

the

Hoover Historical Log

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

You're invited! Open House

Carlo & Dianne Joseph and the Hoover Historical Society, and members of Bluff Park's founding family—the Hales—invite you to visit their historic home on **Sunday, May 15th, 2022, from 2–4 PM.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to tour the home and enjoy light refreshments while listening to Hoover High's Jazz Ensemble.

At 3 PM, we will acknowledge our Scholarship Winners for this year!

The Folklore (Pioneer) Center is right across the street and we invite you to tour—escorted by Hoover Historical Society members!



Haley Aaron



Diaries & scrapbooks offer a girl's view of history

Ever keep a diary or a scrapbook filled with your hopes, dreams, and memories? If so, you'll love our May speaker, Haley Aaron, as she presents Scrapbook at the Hoover Public Library May 17th at 1 PM.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History holds dozens of scrapbooks and diaries written by young women during the 1910s-1940s, and each is as unique as the girl who created it—using photographs, postcards, and magazine clippings. Scrapbooks and diaries provided a unique space for girls to reflect on their social lives, engage creatively with popular media, and

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Save the Date!

BOARD meets

May 10, 2022

Meet via Zoom; link sent in email

OPEN HOUSE

May 15, 2022

2136 Bluff Road— behind the school and near cabin; golf cart ride available.

General Meeting

May 17th, 2022

At the Hoover Public Library at 1 PM; open to the public, FREE!



It's spring at the Folklore Center!

Bluff Park's first graders visit The Folklore Center each spring. The Hoover Historical Society recruited new docents this past year and the learning keeps on happening!

Inside the Stinson's cabin, volunteer "grandmother", Sandra Fuller, explained items in the main room and kitchen—the 'original' open-floor plan! They learned about chores that even young children like them could perform, watched a spinning wheel spin, and heard a weasel, from 'Pop Goes the Weasel' song, pop! Hands went up to ask questions about quilting, churning butter, shoe repair, and storing food. More inquisitive ones asked, "How would you charge the cell phones if there was no electricity?" and another asked, "Do you live here all the time?" Sandra's answer? "Only when I have visitors as nice as you!" Upstairs, docent Ginny Peterson talked about family life where the entire family slept, studied, and played at the end of a long day of chores.



Outdoor demonstrations included Wash Day routines with Melissa McLemore while Pam Thompson talked about tools and "first things first"—e.g., what do we get from chickens? she asked while holding a small basket of eggs. "Nuggets!" shouted a student. Meanwhile, Jimmy Langley talked about making syrup from cane as he did as a youngster growing up in Alabama, and Pat Lewis demonstrated calming bees in their hive with smoke. Lin Lewis demonstrated candle making, essential for lighting in a time without electricity. Their field trip back in time to 1840 began with banjo music provided by Mark Swindall, with Becky Swindall leading the singing. To book a tour or learning field trip, contact Gene Fuller or any historical society member.



Top left: Lin and Pat Lewis; middle left, Ginny Peterson; bottom left, Melissa McLemore; top right, Sandra Fuller and bottom right, Becky and Mark Swindall with docents and Jimmy Langley in the background.

Alabama Historical Association (AHA)

AHA tours & programs make learning fun!

Linda Joseph and Pam Thompson attended the 74th annual meeting at Florence. Upon arrival, we saw an African-American lady with a cane at the hotel door. She was alone and we asked her to ride with us for the tours that afternoon. That is how we came to spend the next two days with Louretta Wimberly of Selma who was one of the activists of the 1960's Civil Rights era. She is a member of the Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council. She has many stories to tell.

The first tour was of the Old Schoolhouse at the Village One subdivision development. There we learned the most interesting story of the development of technology to produce Amyl Nitrate for bombs in 1917 for WW I. With huge amounts of labor, a factory was built in less than a year, but the war ended. The factory was then repurposed for fertilizer production, making it possible for farmers to increase the crop yields to feed the world. The Village One were concrete block houses with tile roofs used for the Army officers and families. The neighborhood is still occupied although it is out past the industrial area of Sheffield. The school was a Sheffield city school until the 1990s but fell into disrepair. In 2018 a nonprofit was formed to preserve it as a community center. The roof has been repaired and events are being held but much remains to be done. Musicians have recorded in the auditorium space.

Carrie Barske Crawford gave a talk about The Tennessee River in Northwest Alabama— there really are Shoals! The Muskogee Indians lived there 12,000 years ago. And we learned about the building of the Wilson Dam 1918-1926 for the Amyl Nitrate factory. Its completion became the beginning of the TVA, offering cheap electricity for the people of the South.

After lunch, we took Miss Louretta to visit the Belle Mont Mansion. It was the home of Winston, the namesake of Winston County. We received a nice tour and met Miss Charlotte Perrett who is 100. Her grandparents were enslaved on the 2,000-acre plantation. Then we visited the Rosenbaum home in Muscle Shoals, built by Frank Lloyd Wright. It was a model home for affordable housing, so it was added on to accommodate them. Mrs. Rosenbaum lived there until the 1990s. She oversaw its preservation as a museum. It is quite a time capsule of midcentury modern architecture.

Saturday morning in the business session, the officers reported. Scotty Kirkland, chair of the Marker Committee reported that six new markers are being placed this spring. One is at Arlington in Birmingham, describing the experience of the enslaved people who lived there. Applications for markers are available on the AHA website.

Dr. Diedre Dees, Archivist for the Poarch band of Creek Indians gave a presentation about the current tribes represented in the state. The Alabama Indian Affairs commission has resources online. In the breakout session, Monica Tapper of Wallace Community College spoke on Bossy O'Brien Hundley who was active in the state efforts for women's suffrage 1913-1915.

Outgoing AHA President Ben Severance spoke about the numbers of men from Alabama who served, were killed or wounded in the Civil War. He cited several sources including Leah Rawls Atkins, HHS Member. We enjoyed seeing familiar faces such as Dr. Wayne Flynt (who has a new memoir out) and Dr. Marlene Rikard and Liz Wells.

—Pam Thompson & Linda Joseph



Left: Linda Joseph, Louretta Wimberly, and Pam Thompson; center, Pam and Louretta; right, 100-year-old Charlotte Perrett whose grandfather was enslaved at Bellemont Plantation (inspired by T. Jefferson) where this photo was taken. She is showing her birth certificate as proof of her age! Louretta Wimberly walked the Edmund Pettis Bridge and is an encyclopedia of information about the Civil Rights movement.

Girls' points of view...

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express their deepest wishes for the future. Haley's work is featured in the book *A Girl Can Do: Recognizing and Representing Girlhood*, edited by Tiffany R. Isselhardt. In Chapter 5, *Spaces of Self: Girls' Scrapbooks at the Alabama Department of Archives and History* is relevant to this May presentation for the HHS. Her research shares highlights from a variety of sources, including 4-H scrapbooks, girl graduate journals, "scandal books," and a Great Migration diary. One reviewer, Professor Dr. Elizabeth Dillenburg, Department of History at The Ohio State University, Newark, writes:

"While scholars often marginalize the history of girlhood, this book demonstrates that the study of girlhood cannot be ignored and illustrates how taking girls' perspectives and experiences into consideration enriches our views of historical events, people, and places."

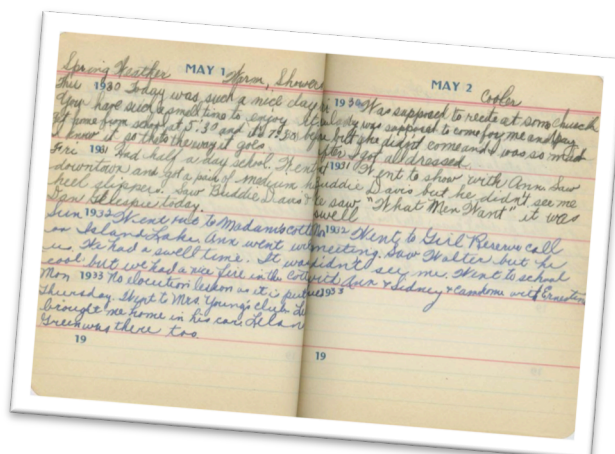
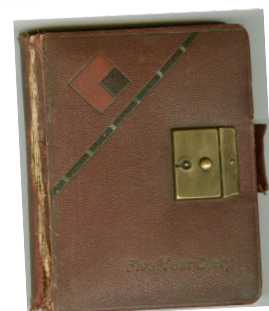
Another review of *A Girl Can Do* states the "key strength of the collection is its interdisciplinarity and how it brings together scholars and historians working on girlhood in a variety of settings."

The chapters are written in a clear and accessible way that will appeal to a wide audience. *A Girl Can Do* will interest readers, students, and scholars engaged in various fields, from public history and museum studies to gender and childhood studies.

Haley Aaron is the Manuscripts Archivist at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and history from Samford University, a master's degree in history from Georgia State University, and a master's degree in Library and Information Studies (MILS) from the University of Alabama. Haley's research has been featured on C-SPAN and in *Alabama Heritage* magazine. Her research on girl's scrapbooks is included in the book *A Girl Can Do: Recognizing and Representing Girlhood* published in April 2022. Since 2014, she has worked at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery, the nation's first publicly funded, independent state archives agency. A native of Cullman, Haley learned to appreciate the value of a great story from her grandfather, Jackie Hale. She is proud to preserve and share the history of her home state.



Diary of
Lavinia
Walker;
photos
from
Mingon
Singleton



A message from our outgoing president: “see you later...”

Back in the 60s, my father watched a gospel show on television every Sunday morning. The host always ended the program with this song, “May the Lord up above bless you real good, may you find happiness in your neighborhood, I’ve spent a lot of time praying that you would, may the Lord bless you real good.”

After three years as your Hoover Historical Society President, that is my wish for you. I’ll leave knowing that your new President, Linda Joseph, will guide you higher and farther as we go toward in the future. As I look back, this time is one of the most rewarding times in my life. I can only hope, in some small measure, I have given as much as I received.

New officers will be sworn in at the Hoover-Randle house on May 24th at 10 AM, and the public is invited. My last event as president will be our Open House at the Hale-Joseph Home on May 15. This will be a time for everyone to tour one of the most historical and beautiful homes in Bluff Park. In addition to touring the house, you can partake of the wonderful refreshments and enjoy the music of a special Hoover High School jazz band ensemble, as well as watching the presentation of scholarships to three worthy Hoover students. This event is open to all.

South Haven Nursing Home is one of the first businesses in Hoover. It opened in 1964, before the incorporation of Hoover in 1967. Mr. Fred Skelton collaborated with Mr. William Hoover to buy the land he had planned as the entrance to the original Hoover location. On May 6, the Hoover Historical Society will place a historical marker to recognize the significance of this pioneer business. In addition, we will have a guest speaker at our General Meeting on May 17th. My last month will be busy!

I can’t recall or address all the highlights of my time as president of the Historical Society. So

here is a list off the top of my head...just last month, we had the first- graders from Bluff Park Elementary at our Folklore Center. To see these young minds, absorb and enjoy all the information about how it was back in the pioneer days was truly a blessing.

Placing markers on the graves of Gardner Hale and his wife at Oak Hill Cemetery after over 100 years of being unmarked was special. The tour of Oak Hill and the lone bagpiper capped a wonderful day with the Hale family descendants.

Our collaboration with the Arlington Home and Gardens was a highlight culminating with a presentation by John Archibald, a Pulitzer award winner. Having Fred Hunter, a local weatherman and host of *Absolutely Alabama*, spend the day with us was a personal highlight. Of course, everyone enjoys James Spann, the weather authority in Birmingham. Carolyn Kolar lined up some really interesting talent for our bi-monthly programs. From water mills to windmills, she has done a great job.

My personal favorite thing to do has been leading history tours of the city of Hoover and the local area. I’ve also enjoyed taking trips to many destinations in the state of Alabama including Christmas at American Village, the Legacy Museum, and West Jefferson County.

I really appreciate the support of the Board and greatly appreciate their nomination for the Freedom Award this year. This is not goodbye, it’s just “see you later”. Thanks to you for all your support. Until next time...

—Jimmy
Langley





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: _____

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E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Cell): _____

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

Other Interests & Skills: _____

The Hoover Historical Log

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[Recipient]

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