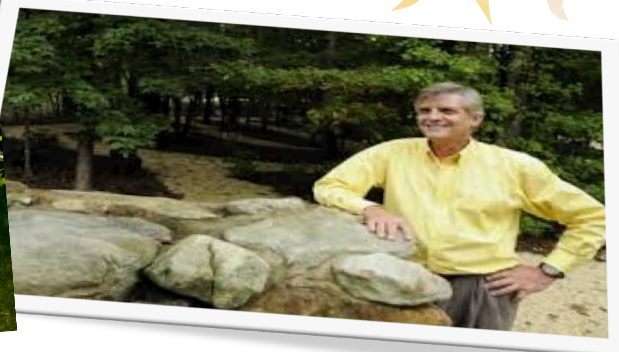


the

Hoover Historical Log

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



Schedule of Programs in 2019-20

September 17, 2019

Rip Weaver, Executive Director,
Aldridge Gardens: Discover Aldridge
Gardens...Again

November 19, 2019

Dr. Jonathan Bass, Samford
University, Alabama's Bicentennial

January 21, 2020

Jim Langley, President HHS, Hoover's
History in Pictures

March 17, 2020

Kelly Kazak, freelance journalist and
humor writer, Alabama Homesteads:
WPA in Jefferson County

May 19, 2020

Tim Pennycuff, Archivist, UAB 50th
Anniversary Presentation

"Discover Aldridge Gardens...Again"

In three short years Aldridge Gardens will celebrate its 20th anniversary as one of the top five free attractions in the State of Alabama with over 85,000 visitors per year— thanks to the vision of Eddie Aldridge, Mayor Frank Skinner and countless others who understood the value of a public garden here on this property.

Rip Weaver, Executive Director of Aldridge Gardens, is our guest for the September General Meeting. Hoover's botanical garden opened in June of 2002 focused on hydrangeas, which is still the case today. In addition to enhancing our hydrangea collection, several other collections and attractions have been added, many unknown to the general public.

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Save the Date!

Board Meets...
September 13

At the Archive,
Hoover Public
Safety Center,
Valleydale; 10 AM

General Meeting
September 17

Hoover Public
Library, 1 PM for
refreshments: 1:30
program

Save the date!



*First in a Series***Carl A. Elliott, Sr., U.S. Congressman from Alabama**

**Newly elected Congressman
with Administrative Assistant
Hershell McNutt, Sr., father of
HHS members Edna McWilliams
and Amy Lewis.**

From humble beginnings to national prominence

Editor's Note: For the past three years, Alabama has been celebrating 200 years as the nation's 22nd state. The Alabama 200 Commission has commemorated stories of people, places, and AL history—its path to statehood. This article remembers a legislator who served eight terms during which he initiated important educational changes that created mobile libraries and the National Defense Education Act that has funded

Carl Elliott was born December 20, 1913, in a log cabin in Franklin County, the first of nine children born to Will and Nora Elliott. His parents were hard working tenant farmers. The road that led Elliott away from Gober Ridge—a hard, hilly land named after Will Elliott's maternal ancestors—was paved with books. Elliott's grandmother taught him to read when he was 4 years old, reading to him from the Bible.

Although reading materials were in short supply in Franklin County, a Baptist preacher named Robert Rea made his personal library available to Elliott. The boy was allowed to take home two books a week and had worked his way through the entire collection – 100 books in all – within the year.

Elliott began dreaming of a political career at an early age. U.S. Rep. William B. Bankhead encouraged his aspiration during a campaign stop in Vina when Elliott was eight years old.

He held on to his dream for 26 years, and in 1948 he was elected to represent Alabama's 7th district in the U.S. House of Representatives. The slogan of his first campaign was *"From Farm Boy to Congress"*.

As a Congressman, Elliott opened up access to books for a new generation of rural children with the passage of the *Library Services and Construction Act of 1956*. In an April 1960 library bulletin, Elliott reported that he had continued to read two books a week since 1928, a habit that he continued the rest of his life.

Legislative Milestones 1949-1963

- Library Services and Construction Act – 1956
- National Defense Education Act – 1958
- House Rules Committee – 1961
- House Select Committee on Government Research: – 1963 - 1965
- First recipient of John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award – 1990





Left: Artist Vadie Honea imagined the Native Americans witnessing the arrival of settlers and military; Middle: Moss Rock boulders; Right: one of Jim's Hoover tours.

A message from our president ...

My name is Jimmy Langley, and I am grateful to be President of the Hoover Historical Society for the coming year. I would like to thank Arnold Singer for the tremendous job he has done for the last two years.

One of the things that I have been most involved with in the Historical Society is guiding history tours of Hoover. Some would say that the history of Hoover can't be much since it has only been in existence for 50 years. While the city government has only been around that long, the footprint encompassed by the City is rich with history going back before settlers from the East started to arrive after the War of 1812. While much of Hoover is brick-and-mortar and pavement, there are places one can go where you feel close to nature and your spirit is in harmony with your surroundings.

My Irish ancestors called these areas Thin Places. A thin place pulsates with energy that connects with our own energy — we feel it, but we do not see it. It is a place where the veil between this world and the eternal world is thin. Thin places relax us, yes, but they also transform us — or, more accurately, unmask us. It's a long way between Hoover and Ireland, but I have discovered thin places.

On a bright spring day, take a leisurely walk along Hurricane Creek in the Moss Rock Preserve amid the rushing water, waterfalls and the giant boulders. If you are lucky and you are the only person there, you're likely to feel a special closeness to nature and yourself. At sunset, go to the overlook near Lover's Leap in Bluff Park.

On a clear day, as the sun sets to the last green flash, you will be filled with awe and amazement at the radiant beauty. Walk along the path around the

In Memoriam

The Hoover Historical Society regrets the passing of Jessie Bean, a charter member of the HHS, in June. Jessie will be remembered for her kind spirit and devotion to service. A donation in her honor was made to the HHS.



lake at Aldridge Gardens when the hydrangeas are in full bloom. The beauty and wonder of it will overtake you. It's not always in nature where you feel this closeness in your spirit. Sometimes just sitting on the porch in a rocking chair at the Historical Society's Stinson Ole Place, our 1800s log cabin, can cause you to go into an introspective mood.

I challenge you to explore the Thin Places and if History is your thing, join us at the Hoover Historical Society. It's only \$10 per year. We hope to see you at our September General Meeting!

Best Wishes, *Jim*

Scholarships awarded in May

Education: times, they are a changin’

A new sponsor and a new award debuted in 2018-19 with ideas from within the Scholarship Committee, from the community, and educational trends. The Society’s charter members established the Vadie Honea HHS Society Scholarship in the late 1990s, and two scholarships are awarded annually with donations received from the public entities or members. This year, a Skilled Trades Scholarship was offered by working with Natalie Coleman, Career & Technical Education Specialist as well as Spain Parks’ Tracy Prater, and Hoover High’s Cindy Bond—College & Career Counselors for two students pursuing academic degrees. Jonathan Belcher, President of Signature Homes, made the Skilled Trades Scholarship possible.



Montarius Miles, above, with Arnold Singer at Spain Park’s May honors ceremony. Right: Gray Gurganus after receiving his award. Left: Pippa Lother and Pam Thompson at Hoover HS.



Everyone knows the cost of college degrees and student debt is in the news. The average price of a trade school degree—ranging from health care to mechanics, construction to computer specialties—is about \$33K compared to a bachelor’s degree at \$127,000. The high cost of college and needs of our society for hands-on specialists have created an opportunity for those who wish to enter the workforce immediately. The first winner of the Skilled Trade

Scholarship was Montarius Miles, whose career choice was influenced by watching “Go Build Alabama” commercials starting at age 12. As a result, he attended both of Hoover’s public high schools and was selected to attend the Academy of Craft Training. He was selected to intern with Fravert & Hoar Construction and accepted a full-time employment offer with McInnis Construction. He holds certifications in OSHA-10, NCCER Core, and NCCER Welding.

As always, two academic scholarships were awarded at Hoover and Spain Park High Schools. Pippa Lother wrote (in response to a prompt regarding Alabama’s 200th anniversary) about the state’s Constitution of 1901 and its many amendments. She wrote to the committee:

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. I, along with my family, am so grateful, and I enjoyed the freedom y’all gave when writing the essay topic. Carlo & Dianne Joseph sponsor the scholarship.

Graham “Gray” Gurganus researched the state’s secession as the most impactful event in Alabama’s 200 year history. He wrote in a thank you note:

I was able to learn a great deal about the history of our state and the extent to which the American Civil War negatively impacted it for generations...as a result of researching the essay prompt. Signature Homes sponsored this scholarship as well as the Skilled Trades grant.

Gray is matriculating at Harding University in Arkansas and Pippa at Duke University.

Montarius received \$1,000 worth of tools and supplies with which to begin his career.

HHS Officers installed at May meeting



Officers for 2019-20 are: (l to r) Pam Thompson, Jim Langley, Carolyn Kolar, Deb Burtnett, Caroline Boone, Edna McWilliams, and Arnold Singer; shown here with Mayor Frank Brocato.

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On May 21, Mayor Frank Brocato installed the Hoover Historical Society officers for 2019-20.

Officers for the 2019-2020 club year are President Jim Langley; Pam Thompson, vice president/programs; Carolyn Kolar, vice president/membership; Deborah Burtnett, recording secretary; Caroline Boone, corresponding secretary; Edna McWilliams, treasurer; and Arnold Singer, assistant treasurer.

The Hoover Historical Society is celebrating its 30th year as the official archivist of the city of Hoover, preserving documents and artifacts of the city's history, promoting knowledge of the city's history and educating children about the history of the life in the mid-19th century through The Folklore Center. (If you would like a copy of the special 30th Anniversary edition of *The Hoover Historical Log*, please contact us at our office e-mail address or contact any officer.)

<https://hooverhistoricalsociety.org/>
click on the resources tab

Aldridge Gardens

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This talk reacquaints everyone with Eddie Aldridge's dream for the property, progresses to where we are now and where we are going in the future!

Ellison Hendrixson, the membership Coordinator, is also planning to attend to answer any questions regarding membership in the Gardens.

The meeting is at the Hoover Public Library September 17th; 1 PM refreshments with speaker at 1:30 PM. Parking is free and plentiful; we hope to see you there!



The entrance plaza at the gardens features the Snowflake Hydrangea; the gardens in Spring (below.)



**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]