

Lee County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 206  
Loachapoka, AL 36865  
*Return Service Requested*

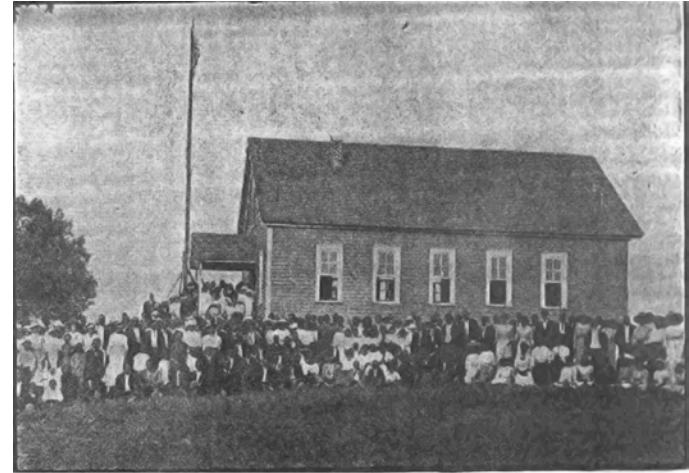
# TRAILS IN HISTORY

*Official Newsletter of the Lee County Historical Society*

Volume 44, Number 3

July 2011

Published Quarterly



*The First Rosenwald School, built by and for Black people and funded by a matching grant from Julius Rosenwald, was built in Loachapoka, Alabama in 1913. This photo is from The Rural Negro by Carter G. Woodson (New York, 1969, page 181).*

## Rosenwald School

Lee County has the distinct honor of having the first of over 5300 Rosenwald Schools built by and for Black people. The schools were built between 1913 and 1932 by and funded by a matching grant from Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. At the time, public schools for Black people were practically nonexistent. Educator Booker T. Washington approached Mr. Rosenwald with an ambitious plan to change that. The Rosenwald school in Loachapoka was located to the right of Mount Zion Church, on the south side of Day Lily Street. A dedication service for the completed building was held on May 18, 1913. The school was active from 1913 until it was closed in 1950.

The Lee County Historical Society believes that the FIRST Rosenwald School is worthy of having a permanent Historic Marker placed on the site. This was truly a unique Historical event of great significance in Lee County History.

The cost of the marker that includes both a picture and text giving a brief history is \$2,300. We need your help to fund this project. If you believe as we do that this project is important and should proceed, please write a check payable to LCHS, mark it for Rosenwald School and mail to: LCHS, P.O. Box 206, Loachapoka, AL 36865. All donations are tax deductible.

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**LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 206  
LOACHAPOKA, AL 36865

**web address:**

www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org

**e-mail:** lchs1968@hotmail.com

Organized October 25, 1968, chartered as a non-commercial, non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama, Charter filed with Probate Court, Lee County, Alabama, November 8, 1968.

**OFFICERS**

President: Jeannette Frandsen  
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Term expires December 31, 2013

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Term expires December 31, 2011

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Zack Sprayberry  
Carl Summers, Jr.

**MUSEUM CALENDAR**

**July 9** - Second Saturday  
Herb Walk and Talk, 9am - 10am  
Quilt Show, 10am - 3pm

**July 10 - Regular Meeting**  
2:30 pm - Speaker Dr. Jennifer Trevino, Assistant Professor of History, Troy State University at Montgomery - "Alabama Women During the Civil War"

**August 13** - Second Saturday  
Herb Walk and Talk, 9am - 10am  
Watermelon Tasting, 10am - 3pm

**September 10** - Second Saturday,  
Herb Walk and Talk, 9am - 10am

**October 8** - Second Saturday  
preparation for Historical Fair

**October 22 - 40th Annual Historical Fair/Syrup Sopping Saturday** in Loachapoka, 8am - 4pm

**LCHS MEMBERSHIP**

Due: January 1 of each year  
Individual: \$20 per individual  
Family: \$30 (spouse and children)  
*Additional Donations Appreciated*

All memberships and donations to LCHS are tax deductible. Please send your check (payable to LCHS), your mailing address (and e-mail address if applicable) to

Lee County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 206  
Loachapoka, AL 36865

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Richard D. and Mary S. Williams  
Edward T. & Elizabeth Williams

*The Lee County Historical Society is a non-profit volunteer organization with no paid staff. It depends on dues and donations from its friends and members to maintain and pay the operating cost on the eight buildings in Pioneer Park. All donations are tax deductible.*



**Membership / Donation**

Lee County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 206  
Loachapoka, AL 36865

I want to support the work of the Lee County Historical Society.  
**All contributions are Tax deductible. Federal I.D. No. 23-7227476**

- Individual - \$20     Family-\$30     Friend - \$50     Patron - \$100
- Support - \$250     Blue Ribbon - \$500     Benefactor - \$1,000

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Dr. & Mrs. James Witte  
Ralph & Carol Womer  
Dr. Emil & Margaret Wright

Summer Meeting of Lee County Historical Society  
July 10, 2011, 2:30 pm  
LCHS Trade Center Museum, Loachapoka, Alabama

## “Alabama Women During the Civil War”

Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Treviño

As the year 1860 drew to a close, Alabamians faced a volatile political situation as the country stood on the verge of a Civil War. Many women worried about the “dark clouds overspreading our National Horizon,” as Eufaula diarist Elizabeth Rhodes wrote on December 31, 1860. She added, “we cannot yet know whether the fringes of prosperity will dispel them and the bright rays of peace and happiness once more [beam] upon us;” or, “whether they will grow darker and denser until proved out in wars and bloodshed on our once prosperous and happy nation.” She then succinctly summed up the position in which most women found themselves: “Time alone can unfold these things. We can only wait and pray God to overrule all things for His glory and the good of mankind.” This sentiment of complete powerlessness as the world they knew crumbled around them on the one hand, but also the

conviction that God controlled events on earth and had a plan for their lives, on the other, led many to rely heavily on the one constant in their lives – their faith.

Using the personal writings of Alabama women, Dr. Jennifer Newman Treviño, explores the Civil War lives of a group of literate Alabama women. She traces their lives from the secession crisis through the fall of the Confederacy. Over the course of the war these women threw themselves into the war effort. Despite their fears and personal concerns for the safety of their loved ones they developed a sense of Confederate identity that relied heavily upon antebellum ideals and far outlasted the demise of their beloved nation. In the midst of the uncertainty and turmoil that surrounded them women clung especially to their religious beliefs, which in turn became a central element of their Confederate identity.



**Jennifer Newman Treviño** received her Ph.D. from Auburn University. Before her current position at Troy University Montgomery she taught at the University of Texas – Pan American. Her major research and teaching interests include gender, religion, and identity in the Civil War South. Her manuscript entitled, *Alabama Women, Self Identity, and Religion During the Civil War*, is currently under review with the University of Alabama Press. Her most recent article, “Elizabeth Rhodes: An Alabama Woman in the Civil War,” was published in the *Alabama Review*.

## LCHS President's Report

Jeannette Frandsen, President

*Our Mission: to relate the history and traditions of Lee County, Alabama (and the surrounding areas) through preservation, restoration, education, presentation, publication, and acquisition.*

Our recent name change from the Lee County Historical Society Museum to Pioneer Park is an attempt to simplify our name and an effort to explain what we are about - preserving and educating about Lee County's past. We have had several very successful events recently. Our Heritage Cake Contest quite pleased us with the amount of enthusiasm and interest it generated. Doyle Keisel's Rain barrel Workshop was a great success. On the April and May Second Saturdays, Herb Growing and Cooking workshops were held. Participants were enthusiastic. The Membership Party, "Moonshine and Magnolias" presided over by Sheila Eckman and Ann Pearson was the talk of the town!

As you realize, success does not make us less needy. Your financial support is imperative. Our recent improvements - heat pumps, termite treatment and protection, refinish-

ing of downstairs floor (they look so good!) and the addition of handicap accessibility have been expensive. We are poised for farther growth - if we secure the financial resources. If there is a particular project you would like to contribute to, let us know. The renovation of the cookhouse and the placing of the Rosenwald School marker are immediate needs - but there are many others. We don't mind "earmarking" gifts! So if there is a particular thing you would like to support financially, let us know.

We are planning for the October 22 Historical Fair. Many hands are needed so do not hesitate to volunteer. In particular, we need a person to head the Fair Committee. If you or someone you know feels equal to the job, please let me know.

As always, visit the Museum and see what new displays Miss Jessie has created!

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## Museum Report

Jessie Summers, LCHS museum Curator

Two generous ladies and two gentlemen loaned us seven family quilts for exhibit in May. One, a *Double Wedding Ring* pattern made by her grandmother in the 1940s, is from **Anna Louise McKown**, and is still hanging in the Fabric Room.

**Dr. Delos McKown** lent a quilt made made by his great, great grandmother during the War Between the States. She worked in a shirt factory

in Michigan during this time and the quilt was made from scraps obtained at the factory.

Four family quilts from **Mary Jane Jaeger** were on exhibit. All were made in the 1930s by her grandmother Greenawalt. The *Pine Tree* pattern quilt was made especially for Mary Jane. The happy colors of *Flower Basket* brightened the entrance to the West Room.

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Cleveland & Marian Harrison  
Mac & Debbie Hartman  
Bill & Virginia Hayes  
Wayne Hester  
Barbara Holder

*Membership continued on page 18*

## LCHS Members and Donors

Listed below are the members who have paid their dues for this year along with the life members and the donations levels received in 2011. The Society is a non profit organization with no paid staff and depends on this income to pay one half of its operating costs. We urge those who have not yet paid their dues to please do so by mailing a check to the Lee County Historical Society, P.O. Box 206, Loachapoka, AL 36865. All donations are tax deductible.

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Jessie & Carl Summers

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## Whistle Stop Pickers

The resident Whistle Stop Pickers have recorded a CD of Old-Time, Blue Grass, and Gospel songs. The CD, titled "Meet Me at the Station", features the old-time sound of mountain dulcimers, hammered dulcimers, autoharps, fiddles, banjos, guitars, and bowed psalteries. All performers volunteered their time for this project. With the special assistance of Loron and Mildred Holden, the recordings were made inside the Trade Center. All proceeds from the sale of these CDs go to the Lee County Historical Society. Please pick one up on your next visit. The cost is \$10 per CD. Songs included on the recording are: Railroad on the Great Divide, Cold Frosty Morning, Wildwood Flower, Sugar Hill, Black Mountain Rag, Arkansas Traveler, Oh Susanna, Rosin the Beau, South Wind, Westphalia Waltz, Life's Railway to Heaven, This Train is Bound for Glory, Reuben's Train, New River Train, and Amazing Grace.



*Silver Ice Water Pitcher donated by Dr. Jan Steiss. This was a gift to her grandparents on their 50th wedding anniversary and is engraved May 26, 1902.*

**Allen Langford** loaned us a particularly elegant large blue and white quilt. It was quilted by his aunt and a group of her friends living in a retirement home many years past.

Now I can tell you what it's like in heaven 'cause I was there for a little while. It happened during *Music Festival, The Gathering*, which **Deborah and Allen McCord** and **Rose and Bob Taunton** organized. At a midday break from classes I was wandering around outside and heard lovely music coming from the direction of the new picnic tables. There were a few people with their instruments sitting on the benches and on the tables, and other individuals who just happened by and joined their group. It was all so casually done. Just the music. No voices, no invitations or requests to join, and apparently no director.

In front of the log cabin was another group, growing one by one as someone playing the same tune walked over and sat down on the beautiful green grass. Truly "The Gathering". The weather was ideal, a soft breeze, no traffic sounds, and no train passing by. Just their music, the best of nature and me. Truly, heaven. Thank you Deborah, Allen, Rose and Bob and all you other musicians!!

**Dr. Wayne Teague and Mrs. Josephine Teague** donated several very old

pieces of farm equipment which will be on exhibit in the Taylor Whatley farm building. One is a flat iron which belonged to his great grandmother, and another is a handmade brace and bit made by his grandfather.

**Dr. Jan Steiss** gave the Historical Society a perfectly beautiful silver ice water pitcher. With ice a rarity and mechanical refrigeration yet to exist, ladies of the Victorian era were tasked with keeping water, or lemonade or tea, cooled for their guests. Pitchers were made of quadruple silver plate, lined to keep the water cool, and very heavy to handle when filled. This led to the design of the tilting water pitcher with stand. The gift includes the set: pitcher, stand, and a silver goblet each engraved with flowers. They were very popular as wedding gifts in the late Victorian period and often were engraved with a personal message, as is our goblet.

**Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cadenhead** donated a lady doll. She is 95 years old, Her original dress and pantaloons were restored by **Chris Danner**. Under her human hair we found the name of the German manufacturer. Her head and face made of ceramic bisque are exquisitely detailed, and she is a joy to look at.



*This 95 year old doll was donated to the Museum by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Cadenhead. The doll was made by a German company.*

*From the Gardens . . .*

## Herbs in the Garden

**Charles C. Mitchell**

*Vice President, Lee Co. Historical Society*

*After two successful “Herb Days” at Pioneer Park in May and June, we’re starting a regular Second Saturday “Herb Walk and Talk” from 9 am to 10 am with Tia Gonzales, master herbalist. From time to time, we’ll also feature other historical, plant-related visits such as the Crops Garden, Tea Garden, and Bog Garden and discuss fruit and vegetable growing traditions in the South.*

Wikipedia defines an “herb” as “... a plant that is valued for flavor, scent, medicinal or other qualities. Herbs are used in cooking, as medicines, and for spiritual purposes.” Using this definition, just about any plant we use can be called an herb. I suppose that rabbit tobacco (*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*) and crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) we used to smoke as teenagers could also be considered an herb. It was sort of a “spiritual” experience... especially if our parents found out about it. For sure, this experience prevented any of us from growing up to be smokers.

The McLain Garden at Pioneer Park is devoted to “herbs and medicinal plants”. We know that Ms. McLain, the wife of Dr. A. D. McLain of Salem,



*Peggy Mitchell at the entrance to the McLain Garden which features herbs and medicinal plants.*

Alabama, used to have a garden near the doctor’s office, pharmacy, soda fountain, and post office. Dr. McLain practiced medicine in Salem from 1902 to 1956. Some of Dr. McLain’s heirs told us that Mrs. McLain would grow herbs and medicinal plants that could be used to treat patients when other medicines were not available. We have no record of what she may have grown in the early 20th Century but we do know that Alabama residents had to depend on herbs and native plants to treat illnesses. When Peggy Mitchell first started planting the McLain garden, she wanted to make sure that every plant selected either had a culinary use or medical use. Surprisingly, when she began researching herbs, she discovered that just about every plant we grow has been used at one time or another to treat illnesses.

Having grown up in rural West Alabama, I recall a lot of herbs being used by the local tenant farmers to treat illnesses. Our family was lucky. We could afford to get our medicine from the local drugstore. Flawny Lockett, an elderly Black lady, lived down the road from us in a two-room, unpainted, frame house with no electricity and no running water. Her son, John Wesley,

*Scenes From*

## The 3rd Annual Lee County Gathering, Old-Time Music Festival

*April 28th - May 1st, 2011*

LCHS hosted the 3rd Annual Lee County Gathering—an event that brought more than 200 people of all ages to Pioneer Park for fun music lessons, performances, storytelling and dancing. The great line-up of instructors and performers ensured the best festival yet. Plans are underway for next year’s music festival for the last weekend in April. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend.



*Clockwise from top left:*

- 1) Bob Taunton, Allen McCord & Rose Taunton*
- 2) Civil War Band*
- 3) In the big tent*
- 4) Debbie & Larry Norris*
- 5) Deborah McCord*
- 6) Lunch on the grounds*
- 7) The No-name Trio*
- 8) Bing Futch teaches about Native American flute*

# SECOND SATURDAY

On the second Saturday of every month, volunteers and re-enactors gather at Pioneer Park in period attire to demonstrate their arts and crafts. Blacksmiths are usually working at the forge, spinners and weavers are upstairs in the Trade Center, and someone is always cooking up a meal in the log cabin over the open hearth or outdoors over an open fire. The Trade Center Museum and other museums are always open on Second Saturdays, and the Whistle Stop Pickers (dulcimer players) gather to practice at 1 pm. What a great opportunity to visit the museum!

## July 9 - Quilt Show

Quilters from throughout the area are invited to bring their quilts to be displayed during the day throughout the museum grounds and Pioneer Park. From 9am til about 10 am, gather at the McLain Garden for an “Herb Walk and Talk” and discover the diversity and history of plants growing in the Park.

## August 13 - Watermelon Tasting

It a Southern tradition on a hot summer Saturday to cool off under the shade trees with a ripe, home-grown watermelon. Mr. Edgar Vinson with Auburn University will bring melons from his variety tests for visitors to sample and rate. Blindfolded, can you tell the difference between a red, yellow and orange melon? Find out on the Second Saturday in August. There will also be another “Herb Walk and Talk” at 9 am.

## September 10

There’s a football game in town today so activities will end early. The “Herb Walk and Talk” will be at 9 am and other activities will be arranged. All other regular Second Saturday activities will be held.

We’re always looking for historically-related demonstration and activities to feature during one or more Second Saturdays. If you have ideas or a skill to demonstrate or just would like to help out on Second Saturdays, just dress up in 19th Century attire and join the fun. It’s kind of like a mini-Historical Fair throughout the year! For more information on Second Saturday activities, contact: Charles C. Mitchell, email: mitchc1@auburn.edu or home phone: 334-844-5489.

worked for my Dad on the farm. When I could sneak away, I’d go visit Flawny and admire all the flowers and weird plants she had growing in her garden. Beside the steps leading onto the porch was a tall plant with large, soft, fuzzy leaves that looked like tobacco with yellow flowers on a tall spike. Later, I learned that this plant was mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*) that Flawny had transplanted from roadside ditches.



*Verbascum Thapsus*  
(Mullein)

Flawny made a tea from the leaves which she claimed helped her congestion. Flawny lived to be over 90 years old.

Peggy struggled to get mullein to grow from seed.

We watered them too much the first year and they all died. Last year, we managed to get a couple of plants to live by planting them in the hard, packed, dry soil outside of the regular garden. Notice the mullein plants on the left side of the entrance to the McLain Garden. They are biennials so they should make a colorful spike this year just like I remember Flawny’s plants.

No Alabama herb garden is complete without members of the mint family (*Lamiaceae*). The wealthy plantation owners could not have enjoyed their mint juleps without these plants. Peppermint or spearmint (*Mentha sp.*) is the standard but you’ll also find chocolate mint, lemon mint, and many other flavored mints available today. All are easy to grow but watch out! They will take over a herb bed. Do like Peggy and grow them in containers.

I doubt if our Alabama ancestors grew “herbes de Provence” which are some of the most popular culinary herbs used in modern cooking. Most grow best in a Mediterranean climate like that found in Southern France and Italy. Our winters can be harsh on perennials such as rosemary and fennel and our summers can be too hot and humid for French lavender and tarragon. Others such as thyme, sage, oregano, and mint thrive with just a little attention during the growing season. Sweet marjoram, summer savory, basil, and annual or Russian tarragon must be grown from seed each year. You can get an idea of those that tolerate East Alabama conditions by seeing which ones do well in the McLain Garden. If you like the idea of trying dried herbs in your kitchen but don’t know exactly how to use them, try a mixture known appropriately as “herbes de Provence”. You can grow them in your garden this summer, dry them and then make a mixture that can be used in soups, stews, meats, casseroles, and, of course, all Italian dishes. Here’s a blend from the web:

## Herbes de Provence

- 3 T dried marjoram
- 3 T dried thyme
- 3 T dried savory
- 1 t dried basil
- 1 t dried rosemary
- ½ t dried sage
- ½ t fennel seed

Mix all together and store in an airtight container.

A brochure of most of the plants grown in the McLain Garden is available in the mailbox next to the entrance of the garden.

# The Loachapoka Rosenwald School

By Lisa Schafer

Reprinted from Trails in History, Volume 26, Number 2, June 1994.

The first black rural school financed by Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, was built in Loachapoka, Alabama.

Since 1907 progressives had stimulated the Alabama legislature to build better schools for whites with \$1,000 allocated per county to build or repair schools in addition to school districts raising money for improvements in facilities, faculty, and curricula. The literacy campaign during this period was directed to rural populations—82 percent of Alabamians—but mainly affected whites.

Almost ninety percent of blacks lived in rural areas, but their educational facilities were substandard—often crude shacks and leaky log cabins that were not sturdy, comfortable, or safe. Teachers often only had elementary educations, buildings were in disrepair and far away from pupils' homes, school terms were too short to teach students adequately, and there was a lack of proper books and supplies.

Julius Rosenwald visited Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute in 1911 and viewed model schools Washington had built, with help from Henry H. Rogers of the Standard Oil Company, to improve educational opportunities for black in Macon County;

local residents had collected matching funds to finance the schools.

Rosenwald was interested in Washington's ideas for enhancing rural schools for southern blacks. Washington wanted white residents' support and cooperation for educating blacks. He

stressed that in order for whites to advance they must also assist blacks because efforts to restrict and limit blacks took away time and energy from whites' opportunities for progress.

Rosenwald concurred with Washington's ideas, being interested in entire communities joining the effort for improved education and insisting that racial prejudices be discarded. He stated that "I was willing to join Dr. Washington in a campaign for better rural schools. I make it a condition that in these campaigns, white and colored people must be interested, and that some of the money for these schools must come from the white people; because where people work in a common cause, they learn to know one another and to get along together."

In 1913 the Julius Rosenwald fund provided money to aid six schools in Alabama, providing some construction costs and operating expenses, as an experiment observed by the Tuskegee Institute Extension Department. Each

viously had been accessible, aiding educators' goals to increase the state's literacy rate and stature nationally regarding educational opportunities for its children.

The Rosenwald schools, expanding from the initial experimental school in Loachapoka, supported Washington's and Rosenwald's concept of education as the foundation for the future and hope of southern children. It is an excellent example of how Loachapoka citizens have cooperated for the advancement and improvement of their community and residents.

After many years of providing a safe and healthy environment for educat-

ing numerous Loachapoka children, the Rosenwald school in Loachapoka was dismantled circa 1950's. The Loachapoka Rosenwald School's foundation can still be faintly detected on the grounds of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Brick and rough concrete remnants are entrenched in the ground where they once supported the school building, and pieces of slate (possibly from blackboards), charcoal, tin, tar paper, and old glass, as well as various artifacts such as buttons and mottled shards of turn-of-the-century pottery are scattered across the school's former site.

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## Textile Studio at LCHS - Building a Fiber/Textile Guild by Esther Marshall

Interest in spinning and weaving continues to grow. Our group started last September with five aspiring spinners and doubled in the spring. In May, Stephanie Lane joined our group and agreed to be CEO as we work to build a fiber guild for this area. We could not be more pleased!

**Our mission** is to pass on the cultural heritage of textile arts (including fiber arts) from generation to generation; to encourage excellence in textile arts; to inspire creativity; to preserve fiber and textile art traditions as well as to provide an environment and meeting place conducive to the appreciation and cultivation of textile arts through education, the sharing of information and techniques, and through the raising of consciousness in the community.

**Our objective** shall be to preserve, promote, and facilitate the production of

textile arts through workshops, classes, study groups, and through interaction within the membership of our guild and with other arts organizations both local and national. We honor our members by providing a comfortable environment which encourages teaching, sharing and learning. We honor the community through the provision of classes and workshops which we make available to them, passing on our knowledge of textile arts skills in spinning, dying, weaving and other skills to future generations.

Spinners meet first and third Saturdays; weavers meet fourth and fifth (when there is a fifth). Everyone gathers on 2nd Saturday to share and play. Everyone is having a good time learning, and more importantly, making new friends. Second Saturdays are very special, fun filled days. Come, join with us during this exciting time.

*Rosenwald* continued from page 9 plaque, was established in 1903). The church had a well and was near a creed and adjacent springs that provided water for students and school agricultural projects. It also was near the railroad, main road, and downtown where many people lived.

The state superintendent inspected the school after it was built. The title to the land was deeded to the school authority to insure the school's permanence and prevent it from being forced to close in case the land's ownership was disputed. The school had a chimney and fireplace for heat, and attractive entrance porch, windows for illumination by sunlight, and a flagpole and American flag to promote patriotism and citizenship. It was painted inside and outside for aesthetic as well as preservation reasons and could seat approximately 150 people.

A dedication ceremony on May 18, 1913, was attended by teachers from Tuskegee Institute including C. J. Calloway who had been directly involved with the development of the school. Reverent G. L. Imes, dean of Phelps Hall Bible Training School, was the featured speaker.

The Loachapoka school's teacher, L. Pearl Rouseau, taught traditional courses such as reading and arithmetic, and a garden plot not only provided pupils opportunities to learn practical agriculture but also to raise additional income for the school. As a result of improved facilities, including provi-

sions for health, comfort, and sanitation for students, faculty, and community, school terms for black students were lengthened from three to nine months. Children dressed up for graduation ceremonies, girls wearing white dresses. The Loachapoka Rosenwald school was considered the best black school in Lee County.

That summer Rosenwald inspected the new schools he helped to finance, possibly coming to Loachapoka because of its proximity to Tuskegee and its stature as being the first school named in his honor. He was pleased with what he saw and donated another \$25,000 for schools on his fiftieth birthday that August, and in 1914 he provided \$300 per school for one hundred new buildings.

Washington was especially interested in extending the program from Alabama to other states. The central administration of the schools was placed at Tuskegee Institute, with C. J. Calloway in charge as director of the extension department, and approximately 4,853 Rosenwald schools were built in fourteen southern states.

In addition to education, the schools became community social centers and promoted civic pride and interracial cooperation, offering opportunity for residents to help their neighbors and enrich the community. Local and state government units cooperated to approve school buildings, strengthening political ties for future projects, and practical education became available to more people in the South than pre-

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*In addition to education, the schools became community social centers and promoted civic pride and interracial cooperation, offering opportunity for residents to help their neighbors and enrich the community.*

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building was a one-room wooden schoolhouse with the first Rosenwald school designated at Loachapoka. When Loachapoka was incorporated in 1910, a census had determined the town's population to be 195 blacks and 164 whites; these were the people who helped collect money for the Loachapoka Rosenwald school.

Joining in the pursuit to advance children of all races, the communities selected to receive funds raised amounts equivalent to and exceeding Rosenwald's donations in order for schools to be built. The suspicions and skepticism of both whites and black had to be surmounted, and once people realized that the philanthropist would really donate money and that schools would actually be built for the use of blacks, they sacrificed and participated actively to build the school.

To raise school funds, many blacks sold their livestock and goods that provided their main income, and children saved their money instead of buying candy. Often former slaves, wanting their grandchildren to have opportunities they had been denied, gave their life savings to the community fund.

In Loachapoka, black women, encouraged by Rosenwald's agreement to assist financially, led the fundraising effort by hosting meetings to talk about the school and how it would improve the community. At one rally in January 1913, the *Tuskegee Messenger* reported that thirty-nine Loachapoka residents donated a total of \$68.49. The donations ranged from a nickel to \$5.25, with most people giving dimes or quarters. Among the donors listed were Maria Wimberly, George Askew, Ellen Tally, Zella Grimes, Mary Slaughter, George Turk, Jessie Shivers, and Alonso Baker.



*Julius Rosenwald*

The total cost for building the Loachapoka school was \$942.50. \$150 was raised locally to purchase the site; donated construction labor, such as carpentry tasks including sawing wood and driving nails, by Loachapoka blacks was worth \$132.50, and local whites and blacks gave \$360; Rosenwald provided \$300 to each of the six schools, with local groups donating the approximate average of \$600 dollars to completely build each school. Some Rosenwald money was allocated for operating expenses and student supplies.

The Loachapoka school had been in construction since summer 1912, being completed by March of the next year. The state superintendent of education had helped the community choose the school's site. The school was located near an established church (the Mt. Zion Missionary Bpatist Church, which according to its commemorative

*Rosenwald* continued on page 12

**Sponsors:**

Space is limited!  
Cost is \$30.00 which includes a resource binder, Project Archaeology activity guide, and lunch each day.

The workshop will be held in Loachapoka at the Lee County Historical Museum on July 26 & 27 from 8 am until 4 pm each day.

Deadline for registering is July 1, but don't delay as space is limited.



Alabama Historical Commission

West Point Fund

# Project Archaeology for Educators

## July 26 & 27, 2011

### *Lee County Historical Society & Alabama Cooperative Extension System* Educators' Workshop for Summer 2011

**Workshop Description:** Educators who are interested in Alabama and U.S. history will want to join us for this informative workshop that focuses on the study of archaeology and how it relates to Alabama's past and its people. This workshop is ideal for educators that work with fourth through seventh grade, but the information and activities can be adapted for other grade levels. The focus of this workshop will be to train participants in the Project Archaeology program (participants will receive a copy of the program's activity guide). Throughout the workshop, a variety of hands-on activities will be shared with the participants that can be used in the classroom to help bring history to life.



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**Registration:** Complete the following registration form and mail it to **Doyle Keasal at 116 Extension Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849**. The workshop will begin each day at 8:00 am and end at around 4:00 pm. If paying by check, make it payable to the **Lee County Historical Society**.

**Cost:** The cost for the workshop is **\$30.00** which includes a resource binder, activity guide and lunch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Payment must be received with the registration form. Upon receipt of your registration, an email will be sent to let you know that you are registered.. Additional workshop information will be sent in mid-July. If you have any questions, please contact Doyle Keasal by email at [keasade@auburn.edu](mailto:keasade@auburn.edu) or you may call him at 334-844-6398 or 334-750-6735.*