

# Montevallo *Historical* Times

Vol. 4 No. 1

Newsletter of the Montevallo Historical Society

Winter 2020

## A Salute to Our Veterans

In conjunction with the upcoming annual Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2019, a three pronged veterans oriented theme was selected for the Montevallo Historical Society's final meeting of the year on October 20.

### Veterans Banners

Kirk Lightfoot, representing Montevallo Main Street, was the first speaker and he provided an informative update on the ambitious project the Main Street group has undertaken to recognize Montevallo's veterans by selling and making commemorative banners for display along the city's streets at appropriate times of the year.

Kirk was pleased to announce that the initial round of banners would be ready for display on Veterans Day 2019, one of which he brought to the meeting and revealed to the historical society audience.

He said that 47 banners would be placed along several city streets and he complimented Melanie Poole for the attractive and effective design



Melanie Poole explains how the Veterans Registry of Honor memorializes loved ones.

template she created for use with each honored veteran.

Kirk reported that Main Street will continue to sell banners to anyone interested in participating in the program and that additional banners had already been sold that will be ready for Memorial Day in May of 2020. The 4th of July will be the third time of year that the banners will be incorporated into the city's visual landscape.

### Veterans Registry

The second part of the veterans oriented program was a presentation by Melanie Poole, Communications and Marketing Officer for Montevallo's American Village. She spoke about the five-year old National Veterans Shrine & Register of Honor at the American Village.

Using excellent and inspiring videos to tell the registry's story, Melanie explained how this relatively new component of the American Village's mission is intended to recognize the legacies of individual Americans who have served their country in the various branches of the U.S. military.

Melanie brought sign-up forms that were distributed to interested attendees and in her remarks to the group, she encouraged everyone who has family members who served to be sure to enroll them into this important entity dedicated to preserving and maintaining their contributions and sacrifices for our freedom and way of life.

### Becky Holcombe Bolton

To conclude our veterans themed program, Montevallo native and published local historian, Becky Holcombe Bolton, read from her most recent book, *Hometown Heroes* and used a detailed slide show to explain and illustrate her family members' varied and extensive military careers.

She told fascinating stories about her sisters and their exploits as pioneers in the U.S. Army and Navy. There were interesting tales about her brother, her husband, and her husband's brother and their contributions to the effort during World War II in Europe. Of particular interest was the role her husband, Carl Bolton, played as a military guard for the Nazi defendants during the famous Nuremburg Trials at the conclusion of the war.



Becky Holcombe Bolton receives a well deserved round of applause for her program.



Kirk Lightfoot showing an example of the new Veterans Banners at the October meeting.

# President's Letter

The arrival of the new year of 2020 is also a reminder that, at about this time of year in 2017, the founders of the Montevallo Historical Society took the first steps toward forming the healthy and active local-history based organization we have built in such a short time.

As we begin our fourth year, I would like to thank the members of our Board of Directors for their continued involvement and dedication to growing our membership, raising needed funds, and expanding our reach into all things associated with the rich history of the city of Montevallo and its environs.

I welcome suggestions and ideas from all members for improving how MHS operates and pursues the goals laid out in our mission statement. The coming of the new year has also inspired me to contribute my own thoughts to this worthy effort, so I'll be looking at new strategies for achieving some needed operational efficiencies as well as making better use of the talents of our officers and various committee chairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Janice Seaman for organizing and hosting our highly successful *Gala 2019* fundraiser this past October. We greatly appreciate her willingness to make her Fox and Pheasant Inn available for this first-of-its-kind event for us.

The Italian feast that was the main attraction of the evening for our ticket buyers got rave reviews from everyone we have talked to, and the cocktail hour, silent auction, and group activities all contributed to a most enjoyable, and profitable, au-

turn evening social gathering in Montevallo.

As you have already seen on the front page of this issue of the *Montevallo Historical Times*, our general meeting this past October recognized and honored, in several different ways, the sacrifices and contributions of American military veterans, especially those with roots or connections to the Montevallo area.

This same focus on veterans continues (beginning on page 4) with the presentation of 47 thumbnail-size versions of the Veterans Banners that constitute the initial public display in Montevallo Main Street's Veterans Banner program. The banners were purchased by friends and families of the veterans and were completed and available in time for Veterans Day this past November.

I know that more than one Montevallo Historical Society member purchased a banner dedicated to the memory of a veteran, and I count myself in that number. Among the six women in the group is my mother, Kathlyn Cooke McGlown. She was a pilot in the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II and helped protect the U.S. mainland from invasion as an airborne spotter over the Gulf of Mexico.

I am looking forward to all that's ahead of us in 2020 and encourage all members to do their part to make it a year of productivity and accomplishment.

*Susan*



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*Vice-President*

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**Montevallo, AL 35115**

**[www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)**



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Dr. S.M. Mahan, Jr. (1934 – 2018)

Dr. James S. Day



*Gala*  
2019  
Honoree  
*Elizabeth Mahler*



The Fox and Pheasant Inn was suitably set up and decorated for the event. Members of the University of Montevallo swim team were on hand to serve and assist.

# GALA 2019

**An Evening of  
Great Food, Fun,  
and Exceptional  
Fundraising**

The first-ever fundraising gala hosted by the Montevallo Historical Society took place on October 5, 2019. MHS board member and Treasurer, Janice Seaman graciously opened her Fox and Pheasant Inn to seventy-odd ticket holders while coordinating the party set-up and bringing in chefs Mary and Carmelo Salamone who prepared and served a delicious Italian feast.

After dessert, Chamber of Commerce president, Steve Gilbert, MC'd a local-history trivia contest followed by the awarding of prizes to silent auction winners.

To say that a good time was had by all would be an understatement and the stage was definitely set for an equally successful Gala in 2020.



Plenty of appetizers, along with wine and beer, were arranged for sampling on the back deck prior to the announcement that "dinner is served".



Gala patrons enjoy good food and drink, on a pleasant fall night. (L-R) Richard Starkey (British visitor), Jerry McGaughy, Susie McGaughy, Norman McMillan, Jim Hermecz.



# VETERANS BANNERS

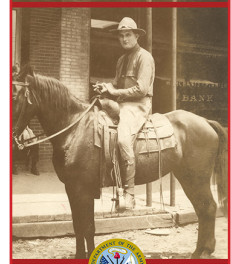
**The Montevallo Historical Society is proud to feature this group of Veterans Banners that were displayed publicly for the first time during Veterans Day, November, 11, 2019.**

Special thanks to Courtney Bennett, Executive Director of Montevallo Main Street for providing the images shown here.

The Montevallo Historical Society sponsored the veterans banner for James Cliett Hendrick, a Montevallo native and one of two local soldiers who were killed in combat during World War I. The other fatality from Montevallo was Albert Hudson, brother of Mrs. M.P. Jeter, Sr. According to Eloise Meroney, when Montevallo applied for a charter in 1924 to establish an American Legion post for the town, the request was made that the charter be in the name of "Hendrick-Hudson Post", to memorialize the two fallen soldiers who had given their lives in the war.

## Cliett Hendrick

Private - U.S. Army  
1917 - 1918



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HENDRICK-HUDSON  
AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 0096

240 Wilson Drive, Montevallo, AL  
Commander Adjutant

## P. D. D. Pendleton

Private First Class - U.S. Army  
1917 - 1919



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## John A. Mahler

Private First Class - U.S. Army  
1918



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VETERANS

## W. M. "Mack" Wyatt

Corporal - U.S. Army  
1917 - 1918



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## Walter R. Adkins

Colonel - U.S. Army  
1941 - 1978



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VETERANS

## James E. Willingham

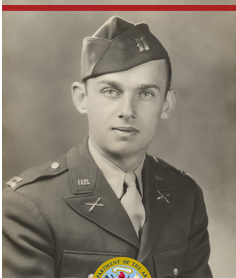
Private First Class - U.S. Army  
1942 - 1946



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VETERANS

## Clayton O. Nordan

Captain - U.S. Army  
1942 - 1953



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VETERANS

## Milton L. Orr, Jr.

Major - U.S. Army  
1942 - 1946



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## Zane Nathews

Second Lieutenant - U.S. Army  
1942 - 1943



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## Grady R. Parker

Sergeant - U.S. Army  
1943 - 1945



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## Jack Pritchett

Corporal - U.S. Army  
1943 - 1946



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**Teamon E. McCulley**  
Corporal - U.S. Army  
1943 - 1945



*Montevillo*  
**HONORS OUR VETERANS**

**John A. Cunningham**  
Sergeant - U.S. Army  
1948 - 1953



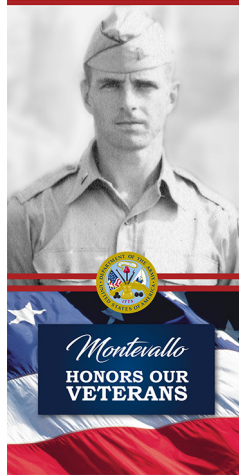
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**Wilson Cratie Corbett**  
Sergeant - U.S. Army  
1950 - 1952



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**Frank K. Lightfoot**  
First Lieutenant - U.S. Army  
1951 - 1952



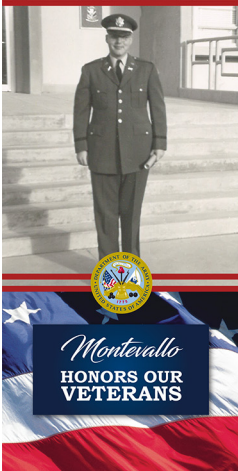
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**Edward M. Holcombe**  
Private First Class - U.S. Army  
1957 - 1959



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**James Agee Kelly**  
First Lieutenant - U.S. Army  
1957 - 1959



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**Pat Kelly**  
First Lieutenant - U.S. Army  
1958 - 1960



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**John C. Kirby**  
Private First Class - U.S. Army  
1962 - 1968



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**James Sanders Day**  
Major - U.S. Army  
1979 - 1995



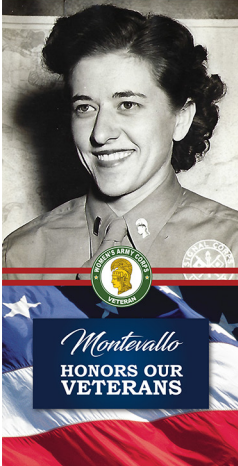
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**Mary Nita Holcombe Collins**  
Sergeant First Class • Drill Instructor  
U.S. Women's Army Corps  
1942 - 1953



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**Georgene Watson**  
First Lieutenant  
U.S. Women's Army Corps  
1943 - 1945



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**James Alexander Wyatt**  
First Lieutenant - U.S. Army Air Forces  
1942 - 1944



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**James Dalton Pyron**  
Staff Sergeant - U.S. Army Air Forces  
1942 - 1946



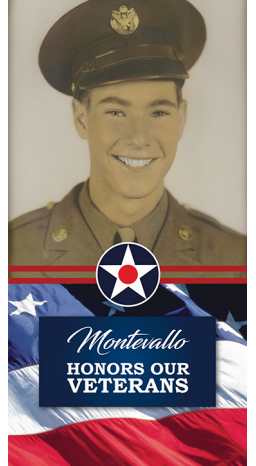
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**Bert J. Czeskleba**  
Sergeant - U.S. Army Air Forces  
1942 - 1945



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**Thomas R. Allison**  
Sergeant - U.S. Army Air Corps  
1943 - 1946



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**Evans Belcher**

Staff Sergeant - U.S. Air Force  
1951 - 1955



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**Henry A. Emfinger**

Technical Sergeant - U.S. Air Force  
1960 - 1980



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**Jennie Anderson**

Commander - U.S. Navy  
1938 - 1961



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**Sam D. Adkins**

First Quartermaster - U.S. Navy  
1942 - 1946 • 1950 - 1953



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**William L. "Bill" Lawler, Jr.**

Petty Officer, Second Class - U.S. Navy  
1944 - 1946



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**Thomas G. Walker**

Seaman - U.S. Navy  
1944 - 1946



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**Lewis E. Kirkland**

Seaman First Class - U.S. Navy  
1945 - 1946



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**HONORS OUR VETERANS**

**David Crenshaw, Jr.**

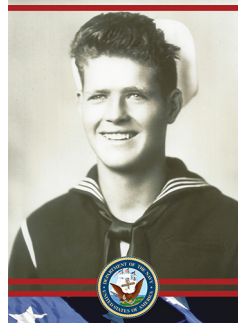
Steward, Third Class - U.S. Navy  
1945 - 1946



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**HONORS OUR VETERANS**

**Walter Johnson**

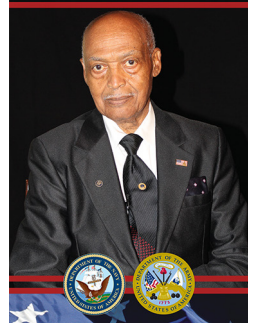
Seaman, Second Class - U.S. Navy  
1945 - 1946



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**Earl Cunningham**

Master Sergeant  
U.S. Navy U.S. Army  
1950 - 1954 1955 - 1971



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**Nancy K. Wilstach**

Journalist Seaman - U.S. Navy WAVES  
1964 - 1965



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**Joseph A. Day**

Commander - U.S. Navy  
1977 - 2001



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**Brenda Fortune-Underwood**

Storekeeper, First Class - U.S. Navy  
1989 - 2009



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**Traci Nichols Crenshaw**

Petty Officer, Third Class - U.S. Navy  
1990 - 1994



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**Jeff Connell**

Lieutenant Commander - U.S. Coast Guard  
1976 - 2007



*Montervallo*  
**HONORS OUR VETERANS**





These and any new banners that have been purchased by friends and family will be returned to Montevallo's streets in time for Memorial Day on May 25, 2020. If you would like to view a digital slide show of larger versions of these banners, visit the Montevallo Historical Society's website at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org).

To place an order for a Veterans Banner, email: [mainstreet@cityofmontevallo.com](mailto:mainstreet@cityofmontevallo.com) or call (205) 665-2555, ex. 106.

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## First General Meeting of 2020

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020 • Parnell Library 2:00 pm

Program Leader:

**Dr. Hubert van Tuyll**

Professor of History • Augusta University

Hubert van Tuyll grew up in Montevallo after immigrating with his family from the Netherlands in the 1960's. His father was an eccentric but much loved Philosophy professor at UM.

Dr. van Tuyll is calling his talk, "The Two Sides of the Door", which will be about his experiences growing up in Montevallo, "having a totally different life inside and outside the house".

**Social Hour and Refreshments to Follow the Meeting**

**WHEN**

**M O N T E V A L L O**

**WENT MODERN**

**A**s one of the oldest towns in the state, we usually think of Montevallo's residential, commercial, and educational architecture as having roots in the 19th century. Even as late as the 1960's the town was still a showcase of "layer-cake" houses proudly displaying ornamental filigree and Victorian visual excess. The handsome first generation campus of Alabama College, with its elegant buildings echoing a variety of classical models, only reinforced this notion of Montevallo as a bastion of stylistic tradition.

Then, in 1950, the first word that something quite different might soon be in our midst appeared in the "Alabamian", the campus newspaper for Alabama College. This was during the administration of Dr. John Caldwell (1947 – 1952), the young (35) and energetic president who brought a new vision and ambitious spirit to the school.

The newspaper article included an architect's rendering for a new indoor swimming pool complex on campus to replace the aging and obsolete outdoor pool that had served class after class of students at the women's college for decades. The new building was described as a new "California

type pool" that was scheduled for completion by January, 1951.

The design of the glass and brick building was quite a departure from the existing structures on campus and presented a low, sleek profile that contrasted with the multi-story and often ornate buildings nearby. Windows and glass blocks were employed as a way of letting in as much natural light as possible, and a unique arrangement of roll-up "garage doors" was included so that they could be raised in warm weather to give the pool more of an outdoor feeling.

By 1953, another new "modern" structure, intended to be used by the college as a Nursery School, was announced in the student paper. As before, this new building was a much-needed replacement for an old, two-story wood frame house near Palmer Hall that had long ago outlived its suitability for the Home Economics department's popular and effective day-care program that prepared local children for kindergarten and elementary school, as well as pre-school teacher training for AC students.

At about the same time, the economy of Montevallo and Calera took a giant step forward when the two municipal-



**The Alabama College pool, later known as Margaret McCall Pool (so named for a popular Physical Education professor). It served the university admirably for more than 50 years but was torn down shortly after the opening of the McChesney Center in 2004.**



**Known today as the Child Study Center, the building continues to exhibit the dramatic attributes of modern design that made it a unique addition to the Alabama College campus following its dedication and opening for children ages 3 to 4 in 1953.**





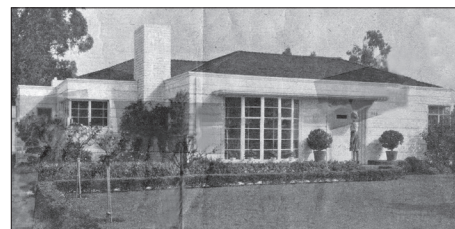
**The new Westinghouse welding electrode manufacturing plant that opened on Highway 25 between Montevallo and Calera in 1954 boasted the sleek lines of the modern style of architecture. Several members of plant management chose to build new modern style houses for their families when they made the move from New York.**

ities, working together, succeeded in luring the Westinghouse Corporation to central Alabama, where they built a new welding-rod manufacturing plant on Highway 25 between the two towns. The huge new plant also exhibited in its architecture, recognizable traits of “modern” design.

A sudden influx of engineers and manufacturing specialists from New York by Westinghouse, recent additions to the college faculty harboring a sense of adventure, and general prosperity that raised living standards and attracted new professionals with families to the area, all combined to encourage an atmosphere of experimentation and, for some, a willingness to try something new in this town so steeped in tradition.

As a result, new local residential architecture began to exhibit some of the same “modern” design concepts that had become familiar on campus and at the new industrial plant.

The photos of the buildings you see on these pages are fairly recent and demonstrate that most of these 50+ year old structures are still with us and in good condition. We are fortunate that they still stand so as to remind us of a time when courageous homeowners were willing to commit themselves and their fortunes to a type of personal expression, apparent through the style of their homes, that we don’t see very often today.



California Magazine Model

Actual Montevallo House



**One of the first houses in Montevallo with a modern influence was built by Clayton and Theda Nordan on Ashville Road in 1952. Modestly designed in comparison to others yet to come, the Nordans bought the plans through a magazine that featured California houses.**



**One of the best examples of modern residential architecture in Montevallo is this house on Parkway Circle in the Arden Subdivision. It was built and occupied by the Bush family who came to Montevallo from Buffalo, New York with the Westinghouse plant.**





**The McGlown family house, also on Parkway Circle in the 1950's and 1960's era Arden development. Montevallo Historical Society president Susan McGlown Godwin and her sister Joanne grew up in this house and it remains in the family today.**



**This is the Bill Lawler home that can be seen from Highway 25 near the old Westinghouse plant. Lawler owned a laying cage manufacturing plant nearby. The house is just off the road that leads to Reynolds Cemetery, supposedly the center of Alabama.**



**Westinghouse plant superintendent, Richard E. Ballantine purchased a tract of timberland near the plant east of town and developed a small subdivision known as "Calmont Woods". This modern house was one of the first to be built in the development and is still there today on Calmont Woods Drive. He lived in it with his family for many years.**



**This house was one of several in the modern style constructed in the Calmont Woods development at roughly the same time as the Ballantine house. It employed one of the most creative designs seen in Montevallo moderns and appears to be well preserved.**





**A visually striking modern house on Parkway Circle that is still there. This was the 50's & 60's home to Eddy Lawley and his parents.**



**This modern style home was built by local physician, Leslie Hubbard, M.D., in the mid-1950's. It was a spacious and comfortable house for the Hubbard family and fit naturally into its wooded setting at the end of Ashville Circle.**



**This is a very large modern ranch style house on highway 22 near Dogwood built by Doug Ballard. The property also features an aircraft landing strip and large fishing lake. Mr. Ballard was in the X-ray supply business, thus the name, "Flying X" ranch.**



**Arguably the most dramatic example of modern architecture in Montevallo is the 1977 Alabama Power building on Main Street. Today it is the University of Montevallo on Main. It was conceived to test the viability of solar power, thus it's orientation to the sun.**



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