



Friends of Fendall Hall

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Special Events

Deborah Casey

Fendall Forum

Welcome to the first edition of The Friends of Fendall Hall newsletter. The Board of The Friends is looking forward to keeping you updated about activities at Fendall Hall and informed about various aspects of the House and its history.

Most recently new plantings and flower beds have been added to the grounds. Please come take a stroll around the grounds to see. Jackie Devlin and her volunteers, including Boy Scouts, have made vast improvements to the landscape.

Many of the projects that have been accomplished at Fendall Hall are a direct result of the generosity of Friends of Fendall Hall – both time and financial. Please become a Friend, or renew your membership, by completing and returning the form in this newsletter. Memberships may also be given as gifts, honorariums or memorials.

Carol Kleinhoff,
President
Friends of Fendall Hall

Upcoming Event Calendar

Hands on History

- **July 14th , 15th , & 16th**

Friends of Fendall Hall Annual Dinner

- **October 7th , 2008**

Friends of Fendall Hall Annual Tea

- **October 22nd**

Happy Birthday!

The year 2008 began with a very special event at Fendall Hall on January 13th. Over 300 people attended a reception in celebration of Mrs. Fannie Strang's 100th birthday. January 31st is her birthdate.



On January 11th the Alabama Historical Commission's new Executive Director Frank White met with Carol Kleinhoff, President of the Friends of Fendall Hall and Deborah Casey, Fendall Hall Site Director, at Fendall Hall. Mr. White was in Eufaula to speak to the Eufaula Rotary Club at the invitation of Doug Purcell.

The annual volunteer coffee was held on February 6th. Barbara Crapps, Director of Eufaula RSVP, and Van Smith, a RSVP volunteer, were given Certificates of Appreciation from Governor Bob Riley in recognition of their many years of volunteerism at Fendall Hall.

March 14th the kindergarten students from Western Heights Elementary School hunted Easter Eggs at Fendall Hall.

March 22nd the First United Methodist Church of Eufaula held their Easter Egg Hunt at Fendall Hall.



Garden Notes

Fendall Hall has had an illustrious garden history having been home to women and men interested in plants. The Friends of Fendall Hall are striving to restore the property to reflect the plant-collecting inhabitants who loved the beauty and diversity of nature.

If you have not visited our grounds lately you will be surprised to find that **your donations** have resulted in two new garden beds. Located on the house side of the front hedge, a new long sunny bed and a shade bed will provide views from Fendall Hall's lovely front porch, a garden for strolling pleasure and a source of ideas for home gardens.

A new addition to the sunny bed is a pincushion flower in shades of pink and lavender. Each plant almost continually produces many thin stems of approximately two inch flowers held about twelve to eighteen inches above the low growing finely cut grey-green leaves. When plants are grouped together, the effect is of a fog of soft pink haze above the plant.

This particular old-fashioned flower goes by the unappealing name of scabiosa, so-called because it was erroneously thought to cure itches. The formal names of the plants are *Scabiosa columbaria* with the cultivars being either "Butterfly Blue" or "Pink Mist" the latter being a soft pink and the former a soft lavender pink. Plant growers can't do anything about the scientific scabiosa name, but they have figured out that blue is a rare color in flowers when compared to say pink or yellow and that gardeners will be more likely to buy a so-called blue bloom than a mauve pink one. Both "Pink Mist" and "Butterfly Blue" flowers do attract butterflies and flower almost continuously from mid to late spring until frost if the dead flowers are removed. They will return for at least four years but eventually do almost flower themselves to death and need replacing. These plants are easy to find and suitable to the sunny home garden given an average amount of water.

These newer forms of an old fashioned flower are particularly appropriated for Fendall Hall since it was home to women gardeners with a fondness for pink flowers.

Jackie Devlin

Friends of Fendall Hall

Education Hands on History

Ashley Klagus



Come join us for some summertime fun in our workshops for kids! Hands on History Day Camp is set for July 14-16. The camp will encompass art, architecture, and archeology – all centering around Fendall hall's long and interesting history. The camp will be for students from 8 – 14 years of age. It will begin at 9am and conclude at noon. The cost for the camp is \$25 per student. The first day of the camp will include an art with Mitzi Yarbrough, art teacher at Eufaula High School. The second day will include archeology with a State expert, and the final day will involve a cookout with foods from the antebellum and Victorian periods. Space is limited, so make sure and act fast by calling Fendall Hall. Teachers for Hands on History include Ashley Klagus, Mitzi Yarbrough, Beth Cole, Amanda Hill, and many others.

Contact Fendall Hall at 334-687-8469 for more information about Hands on History or any other upcoming event.

Site Director's Notes

Deborah Casey

In 2010, Fendall Hall will be 150 years old. There will be a celebration of this important milestone. If the Young family descendants would like to have some type of celebration please email or call me with suggestions. The email address at Fendall Hall is fendallh@bellsouth.net and the phone number is 334-687-8469.

Mr. Dent McCulloh's 85th birthday was on April 24th, and the Friends of Fendall Hall Board Members celebrated with birthday cake and lemonade at the May 12th board meeting.

During the first quarter of 2008 there were two school tours, one bus tour, 20 rental events, nine special events (programs) and 1,321 total visitors at Fendall Hall.

The following items are now available at Fendall Hall:

Books

Historic Architecture in Alabama: A Guide to Styles and Types 1810 – 1930 By: *Robert Gamble* - Price: \$27.50 plus postage

Merchandise

Fendall Hall T-Shirt, sizes M, L and XL – Price: \$12.50 plus postage

Fendall Hall Coffee Mug – Price: \$7.50 plus postage

From the Archives
-Geo.W.Whipple-
Eufaula Builder Extraordinaire

By: **Douglas C. Purcell,**

*Executive Director, Historic Chattahoochee Commission
(334) 687-9755*

In studying the architectural history of Eufaula, one name stands out above all others -- George W. Whipple. Whipple was born December 8, 1813, in Smithfield Township, Providence, Rhode Island, and died in Eufaula on December 31, 1872. He probably came to Eufaula in the early to mid 1840's when the city was beginning to grow and prosper. Whipple is listed in the 1850 Barbour County census as a carpenter with property valued at \$1,500 and in the 1860 Barbour County census as a master carpenter with real estate valued at \$7,700 and a personal estate of \$13,000. By 1870 he only had real estate valued at \$7,600.

It is possible that Whipple came to Eufaula with merchant-farmer-entrepreneur John Hart of New Hampshire. Hart's wife, Elizabeth, also hailed from Rhode Island. According to Robert H. Flewelling, in his *Along Broad Street: A History of Eufaula, Alabama 1823-1984*, Whipple built the c.1850 Hart House on North Eufaula Avenue which now serves as the office for the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. Flewelling notes that Whipple built, c.1857, the home formerly occupied by Alabama Governor Chauncey Sparks on West Broad Street (now the office of Russell Irby). John Hart also owned this home at one time. Other outstanding projects that he worked on included: Union Female College (c.1854) and, of course, Fendall Hall (c.1860). Two of his last projects were the Vicksburg and Brunswick Depot and Kendall Manor which were both completed in 1872. In addition, Whipple was involved as a "bridge mechanic" to make repairs on the Eufaula covered bridge during the late 1840's and early 1850's. An 1873 newspaper article about Willis Fort, a black carpenter who worked with Whipple, refers to him as the "late Captain George W. Whipple".

Whipple almost certainly built many of the other grand mansions and cottages that still stand in Eufaula. At the time of his death, Whipple was serving as Chief of the Eufaula Fire Department. His tombstone, at Fairview Cemetery, lists his death date as December 31, 1872.

Please Print Title/Name (Mr., Mrs., etc.) _____	Telephone _____
Mailing Address _____	Email _____
City & State _____	Zip Code _____
Please check level of Membership and enclose a check written to: Friends of Fendall Hall P.O. Box 184 Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0184	
Sponsor \$1,000 Patron \$500 Benefactor \$200 Sustainer \$100 Business \$50 Civic Club \$35 Family \$30 Individual \$20 Student \$10	
Please accept my gift in full as a tax-deductible donation. I relinquish the right to free admissions and membership card. (Check on line if this is your wish.)	

Recent Roof Repairs

Alabama Historical Commission

By Mark Driscoll and Mae Washington

For all the good that water does—quenches thirst, puts out fires, cleans things, irrigates crops, makes coffee, and sustains life—it is very bad for buildings. We spend a lot of energy, time, and money to keep it out and move it away quickly. A building's roof is its first line of defense to keep water out and move it away. Fendall Hall's roof and built-in gutters had not been doing their job as well as they should.

The built-in, V-shaped gutters had been patched and repaired many times in the past. As a result, they had become too shallow and uneven. Water was splashing over the roof edge and onto the fascia. It was backing up into and under the shingles and it was not draining at all in some low areas of the gutters.

In 2007, the AHC contracted with preservation architect Richard Hudgens to design a long-term solution to the gutter problems. Working with AHC staff and Dick, Paul R. Anderson Builders, Inc, rebuilt the gutters, repaired the exterior woodwork damaged by leaks from the gutters, and added new downspouts.

The contractor completed work on the gutters in October of 2000, at a cost of \$167,000. The Commission had earlier voted to take a one-time appropriation of \$117,000 from its trust fund for the gutter repair and later supplemented it with a \$50,000 line item appropriation from the legislature.

Finding funding for the next phase—repairing the roof which had extensive damage, with shingles worn completely away in some places—was crucial to preventing damage to the house.

In September 2007, AHC learned that the Alabama's finance director had unspent emergency funds. Commission architect Mae Washington developed a proposal, and then-executive director John Neubauer presented it to Finance Director Jim Main, who granted the \$241,500 request.

As with all architectural projects, Mae posted a request for proposals (RFP) for architectural services. Five architects responded. Mae, Site Director Deborah Casey, and Mark Driscoll each evaluated the proposals independently. Based on our evaluations, AHC selected Richard B. Hudgens Architect, Inc. AIA, as architect for the re-roofing project.

The architect will spend five months on the design phases—researching, designing, and refining to get to bid documents; the bid will be open for one-and-a-half months; a fully executed construction contract will take two months. Construction on the roof should begin in January 2009.

We have asked Dick to look at options for wood shingles, which are the original roof material. The best wood shingles have a 15-year expected life and AHC struggles constantly for money to do basic maintenance. Since protecting the house from the elements is the first function of the roof, looking at longer lasting options is a reasonable course of action. He'll do the research and make recommendations during the design phase. We'll keep you posted.

Mark Driscoll is director of the Alabama Historical Commission's Historic Sites Division... Mae Washington is the Historic Sites Division's architect and project manager.