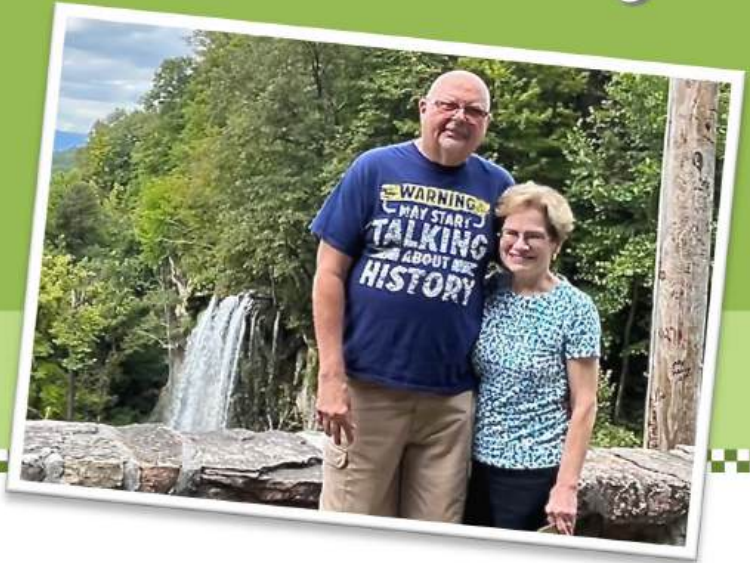


The Hoover Historical Log

Fact or Fiction? Test your knowledge of Hoover's history...

Right: Jim and Ann Langley enjoying one of their many trips to Homestead Resort, Hot Springs, VA, f. 1766



Save the Date!

- November 1st and 2nd Moss Rock Festival
Sat. 9:30-5. Sun. 11-4
- Nov. 13 Board Meeting at the Public Safety Center; 10AM with guest Mayor Derzis
- Nov. 18th General Meeting at HPL
1 PM in downstairs meeting room
- Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 250th Anniversary of the Marines celebrated; Veterans Day honors all who served at American Village

Take the Hoover Quiz!

How many questions can you answer about the history of Hoover?

Storyteller, artist, author, and public speaker Jimmy Langley will present "Fact or Fiction? Hoover's History That'll Make You Look Twice" at the upcoming meeting of the Hoover Historical Society November 18th at 1 PM in the downstairs Shakespeare room. (As always, our programs are free and open to the public!)

You might also know Jimmy's alter-ego, Delmont, who likes to recount *1,000 of the Best Sayings in the State of Alabama*.

Langley, originally from Vernon in Lamar Co., AL, is now a resident of Hoover. He is married to the former Ann Whitehead of Nashville, Tenn. He graduated from Jacksonville State University with a degree in Political Science and from the University of Oklahoma with a master's in public administration and was a Distinguished Military Graduate receiving an Army commission in 1971, serving active-duty tours in Alaska; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Korea, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He was honored in 2021 with the Hoover Chamber of Commerce Freedom Award for his contributions to his community.

Continued Page 4

What is American Village?

A tourist attraction located in Montevallo at 3727 Hwy. 119, American Village was founded by Tom Walker in collaboration with architect Mike Hamrick. Its "purpose was for young people to know America's story." Walker, who passed away in September 2025, believed knowing and understanding history built better citizens.





Jim and Joyce Cauthen Bring Old-Time Music to The Folklore Center

—Jim Langley

The HHS Folklore Center was recently filled with the lively sounds of traditional folk music as Joyce and Jim Cauthen entertained a group of enthusiastic 4th graders from Bluff Park Elementary School.

The children danced around joyfully to classic songs from days gone by, with Blake Davis adding excitement by keeping rhythm with a pioneer toy called Dancing Dan. The

Center feels privileged to have hosted such legendary folklorists, whose passion for preserving musical heritage continues to inspire new generations.

Joyce and Jim Cauthen began exploring old-time, fiddle-based music in the late 1970s. Instead of following traditional Appalachian roots, they focused on Alabama, searching for local musicians and rare tunes passed down by ear. Joyce researched histories and newspapers, while both traveled statewide recording Alabama's

musical heritage. Their performances showcase unique songs and stories from across the region. The Folklore Center supports their work in preserving this tradition.

The Cauthens will return in 2026 with their program *From Straw beating to String Banjo: The Golden Age of Old-Time Music in the South*.

Save the date: May 19, 2026, at the Hoover Public Library at 1 PM.

City Council Members & Mayor Brocato Honored



Reception honors outgoing public servants

Mayor Frank Brocato has served the city from 1973-2015 as the city's first paramedic; elected mayor in 2016 and served nine years in that capacity...a total of 52 years of service!

John B. Lyda has served three terms on the Hoover City Council from 2012-2025, the last four years as president; a total of 13 years.

Curt Posey has served on the council for two terms (nine years) starting in 2016 and was Council President *Pro Tem* during his last term.

Sam Swiney was elected to the Council in 2020 and served one term; five years.

A grateful crowd bid "farewell" on Monday, Oct. 27th, at 5 PM in Hoover City Hall.



On October 2nd, 2025, the Davis family—Mom, Amber; and kids, Hannah, Blake, Elissa and Jenna—volunteered as docents at the Stinson Ole Place. Their presentation took the form of a skit—the reading of several fictional letters that discussed events and happening that could occur during the time the Stinsons lived there. Their attentive audience was the fourth-grade classes from the adjacent Bluff Park Elementary. The lady of the house (Amber Davis) received several letters from family members. The letters were read aloud in the voice of their author. Left: Amber, Blake, Hannah, Elissa, Jenna Davis.

Davis family serve as docents!

Aunt Rose...

"Oh, look! It's a letter from my niece, Britney. My sister Cornelia wrote and told us that she and a young man named Jack Anders were married several months ago. I wonder what she says..."

April 8th, 1866

"Dear Aunt Rose, I wanted to write this to tell you our plans. Jack and I were married three months ago, and we soon decided to take the journey from Jackson, Mississippi to Alabama. There is not much work here in Jackson, and Jack says there's plenty of opportunity there in Limeville, where there is a large limestone industry. And, Aunt Rose, we will be passing through Hale Springs and would love to stop by and see you and Uncle Aaron and the cousins and spend the night if we can.

Limeville is nearly a thirty-mile journey from Hale Springs. We know the journey will be hard, and we are only halfway there, but we should be at your place in about a week if the weather isn't bad. Then after spending a day

or two at your home we will travel two days until we reach Limeville. I hope to see you

soon, Aunt Rose!

Your niece, Britney Anders

Aunt Rose:

"Oh, it will be so nice to have Britney for a visit! It has been so very long since I have seen her or any part of my family in Mississippi. Now if only Cornelia could come with her...Ah, another letter! This one is from my son, Mark. He always had an adventurous spirit, and about a year ago, it led him out West to work on the railroad. I do hope he's taking care of himself..."

May 11th, 1869

"Dear Mother, Yesterday was a huge day for all of us working on the railroad up here. Me and the other workers from the Union Pacific Railroad Company finally met up with the Central Pacific Railroad Company at Promontory Summit, Utah, and completed the very first Transcontinental Railroad across America. There was a huge celebration with hundreds of people there. There were railroad officials, people from the military, government people, all there to watch as the two railroads finally came together. The last spike was hammered in by Leland Stanford himself, the president of the Central Pacific Railroad Company. And the last spike wasn't just steel or iron; it was pure gold!"

It was a great day yesterday, something I'll remember forever. We were all proud at seeing all our work finished. Hope to hear from you and the family soon, Mark."

"And, oh! One more letter—this one is from my daughter, Rebecca..."

"My dearest Mama, I sit down to write this letter in good health, and hope that it will find you in the same. We are all well here, thank the Lord. Joe has been working as hard as ever—Mama, I am truly blessed to have married such a man. Little Joseph is also well, though he troubled with a fearful cough a few days past. But I gave him some syrup

made from the bark of the wild cherry tree, as I know you would do, and he was all right within a very short time. I often wonder how you grasped the knowledge of plants and their uses so well right within a very short time straight and in order! How do you do it, Mother? I trust that you, Father, and the boys are all well. There is not a day that goes by that I don't miss the boys' mischievous, frolicking ways. Well, Mother, I must cease writing now, or I shall never stop, and Joe will have no supper to eat when he comes home.

Rebecca's Mom:

"Oh, it's good to hear from her! I don't see her as often as I wish. The distance between us is not so very great, and yet, there are so many things here to keep me busy. Poor Baby Joe—well, I'm certainly glad he's all right now. Rebecca was wise to give him what she did. Perhaps they could all come for Sunday dinner sometime soon...."

After each letter was read, there was a short discussion of the various topics mentioned in the letters; first, a short history of Calera, formerly known as Limeville due to that industry there; second, the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, and last, a discussion of several locally-growing plants that could be used to treat various ailments.

How Artificial Intelligence evolved over the years... by Pam Thompson

Mike Shaw recently made a presentation to the Friends of the Hoover Library about AI Basics and Government. Mike is a native of Vestavia Hills, AL. He is married to Shelly and has two grown children. Starting out his career in technology, he became a specialist in network security, earning CISSP certification in 2002. He has been SVP/ Chief Technology Officer at Mutual Savings Credit Union since 2005. He served on the Hoover City Council 2016-2022, when he ran for and elected to the Alabama Legislature, State House District 47.

Executive Order 738 by Gov. Kay Ivey created the Governor's Task Force on Generative AI. As one of the few technology professionals in the Legislature, he was instrumental in the implementation of the State's policies regarding AI in Government, adopting national standards, creating an oversight board, employee training and data safeguards. During this process he spoke with 53 AI companies in Alabama. He found applications including Precision cancer treatments, Autonomous drone swarms, Fentanyl detection in mail centers, City inspection with computer vision, Clinical trial diversity, AI-powered space weather analysis, AI red teaming & trusted AI and Digital twins and predictive maintenance.

The term *artificial intelligence* was coined at a conference at Dartmouth University in 1956. AI has been portrayed in movies such as *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968). Early systems were used in medical research in the 70s and 80s. The movie *TRON* (1982) portrayed a Master Control Program as a corporate overlord. By the 1990's, there was a transition to learning by data analysis. IBM Deep Blue (1997) defeated chess master Kasparov. The movie *the Matrix* (1999) involved a civilization inside an AI simulation. In the 2010's, computer advancements enabled huge amounts of data to be analyzed, surpassing anything humans could do in their lifetimes. We all became familiar with Siri, Alexa, Google Translate and Netflix recommendations of what we wanted to watch on their streaming service.

Computer chips evolved to include Application-Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs) designed for tasks such as calculations and data processing. Video game graphics became more and more realistic. In the movie *Ex Machina* (2014) AI with human-like intelligence tests the boundaries of consciousness and manipulation.

Training AI is now time consuming and very expensive. Google spent \$191,000,000 on its Gemini application. Data Centers, such as the one proposed in Bessemer will require massive power demands and significant investments. It is predicted that over \$7 trillion will be invested in data centers by 2030.

Another impact of data centers will be on the water supply to cool these busy computers. It will be important to balance the need and growth of these centers.

In Mike's opinion, AI will have less of a negative impact on employment than currently thought. AI instead will radically increase the productivity of workers, increasing efficiency especially in area where workers are scarce, such as, rural health care and education. AI will not replace teachers but will help them do their jobs more efficiently. Possible dangers of AI are deep fake videos, government overregulation, misuse by hostile countries, and data centers that overwhelm our resources of power and water.

More about Mike Shaw...

A Hoover resident since 2001, he began his political career in 2016 as a member of the City Council and was reelected in 2020. In 2022, he was elected to the AL House of Representatives with 64% of the vote, assuming the office the next day and resigning from the City Council immediately. He is also a songwriter, having released four albums and has won several awards including International Songwriting Competition and KCCM song of the year.



Hoover Quiz with Jim Langley...from page 1

In retirement, Jimmy promotes Hoover and its history in his art, books, tours, and presentations. His tour of Oak Hill Cemetery is well-known and led to the marking of the graves of the founding family of Bluff Park, Gardner Hale and Ann Susan Ballou Hale. His research topics range from *Davy Crockett* (who almost died a few miles from today's Hoover) to *Old Elyton* to *Maggots Solve Crimes in Hoover* to *Hoover's Brock Gap*, an historic site in need of protection. Check out his website for the many topics he has presented, published or researched! Join us on November 18th and see if you can win a prize for a correct answer to his quiz!

RC3 tapped to rehabilitate a limber from American Village for America's 250th Anniversary in 2026

What's a limber?

Recently, Tyler Nabors, M.Ed., and Construction Science Academy Director at Riverchase Career Connection Center (RC3), informed the HHS about an "interesting project" his students are undertaking.

American Village asked that his students refurbish a Revolutionary War-era limber, a two-wheeled cart that carries a weapon (gun) into battle. A limber was pulled by horses or other draft animals while a caisson carried artillery ammunition behind. You may recall caissons from the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, or any service member interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Limbers date back to the 15th century.

(*Wikipedia*)

Building Construction Instructor William Vanderwilt (above right with Gene Fuller, HHS), oversees the project daily. His second-year students including Andrew Harmon and Isaiah Barthold (shown above) are challenged with rebuilding rotted wheels and other wooden parts with cedar—using modern-day tools that have the same uses as those from the 18th century.

Meanwhile, the gun remains in storage at American Village. When complete, it will look like the finished limber (right).



The HHS welcomes our new Corporate sponsor, Willie Wells III and his company, Escape Graphics!

Escape Graphics is an established company that offers tiered packages, including Majestic Rhino, Noble Rhino, and Savannah Rhino, to cater to different budgets.

The team consists of experienced designers and branding experts who are passionate about helping businesses succeed.

Wells is a member of the 2026 Leadership Hoover class, a group of 29 professionals who focus on the quality-of-life issues for our city.





**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

Types of Membership

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

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SPEAKERS/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____

The Hoover Historical Society

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[Recipient]

The Hoover Historical Society, a 501 C (3) organization, publishes the *Historical Log*, five times annually.

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