



PRESS RELEASE
April/29/2009

For Immediate Release
Contact:
Government Records Division
Alabama Department of Archives and History
334-242-4452

Records Commissions Honor Department of Transportation, Marshall County Preservation Society, and the Mobile County Probate Office for their Care and Preservation of Government Records



Award Presentation to Department of Transportation. L-R Terry Robinson, ALDOT Assistant

Bureau Chief for Plans and Proposals; Chris Davison, ALDOT Archivist; Joe McInnes, ALDOT Director; and Ed Bridges, Chairman, State Records Commission.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - The Alabama State and Local Government Records Commissions presented their first Annual Records Management and Preservation Awards to three agencies during yesterday's quarterly meeting. The three award winners are: the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Marshall County Preservation Society, and the Mobile County Probate Office. The awards recognize their achievements in identifying, preserving, and providing access to the valuable historical records created or housed by their offices.

The State and Local Government Records Commissions initiated an awards program to recognize state agencies, public colleges and universities, local governments, and local historical entities for outstanding achievements. The first State Records Commission award went to the Department of Transportation. Under the administration of Joe McInnes, archivist Chris Davidson and his staff developed agency-wide records management policies and procedures, provided records training to DOT staff, inventoried records at agency headquarters and at divisions all across the state, renovated an agency building as an archives and records center, and supervised the digitization of department records. The commission chairman, Dr. Ed Bridges, lauded DOT for establishing a "strong foundation" for its records program and serving as "a model for other large agencies."

The Local Government Records Commission selected the Marshall County Preservation Society and the Mobile County Probate Court as recipients of its 2008 achievement awards. Members of the Marshall County Preservation Society prepared historical probate and circuit court files that resulted in 168 rolls of loose records microfilm. They also helped to preserve old county newspapers. More recently, with support from Probate Judge Tim Mitchell and the county commission, the society was instrumental in establishing a Marshall County Archives, which will be staffed by society members when it opens to the public.

Mobile County's probate court has had a preservation microfilming program since the 1950s. In 1989, the discovery of the county's oldest records in a courthouse attic led to the creation of a probate court archives. Since then, archivist Coll'ette King has overseen the indexing and microfilming of hundreds of rolls of probate records, including the translation of French and Spanish colonial documents that date back to the founding of Mobile.

For more information about these awards or about 2009 nominations, contact the Government Records Division at the Department of Archives and History, 334-242-4452. Nominations for the 2009 achievement awards must be submitted to the division by December 1, 2009. Guidelines for the 2009 awards are available on our website at: <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/slo.html>

Other photos:



Marshall County Award Presentation. L-R Ed Bridges, Chairman, Local Government Records Commission and Tim Mitchell, Marshall County Probate Judge, accepting on behalf of the Marshall County Preservation Society.



Award Presentation to Mobile County Probate Judge and staff. L-R Chief Clerk and Administrator, Joe McEarchern, Jr.; Ed Bridges, Chairman, Local Government Records Commission; Probate Judge Don Davis, Historical Records Specialist Coll'ette King, Retired Probate Judge "Red" Noonan, and Assistant Clerk, Richard Johnson, Jr.