

THE
ALABAMA
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

Seventy-Eighth
Annual Meeting

Fairhope
April 9-11, 2026

Sponsors and Donors

Alabama Department of Archives and History
Alabama Folklife Association
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Felisha Anderson, Baldwin County Archives and History
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Mike Bunn, Historic Blakeley State Park
Lonnie Burnett, Coastal Alabama Community College
Robert Gourlay, Fairhope Public Library
Patrick Jacobs and Coastal Sound
Catherine King, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Archives
Mara Kozelsky, University of South Alabama
David Messenger, University of South Alabama
Alan Samry
Jamie Waldhour, Fairhope United Methodist Church

Tours

Ethel Higgins, Douglasville High School Heritage Museum
Rachel Burt, Daphne History Museum
Gabriel Gold-Vukson, Fairhope Museum of History
Pagan and Dean Mosher, Fairhope Storybook Castles
Carol Motley, Fairhope Friends Meeting House
Shelley Springer, Summit Street Inn

Concurrent Sessions Committee

Ben H. Severance, Chair
Mike Bunn
Valerie Burnes
Theo Moore
Susan Reynolds

Officers and Board of Directors

2025–2026

Matthew Downs, University of Mobile	President
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The Board of Directors consists of the officers, editors, and the following AHA members: Haley Aaron, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Felisha Anderson, Baldwin County Archives & History; Laura Anderson, Alabama Humanities Alliance; Caity Bell, Landmarks of DeKalb County; Amber Broadhead, Homewood City Schools; Mike Bunn, Historic Blakeley State Park; Valerie Burnes, University of West Alabama; Blake Busbin, Alabama State Department of Education; Deidre Dees, University of South Alabama; Ashley Dumas, University of West Alabama; Hannah Garmon, City of Birmingham; Beth Hunter, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Joseph Lee, Black Heritage Council; Josephine Bolling McCall, Elmore Bolling Initiative; Rebecca Minder, *Alabama Heritage*; Theo M. Moore II, Hiztorical Vision Productions; Anna Mullican, Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center; Brian Murphy, Florence Arts & Museums; Howard Robinson, Alabama State University; Christine Sears, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Jarrod Smitherman, J. B. Pennington High School; Jen Stewart, Madison, GA; Dorothy Walker, Montgomery; Shari Williams, The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project.

The Alabama Review

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

Thursday April 9, 2026

Pre-Meeting Tours

- Daphne History Museum
- Douglasville High School Heritage Museum
- Mosher Storybook Castles

5:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: Writing and Publishing Local History

Fairhope Public Library Auditorium

*Featuring Mike Bunn, Gabriel Gold-Vukson, Alan Samry, and John Sledge
Matthew Downs, Moderator*

6:00 p.m. Reception — Coastal Alabama Community College

Friday April 10, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, and Exhibitors — *Dahlgren Hall, Coastal Alabama Community College*

9:00 a.m. General Session — *Giddens Auditorium, Centennial Hall*

Matthew Downs, President of the Association, presiding

Welcome

- Dr. Lonnie Burnett, Vice President, Coastal Alabama Community College
- Representative Jennifer Fidler, State House District No. 94
- Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope

Introduction of Panel —

Local Feature — Fairhope's African American History and Heritage

Shawn D. Graham, Vickie Graham, Clarice Hall-Black, Mara Kozelsky,
and Clayton Vaughn-Roberson

Announcements

Introduction of Session Chairs and Speakers — Ben H. Severance,
Committee Chair

10:15 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A: *Giddens Auditorium*, Ben H. Severance, Auburn University at Montgomery, presiding

“‘Waiting a Long Time for Their Time to Come’: Impressment and Freedom in Wartime Mobile”

Lesley J. Gordon, University of Alabama

“Armed and Starving: Soldiers’ Wives in Confederate Mobile”

Robin Long, St. Edward’s University

“‘Little Worse Than a Den of Rattle Snakes’: Finding Camp Watts, Alabama’s Civil War Camp of Instruction #1”

Meghan E. Buchanan, Auburn University and LisaMarie Malischke, Auburn University at Montgomery

Session B: *Classroom 5 (Second Floor)*, David Messenger, University of South Alabama, presiding

“Ku Klux Klan Activity in 1920s Guntersville and Gadsden: A Case Study on the Persecution of Immigrants”

Whitney A. Snow, Midwestern State University

“Alabamians in Israel: A 1968 Trip and the Search for Usable Models of Agricultural Cooperatives”

Ansley L. Quiros, University of North Alabama

“The Longest Active Friends Community in Alabama: The Legacy of Quakers in Fairhope”

Carol P. Motley, Fairhope Friends Meeting and Catherine P. King, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation Archives

Session C: *Classroom 8 (Second Floor)*, Mike Bunn, Historic Blakeley State Park, presiding

“From Slavery to Sovereignty: Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. William Hooper Councill and 150 Years of Alabama A&M University (1875–2025)”

Eddie Davis, Jr., Black Heritage Council

“Yellow Dog Republican: Gadsden, Alabama’s Lonnie Noojin and His Fight to Establish the Republican Party in the Solid South”

Cody D. Robinson, Gadsden

"The Lamars: Prominent Alabama Settlers, Old Ideas, New Questions"
Jay Lamar, Auburn and Shari L. Williams, The Ridge Macon County
Archaeology Project

12:00 p.m. Box Lunches — Borom Center

Exit the back of Centennial Hall toward Bancroft Street.

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Alabama Heritage* magazine with cake during lunch. A 15-minute film commemorating the anniversary will begin in Room 101, near where cake is served, at 1 p.m.

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 4 p.m.

- Colony Cemetery
- Fairhope Friends Meeting House
- Fairhope Hotel/Summit Street Inn
- Fairhope Museum of History (open until 5 p.m.)
Award-winning artist and historian Dean Mosher will be at the museum from 2 to 3 p.m.
- Fairhope United Methodist Church
- Marietta Johnson Museum
- Tolstoy Park/Henry Stuart Round House

Cocktail Hour is on-your-own this year, but join us at 6:45 p.m. at Fairhope United Methodist Church (Christian Life Center) for live music by Coastal Sound, a student performance group from Coastal Alabama Community College.

7:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet — Fairhope United Methodist Church, 155 S. Section Street (Christian Life Center)

Matthew Downs, President of the Association, presiding

Awards —

Historical Museum Award, presented by Felisha Anderson
Frazine Taylor Research Grant, presented by Shari L. Williams
Virginia V. Hamilton Award, presented by Veronica Henderson
James F. Sulzby Book Award, presented by Michael Robinson

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address — "History, Who It Is"

Sonny Brewer, author of *The Poet of Tolstoy Park*

Saturday April 11, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, and Exhibitors —
Dahlgren Hall, Coastal Alabama Community College

8:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A: *Giddens Auditorium*, Valerie Pope Burnes, University of West Alabama, presiding

"Dumb Southerners: How Disease Skewed Perceptions of the South"
Beth Hunter, University of Alabama at Birmingham

"We Come By It (Dis)Honestly: Panaceas, Poisons, and Prescriptions in an
Early-20th Century Pharmacy"
Caity Bell, Landmarks of DeKalb County

"The Poisoning of John T. Rowland and the Enforcement of Temperance
in Small Southern Communities"
Wesley R. Bishop, Jacksonville State University

Session B: *Classroom 5 (Second Floor)*, Carrie Barske Crawford, University of North Alabama, presiding

"Victor von Sheliha's Torpedoes and the Confederate Defense of Mobile
Bay"
Paul T. Brueske, University of South Alabama

"Huntsville's 1971 Sanitation Workers Strike"
Adam Keller and Whitney R. Washington, North Alabama Area Labor
Council

Session C: *Classroom 8 (Second Floor)*, Kelly Kennington, Auburn University, presiding

"The 1865 University of Alabama Fire: Archival Loss, Enduring Myths,
and Historical Memory"
Rebecca L. Whiting, University of Alabama

"*The House That Hate Built*: Novel Facts and Factual History"
Bert Hitchcock, Opelika

“Two Historical Myths from the Shoals: Pope’s Tavern Museum and the Singing River” Brian Murphy and Jordan Collier, Florence Arts and Museums

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. General Session — Giddens Auditorium

Matthew Downs, President of the Association, presiding

Reports

Membership Secretary — Maiben Beard

Treasurer — Gayle Thomas

Time and Place — Laura Hill, Vice President

The Alabama Review — Matthew Downs and Michael Robinson, Editors

Speaker’s Bureau — Jim Baggett

Marker Committee — Scotty Kirkland, Chair

Nominating Committee — Beth Hunter, Chair

Election of Officers and Directors

Introduction of Session Chairs and Speakers — Ben H. Severance,
Committee Chair

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A: *Giddens Auditorium*, John M. Giggie, University of Alabama, presiding

“Beyond Booker: Politics and Historical Memory at Tuskegee University”
S. Thomas Ritchie, Tuskegee University

“Do What the Spirit Say Do’: A Photo Essay on the Activism, Advocacy,
and Outreach of the Tuskegee Institute Scholar-Activists in the 1960s”
Thomas L. Coley, Alabama Education Association

“Resilience and Recognition: The MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians in
Alabama”
Peter Rivers, Mobile

Session B: Classroom 5 (Second Floor), Theo Moore, Hiztorical Vision Productions, presiding

“Trading for Victory: Reexamining the Anglo-French Trade War in the Colonial Alabama Frontier”
John J. Gurner, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park

“How Urban Renewal Reshaped a Mobile Neighborhood”
Christine Q. Dawson, GAI Consultants

“Collective Memory, Pride, and Place: Documenting the African American Neighborhoods of Florence, Alabama”
Michael Asher, Florence Arts and Museums

Session C: Classroom 8 (Second Floor), Susan Reynolds, *Alabama Heritage*, presiding

“Fairhope and Philadelphia’s Single-Tax Connection”
Maureen S. Thompson, Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System

“*Negro Folk Music of Alabama*, Folkways Records, and Harold Courlander”
James I. Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution

“Lives Before Loss: How the Army and War Forever Changed the Communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat and the People Who Built Them”
Polly Padden, Mississippi State University

12:15 p.m. Annual Luncheon — Fairhope United Methodist Church

Laura Hill, Vice President, presiding

Introduction of Speaker — Dr. Lonnie Burnett

Presidential Address — “Practical Idealism: The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and Alabama’s ‘Utopia by the Bay’”

Matthew Downs, 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
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1958-59	—	William H. Jenkins*	Decatur
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1962-63	—	Caldwell Delaney*	Mobile
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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
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2003-04	—	James W. Lee*	Huntsville
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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 H. Severance	Auburn University Montgomery
2022-23	—	Jim Baggett	Birmingham Public Library
2023-24	—	Ruth Truss	University of Montevallo
2024-25	—	Richard Bailey	Montgomery

***Deceased**

Notes: