

# Montevallo *Historical* Times

Vol. 8 No. 4

Newsletter of the Montevallo Historical Society

Fall 2024

## Rededication Planned for October 27

A special event at Montevallo City Cemetery will honor and re-dedicate the final resting place of 22 members of Montevallo's Kroell and Jennett families.

After a visit to the cemetery in the fall of 2022 and becoming concerned about the unsightly condition of the burial plot, descendants of the two families enlisted the assistance of the Montevallo Historical Society to coordinate a restoration effort.

We are happy to report that heavily stained marble markers standing vigil over the graves for decades have been carefully cleaned and are now a pristine, gleaming white.

The feature of the burial plot

that caused the most concern, was a rickety, collapsing, and rust-caked nineteenth-century wrought-iron fence and entrance gate. MHS members identified a metal fabricating company from Birmingham, Ensley Iron, LLC, who evaluated the condition of the fence and recommended that the least expensive and longest-lasting solution was complete replacement of the fence. Fortunately, available fencing materials would allow the replacement to be an exact replica of the original.

During the summer of 2024, the Kroell and Jennett descendants came together to raise enough money among themselves to pay for the new fence, so installation should be complete prior to October 27.

At least 14 descendants are planning to be with us at the cemetery to celebrate the completion of the restoration and to participate in remembering ancestors of both fami-

lies who are buried there.

Our event will occur at the Kroell – Jennett plot, which is near the main entrance to the cemetery. Parking will be along interior streets in the same manner as funerals. Several tents will be erected for shade and shelter if needed and seating will be provided.

Speakers will offer historical summaries of the Kroell and Jennett families as well as details about what went into the restoration.

Since both the Kroell and Jennett families were faithful Catholics we have asked a priest to attend and re-dedicate the plot as sacred ground as well as bless and pray for those buried there.

The event is open to the public and Montevallo Historical Society members are encouraged to attend. A reception and social hour will follow at the Montevallo Methodist Church.

Join us on Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 pm at Montevallo City Cemetery • This special event takes the place of our regular quarterly meeting.



UM professors, Carey Heatherly and Clark Hultquist spoke about their new book, "Montevallo, Past and Present", at our summer membership meeting in July. MHS director Jim Brown converses with the co-authors during a book sale and signing after the program.



To view a video of the July presentation, visit [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)

# President's Letter

Dear Friends:

At the August 22, 2024 meeting of the board of directors of the Montevallo Historical Society, two MHS members were nominated to the board and then approved by a vote of the directors present.

The new directors are Jim Brown and James Salter. Their terms began immediately upon being approved and they will roll off the board after serving for three years.

Their addition to the board brings us to a total of 14 serving directors, which is the number specified by our most recently amended bylaws.

I am happy to welcome Jim and James to the governing entity of the Montevallo Historical Society and look forward to the ideas and energy that I know they will bring to the organization and its programs and activities.

Several of our directors have become unofficial advocates and stewards of the Montevallo City Cemetery. One of them, Marilynn Donoho, took it upon herself to investigate what it would take to obtain for our cemetery a listing in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which is a designation awarded by the Alabama Historical Commission.

She made contact with an official at AHC, who in response sent her a lengthy application to complete and return. With the assistance of MHS directors Judy Duda and Clay Nordan, Marilynn did the research and work required to complete the application then submitted it to the Commission in Montgomery for consideration.

On June 27, 2024, Marilynn received a letter from Leanne Waller-Trupp, Coordinator, Cemetery Programs and Historical Marker Program for the Alabama Historical Commission. The letter was formal notification that the Montevallo City Cemetery had been favorably reviewed by her office and is now listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

She said that we would soon receive a copy of a "certificate of listing" indicating that the cemetery has been placed in the register, which is an honorary designation. We were

told that Montevallo is the fortieth cemetery in Shelby County to be listed among the 1116 cemeteries statewide.

Ms Waller-Trupp also said that the AHC sponsors a historical marker and plaque program to recognize historic cemeteries. The MHS board voted at its August 22 meeting to pursue and pay for a historical marker under this program and I'm glad to report that narrative text for a marker is nearing approval and a location for the marker near the entrance to the cemetery has been selected.

If all goes well, we should have a marker ready to install sometime after the first of the year.

Speaking of the cemetery, our Treasurer and program chairman, Clay Nordan, has been working for about two years with descendants of Montevallo's Kroell and Jennett families to clean 22 badly discolored stone markers in their family plot as well as replace the decrepit wrought-iron fence that surrounds it.

All this work and attention is finally coming to fruition on Sunday, October 27, 2024, when a special event will be held at the plot to recognize the completion of this restoration. More than a dozen family members are planning to come to town for the event, which starts at 2:00 pm. There will be speakers talking about the restoration as well as the history of the two families. This event replaces our regular fall membership meeting and a reception will follow at the Montevallo Methodist Church. This activity should be both unique and memorable. So I hope I see you there!

Finally, let me remind you to go ahead and purchase your wreaths for our annual Wreaths Across America veterans wreath laying program scheduled for December 14 this year at Montevallo City Cemetery. We very much appreciate everyone who participates and comes out for this very meaningful holiday observance. See the ad on page 7 for details.



## Officers

John E. McCulley  
*President*

Bill Nathews  
*Vice-President*

Judy Duda  
*Secretary*

Clay Nordan  
*Treasurer*



**Montevallo**  
**Historical Society**  
*Opening the Portals of Our Heritage*

 **P.O. Box 411**  
**Montevallo, AL 35115**

**[www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)**  
**email: [montevallo1817@gmail.com](mailto:montevallo1817@gmail.com)**

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## Directors

Jim Brown  
Tara Brantley  
Marilynn Donoho  
Martha Eisenberg  
Billy Mack Lee  
Melinda Nix  
James Salter  
Anne Thomas  
Sherry L. Vallides  
Anita Williams

### FOUNDING DIRECTORS:

Dr. James S. Day • Kenneth Dukes • Marty Everse • Mae Glosson • William Glosson • Susan Godwin • Dr. S.M. Mahan, Jr. (1934 – 2018)  
John McCulley • Norman McMillan • Melinda Nix • Clay Nordan • Debbie Pendleton • Janice Seaman • Anne Thomas • Sherry Vallides

## Montevallo Historical Society Roster of Active Members – October 2024

### **KROELL BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS (\$250)**

C&V Painting, Inc.  
Sherry Vallides  
Central State Bank  
Mitt Schroeder  
Smitherman's Pharmacy  
Sammy Shunnarah

.....

### **JESSE WILSON SOCIETY (\$250)**

Ed Czeskleba  
Karen Czeskleba  
Bill Denson  
Lois Doyle  
Robert Doyle  
Judy Lien Duda  
Helon Everse  
Marty Everse  
Catherine Griffin  
Clay Nordan  
Sally Sears  
Adelle Simpson  
Danny Wyatt  
Rose Mary Wyatt

.....

### **PATRON LEVEL (\$100)**

Richard Anderson  
Sharon Anderson  
David Bennett  
Patricia Bennett  
Charlie Binion  
Laurie Binion  
Beth Jeter Bishop  
Randy Bodine  
Linda Cicero  
John Cox  
James Day  
Renè Day  
Patty DeBardleben  
Marilynn Donoho  
Paul Doran  
Yvonne Kroell Graham  
Cecily Orr Hullett  
Margie Scott Jones  
Bill Keller  
Jeanetta Keller  
Missy Ketchum  
Charles Kaiden Kroell  
Marijean Kroell

Bob Lightfoot  
Gene Lightfoot  
Michael E. Malone  
Guy Milford  
Jack Moran  
Lynn Rotenberry Moran  
Barbara Morris Nabors  
Melinda Nix  
Rusty Nix  
Laurie Gene Orr  
Mildred Bolton Orr  
Sara Pankaskie  
**Emily Pendleton**  
Debbie Pendleton  
Douglas Rodgers  
Libby Rodgers  
Randie Sears Rosenberg  
Molly Sears Rosenberg  
Andrew J. Rosenberg  
Sandra Scott Small  
Anne Thomas  
David Thomas  
Daniel Thornton  
Jonne C. Thornton  
Becky B. Thornton  
Barbara Vance  
Clare Vance  
Sid Vance  
Barry Woodham  
Dee Woodham  
Peggy Davis Woods

### ..... **SINGLE & FAMILY LEVEL (\$25 OR \$40)**

Ron Albright  
Deanna Anderson  
Ellen Andrews  
Mary Arledge  
Steve Arledge  
Phyllis Bailey  
Cathy Barber  
Brenda Bates  
Rebecca Beaty  
Gary Bell  
Courtney Bennett  
Lee Binion  
Cheryl McClure Blackmon  
Becky Holcombe Bolton  
Tara Brantley  
Becky Brown  
Jim Brown

Jane Watson Bullock  
Janet Rotenberry Burnett  
Tad Cairns  
Glenda Terrell-Cairns  
Pam Campbell  
Pat Clark  
Martha Eisenberg  
Judy Robinson Feagin  
Barclay Fisher  
Priscilla Fisher  
Bryan Fowler  
Nancy Fowler  
Randy Fowler  
Bruce Fraser  
Danny Gamble  
Sarah Garcia  
Mae Glosson  
William Glosson  
Margie Hardin  
Carey Heatherly  
Jim Hermecz  
Barry Hocutt  
Clark Hultquist  
Ben Ingram  
Debbie Ingram  
Kitty Keener  
Karen Kelly  
Peggy Hurt Kent  
Kathy King  
John Kirby  
Carolyn Kirby  
Jimmy Lawley  
Linda Lawley  
Susan Ledbetter  
Billy Lee  
Brenda Lewis  
Carol Lightfoot  
Kirk Lightfoot  
Eddie Lovelady  
Kathleen Lovelady  
Luci Lovelady  
Elizabeth Chism Ludwig  
Scott Martin  
Bruce McClanahan  
Jane McClanahan  
John McCulley  
Mary McCulley  
Jerry McGaughy  
Larry McGaughy

Nancy McGaughy  
Susie McGaughy  
Jan McKinnon  
John McKinnon  
Joan McMillan  
Norman McMillan  
Laurie Middaugh  
Barb Milstead  
Herb Milstead  
David T. Morgan  
Judy Morgan  
Bill Muehlbauer  
Courtney Parker Murphy  
Bill Nathews  
Joan Pickett  
Mike Pickett  
Bill Plott  
Atticus Plott  
Sandra Albright Rogers  
James A. Salter  
Steve Sears  
Alma Sears  
Madeleine Sears  
Bobby Joe Seales  
Diane B. Seales  
Janice Seaman  
Teresa Shell  
Lonnie Shell  
Luke Smith  
Eddie Spears  
Maureen Spears  
Plesia Spears  
John Starks  
Jackie Starks  
John W. Stewart, Jr.  
Kathy Stewart  
Carolyn Frost Turnbull  
Scott Turnbull  
Marilee Turnbull  
Hubert Van Tuyll  
Susan Wilder-White  
Bill White  
Anita Williams  
Bradford Williams  
Andrew Wilson  
Nancy Wilstach  
Bobby Wyatt  
Jan Wyatt  
Julia Youngblood  
Gary Youngblood



# Emily Vest Pendleton

## 1934 - 2024

Montevallo Historical Society Member Since 2018



Emily V. Pendleton of Montevallo, Alabama passed away on Friday, July 26, 2024. Emily was born on August 23, 1934 in Chicago, Illinois to Herman Vest and Willie Mae Payne Vest. She grew up in Chicago and Montevallo and graduated from Montevallo High School. She married the love of her life, Dudley Pendleton, in 1953. They settled in Montevallo where they became active community members and leaders. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Montevallo and taught high school and middle school science in Montevallo for over 30 years

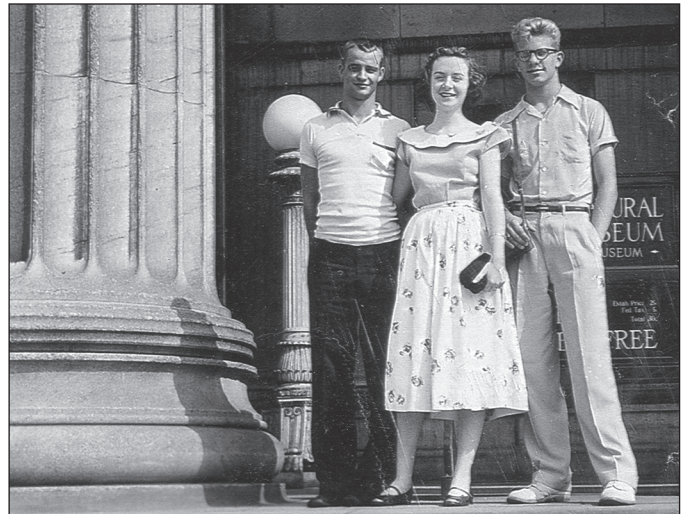
She was preceded in death by her husband, Dudley Pendleton, and son-in-law, James Gatling. She is survived by her daughters, Debbie Pendleton of Montgomery, AL and Pam Pendleton Smith (Eddi) of Athens, AL; grandson, John Gatling (Rachel) of Morgantown, WV; and chosen family, David and Allison Lash of Montevallo, AL.

My friend Emily Vest and her grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. Payne lived in a venerable frame house just across the bridge over Shoal Creek on Main Street.

Emily's grandmother and grandfather, the Paynes, lived in the first house on the left after you crossed the wooden bridge over Shoal Creek on Main Street. Her parents lived in the Chicago area, where her father managed country clubs. Emily lived with them, but when it came time for her to start to school her parents decided they preferred for her to be schooled in the small, quaint town of Montevallo rather than a big city. Emily stayed for high school and college. During all those years, she spent summers with her parents in Chicago. In 1953, Emily married my friend Dudley Pendleton, and Montevallo became their permanent residence, where they raised two daughters.

Dr. Mike Mahan

From his book, "*No Hill Too High for a Stepper*"



(Left to right) Dudley Pendleton and Emily Vest (soon to be Pendleton) with Johnny Ziolkowski on A trip to Chicago.



Emily lived with her grandparents in the house at right from which, as a teenager, she observed the University of Alabama art professor, Richard Brough, paint the well-known watercolor of Montevallo's Main Street bridge over Shoal Creek. Dr. Charles Acker lived across the street and encouraged Emily's love for reading by making available to her his extensive library.



In her first year of teaching at Montevallo High School (1957), Emily became faculty advisor for the Montala yearbook staff.



In high school, Emily was an MHS homecoming beauty.

In Emily Pendleton's obituary following her passing at the age of 90 in July, her family noted that she taught high school and middle school science in Montevallo for over 30 years, and during that time she influenced the lives of thousands of young people. I consider myself one of those thousands.

She was an inspiring science teacher for junior high school age children and had no qualms at all about letting us keep in her homeroom live snakes, lizards, turtles, hamsters, and anything else we brought in that fascinated us.

Emily was firm but fun. And I will never forget a field trip she organized to the Alabama College biology department when, supposedly for safety, one of the professors, a well-known reptile expert, backed our entire class into a corner of a classroom and dumped two angry rattlesnakes onto the floor in front of us from a trash can. This was a very effective technique for focusing the minds of bored fourteen-year olds.

At other times, she would decide on the spur of the moment to forget about science class for an hour and take everyone on the short hike to the college amphitheatre just to get out on a spring day and hunt for butterflies.

I and the other kids in my neighborhood on Ashville road enjoyed a much closer and special bond with Emily, because she was one of our neighbors. She was my next-door neighbor, in fact. She had a car-full of us hitching a ride to school with her every morning in her husband, Dudley's, powerful 1957 Chevy.

And there was always something going on in the Pendleton's backyard that attracted a slew of kids on warm afternoons. Dudley had an open-air Willys Army-style Jeep. He and Emily thought nothing of putting a few kids in the back seat, dropping the windshield, and taking to the woods for some truly jaw-dropping 4-wheel drive exploring. It's amazing



Emily was the 2017 Civitan Citizen of the Year.

that we came back alive, but at the time, everyone involved was truly fearless and, after every close call, begged for more.

Dudley was always into something, whether it was plowing up Emily's vegetable garden with his Gravelly tractor or putting up a huge telephone pole next to the house for his HAM radio antenna. But the strangest thing they ever did was to dig up the backyard and pour a concrete "Fallout Shelter for protection in case of an Atomic bomb attack. It seems insane today, but at the time it was chalked up by everyone as just another of the Pendletons' quirky projects.

Better neighbors you could never find.

Clay Nordan





“Cars by the Creek” attracted more than 100 classic cars while “Tractors in the Trees” made a strong showing at this year’s festival on September 7, 2024.

## Tinglewood Attracts Big Crowd Continuing Record of Success




(Above) More than 7500 visitors are believed to have come through the gates at Tinglewood 2024. (Right) Wood crafting vendors sell their unique wares each year at Tinglewood. (Below right) Heather Bailey, an artist on Alabaster, puts the finishing touches on a whimsical bulldog she carved with a chain saw from a block of dried cedar. (Below left) The Montevallo High School Jazz Band got the live music started with some “big-band” classics around 9:00 am.





REMEMBER THE FALLEN . . .  
HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE . . .  
TEACH OUR CHILDREN THE  
VALUE OF FREEDOM



On December 14, 2024 at 12:00 pm, the Montevallo City Cemetery will again participate in the national **Wreaths Across America** wreath laying event for local veterans. Last year more than 400 veterans graves were identified and marked in the cemetery. This year, to honor their sacrifice and service, we plan to have enough wreaths on hand to lay one on every single grave occupied by a veteran. Visit [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) if you would like to place an online order for live wreaths (\$17 each) in remembrance of specific loved ones or to help us reach our overall goal of 410 memorial wreaths. If you have questions, please click  on the order page.



Montevallo Historical Society  
2907 Virginia Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223-1253



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY  
IS DECEMBER 14, 2024

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