



ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2023



75th Annual Meeting | April 13-15, 2023 | Prattville, Alabama

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The AHA Newsletter is designed and printed by Davis Direct, Montgomery, Alabama.

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.

Cover photo: Prattville Cotton Gin Factory, courtesy of Laura Bonner.



Jim Baggett

Greetings:

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your president for the past year. I have been a member of AHA since grad school, but this time has taught me to appreciate the association and its dedicated members all the more. It has also given me the

opportunity to get to know people who I only knew in passing before.

Our fall pilgrimage was a great success, and many of the people in Mentone and Fort Payne who helped us have been gratified and impressed by the large number of thank you messages they received from our members.

At our meeting last June, the AHA Board approved the creation of an AHA speaker's bureau. Maiben Beard created a web page for the project, and a wonderful group of volunteers (Alex Colvin, Marty Olliff, Howard Robinson, Ruth Truss, and Dorothy Walker) stepped up to offer programs. We launched the speaker's bureau in September, and gave our first talk in October. More talks have followed to historical and genealogical societies, and at public libraries. Each talk is an opportunity to promote AHA, and we are gathering feedback to guide us as we expand and improve the program in the future.

For the first time in the Association's history we will hold our annual meeting in Prattville. Victoria Ott and the program committee have

put together an impressive and diverse group of sessions, including papers on women's history, African American history, health care, education, and our first ever session on LGBTQ history in Alabama.

A growing community with a beautiful downtown, Prattville offers several opportunities for visiting historic sites as well as shopping and dining. Autauga Creek flows through downtown, and the Thursday kayak tour will give our more adventurous members an opportunity to experience the town from a different perspective. We owe special thanks to the Old Autauga Historical Society, the Autauga Creek Improvement Committee, Autauga County Black Heritage Association, and the Autauga County Heritage Association. You will enjoy meeting many of the local leaders of the historical community at the meeting.

Starting with the Prattville meeting, we will offer continuing education credits for teachers who attend the annual meeting, and we will offer at least six one-day complimentary registrations. We are indebted to Blake Busbin at the Alabama State Department of Education for his help and support in creating this opportunity. This may help us grow our membership, and more importantly it is another way for AHA to support teachers who want to teach Alabama history, and want to do it well.

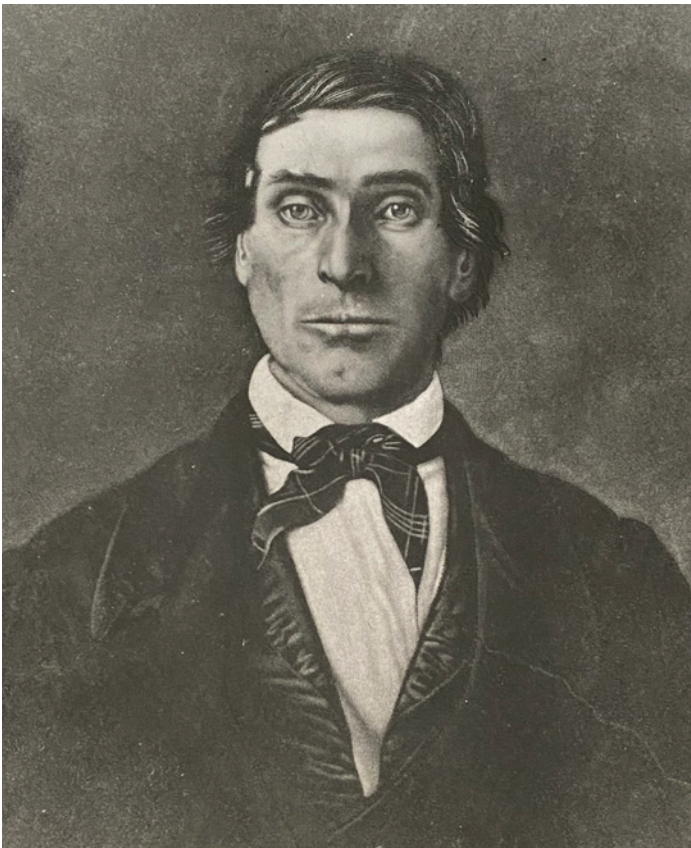
I look forward to seeing everyone in Prattville.

Prattville:

THE NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE OF THE SOUTH

By Ann Boutwell

It is difficult to talk about the town of Prattville without making Daniel Pratt the center of that conversation. Even though 150 years have passed since Pratt's death, his presence continues to be felt in the 21st century. Shadrack Mims, a business partner of Pratt, wrote in 1877 that Prattville was "a town that shall serve as a more enduring monument than any marble slab or chiseled stone." Upon Pratt's death, the editor of the local newspaper, the *Prattville Signal*, also wrote, "His fame needs no monument to proclaim to coming generations his wonderful works and munificent benefactions.... Look around you, and behold magnificent buildings, noble structures of art and genius, looming up in every direction."



Photograph of Daniel Pratt, 1851. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

For more than a hundred years, fields of white cotton welcomed visitors as they made their way to downtown Prattville. Other than appreciation for the beauty of that southern staple, few recognized the potent appropriateness of this introduction to the village that cotton built. For it was cotton that drew Pratt to Alabama in 1833 to sell his cotton gins to the expanding market in the west.

Simply stated, Daniel Pratt came to Alabama to build and sell cotton gins. In reality, he became one of the most influential persons in southern history, changing the economic landscape from a purely agriculture economy to an industrial one. This man was ahead of his time in his vision for the South as a self-reliant and financially independent region. Thanks to Pratt's multiple industries, in the 1850s Prattville was noted as one of the most industrialized towns of its size by *Debow's Review*, a business journal that promoted southern advances and enterprises.

In 1835, when Daniel Pratt chose what is now Prattville in south-central Autauga County as the site for his business ventures, he designed areas that would be



Cotton mill as seen from the front garden of Pratt's home. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

devoted to manufacturing, retail businesses, churches, schools, and residences. Since 1984, this “planned community” has been listed as the Daniel Pratt Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The city of Prattville is also recognized as the “Birthplace of Industry” and was home to the first industrial village in Alabama and pretty much the entire South. It might be said that Pratt introduced the Industrial Revolution to his adopted state. Pratt initiated and built many industries essential to an economically developing region. Pratt quickly realized that southerners had little experience with large industries, much less worked in them. His workforce included free white men and enslaved African Americans. To train and manage his workers, Pratt recruited and partnered with skilled managers from New England states and brought them to Prattville. These early Yankee citizens not only trained southern workers to be effective employees in the factories, but they also brought with them their culture and traditions, henceforth Prattville’s nickname, “The New England Village of the South.” The design of Daniel Pratt’s new town mimicked industrial towns in his native New Hampshire, placing the factories at the heart and center of the town. His successes encouraged

other towns to follow Prattville’s example.

In 1847, Dr. Basil Manley, the president of the University of Alabama, awarded Pratt the honorary degree of Master in the Mechanic and Useful Arts, writing:

“Without having devoted your life to literary pursuits, you have attained, in an eminent degree, that which is the end of all letters and all study—the art of making men around you wiser, better, and happier.”



This 2020 painting by artist Tommy Brown of the Daniel Pratt factory complex is based on an 1860 engraving that is similar to the Pratt company letterhead.

Unfortunately, like many modern towns, Prattville has tragically lost many historic buildings over the years, typically as a result of expansion and ignorance. Despite these losses, the essence of Pratt’s New England Village can still be experienced and seen in what remains. The expansive view from the hillside overlook at Pratt Cemetery offers a view of the town that Pratt built. Here you will find the final resting place not only of Pratt, his wife Esther, and their two infant daughters, but also other family members as well as Thomas Ormsby, an early Civil War casualty at the Battle at Shiloh. Most notable is the monument to George Cooke, a southern artist who was a friend and beneficiary of Pratt’s patronage. Cooke’s paintings are held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and at the White House.

The original Daniel Pratt Gin Company/Continental Gin Company buildings are nationally recognized and regarded as some of the most historically significant industrial buildings in the country, not only because of their past, but also for the impact Daniel Pratt had on bringing industry to the South.

The Daniel Pratt Gin Company, the largest cotton gin company in the world, merged in 1899 with five other gin companies to form Continental Gin Company (CGC) with headquarters in Birmingham. Headquarters for CGC returned to Prattville in 1961.



Cotton Gin Advertisement, 1856. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association



Archway at the Gin Company. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

Manufacturing plants were located in Prattville; Birmingham, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; and Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and later Memphis, Tennessee. Continental Gin Company continued the strong tradition of producing the world's finest cotton gins and shipping them around the world. Throughout its history, the company purchased, merged, or absorbed some 25 other cotton-related companies. This world-renowned company was in business until 2012.

The remaining industrial site in Prattville is composed of five historic brick buildings, each featuring the premier building styles of the time of its construction. Daniel Pratt built the 1848–1852 and the 1854 industrial buildings, which featured mortise-and-tenon construction. A portion of the belt-driven power system, with its belts, drums, and pulleys, is still housed in the buildings. These buildings feature a totally open free-span third floor, an unusual characteristic in industrial buildings at that time. The 1898 building, designed by noted architect Frank Lockwood, features the iconic “Daniel Pratt Gin Co.” brick arch. A brick

warehouse was added around 1899. After CGC formed, the company added the four-story building in 1912 and later added the shipping and loading dock building in 1957 as well as several metal connecting buildings. These historic brick buildings are being redeveloped into residential lofts.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Thomas Ormsby and other young men in the community met in the parlor at George Littlefield Smith's house on Main Street to form a mounted cavalry military unit, the Prattville Dragoons. Daniel Pratt supported the Dragoons by providing horses, uniforms, and munitions. Pratt, a member of the Alabama State Legislature during the Secession session, spoke against seceding because he knew the South was too economically dependent upon the North. But when the state leadership could not be persuaded from secession, he supported his adopted state. Smith's home is now the Prattaugan Museum and Heritage Center, established in 1995. The museum is a treasure trove of local artifacts and contains an archival library for genealogy research. The Prattaugan Museum is managed by the Autauga County Heritage Association (ACHA).



Downtown Prattville, c. 1900. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

Pratt's cotton mill, established in 1846 and the largest antebellum cotton mill complex in Alabama, also supported the Confederacy with needed textiles. That mill remained in business until 1997. In 2002, Prattville sadly lost its historic buildings to arson.

Across Court Street from the mill lot is the old Autauga County Courthouse, built in 1870. Pratt was instrumental in bringing the county seat to Prattville from Kingston in 1868. Today the mill lot is now the Village Green, where numerous festivals and celebrations are held. Adjacent to the mill was the mill village of small homes and garden spaces, fondly called "Paradise" and provided by Pratt to the mill workers. Though the mill village no longer exists, examples of a mill house and the foreman's house can be seen at Old Prattville. Two local citizens preserved the architecture of Prattville in this special village along with a quaint chapel relocated from rural Autauga County and a lovely garden maintained by the Master Gardeners.

Prior to coming to Alabama, Daniel Pratt had already made a name for himself as an outstanding architect/builder in the Milledgeville area of Georgia, constructing beautiful plantation homes. He continued his trade as he laid out his town and constructed homes for its citizens. Several of the antebellum homes he built for local planters remain. One such home,



Daniel Pratt home. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

Buena Vista, is owned by the ACHA and is managed as an event venue. Many of the same architectural features, including the magnificent three-story circular cantilevered stairway found in his Georgia homes, can be found at Buena Vista as well.

A devout Christian, Pratt assisted in building churches for his community. These early denominations were originally located on the south side of Autauga Creek in the area of the gin factory today. As the town expanded and the population grew, new sanctuaries were built on the town side of the creek. The original Presbyterian church was moved and became the First Missionary Baptist Church for the black community and still has an active membership.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was built in 1909 and was designed by 15-year-old Erin Chapman, organist at the Church. The church has 27 beautiful stained-glass windows. It is the oldest of the four church structures on "Church Square" in historic downtown Prattville. Across Washington Street from this church is the former site of the Prattville Male and Female Academy, erected in 1859. Poet Sidney Lanier was hired by Pratt to be headmaster of the school. The bell from the school's cupola stands proudly on the site and is rung daily by current students and on New Year's Eve by residents who live in the Historic District. In 1861, Prattville citizens gathered at the Academy to ceremoniously send the Prattville Dragoons off to battle. A monument on



Prattville Male and Female Academy, built in 1859. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association

the property commemorates the event.

Autauga County is also fortunate to be home to a historic Rosenwald School, the Mt. Sinai School, constructed in 1919. Julius Rosenwald, a part-owner of Sears, Roebuck & Company, matched funding raised by locals to provide schools to serve the local African American community. The school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. It currently serves as a community center for local residents.

Autauga Creek, running through historic downtown Prattville, not only powered Pratt's many industries for a hundred years, but today offers refreshing recreation opportunities. The Autauga Creek Canoe Trail, a part of the National Recreational Trails, is an exciting thirteen-mile trail perfect for kayaking, canoeing, tubing, fishing, and just plain old creek splashing! Kayakers

can "paddle through history," as the numerous historic sites are marked along the broad stream. Prattville Creekwalk is a series of walking trails that circle downtown and offer a charming respite to sit a spell or to picnic while watching blue herons and flocks of birds.

Another walk back in time is available at the Wilderness Park, the bamboo forest preserve located near downtown. More than 26 acres of exotic Asian bamboo was planted by a local citizen in 1940. The majestic site, with an environment so similar to the one found in the plant's native China, provided training ground for the U.S. Air Force during the mid-century conflict of the Vietnam War. In 1977, the Spinners, a local women's civic organization, purchased the property, and in 1979 the City of Prattville purchased the parcel. The park opened to the public in 1980.

Prattville offers the best of America's small towns! Noted Robert Trent Jones Golf courses, pro-championship fishing on the Alabama River, and the nationally ranked Bass Pro Shop await visitors to Prattville. The Daniel Pratt Historic District, a charming walkable downtown, attracts many visitors to view and enjoy its historic sites, its shops and restaurants, and its unique outdoor adventures. The city offers numerous entertainment festivals and events throughout the year, including a Mardi Gras parade, the Wilson Pickett Music & Arts Festival, CityFest, the Alabama Poppy Project, the Independence Day Celebration, the Creekside Concert Series, the Way Off Broadway Theatre, Veterans Day, Parade of Pumpkins, Farm City Week, and festive decorations and events for Christmas. Civic and cultural life is vibrant in Prattville! Since its small beginnings in 1839 to now, Prattville offers a significant history and a richness of life today and in the future.

Ann and John Boutwell have lived in Prattville for forty years and have been volunteers for the Autauga County Heritage Association for thirty years. Ann has taken the lead on rescuing and preserving the history of Prattville, advocating for the revitalization of the Daniel Pratt Historic District, the preservation of the original Daniel Pratt Gin Company and Pratt's early cotton mill. Since 2012 she has overseen & coordinated the preservation effort to save the Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Collection of archives and artifacts.



Creek Walk. Courtesy of the Autauga County Historical Association



IVY CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church was built in 1854 at a cost of \$2,800 and is nestled in serene woods in the Statesville-Mulberry Community in southwest Autauga County. It is a Greek Revival-style building featuring two columns on the front and a bell cupola on top. An Egyptian influence is seen in the window frames, which are wider at the bottom than the top. The original hand-hewn pews, heart-of-pine floor, wainscoting, windows, and porch columns are still in excellent condition. Visitors will

have a chance to view 1934 photographs that were taken as part of the Department of the Interior's Historic American Buildings Survey and preserved by the Library of Congress. Services are still held each Sunday in this lovely historic church. Jeannie Rainwater Johnson, church historian, will be on hand for visitors.



MULBERRY SCHOOL

The Mulberry School is the oldest surviving one-room school in Autauga County, built for African American students in 1895 using donated materials. Rev. Sol Bates was an instrumental teacher, administrator, and pastor of Mallard Chapel AME Church, which still resides beside the school. The building housed two classes separate by a curtain and held 40-50 students. The school was in operation until the 1953-1954 school year, when it was deemed unsafe and closed.

The school never had a bathroom and demonstrates the inequality in white and black schools. Most rural white schoolhouses had been consolidated around 1930, while one-room black schools were still in use until the 1950s. The Old Autauga Historical Society adopted the schoolhouse in 2020, and restoration projects funded in part by the Alabama Historical Commission have resulted in a new roof, interior floors, and ceiling. The OAHS plans to make it a museum.

Photo courtesy Beth DeBusk





AUTAUGAVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The current church structure is the oldest documented Methodist Church building in Autauga County. Although the exact date of its construction is not known, the sanctuary of the Shiloh Methodist Protestant Church was rolled on logs to its present location. The Methodist Protestants had separated from the old Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in 1829, and the old Asbury Church was converted into a cloth factory. The church is active today as the center of religious life for Methodist Christian families in the Autaugaville community. Jennifer McBride, church historian, will be available to visitors on the day of the tour.

Photo courtesy of Beth DeBusk

PADDLE THROUGH PRATTVILLE HISTORY!

The Autauga Creek Improvement Committee invites annual meeting attendees for a historical tour of Autauga Creek by canoe, kayak, or paddle boat on Thursday, April 13 from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. Boats, lifejackets, and paddles will be provided. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Reserve your space using the registration form.

Paddlers will park vehicles at the Prattville Public Safety Building (200 Gin Shop Hill Road) by 1:00 p.m. and meet with Skip Lobmiller, “Mayor of Autauga Creek,” who will provide an overview of the historical sites to be seen. A shuttle will transport the group to the Upper Allenville Road Landing to begin the hour-long tour of the creek, ending at approximately 3 p.m. at the gin ship factory. Join us for a unique adventure in Prattville history!

Photo courtesy of Teresa Lee



Reception at Buena Vista Mansion

The opening reception for the 75th annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association will be held at Buena Vista Mansion in Prattville on Thursday, April 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The house dates to the 1840s and is an example of the Greek Revival architectural style typical of the homes Daniel Pratt constructed in Georgia prior to moving to Autauga County in 1833. The beautiful circular cantilevered stairway, the double doors with fan lights, the second story balcony, and the elaborately carved cornices and ceiling medallions are all found in Pratt-designed homes.

The name “Buena Vista” was given to the home by Fred and Katherine Whittaker, who purchased the home in 1937 after discovering its use as a hay barn, and they restored the home to its former glory. In 2006, International Paper gave the historic home to the Autauga County Heritage Association, and it is used regularly for public and private events.

Photos courtesy of Laura Bonner



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

192 7th St, Prattville, AL 36067

The First Missionary Baptist Church on 7th Street in Prattville played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. Community meetings on social advocacy and voting campaign strategies took place within its walls, many led by Willie Wood Sr., the first African American to run for office in Prattville, as well as Sallie Hadnott and Dan Houser, both local leaders in the Black political movement. Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) addressed a crowd outside of First Missionary Baptist Church in the summer of 1967 and was subsequently arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Services are no longer held in this location, as a new building was constructed on the property in 2000.

Photo courtesy of Laura Bonner

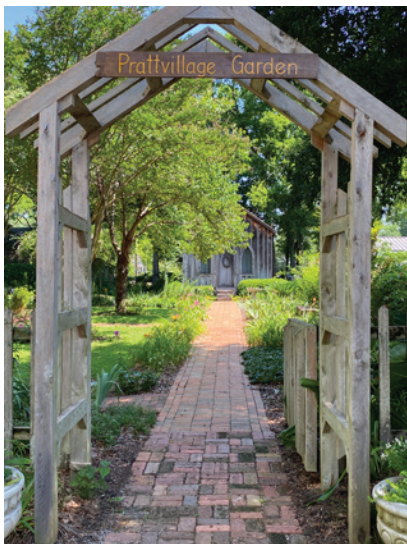


MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL

1820 Co Rd 57, Prattville, AL 36067

Though Mount Sinai School was established in 1891 with one teacher and 100 students, the building as it stands was constructed in 1919 through funding of the Rosenwald program on the property of the Mount Sinai church. In 1949 a fourth teacher was added to the faculty tasked with the mission of preparing students to become good citizens. The building and the 5 acres on which it sits was purchased for \$800 in 1967 by the Mount Sinai Community Association. It has since received maintenance to include the installation of restrooms in the 1980s to better serve its function as a community space.

Photo courtesy of Laura Bonner



OLD PRATTVILLAGE

First Street, Prattville, AL

Old Prattville is home to the first block of First Street in Downtown Prattville. In 1982, as the Mims Hotel (c. 1840) was in danger of possible destruction, the Autauga County Heritage Association launched a “Save the Mims” campaign that succeeded and consequently led to efforts that preserved other historic homes and buildings in the Daniel Pratt Historic District. All were moved to the Prattville location. Among others on the street, you can see the Dennison House (c. 1880), a mill worker’s house (c. 1880), and the Little Chapel (c. 1845) and its gardens, tended by Master Gardeners. This block of historic homes provides a charming reflection of Prattville’s beginnings.

Photos courtesy of Laura Bonner

PRATT FAMILY CEMETERY

*Intersection of Bridge Street and Gin Shop Hill
Prattville, AL*

Constructed in 1840 on a bluff overlooking the town, the Pratt Family Cemetery is the final resting place for Prattville founder Daniel Pratt (1799-1873) and his family. The grave of Mary Pratt, the infant daughter of Daniel and his wife Esther, is the earliest marked grave in the cemetery, a monument shared with sister Maria. Antebellum artist George Cooke, friend of Daniel Pratt, is also buried in the cemetery. A fence (c. 1860) surrounding the cemetery is adorned with iron panels designed with a weeping willow and lamb motif. The cemetery is one of the three historic cemeteries owned and maintained by the City of Prattville.

Photo courtesy of Laura Bonner



PRATTAUGAN MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

102 E. Main St., Prattville, AL
36067

The McWilliams-Smith-Rice house serves as the home for the Prattaugan Museum and is operated by the Autauga County Heritage Association. The 1848 Greek Revival–style home contains an extensive archive of local history and genealogy, including artifacts related to Daniel Pratt and the Pratt Gin Manufacturing Company. A standout among the Museum’s collections is a cotton gin that was produced by the Pratt Factory around 1890. On the grounds, visitors can discover an example of Prattville’s many artesian wells, grapevines from the Pratt vineyard, and the “Little House,” which was built by George Smith for his growing family.

Photo courtesy Laura Bonner



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

178 E. 4th St., Prattville, AL 36067

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was founded in 1859. The congregation moved into the current location, a Gothic Revival–style cathedral, after it was built in 1909. The original meeting space, a white wooden frame structure bought by the Episcopalians from the Methodists in 1876, was used as a school room for the high school's senior class of 1910 and can be found to the west of the church. Erin Chapman, a child in the congregation, drew original plans for the present structure that cost \$5,400 to build and was the first brick church in Prattville. Miss Chapman served as St. Mark's organist for 40 years.

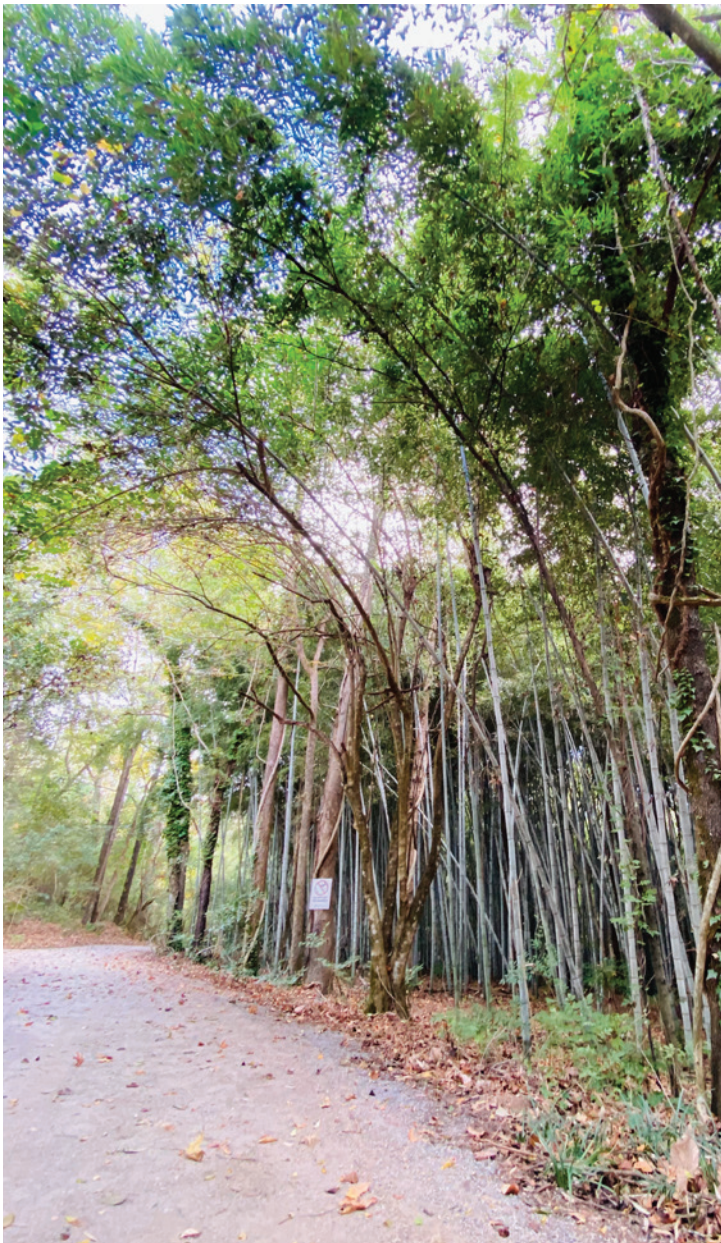
Photo courtesy of Laura Bonner

WILDERNESS PARK

800 Upper Kingston Rd., Prattville, AL 36067

An invasive bamboo forest, also home to numerous native trees and plants, is found on 26 acres within Prattville city limits. Previous owner Floyd Smith planted bamboo on the property that was used by USAF Survival Program in the 1960s to simulate conditions in Vietnam. The land was purchased in 1979 by the Prattville Spinners and was saved from development; it was later sold to the city of Prattville. A grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation made the park more accessible to tourists. Wilderness Park welcomes reflective moments and provides a habitat rich for appreciation and study.

Photo courtesy Laura Bonner



75th MEETING OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

- 1:00 p.m.** **Kayak Tour of Autauga Creek**
(pre-registration required)
- 1 to 4 p.m.** **Open House Tours with Old Autauga Historical Society**
Autaugaville United Methodist Church
Ivy Creek United Methodist Church
Mulberry School
- 6:00 p.m.** **Reception**
Buena Vista Mansion
641 County Road 4 East

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Montgomery Marriott Prattville & Conference Center

2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066

- 8:00 a.m.** **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, Exhibitors**
- 9:00 a.m.** **General Session**
- 10:45 a.m.** **Concurrent Sessions**
- Session A**
- “Queer Down South: The Invisible Histories Project”
Josh Burford, Invisible Histories Project
 - “The Cartography of Southern Queerness: Queer Community Building, 1987-1997”
Isabella Garrison, University of Alabama
 - “Leisure Laws and the Regulation of Sexuality in Tuscaloosa, 1910-1920”
Gavin Jones, University of Alabama
- Session B**
- “‘Reach Out Into the Isolated Areas’: Roosevelt Crockett, Tuskegee, and the Rural Church Movement in Alabama, 1941-1945”
Larsen B. Plyler, University of North Alabama
 - “Finding ‘Upland Bend’: The Changing Nature of a Postwar Rural Community”
Luke Voyles and Kari Frederickson, University of Alabama
 - “reFraming: Narratives of African American Female Landownership in Alabama’s Black Belt”
Allison Upshaw, Stillman College

Session C

- “A Compendium of Jim Crow Statutes in Alabama, 1876-1903”
Marty Olliff, Troy University
- “Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham’s Civil Rights Days”
T.K. Thorne, Independent Scholar
- “Birmingham’s Black Freedom Struggle for Economic Justice”
Logan Barrett, Auburn University

Session D

- “Government’s Grip on the Schoolhouse”
Elizabeth D. Meads, Alabama Department of Archives and History
- “‘Children as Gamma Globulin Guinea Pigs’: The 1953 Polio Epidemic in Montgomery County”
Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery
- “Avondale Mills: Paternalism and the Battle for Workers’ Rights in 1934, 1947, and 1955”
Laura King, Auburn University

Noon
1 to 5 p.m.

Lunch Tours

- Pratt Family Cemetery
- Wilderness Park
- Prattaugan Museum & Archives
- Mount Sinai School
- Old Prattvillage
- St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
- First Missionary Baptist Church

6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Cash Bar Annual Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales, Exhibitors**

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

- “Rediscovery of the 1978 Trail of Tears Film”
Deidra Suwanee Dees and Emily Fayard Escobedo, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Veronica D. Henderson, Alabama A&M University
- “What The Archives Can Do For You: The Alabama Department of Archives and History’s Resources and Services”
Kayla Scott Gurner, Reference Archivist
Alex Colvin, Public Programs Curator
Hayden McDaniel, Education Curator
Meredith McDonough, Digital Assets Coordinator
Mary Clare Johnson, Archival Collections Archivist
Mary Taylor Peake, Assistant Registrar
Charles Busby, Records Management Archivist
- “The People of North Prattville: The Making of a Documentary”
Theo Moore, Hiztorical Vision Productions, Black Heritage Council, Alabama Historical Commission

9:45 a.m. **Business Session**

10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Session A

- “Regulating Beauty: The Licensing of Barbers and Beauticians in Alabama and the Nation”
Tanner Corley, University of Alabama
- “Women’s Suffrage in Chambers County, Alabama”
Robin Watson, Chambers County Library and Cobb Memorial Archives
- “How an Alabama Kitten Became a National Suffrage Mascot”
Laura Newland Hill, Encyclopedia of Alabama
- “A Tale of Two Curb Markets: An Examination of Tuscaloosa and Mobile’s Curb Market Systems, 1920-1930”
Kathryn L. Beasley, Independent Scholar

Session B

- “*Clotilda: America’s Last Slave Ship*”
James Sanders Day, University of Montevallo
- “Abraham Mordecai: ‘The Dark-Eyed Jew’ of Alabama”
Amy K. Milligan, Old Dominion University
- “Lovers of the Arts and Sciences: Masonic Colleges and Schools in Antebellum Alabama”
Wayne E. Sirmon, University of Mobile

Session C

- “Brothers in Crime or Brothers in Prison?: The Morgans’ Experience Under the Espionage and Sedition Acts”
Scott A. Merriman, Troy University
- “Tampico Trauma: Mobile and the Veracruz Intervention”
Augustine Meaher, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base
- “Joseph Humphrey Sloss: Shotguns, Politics, and Forbidden Love in 19th Century Alabama”
Kayla Scott Gurner, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Session D

- “Prattville City Cemeteries and the Secrets They Keep”
Laura Bonner, Autauga County Heritage Association
- “The Wright Brothers in Alabama”
Robert B. Kane, American Military University
- “Craig Field, Selma, Alabama, During World War II: Diversity Mobilized”
Daniel L. Haulman, Independent Scholar
- “The Life and Times of Jackson County Actress Lucille Benson”
Annette Bradford/ David Bradford, Independent Scholars

11:45 a.m.

Luncheon

Presidential Address by Jim Baggett

MAP AND ACCOMMODATIONS



Montgomery Marriott Prattville & Conference Center

2500 Legends Circle • (334) 290-1235
\$139/Night | LIMITED BLOCK | Deadline March 14

Additional Hotel Options:



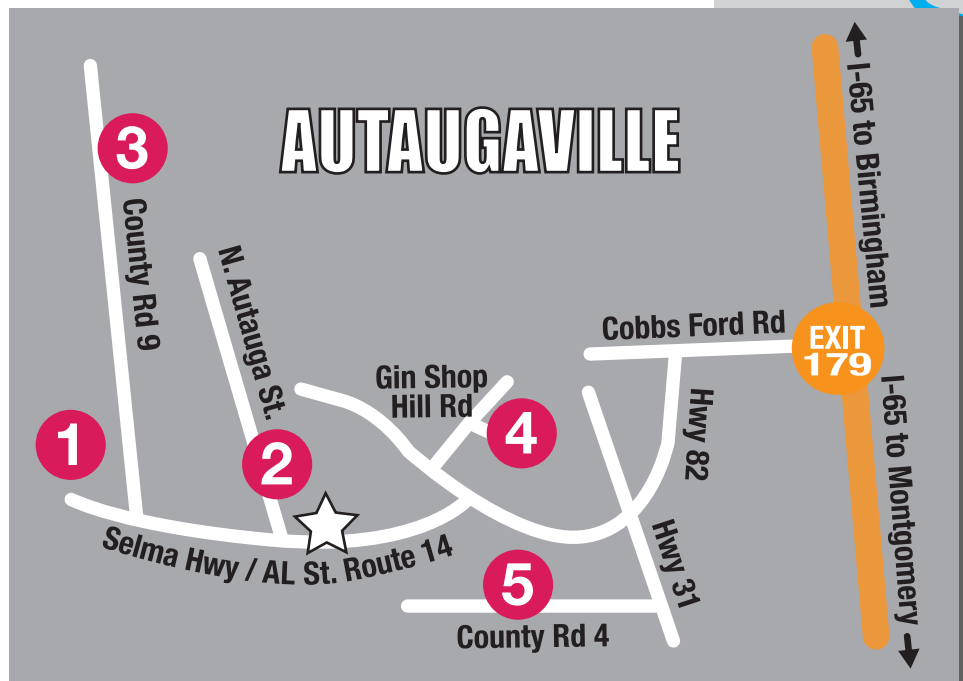
1 Holiday Inn Express & Suites

203 Legends Drive • (334) 290-2970
\$109/Night | Deadline March 14



2 Courtyard by Marriott

2620 Legends Parkway • (334) 290-1270
\$109/Night | Deadline March 30



Thursday, Pre-Meeting Tours:



1 Ivy Creek United Methodist Church

3514 Hwy 14, West



2 Autaugaville United Methodist Church

208 N. Autauga St.



3 Mulberry Schoolhouse

109 County Road 9, North



4 Parking for Paddling Autauga Creek

201 Gin Shop Hill Rd, Prattville

Thursday, Evening Reception:

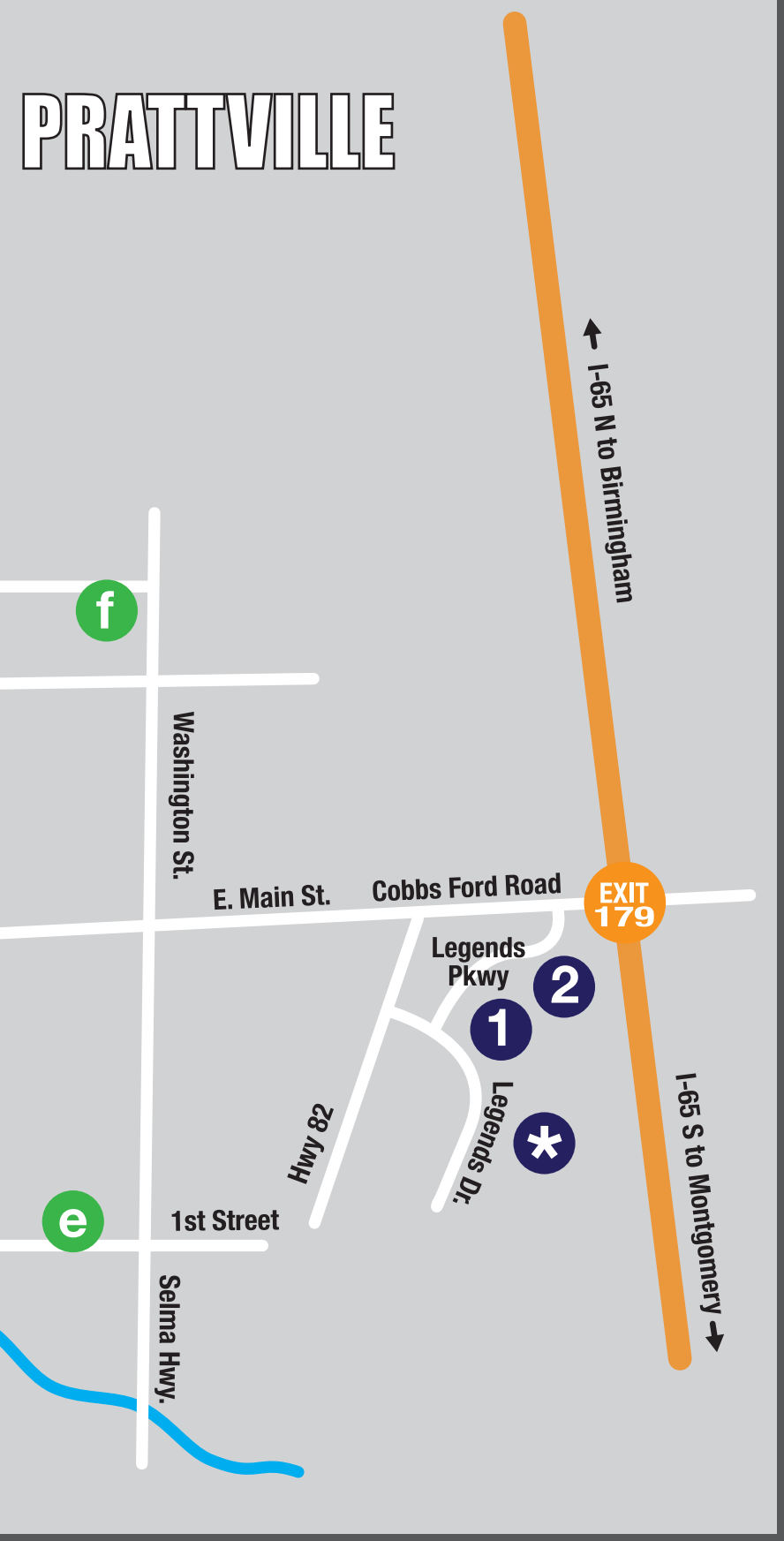


5 Buena Vista Mansion

641 County Road 4, East



PRATTVILLE



Friday:

- a** **Pratt Family Cemetery**
Bridge Street & Gin Shop Hill Road
- b** **Wilderness Park**
800 Upper Kingston Road,
- c** **Prattaugan Museum & Archives**
102 E. Main Street
- d** **Mount Sinai School**
1820 Co. Road 57
- e** **Old Pratt Village**
First Street
- f** **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**
178 E. 4th Street
- g** **First Missionary Baptist Church**
192 7th Street

Friday Parking:

- *** Corner of W. 3rd Street and S. Court Street
- *** Grass Lot across from Cindy's Cafe
- *** Church lot on corner of W. 3rd Street and S. Chestnut
- *** Grocery store lot on corner of S. Chestnut and Tichnor Avenue
- *** Minimal street parking on corner of South Chestnut Street and West Main Street

Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map.

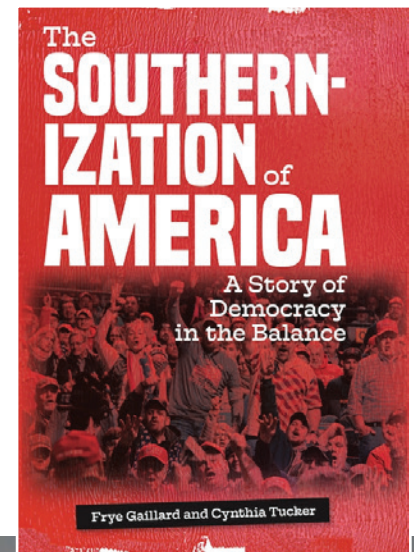


Please don't rely on the scale of this map for navigation.

AWARD-WINNING ALABAMA AUTHORS TO DISCUSS NEW BOOK

Pulitzer Prize-winner Cynthia Tucker and award-winning author Frye Gaillard will serve as keynote speakers for the 2023 Annual Meeting Awards Banquet on Friday, April 14. They will discuss their new book, *The Southernization of America: A Story of Democracy in the Balance*, published in 2022 by NewSouth Books, an imprint of the University of Georgia Press.

Cynthia Tucker is a Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist who has spent most of her career in journalism, having previously worked for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a Washington-based political correspondent. Her work as a journalist has been celebrated by the National Association of Black Journalists, who inducted her into its hall of fame, as well as Harvard University, and the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Tucker spent three years as a visiting professor at the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and is currently the journalist-in-residence at the University of South Alabama. Her weekly column focuses on political and cultural issues, including income inequality, social justice, and public education reform. ▶



Frye Gaillard is the writer-in-residence in the English and history departments at the University of South Alabama. He is the author of twenty books, including *With Music and Justice for All: Some Southerners and Their Passions*; *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award; *The Dream Long Deferred: The Landmark Struggle for Desegregation in Charlotte, North Carolina*, winner of the Gustavus Myers Award; and *If I Were a Carpenter*, the first independent, book-length study of Habitat for Humanity. ◀

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED IN 2022

Text and locations of the markers will appear in the April 2023 issue of The Alabama Review. Due to an unavoidable materials shortage, many markers ordered last year have yet to be delivered and installed. Markers below followed by an asterisk have been put in place.

- William Bartram (Montgomery County)
- Birthplace of Congressman John Lewis (Pike County)*
- S. R. Butler High School / Stone Middle School (Madison County)
- Clay Street Missionary Baptist Church (Montgomery County) *
- U.S.S. *Chilton* (Chilton County) *
- The Gamble School (Blount County)
- Hale Infirmary / The Lynching of Willie Temple (Montgomery County) *
- Holly Springs Missionary Baptist Church (Tuscaloosa County)
- Gov. Robert Burns Lindsay / Maud McKnight Lindsay (Colbert County)
- Robertson Banking Company / Mayer Brothers (Marengo County)
- The Smiths: A Civil Rights Family (Montgomery County)
- Troy & Pike County SCLC-SCOPE Project, 1965 (Pike County)



Congregation Beth-El marker, courtesy of Studio 1054.



Alice Boarman Baldrige marker, courtesy of Historic Huntsville Foundation.



John Lewis marker, courtesy of the John Lewis Institute.

ALABAMA
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION



c/o Caroline Marshall
Draughon Center for the
Arts & Humanities
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www.alabamahistory.net

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Fall Pilgrimage
October 27-28, 2023
Sylacauga, Alabama**

Photo: Gantt's Quarry Observation Point, courtesy of Samantha Machen

