to advance the preservation of Hoover history.

I will continue to serve,

Arnold Singer

Passages...



Our Society lost two long-term members recently. Harriett Hall (81) passed away March 20. She was a lifetime member of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of female pilots (founded in 1929 by Amelia Earhart, et. al.,) and a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol.

E. Erle Smith (93) passed away April 22nd. He was a Navy veteran of WW II and had a long career at Alabama Power.

Our condolences also go to Marlene Rikard on the loss of her mother, Helene Hunt.

Please notify Corresponding Secretary Caroline Boone of losses, illnesses, congratulations, etc., at jboone8387@charter.net.



Spring Tea 2019

Hale-Joseph Home hosts guests

Once again Carlo and Dianne Joseph hosted the annual Spring Tea, as well as their special guest Greg Thompson. His visit and our event were in sync! Hospitality Chair for the Tea and the *Beginning Genealogy* class, Amy Lewis stated that 80+ guests attended. "Of course, everyone enjoyed Greg Thompson—lots of Hale cousins there. Greg brought two big books of Hale family history and later donated the collection to the historical society."



Stinson cabin open for guests, too!

Folklore Center Chair, Doug Harkness, opened the Stinson Ole Place to guests of the Spring Tea on April 7. He was joined by docents Inez McCollum, Pam Thompson, and Lou Harkness. About 60 people toured the cabin and chatted with HHS hosts.



Members hike to abandoned ovens, bridge

Members of the Helena Historical Society accompanied several HHS members to the Billy Gould Coal Mine and Coke Ovens in Shelby County. According to the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), the sites are located at the confluence of Buck Creek and the Cahaba River in Helena. According to HAER in 1992, their significance: "one of the earliest known efforts to exploit the mineral resources of the area...represents a crucial stage in the early development of the Birmingham Industrial District...Bill Gould [was] a pioneering prospector and miner influential in the early development of the coal industry—and by extension the iron industry—of Alabama." The now abandoned ovens were used to make pig iron. Arnold Singer, Deb Burtnett, and Caroline Boone hiked 3.1 miles to the site! Our thanks to Ken Penhale, Linda Wurster, and Sharon O'Shaughnessy for conducting our field trip!



Left, the bridge supports; below, 12 openings in the coke ovens.





This statue of Grace O'Malley stands on the grounds of Westport House, County Mayo, Ireland.

Grace O' Malley presentation

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Terri Hicks received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, with a major in history and a minor in art history. She then attended Graduate School at UAB where she received her master's degree in history with emphasis on early Birmingham history, 1871 – 1913.

Terri is an active volunteer with many of the historic venues in Birmingham, including Oak Hill Cemetery, Arlington Historic House and Gardens, The Lyric and Alabama Theatres and the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Since 2010, Terri has given more than 30 talks on topics that include Madam Lou Wooster, Amanda and W.P.G. Harding, the Hawes Riots, the Cahaba River Train Wreck, Holiday Traditions in the Antebellum South, Arlington House and Gardens, Notorious Women of Early Birmingham and Cemetery Preservation. She has appeared in two *Absolutely Alabama* segments — on Oak Hill Cemetery and on Arlington House and Gardens and has published several articles since receiving her degrees.

Currently, Terri serves as the Executive Assistant to Presidents Emeriti Charles Krulak and Dr. Neal Berte, at Birmingham-Southern College and teaches history in the evenings at Jefferson State Community College.

Hale Family, continued from Page 2

I always enjoy my visits to Birmingham for many reasons: first, the area reminds me of my homeland in Connecticut where there are rolling hills and mountains that are filled with pine, oak and maple trees. Second, I enjoy it because the people of Alabama are so friendly and welcoming, something that you don't usually see in southern New England. Connecticut is a beautiful state and has much to offer, but it lacks the kindness factor that you see in the South. Third, is that I have so many cousins and friends that are always glad to see me. All of this I would have never had the opportunity to enjoy, had it not been for my hobby of genealogy. And fourth, because my family's rich history is everywhere in the houses they built, the land they tilled, and the beautiful views of the Crest which lured Gardner and Ann Susan Ballou Hale to settle there.

I did a lot of research while there at the Court House and the Birmingham Public Library and came home with a lot of new records to add to my family history. You have a wealth of information in Jefferson County where the Hale family settled. I don't know if I'll ever get back to Alabama, as 6 years ago, I was diagnosed with Terminal Pancreatic and Liver Cancer (Stage 4) and I'm living on borrowed time, but if at all possible I will come back and visit all of you again.

I am so proud of my rich Hale history and the help that I received over the last 2 decades in gathering all of the pieces that I needed to put together a comprehensive genealogy and family history of our family. My thanks to Carlo and Dianne Joseph for allowing me to stay in the family home, and for treating me like royalty, and the Hoover Historical Society for being so welcoming and gifting me with a picture of the Hale-Joseph home and a rare Connecticut Book on the history of CT. The Hale family had such a big part in the settling of the area now called Bluff Park, and it's very important to me to be able to tell the story of what they accomplished and how they helped the area grow into what it is now.

I have made arrangements, that my original materials, documents, pictures, booklets, and manuscripts of the Hale family that are now in my possession will be transferred to the Historical Society after my death, for the use and benefit of those that wish to know the true history of Hale Springs, now "Bluff Park."

Very truly yours, *Gregory*



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: _____

The Hoover Historical Society

Archive: 2020 Valleydale Road Suite 108
Hoover, Alabama 35244
Mailing: PO Box 360233
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233
Phone: 205-739-7316

**Making Alabama Bicentennial
Exhibit at the Hoover Public
Library from May 2-30, 2019**

[Recipient]



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