

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

VOLUME 35

Newsletter of the Historic
Chattahoochee Commission

FALL 2007

Home of the Infantry: The History of Fort Benning Now Available

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission is pleased to announce the release of **Home of the Infantry: the History of Fort Benning** by Peggy Stelpflug and Richard Hyatt. Published by Mercer University Press, this publication is a historical account of the nation's largest infantry training center—Fort Benning. For most of a century, Fort Benning's infantry school has graduated the soldiers who lead as well as the fighting

foot soldiers in the dirt and mud. Founded on farm land in west Georgia, it has been one of the US Army's premier installations from the days of the Doughboys to a more modern era where Rangers proudly wear their berets.

Fort Benning's long history has produced an impressive alumni list. Eisenhower coached its football team. Marshall rewrote the curriculum. Patton pushed men to prepare for battle. Bradley organized its Officer's Training School, a source for men of rank in World War II. Powell and Schwarzkopf were honor graduates, as were Eaton and Freakley and other heroes from the sands of Iraq.

Fort Benning trained soldiers in the art of the bayonet. It prepared them to jump from airplanes. It discovered the mobility and power of helicopters. It honed the technology of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

It has set the table for war in the trenches, war on the ground, war in the air and war in the desert. Infantry has led the way and so has Fort Benning. It truly is the *Home of the Infantry*.

Richard Hyatt has been a journalist for thirty-four years with the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* and has authored eleven books including biographies of President Jimmy Carter, US Senator Zell Miller and Speaker of the House Tom Murphy. Military wife and English teacher Peggy Stelpflug is the author of *The Roger Hall Phenomenon* and editor of *They Came in Peace*, a collection of poems remembering the Beirut Marines and fellow servicemen killed in 1983. One of her children, Billy, was a Marine lance corporal who died in the Beirut bombing.

Home of the Infantry: the History of Fort Benning is the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's (HCC) 30th publication. It is the definitive history of this infantry training center. The book was partially underwritten with a grant from the Plum Creek Foundation of Seattle, Washington. Copies of the 583 page hardback publication are \$35 plus \$4.00 shipping and may be ordered from the HCC, P. O. Box 33, Eufaula, AL 36072-0033 or by calling 334-687-9755. The toll free number is 877-766-2443. E-mail queries should be directed to trace@eufaula.rr.com. Other HCC publications are listed on its web page at www.hcc-al-ga.org.

Senate Committee Endorses S. 637—the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act

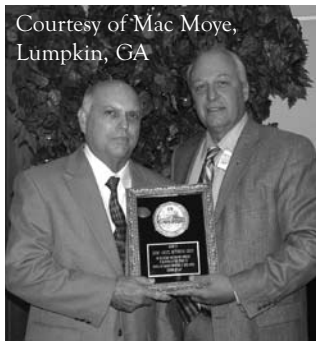
On July 25th, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee gave a favorable endorsement to S. 637—the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act. This act was introduced by Alabama Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby on February 15, 2007 and now has the support of Georgia Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson. The bill awaits a full vote by the U.S. Senate. A companion bill, HR 1408 has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The proposed act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, State historical societies, State tourism offices and other appropriate organizations and agencies to conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the study region a National Heritage Area. The study area is the eighteen county bi-state Chattahoochee Trace region which is promoted by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC). If approved, it will make the Chattahoochee Trace region eligible to receive funding for publications and marketing for tourism, historic preservation, environmental education, outdoor recreation and small business development.

In a related development, Congressmen Terry Everett and Mike Rogers of Alabama and Congressmen Sanford Bishop and Jim Marshall of Georgia have sent a letter to Congressman Nick J. Rahall, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, asking that he schedule a hearing on HR

(Continued on page three)

HCC Presents Achievement Awards



Courtesy of Mac Moyer, Lumpkin, GA

Larry Smith and Ron Thomas accept award for the Henry County Historical Group

resources for anyone interested in the history of Pine Mountain and the surrounding area.

Seth Harp was recognized for his resolute and vigorous support for the heritage tourism needs of Senate District 29 and the Chattahoochee Valley. Senator Harp has long held a special interest



Courtesy of Mac Moyer, Lumpkin, GA

Johnson Trawick accepts award for Senator Seth Harp

The Henry County Historical Group was recognized for their efforts to promote and preserve the history of Henry County. Organized in 2003, this dynamic organization has erected eight historical markers and conducted cemetery surveys throughout the county. Sixty of these cemeteries

(Continued on page three)

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) recognized two individuals and one organization during its 25th Annual Supper Meeting in Columbus, Georgia on September 27th. A beautiful four-inch bronze medallion sculpted with the relief of a Chattahoochee River steamboat was presented to Lillian D. Champion of Pine Mountain, Georgia; Seth Harp of Columbus, Georgia; and the Henry County Historical Group in Abbeville, Alabama.

Mrs. Champion was recognized for her efforts to preserve and disseminate the history of Pine Mountain and Harris County. She is the author of two books, **History of Bethany Baptist Church, 1828-1978** and **Giant Tracking: William Dudley Chipley and other Giants of Men**. The latter book is a biography of the man who founded Chipley (now Pine Mountain), Georgia. She was also one of the founding editors of a genealogical/historical quarterly entitled **Harris County, Georgia and Her People**, which, unfortunately, is no longer being published. In addition, Mrs.

Champion was one of the community leaders who established the Chipley Historical Center in Pine Mountain and has continued to serve as the sustaining force behind it. The Center provides many historical

in the land and history of Muscogee, Troup, Meriwether and Harris Counties and the surrounding area. In the Georgia General Assembly, he serves on the Government Oversight, Special Judiciary, Joint Legislative Ethics and Appropriations Committees. In addition he serves as chairman of the Higher Education Committee and is vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Senator Harp is an attorney and the owner of Harp & Associates, P.C., a family law firm in Columbus. He has chaired and held board positions with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Better Business Bureau of West Georgia-East Alabama, and the Hospital Authority of Columbus. Harp has also found time to serve on the Muscogee County School Board and is active with a number of community and state organizations including: Kiwanis Club; Georgia Forestry Association; Sierra Club; Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce; Harris County Chamber of Commerce; LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce and the Prunifolia Society of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation. Despite the challenges of his business and his many community activities, Mr. Harp always finds time to meet with and listen to the concerns of his constituents. He has been a major champion of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission since his election to the Senate in 2000.



Courtesy of Mac Moyer, Lumpkin, GA

Doug Purcell presents award to Lillian Champion

to serve on the Muscogee County School Board and is active with a number of community and state organizations including: Kiwanis Club; Georgia Forestry Association; Sierra Club; Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce; Harris County

Chamber of Commerce; LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce and the Prunifolia Society of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation. Despite the challenges of his business and his many community activities, Mr. Harp always finds time to meet with and listen to the concerns of his constituents. He has been a major champion of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission since his election to the Senate in 2000.

2006-2007 & 2007-2008 Membership Campaign

(Listing date: June 6, 2007 – October 24, 2007)



New Members

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Brown
Judith & Neal Wickham
Georgia H. Herreth, Herreth Properties
Kaye B. Cutchen
Merilyn Vines, Vines Funeral Home, Inc.

Renewals

Stanley Jones

Special Gifts

Becky Fendley
L. Lamar Powers
Eufaula Heritage Association

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 trace@eufaula.rr.com, Web Page www.hcc-al-ga.org. 1-877-766-2443.

OFFICERS

Lamar Powers Chairman
Becky Fendley Vice Chairman
Deborah P. Shaw . . Secretary/Treasurer
Douglas C. Purcell . . Executive Director



GUEST COLUMN

The Highway of Adventure

by Patti Cullen

(Executive Director of the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Commission)



Patti Cullen

Can U. S. HWY 27 become the preferred north /south route through Georgia? Counties all along the corridor are pulling their resources together hoping to draw

travelers off of I-75 and onto the less traveled road, U.S. HWY 27.

Senate Bill 282, sponsored by Senator Jeff Mullis, R-Chickamauga and Preston Smith, R- Rome, is breathing new life into a decade old dream. Over a year ago, the Association for County Commissioners, the four Regional Development Centers (Coosa Valley, Chattahoochee-Flint, Lower Chattahoochee and Southwest Georgia), and key stakeholders along the route met together and decided to rejuvenate the defunct HWY 27 Association and to begin to promote the roadway as an alternative route to Florida in hopes of attracting people and businesses along the way. This route, which is rich with heritage, could be used to lure tourists off the highway into many of Georgia's small towns bringing with them additional revenues for the communities along the way.

US HWY 27 could become the scenic route of adventure from Chattanooga,

Tennessee to Tallahassee, Florida. The widening of U.S. 27 is almost complete, with only a few sections still under construction. The roadway provides not only a less congested and hectic trip to the state's borders but also provides the traveler with a scenic route filled with stops to view many natural, historic and cultural resources. State Parks are located along the roadway providing quality lodging at affordable prices for the traveler.

Adventures range from viewing our nation's first and largest military park located in Chickamauga, to exploring limestone caves, and visiting a wild animal park in Pine Mountain. These are just a sampling of some the experiences that await the traveler. Lakes along the route provide ample opportunities for fishermen and boating enthusiasts alike. Some of Georgia's prime hunting land is located just off the highway.

The internationally famous Callaway Gardens is located on U.S. HWY 27. This 2500-acre resort provides the visitor with hiking, driving and walking trails. Events such as the Master's Ski tournament, the Steeple Chase, and Fantasy in Lights are held here each year. While passing through, visitors might want to visit Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, a 10,000-acre nature preserve with spectacular views, or the nearby Fort Benning Infantry Museum.

If activities such as these don't get the driver out of his car, then perhaps the

antebellum and Greek rival architecture found throughout the trip will, or maybe the Village of Westville, an 1850's living history museum. Cities along the way are filled with historic homes and buildings. Cultural resources are also abundant along the corridor. From the state of the art River Center located in Columbus to the production of Swamp Gravy in Colquitt, artisans are found spinning their crafts. Many communities hold festivals throughout the year; which can be promoted to attract travelers.

The bill which was signed into law this past spring makes U.S. 27 and U.S. 441 the first officially designated alternative tourism routes in the State. The law requires the Georgia Department of Economic Development to promote the routes and the attractions near these two highways. The development of a strategic Marketing Plan for U.S. HWY 27 is being discussed. There are 18 counties located along U.S. HWY 27. By banding together these counties are promoting the message to take the highway of adventure, U.S. HWY 27, though west Georgia and Keep Georgia on Your Mind!

Senate Committee Endorses S. 637—the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act

(Continued from page one)

1408 before the House of Representatives adjourns for the year. This legislation was originally introduced by Congressman Everett on March 8, 2007.

These are all positive signs that the House and Senate bills are gaining traction but one major hurdle has to be overcome. Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn has placed a "hold" on all bills which have been reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This includes S. 637. HCC Executive Director Doug Purcell has been in touch with staff members in the offices of all four Alabama and Georgia Senators asking that they try and find a way to have Senator Coburn's "hold" on this bill released so that it can be voted on by the full U.S. Senate. Until this happens, a vote on S. 637 will be impossible.

HCC Presents Achievement Awards

(Continued from page two)

now have identification signs located on county and state highways. As part of this work, the Group has identified and now maintains a number of historically important gravesites. The organization also promotes history through its newsletter, the Patrick Henry Orator and through a small book publishing venture. Recently the Group co-hosted the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit, "Between Fences" with the Blanche Solomon Memorial Library of Headland. As part of this exhibit project the Group created and printed 4,000 copies of a coloring book about Henry County history which was

distributed to students below fifth grade and built a separate traveling exhibit that discussed the shrinking boundaries of Henry County between 1818 and 1903. In four short years the Henry County Historical Group has resurrected the programmatic study, preservation and promotion of history in Henry County.

More than 160 people attended the HCC's 25th annual meeting at the Cunningham Conference Center on the Columbus State University campus which featured a keynote address on the Georgia hospitality industry by Gilda Watters, Managing Director of the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

Four Organizations to Receive HCC Seed Grants

Four Chattahoochee Valley organizations are to receive matching grant monies under the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's (HCC) Seed Grant Program. The program was established twenty-two years ago to assist in the funding and development of various heritage tourism projects within the Commission's eighteen county bi-state region. Applications from qualifying non-profit organizations are reviewed on a competitive basis. Grants awarded this year ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

◆ **Wiregrass Festival of Murals/The Downtown Group, Inc.~Dothan, AL**
\$2,500 to apply a protective clear coating on the Fort Scott, Sherman Rose and Elizabeth Stewart Dill interpretive murals in historic downtown Dothan. The Wiregrass Festival of Murals is a project designed to pictorially depict the history and culture of the Wiregrass region through the skillful execution of painted murals on the outside walls of existing buildings in Dothan's Main Street Commercial Historic District.

◆ **Eufaula Heritage Association~Eufaula, AL**
\$2,751 to print a 24-page photographic booklet of 24 historic homes in Eufaula. Many of these homes are open on the Eufaula Pilgrimage each year. The booklet will be used to help promote Eufaula's many architectural treasures. The Eufaula Pilgrimage is Alabama's oldest historic home tour. The Seth Lore and Irwinton Historic District is the largest National

Register district in east Alabama with over 700 architecturally significant residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

◆ **Fort Gaines Historical Society, Inc.~Fort Gaines, GA**

\$3,000 to install a new roof on the historic "Toll House" on the bluff overlooking the Chattahoochee River. This work will be part of a larger project for the stabilization and preservation of this building which was constructed c 1820-1830. At one time, it operated as a rest stop for the river ferry and was the place where people paid a toll to cross the Chattahoochee River using the ferry. This is a joint effort between the Society, City of Fort Gaines and the Frontier Village Commission.

◆ **Ozark-Dale County Public Library~Ozark, AL**

\$2,000 to prepare a DVD of a 58 minute video entitled *Honoring and Preserving the Heritage—Ozark's Architectural Heritage 1824-1957*. This architectural heritage video was produced in 2002 and is now unavailable. The original five part tape will be enhanced with extended video to further tell Ozark's story. The original video was donated to schools to supplement the Alabama and local history classes.

In the last twenty-two years, the HCC has distributed more than \$130,200 to 64 different groups in its eighteen county region.

Purcell Invited to Serve on Rural Alabama's Committee of 100

Ron Sparks, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, has invited Doug Purcell to serve on Rural Alabama's Committee of 100. This committee will serve as an advisory council to The Center for Rural Alabama under the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The mission of the Center is to develop, promote and implement sound strategies to improve the quality of life in rural Alabama. Purcell is executive director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission in Eufaula.

The members of the Committee of 100 come from a variety of sectors of the economy and from every corner of the State of Alabama. Each of the members brings a different perspective to the table whether from education, health care, small business, agriculture, local government, state government, etc. The collective experiences and wisdom of these people will be critical to taking positive steps in meeting the unique challenges and needs of the one million citizens of rural Alabama. That is 22% of Alabama's entire resident population.

Commissioner Sparks notes that "Lifting rural Alabama is a huge task. Doing so requires that many voices be heard, that many people with expertise and different perspectives help us prioritize needs, develop strategy and form coalitions". That will be the work of the Rural Alabama's Committee of 100.

HCC Representatives Meet with Georgia DEcD Commissioner Ken Stewart



Courtesy of Mac Moye, Lumpkin, GA

Georgia DEcD Commissioner, Ken Stewart (third from left), meets with HCC representatives in Atlanta

Ten Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) representatives met with Commissioner Ken Stewart of the Georgia Department of Economic Development in Atlanta on September 24th to discuss the Commission's program of work and future collaborative relationships with the DEcD. Other DEcD staff members in attendance included Charlie Gatlin, Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Marketing; Kevin Langston, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism and Marketing; and John Moffatt, Director of Administration.

HCC staff, board members and friends who attended the meeting included: Doug Purcell, executive director; LaVerne Wright, chair (Chattahoochee County) Lamar Powers, vice chair (Russell County); Linda Straub, (Harris County) Bill Koch, (Clay County) Ann Petry, (Troup County) Steve Sharp, (Harris County) Mac Moye, (Stewart County) and Nelson and Martha Coffin of (Randolph County).

Commissioner Stewart praised the HCC's program of work and noted that DEcD would be happy to serve as the umbrella organization for any future pass through appropriations that may be allocated for the Commission's use by the Georgia General Assembly. Doug Purcell noted that the meeting was productive and should have positive long term consequences for future funding support from the State of Georgia.

TOURISM & PRESERVATION NEWS

The Alabama Cemetery Preservation Bill was approved during the last session of the Alabama Legislature and signed into law by Governor Bob Riley on June 14, 2007. It became law in the fall of 2007. The act addresses the problem of landlocked cemeteries by authorizing certain persons to access cemeteries on privately owned land or leased property. In addition, the act also authorizes county and municipal governments to form cemetery authorities to preserve neglected cemeteries within their jurisdiction.

The City of Eufaula's proposed "Rails to Trails" project is one giant step closer to reality. Eufaula Mayor Jay Jaxon recently announced that Georgia Southwestern Railroad has deeded a 4 ½-mile stretch of rail bed - including bridges, ballasts, ties and culverts - to the city for use in the project. "This is the final step," Jaxon said. "It's gone through all the approval from Washington. This will allow us to put (the project) out for bid and begin construction." The trail, which will be constructed in two phases, will run from downtown Eufaula to Old Creek Town Park. Construction could begin by the end of the year, though Jaxon says he does not know when the trail will be completed.

The October issue of Backpacker magazine lists the Pine Mountain Trail's Brown Dog Campsite as runner-up for the Best Ridge Line in a compilation of America's Best Campsites. The site is about a mile east of the trail's popular Dowdell's Knob overlook, just past a spring crossing. "It sits on a little bluff, and it's just a really pretty campsite," says Jim Hall, president of the Pine Mountain Trail Association. "We built it in about '98 so it's a relatively new campsite, but it's turned into the fourth most used campsite in the whole park." Pine Mountain Trail is located in Harris County approximately 80 miles southwest of Atlanta on US Highway 27. The western end of the trail starts at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park entrance on Georgia Highway 190 across from the Callaway Gardens Country Store.

Alabama Governor Bob Riley announced recently that the Southeast Tourism Society's award for the year's best campaign to attract visitors went to the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. This was the third time in four years that the Society named Alabama's tourism department the best in the South. It was nominated for its "Year of Alabama Arts" campaign.

Part of a television docudrama about the roles black Americans played in the Civil War was filmed at Historic Westville, September 28 - October 1. "Filling the Gap" is the title of the 1 ½-hour film expected to be released in February. Independent filmmaker Tyrone Young of Longwood, Florida has teamed up with Mary Fears, a retired librarian, author, noted storyteller, re-enactor and genealogist from Daytona Beach, Florida, to write and produce the documentary. Fears stated, "We are going to show how people of color served in the Civil War, both slave and free."

Southern Odysseys of Columbus, Georgia has initiated nighttime family entertainment of discovery walking tours in the Columbus Historic District. The **I Spy Tour** offers children 4-10 years of age a variety of interactive experiences that delve into history and tantalize their perceptions of reality. The **Walk with the Shadows Tour** chronicles terrifying stories of hauntings, lynchings, suicides and bloodcurdling murder mysteries. This tour also reveals the ghosts that still linger in this sleepy river town. The **River City Twilight Tour** chronicles the lives and events that shaped the town of Columbus. Astonishing tales and stunning photographs tell the continually evolving relationship the city and its river have had from the 1600's to the present day. For more information, contact Southern Odysseys at (706) 225-8888 or info@southernodysseys.com.

The last remaining covered bridge in east central Alabama (Lee County) collapsed into Wacoochee Creek in June, 2005. Through the untiring efforts of

Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society member John Ross and other volunteers, the timbers from the 75-foot long bridge were salvaged and stored until a shortened version was reconstructed earlier this year in Opelika at Municipal Park over Rocky Brook Creek. The bridge was originally built about 1900 by Otto Puls in the town lattice truss design of heart pine, white oak and cedar. The reconstruction undertaking was a project of the Opelika Kiwanis Club and the Opelika Parks & Recreation Board. Claud Brown was chairman of the "Park the Bridge" project. During the re-opening ceremony, a historical marker giving the history of the Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge was also dedicated. This historical marker was erected by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Opelika Historic Preservation Society, Auburn Heritage Association, and the East Alabama Medical Center.



Re-opening ceremony of the Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge

Beginning in the middle of June, Landmark Park of Dothan began a complete renovation of its unique boardwalk, including replacement of the exhibit building roofs, boardwalk treads, handrails and supports, as well as electrical service to the exhibits. The elevated boardwalk was originally constructed in 1982 and was designed by former park director, Sam Kates. The 1,800-foot boardwalk is handicapped accessible and meanders through the forest and along a wetland area created by several active beaver dams. The boardwalk is dedicated to the late J. W. Parkman, Sr., who was a prominent business and community leader in Dothan. The renovation is being funded through a federal grant from the Recreational Trails Program and through a generous donation from Great Southern Wood Preserving in Abbeville.

(Continued on page eight)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Monica Newman Moore has joined the staff of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. For the past six years, Moore has worked with the University of Alabama's Museum of Natural History and has served as the sales and outreach coordinator for Discovering Alabama, the award-winning environmental documentary series on Alabama Public Television. In addition, each summer, she has served as the assistant to the camp director for the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Summer Expedition program.

Opelika historian and community volunteer Winston Smith T died on June 5, 2007. Mr. Smith T was a member for 20 years on the Opelika School Board, serving as its chairman for many years. During his tenure, the School Board oversaw the building of Southview Elementary School and the Morris Avenue Elementary School as well as numerous expansions and renovations of existing schools, including the construction of the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts at the high school. He served on the board of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, the Opelika Arts Association, the 1st Federal Savings & Loan Lee County, and the First National Bank of Opelika (now BancorpSouth). He also was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Alabama Historical Commission where he served as vice-chairman. In addition, he served as vice-chairman of the Lee County Chapter of the Salvation Army and served on the board of the Museum of East Alabama.

Steve Murray, former managing editor of the Encyclopedia of Alabama, is the new assistant director for the Development and Support Services at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. His responsibilities at ADAH include coordinating development for the new state history museum, overseeing the agency's new publications office, and handling external relations. Mr. Murray played a pivotal role in developing Auburn's partnership with the Alabama Humanities Foundation to create the Encyclopedia of

Alabama. He worked tirelessly to help plan the project, secure funding, develop staff, and establish an EOA editorial office at Auburn. In addition to his EOA work, Mr. Murray was also the managing editor for the scholarly journal, *The Alabama Review*.



Susan Lawhorne

After a 2 1/2-year term as executive director of the Historic Columbus Foundation, Susan Lawhorne has resigned. She will work until November 1. "I need to be at home," Lawhorne said. "I have two granddaughters in New York City and there have been several times when my daughter needed me to help her out. And I've had to say no." After years of doing volunteer work in the city, Lawhorne was hired as director of development for The Columbus Museum where she worked for four years and then went to work at the Historic Columbus Foundation. Janice Biggers was the first executive director. Lawhorne is the fourth in the organization's 41-year history. "Her leadership qualities have given additional depth to the staff," Biggers said. "She was in charge of the 40th anniversary celebration which was a tremendous success in 2006." Biggers said Lawhorne's tenure was highly successful and a "wonderful bridge to the future." While she will no longer be a paid, full-time staff member, Lawhorne said she'll go back to volunteering at HCF.

Patricia Goodman was recently named by the Randolph County Chapter of the Southwest Georgia Chamber of Commerce as the executive director of the Randolph County Chapter. Ms. Goodman retired in June from the Randolph County Board of Education after serving 35 years in education. She has been very active in the community working with the Randolph County Unit of the American Cancer Society, Randolph County Family

Connection and the Randolph County Adult and Youth Leadership Program. She was a charter participant in the Four County Leadership Program in 1998 and participated in the Regional Economic and Leadership Development program in 2004. In 1999, she received the Volunteer Service Award at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet and received the Excellence in Community Service Award from the DAR in 2003. She was the 1998 Georgia Mother of the Year. Ms. Goodman says that she is excited about working with the board and being of service to her county through the chamber.

Colonel John Neubauer has resigned as executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission effective September 30, citing personal health reasons. His tenure was marked by strengthened relationships with the public, visible improvements at the Commission's historic sites, and sound fiscal management. He helped set a firm foundation and a clear vision for achieving the Commission's mission of protecting, preserving, and interpreting Alabama's historic places. Under Col. Neubauer's leadership, the Alabama Historical Commission made more efficient use of technology and staff. One result has been accelerated reviews of federally funded projects that affect the state's historic and archaeological sites. The Commission still faces serious funding challenges—for staffing, for deferred maintenance, and for capital improvements, but the Alabama Historical Commission has a good plan in place thanks to the work of Neubauer.

Colonel John Neubauer



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The Elizabeth Fry and Dupont Kirven Foundation has awarded a grant of \$5,000 to the Historic Columbus Foundation for the creation and publication of a 40-year history – *A History of the Historic Columbus Foundation: 1966-2006*. Dr. John Lupold has conducted research for the project and is in the latter stages of the writing of this history.

Glenda Ralston Major, Forrest Clark Johnson III, and Kaye Lanning Minchew have authored a new book on Troup County which has recently been published by Arcadia Publishing Company. The book features over 200 photographs, most of which have never been published before. The topics covered by the book are broad, including photographs depicting: LaGrange, West Point, Hogansville, Mountville, Big Springs, Antioch, Swift Mill Village, and more. In addition, there are teenagers sharing sodas and hanging out in the 1940s, crowds who came to participate and watch the Peach Swim Meet, the inauguration of football at LaGrange College, and early residents who sat for photographs including what is believed to be one of the oldest photos in the county. The book is available for purchase from the Troup County Archives for \$19.99 or by calling (706) 884-1828. All proceeds will go the Troup County Historical Society.

Now literature lovers everywhere may dive into Georgia, “the writers, their books, and the culture that inspires them,” even when “off-line!” The *New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion to Georgia Literature* is the first of the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* (www.georgiaencyclopedia.org) to be presented in print. The volume contains biographical discussions and analysis on Georgia’s writers from nineteenth century to the present. It also explores authors’ works, their contributions to Georgia’s history and culture, and their connections to our regional and national story. This new book is edited by Dr. Hugh Ruppensburg and Dr. John Inscoe. Dr. Ruppensburg is a 2007 Governor’s Awards in the Humanities recipient, a Professor of English and Senior Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia. He is also editor and author of many books including *After O’Connor* and the three volume anthology set, *Georgia Voices*. Dr. Inscoe is a 2006 recipient of the Governor’s Awards in the Humanities. He is the editor of the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* and Professor of History

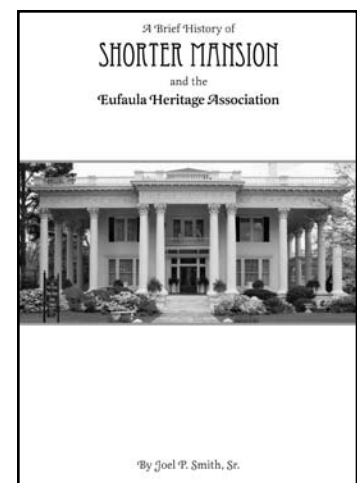
at the University of Georgia. Inscoe is the author or editor of eight books, and is also the current secretary-treasurer of the Southern Historical Association. The *New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion to Georgia Literature* is published by the University of Georgia Press and may be purchased online or by phone www.ugapress.org or 1-800-BOOK-UGA.

The Auburn Heritage Association is proud to participate with Auburn University in presenting the new Auburn University calendar for the year 2008. The historical significance of these buildings and the people for whom they are named is immeasurable to the Auburn community. The Auburn Heritage Association, over the next few years, will be placing historical markers on each of these buildings on campus. The calendar pays tribute to Auburn University’s past leaders, professors, and alumni. Toward recognizing and perpetuating the memory of some who have served long, achieved much, and contributed exceptionally to the progress of this institution, the board of trustees has named buildings in their honor. Hallmarks of Auburn is an 11” x 14”, twelve-month calendar and sells for \$9.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. To order copies send your check, made payable to Auburn Heritage Association, to P. O. Box 2248, Auburn AL 36830.

Dothan native Faye Howell has compiled a family history entitled, “Shaking My Family Tree: Intertwining the lives of the Pittman’s, Peoples, Callins, and Hodges”. She traces her ancestors’ migratory patterns through Henry and Houston counties, listing the information she uncovered from the records of plantations, government censuses, churches, schools, cemeteries, and local courthouses dating back to the 19th century. Howell said she is most proud of the many oral histories gathered from interviews with elderly relatives. She knew time was running out to preserve their memories or risk losing them forever. She tells how they grew up and lived, including how families were broken apart and reunited, sometimes generations later. Howell credits historians Doug Purcell, Steve Elliott, and T. Larry Smith for helping extensively with the project. Much of her information comes from the census records at the National Archives Regional Office at East Point near Atlanta. Howell said she isn’t aware of any other book that

comprehensively documents the lives of African-Americans in Southeast Alabama. The book sells for \$60 plus \$5 for postage and handling and may be ordered from LaVa Publications, P. O. Box 182, Webb, AL 36376 or by calling (334) 712-7436. Information on the book can be found at www.shakingmytree.com

A brief history of Shorter Mansion, Eufaula’s most famous landmark, and the illustrious family that built it is now available for purchase at Shorter Mansion. The 26-page book, “A Brief History of Shorter Mansion and the Eufaula Heritage Association,” also includes the story of how the mansion was saved for the community in 1965, and the subsequent history of the Eufaula Heritage Association which owns and operates the house. Principal author of the history is Joel P. Smith Sr., retired publisher and editor of *The Eufaula Tribune*, with collaboration from Florence Foy Strang. Smith and Strang were two community leaders who spearheaded the drive to purchase the house in 1965 and make it available for community use. The cover features a color photograph of Shorter Mansion. Inside are photographs of some members of the Shorter Family as well as interior rooms of the historic home. The Eufaula Heritage Association board of directors voted early in 2006 to sponsor publication of the history as part of the centennial celebration of Shorter Mansion. Appendices in the back of the book list past presidents and directors of the Heritage Association as well as Pilgrimage chairs and queens. Copies of the attractive booklet sell for \$5 each and may be obtained at Shorter Mansion at 340 N. Eufaula Avenue, Eufaula, AL 36027. Phone queries may be directed to (334) 687-3793 or e-mail at eufaulaheritageassoc@eufaula.rr.com.



TOURISM & PRESERVATION NEWS

(Continued from page five)

The Roxanna United Methodist Church and Cemetery in the Camp Hill community of Lee County has been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The Alabama Register is an official listing of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. These properties, which may be of national, state, and local significance, are deemed worthy of preservation by the Alabama Historical Commission.

On September 22, the Iron Mike War Museum in Columbus, Georgia officially opened. At the museum, visitors can get rides in authentic military trucks or personnel carriers. They can see reenactments from different wars, from World War I to Desert Storm. "This is an experience museum," says Don Moeller, one of the collectors and restorers who made the museum possible. "It's interactive. There will be truck rides and track rides." The museum is one of the achievements of a loose-knit group of enthusiasts called the Columbus Antique Militaria Organization.

The museum is located behind the antique mall at the Farmers Market at 10th Avenue and 4th Street in Columbus and will be open on most Saturdays. Admission is free but donations will be accepted and rides on trucks and other vehicles might carry a charge. A sampling of what can be seen includes a 1970 Jeep ambulance; a 1942 trench digger; a 1959 all-aluminum Jeep; and a 1962 M114 Armored Personnel Carrier.

The Dixie Depot renovation project is finally underway in Dothan. Gen Con Construction of Dothan was awarded the construction contract and began work in mid-July. They are tentatively scheduled to complete the contract in mid-March of 2008. The Old Rail Depot will house the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission's transit administrative offices. In addition, there will be space and the capabilities to house any expanded transportation planning activities undertaken by the Commission. For further information, contact John Sorrell at (334) 794-4093 or e-mail him at transit@sanman.net.

The new Fort Mitchell visitors and information center in Russell County is now open. Constructed in 2004, the center includes a "walk through time" museum and a short film, plus other authentic artifacts. The 15-minute film gives an entertaining version of the founding of the fort and tells about the interactions between the Indians and the settlers. The project director for this undertaking was Bill Benton who is president of the Russell County Historical Commission. Visitors to the center can also see the reconstructed fort and other nearby historic sites, including the Historic Crowell Cemetery and the Old Federal Road. The Fort Mitchell Visitors and Interpretive Center is located in Fort Mitchell County Park, which is just south of the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery on Alabama Highway 165, about eight miles south of Phenix City.



Historic Chattahoochee Commission
Post Office Box 33
Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033
Web Site: www.hcc-al-ga.org
E-mail: Trace@eufaula.rr.com

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 107
Eufaula, AL



Call
1-877-766-2443
for more info on the
Chatahoochee Trace

CHATTAHOOCHEE
POOCHIE

Address Service Requested