



HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

JANUARY 2024

A Word from Lisa

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family and some time to refresh yourself for the new year.

We are excited to kick off 2024 with the announcement of our Education Trust Fund grant program which will open on January 16. Applications will be accepted until March 29 and can be found on the AHC grants page [here](#). I encourage you or your organization to consider applying for funding to help preserve historic sites across Alabama and continue educational programming for all ages.

The next few months are packed with our historic site events including an authentic Civil War living history event at Confederate Memorial Park, living history at Fort Toulouse and Fort Morgan, a book signing event at Freedom Rides Museum and more. Make sure to view our calendar of events [here](#).

With the new year, we are offering you new calendars. This past May, AHC celebrated Preservation Month with another fun photo contest highlighting historic doors across the state. The winners' photos were made into a unique accordion-style calendar, so make sure to watch our social media channels for the announcement of availability and details.

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

SAVE THE DATE!

January 16

ETF Grant Program Begins

January 27

Winter Quarters

Confederate Memorial Park

February 3

Road to Freedom Wagon Tour
Old Cahawba

February 9

Valentine's Dinner
Fendall Hall

February 17

War of 1812 Living History
Fort Morgan

February 17

Living History
Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

February 29

Raymond Arsenault Book Signing
Freedom Rides Museum

[Click here for more information!](#)

Confederate Park to host Winter Quarters living history event

Confederate Memorial Park, a historical property of the Alabama Historical Commission, will host a special living history event on Saturday, January 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors will experience the 22nd Alabama Infantry at winter quarters in 1862. Activities will take place in and around the barracks, which were constructed using original Army plans from the 1860s.

Winter weather during the Civil War created impassable roads and other harsh conditions that significantly slowed most campaigns. Soldiers busied themselves with a variety of duties including infantry drill, work detail, music, and games. This living history event will provide visitors a glimpse into this daily life with demonstrations.

Spread over 102 acres of rolling wooded countryside near the center of the state, Confederate Memorial Park incorporates the site of Alabama's only Confederate veterans' home. Life for the old soldiers, called "inmates" at the Home, was better than most had known before their admission. The Home provided housing, meals, clothing, allowances, medical care and, for many, a place to die and be buried with dignity.

The museum offers exhibits on the life of an Alabama Confederate veteran from recruitment to old age, including hundreds of artifacts from the Civil War and the Soldiers' Home.

Admission during the Winter Quarters living history day is \$2 per person and an additional \$2 admission for the museum. For information, call the museum at 205-755-1990.



Demonstrators perform drill at Winter Quarters 2023.

Elba Theatre thanks AHC for Education Trust Fund grant

The 2024 Education Trust Fund (ETF) grant program is kicking off this month with \$3.3 million in funds appropriated by the Alabama Legislature. These funds go towards improvements to historic sites and educational programming in Alabama and one site from the FY23 grant program is saying thank you.

The Elba Theatre applied for the 2023 ETF grant to help with the structural repairs of the theatre which included installing two additional vertical steel beams against the facade wall. A lighting ceremony was held on June 29, 2023, and the theatre thanked the AHC on their new marquee which is 5' high and 56' wide, spanning the entire building.

President of Restoration 154 and Project Co-Manager of the Elba Theatre Justin Maddox said, "The marquee has been a great hit around town. Everyone loves seeing it lit! Thanks for the support!"



Elba Theatre marquee lit up with thanks to AHC.



Installation process begins at Elba Theatre.

Five historic sites added to National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's official list of cultural resources, 50 years or older, worthy of preservation. Properties listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture at the local, state, and national level.

The AHC oversees the NRHP in Alabama and forwards nominations approved by Alabama's National Register Review Board to the National Park Service (NPS) who completes a final review and approval. NPS recently added the following properties to the NRHP. The Review Board will review the next round of nominations on April 25, 2024.

- Simpson's Florist, Morgan County
- Campsite 2: Rosie Steele Property, Lowndes County
- Jenkins Farm and House, Baldwin County
- Gadsden Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, Etowah
- Seaboard Air Line Railway Freight Depot, Jefferson County



Street view of Simpson's Florist in Morgan County.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Check out the new faces at AHC!



Norma Alexander
Finance



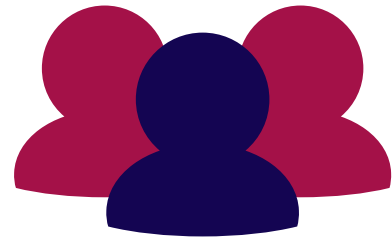
Robin Dunn
Education & Programming



Tayvon Lewis
Finance



Karen Smith
Finance



To view the entire AHC staff, click [here](#).



CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

Needing a professional development day?

AHC is partnering with Alabama Public Television to host a Teacher Professional Development Day. This workshop will be held at the Capitol on February 12.

Teachers will learn about Alabama's current capitol and the four previous capital cities! An open forum will be held where teachers can learn new skills to implement in their classrooms, collaborate with others, and further develop their expertise. Next workshop: Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson in April. More details soon!



Click [here](#) to sign-up for February.