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Hoover Historical Log

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

From our president...

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2022! While the last year has been a stressful one for many, a new year has begun, bringing with it our chance for a fresh start. Let's pray that the Omicron variant is on the same page. A recent report ranking the best cities to live in each state confirmed what the City of Hoover proudly displays in front of its municipal center: Hoover is a great place to live. There has been some backlash because some groups have pointed out that Hoover was founded as a white enclave during the white flight from Birmingham. According to one of our former members, the PAST is not the Story, the REAL story is what Hoover has become and the direction we are going, despite Mr. William Hoover's presumed motives. Let the citizens and officials of Hoover **resolve** in 2022 to continue to make Hoover a better place to live for ALL its residents.

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Water, Water Everywhere: The Netherlands (Holland)

“There’s a country below sea level, where the past meets the future,” says James Lowery of his presentation *Water, Water Everywhere: The Netherlands (Holland)*. His presentation is set for January 18th when Lowery will discuss a “fascinating country that must deal daily with the dynamics of living below the level of the North Sea and that has dealt with water control and continual water removal since the 1200s.” Gorgeous photography illustrates his talk.

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Save the Date!

Board Meeting

January 11, 2022

The Board will meet via ZOOM at 10 AM; link will be sent via email.

General Meeting

January 18, 2022

The 1 PM General Meeting will be via Zoom; link via email or FB page.

Future Programs

March 15 & May 17

Dr. Marlene Rikard:
Pattie Ruffner Jacobs,
Suffragist; Haley
Aaron, Girl's Diaries
& Scrapbooks, ADAH



Activities of the HHS this past fall...

Lt. Col. Jim Langley, recipient of the Hoover Chamber of Commerce Freedom Award in August, was honored again at the *Thank A Vet! Hoover's Salute to Veterans in 2021* held at the Hoover Public Library November 7. A weeklong celebration for all veterans followed. Left: Brig. Gen. Paul Pocopanni, Mayor Frank Brocato and Jim Langley.

Moss Rock and The Folklore Center...

At the HHS tent for the Moss Rock Festival in November: Carolyn Kolar and Gilbert Douglas III; right, docents who worked with the Bluff Park Elementary students enjoyed lunch at the BP Diner.



Docents shown clockwise: Jim Langley, Gene and Sandra Fuller, Ginny Peterson, Mark & Becky Swindall, Pam Thompson.

Happy New Year! Advice from our president...

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I share my New Year resolutions: (poor grammar intentional):

“JUST FOR THE DAY, I won’t worry about nothing. I will worry about stuff tomorrow. I can stand on my head for a day if I have to. I’ll just make up my mind to be as happy as if I had good sense. I will get up saying, “Good Morning, Lord” instead of “GOOD Lord, morning”. JUST FOR THE DAY, I’m just going to be straight with myself and take things like they are. If I can’t change things, I’m not going to try. That’s like tryin’ to sneak sun-up by a rooster. JUST FOR THE DAY, I will get more book learning and plow new ground instead of letting weeds grow up in my brain. JUST FOR THE DAY, I will quit calling people bad names. I will say a fine “Howdy do” to everybody I meet and be agreeable, even if they’re wrong. I will always tell the honest to goodness truth. I will take more than one bath a week, hold my tongue when somebody else says something, and the only person I will give advice to is me. JUST FOR THE DAY, I won’t chew tobacco, drink a six-pack, and I will walk real fast from my Lazy Boy to the bathroom. JUST FOR THE DAY, I will have the guts to do what’s right and say I made a mistake when I do. JUST FOR THE DAY, I will be extra nice to my wife. If mama ain’t happy, nobody is happy. JUST FOR THE DAY, I will laugh a lot. Laughing is castor oil for the soul.”

Happy New Year! May it be a healthy one, body and soul!

Jimmy Langley



Left: John Archibald, Jimmy Langley, and Toby Richards of Arlington House; right, the Q&A session with Archibald.

Shaking the Gates of Hell...a book review

By Debbie Burtnett

History is often a subject not revered while growing up ('it's boring,' say students) and often events are hard to talk about—some folks don't want to look back. However, all sorts of people across generations wonder about "wasn't told to them in a context they could understand." Such was the case in Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1950s and '60s.

It's 1963 and major news events in the first half of the year included the introduction of ZIP codes; Hurricane Flora in the Caribbean; the closing of Alcatraz Penitentiary; the USSR put the first woman in space; and civil rights groups demanded, among other changes, an end to segregation in public accommodations. During the spring, civil disorder and bombings took place in Birmingham, allegedly by the Ku Klux Klan when children were attacked with dogs and firehoses during the Children's Crusade, one of several non-violent protests.

In the second half of the year, a space probe to Venus ended and Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech that moved President Kennedy, assassinated later that year, to introduce a strong federal civil rights bill in Congress. And, John Archibald was born, oblivious to these historical events.

When he wandered into his parents' basement looking for his Methodist father's sermons, he was

seeking answers to a 'What if?' question—"if I could have a conversation with my dad... [I would ask] what were you saying from the pulpit [during those tumultuous events]?" What he learned was that his father, a courageous and principled person, did not address these events in the pulpit. Why was there "a conspiracy of silence" about the events of Civil Rights movement? He "set course to find out why [my father and so many others] couldn't find words to specifically address one of the greatest problems of our day."

The outcome of his introspection is *Shaking the Gates of Hell: A Search for Family and Truth in the Wake of the Civil Rights Revolution*. Part family memoir, part "moral reckoning" (said a review in *The Washington Post*), John Archibald examines his family and church history, while challenging the "conspiracy of silence." The second half of his book deals with issues faced by the LGBTQ community and his hope that all of us "see the humanity in each other."

Editor's Note: John Archibald, columnist for AL.com newspapers, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for his columns.



Water control in Holland...

James Lowery is retired from an administrative position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and considers himself an "Amateur Scientist."

He is involved in environmental education and is a member of twelve Boards of Directors, Advisory Councils, and Commissions including ones related to environmental education, water quality monitoring, river protection, science and science research, historic railroads, an impact crater, and a retiree association. He serves as an officer on five of the Boards.

He gives presentations concerning constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, creeks and streams he has walked, the Historic Birmingham Mineral Railroad, the Wetumpka (Alabama) Impact Crater, the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, Antarctica, and the Netherlands. He conducts guided tours of the Wetumpka (Alabama) Impact Crater (Astrobleme) as well as interpretive guided tours of Shades Creek and local historic railroad sites.

He enjoys being on local streams and rivers as a member of the Friends of Shades Creek, the Birmingham Canoe Club, and other river organizations; viewing the daytime and nighttime sky as a member of the Birmingham Astronomical Society; and hunting fossils as a member of the Alabama Paleontological Society.



James has traveled to Antarctica six times and states that it is his most favorite place on Earth. He also has traveled on the waters of southeast Alaska assisting with whale acoustics research.

**James Lowery will speak to the HHS
On January 18th at 1 PM via Zoom. Programs are always open
and free to the public; login a bit early with link in your email or
from our Facebook page. This is a gorgeous presentation!**

Historical 1905 map presented to Archibald by HHS president

HHS president Jimmy Langley presented this 1905 map of the Patton Chapel area known as Refuge (now Hoover) to John Archibald at the joint HHS/Arlington presentation of his book reviewed in this edition. The map, a standard Geodetic Survey, was probably "the only one available to my father in early 1955!" stated Gilbert Douglas III, a constable with Jefferson County and longtime HHS member. His parents purchased 34.5 acres in 1954. The north/south hand-drawn line is the approximate location of the "new" US 31 four-lane road, built just before they located here in March 1955.



The Folklore Center is open again...y'all come!



Above: Pam Thompson teaches about Washday;
below: Peggy Patton and Ginny Peterson, both retired teachers, are docents.

During 2021, the Hoover Historical Society's Folklore Center—next door to the Bluff Park Elementary School—reopened with student visits and demonstrations about everyday life in Alabama during the early-to-mid 1800s.

In the Spring and Fall the Center was visited by two different homeschool groups that brought approximately 30 students in May and 35 in October. In November, 100+ fourth- grade students and teachers from Bluff Park Elementary School visited the Folklore Cabin right in their backyard. Each of the groups were greeted in the front of the cabin with a bit of story-telling and music where they participated in a sing-along.

The curriculum is organized around the grounds and building with designated areas or stations where a portion of the visitors spend 20 minutes learning or participating in demonstrations from volunteer docents and craftspeople. The stations include Quilting, Laundry Washing and Ironing, Games and Entertainment, Sugarcane Mill and Syrup Making, Cabin Building and Construction Techniques. Students tour both the main floor

and kitchen of the cabin as well as the upstairs living quarters where they are introduced to historical life and times of childhood's past. The tours conclude with more fun from the front porch with a story and more music and singing.

During the latter part of the year, the tours, lasting about two hours each, were conducted for the most part outside—where face masks were worn. In November the virus precautions were easing and we were hopefully seeing a virus-free future in which HHS members can share their knowledge and make the folklore visits a more routine part of the local elementary school student's educational experience.

Now with the start of 2022, we remain optimistic that the most recent virus outbreak will be short-lived and that the coming Spring will allow for the planning and execution of more events at The Folklore Center. With this in mind, we invite inquires from anyone who might wish to schedule an event in 2022 beginning in early spring. **Volunteers are needed—either docents or helpers for the cabin!**

Contact can be made through Gene Fuller at (205) 602-1793, or email at gene.fuller@remtech.biz or through Jim Langley at (205) 999-1313, or email at jl091649@yahoo.com.

So we are "Open Again" and looking forward to a virus-free year so that we can have the pleasure of enjoying the sparkle in the eyes of our young students as we teach them about everyday life in early Alabama!





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
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Interests: Publicity Archives Speakers' Bureau Research Newsletter

Other interests & Skills: _____

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[Recipient]



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