

the

# Hoover Historical Log

*The official newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama*



## Alabama's Pattie Ruffner Jacobs helped achieve women's suffrage

Our March program features one of our own members, historian Dr. Marlene Rikard, highlighting her research on Alabama's Suffragist Pattie Ruffner Jacobs.

Pattie Ruffner Jacobs was Alabama's leading suffrage activist. She founded the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association (AESA) and served as its first president from 1912-1916. After the Alabama State Legislature failed to pass statewide women's suffrage in 1915, Jacobs decided a federal amendment was the only way to guarantee women's suffrage. She left Alabama to serve on the board of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. After the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified, she helped transition AESA into a state affiliate of the League of Women Voters. She later served on the organization's national board of directors.

*Continued on Page 2*

## 'Hybrid' meeting set

The March General Meeting featuring Dr. Marlene Rikard, (left, shown with Montgomery artist Clydetta Fulmer), is going 'hybrid'!

This means you can join the talk via Zoom (link, p. 3) or attend in person at the Hoover Public Library (across from the theatre.) Either way, we hope you will join us and learn from one of Alabama's top historians.

## Save the Date!

### Board Meeting

March 8, 2022

10 AM via Zoom;  
link is shown on  
Page 3

### General Meeting

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1 PM via Zoom;  
the public is  
invited! Link is on  
Page 3

### AHA Meeting

April 7-9, 2022

Visit Historic  
Florence, to enjoy  
tours and presentation  
of papers by authors!





**Pattie Ruffner Jacobs**

## Celebrating the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment On its Centennial...

*Continued from Page 1*

Marlene described the events commemorating the 19th Amendment during the Pandemic. "Although the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of women's suffrage was in 2020, many of the planned events were canceled, delayed, or via Zoom because of Covid. The unveiling of the statue took place November 8, 2021, at the State Archives. An article appeared in *The Birmingham News* detailing the event on November 10, 2021."

She continued, "The artist, Clydetta Fulmer of Montgomery, gave a detailed description of the process by which she worked. The unveiling was done by Governor Ivy."

The public is encouraged to visit "Justice Not Favor: Alabama Women & the Vote," an exhibition exploring "the long fight to secure voting rights for women in the state . . . from the debate over the 19th Amendment through the modern Civil Rights era . . . which will be on display through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at Alabama Department of History and Archives in Montgomery.

Marlene Rikard is a retired Professor of History at Samford University and an Emeritus Professor of History. She taught US History Survey courses, New South, Women's History, Late 19<sup>th</sup>/Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Oral History for 37 years. In addition, she directed Samford's London Studies Program. Her areas of interest for research include not only Pattie Ruffner Jacobs (in collaboration with Dr. Wayne Flynt) but Roderick McKenzie, Alabama artist; the Welfare Capitalism of Tennessee, Coal, Iron & Railroad Company (a US Steel subsidiary) and the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



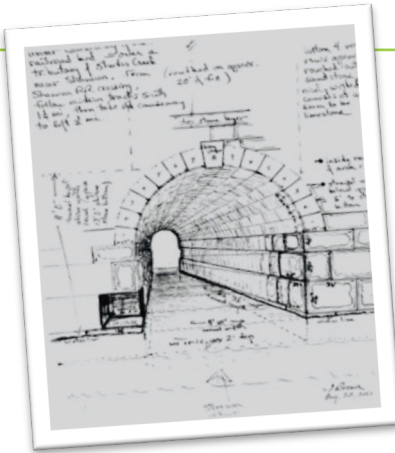
**Suffragists at the Birmingham  
State Fair, 1914**

## Shades Mountain Woman's Group Celebrates 50 years

On February 5, 2022, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held at Prince of Peace Church from 2 – 4 pm. Many early members attended including charter member Eleese Smith. The General Federation of Women's Club Alabama board members were also in attendance including state President Randy Matthews. Current members attending were Roberta Atkinson, Cathy Barker, Shannon Burns, Sharon Chapman, Jean Ingram, Patsy Martens, Diane Ray and Pam Thompson, all of Hoover and Jan Greer of Chelsea.

Today, 16 very dedicated members would love to have women of any age who are interested in volunteering to join us. Contact Pam Thompson at [pamrayt@gmail.com](mailto:pamrayt@gmail.com) to get on our newsletter list. Ladies meet the 2nd Thursday September-May at Prince of Peace Church at 6:30 pm.





Images: (l to r) mining the stone, construction of Ross Bridge Culvert (by Dr. James Brown) and the Parkwood Cemetery (2013 image by R. Roubdioux.)

## Local history includes one of the oldest cemeteries in Hoover

About 1854, the South & North Railroad constructed a stone bridge in anticipation of completing a railroad through Brock's Gap and Shades Mountain. We know that stone culvert today as Ross Bridge. If you go to view the bridge, you might wonder where the stones came from and how got there through the wilderness that this land was in the 1850s.

If you were to venture a short distance from Highway 150 up Shades Crest and navigated down the face of the Bluff, you would have your answer. The quarry where the stones were cut was literally across the creek from Ross Bridge. The remains are still there today. The stones were taken in an ox cart across a ford in Shades Creek.

This quarry is known as the Coward-Curren quarry for George Coward, who bought it in 1858 and the Curren and Urie families who operated it until the 1880s. They provided building blocks for the railroad and some of the first buildings in Birmingham, including Oxmoor Furnace. Members of these families can be found in the Parkwood Cemetery nearby, one of the oldest cemeteries in Hoover.

Check out our next meeting, either via Zoom or in person at the Hoover Public Library. Hoover may be a young city, but there's history here! Hope to see you March 15th!

*Jimmy Langley*

## Upcoming meetings...links

Topic: HHS Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
Time: Mar 8, 2022 10:00 AM  
Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88671909409>

Meeting ID: 886 7190 9409

Topic: HHS General Meeting  
via Zoom and In-person at HPL  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81193682665>

Meeting ID: 811 9368 2665





W. C. Handy Birthplace Museum

*Alabama Historical Association*

## 74th AHA Annual Meeting in Florence

The Alabama Historical Association invites you to join them in Florence for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, April 7-9, 2022. Last year's meeting was virtual, so this is the perfect time to enjoy history in person!

Thursday, Pre-Meeting Tours include "Village One," U.S. Nitrate Plant Village, a Garden City development designed by Mann & MacNeille Architects in 1917 to house U.S. Army Ordnance Department overseeing construction and operation of U.S. Nitrate Plant Number One. Also, registrants can tour Locust Hill, an 1823 Federal style house in Tuscumbia, and St. John's Episcopal Church, Tuscumbia, Alabama's oldest church built in the Carpenter Gothic style (1852).

A Thursday evening opening reception for the meeting will be at historic Pope's Tavern Museum, owned by the city of Florence. The museum exhibits focus on the history of the city and especially the role of Florence in the Civil War.

Friday's meetings at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center in Florence will have book sales and concurrent paper sessions on Alabama history, lunch, and an afternoon devoted to more touring. Sites available include Belle Mont Mansion, Indian Mound and Museum, Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, W. C. Handy Birthplace and Museum, WZZA Radio Station, and the Rosenbaum House, the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in the southeast open to the public. An Awards Banquet closes the Friday activities.

Saturday will feature additional sessions on Alabama history, the presidential address by Ben Severance at the Annual Luncheon, and a Film Screening of the Wallace A. Rayfield Story.

Registrants can attend all of or part of the annual meeting. Several Hoover Historical Society members will attend.

Full information, fees, and registration can be found on the AHA website, [www.alabamahistory.net](http://www.alabamahistory.net).



*Editor's Note: Recently, the HHS lost three long-time members of the Society. In Memory of Jackie Hall (who wrote a history of Berry High School), Grace Ann Moon Rabb (a past officer and writer) and Betty Tucker, a delightful 'Chaplain' for the Society with Words of Wisdom for many years!*



## Mayor delivers the State of City address

Mayor Frank Brocato visits several civic groups annually to deliver his State of the City address. The mayor was Hoover's first paramedic and at his retirement in 2015, had the longest career in the Hoover Fire Department—42 years! The mayor is currently serving his second term and feels "it is a tremendous honor to represent the citizens of this great city."

Highlights of the Mayor's State of the City address include:

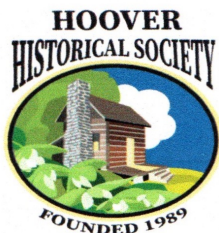
- The need for redevelopment in the City – Riverchase Galleria, Patton Creek, older neighborhoods brought up to date including more mixed-use communities.
- Quality of Life - The new entertainment district which will include the amphitheater; the new brewery coming online; the new center for the arts that being discussed; the new 43-acre park Signature Homes has given to the City of Hoover.
- Public Safety - Homicides were down 41%, robberies were down 23%; we added a new beat at the Galleria; the Fire Department achieved accreditation – the only municipal fire department in the state to have that distinction; E-911 communications center conducted almost 1.5 million radio transmissions.
- Fire Station #11 now serves the Stadium Trace area.
- HFD is one of 291 fire departments in the US and the only municipal fire department in AL that is both accredited and holds an Insurance Services Office Class Class 1 rating.



### Slate of officers announced by HHS

The Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 Club Year has suggested the following slate of officers:

Linda Joseph, President; Carolyn Kolar, V-P Membership; V-P Programs, Pam Thompson; Ginny Peterson, Secretary; Beverly Sublette, Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer, Mark Swindall, and Assistant Treasurer, Edna McWilliams. Voting is in March, Installation in May. Volunteers are welcome!



## 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 Log*

P.O Box 360233  
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

### Officers:

Jimmy Langley, President

V-P Membership, Linda Joseph

V-P Programs, Carolyn Kolar

Secretary, Ginny Peterson

Corresponding Secretary, Beverly  
Sublette

Treasurer, Edna McWilliams

Asst. Treasurer, Mark Swindall

[Recipient]