

the

Hoover Historical Log

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



Historical markers: who needs them?

Leanne Waller-Trupp will open this year's series of programs on September 20 at 1 PM at the Hoover Public Library's downstairs meeting rooms. And, join us for lunch at the *Café 59* at noon to meet and greet our speaker! Waller-Trupp is the Coordinator for the Historical Marker Program and the Cemetery Program, as well as Section 106 Reviewer and ALDOT liaison at the Alabama Historical Commission. She worked as an archaeologist at the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for 16 years before transferring to the AHC in 2020.

Waller-Trupp conducts on-site reconnaissance surveys and archival research to identify archaeological and historical sites that might be impacted by proposed highway and bridge projects within certain time frames. Her evaluation of archaeological and historical sites determines eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Continued on Page 2

Programs for 2022-2023

September 20: Leanne Waller-Trupp will discuss the criteria for historical markers. 1 PM meeting; 12 noon luncheon at *Café 59* at the library.

November 15: T. K. Thorne, author of *Behind the Magic Curtain*

January 17, 2023: Karen Utz, Interim Executive Director, Sloss Furnaces

March 21, 2023: Beth Hunter, The Story of Quilts, History Professor at UAB

May 16, 2023: Native Americans of Jefferson County, Alabama Indian Affairs Commission

Save the Date!

Board Meeting September 13th

Meet at the Archive/Office, 2020 Valleydale at 10 AM

General Meeting September 20

General Meeting at the HPL; lunch at *Café 59* with speaker Leanne Trupp at 12 Noon

The Folklore Ctr October 23rd

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Folklore Center 2-4 PM; greet many guests from the past!



Jonathan Belcher (right) of Signature Homes has increased sponsorship of RC3 awards to \$4K.

Four students in Skilled Trades will qualify for awards. Jim Langley (left) congratulates Sierra Fox (above) on her new job and equipment.

Scholarships awarded

The past two years of a Pandemic have affected students around the world. Its effects are already historical, and scholarship winners Sreekiran Nataraj and Konnor T. Carrie of Hoover High and Spain Park High School, respectively, wrote about Covid-19 using prompts provided by the HHS Scholarship Committee.

Konnor focused on the confusion and inconsistency of information regarding the virus and the role of media in that regard, while Sreekiran thoroughly researched lab-leak vs. zoonotic origins. Both are attending University of Alabama campuses.

Sierra Fox, another Spain Park HS graduate, received \$1000+ worth of materials for her new job as a welder. She stated, "I'll use it wisely to ensure a successful career to provide for my future and contribute to my community...being a female in this career will open doors for other women and I feel I can inspire others to pursue this field."

Jonathan Belcher, Signature Homes, sponsors the awards for Spain Park High School and has increased his 2023 support to four students at RC3 and one college-bound senior. Carlo and Dianne Joseph, who sponsor the award for Hoover High (Carlo's alma mater), hosted these students and families at the Spring Open House of the historical society at their home in Bluff Park. The historical society is grateful for their support of our program for scholarship funding!



WANNA HELP US BUY A PIECE OF SHADES MOUNTAIN?

Friends of Shades Mountain Benefit Concert
Wild Roast Cafe, Bluff Park
Sunday, September 11th, at 6pm

Join us as we listen to some great live folk, mountain, and classical guitar music, as well as original songs by the President of the Birmingham Music Club.

Buy tickets in advance by check for \$25.
Mail to FOSM, PO Box 59651, Bham AL 35259.
Tickets will also be available at the door.

Larger donations are encouraged and appreciated!
Help us as we keep preserving the mountain, one lot at a time!!



The mission of Friends of Shades Mountain (FOSM) is to preserve and protect the undeveloped sections of Shades Mountain for the mutual benefit of all.
We are an all-volunteer, 501-C3 organization.
www.friendsofshadesmountain.org

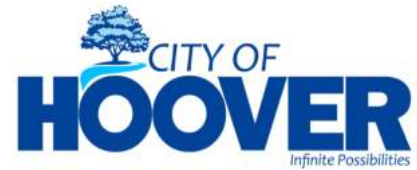
Historical Markers

Continued from Page 1

Leanne graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Classics and from Auburn University-Montgomery with a Master's in History. She is married with two daughters, ages 8 and 4, and lives in Montgomery.



Photo by David Gaines, 2021— as published in the Historical Marker Data Base.



Hoover has a new logo!

New officers for the 2022-2023 club year

Our immediate past-president, Jim Langley, has done a magnificent job with the Hoover Historical Society for the past three years—through a pandemic and even Zoom meetings. He set the course forward and never missed a beat. I cannot think of a better leader to have led the Historical Society through such times. Thank you, Jim, for being an inspirational leader—your knowledge of local history is unsurpassed, and your field trips are the best! We look forward to learning more about history from you.

Our officers for the 2022-2023 club year include Pam Thompson, First Vice-President and Programs Chairperson; Carolyn Kolar, Second Vice President and Membership Chair; Ginny Peterson, Recording Secretary; Beverly Sublette, Corresponding Secretary; Mark Swindall, Treasurer; and Edna McWilliams, Assistant Treasurer.

Mayor Frank Brocato installed the officers in May at the beautiful historic home known as the Hoover-Randle Home and Gardens. It is thrilling to know that a city as young as Hoover has dedicated resources to ensure our history is well documented via the Hoover Historical Society, which is the City’s official archivist. We all take our responsibilities seriously and pledge to make the city proud of our efforts.

To our members, welcome back! If you are new with us, we are so happy to have you. If you would like to become more involved, let me know. We are always eager to have volunteers at our Folklore Center, at our Archive, and of course as hosts and hostesses at city events such as Moss Rock festival and *Celebrate! Hoover*. Please share your ideas and suggestions for future programs, too. We look forward to seeing you.

Linda Joseph



Congrats to the Swindalls on Crouch Award

Each year, a person or persons contributing to the Hoover Historical Society in a significant way, is honored with the Jack Crouch Award.

Jack was a founding member of the HHS and developed The Folklore Center. He passed not long after his work on the Stinson Ole Place and its outbuildings was completed. The award honors exceptional service and dedication to the HHS and TFC.

For the past several years, a trend has emerged—contributions involving two people working together for the benefit of the group. Such is the case for the 2021-22 winners, Mark and Becky Swindall. Both are docents at TFC. Mark provided the music, produced, directed and edited a short film introducing TFC and its program to the public; Becky hosted the most successful Open House ever at the Hale-Joseph Home—featuring the First Edition Jazz Ensemble from Hoover High School under the direction of Sallie V. White. Video on Facebook and Website!

Spring activities set records!

Historical marker at South Haven dedicated

On May 6th, Mayor Frank Brocato, Jimmy Langley of the HHS and other distinguished guests dedicated an historical marker at South Haven Health & Rehabilitation, LLC, one of the oldest businesses in Hoover.



Hale family descendants hold reunion

Over 80 descendants of Bluff Park founder Gardner Hale gathered at the home of Carlo and Dianne Joseph in May. The home was built in 1910 and retains many historical features. Attending the Open House were (left) Judi Thompson Paige, Bess Hale Hatcher, Barbara Vance Knighton, Nicki Vance Linton, Gregory Evan Thompson, and Donnie Gay Ollis. Thompson is author of *The Descendants of Gardner Cole Hale*.

HHS Open House in May

Hoover High's First Edition Jazz Ensemble provided lively entertainment at the historical society's annual Open House. Sallie Vines-White, Director, is shown here with Carlo Joseph. The Stinson Ole Place was also open for visitors with



Coordinator Gene Fuller and his docent wife, Sandra, guided tours and discussed the many 1840-era items that furnish the home. The Open House was coordinated by Becky Swindall. Mark Swindall filmed the Jazz Ensemble and their presentation is available on our Website.

www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org

Spring Trip to Kymulga Grist Mill narrated by Ken Boyd

There was a full busload as Jim Langley led a group of historical society supporters toward the old Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge. Our driver and special guest was John Lyda, President of the Hoover City Council. We would like to thank him for his efforts to support the Historical Society. We were also lucky to have Ken Boyd, author of *Water Mills of North America*, as our expert commentator for the day.

The old mill and bridge are located just northeast of Childersburg. The structures date back to the Civil War and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The mill is still in operation today even though it is powered by electricity and not by the water-powered turbines. In its heyday, the mill could handle up to one million bushels of corn. During the Civil War, it helped feed the Confederate troops. Union soldiers burned most of the grist mills, but they missed this one. The old covered bridge was built to haul the grain across a nearby creek. It is located in the same locale and much of the structure is original. Local watermill experts told the group all about how the mill operated and the history of the operation.

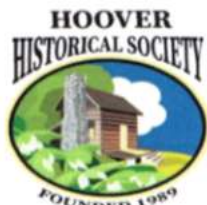
After departing the mill, the group headed toward lunch at Mama Rees on Highway 280. On the way, we stopped at the 4-Mile Farmers Market to look at the fresh produce. Most of us have never eaten at Mama Rees and we were in for a big surprise. Mama Rees is an all-you-can-eat food bar with Southern cooking and banana pudding. Most of the group would recommend this place for lunch.

However, we saved some space in our stomachs for the Bluebell Creamery in Sylacauga. After our self-guided tour of the ice cream-making

operation, we were treated to a double scoop of Bluebell ice cream for just one dollar. Our final stop was the quarry where the famous Sylacauga marble is mined. Sylacauga boasts of its whitest marble in the world—called *madre* cream marble—and many of the monuments and buildings in Washington and elsewhere are made from this marble. It was so lustrous that it blinded us and so reflective that even on a sweltering hot day, you could touch the large marble slabs and they felt cool. The rain forecast held off and we ended our day with happy travelers!



Photos by Ann 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: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Cell): _____

Interests: Publicity Archives Speakers' Bureau Research Newsletter

Other Interests & Skills: _____



The Hoover Historical Society

P. O Box 360233
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

[Recipient]

The Hoover Historical Society, a 501 C (3) organization, publishes *The Hoover HistoricaLog* five times annually. Editor: debbie.burnnett@gmail.com