

TRAILS IN HISTORY

Official Newsletter of the Lee County Historical Society

Volume 41, Number 4

October 2008

Published Quarterly

**LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO THE 37TH ANNUAL
HISTORICAL FAIR**

**Saturday, October 25
8:00am - 3:00pm**

**LCHS Museum & Grounds
Hwy 14, Loachapoka, Alabama**

FOLKLIFE DEMONSTRATIONS

**Log Cabin, Blacksmith Shop, Gristmill, Indian Exhibits
Quilting, Spinning, Weaving, Pottery
Basket Making, Natural Dyes, Broom Making**

MUSIC

Bands, Singing Groups, Dulcimers

COUNTRY COOKIN'

**Sweet Tater Biscuits, Fritters, Beans, Collards,
Camp Stew, BBQ, Homemade Ice Cream**

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

**Free Surrey Rides, Petting Zoo, Garden Harvest
Sugarcane Squeezin', Cider Press**

\$3.00 admits you to the museum and grounds
Children under 12 (with an adult) and over 90 FREE

No Charge to LCHS members

LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 206
LOACHAPOKA, AL 36865

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: Carl Summers, Jr.
Vice-President: Charles C. Mitchell
Treasurer: Nancy Jones
Secretary: Jeannette Frandsen
HCC Delegate: Carl Summers, Jr.
Trails Editor: Janet Sugg

TRUSTEES

Term expires December 31, 2010
Dottie Marcinko
Arvle Marshall
Deborah McCord
John Ross
William Wilson
Jim Witte
Term expires December 31, 2009
Doyle Keasal
Charles H. Mitchell
Betty Patterson
Janet Sugg
Peggie Webster
Barbara Gosser
Term expires December 31, 2008
Ruth Ann Bond
Kay Campbell
Pat Conover
John Sugg
Zack Sprayberry
Marty Hoerr

MUSEUM CALENDAR

October 25 -LCHS Meeting - 37th Lee County Historical Fair and Syrup Soppin' Day

November 6 - 4th Grade Field Trip
Morris Ave School, 8:30am-1:30pm

November 8 - Second Saturday
Museum Open for Visitors (no organized activities planned)

December 13 - Second Saturday
living history, Christmas in Lee County, 9am-4pm

December 14 - Board meeting,
2:00pm, Museum

January 10, 2009 - Second Saturday
living history, 9am-4pm

February 14, 2009 - Second Saturday
living history, 9am-4pm

March 14, 2009 - Second Saturday
living history, 9am - 4pm

April 24-26, 2009 - Lee County Gathering Old Time Music Festival - For more information, please see the web site at <http://leecountygathering.com>

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 Community Historical Society
P. O. Box 206,
Loachapoka, AL 36865.

LCHS Museum *and Gardens*

by Charles Mitchell, LCHS Vice President

Heirloom Camellias. In August, the Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club met at the Museum. Dr. and Mrs. Milton Alexander gave a donation to LCHS to help establish an heirloom camellia garden to be located behind the log cabin. They have also donated some trickle irrigation equipment which will be installed to water the new garden. In the meantime, members of the A-O Men's Camellia Club are researching popular 19th century camellia varieties and are growing plants which will be included in the new garden.

The Crops Garden. In spite of the summer's heat and drought, the LCHS Crops Garden has been a season-long demonstration of crops that were grown in Lee County during the 19th Century. Charles C. Mitchell, Charles H. Mitchell, and Doyle Keasal have been responsible for maintaining the cotton, corn, sugarcane, peanuts, sorghum, peas, tobacco, gourds

and sweet potato crops. Most will be harvested during the Historical Fair on October 25th.

The McLain Garden. A new addition in 2008 is the McLain Garden just west of the McLain Building. We are told that Mrs. McLain maintained a small garden next to the doctor's office in Salem during the early 20th Century. While we do not know exactly what she may have grown in her garden, the new McLain Garden is a year-round demonstration of herbs, medicinal plants, and a few vegetables that can grow in the Lee County area. Boy Scout Troop 11 and their leaders (John Rice, Tom Petee, John Tidwell, and Matt Schultz) helped LCHS volunteers construct the raised beds last May. Peggy and Charles Mitchell and Doyle Keasal have maintained plants all summer and now have it planted in cool-season plants. Plans are to build a fence around the 12 raised beds (proposed Eagle Scout project) and to establish a small fruit orchard and flowering perennials around the garden.

Grandma's Flower Garden. This is the oldest garden on the Museum grounds and it contains a cornucopia of perennial, herbaceous flowers that could have grown in your Grandma's garden. Unfortunately, encroaching tree roots and shade and lack of a good irrigation system have limited growth in recent years.



Freddie the scarecrow looks pretty exhausted after guarding the Crops Garden all summer.

SECOND SATURDAYS

The second Saturday of every month, a group of history re-enactors gather at the LCHS Museum in period costume. Blacksmiths are usually working at the forge, spinners and weavers are in the log cabin, and someone is always cooking up a meal in the fire-place or outdoors. On most Second Saturdays, a dulcimer class and jam session is held at 2:00 pm. What a great opportunity for LCHS members and visitors to visit the museum!



Dulcimer players practice on Second Saturday at 2:00pm.

- **November 8.** This is Homecoming Saturday at Auburn University so there are no planned activities at the Museum. Museum and grounds will be open for visitors.
- **December 13.** Christmas at LCHS. The regular re-enactors will gather and prepare a gala 19th Century Christmas dinner in the log cabin. If you wish to participate, contact Gerry Melsheimer (gmel@infioline.net).
- **January 10, 2009.** Wintertime activities included making brooms, rendering lard, making candles and soap, making sausage, woodworking, spinning and weaving, cutting firewood, blacksmithing, and other such activities.

If you have 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!



LCHS members and volunteers Bill Wilson, Jim Webster, Allen McCord, and Charles H. Mitchell are reconstructing the old Loachapoka jail. The Jail was discovered behind the barn that was converted to house the McLain exhibit, but it collapsed when it was moved to make way renovation.

Alabama Equal Suffrage Association

by Valerie Pope Burnes, Judson College

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The Alabama Equal Suffrage Association (AESA) was founded in Birmingham in 1912 with the goal of gaining the right to vote for white women in the state. At its inception, the organization consisted of members of the Birmingham Equal Suffrage Association (BESA) and the Selma Equal Suffrage Association (SESA) and included 350 white, upper-class men and women from Birmingham and 80 from Selma, as well as individuals from Montgomery, Auburn, and Marion.

The cause of suffrage (the civil right to vote) in Alabama began in 1892 with the formation of a group in Decatur. The Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1901 failed to grant any type of suffrage to women, however, and the statewide push for suffrage ceased for a decade. Accord-

ing to the views of the day, women were to be nurturers in the home, and it was considered unnatural to bring them into the realm of politics.

By 1911 there was a revival of interest in woman's suffrage in both Birmingham and Selma. In the preced-

Many Southern white women who advocated giving women the right to vote did so at the expense of African American women....In no way was the woman's suffrage movement in the South designed to give African American women the right to vote.

ing decade, activist women around the state had been broadening the domestic sphere to include social issues such as the well-being of children. Many women had also become involved in the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) with the goal of eradicating alcohol consumption and the social ills that often resulted from it. The

WCTU served as an organizational training ground for future suffragists and revealed to them that without the vote they would not be able to enact true reform.

It was in this spirit of social reform that Birmingham activist Pattie Ruffner Jacobs went to hear renowned sociologist and reformer Jane Addams speak against child labor at a conference in Birmingham in 1911. Addams's speech revealed to Jacobs that the only way women would be able to accomplish change was through the ballot. Jacobs

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Pattie Ruffner Jacobs (1875-1935), first president of the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association

Birmingham Public Library Archives

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thus led the effort to found the BESA in 1911.

Realizing that strength existed in numbers, the members of the BESA invited the members of the SESA, including Selma suffragist (and later state legislator) Hattie Hooker Wilkins, to join together under a unified leadership. In a letter distributed to state newspapers, leaders called for a statewide organization that would be more effective at winning the vote. Thus the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association was formed on October 9, 1912, and allied itself with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). As stated in the invitation for the founding meeting of the AESA, the purpose of the organization was to “bring to fruit the seed of democracy sown by our forefathers when they declared taxation without representation is tyranny. [The vote for women] will protect the home. It will conserve the race.” Many Southern white women who advocated giving women the right to vote did so at the expense of African American women. They believed that by gaining the vote for white women they would offset any

ballots cast by black men. In no way was the woman’s suffrage movement in the South designed to give African American women the right to vote. In addition, the AESA initially favored gaining the ballot at the state level, which affirmed the Southern belief in the doctrine of states’ rights, whereas NAWSA favored an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Despite the differing views, the AESA sent Jacobs, its newly elected president, to address the NAWSA national convention in November 1912.

The AESA opened its headquarters in downtown Birmingham in 1912 and began its outreach to young working women by setting aside a reading room where they could relax and eat lunch during the day. The AESA also established a traveling library, stocked



Birmingham Public Library Archives



Birmingham Public Library Archives

The Birmingham headquarters for the AESA opened in 1912. AESA’s demonstrations in Birmingham included “voiceless speech” in store windows displaying suffrage materials and a mobile library with materials to spread the organization’s message.

with suffragist literature and pamphlets, to bring its message to interested groups throughout the state. The suffragists initiated “voiceless speech” demonstrations in downtown Birmingham stores in which less-vocal members of the group stood in department store windows and turned the pages of suffrage pamphlets displayed in them. Local chapters placed informational articles in various newspapers, including the *Birmingham Age-Herald* and the *Selma Times*, whose business manager, Mary Raiford, sat on the state board and ran a column entitled “Woman Suffrage.”

In January 1913 the AESA held its inaugural state convention at the Hotel Albert in Selma, with seven chapters participating, and its second convention in Huntsville in 1914, with 11 chapters attending. That same year, Bossie O’Brien Hundley of Birmingham became chair of the legislative committee and set to work convincing the Alabama State Legislature to place a woman’s suffrage amendment on the ballot in the next election. Because women could not vote, they had

to depend upon the voting men of Alabama to grant them the right to do so. The Alabama legislature met every four years, so the AESA members realized that if they were unsuccessful in 1915, they would have to wait until

The Alabama legislature met every four years, so the AESA members realized that if they were unsuccessful in 1915, they would have to wait until 1919 for another chance.

1919 for another chance. With this in mind, they asked J. H. Green, a representative from Dallas County, to put forward a suffrage bill in the House. As the bill came up for a vote, however, Green withdrew support. With a balcony full of suffrage supporters and many

legislators wearing yellow suffrage flowers in support of suffrage, the bill to grant women the vote in the state of Alabama by placing an amendment on the next ballot fell 12 votes shy of a three-fifths majority. The AESA and the state of Alabama would have to wait four more years to gain the vote through state action, or wait for the passage of a federal amendment.

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Marie Bankhead Owen (1869-1958) was an archivist and author who oversaw the Alabama Department of Archives and History from 1920-1955, the first woman to direct a state agency in Alabama. She was active in civic organizations such as the National League for Women’s Service and the Women’s Anti-Ratification League.



Birmingham Public Library Archives

Alabama Equal Suffrage Association
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In 1915 the AESA held its third state convention in Tuscaloosa, with NAWSA president Anna Howard Shaw in attendance. The following year, at the convention in Gadsden, Carrie McCord Parke of Selma was elected president after Jacobs gave up the position to take a seat on the NAWSA board. Jacobs had long believed personally that the only way women in the South would be able to vote would be through a federal amendment. Parke, the new AESA president, moved the group's headquarters to Selma. When the United States entered World War I, suffragist groups around the country, including the AESA, jumped wholeheartedly into war work, hoping to demonstrate that they deserved the vote through their patriotic contributions to the nation and to a government in which they could not even fully participate.

Their work paid off in June 1919, when a federal suffrage amendment was sent to the states for ratification. The AESA led the push to have the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution ratified by the state of Alabama, but their drive failed. They were

opposed vehemently by the Women's Anti-Ratification League, a group formed in 1919 to oppose Alabama's adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, with Marie Bankhead Owen (later head of the Alabama Department of Archives and History) serving as the group's legislative chair. Most state legislators rejected any infringement on their authority from the federal government. Thus in 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, giving American women the right to vote.

Having achieved suffrage, the AESA members dissolved the organization, and many members joined the League of Women Voters, a national association founded at the 1920 convention of the NASWA. This organization continues to raise awareness of the power women have through the vote and works to ensure that they use the privilege to enact beneficial change.

Additional Resources

- Thomas, Mary Martha, ed. *Stepping Out of the Shadows: Alabama Women, 18 19–1990*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1995.
- Wheeler, Marjorie Spruill. *New Women of the New South: The Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Books for sale at the LCHS Museum Trade Center

- A Widow's Might: A True Story*
by Carolyn Ellis Lipscomb ... \$20
- Glimpses into the past from my Grandfather's Trunk*
by John Peavy Wright \$20
- Heroes Among the Brave* \$2

- East Alabamians on the Vietnam Memorial Wall*
by Elizabeth Schafer \$3
- Lee County Jokes 100 Years Ago*
by Robert Partin \$2
- Lee County and Her Forebears*
ed. by Dr. Alexander Nunn \$25

Scenes from Yesteryear: Club Blanton

by Jenny Hayes

Jenny Hayes hails from Valley, Alabama. She and husband Bill are members of the Society. Bill's ancestral farm is on the border of Lee County and Troup.

My mother was a good Southern, Baptist woman, and in our house that meant no drinking, no smoking, no dancing, and no “running around” (That last covered a lot of territory, none of which was always specified!) My Dad was not so strict about his religious laws, and in fact, did like to have a “beverage” after work on a hot summer’s day sometimes—even though it caused a little dark cloud of disapproval to appear around my Mama, and caused her to set things down right hard in the kitchen.

Dad worked hard at the Service Division of the West Manufacturing Co. and with his crew of men, was responsible for laying and repairing the water and sewer mains in the mill villages and in the mill facilities. He was often tired, and worked late. So when he announced one weekend that he and his boss, Mr. Raymond, had decided to take their families out for supper at a fish camp on the back water, we were all excited, even Mama. I was about five years old at the time. We had never been out to eat anywhere except to Big Mama’s house or Aunt Molly’s, and I had no idea what a “fish camp” was, but I could tell that Daddy was in high spirits about it, so it must be special!

Both families piled into our cars and went down a bumpy dirt road below Riverview, and finally came out at Club

Blanton! (I didn’t know then it was a place of notoriety, as I do now.) There were bright colored lights, and music—people laughing and having a Good time—I thought it was wonderful!! But

I did notice that little dark cloud forming around Mama’s head, as fried fish and “beverages” came to our table. But Daddy and Mr. Raymond were laughing and smoking their cigars as if every-

thing was real swell, so I relaxed.

The next day was Sunday, so of course Mama had us up bright and early, getting ready for Sunday School. When she took me in to my class, the teacher said to the class “Will someone tell something you did with your family this weekend?” My hand shot up. Boy, did I have a story to tell!

She called on me and I said, “We all went to Club Blanton last night!” Her eyebrows shot up—the other children became very quiet, and I thought “well, I might as well make this sound even bigger”, so I added, “and we all drank beer and smoked big cigars!”

Mrs. Anthony could hardly suppress a smile now but just said, “My My”. Later, when my Mother came in to pick me up, Mrs. Anthony said, “Well, Mrs. Neil, Jenny tells me you all had an exciting weekend”. Yes indeed, we also had an exciting Sunday afternoon after we arrived home and visited that hickory bush!

*... no drinking, no smoking, no dancing, and no “running around”...
That last covered a lot of territory!*

LCHS Winter Meeting
January 11, 2009
2:30 PM at the LCHS Museum
Speaker: Mike Bunn

Mike Bunn is associate Curator of History at The Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia, and co-author of a new book entitled *Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812*.

Mr. Bunn's book, co-authored with Clay Williams, chronicles the Creek War and the War of 1812, and document the sites on which they were fought. It sheds light on how the wars led to the forced removal of Native Americans from the region, secured the Gulf South against European powers, facilitated increased migration into the area, furthered the development of slavebased agriculture and launched the career of Andrew Jackson.

Sunny Slope added to National Register of Historic Places

The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places includes yet another piece of Auburn's history. Originally a 2,500 acre plantation, Sunny Slope sits quietly off busy South College Street. This Greek revival raised cottage, built around 1857, was the boyhood home of Governor William James Samford.

Long before Governor Samford's name adorned the famous hall on Auburn University's campus his father, William Flewellyn Samford, became a prominent personality in Southern culture. His influential roles included those of newspaper editor, Methodist minister, teacher, politician, and author of many writings that influenced the Southern Secession in 1861. Sunny Slope plantation also served as the headquarters for two gubernato-



rial races and was a significant training ground for many Confederate soldiers.

The preparatory work for documenting Sunny Slope was an effort spearheaded by Mary Norman, president of the Auburn Heritage Association. On her committee were Ralph Draughon who wrote the narrative, Kit Connor who executed the drawings and, with Mary, Ann Pearson and Ian Lipscomb abstracted the deeds in the Macon Co. Courthouse. Bob Gankle of the Alabama Historical Commission was very helpful in seeing this project completed. We are grateful to them all for preserving this fine bit of history

Museum Report

Jessie Summers, LCHS Museum Curator

A most wanted gift came from **Val Powell** early in the year. She gave us many old medicine bottles for the shelves in the drug store in the doctor's office.

Jim Witte added a barbed wire stretcher to our exhibit of barbed wire, and he also donated a cir. 1900 can opener.

Bill Goss of Tallassee donated three books that will be much used as research material and just plain enjoyable reading. Two are of the same title, *A History of Tallassee*. One is written by Dr. E.W. Wardsworth, the other is by Virginia Golden. The third book is *The Tallassee Armory 1864-1865* by Olivia Pienezza Solomon which has an abundance of photographs and copies of letters making it quite inviting. Mr. Goss also gave a copy of the really fine centennial edition of *The Tribune* containing a wealth of information.

Delilah Evans donated a copy of John Swanton's book *Early History of the Creek Indians and Their Neighbors*. It is a much valued research source.

Bert Hitchcock gave a box filled with old soft drink bottles, two cigar boxes, and four Confederate bills. See what good things happen when you clean out a closet!

Ronnie Lee has put on indefinite loan with us a little child's chair with a cow hide seat, made about 1880 and handed down in his family. It is on exhibit in the Pearson bedroom

Anna Louise Mckown has also put much loved family pieces on in-

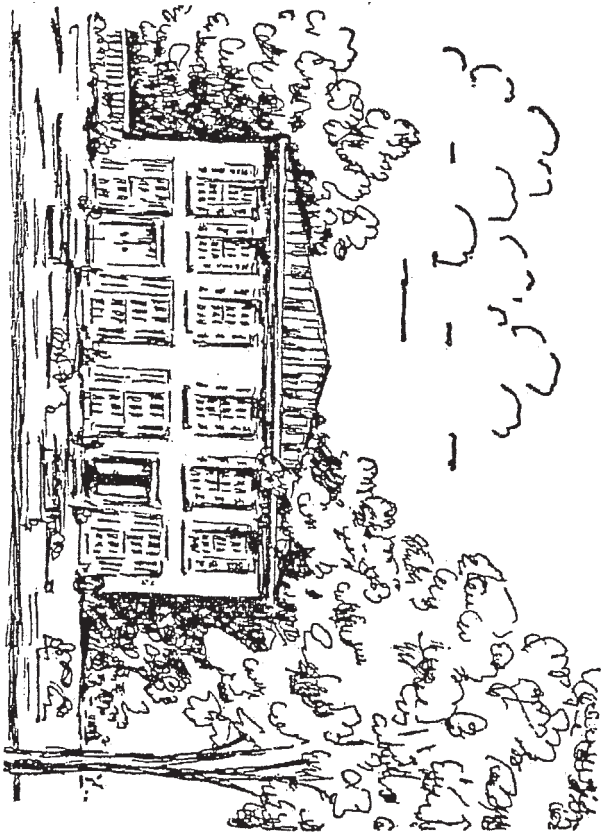
definite loan with the Society. They are a quilt, made in 1901 by her grandmother and her great grandmother, and two beautiful doilies. The quilt is in the Victorian bedroom and the doilies are in the Pearson bedroom.

We have also received many generous gifts of money. **Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Conrad** from Montgomery and **Mrs. Philip Knight** from Monroe, Ga. helped get the McLain building completed. **Mr. and Mrs. John Barker, Ann Pearson, Peggie Webster, Bert Hitchcock and Arvie and Esther Marshall** all enabled us to get much needed maintenance done. Others have given to the building fund where it is most needed now: **Annette Woodley, Yetta Samford, N.D. Denson, Rebekah Wilson, Mrs. Phillip Pichford** from Kirkland, New Mexico, **Frances McLain**, Horseshoe Beach, Florida, **Danny Conner, Dwight Whitley, Frank Taylor, Jim Harris**, Lincoln, Nebraska, and **James Carlisle**.

Thank each one of you! Because of you we are a splendid group of folks who love what we do.

Lee County and Her Forebears,
edited by Dr. Alexander Nunn,
is available at the LCHS Museum or
by mail for \$25 (plus \$5 for ship-
ping). Please make checks payable to
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