

# Montevallo *Historical* Times

Vol. 2 No. 1

Newsletter of the Montevallo Historical Society

Winter 2018



## *Holiday Open House*



Officers, directors, and members of the Montevallo Historical Society enjoyed some holiday hospitality at the group's Christmas Open House on December 10, 2017. Treasurer Janice Seaman threw open the doors to the Fox & Pheasant Inn on Shelby Street and treated guests to a delicious selection of tasty morsels and drinks.

There was good cheer all around, and it soon became obvious that everyone in attendance was enjoying the spirit of the season as well as the camaraderie and entertaining stories of their fellow admirers of Montevallo and environs. Thanks to Janice and other MHS members who pitched in to make the afternoon so memorable and pleasant.



(L-R) Charles Binion, Sherry Vallides, Corrinne Miller, Laurie Binion, Anne Hamilton, Jim Day. The most popular room at the Fox and Pheasant was the small dining room where guests loaded their plates with delicious holiday goodies.



(L-R seated) Adelle Simpson, Melinda Nix, and Anne Thomas listen as Jim Day & Janice Seaman offer a preview of planned MHS events and activities for 2018.



(L-R) Marty and Helon Everse share some holiday cheer with Janice Seaman and Anne Hamilton.

**First General Meeting of 2018**  
**January 21, 2018 • Parnell Library 2:00 pm**  
**The Program will Introduce a new Montevallo Memoir!**

# President's Letter

Let's celebrate! Christmas is over, and the New Year is upon us. We've worked through the Advent season and the Twelve Days of Christmas. We said good-bye to 2017, and we're looking ahead to all that this year has in store. So, let's celebrate the past, the present, and the future!

Montevallo commemorated its 200th birthday in 2017, and the Bicentennial Birthday Bash was a big hit.

The Montevallo Historical Society held its organizational meeting, and many friends of the city reconnected.

Main Street received a facelift, and the downtown area caught a new vibe of excitement.

So, what's next?!

As 2018 gains traction, we can continue the celebration by marking the first year of Montevallo's next centennial!

The State of Alabama is just getting started with its three-year bicentennial commemoration, and Shelby

County will be a vital part of those activities. While the Alabama Bicentennial Commission marks various milestones leading to the state's 200th birthday on December 14, 2019, communities like Montevallo are celebrating their history, too!

Therefore, as we bask in the glow of the past and look expectantly toward the future, let's make the most of today.

Your historical society has great plans for this year, and we're set to kick off the first quarterly meeting on Sunday, January 21.

We had a great turnout in September, and we'd like to "pack the house" again.

We'll introduce you to ongoing projects and to innovative ideas that have a place for everyone.

And the program that our vice-president, Clay Nordan, has planned should be something that you won't want to miss.

Come out and join us as we Celebrate Montevallo!



### Officers

James S. Day  
*President*

Clay Nordan  
*Vice-President*

Norman R. McMillan  
*Secretary*

Janice F. Seaman  
*Treasurer*

### Directors

- Kenneth Dukes
- Marty Everse
- Bill Glosson
- Mae Glosson
- Susan Godwin
- Mike Mahan
- John E. McCulley
- Melinda Nix
- Debbie Pendleton
- Anne Thomas
- Sherry L. Vallides

*Montevallo*  
**Historical Society**  
*Opening the Portals of Our Heritage*

**540 Shelby Street  
Montevallo, AL 35115**  
[www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)

 Like us on Facebook

---

© Copyright 2018, Montevallo Historical Society

13 Holds No Jinx for Scholars



THESE SCORE PERFECT RECORD IN ALL CLASSES FOR 18 WEEKS--

Janice McEntee Wins Betty Crocker Award

Janice McEntee is MHS's Betty Crocker Homemaker of the Year. With all senior girls, Janice took the prescribed tests which were returned to the General Mills Company for grading. The numerous questions required logical thinking; skills learned at school and at home yielded helpful answers; practical application of "homemaking experiences provided know-how--facts which aided

(Continued page 2)

Honor Society Comments 90 for Semester's Work

The National Honor Society awarded purple ribbons last week to 13 students for all-A records for the first semester.

Seventy-seven students received second honor roll ribbons, making a total of 90 congratulated by NHS.

All-A students pictured above are (front) Martha Scott, Ruth Crowe, Pam Crowe, Barbara Barclay, Dale Youngblood, Donna Allen.

(Back) Susan Peters, Mini Borealis, Emily Staswell, Susan Lovelady, Bill Scott, Bill Barrett.

Lois Eddy also made the top-honors listing.

77 Make B Honor Roll

Included on second honor roll were Ronnie Albright, Ronald Anderson, Paul Bailey, Tommy Baker, Douglas Ballard, Allan Barclay, Shirley Barrett, Cheryl Blackmon, Charlotte Blackmon.

Johnny Boyd, Hutch Brewster, Annette Dure, Linda Cantrell, Mack Clark, Millie

(Continued p. 8)

SPOTLIGHT

Vol. XIV February 8, 1963 No. 10  
NSA All-American AHSPA First Place  
Montevallo High School, Montevallo, Alabama

MHS Goes Over the Top as--

March of Dimes Drive Nets \$918



DRIVE RESULTS BRING BIG SMILES to school chairman, Mack Clark, Miss DeWent, and Fred Strickland.

"It was the best March of Dimes Drive the school has ever had," declared Miss Susie DeWent, business teacher, as she tallied the final \$918 school collection with Mack Clark and Fred

Strickland, chairman. "I honestly believe that everyone in school contributed in some way," continued Miss DeWent. Evidence of the fact was

(Continued p. 2)

SPOTLIGHT

Added to Wyatt Archive

More than 100 issues of the Montevallo High School student newspaper from 1961 - 1968 were added in September to the W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archives at UM's Carmichael Library.

The **SPOTLIGHT** was an award winning newspaper that began publication in the late 1930's and was edited and produced over the years by MHS journalism students. Faculty advisors for many years were Miss Susie DeMent and Mrs. Carolyn Edfeldt.

The copies added to the archives came from the personal collections of Sandra Albright Rogers, Clay Nordan, and Richard Tingle, all members of the MHS graduating class of 1967. It is hoped that missing issues in certain years as well as entire years before and after this first installment can be filled over time from the high school library's hard copy collection.

University of Montevallo archivist Carey Heatherly and his staff were instrumental in making this latest addition to the Wyatt Archives a reality.

**SPOTLIGHT** can be found by going to [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) and clicking on "Online Archives".



Bicentennial Banners

You can view a slide show of all 76 personalized commemorative banners that were erected all over Montevallo as part of the 2017 Bicentennial Celebration. Go to [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) to find the slide show link.



**It was quite a ...**

# *Bicentennial Bash!*

**Orr Park - September 9, 2017**

The weather couldn't have been better for the 200 year celebration of the founding of Montevallo. Along with food, entertainment, kids' activities, and vendors, the annual car show included in the event set a new attendance record.



All sorts of crafts and other types of vendors were set up for inspection along the walking paths in Orr Park.



A live rhythm & blues band provided musical entertainment for the event.



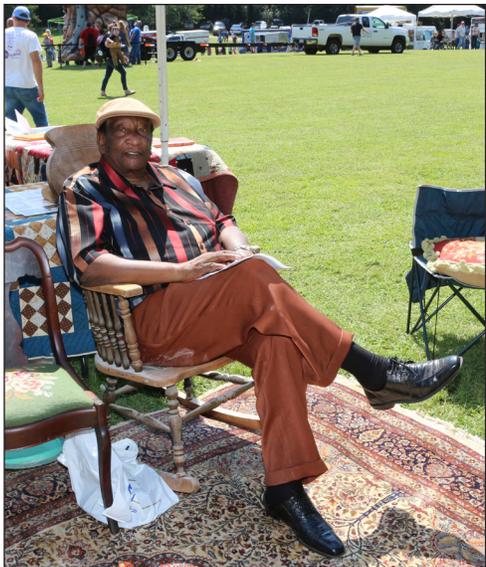
Rock climbing was a favorite activity for young attendees to Montevallo's Bicentennial Bash in September.



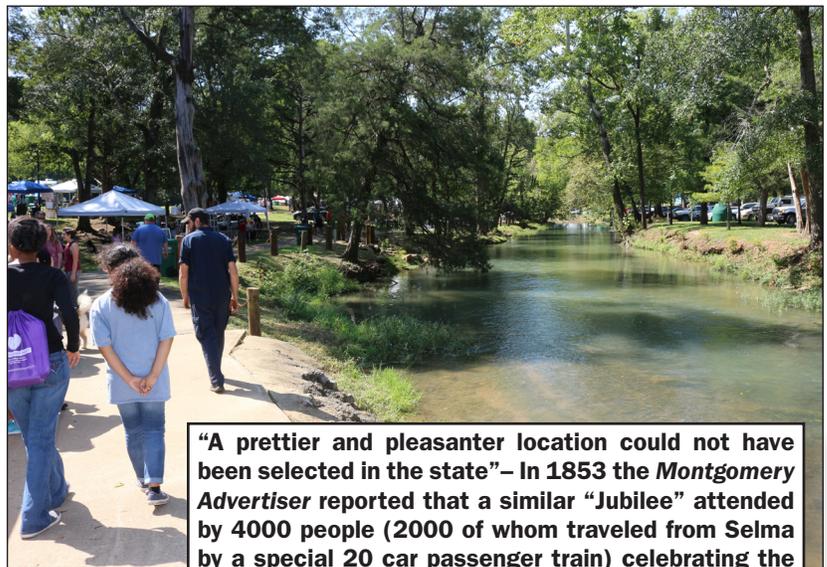
Large crowds came and went throughout the day to beautiful Orr Park on a picture perfect day for a celebration.



Debbie Pendleton (above left) and Anne Thomas welcomed visitors to a booth set up for the recently formed Montevallo Historical Society.



The Historical Society booth was a good place for Rev. Albert Jones to rest for a bit.



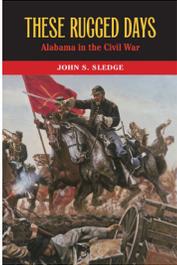
**"A prettier and pleasanter location could not have been selected in the state"– In 1853 the *Montgomery Advertiser* reported that a similar "Jubilee" attended by 4000 people (2000 of whom traveled from Selma by a special 20 car passenger train) celebrating the completion of the railroad from Selma to Montevallo was held near the "noble springs" on Shoal Creek.\***

\* Montevallo – The First Hundred Years – by Eloise Meroney, 1977. Page 25.



There were lots of family oriented activities and vendors under the shade trees along Shoal Creek in Orr Park.

## Author & Historian John S. Sledge Makes Presentation to Packed House



Officers and directors of the Montevallo Historical Society were pleased and honored to have as the program presenter for its first-ever General Meeting, John S. Sledge, Montevallo native and noted Alabama historian and author.

We were also gratified to have so many new members in attendance at the September event at Parnell Library. An unofficial count determined that around 80 members were in the audience for the meeting and presentation.

John Sledge is the oldest son of former University of Montevallo biology professor, Eugene B. Sledge, who became a respected author in his own right following the publication of the vivid account of his experiences (*With the Old Breed, China Marine*) as a combat Marine in the Pacific in World War II.

John lives in Fairhope and works as senior architectural historian for the Mobile Historic Development Commission. He has previously written or collaborated on several other books. Among them are one on Mo-



**John Sledge**

mobile's cemeteries, one on the ornamental iron work found in Mobile's architecture, and another on the Mobile River.

After participating in a Montevallo Bicentennial event a few weeks before, John was invited by MHS Treasurer Janice Seaman to come back for our September 17

meeting to speak about his new history of the Civil War in Alabama, *These Rugged Days*.

The title of the book is a phrase excerpted from the farewell address of Confederate Brig. Gen. R. L. Gibson following the surrender of his troops after the Mobile campaign:

"Hereafter you shall recount to your children, with conscious pride, the story of these rugged days, and you will always greet a comrade of the old brigade with open arms."

Those in the audience were treated to a general explanation by John of his new history that included considerable detail about the blitzkrieg through Alabama in-

flicted on the state by Union Maj. Gen. James Harrison Wilson and his mounted cavalry near the end of the war in the spring of 1865.

Particularly entertaining was John's tale about how his sainted Aunt Octavia, while riding in the family car as she returned to Selma in the 1960's, regaled the family with the blow-by-blow story of how Wilson's Raiders fought their way from Montevallo to Selma along the same route 100 years earlier.

John enlivened his talk with projected photos, drawings, and maps from the period that helped bring home the reality of the events he described.

Our guest took several questions at the end of his presentation, some of which elicited additional interesting information as well as some thought provoking commentary on contemporary issues arising from the legacy of the Civil War.

You can find a link to a YouTube video of John's presentation to the Montevallo Historical Society at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org).



**MHS president Jim Day introduces Montevallo native John Sledge.**



**Following his presentation, John, assisted by daughter, Elena, signed book copies for interested MHS members.**



(1) By the time the meeting got underway, only standing room remained in the Parnell Library Community Room. (2) Jean Sledge (left) mother of John Sledge with Courtney Parker Murphy at the book signing. (3) MHS members were eager for John to personalize their copies of *These Rugged Days*. (4) This photo shows a group of Civil War re-enactors who came through Montevallo in 2000 retracing the path of Wilson's Raid through central Alabama in the spring of 1865. (5) Kirk and Carol Lightfoot, joined many new MHS members at the meeting in September.



## Mrs. Leslie Hubbard Is Named "Polio Mother of the Year"

Reprinted from the January 22, 1959 edition of the *Shelby County Times-Herald*

Mrs. Gene Lewis Hubbard of Montevallo, wife of Dr. Leslie H. Hubbard and mother of three children, has been named Alabama's "Polio Mother of the Year".

Mrs. Hubbard was stricken by paralytic polio only two weeks after the family moved into their new home on Ashville Circle in June of 1955. Mrs. Hubbard had supervised the interior decoration of the home.

Paralysis affected both arms and both legs. She will never be able to walk again, and she has only slight use of her left arm and hand. In spite of these limiting handicaps, she has learned to do many things everyone else does and takes for granted.

She feeds herself with the aid of a hand splint and a ball bearing feeder. The paralysis affected her right hand more than her left, and because she was extremely right-handed, this gave her still another handicap to overcome.

Mrs. Hubbard plans the family meals, supervises the children, and helps the children with their lessons. She attends the weekly meetings of her bridge club, and plays with the aid of a card holder. Her

undaunted good spirits are always evident and her charm and beauty radiate to all who are in contact with her.

Church work was one of her major activities prior to the time she was stricken by polio, and it has remained high on her list of activities ever since that time.

She is active in the Montevallo

Baptist Church, and has directed a branch of the Girls Auxiliary since she has been paralyzed.

One of the accomplishments of which she is most proud is her ability to type rapidly and accurately with one finger, using a brace.

She is active in the Montevallo Study Club. She is serving on the program committee of the club this year.

two years, and the University of Alabama two years.

She received her AB degree in education with a major in English from the University of Alabama, where she attained the distinction of being chosen honorary cadet colonel of the Second regiment coast artillery in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, which is one of the greatest honors that can

come to a girl at the University. She received a regular army commission from Washington. As one of the "Military Misses" she led the annual military ball with her cadet commander. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority at the University.

She married Dr. Leslie Hubbard on September 6, 1942. Dr. Hubbard is a practicing physician in Montevallo. The children are Leslie, 12, Philip, 10, and Nora, 6.

"I attribute my adjustment to my six months at Warm Springs, Ga., and to the help given me by my wonderful family and friends. It was the Shelby County Chapter of

the National Foundation that made it possible for me to go to Warm Springs," Mrs. Hubbard said.

"Having known so many mothers who have been stricken by polio and who have done so much in spite of their disability, I feel it is a great honor to have been chosen Alabama's Polio Mother of the Year," she said.

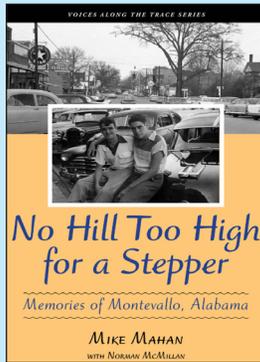


**Mrs. Leslie H. Hubbard, Alabama's Polio Mother of the Year, is shown at her home in Montevallo with her three children, left to right, Nora, 6, Philip, 10, and Leslie, Jr. 12. Mrs. Hubbard is the former Gene Lewis, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Lewis, of Montevallo, and the wife of Dr. L.H. Hubbard.**

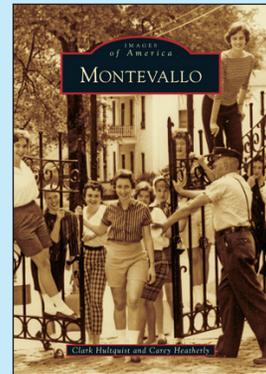
Bird watching has become one of her hobbies, and she has identified more than 100 different types of birds around her home. She also takes an active interest in the beautification of her house and garden.

Mrs. Hubbard is a native of Wetumpka. Her family moved to Montevallo when she was a small girl. She attended Alabama College

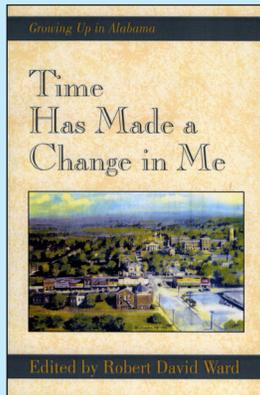
## These Montevallo Books can be ordered online at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)



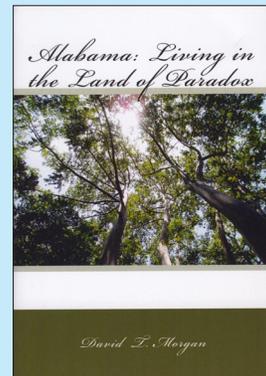
**No Hill Too High for a Stepper**  
by Mike Mahan  
with Norman McMillan



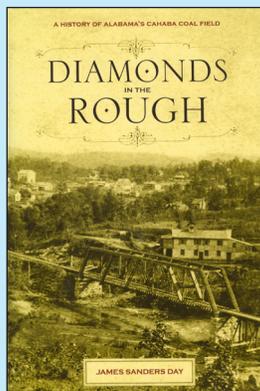
**Montevallo**  
by Clark Hultquist &  
Carey Heatherly



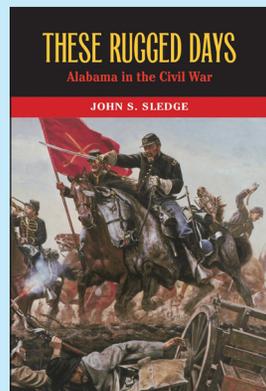
**Time Has Made  
a Change in Me**  
Edited by  
Robert David Ward



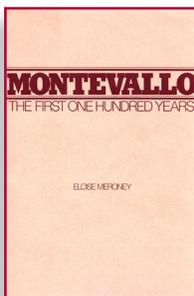
**Alabama: Living in the  
Land of Paradox**  
by David T. Morgan



**Diamonds in  
the Rough**  
by James S. Day



**These Rugged Days  
Alabama in the Civil War**  
by John S. Sledge



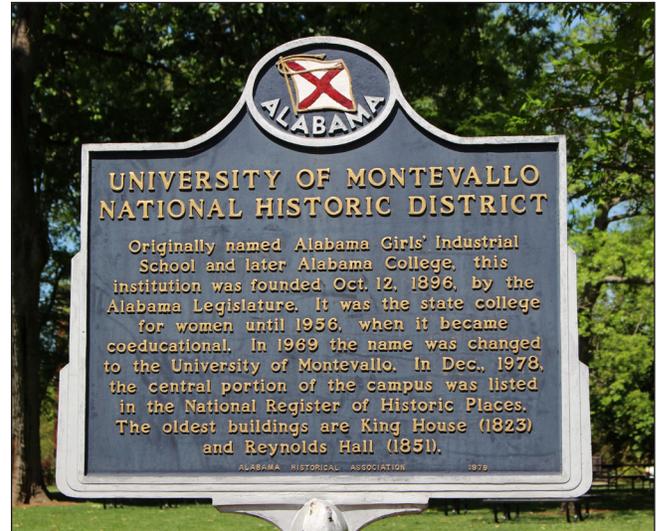
**Montevallo  
The First One-Hundred Years**  
by Eloise Meroney

Miss Meroney's exhaustive history of Montevallo has been the gold standard on the subject since it was first published in 1977. The book has been out-of-print for a number of years, but the Montevallo Historical Society has recently succeeded in digitizing this small volume and it is now available in pdf format under "Local History" at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)



## Bicentennial Time Capsule

One of the final projects related to the Montevallo Bicentennial Celebration is the collection of appropriate and historically relevant items to place in several time capsules that will be locked away for posterity. The chair of the Montevallo Bicentennial Committee, Pam Brown Phagan, thought it would be a good idea to ask the Montevallo Historical Society to select and contribute material for the capsules. MHS vice-president, Clay Nordan, volunteered to take on this project and you can see some of the results on these pages. 32 recent photographs he made of local churches, houses, buildings, historical markers, and landmarks were selected and printed on archival paper and inserted into clear archival sleeves for protection. In addition an 8 foot wide panoramic photo of the Bicentennial Bash at Orr Park, as well as a 6 foot panorama of downtown Montevallo as it looked before the recent face-lift were produced and presented to Pam, rolled up and inserted into protective PVC tubes.





First United Methodist



Shoal Creek Grist Mill Dam



Farrington Hall, Aldrich, AL

THE MONTEVALLO TIMES April 6, 1939

### Post Office Mural Shows Pioneers

The mural now installed in the lobby of the Postoffice Building was a Treasury Mural Competitive Award given to and executed by William Sherrod McCall of Jacksonville, Florida.

The design, titled "Early Settlers of Shelby County," shows a simple scene of a representative family of pioneers weighing cotton in the field. They are a sturdy stock; healthy, intelligent looking people of Anglo-Saxon background. Many of them migrated from Virginia and the Carolinas.

Quoting Mr. McCall, "I did not strive to make my painting startling or different. I just wanted to paint simple, honest people in a simple, honest manner. I wanted my panel to be so appropriately made that having once seen it, one will henceforth see it only as a natural part of the building."

Mr. McCall is a native of the South, his ancestors having migrated into Florida from Virginia in 1802. His art education was gained in California schools, where he lived and studied for some time; but in his painting he reflects the warm, mellow colors of his native soil.

This work was done under the authorization of the Division of Painting and Sculpture, Procurement Division of the United States Treasury, and is in no way connected with WPA but is a stationary part of the Federal Government.



Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church



Wooten / Merijanjan House

Montevallo Historical Society  
540 Shelby Street  
Montevallo, AL 35115

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
PERMIT #585



Wesley Wyatt

**INITIAL BUILDERS**  
Groundbreaking Excellence.

---

1077 Commerce Circle  
Pelham, Alabama 35124  
phone: 205.988.9466 fax: 205.988.4059  
cell: 205.368.1647 email: initialbuilders@bellsouth.net



*Smitherman's  
Pharmacy*

**Ph. 205-665-2574 • Fax 205-665-0940**  
703 Main Street • Montevallo, Alabama 35115



**CENTRAL  
STATE BANK**

100+ years of being **LARGE ENOUGH to serve you**  
**SMALL ENOUGH to know you**

[www.centralstatebank.com](http://www.centralstatebank.com)

Member  
**FDIC**



— CONTRACTOR —  
**JP BUILDING**  
COMPANY, LLC

Jason Picklesimer

205-365-1947  
[www.jpbuildingcompany.com](http://www.jpbuildingcompany.com)

330 Homeland Way  
Montevallo, AL 35115