

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
Hattiesburg Cultural Center  
723 Main Street  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1573  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573  
Web Site: [www.hahsmuseum.org](http://www.hahsmuseum.org)  
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## Preserving Hattiesburg's History One Piece at a Time

Each week information and artifacts are added to the HAHS collections. These pieces woven together often tell the stories of Hattiesburg and her citizens.

In the Winter 2013 HAHS Newsletter we wrote about the YWCA statue and asked if anyone had additional information on this piece of local history. One of our HAHS members knew where it is now. We contacted the current owner and sure enough the head and torso of a young girl stands in the yard of Betty and Thomas Tyner. When the YWCA building on Hemphill Street was renovated for the Altman, Tyner, Ruffin, Bell, and Swetman law offices, the statue was offered to the Family Y. After they failed to retrieve it, Betty had it placed in her yard to save it from destruction. On one fair day, a tree limb fell and severed the statue's arms. Although the pieces were set aside for restoration, workmen on another project thought they were debris and disposed of them. Today the statue appears as seen above.

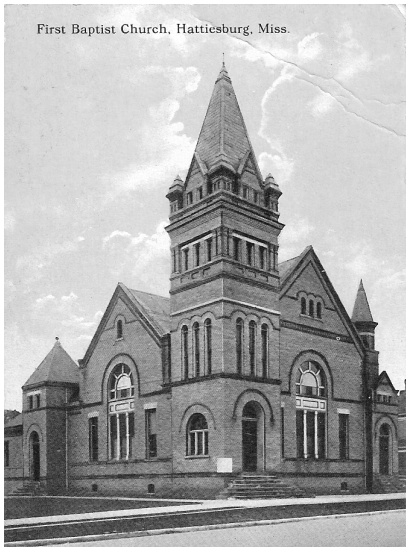


When Bob Martin's HHS Class held a reunion this year, Bob used old photographs and his memory to create dioramas of favorite places of the Class of 1961 to give as door prizes. An extra-large model of the 1922 Jacobethan-style high school building designed by Mississippi architect Robert E. Lee and built on Main Street was presented to the HAHS Museum. After seeing the diorama, Milton Waldoff donated a framed, numbered, and signed Patty Talbot print of the building to be placed above the diorama

David Price sent the HAHS Museum a 1902 photo of the Gulf & Ship Island Depot and a Sanborn map showing its location on East Pine Street. Today the spot is occupied by Pittman Park, named in honor and memory of Hattiesburg's only father-son mayors, Claude Pittman, Sr. and Claude Pittman, Jr. The included map indicated that before the depot was built, the lot belonged to the First Baptist Church and was the site of their second meeting house from 1885 to 1901. Coincidentally, FBC had previously met at the D. H. McInnis homestead in a log cabin that served as the meeting house for other churches and as the schoolhouse. It was located on Main Street at the site of the old high school building.



Pictured above right: the Gulf & Ship Island Depot looking north from East Pine Street on May 20, 1902. Willis W. Vail Photographer. After the depot closed the building was used by the Merchants Company.



In 1901 First Baptist Church sold the East Pine property to the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad and moved to a third meeting house at the corner of Main and Buschman Streets (at left). Early baptisms held in Gordon Creek included tales of members on the bank yelling, “Dunk him again, Preacher. It didn’t take,” when one man used some colorful language as he came up to face a large water moccasin.

Services were held at the Buschman Street building until the move to West Pine Street in 1953. Although the education building remained as an office building for many years, the Buschman Street sanctuary was torn down to prevent its use for anything other than the worship of God. The marble cornerstone (seen in photo at left) was moved to the new Pine Street location (seen to the right).



In 2005 the congregation voted to build on Lincoln Road, and the 1901 cornerstone went along when they moved.

In 2014 the HAHS asked for permission to return the cornerstone to its original Buschman Street location. With the church’s permission and donations from First Baptist Church members and descendants of members, the cornerstone has been placed in the Town Square Park near the spot where the church originally stood, and another piece of history has returned to downtown.

**A MONUMENTAL UNDERTAKING!!**



Above Wood stone Monument workers remove the cornerstone from the Lincoln Road campus. After inspection it was decided to check the cavity in the stone to be sure there were no documents inside. The only contents were concrete and a Riverside brick from the 1901 building. Below bricklayer David Irvin uses Riverside brick donated by Brad Pitman of Columbia Block and Brick to build the base of the monument. A replica of an early church bulletin decorates one side. The completed column stands twenty feet from Main Street and twenty feet from Buschman Street.



As this city’s history enters the HAHS Museum, our volunteers are doing their best to preserve it—one piece at a time.

## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

June 12, 2014 – November 15, 2014

- Booklet: "Lance Corp Roy M. Wheat" and genealogy information on John Wesley "Wes" Fairley & Lorenzo Nolly Dantzler (brass footprints near the Carter Building) – Charles L. Sullivan
- Purple T-shirt from HAHS class of 1949's 45<sup>th</sup> reunion with class names on back – Carolyn Pittman
- Assorted postcards, clippings, photos and scrapbooks – Joyce Craig
- 1966 & 1968 Methodist Hospital Student Nurse Spirit yearbook, Forrest General Annual report, 1990, 2001 & 2002 calendar – Judy Riley
- Various *Hattiesburg American* Review articles written by Merle Kirkwood McMillan and signed "I. Sawyer" from 1953-1955 – Nancy McMillan
- Books: *Dearly Bought, Dearly Treasured* by Chester Morgan and *William Carey College the First 100 Years* by Donna Wheeler; 2 copies *Lil Miss* annuals 1941 and 1945; Class reunion booklets 1944, 1945, & 1966; Executive summary – mission board Southern Baptist Church – Carolyn Howell
- 2 bookshelves – Dr. Betty Drake
- Assorted programs and Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood photos & documents, clippings and information on Historic Neighborhood homes – Harry C. Ward
- Panoramic framed picture of WWI Camp Shelby – Harry C. Ward
- 1943 Hattiesburg Telephone Directory; Gandy Electric Co. letter opener, Card from Pink Elephant Café and Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce card – Bob Doherty
- Handcrafted Hattiesburg High School framed diorama (see picture on page 1)– Bob Martin
- Framed picture of the police force with Mayor Moran Pope – David Byrd
- Print: "Mission Accomplished! By Clint Martin (original hanging in U.S. Air Force Academy) – Norvell Robertson Chapter DAR
- Print: Patty Talbot print of Main Street Hattiesburg High School (#252 of 500) framed and matted – Milton Waldoff
- Framed photo of the 1962 Forrest County Bar Association members; Unframed copies of the 1988, 1992, and 2002 composites of South Central Bar Association – Howard Stroud
- 3 HAHS calendars and 1 HHDA ornament – Roy Eure, Jr.
- CD containing pictures of police force – David Byrd
- Riverside Brick and Mortar – Brad Pittman
- Framed handcrafted military picture (silhouette of Iwo Jima Monument with Eisenhower quote) – Bob Martin

## Recent Monetary Contributions

June 9, 2014 – November 18, 2014

### LIFE MEMBERS

John I. Rogers  
Imogene D. Foy  
Michael L. McMillan  
Dean Meador Smith  
Wiggie Bell (Mrs. J. C.)

### MEMORIALS

Darlene Dale  
Brian Blair  
A J Jones

### HONORARIAMS

Ursula Jones  
Paula Harvey  
Laurie Crowson

### DONORS

Vivian Pierce  
Cindy Cochran  
Lynn Cartlidge  
Lynn Phillips Helwig  
Mary Margaret Tatum  
Eleanor Durgee  
Eleanor Gerrard  
Martha R. Johnson  
Allene D. Galgard  
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Dee Abbott  
Hallie H. Herring  
Georgane Love Easley  
Ann T. Georgian  
Katie Rose McClendon

Nollie Felts  
Linda Morris  
Nancy Meador Farrar  
Nancy J. Albers  
Schamber-Jones CPA  
Twentieth Star DAR  
Norvell Robertson DAR  
Mrs. James W. Johnson  
Nancy M. McMillan  
Mary R. Lennon  
John Papadakis  
Bettie S. Ross  
Eloise Watts Jones  
S. D. (Sarah) Fowler  
Lynn Royse  
Barbara A. Curry

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
 Post Office Box 1573  
 Hattiesburg, MS  
 39403-1573



**MUSEUM HOURS**  
 Mon., Tues., Thurs.  
 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
 Or by Appointment  
 Call 601-582-5460

Located in the  
**Hattiesburg Cultural  
 Center**  
 723 Main Street  
 Downtown  
 Hattiesburg, MS

Web site:  
[www.hahsmuseum.org](http://www.hahsmuseum.org)

Email: [hahsmuseum@  
 megagate.com](mailto:hahsmuseum@megagate.com)

## OFFICERS

President  
 Paula Harvey

Vice President  
 Ursula Jones

Secretary  
 Laurie Crowson

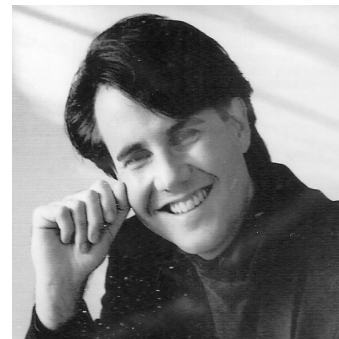
Treasurer  
 Barbara Curry

Historian/Parliamentarian  
 Tom Phillips III

## IN MEMORIAM



Nov. 11, 1920 – Oct. 18, 2014



Feb. 12, 1961-Oct. 16, 2014

The HAHS lost two long-time board members and major contributors in October 2014. A J Jones served as the first Treasurer and later as Assistant Treasurer. Brian Blair was the HAHS Historian. Both men provided invaluable service to the society.

Brian was a 1979 Hattiesburg High School graduate and an avid collector of educational memorabilia. He contributed a complete collection of Hattiesburg High School annuals from 1914 – 2006. He also saved the large metal flag that was lighted and hung on the front of the Main Street high school building during WWII. Brian used his musical talents for the society on several occasions and provided entertainment for the grand gala at the Hattiesburg Depot after its renovation in 2007.

A J was a graduate of Hattiesburg High School in 1938. He demonstrated his love for Hattiesburg and Forrest County by helping organize the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society in 1970. He supported his wife, Jacq Jones, in the establishment of the HAHS museum. A J is responsible for saving the collection of HHS composite pictures that now hang on the wall at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center.

The contributions made by these two men have enriched the society and its members.

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**THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF HAHS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT. Please check your mailing label to see the year paid. If you do not have a 2015 or an "L" (for life member) your dues are due.**

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## HAHS ANNUAL MEETING

**Hattiesburg Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the HAHS Museum in the Cultural Center. Members, prospective members, and friends are invited to attend. There will be a brief business meeting, a show and tell of recent gifts to the society, and refreshments.**

**REMEMBER – THE HAHS IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION. WE STILL NEED MISSING CITY DIRECTORIES AND OTHER HATTIESBURG-RELATED MATERIAL. BEFORE YOU THROW IT OUT CHECK WITH US!**

