

the

# Hoover Historical Log

*The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society*

## New Officers!

Each year a slate of officers is nominated and presented at the March General Meeting. Approved were:

**Deb Burnett, President**

**Carolyn Kolar, VP Programs**

**Pam Thompson, VP Membership**

**Ginny Peterson, Secretary**

**Caroline Boone, Corresponding Secretary**

**Paula Watts, Treasurer**

**Edna McWilliams, Asst. Treasurer**

**A brief installation of these officers is scheduled at our May meeting.**

Below: Edna, Deb, Carolyn, Paula, Ginny, Pam, Mayor Frank Brocato, Mark Swindall, Jim Langley, Linda Joseph at Open House.

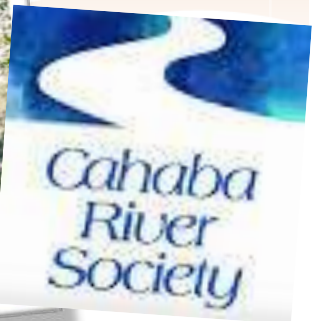


Photo courtesy of UAB Marketing and Communications/Andrea Mabry

## A river runs through Hoover...

The Cahaba River is Alabama's longest remaining stretch of free-flowing river and a global treasure trove of biological diversity. It is the primary drinking water source for one-fifth of the state's people in the Birmingham metro area. Flowing from its headwaters northeast of Birmingham, AL, until it reaches the Alabama River southwest of Selma, the Cahaba River is 194 miles long and drains an area of 1,870 square miles (per the Cahaba River Society.) ***About Halley Cotton, our May speaker, Page 4 & article continues Page 5***

## Save the Date!

### Board Meets

**May 14, 2024**

The Board will meet at the Public Safety Center at 10 AM

### General Mtg.

**May 21, 2024**

Hoover City Hall location at 6 PM; enter the building & turn left

For more info, see *The Cahaba: A River of Riches* by Michelle Nijhuis in the August 2009 Smithsonianmag.com



Left: Dr. Posey with first tier; middle left, Hospitality Chair Becky Swindall with Bess Hale Hatcher, descendant of the Hales, founders of Bluff Park; Mark Swindall, sound man and videographer; Below, Ann Langley, Sandra Fuller and Linda Joseph served cookies (made by Dottie Flaherty) and lemonade to guests!

## Spring Open House

What a wonderful Open House!

Becky (Swindall), first and foremost I want to commend you for another fabulous Open House/Membership Drive today. The work that you and Mark (Swindall), along with rest of you, put into making this day such a success is sincerely appreciated! The flowers were lovely and the lemonade and cookies were a huge hit (thanks to Dottie, Ann, and Sandra for serving!)

I wrote to the Superintendent, Board members and Bumpus principals to let them know of the outstanding musical performance given by the jazz band and to thank them for their collaboration between our organization and the school system. Thanks so much for securing them!



Mark, thank you for manning all the sound equipment, the video of the cabin, photographs, and for the signage and display board setups. The triangle board was a favorite among visitors. I know it was a lot of time and work, but be assured it was noticed and deserves a huge thank-you! One of our scholarship winners, McKenzie, and her family were highly appreciative of the recognition and joined the HHS. Her mom will be retiring soon and, with an empty nest, says she will have time to be part of our group. Debbie, thank you for making this a wonderful experience for high school seniors and for taking photographs.

Ginny, you are always a pleasure to work with and your positive outlook lends a wonderful atmosphere. Paula, thank you for setting up and taking down tables and helping with registration. We love your work ethic! Carolyn, thank you for keeping our table and records—ensuring membership is accurate.

Edna, thank you for manning the second table and greeting our guests and members with such friendliness. Pam, thank you for obtaining tablecloths that added so much to the ambience. Gene, you and Sandra are so appreciated for all of your work. Jim and Ann, of course, are an important part of this group and are commended for all the extra effort you put into the Society! To all of you, words can't convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude...I feel I am the world's luckiest person to have worked with you all these past two years as president! *Linda Joseph*







Photos by Paula Watts

## Rocky Ridge 1<sup>st</sup> grade visits the Stinson Ole Place

Jim Langley (above right) greeted the first grade students from Rocky Ridge Elementary under the guidance of Rachel Wingate on April 19<sup>th</sup>—their first visit ever!

A fresh breeze blew through our cabin door at the laughter of children who discovered that history isn't confined to textbooks—now new footsteps echoed on our time-worn cabin floors.

We greeted the children and divided the young explorers into groups (or stations) to learn about the past pioneer life. Along with our regular docents, the Davis family (Amber and her four children and her parents!!) became living exhibits in their frontier attire and demonstrations. Home-

schooling unfolded before their eyes!

Ginny, Amber, and Linda described home life in the mid-1800s, upstairs and down! Marjo 'toyed' with the students; Melissa did the laundry; Peggy laid the foundation of a home, discussing sowing, reaping, and using tools; Judy shared the mystery of quilting and Dottie told stories behind her homemade dolls, treasured by children who lived in this cabin. Storyteller Jim wove tales of wild animals and toured the outhouse, smokehouse, plumping and syrup mills, the corn- crib, the barn and finally, the trusty farm wagon!

Mark closed with music of forgotten tunes—a bridge between our centuries! *Y'all come agin'!*



## Artifacts returned...

*Hoover Board of Education member, Craig Kelley, reached out to the HHS to return an art piece presented to the BOE years ago. The framed plaque from the Stinson Ole Place contains items found at the cabin before it was moved to Hoover. It includes unidentified coins from 1860 and 1861, an arrowhead, and a piece of wood.*

*Left: Carolyn Kolar, HHS VP-Membership and Superintendent Dr. Kevin Maddox hold the plaque at the Board of Education office.*

## A river runs through Hoover...

### About Halley M. Cotton

Halley M. Cotton is the managing editor of the *Birmingham Poetry Review*, contributing editor for *NELLE*, and production manager for both publications. She is the founding director of the *SPARK Writing Festival*, and her work has appeared in places such as *The Greensboro Review*, *Poetry South*, and *Smokelong Quarterly*, among others. She is the recipient of a 2023 State Council on the Arts Poetry Fellowship which funded *The Cahaba Project*. Cotton teaches freshman composition and literature at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. When she's not busy kayaking or finding four-leaf clovers, she's studying folklore and writing/reading poetry.

*Right: The curvy line in this Hoover logo is the Cahaba River! Above, Halley's kayak!*



## Scholarships awarded to HHS, Spain Park seniors

Three prompts are offered to seniors—eliciting their response in a 1,000 word essay. This year's recipients of \$1K to the college of their choice are McKenzie Blackledge from Hoover High and Katie Scarlett Swiney of Spain Park High School.

Scarlett wrote about community service and volunteerism in an essay entitled "Giving Back Shaped My Character." Scarlett wrote that her service has developed "gratitude and empathy within me..." She plans to attend Auburn and major in Biomedical Sciences.

McKenzie Blackledge responded to a prompt on Alabama's lengthy and controversial Constitution of 1901. With background learned in her involvement with Hoover's Law Academy, she used the mindset of an historian to propose "a bipartisan and impartial panel tasked with rewriting Alabama's 1901 Constitution..."

She will attend Georgia Tech and study Global Business and Business Technology. McKenzie attended the Society's Open House at The Preserve and met the sponsor behind her award (shown above, left), Carlo & Dianne Joseph. Scarlett's award was sponsored by Jonathan Belcher of Signature Homes. **Congrats!**



## About the Cahaba River...

Along its path, it flows through Hoover, hardly noticed by most of its residents. From the Trussville area, it flows under I-20/59 and continues south where it goes under I-459 twice near the Liberty Park exit where many cars pass over it every day. Continuing, it goes under Hwy. 280 amid one of the busiest areas of Hoover, near the Cahaba Pumping Station Museum. It flows into Hoover proper and passes under I-65 and Hwy. 31 in the Riverchase area. Further south, it passes under Hwy. 52 near Helena. From there it continues by the little town of Marvel, to the National Wildlife Refuge near West Blocton, where the Cahaba lilies bloom in May. It flows on through Centreville, past Marion, and eventually joins the Alabama River near Selma, at the site of the Old Cahawba Archeological Park.

The Cahaba is the main drinking water source for the Birmingham Water Works Board, which serves about one-fifth of Alabama's people. This "peopleshed" of residents and businesses who depend on and value the Cahaba River encompasses over a million people. The Cahaba River Society serves as a protector of the river. In addition, they work with many statewide partners to strengthen water resource protection policies at the state level benefiting all the people of Alabama. While the bulk of their members live in the watershed or "peopleshed," they also have the support of many members throughout the state and across the nation who value the Cahaba River and believe in their work. Their work also serves the diverse freshwater creatures who depend on the Cahaba. The Cahaba has more species of fish per mile than any other river in North America and is nationally and globally significant for freshwater biodiversity by conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy and The World Wildlife Fund. — Cahaba River Society

Historical Sites on the Cahaba River offer a fascinating glimpse into Alabama's past, from its early settlement and industrial development to its role in the Civil War and efforts to preserve its natural heritage. Whether you're interested in history, nature, or both, there's something to explore and discover along the banks of the Cahaba River.

Old Cahawba Archeological Park: Old Cahawba was the first capital of Alabama from 1820 to 1826 before being abandoned due to flooding and the capital subsequently being moved to Tuscaloosa. It was once a thriving antebellum town with a population of over 3,000. Visitors can explore the ruins of several historic structures, including the site of Alabama's first statehouse, the Crocheron

mansion, slave cabins, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Interpretive panels and guided tours provide insights into the town's history and significance. The park offers walking trails, picnic areas, and opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing. Special events and programs are also held throughout the year, including reenactments and archaeological digs.

Cahaba Prison: Cahaba served as a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War, primarily housing Union soldiers captured during battles. Conditions at the prison were harsh, and many prisoners suffered from disease and malnutrition. While little remains of the prison today, visitors can explore the site and learn about its history through interpretive signs and exhibits. A small cemetery where some prisoners were buried is also located nearby. Visitors can take self-guided tours of the site and reflect on the experiences of the prisoners who were held there. The nearby Old Cahawba Archeological Park also offers additional insights into the Civil War era in Alabama.

The Cahaba Pumping Station was constructed in the late 1800s to provide Birmingham with its first municipal water system. It played a crucial role in the city's development and growth during the industrial era. The station features well-preserved machinery and equipment used for pumping water from the Cahaba River to Birmingham. Guided tours are available, allowing visitors to learn about the engineering and technology of the time. Visitors can explore the historic pumping station, including the engine room and pump house, and learn about its significance in providing clean water to the city. The station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge: While not a historical site in the traditional sense, the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Cahaba River Basin. It encompasses diverse habitats, including bottomland hardwood forests, wetlands, and the Cahaba River itself. The refuge offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, and kayaking along the Cahaba River. Visitors can observe a variety of plant and animal species, including rare and endangered ones such as the Cahaba lily and the vermilion darter. The refuge has several trails and boardwalks for exploring its natural beauty, as well as interpretive exhibits and educational programs. Bird watching is particularly popular, with the refuge being home to numerous bird species. —Pam Thompson





**HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Membership Form**

Make checks payable to *Hoover Historical Society*  
P.O. Box 360233 • Hoover, AL 35236-0233

Or pay online via Pay Pal at our website:  
[www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org)

Types of Membership	
Individual	\$20
Couple	\$30
Sustaining	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL:) \_\_\_\_\_

<p>INTERESTS: Archives/Historical Research ____ Folklore Center Volunteer ____ Other ____</p> <p>SKILLS: Computer ____ Fundraising ____ Publicity ____ Leadership ____</p> <p>SPEAKERS/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____</p>
---

*The Hoover Historical Society*

P. O. Box 360233  
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

[Recipient]