



# HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

OCTOBER 2023

## A Word from Lisa

Fall greetings everyone!

We are kicking off October with Archaeology Month and we will be highlighting all things archaeology on our AHC social media channels and newsletter. Our staff archaeologists have been involved in some interesting and unique projects throughout the state along with working with international experts, so make sure to follow us and watch for our posts this month!

Not only is it Archaeology Month, but our historic sites have some exciting events coming up such as the Haunted History Tours (tickets are almost sold out) at Old Cahawba, a book signing event with Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland at the Freedom Rides Museum, a cemetery tour at Confederate Memorial Park, and a living history event at Fort Toulouse! October is always the perfect month to spend time outdoors with friends and family, so make your plans to visit these sites for some educational fun!

We recently received news that one of our house museums, Belle Mont, received a \$5,000 grant from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) for their largest event of the year, Celtic Fest. Thank you, RC&D! Make sure to visit Belle Mont this month as they are having their popular quilt show thru October 28th!

**Lisa D. Jones**  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

## SAVE THE DATE!

October 4-28

Belle Mont Quilt Show

Belle Mont

October 14

Book Signing with Freedom Rider

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland

Freedom Rides Museum

October 21

Haunted History Tour

Old Cahawba

October 21

Living History

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

October 28

Haunted History Tour

Old Cahawba

October 31

Places in Peril Deadline

November 1-4

Frontier Days

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

# Old Cahawba HymnFest draws large crowd from Dallas County area

A large crowd filled the historic St. Luke's Church at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park on September 24, with a singing of hymns during the first-ever HymnFest. The event drew almost 200 people from across Dallas County and other nearby communities to share the sacred hymns of the church from several faith traditions. Pastor Jerry Light from Selma Community Church gave the opening prayer. Singers from Selma led the hymn sing-along, beginning with "Holy Holy Holy", "Just a Little Talk with Jesus," and ended with "I'll Fly Away," written by a sharecropper's son in 1932 while he was picking cotton in Spiro, Oklahoma.

"It was amazing to see and hear so many people singing the old hymns within the walls of Cahawba's historic St. Luke's Episcopal/Azion Baptist church," said Old Cahawba Site Director Linda Derry. "I was overjoyed to be part of a diverse crowd gathered together to sing, celebrate, and heal...it was very satisfying to see so many people finding meaning and relevance in the stories associated with both the historic church and the hymns."

The free event was sponsored by the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center in Camden, the Daniel Foundation of Birmingham, Thrivent Financial, Old Cahawba, and the Alabama Historical Commission.

Old Cahawba Archaeological Park lies at the confluence of the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers. From 1819 to 1826, it served as Alabama's first capital. Old Cahawba is a historic property of the Alabama Historical Commission. To learn more, call 334-872-8058 or visit Old Cahawba [here](#).

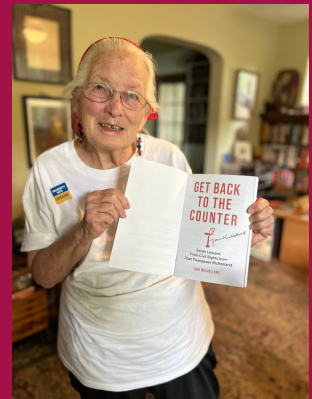


People gather inside St. Luke's Church for HymnFest

# Freedom Rides Museum to host Freedom Rider Mulholland

Freedom Rides Museum is proud to announce and welcome Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland for a book signing event on October 14 at 10:00 am at the museum.

Mulholland participated in over 50 sit-ins and demonstrations including Freedom Rides, Selma to Montgomery, and many more. She was the first white member to join Delta Sigma Theta sorority and received the sorority's Annual Award of Honor in 2015 and was also the recipient of the 2020 Simeon Booker Award for Courage. She will be at the museum for a book signing of her newest book, *Get Back the Counter: Seven Lessons from Civil Rights Icon Joan Trumpauer Mulholland*. There will be a reception to follow. More information [here!](#)



Author and Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland with her new book

You're invited to Goat Hill's

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2023

Come shop with us at Goat Hill Museum Store and celebrate Christmas early with **25% off** the entire store!

(excluding books & Alabama goods)

GOAT HILL MUSEUM STORE  
LOCATED INSIDE THE CAPITOL  
UNION STREET ENTRANCE

For more information on this event, please contact Lisa Franklin at 334-353-4969.

Hours:  
8:00 am-4:00 pm



# AHC hosts two educational workshops

September was a busy month for AHC preservation staff with two workshops. One workshop was held in Dadeville for historic tax credits. AHC staff spoke on the economic benefits of rehabilitating historic properties, state and federal tax incentives available to historic property owners, and the success stories of recently rehabilitated properties. The workshop was geared towards property owners, developers, and local leaders. The second workshop was held in LaFayette by the LaFayette Historic Preservation Board where AHC staff discussed the steps in preserving historic structures and ways in

which to revitalize downtown buildings in the area. For more information on a workshop in your area, please contact Paige Thomas at 334-230-2643.



LaFayette community members and AHC staff member Paige Thomas

# Confederate Memorial Park hosts October cemetery tour

Confederate Memorial Park, a historical property of the Alabama Historical Commission, will host a special cemetery tour on October 21, at 10:00 am. By 1865, there was hardly a family in Alabama unaffected by the loss or incapacitation of a loved one. For many years after the war, it was a common sight throughout the nation to see veterans with an empty sleeve or trouser leg or hobbling along on crutches or in a wheelchair. The many bone-shattering wounds made amputation a common procedure, and many other veterans suffered from ailments exacerbated by years of war campaigns and limited medical treatments. Told through a medical lens, visitors will learn about the lives of veterans buried at the Soldiers' Home and how war-time wounds and ailments were treated during and after the war.

Admission is \$5 per person. For additional information, call the museum at 205-755-1990. Confederate Memorial Park is located at 437 County Road 63, Marbury, AL 36051.



Soldiers' Home "inmate" James McCown served in Co. K 9th Regiment, Alabama Cavalry



Jones Archaeology from D.C. visits Africatown for Plateau Cemetery Mapping Project with Black Heritage Council Member Robert Battles. Project is sponsored by Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation.

# Alabama Frontier Days Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park

November 1 - 4

Wetumpka, AL

