

To: Members of the Birmingham-Jefferson Historical Society

What: Quarterly Meeting

Date: October 13, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m. Social and Refreshments  
7:00 p.m. Business and Program

Where: HOMEWOOD LIBRARY AUDITORIUM (Note Change)

Speaker: Jerry Desmond, Director  
Birmingham-Jefferson History Museum

Subject: Introduction of himself, and review of his thoughts and plans for development and growth of the museum.

The Birmingham-Jefferson History Museum, a non-profit started in 2004 to develop a local general history museum, has hired Jerry R. Desmond, recently of Rome, GA, as its first full-time paid executive director.

Jerry ("Dez") has extensive experience in museum planning, research and exhibiting, primarily as a consultant with LaPaglia and Associates in Murfreesboro, TN. He was most recently the executive director of the

Rome Area History Museum until budget cuts eliminated the full time position there.



Dez is a native of Maine and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in history and a master's degree in education, all from the University of Maine. He taught American history at Maine public high schools for 15 years. A Civil War buff, Dez said he migrated south in 1991, to Knoxville, when he realized he wouldn't find any Civil War battlefields in his home state.

“This war, it turns out, was hosted primarily in the South,” he said. “I also learned my first day in the South that you don't order one Krystal.” Having lived in the South now for almost 18 years, Mr. Desmond has made adjustments. “I like grits and fried okra, but I'm not too keen on collard greens and chitterlings,” he said with a chuckle.

With LaPaglia, he has been involved in the start-up and organization of nearly 20 museums in the Southeast, including the Aliceville POW Museum, the Paul W. Bryant Museum in Tuscaloosa, and the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Ga. He also helped launch the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pa., and from 1999-2002 curated the museum's \$15 million collection.

At Booth, Dez was a principal in the planning team and helped research and write the museum's orientation film, which earned a Clio Award. It was there he met his future wife, Cherry Johnson, who was on staff at the time. Cherry Johnson has an advanced degree in Museum Studies from the University of South Carolina and is currently curator and program director for the Rome Area museum.

The couple has one daughter, Caroline, age 12. Dez is commuting for the time being from Rome and has an apartment in Mountain Brook.

“I am very excited about this project, it has a great deal of potential,” commented Mr. Desmond. “It is unusual for a city of Birmingham's size to not have a museum dedicated to its regional history and culture. I look forward to learning more about the area and working with our outstanding board of directors to build a museum that the city and county can be proud of.”

**The Birmingham-Jefferson History Museum**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was started in June 2004 with \$4,000 seed money from the Birmingham-Jefferson Historical Society. The organization that year hired as curator Marvin Y. Whiting, Ph.D., a retired Birmingham Public Library archivist, and began collecting at offices at Office Park in Mountain Brook. The museum in March moved to the Young & Vann Building at 1731 First Avenue North in Birmingham, where it leases administrative offices and roughly 3,500-square-feet of exhibit space. The museum's goal is to collect and preserve artifacts of local history and to begin exhibiting by spring of 2010 – if not sooner.



Photos made recently at your museum

**COMMENTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

*“Time puts a limit on us all. We can overcome all other dimensions, but in turn, we are overcome by time.” Wernher von Braun*

It is hard to realize that I will be completing three years as your president, and the October meeting will be my last in that office. It was a surprise to me to have been chosen, and I truly consider it an honor to have been able to serve. I have asked a number of you to help me in various capacities, and most have done so graciously and effectively. You have helped in many essential ways that have made my work manageable and made your society grow. I thank you for your work and your guidance. (And, believe me, the guidance has been key, since I had never even served on the Board.)

I wish to thank the Society and its members for teaching me so much regional history. Having grown up in Virginia, and having none of my education in Alabama, and no relatives in Alabama, the learning curve has been moderately steep. However, at my age, and having lived in Alabama by choice for 52 years, I am probably more of an Alabamian, based on years lived here, than many native-borns now living here. Thanks to Ethel Armes, Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins and Jim Bennett , as well as many of you members, I now feel reasonably well fortified in the subject of the history of “the mineral district”. My respect and admiration for the founders of the district has risen progressively, and likewise for many of you contemporary descendents of those hardy founders.

We will have election of new officers and Board members at our October meeting. A nominating committee is working on it, and would appreciate volunteers to step forward. Dr. Bayard Tynes, our Vice President, feels that his work as Chairman of the Board of the new Birmingham-Jefferson Museum of History, will keep him well-occupied this year, so he will not be a candidate for an office in the Society. The nominating committee’s suggestions will be offered at the meeting, and nominations from the floor will be welcome. Meanwhile, members with suggestions, and/or volunteers for positions will be more than welcome, and should contact me as soon as possible at 871-6213.

The meeting auditorium question has continued to present some problems. The Botanical Gardens location brought continuous problems and complaints; so we moved to Emmet O’Neal Library for this year. The O’Neal auditorium and accommodations were very satisfactory; but we encountered unexpected, and unpredictable, scheduling problems. So the Homewood Library auditorium was suggested and explored, and it revealed several advantages that were favorable for our needs. Among those advantages is the ability to have a signed contract for the space and time. The problems and remedies were communicated to the Board, and a poll was taken. The vote was 66% (of 12 responders) were in favor of moving to Homewood;17% in favor of staying at Emmet O’Neal and changing our meeting dates to Thursdays; and 17% had no preference. Six members did not respond; so they could be counted as ambivalent. So we are trying the Homewood Library Auditorium for the October meeting. If it proves to be unsatisfactory, the new president and Board can make definitive choices for next year.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**CAROLYN DICKINSON TYNES**

**July 29, 1934 – September 1, 2009**

**Our fellow-member, and wife of  
our Vice-President, Dr. Bayard S. Tynes**

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## ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA'S ELEPHANT MASCOT AND LOGO

One of the two oldest, continuously-operating, businesses in Birmingham is **ROSENBERGERS'S BIRMINGHAM TRUNK, INC.** Opened in 1897 by J. D. Rosenberger, in an era when travel was by horse and wagon, train and ship, the need for durable and fashionable trunks, suitcases and "grips" afforded a needed business opportunity. The downtown Rotary Club was founded in 1913, made up of respected business and professional men. J.D. Rosenberger was a founding member; and he was a member of the Board of Directors in 1914, 1921 and 1922.

In 1927, The University of Alabama football team had an outstanding record, and was invited to play in the Rose Bowl against Stanford. The train trip across the country took many days for the team to travel. As a proud fan, J.D. Rosenberger, had given each member of the team a new suitcase. A name tag was attached to each suitcase, also provided by Mr. Rosenberger; and each tag had the Rosenberger Birmingham Trunk Company logo, which was a red elephant, exploiting the name "trunk". As the team traveled across the country, and when they arrived at Pasadena, they were met by newspaper and magazine reporters, as would be expected. The tags with the red elephants were noted on all of the team members' suitcases, and the reporters mistook the meaning, thinking that they represented the team logo. So the elephant team mascot was born! As Paul Harvey would say, "now you know the rest of the story".

The Rosenberger Birmingham Trunk Company was passed down to J.D.'s son, Melville, who married a delightful New Orleans belle, Mae. She and their son, Ken, still own the company, which deal in quality luggage. They have two stores in Birmingham, one at The Summit, and one at Colonial Brookwood Mall; and you can find Mae at Brookwood most days; and she can tell you all about the University of Alabama elephant .

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Check the website of the Athletic department for the University of Alabama for another version.

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### SPECIAL INVITATION

The Birmingham Aero Club and The Southern Museum of Flight send a special invitation for a very special event. **James A. Mowbray, PhD.** Professor of War fighting Strategy, USAF Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama will present a program on **The History of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.**

"The Mighty 8<sup>th</sup>" is remembered by all as the weapon that destroyed the German industrial complex, that softened the territory for the Normandy invasion, and covered the invading forces during and after the invasion.

Many Alabamians and Birmingham citizens do not know that the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force got its start here in Birmingham. Much of the original organization was done by Birmingham people, and Birmingham-Southern College faculty members were very much involved.

**PLACE:** Southern Museum of Flight, 4343 73<sup>rd</sup> Street North.

**DATE AND TIME:** October 15. 7:30 P.M.

**ADMISSION: FREE.** BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS, VETERANS AND STUDENTS.

## REMINISCENCES

Editorial Note: The following is a reminiscence forwarded to your editor by Lynne Buckner.

In 1949 where I live now there were only two houses to the right of Acton Avenue and five houses on the left side of Acton Avenue. We knew each person who passed by our house as they came down Acton Avenue. When we wanted some groceries we had to go to the Mountain Brook J.B. Hill Grocery Store to purchase them. The only doctor back then was Dr. Joseph Merrill Lee and you had to go to see him when you needed help.

We did not have garbage pickup as we do today. When disposing of garbage, we took it to the back corner of our lot to burn. Also, all the families who lived here then were on septic tanks until we were zoned into Vestavia. Then we had running water and sewage if we connected into it. When washing clothes, we washed by hand and hung on a clothesline to dry. Each family looked after each other and checked on each other every day to see if they needed anything.

At Christmas we purchased a Christmas tree from a family who raised them and we brought them to put in our own house.

Our school bus, which was driven by a Shades Valley student, would go around in Patton Chapel to pick up students for Patton Chapel School, Rocky Ridge Elementary, Cahaba Heights, the Junior High and then go to Shades Valley High School, where he would park the bus until 2:30 p.m. Then he would go back to all of those schools and pick up those students at the end of their day.

Back in the early 70s, Birmingham Transit would come out here to pick up workers and brought maids and yard men in the area for work. At 7:00 a.m. downtown, the pickup would take place and come back out to pick up these workers in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m. This ride cost only \$.25 at the time. Our mail came out of Mountain Brook Post Office and all the postal workers had different routes to carry, even The Birmingham News.

Now we have all services in this area and don't even have to go outside the neighborhood. Each family was then on a 3-party line telephone. It would ring one, two or three times to let the families know which one was being "rung up" for a telephone call. Times have certainly changed at the present.

I have been living in the same house since July 23, 1949.

B. Lynne Buckner

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## ROSTER PURGE NOTICE

Our Secretary and Treasurer has been in conversation with your president in recent months concerning the fact that there are some of the over 300 members on our roster who have not paid dues for several years. In view of the increased cost of postage for mailings, as well as the costs of printing, a decision has been made to purge those from our mailing list who have not responded in several years. Some who read this will have only a vague recollection of whether or not they have been paying their dues, but still desire to remain as members. If in doubt, please call our Sec./Treas. Harry Bradford at 871-7739. For those who, for whatever reason, do not signify their interest by paying dues for this year, 2009, this will be the last issue of the News Letter that will be sent to them, and their names will be removed from our membership roster. We thank you for your past interest and membership, and are truly sorry to lose you.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Alabama Blast Furnaces* by Joseph H. Woodward, II, University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, AL, original copyright 1940, introduction copyright 2007, 162 pages.**

Book Reviewer: Bob Kracke

Some years ago, I and my then law partner, A.H. (Rick) Woodward, III, tried a lawsuit at the Jefferson County Courthouse. One of the individuals on our jury venire, when striking a jury, was a Woodward employee. During voir dire examination, the employee acknowledged that he knew Mr. Woodward. Opposing counsel, believing that leaving a Woodward Iron employee on the jury would be beneficial to him (he assumed that Mr. Woodward was a part of management at Woodward Iron), he left that employee on the jury. After the case was successfully tried by Rick and me, that employee, who was foreman of the jury, approached Rick and said, "Rick, did that verdict please you?" Rick, of course, grinned at him and said, "Al, how are you doing?" It turned out that Rick Woodward was not then part of management at Woodward Iron, but worked alongside "Al" on the blast furnace. After work, they would often go to a nearby watering hole and have a beer together.

Our own Jim Bennett has written a new introduction to this history of Alabama Blast Furnaces wherein he quotes Rick remembering his uncle, Joseph H. Woodward, II, the author, as a "warm and wonderful man."

Joseph H. Woodward, II, according to Jim Bennett, in the introduction, was an amateur author who wrote this history in 1940 with H.A. Burg, who was the President of Woodward Iron Company. In 1940, "the year before he wrote *Alabama Blast Furnaces*, 40% of the foundry iron produced in the United States came from the Birmingham district - the same year Woodward Iron Company ranked as the largest independent manufacturer of pig iron in the country." As a result, "Uncle Joe" was just the right man for the job: he and Mr. Burg gathered together many primary resources in producing this short paperback. It is, however, a thorough study of the manufacture of pig iron in Alabama. (For many years, I would admire a paperweight on my father's desk, which was a little, black pig made out of pig iron with the word "Birmingham" on its back.)

Woodward begins his story in 1815, which he describes as the pioneer era and includes histories of various well known furnaces in this area, including Irondale, Oxmoor, Sloss-Sheffield, Bessemer, Tannehill and many others, too numerous to mention. As to its origin, the founder of Woodward Iron overheard two young Union soldiers describing the iron ore in an area of Alabama where they had fought in the Civil War. At the time, he was an iron master in Wheeling, WV. "Two years later, in January 1869, he made his first trip into the state of Alabama. After inspecting the brown ore deposits at Shelby and the red ore veins in Jefferson County, he purchased 550 acres of ore land on Red Mountain on January 30, 1869. Within two weeks, he also purchased more than \$30,000 worth of additional coal and iron ore lands. A little later that same year, he bought a tract of about 2,000 acres of brown ore land in Tuscaloosa County near Woodstock. This property, acquired in 1869, became the nucleus of the Woodward Iron Company."

When my then law partner Rick and I began to try a different case in Judge Cecil Deason's courtroom, Judge Deason made the remark to Rick that it was his belief, based on good authority, that Woodward Iron Company was the largest landholder in Jefferson County when it was bought out by Mead Paper Company. At the time, he added, Woodward Iron Company had the longest privately owned railroad system in the country.

Of particular interest to Jim Bennett is the chapter on Tannehill Furnaces. I can recall William Brantley, III relating a story to me about how he and his father, when "B Boy" was a young lad, rediscovered for themselves the Tannehill Furnace. As it was described to me, it was completely overgrown, hidden with vines and foliage. A tree was growing out of the center of the furnace. Mr. William C. Brantley, Jr., of course, was a somewhat famous amateur historian, the author of *Three Capitals of Alabama*, in addition to his practicing law with the Lange, Simpson & Brantley firm in Birmingham.

*Alabama Blast Furnaces* is complete with diagrams of furnaces and photographs of many of the furnaces, including Sloss City Furnace, which was located on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Birmingham. Of course, we recently had a descendent of Sloss Furnaces, Cathy Crenshaw, speak to our organization.

In my den, I have an original painting of the Oxmoor Furnace Creamery where the employees purchased items of need on company credit. This type place was, of course, where the employees "owed their soul to the company store." And, of course, our own Tommy West is responsible for the historical marker signifying the former location of the Irondale Furnace. There is a photo in this book of the Irondale Furnace in its then condition in 1893.

Further, there is an interesting history of the Alice Furnace, which was originally owned by Col. H.F. DeBardeleben and T.T. Hillman, which they began in 1879, within the city limits of Birmingham. Later, "in 1884, Enoch Ensley of Tennessee consolidated the Alice Furnace Company, Lynn Ironworks and Pratt Coal & Coke Company into the Pratt Coal and Iron Company. Two years later, in 1886, the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company acquired the Pratt Coal and Iron Company and with it the two Alice Furnaces. Again, in 1907, the property changed hands when the U.S. Steel Corporation acquired the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company."

As you can see, this abbreviated history is a valuable resource to one interested in the Birmingham area insofar as iron production is concerned. It is not a footnoted work, however, credit is given by the authors to Ethel Armes work, *Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*, which was written in 1910 and republished in 1975 as a project of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Her book has a photo of the Tannehill Furnace in its overgrown condition.

The Woodward updated history can be purchased in any local book store. I ordered one from the University of Alabama Press. It is a real buy at \$19.95.

## Birmingham-Jefferson Historical Society— July 2009 Newsletter Errata

By Thomas M. West, Jr.

The following are errors which occurred in the July Newsletter:

- A. Eyewitness Account – Birmingham 1914 – 1915
1. Under “The Birmingham New”: Blount Springs Hotel was written as such but somehow omitted from page 4.
  2. On page 7:  
Mallie and Doris Moughan was written as such but was typed as “Mallie and Doris Vaughn.”  
Mary Streit was written as such but was typed as “Mary Strist.”  
Pete Sloss was written as such but was typed as “Pete Moss.”
- B. Mickey Rooney Marries Miss Alabama 1944
1. On Page 11:  
Bechtel-McCone was written as such but was typed as “Bechtel Mfg. Co.”
  2. On page 12:  
This movie was written as “possibly” National Velvet but was typed as “This movie was National Velvet.” The intent was to make it clear that the exact movie title is not known but National Velvet came out about that time. It is hoped that someone might come forward with exact proof as to why Mickey Rooney came to Birmingham and consequently met his future wife. (NOTE: See this issue for a complete explanation.)

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**EDITOR’S NOTE: We thought you might be interested in some cultural events as well as historical events.**

### **SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BIRMINGHAM MUSIC CLUB'S 2009-10 SERIES**

You won't want to miss thrilling performances by classical pianist Gabriela Montero, the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Boston Brass as presentations of the Birmingham Music Club's 104th concert series

All performances are presented at UAB's Alys Stephens Center and preceded by "Preludes," lectures offered to enhance enjoyment of the concerts.

Season tickets for the BMC's 2009-10 "Classically Inclined Series" are now available through the Alys Stephens Center box office by calling 205-975-2787.

The series will present the preeminent pianist Gabriela Montero on Saturday, October 10, at 8 p.m. Montero's exceptional talent captured international attention when she performed at the President's inauguration with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman. She gives her audience a musical bonus by taking requests and using them to compose on-the-spot improvisations.

Beginning the New Year is the renowned 160-piece Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra performing Tchaikovsky on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, a 3 p.m. performance by the Boston Brass will treat the audience to a unique concert experience for all ages, with a program showcasing the five musicians' extraordinary range and talent.

A season ticket entitles the holder to three fabulous concerts at bargain prices. Orchestra and mezzanine season tickets are only \$128; the middle balcony only \$99, and the rear balcony just \$75. Payment is accepted by cash, check payable to ASC, or credit card.

"Season ticket purchasers are assured of the most desirable seating of their choice and can mark their calendars in advance to make sure they won't miss the opportunity to hear internationally acclaimed performers in our own city," says Cindy Harper, BMC executive director. "Also, the price of a season ticket to the entire series represents savings over the purchase of a single ticket to each performance."



## **Follow Up Story: Mickey Rooney Marries Miss Alabama 1944 in Birmingham**

By Thomas M. West, Jr.

In the last issue we said that there would be a follow up if possible with additional facts of interest.

On the front page of the Sunday "Birmingham News" it was reported that the day before, Saturday, October 1, 1944 "Mickey Rooney, Miss Birmingham Married After Whirlwind Courtship" (You will remember that Miss Birmingham, in those days, was Miss Alabama in the Miss America contest.)

The "News" article, by Lily May Caldwell, went on to say that it was an afternoon wedding in the home of Major Harry F. Jackson (known as the Frank Nelson house). The minister was Rev. Marvin Franklin (South Highlands Presbyterian minister) and best man was Pvt. Robert Guy, former member of the Kay Kyser Orchestra. It noted that Mickey misplaced his marriage license and the ceremony was put on hold for Mickey to retrieve it.

The "News" went on to state that Mickey and Betty Jane Rase had been introduced one week earlier by his friend Francis Falkenberg, manager of the Alabama Theatre, at a private showing of "The Seventh Cross"

The "News" article went on to say that Mickey's friends, the Charlie Preston's of Birmingham, had driven Betty Jane over earlier that week to see Mickey at Camp Sibert where wedding plans were made.

On Friday Mickey returned to Birmingham to meet the bride's parents while attending a private screening of his latest Andy Hardy movie, "Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble", at the Empire as John Douglas' guest. (Douglas was probably the Empire manager).

Lily May Caldwell went on to write that Betty Jane had been offered contracts from Selznick and Paramount Studios after the Miss America contest a few weeks earlier when she stopped the show singing "My Hero" from "The Chocolate Soldier", winning a National Talent Award and placing fifth in the finals. Betty Jane, a cousin of John Charles Thomas the opera star, had a beautiful lyric soprano voice and received training under some of the country's finest teachers as well as being a brilliant pianist.

Cecil Whitmire, current manager of the Alabama Theatre, told your writer the story, from Francis Falkenburg long time former manager of the Alabama Theatre, that after the marriage the head of MGM Studios phoned Falkenburg to direct him to have the marriage annulled! This of course did not happen. Whitmire said that Rooney was staying at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel so it is assumed that the one night honeymoon must have been there.

As we know both sons seem to have been born in Birmingham but whether or not Mickey or Betty Jane ever lived here remains a mystery.

The couple divorced later but not in Birmingham as assumed. The lawyer for Betty Jane was Ben L. Britnell of Decatur, cousin of your writer's old friends David Britnell Cauthen a retired attorney living in Hartselle, and Dr. Frank M. Cauthen, a retired physician living in Athens. Frank and David said that the divorce took place in California and that cousin Ben Britnell made numerous trips to Los Angeles to handle the divorce for Betty Jane Rase Rooney. Why she chose an attorney in Decatur to handle a divorce in California remains a mystery. Where Betty Jane lived with the children after the divorce is also not known. Whether or not she spent much time subsequently in Birmingham is not known.

Many thanks go out to those who helped with this follow up story when a man who had been the biggest movie star in the world by chance met and married, a week later, one of Birmingham's most beautiful and talented ladies: Bill Barnes, David B. Cauthen, Dr. Frank M. Cauthen, Gera Comfort, Frank Falkenburg, Dr. Hughes Kennedy and Cecil Whitmire were all so very helpful.

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## History Museum Artifacts Update

By Thomas M. West, Jr.  
Museum Vice President and Artifacts Chairman

When museum director Jerry Desmond suggested that we press forward with a display of Jefferson County mining operations I agreed 100%. This display is extremely important because mining is why Birmingham is here in Jefferson County this being the only place in the whole world where coal, iron ore, and limestone all exist in the very same location! As you all know these three elements make iron.

Some of our current acquisitions include:

1. Early soft cloth miner's cap
2. Whale oil lamp for above
3. Four rare miner's pickaxes (smaller than a normal pickaxe for one handed use in small spaces)
4. Miner's lunch pale in aluminum for carrying food and water into the mine for a day's work
5. Wooden canary cage. If the little canary died it was a signal that deadly gas was present and you should run for your life
6. Auto-Lite brand brass carbide lamp. This technology followed the old whale oil lamps
7. Three (3) sticks of inert dynamite with an inert blasting cap. Looks like the real thing but harmless
8. Vintage wooden blasting cap box marked "Western" Blasting Caps
9. Vintage dynamite box marked "DuPont"
10. Vintage miner's "Union Carbide" pellet can for use in carbide lamps
11. Rare vintage mining car wheel of iron with 5 curly spokes

Some items we need

1. Blasting machine – the device that ignites the dynamite after the plunger is lowered. Often seen in the old western movies.
2. Blacksmith made candle holder for use inside the mine
3. United Mine Workers union picket sign
4. Small blasting cap tin
5. Mine car – remember the great one at "Baby Doe's Matchless Mine" in Homewood?
6. Vintage miners hard hat – came after the soft cloth cap
7. Washroom clothes wire basket
8. Safety lamp
9. Signs from mines
10. Mine commissary items
11. Dynamite hole rock drills
12. Vintage miner's shovel

13. Mining company letters
14. Mining commissary company scrip (paper money) and clacker (coinage)
15. Steam whistle
16. Mine car track section
17. Mining machinery of all types
18. Vintage first aid kit used in mines
19. Items related to leased convicts
20. Items related to the labor movement
21. Items related to mine owners
22. Photos of Jefferson County mines

**If you have any of the above or related items please call Tom West 871-5365**

**SOME INTERESTING BURIALS AT OAK HILL CEMETERY  
BIRMINGHAM'S OLDEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CEMETERY  
(Edited from the Oak Hill website)**

- Rucker Agee, banker and map collector
- Arthur M. Brown, pioneering African-American surgeon
- John Burford, Revolutionary War veteran
- Henry Caldwell, physician, president of Elyton Land Company, banker
- Dr. William Davis, pioneer gynecologist
- Ellen Pratt DeBardleben, daughter of Daniel Pratt and wife of Henry F. DeBardleben
- Henry DeBardleben, industrialist and developer of Bessemer
- Frank Dixon, Governor of Alabama
- Christian Enslin, founder Jefferson County Savings Bank
- Robert Green, a Birmingham founder
- Robert Henley, First mayor of Birmingham, editor of the *Birmingham Sun*
- Walter Henley, coal baron, banker, philanthropist—Linn-Henley Trust
- Andrew Johnston, railroad officer, industrialist, founder of North Birmingham
- Dr. Mortimer Jordan, Jr (1844-1889), health care pioneer
- George C. Kelley, helped develop East Birmingham
- Charles Linn, industrialist and financier
- Alberto Martin, a Birmingham founder
- Richard Powell McAnally, first male child born in Birmingham
- John Milner, railroad engineer, surveyor of Birmingham
- Willis Milner, engineer of Cahaba Pumping Station
- William Mudd, attorney, judge, a Birmingham founder, builder of Arlington
- Frances Nabers, farm owner, father of William Nabers
- Frank O'Brien, manufacturer, mayor, industrialist, developer and opera-house owner
- A. C. Oxford, pioneering photographer
- A. H. Parker, educator, namesake of A. H. Parker High School
- Thomas Peters, a Birmingham founder
- Edmund W. Rucker, Civil War general, namesake of Fort Rucker, builder of the Walter Agee residence
- James Sloss, railroad magnate, founder of Sloss Furnace Company
- William H. Smith, (1868-1870) Governor of Alabama
- Sylvester Steele, a Birmingham founder
- Edward M. Tutwiler, railroad and mining engineer, developer
- William Walker, a Birmingham founder
- James Ware, a Birmingham founder
- Thomas Watts, namesake of Watts Building
- Louise Wooster, famed Madam, heroin of the 1873 cholera epidemic
- Benjamin "Pink" Worthington, plantation owner, a Birmingham founder
- F. B. Yeilding, founder Yeilding department store chain
- Peter Zinszer, merchant