

S U M M E R 2 0 2 3

the Hoover Historical Log

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



Got a memory?

The Hoover Historical Society plans to publish a 'memory book'—an anthology (short works such as essays or a variety of writings) of pre-Hoover and early Hoover history.

We need many short pieces or stories of memories, events, poems, a photo, book, postcard—whatever you might like to share for our memory book.

Do you remember Hale Springs, Camp Andrews, Hoover Civic Club, the Crawford Fire Tower, Patton Chapel School or even moonshiners? One of our members owns the **Refuge** sign from an early post office, and has shared early maps of the area, etc.

We even have a ghost story!

Contact us via email, our Website or Facebook.

info@hooverhistoricalsociety.org

www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org

or www.Facebook.com

Poarch Band archivist to share Muscogee tribal history

Our May speaker is Archive Director for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, AL, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees who “strives to preserve tribal history while sharing the story of Muscogee people with future generations.”

Dr. Suwanee Dees/family descend from *Hotvlkvike* (Wind Clan) following the *Mvskoke* stomp dance traditions. She teaches Native American Studies at the University of South Alabama, Tribally sponsored.

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Save the Date!

Board Meets...

May 9, 2023

At the Valleydale location at 10 AM, Suite 108

General Mtg.

May 16th, 2023

With speaker Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, at 1 PM, Hoover Public Library

Folklore Center

May 18th

8 AM till 11 AM— all are welcome! We host Bluff Park Elementary first graders!

Annual Spring Open House (& Art Show) at Hare Farm

A good time was had by all...

The Hoover Historical Society hosted their annual Spring Open House, Sunday April 30th, at the Hare Farm (formerly Smith Farm) in Bluff Park.

It was a beautiful day, albeit *windy*, and a variety of events attracted an enthusiastic crowd. It was great to see current members, former members, and welcome new members in addition to local friends and visitors interested in learning more about Hoover and its history.

Thirteen artists registered for the art walk, including specialties such as pine needle artwork. Peggy Patton displayed 19th century tools used to 'walk an acre' and build homes and barns during that era. She also teaches this material as a docent when the Society hosts school field trips at the Stinson Ole Place.

Mark Swindall and his band, *Jim 'n I*, provided lively music and some guests danced!

Mayor Frank Brocato gave the welcoming address with an emphasis on the importance of volunteers in the growth of Hoover, now the sixth largest city in Alabama with a population nearing 100,000. He noted that the Society serves as archivist of Hoover's history.

David Hare, owner of Hare Farm and of the Bluff Park Ice Cream Shoppe, welcomed guests and spoke about his plans for making Hare Farm accessible to the public as an event location, a new pavilion under construction, and a nice pond for children to enjoy fishing. His ice cream truck provided for a cool refreshment onsite!

The Society's Scholarship Committee members recognized Hoover High's recipient, Alexander Brockmann, presenting him a certificate for a \$1,000 grant from Carlo and Dianne Joseph of Bluff Park, owners of V & W Supply. We hope to see you next year!



David and Teresa Hare *Jim 'n I* band; members of the Society with Hare and the mayor, Alexander Brockmann with Mayor Brocato and Dianne Joseph.





Daniel Pratt Gin Factory (1830s),
Mt. Sinai historical marker



...living history!



Looking back over the past year with the Historical Society, I realize how much I have learned about various historical places and times in our area. Jim Langley's Spring Bus Trip took center stage as he organized a local tour of Hoover, a Fall Foliage trip to Mentone, and a stop at the Wildflower Café, and most recently to historic Anniston, where our local guide filled us with information on the local churches and people. We toured the Anniston Museum of Natural History and the Berman Museum and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Classic on Noble.

I took several trips where I saw amazing sites of historic note: one to Huntsville and another to Wetumpka. A third trip that took me to Prattville was amazing. The Pratt Cotton Gin Factory is being renovated into apartments—keeping the charm of the original buildings; the old town just across the river is thriving, and the historic groups in neighboring Autaugaville are hard at work to maintain their proud history. For example, the Mount Sinai Rosenwald School that was built in 1919 to serve the local African-American community is being maintained with authentic furnishings and the Daniel Pratt Cemetery overlooking the mill area is pristine. The Buena Vista Mansion has the most incredible molding, and other homes are likewise in beautiful condition.

Did you know that Prattville is known as Fountain City? Numerous clear-running springs are in the area, including a fountain just behind Prattaugan Museum where you can take a refreshing drink. Small business owners are at the center of the town, including the Hansen Fine Art and Pottery, where Julianne Hansen and her family, staff and volunteers created over 2,000 red ceramic poppies for the Alabama Poppy Project and Memorial Day celebration. This lovely open-air display is a weeklong exhibit.

Here in Hoover, the Smith Farm has been purchased and divided, but the barn and grounds have been refurbished by David Hare. Our Hospitality Chair, Becky Swindall, met with Mr. Hare's staff, who, with a true community spirit, allowed us to have the most wonderful Open House in their barn. By reaching out to local artists, we hosted a wonderful Art Walk, complete with *Plein Air* artists on the grounds. Music was provided by Jim n' I, (Mark Swindall and friends) which lent a wonderful atmosphere to the event. Mayor Frank Brocato brought greetings and reiterated the importance of the Hoover Historical Society with its mission to archive and maintain Hoover's history. And, with Bluff Park Ice Cream Shoppe truck on hand, it was a festive and wonderful occasion.

Finally, the HHS Board met and wrote a Strategic Action Plan. More information will be forthcoming, but we are counting on every single member to be actively involved as we forge ahead into the future. A survey will be sent, and we ask that each member respond. After all, YOU are a colorful thread in the tapestry of Hoover's history.

Linda Joseph

History of the Muscogee people...

For a decade, she taught at Pensacola State College and the University of West Florida. A graduate of USA, Cornell, and Harvard, she focuses her work on equity for the underrepresented.

She also wrote the “Carciari Research Report” to support the Tribe’s position held in trust which was impacted by the US Supreme Court’s decision in *Carciari v. Salazar*.

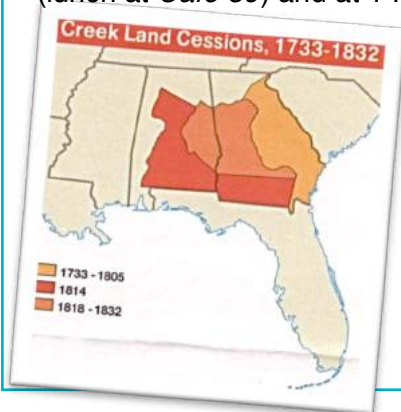
She served as Museum/Cultural Director culminating in the grand opening of the Tribe’s Museum, *Kerretv en Cuko* (House of Learning.) It houses a treasure trove of artifacts on Creek/Mvskoke history from pre-European contact to present day.

She and her husband live in a tribal subdivision, and she works at tribal headquarters.

A student as well as a teacher, she takes weekly lessons in the Muscogee language, which she describes as “beautiful but challenging.” She is also an author of a variety of works, including poetry. Her works are published in over twenty collections including the Birmingham Arts Journal.

She notes that the Tribe had “a lot of allies in white missionaries in the area. “That’s another story I’d love to write. I have a lot of books inside me that I’d like to write.”

Let’s welcome Dr. Dees at lunch at *Café 59* in the Hoover Public Library on May 16th at Noon (lunch at *Café 59*) and at 1 PM for her program!



A series of treaties took Creek lands. Today, the Poarch Creek of Atmore, Escambia County, reside on the only remaining officially recognized lands in the state. — Encyclopedia of Alabama



The Stinson Ole Place

Spring means a Folklore Field Trip!!!

The Folklore Center, docents and members are hosting the First Grade Students from Bluff Park Elementary on Thursday morning, 8-11 AM, May 18th. We are also cleaning and “fluffing the grounds” around TFC on May 15th, from 9 till 11 AM for anyone that wishes to help. Six demos for the students are scheduled:

- Tour of both floors of the cabin along with talks of what pioneer life was like in the 1800
- Pioneer children Games and Toys
- Pioneer washday
- Pioneer tools and how they were used
- Early Quilt Making
- Either Beekeeping or Syrup Making from Sugar Cane

Students are divided into six groups and spend about 15 minutes at each demonstration. The entire event takes place in about 2 ½ hrs. We will ‘sing along’ some favorite early childhood songs with a harmonica player carrying the tune. All HHS members are invited to come and enjoy observing the fun and learning that students experience while attending this event. And the Mayor might show up!

—“Uncle” Gene Fuller, Caretaker

Let's create a Bluff Park Preserve!

Friends of Shades Mountain (FOSM), working with the Hoover Historical Society, is promoting the creation of a Bluff Park Preserve on Shades Mountain. The non-profit mountain preservation group is asking the City of Hoover to include it in their upcoming Parks and Open Spaces Plan.

The preserve would include three adjacent properties: Lover's Leap, the property at the old Tip Top Grill, and the 18-acre property including Hale Springs. These scenic/historic sites would provide the following for the people of Bluff Park, and indeed, for all of Jefferson County:

—Shades Valley and Red Mountain, including awe-inspiring sunsets.

—Preservation of the historic Hale Springs, which include the old chalybeate springs that were thought to contain medicinal benefits by the old Bluff Park residents. This would include improvement of the old trail leading to the springs, and eventually tie it into the larger trail system being developed along Shades Creek.

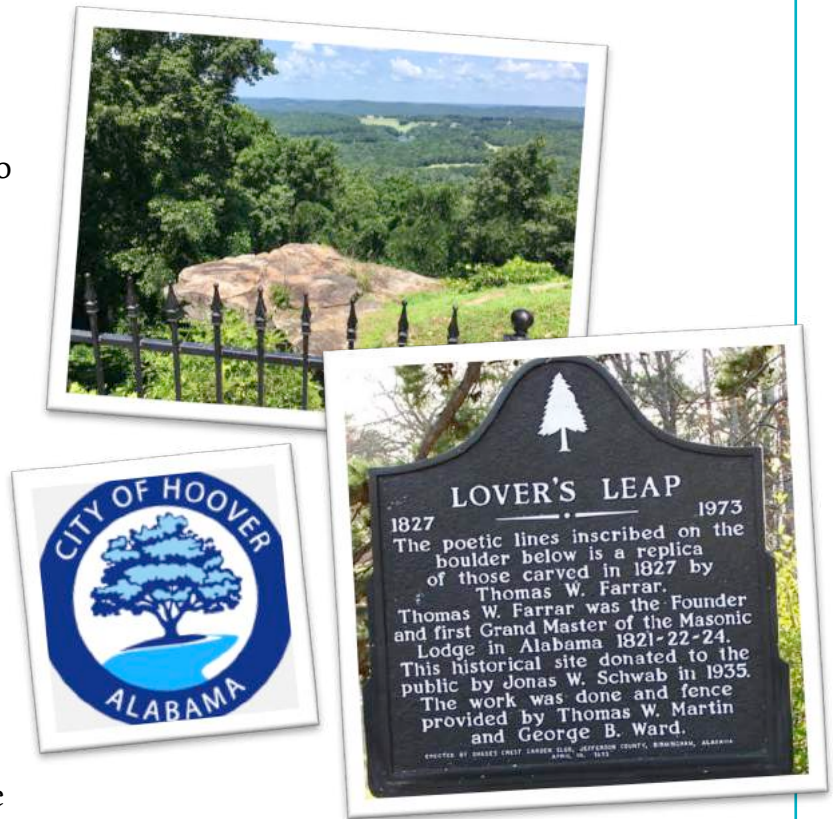
—Parking for those visiting the preserve, including overflow parking for the businesses across the street.

—Reconstruction of the old Fire Tower from years ago, on the site, to provide a vantage point for those wishing to get an even better view of the valley and beyond.

This is a bold vision...let's make it happen!

Contact: friendsofshadesmountain@gmail.com or

Larry Rodick, President FOSM
P.O. Box 59651
Birmingham, Alabama 35259



Meetings to discuss the idea will be held at the following locations:

May 8th, 5-7 PM at Shades Crest Baptist Church

May 9th, 5-7 PM @ Spain Park High School Library

May 11th, 5-7 PM, @ The Finley Center

If you cannot attend, please urge Mindy Wyatt to include our ideas in the Plan:

Mindy S. Wyatt
Strategic Analyst | PMP, PMI-PBA
Office of Economic & Community
Development
City of Hoover, Alabama | 100 Municipal
Lane | Hoover, AL 35216
Phone: 205-739-7129



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: _____

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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

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[Recipient]