



Alabama History Notebook

A collection of Alabama symbols, maps, and photographs for students

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The State Name

The history of the word or name, *Alabama*, has been discussed by researchers for many years. It was the name of an important southern Indian tribe whose habitat was in what is now central Alabama when the first Europeans came to Alabama. One of the major waterways in the state was named for this group. The name of the river was then used as the name for the state.

The tribal name of *Alabama* was spelled in various ways by the early Spanish, French, and British chroniclers: *Alabama*, *Albama*, *Alebamon*, *Alibama*, *Alibamou*, *Alibamon*, *Alabamu*, and *Allibamou*. The first record of this can be found in three of the accounts of the Hernando de Soto expedition of 1540: *Alibamo* by Garcillasso de la Vega, *Alibamu* by the Knight of Elvas, and *Limamu* by Rodrigo. The name as reported by these writers was the name of a subdivision of the Chickasaws, not the historic Alabamas tribe of later times.

The popular belief that *Alabama* signifies "Here We Rest" stems from a history of the word in the 1850s through the writings of Alexander Beauford Meek. However, the first known use of this phrase appeared earlier in an unsigned article in a July 27, 1842, issue of the *Jacksonville Republican*. Experts in the Muskogee dialect have been unable to find any word or phrase similar to *Alabama* with the meaning "Here We Rest."

According to some research, one must look for the tribal name *Alabama* as it was spoken in the Choctaw tongue. It was not uncommon for tribes to accept a name given them by a neighboring tribe. The Rev. Allen Wright, a Choctaw scholar, translated the name as *thicket clearers*, which is a combination of *Alba* meaning "a thick or mass vegetation," and *amo* meaning "to clear, to collect, to gather up."



Section 1: The Native Americans of Alabama

Southeastern Indian Place Names in Alabama

Alabama- a river, and the name of our state. Derived from the Choctaw words *alba amo*, which mean "those who clear the land."

Atalla- a city in Etowah County. Derived from the Cherokee word *otali*, which means "mountain."

Autauga- a county in central Alabama. Derived from the Creek word *atigi*, which means "border."

Chattahoochee- a river that forms a portion of the boundary between Alabama and Georgia. Derived from the Creek words *chato huchi*, which mean "marked rocks."

Cheaha- the tallest mountain in Alabama, it is located in Clay county. Derived from the Choctaw word *chaha*, which means "high."

Conecuh- a river in southern Alabama. Derived from the Creek words *koha anaka*, which means "cane-brakes near."

Escambia- a county in southern Alabama. Derived from the Choctaw words *oski ambeha*, which mean "cane therein."

Letohatchee- a town in Lowndes County. Derived from the Creek words *li ito fachita*, which mean "those who make arrows straight."

Loachapoka- a town in Lee County. Derived from the Creek words *loca poga*, which mean "turtle killing place."

Mobile- a city, river, and county in south Alabama. Derived from the Choctaw word *moeli*, which means "the rowers."

Notasulga- a town in Macon County. Derived from the Creek words *noti sulgi*, which mean "many teeth."

Opelika- a city in Lee County. Derived from the Creek words *opilwa lako*, which mean "big swamp."

Patsilaga- a creek that flows through Crenshaw County, and unites with the Conecuh River in Covington County. Derived from the Creek words *pachi laiki*, which mean "pigeon roost."

Sipsey- a river in western Alabama, flowing into the Tombigbee in Greene County. Derived from the Choctaw word *sipsi*, which means "cottonwood."

Talladega- a city and county in northeast Alabama. Derived from the Creek words *talwa atigi*, which means "border town."

Tallapoosa- a river that unites with the Coosa to form the Alabama River. Derives from the Choctaw words *tali pushi*, which mean "pulverized rock."

Tallassee- a town in Elmore County. Derived from the Creek words *talwa hasi*, which means "old town."

Tombigbee- a river in western Alabama. Derived from the Choctaw words *itombi ikbi*, which mean "coffin makers."

Tuscaloosa- a city and county in western Alabama. Derived from the Choctaw words *tashka lusa*, which mean "black warrior."

Tuscumbia- a city in northwest Alabama. Derived from the Choctaw words *tashka abi*, which mean "warrior killer."

Wetumpka- a city in Elmore County. Derived from the Creek words *wewau tumcau*, which mean "rumbling water."

All place names and definitions taken from the following book: Read, William A. Indian Place Names in Alabama. University of Alabama Press: Tuscaloosa, AL, 1994.

Indian Basket Making

The art of basket making is one of the oldest crafts known to humans. When the Paleo Indians entered Alabama around 11,000 B.C., they probably brought baskets with them. However, because plant fibers decay at a rapid rate, especially in the humid climate of the Southeast, no fibers have survived. The earliest archaeological evidence dates to 3500 B.C. at an Archaic Indian site in the Southeast where basket impressions were found imbedded in a burned clay hearth.

Materials from the Southeast used in basket weaving are white oak, split cane, and pine needles. Dyes for basket fibers were made by boiling parts of plants and then soaking the fibers in the dye solution. Some of these natural dyes included:

PLANT	COLOR
Yellowroot	Mustard yellow
Bloodroot	Rusty red
Black walnut	Black
Elderberry	Wine to pink
Onion skin	Red, purple, or yellow
Pokeberry	Light pink

Three basic methods of construction used in basket making are twining, coiling, and plaiting. Indians made a variety of items, including mats, cradles, clothing, fish traps, bags, and baskets, using these weaving techniques.

Both twine and coil baskets are made by interlocking immobile fibers with moving fibers. In twine baskets, a set of moving fibers is horizontally woven around stationary vertical fibers. Coil baskets are constructed by coiling a fiber around itself and stitching it together. In plait weaving each strip of fiber moves, passing over and under one another similar to braiding.

At present, the Southeastern Indians use either plaiting or coiling techniques in basket making. Cherokee and Choctaw weavers use variations of plaiting to make cane and split oak baskets. Pine needle straw baskets are made by the Creeks with the coil technique.

For more information: Alabama Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 870340, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340. Phone: (205) 348-7550. E-mail: museum.programs@ua.edu.

Early Native American Ceramics

Around 3,000 years ago, Southeastern Indians started making pottery out of clay mixed with plant fibers to strengthen it. The first crude vessels in Alabama were similar in shape to stone pots made during the Archaic period. Several hundred years later, this tempering of the clay with fibers was replaced by other materials reduced the amount of shrinking and cracking that pottery undergoes while drying and being fired. During the Woodland period, Alabama Indians used sand grit, grog (crushed pottery sherds), and ground bone to temper ceramics.

Indian pottery was made using several different techniques. Since Native Americans did not use a potters' wheel, all their vessels were made by hand using three methods:

Pinching – Small vessels were made by pinching and molding the form from a ball of clay. Coiling – Most vessels were made by rolling coils of clay and stacking them one on top of another, then smoothing them together.

Slab building – Slabs of clay which were joined together at the seams with coils of molded by being placed on the inside or outside of another ceramic bowl.

Methods of decorating included:

Incising – drawing designs into the wet clay with a sharp instrument;

Engraving – scratching designs onto a dried clay pot;

Stamping – making impressions on the wet clay with a paddle which is carved or covered with fabric or cord;

Brushing – marking the pot's exterior with pine straw or grass;

Punctating – making impressions with a round stick or hollow reed

Painting – applying designs using white clay and red and black stains

Modeling – shaping effigies of humans or animals to the pot's exterior.

After drying, pottery was fired in an earthen kiln. Vessels were heated beside the fire first, then slowly worked down into the coals where they remained for several hours.

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Clothing and Personal Adornment

One of the main ways Southeastern Indians expressed the difference between men and women was through clothing. The basic garment for men was the breechcloth, a rectangular piece of leather or woven grass worn between the legs. Men also wore sashes with long tassels tied at their waists or draped across their shoulders. When travelling, the men wore deerskin leggings, one for each leg suspended from the belt.

When the weather was cold, both men and women wore a "matchcoat" which was a mantle made of animal skins and draped over one or both shoulders. These matchcoats were made of the skins of bison, deer, beaver, muskrat, or other animals. Matchcoats for the elite were made of bird feathers woven into a fiber mesh. During cold weather both men and women wore leather moccasins that were wrapped around the ankles or calves. Men also wore a pouch suspended from their belts or sashes which contained tobacco, a pipe, flint, and other tools.

Women wore a short deerskin skirt which covered them from the waist to the knees. In warm weather, they wore nothing above the waist. In cold weather, they wore feather or skin matchcoats draped under the right arm and tied over the left shoulder, exposing the right breast. Children went naked in warm weather until the age of 12 or 13, when they began to wear adult clothing.

Native Americans used shells, seeds, bone, teeth, stones, and feathers to make body decorations. They wore ear spools, necklaces with pendants made from conch shells, hair knots, and belts with tassels on the ends. Usually they wore nothing on their heads, but occasionally men wore turbans made of animal skin, feathers, or cloth. During ceremonies, the hair was decorated with feathers.

After glass beads were introduced by Europeans, the Indians became expert in designing colorful belts, headbands, necklaces, and other jewelry. These items used the designs from the ancient religious culture as well as adapting new patterns from European designs.

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Native American Foods

Southeastern Native Americans had a widely-varied food supply that included wild and cultivated plant foods, game, and fish. Much of the Indian culture was based on hunting and fishing. Game included buffalo, deer, small mammals, birds, and sometimes bear. Large fish were abundant, as were smaller fish and various types of shell fish.

Much of the Indians' diet was made up of wild plants, including various root vegetables, berries, fruits, nuts, and seeds. After agriculture was developed, the native peoples produced numerous varieties of corn, beans, and squash. Agriculture was principally a woman's occupation. The forests were cleared by the men, and the large fields were planted by both men and women. The garden plots of kitchen gardens lying within or around the village were cultivated by women.

The Southeastern Indians dried or smoked their food for storage. Sundried plums, grapes, and berries lasted several months. Meat was boiled in a stew or broiled over a wood fire or dried. Meat, fish, and oysters were smoked. The staple food of the Southeastern Indians was cracked hominy (grits) from which a kind of soup was made. The Creeks called this dish *sa-fki*, the Cherokees called it *gano-ni*, and the Choctaws called it *tanfula*. They also made bread from cornmeal.

Among the most important religious ceremonies was the Green Corn Ceremony, or Busk (from a word meaning "to fast"), held in summer between late July and early September to mark the ripening of the late corn. This rite of thanksgiving for a successful corn crop was also a time of purification and renewal. The people of the tribe fasted, refurbished their public buildings, washed their clothing, cleaned the ceremonial grounds, and most importantly, put out the old fire and lit a new fire. After several days of ritual purification and dancing, a great feast was prepared with dried meat, fish, oil, beans, pumpkins, and the new corn.

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Indian Games

Chunkey

Chunkey was a popular game played by men in the Southeastern Indian tribes (it was a version of the hoop and pole game played by Native Americans all over North America). A wheel-shaped disc made of polished stone or clay was rolled down by the field. Two players held long poles, and just as the chunkey stone stopped rolling, each player cast his pole at the stone. The player coming closest to or touching the stone won.

Rolling a Stone

Similar to chunkey, 'rolling a stone' was played by rolling a small ceramic or soapstone ball (or disc) along a trench several feet long. At the end of the trench were a series of small holes dug into the earth, some more difficult to roll the ball into than others. Whoever rolled the stone ball into the highest scoring holes was the winner.

Hidden Ball of Moccasin Game

A small stone was hidden under one of four moccasins, and the object was to guess which one the object was hidden under. The skill was in misleading the guesser with special chants, body movements and other tricks. This was a popular gambling game and was called 'the shell game' by Europeans.

Cane Game

Played with four 8-inch gaming sticks made of split cane, this game was similar to throwing dice. The player threw the sticks up in the air, and the scoring was calculated on whether the convex or concave sides were up when the sticks landed. Different tribes scored this game in different ways.

Corn Game

This game was also similar to throwing dice. Played with a dozen or so corn kernels, seeds, or beans which had been blackened on one side, the score was calculated by the number of black or white sides landing up after the grains were tossed. This game was played by Cherokees, Creeks, and Choctaws.

Hoop and Pole Game

This was a game of skill, played with a hoop made from willow and webbed with cord. The hoops were rolled on a smooth, flat ground surface. Each player was given five tries and as the hoop rolled, the player threw his pole at the hoop, trying to hit the center webbing. Each player got one throw at a time, and the score was based on the row of webbing the pole passed through, the nearer the center, the higher the score. If the pole passed all the way through the hoop, the player earned no points.

Tossed Ball

Similar to the game of jacks, seven sticks were laid on the ground. Each player threw the ball up in the air, picking up one stick before catching the ball. If the ball hit the ground, their turn was over. If they succeeded, they threw the ball again and picked up two sticks. As long as the player was successful, their turn continued, picking up one more stick each time, until all seven of the sticks were picked up. When the player missed, they relinquished the ball to the next player. When the first player began their turn again, they had to begin with one stick.

The Shell Guessing Game

This game required six players on each team. The object was to guess under which shell the team has hidden a marble. One player from the first team started the game by hiding the marble under one of seven shells. The person on the opposite team across from that player guessed where the marble was hidden. If the guess was correct, their team received one point and that team continued guessing in turn. If the guess was incorrect, the player scored nothing for this team, and the opposing team began guessing.

The game continued until all of the twenty counters had been distributed. Score was kept with small markers or counters which were made of a small pebble, a pottery fragment, a grain of corn, or a special disc made of stone. The team with the largest number of points won the game.

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Native American Music and Dance

Music, dance, and ritual cannot be separated in Southeastern Native American culture. All religious ceremonies were accompanied by dancing, singing, and the playing of musical instruments to honor and appease the gods. These rituals insured the health and prosperity of the hunters and farmers by honoring the “three life-giving-sisters” – corn, beans, and squash.

The most basic musical expression was the voice. Songs or chants varied in length, and many had a great deal of repetition. Some Southeastern Indian songs used antiphonal responses with a group leader and an answering chorus. One present day Cherokee stomp dance is accompanied by the chanted phrase: YU'-WAW YU'-WAW HI. These are nonsense syllables similar to fa-la-la-la-la in “Deck the Halls.”

Many dances were named after animals such as the Horned-owl Dance, the Snake Dance, the Bear Dance, and the Duck Dance. Most dances formed a circle of spiral and were danced around a fire usually in a counterclockwise direction (the direction in which a rattlesnake coils itself and opposite the direction followed by the sun). The dancing itself was a basic shuffle accompanied at times by gestures and arm motions.

At present, the typical dance is a group social dance called a “stomp dance” with a leader or “caller” conducting in the manner of follow-the-leader.

The most common musical instruments were percussive – that is, sounded by striking, shaking, or scraping. These instruments included the skin drums, gourd rattles, terrapin shell leg rattles, and rasps. Flutes made of cane, ceramics, or bone was also common.

Native American music was influenced by natural sounds – wind in the trees, warbling of birds, the roar of thunderstorms. Present-day descendants of the Southeastern Indians still sing some of the traditional songs that arose before the Europeans came to America.

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Native American Pigments

Southeastern Indians used natural pigments for colors to decorate themselves in preparation for rituals or festivals. Designs were painted or tattooed on their faces and other parts of their bodies.

For Native Americans, different colors represented symbolic aspects of their religion: **Yellow** and **Red** represented the sun rising in the east, the origin of life, springtime, birth, and new life.

Green and **Blue** referred to the south, the summer, midday, maturity, and ripeness. **White** symbolized the north, the afternoon, winter, meditation, and contemplation resulting in wisdom.

Black was associated with the west where the sun sets, autumn, and the path which all must travel, resulting in death.

Minerals used for stains or paint include kaolin, hematite, and yellow ochre, and glauconite. Kaolin is a pure white clay also used in painting the outside of pottery vessels. Hematite, yellow ochre, and glauconite are all minerals containing iron ore. Hematite is red to orange, yellow ochre is yellow, and glauconite is dull green. Both hematite and yellow ochre were also used in painting pottery.

Other colorants used in body decoration included black walnut, berries, and natural clays which come in a wide variety of colors.

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Native American Recipes

Chestnut Bread

Peel one pound of chestnuts. Remove the inside skin. Mix with cornmeal to stick together. Add some boiling water to make dough. Stir. Wrap in corn shucks. Bake.

Pumpkin (I-YA in Cherokee)

Cut ripe pumpkin in rings, remove the peeling (to be used later for tea) and seeds (to be used for soup or snacks). Hang on a stick near the fire to dry slowly. The pumpkin may be stored until ready to cook. It may be prepared in any way you like pumpkin; the Native American often ate it dried.

Sunflower Seed Soup

2 cups shelled sunflower seeds 6 cups water or
broth 3 wild onions chopped 1 tsp. salt

Simmer all ingredients 45 minutes and serve hot.

Peppermint Tea

Gather peppermint – the kind that grows along the streams. Crush the leaves, pour boiling water over them, and serve hot or iced. Sweeten to taste with honey.

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Southeastern Indians' Use of Plants

Southeastern Native Americans learned from childhood the appropriate plant for their many needs – for food, housing, medicine, clothing, ornaments for art. Anthropologists estimate that the Southeastern Indians utilized over 1,000 varieties of plants, including more than 200 cultivated varieties. Often our best guide to Indian plant use is the traditional lore preserved by modern Indians and their use of American plants. Sometimes seeds, fragments of charred wood, the imprint of fabric, matting or basketry in baked clay have been found by archaeologists who can actually see the plants used thousands of years ago.

Cultivated Plant Foods

The Indians' greatest legacy to us is their three main food crops – squash, beans, and corn. More than sixty varieties of squash were cultivated, including large winter squashes, yellow or crook-necked squash, and pumpkins. Corn, or maize, was a staple of the Indians which they grew in a number of varieties, including popcorn. Some types stored well; others were eaten fresh or roasted. Some types ripened early, others late, allowing the farmers to keep a fresh crop in harvest from late spring until late fall.

Wild Plant Foods

Many wild foods favored by the Indians are still favorites of ours today. Pecans, hickory nuts, wild plums, persimmons, black walnuts, palm hearts, chestnuts (chinquapins), beech nuts, wild grapes, muscadine, acorns, arrowfoot, greenbriar tubers, wild sweet potatoes, papaws, blueberries, and honey locust pods are but a few of the wild foods used by Indians.

Herbal Dyes and Medicines

Many shrubs and herbs had uses as dyes or medicines. Sumac, black walnut, butternut, red oak, and yellowroot were important dye plants. Buckeye was the source of a fish poison. Willow (the original source of snakeroot, wormseed (*Chaenopodium*), red cedar, spicebush, and horsemint were important medicinal herbs.

Use of Trees

Trees were used for different properties: red cedar was used in carving and valued for its odor and durability. Hickory and white oak, because of their strength and toughness were used for tools and corn grinding mortars. The inner bark of basswood, elm and mulberry was used to make thread and rope and in weaving textiles. Cypress, because of its resistance to rot in water was used for canoes, posts and split shingles. Large canoes were made of tulip poplar. Bows were made from locust, sassafras, or dogwood. Sassafras, locust, willow, palmetto, sumac, pine, and gum also had specific uses in crafts, and medicine.

River cane was another important. Huge tracts, called "canebreaks" covered the river lowlands, some of it 30 feet in height and several inches in diameter. This cane was used as house building material, as arrows, in baskets, traps, and mat weaving, and in other everyday uses.

Stone Tools of the Early Indians

Paleo Indians brought the art of flaking stone – or flint knapping – when they came from Asia into North America some time before 20,000 B.C. Weapons and tools made from stone were basic to the survival of early settlers in this hemisphere. Projectile points, commonly called *arrowheads*, were the most common stone implements (true arrowheads were not developed until about 1,000 years ago.)

Larger projectile points were used as knives or as tips for spears. Spear points were mounted onto a short piece of wood called a *foreshaft* which fitted into a socket on the end of the larger spear shaft. The foreshaft came loose after striking the prey, leaving the spear point imbedded in the animal. In this way, a number of foreshafts, but only one or two of the cumbersome spear shafts were carried on the hunt.

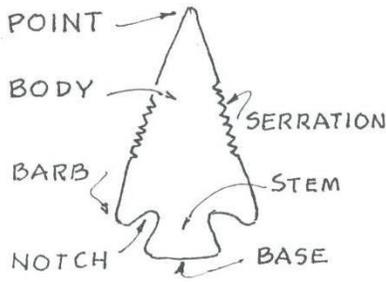
During Archaic times, a wide variety of projectile points were made in different shapes and sizes. Other flaked tools such as drills, scrapers, reamers (a rotating tool used to enlarge holes), perforators, and spokeshaves (tool for planing surfaces) also came into widespread use during this period.

Archaic Indians made stone objects by using new techniques. Bowls and pipes were carved from several kinds of soft stone. Hard, dense material such as greenstone, was pecked into a rough form, ground to shape, and finally polished with fine grained sands. Some of the objects made in this manner were called celts (axe heads) and atlatl weights (part of a spear thrower). Other polished stone items included pendants, gorgets (ornamental pendants), or stones used in playing games.

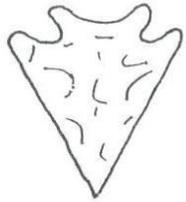
During the Woodland period, the variety and size of stone projectile points declined. The beginnings of horticulture also made people less dependent on hunting for survival. Toward the end of the Woodland period, 1,000 years ago, the bow and arrow were developed, making spear points almost obsolete. The arrowhead, which was used throughout the Mississippian period into historic times, was smaller and thinner than the earlier spear heads.

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Projectile Points



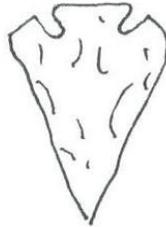
Weapons and tools made from stone were basic to the survival of early Indians. Projectile points, commonly called *arrowheads*, were the most common stone tools. Small and thin points were used as arrow tips. Larger projectile points were used as knives or as tips for spears. Points were made differently according to the time period and purpose. Below are some common styles of points.



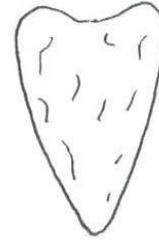
BIFURIGATED



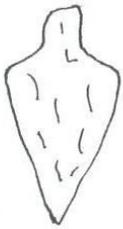
WEDGE TAILED



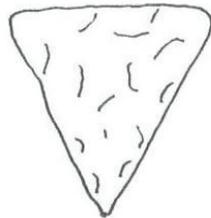
SQUARE BARBED



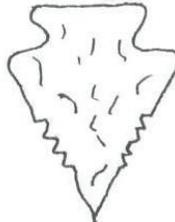
LANCELATE WITH INCURVATE BASE



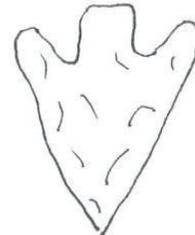
STEMMED AND SHOULDERS



TRIANGULAR



SERRATED



STEMMED AND BARBED



BROADSTEMMED



SQUARE TAILED

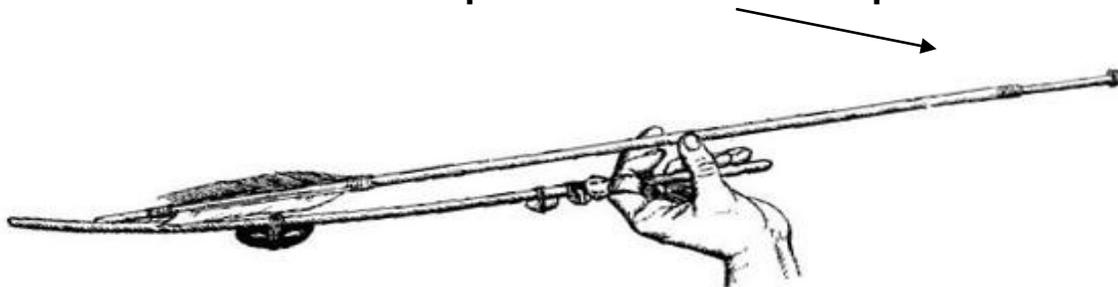


DOVE TAILED



LEAF

Draw one of the points above on this spear.



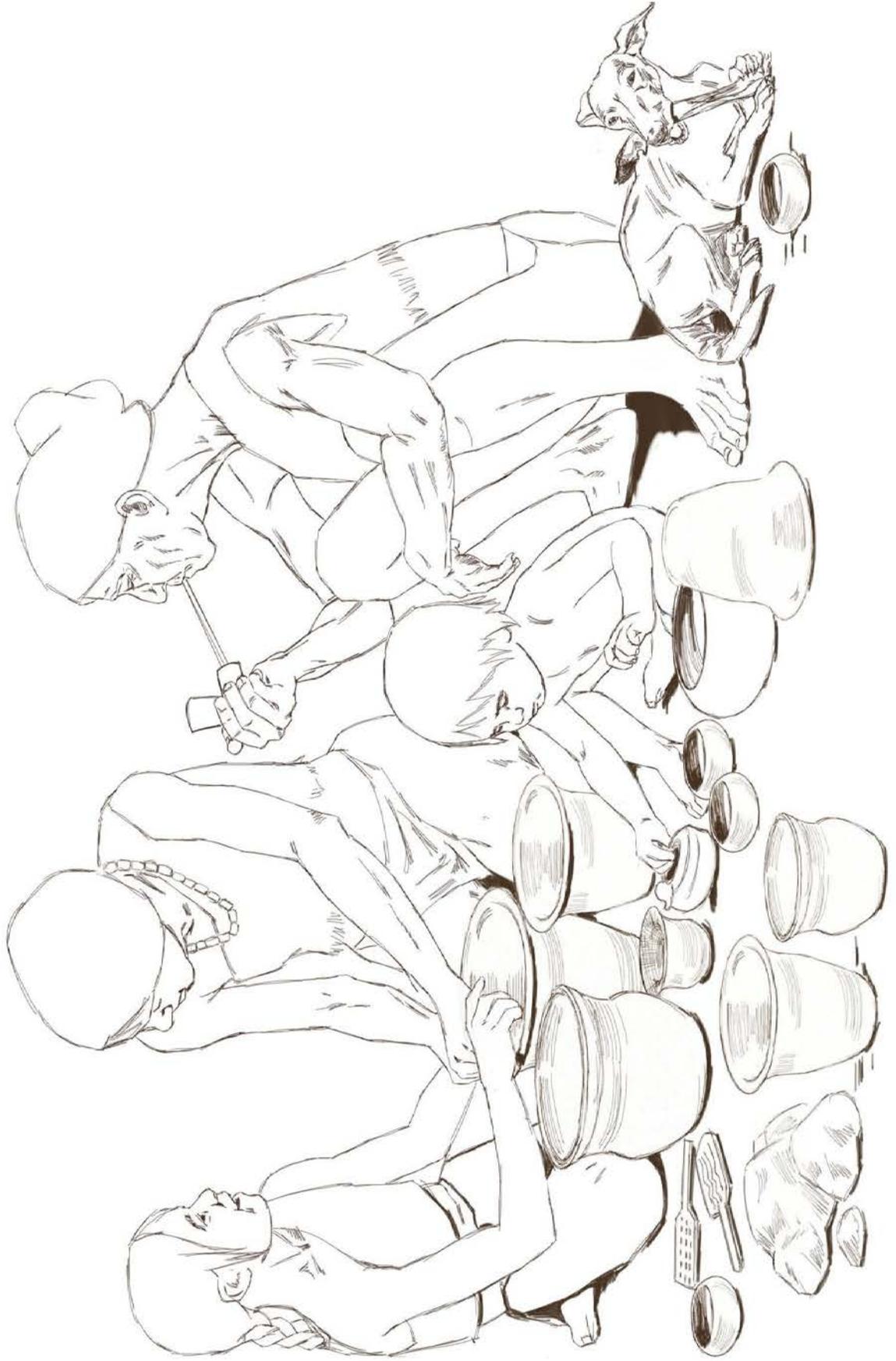
First Alabamian Artifacts Coloring Sheet



*Showing the Atlatl
Coloring Sheet*

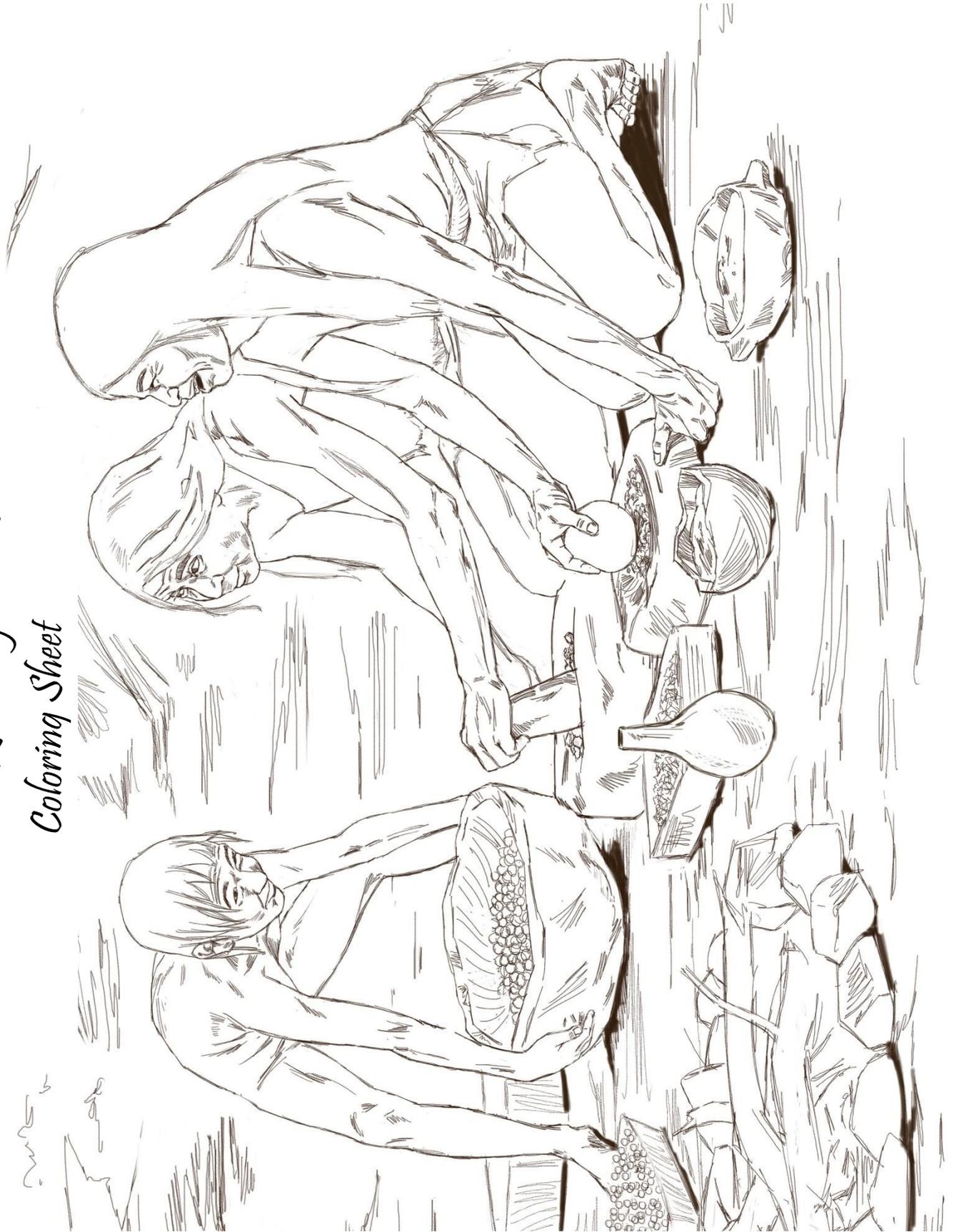


Woodland Pottery
Coloring Sheet



Stone Tools (Grinding Stones)

Coloring Sheet



*Mississippian Ceremony
Coloring Sheet*





*Mississippian Silhouettes
Coloring Sheet*

*Trading
Coloring Sheet*





ALABAMA STATE FLAG
adopted 1923



THE CAMELLIA
Alabama State Flower



THE YELLOWHAMMER
Alabama State Bird



THE LONG LEAF PINE
Alabama State Tree



ALABAMA COAT OF ARMS
"We Dare Defend Our Rights"



THE FIGHTING TARPON
Alabama State Fish

Section 2: Alabama Symbols

Official Alabama State Coat of Arms



ALABAMA

Act 39-140, *Acts of Alabama*, March 14, 1939

The Alabama Great Seal



Act 1868-133, *Acts of Alabama*, December 29, 1868

Act 39-20, *Acts of Alabama*, April 5, 1939

State Flag of Alabama



The present Alabama State Flag was authorized by the Alabama Legislature on February 16, 1895, by Act number 383. According to the *Acts of Alabama, 1895*, the state flag was to be a crimson cross of St. Andrew on a field of white. The bars forming the cross were not to be less than six inches broad and were to extend diagonally across the flag from side to side. The act did not designate a square or a rectangular flag.

Act 1895-383, *Acts of Alabama*, February 16, 1895.

Act 23-444, *Acts of Alabama*, September 26, 1923.

Act 2001-472, *Acts of Alabama*, May 15, 2001.

Alabama State Bird

Yellowhammer or Northern Flicker

Scientific Name: *Colaptes auratus*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 27-542, *Acts of Alabama*, September 6, 1927

Alabama State Freshwater Fish

Largemouth Bass Scientific Name:

Micropterus salmoides



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 75-1183, *Acts of Alabama*, October 10, 1975

Alabama State Saltwater Fish

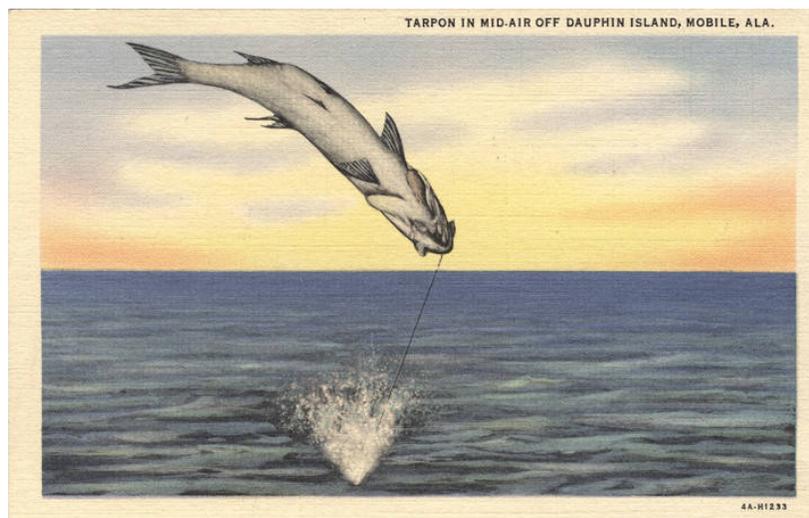
Tarpon

Scientific Name: *Megalops atlantica*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama*
retrieved from

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>



Act 55- 564, *Acts of Alabama*, September 9, 1955

Alabama State Flower

Camellia

Scientific Name: *Camellia japonica* L.



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>



Act 27-541, *Acts of Alabama*, September 6, 1927
Act 59-124, *Acts of Alabama*, August 26, 1959
Act 99-313, *Acts of Alabama*, June 1, 1999

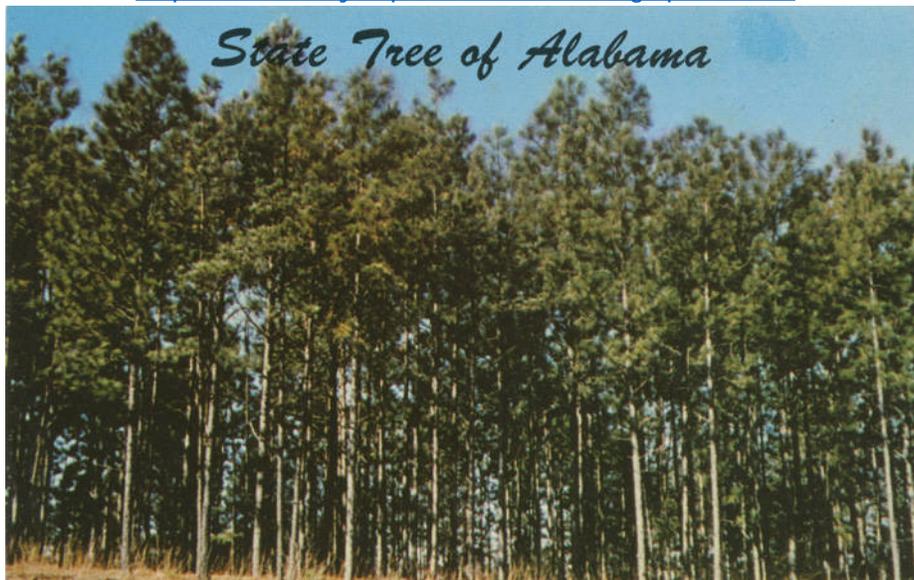
Alabama State Tree

Southern Longleaf Pine

Scientific Name: *Pinus palustris*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

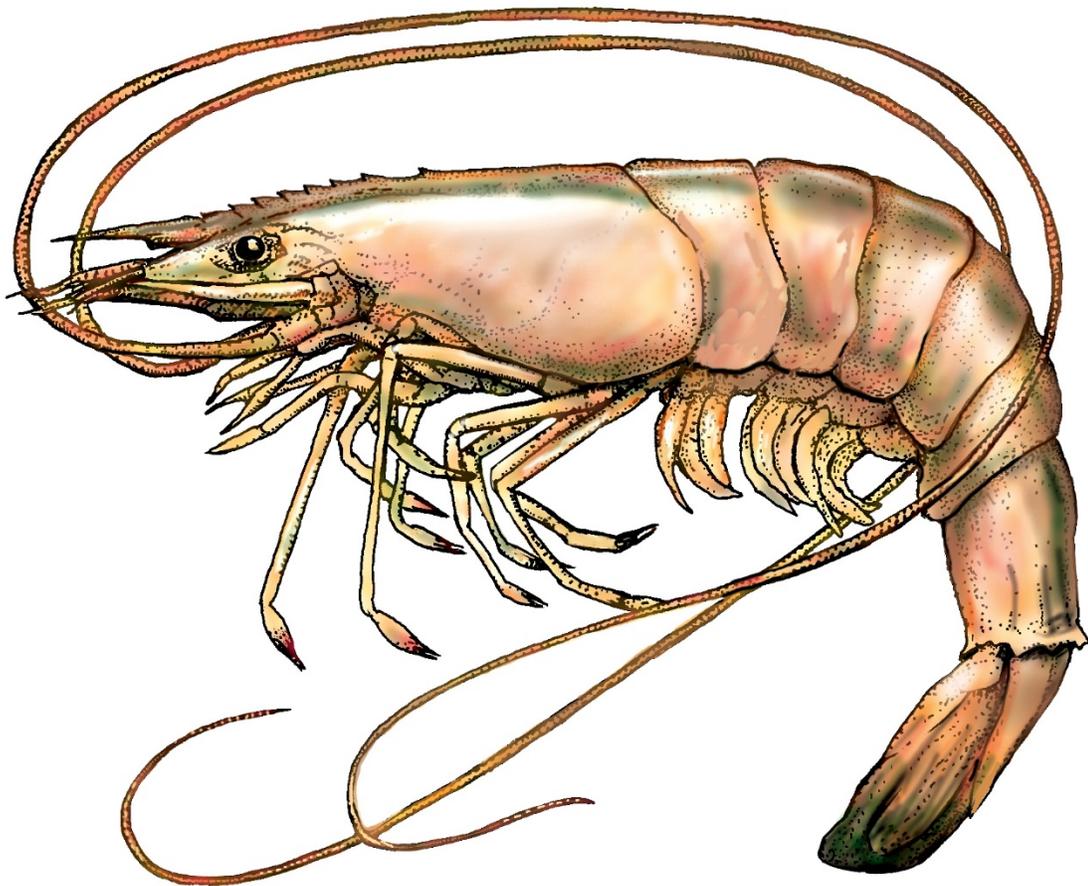


Act 49-143, *Acts of Alabama*, June 28, 1949
Act 97-548, *Acts of Alabama*, May 22, 1997

Alabama State Crustacean

Brown Shrimp

Scientific Name: *Farfantepenaeus aztecus*



Act 2015-124, *Acts of Alabama*, May 5, 2015

Alabama State Wildflower

Oak-leaf Hydrangea

Scientific name:

Hydrangea quercifolia



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 99-913, *Acts of Alabama*, June 1, 1999

Alabama State Insect

Monarch Butterfly

Scientific Name: *Danaus plexippus*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Alabama State Reptile

Alabama Red-bellied Turtle

Scientific Name: *Pseudemys alabamensis*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>



Act 90-82, *Acts of Alabama*, February 13, 1990

Alabama State Soil

Bama Soil Series



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Acts of Alabama, April 24 , 1997

Alabama State Amphibian

Red Hills Salamander

Scientific Name: *Phaeognathus hubrichti*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of Dante Fenolio <http://www.anotheca.com/>

Act 2000-232, *Acts of Alabama*, April 13, 2000

Alabama State Mammal

Black Bear

Scientific Name: *Ursus americanus*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

SB76, *Acts of Alabama*, 2006

Alabama State Fossil

Scientific Name: Basilosaurus cetoides



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Photo reprinted by permission of Colin Swift/Digitaldesigns.com

Act 84-66, *Acts of Alabama*, 1984

Alabama State Game Bird

Wild Turkey

Scientific Name: *Meleagris gallopavo*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 80-734, *Acts of Alabama*, May 28, 1980

Alabama State Horse

Racking Horse

Scientific Name: *Equus caballus*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of Greg and Amanda Dutton, Misty Mountain Farm

Act 75-1153, *Acts of Alabama*, October 10, 1975

Alabama State Nut

Pecan

Scientific Name: *Carya illinoensis*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of *Southern Progress Corporation*

Act 82-17, *Acts of Alabama*, February 2, 1982

Alabama State Fruit

Blackberry

Scientific Name: *Rubus, R. occidentalis*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of *Southern Progress Corporation*

Act 2004-363, *Acts of Alabama*, April 30, 2004

Alabama Shell

Johnstone's Junonia

Scientific Name: *Scaphella junonia
johnstoneae*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of Stuart Woodfin

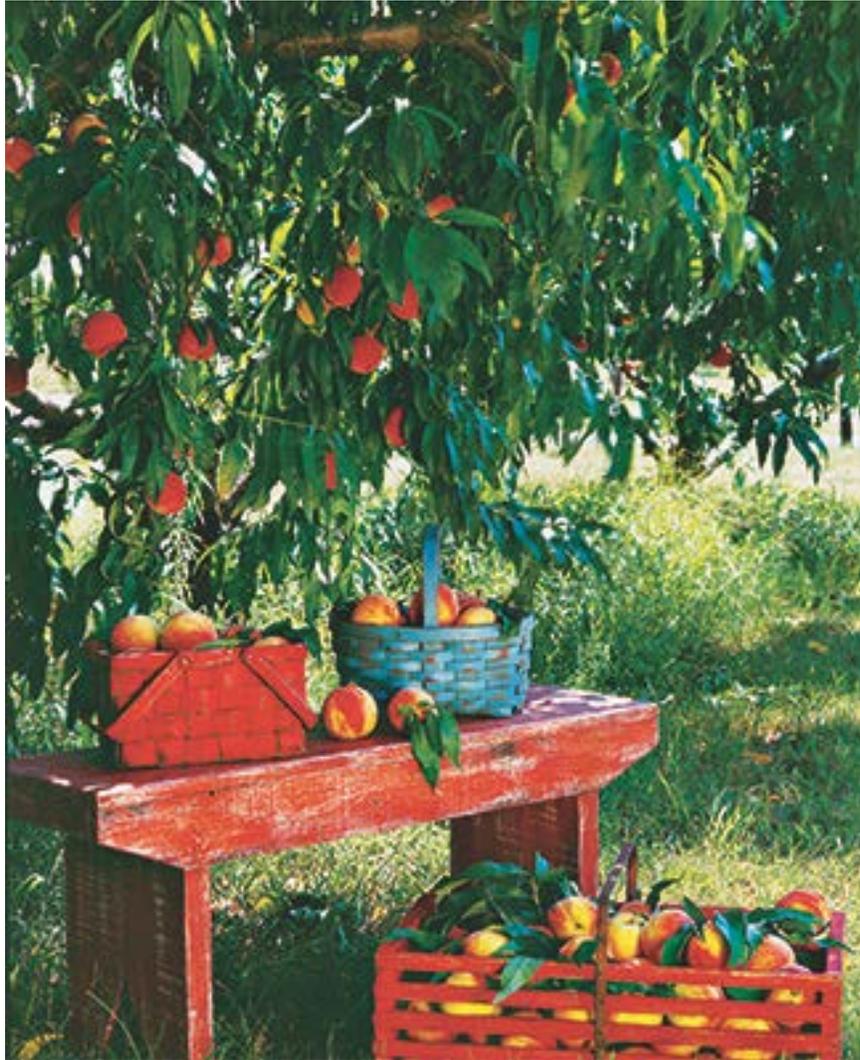
Act 90-567, *Acts of Alabama*, April 19, 1990

State Tree Fruit of Alabama

Peach

Scientific Name:

Rosacea prunus persica



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

HB205, *Acts of Alabama*, 2006

Alabama Mascot and Butterfly
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Scientific Name: *Papilio glaucas*



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
By permission of Jacopo Werther

Act 89-676, *Acts of Alabama*, May 11, 1989

Alabama Gemstone

Star Blue Quartz

Scientific Name: *Silicon dioxide*



Picture source: The Encyclopedia of Alabama retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 90-203, *Acts of Alabama*, March 29, 1990

Alabama Mineral

Hematite

(Red Iron Ore)

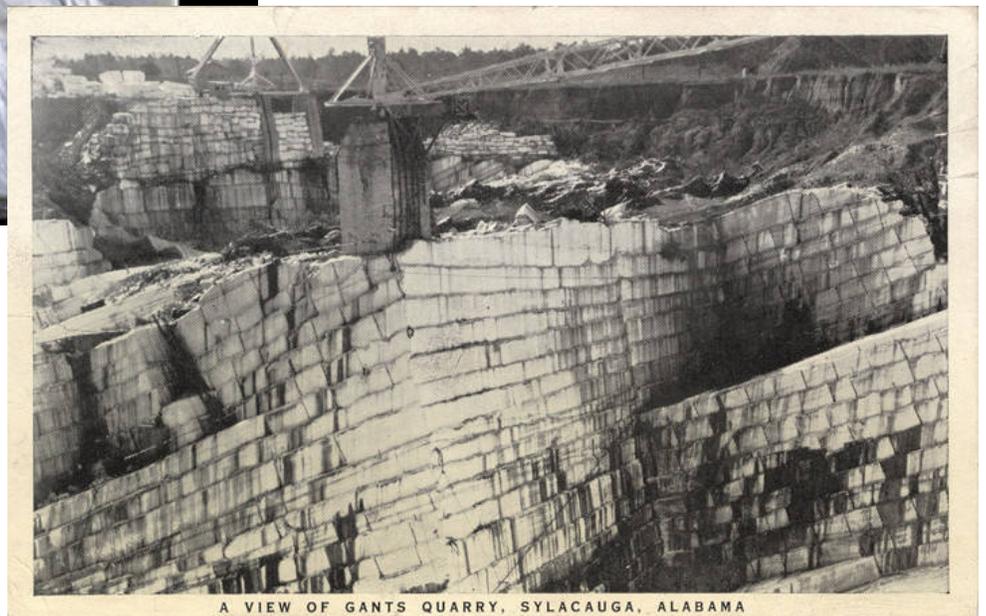


Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 67-503, *Acts of Alabama*, September 7, 1967

Alabama Rock

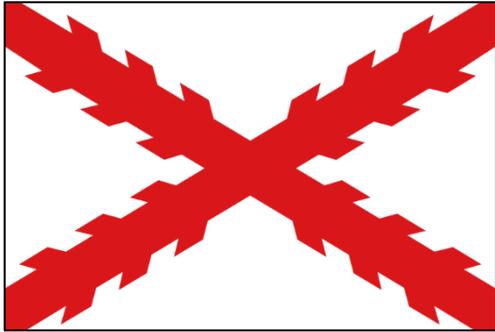
Marble



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>

Act 69-755, *Acts of Alabama*, September 12, 1969

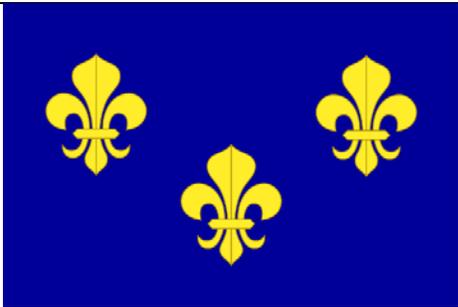
National Flags that have Flown over Alabama



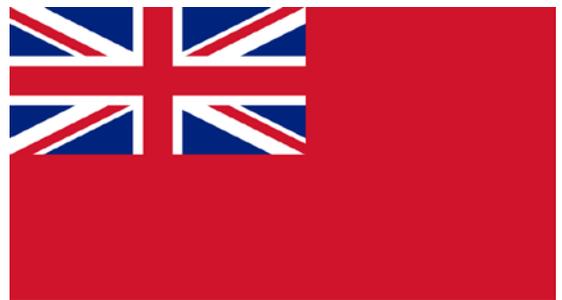
Kingdom of Spain



Flag of Bourbon Spain



Flag of Bourbon France



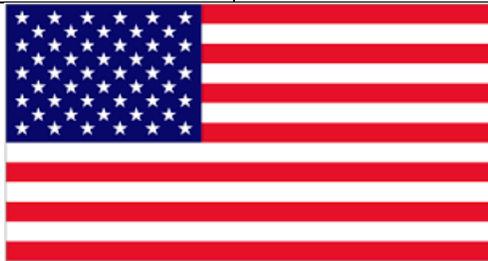
Flag of British Empire



First National Flag,
Confederate States of America



Flag of the Alabama Secession
Convention



Flag of the United States of America

Alabama Motto

Audemus Jura Nostra Defendere

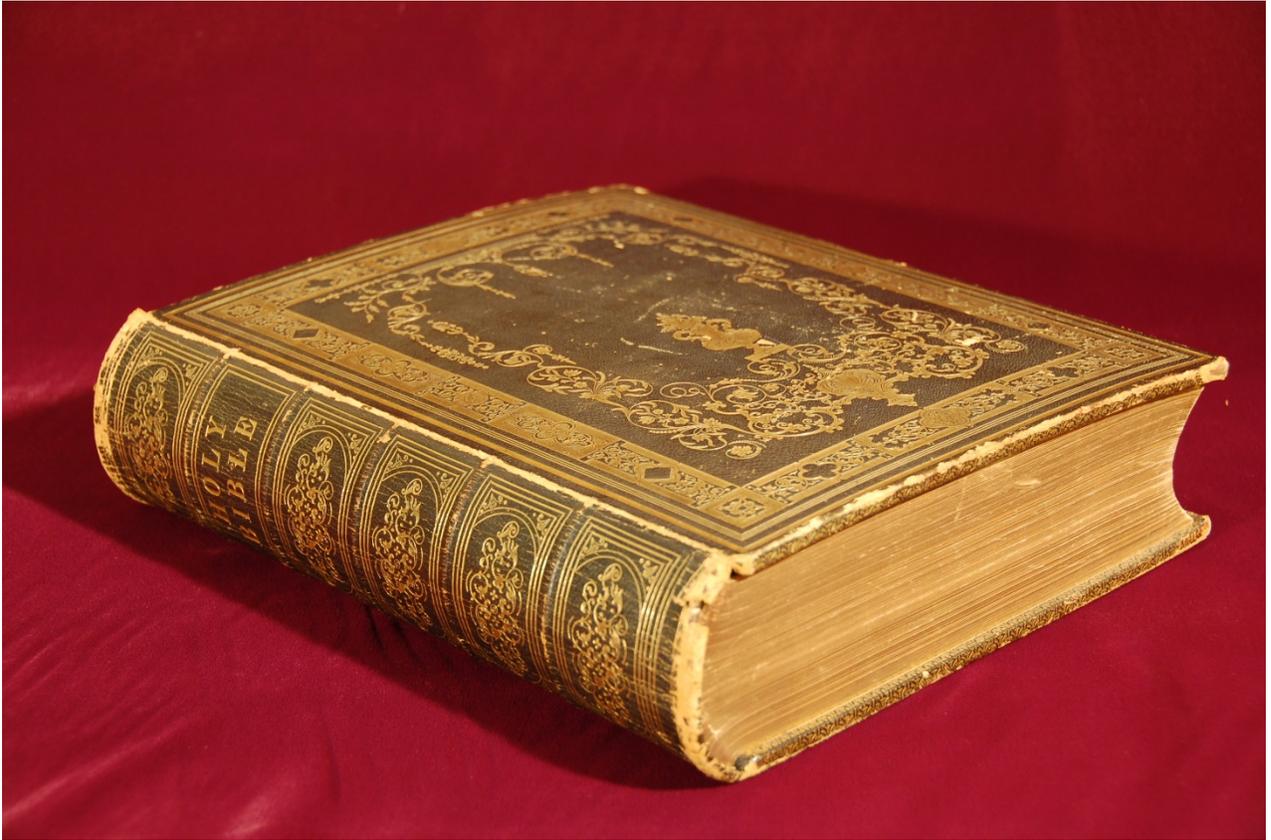


"*Audemus jura nostra defendere*" is a Latin phrase found on the state coat of arms completed in 1923.

It has been translated as: "We Dare Maintain Our Rights" or "We Dare Defend Our Rights."

Act 39-140, *Acts of Alabama*, March 14, 1939

Alabama State Bible



The official State Bible was purchased by the state in 1853. It is used to inaugurate Governors of Alabama. Governor John Winston was the first governor to be sworn in using this bible, on December 20, 1853. Every governor since 1853 has also used this Bible for their inauguration, though some like to place their personal Bible on top. The Bible was used in 1861 for Jefferson Davis to take his oath of office as President of the Confederate States of America.

Alabama's Official Creed

" I believe in Alabama, a state dedicated to a faith in God and the enlightenment of mankind; to a democracy that safeguards the liberties of each citizen and to the conservation of her youth, her ideals, and her soil. I believe it is my duty to obey her laws, to respect her flag and to be alert to her needs and generous in my efforts to foster her advancement within the statehood of the world."

Alabamian's Creed was written by Mrs. H. P. Thetford of Birmingham. The creed was adopted by the Board and Council of the Alabama Federations of Women's Clubs who in turn recommended it for adoption by the state legislature. In 1953 the state adopted it as Alabama's Creed.

Act 53-244, Acts of Alabama, July 29, 1953.

Official Quilt of Alabama



Picture source: *The Encyclopedia of Alabama* retrieved from
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/quick-facts>
Courtesy of the Alabama State Council on the Arts

The official quilt of Alabama is the Pine Burr Quilt. It was designated the official quilt of the State of Alabama by the Legislature on March 11, 1997. The resolution naming the state quilt recognizes the work of the Freedom Quilting Bee, a well-known group of African-American women from Wilcox County.

Act 97-111, *Acts of Alabama*, March 11, 1997

Official Alabama State Song

Alabama

Lyrics by: Julia Tutwiler
Music by Edna Gockel Gussen

Verse 1

Alabama, Alabama,
We will aye be true to thee,
From thy Southern shore where
groweth,
By the sea thine orange tree.
To thy Northern vale where
floweth
Deep and blue thy Tennessee.
Alabama, Alabama
We will aye be true to thee!

Verse 7

Little, little, can I give thee,
Alabama, mother mine;
But that little--hand, brain,
spirit, All I have and am
are thine.
Take, O take the gift and giver.
Take and serve thyself with me,
Alabama, Alabama,
I will aye be true to thee.



Section 3: Famous Alabamians



Henry "Hank" Aaron

Baseball icon Henry "Hank" Aaron (1934-) first honed the skills that ultimately led him to a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame while growing up in Alabama. He is best known for breaking Babe Ruth's record of 714 home runs, ultimately hitting 755, a record that stood from 1974 to 2007, and he achieved other baseball milestones that still stand, including most runs batted in and most

extra base hits. Aaron was known as "Hammerin' Hank" and "Bad Henry" during his playing career because of his considerable skills as a batter.

Henry Louis Aaron was born February 5, 1934, in Mobile, one of Herbert and Estella Aaron's eight children.

Hank's brother Tommie would also play for the Atlanta Braves. The Aarons grew up in a low-income section of Mobile known as "Down the Bay." Aaron grew up hitting cross-handed (meaning that although he batted righthanded, he placed his left hand higher on the bat) and was a standout football player at Mobile's Central High.

Aaron's first tryout for the major leagues was in 1949 at the age of 15 with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but he failed to make the team. His first paying job, at the age of 17, was as a shortstop in the Negro Leagues with the Mobile

Black Bears, earning \$10.00 a game. He began his professional career as a shortstop in the Negro American League, playing for the Indianapolis Clowns, leading the team to a 1952 Negro League World Series. A few months into his career, the Boston Braves of the National League bought his contract, and he played for the Braves' minor-league affiliate in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In 1954, Aaron was brought up to the major leagues as the right fielder for the Braves, who had moved the franchise to Milwaukee in 1953. Soon, the Mobile native would become one of baseball's most skilled all-around players. In 1956, Aaron's third major-league season, he led the National League in hitting with a .328 average; and in 1957 he was voted the league's Most Valuable Player. Teaming with future Hall of Fame stars, including third baseman Eddie Matthews and pitcher Warren Spahn, the Braves won the National League pennant and faced the perennial champion New York Yankees in the World Series.

Aaron and the Braves became the toast of major league baseball by defeating the Yankees in 1957. Aaron was voted the series MVP for batting .393 and for hitting three home runs and seven RBIs, but it would be the only time he ever played on a world championship team. One year later, Aaron and his teammates won a second straight National League title but lost in a rematch with the Yankees, led by Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra. Although Milwaukee jumped

to a 3-1 advantage, New York swept the final three games, including two at County Stadium in Milwaukee.

In 1963, Aaron had his best overall season, leading the National League with 44 home runs and 130 runs batted in (RBIs). He finished third in batting, with a .319 average, narrowly missing the coveted Triple Crown (in which a batter leads the league in home runs, RBIs, and batting average). Aaron, however, stole 30 bases that year, becoming only the third player ever to have 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in a season. The Braves relocated to Atlanta for the 1966 season, and in 1974, Aaron became the all-time baseball home-run king when he hit number 715, which occurred April 8, 1974.

Traded at the end of the 1974 season, Aaron played his final two seasons for the Milwaukee Brewers. He concluded his remarkable career with 755 home runs. After retiring as a player, Aaron returned to Atlanta to serve in the Braves' front office. He has been an executive with the team ever since. During his drive to overtake Babe Ruth as the all-time home run champion, Aaron received hate mail and threatening phone calls, many of which were racially offensive. He faced the threats with immense composure.

During Aaron's career, which spanned from 1954 through 1976, he made the National League All-Star team every year, from 1955 to 1975, for 21 straight seasons. In 1958, 1959, and 1960, he won the Gold Glove for outfield, an award given annually to the nine best fielders in the respective leagues. Aaron was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in January 1982, with 97.8 percent of the votes cast, second only to Ty Cobb's 98.2 percent. Aaron finished his 23-year career with a lifetime .305 batting average. His 3,771 hits rank third on the all-time list behind Pete Rose and Ty Cobb. In addition, Aaron is one of only four players with more than 3,000 hits and 500 home runs, an accomplishment later matched by Willie Mays, Eddie Murray, and Rafael Palmeiro. In 2000, he was voted as one of the 30 best players in the history of the sport. Aaron holds the record for most runs batted in (2,297) and extra-base hits (1,477). Aaron's home run record stood until Barry Bonds eclipsed the mark in 2007.

Years after his playing days, Aaron was lauded for his baseball skills and persona. The minor league park of the Mobile Bay Bears was named Hank Aaron Stadium in 1997. Since 1999 Major League Baseball has annually given the Hank Aaron Award to the best offensive player in the American and National leagues. In 2002, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. Statues of Aaron greet fans at three different baseball stadiums: Atlanta's Turner Field, Milwaukee's Miller Park, and Carson Park in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In September 2010, Aaron's refurbished childhood home was relocated to Hank Aaron Stadium as the Hank Aaron Childhood Home and Museum.

Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1572>

Image: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4962>



Ralph David Abernathy

Ralph David Abernathy (1926-1990), son of an Alabama farmer, emerged in the 1950s and 1960s as a founding and steadfast leader of the civil rights movement. At the age of 29, Abernathy was one of the organizers of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began in December 1955. He was a close friend and confidante of Martin Luther King Jr., a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and an integral part of the historic events that took place during the height of the civil rights movement.

Abernathy was born March 11, 1926, in the Hopewell Community of Marengo County, the 10th of 12 children. His family was more successful than most and owned a 500-acre farm ("a plantation" as Abernathy later called it) that provided a certain measure of independence.

After serving in the army during World War II, Abernathy entered Alabama State College (now Alabama State University), graduating in 1950 with a degree in mathematics. Abernathy learned the merits of activism while at Alabama State, leading student strikes to improve food and housing conditions at the school. Abernathy then earned a master's degree from Atlanta University (now Clark-Atlanta University) in 1951 and in the same year became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Montgomery, a large and prestigious African American congregation, and accepted a position as dean of students at Alabama State. In August 1952, Abernathy married Juanita Odessa Jones, who would become an important part of Abernathy's civil rights activities and with whom he had four children.

In 1954, Martin Luther King Jr., a native of Atlanta, Georgia, became a minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, not far from Abernathy's First Baptist. After King moved to Montgomery, Abernathy, who was three years older, served as his mentor in the city's black ministerial community. In December 1955, Abernathy, King, and several other local activists created the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) after fellow activist Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to relinquish her seat to a white man on a city bus. Many civil rights leaders in Montgomery had been looking for just such a spark to trigger protests against the harsh segregation rules on public transportation. Abernathy and other MIA leaders orchestrated a bus boycott that lasted more than a year and brought national attention to the MIA members and to civil rights issues in the South. Abernathy often shared the podium with King and exhorted the people not to lose faith. In January 1957, amid a spate of white

violence following the successful bus boycott, Abernathy's home and church were heavily damaged by bomb blasts.

In August 1957, Abernathy, King, and several others founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which would become the most visible civil rights organization in the South. King was installed as president and Abernathy as secretary-treasurer. Abernathy would later become vice president of the organization and then ascend to the presidency after King's assassination in 1968.

In 1961, Abernathy and his congregation welcomed the Freedom Riders, an integrated civil rights group traveling the South in a bus to protest segregation. Abernathy offered his church, which

had been restored from the bombing four years earlier, as the site for a rally to be held on the third Sunday in May. But as Abernathy and other civil rights leaders spoke in defense of the Freedom Riders, First Baptist Church once again came under attack. An angry mob gathered outside, throwing stones at the windows and threatening the people inside. Along with King, Abernathy urged the people in the church to stay calm. In such situations, according to the Rev. Thomas Gilmore, a civil rights leader in the Alabama Black Belt, Abernathy faced them with firm resolve. It was an opinion shared by King, who found Abernathy a source of strength during times of trouble. Indeed it was in his capacity as King's close friend and second in command that Abernathy made his greatest contribution to the civil rights movement.

Later that year, King moved back to Atlanta, a city then emerging as the hub of civil rights activism in the South, and he was eager for Abernathy to follow. After being offered the pastorate of West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Abernathy decided to move his family there as well. Throughout the turbulent events of the era, he served as a friend and alter-ego to King, as they faced the dangers that went with the protests. In Montgomery, he helped organize and lead the first wave of sit-in demonstrations. In St. Augustine, in a move that raised the profile of the protests, Abernathy was jailed along with several other activists for swimming in a segregated pool. And in Chicago, he preached at mass meetings and helped to lead marches for equal housing that were often met by rock-throwing mobs.

In Birmingham, on Good Friday, April 12, 1963, King decided to provoke the city's commissioner of public safety, Eugene "Bull" Connor, into arresting him in the hope of generating support for flagging demonstrations in that city. He asked Abernathy to join him, and after a brief hesitation, Abernathy agreed. Accompanied by Birmingham civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth, the men marched off together to lead the demonstration that would result in those arrests. The incident would prove to be historic: It produced King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," one of the most famous documents of the civil rights era.

On April 4, 1968, Abernathy and several other activists were in Memphis with King to protest unfair treatment of the city's sanitation workers. Abernathy was standing a mere few feet away when an assassin shot King on a motel balcony. Abernathy attempted to comfort King

and remained at his friend's side as he died. The years following the assassination were difficult for the movement and even harder for Abernathy himself. He succeeded King as president of the SCLC, and within weeks of King's death he led the Poor People's Campaign of 1968, a national effort that included a march on Washington in pursuit of greater economic opportunity and social justice. But as time went by, the media and many people in the country found that Abernathy lacked King's charisma and credibility.

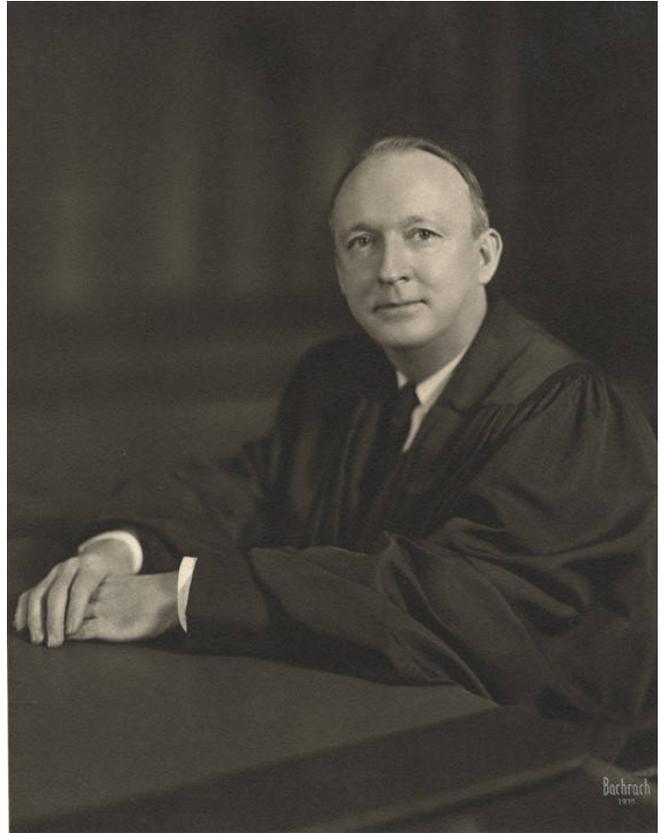
In 1977, Abernathy stepped down as president of the SCLC and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives. In the latter years of his life, Abernathy devoted himself more completely to his work as a minister, both at his own West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta and as a sought-after speaker in other African American churches. In 1989, he published a memoir, *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*. Abernathy died in Atlanta on April 17, 1990, and was buried in the city, which named a downtown freeway in his honor.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1110>

Image Courtesy of Library of Congress accessed
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2321>

Hugo L. Black

Hugo Black (1886-1971) served in the U.S. Senate and on the U.S. Supreme Court for 34 years. He was America's earliest prophet of the judicial revolution that established a national bill of rights for all persons subject to the U.S. Constitution. Shortly after his appointment to the Supreme Court, Black survived a national uproar over his prior, brief membership in Birmingham's Ku Klux Klan and within two decades became arguably the most hated white man in the American South after he joined the unanimous Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawing racial segregation. Today, Justice Black is remembered as one of the nation's foremost champions of the First Amendment and, in his words, the rights of the "weak, helpless, and outnumbered."



Hugo Lafayette Black was born in Harlan, a small community in southern Clay County, on February 27, 1886. Black's early understanding of the world was shaped by the primary institutions of rural Alabama life: family, church, school, and courthouse. During these formative years, Black adored his deeply religious mother, Ardellah, and grew estranged from his father, William Lafayette Black, a conservative local merchant whose failure to repent for repeated bouts of public drunkenness prompted his expulsion from the local Baptist church. The family moved to the county seat, Ashland, in 1890. When not in school, Black spent much of his childhood in and around the Clay County courthouse attending political rallies or watching criminal trials.

After his father's death in September 1900, when he changed "Lafayette" to a middle initial, Black was expelled in a fight with teachers over the treatment of an older sister and failed to graduate from high school. Afterward, he attended Birmingham Medical College for a year and subsequently enrolled in law school at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1906. Black returned to Ashland and maintained a meager law practice until a fire destroyed half the town square including his law office. He then moved to Birmingham in September 1907.

As a young, struggling lawyer in the South's only industrial city, Black became involved in the First Baptist Church and a wide range of civic groups and fraternal lodges, including the

Knights of Pythias (a fraternal organization founded in Washington, D.C., in 1864). He helped to defend black and white miners arrested in the Birmingham miners' strike of 1907. Black's legal career improved dramatically when A. O. Lane, Birmingham's newly appointed police commissioner and a fellow Pythian, appointed him in 1911 to be the part-time judge of Birmingham's police court. Spotlighted in local newspapers, Black ardently enforced Alabama's anti-liquor laws and generally gave all defendants swift, stern justice, regardless of race.

In 1914, after developing a rewarding private practice, Black successfully ran for Jefferson County prosecutor. As the county's chief lawyer, Black dismissed thousands of cases involving alleged petty crimes by African Americans in the Birmingham area. He investigated and prosecuted cases of white police officers brutalizing and killing black suspects. On special assignment from Alabama attorney general William Logan Martin, Black also helped to destroy one of the nation's largest stockpiles of confiscated illegal liquor, discovered near the Chattahoochee River in present-day Phenix City. Black's effective, aggressive style won him both friends and enemies, who ultimately maneuvered to constrain his office. As a result, Black resigned as Jefferson County prosecutor in 1917 and joined the U.S. Army during World War I. He rose to the rank of captain but saw no combat.

Returning in debt to Birmingham after the war, Black built a lucrative law practice by representing injured workers from Birmingham industries and mines. He also represented unions, including the United Miners Workers of America, virtually the only large, interracial organization in the Deep South at that time. Black defended the Alabama unions in litigation surrounding the 1920 race for the U.S. Senate and in Birmingham's 1921 miners' strike, which the Alabama militia and state industrialists crushed using violent, race-baiting tactics.

At the same time, Black led state efforts in and outside of the courtroom to end convict leasing, the state practice of leasing prisoners as workers to private industries, especially Birmingham's coal mines. Condemned as a modern form of deadly slavery for a majority of Alabama's black prisoners, convict leasing had become a primary source of revenue for the Alabama state government in the nineteenth century. It also figured in the one and only case in which Black appeared as a lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court. On February 23, 1921, Black married Josephine Foster, daughter of a prominent family and sister of future civil rights activist Virginia Foster Durr. The couple would have three children, Hugo Black Jr., Sterling Black, and Josephine Black Pesaresi.

In September 1923, after considerable delay and doubt, Black joined the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan. Almost 50 years later, in an interview published by agreement only after his death, Black stated that he joined the Klan because he considered it an "anti-corporation" force that helped to counter the political and social influence of industrialists and large corporations who had taken full control of the Alabama economy after the destruction of the state's labor movement. In 1925, after incumbent U.S. senator Oscar W. Underwood indicated that he would not seek re-election, Black resigned from the Klan and announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. Black won the Democratic nomination, which assured him of victory in the

general election in 1926, after a campaign supporting prohibition, fighting "millionaire opponents," and condemning the influence of money in politics. In an all-white election, an enlarged Klan vote across Alabama apparently split between Black and another Senate candidate, Breck Musgrove, but Black carried almost all Alabama counties where Baptists constituted a majority of white churchgoers.

During his first term in the Senate, when Republicans controlled both houses of Congress and the presidency, Black had relatively little influence on the course of national legislation or public events, although he often spoke against "monied interests" and corrupt use of government for private corporate gain. Black won a second term in 1932, the same year that Democrats gained a majority in Congress and took control of the White House with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Even before Roosevelt was inaugurated, Black introduced legislation to establish a minimum wage and to limit work in most large industries to 30 hours a week in order to spread available jobs to millions of workers who lost their jobs in the Great Depression. Six years later, Black's substantially revised legislation became the Fair Labor Standards Act, America's first minimum-wage law. Black's Senate committee investigations prompted the reorganization of the nation's airline and utility industries. While most southern members of Congress selectively supported New Deal proposals, Black usually voted for Roosevelt's policies and often complained that the administration did not go far enough to help the lower classes.

In August 1937, Roosevelt appointed Black to the U.S. Supreme Court, and he was confirmed by the Senate on August 17. A month later, the Pittsburg Post-Gazette used documents supplied by a former Alabama Klan leader to expose Black's membership in the Ku Klux Klan. Despite a national uproar, led by anti-New Deal newspapers, Black refused to resign. In a national radio address, the first ever delivered by a member of the Supreme Court, Black explained that he abhorred racial and religious intolerance while acknowledging that he once belonged to the Klan.

Over more than three decades, Justice Black helped move the Supreme Court away from legal doctrine that had jeopardized New Deal reforms and wrote dozens of opinions. Many were dissents that later became law and included expanding the rights of free speech to those whom society considered unpopular, weak, poor, zealous, or hated. In 1947, Black wrote a dissent in *Adamson v. California* in which he contended that the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment endowed the American people with all the entitlements of the federal Bill of Rights that no local, state, or federal government official could lawfully ignore. Also that year, Black wrote a majority opinion proclaiming a constitutional mandate for a "wall of separation between church and state" in *Everson v. Board of Education*. Over the following two decades, Black's judicial views about the application of the Bill of Rights and the separation of church and state were largely adopted by the Court.

In 1954, Black joined in the Supreme Court's unanimous opinion outlawing racial segregation in public education in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and, in effect, destroying the legal basis of American segregation. On September 11, 1957, he married Mary Elizabeth Seay DeMerritte (his first wife died in 1951). In 1963, Justice Black wrote the majority opinion in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, a decision that gave poor Americans facing imprisonment a right to a lawyer regardless of financial means. He joined his fellow justices in forcing the South to grant the constitutional right to vote to black citizens in *Gomillion v. Lightfoot* and in requiring all state legislatures to reapportion fairly in *Baker v. Carr*. In addition, Black wrote the Supreme Court's opinion that banned religious prayers from the nation's public schools in *Engel v. Vitale*.

Upon his death at the age of 85, Justice Black was buried in Arlington Cemetery, next to his first wife, Josephine Foster Black. Between the couple's two modest grave markers stands a marble bench proclaiming simply: "Here lies a good man."

Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1848>

Peter Bryce



Peter Bryce (1834-92) was a pioneering figure in the field of mental health. Practicing in the post-Civil War era, he championed more humane therapeutic treatments for the mentally ill. He held important offices in both state and national organizations relating to the health professions and was the first superintendent of the state mental hospital that now bears his name.

Bryce was born in Columbia, South Carolina, to Peter and Martha Smith Bryce. He graduated with distinction from The Citadel in 1855 and New York's Medical College (now New York University School of Medicine) in 1859. After graduating, Bryce traveled in Europe, where his developing interest in mental health was enhanced during visits to psychiatric hospitals. Upon his return, he worked at psychiatric hospitals in New

Jersey and South Carolina.

In late 1859, Dorothea Dix, a teacher and nationally renowned advocate for the mentally ill, brought Bryce to the attention of the trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital (AIH). Located in Tuscaloosa, the institution had been created by the state legislature in 1852 but remained under construction for most of the decade. Despite his youth, Bryce's training and southern roots were viewed favorably by the trustees, and in July 1860 they selected him to be the hospital's first superintendent. Bryce accepted and moved to Tuscaloosa soon after marrying Ellen Clarkson, also of Columbia. The childless couple would devote all of their attention to AIH for the next 30 years. As construction was completed, Bryce developed the institutional policies and procedures by which the hospital was governed. As a public institution, AIH's finances were constrained by perpetual state budget shortfalls, and the hospital was perennially underfunded.

Like many of his contemporaries, Bryce believed that insanity was caused by the interplay of genetics and environmental and social factors, and that effective treatment should seek to filter out these factors and give the mind time to "heal." This therapeutic approach, known as moral treatment (so called for its supposed ability to lead patients to an understanding and

acceptance of "right" behavior) consisted of creating a normalized environment characterized by kind treatment, absence of physical restraints, and regular work by all patients who were able. It became popular after the Civil War as some hospitals reported extraordinary successes. Bryce continued to employ moral treatment even after learning of gross exaggerations at other psychiatric institutions in its success rates. Despite these overstatements of its effectiveness, Bryce was convinced that moral treatment was vastly superior to the forced idleness that characterized mental healthcare prior to the advent of moral treatment.

Bryce extolled the therapeutic value of work—often arguing that idle hands allowed mental patients too much time to focus on their condition—and pragmatically recognized patient labor as essential to AIH's economic survival in the face of diminishing state funds and a patient population that, over the period of his superintendence, averaged 85 percent indigents. Income derived from the patients' vegetable garden and the manufacture of household goods became an important supplement to state support.

The superintendent of AIH for 32 years, Bryce served in his position longer than most of his contemporaries and held several important offices in professional organizations. He was elected president of the predecessor to the American Psychiatric Association, and he became the focus of criticism by practitioners who favored restraint of patients. He also served as president of both the state medical and state historical associations in Alabama. Ironically, charges of abuse of patient labor by subsequent superintendents caused the hospital to become the focus of court decisions in the 1970s that led to outright release of many patients and removal of others to less restricted environments.

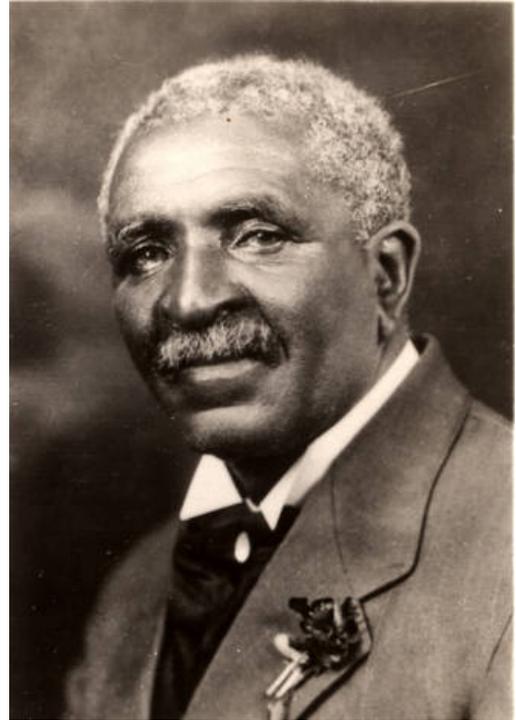
Bryce's life was so intricately entwined with the AIH that at his death from Bright's Disease on August 14, 1892, he was buried on the hospital grounds, and AIH was later renamed Bryce Hospital.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1109>

Image Courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Archives retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2319>

George Washington Carver

Probably one of the most recognized names in agricultural research, George Washington Carver (ca. 1865-1943) overcame numerous obstacles to achieve a graduate education and gain international fame as an educator, inventor, and scientist. Carver was born near the end of the Civil War on the farm of Moses and Susan Carver in Diamond Grove, Missouri, and he and his brother, Jim, were raised by the Carvers after their biological mother, a slave on the farm, was captured by slave raiders. Neighbors quickly recognized Carver as an exceptional child with a gift for understanding the natural world around him. He could not attend Diamond Grove's whites-only public school, however. To further his education, Carver moved to nearby Neosho, only to be disappointed to learn that his teacher knew little more than he did. Going next to Fort Scott, Kansas, Carver began a lengthy odyssey in search of a good education.



During his travels, he witnessed a lynching in Fort Scott in 1879, and as he noted some 60 years later, the horror of the scene still haunted him. In the summer of 1880, Carver opened a laundry in Minneapolis, Kansas, where he lived four years. Hearing of a college in Highland, Kansas, Carver applied and was accepted by mail, only to be turned away once his color was known. He next tried homesteading in Ness County, Kansas, and completed a sod house in April 1887. In each location, Carver was generally accepted by the white inhabitants, who were impressed by his abilities as an artist and naturalist. In the late 1880s, he made his way to Winterset, Iowa, where a white couple encouraged him to apply to Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

The only African American student, Carver enrolled in Simpson in September 1890 as an art major. His art teacher recognized his considerable talents, but she was concerned that as a black man, he would have difficulties finding work as a

professional artist. After Carver showed her some plants he had hybridized, she suggested that he transfer to Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts (now Iowa State University), in Ames, Iowa, where her father, J. L. Budd, taught horticulture. Again the only black student on campus, Carver did not receive a warm welcome at first. Active in campus affairs, he soon won over both students and faculty. He also excelled in the classroom, impressing the leading faculty in agriculture. Recognizing his talents, the faculty encouraged him to remain at Iowa State as a graduate student. While completing his master's degree, he took care of the greenhouse and taught freshman botany. The department was prepared for

Carver to become a full-time faculty member, but in 1896 he received an offer that would change the course of his life and the history of Alabama.

In 1881 African American educator and author Booker T. Washington had established Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama, to provide educational opportunities to African Americans in the Black Belt. By 1896, he had built the school into an internationally respected center of learning, staffed entirely by black administrators and faculty. That year, Washington established a new school of agriculture and an agricultural experiment station and sought a top person to serve as its head. He wrote Carver, and begged him to come to Tuskegee. Carver accepted the offer, intending to remain only a few years before returning to school for his doctorate.

Arriving in Tuskegee in October 1896, Carver asserted that he was following God's will to be "of the greatest good for the greatest number of my people possible." Such words, as well as his larger salary and unusual demands, including a special room in which he could paint, alienated many faculty members. Never having lived in a predominantly black community for very long, Carver initially associated more with white neighbors in the nearby town of Tuskegee than with his colleagues on campus. In time, however, his remarkable abilities and talent for making friends won him converts. He was especially popular with his students, who found him both inspiring and knowledgeable.

Carver likely found 1890s Alabama more of a "mission field" than he might have anticipated. His time at Iowa State had not prepared him for the facilities and student body at Tuskegee or for life as a black man in the Deep South. The very year he arrived, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plessey v. Ferguson* that segregation was legal. In the Midwest, Carver had encountered sporadic hostility, but in the South, whites had created a system of legalized repression to maintain white supremacy. Carver also encountered incredible poverty in the Cotton Kingdom. The worldwide demand for cotton had enriched the South before the Civil War. The process of growing cotton, however, depleted the soil. By the 1890s, the income from cotton cultivation was too meager to support both the landowners and the agricultural workforce. Unable to acquire land of their own, displaced field hands ended up as sharecroppers, working others' land in return for a portion of the crops. Most had to borrow against future harvests, and contract and debtor laws forced them to stay and work essentially for free if they owed landowners money. As a result, many people were trapped in a cycle of debt, forcing them to work under conditions little changed from the days of slavery.

Iowa State had trained Carver in the newest science-based techniques of agriculture, but most were too expensive to be useful to sharecroppers. Carver quickly recognized that the principal obstacles to black advancement were the burden of debt and an overdependence on cotton. He spent the next 25 years of his career seeking solutions to both problems. In the process, he placed himself at the forefront of agricultural extension efforts and became a leader in the evolving field of appropriate or sustainable technology. In 1887, agricultural research in the

United States became centered in experiment stations established by the Hatch Act. At first, federal funds went only to white land-grant colleges, but in the 1890s Congress established black land-grant institutions and required segregated states to provide limited research funds to black institutions. Tuskegee opened its agricultural experiment station the year Carver arrived, but it received far less funding than the station at the nearby all-white Agricultural and Mechanical College in Auburn, Lee County. By necessity, as well as philosophy, Carver's station was geared to the "man farthest down." His research focused on finding substitutes for expensive commercial products so landless farmers would need to borrow as little as possible. Thus, Carver used available and renewable resources to produce needed commodities. For example, he advocated cultivation techniques requiring no commercial fertilizer and explained how to use native clays to make paints and other products.

Attacking the over-dependence on cotton, Carver tried to convince land owners to allow sharecroppers to plant other crops. To further this effort, he researched new uses for various crops, including sweet potatoes and cow peas, to make them more appealing to landowners as well as to provide alternatives to purchased goods for sharecroppers. Practicing what he called "cookstove chemistry," he developed hundreds of products from easily grown crops and local natural resources, including a nutritious milk made from peanuts, flour from sweet potatoes, and house paints made from native clays. Carver was especially interested in peanuts, because they helped to replenish the soil and provided a much-needed source of protein to poor landless farmers.

Agricultural research is worthless unless farmers actually use the knowledge. Because Alabama sharecroppers were limited by both time and literacy, Carver developed extension services suited to their needs, including two-day agricultural conferences at fairs and short courses in agriculture offered at night or during slack seasons. Eventually, Carver decided to bring instruction directly to the farmers in the fields. Beginning with informal trips into the countryside, Carver eventually developed what was called the "Movable School," a wagon (and later a truck) that was outfitted with educational and demonstration materials and that was operated for decades by Carver's former student Thomas Monroe Campbell.

For 20 years, Carver labored in relative obscurity to improve the lives of Alabama sharecroppers. Following the death of Booker T. Washington in 1915, however, Carver quickly rose to international fame. Recognition came first from his white peers in agricultural research. In 1916, he joined the advisory board of the National Agricultural Society and became a fellow of Great Britain's Royal Society for the Arts. The general public became more aware of Carver, however, after his testimony in the U.S. House of Representatives in favor of peanut tariffs in 1921. This launched his career as the "Peanut Man." He soon began spending more time on the lecture circuit than in the classroom and became known mainly as a chemistry wizard who dazzled his audiences with the sheer multitude of peanut products.

Distracted from his most important contributions, Carver spent much of the 1920s attempting to commercialize his products through the Carver Products Company, but products meant to

replace purchased goods could hardly succeed commercially. They were primarily intended as fallback goods that poor farmers could make from available resources. Nevertheless, Carver's fame soared even as his significant contributions declined. Numerous groups adopted Carver as a symbol of their causes. The peanut industry exploited his work. His open reliance upon God for inspiration in his research led numerous religious groups to publicize his words. Groups such as the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People highlighted his abilities in their fight against racism. Conversely, groups supportive of segregation also used Carver's achievements as evidence racial separation was not a barrier to success.

By the time of his death on January 5, 1943, Carver was a world-renowned figure. Much of his fame was based upon myth, but his real contributions were significant. Sponsored by the YMCA, he lectured at white colleges, challenging many of the students' beliefs in segregation and the inferiority of African Americans and establishing close friendships with many of them. His fame also encouraged black students to pursue careers in science. His work improved the lives of hundreds of black Alabamians and was instrumental in pioneering ecologically sound and sustainable technology. In his last years, he also provided a tangible legacy, bequeathing nearly \$60,000 to establish the George Washington Carver Foundation at Tuskegee, which continues to provide funding to black researchers in Alabama.

William L. Dawson

African American composer, performer and music educator William Levi Dawson used the rich vitality of his musical heritage as a basis for all types of music, including arrangements of folk songs and original compositions.

At the age of thirteen, the Anniston native entered Tuskegee Institute, graduating with highest honors in 1921. Four years later, Dawson earned a bachelor of music degree from Horner Institute of Fine Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. He studied composition under Felix Borowski at the Chicago Musical College. He also studied under Adolph Weidig at the American Conservatory of Music, where he received a master of music degree in 1927.



Dawson's musical apprenticeship in the band and orchestra at Tuskegee provided excellent professional preparation for his role as first trombonist with the Chicago Civic Orchestra from 1926 to 1930. Dawson won the Chicago Daily News contest for band directors in 1929, followed by the Wanamaker Contest prizes for the song "Jump Back, Honey, Jump Back" and the orchestral composition "Scherzo" the following year.

Dawson became director of the School of Music at Tuskegee in 1931. He conducted the institute's 100voice a cappella choir during a month's engagement at the opening of the International Music Hall of Radio City, and in concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the White House and Constitution Hall, both in Washington, D.C., and in a series of national and international radio broadcasts.

In 1934, under the sponsorship of the President of the United States and the State Department, the Tuskegee Choir made a concert tour of international and interracial good will to the British Isles, Europe and the Soviet Union. Leading music critics, both in America and abroad, greeted the choir with high praise.

Over the course of his career, Dawson earned wide-ranging experience as a director and consultant to festival groups. In 1956, Tuskegee Institute awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Music. He was even sent by the United States State Department to conduct various choral groups in Spain.

Although Dawson was well known for his popular choral arrangements, he achieved perhaps his greatest renown as a composer for Negro Folk Symphony, which was presented in its 1934 world premiere by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Leopold

Stokowski. In this work, Dawson used melodic and rhythmic language borrowed from Negro spirituals, along with original material composed in the same idiom. Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony was hailed by the New York World Telegram for its "imagination, warmth, drama – (and) sumptuous orchestration."

In its overall shape, and especially in its orchestration, Negro Folk Symphony falls into the late-Romantic tradition. The three movements of the symphony are entitled "The Bond of Africa," "Hope in the Night" and "O, le' me shine, shine like a Morning Star!" In 1952, Dawson visited seven countries in West Africa to study indigenous African music. After that experience, he revised Negro Folk Symphony, infusing it with a rhythmic foundation inspired by African influences. Stokowski recorded the symphony for Decca Records in 1961.

Dawson was guest conductor with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra in 1966, the Nashville

Symphony Orchestra in 1966, Michigan's Wayne State University Glee Club in 1970 and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 1975, when he was inducted into the Alabama Arts Hall of Fame in 1975. He was awarded honorary doctorates by Lincoln University in 1978 and Ithaca College in 1982. He received the Alabama Arts Award in 1980, and James G. Spady published William L. Dawson: A Umum Tribute the following year.

Dawson received the Alumni Merit Award from Tuskegee Institute in 1983, seven years before his death in Montgomery at the age of 90. His papers are on deposit in the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University.

Source: <http://www.alamhof.org/inductees/timeline/1989/william-levi-dawson/>



Maria Fearing

Maria (Ma-rye-ah) Fearing (1838-1937), a noted Presbyterian missionary, was born into slavery in Alabama. She financed her own education at Talladega College and worked as a domestic servant and an educator for many years after Emancipation. At the age of 56, she became a missionary in the Belgian Congo (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) at a time when that country was under the brutal control of Belgium's King Leopold II. Fearing spent more than 20 years in Africa, finally retiring at age 78. While in the Congo, she rescued and ran a home for girls and young women who had been kidnapped or sold into slavery, often bartering goods for their freedom.

Fearing was born in 1838 to Jesse and Mary Fearing, both slaves on a plantation owned by Overton Winston in Gainesville, Sumter County. When she reached young adulthood, Fearing was chosen to be a house-servant by the plantation owner's wife, Amanda Winston. Winston was a Presbyterian and taught Fearing to read the Bible and told her tales of missionaries in Africa; she encouraged Fearing to join the Presbyterian church, which Fearing soon did. Freed at the age of 27 at the end of the Civil War, Fearing found employment in the area as a domestic; six years later, after hearing a visiting preacher speak of Talladega College, in Talladega County, she left her position to seek an education there. Although called a college, the school also included an elementary and secondary school, and Fearing began her classes at age 33 with the youngest children at the school.

Fearing completed the ninth grade and then taught in a rural school near Anniston, Calhoun County, eventually buying her own home in Anniston. She returned to Talladega College to serve as assistant matron of the boarding department. In response to a talk by Presbyterian missionary to Africa William Henry Sheppard, and remembering the tales of missionaries told to her by Amanda Winston, Fearing volunteered at age 56 to become a missionary in the Congo in central Africa. She sold her home, and with an additional \$100 raised by the Congregational Church in Talladega, set sail to England on May 26, 1894. After arriving in Africa, she undertook the two-month trip to her posting, part of it by litter and part by riverboat up the Congo, Kasai, and Lulua rivers to the station in Luebo. Fearing entered a country that had just endured a bloody war in 1892-1893 between forces controlled by Leopold II and by Arab forces out of Zanzibar.

Leopold had been awarded the Congo during the European partition of Africa in 1885, and his eventual victory over Arab forces left him in total control of what was called the Congo Free

State. His troops, led by the Force Publique, brutalized the populace to extract quotas in the rubber and ivory trade, killing thousands and cutting off their right hands as proof of the kills. The slave trade also was still rampant. Luebo, in the western part of the nation where Fearing was stationed, was somewhat insulated from the conflicts. On at least two occasions, however, the station was threatened, and Fearing had to prepare for evacuation or invasion. W. H. Sheppard, who had inspired Fearing to go to the Congo, was one of several Presbyterian missionaries who spoke out publicly about Leopold's brutality and eventually helped to bring his control of the region to an end in 1908. Nevertheless, the estimates of the number of people slaughtered during this period run as high as 10 million.

After her arrival, Fearing immediately undertook to help the husband and wife who were running the mission there and began learning the local language; as she progressed in her mastery, she began teaching a Sunday school class. After a year there, she was given an official position and a salary by the Presbyterian Church. Fearing began asking local families to let their daughters stay with her overnight so that she could begin to educate them; as the word got out about Fearing's efforts, more and more young girls were sent to live at the mission. Fearing also began ransoming children from the slave trade, from groups that had kidnapped them or to whom they had been sold, with goods such as scissors, cloth, and other items, and soon housed 40 to 50 young women.

Using her own salary and donations from home, Fearing oversaw the construction of a multi-room house, with six to eight girls per room, each monitored by an older girl. The girls took part in keeping the facility clean and learned basic sanitation, cooking, sewing, and ironing from Fearing. She also held a church service every day after breakfast. The girls attended the missionary day school to learn to read and write. The home eventually became known as Pantops, after a Presbyterian school in Virginia.

In 1906, after 12 years in the Congo, Fearing returned to the United States. After a year at home, she went back to Africa to serve another eight years at the group home she had built. She returned again to the United States in 1915 with her recently married long-time housemate in Africa, Lillian Thomas DeYamperts, and DeYamperts's husband; although she fully intended to go back to Africa, she was urged to retire by church officials.

Fearing lived with the DeYamperts for nearly 10 years and attended a Presbyterian Church in Selma, Dallas County, teaching a Sunday school class there. She fell and broke her hip at age 90 but recovered and continued teaching Sunday school. After her friend Lillian died and Lillian's husband remarried, Fearing returned to Sumter County in 1931 to be cared for by a nephew. She died on May 23, 1937.

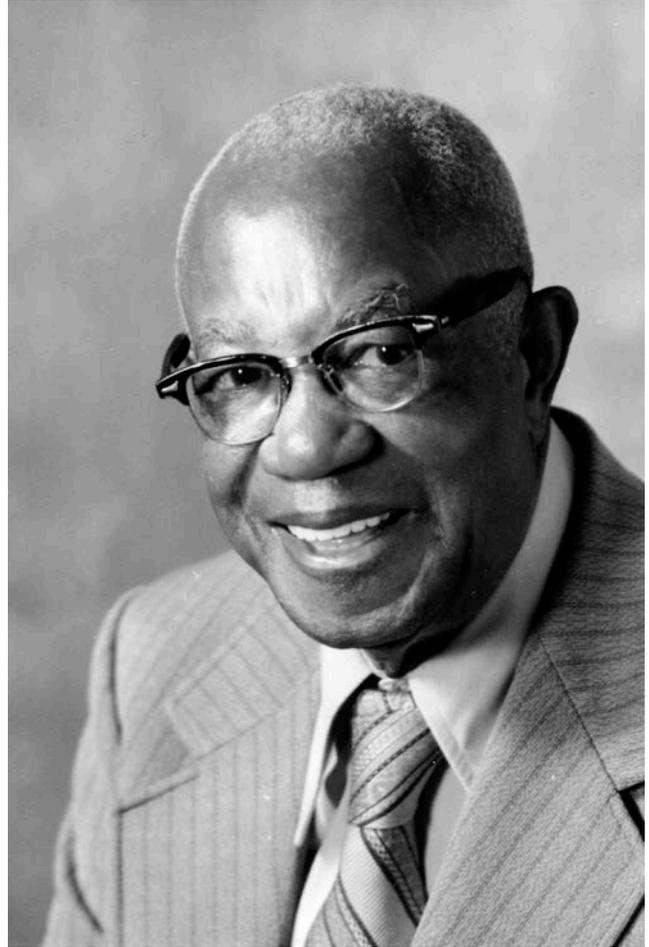
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Arthur George (A.G.) Gaston

Birmingham entrepreneur and businessman A. G. Gaston (1892-1996), was one of the most successful African American business owners in Alabama. Gaston overcame humble beginnings and racial discrimination to build a \$40 million business empire, which included a savings and loan bank, business college, construction company, motel, real estate business, burial insurance company, two cemeteries, and two radio stations. Although criticized for what some viewed as an accommodationist attitude during the Birmingham civil rights movement in the 1960s, Gaston nevertheless used his accumulated wealth to provide financial support to the movement's leaders and participants at crucial times and worked behind the scenes to help the movement achieve its goals.

Arthur George (A. G.) Gaston was born on July 4, 1892, in Demopolis, Marengo County, to Tom and Rosa Gaston. Gaston spent his early childhood living with his grandmother in Demopolis because his father, a railroad worker, died soon after his birth and his mother worked as a family cook for A. B. Loveman, a wealthy Jewish businessman, 25 miles away in Greensboro. Although his grandmother lived in poverty, Gaston nevertheless began to develop his entrepreneurial skills early in life by charging neighborhood children admission in the form of pins or buttons for the privilege of playing on the swing in his grandmother's yard—the only one in the neighborhood. At the age of 13, Gaston rejoined his mother when she accompanied the Lovemans to Birmingham in 1905. Loveman, who founded the state's largest department store, was a successful entrepreneur and investor and undoubtedly made an impression on young Gaston.

Soon after arriving in Birmingham, Gaston's mother enrolled him in the Tuggle Institute, a privately run charitable school for African Americans founded by Eufaula native and education and legal reformer Carrie Tuggle in 1903. The Tuggle Institute had adopted Booker T. Washington's industrial educational philosophy, which emphasized the skilled trades and business. Washington, who visited the school often to make inspirational speeches to the students, quickly became Gaston's role model. Inspired by Washington's message of individual initiative, Gaston grew restless and left the Tuggle Institute after completing the tenth grade. He held odd jobs, including selling subscriptions to the Birmingham Reporter, a black-owned



newspaper founded in 1906 by Oscar W. Adams, and working as a bellman at the Battle House Hotel in Mobile.

Unable to find fruitful business opportunities, Gaston enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1913. The armed forces were segregated at the time, and Gaston was assigned to the all-black Ninety-second Infantry Division, which was deployed overseas to Cherbourg, France, for combat in 1917 during World War I. Although he was overseas fighting in a war, Gaston managed to consistently send home \$15 of his \$20 in monthly pay toward a mortgage on his first real estate investment in Birmingham.

Upon returning to Alabama after the war, Gaston drove a delivery truck for a dry-cleaning company and worked as a miner for Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in Fairfield, just outside Birmingham. Always looking for a way to make an extra dollar, Gaston was soon selling homemade sandwiches to his fellow miners at lunchtime. Gaston was able to save a remarkable two-thirds of his income, and with the additional money from his lunch business, he had enough cash on hand to begin lending money to his co-workers at the rate of 25 percent interest.

In 1923, tiring of toiling in the coal mines and seeing a need among poor blacks for more affordable funerals, Gaston founded his first business, the Booker T. Washington Burial Society. In its early years, the society worked much like a fraternal order, with members paying weekly fees of \$0.25 that entitled them to burial services upon their death. This business thrived as a result of Gaston's ability to form a coalition with area black ministers, who steered members of their congregations to the society. He also attracted customers by sponsoring gospel singers and Alabama's first radio program aimed at African Americans. The society's success led Gaston to establish in 1932 the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company, which offered life, health, and accident insurance to its customers. Gaston's shrewd business acumen soon led him to add burial insurance, undertaking, casket manufacturing, and sales of burial plots in company-owned cemeteries to his list of services. In 1923, Gaston married Creola Smith and then founded Smith and Gaston Funeral Directors.

Gaston had a knack for seeing a business need and filling that niche. For example, in response to a noticeable shortage of qualified skilled clerks and typists in the day-to-day operations of his businesses, he founded the Booker T. Washington Business College in 1939. Gaston continued to fulfill needs and expand his empire by adding businesses, including the Vulcan Realty and Investment Company, the A. G. Gaston Home for Senior Citizens, the WENN-FM and WAGG-AM radio stations, S & G Public Relations Company, and the A. G. Gaston Motel. In the early 1950s, in response to difficulties for blacks in obtaining loans from white banks, he opened the Citizens Federal Savings and Loan Association, the first black-owned financial institution in Birmingham since the closing of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank 40 years earlier. Also at this time, he attempted to manufacture, bottle, and sell a soda called the Joe Louis Punch, trying perhaps to fill a need that was not so compelling. Of the numerous business ventures founded by Gaston, this was the only one that met with failure.

Gaston was not an outspoken advocate for civil rights, instead working quietly for equal treatment for blacks throughout his adult life. As early as the 1920s, Gaston not only encouraged his customers to save money, he also urged them to register to vote. In the 1950s, Gaston succeeded in having the "whites only" signs removed from the water fountains in the First National Bank as a result of privately threatening to close his account with the bank. In 1956, he provided a job to Autherine Lucy that gave her the financial support to become the first black student to register at the University of Alabama. Despite these efforts, Gaston earned criticism from some quarters for his low-key activities in relation to civil rights. Opposing the more confrontational tactics of Fred Shuttlesworth and his Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, Gaston served on the Committee of 100, a biracial group of Birmingham businessmen dedicated to bringing about desegregation in the city through less public means. This group had some initial success when downtown merchants agreed to desegregate their stores in the fall of 1962. Despite criticisms, Gaston provided space at a reduced rate in his motel to protest leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Abernathy for planning for their demonstrations. Gaston also bailed King out of jail when he was arrested in the spring of 1963, during the Birmingham Campaign.

Gaston himself became the victim of violence as a result of his support for King and Abernathy when his motel was bombed on May 12, 1963. In September 1963, Gaston's home was bombed, but no one was injured and the house suffered minimal damage. In 1976, Gaston was again the victim of violence when he was kidnapped by an intruder, beaten with a hammer, handcuffed, and driven around the city for hours before the assailant was apprehended by police; the incident was thought to be prompted more by his financial status rather than his race.

In 1968, Gaston published his autobiography, *Green Power: The Successful Way of A. G. Gaston*, motivated in large part by his desire to promote black entrepreneurship and to regain respect in the black community. The book was well received and earned Gaston an appearance on *The Today Show*.

During the last decades of his life, Gaston amassed many honors and accolades. In 1975, he received an honorary law degree from Pepperdine University. In 1976, he was named an honorary president of Troy University and the Alabama Broadcasters Association named him its citizen of the year. Gaston was also honored by serving on the boards of trustees of Tuskegee University, Daniel Payne College, the Gorgas Scholarship Foundation, and the Eighteenth Street Branch YMCA. In 1992, he was named by the magazine *Black Enterprise* as "Entrepreneur of the Century." Gaston gave back to the community in numerous ways, including donating \$50,000 to establish the A. G. Gaston Boys Club in Birmingham and serving as its president. He also served on the boards of directors for the Jefferson County United Appeal, the Jefferson County Mental Health Association, the National Business League, Operation New Birmingham, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

In 1986, Gaston added to his empire at the age of 94 with the A. G. Gaston Construction Company. The next year, Gaston rewarded his long-time employees by creating an employee stock option plan and sold the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company with assets totaling \$34 million in assets to his employees for only \$3.5 million. Gaston continued to operate the Citizens Federal Savings Bank and the Smith and Gaston Funeral Home in the 1990s despite suffering a stroke in 1992. Gaston, one of Alabama's leading entrepreneurs, died on January 19, 1996, at the age of 103.

The Gaston Motel, an important gathering place in Birmingham for civil rights leaders and the scene of a bombing in 1963, was included as part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument created by Pres. Barack Obama in January 2017.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2062>

Image courtesy of Birmingham Public Library retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-6543>

William Crawford Gorgas

William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920) was a pioneer in the field of public health and tropical medicine. His work in eradicating yellow fever in Panama made possible the construction of the Panama Canal. Gorgas served as U.S. Army surgeon general, received honorary degrees from seven different universities, won honors from several foreign countries for his service to public health, and fought tirelessly to improve sanitary conditions throughout South America and Africa.

Gorgas was born on October 3, 1854, in Toulminville, near Mobile, Alabama, at the home of his grandfather John Gayle, a former governor of Alabama. His parents were Amelia Gayle Gorgas, born in Greensboro, Hale County, and Josiah Gorgas, a U.S. Army lieutenant and commandant of the Mount Vernon Arsenal who was born in Running Pumps, Pennsylvania. The Gorgases lived in Mount Vernon until mid-1856 and then moved to various arsenal locations in Maine, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. In 1861 Josiah received an appointment as chief of ordnance for the Confederacy. He relocated to Richmond, Virginia, with the rest of the Confederate government in June 1862, and his family joined him soon thereafter. When Josiah fled Richmond with the Confederate government in April 1865, his family, which by this time included William Crawford's sisters Jessie, Mary Gayle, Christine Amelia, and Maria Bayne and brother, Richard Haynsworth, moved in with Amelia's sister in Richmond. Later that year, the two sisters and their children moved to Maryland.

In 1866, Josiah Gorgas and several other investors reopened an existing iron works at Brierfield, Alabama, and his family joined him there. The years in Brierfield were happy for the family, and young William Crawford fished, hunted, and rode horseback, activities that he enjoyed throughout his life. And despite his father's vehement opposition, the young Gorgas dreamed of a military career.

The iron works failed in 1869, and Josiah Gorgas took a position as headmaster at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, set in a remote, mountain-top wilderness and populated largely by ex-Confederates. Gorgas accompanied his father, attended the university, and graduated in 1875. Gorgas then spent an unhappy year in his uncle's New Orleans law office. He was determined to follow his father into the U.S. Army, but he failed to get into



West Point and instead enrolled in medical school at Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York City, graduating in 1879. He interned at Bellevue and at the New York Insane Asylum at Blackwell's Island, New York, before entering the U.S. Army Medical Corps in June 1880 as a first lieutenant.

Gorgas's years in medical school coincided with his father's failing health and threats of dismissal from Sewanee trustees. The family's grim financial state led all of his siblings to quit school and find employment to contribute to the family's income. Gorgas's father was no longer able to supplement his income, and his already frugal lifestyle became even more frugal. In 1881 he began sending money to his family monthly, a practice he continued until suffering a stroke in 1920.

Between 1880 and 1884 Gorgas served at army posts in south Texas, where he contracted a mild case of yellow fever. While convalescing, he met Marie Doughty, another fever victim. The two married in September 1885 and had one daughter, Aileen Lyster, in 1889. In late 1885 Gorgas was assigned to Fort Randall, North Dakota, where he made house calls wrapped in buffalo robes in frigid temperatures and blizzards. He was promoted to captain in 1885. Because he now was immune to yellow fever, he next served two tours of duty from 1888 to 1898 at Fort Barrancas, in Pensacola, Florida, where he successfully controlled a yellow fever epidemic.

Promoted to major, Gorgas became chief sanitary officer for U.S.-occupied Havana, Cuba, in July 1898. He instituted strict sanitation codes that led to the decline of other diseases in the city, but yellow fever occurrences continued to rise. Gorgas rejected the theory that mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever until 1900, when Major Walter Reed proved that the female *Stegomyia* (now known as the *Aedes*) mosquito spread the disease. Gorgas soon implemented efforts to destroy mosquito breeding sites, and by September 1901 these procedures had eliminated yellow fever in the Havana area. Gorgas became enormously popular among Havana's citizens.

That same year, the U.S. government began planning for the construction of the Panama Canal and named Gorgas as the sanitary expert for the project. He spent 1902 preparing for the assignment by familiarizing himself with the failed French attempts to construct a canal in Panama and by touring the Suez Canal in Egypt and the proposed site of the canal in Panama. When the government created a commission to lead the canal project, the American Medical Association tried unsuccessfully to place Gorgas on the commission. He thus found himself answering to a frugal commission that dismissed the mosquito theory.

Gorgas became a colonel in March 1903 and sailed for Panama in June 1904. Despite Gorgas's knowledge of the area and its disease potential, the head of the commission routinely refused to approve the doctor's requisitions for supplies. Gorgas faced local officials unwilling to enforce sanitary regulations for fear of losing elections, U.S. officials opposed to the mosquito theory, and stingy Washington bureaucrats convinced that sanitation money could be better

spent on other aspects of canal construction. As Gorgas's predictions about sanitary conditions came to pass and controversy mounted over the canal's slow progress, the American Medical Association sent an eminent surgeon to determine the truth about conditions. The resulting report condemned the commission for abuses of authority, delays in acquisition of urgently needed supplies, and deliberate obstruction of canal work. Gorgas, however, received warm praise.

In early 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt read the report and decided to replace the commission members, reorganize the sanitary department, and replace Gorgas. The dean of the Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, advised Roosevelt that no one was as qualified as Gorgas in the sanitation field, however, and Roosevelt promised to retain Gorgas and to support his work. In mid-1905, Roosevelt appointed a new chief engineer who believed in the mosquito theory and supported Gorgas. The subsequent two years were "halcyon days," as Gorgas described them. The sanitary department in Panama accomplished more than at any other time in the construction of the canal, and yellow fever cases took a steep decline. In November 1906 Roosevelt visited the canal, praised Gorgas's work, reorganized the canal administration, and made the sanitary department responsible only to the chairman of the canal commission.

Unfortunately, this favorable period ended in 1907 with the appointment of still another chief engineer and commission chairman, George W. Goethals, a man who issued orders and viewed disagreement as disloyalty. Gorgas had won cooperation from the Panamanians and canal employees through charm and salesmanship. Now he found himself reporting to a man who did not believe in his sanitation program, was bitterly hostile to him personally, and ruled the construction project like a dictator.

Despite his difficult working conditions, Gorgas began to receive wide recognition for his accomplishments. In 1908 he was elected president of the American Medical Association, and in 1911 he was offered the presidency of the University of Alabama, which he considered his highest honor. Believing his duty was to see the Panama Canal project through to completion, he regretfully declined the offer.

By the time the canal opened to commercial traffic in August 1914, Gorgas had taken a leave of absence and was consulting about sanitation and other health issues in Africa. In January 1914, he received a promotion to brigadier general and an appointment as U.S. Army surgeon general; promotion to major general followed in March 1915. In mid-1916, the Rockefeller Foundation asked him to consult on yellow fever in Central and South America, where he was welcomed as a hero.

That same year, Gorgas became occupied with preparations for potential U.S. involvement in World War I. After mobilization began, disease and deaths in army camps followed. Gorgas personally inspected camps and found them too overcrowded for good sanitation. In addition, his superiors were willing to construct and equip every type of building except hospitals. His

successful efforts to rectify these conditions broke the pattern of previous wars, in which more deaths had resulted from disease than from bullets. Gorgas retired from the army on October 3, 1918.

Not long afterward, Gorgas returned to South America, at the request of the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Board, to address persistent pockets of yellow fever. In 1920 he traveled to Europe and Africa and then to London, where he suffered a stroke. At Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Gorgas received a visit from King George V, who knighted him in the hospital. Gorgas's condition worsened, however, and he died on July 3, 1920.

Following a funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral, a full military cortege, including Coldstream Guards playing Chopin's Funeral March, processed through the streets of London. Gorgas's family transported his body back to the United States, where it lay in state for four days at Washington's Church of the Epiphany. Burial followed at Arlington National Cemetery.

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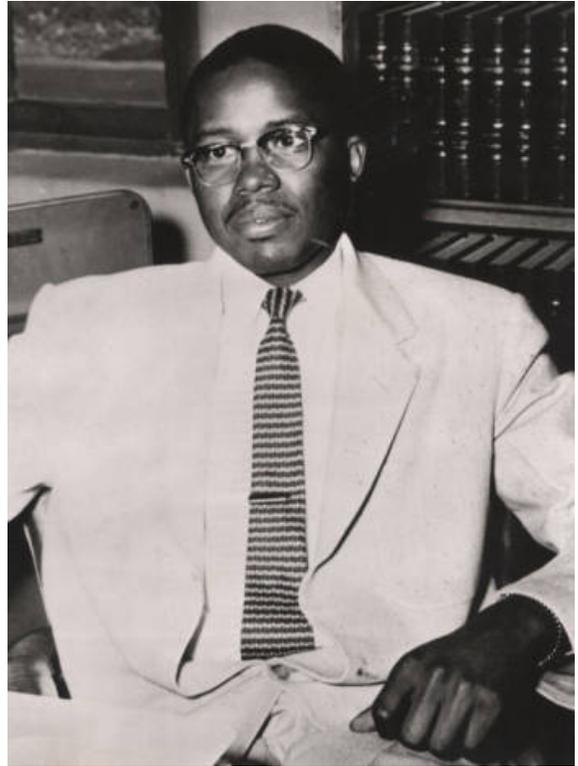
Frank David Gray

Fred Gray (1930-) is a prominent Alabama civil rights attorney whose clients have included Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. When he opened his Montgomery law office in 1954, Gray was one of the few African American attorneys in the state. His career blossomed in the context of the civil rights movement, as he played a pivotal role in dismantling legal segregation in the state.

Gray was born in the Washington Park section of Montgomery on December 14, 1930, to Abraham and Nancy Jones Gray. He was a gifted child who entered his aunt's first-grade class at Loveless School at the age of five. After he completed the seventh grade, his mother insisted that he attend the Nashville Christian Institute (NCI), a boarding school operated by Churches of Christ for African Americans. The Grays were devout members of Montgomery's Holt Street Church of Christ, and Gray's mother dreamed that her youngest son would become a preacher. Gray excelled at NCI. He was selected as a student representative, or "boy preacher," to accompany the school's African American president, Marshall Keeble, on fundraising tours. Keeble was the most popular preacher within the predominantly white denomination, and Gray honed his speaking skills under his tutelage. He completed his coursework early and enrolled in Alabama State College shortly before he turned 17.

Although he intended to become a history teacher and preacher, a faculty mentor at Alabama State pressed Gray to enter law school. After gaining entrance to Cleveland's Western Reserve University Law School (now Case Western Reserve University), Gray privately pledged to return to Montgomery and fight the city's segregation laws. At the age of 23, Gray came back to Montgomery, ready to keep that pledge. After Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her bus seat on December 1, 1955, the young Gray, who shared lunch with Parks earlier that day, became her attorney. Despite Gray's efforts, Parks was convicted of disorderly conduct and violating a civil ordinance. During the famous bus boycott that followed, Gray served as a legal advisor to the Montgomery Improvement Association, and he was lead counsel in *Browder v. Gayle*, the 1956 case in which the Supreme Court upheld lower court decisions prohibiting segregation on city buses. That same year, Gray married Bernice Hill, with whom he would have four children.

The bus boycott launched Gray's career, as other civil rights activists and organizations sought his services. After state attorney general John Patterson effectively outlawed the National



Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from Alabama in 1956, Gray provided legal counsel to the organization until it was again permitted to operate in the state eight years later. When state officials charged Martin Luther King Jr. with tax evasion in 1960, Gray was a member of the defense team that won an acquittal from the all-white jury. As student sit-ins proliferated across the South in 1960, nine students from Alabama State College were expelled for participating, and Gray successfully argued that they were denied due process and equal protection of the law. Gray also filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of African Americans who sought permission to march from Selma to Montgomery in March 1965, and the court subsequently ordered the state to protect the marchers.

Gray litigated cases that went before the Supreme Court. In the 1960 case *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, Gray convinced the high court that a 1957 act of the Alabama legislature was unconstitutional. As an increasing number of African Americans registered to vote in Tuskegee, white officials there convinced the legislature to redraw the city's boundaries. The new city limits excluded most African Americans, thereby preventing them from voting in city elections; even Tuskegee Institute fell outside of the new boundaries. The court's ruling derailed other efforts throughout the country to dilute African American votes through racial gerrymandering.

Perhaps Gray's most significant contribution to the state was his pursuit of school integration. Gray helped represent Vivian Malone and James Hood in their efforts to attend the University of Alabama, leading to Gov. George Wallace's "stand in the schoolhouse door," and he was also the plaintiff's attorney in *Franklyn v. Auburn*, which desegregated Auburn University. On January 28, 1963, Gray filed *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*, and as a result of this case, the court issued an order in 1967 that integrated all of Alabama's educational institutions that were not already under court orders. Lawsuits filed by Gray eventually desegregated all public colleges and universities in the state, as well as more than 100 local school systems.

Although much of Gray's legal work attacked segregation, he was also an attorney for the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. In 1932, the United States Public Health Service began a study of the effects of untreated syphilis on more than 600 African American males in Macon County. Participants were never told that they were part of the study, simply believing that they were receiving proper medical treatment, nor were they given penicillin to cure the disease. After the study became public in 1972, Gray filed a lawsuit against Alabama and the U.S. Public Health Service that was settled in 1975 for \$10 million and medical treatment.

Although Gray is best known for his legal career, he also fulfilled his mother's dream. In 1957, he agreed to be the full-time preacher for Montgomery's Newtown Church of Christ, and he served in that capacity until he moved to Tuskegee in 1973. After moving to Tuskegee, he helped organize the merger of the city's black and white Churches of Christ in 1974. In addition to these roles, Gray briefly ventured into politics. After narrowly losing a bid for a legislative seat in 1966, he was elected in 1970 as a state representative for a district that included Barbour, Bullock, and Macon counties. Gray, along with Thomas Reed, who was also

elected that year, became the first African Americans to serve in the Alabama legislature since Reconstruction.

Throughout his career, Gray has received numerous awards and honors. In 1985, he served as president of the National Bar Association, and in 1996, he received the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association. In 2002, he became the first African American president of the Alabama Bar Association. Gray also serves on the board of trustees for Southwestern Christian College, a historically black college affiliated with the Churches of Christ, and on the board of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. As of 2007, Gray serves as president of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural center, a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of housing a permanent memorial on behalf of the participants in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. The center also serves as a museum to educate the public on the contributions made by various ethnic groups in the fields of human and civil rights. He will long be remembered as the foremost civil rights attorney in Alabama history.

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Erskine Hawkins

Musician and Birmingham native Erskine Hawkins (1914-1993) was a prominent African American trumpeter, bandleader, and composer during the Big Band era of the 1930s and 1940s. Known as the "Twentieth-Century Gabriel" (after the angel Gabriel, who is often depicted with a trumpet) for his flamboyant style and ability to hit high notes, Hawkins gained fame as a member of the 'Bama State Collegians, one of the finest college bands of its time. His Erskine Hawkins Orchestra was a popular dance band in New York City, and with it he recorded "Tuxedo Junction" (1939) and several other hits. Hawkins is a member of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame.

Born in the Enon Ridge section of Birmingham, Jefferson County, on July 26, 1914, Erskine

Ramsay Hawkins was one of five children of Edward and Cary Hawkins. After his father died in France during World War I, the family moved in with Cary's relatives across the street from the Tuggle Institute, a private school for African American boys (now Tuggle Elementary School). Hawkins attended Tuggle from the age of six, excelling in music and athletics. Under the direction of the school's band director, he first played drums, trombone, and saxophone, before concentrating his talents on the trumpet. He was nearly always at the school, either playing music or at the gym, where he played basketball, football, and tennis.

Hawkins had a long-time relationship with Tuxedo Junction, a streetcar intersection on the Ensley-Fairfield line in Birmingham that was a center of nightlife for African Americans from the 1920s through the 1950s, comparable to Harlem in New York City. Music and dancing were plentiful at the juke joints and a fancy ballroom frequented by mill and railroad workers, who often rented tuxedos from a nearby shop. As a young child, Hawkins played music in the local park and was inspired by the sounds he heard. As a teenager, Hawkins attended Birmingham Industrial High School under famed music educator John T. "Fess" Whatley, and formed a band with Bob Range, Haywood Henry, and other boys from the school, eventually playing in Birmingham's clubs.

In 1930, at the age of 16, Hawkins graduated from Birmingham Industrial and moved to Montgomery to attend State Teachers College (now Alabama State University) on a tennis scholarship, but gave that up to major in music. Of the college's three different bands at the

time, the Collegians, the Revelers, and the Cavaliers, the best musicians played in the Collegians, which eventually included Hawkins and his friends Henry, Range, and Wilbur "Dud" Bascomb. In the early 1930s, the bands toured to make money for the school, with earnings beyond salaries and expenses sent to Montgomery. While touring the South and Midwest, the Collegians gained a reputation as one of the best college bands in the country. Led by J. B. Sims, it played jazz and dance tunes, but also military music and symphonic pieces. Hawkins graduated in 1934, but stayed on to teach music and play with the band.

Hawkins and the Collegians first earned fame in 1934, when touring the Northeast. While in Asbury Park, New Jersey, musicians from New York City came to hear them play, and the band was invited to the Harlem Opera House and Brooklyn's Fox Folly. Given the chance to turn professional and make more money, Hawkins and most members decided to stay in New York, with Hawkins replacing Sims as bandleader. During their first few years, they played various clubs in New York, including the Apollo Theater, as well as school dances and other venues, and continued touring. A bit rough and unpolished early on, the band developed a more refined hard-swinging approach popular with dancers. Specializing in medium-fast tempos, mixing swing tunes with ballads, and maintaining a bluesy quality, the band's music reflected the influences of Louis Armstrong, Jimmy Lunceford, and Count Basie.

In 1935, Hawkins married Florence Browning, a schoolteacher. The following year, the band began recording for Vocalion Records as the 'Bama State Collegians featuring Erskine Hawkins. By 1938 it was known as Erskine Hawkins (the Twentieth-Century Gabriel) and His Orchestra, to reflect the members' independence from their former school. In 1938 members signed a recording contract with the RCA Bluebird, and later RCA Victor labels, a relationship that lasted until 1950. The band also found steady work at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, where it alternated with the Chick Webb Band so that dancers could have uninterrupted music each night. Eventually Hawkins and his orchestra became the Savoy house band and played there for several years, while also spending several months each year on the road. At the Savoy, Hawkins and his group often engaged in "battles of the bands" with guest bands, including Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and Lionel Hampton. For several years, concerts at the Savoy were also broadcast on the radio.

Hawkins' group had some distinctive qualities that made the band both successful and stable. Hawkins shared trumpet duties with Wilbur Bascomb, an excellent trumpeter, and gave plenty of solo time and credit to other band members, such as Paul Bascomb and Julian Dash, both of whom played tenor sax. Many new compositions were written by William Johnson (sax) and Sammy Lowe (trumpet), and arrangement was shared by Lowe and Avery Parrish (piano). By all accounts, band members got along well and enjoyed working together.

The band scored its first hit in 1939 with "Tuxedo Junction," and the tune became its signature song for many years. The song had originated as the sign-off tune each band would play at the Savoy to signal that the next band should prepare to take the stage. During one recording session, they needed an extra song, and William Johnson created an arrangement on the spot.

The song sold very well, but when the all-white Glenn Miller Orchestra recorded a version of the song, white audiences bought that instead, even though many jazz aficionados consider Hawkins's version superior.

The band was very popular, especially among African Americans, but jazz critics at the time were less kind. They accused Hawkins of having poor intonation and of grandstanding with his flashy displays of trumpet high notes, were disdainful of his nickname, and judged the band unoriginal. Fans, however, considered Hawkins an outstanding trumpet player and bandleader. And his loyal following allowed him to keep the band together into the early 1950s, long after most other big bands had split up and musical tastes had changed.

By 1953, Hawkins was forced to reduce the big band to a small combo, as swing music gave way to rhythm & blues and bebop, but the larger group occasionally had reunions. In the 1960s, he regularly played the Embers Club in New York City, and from 1967 to 1989 played the Concord Hotel in New York's Catskill Mountain resort area and lived in Willingboro, New Jersey, with his second wife, Gloria Dumas. During his career he recorded dozens of songs, but he was most productive from 1936-1950, recording for the Vocalion and RCA Bluebird labels. In the early 1950s, Hawkins also recorded for Coral and King Records. His last recording was an album featuring a reunion of his old bandmates in 1971.

Hawkins received many awards and honors, including an honorary doctorate in music from Alabama State Teachers College in 1947. In 1978 he was among the first inductees into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and was given a Lifework Award for Performing Achievement by the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1989. Since the mid-1980s his birthday has been celebrated each July at the "Function in the Junction" in Birmingham, and the park near the old Tuxedo Junction was renamed Erskine Hawkins Park in his honor. He returned regularly to his home town to receive these honors and to celebrate his birthday. Erskine died on November 11, 1993, at age 79, in Willingboro, New Jersey, and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

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Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was an author, folklorist, journalist, dramatist, and influential member of the Harlem Renaissance. She is best known for her novels, particularly *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). A complex and controversial figure, Hurston was an ardent promoter of African American culture. Although criticized by her peers, who were interested in using literature and art as vehicles for overcoming stereotypes and promoting integration, assimilation, and equality, Hurston refused to concentrate on racism in her writing. Hurston's short stories, plays, and novels reflect her interest in anthropology and make use of material she collected while working on various funded expeditions around the South and in Haiti and Jamaica.



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The controversy surrounding Hurston begins with the place of her birth. Notasulga, Alabama, and Eatonville, Florida, both vie for the honor, but Notasulga, in eastern Alabama, is currently accepted by most scholars. She was born on January 7, 1891, to John Hurston and Lucy Potts Hurston, who was from a landowning family and had taught school before marrying. The Potts family, according to Hurston herself in her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*, did not approve of the marriage because the groom's prospects were poor, but John and Lucy wed, farmed, and started their own family. Zora was the fifth child, and when she was a toddler, they moved to the all-black town of Eatonville. There, John became a carpenter and a Baptist preacher, and he was elected mayor. Lucy Hurston died in 1904, and Hurston was sent to a boarding school in Jacksonville, Florida, where she was a successful and enthusiastic student. John remarried, and because Zora and her new stepmother disliked each other, Hurston lived with several relatives. She supported herself as a domestic before going to live with a brother in Baltimore, graduating from the city's Morgan Academy in June 1918. Disappointed by her brother's unwillingness to allow her to continue her education, Hurston found work with a traveling entertainment company. She earned \$10 a week performing chores for her employer (whom she later wrote about in *Dust Tracks on a Road* as Miss M) and other members of the company. They loaned Hurston books, exposed her to classical music, and included her in discussions. When Miss M decided to leave the stage and marry, Hurston returned to Baltimore.

By June 1918, Hurston had finished high school at Morgan Academy in Baltimore and entered Howard University, completing an associate degree in 1920. For the next few years, she wrote and published short stories. In 1925, Hurston entered Barnard College in New York, where she developed an interest in anthropology. Barnard professor and anthropologist Franz Boas encouraged her to do field work collecting data on stories, folkways, language, superstitions, visions, music, and religious practices from African Americans who were migrating out of the Jim Crow South to New York's Harlem neighborhood. There, she met author and columnist Langston Hughes and other writers and artists who would become the architects of what became known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Hurston's dream was that their efforts would preserve and promote the traditional dialects and cultural heritage of rural Southern blacks; although she and other intellectuals envisioned more and better opportunities for African Americans, Hurston differed in that she resisted the idea of trading black culture for economic and social equality. Langston Hughes accused her of catering to white audiences and of allowing white patronage to affect her work; her defense against such accusations was that she chose to create characters memorable for their unapologetic celebration of black heritage. Her stance was one of affirmation. Fearful, perhaps, that integration would threaten black cultural traditions, Hurston opposed desegregation. This position was unpopular and misunderstood by those seeking social change. Aware of racism, racially motivated violence, and the degradation of Jim Crow laws, Hurston nonetheless did not launch a frontal attack. She understood the problems experienced by African Americans and women in the first half of the twentieth century, but she perceived that portrayals of them as helpless victims would perpetuate a sense of inferiority. Using Eatonville porch stories and material from collecting excursions, she recorded vibrant black life and the will to survive in a hostile environment, and she dealt with bitterness and resentment about injustice in subtle ways. Her characters are proud, independent, confident, and resourceful; they represent a healthy culture that Hurston did not want subsumed or assimilated. She championed diversity. Hers were ordinary people too busy living to spend much time feeling oppressed or demanding pity or sympathy from a dominant culture whose values were questionable.

Some Harlem Renaissance artists believed that it was their duty to create literature, art, and music that promoted assimilation into white mainstream American culture. Hurston drew criticism from some African American intellectuals, including novelist Richard Wright, for writing dialogue in rural African American dialect and for presenting her characters in ways that other writers and critics considered backward or inappropriate. Her writing also met with criticism from some white literary reviewers, who felt that her characters were stereotypes. Her friendship with Langston Hughes ended over a disagreement about writing credits for *Mule Bone*, a play on which they had collaborated.

Hurston graduated from Barnard in 1928 and embarked on a successful career as a playwright. She wrote and directed musical, dance, and dramatic productions that employed

black talent and emphasized African American culture and contributions to U.S. history and society and were performed in New York, Florida, and Chicago. In 1934, she published her first novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*. That same year, the Rosenwald Foundation offered her a fellowship to enter the doctoral program in anthropology at Columbia University; she accepted the fellowship but never completed the degree. Instead, using field notes that she had collected in New Orleans and Florida in 1927, she wrote *Mules and Men*, which she published in 1935. On the strength of that and her other accomplishments, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study West Indian folklife in Haiti. While there, she wrote her most famous novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which was published in 1937. She published *Tell My Horse*, based on her experiences in Haiti, in 1938, and in 1941 wrote an autobiography entitled *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

None of Hurston's novels met with absolute acclaim. Some critics praised her honesty, accepting the simplicity and humor in her writing as evidence of black contentment; others deplored her reluctance to address racial conflict and bitterness. Publishers were partly to blame because they edited out passages and requested that she delete some controversial social and political observations. Even *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, generally recognized as Hurston's best work, was not considered serious enough by some reviewers. There was universal agreement, however, that she was gifted at capturing and retelling the stories of common people. Her last book, *Seraph on the Suwanee*, was published in 1948, but it received poor reviews.

That same year, she was humiliated publicly by a false accusation of molesting a young boy. In 1950, she relocated to Florida and wrote essays and took odd jobs to make ends meet. In 1952, the *Pittsburgh Courier* hired Hurston to cover the murder trial of Ruby McCollum in Live Oak, Florida. McCollum, an African American woman, had shot and killed a white man, C. LeRoy Adams, who was a popular local physician with political ambitions in the small segregated town. McCollum claimed to have been carrying Adams's child and to have suffered years of mental and physical abuse from him, but her efforts to tell her version of the events leading to the slaying were ignored. The trial attracted the attention of the national media, and Hurston's accounts provided insights about a conspiracy to thwart justice. Fellow Alabamian William Bradford Huie later drew heavily on Hurston's observations in his book, *Ruby McCollum: Woman in the Suwanee Jail*, published in 1964. Huie and Hurston had corresponded about the trial, the town's rigorous silence, racial tension, and the fate of McCollum, and Hurston seemed to have rediscovered her literary voice through reporting on the case.

During the last 10 years of her life, Hurston continued to write essays that reflected her complex views on integration. In them, she advocated segregation as a means of preserving African American cultural traditions. Hurston's final years were plagued by financial worries and declining health. With little work coming her way after the false molestation charges, she worked as a maid in Rivo Alto, Florida, and struggled to find work throughout the 1950s. In

1959, Hurston was admitted to a nursing home in Fort Pierce after she suffered a stroke. She died there of a heart attack on January 28, 1960, and was buried in an unmarked grave. Author Alice Walker, who counted Hurston as a primary influence in her own writing, revived interest in Hurston when she searched out Hurston's grave, provided a headstone for it, and published an article entitled "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston" in *Ms.* magazine in 1975.

Although Hurston remains a controversial figure, she is remembered for her ability to make herself heard at a time when most women—especially African American women—were expected to be silent and submissive. The Florida cities of Fort Pierce and Eatonville now host annual festivals to commemorate Hurston's life and literary achievements. Her short story "The Gilded Six Bits" was made into a short film in 2001, and her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was released as a film for television in 2005. Hurston's life was marked by triumph and disappointment. During the turbulent years of the Great Depression, she produced five of her seven books, but by the time of her death, none remained in print. Due in large part to the efforts of Alice Walker, Hurston scholarship has been revived. Once denounced as entertainment fiction, Hurston's work now enjoys a secure place in twentieth-century literature. She defied conventions and upheld human dignity, and her views are being reassessed by a new generation of readers and researchers.

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Helen Adams Keller

Few Alabamians have risen to the level of worldwide fame held by Helen Keller (1880-1968). Ironically, despite her many accomplishments as an adult, she is probably best remembered today as the deaf and blind child who learned sign language from her teacher Anne Sullivan at her parents' backyard water pump. During her lifetime, she was known for her tireless activism on behalf of workers' and women's rights, her literary work, and her tenure as an unofficial U.S. ambassador to the world. Although Keller left Alabama at the age of eight, she always claimed Ivy Green, her family's house in Tuscumbia, as home, and she continued to identify herself as a southerner throughout her life and travels. She was selected to represent Alabama on its 2003

state quarter, and on October 7, 2009, a bronze statue depicting seven-year-old Keller at the water pump replaced that of J. L. M. Curry in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbia, Colbert County, to Capt. Arthur H. Keller, a newspaper editor, and Kate Adams Keller, and was later joined by a sister, Mildred, and a brother, Phillip Brooks. At the age of 19 months, Keller contracted what doctors at the time called "brain fever," which may have been scarlet fever. Although Keller survived the illness, it left her deaf and blind. As she grew, her parents became more and more frustrated with their increasingly uncontrollable daughter. Family members urged the Kellers to place Helen in an asylum or institution. Apparently neither parent considered sending her to the Alabama School for the Deaf and Blind in Talladega, perhaps because southerners often looked at such educational institutions with suspicion given the connections between educational reformers and abolitionism.

Many financially secure families did send deaf or blind children to highly reputed schools in the Northeast. Through contacts with inventor and deaf educator Alexander Graham Bell, Keller's parents contacted Michael Anagnos, director of Boston's Perkins School for the Blind in 1886. He responded by sending his star student and recent graduate, the financially needy and orphaned Anne Sullivan, to work with the seven-year-old Helen Keller. Sullivan was quite familiar with living with a disability, having lost her sight after a childhood illness. Despite surgeries at Perkins that restored some function, Sullivan's eyesight remained erratic and limited for most of her life, and her eyes frequently caused her great pain.

In March 1887, the 21-year-old Sullivan arrived at Ivy Green, and started what would be a lifelong partnership with Helen Keller. The two generally communicated by finger-spelling, a process by which individual letters are spelled out in sign language on the open palm. Soon after she was able to teach the young Keller language, the forceful Sullivan persuaded her reluctant parents to allow the pair to move to Boston so that Keller could attend the Perkins School for the Blind. She argued that Helen needed to be removed from her overly protective family circle and that Perkins was the sensible educational choice.

Keller later wrote of her growing desire for education in her book *Teacher* (1955), a tribute to Anne Sullivan. "The thought of going to college took root in my heart," she recalled, "and became an earnest desire." After completing her education at Perkins, she and Anne Sullivan spent several years in New York attempting to develop her lip-reading and speaking skills at the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf. Then, despite the opposition of many financial supporters, she sought admission to Radcliffe College, the women's institution associated with Harvard University. After several more years of preparation at the Cambridge School for Young Ladies, Keller entered the prestigious institution in the fall of 1900 and graduated in 1904.

While in college, Keller undertook an essay assignment that evolved into a magazine serial and then into her 1903 autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, which remains her most famous publication. In it, she chronicled her education and first 23 years, and Sullivan provided supplementary accounts of the teaching process. Harvard scholar and friend John Macy helped negotiate a publishing contract and edited the book, and he married Sullivan in 1905. Literary success revolutionized Keller's world. The autobiography became an almost unparalleled best seller in multiple languages and caused Keller to dream of life as an economically self-sufficient author.

In the *Story of My Life* (1903), it is clear that Keller's Alabama and Southern ties formed and constituted a vital element of her public identity. She characterized Ivy Green and its garden as "the paradise of my childhood," and detailed the smells, location, and sometimes texture of each flower and vine. She claimed her regional roots fondly but grappled with them at times. Throughout her lifetime, she increasingly questioned and then challenged segregation, racially based economic inequalities, and racial violence.

After graduating college, Keller assumed that she would build on the massive literary success of her autobiography, but she found supporting herself as an author more difficult than she anticipated. Editors and the reading public only wanted to read about her disability, but Keller wanted to write on her expanding and increasingly controversial economic, political, and international views. The critics panned and few bought *The World I Live In* (1908), *Song of the Stone Wall* (1910), and her collection of political essays *Out of the Dark* (1913). She and Sullivan tried the lecture circuit, starred in the 1919 Hollywood film *Deliverance* (which also featured her brother), and lectured about her education and politics on the vaudeville stage in an effort to support themselves. Neither woman enjoyed the constant travel and public

scrutiny, and Sullivan (who both married and separated from her husband John Macy during this time period) particularly disliked the stress of travel and public performance.

In the decades after college, Keller also became increasingly involved in politics. She joined the Socialist Party of America in 1909 and became an advocate of voting rights, unemployment benefits, and legalized birth control for women and a defender of the radical Industrial Workers of the World union. She criticized World War I as a profit-making venture for industrialists and urged working-class men to resist the war. She supported striking workers and jailed dissidents and expressed passionate views about the need for a just and economically equitable society. She blamed industrialization and poverty for causing disability among a disproportionately large number of working-class people and became increasingly concerned about racial inequalities. She expressed all of these sentiments through public speeches, newspaper and magazine articles, interviews, and appearances at rallies.

Though she was a discerning woman of political opinions and activism, Keller frequently encountered people who believed that her disability disqualified her from civic life. Detractors sometimes voiced these criticisms in regional terms. For example, when she voiced political opinions considered radical in the early twentieth century, opponents from Alabama attributed her views to the "Yankee" influence of Anne Sullivan Macy and her then-husband John Macy. When a letter and donation Keller sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People became public knowledge in 1916, an Alabama newspaper wrote that it reflected lingering abolitionist sentiment. According to her critics, her disability left her politically pliable, especially by what they considered immoral and irrational northerners, and incapable of intentional deliberation. Such attitudes frustrated and enraged her.

Keller entered the 1920s seeking a meaningful public life and financial stability. The newly created American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) supplied both, becoming the center of her and Anne Macy's lives as they worked from their Forest Hills, New York, home. Working on behalf of blind people with and through the AFB, Keller became an inveterate fundraiser and political lobbyist. From the 1920s through the early 1940s, she worked almost ceaselessly, raising funds and lobbying state and national legislatures. She emphasized educational and employment possibilities for people with disabilities, particularly those who were blind. Amidst these efforts, she also published *My Religion* (1927). In 1896, she had converted to Swedenborgianism, a Christian sect established by eighteenth-century Swedish spiritual leader Emanuel Swedenborg and a growing movement among turn-of-the-century Americans. Keller valued the opportunity to share that faith in *My Religion*. In 1929, she published *Midstream*, a continuation of her 1903 autobiography.

In 1936, Anne Sullivan Macy died at their home in Forest Hills, New York, at the age of 70, profoundly shaking Keller and forcing her to expand both her personal and professional worlds. During Macy's last months, the two women had received a visit from Takeo Iwahashi, an English-speaking Christian, director of a school for the blind in Osaka, Japan, and the Japanese translator of *The Story of My Life*. He urged Keller to visit Japan, and Macy exacted a

promise that Keller would someday follow through. In 1937, after Macy's death, Keller made good on her promise. Desperately in need of escape from her grief, the 56-year-old Keller, unsure of the rest of her life, saw in the trip the possibility of a new focus.

A subsequent trip to Japan in 1948 was the catalyst for Keller's transformation from tourist to semi-official ambassador for the United States. Keller had been strongly affected by the devastation caused by World War II and the U.S. atomic attacks and was thrilled by the enthusiastic reception she received from the Japanese citizens. She thus grew convinced of her calling to international service, and the AFB leadership agreed. Thrilled by her reception in Japan and always alert to opportunities to promote the U.S. image abroad during the Cold War, the State Department worked with the AFB to fund and facilitate her travels and promote her persona as a representative of Americanism. Seeking renewed purpose and escape, while also believing in her cause, Keller increasingly turned to international travel and advocacy of people with disabilities.

By 1957, Keller had traveled to more than 30 countries, attracting huge crowds wherever she went. During her public lectures, meetings with foreign dignitaries and women's clubs, and frequent visits to schools and other institutions for blind people, she simultaneously scolded governments and philanthropists for their limited efforts and cajoled them to do more. Encouraged by the AFB, the U.S. State Department, her own sense of service, and the delight of international travel, she traveled to countries as widespread as Australia, Brazil, Egypt, India, Mexico, and South Africa. Even in countries that were antagonistic to the U.S., citizens praised Keller enthusiastically. At each location, she gave brief speeches, sometimes aided by her companion Polly Thomson.

During the years after Macy's death, Keller strove to redefine herself professionally and personally. By this point, her contacts with Alabama were minimal. Her father had died in 1896, and her mother in 1921. She largely communicated with her brother and sister by letter. From her adopted home of Westport, Connecticut, she developed new friends and venues of expression. Sculptor Jo Davidson became one of the most important of these friends, stimulating her interest in life through intellectual debate and the arts. For example, on a trip to Italy he arranged a tactile "viewing" for Keller of sculptures by Michelangelo and Donatello. Other friendships grew out of the New York world of friend and editor Nella Braddy Henney. With Henney's assistance, Keller published *Journal* in 1938, a chronicling of the months after Macy's death, and *Teacher*, her memorial to Macy, in 1956. Keller grew to love interacting with these people and valued them for their wit, sharp opinions, and knowledge of the political world. Good friends already knew or learned to finger-spell in order to communicate with Keller, and her speech was easily understood by those accustomed to hearing it. With individuals who did not finger-spell, Keller sometimes relied on her own form of lip reading. She sat very close; and with her left index finger, middle finger, and thumb she touched their nostril, lips, and larynx in order to understand words. At other times, Polly Thomson interpreted on-going conversations by finger-spelling.

In 1955, Keller won an Oscar for her participation in the documentary *The Unconquered* (also titled *Helen Keller in Her Story*). In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson awarded her the Congressional Medal of Freedom. When she died in 1968 at the age of 88, she was one of the most famous people in the world as she had been since nearly the age of eight. The young girl from Tuscumbia, whose parents had foreseen a grim future for their deaf-blind girl, had literally and figuratively traveled far.

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Coretta Scott King

Coretta Scott King (1927-2006), most widely known as the wife and widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., carried on his vision of nonviolent protest to effect social change after his death in 1968. She founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change that year and later opposed apartheid in South Africa and participated in other human-rights struggles.

Coretta Scott was born April 27, 1927, in Heiberger, Perry County, to Obediah and Bernice McMurray Scott, between siblings Edythe and Obediah Leonard. The Scotts owned their cotton farm but struggled as most Alabamians did during the Great Depression. The Scotts placed a great deal of emphasis on education, and the children

walked five miles to the one-room Crossroads School for their elementary education. The nearest African American high school, Lincoln, was nine miles away in Marion. Being too far to walk and not wanting her children to board in Marion during the week, Coretta's mother hired a bus and drove all the black students in the community to school daily. Coretta excelled in music, playing both the trumpet and piano, singing in the chorus, and participating in school musicals. She graduated as class valedictorian in 1945.

Coretta left the South to attend Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where her sister had been the school's first full-time African American student. She continued her education at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, earning a degree in voice and violin. It was in Boston that she met Martin Luther King Jr., who was working on his doctorate in theology at Boston University. They wed on June 18, 1953, in the garden of Scott's Alabama home. Coretta had the vow to obey her husband removed from the ceremony, which was unusual for the time. The couple returned to Boston, where Coretta earned a bachelor's degree in voice. King finished his residency requirements at Boston College and became minister of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, in 1954. The Kings would have four children: Yolanda Denise in 1955, Martin Luther III two years later, Dexter Scott in 1961, and Bernice Albertine in 1963.

King soon emerged as an internationally famous civil rights figure as leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the successful boycott of Montgomery busses in 1956 and 1957, and then as head of the

Southern Christian Leadership Conference. While residing in Montgomery, Coretta fulfilled the many and important responsibilities of a pastor's wife, balancing raising the children and maintaining their home while participating in civil rights protests, all despite numerous death threats. In 1956, the King home was bombed while Coretta and the infant Yolanda were home alone, but neither was injured.

In 1957, the Kings made a trip to Ghana to mark the country's independence. The next year, they traveled to Mexico, where they were moved by the great disparity between the rich and poor. In 1960, the family moved to Atlanta, where King joined his father as co-pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Four years later, Martin and Coretta traveled to India for a pilgrimage for Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. That same year, Coretta accompanied Martin to Oslo, Norway, where he received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize

Throughout their marriage, Coretta remained an active partner with her husband in the civil rights movement. The Kings traveled and marched together whenever possible. Behind the scenes, she managed a variety of administrative work, including handling the vast amounts of mail and phone calls. Using her organizational skills and musical talents, Coretta organized and performed in a series of Freedom Concerts, which combined prose, poetry, and musical selections to raise funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The concerts allowed her to combine her love of music with her life's work of ending discrimination. When necessary, Coretta acted as a surrogate for Martin and gave speeches when he could not. As a lifelong advocate for world peace, Coretta was one of the founders of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and in 1962 was a delegate at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Following Martin's assassination in April 1968, Coretta continued working in the civil rights movement. Indeed, four days after his death Coretta and the children participated in a large demonstration in Memphis, Tennessee, where her husband had been assassinated. The following June, Coretta delivered the keynote address, based on Martin's notes, at a Washington,

D.C., civil rights gathering called the Poor People's Campaign that attracted 50,000 attendees. Coretta turned her efforts to preserving the memory and extending the legacy of her slain husband by founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta in 1968, serving as president and chief executive officer until 1995, when her son Dexter took over. The King Center is a memorial to King's vision of peace and equality and houses an extensive library of documents and artifacts central to the civil rights movement. The 23-acre national historic park includes the home in which he was born and receives more than a million visitors a year.

Coretta created programs at the local, national, and international levels that have trained thousands of people in the philosophy and social activist methods of Martin Luther King Jr., ensuring a continuation of his nonviolent philosophy of civil liberty. In 1980, Coretta's lobbying

efforts came to fruition when the National Park Service declared the King Center and the 23-acre neighborhood surrounding his birthplace a National Historic Site. The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Parsonage in Montgomery is a National Historic Landmark.

In 1983, Coretta Scott King led the twentieth anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in which more than 800 human-rights organizations formed the Coalition of Conscience, one of the largest demonstrations ever held in the capital. The Coalition held another march five years later to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Poor People's March of Conscience. In 1984, she chaired the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to coordinate a national holiday to honor King, and it was first observed in 1986. King supported the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and met with leaders of Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In 1985, Coretta and three of her children were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C., for protesting apartheid. Continuing her lifelong peace activism, King served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks. Two years later, she convened the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, D.C.

Throughout her life, Coretta King advocated for social liberty, economic justice, and peace and fought homophobia. In 1969, she wrote her memoir, *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*, and throughout her life was a sought-after speaker. She also wrote a syndicated weekly newspaper column and edited a book of her husband's writings, *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, which was published in 1983. The American Library Association awards the "Coretta Scott King Award" to African American writers and illustrators for outstanding contributions in children's and juvenile literature. King received numerous awards and more than 60 honorary degrees.

In the 1990s, the King family and the National Park Service came into conflict over a proposed visitors center across the street from the King center, with the King family wanting an interactive museum. The two sides reached an agreement in 1996 and the Park Service opened its facility. Additionally, the King family came under criticism for their tight control of MLK's papers and his image. Critics accused the family of profiting from the rights. Another controversy centered on the guilt of King's confessed assassin James Earl Ray. The King family believed that Ray was not a lone killer and that King was the victim of a conspiracy. In 1997, Coretta called for a new trial for Ray, who died in prison the next year. Currently, the remaining three King children are divided over keeping the King Center as a private holding or selling it to the park service.

Coretta died January 30, 2006, of complications from cancer and after several strokes had debilitated her. Her body was carried through the streets of Atlanta on a horse-drawn carriage to the Georgia State Capital, where she became the first woman and first African American to lie in state. Her funeral was held at the New Birth Missionary Church in Lithonia, Georgia. More than 14,000 people attended, including then-Pres. George W. Bush and former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1489>

Image Source: <http://www.awhf.org/king.html>



Martin Luther King, Jr.

Minister, philosopher, and social activist Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was America's most significant civil rights leader of the 1950s and 1960s. He achieved his most renown and greatest successes in advancing the cause of civil rights while leading a series of highly publicized campaigns in Alabama between 1955 and 1965. During this decade of mass protests against racial injustices, King's words and deeds inspired millions of people throughout the world. In 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in the struggle for racial equality. In contrast, others saw King as a polarizing figure whose actions elicited violent reactions. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Fifteen years later, in November 1983, President Ronald Reagan

signed a bill establishing the third Monday of every January as the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday.

Originally named Michael Luther, King was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Reverend Michael Luther and Alberta Williams King. Following a trip to Europe in 1934, King Sr. changed both his name and that of his son to Martin Luther to honor the leader of the Protestant Reformation. The younger King had one sister, Christine, and a brother, Alfred Daniel (A.D.)—the latter spent several years as a pastor at a Baptist church in western Birmingham. As the son of a minister, King's early life was centered on activities at the prestigious Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir. King left grade school at 15 and entered Morehouse College, intending to follow his father into the ministry.

That same year he preached his first sermon at Ebenezer. He graduated from Morehouse in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and began theological studies at Crozer Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. In 1951, King began course work for a doctorate at Boston University, where he studied various aspects of liberal Protestant theology and wrote a dissertation comparing the ideas of theologians Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman. While there, he met Coretta Scott, a young woman from Perry County, Alabama, who was studying voice at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. King's father initially objected to his son's romance with a "country girl" from Alabama but nonetheless performed the couple's wedding ceremony on June 18, 1953, on the Scott family farm in Heiberger, just north of Marion. The

couple would have four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine.

King drew from a variety of traditions, philosophers, theologians, and moralists in formulating his ideas on race, justice, and civil rights. Like many black preachers before him, King used his ministerial status to protest injustices, inspire his followers to become faith-based community activists, and tap into monetary sources within the black church. King rejected some of the religious views of the traditional black church, however. He embraced the notion that a preacher must minister to the external and physical needs of an individual in addition to internal and spiritual needs. He found inspiration in the writings of American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and essayist Henry David Thoreau, who both helped him develop his views that an individual should refuse to cooperate with an evil system and had the right to disobey unfair laws. In the actions of Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi, he found support for his belief in nonviolent resistance to injustice and the use of love to resist evil. These influences and others helped King develop a strategy of protest and civil disobedience using love and nonviolent tactics to confront the racist laws and customs of the American South, which he viewed as an evil, unjust system created by immoral men.

In 1954 Martin Luther King Jr. applied for a job as the new pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, located near the Alabama state capital building in Montgomery. While there to preach a trial sermon to the congregation, King befriended the pastor of First Baptist Church, Alabamian Ralph Abernathy, another future leader of the civil rights movement. Although King had other job opportunities, the prospect of making a name for himself as a minister beyond the shadow of his father, combined with Dexter Avenue's elite status in Montgomery's African American community, enticed the 25-year-old preacher to accept the position. By 1955, King was known in Montgomery and around the region as a commanding orator with a passionate but measured delivery. That same year, the young preacher completed his doctoral dissertation, "A Comparison of the Conception of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman." Some 30 years later, however, scholars discovered that King had plagiarized parts of this study, dozens of other academic papers, and subsequent writings and sermons.

King's rise to national prominence began with events in 1955. On December 1, 1955, Montgomery police officers arrested Rosa Parks for refusing to give her bus seat to a white man. Community activists elected King as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, a group created to organize protests and a boycott of city buses, most likely because he was relatively new to the city and had no problematic allegiances to the various factions within the black community. The boycott, which lasted more than a year, ended in December 1956, when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's ruling that Alabama's laws requiring segregation on buses were unconstitutional. King, Abernathy, Parks, her attorney Fred Gray, and others were among the first to ride on Montgomery's integrated buses.

Despite its importance, the Montgomery Bus Boycott failed to spark a wider effort to end racial segregation and voting discrimination in Alabama and the rest of the South. The subsequent 1957 Civil Rights Act—which strengthened existing civil and voting rights laws, established a federal civil rights commission, and created the position of assistant U.S. attorney general for civil rights—was the first national civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. For King, the law fell short of his broader vision of ending racial segregation and voting discrimination. Nonetheless, the bus boycott did establish King as a leader in the civil rights movement in Alabama. In his sermons, King interpreted the situation with clear and direct language and learned how to use the media to show the nation the realities of segregation. After the boycott, King became more than just the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist or simply the leader of a city-wide movement—he had become part of American popular culture.

In early 1957, King, Abernathy, Birmingham native Fred Shuttlesworth, and other black ministers from Alabama and throughout the South met in Atlanta and created the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to help coordinate further mass protests. Initially, however, the group struggled to find a focus. The SCLC was poorly funded, and its leaders were deeply divided on how to continue the fight for racial equality. Prior to the presidential election of 1960, the group launched a voting rights campaign, but it had little significant impact. Other ideas for confronting racial injustices, including leadership training and citizenship education, were never implemented. King decided to return to Atlanta and serve as co-pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church with his father. The move provided him with a broader support network and freed him from the demands of being the sole pastor at Dexter Avenue.

In February 1960, students in Greensboro, North Carolina, began a sit-in movement to protest segregated lunch counters that quickly spread throughout the South. King, who at first hesitated to join the protest in Atlanta, ultimately changed his mind amidst criticism and led a sit-in at an Atlanta department store in October and was arrested. The following year, college students who belonged to the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), including Alabamian John Lewis, commenced the Freedom Rides to test rulings desegregating public buses. King refused to participate in the protest and became alienated from some of the students. The vanguard of the fight against injustice in the South shifted from King and the SCLC to college students and their new organization, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). King realized that if he was to remain relevant to the cause, he needed to capitalize on the student's energy and lead another mass protest. King's decision to hire Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker as the organization's executive director played a pivotal role in reinvigorating King and the SCLC. Walker, a taskmaster with a keen sense of public relations, brought order, focus, and discipline to the organization and began working toward returning King to the national spotlight.

Success in the fight against segregation, however, came slowly. King and Walker's first effort at a mass movement to confront segregation failed to attract press attention and federal intervention. The 1962 Albany, Georgia, demonstrations drained the SCLC of resources, damaged King's reputation, and called into question the use of nonviolence as a tactic to

confront segregation. The organization and the civil rights leader were in desperate need of a victory.

Fred Shuttlesworth had the solution to this dilemma. In January 1963, Shuttlesworth invited King and the SCLC to Birmingham to work with local people already engaged in the struggle against racial inequality. On April 3, 1963, the campaign began with little fanfare, one day after Birmingham voters, both black and white, had ousted hard-line segregationist city commissioners Eugene "Bull" Connor, Arthur Hanes Sr., and James "Jabo" Waggoner. The men refused to accept the results of the April election and remained in office.

During the rest of the month, however, local and national journalists, politicians, and preachers criticized the timing of the demonstrations, believing that the election results indicated the city's willingness to move toward a more moderate government. Sit-ins, marches, and voter registration drives did little to expose the pervasive segregation in the city, as King had hoped. Birmingham police officers arrested King on Good Friday, April 12, for violating a court injunction prohibiting street demonstration without a permit. During his eight-day incarceration he began composing his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in response to a public statement by Alabama's leading white clergy calling for an end to the demonstrations. Subsequently, King was tried and convicted of breaking the law. On appeal, the case landed in the U.S. Supreme Court, where in the 1967 *Walker v. Birmingham* decision, the court upheld King's conviction and the civil rights leader returned to Alabama to serve his jail sentence.

As May approached, the movement seemed on the verge of failing, as it had in Albany. James Bevel, an SCLC associate, convinced King to call out school children to fight segregation, overwhelm the police force, and fill the jails. During this controversial children's phase of the protest movement, a political vacuum existed in the city as two governments operated simultaneously, leading one local writer to proclaim that Birmingham has two mayors, a king, and a parade every day. During the first 10 days of May, images of police dogs and fire hoses being used on protesters were shown by media outlets around the world and gave King his greatest public triumph. He later recalled that those images from Birmingham moved the nation more than anything else. Later that year, on August 28, King delivered his powerful "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in public places, and in December of that year, King won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In Birmingham, however, meaningful change came slowly. The process of desegregation and black political empowerment took several more years to accomplish. The slow changes frustrated King who frequently threatened to restart the Birmingham protests if the city continued to delay. Only once, in January 1966, did the protests start again, but without King and with no success. Nonetheless, the civil rights leader returned to Alabama frequently to preach in black pulpits in Birmingham, Montgomery, Bessemer, Marion, Camden, and other smaller communities throughout the state. In September 1963, he delivered his powerful

"Eulogy for Martyred Children" at the joint funeral of three of the four little girls killed in the September 15 bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

In spite of constitutional guarantees, southern white politicians, especially in counties where blacks were a majority of the population, continued to deny blacks the right to vote. In 1964, King and the SCLC began a voting-rights campaign in Selma, in Dallas County, with SNCC volunteers actively involved in registering black voters. On February 2, police arrested King, Abernathy, and more than 200 other protesters who marched for voting rights. Following the shooting death of Jimmie Lee Jackson by Alabama state troopers in neighboring Perry County, King and civil rights workers began organizing a march from Selma to Montgomery to press for voting rights and to protest the state government's continued unjust treatment of blacks. The first two march attempts failed, with the second ending in the infamous "Bloody Sunday" incident in which Alabama state troopers and Selma police on horseback used clubs and tear gas to turn back the marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on U.S. Highway 80. On March 21, 1965, the third march proceeded under the protection of federalized National Guard troops. Four days later on March 25, the marchers completed the journey, and near the state capital building in Montgomery King delivered his "Our God is Marching On" speech, best remembered for King's repetitive phrase: "How long? Not long." The Selma campaign marked the end of the protest era that began 10 years before in Montgomery. The subsequent Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed blacks the right to vote and helped transform the electoral landscape in Alabama and throughout the South and the nation.

During the final three years of Martin Luther King's life, he turned his attention to broader economic issues. King recruited ministers and workers from throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation to help lead what he called the Poor People's Campaign at the local level. As the civil rights leader traveled in the state speaking to potential supporters, a habitual criminal and escaped convict, James Earl Ray, stalked him in several locations. In Birmingham, Ray purchased a Remington Game Master Model 760 rifle and took it with him to Memphis, Tennessee, where he murdered Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. On April 9, King was buried in Atlanta near the Ebenezer Baptist Church. In the years following his death, King's widow Coretta established the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change to help provide educational opportunities for those seeking training in the philosophy and tactics of nonviolence.

Throughout Alabama, the legacy of Martin Luther King endures on the numerous streets, highways, schools, and memorials named in his honor. King's birthday is a national holiday, and each January his life and work are celebrated and remembered by individuals, organizations, and churches.

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Nelle Harper Lee

Nelle Harper Lee (1926-2016) is the author of one of the most affecting and widely read books of American literature. In creating *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960), Lee drew deeply and essentially from her coming-of-age years in the small town of Monroeville, Monroe County, Alabama. Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel explores the dimensions of prejudice, hate, loyalty, and love through the eyes of a young girl as she awakens to the complexities of human nature and its capacity for both good and evil. In July 2015, Lee published *Go Set a Watchman*, the original incarnation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* that was discovered in a safety-deposit box in Monroeville. It met with widespread public interest and media focus.

Lee was born in Monroeville on April 28, 1926, the youngest child of Amasa Coleman Lee, a lawyer, and Frances Finch, who apparently struggled with episodes of mental illness (perhaps what is now diagnosed as manic depression). Lee denied that the story of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is autobiographical, but her fiction was certainly influenced and shaped by her childhood experiences, shared with a brother and two sisters and fellow author-to-be Truman Capote, a frequent summer visitor to Monroeville.

As she described this period of her life in a 1965 interview, "We had to use our own devices in our play, for our entertainment. We didn't have much money. . . We didn't have toys, nothing was done for us, so the result was that we lived in our imagination most of the time. We devised things; we were readers and we would transfer everything we had seen on the printed page to the backyard in the form of high drama."

Lee attended the public grammar school and high school in Monroeville. She developed an interest in writing during her childhood and continued to write when she attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, from 1944 through 1945. In 1945, she transferred to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa to study law but left in 1949 without completing her degree. While at UA, Lee wrote columns, feature stories, and satires for the university newspaper and literary publications. In 1949, she left Alabama to pursue a literary career in New York.

Lee worked briefly in a bookstore in New York but then became an airline reservations clerk so that her work during the day differed from the mental energy required by her commitment to writing at night. After some time and with a financial contribution from friends, a gift she remembers in "Christmas to Me," she was able to quit her job and write full time.

Over a period of several years, interrupted by the deaths of her mother and her brother and other responsibilities, she worked on her novel. After completing the manuscript in 1959, Lee went to Kansas with Truman Capote to provide research assistance while he worked on the manuscript for his nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood*. He dedicated the book to her, along with his then partner Jack Dunphy, and credited her with "secretarial work" and with befriending some of the individuals with whom he sought interviews. Her only comment on the expedition has been that "the crime intrigued Truman, and I'm intrigued with crime, and boy, I wanted to go. It was deep calling to deep." Reports, both oral and written, persisted that Harper Lee was working for years on a project similar to Capote's *In Cold Blood*, but no such manuscript has ever been found. Reportedly titled *The Reverend*, the work was said to have been about a series of unsolved murders in a small town in central Alabama.

To Kill a Mockingbird (friends say that she called it "The Bird") was published in 1960 and won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961. Published during the civil-rights era, which focused the eyes of the world on her home state, Lee's novel is set in the 1930s, the decade during which Alabama's infamous "Scottsboro Trials" took place. In the novel, Lee relates events through her narrator, Jean Louise "Scout" Finch. She and her brother Jem are reared by Atticus, their widowed father, and Calpurnia, the African American domestic servant whom Atticus trusts with their care while he works in his law office. Atticus's sister, Alexandria, occasionally interferes, especially after Scout starts school. In the summers, Dill (a character loosely based on Capote) visits his aunt and helps Scout and Jem invent schemes to lure an eccentric neighbor, Arthur "Boo" Radley, from his home. The children also become embroiled in the tension and conflict that result from Atticus's defense of Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping Mayella Ewell, a white woman. To the children's dismay, despite convincing evidence and moving arguments, Atticus fails to secure an acquittal for Tom from the all-white, all-male jury. Later, Tom is shot in prison. Mayella's father, Bob, seeks revenge on Atticus for embarrassing his family by attacking Scout and Jem, an attack thwarted by Boo Radley that brings together the plots, and thus the themes, of the novel.

The success of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was so immediate that the novel's release was described as a "summer storm." Critics praised Lee for capturing the setting of a small southern town with its complex social fabric of blacks and whites of all classes, from aristocratic to hard-working middle class to "white trash." Other reviewers commented on its narrative technique, characterization, balance of humor and tragedy, use of symbolism, and careful interweaving of numerous themes, such as childhood innocence and adult perceptions, justice and injustice, racial tolerance and intolerance, and cowardice and courage, whether the physical courage of facing a lynch mob and shooting a rabid dog or the courage of standing up for one's beliefs in the face of public condemnation.

Lee won numerous awards for *To Kill a Mockingbird* in addition to the Pulitzer Prize: the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1961), the Alabama Library Association Award (1961), Bestsellers Paperback of the Year Award (1962), and

additional designations such as a Literary Guild selection, a Reader's Digest condensed book selection, and an alternate for the Book of the Month Club.

The film version of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, released in 1962, underscored the success of the novel with its own success. Adapted by screenwriter Horton Foote and directed by Robert Mulligan, the film stars Gregory Peck as Atticus and two Alabamians—Mary Badham and Phillip Alford—as Scout and Jem. Both Peck and Foote took home Academy Awards for their work, as did art director Henry Bumstead.

Both the novel and film versions of *To Kill a Mockingbird* continue to hold the public's interest. An increasing number of scholars write about the novel, analyzing its moral, sociological, psychological, literary, legal, and racial and gender issues and themes. Students in schools and colleges worldwide study the novel. Large cities adopt it as the book to be read by all citizens. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has now sold nearly 50 million copies and been translated into more than 40 languages. As she said she desired, Harper Lee left a "record" of the "rich social pattern" of small-town American life.

Harper Lee published several short pieces in the early 1960s, including essays in *McCall's* and *Vogue* and a lively analysis of the literary qualities of A. J. Pickett's *History of Alabama*, which she originally presented at the Eufaula History and Heritage Festival in 1983 and published in 1985. But afterward, decades passed without any further literary output from Lee. In interviews after the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee claimed she was working on another novel, but over time she said that the one novel had taken enough of her life and the lives of her family. A second novel would have to be published posthumously. In July 2006, Lee finally responded to a repeated request from media magnate Oprah Winfrey to write for *O, The Oprah Magazine*, writing her a letter about how she learned to read, a selection that echoes Scout's learning to read in her father's lap. In 2007 Lee suffered a stroke and moved from New York to an assisted living residence in her hometown of Monroeville.

On February 3, 2015, HarperCollins issued a surprising press release announcing the publication of a second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*. As the media continued to cover the unexpected news, readers learned that the forthcoming novel was not a "second" novel but rather an early draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In the 1950s, after her agent, Maurice Crain, and her editor at Lippincott, Tay Hohoff, had read it and made recommendations, Lee rewrote it to focus on the children, seen in flashbacks in the novel. The rewriting resulted in the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In July 2015, *Go Set a Watchman* was published unrevised, as originally submitted. The plots of the two novels are related in that *Watchman* is set in 1956 and tells the story of the grown Jean Louise returning to her home town of Maycomb, Alabama, for her summer visit from New York City, where she lives and works.

The news sparked a whirlwind of controversies. Media figures and others questioned whether Lee wanted the book published and if she had the mental capacity to give permission. Anonymous sources even reported to the Alabama Adult Protective Services Division that she

was the victim of elder abuse and financial fraud. The state found no evidence of either, and members of the family and close friends reported that she was supportive of, and excited about, the decision to publish the earlier novel.

Go Set a Watchman was released on July 13, 2015 and was an immediate bestseller, selling 720,000 copies in the first 36 hours of sales. The reviews were mixed, however, with many people failing to note that it was an unrevised early draft of the successful *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A more complex, and somewhat negative, depiction of Atticus Finch further fueled controversy among critics, scholars, and readers.

On February 10, 2016, a press release announced that Aaron Sorkin is writing a new adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scott Rudin will produce the play, and Bartlett Sher will direct. It is scheduled for the Broadway 2017-2018 season.

Lee was widely recognized throughout her life for her contributions to literature, culture, and the humanities. In 2002, Lee received the Alabama Humanities Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation. In May 2007, Harper Lee was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which is considered the nation's highest formal recognition of artistic merit; she also was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007 for her contribution to literature. In March 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Lee along with other artists such as Meryl Streep, James Taylor, and Quincy Jones the 2010 National Medal of Arts for her "outstanding contribution to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts."

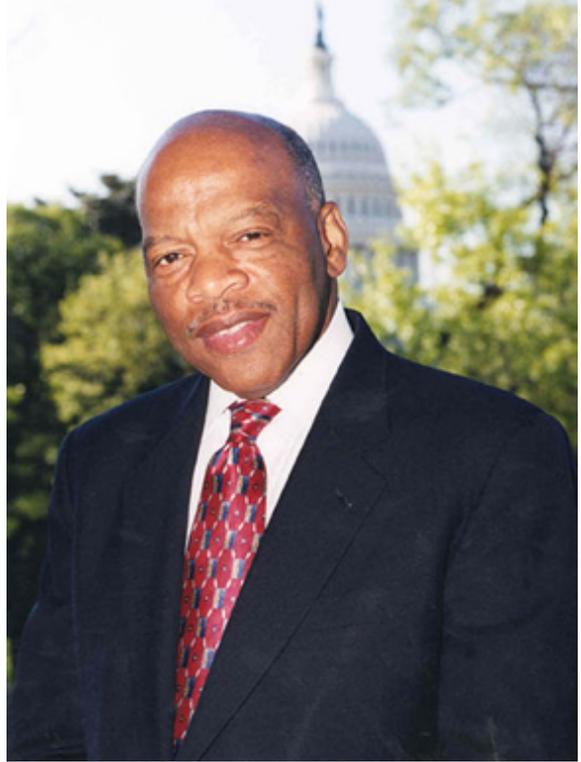
Harper Lee died on February 19, 2016, in her hometown of Monroeville and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1126>

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John Lewis

Pike County native John Lewis (1940-) is a Democratic Congressman of the Fifth Congressional District in the state of Georgia. Lewis became nationally known in the 1960s for his leadership in some of the most iconic events of the civil rights movement. As an adolescent, he was inspired by the events surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott and by the inspirational speeches of Martin Luther King Jr., and he felt compelled to take an active role in the American civil rights movement in college. Lewis was one of the student leaders in organizing the Selma to Montgomery march and was among those who were beaten on Bloody Sunday during the march. He was a featured speaker before King's "I Have A Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the march on Washington, D.C., in 1963. Lewis has remained at the vanguard of the civil rights movement ever since.



Born on February 21, 1940, in Pike County, John Lewis was one of nine children of Eddie and Willie Mae Carter Lewis. He attended local county schools. In 1957, after graduating from a segregated high school, Lewis hoped to attend nearby all-white Troy State College (now Troy University) to study for the ministry, but he knew that during this era of segregation no black students had been granted admission to the school. He also wanted to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, but the tuition costs were beyond the means of his family. However, Lewis's mother brought home a brochure from American Baptist College, a predominantly African American institution in Nashville, Tennessee. Lewis decided to choose that school because students were permitted to work for the school in lieu of paying tuition. While at American Baptist, however, Lewis pondered transferring to Troy State and challenging segregation at the college. In December 1957, Lewis officially made an application through registered mail for admission to Troy State. However, he did not receive a letter of acceptance or a letter of denial—many southern universities dealt with applications from blacks by simply not responding.

After about two months of his application languishing at the college, Lewis wrote to King of his dilemma, and King responded with a round-trip bus ticket to Montgomery so that they could meet to discuss the matter. During his spring break in 1958, Lewis boarded a bus bound for Montgomery. He was met there by a young lawyer named Fred Gray, who had represented Rosa Parks, and was taken to First Baptist Church, where he met with Reverend David

Abernathy and King; this meeting would mark the beginning of Lewis's involvement in the civil rights movement. After meeting with the civil rights establishment in Montgomery, Lewis decided not to pursue admittance into Troy State because his parents were fearful that he would be killed. Also, Lewis did not want his family to suffer the hardships of losing their land or store credit with local merchants as retaliation for challenging Jim Crow laws. Lewis graduated from American Baptist and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Fisk University.

As a college student, Lewis organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters and in 1961 participated in the Freedom Rides, which tested desegregation rulings in bus terminals in southern states. In 1963, Lewis served as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), of which he was among the founders. SNCC, the student arm of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, organized student sit-ins, voter registration drives, and other activities protesting segregation and inequality. Although Lewis's parents feared for his safety, Lewis never questioned the philosophy of nonviolence, even after a brutal beating at the Montgomery bus station during the Freedom Rides.

Lewis again had his commitment to nonviolence tested on March 7, 1965, when at age 25, he and other civil rights leaders readied themselves for the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery. This action was organized to call attention to civil rights and economic abuses suffered by African Americans in Alabama, to voting-rights equality, and to the murder of African American activist Jimmie Lee Jackson. Lewis and 525 other civil rights activists marched toward Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge and were met by Alabama state troopers. Lewis believed that they

simply would be arrested, taken to jail, and later released. Major John Claude of the Alabama State Troopers and Jim Clark, the Dallas County sheriff, were positioned with their men to ensure that the marchers did not advance across the bridge. Claude warned, over a megaphone, that the marchers were engaged in an unlawful activity and gave them only minutes to disperse. The marchers asked for a moment to pray, but without a response, state troopers and sheriff's deputies charged and began brutally beating the marchers with night sticks and bull whips and attacking them with tear gas. About 70 people were injured, with 17 requiring hospitalization. John Lewis suffered a fractured skull during the melee. News footage and still photographs of this brutality enraged the nation and brought the swift passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Lewis parted ways with SNCC in 1966 but continued to work in the field of civil rights. He served as the associate director of the Field Foundation and as a representative for the Southern Regional Council's voter registration programs. Later, he became the director of the Voter Education Project, and, under his leadership, the organization added almost four million minorities to voter rolls. In 1977, Lewis entered the political arena when a vacancy in Georgia's Fifth District opened up after President Jimmy Carter appointed Congressman Andrew Young to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Lewis was defeated in that race by Wyche

Fowler, an Atlanta councilman who would later become a senator. In 1981, Lewis successfully ran for a seat on the Atlanta City Council. He focused his efforts on the issues of ethical government and the preservation of neighborhoods. In 1986, Lewis aimed for higher ground—the U.S. House of Representatives. He defeated fellow civil rights leader Julian Bond and was elected to represent Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. This district includes the city of Atlanta and parts of Fulton County, DeKalb County, and Clayton County. Lewis was only the second African American to represent Georgia in Congress since Reconstruction. He has retained his seat since that time and holds a leadership role as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and as the chairman of its Subcommittee on Oversight. When Lewis was elected to Congress, the city of Troy and Troy University held "John Lewis Day" and a parade in his honor. Almost 30 years after his application to the school was ignored. Chancellor Ralph Adams awarded Lewis an honorary degree from the school.

Currently, John Lewis is a member of the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious committees in Congress. He is chairman of the subcommittee on oversight and is also a member of a number of caucuses. Lewis has also sponsored a number of resolutions, most of which honor fallen civil rights heroes, and his other legislative efforts have been aimed at helping people who are chronically ill and poor. Lewis was a superdelegate for the Democratic Party in 2008 and initially endorsed New York Senator Hillary Clinton for the party's nomination. However, in February in 2008, he had a change of heart and endorsed Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

Lewis generated controversy during the contentious presidential election of 2008 when he accused Arizona Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee, and his running mate, Alaska governor Sarah Palin of "sowing the seeds of hatred and division." He compared the atmosphere at their campaign rallies to that surrounding Alabama governor George Wallace's political career during the era of segregation. In assessing these campaign rallies, Lewis gave a stern warning McCain that he was arousing dangerous and inflammatory sentiments among his supporters.

On November 4, 2008, when Barack Obama was elected as the first African American president of the United States, Lewis was among the key speakers who addressed the gathered crowd at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Lewis jubilantly addressed the crowd with tears streaming down his cheeks.

In 2013, Lewis's career took a new turn, when he coauthored the first of a three-part graphic novel, *March*, based on his experiences during the civil rights movement and produced by Top Shelf Productions. The first part appeared in 2013, and two subsequent volumes were published in 2014 and 2015. In July 2013, Rep. Lewis became the first sitting congressman to appear among the authors and other creative artists at the annual Comic-Con convention in San Diego, California. He returned in 2015 when the final installment of his series was released.

Lewis has received many awards from national and international institutions. Among them are the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the NAACP Spingarn Medal, the National Education Association Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award, and the only John F. Kennedy "Profile in Courage Award" for Lifetime Achievement ever granted by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. The Timberland Company has created the John Lewis Award, which honors the congressman's commitment to humanitarian service by acknowledging members of society who perform outstanding humanitarian work, and a John Lewis Scholarship Fund. In March 2015, he returned to Selma to take part in a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march. He gave one of the speeches that day and introduced Pres. Barack Obama.

John Lewis is married to Lillian Miles Lewis, and they have one son, John Miles Lewis.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1841>

Image courtesy of the House of Representatives retrieved from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-5042>

Rosa Louise Parks



Rosa Parks (1913-2005) is one of the most enduring symbols of the tumultuous civil rights era of the mid-twentieth century. Her 1955 arrest in Montgomery for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and set in motion a chain of events that resulted in groundbreaking civil rights legislation and helped to bring Martin Luther King Jr. to the forefront as the movement's leader. Parks continued to work for civil rights causes during her entire life and was awarded the nation's highest honors for her role in the movement.

Rosa Louise McCauley was born in Tuskegee on February 4, 1913, to James McCauley, a carpenter and stonemason, and Leona Edwards, a teacher. She spent much of her childhood living with her maternal grandparents in Pine Level, a small town in southeast Montgomery County. There, she began her education in an all-black school with a single teacher serving all 50 students. In 1924, 11-year-old McCauley enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, which offered a vocational curriculum of cooking, sewing, and housekeeping under the instruction of northern whites. Family illnesses forced McCauley to quit school at age 16, when she began cleaning houses for white people and taking in sewing. At age 20, she married Raymond Parks, a barber from Wedowee, Randolph County. In the early 1940s, Parks became active in the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), serving as its secretary and teaching young people about their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens. Through her work as a seamstress, Parks came into contact with white civil rights activists Clifford and Virginia Durr, and in the summer of 1955 they sponsored a week-long stay for her at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. The school had been founded in 1932 as a training facility for social activists, and there Parks learned effective strategies to protest segregation, including picketing methods and guidelines for establishing citizenship training schools to help people pass voting tests.

Upon her return, Parks redoubled her commitment to the civil rights community and its effort to overthrow the Jim Crow laws that regulated virtually every aspect of African Americans' lives. On December 1, 1955, Parks' convictions were put to the test. She boarded a crowded bus after work and took a seat. When a white man got on and was unable to find a seat in the whites-only section, the bus driver demanded that Parks and three other black passengers give up their seats. (All black passengers were required by law to leave the row, even if only

one white passenger needed a seat.) Parks decided the time had come to take her stand; she refused to get up, and at the driver's request two Montgomery police officers escorted her off the bus and to city hall to be arrested. Friends Clifford Durr and E. D. Nixon, former president of the Montgomery NAACP, bailed her out, and attorney and activist Fred Gray represented her in the subsequent trial, which resulted in a \$10 fine.

Although it was not her intention, Parks's decision to violate the segregation ordinance triggered a year-long boycott of Montgomery's buses by the city's black population and prompted a challenge of the ordinance's constitutionality in federal court. In December 1956, after the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a district court's ruling against segregation in *Browder v. Gayle*, Parks took a symbolic first ride near the front of a city bus. The successful boycott served as an inspiration to black communities throughout the nation and established Rosa Parks as the "mother of the civil rights movement."

Seeking a reprieve from the death threats and other pressures brought about by Rosa's fame, the Parkses moved to Detroit in 1957 to be near her brother. Parks resumed work as a seamstress but remained an active spokesperson for the civil rights community. She was invited to attend the July 2 ceremony at which Pres. Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, banning segregation in public accommodations. The following year, she returned to Alabama to help lead the final leg of the Selma-to-Montgomery march in pursuit of voting rights in the South. In 1965, Parks joined the staff of U.S. Representative John Conyers, one of the leading African American members of Congress, and managed his Detroit office until her retirement in 1988. In 1987, Parks co-founded, with friend Elaine Eason Steele, the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, in honor of Raymond Parks, who died in 1977. The organization continues to promote education and life-skills training for young minority people.

Parks received many awards and honors through the years. In 1996, President Bill Clinton presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "When she sat down on the bus," the president declared, "she stood up for the ideals of equality and justice and demanded that the rest of us do the same." In 1999, she received the Congressional Gold Medal, and in 2001, despite her frail health, she journeyed to Montgomery for the opening of the Rosa Parks Library and Museum. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights organization founded by King and other civil rights figures, presents the Rosa Parks Freedom Award each year in her honor.

During her last years, Parks endured her share of controversy and pain. In 1994, she was robbed and beaten in her home by an African American intruder, who escaped with a small amount of cash. She later recalled asking her assailant if he knew who she was. The man admitted that he knew but did not care. In 1999, her lawyers sued the hip hop group OutKast for using her name in their song "Rosa Parks." The suit, which was settled out of court in 2005, sparked concern among some of her relatives that her name was being exploited by her

legal team. As her health declined, Parks became more reclusive. Rosa Parks died in Detroit on October 25, 2005.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1111>

John Pelham

John Pelham (1838-1863) of Alabama was one of the most noted Confederate artillery officers of the American Civil War. Serving in the Eastern Theater, and mostly in Virginia, he organized and commanded James Ewell Brown (J. E. B.) Stuart's Horse Artillery. Pelham and the men in his command, many of whom came from the Alabama cities of Mobile and Talladega, made a significant contribution to the early success of the Confederate cavalry.

John Pelham was born on September 7, 1838. He was the third of eight children born to William and Martha Pelham. His great-grandfather, Peter Pelham, was a noted portrait painter, and his mother was a cousin of noted Kentucky political leader Henry Clay. His brother, Charles Pelham, also served in the Civil War and served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pelham was born on the plantation of his maternal grandfather, William McGehee, three miles south of Alexandria, Alabama, in Benton County (present-day Calhoun County), and he grew up in rural Benton County, where his father practiced medicine and managed a large estate.

Although Pelham had only some education at the local school and at home, he gained an appointment, through Representative Sampson W. Harris, to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1856. Pelham enjoyed West Point, where he excelled in athletics, ranked highest in cavalry tactics, and was popular with his fellow cadets. During the secession crisis, Pelham, who had invested four and a half years at West Point, hesitated to leave without his diploma. He did not depart when Alabama seceded in January 1861, but waited until after Virginia's secession in April, as rumors were circulating that cadets who were likely to serve the Confederacy would be arrested. Pelham and fellow cadet and future Confederate general Thomas Rosser submitted their resignations on April 22, 1861, and left the academy only two weeks before graduation.

Pelham and Rosser made their way to Pelham's home, where they drilled new volunteers near Jacksonville, and then went to the Confederate capital at Montgomery to offer their services. Although Pelham desired a commission in the cavalry, the new government needed artillery officers and assigned him as a lieutenant to oversee arms and ammunition at Lynchburg, Virginia. General Joseph E. Johnston then called for him to come to Harpers Ferry, in what was then Virginia, to turn the new recruits into artillerymen. In July 1861, Pelham and the Arbutis



Battery accompanied Johnston and General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to Manassas, Virginia, in what would become known as the First Battle of Manassas. Pelham and his battery were instrumental in that defeat of Union forces in the first major battle of the Civil War.

Impressed with the performances of both Stuart and Pelham at Manassas, in the fall of 1861, General Johnston recommended the promotion of Stuart to brigadier general and Pelham to captain to organize a mobile artillery unit. Pelham spent the remainder of his service leading the Stuart Horse Artillery and was involved in every engagement with Stuart except for Stuart's famous ride around General George McClellan's army during the Peninsular Campaign in 1862.

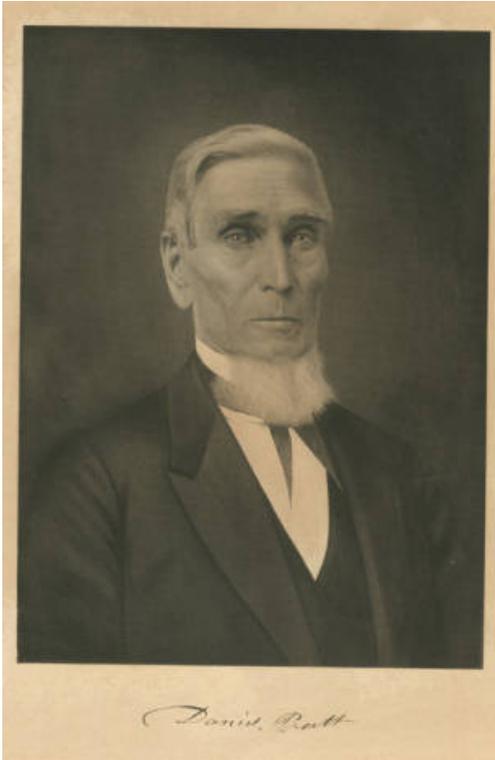
Pelham was noted for his modesty, charm, courage, and his ability to select the most appropriate ground for the placement of his guns. In spite of his youthful appearance, his men followed him faithfully. His command was a colorful Alabama contingent composed of a dozen men from Talladega, enlisted with the assistance of fellow Alabamian Lieutenant William McGregor, and the remainder from Mobile with a few from New Orleans. Most of the men from Mobile were French Creoles, whom Pelham called his "Napoleon detachment." By the summer of 1862, the performance of Pelham and his command earned him a promotion to major. Pelham again provided outstanding service at Second Manassas, the Battle of Antietam, and during Stuart's "second ride" around the Union Army in October 1862, but his most memorable stand was at Fredericksburg in December 1862. For nearly two hours, Pelham and his men held up the advance of the Union left with mostly one gun, bringing praise from General Robert E. Lee.

Pelham's career however, came to an end the following spring. On March 17, 1863, Union general William Averell attacked Confederate general Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry forces to clear them from the upper Rappahannock River in preparation for Union general Joseph Hooker's advance toward what became known as the Battle of Kelly's Ford. At the time, Pelham was in Culpepper, where he had come by train. When notified of the attack, he borrowed a horse and rode to Kelly's Ford, a crossing on the Rappahannock. He had barely entered the fight when an exploding shell embedded a fragment in the back of his head and penetrated the lower part of his brain. He died in the early hours of the next morning. Stuart considered Pelham irreplaceable, and his death coincided with the decline of Stuart's cavalry.

On April 4, the Confederate Congress promoted Pelham posthumously to the rank of lieutenant colonel, as Stuart and Lee had been recommending for months. His body lay in state in Richmond and then was escorted to Jacksonville, Alabama, for burial. Stuart named his daughter Virginia Pelham, and the towns of Pelham, Alabama, and Pelham, Georgia, are named in honor of him. In 1905, a statue was raised to Pelham in Jacksonville, and in 1927, a monument in his honor was erected along Route 29, the road near Kelly's Ford where Pelham fell in battle. Several authors lauded him in their memoirs, including Henry Kyd Douglas, Jedediah Hotchkiss, and Heros Von Borcke, but it was the writings of his tent mate, John

Esten Cooke, that made Pelham's name immortal through his descriptions of him as the ideal young Confederate soldier.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1521>



Daniel Pratt

Daniel Pratt (1799-1873) was Alabama's first major industrialist and founded the present-day city of Prattville as a self-sufficient manufacturing center a few miles northwest of Montgomery. His factory complex, Pratt Gin Company, became the world's largest manufacturer of cotton gins, supplying machines to Alabama's Black Belt planters as well as ginning facilities as far away as Russia. Pratt's diversified business enterprise included grist and flour mills, architectural millworks, and cotton and woolen mills. After the Civil War, Pratt directed his attention to economic development in north Alabama and became involved in building railroads and developing the vast coal and iron resources surrounding Birmingham. Pratt was instrumental in Alabama's transformation from a predominantly rural agrarian economy to a more diverse industrial economy devoted to manufacturing and

the production of coal, iron, and steel.

Daniel Pratt was born in Temple, New Hampshire, on July 20, 1799. His father, Edward Pratt, was a yeoman farmer who had moved to New Hampshire from Reading, Massachusetts. Daniel was the fourth of six children, all of whom were brought up under strict religious discipline and were obliged to work on their family's small New England farm. Daniel received a limited education and was apprenticed to an architect at age 16. He may have chosen this vocation because his paternal grandfather, for whom he was named, had become modestly wealthy as a woodworker in Reading.

In 1819, at the age of 20, Pratt earned release from his apprenticeship and sailed for Savannah, Georgia. Pratt worked at his trade in this seaport town for two years and then moved inland to Milledgeville, Georgia, the new cotton-growing center of the state. For the next several years, Pratt built plantation homes for wealthy planters in the vicinity of Milledgeville and Macon. These homes were some of the most beautiful in the state, featuring large white columns, broad hallways, and spiral stairways characteristic of the neo-classical style popular during the period. By 1827 Pratt was one of the South's leading builder-architects. On September 6, 1827, he married Ester Ticknor of Columbia, Connecticut, whom Pratt met while she was visiting her brother in Clinton, Georgia. Daniel and Ester had three children, but only daughter Ellen survived infancy.

Soon after his marriage, Pratt met Samuel Griswold, another New England transplant in Clinton. Griswold manufactured cotton gins and was so impressed with Pratt's skills that he asked him to manage his factory. After only one year, Pratt's mastery of the business earned

him a partnership with Griswold. Pratt promptly tried to convince Griswold to expand the business into Alabama so that they could follow the westward expansion of cotton culture and take advantage of Alabama's river system to transport and distribute gins. Griswold initially agreed to the venture but changed his mind because of increasing conflicts between settlers and Creeks in central Alabama.

Undaunted by the potential dangers of the frontier, Pratt moved to central Alabama with his wife, two slaves, and enough materials to construct 50 gins. He formally named and founded the Daniel Pratt Gin Company around 1833, and in about 1836 he leased a site on Autauga Creek known as McNeill's Mill and began manufacturing cotton gins. Two years later, he purchased 1,822 acres of land further up Autauga Creek, where he constructed a permanent factory and founded the town of Prattville. Pratt ensured the viability of this new town by diversifying its industries, constructing homes and churches for his workers, and building Alabama's first free school. The residents of Prattville worked in factories that produced such diverse products as cotton gins, various kinds of cloth, tin, carriages, wagons, windows, and door sashes. Pratt's initial workforce consisted primarily of yeomen farmers from the surrounding area, supplemented later with enslaved labor. Pratt brought in New Englanders, many of whom were either friends or relatives, including nephew Merrill E. Pratt (whom Daniel later adopted as his son), to supervise this workforce and to provide needed engineering and managerial skills.

During the 1850s, the Pratt Gin Company manufactured cotton gins for planters all over the world, taking orders from Russia, Great Britain, France, Cuba, Mexico, and countries in Central and South America. The increased business led Pratt to expand his gin factory, and by 1860, Pratt's factories were producing at least 1,500 gins per year. Pratt imported sheet steel from Sheffield, England, for his gin saws, but the iron came from Alabama companies, primarily Horace Ware's Shelby Iron Works near Columbiana.

Prior to the Civil War, Pratt was an ardent member of the Whig Party, which pushed for the expansion of industry, state aid to railroads, and other forms of internal improvements. In 1854, Pratt founded a pro-Whig newspaper, the *Southern Statesman*. He was also politically involved on the local level, serving for many years as Prattville's intendant, with powers similar to that of mayor, and representing Prattville in Alabama's House of Representatives during the Civil War from 1861 until 1865. Although Pratt opposed Alabama's secession from the Union, he provided wool and broadcloth for uniforms for the "Prattville Dragoons," attached to the Third Alabama Cavalry under the eventual command of General Joseph Wheeler. He also donated \$17,000 to meet other needs of the local unit, including horses and saddles for those who could not afford to provide their own.

With the great fortune he amassed from his cotton-gin business, Pratt invested in and actively promoted the development of Alabama's vast untapped mineral resources. In the early 1870s, Pratt began purchasing thousands of acres of land in north Alabama. Pratt also began to entrust more and more of his business interests, including a new railroad venture, the South

and North Alabama Railroad, to his ward and eventual son-in-law, Henry F. DeBardeleben, whom daughter Ellen had married on February 4, 1863. In 1872, Pratt and DeBardeleben acquired a controlling interest in the Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company and began rebuilding the Oxmoor furnaces destroyed by Wilson's Raiders during the Civil War.

In addition to taking a leading role in the development of the state's natural resources, Daniel Pratt was also an ardent supporter of establishing a more diverse economy in Alabama and the South. He preached an industrial gospel of regional self-sufficiency in numerous articles and letters in newspapers and periodicals throughout the South. Daniel Pratt's successes earned him widespread renown and respect. In 1846 the University of Alabama awarded him an honorary master's degree in the Mechanic and Useful Arts. In 1949, the Alabama Newcomen Society honored Pratt posthumously as "Alabama's First Industrialist."

Daniel Pratt died on May 13, 1873. He divided his estate between his daughter Ellen and adopted son Merrill, who bought out Ellen in 1881. Merrill's son Daniel ran the gin manufacturing business from 1889 until 1899, when it was sold to Continental Gin Company. DeBardeleben continued in the iron and coal business under the new name of Pratt Coal and Coke Company, which eventually became part of U.S. Steel Corporation. As a tribute to his father-in-law, Debardeleben named the mining community near the Oxmoor furnaces Pratt City.

The Continental Gin Company later became the Continental Eagle Corporation and continued to manufacture gins in Pratt's original buildings until as late as 2009, when the company outsourced most of its operations to India. Late in 2011, the company put its Prattville property up for sale, prompting the formation of a local campaign in Prattville to save the historic site, believed to be the longest continuously occupied industrial buildings in the state and perhaps in the South. The importance of this effort was underscored by the previous loss of other original buildings, which were destroyed by fire on September 10, 2002. In March 2012, Longstreet Capital, an Atlanta based commercial real estate developer, signed a contract to keep the structures intact and to redevelop the historic property. In 2014, the Historic Prattville Redevelopment Authority purchased the property for \$1.74 million at a foreclosure auction and plans to develop the property as a multi-use residential and business community.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1184>



Nell Rankin

Nell Rankin, the internationally-acclaimed mezzo-soprano, sang more leading roles than any other mezzo in the history of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Born in Montgomery in 1926, Miss Rankin began her voice training there, and in her early teens sought out the help of Madame Jeanne Lorraine, a former European opera star living in Birmingham. To earn the money to pay for her lessons she rented the Huntingdon College pool and spent her summers teaching the children of Montgomery to swim.

In 1943 when Miss Rankin was 17, she received her first real break. Helen Traubel came to Montgomery to sing, and she determined Miss Rankin went backstage to audition for Miss Traubel's accompanist, Conead v. Bos. His verdict was that her voice was good but not yet good enough, and he offered her the chance for further coaching if she came to New York. A period of intense and dedicated study followed, and in 1947, when coaches judged that she was ready, she made her debut at New York's Town Hall.

No contract offer was forthcoming from the Met, but she continued to study and to sing until 1948, when she sailed to Switzerland, where the Zurich Opera Company was reported to be recruiting young singers. Unexpected and unannounced, she was nearly turned away with the explanation that all the singers needed for the coming season had been hired. But she insisted on auditioning anyway and sang the role of Amneris in *Aida*, which she had learned in German especially for the occasion. This time a contract was forthcoming, and she immediately became a diva for the Zurich Opera Company.

Despite her stardom in Europe, she was still unknown in the United States. To become recognized here she was determined to win the Concours de Musique, an international contest that no American singer had ever won. Overcoming stiff competition, she took first prize in her category. World fame and a stunningly successful career followed. Milan's La Scala engaged her as its leading mezzo for the 1951 season; Italy selected her to sing Verdi's *Requiem* on the fiftieth anniversary of the composer's death. And in November, 1951, at the age of 25, she made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, again singing the role of Amneris.

Her subsequent career included roles as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, Ortrud, in *Lohengrin*, recognition as the "greatest Carmen of our time," and stardom at the Met, Covent Garden, and La Scala. Critics all over the world acclaimed the "exceptional

intelligence and rare beauty" of her voice and the "formidable technique and exciting stage presence" that she brought to her performances. According to one commentator, she "lived her roles with remarkable intensity," using her voice to act for her through its warmth, its range, and its power of coloration. The State of Alabama has honored Miss Rankin repeatedly. In 1957 the legislature passed a joint resolution to congratulate her on her victory in the Concours de Musique and to recognize her as the first "cultural ambassador of the State...for the year 1957 and thenceforth." And in 1972 the board of the State's newly created American Arts Hall of Fame voted to make her a member of its first class. On that occasion she was honored for her achievements as an artist and was described as "one of Alabama's proudest exports." The legion of Miss Rankin's friends and admirers would agree that the description fits her exactly.

Nell Rankin died January 13, 2005, at the age of 81.

http://www.archives.alabama.gov/famous/academy/n_rankin.html



Condoleezza Rice

Birmingham native Condoleezza Rice (1954-) is a foreign policy expert who served as provost of Stanford University and later as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State under Pres. George W. Bush. She was the first African America woman to hold those positions. She has been criticized for not being prepared for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and for promoting the March 2003 invasion of Iraq based on questionable intelligence about weapons of mass destruction in that country.

Rice was born November 14, 1954, in Birmingham, Jefferson County, to John Wesley Rice Jr. and Angelena Rice; she was an only child. Her mother gave her the name "Condoleezza" after the Italian phrase *con dolcezza*, meaning "with sweetness." Her mother was a science teacher at Fairfield

Industrial High School in the Fairfield neighborhood; her pupils included future Birmingham mayor Richard Arrington Jr. and baseball star Willie Mays. Her father had been a gym teacher, high school teacher, and guidance counselor, and later was pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, a largely middle class African American congregation in the Titusville neighborhood where the family lived.

Rice began studying piano at an early age under the tutelage of her mother and was home-schooled for a time, keeping to a strict schedule of schoolwork and piano practice. She was raised in a sheltered environment; up until 1963, she was largely unaware of segregation and the larger civil rights struggle. Rice's father knew Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and supported the goals of the civil rights movement but not some of the tactics, particularly the "children's march" that was a part of the Birmingham Campaign of 1963. Rice's parents frequently kept her home from Brunetta C. Hill Elementary school in 1963 for fear of her getting caught up in trouble as other children skipped school to take part in protests. Because of the fear of possible violence from armed segregationists driving through their African American neighborhood, in the evenings Rice's father joined his neighbors in patrolling local streets, armed with his shotgun. Rice also was friends with Denise McNair, one of the four children killed in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in September 1963, and was in the crowd outside of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church during the funeral. The family moved to Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, in 1966, when Rice's father became the dean

of students at Stillman College. She entered the eighth grade at Druid High School at age 11, skipping the seventh grade.

In 1968, the family relocated to Denver, Colorado, when Rice's father became assistant director of admissions at the University of Denver. Rice attended St. Mary's Academy, a private Catholic high school for girls and graduated in 1970 at the age of 15. She then entered the University of Denver, intending to major in piano, but she became interested in international relations and studied under noted Soviet expert Josef Korbel, father of future Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Rice completed a bachelor's degree in 1974 and then earned a masters' degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1975 in international relations. She returned to the University of Denver to pursue a doctorate in Soviet and international studies and was awarded a PhD in 1981. She would later revise her dissertation on political and military relations in Czechoslovakia and publish it in 1984 as *The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Army, 1948-1983: Uncertain Allegiance*; it received mixed reviews.

Rice was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, and joined the political science faculty there in 1981; she taught at Stanford until 1993, specializing in arms control and disarmament issues and winning awards for her teaching. During these years, she also served as foreign policy advisor to Colorado Democratic senator Gary Hart during his 1984 presidential campaign. Rice, however, had been gravitating toward Republican policies since voting for Ronald Reagan in 1980 and was later named a Senior Fellow at both the Institute for International Studies and the conservative Hoover Institution, both at Stanford. With history professor Alexander Dallin, Rice edited *The Gorbachev Era* (1986), a compilation of lectures on the Soviet Union to which she contributed chapters on the Soviet military and the Soviet alliance system. From 1989 to 1991, Rice served in the administration of Pres. George H. W. Bush as an important Soviet analyst and advisor on the National Security Council at a time when the Eastern Bloc and Soviet Union were disintegrating. Rice's position raised her profile in both the political and corporate arena; she served on a number of corporate boards during the 1990s, including oil giant Chevron, which named a 129,000-ton oil tanker in her honor, the SS *Condoleezza Rice* (it was renamed in 2001).

Returning to Stanford University in 1991 to teach, Rice was appointed provost in 1993 by university president Gerhard Casper. Serving as provost until 1999, she was involved in controversial budget decisions, designed to save the financially struggling institution money, that resulted in a budget surplus within a few years. Many members of the Stanford community were upset at the decision to fire the school's highest ranking Hispanic dean and cut services and staff as well as her unilateral decision-making process. In addition, she was criticized for being abrasive with faculty and ignoring their input and not supporting affirmative action policies sufficiently. Faculty concerns led to a U.S. Department of Labor gender discrimination investigation.

In 1995, Rice coauthored, with political scientist and former NSC staff member Philip Zelikow, *Germany Unified and Europe Transformed: A Study in Statecraft*. The book argues that Pres.

George H. W. Bush played a significant role in the events that led to the reunification of East and West Germany and was praised for its inside information on the decision-making process of the Bush administration and for the use of Soviet documents.

In 1998, Rice was approached by then-Texas governor George W. Bush to provide foreign policy advice during his presidential campaign, joining a group of experts from previous Republican administrations. After Bush's election, Rice was appointed National Security Advisor in January 2001. Throughout her service in the Bush administration, Rice was one of the president's closest confidantes, but she was often at odds with Vice President Richard Cheney and particularly Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld over the control and direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Some of the major policy decisions that she helped guide early in her tenure included the renunciation of the Kyoto climate protocol and the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty as well as a return to negotiations with North Korea, after initial announcements to the contrary. Rice is largely remembered, however, for her failure as national security advisor to heed warnings from counterterrorism and intelligence experts that al Qaeda operatives intended to attack United States' interests. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, Rice's job changed; she spent more time reviewing intelligence reports and speaking with the media. The United States engaged in military action in Afghanistan in an attempt to defeat the ruling Taliban, which provided safe haven to al Qaeda.

After initial success, however, the administration's attention moved from the war in Afghanistan to disarming Iraq. In the fall of 2002, Rice joined with other officials in the White House Iraq Group and became one of the administration's chief public advocates for the invasion. In September 2002, she referenced a nuclear mushroom cloud as the worst-case scenario for failure to disarm Iraq. She also presided over a new formulation of policy that came to be called the Bush Doctrine, which espoused preemptive war as tool of foreign policy; the doctrine was seen by many scholars and critics as preventive war, a more ambiguous justification under international law. Later in January 2003, Rice published an editorial in *The New York Times*, entitled "Why We Know Iraq is Lying," in which she discussed Iraq's efforts to avoid compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and intimated the possible ramifications of Iraq possessing nuclear weapons. When the U.S.-led invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq failed to uncover any weapons or evidence of manufacturing capabilities or any ties to Islamic terrorists, Rice and other members of the Bush administration were criticized by government officials, the press, and experts for poorly coordinating Iraq policy during the occupation.

On other foreign policy fronts, however, the Bush Administration and by extension Rice received high praise. Most notably, the United States remained safe from additional terrorist attacks, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, implemented in 2003, has been widely commended for its effectiveness in treating and preventing AIDS in the world's poorer countries and caring for the millions of orphans produced by the crisis.

After Pres. Bush won reelection in 2004, Rice replaced Colin Powell as Secretary of State in early 2005, becoming the first African American woman to hold that office. In that capacity, she worked to improve relations with other countries in the wake of the Iraq war and to spread democracy, particularly in the Middle East, while trying to prevent Iran from expanding its nuclear program. The effort resulted in several European states and the United States offering Iran economic incentives to halt its uranium enrichment program. In addition, Rice implemented a broader policy agenda called "Transformational Diplomacy," an agenda that involved relocating U.S. diplomats and other Foreign Service personnel to areas of greater need, urging personnel to serve in dangerous locations and to increase their skills, and focusing on regions and regional problems rather than specific states.

In October 2005, Rice, joined by British foreign minister Jack Straw, returned to Alabama for a series of speeches and activities and attended the memorial service for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks in Montgomery. After leaving the State Department in 2009, Rice returned to teaching political science at Stanford and serves as a senior fellow on public policy at the university's Hoover Institution.

In 2011, Rice published *No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington*, which looks at her service in the Bush Administration. Throughout much of her life, Rice has been an enthusiastic sports fan, particularly of professional football, and has often expressed her interest in being commissioner of the National Football League. She also continues to play piano and has played with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. She has since become an avid golfer and in 2012 was one of the first two women admitted to the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. In October 2013, Rice was selected as a member of the College Football Playoff Selection Committee, which will choose the four teams that will participate in the NCAA National Championship Playoffs.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2541>

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Raphael Semmes

Confederate rear admiral and brigadier general Raphael Semmes (1809-1877) left an enduring legacy as captain of the CSS Alabama, the most famous of the Confederate commerce raiders. Known as the "Nelson of the Confederacy" for his daring exploits, Semmes rallied the hopes of Alabamians and other Southerners during the waning days of the Civil War. The climactic duel between the Alabama and the USS Kearsarge in June 1864 contributed to Semmes' reputation as a hero of the Confederacy despite his defeat in the battle and the loss of his ship.



Raphael Semmes was born in Charles County, Maryland, on September 27, 1809, the fourth child of Richard and Catherine Middleton Semmes. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by an uncle, Raphael Semmes. Another uncle, Benedict Semmes, helped secure his appointment as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy in 1826. In addition to his training as a naval officer, Semmes also studied law and was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1834. Shore duty allowed him to pursue his law practice, first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he married Anne Elizabeth Spencer in 1837, the same year he was commissioned a lieutenant. The couple had six children: Samuel Spencer, Oliver, Electra, Anne Elizabeth, and Raphael.

During the Mexican War (1846-48), Semmes commanded the USS Somers, a brig assigned to blockade the Mexican port of Veracruz. A fierce gale caused the ship to founder, and 39 members of the crew lost their lives. Semmes narrowly escaped drowning. A court of inquiry found no fault with Semmes and praised him for the way he handled his ship. Semmes next accompanied Gen. Winfield Scott's army as it fought its way to the Mexican capitol and ended the war as volunteer aide to Brig. Gen. William J. Worth.

After the war Semmes, moved to Mobile, which he would consider his home for the rest of his life. While on shore duty, Semmes practiced law and wrote *Service Afloat and Ashore* During the Mexican War, a book about his war experiences published in 1851. Semmes was promoted to commander in 1855 and the following year was assigned to the Lighthouse Service as an inspector, in Washington, D.C. His strong support for states' rights and antipathy to the election of a Republican president resulted in his resignation from the U.S. Navy on February 15, 1861, a month after Alabama seceded from the Union. Before hostilities began, Semmes was sent north by President Jefferson Davis on a secret mission to purchase military supplies for the Confederacy from munitions brokers there. Returning to Montgomery, Alabama, on April 4, he learned he had been commissioned a commander in the Confederate Navy.

Unhappy at being appointed head of the Confederacy's Lighthouse Bureau, Semmes convinced Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory to allow him to convert an unused vessel into a commerce raider. Such ships, he believed, would prove ruinous to the Union's economy and help secure the South's independence. At New Orleans, Semmes oversaw the conversion of the *Havana*, a former packet steamer, to a commerce destroyer, renamed the *CSS Sumter*. Although the *Sumter* proved inadequate for long periods at sea, Semmes was nevertheless able to capture 18 U.S. merchant ships, seven of which were burned and the others released on bond. After six months at sea, Semmes brought the *Sumter* across the Atlantic Ocean to Gibraltar for badly needed repairs. Blockaded by three Union warships, including future nemesis *USS Kearsarge*, Semmes abandoned the *Sumter*, which was subsequently sold at auction. Semmes was in Nassau, the Bahamas, en route back to the Confederacy when he received official notification of his promotion to captain and orders to return to England to take command of a new ship. Construction of this vessel—originally identified only as "290"—at the Laird Shipyard in Birkenhead came about as the result of clandestine operations by the Confederate Navy's special agent James Dunwoody Bulloch, who designed both the *CSS Alabama* and the *CSS Florida* especially for commerce raiding. Christened the *Enrica* to outwit Union spies, the *Alabama* narrowly escaped to sea, and Semmes took command of the ship at Terceira in the Azores.

For almost two years Semmes and his crew traversed the Atlantic and Indian oceans, eluding all pursuers. Of the total of 64 enemy vessels captured, 63 were either burned or released on bond, and one was converted into a satellite raider, *Tuscaloosa*. Adding to Semmes' notoriety was his defeat of the *USS Hatteras* off the Texas coast on January 1, 1863, while masquerading the *Alabama* as a British vessel. Semmes was a solitary figure, leaving the daily operation of his ship to his competent executive officer, Lt. John McIntosh Kell. To his crew, he was known as "Old Beeswax," for his habit of twisting his waxed moustache while pacing the quarterdeck.

In mid-June 1864, Semmes sailed the *Alabama* to Cherbourg, France, for badly needed repairs requiring a dry dock. The subsequent arrival of the *USS Kearsarge*, a sloop of war commanded by Capt. John W. Winslow, forced Semmes to choose between remaining in port, fighting, or fleeing. Believing that the two ships were evenly matched, he decided to fight. On June 19, 1864, outside Cherbourg harbor, the two vessels engaged in a battle that lasted just over an hour and ended with the sinking of the *Alabama*. The *Kearsarge's* powerful pivot guns and superior marksmanship proved decisive, whereas a shot from the *Alabama* that lodged in the *Kearsarge's* sternpost failed to explode. Deteriorated gunpowder proved to be a critical factor in Semmes's defeat. Semmes and several others were rescued by the crew of an English yacht and brought to England where Semmes was feted by his many admirers. He later claimed that Winslow had cheated by protecting his ship's engines with chains slung over the sides of his ship and covered over with boards. Had he known this, Semmes insisted, he would never have fought the ironclad. In a book published in 1896, former *Alabama* officer Lt. Arthur Sinclair

claimed that Semmes had learned of the chains shortly before the battle, but his contention brought heated denials from other surviving Alabama officers.

Semmes returned to the Confederacy in December 1864 and, following his promotion to rear admiral in February 1865, was given command of the small James River Squadron. When the loss of Richmond became imminent, Semmes destroyed his ships on April 2 and brought the Confederate naval cadets to Danbury, Virginia. Designated a brigadier general by Jefferson Davis, Semmes and his cadets escorted the fleeing president south. Semmes was with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina when Johnston surrendered his army on April 26, 1865. Although Semmes originally was paroled with the rest of the army, he was later arrested and imprisoned at the New York City Navy Yard. Charges of treason, piracy, and ill-treatment of prisoners proved groundless, however, and Semmes was released after three months without having been brought to trial. He was elected probate judge of Mobile County in May 1866 but prohibited from taking office by U.S. authorities. After brief employment as a professor at Louisiana State Seminary and as editor of the Memphis Daily Bulletin, Semmes returned to Mobile, where he practiced law, delivered lectures, and wrote *Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States*. He died in Mobile on August 30, 1877, after contracting food poisoning, and was buried in that city's Catholic Cemetery. Southerners in search of heroes of their "Lost Cause" found Raphael Semmes well suited to the role. The cavalier officer had inflicted considerable harm to the enemy, had fought a gallant duel, and after the war gained sympathy for his imprisonment by the federal government. A bronze statue of Semmes was dedicated in Mobile on June 27, 1900, to honor his contributions to the Confederate cause.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1359>

Eugene Allen Smith

Eugene Allen Smith (1841-1927) was a professor, geologist, and naturalist who traveled by mule-drawn wagon throughout Alabama after the Civil War to find natural resources that could be used to develop industry in the state. His efforts also resulted in permanent funding for the Geological Survey of Alabama and a building, now the Alabama Museum of Natural History, on the University of Alabama campus designed by Smith to house his collections and the collections donated by others, as well as classrooms and laboratories for students.

Smith was born in Washington Ferry, Autauga County, on October 27, 1841, to Samuel Parrish Smith, a medical doctor, and Adelaide Allen Smith. Of his five siblings, Smith was especially close to his sister, Julia, who married Merrill Edward Pratt Sr., nephew and adopted son of industrialist Daniel Pratt. By 1850, the family had moved to Prattville, also in Autauga County, where Smith attended private school until enrolling at Central High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1862, after earning a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alabama, he served in the Confederate Army with the rank of private, most notably taking part in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky. He then was assigned to teach military tactics at the University of Alabama, where he witnessed the burning of the campus by federal forces.

With the war's end, Smith borrowed money from a relative and traveled to Europe, where he earned a doctorate from Heidelberg University in Germany in 1868. For the next three years, he worked in Oxford, Mississippi, as assistant state geologist and professor of chemistry at the University of Mississippi. When the University of Alabama reopened in 1871, he returned to Tuscaloosa as professor of agricultural chemistry and mineralogy. Smith married Jane Meredith Garland, daughter of the wartime president of the University of Alabama, Landon Garland, on July 10, 1872; they would have five children. During his years at the university, in addition to teaching, he devoted his energies to organizing the university's symphony orchestra (in which he played second violin), rebuilding the library collection, and helping found the athletic program. For Field Day each year, he organized sporting events and served as judge. An enthusiastic supporter of football and baseball, he was often photographed with the teams.

Soon after his return to Alabama, Smith pressured the state legislature to reactivate the state geologist position, which had fallen dormant after the death in 1858 of Michael Tuomey, the first state geologist, and the onset of the Civil War. Smith believed that poverty-stricken Alabama's recovery from the economic devastation of the Civil War and its aftermath would



depend on an industry-based economy rather than agriculture. In 1873, the legislature appointed Smith state geologist, without salary, and set him the task of traveling during the summer months throughout the state searching for resources that could be used by industry. His resulting reports and articles, studied by northern industrialists and others seeking investment opportunities, led to the founding and growth of multiple industries, including coal, iron, cement, fertilizer, soapstone, water power, graphite, mica, kaolin, and many others. Men who became the industrial giants of the future city of Birmingham, including Truman Aldrich, Henry DeBardeleben, and James Withers Sloss, often looked to Smith for advice.

Smith's 1879 survey and evaluation of the Warrior River from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham for the federal government paved the way for construction of the lock and dam system that made available year-round the natural resources of the area to the markets of the world. He used his political skill and his friends' influence with Congress in Washington to get legislation passed allocating 46,080 acres of federal land to Alabama in reparation for the burning of the University of Alabama; beginning in 1885, he served on the three-man commission to choose the lands. Through the years, the university sold some of the land and used the income for various expenses. From the corrections to inaccurate maps he made during his travels, he produced a map of Alabama, published in Berney's Handbook of Alabama in 1892, so exact that it endured until 1926 as the standard work of its kind. Smith cofounded the Alabama Industrial and Scientific Society in December 1890.

A knowledgeable botanist, he collaborated with Mobile scientist Charles Mohr to publish the first complete listing of Alabama plants, several of which Smith himself discovered. Early in his travels he had begun collecting plant, animal, and mineral specimens and Native American artifacts in the hopes of one day setting up a natural history museum. He achieved that goal in 1910, when the building was constructed on the UA campus. Over Smith's protests it was named Eugene Allen Smith Hall. Several prominent men donated outstanding collections to the museum because of their high regard for Smith. The Mobile Register reported that Truman Aldrich gave his own extensive shell collection as well several other collections that he had acquired. He also donated many cases of rare books on conchology and other branches of science. J. W. Spencer, former state geologist of Georgia and a noted botanist, donated several collections in honor of Smith, including a valuable collection of fossils and natural history specimens.

Governor Emmet O'Neal in 1911 appointed Smith to the newly created five-man Alabama Highway Commission. In 1912, Smith was elected president of the Geological Society of America. In 1920, he worked with Alabama senator Oscar Underwood to establish a metallurgical research experiment station at the university under the auspices of the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Another invaluable legacy to Alabamians was a photographic record he began in 1885, documenting through his camera the state's development during that critical period of its history. These photographs are now housed in the Hoole Special Collections Library at the University of Alabama.

Shortly before his death, Smith secured a \$50,000 annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature for the Geological Survey of Alabama, providing financial security for the organization Smith had served for most of his life. Eugene Allen Smith died on September 7, 1927. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Tuscaloosa.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3062>

Julia Strudwick Tutwiler

Julia Strudwick Tutwiler (1841-1916) was an educator, prison reformer, and writer and an outspoken proponent of education for women. She was closely involved with the founding of institutions that became the University of West Alabama and the University of Montevallo and with innovations in education for women and African Americans during segregation. The women's prison in Wetumpka, Elmore County, bears her name, as do several other public buildings in the state; her poem "Alabama" is immortalized as the official state song.

Born in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, on August 15, 1841, Julia Tutwiler was the third of eleven children of Henry and Julia Tutwiler. Her father was of German-Swiss ancestry and attended the University of Virginia. In 1831, he took a position as chair of ancient languages at the newly opened University of Alabama (UA). In 1835, he married Julia Ashe, daughter of Pascal Paoli Ashe, the university steward (the equivalent of the business manager today). Two years later, Tutwiler resigned with the rest of the university's dissatisfied faculty and taught at several small Alabama colleges. In 1847, Henry Tutwiler established the Greene Springs School for Boys in Hale County, near Havana, where he remained until his death in 1884.

Julia Tutwiler's father believed that women were the intellectual equals of men and should be educated as such. He sent his daughter to Philadelphia to a boarding school that was based on the French system of education and offered instruction in modern languages and culture as well as art and music. During the Civil War, Julia returned to Alabama to teach at her father's school, which remained open because her father was a member of the anti-Secessionist Whig Party. In 1866, Tutwiler attended Vassar College in New York State for a semester but left because of insufficient funds and took a position at Greensboro Academy in Greensboro, Hale County. Appointed principal in 1867, Tutwiler was joined by another woman as co-principal in 1868, but both women resigned the following year, unable to tolerate the school's poor physical condition. Tutwiler next taught at Greene Springs Academy in Sawyerville until 1872, when she moved to Lexington, Virginia, to be near a brother enrolled at Washington and Lee College. While there, she studied Latin and Greek privately with a professor and earned a teaching certificate. In summer 1873, she and her brother toured Europe. She entered the normal school at the Deaconesses' Institute at Kaiserswerth, Prussia, near present-day Dusseldorf, Germany. She lived in Berlin for two years and earned a teaching certificate from the Prussian board of education. In addition, she wrote children's stories and articles for St.



Nicholas Magazine and Appleton's Journal. Returning to Alabama in 1876, she taught languages and literature until 1881 at the Methodist-affiliated Tuscaloosa Female College. During an 1878 leave of absence, she traveled to France and wrote for the National Journal of Education on the Paris Exposition and on French trade schools for women.

During the winter of 1879 and 1880, Tutwiler organized the Tuscaloosa Benevolent Association (TBA), through which civic-minded women could work to reform conditions in Alabama jails and prisons, an important cause for Tutwiler. A converted Episcopalian, she believed that literacy through Bible reading could help inmates avoid repeating their mistakes. Tutwiler also drew on lessons in social activism that she learned at Kaiserswerth. The TBA sent questionnaires to the heads of all county jails, from which they compiled information about their conditions. The association then submitted its findings to the legislature in 1880 and helped to remedy the lack of heat and sanitation in the facilities. Tutwiler and some of her students visited prisons on weekends and conducted religious services, and Tutwiler personally provided Bibles to inmates. These activities and her strong ties with Alabama clubwomen earned her an appointment as superintendent of prison work for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). During the 1880s and 1890s, Tutwiler traveled the state on a free pass from the railroad companies as an advocate for WCTU's principles of education and sobriety. She successfully campaigned for state funding to pay for night school and Sunday school teachers in prisons; the creation of separate prison facilities for women; the establishment of the Alabama Boys' Industrial School, the South's first juvenile reform school for white boys; and the appointment of a state prison inspector. She also added her voice to calls for an end to the convict-lease system, under which Alabama prisoners, who were largely African American, were rented out to companies to work in mines and at other dangerous occupations. Such reform efforts won her the nickname "Angel of the Stockade" from both the inmates and the public. Tutwiler, who prior to the Civil War had taught some of her father's 20 slaves, assisted Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington in establishing a reform school for African American boys, which opened in 1911.

In 1881, Tutwiler and Carlos G. Smith, her uncle and former UA president, were appointed co-principals of the Livingston Female Academy. The school then consolidated with the Alabama Normal College for Girls and became Livingston Female Academy and State Normal College (now the University of West Alabama). The college received the state government's first appropriation for women's education—\$2,000 for tuition for 50 students and \$500 for school appliances—in exchange for the graduates' commitment of two years of public school teaching. By 1904, 210 students had graduated from the normal college.

In 1890, Tutwiler became president of the college. She espoused progressive educational theories that students should be treated as individuals and exposed to broad cultural and educational experiences. When asked about their time at the school, students often recalled Tutwiler's refined voice, penetrating gray eyes, and quiet but absolute authority. Teachers supplemented classroom-based lessons with related visual aids and field trips intended to

demonstrate the interconnectedness of the various fields of knowledge. Tutwiler instituted pedagogical methods, such as educational games and simple handicrafts, that she had learned in Germany in a kindergarten department that she established for Livingston's preschool children. Students also took physiology and learned secretarial skills and dressmaking in addition to attending Bible instruction, religious exercises, and mandatory church on Sunday.

Tutwiler continued to write opinion pieces and, in an 1882 essay in the *National Journal of Education*, addressed the limited and poorly paid employment opportunities for women despite the shortage of male workers brought on by the Civil War. She advocated for federal and state financing of trade schools modeled on French *ecoles professionnelles*, which taught women various skills and handicrafts in addition to a general literary and cultural education. Tutwiler found supporters among Alabama women's clubs, agricultural groups, and eventually legislators, and in 1893 the state authorized a grant for the Alabama Girls Industrial School at Montevallo (now the University of Montevallo). Though offered its presidency, Tutwiler preferred to remain at the Alabama Normal College.

Tutwiler accepted the educational and social segregation of African Americans apparently without question, even as she dedicated herself to expanding opportunities for white women. Her campaign to open the University of Alabama to qualified white women succeeded in 1892, when its board of trustees, persuaded by her eloquence, accepted her petition that women 18 years or older be admitted by examination to the sophomore or higher classes. In 1897, women were allowed to enter the freshmen class, and by 1899 the number of women students rose from five to 26 among a student body of 180. In 1907, the university awarded Tutwiler an honorary LL.D., named scholarships in her honor, and in 1915 christened a dormitory Julia Tutwiler Hall.

The always-active Tutwiler also taught at the Chautauqua Assembly in Monteagle, Tennessee, and financed several buildings at this retreat school for religious instructors. Her work as an educator brought recognition from the National Education Association, which elected her one of its directors in 1884 and president of its section on elementary education in 1891. In this capacity, she helped to develop Alabama's teacher-certification system and establish uniform standards for teacher education. At the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (also called the Chicago World's Fair), Tutwiler attended meetings of the Congress of Representative Women of the World and the International Historical Congress of Charities and Corrections, for which she served as the secretary of the Alabama delegation, and she was named honorary vice president of the International Congress of Education. In addition to reading an article at an assembly in the Women's Building, she was appointed a judge for the World's Fair Department of Liberal Arts.

In 1907, the Livingston Normal College came under state control as a result of provisions for regulating public educational institutions included in the Alabama constitution of 1901. The governor appointed new trustees who criticized Tutwiler's casual business practices, including her habit of mixing personal money in with the school funds. When they appointed George W.

Brock, chair of ancient languages and mathematics, as business manager, Tutwiler protested unsuccessfully to the governor for being displaced. Her impulsive behavior, strong personality, and lack of experience in working with non-family members did not mix well with the new administration and the bureaucratic accountability requirements of the state educational system.

Brock, the new president, antagonized Tutwiler's devotees by criticizing her record keeping and the inadequacies of the college's physical plant and student housing. In fact, Tutwiler had generously spent her own money on the residential cottages and loaned money to needy students. Tutwiler retired in 1910 and was named the first president emerita in Alabama and was given \$100 a month as a pension, but this was terminated after one year. Soon afterward, Tutwiler developed cancer. Though she was unsuccessful in securing a retirement allowance from the Carnegie Foundation, Alabama clubwomen and several prominent men rallied behind Tutwiler and honored her by portraits, plaques, endowed scholarships, markers, and published articles. On September 14, 1915, the state legislature recognized her contributions.

Tutwiler died in Birmingham on March 24, 1916, leaving \$15,000 in a scholarship loan fund, and Livingston Normal College's administration and classroom building was renamed for her. In 1931, the state adopted her poem "Alabama," which she composed while in Germany, as lyrics to the state song. Designated "Alabama's First Citizen," Tutwiler was inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame (1953) and into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame at Judson College (1970).

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1112>



Oscar Wilder Underwood

Oscar Wilder Underwood (1862-1929) served Alabama for many years in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Known best for his extensive knowledge of and authorship of a sweeping tariff reform act, he was also a Democratic candidate for president in 1912 and in 1924, which saw the longest convention in U.S. history. He has been described as a conservative politician who opposed suffrage for women, the prohibition of alcohol, and rights for organized labor.

Underwood was born on May 6, 1862, in Louisville, Kentucky, the first of three boys born to Frederica Virginia Wilder and Eugene Underwood, son of Joseph Rogers Underwood, a U.S. representative and senator from Kentucky. It was the second marriage

for both Virginia Wilder and Eugene Underwood, whose first wife, Catherine Thompson, died in 1857, leaving him with three boys. Oscar Underwood thus also had three older half-brothers from his father's first marriage and a half-sister from his mother's first marriage. Because of Underwood's severe chronic bronchitis and his mother's ailments, the family moved in 1865 to St. Paul, Minnesota. In that dry, cold climate, young Underwood spent much time outdoors and met such notable national figures as Union generals George Custer and Winfield Scott as well as William "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

When Underwood's health improved, the family returned to Louisville, where, in 1879, he graduated with honors from Rugby, an exclusive private school. He then studied law at the University of Virginia, where he excelled in debating and was president of the Jefferson Society, a notable undergraduate honor. In October of either 1885 or 1886 Underwood married Eugenia Massie, with whom he had two sons. Eugenia died in 1900, and Underwood in 1904 married Bertha Woodward.

Underwood began his law practice in Minnesota but soon moved to the dynamic and rising southern industrial city of Birmingham, Jefferson County. His older brother William had settled there before him and touted the immense possibilities to be found in the city's mining and manufacturing concerns. Oscar Underwood set up his law firm with James J. Garrett, developed several business interests, and became active in the Democratic Party.

Birmingham's rapid growth earned Alabama an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1892, and Jefferson County was joined with Bibb, Blount, Hale, and Perry Counties to form the Ninth District, with Underwood chairing the new district's Democratic

Committee. In 1894, Underwood entered the race for the new seat and won the primary. He then faced Republican Truman H. Aldrich, a wealthy official of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company, in the general election. Underwood waged an aggressive campaign, centering his attack on a Republican protective tariff that Aldrich favored. Underwood apparently won by the margin of 7,463 to 6,153, but Aldrich successfully contested the election and served out the latter part of Underwood's term until March 1897.

Underwood won the subsequent election in 1896 and in Congress concentrated on tariff legislation, placing him in opposition to the protective tariff that had been a hallmark of Republicanism since the Civil War. Protective tariffs raise the cost of imports, thus making domestic goods cheaper by comparison. Underwood was neither devoted to free trade nor supportive of any particular industry or region but may have supported tariff reform out of a sense of fairness. Not until 1908, during Theodore Roosevelt's administration, was a significant effort made on behalf of tariff reform. Underwood supported the Payne-Aldridge Tariff Act of 1909, although it was a compromise bill that disappointed progressives in both parties.

Underwood was nominated for president at the 1912 Democratic National Convention and received support from southern delegates, but he remained well behind frontrunners Woodrow Wilson and Champ Clark throughout the balloting. Wilson's eventual election to the presidency finally gave Underwood his opportunity to promote more adequate tariff legislation. His positions from 1911 to 1915 as both House Majority Leader and chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee gave him a strong voice. With Wilson's support, Underwood began working in January 1913 on a new measure known as the "Underwood Tariff." The bill easily passed the House during a special session of Congress in May. The Senate debated the language of the bill throughout the summer but left it substantially intact, and Woodrow Wilson signed it into law on October 3. The tariff lowered duties on 958 articles, raised 86, and left 307 unchanged. A key feature of the bill, designed to counter an anticipated reduction in revenue, reinstated a graduated income tax of moderate rates. Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War I disrupted international trade and left economic conditions so chaotic that still another tariff bill was adopted when the Republicans regained power in 1920.

The death of Sen. Joseph Forney Johnston in 1913 paved the way for Underwood to run for that seat in 1914 against Rep. Richmond Pearson Hobson, a naval hero of the Spanish-American War and a staunch prohibitionist. Eloquent and handsome, Hobson, who had ousted Rep. John Bankhead from his House seat in 1906, accused Underwood of having ties to liquor interests. Underwood, who wanted counties to decide whether to prohibit alcohol sales, countered by attacking Hobson for supporting national women's suffrage and direct popular election of the president. Both proposals, if adopted, he claimed, would dilute the South's growing influence nationally. With Johnston's son as his campaign manager, Underwood left the campaign in the hands of Alabama supporters and avoided confronting Hobson in open debate during his three campaign visits to the state. The strategy gave Underwood a convincing 89,470 to 54,738 victory.

As senator from 1915-27, Underwood played a leading role in some of the major issues facing America in a crucial era. He was an influential member of the Appropriations Committee when huge war appropriations were made during World War I. He enthusiastically backed and spread progressive ideas regarding international alliances, such as the League of Nations, to promote better understanding among nations. These efforts were noticeably impeded when the Republicans regained the presidency and Congress in 1920, the same year he was reelected, defeating businessman Lycurgus Breckinridge "L. B." Musgrove of Walker County. However, he served as minority leader in the Senate and was one of Pres. Warren G. Harding's representatives to the Conference of the Limitations of Armament in 1921. It resulted in the Washington Naval Treaty, which limited the number and tonnage of large warships among the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan.

Underwood may be best remembered for his role in the 1924 presidential campaign, which was both the pinnacle of his political career and opened the door for his eventual political demise. In January 1923, the Alabama legislature formally requested his presidential candidacy for the Democratic nomination. On July 31, Underwood addressed a joint session of the legislature. He was so heartened by the response that he announced for office the next day. This made him the first candidate to announce, 11 months before the national convention was held.

Underwood easily defeated L. B. Musgrove in Alabama's Democratic presidential primary, 65,798 to 37,837, but he had little support in the rest of the South because of his strong anti-Klan stance and opposition to prohibition. Without this widespread support, few convention delegates attending the Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York took his campaign seriously. His only hope lay in deadlocking the convention until enough votes drifted his way for the nomination. Indeed, Underwood, Gov. Alfred Smith of New York, and William G. McAdoo, the favorite of the prohibition supporters and Woodrow Wilson's son-in-law, did deadlock. However, after 10 days and 103 ballots, the convention finally turned to a compromise candidate, John W. Davis of West Virginia.

By now state and national political trends were working dramatically against Underwood, and signs pointed to possible defeat had he stood for reelection in 1926. His opposition against the Klan and prohibition came at a time when those groups were politically strong in Alabama and the rest of the South. Moreover, influential Democratic senators, believing that Underwood had compromised himself by participating in Harding's arms conference, prepared to contest his reelection as minority leader in the U.S. Senate. These warning signals made him decide against another bid for his Senate seat. For his stance against the Klan, Underwood later would be mentioned in future president John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*.

Underwood retired to his Virginia home, Woodlawn Plantation, which was part of the original estate of George Washington's Mount Vernon. There, he turned his interest to writing. In 1928, he published his only book, *The Shifting Sands of Party Politics*. In December of that year, Underwood suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, followed by a paralyzing stroke two weeks;

he died of complications on January 25, 1929. Although he had been an adopted Alabamian and had lived most of his political life elsewhere, Underwood stipulated that he be buried in Alabama. The Birmingham Special passenger train brought him back to Montgomery's Elmwood Cemetery, and the *Montgomery Advertiser* eulogized him as "one of the great figures of latter day American politics."

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2961>



Booker Taliaferro Washington

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) is probably best known as the founder of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial School Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Tuskegee, Macon County. He was a leading voice for industrial-vocational education and a measured approach toward gaining civil rights for blacks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many contemporary African American civil rights leaders, most notably W. E. B. Du Bois, critiqued his emphasis on industrial education over liberal arts education and called for immediate access to political participation, accusing Washington of being an accommodationist. However, Washington secretly supported civil rights causes. He covertly provided funding for organizations that fought to end lynching. When southern states began to disband colored militia in 1905, he asked Secretary of War William Howard Taft to intervene, and when President Roosevelt dismissed colored

troops in Brownsville, Texas, after a skirmish with town residents, Washington lobbied him to reverse his decision. Washington's leadership at Tuskegee Institute, however, had a lasting impact on African American education, and the university continues to be a leading institution of higher learning.

Booker Taliaferro Washington was born in Hale's Ford, Franklin County, Virginia, on a small tobacco farm owned by James Burroughs, near present-day Smith Mountain Lake. Because Washington was enslaved, and few birth records were kept for enslaved workers, the exact date of his birth is unknown. Some sources list it as April 5, 1856. Washington was known only as Booker T. as a child, with T being the initial of his slave owner's surname. The Taliaferros were a prominent white family in the Commonwealth of Virginia that traced back to the seventeenth century and was one of the earliest families to settle in Virginia. He chose the last name Washington at age ten. He lived with his mother Jane, who was the plantation's cook, and his brother John and sister Amanda in a tiny, one-room log cabin. The cramped living quarters had a dirt floor, glassless windows, and served as both living and sleeping quarters as well as the plantation kitchen.

One of Washington's duties as a child was to carry the Burroughs daughter's books as she walked to school. After the books were safely delivered, Washington often lingered around the schoolhouse door to get a glimpse of those being formally educated. He watched the boys and girls in the schoolhouse and longed for the opportunity to receive such an education. Because

the enslaved were viewed as property and were sold at will by their masters, Washington did not know his entire family. In fact, Washington did not even know his father's name, although it was widely speculated that his biological father was a white plantation owner. In 1860, Washington's mother married Washington Ferguson, an enslaved man from a nearby plantation who later escaped to West Virginia. Although the family only saw him once a year at Christmas time, Washington considered the man his stepfather. After gaining their freedom in 1865, Washington and his family moved to Malden, West Virginia, near Charleston, where Ferguson was working in a salt mine. Booker T. and John soon began working as salt packers in the town.

Washington was able to gain a primary education in Tinkersville, a small town outside Malden, by working in the mornings and evenings and attending school during the day. In his early teens, he worked for a wealthy family that encouraged his pursuit of education. In 1872, at age 16, Washington entered Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia. He arrived at the school with only 50 cents and was asked to sweep a floor to prove that he would work for his education. Washington excelled as a student and graduated in 1875, returning to Tinkersville to teach at a black school there until 1878. After brief study in theology in Washington, D.C., he was recruited by Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute to teach Native Americans and then to lead the school's night division. Washington became such an exemplary teacher and speaker that General Samuel C. Armstrong, the head and founder of Hampton Institute, recommended him to a group of education advocates led by Lewis Adams, George Campbell, and a group of former slaves from Alabama who were planning to establish a school for African Americans in Macon County.

On July 4, 1881, Washington and the others group opened the Tuskegee Normal Industrial School although at the time the school had no land, no buildings, and only a small state appropriation of \$2,000 a year for faculty salaries. Washington borrowed money to buy a dilapidated plantation and employed students to erect buildings in exchange for tuition, while holding classes in an African Methodist Episcopal church. Together, Washington and his students built Tuskegee Institute from the ground up, and the first class of 30 students graduated in 1885. Under Washington's direction, students produced their own food and provided for most of their own basic necessities, including building a kiln and making bricks for new structures. The Tuskegee faculty utilized each of these activities to teach the students basic skills that they could share with other black communities in the South. At the heart of Washington's philosophy was his desire to teach his students to view labor not only as practical, but also as beautiful and dignified, as well as to prepare them for the jobs that were readily available to them. Washington sought to prepare African American teachers for the classroom along with improving farming techniques for area farmers. One the most famous faculty members at the school was inventor and agricultural entrepreneur George Washington Carver, who introduced the concept of crop rotation to cotton farmers with depleted soils and who discovered numerous uses for the peanut and sweet potato. Carver later developed an agriculture extension program in Alabama, similar to the one that he had designed at Iowa

State University, that was managed by Tuskegee graduate Thomas Monroe Campbell. Noted writers Claude McKay, Ralph Ellison, and Albert Murray also studied at Tuskegee.

Washington was married three times. He married his first wife, Fanny Smith, in 1882, and the couple had one daughter. Smith died in 1884, and Washington married Olivia Davidson, Tuskegee's first female principal, the following year, and they had two sons, Booker T. Washington Jr. and Ernest Davidson Washington. Olivia Davidson died in 1889, and in 1892 Washington married Margaret James Murray, an English teacher and later a principal as well. The pair adopted Murray's orphaned niece, Laura Murray.

As a result of his work as an educator and public speaker, Washington toured the nation, speaking on the state of race relations and civil rights. He also began to meet and solicit funds from wealthy benefactors such as Anna T. Jeanes, Henry Rogers, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and Julius Rosenwald for Tuskegee Institute. Washington became an influential entrepreneur and fundraiser. He achieved greater notoriety with an address he gave at the Cotton States and International Exhibition in Atlanta in 1895. In the speech, which became known as "the Atlanta Compromise" or the "Atlanta Address," Washington challenged blacks and whites to adjust to post-emancipation realities. He stated that blacks and whites could work together as one hand while remaining socially separate, like fingers.

Washington's statement of reconciliation pleased most white Americans at the time, as it did not push for civil and political equality. Increasingly, however, as racial violence and discrimination against blacks escalated at the turn of the century, other black leaders began to view the speech as a ready acceptance of second-class citizenship. Social, political, and economic conditions for blacks continued to deteriorate, and some blacks came to revile Washington. Others supported him for his advocacy of industrial education, which had been embraced earlier by civil rights advocate and abolitionist Frederick Douglass

Chief among Washington's critics was noted African American scholar W. E. B. Du Bois, who with other black leaders warned that Washington's philosophy was detrimental for the black community because they believed that whites would never allow African Americans to fully participate in American democracy. Although an advocate of industrial education, Washington was not totally against Du Bois's vision for liberal education for blacks, but he argued that they should concentrate on vocational skills as better suited for the work that was readily available for them. Du Bois called Washington's political and financial network of black and white supporters the "Tuskegee Machine." The network included many black-operated newspapers, black intellectuals, black educators, black college graduates, white politicians, and white northern philanthropists who believed that the vocational model of education was the best method of educating blacks.

The rift between the two widened when Du Bois publicly expressed his discontent with Washington's approach to education and other race matters, particularly voting rights. When Alabama passed its 1901 Constitution, which disenfranchised most blacks, Washington, who

could vote, protested little. In 1903, Du Bois published a book of essays that would become one of his signature works, *The Souls of Black Folk*, which featured a seething retort to Washington and those who followed his philosophy. This public verbal sparring between these two leading African American scholars further severed ties between Washington and Du Bois supporters and generally divided blacks. By giving more speeches similar to the Atlanta Compromise, Washington came to be known as the "Great Accommodator."

Washington was able to cultivate friendships with wealthy and powerful whites, however, including industrialists Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, who donated funds to the school and kept the institute financially solvent. Other donations enabled Washington to open an agricultural school, and in 1896, Washington hired as its head George Washington Carver, who would make major contributions to southern agriculture and develop a classroom on wheels known as the Movable School to demonstrate improved farming methods to rural black farmers. His accomplishments were not just limited to the educational domain, however. He also founded the National Negro Business League in 1900, which provided consultation services to black business people. In the sphere of politics, he advised presidents William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Taft on race relations in the United States and often on political appointments.

Booker T. Washington remained the most prominent spokesperson for the black community until his death on November 14, 1915, at age 59, likely from overwork and heart disease. Washington is buried on the campus of Tuskegee University, and his home, The Oaks, is part of the Tuskegee Institute National Historic site and is open to the public. Washington's birthplace in southwest Virginia was declared a National Monument on April 5, 1956, the centennial of his birth.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1506>



JOHN ALLAN WYETH WHEN A BOY SOLDIER.

John Allan Wyeth

John Allan Wyeth (1845-1922) served in the Confederate Army as a youth and would go on to become a leading New York surgeon, the developer of improved surgical procedures, and the author of medical texts and a variety of other works. As the founder of the first post-graduate medical school in the United States, the New York Polyclinic Graduate Medical School and Hospital, he significantly influenced medical education and the practice of medicine in the United States.

Wyeth was born May 26, 1845, in Guntersville, Marshall County, to Louis and Euphemia Allan Wyeth and had two older sisters. John's father came from a distinguished family that included George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from

Virginia. Louis was a newly licensed lawyer, from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when he came to Alabama. He soon became a county judge and married Euphemia Allan, daughter of the John Allan, a Presbyterian minister in nearby Huntsville who was also an ardent emancipationist. Louis, in 1848, established Guntersville as the seat of Marshall County, funded construction of a courthouse and school, and was elected to the state legislature. John Allan Wyeth grew up in a rural and largely unsettled area bordering the Tennessee River, although his family made frequent visits to the cultural center that was Huntsville. At age 15, he enrolled at La Grange Military Academy in Colbert County.

Louis Wyeth was a delegate to the Alabama Secession Convention on January 7, 1861, and voted against secession. However, the Ordinance of Secession passed on January 11, and Alabama joined the Confederate States of America. After that, the military academy closed and the faculty and older cadets went off to fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War. In the fall of 1862, John Wyeth joined Gen. John Hunt Morgan's irregular Confederate cavalry unit, "Morgan's Raiders," serving until early 1863, when he joined the 4th Alabama Cavalry as a private. He served under Gen. Joseph Wheeler, fighting in several harrowing engagements in Tennessee, most notably the Battle of Chickamauga. In early October 1863, he was captured, developed a severe case of pneumonia, and was taken by train as a prisoner of war to severely overcrowded Camp Morton, near Indianapolis, Indiana. Wyeth would later describe the camp's conditions in his autobiography as "wholly inadequate" during his 16 months there, having insufficient shelter and food and a lack of blankets, particularly during the unusually cold winter in 1864-65. Prisoners sometimes starved or froze to death, and Wyeth contracted various diseases and suffered from their effects for many years afterwards. Connections to

relatives in Illinois provided him some much-needed clothing, books, and money used to purchase extra rations. Wyeth, fearing a charge of desertion, turned down an offer of parole procured by one Illinois relative who had practiced law in the same circuit as Abraham Lincoln. A kind camp physician kept Wyeth alive in the infirmary; considered unable to fight, he was included in a prisoner exchange in February 1865. Back in Guntersville, he helped rebuild his family's burned-out home and continued to recover, resolving to become a doctor himself.

Wyeth enrolled at Kentucky's University of Louisville medical school, which required no preliminary college or entrance examination and offered the typical training of two terms of seven months each of lectures on physiology, surgery, medicine, obstetrics, chemistry, and homeopathy. Anatomy was the most thoroughly taught subject and involved some dissecting, but otherwise medical education involved no laboratory work, no practical demonstrations, and no interaction with patients. Upon graduation in 1869, Wyeth returned to Guntersville but quickly realized how incomplete his training had been and closed his practice after six weeks. He decided to pursue further study and took a series of farm and riverboat jobs in Arkansas for the next three years to earn money for tuition.

Arriving in New York in 1872, he was surprised and disappointed that the city's three medical schools offered no special courses for graduates. He enrolled at Bellevue Hospital Medical College and attended lectures and clinics in surgery and received another degree in 1873. To prepare for a career as a surgeon, he also taught himself to be ambidextrous. His expertise in anatomy led to a staff appointment at Bellevue, where he would establish the first pathology lab in the city, conveniently located over the morgue, where he dissected cadavers for two years. He learned French and German so he could read medical journals in those languages and began to submit his own prize-winning articles on improving surgical procedures that were acclaimed by experts for their life-saving innovations.

Wyeth became convinced that American medical schools' reliance upon theoretical training did not prepare future doctors sufficiently for their practices. Instead, he envisioned training under a faculty of experts providing practical guidance. In 1878, he went abroad to Europe and studied the superior training of physicians from the best schools there for two years. In Paris, he met and was encouraged in his studies by physician J. Marion Sims, a friend of his father's from Montgomery. Sims was a leading New York surgeon and was responsible for a number of innovations in the field of gynecology; he was much in demand by members of the royal families of Europe. Through Sims, Wyeth met leading physicians and surgeons in Paris, London, Berlin, and Vienna, who instructed him in their methods of medical practice.

Wyeth returned to New York in 1880, took up appointments as a visiting surgeon at both St. Elizabeth's and Mount Sinai hospitals, and became recognized as one of the most prominent surgeons in the city. He was admired by his colleagues as much for his character and his calm demeanor as for his surgical expertise. He soon built a successful private practice and then worked to fulfill his dream of creating the New York Polyclinic Graduate Medical School and Hospital. This latter project drew upon all his expertise, intelligence, energy, and charisma to

gather a board of directors, donors, and faculty of prominent New York medical specialists who were willing both to teach the students and treat the patients in the Polyclinic Hospital for free. (Until the hospital closed in 1975, the façade of the 12-story structure bore the motto "For the Sick Without Regard to Race or Class.")

When the facility opened in 1881, it attracted medical practitioners who already had an undergraduate degree and the standard two years of lectures in a medical college but desired more thorough practical training. The Polyclinic offered this in a third and fourth year of hands-on postgraduate instruction that went beyond the merely theoretical, offering them demonstration classes in what their basic medical school training had failed to provide.

Among those in the first classes were brothers William J. Mayo and Charles Horace Mayo, who would later establish the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The Polyclinic's success led other top medical schools to follow its lead and institute additional courses of a more practical nature in third- and fourth-year curriculums. (In 1918, the Polyclinic Graduate Medical School was absorbed by Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons) On April 10, 1886, Wyeth married Florence Nightingale Sims, daughter of J. Marion Sims, whom he had met while in Europe; the couple would have two sons and one daughter.

Wyeth wrote innovative and widely used medical texts that introduced illustrations in color as well as a memoir, *With Sabre and Scalpel: The Autobiography of a Soldier and Surgeon*; an acclaimed biography, *That Devil Forrest: Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest*, and many magazine articles. His honors included being elected president of the New York Academy of Medicine in 1906 and 1908 and the president of the American Medical Association in 1902; he received honorary doctorates from the University of Alabama in 1900 and the University of Maryland in 1908. Wyeth's wife died in 1915; in 1918, he married Marguerite Chalifoux in the Polyclinic Hospital while recovering from a broken ankle. He died of a heart attack on May 22, 1922, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Article Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3522>

Robert David Abernathy

(1926-1990)

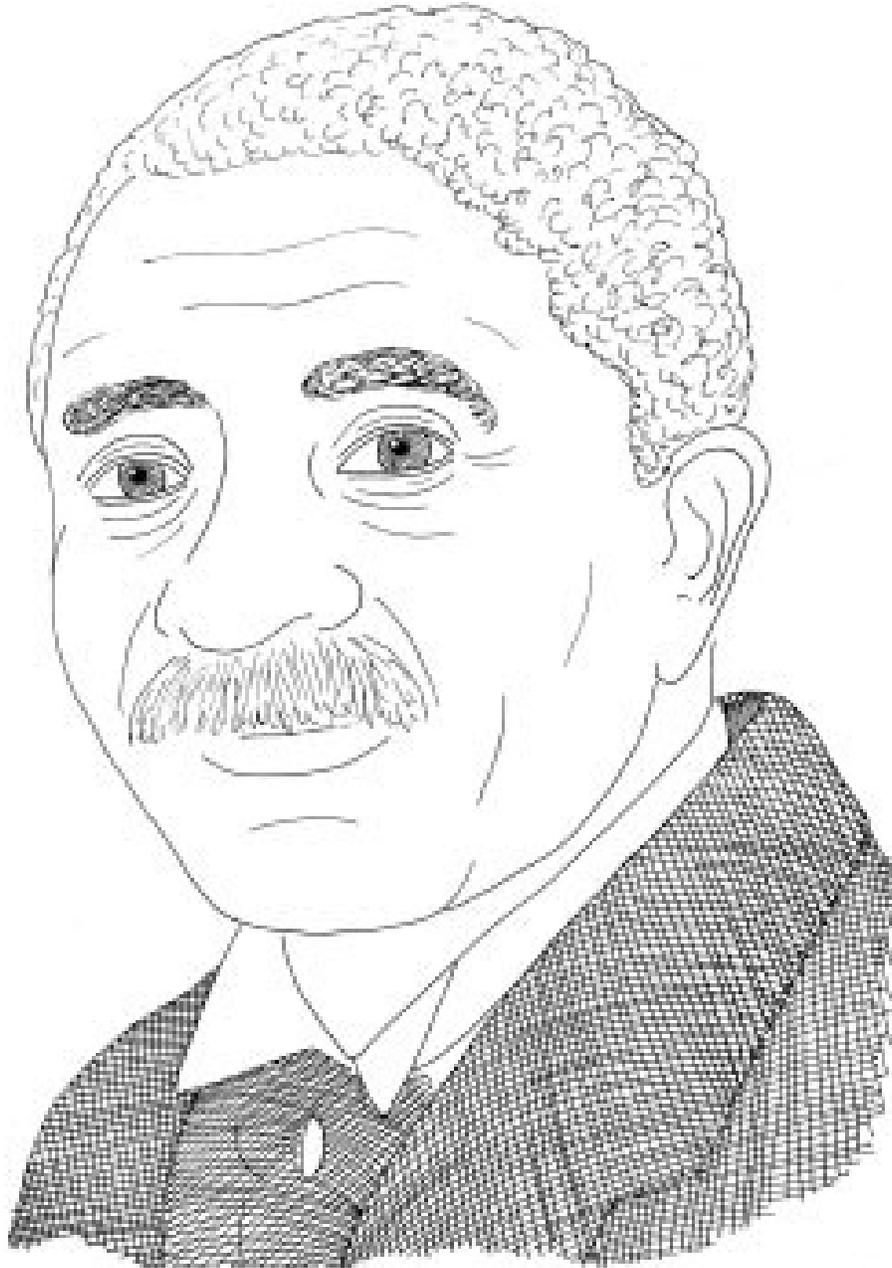
African American Civil Rights Leader



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George Washington Carver

(c.1864-1943)



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Zora Neale Hurston

(1891-1961)



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Helen Keller

(1880-1968)



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Coretta Scott King

(1927-2006)



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Martin Luther King, Jr.

(1929-1968)



Images provided with permission and courtesy of: <http://www.betterworldheroes.com>

Rosa Parks

(1913-2005)



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Booker T. Washington

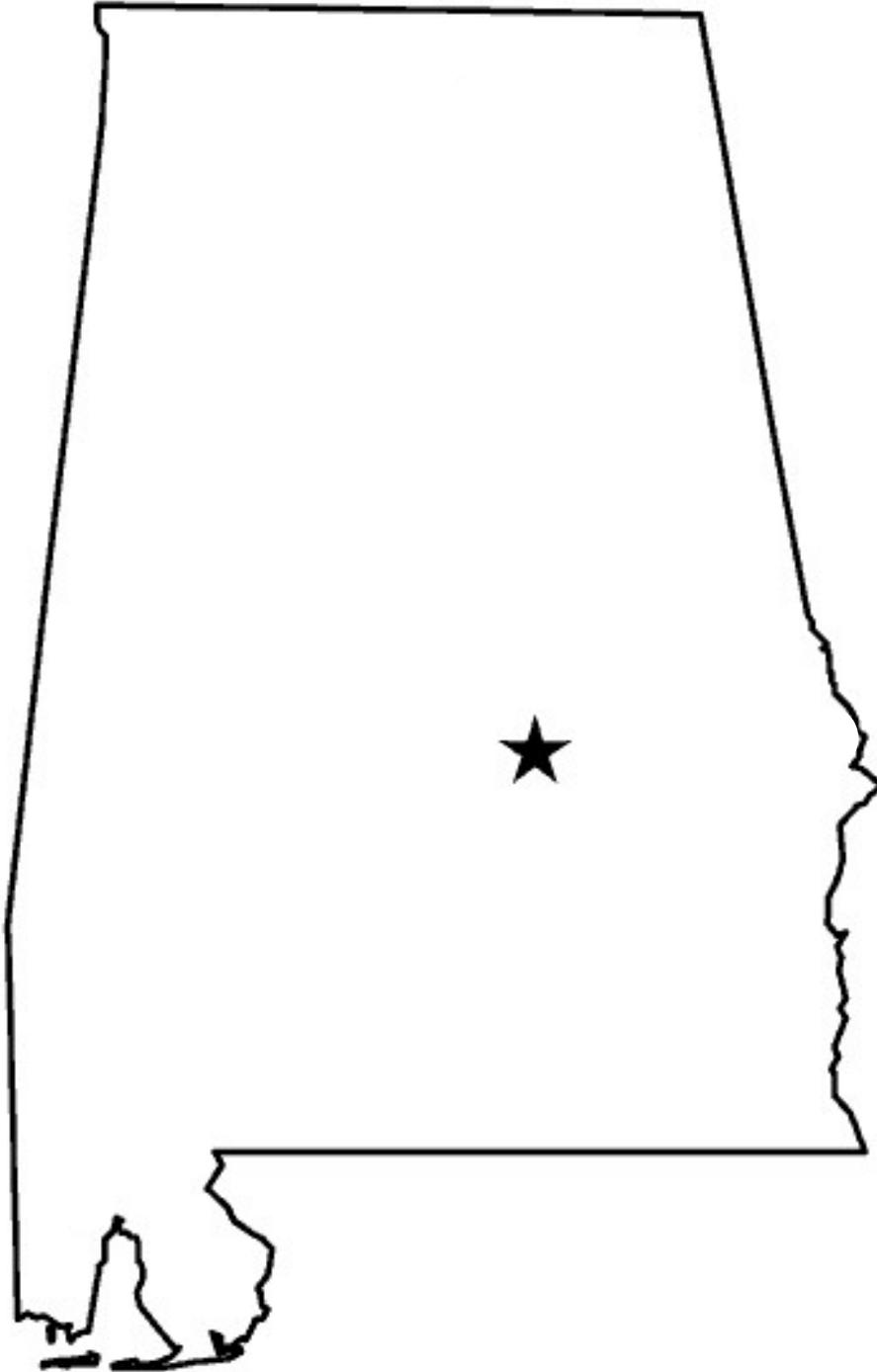
(1856-1915)

American educator, Reformer

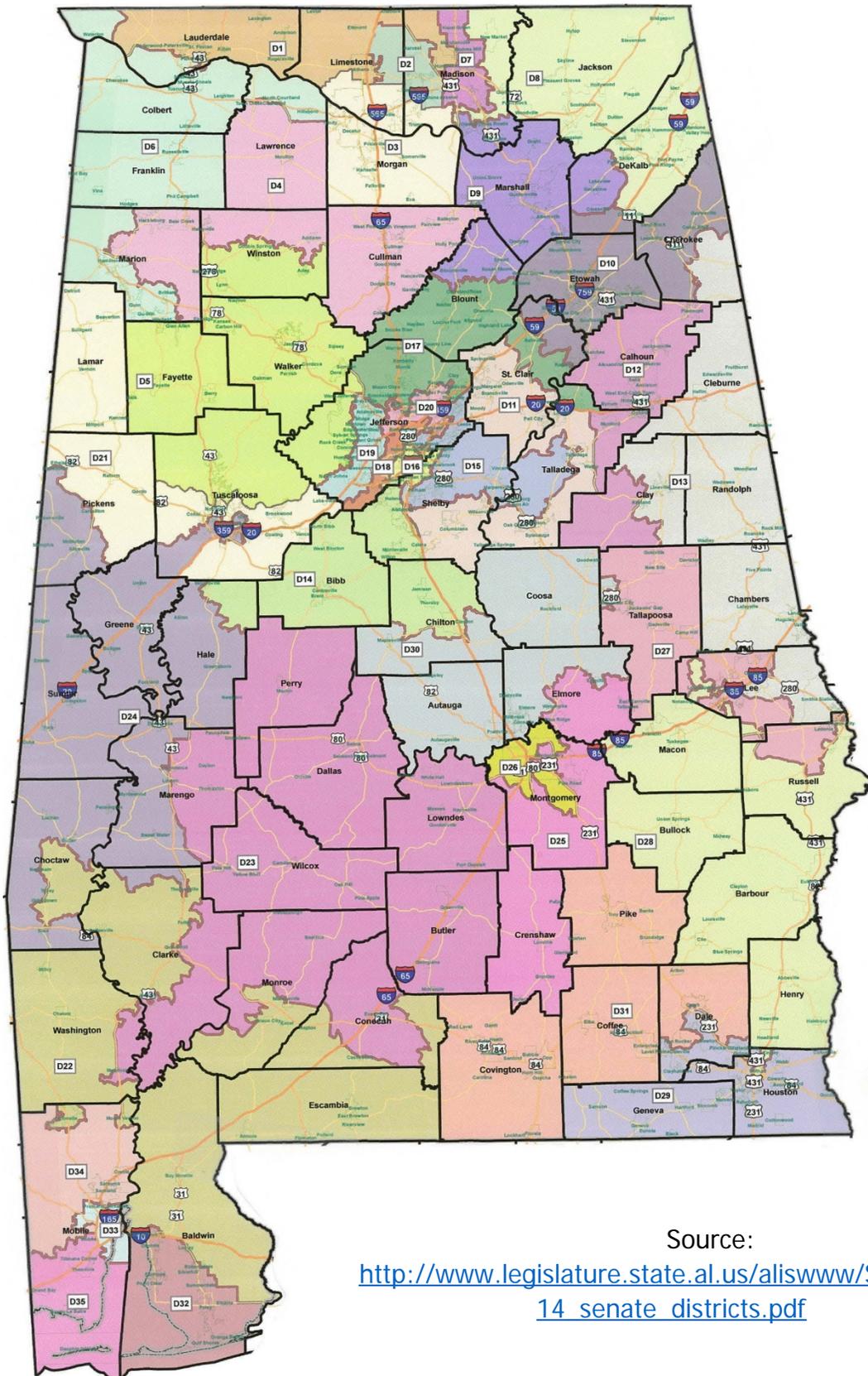


Images provided with permission and courtesy of: <http://www.betterworldheroes.com>

Alabama Outline Map



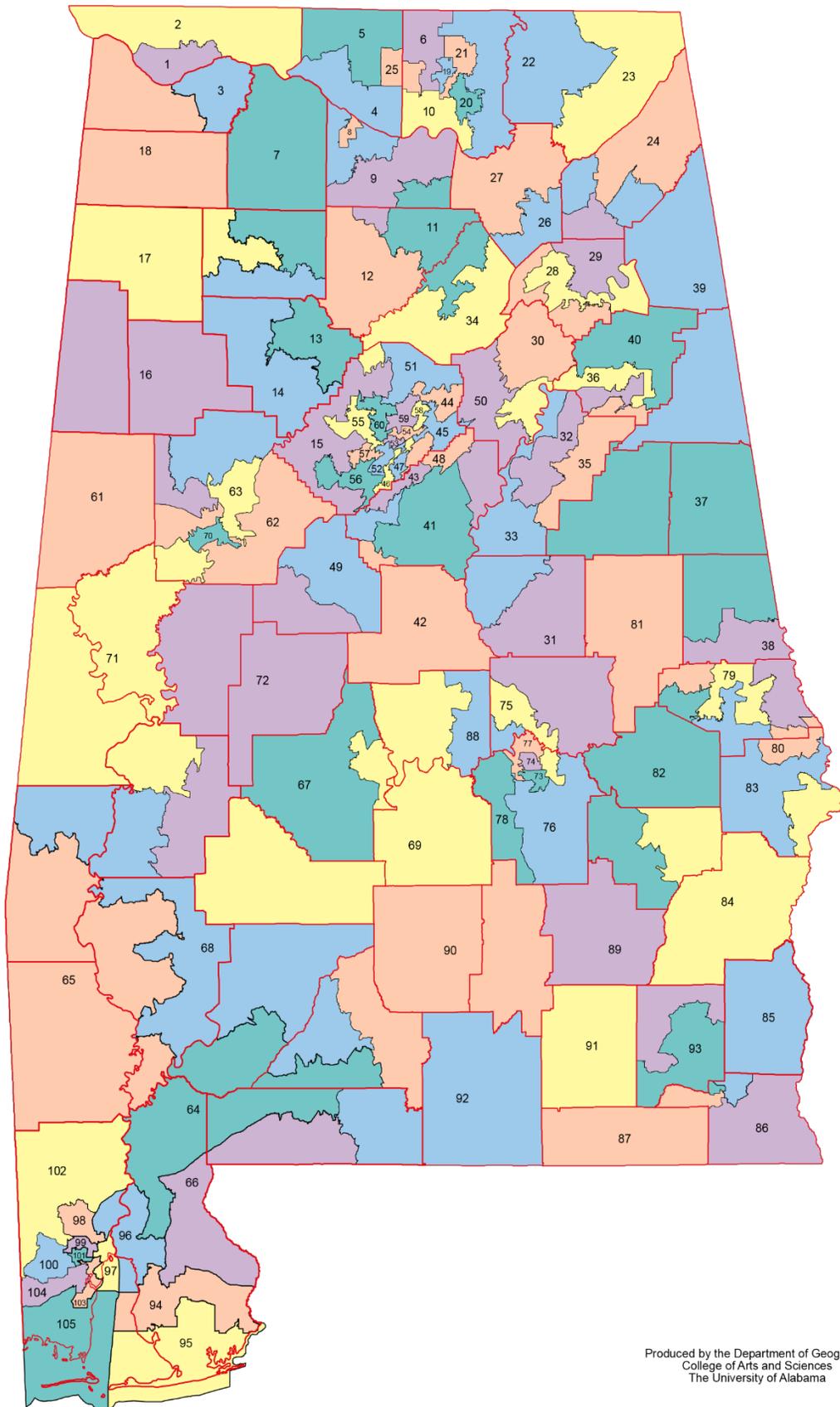
Alabama Senate Districts



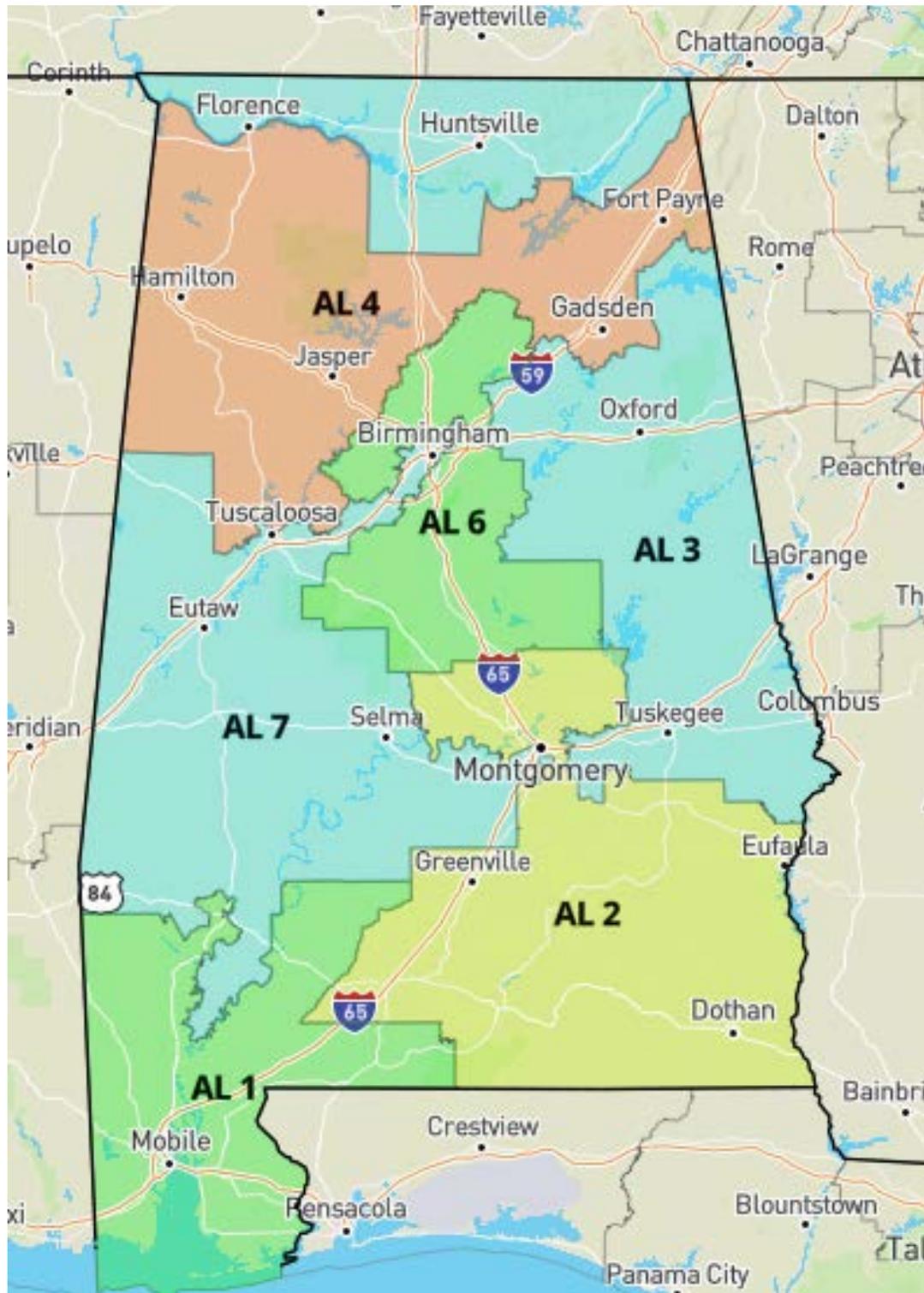
Source:

http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/Senate/2014_senate_districts.pdf

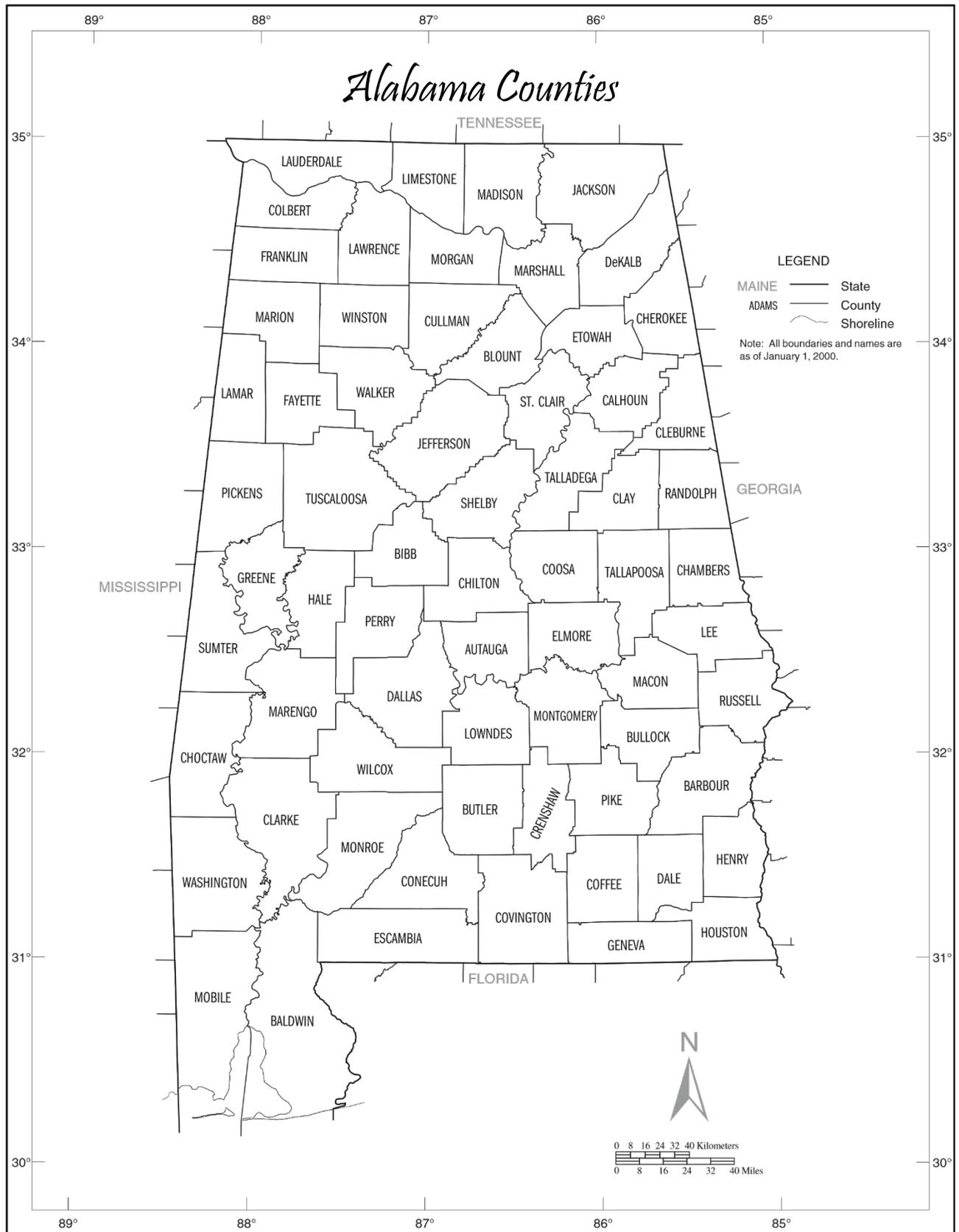
Alabama House Districts



Alabama U.S. Congressional Districts

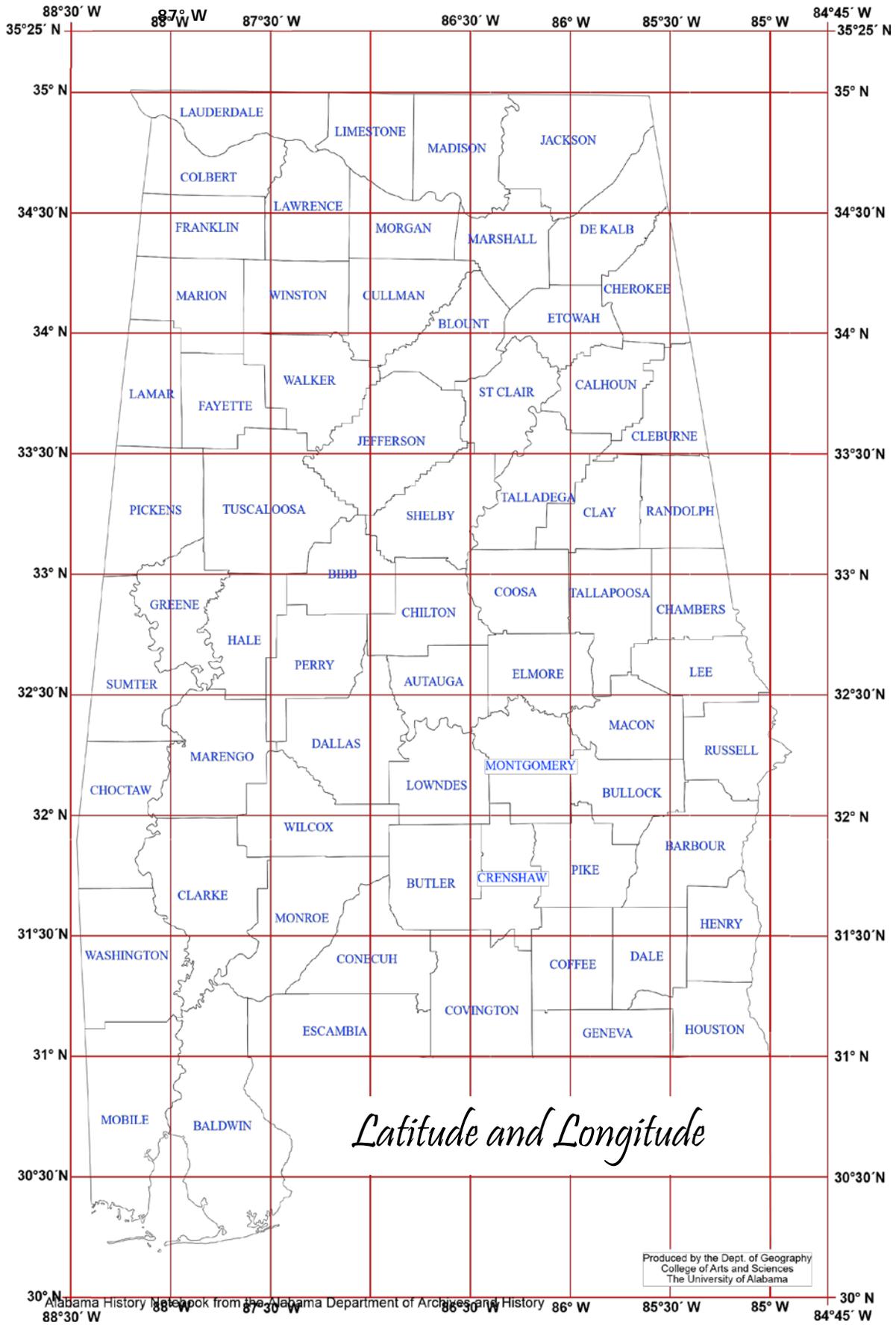


Source: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/AL#map>

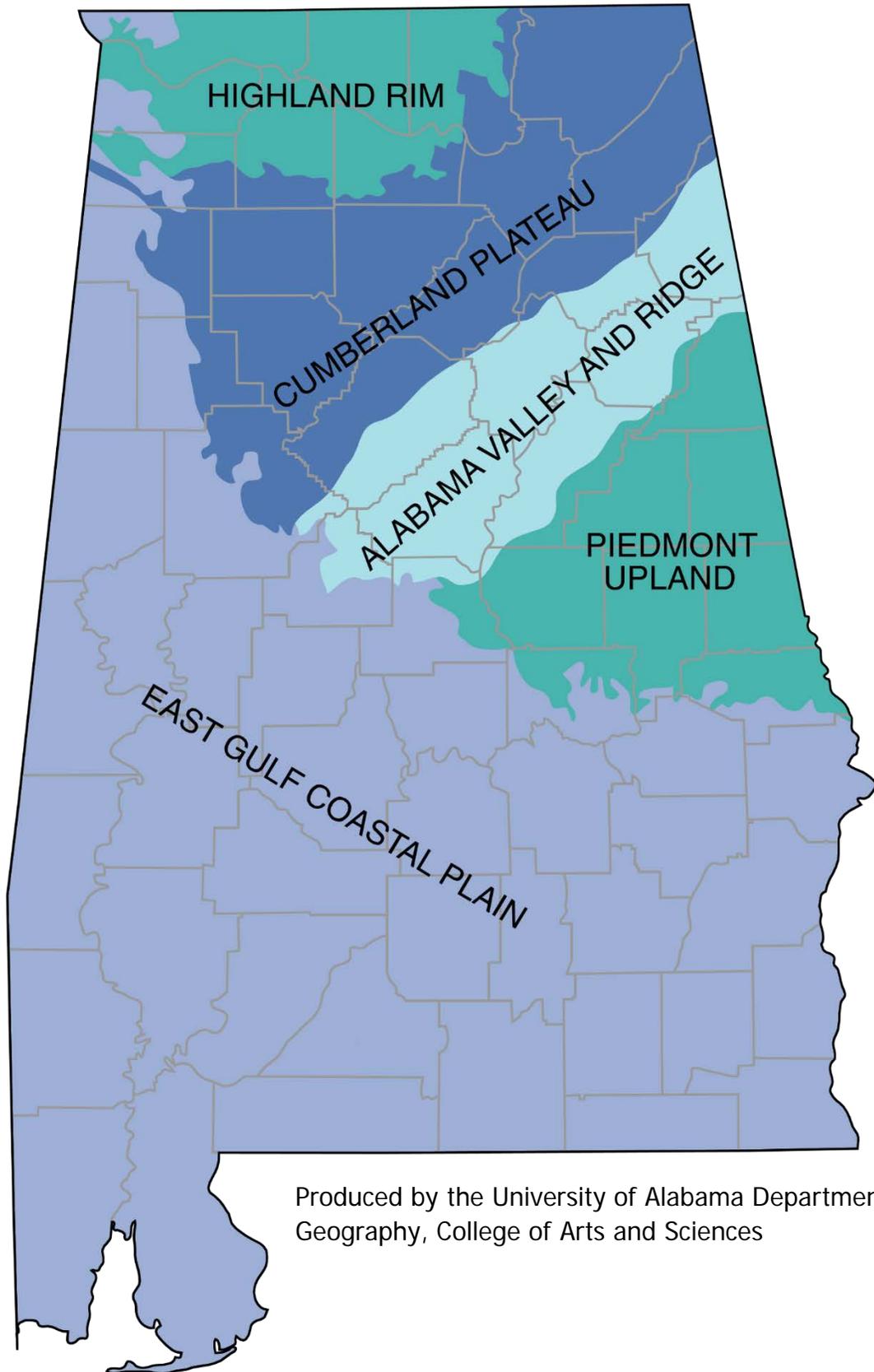


Source:

https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/general_ref/stco_outline/cen2k_pgsz/stco_AL.pdf

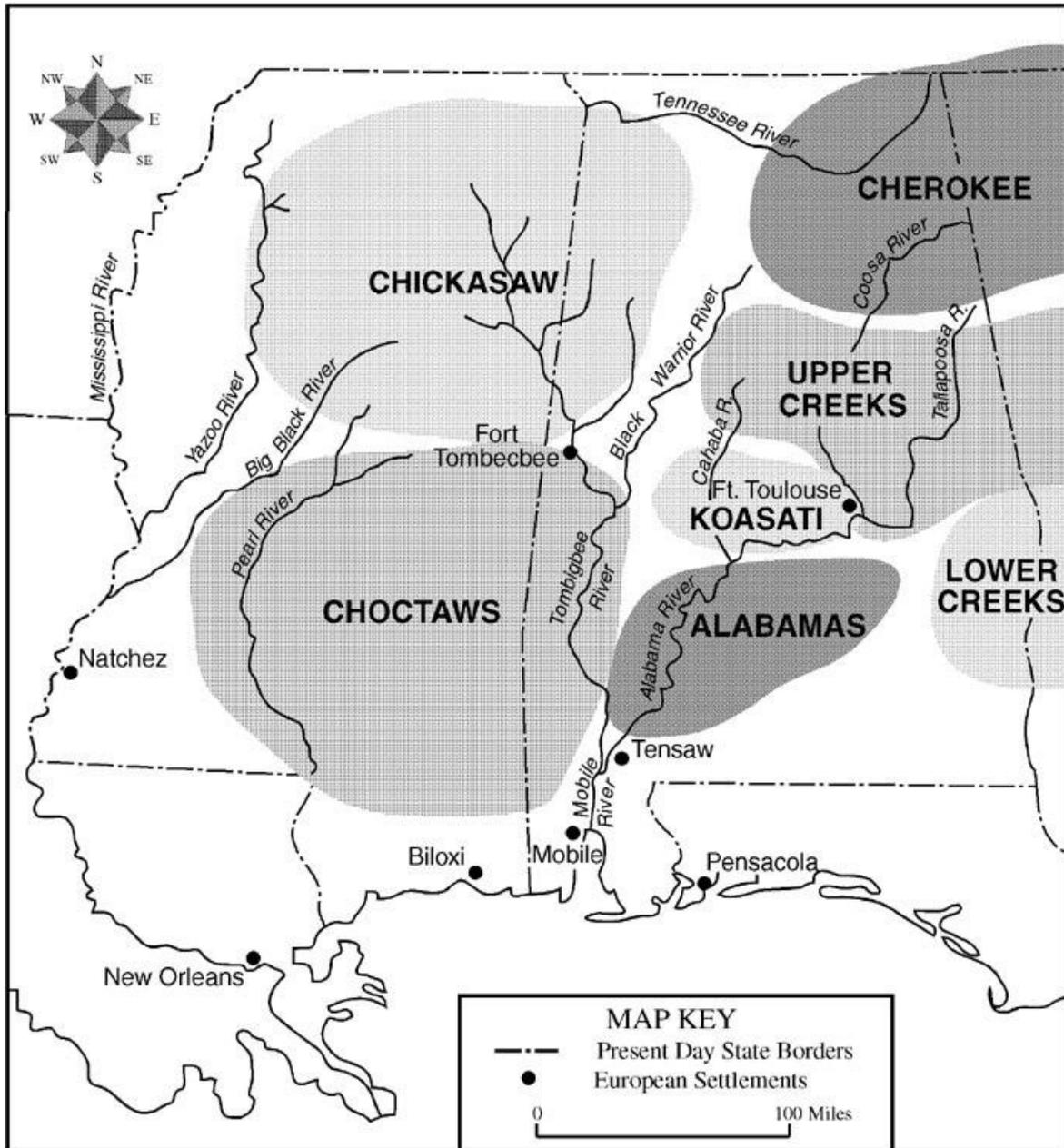


General Physiography



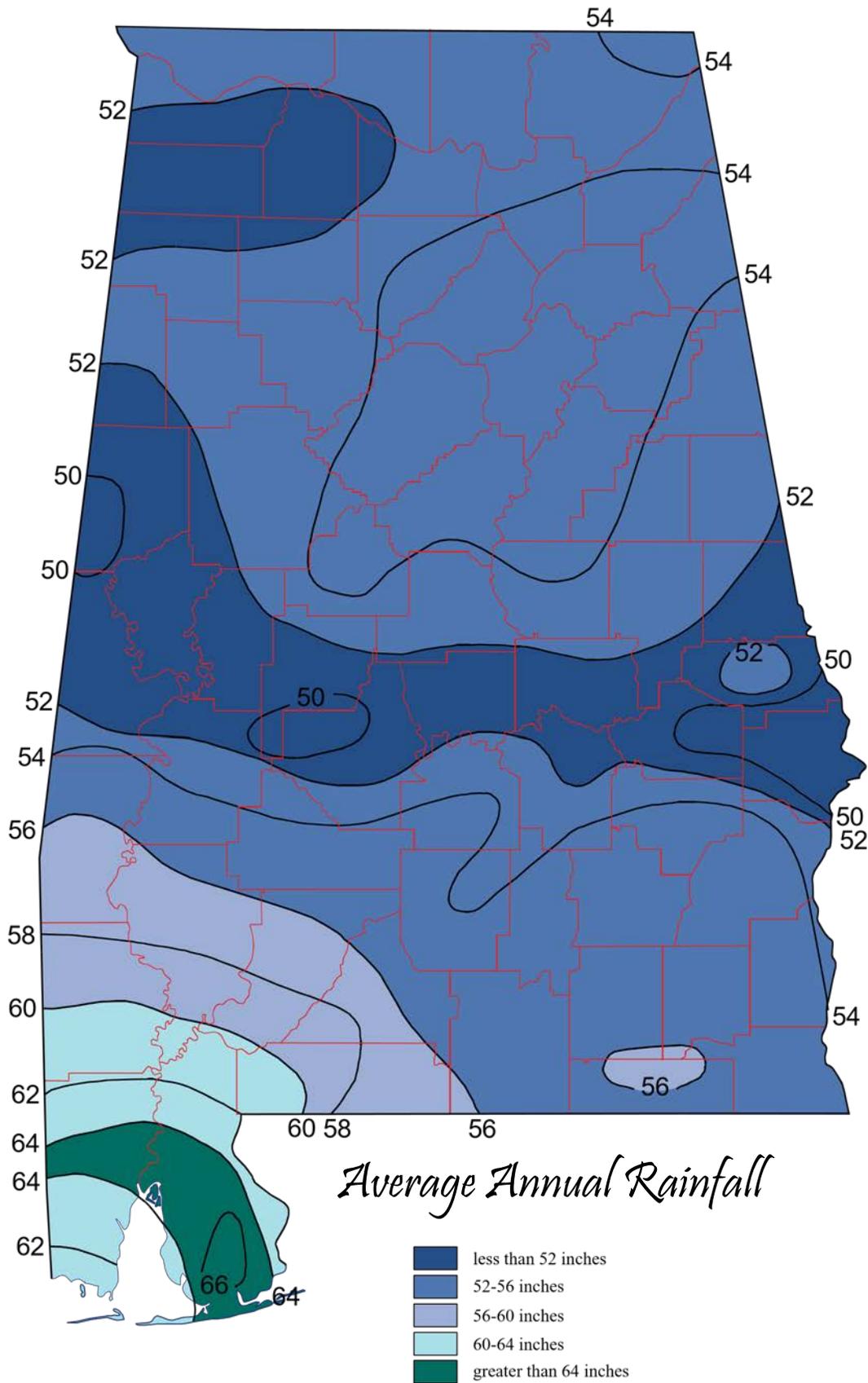
Produced by the University of Alabama Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences

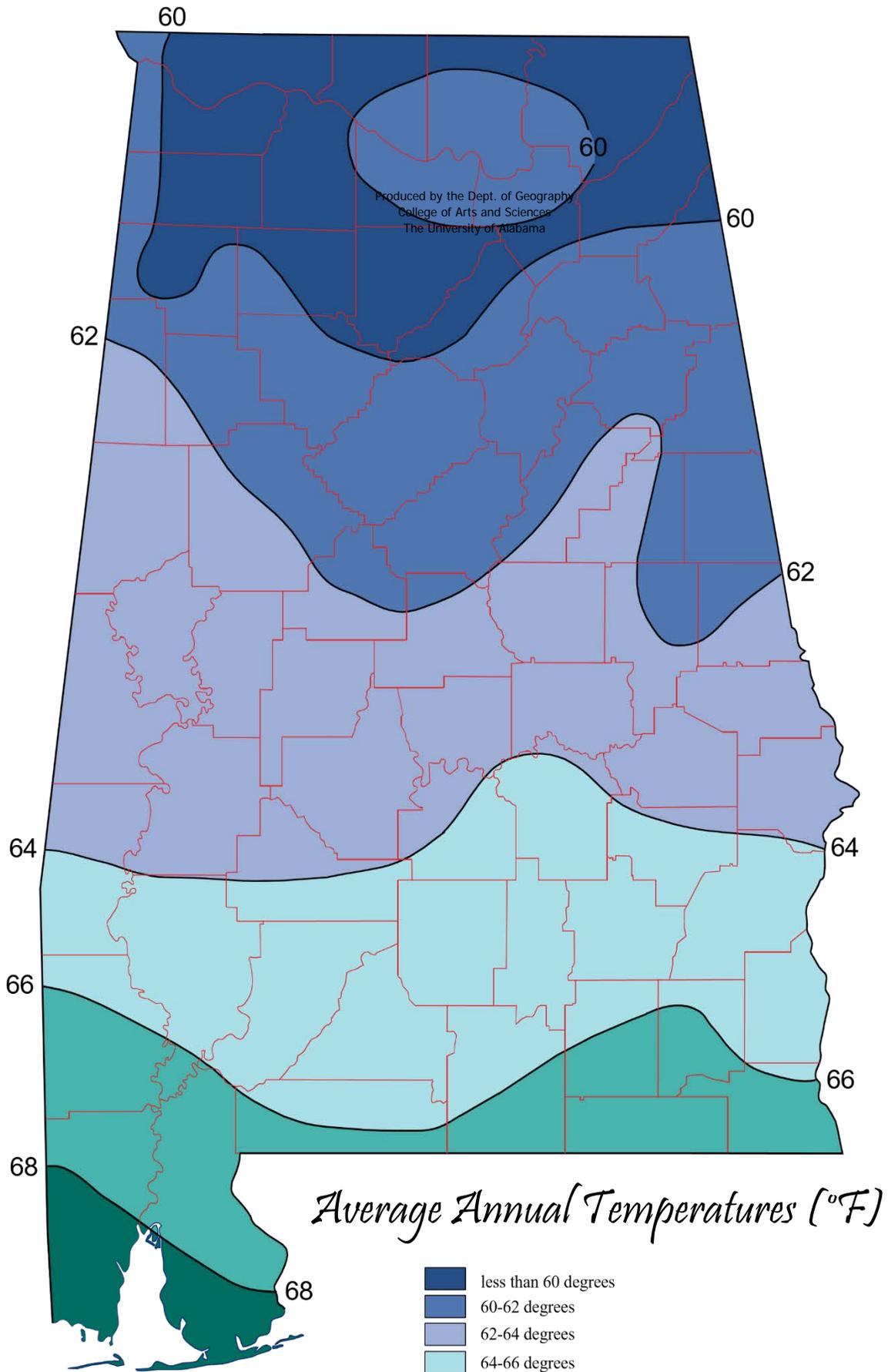
Alabama's Indian Peoples



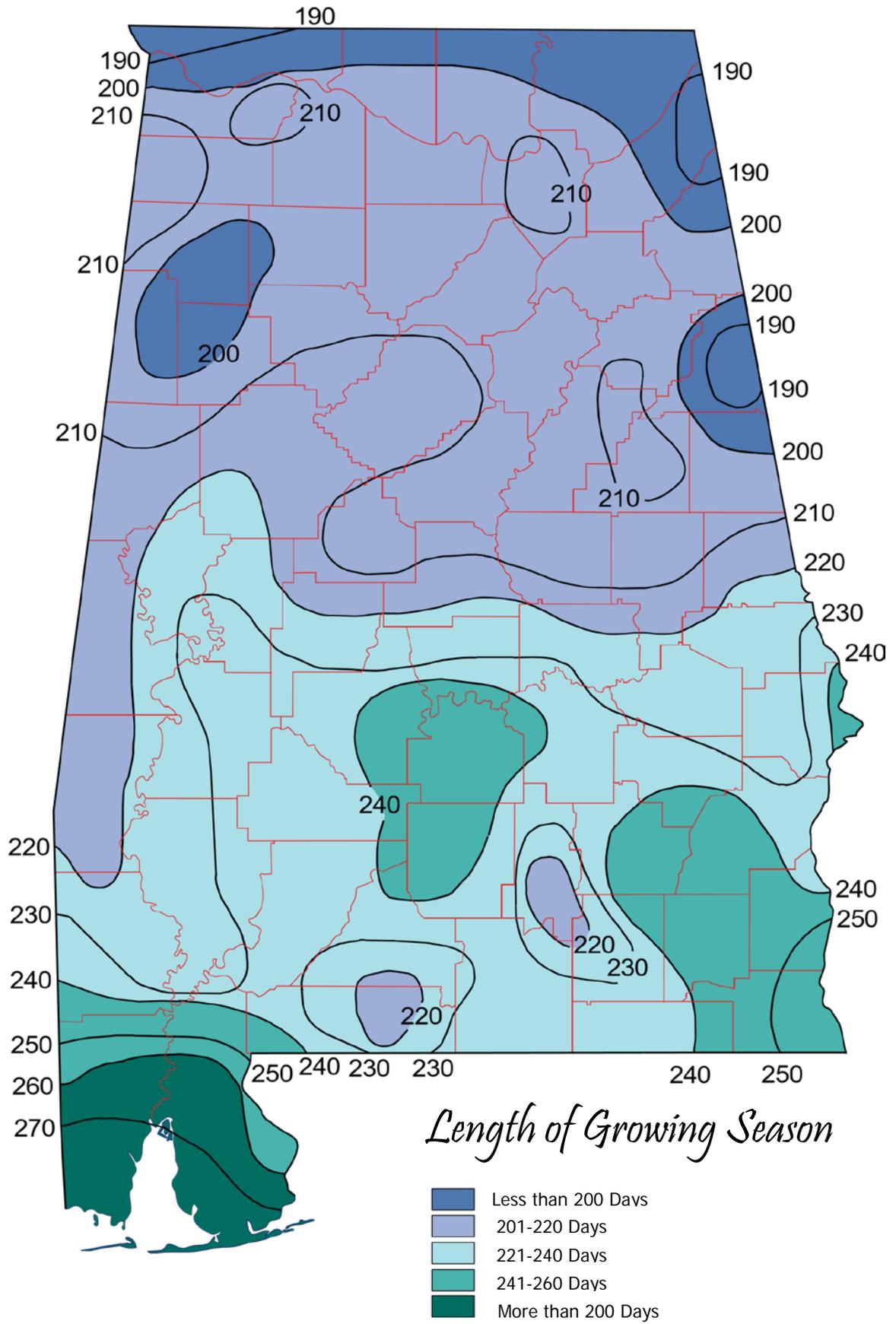
Map created by the Cartographic Research Laboratory, Department of Geography, University of Alabama, for Robert J. Norrell, *The Alabama Journey, State History and Geography* (Tuscaloosa: Yellowhammer Press, 1998).

Used by permission of Robert J. Norrell and Craig Remington.

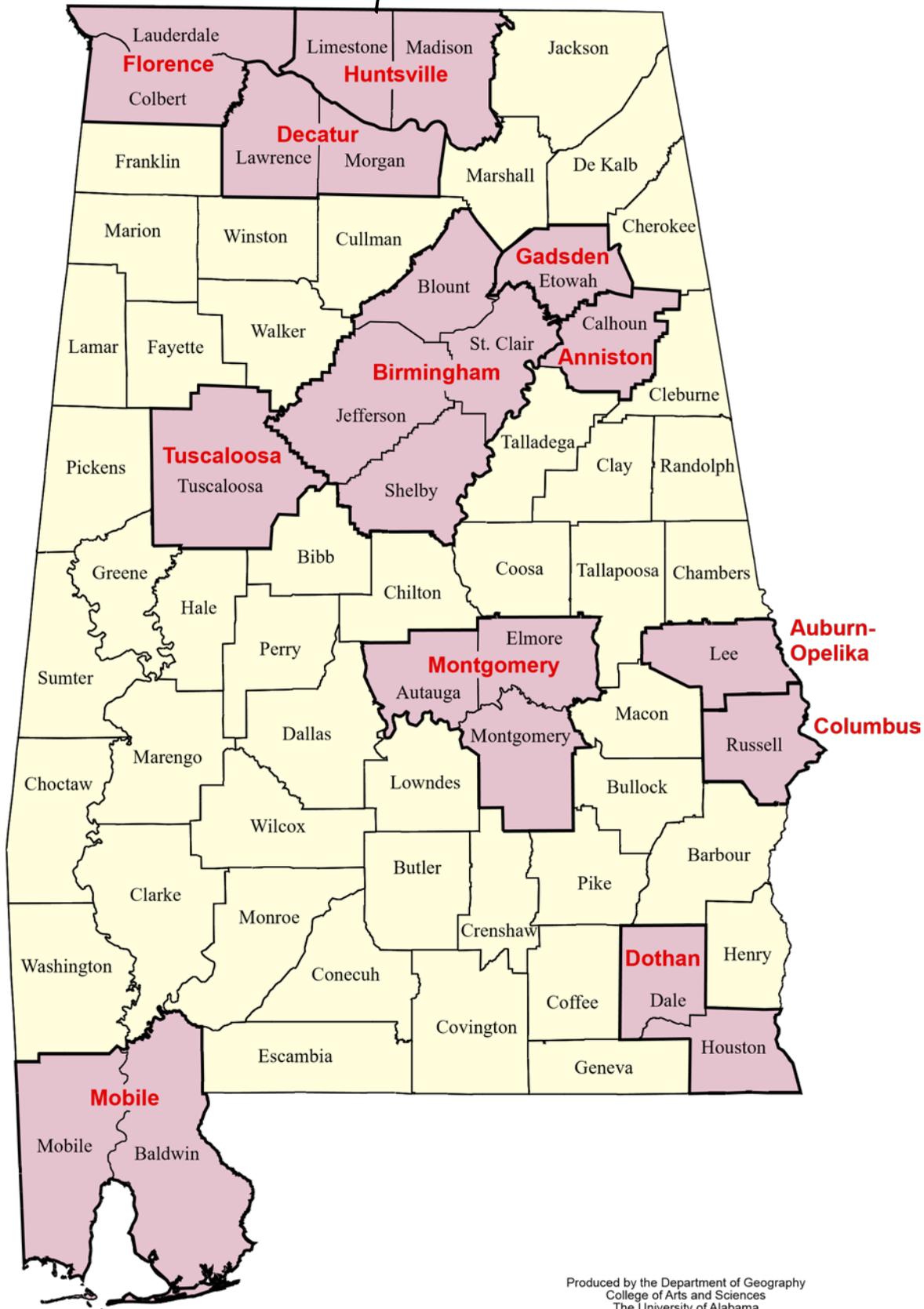




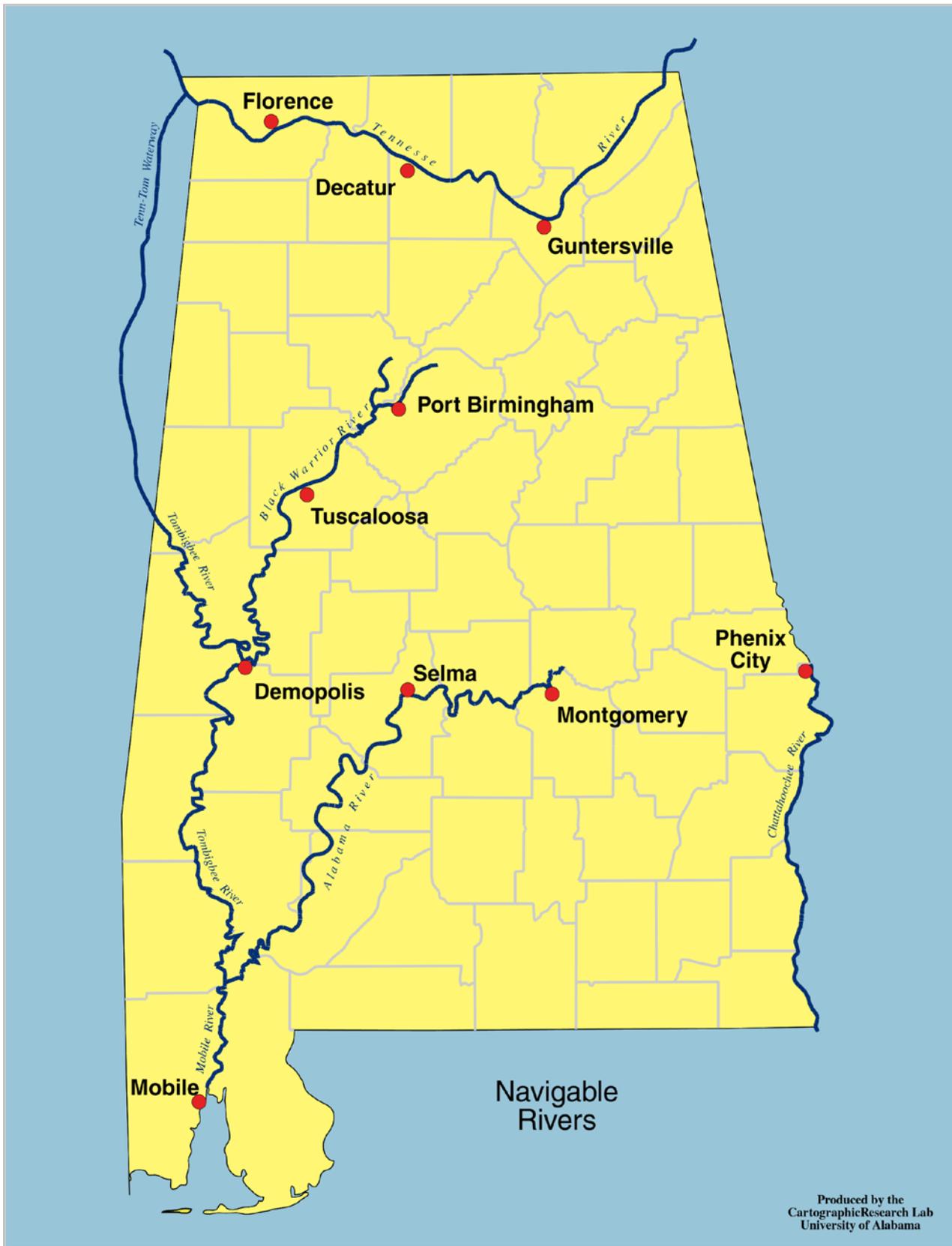
0 5 10 30 Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers



Metropolitan Statistical Areas



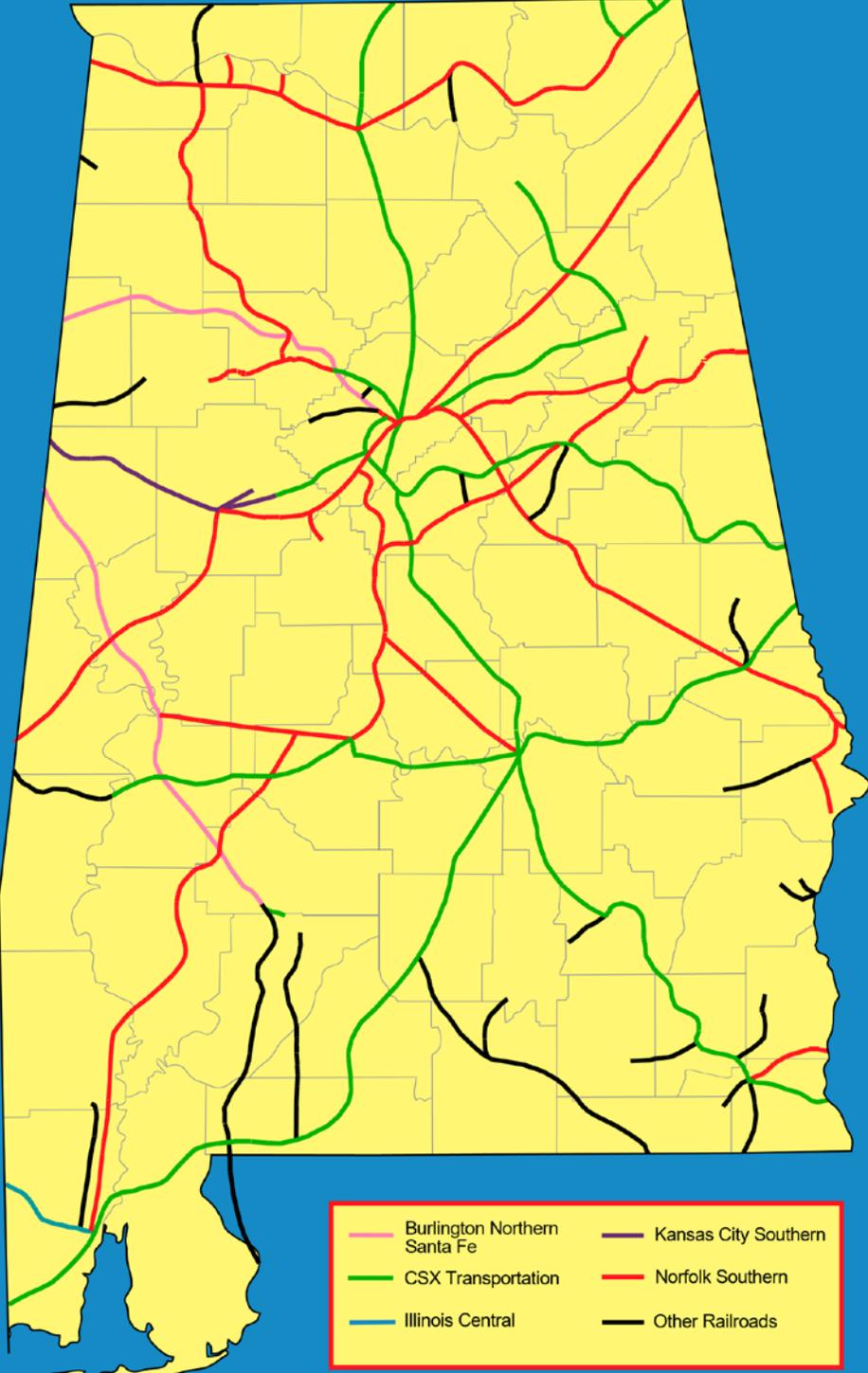
Produced by the Department of Geography
College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Alabama



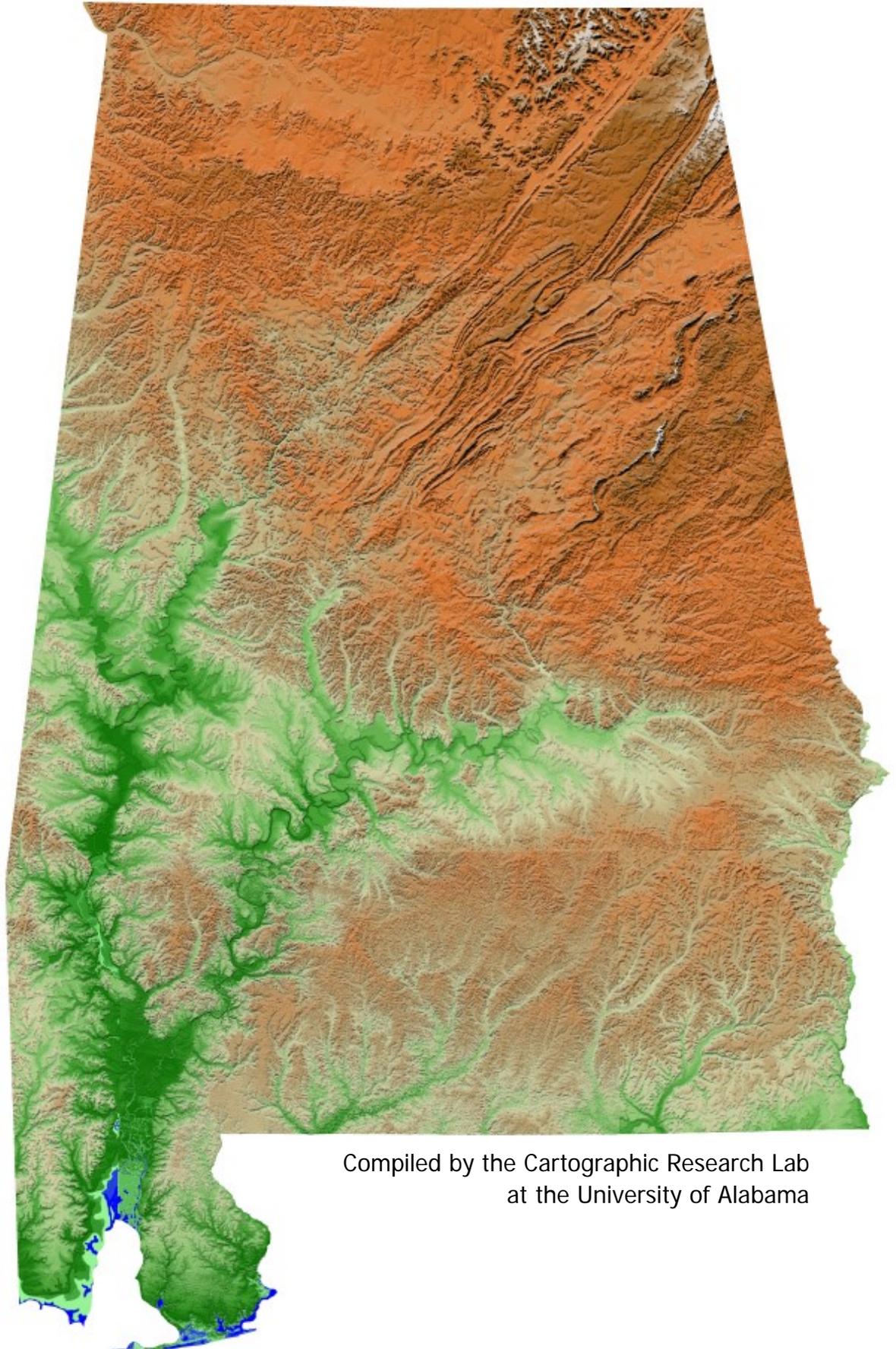


Major Rivers

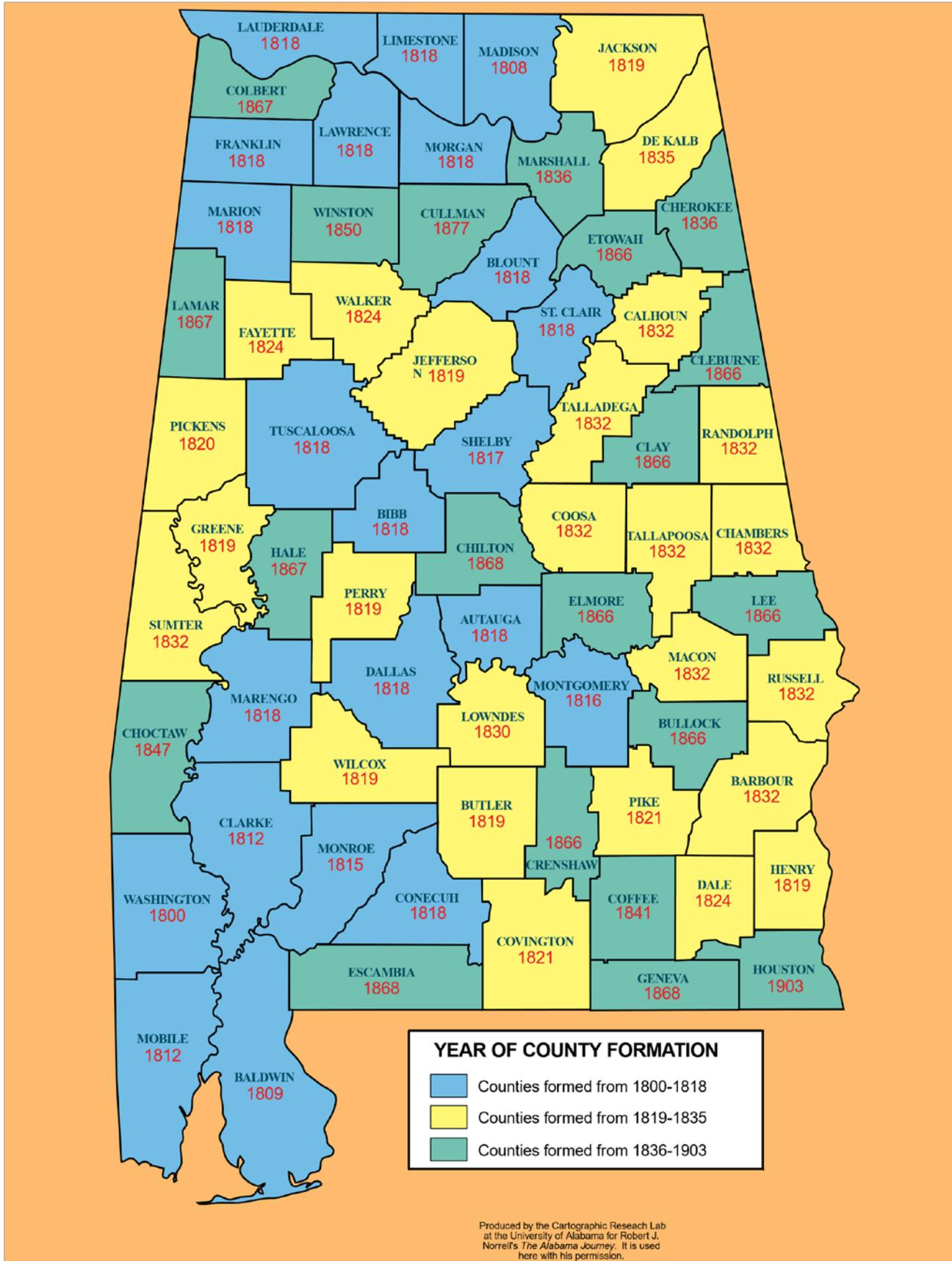
RAILROADS, 1998



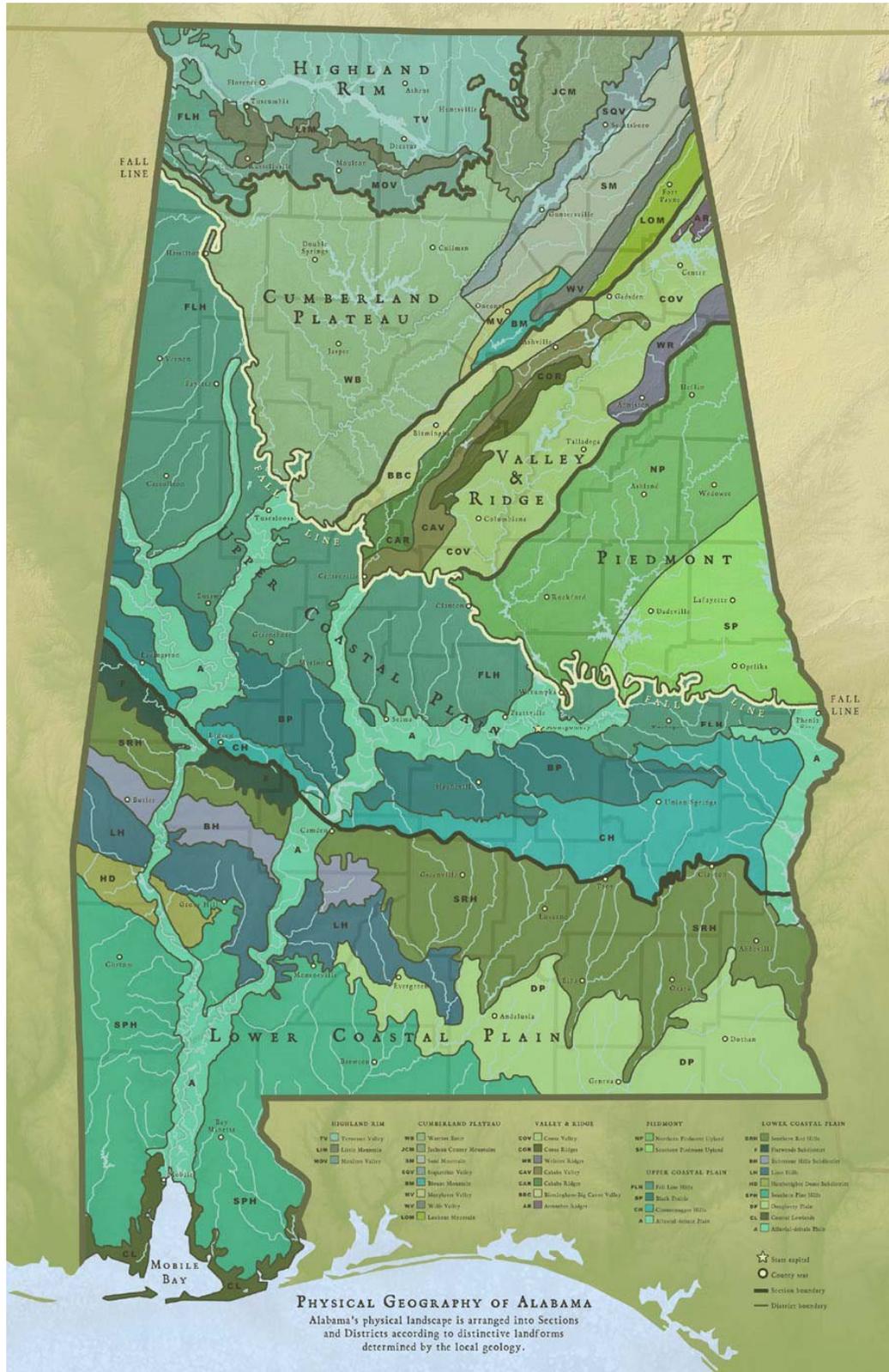
Produced by the Dept. of Geography
College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Alabama



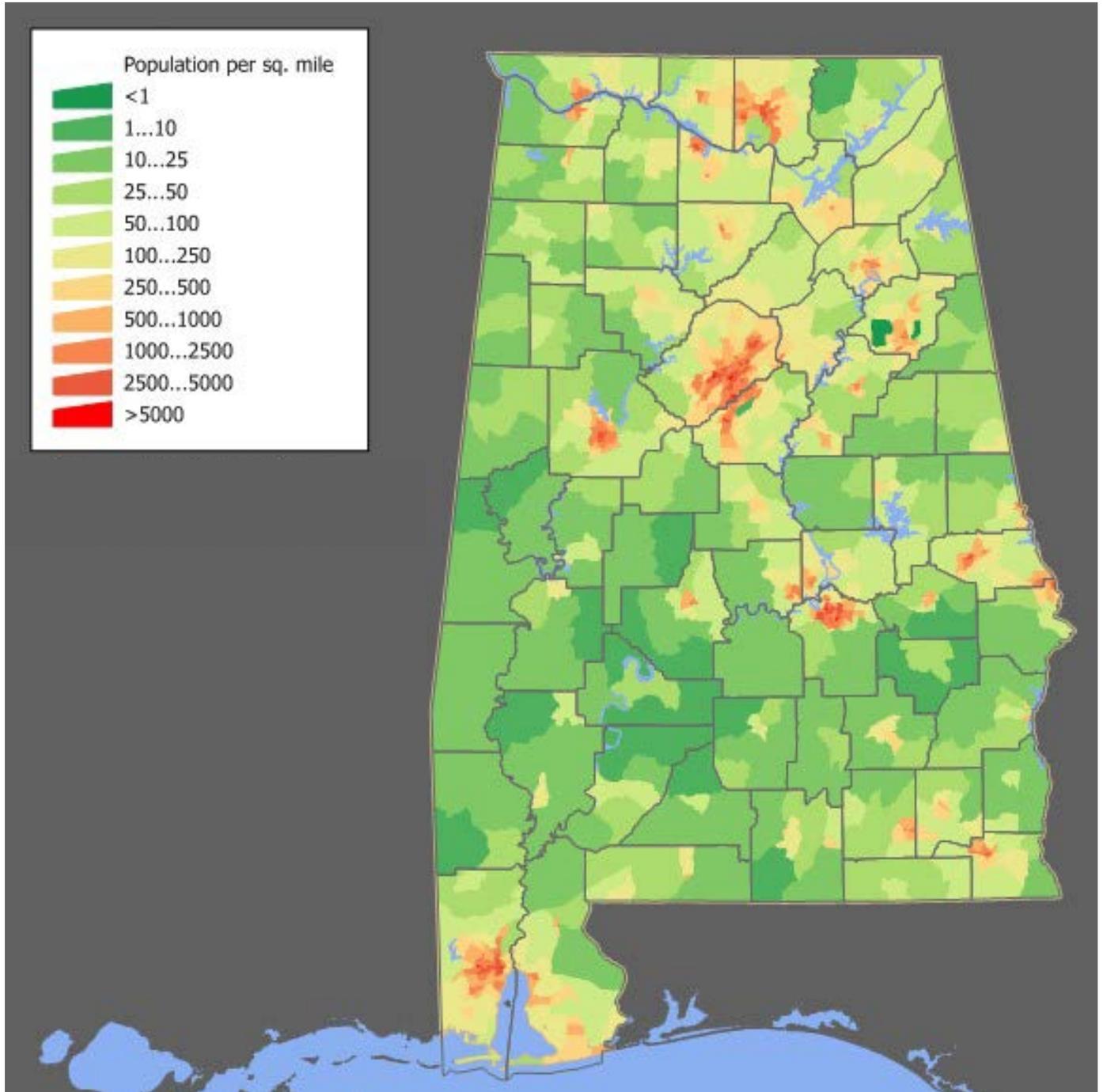
Compiled by the Cartographic Research Lab
at the University of Alabama



Physiographic Map

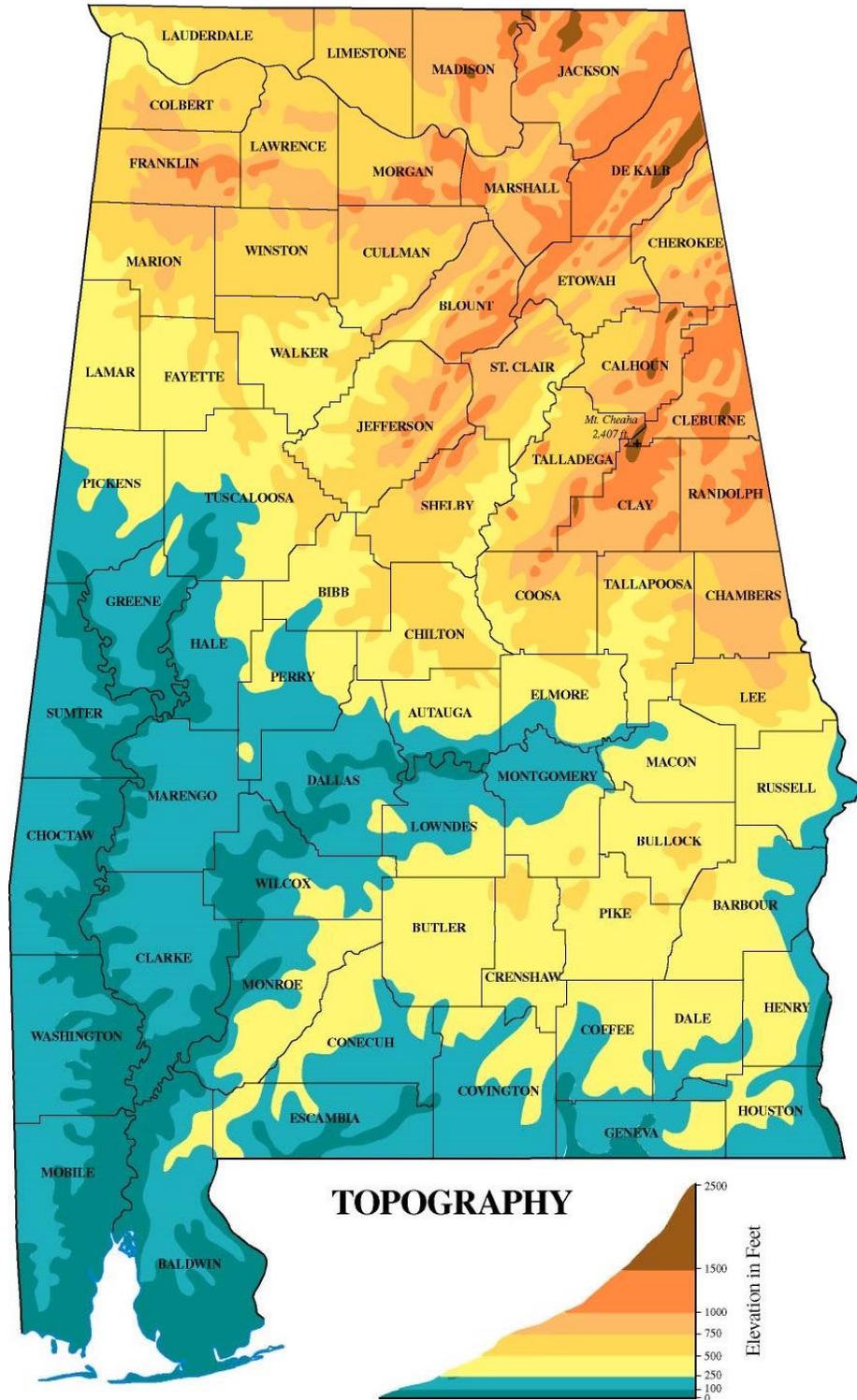


Rural Population Map



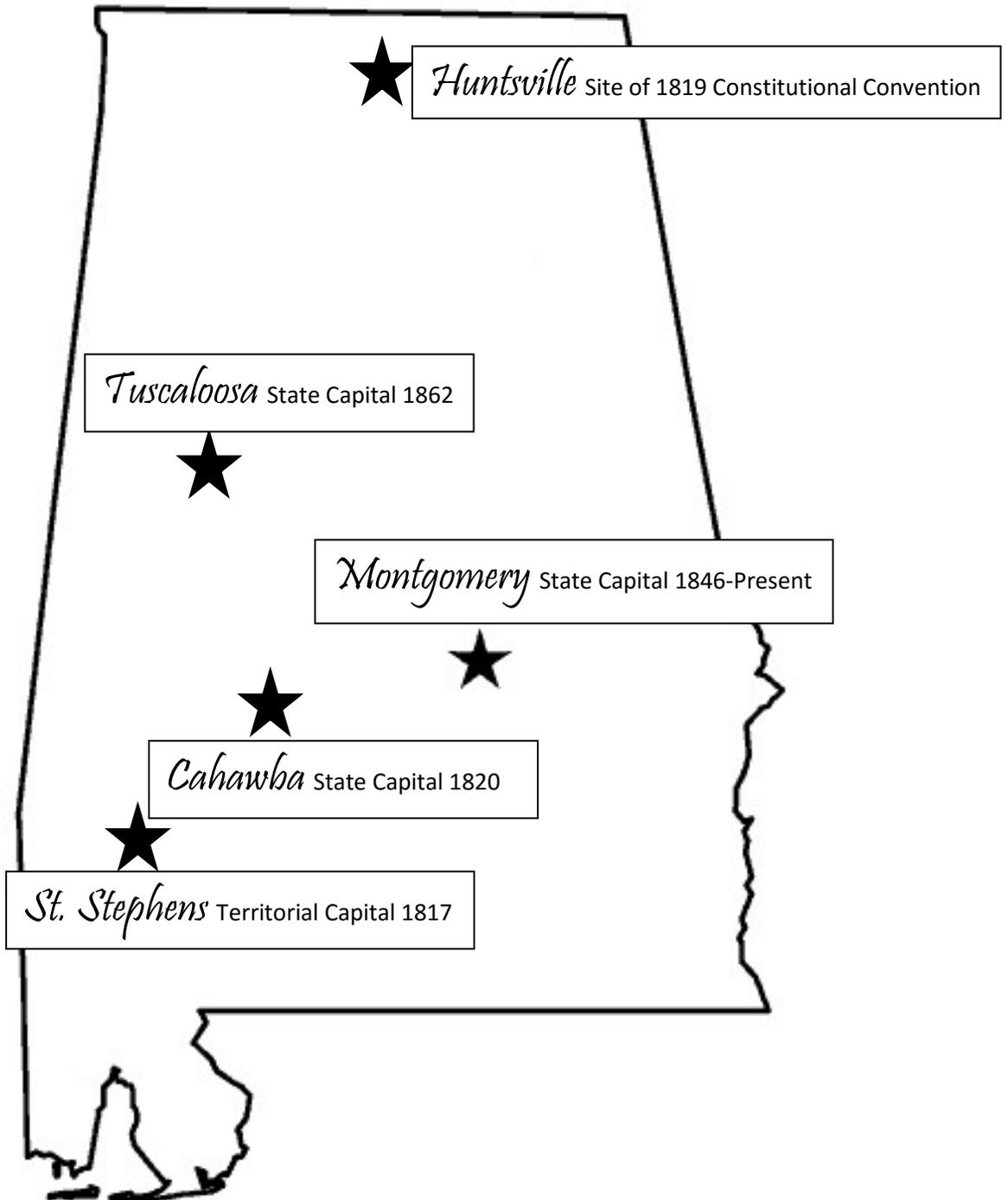
Produced by: U.S. Census Bureau Summary File 1, census tract
http://www.netstate.com/states/maps/al_maps.htm

Topographic Map



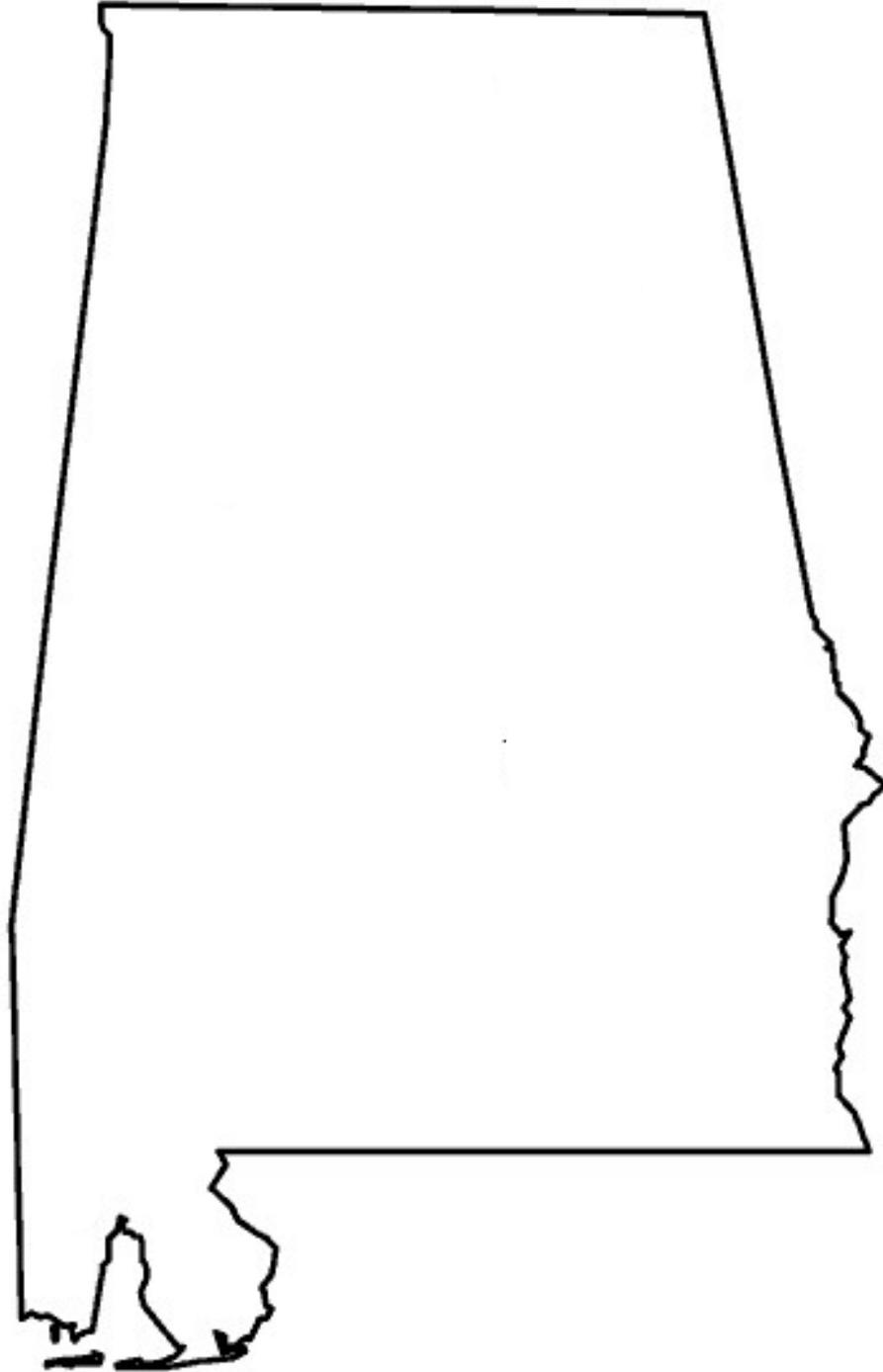
Produced by the Dept. of Geography
College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Alabama

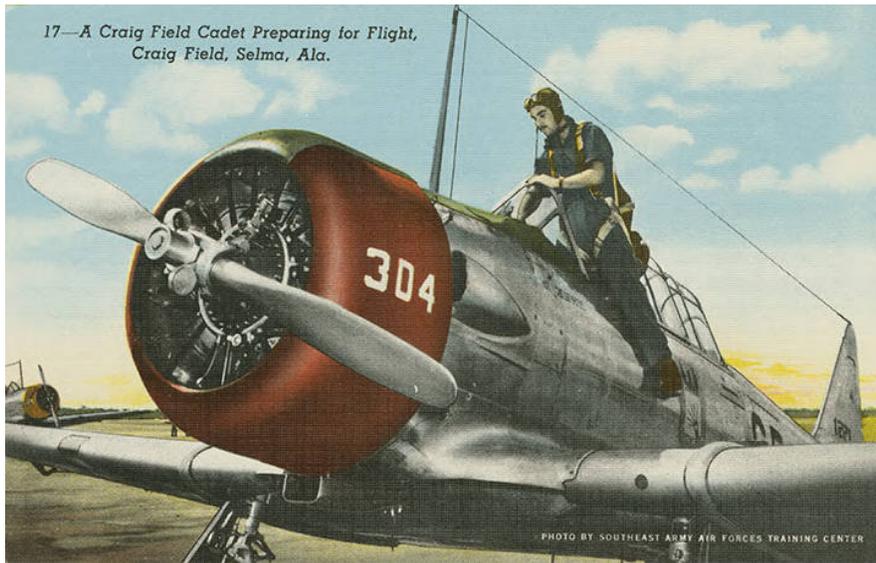
Alabama's Five Capitals



Design Your Own Alabama Map

Directions: Design a map that will tell the story of Alabama! Create or use symbols that you believe will best explain what Alabama means to you.





Section 5: Historic Transportation



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4143 (train)

Train on railroad bridge over Tennessee River near Florence

circa 1870

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/104>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q3638 (street car)

Horse-drawn trolley in Selma

circa1890-1900

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/3789>



Photograph collection:

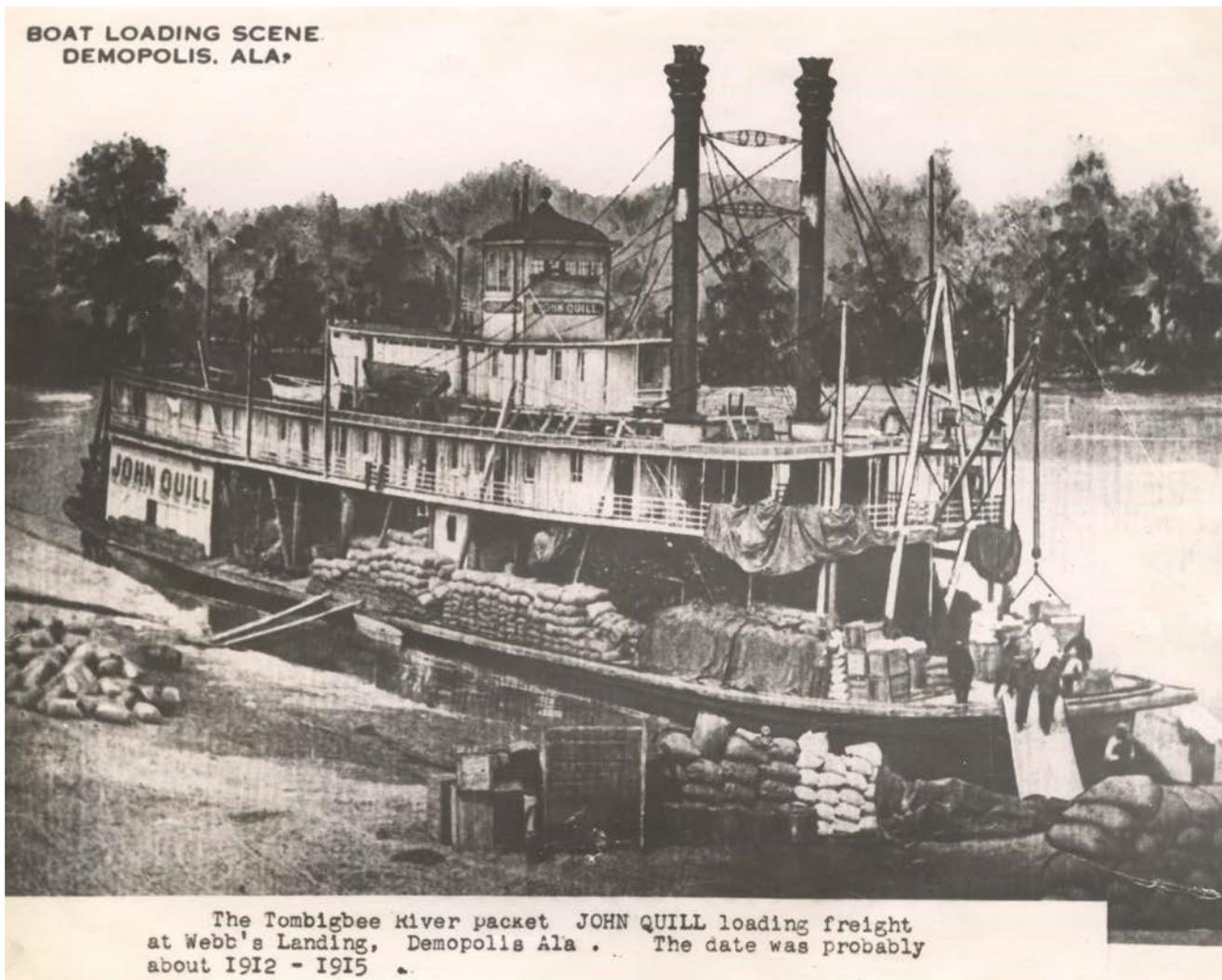
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q6906 (street cars)

Street cars on segregation strike on Dexter Ave., Montgomery

June 17, 1907

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/3304>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q2701 (steamboat)

Steamboat "John Quill" loading freight at Webb's Landing, Demopolis

circa 1912-1915

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/3660>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4721 (airplane)

Henderson, Charles, 1860-1937; Governor, with flyer Ross L. Smith after 1st airplane flight in a Curtiss JN4D airplane

circa 1918

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/5411>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

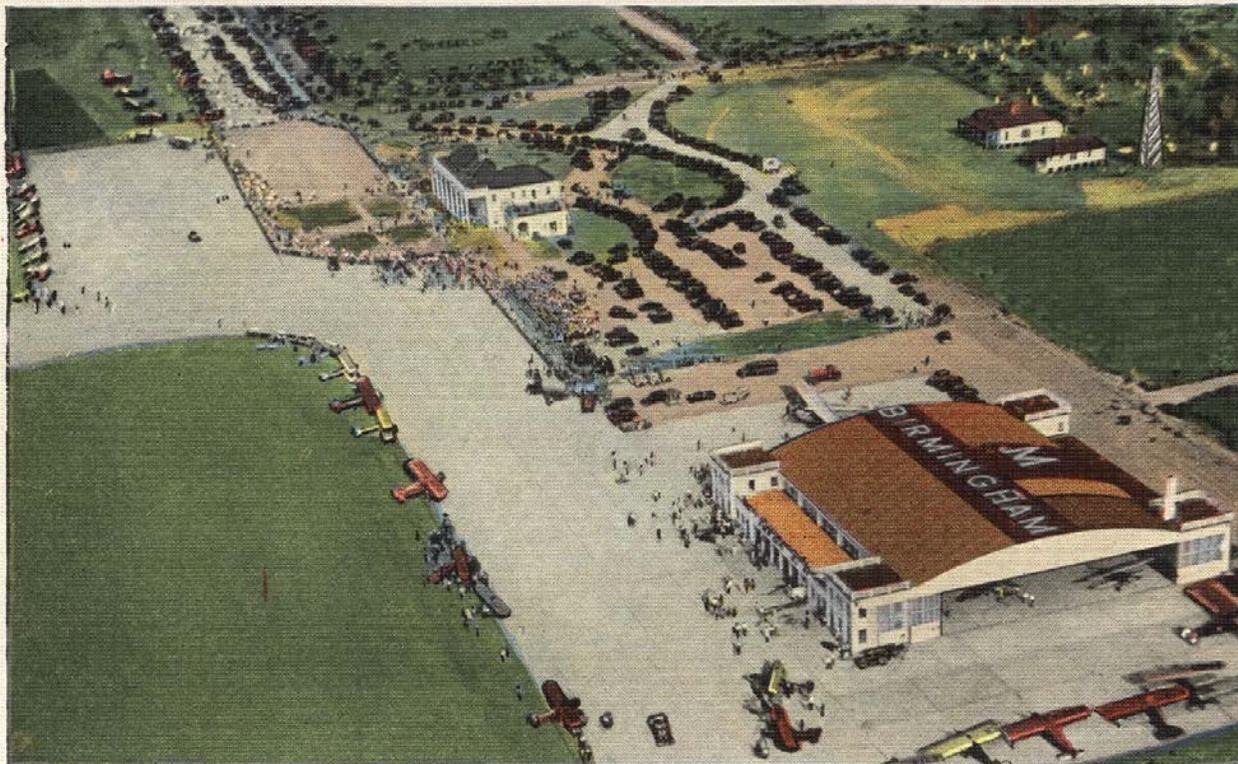
Q2272 (cars)

Court Square with cars around fountain, Montgomery

1934

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/2736>

BIRMINGHAM'S MILLION DOLLAR AIRPORT, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—59



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q2277

Birmingham's Million Dollar Airport, Birmingham, Ala.

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/2741>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

LPP02356 (bus)

Flomaton bus station, Escambia County, Alabama.

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/2737>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1773 (boats)

Charter boats at Bayou La Batre, Alabama.

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/2206>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1484 (bicycle)

"Eufaula's Rambling Cyclist" Miss Hattie Thomas - hasn't missed riding a bicycle a day in 44 years

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/1920>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1287 (cart)

Horse-drawn cart with farmer.

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/1378>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1265 (cart)

African Americans going to a water mill in an ox-drawn cart in Monroe County. The water mill is 3.5 miles from Beatrice and 4.5 miles from Buena Vista, Ala.

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/1355>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1153 (truck)

John L. Chambers, Boaz, Ala., farmer loading produce onto truck for market

circa 1930s - 1941

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/1241>



Section 6: Alabama's Government

Alabama Governors

With the inauguration of Kay Ivey, fifty-four persons have served as governor of the State of Alabama (not counting those who served as acting governor or post-Civil War military governor).

Number	Governor Elected	County	Term	Political Party
54	Kay Ivey	Wilcox	April 10, 2017-Present	Republican
	Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey became governor in April 2017 after the resignation of Gov. Robert Bentley.			
53	Robert Bentley	Tuscaloosa	January 17, 2011-2017	Republican
52	Bob Riley	Clay	January 20, 2003-2011	Republican
51	Don Siegelman	Mobile	January 18, 1999-2003	Democrat
(48)	Forrest "Fob" James	Lee	January 16, 1995-1995	Republican
50	James E. Folsom, Jr.	Cullman	April 22, 1993-1995	Democrat
	(Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. became governor upon conviction of Guy Hunt for ethics violations)			
49	Guy Hunt	Cullman	January 19 1987- April 22, 1993	Republican
(45)	George C. Wallace	Barbour	January 17, 1983-1987	Democrat
48	Forrest "Fob" James	Lee	January 15, 1979-1983	Democrat
	Jere Beasley	Barbour	June 5-July 7, 1972	Democrat
	(Lieutenant Governor Jere Beasley became acting governor while Governor George Wallace was in a Maryland hospital for more than 20 days recovering from an assassination attempt)			
(45)	George C. Wallace	Barbour	January 18, 1971-1979	Democrat
47	Albert P. Brewer	Morgan	May 7, 1968-1971	Democrat
	(Lieutenant Governor Albert Brewer became acting governor for a portion of one day as Governor Lurleen Wallace received medical treatment out-of-state for more than 20 days. He became governor upon the death of Lurleen Wallace)			
46	Lurleen B. Wallace	Tuscaloosa	January 16, 1967-1968	Democrat
45	George C. Wallace	Barbour	January 14, 1963-1967	Democrat
44	John Patterson	Russell	January 19, 1959-1963	Democrat
(42)	James E. Folsom	Cullman	January 17, 1955-1959	Democrat
43	Gordon Persons	Montgomery	January 15, 1951-195	Democrat
42	James E. Folsom	Cullman	January 20, 1947-1951	Democrat
41	Chauncey Sparks	Barbour	January 19, 1943-1947	Democrat
40	Frank M. Dixon	Jefferson	January 17, 1939-1943	Democrat

(38)	Bibb Graves	Montgomery	January 14, 1935-1939	Democrat
39	Benjamin M. Miller	Wilcox	January 19, 1931-1935	Democrat
38	Bibb Graves	Montgomery	January 17, 1927-1931	Democrat
	Charles McDowell	Barbour	July 10-11, 1924	Democrat
	(Lieutenant Governor Charles McDowell became acting governor when Gov. Brandon spent 21 days in New York City chairing the state delegation to the 1924 Democratic Convention. According to the 1901 Constitution, if the governor is out of the state more than 20 days, the lieutenant governor becomes acting governor)			
37	William W. Brandon	Tuscaloosa	January 15, 1923-1927	Democrat
36	Thomas E. Kilby	Calhoun	January 20, 1919-1923	Democrat
35	Charles Henderson	Pike	January 18, 1915-1919	Democrat
34	Emmet O'Neal	Lauderdale	January 17, 1911-1915	Democrat
33	Braxton B. Comer	Jefferson	January 14, 1907-1911	Democrat
	Russell Cunningham	Jefferson	April 25, 1904-March 5 1905	Democrat
	(Lieutenant Governor Russell Cunningham became acting governor during Governor Jelks' illness)			
32	William D. Jelks	Barbour	June 11, 1901-1907	Democrat
	(President of Senate, William Jelks became governor upon the death of Governor Samford: subsequently he was elected to a four-year term as governor)			
31	William J. Samford	Lee	December 26, 1900-1901	Democrat
(32)	William D. Jelks	Barbour	December 1-26, 1900	Democrat
	(President of the Senate, William Jelks became acting governor because Governor William Samford sought medical treatment out-of-state during the initial days of his administration which began December 1, 1900)			
30	Joseph F. Johnston	Jefferson	December 1, 1896-1900	Democrat
29	William C. Oates	Henry	December 1, 1894-1896	Democrat
28	Thomas G. Jones	Montgomery	December 1, 1890-1894	Democrat
27	Thomas Seay	Hale	December 1, 1886-1890	Democrat
26	Edward A. O'Neal	Lauderdale	December 1, 1882-1886	Democrat
25	Rufus W. Cobb	Shelby	November 28, 1878-1882	Democrat
24	George S. Houston	Limestone	November 24, 1874-1878	Democrat
23	David P. Lewis	Madison	November 17, 1872-1874	Republican
22	Robert B. Lindsay	Colbert	November 26, 1870-1872	Democrat
21	William H. Smith	Randolph	July 24, 1868-1870	Republican
	Wager Swayne	Montgomery	1867-1868	
	(Appointed military governor)			
20	Robert M. Patton	Lauderdale	December 13, 1865-1867	Pre-War Whig
19	Lewis E. Parsons	Talladega	June -December 1865	Democrat
	(Appointed provisional governor)			

18	Thomas H. Watts	Montgomery	December 1, 1863-1865	Democrat
17	John G. Shorter	Barbour	December 2, 1861-1963	Democrat
16	Andrew B. Moore	Perry	December 1, 1857-1861	Democrat
15	John A. Winston	Sumter	December 20, 1853-1857	Democrat
14	Henry W. Collier	Tuscaloosa	December 17, 1849-1853	Democrat
13	Reuben Chapman	Madison	December 16, 1847-1849	Democrat
12	Joshua L. Martin	Tuscaloosa	December 10, 1845-1847	Democrat
11	Benjamin Fitzpatrick	Autauga	November 22, 1841-1845	Democrat
10	Arthur P. Bagby	Monroe	November 22, 1837-1841	Democrat
9	Hugh McVay	Lauderdale	July 17-November 22, 1837	Democrat
(President of the Senate, Hugh McVay became governor upon Governor Clay's appointment to the U.S. Senate)				
8	Clement Comer Clay	Madison	November 21, 1835-1837	Democrat
7	John Gayle	Greene	November 26, 1831-1835	Democrat/Whig
6	Samuel B. Moore	Jackson	March 3- November 25, 1831	Democrat
(President of the Senate, Samuel Moore became governor upon Governor Gabriel Moore's election to the U.S. Senate)				
5	Gabriel Moore	Madison	November 25, 1829-1831	Democrat
4	John Murphy	Monroe	November 25, 1825-1829	Democrat
3	Israel Pickens	Greene	November 9, 1821-1825	Democrat
2	Thomas Bibb	Limestone	July 25, 1820-1821	Democrat
(President of the Senate, Thomas Bibb became governor upon the death of his brother Governor William Bibb)				
1	William Wyatt Bibb	Autauga	November 9, 1819-1820	Democrat

NOTES:

- Initially, the governor served a two-year term. The *Alabama Constitution of 1901* set the term at four years and prohibited a governor from serving two consecutive terms. Constitutional Amendment No. 282, ratified in 1968, allows the governor to serve two consecutive terms.
- The *Constitution of 1901* designated the lieutenant governor as next in line to succeed the governor followed by the president pro tem of the Senate.
- The *Constitution of 1901* states that if the governor is absent from the state for more than 20 days, then the lieutenant governor shall assume the powers and duties of the governor until his return.



Kay Ivey (R)

Governor

Governor: 2017 -

Lieutenant Governor: 2011 - 2017

State Treasurer: 2003 - 2011

Growing up in the small town of Camden in Wilcox County and working on her father's farm taught Kay Ivey to value hard work and living within your means, along with the importance of faith, family and community.

Kay's entire life has been invested in making a difference in the lives of others. After

graduating from Auburn University, she worked as a high school teacher, a bank officer and as Assistant Director of the Alabama Development Office, where she used her leadership skills to initiate new jobs across the state.

In 2002, Kay became the first Republican elected State Treasurer since Reconstruction. She was re-elected in 2006 with the largest vote in a contested statewide race.

As Treasurer, Kay proved her commitment to taxpayers. The Treasurer's Office is now more open, transparent and efficient. She put the state's sources and uses of billions of dollars online for everyone to see. She installed current technologies, trimmed the payroll and adopted best business practices. The result: Kay Ivey has saved you, the taxpayer, nearly five million dollars in administrative costs so far.

Kay successfully sought the office of Lieutenant Governor in the 2010 election. She defeated one of Alabama's most famous political family names—Jim Folsom, Jr. In doing so, Kay became the second person since the 1870s, and only woman ever, to be elected as a Republican to the post of Lieutenant Governor.

Having served as Treasurer for the past eight years and known for her enthusiasm and energy, Kay is ready to take the successful results she achieved in one state office to the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Kay believes if you campaign as a Conservative for office, you should govern as a Conservative in office.

Kay Ivey will continue to bring conservative leadership with effective results to make this generation more productive and the next generation more prosperous.

She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Board of Directors of the Montgomery YMCA, and the Tukabatchee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. She is also the first Girls State alumna to be elected to an Alabama Constitutional Office.

Kay Ivey succeeded to the office of Governor on April 10, 2017, upon the resignation of Governor Robert J. Bentley.

Article Source: <http://governor.alabama.gov/governor-kay-ivey/biography>

NOTE:

Until the 2018 General Election, Alabama's Lieutenant Governor post will remain vacant.



Mac McCutcheon (R)

Speaker of the House

Speaker of the House: 2017 – Present

Representative: November 8, 2006 – Present

Representative Mac McCutcheon was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2006 and serves the communities of Madison City, Huntsville, Capshaw, Monrovia and East Limestone. He is a native of Madison County and lives in Monrovia.

He has a A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Calhoun Community College and a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Trinity University.

Representative McCutcheon has been a farmer and is a retired law enforcement officer from the City of Huntsville.

He is a member of the American Legion, Fraternal Order of Police, Alabama Peace Officers, North Alabama Emmaus Community, Tennessee Valley Smallmouth Bass Club and City of Madison Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his assignments to House Standing Committees, Representative McCutcheon serves as Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee, the Department of Senior Services Advisory Board, and ATRIP.

He is a member of College Park Church of God.

Representative McCutcheon and his wife Debbie are the parents of two children. They have a granddaughter and a grandson.

He enjoys fishing, camping, golf, spending time with his family, and traveling with his wife.

Article Source:

http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/ALRepresentative.aspx?OID_SPONSOR=85939&OID_PERSON=5530

How Do I Find My Legislative Representatives?

At times, people would like to contact their elected representatives by letter, email, or telephone. In order to find out this person's name and contact information, you will need to follow these steps:

To find, all of your elected officials both Federal and State...

1. Go to the Alabama Legislature Web Site <http://www.legislature.state.al.us>
2. Select the "Find My Legislator" tab boxed in red below.



3. Fill out the short form with your permanent address
4. You will get a screen like the following in return:



ALABAMA

My Elected Officials

President

Donald J. Trump (R)

U.S. Senators:

Richard C. Shelby (R)

Luther Strange (R)

U.S. Representative:

Rep. Martha Roby (R-2)

Governor

- Kay Ivey (R)

State Senators:

- Sen. Quinton T. Ross (D-26)

State Representatives:

- Rep. John F. Knight (D-77)

Zip Code is 36130-3003 ([Change My Location](#))

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- State Officials and Agencies
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- Congressional Delegation
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- Election Guide
- State Legislature Basics

powered by CQ Roll Call ©2017

The Governor's Mansion



The first official residence for Alabama's chief executive was acquired in 1911. Before that time governors lived in private homes or even in local hotels during their terms of office. Built in 1906 by Moses Sable, the imposing Beaux Arts brownstone was located on the southwest corner of South Perry and South Streets in Montgomery. A special commission of seven members was authorized by Act #24 of the 1911 legislative session to contract for the erection, purchase, or improvement of a residence and the acquisition of grounds. The Sable home cost the state \$46,500. Governor Emmett O'Neal (1911-15) was the first to occupy the mansion.

The current official residence superseded the original executive mansion in 1950. A state commission established by the legislature in that year purchased the home of the late General Robert Fulwood Ligon from his heirs. It was located at 1108 South Perry Street, just a few blocks away from the existing mansion. Purchased at a cost of \$100,000 by the Capitol Building Commission, another \$130,000 was spent on renovations and furnishings.

Originally built in 1907 for General Ligon by the architect Weatherly Carter, the current executive residence is in the Neo-Classical Revival style with Corinthian columns at the front. It features a spacious interior with a double staircase leading from the foyer to apartments above. A formal garden surrounded by a high ornamental wall originally covered the entire back lawn of the property which extends through the block to South Court Street. A pool in the shape of the state of Alabama was built in the mid-1970s, along with a stone grotto with waterfall.

Governor Gordon Persons and his family were the first to occupy the former Ligon home when it became the Governor's Mansion, moving in on the day of his inauguration - January 15,

1951. The former official residence housed the state offices of the Adjutant General and the Military Department until May of 1959, when the property was sold to the Montgomery Academy, a private school. In 1963, the original Governor's Mansion was demolished as part of the construction of Interstate Highway 85.

Sources:

Official and Statistical Register, 1979 Edition

[Tom Dolan] *A Comprehensive Study of the Governor's Mansion of the State of Alabama*, Alabama Historical Commission, ca 1987

The Capitols of Alabama

As a separate territory and state since 1817, Alabama has had five capitals. **Saint Stephens**, in southwest Alabama, was designated in the Congressional act creating the territory as the temporary seat of government. There, two sessions of the territorial legislature met. In accordance with the enabling act for statehood, the first Constitutional Convention assembled in the north Alabama town of **Huntsville** in 1819, where the first session of the General Assembly was held in the same year.



The territorial legislature, however, had chosen **Cahaba** (also spelled Cahawba), at the confluence of the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers, as the site for the capital of the state, so the second session of the legislature met there in 1820. Cahaba also was designated as the temporary seat of government in the Constitution, which expressly gave the 1825-26 legislature the power to decide upon a permanent site.

That session of the General Assembly took the opportunity to select Tuscaloosa for the new capital, deserting the oft-flooded and unhealthy Cahaba site.

Tuscaloosa was a thriving community located on the shoals of the Black Warrior River and had been a strong candidate for the capital site when Cahaba had been chosen for the honor in 1819. Serving as the home for the government beginning in 1826, however, it was increasingly inconvenient as a seat of government for the rapidly growing state. Alabama's population gains concentrated in the state's more eastern counties as Indian lands there opened to white settlement, prompting a clamor for a more centrally located capital.





Alabama Capitol Building, 1886

An amendment approved by the voters of Alabama struck out the section of the Constitution designating the 1825-26 selection as the "permanent" site for the capital, freeing the legislature in 1846 to choose another site from among a number of competing river towns. **Montgomery**, on the Alabama River, won the ensuing 16-ballot contest in the General Assembly.

Andrew Dexter, one of the founders of the town, had held on to a prime piece of property in long anticipation of the capital's eventual move to Montgomery. Dubbed "Goat Hill" for its use as pasturage, the site

retained that affectionate appellation despite attempts to dignify the spot with names like "Lafayette Hill" (after the 1825 visit of the Marquis de Lafayette) and "Capitol Hill" (after the 1847 construction of the Capitol).

In selecting Montgomery, the legislature expressly provided that the state should be put to no expense in securing lands or in erecting a capitol building. Thus, the citizens of the town immediately organized to secure the "Goat Hill" site and begin erecting a building. Bonds for \$75,000 were issued by the municipality which were taken up by local real estate dealers and investors. The Greek Revival plan of the new capitol was drawn up by Stephen D. Button; the contractors were B.F. Robinson and R.W.R. Bardwell. The completed building was presented to the state on December 6, 1847, at the beginning of the legislature's first-ever biennial session.

On December 14, 1849, near the beginning of the General Assembly's second session in Montgomery, the Capitol was destroyed by fire. Moving



to temporary quarters to continue deliberations., the legislature in February of 1850 appropriated \$60,000 with which the central section of the present building was erected upon the foundations of the burned original. A new architect, Barachias Holt, designed the new structure.

During the 1870-72 period, several improvements were made to increase the convenience and appearance of the Capitol's lower floor, but no increase in its capacity was made from its re-erection in 1851 until 1885. In February of the latter year, the legislature appropriated \$25,000 for a "needed enlargement," which became an east wing.

Another \$150,000 was appropriated in 1903 to purchase the privately-owned property making up the south end of the capitol square, where a south wing was erected in 1905-06. A north wing followed in 1911 when an additional \$100,000 came from the legislature. An addition to the east wing was completed in 1992 as part of a major restoration and refurbishing project for the entire structure.



Section 7: Alabama History Timeline Photographs



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Ancient Artifacts



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q40684 (Native Americans)
McIntosh, a Creek Chief
1775-1825

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/6816>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4386 (Native Americans)
Paddy Carr was a Creek interpreter
1820-1829

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/5237>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4384 (Native Americans)
Yoholo Micco was a Creek Indian chief
1820-1829

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/5235>



Photograph collection:

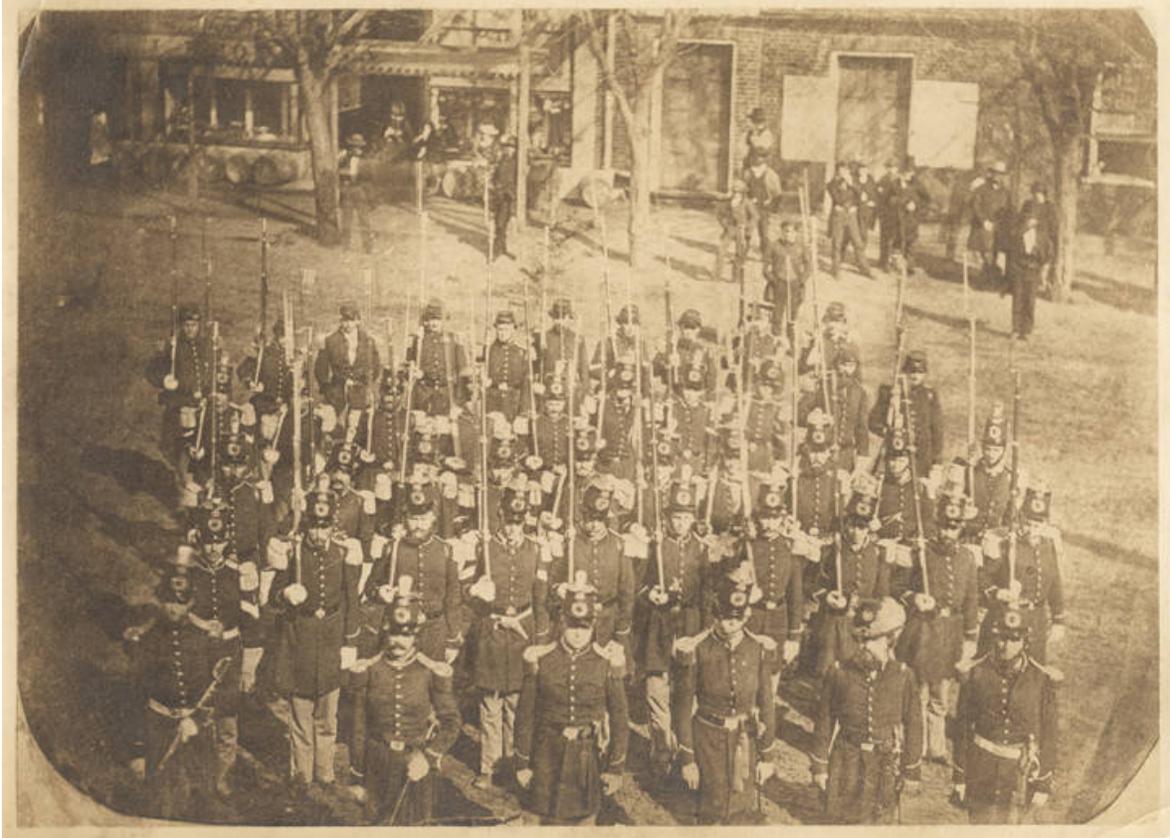
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

HAER ALA, 1-PRAVI, 3--6 (Cotton)

Cotton Gin made by Daniel Pratt- Continental Gin Company, Prattville, Autauga County, AL

1844

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/al0006.photos.300110p/>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q3600 (Civil War)

The company was formed in Selma in 1861 and became Company D of the 8th Alabama Infantry regiment, C.S.A.

1861

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/362>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q522 (Civil War)

James LaFayette Greer

During the Civil War, Greer became a second lieutenant in Company D of
the 4th Georgia Infantry, C.S.A. He lived in Waverly, Alabama
1860-1869

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/606>



Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4286 (Reconstruction)

Members of the Alabama Reconstruction Senate on the steps of the Capitol in Montgomery

1872

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/628> 6



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q4285 (Reconstruction)

Members of the Alabama Reconstruction Legislature on the steps of the Capitol in Montgomery
1872

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/638>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q6910 (Cotton)
Seven hundred cotton bales on the SS Decatur
1870-1879

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/69>



Photograph collection:

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

LC-DIG-nclc-02935 (Textile Mills)

Photographs By: Lewis Wickes Hine

Barker cotton mills Mobile, Alabama

1900-1916

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ncl2004000944/PP/>



Photograph collection:
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

LC-DIG-nclc-01927 (Textile Mills)
Photographs By: Lewis Wickers Hine
Young sweeper working in Anniston Yarn Mills Anniston, Alabama
1900-1916

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ncl2004001299/PP>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q46838 (World War I)

Floral tribute in memory of the six hundred and sixteen members of the 167th Regiment who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War. Carried in line of march by surviving comrades during the welcome home ceremonies in Montgomery

May 12, 1919

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/18533>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q42723 (World War I)
Raymond Brown (standing) and another soldier, serving in the 176th U.S.
Infantry Regiment during World War I
1910-1919

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/18197>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1039 (Great Depression)
Farm house in Coffee County with quilts sunning on the porch
April 1939

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id046>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q1475 (Great Depression)

Jorena Pettway sorting peas inside her smokehouse. She still has many fruits and vegetables which she canned last year

May 1939

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/9190>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q7777 (World War II)
Woman working in the shipyards in Mobile, Alabama during World War II
1941-1945

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/465>



Photograph collection:
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

LC-DIG-ppmsca-13260 (World War II)

The Tuskegee Airmen are a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Corps

1941

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007675065/>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q5677 (World War II)

Off duty and stepping out are these two young members of the Army Nurse Corps stationed at the post hospital at Maxwell Field, Alabama. 2nd Lt. Margaret Clauss, Hammonton, New Jersey, straightens the tie of 2nd Lt. Dorothy Meeker, Montgomery 1943

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/3366>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

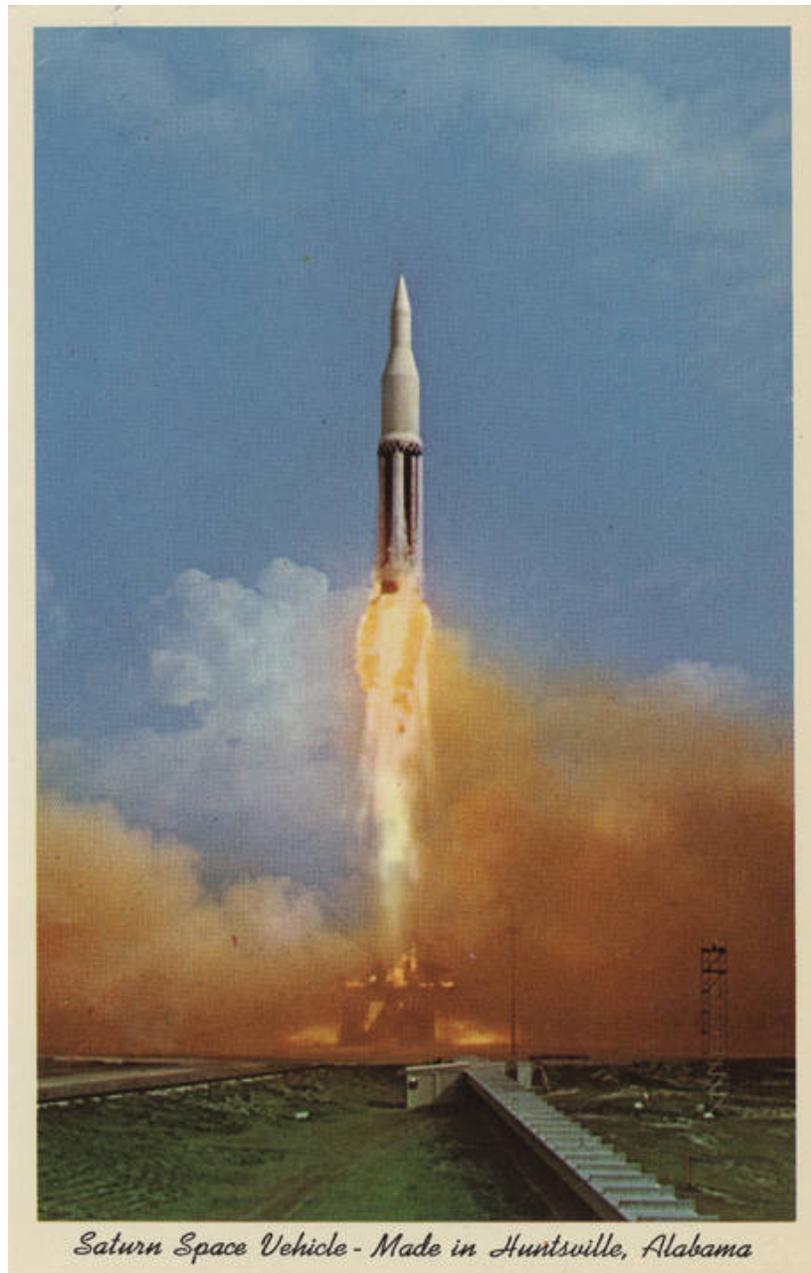
Q8799 (World War II)

Crew of the B-29 bomber, "The City of Los Angeles."

Back row, left to right: Pershing Youngkin, navigator; Roy Stables, pilot; William Loesch, bombardier; Leo D. Connors, radar-bombardier; George A. Simeral, airplane commander. Front row, left to right: Vern W. Schiller, flight engineer; Herbert Schnipper, right gunner; Kenneth E. Young, tail gunner; Vernon G. Widmayer, left gunner; Henry Erwin, radio operator; Howard Stubstad, CFC gunner. Erwin, a native of Alabama, received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1945. He saved the crew of the bomber by throwing a burning phosphoresce smoke bomb out the window of the plane

1945

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection2photo/id/592>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q18378 (Rocket)

The Saturn Space Vehicle was made in Huntsville, Alabama and is known as the world's largest rocket. It was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on October 27, 1961

1961

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/9817>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Q3028 (Civil Rights)

Looking at the south side of the 16th Street Baptist Church after the bombing Birmingham, AL
September 15, 1963

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/photo/id/312/rec/1>



Photograph collection:
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

LC-USZ62-109643 (Civil Rights)

Bus Boycott

On Dec 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African-American, refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger, as local law required. She was arrested. A few days later the black community in Montgomery began a bus boycott

1955-1965

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/94500293/>

Photograph collection:

Alabama Department of Archives and History



Q20545 (Cotton)

Man and two women picking cotton in the field of Mrs. Minnie B. Guice near Mount Meigs in Montgomery County, Alabama

September 1966

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/peppler/id/10149>



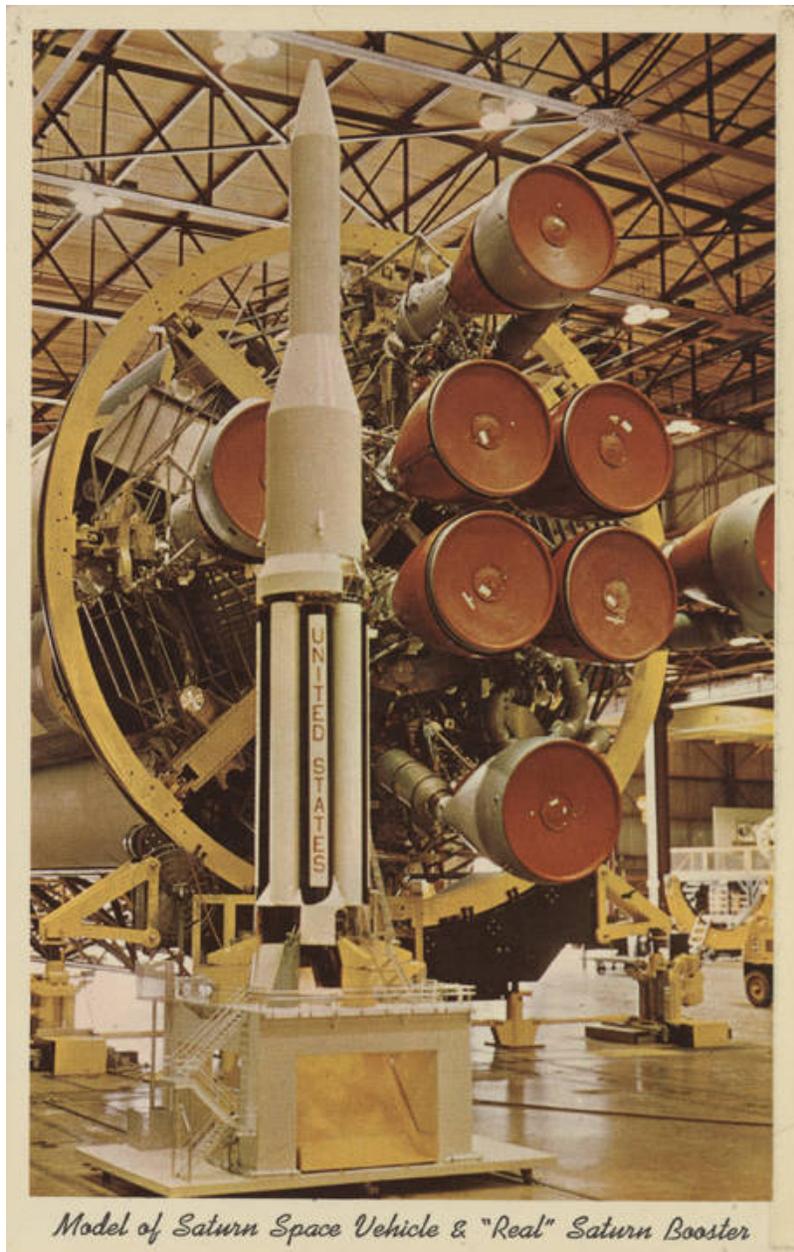
Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q19594 (Cotton)

Little girl picking cotton in the field of Mrs. Minnie B. Guice near
Mount Meigs in Montgomery County, Alabama

September 1966

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/peppler/id/10132>



Photograph collection:
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Q57051 (Rocket)

Scale Model, Saturn Space Vehicle and 'Real' Saturn Booster. A one-tenth scale model of the Saturn Space vehicle is shown here behind a 'real' Saturn booster at the assembly area of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama.

1960-1969

<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/ref/collection/photo/id/19792>



Photograph Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. collection:

LC-DIG-highsm-05835 (Manufacturing)

Korea's largest automotive manufacturer, announced it would construct a \$1 billion automotive assembly and manufacturing plant in Montgomery, Ala. It would also employ over 3,000 Alabamians. On April 2, 2002, Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) was incorporated

2002

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010637671/>



Photograph collection:
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

LC-DIG-highsm-07558 (Manufacturing)
Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Plant located in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama
2010

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010639373>



Section 8: Becoming Alabama

10,000 BC-7000 BC

Paleo-Indian culture of seminomadic hunter-foragers living in open countryside and in natural rock shelters (e.g. Russell Cave in Jackson County and the Stanfield-Worley bluff shelter in Colbert County.)

7000 BC-1000 BC

Archaic Period of Native American hunter-gatherer culture as Indians build temporary dwellings, add shellfish to their diets, and fashion atlatls (spear throwers) to hunt small game.

2500 BC-100 BC

Gulf Formational Period of Indian culture with increasing sophistication in ceramic development with tempered pottery.

300 BC-1000 AD

Woodland Period of permanent houses, embellished pottery, bows and arrows, and maize and squash cultivation.

700 AD-1300 AD

Mississippian culture features ceremonial mounds (e.g. Moundville, in Hale County), ornate pottery, and sophisticated agriculture.

1492

Christopher Columbus, sailing from Spain in search of the Indies, discovers the Americas.

1519

Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda of Spain explores Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Mexico, including Mobile Bay.

1528-1536

Spaniard Pánfilo de Narváez fails in Florida Gulf Coast colonization attempt.

1539-1541

Hernando de Soto explores Southeast, meeting Chief Tuskaloosa (Tascaluza) in Battle of Mabila in southwest Alabama (October 18, 1540).

1559-1561

Don Tristán de Luna fails to establish permanent Spanish colony on Alabama-Florida coast.

ca. 1600

Beginning of the rise of the historic tribes of Alabama: Muskogean-speaking Indian groups, remnants of the Mississippian chiefdoms, coalesces into the Creek Confederacy. Similar developments take place among the other heirs to the Mississippian tradition, creating the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee tribes.

1607

First permanent English colony in North America established at Jamestown, Virginia.

1620

Pilgrims establish Plymouth Colony.

1682

Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, navigates the Mississippi River, claiming area of Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV, king of France.

1702

January 20: Le Moyne brothers, Iberville and Bienville, establish French fort and settlement, Fort Louis de la Mobile, on a bluff twenty-seven miles up the Mobile River from Mobile Bay.

1704

October 3: Cassette Girls arrive in Mobile. King Louis XIV pays passage and dowries for twenty-five young women to travel from France on board The Pelican to colony of Louisiana to become wives of colonists. Other cassette girls arrived in 1728.

1711

Mobile moved from Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff to permanent site at the mouth of the Mobile River.

1717

Fort Toulouse on the Coosa River constructed to trade with the Indians and offset influence of British; farthest eastward penetration of the French.

1720

French Louisiana capital moved from Mobile west to Biloxi; then to New Orleans (1722).

1721

Africane sails into Mobile harbor with cargo of over 100 slaves.

1724

French Code Noir extended from French West Indies to North American colonies, institutionalizing slavery in Mobile area.

1756-1763

Seven Years War (French and Indian War) won by Great Britain. France ceded territorial claims east of the Mississippi River to Britain and those west of the River (including New Orleans) to Spain; Great Britain returned war-captured Cuba to Spain for Florida, which was divided into West Florida (including Mobile) and East Florida (the peninsula).

1775-1783

American Revolution creates United States of America governed by the Articles of Confederation.

1780

March 14: Spanish capture Mobile during American Revolution and retain the West and East Floridas as part of war-ending treaty.

1787

United States Constitution written.

1790

Creek Indians, led by Alexander McGillivray, negotiate the Treaty of New York with the U.S. government. The treaty ceded Creek territory in Georgia to the new nation, and acknowledged Indian rights in western Georgia and Alabama.

1793

Eli Whitney invents cotton gin.

1797-1799

U.S. Surveyor General Andrew Ellicott makes survey that establishes U.S. claims for its southern boundary with Spanish West Florida at the 31st parallel. Ellicott's Stone is placed north of Mobile in 1799 to mark the 31st parallel.

1798

Mississippi Territory organized from Georgia's western land claims, including Alabama.

1799

May 5: U.S. Army Lieutenant John McClary takes possession of Fort St. Stephens from the Spanish, and the United States flag is raised for the first time on soil that would eventually belong to Alabama.

1800

According to U.S. Census Bureau in September 2002, the Alabama portion of the Mississippi Territory in 1800:

- Total population=1,250
- White population=733
- African-American population=517
- Slave population=494
- Free black population=23
- Indian tribes were not enumerated. For more information on Indian tribes in Alabama, please see The Encyclopedia of Alabama.

1802

Georgia formally cedes western claims for its southern boundary at the 31st parallel.

1803

Louisiana Purchase from France gives U.S. immense new territory and port of New Orleans.

1803-1811

Federal Road conceived and built connecting Milledgeville, Georgia, and Fort Stoddert, an American outpost north of Mobile.

1805-1806

Indian cessions opened up to white settlement large portions of western (Choctaw) and northern (Chickasaw and Cherokee) Alabama.

1810

West Florida, from Pearl River to the Mississippi, annexed by U.S. from Spain.

According to a U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, the Alabama portion of the Mississippi Territory in 1810:

- Total Population=9,046
- White population=6,422
- African-American population = 2,624
- Slave population=2,565
- Free black population=59
- Indian tribes were not enumerated. For more information on Indian tribes in Alabama, please see The Encyclopedia of Alabama.

1811-1812

Schools established at St. Stephens (Washington Academy, 1811) and Huntsville (Green Academy, 1812).

1811-1816

Newspapers established in Mobile (Centinel, May 23, 1811; Gazette, 1812) and Huntsville (Alabama Republican, 1816).

1812- 1815

War of 1812 between U.S. and Great Britain.

- April 1813: U.S. annexes West Florida, from the Pearl River to the Perdido River, from Spain; Spanish surrender Mobile to American forces (April 15).
- September 15, 1814: British attack on Fort Bowyer on Mobile Point fails, prompting them to abandon plans to capture Mobile and turn towards New Orleans.
- February 11, 1815: British forces take Fort Bowyer on return from defeat at New Orleans, then abandon upon learning that the war is over.

1813- 1814

Creek Indian War, a part of the War of 1812, fought largely within the boundaries of present-day Alabama. Andrew Jackson of Tennessee becomes a military hero as he leads U.S. forces against the "Red Stick" Creeks.

- July 27, 1813: Battle of Burnt Corn Creek
- August 30, 1813: Fort Mims Massacre
- November 3, 1813: Battle of Tallushatchee
- November 9, 1813: Battle of Talladega
- November 12, 1813: The Canoe Fight
- November 18, 1813: Hillabee Massacre
- November 29, 1813: Battle of Autosse
- December 23, 1813: Battle of Holy Ground (Econochaca)
- January 22, 1814: Battle of Emuckfau Creek
- January 24, 1814: Battle of Enitachopco
- January 27, 1814: Battle of Calabee Creek
- March 27, 1814: Battle of Horseshoe Bend (Tohopeka)
- August 9, 1814: Treaty of Fort Jackson finalized; 23 million acres of Creek territory ceded to the United States, opening up half of the present state of Alabama to white settlement.

1817

March 3: The Alabama Territory is created when Congress passes the enabling act allowing the division of the Mississippi Territory and the admission of Mississippi into the union as a state.

1818

January 19: The first legislature of the Alabama Territory convenes at the Douglass Hotel in the territorial capital of St. Stephens.

The Alabama, the area's first steamboat, constructed in St. Stephens.

Cedar Creek Furnace, the state's first blast furnace and commercial pig-iron producer, established in present-day Franklin County.

November 21: Cahaba designated by the territorial legislature as Alabama's state capital. Huntsville would serve temporarily as state capital.

1819

March 2: President Monroe signs the Alabama enabling act.

July 5 - August 2: Constitutional Convention meets in Huntsville and adopts state constitution.

September 20-21: The first general election for governor, members of Congress, legislators, court clerks, and sheriffs is held as specified by state constitution. Territorial governor William Wyatt Bibb is elected the state's first governor.

October 25 - December 17: General Assembly [legislature] meets in Huntsville while the Cahaba capitol is constructed.

October 28: Legislature elects William Rufus King and John W. Walker as Alabama's first U.S. senators.

December 14: Alabama enters Union as 22nd state.

1820

According to U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, 1820 Federal Census:

- State population=127,901
- White population=85,451
- African-American population=42,450
- Slave population=41,879
- Free black population=571
- Urban population=n/a
- Rural population=n/a

- Indian tribes were not enumerated. For more information on Indian tribes in Alabama, please see The Encyclopedia of Alabama.

1820

May 8: The Alabama Supreme Court, composed of Alabama's circuit court judges, convenes for the first time.

July 10: Gov. William Wyatt Bibb dies as a result of injuries received in a riding accident. His younger brother Thomas Bibb, president of the state senate, automatically becomes governor, as required by the state constitution

October 22: The steamboat Harriet reaches Montgomery after ten days of travel from Mobile. This was the first successful attempt to navigate so far north on the Alabama River, and it opened river trade between Montgomery and Mobile.

1822

December: Legislature charters Athens Female Academy, which later becomes Athens State University.

1825

French general and American Revolution hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, tours Alabama at Gov. Israel Pickens' invitation.

1826

Capital moved to Tuscaloosa.

1830

According to U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, 1830 Federal Census:

- State population=309,527
- White population=190,406
- African-American population=119,121
- Slave population=117,549
- Free black population=1,572
- Urban population=3,194
- Rural population=306,333
- Indian tribes were not enumerated. For more information on Indian tribes in Alabama, please see The Encyclopedia of Alabama.

1830

January 19: LaGrange College chartered by legislature; eventually becomes the University of North Alabama. The college actually opened its doors to students on January 11, 1830.

1830-1838

President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Bill approved by Congress (1830); land cession treaties follow between the U.S. and each of the Indian peoples with a presence in Alabama, each of whom cede their remaining lands east of the Mississippi in exchange for western lands.

- September 27, 1830: Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (Choctaw)
- March 24, 1832: Treaty of Cusseta (Creek)
- October 20, 1832: Treaty of Pontotoc (Chickasaw)
- December 29, 1835: Treaty of New Echota (Cherokee)
- May 1838: Alabama Indians moved to the western lands in the "Trail of Tears".

1831

Nat Turner slave insurrection in Virginia.

April 18: University of Alabama formally opens its doors.

1832

Bell Factory (Madison County), state's first textile mill, chartered by legislature.

June 12: Alabama's first railroad, the Tuscumbia Railway, opens, running the two miles from Tuscumbia Landing at the Tennessee River to Tuscumbia.

1833

November 12-13: A fantastic meteor shower causes this night to be known as "the night stars fell on Alabama."

Daniel Pratt establishes cotton gin factory north of Montgomery; his company town, Prattville (founded 1839), would become a manufacturing center in the antebellum South.

1835

Alabama gold rush, concentrated in east-central hill country, begins; peaks the next year.

Dr. James Marion Sims, "the Father of Modern Gynecology," establishes medical practice in Mt. Meigs, then in nearby Montgomery (1840). He moved on to New York in 1853 to found renowned Woman's Hospital.

1836

Texas War for Independence from Mexico.

1836-1837

Second Creek War (Seminole War); Battle of Hobdy's Bridge last Indian battle in Alabama (1837).

1839

January 7: Judson Female Institute, a Baptist college, opens in Marion; renamed Judson College in 1903.

January 26: State prison established by legislature; first convict incarcerated in 1842.

1840

According to U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, 1840 Federal Census:

- State population=590,756
- White population=335,185
- African-American population=255,571
- Slave population=253,532
- Free black population=2,039
- Urban population=12,672
- Rural population=578,084.

1844

Methodist Episcopal Church, South, established as Methodists split nationally over sectional issues.

1845-1848

U.S. annexes Texas; war with Mexico follows. Alabamians volunteered in large numbers to fight, but only the 1st Alabama regiment, a battalion, and several independent companies actually were received into federal service.

1846

January 21: Legislature selects Montgomery as new capital; begins its first session there December 6, 1847.

1849

December 14: On the thirtieth anniversary of statehood the capitol in Montgomery is destroyed by fire. Construction of new capitol completed in 1851.

1850

According to U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, 1850 Federal Census:

- State population=771,623.
- White population=426,514
- African-American population=345,109
- Slave population=342,844
- Free black population=2,265

- Urban population=35,179
- Rural population=736,444
- Cotton production in bales=564,429
- Corn production in bushels=28,754,048
- Number of manufacturing establishments=1,026.

1852

February 6: Alabama Insane Hospital established at Tuscaloosa; received first patient in 1861. Its first director, Dr. Peter Bryce, became renowned for his innovative and humane treatment of patients.

Running on ticket with Democratic presidential nominee Franklin Pierce, Alabama Senator William Rufus King is elected Vice President of United States. Inaugurated March 24, 1853, in Cuba, where he had gone to recover his failing health, King died April 18, 1853, at home in Selma, never formally serving as Vice President.

1854

February 15: Alabama Public School Act creates first state-wide education system by providing funding for schools and establishing office of State Superintendent of Education.

1856

Alabama Coal Mining Company begins first systematic underground mining in the state near Montevallo.

East Alabama Male College established at Auburn by Methodists; evolved into Auburn University.

1858

October 4: Alabama School for the Deaf founded in Talladega; evolved into the state-supported Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind.

1860

According to U.S. Census Bureau Report in September 2002, 1860 Federal Census:

- State population=964,201.
- White population=526,271
- African-American population=437,770
- Slave population=435,080
- Free black population=2,690
- Urban population=48,901
- Rural population=915,300
- Cotton production in bales=989,955

- Corn production in bushels=33,226,282
- Number of manufacturing establishments=1,459.

November: Abraham Lincoln, Republican candidate (although not on Alabama ballot), elected President of the U.S.

1861

April 12: The Civil War begins when Confederates fire at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, acting upon instructions telegraphed from Montgomery.

1861-1865 in Alabama (in brief)

194 military land events and 8 naval engagements occurred within the boundaries of Alabama during the Civil War including:

- Streight's Raid in north Alabama (April-May 1863);
- Rousseau's Raid through north and east-central Alabama (July 1864);
- Wilson's Raid through north and central Alabama (March-April 1865);
- Battle of Mobile Bay (August 1864) and the subsequent campaign which involved action at Spanish Fort (April 8, 1865) and Blakeley (April 9) before the fall of the city of Mobile (April 12).
- General Richard Taylor surrenders last sizable Confederate force at Citronelle, Mobile County (May 4, 1865).

1861-1865 in Alabama (in depth)

January 4, 1861: A full week before Alabama secedes from the Union, Gov. A. B. Moore orders the seizure of federal military installations within the state. By the end of the next day Alabama troops controlled Fort Gaines, Fort Morgan, and the U.S. Arsenal at Mount Vernon.

January 11, 1861: The Alabama Secession Convention passes an Ordinance of Secession, declaring Alabama a "Sovereign and Independent State." By a vote of 61-39, Alabama becomes the fourth state to secede from the Union.

February 4, 1861: Delegates from six states that had recently seceded from the Union meet in Montgomery to establish the Confederate States of America. Four days later this provisional Confederate Congress, comprising representatives of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, organized the Confederacy with the adoption of a provisional constitution.

February 18, 1861: After being welcomed to Montgomery with great fanfare, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as president of the Confederate States of America on the portico of the Alabama capitol. Davis, a former U.S. senator from Mississippi, lived in Montgomery until April, when the Confederate government was moved from Montgomery to its new capital of Richmond, Virginia.

February-May, 1861: Montgomery serves as C.S.A. capital until move to Richmond, Virginia.

March 4, 1861: The first Confederate flag is raised over the Alabama capitol at 3:30 PM by Letitia Tyler, granddaughter of former U.S. president John Tyler. The flag, which flew on a flagpole by the capitol clock, was not the Confederate battle flag, but the "First National Pattern," also known as the stars and bars.

March 11, 1861: The Confederate Congress, meeting in Montgomery, adopts a permanent constitution for the Confederate States of America to replace the provisional constitution adopted the previous month. The seceded states then ratified the essentially conservative document, which was based largely on the United States Constitution.

May 21, 1861: The Confederate Congress meets for the last time in Montgomery. Montgomery served as capital for just three months, from February to May 1861. After Virginia joined the Confederacy in April 1861, leaders urged the move to the larger city of Richmond, which was closer to the military action.

April 1, 1862: As the first year of the Civil War comes to a close, an order by Gov. John Gill Shorter prohibiting the distillation of hard liquors in Alabama goes into effect. Shorter was willing to make some exceptions, but was determined to prevent distillers from "converting food necessary to sustain our armies and people into poison to demoralize and destroy them."

July 10, 1862: Forty men from the hill country of northwest Alabama sneak into Decatur to join the Union army, prompting Gen. Abel Streight to mount an expedition to the south to recruit more volunteers. With the help of an impassioned speech from fervent Unionist Christopher Sheats of Winston County, a center of anti-secessionist sentiment, Streight added another 150 Alabamians to his force.

March 17, 1863: John Pelham, a 24-year-old Confederate hero from Calhoun County, is mortally wounded on the battlefield at Kelley's Ford, Virginia. He died the next day and his body lay in state in the capitol at Richmond before being taken to Alabama for burial. Pelham's skill and daring as an artillery commander distinguished him from the outset of the Civil War and earned him the nickname "the gallant Pelham" from Robert E. Lee.

May 2, 1863: Sixteen-year-old Emma Sansom becomes a Confederate heroine when she helps Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest cross Black Creek near Gadsden as he pursues Union forces led by Col. A.D. Streight.

February 17, 1864: The H.L. Hunley, a Confederate submarine built in Mobile, becomes the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship. After torpedoing the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor the Hunley never returned to port--until its recovery in August 2000.

June 19, 1864: The CSS Alabama, captained by Mobile's Raphael Semmes, is sunk at the end of a fierce naval engagement with the USS Kearsarge off the coast of Cherbourg, France. The

Alabama had docked there for maintenance and repairs after 22 months of destroying northern commerce on the high seas during the Civil War.

August 5, 1864: The Battle of Mobile Bay begins. U.S. Admiral David Farragut, with a force of fourteen wooden ships, four ironclads, 2,700 men, and 197 guns, assaulted greatly outnumbered Confederate defenses guarding the approach to Mobile Bay. Farragut's victory removed Mobile as a center of blockade-running and freed Union troops for service in Virginia.

June 21, 1865: President Andrew Johnson appoints Lewis Parsons provisional governor of Alabama.

1865

April 9, 1865: Confederate commander Robert E. Lee surrenders forces to Union army at Appomattox, Virginia.

1865-1876 Reconstruction Era in the South

1865 September 12

New Alabama Constitution adopted to comply with Presidential Reconstruction dictates to rejoin Union; rejected by U.S. Congress.

1865 December 6

The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S Constitution is ratified, thus officially abolishing slavery.

1866

Ku Klux Klan formed in Pulaski, Tennessee

Lincoln Normal School founded as private institution for African-Americans at Marion; relocated to Montgomery (1887) and evolved into Alabama State University.

1868

Reconstruction Constitution ratified (February) gaining Alabama readmission to the Union, and allowing black suffrage for the first time.

1870

- State population=996,992.
- White population=521,384
- African-American population=475,510
- Urban population=62,700
- Rural population=934,292
- Cotton production in bales=429,482
- Corn production in bushels=16,977,948
- Number of manufacturing establishments=2,188.

1871

Birmingham founded; evolves into center of Southern iron and steel industry.

1873

Huntsville Normal and Industrial School chartered; evolves into Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

November: James Rapier of Lauderdale County elected to U.S. Congress, one of three African American congressmen elected from Alabama during Reconstruction. Benjamin Turner served from 1871- 1873 and Jeremiah Haralson served 1875-1877.

1874

State elections return conservative Democrat "Bourbon Redeemers" to political power.

1875

November 16: Alabama's Constitution of 1875 is ratified. The Bourbon Democrats, or "Redeemers," having claimed to "redeem" the Alabama people from the Reconstruction rule of carpetbaggers and scalawags, wrote a new constitution to replace the one of 1868. It was a conservative document that gave the Democrats, and especially Black Belt planters, a firm grip on their recently reacquired control of state government.

1880

- State population= 1,262,505.
- White population= 662,185
- African-American population= 600,103
- Urban population= 68,518
- Rural population= 1,193,987
- Cotton production on bales= 699,654
- Corn production in bushels= 25,451,278
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,070.

1880

National Baptist Convention (African-American Baptists) organized at Montgomery.

June 27: Helen Keller is born in Tuscumbia. Having lost both sight and hearing by illness as a small child, Keller's life story and activism inspired new attitudes toward those with handicaps.

1881

February 10: The Alabama Legislature establishes Tuskegee Institute as a "normal school for the education of colored teachers." The law stipulated that no tuition would be charged and graduates must agree to teach for two years in Alabama schools. Booker T. Washington was

chosen as the first superintendent and arrived in Alabama in June 1881. Washington's leadership would make Tuskegee one of the most famous and celebrated historic black colleges in the U.S.

1887-1896

Farmers' Alliance grew out of earlier Grange (1870s) and Agricultural Wheel (early 1880s) organizations; evolved into the Populist movement which challenged conservative Democrats for control of state politics.

1890

- State population= 1,513,401.
- White population= 833,718
- African-American population= 678,489
- Urban population= 152,235
- Rural population= 1,361,166
- Cotton production in bales= 915,210
- Corn production in bushels= 30,072,161
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,977.

1893

February 22: The first Auburn/Alabama football game is played in Birmingham's Lakeview Park before a crowd of 5,000 spectators. Auburn won this first match-up 32-22. The rivalry continued until 1907 when the games were stopped, with the renewal of the series not coming until 1948.

September 30: Julia Tutwiler persuades the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama to try a qualified form of co-education. A faculty committee agreed to "admit young women of not less than 18 years of age, of good character and antecedents, who are able to stand the necessary examinations: for entrance to the sophomore class or higher." A required proviso was that "suitable homes and protection" be provided. In the fall of 1893, two women students entered the university.

1895

Booker T. Washington speech to Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition urges racial accommodation, suggesting blacks seek economic independence rather than political/social equality.

February 16: Alabama formally adopts a state flag for the first time. The legislature dictated "a crimson cross of St. Andrew upon a field of white," which was the design submitted by John W. A. Sanford, Jr., who also sponsored the bill. This flag remains Alabama's flag today.

1896

October 8: George Washington Carver arrives in Macon County to direct Tuskegee Institute's agricultural school. Born a slave in Missouri during the Civil War, Carver was studying in Iowa when school president Booker T. Washington invited him to Alabama. He remained at Tuskegee until his death in 1943, and although he dedicated much of his work to helping black farmers in the South, Carver's international fame came from his innovative uses of peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other southern products.

October 12: The Alabama Girls' Industrial School opens its doors as the first state-supported industrial and technical school devoted to training girls to make a living. The school later became known as Alabama College, and is now the University of Montevallo.

Plessy v. Ferguson decision by U.S. Supreme Court establishes "separate but equal" doctrine in racial policy.

1898

Spanish-American War.

1900

- State population= 1,828,697.
- White population= 1,001,152
- African-American population= 827,307
- Urban population= 216,714
- Rural population= 1,611,983
- Cotton production in bales= 1,106,840
- Corn production in bushels= 35,053,047
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 5,602

1901

January 31: Tallulah Bankhead, star of stage, screen, and radio in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, is born in Huntsville.

March 2: Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History meet in Gov. William J. Samford's office to organize the nation's first state archival agency.

New state Constitution ratified, disfranchising substantial numbers of black and white voters (November).

1902

November 29: The New York Medical Record publishes an account of Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill performing the first open heart surgery in the western hemisphere when he sutured a knife wound in a young boy's heart. Dr. Hill was the father of Alabama politician and U.S. senator Lister Hill.

1904

Colonel William Crawford Gorgas of Alabama begins elimination of scourges of yellow fever and malaria in Panama Canal Zone.

Sculptor Giuseppe Moretti created an iron statue of Vulcan to represent Alabama Industry and Birmingham at the St. Louis World's Fair.

1907

Tennessee Coal and Iron Company in Birmingham purchased by U.S. Steel.

1909

Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, establish "flying school" on land outside Montgomery (present site of Maxwell Air Force Base) six years after their first flights.

Boll Weevil, insect destroyer of cotton, enters state from Mississippi border.

1910

State population= 2,138,093.

- White population= 1,228,832
- African-American population= 908,282
- Urban population= 370,431
- Rural population= 1,767,662
- Cotton production in bales= 1,129,527
- Corn production in bushels= 30,695,737
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 3,398.

1917-1919

United States enters World War I. Alabama's 167th Regiment, a part of the 42nd "Rainbow Division," serves at the front longer than any U.S. regiment.

1919

Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution bans manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages

December 11: The boll weevil monument is dedicated in Enterprise. The monument honors the insect that killed cotton plants and forced local farmers to diversify by planting more profitable crops such as peanuts. Even though the monument was in appreciation of the boll weevil, the weevil statue was not added to the monument until 30 years later.

1920

1920 Federal Census:

- State population= 2,348,174.
- White population= 1,447,031
- African-American population= 900,652
- Urban population= 509,317
- Rural population= 1,838,857
- Cotton production in bales= 718,163
- Corn production in bushels= 43,699,100
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 3,654.

1920

Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants women the right to vote.

1926

University of Alabama football team, the first southern team to be honored with an invitation to the Rose Bowl, defeats the University of Washington (January 1).

1928

Convict lease system ended in Alabama.

1929-1940

Great Depression and New Deal.

1930

State population= 2,646,248.

1930 Federal Census:

- White population= 1,700,844
- African-American population= 944,834
- Urban population= 744,273
- Rural population= 1,901,975
- Cotton production in bales= 1,312,963
- Corn production in bushels= 35,683,874
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,848.

1931

March 25: Nine black youths, soon to be known as the Scottsboro Boys, are arrested in Paint Rock and jailed in Scottsboro, the Jackson County seat. Charged with raping two white women on a freight train from Chattanooga, the sheriff had to protect them from mob violence that night. Within a month, eight of the nine were sentenced to death. Based on questionable evidence, the convictions by an all-white jury generated international outrage.

1933

Tennessee Valley Authority created to develop resources of poor Appalachian South, including large parts of north Alabama.

1934

Bankhead Cotton Control Act, sponsored by Alabama Senator John Bankhead, Jr., passed to boost the price of cotton by limiting the amount a farmer could market.

1936

August 3: Lawrence County native Jesse Owens wins his first gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. Owens went on to win four gold medals in Berlin, but German leader Adolf Hitler snubbed the star athlete because he was black. Today visitors can learn more about Owens at the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum in Oakville, Alabama.

William B. Bankhead elected Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives.

1937

State sales tax instituted to help fund education.

Alabama Senator Hugo Black appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act, co-sponsored by Alabama Senator John Bankhead, Jr., passed to provide federal loans to farm tenants to purchase land.

1940

State population= 2,832,961.

1940 Federal Census:

- White population= 1,849,097
- African-American population= 983,290
- Urban population= 855,941
- Rural population= 1,977,020
- Cotton production in bales= 772,711
- Corn production in bushels= 31,028,109
- Number of manufacturing establishments= 2,052.

1941-1945

United States in World War II. Alabama has new or expanded military bases in Montgomery, Mobile, Selma, and Anniston; munitions plants in Huntsville and Childersburg.

1941

Training of African-American military pilots, the "Tuskegee Airmen," underway.

1944

First Oil Well in Alabama--On January 2, 1944, the State of Alabama granted Hunt Oil Company a permit to drill the A.R. Jackson Well No. 1 near Gilbertown, Choctaw County.

1945

University of Alabama Medical School moved from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham.

1947

Georgiana's Hank Williams signs recording contract with MGM and becomes regular on The Louisiana Hayride radio program.

1948

July 17: The Dixiecrat Convention assembles in Birmingham, with over 6,000 delegates from across the South in attendance. They selected Strom Thurmond as their candidate for President for their States' Rights Party. In the 1948 presidential election, the Dixiecrats carried four states, including Alabama, where Democratic candidate Harry Truman's name did not even appear on the ballot.

1950

State population= 3,061,743.

1950 Federal Census:

- White population= 2,079,591
- African-American population= 979,617
- Urban population= 1,228,209
- Rural population= 1,833,534
- Cotton production in bales= 824,290
- Corn production in bushels= 40,972,309
- Number of manufacturing establishments (1954) = 3,893.

1950-1953

Korean War

1954

U.S. Supreme Court decides in *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* that "separate" schools cannot be "equal."

June 14: Democratic nominee for state Attorney General, Albert Patterson, murdered in Phenix City, prompting clean-up of the "wickedest city in America."

October 31: Martin Luther King Jr, of Atlanta is installed as minister of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. A little more than a year later, on the first day of the Montgomery Bus Boycott he was named president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, a role which made him a national civil rights figure.

1955

December 1: Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, is arrested for refusing to give up her seat for a boarding white passenger as required by Montgomery city ordinance. Her action prompted the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott and earned her a place in history as "the mother of the modern day civil rights movement." Ms. Parks was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in August 2000.

1956

January 30: With the Montgomery Bus Boycott about to enter its third month, segregationists bomb the home of boycott spokesman Martin Luther King Jr. The home sustained moderate damage, but no one was injured. The young minister addressed the large crowd that gathered after the blast, declaring, "I want it to be known the length and breadth of this land that if I am stopped this movement will not stop."

Army Ballistic Missile Agency established at Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal.

Autherine Lucy unsuccessfully attempts to desegregate the University of Alabama.

December 21: The Supreme Court ruling banning segregated seating on Montgomery's public transit vehicles goes into effect. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks were among the first people to ride a fully integrated bus, ending the historic year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott.

1957

Soviet satellite "SPUTNIK" launched to begin "Space Race."

1958

Huntsville-built "Jupiter" rocket places American satellite in orbit around Earth.

1960

September 8: The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville is dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Gov. John Patterson and Werner von Braun, director of the space flight center, were in attendance as was Mrs. Marshall who unveiled a bust in honor of her husband.

State population= 3,266,740

1960 Federal Census:

- White population= 2,283,609
- African-American population= 980,271
- Urban population= 1,689,417
- Rural population= 1,577,323
- Cotton production in bales= 683,491
- Corn production in bushels= 62,580,000
- Number of manufacturing establishments (1963) = 4,079

1961

March 2: President John F. Kennedy appoints Alabama native Dr. Luther Leonidas Terry U. S. Surgeon General. Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General of the United States, released on January 11, 1964, concluded that lung cancer and chronic bronchitis are causally related to cigarette smoking.

May 1: Harper Lee of Monroeville wins the Pulitzer Prize for *To Kill A Mockingbird*, her first, and only, novel. The gripping tale set in 1930s Alabama became an international bestseller and was made into a major Hollywood motion picture starring Gregory Peck.

May 20: The Freedom Riders arrive at the Greyhound bus terminal in Montgomery where they are attacked by an angry mob. The Freedom Ride, an integrated bus trip from Washington D.C., through the Deep South, was formed to test the 1960 Supreme Court decision prohibiting segregation in bus and train terminal facilities. Before reaching Montgomery, they had already suffered violent reprisals in Anniston and Birmingham. The Freedom Ride eventually resulted in a campaign that caused the Interstate Commerce Commission to rule against segregated facilities in interstate travel.

"Freedom Rides" through the Deep South challenge racial segregation on public carriers and spark into violence in Anniston, Birmingham, and Montgomery.

1961-1973

America involved in Vietnam War.

1962

November 30: Football and baseball star, Vincent Edward "Bo" Jackson was born in Bessemer. Jackson won the Heisman Trophy in 1985 and was the first professional athlete to be named an all-star in two major sports.

1963

Governor George C. Wallace inaugurated for first of four terms in office.

Birmingham bombings of Civil Rights-related targets, including the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the home of A.D. King (brother of Martin Luther King, Jr.), and the 16th Street Baptist Church (in which 4 children were killed), focus national attention on racial violence in the state.

Governor Wallace's "stand in the schoolhouse door" at the University of Alabama protests federally forced racial integration; Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes as first African-American students.

University of South Alabama founded in Mobile.

May 19: Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is issued to the public in a press release. Begun April 16 from the Birmingham City Jail, where King was under arrest for participation in civil rights demonstrations, the letter was addressed to eight local clergymen who had recently urged civil rights leaders to use the courts and local negotiations instead of mass demonstrations to promote their cause in Birmingham. King's letter, which soon became a classic text of the civil rights movement, rejected the clergymen's plea.

June 11: Dr. James Hardy, a native of Shelby County, Alabama, and chief of surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, performs the world's first human lung transplant. The patient lived for three weeks before dying of chronic kidney disease. The next year Hardy transplanted a chimpanzee's heart into another patient, marking the first transplant of a heart into a human.

1965

February 15: "The man with the velvet voice," Nat King Cole dies in Santa Monica, California. Born the son of a Baptist minister in Montgomery in 1919, Cole sold over 50 million records and became the first African-American male with a weekly network television series.

March 7: Six-hundred demonstrators make the first of three attempts to march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery to demand removal of voting restrictions on black Americans. Attacked by state and local law enforcement officers as they crossed Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers fled back into the city. The dramatic scene was captured on camera and broadcast across the nation later that Sunday, causing a surge of support for the protestors.

March 21: Rev. Martin Luther King leads 3,200 marchers from Selma toward Montgomery in support of civil rights for black Americans, after two earlier marches had ended at the Edmund Pettus Bridge--the first in violence and the second in prayer. Four days later, outside the Alabama state capitol, King told 25,000 demonstrators that "we are on the move now . . . and no wave of racism can stop us." On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law.

1967

Lurleen Wallace inaugurated as state's first woman governor (died 1968).

1969

University of Alabama at Huntsville established. University of Alabama at Birmingham established, joining University's medical and dental schools there since the 1940s.

Winton Blount was appointed U.S. Postmaster General by President Richard Nixon. Blount was a building contractor and philanthropist and active in Alabama Republican Party politics.

September 14: Talladega Speedway opens with its first running of the Talladega 500 which is won by Richard Brickhouse. Over 30 top drivers boycotted the first run saying the track was unsafe at high speeds. The facility cost \$4 million dollars to build and attracted a crowd of 65,000 to the first major race. In April 2000, a crowd of 180,000 watched Jeff Gordon win the Diehard 500.

1970

State population= 3,444,165.

1970 Federal Census:

- White population= 2,533,831
- African-American population= 903,467
- Urban population= 2,011,941
- Rural population= 1,432,224
- Cotton production in bales= 507,000
- Corn production in bushels= 12,535,000.

March 17: The Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville is dedicated, with Werner von Braun calling it "a graphic display of man's entering into the cosmic age." Now known as the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, visitors tour the museum, which includes rockets and spacecraft, and participate in activities like Space Camp.

1972

May 15: Gov. George C. Wallace is shot in Maryland while campaigning for the Democratic nomination for president. The assassination attempt by Arthur Bremer left the Governor

paralyzed from the waist down and effectively ended his chances at the nomination. He campaigned again for president in 1976, marking his fourth consecutive run for that office.

December: The Alabama Shakespeare Festival began as a summer stock program in Anniston. In 1985 it moved to Montgomery into a new performing arts complex endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Winton Blount. By 2007 it was the sixth largest Shakespeare festival in the world.

1974

April 8: Mobile native Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hits his 715th career home run to break Babe Ruth's longstanding record. Aaron finished his career with 755 home runs.

1980

State population=3,894,000.

1980 Federal Census:

- White population=2,783,000
- African-American population=996,000
- Urban population=2,338,000
- Rural population=1,556,000
- Cotton production in bales=275,000
- Corn production in bushels=15,000,000.

1981

Country music group Alabama selected "Vocal Group of the Year" by Academy of Country Music; went on to garner fifth consecutive "Entertainer of the Year" award from the Country Music Association (1986).

1982

November: Oscar Adams was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court, becoming the first African American elected to statewide constitutional office in Alabama.

1983

January 26: Alabamians are shocked and saddened when retired University of Alabama football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant dies suddenly from a heart attack. Bryant began coaching at Alabama in 1958 and went on to win six national championships with the team. In 1981 he became football's "winningest" coach with 315 victories.

1985

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway opens.

1989

November 22: Kathryn Thornton, a native of Montgomery and graduate of Auburn University, becomes the first woman to fly on a military space mission on the Space Shuttle Discovery. Thornton became the second woman to walk in space in 1992. Dr. Thornton retired from NASA in 1996 to join the faculty of the University of Virginia.

1990

State population=4,040,587.

1990 Federal Census:

- White population=2,975,837
- African-American population=1,020,677
- Urban population=2,439,549
- Rural population=1,601,038
- Cotton production in bales=375,000
- Corn production in bushels=13,920,000.

1993

Governor Guy Hunt, in second term as first Republican governor of the state since Reconstruction, convicted of misuse of public funds and removed from office.

In September Mercedes-Benz announces it will build its first automobile assembly plant in North America in Vance, Tuscaloosa County, creating more than 1500 jobs. Construction on the \$300 million plant was completed in July 1996, and the first of the M-Class SUV's went on sale in September 1997.

1995

Alabama's Heather Whitestone serves as first Miss America with a disability.

1998

Anniston native Dr. David Satcher is appointed Surgeon General of the United States.

2000

State population=4,447,100.

2000 Federal Census:

- White population=3,188,102
- African-American population=1,138,726
- Hispanic population=45,349

Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy Moore is elected Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Moore rose to national attention earlier when he was sued by the ACLU for displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.

2001

Birmingham native Condoleezza Rice is appointed National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush. She is the first woman to occupy that position.

2001 (November)

Winfield native and C.I.A. operative Michael Spann dies in prison uprising in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, becoming the first U.S. casualty in the war in Afghanistan.

Alabama casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan

November, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln, Alabama, begins production.

2002

In April of 2002, Hyundai broke ground in Montgomery, Alabama for its first U.S. automobile assembly plant, a \$1 billion investment that is scheduled to open in 2005 and employ nearly 2,000 people. The facility, to be built on 1,600 acres, is expected to assemble 300,000 vehicles per year. The first two vehicles scheduled to be produced in the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama (HMMA) assembly plant are the revised Sonata and Santa Fe models.

Birmingham native Vonetta Flowers and teammate Jill Bakken win a gold medal in bobsledding at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Flowers is the first African American to win a gold medal in a winter Olympics.

May 22 -- Bobby Frank Cherry is convicted of murder for his part in the bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth St. Baptist Church. Cherry is the last living suspect to be prosecuted for the Sept. 15, 1963, blast that killed 11-year-old Denise McNair, and 14-year-olds Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Mae Collins.

2003

November 13 -- Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy S. Moore is removed from office when the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission determines that he violated his oath of office when he refused to obey a Federal court order to remove a granite display of the Ten Commandments from the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building.

2004

November 16 -- President George W. Bush nominates National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice to serve as Secretary of State. The Birmingham native is the first African American woman to serve in that office. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on January 26, 2005.

2005

January 13 -- Concert and operatic star Nell Rankin dies in New York at age 81. The Montgomery native made her stage debut in Wagner's Lohengrin in Zurich, Switzerland in 1949.

August 29 -- Hurricane Katrina, a category 5 hurricane, makes landfall on the Louisiana coast, and becomes one of the greatest natural disasters in U.S. history. Katrina leaves a wake of destruction stretching across the northern Gulf coast from Louisiana to Florida.

2007

May 11 -- German steel manufacturer ThyssenKrupp AG announces it will invest nearly \$4 billion in plant construction in Mobile County. The Montgomery Advertiser reports that as many as 29,000 jobs could be generated during the construction phase.

November 5 -- President George W. Bush awards To Kill A Mockingbird author Harper Lee the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to recognize contributions in science, the arts, literature and the cause of peace and freedom.

2009

July 13 -- President Barack Obama nominates Dr. Regina M. Benjamin to be Surgeon General of the United States. A graduate of Morehouse College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Benjamin specialized in Family Medicine at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Founder and CEO of the BayouClinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, Benjamin since 1990 has been providing health care to the low-income community.

2010

January 7 -- Coach Nick Saban leads the University of Alabama football team, including Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram, to win the BCS National Championship in Pasadena, CA against the Texas Longhorns with a final score of 37 to 21.

November 2 -- Republican candidate Dr. Robert Bentley is elected governor and the party gains a majority in the Alabama House, Senate and Supreme Court, wresting control from Democrats for the first time since 1874.

2011

January 10 -- SEC champions Auburn University, led by Coach Gene Chizik and Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton, defeat PAC-10 champions University of Oregon in the BCS National Championship game in Glendale, Arizona, with a final score of 22-19.

2012

January 9 -- No. 2 ranked University of Alabama defeats no. one ranked Louisiana State University 21-0 to earn the BCS National Championship in New Orleans, making it the third national championship won by Coach Nick Saban.

2013

January 7 -- No. 2 ranked University of Alabama defeats no. one ranked Notre Dame 42-14 to earn the BCS National Championship in Miami, making it the fourth national championship won by Coach Nick Saban.

2014

October 20 -- Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn) is indicted by a Lee County grand jury on 23 felony Ethics Law violations.

2016

June 12 -- Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn) is convicted by a Lee County jury of 12 felony Ethics Law violations.

2017

April 10 – Governor Robert Bentley resigns from office. Lieutenant governor Kay Ivey assumes the office for the rest of Bentley's original term.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to find more information, activities or resources from the Alabama Department of Archives and History, you will want to visit our website:

[www. archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)