**ED BUCKBEE TO HIGHLIGHT THE DEC. 11 PROGRAM**

Ed Buckbee, author, lecturer, and space advocate for five decades, will be the guest speaker at the HMCHS general membership meeting Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:00 at the main Library.

Buckbee’s talk will focus on “The Greatest Space Generation,” the team inspired by Wernher von Braun that developed the Saturn V Moon rocket. He will also talk about the “Real Space Cowboys,” the early astronauts who were the first to carry our flag into space and walk on the Moon.

Buckbee began his space career in 1959 when America’s first Mercury astronauts were selected. He attended the launches of Alan Shepard and John Glenn and was present when the Apollo astronauts lifted-off for the moon landings. He continues to be associated with America’s space program as an advocate of human space flight.

**Dog-trot log cabin available**

By John Allen

The owner of a dog-trot log cabin, similar to the one pictured here, has offered it free to the Historical Society. It sits in Big Cove, near Owens Cross Roads, and is believed to have been constructed between 1810 and 1850. It is covered up with clapboard siding and partially hidden by overgrowth. The owner is selling the acreage the cabin sits on. The new buyer will likely demolish the cabin.

I told the owner that we could use it for office space and for curating historical papers and artifacts that are donated to us on a regular basis. However, the cabin would need to be moved to Huntsville, and it is doubtful we could afford the expense. This situation offers three scenarios:

One: Some individual might take possession of the cabin for private use, but still must move it. Two: Some quasi-public organization might do the same, or Three: A benefactor who pays to move it for the Historical Society.
If you don’t know history, you don’t know anything. You’re a leaf that doesn’t know. It’s part of a tree.”

Michael Crichton

**Ranee Pruitt History Award to be Presented March 22**

*By John Allen*

Ranee Pruitt (sitting) and her protégée, Susanna Leberman, co-presented a program on Huntsville history to the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table in 2012.

Mark your 2017 calendar for March 22 for this first-ever history award program. The winner of the Ranee Pruitt Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for Huntsville and Madison County has been selected by the search committee and approved by the HMCHS board of directors.

The award will be presented at a luncheon banquet at a location still undetermined, but will be announced in the February HMCHS newsletter – along with the name of the keynote speaker. Other historical organizations in the area are invited to join us and present their own awards. The local Descendants of Washington’s Army at Valley Forge will make an award to one of its members.

Ranee Pruitt was the go-to person on local history in her office at the HMCP Library’s Heritage Room on the third floor. Everybody came to her. She was the portal for Huntsville history. Ranee was a great idea person, and could put the right person with the right project. In addition, she had great enthusiasm and was able to find funds when needed. Ranee worked with the Civil War Roundtable, provided information early-on for the Railroad Depot, did research on historical markers, served on the board of this Society, and was a supporter of the DAR and SAR.

**History Outreach Program for Educators Expands to Other School Systems**

The HOPE committee met recently to discuss expanding links to local history into all schools in Madison County. HOPE stands for History Outreach Program for Educators, and is the HMCHS’s effort to forge a bridge between young people and area history.

Following initial efforts with Huntsville City Schools, the committee is looking for ways to incentivize the program for local history teachers. County schools, private schools, and home schools will soon be invited to participate in HOPE.

The program includes a website with bundled digital resources on local history from the collections of the Historical Society and the Huntsville History Collection, supplemented with the highest quality Alabama history resources from across the internet. The website includes lesson plans, historic music, full-text books and journal articles, historic markers, videos on Huntsville history, and spoken audio recordings from local historians. In addition, the website links to quality digital history archives that offer access to a wide range of digital images, oral history recordings, and historic newspapers. Educators can browse a full list of the website’s resources, or choose to explore resources relating to the themes of Early Statehood, the Civil War, Historic Places, African-American History, Native American History, and Women’s History. To see the HOPE website, go hmchs.org, then click on HOPE at the bottom of the page. Contact for HOPE is Kelly Hamlin. Her email address is kelly.fisk.hamlin@gmail.com.
**Fall Huntsville Historical Review Articles**

If your Review hasn’t arrived yet, it most likely will any day. Editor Arley McCormick says articles you can look for include the following:

- Barbecues in the Early Days of Madison County, Alabama, by Nancy Rohr
- A Technical Perspective of Greater Huntsville’s First 150 Years, by Raymond Watson Jr.
- Year of the Dog: The Huntsville Police K-9 Corps, by Arley McCormick
- Alabama’s Six Constitutions – Part I of II, by Julian Butler

If you would like to submit an article for the Review, contact Arley at arleymccormick@comcast.net.

**Eleanor Newman Hutchens dies**

Long-time member of the Historical Society and contributor to the Historical Review, Dr. Eleanor N. Hutchens, has died. She was 97.

She was an eighth-generation Huntsvillian, educator and community leader. She died on November 9, at 300 Williams Street, the house built by her ancestor, Thomas Bibb, second governor of Alabama, and where she had lived since her early childhood.

Dr. Hutchens became an English professor at the new UAHuntsville in 1957 and was the first president of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Hutchens’s interests and accomplishments were never confined to the academic. She was deeply involved in the business community and the cultural institutions of Huntsville. She served as president of the Huntsville Hotel Company, owner of the Russell Erskine Hotel, and as a director of the Huntsville Land Company, the West Huntsville Land Company and the Mountain Heights Development Company, all of which played significant roles in the expansion of Huntsville after World War II.

She was a founder and charter member of the board of Randolph School. She served at various time on the boards of the Huntsville Public Library and the Huntsville Symphony. A lifelong Episcopalian, she was an active member of the Church of the Nativity.

We are pleased to announce that local author Dex Nilsson has authorized the Historical Society to republish *Why Is It Named That?: Stories Behind the Names of 250 Places in Madison County and Huntsville, Alabama*. Copies of this and other Historical Society publications are available at Shaver’s Books, Harrison Brothers Hardware, Earlyworks, Burritt on the Mountain, Lawren’s and Historical Society meetings.

**HMCHS Program for March 12, 2017**

Local historians Bob Adams, George Mahoney, and friends will present Huntsville in the early-to-middle 1900s in words and pictures. It’s the second Sunday in March at 2:00 at the library auditorium.
Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society
Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future

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