



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD AWARDS 2015 HISTORICAL RECORDS PRESERVATION GRANTS

Montgomery, AL (11/10/15) - The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) recently awarded \$35,500 in regrants to local governments or other local historical entities. Nineteen applications out of 24 received full or partial funding. Funds for the awards were provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) State Board Programming Grant. Here is a description of the projects funded:

Autauga County Heritage Association. \$5,080 to rehouse and preserve historical records (including documents, photographs, and engineering drawings) from the Daniel Pratt Cotton Gin Company site. Grant funds will cover archival supplies and environmental improvements to the Prattaugan Museum, which will house the records.

Birmingham Black Radio Museum. \$2,500 to preserve and access oral history recordings, photographs, phonographic records, and other memorabilia documenting the impact of Birmingham black radio on the Civil Rights Movement. The award will fund purchasing equipment and software to create a website that will make catalogued and digitized records publicly available.

Cherokee County Historical Museum. \$2,577 to organize, rehouse, and preserve historic Cherokee County probate and circuit court records held by the museum, as well as other historical collections. Grant funds will cover archival supplies and shelving.

Chestnut Creek Heritage Chapel. \$1,008 to purchase an air conditioner, data logger, and archival boxes and folders to preserve the historical records of Chestnut Creek Baptist Church. A room in this historic Chilton County church building is being renovated as an archives.

Cobb Memorial Archives (Chambers County Public Library). \$500 toward the purchase of archival supplies for acquiring, cataloging, and preserving the records of Valley, Alabama's civic clubs. Valley is the site of four historic textile mills.

Collinsville Historical Association, Inc. \$1,331 to purchase window tinting film and archival supplies to assist in preserving historical family papers; photographs; military memorabilia; and school, business, church, and cemetery records associated with the Town of Collinsville.

DeKalb County Genealogical Society. \$2,074 to purchase computers, shelving, and archival supplies, thereby assisting the society's ongoing work of rehousing, cataloging, and preserving historical DeKalb County probate and circuit court records.

Elmore County Historical Society. \$1,506 for a dehumidifier, environmental monitor, and flat file cabinet. The society requested these items to improve storage and environmental conditions in its historical museum.

Historic Mobile Preservation Society. \$2,149 to purchase a large-format scanner for digitizing the Minnie Mitchell Archives' map and photograph collection. After scanning, the society intends to place these collections on a website.

Judson College Archives. \$2,586 for paying a consultant to provide on-site training for the archives' staff. The grant will also enable staff to take a distance-learning "Basics of Archives" course offered by the Council of State Archivists.

Marengo County History and Archive Museum. \$2,100 to fund a consultant to conduct a preservation needs assessment of the museum and its collections. Grant funds will cover the consultant's fee, plus lodging and travel costs.

Montgomery County Landmarks Foundation. \$2,398 to inventory, catalog, rehouse, and preserve historical documents, photographs, maps, and publications at Montgomery's "Old Alabama Town." Grant funds will pay for a consultant to train Landmarks staff, and for purchasing a dedicated computer and printer/scanner.

Northeast Alabama Community College. \$2,250 to cover vendor's fees for digitizing taped, oral history interviews. The tapes were used as source materials by Dr. Ronald H. Dykes in publishing four books about Jackson County residents' experiences in the Great Depression and America's 20th-century wars.

Oxford Public Library. \$2,000 to fund the purchase of archival supplies to be employed in a project to rehouse, catalog, and scan historical collections in the library's Oxford Room. The collections include city records, photographs, private documents, and newspapers.

City of Prichard. \$1,350 to continue its ongoing project to collect, organize, rehouse, and catalog public and private records of historical Prichard communities. Grant funds will pay a consultant to oversee the project and will purchase archival supplies.

Springville Preservation Society. \$773 to assist in tinting windows, and in purchasing shelving and archival supplies, to renovate the society's historical museum. Its holdings include rare books, original photographs and newspapers, school and church records, scrapbooks, business ledgers, and family history materials.

Stockton Heritage Association. \$1,008 to purchase a security system and archival supplies for the 1894 building the association has renovated as an historical museum. Its current holdings include documents, photographs, and artifacts collected by Baldwin County historian Davida Hastie.

Talisi Historic Preservation Society. \$700 to purchase a flat file cabinet for the society's collection of photographs and blueprints, which includes original Frank Lockwood blueprints of an early Tallassee school.

Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society. \$1,610 to purchase computers, external hard drives, and a scanner for digitizing bound records and divorce case files. This grant continues the society's decade-long project to rehouse, catalog, and make accessible historical Tuscaloosa County circuit court and probate records.

In completing their projects, our 19 grant recipients will contribute a total of \$91,883.21 in cost sharing (*cost sharing number will change when new budgets are submitted for partially funded projects*). After conducting a training workshop on October 26, ADAH Government Services Division archivists will work with recipients throughout the grant cycle (which ends in May 2016) to complete their projects. For more information on the SHRAB's historical records grant program, contact Tracey Berezansky, Deputy SHRAB Director, at (334)242-4452 or tracey.berezansky@archives.alabama.gov.

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