

THE  
ALABAMA  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

Seventy-Sixth  
Annual Meeting

Huntsville  
April 10-12, 2024

## **Sponsors and Donors**

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
Alabama Folklife Association  
Alabama Heritage Magazine  
Alabama Historical Commission  
Alabama Humanities Alliance  
Baldwin County Archives & History  
Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the  
College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University  
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Montevallo  
Department of History, University of Montevallo  
Department of History, The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Humanities Center, The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society  
J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center & State Black  
Archives Research Center and Museum at Alabama A&M University

## **Special Thanks**

Heather Adkins	Cait Monroe
John Allen	Cooper Murray
Columbia High School JROTC Eagle Battalion	Brian Odom
Deane Dayton	Christine Sears
Danielle Dutcher	Katie Stamps
Bob Jones High School Chorus	Rebecca Riddick
Ben Hoksbergen	Michelle Riley
Alex Luttrell	Gary Wicks
Arley McCormick	

## **Tours**

Bob Broadway, Chrissy Freeman, and Nancy Squire, First National Bank  
Donna Castellano, Harrison Brothers Hardware  
William Hampton, Huntsville Revisited Museum  
Veronica Henderson, Alabama A&M University  
Gina James, Weeden House Museum and Garden  
Barbara Johnson, St. John AME Church  
Abby Murphree, Temple B'nai Sholom  
Diana Scheidker, Episcopal Church of the Nativity

## **Concurrent Sessions Committee**

Donna Manson, Chair  
Matthew Downs  
Christine Sears  
Shari Williams

# Officers and Board of Directors

## 2023–2024

Ruth Truss, University of Montevallo  
Richard Bailey, Montgomery  
Mark Wilson, Auburn University  
Maiben Beard, Auburn University  
Gayle Thomas, Abbeville

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Membership Secretary  
Treasurer

The Board of Directors consists of the officers, editors, and the following AHA members: John Allison, Morgan County Archives; Emily Blejwas, Alabama Folklife Association; Annette Bradford, Jackson County Historical Association; Amber Broadhead, Edgewood Elementary School; Blake Busbin, Alabama State Department of Education; Dana Chandler, Tuskegee University Archives; Rhonda Davis, Mobile; Deidre Dees, Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Ashley Dumas, University of West Alabama; Kerry Dunaway, Clarke County Historical Association; Linda Felton-Smith, Troy; Ronald Fritze, Athens State University; Hannah Garmon, City of Birmingham; Debra Love, Black Heritage Council; Christopher Maloney, *Encyclopedia of Alabama*; Donna Manson, Montgomery; Josephine Bolling McCall, Elmore Bolling Initiative; Anna Mullican, Oakville Indian Mounds; Laura Murray, Auburn; Marty Olliff, Troy University Dothan; Susan Reynolds, *Alabama Heritage*; Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Graydon Rust, Alabama Humanities Alliance; Shari Williams, The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project.

### *The Alabama Review*

Matthew Downs, Editor  
Michael Robinson, Book Review Editor  
University of Mobile

## Wednesday April 10, 2024

### Pre-Meeting Tours

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Huntsville Revisited Museum

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** U.S. Space and Rocket Center

**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** State Black Archives Research Center and Museum,  
Alabama A&M University

**6:00 p.m. Reception** — *Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW*

## Thursday Program April 11, 2024

**8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, and Exhibitors** —  
*Marriott Huntsville Space and Rocket Center, 5 Tranquility Base*

**9:00 a.m. General Session** — *Grand Ballroom*

Ruth Truss, President of the Association, presiding

Presentation of Colors — Columbia High School JROTC Eagle Battalion

“Star Spangled Banner” and “Alabama” — Members of Bob Jones High  
School Chorus

Welcome — Mayor Tommy Battle, City of Huntsville

Local Feature — “The Complex City: Stories of Irony and Growth from  
Huntsville History”

Heather Adkins, Manager, Special Collections, Huntsville-Madison County  
Public Library and President, Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

Announcements

Introduction of Session Chairs and Speakers — Donna Manson, Committee  
Chair

**10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

**Session A: *Discovery/Atlantis***, Haley Aaron, Alabama Department of Archives  
& History, presiding

“Lessons Learned from Mapping Black Towns in Alabama”  
Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History

"Huntsville's Virginia Clay, a Compelling Presence Here and in Washington before the Civil War up to Women's Suffrage"

John H. Allen, Huntsville

"The Wade Hall Postcard Collection: Teaching History with Postcards"

Ruth Elder, Troy University

**Session B: *Challenger***, Victoria Ott, Indian Springs School, presiding

"Matchmakers, Socialites, and Reformers: New (Jewish) Women and the Making of Birmingham, Alabama, 1882-1906"

Melissa Young, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Temple Beth-El

"Merchants and Mill Workers: Harrison Brothers and Huntsville Commerce, 1897-1903"

Merritt Fisk, University of Alabama in Huntsville

"From Enslavement to Entrepreneur: The Legacy of Henderson and Daniel Brandon"

Donna Castellano, The Historic Huntsville Foundation

**Session C: *Enterprise***, Hannah Garmon, City of Birmingham, presiding

"Magic City: How the Birmingham Jazz Tradition Shaped the Sound of America"

Burgin Mathews, Southern Music Research Center

"Being Young, Being Lovely, Being an Object: Zelda Fitzgerald's Figural Artworks"

Lizzie Orlofsky, Alabama Department of Archives and History

"Behold! The Drama's Temple Rise': Building Huntsville's First Theaters"

Laura Keigan, The Historic Huntsville Foundation

**Session D: *Pathfinder***, Josh Miller, University of Alabama in Huntsville, presiding

"Rewriting Local Spanish-American War History: Methodology and Outcomes in Deconstructing and Rebuilding Archival Knowledge"

Cait Monroe, Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

"Remembering the Fallen: The Impact of the Bay of Pigs on Families' Lives and Collective Memory"

Alyssa Allen, University of Alabama

"The Good Fight: Senator James B. Allen's Role in the Debates to Return the Panama Canal"

Lori Owens, Jacksonville State University

**Session E:** *Columbia*, John Allison, Morgan County Archives, presiding  
"Preserving Alabama's Rosenwald Schools"  
Sam Christensen, Alabama Department of Archives and History

"Pursuing Narrative Remediation using Archival Records: The Typhoid Epidemic at Athens Female College"  
Laken Smith and Amber Skantz, Athens State University

**12:00 p.m. Box Lunches** — *Grand Ballroom*

**12:30 p.m. Tour Bus Route Begins** — *Lobby*

*40-passenger bus departs for downtown tours from Marriott lobby. Several parking garages are available downtown for those who prefer to drive. See handout and map distributed at registration for details.*

**1:00 p.m. Afternoon Tours** —

*Refer to the map provided at the meeting for details. Unless otherwise indicated at the tour site, locations will close at 5:00 PM.*

- The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
- First National Bank
- Harrison Brothers Hardware
- St. John AME Church
- Temple B'nai Sholom
- Twickenham Historic District
- Weeden House Museum and Garden

**6:00 p.m. Cash Bar** — *Marriott Huntsville Space and Rocket Center Courtyard*

**7:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet** — *Grand Ballroom*

Ruth Truss, President of the Association, presiding

**Awards** —

Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant, presented by Staci Glover  
Virginia V. Hamilton Award, presented by Bert Frandsen  
Historical Museum Award, presented by Rhonda Davis  
James F. Sulzby Book Award, presented by Jim Day

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker** —

Christine Sears, Chair, Department of History, University of Alabama in Huntsville

**Keynote Address** — "Happy Dreams of Liberty: An American Family in Slavery and Freedom"

Isabel Morales, Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum, The Princeton & Slavery Project

## Friday Program April 12, 2024

**8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, and Exhibitors —**  
*Marriott Huntsville Space and Rocket Center, 5 Tranquility Base*

### **8:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

Session A: *Discovery/Atlantis*, Marty Olliff, Troy University Dothan, presiding  
"Alabama History in the Classroom"

Amber Broadhead, Edgewood Elementary School

Hayden McDaniel, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Idrissa Snider, Alabama Humanities Alliance

Session B: *Challenger*

"Preserving and Interpreting Huntsville's Black History"

William Hampton, Huntsville Revisited Museum

Katie Stamps, City of Huntsville

Session C: *Enterprise*, Keri Hallford, Alabama Department of Archives and History, presiding

"Historical Collections in the Rocket City"

Heather Adkins, Huntsville-Madison County Special Collections

Reagan Grimsley, Special Collections, University of Alabama Huntsville

Veronica Henderson, State Black Archives, Research Center, and Museum

Jordan Whetstone, Marshall Space Flight Center Archives

Session D: *Pathfinder*, Gary Wicks, Huntsville, presiding

"Artemis Missions and the Making of Space Flight History"

Brian Matisak, Deputy Manager, Systems Engineering &

Integration Office, Marshall Space Flight Center

### **9:45 a.m. General Session — Grand Ballroom**

Ruth Truss, President of the Association, presiding

#### Reports

Membership Secretary — Maiben Beard

Treasurer — Gayle Thomas

Time and Place — Richard Bailey, Vice President

Speaker's Bureau — Jim Baggett

*The Alabama Review* — Matthew Downs and Michael Robinson, Editors

Marker Committee — Scotty Kirkland, Chair

Nominating Committee — Debbie Pendleton, Chair

Election of Officers and Directors

Introduction of Session Chairs and Speakers — Donna Manson,  
Committee Chair

**10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

**Session A: *Discovery/Atlantis***, Christine Sears, University of Alabama in  
Huntsville, presiding

“Building a City in the Wilderness: Schools for Alabama Power Company  
Construction Camps”

Marietta Monaghan, Kennesaw State University

“A Tale of Two Rockets: Public History Silence in Alabama”

Jerald Perlman, Huntsville

“Farley Berman: The Man, The Myth, and The Museum”

Sabra Gossett and Aimee Grey, Berman Museum, Anniston Museum  
and Gardens

**Session B: *Challenger***, Matthew Downs, University of Mobile, presiding

“Liberal in a Different Way: Race, Liberalism, and Contingency in the  
Alabama Election of 1946”

Sam Badger, University of Alabama

“Alabama’s Reverse Freedom Rides: White Citizens’ Councils and  
Forced Migration in 1962”

Allie Lopez, Baylor University

“The March Continues: Alabamians and the 1980’s Fight to Renew  
the Voting Rights Act”

Scotty Kirkland, Alabama Department of Archives and History

**Session C: *Enterprise***, John Mohr, University of Alabama in Huntsville,  
presiding

“From Generation to Generation: Huntsville and the Jewish Community”

Rabbi P. J. Schwartz, Temple B’nai Sholom

“Your Life Will Be Beautiful in Edmonton Heights”

Caroline Swope, Kingstree Studios

“The Smoke of Progress: The Housing Authority of Huntsville”

John O’Brien, Madison

**Session D: *Pathfinder***, Susan Reynolds, *Alabama Heritage*, presiding

"The Forgotten Sister: The Surprising Existence of the *Tuskegee Herald*"  
Judith Sheppard, Auburn University

"'Notorious Scalawag' or Visionary Martyr: The Story of William Burleigh Jones"  
Louise Jones McPhillips, Birmingham

"Keeping Up With the Joneses: Tracking the Lives and Legacies of Two Reconstruction Era Legislators From Madison County"  
Ben Hoksbergen, University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Jane DeNeefe, Huntsville

**12:00 p.m. Annual Luncheon — *Grand Ballroom***

Jim Baggett, Past President, presiding

Introduction of Speaker — Jim Baggett

Presidential Address — "Seeking 'Hope and Confidence': Sarah Gayle  
Contemplates Faith and Loss"

Ruth Truss, President of the Association

**Adjourn**

## PAST PRESIDENTS

1947–49	—	James F. Sulzby, Jr.,* (founding president)	Birmingham
1949–50	—	Peter A. Brannon*	Montgomery
1950–51	—	Albert B. Moore*	University of Alabama
1951–52	—	Rucker Agee*	Birmingham
1952–53	—	Ralph Brown Draughton*	Auburn University
1953–54	—	William H. Brantley, Jr.*	Birmingham
1954–55	—	George R. Stuart, Jr.*	Birmingham-Southern College
1955–56	—	N. Floyd McGowin*	Chapman
1956–57	—	Charles G. Summersell*	University of Alabama
1957–58	—	C. J. Coley*	Alexander City
1958–59	—	William H. Jenkins*	Decatur
1959–60	—	Margaret Pace Farmer*	Troy
1960–61	—	Gordon T. Chappell*	Montgomery
1961–62	—	Jack N. Nelms*	Selma
1962–63	—	Caldwell Delaney*	Mobile
1963–64	—	Hamner Cobbs*	Greensboro
1964–65	—	Leslie S. Wright*	Samford University
1965–66	—	Milo B. Howard, Jr.*	Montgomery
1966–67	—	Malcolm C. McMillan*	Auburn University
1967–68	—	Richard J. Stockham*	Birmingham
1968–69	—	Frances C. Roberts*	University of Alabama at Huntsville
1969–70	—	Theodore B. Pearson*	Leroy
1970–71	—	H. E. Sterkx*	Auburn University at Montgomery
1971–72	—	The Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb*	Mobile
1972–73	—	Bernard Cresap*	University of North Alabama
1973–74	—	Virginia Brannan Smith*	Langdale
1974–75	—	Robert H. McKenzie	University of Alabama
1975–76	—	James Record*	Huntsville
1976–77	—	Robert R. Rea*	Auburn University
1977–78	—	Joan Hartwell*	Mobile
1978–79	—	Grady McWhiney*	University of Alabama
1979–80	—	Lt. Col. John H. Napier, III*	Ramer
1980–81	—	J. Wayne Flynt	Auburn University
1981–82	—	Douglas C. Purcell	Eufaula
1982–83	—	William D. Barnard	University of Alabama
1983–84	—	Chriss H. Doss	Samford University
1984–85	—	Justin Fuller*	University of Montevallo
1985–86	—	James R. Kuykendall*	Fort Payne
1986–87	—	Leah Rawls Atkins	Auburn University
1987–88	—	Carl C. Morgan, Jr.*	Selma
1988–89	—	Kenneth R. Johnson*	University of North Alabama
1989–90	—	Mary Ann Neeley*	Montgomery
1990–91	—	Tennant McWilliams*	University of Alabama at Birmingham
1991–92	—	Albert P. Brewer*	Samford University
1992–93	—	Grace Hooten Gates*	Anniston
1993–94	—	Nicholas H. Cobbs, Jr.	Greensboro
1994–95	—	Lee Allen	Samford
1995–96	—	Judge Val McGee*	Ozark
1996–97	—	Sarah W. Wiggins*	University of Alabama
1997–98	—	Edwin Bridges	Department of Archives & History
1998–99	—	Harriet Amos Doss	University of Alabama at Birmingham
1999–00	—	Joyce M. Smith	Huntsville
2000–01	—	Michael Thomason	University of South Alabama

2001-02	—	Daniel Fate Brooks	Birmingham
2002-03	—	Billy Hinson*	University of Mobile
2003-04	—	James W. Lee*	Huntsville
2004-05	—	Harvey H. Jackson III	Jacksonville State University
2005-06	—	Jacqueline A. Matte*	Birmingham
2006-07	—	Marlene Hunt Rikard	Samford University
2007-08	—	Anne Herbert Feathers	Greenville
2008-09	—	Kenneth W. Noe	Auburn University
2009-10	—	Gary Burton	Pintlala
2010-11	—	Kathryn Holland Braund	Auburn University
2011-12	—	Steve Murray	Department of Archives & History
2012-13	—	Marty Olliff	Troy University Dothan
2013-14	—	Gayle Thomas	Abbeville
2014-15	—	Lonnie Burnett	University of Mobile
2015-16	—	Debbie Pendleton	Department of Archives & History
2016-17	—	Jeff Jakeman*	Auburn University
2017-18	—	David Alsobrook*	Mobile
2018-19	—	Valerie Burnes	University of West Alabama
2019-21	—	Frazine Taylor	Montgomery
2021-22	—	Ben Severance	Auburn University Montgomery
2022-23	—	Jim Baggett	Birmingham Public Library

\*Deceased

**Notes:**