



Front campus, State Normal School (now The University of West Alabama). Undated photo courtesy of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt at The University of West Alabama.

Mark your calendars and make your plans. The 2009 Annual Meeting of AAH will be held February 6-7 on the campus of The University of West Alabama in Livingston. This year's meeting promises to be worth your investment of time and resources.

Look for more information on the 2009 meeting in the next issue of *Historic News* as well as at our Web site: <http://dothan.troy.edu/aah>.

**AAH** members are regularly consulted for their expertise by producers and directors of documentary and other film projects on a variety of topics.

During a session at last year's Annual Meeting, AAH member Scotty Kirkland (MA Candidate, University of South Alabama) presented a paper, "The Murder and Memory of Michael Donald: A Reconsideration of Mobile's Civil Rights Legacy." Since that time, Scotty served as a historical consultant and field producer for the Ted Koppel/Discovery Channel documentary film project, *THE LAST LYNCHING*.

The film, which examines the nation's recent history of racial violence in light of this year's historic campaign for the presidency, includes an account of the 1981 Donald murder—one of the last lynchings in America. The film premiered October 13 on the Discovery Channel.

Scotty's experience with Ted Koppel serves to underscore that AAH members, whether teaching, conducting research or preserving stories, are actively engaged, practicing historians.

*Top photo:* Journalist Ted Koppel and Southern Poverty Law Center founder Morris Dees walk down a Mobile street during filming of *THE LAST LYNCHING*. *Bottom photo, left to right:* Scotty Kirkland, Ted Koppel and novelist Ravi Howard, author of *Like Trees Walking*, a fictional account of the Donald murder.

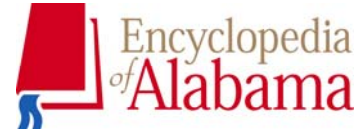


Photographs by Jacqlyn Kirkland.

The **Black Belt African American Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc. (BBAAGHS)** will host its **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Genealogy Conference & Family History Fair on February 20-21, 2009 in Selma.** BBAAGHS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and exchange of information and ideas among people interested in African American genealogy, family history and historic preservation in the twelve counties of Alabama's Black Belt Region. Last year's conference featured a keynote address by Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard University. Information on this year's conference is forthcoming and may be found on the group's Web site: [www.bbaaghs.org](http://www.bbaaghs.org).

To honor the memory of Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley, the **Alabama Historical Association** offers every other year a graduate student research grant. The **\$400 Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant** is open to any graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. The next grant will be awarded in April 2009 at the annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association in Tuscaloosa. Applications should include a statement of the student's intended plan of work, a letter of reference from the chairman of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student's major professor. **Deadline for applications is February 27, 2009.** Please submit nominations to: Mark Palmer, Alabama Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 300100, Montgomery AL 36130-0100, or email: [mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov).

## Encyclopedia of Alabama



Governor Bob Riley officially launched the new, online *Encyclopedia of Alabama* at the Alabama Humanities Awards Luncheon in Birmingham on September 15, 2008. EOA ([www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org](http://www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org)) is a multi-media reference resource on Alabama's history, culture, geography and natural environment that is available for free from any computer with Internet access.

By the second week of its launch, EOA had received hits from all 50 states and 86 countries. Within a month, the site had recorded visits from 165 Alabama cities and towns and had been accessed by more than 270 school networks from across the nation. Many libraries and schools have already listed links to EOA on the resources sections of their Web sites. Included in the frequently viewed articles are the entries on Native Americans, the Civil Rights movement, and the state's fauna—birds, fish, and reptiles especially. (The site launched with more than 500 articles, and new articles will continue to be added.)

The Alabama Humanities Foundation initiated the project in 2001 and led the fund-raising efforts necessary to develop it. Auburn University hosts the editorial offices and servers. Dr. Jeff Jakeman is EOA's editor; Dr. Pat Kaetz joined the team, which includes four other editors, as EOA's managing editor in June 2008. Financial support for EOA has come from a variety of sources, the most recent of which are the Alabama State Department of Education and the University of Alabama.

## Samford University

The department welcomes Dr. LeeAnn Reynolds, a Vanderbilt Ph.D. and a Franklin Fellow at the University of Georgia. Her work is on segregation. Dr. Reynolds was hired after Marlene Rikard retired in May.

Ginger Frost has completed two new books, *Victorian Childhoods*, Victorian Life and Times Series, Sally Mitchell, Editor (forthcoming January 2009, Praeger Press) and *Living in Sin: Cohabiting as Husband and Wife in Nineteenth-Century England* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, forthcoming November 2008).

John Mayfield's new book, *Counterfeit Gentlemen: Manhood and Humor in the Old South*, will be published by University Press of Florida in January.

Barry Robinson will present a paper entitled "The Legacy of Conquest in Late Colonial Colotlán" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory in Eugene, Oregon on Nov. 13. The paper will form part of a two-session panel on the theme of "Indian Conquistadors: Native Peoples in the Conquests of Mesoamerica."

Jim Brown spent last spring on sabbatical, finishing a book on nationalism.

Will Womack will teach a course in Anniston on Modern China as part of a humanities grant. He continues his work on the Karin language in Burma.

Jonathan Bass is completing a book on a law firm, Balch and Bingham, and continuing his study of Caliph Washington.

Jason Wallace is finishing a book on themes in 19<sup>th</sup> century American nativism. He also will coordinate the annual meeting of the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), to be held at Rhodes College in Memphis in April.

Dr. Marlene Hunt Rikard, former AAH President, retired from the department in May and will spend her spare time finishing up several research projects and enjoying the Gulf beaches.

## The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Faculty, staff, students and alumni of the UAB history department have been busy traveling, conducting research, writing and publishing. Also, Dr. Carolyn Conley has assumed the duties of department Chair.

To catch up more fully, click [here](#) to access the most recent edition of "Historical References," UAB's departmental newsletter:

## The University of North Alabama

Jeffrey R. Bibbee has recently joined the UNA department of history. Jeff completed his PhD in history at the University of London in January 2008.



## Wallace State College

Robert Scott Davis has just published "Hysteria and Literature: Atlanta's First Execution and its Legendary Ties to Organized Crime," in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 92 (Fall 2008).

## In Memorium

Mrs. Mae Ellis Moore Flynt died on Sunday September 28 at the age of 88. It was in her honor that the AAH's Mae Moore Flynt Teacher of the Year Award was established and endowed by her son, Dr. Wayne Flynt.

Taken from her obituary in the Birmingham News: *Born November 22, 1919 in Pinson (Jefferson County), Mrs. Flynt grew up there in a rock house that her father built from hand using stones from Turkey Creek. The rock school she attended was built of the same stones.*

*Married to James Homer Flynt at a young age, Mrs. Flynt lived in more than thirty communities in three different states before settling back down in Pinson. At that point, she enrolled in Samford University, where she completed her degree in 1966.*

*Mrs. Flynt loved teaching. She taught Bible stories to Baptist children everywhere she lived. And she taught Alabama History to thousands of fourth grade students in Oxford, Opelika, Center Point and Pinson schools. For decades after heart problems forced her early and reluctant retirement, those students rewarded her with hugs, kisses, letter and exclamations that she was the best teacher they ever had.*

*Enthralled by Bible characters, Alabama Indians, folkways, storytellers, quilters, soap-makers, cotton growers and a thousand other parts of the state's past, she taught about them with enthusiasm, boundless energy, love and personal attention to each child.*

The family has requested that those wishing to honor Mrs. Flynt's memory do so by contributing to the AAH award fund that bears her name. To do so, contact AAH Secretary-Treasurer Jim Day: Station 6187, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL, 35115 or [dayjs@montevallo.edu](mailto:dayjs@montevallo.edu).

## Jacksonville State University

The Department extends a hearty welcome to our new head, Gordon Harvey who comes to JSU from the University of Louisiana Monroe. A native of the Birmingham areas, Gordon received his Ph.D. from Auburn in 1998 and is happy to return to his home state. He is a specialist on the American South and its politics and is the author of *A Question of Justice: New South Governors and Education Reform 1976* and *Reuben Askew and the Rise of Sunbelt Florida*. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Historical Association, the editorial board of the *Alabama Review* and serves as copy editor for the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* project.

Hardy Jackson stepped down as Department Head and was named Jacksonville State University Eminent Scholar in History. He is currently serving as guest editor of the "Recreation" volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and writing a history of the northern rim of the Gulf Coast since World War II, *The Rise and Decline of the Redneck Riviera*, which will be published by the University of Georgia Press.

George Lauderbaugh was recently granted an academic leave by JSU for the spring 2009 semester to work on his book, *The History of Ecuador*, to be published by Greenwood Press.

In June, Russel Lemmons attended a seminar at Brandies University sponsored by the Shustermann Center on Modern Israel Studies. The seminar also included a ten day field trip to Israel.

Paul Beezley presented a paper entitled "Portrayals of African- American Life at the Turn-of-the Century World's Fairs," at the Ohio Valley Historical Conference at Austin Peay University in October. In January he will present at the American Historical Association in New York City. The title of his paper is "Fire it Up! Cigarette Advertising and Imagined Communities in Intra-War America"

Llewellyn Cook presented a paper, "Command in Question: the Army of Bohemia, Fall 1813" at the 30th annual conference of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, held in Huntsville. JSU and UAH co-sponsored this year's conference and Llew serves on the board of directors.



# President's Page



## President's Corner

Dear Colleagues:

I hope that you are as excited as members of the executive council are about the 2009 meeting. Jeff Gentsch and his colleagues at the University of West Alabama have spent many hours making preparations for us to be on their campus in February.

The executive council has met twice with Jeff and we know that this meeting will be one of the best ones that we have had in a long time. While I realize that Livingston will be a long drive for many of our members, I urge you to mark your calendar now for February 6-7. Hotel and meeting registration information can be downloaded from the AAH website.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be the awarding of the Mae Moore Flynt Teacher of the Year Award, given in honor and memory of Mrs. Mae Moore Flynt, who died this past September. The mother of Dr. Wayne Flynt, Mrs. Flynt taught thousands of elementary school children Alabama history in her teaching career. If you know of a deserving K-12 teacher to nominate for this honor, you can access the application from the AAH website.

I will see you in at UWA in February.

With kindest regards I am,  
Larry D. McQuiston

### DON'T FORGET!

#### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR MAE ELLIS MOORE FLYNT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The AAH Mae Ellis Moore Flynt Teaching Excellence Award recognizes an outstanding classroom teacher who has contributed significantly to the teaching of history in schools in Alabama. Nominees should have a minimum of five years of teaching experience in grades kindergarten through twelve in Alabama public or private schools.

To download an application form, click [here](#)  
or visit <http://dothan.troy.edu/aah/flyntaward.htm>.

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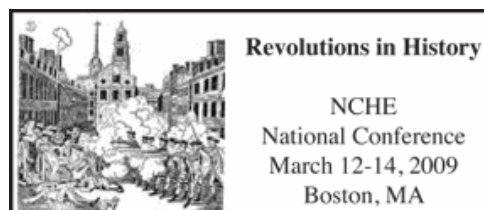
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### **ATTENTION TEACHERS** **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORY EDUCATION** **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 12—14, 2009**



Each spring, the National Council for History Education (NCHE) holds a national conference. The conference is a place where everyone who loves to teach and learn history can come together and share. This year's conference will be held in Boston, MA from March 12-14, 2009 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers.

This year's keynote presentations will be given by Vartan Gregorian, David McCullough, Pauline Maier, and Sharon Leon.

For registration information go to  
<http://www.nche.net/conference>.

**Please submit items for**  
*Historic News*  
**(including images if you have them!)**  
**to Newsletter Editor Laura Anderson**  
**any time you'd like.**  
**Email address: [landerson@bcri.org](mailto:landerson@bcri.org).**

**THANK YOU!**