



The Historic Huntsville Foundation is committed to building a vibrant future for Huntsville-Madison County by preserving our past. Since 1974, we have promoted the protection and preservation of Huntsville-Madison County's historically, architecturally and culturally significant structures and sites through education, advocacy and public policy.

Foundation Forum

Foundation Forum and Historic Huntsville Foundation Newsletter



HHF volunteer Katie Stamps and board member Becky Carstens practice proper cleaning techniques at the Cemetery Conservation Workshop in Glenwood Cemetery.

Paying our Respects

The Preservation of our Historic Cemeteries

Donna Castellano

Every historic place has meaning for those of us who care about the preservation of historic spaces, but there is something about an old cemetery that captures our imaginations and calls us to linger. Often, families are no longer nearby to tend these gravesites. The preservation community has a special role in protecting these sacred spaces.

A workshop recently sponsored by the Historic Huntsville Foundation helped address this need. Partnering with the City of Huntsville, HHF held a two-day Cemetery Conservation Workshop at Glenwood Cemetery, an African-American cemetery established by the City of Huntsville in 1870. Jason Church led the workshop. Jason is a materials conservator with the National Park Service's Materials Conservation Program. Before joining the National Park Service, Jason was the conservator and metals expert for the city of Savannah, Georgia's Department of Cemeteries.

The Cemetery Conservation workshop provided education and training to members of the

Huntsville-Madison County community interested in maintaining, restoring and researching the history of our historic cemeteries. Personnel from the cities of Huntsville and Madison Cemetery Departments and staff from the Alabama Historical Commission attended the conference along with volunteers from the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, University of Alabama-Huntsville Department of History and Historic Huntsville Foundation for hands-on lessons in the fine art of historic tombstone cleaning, maintenance and repair.

Jason explained that cemetery care had once been a touchstone of southern culture. Decoration Day was a red-letter day in church calendars and the gravesites of loved ones were frequently sites for family reunions. Graves sites and tombstones were regularly tended through these traditions. As children and their descendants relocated to new cities and towns, however, some gravesites became neglected.

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Jason and his daughters making memories at Movies in the Park.

“HHF ADVOCATES SO FUTURE GENERATIONS
CAN ENJOY DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE
THE WAY THAT I HAVE,
THE WAY MY DAUGHTERS NOW DO.”

Paying our Respects can't

Without family nearby to tend graves, municipalities who own and manage cemeteries have greater responsibilities. The City of Huntsville manages nine cemeteries, three of which are listed to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. Maple Hill Cemetery is also listed to the National Register of Historic Places. Joy McKee, Director of Huntsville's Operation Green Team and Huntsville Cemetery Director, and her staff work diligently to care for our city's cemeteries and are especially mindful of the responsibilities associated with Huntsville's historic cemeteries.

Joy notes, "Huntsville sets high standards for historic preservation, and the specialized training our staff received at the Cemetery Conservation workshop help us be better stewards of our historic cemeteries. I am grateful to the Historic Huntsville Foundation for helping us bring this resource to our staff."

FROM THE CHAIRMAN Jason Vandiver

As the warmer days of summer approach, they are accompanied by a familiar array of sights and sounds. Big Spring Park begins to once again beckon to all of those who enjoy going for a stroll, having a picnic or taking in a film. My family and I make it a point to do all three, on those special Friday nights when Historic Huntsville Foundation presents their Movies in the Park series.

My name is Jason Vandiver and I am thrilled to serve as HHF's Chairman for 2017. My involvement with HHF's board over the past four years has undoubtedly been very rewarding and has coincided with an exciting season in my life. During that time, my family has expanded and I've watched my daughters grow up way too fast. I have held their hands while we wandered through a maze of marbles and candy bars at Harrison Brothers Hardware. I've sung along to Let It Go while we watched Frozen in the park with 5,000 of our neighbors. When they are grown, I am certain that these memories are the ones that I will truly cherish and they wouldn't be possible without HHF and its mission to preserve and promote downtown Huntsville.

I am very fortunate to be able to stake the claim that I am native of Huntsville. During my youth and more notably over the past ten years, I have watched as downtown experienced its own changing of the seasons. Not the kind of change that brings vibrant leaves or fallings snow, but the kind that brings energy and opportunity. For those who may still wonder, I can assure you that downtown has awoken from its slumber. As entrepreneurial investment increases and new structures begin to take shape, HHF continues to do what it has always done. We advocate for the legacy and the charm of downtown so future generations can enjoy it the way that I have, the way my daughters now do.

This year we are looking to expand the reach of that advocacy by expanding the scope of our signature event. We are entering into our fifth year of our Movies in the Park series and each year I marvel at how large it has gotten. This year, with the help of our newest sponsor Cadence Bank, we are giving it even more room to grow. We will be doubling the number of films that we offer from three to six. Twice the number of movies gives us added flexibility to offer a variety of titles and attract even more folks into downtown. We want the second and fourth Fridays in June, July and August to be synonymous with HHF and Movies in the Park.

Finally, I want to thank all of you on behalf of HHF for continuing to support our mission; be it through your donations, your patronage at Harrison Brothers or your attendance at Movies in the Park. I am honored to be your Chairman this year and I look forward to what we can accomplish together.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

Not when it's HHF's Movies in the Park!



Smiling faces at Movies in the Park

Donna Castellano

We knew we had a hit on our hands, but there is little doubt that attendance records for 2017 Movies in the Park will hit record numbers. The HHF summer film series already has a proven formula for success: three family friendly movies in Big Spring Park on the second Fridays of June, July and August. The dates for 2017 are June 9, July 14, and August 11.

For the upcoming season, HHF is throwing in a few plot twists to keep you glued to the screen. What is the best prequel to a Movie in the Park showing? How about Music in the Park, performed by musicians from the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra! HSO musicians will serenade our audiences with everything from Mozart to movie

scores prior to film showings. Part of the musical program will include an educational feature for children. Many thanks to Sam Lowry, HHF member and HSO board member, for such an inspired idea and his commitment to make it happen.

But the good news doesn't stop here! Thanks to a special sponsorship by Cadence Bank, HHF will offer a bonus movie series on FOURTH FRIDAYS, or June 23, July 28 and August 25. So, mark your calendars for June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, August 11 and August 25. We will be there with fun, free, family-friendly movies!

Stay tuned for more details as we announce the final movie line up. For information about food vending opportunities or to download an application, check out our website at www.historichuntsville.org

Movies begin at Sundown
Food vendors serve at 5:30
HSO performance at 7:00
Big Spring Park East
June 9, July 14, August 11
Cadence Bank Series
June 23, July 28, August 25



GLENWOOD CEMETARY

Donna Castellano

HISTORY LIVES HERE

Those buried in Glenwood Cemetery have a history unlike any other in our city. An African American Cemetery founded by the City of Huntsville in 1870, Glenwood Cemetery is Huntsville's oldest surviving African-American burial ground. Glenwood is the resting place of people born slaves, emancipated, and who lived out the remainder of their days in the separate-but-equal south. Buried here are people of great accomplishment, including doctors, educators, clergymen, political leaders and artisans. Tombstones identify those who fought in America's war, men who risked their lives in defense of a nation who denied their civil rights.

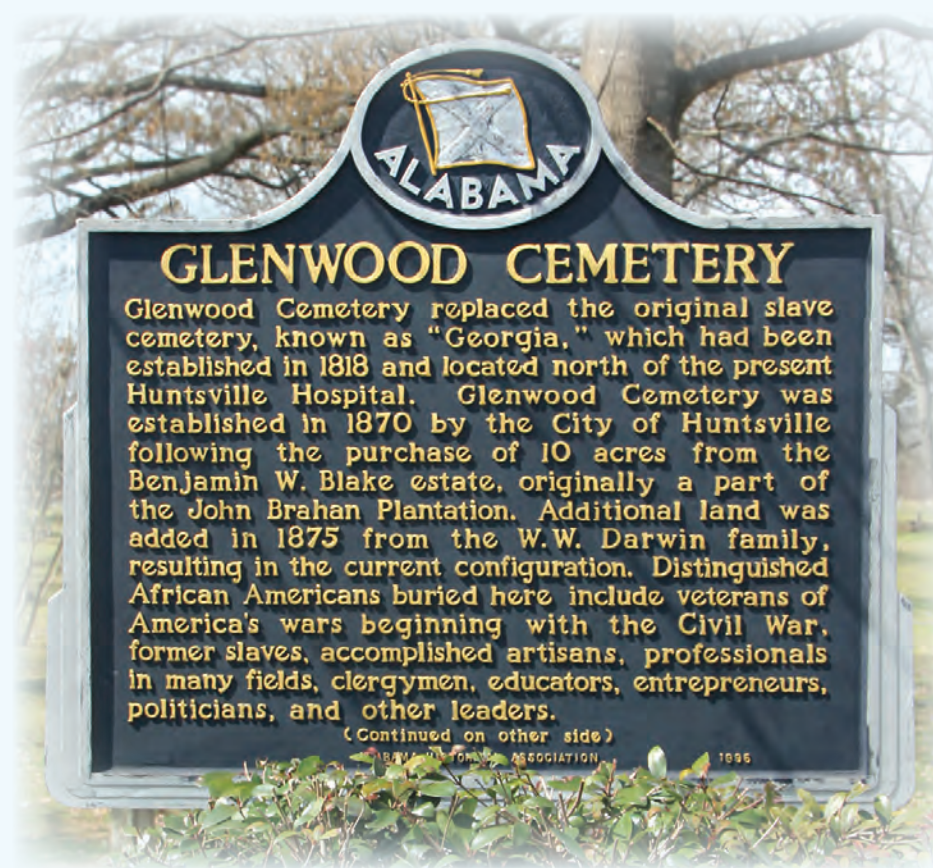
City of Huntsville Cemetery Director Joy McKee is determined that the people buried in Glenwood Cemetery and their contributions to our community are never forgotten. No burial records for Glenwood were kept until 1950s and there was no historical plot of the cemetery. Working with community volunteers, McKee and her staff coordinated a project that identified, located and cataloged all the graves in Glenwood cemetery, many of which were unmarked. Their efforts led to the listing of Glenwood Cemetery to Alabama's Register of Historic Cemeteries. McKee anticipates that the city of Huntsville will pursue a nomination of Glenwood Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

The history of Glenwood Cemetery really begins with Georgia, Huntsville's first African American cemetery established on two acres of land sold by LeRoy Pope to Huntsville City Commissioners in 1818. The site of the original Georgia cemetery is on land now occupied by the Huntsville Hospital parking garage, near the intersection of Madison Street and St. Clair Avenue. Huntsville leaders decided in 1870 to establish a new African American cemetery on the city's western boundaries, on ten acres of land between Holmes and Clinton Avenue. As no one kept burial records of those buried in Georgia, it is unknown how many graves were moved from the Georgia cemetery to Glenwood and how many bodies remain in the ground beneath the hospital complex.



THE TOMBSTONE OF HOOT JAMES; MADE FROM BRICKS AND CERAMIC TILE SQUARES.

The first efforts to those identify and document those buried at Glenwood began in 1993 when Mrs. Ollye Conley took her students from the Academy for Space and



Foreign Language to the cemetery on a search for Huntsville's African American history. Documenting Glenwood Cemetery became a special project of the Academy, as Mrs. Conley, students and parents used information from tombstones to research those buried there and their history. Mrs. Conley and her students received commendations from Presidents Clinton and Bush for their work.

The research compiled by Mrs. Conley and her students led to the listing of Glenwood Cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register in July 2015. This project was a collaborative effort with Alabama A&M University graduate students Deirdre Childress and David Stovall, retired AAMU professor Joseph Lee, Mrs. Conley and City of Huntsville cemetery staff. This core group prepared the documentation and submitted the application to the Alabama Historical Commission.

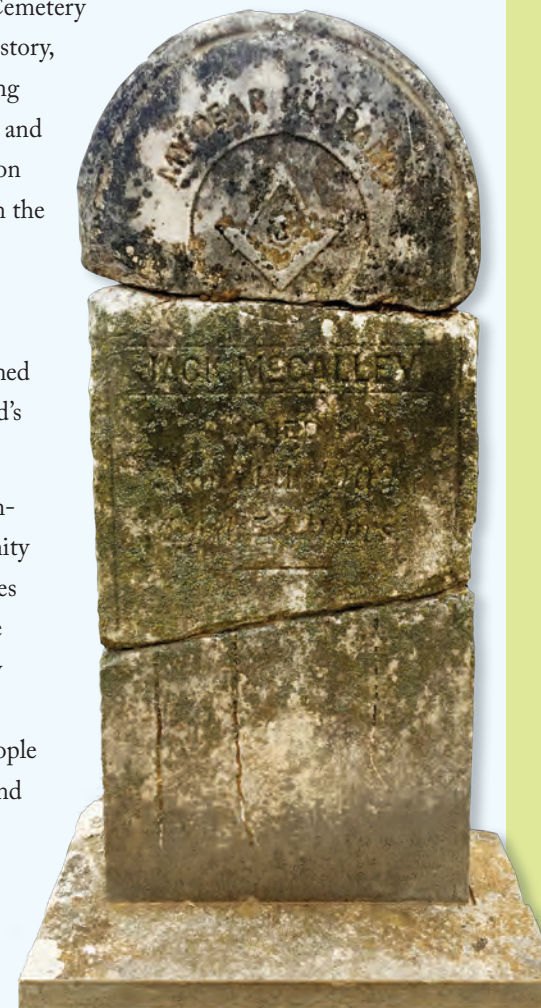
Listing to the Alabama Register opened the door for a city-funded project that pulled in archaeologists, anthropologists, preservationists and community volunteers that created a plot map and reconstructed an inventory of all those buried at Glenwood Cemetery. This survey and map shows who is buried where, and it also identifies unmarked graves.

One goal of compiling this information is to put it in the hands of individuals searching for their family histories. All the names and information on tombstones will be placed in a public database where it can be available for public use. This would help those doing genealogical work and also help those interested in slavery or researching Huntsville's African American community. The grave database gives researchers a tangible way to connect to this history.

The next potential milestone in Glenwood's future is listing to the National Register of Historic Places. This designation would give Glenwood Cemetery and those buried there the recognition they deserve. The Historic Huntsville Foundation has pledged our support for this endeavor.

Building community support for Glenwood Cemetery is a priority of the City of Huntsville. Joy McKee is hopeful that as more people come to learn about Glenwood Cemetery and its place in our city's history, they will consider supporting efforts to repair headstones and other cemetery beautification projects. In fact, one reason the Cemetery Conservation Workshop was held at Glenwood Cemetery was so volunteers could work with trained professionals to repair Glenwood's broken tombstones.

There is a solemnity to Glenwood Cemetery, a peaceful dignity that uplifts the spirit and touches the soul. The people buried here came from all walks of life; they were mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives. People rejoiced when they were born and grieved when they died. By preserving Glenwood Cemetery, we pay our respects to those buried here and their history.



THE TOMBSTONE OF JACK MCCALLEY



ADOPT A GRAVE

You can help with restoration efforts at Glenwood Cemetery through a tax-deductible donation to the City of Huntsville, Cemetery Department through Operation Green Team. A qualified professional should only do monument repair. The cost to repair and rest one broken tombstone is approximately \$350. For information on how to help with Huntsville City Cemeteries, call Joy McKee at 256.427.5048 or joy.mckee@huntsvilleal.gov.

CEMETERY UPKEEP

Leave it to the Professionals

It seems like it would be a good deed to clear away overgrown vegetation at a cemetery or clean a tombstone so the name of the deceased can be read. But it is not. Alabama has strict laws protecting cemeteries and gravesites, and their violation can result in Class A misdemeanor or Class C felony charges. For more information about laws governing cemeteries and gravesites, consult the Alabama Burial Act, which is available on the website of the Alabama Historic Commission, Cemetery Program page. Follow the link, Alabama's Historic Cemeteries: A Basic Guide to Preservation.

Happy Birthday, Alabama

You've come a long way, baby!

It's a big deal when you turn 200, and Alabama will pass this huge bicentennial birthday on December 14, 2019. Such an occasion requires a celebration a bit more elaborate than cake and ice cream, and folks across Alabama are working on special events and educational programs so our state is properly honored.

Many planned events coincide with key dates that mark Alabama's transition from a territory to a state. Governor Robert Bentley and Bicentennial Committee Chairman Arthur Orr officially announced the Bicentennial commemoration in Montgomery, Alabama on Friday, March 3, 2017, marking the 200-year anniversary of the creation of the Alabama Territory. On May 5, the city of Mobile will host the formal launch of the three-year celebration. All eyes will turn to Huntsville from July 5 to August 2, 2019 as we commemorate the constitutional convention and the drafting of Alabama's first constitution.

As you read this, organizations across Huntsville and Madison County are busily planning events to celebrate our community's many contributions to Alabama's history. The Historic Huntsville Foundation plans to spotlight Huntsville and Madison County's homes and buildings built by 1819. Our area boasts Alabama's oldest homes. Due to Huntsville's early commitment to preservation,

stellar examples from Alabama's statehood period are extant.

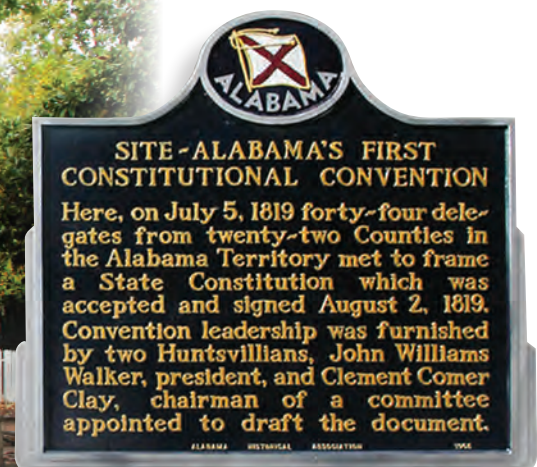
But Huntsville's party doesn't end with the celebration marking the drafting of Alabama's first constitution. July 2019 also marks the fifty-year anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar mission and Neil Armstrong's giant steps for mankind walk on the moon. Huntsville rocket scientists and engineers designed and tested the Saturn V rocket that carried man to the moon.

Huntsville's space age neighborhoods have aged into National Register significance, and the Historic Huntsville Foundation is hopeful that we can mark this auspicious occasion by the listing of McThornmor Acres, a neighborhood created for Huntsville's space age workforce in the 1950s, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Huntsville Foundation is proud that Huntsville will be the home of Alabama's first Space Age Historic District. Adding this achievement to the list of Bicentennial celebrations underscores Huntsville's role in shaping our national history over the past two centuries.

We began as a small town on the southwest frontier, and now Huntsville scientists and engineers lead men to discover and explore new frontiers in space.

A small step for man; a giant leap for mankind.



Carols COCKTAILS HOLIDAY CHEER

A Party that's always in Season!



A dining room table filled with homemade treats is always a membership reception tradition.



How many sheriffs does it take to change a light bulb? Many thanks to Blake Dorning for pitching in when duty called.



Chantay and Aaron Naeger



June Guynes, Beth Wise and Gay Money



The future of Historic Huntsville Foundation: 2017 Board Chairman Jason Vandiver, HBH Store Manager Cara Thornton, and board member Kyla Kelly with husband Matthew.



Diane Strickland, Becky Carstens and Charlie Wear

The highlight of the Historic Huntsville Foundation membership year is our annual holiday Christmas party, "Carols, Cocktails and Holiday Cheer." Fortified with good food and a favorite beverage, guests mingle and catch up in the festively decorated Weeden House.

Fred Coffey, HHF chairman for 2015 and 2016, was in a particularly festive mood, reflecting on the successes of his term and confident good things would continue in 2017 under the leadership of incoming board chairman Jason Vandiver. Fred noted, "The challenge of any organization is to practice its core mission in a way so that it remains relevant and vibrant in a constantly evolving environment. We do that at HHF."



124 Southside Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

2017 Membership Levels & Benefits

Individual/Family Membership \$50

- Guests at holiday membership reception
- Receive invitations to HHF special events and programs
- Receive Foundation newsletter
- Recognition in HHF newsletter

Patron \$125 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Patron Member in HHF newsletter

Benefactor \$250 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Benefactor Member in HHF newsletter
- 10% shopping discount at Harrison Brothers Hardware, excluding consignment and sale merchandise
- Individual or corporate recognition as Benefactor on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Benefactor recognition at HHF's Movies in the Park film series.

Preservation Society \$1,000 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Society member in HHF newsletter
- Individual or corporate recognition as Preservation Society on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Individual or corporate recognition as Sponsor at HHF's Movies in the Park film series

Preservation Partner \$2,500 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Partner in HHF Newsletter
- Individual or corporate recognition as Preservation Partner on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Recognition as Supporting Sponsor of HHF's Movies in the Park film series

Thank you for building a more vibrant future for Huntsville-Madison County by preserving our past!

Membership Levels

- ☐ Yes, Please renew my membership in the Historic Huntsville Foundation.
- ☐ Individual & Family \$50
- ☐ Patron \$125 to \$249
- ☐ Benefactor \$250
- ☐ Preservation Society \$1,000
- ☐ Preservation Partner \$2,500

Name _____

Print name as it should appear on our membership levels and mailings.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Make checks payable to: The Historic Huntsville Foundation

Please send your membership dues to: The Historic Huntsville Foundation
124 Southside Square, Huntsville, AL 35801

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