



HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

NOVEMBER 2023

A Word from Lisa

The holiday season is here and the staff at AHC has been busy closing out Fiscal Year 2023. Last month, we celebrated Archaeology Month with staff participating in events including the Moundville Festival, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Chattanooga, TN as well as the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Fall Meeting in Winston-Salem, NC.

The 25th Annual Alabama Frontier Days event at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson took place November 1-4 and AHC staff enjoyed seeing the students and parents experience one of the largest living history events in the state. You can read more about Frontier Days on the next page.

Last week, the AHC was awarded the Trustees Emeritus Award in Historic Site Stewardship for the Clotilda. This award was part of the 2023 National Preservation Awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the assistance of archaeological and scientific experts, the Africatown community, the support of Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama State Legislature, the National Park Service, and the incredible efforts of our staff, we were able to receive this significant award for the state of Alabama. Thank you to all of our partners who have assisted us in the preservation of the Clotilda. Read more on this award on the last page.

I want to personally invite you to join us at Goat Hill Museum Store inside the Alabama State Capitol on November 16-17 for their Holiday Open House event from 8 am-4 pm with special sales and guest appearances. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some early holiday shopping. Did you know Goat Hill has Alabama goods from makers all across the state?

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

SAVE THE DATE!

November 16
Annual Meeting
Fendall Hall

November 16-17
Holiday Open House
Goat Hill Museum Store

December 1
Tree Lighting
Alabama State Capitol

December 1
Candlelight Tour
Gaineswood

December 2
Christmas Crafts and Cookies
Old Cahawba

December 2
Christmas House Tours
Gaineswood

December 9
Santa's Post Office
Confederate Memorial Park

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson hosts Alabama Frontier Days

On November 1-4, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) hosted the 25th Annual Alabama Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park. Dating back to 1996, Frontier Days has been held every year (except for 2020-2021 due to COVID-19) and was created as a partnership between AHC staff, volunteers, and members of the Friends of the Forts. Frontier Days brings the 18th and early 19th centuries to life with a focus on the American southeast as it transitioned from Creek Indian lands to military forts and civilian homesteads.



The event places special emphasis on education and has steadily become the largest curricula-based living history program in the state. The event's primary audience is fourth graders with the event seeing thousands from across the state, including neighboring states such as Florida and Georgia. Numerous demonstrations included blacksmithing, bread baking, musket drill, Native American cooking, 18th century music and woodworking. This snapshot of frontier life includes Creek Indians, French soldiers and civilians, and American soldiers of the War of 1812.

The event drew over 8,000 people to Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park with an increase in visitors on the general admission day on Saturday. AHC invites you to mark your calendars for November 6-9, 2024 for next year's event!

To view the 2023 Alabama Frontier Days photos, click [here](#).



Alabama Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson on November 1-4.

AHC staff speak at DAR workshop at Village School

On October 4th, AHC staff members Paige Thomas and Christy Anderson were invited to speak at the Chief Colbert County DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) program for historical preservation. The event was held at the Village School located in Sheffield. AHC staff spoke on a variety of topics including what preservation is, how the community members could get involved in preservation, how to preserve a property and more.

Other speakers were in attendance, including Clayton Davis with the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area who spoke on the correlation between archaeology and the preservation of historic sites which tied into Archaeology Month.



Village School, Sheffield, Colbert County

Congratulations, Louretta Wimberly!



Last month, Black Heritage Council Member Louretta Wimberly was awarded the Global Legacy Leadership Award at the Global Ties Alabama Annual Meeting and Citizen Diplomacy Luncheon in Huntsville.

AHC Receives Trustees Emeritus Award for Historic Site Stewardship

Last week, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) received the Trustees Emeritus Award in Historic Site Stewardship as part of the 2023 National Preservation Awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the Clotilda.

According to the National Trust "The Alabama Historical Commission led a highly successful response to the surprise discovery of the wreck of the schooner Clotilda, the last known vessel belonging to Alabama shipbuilder Timothy Meaher who brought captives from Africa to the United States to be forcibly enslaved. Their collaboration with private, state, federal, and not-for-profit entities, as well as direct descendants of the Clotilda in Africatown, serves as a model in historic preservation and community engagement."

The 2023 National Preservation Awards were presented during the PastForward conference in Washington D.C. and the awards honor inspirational projects, individuals, and organizations that have demonstrated excellence in the field of preservation. This year's list is exceptional, featuring citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

AHC State Archaeologist Stacye Hathorn was in attendance to accept the award along with Senior Vice President of Search, Inc. Jim Delgado and Jay Haigler from Diving with a Purpose. To view the awards video, click [here](#).



Left to right: Jim Delgado, Stacye Hathorn, Jay Haigler

Treasure Forest hosts preservation program

Last month, Calvin Chappelle, site director at Confederate Memorial Park, served as a presenter alongside the Coosa County Forestry Commission where landowners from the Treasure Forest program learned more about conservation and preservation methods. The tour took place on a piece of land that includes Duke Cemetery, named after a family who came to Alabama around 1817.



The demonstration included the use of D2 biological solution to treat the headstone of James Henry Beard who served in the 47th Alabama Infantry. With no advanced planning, attendees realized they were cleaning Beard's headstone exactly 130 years after his death date on Oct. 19, 1893. The presentation also included information on historic research and the cemetery program provided by the Alabama Historical Commission.

Learn more about the cemetery program [here](#).



Site Director Calvin Chappelle (far left) and other attendees.

Did you know that Confederate Memorial Park has a Treasure Forest and is on the Alabama Birding Trail?

happy
THANKSGIVING

from the
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION