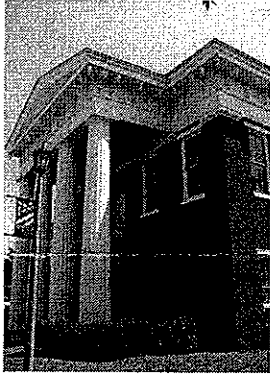


Wilcox Historical Society Newsletter

June 30, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

Cart Blackwell to Speak at September Meeting



Historic Wilcox County Courthouse built by Alexander Bragg.

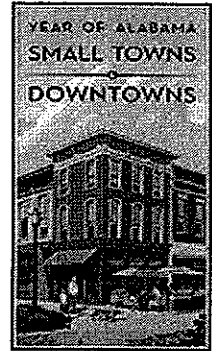
Cart Blackwell will present the program during the Wilcox Historical Society

meeting on Friday, September 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Blackwell will speak on Alexander Bragg, a master builder who is credited with several important structures from early 19th century Wilcox County. Structures attributed to Bragg include the Courthouse, Countryside, White Columns, and the Beck-Bryant-Bridges-Talbot Home.

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Cart Blackwell holds a MA from the University of Virginia in Architectural History and a BA in Historic Preservation and Art History.



Year of Alabama Small Towns & DOWNTOWNS 2010

Planning has begun on several events which will occur in Wilcox County in celebration of the Year of Alabama Small Towns & DOWNTOWNS. If you wish to participate in planning these events, please contact an officer.

Letter from WHS President Ed Shirley

Greetings,

We are pursuing two projects at this time and your help will be greatly appreciated. The first project is an updated walking tour of Camden. Bonnie Martens with the Chamber of Commerce, Kristin Law with ATRC, Linda Etheridge, and I will meet soon to establish the groundwork to accomplish the goal of developing a new

brochure by the fall. The second project is a walking tour of the Camden Cemetery which is very historic and interesting. Phil Tate has volunteered to work with me on this endeavor and we hope more volunteers will step forward to help.

The State of Alabama has declared 2010 to be the Year of Alabama Small Towns and

Downtowns. Every community is encouraged to plan an event to highlight its heritage and positive attributes. Mayor Blackmon has scheduled Saturday, May 1, 2010 for this event. We are looking at celebrating our churches, musical talent and highlighting our local appreciation for art.

The day will feature concerts by soloists, instrumentalists, a

community choir, and local bands and groups. Historic art displays will be located in the Institute, outside and in other buildings if space is needed.

This Small Town Celebration will be the ideal occasion to have walking tours of Camden and the Camden Cemetery available to folks to explore our town.

E.S.

Wilcox Historical Society

The Wilcox Historical Society was founded in the late 1960's, with the initial goal to save and restore the Wilcox Female Institute. Our goal as a society continues to be to preserve the history of this region and to act in some regard as a clearing house and reference source to people searching for genealogical information. Our local Wilcox Library is an excellent source of information and features one of the best genealogical rooms to be found anywhere. You may contact us at: P. O. Box 464, Camden, AL 36726 or www.wilcoxwebworks.com/history.

OOPS!

We missed the January date for submitting dues!

So the time is NOW!!!

Annual Dues: \$10.00 per person

\$15.00 per couple.

Please send your dues to:

Wilcox Historical Society

c/o Shellah Jones

P. O. Box 464

Camden, AL 36726



Jennifer Hale,

author of

"Historic Plantations of Alabama's Black Belt"

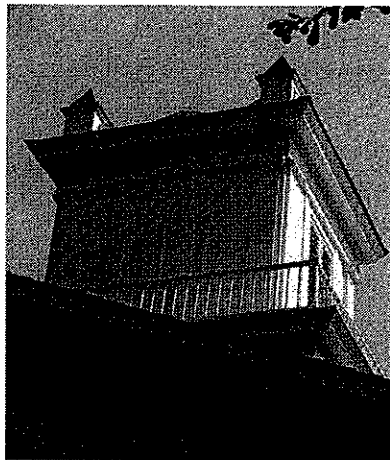
will sign books at
Black Belt Treasures
on

Saturday, August 8, 2009
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stop by and meet the author of this beautiful collection of Alabama's historic plantation homes, including several from Wilcox County.

A Nominating Committee will be formed prior to the September meeting. If you are willing to serve on the Nominating Committee or are willing to serve as an officer for next year, please contact President Ed Shirley at (334) 682-4478.

Wilcox Female Institute Update



Wilcox Female Institute Cupola to receive much needed repair.

The cupola on the roof of the Female Institute is in dire need of repair. There are compromised corners and the railing is most likely the one that was installed in the

1970's when the Institute was

restored. A

large crane with bucket will need to be rented in order to gain access to the area. Joe Harris has agreed to do the work now that the soil is dried out enough to get the crane on the property without disrupting the grounds. Work on the cupola should begin late summer.

Please keep the Institute in mind for

functions (i.e. receptions, family reunions, meetings). Contact: Pie Malone, curator, for scheduling an event, rental agreements, and the keys to the building at (334)682-4592.

Wilcox Historical Society Officers:

President: Ed Shirley

V.P./Program Chairperson:

Garland Cook Smith

Secretary: Jane Shelton Dale

Treasurer: Shellah Jones

Curator: Pie Malone

To receive future newsletters via e-mail, please submit your e-mail address to Sulynn Creswell at (334) 682-9878 or sulynn@blackbelttreasures.com.

Visit us on the Web: www.wilcoxwebworks.com/history