

Celebrate General Joe Wheeler's Birthday ... with cake and a tour



It's a birthday party! And the Alabama Historical Commission is serving up cake. Not just any old store-bought cake, but a home-made spice cake, said to be General Joe Wheeler's favorite.

On Saturday, September 8, the commission is honoring Wheeler's birthday at his home in North Alabama. Visitors to Pond Spring, the General Joe Wheeler Home, will be able to sample cupcakes made from the Wheeler family recipe.



"We have a lot to celebrate this year," says commission director Frank W. White "and it is The Year of Alabama Food." The commission just completed a \$1.66 million restoration the Wheeler house, one of three homes on the Pond Spring plantation.

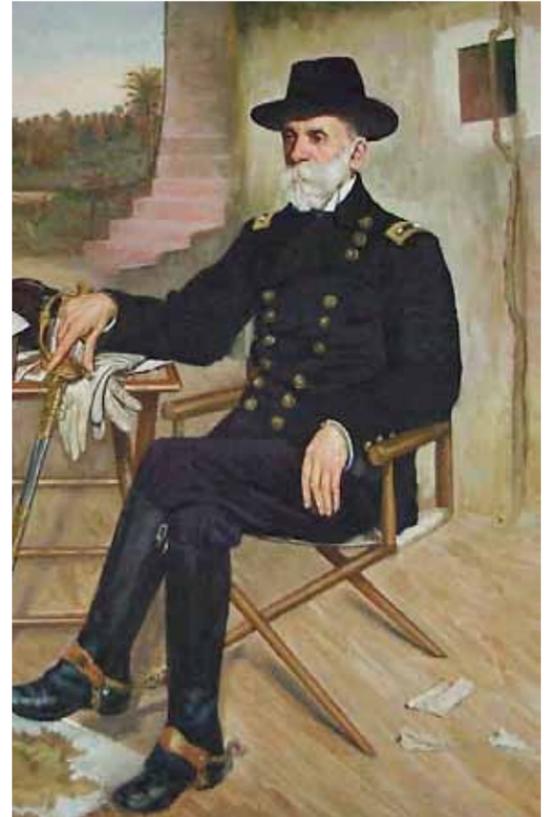
Wheeler's 1880s home is the center point of the 50 acre historic site owned by the commission. The collection contains around 10,000 objects, furnishings, clothing, and papers associated with the family.

It's astonishing," says White "the restoration is superb and there are few house museums in America with such an extensive collection of artifacts associated with a family home. It allows for fantastic interpretation."

Wheeler was a legendary Confederate General, a U.S. Congressman, and a Spanish American War General. Following the Civil War, Wheeler became a national symbol for reunification and reconciliation.

The public can explore the grounds, sample cake (while it lasts) and attend a brief welcome at 10am. Boy scouts will raise a flag, re-enactors will fire a cannon, and costumed docents will be on hand.

But the main event will be an opportunity to tour the recently restored home from 10:30am to 2pm. Entrance to the grounds, the welcoming ceremony and refreshments are free.



Portrait of General Wheeler from the Wheeler collection at Pond Spring

Admission to the house is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors/college students/military, and \$3 children 6-18, free under 6.

"If you want to know what North Alabama life was like in earlier times, you owe it to yourself to visit Pond Spring," said White.

Bike Riders Commemorate Indian Removal



Muscogee Creek Indians from Oklahoma rode bikes across Alabama this summer, tracing the removal route their ancestors took in the 19th century.

The Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour, organized by the Muscogee Creek National Museum and Cultural Center, started at Georgia's Ocmulgee Mounds. It ended 1080 miles later in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

The riders filmed and blogged their trip to bring awareness of the forced removal of Creek Indians from their native lands.

During the 1830s, the United States government relocated Native Americans from

Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama to "Indian Territory" west of the Mississippi.

The commemorative June tour took 20 days. Riders stopped at mound sites, treaty locations, original town sites, and National Park Service protected sites.

Alabama sites included Fort Mitchell, Tuckabatchee, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Fort Payne and Tuscumbia Landing.

Fort Mitchell was a "corralling point" for holding Creeks during their removal from Alabama. From 1834 through 1837, more than 19,000 Alabama Creeks were sent to Arkansas.

In 1814, Creeks signed a treaty at Fort Jackson that ended the 1813-1814 Creek War. The Alabama Historical Commission hosted the riders at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, which it owns and opens to the public.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is where General Andrew Jackson's victory effectively ended the war.



Raising the Muscogee Creek National and American Flag at Tuckabatchee

RECENT ALABAMA REGISTER LISTINGS

Many people seek public recognition for their family's house, church or community. Listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage collects information on easily lost local histories. Alabama's historic places contain information found nowhere else. They tell us where, and sometimes how and why people settled here. The Alabama Register records these stories for the future.

**Riderwood Union Church
Butler vicinity, Choctaw County
Circa 1925; Architecture, Religion**

The E. E. Jackson Lumber Company built this church for its employees. Different denominations worshiped on different Sundays. Baptist and Methodists held services two Sundays each with the fifth Sunday reserved for Presbyterians. The wonderful gable portico and pristine stained wood interior sanctuary are remarkable.

**Striplin Gold Mine and Carr Creek Placer
Delta, Cleburne County
Circa 1835; Exploration/Settlement, Industry, Recreation,
Archaeology**

Few know Alabama's gold rush predates California's 1849 rush. In the 1830s gold prospectors descended upon Alabama's Piedmont region to mine and pan in local creeks. The Striplin and Carr sites contain multiple shafts at least 75 feet deep. At least two shafts still contain timbers. These mines are part of the Chulafinnee and Arbacoochee mining districts of Cleburne County.

**The Jackson Home
Selma, Dallas County
Circa 1965; Ethnic History, Social History**

Leaders planning nonviolent civil and voting rights actions in Selma had few places to meet in the mid 1960s. At great risk, black community leaders opened their homes, businesses, and churches to develop strategies for both the voting rights movement and the Selma to Montgomery March. The Jackson Home was one of these key meeting sites. Dr. King used this home for meetings and private phone conversations with leading government officials about the Movement.

**Camp Coleman
Trussville, Jefferson County
Circa 1925-1972; Conservation, Social History, Recreation,
Architecture**

In 1925 the Alabama-Cahaba Girl Scout Council opened its first camp in Trussville. The Council named it Camp Coleman after its first commissioner, Gertrude Coleman, who had passed away the year before. Today Camp Coleman is the oldest Girl Scout camp in Alabama. It contains wonderful examples of "camp" architecture rambling along the Cahaba River. Endangered now, Camp Coleman is slated for closure in 2013 along with three other Girl Scout camps the North-Central Alabama Council. "Save Camp Coleman" is a newly formed group made up of former girl scouts dedicated to preserving this important place: <http://www.savecampcoleman.com/>.



Homemakers enjoy running water from the Crosby Water System in circa 1963 kitchen.

**Crosby Water System
Hayneville Vicinity,
Lowndes County
Circa 1955 & 1963;
Ethnic Heritage,
Community Planning**

With no consistent clean drinking water for their community, local African American leaders created their own water system in 1955 and updated it in 1963. The Crosby Water System still serves the Gordonville community as a part of the Mosses water system.

The creation of an independent water system "The Well"-funded and owned by blacks for blacks-represented a bold act during Jim Crow era. A 1954 drought caused many wells to dry up in Central and Gordonville. Locals hauled in clean water from as far away as Montgomery.

Black leaders in the Gordonville community chartered a committee to formally dig a well and pump system. A local white man, Ed Crosby, contributed 1/2 acre of land for the project. Local blacks believed because of Mr. Crosby's actions, they were allowed to create their own independent system without retribution. In 1963 the board of directors constructed a better system, running pipes directly to sixty homes in the Gordonville area.

**Dadeville Historic District
Tallapoosa County
Circa 1850-1972; Architecture, Community Planning**

The county seat of Tallapoosa since 1838, Dadeville contains wonderful historic buildings from the mid-19th and 20th centuries. Homes and churches surround a courthouse square lined with commercial and other government buildings. The arrival of the railroad created a significant construction boom from the 1880s-1920s and many homes and businesses exist from this period. Particularly important and intact examples of Victorian-era Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Classical Revival architecture make the historic city Dadeville special.



Exploring Architecture

This eye-catching house is a textbook example of the curiously named "Queen Anne" style, a fad that reigned supreme in American domestic architecture from the 1880s till the dawning years of the 20th century. The random jumble of projecting gables, tall skinny chimneys, and textured surfaces (shingle-clad and half-timbered) made vague reference to the vernacular architecture of Queen Anne's day. The turned posts and fussy spindle-frieze of the porch, though mass-produced by the 1880s, were inspired by the designs of Englishman Charles Eastlake, one of the leaders of the Queen Anne revival on the other side of the Atlantic. Translated to small-town Alabama through a growing flood of architectural pattern books and popular magazines, locals customized these plans to the region by adding such signature features as tall hipped roofs covering the main body of the house and especially expansive porches.

The Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage honors places that are at least 40 years old or older that still convey a sense of Alabama's history. Listing is an honorary designation bringing attention to and promoting the property, while encouraging its long-term preservation. It does not restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of the property. Anyone can nominate a property to the Alabama Register and property owner permission is not required. For more information, please contact Lee Anne Wofford at 334.230.2659 or LeeAnne.Wofford@preserveala.org.

RECENT CEMETERY REGISTER LISTINGS

Recent listings show great diversity in Alabama's historic cemeteries. Found in rural and urban communities, cemeteries tell stories of past generations and family relationships. Some are well kept, other cemeteries hidden and neglected. Many of Alabama's rural cemeteries are the last reminder of a church, home or crossroad community that no longer exists.

Yancey-Crane Cemetery Daphne, Baldwin County

Yancey-Crane Cemetery contains burials of people who lived in or near Daphne, known as the "The Village." The earliest known burial dates to 1860, the most recent to the mid-20th century. Local historians believe the cemetery is part of a much larger burial area used by residents. Commercial developments have likely covered many unmarked burial sites.



Exploring Cemeteries

Woodsmen of the World Tree Stump Marker Yancey-Crane Cemetery

Many secret societies and clubs marked member's gravestones distinctively. Originally established in 1890, WOW was open to white males and excluded those in professions that were "dangerous." Membership included a tombstone designed in the form of a tree stump with scrolled tablets applied. Each stump might have symbols embossed into it including a peace lily, dove with olive branch, and axes. Most markers contain the Latin phrase Dum Tacet Clamet, common translation being "Gone But Not Forgotten."

Herron Hill Near Whatley, Clarke County

This African American family cemetery is the final resting place of the Mitchell and Jones families. The earliest marked burial dates to 1884 but there is a high probability of older unmarked graves. There are approximately 107 marked and 33 unmarked graves. Veterans of WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are buried here.

Huskey Chapel Cemetery

Fort Payne vicinity, DeKalb County
Originally associated with a church by the same name, this community cemetery claims its earliest burial at 1887. Still used Huskey cemetery has 53 marked and approximately 30 unmarked graves.

Pine Grove Cemetery Collinsville Vicinity, DeKalb County

Also originally adjacent and attached to a church, Pine Grove contains markers from 1860 to 1974. This rural community cemetery contains 16 marked and approximately 30 unmarked graves.

Smith's Chapel Collinsville Vicinity, DeKalb County

A small cemetery with only eight known graves, its earliest marker dates to 1934, and the last burial, 1998.

New Hope Cemetery Irondale, Jefferson County

In 1884 Civil War veteran Andrew Jackson Glass donated land establishing a church, school, and cemetery for the New Hope community. New Hope Cemetery is still in use and contains approximately 341 burials next to the church's fourth building. The church was renamed Grantswood Baptist. Its cemetery committee maintains New Hope Cemetery.

This is an example of a grave marker with an inset photograph-on-porcelain of the deceased. It is beautifully intact and shows Ms. Brasher around the time of her death in the 1930s.



Oak Hill Black Cemetery Brookside, Jefferson County

During the 1880s, many African American men moved to Birmingham to work in the coalmine and railroad industries. Oak Hill Cemetery contains burials of many of the people who died in these dangerous jobs. A Sloss Iron and Steel Company-owned mine, Brookside produced coal and coke that fed the region's blast furnaces. At its height Brookside contained over 100 mines and provided work to many African Americans. Approximately 200 burials exist in Oak Hill Black Cemetery.

Dupree Cemetery Near Lester, Limestone County

Dupree is a rural cemetery on approximately 1 1/2 acres with 52 marked and 12 unmarked graves used until the 1980s. The cemetery's oldest marker dates to 1844.

Milhou's Cemetery Athens, Limestone County

The Milhou's Cemetery is a rural family cemetery containing 19 marked burials and possibly other unmarked graves. Like many small family cemeteries, it was used for a limited period. At Milhou's the oldest burial dates to 1823, the last one to 1884.

Haley Cemetery Haleyville, Marion County

Haley Cemetery is a classic rural family cemetery with 75 marked and 10 unmarked burials that date from 1876-1997.

Zion Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Winfield, Marion County

Zion Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery traces its beginnings to 1835. Located in an urban area, this large cemetery is associated with a circa 1927 church bricked over in 1960. The cemetery contains at least 570 marked graves and many unmarked.

Brashier's Chapel Cemetery Arab, Marshall County

The community's namesake, Hiram Brashier, came from South Carolina in 1855 and settled near the

present day cemetery. The oldest grave dates to 1866. The cemetery is still in use and contains over 1000 burials including veterans of the Civil War, WWI and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Sumterville Methodist Cemetery Sumter County

There are at least 125 known graves in Sumterville Methodist Cemetery. The earliest known burial is David Montgomery Dial who died in 1834. The cemetery was originally associated with Sumterville Methodist Church. Over the years the church became inactive and the building sold and torn down. Since that time, there have been no known burials in the cemetery.

Old Prewitt Slave Cemetery Northport, Tuscaloosa County

Old Prewitt Slave Cemetery is associated with the plantation of John Welsh Prewitt, who came to Tuscaloosa from Tennessee in 1820. At its height the Prewitt Plantation consisted of 4000 acres and 600 slaves. While only a few grave markers are visible, ground-penetrating radar surveys suggest over 500 burials located within the cemetery. Former slaves and their families continued to use the cemetery after the Civil War, with the most recent marked burials dating to 1945.

Exploring Cemeteries

Comb Graves

Old Prewitt Slave Cemetery

The comb grave is a distinctive stone structure laid on soil mounded over the burial. Two triangular stones at each end support rectangular slabs creating a "tent." Some have head and foot markers at the ends, others inscribed directly on the rectangular slabs. The purpose of this elaborate structure is certainly aesthetic. It is also likely that it evolved to protect the burial from grazing cattle or exhumation by wild animals.



The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register is the state's official list of valuable cemeteries. The Commission considers cemeteries established at least 40 years ago with important Alabama history worthy of preservation. Visit <http://preserveala.org/cemeteryprograms.aspx> for details on how to list a cemetery. Contact Lee Anne Wofford at 334.230.2659 or lwofford@preserveala.org for additional information.

SAVE THE DATE!

November 3, 8:30am-4pm

CEMETERY PRESERVATION

WORKSHOP: "Tools for the Cemetery Preservation Toolkit"

The Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance will host morning presentations at Birmingham's Samford University. Afternoon demonstrations at historic Oak Hill Cemetery include instruction on how to properly clean and repair grave markers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fall History Fun!

SEPTEMBER 8, 9am-4pm

Celebrate and eat birthday cake! Pond Spring, The General Joe Wheeler Home, Hillsboro

Entrance to the grounds, the welcoming ceremony and refreshments are free. *Admission to the house is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors/college students/military, \$3 children 6-18, and children under 6 free. 256-637-8513.*

OCTOBER 6, 9am-4pm OCTOBER 7, 9am-12pm

War of 1812 Militia Camp, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

See demonstrations of everyday camp life and military drills of Andrew Jackson's Tennessee Militia. *Special Event Admission \$2 adults, \$1 children. 334-567-3002.*

OCTOBER 19, 7pm-10:30pm

Haunted History Tours, Cahawba Spirits Investigation, Old Cahawba, Orrville Vicinity

Central Alabama Paranormal Investigations will demonstrate the art of "ghost hunting." If you encounter a spirit at Old Cahawba, join us at the bonfire to share your experience. Seats for this 90-minute "investigation" are limited and advanced tickets are required. *Tour Times: 7, 7:30, 8, 8:30 & 9pm. Admission: \$15, Ages 12 and up only. Contact: Selma-Dallas County Tourism & Convention Bureau, 1-800-45-SELMA.*

OCTOBER 20, 10am-11am

Hear The Dead Speak, Old Cahawba, Orrville Vicinity

Be an "above-ground archaeologist," and discover messages in the Cahawba's relic landscape left behind by the town's long dead residents. This guided walking tour of Alabama's most famous ghost town lasts about 45 minutes. Bring your walking shoes, camera and curiosity for this intriguing tour. *Admission \$4. 334-872-8058.*

OCTOBER 20, 9am-4pm OCTOBER 21, 9am-12pm

French Colonial Garrison, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

See life of 18th century French Colonial Marines in the reconstructed 1751 Fort Toulouse and Creek Indian village of Pacana. *Special Event Admission \$2 adults, \$1 children. 334-567-3002.*

NOVEMBER 7-11, 8:30am-4:30pm

Alabama Frontier Days, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

Experience the most authentic living history event in Alabama. See the south as it transformed from Creek Indian lands to pioneer settler forts and homesteads during the period 1700-1820. Re-enactors will also demonstrate life during the War of 1812 at Fort Jackson. *For more information, including admission prices, call 334-567-3002.*

Preservation Workshops

OCTOBER 12, 9am-4:30pm

Certified Local Government Workshop "Historic Preservation and Sustainability" Tuscaloosa, Bama Theatre

Workshop sessions on new materials and appropriate infill. Participants will tour historic districts and renovated properties. Contact Stacey Browning at 205-248-5137 or sbrowning@tuscaloosa.com.

OCTOBER 18, 11am till ...

Magnolia Grove, Greensboro

Fall Gardening Seminar

Jason Powell of "Petals from the Past" will discuss the best plants for your fall garden, heirloom plant varieties, and have plants for sale. Hosted by The Greensboro Garden Club and the Black Belt Master Gardeners. The \$15 ticket price covers the seminar and a picnic lunch. For reservations, call Linda Arrington at 334.624.3369 or Katherine Parker at 334.624.8618

NOVEMBER 3, 8:30am-4pm

CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP - "Tools for the Cemetery Preservation Toolkit." Samford University and Oak Hill Cemetery, Birmingham

Contact Ted Urquhart (ted.urquhart@cox.net) for additional information. www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com.

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Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places