



Foundation Works To Better “The Far Horizon”

By Paul Kennedy



From 1993 to 2007, I left Walker County early most mornings and came home after the sun set most evenings. During those 14 years, I lived in Jasper and commuted to Birmingham to work for US-DA-NRCS until, as I like to say, “I woke up in Walker County in 2007.” That is the year the Walker Area Community Foundation asked me to be the next director.

When I got the opportunity to work in just one county and flip the table from grant-seeker to grant-maker, it was an easy decision. Little did I know that I would fall in love with this job.

The true work of a community foundation is building teams, building people and building communities. They take time, and when it works, it is beautiful.

I love Walker County because it is my home, and these are my people. Working for this foundation affords me and my team the time to invest in the far horizon, creating positive outcomes for generations.

A community foundation by its nature is the reserve account of the community. Ideally, we look for ways to end a problem while still addressing the symptom(s). We will feed hungry children until we manage to lift them out of the circumstances that require someone or something to augment their nutrition. We work in education, workforce development, community development, animals and seniors. And we empower nonprofits.

This kind of work takes time. I suppose my love of gardening and forestry was a good teacher. You cannot harvest tomorrow what you plant today – the care between the start and the finish is critical to the success of the final product.

Excerpt from The Birmingham News This Is Alabama column

Celebrating 200 Years

By Pam Fikes, WACF Staff and Bicentennial Committee Member

As the State of Alabama celebrates its bicentennial birthday, we want to spotlight some of the people and places that made our area what it is today and our contributions to the state of Alabama. The Walker County, Alabama Traveling Exhibit highlights the history of our communities, the places and people that created this great county, and the photos that remind us of where it all began. The exhibit will be on display in each incorporated community of Walker County throughout 2018.



The project was made possible through a grant from the Alabama Bicentennial Commission and the work of the Walker County Alabama Bicentennial Committee. Committee members are: Pam Callahan-Walker County Arts Alliance, Kathy Chambliss-City of Jasper, Tana Collins-Bevill State Community College, Pick Deason-Walker County Genealogical Society, Pam Fikes-Walker Area Community Foundation, Linda Lewis-Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, Pat Morrison- Bankhead House & Heritage Center and local historian, Mike Putman-Jasper Main Street, Rodger Starnes-local historian, Holly Trawick-Walker College Foundation and Rick Watson-local historian.

In October 2019, the Bankhead House & Heritage Center will host Making Alabama-A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit presented by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, displaying 200 years of Alabama history and beyond. The exhibit recently opened in the capitol in the Old Supreme Court Library.

This impressive display blends artistic collages, interactive computer tablets and an audio medley of song and spoken word to tell the story of Alabama – from becoming a territory to achieving statehood. It also conveys a message of “Hope” in its presentation about the future.

The exhibit will be on tour for 19 months, traveling to all 67 of Alabama’s counties. Four exhibits have been built, and they will travel the state concurrently so that all counties will be able to experience this historic event in that time period.

MONTH LOCATION ADDRESS TOWN FESTIVAL

FEB	2018	Jasper Civic Center	204 19th Street East	
MAR	2018	Sumiton City Hall	416 State Street	
APR	2018	Parrish Community Center	6484 Highway 269	Parrish CoalFest
MAY	2018	Dora Municipal Building	1485 Sharon Boulevard	Horse Creek Jubilee
MAY	2018	Kansas Town Hall (small display)	497 Old Highway 78	Kansas Day
JUN	2018	Nauvoo Town Hall	176 McDaniel Avenue	Nauvoo Car Show
JUL	2018	Sipsey Community Center	3737 Sipsey Road	Heritage Festival
AUG	2018	Cordova City Hall	154 Main Street	Blue Devil Day
SEP	2018	Carbon Hill Community Center	215 NW 2nd Street	Hill Fest
OCT	2018	Oakman Senior Center	10147 Main Street	Days Gap Festival
NOV	2018	Eldridge City Hall	208 Smothers Avenue	Eldridge Day
DEC	2018	Jasper Public Library	98 18th Street East	

On display during 2019 at the Townley Community Center - 62 Townley School Road

HONORARIUMS: November 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

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Morgan and Matt Allen
Ell and Elmer Swanson

Lisa and Barry Allen
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Robbin and Anthony Allen
Betty Underwood

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Jeanette and Pete Smith

Rev. and Mrs. Alan Beasley
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Dr. Gene Birdsong
Kay Byars

Margery Birdsong
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Chapman and Al Blanton
Brenda Beard

Danky Blanton
Brenda Beard

Daphne and Jim Bradley
Judy and Steve Hager
Jane and Sam Murphy

Al Brandon
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Patsy Brown
Alice Short

Mr. and Mrs. Ed J. Bull
Betty Underwood

Jean Byars
Kay Byars

Kay Byars
Gene Birdsong
Jeanette and Pete Smith
Betty Underwood

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Mike Putman

Pam and Kevin Callahan
Katie Pickler
Mike Putman

Mr. and Mrs. Reaves Crabtree
Kay Byars

Karen and Bubba Crump
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Josephine Davis
Kay Byars

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Gene Birdsong
Sylvia Crump
Corky Hagen
Tab and Deb Hudson
Judy and Gerson May
Brenda and Al McAdams
Jimmie Carol Sherer
Jeanette and Pete Smith
Betty Underwood

Billie Ruth Drummond
Kay Byars
Betty Underwood

Toni and John Drummond
Gene Birdsong

Vicki Drummond
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Corky Hagen
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Karen Duke
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Lee and Stan Eggers
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Rev. and Mrs. Tex Ergle
Jeanette and Pete Smith

**FUMC Ladies Sunday
School Class**
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Euna Mae Gambrell
Betty Underwood

Dr. Amelia Goodenough
Jerome Newmark

Jason Goodenough
Jerome Newmark

Shelley and Joe Graham
Judy and Steve Hager
Jane and Sam Murphy

Jane and Alec Grant
Jane and Sam Murphy

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Kay Byars
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Betty Underwood

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Corky Hagen

Dr. Michael Hagen
Corky Hagen

Judy Hager's Birthday
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Judy and Steve Hager
Jane and Sam Murphy
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Bob Boylan

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Mary Neal Hendrix

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Jeanette and Pete Smith

Lynda and George Hiller
Jane and Sam Murphy

Sharon and David Hogg
Judy and Steve Hager

Kristine and Joe Holley
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Susan Imbrulia
Jeanette and Pete Smith

Eddie Jackson's Birthday
Cristy and Lincoln Moody

Susan Jackson
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Sandy and Charles Sanders

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Corky Hagen
Jeanette and Pete Smith
Betty Underwood

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Emergency Services**
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Corky Hagen

Linda and John Word
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Visit our website: wacf.org



The Bankhead House & Heritage 2018 Remaining Exhibit Schedule

Celebrating our Communities: Chapter 2

Featuring artifacts from Dora and Sumiton
March 20-September 14
Culturally significant items representing our
rich history from these communities in Walker County.

The Magic of Music

October 2-December 28
Opening Reception: October 2, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Walk through our collection of instruments and music related items
from local residents and marvel at the evolution of music.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
Join the Walker Area Community Foundation Group and the Bankhead House & Heritage Center Group on Facebook for the latest news on upcoming events.

HOUSEKEEPING: If you would rather not receive the newsletter, please contact the Foundation.

QUESTION: Would you be interested in receiving an electronic newsletter? If so, please email us at info@wacf.org.



- Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-4:00pm and the third Saturday of each month 10:00am-2:00pm
- Admission is FREE
- Please call ahead to schedule a tour appointment or groups of 10 or more people