

the

Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society

Happy New Year!

Society plans memory book...

What do you remember? We want your memories of early Hoover. Do you remember Hale Springs, Camp Andrews, The Hoover Civic Club, the Crawford Fire Tower, Patton Chapel School or even moonshiners? Help the Hoover Historical Society gather and preserve these memories. Contact us via email, our website or Facebook:

info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org

www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org

or

www.facebook.com.



Sloss Furnaces: Past, Present & Future

Ty Malugani, Education Coordinator at Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, will discuss Sloss at our January 17th meeting at the Hoover Public Library at 1 PM in the downstairs meeting room. As always, the program is free and open to the public.

Ty has served as Education Coordinator at Sloss since 2017. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's in History from UAB, specializing in Southern history after the Civil War. He began at Sloss as an intern in 2011 while an undergrad at UAB and volunteered and interned at the site until 2017 when he became full-time.

The history of Sloss Furnaces began in 1881 when James Withers Sloss created the Sloss Furnace Company to smelt iron ore into pig iron, or iron ingots. It operated until 1970 and remains Birmingham's longest continuously running blast furnace site in city history.

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Save the Date!

Board Mtg.

January 10, 2023

At the
Archive/Office at
the Public Safety
Center, 10 AM

General Mtg.

January 17, 2023

Ty Malugani
speaks on Sloss
Furnace at Hoover
Library at 1 PM

Next up...

March 14 & 21

Board meeting and
General Meeting
3/21 with speaker
Beth Hunter "The
Story of Quilts"



Quilts of Valor honor Hoover vets



What is a Quilt of Valor? A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, “Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.”

Three quilts were awarded area vets in November at the Hoover Senior Center. Honorees were Lt. Col. Jim Langley who served during the Viet Nam era and the Persian Gulf—earning a Meritorious Service Medal as well as 2021’s Hoover Freedom Award; Marine Master Sergeant David Byrd who served during Viet Nam, the Persian Gulf, Desert Shield and Storm, and holds the record for ‘smallest recruit ever’; and Petty Officer 1st Class Virginia Albright, who served during Viet Nam, Desert Shield & Storm, and was one of the first women on active duty while expecting.



Top: The Sew and Sews created the Quilts of Valor including Marilyn Milstead (Leader), Judi Mitchell, Jan Tennant, Barbara Casey, Janice Peek and Flo Thompson. Below, Ann and Jim Langley with Beverly Sublette.

Quilts of Valor was founded by Catherine Roberts in 2003, whose son Nat was serving. She experienced a dream, or a vision of her son wrapped in a quilt and interpreted its meaning as **Quilts = Healing**.

Since then, more than 300,000 quilts have been awarded. These quilts are created specifically for each veteran. As Roberts states on the Website, “I knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a ‘charity quilt.’ A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine stitching.. It would be ‘awarded,’ not just passed out like magazines or videos, and would say unequivocally, “Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation.””

For information about qualifications for a Quilt of Valor, see the Website or Facebook page for your area.



Looking toward the city of Toledo, Spain. Three faiths worshipped peacefully in the same city and even in the same building, Jewish, Christian, and Muslims for hundreds of years. Hence, the Holy City of Toledo!



The Virgin of Montserrat, made of wood, is believed to date back to the beginning of Christianity and was hidden in a cave for centuries; placed in a monastery in the 13th century where she has resided ever since.

A message from our president...

Can history be separated from stories? I've begun noticing that more and more people will start telling a story when a place is mentioned. It might begin, "We used to live in..." and someone else will join in with, "Oh, I remember that place. They had a ___" And suddenly the old place becomes tangible, and all the people listening can see, feel, taste or otherwise experience the subject of the story as if they were there, too.

My husband and I recently spent a couple of weeks in Portugal and Spain where we met up with VP Pam Thompson and her husband.

Talk about history! Every cobblestone, building, each step was filled with history! Several places were UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Calahorra Tower in Cordoba, built upon the first century B.C. Roman bridge. Much of this bridge dates to the 8th century during Islamic domination. Later in the 1600s, statues were added including a sculpture of St. Raphael.

We found the same pattern of Christian, Islamic, and Christian rule repeatedly throughout Spain.

Can you imagine the countless stories of battles, secret escapes, more battles, domination, and power that were told?

In Ronda, we visited the largest bullring in Spain, the *Plaza de Toros de Ronda*. Bullfights are now held only once a year in November. Also in Ronda, the Puente Nuevo (New Bridge) that dates to 1759—not new by our standards—is the newest of three bridges that span a 300-ft. chasm and is carved from stone. Even cave dwellings were found in this area. Fascinating!

Even though Hoover is a young city, it isn't too early to collect memories. Maybe these will be shared by tour guides when Hoover is over 300 years old!

Happy New Year!

Linda Joseph

Ginger Cake Recipe

Caroline Boone and Carolyn Kolar toured the McAdory, Owen, and Sadler pioneer homes for Christmas and picked up this recipe for Ginger Cakes:

¾ cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 beaten egg
¼ cup molasses
2 tsp. soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ginger
2 cups flour

Cream shortening and sugar. Add the egg and molasses; mix well. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to the shortening mixture. Mix well. Roll into walnut-sized balls and roll in sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 7-10 minutes. These are crisp, sugar-coated, delicious cookies!

Annual Bluff Park Christmas Parade

The 7th Annual Bluff Park Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 3rd. The day was drizzly and rainy but that did not hamper the enthusiasm of excited participants and spectators.

The parade began on Cloudland Dr. behind the Bluff Park Elementary—which made our Folklore Center a prime viewing spot. And, the cabin was open for visitors. Signs created by Marjo Gann directed the way. Artist Sandra Fuller decorated the cabin and made individual snowmen for the children to color and take home. She estimated 30 visitors enjoyed the cabin. The Fuller grandkids waved from the second story window at the crowd.

The parade's theme was "Nostalgic Christmas." Entrants decorated their floats from their favorite decade or story. Sponsorships helped cover the costs of insurance and the services of the police department.

Mayor Frank Brocato drove a golf cart at the head of the parade. Councilman Mike Shaw played the drum in a four-piece band that was enthusiastic while wife Shelley was decked out as a Santa majorette.

Floats from church groups, businesses and families were decorated and filled with kids. Children along the route came with Wal*Mart bags to gather candy thrown by marchers and children from the floats. Boy and Girl Scout groups, the Hoover High Band, Simmons Middle School dance team, cheerleaders, and more also marched.

The historical Hale-Joseph House was the staging area for the horses and riders from the Forward in Faith Ranch.

The 2022 float winners were the Simmons cheerleaders, the Seewald Family (*Home Alone*), the Simmons Dance Team, the Hoover Public Library and Rickels Family (1959).

—Carolyn Kolar



Top: Artist Sandra Fuller used Marjo Gann's artwork to invite visitors to the Stinson Ole Place while her grandkids greeted guests from the second floor window.

Middle and bottom: The Rickels Family shared their vintage vehicle while kids decorated their snowmen to take home for their own trees.

Riverchase hides remains of Acton Mines



As you may know, past president Jimmy Langley schedules tours of Hoover to acquaint new residents and membership with the history of the area. Recently H. Scott Sheedy participated in one of those tours and shared information about Acton mining in Riverchase. He included two photos, shown above.

The sign was erected during the construction of the Riverchase Golf complex, between the fifth and sixth holes, in the mid-1970s. Sheedy stated that during the construction of a home on top of the ridge, a boulder destroyed the original. So, he made a replacement in 2008.

Sheedy related that “over nearly 40 years, I have played golf at Riverchase...[and] witnessed several incidents that showed remains of mining. While mowing on a hillside on hole 4, a tractor dropped into a large hole. After removing it, we examined the area and determined it was the remains of an early mine tunnel.”

Our Society thanks Scott Sheedy for this information and his story and photos are filed in the HHS archives.



**Just before the turn of the century
This path was actually the “Loop”
For the old L + N Railroad for taking
Coal from Acton Mines to the main
This cut carved by hand with black
Powder and mules was built about 1890
The loop crossed the old Montgomery
Highway and connected with the main
Parts of it still exist including
The bridge abutment on the Cahaba River
The line was in service until the mid 1930’s**

Sloss...continued from Page 1

Over this time, Sloss grew to one of the largest pig iron producing corporations in the world. The Sloss Furnaces site has



connections to all aspects of Birmingham history, as well as post-Civil War Southern and United States history. It also speaks to the engineering and technology of the 20th century. Today, Sloss Furnaces is a National Historic Landmark where visitors can learn the history, science, and technology that made Birmingham possible. Sloss also hosts the Sloss Metal Arts program, which offers public iron pouring demonstrations, and classes on casting, blacksmithing, and welding. Thousands of students each year visit Sloss to learn the history and watch an iron pour from the Sloss Metal Artists. Sloss Furnaces is a symbol of why Birmingham exists, and a testament to the workers who made it all possible.



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: _____

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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