

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

VOLUME 34

Newsletter of the Historic
Chattahoochee Commission

Summer 2006

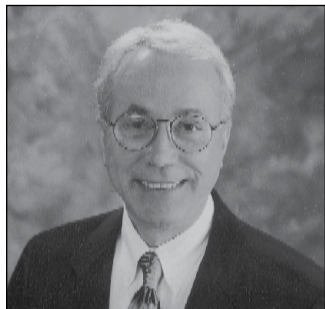
ALABAMA TOURISM DIRECTOR LEE SENTELL TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT HCC ANNUAL MEETING IN AUBURN ON OCTOBER 5th

Lee Sentell, Director of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, will be the keynote speaker at the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's Twenty-Fourth Annual Supper Meeting in Auburn, Alabama on October 5th. Mr. Sentell's remarks will focus on the health of Alabama's hospitality industry as it relates to other tourism programs throughout the southeastern United States.

More than 150 people throughout southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia are expected to attend the meeting which will be at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. Following supper, the HCC will present its prestigious Achievement Awards to individuals and organizations who have distinguished themselves in a variety of heritage-tourism programs in the Chattahoochee Valley. In addition, Matching Grant recipients will be announced and the winners of the third annual "Support the HCC" Silent Auction will be revealed.

Sentell is one of the most respected tourism professionals in the State of Alabama. His interest in historic preservation led him to a career in tourism promotion. In 1974 Sentell received a Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Historical Commission for editorials and coverage of preservation issues in *The Decatur Daily* before he became Decatur's first tourism director in 1981. Between 1991 and his current appointment as a member of Governor Bob Riley's cabinet, he served as tourism director for the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau in north Alabama. Prior to that job, Sentell served for 10 years as the director of marketing for the U.S. Space and Rocket Center where he directed a staff of 30 and a marketing budget of \$3 million. Sentell was inducted into the Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame in 2000 and has past service as president of the Alabama Travel Council and as chairman of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel Advisory Board. Under Sentell's leadership, the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel has been named the State Tourism Agency of the Year for the past two years by the Southeast Tourism Society. He is a graduate of Auburn University where he studied communications and served as managing editor of the campus newspaper, the *Auburn Plainsman*.

The silent auction preview will begin at 5:30 PM CDT (6:30 PM EDT) followed by the social hour which begins at 6:00 PM CDT (7:00 PM EDT). The seated dinner begins at 7:00 PM CDT (8:00 PM EDT). Reservations made be made by mailing a check for \$25 per person to HCC, P. O. Box 33, Eufaula, AL 36072-0033. The deadline for registration is September 28th. Additional information about this event is available by calling (334) 687-9755 or 1-877-766-2443. E-mail queries may be directed to hcc3@earthlink.net.



*Lee Sentell, Director, Alabama
Bureau of Tourism and Travel*

HCC ANNOUNCES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) has announced the continuation of its Matching Grant Program, one of its most popular projects since its establishment in 1985. Over the last twenty years, the HCC has distributed over \$104,000 in matching monies to 61 different groups in its eighteen county bi-state region. Grants are provided on a 50/50 reimbursable basis with the goal of developing the Chattahoochee Trace's full potential for historic preservation and tourism.

This program will provide financial assistance to any qualifying non-profit organization or agency headquartered within the Chattahoochee Trace region promoted by the HCC. In addition, the project for which funding is requested must contribute to the promotion of tourism, history and/or historic preservation. All projects funded under this program must be innovative in scope and application. Projects that are a continuation of on-going programs will not be eligible for consideration. The Commission has set aside \$10,000 during FY 2006-2007 to assist in the funding and development of various projects in the Chattahoochee Trace area of Alabama and Georgia. Previous grants have been awarded in the \$500 to \$3,500 range. All projects must begin after October 6, 2006 and be completed by May 1, 2007.

Applications must be submitted on an official form provided by the HCC. Qualifying organizations should submit funding requests no later than 4:00 PM (CDT) on August 4, 2006 to: Chairman, HCC Matching Grants Committee, P. O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033. Matching grant applications and detailed guidelines are available on request at the listed address or by calling (334) 687-9755, or e-mail: hcc3@earthlink.net. Grant

(Continued on page two)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Bill Koch

At a recent board meeting, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) appointed William (Bill) Koch as its Clay County board representative. Mr. Koch replaces Mitch Driebe, who resigned his position due to a pending move from the area. Mr. Koch was reared in Columbia, Peru and Paraguay, in South America, before moving to Florida where he attended high school. After graduating from Georgia Tech with a Navy scholarship, he was commissioned a Navy officer. He served on active duty ten years as a carrier based Naval Aviator serving in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as the South China Sea, Caribbean Sea and Persian and Mexican Gulfs. Mr. Koch served in the reserves for another eleven years. After active duty he worked in Columbus, Georgia with the W. C. Bradley Company and various other small businesses there. Later he moved to Florida where he was employed in a variety of positions before moving to Clay County. As a member of the Clay County community, Mr. Koch writes a column for The Citizen News called "Bill on Dragnasty" (Dragnasty is a creek in Clay County) and is a member of the Quitman County Rotary Club and Clay County Economic Development Authority. He is also president of the Fort Gaines Historical Society and chairs the Clay County Republican Party.

Addie George, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, died June 23rd at her home at the age of 94. She was born November 30, 1911 in Mounds, Oklahoma and spent most of her life in Sapulpa. She was a member of the Native American Church of Oklahoma as well as member of the Pickett Chapel Indian Methodist Church and the Polecat Ceremonial Grounds. Mrs. George was the oldest living member of the Yuchi Tribe. She had taught Native American Culture and Language at Columbus, Georgia. She was very interested in the heritage of the Yuchi Tribe and served as an advisor during the construction of the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center at Fort Mitchell, Alabama.

Dana Sellers has been employed at Landmark Park in Dothan as a teacher and naturalist. She was raised in Cottonwood but attended college in Birmingham. She finished her Bachelor's degree in Biology Education at Troy State University in Dothan.

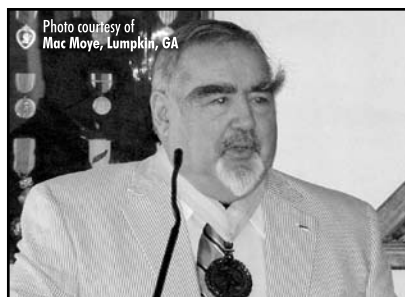
Victoria Hamm has been hired as program manager for the Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce. The position of program manager includes accounting functions, membership development and administrative assistance to the executive department. She earned an associate degree in office management from Southern Union Community College in Opelika. In addition, she is a certified paralegal, completing studies at Auburn University. Her prior experience includes work at the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy as an administrative assistant and a paralegal position at

Jackson & Boone, P.C. in Auburn. Hamm replaces Leigh-Ann Hayden, who acquired another position with a company in Eufaula.

The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission has announced that Emily Waters has returned to the Commission as their new Economic Development Director. Ms. Waters served as the Commission's Community Development Director until May of 2005. She has almost 9 years of dedicated and successful achievements with the Commission. She is a graduate of Auburn University, the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma, and has earned the Economic Development Finance Professional Certification from the National Development Council. Ms. Waters also has experience with the FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant program.

Beth Kasper was recognized by the Eufaula-Barbour County Tourism Council during its annual Trailblazer Award Luncheon. In presenting the Trailblazer Award to Mrs. Kasper, Corey Kirkland, director of the Tourism Council, praised Beth Kasper's dedication to her new community and the Eufaula Pilgrimage. Between January 1 and the first week in April, Mrs. Kasper worked 486 hours as a volunteer in the Shorter Mansion office. She also noted that while tourism is up 3 percent nationwide, it is up 7.6 percent in Alabama and 8 percent in Barbour County. According to figures compiled by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, it is up 21 percent at Shorter Mansion, in contrast to declining attendance at other house museums.

The National Infantry Association honored Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dick Grube on June 30th at the National Infantry Museum by presenting him with The Order of Saint Maurice Medallion Primicerius Award. This award was presented to Grube because he served the Infantry community with distinction as well as the significant conspicuous contributions that he made during his career in support of the Infantry Branch. Grube was also singled out because he represented the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and dedication to duty. He served as director of the U.S. Army National Infantry Museum from 1973-1995 after a distinguished career as a fixed wing aviator in various theaters. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Grube currently serves on the board of directors of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission and is very active with other groups like the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dick Grube

HCC ANNOUNCES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

(Continued from page one)

recipients will be announced at the HCC's annual meeting in Auburn, Alabama on October 5th.

The HCC reserves the right to suspend this program if sufficient grant monies are not available by the application deadline.

2005 - 2006 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

(Listing date: May 2, 2006 - July 5, 2006)

RENEWALS

Dale County Historical Society
Jim and Marianne Phillips

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Bainbridge - Decatur County Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Horace Holderfield

Ralph Nolin

Mary Goldstein

Hugh D. & Brenda Broome

GIFTS IN KIND

The Image Agency

NEWSLETTER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC), an agency of the states of Alabama and Georgia, is involved in the promotion of tourism and historic preservation throughout the lower Chattahoochee Valley.

Chattahoochee Tracings is published quarterly and is free to interested citizens. Requests for the newsletters and changes of address should be directed to HCC, P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033. (334) 687-9755 or P.O. Box 942, LaGrange, Georgia 30241, (706) 845-8440, e-mail hcc3@earthlink.net, Web Page www.hcc-al.ga.org. 1-877-766-2443.

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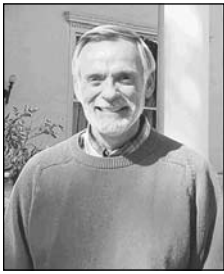
Douglas C. Purcell . . Executive Director



GUEST COLUMN

Eufaula Heritage Association to Sponsor 2006 Christmas Tour of Homes

By Glenn Kasper, Executive Director, Eufaula Heritage Association



Glenn Kasper

As a result of many requests over the past few years, including one from Governor Bob Riley, the Eufaula Heritage Association will host a 2006 Christmas tour of homes. Our plans are to make this an annual event. This year's theme is "Christmas Past and Christmas Present".

On Saturday evening, December 16th, "Christmas Past" will consist of a candlelight tour of four homes in the historic district. On North Randolph Avenue, Mary Thomas' home will be open to visitors. On North Eufaula Avenue, Robert and Tara Bennett, David and Judy Ray and Frank and Joan Mixon

will open their homes to the public. The candlelight tour will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Immediately following the tour, there will be an elegant dinner served at the Shorter Mansion. The price will be \$40.00 per person. Guests will experience a luxurious meal as it might have been served when "Cotton was King" in one of the most recognizable homes in the South. There will be limited seating and reservations will be required.

On Sunday, December 17th, the activities will start at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon at the Shorter Mansion. Guests will be able to enjoy traditional southern fare. The price of the luncheon is \$25.00 per person. As with the dinner on Saturday evening, there will be limited seating and reservations will be required.

The "Christmas Present" tour will start at 1:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Four newer

homes will be showcased.

On St. Francis Point, the homes of Walter and Raye Ann Calton and Ben and Charlotte Reeves will be open. On Country Club Road, Bobby and Mary Dixon and Bob and Betsy Powers will open their homes to the public.

Tickets for the Christmas Tour are: 1 home ~ \$6.00, 4 homes ~ \$20.00 8 homes - \$40.00. All tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Shorter Mansion (334-687-3793). Tickets can be purchased on the days of the event at the James S. Clark Center (Chamber of Commerce), 333 East Broad Street.

Volunteers are being recruited to help plan the event and also to work as hosts and hostesses during the weekend of the tour. If you would like to volunteer, please call Glenn at 334-687-3793.

TOURISM & PRESERVATION NEWS

The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is conducting a survey to compile a complete-as-possible database of the traditional artists who reside in Georgia, and also of the arts organizations and other community institutions that have an interest in presenting the traditional arts. In order to accomplish that on behalf of GCA in the West Central and Southwest Georgia regions, Fred Fussell is attempting to contact any and all traditional craftspeople, musicians, dancers, and other tradition bearers in these regions who are knowledgeable of, or who practice some aspect of the traditional folk arts or cultural heritage, including crafts, local foodways, music, dance, traditional lore such as storytelling, immigrant and ethnic traditions, etc. If you are aware of such people in your home community or nearby communities, please help by providing information on how to contact them. To do so, forward the person's name, mailing address or phone number, an email address if possible, and a brief hint of what particular skill or skills that they may practice. The information should be sent to Fred Fussell, Post Office Box 553, Buena Vista, Georgia 31803. The same contact information is needed for people who head up community events, local celebrations, or organizations and institutions, including schools and churches, that may be interested in or that may already utilize some aspect of traditional arts or folk arts programming in their activities. The information that is collected will be filed at the GCA offices in Atlanta for future use in contacting potential traditional arts programming participants and in contacting potential traditional arts funding recipients.

Alabama's chief deputy attorney general said recently that negotiations are progressing in a tri-state water dispute over how to share water from the Chattahoochee River. The comments came as a federal judge ordered the water flow from the river into Florida reduced from 6,750 cubic feet per second

to 6,250. Alabama, Florida and Georgia have been trying to determine how much water to send down the Chattahoochee River to protect freshwater mussels in the Apalachicola River but leave enough water upstream for Georgia and Alabama. "The negotiations are progressing and that is a positive sign," said Keith Miller, Alabama's chief deputy attorney general. The three states all use water out of the Chattahoochee River. They have been fighting over how to divide it since 1990.

For the first time in the history of Columbus, Georgia, the museums, education and preservation organizations have formed a united historical front to present the lecture series, "Red Clay, White Water and Blues". The first installment of this exciting historical seven-part education program is funded by a generous grant from the Georgia Humanities Council. Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 PM (EDT), Billy Winn and Kathryn Braund will lecture on the Creek Indians and the Chattahoochee Valley. The discussion will be held at the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center at Fort Mitchell, Alabama. The following Saturday, October 7th, Mr. Winn will conduct a tour of the Rood/Singer-Moye Archaeological Sites.

A historical marker honoring Albert Love Patterson was dedicated by the Russell County Historical Commission and the Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce at a special ceremony held on June 16th which was the 52nd anniversary of Mr. Patterson's assassination. Patterson was a newly elected attorney general from the State of Alabama when he was gunned down outside of his office in Phenix City shortly after he was elected. Patterson, a former state senator, had won the election on a campaign promise to clean up the highly corrupt east Alabama city and was assassinated in 1954 before he could follow through on his promise.

His death brought about martial law in the city and lead to its revival and also to the election of his son, John Malcolm Patterson, to the Office of the Governor of the State of Alabama. Former Governor John Patterson attended the marker dedication and participated in the unveiling of a portrait of his father. A large crowd of friends and supporters of the Patterson Family attended the event.

Buy a new state license plate and help preserve historic buildings and sites in Georgia. That's the message the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is trying to get out. Proceeds from the specialty tag will be used to help preserve significant historic buildings or sites owned by local governments and non-profit groups. The new plate was designed by Georgia artist, Larnie Higgins of Planet Studio, Atlanta, and depicts a historic train station in Savannah. Her design was selected from 23



Buy a license plate to help Georgia building preservation

entrants. "The train station represents the significant role railroads played in the development of the state," said division director Ray Luce. "However, the design also works as a symbol for a variety of other types of historic resources around

TOURISM & PRESERVATION NEWS

(Continued from page three)

the state, including schools, theaters, city halls and other public buildings." The license plate was authorized by the 2005 Georgia General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Sonny Perdue. More than \$20 from each \$25 license tag will go to the division's Georgia Heritage Grant Program, which provides funds for historic preservation projects in Georgia. In 1997, a special legislative study committee identified a \$5 million annual goal for the program. The program has not yet reached that goal, having peaked in fiscal 2002 at \$500,000. Funding amounts gradually have been cut since September 11, 2001. Last year only \$129,000 was available. A license plate order form is available online at www.gashpo.com or by calling (404) 656-2840.

Construction on the new \$75 million National Infantry Museum got underway on June 8. In what was dubbed a "ground shaking," the detonation of four explosive devices in a nearby wooded area signaled the start of what will be a two-year building project on a 200-acre stretch of land between Fort Benning Boulevard and South Lumpkin Road. When complete, the 150,000 square-foot museum, and its accompanying Heritage Park, will tell the 231-year history of the Infantry and hopefully, prove to be the linchpin of economic development in south Columbus. It is estimated that 400,000 visitors will tour the new museum each year once it opens to the public in 2008.

Fort Cusseta, in Chambers County, Alabama, was listed by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation on its 2006 "Places in Peril" list. Following the signing of the Creek Treaty in 1832, the early white settlers built a 16 by 30 foot hand-hewn log fort for protection from a possible uprising from the Cusseta Indian village on Osanippa Creek just north of Cusseta. Walls were four and six feet high with portholes at a height of four feet. The fort was never used in battle and, following the removal of the Indians, was incorporated into a building that had various uses over the past 172 years including that of a country store. In 1987, the

family who owned the historic Fort Cusseta deeded their property to Chambers County with the stipulation that it be preserved. Two grants enabled a tin shell to be erected around the old fort to halt further decay. However, the county was unable to acquire additional funds for further restoration or to come up with a long-term preservation plan. Today the structure is vacant with its surviving hewn heart pine walls exposed and beginning to deteriorate. County commissioners are open to alternative plans or private support to preserve this historic site.

Equity grant funds will be used to assist with professional services required for the construction of Phase I of the Phenomenon Trail, a bicycle and pedestrian path that is an important link in the 407-mile Chattahoochee Trace Corridor. The Corridor stretches from Tennessee to Florida, and is part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The two-phase Phenomenon Trail will be a 10-foot wide asphalt trail 7.5 miles in length. Equity funds will be used for Phase I which will consist of 4.2 miles of the route, and will connect to George T. Bagby Lodge & Park to the eastern causeway embankment of the Walter F. George Lock & Dam in Clay County. Tourism is an important industry for Fort Gaines and the trail will likely enhance tourism opportunities in Clay County. "You're looking at one of the best kept secrets in southwest Georgia," said Ken Penuel, with the county's economic development council. He says the county thrives on tourism. "One of the main things we are trying to do is provide entertainment for our tourist community that is coming through," he said.

Bill and Sue Tubbs are publishing a series of Ancestral Homestead books, one for each county in Alabama. The books are compiled from original U.S. land records covering the early years of about 1818-1907 as supplied by the General Land Office. After twenty years of effort, they have compiled a book for each of the 67 counties in the State of Alabama and four counties in the State of Mississippi. Each book is 8" x 11", has a

moisture-resistant soft cover and contains an average of 4,000+ records. In the back of each book is a complete name index plus access numbers and an order form for ordering document copies. The books are being marketed through Smith Lake Automation Co., Inc., "SLACO", a thirty-three year old Tubbs family-owned corporation. For further information on the publications, contact SLACO, 437 Battle Creek Road, Jasper, Alabama 35503. Phone: (205) 387-2374 or email: [www.billtubb@tds.net](mailto:billtubb@tds.net). The website for these publications is www.geocities.com/ancestral_homesteads.

Following a long and complicated coordination process, plans are finally underway to renovate the Atlantic Coastline Railroad Station in the "Dixie" district of Dothan. The City of Dothan is taking the lead, and with the approval of the Alabama Department of Transportation, has issued an architectural and engineering contract to Waid Parrish Architects of Dothan. The depot will become the new home of the Wiregrass Transit Authority. One of the key elements of this renovation project will be to save the historic transportation structure and to return it to transportation usage. The Wiregrass Transit Authority will work



Plans are underway to renovate the Atlantic Coastline Railroad Station in Dothan, Alabama

closely with Landmark Park and the Alabama Historical Commission to insure that the historic essence of the structure is not lost. For further information about this project, contact John Sorrell, Wiregrass Transit Manager, at (334) 793-4093 or email www.transit@sanman.net.



Historic Chattahoochee Commission

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Web Site www.hcc-al-ga.org
E-mail hcc3@earthlink.net



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Chattahoochee Trace

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