

# Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 12 ~ Issue 3

August 2010

**Founded**  
**18 January 1974**

## 2010-2011 Officers

### President

*Bobby Joe Seales*

### First Vice-President

*David L. Nolen*

### Second Vice-President

*Dr. Fred Olive, III*

### Third Vice-President

*Scott A. Martin*

### Corresponding Secretary

*Mickey Griffin*

### Recording Secretary

*R. Glenn Nivens*

### Treasurer

*Gladys Beasley*

### Historian

*Carolyn Knowles*

## Board of Directors

### 2010-2015

*William R. "Bill" Justice*

*Evan Major*

*John R. Walker*

### 2008-2013

*Barbara Gilliland*

*Herbert J. "Jim" Lewis, III*

*Theoangelo Perkins*

### 2006-2011

*Diane Ellis*

*Della Fancher*

*Joel D. Powell*

## Advisory Board

*Judge Jim Fuhrmeister*

*Commissioner Dan Acker*

*Tim Prince*



*This photo and the drawings on page 2 are from the postcard collection of the Shelby County Museum & Archives*

## TIDBITS OF THE PAST IN SHELBY COUNTY ALABAMA

*Copied by Bobby Joe Seales*

### *The Shelby County Sun* Thursday, July 27, 1911 MARVELOUS PROGRESS

### Being Made by the Promoters of the Mount Dixie Sanatorium

Only two short months ago this great movement was launched for the purpose of erecting a Hotel and a Sanatorium on what is now known as Mount Dixie, a beautiful platan in the corporate limits of the town of Columbiana, Ala.

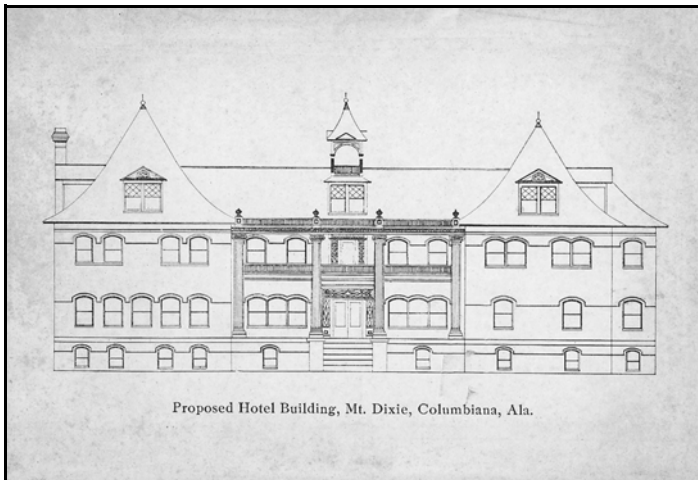
One hundred and thirty-eight acres of land was purchased for the grounds, and a charter obtained, capital stock being \$250,000. The company has qualified in the State, elected its officers and sold stock to a number of the leading business and professional men of the State. They now have the plans for the buildings in the hands of one of the best architects in Birmingham. They are contracting with well drillers for boring a very deep well, and hope to get a flow. This work will begin in the next few days. Work has already begun in clearing the grounds. The contract for the buildings will be open for

sixty days, and it is the intention of the promoters to be ready for opening by June 1, 1912. The hotel will be modern in every particular, and will have one hundred rooms for guests. The Sanatorium capacity will be about seventy patients, and the buildings will both be fire-proof. A number of cottages will be erected on the grounds for those who are seeking pleasure and not care to stop at the hotel. Stock in the company is now on the market at par value, ten dollars per share....

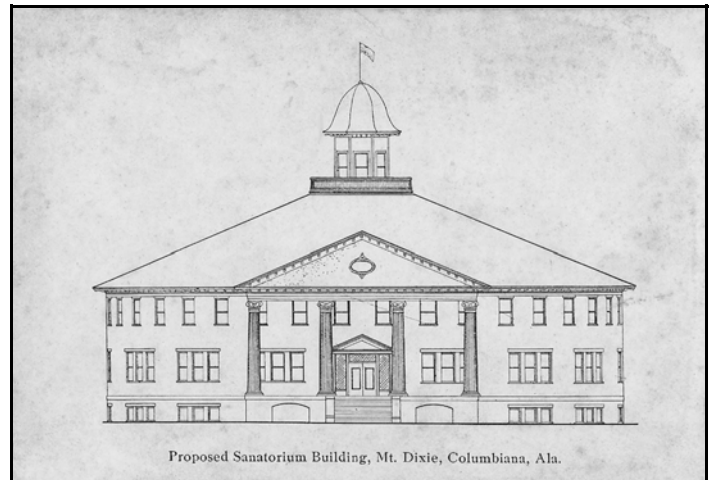
This location is one of the best in the South, with a great territory to draw its patronage from. The climate is ideal, the scenery beautiful, the site is high and dry, and is in easy reach of mineral waters with almost every advantage that could possibly be desired....

With the natural advantages which we now have in the way of climate, water, hunting, fishing, schools, banks, churches, railway service, and with the stock sold on the co-operative plan and widely distributed, with every harmless amusement on the ground conceivable, this is destined to become one of the most famous health and pleasure resorts in the South....

[See page 2 for more information]



Proposed Hotel Building, Mt. Dixie, Columbiana, Ala.



Proposed Sanatorium Building, Mt. Dixie, Columbiana, Ala.

***The Shelby County Sun***  
**Thursday, August 10, 1911**

Columbiana is now assured of electric lights; also an ice manufacturing plant, and other industries, are sure to follow ... The Mt. Dixie Sanatorium, Land and Investment Co., have mapped out much that will help Columbiana, and all of which will be mentioned later.

***The Shelby County Sun***  
**Thursday, August 10, 1911**

... The Mt. Dixie Sanatorium, Land and Investment Co., promoters are doers of things and deserve the recognition which this town is giving them. With a one hundred room hotel, modern in every particular, and an up-to-date seventy patient Sanatorium, and electric light plant, an electric car line, water works and ice plant and no taxes to pay,



**Sonya D. Lefkovits receives "Honorary Membership" to the Shelby County Historical Society at the May 2010 Quarterly Meeting. The attending officers and board of directors made the presentation.**

***Other known Honorary Members***  
**Judge & Mrs. Conrad M. Fowler, Sr.**  
**Kenneth R. Penhale (February 2000)**  
**Tom O. Caldwell, M.D. (November 2007)**

and all owned by this company with its excellent natural advantages, its railroad facilities, its stock should be and will be an excellent investment. Of the one hundred and thirty-eight acres of land which they own they are going to lay out 100 acres of this land in lots and put the lots on the market, and this will leave them 38 acres for grounds around the Hotel and Sanatorium which will be an abundance of room....

***The Shelby County Sun***  
**Thursday, August 31, 1911**

**Mt. Dixie Picnic Elaborate Affair**  
**CONDUCTED BY ODD FELLOWS**

The picnic at Mt. Dixie on Friday, the 25th, turned out to be one of the most pleasant ever held in this country. There was dinner on the ground consisting of all good things to eat and drink, including barbecued meats, and is not often the case, they had plenty for everybody there, including the negroes and the dogs....

***The Shelby County Sun***  
**Thursday, October 20, 1911**

The Sanatorium is progressing with earnestness as the machinery is all here, with a number of hands to drill a deep well where they hope to get an overflow well on the site of what is to be one of the greatest health resorts in the south, and where in addition to the sanatorium for the sick and convalescing, a great hotel will be erected. The sanatorium company has already under way an electric plant, which will light up the entire city of

Columbiana, and the same company expects to run a street car line from the two depots through the city and to the sanatorium and hotel on the mountain....

[Note: "Columbiana was ablaze with electricity" and the Mt. Dixie well was drilled and completed in February 1912. Then the old Canning Factory, next to the electric light plant, was converted into an Ice Factory. With all of this, Mt. Dixie Sanatorium and Hotel never became a reality ... Why? ... More to come later!]

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**The Alabama Historical Commission**  
**recently recognized the following**  
**Shelby County Historic**  
**Landmarks and Cemeteries**  
**(1) Jackson's Fourmile Farm located**  
**in Wilsonville, April 2010**  
**(2) Wilsonville Cemetery, April 2010**

**YEAR OF ALABAMA**  
**SMALL TOWNS & DOWNTOWNS**  
**Recent Sign Dedications**  
**Chelsea, March 1, City Hall**  
**Pelham, May 1 ... Ballantrae Golf Course**  
**Helena, May 8 ... Old Masonic Lodge**  
**Alabaster, June 4 ... Old Siluria Mill Site**  
**Columbiana, June 25 ... Downtown Area**  
**Wilsonville, June 27 ... Town Hall**  
**Harpersville, July 31, City Hall, 10am**

**Upcoming Sign Dedications**  
**Montevallo, October 15, City Hall, 1pm**  
**Vincent, November 29, Historic**  
**Christmas Tree, 6pm**  
**Wilton, December 7 ... Town Hall, 10am**  
**Westover, December 11, Intersection of**  
**County Hwy. 55 & Old 280, 10am**

**Visit**  
**[www.alabama.travel/homecoming/markers.cfm](http://www.alabama.travel/homecoming/markers.cfm)**  
**click on Page 19 and 20 for Shelby County**

**SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**  
**Please volunteer ... and continue "growth" in the Shelby County Historical Society**  
**For more information visit our website**  
**[www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/AmbassadorProgram.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/AmbassadorProgram.html)**

**2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

[to pay online ... visit [www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/applicationpaypal.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/applicationpaypal.html) for new and/or renewal membership]  
 Please make check payable to *Shelby County Historical Society, Inc.* and mail with application to  
 Shelby County Historical Society, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 457 ~ Columbiana, AL 35051-0457

CHECK ONE:     New Membership     Renewal Membership     Address Change

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP ~ ANNUAL DUES**

Individual .... \$20.00     Couple .... \$20.00     Sustaining .... \$50.00     Patron .... \$100.00

*Check Here if this is a "GIFT" for a New Membership ... a gift acknowledgement will be mailed.*

The annual dues are from January 1 through December 31; all renewal dues become due on January 1 and delinquent after February 1 of each year. Those that join after January 1 will be placed on the mailing list and will receive all previously published *Quarterly* magazines and newsletters for that year. Effective 2010-year the *Quarterly* magazine will be published twice yearly, June and December. The newsletter will be published yearly in February, May, August and November. The Society must be notified of any change of address as soon as possible and are not responsible for *Quarterly* magazines or newsletters mailed to an old address. They are mailed non-profit organization bulk rate. [A 501(c)3 non-profit organization.]

*Thank you for your membership and support!*

**SHELBY COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM EXPANDED**

Shelby County Pioneer is a certificate program, founded in the year-2000, offered by the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. and is designed to identify and honor the memory of the early residents of Shelby County Alabama.

Due to popular demand we have expanded the Pioneer Certificate Program, effective January 1, 2008.

The Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. will issue **three categories** of certificates to direct descendants of the early residents of Shelby County Alabama. For many years these ancestors have gone unrecognized. We hope that this certificate will be a source of pride for your family.

- (1) PIONEER CERTIFICATE ... 1830 or earlier.
- (2) SETTLER CERTIFICATE ... 1831 through 1860.
- (3) EARLY RESIDENT CERTIFICATE ... 1861 through 1900

The criteria for the Shelby County Pioneer Certificate Program include (1) Current member of the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. (2) Completion of Pioneer Certificate Program Application for each certificate. [Visit our website or write for this application.] (3) Copy of documentation of proof of direct descent for each generation of each settler and proof of earliest year ancestor lived in Shelby County Alabama (4) \$20.00 certificate fee for each submission.

For each qualifying ancestor you will receive a beautifully designed 8-1/2" x 11" certificate ready for framing. Each certificate is numbered and signed.

Acceptable forms of **proof of direct descent for each generation** [please number proof of direct descent to correspond to each generation number]:  
 (1) Census records. (2) Birth records.  
 (3) Death records. (4) Marriage records.  
 (5) Military records. (6) Land records.  
 (7) Wills. (8) Obituaries or Funeral Home records. (9) Tombstone inscriptions or cemetery records, name

and location of cemetery. (10) Estate records. (11) Bible records. (12) Books or written articles with proof of copyright date. Please submit copies [do not send original documents] of evidence of direct descent for each generation.

Documentation will be filed in the archives of the Shelby County Museum & Archives to help preserve the history of your ancestor and will be made available for public research.

Please mail (1) Completed "Pioneer Certificate Program Application" (2) Documentation of "Proof of Direct Descent" for each generation and "Proof of Earliest Year" ancestor lived in Shelby County Alabama (3) and \$20.00 certificate fee to:

**Shelby County Pioneer  
 Certificate Program  
 P. O. Box 457  
 Columbiana, AL 35051**

**WEBSITE**  
[www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/schs.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/schs.html)

SHELBY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
1854 Old Courthouse  
P.O. Box 457  
Columbiana, Alabama 35051-0457

PHONE: 205-669-3912  
FAX: 205-669-3858  
E-MAIL: schs1854@bellsouth.net

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 26  
COLUMBIANA, AL 35051

**POSTMASTER: ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*The Society appreciates your membership!*

**We're on the web!**  
**www.schsociety.org**



**QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**Sunday**  
**August 1, 2010 ~ 2:00 pm**



**PLEASE ATTEND**

*Shelby County Historical Society*  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
1854 Old Courthouse  
Columbiana, Alabama

~~~~~  
**MEETING**

**AUGUST 1, 2010**  
**2:00 P.M.**

~~~~~

**REFRESHMENTS**  
**Following the Meeting**

**THANK YOU**

FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH YOUR  
ATTENDANCE AT THESE MEETINGS.  
BRING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.

GUEST SPEAKER  
**AMANDA HILL**

ALABAMA HISTORIC COMMISSION

**PLUS**

**THIRD ANNUAL**  
**Communities of**  
**Shelby County**

*"Community" is defined in broad  
terms ... a family or a group of  
families, a school, community,  
church or cemetery, etc.*

**YEAR OF ALABAMA**  
**SMALL TOWNS & DOWN TOWNS**

HAVE BEEN INVITED TO HIGHLIGHT  
THEIR TOWN/CITY WITH A DISPLAY

[SEE PAGE 2 FOR PARTICIPANTS]

**ADOPT A "NEW" MEMBER PROGRAM**

In an effort to increase our membership, the "Adopt a New Member" program has been formed.

The "Adopt a New Member" program works like this: Each member pays the membership fee of a friend or family member for one year, acts as their mentor, brings them to meetings and introduces them to current members. Hopefully, the "adopted" member would join on their own the following year.

See page 3 of this newsletter for the application. Thank you for your membership and support to the Shelby County Historical Society!



**SHELBY COUNTY**  
**ALABAMA**

**We're Proud of our County**  
[www.shelbycountytourism.org](http://www.shelbycountytourism.org)