



Progress thru Preservation

Auburn Heritage Association

Dedicated to preserving and protecting Auburn's history

Spring 2023

www.auburnheritageassoc.org

AHA Receives Turner Foundation Grant

The Auburn Heritage Association recently received a \$30,000 grant from the F. Allen and Louise K. Turner Charitable Foundation for gravesite and marker repairs and cleaning within the city of Auburn's oldest cemetery, Pine Hill Cemetery on Armstrong Street.

Noting deteriorating conditions within the cemetery, AHA President Mary Norman applied for the grant to assist with Pine Hill's urgent needs. While the City of Auburn maintains local cemeteries and coordinates scheduling for their services and events, the city's purview is mostly limited to the grounds and



The Turner Foundation grant will be used for much-needed Pine Hill Cemetery repairs.

their paths and driveways. In Pine Hill, the city has made notable improvements to the property and recently expanded the cemetery and added a columbarium. However, grave and marker care typically falls to family members or organizations such as Auburn Heritage concerned with preserving community history.

Pine Hill's graves include Auburn's founders, university presidents, civic leaders, and many of the town's historic figures (such

as George Petrie and Dean Charles Cary). AHA board members will be working with industry professionals in the coming months to begin the needed—and costly—repairs.

Auburn residents Frank Allen and Louise Kreher Turner, now deceased, were champions of local educational and preservation efforts. In 1993, they donated land to the AU Foundation designated for the AU School of Forestry to establish the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve on North College Street.



Pine Hill Lantern Tour Set for Oct. 19-20



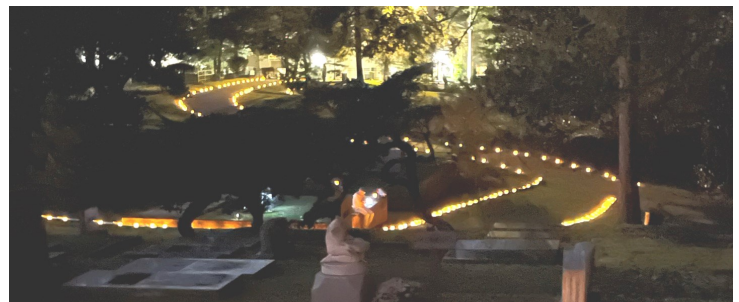
The popular AHA Pine Hill Cemetery Lantern Tour returns October 19-20, 2023, teaching Auburn's history through a dozen volunteer actors portraying various Pine Hill "residents."



Pine Hill Cemetery, Auburn's oldest cemetery, on Armstrong Street provides the perfect setting for the biennial Lantern Tour, with \$15 (\$10 for students) ticket sales benefiting efforts that preserve and teach Auburn history.

You won't want to miss this family-friendly event as Auburn history comes alive. The 2021 tour attracted 1,000 visitors over two nights, so make plans now to come early. Tickets are sold at the gate, and tours begin at 6 p.m. each night.

If you want to help with the Lantern Tour, there are several ways to participate: with planning/setup, as a tour guide, as an actor portraying one of the cemetery residents, or as a Lantern Tour sponsor. Please email AHA leadership at pinetucket2@gmail.com with your volunteer or sponsorship interest. Thank you!



Auburn Heritage Association

Established in 1974

2021-2023 Officers

President—Mary Norman
Vice President—Charles Hendrix
Secretary—Sam Hendrix
Treasurer—Carol Clemmons

2021-2023 Board of Directors

Maiben Beard
Heather Chastain Collins
Anna Ruth Gatlin
Susan Melton
Shannon Walden
Kim Walker

The Auburn Heritage Association Board meets the third Wednesday of each month, September-May at noon at Pebble Hill. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

AUBURN HERITAGE ONLINE
www.auburnheritageassoc.org

Join or renew your membership online
or order your copy of *Auburn, Sweet Auburn*.
Credit cards accepted through PayPal.



AHA Presents \$25,000 to *Street Names* Endowment As Tops \$50,000, First Campership Awarded



Auburn University Outreach members joined Auburn Heritage President Mary Norman and *Auburn: A History in Street Names* author Sam Hendrix at the steps of Samford Hall on Dec. 12 for a \$25,000 check presentation by AHA to the endowment funded by *Street Names* book sales. **The check brings the permanent endowment level to more than \$50,000** after the book's first printing (which debuted in Nov. 2021) sold out in 29 days, and the second printing—copies from which are now available at Auburn bookstores—has continued to prove the popularity of this 735-page, hardback, comprehensive history of Auburn.

As a sponsor and originating seller of the book, AHA solicited donations from its members, raising \$21,000+ for the initial publishing costs, thus paving the way for the establishment of an endowment to support academic camps at AU for disadvantaged local youth. Kounte Threadgill became the first camper to benefit Summer 2022 (see photo); another *Street Names* camper will attend this summer. AHA support, donor contributions, and book purchasers combine to advance this philanthropic community effort while furthering AHA's mission to preserve and teach Auburn history. The author and AHA *do not* get any financial benefit from book sales. Proceeds support camperships by which AU's Office of Outreach/Auburn Youth Programs provides free tuition, on-campus lodg-

*Left: Members of University Outreach receive \$25,000 check presented by Auburn Heritage Association for an endowment funded by *Street Names* book sales to support academic camps for local youth. From left: Jim Franklin, OPCE assistant director for Auburn Youth Programs; Hope Stockton, Assistant VP for University Outreach and Professional and Continuing Education; AHA President Mary Norman; Dr. Royrickers Cook, Vice President for University Outreach and Associate Provost; and author Sam Hendrix. Below: Kounte Threadgill (front row center), the inaugural recipient of an AU campership funded by book proceeds, attended last summer's ACT Bootcamp. He is pictured with his parents, Kounte, Sr., and Amber Threadgill, and Hendrix and Dr. Cook on the front row and fellow campers on the following rows.*



ing and meals for Auburn youngsters to attend the week-long academic summer camps at AU.

How to purchase or for more info on giving directly to the endowment:

- **IN PERSON** — Check Auburn: A History in Street Names Facebook page or Instagram @auburnstreetnamesbook or <http://aub.ie/auburnstreetnamesbook> for the latest on events and news.
- **AUBURN BOOKSTORES** — J&M Bookstore, AU Bookstore, Auburn Oil Booksellers, and Well Red
- **CONTACT THE AUTHOR** — Email samhendrix@auburn.edu

Renew Your AHA Membership

Send your check for new or renewed membership in the enclosed envelope to Auburn Heritage Association, P.O. Box 2248, Auburn AL 36831.

Levels include:

Individual—\$30
Family—\$35
Friend—\$55
Patron—\$100
Business—\$250
Lifetime—\$750

NEW OR RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY

JUNE 2022-JANUARY 2023

Jay Jones
Herbert Martin
James C. Warman
Robin Craft
Martha Nell Fuller
James and Sue Haygood
Angelyn and Brian Conway
William F. and Sharon Trimble
Conrad Ross
Bobby and Fredressa Whittenburg
Gerald and Carol Hanks
William and Mary Gwin
Sandra Mills
Gerald and Glennelle Halpin
Glenda and Mickey Logue
Carolyn Tamblyn
Anne Tamblyn Shaw
William and Carla Candler
Mrs. Robert H. Couch
L. B. and Jane Chastain
Elizabeth D. Lipscomb
Les and Pat Tremaine
William and Sharon Trimble
Anna and Greg Solomon
Brian and Kim Walker
Jo Ann Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Madison P. Jones, III

Robert and Barbara Patton
Jo Ann Robertson and
Lynn Dickens
Suzanna Rawlins
Clyde and Deanna Prather
Taylor Littleton
K. E. Williams, Jr.
Wayne Alderman
Ralph and Carol Levy
Anne Cullars Graves

FRIEND LEVEL

Judith S. Melville
Henry and Trudy Baker
Dean and Gail Hoffman
Ursula Higgins
Peggy and Ernest Todd

PATRON LEVEL

Ewell and Jane Elliott
W. Bert Hitchcock
Phillip Chansler
Richard and Edna Phelan
Julie W. Littlejohn
Cecil and Alice Yarbrough
Ron and Rebecca Anders
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Ferril
William and Laura Dyas

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

Clara Clothiaux
Jim Whatley

GIFT IN MEMORY OF MARY ELIZABETH SHAW

Ann D. Cousins

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Anonymous
Anonymous
Ms. Lucinda Cannon
Mr. and Mrs. Race Cannon
Ms. Carol Clemmons
Ann Cousins
Mr. Nick Davis and
Mr. Sergio Marentes
Mrs. Frances P. Dillard
Mrs. Ercel Friel Donnehoo
Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. David Elton
Mr. Jim Folmar
Mr. John Folmar
Ms. Nancy F. Huey
Mrs. Jean Friel Hultgren
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Lipscomb
Mr. Lan Lipscomb
Mrs. Linda Silavent McMillan
Mrs. H.D. Norman
Ms. Susan H. Retzlaff
F. Allen and Louise K. Turner
Charitable Foundation
Mr. Jim Whatley, Jr.

GIFTS TO AHA HISTORIC MARKER FUND

Sam and Mary Ellen Hendrix
St. Luke's CME Church

BE A LANTERN TOUR CORPORATE SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER!

For more information,
contact AHA at
pinetucket2@gmail.com

Membership Reception, Annual AHA Meeting Planned Sunday, April 16, at Water Oak Manor



Auburn Heritage Association invites all members, friends and prospective members to our annual membership reception and business meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 16, at Water Oak Manor.

This event will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the historic home located at 232 Chadwick Lane (the Kiesel Park road). Water Oak Manor is one of Auburn's oldest homes, dating to 1840.

AHA President Mary Norman said the event will mark a wel-

come return to "business as usual" after it was cancelled the past two years due to the global pandemic.

Refreshments will be provided, and President Norman will update attendees on recent and ongoing efforts of Auburn Heritage to keep Auburn's community history on the minds of her citizens.

Attendees will also vote on the proposed slate of officers for the next two years' work. Candidates for the board and its officer positions are listed on this page.

At the gathering, two books will be available for purchase: *Auburn Sweet Auburn* (Pine Hill Cemetery history) and *Auburn: A History in Street Names*.

Proposed AHA Board for 2023-25

These names are put forward to be voted on April 16 as Auburn Heritage Association officers and board members for two-year appointments beginning this spring:

Officers: President, Mary Norman; Vice President, Charles Hendrix; Treasurer, Margaret Shirah; Secretary, Sam Hendrix. Board members: Maiben Beard, Carol Clemmons, Heather Chastain Collins, Anna Ruth Gatlin, Susan Melton, Shannon Walden, and Kim Walker.

Relic from Auburn Female Institute Donated to AU Archives

When City of Auburn officials prepared for expansion of the Jan Dempsey Arts Center on Opelika Road this spring, staff members discovered a rectangular cement block weighing 150 pounds and inscribed, "Auburn Female Institute, Erected by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Auburn." The end is also inscribed with a date: October 24, 1893.

An invitation to Auburn Female Institute's "first annual commencement exercises" held in AU Special Collections shows that event's date as June 4, 1894. It is reasonable to conclude the Institute opened in fall 1893, with its first graduation held the following spring.



(continued on page 6)

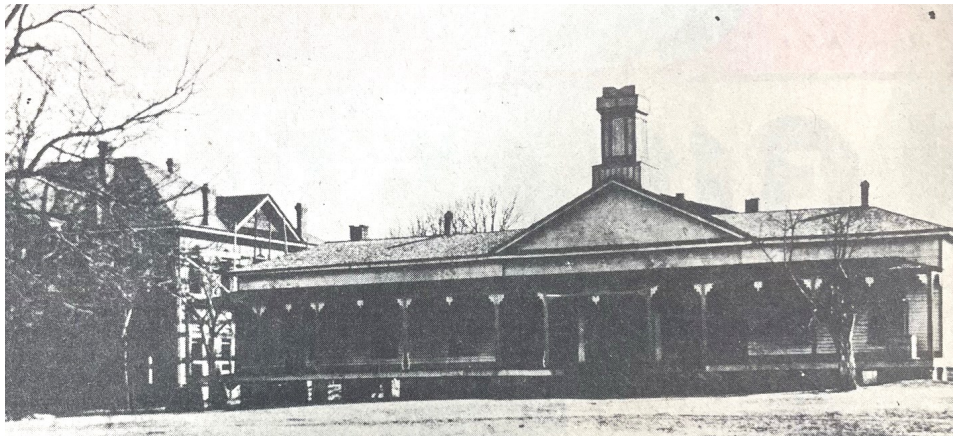
Auburn Female Institute

(continued from page 5)

To help preserve this bit of Auburn history, Jan Dempsey Center officials donated the piece to Auburn University Special Collections and Archives, where it joins AU's permanent collection of miscellaneous historical items.

Auburn Female Institute was not the first school in town, but it played a pivotal role in the history of education in Auburn. Auburn Female Institute's 1894-95 catalogue reported that the Institute focused on educating young women, since the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama was, by this time, accepting women students. Despite the Institute's name, boys were permitted to enroll in its primary and intermediate grades as they prepared for admission to the A&M College.

After the Civil War, a one-story wooden building was constructed south of the intersection of today's Gay Street and Tichenor Avenue, where the old post office/current city administration building stands. A chair manufacturing plant opened in this place, and after that business closed, William F. Slaton used the building to house his Slaton Academy for boys. Slaton, a former member of the Auburn Guards, had been taken prisoner in the Civil War and barely evaded being shot for



Auburn Female Institute, about 1900 (AU Archives photo from *Auburn Bulletin*)

violating terms of his parole. Slaton's academy prepared boys for admission to the East Alabama Male College, later the A&M College. Slaton would later leave Auburn and head Atlanta City Schools.

Auburn Female Institute began its life in the same building as Slaton's Academy.

The late Ann Pearson, writing about Auburn Female Institute in the August 30, 1978, issue of the *Auburn Bulletin*, described its original building as "a rambling, frame, one-story, gingerbread-trimmed structure that included grades one through eleven." It held an assembly room, five recitation rooms, and a 300-volume library.

Girls who enrolled at the Auburn Female Institute studied English, Latin, history, science, literature, art, and drawing. This was the prep school Kate Broun, Willie Little, and Margaret Kate Teague attended before they enrolled as API's first

three degree-seeking coeds in 1892. This school closed in 1899, and a grammar school/high school succeeded it, continuing the line that led to today's Auburn City Schools.

The cement block, discovered in the Jan Dempsey Center, dates to October 1893 despite the building housing the Female Institute pre-dating this time by two decades. The cement block's purpose and how it came to the building is unclear. We at Auburn Heritage sincerely appreciate the City of Auburn preserving this unique bit of local history by adding it to AU's Special Collections.

Greg Schmidt, head of the Auburn University Special Collections and Archives, invites anyone to stop by and see this or other items on display on the first floor of Ralph B. Draughon Library. Hours are Sundays, 1-9 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., except Wednesday, when the Archives remains open until 9 p.m.

St. Luke CME Church Marker Dedicated

Members of St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church assembled Nov. 6 to celebrate 150 years of worshiping at the corner of what is now Donahue Drive and Glenn Avenue in Auburn.

Highlighting the occasion was the dedication of a historic marker sponsored by the church with the assistance of Auburn Heritage Association.

The earliest members of St. Luke CME Church were African-American slaves, who, during, Pre-Civil War worship services, sat in the balcony of the Auburn Methodist Church building. After the Civil War, their freedom gained, these members arranged for their own meeting place at the current location. In 1872, the first deed was filed. In 1907, local businessmen donated the land on which the first sanctuary and parsonage were built. From 1959 to 1982, the members worked to raise the \$225,000 needed to build a new 380-seat house of worship. The first worship and dedication services were held

Dec. 20, 1981.

Speakers at the St. Luke dedication included Minister Morris Lewis and Auburn City Council Member Beth Whitten.



Dedicating the St. Luke CME Church marker were, from left, Susan Melton, AHA board member; Charles Hendrix, AHA vice president; Minister Morris Lewis of St. Luke's; Wanda Lewis; AHA President Mary Norman; and Sam Hendrix, AHA secretary.





P.O. Box 2248
Auburn, AL 36831

Non-Profit Org

US Postage PAID

Permit #34

Auburn, AL

Return Service Requested

AUBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



Water Oak Manor

Featuring refreshments, outdoor seating, along with President Norman's update on AHA activities and the election of new board members and officers. Bring a prospective member along and enjoy the afternoon with friends at historic Water Oak Manor on Chadwick Ln. (the road to Kiesel Park).

See page 5 for more details.

*Invites
You
to the*

AHA Membership Reception

Sunday, April 16, 2023

3 to 5 p.m.

Water Oak Manor
232 Chadwick Lane, Auburn

www.auburnheritageassoc.org

pinetucket2@gmail.com

Read and share updates on our Auburn Heritage Association Facebook page.