

BLOUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Recognizing Blountsville as a significant town of early Alabama which was built upon Scotch-Irish ideals, Blountsville Historical Society members have been gathering and sharing the town's history since 1990.

Members have interests that meld into the society's goals, and some activities have included displays, building restoration, landscaping, costume construction, living history presentations, concerts, school presentations, parades, Cemetery Walks, a lecture series, book publication, a time capsule, and guest presentations at other clubs. The James Ray Kuykendall Local Historical Society Award was presented in 2006 to the Blountsville Historical Society by the Alabama Historical Association in recognition for the dedicated work.

President: O.K. Alexander.

Meetings are second Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Historical Park, with annual dues only \$10.

If you have a passion for history and preserving a small piece of it, then we would like for you to join our team. There are always things that need to be done at the park from maintenance to looking for possible new attractions for the park.

For more information, or if you would like to make a donation to the Historical Park, please contact Betty Alexander by phone at 205.429.2468 or by e-mail at betoka84@yahoo.com.

BlountsvilleHistoricalSociety.com

BLOUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL PARK

The Historical Park located in Blountsville, Ala. is home to the Blountsville Historical Society. This park has on display some of the finest log cabins in existence today. Most of the buildings have period furnishings and have been restored. *Come visit us!!*



HOURS: The campus of Blountsville Historic Park is open daily, daylight hours. There is no admission. Buildings are open for groups and during special events.

EVENTS: Heritage craft demonstrations and classes are held on the first Saturdays of the month starting at 9 a.m. Special events are held with the change of the seasons, including the annual Daffodil Festival in March and photos with Santa Nov.-Dec. Please check the website for schedule and fees.

GROUPS: We love to host groups. Civic organizations, scouts, schools and senior clubs are frequent visitors. The park is also now hosting weddings, showers and receptions. Call 205-429-2468 for info.

Blountsville Historical Park

71406 Main St. • Blountsville, AL 35031

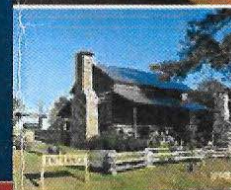
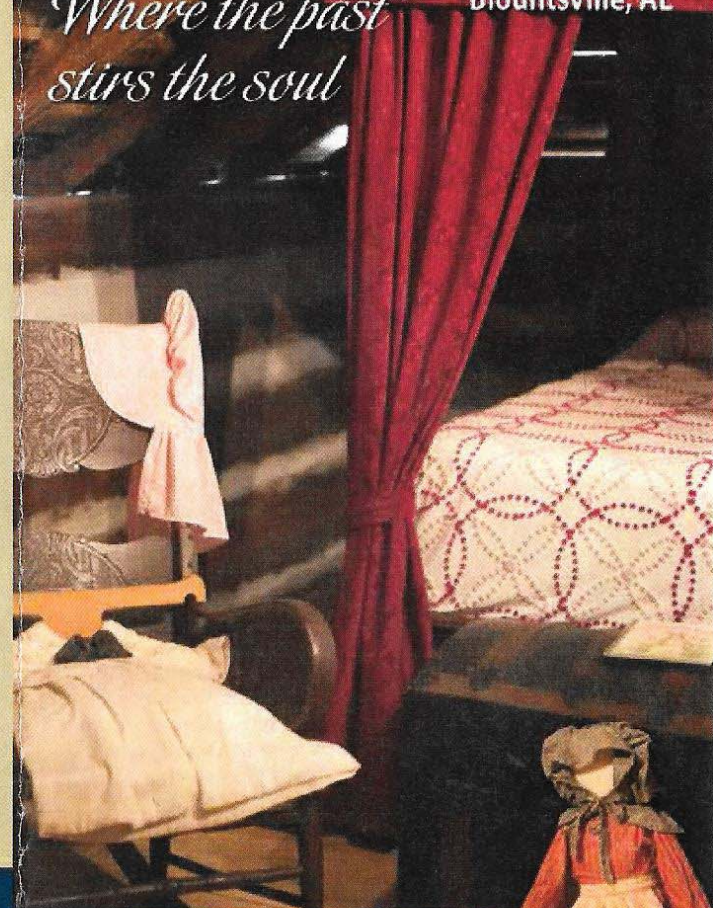
Contact: Betty Alexander 205.429.2468
betoka84@yahoo.com

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On Hwy. 231
Blountsville, AL

*Where the past
stirs the soul*



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BLOUNTSVILLE HISTORY

In The Early Days ...

History records the first group of white men visiting the area 200 years ago. In 1813, Col. Coffee led a mounted detachment of 800 of Gen. Andrew Jackson's Tennessee

Volunteers against Black Warrior Town Indian village (at the fork of the Sipsey and Mulberry rivers). They passed through Wasaax (translated as Bear Meat Cabin), which was a Native American trading crossroads. When the land was ceded by the Indians, the Bear Meat Cabin Frontier or Territory was opened in 1816 for settlement. Caleb Fryley was the first to make a home at what is now called Blountsville. By 1818, the area was populated mostly by Tennesseans - presumed to be many of those who had marched with Col. Coffee - and by South Carolinians of Scotch-Irish or English descent. That year, Ebenezer Hearn founded the town's Methodist Church.

Bear Meat Cabin was renamed Blountsville, and the town became the Blount County seat in 1820. The following year, a post office was established.

1833 saw the construction of a small brick courthouse and jail. The building boom continued in 1835 when the Nation House, the Copeland House (inn), and the Barclift House (inn) were built. The inns were stagecoach stops on the famous Bear Meat Cabin Road between Huntsville and the early state capitol, Tuscaloosa.

War Comes ...

By the time of the Civil War, the village population was about 400, and there was a Methodist Church, a Baptist Church, a Masonic Hall, and an Academy. All town business buildings were of wood, except for the old courthouse and jail, and none remain. Blountsville continued as a trade center.

The village, situated at a major crossroads, received attention during the Civil War. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest led a force to intercept Col. Abel Streight, who was on a mission to destroy the South's major communications and rail supply systems. That 1863 May Day celebration was twice interrupted by over 3000 men, horses, and mules. The following year, there is record of a highly successful



Union raiding force under Major General Lovell Rousseau coming through with nearly 3000 men again. A column of Wilson's Raiders added the final insult to Blountsville in April 1865 as an element of Sherman's march to the sea passed through the area.

And Now ...

By the turn of the nineteenth century, Blountsville had lost the county seat and had accepted the identity of a small town that believed in educational excellence, community service, strength of family, and Christian morality, all of which continues into the twenty-first century. History of the last 200 years bears out the importance its citizens put on schools, churches, and the generations.

If you value these; if you like historical research or storytelling; if you like to work on old buildings; if you like to wear historical costumes; if you like to be around congenial folk; or if you have talents you wish to share with others while working on the many projects, you are invited to join the Blountsville Historical Society.

Meetings are on second Mondays, 7 p.m. at the museum. Occasional Saturday workdays occur in good weather at the Freeman House Museum. Just look for a crowd and come join us!

HISTORICAL PARK



Freeman House Museum



Old Blountsville Jail



1836 Brooksville Post Office

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Freeman House Museum

The Freeman House was built in the 1830's. Sitting on its original site, the house was refurbished using original brick after storm damage in the 1920's. Initially, the house was a two story home, but was made a single story following the storm. This home was donated to the Town of Blountsville and the Blountsville

Historical Society in memory of Paul & Gertrude Freeman and Lee & Alma Scott.

Other structures included at the park include:

- Old Blountsville Jail, donated in memory of Ann Weaver Martin (Mrs. Emory Martin)
- ca. 1836 Brooksville Post Office, donated in memory of Minnie Barnes.
- ca. 1820's Isham Chamblee Cabin.

Donated to the Blountsville Historical Society by Mrs. Ed. Hart. Mrs. Eddy Doty, a descendant of Isham Chamblee, was instrumental in helping to get the cabin relocated to the Historical Park.

• 1850's Homestead Cabin that came from Tennessee, belonged to Hoyt McCullough of Blountsville, was purchased from Jim McCullough and moved to the Historical Park.

- Cabin was constructed using logs from an 1800's barn. Donated by the families of Captain William Graves, Mark D.L. Graves and J.H. Graves.
- Society Chapel.
- Rare 1800's Log Barn, donated by Billy Alldredge.



Society Chapel

Saturday Crafts & Special Events

Annual Daffodil Festival
3rd Saturday in March
9 am till 4 pm with period music, crafts, vendors and food.



Sounds of Freedom Celebration

Fourth of July
Celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Annual Christmas in the Park

1st Sunday in December
Period Christmas program, pictures with Santa in Isham Cabin, refreshments and more!

Crafts include Pine Straw Basket Weaving, Pottery, Weaving, Christmas Decorations, Rag Rug Making and more. Check web page for current activities.



Book your Group Tour, School Class, Wedding Ceremony, Reception, or Civic Organization Event today. BlountsvilleHistoricalSociety.com

