

FRIENDS FACTS

FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES Newsletter
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Alabama Department of Archives and History
2007, Issue 1

EDUCATION PROGRAMS EXPANDING

The Archives is excited about expanding its educational offerings in 2007. Budget increases are allowing for expanded services to teachers and schoolchildren and more programs for the general public.

Education Specialist Susan DuBose joined the staff in November to lead these program enhancements. Susan is actually returning to the Archives, having served as Education Curator in the late 1980s. Susan has a great deal of experience teaching in Alabama classrooms in Montgomery and Tallassee. She has also worked for the State Department of Education, where she led the most recent Social Studies Course of Study revision, served as the content specialist for the Alabama High School Graduation Examination for Social Studies, and provided professional development workshops for teachers around the state. Susan has also served as a consultant to the Archives in years past, helping to develop two of our most effective education projects, Alabama Moments in American History and Using Primary Sources in the Classroom. To her new role she brings great enthusiasm, a passion for Alabama

DID YOU KNOW?
The Archives is now offering guided tours of the museum each Saturday starting at 2:00 and story time in the Hands-On Gallery the first Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00. The tours are free, and reservations are not required.



Students await their chance to "travel to the four corners" of Alabama

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALABAMA

The Archives celebrated Alabama's 187th birthday in style on December 14, formally dedicating the new bronze relief map of Alabama on the front lawn. The sculptor, Gregg LeFevre, was on hand to meet with students from Montgomery's Blount Elementary School, who unveiled the map. He explained to them that the map was designed to be walked on and explored, and trusted them not to be shy about doing just that. Archives Board of Trustees member Fred Gray, who shares a December 14 birthday, invited students to "stand before this map and travel to the four corners of this state and see the rich culture, natural and manufactured products, the opportunities and the challenges."

"You hold the future of this state in your hands," Gray concluded, reminding the students that this dedication "is really about you and the opportunity you have to grow and develop and carry out the traditions established by others." Advanced choral students from Montgomery's Booker T. Washington Magnet High School concluded the program, offering inspiring renditions of the state song, *Alabama*, and *America the Beautiful*.



Trustee Fred Gray addresses the crowd gathered for the Bronze Map dedication ceremony.

"Stand before this map and travel to the four corners of this state and see the rich culture, natural and manufactured products, the opportunities and the challenges."

-Fred Gray, Archives Board of Trustees member and speaker

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MARCH 31 - Unlocking the Past: Your Key to Successful Research at the Alabama Archives

APRIL 24 - Friends & Family Series: How to Preserve Family Papers and Books

JULY 21 - Friends & Family Series: How To Discover My Family

AUGUST 25 - Unlocking the Past: Your Key to Successful Research at the Alabama Archives

OCTOBER 20 - Friends & Family Series: How to Preserve Family Textiles



Education Specialist Susan DuBose leads a workshop.

document. This summer she will host teachers at the Archives for an Educator's Open House and deliver regional workshops on Using Primary Sources to Prepare for High-Stakes Testing. On February 24 parents and children attended the first Friends and Family How To workshop at the Archives to help them gather information for 4th grade Alabama history notebooks and other projects. This How To series will continue throughout the year (see list of upcoming events).

Message from the Director

In the early 1900s, the legislature met only once every four years, leaving the legislative chambers unused for long periods of time. Since government abhors a vacuum, or at least unused space, the Archives stepped in. Some of my favorite Archives photographs are of the old Senate chamber with the desks and chairs removed and exhibits filling the room. It was our first state history museum.

One object in those photos is a small cannon on a little wooden frame that obviously was not designed to support a real cannon. Today, that cannon, on the same frame, is displayed in our Military Gallery. As I have learned more of its story, the cannon has become to me something of a tracer line running through the history of our state. It physically links us today to thousands of people who have gone before us.

Here is a little of what we know of the cannon's story. It was cast in France in the early to mid-1700s and shipped to the French military at Mobile. It was then barged by hand upriver a couple of hundred miles to become part of the defenses of Ft. Toulouse. The French had built Ft. Toulouse in 1717 just above the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers to secure the area against the emerging British threat from the Atlantic coast.

When the French were defeated in the French and Indian War in 1763, they had to abandon Ft. Toulouse and their cannon. To prevent their old enemies from using the cannon, the French drove a metal spike into the touch hole and knocked off the trunnions (which have since been found by the archaeologists at Ft. Toulouse). In 1777, when the now-revered naturalist William Bartram made his expedition through the southern wilderness, he described visiting the old French ruins and seeing the abandoned cannon "half buried in the earth."

After the American Revolution, the new government under President Washington launched a program to induce the Indians to adopt American practices of farming and animal husbandry. Washington hoped these changes would enable the two peoples to live side by side. His representative to the southern Indians was Benjamin Hawkins. One of the blacksmiths Hawkins brought in to assist him drilled out the touch hole of the old cannon, and the Creeks began using it to fire off powder charges on festive occasions.

In March 1814, the Redstick Creeks, who sought to resist American intrusion into their land, were crushed in a battle at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River. Andrew Jackson then summoned Creek leaders, some of whom had helped him fight the Redsticks, to a treaty ceremony at Ft. Toulouse, the site of our cannon. There, the Creeks were compelled to sign over much of the land that would become the state of Alabama.

The settlement around Ft. Toulouse/Ft. Jackson languished after 1814, and the cannon was carried down river to the new town of Montgomery. There, in March 1825, it was fired in celebration of the inauguration of President John Quincy Adams. (Adams had just beaten Andrew Jackson in a controversial election that had been decided by the House of Representatives.) As Ebenezer Pound fired the cannon, its breech exploded, and Pound was almost killed.

The cannon, now only a disabled relic, remained in Montgomery. When the new State Archives was established, it became part of the Archives' collections. It has been on exhibit in the Capitol and at the Archives for over a century now, touched yearly by thousands of visitors, each of whom becomes a part of its story. Every time I go into the gallery, I touch it again—with a reverence and affection I cannot describe.

This cannon is only one item of millions we preserve here, and each one has a story to tell. Of course, few can match the cannon's, but many objects in our collection give it a good run, and they all share in its connectedness to lives from Alabama's past. Providing the chance to learn about and appreciate those lives is at the heart of what we do at the Archives, and we deeply appreciate your support of this work.

Ed Bridges



One of the Archives' earliest acquisitions. Read about it above.

HAVE YOU HEARD . . .



STAFF ADDITIONS

Thanks to appropriations from the governor and legislature, in the first few months of this fiscal year the Archives has been able to hire several new staff members and restore positions lost over the past 15 years. The additional staffing has allowed enhancements to existing programs and even the creation of a publications office. Pictured on the top row, left to right, are: Steve Wheat, Government Records Technical Assistant; Steve Murray, Assistant Director for Development and Support Services; Randall Williams, part-time Publications Office Director; and Susan DuBose, Education Specialist. Pictured on the bottom row, left to right, are: Arlanda Perkins, Reference Customer Service Assistant; Christine Garrett, Publications Office Associate; Johnny Davis, Research Room Clerk; Van Turner, Research Room Clerk; and Meredith McLemore, Private Records Archivist.



TWO FLAG FUND DONATIONS

Chief Curator Bob Bradley (pictured at right) receives a \$500 donation for the Friends flag conservation fund from Carl Hankins of the Prattville Dragoons Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. That donation was followed a few days later by a \$1,150 donation from members of the 33rd Alabama Infantry Regiment reenactors. For more information about the flag conservation project, contact Bob Bradley at

bob.bradley@archives.alabama.gov or (334) 353-4696 .

DIANNE JACKSON RETIRES

After 26 years of service, long-time staff member Dianne Jackson has retired. Dianne has worked in every area of the agency during her tenure at the Archives and has proven herself valuable at every turn. There is, however, a silver lining in Dianne's retirement for the Archives. She will continue to provide the benefit of her skills and experience by returning to the Government Records division on a part-time basis. Dianne is pictured here holding a certificate from Governor Riley commending her years of dedicated service to the State of Alabama.



NAGARA VP

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) is the only organization in the U.S. that focuses on the interests and needs of government records managers and archivists. Several Alabamians are members. At the NAGARA annual meeting held last August in Washington D.C., Archives staff member Tracey Berezansky was elected vice president of the organization. She will succeed the current president when her term of office ends. The Archives is pleased to support such staff participation in professional organizations, as it benefits from having a voice on issues of national and local concern and by participating in programs where valuable ideas and strategies are shared. Congratulations, Tracey.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Archives Registrar Linda Overman reported 34 accessions from October through December 2006. The acquisitions included records transferred from five state agencies as well as items from private donors and purchases made possible with funds from the Friends.

A FEW NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS WERE:

- Tintype of Nicola Marschall
- Four portraits of James Alvah England family by Nicola Marschall, 1866
- Daily journal of itinerant Methodist preacher, 1836-1838
- Framed portrait of Albert Taylor Goodwyn
- Memorabilia from the Montgomery Memorial Hospital Training School for Nurses, ca. 1920 (pictured on opposite page)
- Pictorial history of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, 1988
- Composition book of James Chestnut Irvin, ca. 1800

FRIENDS BOARD UPDATE

The Friends Board meeting on November 1, 2006, included the election of officers for 2007 and the election of Board members for the Class of 2009.

Serving a second one-year term as president is Kathryn H. Braund, associate professor of history at Auburn University. Raised in Hartford, Alabama, Kathryn received an M.A. from Auburn and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. She is a historian of southeastern Indians, a documentary editor, and the author or editor of four books. Kathryn lives on Lake Martin in Tallapoosa County, where she raises African violets, is an active member of Lake Watch of Lake Martin, and formerly served as a volunteer firefighter. The Friends of the Archives performs a valuable function, according to Kathryn, because "it is important for all of us with historical interests to support the hard work performed at the Archives. Too often the impetus for people to get involved in any organization is to complain, but it is better to get involved to support worthwhile work."

Also returning for a second one-year term is Vice President Jim Lee, a retired aeronautical engineer from Huntsville. A native of Birmingham, Jim graduated from Auburn University in 1957 and then developed propulsion technology for Thiokol until retiring in 1992. Although his career was decidedly high-tech, Jim always had an interest in the history and archaeology of southeastern Indians and the early European settlement of Alabama. He is a member of several historical organizations and a past president of the Alabama Historical Association. A devoted bibliophile, Jim enjoys hunting for additions to his substantial collection on the Southeast and the Civil War. He has been a Friends member for more than a decade because "the Archives holds some of the greatest treasures in Alabama, and it is rewarding to be part of an organization that supports its work."

Gary Burton of Hope Hull is serving his first term as the Friends secretary. The native of Birmingham has been pastor of Pintlala Baptist Church for thirty-five years. A Thomas Jefferson enthusiast, Gary makes annual trips to Monticello and has collected a sizable library of Jefferson materials. Locally, his historical interests relate to Montgomery County, the Pintlala area, and Alabama Baptists. Gary's introduction to the Friends organization came through Friends-sponsored public programs at the Archives, and he "quickly came to see its mission as a worthy cause."

Elaine Smith is the newly elected Friends treasurer and also a first-time officer. Retired after twenty-five years as professor of history at Alabama State University, Elaine remains busy as a board member and advocate for Montgomery's Jackson Community House Historic Foundation and as an active member of St. John's AME Church in Montgomery. A native of Daytona Beach, Florida, Elaine graduated from Bethune-Cookman College and became a leading authority on the life of Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women and a member of FDR's New Deal administration. Elaine is the co-editor of two books and the author of eighteen articles, primarily on Bethune. Her Historical Resource Study for the National Park Service contributed to the designation of the Bethune home in Washington, D.C., as a National Historic Site. Elaine is active in Friends because the organization "helps to create public support for the Archives by providing services of benefit to both the public and to researchers."

Newly elected board members are Leigh Allison of Birmingham, Emily Pryor Burwell of Huntsville, Sangernetta Bush of Montgomery, Nancy Spencer Smith of Birmingham, and Cal Wilson of Tuscaloosa. Elected to second terms were Romelia Blackburn of Tuscaloosa, Marcia Collier of Titus, Jerry Galin of Hanceville, Ted Hooks of Anniston, and Elaine McDonald of Montgomery. The Friends leadership and the Archives staff appreciate the willingness of these new members to participate in guiding the organization. We also extend a special thank-you to the officers whose terms ended in 2006—Secretary Marcia Collier of Titus and Treasurer John Scott of Montgomery—and the Board members who finished their second terms: Representative Barbara Boyd of Anniston, Louis Finlay Jr. of Jackson, Wat Johnston of Montgomery, Charles Moore of Florence, and Judge David Rains of Fort Payne.



- Photographs of Ten Commandments monument protests, Alabama Supreme Court Building, 2003
- Record albums and 8-track tapes—Captain and Tennille, Alabama, Lionel Richie, and Jim Nabors, 1970s and '80s



SOME OF THE ITEMS PURCHASED BY THE FRIENDS WERE:

- Letter by Union soldier describing fighting in north Alabama, May 1862
- Letter by U.S. Colored Troops officer, Mobile Point, Nov. 1864
- Photograph of women in front of Birmingham dress shop, 1934 (pictured above)
- Color postcard of Gulf State Paper Mill, Tuscaloosa, ca. 1938
- Broadside from gubernatorial run-off election, George Wallace and Albert Brewer, 1970

Volunteer Profile

LEONARD & CHERRIL LOVIN

Leonard and Cherril Lovin arrived in Alabama in August 2005. Their mission was to help prepare Bullock County records for microfilming as part of Alabama's Loose Records (unbound historical records) Project. Now in its sixth year, the project has produced more than 4,000 microfilm rolls of historical estate files, marriage licenses, divorce records, Confederate pensions, and other records from probate offices and circuit courts across the state. Project work is completed in 41 of Alabama's 67 counties. The Lovins are just two of the more than 600 volunteers who have staffed the project and worked diligently to preserve these records.



The Lovins first worked on the Loose Records Project in Union Springs. In July 2006, after Mr. Lovin received digital image training from the Genealogical Society of Utah, the couple came to the Archives. Mrs. Lovin prepared and Mr. Lovin scanned several cubic feet of Works Progress Administration records from the Archives' holdings. These records are now available on DVD in the Research Room.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovin raised 11 children in Mesa, Arizona, and are proud to claim 42 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. The Archives offers the deepest gratitude for their service to Alabama and wish them the very best as they settle back in at home.



**FRIENDS
OF THE
ALABAMA
ARCHIVES**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to be a Friend.

Please enter my membership with all benefits including a subscription to the FRIENDS FACTS newsletter, a 10% Gift Shop discount, and free or reduced admission to Archives-sponsored events. (Subscriber level members and above receive a 1-year subscription to *Alabama Heritage* magazine.)

Membership fees are tax-deductible.

- New Member
- Renewal
- Family/Individual \$25
- Contributor \$50
- Subscriber \$100
- Sustainer \$250
- Sponsor \$500
- Patron \$750
- Benefactor \$1000

I'm interested in becoming a Volunteer.

(Circle areas of interest.)

Museum Tours Children's Gallery
Reception Desk Gift Shop Research Room
Behind the Scenes (collections & clerical tasks)
Special Events & Projects
Junior Volunteer (ages 14-17)
Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

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My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please bill me later.

Make check payable to and mail to

FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES

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End-of-Year Giving Campaign

The Friends Board and Archives staff sincerely appreciate the generosity of the following persons who have contributed to the Friends' End-of-Year Giving Campaign.

Betsy Arnold
Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins
Ann Smith Bedsole
William M. Bowen, Jr.
Bradley and Rebecca Byrne
Richard L. Chambers
Genealogical Society of East Alabama
1st Sgt. Ret & Mrs. Cornelious Clark
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(Mr. and Mrs. T. Bowen Hill)

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Ms. Lee Reynolds Sewell and friends *in honor of* Mike Jenkins, "Manufacturer of the Year"
Jacob F. B. Lowrey III *in honor of* Dr. Norwood Kerr, Cynthia Luckie, Debbie Pendleton, and Dr. Kathryn Braund

ArchiTreats

LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy presentations on Alabama history the third Thursday of each month from 12:05-12:50 p.m. in the Alabama Power Auditorium.

APRIL 19

Traditions: An Overview of Alabama Folk Culture
—JOYCE CAUTHEN

MAY 17

Discovering Alabama Forests
—DOUG PHILLIPS

JUNE 21

The Experience of Creek Indian Removal
—CHRISTOPHER HAVEMAN