

The Newsletter of Auburn Heritage Association

Established in 1974—Celebrating 41 Years!



Progress thru Preservation



The Auburn Heritage Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Auburn's history
Donations are tax deductible

HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION FOR “THE BOTTLE” SET FOR APRIL 25

The Auburn Heritage Association will erect and dedicate a new historic marker for the location known as “The Bottle” on April 25, 2015 at 2:30pm. The location of “The Bottle” is at the corner of Alabama Highway 147 (North College Street) and US Highway 280.

Built in 1924 by John “Chero-cola” Williams of Opelika, the Bottle was a giant bright orange Nehi Bottle built of wood. Known as the “Twist Inn”, the Bottle was a popular gathering place for tourist and locals alike. The Bottle stood at the same location for nine years and was 64 feet tall and 49 feet in diameter. The ground floor was a grocery store and service station. The second and third stories were living quarters. The “bottle cap” was the roof. It had an inside spiral oak staircase which went up to the balcony where parties were held and locals and tourists spun their yarns. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited “The Bottle” on one of his trips to Auburn.



The Bottle burned one morning in the fall of 1936. Even though the structure no longer exists, the location is still on maps and GPS and known as “The Bottle”.

Several members of John Williams family will be attending the marker dedication.

AHA MEMBERSHIP PARTY SLATED FOR MAY 14

The annual Auburn Heritage Association Membership Party will be held Thursday, May 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Water Oak Manor on Chadwick Lane, owned by Susan and George Konstant. The Konstant's have graciously donated their beautifully restored home for the occasion. Invitations for the party will be mailed to current members along with the nomination committee suggestions for

Water Oak Manor



new officers and board members. Please mark the date and plan to attend and visit this remarkable home that has been lovingly restored. The property came from the Creek Indian, Fus-hatch-cah-har-jo and sold to the J.C. Watson Co. The house was built shortly thereafter in 1840. A few years ago, the Konstant's saved and moved the Allie Glenn house that was originally on Highway 14 and creatively added it to the side of the 1840 original structure. Both are Greek Revival raised cottages. It will be a wonderful event to tour the home.

HISTORIC MARKER FOR FARMVILLE/BOTSFORD SCHOOL

The AHA Board has voted to sponsor the historic marker for the Farmville Community Center/ Botsford School. As the oldest standing school building in Lee County, the Botsford school was built in 1923 with and named for the Botsford family who came to the area around 1839 and donated the land for the new school. Three classrooms were built which held grades one through three, four and five and six and seven. Each room had a pot-bellied stove for heat. Two of the classrooms could be joined by moving folding doors to create an auditorium and the first principal was Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley. Families attending through the early years included Bradley's, Wood's, Clement's and Cooper's. It remained a school until 1950. In 1958, the Farmville Community Club was formed and purchased the Botsford School from the State of Alabama for \$500. Early Trustees were Milligan Ernest, Ward T. Bryant, and Louise L. Pittman. Mrs. A. C. Carter was Secretary. The Farmville Community Club had remained in existence since 1958 and continues as a club, meeting quarterly at the old schoolhouse. Pot-Luck suppers, community meetings and social gatherings are still held there. The marker dedication is expected to be held in June.

Farmville Community Center—Botsford School



LANTERN TOUR TO BE HELD OCTOBER 8 & 9

The Auburn Heritage Association will hold its bi-annual Historic Pine Hill Cemetery Lantern Tour this year on Thursday and Friday nights, October 8 and 9 this year.



Please join us for this most memorable way of discovering, exploring and teaching local Auburn history. We will have some old returning characters and new characters as well. With the cemetery being a treasure trove of history with mayors, educators, doctors, ministers, merchants, and every day people, there is much to choose from to depict the micro-cosmos of Auburn's history.

Returning this year will be Auburn's founder, Judge John J. Harper, and at least one of the five Auburn Presidents buried in Pine Hill. Dr. Charles Cary, Miss Virginia, Uncle Billy, and several other "faithful" will return.

The historic Pine Hill Lantern Tour is an educational project by the Auburn Heritage Association to educate the public about the local history of Auburn. We hope you will bring your children and grandchildren to "witness" the characters portrayed who had an instrumental influence on the formation of Auburn's societal culture and history. The luminaries throughout the cemetery at night are beautiful. And what better way to visit a ghost than in a cemetery at night?



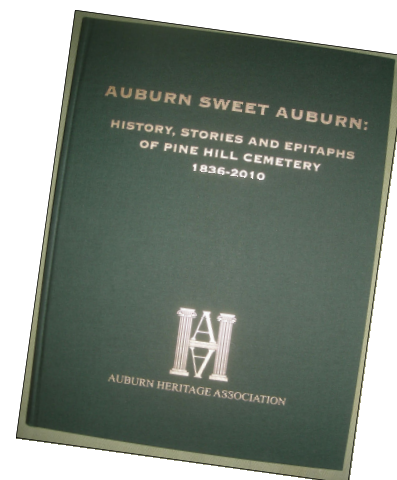
As many of you know, this is an all volunteer event. If anyone would like to participate as a character, guide, with set-up and clean-up, or any other aspect of the tour in planning, please contact Kitt Conner at 332-7911.

Funds from the tour go toward Pine Hill Cemetery. Since 1996, the AHA has invested almost \$70,000 in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Auburn, Sweet Auburn,

History, Stories and Epitaphs of Pine Hill Cemetery 1836-2010”

Introduced in December 2010, this book was 15 years in the making. A volunteer effort of the Auburn Heritage Association, it started with the Lantern Tours at Pine Hill in 1996 and continued with the culmination of this publication. Over the years scripts about the inhabitants of Pine Hill have been researched and written by relatives, volunteers and performed in an amateur theatrical production in the cemetery. However, this publication about Pine Hill goes a bit further. The book is comprised of an introduction of the recent history of Pine Hill, improvements made over the years, historical markings and honors. It also includes a full re-enumeration of the 1600 graves in the cemetery, as well as many well researched biographical histories and numerous photographs.



The beautiful hard bound 8 1/2 " X 11" book is available for \$30.00 from the Auburn Heritage Association. These are limited edition copies and over half have been sold already. We are sure you would want one for each of your family members. To order a book, send a check made payable to the Auburn Heritage Association, P.O. Box 2248, Auburn, AL 36830. If you would like your book mailed to you, please add \$5.00 for postage. If you are local, we can make arrangements for you to pick up your book. Or you can go to www.auburnheritageassoc.org and order the book online.

PEBBLE HILL BEING RENNOVATED

Beginning in March, 2015, the AHA Headquarters, Pebble Hill will undergo renovations by Auburn University. Plans are to build an adjoining office building to the house, so the house can be used solely for historical events and use. In the meantime, the AHA Board will be meeting in the Conference Room of the offices of Machen, McChesney & Chastian. Plans indicate we will be back in the house for board meetings by November , 2015





Auburn Heritage Association
Established in 1974

Officers and Board Members

President—Mary Norman
Vice President & Secretary—Kitt Conner
Treasurer—Angie Denning

Ann Pearson—HCC Representative

BOARD MEMBERS

Trudy Baker
Winnie Boyd
Charles Hendrix
Dora James
Anne Cullars Graves
Sidney James-Nakhjavan
John Rice
Mary Elizabeth Shaw
June Spooner

The Auburn Heritage Association Board meets
the 3rd Wednesday of every month

September—May at Pebble Hill* at 12:00 noon.

Members are encouraged and invited to attend
these meetings.

FACEBOOK PAGE FOR AHA

The AHA has started a new facebook page. Please log in and “like” our page. We will keep you up to date with new happenings in historic preservation around the area and great pictures of the projects of the Auburn Heritage Association.

Also, please feel free to use the page to email us about any preservation activities you know about in and around Lee County.

Already, many AHA pictures of the Lantern Tour, historic homes, historic markers and membership activities are on the page. Feel free to “browse” the page and then join us on facebook to keep up to date on AHA activities.

We welcome your participation and comments!

AHA DONATES to MUSEUM OF EAST ALABAMA

The AHA Board of Directors voted to contribute \$500 to the Museum of East Alabama’s electronic sign. The sign will be housed inside the Museum of East Alabama and will electronically display items and notifications of historical interest within the Auburn-Opelika area.

AHA WEBSITE UPDATED

You may now go online to www.auburnheritageassoc.org and renew your membership to the Auburn Heritage Association. All major credit cards are accepted. You may also order the book

“Auburn, Sweet Auburn” on the website.

AUBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

DONATIONS—NEW MEMBERS—LIFE MEMBERS

DONATIONS AT THE PATRON LEVEL

*Henry & Trudy Baker
Tom & Judy Chase
Jane & Hank Elliot
Richard & Edna Phelan
Peggy S. Todd*

NEW MEMBERS

*Sandra Shell
Stephanie Crofton
Blake Crow
Michele Downs
William Friel
John Wood*

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LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Mrs. Elizabeth D. Lipscomb
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