

# Volunteer Newsletter

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Edited by Aimee Sparks

Winter 2013

## SAD DAYS AT THE ARCHIVES



**Dale Weaver**

The last several weeks have been somber at the Archives as we mourn the loss of three ADAH family members.

On January 12, volunteer Dale Weaver passed away. In 2009, after retiring from the Retirement Systems of Alabama, she began volunteering at the Archives. Dale, who worked with the curators creating and updating the artifact database, was an extremely knowledgeable, kind, and dedicated volunteer. Dale is survived by 4 children, 2 step-

daughters, and 12 grandchildren. Only days after the shock of Dale's passing, the Archives was once again touched by tragedy when ADAH reference librarian Rickie Brunner unexpectedly passed away on January 15. Rickie worked at the Archives for over 30 years. During her long career at the Archives, Rickie worked with state publications and newspapers and was a valued member of the reference staff. Rickie is survived by several members of her extended family. On January 28, the *Montgomery Advertiser* ran an article that captured both Rickie's love of history and devotion to the ADAH. In the article, ADAH Director Steve Murray describes Rickie and her amazing research skills and knowledge as "...a window back to a previous time in Alabama history." Rickie was a cherished member of the staff and her impact will be felt at the Archives for years to come.

Just a few weeks later on February 4 we lost

another volunteer. In 1989, Lewis Hale Figh, Jr. began volunteering as a docent. For over twenty years Lewis guided children through the museum and he most recently acted as a receptionist. He is survived by his wife Virginia, two children, two grandchildren, and a great-grandson. In 1993, a 4th grader wrote to Lewis after a tour, "You know a lot about Indians. The hold (sic) class liked you." Lewis was indeed much liked and will be greatly missed.



**Lewis H. Figh, Jr., (left) with his brother and ADAH volunteer, John Figh.**

Dale, Rickie, and Lewis were all members of the ADAH family, and they will be missed by everyone at the Archives. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.



### Inside this issue:

<i>Happy Birthday</i>	2
<i>Mark your Calendar</i>	2
<i>Volunteers on the Move</i>	3
<i>"Fridge Notes"</i>	4
<i>Inside the Archives</i>	5
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	5
<i>New Volunteers</i>	6
<i>Thanks to Event Vols</i>	6

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(Government Records)

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

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



**Rickie Brunner**

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### March

Brittany Payne 3/8  
Justin Rudder 3/14  
Ken Ward 3/16

#### April

James Snider 4/4  
Jerry Conrad 4/7  
William Hughes 4/15  
Vijaya Chava 4/15  
Kenneth Carrick 4/19  
Aubrey Neeley 4/26

#### May

Anna Scott 5/3  
Helen May 5/7  
Chuck Maney 5/8  
Ruth McCune 5/10  
Joshua Thomas 5/12  
David Crowley 5/31  
Delilah Eaton 5/31

#### June

Lindsay Guest 6/6  
Marinella Lentis 6/12

Robert Stabler 6/15  
Beatrice Coley 6/20  
Jack Fowler 6/24  
Hardy Kirk 6/24  
Frances Frizzell 6/27

**Did we miss your birthday?**

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



### STATE HOLIDAYS

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

**April 22: Confederate Memorial Day**

**May 27: National Memorial Day**

**June 3: Jefferson Davis' Birthday**

### AIMEE'S CORNER

It has been almost three months since I took the reins as ADAH Volunteer Coordinator. I, as any new employee would be, was a nervous wreck my first day. Could I do the job; would I mess up on the very first day; would you like me? All of these concerns flooded my thoughts, but within moments of my arrival, these fears were squelched thanks to your kind encouragement and warmhearted acceptance.

Slightly less than a month after my arrival, the 2012 Holiday Tea took place. I take no responsibility for this event; Kelly Hoopes made me look very good by arranging

an absolutely gorgeous event at Buena Vista Mansion in Prattville. I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed that day as much as I did. Thank you Kelly!

Alabama Day on December 14 was a great success because of volunteer involvement. I believe that First Lady Dianne Bentley truly enjoyed her time with the children. In case you did not see them, Chuck Maney, Linda Jenkins, Barry Spink, Bob Bradley, and Ryan Blocker were all dressed in period costume; they truly embodied history. Chuck Maney was photographed clad in a Confederate uniform with stu-

dents from Crump Elementary School; the picture ran in the December 15 *Montgomery Advertiser*. Alabama Day was a lot of fun thanks to all of you!

Spring tour season is now upon us. Yes, there have been some changes to tours due to gallery closings, but I have no doubt that despite whatever changes or mishaps befall us we will have a successful spring tour season.

**Thank you for everything that you do!**

# VOLUNTEERS ON THE MOVE



Volunteers and Staff at the 2012 Volunteer Holiday Tea held at Buena Vista Mansion in Prattville

Volunteers enjoying food and conversation at the 2012 Volunteer Holiday Tea



First Lady Dianne Bentley and Roland at Alabama Day 2012



Tom, Juliette, Jennie, Ken, and Abby at Alabama Day 2012



Chuck dressed as a Confederate soldier during Alabama Day 2012

# 'FRIDGE NOTES

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

EVENT	DATE
Volunteer Enrichment: 2013 Volunteer Recognition, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Milo B. Howard Auditorium	February 25, 2013
ArchiTreats: <i>The Civil Rights World in Alabama, 1961-1963: Reflections</i>	February 28, 2013
ArchiTreats: <i>The Rise and Fall of Alabama's Textile Industry</i>	March 21, 2013
ArchiTreats: <i>Streight's Raid and The Making of a Confederate Heroine</i>	April 18, 2013
Book Talk: <i>The Alabama Families of Virginia Durr and Lillian Hellman: Their Impact on Two Uncompromising Women</i>	April 19, 2013
Currently Scheduled 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Museum Closing	May 1, 2013
ArchiTreats: <i>Longleaf Pine: The Tree That Made Alabama</i>	May 16, 2013
Currently Scheduled 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Museum Closing	May 18, 2013
Volunteer Enrichment: The Montgomery Symphony's Pops Concert on the Lawn	May 24, 2013



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## Friends of the Alabama Archives Membership Application

- New Member  
 Renewal

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## INSIDE THE ARCHIVES

By Ryan Blocker, Curatorial Volunteer Liaison



The Flora – Bama Lounge, located in Perdido Key, has generously loaned the Archives a piece of Gulf Coast history. The little red wagon pictured holds the course layout for the Mullet Toss. For those of you not familiar with the Mullet Toss, it is a competition held annually on the Florida/Alabama state line. Contestants toss a mullet over the state line from Alabama into Florida. The wagon will be in the “Forces of Change” section of the new *Alabama Voices* Gallery scheduled to open at the beginning of 2014.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Allison Gore, Gift Shop Volunteer Liaison

Jennie Price spends her Thursdays at the Archives dividing her time as gift shop worker extraordinaire and as tour docent. While she has been volunteering for the past few years, her relationship with the Archives began in 1982 when she worked as a Capitol Receptionist giving guided tours of our building. Later she worked as a museum aide cataloging various artifacts alongside our curatorial staff. A transfer to the Service Division honed her skills as a tour guide as she led groups through all the state museum spaces in the

Capitol complex. Before her retirement, Jennie was assigned to the First White House of the Confederacy handling tours, the gift shop, and various other duties.

Jennie loves needlework of all kinds (come by the gift shop to check out her latest creations). She is also very active in her church, neighborhood, and with Landmark Tour and Travel. Most every Thursday she can be found with knitting needles clacking in the gift shop or guiding a school group through our museum spaces.



Jennie Price, “gift shop worker extraordinaire”

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

**Catherine Thrash** volunteered at the ADAH during her winter break from classes at Samford University. Catherine worked in the gift shop, at the main lobby reception desk, and alongside me. It was a real delight to work with Catherine, and I hope that she will return for some volunteer fun in the summer.

**Lauren Duke** recently graduated from Auburn University with a BA in History. Lauren enjoys reading. She was reading *Apollo 13*, but she has misplaced the book, so if anyone happens to see it, please let me know. You will see Lauren at the Research Room registration desk on Thursday afternoons.

**Sherline Duncan** hails from the beautiful island country of Jamaica. Sherline has a BA in History and currently is working on a Masters in Public Affairs. She is the proud mother of a six-year-old girl, so we are very fortunate that she has a free moment to volunteer with us. Sherline is volunteering in the HOG.

**Vickie Turner** lives in Prattville. She is the proud mother of three wonderful children and five beautiful grandchildren. I wrote 'wonderful' because I am one of those three children- yes, she is my mother. Vickie will be filling in at the main lobby desk as needed. I am encouraging her to become a docent, so if you meet her, be sure to add your own words of encouragement.

**Grace Kennedy** is a recent graduate of the College of Charleston; there she earned her BA in Anthropology. She is interested in Ethnomusicology. Besides volunteering at the Archives, she is doing an internship at the State Legislature. Grace will begin her docent training on February 8.

**Amelia Hobson** is an Art History major at AUM. She learned about the ADAH volunteer program while on an ADAH Behind the Scenes tour led by Ryan Blocker. Thank you Ryan! Amelia hopes to one day work in a museum. For now she will be splitting her time between the gift shop and HOG.



Alabama Day 2012 was a great success. A big **Thank You** to the following people who volunteered their time and made it a success!

### SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS AT SPECIAL EVENTS

Abby Barr  
Ken Carrick  
Judy Crow  
Allen Edwards  
Tom Emerson  
Lindsay Guest  
Doretta Hector  
Thelma Ivery  
Linda Jenkins  
Chuck Maney

Harmon McDonald  
Roland McDonald  
Jacob McGaughy  
Jennie Price  
Anita Sherman  
Josh Thomas  
Juliette Wimberly

Special Thanks to Bob Bradley, Ryan Blocker, and Barry Spink



**Volunteers with First Lady Dianne Bentley at Alabama Day 2012**

### NEW FACE IN THE HOG

By Sara Kunau, HOG Volunteer Liaison



**Sara at work during Alabama Day 2012**

My name is Sara Kunau. I am your new Museum Tour assistant. My office is located in the Hands On Gallery (H.O.G.).

My husband, Jason, and I relocated here from Springfield, Missouri after he was accepted into Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. Jason now works at the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA). We volunteer our free time to various men's, women's, and students' ministries coordinated through our home church, First Assembly of

Montgomery.

We absolutely love our new workplaces and church families!

I am excited to be a part of the new Voices Gallery soon to be under construction at the Archives. I look forward to building lifelong relationships with all of you and to growing both personally and professionally at the Archives as we begin a new chapter in our service to the great State of Alabama.