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Cover image courtesy of Nicholas Strong.

Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.
Greetings fellow members. In keeping with the tone of most US presidential addresses, I am happy to report that the state of the Alabama Historical Association is healthy and strong. The October pilgrimage at Historic Blakeley State Park was an enormous success. Over sixty members enjoyed a roundtable discussion about the Mobile area during the Civil War, followed by both a boat cruise of the Bay’s eastern shore and a tour of the battlefield. A heap of thanks goes to Mike Bunn, the park director, and his staff for hosting this event with efficient hospitality. A round of applause also goes to the featured Roundtable speakers—Mike Bailey, Paula Webb, Paul Brueske, and John Sledge—who shared their scholarly insights and entertained a number of questions from the attendees with panache and humor.

Next up is the Annual Meeting in Florence—at last! As many of you may know, this was supposed to have been the location for the 2020 meeting. Unfortunately, the dreaded COVID-19 forced a cancellation. Happily, that face-to-face get-together has been rescheduled for April 2022. The folks up there, led by Dr. Carolyn Barske Crawford, are ready and eager to show off their town in all its glory. As you’ll discover from a perusal of this newsletter, there is much to see in our state’s northwestern corner. Besides offering the usual menu of interesting paper presentations and fascinating historical sites, the AHA is also proud to announce the featured keynote speaker for Friday night’s banquet: Don Noble of Alabama Public Television and Radio. Dr. Noble will share highlights from his more than thirty years of interviewing the many authors who have written about Alabama’s rich history and culture. The Florence meeting promises to emulate the excellence that has become the hallmark of AHA’s past gatherings. And I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work of my predecessor, Frazine Taylor, whose presidency did so much to prepare the way for Florence, yet was denied the prize by the coronavirus pandemic. It took two years, but we still got there, Frazine.

On a sadder note, the AHA recently lost the esteemed David Alsobrook, whose presidency of our organization was just a few short years ago. I got to know David working as part of his planning team, and immediately felt comfortable and valued in his presence. He was a wonderful man and gifted scholar, and he has left us much too soon.

Now let me sign off on with a more upbeat tone. The lodging and central locale for the Florence meeting is the Marriott Shoals Hotel. This is the place with the rotating restaurant tower that provides a spectacular view of the Wilson Dam. Just beware of crossing that TVA structure at night; one wrong turn and you’ll get a very intimate look at the Tennessee River. Anyway, please register and make your reservations soon, and get ready for a fun time in Florence.

Ben H. Severance, President
The role of the Tennessee River in shaping life in northwest Alabama has been significant. Beginning over 10,000 years ago, nomadic indigenous people sought the safety of rock shelters carved out of the limestone of the Highland Rim region as they came to fish the waters, hunt game, harvest plants, and gather nuts. As their settlements grew larger and more permanent, indigenous people began planting crops and building mounds. They created vast trade networks across the southeast and beyond, using land routes like the Natchez Trace as well as the river to travel. Problems began with European contact, first in the form of diseases contracted from Spanish explorers, and then with settlers who were eager to take land from the Chickasaw and Cherokee. A series of treaties slowly eroded native control of northwest Alabama, culminating in the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which resulted in the removal of thousands of people to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).

White migrants from the eastern portion of the United States who came looking for new land and opportunities noted the incredible power of the Tennessee River. They recognized how important the river would be in connecting the east with the west as the United States continued to expand. Traveling west from Florence, the river eventually connects to the Ohio River. This connection allowed goods to reach markets in the east and, via the Mississippi River, to New Orleans. The river, while full of potential, also posed some enormous challenges. Shallow rapids or shoals, rocks, and sandbars filled a roughly eighty-mile stretch of the river between present-day Brown’s Ferry in Limestone and Morgan County and Waterloo at the western edge of the state, making water travel slow and dangerous. The stretch between present-day Florence and Decatur was the worst, as the river also dropped over 130 feet in this forty-mile stretch. The
Enslaved people were also forced to work on engineering projects like the first Muscle Shoals Canal and the Tuscumbia Courtland & Decatur Railroad.

While the first Muscle Shoals Canal failed for a multitude of reasons, including poor design and a lack of funding for maintenance, the TC&D Railroad had an enormous impact on the region. The first railroad west of the Appalachian Mountains, the TC&D Railroad started out in 1832 as a two-mile-long horse-drawn line between Tuscumbia and Tuscumbia Landing, which residents had built in 1824 to load cotton and other goods onto steamboats. The same year, the TC&D Railroad Company obtained their charter and started construction on a rail line around the Muscle Shoals. The first segment, completed in July of 1834, reached Courtland and the second, completed in December of the same year, reached Decatur. Steam engines replaced horses in 1836. In 1850, the railroad merged with the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The construction of the line also resulted in the construction of railroad bridges in Florence and Decatur. During the last phases of Indian Removal, Creek and Cherokee were forced off of boats at Rhodes Ferry and onto the TC&D Railroad in Decatur. In Tuscumbia, they again boarded boats to travel westward.

The river played an important role in determining how the Union and Confederate forces engaged with new residents had to figure out a way to address the navigational difficulties created by the Big and Little Muscle Shoals, the Elk River Shoals, and the Colbert Shoals (collectively known as the Muscle Shoals) so they could get their agricultural products to market.

The primary product sent out of northwest Alabama in the nineteenth century was, of course, cotton. One of the main motivations for farmers to come to Alabama in the early nineteenth century was the rich soil. While cotton production in the Highland Rim region of northwest Alabama never reached the levels it did in the Black Belt region further south, it did make up a very significant portion of the economy. Because farming cotton was a very labor-intensive enterprise, white landowners brought with them enslaved people who broke the soil, planted the crops, harvested them, and processed the cotton for sale. By 1830, enslaved people made up almost half of the population in Limestone and Franklin (which encompassed present-day Colbert County) counties and a significant portion of the population of the other northwest counties.
each other in northwest Alabama during the Civil War. The forces battled over control of factories, rail lines, and bridges across the region. Both armies recognized the strategic importance of controlling the river and the railroads. Union forces almost completely destroyed the city of Decatur so they could use the wood from the buildings to construct a fort. Confederates also devastated the landscape, burning both railroad bridges that crossed the river to prevent the Union from using them. In the post-war period, the river helped the area recover economically. New businesses and factories,
which used the river to move their products, brought much-needed employment to northwest Alabama.

The dawn of the twentieth century brought even more drastic changes to the region. A desperate need for a reliable domestic source of nitrates for explosives during World War I led to the construction of Nitrate Plants No. 1 and 2, and more importantly for the long-term vitality of the region, the Wilson Dam. While the war ended just months after construction of the dam began, the Army Corps of Engineers continued work, completing the dam in 1925. The dam generated massive amounts of power, but with the war over the nitrate facilities stood empty. Even before construction of the dam was complete, Henry Ford submitted a bid to buy the nitrate facilities and to lease the dam (and another to be built by the federal government) for 100 years. He proposed developing fertilizer in the nitrate facilities, producing explosives when needed during war, and using the power generated by the dam to fuel the development of an industrial corridor between Florence and Huntsville. The plan failed to gain Congressional approval, as did a plan by the Alabama Power Company. Many believed the dam, paid for by taxpayer money, should be used for the public good, rather than private enterprise.

When TVA took over Wilson Dam in 1933 and launched the construction of Wheeler and Pickwick Dams as well, they brought cheap electricity to northwest Alabama, leading to dramatic changes in the quality of life for residents of the region. They also led the country in fertilizer research and production. They taught farmers better crop rotation methods and about the importance of fertilization. They worked to eradicate malaria, conducted archeological digs, opened libraries for their workers, and reforestation projects, often in conjunction with other federal agencies such as the
Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. After World War II, during which TVA produced explosive materials for the war effort, TVA also constructed coal and nuclear plants in the region.

As we move deeper into the twenty-first century, the Tennessee River and its tributaries continue to be instrumental in shaping the culture and industry of northwest Alabama. We fish, swim, kayak and canoe in their waters. Barges move goods up and down the river. Corporations continue to make their homes on the river’s banks. Migrating cranes and other birds stop in Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. The river continues to inspire artists and musicians who call northwest Alabama home. A growing desire to understand and appreciate the native people who lived here before us and who continue to call the region home has led to the development of museums, festivals, and educational programming. When Congress designated the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in 2009 to interpret, preserve, and protect the cultural, historical, and natural resources of the six counties of northwest Alabama (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan), they recognized the importance and significance of the story of our region. As so many people say about this area, “there’s something magical in the water here.” Enjoy your time in the Shoals!


Brian Murphy is the curator at Florence Arts and Museums in Florence, Alabama and manages both the Florence Indian Mound Museum and Pope’s Tavern Museum. He teaches Introduction to Public History at the University of North Alabama.

Carolyn M. Barske Crawford is the director of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and an affiliated faculty member in the University of North Alabama Department of History.
VILLAGE ONE

U.S. Nitrate Plant Village One, or “Village One,” is a residential neighborhood in Sheffield, Alabama of both national and local historic interest regarding military history, landscape design, industry, and architecture.

Village One is a Garden City development designed by Mann & MacNeille Architects in 1917 to house the U.S. Army Ordnance Department overseeing the construction and operation of nearby U.S. Nitrate Plant Number One. Prior to entering World War I, U.S. production of ammonium nitrate for munitions was in its infancy. The experimental Nitrate One was the first production facility in the country.

A unique landscape feature of Village One is the 9-acre commons and streetscape shaped like the Liberty Bell, the Liberty Bell being a prominent patriotic symbol during the Great War. Here the roadways come together to form the hanger, the bell, the clapper, and the crack of America’s most famous bell.

Village One houses were built in the craftsman bungalow style and range in 14 different sizes and styles plus flipped floorplans create variety in street views. Exteriors were clad in white stucco and roofed in matching terra cotta tile, giving the neighborhood the feel of a quaint European Village in Northwest Alabama. Being an occupied government facility from 1918 to 1949, much of Village One remains intact as it was originally constructed and designed.

Thursday’s 1:00 p.m. tour will begin at the Village One Schoolhouse.

Photos and guided tour courtesy of the The Village One School Foundation.
LOCUST HILL

209 Cave Street, Tuscumbia

William H. and Catherine Winter built Locust Hill in 1823 in the Federal style with chimneys in each gable end. The white-painted brick is laid in Flemish bond on the west and south sides that face Cave and 7th Streets. All windows are two-over-two-sashes, and the main entrance is a double leaf door with moulded trim and a transom. During the Civil War, the house was used by the Union Army as the headquarters of General Florence M. Cornyn. After the war, the house was purchased by John Taylor Rather, an early North Alabama settler who was a longtime member of the Alabama House of Representatives and later the Alabama Senate. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.


ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 N. Dickson Street, Tuscumbia

St. John’s will be open for tours from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

St. John’s Episcopal Church in Tuscumbia is Alabama’s oldest church built in the Carpenter Gothic style. Parishioners first used the building in October 1852 and completed construction the following year. During the Civil War, federal troops used the structure to stable horses. In 1874, a tornado was responsible for extensive damages, and the building was reinforced with iron rods. Concrete buttresses were installed in 1956. The church contains original stained-glass windows, furnishing, and a pump organ. St. John’s is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Photo courtesy of Alabama Mountain Lakes, Charles Seifried.
Pope’s Tavern Museum preserves and interprets the site of a historic inn and stagecoach stop. Several structures have sat at the location, with the present structure having been built sometime in first half of the nineteenth century. It has served as an inn, a private residence, and since the 1960s, a museum owned by the city of Florence. The museum’s collections focus on the history of Florence, especially its founding and the role Florence played in the Civil War.

The new Slavery and Cotton Exhibit at Pope’s Tavern is a permanent addition to the Museum space and the first exhibit to explore the system of slavery in Northwest Alabama. The exhibit features the voices of people who were enslaved to draw out the reality and humanity of life in the Shoals. The exhibit features a double-sided textile image created by artist Valerie Goodwin, who is descended from people who were enslaved in the Shoals. Externally, the piece speaks to the public at large, giving the exhibit a defining characteristic that communicates the content within. Internally, the piece provides a focal point for museum guests and ties together the museum’s narrative of slavery, cotton, and voices of the enslaved. Both images speak to the history of slavery and Black resilience in the Shoals community.
FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

BELLE MONT MANSION
1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia

Belle Mont Mansion, built circa 1828, is one of the few examples of Palladian-style houses in Alabama. This design is derived from the neoclassical architectural style of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Although the original architect and builder remain unknown, the style of Belle Mont appears also to have been influenced by past U.S. President and architect Thomas Jefferson.

Belle Mont was originally built for Alexander Williams Mitchell, who grew up in Louisa County, Virginia. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, he was a physician, planter, and an early elected official of Franklin (present-day Colbert) County, where he settled around 1820 and built the house as the centerpiece of his large cotton plantation. In 1832, Mitchell put Belle Mont up for sale and eventually moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An advertisement appearing in a Huntsville newspaper described “a brick dwelling house,” 76 feet across the front, along with “all the necessary houses.” The advertisement also noted Belle Mont’s 1,760 acres which were planted in clover, grass, corn, and cotton and included an orchard. Belle Mont was purchased from Dr. Mitchell by Isaac and Catherine Winston, whose family held the house and property for more than a century.

The Alabama Historical Commission owns Belle Mont, and the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc. operates the site.

Photo courtesy of the George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith’s America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

FAME STUDIOS
603 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

NOTE: Guided tour available at 4 pm on Friday, but tour admission is not included in the AHA registration fee. Please be prepared to pay the $10 admission fee at the door.

Florence Alabama Music Enterprises (FAME) Recording Studios was established in 1959 by producer Rick Hall and was once the home of the session musician group the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section. FAME played a large role in creating the “Muscle Shoals sound” of country, blues, rock, and soul that was popularized by producer Rick Hall, the list of artists who have recorded with FAME is an index to American music history: Aretha Franklin, Clarence Carter, Little Richard, Etta James, Otis Redding, the Osmonds, Jerry Reed, Alabama, Mac Davis, the Gatlin Brothers, Bobbie Gentry, The Gregg Allman Band, Third Day, Vince Gill, Alison Krauss, John Paul White, St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Jason Isbell, and the Civil Wars, just to name a few. For Saturday tour times, visit www.famestudios.com.

Exterior photo courtesy of FAME Studios; Interior photo courtesy of Chris Granger.
INDIAN MOUND AND MUSEUM
1028 South Court Street, Florence

The Indian Mound and Museum preserves the site of an ancient earthen mound built by Native Americans of the Woodland Period, approximately 2,000 years ago. The mound is located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Florence, and is the largest Indian mound in the Tennessee River Valley.

The mound is an earthen four-sided structure with a base measuring 310 by 230 feet and a summit that rises 43 feet and measures approximately 145 by 95 feet on top. The mound was once surrounded by an earthen wall, which likely reached 12 to 15 feet high. The first historical mention of the mound is found on an 1818 map created by Ferdinand Sannoner, Hunter Peel, and Gen. John Coffee when laying out the city of Florence. In 1968, the city of Florence established the Indian Mound Museum adjacent to the site to exhibit artifacts recovered during archaeological excavations of the mound. The museum closed in March 2015 and was replaced with a much larger facility in 2017.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOURS**  
**Continued**

**MUSCLE SHOALS SOUND STUDIO**  
3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

**NOTE:** Guided tours available every half hour until 3:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, but tour admission is not included in the AHA registration fee. Please be prepared to pay the $15 admission fee at the door.

The Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section opened the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio in 1969, the only recording studio owned and operated by the session musicians. Known as “The Swampers,” the Studio’s first release was Cher’s debut solo album titled 3614 Jackson Highway, and the cover features the title superimposed over the façade of the building, inspiring the now iconic sign. The Studio remained at the Jackson Highway location for nine years, and during that time, the Swampers played on over 200 albums, with over 75 RIAA Gold and Platinum Records, and hundreds of hit songs with artists Lynyrd Skynyrd, Bob Dylan, Duane Allman, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Seger, Rod Stewart, Willie Nelson and more. By 1978, the Studio moved to a larger building on Alabama Avenue in Sheffield, and the original location became a retail facility before falling into disrepair. A local citizen reopened the original building as a museum and fully-functioning studio in the early 2000s, and the Muscle Shoals Music Foundation acquired the building in 2013 for the purpose of restoration.

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*Photo courtesy of Debbie Wilson, Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.*

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**POPE'S TAVERN MUSEUM**  
203 Hermitage Drive, Florence

Pope’s Tavern Museum is housed in a building that dates back to the early 1800s. According to legend, Christopher Cheatham built and operated a tavern on this site for Leroy Pope in 1811, seven years before the founding of Florence. During the Civil War the house was used as a hospital by Union and Confederate armies. Thirty-two soldiers died in the house and were buried in the old Florence Cemetery.

Felix Grundy Lambeth, a postmaster in Florence, bought the house in 1874. It was occupied by the Lambeth family until 1965. When rumors circulated that the house was to be demolished, the Chamber of Commerce purchased the property and gave it to the City of Florence. The deed stipulated the city would maintain and preserve the building as a historic site and that it would be used as a museum. After extensive renovations of the building by the city and an extensive search for appropriate artifacts, the Pope’s Tavern Museum was opened to the public in 1968.

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*Photos courtesy Christi Williams Britten.*
ROSENBAUM HOUSE
601 Riverview Drive, Florence

Frank Lloyd Wright designed this house built for Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum in 1939, and according to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, “it remains one of the purest examples of the Usonian style, which Wright would spend much of his later career refining.” The house is designed in a characteristic L-shape, is made from natural materials – largely cypress wood, brick and glass – and is capped by cantilevered roofs that cover both the living spaces and the adjoining carport. The house does not contain a basement or attic, and the heating system is embedded in the concrete floor to provide radiant heat. The Rosenbaum family remained the sole occupant until 1999, when they donated the house to the City of Florence, and it remains the only Wright house in the southeast open to the public. www.wrightinalabama.com

Photos courtesy Christi Williams Britten.
WZZA RADIO STATION
1570 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia
Bob Carl and Odessa Bailey launched WZZA Radio, the first African American-owned radio station in the Shoals, on July 4, 1972, and the station continues to reach approximately 45,000 listeners each day. Mr. Bailey was known for many “firsts,” including one of the first three African-American policemen in Huntsville; the first African American chief of police of Triana; the first African-American to have a television talk show in the Shoals; and the first President of the Shoals Areas Business Association. Knowns as “Soul of the Shoals,” WZZA Radio filled a void in broadcasting and remains the only locally owned station with a primarily African American audience in Northwest Alabama. Unique historical memorabilia collected throughout the station’s history will be on display as part of the facility tour. To listen to WZZA Radio online, visit www.wzzaradio.com. The station is stop #25 on the Roots of American Music Trail.

W.C. HANDY BIRTHPLACE, MUSEUM, AND LIBRARY
620 W. College Street, Florence
The W.C. Handy cabin, museum, and library is dedicated to one of Florence’s most famous sons, the “Father of the Blues.” William Christopher Handy, was born in Florence in 1873 in a simple cabin at this site that now houses a large collection of his personal papers, memorabilia and artifacts donated before his death in 1958. Born with a natural musical bent-as a boy, he visualized birdcalls as notes on a scale. Handy went on to compose such well-known blues jewels as “St. Louis Blues,” “Beale Street Blues,” and “Memphis Blues.” Florence hosts an an annual week-long W.C. Handy Music Festival, which features concerts, lectures, and events in honor of Handy. www.wchandymuseum.org
THURSDAY, APRIL 7

1:00 p.m.  Guided Tour of “Village One,” U.S. Nitrate Plant Village
200 Chickamauga St., Sheffield, AL 35660

2:30 p.m.  Open for Tours (until 4:30 p.m.)
St. John’s Episcopal Church
300 N. Dickson Street, Tuscumbia
Locust Hill
209 S. Cave Street, Tuscumbia

6:00 p.m.  Reception
Pope’s Tavern and Museum
203 Hermitage Drive, Florence, AL 35630

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Marriott Shoals Conference Center
10 Hightower Place, Florence, Alabama

8:00 a.m.  Registration, Coffee, Book Sales
9:00 a.m.  General Session
10:45 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions

Session A
• “Family Biography as Regional History: The Bankheads of Alabama”
  Kari Frederickson, University of Alabama
  Matthew Downs, University of Mobile
  Rob Riser, University of West Alabama
  Charles Roberts, Andrew College

Session B
• “Rethinking Pope’s Tavern in Florence, Alabama”
  Brian Murphy, Florence Arts and Museums
  Matthew Gage, Moundville Archaeological Research

• “An Engineering Review of Admiral S.P. Lee’s Actions at the Muscle Shoals in December 1864”
  Greg Gresham, Killen, Alabama

• “The ‘White Elephant’ at Muscle Shoals: The Wilson Dam Dilemma, 1896-1933”
  Cindy McMurtrey Johnson, Harpersville, Alabama

Session C
• “Between a Country and a Nation: The United States, the Creek Nation, and the life of James Moore”
  Matthew Robinson, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

• “The Cotton Kingdom: African & Native Americans and the Development of the Mississippi Territory”
  Joseph Adam Lee, Black Heritage Council
• “A Capitol in the Wilderness: Historical Archaeology at Alabama’s First State House”
  Eric D. Sipes, Alabama Historical Commission
  Linda Derry, Old Cahawba, Alabama Historical Commission

Session D
• “From the American South to the South Pacific: The Alabama National Guard and Race Relations in the 31st Infantry ‘Dixie’ Division During World War II”
  Chris Rein, Air University Press

• “The Hero and the Villain: Two White Tuskegee Airmen Leaders”
  Daniel Haulman, Retired USAF Historian

• “Blue-Gray – Without Black: Profit, Publicity, and the Desegregation of the Blue-Gray All-Star Football Classic”
  Elissa True Lisle, University of Alabama

Noon Lunch
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tours
6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales
8:30 a.m. “Archivists and Artifacts from the Tennessee River Valley Region”
  Co-sponsored by The Society of Alabama Archivists
9:30 a.m. Business Session
10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
  Session A
  • “Selma’s Bloody Sunday Revisited.”
    Richard Burt, Auburn University
    Keith S. Hébert, Auburn University
    Elijah Gaddis, Auburn University
    Junshan Liu, Auburn University
    Veronica Pitts, Selma High School
    Robert White, Alabama State University
    Danielle Wilkens, Georgia Tech University

Join us at the Business Session for a special presentation by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees on “Indigenous Peoples in Present-Day Alabama.”
Dr. Suwanee Dees is the Director/Tribal Archivist for the Office of Archives and Records Management at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.
Session B

• “‘Children as Gamma Globulin Guinea Pigs’: The 1953 Polio Epidemic in Montgomery County”
  Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery

• “The 1918 Pandemic in Birmingham”
  Catherine James, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

• “Four Waves, Three Fellowships, Two Schools, and One Movement: The Stone-Campbell Heritage of the Tuscaloosa Area”
  John Young, Amridge University

Session C

• “Emmor Crew and the Opelika Monorail”
  Delos Hughes, Washington & Lee University

• “To Stop a Train: An Examination and Contextualization of the 1919 Tri-Cities Streetcar Strike”
  Alexa Sparks, University of North Alabama

• “Alabama’s Historic Byler Road”
  Joel Mize, Tuscumbia

Session D

• “Madame Octavia Walton LeVert: Her Civil War Years in Alabama”
  Paula Webb, University of South Alabama

• “Bossie O’Brien Hundley - Alabama Suffragist: NOT an ‘old maid, unhappy married woman, crank, or faddist.’”
  Monica Tapper, Wallace Community College, Selma

• “The Metternich of the Forest: Reassessing the Leadership and Diplomacy of Jean-Baptiste le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville”
  John Gurner, Ft. Toulouse/Ft. Jackson, Alabama Historical Commission

11:45 a.m.  Annual Luncheon
Presidential Address by Ben Severance

1:00 p.m.  Film Screening and Discussion: The Wallace A. Rayfield Story
Dwight Cammeron, producer/director/editor
Marriott Shoals Hotel
10 Hightower Place • (256) 246-3600
Book online or by phone by March 4 to receive the AHA rate of $129/night. Visit alabamahistory.net/meetings for link.

Thursday Afternoon Pre-Meeting Tours:

1 Village One
200 Chickamauga Street, Sheffield
Tour at 1 o’clock pm

2 Locust Hill
209 S. Cave Street, Tuscumbia
Tours between 2:30 and 4:30 pm

3 St. John Episcopal Church
300 N. Dickson Street, Tuscumbia
Tours between 2:30 and 4:30 pm

Thursday Evening Reception:

4 Pope’s Tavern Museum
203 Hermitage Drive, Florence

Be on the lookout for the red and white AHA signs!
Friday Afternoon Tours:
1pm - 5pm unless otherwise noted.

- **Indian Mound Museum**
  1028 S. Court St, Florence

- **Rosenbaum House**
  601 Riverview Dr, Florence

- **WZZA Radio**
  1570 Woodmont Dr, Tuscumbia

- **Belle Mont Mansion**
  1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia

- **WC Handy Birthplace, Museum & Library**
  620 W. College St, Florence

- **Locust Hill**
  209 S. Cave Street, Tuscumbia
  Tours between 2:30 and 4:30 pm

- **Pope’s Tavern**
  203 Hermitage Dr, Florence

Also Open for Tours:
(Pay Upon Arrival)

- **Muscle Shoals Sound Studio**
  3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

- **FAME Studios**
  603 Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals

- **Ivy Green**
  300 N. Commons St, Tuscumbia

Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map. Please don’t rely on the scale of this map for navigation.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Carolyn M. Barske Crawford will provide an overview of Florence, Alabama at the general session on Friday morning. Crawford is the director of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and an affiliated faculty member in the UNA Department of History. Dr. Barske Crawford’s recent work includes *The Tennessee River and Northwest Alabama*, co-authored with Florence Indian Mound curator Brian Murphy. She has collaborated on many projects focused on the history of northwest Alabama, including *Hidden Spaces*, which uses photography and historical research to examine the stories of lesser-known locations across northwest Alabama, and the Roots of American Music Trail, which documents the rich musical heritage of the region. Dr. Barske Crawford teaches courses in historical administration, exhibit design, local history, Native American history, and co-leads a study abroad trip to Scotland.

Dr. Don Noble will discuss “Fifty Years of Alabama Literature” at the Annual Awards Banquet. Noble, Professor Emeritus of English at UA, has been the host of the Emmy-nominated Alabama Public Television literary interview show Bookmark since 1988. Since 2001 his weekly reviews of fiction and nonfiction, mainly Southern, have been broadcast on Alabama Public Radio. In 2000, Noble received the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar, and in 2013 he received the Wayne Greenhaw Service Award in Recognition of Exemplary Service from the Alabama Humanities Foundation. In 2017 he received both The Governor’s Arts Award from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the Literary Educator Award from the Arts and Humanities Council of West Alabama. Noble is the editor of collections of critical articles on *To Kill a Mockingbird*, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald among others, and four collections of Alabama short fiction, most recently *Alabama Noir*. His shorter pieces have appeared in *The New York Times, The Oxford American* and many other periodicals.
**2021 HISTORIC MARKERS**

**ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

**HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED IN 2021**

*Text of the markers will be published in the April 2022 issue of The Alabama Review*

- Rev. John L. Alford Sr., 1940—2018 (Montgomery County)
- Auburn University and the Alabama Farmers Federation (Lee County)
- Alice Boarman Baldridge, Women’s Rights Leader, 1874—1961 (Madison County)
- The Attempted Bombing of Congregation Beth-El (Jefferson County)
- Hugh A. Carson, 1847—1912 (Montgomery County)
- Crewe of Columbus Birthplace (Mobile County)
- Rev. Robert and Jean Graetz (Montgomery County)
- Phillip Hamman, Soldier & Early Alabama Settler, 1750—1832 (Jackson County)
- Highlands School (Jefferson County)
- Huntsville’s First Black Women Voters (Madison County)
- Kennedy-Cox House/Joshua Kennedy Sr. (Mobile County)
- Rev. Daisy Annette Lewis, 1937—2019 (Montgomery County)
- Ben F. Moore, 1848—1914 (Montgomery County)
- Dr. Frances Cabaniss Roberts, 1916—2000/ Cabaniss Home (Madison County)


*Dr. Richard Bailey speaks at the dedication of the “Rev. Robert S. and Jean Graetz” marker in Montgomery. Photos courtesy of Mickey Welsh, Montgomery Advertiser.*

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Fall Pilgrimage to Mentone, Alabama
September 23-24, 2022
For lodging and other information, visit www.alabamahistory.net
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