

Wilcox Historical Society Winter 2008 Newsletter

Edition No. 25

January 14, 2008

Upcoming Events

John Hall to Speak January 24

The next Wilcox Historical Society meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 24, 2008 starting at 2:00 P.M.** at the **Wilcox Female Institute** and will feature a presentation by John Hall.

John Cody Hall lives in Tuscaloosa, and has led outdoor programs for more than 40 years, including 20 years as Chief Naturalist of the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History. Semi-retired, he is the Director of the Black Belt Museum at the University of West Alabama. His articles have appeared in Alabama Heritage Magazine and in the well-known Discovering Alabama Public Television series. He has taught biology, geology, English and history in both public and private schools.

He is well known in the Alabama natural history and museum community for his workshop leadership and as the founder of the Museum Expedition series of archeology and paleontology summer camps, now in its 30th year. He has served as Executive Director of the Alabama Museum Association and as an advisor to the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Historical Commission. His specialty is explaining complicated scientific and historical stories to the general public. In one or the other of his living history characterizations, he is frequently seen at Indian festivals and historical events around the state. His book, *Headwaters: Descending Alabama's Rivers*, co-authored with Birmingham environmental photographer, Beth Maynor Young, will be published by the University of Alabama Press in the Spring of 2009.

Roberts Cabin Project

The Town of Pine Apple agreed to accept the cabin, and it has been relocated to the Pine Apple town park. The Wilcox Historical Society assisted in coordinating the project, with the formal contract between the Roberts family and the Town of Pine Apple. Funding for the project was provided by the Roberts Family, the Town of Pine Apple, Pine Apple Promotions, and the Wilcox Historical Society. The Society

made a \$2,000 donation to the project in honor of Don and Mary Charles Donald. Joe Harris performed the disassembly and erection at the new site. Harold Grimes donated the new lumber required for the flooring, roof joists, and end siding, and has personally sawn logs into boards and installed these on the interior walls. The chimney has been erected by Michael Phelps using the original limestone rocks. He recently completed "chinking" between the heart pine logs using material donated by Harold Grimes, III. A historical plaque will be placed at the site denoting the history of the cabin.

The cost of the final phase of the project is approximately \$1,500, and additional donations are needed to offset this cost. If interested in making a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to the Town of Pine Apple noting "Roberts Cabin Project", and mail to P.O. Box 7, Pine Apple, AL 36768.

Wilcox True Blues Flag Restoration Complete

The flag restoration process in Maryland has been completed and the flag has been returned to the Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. Several of our members have seen it. The flag will be available for display at an upcoming historical meeting.

The Friends of the Archives is a vital part of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and you are encouraged to join this group. Please contact Garland Smith or Don Donald, current Directors of the Friends of the Archives, for more information.

McIntosh Garden Project

As noted in the Fall 2007 Newsletter, Roy McIntosh made a very generous bequest to the Society through his will. His brother Bit McIntosh has given permission to photograph and document Roy's garden. This garden was a very important part of Roy's life, and we feel that this project is a very good way to remember and honor him for his many years of service as a faithful member

of the Wilcox Historical Society. A master gardener from the Alabama Trust's Garden Interest Group will be heading this project.

Society History and Contacts

The Wilcox Historical Society was founded in the late 1960's with the initial goal to save and restore the Wilcox Female Institute. The primary goal of the Society continues to be to preserve the history of this region and to act as a clearing house and reference source to people searching for genealogical information. Our local Wilcox County Public Library is the best source of genealogical information and features one of the best genealogical rooms to be found anywhere. The library staff can be reached at 334-682-4355, 100 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726, e-mail wilcoxgen@frontiernet.net. *If research is needed, they can refer you to a local historian who can perform the research for a nominal fee.*

The **Wilcox Historical Society** may be contacted at **P.O. Box 464, Camden, AL 36726**. Our web site link may be accessed through www.wilcoxwebworks.com. The cost to join the society is \$10 per person, or \$15 per couple annually. *Payment is due by January 1 of each year.*

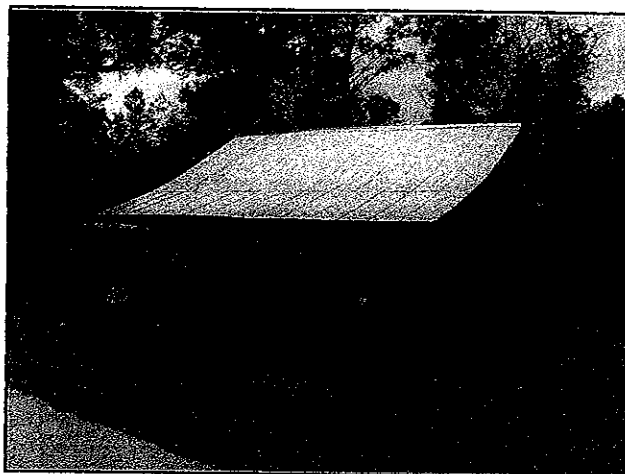
The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, formerly known as the Alabama Preservation Alliance, is a leader in the identification and preservation of historic structures and sites throughout Alabama. It is presently in the process of forming member interest groups. These statewide members with similar interests will meet periodically to socialize and plan activities that focus on specific historic topics. This organization may be reached at www.alabamatrust.info or see Garland Smith, the 2008 President, of this organization.

Wilcox Historical Society Officers will be elected at the January 24 meeting. The nomination committee has come up with a proposed slate, so please plan to attend and vote.

Membership Application/Payment Card

Name(s): _____

Address: _____



Roberts Cabin - Hunter Appreciation Day



Wilcox Female Institute