

the

Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society

Happy New
Decade!

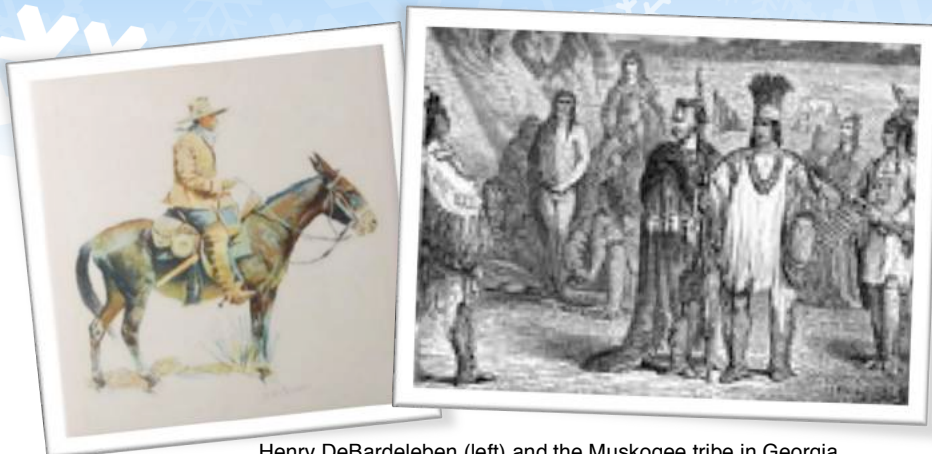
In an Opinion column by Peggy Noonan recently, I was moved by two quotations she cited appropriate for this season of the year, and decade. Written in 1961 by writer Laurens van der Post: "We live not only our own lives but, whether we know it or not, also the life of our time." We are all making history together, we are part of an era, and we are responsible to each other and to this great project, she added.

And, a dying musician, Warren Zevon, was interviewed on late night television and asked what he knew about life and death that the interviewer didn't know—his response: "I know how much you're supposed to enjoy every sandwich."

These are positive and optimistic attitudes with which we should face the new year and next decade, Ms. Noonan writes.



HHS officers at the Hoover-Randle House: Deb Burnett, Arnold Singer, Jim Langley, Pam Thompson, and Edna McWilliams.



Henry DeBardeleben (left) and the Muskogee tribe in Georgia

January's program: God willing and the Creeks don't rise!

In 1810, what is now the City of Hoover was a vast frontier. It was the wild west for that day and time. Only the most adventurous and daring residents of the new United States attempted to set up residence in Alabama, then within the Mississippi Territory. This central part of Alabama fell within the Muscogee, known to the settlers as the Creek Nation. There were very few permanent villages. The Creeks used the hills and valleys as their hunting ground and where they gathered with their Muskogee brothers to play their games of strength and bravery. Shades Mountain, the last of the Appalachian chain, was a special place to the Native Americans. The evidence can be seen in the Boulder Fields of Moss Rock Preserve to the outcropping along the bluff. The stories are many...

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Save the Date!

Board meets

January 14th, 2020

The HHS Board will meet at the Archive/Office at the Public Safety Center at 10 AM

General Meeting

January 21st, 2020

The General Meeting will meet at the Hoover Public Library; 1 PM for refreshments; 1:30 program

Spring Tea

April 19th, 2020

Join us at the Hoover-Randle House on April 19th for our Annual Tea, 2 PM to 4 PM

Celebrating Christmas at historic homes

Members of the historical society honored the spirit of Christmas with new activities during the 2019 season.

The Stinson Ole Place was opened for tours and a visit with Santa Claus on the front porch. The cabin was decorated with greenery and two small Christmas trees, with seasonal colors adorning a hay bale. Santa greeted children, their parents, several professional photographers making photos at the site, and two dogs!



The first annual Ho-Ho Hoover-Randle Open House took place December 8th to benefit Hoover Helps, a non-profit program that provides food and clothing for needy children on weekends and over the summer. Tahara Evans, Director of the Hoover-Randle Home & Gardens, asked a number of organizations to “Deck Our Halls” with themed Christmas trees. A panel of celebrity judges was on hand to judge the entries, and Mayor Frank Brocato and the Hoover Belles announced the winners and awarded prizes. Local CBS reporter Hillary Simon visited the home, reporting from there several times. Her favorite room? The library, where the incorporation papers for the City of Hoover were signed in 1957, featuring a tree decorated by historical society members.

The Hoover Historical Society won the award for *Craftsmanship*— thanks to hand-made ornaments from Bluff Park fourth graders, a quilter, Judy Collins, and members who crafted historical people and scenes from Hoover and Alabama into their ornaments. The organizations hope to make this holiday fundraiser an annual event!

To view, follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/CBS42News/videos/a-tour-through-the-hoover-randle-home-gardens-open-house-on-sunday/2418383121823562/>



Descendants of Mr. Hoover gathered in their former home; below: Hoover Belles deck the halls in their own lovely way!





To view more beautiful photos of the Hoover-Randle event, check out the home's Facebook page as well as that of Hoover Helps. Shown: *Craftsmanship Award*, the library where the incorporation document for the City was signed, and a photo of the Reagan family at the Stinson Ole Place.

A message from our president...

Our group took on a new project at the end of 2019—the Ho-Ho Randle Open House for Hoover Helps, an organization dedicated to helping children with food insecurity such as weekend meals, snacks, reduced lunches. Thirteen organizations decorated Christmas trees at the home to benefit the charity founded by Greg Bishop in 2014. We were delighted to participate and thrilled to win a Craftsmanship award for our tree—with help from members, a quilter, and fourth graders at Bluff Park Elementary. We also opened the Stinson Ole Place to Santa Claus and the public with much success!

I invite you to our January General Meeting at the Hoover Public Library, where my presentation will introduce you to both Hoover

and past Alabama history. The talk is the basis of my citywide tour that has proven popular for new and current residents alike. Perhaps we'll schedule another tour soon! At the meeting, we will also introduce our next slate of officers from the nominating committee, and welcome your input or volunteerism!

Our Scholarship Committee begins its work this month, including our second year to honor a Skilled Trades student, thanks to Signature Homes. Discussion for our Spring Trip as well as our Spring Tea is underway—we hope you'll join us for these activities.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Langley



Several Hoover organizations visited the American Village in Montevallo for their annual Christmas program, *A Colonial Christmas Lunch & Tour*. The program featured the Christmas Story and Carols in the chapel, a visit with Virginia O' Hanlon, and a Fete at the Barn and Meeting Room. After lunch, the group toured *Christmas Village*, a miniature town decked out for Christmas. Jim and Ann Langley arranged the tour.

Help Save Hale Springs!

By Larry Rodick, Friends of Shades Mountain

We have a treasure right here on Shades Mountain! If we act soon, and work with the City of Hoover, we can save it for your children and grandchildren.

That treasure is the Hale Springs property, located on the bluff side of Shades Crest Road, just east of the Tip Top Grill. The property, triangular in shape, consists of about 18 acres, including the longest open view from the crest and Hale Springs. The springs were the source of water for the original settlers of Bluff Park. Some say Bluff Park got its name from that stretch of road.

The owner wants to sell it but the Friends of Shades Mountain think it is too important to be developed. We would like to partner with the city to purchase it, preserve it, and possibly turn it into a scenic turnout. We need your help to convince the city that this is a worthwhile project, one that will enhance the property values of everyone in the area and will provide enjoyment for you and your family for many years to come.

We are asking you to contact the Hoover City Mayor and City Council members—asking them to work with us save this treasure. Contact them via telephone, e-mail, snail mail, or any way you wish. And let us know when you do, and what you hear back from them. Their contact information is:

Mayor Frank Brocato -

mayoroffice@ci.hoover.al.us 205-444-7500

Gene Smith, City Council President -

genesmith3rd@gmail.com

John Greene, President Pro Tem -

johnngreene3@msn.com

John Lyda - johnlyda@ci.hoover.al.us

Casey Middlebrooks -

middlebrooksc@ci.hoover.al.us

Derrick Murphy - derrickmurphy@ci.hoover.al.us

Curt Posey - curtposey@ci.hoover.al.us

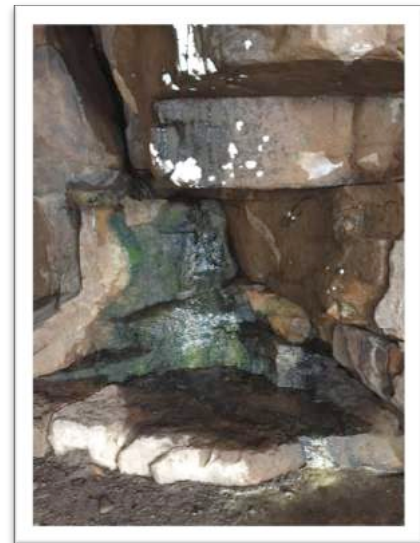
Mike Shaw - mike.shaw@hooverusa.org

Snail mail to any or all: 100 Municipal Lane, Hoover, AL 35216



Above: Old-timers at Hale Springs, ca. 1900.

Below: A cool rock cave and natural springs kept perishables 'refrigerated.'



Will you help?

Larry Rodick, President

Friends of Shades Mountain

friendsofshadesmountain@gmail.com

Note: The Friends of Shades Mountain is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that has been working for 16 years to preserve the steep northwest slopes of Shades Mountain. See more about us on our Website:

friendsofshadesmountain.org

Congressman Elliott gave us the bookmobile!

Part 3 of a series by Edna McWilliams

In 1955, Rep. Carl Elliott was able to move from Veteran's Affairs Committee to the Committee on Education and Labor. That is where he wanted to be, and with the seniority he had gained he was in position to play a major role in our national government. Another significant factor in achieving success for libraries and education was his close association with Alabama's Senior Senator, Lister Hill, who had served in the House and the Senate for a total of 46 years, having been elected to the House at the age of 28. Senator Hill was the Chairman of the Committee on Public Welfare, and also held the position as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations for Labor – Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1946, Senator Hill had introduced a bill to provide \$25,000 to States to improve libraries in rural areas; in the 1949-50 session the bill lost by three votes in the Senate.

With Elliott as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Special Education, Hill encouraged him to become the prime sponsor of the library bill in the House of Representatives. Together, Senator Hill and Congressman Elliott sought \$37.5 million to be allocated over a period of five years at the rate of \$7.5 million a year, to be used for buildings, bookmobiles, book acquisition, and scholarships to educate librarians. President Eisenhower openly supported the bill.

Working closely with librarians and educators from all over the United States, Elliott and Hill won passage of the Library Services and Construction Act in 1956.

In 1960, the Library Services Act was fully funded for \$37.5 million for another five years. This was a tremendous victory for all who had labored to provide library services for people living in rural Alabama. John F. Kennedy, then the Democratic nominee for President, sent a telegram to Carl Elliott from the campaign trail to congratulate him on his "magnificent fight". The Act was later enlarged to \$40 million per year for both rural and urban areas.

The impact of the Library Services Act was felt far beyond the borders of Alabama. By 1969, the number of counties in America without adequate library service had been reduced by two-thirds. Hundreds of new libraries and thousands of new librarians were serving

the public. At a 2018 event honoring Elliott, Mary Jolley, an administrative aide to Elliott, said, "If you've ever see a bookmobile riding along a rural area, you can salute the bookmobile and say thank you, Carl Elliott." (Photo from Wikipedia)



January's Presentation by Jimmy Langley: Writer, Artist, Storyteller

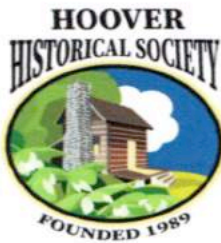
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"The Indian's life as it used to be,—that is the only life worth living" Colonel DeBardeleben says: "I'd rather be out in the woods on the back of a fox-trotting mule, with a good seam of coal at my feet than be president of the United States..."

Henry F. DeBardeleben founded Bessemer, the "Marvel City," in 1887 and as an industrialist made iron-making the primary industry.

"To sit on the rocks, to muse o'er the flood and fell, to slowly *beyond* trace the forest's shady scene, where things that own not man's dominion dwell, and mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been..." (Lord Byron inscription in rocks of Shades Mountain carved by Thomas W. Farrar in 1827).

Gardner Hale purchased resort property on Shades Mountain, renaming it Hale Springs. The central features of the resort were the two mineral springs thought to be very medicinal, one a Chalybeate spring and one a free stone spring. He developed the Resort and it became as popular destination for residents who lived in Elyton and beyond as a fresh air retreat to get away from the many Cholera epidemics in the Valle... These stories and more **To Be Continued** at our January General Meeting! See you there!!



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: _____

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E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Cell): _____

Interests: Publicity _____ Archives _____ Speakers' Bureau _____ Research _____ Newsletter _____

Other Interests & Skills: _____

The Hoover Historical Society

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Recipient