



# ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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**JOIN US FOR THE FALL PILGRIMAGE TO CAMDEN  
OCTOBER 27, 2018**



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Cover Image:  
Wilcox County Courthouse,  
June 10, 2018.  
Courtesy of Daniel Fate Brooks.

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*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](http://www.alabamahistory.net) for more information.*

PHOTO CREDIT: ROBIN McDONALD

*Valerie Pope Burnes*

As Alabama looks toward its bicentennial in 2019, your Alabama Historical Association is looking forward to joining our members in celebration and reflection on our state's vast and varied history. In 2018, the AHA invites you to learn more about the events of 1818

through a trip to Camden and Wilcox County on Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27. A quintessential Black Belt town, with beautiful homes and churches, a picturesque downtown with the Wilcox County Courthouse and Black Belt Treasures, and a Civil Rights history tied to the Movement in Selma and influenced by Gee's Bend, Camden's story follows the cotton boom prior to the Civil War, and the fall of cotton after the 1960s. Today, Wilcox County seeks to tell its story by reflecting on various aspects of its history, while encouraging visitors to do the same.

But what is the Wilcox County connection to the territorial period and statehood? One man: Charles Tait. Born in Hanover, Virginia, in 1768, Tait later moved to Georgia, where he was elected to finish the U.S. Senate term of John Milledge in 1809. After he was re-elected in 1813, Tait, influenced by several friends and former colleagues in Georgia who had moved to Huntsville, as well as his neighbor and fellow U.S. Senator William Wyatt Bibb, put forth legislation to have Alabama separated from Mississippi to form a new state. Tait was thwarted in his first attempt to have Alabama created, when several senators, including Bibb, were forced out of office because they voted to double their pay.

Tait was successful in his second attempt to carve Alabama from the Mississippi Territory. Not only did Tait shepherd through the legislation to create Alabama, he also ensured that Alabama, and thus Mississippi, mirrored Georgia in a north-south alignment, rather than Tennessee, with a horizontal alignment. In 1820, Tait moved to the Wilcox-Monroe County line, to manage 4,000 acres, as well as 115 people who were enslaved to his land. There Tait lived the rest of his life, studying the fossils of the Claiborne beds. Tait died at his son's home, Dry Fork, in 1835, and is buried there, on land still owned by Tait descendants. Though we won't be taking the drive out to Dry Fork, the Alabama Department of Archives and History will bring Tait to you via an exhibit at the Wilcox Female Institute. And when I say that the ADAH is bringing Tait to you, they are giving you the opportunity to see more of just about any deceased person in Alabama than you will ever see again, because Charles Tait's wooden leg will be part of the exhibit.

So join us on October 26-27 to see one of my favorite towns in Alabama, and learn about the man who is largely responsible for the shape of Alabama as we see it today.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Pope Burnes".

Valerie Pope Burnes, President

# CAMDEN: VESTIGE OF CONTRASTS

*By Daniel Fate Brooks*

A lone dove perches on a wire, sounding a mournful coo in the Black Belt summer. The traffic light in front of the old Matthews Hardware building turns green as a sunburned family cruises down the abandoned street in front of endless displays of budget furniture. Time passes, marked only by the bank's digital clock.



*Wilcox County Courthouse c. 1890, private collection*

If you have lived in Camden, or driven through town after spending a few days on the coast, you have witnessed the broken dignity of Wilcox County's Courthouse Square. But it is not until one is alone, studying the townscape and soaking in the humidity of a June Sunday, that he sees this place, not as another small town squinting to the future, but as a mixture of contradictions mirroring a colorful and conflicted history.

The Courthouse Square, the irregular heartbeat of Alabama's poorest county, is packed with souls from the past. It has seen murder, slave auctions, land sales, political rallies, enemy invasion, the anger of protests, the celebration of heroes, the conflict of racial demonstrations, the notoriety of officials, the excitement of election nights, the drastic change in authority. To reflect under the pecan trees is to step on the crowded scene of local history.

In the late afternoon, the elements of the square appear simple and silent: the antebellum red brick courthouse with its Italianate brackets, cast iron stairs and towering Doric columns, flanked by more recent brick veneer and nondescript storefronts; the Greek revival and Victorian law offices of Benjamin Meek Miller, Governor of Alabama (1931-1935), and General Richard Channing Jones, President of the University of Alabama, (1890-1897); and the 1840s "double brick" law building, now home to both a florist and a lunch spot. On the corner, opposite the old hardware building, is the square's newest addition: a small

park, dedicated to the memory of American Veterans, and dotted with crepe myrtles the color of watermelon.

The overall character of Camden foretells the charm of an earlier time. Broad and narrow streets display nineteenth-century architecture struggling to withstand the heavy hand of economic challenge, as well as a heavier hand of depression, frequently gloved in complacency. Asked about their interest in preservation, some white property owners quickly reference concerns prompted by a lack of zoning and overwhelming demographics.

In contrast, one block south of the Courthouse, a local bank has preserved two Creole cottages. The houses, occupied by Jewish merchants in the 1840s, stand on lots once planted with tiger lilies, jasmine and larkspur. Several older Camden residents remember poignant scenes of the structures at dusk. They recall light flickering through dark green blinds, as snowy-haired occupants grappled to shut out social change in the mid-twentieth century.

Thumbing the pages of early history, one finds that Camden, unlike many of its Alabama counterparts, was planned and built for a single purpose — to provide a center for county government. In 1832 the area had only a few pioneers when Thomas Dunn and his wife, Martha Hobbs, gave land for a new county seat. At the time no settlement had taken root on a site which was removed from the river and had none of the features of Canton or Prairie Bluff. The spot, however, was rich with springs and delivered the perfect place for its designated existence. In rapid order, the village, first called Wilcox Courthouse, was christened Barboursville by an influx of Virginians,



*Governor Benjamin Meek Miller, 1931, private collection*





*Courthouse Square scene c. 1890, private collection*

wishing to honor Philip Pendleton Barbour, tenth Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

The town's population swelled and matured in the late 1830s, and with that maturity, came a new clustering that produced a "Little South Carolina." A tremendous inflow of settlers from the Palmetto State, including small farmers and craftsmen, who owned few or no slaves, along with a younger generation of slaveholding aristocrats from the coastal and upcountry regions, helped Wilcox Countians give rise to an imperfect plantation mecca.

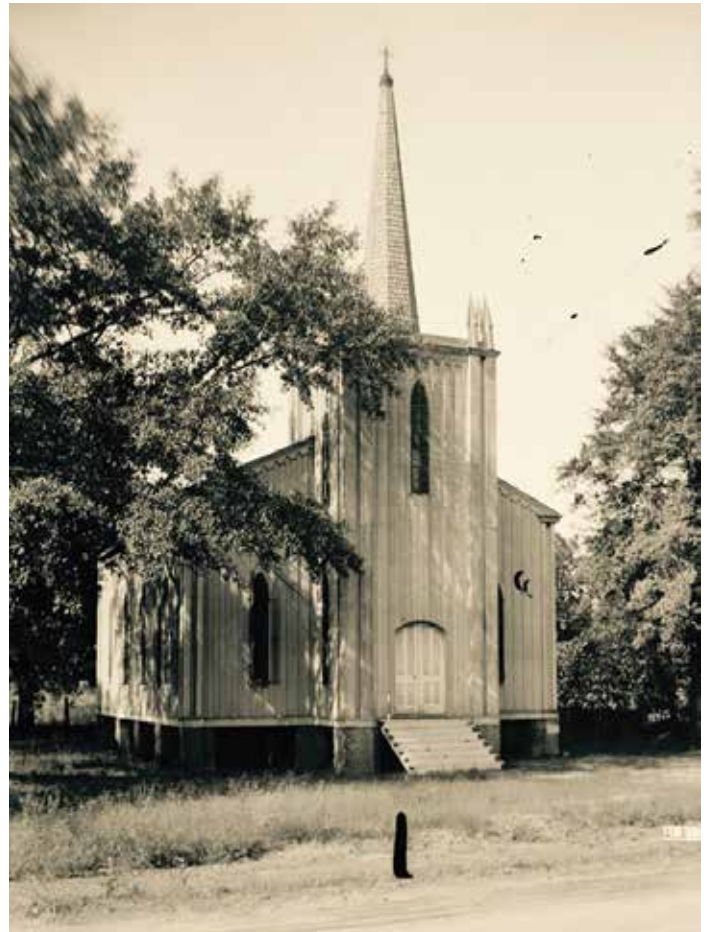
Among these newcomers was Dr. John Daniel Caldwell, a cousin of the eminent John Caldwell Calhoun. In 1841, Dr. Caldwell, a physician and a politician, proposed the idea for renaming Barboursville for Camden, South Carolina. His suggestion was overwhelmingly approved by his fellow South Carolinians, as well as by North Carolinians, Georgians and even the Virginians who admired the political convictions of the doctor's brilliant and passionate relative. In due time, a wide thoroughfare, renamed Clifton Street in the late nineteenth century, was given Calhoun's name. Camden was proud to be the county seat of Wilcox County, Alabama, but from a cultural perspective, the place bore a stronger kinship and resemblance to a Carolina town.

Besides the inhabitants from the South Atlantic seaboard, other immigrants came as well: English, Scotch, Irish, German, Italian, French, to say nothing of educated and some affluent "Yankees." From the late 1830s to the outbreak of the Civil War, hundreds of enslaved Africans were also delivered by traders from Mobile and Montgomery. In 1860 the black population of Wilcox County was 17,797 to a white populace of 6,795. The census listed just over 800 slaves as "mulatto" and recorded 26 "free colored." This polyglot blend of cultures gave Camden a complicated, cultivated, and stunning identity. A passage from a yellowed and brittle diary describes town scenes in the summer of 1857: "Every

evening the streets are lined with an elaborate array of carriages and handsome turnouts, that show in a small way the style in which people live here. Every carriage seems to have a fine team & its driver & footman. Not only does (sic) wealth & aristocracy hold sway, but intellect & merit draw homage from all."

King Cotton's success produced and multiplied patrician wealth, which in turn, heightened taste and refinement. The economic ritual of the golden years was legendary. After each successful crop, a steady stream of side wheelers tied up at nearby Bridgeport Landing to unload every luxury from Paris porcelain and coin silver, to leatherbound books, musical instruments and the finest mahogany furniture from Mobile and beyond. Flush times funded construction providing skilled artisans with fruitful employment. Among those craftsmen were John Kern, the English plasterer, and Spencer, "his youthful mulatto slave." The talented young man is credited with embellishing plantation manors as well as the "suburban villas" of Camden's cotton nabobs.

Papers and diaries of the town's educated citizenry mention the lives and work of the varied populace and reveal a sound understanding of craftsmanship, building



*St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1936, Historic American Buildings Survey*



*Grave monuments of Martha Jefferson Tait Beck and her husband Col. Franklin King Beck CSA. Camden Cemetery. Courtesy of the author*

design, function and history. This is particularly true for the houses first occupied by Governor Arthur Pendleton Bagby and David Sterrett, in addition to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and the Wilcox Female Institute. The stories of these four structures intertwine, uncovering a striking dimension to the social and moral consciences of several Camdenians in the 1850s.

By the fall of 1862, Wilcox County had begun to experience the sadness and hardship of the Civil War. While some brave soldiers returned home, others, like Col. Franklin King Beck, were killed on distant battlefields. Beck, a lawyer and a planter, was the nephew of Vice President William Rufus King and the widower of Judge Charles Tait's granddaughter, Martha Jefferson Tait. Concerned for three young children in his absence, Beck prevailed upon a widowed cousin, Catherine Parrish Ellis, King's official hostess when he was Minister to France, to supervise his home and family. Letters from Mrs. Ellis to her uncle's friend, President James Buchanan, detail the children's trauma from their father's death in 1864, and disclose her bitterness towards black and white Union troops invading Camden in the last days of war.

Catherine Ellis, like other local citizens, found Yankee invasion and Reconstruction to be "Camden's darkest hours." War caused many Wilcox County planters to

incur heavy debts, which in turn attracted a new breed of immigrant to the area. Almost immediately, Union veterans returned as "carpetbaggers" to buy plantations along the Alabama River. Even though they were considered "radical Republican invaders," some eventually assimilated, contributing heavily to the Presbyterian Church and marrying into planter families. One of these men was DeForest Richards of New Hampshire. Richards, who prospered in Camden and was elected sheriff of Wilcox County in 1868, eventually moved west and became the fifth Governor of Wyoming.

Tragic times did not end here. Fires in 1869, 1870, and 1916 laid city blocks to waste. Epidemics of scarlet fever and influenza took their toll. But the late nineteenth and early years of the twentieth century also brought new leadership and signs of positive change. In 1891 the Honorable Sol D. Bloch, son of one of Camden's Jewish merchants, became the first member of the Hebrew faith to be elected to the Alabama Senate. Bloch, who supported Camden over Montevallo as the site for the Alabama Girls' Industrial School, was editor of the *Wilcox Progressive Era* and helped plan a major celebration on the Courthouse Square to honor Camden's black World War I draftsmen. The Great War gave Camden a new generation of leaders and heroes from both races with Captain Emmett Kilpatrick, an interpreter at the Versailles Peace Conference, taking an honored place in history.

By the mid 1920s, low cotton prices, coupled with the onslaught of the boll weevil, and the decline of river transportation, sounded the collapse of Camden as a commercial center. Many residents, "too poor to paint and too proud to white wash," became more depressed during the Great Depression. Antebellum architecture, symbols of prosperity and power, slumped into gradual decay. Hard times and a lack of industry smothered hopes for economic

renewal. Agriculture and sharecropping continued, perpetuating longstanding traditions and a caste system reminiscent of the Old South.

Camden and Wilcox County witnessed very little social change from the 1930s through World War II. Yet as post-war America surged with hope, local leaders like State Senator J. Miller Bonner opposed the impact of change on the cultural morés of Alabama



*Captain Emmett Kilpatrick, 1921, private collection*





*Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford home c. 1895, private collection*



*Viola Goode Liddell and her husband, Will Liddell, greet Alabama Historical Association members in October 1980, private collection.*

and specifically the Black Belt. The struggle against segregation and the assurance of civil rights was entering the mainstream, altering the town's deep-rooted existence. Change promised a better future for many residents. Others saw it as an end to their idyllic, but tarnished, way of life.

From the late 1940s through the turbulent sixties, Camden experienced a symphony of racial and cultural shock, prompting a wave of published memory and observation. The town and county became the subjects of books including reminiscences, history, humor, and poetry. Sociological studies, exposés, magazine and feature articles, newspaper installments and a photographic chronicle document the uncertain outcome of a town in transition. The works of Viola Goode Liddell, Renwick C. Kennedy, Morton Rubin, Cabell Philips, Charles G. Dobbins, Bob Adelman, Susan Hall, Clinton McCarty, and others have long presented the area as a captivating and compelling storehouse of historical passion and suppression.

Camden's recent history is a painful story of evolution, failed endeavors, and dissension. Voting rights, laws for school integration, and black control of county government have empowered the descendants of slaves. Sadly, however, the capacity to govern the economic future of the town and county seems limited and lacks direction in the twenty-first century.

As years pass people from every corner of Alabama, across America, and around the world are drawn to the microcosm of Camden and Wilcox County. Today many people come to hunt, fish, or ride through town looking

at vestiges of grandeur. Others, blind to antebellum icons, continue to focus on the extended and complicated mission for more equal opportunity. Recently, however, all eyes watch and scrutinize the leadership and actions of two former residents serving as officials on the state and national stage. In the interim, time passes. Camden struggles, waiting for the future, while the Courthouse Square stands silent.

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*Daniel Fate Brooks is a former member of the Alabama Historical Association. He served as president in 2001-2002.*



*Looking toward river lands from a rise near Camden, June 2018. Courtesy of the author*



Friday, October 26 / 1:30 p.m.

## Tour Begins at Bethsaida Baptist Church

9025 County Road 59

Pine Apple, AL 36768



## BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH

Bethsaida Baptist Church was founded in 1831 at a site very close to its present location. Elder Hawthorn was the first pastor. The present building was constructed between 1858 and 1860. It reached its peak membership in the late 19th century at nearly 150 members. The building is still used every Sunday and retains many of its original features.

Ms. Sarah Duggan, Director of the Classical Institute of the South, will present a visual overview of the furniture, porcelain, and silver documented by the Institute last summer during their two-week stay in Wilcox County. Participants will see some of the objects documented in the Palmer-Britt Home during the tour and others during the tour of Camden on Saturday.

## PERDUE-ESTES-SUGGS HOME – “DEERFIELD”

A lumber entrepreneur named Perdue built this home around 1895. The home is a two-story frame end gabled central passage house, two piles in depth, featuring a two-tiered wrap around porch on all four sides. The current owners, Paul and Rebecca Suggs, have spent the last seven months restoring the home. This is the first opportunity the public has had to see the home post-restoration.



## FURMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The original church building was constructed in 1857 on the present parcel of land donated by Mrs. Sarah Patton McCondichie.



The current building was finished in 1882 and served the Furman area until it ceased to be an active church in 1998. As part of the tour of the church, participants will view a period clothing display of garments from the late 18th and early 19th century as well as some reproduction garments using period construction techniques.







### **MOORE-BURSON-RUSHING HOME**

This 1 ½ story gabled central passage house of the coastal cottage type was built by Leonard Moore in 1885. Dr. and Mrs. Elkanah G. Burson lived in the home until they purchased “Wakefield” in 1943. The home has remained in the Burson family, and current owners Tom and Sylvia Rushing have completed a full restoration.

### **WAKEFIELD**

This beautiful antebellum home, located in the Furman community, was built in a one-of-a-kind Steamboat Gothic style. The nearly 6,000 sq. ft. of living area consists of 12 rooms and 12 fireplaces, and unique porches on all sides. It was named “Wakefield” by the Gulley family, who owned the home from its construction in the 1840s until it was sold to Dr. E.G. Burson in 1943. The home is now owned by Sylvia Burson Rushing, granddaughter of Dr. Elkanah G. Burson, and her husband Tom Rushing. They are only the fourth family to own this home.



### **PALMER – BRITT HOME**

This “coastal cottage,” built in 1833 by Stephen and Juliet Palmer and modified by Dabney Palmer around 1860, is likely the first wood-framed home built in the area. The house is a classic 1 ½ story “Carolina” cottage featuring a central passage with rooms to each side, including a unique prayer room with gothic arched windows and hand-gouged mantle brought with the Palmer Family from Virginia. The front porch is an integral recessed porch constructed on brick bases connected directly to the earth in the Carolina Porch Style. One of the two large bedrooms upstairs features original, unpainted heart pine walls, floor, and ceiling. Mitchell and Jennifer Britt acquired the home in 1992 and spent the next 20 years restoring and preserving the home.



**The Britt Family is hosting a full reception following the tour of their home for all participants.**

Attendees may choose to dine that evening at GainesRidge Dinner Club in Camden (933 Highway 10 East) at 6:00 p.m.

You will find a place on the pilgrimage reservation form to indicate your participation for dinner.



## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, \*Book Sales**

Dale Lodge No. 25

202 Clifton Street

*\*Book sales will end for the day  
at 1:00 p.m.*

**10:30 a.m. Program and address by**

**Daniel Fate Brooks**

Camden United Methodist Church

127 Broad Street

**11:30 a.m. Lunch**

Camden United Methodist Church

**12:30 p.m. Tours of Camden Homes and Sites**

- Jones-McIntosh-Hicks
- Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford
- Wilcox Female Institute, including  
an exhibit honoring Charles Tait, first  
federal district judge of Alabama
- Thompson-Spurlin-Matthews-Curry
- Old St. Mary's Church-Hamilton
- Sterrett-McWilliams
- Shoe Shop Museum
- Black Belt Treasures

**5:00 p.m. Tours End**

**DANIEL FATE BROOKS**, a Camden native and a seventh generation Wilcox Countian, is a former member of the Alabama Historical Association. He served as president in 2001-2002 and was the speaker when the Association visited Camden for the fall meeting in 1980. Brooks is the author of published articles on William Rufus King, Black Belt history and an unpublished work on antebellum Wilcox County. He was director of Birmingham's Arlington Historic House for over twenty-five years, retiring in 2010. He is the director of the Natchez Antiques Forum, and is celebrating thirty-two years as a regular adjunct instructor at Samford University.





**JONES-MCINTOSH-HICKS, c. 1869**

On April 2, 1869 Richard Channing Jones, a twenty-nine-year-old Virginia native, purchased two-and-a-half acres with existing outbuildings on the Canton Road (Broad Street) as a site to build his Greek revival cottage. He was the son of John Cargill Jones, a minister of the Camden Baptist Church, a graduate of the University of Alabama, a lawyer and a newspaper editor. Jones, however, is best remembered for his service as Brigadier General in the State Militia (1876-1890) and as President of the University of Alabama (1890-1897). During General Jones' presidency, football began, the crimson and white colors were adopted and female students enrolled at the University. The house was also the home of Dr. and Mrs. E.L. McIntosh and their son, E.L. McIntosh Jr. Lucy Hicks, the current owner, purchased the historic house in 2008.

**BAGBY-BECK-HORN-LIDDELL-BURFORD c. 1851**

Arthur Pendleton Bagby, tenth Governor of Alabama (1837-1841), US Senator (1841-1847), and Minister to Russia (1848-1849), moved to Camden in 1853. Prior to his arrival, Bagby contracted with Henry F. Cook, a New Englander living in Camden, to build a home "befitting a man of his position." The parties agreed on a price of \$3,750 to be paid in three installments. Unfortunately, Bagby could not make the payments and the property was sold at auction to Thomas King Beck, brother of Franklin King Beck and nephew of Vice President William Rufus King. The house was eventually sold to the ill-fated lawyer, Peter Horn, and then to John R. Liddell Sr. of Ohio. For many years it was the home of Will and Viola Goode Liddell, a celebrated Alabama author. In 1998 the house was purchased by Mr.



and Mrs. Peyton Daniel Burford III. Coincidentally, Mr. Burford is a direct descendant of Harry Toulmin, territorial judge of the Mississippi and Alabama Territories.



**WILCOX FEMALE INSTITUTE, 1849**

Long considered the "pride of Wilcox County," the Wilcox Female Institute was erected in 1849 and chartered as an academy for young women in 1850. During the late antebellum period, the school was deemed one of the most successful female academies in Alabama. In 1908 the building was deeded to the State and used as a public school into the late 1960s. The structure, made of handmade brick, features modified Doric columns, a balcony, and a two-tiered cupola and pilastered belfry. The threat of demolition led to the formation of the Wilcox Historical Society in the 1970. In 1974 the building was deeded to the Society, which maintains its preservation.

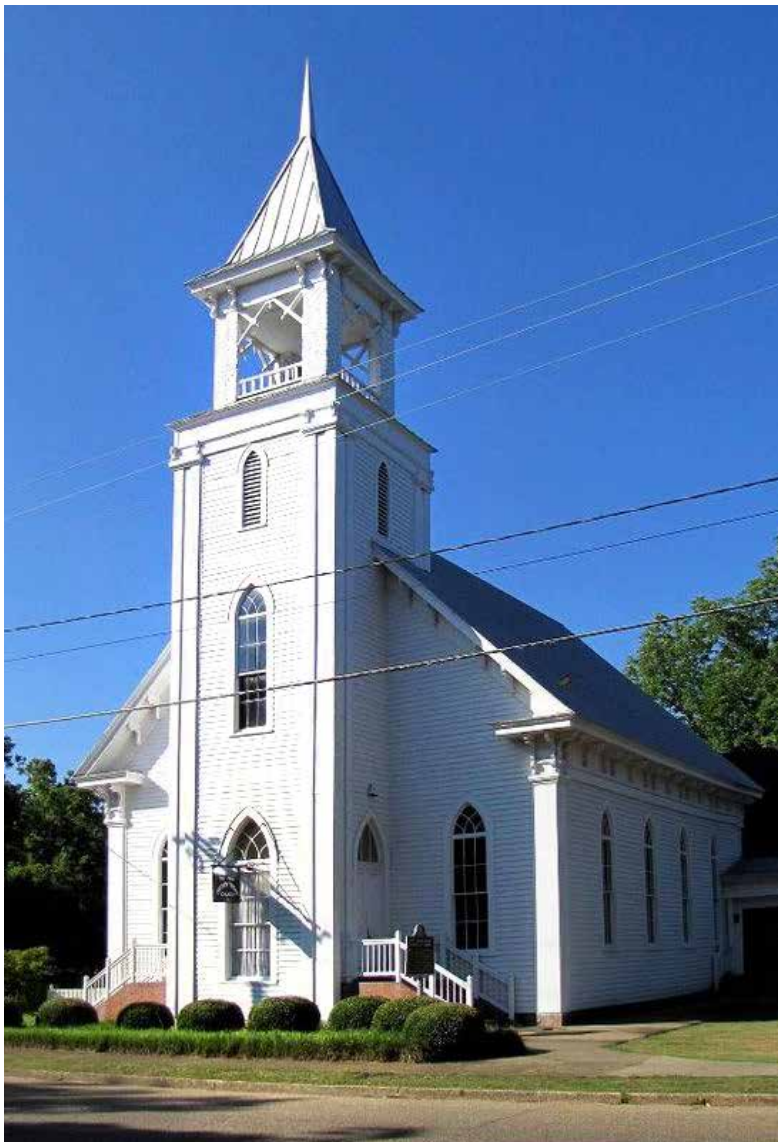


**CAMDEN ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1849**

This simple frame building is one of two antebellum church structures remaining in Camden. Erected for a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the building was purchased in 1890 by the ARP congregation which have renovated and made several additions. Alabama Governor Benjamin Meek Miller worshipped here.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1885**

Organized in 1845, the First Presbyterian Church, with its open shingle belfry with “stick style” trim and bracketed cornice, was built to replace an earlier building destroyed by fire in 1869. Originally the interior walls were decorated with trompe l’oeil (a simulated Gothic apse behind the pulpit, painted pilasters and medallions). Captain Emmett Kilpatrick worshipped here.

**DALE LODGE NO. 25, 1848**

Dale Lodge, founded in Prairie Bluff in 1827, was originally named Lafayette Lodge to commemorate the general's famed United States tour in 1825-26. According to tradition, the Frenchman's boat was running behind schedule and a stop in Wilcox County had to be omitted. As time passed, some of the Masons recalled the incident and proposed the idea of renaming the lodge for the Indian fighter, Sam Dale. The order eventually moved to Camden and built the impressive Greek Revival temple style structure in 1848. George Lynch and William T. Mathews, local builders, are credited with the design and construction. The first floor of Dale Lodge has been the scene of many historic and cultural events, including concerts, plays and the long-remembered Secession Ball in May of 1861.





### **CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1917**

Methodists had a stronghold in Wilcox County when the Camden Church was organized in 1844. A deed dated August 21, 1844 records that the lot was sold to the church trustees for one hundred dollars. The first building, a frame structure, was soon erected and was used until 1917 when it was raised to make way for the present brick structure.

### **THOMPSON-SPURLIN-MATTHEWS-CURRY, C. 1840**

In the early 1840s, the county seat underwent a name change from Barboursville to Camden. During this time, Benjamin Thompson, a local dentist, purchased a lot at the corner of Union and Calhoun Streets and built a large house with a one story portico. In 1867, the house was bought by William F. Spurlin, a local jeweler who added a full one story shed porch with Victorian cutwork detail. Spurlin retained ownership until 1911 when the home was sold to Barnett Houser Matthews, owner of Matthews Hardware Company. Mr. Matthews enlarged and remodeled the structure, adding the large columned pedimented porch and suspended balcony. The house has remained in the Matthews family for four generations and is the home of Will and Sommer Curry who have made extensive renovations. Mr. Curry is a direct descendant of Dr. John D. Caldwell who named Camden.







### **OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH – HAMILTON, 1856**

The Episcopal Church came to Wilcox County with the emigration of Tidewater Virginians and the Piedmont and Lowcountry settlers of the Carolinas. In 1855, residents including the Becks, Boykins, Dortchs and others held their first services and executed plans for a parish under the name of St. Mary's. The building was constructed the following year and dedicated March 5, 1857. St. Mary's struggled with a lack of communicants during the Civil War and into the twentieth century. With the death of Mrs. Charlotte Vass Tait Beck in 1939, the diocese planned deconsecration. The building was soon sold to Mrs. Frank Moore who converted it to a residence. In 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Hamilton of Mobile purchased the home from a subsequent owner. The Hamiltons have made a substantial and very interpretive restoration.



### **STERRETT-MCWILLIAMS, 1851**

Inspired by various pattern books, this outstanding example of antebellum eclecticism was built in 1851 for Judge David W. Sterrett, lawyer, planter and trustee of the Wilcox Female Institute, and his wife Susan McConnico. The veranda features four tall trellis like supports, scroll cut balustrades and an unusual parapet. Inside, a central foyer contains twin spiral cantilevered stairways, red glass sidelights and transom, and double parlors with heavy decorative plasterwork. In 1870, Sterrett's daughter, Sally Brooks Sterrett Tate, sold the house to Richard Ervin McWilliams, a Confederate soldier in the Wilcox True Blues. It is owned by his great granddaughters, Lindsay Cook and Garland Smith, and Garland's husband, Lathrop Smith.





### SHOE SHOP MUSEUM

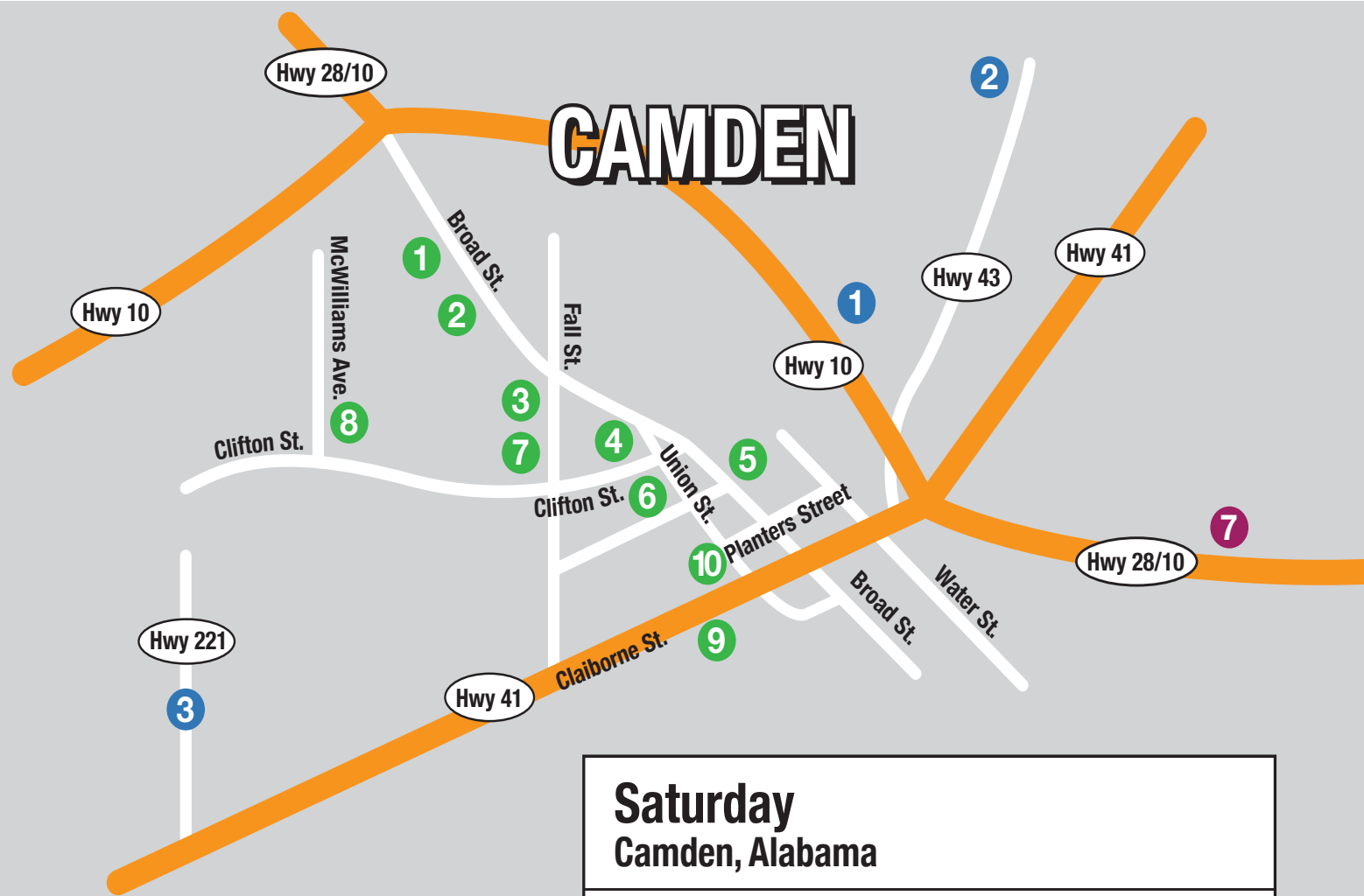
Joe Anderson owned and operated the Shoe Shop in Camden for over forty years, and his daughter Betty has preserved the shop's contents and memorabilia as a showplace for the shoe repair trade and the town. Reporter Alvin Benn states, "This rural cobbler shop is a tribute to bucolic life, necessity, community and activism." Ms. Anderson will be present at the tour to describe artifacts, as well as recount childhood stories of life from the perspective of the town and county's shoe repair shop. Photo courtesy of Laura Agee.



### BLACK BELT TREASURES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center is a non profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the objective to stimulate the region's economy through the sale of fine arts and heritage crafts. The organization also provides arts education opportunities. Black Belt Treasures was developed as an outgrowth of a tourism initiative launched by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, Ala-Tom RC & D, and the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development.

# CAMDEN



## Saturday Camden, Alabama

### Friday Pre-Meeting Tour Furman, Alabama

- 1 **Bethsaida Baptist Church**  
Tour begins at 1:30pm
- 2 **Perdue-Estes-Suggs Home**  
"Deerfield"
- 3 **Furman Methodist Church**
- 4 **Wakefield**
- 5 **Moore-Burson-Rushing Home**
- 6 **Palmer-Britt Home**  
Reception Location
- 7 **Gaines Ridge Dinner Club**  
Optional dinner at 6pm

- 1 **Jones-McIntosh-Hicks**  
407 Broad St.
- 2 **Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford**  
403 Broad St.
- 3 **Wilcox Female Institute**  
301 Broad St.
- 4 **Dale Lodge**  
202 Clifton St.
- 5 **Camden United Methodist Church**  
127 Broad St.
- 6 **Thompson-Spurlin-Matthews-Curry**  
203 Clifton St.
- 7 **Old St. Mary's Church-Hamilton**  
302 Clifton St.
- 8 **Sterrett-McWilliams**  
400 Clifton St.
- 9 **Black Belt Treasures**  
209 Claiborne St.
- 10 **Shoe Shop Museum**  
222 Planters Street



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## Accommodation Options Camden & Greenville, Alabama

- 1 Southern Inn**  
40 Camden Bypass, Camden, AL 36726  
(334) 682-4148
- 2 Roland Cooper State Park**  
285 Deer Run Dr, Camden, AL 36726  
(334) 682-4838 or (423) 557-9401
- 3 Liberty Hall Bed & Breakfast**  
627 AL-221, Camden, AL 36726  
(334) 412-3513
- 4 Hampton Inn - Greenville**  
219 Interstate Dr, Greenville, AL 36037  
(334) 382-9631
- 5 Holiday Inn Express - Greenville**  
100 Paul Stabler Dr, Greenville, AL 36037  
(334) 382-2444
- 6 Comfort Inn - Greenville**  
1029 Fort Dale Rd, Greenville, AL 36037  
(334) 383-9595

**GREENVILLE**





## *Congratulations to the following award winners!*

PHOTOS COURTESY ELVIN LANG



### **CLINTON JACKSON COLEY BOOK AWARD**

The winner of the 2018 Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award for best work on Alabama local history is *Southside: Eufaula's Cotton Mill Village and Its People, 1890-1945* by David Alsobrook.

### **MILO B. HOWARD JR. AWARD**

The Milo B. Howard Award recognizes the best article published in *The Alabama Review* for a two-year period. Dr. Kari Frederickson received the award for her April 2016 and October 2016 articles "Manhood and Politics: The Bankhead-Hobson Campaigns of 1904 and 1906" and "Brand New District, Same Old Fight: The Bankhead-Hobson Campaign of 1916."







### JAMES RAY KUYKENDALL AWARD

The Leeds Historical Society is the winner of the 2018 James Ray Kuykendall Award honoring an exceptional local historical society.



### DIGITAL HISTORY AWARD

The Digital History Award recognizes excellence for large and small digital history projects that make contributions to promulgating Alabama (state or local) history. The winners of the 2018 award are *Alabama Heritage* (large project) and *Huntsville History Collection* (small project). Visit [www.alabamaheritage.com](http://www.alabamaheritage.com) and [www.huntsvillehistorycollection.org](http://www.huntsvillehistorycollection.org) to learn more about these award-winning projects.





## Call for Papers

72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
April 25-27, 2019

The Alabama Historical Association invites paper proposals to be given at its 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on April 25-27, 2019. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama. To commemorate Alabama's Bicentennial and highlight the many buildings and places that convey the state's rich history, the AHA will hold the meeting in cooperation with the **Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation**, and members of the preservation community are encouraged to submit paper proposals as well.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a **20-minute presentation** on an Alabama history or preservation topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author's email address, postal address, telephone number, and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.)

**Proposals must be submitted by October 15, 2018. Electronic submissions are preferred.**

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association or Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Dr. Christine Sears  
Associate Professor  
History Department  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
[christine.sears@uah.edu](mailto:christine.sears@uah.edu)  
256-824-2573

For more information on the Alabama Historical Association, visit [www.alabamahistory.net](http://www.alabamahistory.net)

## 2019 NOMINATIONS

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2019 AWARDS

*The following awards will be presented at the annual meeting on April 26, 2019.*

- The **James F. Sulzby Book Award** recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history. Books published between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018 are eligible. For submission information, contact Dr. Dan Puckett at [dpuckett45442@troy.edu](mailto:dpuckett45442@troy.edu).
- The **Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant** provides \$500 to a graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. As part of the AHA's commemoration of the state's bicentennial, the AHA will grant a Coley Research Award to one graduate student in each Alabama university offering graduate degrees in relevant fields of study. Applications are due **by January 31, 2019**. For more information, visit [www.alabamahistory.net](http://www.alabamahistory.net) or contact Staci Glover at [stacisglover@bellsouth.net](mailto:stacisglover@bellsouth.net).
- The **Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award** honors contributions to Alabama history that promote appreciation and better understanding of Alabama history among the general public. Nomination packets should include a letter of nomination (not to exceed two pages) that outlines the nominee's accomplishments; supporting materials and documentation of accomplishments; letters of support (not to exceed five). Please submit nominations by **January 15, 2019** to Laura Anderson at [landerson@alabamahumanities.org](mailto:landerson@alabamahumanities.org).
- The **AHA Museum Award** recognizes excellence in large and small historical museums that make contributions to promulgating Alabama (state or local) history. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. For more information on the nomination process, contact Dr. David Alsobrook at [dealsobrook@yahoo.com](mailto:dealsobrook@yahoo.com). Deadline for nominations is **December 31, 2018**.

For more information on all of these awards, visit [www.alabamahistory.net](http://www.alabamahistory.net).



# The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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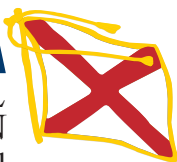
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