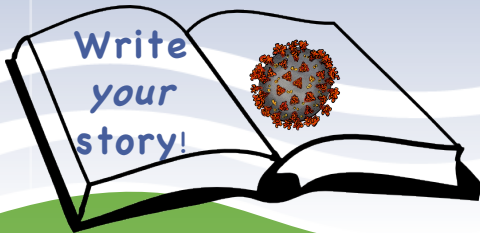


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Hoover Historical Log

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



History is chronicled from two main sources: primary and secondary. Primary sources are those created by people present at historical events either as witnesses or participants—and ranges from a receipt to a diary entry to by-lined newspaper accounts and/or images. An example of a primary source is Anne Frank's diary entries or Abe Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Secondary sources are created after a historical event by people/historians who rely on primary sources. A textbook, Website, biography, or encyclopedia entries are secondary sources, interpreted on the basis of facts and analysis of the era by an historian as to its accuracy.

You have an opportunity to record the history of the current event of the Covid-19 global pandemic by recording your experiences in a journal, clipping articles, scrapbooking, etc. The HHS would like to add your primary source work to files we are creating on the pandemic. Hints about recording your story are on Page 2 of this issue.



UAB historian's presentation to honor its 50th Anniversary

Tim Pennycuff will present a talk on the history of the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the May 19th General Meeting, currently scheduled for the Hoover Public Library at 1:30 PM.

Tim Pennycuff is the University Archivist at UAB and holds the appointment of Associate Professor in the UAB Libraries. Tim has spoken widely on UAB history, on the history of health sciences in the state of Alabama, as well as on segregated healthcare before the Civil Rights Movement.

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Save the Date!

General Meeting

May 19th, 2020

Tim Pennycuff speaks on UAB history at the Hoover Public Library, 1:30 PM or via Zoom on your computer!

Spring Tea

August 23rd, 2020

You are invited to the Hoover-Randle Home from 2-4 PM, 2255 Tyler Road.

Summer Board

August TBA, 2020

Meet at the Valleydale location at 10 AM.

Documenting the Covid-19 experience

Perhaps you've noticed casual family photos on your Facebook or Instagram timelines. A unique way of documenting this unexpected time with family is a porch portrait. The trend began in mid-March with casual group photos inspired by the Front Steps Project in Needham, Massachusetts. Even the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the practice. Co-founder Cara Soulin commented in the article, "The distance in the picture is part of the composition and part of the story." Families pose in their pajamas, sweats, or exercise clothing while both amateur and professional photographers memorialize these days at home. Professional photographers aren't getting paid but are requesting that the families donate to community food banks. To date (April 20), 20,000 porch portraits are on Instagram and Facebook #thefrontstepsproject.

Here are some ways to document this pandemic experience. Sharing your photos, e-mails, letters, texts, social media posts or journaling are all ways of creating a historical record.

- Keep a journal, diary, or scrapbook of what's going on in your daily life. These can be typewritten or handwritten, prose or poetry, words or drawings, or a collection of these in a scrapbook format.
- Address the question of how you and your family are coping—what has changed in your lives? Thoughts and impressions? And, don't worry about spelling or grammar.
- Once the crisis is over, collect your content in a single file, either analog or digital. Contact our office to donate your memorabilia or a copy of it. If you share a text, letter, social media posts, etc., please ask for permission to share the content.
- Contact the office or any officer of the HHS so that we can collect and/or copy your material for our permanent collection.
- For the sake of future historians, include as much of the following as you are comfortable including: Your full name, date of birth, place of birth, home address, etc. We will protect your identity at your request.
- Please let us know if you are interested in participating!

info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org.



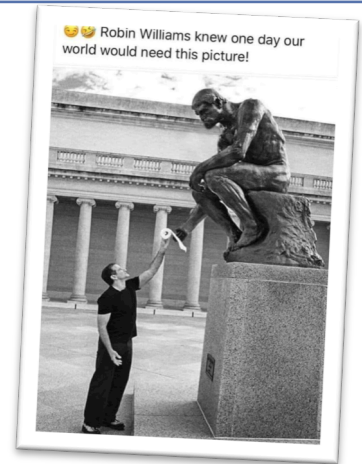
One family documented their unscheduled time together while taking a walk, working from home, and missing graduation!

And the People Stayed Home...

And people stayed at home
 And read books
 And listened
 And they rested
 And did exercises
 And made art and played
 And learned new ways of being
 And stopped and listened
 More deeply
 Some meditated, someone prayed
 Someone met their shadow
 And people began to think differently
 And people healed.
 And in the absence of people who
 Lived in ignorant ways
 Dangerous, meaningless and
 Heartless,
 The earth also began to heal
 And when the danger ended and
 People found themselves
 They grieved for the dead
 And made new choices
 And dreamed new visions
 And created new ways of living
 And completely healed the earth
 Just as they were healed.

Posted on Facebook as "historic,"
 SNOPEs' fact-checkers confirmed that
 Kitty O'Meara, a retired teacher and
 chaplain, wrote the poem March 16, 2020,
 posting it to her blog.





Various messages online encourage us, remind us to participate in our civic duty, and make us laugh!

A message from our president...

Dear friends:

The Hoover Historical Society wants your story to document this historic pandemic event in the lives of all the people of the United States. A detective on a late 1950s police drama said, "There are eight million stories in the naked city." And while Hoover is not as big as Los Angeles, there are lots of stories here. The coronavirus is one of those interventions in life like the snowstorm of 1993, the terrorist attack of 9/11, the Vietnam War or the stock market crash of 1987, where lives changed during and after the event.

What dramatic, humorous or maybe even tragic events have happened to your family or business during the coronavirus quarantine? If you will send or tell us your story, we will document those stories in the Chronicles of Hoover history. You can send the stories in whatever form you wish—to email the story, send it to info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org. If you want to submit a handwritten or hard copy, send it to our PO address. If you'd like to tell your story, call me at 205-980-1827 and we will put you in touch with a member for an oral history interview. In other words, we will accept your input in any form possible!

The quarantine had a dramatic effect on the Hoover Historical Society's plans. First, we had to cancel our general meeting in March. Then, we cancelled our Spring Tea scheduled for April. We will probably seek alternative

means for our meeting in May. And, we cancelled our spring trip to Montgomery's Legacy Museum in May. Personally, we had to cancel trips to New York City and to Atlanta to see *Hamilton*, a play my wife Ann has wanted to see for a long time. So, there were lots of disappointments, but also a respite from the toils and worries of life's activities. We got to 'stay safe' while 'staying home.'

One of our personal stories involves our roles as caretakers. Shortly after the quarantine began, assisted living residences restricted all visitors. Ann's 96-year-old father Hank was confined to his room at Galleria Woods. Even though we called him regularly, he still had little to do except walk the hall to an outside balcony. To cheer him up, we would go to Steak and Shake after 2 PM to buy him a milkshake at happy hour prices. We dropped the shake at the front desk. Once, Ann bought a dozen milkshakes for Hank and the entire staff. On that day, we took folding chairs and sat in the parking lot with a friend. We drank our shakes and talked to Hank, who had walked out on the balcony.

So, now we are looking out into the future, guessing when and how life might get back to normal. Some are saying May 1. The medical experts are saying, maybe not. Governors are saying, we will decide. The President is saying he will decide. But I suspect COVID 19 will decide.

Stay safe!

Jim Langley

UAB: making history in B'ham since 1969

Continued from Page One

He previously authored “Pigskins to Stethoscopes,” an *Alabama Heritage* article on football-playing physicians — or more accurately, on football players who eventually became physicians after their collegiate careers. Tim's most recent publication, co-authored with Charles Buchanan and with the assistance of a team of UAB staff, is the 200-page pictorial book, *Fifty Years of Dreams and Discoveries: The University of Alabama at Birmingham*.

Tim plans to give “a summary history of UAB, since we just celebrated UAB's 50th anniversary in calendar year 2019. Our first academic year was fall 1969-spring 1970, so technically we're still in the midst of the 50th anniversary of that first school year. I hope the presentation will help people understand how a medical center and branch commuter school grew into a major university that is a powerhouse for Birmingham and for Alabama.”

Tim is a past president of the Society of Alabama Archivists (SALA), past chair of the Science and Healthcare Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists, and a former member of the UAB Faculty Senate. He is a member of several societies and organizations, including SALA, the Society of American Archivists, the Alabama Historical Association, and the Archivists and Librarians in the History of Health Sciences.

Depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in May, Tim's presentation may be held via Zoom, a meeting application for groups online, and would be a first for the Society! If this is the method we must take for our last meeting of the club year 2019-20, we will provide specific computer online directions. Join us via Zoom on May 19th at 1:30 PM for Professor Pennycuff's presentation with a short business meeting to follow. The society will email the membership and post information on Facebook prior to the May meeting.



Read all about it in *Fifty Years*

Journey through time in *Fifty Years of Dreams and Discoveries*, a 200-page pictorial book that chronicles UAB's rise from a nascent university in 1969 to a leading doctoral research university today. *Fifty Years* was written by UAB Archivist Tim Pennycuff and edited by UAB Magazine Editor Charles Buchanan.

During the past five decades, UAB has literally altered the landscape of the city, changed the lives of people throughout the state and made academic and scientific contributions throughout the world. With its introduction by UAB President Ray Watts, M.D., and a foreword by community leader [Odessa Woolfolk](#), this book will appeal to those who remember when UAB was not a dominant presence on the city's Southside and also to those who can't imagine a time when it wasn't.

Drawn from the UAB Archives, *Fifty Years* unfolds the story of a once-fledgling academic medical center and university extension center that today is recognized by Times Higher Education as the No. 1 young university in the United States for the second consecutive year. The images celebrate UAB's evolution at every step — from the research breakthroughs and changing campus to the memorable people, fun fashions, and more.

Purchase *Fifty Years of Dreams and Discoveries* online at go.uab.edu/shop50 for \$34.95 or in the UAB Bookstore in the Hill Student Center. — **Haley Herfurth in UAB Reporter**

Alabama Rep. Carl Elliott: first winner of the Profile in Courage Award

by Edna McWilliams

In 1990, the year the Profile in Courage award was established, Elliott was living alone as a renter in a house he once had owned. After losing the race for Governor to Lurleen Wallace in 1966, Elliott cashed in his Congressional retirement fund to help pay off a campaign debt of over \$500,000.

Recognition far beyond what Elliott had ever dared to imagine came when he was selected out of a field of 5,000 nominees to be the first recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Shortly after the announcement was made, Elliott told *The New York Times* that the award and its \$25,000 stipend “mean a lot to me psychologically. And it will mean a lot in being able to eat for the next few years.”

Elliott received the award on May 29, 1990 — Kennedy’s 73rd birthday — in a ceremony held at the presidential library in Boston. Members of the Kennedy family, including Sen. Edward Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, presented him with the award, which was crafted by Tiffany & Co. in the shape of a ship’s beacon.

Sen. Kennedy praised Elliott as being “cut from a different cloth. He met the great political and social challenges of his day head on, risking the wrath and braving the insults of his constituents.”

Kennedy noted that Elliott’s political courage “is all too rare in any era in American history. But it is especially rare today, when so many elected officials are catalyzed by public opinion polls, mesmerized by special interest groups and terrorized by thirty-second spots.”

In a short acceptance speech, Elliott reaffirmed his belief in every American’s right to a quality education.

Mrs. Onassis, then an editor at Doubleday, took special care of her husband’s contemporary throughout his stay in Boston.

Over lunch on the day of the ceremony, she encouraged Elliott to write his memoirs. She made this happen immediately.

She sent Michael D’Orso, a writer, to work with Elliott. He lived with Elliott for eight months while helping him write *The Cost of Courage*, which was published in 1992.

The award and release of his autobiography brought Elliott national attention. In addition to media requests, Elliott was flooded with letters from people whose lives had been touched by the legislation he had championed. Today, the award is on permanent display in the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library at the University of Alabama.

In 1989, famed Alabama author Kathryn Tucker Windham wrote a personal letter to Elliott: “Every time I go into a public library or see a bookmobile, I say ‘Thank you, Carl Elliott.’”

More recently, in an article in *The New York Times* of Nov. 18, 2018, Michael Bloomberg’s giving \$1.8 billion for financial aid, stated that he was able to afford to attend Johns Hopkins University through a National Defense (NDEA) loan, and by holding down a job on campus. He stated, “My Hopkins’ diploma opened up doors that otherwise would have been closed, and allowed me to live the American dream.”



The late Senator Edward Kennedy, Carl Elliott, and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg at the Profile in Courage Award Ceremony in Boston, MA.



HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form

Make checks payable to *Hoover Historical Society*
 P.O. Box 360233 Hoover, AL 35236-0233
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