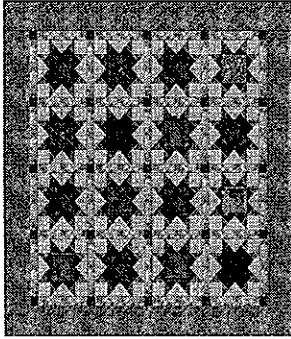


Wilcox Historical Society Newsletter

January 11, 2010

Volume 2, Issue 1

Betty Kennedy to Speak at the Next WHS Meeting



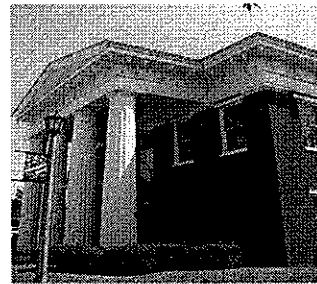
The next meeting of the Wilcox Historical Society will be on January 21, 2010, at 2 pm. The program is entitled, "Quilting with Betty Gaines Kennedy". Mrs. Kennedy will share some of her personal

stories, her favorite quilt patterns and display historic Wilcox County quilts from the 1880's. There is not a person in the county who does know Betty and her stories are legendary! Have you seen her on YouTube? Don't miss this delightfully informative program!

We will meet at Gaines Ridge at 2pm. No reservation is needed.

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Tour Brochures Update

Newly re-designed brochures of Wilcox County walking and driving tours are nearing completion. Much thanks to Don Donald for all his work on the Furman brochure. If there are any information updates of historic homes, other historic sites, or the Camden cemetery, please submit those to Kristin Law or Ed Shirley no later than January 22, 2010.

Year of Alabama Small Towns & Downtowns 2010

Governor Bob Riley has asked all municipalities in the State of Alabama to participate in 2010: Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns. The Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce encourages each of us to be aware of these events scheduled in Wilcox county in Spring 2010.

The idea behind these celebrations is to invite former residents back for a special Homecoming Weekend; to unveil a local written historic marker on the history of the town; lead a walking tour of the

historic area; and to dedicate a completed civic project.

The events are being promoted by The Office of the Governor, The Alabama League of Municipalities, The Alabama State Chambers of Commerce and The Alabama Tourism Department.

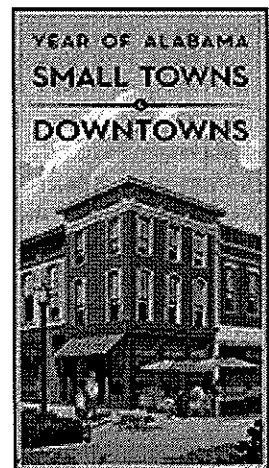
The following specific events have been planned for Wilcox County:

The Town of Oak Hill is planning events for April 3, 2010. This will include the dedication of a marker. For more information,

please contact mayor David Fuller at 334-746-2642.

The City of Camden is planning events for May 1, 2010. This will include an art and essay contest and a tour of the Camden Cemetery. Additionally, concerts will be presented by choirs from Camden United Methodist Church (10am), 1st Presbyterian Church (11am) and Associate Reform Presbyterian Church (1pm). Programs for the day will be printed. You have the opportunity to purchase an advertisement

in the program for as little as \$25.00. Just call Mayor Blackmon weekday mornings at 334-682-4603.



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.

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.

Outstanding Efforts Recognized

At the annual conference of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, held in Auburn this fall, the Gothic style Antioch Baptist Church (1885) received a statewide award. The outstanding efforts of the members and its leaders received the Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award for restoration and preservation. The church, located on Claiborne Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit us on the Web:

www.wilcoxwebworks.com/history

2010 Membership Dues

The time is NOW to submit your dues for this year!!!

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



WHS Loses Ardent Supporter

It is with great sadness that the area lost one of our staunchest historical supporters, Janet Liddell Phillippi. She was a most loyal WHS member, attending meetings and working closely on the restoration of the Female Institute. She will be missed by all.

Wilcox Female Institute Update



The Wilcox Female Institute has recently had some repair work done on the cupola. There were several leaks around the areas into which the railing was mounted. Joe Harris spent about two weeks climbing high and making repairs he "towered over" the city of Camden. It truly is a unique perspective on the city.

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.

Historic Cook Hill Meeting Great Success

We had one of the largest crowds ever at our September 2009 meeting at Cook Hill. Much appreciation and gratitude is due to Sara Crum and Carty Blackwell for opening beautiful and historic Cook Hill. Their son Cart, now with the Mobile Historic Development Commission, spoke on the local architecture of Alexander Bragg, master builder. Using a power point presentation and his formidable knowledge, he engaged the crowd in the historic rooms of his ancestral home. Many thanks are due to this family and for their interest and commitment to historic preservation.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Where was MAUBILA? Possibly in Wilcox County? On **Saturday, January 16**, 10 am. to 3 pm. knowledgeable historians will be available to assess ancient artifacts relating to the period of the 16th or 17th centuries of Native Americans or Spanish explorers. Local citizens are invited to bring artifacts from the period for evaluation. Help discover the real location of Maubila!
- WHS Tour of "Belvoir" home of Arthur & Bess Collias at 2 pm. on **Thursday, February 18**.
- On **Thursday, March 11**, Black Belt Treasures will host Irene Latham, author of the newly released novel, *Leaving Gee's Bend*. Ms. Latham will speak in area schools, be available to sign her books and speak to the Black Belt Treasures Book Club. A schedule of events will be available on the website, www.blackbelttreasures.com.