

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Alabama Department of Archives and History

Edited by Kelly Hoomes

Fall 2012

### NEW FACES

Over the last few years, you've seen fewer and fewer staff faces, but soon you will start to see some new faces. We are in the process of rebuilding our staff to 39 people.

New positions will include a security guard for the research room, assistant director of administration, electronic records archivist, stock clerk at the re-

ords center, public information officer, shared assistant for Public Services and Government Records divisions, tour assistant based in the hands-on gallery (Sara Kunau) and most important to you, a volunteer coordinator (Aimee Sparks)!

Earlier this year, Kevin Nutt, audio/visual archi-

vist, and Ryan Blocker, museum collections assistant, also became permanent faces at ADAH, even though both have been working at the Archives in different facets for some time.

We hope you are just as excited as we are to welcome these new faces into our Archives family!



### TAKING OFF THE HAT

It's been almost a year since I put on the volunteer hat. I couldn't have made it without your support and patience. Thank you for everything you did for me that made the job easier. When I took on volunteer coordination, I anticipated statistics, schedules, enrich-

ments, and snacks, but I never anticipated the joy of getting to know you better and sharing in your lives.

I'm still going drop by and check on you, but I feel very confident that you're in excellent hands with our new volunteer

coordinator, Aimee Sparks. I know you'll give her the same warm welcome that you gave me.

As for me, I'm looking forward to planning and implementing programs, tours, and activities for the new museum!

### NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

My name is Aimee Sparks, and I am honored to be the new Volunteer Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

and History, I graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Public History and Religion. In 2006, I moved to Prattville, Alabama where I have worked as an event planner. I have also served as the volunteer co-advisor for the student organization at Virginia College Montgomery.

I am the very proud mother of two children. My daughter Zoe is fourteen. She plays clarinet in the Prattville Junior High School band and is a gifted artist. My son Hugh (everyone calls him Huey) is eleven. Huey is probably too smart for his

own good; he and his friends are currently plotting to rule the world.

I am so excited about this opportunity. I will work hard to support the volunteers and encourage volunteer efforts. Your contribution of time and energy is invaluable, and I will never forget that fact. My daughter says that I never meet a stranger; I enjoy speaking with and getting to know people, and I truly look forward to meeting and getting to know each and every member of the Archives family.



I grew up not far from Montgomery in Columbus, Georgia. In 2005, after completing

an internship at the North Carolina Office of Archives

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### Volunteer Liaisons Staff Contacts:

**Aimee Sparks 353-4745**  
(Volunteer Coordinator)

**Sara Kunau 353-4712**  
(Hands-on Gallery)

**Kelly Hoomes 353-4702**  
(Docents)

**Mary Jo Scott 353-4694**  
(Private Records)

**Alden Monroe 353-4613**  
**Mike Breedlove 353-4614**  
(Government Records)

**Nancy Dupree 353-4674**  
(Reference)

**Allison Gore 353-4691**  
(Gift Shop)

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### December

Nita Pittman 12/4  
 Mason Shell 12/8  
 John Rylee 12/11  
 Tom Emerson 12/12  
 Courtney Tanner 12/12  
 Jane Fowler 12/17  
 Shirley McCreedy 12/23  
 Buddy Murphy 12/27  
 Nancy Bates 12/31  
 Graeme DePace 12/31

#### January

Henry Durham 1/4  
 Jennie Price 1/6  
 Judy Osborne 1/13  
 Meagan Tanner 1/26  
 David Huff 1/26

#### February

Paul Ernest 2/1  
 Caryll Carrick 2/6  
 Edwin Rhodes 2/10  
 Judy Crow 2/11  
 Arthur Arnold 2/12  
 George Willis 2/14

Willa Fay Munson 2/17  
 Maeghan DePace 2/24  
 Richard Morgan 2/25  
 Ashley Fonville 2/28  
 David Thrash 2/28

**Did we miss your birthday?**

**We may not have it on record. Please let us know and we will add it to our list!**



### STATE HOLIDAYS

ADAH will be closed to observe the following official state holidays:

**November 22 and 23:** Thanksgiving

**December 24 and 25:** Christmas

**January 1:** New Year's Day

**January 21:** Martin Luther King Jr./Robert E. Lee Birthday

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: ALABAMA DAY



Each year we celebrate Alabama's birthday on December 14. This year we will celebrate Alabama's 193rd birthday with Montgomery County 4th graders from Martin Luther King Jr. and Crump Elementary schools. The First Lady, Mrs. Dianne Bentley, will

also join us in this celebration! We will be doing Alabama-themed hands-on activities, tours with re-enactors, singing the state song, and munching on sweets.

We will need many volunteers to make this birthday a successful bash!

We need:

- 2 Docents in the First Alabamians Gallery
- 7 volunteers for Voices Gallery activities (Gorgetts, Alabama Flag, Whirligig, and Alabama's Birthday Card)

- 2 volunteers to help serve sweets to children
- 2 Floaters

If you are interested in helping on Friday, December 14th from 9am – 12pm please let Aimee Sparks know!



Volunteer, Bea Coley, helping at a Voices Gallery activity during Alabama Day 2008

# VOLUNTEERS ON THE MOVE



Former volunteer coordinators, Gene and Patricia, greet Dr. Bridges at his retirement reception.

Dory and Hank at Dr. Bridges' retirement reception



Elizabeth works on the Madera Spencer collection. Check out her organization cubbies filled with papers in the back!

Abby helps students find artifacts in the Sampler Gallery



Burns and Chuck working in the Govt Records Processing Room



James and Thelma grinding corn and decorating pottery with students at Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson

# 'FRIDGE NOTES

Keep track of activities at the Archives! Put this on your refrigerator! (*Volunteer events are highlighted in yellow.*)

EVENT	DATE
ArchiTreats: <i>Lord Remember Me: Archiving Alabama's Folklife</i>	November 15, 2012
Volunteer Enrichment: Holiday Tea @ Buena Vista Mansion in Prattville RSVP by November 19	December 3, 2012
Alabama Day School Event	December 14, 2012
ArchiTreats: <i>Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Alabama in the Civil War</i>	December 20, 2012
Sampler Gallery Closes and Phase II of the Museum of Alabama Begins	January 1, 2013
Archives Inventory	January 2 – 4, 2013
Cultural Crossroads Symposium	January 12, 2013

## ALABAMA



DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)

### Friends of the Alabama Archives Membership Application

- New Member  
 Renewal

- Family/Single \$25  
 Contributor \$50  
 Subscriber \$100  
 Sustainer \$250  
 Sponsor \$500  
 Patron \$750  
 Benefactor \$1,000  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I want to be a Friend.**

- Please enter my membership with all benefits including a subscription to *ADAH News*, a 10% Gift Shop discount, and free or reduced admission to Archives-sponsored events. (Subscriber members and above receive a one-year subscription to *Alabama Heritage* magazine.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to and mail to:

FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES  
624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, 36130-0100  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)

## INSIDE THE ARCHIVES

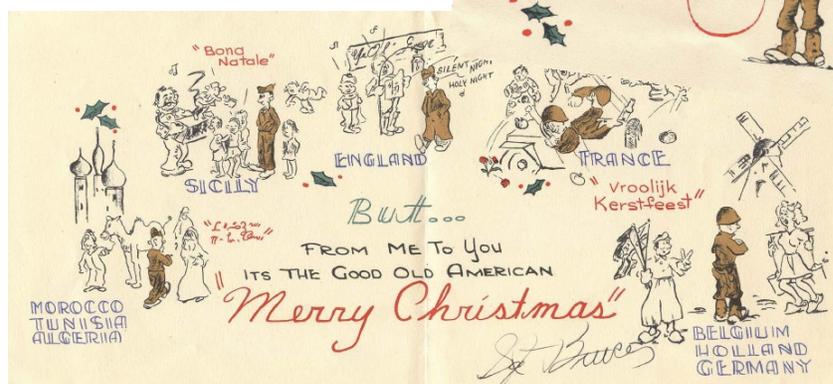
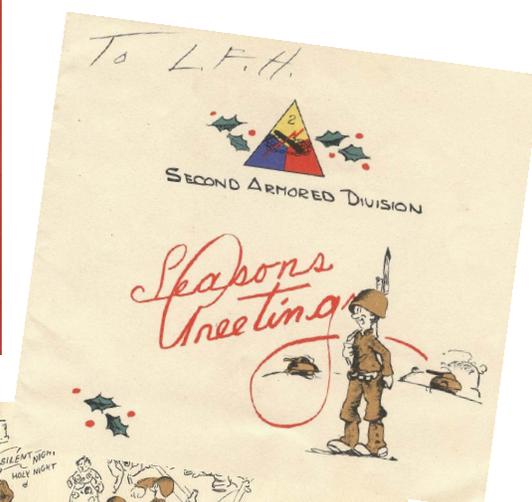
Holiday cards can be found in many collections in the Archives. Take a look at these three!



From "Elvis and the Colonel and Friends" to George Wallace.



From "Ina" to "Brother." Ina wrote on the inside, "Sending the Age-Herald and Sunday news for one month for Xmas. If you don't have time to read it, look at the pictures. "



From T.K. Bruce to *Letters from Home* staff at WSFA. *Letters from Home* were weekly newsletters sent to Montgomery County men and women serving in armed forces during World War II.

## MEET SHIRLEY MCCREEDY

By Nancy Dupree, Reference Archivist

Shirley Jones McCreedy has been an ADAH volunteer for twelve years. She works as a receptionist for the Research Room. Her duties include answering the telephone, fielding many genealogical questions and general questions from the public, and registering all new patrons on their first visit to the Research Room. The duty she takes most seriously, though, is sharing her extensive knowledge about the genealogical resources available in the Research Room with patrons who are visiting for the first time. There is little for the reference staff to do after one of Shirley's orientations.

Shirley has a deep love for genealogy, an interest she comes by natu-

rally. Her grandfather, Joel Desaker Jones, wrote a weekly newspaper column called "Old Times" for *The Democrat-Reporter* in Linden, Alabama from 1936-1942. The columns were rich with genealogical information about folks who lived in Marengo County and Alabama in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Shirley compiled and indexed a three-volume set of books of the columns for use in the Research Room. Patrons find the books especially useful, often finding nuggets of information not available in other records. Shirley retired from teaching in 1995 after teaching music and art for 23 years.

Besides her volunteer work here at the Archives, Shirley spends a good bit of time researching her ancestors. She has over 2300 surnames in

her family tree.

In addition to her love of genealogy, Shirley is an avid gardener. Her beautiful yard is a testament to her green thumb. Shirley also loves to travel, and has travelled extensively through the U.S., Europe, and Great Britain. Her favorite destination is Great Britain, the country from which her ancestors came.



Shirley works on a genealogy project while helping visitors and answering phones

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

## MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Please join us in welcoming our new volunteers!

Thanks for your time and talents!

**Burns Kennedy**  
Government records

**Lindsay Guest**  
Docent

## “ROCKING” IN THE CLASSROOM

Fall tour season is in full swing at the Archives. This year we not only have Montgomery County fourth-grade classes, but we have many other schools visiting the Archives for the *First Alabamians* and *Touch of History* tours.

The *Touch of History* tour includes three museum galleries on the second floor and *The First Alabamians* tour

includes hands-on activities in the classroom and the First Alabamians gallery. Hands-on activities include corn grinding, decorating pottery, artifact table, and pump-drill demonstration. So now you know what all the noise and excitement is about!

We couldn't do it without our dedicated volunteer Docents! Thank you!



Blount Elementary fourth graders in the classroom



## SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS AT SPECIAL EVENTS

We've had numerous special events this quarter, including a Genealogical workshop, Dr. Bridges' Retirement Reception, Academy of Honor, and Frontier Days.

A big **Thank You** to the following people who volunteered their time and made these events a success!

Nancy Bates  
Ken & Caryll Carrick  
Katherine Conely

Graeme DePace  
Maeghan DePace  
Doug Dillard  
James Durie  
Henry & Martha Durham  
Allen Edwards  
Tom Emerson  
Thelma Ivery  
Chuck Maney

Judy Osborne  
Gene Nelson  
Jennie Price  
Harry Spinks  
Patricia Sweet-Gerosolina  
Juliette Wimberly  
Mary Hazel Winstanley

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE GOVERNMENT RECORDS AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS: PART II

By Mike Breedlove, Gov't Records Archivist

"Look at this!" exclaimed Martha. As I strode over to the table where Martha Durham worked on some records of the Dept. of Education, I wondered what she had found. The answer was that she had a broadside about a barbeque at the Rosenwald school, with Booker T. Washington speaking, 1916 September 08, in the Department of Education Correspondence of the Rural School Agent, 1913-1922.

This item eventually went on display at the Museum of American

History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., and has since returned to the Archives. Finding documents like that is certainly not an everyday occurrence. Yet finding documents worth preserving and making them accessible is what drives volunteers like Martha to help the Government Records Division to work with records.

Talented and devoted volunteers work with records so that they will be accessible for future generations of researchers. The volunteers carefully remove staples, flatten documents, and place those documents in archival folders that they then label by hand or use hand stamps.

After the volunteers perform this valuable service, finding aids are produced or updated to make these records more accessible to researchers, especially genealogists and students.

