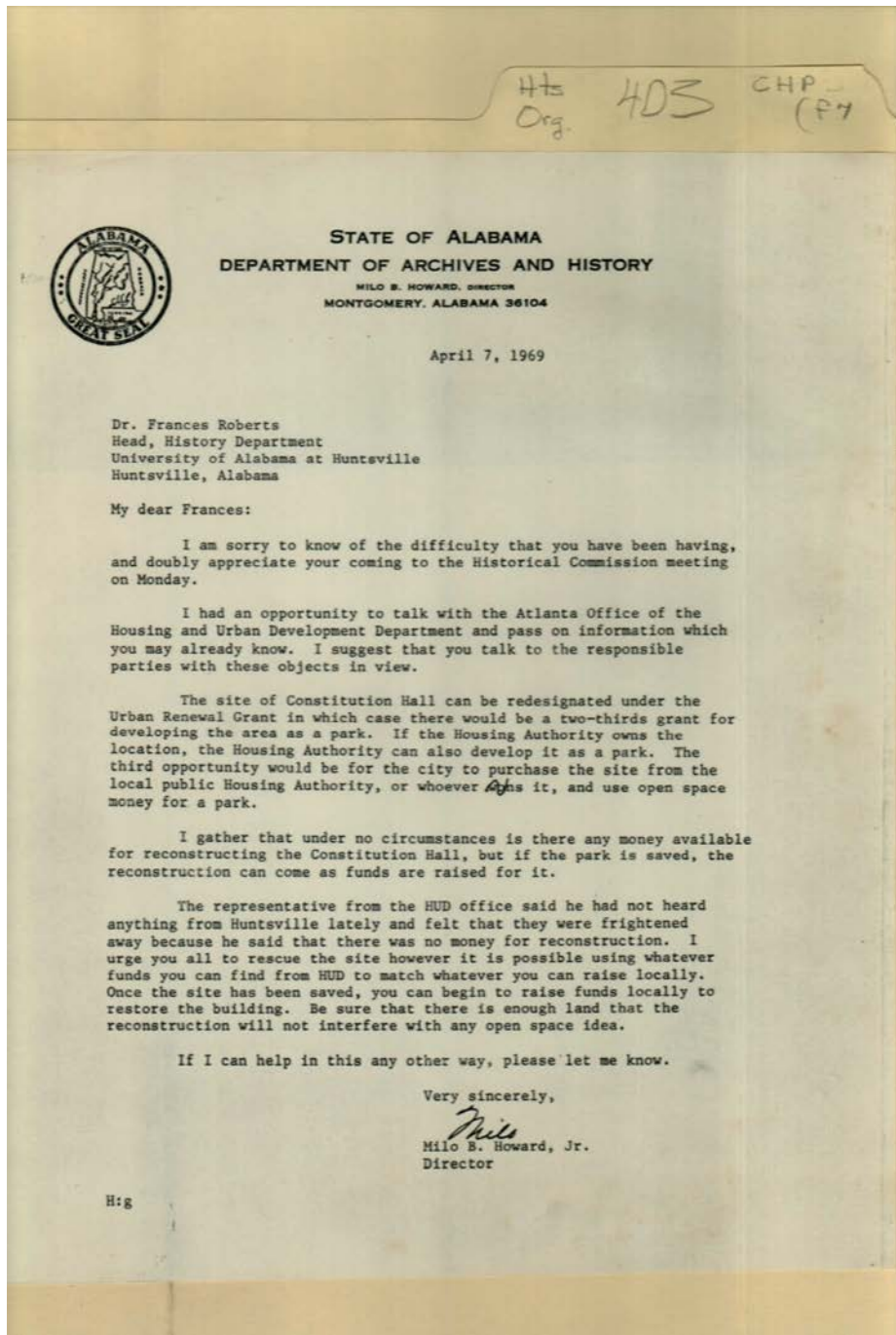


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 1 r04d03-07-000-0309 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Howard, Milo B.

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

**Places:**

Montgomery, AL

**Types:**

correspondence

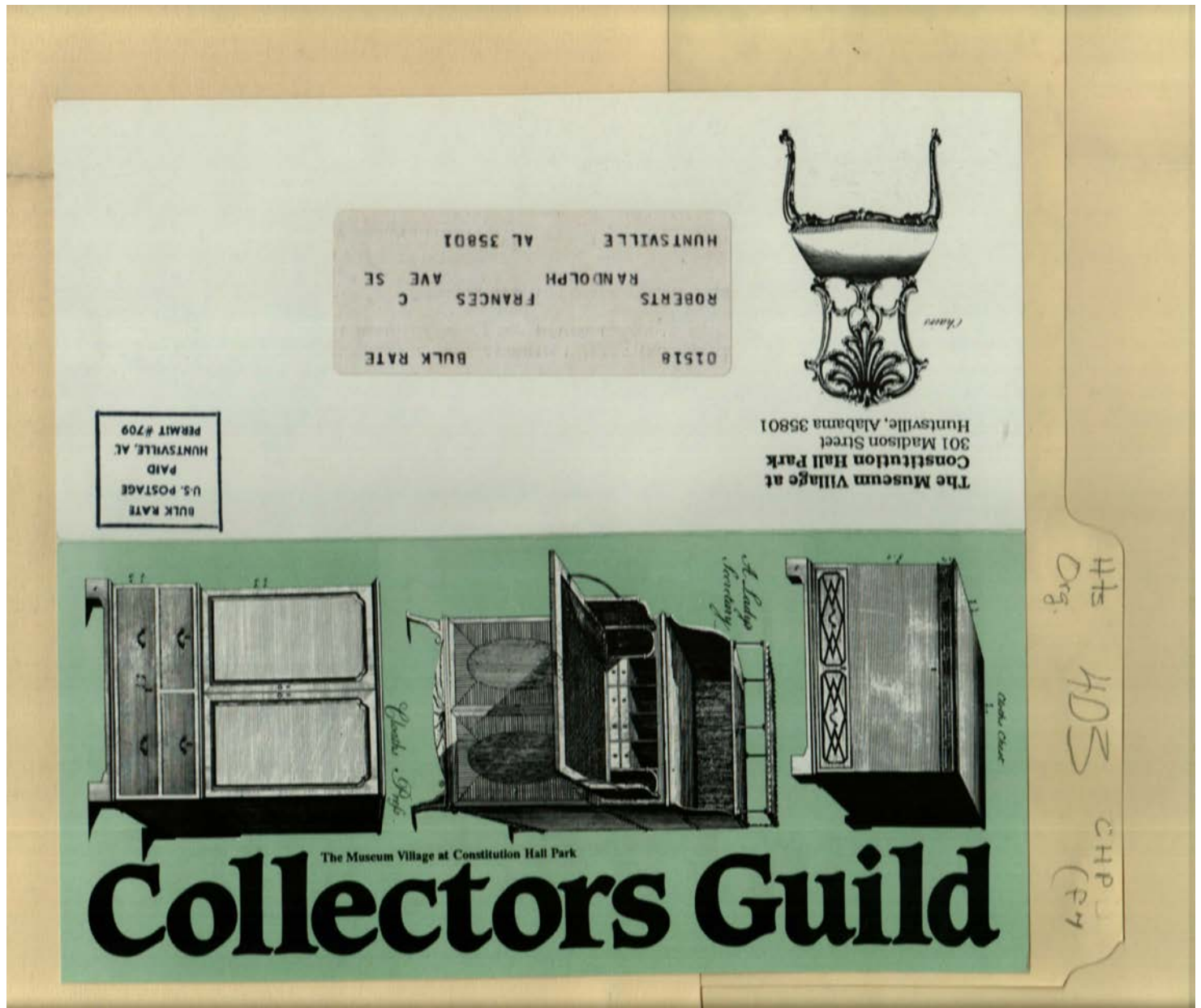
**Dates:**

Apr 07, 1969

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 2 r04d03-07-000-0310 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Collectors Guild

Counstitution Hall  
Park

Roberts, Frances C.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newsletter

Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(P7)

**Join us in forming  
a Collectors Guild.**

☞ You're invited to join us in forming a Collectors Guild. Collecting is fun, interesting, and rewarding. Limited only by your imagination and budget, collections can range in subject matter from fine antique period furniture to handwoven baskets, Japanese netsukes, art deco objects, and contemporary glass sculpture. Any unique item, not available on the mass market, is a fair game for the collector. ☞ Belonging to an organized group offers benefits beyond the joys of solo collecting: being with others who share common interests, receiving discount rates and preferred treatment on tours, learning from guest lecturers, special programs, and each other. ☞ Whether you already have a mature collection, are just getting started, or are simply intrigued with the idea of expressing your interests and tastes by collecting, we want you to join us. ☞ The first organizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on September 1, 1987, at Constitution Hall. The membership fee will be \$30 annually.

**Programs:**

**November 19, 1987**— Deanne Levison, nationally recognized dealer in Southern antiques, will present the program. Ms. Levison owns a shop in Atlanta, Georgia.

**February (date T.B.A.)**— Trip to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

**May (date T.B.A.)**— Trip to Winterthur Museum and Gardens near Wilmington, Delaware.

*For more information, contact Charles Vaughn at 532-7551.*

**Membership Form (Membership Fee is \$30 per person.)**

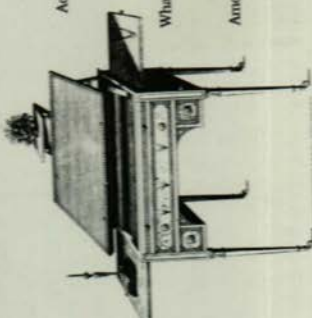
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

What are your collecting interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mall check to:**  
Constitution Hall Park  
301 Madison Street  
Huntsville, AL 35801

*Please make check payable to Constitution Hall Park.*



**Names:**

Levison, Deanne

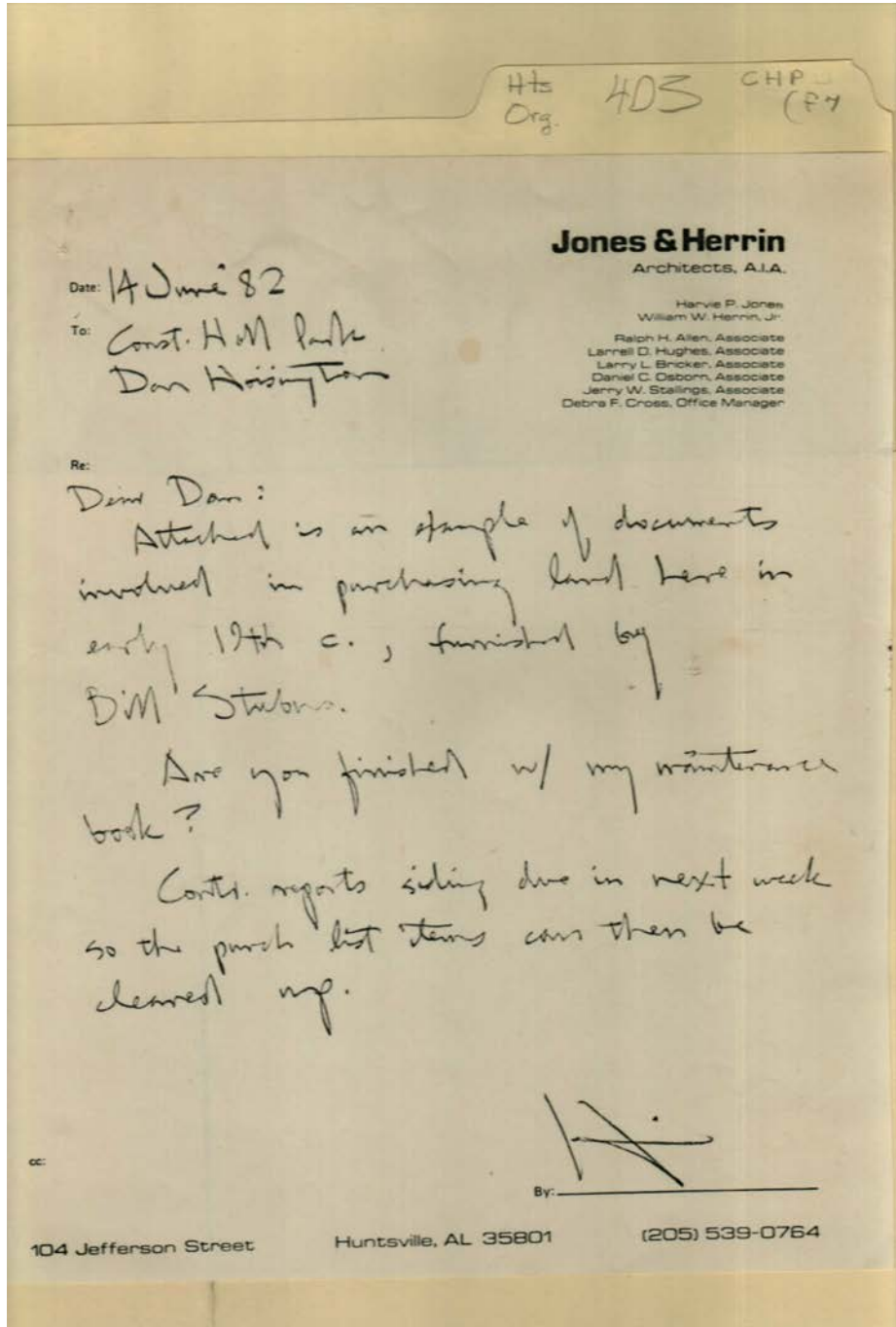
Vaughn, Charles

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Herrin, William W., Jr.

Hoisington, Daniel

Jones & Herrin Architects

Jones, Harvie Stubno, B. M.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

correspondence

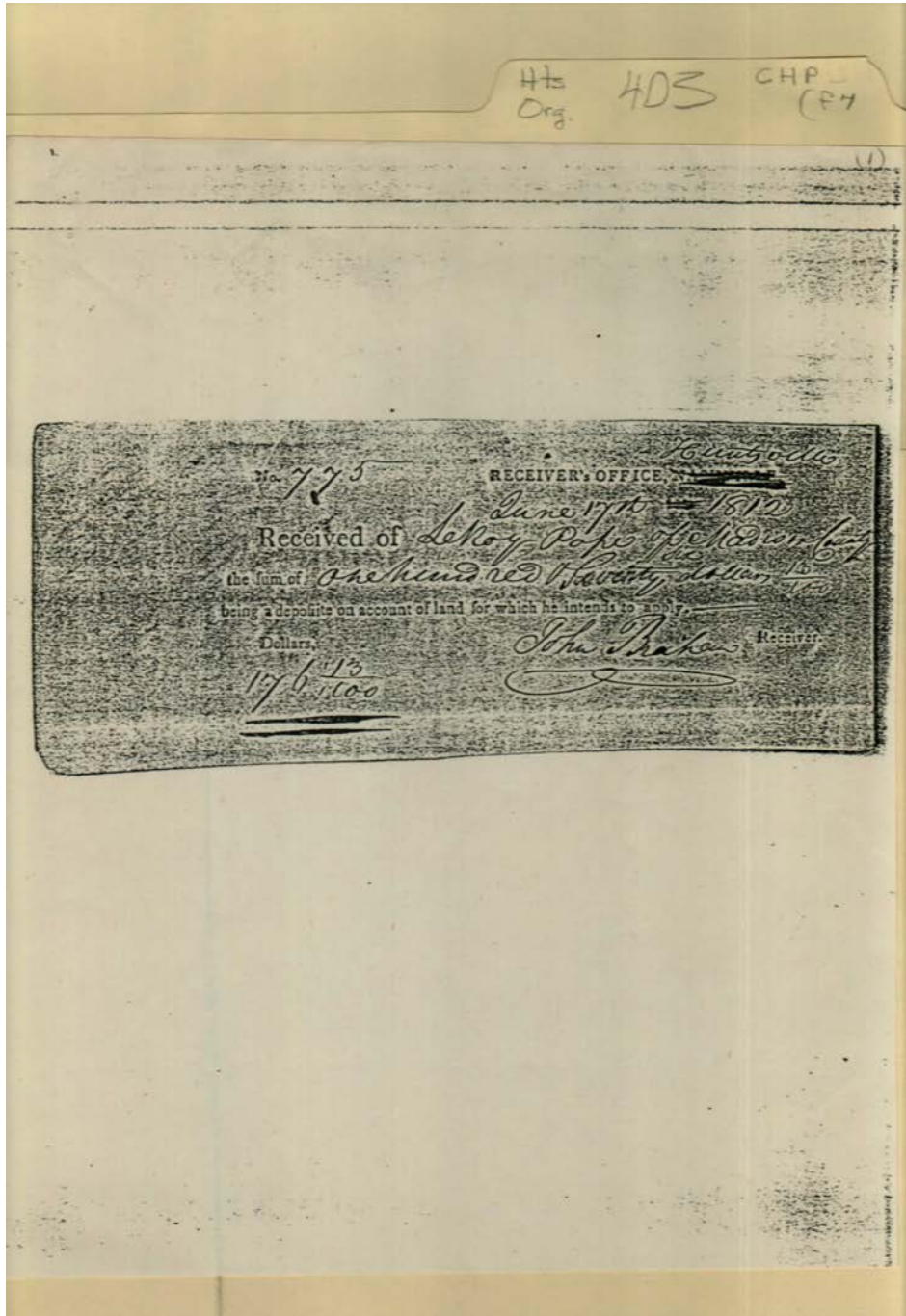
**Dates:**

Jun 14, 1982

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 5 r04d03-07-000-0313 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Brahan, John

Pope, LeRoy

**Places:**

Huntsville, MT

**Types:**

receipt

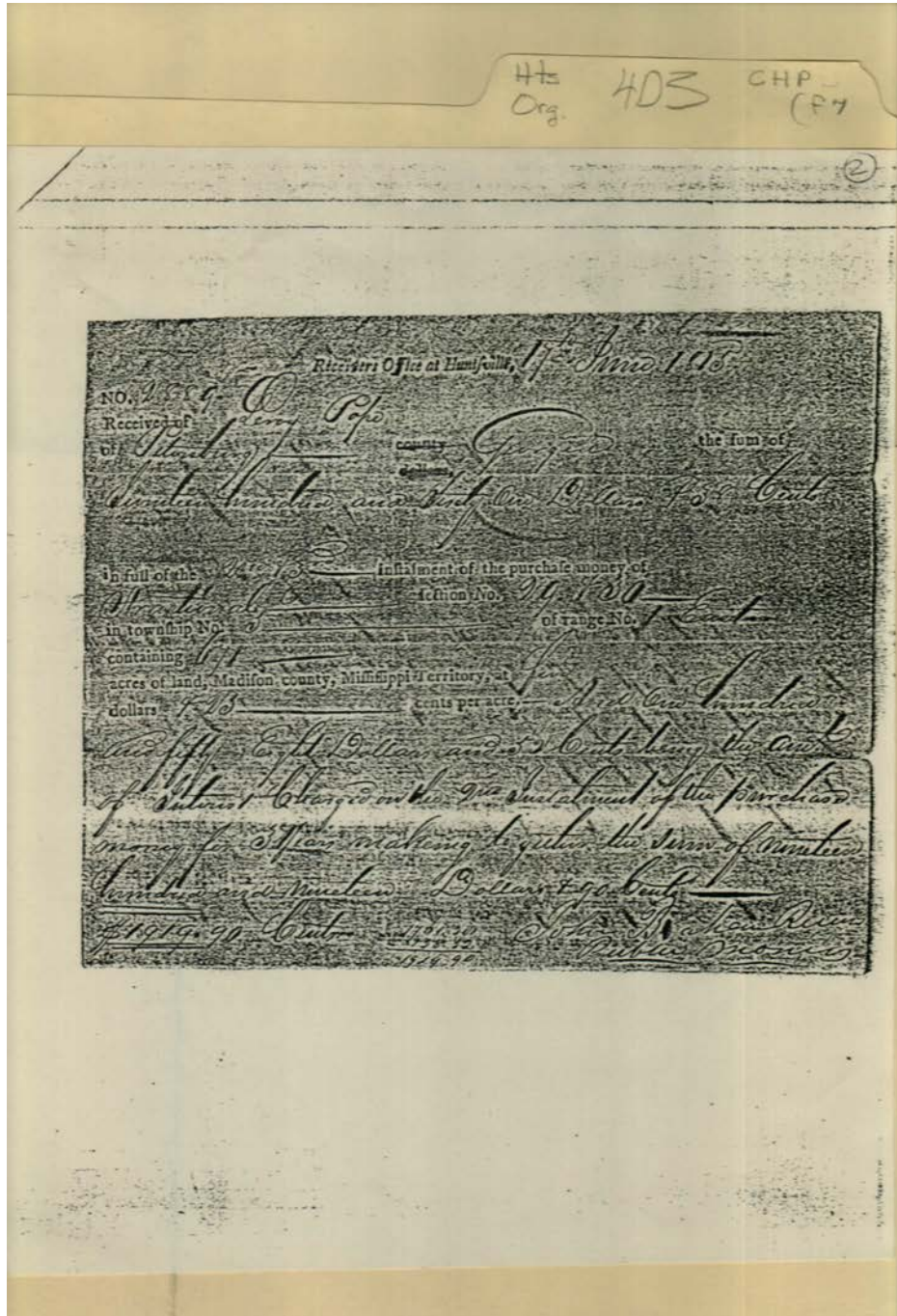
**Dates:**

Jun 17, 1812

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 6 r04d03-07-000-0314 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Brahan, John

Pope, LeRoy

**Places:**

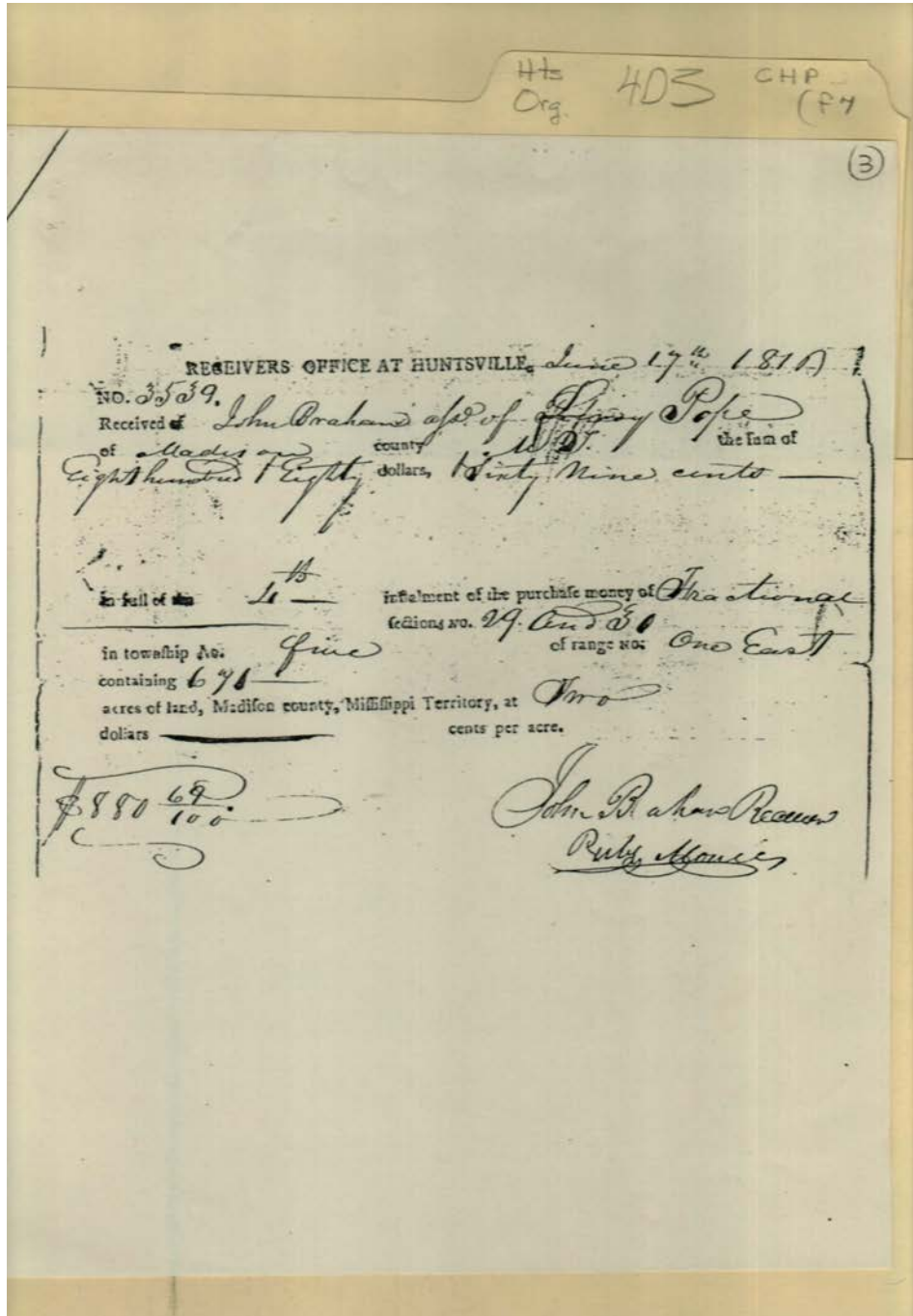
Huntsville, MT

**Types:**

receipt

**Dates:**

Jun 17, 1815



**Names:**

Brahan, John

Pope, LeRoy

**Places:**

Huntsville, MT

**Types:**

receipt

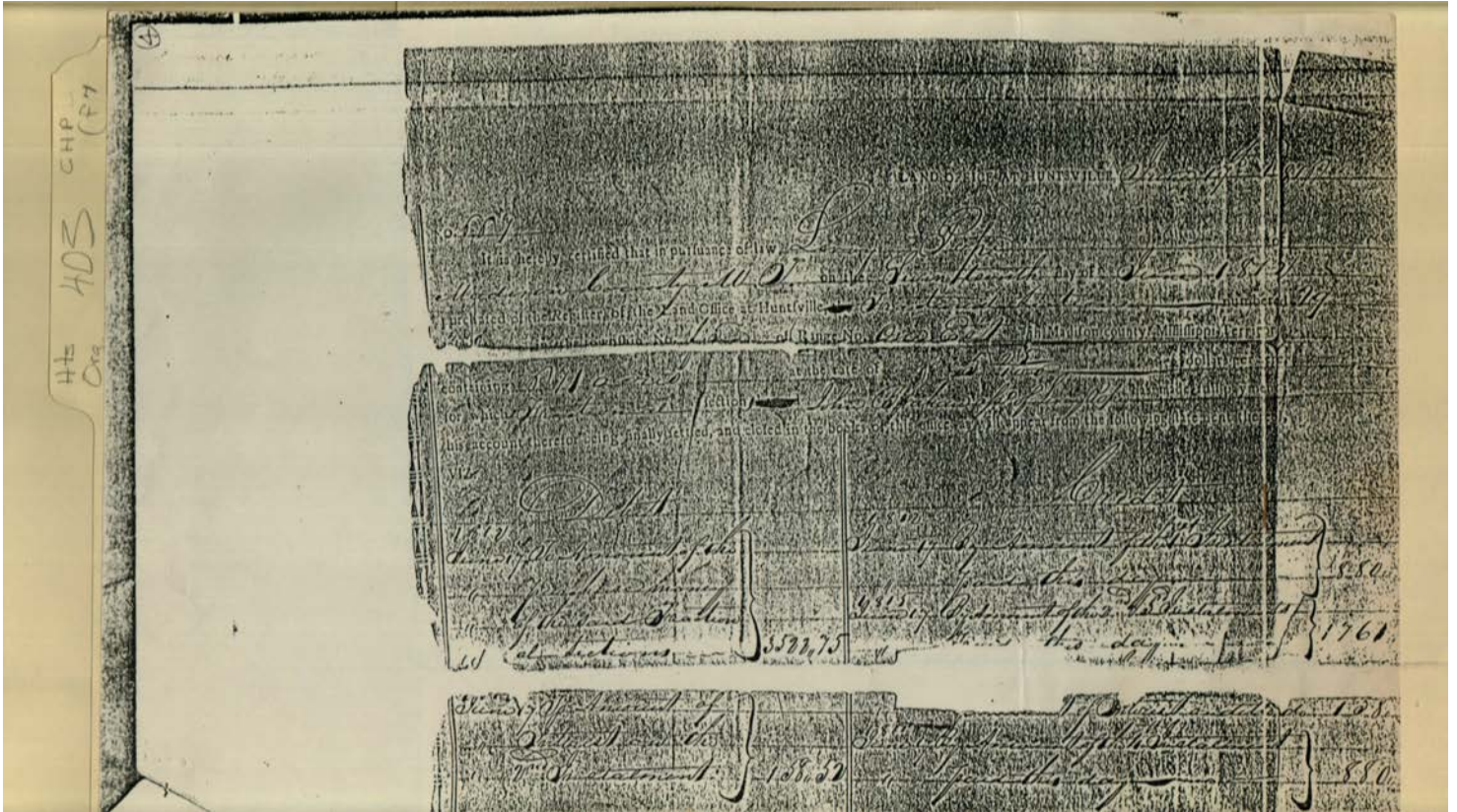
**Dates:**

Jun 17, 1812

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

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**Names:**

Brahan, John

Pope, LeRoy

**Places:**

Huntsville, MT

**Types:**

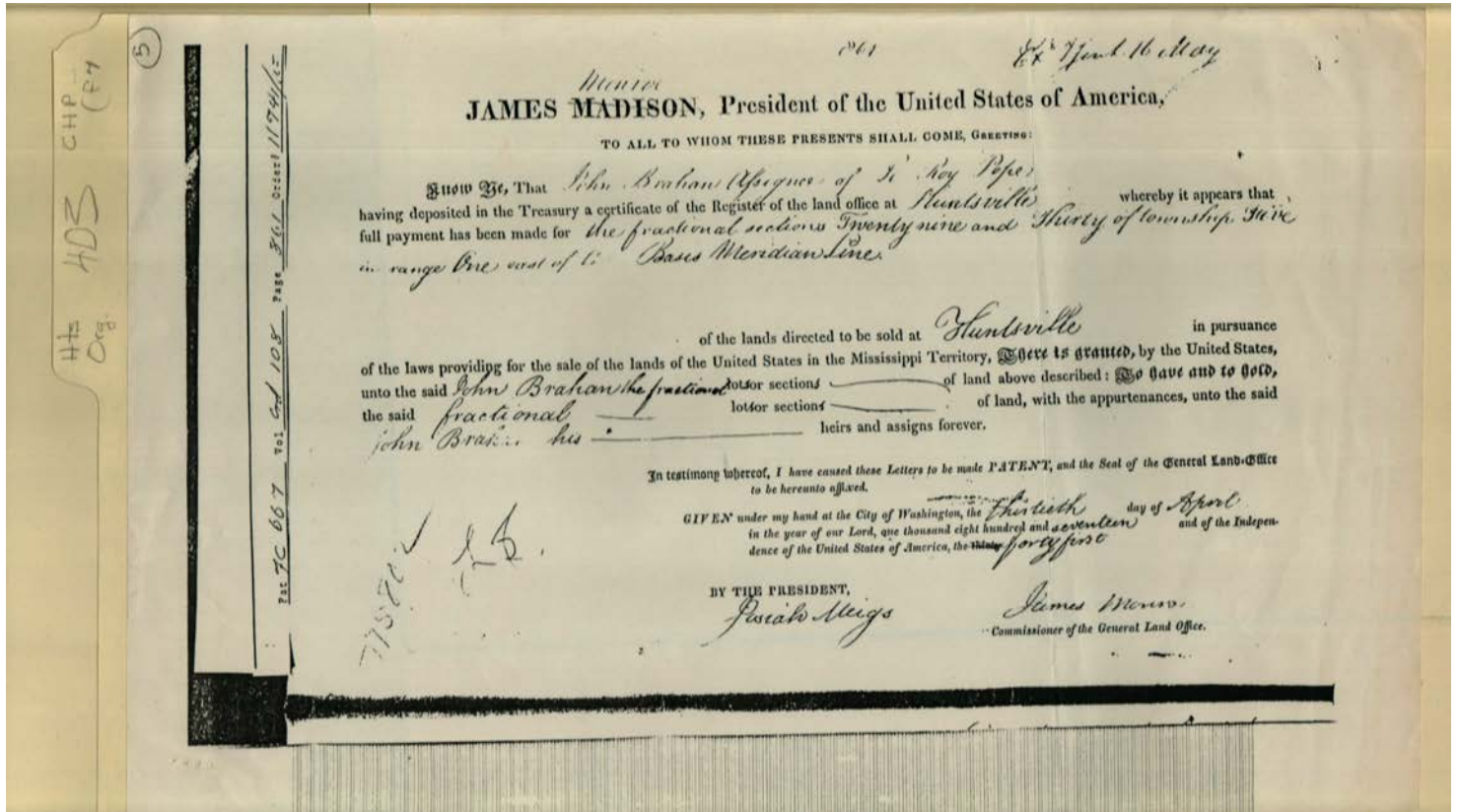
receipt

**Dates:**

Jun 17, 1812







**Names:**

Brahan, John  
Madison, James

Meigs, Josiah  
Monroe, James

Pope, LeRoy

**Places:**

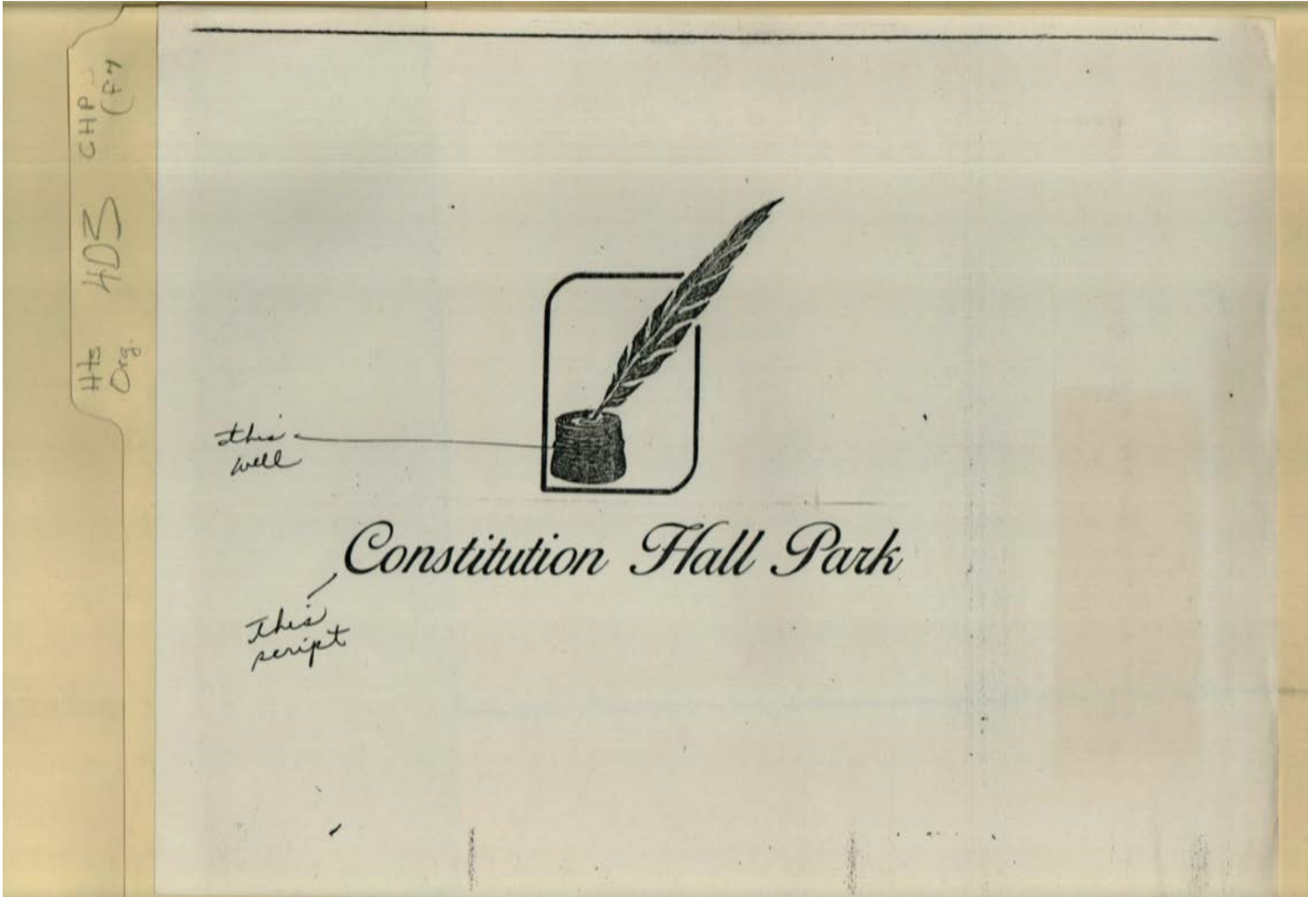
Huntsville, MT

**Types:**

receipt

**Dates:**

Apr 13, 1817

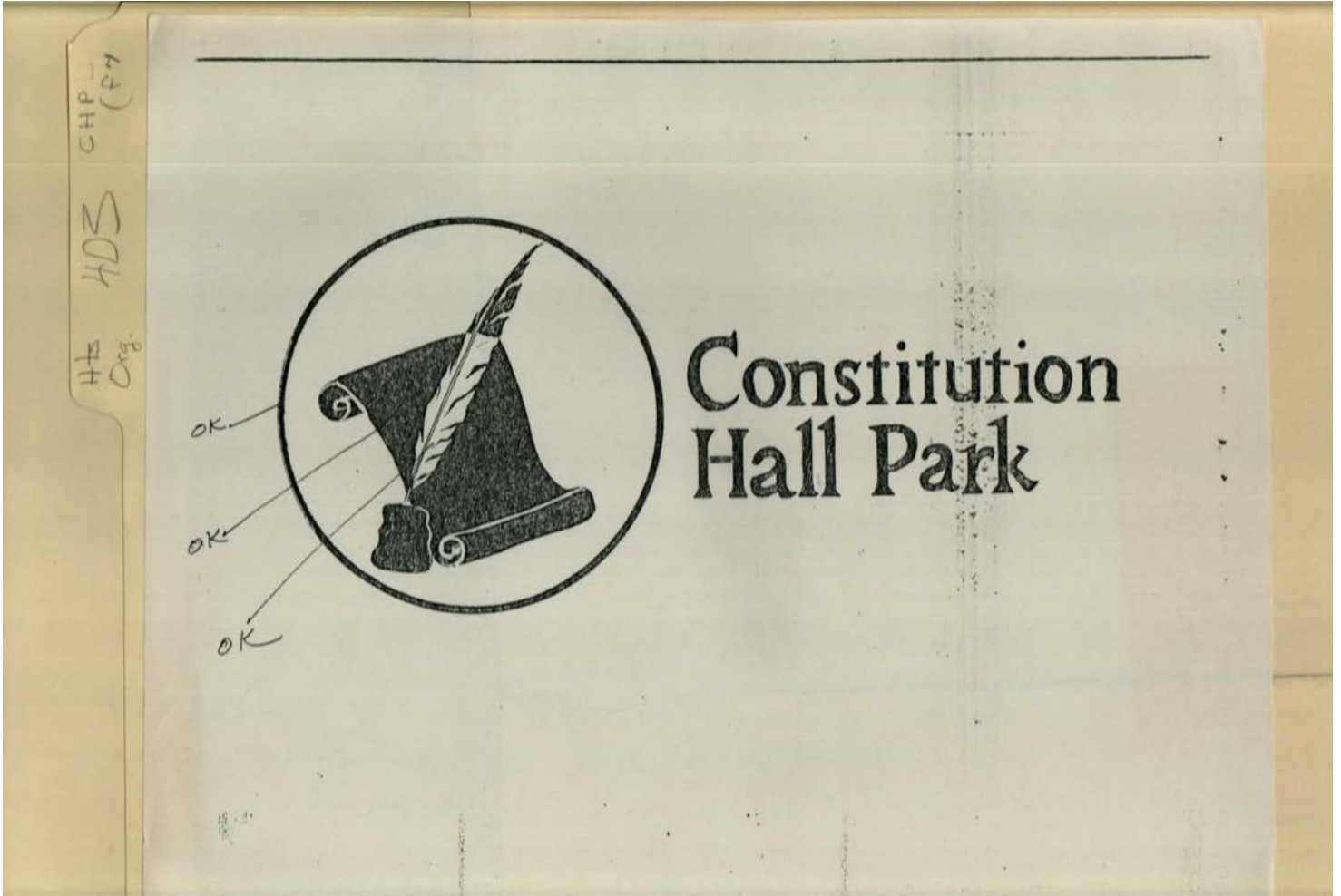


Types:  
memo

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 12 r04d03-07-000-0320 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

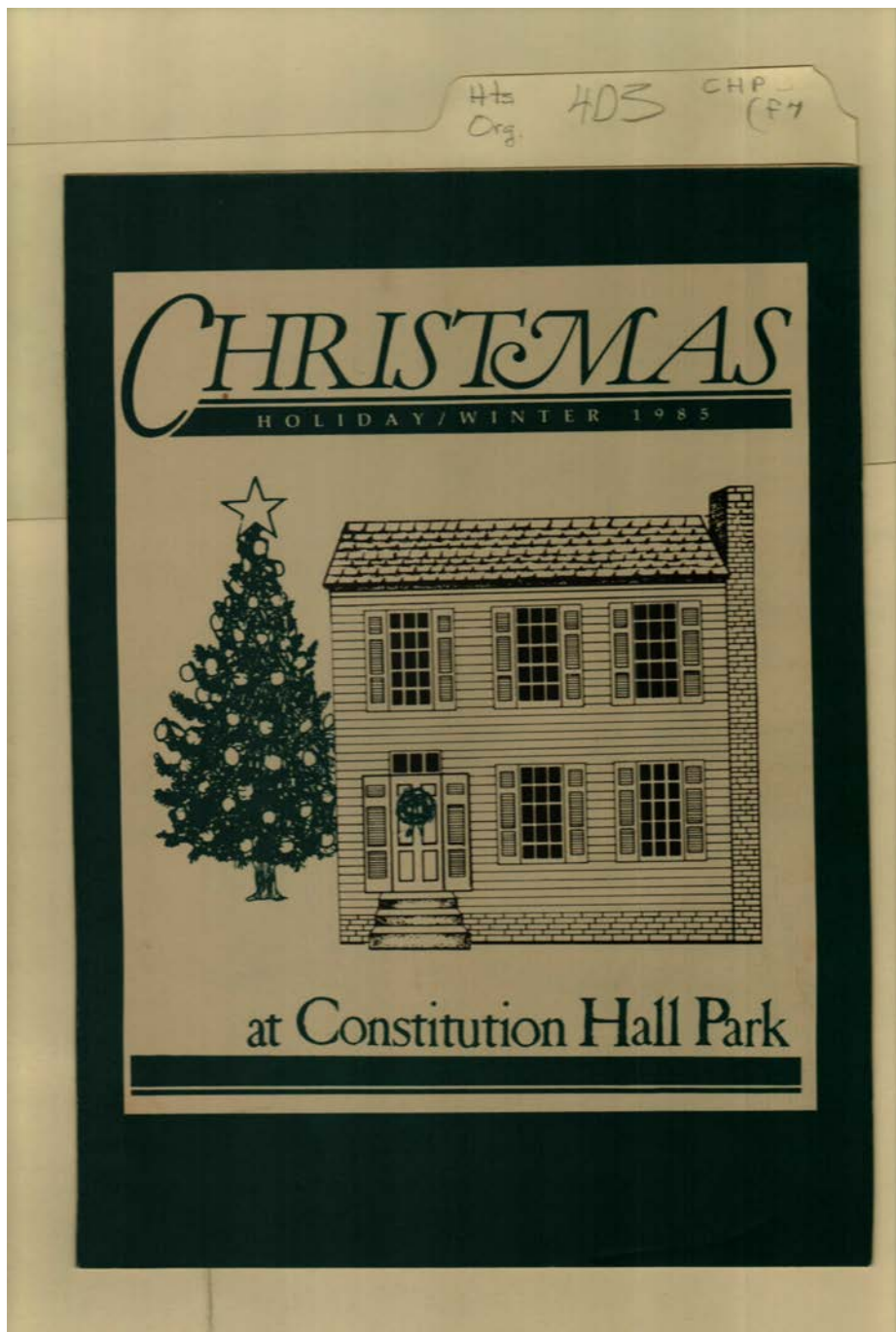


Types:  
memo

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 13 r04d03-07-000-0321 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Types:**

newsletter


**Dates:**

Winter 1985

Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(97)

## From the Director's Chair


Summer has been a busy time and a time of much excitement at Constitution Hall Park. Tourism traffic has increased over the same period last year, and our Young Settlers Week program reached new heights this year. For three one-week sessions, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders lived life as it was in the early 19th century. They learned about Alabama history, made gravestone rubbings at Maple Hill Cemetery, enjoyed candledipping, pottery making, printing, stencilling, basketweaving, and cooking over an open fire. Huntsville veterinarians David Hertha, Sam Eidt, and Jim Chancellor taught the children about animals and their role in the lives of the early settlers. Thanks go to Young Settlers Week co-directors Marilyn Gill and Billie Jones, to Merle Bartee for her excellent guidance of the children in preparing open-hearth meals, to members of the community who gave of their time, and to the Park's docents.



**Gravestone rubbing at Maple Hill Cemetery.**

The Japanese Junior Ambassador Friendship Mission is a cooperative program of Japan and the United States designed to bring the children of the two nations to-

gether to foster understanding between our peoples. Sixty Japanese children visited Constitution Hall Park this summer to tour, to meet American children, and to participate in a traditional American hot dog roast complete with "S'mores". They learned to square dance, courtesy of Ernest White and members of the Diamonds plus Squares Square Dance Club. We are honored to participate in this most worthwhile program, and look forward to hosting next year's groups. In addition, other international visitors toured the Park under the Red Cross Youth Exchange Program. German and Italian delegates were able to learn about the early history of our state and were presented Alabama flags and cook-books featuring traditional Alabama recipes.



**Young settlers experiencing 19th century life.**

This summer, arrangements were completed to close the gift shop on the grounds of the Park and to return the rooms to their intended purpose. These rooms will open during the Christmas season and will be furnished as the slave quarters and as the quarters of John Boardman's apprentice. Due to this closing, the 10% discount offered to members of the Park will no longer be

**Names:**

Bartee, Merle  
Boardman, John

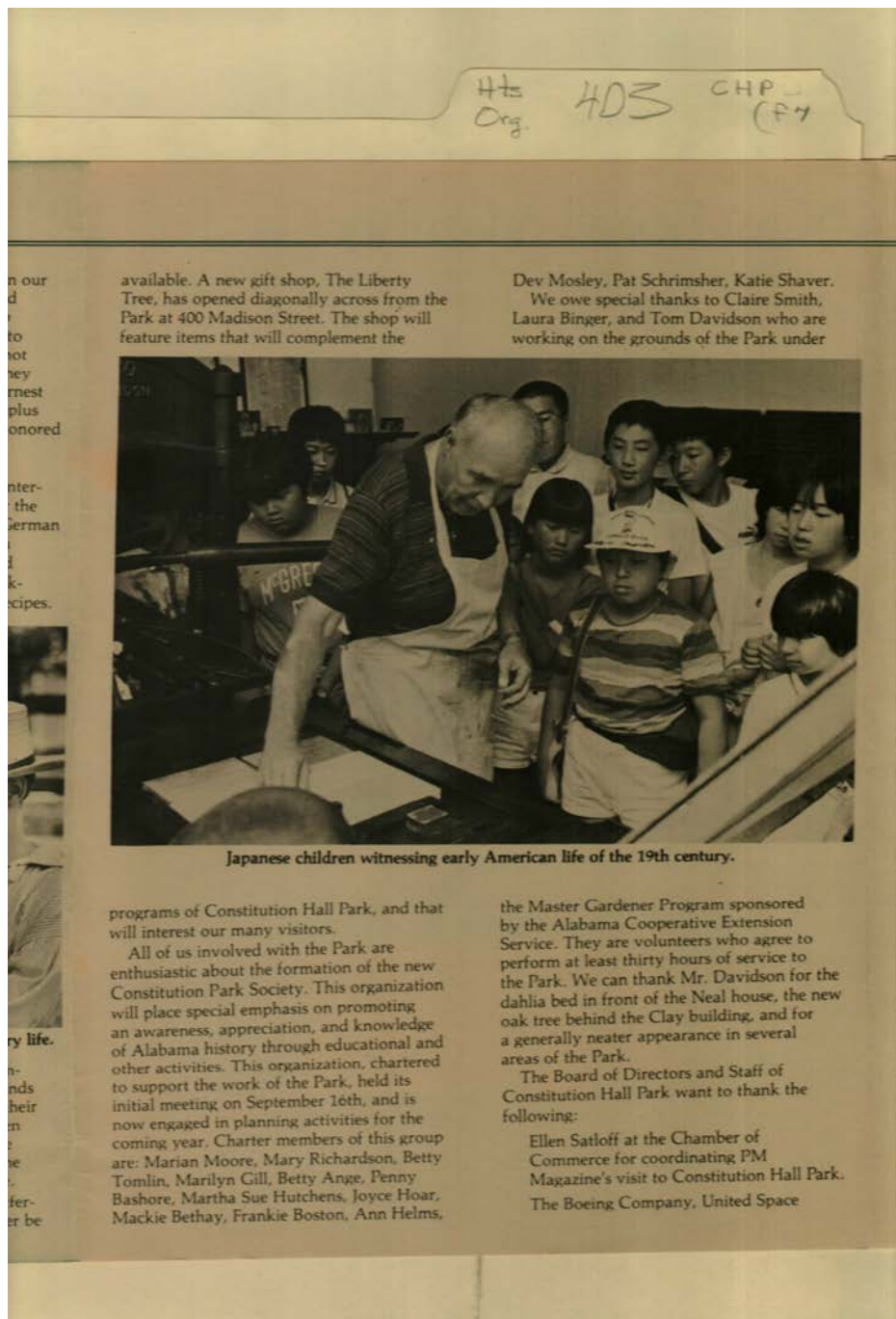
Chancellor, Jim  
Eidt, Sam

Gill, Marilyn  
Hertha, David

Jones, Billie  
White, Ernest

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Ange, Betty  
Bashore, Penny  
Bethay, Mackie  
Binger, Laura  
Boston, Frankie

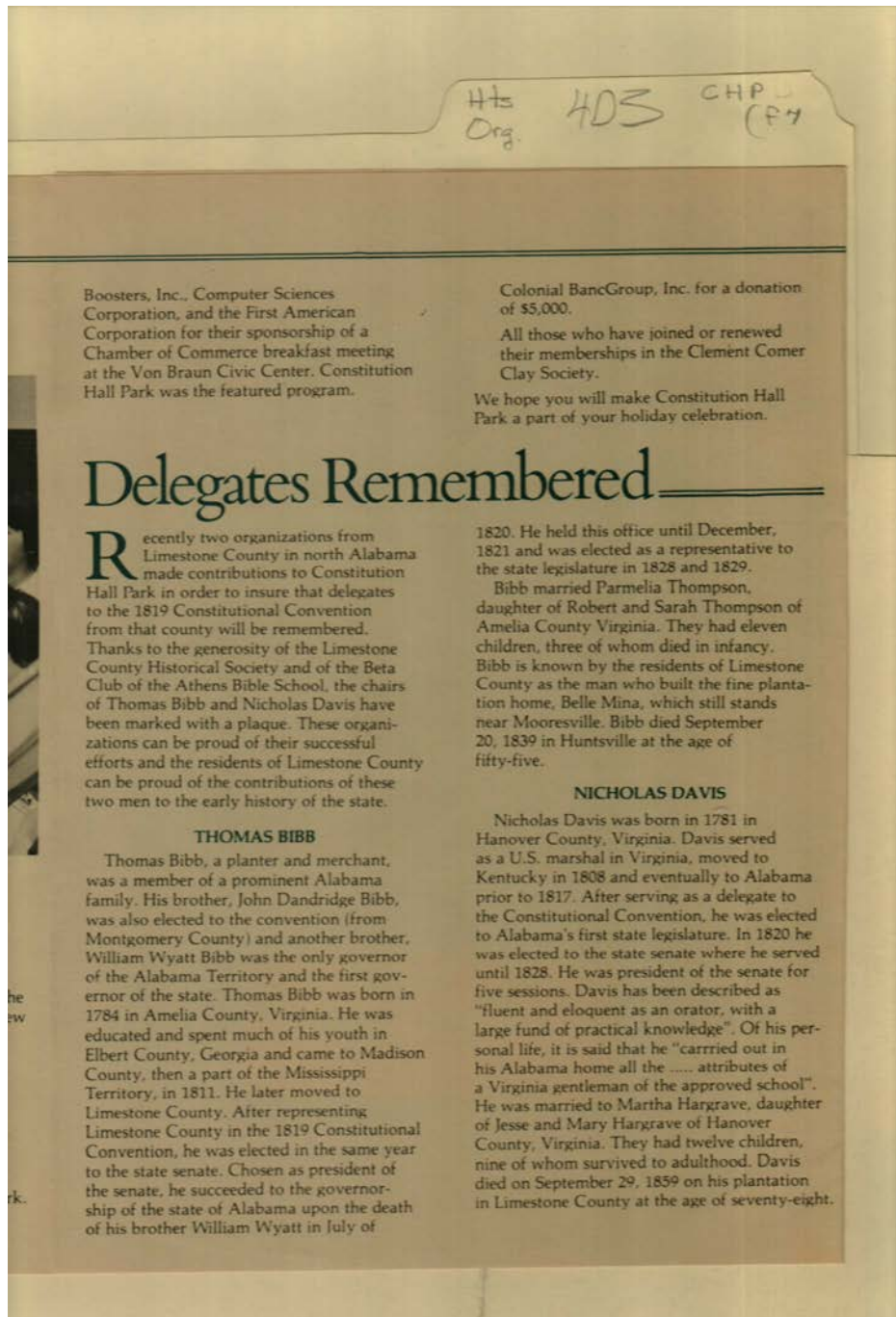
Davidson, Tom  
Gill, Marilyn  
Helms, Ann  
Hoar, Joyce

Hutchens, Martha  
Sue  
Moore, Marian  
Mosley, Dev  
Richardson, Mary

Satloff, Ellen  
Schrimsher, Pat  
Shaver, Katie  
Smith, Claire  
Tomlin, Betty

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Bibb, John Dandridge  
Bibb, Thomas  
Bibb, William Wyatt

Davis, Nicholas  
Hargrave, Jesse  
Hargrave, Martha

Hargrave, Mary  
Thompson, Parmelia  
Thompson, Robert

Thompson, Sarah

**Types:**

newsletter



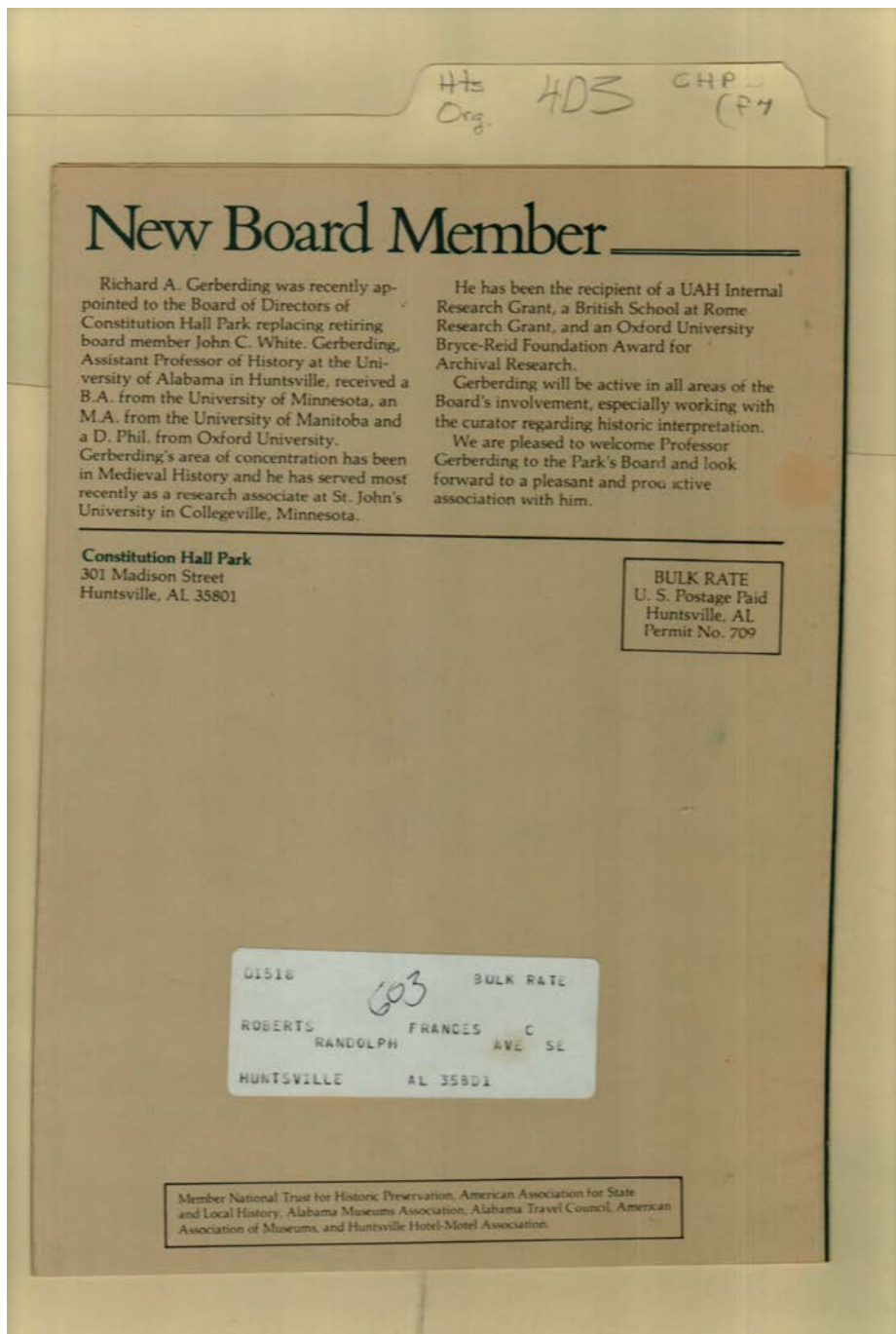
Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(P7)

## Programming Schedule ~1985

October 1 -31	<b>Grandmother's Attic: A Participatory Exhibit for Children.</b> The theatre gallery of the Park will be transformed into Grandmother's Attic. This exhibit is designed to provide children with hands-on experience with relics and fashions of the past. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children. Theatre Gallery, Constitution Hall, Exhibition open during regular Park hours. FREE!	December 13, 14 15, & 16	Guests at these meals are attended by servers in period dress. Historic fare, candlelight, and light music of the 18th and 19th centuries make these feasts a special part of the holiday season. Spaces are limited; reservations are required. 8:00 p.m. For more information call 532-7551.
November 25	<b>Christmas through the Looking Glass:</b> Some of Alabama's most distinguished craftspeople have donated items for sale. Included will be quality woodwork, baskets, pottery, stained glass, needlework, paintings, and photographs. A wonderful opportunity for early Christmas shopping. Proceeds will be used to purchase a mirror for the Neal house parlor. Sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Club of Huntsville. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	December 20, 21	<b>Fourth Annual Candlelight Tours.</b> The Park is decorated with hand-made crafts, traditional greenery, and fruits; walkways are lined with luminaries; buildings are lit with candles; and music of the 19th century is performed. 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. Constitution Hall Park, regular admission charge.
December 3	<b>Volunteers' Christmas Party</b> An old fashioned Christmas party for our volunteers and their families.	December 24 - February 10	<b>Park closes 12:00 noon.</b> Reopens with the Alabama History and Heritage Festival on February 11.
December 4	<b>Tree Lighting: Every Light a Prayer for Peace.</b> Over 2,000 white lights will illuminate a magnificent tree. Sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Madison County and located in Constitution Hall Park. 12:00 noon. Public invited. FREE!	December 24, 25	<b>The Park office will close at 12:00 noon on December 24 and reopen December 30.</b>
		January 1	<b>Park closed.</b>
		January 11	<b>Rock Day.</b> Our ancestors celebrated with Rock Day, on the Monday after the Twelfth Night, by gathering neighbors for a day of spinning. With this tradition in mind, spinners from Huntsville and the North Alabama region will participate in Rock Day in Constitution Hall. 10:00 a.m. The public is invited. FREE!

**Types:**  
newsletter

**Dates:**  
1985



**Names:**

Gerberding, Richard  
A.

Roberts, Frances C.  
White, John C.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newsletter

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

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**Types:**

newsletter

**Dates:**

1986

Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(F7)

## Delegates Remembered

**REUBEN SAFFOLD**

Reuben Saffold represented Clarke County at Alabama's 1819 Constitutional Convention which met in Huntsville in the building now known as Constitution Hall. Saffold was born September 4, 1788 in Wilkes County, Georgia. He was the son of Reuben Saffold and Sarah Lynde Saffold. The elder Saffold was an early settler of Wilkes County, a planter, and a Revolutionary soldier who received 250 acres of land in Washington County, Georgia in return for his military service. Family tradition claims that the original family member in America was brought to the New World in secrecy as an infant to prevent his inheritance of valuable property in England.

Young Reuben received his academic education in Wilkes County, Georgia, taught school, and read law in the office of Edward Payne of Morgan County, Georgia. In June 1813, he moved to Jackson, Clarke County, Mississippi Territory where he practiced law briefly before becoming involved in the war against the Creek Indians. During those hostilities, he was appointed as colonel in the Mississippi Territorial Militia. He resumed the practice of law when peace was established. He served as a member of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature from Clarke County. When Mississippi became a state in 1817, Clarke County became a part of the newly organized Alabama Territory. Saffold represented Clarke County in the 1819 Convention which met in Huntsville to frame the first state constitution. He was chosen as a member of the committee of fifteen men who prepared the first draft of the historic document.

Saffold was elected as judge of a 2nd circuit court and thereby became an ex-officio member of the state supreme court. When a separate supreme court was organized in 1832, he was chosen as one of its three members. In 1835, he was appointed chief justice of the court, but resigned the following year. According to Colonel A. J. Pickett, "the reports of the supreme court of Alabama are enduring memorials of his strength of mind, patient investigation, deep research, and profound learning." In 1843, Governor Fitzpatrick offered Saffold the position of associate justice of the supreme court, but he

## New Board M

We are pleased to welcome Mr. John E. Hatch to the Board of Directors at Constitution Hall Park. Since 1983, John has been a Project Manager with United Space Boosters, Inc. of Huntsville. He retired as Senior Vice-President and Comptroller from the Bank of Huntsville in 1983. John received his bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering



*Student watches as Snake Dance is demonstrated to her class on a field trip to Constitution Hall Park for the History Festival program on Indian life and culture.*

**Names:**

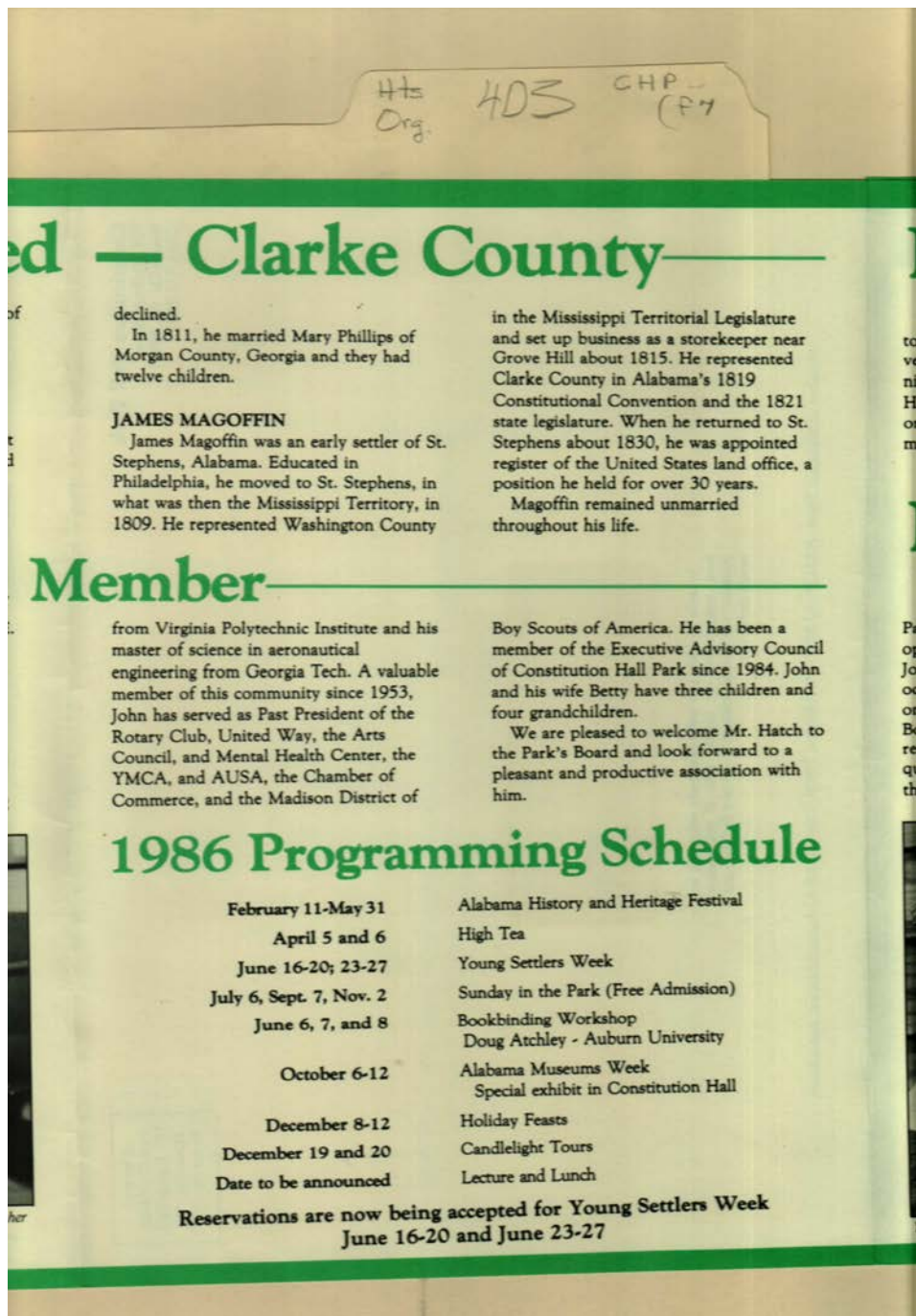
Fitzpatrick, Governor  
Hatch, John E.

Payne, Edward  
Pickett, A. J., Colonel

Saffold, Reuben  
Saffold, Sarah Lynde

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Atchley, Doug

Hatch, Betty

Magoffin, James

Phillips, Mary

**Types:**

newsletter

403  
Hts  
Org.  
CHP  
(F7)

## Director's Report


The Constitution Hall Park family looks to the new year with great optimism after a very successful Christmas season. Two nights of Candlelight Tours, four nights of Holiday Feasts, and numerous rentals by organizations in the Huntsville area allowed many individuals to share in the magic of

the Park at Christmas, and netted over \$6,300 to be used in the museum's educational programming. Special thanks must be extended to the Federated Garden Clubs of Madison County and the Constitution Park Society whose members

## Recent Acquisitions

The recent closing of Constitution Hall Park's gift shop has made possible the opening of two new exhibit rooms in the John Boardman building. These rooms occupy the former gift shop space in the one story brick wing to the rear of the Boardman building. One room is being refurnished as it appeared when it was the quarters for Mr. Boardman's slaves, and the other as the quarters of the Boardman's

printer's apprentice (known in the nineteenth century as the "printer's devil"). Each of the rooms will contain extremely plain, simple furniture in keeping with their original use. Generally, an apprentice's needs were provided for in only the most homely way, and slaves' furniture was often out-of-fashion or cast-off furniture from the main house. Furnishings in these rooms will consist of beds, the common one-



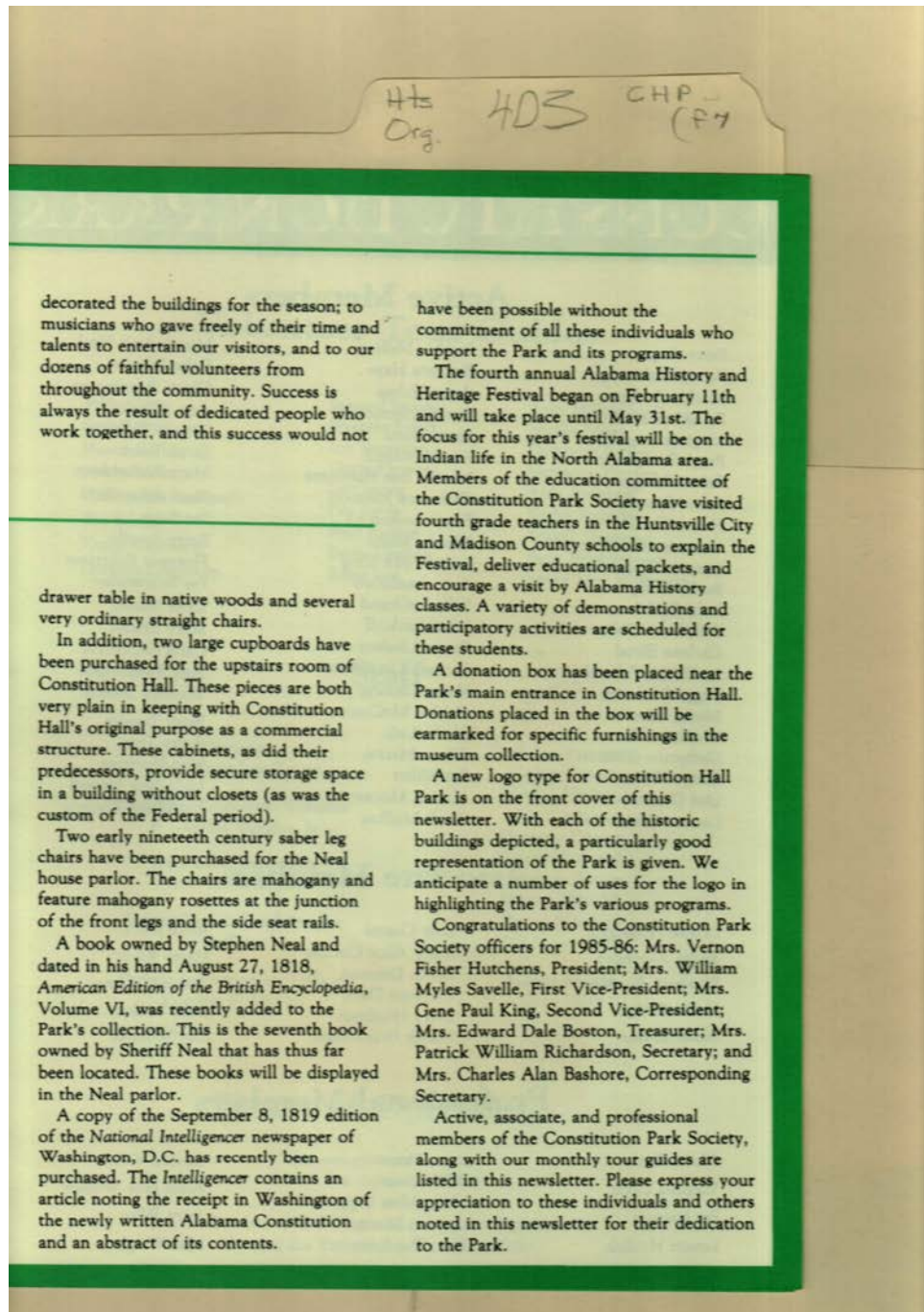
*Young Settler makes a new friend.*

## High Tea

For the second year in a row, Constitution Hall Park will participate in the Huntsville Pilgrimage Tours by offering a High Tea on each of the days that the home tour is scheduled. On April 5 and 6, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., tea and a variety of sweets will be served in Constitution Hall. The Constitution Park Society will be coordinating this event, and the cost is \$5.00 per person. To make a reservation, make checks payable to the Constitution Park Society and mail to Constitution Hall Park, 301 Madison Street, Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

**Names:**  
Boardman, John

**Types:**  
newsletter



**Names:**

Bashore, Charles  
Alan, Mrs.  
Boston, Edward Dale,  
Mrs.

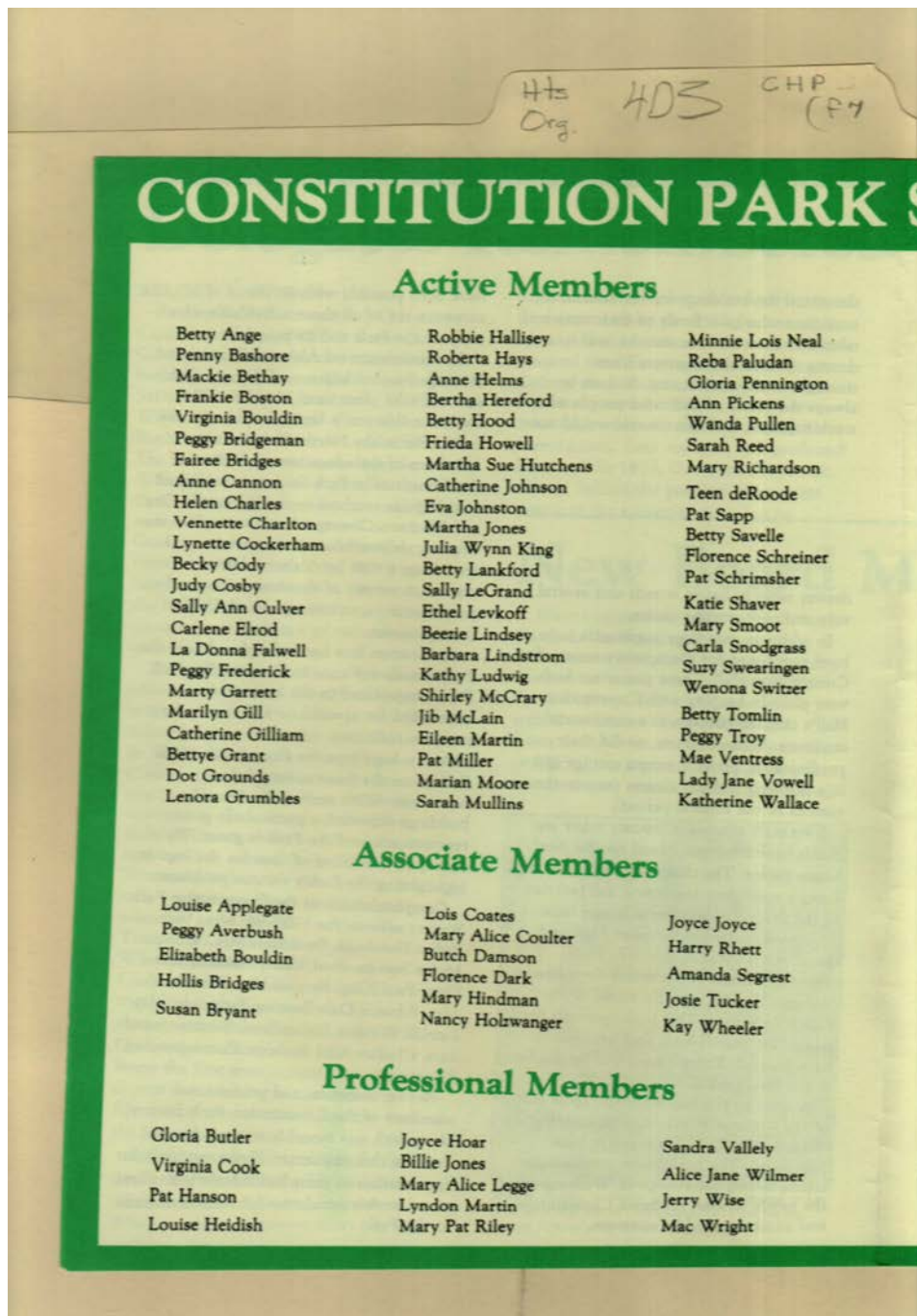
Hutchens, Vernon  
Fisher, Mrs.  
King, Gene Paul,  
Mrs.

Neal, Stephen  
Richardson, Patrick  
William, Mrs.

Savelle, William  
Myles, Mrs.

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Ange, Betty  
Applegate, Louise  
Averbush, Peggy  
Bashore, Penny  
Bethay, Mackie  
Boston, Frankie  
Bouldin, Elizabeth  
Bouldin, Virginia  
Bridgeman, Peggy  
Bridges, Fairee  
Bridges, Hollis  
Bryant, Susan

Butler, Gloria  
Cannon, Anne  
Charles, Helen  
Charlton, Vennette  
Coates, Lois  
Cockerham, Lynette  
Cody, Becky  
Cook, Virginia  
Cosby, Judy  
Coulter, Mary Alice  
Culver, Sally Ann  
Damson, Butch

Dark, Florence  
Elrod, Carlene  
Falwell, La Donna  
Frederick, Peggy  
Garrett, Marty  
Gill, Marilyn  
Gilliam, Catherine  
Grant, Bettye  
Grounds, Dot  
Grumbles, Lenora  
Hallisey, Robbie  
Hanson, Pat

Hays, Roberta  
Heidish, Louise  
Helms, Anne  
Hereford, Bertha  
Hindman, Mary  
Hoar, Joyce  
Holzwanger, Nancy  
Hood, Betty  
Howell, Frieda  
Hutchens, Martha  
Sue  
Johnson, Catherine



Johnston, Eva  
Jones, Billie  
Jones, Martha  
Joyce, Joyce  
King, Julia Wynn  
Lankford, Betty  
LeGrand, Sally  
Legge, Mary Alice  
Levkoff, Ethel  
Lindsey, Beezie  
Lindstrom, Barbara  
Ludwig, Kathy  
Martin, Eileen

Martin, Lyndon  
McCrary, Shirley  
McLain, Jib  
Miller, Pat  
Moore, Marian  
Mullins, Sarah  
Neal, Minnie Lois  
Paludan, Reba  
Pennington, Gloria  
Pickens, Ann  
Pullen, Wanda  
Reed, Sarah  
Rhett, Harry

Richardson, Mary  
Riley, Mary Pat  
Sapp, Pat  
Savelle, Betty  
Schreiner, Florence  
Schrimsher, Pat  
Segrest, Amanda  
Shaver, Katie  
Smoot, Mary  
Snodgrass, Carla  
Swearingen, Suzy  
Switzer, Wenona  
Tomlin, Betty

Troy, Peggy  
Tucker, Josie  
Vallely, Sandra  
Ventress, Mae  
Vowell, Lady Jane  
Wallace, Katherine  
Wheeler, Kay  
Wilmer, Alice Jane  
Wise, Jerry  
Wright, Mac  
deRoode, Teen

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Allen, Inge  
 Baker, Sara  
 Bandgren, Ann M.  
 Barker, Nancy  
 Bartee, Merle  
 Beaupre', Hildegard  
 Bowen, Bea  
 Brown, Harrison  
 Cameron, Kathy  
 Cates, Jo  
 Chapman, Gwyllyn

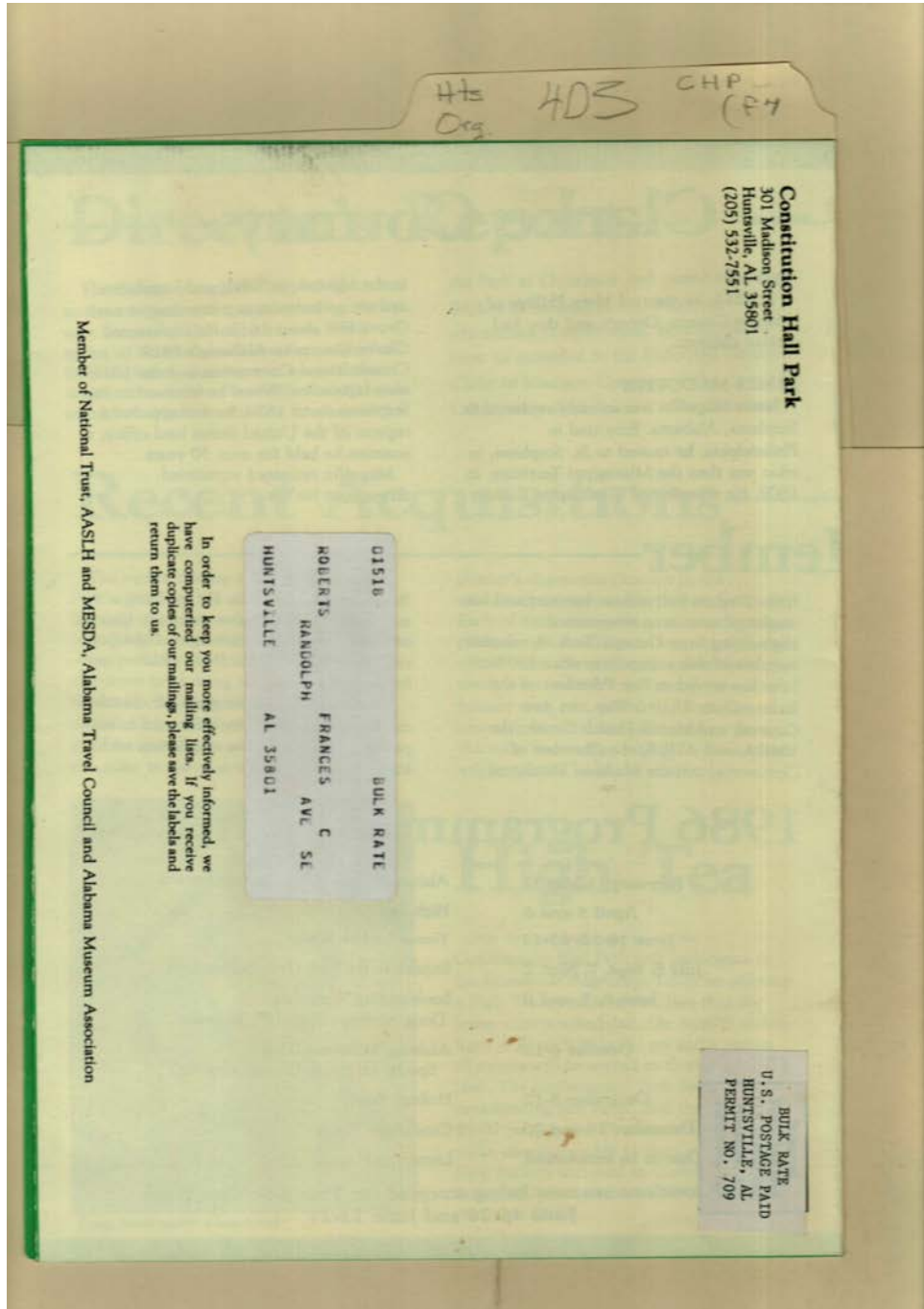
Charles, James  
 Conner, Jan  
 Eslick, Sweetie  
 Fargason, Joy  
 Genter, Madge  
 Gentes, Florence  
 Hersey, Doris  
 Hillis, Gary  
 James, Lee  
 Jones, Peg  
 Justice, Beth

Lawson, Betty  
 Lee, Betty  
 McCoy, Eugenia E.  
 Mingledorff, Amy  
 Misfeldt, Sherrie  
 Moss, Sheila  
 Parker, Delphine  
 Peterson, Penny  
 Pierson, Margayle  
 Reinbolt, Alda  
 Rotenberry, Bill

Saunders, Kathy  
 Shelton, Martha  
 Singleton, Youell  
 Tatum, Dana Lee,  
 Mrs.  
 Vaughn, F. Charles,  
 Jr.  
 Westrich, Francie  
 Whittington, Faye  
 Wilbourn, Laura Mae

**Types:**

newsletter



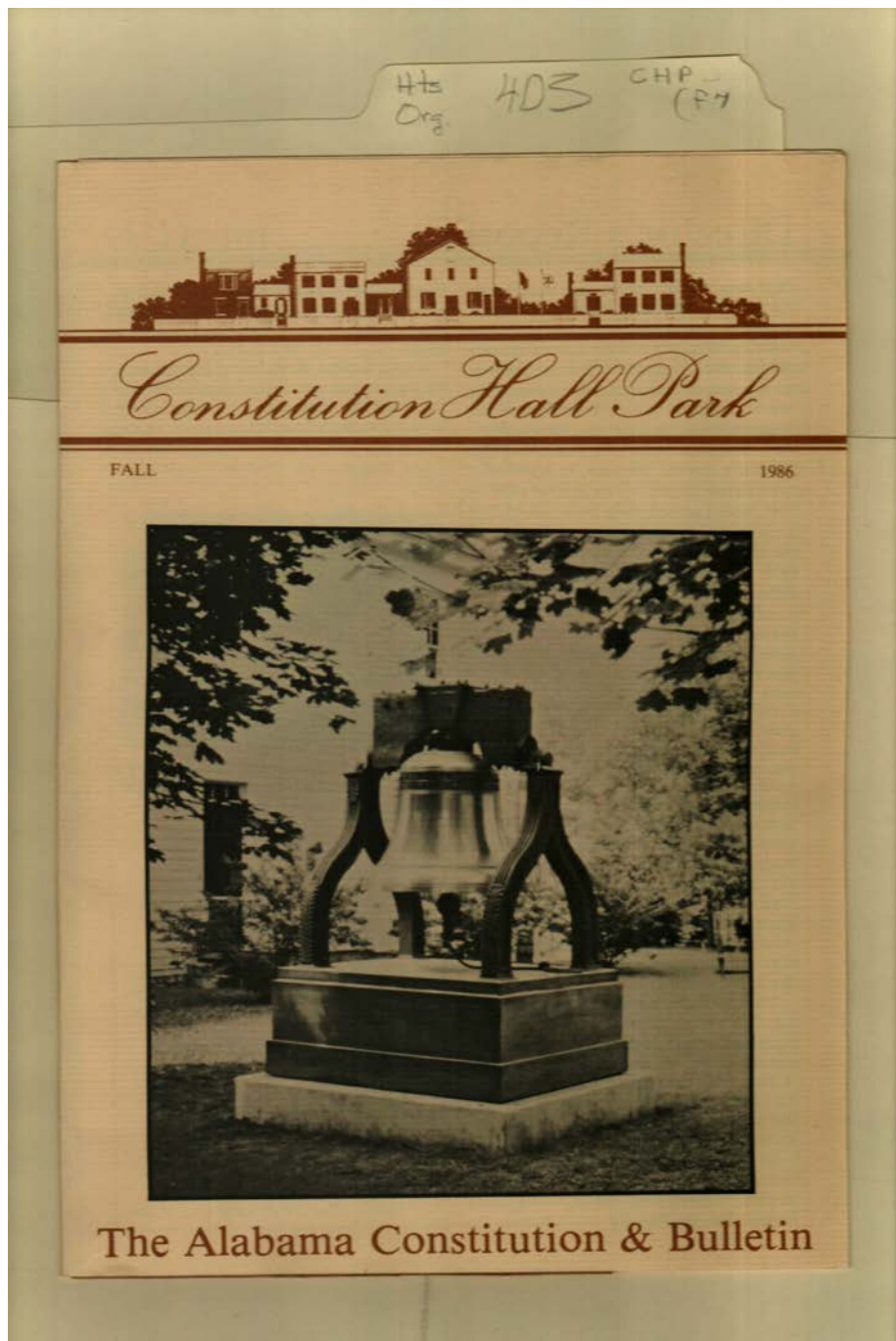
**Names:**  
Roberts, Frances C.

**Types:**  
newsletter

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

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**Types:**

newsletter

**Dates:**

Fall 1986

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Org. 403 CHP  
(F7)


## Director's Report

**Y**oung Settlers Week was exciting for Constitution Hall Park this summer. Now in its fourth year, our traditional camp has truly come into its own. The camp's capable director, Margaret Belle Crow, built on the foundation laid previously to create this year's enjoyable and historically accurate program. New this year was the children's walk through time into the year 1819. They physically passed through a grandfather clock built especially for the purpose, leaving 1986 behind and entering the world of their great-great-great-grandparents. They became the children of the delegates to Alabama's 1819 Constitutional Convention. Margaret Belle, as "Miss Maggie," the children's travelling tutor from Nashville, held daily lessons and supervised their activities. A series of character visits added a new dimension to this year's camp. The Young Settlers were visited by Hugh McVay, one of the Convention delegates, and he explained what their "fathers" were doing in their Huntsville meetings. The youngsters actually entered the meeting hall during the Convention's lunch break and sat in the chairs where their fathers were working. A Cherokee Indian, Morning Sun, visited the children while they were fishing on the Flint River. Her arrival in buckskin attire, in a canoe, created quite a stir. She joined the children for a lunch of fresh-caught fish and told them of her way of life, illustrating her stories with baskets and pottery that her people had made. In addition, she shared the legend of the coming of fire to her people.

John James Audubon visited on his way to the Gulf Coast, telling of his life and the hardships he had endured to paint the birds and animals of the southeast. Cabinetmaker Walker Allen helped the Young Settlers build a bird feeder which they filled with corn they had ground themselves using an Indian corn grinder.

Of course, the children once again cooked their own lunches under the expert guidance of Mrs. Stephen Neal, portrayed by Merle Bartee. The opportunity to cook over the open fire was exciting to each of the children, and all agreed the lunches were somehow extra-special because they had prepared them.


Young Settlers Week was a great success for the participants, staff, Constitution Hall Park, and the community. We look forward to next summer's program.



**Ginger Penney and Charlie Bishop enjoy a lesson with visiting tutor, "Miss Maggie" during Young Settlers Week.**

### Please Note!

As of September 1, 1986, there will be an increase in the cost of admission to Constitution Hall Park. The new prices are as follows:



- Adults \$3.50
- Children 6-12 \$1.50
- Children under 6 are still free
- Senior Citizens remain at \$1.50
- Group rates for adults \$2.50
- Group rates for children 6-12 \$1.00

**Names:**

Allen, Walker  
Audubon, John James

Bartee, Merle  
Bishop, Charlie

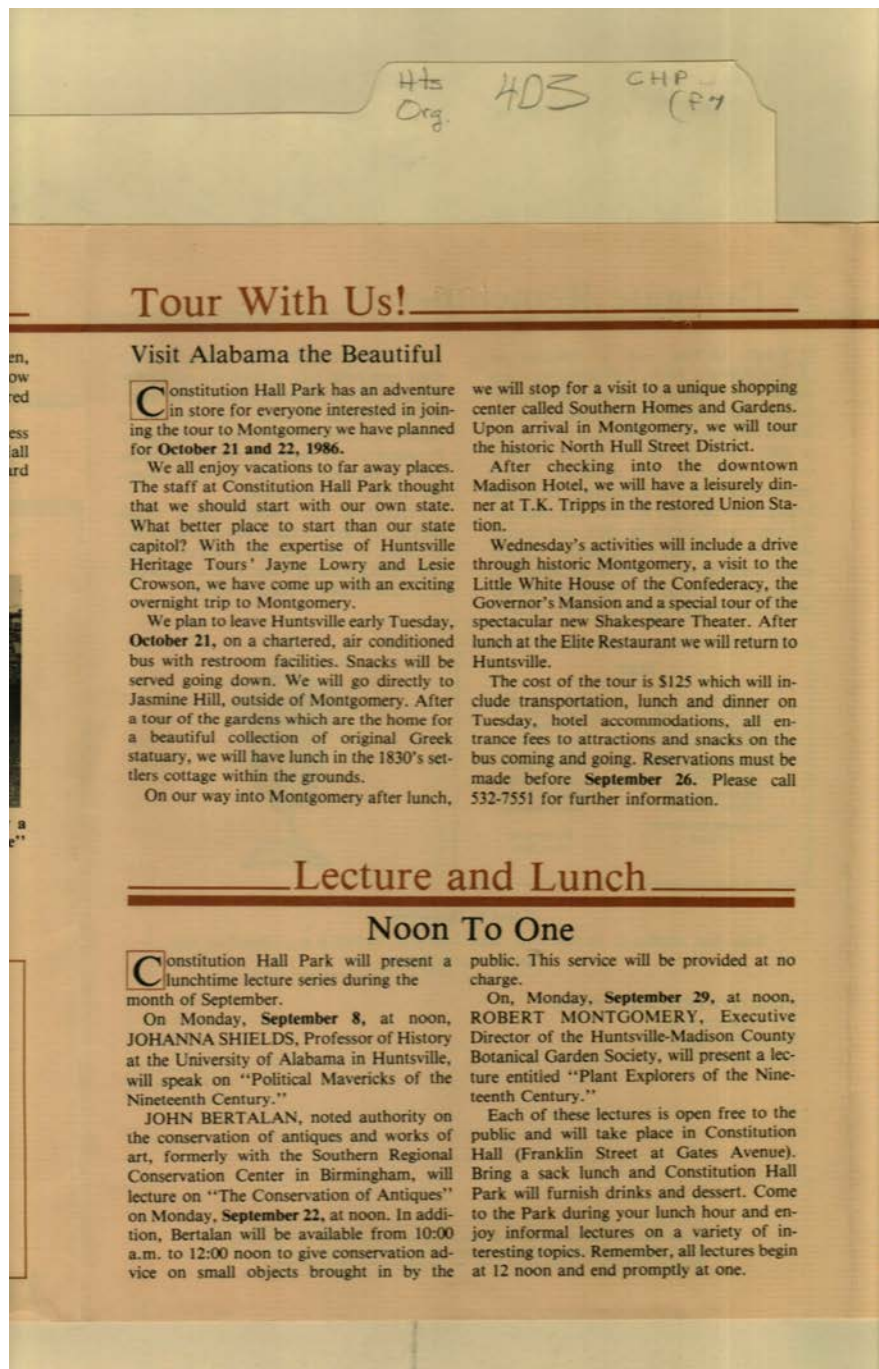
Crow, Margaret Belle  
McVay, Hugh

Neal, Stephen, Mrs.  
Penny, Ginger

**Types:**

newsletter

photo



**Names:**

Bertalan, John  
Crowson, Leslie

Lowry, Jayne  
Montgomery, Robert

Shields, Johanna  
Tripps, T. K.

**Types:**


newsletter

403 CHP (P4)  
Orig.

### "Sunday in the Park"

The inclement summer weather did not prevent more than 1,500 people from enjoying Constitution Hall Park's premier Sunday in the Park. The event was held July 13 and was sponsored by Buffalo Rock-Pepsi Cola Company, Inc. Admission to the Park was free, and many guests brought picnic baskets and had lunch on the grounds. Visitors were able to stroll from building to building at their leisure. Costumed Park Interpreters explained the historical significance of the buildings and visitors watched demonstrations of corn husk doll making, candle dipping, weaving, quilting and spinning. Huey Givens, Wayne Wilson and Claudette Mumford played the banjo, harmonica, guitar and bass. The band entertained the crowd and also provided accompaniment for the Single Squares who danced to the music. Malcolm Goodman turned dough bowls on the potters wheel, and blacksmith Bud Berry hammered spoons and pokers for the crowd. Hundreds of children throughout the day rang the Liberty Bell, recently donated by AmSouth Bank. Free Pepsi Cola was given to all guests to quench their thirsts from the hot summer sun.


Sunday in the Park was a success, as well as educational for our first-time visitors who caught a glimpse of their ancestors' lives in the early nineteenth century. There will be two additional Sundays in the Park; **September 7** will spotlight children's activities and **November 2** will highlight our senior citizens. Come join us in the nineteenth century for our next Sunday in the Park where there will be a fun-filled afternoon for all ages.



Malcolm Goodman is a popular addition to FREE SUNDAY IN THE PARK.

### Southern Furniture Exhibit. . .

A collection of Southern furniture from a private collection will be on exhibit in the Theatre Gallery from **October 2 to October 31**. The Gallery is located upstairs in Constitution Hall at the corner of Franklin Street and Gates Avenue. It may be viewed during regular Park hours. No admission charge.



### Discovery Room to Open October 6, 1986

Constitution Hall Park will open its "Discovery Room," designed for children aged four years to second grade, in conjunction with Alabama Museums Week **October 6-12, 1986**. The room will be furnished with child-size reproductions of early 19th century furniture and is intended to allow young children to experience with hands-on activities the life of their ancestors almost two centuries ago. When the children enter the room, they will pass through a large grandfather clock to symbolically turn back time to the year 1819, the year of Alabama's statehood. Once in the room, the furnishings, together with Federal costumes and a storyteller spinning traditional folktales, will provide a total experience for young visitors.

Advance reservations are required for groups and to schedule the storyteller.

Many thanks to Rudd Loder, who has been kind enough to donate his time and talents to make the reproduction furniture used in the room.

**Names:**

Berry, Bud  
Givens, Huey

Goodman, Malcolm  
Loder, Rudd

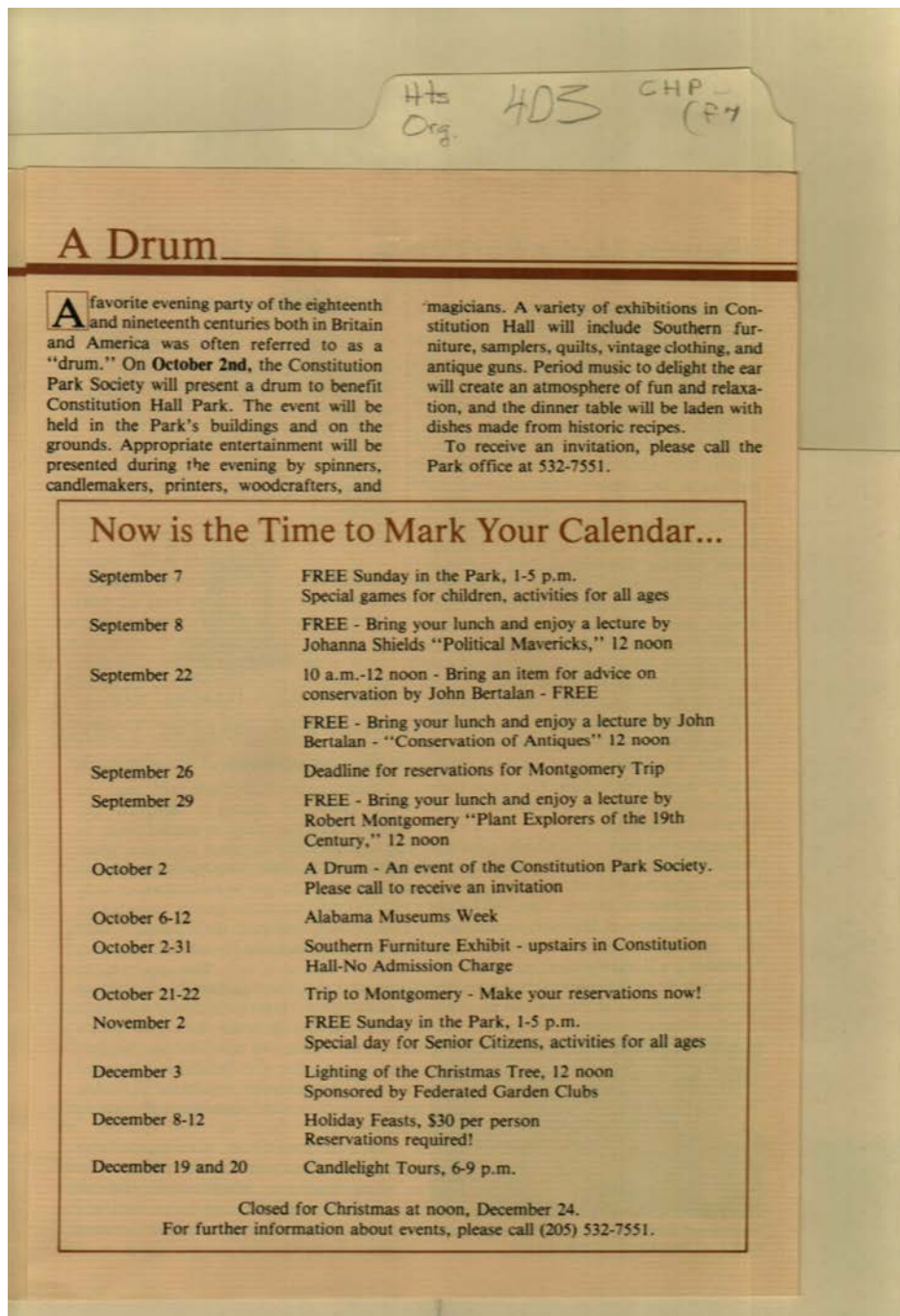
Mumford, Claudette  
Wilson, Wayne

**Types:**

newsletter

photo





**Names:**

Bertalan, John

Montgomery, Robert

Shields, Johanna

**Types:**

newsletter

Ht  
Org. 403 CHP  
(P7)

## A Delegate Remembered


**H**ugh McVay was a delegate to Alabama's 1819 Constitutional Convention from Lauderdale County. McVay was born in 1788 in South Carolina and received a limited education there. He came to Alabama in 1807 where he first settled in Madison County. There he was a planter and a representative to the Mississippi Territorial Legislature from 1811 to 1818. The Alabama Territory was formed in 1817, and shortly thereafter he moved to Lauderdale County and represented that county in the State Constitutional Convention in Huntsville. McVay served in the state legislature from 1820 to

1825 and was elected to the state senate for every term from 1825 to 1844. He was elected President of the Senate in 1836; in June 1837, when Governor Clement Clay resigned to become a United States Senator, McVay (as President of the Senate) served as governor through December of that year when Governor Bagby was inaugurated.

Throughout his political career, Hugh McVay was also a planter whose acreage was extensive. A Democrat and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he was married to a Miss Hawks of South Carolina.

**Staff**

<p><b>Director</b> Mrs. Dana Lee Tatum</p> <p><b>Assistant Director/ Curator</b> F. Charles Vaughn, Jr.</p> <p><b>Public Information Officer</b> Eugenia McCoy</p> <p><b>Executive Secretary</b> Ann M. Bandgren</p> <p><b>Receptionist/Bookkeeper</b> Jo Cates</p>	<p><b>Park Interpreters</b> Madge Genter Jan Conner Florence Gentes Francie Westrich Harrison Brown Sherrie Misfeldt Hildegard Beaupre Roslyn Bracken</p> <p><b>Maintenance</b> Gary Hillis</p>
---	---



**Hours of Operation**

Tues.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sun. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon.  
Last tour at 3:30 p.m.

**CONSTITUTION HALL PARK**  
301 Madison Street  
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(205) 532-7551

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RANDOLPH AVE SE  
HUNTSVILLE AL 35801

Member National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Association for State and Local History, Alabama Museums Association, Alabama Travel Council, American Association of Museums, Huntsville Hotel-Motel Association, and Southeastern Museums Conference.

**Names:**

Bagby, Governor  
Bandgren, Ann M.  
Beaupre', Hildegarde  
Bracken, Rosyln  
Brown, Harrison  
Cates, Jo

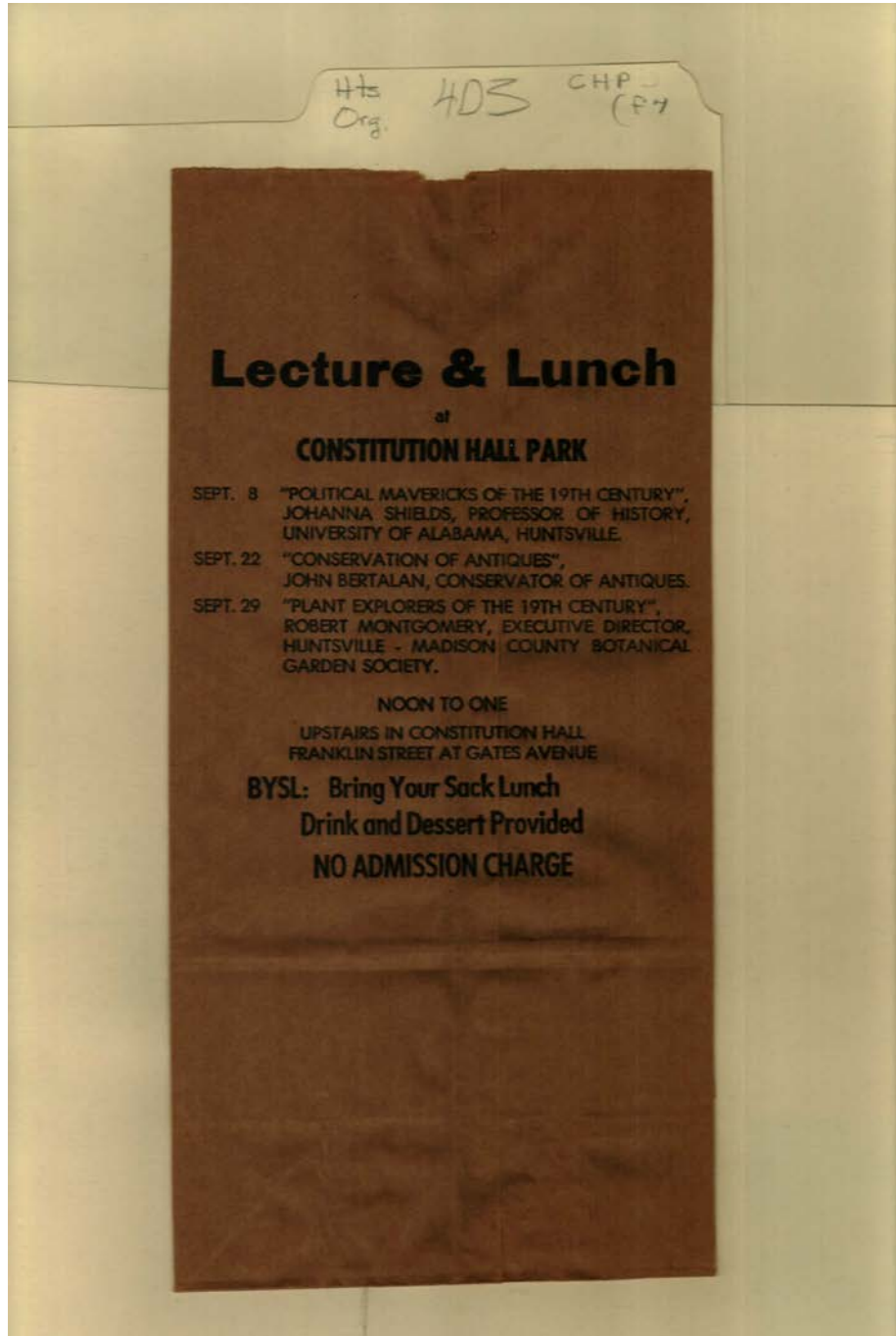
Clay, Clement,  
Governor  
Conner, Jan  
Genter, Madge  
Gentes, Florence  
Hawks,

Hillis, Gary  
McCoy, Eugenia E.  
McVay, Hugh  
Misfeldt, Sherrie  
Roberts, Frances C.

Tatum, Dana Lee,  
Mrs.  
Vaughn, F. Charles,  
Jr.  
Westrich, Francie

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Bertalan, John

Montgomery, Robert

Shields, Johanna

**Types:**

bag

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

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**Types:**  
photo




**Dates:**  
Summer 1987

Hts Org. 403 CHP (P4)

## Young Settlers Week-1987



**R**ESERVATIONS are now being accepted for Young Settlers Week being held June 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, and June 22<sup>nd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. Children in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will journey back into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and learn the way of life of a young settler. Activities planned by Director Sue Seggel include basketry, pottery, cooking, candel dipping, grave-stone rubbing, printing, and building a bird feeder. Activities begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. The cost of Young Settlers Week is \$150.00 and includes registration, craft materials, lunches, the use of period costumes, and a certificate awarded at the end of the week. ☞ Come spend a week at Constitution Hall Park. Meet the people, play the games, observe the sights, hear the sounds, and capture the spirit of your heritage. Places are limited, so reserve early by calling 532-7551. ☞



**Names:**

Seggel, Sue

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Clay, Henry  
Harrison,  
Hopkins, Arthur F.

Hopkins, Arthur, Jr.  
Hopkins, Frances  
Carter

Hopkins, James  
Jefferson, Thomas  
Leigh, William, Judge

**Types:**

newsletter

Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(F7)

## Discovery Room

ALMOST from the museum's opening, those involved with guided tours for young children have noted difficulties in making these children understand what they are seeing at Constitution Hall Park. A number of alternatives were discussed, educators were consulted, and the decision was made to provide our young visitors with a "hands-on" area where they could experience first-hand the life of a child during the Federal period. This area, known as the Discovery Room, opened in March of this year allowing children ages four through seven to step back in time. These children walk through a grandfather clock built especially for the room by Huntsville woodcrafter **Rudd Loder** leaving 1987 behind and stepping into the world of 1819. In the room the children are told a story relating to the way of life in Huntsville in the early nineteenth century. They are encouraged to dress in reproduction period clothing found in the room and act out parts of the story which they have just heard. After leaving the Discovery Room, the children tour the areas of the museum directly related to domestic life. They learn about spinning, weaving, soapmaking, candel dipping, and cooking over an open fire. They see the types of food that families would have eaten growing in the Neal house garden.

The room is available by reservation to groups of 15 or more, and the response has been enthusiastic. Thanks for this program go to the Constitution Park Society which contributed proceeds from its activities to establish the Discovery Room and to pay the salary of the storyteller.

## Bringing History to Life



BRINGING history to life through writing has long been an avocation of Constitution Park Society member Eileen Martin. Eileen's talent is well-known in the community, and the staff was excited at the prospect of one of her stories being used in the newly opened Discovery Room. Using information provided to her on the history of this area and the way of life of its early settlers, Eileen penned two tales for use in the room. The stories are entitled *George, a Boy of Old Huntsville*, and *A Trip to Town*. Each of the stories is set in 1819; one centers on George Neal, the son of Sheriff Stephen Neal, and the other on a child who is part of a farm family living in one of the more remote areas of the county. The enthusiastic response of teachers has proven that this age group is better able to understand a way of life when they can relate to it through the eyes of another child like George Neal. Eileen's first story will be published along with drawings as a coloring book later this year. We appreciate Eileen sharing her time and talents with the community in this special way.

**Names:**

Loder, Rudd

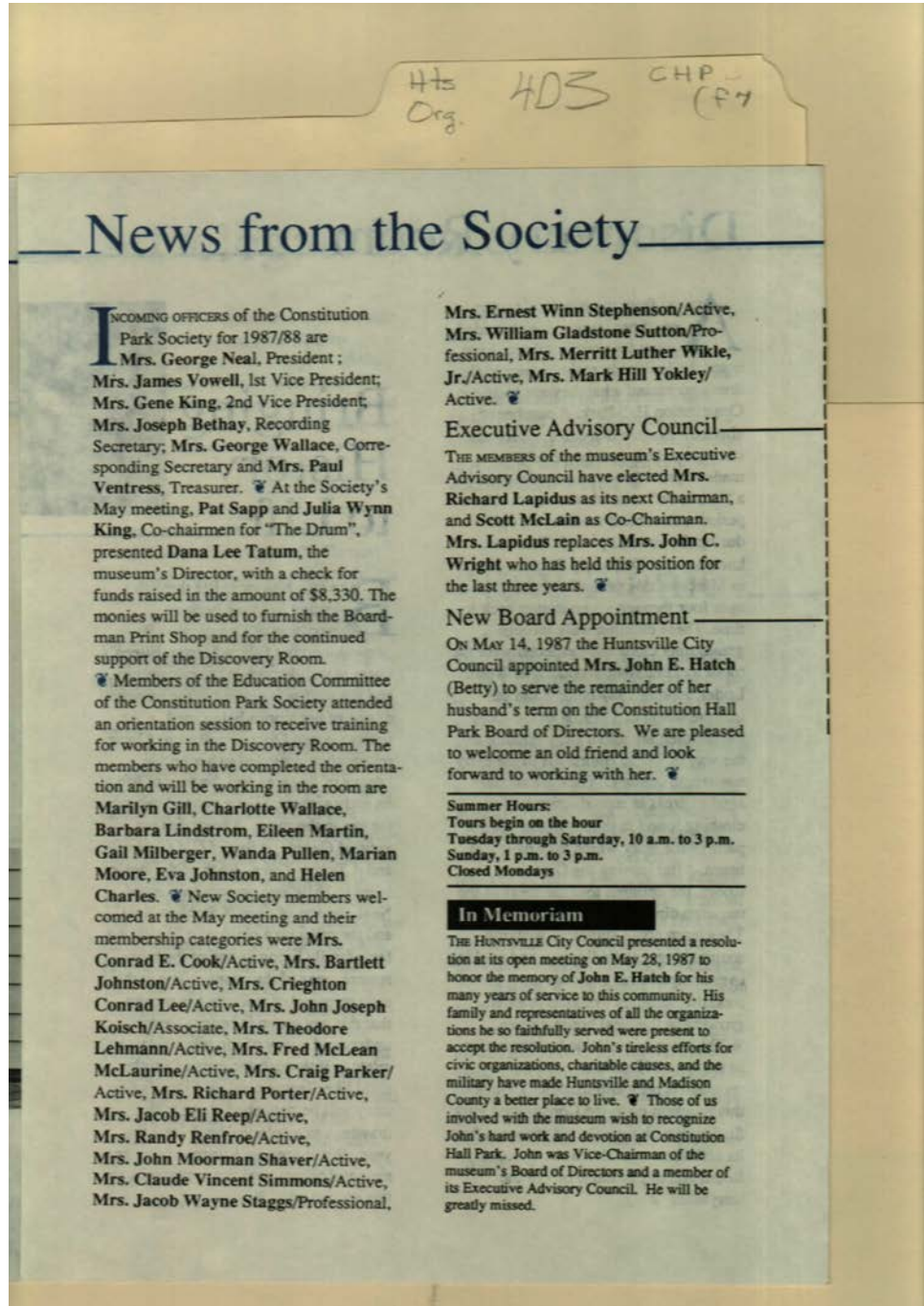
Martin, Eileen

Neal, George

Neal, Stephen, Sheriff

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

- |                      |                      |                       |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Bethay, Joseph, Mrs. | Koisch, John Joseph, | Milberger, Gail       | Simmons, Claude      |
| Charles, Helen       | Mrs.                 | Moore, Marian         | Vincent, Mrs.        |
| Cook, Conrad E.,     | Lapidus, Richard,    | Neal, George, Mrs.    | Staggs, Jacob Wayne, |
| Mrs.                 | Mrs.                 | Parker, Craig, Mrs.   | Mrs.                 |
| Gill, Marilyn        | Lee, Creighton       | Porter, Richard, Mrs. | Stephenson, Ernest   |
| Hatch, John E., Mrs. | Conrad, Mrs.         | Pullen, Wanda         | Winn, Mrs.           |
| Johnston, Bartlett,  | Lehmann, Theodore,   | Reep, Jacob Eli, Mrs. | Sutton, William      |
| Mrs.                 | Mrs.                 | Renfroe, Randy, Mrs.  | Gladstone, Mrs.      |
| Johnston, Eva        | Lindstrom, Barbara   | Sapp, Pat             | Tatum, Dana Lee,     |
| King, Gene, Mrs.     | Martin, Eileen       | Shaver, John          | Mrs.                 |
| King, Julia Wynn     | McLain, Scott        | Moorman, Mrs.         | Ventress, Paul, Mrs. |
|                      | McLean, Fred, Mrs.   |                       | Vowell, James, Mrs.  |

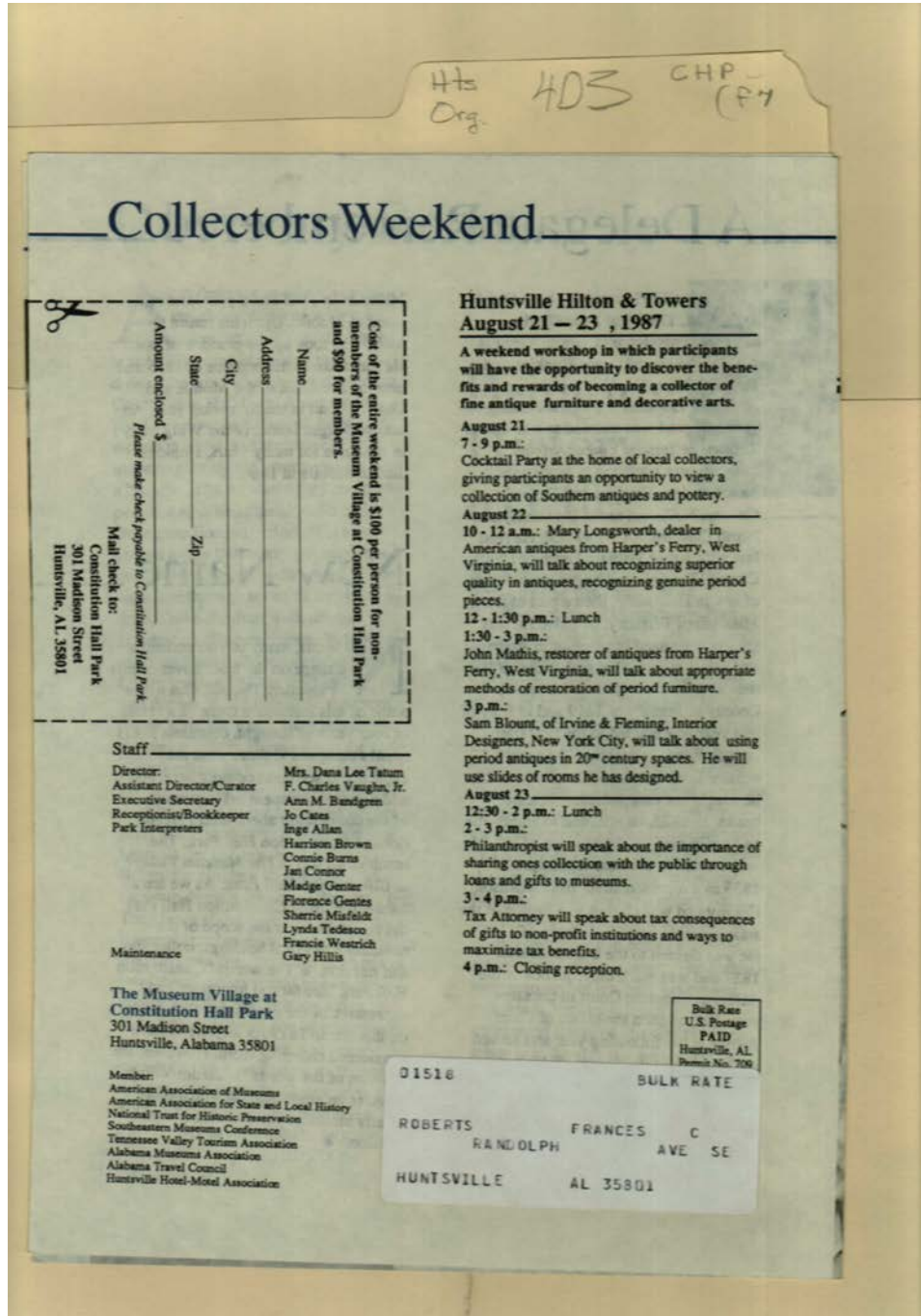


Wallace, Charlotte  
Wallace, George,  
Mrs.

Wikle, Merritt Luther,  
Mrs.  
Wright, John C., Mr.s

Yokley, Mark Hill,  
Mrs.

**Types:**  
newsletter



**Names:**

Allan, Inge  
 Bandgren, Ann M.  
 Blount, Sam  
 Brown, Harrison  
 Burns, Connie

Cates, Jo  
 Conner, Jan  
 Genter, Madge  
 Hillis, Gary  
 Lonsworth, Mary

Mathis, John  
 Misfeldt, Sherrie  
 Roberts, Frances C.  
 Tatum, Dana Lee,  
 Mrs.

Tedesco, Lynda  
 Vaughn, F. Charles,  
 Jr.  
 Westrich, Francie

**Types:**

newsletter

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7

Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release

Image 40 r04d03-07-000-0348 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

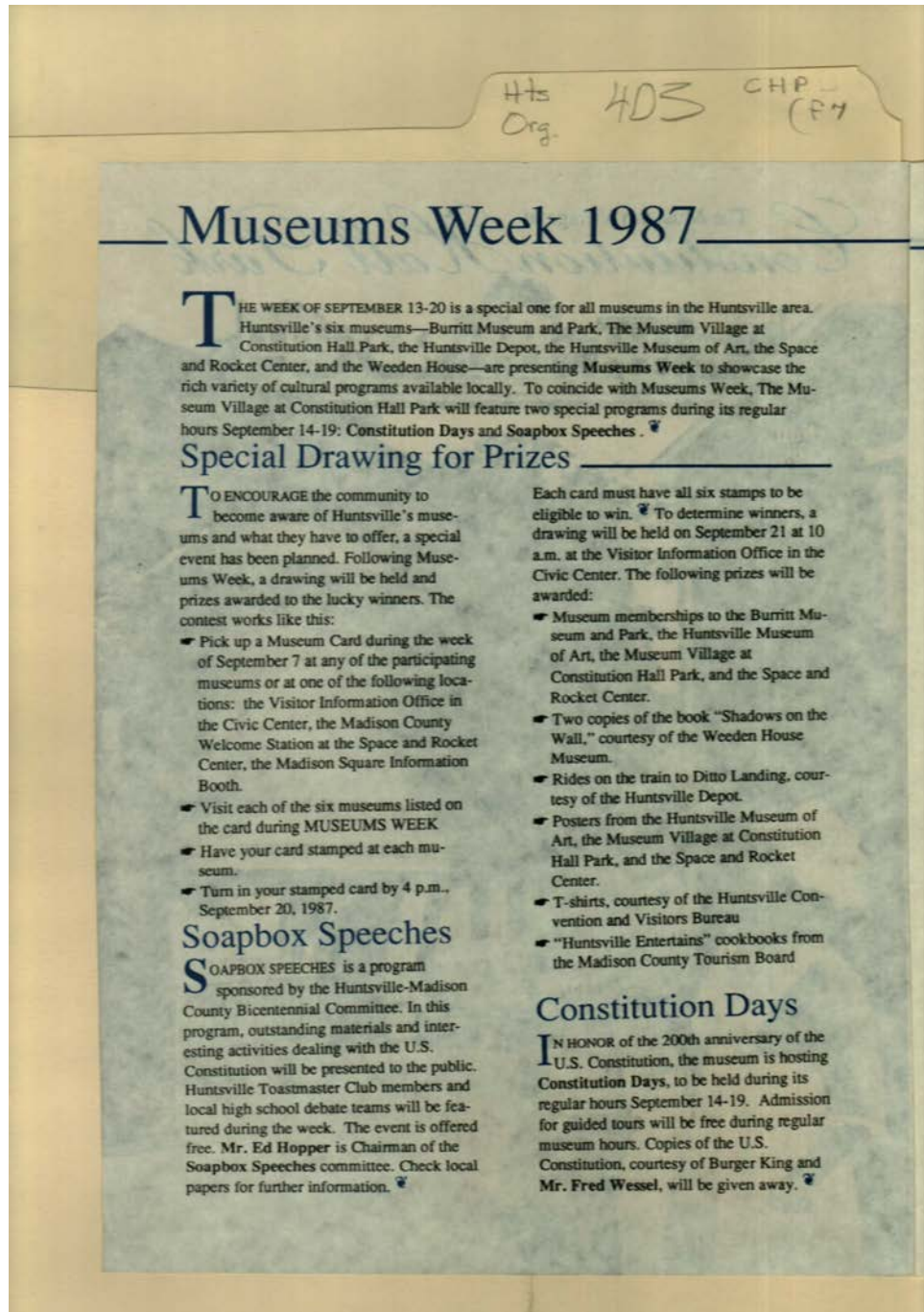


**Types:**

photo

**Dates:**

Fall 1987



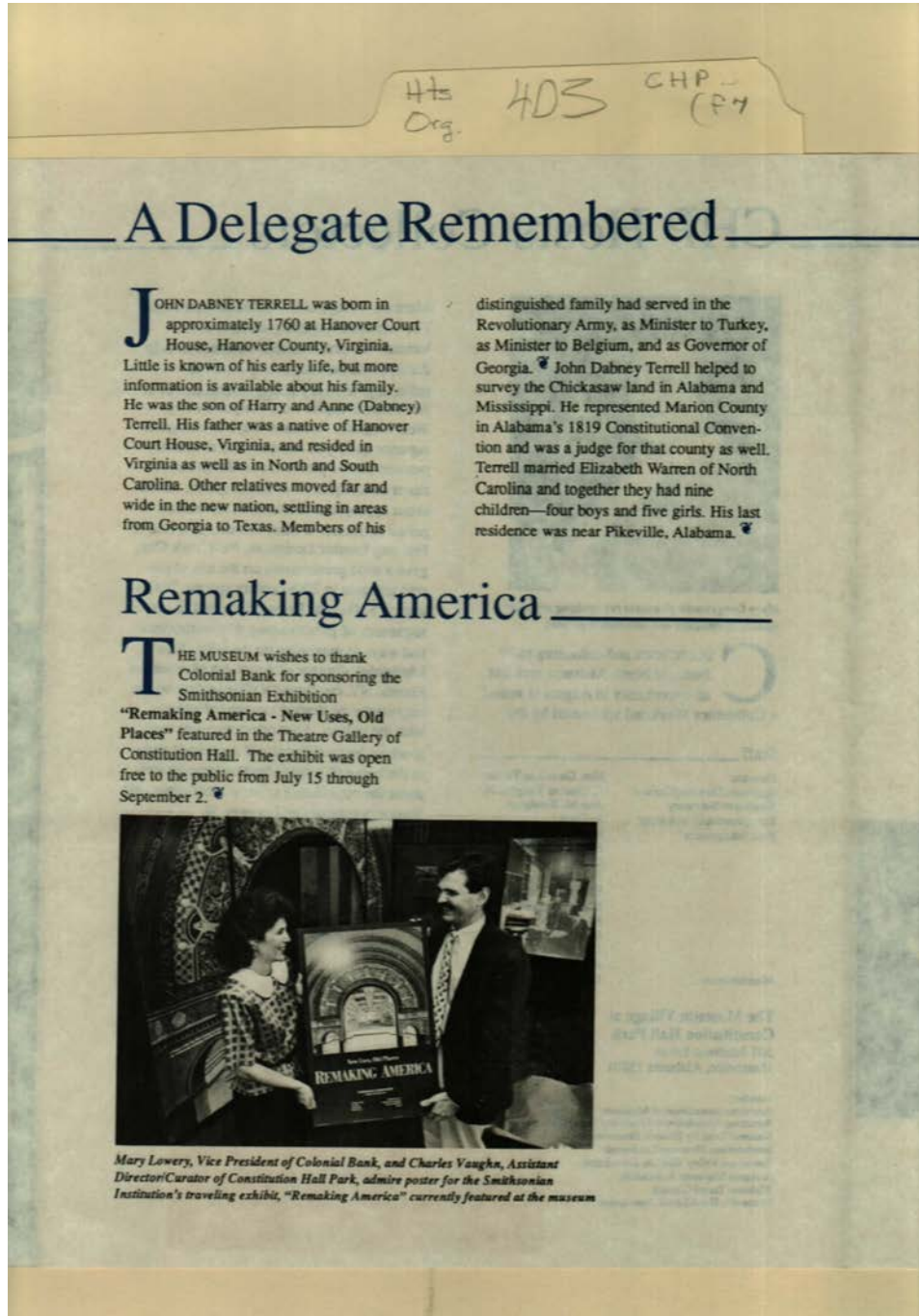
**Names:**

Hopper, Ed

Wessel, Fred

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Lowery, Mary  
Terrell, Anne Dabney

Terrell, Harry  
Terrell, John Dabney

Vaughn, Charles  
Warren, Elizabeth

**Types:**

newsletter

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## Lecture and Lunch

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**L**AST YEAR'S Lecture and Lunch series was such a tremendous success that we've decided to offer it again. Pack yourself a lunch and join us for a series of interesting and diverse lectures. All lectures begin promptly at noon and end at 1 p.m. A dessert and drink will be provided by the museum.

Here are the topics and dates:

**October 5**  
Harvilee Harbarger, Landscape Architect  
*"The English Influence on Huntsville Gardens"*


**October 12**  
Professor Tom Osborne, University of North Alabama  
*"The Constitution and the Politics of Compromise"*

**October 19**  
John Bertalan, Conservator  
*"Conservation of Antiques"*

Lectures will be held in the Theater Gallery in Constitution Hall, Franklin Street at Gates Avenue.

## Autumn Feast

**W**ITH OCTOBER comes a host of activities for young and old alike. Halloween conjures up spirits and treats to delight children of all ages. Octoberfest brings music, dance, and tantalizing dishes that excite the palate. The museum will celebrate the season by holding an Autumn Feast, hosted by the Executive Advisory Council on October 24 from 4-7 p.m. You won't want to miss this fund-raiser that will include a fish fry, barbeque with all the trimmings, entertainment for all ages, tours of the museum, craftsmen at work, and special items for children. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will go on sale in mid-September. Mrs. Robert Maynor and Mrs. Jerre Penney are co-chairing the event.



*Kara Hicks and Stephen Mitchell, students at Grissom High School, painting the white picket fence.*

## YES Program

**C**ENTRAL BANK says YES to Huntsville—Youth Employed (for) Service. The bank committed funds to pay for ten area high school students to perform community service activities this summer. Since the Museum Village was selected as one of the sites to receive assistance, the picket fence surrounding the village now sports a clean, fresh coat of paint. We are grateful to Central Bank and to the students for their efforts.

**Names:**

Bertalan, John  
Harbarger, Harvilee

Hicks, Kara  
Maynor, Robert, Mrs.

Mitchell, Stephen  
Osborne, Tom

Penney, Jerre, Mrs.

**Types:**

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photo

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## New Board Members

**W**E ARE PLEASED to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors: **Mr. Larry Landman** and **Mrs. Jerome A. Averbuch (Peggy)**. Mr. Landman is a native of the Huntsville area, having grown up in Hazel Green, AL. He is president of L&L Lumber Company, a board member of Citizens Independent Bank, a member of the Huntsville Rotary Club, and past president of the Exchange Club. Mr. Landman has served on the museum's Executive Advisory Council for the last two years and is currently directing fund-raising for the construction of the museum's restroom and concession facility. Larry is married to the former Sue Wilson. They have two children: Jonathan, 14 and Margaret, 12. The Landmans are members of Calvary Bible Church. Mrs. Averbuch currently serves as a member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board of Directors, the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, and the Huntsville Symphony Guild. She is vice president of United Way, president of Temple B'nai Sholom, and is past membership chairman of the Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art. She is also winner of the 1986 Doris Darling Award. Peggy is married to Jerry Averbuch. They have three children: Scott, Greg, and Jennifer.

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## Boeing supports museum's programs

**T**HE BOEING COMPANY has donated \$1,000 for support of the museum's educational programming. Gifts such as this one help the museum to fund exhibitions, offer special events, and maintain current programs. Mr. Winch and Mrs. Glen, Boeing representatives who presented the check to Museum Director Dana Lee Tatum, are members of the museum's Executive Advisory Council. We thank The Boeing Company for this generous gift.



*R to L: John B. Winch, Deputy Program Manager, Space Station Project, the Boeing Co.; Dana Lee Tatum, Museum Director; and Batrice Glen, Field Office Representative, Boeing.*

**Names:**

Averbuch, Greg  
Averbuch, Jennifer  
Averbuch, Jerome A.,  
Mrs.

Averbuch, Peggy  
Averbuch, Scott  
Darling, Doris  
Glen, Batrice

Landman, Jonathan  
Landman, Larry  
Landman, Margaret  
Tatum, Dana Lee

Wilson, Sue  
Winch, John B.


**Types:**

newsletter

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## CHP Hosts Collectors



*Mary Longworth discusses recognizing superior quality in antiques at Collectors Weekend.*

**C**OLLECTORS and collectors-to-be from the North Alabama area had an opportunity in August to attend a Collectors Weekend sponsored by the

**Staff**

Director	Mrs. Dana Lee Tatum
Assistant Director/Curator	F. Charles Vaughn, Jr.
Executive Secretary	Ann M. Bandgren
Receptionist/Bookkeeper	Jo Cates
Park Interpreters	Inge Allan
	Harrison Brown
	Connie Burns
	Jan Conner
	Elizabeth Enright
	Madge Genter
	Florence Gentes
	Sherrie Misfeldt
	Lynda Tedesco
	Francie Westrich
	Gary Hillis

Maintenance

The Museum Village at  
 Constitution Hall Park  
 301 Madison Street  
 Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Member:  
 American Association of Museums  
 American Association for State and Local History  
 National Trust for Historic Preservation  
 Southeastern Museums Conference  
 Tennessee Valley Tourism Association  
 Alabama Museums Association  
 Alabama Travel Council  
 Huntsville Hotel-Motel Association

Museum Village at Constitution Hall Park. The weekend workshop consisted of lectures and presentations designed to help discover the benefits and rewards of collecting. ❖ **Mary Longworth**, dealer in American antiques from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, discussed ways to recognize superior quality in antiques and to identify genuine period pieces. **John Bertalan**, restorer of antiques from Birmingham, talked about appropriate methods of restoration of period furniture. ❖ **Sam Blount**, of Irvine & Fleming Interior Designers, New York City, gave a slide presentation on the use of period antiques in 20th-century spaces. Tax attorney, **S. Dagnal Rowe**, discussed tax consequences of gifts to non-profit institutions and ways to maximize tax benefits. **Ken Lindquist**, director of Arnot Art Museum in Elmira, NY, conducted a slide lecture on the importance of sharing private collections with the public. All workshops were well received by participants. ❖ A cocktail party at the home of local collectors gave participants the opportunity to view a collection of Southern antiques and pottery. ❖

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 HUNTSVILLE AL 35801

**Names:**

Allan, Inge  
 Bandgren, Ann M.  
 Bertalan, John  
 Blount, Sam  
 Brown, Harrison  
 Burns, Connie

Cates, Jo  
 Conner, Jan  
 Enright, Elizabeth  
 Genter, Madge  
 Hillis, Gary  
 Lindquist, Ken

Longworth, Mary  
 Misfeldt, Sherrie  
 Roberts, Frances C.  
 Rowe, S. Dagnal  
 Tatum, Dana Lee,  
 Mrs.

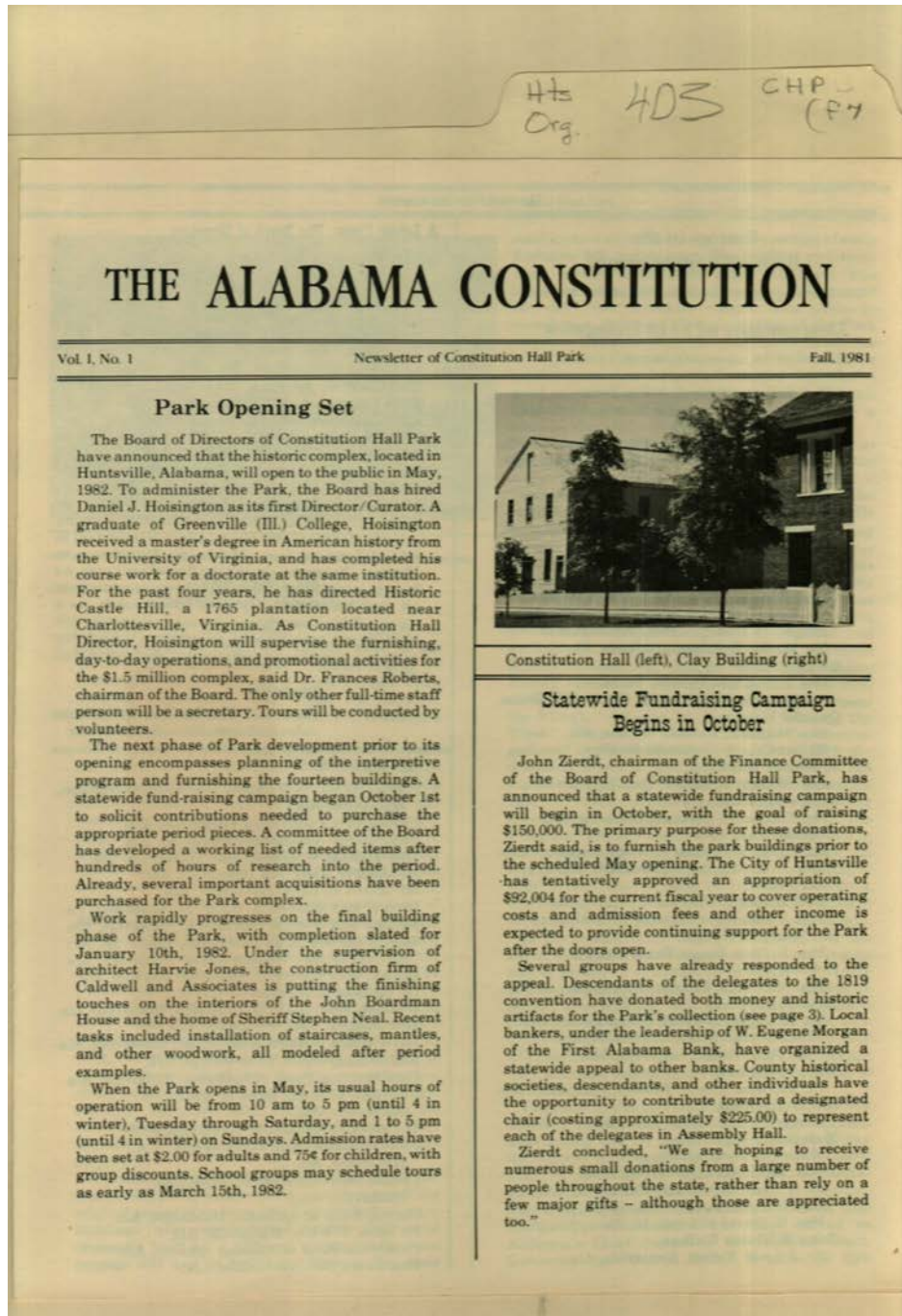
Tedesco, Lynda  
 Vaughn, F. Charles,  
 Jr.  
 Westrich, Francie

**Types:**

newsletter

photo





**Names:**

Boardman, John  
Hoisington, Daniel J.

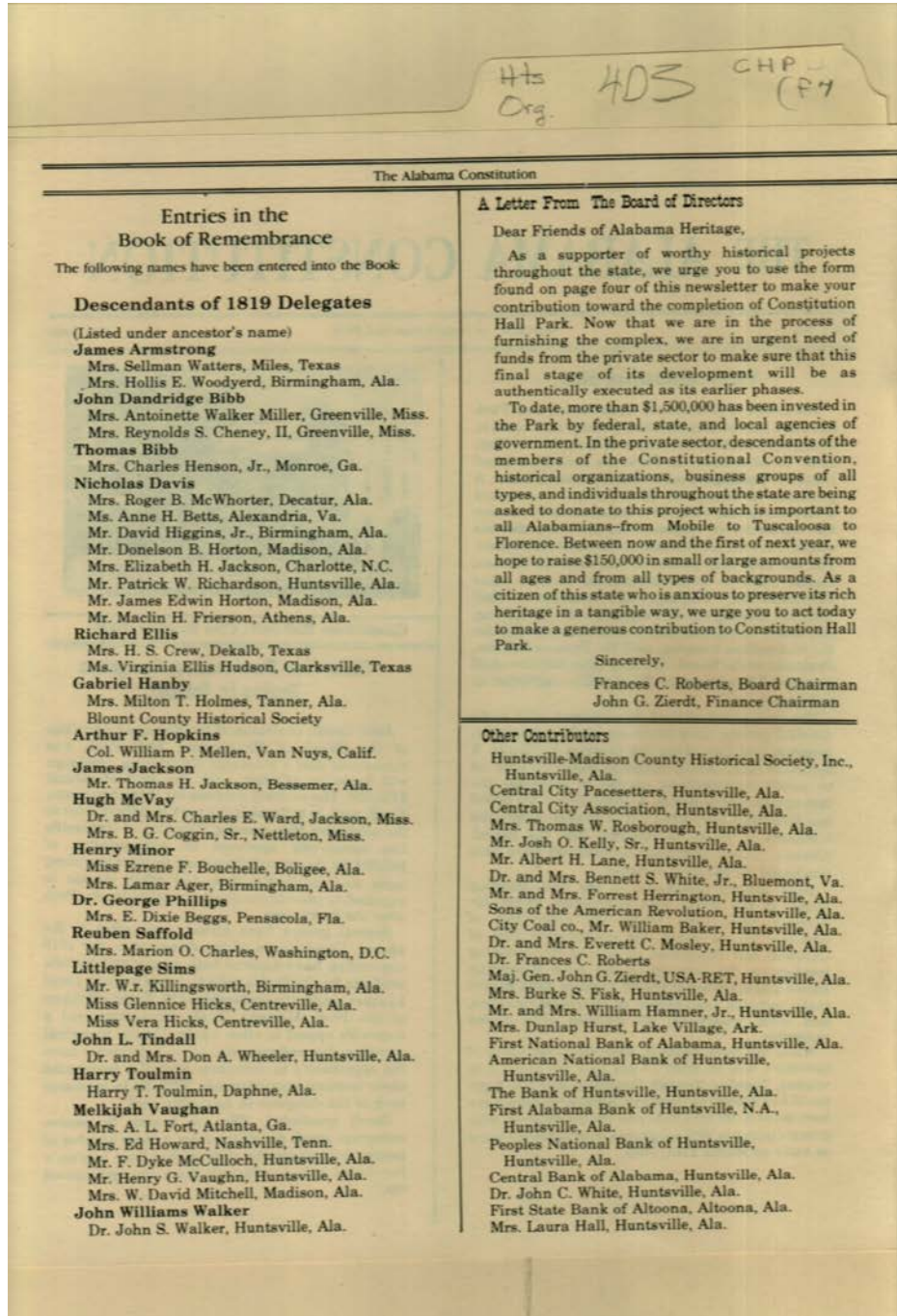
Jones, Harvie  
Morgan, W. Eugene

Neal, Stephen, Sheriff  
Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Zierdt, John

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

- |                              |                          |                                  |                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ager, Lamar, Mrs.            | Coggin, B. G., Sr., Mrs. | Hamner, William, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. | Hopkins, Arthur F.  |
| Armstrong, James             | Crew, H. S., Mrs.        | Hanby, Gabriel                   | Horton, Donelson B. |
| Baker, William               | Davis, Nicholas          | Henson, Charles, Jr., Mrs.       | Horton, James Edwin |
| Beggs, E. Dixie, Mrs.        | Delegates'               | Herrington, Forrest, Mr. & Mrs.  | Howard, Ed, Mrs.    |
| Betts, Anne H.               | Descendants              | Hicks, Glennice                  | Hudson, Virginia    |
| Bibb, John Dandridge         | Ellis, Richard           | Hicks, Vera                      | Ellis               |
| Bibb, Thomas                 | Fisk, Burke S., Mrs.     | Higgins, David, Jr.              | Hurst, Dunlap, Mrs. |
| Bouchelle, Ezrene F.         | Fort, A. L., Mrs.        | Holmes, Milton T., Mrs.          | Jackson, Elizabeth  |
| Charles, Marion O., Mrs.     | Frierson, Maclin H.      |                                  | H., Mrs.            |
| Cheney, Reynolds S. II, Mrs. | Hall, Laura, Mrs.        |                                  | Jackson, James      |
|                              |                          |                                  | Jackson, Thomas H.  |
|                              |                          |                                  | Kelly, Josh O., Sr. |

Killingsworth, W. R.,  
Lane, Albert H.  
McCulloch, F. Dyke  
McVay, Hugh  
McWhorter, Roger  
B., Mrs.  
Mellen, William P.,  
Colonel  
Miller, Antoinette  
Walker, Mrs.  
Minor, Henry

Mitchell, W. David,  
Mrs.  
Mosley, Everett C.,  
Dr. & Mrs.  
Phillips, George, Dr.  
Richardson, Patrick  
W.  
Roberts, Frances C.  
Rosborough, Thomas  
W., Mrs.  
Saffold, Reuben

Sims, Littlepage  
Tindall, John L.  
Toulmin, Harry T.  
Vaughan, Melkijah  
Vaughn, Henry G.  
Walker, John W., Dr.  
Walker, John  
Williams  
Ward, Charles E., Dr.  
& Mrs.

Watters, Sellman,  
Mrs.  
Wheeler, Don A., Dr.  
& Mrs.  
White, Bennett S., Jr.,  
Dr. & Mrs.  
White, John C., Dr.  
Woodyerd, Hollis E.,  
Mrs.  
Zierdt, John G.  
toulmin, Harry

**Types:**


newsletter

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Newsletter of Constitution Hall Park

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combination provides a superb cross-section of early Alabama life and history. The original structures were erected very soon after the town was incorporated in 1811. Judged by the architecture of the day, the buildings ranged from plain to moderately elaborate. Reconstruction of the Park was done under the supervision of Harvie Jones, one of Alabama's Foremost historical architects and his careful research and supervision of details, from the most minute section of molding to the last hand-forged hinge, bought about as authentic a reproduction of the 1819 buildings as possible.

The focal structure of the Park, designated as Constitution Hall, could only be termed a plain commercial building. Its owner, Walker Allen, a cabinetmaker, was among the many craftsmen who migrated to the new town early in its history. He bought Lot No. 52 and probably erected his building around 1813. Its ample size attests to his need for shop space with adjacent warehouse area to show his completed furniture and to store lumber. After Allen's death in 1818, his vacant building was rented, and it appears that late that year a traveling theatrical group used the upstairs to stage the first professional dramatic performances in Alabama history. In November, 1819, the Huntsville Theopian Society opened its first season in this makeshift theater with the "much admired comedy", "Speed the Plough," followed by the farce, "Raising the Wind." When the Constitutional Convention gathered in Huntsville in the summer of 1819, the delegates found a crowded town, but found the warehouse of Walker Allen to be a large and suitable hall for their deliberations. These forty-four representatives from twenty-two counties in the Alabama Territory began their meetings on July 5, 1819, approving the completed constitution on August 2nd. The remaining history of the building is brief. It was razed in early 1821 to make way for a real theater, a grand edifice, which in turn burned to the ground before a single performance could be held.

In the reconstructed Constitution Hall, it is the intent to depict the meeting place of the convention and to present a comprehensive exhibit of papers and documents relating to Alabama's statehood period. The building will also contain a typical cabinetmaker's shop of the period, to be used as a demonstration area. Upstairs, the re-created theater will provide a stage where today's actors may exhibit their histrionic talents in the comedies and farces of long ago.

The small two-story Clay Building has an entirely different history. Its brick construction appears more sturdy and its details more refined, befitting the office of a rising young lawyer. Clement Comer Clay, a member of the Alabama territorial legislature and delegate to the 1819 convention, chaired the important Committee of Fifteen that drafted the Constitution and later served as Alabama's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Governor, and United States Senator. In this

### The Story of Constitution Hall Park

Unique and significant in the history of Alabama...one of only fifty similar sites in the United States...a faithful representation of Huntsville life in 1819...all of these phrases aptly describe Constitution Hall Park, the museum complex established to commemorate Alabama's entry into the Union in 1819.

The possibility of creating such a memorial on the site where the Constitutional Convention met to organize the state was first envisioned in 1969 during Alabama's sesquicentennial year. The site was then vacant, all the old 1819 buildings having long since been demolished or moved, with a proposal to use the site for a parking garage under serious study. This idea generated strong protest from those who recognized the value of preserving for future generations this special segment of Alabama's heritage. A plan to save the site and reconstruct the historic 1819 buildings was initiated and through the efforts of the State of Alabama, the City of Huntsville, and other groups, will finally be realized when the park opens in May, 1982.

Park development received its initial impetus in 1970, when Governor Brewer's administration authorized purchase of the property by the state. In 1975, Governor Wallace committed \$500,000 of revenue sharing funds for the first reconstruction phase while turning ownership of the property to the city. In 1980, the city secured an Economic Development Grant to finish reconstruction, then appointed a board to develop and manage the property.

Constitution Hall Park occupies a half block site south of the public square, being located on two of the original seventy-two town lots. Each of the four main buildings now reconstructed in the Park was originally built by a different owner for his own purpose and has its individual history. Yet, their

**Names:**

Allen, Walker  
Brewer, Governor

Clay, Clement Comer  
Jones, Harvie

Wallace, Governor

**Types:**

newsletter

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building, his law office will be recreated. In 1819, the Post Office occupied one of the other three rooms, and upstairs, the United States survey team worked to prepare their maps for the periodic sales of Federal lands.

Of the Park structures that face Madison Street, the Boardman House has the most direct connection to the activities of the Convention. This building housed the newspaper offices of the *Alabama Republican* that printed the "Journal of the Convention of Alabama Territory . Begun July 5, 1819," of which only three copies are known to exist, one in the British Museum. The first complete printing of the Alabama Constitution also ran in the newspaper's issue of August 3, 1819. Plans call for the eventual re-creation of the newspaper printing shop as an actual working model. The small room on the south side of the Boardman House memorializes the site of Alabama's first incorporated library. Here, in the law office of John N.S. Jones, the Huntsville Library Company's books were first offered to its subscribers in October, 1819. Many of

the original books will be returning to the room for exhibit.

The only reconstructed residence in the Park is that of the Stephen Neal family. Built before 1816, it stood upon the site for more than one hundred years. On December 13, 1808, Neal was appointed as the first sheriff of Madison County by the Mississippi territorial legislature, thus becoming its chief organizing official. He would serve in this post until 1822. Reconstruction includes the kitchen, service quarters, well house, carriage house, "necessary" house, garden, and dairy. Furnishings will reflect urban life in 1819 in the home of a moderately well-to-do family.

The project now nears completion, and when the Park's doors open in May of 1982, it will present the story of the birth of Alabama to thousands of visitors each year. It is a historic complex from which Alabamians can all learn and of which they can all be proud.

SARAH HUFF FISK

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Constitution Hall Park  
P.O. Box 1819  
Huntsville, Alabama 35807

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YES, I would like to help preserve Constitution Hall Park as a symbol of Alabama's history. Enclosed in my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: **CONSTITUTION HALL PARK  
P.O. BOX 1819  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807**

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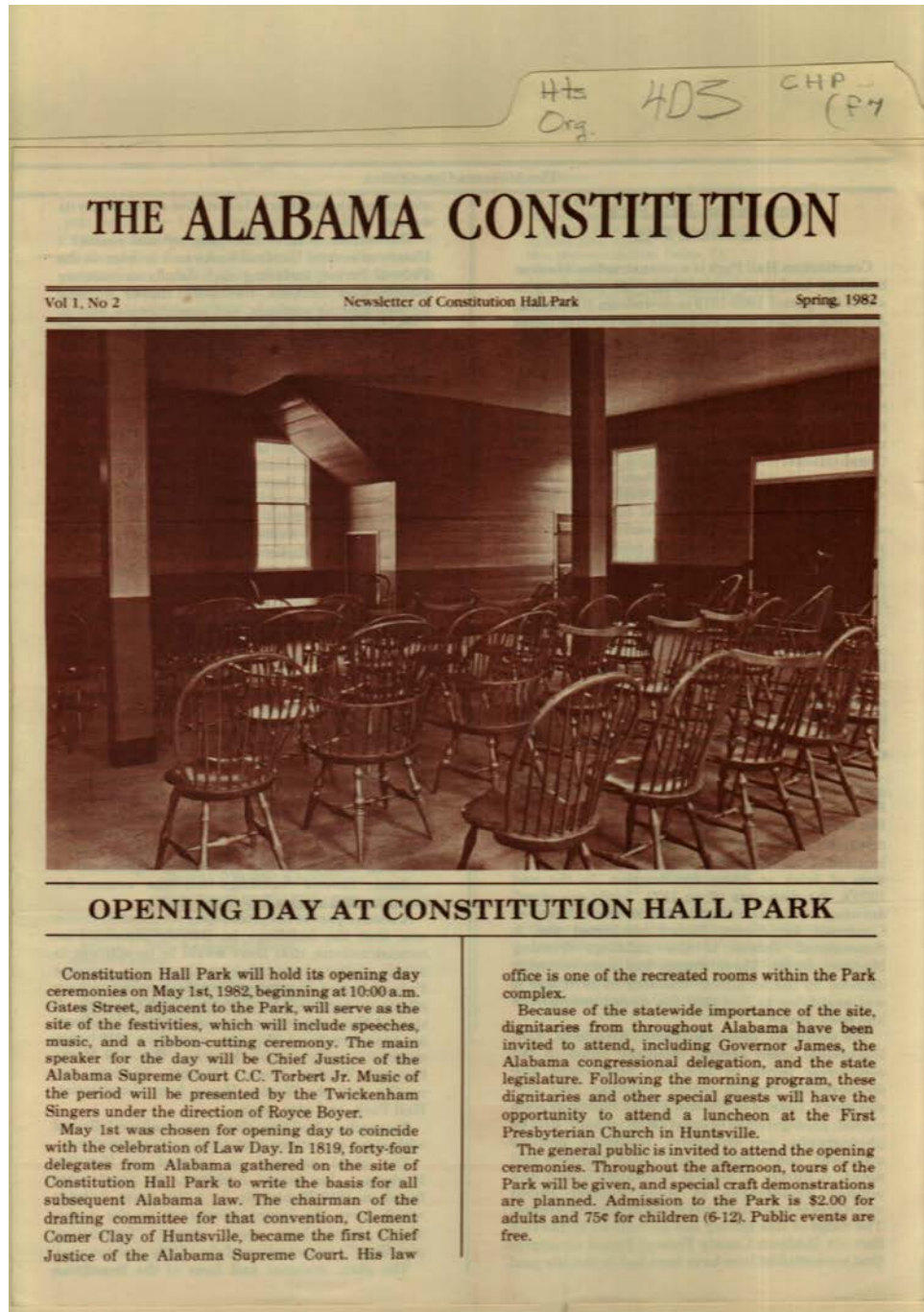
Fisk, Sarah Huff

Jones, John N. S.

Neal, Stephen

**Types:**

newsletter



**Names:**

Boyer, Royce

Clay, Clement Comer

James, Governor

Torbert, C. C., Justice

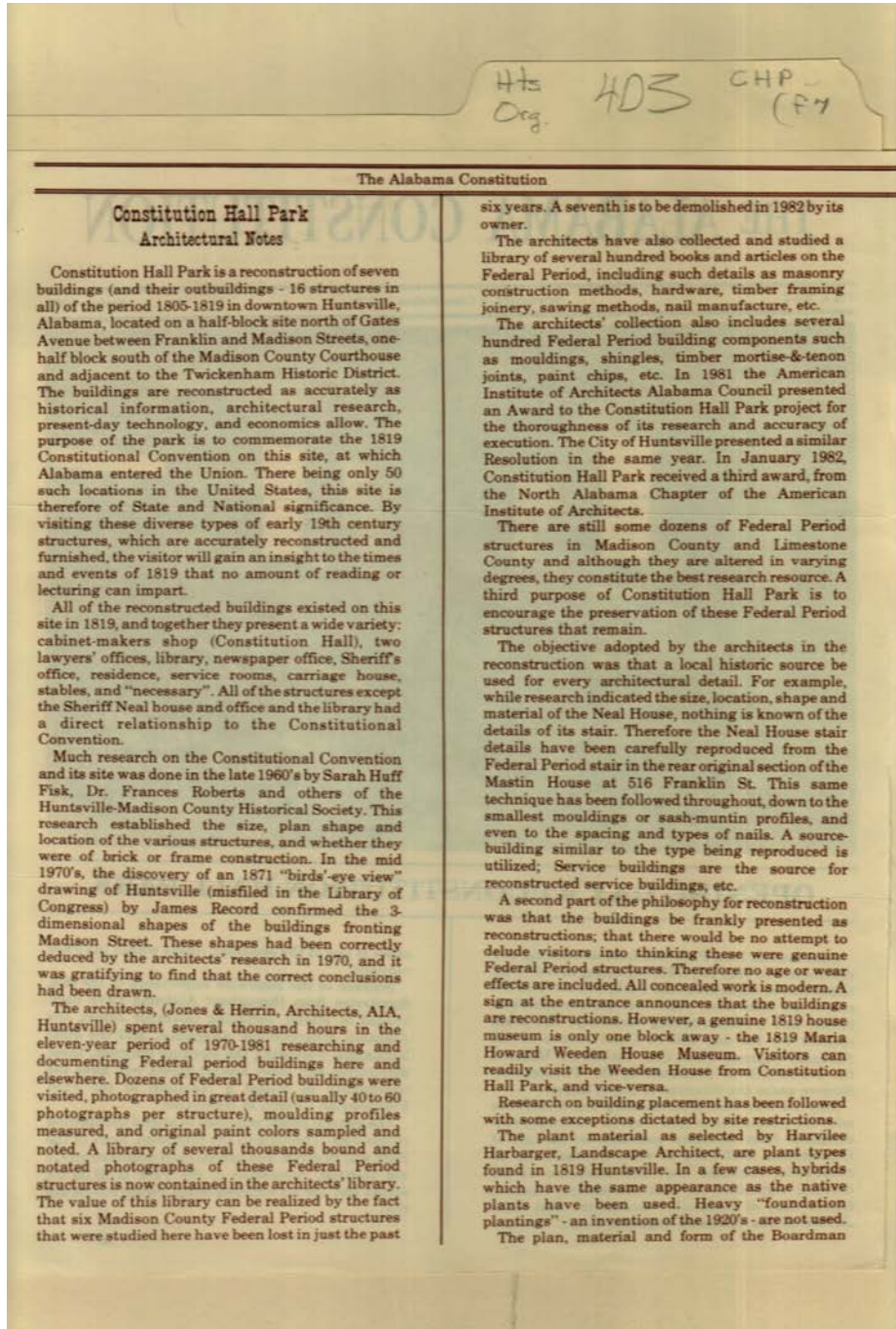
**Types:**

newsletter

photo

**Dates:**

Spring 1982



Fisk, Sarah Huff  
Harbarger, Harvilee

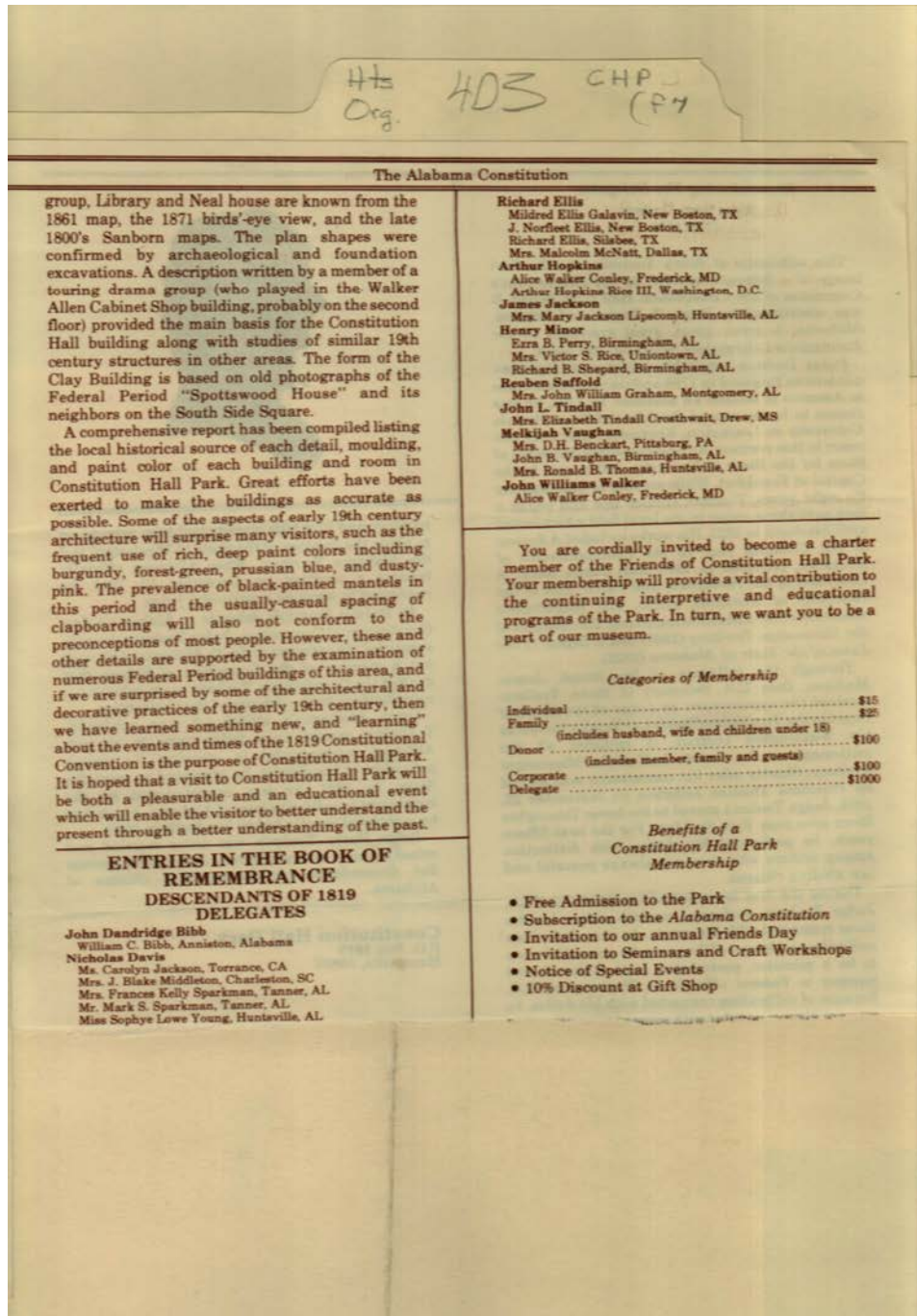
Jones & Herrin  
Architects

Neal, Sheriff  
Record, James

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

**Types:**

newsletter



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| Benckart, D. H., Mrs. | Ellis            | Mrs                   | Thomas, Ronald B., |
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| Bibb, William C.      | William, Mrs.    | Perry, Ezra B.        | Tindall, John L.   |
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| Crosthwait, Elizabeth | Jackson, Carolyn | III                   | Vaughan, Melkijah  |
| Tindall, Mrs.         | Jackson, Jerry   | Rice, Victor S., Mrs. | Walker, John       |
| Davis, Nicholas       | Lipscomb, Mary   | Saffold, Reuben       | Williams           |
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|                       | Mrs.             | Kelly, Mrs.           |                    |

**Types:**



newsletter

Hts  
Org. 403 CHP  
(P4)

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**Remembering The Delegates**  
Judge Harry Toulmin  
1766-1823

This silhouette of Harry Toulmin was the first image of a delegate received by the Descendant's Committee of the Constitution Hall Park Board. It was contributed by Harry T. Toulmin of Daphne, Alabama, a great, great, great grandson of the distinguished clergyman, educator and jurist.

Judge Toulmin began his career as a Unitarian minister in England in 1786 and six years later came to America to become an educator. In 1794, he was chosen to be the second President of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. After only two years in this position, he was appointed Secretary of State for the State of Kentucky and moved to the Capital at Frankfort. While serving in this capacity for eight years, Toulmin studied law and began a long publishing career in the legal field which lasted until his death in 1823. His works included *A Review of the Criminal Law of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, prepared in 1804 with James Blair, *A Collection of the Permanent and Public Acts of the Assembly of Kentucky* (1802), *The Magistrate's Assistant* (1801 and following years), *The Statutes of the Mississippi Territory* (1807) and a *Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama* (1823).

Through the influence of his friend, James Madison, then U.S. Secretary of State, Toulmin received the appointment as Judge of the Superior Court in the Tombigbee District. Officially known as the Washington District, it included all the settlements in the eastern half of the Mississippi territory. Shortly after his commission was signed by President Thomas Jefferson on November 22, 1804, Judge Toulmin moved to the lower Tombigbee River area near Fort Stoddert. For the next fifteen years, he performed his duties with distinction among settlers who were not always peaceful and law abiding citizens.

During the first few years of his tenure in office, Judge Toulmin performed various duties besides those connected with the courts. As a symbol of law and order and keeper of the peace, he was called upon to be a minister, postmaster, local diplomat and reporter to Federal officials in Washington, D.C. Because of difficulties connected with his duties, he



territory and that bills already had been introduced to allow the creation of the State of Mississippi and the Alabama Territory. When Alabama officially became a territory on December 10, 1817, he continued to serve as a territorial judge.

As Balwin County's delegate to Alabama's first Constitutional Convention, Judge Toulmin strongly supported the interests of South Alabama. Although not a member of the Committee of Fifteen that drafted the Constitution, Toulmin made substantial contributions to the debates of the Convention.

Once Alabama's statehood was achieved, Toulmin's service as a judge came to an end. Although unsuccessful in securing the circuit judgeship of his district, he continued to serve the State. In 1821, he was commissioned by the legislature to codify the laws of Alabama, a task that he completed shortly before his death in 1823.

Judge Harry Toulmin was twice married and raised a family of nine children. Many of his present day descendants are distinguished citizens of Alabama.

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**Constitution Hall Park**  
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Huntsville, 35807

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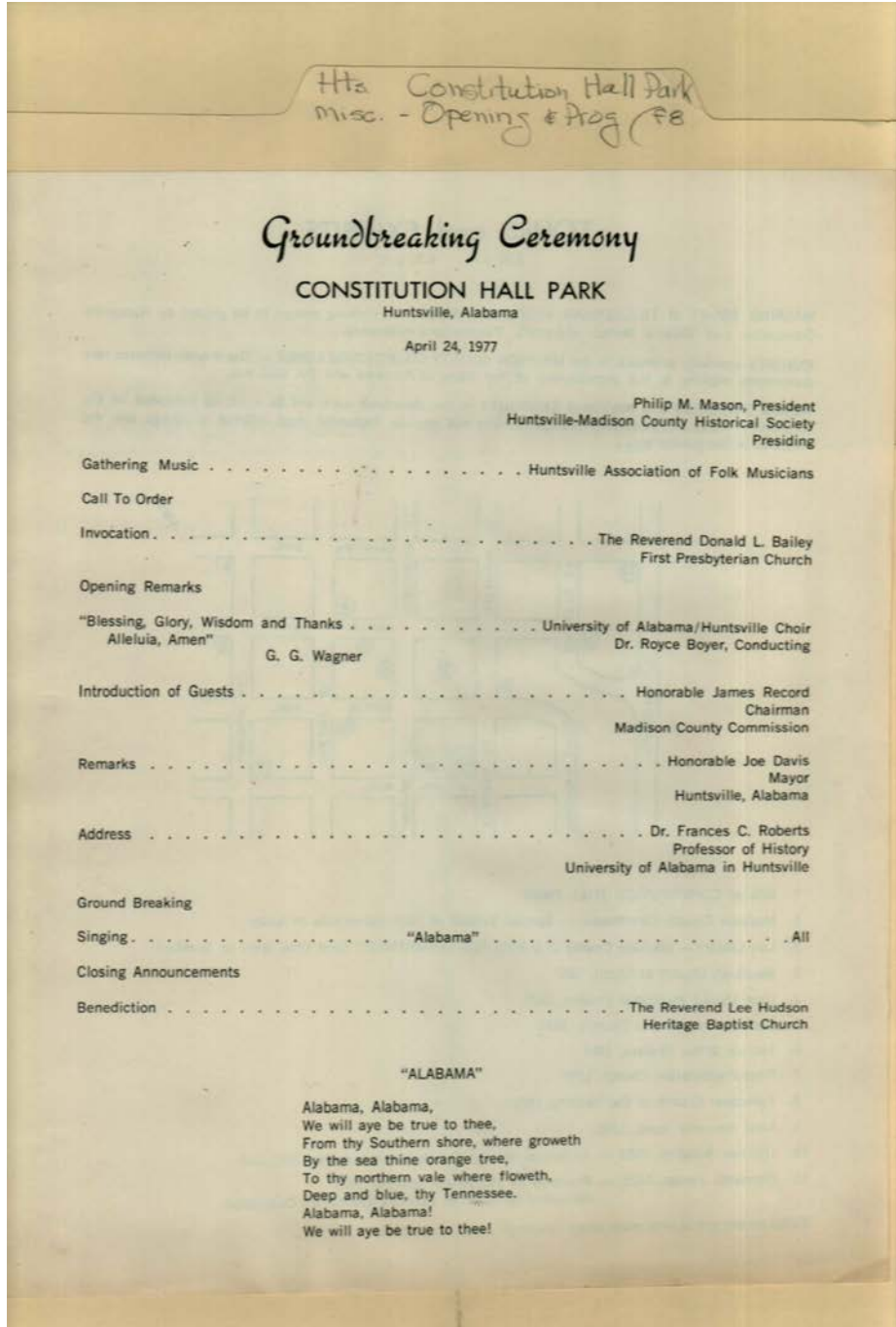
Jefferson, Thomas,  
President

Madison, James  
Toulmin, Harry T.

Toulmin, Harry,  
Judge

**Types:**

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**Names:**

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Rev.  
Boyer, Royce, Dr.

Davis, Joe, Mayor  
Hudson, Lee, Rev.  
Mason, Philip M.

Record, James  
Roberts, Frances C.,  
Dr.

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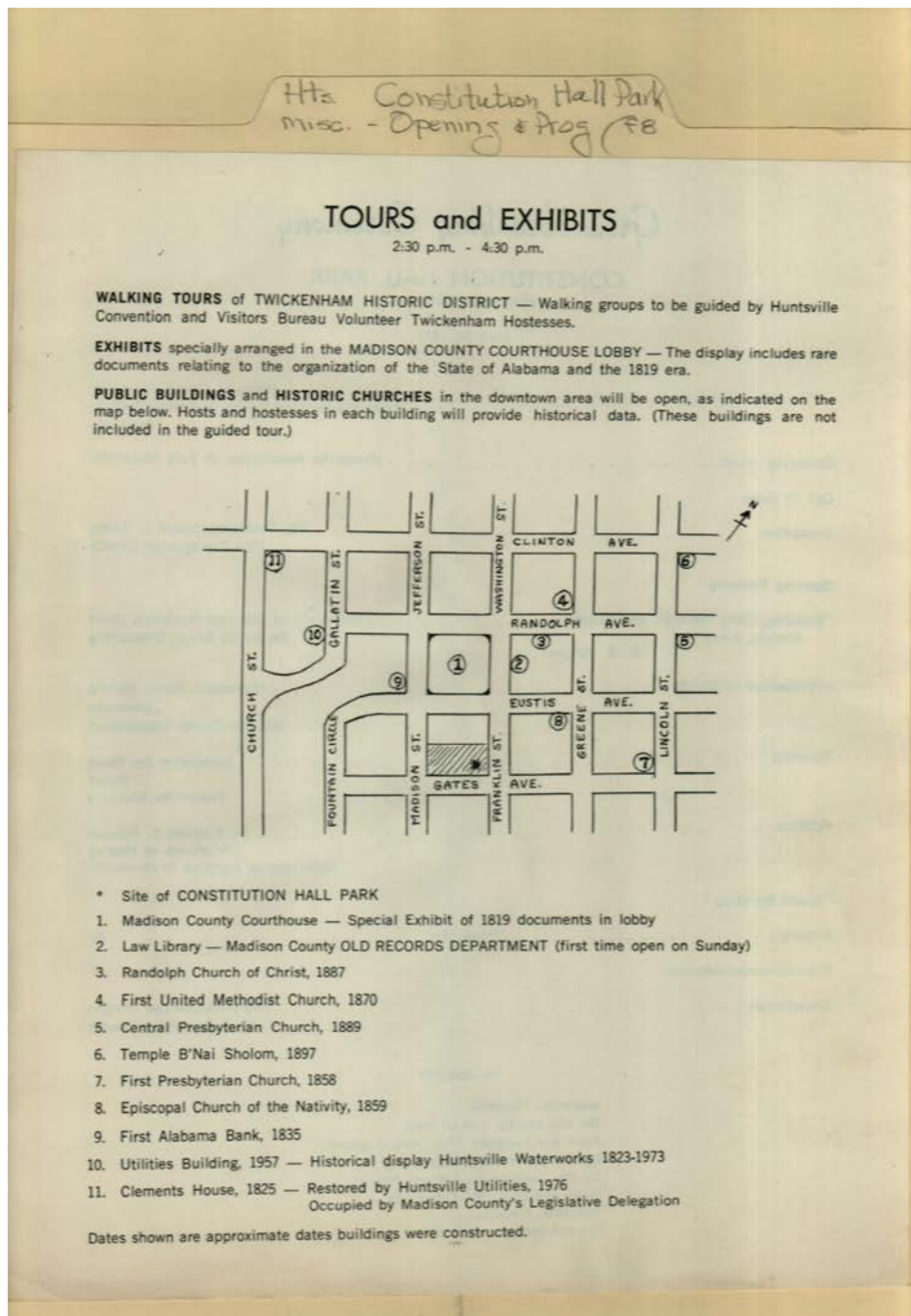
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

program

**Dates:**

Apr 24, 1977



**Names:**  
Constitution Hall  
Park

**Types:**  
map

The Constitution Hall Park  
 misc. - Opening & Prog. '78  
 1122

## Four-Month Deadline Set On Constitution Hall Start

Constitution Park, hailed by city and state officials as a "golden" for redevelopment of the downtown Huntsville area and as a major tourist attraction, should be under construction within four months, a spokesman for the city said Thursday.

The development of the park, to include reconstructed buildings of the early 19th century area, was reaffirmed as reported earlier this week.

Nathan Porter, director of the Huntsville Housing Authority which owns the area, said in downtown Huntsville where the reconstruction will take place, announced Thursday it will sell the property to the state for \$100,000. Sale of the land will be reviewed as soon as possible.

The main attraction of the redevelopment is Constitution Hall, a two-story structure in which the first Alabama constitution was signed, when Alabama entered the Union. Located at the corner of Gains and Franklin streets, the building site is now cleared and a time plane marks the site. Other buildings standing on the construction site will be torn down to reconstruct "at least two buildings to create one of the state's top historical attractions."

Porter said, "The governor wants the project well on its way to completion by the time he leaves office in January."

The plans of the park were presented to the governor earlier in the week by a Madison County delegation interested in the park development. One plan shows several buildings of the site around a parklike core with an expansion of trees and landscaped areas of grass. The other plan retains the parklike atmosphere, clearing several more buildings and landscaped structures with a service market.

James Roward, chairman of the Madison County Commission, said, "The governor likes the unclustered plan best—with reconstruction of just the major, significant buildings." It would include the park and to the plan adjacent.

The state of Alabama has granted \$1 million to finance the project — the money coming from Alabama's \$11 million park bond.

Porter and Roward see the development "as the opening of a new age of development for Huntsville, and development areas." They called it, "A giant step backwards in history for a giant step forward to the future."

City officials envision Constitution Park as a centerpiece in the proposed mall area which will connect the downtown square, making a continuous pedestrian mall. Dr. Frances Roberts, a Huntsville historian and professor of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, said she expects the area surrounding a park to develop with shops, signs and other related buildings.

Porter said he hopes the area will become a major tourist attraction as a walking tour — a tour to include Constitution Park, the proposed downtown clock tower, the Hotel International, the City Hall and the Courthouse and the Walkway District of historical homes.

Constitution Park was described as the core of "the big old building" in the plan. The building has been in the plan for 100 years. City officials say it is a landmark attraction, coupled with the new Alabama State and Capitol Museum at Governor's Drive.

The state grant for the mall and block area immediately south of business on South Side Square will include funds for the reconstruction of the 19th century buildings and for the structures. Work has been going on for at least two-and-a-half years, including buildings and furnishings of that 1830-40.

The main building of the project is Constitution Hall, the site of the state's constitutional convention which occurred on the July 1, 1801. Drafting of the first state constitution was completed by the 41-member constitutional convention, and the document was signed Sept. 1, 1801, in the now-destroyed building.



**Drawing Shows First Concept of Hall**

Constitution Hall, slated to be rebuilt in the downtown area as it stood in 1810, has previously been thought to be a one-story structure, as shown in this sketch by Huntsville artist C. E. Moore Jr. But more recent findings by local historians indicate the building

Other buildings to be reconstructed include the site of General Comer Clay's law office, a brick building erected in 1810, which also housed the office of the U. S. postmaster, the site of the first newspaper in Alabama, the Alabama Repository, which was where copies of the state's first constitution were printed.

The building which housed the first Huntsville library will be rebuilt — it was also scheduled for reconstruction in the residence of Stephen Neal, Madison County's first sheriff, which was a leading representative of the architecture of the period.

Buildings will be furnished with original furnishings of the period, along with repair and copies available today.

**Names:**

Brewer, Albert P.,  
 Governor  
 Clay, Clement Comer

Constitution Hall  
 Delay  
 Hall Concept

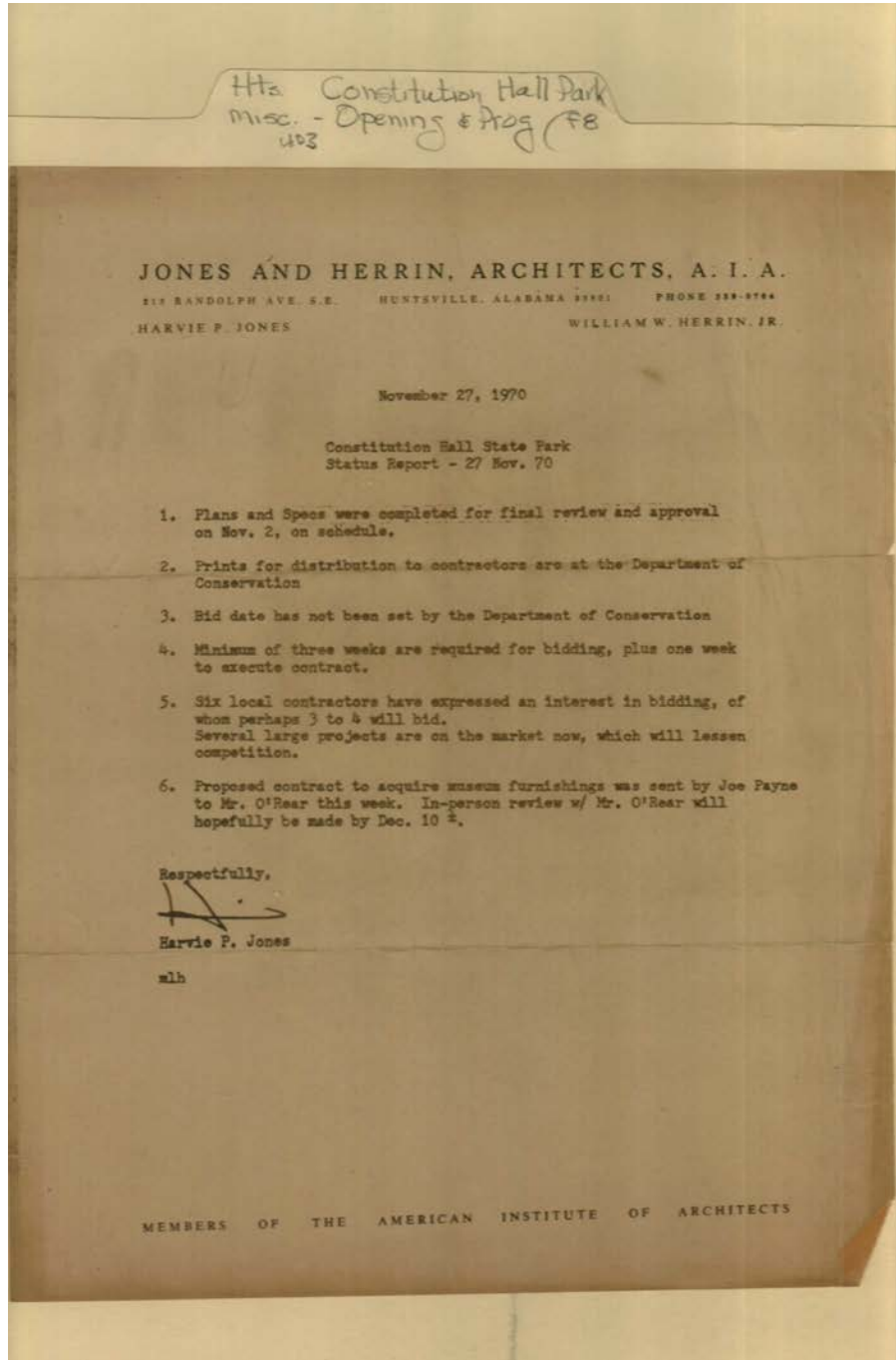
Monroe, C. E., Jr.  
 Neal, Stephen  
 Porter, Nathan

Record, James  
 Roberts, Frances, Dr.

**Types:**

drawing

newspaper



**Names:**

Herrin, William W.,  
Jr.

Jones, Harvie P.  
O'Rear,

Payne, Joe

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

report

**Dates:**

Nov 27, 1970

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries D, Box 3, Folder 7**  
**Constitution Hall Park Materials, circa 1970s (7 of 10) - Press release**

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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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